



Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the
Bolton Family History Society.

<http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/>

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December 2015

A branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society.



Welcome to all

I hope you will all appreciate that preparing this final newsletter of the year does feel a bit emotional as it is also the end of an era. After over 20 years of meeting in the Bolton Cricket Club function room we are finally saying Good bye. It is actually quite difficult to ascertain the significant dates of events at the start of our society, but I have pinned one of most distinguished members down to try to give us an overview and this is what she has provided me with.



"The Bolton & District Family History Society as it was called until this year, came about as a result of a Workers' Educational Association course in the late 1970s. At the end of the course, the class did not want to lose touch, and so decided to hold an exploratory meeting at the Pack Horse Hotel, Bolton to gauge interest in forming a local family history group. On 24th November 1981, the Oak Room of the



Committee members of the Bolton Family History Society pictured at the Swan Hotel, Bolton, at their annual dinner. From left are: Mr Cliff Hart, Mr Harry Pickup, Miss Joan Holding, Mrs Janice Wood, Mrs Ann Gregory, Mr Ron Smith, Mrs Joyce Edmondson and Mrs Joan Brabton, chairman.

Pack Horse was full to bursting with lots of enthusiasm so the first meeting was arranged. The first venue was the Friends' Meeting Hall in Silverwell Street, Bolton and the main aims laid down then (and still current now), were to do everything possible to ensure that sources remain accessible to members, and to assist new or inexperienced members with their research. In early 1982, the Bolton group decided to apply for, and was accepted, as a branch of the well-established Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society, which produces an award winning quarterly magazine "The Manchester Genealogist", sent to all members in this country and throughout the world.

One way of achieving the above aims was to appoint a Projects Secretary, whose job it was to identify sources, perhaps those in a frail condition, for members to index. Willing groups also braved the cold (and heat), to visit graveyards to note and



index monumental inscriptions which might be in danger of damage or disappearance through age. A copy of every completed project was given to the Bolton Local Studies & Archives Service of Bolton M.B.C., thus making the work available to all. This has resulted in a happy relationship with the Service, making it a venue for the very successful courses and workshops we have arranged over the years. Copies of all the projects are retained in the Society for members to borrow and use in their research. More recently, our immediate past Chairperson, Mrs. Margaret Calderbank and her husband Colin have done sterling work in transposing our projects on to CD. (We thought you might also like to see our new "official's" sweaters. We have one each for our committee members and regular helpers as initiated and modelled by the Calderbanks. What do you think?)



At each monthly meeting there is a speaker, sometimes talking about topics of family history relevance, and at other times social history, because it seems as though an interest in one's family engenders an interest in the local environment and how people lived long ago. Interspersed with the above, there are "hands-on" evenings, where practical ways to research family history are discussed. At the end of each meeting, experienced researchers are on hand to suggest ways forward to members who are perhaps beginning their research or have got stuck on a particular ancestor. From its earliest beginnings with the first Chairman, the late Mr. John Hayes leading, the group has seen many changes in the way family history is researched, not least the continually increasing importance of the internet. Many people believe they can achieve a full family history by use of the internet alone, but this is not the case, with much information still being in dusty repositories, waiting to give up that elusive ancestor who has just not wanted to be found. Again, the very popular T.V. series "Who do you think you are" may have fostered interest in many people.

We have also been delighted to have three Bolton members appointed Fellows of the Society - Mr. Ron Smith, Mrs. Rita Greenwood and Mrs. Barbara Owen. (This is the same Ron Smith



whose massive personal collection you may recall has just been "processed" by Society members on his behalf due to his poor health. We saw some more of this in the Bolton Archives on a recent visit where it is still being analysed and catalogued.)"

