



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> 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> .

November 2022 Edition 102

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

Above Picture of Remembrance Service in Bolton 2021 Courtesy of Bolton News

My thanks go to Helen Pitt, in Canada, who has written the report on **Records and Research Using the CWGC Archives** by James Hutton

With the absence of Jane from our committee at present, which has emphasised the problems that a small committee has, we welcome Cath and Ron Cole who have come forward and joined 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.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Dave Burnham. Dave was a regular speaker at our meetings, particularly with his Live From Worktown talks. Our condolences to his family.

We have quite a few places left for our Christmas Supper on the 7th December 2022. There is a raffle for 3 different size hampers as prizes, a quiz. and a speaker Geoff Scarsgill. This a TICKET only meeting. Tickets cost £5 for members and £10 for non-members. Please state your choice of Meat/Potato or Cheese/Onion Pie, with red cabbage and mushy peas/ tea or coffee.

We need to know as soon as possible please if you wish to attend, the deadline is 30/11/22. Please contact us on Bolton@mlfhs.org.uk. and you will be contacted about payment etc. OR on 07787960391 Susan Boddy. Please come and support this event.

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. And 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

December 7th XMAS MEETING

As stated earlier we have quite a few places left for our Christmas Supper on the 7th December 2022, which is a TICKET only meeting. Prices are £5 for members and £10 for non-members. Please state your choice of Meat/Potato or Cheese/Onion Pie with red cabbage and mushy peas/ tea or coffee.

There is a raffle for 3 different sizes of hampers as prizes, a quiz. and a speaker Geoff Scargill.

We need to know as soon as possible please, the deadline is 30/11/22.

Contact us on Bolton@mlfhs.org.uk. and you will be contacted about payment etc. or on 07787960391 Susan Boddy

Please come and support this event.

MEETING 4 JANUARY 2023

**Cath Cole, authoress, educator, nurse - her story.
ROOM and ZOOM meeting**

7.30PM 4 JAN 2023 - BOLTON GOLF CLUB

Cath Cole had a working-class upbringing in a northern town. She became a nurse, educator and authoress. Come and hear her story. Zoomers please book through Eventbrite.

RECENT MEETINGS

James Hutton of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, gave a talk on November 2 called "Records and Research Using the CWGC Archives, an archive of international importance".

The aim of the CWGC archive is to collect, manage and preserve materials which document the history of the organisation, the individuals they commemorate, the cemeteries and memorials they maintain, and to make such records accessible the public.

James began his talk by talking about the origins of the CWGC and the archives which document it. In 1914, Fabian Ware, who had been exempted from military service due to

his age, joined the Red Cross, and worked for a mobile ambulance unit that rescued the injured and marked the graves of the dead. They soon focussed on the graves and were attached to the British Army. Widely considered the first industrialized war, WWI had large numbers of casualties and thought was already being given to tracking and commemorating the fallen. In 1916, the Army Department of Graves Registration and Enquiries was created with Ware at its head. On 21 May 1917 the Imperial War Graves Commission was founded. Ware served as vice-chairman. This organization eventually became the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC is now responsible for maintaining war graves and memorials to casualties of the First and Second World Wars in 23,000 locations around the world, public engagement and visits to the sites and maintaining the archive.

One part of the archives maintains records on graves, memorials, headstones, and details of the 1.7 million Commonwealth war dead. As of 1998, many of these records are available online on the CWGC website (<https://www.cwgc.org/>). It includes individuals' personal records as well as grave registrations and inscriptions. Many soldiers were buried where they fell, and their remains were later moved to special war cemeteries in the various countries where they died. These records are not totally complete, and additions are made as they are confirmed. The CWGC is also working to correct omissions in commemoration of African and Indian casualties. So far, over 6,000 graves have been found and identified, in cooperation with local communities and this work continues. The second part of the archives includes administrative materials such as CWGC correspondence, plans and drawings of memorials and photographs. These are key to understanding the history of the work of the Commission, including controversies and evolution of policies. The two sections of the archive can be searched online via a quick search, e.g. to find a record or a more selective search using various criteria such as photos.

James then described some of the “gems” of the archive to give a better idea of what is contained there. These include:

- 1) A letter from Fabian Ware describing the process by which his group identified and marked graves
- 2) The Graves of the Fallen, 1919, a book published by the Imperial War Graves Commission, and written by Rudyard Kipling who had lost a son in the war and illustrated by Douglas McPherson. It was based on a report by the Commission examining the form and location of memorials. Kipling's text describes the work of the Commission and McPherson's illustrations show what the memorials would look like once completed
- 3) Correspondence from Sarah Smith of Leeds whose 19-year-old son, was buried in France. She felt strongly that the war dead should be repatriated, rather than being

moved to cemeteries in the countries where they had died. She wrote to the Prince of Wales who was head of the Commission and founded the British War Graves Association which at one point numbered 3,000 members. Her petition was not successful, but the War Graves Association did assist many families to visit the graves of their loved ones.

