



Bolton's Genies

10th Anniversary Edition

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society

Edition 122 – July 2024



Photo from Bolton News

This remarkable, if slightly battered photo, gives a glimpse inside Bolton's magnificent market hall at the end of the nineteenth century. It was taken in 1895 and indicates what an impressive structure it was. Built in 1855, the market hall occupied a site of more than one and a half acres. Several rows of terraced cottages were demolished to make way for what many consider to be one of the lost jewels in Bolton's crown.

From Bolton News - Sourced by Jane Milne

Editorial Musings

This is the 10th Anniversary of Bolton's Genies and on behalf of the Society I would like to thank Jane Milne and others for all their tremendous efforts in getting the Genies off the ground and sustaining the publication for the majority of the ten years.

Best wishes
Cath Cole

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Information and Updates for Members

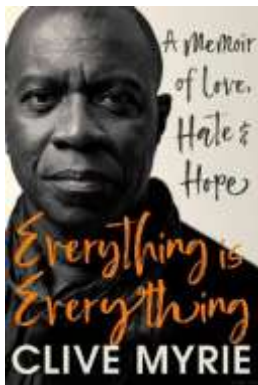
Bolton's Aviation History - The Early Years of Flight to the Space Age

This is a very interesting article by Denis McCann. Follow the link

<https://www.facebook.com/download/1004150724601981/Bolton%20Aeroplanes%20PDF.pdf>

Sourced by Jane Milne

Clive Myrie's Book Launch in Bolton



I suppose for me the main impression was surprise and admiration that such a well-known and prestigious journalist and TV presenter from the BBC as Clive Myrie, was born at the Haslam's Maternity Home in Bolton. His parents had come from Jamaica as part of the Windrush programme and had opted to live in Bolton on the recommendations of an uncle who had served in the RAF and had been stationed nearby during WWII. My main interest in attending the evening at the Albert Hall was to discover how a Jamaican family, with no real insight into Bolton or even Lancashire ways and the temperate climate etc

were tempted to come over here. They no doubt expected to be welcomed, settle here, contribute to our economy and happily bring up their children, in what they understood would be an improvement in their Caribbean life. They were committed to re-build Britain after WWII. I rather think many over here would have much preferred to be doing the reverse.

Clive was asked about his memories of his upbringing and he reminisced about his happy boyhood living on George Street, Farnworth. He attended St Michaels CE School on Green Lane. It was only in preparation for his own wedding that he learned from his mother that he had been baptised a Roman Catholic. He then heard the story behind this.

His mother, Lynne, had been an experienced Primary School teacher at a Roman Catholic school in Jamaica and she had understood she would be able to continue her career over here after an initial induction. When she arrived, she was told her training was not suitable for English schools and she commenced retraining, although already pregnant with Clive. She had to withdraw from training before completing the course. She then took to her alternative skills of seamstress and eventually made clothes for M&S and Mary Quant amongst others. Mrs Myrie was allowed to make entire garments unsupervised at home rather than undertaking work in a sewing room. She could therefore also care for her family.

Mrs Myrie had been given a letter of introduction from her Jamaican priest to give to the local Farnworth RC priest. She expected to find friendship and support in the new congregation. On attending the church, she stood quietly at the back during the service then gave the priest the letter. He read it, then asked her address and explained to her that she was a few houses outside his parish boundary and should be attending St Gregory's, a few bus stops away in Farnworth. Clive was baptised at St Gregory's and was the first child to be baptised in English rather than Latin under the new protocol. Mrs Myrie then opted to accept the warm welcome she had received at St Michael's Church of England in Great Lever. This was why Clive went to school there and then on to Hayward Grammar School as did his six siblings.

Clive told us of happy days as a child playing around the area on his bike and eventually getting a paper round which meant he had access to newspapers that provided his introduction to world news and politics.

His father Norris was homesick and similarly unable to continue his trade as a self-employed shoemaker. He worked for Chloride Lorival in Little Lever and eventually returned to Jamaica.

Clive went on to take a Law Degree at Sussex University. He was tempted to continue with law but decided that journalism was his preferred path. He gained a job with the BBC. His career blossomed. He prefers to describe himself as a "journalist who is black" rather than a "black journalist". His mantra is to report things honestly as they are, using an unbiased dialogue. He has a deep desire to be trusted to do that. He advocates that if he is seen in the flesh, in different roles beyond the news desk scenario, the public should be able to make their own judgement about familiar newscasters and decide if they trust them. He gave the examples of Fiona Bruce doing Antique programmes and Sophie Raworth doing the Chelsea Flower Show and marathons. This hopefully avoids the public being misled by the "fake news" we hear so much about.

Clive has since worked all over the world, firstly in Japan, then in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle and Far East and the USA. He has many stories to tell of his experiences, best read about in his book. Episodes that remain in my mind apart from the routine news broadcasts are his reporting from inside a London hospital as Covid was striking in the first lock down. His harrowing accounts of the invasion of Ukraine from the early days standing on a roof top in a flak jacket and helmet with flashes and explosions behind him. He later met President Zelenskyy and then came home to host Mastermind. There are of course many more memorable stories.

