



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> Likes and Following on
- 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 October Edition 89

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



Banner picture dated 1932 is said to show the original Deane Barn School endowed 1615, although further rebuilds apparently took place in 1820 and 1882. Deane Church made a major contribution to the education of Boltonians though. See their website for more details <https://www.deanechurch.co.uk/88/88044.php> and the report on this month's talk on Elementary Education in Victorian Lancashire below p 2.

Hello All.

Well, here we are well into autumn again, which is probably being met with mixed feelings by many. It's my favourite season for its colours and earthy smells, but sadly winter follows.

We know many of you are wondering when physical meetings are to start for BFHS again, and unfortunately this is not easy to manage, with problems on top of the Covid/ flu situation which have caused us to delay until April next year.

We also have the reality check that our alternative programme via Eventbrite and Zoom to our home screens this last year has attracted many members and visitors who could not reach our meetings before, and we do not think it right to abandon them now we have learned inclusion can work so easily. We have all paid the same subscription of course wherever we are.

This means any venue must also have good Wi-Fi so that we can transmit talks from the floor, receive same from distant lecturers and include all members: a technique now known as hybrid, and what many progressive FHS are now trying to offer. The committee are working hard on this.

We are also puzzled as to why many of our local regulars have not used this facility, because we have managed to access some top quality speakers who were previously too far away, and they are now enjoying the ease of meeting their new audiences without leaving their home comforts. A win/ win situation.

It has been commented that some online speech was difficult to follow for those who are hard of hearing, and we hope the new subtitle option used this month has helped these people.

Please do let us know, this is important.

So, this is our calendar to date <https://www.mlfhs.uk/meetings-calendar> and we have ideas for much more.

Please note also that Dr Penny Walters has "tweaked" her content for next month, details below.

IN BOLTON WE CONTINUE TO OFFER MONTHLY ONLINE MEETINGS UNTIL April 2022

Zoomed meetings from other branches are also available and free to all members. Just scroll down the page of this link <https://www.mlfhs.uk/>, and select an event. Visitors are also welcome for a small charge.

- Where?

Any convenient “perch” where you can access the internet and have a suitable appliance to connect up.

- When?

Bolton’s meetings are 7.15pm for 7.30pm and held on the first Wednesday of most months.

- How?

We use Eventbrite so all you need to do is open this page <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events>, select the talk you wish to attend, left click and follow the booking instructions.



More Reasons to Zoom!



Just Listen in - If you would rather not be seen or heard, you can join and be there without sound and video. Your name would show, but you have the option to change what actually shows, so you could be invisible, call yourself Peter Kay, or whatever takes your fancy, and just listen in to all the discussion!

It is also possible to send a text message to everyone (or just one selected person), so that, should you need to ask a question, or make a comment, without being seen or heard, you can click on the (green) ‘Chat’ button and your message will be seen and you may receive a few replies

RECENT AND COMING ZOOMED MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Wednesday 6th October 19:30pm –Bolton FHS Meeting “The schooldays of our Lancashire ancestors in the nineteenth century” by David Tilsley

David is an archivist at Lancashire Archives, Lancashire County Council's archive service, where he has worked for 14 years. This picture is from happier times at the Old Links Golf Club in 2018, when he last visited us, talking about Manorial records.

He opened this Zoom talk by explaining he would look *at sources that tell us about the schooldays of our Lancashire ancestors in the nineteenth century, discuss who went to school, and explain how elementary education developed, and then suggest which sources might contain information about individuals?*"

The availability of education up to the 1830s before the state system was introduced, if schools existed at all, was mainly from three sources:- either an

- “endowment system” funded by benefactors for the needy,
- a private system where children were funded by their family and usually taught in “Dame schools” run largely by enterprising governesses or exclusive independent schools,
- religious based societies

