



Bolton's Genies



PLEASE NOTE SOME CHANGES OF ADDRESSES!!

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

- Newsletter Comments, and Speaker Bookings: boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk
- Newsletter Archives since July 2014: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/newsletter/archives>
- General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Christine M Ellis bolton@mlfhs.org.uk
- Bolton Research help, please email boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk or Manchester Research email a brief enquiry to , <https://www.mlfhs.uk/virtual-help-desk> or visit our
- Bolton Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 670 Likes and 720 Following October 2nd
- Bolton Research Collection on MLFHS website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/research> (for members only and ongoing)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/join> .

October 2020 Edition 75

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



This month's picture is from our first ever BFHS Zoomed Committee Meeting on Wednesday 16th September 2020.

Welcome all to our October edition. We hope you and yours are all well as we continue to make our own history in these difficult times. Most I suspect have lost count of the days and weeks since March 23rd when we were all locked down, I am told it was 6 months ago today, (23rd September), which also seems to be as we are launching another 6 months of "careful social isolation". We enjoyed a few weeks respite in July and August, perhaps before we were truly ready for it , and by mid-September the "bug has come back to bite us" with a vengeance. It was all sadly predicted though, and it does seem to be following its precedent of the 1918 flu epidemic in an uncanny pattern. <https://tinyurl.com/y5tfupxw> The flu that wasn't Spanish

Posted by: Tara Finn, Posted on:13 September 2018 - Categories: Foreign Office Historians . Let us hope that with all the advantages and "know how" of modern technology, we will achieve a happier outcome. I am sure it has certainly given us all food for thought though, and tremendous respect re how our ancestors coped without the advantages of modern medicine, and communication, and after a devastating world war, with the flu actually killing more.

With this current situation in mind I have been asked to pass on a message to all our members from David Muil → the Senior Chairman of MLFHS re where we are up to with meetings etc . Many of you might already have seen this and more in the recent e-newsletter from the Manchester branch

<https://tinyurl.com/y3kmcopu>

Dear Members

Re the MLFHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Executive Committee of the Society has decided to cancel this year's Annual General Meeting [AGM].

There is currently no provision within the Society's constitution for an online AGM, so this was not an option. Accordingly, following consultation with the Charity Commission, Trustees decided to adopt emergency measures and cancel the event until 2021. This decision has been recorded to demonstrate good governance of the charity.



The Society is obliged as a Registered Charity to file its Annual Return in accordance with Charity Commission regulations. The Annual Return for the year 2019 has now been duly filed in compliance with those regulations and may be viewed by clicking on the appropriate link in the Footer menu on the Society website, Manchester Ancestors.

While there will be no AGM this year, we value members' opinions and it is important to us that members still have an opportunity to ask questions of the Officers. To facilitate this, there will be an online members' broadcast presently scheduled for Wednesday, November 18th. The date and time will be confirmed in due course. You will have an opportunity to hear from the Officers and to ask questions. We will let you know how to join in and submit questions in October.

The Society Trustees have also decided to cancel this year's elections to the Council. Again, the temporary procedural changes allowing this to happen have been notified to the Charity Commission. With no elections this year, the Executive Committee has agreed that all existing elected members of the Council will serve one additional year. Elections to the Executive Committee will proceed as usual in 2021.

Fortunately, our digital presence continues to fill some of the gaps. We have added more records to our archives, courtesy of our hardworking home-based volunteers, our virtual Helpdesk remains available to provide answers to research enquiries and our social media platforms continue to provide a wide range of family-history related topics.

Best wishes to all as we move into the autumn with the prospect of continuing restrictions affecting our lives.

David Muil Chairman MLFHS

So, enough of where we are now, and on to a more positive note for the future. I hope you will all be pleased to know that the BFHS branch committee had its first Zoom meeting last week, and one of the main decisions to come from this was that we should try to restart our monthly meetings, but online using Zoom. As most of us are novices at this with various skill levels, we hope you will all appreciate this is not likely to be perfect first time but please bear with us.

