



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, Christine M Ellis bolton@mlfhs.org.uk
- Research help, please email boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk or visit our
- Help Desk Drop In 10am -12md Bolton Central Library. First Saturday of each month
- Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 379 likes, and 412 following August 4th
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: <https://goo.gl/hJi8Ns> (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index> .

August 2019

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



This month's picture is showing the original Canon Slade School, designed in a Gothic style by R H Potter and opened in 1855. The Church Institute School became Canon Slade School in 1946 and moved to Bradshaw Brow in 1959. This original building was demolished in 1969

Well here we are in August then. Two thirds of the way through the year, which I think all will agree , has already shown many of the features of a roller coaster, with extreme politics, sports and recently weather. As I write this we are recovering from apparently the highest temperatures ever recorded in England, even in Bolton we approached 30C. Far too hot for most, and then, all of a sudden the north of England as a whole has seen rain of near biblical proportions, (although Bolton and area seems to have escaped the worst so far). They used to blame this on volcanic eruptions amongst other things but now it seems it is global warming. Nevertheless, we have plodded on at home, many taking their annual breaks and doing a bit of "field research", whilst others wait for the more peaceful September after the school holidays.

Our committee members have also been taking time to reflect on their duties, largely unchanged since 2018 and last February's General Meeting. We have asked if anyone else is prepared to assist with our routine activities which help us all to enjoy being part of this great society, but I am sad to say there have been no offers outside our existing team, or even enquiries, which is rather disappointing. Some of us are beginning to "flag", and Graham Holt , our Chairman, has announced that he plans to stand down at our February 2020 General Meeting, or 2021 at the latest. None of our current committee feel they are able to take the extra role on, however, after some discussion we have come to realise that Graham's current activities could be divided into two.

1. The first part is those responsibilities peculiar to being in the Chair, and representing us and the BFHS' best interests
2. the second list is jobs which he has taken on to assist the smooth running of same, but which could just as easily be done by someone else with a bit of energy, spare time, and the welfare of the society at heart.

Similarly, I am sad to say that my role as editor of this newsletter also needs a rethink. Much as I enjoy the role, the preparation is causing some hand problems re the typing and layout and is not likely to get any better. Does anyone have the word processing skills to help please? (I was self-taught, and still learning). A complete revamp could be considered perhaps in tandem with Graham's standing down??

The job roles are available on our website under the heading “Miscellaneous” → “Various Papers” → “Task Descriptions” <https://bolton.mfhs.org.uk/Variou.php> , and we are hopeful that any serious applicants could shadow Graham and myself, maybe into next year.

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. £3.00 to non-members unless joining on the night.

- When?

7pm beverages available for 7.30pm start, on the first Wednesday of each month, except December and January. Extras include a Help Desk for personal research, Stationery Table for discounted equipment, and recycle service for your used family history magazines, books etc.



Wednesday 7th August 7.30pm,” The Pit Brow women of the Lancashire coalfield” Alan Davies – Retired miner, Mining historian, Museum Curator, and author

Bolton FHS members were treated to an excellent slide show by Alan , who is clearly proud to be an Atherton lad. He told us how he first worked down a pit for many years, then on retirement from that , was involved with the Lancashire Mining Museum at Buile Hill, Salford before its move to the Lowry Centre. He then more recently has been an archivist at Wigan and managed a small pit in Bacup. He went on to explain that up to the 17th century, coal wasn’t much in demand, as buildings were mainly of wood, or stone construction and heated by wood. This source was getting used up though, and from the mid to late 17th century, industry needed better power, and coal was usually the answer.