In the early 1800s there was a growing awareness of the need for some basic level of education and literacy for the masses, perhaps starting with the children with the 1802 Education Act <https://tinyurl.com/wnb6ztznz>. At the same time there was a fearfulness of what these new abilities might awake in reference to social reforms. Costing was also an issue, and some parents objected to the expected token charge plus losing their children’s earnings for the sake of “unnecessary” skills. After one refusal of funding however in 1823 by Robert Peel the then Home Secretary, a government grant for elementary education of £20,000 was granted in 1833, and in 1836 the first state funded system was introduced, with a nominal contribution of maybe a penny a week expected. There had been a reality check though of the importance of cheap child



labour to the economy, and the 1833 and later 1844 Factories Acts <https://tinyurl.com/3nsd25jt> were still trying to introduce some control of the exploitation of youngsters in industry. This had cascaded a little to the introduction of a minimum amount of legislated protected time for basic education within their 12 hour working day. The mill owners were resisting this, and after much Parliamentary debate it was decided that regular school inspections were necessary to monitor progress, using the model of the Factory Inspectors. The term “short timers” (the under 13s who with the Factory Acts were only allowed to work approx 8 hours a day plus up to 4 hours schooling, and “half timers” became the norm, depending on how busy the local industry was. In the 1840s state education with some funding was introduced to try to break the religious monopoly on the control of education. The church led schools could continue with state funding if they agreed to accept School Inspectors, and the principle of a National Norm, and conformity in subjects taught and standards met. It took several years to negotiate this though, and it seems a compromise was reached that the churches nominated the inspectors, who were usually their own clerics.

Sources for research of this period include plans of newly designed schools, pictures, inspection reports, logbooks, punishment books, admission books, and oral histories, all to be found in most local archives, and here David gave many examples from those in the Lancashire Archives which he has kindly allowed us to post in our Bolton Members section. <https://tinyurl.com/4ypfhuw4>



*Christ Church Colne, consecrated June 1836
— School opened Jan^y 1841. —*

He showed the plans of Christ Church School, a new elementary education school, built in Colne in 1841 which he knows well, said to be typical of the time <https://tinyurl.com/26f96hjm>, and which has recently celebrated its 175th anniversary. It was evident that girls and boys were segregated from when they entered through their separate front doors onwards. Despite sharing the same classroom there was a dividing 6 foot high partition, the master was seated in view of all at the front, and the pupils were seated in small groups, each supervised by an older “pupil” or “monitor”, who knew the format of the lesson and supported their allocated infants. It was suggested the boys were too disruptive to seat next to the girls.

Some smaller schools might have a range of 3 to 13 year olds all in the same classroom, and it was estimated the average period of school attendance from the age of 5 to 12 years of age was just over 6 years for about 1 in 30 attenders. The main expectations were that they learn the three Rs of Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, and many parents resented their offspring losing paid work for even this minimum education. Some schools added more subjects or vocational skills if they had suitable staff and interest.

The Inspector allocated to monitor virtually the whole of the north of England was a certain Rev Frederick Watkins and his report of 1844 -1846 can be seen here <https://tinyurl.com/uhbe4zxh> p176 to 204. Schools from Bolton, Deane, Farnworth, Kearsley and Westhoughton are included, (also available on our website), and I think you will agree his comments are very perceptive and enlightening for the period. It seems he gave a whirlwind “OFSTED” inspection as we would call it these days examining the condition and maintenance of the school buildings, as well as teaching qualifications and abilities of the staff. (Apparently some had none). (Editor’s Note -Interesting here to note the reference to Emmanuel School Bolton p 186, where on August 30th, 1846, it is commented that the Rev J Slade has been running his successful school for at least 29 years, and also the Deane Church website <https://www.deanechurch.co.uk/88/88044.php> elaborates extensively about the history of schools in and around Bolton). Watkins was quite despondent about the indifference of the parents though and commented “an ignorant generation does not beget a learned one.” More problems included that many families moved area every year with their parents jobs, so there was no continuation, and another the worrying ratio of 67 pupils to each qualified teacher.