NEXT MEETING



Wednesday 7.30pm November 4th will be our first talk since lockdown

(Picture courtesy of Nigel Newton from a happier 2018 Bonfire Night), (and we had already managed to acquire the services of Dr Penny Walters, before we heard she is also to speak at the FFH meeting as discussed below). Penny is an author and international speaker on a variety of genealogy topics, and will be telling us about

“Researching your family tree when you are adopted: have you ever found your ‘real’ family?”

Dr Walters has told us, *“My talk will look at the invaluable information that can be revealed to adopted people through DNA testing. I will discuss the excitement, pain, and practical realities of researching a ‘new’ family. Some relatives don’t want to be ‘found,’ others have been desperately searching for years. We will cover some super sleuthing with DNA results that can open up opportunities for adopted people to potentially connect with biological relatives. I will reflect on my own adoption story and discuss ethical dilemmas that can arise.”*

I have heard this talk via another FHS where I am also a member, so I particularly asked her to lead this, our first BFHS talk since March as firstly the talk was so interesting and different, and secondly, she was so capable in organising how the evening was handled and managing the screen.



For those wondering how this will proceed, we envisage that

1. First of all, everyone interested needs to be enrolled for Zoom access.
2. There is a variety of equipment you can use, but you do need use of a built-in camera and microphone. Suitable apparatus includes modern laptops/ desk top computers, (I have neither at present 😞), tablets or an iPad, or a smart phone. Whilst using any of these the mic needs to be turned on and the camera in “selfie” mode. (During a talk, the coordinator of the meeting is able to mute listeners mics, so that they don’t clash with the speaker. .
3. anybody wishing to partake must first notify our Chairman by emailing boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk to indicate interest, and before Monday November 2nd. If you are a member of MLFHS please provide your membership number. Guests are also welcome, currently for no charge, but full members will get priority for viewing, and numbers are limited. On Monday November 2nd you will then be sent a link and instructions re how to connect to the talk, which will commence Wednesday November 4th at 7.30pm
4. Presuming all this has worked OK, you will then need to click on the link approximately 7.15pm GMT, and then wait in the queue as the coordinator welcomes individuals onto the screen.
5. As we start you should be able to see a button somewhere that allows all participants to see a grid of faces of all present. This may go to two or more pages. The bigger the screen it seems the more are visible. (My iPad only allows one page of nine, and phones are less I think). You will also see a microphone and camera option, and both need to be turned on for internet access.
6. After the coordinators (Chairman’s) welcome and announcements, he will then introduce our speaker, and she will take over control of the talk, muting listeners. You should be able to see a green chat option, perhaps in the top right-hand corner of the screen, where you can type questions as she talks, to be answered later.
7. At the end, the speaker will hand control back to the coordinator. He can then accept any questions if you put your hand up, to indicate you have one, and he can then unmute your microphone for us all to hear the question and response.
8. When all is done the coordinator will then thank the speaker, make any further announcements re future plans, and close the meeting.
9. We are pleased to be able to inform you that Penny has also permitted us to have a copy of her presentation, which will be available to members after an emailed request, following the meeting.

Fingers and toes are crossed that if this meeting is successful, we will then be able to resume a semblance of our previous programme, albeit from a distance. It does seem likely that although not all our regular attenders will be able to join us using the internet, we will hopefully be able to meet and greet some of

those who have been unable to come to our actual meetings previously due to distance or access problems. They do say every cloud has a silver lining.

(This recent article from Blaine Bettinger in Family Tree Magazine may also be helpful, if this is one of your problems. "DNA Q&A: How Are Adoptees Related to Their DNA Matches?" <https://tinyurl.com/y6hso5l3>)

LOCKDOWN and OTHER EVENTS

There are a more online events in the offing. This list is merely a suggestion of what is becoming available and I would urge you to check each event for updates if considering them. You might notice that some of these quality speakers are contributing to more than one conference. They are getting busy again.