The Report of the Children’s Employment Commission 1842 established by Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury, included a mining survey <https://tinyurl.com/yxk9gh8j> and “comprising thousands of pages of oral testimony (sometimes from children as young as five)”. It has been suggested it is one of the most important documents in British industrial history, included pictures of women and young girls working underground, some half or even wholly naked due to the heat, which shocked Victorian sensibilities. (<https://tinyurl.com/y5cktpcg> for Alans Flickr page showing same accessed 08.08.19) . Moves were commenced to stop the practice. However, most mining communities’ livelihoods depended on whole families working together to produce coal, husbands at the coal face hewing coal by pick, with their wives and young children filling bags and barrels and heaving them along long dark tunnels , → a scene from a Darcy Lever pit apparently,



before carrying them to the surface, sometimes by up to 15 ladders, with the potential of large lumps falling on those underneath of course!! ←



The Commission (<https://tinyurl.com/y56a9cc3> accessed 08.08.19 Our Chartist Heritage)) received evidence from women and young girls which subsequently resulted in a ban on women and girls working underground. There was however only

one inspector for the whole of Lancashire.

Women thus retained employment working in the mines but on the surface, perhaps grading coal into big lumps and with the use of riddles, (big round sieves) leaving any finer coal dropping through the riddle on the ground.

Picture -->from Rose Bridge Pits in Wigan, shows a female collier of 5ft 9ins holding a riddle August 10, 1869. Women also pushed the very heavy barrels of coal to be tipped down shafts to be processed further.

Many were photographed wearing "uniform" clothing peculiar to the pit they worked for. Most consisted of corduroy trousers, blue striped shirt, waistcoat and perhaps a bonnet of padded cotton, together with a petticoat of striped cotton, rolled up. The petticoat served no purpose except it was the only indication that the person wearing it was female.

In 1863, moves were afoot to ban women working at the pit brow, however the women were strongly against this, and lobbied for their employment to continue. A further attempt took place in 1886 but women again did not want to stop their work, which supported family life, and in 1900, it was demonstrated that 95% of pit brow women were married to miners. Yet another attempt was made in 1911 with the Coal Mines Act (Wikipedia

<https://tinyurl.com/yxsly5ld>) and a deputation was sent to London plead their case. In all these events, the clause stopping employment of women was deleted from the relevant legislation.

We do have images and articles re this time thanks to Arthur Joseph Munby (19th August 1828 – 29th January 1910), who was a British diarist, poet, portrait photographer, barrister and solicitor (Wikipedia <https://tinyurl.com/y2vgzred>). Apparently, he had a fascination for the lifestyle of working-class women and is pictured here with an Ellen Grounds from Wigan, (of whom Alan has later met a descendant during some research). He also recorded oral accounts from the women in dialect, so local vocabulary such as "thrutch" brings the story to life. Later professional photographers moved into the area and "cartes de visites" depicting different posed groups became very fashionable for collectors, particularly from the wealthier middle classes and above, who had no idea of the lifestyle and working conditions of the lasses until some ventured into London during the women's rights movement. One would hope the ladies were remunerated for these pictures as they typically only earned 50% of a man's income for the same work. as well.

Accidents were not unusual events, with some fatalities, of perhaps 1 per year compared to the men's figures of 1000+ most years. Alan could not give any figures re dust related illnesses typical of mining occupations but agreed there was likely to be a general high rate for all workers.

By 1913, conditions improved somewhat with the provision of baths at mines so that filthy clothes did not need to be taken home to wash or dry overnight and worn the next day, and showers were also seen about the 1930s.

In wartime many women continued to work at the pit brow during World War I, whilst the men were fighting, and they were still needed during World War II. With nationalisation of the industry in 1947 however, the need for coal was diminishing and it was decided to phase out women workers. Alan next showed a slide of women workers photographed late in the 1950s. The last women workers in England were employed in Whitehaven in 1966.

Concluding, we were shown a short video of women working at a mine, making, I am sure, all the females in the room glad they have never been in that position and vowing to never moan about their own workload again!! More pictures available via his Flickr page <https://tinyurl.com/y27edbuc>

Just to add that on September 7th Alan is offering another of his regular guided walk and talk events around the site of the Pretoria Pit talking about the Dec 21st, 1910 underground explosion which took the lives of 344 local men and boys. We are told the event lasts just less than two hours and the walk is less than two miles. Stout footwear is essential. PLACES MUST BE BOOKED. and details are available via John Bullen 01942 874719 or email j.bullen1@ntlworld.com Attendance is £4, under 14s £3.