Recognising that there were evidently many inadequacies, elementary education for the working class was reviewed by the Royal Commission on the State of Popular Education in England, under the chairmanship of the Duke of Newcastle in 1858, and in 1861 the Newcastle report was published with numerous

recommendations <https://tinyurl.com/4u3m6esd> leading to the 1862 Revised Code for the education of “ the classes who support themselves by manual labour”, i.e. working class children. <https://tinyurl.com/p89wxy7e> (Later a Royal Commission on the Public Schools, and Schools Inquiry Commission, for middle classes were published).

A Logbook system was introduced to record specified daily events, such as registers of attendances, punishments, and other activities. The Inspector could ask to see this at each visit, and today's researchers can read this, much as a “snapshot” of the time. Standards of six levels of achievement were set for each skill and checked, and many of these records are now available on Findmypast in the National Schools Admissions registers and logbook database 1870- 1914. <https://tinyurl.com/trnhn9ds> . Punishment books helpfully offer names, which may assist family research 😊, and more recently some oral histories have been recorded giving personalised memories , and saved in local archives.

David has been good enough to offer his slides from his presentation for our members website and also notes re his references etc. We have since also been able to find references to Bolton schools from the Watkins report which will also be available here <https://tinyurl.com/5ahbkk9> . We thank him for a most interesting talk.

Some might also enjoy this free online book written by former Bolton School Girls' Division teacher Veronica Millington about their Victorian headmistress Fanny Eliza Johnson. This is now freely available to view online as a flip-book or to download as a PDF. “Fanny Eliza Johnson: A Thoroughly Modern Victorian Headmistress” <https://tinyurl.com/ta456xkw> . OK this will not probably reflect on the average Boltonian or even Lancastrian school experience, but it does give some insight into the day to day life of the more fortunate children and their teachers, and maybe it will help us to appreciate the differences for the less fortunate. It was our very own Bolton FHS member Linda Frew (Senior Librarian at the time of publication) , who spotted Miss Johnson's logbook in the School Archives, and she later wrote the foreword, commenting , “so much was familiar: the petty squabbles between pupils, complaints of too much homework, parents taking children on holidays during the school term - not to mention the odd flashes of exasperation and wry humour from the Headmistress.” . Well, done Linda. I suspect this “rings a lot of bells” for a lot of us.

Saturday 23rd October 2021. Registration is now open for our 13th

Scottish Indexes Conference For those of you with Scottish ancestry this organization <https://www.scottishindexes.com/default.aspx> might be very helpful. Scottish Indexes is a family run genealogical business based in central Scotland. Graham first set up Maxwell Ancestry in 1996, then in 2001 his wife Emma joined the team. As far back as 2001 Graham and Emma were indexing records so that you could trace your Scottish family tree from anywhere in the world. As well as collecting a good database Graham and Emma Maxwell have been offering regular conferences with good quality speakers for some time now. It is free to use but donations are invited, and this is the programme for their next event.

<https://www.scottishindexes.com/pdf/handout12.pdf> . Click here to register <https://tinyurl.com/58kr7dd4> They tell us “Our conferences are completely free, and we don't even have a recommended donation. If you want to learn about Scottish genealogy, we want you to attend”



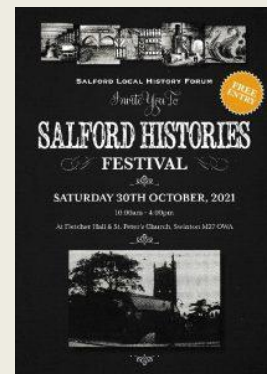
Don't forget however the MLFHS also has its “in house” Anglo Scots branch , with its own help desk, but if you would like to attend a few extra and informative talks, maybe this is worth considering.

Saturday 30th October, the Salford Local History Forum are holding a history festival.

This will take place at Fletcher Hall and St Peter's Church, Swinton. We are told there will be over 30 history stalls, five talks from invited speakers on a range of local interests, and a quiz for children. St Peter's Church will host the premiere of 'The Bridgewater Waltz', a display by St Peter's Primary School, and guided tours of the building. Other highlights include a mobile exhibition of memorabilia, a vintage bus and a heritage trail.

