



# 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](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk)
- General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Christine M Ellis [bolton@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:bolton@mlfhs.org.uk)
- Research help, please email [boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk) or visit our
- Bolton Help Desk Drop Ins 10am -12md Bolton Central Library. First Saturday of each month  
10am – 12md Harwood Library- Second Saturday of each month  
Before and after each BFHS monthly meeting 7pm and approx 8.45pm
- Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 545 Likes and 580 Following on March 8<sup>th</sup>
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: <https://goo.gl/hJi8Ns> (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index> .

March 2020

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



This months banner picture is of the Edmund Potter Hospital, opened 1920 by Edmund Peel Potter b1847 d1933, calico printing magnate. This was previously his home Fearn Bank, on Chorley New Road. See story below page

## **CALLING ALL BOLTONIANS**

This is an **URGENT** call, asking if you want your society to continue in its current productive and enjoyable way?

If you do, we need at least one, preferably two, “Chairperson(s) in training” **NOW** , or else we could be planning our own closure this time next year.

When our current Chairman , Graham Holt , retires from the post next February, this will mean, (amongst other things), that we will have :-

- Nobody to represent us elsewhere, coordinating our activities, and taking the responsibility of final decisions, albeit after consulting the relevant people.
- Nobody to lead our meetings by welcoming and introducing speakers, making announcements etc.
- Nobody checking this newsletter, and our journal and Facebook page to confirm information accuracy

There are also many other “hidden extras” which could be done by others, like visiting our room in the afternoon before each meeting to prepare the tables, check the heating etc, prepare and distribute the notes handouts, (not particularly a Chairman’s job but he does it, with Sue Boddy our treasurer each month); also approving our speaker programme, and printing our annual calendar out.

It seems most of the current committee and helpers are happy to continue as they are for now , all other things remaining the same, and to **support** a new Chairman, but that is it.

We are working to capacity within our own commitments elsewhere.

**We need new, (and preferably younger), blood.**

Please contact our secretary Christine Ellis as above for any more queries but if you want the society to continue at this current level or even better, no more putting off, ---do it.

Enough said, and we hope you enjoy the rest of our news a bit more than this sad warning.

Let’s all now say Goodbye to the wettest recorded February ever apparently, and enjoy a happy, and moreover healthy, Spring.

## OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

- Where?

Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU. Buses are the 501, 502 or 503 and 125, please check the timetables here <https://tinyurl.com/ssb8hd5>. 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.



## RECENT TRIPS AND COMING EVENTS

### **Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Creation of Lancashire Archives at Preston CRO.**

Well what a brilliant day this was, and after the last few weeks of stormy weather, the gods were kind and we had sunshine all the way. Graham and I arrived early, after an unexpectedly traffic free journey. We found our allocated table, (one of approx 19 invited groups apparently), set up our stall, and had a wander around to see the others. It was good to meet new / renew old acquaintances from the representatives from other local societies, all there to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this archive of treasures. Some might recall the history of how /why the collection of Lancashire related documents and artefacts was initiated from a previous Bolton Genies article in our April 2019 edition

[https://bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/newsletter/Genie\\_2019\\_04.pdf](https://bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/newsletter/Genie_2019_04.pdf).

In 1940 Hitler had unintentionally done the nation a favour by threatening to invade us and triggering a movement to identify and locate all local moveable items of historical value, try to collect as many as possible from scattered private collections, and store them in safe places. The Lancashire Archive was thus created.

We had many enquiries from people who had made the special journey from places such as Wales, Derbyshire, Uppermill, Cumbria, Manchester, to attend on the day. We hope we were able to help some, and raise an awareness to all, of the benefits and importance of supporting the family history society movement, both locally and at other areas of family interest. We have a few pictures here, and there are more on our Facebook page, showing some of the items on display, and folk attending on the day.