With many thanks to Rita Greenwood who has been good enough to write the main part of this article, and permitted me to tweak with photos etc. Any other volunteers please?

Wednesday 4th September 7.30pm, "GENUKI - The free "virtual" reference library - an update", Phil

Stringer We know Phil has been involved with this project for a long time and we consider ourselves very



lucky to be have been able to attract him to speak to us. He actually maintains this site <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/LAN> that most of you have hopefully used regularly. He tells us, *"This will be a description about the sort of information we hold in Genuki. the structure of the site and how it is organised. It will also cover how to find information within the site, functionality that has been recently added and things being considered to makes things easier to use and help with research. There may even be hints about how things will look in the next version of Genuki which is under development."*

We will also of course have the usual Help Desks, book and document stalls and brews/ bar available.

OTHER RECENT TALKS ATTENDED and COMING EVENTS

Tuesday July 9th "Peterloo 1819-2019" Report , as promised, on a talk by Dr Robert Poole Professor of History at the University of Central Lancashire, at Bolton Central Library and Museum,

<http://www.peterloomassacre.org/history.html>



Prof Poole is author of the new book Peterloo 'The English Uprising', co-author of the graphic novel 'Peterloo: Witnesses to a Massacre' and has been a consultant historian to the Peterloo 2019 programme. This was one of the intermittent, free to all, talks given at BCL <https://tinyurl.com/y6cl7wrg>.

He began by putting the Peterloo events into historical context, starting with perhaps the best known of people's uprisings of "modern" times, the French revolution of 1787-1799 <https://tinyurl.com/yvnl62u6>. This he explained, was possibly also the most violent, launching the "peasants" revolt against the centuries old feudal system, and demands for a better life. The rest of Europe was quite fearful that the unrest could spread; the background being that the worldwide population was growing, wealth was spreading from the traditional landowners to the newly rich industrialists and merchants, and innovative powered mill owners were threatening the livelihood of the hand loom weavers and other skilled artisans. There were increasing social demands to improve the lot of those providing labour for a pittance, many near starving as a result of poor harvests leading to famine. Late 18th, early 19th C wars such as the American and Napoleonic wars were expensive, more taxes had been introduced to cover this and the burden passed on to the workers, despite their already existing poverty.

In England ex-soldiers returning from the front, were looking for employment but finding none. Radicalism was spreading, some more militant than others, with demands for social reform and universal suffrage. In the north, it was hoped this could be achieved by peaceful protests demonstrating solidarity of the masses, encouraged by the likes of "radical philosopher" Jeremy Bentham <https://tinyurl.com/hr7bnm2> who advocated the *"rational revision of the legal system, a restructuring of the process of determining responsibility and of punishment, and a more extensive freedom of contract"*. Women were also becoming militant, encouraging the men to speak out, and wearing symbolic white dresses at protest meetings etc. Rallies were spreading, particularly in the north west, much to the increasing alarm of the government. The whisper of a protest



meeting planned on St Peters Fields, Manchester August 16th, 1819 became confirmed and contingency plans were drawn up.

It was estimated that 50-60,000 were to attend on the day, planning a peaceful march, and hearing Henry Hunt speak. (<https://tinyurl.com/y6zpcj54> Published in The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1820-1832, ed. D.R. Fisher, 2009 Available from Cambridge University Press). He was from landowning stock, since disillusioned and radicalised, (see para 5 of previous reference for Manchester connections). Forewarned was forearmed as the saying goes, and the atmosphere must have been quite electric. The local Magistrates led by William Hulton, had apparently been prepared with “official” and also “unofficial” orders from the Prince Regent and his staff, and we were shown examples. The former were instructions to control the meeting peacefully, but confidentially to deal quickly and firmly with any apparent “threat to public safety”. The recently formed, Manchester and Salford Yeomanry, created in 1817 as a result of the “Blanketeers” <https://tinyurl.com/y2uk9ag2> meeting in the same regular meeting place, were ready and waiting. They were a relatively inexperienced amateurish militia recruited from shopkeepers and tradesmen, under the command of Thomas Trafford, but locally by Captain Hugh Hornby Birley.