Entry to the festival is free. Parking is available at the council car park at the corner of Vicarage Road and Partington Lane. Click here for more details

<https://salfordforum.uk/histories-festival/>



Wednesday, 3rd November 2021 19:30 – 20:30pm

Bolton FHS Meeting – “Researching Welsh Ancestors”

This next month we see the welcome return of Dr. Penny Walters who was our first Zoomed speaker a year ago this month. Penny has been a University lecturer for 30 years in Psychology and Business Studies, and she tells us her interest in genealogy started after having her first child and then wondering about her biological parents, as she was adopted. Penny was brought up with Welsh parents, and DNA testing has revealed solely Welsh and Irish ethnicities, and fascinating insights into her children's heritage.



Penny has told us that although she at first had only prepared one talk about Welsh research she has since upgraded to two aspects, one for the USA market looking at why the Welsh left Wales, and another for the UK looking in more detail at British resources.

'This session will start with a historical overview of life in Wales, looking at maps, counties, 1720 and 1833 gazetteer descriptions, the Welsh language, traditional dress, Welsh dragon and patron saint. We will look at the steady heavy industrialisation of the beautiful rural countryside, into coal mining and Merthyr Tydfil specifically. Emigration posters of the 1840s reveal the call to build a new and better life abroad. The crucial role of DNA testing with specified regions and surname distribution will be revealed, as will language, translation tools and scripts. Censuses in Welsh will be analysed and compared to English language censuses. A variety of resources and research strategies will be given to aid looking for ancestors and relatives in Wales. The feeling of connectedness, diaspora and homelands will be explored.

www.searchmypast.co.uk



We are in for a treat here, and we are promised detailed notes for members and those who attend.

Book via Eventbrite <https://tinyurl.com/8fuy5fw5>.

NB This September FHF newsletter

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/> also has some very useful tips for Welsh research “Welsh Family History: Top tips for a successful search” by Eilir Ann Daniels but you will need to subscribe to their newsletter first which is free.

GENIE'S TIPS for NOVEMBER

Helpdesks

The Manchester Helpdesk is now Open



Our knowledgeable and experienced Helpdesk volunteers help people from all over the world – members and non-members – to begin or expand their family histories, whether their ancestors originated from the Greater Manchester area or elsewhere. The Helpdesk has reopened, and sessions will be running Monday - Friday as usual. However, we will be operating restricted sessions hours 11.00 - 2:30 until December.

CLICK <https://www.mlfhs.uk/virtual-help-desk-landing> to find out more.

Don't forget **Bolton FHS** also has its own Helpline at Boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk free to all. →



Findmypast. It is now easier to search British Census Records to find addresses.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/search-address>



Find a will <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills> Wills and Probate 1996 to present, Wills and Probate 1858 – 1996, Soldier's Wills.

This is still only a beta version but at £1.50 a time I have just belatedly ordered three



Online Parish Clerks https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Online_Parish_Clerks

A helpful explanation of the OPC system by FamilySearch.org, (which have been rapidly expanding their own service and are always worth a casual explore), and they provide a history of how the OPCs were created and the counties now involved.

"Online Parish Clerks (also referred to as OPC) is a collection of volunteer groups that seek to transcribe genealogical information in English counties. Each county has its own group, which transcribes the parish records (and occasionally other genealogical records) from the different parishes in the county.

Many, but not all, of the counties in England have their own "Online Parish Clerks" group. Individual parishes or regions may also have an OPC group. These can either be found on their individual websites, the county OPC websites, or on UKBMD.

https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/online_parish_clerk ---"



This site has apparently been operating since 2013 but I only recently discovered it. It seems to be very easy to follow, with plenty of help offering good resources. These are just some of the subtitles but there are loads more, and definitely worth a browse if you have Methodist ancestry.

