



# Bolton's Genies



This is the monthly newsletter for Bolton Family History Society <https://mlfhs.uk/bolton> ;

Sign up <https://mlfhs.uk/bolton/newsletter> Archives <https://mlfhs.uk/bolton/newsletter/archives>

•Newsletter Comments are always welcome, and Speaker Bookings via [boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk)

•General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Christine M Ellis [bolton@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:bolton@mlfhs.org.uk)

•Bolton Research help, please email [boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk) ,

or general enquiries to Manchester Research <https://mlfhs.uk/research/getting-help/helpdesk>

•Bolton Research link on MLFHS website: <https://mlfhs.uk/bolton/research> (some accessible to members only)

•Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <https://mlfhs.uk/>



•Bolton Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BoltonFHS> 654 Likes and 710 Following Sept 5th

September 2020

Edition 75

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



This month's picture is of course Bolton's Cenotaph built originally to remember those who had not returned after WW1, then WW2 was added on, then casualties from more recent warfare are also now remembered. On August 15<sup>th</sup> it became the focus of VJ Day commemorations, (see below), and it will soon be used again in November for Remembrance Day Services.

Whoever could have imagined that in 2020 it would also need to show a social distancing reminder.

So here I am welcoming you all to our September 2020 edition, and another month into the 2020 pandemic. For me over this last month, it seems we have entered a stage of ebb and flow, as though some progress is made in adapting and learning to live with this new way of life, and then another spanner gets thrown in the works, and we retreat to Plan A to rethink. Perhaps this is how it is going to be for the next year or so, but we can only try new ideas and learn from them can't we.

I hope you will all have realised by now that our long-awaited, newly designed website is finally launched, see the new links above. A phenomenal amount of work has gone into this over the last year, largely by a dedicated team of volunteers coordinated by Hilary Hartigan from the Anglo Scots branch, with our Graham Holt contributing from the Bolton branch, and web master Michael Isherwood taking on the role of managing our content. There is still an enormous amount of data to transfer over from the old site to the new. We are aware of this and be reassured it has not been lost This is all a big learning curve and inevitably there are and will be teething problems. We are also aware of certain links not working properly. Please do let us know when you spot any though and the team are doing their best to deal with them as soon as possible. It is all very time consuming however so please bear with us.

Tentative plans are also being made to resume some sort of meetings programme, perhaps by Zoom. Much of this depends on skills and availability, ( and perhaps a sense of humour). In the meantime, there are links provided below for other talks available, many free , which we hope you might try and find useful. Please may we remind you that we still have the Help Desks and Facebook pages available offering daily items of interest and news updates.

## COMING EVENTS

All our MLFHS events including those at our Bolton FHS branch, remain suspended until further notice following government guidelines. Please keep monitoring via this route though, as it is now one of our main ways of connecting with you and sharing at least monthly information. Our Facebook page gives even better daily information, and some arrangements are changing that quickly at the moment.

This list is merely a suggestion of what is becoming available so I would urge you to check each event for updates if considering them. Some other family history societies are also beginning to experiment with Zoom meetings so if you are a member of any others, as well as this one, it might be worth having a look. I have now attended three remarkably successful talks elsewhere that I have not been able to travel to before, and I know others also have, and this is certainly providing encouraging ideas.

## GENIE'S TIPS for SEPTEMBER 2020



<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/>

All subscribed members of the MLFHS are by default also members of this umbrella association and are therefore eligible for their facilities. You might have already offered your names of research interest into the MLFHS pool, and now this route can add those names to an international pool of all other member family history societies, including some overseas.

**Surname Search** <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/surname-search>

This page provides a search facility to all the Member Interest Surnames that are registered through the various Family History Societies. Simply enter your search criteria to list the Surname results. The results may be sorted by clicking on the column heading. There is a link to the relevant pages on the Family History Society website where the Member Interest resides and where you may find further contact information relating to your Surname search.

The FHF also suggest this as a really useful family history resource ?

[Online Genealogical Index](#) **The Online Genealogical Index (OGI)** [www.ogindex.org](http://www.ogindex.org)

*"This website is a simple and efficient way of locating genealogical data online. If you don't know where to look to find the site that holds your ancestors' records then all you need to do is enter a country, county, town, and approx. year (the latter is optional). OGI is a search engine for genealogical data sets found online only for England and Wales, indexed by place. If you know the place where your ancestor was born, married, died, or buried, OGI helps find sites that contain records for that place - records that could contain vital details of your ancestor. Using OGI enables researchers to avoid wasting time when looking at incomplete resources or by manually searching multiple sites to find the required records".*

It may interest some and please let us know if you do find it useful, to share with others.