On August 16th, hearing of the numbers attending, William Hulton chairman of the Lancashire and Cheshire Magistrates, (and of course resident of Westhoughton’s Hulton Hall), took the quick decision to command the Yeomen to proceed to assist the special constables on site, and arrest the speakers, thus stopping the meeting. The arrest warrant had been given to the Deputy Constable, Joseph Nadin, who followed. 116 troops including 60 cavalry men with horses inexperienced in public control, reportedly charged to the site with sabres out. A child was knocked over in the rush and became the first fatality. On arrival the speakers were arrested including Hunt, Johnson, and John Tyas, a London reporter from The Times. See <https://tinyurl.com/y4wdlyuk> for a transcription of his account published later.

Perceiving themselves to be under attack, the Yeomanry tried to remove the banners, flags and controversial “Caps of Liberty” → placed by many on the top of sticks, (mimicking an earlier protest in February 1819 at Sandy Brow in Stockport, , picture courtesy of <https://tinyurl.com/y499u46r> .

The red Cap of Liberty originated from Roman times when slaves were given their freedom and wore the red cap; they were now being used as the international symbol when demanding freedom from the slave conditions of the feudal system). The use here instantly antagonised the employing land and mill owners. Hulton called the reserve 600 men of the 15th Hussars in, telling them that the Yeomanry were being attacked. Chaos reigned, and they charged in on horseback from Portland Street, armed as for war, some allegedly drunk, and also planning to settle personal scores. . The women’s’ contingent are said to have been targeted. There was general panic. Some tried to escape by jumping over walls such as those of the nearby Friends Meeting house. Hearing that there was now a riot situation the reserve 400 men of the Cheshire Yeomanry composed of troops who had served in the Napoleonic wars were also sent in. There are 23 known Boltonians casualties who were involved either as protestors or troops, and their names, compiled by Peter Castree, are included on this Peterloo website <http://www.peterloomassacre.org/names.html> and also available on our Facebook page.



It was all over by 2pm, and amid the debris and carnage, journalists trying to report the event were arrested and jailed, to prevent publication of the event pretrial. However, knowing their friend John Tyas, was now in Lancaster prison, local businessman John Edward Taylor and his friend Archibald Prentice, who both worked at the Manchester Gazette, wrote reports of the event, and sent them down to London that night by the “express coach”. They were published in The Times 48 hours later, and before the trial. Taylors group later created the Manchester Guardian <https://tinyurl.com/y2uo4fom> to speak for the reformist movement. This event also was the precursor of Chartism <https://tinyurl.com/39f39j8> .

I left this talk feeling quite enlightened about the events of this momentous day and its lasting legacy. Perhaps it was the nearest the UK got to the revolutionary movement which was sweeping across Europe and beyond at that time, and we will hopefully never forget the lessons learnt then.

Last March some of us visited the Lancashire Archives and saw some of the correspondence related to this incident from the Hulton collection. The write up is available here <https://tinyurl.com/y47s9l5f> in our newsletter report, and more pictures are available on our Facebook page, Photos section, “album for 7th March 2019 Visit to Lancashire Archives”. There are also more Bolton stories here from the Bolton News August 3rd <https://tinyurl.com/y5rhng5s> and Bolton Library Services have a Peterloo exhibition on now until 10.11.19. This account from the Manchester Archives blog <https://tinyurl.com/y5ym9ks4> also puts “more flesh” on the story .



Friday 11th July “Stories from Church Courts” by Anna Watson at the Lancashire Archives

This talk, one of a monthly series, deviated a little from the norm.

Anna, recently retired from the Archives staff, had researched two instances of cases judged in church courts, the records of which are either held at the County Record Offices in Preston or Chester. The archdeaconry of Richmond covered a huge geographical area, about half the diocese of Chester. The church courts were responsible for hearing a vast number of cases mainly surrounding fornication, divorce, consanguinity and general bad behaviour of parishioners. They were presided over by a “commissary”, who was acting on behalf of the appropriate bishop.



