



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:bolton@mlfhs.org.uk)
- Bolton Research help, please email [boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto: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> 966 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> .

October 2022 Edition 101

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

Above Picture of The Accession ceremony in Bolton 11 September 2022

## THE PROCLAMATION OF ACCESSION

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to His mercy our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second of Blessed and Glorious memory, by whose Decease the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is solely and rightfully come to the Prince Charles Philip Arthur George:

We, therefore, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this Realm, and members of the House of Commons, together with other members of Her late Majesty's Privy Council, and representatives of the Realms and Territories, Aldermen, and citizens of London and others, do now hereby, with one Voice and Consent of Tongue and Heart, publish and proclaim, that the Prince Charles Philip Arthur George, is now, by the Death of our late Sovereign of happy Memory, become our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord Charles the Third, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of his other Realms and Territories, King, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith: To whom we do

acknowledge all Faith and Obedience, with humble affection: beseeching God, by whom Kings and Queens do reign, to bless His Majesty with long and happy years to reign over Us. Given at St James's Palace this tenth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two.  
God Save the King.

Welcome to the 101<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bolton Genie. Our editor Jane Milne is currently recovering from her operation, and I have taken over the editorship of this copy. We wish Jane a speedy recovery from her operation but thank her for her contributions to this edition.

My thanks go to Helen Pitt, in Canada, who has written the report on **Exploring Family History - A beginner's guide by Kate Hurst.**

The absence of Jane from our committee at present, 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 BY ZOOM

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

IT IS ONLY NECESSARY TO BOOK VIA EVENTBRITE, <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events> FOR THE ZOOM MEETINGS. MEMBERS WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE MEETING AT BOLTON GOLF CLUB DO NOT NEED TO BOOK ON EVENTBRITE.

- Bolton's meeting room opens at 7pm for a 7.30pm start on the first Wednesday of most months.

Zoomers can sign in from 7.15pm

From April extras include a bar plus tea and coffee availability, a Stationery Table for recycled genealogy books and magazines, Godfrey maps of local areas, discounted equipment.

### COMING EVENTS

## Records and Research Using the CWGC Archives

2 NOV 2022 - HYBRID

**James Hutton - has had an interest in both military and political history for many years. He recently retired from the NHS, and he is now undertaking volunteer roles with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission both as a speaker and visiting, conducting surveys and simple maintenance of War Graves and memorials.**

**His main interest focuses on the 1982 Falkland's Campaign with emphasis on both the naval engagements as well as the diplomatic negotiations.**

**James keeps busy in his spare time as an instructor with the Army Cadet Force, teaching military and other skills to young adults. He is also trying to keep on top of the rust on his classic Rover from the 1970's.**

**The talk "Records and Research Using the CWGC Archives" will cover the history of the CWGC archive and how to access its contents, as well as examples of some of the highlights from over 10,000 documents and personal papers. This is in addition to records of over 1.6 million British and Commonwealth casualties.**

## **RECENT MEETINGS**

### **October 5<sup>th</sup> – Exploring Family History**

At the October 5 meeting of the Bolton Society, Kate Hurst gave an informative talk entitled "Exploring Family History – A beginners Guide". In her talk, Kate drew on her 20 years of experience researching her own family's roots, providing examples from her family tree. She also drew extensively on Lancashire as well as national resources. The talk began with a photo of three generations of her own family, leading to the first step in family history research: gather any documents, photos, address books, school records and business cards etc. These items are often discarded but can provide a lot of useful information, e.g., addresses, friends, business interests etc.

The next step recommended would be to ask your relatives what their parents and grandparents' ancestors were like: where did they live, what personality traits and work habits did they have, accents, hair colour? Do they have memories of their houses, where they went to school, memories of a wedding and who was there? This information can lead to further areas of research or questions to answer.

Following this collection of basic data, it's a good idea to draw a family chart. Kate mentioned numerous models including Circle chart, Pedigree tree, Fan chart etc. The type of tree is not as important as entering the data into one document that is easy to read. This will provide a single useful reference document. Another advantage is that it will show gaps in information and allow the researcher to target these areas.