Researching Methodist History , Resources to help with your research into the history of Methodism

Researching Family History , Where to find documents relating to your Methodist ancestors. It seems they even have Heritage sites nearby which might both provide interesting visits for days out:-

in Manchester at George Street Chapel , Methodist Archives and Research Centre, although by the website it seems they are now in the

- John Rylands Museum <http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk/methodistarchives.htm>
- And Fitzpatrick's 1890 Britain's Last Original Temperance bar at 5 Bank Street, Rawtenstall, Rossendale, BB4 6QS Preston → <http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk/fitzpatricks.htm>



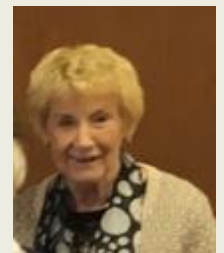
MEMBERS COMMENTS, QUERIES, and MEMORIES)

We have been hearing some fascinating memories recently of one of our more senior members , Frances Barlow, who is nearing 90 years of age. She still attends and actively participates in Rita Greenwoods family history classes We knew she had spent a lot of time in hospital as a child in the 1940s, and also run a post office at one point but little more . At last, during the Covid lockdown, she agreed to try to write some of her reminiscences down, and here is the first of two instalments .

This is My Life So Far by Frances Barlow

I was born at our home 12, St. Mark's View, Bolton on 13th January 1933, the day before my sister Edith's 10th birthday. My parents named me Frances. They were Edith May and Daniel McGregor. The house we lived in belonged to James Marsden's Mill where my father was a turbine engineer.

I was a happy child and well looked after by my sister. She took me out every day. Every Sunday my dad would take us both to see our grandparents then we would go on a tram ride to the Jumbles – our regular Sunday venture. The mill closed for two weeks for Bolton Holidays, so we all went to Blackpool and stayed with a nice lady called Mrs. Ball. At Christmas Dad always took us to the fair.



When I was seven years old and soon after war was declared, my father died suddenly on 30th November 1941 aged thirty-nine. That day I have never forgotten. Mum had not worked before, but now had to find a job. She was a good cook so got a place in the mill canteen as head cook. We had a lot to put up with during the war, everything was rationed, and we had to go to school with gas masks round our necks. There were dark blinds at the windows and when we heard the sirens, we had to go to the air raid shelter in the mill yard. We had a real scare one time, a bomb dropped a few streets away and our house shook, we were terrified but got through it. We had to put up with all this until 1946, not knowing how things would be in the years to come.



When I was 11 years old in 1944, my friend and I used to go to the park and watched the older boys playing "sprint on the log" as we called it. They would jump off the log and catch the bar above it, so as I was a tomboy, I had a try, jumped off, missed the bar and fell in a heap on the ground. I hobbled home but I was

in a lot of pain. I started to limp, and my mum was asked why, so she took me to the school clinic. They sent me to Bolton Infirmary for Xray's, which showed my hip had slipped out of its socket.

I was too young to stay in the Infirmary so ended up in Marple Children's Orthopaedic Hospital, (Editor - about twenty-five miles away on the other side of Manchester. Picture courtesy of A Virtual History Tour of Marple and District <https://tinyurl.com/sxb4azds>), and visitors were only allowed once a month. I was put on a tipped-up bed with my legs tied to the bed, where I lay flat for five months. The nurses would wheel our beds out on the veranda every day and we had a bit of schooling – a lot of nature study, no maths but some English. One day a specialist came and said I could go in a plaster cast from above my waist to my ankle down my right leg. I was able to walk around with it on for another five months and another month to see if everything was well. Thus, after nearly a year I was allowed home, just in time for me to be a bridesmaid for my sister. Her husband was in the army and had been wounded so was on sick leave. He was a wonderful brother-in-law.