Saturday 10th October 2020 (updated 25th September 2020) Scottish Indexes Conference VI - <https://tinyurl.com/y9ljaajg>

During 2020 we have been hosting a series of **free Scottish genealogy** conferences designed to help you trace your Scottish family tree. Here's a little more re what we have to look forward to this time re speakers (and much of this advice can go beyond just Scottish research):

- **'Scottish Marriage: Instantly Buckled for Life'** by **Chris Paton**, genealogist, author, tutor, lecturer and blogger, <https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/> and author of many books re Scottish research. See also below.
- **'Genealogy in Glasgow City Archive'** by **Dr Irene O'Brien**, senior archivist at Glasgow City Archives.
- **'The Records of the Highland Archive Centre'** by **Lorna Steele**, of the Highland Archive Centre.
- **'Tracing Scottish Ancestors on Ancestry'** by **Kirsty Wilkinson**, genealogist, and author
- **'Using DNA To Solve Adoption and Unknown Parentage Mysteries'** by **Michelle Leonard** genealogist and author
- **Genealogy Q&A hosted by Graham and Emma Maxwell**

We start at 7 am UK, this is early evening in Australia and New Zealand. We keep going until about 11 pm UK time so that people in the United States and Canada can watch too. Each presentation is shown twice throughout the day and we have a live Q&A with each presenter, as well as two longer Q&A sessions throughout the day. Nearer the time we will post schedules in a variety of time zones.

If you have missed the conferences so far, you can catch up on some of the presentations here.

<https://tinyurl.com/y3kd27ut>



Saturday 14th November Family History Federation

<https://tinyurl.com/y6oo2j8l>

To replace the family history shows that have been cancelled this year, the Family History Federation are hosting this unmissable virtual event on 14th November, with talks from over 20 experts in UK family history, and the chance to chat with family history societies and organisations in online 'exhibition booths'. We already know **Jackie Depelle** → , discussing nonconformism here, and from whom we have

heard excellent talks over this last few years, some will have attended **Chris Paton's** → (see above and below), excellent talk for the Anglo Scots branch last year, and both have had repeat visits to Bolton FHS postponed this year due to COVID. We also now have **Dr Penny Walters** again discussing more aspects of Adoption , and

- **Dr Judy Hill** "British Alms Houses, their history, and continuing vitality today " Lecturer in adult education, for the WEA, various historical societies and at the University of Surrey.
- **Alan Rushton** discussing "The Gentleman's Magazine as an aid to family historians" . Alan is a local and family historian based in Hertfordshire. He tells us The Gentleman's Magazine was the first



monthly journal to appear in Britain. It ran from 1731 until 1922. However, it's only of use to the family historian up to 1868, after which it became a literary magazine. Edward Cave, its originator, invented the obituary as we know it, and these have been fully indexed. It was written mainly for the country gentry of course, with their interests in mind, so there is much local history for some, but not your average "ag lab" we are told. 😊

- **Chris Paton "British Civilian POWS in World War One"** Whilst many of our ancestors fought, and in some cases, died during the First World War, there was another group of people deeply affected by the conflict on the civilian front. Thousands of British and British Empire civilians, present in Europe when war was declared against Germany, were rounded up and interned at a hastily converted racecourse on the outskirts of Berlin from 1914-1918. This talk will look at the fascinating story of those 5500 POWs, including over a thousand merchant seamen, whose only crime was to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

You can now get 50% off the price of on the door tickets by taking advantage of their early bird offer. Early bird price: £5 On the day price: £10 Deal ends: 18th October 2020 <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/> WhoDo You Think You Are? Magazine

GENIE'S TIPS for October 2020

Maps

There seems to have been a spate recently of websites offering different options on old maps so here are two of them. Have fun exploring

- Old maps of Britain and Europe from A Vision of Britain Through Time <https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/maps/>
- The History of Europe: Every Year <https://tinyurl.com/y65tzd7q> (You Tube)

From Scottish Indexers Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes>



Did you know? Scottish death certificates are indexed under a woman's maiden surname and her married surname?

It can sometimes be hard to identify the correct certificate on ScotlandsPeople and it is so annoying to waste credits! A top tip is to search the post-1855 death index using a woman's married surname and her maiden name so that you can get straight to the correct entry and save those credits.

