



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 us at
- Bolton Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 960 Likes and 1069 people following on Facebook
- 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> .

September 2022 Edition 100

The Flag at Half Mast on Bolton Town Hall Following the Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

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

Welcome to the 100th edition of the Bolton Genie. Our editor Jane Milne is currently indisposed with illness, and I have taken over the editorship of this copy. We wish Jane a speedy recovery from her operation. This version of the Bolton Genie is the 100th edition and it is a tribute to Jane that month by month since the first edition, she has been able to produce a very readable and informative newsletter. My thanks go to Helen Pitt, in Canada, who has written the report on A Grandmothers Legacy: my family history by Jenny Mallin. Unfortunately, the day after we had watched this excellent talk we learnt of the death of the Queen. Here at Bolton Family History Society along with everyone else we were deeply saddened by the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II; our sympathies are with her family. God Save the King.

The absence of Jane from our committee at the moment, emphasises the problems that a small committee has, and we would welcome some members to come forward and join the committee. We are a friendly bunch and hold 3 or 4

committee meetings a year. If you are interested in family history and wish to help the Society, please contact myself or the secretary Christine Ellis.

David Baker
Chairman

BFHS's MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE
BOTH LIVE AND ONLINE

Our live talks in the room are held at our new venue,
Bolton Golf Club, Chorley New Road, BL6 4AJ.

This is the link to get there from any local address by
private or public transport.

<https://www.boltongolfclub.co.uk/contact/how-to-find-us/>



The talks will also be zoomed from there, and usually given by a visiting speaker.

Just occasionally though we will be taking advantage of modern technology and welcoming a speaker who is not actually on our premises but speaking from elsewhere.

This will happen when speakers, who are **known** to be top quality in their area of expertise. are based some distance away and enough to make commuting complicated and expensive. We will instead be seeing them on the screen in our meeting room, as well as streaming the same screen to our Zoomers.

The usual facilities will still be available in the room, and we will, therefore, hopefully have the

best of all worlds.

Meetings from other branches of the MLFHS remain available, some live, some Zoomed, some hybrid, 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.

BOOKING

LIVE IN THE ROOM -We have now moved on re the post pandemic precautions. Whilst being fully aware that we are not yet Covid free and must continue with sensible lifestyles, life does have to go on doesn't it. Your committee decided that from August we will no longer be asking for folk to pre book online for our live meetings. Just come, and we will

- simply ask you to give your names and membership numbers in at the desk, and for
- guests to give names and pay £3 entrance fees as normal.

BUT remember we have limited seating, and we may have to close the doors if it does get too full.

ZOOM- We hope to be providing reliable streaming now, and Eventbrite bookings need to be continued. ALL ZOOM TALKS ARE STILL TO BE BOOKED VIA EVENTBRITE TO FACILITATE SAFE CONTROL OF NUMBERS IN THE ROOM. YOU WILL SEE A LINK TO BOOK on this page, <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events>

select the talk you wish to attend, left click and follow the booking instructions.

- Bolton's meeting room opens at 7pm for a 7.30pm start on the first Wednesday of most months. Zoomers from home can sign in from 7.15pm

A Grandmothers Legacy: my family history by Jenny Mallin .

This month's meeting of the Bolton Family History Society featured a talk by Jenny Mallin, author of the award-winning cookbook and memoir, "A Grandmother's Legacy".

Five generations of Jenny's family lived in India under the British Raj and the changes in their lives from generation to generation mirror the changes in the Raj and in India itself. The story begins with Benjamin Hardy, a clothier born in 1775 in Yorkshire. A clothier was involved in the manufacture and marketing of cloth, in this case, wool. His life would have involved long hours with travel to the cloth market, Leeds. It seems to be a steady kind of work, and in 1795 he married Frances Sheard. In 1798, however, he joined the 84th Regiment and sailed with his regiment to India. After a long and interesting voyage, he arrived and was garrisoned at Fort St George, in Madras (now Chennai) on India's south-east coast. In India at this time, the British influence was expanding, and the army of the East India Company conducted the siege of Bangalore, a Muslim stronghold and captured it after a 6-week siege. In 1819, Benjamin finally returned to England, having retired from the Army due to health problems and convinced his wife to move back to India with him. They settled in Mysore in a cantonment town, where Frances would have had the company of other Anglo-Indian wives, and in 1821 their son Joseph was born. Jenny noted that this move would have been a huge change for Frances, going from ordinary UK life to running a household with servants in a different country.

