



Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society: <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/>

- Newsletter Comments, and Speaker Bookings: boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk
- General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Christine M Ellis bolton@mlfhs.org.uk
- Bolton Research help, please email boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk or
NEW Manchester Research email a brief enquiry to https://www.mlfhs.org.uk/contact/mail_hd.php , or visit our
- Bolton Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 587 Likes and 636 following June 3rd
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: <https://goo.gl/hji8Ns> (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index> .

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Edition 72



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

This months picture is from Leverhulme Park courtesy of the Bolton NEWT group on Facebook. For more re the history of the park, please see this fascinating read here. "Lord Leverhulme and the Croal-Irwell Valley" Michael Shippobottom. <https://tinyurl.com/y8l4swap>

Originally published in the 'Croal Irwell Valley No.11 Winter/Spring 1989/90' newsletter. Revised by the author June 2018.

It is now of course one of the most popular local places for the COVID 19 recommended daily exercise advice.

Well welcome to this, our 72nd edition. It is hard to believe we have been issuing this newsletter for 6 years now since July 2014. What a big learning curve from when I was first asked to do the prototype, (me a Yorkshire lass who has only lived in Bolton since 1973 , --which might well still mean I have been here a lot longer than many of you 😊), ---and what a lot of changes since those first tentative steps. We have a wonderful team of assistants as well, who regularly contribute material, and also check that what has been written is correct. We still need more help though, especially someone to take over the editing which is sadly becoming more difficult with time.

I hope you are continuing to enjoy our Bolton chatter and updates though, it is fun, and a good diversion in these difficult times.

We are now entering the difficult phase of "unlocking" from this COVID 19 pandemic which seems to be causing even more difficulties than the initial "lockdown" phase. It might have even sounded a little exciting at first with the terminology similar to a film drama. This has been for real though, with us all as 100% participants like it or not. The future is unpredictable, but we know our ancestors have survived similar with far fewer sophisticated resources than we have today, so there is an end in sight, if it is only that we will have to learn to live with it and adapt. This is human nature though and we will.

In the meantime, most community groups like ours, are just on "tick over", and trying to hold the threads together until we feel safe to open up again and resume anything like our old normal activities. We need your help to do it though. Have you got a story, query, or interesting discussion point you are willing to share please. Has anyone any ideas about revamping this newsletter? I suspect after 6 years it could benefit from a new look from someone with better skills than we have currently available. Please do give this some thought.

OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

LOCKDOWN and EVENTS

There are a few online events in the offing. This list is merely a suggestion of what is becoming available so I would urge you to check each event for updates if considering them.

Firstly though, I think we should mention

The Clap for Carers: “Why the weekly event is set to end this Thursday 28th May” <https://tinyurl.com/y9t7mtgg>

By Newsquest Digital Content Team.

The Background to The Weekly Clap

Are you keeping a diary of current events for the next generations? I would suggest that this weekly celebration will in itself become a feature for the records in years to come. Particularly at the first one on March 19th, perhaps not everyone joined in. It was a thing that they did “over there” in Italy and other Continental countries, who were inclined to be over emotional anyway, and not typical British behaviour. Then, after Boris Johnson’s announcement on Friday March 20th, the reality of the Lock Down situation hit us as it started on Monday March 23rd. We were all to be confined to our normal residences (including gardens if we were lucky enough to have one), and only allowed out for a recommended one hours local exercise each day, or to attend a medical centre, pharmacy, or venturing to the shops for essentials, with strict hand and item hygiene precautions. Two metres or six-foot social distancing was to be the rule of thumb for all, unless living together.

After the normal hustle and bustle of routine everyday life, in effect our world suddenly stood still. It was so quiet with no traffic, no trains and few aeroplanes We could hear the birds, and saw more wild life with hedgehogs, and deer venturing on to our streets, (mountain goats in Llandudno even <https://tinyurl.com/u56bykl>

Tue 31 Mar 2020 The Guardian , and sheep enjoying a children’s play area near Preston <https://tinyurl.com/y8ltxmb5> Faye Brown Monday 6 April .