It was particularly good to meet Rod Brackstone (see below, p3), from the Guild of One Name studies (GOONS), (<https://one-name.org/about-the-guild/>), who, together with their Chairman Paul Featherstone, demonstrated to us the capabilities offered by this website, and he was very much in demand on the day. We had already booked Rod for the following Wednesday, to tell us about the mysteries of using DNA for research, but perhaps the GOONS is another resource we should be familiarising ourselves with more.



## Wednesday 4th March, 7.30pm, "DNA for family research" Rod Brackstone

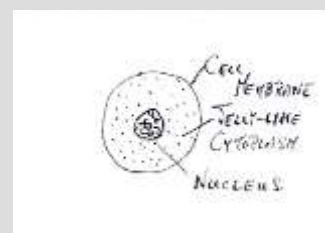
Well as promised, Rod arrived fully laden with several boxes of booklets that he had brought, re his complementary interest of the Guild of One Name Studies, and his presentation, (now also available to check on our website). We actually learned during his talk, how useful DNA analysis can be following a one name study, with a few quite humorous but also sad stories illustrating examples within complicated family dynamics. Please open this link to accompany the next report <https://tinyurl.com/sxpajln> and the presentation is by courtesy of Rod Brackstone.



Rod initially explained his "credentials" re DNA research, mentioning how after his initial science degree he had studied under "Dr Shepherd at Liverpool" (presumably this one Wow!! <https://tinyurl.com/y49wz7pg>), and subsequently taught the same subject at Secondary School level for 30 years.

Using the analogy of a Lego man he explained the different shapes and sizes of the components of any living body, animal or plant. We moved on to the specialised organs in a body, then to the specialities of cells within an organ; some secrete liquids with chemicals to enable a process, some facilitate movement of the liquid to other parts of the body or outside, some carry messages from one part of the body to the brain by chemo/electrical processes, some support and protect the organ. The list is endless, and he used the breathing mechanism to demonstrate specialities more closely.

Any basic cell → may be visualised as a sealed plastic bag of water with a tennis ball inside it. The shape and size can vary vastly though, e.g. one single nerve cell can extend from the tip of a toe to the brain, whilst others are just microscopic!! The "tennis ball" is the nucleus of the cell and contains 46 chromosomes in all, with normally 22 pairs in matching sizes, called autosomes. The 23<sup>rd</sup> pair may be of equal size and destined to produce a female if XX, or unequal and destined to produce a male XY. Only men have an XY to pass on to the next generation. The chromosomes are made of nucleic acids deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and ribonucleic acid (RNA) as well as other proteins, lipids and carbohydrates.



In 1962 scientists Crick, Watson and Wilkins were awarded the Nobel prize for Medicine and Physiology for identifying the helix shaped molecular structure of DNA, (although it was first isolated by Friedrich Miescher in 1869). The model-building efforts were guided by X-ray diffraction data acquired by Raymond Gosling, a post-graduate student of Rosalind Franklin (<https://tinyurl.com/botuan2> Wikipedia accessed 07.03.20) at King's College London.)

The complex DNA molecule is made of component molecules which contains the code for reproduction, and were identified as a sugar, phosphate units and four bases called Adenine, Guanine, Thymine, and Cytosine. These chemicals form sequences, and the specific groups formed are called genes (<https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/primer/basics/gene> Genetics Home Reference accessed 07.03.20). They build up into a "ladder shape" or DNA helix → which twists into a spiral and may split into two in a heat induced Polymerase Chain Reaction <https://tinyurl.com/o23tpnv>, thus replicating itself →



Dr Alec Jeffrey ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alec\\_Jeffreys](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alec_Jeffreys) accessed Wikipedia 07.03.21) used a sample of DNA obtained this way, and as demonstrated in the accompanying slide presentation, discovered a way of breaking it down into fragments and then the component chemicals. He then used their radioactive properties to produce a photographic film showing a series of varying dark bands, also known as a DNA fingerprint →, much like the familiar bar code that most items have at a supermarket.

