



# Bolton's Genies

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society:

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

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April 2017

Bolton Family History Society is a branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society.

Contents of the Member Area. Note various Bolton databases <https://goo.gl/QW1jWb>

Other benefits and how to join <https://goo.gl/tjStxw>



Hello all. Well here we are already a quarter of the way through the year. Spring is well under way, and the blossom is out, so I thought we were also due for another change of picture here at the top as well.

We have "to serve the separate township of Little Bolton, their own Town Hall building opened in 1828, which was subject to a siege during a Chartist riot. Upon conviction, some of the rioters were sentenced to transportation". It is thought this was built around 1823 by a Thomas Heaton who lived next door, and subsequently went bankrupt and joined the army. I wonder if anyone can tell us any more about this? If so Rebecca Brayshaw of [info@littleboltontownhall.com](mailto:info@littleboltontownhall.com) (and us), would love to hear from you. I now hope to do a different picture each month of local iconic scenes, so if you have any more to offer please do.

This month at Bolton FHS might have seemed to be quieter than recently but that doesn't mean we haven't been busy in the background, (and some of us have even managed short holidays. Yours truly even completed a research epic with a very satisfactory ending, see below).

There has been plenty to do, such as booking our speakers for next year, (yes, the good ones soon get booked up so we need to be on our toes), and planning our visits etc. for the coming year This usually involves a "scouting trip" by someone to work out timing and routes etc.

We are also trying to work out how we can continue the momentum that we started with our very successful Open Day in February at Bolton Central Library. Rita and Barbara are currently leading a series of five workshops there now, on Saturdays, with what I hear is a very enthusiastic group, (see below). We still also have members assisting with the cataloguing, and there are whispers of another Open Day with a difference, to be held in the autumn.

We also have our Manchester Annual General Meeting in the Central Library on April 19<sup>th</sup> to which we hope as many as possible will be able to attend and meet our new senior Chairman David Muir. (See details below). Our Bolton annual General Meeting is of course next month preceding our May meeting. See below.

## OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

- **Where?**

**Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU. Buses 519&125 <https://goo.gl/TH5zYC> . All MLFHS members free. £2.00 to non-members unless joining on the night.**

- **When?**

**7pm beverages available for 7.30pm start, on the first Wednesday of each month. Extras include a Help Desk for personal research, Stationery Table for discounted equipment, and recycle service for your used Family History Magazines**



**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April, “The Pre-NHS Health Service in Bolton” by Caroline Furey Collections Access Officer, Bolton Archives.**



Maybe 18 months ago, one of our committee members, commented, “I wonder how much it cost for me to be delivered at birth safely, pre-NHS?”. None of us knew, so we asked Caroline. She didn’t really know either, but said “I will find out”. This has triggered over a year of diligent research into the history of Bolton’s embryonic health service, culminating in the 4.5\* service that we have today. (Well nobody is perfect but they do try hard). Caroline dug deep into Bolton’s archived original records and beyond, to at least the early 18<sup>th</sup> C, and decided to focus on the general medical treatments rather than look at other parallel services like dentistry, and the

ambulance service. She came to share her discoveries with us this month, showing documents to qualify most examples.

First impressions were re the sad attitude of resignation of those who had nothing, as accepting their ailments as an “act of God”, and being “in the blood”, and not because of anything they could have prevented. Blame was put on situations such as “poor air”, or “lack of it”, drinking untreated water which “should have had white vinegar or wine in it”, (maybe some truth in this), and living near sulphurous fumes emanating from the grave yards. Solutions were suggested of doing exercises with dumb bells, getting the correct amount of sleep, wearing the right clothing (not too tight, and farthingale style dresses were OK in the South but not in the North in the winter). Apothecaries and herbalists were perhaps the first medieval “medical practitioners”, and the Crompton Papers <https://goo.gl/VPwFVU> showed typical recipes of the times for homemade cough mixtures, ointments, and family prescriptions which were the treasured norm for many conditions. Nicholas Culpeper <https://goo.gl/8y0SbW> was mentioned as a pioneering 17<sup>th</sup> C London apothecary, from a religious background, who advocated some examination before prescribing appropriate treatment, and for the same to be given freely if payment was impossible. John Wesley’s teachings, similarly encouraged the wealthy to fund the poor for treatments, and he had his own recipes. “Druggist” shops appeared on the city streets, and increased, with the growing population (which was of course causing associated environmental problems). “Quackery” was also widespread, but needs acknowledged, and provision for payment of some treatments made with “outdoor relief” by certain Boards of Guardians. Before long though, the better off now began to approach “physicians “who had undertaken some university level training, initially from London Universities. Barber / surgeons still managed the practical emergency care.

