



# 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) .
- Bolton Help Desk Drop-ins CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.  
But NORMAL SERVICE WILL BE RESUMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
- Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> (can be accessed without joining FB) 551 likes and 587 following April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: <https://goo.gl/hJi8Ns> (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index> .

April 2020

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



Banner picture courtesy of Sally Leyland and shows a double rainbow over Ladybridge. Nothing to do with local history, except maybe we are all making it at the moment. 😊

Well what can I say??? What a difference a month can make.

At this time of writing at the beginning of April, I would guess it is fair to say we are all in geographical LOCK DOWN and feeling somewhat mentally stunned. There will be many, many, personal as well as official records made of these momentous days. Literally overnight priorities have changed. We are learning to live without the "luxurious lifestyle", we have become accustomed to, and suddenly it is health, and family that have become the all-important factors. Wealth is almost insignificant unless it is contributing to health.

Here at the BFHS we are trying to adapt. Suddenly online communication has become so important. Some prefer the phone, some emails, many use the social media, and we have to adapt to the various preferences as those less confident in this area are trying to learn new ways. Some are lucky enough to have family and neighbours offering some face to face contact and support from a safe distance, and this is so important.

Inevitably this is a newsletter with a difference. There is really only one major national news item constantly bombarding us in various forms, and the positive side of this is how we are all learning to adjust. I hope the next few pages will help with some ideas to keep you occupied, and some useful websites. I am also very grateful for the contributions various readers have passed on to share, more are in the pipeline, and please if you think you might have any interesting hint, anecdote or story to share we would be very grateful. Let's support each other.

## OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

CANCELLED FOR AT LEAST THREE MONTHS BUT WATCH THIS SPACE.

Obviously, we have had to contact our booked speakers to defer dates, and it is in the lap of the gods when we can start again. Some are actually considering alternative ways of offering their talk online so stand by for that. Realistically, though we are guessing that more meetings this year are doubtful. Anything better will be a bonus, so let's find alternative ways of keeping our momentum going, and we have been scratching our heads trying to find alternative occupations for you all.

## GENIE'S TIPS for April 2020



**Family History Federation** <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/>

The Family History Federation is an educational charity supporting over 160 member organisations throughout the world. Bolton FHS is now on their list of British ones but have a look at all the others on the list at home and abroad

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/societies-az>, with a view to finding the one covering your geographical area of research and asking for their help/ advice. They know their local patch, and their members have probably contributed to the relevant online databases. Like the MLFHS they might still have some available for their members only on their own website, or have made some freely available to all, or perhaps sold them to one of the subscription companies like Ancestry, Findmypast, or The Genealogist as fund raisers for the society. It does vary. Look at this link as a very helpful Starter Pack for yourself, and maybe as a family project in these difficult times.

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/resources/wiki/my-family-tree-booklet-v2.pdf>

They are also offering an interesting project re the

**400th Anniversary of the Mayflower sailing** which has been set up by Devon FHS <https://www.mayflower400uk.org/> and <https://tinyurl.com/w8o8jobnd>. picture courtesy of their website. →

*"In September 1620, the Mayflower finally left England from Plymouth, Devon, with most of those on board intending to settle in the New World. There were 102 passengers on the Mayflower, including 37 members of the Separatist Leiden congregation, who would go on to be known as the Pilgrims, together with the non-separatist passengers. 74 were men and 28 were women - 18 were listed as servants, 13 of whom were attached to Separatist families. 31 children were on the Mayflower, with one child being born during the voyage (aptly named Oceanus). The crew was led by Captain Christopher Jones, who was born in Harwich. The total number of crew members is unknown. Check their names and places of origin here:*

<https://www.mayflower400uk.org/education/mayflower-passengers-list-an-interactive-guide>

*They came from places like : Tingrith and Henlow in Beds, Welford near Newbury in Berks, Bristol, Fenstanton and Wisbech in Cambs, Harwich and Great Burstead in Essex, Rotherwick, Upper Clatford, Hursley and Winchester in Hants, Watford and Therfield in Herts, Sandwich and Canterbury in Kent, **Eccleston and Chorley in Lancs**, Swannington in Leics, East Halton in Lincs, London, Redenhall, Norwich and Great Yarmouth in Norfolk, Scrooby and Babworth, Sturton-le-Steeple and Worksop in Notts, Shipton and Stanton in Shropshire, Ipswich, Stratford St Mary and Chattisham in Suffolk, Dorking in Surrey, Crowhurst in Sussex, Droitwich in Worcs, Austerfield and Doncaster in South Yorks.*

*Who did they leave behind? Are there any descendants of the Mayflower's passengers and crew that stayed in England or Leiden and are still living there?"*

NB, We have found Quakers from Bolton who made a similar trip in the 1680s, so it is worth checking. They travelled surprising distances all over the country. See here for the article

<https://bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/handouts/A%20Bolton%20Dungeon.pdf>.