This process is what enables, pre-natal diagnosis, historical studies, forensic analysis, wildlife conservation, and even the possibility of eventual dinosaur reproduction. Rod gave various examples of these situations including a family one of his own, and some obtained for

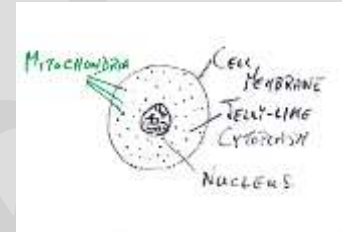


forensic studies. He explained how samples obtained from blood, skin (Sellotape collection from fingerprints etc ), sneeze samples (swabs), had been used for recent well known criminal investigations such as the serial murderer Dr Harold Shipman, (<https://tinyurl.com/swsb8ro> Britannica By: John Philip Jenkins Last Updated: Jan 10, 2020 accessed 07.03.20), and the 1983 and 1987 Leicestershire rape cases were mentioned. (<https://tinyurl.com/rklvtjb> The Guardian Ian Cobain 7 Jun 2016 accessed 07.03.20)



By this time Rod had us all spell bound and somewhat in awe. This was cutting edge stuff. He next explained using this diagram →, how a choice of two potential fathers could be identified by finding matches in the bar code of the child ,

and then went on to discuss the mitochondrial DNA → (<https://tinyurl.com/yd6xdd8c> Wikipedia accessed 09.03.20) to be found in the liquid of the bag mentioned previously, which is peculiar to the female generations. He used the Romanov dynasty (<https://tinyurl.com/hw5pdkl> Wikipedia accessed 07.03.20 ), as the best-known example here. Only the females of the line can pass this inheritance on, and this is how the disputed survival of Anastasia was finally proved. (It was also how Richard 111 's body was identified of course but that is another story see the University of Leicester site <https://tinyurl.com/rg3gg88> accessed 09.03.20)



If a child is to be a boy because he has inherited the XY version of the sex cell, sections of his Y DNA are divided by markers called Short Tandem Repeats or STRs. The distance between these markers is variable within each individual and varies in the repeat pattern. It is these variations in markers and numbers of repeats that are used to identify family groups. Originally only 12 markers were studied but there are now 37. This method can also only compliment traditional research and documentation.

On rare occasions this pattern can mutate and be passed on with inheritance to the next generations. Once considered worrying this can now offer a clue to locate ancestors long gone, and cousins can be found by identifying the earliest common ancestor by a paper trail. Unexpected brick walls on the paper trail may be explained by identifying a sudden change in DNA and “non paternal events” or NPEs and may suggest a male name change to secure property, an adoption, inaccurate records, and even infidelity. Tracing Y DNA lines from generations past can also suggest specific matches or Haplotypes beyond immediate families which can identify migration routes from centuries past. The Guild of One Named studies specialises in following the male line and has become a worldwide authority on this approach to genealogy. Rod recommended using Ancestry DNA as having the largest database of near 16 million, but also allowing their results to be recorded elsewhere by <https://www.gedmatch.com/login1.php> GEDcom, which accepts and compares results from several other similar sites, or just uploading to others individually. Ancestry will not accept results from other sources.

Rod also recommended Peter Calver’s Lost Cousins site which is already familiar to many of us. His Masterclass <https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/mar20news.htm#DNAMasterclass> advice is generally accepted by us all as outstanding.

This report has been written up to the best of my ability and I hope is accurate after treble checking. It is a very difficult subject for most of us , but also a very useful tool, and I know all attenders were very grateful to hear Rod explain such a complex subject so simply.

A few even remarked that they wished he had been their teacher at school!!! Thank You Rod.

**Wednesday 1st April, 7.30pm, "The history of the North West Quakers," ( with a mention of Phineas Pemberton of Bolton), by Gordon Benson.**

Gordon has been kind enough to provide an overview of what he plans to talk about.

