



Bolton's Genies



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> 784 Likes and 859 Following on 6th February 2021
- 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> .

2021 February 80th Edition

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



Banner picture shows Farnworth Mill from an early engraving, date, and source unknown, in what is now known as Moses Gate Country Park, Farnworth. It is viewed from across the River Croal which is flowing right to left, Vale House, home of the Cromptons, is on the waterside and Rock Hall, the subject of the article below, the whitish house near the skyline, to the right of the three chimneys.

Well, it really is hard to believe that it is a year ago this coming month, since we helped the Lancashire Archives celebrate their 80th Anniversary and had our last meeting at the Old Links Golf Club the following week. We knew something possibly world shattering was looming, but no idea how big the event was to be. I suspect we can all now empathise much better, with our ancestors who only 100 years ago lurched from WW1 to the Spanish flu epidemic losing another 200,000. It puts it all in a different perspective doesn't it. A year on however, we are learning to adapt to our new way of living. Life will never be the same again and we are having to learn new ways to communicate to keep in touch. Different, but not entirely negative vibes.

There is a light at the end of this tunnel though. Here at BFHS we are doing our best trying to adapt to Zooming, which remains a big learning curve for us all. We hope, although still not perfect, you are able to appreciate the benefits of it. You will see below the results of our February AGM and the committee changes. Graham Holt is now retiring from all committee responsibilities, although he has agreed to continue hosting the Zoom events for now. We do still need someone else to assist though, and even take over at times, if not, the meeting could well be cancelled.

This is not necessarily a committee role, more a question of someone with computer nous.

PLEASE NOTE- MONTHLY MEETINGS DURING PANDEMIC REGULATIONS

- **Where?**
Online via Eventbrite for the foreseeable future,
- **When?**
on the first Wednesday of most months at 7.30pm, joining from 7.15pm

RECENT AND COMING EVENTS

Thursday January 14th 7.30pm zoom talk by a MLFHS Dave Burnham for Westhoughton Local History Group
“Children of the Workhouse, Children in Public Care 1900-1947” <https://tinyurl.com/yShhknkr>



Well one of the few bonuses of this lock down / social isolation malarkey is that although we can't physically attend meetings like we used to, the online replacements are now much more accessible, and available to anybody with a suitable internet connecting device, from anywhere in the world.

My problem now is trying to fit them all into an increasingly busy diary. This opportunity from WLHG was one not to be missed though, as Dave is also one of our MLFHS members and a regular speaker. A free talk by him, about the Bolton Workhouse, known to be a subject of special interest to him, was one of those golden moments to be grabbed. It was also their first Zoom talk, so a few of us from BFHS were more than happy to drop in and give support. Of course, we had particular interest as we have a team, led by Graham Holt, still busy transcribing the Bolton workhouse creed registers.

The introduction to the talk was given as “*Locked down? Think times are bad? Well start 2021 by seeing what conditions were like in the Bolton Workhouse 200 years ago!*”

Dave started his talk by describing one of the first moves to help care for destitute children, when as far back as 1839 Thomas Coram opened his Foundling Hospital in London <https://www.coram.org.uk/about-us/our-heritage-founding-hospital>. (Editor's Note See also a coming talk on this by Jane King, at the coming FHF Show on April 10th <https://tinyurl.com/y2y3xakw>).

A sad side effect of the increasing industrial activity of the Victorian era was the squalor, and deprivation seen particularly in the growing cities, caused by the influx of whole families from moving from the rural to urban areas looking for work. Children who might have been unwanted, or at least sadly could not be cared for by their hapless parent(s) or extended family and were hopefully fostered out to what often turned out to be disreputable “halfway houses” or worse, possibly just abandoned. The notorious “baby farmers” were not a myth <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-39330793>.

Initially “fortunate ladies” arranged soup kitchens and similar, and various charitable children's homes such as Edgeworth, Dr Barnardo's, Waifs and Strays, where they were at least fed and clothed adequately, given some education and trade skills. From the 1850s some were sent out to the colonies under the controversial emigration schemes to help increase their populations, and it is only recently that it is now recognised how badly some were mistreated.