A week after the wedding I was invited to a bring-and-buy sale organised by the Girl Guides. As I had been a patrol leader, I was glad to go. I was walking perfectly by this time so joined in the games and musical mats. I went round a couple of times, tripped over the mat and ended up back in Marple for another 12 months. After all the treatment, I just had one year left at school. I was then 14 years old and had to find a job. I hoped to become a nurse but did not have any qualifications, so I got a job at Grimshaw's facing the Odeon Cinema, sewing shirts and pit drawers – I was not particularly happy there. When I was sixteen, a friend said they wanted cadet nurses for training, so I went for it and got a place at Hulton Lane Fever Hospital and loved it. My sister and her husband were living with his parents at this stage, and they came to tell me she was having a baby, so I was very excited. Baby Christine was born 8th May 1947 and we have always been close, even to this day.

Time has gone by; I am nearly 18 years old and working days at the Hospital but was told I would have to do nights when I was eighteen. My mum had not been well, so my sister looked after her during the day but not at night, so I looked for another job nearer to home. I got a job at the mill, and they allowed me out whenever mum needed me. She had a stroke soon afterwards. She was taken to Bolton General Hospital very poorly and passed away on 23rd April 1952 aged fifty-three. I was now on my own, so I got a job at a private nursing home, and it was just what I wanted. However, I was told I had to vacate our home as it was now privately owned i.e., not by the mill. My mother had been accepted as a sitting tenant after my dad died but I was too young to take over the rental. My sister said I could go to live with them in the Tonge Moor area, so I moved to Pole Street with my sister, brother-in-law and niece. On the 6th of December 1952 my twin nephews Malcolm and Maurice were born just in time for Christmas. I was in my element helping with the boys, my sister found it difficult at feeding time with them both, so I bathed, fed and dressed one whilst she dealt with the other. I used to then take them out to the park to get them to sleep and if I was on nights I would then go to bed for a few hours.

A few months later, I had a few harsh words with my sister, and she told me to find somewhere else to live so I walked out, and fortunately met a friend whose mother allowed me to stay with them. It was almost Bolton holidays, and I had a fortnight off work, so my friend and I went out for the day, had lunch in the Odeon, then went on a bus to the Black Dog Pub in Belmont, as my friend said we'd get an evening meal there. My future husband Bill was a butcher but was helping his boss out working on the bar at the pub. We got chatting and missed the bus back to Bolton, so Bill offered to take us home.

He introduced himself and chatted all the way back to Bolton. He said he was having a break himself and asked if we would like to go with him the next night. A friend of his had a place in Little Lever called the Nob Inn at Nob End so we accepted his invitation and had a very enjoyable meal and evening. (The Nob Inn today now a Cattery→) On returning home, Bill asked me if I would go out with him, so I said yes. My friend was happy and encouraged me. At the same time, my sister got back in touch after several months. She had heard where I was and what had happened and suggested I move to our Uncle Tom's house in Clarence Street, Bolton. It suited Bill as he passed the house every day going to work and it suited me, as it was nearer the nursing home. More from Frances next month.



THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

"Plans to turn historic St James Church, New Bury, into after school club"

By Joe Harrigan Joel Harrigan

News Reporter 8th October <https://tinyurl.com/mvf9x2ht>

Well, I suppose the good news is they don't plan to pull the building down, and it will be retained for community activities.



Lancashire Records

UK BMD Summary

<http://goo.gl/l29JpL>



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



September 21st ,2021 FamilySearch Completes Digitization of Massive Microfilm Collection Effort makes billions of historical genealogy records freely available online

<https://tinyurl.com/4dkar2cv>

"This is a milestone 83 years in the making. Today FamilySearch International announced the completion of a massive project to digitize its collection of millions of rolls of microfilm containing billions of family history records from around the world. The archive containing information on more than 11.5 billion individuals is now freely available to the public on <https://www.familysearch.org/en/> " ---"

"It's a game-changer for everybody in the world. So, instead of having to come to the library, people can start accessing these records from home," said Becky Adamson, a research consultant at the FamilySearch Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah." Rosemary Collin reports in the WDYTYR magazine September 21, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/6ppdcs52> "In 1938 FamilySearch, then known as the Genealogical Society of Utah, began microfilming family history records, including birth, death, marriage, census, immigration and military service records.