Anna first outlined the case in 1731 of “That’s my Pew” where Richard King and John Winckley, both counsellmen (i.e. members of the parish vestry), were at loggerheads about who owned a particular pew in Preston Parish Church. Richard King had the right to sit in three pews in the church, whilst John Winckley could use two pews. Pewholders were very territorial, especially as they were to be buried in a vault under their pew. Many pewholders had the right bequeathed to them, or they could assume the right through owning or tenancing a particular house in the parish. All had to apply to the church courts for the relevant permission and had to maintain their pew, especially if it got damaged in any way.

Box pews were prevalent at the time, so the rich sat at the front of the church, the poor at the back and the middling sort in the middle. Sometimes two people owned the same pew.

Legal documents before 1733 were in Latin, however statements by witnesses (depositions), called for both sides of an argument, together with interrogations (cross-examinations) etc. which were in English. Those in dispute with each other about ownership of a pew had to prove they had the right to occupy it. The documents surrounding the above case mention very many people involved in various ways and are a good way of knowing where people were living in a community.

The other case explained by Anna was of the “Inebriated Vicar”. Thomas Bryer was perpetual curate of Marton, St. Paul (near Blackpool). In 1833, three trustees of the church accused him of 13 counts of being drunk whilst conducting his parish business. Plenty of witnesses stated they had never seen him drunk, but he was removed from his duties and although he was still noted in parish matters, was never reinstated.

Thank you, Rita Greenwood, for such an interesting overview.

GENIE’S TIPS for

“Accessing Closed Records in Archives”. <https://tinyurl.com/y6b9syvy> from **Leaves Family History Research Services** July 7th, 2019 accessed 18.06.19



“As strange as it may seem tracing recent generations can be harder than tracing older ones. One of the main reasons for this is Data Protection here in the UK and within the EU. Apart from a few exceptions (namely GRO indexes, public electoral registers and telephone books) many records are closed to the public for 100 years”.---- but if wanting " Recent Records, what happens if you want to access a record in an Archive that is closed for Data Protection reasons? In general, one of three things can be done—”:

A very interesting article worth a read, I think.



The Family Tracing Service <https://tinyurl.com/y65mkc3l> Salvation Army

This service run by the Salvation Army describes itself as “is here to support people who are looking for family members. It is never too late to find a loved one, so get in contact with us and we can help you with your search”, and I suspect their activities in this area are legendary. Their aims are of course to restore contact within families who have lost touch with each other, not to research family history, but perhaps they can help some folk.



Two useful updates

- **Find a Will BETA** <https://tinyurl.com/y3nb98gi>

This will probably be old news to most of you if you follow our Facebook page or similar, or perhaps receive the excellent Lost Cousins newsletter <https://www.lostcousins.com/>, but just in case you have not heard we can tell you re the huge reduction now available in cost of post 11th January 1858 Eng&Wales wills from Government Find A Will website. Down from £10 to £1.50. We are receiving good reports of same on this, their beta test. Also, from the MOD

- **How to apply for access to personal data held by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).**

Requests for personal data and service records: a detailed guide <https://tinyurl.com/y36fdf9s> Last updated 19 July 2019

Lots of useful information here it seems. (Even how to prepare for the B****t event)



WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES

Please see here <https://bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/Workshops.php> for current and planned events

THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and some ORGANISATION UPDATES and NEWSLETTERS

Lancashire Records

MLFHS "Lancashire Biographies"

New in the member area, 1,589 records to the Miscellaneous Database. These are taken from "Lancashire Biographies" a book published in 1917 of prominent Lancastrians including genealogical and career information. They are, of course, the 'great and the good', but the detail is in many cases extensive, so if one of them is part of your family, you may find some good information as well as some pointers to routes for further research .



Lancs OPC <http://goo.gl/AN699Z> and left click on the “What's New” tab on the left, with some new details of the burials, 1879 to 1888, at Heaton Cemetery in their collection of Bolton data.