Over the years inevitably there have been several changes, of faces, ways of researching and recording, and ways of communicating with each other. We have tried to adapt by valuing the guidance of experienced members, whilst welcoming the energy of new ones, and learning the "digital way" to research and preserve knowledge, and communicate with others. Some years have been difficult and numbers have dwindled, but held together by a few stalwarts. We now feel rejuvenated with hard work being rewarded, our numbers expanding and we are looking forward to our new venue at the Old Links Golf Club,

We have got a lot to live up to haven't we. Let's go for it



OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

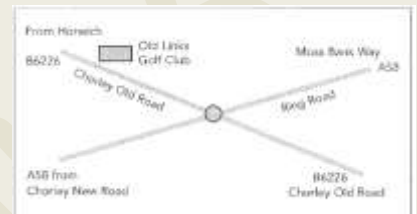
*Our last 2015 event on December 2nd should of course have been when Linda Sawley came to help us celebrate our Christmas meeting. Unfortunately she had to withdraw due to illness but we had the bonus of our Rita Greenwood stepping in at short notice to ask us "Are you Settled Comfortably?" She reminded us that the problems of migration for a better life are nothing new and how contemporary records can help us put flesh on some old bones. We did also squeeze in a fun "table quiz" just to help "kick start" the conversation but for those who were unable to attend we also decided to give you a months' worth of headache to do when you are bored, see below.



Remember our next meeting will be in 2016, when we are having an extra, FREE

"Welcome Meeting" on Jan 20th at the

Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU. 7.30pm,



There will be coffee and tea available from 7pm and Rita Greenwood will be there to give us a short talk about "Holy and Unholy Matrimony"

After this we will of course continue to hold our main meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, as per <http://www.bolton.mfhs.org.uk/> and offer the usual Help Desk for personal research after each meeting as well as our Recycle Service for your used Family History Magazines. Don't throw them out, bring your old ones in to be passed on.

AND IF ANYONE FEEL LIKE "MUCKING IN" TO HELP IN ANYWAY PLEASE SHOUT.

We have got a list, and its fun

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VISITS and ACTIVITIES

*Tuesday November 10th Hall i'thWood <http://www.boltonmuseums.org.uk/historic-halls/hall-i-th-wood-history>



Well what a treat this visit was thanks to Julia and her superb knowledge and obvious delight in guiding us around this wonderful 15th C building tucked into the heart of Bolton. The web site above gives a summary of its history but it made us realise how much things had changed

over the centuries. We were told about, and shown pictures of, the old stone cottages which used to be outside in the woodland where now it is council sheltered accommodation. The house has generally managed to withstand the ravages of time, although apparently the Tudor barn was also "demolished" in the middle of the 20th C before these things were fully appreciated. The building remains basically the same as when it was first owned by farmers, Changes started when Charles 1 was on his wobbly throne,



and it was amusing to see the portraits of Tudor Royalty on the wall in the Great Hall where the cattle had also been sheltered. (Think the animals were smaller then though). Wealthier families took over after the Civil War, and each dynasty of residents has left its marker. Of course the most famous occupants now are the Crompton family with Samuel having revolutionised the cotton industry from this base with his construction of the Spinning Mule https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spinning_mule. We were told he hid it here in the roof → with a pulley system to hide it from the machine wreckers.



I should also mention the timely input from another son of Bolton, William Hesketh Lever, Lord Leverhulme the soap manufacturer, <http://www.boltonmuseums.org.uk/historic-halls/hall-i-th-wood-history/lord-leverhulme> who had the foresight and fortunately the resources to purchase the property in 1899, pay for the renovations of the building and present the Hall to Bolton Corporation in 1902. Boltonians have a lot to be proud of here that many are not even aware of. . Maybe another visit on our Crompton Trail <http://www.visitbolton.com/pdf/2699-Crompton-Trail-FINAL-310108.pdf> should be Firwood Fold. Watch this space, and thank you Brian for another fascinating visit.

Does anybody else have the energy to help out with these trips please?? It would be appreciated if we could share the work load.

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GENIE'S TIPS for December

***The history behind your birth certificate** Anglia Research, Global experts in Probate Genealogy
<http://www.angliaresearch.co.uk/articles/the-history-behind-your-birth-certificate/>

In this fascinating article, Peter Turvey, a member and former chairman of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA), looks at the long and sometimes tortuous road to full birth registration in England and Wales. Read and learn !!