Everybody, barring the key workers, was at home in what felt at first like an extended holiday. Over the days and weeks, the weather was mainly good, and we cleared odd jobs, Spring cleaned, then did more serious catch up jobs that we had been putting off before. We began to value our daily exercise , and folk that hadn’t walked and explored locally for years if ever, suddenly began to make it the hub moment of the day, and discover the delights of nearby parkland, or other green areas, or anywhere where there weren’t many other people.

Many of us, as active and healthy over 70s, resented suddenly being classed as “elderly” and therefore particularly vulnerable, but the facts had to be accepted. Shopping and accessing food became an issue. The advice was special arrangements for those more at risk, but this was easier said than done. Ordering shopping online to be delivered was well-nigh impossible , and “click and collect” arrangements not much better. The infrastructure wasn’t there even though the will was, and although some elderly were able to get help from younger generations who were family members or community volunteers, others opted to still do it themselves, trying to find quieter hours and make reduced visits. Eventually suddenly unemployed workers from all walks of life, finding time on their hands, took up the cause and picked up a lot of the “slack” in the new situation. . Retired medics volunteered to assist in the extra demands in health care, and massive, temporary emergency Nightingale hospitals appeared in many busy areas. .

Alternative ways of communicating were tried and those who were confident with the internet soon became more adventurous with social media, whilst the less brave relied on phone calls, friends and neighbours talking from the front door or window to the those on the footpath outside, and carers dropping by, masked and aproned up, sanitizer at the ready.

Young families suddenly challenged with children to keep entertained 24/7 were introduced to home schooling, and that must have been an extreme learning curve, and test of patience. The rainbow became the symbol of hope for the future, as well as homework for most of the younger children, and houses are still proudly displaying them in their front windows.

Most began to rely on the daily announcements from Downing Street, and we began to watch with some fear, but also fascination, as the graphs showing daily statistics of deaths and new infections were shown, initially going up, and then slowly reducing again.

We are now being advised that we will probably have to learn to live and adapt to this new threat to life. Priorities have changed. Health and wellbeing is so much more important than wealth, and much of our previous way of life now seems superficial. It is hoped we will be able to resume some sort of social life again eventually, but confidence has been shattered for many, and this can only improve with time, and convincing evidence that it will be safe to do so. Many of the least attractive, mundane, and low paid jobs, have now become the most valued, and the title of "Key Worker" can be displayed with pride, and covers so many diverse occupations.

Our last thank you, from households throughout the country was at 8pm on Thursday night 28th May, and simply clapping, banging trays/pots/pans, blowing whistles in a display of communal appreciation will I hope be repeated next year, when hopefully we will be able to say again,

Thank you all.

Monday 8th June, The FREE 3rd Scottish Indexers Conference Online <https://tinyurl.com/ybojqp5z>



The conference will be streamed live in their Facebook group. <https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes/>

To accommodate people around the globe the programme will again begin at 7am BST and end at 10pm BST. They report, "in the coming days we will announce more speakers and release the full schedule so that you can plan your day. Here are some presentations to look forward to

(with more soon):

- "Referencing for Genealogists: or how to show where you found the data" - Tahitia McCabe
- "Scottish Burgh and Trade Incorporation Records" - Chris Paton
- "Finding Your Scottish Ancestors in Canada" - Christine Woodcock
- "Sounds like Family - Using Audio Recordings for Research" - Jeni Park

Listen to presentations from the experts, then ask questions and the panel will help you trace your Scottish family tree. Join the Scottish Indexes Facebook group or see www.scottishindexes.com for more information. If you don't have Facebook, you can also register on Zoom. Our very own resident genealogist Graham Maxwell will give the presentation, "Using Deeds to Trace Your Scottish Family History".