I also noticed they have now even now got our favourite speaker on photography featured Steven Gill, → <https://bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/handouts/A%20Bolton%20Dungeon.pdf> Fame at last 😊  
<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/>



<https://groups.io/g/British-Isles-genealogy> Some might remember I did mention this last month. The website was launched to replace the old Roots web system once run by Ancestry. Have an explore within this site. There are forums for most local areas, too numerous to list here, but if you have an interest anywhere in Great Britain and time on your hands give it a try. It actually extends worldwide. I did join four forums which were of personal interest to my research, and I must admit I was rather overwhelmed by the number of conversations, albeit knowledgeable input, so be careful. I have just opted for the once a day summary on another new area so am hoping that will keep it all under control.

### Other New Online Resources



**“Distant cousins and how they are related”** . <https://leavesfamilyhistory.co.uk/blog/cousin/>

Presumably this diagram originates from the USA because I don't think many over here have grand aunts and uncles. I would be quite offended with that term, as I expect most others of our generation over here would be. However, I think this article is very helpful and simple in the explanation of our family networks.

## WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES

Well, obviously there will not be any BFHS courses for the foreseeable future this year, BUT, instead, plenty of online versions are springing up all the time, and I have been trying to collect same. Most are probably aimed at beginners as there will be many newbies here trying to use their unplanned but enforced spare time productively. Here are a selection to consider. Some may be mid-course by the time you read this, many are actually just rolling along so can be dipped in and out of as you wish. Queries / Feedback will be very welcome for us all.



**“Writing Your Life, part 1”** from Caroline Gaden RyedaleFamilies [RyedaleFamilies@groups.io](mailto:RyedaleFamilies@groups.io)

This is just one of the Rootschat groups which have now moved home, and that I subscribe to. Any of us could do this project, and there are groups for all over the world I believe, certainly for the UK. Why not have a go and explore <https://groups.io/>.

*“Now you are all in lock-down for this nasty virus going around you may finally find time to do some MEMOIR WRITING, so your kids understand why you are so eccentric!!*

*This is the first part of an 8 week or so course I have put together and run for several years for my local Family History Group and also USA folk. Enjoy! Cheers Caroline*



**“Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree”** <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy>

At the risk of being accused of being boring and repetitive I will remind you again of this ongoing course, which it seems has now become a stalwart in at home learning for family historians. They are now half way through the current course but in reality, it can be picked up, or allowed to lay dormant for some time, so worth a go even if experienced.



**Start Your Family Tree: Week 1** <https://tinyurl.com/stt3x8t> By Guest, 2 April 2020

This weekly newsletter is always a good read as well, Worth exploring the other items, and free.

## THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES



**Bolton Library and Museum Services** [https://www.boltonlams.co.uk/userfiles/Information\\_V.5.pdf](https://www.boltonlams.co.uk/userfiles/Information_V.5.pdf)  
**Our eLibrary** “ Their latest email tells me that,

“ *Your membership gives you free instant access to a wide range of eBooks, eAudio books and eMagazines:* <https://www.boltonlams.co.uk/libraries/elibrary> *If you’re not a member join online!*  
<https://bolton.spydus.co.uk/.../spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/JOIN> *You can use a temporary membership number to access our e-Services.* <https://www.bolton.gov.uk/discover-library/online-information-resources> “.

It didn't work for me but maybe I have acquired a gremlin in renewing my ticket. Hopefully it will for you, and I believe this offers free access from home for the Library version of Ancestry.



**Lancashire Libraries** are offering similar free online facilities so worth checking.

<https://tinyurl.com/qr7s99k>. They do not seem to be very picky about where you live, and they also have a good range of databases, .