By 1900 in Bolton, under the Poor Law system, there were 40 places for children in the Fishpool Workhouse, (now the Royal Bolton hospital) with strict control by the Guardians, wishing to be thrifty and review of each child every two years. In or out relief was provided and also free medical care from Dr W G Grace, and smallpox vaccinations provided.

By 1912 1000 old people, lunatics, mental defectives, “lonelorn” women and children were receiving “in house” help, and another 2000 “out relief”. A Relieving Officer, usually male, gave weekly reports to the Guardians.

Typical reasons for the children being admitted were, habitually drunk parents, disabilities that could not be managed at home, they were unwanted stepchildren, or those of tramps according to William Payne, an NSPCC officer of the time. Lives were often short due to mismanaged childbirth, infections, industrial accidents, and of course poor nutrition and social conditions. Things were improving though. Births and deaths were supervised and registered, bastardy orders were followed up, lunatics were monitored, an agent was appointed to visit “mental defectives” to check their care, private fostering was supervised to check quality. Children who had left at the age of 13 for employment were followed up unto 21.

In Bolton Alice Kearsley was appointed as the first “lady visitor for children” (albeit at 2/3rds of a man’s salary” and apparently selected more through nepotism than qualifications. She managed 20 volunteers, throughout WW1 until 1919, with her office on Wood street. Dave mentioned 76 application forms still in the Bolton Archives.

When the troops came home from the war, expecting to instantly recover their bread winner duties, this meant the women who had become emancipated, having gained experience and confidence keeping the home fires burning, resented being told to stand down. Internal politics eventually caused the newly married Alice to take retirement and Annie Higginson took over, with little experience other than having been an insurance sick visitor in Blackburn. A few months later Ada Wainer from Oldham took over the mantle and she was the first of new breed of “visitor” to have had some form of professional training in midwifery, childcare at a creche, and nanny for her vicar’s three children.

In the 1930s the Guardians system was abolished, and the Council Public Assistance Committee introduced to be responsible for welfare.

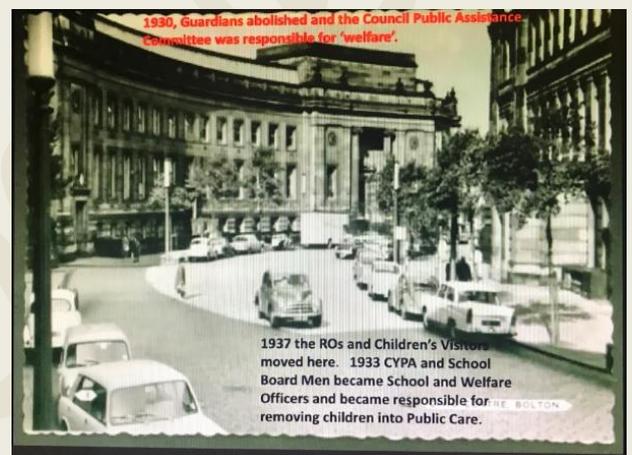
In 1933 as a result of the Children and Young Persons Act the School Board Men, became the School and Welfare

Officers, and moved into these familiar offices. Approximately 250 children went into public care in the inter war years, many being genuine orphans, and this could have been the Cottage Homes, boarded out with approved families, children’s home run by voluntary groups, adoption, or if warranted Industrial Schools such as the one at Lostock. The pre-war evacuation of 1939 created more problems. No other combatant country even attempted to find safer places for the children, and placings here were difficult and not always successful,

Ada Wainer retired in 1945 to be replaced by Child Welfare Visitors Mavis Smith, C Ross, and Miss Riffler. The new team seem to have been becoming even more progressive and enlightened with Ms Ross advocating keeping siblings together if possible, and a better awareness of the need to monitor the new care scene and ensure the child’s wellbeing both physically and mentally. Dave mentioned Bolton’s own Susan Isaacs here <https://melanie-klein-trust.org.uk/writers/susan-isaacs/> as being one of the pioneers of the thinking of improved childcare and helping their development.