John Sausman was born in 1801 to an army father and was enlisted at the age of 6 as a drummer boy in his father's regiment. They were both present at the French battle against Napoleon in 1809. He ended his military career as a wind instrument player and appears to have also settled in India, where his daughter Wilhelmina was born in 1828. Meanwhile the Mysore Kingdom, including Bangalore had been handed back its ruler as a princely state, a semi-independent entity under the British crown.

Joseph and Wilhelmina married in 1844, and Joseph, chose to become a teacher in Mysore in 1833, ending up as a schoolmaster for the children of the Raja of Mysore by 1855. Wilhelmina was the originator of the cookbook that inspired Jenny's research into her family's history. Of eight children, only three daughters survived, one of whom, Ophelia was Jenny's great great grandmother.

In 1857, there was an uprising against the rule of the British East India company against harsh land taxes, treatment of landowners and Indian life and imposition of British style reforms. It began with a mutiny of ethnic Indian troops and spread throughout central India and was eventually put down. This signalled the end of the East India Company's sovereignty but did mark the beginnings of an organized independence movement.

Ophelia was brought up in Mylapore, a suburb of Madras and would have benefited from some of the changes which came about after the British took control from the east India Company. The railway network was expanded, and roads were built as well as a telephone and telegraph network. Ophelia married William Haslam, a Permanent Way inspector in 1874. This was a post responsible for inspecting and maintaining the railway, a challenging job in the Indian climate, where monsoons could wash out the track overnight. They settled in a suburb of Madras.

By 1880, India had created a railway network covering over 9,000 miles with hubs in Bombay (modern day Mumbai), Madras and Calcutta and carrying raw materials such as tea, indigo, coffee and cotton to ports and manufactured goods back again.

Daniel Shandley, Jenny's maternal great grandfather, was born in 1885, and married Maud, Ophelia's daughter, in 1896. Like Maud's father he had a railway career and also became a Permanent Way Inspector, with a good salary, a country house, and his own railway carriage. This enabled the family to travel in comfort. At about this point, Jenny's family in India seems to have made a conscious decision not to marry outside the family; three of Maud's four children married their first cousins. They settled in Bangalore.

Irene, Maud's daughter married her cousin, Herbert Jeffries. He was a prison warden at a penal colony for political prisoners in the Andaman Islands where his brother-in-law Patrick Delaney was the head jailer. They started their marriage living at the prison complex. His career seems to have taken the couple all over India, including to what is now Pakistan where Jenny's grandmother was governess to young Benazir Bhutto. They eventually settled in Bangalore.

Jenny's paternal, Grandfather Gerald Donnelly, born 1887, was an engine driver from a three-generation railway family who lived in a railway bungalow. This was an important position as engine drivers were in responsible for many lives. He evidently had a gift for languages and was able to communicate in many Indian languages. Her father Horace attended boarding school in Britain, like many Anglo-Indian children and joined the navy in 1944. He met her mother at a dance at the Bombay Yacht club.

While in the navy, Horace witnessed a huge uprising of 20,000 sailors over pay and working conditions which was soon supported by 300,000 striking workers. This seems to have signaled the beginning of the end for the British presence in India and in 1947, India gained independence. Jenny's parents moved back to Britain after Partition, in 1953.

The history of Jenny's family from military to education to administration and back to military experience mirrors the wider history taking place there. She credits the discovery of a cookbook begun by Wilhelmina and added to by four other grandmothers for her research and her book. She was also fortunate to inherit a huge trove of family photos (with subjects identified!).

Thank you, Helen, for this very helpful write up.

COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3RD 2022 7.30PM

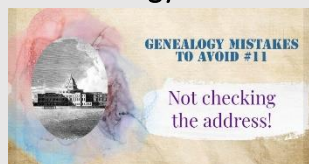
Exploring Family History - A beginner's guide. A ZOOM meeting

This talk is suitable for newcomers or those who like to research online and has a distinct Lancashire theme. Using family information as a starting point I use my family as a case study to show how researchers can use census records, parish records, and to add colour to resources at the Lancashire Archives their family story. A second case study from one of my research commissions demonstrates how people with connections to the Leeds Liverpool canal boat families can explore their ancestry. After a quick browse through the boat family's website ODFHS Boat Families a number of people on there were born in Bolton, Farnworth, Little Lever etc and at least one had parents from Cheshire and a boating/watermen connection going back 3 generations. Much more to explore.

