

Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society:

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

- Newsletter Comments, and Speaker Bookings: boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk
- General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Mrs B. Owen, 01204 309515
- Research help, General Queries: bolton@mlfhs.org.uk
- Help Desk Drop In 10am -12md Bolton Central Library. First Saturday of each month.
- Facebook page <https://goo.gl/pxzgsB>
- BFHS website <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/>
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: <https://goo.gl/hJi8Ns> (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index.php>

September 2017

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



This month's iconic picture is 16thC, 10, Firwood Fold, a Grade I listed building and the birthplace of Samuel Crompton in 1753. The Crompton family lived in the house until 1758, making a living from farming and weaving, before moving to rented quarters at nearby Hall i' th' Wood see below. the whole area is now a conservation area of course with No 15 <https://goo.gl/8S2Jjq> claiming to be the oldest house in Bolton

Well welcome all to our September edition. Yes, I'm afraid this means autumn is looming, the weather is cooling down somewhat and the evenings are certainly getting darker earlier. What a strange summer it has been this year.

I have been hearing stories from members though who have been venturing out to inspect various Record Offices and grave yards around the country and even catching up with more distant relatives, so all good. We've been getting out and about here at "base camp" as well. We have certainly been taking breaks, but also preparing the autumn programme, and we hope you will be able to join in with our plans for courses, classes, and meetings. The last two month's newsletters gave details of the two series of week day courses available this autumn run by the Calderbanks, and Rita Greenwood, and this month we have news of Saturday workshops planned at Bolton History Centre in the Central Library after our Open Day there on Saturday October 21st (see details below). We hope we have catered for most. There are also of course the MLFHS courses available at Manchester and news of some free online offers for courses.

We think we also have some good speakers booked, and have a few projects planned, so we hope to see you soon, and are always grateful for any comments. Please don't be shy, we want it, good or bad. I might also add that more notes from previous talks are now available on our website, the latest being Barry Mills talk on WW1 Conscientious Objectors from last month. <https://goo.gl/Yin2yg>, and David Lamberts "Wills and Probates" notes from this month. We are acutely aware that the size of our room can affect both hearing the talk, (new equipment bought and now in operation), as well as seeing any writing etc on the screen from the back of the room, and we have resolved, where possible, to try to supply handouts from the speaker before each talk to enable following same. They will also be put on this link above soon after each meeting, and we hope this will help, particularly for those who cannot make it up the stairs. We have not forgotten you, or the problem.

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 6th September David Lambert, Secretary of the Federation of Family History Societies, (and Chairman of the Metcalfe Society <https://goo.gl/aqDkxk> if you have any of them in your tree) returned to talk to us again about “Where there’s a Will there’s a Way”.

David started by pointing out that even if you are doubtful if your ancestor ever made a will, depending on the period, it is still worth researching wills nearby geographically, or from other relatives, as yours may have received a bequest etc. Apart from any financial inheritance, extra comments may help “flesh out” ancestors by details such as humorous remarks, description of items and style of clothing etc. Other helpful sources may also enhance background information such as details on headstones, newspaper articles, and official announcements, especially in the London Gazette. He also recommended several other resources such as at Trustee Announcements, Title deeds, Manor Ct records, Land Tax records, and Estate / Death Duty records.



Next discussing the historical background of our English Laws of Inheritance <https://goo.gl/oGfWng> he explained how we have progressed from the Roman system (still prevalent in Europe and Scotland) where most items are left to next of kin, to the Anglo-Saxon system where valuables were usually buried with the deceased for their after life, to the Danes who returned to leaving goods to their descendants, to the Normans who also followed the Roman system. There was also now an element of local “laws of custom” competing with the national Canon Law. As regards making wills the Ecclesiastical Courts now took over this responsibility up to 1858, largely because it was usually a priest attending the dying and making a record of their last wishes. (oral being illegal after 1837 but no clarification defined about how a will was written, examples give of step ladders, a bed frame, and an egg!!!)