On the search page you will see 'Other surname' this is an index to any other surname a woman used that is recorded in the death register. This means if your great-great-grandmother was married you can search under her married surname as well as her maiden surname.

For example, Agnes Paterson married Francis Bell. When searching for her death we find that Bell and Paterson are common names in the area and so is Agnes. To narrow the search, we use the 'Other surname' box.

It doesn't matter which way round you do this. You can put a maiden name in the 'surname' and married name in the 'Other surname' or the opposite, both work.

Hope this saves you some credits and helps you find those elusive ancestors!



Export Your Tree From Family Tree Maker in 5 Steps By Rick Crume 29th September <https://tinyurl.com/y329w73g>.

One of the most important advantages of using genealogy software is that once you've entered information on your family into a program, it's easy to share your family file. You might want to email a branch of your family tree to a cousin. Even if she uses different genealogy software, she can still open your file and view your tree. Or maybe you'd like to submit your family tree file to GEDmatch along with your DNA test results, so your



matches on the site can figure out how you're related. If you want to switch to a different genealogy program, you can make a copy of your family file to upload to the other program.—"

THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES



Lancashire Archives

We promised to let readers of News from the Archives know as soon as we had a date for re-opening. I'm pleased to tell you that we will be welcoming researchers back from Tuesday 6th October. As you may imagine we have had to put in place a number of new procedures to ensure that you will be able to use the archives safely, and to protect staff so all visits will be by appointment only and all documents, microfilms and books will have to be ordered in advance. Details are now on the website: <https://tinyurl.com/y25ou2ds> and bookings are now open. This photo → shows their 80th anniversary celebrations held only 6 months ago, just before lockdown. We hope to see you soon.
Jacquie Crosby -Archives Service Manager



MISCELLANEOUS



Here we have the second half of a talk given by Anne Sherman of Leaves Genealogy for the New Zealand newsletter Famnet <https://tinyurl.com/yxcs44yv>. She discusses the management of a common disability I am sure many of us have come across in our own lives either via selves, family members, friendships, but how did our ancestors cope?

The Victorian Deaf in England Part 2: Education and Occupations

Today there are assumptions that the Victorian deaf and dumb* were given the worst kinds of occupations due to their disability. My research shows that this was not initially true for the first part of the 19th century.

This is the 2nd of a two-part article. Click here to read the first part. <https://tinyurl.com/y4744seb>

Deaf Education.

The education of the deaf and dumb in Britain started with the opening of the Braidwood's Academy for the Deaf and Dumb in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1760, which taught speech, reading, writing and sign language to the children of wealthy parents. This school is believed to have been the first in Britain to use sign language in education.

In 1851 England had nine schools for the deaf and dumb, one of those was the Yorkshire Institute for the Deaf and Dumb (YIDD) in Doncaster, West Riding of Yorkshire which had opened in 1823 and catered for pauper children from the age of 9 years. The YIDD provided residential care by means of subscriptions or paid for by Poor Law Unions. The students often undertook public examinations, in a bid to secure more sponsorship and advertise the work of the school.

In letters to the Clergy and Overseers of the Poor, the YIDD committee urged for the early education of deaf and dumb children followed by an apprenticeship in a trade, for the cost (in 1852) of £21 a year per child.

In 1855 the Free Schools Bill allowed the free education for pauper children in England and Wales except for those who were deaf, dumb, blind, lunatics or criminals. It was not until 1870 that the Board of Guardians was required to send pauper deaf-and-dumb (and blind) children, under the age of 14 years, to a suitable institution for their education. The education of deaf and dumb children became compulsory in 1893.