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



<https://tinyurl.com/y4dwfbfv> **FreeBMD, FreeREG and FreeCEN newsletter** From umbrella charity, Free UK Genealogy

Post-1983 records . Did you know that FreeBMD transcribers are extending the database by working on GRO indexes of 1984 and beyond? It's early days but you can check the coverage so far here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2jeszgo>

Europe, Registration of Foreigners and German Persecutees, 1939-1947. <https://tinyurl.com/y56gnpgu> Arolson

Collection in Ancestry Yes, I am sorry to say this can only be accessed via Ancestry subscription but perhaps, if they have part funded the investigation it is justified. What an invaluable resource this must be for those with ancestors caught up in this sad time.



"The Nazi persecution of both foreigners and German persecutees during the Second World War resulted in the forceable incarceration of these individuals throughout the German Reich and the territories occupied by Germany. Following the war, the Allies began a concentrated effort in both the occupied zones of Germany and Europe to document these individuals. This collection consists of foreigners and German persecutees in Germany between 1939-1947 who were persecuted by public institutions, social securities and companies. The records may also include information on those who died, including burial information. The documents were assembled according to the Zones of Occupation - American, British, French and Soviet - by the Allied forces within Germany. Areas outside Germany were also recorded. Publication of these documents has been made possible through partnership with the Arolson Archives (formerly the International Tracing Service, or ITS <https://tinyurl.com/y6h75psh>). --- Their collection has information on about 17.5 million people and belongs to the UNESCO's Memory of the World".

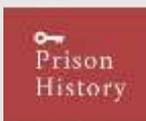
SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES



"Lives of the First World War" <https://tinyurl.com/y2k9dnca>

"IWM's Lives of the First World War tells the stories of individuals from across Britain and the Commonwealth who served in uniform and worked on the home front.

This innovative digital project ran from 12 May 2014 to 19 March 2019. From individuals and families, to communities and organisations, more than 160,000 people collaborated to piece together the lives of people who experienced the conflict, through sharing anecdotes and digitising material that has been hidden away in attics until now---". This site for whom many Boltonians contributed family material via the Bolton History Centre last December <https://tinyurl.com/y53y7tpj>, is now live and ready for more research.

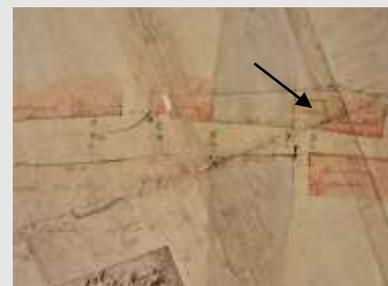


"Welcome to Prison History" <https://tinyurl.com/yxde5ffr> lead by Dr Rosalind Crone and funded by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in the Open University

I have made several contributions to their list over the years as I have picked up casual referrals on other projects, but I am amazed at the list they now have here, and many literally on our doorsteps.

For instance, did you know there used to be a dungeon at the bottom of Windy Bank, Bolton as shown here on a map ZAL 855 in Bolton Archives Albinson Collection dated 1797? More on this story next month.

We are told the website will be *"A resource to expand our knowledge of the*



practice and experience of imprisonment in the British Isles between 1500 and 1999. Use the search below to find detailed records on nearly 850 penal institutions operational in 19th century England, or on over 400 lock-ups spanning the early modern to the modern period.--- At present, Prison History comprises two datasets. The first, 19th Century Prisons, is a database of institutions used to confine those accused and convicted of crime in England between 1800 and 1899. The second, Local Lock-Ups, is a public engagement project which asks members of the public to contribute details of structures that they know existed in their community which were used to restrain temporarily those accused of crime."

Google Maps for the dead: Sydney's Rookwood Cemetery launches GPS project in Australian first The other aspect is for people that are overseas doing genealogy. ABC Radio Sydney <https://tinyurl.com/yxebefap>

Harriet Tatham Fri 19 Jul 2019 accessed 31.07.2019

For anyone with ancestors in Sydney you lucky people. Look at what the Ozzies are doing , in Rookwood Cemetery, (the biggest cemetery in the Southern hemisphere). They have just launched technology that allows the public to locate any of a million interments even from the armchair.