*Quakerism in Bolton.*

*The Friends Meeting House in Silverwell Street is well known as a venue for many local groups in Bolton. However, many people know little of Quakers other than chocolates or their crusade against slavery.*

*The talk will explain how they worship and what they believe. The Society of Friends, to give them their formal name, has its roots in the radicalism of the English Civil War and it grew rapidly during the Commonwealth period. Since then it has developed worldwide and has had a continuous presence in Bolton for over 250 years, its members has included some prominent local families. Mention will also be given to why Quakers have extensive records and where they can be found.*

*Yours in Friendship*

*Gordon Benson*



**Thursday April 23rd A Guided Tour of Hoghton Tower** <https://www.hoghtontower.co.uk/your-visit/>

(Best known of course for where , anecdotally, the sirloin steak was named and knighted by James 1 on his 1617 visit, but apparently with no actual evidence 😊). The Tower does, however, have a very interesting history dating from 1560, although the Hoghton family have owned the land since the 12thC).

This will be a self-drive visit and a provisional booking has been made depending on interest. We plan to arrive soon after the café opens at 10am to enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits before the guided tour which will start at 10.30am . This will last about 1 ½ hrs.

Cost: £10.50pp. There is parking for 200 with disabled places near the Hall, and the gardens will be open. The cafe will also be available for lunch, and we need some indication of interest in order to gauge numbers.



**Thursday July 9th A guided Tour of Stonyhurst College including coach transport.** <https://tinyurl.com/rg8gf66>

Picture courtesy of their website <https://tinyurl.com/rv2zlxr> Provisional bookings have been made for both.

Leaving from Bolton Interchange 9am we will arrive there 10am for tea/coffee& biscuits. Tour starts at 10.30am and lasts about 1 ½ hrs. There is also a small museum available to see. The cost will depend on the size of the coach required, but including transport, and guided tour (£15 pp) , will be between £26.50pp if we only have 16 interested, or maximum £28.50pp if we have more interest and need a 36-seater.



The more using the coach the cheaper it will be, so the more the merrier. We will depart Stonyhurst for Clitheroe about 12 -12.30pm for approximately a 2 hours visit for lunch , shopping , sightseeing etc. Leaving Clitheroe at 3.30pm we will arrive back in Bolton 4.30pm. This is a rare opportunity to visit Stonyhurst as it is a fully functioning school of course, and not available during term time.

### **GENIE'S TIPS for March**

This is actually a simple reminder of what is available on our website but to members only, and Bolton has its own databases as listed on our Facebook page, and even this is 3 years old. Members can sign in to the Members area here by this link <https://www.mlfhs.org.uk/index.php> and just enter the name and membership number into the space at the top left corner and log in. You will then be invited to enter the Main Membership area ,and will see the menu of all the databases available and options: You may also add or amend your members interests listings NEW - Search the MLFHS Resource Library Catalogue

Access the member only databases

Access the General document collection

Access the Bolton document collection

Access the Oldham document collection

Access the Scottish document collection

Download Manchester Genealogist Back Issues from 1964 to Latest

Download Exchange Journals

Amend your password or e-mail address

Access the e-mail list

All these headings are links to the various areas. I can tell you that there are

two Birth, Marriage, Death and Burial; five pre 1837 censuses; seven Rate Books Poll Books and Other Lists; four Workhouse and Poor Law Records; seven of Trades and Professions ; four Military; three Institutions (Schools, Hospitals etc.); nine Miscellaneous . The list will also be posted on our Facebook page in more detail

**This is just a taster of one of the databases available.**

**Some Old Names of Streets from Daubhill Morris Green Area, Compiled by Ron Smith, a Founder BFHS member**


Willows Lane -Willows Road (1817) ; Morris Green Lane -Daubhill Lane ; Ellesmere Road -Crawshaw or Crutchey Lane ; Hulton Lane -Hulton Causeway ; Deane Church Lane - Daubhill Causeway.