The collection eventually grew to more than 2.4 million rolls. FamilySearch began digitising the records in 1998. The project was originally expected to take 50 years to complete, but advances in technology have shortened the timespan by 30 years.



Now, the entire collection, consisting of records of 11.5 billion individuals from over 200 countries and principalities, has been digitised and can be viewed online.

It doesn't seem that long ago, maybe 5 years or so, that we were hearing that there were still something like 95% records secreted deep in the vaults of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Utah mountains. This is an amazing accomplishment.



Family History Research Survey <https://tinyurl.com/jss8s74>

We are invited to ask you to take part in a survey which has been commissioned by the Family History Federation, Free UK Genealogy and The Society of Genealogists. The purpose of the survey is to gain a better understanding of the Family History research space in terms of scale, activity and value.

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES



"See Manchester through the eyes of your ancestors with new collection of fascinating archive photos" Images span two centuries from 1860 to 1970 and capture everyday life across the city region" By Paul Britton 26th SEP 2021

<https://tinyurl.com/kdp4wbmb>

"A new collection of archive photographs reveals a fascinating glimpse into Manchester's proud past. Steeped in history, the online compilation spans two centuries from 1860 to 1970, and captures everyday life across the city region---".

"The Parish Registers of England" from The Antiquary's books <https://tinyurl.com/buz3dyw> General editor J Charles Cox LL.D., F.S.A. First Published in 1910. Digitised by the Internet Archive in 2007.

I came across this book quite by accident on a Facebook page but Wow! I can't claim to have read it all yet, but the preface tells us it took 50 years to research, so started in 1860. *"The object of this laborious work is to provide those who have reason to consult parish registers with an easy and reliable guide as to the period covered by each of them, and also with information as to their having been printed, if such has been the case. It is only those who have had occasion to consult such registers who are aware how common are the blunders as to their dates in the usual local works of reference."*

In these days of digital records and information to hand I have found it quite humbling trying to appreciate this basic research without our normal tools. Cox even suggests (Preface p9) there were some earlier PRs made Tipton, 1513, and Altham, 1518 before the generally accepted date of 1538 when Thomas Cromwell → first ordered them to be kept. He also comments on the *"advisability or methods of changing the custody of the parish registers in these pages, but no one can be more impressed than myself with the culpable care- lessness shown, and continued to be shown, by a minority of the beneficed clergy as to their safe keeping"*, and mentions some he knows have been lost since he started his research. Written of course long before WW2 and the threat of invasion and occupation by foreign forces initiated a safe archive system in England. He writes in despair about

"In three instances, early registers from which I took various extracts within the last thirty years have hopelessly disappeared. The large number of registers lost since the Blue Book of 1833 is discussed with some detail in the last chapter. As to Bishops' Transcripts, no words can be too strong as to the scandal of their condition. Mr. Waters' statement of 1882 is amply warranted: 'They present a lamentable picture of episcopal negligence, parochial parsimony, and official rapacity.' It would be useful if some genealogist would undertake a systematic work on their often pitiful remains.---"



This book takes us back over one hundred years and shows how much we have moved on since then, but I have nothing but admiration for his depiction of what it was like to try genealogy research then and the information he has collected. How sad he never saw the new awareness and conservation methods to come.



Nonconformist family history: The best websites September 21, 2021,

<https://tinyurl.com/eyrcha46>

Quite a useful updated list here by Jonathan Scott recommending websites to help you get to grips with nonconformist research



Search Funeral Notices, <https://tinyurl.com/rycf5ym2>

Deaths, Obituaries & Memoriams The No.1 site across the UK for funeral notices, where you can search over 4,880,012 notices. I have had this site recommended. Let us know what you think.



COMING ACTIVITIES FROM OTHER MLFHS BRANCHES

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



Manchester branch <https://www.mlfhs.uk/manchester/events>

Wednesday 20th October 19:00 Famous Mancunians Who is your favourite Mancunian?