Throughout the 20thC the NSPCC <https://tinyurl.com/y27bvzo7> (modelled on the RSPCA animal welfare organisation <https://www.rspca.org.uk/whatwedo/howweare/history> and staffed predominantly by men, were the leaders of UK child welfare and protection. Royalty was and still are Patrons. Dave remarked how locally Inspector Marmaduke Fraser apparently made his mark, in his book available online at <https://tinyurl.com/y2q6ahep> “The Social Worker Speaks: A History of Social Workers Through the Twentieth Century” where much more can be learned. Post war and seventy years on progress has continued, sadly often as a result of newly surfacing horrendous stories of abuse and worse. Perhaps the best we can say is we continue to try our best.

Thanks to Dave and the Westhoughton team.



Wednesday February 3rd Bolton FHS Annual General Meeting

Then a talk from Dr Alan Crosby "A Rogues Gallery, of Crime and Criminals in Bolton 1625-1635."

Well, many of us were anticipating this talk with some trepidation, knowing that there was to be another upheaval in the composition of the BFHS committee at an already very difficult time, and even the society's survival has been under threat.

Our Chairman of near 5 years Graham Holt, plus the Calderbanks of many more years' service have retired. David Muil our Manchester Chairman led the meeting to introduce the new plan. Our structure has been reviewed; jobs reshuffled and added to those who already had other responsibilities, and David Baker has volunteered to act up as a temporary Chairman for one year. Sadly, we have lost valuable resources and talent, although as David pointed out we still have the option to co-opt for particular tasks, and Colin Calderbank will continue with our online Helpdesk. We will be able to tell you more about future plans after our imminent committee meeting, and vacancies remain of course. Our thanks must be recorded for the dedicated years of service these people have given to the BFHS. They will all be seriously missed.



The AGM concluded satisfactorily Alan took over the screen control and the talk commenced. 🙏. An edited recording of the talk will be on our website shortly, <https://www.tinyurl.com/4ypfhuw4> available via the members section.

He introduced his subject by explaining that he had actually focussed on this short period of Quarter Session (QS) records made during the reign of "King Charles" from the Lancashire Archives, (he was the first Charles then so not even numbered). Alan gave a brief history of how the QS had been developed in the Mediaeval period and continued until the 1970s. Their remit was to judge medium level rather than "petty" crimes, and court sessions were held quarterly in each of the 6 Lancashire Hundred regions of West Derby, Salford, Leyland, Blackburn, Amounderness, and Lonsdale North and South of the Sands. The Justices of the Peace, aka Magistrates, who seem to have been appointed mainly by virtue of being males with local wealth and power, travelled around the areas in a retinue on a regular circuit, under the supervision of the Clerks of the Peace, to hear and make decisions on the charges.

The Lancashire Archives are apparently recognised as having the best collection in the country of this type of record, both in quality and quantity. We were shown pictures of the beautifully handwritten examples of the day, and how the documents were kept in order by being secured by two holes in the top left corner of each sheet and tied together with leather thongs.

Alan then went on to discuss various sample cases which demonstrated the typical problems of the day. There was a neighbours' complaint against someone with habitual antisocial behaviour, another of malicious gossip resulting in attempts by some women to get a 12 year old girl (of near marriageable age at 13), to give poisonous herbs to a man, a story of miners' personal tools being stolen when left underground at their work face and ensuing job insecurity, and an attempted highway robbery whilst travelling on horseback over the moors. from Blackburn to Bolton. Punishment was usually a period in the House of Correction at Preston enduring a manual task of some sort, then a "whipping until blood seen" before release.

What an insight it gave into the lifestyle of the day. Things haven't changed that much even now have they. The meeting concluded with a couple of questions and the hopes expressed that we will be able to hold another similar meeting again next year, in some shape or form. We were encouraged to see 51 attended, compared to our usual 80 + at our previous club house based meetings.

These links might also be helpful, recently advertised by FindmyPast <https://www.tinyurl.com/1slap6y1> and Who Do You Think You Are <https://www.tinyurl.com/4baba4kj>

Next Bolton meeting will be.