At this point, there was now a line drawn between the inheritance of land (**Realty** <https://goo.gl/eNiAon>) and property (**Personalty** <https://goo.gl/6xFggB>) . Before 1540 the feudal system had decreed that land could not be left in a will, but rules were relaxed a little now allowing some to be passed on to the eldest son, or certain other descendants. After the Civil War in 1661 Charles 2nd initially completely abolished the feudal system but modifications in 1677 allowed land inheritance if there were 3 witnesses to the documentation. In 1811 a series of laws about Manorial Copyhold of Land began <https://goo.gl/7GTi6c> .

In contrast, a will covering the **Personalty** <https://goo.gl/NHY1HV> section between 1200s and 1692 might include any moveable contents of the property including household items, work implements, and even bee hives and dung heaps which were all recorded in and left under the generic term of a “Testament” (still seen in Scotland of course). Here items were usually divided into 1/3rds after bills had been paid, with the widow getting one, the children the second, and bequests in the third. A Statute of Distribution 1670 <https://goo.gl/AXyKeD> was introduced to manage the intestate, and after 1925 a Bona Vacantia declared if no family found and the proceeds go to the Crown or local equivalent <https://goo.gl/Zg32Wz> .

David went on to explain who could not make a will legally e.g. lunatics or idiots, prisoners, traitors, libellers, attempted suicides until 1870, heretics, children, married women. Rules were adapted to accommodate different religions. Married women were considered as one with the husband who was dominant until 1882 and The Married Women's Property Act <https://goo.gl/8yQ29Z>. Divorces were nigh impossible without referral to the House of Lords. David went on to describe a few more of the finer points but I think he could see many were now feeling the strain a little trying to take all the information in, and he concluded by providing us with an excellent reference list which will shortly be available online on our website <https://goo.gl/u7tgn0>. Many thanks David

Wednesday 4th October 7.30pm, Gail Newsham, author, will talk about "The Dick, Kerr Ladies Football Team". <http://www.dickkerrladies.com/> Not just football but an important piece of women's social history. Gail's



website tells us she is *"the original and official biographer of the Dick, Kerr Ladies and she has the unique honour of being endorsed by the Ladies themselves"*. ---

"In the history of women's football, The Dick, Kerr Ladies are the most successful team in the world. They were formed at a munitions factory in Preston during the First World War. The firm of Dick, Kerr & Co Ltd was named after its two Scottish founders, William Bruce Dick and John Kerr who set up the company around 1900 to manufacture trams and light railway rolling stock. The factory was converted to the production of ammunition in 1915 as part of the War effort ---"

Please join us for a very special evening, (and at our request we hope Gail will bring a few copies of her book to buy if you feel the urge and want to take the subject further).

May I also inform you that our raffle ticket sales to help fund the Christmas party start this month. They will be on sale a £1 a strip, with the actual raffle to be held on Wednesday November 29th. More about the prizes next month but there will be a hamper and more.



RECENT TRIPS AND COMING EVENTS

Saturday 9 September 10am-4pm: Stretford Family History Fair

MLFHS will have a stall at this new event at St. Matthew's Church Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 9AJ. There will be a number of society and other stalls offering advice, help and a variety of publications for sale. There will also be two talks on family history topics. Afternoon speaker will be Alan Godfrey of the maps fame Admission £2.00

Saturday 16th September at All Souls, Astley St, Bolton 10am-4pm. Halliwell Local History Fair

Free entry to see various local history groups, local metal detectors, photographs, update on Julie Lamas WW1 & 2 Military records research, and we will be represented.