Join the Scottish Indexes Group to watch all the presentations on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/scottishindexes/>

Sat 20th June 2020, 10:00-16:30 Online <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/>



Normally offered at three locations, this year's pandemic limitations are now offering central online access. Here is an explanation of what it will be like

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBNcQKG1DZw&feature=emb_title Tickets are available at £5.50 pre bought (You will also get a FREE virtual goody bag on entry worth over £8!), or £6 on the day <https://tinyurl.com/y9r3dxwc> giving the opportunity of talks on

- "The Genetic Genealogy Revolution: how DNA testing is transforming family history research" Debbie Kennett - DNA Expert & Writer (which I certainly fancy)
- "Breaking Down Brick Walls in Your Family History Research", Mark Bayley - Online Genealogy Expert
- "Tips & Tricks for Online Research" Keith Gregson - Professional Researcher & Social Historian

- “Tracing Your Military Ancestors” Chris Baker - Military Expert & Professional Researcher
- “Tracing Your House History” Gill Blanchard House Historian and Genealogist

They tell us talk times will be announced closer to the event. There are also exhibitors onsite, <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/exhibitors/>.

Perhaps this is the golden opportunity to attend one of these shows if you would have been physically unable to attend for whatever reason, and they report the talks will be available on line for 24 hours afterwards.

Saturday September 26th, 2020 “Genealogy and Social History: Know your Ancestors venue”, at The Science and Industry Museum, Manchester, <https://tinyurl.com/yc34ubpb>

We are told *“The Register of Qualified Genealogists (RQG) announces --- This conference is for EVERYONE interested in genealogy and family history and will feature main speakers Professors Helen Johnston and Heather Shore, Melanie Backe-Hansen and David Annal. Several short paper presentations have been designed to support you in developing your genealogy and family history skills and knowledge. This is also a great opportunity to come together to share good practice and the latest ideas in genealogy.”*

The tickets are currently on sale at £50-£75, but this rider has been added <https://tinyurl.com/y6vt287d>. If they should decide on an online option. This will of course mean it could be available to far more people all over the world, and they certainly have top quality speakers.

GENIE’S TIPS for June 2020



Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree Learn <https://tinyurl.com/ybmez2ef> how to research your family tree and share the results with this online genealogy course.

This is free. The popular 6-week course has now probably been running for at least 5 years, and although aimed at beginners, it is also useful as a refresher for the more experienced. Support is available online, and it seems they are now offering rolling start dates.



“Scottish Research Online” -- Chris Patton <https://tinyurl.com/ybe8gqkg>

Scotland was one of the first countries to digitise its major family history records collections for accessibility online and continues to this day to use such resources to promote a worldwide interest in family history for those with Caledonian connections. This course, originally created by genealogist Sherry Irvine, and now taught and regularly updated by Scottish based genealogist Chris Patton, describes the major sites and record types that you will encounter in your research, and how to analyse the results. Most importantly it will inspire you to actively pursue your interest in Scottish genealogy and take it to the next level”



Chris is a respected genealogist and some of us heard him at the Anglo Scots meeting last year. I think he is booked again for next October, but this could maybe help in the meantime.

This course is offered twice annually, Course Length: 5 Weeks Next Start Date: 08 Jun and another August 31st Cost: £49.99

THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Bolton Library and Museum Services – A few reminders and Catch Ups

- **23rd March Closure due to Lock Down** <https://bolton.spydus.co.uk/cgi-in/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

In response to Government advice on social distancing all libraries in Bolton closed until further notice. ELibrary services remain available though such as Borrowbox for eBooks and eAudio and RBdigital for eMagazines using this above link

Please note, last month's newsletter also advised it was possible to access Ancestry Library and Findmypast by this route for the initial Lock Down to the end of May. It seems Findmypast was NOT included in this offer, so we can only apologise for incorrect information. The Ancestry offer is now extended through June.

- **Friday 1st May Celebrate VE Day with Bolton Library and Museum Services** <https://tinyurl.com/ycm3ah2u>

We have first asked children to begin documenting their experiences by recording how they spent #VEday. Please send your diaries, drawings, photographs and other responses with the heading 'Children's lockdown journals' to: Email: archives@bolton.gov.uk Post: Bolton Central Library, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton BL1 1SE. As well as highlighting it on our social media posts, the material received will be stored in our archives for future generations to read. We are also intending to put some of the items into a Time Capsule and will find a way of celebrating this with you as soon as possible. It really is your chance to be a part of Bolton's History. Get writing, get creative – get yourself in the History Books! This link shows some examples from the Mass Observation Archive commenced in 1937 and now held by Sussex university. <http://www.massobs.org.uk/>

- **4th May An invitation to be a Part of Bolton's History?** <https://tinyurl.com/yaf07ubv>

The times we are living in are totally unique. One hundred years from now, children will learn about the #COVID19 pandemic just as they do today about the Great Fire of London.