"Before, they were only able to access a system and get details. "Now they can access to a system and drill down through the maps to the actual plot, but also in a large majority of the cases they will they will be able to see our real-time photograph of the grave and any monumentation sitting on the grave". Let's hope this is the prototype of many more.



Polish Ancestors <https://www.polishancestors.com/>

This site seems to be predominantly to hire a specialised genealogist for Polish family history research, but also offers databases for a DIY approach. I presume much depends on how well you can read and understand Polish. They suggest "You can search on the Internet, come to Poland and search Archives yourself or simply contact us!". I am sure there are other organisations available and this is just one of them, but any feedback might be useful please.



The Register of Qualified Genealogists <https://tinyurl.com/y3s3dozw>

By pure coincidence this was the next website I have collected over this last month, and the Polish one above does not seem to be on it, but maybe they have not met each other, or there is money involved or other reasons .??? This register claims, "to provide, and make public, a record of those genealogists who hold a recognised qualification in the field of genealogy and associated practices, and who may be willing to provide professional services in that field" and does seem to be international. Our attention was drawn via their newsletter, to what looks like a very useful resource for Scottish research. The National Records of Scotland (NRS) holds a huge number of records relating to crime and criminals. Records of the High Court of Justiciary (NRS ref JC26) which has jurisdiction over serious crimes such as murder, rape and treason, hold a wealth of information. See here for more information <https://tinyurl.com/yypntomt>.

Now then, what was the name of the great x 3 uncle of mine ????



25 years of Heritage Open Days Free Events <https://tinyurl.com/yv2semca>

Each September thousands of volunteers across the country invite you to experience local history, architecture and culture. All for free. This year's festival will run 13-22 September.

What will you discover?!The link above is to 88 events within 10 miles of Bolton

MISCELLANEOUS

"Sin and the single mother" : The history of lone parenthood. 60 plus years ago, unmarried pregnant women were sent to special hostels to have their babies adopted. Maureen Paton hears their stories.

From "Social History" in Facebook shared by Laine Glover 16 July at 12:01 <https://tinyurl.com/y6er6ugm>

"It all began with an abbreviated birth certificate that carried only the barest details. I had known since childhood that I was born 'out of wedlock', and that my father had deserted my mother as soon as he discovered she was pregnant in November 1950. But it wasn't until I looked up my full birth certificate after my mother's death in 2001 that I discovered I'd been born in a hostel for unmarried mothers.---"

I would suggest this is an excellent and informative insight into the plight of the unmarried mothers of this time, with an update on how current attitudes and legislation have changed the situation. Recent conversations on the members forum has also highlighted the heartache of both adoptees, and birth and adopting parents, particularly from WW2 and post war years.

COMMENTS, QUERIES, and MEMORIES

“Newstalk “ <https://tinyurl.com/yythbljn> and a request for help from Julie Lamara at the History Centre

“Last month I had a group of visually impaired and blind people from Winter Hill Insight, visiting the History Centre for a described tour of the searchroom with me and the archive with Caroline. They were very interested in local and family history and as we sat and chatted, bewailed the fact there isn't a facility for them to find out more information about the history of the town and surrounding areas where they live due to their sight loss. So, I thought I would try to help them achieve their aim.



There is a facility in Bolton called News Talk which provides over 200 USB sticks with recorded news to those who subscribe <https://www.boltonnewstalk.org.uk>. There is a possibility for NewsTalk to record local history stories and articles/talks. This is where you come in, especially those groups/societies who have a newsletter/periodical as short local history stories, snippets of news are ideal”. We have given them ready permission to use our material but now we are asking might any of members be interested in recording local stories/articles for NewsTalk? Please contact our secretary or committee member if you are.

A Request from Veronica Vondy

“Could you please advise me if you know where I may find any photographs of the interior of the now demolished Commercial Hotel 2 Victoria Square? In particular of the dining room.

I am doing some research and would be obliged for any help that you may be able to offer. Many thanks”.

Please contact vvondy@hotmail.com if you can help.