Eventually the 3 roles were amalgamated, and in Bolton Dr Taylor was appointed to manage the first subscription supported Public Dispensary in 1813 on Mawdsley Street <https://goo.gl/x1kGnZ> and <https://goo.gl/xj5n1b> . Demands soon justified a second apprentice physician a month later and 3 other carers. Patients were referred by a subscriber’s written recommendation, and even some home visits performed occasionally. In the first year 1152 patients were seen by 5 staff. They grew and expanded to a bigger building on Nelson Square in 1823, with 8 beds for accident victims, and in 1847 Bolton Infirmary and Dispensary was opened; however, by 1875 Dr S T Chadwick was declaring this building unfit for purpose,

with an unusually high mortality rate. £5000 was raised for a specialist children's ward and more land bought from the Earl of Bradford, and in 1883 Bolton Royal Infirmary was launched. Slowly more skilled and support staff were appointed. Other specialist "cottage" hospitals appeared over the next few years to manage convalescence, TB, fevers, maternity, etc. The Bolton Hospital Saturday Council, later Fund, was a central point for fund raising, and other trade union organisations and Friendly Societies helped with payment schemes for the workers.

Running in tandem with this it became evident that the Union Workhouse at Townleys Farm, opened in 1861, was becoming increasingly used as a pauper's hospital, and progressive developments were made to expand this building, with ancillary provision at Kings Gate Institution for male vagrants

<https://goo.gl/Zl3WOS>.

Eventually after two 20<sup>th</sup> World Wars the National Health Service was launched in 1948.

Caroline showed us pictures of the many documents she has found, and that are readily available in the Bolton Archives, recording many of these local recipes, business contracts, reports, registers, letters etc. These are just some of them and there will be more in our quarterly journal. They are probably reflected nationally in principle, and I would suggest they describe the development of something we can all be proud of in our NHS.

(NB, we still don't know how much Grahams parents were charged for his safe arrival though)  
(NNB We had 91 attending, thank you all.)



**Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup> Manchester Quarterly Meeting and Annual General Meeting** To be held in the Performance Space 10.30 am - 3.00 pm **10.30 am The Munificent Sir John Leigh Speaker: Leslie Turner** Sir John Leigh, 1st Baronet (of Altrincham) a Manchester man who made his fortune in the Lancashire cotton industry.

**11.45 am Annual General Meeting** 12.30 pm Lunch

**1.30 pm The Archaeology of Salford, revealing the City's Past, Speaker: Dr Mike Nevell**

Reviews several decades of archaeological work within the city, from Iron Age farmsteads to 19th century industrial workers housing

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** (change of speaker from the advertised programme) **"The Story of the Edgworth and Crowthorn Children's home" by Anita Forth.** She tells us *"My talk covers the history of the Edgworth Children's home? Crowthorn Special needs school – 1872-2002 including recollections from the home children and former pupils"*



*Edgworth Home was the first National Children's Home to be opened outside London and the foundation of one of the largest children's charities – Now known as "Action for children!"*

This will be preceded by our **annual General Meeting which will take about 10 minutes** and involve summarising this last year's activities, appointing next year's committee, and meeting our new Senior Chairman David Muir. **Terry Walsh will also be attending with his display of genealogy books from the Family History Partnership** <https://goo.gl/vvc230>

## **OTHER COMING EVENTS**

**Thursday 4th May 2017 Ordsall Hall.** <https://goo.gl/c64AJw> The guided trip starts at 11.00am and lasts about 90 minutes and tea/coffee is provided. We have approx. 16 places left (maximum 40), cost £5 per head. They only have very limited café facilities, but there are picnic areas in the grounds

**Our trip to BBC Media City 5<sup>th</sup> June is sold out.**





## GENIE'S TIPS for April 2018



### MLFHS 'Toolbar' Replacement <https://goo.gl/4ERhbc>

Did you know the MLFHS website opening page has a connection to a Toolbar which has over 200 websites ready and waiting for you to use? The Toolbar connection can be downloaded and added to your list of Favourites websites making it even quicker to get at. Just add it to your Bookmark Bar, thus it is permanently at the top of the search engine screen and instantly available.

