

# Bolton's Genies

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society

**Edition 109 – June 2023**



This month's banner photograph shows "Memories of Bolton" by Martin Stuart Moore – A limited edition of 750 prints – Published by Stuart's Originals in November 1994. Copies are available at £69.00 from

<https://www.stuartsoriginals.com/townscape-prints.html>

There are 47 buildings, monuments, structures and geographical sights. How many can you find? Key at the end of this Newsletter.

-----

© Copyright 2023 Bolton Family History Society, a member of Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society - Charity No 515599

# Editorial Musings

June is a time of glorious weather, when holidays are a reality. I was reminiscing with friends about the old wakes weeks that began the Saturday after the last Friday in June. I remember the streets being deserted and, in my village of Stoneclough, villagers queuing to buy the Bolton Evening News sold *outside* the paper shop. As a young cadet nurse, it was eerie walking through the empty town from Great Moor Street to the Infirmary. All that is gone now; it only exists in memories of our once vibrant town.

I am sure many of you are members of groups other than BFHS and when you see the annual programme published you make judgments about the topics and speakers. I know I do. Football and Egyptology would be way down my list of preferred subjects. How wrong were my judgments? Simon Marland's talk on David Jack and 1923, and Ian Trumble's presentation about James and Annie Barlow and their roles in bringing Egyptology to Bolton were both fascinating and informative. I am looking forward to revisiting the Egyptology section at Bolton Library and Museum.

The "Other Records" section of the newsletter is getting long. Jane Milne's thorough research provides us with a wide range of valuable source of materials to aid genealogical searches. How long do readers of Bolton's Genies want the "other records" information to remain in the newsletter? I know Jane had hopes of indexing the various information sources but, this would take a huge amount of time and energy and is probably not achievable in a group dependant on volunteers.

If readers wish to respond to any aspects of Bolton Genies, please contact me via the Bolton Family History Society's Facebook page - <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> - Perhaps I should mention that I am not a genealogist. My main interest is writing. However, I have an interest in local social history.

Best wishes to all  
Cath Cole

---

# Information and Updates for Members

## Patents of Thomas Bonsor Crompton – Paper Manufacturer

The Save Rock Hall Project exists in efforts to save the former home of Thomas Bonsor Crompton, owner of Rock Hall. He applied for patents relating to his paper manufacture and drying process inventions. Rock Hall campaigners have announced that they have managed to purchase two of Thomas Bonsor Crompton's original Patent documents from a bookseller in London. The patents are number 5655, dated 13th May 1828 for Cutting paper and number 8027, dated 09th April 1839 for the Manufacture of paper. There is a 3rd patent for the Drying of paper, but the original of that one is with a private collector. The two patents that have been bought are rare documents from the 1800's.

In case you are not aware of what a Patent is, it is a document detailing an invention. The patent is granted by the government to the inventor, giving the inventor the right to stop others, for a specific period, from making, using or selling the invention without their permission. When patent protection is granted, the invention becomes the property of the inventor, which like any other form of property or business asset can be bought, sold, rented or hired.

The Rock Hall charity has stated, "Such original documents can sell for thousands of pounds depending on their subject matter. Our Charity has very limited funding available to buy heritage items, but we raised the funds privately to buy the patents. We bought them with the co-operation of the bookseller, Maurice Stroh, after telling him about our project to save Rock Hall. We are extremely grateful to him for helping our project!

"We intend to display them in the Hall eventually (if successful with our Lottery bid this September) and we are very pleased to have been able to bring them back to Farnworth.

"Maurice told us an amazing story of how over 30 years ago, he acquired the patents. He originally bought nearly two million items in 1991 from Manchester City Libraries, which had been looking for a buyer for many years to clear 1,200 yards of shelving. The collection then included all British patents issued between 1617 and 1970 and nine 1 tonne vehicles were needed to take them to him in London. He has already sold many items but still has thousands left."

If you are interested in buying an original patent document, Maurice can be contacted by email at [patent@mstroh.co.uk](mailto:patent@mstroh.co.uk)."

Jayne and Christopher Allman from Banana Enterprise Network started the Save Rock Hall Project and on its behalf they have recently made a bid of £4m to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Further details at [rockhall1807.co.uk](http://rockhall1807.co.uk)

Article from Rock Hall's website with thanks to Jane Milne

Jane has written a longer article in this month's The Manchester Genealogist

# Find My Past

FMP are delighted to announce the addition of 4.9 million exclusive rate books to their website. This extensive collection covers the Greater Manchester area, from Salford to Stockport, between 1790 and 1940. FMP also added 215,002 browse-only rate book images, covering the same area and timespan. In addition, there's an all-new collection to explore this week - Lancashire, Oldham Inquisitions, 1905-1917.

