



# 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)
- Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 572 Likes and 618 following May 2<sup>nd</sup> Week 6 of Lock Down since March 23rd
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: <https://goo.gl/hJi8Ns> (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index> .

May 2020

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



This month's picture is courtesy of Judith Williams, of a rainbow seen on Plodder Lane, one of Bolton's arterial roads.

Here's hoping it will be a sign of better days to come.

Hello, all, and welcome to May 2020 after being in "social lock down" since March 23rd. We are all now living in, and experiencing life in, one of the most momentous times in world history. Perhaps we should all be feeling some responsibility to make our own family records of same. I will leave that up to you all, but in the meantime, I have asked our Chairman to say a few words, to mark the occasion:-

"As the covid-19 shut-down of life continues we have missed another meeting of the Bolton FHS. Last month the speaker would have been Gordon Benson talking about the "Quakers" and this month it should have been the immensely popular Jackie Depelle, whose talk would have been about "Females in the Family". I admit I was looking forward to both talks but I am sure that Jane, the programme organiser, will try to fit them in sometime in the future.

When we will resume our meetings is very much out of BFHS hands and I, for one, have no idea when it is likely to be, neither do I have any clue as to how many people will attend the early meetings after the restart. It must be apparent to most people that a high percentage of our membership is from an "at risk" age group and so there may be a reluctance by them to attend meetings where they will be in close proximity to other people.

I am sure that most of you are taking advantage of the house confinement to get on with your family research and maybe making progress with those brick walls that have been irritating you for years. The amount of information now available on-line is phenomenal and with Ancestry and FMP now available at home through various library services, ( see details for Bolton page 3), this may be the time when you can make that break through you have been longing for.

Whilst talking about brick walls it may be appropriate to remind you that we do have an on-line Help Desk (see page 2) who may be able to assist with any research problems you might have.

Jeanette, our Facebook Administrator, has been busy adding a new Facebook entry at least once a day and recently has come up with some remarkably interesting connections for her readers. Just search Bolton Family History Society on Facebook (see link above), and you will find the details.

I am sorry that the BFHS has effectively had to go into hibernation but I am sure you will all appreciate why and I look forward to seeing you all, or most of you, when our meetings resume at whatever point in the future.

**Good luck with your researching and please stay safe**

## OUR BFHS "MEETINGS"

- **Where?** Now sadly our only availability is online, via the links at the top of page 1. Please may we encourage you to check in to both the Manchester Central host page, as well as our Bolton branch web page. Jeanette is also keeping our Face book page buzzing with over 618 followers and is the place to watch for many short term offers re online classes, subscription offers, and topical news articles and links.
- **When?** Anytime. That is the beauty of it all.
- **Do you need Help with your Research?** We would also like to remind you of our Help Desk. Colin and Margaret are manning it, but if they haven't got the answer, they can either pass the query on to another member of our team who might know, or we can suggest alternative routes



## THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES



### May 8th VE Day (aka Victory in Europe Day)

During the first week in May the museum will be displaying VE Day posts each day on their Facebook page. You do not need to subscribe to Facebook to see the posts.

**On Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup>** I plan to be asking people to write their memories of VE Day stories and post them to [archives@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:archives@bolton.gov.uk). Any VE Day photos would also be gratefully received but these may have to wait until we reopen as we do not want them to get lost in the post.

**On Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>,** I will be asking for information about your wartime ancestors from Bolton. We are giving you the opportunity to send in your ancestor's details, served or died, which we will then add to our virtual war memorial. This is a unique opportunity to have the names of the survivors added to the virtual Bolton war memorial <https://boltonremembers.org>. They do not have to have been killed in the war just born, resided or enlisted in Bolton.

I have attached a form (see below), to show the type of information we are looking for. I would be grateful if you could send this around to those members on email. Your help as our Bolton family history society in recording these stories or information is vital before it is forgotten and lost.

Thank you for your help.