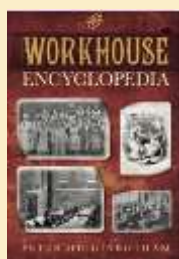
**Bolton Archives and Local Studies Unit at the History Centre** <https://goo.gl/Le0CW5> has extensive records of use to inquisitive family historians. E.g. **National records and indexes** (Although the bulk of our holdings relate specifically to Bolton and district (including Blackrod, Farnworth, Horwich, Kearsley, Little Lever, Turton and Westhoughton), some national family history sources have also been acquired) and **Archive material** including large collections of original archives with local connections, plus extensive surname indexes to biographical news cuttings and obituaries and to many useful archive sources, including apprenticeship indentures, poor law affiliation, settlement and removal papers, police records and title deeds.



NB they can also provide individual assistance on the use of computers for family history research by appointment only on Thursdays 10am -12md.

### Peter Higginbotham, of the Workhouse [ <http://www.workhouses.org.uk> ] and Children's Homes

[ <https://goo.gl/TT53lr> ] websites, has written a "Workhouse Encyclopaedia" which lists in A-Z format all the details you might want explained about workhouse records/practices. Graham Holt tells me that *"Using it I was able to discover that "Diet 3" is the diet for a Youth from 6-16 years. It also has a copy of the Consolidated General Order, 1847. I will leave you to discover why this is an important document.*



*Bolton History Centre have a copy of the book, [ B 362.5 HIG Q/R], the ISBN is 978-0-7524-7012-2 and at about £16.99 a paperback a library is probably the better bet."*

**Bury Council, Archives and family history, Summary of catalogue resources** <https://goo.gl/nFQE3u> The list below summarises the most frequently used resources. The trade directories listing takes you to pages of scanned, original directories. ---

### "Welcome to LANCAT" <https://goo.gl/WQfEPK> Lancashire County Council Archives

Do you all know about how to access the online archives catalogue at Preston? *"Our catalogue contains descriptions of over 1.2 million documents from within our collections. To find out more: ---do a keyword search by using the Search field above*

*browse through collections by clicking the Reference Number in individual search results*

*use Advanced Search if you want to add limits to your search"*

*look in the Showcase for examples of other collections held at Lancashire Archives*



**"A Manchester Researchers Tale" <https://goo.gl/RnTo1V> Manchester Family History Research** by Gerard Lodge Genealogist. It seems this is the website of a professional genealogist based in Manchester. He recounts how he has done a lot of extensive research himself, firstly on his own family, then subsequently on various Prison Records from the area, court records, industrial schools and much more, passing several on to

organisations such as Findmypast. I found this site is useful for links and background information at least to assist your own research. I hear he is not currently practicing.

#### **Ancestry Subscriptions** <https://goo.gl/zINpn3>

This offer has been around for a while, but I am told is still working, and will accept those who allow their subscriptions to expire for a “few “days. Of course, it is the DNA offer that they are pushing but that is your choice.

### **WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES**

#### **The Saturday Family History Workshops at the Bolton History Centre** by Jeanette Holland

*At week 4 of the five week course it is quite remarkable how Rita and Barbara have managed to take a group of individuals, at various stages of research and with varying levels of abilities, and tailor a course that is both engaging and informative to all. I am sure that I speak for everyone when I say that the course has been incredibly worthwhile and enjoyable.*

*In by no means an exhaustive list we have looked at parish registers, birth marriage and death records, probate, census information, old maps, newspaper archives and inquest reports. By studying one person's life and fully utilising all the above we have seen the importance of collating as much detail as possible about each individual, compiling as much factual accuracy as possible about that person before moving on to the next. Rita (being my tutor, as we were split into 2 groups), has helped with individual queries in a way that has benefitted the whole group and we have learned from one another, with stories of progress and obstacles that we have encountered. I will be quite sorry on Saturday when the course comes to an end!*

Editor Thank you, Jeanette, what a lovely article for their shared cv.



### **THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES**



#### **Lancashire Records**



<http://goo.gl/i29JpL> John Marsden, who amongst many other things is the web master for Lancs BMD [www.lancashirebmd.org.uk](http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk) reports that more new data has been added at taking some areas up to 2007. “The Manchester deaths indexing project has now reached its target date of 1969, when there were further boundary changes and will, at least for the present, proceed no further. This is a good opportunity to thank Geoff Haslam and all his team of on-site and home workers for this considerable achievement. Thanks, are due to Bob Winder, Geoff Haslam and Tony Foster and their teams for the above”. Well done team, what next???