St. Helens Road - Bolton/St. Helens Trust Road; Sapling Road -Nanny Lane ; Smethurst Lane to Sapling Road -Welsby Lane; Smethurst Lane to Plodder Lane - Heath Lane; St. Helens Road to Smethurst Lane- Spatyard Lane; Adelaide Street - Bradford Road (1817)

## THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Bolton FHS is now in the Listings of the Family History Federation <https://tinyurl.com/rjo4kwx>

### 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

Church of England to launch a 'Google Maps for graves' within five years enabling family historians to search for burial records and locations in an online database <https://tinyurl.com/w2gjz7x> The Daily Mail By Joe Pinkstone For Mailonline Published: 10:23, 3 March 2020

This has been well publicised so you might already know about it. There is also some debate re whether it is the same/ any better or worse , than other existing sites such as Findagrave, Billion Graves, Deceased Online etc. It does seem that as well as accurate geographical locations, photographs and personal details are provided, so we must wait and see. I note it does specify “Anglican graveyards as well as those interred on non-consecrated land”, so limiting with the former, but maybe quite helpful for the latter.

This link from the “Church Times” tells a little more about it, Yorkshire churchyards digitally mapped by Hattie Williams 21 February 2020 <https://tinyurl.com/s6z7xbo>

## SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

Not got room for much extra this month, sorry, but here is one.



The Coal Mining Resource Centre <http://www.cmhrc.co.uk/>

*Welcome to the UK's largest and most comprehensive website concerning the history of coalmining - including a searchable database of over 164,000 recorded accidents and deaths....*

This site seems to have been revamped and well worth a visit if you had ancestors in the trade, anywhere in the UK.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **The Amazing Potter Family Dynasty, from Bolton's Edmund Peel Potter b1847 -d1933, to Beatrix Potter**

A few weeks ago, now, a conversation developed on Facebook about the industrial heritage of the Manchester Bolton and Bury Canal, particularly about the Bolton branch between Nob Inn and the approach to town. At about the same time I also heard that the paperwork collected from Rock Hall, in Moses Gate Country Park, that had been donated to Bolton Archives when it closed, was now at last being inspected and catalogued by a team of volunteers, including some of our members.

Watching the interchanges, the discussion was largely about the development of textile processing taking place in the area in the early 19<sup>th</sup> C, and it seems there was a lot of innovative technology being developed at that time. (<https://tinyurl.com/uu5fval> Nob End History Management and Development by Phil Sharples 2010). The canal was a convenient form of transport to bring the coal in, (for the furnaces for the steam power used), and raw materials for the bleaching process etc, and also exporting the finished goods to the mills for weaving. Living fairly locally to all this I decided to look at what had been happening on Potters Brew near Moses Gate, renowned locally as a chemical tip, and see if this had been part of the bigger picture of Victorian industry.

Searching on the web I found from an article in the Bolton News 22.01. 2004 <https://tinyurl.com/t6sqmdz> that the works there had actually been called Hall or Potter Chemical Works, and that the owner had been a certain Edmund Potter. Dr Paul Hindle expanded on details further in his Dec 2010 report <https://tinyurl.com/sbacdx4> giving a middle initial of P. I commented about this in the FB conversation and was contacted by reader David Whenlock, who, knowing my involvement with the BFHS, asked if I thought this could be the same man who he knew to be both one of his own ancestors, plus also of (Helen) Beatrix Potter the well-known author. Wow!! Could Little Lever have a connection to this esteemed lady???? The challenge was accepted.

David had already discovered some details after his own research, (trying to trace some elusive Russian ancestors he had heard of anecdotally!!). The connection was via his grandmother Betsy Lomax b 1870 Brightmet. Her great grandparents had been George Lomax b1765 Bolton and Catherine Crompton b1762 Bolton, and the link was via Catherine's line, but here the picture had become quite muddled. Catherine's parents were established by her baptism records 14<sup>th</sup> July 1762 at Bank Street Unitarian OR Presbyterian, Bolton Le Moors, as John Crompton and Catherine Wharton m July 1756 Saint Nicholas, Liverpool. Looking further at other children, we now also found they had had a son Abraham, baptised 15<sup>th</sup> June 1757 at the same place. This clarified the relationship. David knew an Abraham Crompton had married an Anne Hayhurst b1763 Liverpool m 1788 Liverpool, and that one of their nine children Jessie b 1801 Chorley, had married an Edmund Potter b 1802 Manchester ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund\\_Potter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Potter). Wikipedia --found this site afterwards, honestly 😊). It had been the connection of Catherine and Abraham Crompton that was confusing, but we now knew them to be siblings. David was now wondering if the Edmund Potter b 1847 Manchester, mentioned re the Hall Chemical Works might be a descendant of Edmund Potter b 1802 Manchester, whom he had learned was a relative of Beatrix Potter the author. The idea was intriguing, and I agreed to help.