In the late 1930s, pioneering research organisation Mass Observation (MO) worked with primary schools in Bolton to capture children's experiences of living through another challenging period in British history. Inspired by this study, the library and museum service are asking local schools and children to record their experiences of #coronavirus and the #lockdown.

- **7th May Do you have any military ancestors from Bolton in your family?**

Can you help us gather information about the military history of Bolton? Bolton History Centre is gathering information about their military life to add to our virtual war memorial which will eventually be available on the internet. Covering all conflicts, we will be including any military personnel involved, they do not have to have died or been injured. The only criteria is that they were born, lived, or enrolled in Bolton.

Please email the info we need on the form at the end of this article <https://bit.ly/2SIWWum> to archives@bolton.gov.uk and we will contact you.

Photo courtesy of the above shows WW2 Eagley Home Guard





29th May News from MLFHS from John Marsden Webmaster

<https://www.facebook.com/MandLFamilyHistory/> and <https://www.facebook.com/BoltonFHS/>

We may be in lock-down, but that doesn't mean that there is no work going on. I have recently added some **new Bolton records to The Great Database in the member area.**

- Bolton Out Relief Pay Book 1839 A small data set but contains interesting personal details of paupers receiving payments.
- Bolton 1811 Census
- a small collection of Bolton baptisms and burials coming along.

There is also a new project in the offing for which we will be looking for home transcribers, so if you fancy getting involved, watch this space for more details.

1st June The MLFHS Virtual Help Desk is now open! Owing to the Coronavirus our Help Desk at Manchester Central Library is currently closed however we have now opened a 'Virtual' Help Desk in order to continue our usual service. Members and non-members are invited to email in a brief enquiry to our Help Desk team.

https://www.mlfhs.org.uk/contact/mail_hd.php .



(Don't forget we still have our own specialist Bolton team at boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk . Here are some more of them in action.)-->

MISCELLANEOUS



Anybody who has visited the Bolton History Centre in recent years either upstairs or in their new premises on the ground floor, will see a familiar face here. Well the good news is that he is not currently here but is there as seen below in his temporary home office. He cannot currently offer access to hands on archives , but has all the knowledge in his head, and is happy to try to assist queries still, and I asked him to tell us about his life , working in the Lock Down. Here is his account.



" I hope the following will be of interest for your readers. The first three paragraphs are a brief summation of what I've been up to since "Lockdown" began. The next part, with photo, is lifted directly from the ongoing diary I have been keeping about the current crisis. When all this is over and life returns to something resembling normal, I intend to deposit copies of my diary with the Bolton Archives and Local Studies Service for future reference for future researchers. The Library and Museum Service is also running a project called "Documenting Children's Experiences" to collect children's views of lockdown in a mass-observation-style project.

Many of you will know me from the Bolton History Centre, and you will be aware that March 2020 was a month that will go down in history as a particularly strange month. Due to ongoing problems with staffing caused by Coronavirus, on Wednesday 18th the difficult decision was agreed to close the History Centre, and I was reallocated to support the main library and museum areas. The following Monday, our buildings were closed to the public, and later the Prime Minister announced the "Lockdown". So, what happened then?

Well, for the first week, as per instructions I stayed at home, and spent what would normally have been my working hours working on the ongoing War Memorials / Remembrance Database, and trying to interact with and promote the service's social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Due to other staff across the council being a higher priority, it wasn't until the Wednesday of the second week (1st April) that I was able to be connected to the Council network to work from home properly. Since then I have been monitoring and answering email enquiries, and using the access to the work network to work my way through the collected images of over 400 memorials, trying to match individuals to names on the memorials, using images of the contemporary newspapers, as well as the usual resources like Ancestry, Fold 3 (Ancestry's military sister-site), FindMyPast, etc. to add details to the entries of the individuals.