Wednesday 3rd March 7pm for 7.30pm start, "Irish Research", by Carol Wells of the MLFHS <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bolton-fhs-meeting-irish-research-tickets-128427916355>



MLFHS members free (see link above to join). £3.00 to non-members. We are told the talk will be a practical guide to help you get the most out of your Irish research using the main websites that are available and introducing some that you may not be familiar with. There will be handouts available in the members area afterwards.



Lancashire Archive Update

Well yes, this time last year on March 1st two of us went to staff the MLFHS desk for the Archives 80th Anniversary celebrations. Two weeks later Lockdown 1 started, and you all know the rest. Jacquie Crosby, the archives Service Manager now reports.

"The good news is that there are signs of Spring outside; the sad, that Lancashire Archives remains closed to visitors. We are, however, still open for enquiries and in 2020 the number received climbed steeply to a total of 4806, the highest since 2009. The pandemic has also positively affected the number of copying orders we have supplied – up by 30%- and the number of images of our collections viewed on Ancestry – over 2.58 million. As you'll read, we've just added two more collections to Ancestry and hope to start an exciting new project with them later this year.



The Friday lunchtime talks programme restart this month 12:30 -13:30pm thanks to The Friends of Lancashire Archives.

Friday 19th February 12.30pm to 1.30pm "Going Underground, Discovering our Lancashire coalmining ancestors". -David Tilsley Watch the FLA website www.flarchives.org.uk for more information.

19th March "Memories public and private: scrapbooks and commonplace books" –Kathryn Newman

9th April "Last orders please! researching pubs and publican ancestors" – Keri Nicholson.

To book a place for any and receive a link please email archives@lancashire.gov.ukArchives . Booking is essential via email.



Saturday 10th April 10th Family History Federation REALLY USEFUL Zoomed Family History Show <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/speaker-portfolio/>



SIX MORE speakers announced as shown here. Some of these faces, such as that of Dr Penny Walters who gave the Adoption talk to us last November and is booked again for Welsh research this November, and Steve Gill who has now given us 3 talks re various aspects of researching photographs will already be familiar to our regular attenders. Presuming the others will be of the same high standard, this should be a real treat. I have already booked my ticket on the Early Bird scheme at £7.50 as our free to access FaceBook followers will have seen advertised. Unfortunately, by the time you are reading this it will now cost £10 but still an excellent bargain for these top quality talks and the talks are available for a week after. There will also be virtual stalls, and help desks available and as this show is a national event, perhaps a chance to find other sister societies that cover other areas of the UK that you might be interested in,

21st -28th May 2021, War Graves week <https://www.cwgc.org/our-war-graves-your-history/>



will shine a light on our work and the people who keep remembrance of our war dead alive.

Through a series of talks, tours, and events, both physical and virtual, War Graves Week will bring an immersive and inclusive programme that will reveal CWGC's work and history in all its variety and demonstrate its ongoing relevance today.



GENIE'S TIPS for February 2021



Family Search British Records <https://tinyurl.com/y4tudexa>

For beginners this is a free resource and service provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Their hopes are for all names to be added to their worldwide tree, for posterity, but this is not compulsory. Their database is worldwide, immense, and constantly growing, thanks to the many voluntary indexers and transcribers who freely give their services. The trees however are sometimes closer to a guess than proven, so should only be regarded as suggestions. This is a summary of their latest reported databases for the UK.

Channel Islands Births and Baptisms, 1820-1907 35,295 Last updated Mar 18, 2020
 England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975 48,234,075 Last update Jan 5, 2021
 England and Wales Birth Registration Index, 1837-2008 132,174,276 Last Update Oct 2, 2014
 Great Britain, Births and Baptisms, 1571-1977 12,643,3,749,257 Last Update Jun 10, 2020
 Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881 Last Update Mar 18, 2020
 Isle of Man Births and Baptisms, 1607-1910 221,934 Last update Mar 18, 2020
 Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950 8,151,224 Last Update Jun 20, 2020
 United Kingdom, Maritime Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1787-1933 42,183 Last Update ep 12, 2012
 Wales Births and Baptisms, 1541-1907 724,797 Last Update Mar 18, 2020