There were several “red herrings”, but we established by trawling through the many family lines that most of the Potters seemed to be involved in managerial roles, in calico printing or allied professions, and had also been very active Dissenters attending either Presbyterian or Unitarian churches, which was encouraging. Edmund Potter Snr b 1802 had apparently run a profitable calico printing business in Dinting Derbyshire, with 500 employees. He mechanised the process, becoming the largest printer of calico in the world <http://glossopheritage.co.uk/potters.htm>. The census returns show how his business expanded and several members of his family went on to practice very profitably in the same or allied trades. A keen activist in education for all he became MP for Carlisle 1861 – 1874, before retiring to Camfield, Herts where he died in 1883 leaving £441,970 19s 9d to his widow Jessie!

A son Rupert b1833 however had not followed this profession but had instead become a barrister, practicing Law in Lincolns Inn, London. He married Helen Leech b 1839 Dukinfield, and they had two children, Helen Beatrice Potter b 1867 Kensington, and Walter Bertram Potter b 1872. Need I say more??? → (Picture from Wikipedia courtesy of Bolton Archives)



We did have a talk about the Leech Papers held at Chetham’s College, Manchester, some years ago, by Dr Michael Powell, who is sadly no longer with us. I seem to recall he recounted a sorry tale of a dysfunctional family life, with Beatrice at least benefitting from a high level of education from three governesses. However, she encountered the shackles of being a talented and academic woman in the Victorian man’s world. She rebelled, following a varied career as a writer, illustrator, natural scientist, and conservationist, which was a “novelty” for a lady to be doing at this time, and her biographies have more on this, as does this Wikipedia overview. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beatrix\\_Potter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beatrix_Potter) What a fascinating lady, much advanced for her time.

Our interest now moved on to exploring Edmund P Potter b 1847 of the chemical works to discover if he was indeed connected to this dynasty. This time though, it was easier to work up the tree rather than down. Looking at his baptism his full name was Edmund Peel Potter, son of Sidney Potter and Louisa Kay, both born 1806 Manchester. They had married at the Cathedral in 1831 and may have had as many as 16 children if censuses are to be totally believed. Sidney was also a calico printer living at Green Heys Manchester. The Eureka moment was finding out that Sidney’s parents were James Potter b1772 Manchester and Mary Moore b abt 1778 Lancaster. These were also the parents of Edmund Potter b1802, meaning that he and Sidney were brothers, and therefore Bolton’s Edmund Peel Potter was the nephew of Edmund Potter the calico printer magnate, and the 1<sup>st</sup> cousin once removed of Helen Beatrix Potter.

Edmund Peel Potter → picture courtesy of Bolton Archives can be found boarding at Little Lever Hall off Hall Lane in 1871, ( apparently where the secondary school is now, and some will remember as being a rhubarb farm in the 1970s), with the Edge family of farmers. He was a chemical manufacturer then, just next door to his works. In 1875 he married Ellen Ann Cross b 1850 Astley Bridge Bolton, parents John Cross and Hannah Kynaston at St James, Hope in Salford and he also is described as a manufacturer and his father in law John Cross a merchant. In 1881 he had progressed to being an alkali manufacturer living on High Bank, Castle Street, with his young family. In 1891 he has moved on to Hollenhurst, Chorley New Road with his wife and 4 children, governess and two servants, and is a magistrate and chemical manufacturer. In 1901 he is now at Fern Clough, Heaton, with his wife, one daughter Mary, and five servants, and still a chemical manufacturer and employer. He apparently bought that from a “ J C Cross” for £4750 in 1895



(<https://tinyurl.com/seaxs6o> National Archives where his Bowfell estate accounts can also be found). He died 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 1933 (aged 86) at Bowfell Cumbria and is buried at Holy Trinity Churchyard, Winster, South Lakeland.