Do not forget e-magazines and books are available with your library card. Click on the link below for further information.

[https://bolton.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME?fbclid=IwAR0bL2qtF1sh\\_czwe05IIE5cCln1JrrfNpAa7h7jufvOoY\\_eKZZw6KszQE](https://bolton.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME?fbclid=IwAR0bL2qtF1sh_czwe05IIE5cCln1JrrfNpAa7h7jufvOoY_eKZZw6KszQE)

Any logging in problems please contact 01204 332853 or email [askboltonlibraries@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:askboltonlibraries@bolton.gov.uk)

If you have any local/family history enquiries while we are closed please send them to [archives@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:archives@bolton.gov.uk) and we will do our best to reply but they may have to wait until we are open.

The form can be downloaded and posted to Bolton History Centre, Bolton Central Library Le Mans Crescent, Bolton BL1 1SE or can be scanned and sent by email. The information can also be added directly into an email.

Regards, Julie Lamara, Collections Access Officer-Local Studies, Bolton History Centre, Directorate of Place, Bolton Central Library, Museum and Art Gallery Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, BL1 1SE  
Tel: 01204 332194 [Julie.lamara@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.lamara@bolton.gov.uk)



## Lancashire Records



<http://goo.gl/l29JpL>



Lancs OPC <http://goo.gl/AN699Z> and left click on the “What’s New” tab on the left. Recent additions include new cemetery records which now cover Tonge [Bolton] Cemetery, 1856 - 1869, 20,087 burials and Heaton Cemetery, 1879 - 1896, 14,903 burials.



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

## SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

Most of these tips have already been shared on our Facebook page , but just in case you have missed them

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**Thursday 9th April 2020 iMuseum Newspapers Online:** Free to Access <https://tinyurl.com/y965xdla>

**COVID 19 LOCK DOWN and Free Access to Bolton Library and Ancestry and FindmyPast** <https://bolton.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

All buildings within Bolton Library and Museum Services are closed for the foreseeable future due to the Coronavirus outbreak, but did you know that for existing members with a library card you can currently access all the above facilities by following this above link. This includes free access to the Library edition of Ancestry and Findmypast at least until the end of May.

1. Using the above link, left click on the ‘login here’ link in the Ancestry box on the page.
2. Input your 8-digit Library Card number and PIN. (You may need to use the prefix 16P on the library card number.)
3. Your PIN should be the first four digits of your birthdate – i.e. if your birthday is January 1st it would be 0101
4. Once logged in the text in the Ancestry box will change. Press the link to access Ancestry Library Edition.
5. I then typed in FindmyPast in the search box below and gained instant access to FMP. Good Luck .

Any more problems contact Email: [archives@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:archives@bolton.gov.uk) , Telephone: 01204 332185

Opening Hours COVID 19 Rules permitting: Monday to Saturday, 9am to 5pm ,  
( Wednesday 9.30am opening ) ,Sundays and Bank Holidays , 10am to 4pm

*“We will continually review this decision in line with government guidelines, and we look forward to welcoming you back to our buildings as soon as we are able.*

*We have extended all current loan due dates and reservation collection dates by 90 days.*

*If any fines are incurred during this time these will be waived by staff upon return. Also see*

**Historical Newspapers - How You Can View Them From Home | Findmypast**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INUS2KGGT18>



**Thursday 16 April 2020 Exploring our family history resources | Emily Dutton | Behind the scenes, Records and research** <https://tinyurl.com/y8bebku2>

*The documents in our collection can play a vital role in piecing together your ancestors' past, but if you're new to family history, it can be difficult to know where to begin. For budding genealogists out there, we've collated our key family history resources.*

**Friday 24 April 2020 Free access to digital records**

<https://tinyurl.com/y8vhqac1>

*The National Archives (TNA) has announced free access to its digital records for as long as its Kew facility is closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The records, which are normally available to download for £3.50 each, include First World War records and 1348-1858 wills.*