### Lancashire Records



<http://goo.gl/I29JpL>



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



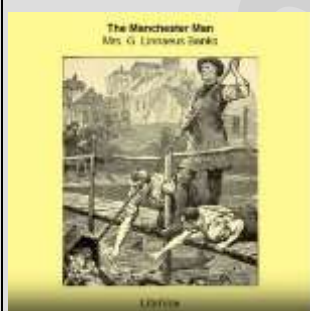
**Lancashire Archives News and Events** <https://goo.gl/H8UexE> for their latest newsletter and more



**Free UK Genealogy** <https://tinyurl.com/up6pnc5>

“*Looking for the bright side of these unusual times? We've put together the following 10 family history activities for you that can help you connect with your family when you can't be with them in person. If you're a seasoned genealogist, we've got you covered with alternative activities, too ---*” Read on. Some good ideas here.

## SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES



**The Manchester Man by Isabella Varley BANKS read by Phil Benson Part 1/3 | Full Audio Book**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=emb\\_logo&time\\_continue=1&v=OYLMpPbiqZY&app=desktop](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=emb_logo&time_continue=1&v=OYLMpPbiqZY&app=desktop)

Some might enjoy listening to this which I understand has become a local classic .

The Chetham's Library website <https://library.chethams.com/collections/101-treasures-of-chethams/the-manchester-man/> tells us :-

*“Isabella Varley was born in 1821 in Oldham Street, in Manchester’s Northern Quarter, and began writing stories and poems at an early age, becoming a regular contributor of reviews and articles to local paper and magazines. She married in 1846, after which time she published mainly under the name of Mrs G. Linnaeus Banks*

*The Manchester Man* was published in three volumes in 1876, and tells the story of Jabez Clegg, the 'Manchester Man' of the title, mirroring the economic growth of the city of Manchester during the early years of the nineteenth century and vividly portraying the Corn Law riots and the Peterloo Massacre of 1819.

*The Manchester Man* ran to five editions in Mrs Banks's lifetime and six since her death and continues to be widely read and enjoyed. A quotation from the book appears on the gravestone of Anthony H. Wilson (1950-2007) in Manchester's Southern Cemetery.

*The copy held by the Library is Isabella Banks' original manuscript, bound in four volumes with green leather spines."*

Wow. Of course, you can also buy the book online I suppose.



### South African Genealogy <http://sagenealogy.co.za/>



I came across this site the other day. I had a whole branch move over to SA in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Others went there during the Boer Wars and some opted to settle there.

More went after WW1 as part of the mass emigration at that time. My husband's grandparents actually married over there whilst he was serving in the army. If you have lost someone, this could be another option to consider.



**British History Online** Mar 30, 2020 <https://tinyurl.com/td6rkuy> "makes all research content free to individual users. BHO is a digital collection of key printed primary and secondary sources for the history of Britain and Ireland, with a special focus on the period 1300 to 1800.

*From 30 March, all transcribed content on BHO is now freely available to individual users and will remain so until 31 July 2020. This post describes what's included in this move",*

Have you ever used this wonderful resource? I had actually enquired about this organisation providing a speaker for next year and had a tentative agreement in principle. Sadly, we cannot make any more plans at the moment, but as the resource is also used by many university students, this is a very generous gesture, that we can all take advantage of.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **A Follow up to last month's Potter Family Story**

Well with the current rapidly dwindling opportunities to get out for the recommended daily exercise and fresh air, my husband and I decided to combine two interests and do some updating research on a nearby place of historical interest. We are lucky enough to live on the edge of Moses Gate Country Park, Little Lever, and this is of course where Potter's Brew is →, the site of the Hall Lane Chemical works owned by Edmund Peel Potter, as mentioned in last month's story of the Potter family.



It was a beautiful fresh Spring day , soon after the announcement of “compulsory lock down” and we donned our walking shoes and made for our hill(s).

We vaguely knew of the problem of the legacy of contamination when we moved into the area in the 1970s but not the full extent or historical background. The whole park is of course reclaimed wasteland from 19<sup>th</sup> C industry, with just the odd brick wall and river weir left tantalisingly around as a clue to a previous life of serious chemical deposits. What on earth it did to the health of the workers of the time is horrifying in itself, but I suppose will have been no worse than that of working in the cotton dust of the mills, and the coal dust of the mines.