***Stop 'Saving' Records to Your Ancestry Tree Until You Read This**

http://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/stop-saving-records-to-your-ancestry-tree-until-you-read-this/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+familyhistorydaily+%28Family+History+Daily%29

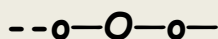
Family History Daily accessed 22.11.15 *"It's no secret that we love free genealogy sites ---but, we have to admit, we also really like Ancestry.com. Next to FamilySearch.org, you're not going to find a larger, more diverse genealogy website — and many of us are willing to pay their subscription fees for that reason alone.*

We also like Ancestry for the convenient free family tree they offer. It's easy to get started with, maintain and share (or keep private). Plus, they've made it extremely convenient to add records from Ancestry's databases. A couple of clicks and you can easily attach any number of sources, or names, to your tree (although we could tell you why that's generally a bad idea). It is this very convenience that poses a serious problem for many family historians ---. Read and beware!!

***How to Take Good Pictures With Your Phone: 17 Tips & Tricks to Try**

http://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/good-pictures-phone-tips?utm_campaign=blog-rss-emails&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=24064822

<http://www.genealogydiscount.co.uk/> Written by Lindsay Kolowich | @lkolo 25 November 25, 2015



WORKSHOPS and COURSES and CLASSES

***"Enjoy Learning"** <http://www.enjoy-learning.org.uk/courses-by-day.php> meeting at the Friends Meeting House 50 Silverwell Street, Bolton, BL1 1PP - 50

Silverwell Street, Bolton, BL1 1PP This is a not for profit association. The fees are based on what it costs to run and though they do not normally offer concessions you can see that they are reasonable for what is offered. The course leader is our Rita Greenwood and we keep going back for more



Thursday - Stage 3 Progressers CF329 2 7th Jan-17th Mar 10wks £75 10-12noon

Stage 4 Advanced CF330-2 7th Jan-17th Mar 10wks £75 1-

3pm

We also have several MLFHS short courses and workshops planned at various Bolton Libraries to commence February 2016. Announcements to be made in the next Bolton Genies in January 2016. WATCH THIS SPACE

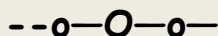
***Do you have Irish Ancestors? MLFHS in association with the Ulster Historical Foundation (UHF)** <http://www.ancestryireland.com/>, plan a special event at Manchester Central Library on Saturday 6 February 2016 to help family history researchers discover their own Irish roots. Many people living in Britain believe that researching Irish ancestors is impossible because of the destruction of the Public Record Office in 1922. While it is true that many records were destroyed, other collections have survived, indeed many of them have come online in recent years making Irish family history research easier than ever before. Why not join us for a day of talks given by experts from the UHF

. Learn about the use of civil records, surviving census records, census substitutes, valuation and land records, and the importance of land divisions in Ireland. Find out how to trace your farming family in the eighteenth & nineteenth centuries and discover more about the records relating to the various church denominations in Ireland. Don't forget to bring along your questions for the experts. This is sure to be a very interesting day. There is a fee of £25.00 per attendee, but members of MLFHS may attend for a reduced fee of £20.00.

To find out more about this special event please visit Eventbrite,

<https://d.docs.live.net/bf8bc7edd0f4290c/Genies/2015DecemberBoltonGenie.docxh> where you can also book your place online. Book soon! - We expect places to go fast. (See also

***"Estate records as a source for family history"** from [Historyireland.com/volume-23/kindred-lines](http://www.historyireland.com/volume-23/kindred-lines) <http://www.landedestates.ie/> a piece by Fiona Fitzsimons about Estate Records in Ireland. Reported as very interesting as it says that it could give tenants names sometimes plus children, and a lot of other interesting bits possibly going back to the 1700's).



THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

*Lancashire Records



<http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk/update.php> ongoing updates



<http://www.lan-opc.org.uk> and left click on the "What's New" tab on the left

*"United Grand Lodge of England Freemason Membership Registers, 1751 - 1921", <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/recent-collections> Ancestry New Collections.

***Bolton Genealogy Genealogical Website for Bolton, Lancashire** copyright 2015 Valerie Lirakis <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~boltongenealogy/> We are told "Welcome to my website, which has a genealogical connection to Bolton, Lancashire, a former mill town noted for its cotton industry. It originally came into being as a vehicle for anyone wishing to display photographs of Bolton ancestors they couldn't identify, and over time gradually expanded. IF you have any photographs/documents that you think might be of interest, or that you cannot identify, please scan them to Valerie, with a brief description of the item, stating clearly what is required. Hopefully other people will be able to supply the answer. ALSO included is material which may be useful to those researching their family history. THIS site is being run as an accessory to the ENG-LAN-BOLTON mailing list.