*To access them, family historians will need to register for a free account with Discovery, TNA's online catalogue. They can then order and download up to 10 items at a time, with a limit of 50 items over 30 days.*

**Welcome to Timepix-**

**Ordnance Survey ephemera-Collection of stamps, annotations and examples of forms. -- Timepix Bolton** <https://www.timepix.uk/Collection-galleries/Timepix-OS-Photos/OS-Revision-Point-ephemera/>

picture shows Darcy Lever Old Hall listed as Destroyed →

*The Timepix website explains it "is a building resource for genealogists and local historians, we might not have the photo you want today, but it might be in our queue.*

*Our largest collection has 46,000 Ordnance Survey photos of Greater Manchester in the 1940s and 1950s. Searchable by surname and keyword, and all pinned to maps, this huge set will be complete by end of 2019. We are now starting on Edwardian postcards and Victorian photos. Plenty to come!"*

Here I have found 280 scenes from Darcy Lever, and 556 of Little Lever as well. Try putting your location of interest in.

<https://www.timepix.uk/search/?n=timepix&scope=node&scopeValue=rthKP3&c=photos&q=Little+Lever>

<https://www.timepix.uk/search/?n=timepix&scope=node&scopeValue=rthKP3&c=photos&q=Darcy+Lever#=#=160>

The instructions say

*"two ways to search: They each work slightly differently.*

*Search Words If you enter 'Manchester Road' it finds thousands of photos with BOTH the word Manchester AND the word Road.*

*Search Keywords A Keyword can be more than one word. Enter 'Manchester Road' and it finds ONLY photos that show Manchester Road. Add a comma to narrow it down. For example, 'Manchester Road, pub'*

*The best way to look for a surname is to put (for example)*

*'surname, smith' into Search Keywords*

*All our photos have lots of tags! You can also search by 1km Grid reference squares (e.g. SD9013). "*





## MISCELLANEOUS

### How We Coped with some Pandemics of Times Past.

Let us be honest, pandemics are not a new phenomenon are they. They have been recorded since biblical times , and Moses' stories of fire, flood and then pestilence seem strangely reminiscent today looking at the last 12 months. Despite these events mankind has overcome them, and it seems much by using remarkably similar basic methods of Lock Down with variations. We think these days we have such advanced technology and yet here are some examples of how our ancestors coped with conditions such as the recurring leprosy, bubonic plague, cholera, small pox etc . Are we so different now? This excellent article by Caroline Rance in History Extra from the BBC offers some insight into the management epidemics of the past. Did you know that the origins of the term "Quarantine" comes from the Italian word for 40 days social isolation or "quaranta" , meaning 40.

- **14<sup>th</sup> C Black Death quarantine: how did we try to contain the deadliest disease in history?**

<https://tinyurl.com/y9eked6k> March 12th 2020. There were apparently many more recurrences of this dreadful disease up to quite recently.

- **19<sup>th</sup> C 1846–1860 cholera pandemic** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1846–1860\\_cholera\\_pandemic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1846–1860_cholera_pandemic) How many of us had ancestors with Asiatic cholera on their death certificates? My great x 3 grandfather did.
- **20<sup>th</sup> C The Spanish Flu of 1917-1920** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish\\_flu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_flu) is probably the best remembered of recent pandemics from grandparents oral stories and researching death certificates. The estimated worldwide death rates still varying between 20 and 50 million, when many of the victims were already weakened post war
- **21<sup>st</sup> C Ebola virus disease in the United Kingdom** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebola\\_virus\\_disease\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebola_virus_disease_in_the_United_Kingdom) We were very lucky in the UK in that this awful disease did not take foot here, but also many of our scientists learned a lot from its management to benefit us.