**Lancs OPC** <http://goo.gl/AN699Z> and left click on the “What's New” tab on the left. Did you also know that the same site has some very nice extra information about various local Bolton districts <https://goo.gl/8vsDd9> . Look at this article about Halliwell <https://goo.gl/qNdZNi> , and others about areas like Smithills, and Barrow Bridge, also local churches, maps and photos. It seems the site has been revamped since I last saw it.

#### **Red Rose Collections** <https://goo.gl/lnDRGB> © 2017, Lancashire County Council

“Explore images of Lancashire people, places and events in our heritage collections. Search the indexes to newspapers and historical documents for your research”. I understand this is another revamped site, and I suspect a lot of you will find this very useful. It offers collections of photographs, historical documents,

local indexes, the Preston Guild, newspapers, the Police Index, and Fleetwood Online Archive of Trawlers amongst 5 other things.

## **SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES**



### **Free UK Genealogy** <https://goo.gl/Z9aaqk>

We have talked recently about Free BMD and how some of our members are transcribing and indexing records for them, but do you realise that this is just part of a much bigger and ongoing free service, also including FreeCEN <https://goo.gl/9Pm7qK> which offers a free, online database of the 1841 to 1891 UK census returns, and FreeREG <https://goo.gl/cdkH5X> which houses our parish and nonconformist registers of baptisms, marriages and burials. The recording of non-civic registers began in England and Wales in 1538; this is separate and distinct from the civil registration process that began in 1837. We are currently developing a new version of FreeREG, which is halfway through its transformation. This will be a template for the future development of FreeBMD and FreeCEN".

They now also have a new "vision" document launched 29.03.2017 <https://goo.gl/oUcJoU> aiming in particular at managing "TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE Digital technology has fundamentally changed what it means to be an archive. Archivists can help the IT and knowledge management communities by bringing professional archival practice to this digital world", Trust: Enrichment: Openness Archives Unlocked, the vision for Archives in England

### **Summary of new prices in effect from 1 April 2017** <https://goo.gl/zonRFb> **The National Archives**

### **"Which is the best family history website?" (for you)** <https://goo.gl/UAkt7V> **Family Tree**

Find out which family tree website is best for tracing your family history and finding ancestors with our review of the major UK genealogy websites.

**Genealogy Discount** <https://goo.gl/0si46o> and look here for the latest offers. It is rare that you need to pay full price

### **Sign up for Family Tree Maker news!** <https://goo.gl/gTnSNe>

By the time, you read this it might well be too late for you to take advantage of the reduced offer for the purchase of the new, all singing, all dancing, MacKiev version of Family Tree Maker 2017. Regular users will know that Ancestry sold FTM to MacKiev last year, but left the announcement of the closure of links until the last minute, as in mid-March, to be actioned on March 29th. This means that all FTM programmes bought from Ancestry no longer have their support, although they will still work as standalone programmes on the home computer. The option is to buy the MacKiev version of FTM which is now available for £29.95 for upgrades for a limited time. The full price, which is only for newcomers, is £79.95. Just go to <https://support.mackiev.com/> and enter FTM 2017 in the search field for more information. **They are still having teething problems as we go to press so be quick and you might still be lucky**

**List of United Kingdom censuses** <https://goo.gl/gzJU1u> **Wikipedia** Last edited 4 months ago by Nick Cooper. A very interesting site

**Leeds General Cemetery Burial Registers Index** <https://goo.gl/QYGBIp> **University of Leeds** "This is a database of transcriptions of all entries in the burial registers of the Leeds General Cemetery. The registers hold information on each person buried at the cemetery, covering the period 1835-1992. There are 97,146 entries in the index". Quite a useful database if you have interests here.



## How to Order Microfilm or Microfiche from FamilySearch <https://goo.gl/bwCdBG>

*"There are two ways to order a film to view at a Family History Centre---".* Picture courtesy of Flickr



**How to look for Coroner's inquests** <https://goo.gl/Nm0IVZ> . *"This is a brief guide to help you with your research into coroners' inquests. Most post mid-18th century records of inquests are held at local archives and not The National Archives. Not all coroners' inquests have been selected for permanent preservation. Records of deaths less than 75 years old may be retained by the coroner's office", ---*



## **Registration of Marriage Bill --Explanatory Notes** <https://goo.gl/qBTB1E>

*There are plans for marriage registration to go "to an electronic system will enable the form and content of the marriage register entry to be easily amended to include, for example, the details of both parents of the couple, without having to replace all marriage register books"*

**UK & Ireland Genealogy, Parish Registers and Local History PDF Publications** <https://goo.gl/HCUvN8> *"Providing Historians, Genealogists and Family Researchers with image scans of 19th and early 20th century books, including transcriptions of parish registers, memorial inscriptions, local and social history covering the UK and Ireland, which have been converted into searchable PDF files and are available compiled onto data discs".* Might be useful for some..