*GenealogyInTime Magazine "Newest Genealogy Records"

http://www.genealogyintime.com/records/newest-genealogy-records.html?awt_l=GR3yQ&awt_m=Iti7JsxG7AK.Vy

For newbies this is always a good free Canadian based site which sends out 2 weekly updates of new international data releases and tips.

*Federation of Family History Societies Copyright © 2015 [http://us11.campaign-](http://us11.campaign-archive2.com/?u=de0e864aeab489858df93c75f&id=211278dbac)

[archive2.com/?u=de0e864aeab489858df93c75f&id=211278dbac](http://us11.campaign-archive2.com/?u=de0e864aeab489858df93c75f&id=211278dbac) "Welcome to our new-look FFHS Newsletter which continues to bring family-history news, updates on resources and giveaways straight to your in-box.". Some interesting stuff here. Worth a look

***Manchester Central Library to be the home of a Google 'Digital Garage'** 00:01, 25 Nov 2015 By Alex Bell <http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/business/business-news/manchester-central-library-home-google-10493466> I have a feeling that this has a lot of potential and could even affect us. Let's watch this space.

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES



*"The Gazette"; Official Public Record 350th Anniversary this month

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/history/350-years> Discover something that you will treasure

forever. Their introduction says "Whether you're a keen genealogist, or just interested in finding out a bit more about the lives and times of your family, The Gazette holds a wealth of information to reconnect you to your past.---

During the 17th century, potentially 'reckless' publishing of articles - often just scurrilous rumours issued in pamphlet form - was thought to endanger national security, and this led to a climate in which the printing of any news not pertaining to the coverage of events aboard, natural disasters, official royal declarations and the most sensationalist of crime reporting, was largely prohibited.

As a consequence, the British press was an ill-developed and badly defined industry. The introduction of censorship in 1663, together with the licensing of all news publications, did little to encourage the growth of a healthy press.

However, the situation was to change dramatically in 1665, with the worst outbreak of plague in England since the Black Death of 1348. The Great Plague is thought to have killed 15 per cent of the population in London, and forced King Charles II to remove his court from the capital and relocate - what was effectively the government of the day - to the relative safety of Oxford. It is said that the exiled courtiers were so terrified of the disease that they were unwilling to even touch London newspapers for fear of contagion.

The Oxford Gazette emerged from this turmoil, and when the plague finally dissipated and the court returned to London, The London Gazette was born.

'Mentioned in despatches'

As the first official journal of record and the newspaper of the Crown, The Gazette became an authoritative and reliable source of news, and this served the purposes of both the Crown and the Executive well. Perhaps this is one of its most useful activities



from our perspective <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/wills-and-probate> but also we have this <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/insolvency> and this section <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/awards-and-accreditation>

And just in case nobody you know has been "gazetted", but for a bit of "one-upmanship" you might like to try



* **The Peerage** <http://www.thepeerage.com/index.htm> Compiler: Darryl Lundy Ngaio, Wellington, New Zealand

"A genealogical survey of the peerage of Britain as well as the royal families of Europe. --- This website is the result of around fourteen years of work by one (somewhat eccentric) person collecting information on the European royal families and on the British Peerage, and then entering it into a range of various genealogy programs" and

***Welcome to our Our Royal, Titled, Noble, and Commoner Ancestors & Cousins (over 165,000 names).** <http://www.our-royal-titled-noble-and-commoner-ancestors.com/> trying to bring ambitions of grandeur into reality I suspect but quite good fun.

***The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography** <http://www.oxforddnb.com/public/index.html> recently came into conversation at one of our classes, as being a good resource to gain more information on many of our famous and also infamous ancestors. The bad news was it was a subscription site. The good news was it can be freely accessed via the digital archives of many of our libraries. Join Lancashire Libraries



<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/digital-library.aspx> for free following the link and these resources plus many others are freely available.