More are mentioned here. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_epidemics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_epidemics) List of epidemics Wikipedioia 29.04.21. Perhaps it is just our misfortune to be actually living through one and experiencing it first-hand rather than reading about it 50 years on. But our great grandchildren will be learning about this time period, in perhaps a quite different type of education system than what we have become used to so far. Are you recording family stories for them now? Perhaps we should all be doing this, and even consider this



### Mass Observation Studies (MOS) and Sussex University -COVID19

I can hardly believe it was only last January that we reported Dave Burnham's talk about the Bolton Worktown Project [http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/newsletter/Genie\\_2020\\_01.pdf](http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/newsletter/Genie_2020_01.pdf) page 3, one of the first MOS to be undertaken, here in Bolton. The records of this study are now stored in Sussex University Archives. Apparently, the university team has undertaken several more similar projects since, and now they want our help recording current events. This is how you can help us create a record of the pandemic, Become a Mass Observer <http://www.massobs.org.uk/write-for-us/covid-19>

### A Potted History of Hairdressing, in Bolton.

I should imagine that under the current lock down situation, most of us, particularly the ladies', main concerns, apart from the most important one of ensuring family and selves are heathy, is the difficulties with routine grooming, especially managing the lengthening and changing appearance of our hair. Many men recently have just got their clippers out and removed most of theirs, either with help or self-trims, parents might have cut their children's, but what of us ladies who need style?



Speculating about this I next began to wonder about how our ancestors coped. Might this explain the whiskery gentlemen that we see in our old photos, and the women with their mainly long hair, either fastened back in fashionable loops and ribbons, or tucked away under a variety of hats, scarves, and other head gear. Was it true that because of head lice concerns or worse, the hair was shaved off and wigs were worn instead?

In most of our current lifetime, perhaps hairdressing has been taken for granted and considered a regular but very necessary luxury. Now we haven't got it any more how on earth are we going to manage? I am already looking at myself and seeing my mother looking back at me. HELP!!

I did float this thought on Face book and thought some of you might be interested in some of the speculative answers. Firstly I think most people, like me, Googled it and came up with this overview on Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hairdresser> which is certainly a good starting point. It seems from several sources that although there are records of populations as far back as the Assyrians, Egyptians, Romans, and Japanese all arranging their hair in different shapes, and with different techniques,

<https://www.britannica.com/art/hairdressing>

Dave Burnham local social historian and one of our BFHS members and speakers, has suggested a couple of ideas, maybe more relative to current times.

*“Re Men*

*Barbers for men traditionally must have done more shaving than haircutting, so are you interested in them? The only one I know is James Billington who started his hairdressing business at 51 Market Street Farnworth, I think in the 1870s. (Editor <https://tinyurl.com/yacujy3z> Lancs Live accessed 24.04.2021). He then moved to a bigger establishment on Great Moor Street, Bolton (cannot remember the number). Both his father and brother were hairdressers, and James' sons John and William took over the Great Moor Street shop when James died in 1901. His 'ascent' from being a sometime collier and mill worker followed the classic path of working men looking for a way out of subsistence toil - shop, workshop, hairdressers or pub, pub being the best. James Billington also, of course, was for nearly ten years the Chief Hangman of England, Ireland and Wales”.*

Editor's note, now that seems a little disconcerting when one also thinks of Sweeney Todd and that story of a murky barbering <http://www.bbc.co.uk/drama/sweeneytodd/>. Truth of fiction???

*“Re Women*

*I believe the convention before the Great War was for women to wear their hair down before they married and to wear it up in a range of styles thereafter”.* (Editors notes, and this website from Rachel Gibson hairdressing historian supports this idea <https://tinyurl.com/ybev4ys4>, explaining how, “well into the 20th century, it was extremely rare to see women with their hair down. In polite society, women grew their hair long and then wore it up after puberty. The only person that was allowed to see them with their hair down would be their husband or close female family and friends”). *“This changed with the war as so many women worked in factories where dragging skirts and corsets were inappropriate and long hair was dangerous. So, they either wore it up or had it cut. (This does not really work for Bolton though does it, as women here had always worked in weaving sheds anyway which were full of jiggling, clattering machinery etc ...).*