## **(Australian) Migration and citizenship** <https://goo.gl/y7seuu> **National Archives of Australia**

*"The National Archives holds records about many individuals who arrived from overseas during the 20th century and some who arrived during the 19th century. We also hold records about Australians who left and returned to Australia".* A very useful site. Just sorted out one of my brick walls.

## **Convict Records of Australia** <https://goo.gl/3duyXK>

*Welcome to Convict Records. This website allows you to search the British Convict transportation register for convicts transported to Australia between 1787-1867.*

*Information available includes name of convict, known aliases, place convicted, port of departure, date of departure, port of arrival, and the source of the data*

## **Public Record Office Victoria (PROV)** <https://goo.gl/8h9OHu> **Archive of the State Government of Victoria.**

*We hold around 100kms of records dating from the mid-1830s to the present day. Our impressive collection includes records of immigration and shipping, criminal trials and prisons, premiers and governors, royal commissions, boards of inquiry, wills and probates and much more.*

## **"A genealogical and heraldic history of the landed gentry of Great Britain & Ireland"** <https://goo.gl/zS0icS>

**Internet Archive BookReader** *A genealogical and heraldic history of the landed gentry of Great Britain & Ireland*

## **Military Stuff**

### **"Casualties of the Manchester Regiment WW1 1914 – 1921"** <https://goo.gl/tEI26w> **Manchester Regiment**

**Archives** *The Manchester Regiment Archive is one of the largest collections held on deposit at Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre. I see they also have the Absent Voters list here* <https://goo.gl/PqWrNS> *which might help some..*



### **“The Grave Marker/Wooden Cross Project” <https://goo.gl/Z4aSRm> Returned from the Front**

The first reported wooden crosses in Lancashire have now been found and recorded in the index. This one of Thomas Lines is in the Lancashire Fusiliers Museum

Bury, Lancashire BL9 0DF and the cross commemorates 2nd Lieutenant Thomas Lines (2nd Salford Pals, 16th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers), There is another at a church in Ormskirk. Does anybody know of any in the Bolton area please? If so, please can they at least notify [Julie.lamara@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.lamara@bolton.gov.uk) Bolton Archivist, and take a picture and note of details and condition. I have just found two in a church in Yorkshire which were apparently saved from being thrown out in Belgium. If you know of any, anywhere, please can you first contact the local War Memorials Index coordinator, then also check if they are on the register as above.



### **A “Lost” Medal Returned to its Owners Family, by Jane Milne**

It might have been this time last year, when a friend and I were discussing military medals, and she commented that she had one connected to her husband’s great grandmother, who they knew had been a military nurse in WW1 but little else about her. My friend is not a Face Book user, so, me feeling a bit braver, offered to put a picture of it on the group “UK Military History/Military Genealogy and Military Photography”. Here it was instantly identified as the Victory Medal from WW1. We had no idea what an amazing sequence of events this was to launch.

My brother, who lives in Switzerland saw this posting, and commented to me “We have got one of those”. I could not fathom this out as I am the one who does the tree in our family, and as far as I knew we had nobody from my mother’s side who had been the right age to serve in WW1. He said they came with his share of our grandparent’s house clearance from Hull, Yorkshire. I knew Grandpa had not been in the army though and asked if there was a name on the side. When he looked, it said “George William Ruddock, Durham Light Infantry”, on the side. We had no idea who this man was but I decided to investigate, and try to trace any family and return same. We enlisted the services of cousins “en route” from New Zealand to the UK, to bring it back to England at least, rather than trust it to the post.



I started a tree using Family Tree Maker, and found two possible people to fit in with the timescale, one born Frodingham, Yorks 1892 and one 1885 in Hull, East Yorkshire. They were first cousins as it turned out but an Ancestry search informed me that my George b 1885 served in the Durham light Infantry and his attestation papers, and medal index card were plainly there. Now to find any descendants.

