

# Bolton's Genies

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society

## Edition 113 – October 2023



This month's photograph is of Knowsley Street in the early 1900s. The electric tram No 28, was built in 1899 and was introduced on the route to Dunscar in 1900 when Bolton Corporation took over the tram system. Previously it had been run by Messrs E Holden and Company with horse drawn trams on the tramways including the one to Dunscar. Bolton Corporation took over the tramways on 1 January 1900 and introduced electric traction the following day including the service to Dunscar.

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# **Editorial Musings**

Congratulations to all those involved with the Rock Hall project. I know from professional experience how frustrating and draining writing funding bids can be. It is tremendous news that the sum of £4m has been awarded. It will be fascinating to see the Hall restored to its former glory.

Good luck to Graham Holt and his prospective team as they start work on transcribing "The Mercury."

The positive side of shorter days is using the longer evenings to work on projects. Ron is busy following a lead sparked by an exchange with Jane Milne. He is searching for information on Sir Harold Kroto. If readers have any information, please email Ron at [ron.cole40@btinternet.com](mailto:ron.cole40@btinternet.com)

I am determined to finish novel number four which is about health visiting in the late 1970s/early 1980s.

Best wishes with your autumn/winter projects  
Cath

## **Information and Updates for Members**

### **Rock Hall, Farnworth**

Exciting News: On 22 September 2023 at midnight, the National Heritage Lottery Fund announced that it had awarded £4m for the restoration of Rock Hall. Bolton Family History Society has actively supported this project and Jane Milne, one of our members, has been closely involved with the research of the Crompton's family history. Jane is hopeful that this Crompton family will be as well-known and celebrated in Bolton as Samuel's. She hopes also to find a connection between the two Crompton families.

Sourced by Jane Milne

### **A message from BFHS's Project Officer, Graham Holt**

Tillotson's Newspapers, the founders and initial publishers of the Bolton Evening News, produced a company newsletter throughout the Second World War which kept all of its employees updated with what was happening to past and present

employees. The newsletter was called “The Mercury” and was produced every month. Bolton FHS has acquired a bound copy of every issue from November 1939 to March 1946 from which we intend to transcribe appropriate details for inclusion on the MLFHS website. Scans of every page will be added to the MLFHS website.

If you wish to consider being involved in the transcribing, please email Graham at [tillnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tillnewsletter@gmail.com) and he will send you 3 pages of a newsletter and a completed spreadsheet to illustrate the work involved. Graham has calculated that an 8-page newsletter will take about 2½ hours to transcribe. If you then decide that you would be happy to do some work simply send an email saying so and Graham will send you a month to work on.

## **Speaker Bookings**

A reminder to speakers who need to contact Jane Milne. She makes all the monthly bookings for BFHS.

Jane Milne’s email address is [Boltonprog@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:Boltonprog@mlfhs.org.uk)

## **Bolton FHS Helpdesk**

Please note the new Helpdesk email address:

[boltonfhishelp@gmail.com](mailto:boltonfhishelp@gmail.com)

## **Who can claim an unclaimed estate?**

If someone dies without leaving a valid or effective will the following are entitled to the estate in the order shown below:

- husband, wife or civil partner
- children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and so on
- mother or father
- brothers or sisters who share both the same mother and father, or their children (nieces and nephews)
- half brothers or sisters or their children (nieces and nephews of the half blood or their children). ‘Half’ means they share only one parent with the deceased
- grandparents
- uncles and aunts or their children (first cousins or their descendants)
- half uncles and aunts or their children (first cousins of the half blood or their children). ‘Half’ means they only share one grandparent with the deceased, not both

If you are, for example, a first cousin of the deceased, you would only be entitled to share in the estate if there are no relatives above you in the order of entitlement, for example, a niece or nephew.

To find out how you can claim an estate, you can find advice on the UK Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-a-claim-to-a-deceased-persons-estate>

There is also a list of unclaimed estates - check your surname against the list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unclaimed-estates-list>

Sourced by Jane Milne  
Edited by Ron Cole

## **Lost Cousins Putting Relatives in Touch**

The latest newsletter of 27 September 2023 is available at <https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/latesep23news.htm>

The LostCousins newsletter is usually published 2 or 3 times a month.

Sourced by Jane Milne

## **Appeal for British Korean Veterans**

The Secretary of the North of England Branch of British Korean Veterans, Ken Keld, is seeking personnel who served in Korea between 1950 & 1956. He can be contacted via the following Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/278450892200994/permalink/6705604812818871/>

## **Northumberland Family History The best free websites**

If you have family from the North East, this article from WDYT YA is well worth a read.

<https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/feature/northumberland-family-history/>

## **Geneteka for Polish Research**

There must be a lot of Boltonians with Polish backgrounds and this is a good research source. Click below:

<https://www.ongenealogy.com/listings/geneteka-free-polish-genealogy-index/>

Sourced by Jane Milne

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.