-----

Our regular venue is Bolton Golf Club, Chorley New Road BL6 4AJ, although this may vary occasionally due to circumstances beyond our control. Any changes will be announced on our Facebook page (link <https://www.facebook.com/BoltonFHS> accessible without subscription) and in this newsletter. It is always advisable to check before leaving home.

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

Talks are usually provided by a visiting speaker, but occasionally speakers may deliver their talks by zoom. This happens when the speaker, who is known to be a first-rate expert in their field, is based some distance from Bolton. Those present at the golf club and zoomers will see our speaker streamed on screen. It is not necessary to book a place to attend the golf club in person, but it is essential to book for a zoom place at <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events>. The link will be emailed to you several times.

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of most months. The golf club opens for roomers at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start and zoomers can sign in from 7.15 pm. The club has a bar and tea or coffee is available. We have a table with recycled genealogy books and magazines, Godfrey maps of local areas and discounted equipment.

Meetings from other branches of the MLFHS are available and free to all members. These meetings, like ours, may be live, zoomed or hybrid. <https://www.mlfhs.uk/> is the link for events.

# ALMSHOUSES

In the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, there were about 800 almshouses throughout the country, usually set up by philanthropists or religious bodies. They provided the earliest sort of social housing and sometimes consisted of former aristocratic houses possibly left by grand families finding it too expensive to run a great estate. They could be a set of six cottages perhaps with a little garden.

In later years, almshouses were founded by merchant and craft guilds or trade associations for their members who could no longer work. Perhaps the most famous almshouse was the Royal Hospital Chelsea, commissioned by Charles II to care for army veterans. Opened in 1692, it is still home to several hundred pensioners.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, soldiers received pensions as a grace or bounty from the Crown, not as a right. In 1806 it became a right, and then back to a bounty in the 1820s because it was deemed too expensive to give a pension to all.

If a soldier served for 20 years, was wounded in battle or been worn out (bodily or mentally) due to his Army service or had impaired his constitution say by service in parts of the world with very hot or very cold climates AND had a letter of recommendation from his commanding officer, he would be entitled to a pension. If a soldier was leaving his regiment, he would receive a discharge paper from his commanding officer, which gave details of his service and cause of discharge. Once he had his discharge paper, a soldier would have to travel to London to appear in front of the Chelsea Board within a year of receiving discharge. They would also have a medical examination.

The soldier would then be recommended for admission to the Royal Chelsea Hospital which opened in 1692. The hospital was responsible for all army pensioners. Records of Chelsea pensioners are held at the National Archives (PRO) and on Ancestry. Irish soldiers entitled to a pension from the other pensioners' hospital - Royal Kilmainham Hospital near Dublin between 1783 and 1822 are in WO119 (indexes in WO118). Records for the Household Cavalry including WW1 are in WO400.

Pensioners were divided into two categories – in-pensioners who lived at the Royal Hospital in return for surrendering their army pensions and out-pensioners, who lived at home, receiving their army pensions through their local authorities.

Until 1754, army pensioners were paid annually in arrears but this sometimes led to hardship with ex-soldiers getting into the hands of moneylenders. After 1754,

they were paid a lump sum in advance half yearly, Christmas and Midsummer. Pensioners had to swear an affidavit in front of a JP saying he was still living. If they lived over 25 miles from London, they sent their affidavits to the Hospital. They were then sorted by county, and a list sent to local Excise Agents. The pensioner would go to their local Excise Man when their pension was due to receive their money.

Over 9,000 pensioners are buried at the Royal Hospital but from 1855 to 1893 the in-pensioners were buried at Brompton Cemetery in the Fulham Road. After 1893, Brookwood Cemetery in Woking, Surrey was used. Brookwood was closed in 1962 but is still sometimes used for the interment of ashes. Graves at Brookwood weren't marked but the names of all deceased in-pensioners are entered in a memorial book held at the Chapel of the Royal Hospital.

Applicants for places in almshouses usually had to be over 60 and of good character i.e. the deserving poor. They had to be able to live independently in their own room because there was no medical care. Conditions were better than in workhouses so there were plenty of applications for places but if inmates were ill, they would be moved into the workhouse.

There would be a matron overseeing the domestic side of the house, and a master, often a clergyman or someone associated with the founder.

The inmates who were governed by trustees had to adhere to strict rules of conduct and behaviour. If they got drunk, they were out on their ear and, in the case of an almshouse taking married couples, if one of them died, the other would have to leave.

Charity Commission reports outline various scandals where money destined for the poor was hived off for the pocket of unscrupulous masters.

Old age pensions started in 1908 and the increasing availability of healthcare made former inmates leave the almshouse to be supported by the state.