***1939 Register:** <http://www.findmypast.com/1939register>

Just a personal "rider" to buying credits for this. I was so busy doing the last newsletter and dealing with a few other family distractions that when I finally tried to use the voucher I found I had lost the email offering me 25% off as a subscribed member. I emailed FMPs support team in desperation support@findmypast.com and within 24 hours was resent my unused code. Just to continue my incompetence I then made a mess of trying to use the voucher and opted to use their Customer Support email option. I was immediately responded to by Jenni Paton who very patiently and efficiently guided me through it all. I was very impressed by the personal service.

STOP PRESS RE 1939 REGISTER

For those unable to obtain seats for FMPs Myko Clelland Dec 1st visit to MCL
see notes below

***Welsh Newspapers Online**  LLYFRGELL GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES <http://newspapers.library.wales/home>

Discover 15 million articles and 1.1 million pages

***Scottish Archives** <http://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/broadsheet/issue35preservation.pdf> . Their introduction is "We provide leadership for the archives and records management sector in Scotland. We build national and international partnerships, deliver strategic advice and research, and develop projects spanning stakeholder engagement, education, and quality improvement. We are a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) (SCO44553) and you can download our Constitution by clicking as above"

***Recently Added and Updated Collections on Ancestry**

<http://www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/recent-collections> including amongst other things UK, **WWII Civil Defence Gallantry Awards, 1940-1949** <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=9160>
During World War II, up to 1.9 million men, women, and teens as young as 15 served as Civil Defence Volunteers in various capacities. They worked as air raid wardens, first aid workers, firewatchers, messengers, in rescue efforts, in rest centres, and emergency feeding programmes. Acts of bravery by civilians, police, and fire were rewarded with a variety of awards and medals. Local examples include about time too. Here are some Boltonians.

Paul Catterall abt 1908 17 Jun 1941 Bolton

Joseph Deacon abt 1908 11 Feb 1941 Great Lever Bolton

Stanley Emmason abt 1901 17 Jun 1941 Bolton

Albert Edward Fallon abt 1910 29 Jul 1941 Police Station, Farnworth, Nr Bolton

Edwin Aspinall Hitchon abt 1907 17 Jun 1941 Bolton

George Longmate abt 1903 17 Jun 1941 Bolton

Harold Partington abt 1899 17 Jun 1941

***GOV.UK How to get a copy of military service records** <https://www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records/overview> your own or someone else's military service records, eg for proof of service or research purposes.

Records date from 1920 and may include:

##medals received

##medical records

##details about someone's career, eg the units they served in

##date of death, if they died in service

In some cases little or no information is available about someone's military service.

***Olive Tree Genealogy Blog Ships Passenger Lists**

http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/?utm_content=buffer21e90&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer This is American based but some of you might be lucky.



***Yorkshire Indexers"** http://www.yorkshireindexers.info/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page For those of you who , like me , are Yorkshire strays (or missionaries as I sometimes describe myself), I am bringing an early Christmas present. It is a year or so since I

looked at this site although I kept my membership, and I can't believe how much it has developed. Some really good resources here. Have a look.



***Absent Voters List for Grimsby and Cleethorpes 1919**

<https://grimsbyfamilyhistory.wordpress.com/absent-voters/> **Great Grimsby Family History**

Group, Part of Lincolnshire Family History Society (Registered Charity 1000724). When looking at their website I also noticed they have a gravestone section

<http://gravestonephotos.com/public/area.php?area=Lincolnshire&country=En&scrwidth=1045> and amongst others

***Manchester Regiment War Graves, Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, England** . "Cemetery list in grave monument order <http://gravestonephotos.com/public/cemetery.php?cemetery=2054&scrwidth=1045> with an excellent plan. They have been very busy people.

***5 Photos You Should Take at the Cemetery** Posted on November 3, 2015 Copyright © 2015 Amy Johnson

Crow <http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/2015/11/03/5-photos-you-should-take-at-the-cemetery/> *"It's sad — and rather frustrating — to go to a cemetery, take some photos, and realize when you get home that those photos don't really help you. (It's especially frustrating when you're not able to get back to take more photos.) To help ease the frustration, here are 5 cemetery photos that you should get in the habit of taking every time:"*

I do always try to take a distance picture so that we can find it again, but had nt thought of the different angles, and neighbours. Had you?