Perhaps he is best remembered these days in Bolton for his support of Bolton Royal Infirmary and his donation of Fern Clough to the Infirmary Committee in 1919 as a convalescent home for women and children pre the NHS, after arranging its "refit". It became known as the Edmund Potter Hospital, as in our banner picture, although Little Lever sadly remembers the family for the remains of their chemical deposits still lingering on the hillside between the canal and the village though 😞.

Thanks also to David Whenlock who we can now tell is connected to Edmund Peel Potter via his grandma who was 1<sup>st</sup> cousin x 2 removed of the wife of his uncle, and to Helen Beatrice Potter as her 3rd cousin according to Family Tree Maker. Wow!!!

And now he tells me he has found a "Crippen" in his tree, ---- but still no Russians!!

## MEMBERS COMMENTS, QUERIES, and MEMORIES)

### **A follow up to last month's enquiry from Sandra Clarke**

Some might remember that we received this enquiry last month from Sandra  
*"Hi there. I am descended from the Cooper family. My ggg grandfather was Simpson Cooper who was the Registrar for Bolton and was in the Board of Guardians to the workhouse, I think. I wondered if anyone has any research or info regarding him and his family that they could share with me? Or if indeed anyone is related to the family? He was originally from Chepstow in Monmouthshire. Any info would be gratefully received. Thankyou"*

Well we are now very happy to be able to share that literally within hours of our Feb 2020 newsletter being posted on our website, we received this email from Julie Lamara, Collections Access Officer-Local Studies at Bolton History Centre,

*"Hello, Please find attached a news cutting we have in stock re the presentation from the Board of Guardians to Mr Simpson Cooper newspaper dated 30 March 1889.*

*Please find also references to the death, funeral and will of Mr Cooper from the Bolton Journal which we will have on microfilm. Please ask the researcher to contact Bolton History Centre if they are interested in obtaining copies. 01204 332185 or Bolton Archives and Local Studies [Jim.Robinson2@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:Jim.Robinson2@bolton.gov.uk) I hope this information helps.*



Wow, what a super team, and we hope these ideas in principle might help others on a similar quest. Do you think we might be able to see Simpson on this group picture as well, kindly shared by Judith Barnett in 2016? She had been researching her gg grandmother Susannah Swann who had been campaigning for the Bolton Association for the Return of Women as Poor Law Guardians, and apparently found this photo from the front cover of a book by Steven King , “Women, Welfare and Politics” <https://tinyurl.com/us3892u> . I suspect the man standing to the left of the third row up is Simpson. What do you think?



With thanks to Sandra for allowing us to help, and the team at the History centre. TOP MARKS.

## OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS



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

Email [margaretk@talktalk.net](mailto:margaretk@talktalk.net) . Meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, at St Luke’s Church, Chorley Old Road, BL1 3BE opposite Shepherd Cross St, Bolton,

**31st March ‘The Heskeths of Rufford Old Hall’ – The history of the Hall and the family who lived there. Charles Crosbie**



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

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

**Wednesday 25th March “California Zephyr is a train that goes every day from Chicago to San Francisco and back”. Peter Harris**

**Westhoughton Local History Group –** <http://goo.gl/XNug15>

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. Next meetings

**Thursday 19th March “A Lancashire Washday” - Flo Wood A talk to evoke memories on Mondays in the past.**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April “The Staff of Life - David Tomlinson The amazing story of Warburtons by a former technical director. This is a light-hearted morning tracing the origins of Warburton’s bread.**



**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

**Tuesday March 10th Old Photos Of Bolton Pt.3 - David Lloyd**