There are about 1,600 almshouses nowadays housing about 36,000 residents, each paying a small weekly maintenance contribution.

There aren't many records of almshouses except those of individual charities. Newspapers would outline misdoings, and of course, inmates would appear on census material. The master would collect relevant information to give to the enumerator so it might not be particularly accurate.

Thanks to Rita Greenwood for this Article

---

# Recent Events

## June Meeting

**7 June 2023 – “The Life and Times of Annie Elizabeth Finney Barlow” Ian Trumble**

At the beginning of his talk, Ian apologised that he would not be speaking to the above title – he had problems with his technology – and he proposed to follow a different title: **“From Small Seeds – The European Legacy of a Bolton Woman – Annie Barlow 1865-1941”**

Ian Trumble is the Curator of Archaeology, Egyptology and World Culture for Bolton Metro and is based at Bolton Museum. He was accompanied by Professor Joann Fletcher – his PhD supervisor - who is Honorary Visiting Professor of Archaeology at the University of York. She is a published author who has appeared numerous times on television.

Bolton is a renowned repository for Egyptology, having a state-of-the-art Egyptology Section, well worth a visit. This is mainly due to donations made by Annie Barlow.

Ian based his talk on the Barlow family starting with James Barlow, a textile manufacturer and abolitionist. James Barlow founded Barlow & Jones in Bolton. He started small businesses selling textiles in markets and ended up with mills in Bolton including Prospect Mills and Egyptian Mill. James visited cotton plantations in America. He took his family with him to America many times in the 1850s and 1860s when he met Charles Grandison Finney, a local US preacher. The families became friends at the time of the American Civil War. The Barlows named Annie after Preacher Finney. James became disillusioned with the Americans as he became interested in the abolition of slavery and he turned to Egypt to buy his cotton.

It's hard to imagine how James managed to fit in all his varied interests including:

- Mayor of Bolton twice
- The Temperance League and Temperance Laws
- Chairman of Bolton Parks Committee
- Chadwick's Orphanage
- Presidents of the Mechanics' Institute

- Founded the National Children’s Home at Edgworth
- Founded Workshops for the Blind
- YMCA

James had eight children with his wife Alice (nee Barnes) including Sir Thomas Barlow, Doctor to Queen Victoria and John Barlow who took over Barlow & Jones after the death of his father. The youngest child was Annie Elizabeth Finney Barlow. Annie’s father told her of the wonderful things he had seen in Egypt and eventually she founded the Egyptian Exploration Society collecting more funding than any other fundraiser. Excavators in Egypt were licensed to work on specific areas of the Valley of the Kings etc. and those excavators were allowed to retain certain artefacts left from the digs. Annie travelled extensively in Egypt, was accompanied by John Robert Barlow, one of her brothers, and acquired material, giving lots of it to Manchester and her collection was housed in Chadwick Museum, in Queens Park, which opened in 1884. She influenced other women, particularly Raymonde Frin, born in 1912. The Barlows had housed the Frins, a family from Belgium, in WWI. including Raymonde Frin, their daughter, who lived at Greenthorne, Annie’s home for 30 years and who was the main beneficiary of Annie’s will.

-----

## Upcoming Events

**Next Meeting** – 5 July - Dr Alan Crosby. “Law, Literature, Lucie and Longmeadow: exploring my great-grandmother’s family” HYBRID

“My great-grandmother Kate was ‘a lady’ (no title, but definitely from a good family, as they used to say). But what a family they turned out to be when I researched them - the story goes from the East End of London to Shanghai and brings in (among others) D.H. Lawrence, a schoolgirl heiress, a dodgy solicitor, John Betjeman, Clapham Junction, Grantchester, a Serbian count, and a present-day celebrity. All that in one hour ... I hope I can fit it all in!” Alan Crosby

-----



# **For your Diary - Future 2023 Events**

(More details should be available shortly on our website)

2 Aug - Tony Greenwood - One of our members - "Life and Times of Smithills Estate" HYBRID

6 Sept - Dougie Tobutt of Tobutt Sports - <http://www.tobuttsports.co.uk/about-us/>

"How 100 years ago my grandfather Len Tobutt, a professional cricketer from Middlesex came to Bolton via Scotland and Darwen, to establish the Tobutt Sports business, a family run enterprise which has spanned four generations." HYBRID

4 Oct - Ray Jefferson - Author "The Bolton-Bridgeman Connection. HYBRID

1 Nov - Dr Jim Beach. "How 12 'obscure' WW1 diaries of a British Army Soldier from South Africa, serving on the Messin Ridge , (inherited by a Bolton MLFHS member and presented on a Research Day at Bolton History Centre in 2018), assisted in the research of Percy Wyndham Lewis, an official, and "questionable" war artist". HYBRID

6 Dec - Speaker & quiz & supper TBA (No Zoom)

-----

## **Bolton History Centre and Bolton Records**

Due to the Library renovation work the History Centre has moved temporarily to Crompton Place Shopping Centre, in the former C&A building opposite the rear entrance to the former M&S.