I am fortunate that, because of my various interests, I have the equipment at home to be able to do this. Over the years I have assembled a collection of books and other resources which mean I can answer all but the most obscure and specialist enquiries from home. But I have to say it's a strange feeling. As time goes on, I miss the interaction with customers, and I miss my colleagues at the Library and Museum Service. Social media and phone calls help, but it's not the same as meeting face to face. I just hope that by all of doing our but, this crisis may soon pass, and life can be restored to a semblance of pre-lockdown normality. My lockdown workspace: →

The laptop (left) is used to connect to the work network using the remote-access system using my BT broadband internet service. I can connect the laptop either via Wi-Fi or cable connection. This setup is allowing me access to the Bolton Council email system, and also the collected images of various war memorials stored on the network 'G-Drive'.



My main desktop PC (right), which has a twin-screen setup, allows me to work on the

Remembrance Database on the lower screen while keeping various websites open on the upper screen for lookups. I mostly use Ancestry, Fold3 (Ancestry's separate military records site), Findmypast, CWGC (Commonwealth War Graves Commission), and the Imperial War Museum's National Inventory of War Memorials. It is a lot easier for data entry than trying to switch between windows on a single screen. My normal home setup is connected to an A4 colour laser printer (background centre left' which is also an A4 scanner and copier. The security restrictions of the remote access system means that I cannot print from the work system. (I can, but the prints would be stuck in the closed Library building).

Just out of shot to the right is my TV setup, which has increasingly been set on low volume and either playing Smooth FM, or the BBC News channel.

I can also make phone calls using my mobile if needed - both have unlimited calls packages, and by dialling #31# before the number, I can keep the number private.

What isn't visible is my bookshelves, which are mainly behind and to the left of this camera view. I have quite a collection of reference books. There is an additional 'quick reference' shelf immediately above the monitors and TV on the right which holds my most extensively used books. Copies of some of these books, and a few others I don't have in print form, are available on my Kindle Fire tablet, which is just noticeable below the monitors.

Due to space constraints, I have been unable to get an "action" shot as it would require someone on a ladder outside a first-floor window! Besides, I doubt anyone really needs to see my ugly mush!!

I hope this will prove of use and of interest.