Kate's research continued with a photo of the family from 1949. The first source she recommends is census data, which is available through the subscription sites Find My Past and Ancestry but also at the Central and Local Libraries. Censuses were taken every ten years from 1801 but the first complete census was 1841. Although each census collected slightly different information, most include age (or approximate), birthplace, marital status, occupation, address, and neighbours as entries are by street. The most recent is the 1921 census (available only through Find my Past and at Manchester Central Library). This census also recognizes "home duties" of women keeping the house. The 1911 census includes number of years married, how many children and was filled in by the householder. Each one tracks different information. The 1939 Register is another census-like document compiled on the eve of World War II.

Another useful source of information is Lancashire BMD which can be searched online. While the Register Offices in the county of Lancashire, England, hold the original records of births, marriages, and deaths back to the start of civil registration in 1837, many of these are now available online through this site. It is possible to search by name, and of course the more information that is available (e.g., the region and district, exact date of event), the shorter the search. Kate noted that under marriages, the notation "Registrar attended" is a good clue that the marriage was not Church of England, where the priest was empowered to also conduct civil registrations. If you have Catholic ancestors, records were maintained in church registers and some of these are now available through the Lancashire County Record office. These records can contain useful information such as godparents.

Lancashire Online Parish Clerks (<https://www.lan-opc.org.uk/>) has data and records from the earliest records that can be found up to approximately the end of the 19th century. Information is not available for all parishes, but it is being augmented regularly and it is easy to see what is available.

Wills are another good source of information and actual documents can be found at the Lancashire County Council Archives (LANCAT, online) located in



Preston. Physical wills in the Archives are contained in green books on the left after the main gate and are organized alphabetically by chronological period. Wills contain a wealth of information that is not in parish records such as relatives, names of descendants, friends, and other properties. Perhaps most interesting can be disposition of personal effects such as furniture, and even clothing. Wills dating from 1858 can also be ordered online through the GRO and are often available in paper or PDF format.

Other family artefacts can also be useful. Some examples are prayer books or family bibles, photos, and appointment diaries.

There are also databases devoted to specialized groups such as Canal Boat families (<http://www.boatfamilies.website/>) which contains 57,000 records and is especially relevant to Lancashire research as it includes information on families in the entire Leeds to Liverpool canal and connected waterways. This group is sometimes not well documented in regular records such as censuses, as they moved around on the canals boats and could be hard to catch on the particular day of the census. Other sites for subject-specific groups include the Commonwealth War Graves, Munk's Roll (Physicians), and the 1767 Returns of Papists (Catholics).

The archives of the Diocese of Chester cover most of Lancashire and are held at the Chester Archives and Local Studies. They include records on the ordination and appointment of clergy, new church buildings and alterations, visitation articles of enquiry, the consistory court and marriage bonds and allegations. Local archives are also a useful resource, and some material is available online. These records include trade directories, city directories, wills, and online catalogues. Visitors can often take photographs of documents for a daily fee.

Kate recommends keeping an open mind when doing this research and allowing for variations in expected spelling of names (many people could not read or write and their names were transcribed by an official), age or illegitimacy. What you think you know may not be the entire picture. Another thing to keep in

mind is that it is generally better to go to a source close to the original, because the more a record is transcribed, the more opportunities for errors to creep in.

Finally, Kate noted that we should all keep in mind future family researchers by noting dates and names on the backs of photos, writing down memories, even if just schools attended, big events, addresses, friends, and keeping physical records such as diaries, official documents, etc.

Attendees thanked Kate for an interesting talk and even experienced family researchers noted that they had learned a new thing or two!

This next article came out of a telephone conversation Jane Milne (nice to see that she is recovering from her operation) with Helen Pitt in Ontario, Canada.

#### Harvest Festivals/ Thanksgiving in Different Countries.

I hope most of our regular readers have noticed by now that after our request for help in both creating articles for our newsletter as well as editing it, some help has been offered and is very much appreciated.

Helen Pitt, an MLFHS member who lives in Ontario Canada, but has ancestors from the Manchester and Salford area seems to be thoroughly enjoying the chance to join our talks by Zoom, and she even offered to assist with our write ups for them. This has been so helpful to support our dwindling team, and if anyone else is prepared to take a turn this could be even better.