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## **Recent Events**

### **October Meeting**

Paul Salveson, PhD, MBE, Visiting Professor at the Universities of Bolton and Huddersfield gave the October Meeting talk. He gave an overview of his book "Lancastrians: Mills, Mines and Minarets: A New History" which explores the cultural heritage and identity of Lancashire from the Mersey to the Lake District. It follows the county's transformation from a largely agricultural region noted for its religious learning into the Industrial Revolution's powerhouse.

Paul began by showing the older borders of a much larger county (pre-1900s) which ranged from the Mersey in the south to parts of Westmorland and Cumberland in the northwest to an uneven eastern border that stretched as far east as Oldham and Todmorden where the border ran through the Town Hall! He

then went on to describe the many facets of Lancashire's identity, history and culture that made the county an influential hub for social and political ideas. Pre-industrialisation, handloom weavers made a large contribution to both the economy and culture as they were usually well read and pursued other interests such as choirs, orchestras and instrument making, enriching the cultural life of their communities. Handloom weaving began to die out in the 1830s with the advent of mechanisation and by the 1880s there were only 2-3 handloom weavers left in Bolton.

Another major factor in the history of Lancashire and in Bolton was cotton spinning. Paul described the organization of teams in factories. A spinning master managed a team, who he hired as subcontractors, often the male members of one family. The younger members would carry out the cleanup jobs, working their way up to more skilled tasks. Interestingly, the spinning teams were all men. In contrast, weaving, which had been a man's job in the handloom era became women's work in the mechanized era. Whatever the job was, it was noisy, dangerous and difficult work. Male workers formed trade unions early on and by the 1880s women were also unionised.

Paul then described the development and documenting of the "Lancashire sensibility" including dialect, storytelling, and humour. Tim Bobbin (John Collier) set down dialects he heard, initially because he thought they were in danger of dying out. Soon many were following the example of Edwin Waugh of Rochdale, and creating original writings about Lancashire life in dialect. Most of these authors were part time writers who worked in the mills and who wrote about everyday life. Allen Clarke and his creation Teddy Ashton's Journal, started in 1896 and ran until 1935. Lancashire Authors Association was founded and it still exists today.

Recreation was an important aspect of life. Municipal parks were formed in the 19th century, with the Prime Minister, Mr Gladstone, opening Farnworth Park in 1864. A local mill owner, Thomas Barnes, had donated the land. Queen's Park. (Opened 1866) was another of these recreational areas for the public. Self - improvement was another pastime of the general public in their spare time. Mechanics' Institutes were formed sponsored by local mill owners, with their own independent Boards of Governors. Co-operative Societies had their own libraries for members' free use. With the advent of public libraries (many founded by Andrew Carnegie) the Co-operative Societies generally donated their collections to the new libraries, in the interest of free reading for all. Heywood Library in Rochdale was one of the Carnegie libraries and still exists today as part of the Rochdale libraries system.

Lancashire has long had a large diversity of religions, with a strong Catholic tradition in the east of the county and non-conformist denominations in the west. Bolton has always had a mix of religious believers. Furness Abbey, now in Cumbria, was an influential centre of learning until dissolution in 1537. More recently, other faiths, including Hinduism and Islam have been established in the town.

Lancastrian Humour has long played a big role in Lancashire's culture and life. It often focussed on surreal elements of ordinary life. Dialect writer Sam Fitton produced a number of examples in the early twentieth century. The presentation also featured humorous holiday postcard cartoons with a twist. They were sent from those back home to those on holiday to remind them of the hardships they were returning home to, such as long hours, bad weather and foul air. Paul gave a modern example of Peter Kay's "Garlic bread" and "Big Light".

There is a great sporting tradition in Lancashire and many Lancashire teams have had great success (including those in Bolton). Cycling has also been popular with clubhouses as social centres. Beginning in the 1920s, the "Millworkers Grand National" a point-to-point race was run as an offshoot of the Holcombe Hunt outside Harwood. The riders were local workers and the event was very popular. Mills would close early and football fixtures would be adjusted to accommodate attendance at the Point-to-Point.

In the pre-NHS era, alternative sources of medicines were a necessity and herbalists flourished. Locally Hassall's set up a shop for alternative medicine in Longcauseway, Farnworth. Most herbalists were working class while mainstream medical practitioners were upper middle class. This led to some conflict.

Lancashire has long been home to regional enterprise. The Lancashire and Yorkshire railway, incorporated in 1847, had its headquarters in Manchester and was one example. The Railway established its own works in Horwich in 1886 and produced steam engines which were claimed to reach speeds of up to 100mph. Dobson and Barlow, founded in 1790, were manufacturers of textile machinery in Bolton.