*The other issue about the war was that beforehand working women could not have afforded hairdressers and rich women had servants including ones to manage clothing and dress and therefore their hair. After the war with the increase in income tax, land taxes and death duties fewer people were rich enough for personal 'body' servants like that, so there was an opening for hairdressers. That is a guess by the way. Does that make sense?”.*

So, there you are. It only seem to be since the last world war, that hairdressing and styles have morphed into what we accept as today's normal. Maybe it has changed with “emancipation of both sexes. It is now fairly common to see either sex with the extremes of long or short hair, or something in the middle. They can also have any style, and the use of colouring either as an expression of personality or as we get older to enhance our youthful looks is fast rebounding on many of us now.

I know where I will be going first as soon as “lock down” permits, and it will not be the pub!!!



## Sir David Attenborough and his maternal Cleggs of Bolton.

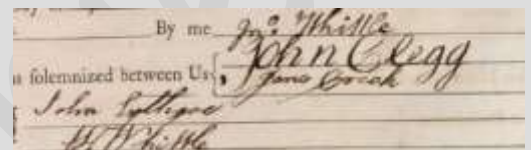
Those of you who might have seriously inspected Halliwell Local History Society's web page could already know a bit about this story, <https://tinyurl.com/y7a2hb2c> written by their John Watson, but for all our other readers, how many of you know that THE David Attenborough's 3<sup>rd</sup> maternal great grandparents and possibly further back still, were Boltonians, plus two more subsequent generations ??

I had heard rumours of this story, and mentally shelved it to be checked out on the next rainy day. Well this last month has been anything but rainy, but has certainly had much of the other criteria, and fortunately most of the following details have been recorded on Lancashire OPC.

Sir David's 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandparents were weaver Alexander Clegg and Frances Holt.

Alexander born in Little Bolton 1789, was probably the second child of John Clegg, weaver born about 1765, and his wife Jane Crook who were married at St Peters Bolton 10<sup>th</sup> April 1787. Looking at the variety of signatures on the Register, it seems possible that they wrote their own names. Frances was from Brightmet, and she and Alexander also married at St Peters on Sept 6<sup>th</sup> 1818.

Alexander is recorded, like his father as being a weaver, and they both made their marks on the Parish Register. They seem to have had at least four children, although only one, William, is recorded in Lancs OPC, at Moor Lane Unitarian Church. The others were



baptised at St Peters, and their eldest son James, Sir David's second great grandfather was baptised 1828 so there may have been children before then.

Alexander died in 1840. James also a weaver, was described as a "minor" in age when he married the "minor" and "illegitimate" Margaret Hutchinson from Tong, at St Peters on October 4<sup>th</sup> 1846, but there were likely only weeks before he was 21, as his baptism was Sept 21 1828. In 1841 he was living on Garden Street with his mother and two siblings. In 1851 we can now see him living with Margaret, at Hall 1<sup>th</sup> Wood → 19<sup>th</sup>C lithograph source unknown with several other families. Surnames such as Bromley, a farmer of 75 acres, Ogden a power loom weaver, Horrocks a cooper, Hargreaves a carter, and Clegg a toilet weaver (cotton) can be seen, also Crook, Entwistle and Thornley, Eccles and Holt in a variety of occupations. James had his own infant sons as well as two siblings, and likely sister in law Ellen Hutchinson living in his household. What a "ménage"!!



In 1861 the family have moved on to Hill Fold No 12, Blackburn Road, where he was a frame tent weaver, Margaret was a paper finisher, son William 13, a paper maker, and son Alexander 12 years old still a scholar. We have acquired a "relative" 9-year-old Alexander Clegg who seems likely to have been James' nephew, the son of his brother John d 1853 and wife Ellen). Could this be an example of far sighted ambition for the children, that the younger ones were still in school. Times must have been so hard then.