In a conversation today with Helen she has explained that she had a family meal arranged for this evening as it is Canada's Thanksgiving festival. I asked her how they actually celebrated it, as all I know of it, (and I suspect most Brits), is what we see on American films. She replied "*I wouldn't mind at all*" has obliged by giving an overview and given me permission to share. I asked her

"You seem to eat the same meal here that we do at Christmas. Do you have turkey both days and family get together at both events?"

*. Our family traditions at Christmas are, like many, an amalgamation since we have so many people from different countries. But Thanksgiving is more standard, I suppose because it's a new world event. Thanks for asking. I don't often think about how our traditions have evolved. Turkey is traditional for both holidays, but we often have goose or duck for Christmas these days. The American Thanksgiving is a bigger deal to them than Christmas and they seem to have slightly different traditions that include a horrible sounding squash dish with marshmallow as well as turkey, ours is the second Monday in*

*October because the harvest is earlier. Basically, it's a harvest dinner at a time when the leaves are most spectacular. We are expecting our first hard frost tonight.*

*For Thanksgiving both pumpkin and apple pie (double crust) are common, and I used to make both but now that our company is smaller, I just do one, usually apple. This year it's just my son and his fiancée so we're having smoked sable fish as appetizer (not traditional), roast turkey with bread stuffing, cranberry sauce (this year I'm trying one made with port), green beans, mashed potato, and gravy. The best part about turkey is the leftovers!*

*My husband is the cook, thankfully so I'm just responsible for pie, cranberry sauce, and the table. My daughter has been overseas for the past eight years, so we haven't had her for Thanksgiving or Christmas for a long time, sadly. With Covid, we haven't seen her since February 2020.*

*I think our Christmas tradition is much like yours although we don't do Christmas pudding anymore. Because my parents were both English, we had a more British Christmas when I was growing up with the meal early afternoon. Because my husband's mother was from a French speaking Catholic family, we used to have a big family dinner and gift exchange on Christmas Eve. This was a non-religious modification of La Réveillon, a big get together that started after the return from midnight mass and included opening gifts etc. We have our dinner in the evening.*

*We also try to go for a walk in the woods or in a nearby peat bog. When my in-laws were alive, we had a big extended family event at their cottage north of here. I think many families here do a bigger event. None of our generation yet have grandchildren so we are transitional.*

I replied Now I find this really interesting.

Many of the churches here and schools are celebrating Harvest Festival at the moment and some having barn dances or similar, sometimes with traditional games. These might be conkers which involves a big hard horse chestnut on a string and bashing your opponent's in turn, (but now they are telling the kids they have to wear goggles for eye protection 😬), or bob apple where you try to catch an apple bobbing in a tub of water with your hands behind your back, so just your mouth and teeth!!! Not so many do it these days though I suppose. The food would probably be meat and potato pie with a crust and pickled cabbage or onions, or other savoury pastries.

This year we have a few local scarecrow competitions as well with one in our "village", which is now just now a suburb of greater Bolton, but we still call it the village. ). What a difference to yours, not particularly a family event though, that is Christmastime.

*I can remember bobbing for apples at Halloween!*

*I expect turkey caught on here because there were wild turkeys*



*And I suppose (final word, honest) that our Thanksgiving is more like a harvest meal because we didn't do the pilgrim thing as in the USA.*

I next Googled the words "Harvest Festival in Bolton" and this lovely picture was offered



Harvest Festival Christ's Church Harwood

It seems that we are continuing the theme of celebrating the harvest but adapting it to where we live, and how life is changing. The important thing is we are recognising how important it continues to be.

Many thanks Helen Pitt.

[Harvest Festival 2022 - Event Info & Teaching Resources - Twinkl](#)

The Harvest Festival is a traditional event celebrating the successful gathering of the year's crops. Often celebrated in churches and schools, people are encouraged to donate homegrown produce, fruit and vegetables to those in need.

[www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk)

### **GENIE'S TIPS for October**

Genealogy mistakes to avoid courtesy of Scottish Indexes <https://www.scottishindexes.com/default.aspx> and their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1430586673734175>

#### **16 Not researching siblings**



Sometimes we're so focused on our direct ancestors that we forget about their siblings. The thing is, tracing them can be a great help. For example, we may find a parent living with a sibling in the census which could be a great clue.