Wednesday 20 September 2pm - 5pm: "Letters and the Lamp Sir Humphrey Davy 1778-1829", Free public talk and workshop at Manchester Central Library, in association with Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society, by Professor Sharon Ruston <https://goo.gl/rwDyo1> and **Dr Andrew Lacey** <https://goo.gl/zD7bYf> both from of



Lancaster University. In 1815, just over two hundred years ago, Sir Humphry Davy invented a miners' safety lamp that would revolutionise industry in Britain, Europe, and beyond. The safety lamp was a source of controversy,

however: others laid claim to having invented it, and a bitter public dispute ensued. In this talk, Professor Sharon Ruston (Lancaster University) will explore some of Davy's private letters, the majority of which will

be published for the very first time in 2018. After the talk, there will be a more informal workshop, run by Dr Andrew Lacey (Lancaster University), to discuss some of the issues raised in Davy's letters. If you wish to attend, please reserve your free place via Eventbrite. <https://goo.gl/Ck9VP4> . This event will be held in Performance Space 2/3.

Bolton History Centre, Bolton Central Library, Coming Events

Friday 22 September Time: 12:00pm - 2:00pm Free Worktown Tour Discover all about the extraordinary story of Mass Observation <https://goo.gl/Fb6H27> and their pioneering study of Bolton, which they called 'Worktown', in the late 1930s. Beginning our walk in the actual History Centre you will have a chance to view Humphrey Spender's internationally celebrated 'Worktown' photographs.

Please book your free place on <https://goo.gl/K2bKEL> (meet in the foyer of Bolton Central Library and Museum)

Also, may we remind you of other events at the same place,

First Saturday of each month, 10am -12 noon Family History Helpdesks continue. Come and speak to the experts. Contact Julie Lamara Collections Access Officer-Local Studies for more information on both events Tel: 01204 332194 E-mail: Julie.lamara@bolton.gov.uk , and

Saturday, 21st October 2017 BFHS Open Day held in co-operation with The Bolton History Centre.

As promised, here are more details re our proposed second event following the success of our first last February. See here for our report of the previous one.



<https://goo.gl/GxLtM6> . This time there will be two lectures in the basement theatre at the Central Library in Le Mans Crescent:

***11am - "From the Cradle to the Grave" - Jackie Depelle, Chairwoman of the Federation of Yorkshire Family History Societies and lecturer at**

WDYTYA.

***Noon - "Dating your old photographs" – Anthony Firmin.** Anthony is a tutor with the Workers Educational Association and has a long-standing interest in the history of photography. After his talk Anthony will be assisting the public with dating their photographs [maximum 2 pictures per person in view of the anticipated queue]

***1.30pm – "How to be a Genealogist – Starting your family history" - New Starters Help Desks** in the Basement Theatre – specifically to assist those who have only recently started or have yet to start their researches. We are especially hoping for grandparent with grandchild new starters. Beginners Help Packs will be available. There will be a general

***10am to 3.00pm** there will also be an ongoing **Help Desk** in the History Centre, and a **sales table with genealogy supplies** in the Library Entrance Hall.



GENIE'S TIPS for September

Ancestry Offers <https://goo.gl/cjoeMF> This offer of UK Premium £119.99 reduced to £59.99 for an initial 12-month membership and Worldwide £179.99 reduced to £89.99 for a 12-month membership may change anytime of course, but has already been going since last May to my knowledge. I suspect it is closely linked to their promotion of their DNA testing of course. Many FB readers are reporting successful outcomes by allowing their current subscription to expire and not renewing on the prompt. They are then subscribing as new members within hours, but using their existing tree and password etc and getting it at these rates. Worth a try maybe??? And if you are a member



Great Britain, Atlas and Index of Parish Registers – (Example) Lancashire <https://goo.gl/ZYeQyE> Original data: Smith, Cecil R. Humphery. The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers. Digitized images. Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Canterbury, Kent, England What an excellent site covering most British county boundaries in their 1837-1851 Registration Districts

Findmypast Trees Just wondering if anyone has looked at these lately. I put my tree on to FMP using a gedcom file <https://goo.gl/G2AjqD> from my Family Tree Maker programme last year. I didn't find it very easy to use, and the suggestions only worked if I added something to an individual. Now I have just had another look yesterday, and the suggestions are there on all individuals linking with FMP records, and I have started to get emails with suggestions. Well worth a look if you use FMP. <https://goo.gl/6zSkCq> Now I just want to be able to amalgamate the trees!