I first found him in the appropriate censuses. In 1891, he had been living with his parents in a grocer and bar retailer shop in Hessle Road, Hull, with his sister Jenny and brother Harry. In 1901, he was a plumber’s apprentice, living just with his widowed mother who was running a wine, spirit and beer retailers on St Georges Road, and in 1911 he was helping in the same shop with another assistant. His attestation papers showed he was still there when enlisting Dec 1915. He was 5ft 1 ½ ins tall and had a 34ins chest. He served in the 6<sup>th</sup> and then 11<sup>th</sup> Units of the 27<sup>th</sup> Batt Durham Light Infantry and sustained a gunshot wound to his left arm in 1917 but was returned fit for service until discharged in 24.01.1919. I searched all the usual sources for any marriage. Nothing showed up on Ancestry, Findmypast, Family Search.org, Free BMD or Yorkshire BMD. He was not on the 1939 Register either but I did find his death in 1931, leaving his Probate to his married sister Jennie. There was nothing to suggest he had ever had a child, so the next step was to follow his siblings trail.

I found brother Harry’s line and it seems he had taken over the family’s wine and spirit business on Hessle Road in 1911. He had two sons. William had married a Bessie Keal in 1924, but no apparent children according to Free BMD. Son Harry married an Enid Hockney in 1924 and had one son Michael who married



Ann McWatt in 1963. They had a daughter Jacqueline who did marry in 1984 but I could not find any obvious records of any children so opted for another line. Georges sister Jennie had obviously had more involvement with him if she had managed his Probate.

Jennie had married in 1901 to a wine merchant traveller, presumably met via the family business, and in 1901 the newlywed couple were living in Skipton Yorkshire. By 1911 they had moved to Derbyshire and had two sons, Cyril b1902 Hull, and Arthur b 1904 Belper, Derbyshire, and Richard was to arrive a year later, also in Belper.

As the surname was quite unusual it was not difficult to trace Cyril's marriage to Olive in Leeds in 1927, and their daughter Jean's birth in Hull in 1929. There was a possible marriage in 1965 in Hull, with two sons Julian born 1968 and Dylan 1973, but I could find no obvious evidence of their having married, had children, or presence on the social media. My only target was to find a family descendant to return the medal, and other than that, this was not my family to intrude on.

I next looked at Jennie's second son Arthur, who had married Gertrude in Sculcoates, Hull in 1933. Where did they go after this? I was then lucky enough to find them both in Haltemprice, a Hull suburb, in the 1939 Register, and he was a "qualified chemist MPS". This was of course veritable "gold dust", and I later found his death at the same address in 1960. I also found via Free BMD that they had had two children Richard b March 1935 and Ann b Sept 1936 Hull. I was lucky again that Richards middle name was distinctive so I opted to Google the name and see what came up.

Another Eureka moment. I found several sites providing details re his name but significantly "Check Company" <http://www.checkcompany.co.uk/> informed me that the family had a chemist business in the area, giving me their business address, and several other possible family members who were involved with the management.



I now wondered how to approach the family. Richard would be quite elderly by now, but I found from Free BMD that he had a son Roger who seemed to be carrying on the business, and a daughter Suzanne. I wondered about contacting him via Facebook but could not find an obvious person. I tentatively Messaged two with a vague enquiry of "family business connected to Yorkshire", but negative answers. I next found Roger had married, on Free BMD, and obtained his wife's name. I found her and her sister in law on FB and messaged them. They both

replied after a couple of weeks, and at last I managed to confirm the family connection, and I offered to deliver the medal ASAP, asking only for a photo as a memento.

We finally managed to do this last week and it was a wonderful feeling to find a happy ending to, what was to me, a marathon investigation. We still don't know how Georges medal ended up in our family treasure box, but can only surmise that somehow my grandparents were asked to look after it, as friends of the family, probably during the Hull Blitz of WW2 when there was so much upheaval.

I have since heard Rogers 14-year-old son is about to tour the Battlefields with his school this Easter. He now has a personal point of interest.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Some Notes on the Changes in Marriage Registration England (and where to find local records)

courtesy of Jim Lancaster. Jim recently wrote a very interesting article in the Bury Facebook page, <https://goo.gl/dQAhFO> (closed, you will need to apply), and has been good enough to adapt it for our consumption. Thank you, Jim.

"Long, long ago (as the story books say), marriage was regulated by local custom and religious beliefs. After the Reformation, these were enshrined in the laws of the Church of England. Over time, these laws were increasingly bent or ignored. This resulted in the



**Hardwicke's Act being implemented in 1754.** This Act laid down clear rules about how the ceremony was to be conducted and recorded and applied to everybody except Quakers and Jews. The reasons for this are that the understanding of these two groups about 'Church' both as an organisation and as a place, differed greatly from that of the usual understanding, and further both groups were very careful about their membership and records.