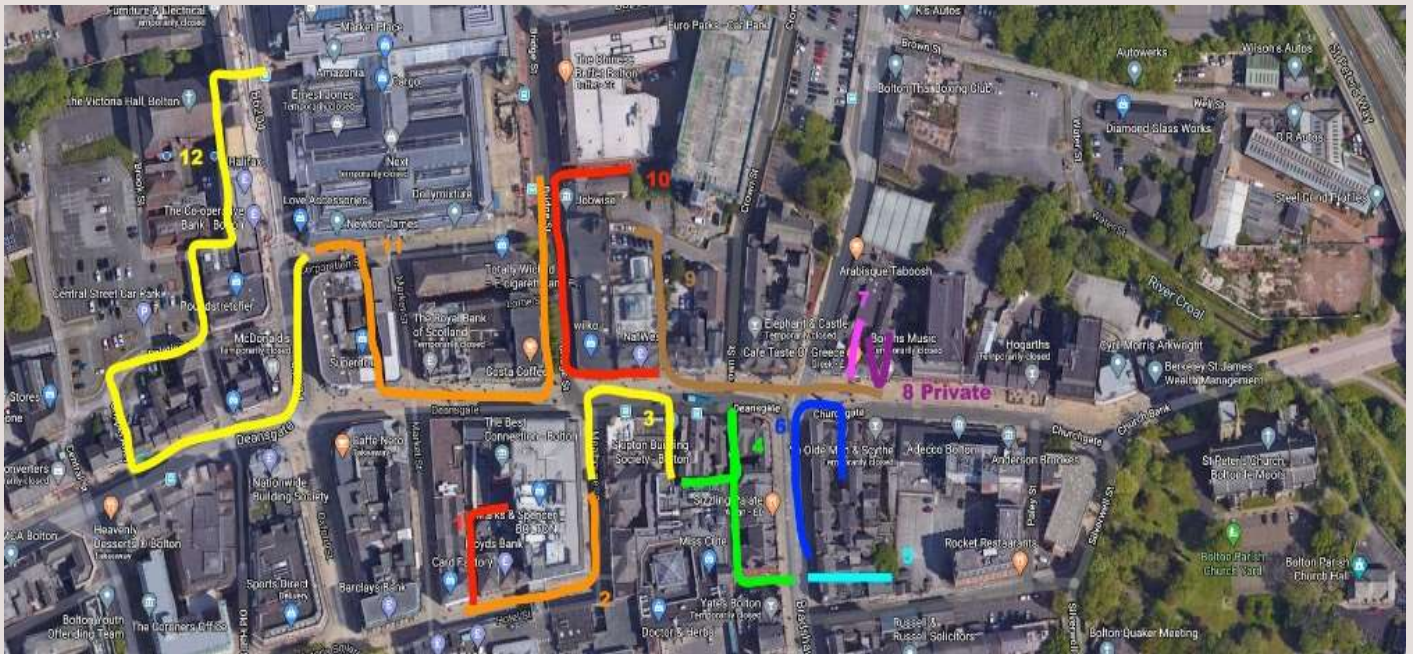
Yours sincerely, Jim Robinson

Editor Thank you Jim. This is much appreciated.

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

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

Those of you who use Facebook might have already seen this fascinating visual tour that Dennis McCann has prepared on his free group Ancient Bolton -Pre 1800, and he has been good enough to allow me to reproduce them here. There are 12 posts in the series following the enclosed map of Bolton old town centre and it might be helpful to compare a current map of the area to establish street names. The main road on the left running from top to bottom is of course Oxford Road, and that in the middle running left to right is Deansgate up to the crossroad on the right, then Church Gate and then Church Bank (St Peters Parish Church to the right, going towards the River Croal. This is the first red walk No 1 lower middle half followed by an orange No2 , making the other side of a square.



12th September 2016 · Lower Red walk

(1) I thought I would go for a walk around the remnants of the 'Ancient' town, and see just what remains today.....I started with Back Hotel Street, which ran from Hotel Street by the Trustee Savings Bank down the back of the Commercial Hall and round to Mealhouse Lane and emerged at the corner of the old Whitehurst's Corn Mill , ←top left Bolton Commercial Hall (this is now underneath Marks & Spencer's, see the middle picture), →



and the back of Market Street see the ornate iron work off Back Hotel Street which is now Marks & Spencer's Wall →

12th September 2016 · Lower Orange Walk

(2) The next bit took me round onto Deansgate so I could turn in by the Joiners Arms pub, (picture left), and the entrance to the old Shambles (picture left middle), a square of houses similar to Velvet Walks (now under the Shippgates shopping centre). The last of the old cast iron kerbs still in place that can be seen in the old photo. Lancashire Records. <http://goo.gl/l29JpL> (Picture right below)



It has been commented that the picture of this doorway next to the alley, on Bradshawgate, above right shows a remaining triangular decoration as shown in the old photo, (above left and over the word "direct", next to Alice's Fish and Chip restaurant), and that will probably be the only bit of the old Joiners Arms frontispiece remaining now.



A Brick Wall Resolved thanks to the Guild of One Name Studies <https://one-name.org/>
and Facebooks Lancashire DNA Genealogy Group <https://tinyurl.com/ycpatylyu>

I felt I had to share this story with you.

Maybe 40 years ago my Mum's big sister living in New Zealand decided she was stuck researching the family tree for her offspring, all now settled over there after emigrating in the 1950s and thought unlikely to come back here. She wanted to make a record of their English heritage though to pass on to the next generations and hired a genealogist to search a bit further on than what she could discover, overseas and pre internet. As I developed an interest, she passed on what had been discovered and gave me a typed copy of our maternal tree. Investigations had got back as far as my great x 3 grandparents Francis Walton who had married Jane Claws in 1795 Kirby Misperton, near Malton, Yorkshire, and then we were stuck. Thirty years on, and after my retirement I revisited this problem a few times, trying a few different hypothesis, but nothing fitted. There were no more Claws anywhere that I could find, certainly in that area. I did find Jane widowed and living with her married daughter Isobel in Swinton near Malton in 1841 and could trace the family lines from there to present generations but could go no further back. We couldn't find a definite birth or baptism for either Francis or Jane.