Also,

New Ancestry Records

 Archdeaconry of Richmond, England, Church of England Marriage Bonds, 1611-1861
 Lancashire, England, World War II Home Guard Records, 1940-1945 If you have a subscription this is the link. Just left click on it. <https://www.tinyurl.com/1qsab32u>

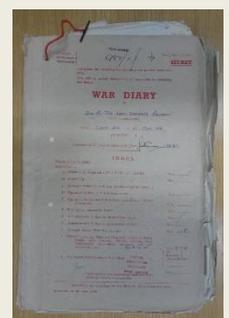
Researching the Lives and Records of WW2 Soldiers?

Second World War Research Service <http://www.researchingww2.co.uk/ww2-research-service/>

This is a private research service run by Robert Clark as an enterprise. He is of course advertising his skills and assistance for remuneration. We cannot comment one way or another re how helpful his service is, but his blog, powered by WordPress does offer some useful databases which could assist others trying to make their own way through the records, and he is willing to access records from The National Archives to assist. Some records of course can be freely obtained online during lockdown.



There are other services as well, and I know a few other BFHS members have used the **British Army War Diary Copying Service** <https://www.facebook.com/British-Army-War-Diary-Copying-Service-209324246138228/> run by Andrew Newson who says "I offer a war diary copying service at the National Archives in London. For just 10p per page I can photograph any complete war diary or file.". Andrew lives in the north of England and had a nice routine of nipping down to the TNA in Kew Gardens, London periodically and quickly accessing any documents requested. This is now not physically possible of course, but he has already accumulated a considerable store of War Diaries of local interest and can advise re what it is possible to do online at the moment. <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-downloads/>



More on Researching Adoption Records

Further to the write up on Dr Penny Walters talk to us last November I have now been advised by others very experienced in this area, and had it impressed on me even more, how delicate, and even fragile research on this subject can be. Anybody venturing into this area for their own interest, or on behalf of someone else, is urged to first look at this website below, and consider the costs and benefits for all.

Descendants of Deceased Adopted Persons Group <http://www.dap.btck.co.uk/>



"If you are just starting out along the road, looking for your adoptive relative's birth details, then welcome, we hope that this site will give you direction, but to the members of DAP who were part of our campaign for much longer, I hope you find strength in the support we give each other and that you are now happily getting answers to the questions about your adopted relatives.

We thought this day would never come!

I was relieved and excited when I was able to report that the Adoption Information and Intermediary Services (Pre-Commencement Adoptions) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 were finally laid down on 15 September 2015 and that they would come into force on 10 November 2015.

This meant that after years of campaigning with support from some very important people, from 10 November 2015 the GRO were at last able to start accepting applications from intermediary agencies, acting on behalf of prescribed people, and release birth information to enable applications to proceed."

I should add that I have also been advised that anyone considering embarking on this journey should first



consult "intermediaries such as their local authority first, adoption services for adults who took over the registers and business of NORCAP now ← PAC-UK <https://www.pac-uk.org/our-services/> who offer support and services such as search and tracing, intermediary, birth record counselling, and access to information from adoption files, if available."

MISCELLANEOUS

Thomas Bonsor Crompton born May 20, 1792, in Farnworth, died September 8th at "The Hassel's," (residence of Thomas De La Rue), Sandy, Bedfordshire. Buried on September 13th



at St. John the Evangelist Church, Parish of Farnworth with Kearsley, Lancashire. →

<http://thomasbonsorcrompton.info/>

← water damaged portrait by David Winder courtesy of Bolton Museum

I wonder how many Boltonians at home and abroad, have ever heard of this amazing son of Farnworth, Bolton, and entrepreneur.