The first thing we passed was this sign → , and we recalled how nearly 50 years ago, when we moved in to the area there had been perhaps two pools of murky, yellow streaked water , closed off with a wooden fence , lying on the side of what is now locally called The Bunk, leading down towards Blackshaw brook. The pools were drained a few years ago and the fencing improved, but the site is still, sadly, contaminated.

We walked on past the rear of the adjacent Little Lever Secondary School, which was built in the late 70s, and there to the left of the hill overlooking the Croal Valley and Park.

When we first arrived there, we remember a rhubarb farm in what must have been Little Lever Hall Farm. I remember the field of rhubarb as being much taller than what my Mums had been in my post war childhood home. Hers grew to maybe 18 inches , this must have been nearer 3-foot-tall, (what is that in new money 😊 , a metre ?).



← I did nick a plant though when the farm was closed, and I still have it in my garden for sentimental reasons although nobody likes the

stuff. Maybe we will have another try this year. Anybody got any good rhubarb recipes???

All that seems to remain of the farm now are the gateposts which have been incorporated into the school boundary wall, and there is a milestone half way up the road into Little Lever near the entrance to the Works, which may well have been connected .



Do you have anywhere local that you could explore on your daily exercise walk, that you could share please?



**The Duchy of Lancaster** <https://tinyurl.com/w9mnowg> , and the **High Sheriffs of Lancashire, Greater Manchester,** <https://tinyurl.com/sjkvgmm> , and **Merseyside**

Did you know the post of High Sheriff is the Duke of Lancaster’s, (aka Her Majesty the Queen’s), representative in the County of Lancashire? The County Palatine of Lancaster encompasses not only Lancashire but also Greater Manchester and Merseyside, so there are three High Sheriffs. The current High Sheriffs for 2019/2020 in the County Palatine are

\*High Sheriff of Lancashire : The Honourable Ralph C. Assheton, TD, DL →who will be replaced by Mrs Catherine Penny, horticulturist and charity worker, at a special ceremony on Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> 2020



\*High Sheriff of Greater Manchester : Mr Mark I. Adlestone, OBE, DL → who will be replaced by Eamonn O' Neal (see below) on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April  
\*High Sheriff of Merseyside : Mr David Steer, QC, DL, The Hon Ralph Christopher will also be replaced but as, yet I have not found out by whom.



The Duchy of Lancaster (DOL) website <https://tinyurl.com/vneulhm> informs us that *"Each year a parchment called the Lites is presented to Her Majesty by the Chancellor of the Duchy with the names of those recommended to become High Sheriffs for the ensuing year. The Queen marks the selected name with a small hole made by a bodkin. This pricking ceremony is believed to date back to the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Lacking a pen, Elizabeth I decided to use her bodkin to mark each name instead."*

It seems the ceremony is normally quite impressive but unfortunately this is not to be this year with the lock down. What a shame !

Here in Bolton, (still arguably geographically in Lancashire although administratively in Greater Manchester), Eamonn O'Neal, University of Bolton Honorary Doctor, has been chosen by HRH Queen Elizabeth II as the next to take on the role of High Sherriff of Greater Manchester and will be installed at The Monastery, Manchester, on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

In his time Eamonn has of course been very busy in other community areas such as Hospice work, and the Manchester Evening News, but I am sure many like me, probably know of him best by looking forward to his regular Sunday morning slot on Radio Manchester with his brother in law Jimmy Wagg. Their hours have been recently adjusted during the current health crisis, and I only caught the end of an interview on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p087m6y1>, which I think this will expire on BBC Sounds after four weeks). Eamonn discussed the responsibilities and history of his coming role with his predecessor Mark Adlestone and I found it very interesting.



I imagine many of you, like me, know very little about this ancient post, but the story dates back to soon after the Magna Carta was signed in 1215, and the murky workings of the feudal system. From the interview I gathered it was created in 1265, when Henry 111 gave his youngest son Edmund, lands and possessions following the Barons' War. It seems

*"\*In 1267 Henry created Edmund the first Earl of Lancaster and gave him the County, Honour and Castle of Lancaster.*

*\*In 1355 Edward III raised Lancaster to a County Palatine, one of only 3 in England and created Edmund's grandson Henry Grosmont, the first Duke of Lancaster. This gave Henry sovereign rights, which is precisely what the word Palatine means, in the County. He died without male issue and the inheritance passed to his daughters Blanche and Maude. By his marriage to Blanche, John of Gaunt, the son of Edward III, acquired the inheritance and in 1390 the Palatinate was granted to his heirs forever".*



More here <https://tinyurl.com/yx49uquq> The Office of High Sheriff of Lancashire accessed 29.03.20. ←Picture shows an example of another Letter Patent courtesy of Lancashire Archives, which was written by Henry VIII two hundred years later, creating the Parish of Deane.