Even digging further into other records can be a great help. For example, poor relief records may tell us where a person is from and where their parents are from/where they are living. Building out our family tree can help us trace our direct ancestors too.

### 17 Not keeping a theory tree secret



Theory trees can be really helpful if you have a brick wall or you are trying to work out how you connect to a person you share a DNA match with. We may be working on our research, but we've not worked out all the kinks and added all our sources. This could confuse people, especially the inexperienced. If we keep our tree 'secret' or 'unlisted' we'll have all the benefits of an online tree without confusing people. Genealogy mistakes to avoid #18

### 18 Turning up unprepared at an archive



Many archives keep records off-site. This means we need to give the archive some notice before we visit so that they can have the records ready for us to consult. Many archives will have an online catalogue, but even then, it's worth emailing and briefly explaining the goal of your research. The team at the archive may be able to make some suggestions as to which records would be useful.

Plan before you go. List the records you want to consult and who you are looking for. I like to do this in a notepad (old-fashioned I know), so that I can use my tablet to see my family tree and my phone to take photos (if permitted).

Not all archives have Wi-Fi, and the mobile signal may not be very good. Make sure you have your tree offline or on paper. If you are taking a tablet or laptop, you could also have a digital copy of the records you have already found so you can check them as you go.

Carefully read any instructions the archive gives you and let them know about any access requirements before you visit. For example, there may be restrictions on the size of bag you can take into the archive, and you will probably not be permitted to use a pen. You may also need a reader's ticket and to get this you may need proof of address and photographic ID. The archive will tell you their requirements so carefully read any instructions before you turn up.

<https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes/photos/a.591347074300439/4872080516227052/>

### 19 Not organising certificates



There are any number of ways to file your certificates and other source material. You could have physical records in a binder, or you could keep everything on the computer. Find a way that works for you and stick to a system.

Another way to do it is to keep all records about one generation of the family in a separate folder. If you are only doing your own research this can be a good

option.

There is no right or wrong, but you do need to be organised and you need a system then you need to stick to it. While we're on the subject of sources, it's also a good idea to download key documents from subscription websites. If your subscription lapses or records are moved to a more expensive subscription you don't have access to, it's best to have them downloaded.

NB (For Scottish Indexes we obviously have a lot of source material that we use for indexing and researching other people's trees. We like to use the archive system where the original record is held. For example, we have a folder for the National Records of Scotland (NRS). Let's say I was looking for Melrose Kirk Session - Minutes and Register of deaths (Mort Roll) 1668-1781. The NRS has given this item the reference CH2/386/2. I have filed a digital copy of this within our NRS folder, then in 002, then 0386 and finally in folder 002.)

## 20 Not making a backup



Think of all the hours you have spent on your family tree and now think about how you would feel if you lost your research! Please make a backup.

There are various ways to make a backup. First, let's think about your tree. If you have an online tree, you can download a file called a GEDCOM. This is a standard file for genealogical data and can be opened by all (I think) genealogy software.

Keep a copy on your laptop so that if you lose access to your online tree, you have a basic copy.

If you work offline and keep your tree on your PC, you could keep a copy of the GEDCOM on a memory stick as a backup or store it in the cloud as a backup.

When it comes to documents there are again various options for backup. Even if you have saved a record to your laptop Scotland People will keep a copy for you which you can access in 'Saved Images'.


It could be worth getting a portable external hard drive. This is a great way to store a backup, but it will also be a great help if you buy a new laptop. If you work on a tablet an external hard drive can be useful as it will store more images than your tablet and you can then access them on a tablet or your laptop.

There are cloud storage options, and these can be good but think about the long-term cost, not just the immediate cost.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### 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

### SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

Two Lads, Horwich – Lancashire Past

<https://lancashirepast.com/2022/10/08/two-lads-horwich/>



#### COMING ACTIVITIES FROM OTHER MLFHS BRANCHES

members, £3 to guests.

Please note these events are all included free to subscribed MLFHS



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-](https://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots/events)

[scots/events](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. [enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk). 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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