***English Handwriting 1500 - 1700 An Online Course**

<https://www.english.cam.ac.uk/eres/ehoc/intro.html> by Dr Elisabeth Leedham-Green, FSA, formerly Deputy Keeper of the Cambridge University Archives, is a fellow of Darwin College, Cambridge. This is a fascinating read. With thanks to Peter Calver of "Lost Cousins" for passing on this gem.

<http://lostcousins.com/newsletters2/midnov15news.htm#Discountcode> see also

***WELCOME to the companion site for OLD-ENGLISH-L and OLD-ENGLISH-D.**

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~oel/contents.html>

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MISCELLANEOUS

***The MCL - but not as we know it** <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=lmKNnnL2Jzw>

Simply Singing Flash Mob Manchester Central Library The Rose. And

****"Archives" at the Greater Manchester Record Office**

<https://manchesterarchiveplus.wordpress.com/2013/05/03/behind-the-scenes-settling-in-at-greater-manchester-record-office/> How it all started and a progress report

<https://manchesterarchiveplus.wordpress.com/2015/11/23/archives-and-wikipedia/>

***Twisted Trees on Gnarled Branches** [https://www.facebook.com/Twisted-Twigs-On-Gnarled-Branches-](https://www.facebook.com/Twisted-Twigs-On-Gnarled-Branches-Genealogy-269836083081714/)

[Genealogy-269836083081714/](https://www.facebook.com/Twisted-Twigs-On-Gnarled-Branches-Genealogy-269836083081714/) I know this is not everybody's cup of tea but I do like the humorous and perceptive comments this genealogical website comes out with quite regularly .

***Sir David Attenborough** <http://www.halliwell-lhs.co.uk/articles/a-line-of-descent-sir-david-attenborough/>

Do you all know about his Bolton line of descent.

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MEMBERS COMMENTS, QUERIES,(and now MEMORIES)

*The Wartime Memories Project <http://www.wartimememories.co.uk/>

Collecting memories of The Great War and The Second World War before they are lost forever. - Children in World War Two <http://www.wartimememories.co.uk/children3.html> . A really interesting site with this first story bringing instant reminders for my other half's family from Salford.

NB MLFHS are also in the early stages of preparing "Memory Boxes" of personal anecdotes and fond memories from various parts of Manchester and the North West. We are wondering about starting one for the Bolton area for the benefit of future generations. What do you think?

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OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS



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



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

15th December Christmas Social- with a power-point presentation of old photographs of Bolton Royal Infirmary and Queens Park from their own collection.

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

*Westhoughton Local History Group -

Routine meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, between 10am and 12mid in the room above Westhoughton Library, Market St,

Westhoughton, BL5 3AU http://www.westhoughtonhistorygroup.org.uk/Westhoughton_History_Group/Home.html

but there are some extra ones over December. On the

3rd Christmas Extravaganza - On the Go Theatre Group

17th Visit to Smithills Hall with Hotpot Lunch

19th Walk to the site of the Pretoria Pit with Alan Davies. Meet at 10:00am at Broadway, Over Hulton

21st Services to commemorate Pretoria Pit Disaster

*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. Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am ---



1pm. This month's talk is 8th December ~ Sid Calderbank A Lancashire Evening. With lots more on offer please consult their web site at <http://www.horwichheritage.co.uk>

***Historical Association Bolton Branch** http://www.history.org.uk/resources/he_resource_1098_17.html



The next lecture will take place on Monday 7 December at 7.30pm in the Lecture Theatre of Bolton School Girls' Division.. Professor Richard Cust will speak to the branch on the subject of 'Discovering Charles I'. (and did you know there is a connection via Dunham Massey?). Admission for visitors is £3, students free, and includes light refreshments. For more information contact .Secretary Jenni Hyde 01772 93033 or boltonhistory@aim.com

STOP PRESS

"1939 Register" MCL Talk by Myko Clelland Dec 1st 2015

This fully subscribed double event marked the long awaited return visit by Myko Clelland, who now has the grand title of "Partnership and Outreach Manager" for Findmypast. He started his morning talk by discussing the importance of retrieving records from all generations no matter how far back they go, to help us see each ancestor as an individual, with their own unique story to discover and learn from.