*“(These documents are known as), a Patent because attached to it is a red seal, undoubtedly having its origins in the Great Seal of the Realm which is the chief seal of the Crown and proof of a Monarch's formal consent to a state document. The Seal was first used by Edward the Confessor in the 11th Century to prevent forgery and tampering”.*

David Tilsley from Lancashire Archives, has also been kind enough to share these pictures from their archives

DDB 71/5 Appointment – George III to Thomas Lister Parker of Browsholme, esquire → .

-- Shrievalty of Lancashire, in succession to Isaac Blackburne, esquire. Seal. 10 Feb. 1804  
And

DDSA 35/1 Letters patent: Queen Anne to Myles Sandys, esquire →

. - office of sheriff - 5 Jan. 1707/8



Other related documents can apparently be found following these routes <https://tinyurl.com/u5ctbhm> from the DOL site.

### **“Peter Waring, The Ancestor who didn’t want to be found” by Rita Greenwood**

Let me start with my great grandmother, born Elizabeth Waring. As time went on, she added Ann to her name, perhaps to make it sound a bit posher! Her birth certificate indicates she was born in “Brick Ground”. The only way is up, I thought. Having consulted a local map without success, I asked, “someone who would know” and was told that houses being built were usually known as brick ground until a street name had been chosen for them. Therefore, the Warings had secured a new house, one of those being thrown up to house the mill workers coming into towns from the country. Again, according to the birth certificate, Elizabeth’s parents were Peter and Elizabeth (nee Mayoh). Hello, I thought, Irish, but no, Mayoh appears to be fairly prevalent in the Turton area of Bolton.



I suppose we have all said, “thank you God for the internet”. As my research into the Waring family was before the internet, it was a monumental task to find an individual family if they moved beyond a “piece” i.e. the 200-ish houses which each enumerator was assigned to. These days, if you have one member of a family does not present on census night, the internet will probably show them in their employer’s home e.g. nursemaid or perhaps in the home of another family member. I often wonder whether, if a small child is enumerated with say, grandma and grandpa, the parents have said “you have her tonight, we can’t do anything with her”! A census return gives a snapshot of a family on one night, the child might not be living there permanently.

In the case of the Waring family, they were enumerated in various places around Bolton, presumably going where the work was – Tonge, Bradshaw, Eagley before ending up in the Halliwell area. The ages of the family vary considerably, it is quite usual to have someone ageing six years in the 10 since the last census. Any researcher MUST find ALL census returns for EVERY family. Doing this will give a good idea as to whether they are correct with their ages, they know where they were born or baptised. However, it is perfectly possible to be born in one village, baptised in the church in the next village and brought up in yet another village so places of birth can vary from census to census. In the 1841 census, where ages of everyone over 15 years is rounded down to the nearest five years, someone whose actual age was 34 would be enumerated as aged 30. Ages of children below 15 should be correct. Therefore, your search for a baptism might be at least four years out.



The story about Elizabeth Ann's death, told by my mother, is that she was stood at the front door waiting for her husband to come around the corner from work before putting the kettle on, and by the time he got to the house, she had died. Nothing of the kind, a visit to Bolton History Centre to look at the local newspaper outlined the event in much detail. It would appear that Victorian newspapers would report the opening of an envelope. Certainly, a sudden or tragic death would be reported. I don't know how reporters got the information so quickly, but a short report of the death seems to appear the day after the event, with a report on the post-mortem appearing within the week. Post-mortems nowadays take about six months but then a jury would be assembled in a local pub, if necessary, with the body present, and the job is done and dusted before closing time. Elizabeth Ann married Alfred Hamer on 12th December "1875" at St. James Church at the top of Waterloo Street. (Actually the 1875 was a typographical error, the certificate should have said 1874 – always check EVERY detail on every certificate). Alfred was born in 1859 at 3 Bolton's Court which was a mean little house in a mean little street off Bank Street, Bolton. The parents were Thomas Hamer and Ann (nee Wroe). I could not find the Wroe family anywhere in Bolton in the census even looking for each family member in turn. It turns out that they returned to their home town of Ashton under Lyne naturally leaving Ann in Bolton with her husband. Being a novice at family history, I started looking for their wedding in 1858, knowing that where there are children born to a couple, their first is usually born within the first year after the wedding. However, Alfred was the second from the last baby, being born in 1853 some 24 years after Thomas and Ann married at Deane Church on 3rd May 1829. Another of mum's stories was that Alfred Hamer married again "in later life" to a Mrs. Winward whose son Moses kept a chicken farm. No again – Alfred did marry Mrs. Susannah Winward a couple of years after his first wife's death, although they seemed to have separated very quickly, with Alfred going to live with his eldest daughter and her family. Moses Winward did however have a chicken farm!