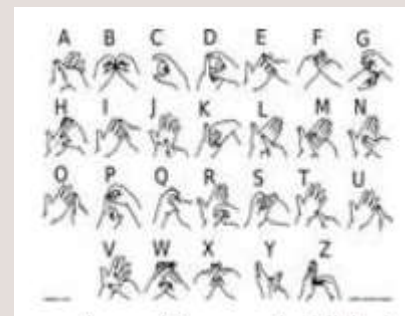
As with most schools at the time, classrooms often contained several classes catering for different levels of skill and knowledge, rather than age groups as schools are today. At the Doncaster school, level 5 was the

lowest class with level 1 being the highest, and each class had an average of 15 pupils each. As well as sign language and lip reading, the subjects taught covered all of the usual subjects, reading, writing, mathematics, geography, history, and religious studies etc. as well as sewing and other domestic subjects for the girls and trades, such as tailoring, shoemaking and carpentry for the boys.

British sign language alphabet

Several different ways were used to teach communication skills and was known as the 'combined method'. This would include signing, finger spelling, natural gestures, using pictures, lip-reading, and speech as well as reading and writing.

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The use of the combined method of communication was thought by many deaf teachers to be the best qualification for living a practical life.

Up until 1880 most of the deaf schools in the UK had deaf teachers and primarily focused on the use of sign language. From 1868, however, some schools decided to focus on the oral approach and concentrated on teaching speech. The late 19th century saw the start of the 'manual versus oral' (signing versus speaking) debates, which led the way to sign language being banned from deaf schools in 1880, and so forcing deaf children to learn how to speak and lip read. This in turn not only affected the children's education but also their chances of employment and their quality of life.

Deaf Occupations.

There has been little research on the occupations these children would have obtained upon leaving school. The 1861 census report was the first to list the occupations of the deaf-and-dumb and shows that those who were aged under 20 years, had a vast range of occupations from professional classes to typical working-class occupations, with the most common being within the Domestic, Industrial and Agricultural occupational groups. The 1871 census report stated that "...to the educated deaf-mute nearly all occupations in which spoken communications are not absolutely necessary are open. ... It is well known that the deaf-and-dumb possess the imitative faculty in a high degree, and this enables them to become efficient workmen in many handicrafts and mechanical arts; but they are said to experience difficulty in finding suitable employment."

My dissertation study for the Post Graduate Diploma in Genealogy found that majority of young deaf men had the same occupations as their fathers and/or hearing brothers, and unmarried deaf women undertook similar occupations as their hearing counterparts.

The effects of the 1880 ban on the use of sign language in deaf schools would be felt by deaf teachers who would find themselves out of work and replaced by hearing teachers who taught pupil how to speak. Generations of deaf people also suffered, as they left school with little general education, and therefore found obtaining work even harder than before, and often could not even manage their own affairs without the help of a hearing person.

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

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

Mr Dennis McCann's Illustrated Tour of Bolton Old Town <https://www.facebook.com/groups/502317166638370/>

(and how to be a 21st Century building detective). Continued from previous newsletters

We now come to the penultimate stage of Denis' round Bolton tour. I hope those who might not live locally will have found some help here in locating areas mentioned in records of yesteryear. Much has changed in the last couple of hundred years, and more is changing now as I write. We have six major sites of reconstruction in Bolton town centre <https://tinyurl.com/y2323jbw> £1bn Bolton town centre masterplan defies Covid as schemes remain on course for 2030 finish By Tom Houghton Business Live North West Business Editor 13th AUG 2020

Finding where your great x 2 or 3 grandparents lived, could soon be a virtually impossible project if relating to present day landmarks .

Denis has offered 12 routes in this series following the enclosed map of Bolton old town centre and it is hoped it is 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 month's edition shows the 9th brown walk and 10th red walk as shown in the upper middle half of the map below.



(9)Next, I wandered off along Deansgate (the brown line), to Woods Court and Back Woods Court,

First the back of Woods Court, then views of the full length. Did you have Woods Court in some census



returns? This must have been such a busy thoroughfare at one time with cast iron kerbs still evident in 2016 to protect the kerbs from iron wheels and provide openings to cellars. Then on to walk 10



←10, From Silverwell works



←(10) Heading for Bridge Street now and looking down towards Silverwell Works then



→ (10) Silverwell Works before demolition.