Then I suddenly had a Eureka moment after finding a record mistake with another ancestor due to an apparent phonetic misunderstanding, (hearing Susan Holmes for Susan Noames), and I wondered if Claws could be Close. With that idea and searching on Ancestry and Familysearch, the only Close family in North Yorkshire in that time period was a large cluster in Swaledale and the environs. A Jane Close b 1766 Law Raw, Swaledale fitted nicely into the picture, and with excellent Parish Records available for Grinton, the Cathedral of the Yorkshire Dales, it was quite easy to go back through the Close dynasty of lead miners, a few more generations. This was all hypothetical though because I could not prove Jane Claws was the same Jane Close. Then feeling quite brave I put my Ancestry DNA and Living DNA results on the above Lancashire DNA group, plus a few more of the sister groups covering the rest of England, where I knew I had ancestors from. (Lancashire was the one place I didn't think I had any, but I thought I should do as I



edit this newsletter 😊). Imagine my surprise when the Admin Margaret Southgate, informed me that we had a positive albeit small match. I still do not fully understand it, but I learned that on both samples we had a match of Total DNA of 11.9, Largest DNA 11.9, with the number of generations 5.1. It was found during another query, and I would never have spotted it, but she did.

We exchanged surnames but nothing obvious, until she mentioned "Close", Bingo!! We now transferred to an easier email conversation and she invited me to inspect her maternal Close tree on GOONS as above. There was my great x 3 grandmother and it turned out that we are indeed connected via Jane's brother Richard, also baptised at Low Row Chapel, formerly Smarber Hall Chapel (Independent) in 1770. I have since discovered from the local history group that this LowWhita farm → Swaledale was occupied by the Close family from at least 1680, and I can trace back now to 1687. Miners were apparently also itinerants though, following the work available



<https://tinyurl.com/y8ldms4w> and Richard apparently moved to Billinge Lancashire where he was a miner, and married a Mary Pennington in 1794. The match in DNA therefore confirms my speculation that Jane Claws was in fact Jane Close, and shows I also have a tenuous Lancashire connection.

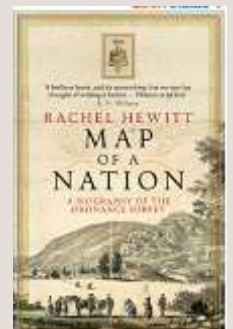
Now to sort out Jane's husband, my great x 3 granddad Francis Walton who I suspect was the illegitimate son of a Francis Kay and Jane Walton, but that also needs confirming. I live in hopes.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LOCKDOWN READS AND TV PROGRAMMES

"Map of a Nation: A Biography of the Ordnance Survey" by Rachel Hewitt

With thanks to the Anglo Scots branch who recommended this book in their "free to access", newsletter e-Scotia <http://angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk/scotia/scotia-2020-05.pdf>. I hadn't fully realised that the Ordnance Survey maps that we take for granted today, (and that includes all your sophisticated 21stC hi tech sat navs etc), were created originally to enable the English soldiers to find their way around Scotland, and suppress the rebellious Highlanders, without getting lost 😊. Well something like that.

This is also why the National Library of Scotland is such a good UK resource



"Codebreaking Sisters: Our Secret War" by Patricia Owtram (Author), Jean Owtram (Author).

<https://mirrorbooks.co.uk/products/codebreaking-sisters-our-secret-war>

"Patricia & Jean Owtram are possibly the only living sisters to have signed the wartime Official Secrets act. Raised in a Lancashire country house in the 1920s, the family took in two Austrian Jewish refugees, and the sisters quickly became fluent in German - which went on to shape their roles for ever.

When war broke out in 1939, Patricia was snapped up by the Wrens and posted to top-secret listening stations along the British coastline. Collaborating with Bletchley Park, she was tasked with intercepting German shipping radio in a bid to crack the seemingly impenetrable Enigma Code.

Jean's quick brain for crossword solving landed her a secretive role as Code & Cipher Officer in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry. At just 18 years of age, she was posted to Cairo, before moving on to Italy to aid the Partisan efforts against the Nazis. ---"

Apparently, it was only recently that they discovered what each other did.