Thanks to Sue Hurst for keeping us in another loop

Sue read last month's story re the Lund family, which led to her contacting us and her renewing her contact with Wayne and his family. She has been good enough to share it with us, “Ex member, still reading the Genies, well done for 5 years, but now living in Anglesey”.

Great to know how far our newsletters are travelling.

On 25th July Jim Fletcher jim@fletcher.org asked

“Hi, I arranged to receive your emailed newsletter notifications, and they helped me make the decision “to do my tree”. I don't live in Bolton - - one of the few in, as it turns out, my rather large family who left, although my brother and his family still live in the town. Anyway, I've given Ancestry a working over and have traced both the Fletcher family back to 1799 and the Ward / Ryder family to 1788 and 1711 respectively. The Fetters were brickmakers in Great Lever. The Ward / Ryder families have history with Bolton Wanderers and Iron Foundries. The reason for my email is simply to enquire whether you have a member who has embarked on any similar research? If so, is there any useful contact to be made?

Regards Jim Fletcher “

We are glad to say this message has already been posted on or FB page with some good responses, but if anybody else could also help, I am sure Jim will appreciate it.

“Inside the horrific child murder of Ivy Wood which shook a town and made legal history” <https://tinyurl.com/y389u/mls> Bolton News 4th August 2019

We are sorry to say this the story of one of our member's ancestors, although it actually took place in Hyde, Manchester. . Some may also have seen it reported on BBC Look North last week, and in other local newspapers <https://tinyurl.com/y6vzoc9j>. Even now it is obviously a very emotional tale, but at least we can share it as a “memorial “ to the family , and also an example of one of the less happy stories we can sometimes discover, when doing family history research. Our thoughts are with you and the family Janet.



Follow up to last month's story of the Whittle Bible

Brian has now been able to give us an update on last month's story . The bible sent from USA was reunited with relatives of the Whittle family, Margaret and Robert Benmore in Stowmarket. Enclosed is photograph to confirm. The bible is in good hands. Margaret and Robert are members of The Latter-Day Saints Church based in Salt Lake City and are two experts on Family History ,so much so that they have spent two years working in Salt Lake City adding to the records of Family Search which is used throughout the world. We hope to see them both in Bolton later this year as they still have relatives in the area. Our Brian seen here with Margaret Benmore.



STOP PRESS Registration of marriage from end-2019 – Faculty Office <https://tinyurl.com/y37lyls8>

Posted on 8 August 2019 by David Pocklington, (and another interesting perspective here <https://tinyurl.com/y2sgvhqy> from the Clergy by Madeleine Davies 09 August 2019).

“Following its notification in June 2019, the Faculty Office has issued an update on the implementation of the provisions regarding the registration of marriage under the Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc) Act 2019.”

More comments next month I am sure, but marriage records are going to change, and soon. !!

OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS



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

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,

27th August 'A Mansion, a Family and a Ship': The effect on the lives of the founder and the M.D. of the White Star Line after the sinking of the Titanic. – David Hill



Turton Local History Society <https://goo.gl/adx4GM>

Illustrated talks and meetings are held from August to April inclusive on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at Longsight Church Centre, Harwood BL2 3HX This next month's event **28 Aug - Mining in Bolton (Peter Harris)** A very general look at the mining industry in Bolton, the way it developed and eventually declined. Also, some observations on sources of coal in Elizabethan times, leading to speculation on a very early mining site and the way it eventually evolved.

Westhoughton Local History Group – <http://goo.gl/XNugl5>

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.

15 August Westhoughton's Links to Peterloo' Events (see forthcoming publications for further details).

5 September Dark Days, Dark Nights - Bolton's Home Front WW2- David Burnham To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the start of World War 2, we have invited social historian David Burnham to tell us about the lives of the people left at home during the fighting abroad. (Editor's note. This is the talk David gave to Bolton last September 2018 and recommended if you missed it then. See here for the write up http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/newsletter/Genie_2018_09.pdf.



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.

August 13th, 2019 Mark Olly - Crystal Skulls and Human Heads

August 31st, 2019 Garden Party

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