Now going to Peter Waring. In all available censuses, Peter's place of birth was quoted as Tonge. The ages quoted put his baptism at 1812, give or take a few years. There are no Peter Waring baptisms in Bolton on FamilySearch etc. except one in 1817. Researching that Peter Waring in case the baptism was not that of a child (some families waiting for ages before taking their child for baptism – did they baptise a few at the time, thus saving the expense of many ham teas!). The 1817 Peter Waring called his children by "my" Waring names – Nancy, Henry, Sarah.



Over the years, I checked all churches for Peter's baptism, including chapels, I checked baptisms of children called Peter to single women who then married a Waring without any success at all. I culled Waring families living in Bolton using the national project when a lot of family history societies indexed the 1851 census. A trend emerged. Some families were "of Bolton" whereas others were "of Chorley". Because the Warings were ordinary working-class people, there was no probate. I was stuck.

I was teaching in Chorley at the time I was "collecting" Warings and mentioned my brick wall to the class. One student mused that the Chorley Warings were invariably Roman Catholics. Never I thought, my Peter Waring married as an Anglican, got married as an Anglican (mind you, he had to at the time), his children were baptised Anglican and he is buried in the Anglican cemetery. However, the next time I visited the County Record Office for Lancashire in Bow Lane, Preston, I ordered the microfilm reel of St. Peter and Paul, Pilkington Street. I sat transfixed – there he was!

He was the last of five sons of John and Elizabeth Waring (nee Longman) – the baptisms gave the mother's maiden name – and John was a carter. I knew this was the correct entry, because Peter got married again (post 1837 when civil registration started) after the death of his first wife and he gave John Waring carter as his father. Thank you, Rita

## Howarth's Academy

Has anyone heard of Howarth's Academy? This was the question posed by Rita Greenwood after she had received a request for help with a genealogy query from Tom Smith via Enjoy Learning's Facebook page. Not wishing her class members "little grey cells" to atrophy during our enforced lockdown Rita e-mailed some details in the hope that some of us, needing a break from gardening, our own family history or just tiring of waiting in an on-line queue whilst trying to order a food delivery, would respond.

The query came from a Canadian resident whose ancestor, Joseph William Bridge a Tailor and Hatter had emigrated from Bolton in 1883. Also mentioned was a Mr Howarth. Was there a connection to a Mr Howarth's Academy which his great-grandmother, in her diary, says she attended not long before 1882. She wrote that he taught handwriting and always said, "light on the upstroke and heavy on the downstroke".

Initially there was some question as to whether the Bolton mentioned was our Bolton but nothing daunted Susan Dwyer was first to find some references to a Bridgeman Street Academy run by a Mr Howarth on the British Newspaper Archive site. Dating from about the mid- 1850s these were mainly advertisements about opening dates. This information prompted me to look in the 1853 Bolton Directory which gave a Thomas Howarth at Lower Bridgeman Street in the section Trades and Professions under the sub-heading Academies and Schools. Looking next at the **1851** census and after making a guesstimate of his age I discovered:

Lower Bridgeman Street Bolton

Thomas Howarth	40	Schoolmaster	b Bolton
Alice	:	33	b Embsy Yorkshire
John S	:	10 Scholar	b Bolton
M E	:	4	b Bolton
Martha Pendlebury	22	house servant	b Bolton

Thomas' age suggested a birth date of about 1811. The **1841** census gave the same address with Thomas a schoolmaster, Alice and John.