Jean Bailo Blue Badge Tourist Guide of Manchester and the Northwest.

<https://tinyurl.com/uctvwebu>

Wednesday 27th October 19:30pm The Two Irish Wives of Friedrich Engels: Dr. Aidan Beatty The life of Engels and his two wives, find more about them. <https://tinyurl.com/49v5tv68>



Oldham and District Branch <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>

Saturday 9th October, at 2pm – 3,30pm oldham_webmaster@mlfhs.org.uk 'The Amazing Mary Higgs ...

Student, Pioneer, Wife and Mother; Undercover Tramp and Social Reformer.' Mary came to

Oldham on her marriage, living and working here for the rest of her life. An illustrated talk given by Carol Talbot, author of the above book. Tickets can be obtained online via <https://tinyurl.com/usxvxpmdb>



Anglo Scottish Branch <https://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots>

Saturday, 16th October 2pm – 4.30pm Ancestral Breakthroughs Members will talk about ancestral breakthroughs that have added another twig to their Ancestral Tree.

ALL OTHER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES' MEETINGS ARE NOW TRYING TO ADAPT TO THE NEW CONDITIONS AND GUIDELINES.

WE ADVISE CHECKING THEIR RESPECTIVE WEBSITES PERIODICALLY FOR UPDATES ON SAME.



Halliwell Local History Society <http://goo.gl/8erYyr> Email enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk

Firstly, we must share the sad news that HLHS recently announced the loss of their matriarch and driving force, Margaret Koppens. I am sure we all remember how much she knew about her beloved Halliwell and area, and she was so involved in local research for so long. She is shown here in 2017 receiving her winners certificate for the Inspiring Women Award recognised the achievement of women, in all walks of life, from the law to the voluntary sector. She certainly did all that and much more, and I am sure that she would be pleased to know how well HLHS is carrying on her legacy and marching on.



Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, at St Luke's Church, Chorley Old Road, BL1 3BE opposite Shepherd Cross St, Bolton. Please note normal physical meetings have been resumed here and the next one will be

26th October 7.30pm 'Manchester's Lost District' – Once a historic and commercial heart now covered by the Arndale Centre. Keith Warrender.



Turton Local History Society <https://goo.gl/adx4GM> or Email turton.lhs@gmail.com

27th October "Bolton in the Past and the Plans for Redevelopment" by David Lloyd .at Longsight Church Centre, Harwood BL2 3HX beginning at 7.30pm.

They are now restarting physical meetings and please check their website for details. They also tell us "We have just restocked the Last Drop Gallery with the full range of our books ready for Christmas, including reprints of those that had sold out: Eagley Brook, Lost Industries of Turton Moor, Harwood Hill Farms & Riding Gate and Turton through the Ages. The Last Drop Gallery. Gift and Toy Shop



Westhoughton Local History Group – <http://goo.gl/XNugl5> email howfenhistory@gmail.com

Thursday 14th October Zoom 7.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting – click this link to join the meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86039749881?pwd=ZW10ODJvYkERSNERNdmVGNEQxM2tsdz09>

or Google "join Zoom meeting" and enter these numbers:

Meeting ID: 860 3974 9881 Passcode: WLHG2T

Thursday 21st October. 10:30am, Live Meeting in the Library, "Nice to see you, Welcome Back!" -

This is a chance for all of us to meet up again and see how things are going to work out. Please note this is only scheduled for an hour and we are NOT able to serve REFRESHMENTS. You are welcome to bring your own water and biscuits.



Horwich Heritage Centre- <http://goo.gl/fSPsij> email: kathleen.arkwright@ntlworld.com

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm at the Horwich Resource Centre, Beaumont Road (off Longworth Road), Horwich BL6 7BG. Meetings are provisional and will be subject to the latest coronavirus advice

9th November Tuesday 7.30pm 2021 The Industrial History of Winter Hill - Alan Crosby

Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am --- 1pm