Registration Services - Certificate Ordering Service It is getting to the time of year again isn't it when we start to think well "maybe I should invest in that certificate". Just to remind any "newbies" if they are researching via Ancestry, NOT to order anything by this very expensive route.

This <https://goo.gl/rvJhyw> is the link for English and Welsh certificates at £9.25 each going back to the 1837 Civil Registration,

This is Scotlands link <https://goo.gl/Yycnke> (£12 per certificate but most information is probably just as good and cheaper via Scotlands People

This <https://goo.gl/YnP1uG> is Northern Ireland with a cost of £15 upwards

And this <https://goo.gl/6U1YKu> is the link for Ireland (Eire) with a cost of 20 Euros.

We seem to be doing quite well in England and Wales looking at these don't we.

Our planned talk by Jackie Depelle at our Open Day October 21st "Cradle to the Grave" will include explaining how to get maximum information from these resources.



WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES



Early Modern Scottish Palaeography: Reading Scotland's Records <https://goo.gl/q1EbK6>

Travel back in time through Scottish history by examining early modern

Scottish handwriting. *"Palaeography is the study of ancient handwriting and a vital*

skill in the historian's toolkit. It is essential when conducting research on early modern

Scotland – a period of profound political, religious and social change the effects of which can still be felt

today. On this course, you'll travel back through Scottish history by studying material from the National

Records of Scotland. You'll explore diverse topics in Scotland's past, get an introduction to various forms of historical sources and develop your own palaeography skills, and its free.

Online Genealogy Course - Researching Your Family Tree <https://goo.gl/tEPYdu>

Another of these free online 6-week courses is starting shortly



A Beginners Guide to Genetic Genealogy <https://goo.gl/G1h5pF> **Wheaton Surname Resources** by

Kelly Wheaton 01.09.2017 *"What is Genetic Genealogy? Genealogy is simply the study of one's family tree or ancestry. Genetic genealogy uses DNA testing to determine the genetic relationship between individuals ---"*



Why would someone want to use DNA for genealogy? See also

DNA Lectures - Who Do You Think You Are <https://goo.gl/sUUKFA>

"The DNA Workshop at WDYTYR always features the widest range of lectures and presentations on genetic genealogy. Ranging from the basics of---"

Safety In Numbers – Prestwich Asylum <https://goo.gl/rw2nMY>

"The Greater Manchester County Record Office at Manchester Central Library holds the records of Prestwich Hospital (ref: GB124.A.PRES). An index to male and female admissions to the Prestwich asylum from its opening in January 1851 up to the end of March 1901 is available on Findmypast.

We are delighted to present an innovative Key Stage 3 teaching resource, with a local history focus and relevance for History, Citizenship and PSHE. The resource uses original source material from the Prestwich Asylum archives to enable pupils to trace the history and development of mental healthcare and examine changing attitudes towards the mentally ill. This resource has been created in partnership with Bury Church of England High School and Bury Archives Service, with funding from the Museum Libraries and Archives Council".

And see also access to some **Manchester Hospital Records** <https://goo.gl/8c896z> held by Manchester County Council

Meanwhile in Bolton as well as various beginner's weekday classes as detailed in last month's newsletter, held at various local libraries and lead by Margaret and Colin Calderbank, we are also pleased to offer

18th and 25th November, then 2nd and 9th December. 10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.



Beginners Workshops in the Bolton History Centre lead by Bolton

FHS Members Rita Greenhalgh and Barbara Owen Recruitment for

the workshops is planned to take place at the Open Day but these are the dates and if you want to get your name down before this here are the details. We did not want a workshop any nearer to Christmas hence just the four (rather than the usual five). However, the times will provide the same number of hours. The price will be £25.00 per person. The maximum number of attendees is about 20 so if anyone wants to reserve a place at any stage, they should **contact Barbara Owen on 01204 309515.**



THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Lancashire Records



<http://goo.gl/l29JpL>



Lancs OPC <http://goo.gl/AN699Z> and left click on the "What's New" tab on the left



Lancashire Archives News and Events <https://goo.gl/H8UexE> for their latest newsletter and more



MLFHS Project Listing Active Projects <https://goo.gl/rcECQe>

I hope most if not all of you will know by now that various members of our society are regularly involved with ongoing transcription, and indexing projects and we have a proud history of this as you can see from recent stories in this year's Genies. Several of these projects, (in the members only area <https://goo.gl/MXs6N3>) include Bolton based documents, and a lot of this work can be done from anywhere in the world where there is internet access. Perhaps you would like to access this information via your membership, or even better, get involved.



These projects are currently in progress. Please click on the project title to view full details and progress reports and to access a link to the project manager. As you can see the main current project in the Bolton area is the Bolton Workhouse Creed Registers under the management of our Research Officer and Acting Chairman, Graham Holt, so he is also available at most of our meetings for a quick chat. This below is Grahams report written at the end of last year, which I will now pass on to conclude our series of accounts

from different active members who have told us what they do, and how they do it over this last year. Thanks to all

Bolton FHS Transcribing in the Present and the Future.

The Bolton FHS have been transcribing and creating records since the Society first began and we are still using those early transcriptions today. Happily, some of the early transcribers are still active members of the branch and we see them at every branch meeting.



Other contributors to this series of articles have written about how the early work was done and I must admit that compared to them we have it easy. Now we use computers that can spell-check and work can be passed in seconds from one transcriber to another and across continents, in the checking process any errors can be corrected without major problems. No retyping a whole page for us. Using modern communications means

more people can be involved and the wider the net we spread the easier it is to get transcribers and it follows that the more transcribers the more gets done.

Most work now is transcribing from digital images which has the huge advantage that the image can be enlarged on a pc screen to make it easier to read, much better than trying to read a 35mm film image on a 9-inch film reader screen

The MLFHS Bolton Document Collection is now 36 documents long and more are in the pipeline. An interesting file that was recently added is a listing of renamed streets which may solve one or two mysteries for you. It includes some notes about house renumbering as well. See in the MLFHS website membership area http://mlfhs.org.uk/member_area/member_docs_finder.php?doc_id=bolton/bolton_street_renaming.pdf (this only works when signed in). The next major document to be added will be a database of the Workhouse Servants Register. It may not sound too interesting but it is a listing of where children were sent to away from the workhouse. An example would be: James Smith, aged 12, sent to chimney sweep, Arthur Wilson, Becket St Horwich. Some children went out and were later returned to the workhouse though we do not know the reason for the returning. One small girl is twice sent out of the workhouse and on each occasion, is returned within days. Another child is removed from the placement by their aunt because "the man was a drunkard". The information that a child was sent to Rochdale or Prescott or somewhere else may be the missing piece of your jigsaw and explain why your ancestor disappears from Bolton. This data is subject to the usual 100-year rule, i.e. we cannot have any data less than 100 old in case the person is still alive. The Archives filmed copy of the Register stops about 1906 but we have been given the extra information to bring our version of the records up to 31st December 1915.

The big project that we have now been doing for a while is creating a database of the Workhouse Creed Register. Why the Creed Register instead of an Admissions Register I hear you ask. And the answer is because of the additional information it contains. It has admission and discharge dates plus religion and can have if died, a friend's name and address, transfer to Prestwich Hospital, transfer from Prestwich Hospital etc. etc. We are currently working with digital images of the films that are in Archives drawer A9 and now have about 8,000 lines of data. The Archivist has agreed to temporarily transfer the un-filmed Creed Registers to Manchester Archives where the books can be scanned on a very fancy copying machine which does not require the books to be flat or upside down. The books will be laid in the vee format that old, delicate books are place in and the scanning arm passes over the top. The result will be thousands of scanned images which we can take home and add into the database. The Registers should only be away for a few days and at the end of the process the Registers will be returned to Bolton. Bolton does not have this kind of fancy copier and the Registers are too delicate to put upside down on a conventional copier, indeed when I was shown one it was so fragile it was put on a foam vee support in front of me but I was not permitted to turn the pages, that had to be done for me. The faster we can get Registers which are such a poor state recorded the better.