TBC as we shall call him, already owned a well-established family papermaking business, inherited from his father's line: John Crompton b1753 d1807 Farnworth, grandfather Ellis b Great Lever, 1728 d1788 Bolton, great

grandfather Ellis b1691 Ringley, great x 2 grandfather Robert b 1665 Little Lever, and possibly Thomas b1620 of Darcy Lever. The flourishing

Farnworth Mill, as shown in the banner picture, in what is now Moses Gate Country Park, Farnworth, was now threatened by the new French Fourdrinier papermaking process, which could prepare 3 miles of paper in 1 hour, equivalent to 85,700 sheets of A4, (and an example seen here installed in 1803 at Frogmore Paper Mill the site of the world's first continuous working paper machine) →, "These steam driven Fourdrinier machines made possible the Victorian revolution of universal education by producing limitless quantities of cheap paper". <https://tinyurl.com/y6qyun59>

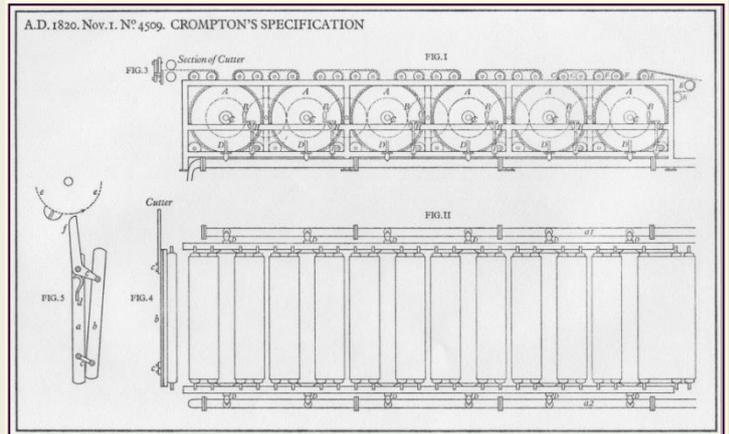
BBC A history of the World. "accessed 28.01.2021.



TBC had had the foresight though, to realise that unless a better mode of drying could be discovered, the new invention would be comparatively worthless, because the machine was water powered and produced wet paper on a bobbin which later had to be hand cut into sheets for drying. Thomas therefore invented the 1820 continuous-drying apparatus. →, which was a simple system of rolling the wet paper over steam heated cylinders, anchored by a textile based conveyor belt.

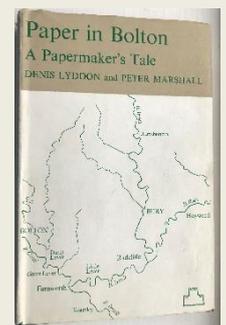
Apparently, this method was already being used for cotton production, but he adapted it for paper making, inventing an improved “conveyor belt” out of hitherto waste cotton products to support the paper as it rolled through the bank of hot metal cylinders.

He did apparently obtain a patent for this number 4509, and then issued licences to other papermakers. His invention was taken up by numerous similar manufacturers and made a fortune for him, but apparently due to the inefficient patenting system of that time, Fourdrinier took the credit for the whole process, rather than Crompton and, “*after several days’ trial at Lancaster he was deprived of the exclusive benefit of this valuable discovery upon a mere technical point in the specification*”. <http://thomasbonsorcrompton.info/>
This is unfortunately reminiscent of another Bolton Crompton’s story, isn’t it!



By 1824 more paper was being made in England by this system than by hand. The complete machinery was installed at Farnworth Mill and sold nationwide. Next in 1828 he invented a rotary cutter with Enoch Taylor, and they are credited with supplying 2% of the nation’s paper at that time. Rapid expansion led to TBC becoming proprietor of the Morning Post, owning extensive cotton manufacturing in Prestolee, and he became a Justice of the Peace, benefactor of Farnworth and landowner in the Scottish highlands.

The definitive book for information re this seems to be “Paper in Bolton, a Papermakers Tale” → written by Denis Lyddon and Peter Marshall in 1975, and in p38 they report there are records of a dispute between himself, and his landlord, the Duke of Bridgewater dated 27th September 1827, which include plans of the building housing his machinery, and show the extent of his development. By the 1880s unfortunately, 22 years after his death, this was all outdated, and the buildings in Moses Gate Country Park left to deteriorate. They were first taken over by Champions Bleachworks, then later the buildings were used for storage but apparently not maintained properly. Maps still show Vale House, the Cromptons home on the riverside, until the late 1940s and local residents do remember the last of the industrial buildings being demolished in the 1970s. Rock Hall, → built by Thomas’ father John in 1807 was, and still is, the last remaining sentinel to remind us of all these times past, and it is itself in a severe state of disrepair.