GENIE'S TIPS for September 2022

Courtesy of Scotland's People <https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes>

11 Genealogy mistakes to avoid Not checking the address

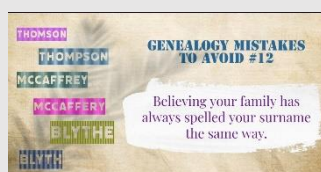


When a person dies in an institution, such as a hospital or a poorhouse, the institution is not always named, rather the street address is given. In Glasgow, if you see '133 Balornock Road' that's Stobhill Hospital. Always have a quick google of the address on a death certificate.

If the person died in an institution, you could be able to find more records. It's worth following it through to see what else you can discover.

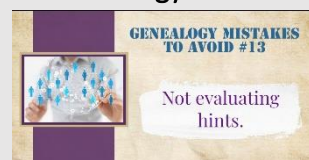
<https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes/photos/a.591347074300439/4795598967208541/?type=3>

12 Genealogy mistakes to avoid Believing your family has always spelled your surname the same way.



Most of our ancestors were more concerned about putting food on the table than how their name was spelled. The clerk recording the record may have decided how the name should be recorded based on their own experience or on what they heard. This means that we will see the same surname spelled in a whole variety of ways.

13 Genealogy mistakes to avoid Not evaluating hints <https://tinyurl.com/2a3dddzt>

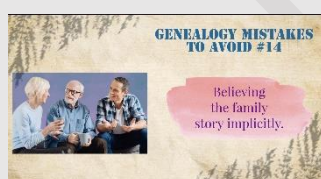


Emma tells us If you have an online tree, you may get record hints. I find them quite useful as the clever computer algorithms find records I may not have looked for. It's important, however, to evaluate the hint; after all, it is just a hint.

Always click in and view the original record, check the transcription and compare it with what you know about your family. To do this it can be helpful to have two screens. Here in the office, my PC has two screens but if I am in the living room working on my own family, I use my phone and my tablet. That way I have my tree on one device and the record hint on the other. Before you accept the hint, check it out for yourself.

14 Genealogy mistakes to avoid. Believing the family story implicitly.

<https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes/photos/a.591347074300439/4833304243438013/> Let's face



it, we all love a good story. Some stories seem to get better with each telling; does the fish your uncle caught get 3 pounds heavier every time he talks about it? It's easy for stories to be embellished and exaggerated.

Also, some families told a story to cover the truth. In days gone by, many people were embarrassed about mental health issues and unmarried mothers. Stories could have been invented to cover a secret. If your gran was told her mother died young but you can't find the death certificate, broaden your search. If someone was committed to an asylum the children may have been told that they had died.

If you can't find an ancestor's birth certificate, look under their mother's maiden surname. The child may have been born before she was married.

Family stories are good, and fun to share and record just remember to check the evidence and be prepared to discover the unexpected.

15 Genealogy mistakes to avoid #15 Adding the same person to your tree multiple times We may be familiar with the fact that the name Elizabeth can be recorded as Lizzie or Betty, but did you know Jean and Jane are also interchangeable? As are Janet and Jessie. Think carefully when adding children of a couple and make sure you don't add the same person three times with variations of the same name.

<https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes/photos/a.591347074300439/4841165685985202/>

THIS MONTH'S LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Lancashire Records

 <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



COMING ACTIVITIES FROM OTHER MLFHS BRANCHES

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



Manchester branch



Saturday, 2pm – 3,30pm Oldham and District Branch

Option to book for the talk through the MLFHS website, Oldham Branch, 'Meetings' Page.
<https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham/events>



Thursday 2p.m -3.30pm Anglo Scottish Branch

So do join us. We look forward to seeing you. Eventbrite Link <https://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots/events>

OTHER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES' MEETINGS

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



Halliwell Local History Society <http://goo.gl/8erYyr>

Email margaretk@talktalk.net .Meetings are usually 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,



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

. Illustrated talks and meetings are held from August to April inclusive on the fourth Thursday of beginning at 7.30pm. This next month's event

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

Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, between 10am and 12md in the room above Westhoughton Library, Market St, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU.



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

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.

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

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