In 1871 James, still a cotton weaver. wife Margaret and "son" Alexander (born 1852 and more likely to have been James nephew again), are still in the paper trade, and are back at Hall 1<sup>th</sup> wood with much the same neighbours as before. William has married and moved over to Halliwell working in the rag trade, then became a newsagent before dying in his forties. In 1881 perhaps it is our James who is widowed and living with his brother in law in Castleton.

In the meantime, however, in 1870, Sir David's great grandfather Alexander had married Isabella Pilling from Sharples, 12 years his senior. They probably met whilst living close to each other at the bottom of Blackburn Road in the 1860s. Both their fathers were cotton weavers as was Isabella, and this period was of course the start of the infamous Cotton Famine <http://revealinghistories.org.uk/why-was-cotton-so-important-in-north-west-england/places/bolton.html>. Her father James Pilling was from Tong, and her mother from



Chorley. It seems that Alexander must have resolved to follow new ambitions though, and in 1871 we find the couple established in Astwood, Feckenham, with their first child Samuel 2 months old, (Sir David's grandfather). Alexander is now 22 years old and a certified schoolmaster. What a brave culture change this must have been. In 1881 they have moved to Helm Croft in Haslingden, and now have five children of their own, plus a niece Sarah Pilling and her two-year-old son. Alexander was continuing his teaching career. In 1891 the family have now moved to Sawley, in Derbyshire. Samuel the eldest, now 20 is attending Manchester Training College as a day student, and his 18-year-old sister Bernice is doing similar at Nottingham. The third child Eunice at 16, is training in dress making, and the younger two are still at school. Looking at 1901 they are now in Bisley Gloucestershire, and their daughter Isabella at 18 is still at home an articulated teacher, they are boarding another teacher called Elizabeth Ford, and daughter Eunice is still there. In 1911 they are still at the same address. All the children have left home but Alexander (still teaching for the county council), and wife Isabella are still there, with the boarder Elizabeth Ford who is still teaching. They have lost one child. Isabella died in April 1922 and Alexander a few weeks later in West Kirby Cheshire 28<sup>th</sup> May 1922. His son Samuel administering probate.

In the meantime, Samuel had actually been furthering his career and family life. He married Mary Hannah Bradshaw from Sawley in July 1894, and the family can be found with three infant daughters, Mary, Margaret and Dorothy, plus in laws John and Harriet, on Nottingham Road, Sawley, where he is a "school pupil teacher instructor". In 1911 they another daughter Barbara, and 1-year old son Alexander Bradshaw Clegg. Samuel is still teaching in Sawley.

The rest of the story has now maybe become part of British if not the world culture.

Samuel and Mary's eldest daughter Mary Winifred Clegg b 8<sup>th</sup> April 1896 in Sawley, a suffragette, founding member of the Marriage Guidance Council, and highly active social campaigner of many good causes, married Frederick Levi Attenborough, an academic from Nottingham, in Paddington January 1922. Following a similar career path in education as his wife's family, he became the principal of University College, Leicester, and they brought up their three sons on the campus, Richard Samuel Attenborough b 29th August 1923



photo courtesy of

Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Attenborough](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Attenborough), and David Frederick Attenborough b 8<sup>th</sup> May 1926, and John Michael Attenborough b Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 1928. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Attenborough](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Attenborough)

The careers of these three sons are well documented, and you will not need me to mention more than Baron Richard worked in the film industry, Sir David remains the well-loved, and world renown natural history campaigner, and John went into the motor industry. David is the last survivor of this generation and has his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 8<sup>th</sup> this year.



Perhaps there should also be some mention of Mary Winifred Clegg's siblings, though, with at least two of them, and their descendants, going on to extend the family tradition of high achieving, but they do not seem to be so well known.

Sister Margaret married Gilbert Peaker, who was apparently a Yorkshire teacher, who became a high profile educationist and statistician, Staff Inspector at the Ministry of Education, and involved with the 1967 Plowden Report <https://tinyurl.com/yaj7kf5h> for which he was awarded the CBE.