Checking the Enumerators walk from the **1851** census against the N.L. S. maps on-line <https://tinyurl.com/r5t23k8> for Bolton O.S 6" 1844-1850 I think Thomas Howarth and family were living at the fourth house up from the Bolton Baths on Lower Bridgeman Street →

(Editor's Note apparently the 10,000 sq ft, grade II listed building was constructed between 1845 and 1847 as a public baths and assembly rooms.

Bridgeman Street Baths. The official name of this thoroughfare is Lower Bridgeman Street because

Bridgeman Street which was once the longest street in Bolton ,there may have been longer lanes and roads, was interrupted by the building of the Trinity Street Station).

The 1853 Bolton Directory describes these Baths as "a capacious and handsome edifice of stone erected by a company of shareholders in 1846 at an expenditure of £5593-13s -11d raised by £5 shares." Reputed to be the largest in the county and divided into two classes- first and second the Directory goes on to describe the various plunges, baths, showers and meeting and assembly room, stating that "in the last week of July 1852 the number of people who enjoyed the second class plunge baths amounted to 1000 per day." It must have been a very busy area and the number of passers-by close to his school may have been beneficial in bringing it to the notice of the public..... or perhaps not. The building as it is today, still awaiting another regeneration we understand →



Using my census information Susan went on to check the **1861** census and found the family had moved and were now living at:

Vale Terrace Bury Rd [Tonge with Haulgh]

Thomas Howarth	50	Schoolmaster	b Bolton
Alice :	43		b Embsy Skipton Yorkshire
John Spencer "	21		b Bolton
Mary Emma	15		b :
Alfred :	9		b :
Francis Gaskell :	7		b :

Moving again, by **1871** they were living at:

Clarendon Terrace [Tonge with Haulgh] Parish of St Stephen and All Martyrs

Thomas Howarth	Widower	60	Schoolmaster	b Bolton
Mary Emma :		24		b Bolton
Alfred ;		19	courier	b Bolton
Francis Gaskell :		17	office clerk	b Bolton
Catherine Burke		35	Dom servant	b Ireland

By **1881** it appears that the school has been taken over by his son Francis after Thomas' death in 1874 aged 63. The census shows him living at:

290 Bury Road Tonge Fold [Tonge with Haulgh] Parish of St James cum Brightmet

Francis Gaskell Howarth	Widower	27	Headmaster Private School	b Moses Gate
Henry ;		3		b Bolton
Ethel :		1		b Brightmet
Sarah Berry		22	Gen Servant	b Manchester

It could be that the Mr Howarth of the "light on the up and heavy on the down stokes", mentioned earlier was probably Mr Francis G Howarth. Nowhere on any census does the word Academy appear. Only on the 1881 census do you find a reference to a Private School. I presume the Academy/School moved premises along with the family. However further investigation on the British Newspaper Archive site by Susan provided confirmation of F. G. Howarth "son of the late Thomas Howarth," having taken over what was previously Howarth's Academy est 1836, which under him then became known as Bolton Commercial School.

Many thanks to Carol Wright, and Susan Dwyer for this research and article.

Please may we at this point thank all contributors to this edition in the difficult times.

### Diaries during a Pandemic

May I remind you also that there are several "bodies" requesting that we keep diary accounts of individual journeys through the current events. Not all of them are totally official yet but I am sure they will be when normal services are eventually renewed, but why not do them for your family records and descendants. Anita Bateson, volunteer at the Bolton Archives has suggested it, for their own records, and also



**NHS at 70:** <https://www.nhs70.org.uk/>

*"the story of our lives is a national oral history project supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and led by The University of Manchester.*

*NHS at 70 has been recording people's NHS stories for our Digital Archive of NHS history since 2017. The NHS now stands at the most extraordinary period of its history as it responds to coronavirus (Covid-19). We are conducting telephone interviews to record your NHS stories and capture this moment through the voices of people experiencing it.*

*Read more and find out how you can get involved... "*

*Just a small way that we can all record these events for our next generations . Take care all.*

## OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS

All these societies' meetings are of course suspended at the moment but apparently this first one has found an alternative Plan B



### **Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society Chorley Virtual Branch**

<http://www.lfhhschorleybranch.com/lfhhs-chorley-virtual-branch.html>



### **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,



### **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.

### **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.



### **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

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