The Church of England had always faced opposition from the followers of the Old Faith (Papists, Catholics) and from people who wanted more reform (Puritans, Baptists, etc.) In the later part of the 1700s, the Free Church groups grew and towards 1800 there was increasing tolerance of the Catholic community. Again, the laws were increasingly bent or ignored. This resulted in the

**Marriage Registration Act that was implemented in July 1837.** This recognised the primacy of the Church of England regarding marriage but also provided legal marriage for those who wanted their own religious ceremony and for those who did not want any religious ceremony. This non-Anglican facility was provided by the Registrar. Non-religious marriages could be solemnised in his Office and non-Anglican ceremonies could be performed in licensed chapels provided the Registrar attended.

**Marriage Registration was further extended in 1898, when non-Anglican chapels could apply to have an Authorised Person (AP) to act for the Registrar for registration purposes.** Many of the Free Church chapels availed themselves of this development but not so Catholic churches. It was only from about 1970, following the Second Vatican Council, that many Catholic churches started to have Authorised Persons. Some of the non-Anglican chapels maintained their own religious marriage registers that were/separate from the civil registers kept by the Registrar and Authorised Person. This can be quite confusing. One example is SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Bolton. LancashireBMD <https://goo.gl/SOv3iL>, shows that an Authorised Person was appointed for this chapel in 1987 and registers have been deposited with the Registrar to 1991. Before 1987, the Registrar would have attended the church for the civil aspects of a marriage and the details would have been recorded in his 'Registrar's Register' (RO series). However, if you look at the Lancashire On-Line Parish Clerk Project <https://goo.gl/SWUeMd> you will find transcripts for marriage registers for 1795 – 1825 and 1832 – 1924.

**Most of the non-Anglican Churches provide advice to their churches and chapels about the care of old registers.** The local Catholic Diocese advises on the storage of old registers and for the Diocese of Salford this is that they should be deposited in Lancashire Archives in Preston. It is the registers of SS Peter & Paul deposited there that have been transcribed by Lan-OPC. However, this advice is not mandatory and another local example is "Radcliffe, St Mary & St Philip Neri RC". There are no registers deposited in Lancashire Archives for this church even though the marriage registers commence in 1874. They are still with the Parish Priest and you would need to write if you seek information from them, Further, though I think this church has an Authorised Person, it seems the first AP Register is still in use as no register has been deposited with the Bury Registrar, and so no entry in LancashireBMD. The marriages at this church will be recorded in the GRO Registers and so appear in the available Indexes as 'Bury' marriages because the Authorised Person will make Quarterly Returns.

NB Editor's Note Further changes have taken place in the civil laws relating to the registration of marriages since 1970 and the laws continue to develop." See also "**Keep sex abuse dad's name off my wedding certificate**" <https://goo.gl/EN5YWa> By Jackie Storer BBC News 17 February 2017

### **Transcribing in Spain! By Rosemary Wallsworth**

After relocating from England to Spain in 2003 I decided to start researching my family, and building an on-line tree. I worked hard on it for over 4 years managed to compile some good branches from both my mums and dads side of the family. Originally, I just looked on line generally, but it soon became clear that by joining a site, I had much more access to things such as the census returns and marriage information.



I dipped in and out over the years, never getting the opportunity to get back to Bolton, to search out things that were not available digitally; it also meant I hadn't come across Bolton Family History Society, until now that is!

Having "met", and made a virtual friend of Jane Milne, the Bolton Genie editor, she asked me if I was a member. I was intrigued, and had to join. It almost made me feel as if I was back in Bolton again.

I was so pleased with what the BFHS had to offer, I decided to offer something back in return by helping transcribe documents. My offer was quickly responded to, and I received an email with a number of workhouse records attached. I couldn't wait to start work on them.

To see these 1871 records carefully handwritten, but totally unsearchable digitally, was really interesting. I just hoped that with everything that goes on at home, that I would manage to find the time.



The reason I say about finding time is that my day is pretty full here in Spain. We have a small one acre farm here in Olula del Rio, Almeria. We grow as much of our own food as we can, using old fashioned techniques as people did 100's of years ago. We have 70 olive trees for our own oil, we grow as much fruit and veg as we can, using no pesticides or artificial fertilisers, plus we have ducks, chickens, goats, a sheep, small pigs, turkeys and rabbits, plus a few others. It is a lot of work, there are 9 of us here, the whole family,

including my 3 grandchildren. We all pitch in with the, animals, gardening and general chores, but my day is mainly spent, running around, cooking, washing and cleaning etc ... 9 mouths to feed takes a lot of planning!