A host of other innovators and entrepreneurs contributed to Lancashire life and economy. Some notable examples are:

T.H. Mawson, 1861-1933, was a [garden designer](#), [landscape architect](#) and [town planner](#). The son of a cotton worker, he notably designed gardens at Rivington for William Lever in addition to many British and international commissions.

Solomon Partington, 1843-1899, was a Bolton journalist and politician who supported the Winter Hill Mass Trespass in 1896.

Mary Higgs, OBE and writer, 1854-1937, was the wife of an Oldham Unitarian minister. She persuaded a local millowner to donate land to create a garden village and campaigned for improvement in conditions for women in lodging houses. She often entered a house in disguise so that she could determine its actual conditions.

Mining has long been a part of the Lancashire economy, with benefits and negative impacts, such as air pollution from coal burning. In 1874, the explosion at the Astley Deep Pit in Dukinfield, killed and injured many men and boys. The Astley Green Colliery Museum commemorates this and other disasters. Lancashire music reflected German influence mainly through Charles Halle but a notable Lancashire composer was Thomas Pitfield, born in Bolton, who composed and studied music at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Art galleries in Salford and Bolton have extensive collections of Lancashire artists.

Lancashire towns have a history of a strong local press which has contributed to Lancastrian identity. For instance, the “Cotton Factory Times”, a pro-union paper published literary contributions of its readers and Allen Clarke produced a weekly “Teddy Ashton’s Journal”.

The Co-operative has long been a tradition in Lancashire and the first Co-operative Wholesale Society, founded in Rochdale, has included Societies in Bolton and Manchester and later spread throughout the country.

Lancashire’s influence has been felt around the world from textile engineers who went to Russia as part of the Tolstoy-inspired back-to-the-land movement in the late 19th century and hand weavers who emigrated to the United States. The height of the county’s influence was the peak of cotton production before WWI but it declined rapidly after WWII. This decline contributed to some loss of Lancashire’s identity that was further eroded in 1974 Local Government Act which greatly reduced the administrative county of Lancashire.

Today’s county is a much more diverse place and Paul gave as an example a Scottish Pipe Band made up entirely of young Asian boys.

Paul posed a number of questions for the future; service economy, knowledge economy, tourism and cultural industries being factors to link Lancashire with its past.

Cath thanked Paul for his very informative talk and noted that his book is available in local bookshops.

There were several questions and comments including:

Is it true that a man’s status/occupation could be determined by the type of hat he wore? Yes, workers and clerks wore a flat cap, foremen and station managers a bowler and owners a top hat.

Were there a lot of injuries in mills? There were some horrible injuries including loss of eyes, limbs and head injuries, as well as unseen dangers such as heat, dust and smoke.

What was a doffing mistress? A doffer, often a young girl, took the spindles off the machines to replenish them. The mistress was their supervisor.

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## Upcoming Events

**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 - Quiz, Raffle & Supper (No Zoom)** - To be held at our usual place, Bolton Golf Club. Tickets will be available at October and November meetings. The cost will be £5 to members and £10 to non-members.

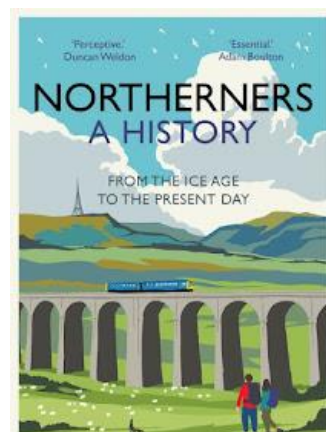
## Advance Notice of 2024 BFHS Speakers

- **Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup> Wayne Ashton “Tom and Fanny have gone to Russia they liked it so much they stayed”.**

The story of how Wayne’s uncle and aunt, two 19<sup>th</sup> century Bolton mill workers were recruited to work in Russia in 1861 and stayed for forty years. Wayne became interested in the subject only to find that there were thousands of Brits in Russia up until 1917 and some never came back, they made quite a community for themselves.

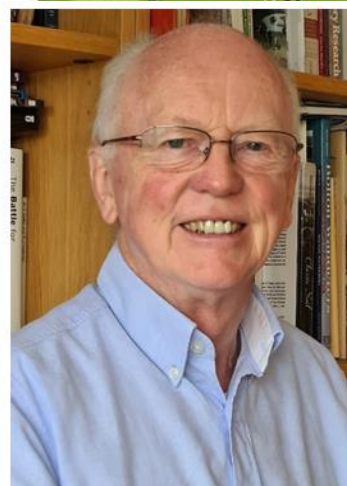
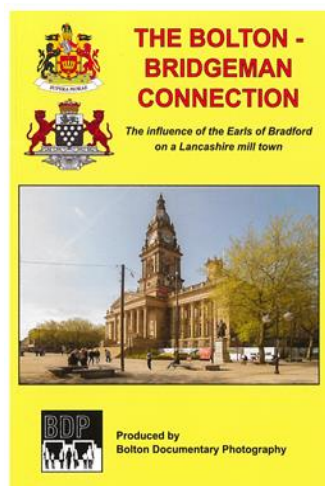
- **Wednesday Feb 7<sup>th</sup> Brian Groom Northerners Based on Brian's book 'Northerners: A History, from the Ice Age to the Present Day',**

Brian’s book was published in paperback on 25 May 2023 by Harper North. It is the first general history of northern England to be published for more than 30 years. We are promised an entertaining event with wide appeal and plenty of local interest, a 45-minute romp through 180 million years of northern history!