- 4) Correspondence from Lady Florence Cecil, wife of the Bishop of Exeter, asking for headstones to be cross-shaped. Lady Cecil had lost three sons. The Commission had a policy of complete equality – all headstones were a uniform curved top and all the same size.
- 5) Records of the Parliamentary debate of 1920 over the resentment of survivors about the seeming heartlessness of the Commission, accused of favouring bureaucracy over feeling.
- 6) Personal Inscriptions – families were allowed to provide text of up to 66 characters for inscriptions on the stones, but the British government charged 3 pence per letter, unlike the Australian and Canadian governments which provided this service at no charge. This was seen as hypocritical since the policy of the Commission was that all the dead should be commemorated in the same way. The Commission approved all inscriptions, reserving the right to turn down those they deemed inappropriate, e.g. “A noble son sacrificed for Capitalism” was not allowed, whereas “Just for a scrap of paper” was.
- 7) Construction and technical drawings for Stones of Remembrance. Although a cross in each cemetery was to act as a focal point, the Stones were to be non-denominational.
- 8) Staff records including military service (which was quite common), address, background, and service dates. Staff also held social events and visits to cemeteries.
- 9) Photographs and drawings of cemeteries. It took 2-10 years to construct a cemetery depending on location, labour availability and funding. These records are very important for restoration work. The WWII cemeteries followed a similar model.

The physical Archives are located in Maidenhead, Berkshire and are open Monday-Friday. An appointment is recommended. They also organize tours of local gravesites and First World War Battlefields and there is a visitors' centre in Beaurains, France.

There were a number of questions from the audience on the completion of the talk:

- Why photos from the war years in the Bolton History Museum are standard size. These are likely identity card photos.
- The sunset ceremony at Ypres Menin gate - the Last Post is played by volunteer Belgian firefighters every day at 8 p.m. in memory of fallen soldiers.
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- Bolton: World War II hero's past revealed after text message

- 14th October



- By Lewis Finney@lewisfinney18Trainee reporter

- A Westhoughton family discovered the story of their heroic grandfather after receiving a mystery text message.
- The life of Private Fred Lamb of the 5th Battalion, Cheshire Regiment, has long been shrouded in mystery for siblings Julie Safo, Noorleisa Abdullah and Simon Bennet.
- All they had growing up was a black and white photograph of him in his army uniform that sat on the windowsill of their mum's house growing up – Edna, Fred's daughter.
- Last Remembrance Sunday they went to visit their grandfather's Commonwealth War Grave in Willow Grove Cemetery in Stockport.
- As they stopped for a coffee on the way home, one of the siblings received a text message out of the blue, which offered them information about their grandfather from a representative of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Genealogy Project.
- The project based in the small Northumberland town is the largest of its kind in the world. It has recorded the lives of everyone who ever lived there and to date they hold over 35,000.
- The siblings decided to call the text back.
- Julie said: "What we were told in a few minutes of conversation about Fred's life revealed more about him than we had ever known."

- "Margaret told us that she had found contact details about us on the Ancestry website and wanted to get in touch to confirm we were descendants of Fred. She was ecstatic at making contact with us.
- "She went on to say that in November 1941, during an enemy air raid on the town, Fred saved the life of a baby in a pram by shielding the child with his body.
- "Sadly, Fred died from his wounds, but saved the life of the baby.
- "Well, all this information left us speechless."
- Julie says that they were then ensured that the town respects and sees their grandfather as a hero.
- "In May this year we visited Newbiggin-by-the-Sea and, with the chairman of the Project, retraced Fred's footsteps on that fateful night in 1941," she said.
- "As Remembrance Day approaches this year, we plan to be in Newbiggin as guests for the service.

MISCELLANEOUS

Trotting was a local term for tricks played upon strangers. The trick pictured below involves a bet where a local attorney had challenged a commercial traveller that he could hold his leg in a barrel of boiling water longer than the other. The traveller of course lost the bet because the Bolton trickster had a wooden leg!

By **Selim Rothwell** British | 1815 – 1881



New Ancestry and Imperial War Museums partnership - Family Tree

https://www.family-tree.co.uk/useful-genealogy-websites/new-ancestry-and-imperial-war-museums-partnership/?utm_campaign=497985_FTRE%20%20Regular%20mailer%20%2024th%20Oct%202022&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dotdigital&dm_i=73DN,AO8X,ZJHM6,1ADO9,1

The new partnership will see Ancestry digitise and add thousands of pieces of content from the museums' rich collection to its website for the very first time.

The partnership, launching in November 2022, enables the digitisation of previously unseen items from the museums' archive, consisting of photographs of people in military service and those on the home front, wartime documents, films, audio recordings and wartime objects including enlistment posters, uniforms and tools. The records will reveal wartime stories of people, places and events.

Ancestry has the largest online military collection globally, allowing over three million subscribers to access records and information that will enable them to trace their ancestors back to wartime periods. These records add to Ancestry's extensive digitised wartime collections, which are growing significantly year-on-year to collectively uncover pivotal moments.

LS Lowry painting *Going To The Match* sells at auction for £7.8 million

19th October

Lowry's *Going To The Match* inspired by Bolton [BWanderersWy Saiqa Chaudhari@saiga2](#) Audience & Content Editor





By [Saiqa Chaudhary@saiqa2.com](mailto:SaiqaChaudhary@saiqa2.com) Audience & Content Edit Bolton News

Two Lads, Horwich

Date: [October 8, 2022](#) Author: [Lancashirepast.com](https://lancashirepast.com)

The Two Lads site on the moors over Horwich has long been a place of local interest, offering stunning views over the county. A number of explanations have been put forward for the reason that two stone cairns stand on this imposing site. This page will look at the evidence and argue that the most likely explanation is that they are the remnants of Bronze Age burial cairns, but other alternative explanations will also be explored.



Two Lads

For further information visit: <https://lancashirepast.com/2022/10/08/two-lads-horwich/>

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-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. 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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