**See the history of your house in WW2** <https://tinyurl.com/y64b9aeg> (Subscription)

*"Use these historical maps like a GPS. Tap in your postcode and see who lived in your home in 1939."*

It didn't work for me I'm sorry to say. The house is there where I was born but the street isn't even labelled. I hope you might have better luck, and you will of course need an FMP subscription or trip to the library when available.

**Wales Probate Records 1544-1858 Findmypast** <https://tinyurl.com/y2hdpsp2> (Subscription)

*"Did your ancestors own property in Wales? These abstracts of wills, inventories and probate records can reveal a wealth of vital information about the lives they lived, their death, and the inheritance of their estate by family and friends"*



## 1 September National Library of Scotland <https://maps.nls.uk> adds coastal charts to online maps collection

The National Library of Scotland maps collection (has been extended to include new coastal charts from around the country: Coastal charts of Scotland, 1592-1947



## How to Use Shared DNA to Determine Relationships By Editors of Family Tree Magazine

<https://tinyurl.com/y3poq9eb>

*"Looking for your birth parents and other relatives? Curious about how to determine relationships from shared DNA? This guide can help. ---"*

## How To Use FamilySearch.org: A Beginner's Guide By Rick Crume <https://tinyurl.com/yxw78fc6>

*"A free website from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormon Church), FamilySearch has a large, growing collection of records, books, photos, and family trees. Since going online in 1999, the site has expanded to encompass more than 2,000 historical record collections from around the world, more than 5.5 billion searchable names in old records, and more than 300,000 digitized books.*

*You can search many of these records by name and other details, thanks to FamilySearch's volunteer indexing program; but some collections are still awaiting indexing and must be browsed. All the genealogical bounty is accessible from tabs at the top of FamilySearch.org."*

(NB if these links don't work just copy the title and put into Google. There seems to be some fluctuation.)



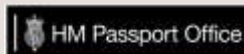
## Guides to the Lakes <http://www.lakesguides.co.uk/html/topics/miscfram.htm>

If you have any reason to be researching in the Cumbrian area this is an absolute must and it seems to be all free. Enjoy.

*"Whilst working on the Lakes Guides project we have looked up all sorts of interesting material to help us understand objects in the text and features on maps. These notes are accessible here.*

*Our whole project is unashamedly provincial; we must work from the sources that are available to us, here, based in Longsleddale near Kendal. The Armitt Library in Ambleside and the local studies library in Kendal being major resources. It is not always practical to use primary sources in far away London. Besides: there is plenty to do with what we have.*

*But BEWARE: none of these notes is a definitive essay about the topic. They are our working notes; we would rather share them than hide them away. You must take the researches further, more soundly, before relying upon them."*



## Welcome to the General Register Office for England and Wales online ordering service. <https://tinyurl.com/yycl9sfv>

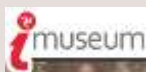
Just thought it might help some to give a gentle reminder of the use of this site. Although inevitably some faults have been found this is perhaps one of the best ways of finding a birth, or death during the period of Civil Registration from March 1837. It is certainly the cheapest way to obtain the basic information with pdf certificates available at £11.

*"The General Register Office holds a central copy of all birth, adoption, marriage, civil partnership and death registrations for England and Wales. This service allows you to search our historical birth and death indexes and order copies of registrations in a variety of formats including certificates, PDFs, and Multilingual Standard Forms via the government's own official website.*

*NB Local Register Offices <https://tinyurl.com/y2ckfamv> also hold records of events registered in their area."*

NB There are NO transcriptions from the church registers for births and deaths as these are not usually recorded in church records, only the religious ceremonies of baptisms and burials. Births and deaths are therefore only registered at the Registrars, and the GRO is only the second version of the details. The same is true of Registrar attended/performed marriages. Details of Church marriages by a minister are sent at 3 monthly intervals to the Registrar who transcribes them again for onward transmission to the GRO.

This link explains how it works and the various options <https://tinyurl.com/y2k4l8wp> .



**The Isle of Man IMuseum** is to stay open and their wonderful archives will continue to be freely available I am told <https://www.imuseum.im/>

Don't forget about the ever faithful's as well, and please note most of these sites are regularly updated thanks to the volunteer transcribers , It is always worth checking regularly for new data being added.