Apparently, this view was off Bridge Street at the end of the Co-op building. The lower part of the Co-op chimney can be seen on the left, but perhaps not as obvious is the fact that that the other building was called Silverwell Works. Next month we will have the last of this interesting series. Thank you, Denis.

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



<http://goo.gl/l29JpL>

MISCELLANEOUS

Researching Eastern European Ancestry

We know there is quite a large population of folk from eastern European, in Bolton and the surrounding area, some coming as a result of wartime, and others later often highly skilled, looking for work within the Common Market system. I wonder how many have tried to research their ancestry though. For anyone here trying to help them, one of the first hurdles is of course the language, but even if that is overcome for one had not appreciated the complexities of their turbulent history over the past 150 years, and how the borders constantly moved around. This might explain why it's sometimes so hard to find the ancestral paperwork and if anyone is knowledgeable enough about this subject, and able to help others please give us a shout. It's not that we don't want to, we just do not have these skills, but would be happy to try to learn. Here is a translation of this summary . It reads:

"A Ukrainian stands before god on his judgement day. God asks:

Where were you born? -In Hungaro-Austria

Where did you go to school? -In Czechoslovakia

Where did you get married? -In Hungary

Where were your children born? -Third Reich

And your grandchildren? -In the Soviet Union

Where did you die? -Ukraine

Wow so you must have travelled a lot! -I never left my village."

Well it certainly has put my problems in perspective. 😊



Can you help Sue Ikin? From Wigan Family & Local History Chat Group <https://tinyurl.com/y6jsczyk...>

We have had a request to try and make contact with the owner of a family bible by a member of the family in question - the problem is the post was made on a message forum 11 years ago and has no contact information!

Do you have this bible? This message was posted in the Wigan History website 11 years ago, and unfortunately, only just been seen. Wigan says that they do not have this bible. Do you?

It was posted by R Gallagher on 30th August 2009

"I have a family bible (not connected to me) with several family names in it. Beginning with Thomas Allan and Charlotte Rigby both born 1813 and married 1834. Other names mentioned are Thomas James Alexander George and Elizabeth. All born between 1835 and 1850. Other names mentioned are two possible spouses. When I did a search of some names Little Bolton and Eastern Bolton were mentioned. Although it was a Wigan person who gave me the bible. I would give the bible for free if it would be of interest to anyone. I had thought to try a Bolton site but thought I would try here first."

This couple is my husband's great, x3 grandparents if you have this bible please could you supply a transcript of all names and dates of birth, death and marriage mentioned in it.

Here's hoping.... kind regards Sue (Ikin)

If you are able to help, please could you email us on bolton@mlfhs.org.uk and we will put you in touch.

And our intrepid Bolton Help Desk was able to help with this enquiry received from David Booth, via the Manchester Desk.

*13th September Dear Sir/Madam, I am researching all details on the life of Mary Ann (Gladys) KNOWLES, who I believe was born 27 Aug 1805 at Bolton, and christened 30 Aug 1805 at Ridgeway Gates Wesleyan Bolton. I believe her parents to have been William & Alice KNOWLES. My grandmother told me that Mary Ann was a "founder" of the "Bolton Co-Operative Society". My research so far indicates that Mary Ann firstly married James BRIDGE at Bolton on 2nd March 1835, and that she secondly married my 3rd great grandfather Thomas ASHTON at Bolton on 9 June 1841. My main reason for writing to you is to find out if your Society holds any record connecting Mary Ann KNOWLES/BRIDGE/ASHTON to the formation/creation of the "Bolton Co-Op" Yours sincerely, David Booth, Victoria, Australia.