I recently decided to give one of the Workhouse transcribers "a break" by asking her to have a look at the 1642 Protestation Return for Bolton. It took all my 1642 reading ability to find Bolton in the film of the Salford Hundred, my chances of transcribing the document are nil. I am grateful that Gaynor said she was happy to have a try and I await the results with some anticipation.

Over the several years that I have been involved with Bolton Projects transcribers have come and gone. I am grateful to them all, thank you for your efforts to supplement the information that is readily available to members. The current transcribers working for me are Ann & Frank, David S, Gaynor, John L, Rosemary from Spain and Susan. Margaret & Colin have said they would like to do some work. How about you? Email boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk if you want to join us. When you have tried the work if you decide it is not for you just say so and we will all move on.

If you know of any work that could be transcribed to the general benefit of members please email the details as above and we will give the matter appropriate consideration.

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

"List of collieries in Lancashire since 1854" <https://goo.gl/tK5WTJ> **REVOLVY**

"The Lancashire Coalfield was one of the most prolific in England. The number of shafts sunk to gain coal number several thousand, --- In 1880, the Mines Inspector reported 534 coal pits in the Lancashire field. In 1947 when the industry was nationalised, there were 108 collieries" The list has been compiled from the official reports of the Mines Inspector and lists of mines produced by National Coal Board and the Coal Authority.

Gravestones and Memorials in Scotland. <https://goo.gl/LST6DC> from Brian Orr's website on The Reformation

Well yes, this is based in Scotland, but I suggest this is a very interesting discussion about the initial introduction of grave markers, and then later the changing style of headstones from the displays focussed on "mortality" pre-reformation to "immortality" post reformation. Worth a read I think

Understanding the Scottish Naming Pattern <https://goo.gl/XGTU2T> **The In Depth Genealogist October 21, 2014** by Christine Woodcock "A helpful piece of information to have when researching in the Scottish records is an understanding of the Scottish Naming Pattern. Here's how it works: ---"

How the Edwardians Spoke [signed] snadhghus <https://goo.gl/Gyo7wx> **BBC 4, BBC 4, You Tube**

Some fascinating footage of (preferably illiterate or little educated), WW1 British prisoners of war in Germany, who were asked to record various recitations. It seems the plan was that German spies could infiltrate Britain using the local accent or even dialect, and not be noticed, but because of this we now have approx. 650 records of local spoken Edwardian British speech, and the flatter the local terrain, the flatter the conversation. They even compare "hilly" Macclesfield to "flat" Manchester!!! Maybe some eugenics in the thinking, but very interesting and rather emotional programme. Their families found the accents were stronger than nowadays and some didn't even recognise them. Maybe this shows how much our speech has changed in only a few years, and gives us a clue about written records could be "mistranscribed" from the spoken.

A few other interesting clips about the spoken word through the ages here as well <https://goo.gl/fMhHnP>. No wonder the old documents are difficult to transcribe if this is how they actually spoke as well.

MISCELLANEOUS

Copyright and family history <https://goo.gl/AXNstn>

"Many family historians regularly post online, or circulate on social media, images of themselves and their families and, on the whole, these will probably not fall foul of copyright or intellectual---" This is an area that causes regular concern on here, and this article seems to explain it all very well.