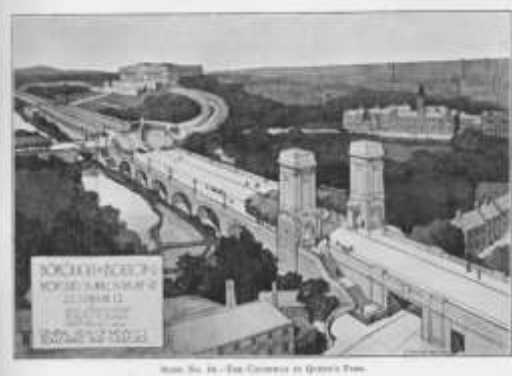
**Lancashire Online Parish Clerk aka Lancs OPC** <http://goo.gl/AN699Z> and left click on the "What's New" tab on the left .



**Lancashire Records** <http://goo.gl/l29JpL>

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

**" Visionary town planner who sought to make Bolton beautiful "** By John Anson Bolton News Regional Features Editor (Newsquest North West <https://tinyurl.com/yyqpxvdg> August 16th 2020



A few years ago now, in fact while we were still meeting at the Bolton Cricket Club, we enjoyed a fascinating talk from Elaine Taylor telling us about how Thomas Mawson had instigated the planning of our beloved Rivington Gardens <https://www.rivingtonterracedgardens.org.uk/> , and the plans they then had for the renovation of same. Some funding was obtained, inevitably there were also problems, but eventually I think most of the ambitions have been realised, and now the gardens are there and freely available for locals to enjoy and an attraction for "foreigners" like Mancunians to come and visit, within social distancing rules 😊

This article, written by Prof Paul Salveson, who some might know from his knowledgeable contributions to various Bolton based Facebook groups , now gives an interesting insight into the plans that Mawson suggested for Bolton town. How different life might have been.

*"Professor Paul Salveson is a historian and writer and lives in Bolton. He is a visiting professor in WorkTown Studies at the University of Bolton and author of several books on Lancashire history. Here he remembers Thomas Mawson who sought to transform Bolton. Bolton was once at the centre of radical ideas for what would make a town 'beautiful'. At the height of the First World War, Lancashire-born landscape architect Thomas Mawson gave a series of lectures to Bolton Housing and Town Planning Society on 'Bolton As It Is, and As It Might Be'.---*



**NB** It seems Paul is now to make a series of posts in the BN re local history and you might find this a good read. I did.  
**30th August " When coal was king, and Bolton boasted more than 100 pits"** <https://tinyurl.com/y62jktpb>

By John Anson @LT\_Features Regional Features Editor (Newsquest North West)

Here is a link to Pauls feature on mining in and around Bolton. The picture courtesy of the Bolton News is of Scot Lane Pit in Blackrod, typical of the area of course



6<sup>th</sup> September is to be re the Winter Hill Trespass I am told.

Find the taster on here <http://www.paulsalveson.org.uk/>



**“Blackstone Reaches \$4.7 Billion Deal to Buy Ancestry.com”,** <https://tinyurl.com/y64b9aeq> By

Heather Perlberg 5 August 2020

Annoyingly this news was announced soon after publication of our last newsletter. As yet nobody seems to know how this deal might (not) affect us average subscribers, but if we hear of anything urgent, I am sure it will be announced via our Facebook page and we will hopefully have a catch up on here.

**August 15<sup>th</sup> VJ Day, the 75th Anniversary of the surrender of Japan** <https://tinyurl.com/y2kgwbwv>, and finally in September the end of WW2

Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser signs the Japanese surrender document for Great Britain on board USS MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay, 2 September 1945. Image © IWM A 30425

I must confess, and am rather ashamed to admit, that this event escaped my notice until perhaps the day before on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August. My excuse is that I am not aware that any of my family were involved in this terrible theatre of war, but I know many others locally were. I also remember 20-30 years ago talking to people who had husbands and other family members who were still having dreadful nightmares reliving their experiences as POWs over there, 40 years previously.

As I complete this edition of the newsletter perhaps, we can be thankful that this first week in September marks the 75th anniversary of the official end of the Second World War, when Japan signed its deed of unconditional surrender. It ended six years of global conflict, which claimed the lives of more than 80 million people and changed the lives of hundreds of millions of others. I know one of the results was instigating big migrations to the “colonies” looking for a better life. Many of mine went, did yours go too? Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and South Africa have so many of our cousins and several generations of them now, many trying to find their origins now.

These days most of those veterans who continued to suffer post war, are no longer with us. Apparently, they were told never to reveal their stories after demob for whatever reason. Hopefully, they are now at peace, but many did leave hidden memorabilia that their families are just now beginning to discover. This last week I have been reading and hearing some amazing stories that grand and great grandchildren are unearthing of what their granddad did during the war. Many are stunned.