Mary's brother Sir Alexander Bradshaw Clegg was also an educationalist and apparently, he was the innovative Chief Education Officer of the West Riding of Yorkshire County Council for whom he worked from 1945 to 1974. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alec\\_Clegg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alec_Clegg). The next generation has also produced more Professors and entrepreneurs, but perhaps that should be another story.

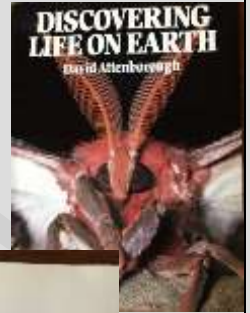
What an illustrious family the Cleggs were, and I like to speculate that much of their ambition, and thirst for knowledge came from genes launched in Bolton by their third great grandparents James and Isabella Clegg, inspired by the desperation of the Cotton Famine, and developed by a happy combination of Nature and Nurture.



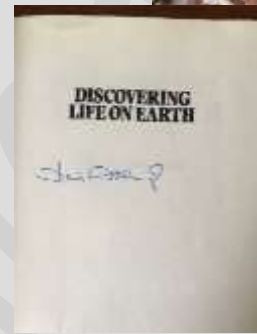
These are some of my most treasured possessions obtained at the Liverpool International Garden Festival in 1984 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Garden\\_Festival](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Garden_Festival) when David as he was then, came to launch his new book “The Living Planet”. The public, and children, knew him from his TV programmes like “Zoo Quest”, and the launch of his “Life on Earth” series, but as yet he was not the household name as he is now.



We went with the local children’s nature Watch group, led by someone who had sailed with him on HMS Shackleton in another life in the Antarctic, and knew him to be a friend and very approachable. David watched my daughter and self queueing in the crowd for his signature, and when we got there he smiled and said, “At last, well done” and signed both of our books. We will never forget his human touch to a tired but excited 8-year-old child.



Happy 94<sup>th</sup> birthday Sir David, May 8th 😊



### MEMBERS COMMENTS, QUERIES, and MEMORIES)

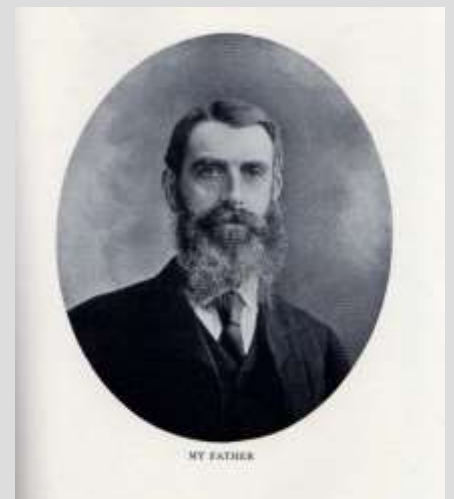
#### **Jonathan DEARDEN and the Manx Connection**

My interest in family history took off when a period of enforced absence from work led to Googling my surname, with its unusual spelling of RICKITT, which led to searching in the London Gazette. The genealogy bug took hold and I have not looked back, except in a historical sense.

There had always been a vague notion within my mother’s family that her mother was descended from a Lancashire mill owner. With some investigation over the years it became clear that her great-grandfather was Jonathan DEARDEN, → the sometime owner of the Gibraltar Mill (Editor in Gilnow, see Graces Guide 1891 <https://tinyurl.com/ycdppuso>), Little Bolton.

Although brought up on the Yorkshire/ Lancashire border, the family moved to Northumberland when I was a teenager and so my ability to look for physical traces of my ancestors has been limited. I found a monumental inscription on-line and asked the Bolton FHS for any help in locating a graveyard plan. They kindly put me in touch with Derek Bailey, the sacristan at Christ Church, Walmsley who gave me directions to locate the plot within the Churchyard.