A history of the English marriage <https://goo.gl/gfxnQn> **The Telegraph** By historian Maureen Waller 30 Sep 2009

"As far as marriage is concerned, we should not ignore the collective wisdom of the past. ---"

I came across this review of the book which looks like a fascinating read. This is the Amazon link

"The story of the English marriage is unique and eccentric. Long after the rest of Europe and neighbouring Scotland had reformed their marriage laws, England clung to the chaotic and contradictory laws of the medieval Church, making it all too easy to enter into a marriage but virtually impossible to end an unhappy one ---", with more information and no doubt there are other outlets. <https://goo.gl/T5d2K3> down to £10.99 from £23. And another perspective



Love and marriage in medieval England <https://goo.gl/29puJ3> **Thursday 11th February 2016 Submitted to BBC History Magazine** by: Emma Mason

Getting married in the medieval period was incredibly simple for Christians living in western Europe – all they had to do was say their "I do's" to each other. But, as Sally Dixon-Smith reveals, proving that you were actually married and had not tripped up on the many potential 'impediments' to marriage might be another thing altogether... (Sally Dixon-Smith is Historic Royal Palaces' collections curator at the Tower of London)

From candy to diapers: the purity of American English <https://goo.gl/dK2Sfh> **BBC History Extra Wednesday 9th**

August 2017 Submitted by: Elinor Evans *"Autumn or fall, nappies or diapers, sweets or candy: English spoken on either side of the Atlantic has some strange variations. But are these apparent Americanisms simply corruptions of a purer language? As James Evans reveals, their history can be traced back further than you might expect ---"*

The Writings on The Wall-historical graffiti found at Hall I'th'Wood. A continuation of the story in the July 2017 Genie p7 <https://goo.gl/1TXEUz>

Recently Ian Trumble, Collections Access Officer at Bolton Museum, took a group of people on a tour of Hall I'th'Wood looking for evidence of historical graffiti.

Today we think of graffiti as being a disrespectful act of vandalism, but graffiti basically means 'writing on a wall', and in the medieval period this was viewed very differently. The Medieval Graffiti project was originally set up in the south of England and primarily focused on apotropaic marks (protecting against evil) found in churches, but it quickly became obvious that other medieval buildings displayed similar marks. The project was soon taken up by local groups across the country, including here in the North West.

Bolton Museums has the privilege of caring for two medieval buildings. Hall I'th'Wood has a range of medieval protective markings dating from around 1560 to around 1630 which have recently been surveyed by Bolton Archaeology and Egyptology Society. Most of the graffiti is found in the upper floors, particularly the attic, which escaped the attentions of Victorian renovators under the direction of Lord Leverhulme. In this part of the building the workmen did not strip away the historical stories left on the wooden beams of the building.



Although the aim of the survey was to locate and record medieval markings, other more modern graffiti was found around the building. Most of this modern graffiti is in the attic, where Leverhulme's workmen probably thought no one would see it. Many initials of 'J.B.' and 'J.R.' some with dates of 1900-1901 can be clearly seen carved into the structural timbers. 1900-1901 was the period of the conversion of Hall I'th'Wood, from a farmhouse to a museum.

The most interesting of these modern graffiti marks can be found on the attic corridor, etched into the top of an arched wooden doorway reads 'Tom Whitty 1901'. It is the only full name in graffiti anywhere in the hall and the inclusion of the date allows us to investigate the graffiti's creator.



On returning home a member of the group found an entry for a Thomas Whitty, a builder's labourer, living in Bolton, on the 1901 census: 31 Sutcliffe St, Bolton

John Whitty aged 53 Head Builders Labourer born Ireland

Julia Whitty aged 54 Wife born Ireland

Valentine Whitty aged 30 Son Railway Porter born Bolton

Thomas Whitty aged 28 Son Widower, Builders Labourer born Bolton

Alice Whitty aged 24 Daughter Cotton Ring Spinner born Bolton

Margaret Whitty aged 20 Daughter Cotton Weaver born Bolton

Hannah Whitty aged 1 Daughter born Bolton



Could this be the same Thomas Whitty who carved his name in the attic at Hall I'th'Wood?

Julie Lamara, Collections Access Officer for Local Studies was intrigued when she learnt Thomas was already a widower at the relatively young age of 28. She began the search for more information, curious to find out what had happened to his young wife. According to the 1901 census, Thomas had been born in Bolton in 1872 and was the only Thomas Whitty shown to be living in the Bolton area in 1901. His parents John and Julia (née Prendergast) were both from Kilkenny in Ireland and married in Bolton in 1869. Searching back from the census date of 1901, only one marriage was found for a Thomas Whitty in Bolton and this was to a Hannah Foole in 1899.