“I thought he had just served in India” being a typical comment.

Perhaps the story was too raw to share with the first post war generation, and most civilians and other service personnel were still processing their own stages of PTSD where the socially accepted rule was “stiff upper lip”, and to “forget and move on”.

Now however, with the anniversaries of WW2 events still in some living memories the stories from the Far East are surfacing, and perhaps they just need to be acknowledged and the facts accepted, enabling a better understanding of family life in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Hopefully some unhappy memories of post war childhood and their parents behaviour, are now understood better, and lessons have been learned to never allow any repeat of this horror again. Do you have any family stories, you would like to share maybe?



I don't know if you managed to see it, but I found the BBC1 "VJ75 Tribute" , actually recorded in the small hours of the morning and under pandemic restrictions incredibly moving. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000lx0c> .



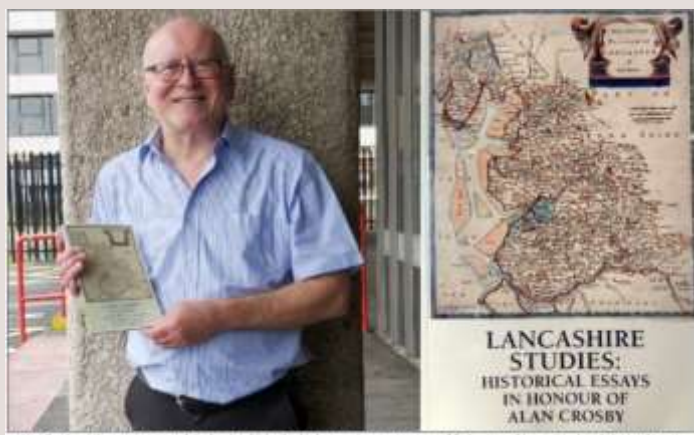
### Book Published In Honour of BALH

Editor <https://tinyurl.com/y5ucnqti>

Published: 17th August 2020. A new book of original essays has been published in honour of Dr Alan Crosby, Editor of The Local Historian.

Some members of BFHS have actually been accused of being "groupies" following Alan whenever he has been giving talks locally, and he has certainly been a regular and extremely popular speaker for us over the years. I think we would all like to congratulate him on this. Well done Alan, and very well deserved.

*"The Federation of Lancashire Local History Societies, which encompasses 80 member societies, has published a festschrift in recognition of the enormous contribution that Alan Crosby has made in advancing the local history cause. The honour came as a complete surprise to Alan, with the Federation managing to complete the project under wraps until an outdoor presentation was made to him. As was hoped, Alan was flabbergasted when he was shown a copy of the works. The festschrift (a collection of writings published in honour of a scholar), is an appropriate way to mark the contribution Alan has made to furthering the understanding and enjoyment of local history, not just in Lancashire but across the country. The book contains essays spanning many centuries and nine varied aspects of Lancashire history. It is available to order for just £15 + £4 p&p from Lancashire Local History Federation, using this order form. <https://tinyurl.com/y5td7h27>*



Alan Crosby at the presentation of the book published in his honour. Images courtesy of Federation of Lancashire Local History Societies



### 11-20<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Heritage Open Days <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting>

*"Each September thousands of volunteers across the country invite you to experience local history, architecture, and culture. All for free"* .

This year because of the pandemic situation we have

☹️ first the bad news--- there are some, but not a lot, of places actually physically open to visit, BUT  
😊 secondly the good news, there are quite a few new ones available online, both locally and nationally, that we may never have had the chance of seeing before. This is the link to our local ones <https://tinyurl.com/y2wlttdtz> and I see on the first page covering 14 options to date, we have the upgraded Bolton Aquarium listed , and also a chance to see the 'The Chadwick Resource Centre' all online, which some of us visited a couple of years ago, pictures available on our FB page. There are also tours of Victoria Hall, various local churches with particular attractions, and online visits to a variety of musical archives and even a live digital event from the original Rochdale Pioneer's shop at 31 Toad Lane, home to the world's first modern co-operative. I am sure more will be added before the event, and this is before we look nationally . I am really looking forward to this rare opportunity to see venues, not generally available to the public.