So, on that note, if you enjoy family history and use the internet to find your information, why not consider offering to help. It isn't difficult at all. You just read what you see, and then note it down on a simple excel spreadsheet, which when completed you email back.

Whilst it is done on a voluntary basis, to think I have helped preserve a little bit of history is all the reward you need, well for it is for me anyway! So, go on, bite the bullet and see if you can become a part of the world-wide team, there is a lot of information to be worked on, and it is people like you with an interest in history that will benefit!



### **Face Book**

It is appreciated that the mere mention of "social media", still sets some peoples pulses racing in anxiety attacks; although I suspect many do still have a sneaky feeling that they wish they could try the benefits without incurring the apparent "risks" of exposing their confidential details to the world. It is a comparatively new concept that many of us are still having problems "getting our heads around", as they say in this part of the world.

I have tried twice. The first time about two years ago, initially to access the MLFHS FB page which I had heard offered a lot of useful information and websites. I just put my name in with a made-up DOB, and no location, and left it two weeks then cancelled in a panic. The second time, a friend Janet Lythgoe wrote me an idiot's guide, and explained the advantages of joining closed groups which means membership is controlled by moderators, who approve membership and expel anyone using offensive or inappropriate comments in the conversation. They might offer local news and pictures of yesteryear, as well as various genealogy and other interest groups, which could mutually request or offer advice.

I slowly became "hooked". I am now a member of quite a few "closed" groups about various subjects, and this means all conversation stays within the group. I have really enjoyed reading enquiries from other researchers from all over the world, sometimes helping them, sometimes being helped, and I have learnt a lot. I have caught up with old work colleagues and school friends. I have even traced the rightful owners of a medal we found mixed up with our family treasures (see above), and we have found several new cousins. I recently heard about a new group called "Bury Lancashire Genealogy and Family History" <https://goo.gl/dQAhFO> via Sharon Bunting, a Bury ex pat, and subscribed MLFHS member who lives in Australia, who posted



details on the MLFHS forum. She is now providing all the “idiots information” that I need and with a vengeance.

I asked Janet to help me find more useful groups and here is what we have come up with. Some are UK based, some USA based and some international, but all of them are covering the kind of questions that we all need answers to! They are listed in no particular order, just type them in the menu bar at the top : “Catholic History of the Salford Diocese”, “Family Tree Maker Users”, “UK Military History/Military Genealogy”, “Vintage Photos Lost and Found”, “Search Squad Genealogy! Just Ask!”, “1831-1939 & Beyond Genealogy Discussion Group”, “Friends of Genealogy: Researching your Family Tree”, “Ancestry UK” “Genealogy Addicts UK and Worldwide”.

If you know more please let us know, and don't forget our own page “Bolton Family History Society”.

## **OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS**



### **Halliwell Local History Society** <http://goo.gl/8erYvr>

Email [margaretk@talktalk.net](mailto: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, BL1 3BE opposite Shepherd Cross St, Bolton,

**25th April AGM followed by 'Smithills Moor' – Russell Hedley from the Woodland Trust** will tell us about their plans for the estate which they purchased in 2015



### **Turton Local History Society** <https://goo.gl/PHNXjA>

The old Urban District of Turton. Illustrated talks and meetings are held from August to April inclusive on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at Longsight Church Centre, Harwood BL2 3HX beginning at 7.30pm. **This next month's event 26 April - To Luther and Bach (Eddie Bevitt)**

### **Westhoughton Local History Group** – <http://goo.gl/XNugI5>

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.

**6th April Thieves, Forgers & Luddites - Lancaster: Martin Baggoley Castle Executions in the Bloody Code Era**

**20th April Keep taking the Tablets: Stephen Freeborn**

**27th April Guided walk around Rivington Gardens with Elaine Taylor looking at the historical background.**

All invited at £2 a head. Meet at Small Rivington Barn <https://goo.gl/Tv5ifU> (the Tea Rooms), 10.30am for a short drive to the setting off point. Contact above for more information



### **Horwich Heritage Centre-** <http://goo.gl/fSPsjj>

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. Next meeting

**April 11th, 2017 Elaine Taylor - "Astley - A Picturesque Park"**

Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am --- 1pm with one on April 8th About Family History.

### **Blackrod Local History Group**

Meetings are at Blackrod Council Chamber, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 2pm.

**April 20<sup>th</sup>, Open Meeting.** Contact David Hargreaves 01257481393 for more information.

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