He also recounted some of the history of Jamaica, explaining how Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army had occupied Ireland from 1652 brutally suppressing their rebellion and then they moved on to take Jamaica from Spain in 1655. Cromwell then transported many thousands of Irish boys and girls to the Caribbean, making them indentured servants working alongside the black African slaves already there. They all worked together in "terrible conditions" on the plantations. Because of this Irish is now the second most claimed ethnic origin

after African in Jamaica. The Guinness brewery, just outside Kingston, was second only to the one in Ireland for many years. Some might have noticed on Clive's recent TV series about Jamaica gives cooking demonstrations using several traditional recipes involving Guinness.

Clive told the story of taking his white wife to be, Catherine of Irish descent, to see the island and be introduced to his maternal grandmother who was then in the early stages of dementia. As he was introducing them to each other, his Granny panicked and shouted "Casa yu boka" in Spanish, meaning "Shut your mouth" then "I'm not your slave". When Clive, puzzled, asked for an explanation, he learned that her father, his great grandfather, Eugene Graham, along with many thousands of others of Caribbean descent had been recruited to South America to help build the Panama Canal in the early years of the 20th century. It had been newly funded by American entrepreneurs. Many previous workers had died of yellow fever and malaria, and it had been realised that those of African origins had some natural resistance to these diseases so were highly desired recruits. Clive's granny would have been about 7 or 8 then and the workers and their families were all treated as second class citizens, the children had to attend separate schools from the whites but did acquire knowledge of Spanish through conversation with other white children taught by Spanish teachers. The black workers were given inferior food, and allocated to segregated dining areas where they were not allowed to even sit down. The white workers had chairs, table linen and fine rockery. The black workers were not given managerial roles. They were paid with the silver dollars as opposed to gold ones which were worth four times more and they were known as "Silvermen".

There were frequent what we now call "industrial accidents", with many killed or maimed and many natural deaths through overwork and poor conditions. Eugene died there of heart problems and the family returned home to Jamaica to find that the little property that his daughter had been left in his will had been acquired by distant family and she had nothing. Clive's Granny died soon after his visit in 2006.

Clive gathered information of a great uncle, George Runners, who despite unimaginable racial prejudice felt he should contribute to the war effort as many others also did in WWI. He joined up to support Britain. Black people were still considered inferior to any white people even though they were generally much fitter through diet and a healthier environment. They were only allocated to fight other non-whites and given menial roles. They were denied promotion beyond sergeant. George still fought on the Somme, was awarded medals and returned home to be a prominent police detective in Jamaica.

As Clive's career progressed his role models were Sir Trevor McDonald and Alan Whicker. He has also met many well-known personalities and high ranking politicians during his career and interviewed people such as Nelson Mandela, several American presidents and, as mentioned previously, President Zelenskyy.

He is curious but remains unsure of his African roots, wondering if there is a possibility of Angolan origins. He has been making real efforts to stay connected with his Bolton roots. He became Pro Chancellor of University of Bolton last year <https://tinyurl.com/ydvcsvvr>

He is a son of Bolton that Boltonians can be proud of. I have tried to contact him to ask if he would be prepared to write an article about his Bolton memories and his family story about coming here but, like most celebrities, he is very difficult to contact. This is my version of hearing his talk and subsequently reading his book.

Report by Jane Milne

MLFHS Virtual Helpdesk

The link is <https://mlfhs.uk/virtual-help-desk-landing>

Helen Pitt's Visit

The BFHS has always been keen to report details of our monthly talks for the benefit of members unable to attend in person or on Zoom and also to provide a record to refer back to and also provide a record for future reference. During Covid, we advertised for assistance in taking notes each month and were fortunate to be contacted by Helen Pitt, who lives in Canada and who had joined our talks using the new Zoom facility. She was willing to take on the job. Since then, she has made an excellent contribution to the Genies' articles. Helen has now also taken on the role of Zoom co-ordinator, welcoming members to Zoom meetings.

Helen told us that she would be travelling to the UK with her sister to visit relatives. Rita Greenwood and I agreed to meet her in Manchester. We walked to meet Helen at Piccadilly and passed Clayton House, which until 10 years ago was the headquarters of MLFHS.