### 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020 York Family History Show online—

The York Family History Show sponsored by The Genealogist and previously by Ancestry will now be running an online show due to the pandemic restrictions. Their announcement tells us that

*"This will be the way forward until the current situation ends and they plan to run the online events in tandem with the physical shows when they do come back (beginning with York in June 2021). There will be extra resources available to cope with even greater numbers at the September Online Family History Show, and improvements will be made to the interface and system over*



the next few weeks, making it more robust and adding extra features in preparation for September. There is an exclusive ticket offer as an exhibitor—tickets are £8 on the day but with the Exhibitor Discount link, members and customers can get a ticket for just £5”. ---“Talks will be held throughout the day and will be available to watch online for 24 hours.”---“The talks will be different from our first event and talk times will be published nearer the event”.

Well as I see it this is a wonderful opportunity to hear at least five quality speakers, for a very nominal amount compared to the cost we would be incurring otherwise of travel, parking, and possible overnight accommodation. It seems almost churlish not to make an effort.

Book your ticket here! <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/tickets/?discount=T2H43GNJ>



**Genealogy and History courses** <https://tinyurl.com/y2bfkkeu>

We offer two courses looking at history through genealogy from Dr Penny Walters, (whom we hope to hear more from soon) . Not as cheap as some but maybe a bit different and likely to have quality content.

**February 25–27, 2021 RootsTech 2021** to be a free virtual event From FamilySearch ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)): FamilySearch Announces RootsTech Connect 2021: A Free Global Virtual Event was previously planned for February 3–6, 2021, in Salt Lake City, Utah. RootsTech Connect 2021 will enable attendees to participate from around the world and will feature inspiring keynote speakers, dozens of classes in multiple languages, and a virtual marketplace. Reserve your place today for free at [RootsTech.org](http://RootsTech.org). More news to come no doubt.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**The 'Carlisle Experiment' – State Managed Pubs, - government takes control of public houses** <https://tinyurl.com/y39kcvar>

I caught the tail end of this story the other day from a BBC Two programme “The Hairy Bikers' Pubs That Built Britain” that they had put on instead of snooker. Although centred in Carlisle it did make me wonder about local pubs, and if this might be the explanation as to why so many have bowling greens attached to them here. Was it also to get our great grandparents fitter perhaps? I wonder if anyone can enlighten us please.



*“A century ago, at the height of the First World War, excessive drinking was thought to be a threat to munitions production. To counter this, the government took the drastic step of nationalising public houses. Historic England carried out an architectural survey of the State Management Pubs and the scheme's influence on pub design.*

*'The greatest of these deadly foes is drink'*

*The efficient manufacture of munitions was vital to the war effort. By 1915 the authorities were deeply concerned that excessive drinking by the workforce was taking its toll on productivity.*

*In March of that year, David Lloyd George, later Minister of Munitions, even went so far as to declare 'We are fighting Germany, Austria and drink, and so far, as I can see the greatest of these deadly foes is drink'.--* I wonder if anyone knows of any local stories of pubs and how/ why they got their bowling greens? I know there are certainly several in Bolton and beyond. Is this as a result of this project in Carlisle perhaps?

NB Apparently WW2 was also blamed for also introducing far more women into pubs as well, as noted in the continuing Mass Observation Study in Bolton ‘A public house is for all classes, men and women alike’: women, leisure and drink in Second World War England by Claire Langhammer University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/09612020300200367> . See pp 426-427. (Doubt if either of my Grandmas were impressed, but I think my Mum enjoyed an odd sherry !! 😊).

## “Neglecting the Table”

A few weeks ago, there was a question on a Facebook family history group about what the meaning of this phrase was, in the context of several entries in the 1858 Heptonstall records from “Non-conformist church records, 1646-1985” to be found on Ancestry. At Church Meetings, apparently held “in the Vestry”, it had been decided that Sarah Bruce, Mary Popplewell, and Rebekah Newsome were to be excluded from taking communion, for “neglecting the table”, as was also Robert Glass for “taking too Freely of the Intoxicating Draft”. Mark Lee, the Chairman had documented same.



Wikipedia describes the Protestant Table in this link [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communion\\_table](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communion_table) but I suspect many these days will not hold it in the same awe, as perhaps some of our ancestors did. Perhaps the phrase is more symbolic than a physical feature though. This picture is thought to show a picture of Bank Street Chapel, Bolton, one of the earliest churches in Bolton <https://tinyurl.com/y4cr5dyz> and not the original building of 1672. Could their table be below the pulpit I wonder, or perhaps it was only a symbolic term even then? I do not by any means claim to be knowledgeable in this area, but my understanding is that over the years of Reformation after Henry V111 decided to exit from the Roman Catholic church in 1532, church buildings, and particularly altars were deemed too flamboyant and decorative for serious worship. They were slowly “downsized” as was the hierarchy of the church clergy, to the point that many protestants deemed all members were equal and should merely meet around a simple symbolic communal table with perhaps the Bible as the focal point in the middle. Woe betide any who did not conform to the discipline of attending the regular meetings though, and also the groups’ interpretation of the rules of the Ten Commandments. This was “neglecting the Table”. If anyone has a better explanation, I would love to hear it please.