The purpose of the 1939 Register was in effect to provide a snapshot contemporary wartime version of the 11th C Domesday book, and it was prepared to record details of the English and Welsh civilian population, assess what practical resources they could offer, and what their basic essential needs would be during the austerity of wartime. This of course meant those who were already serving in the forces were excluded. It was initiated September 3rd 1939 when the UK declared war on Germany, the National Registration Act received Royal Assent on 5th September, and 65,000 enumerators had it completed with 41 million people by September 29th. It must be noted also that 1.5 million had already been moved out of the big cities and towns in the first three days so these are already their new addresses. The total number moved was 3.75 million. Once recorded individuals received Identity Cards and were allocated Ration Books which were still operational up to 1952. (This did also need some amendments later where sons of call up age were omitted by parents to avoid military service



but then found they had no ration allocation!!). The list was regularly updated manually with births, deaths and marriages, and continued as the basis for the National Health Service until it was digitalized in 1991. These manual alterations are valuable resources in themselves, but other data provided also includes updated addresses, full names, full dates of birth, marital state, sex, individual occupation and skill, and any previous military service.

Updated annotations such as BDMs are recorded in green by the NHS.

NB No origins of birth seem to have been recorded?? As suggested by Andrew Marr

<https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/1939-register-eve-of-war-1433967695.html> to avoid possible "purges" in the event of a successful invasion.

When FMP took on the project of digitalising these records they actually scanned and recorded all 41 million records, then transduced them all and only systematically opened up the ones that they knew were allowed within the 100 year rule. This is now an ongoing exercise apparently and is also coordinated with USA and Canadian records as confirmed BDM records are made available. Details on those who have died after 1991 can be obtained via the TNA if certified proof can be given, and using the "Update this record "tab on the FMP page.

Myko went on to explain some "tweaks "of searching via different filters, and use of key words, He discussed

- how to use the 4 maps facility for each page , to compare population movements, the size and age composition of households in different areas, and maybe assess whether the district might have been mainly used for evacuees, neutral, or reception zones . (Were there a lot of, or no children there? Mothers of under 5s, pregnant women and disabled were offered evacuation under the Pied Piper programme which had already been initiated during this period of the "phony "war, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/events/evacuation>).
- Those living in institutions might be recorded in the OVSPi column, - Officer, Visitor, Servant, Patient, Inmate.
- Where somebody can't be found maybe alternative routes of looking for other family members, might help. A first name or surname only plus accurate DOB might solve it.
- Linking up with other databases might help "flesh" individuals out such as British Newspapers often with photos after 1955, Electoral Registers which are constantly being updated, and various military records.

Myko concluded with an offer of 10% discount for 5 addresses using 1939ALK as a voucher code but there are of course ongoing offers if <http://www.genealogydiscount.co.uk/> is monitored . An interesting talk.

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And wait for it

Scroll Down

A bit more



OUR 2015 CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Answers to be announced on our opening night at the Golf Club January 20th. They can either be emailed in to boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk by January 19th 2016 or print outs brought in on the night. Highest score wins. Adjudicator Rita Greenwood. If we have matching top scores the winner will be drawn out of a hat.

1. Abbreviations - what do the following stand for?

GRO

CRO

FFHS

GOONS

BMD

TNA

PCC

DNA

IHGS

CWGC

2. Dates - why are the following significant for family historians?

1837

1801

1538

1858

1754

1723

1799

3. Terms - unravel the following anagrams, which are all important to your family history research:

censsu

aeeglnoy

aeiinorrstt

aaadeefgghnrrrtt

aghhoopprt

accefiirstt

aadegravy

accinoopstu

acddeennsst
acenorssst
cdeiorrtty
aaehhrttx (2 words)
aeeinoqrrsssstu (2 words)
ceelorttu (two words)
abimpts
aeefilmrty (two words)
aegiimnort
adiimnnoot
ehkoorsuw
abcehilprt

5. People - why were the following people important in improving the lives of our ancestors?

Coke

Watt

Rowntree

Caxton

Bazalgette

You may know some of the answers off the top of your head, but others you'll have to research and learn some fascinating new family history facts in the process!

That's all folks. The judge's decision is final. Santa is taking a holiday until next year. See you there and wishing you all a peaceful and healthy 2016