It was a wintery February day when my wife and I were down staying in Clayton-le-Woods which enabled the dog and I to go over the fells and find the grave. The cross has clearly failed a “topple test”, hence being laid flat but nonetheless moving to be able to visit.



Jonathan DEARDEN was born in 1833 and died in 1903. Details of his life are contained in an autobiography by Harold DEARDEN (my great-uncle) entitled "The Wind of Circumstance" (London 1938). It is not an easy book to read and Jonathan is not portrayed as a particularly likeable character, being a strict disciplinarian with extra-marital relationships. Harold, too, was an interesting character, unknown certainly to our immediate side of the family, as can be seen from his Wikipedia entry at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold\\_Dearden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Dearden) . Harold was clearly close to his mother Frances (GOLDSMITH)→ and revealed that she was born on the Isle of Man in 1846. This was something unknown within current generations of the family despite being Lancashire and Cheshire based until the 1970s.

That opened up a whole avenue of research including Jonathan's apparent unsuccessful attempt at a takeover bid for the Laxey mine (of the iconic waterwheel fame) and her father (George GOLDSMITH) being involved in unsuccessful litigation over water rights for a mill near Douglas which ended up in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. A law report is on- line at [http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKPC/1861/1861\\_22.html](http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKPC/1861/1861_22.html) , (the cases are an interesting resource if a forebear was involved in litigation).

As my wife is from Northern Ireland, a family trip to visit her family was combined with our first visit to the Isle of Man. Whilst I did not discover any physical evidence, such as inscriptions, the wealth of genealogical material available through the Manx National Heritage sites <https://manxnationalheritage.im/> proved to be an immense resource even if usually behind a paywall.

What remains unclear is how Frances and Jonathan met, their marriage being on 8 November 1870 in Braddan, Isle of Man. From the albeit short descriptions in Harold's book, theirs does seem to have been a marriage of opposites.

To bring the line down to myself, Jonathan's son, Frederick Oliver DEARDEN (1873-1946) married Mary Elisabeth DOOLETTE, and one of their children, Shelagh Dorham DEARDEN (1909-1954), was my maternal grandmother. The DOOLETTE side of the family was another fascinating story to uncover involving a Dublin family emigrating to Adelaide, being ship-wrecked as they were waiting to berth (fortunately with no loss of life), a tailor successfully investing in gold prospecting, a move to England, and a knighthood during the WWI.

Although my discoveries showed the benefit of treating family stories as more than just yarns (sorry I could not resist the pun), one family myth (or perhaps wistful thinking) seems to have been dispelled, I do not believe we are related to Oliver GOLDSMITH the C18 Irish writer, poet and playwright (1728 -1774). There is an Oliver GOLDSMITH in my tree, but he was a Bolton man and Jonathan's father. It demonstrates how myths develop within families when latching on to a person with a similar name.

And the final part is, I suspect, familiar to many family historians, namely none of the ancestral wealth seem to have trickled down to the researcher!

Stephen Rickitt MLFHS 16579

Editor. Stephen many thanks for this super story which is much appreciated .



**LIKE US , AND AS PER GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS , ALL THESE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED ALTHOUGH MORE INFORMATION MAY BE AVAILABLE VIA INDIVIDUAL ENQUIRY**



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>

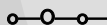


Horwich Heritage Centre- <http://goo.gl/fSPsij>

Closing now and stay safe all.

Let us hope our next edition will bring better news than we have heard recently , and as always thanks to this months contributors. We could n't do this without your help.

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**Guidelines for WW1 and WW2 War Memorial Database**  
**Useful Information re soldiers who died or served**

Surname.....

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Forename.....

Service No.....

Rank or Position.....

Place born.....

Resided.....

Where Enlisted.....

General notes.....

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Date enlisted.....

Date discharged.....

Battalion/Unit.....

Regiment/Service.....

Force Type.....

Date of Birth.....