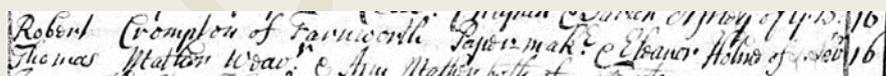
*It could be asked though why so little is known about this Crompton family line which contributed so much, and maybe more to Bolton’s development compared to Samuel Crompton, invention of the spinning mule <http://www.bolton.org.uk/samuclcrompton.html> . His biographer Alexander Romanov-Hughes <http://thomasbonsorcrompton.info/> suggests that “*Thomas used his fortune to buy an interest in a lot of newspapers and seems to have then used his influence to keep his name out of newspaper reports. Most of the information that I found out about him came from his obituary in his main newspaper, the "Morning Post."* This article was then copied in full or in part by a lot of other papers. Certainly, when looking at FindmyPast Newspaper records online I think I

might have found at least 10 if not more identical obituaries to him from newspapers nationwide so presumably syndicated.

***The origins of the Crompton papermakers are also difficult to ascertain.**

Lyddon & Marshall were researching the papermaking industry in the area and have noted dubious reports by past journalists who have suggested the same Crompton line made paper in the area for near 400 years. Detailed research in local Parish Records from churches such as St Peters, St Marys, Bolton, and St Saviours Ringley, plus various wills found at Chester and Lancashire Archives, Hearth Tax records etc, suggests that the Crompton dynasty originates from the township of Crompton <https://tinyurl.com/y673b9q6> and according to Wikipedia the family were mentioned in the Magna Carta. They report the 1967 book by Hargreaves and Ballard "Chronicle of Cromptons" held at Bolton Archives <https://tinyurl.com/y67ghx6g> suggests that the family migrated from the Oldham area through the Parish of Pilkington, via Prestwich, to Little Lever, Breightmet, and Bolton le Moors, long before the 1600s when Parish Records were recording the name. Unfortunately, though well documented, they had very repetitive names through many generations, and varying degrees of prosperity. It is known that papermaking was well established in the Ringley area of Farnworth around 1670 and in Little Lever at Higher (Creams) and Lower mills under the management of James Crompton b about 1641 Little Lever (LL), d 1704 Bolton. <https://tinyurl.com/y3knyfcq>. He had a younger brother Robert, probably born 20 years later, named in and executor of his will which included this property. The church records of that time were of course a little erratic due to the religious upheaval of the Civil War, and it would seem to have been quite possible that Parish Registers and even BMD events were not recorded or even celebrated as incumbents came and went. Records suggest their parents may have been Thomas and Elizabeth of Little Lever.

James and his wife Ellen Clarke's line went on to develop the Creams Mill dynasty in Little Lever, whilst Robert and second wife Eleanor Holmes moved on to Farnworth. On the Ringley PRs the first definite mention I have been able to find of a papermaker in the Crompton line is related to Robert Crompton marriage to Eleanor in St Peters 16th September 1729. His daughter Mary by his first marriage to Hesther Stanton, married John Aspinall though who was a Ringley papermaker in 1722, so it seems likely the trade was the common interest well before then.