- **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March Ray Jefferson from his new book ‘The Bolton - Bridgeman Connection’.**

Ray, a local author and lifelong photographer, believes photography should be valued according to the contribution it makes to society, and is the chairman and a photographer for the voluntary community and arts organisation Bolton Documentary Photography, meet the team ([boltondocumentary.co.uk](http://boltondocumentary.co.uk)).



The story tells how the Bridgeman family (later elevated to the Earls of Bradford) were involved in the story of Bolton over 350 years and it is a development of the exhibition which was mounted in the parish church in 2017.

- **Wed April 3<sup>rd</sup> Maggy Simm “Henry Dawsons presentation album and T Taylor Ltd of Bolton”.**

<https://tinyurl.com/fkz7udv3>

<https://tinyurl.com/4vvaz24z>

Thanks to Jane Milne

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## **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.

An interesting website sourced by Bolton News – “Unclaimed estates in Bolton revealed by Treasury for June”

<https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/23622610.unclaimed-estates-bolton-revealed-treasury-june/>

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# Lancashire Records

## News from The Archives

For the latest news from Lancashire County Council's "The Archives"

<https://email.ionos.co.uk/appsuite/?tl=y#!&app=io.ox/mail&folder=default0/INBOX>

**UKBMD Summary** <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.

Lancashire Archives Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/lancsarchives>

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## Activities and Events from MLFHS Branches



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



**Manchester branch** – Next meeting – 17 January 2024  
Details in a future edition of this newsletter



**Oldham and District Branch** – Next meeting - Saturday 11th November at 2pm - "The Moravians" - An illustrated presentation given by Jean Bailo

The Story of their Journey from Eastern Europe to Fairfield, Manchester. In this illustrated talk we can follow their progress and learn a little of their philosophy and way of life, their advanced ideas on education and equality, focussing especially on the Moravian Settlement in Fairfield, Droylsden. We take a virtual walk around the community as it is today.

A hybrid meeting in the Performance Space at Oldham Library and on zoom.

\* No booking necessary for attendance in the library; members free, non-members £3.

\* Booking essential for attendance on zoom and will be free to all.

Booking for zoom will be on Eventbrite

**Note: There will be no meeting of the Oldham Branch in December**



**Anglo Scottish Branch** - Next meeting - 4 November 2023 at 2 pm -  
"Banishment and Transportation" - Ken Nisbet

When and why were people banished? How far away were they sent, for how long and for what crimes? How many Scots were transported - are there records? This is sure to be another interesting talk from Ken Nisbet that may give us some clues as to the whereabouts of "lost" ancestors.

Venue: Online via Zoom

Booking: via Eventbrite

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £3

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## **Other Local History Societies' Meetings**

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



**Halliwell Local History Society** <http://goo.gl8erYyr>

Email: [enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk)

Next meeting – 31 October 2023 - Elaine Taylor - "Smithills Hall Gardens"

Nov meeting - 28 November 2023 - Ray Jefferson - "The Bridgeman and Bradford Estates in Bolton"



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

Next meeting - 26 October 2023 at 7.30 pm - - "Old Postcard Tour of Turton" by Ged Melia

Nov meeting - 23 November 2023 at 7.30 pm - AGM + "The Roman Fort at Wayoh Bridge" by David Ratledge)

Both meetings will be held at Harwood Methodist Church

£2 entry fee for non-members.

Email: [mlandypublishing@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mlandypublishing@yahoo.co.uk)

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

Meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday of the month in Westhoughton Library, Market St, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU.

Next meetings - 19 Oct - 16 Nov - at 10.00 am



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

Next talk – 14 November 2023 at 7.30 pm - “The People’s Parks” by Geoff Scargill

This meeting will be held at Horwich Community Centre and will be free to members - there will be a charge of £2.00 payable at the door for non-members. Open Days, Admission Free, are held most months on Saturdays between 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

## **Key Information about Bolton Family History Society**

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

•Speaker Bookings: [Boltonprog@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:Boltonprog@mlfhs.org.uk)

•Bolton helpdesk: [boltonfhishelp@gmail.com](mailto:boltonfhishelp@gmail.com)

•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 the MLFHS website: (For members only)

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

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

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