Marriage: 17 May 1899 Holy Trinity, Bolton, Lancashire, England

Thomas Whitty - 27, Labourer, Bachelor, 5 Rix Street Hannah Foole - 32, Dress Maker, Spinster, 143 Bridgeman Street Groom's Father: John Whitty, Labourer Bride's Father: Roger Foole, Wheelwright Witness: Percy Rothwell; Annie Timms

Sadly, Hannah died in Sharples in February 1900, less than 12 months after their marriage. She was aged 32 and died possibly in childbirth or shortly after from complications and was buried at Astley Bridge Cemetery on 28 Feb 1900. Hannah Foole Whitty, the child she gave birth to was born on 23 February 1900 in Sharples. In the 1901 census Hannah is listed last and shown over the page on the census return at 31 Sutcliffe St. Oddly she is listed as a daughter of John Whitty, head of the household, by mistake, rather than granddaughter. In 1911 Hannah is living with her uncle Valentine and her father Thomas, who was by then a labourer for Bolton Corporation Street Department. They were still at 31 Sutcliffe St, the family home. Hannah is shown as a "relative" to Valentine, who was head of the household and her father Thomas, was shown as brother to Valentine. Hannah eventually married in 1933 and had two children. Her family was still living with her father at 31 Sutcliffe St when war broke out in 1939.

Thomas Whitty died in Bolton in April 1957 aged 84.

In 1902 Hall I'th'Wood opened to the public. Lord Leverhulme had purchased the hall in 1899 and subsequently gave it to Bolton Corporation. The project has found that modern graffiti, much like its medieval counterpart, usually isn't random and is often linked to times of change or upheaval. It is highly likely given Tom's profession that he was at Hall I'th'Wood working for Bolton Corporation or Lord Leverhulme as part of the renovation team to turn the building into a functioning museum. This in itself would have been a momentous enough occasion for Bolton, especially given the public acclaim which accompanied the donation of Hall I'th'Wood by Leverhulme.

Tom's own personal turmoil might also have made it a more poignant time for him too. The upper attic spaces were never intended to be seen by the public, and so the workmen, like Tom, probably thought that few people, if any would ever see their graffiti. Thanks to
Julie Lamara, Collection Access Officer-Local Studies,
Ian Trumble, Collection Access Officer-Egyptology & Archaeology

COMMENTS, QUERIES, and MEMORIES)

Ancient Bolton - Pre-1800's Bolton <https://goo.gl/hHFPp2> Facebook



"This page is dedicated to exploring the 'Old Bolton' before the mass expansion of the later industrial revolution. It covers both Great and Little Bolton and the adjacent areas, but excludes neighbouring 'independent' towns such as Farnworth or Horwich. It will also follow the early growth of Industry and religion in the town. Some images will be later, but will focus on showing the Bolton of the 1800's."

Unfortunately, those of you not subscribed to FB will not be able to see all of this but there are so many wonderful pictures on

here I think it worth sharing. You may also like this site

Abandoned Communities Map of Britain <https://goo.gl/6xopab>

OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS



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

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, BL1 3BE opposite Shepherd Cross St, Bolton, Shepherd

26th September 'Maps for Local History' – A look at the use of maps in local history by Dr.Paul Hindle



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

The old Urban District of Turton, includes the ancient Townships of Bradshaw, Edgworth, Entwistle, Harwood, Longworth, Quarlton and 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

27 September - Dimension of Time (Peter Watson)

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.

7 September The History and Art of Bell Ringing: Jim Andrews

21 September Howfen to Hyderabad, Part 1: David Kaye



Horwich Heritage Centre- <http://goo.gl/fSPsij>

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

9th September Family History / Heritage Weekend

12th September ~ David Lewis "Mining on Winter Hill"

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