The Genealogical Historical Mystery Crime Series by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

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

I think I heard about this series originally from Peter Calver's twice monthly "Lost Cousins" newsletters, (this is the latest at the time of writing, <https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/latemay20news.htm>), and have been enjoying them as another treat on our now sadly defunct coach holidays. However, thanks to a reminder by Rita Greenwood, what a good way to occupy oneself during Lockdown. The latest 8th book of the series "The Sterling Affair", is out here →



Also are you watching

BBC 2s "Monkman & Seagull's Genius Adventures" <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000jczx> . Some may know these individuals from University Challenge, and they have a wonderful way of making history fun but also interesting. I am currently on Series 2 and they are working their way through British inventions that have changed the world in the last few hundred years in a most humorous but informative way.

I was fascinated to hear a suggestion in Episode 2, discussing the history and increasing popularity of cycling https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treadle_bicycle, that it was one of the main reasons that the typical 15 miles living and travel restrictions of the average working person in the 19th C expanded. This, plus public access to the railways, enabled socialising across a greater distance and helped to enrich the gene pools of our ancestors!

If you can recommend any other similar ways to spend the time, please share.

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES



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/H8UeXf> for their latest newsletter and more.

I note the recent June edition includes the words to a most fascinating song recounting the exploits of a balloonist Mr William Windham Sadler, who after 30 flights, was apparently invited to make a demonstration ascent from Bolton on September 29th 1824. Due to bad weather problems, he tried to land near Blackburn, but was thrown out of the basket near Accrington, his leg becoming tangled with a rope, and he was dragged along the ground for a while before eventually detaching. The balloon then went up again with his novice companion still inside. The severely injured Sadler was taken to a nearby pub, a witness collapsed and died on the way to get help, the first doctor attending decided it needed more expert help, so a Mr Barlow was sent for from Blackburn, but despite brain surgery Sadler died next day. Meanwhile his companion managed to lower the balloon enough to fall out himself at Whalley! Bruised and with a broken arm he was eventually brought to convalesce at the Eagle and Child Inn in Bolton. The balloon was last seen over Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire drifting out to sea!

See here for the story <https://laituk.org/Sadler%20Balloon.htm> "Gas Balloon - Church, near Accrington 29th September 1824" by Nick Wotherspoon, from his excellent website Lancashire Aircraft Investigation Team and source of this picture →.

The words to the song are here courtesy of the Lancashire Archives. Interesting also to note that the surgeon, Mr Barlow, who was called from Blackburn to assist was presumably, the same James Barlow who performed the first surviving Caesarean section in Blackrod in 1793 and whose story we



recounted here http://bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/newsletter/Genie_2019_03.pdf last year see page 9. He was obviously a “general” surgeon and adaptable to many situations!

There are numerous other intriguing stories to be found in many of the Archives records, as discussed here in a 15 minute talk on You Tube by Kate Hurst, a professional genealogist and one of our past speakers <https://tinyurl.com/yaeg2bu3> “20 Curious Lancashire Parish Records”. You just have to start scratching the surface.



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

May 25th “The “Spanish Flu” pandemic and Manchester” <https://tinyurl.com/y94v7y48> from Weekly digest for manchesterarchiveplus.wordpress.com

“--- It is interesting to look at how the 1918 pandemic differs from the current one.---”

Much of this information depends on contemporary reports from the Guardian newspaper, and the role of its Medical Officer of Health James Niven (1851-1925). It seems we all have a lot to thank him for.



May 2020 - Our Criminal Ancestors

“Dear subscribers, Welcome to the latest edition of the Our Criminal Ancestors newsletter. Here you will find details about some of the new articles we have added to our website recently and other items that you may find interesting.---

Researching your prison ancestors

Have you found a prisoner in your family history or are interested in learning more about past punishments in your local community? Our new introductory guide can help you to source relevant records and trace those incarcerated in prisons between 1800 and 1914.

Criminal ancestors source guides

Don't forget to take a look at our other source guides that can help you get started with your crime research. We have guides on a range of subjects including information about transportation records, Quarter Sessions material, Assizes, and police files. --- and more .”



OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS

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



Halliwell Local History Society <http://goo.gl/8erYyr> Email margaretk@talktalk.net .



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

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



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

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