*24th September Hello David. After a bit of "digging" I have finally found information about Mary Ann Ashton in the following book "Great & Little Bolton Co-operative Society Ltd. Jubilee History" with the following :-

Mary Ann Ashton. the one woman who so greatly helped co-operation locally in its early days. I dedicate this book as a memento of her work and service. F. W. Peoples (This book is still available, there are different prices for second copies as well as new books) with regards

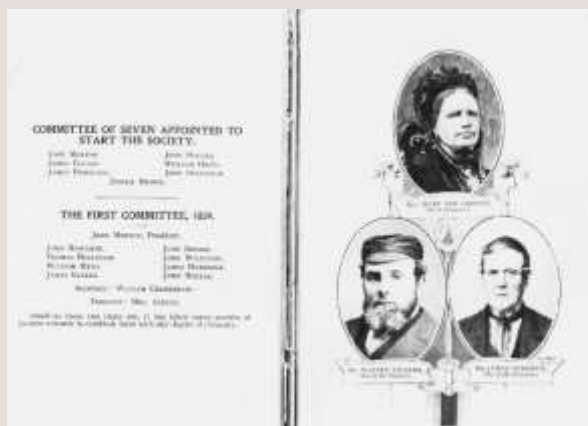
Colin Calderbank. Bolton Help Desk.

25th September Hello David.

The attachment is the memorial inscription on the grave stone in St. Mary (Deane church)

Bolton.

regards. Colin Calderbank (Bolton help desk)



Sacred to the memory of PHILLIS the beloved wife of THOMAS ASHTON of Great Bolton who died May 17th 1840 in the 36th year of her age. Also WILLIAM their son who died June 11th 1853 aged 26 years. Also the above named THOMAS ASHTON who died May 5th 1859 aged 57 years. Also HENRY their son who died January 18th 1867 aged 35 years. Also of MARY ANN relict of the above named THOMAS ASHTON who died April 21st 1875 aged 65 years.



Post Script re the MLFHS Help Desk for those with Manchester interests .

Leslie Turner the MLFHS Help Desk Co-ordinator has asked us to inform you that the Manchester Help Desk in the Central Library, referred to above , is about to re-open.

(Bolton's continues to be available as detailed in our banner details of course at boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk).

In the September issue of the MLFHS Manchester newsletter she said that they remained unable to reinstate their Family History Help Desk service in Manchester Central Library. She is now pleased to say that they are reopening the Helpdesk together with the safety measures which have been agreed with the Archives+ partners.

Initially the plan is to open on a trial basis each Monday starting on the 12th October. Opening time will be limited from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm. The session will be by appointment only and these can be made by emailing Leslie at: helpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk .

Please remember that visitors will need to comply with library/Covid restrictions and wear a face mask or face covering. Assistance at the Help Desk will be either face-to-face distanced or via Zoom.

On the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society website you will find 'Hints from the Help Desk' videos hosted by Vimeo, following the launch of the Virtual Helpdesk (VHD).

As a reminder here is the list of videos currently available and can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y23ole7y>

- The National Archives Research Guides - Masses of high-quality information for free.
- The 1841 Census. Often written off as providing much less information than later censuses, you can still get a lot out of the 1841 returns.
- Squeezing the Most out of the 1911 Census There is a lot of information on the forms.
- Keeping Track of Electronic Records - Name your documents meaningfully.
- Using the GRO Web Site and Mother's Maiden Name Facility.
- DNA Testing: How to get the best value for your money. There are a lot of DNA tests on the market -here are some ways to decide which one to choose.

Family History Research, DNA Studies and COVID Research.

Are you, like me, finding it fascinating to see how our DNA raw data analysis obtained when researching the identity of our ancestors, could now hopefully contribute to saving our future generations?

You may have seen a mention previously of the Coronagenes study being conducted by Edinburgh University <https://www.ed.ac.uk/coronagenes> , where they are requesting use of family researchers raw data obtained by Ancestry DNA analysis, to kick start their studies into “ Could a person’s genes affect the severity of their Covid19 symptoms?”.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=339611213820840&extid=IOxy6im2ti7g38qT> . It seems the Queen Marys University of London, where scientist Rosalind Franklin did her pioneering DNA sequencing work is now working on the same project <https://www.facebook.com/genomicsengland/> . Wouldn't it be wonderful if exploring to structure of our ancestors DNA legacy could contribute to saving the lives of their descendants. Follow the links if you would like to contribute your data.



OTHER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES



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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