### The Victorian Deaf in England. Part 1: Family Life

I know many Boltonians endure this problem perhaps with themselves or via a family member or friend. In the past, the disability might have been initiated from birth by a genetic problem, or later by childhood illness, or perhaps industrial machinery, or an accident of some sort. We are now lucky enough to have the benefits of modern technology, but without these how on earth did our ancestors cope. ? Anne Sherman genealogist and historian provides some answers here:-

“When an ancestor who was born in the early 19th century was recorded as being deaf-and-dumb from birth, researchers may not understand how that affected their lives. Some researchers may assume that they would be placed into an asylum, or would live solitary lives, with little contact with the world around them. This is not necessarily the case.

#### Background.

In the 19th century it was difficult to determine if a child was born deaf. Some children were not diagnosed until the age of 2 years when they failed to learn how to speak. In the 1851 census report only those who lacked hearing and speech under the age of 2 years were classed as being truly deaf-and-dumb.

The 1861 census attempted to identify congenital deafness by including the description ‘from birth’ in the infirmities column. This census identified approximately 12 thousand people in England and Wales listed as being deaf-and-dumb from birth, almost 2.5 thousand were born between 1837 and 1846.

Many children may not have been born deaf but could have become deaf due to childhood infections.

Meningitis and Scarlet Fever were believed to account for more than 50% of incidences of deafness in infancy in 1880. Despite this Alexander Graham Bell, believed that deafness was hereditary, and wanted to



prevent deaf people from marrying each other. Research in 1889, however, found that only 2% of deaf and dumb children had two congenitally deaf parents.

### **Social clubs.**

From the early 1830's many deaf institutes, churches, and social clubs, were established which provided a social and educational network for the deaf and dumb.

They were initially started for bible study and prayer meetings, but gradually expanded to cater for other social events. By the 1870's lectures were often translated, parties and outings were popular. Sign language translations of religious services, baptisms, marriages, and burials, and on the occasions of sickness, adversity, and bereavement, were also available to the deaf community.

Some of the popular activities included art and crafts, amateur dramatic groups which would put on regular performances, Temperance societies, and deaf sports such as football and cricket. In 1891 it was reported that 3,000 deaf people attended the first international deaf football match in Glasgow, Scotland. These groups were often the lifeline of many deaf-and-dumb people, especially those living in isolated rural communities. It was not unknown for people in rural communities to walk many miles to the nearest town and social club.

### **Marriage.**

Finding a suitable spouse may also have presented challenges for the deaf-and-dumb. One man from Newport, East Yorkshire, who described himself as "unfortunately deaf and dumb", advertised in his local newspaper for a wife, with the added stipulation that she should be "a member of the Methodist connexion."

The marriage of deaf-and-dumb couples was unusual enough to appear in the newspapers. One article regarding the marriage of a deaf and dumb couple in Ireland was reported in an East Yorkshire newspaper, appears to express surprise that the couple were "intelligent, industrious and prosperous artisans."

This attitude towards the deaf and dumb can be seen in other articles and publications.

Although there are no statistics for the marriage of the deaf-and-dumb in the mid-19th century, my study found that less than one third of these researched in East Yorkshire did marry. Of those, most married someone who was also deaf-and-dumb. The marriage ceremony was similar to the usual service with the exception that the words of the officiating minister and the responses of the couple were interpreted using sign language often by another minister who had the required skills.

### **Family Life**

Little is known about the family life of the deaf, but case studies show that very few, if any, lived in the Workhouse or an Institution simply because they were deaf. Most of those living in Deaf Institutions either worked there as teachers or domestic staff, or were residential pupils gaining an education. However, the newspapers did not always understand this, as shown in the reports of the murdered Maria Hailstone who, with her deaf-and-dumb husband, lived at the Hull Institute for the Deaf as a housekeeper/matron to the Master and the residential pupils. In reporting the case several out of town newspapers stated that Maria and her husband were inmates of the Institution, rather than employed residents.

Those who married and had children lived in the same type of accommodation as their hearing neighbours, whilst those who remained unmarried or were widowed either lived alone or with family members.