The telephone number for any local history and archive queries and requests for material is 01204 332185 or send an email request to [archives@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:archives@bolton.gov.uk) Requests take seven days to turn around and will either be looked at in the lab at or the museum at Crompton Place. References to some of the websites: <https://boltonremembers.org/> has some of the WW1 & WW2 records we have found for Bolton military personnel either born, resided, or enlisted in Bolton. <https://bolton.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME> Spydus catalogue for local studies search.

<https://www.boltonlams.co.uk/history-centre-1> This is the History Centre page for the services we offer to researchers. Gives some information about archives and the records we hold.

# 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

## Other Records

A guide to obituaries on the British Newspaper Archive might be useful to members and visitors. Use this link

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid02CAXJi5k2psD6JroFSyXH3XfakJ3Q7X6TfDwZ35SnM1UNo9VBhr2snNpj6h6GrzdPI&id=246830155368290](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02CAXJi5k2psD6JroFSyXH3XfakJ3Q7X6TfDwZ35SnM1UNo9VBhr2snNpj6h6GrzdPI&id=246830155368290)

This is the archives website for National Archives of which we have records listed on this site. It is possible to choose a search through all the archives of England or drill down just to search in Bolton Archives. <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advanced-search>

<https://vad.redcross.org.uk/search?fname=&sname=Bates> you can search for a name or location for VADs in the war. The Red Cross website was down for maintenance when I copied this address so hopefully it will be up and running again when you access it.

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx> Canadian Army WW1 personnel records.

NOTE these records are soon to be transferred to their new LAC website

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/blog/a-history-of-the-trig-pillar>

The trig pillar was first used in the retriangulation of Great Britain on 18 April 1936. On that day, a group of surveyors gathered around a white concrete pillar in a field in Cold Ashby and began the retriangulation of GB. The trig pillar was first used in the retriangulation of Great Britain on 18 April 1936. On that day, a group of surveyors gathered around a white concrete pillar in a field in Cold Ashby and began the retriangulation of GB. Members might be interested when looking up places of family history interest.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/national-farm-survey-england-wales-1941-1943/>

This guide will help you find and use the records of the National Farm Survey of England and Wales, carried out between 1941 and 1943. These records can provide information on: : farm land farmers and farm owners life on a farm the wider community within the parish where a farm existed.

Hampshire Genealogical Society (HGS) is worth looking at

<https://www.facebook.com/HGSfamilyhistory>

The University of Leicester's excellent Historical website at

<https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4> currently has 689 directories with at least one directory for every English and Welsh county for the 1850s, 1890s and 1910s. they are searchable by name, place and occupation.

The same content is also available at Ancestry's "UK, City and County Directories 1766-1946"

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/3145/>

and at <https://www.jstor.org/site/university-of-leicester/historical-directories/>

## Activities and Events from MLFHS Branches



### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FROM OTHER MLFHS BRANCHES

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



#### Manchester branch

Next meeting – 19 July 2023 Manchester Central Library – 10.30 am

“Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal, History and Preservation” – Paul Hindle



#### 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 2pm - 3.30pm Anglo Scottish Branch

So do join us. We look forward to seeing you. Eventbrite Link

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

Next meeting – Saturday 1 July 2023 – 2 pm – Anglo Scots Summer Visit – “Manchester Art Gallery - Scottish Connections” This is a Members Only event, Venue: Outdoor visit starting at Manchester Central Library

## Other Local History Societies' Meetings

WE ADVISE CHECKING THEIR RESPECTIVE WEBSITES PERIODICALLY FOR UPDATES AND DATES OF MEETINGS.



#### 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

Next meeting – 27 June - Phil Mason - Bolton Wanderers Football Club



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

Illustrated talks and meetings are held from August to April inclusive on the fourth Thursday of the month, beginning at 7.30pm.

Next event – 22 Jun - Walk to Cheetham Close Stone Circle (Tony Greenwood)

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

Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, between 10am and 12midday 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

Next event – 11 July 2023 – “The Real Robyn Hoode” (Mark Olly)

## Key Information about Bolton Family History Society

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>

•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)

•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> 976 Likes and 1K people following on Facebook

•Bolton Research Collection on MLFHS website:

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/research>

(For members only)

•Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/join> .

## Key to "Memories of Bolton" on page 1