Robert is generally acknowledged as the first of the Farnworth papermakers however, probably born 29th March 1665 Little Lever, and died in Darley, Farnworth May 1737. It can only be presumed he learned his trade from the family. There are many versions of the family tree on Ancestry and elsewhere, but it seems this Robert Crompton and his first wife Hesther Stanton who died in Little Lever Feb 8th, 1694 were the 2nd great grandparents of Thomas Bonsar Crompton. Their only son Ellis b 1691 Ringley, married Elizabeth Holt in 1718, in Chester. They moved to Great Lever, and the baptisms of their children all describe their father as a papermaker. The main business seems to have been inherited by their eldest son John born b1753 who consolidated the family wealth and resources by marrying Elizabeth Bonsor. She came from another flourishing papermaking family in Wadsley Bridge Yorkshire and the expansion continued. Sadly, however TBC and his wife Jane Rideout had no children, and the business was passed on to William Rideout their nephew, who moved on elsewhere dying 7 years after TBC. The Farnworth works was closed down in the 1880s as then industry itself declined.

There is obviously much more to tell of the story of the local papermaking industry, and it is hoped the BFHS will be able to be involved more with the research, when the relevant archives reopen. We hope that the current campaign to save Rock Hall is successful and we can use it to help share this information re our local heritage with the public.

THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Lancashire Records

 <http://goo.gl/I29JpL>



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



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



Census Updates

The 1921 census, <https://www.tinyurl.com/t4ba25jf> which was the first to be conducted following the introduction of the Census Act of 1920, will be published in January 2022, and is being managed by Findmypast, in association with the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Taken on 19 June 1921, it consists of more than 28,000 bound volumes of original household returns containing detailed information on close to 38 million individuals.

The 2021 Census <https://www.tinyurl.com/cjq1ec1k> for England and Wales is scheduled to take place on 21 March 2021. The census is delivered for the UK Government and the Welsh Government by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), based on its recommendations published in the December 2018 White Paper ‘Help Shape Our Future’.

On History

News, articles & research from the Institute of Historical Research

British History Online makes all research content free to individual users until 30 April 2021 <https://www.tinyurl.com/ywvduebr> .

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

 **New Manchester Walks** in step with the city.

New Manchester Walks and Ed Glinert,

Trying “to ease the tedium of the lockdown” Ed and his team are now offering. “a huge and varied programme of Zoom tours to open up Manchester history. In fact, we are Zooming beyond Manchester, into Liverpool, London, and the entire country, with talks of local and national interest”. Here are their next Zoom offerings, all bookable here on Eventbrite, varying in price from £8.50p to £10 it seems. I must admit the subjects look rather interesting and as there are no travel costs involved perhaps worth venturing out with them. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/new-manchester-walks-6281660965>

COMING ACTIVITIES FROM OTHER MLFHS BRANCHES

Please note these are all included free to subscribed MLFHS members, £3 to guests.



Saturday, 13th February 2pm – 3,30pm Oldham and District Branch Meeting
“The Life of Annie Kenney” A talk by Carol Talbot

Eventbrite link <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham/events>



Saturday 20th February 2pm – 3.30pm Anglo Scottish FHS – “Tracing the Irish in Scotland” by Chris Paton

Eventbrite Link <https://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots/events>



Saturday, 6th March 2pm -3pm - GMT Using Newspapers in Historical Research Speaker: Denise Bates. Denise is an historian, researcher, and writer. Her specialist period is Britain c.1815-1939, particularly its social and cultural aspects. She will explain how newspapers can help you with your research.

<https://www.tinyurl.com/1d3i6mrz>

And check here for more <https://www.mlfhs.uk/> at the bottom of the page.

**ALL OTHER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES' MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED, BUT SOME LIKE US ARE TRYING TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.
WE ADVISE CHECKING THEIR RESPECTIVE WEBSITES PERIODICALLY FOR UPDATES ON SAME.**



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



Turton Local History Society <https://goo.gl/adx4GM> to check their current status.

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

Meetings are currently being offered by Zoom and currently free. “We are offering these talks as a public service, to provide education and interest in our local community. There is no charge”. This is their next one.

11th February Zoom Meeting “Manchester Crime City” by Joe O’Neill at 7:30pm

To join Zoom Meeting click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81319197759?pwd=TmlWbUxiSE9MNzJqSFNpYXQwMkZvQT09> .

or search for Join Zoom Meeting and enter the following Meeting ID: 813 1919 7759 Passcode: 007348



Horwich Heritage Centre- <http://goo.gl/fSPsij> to check current status.

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