In my dissertation study only 4 out of the 28 individuals researched lived most of their lives with their parents, however in each case, after the death of those parents the 'child' either lived alone or was the Head of the family containing siblings (both hearing and deaf), suggesting that living with a parent was a choice rather than a necessity due to their dependency. Those who were regarded as being deaf-and-dumb from birth rarely appear as being totally dependent on others. In the case of 44-year-old Thomas



Goodison, who lived in Hull, East Yorkshire, with his non-deaf parents, the 1891 and 1901 census returns show that his father had no occupation and was dependant on Thomas, despite having seven other non-deaf children.

It is clear that although life was undoubtedly hard for the early Victorian deaf, they lived a useful and independent life within their communities, just as their non-deaf counterparts did.

### Next Month: The Victorian Deaf in England: Part 2: Education and Employment

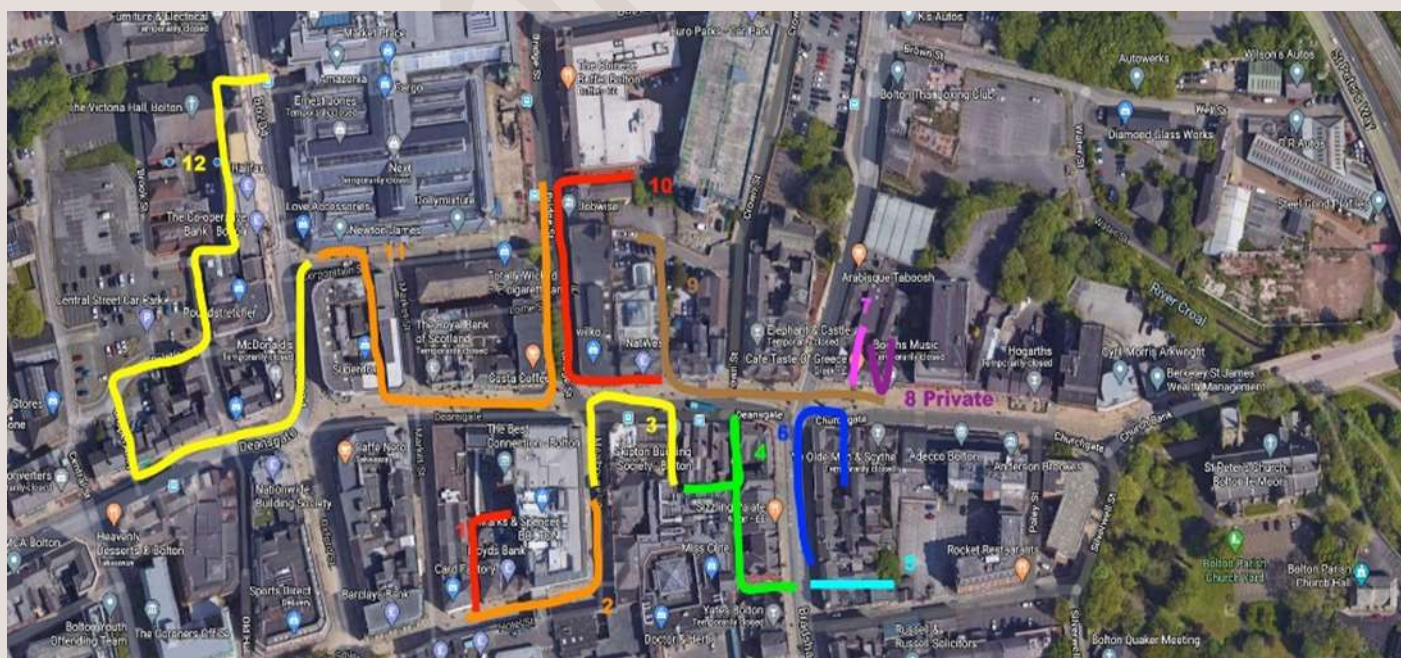
\* Disclaimer: The term 'deaf-and-dumb', although not acceptable in today's society, was the accepted description in the Victoria era, along with the term 'deaf-mute'. Its use in this writing reflects that and does not imply any irreverence or insult to today's deaf society.

Anne Sherman Published with her permission and extracted from <https://www.famnet.org.nz/> 05.08.21 with thanks.

### Mr Dennis McCann's Illustrated Tour of Bolton Old Town <https://www.facebook.com/groups/502317166638370/> (and how to be a 21<sup>st</sup> Century building detective).

I know many of you had ancestors living in this area maybe a couple of hundred years ago, many of you also no longer live in the Bolton area though, and perhaps you are even now overseas and wonder what the addresses you are finding on the old census records etc look like today. Where did your great x 2 or 3 grandparents live? Would you even be able to recognise these places today if you were to visit and try to explore?

Those of you who use Facebook might have already seen this fascinating visual tour that Dennis McCann has prepared on his free group Ancient Bolton -Pre 1800, and he has been good enough to allow me to reproduce them here. There are 12 posts in the series following the enclosed map of Bolton old town centre and it might be helpful to compare a current map of the area to establish street names. The main road on the left running from top to bottom is of course Oxford Road, and that in the middle running left to right is Deansgate up to the crossroad on the right, then Church Gate and then Church Bank (St Peters Parish Church to the right, going towards the River Croal. This is the seventh pink walk, and the eighth purple V shaped walk, on the right-hand side of the map, actually walking down Churchgate towards the church with the walks on the left.



(7) Across the road to Gaskell's Court, which we know well. View here is the entrance as seen from Churchgate then a view of the Court at the rear.



(8) It's unfortunate I couldn't get down Brook's Yard or Clarke's Entry which run down either side of the rear of the Pastie Shop.



### A REQUEST FOR HELP

**From Keith Lawson in Poole, Dorset**

We received this plea for help from Keith last week, and I must admit, and apologise for the fact that I initially got the details a bit mixed up in trying to help him. Keith does not currently subscribe to Ancestry, however, a quick glance has found one tree match which seems to have some of the answers. We are now wondering if there might be any other living relatives in the area, who could help enlighten Keith *"I am researching my wife's paternal line but have hit a brick wall for lack of records and no family knowledge past the last address of 5 Oliver Row, off Hollycroft Ave, Darcy Lever pre-WW2. I am hoping you may have resources I can access or (even better) someone who is also researching this family"*.

**Samuel Fletcher** 26 November 1919 – 9 December 2000 a miner. Lived with parents. Enlisted in Territorial Army 1 May 1939. Enlisted into Royal Artillery 3 Sept 1939. (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LD19-1G4>) . Enlisted into Royal Artillery 3 Sept 1939. Trade on enlistment: "Winder". Went overseas 11 April 1940 with British Expeditionary Force (BEF). Transferred to Royal Engineers 17 Jul/Aug (records differ) 1940 (believed to have been evacuated from Dunkirk 6 June). Served in Gibraltar (1941-1943), India (1945) and Burma. Awarded 1939/43 Burma Star and Defence Medal. Married Nesta Edith Bowler : 2 January 1945 Woodstock, Oxfordshire, before returning to serve in Burma. Samuels parents were **Samuel Fletcher** 1896–1978 married 1918 Bolton, to **Catherine O'Connor** recorded on the Civil Register with apparently no church ceremony. *" I wrote to several Catholic churches without reply. I am thinking that a church record of the marriage service might help. I would be grateful if you could pass my request for help around your members."*

A quick census check suggests that Samuel b 1919's father Samuel **Fletcher** born 1896 was from Little Lever, and his parents were William **Fletcher** and Alice **Lockley**. Mainly a mining family from Pilkington previously. There are probably still Fletcher descendants in this area.

The **O' Connor** line is proving more difficult though with other surnames of **Connor** and **Carroll** suggested further up the line. They are thought to have lived on Hollycroft Ave, Darcy Lever, and possibly Morris Street previously with Irish origins at some point.

Please can anyone assist with this enquiry. Please email the Genie address and we can forward any news. Thank you



### Request for information: John Black

The Historical Association Bolton Branch has had an enquiry from someone writing a book detailing the life of a man named John Black who instigated the beginning of a town in Queensland, Australia, called Townsville, in 1864. Previous local historians have his early life as being in Bolton, stating that he was born there in 1830 and also went to school there. His father was Dr James Black, who was at the Manchester Hospital and the Bolton Dispensary at that time, notably around 1830 as uncovered in Dr Black's Obituary.

If anyone has any information on Dr James Black and family in the Bolton area for the 1830's to early 1840s, in particular regarding John Black's schooling, please could you contact [boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk) we will pass it on to our colleagues.

We would also love to know more about his family for local interest as well. This enquiry is quite a coincidence if anyone has been watching the Michael Portillo Australian series where he recently visited this place <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000l45p>

## OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS

Like us all local society's meetings are suspended until further notice. Please check with their individual websites for further information



**Halliwell Local History Society** <http://goo.gl/8erYyr> Email [margaretk@talktalk.net](mailto:margaretk@talktalk.net) .



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

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



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

© Copyright 2020 Bolton Family History Society, part of Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society Charity No 515599