In readiness for the Saturday visit when the regular Help Desk at the Central Library would not be available, we had asked Helen about her Manchester research and put various questions to the Help Desk [Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society - Virtual Help Desk: Landing \(mlfhs.uk\)](https://mlfhs.uk) to be as prepared as possible. Leslie Turner who manages the Help Desk Team, responded the next day with information about Helen's ancestors. Helen's ancestors owned a company, Pitt Bros Ltd. that ran a fringe making business on Watling Street opposite what is now Shude Hill station. They had branched out into manufacturing ribbons and other stock, described as "small ware" in censuses. Leslie identified more addresses for the business. The new Chair of MLFHS, Hilary Hartigan met us in the Library Café and we were given a guided tour of the 2nd and 4th Floors of the Library. Hilary has subsequently shared some entries in Lancashire Trade Directories. Helen had already found the details of the Pitt grave in Weaste cemetery. She had a photograph from

Findagrave and some helpful researchers from the Friends of Salford Cemeteries Trust on Facebook had found the six names of all in the grave and the location. We had to say goodbye to Helen as we came out of the library to return home. She was going on for more adventures with her family. We will meet up again via Zoom but it was good to meet her in person. It does feel as though the world is shrinking as international communication in real time has become so much easier. It also shows how members from anywhere in the world can join in and help with many of our ongoing contributions to keeping the society running. Everyone in MLFHS is a volunteer and offers of help are always welcome. It is so satisfying when it all works out.

Report by Jane Milne

Can You Help? What Happened to Sarah Cadwell?

I am Alex G Roberts and although I'm from Southport I have family connections to Bolton as my father's mother's maternal line were all from Bolton.

Last year the North Meols (Southport) Family History Society, of which I'm a committee member, embarked on a project documenting the lives and creating family trees for 58 military personnel with Commonwealth War Graves in three churches in Southport. One of the men I'm researching is Harold Cadwell, 14 December 1888 – 29 August 1918. It wasn't long before I realised that I'm related to him on three different lines, all through marriage.

Although most of the Cadwell family are from Southport quite a few relocated to Bolton. One such person was Harold's 2nd cousin on his father's side, Daniel. Daniel married Sarah Ann Eccles, 8 April 1872 to early 1953. She was a 4th cousin once removed to me on my father's side.

However, it's another Sarah Ann that I'm trying to find out about, Harold's 5th cousin, Sarah Ann Cadwell was born in mid-1910 to Thomas Cadwell 1888 – 1911 and Mary Ellen, nee Noon, 1883 – 1911. Mary Ellen died on 18 April 1911 at 6 Markland Street, Bolton. The cause of death was 'acute pneumonia' (valvular right) 3 days. Miscarriage on 12 April 1911'. Her husband Thomas is shown as a carter on her death certificate and it was he who registered his wife's death.

On the 17th of the following month, at 6 Markland Street, Thomas took his own life, 'self-hanging with a rope whilst temporarily insane' is the cause of death on his death certificate. He was buried at Heaton Cemetery on 22 May 1911.

This left little Sarah Ann an orphan, but what happened to her? She isn't showing up on the 1921 Census and there's no death for a Sarah Ann Cadwell or Sarah Cadwell registered anywhere in England or Wales between 1911 and 1921. It did cross my mind that her father may have killed her before killing himself but that doesn't appear to be the case.

Three of Sarah Ann's grandparents had died before she was born. The only surviving grandparent, Anthony Noon, died in 1917. Mary Ann's brother, Anthony was serving with the Army in Dinapore, Bihar and Orissa, India in 1921

so Sarah wasn't with him. It also doesn't appear as though Sarah was with any of her aunts or uncles on either side of the family, so where was she?

If you have information that may help Alex, please email him at

Alexnbernie@yahoo.co.uk

Sourced by Ron Cole

Recent Events

July Meeting

Bastards! Illegitimacy in Lancashire from the 16th to the 19th centuries A Presentation by Dr Alan Crosby

Dr Crosby made a welcome return to Bolton to give a talk on the attitudes towards and methods of dealing with bastardy. He felt that there might be offence taken with the word bastardy but this is the word that was used for hundreds of years for children born out of wedlock. Even in more recent times, people may be embarrassed by the effect of bastardy. He took the opportunity to ask the audience who did not have an incidence of bastardy in their research.

Not one hand went up!

In the 17th century, puritanism influenced people's views on bastardy. A woman with a bastard child was deemed to be the natural person to bring up the child. Pregnant women had to appear before magistrates who would decide whether or not to pursue a man, named by the woman as the father of her child, for payment towards the upkeep of the child, often to the age of 16 (but sometimes to nine years of age). Magistrates would put pressure on the man to marry the woman. If that failed the mother's family would have to support the child if they were able. The 1601 Poor Law was managed by Church Wardens and other church officials. From 1662 the law gave the responsibility to the township rather than a parish. The Township had the responsibility of dealing with children born to unwed mothers. Magistrates Courts and Quarter Session Courts were involved. The first thing the Courts would do is try to ascertain the filiation of the child - that is naming the father. It seems that, in many cases, the named father was not found, having left the area. Church courts could be involved in respect of the fornication aspect and/or adultery. The Church was the guardian and arbiter of private modesty. A Child Support Agency was set up but it floundered as it only had a 5% success rate. Later there was a moral debate which addressed lewd and licentious behaviour and illicit relationships were taken before Church Courts. The attitude at that time was that women were sinful and men were virtuous. As the 17th century wore on, the realities of the Poor Law System became apparent, with the normal method of dealing with bastardy being:

- “Fathering” the child (naming the culprit)
- The filiation process and preparing a bastardy bond
- Attempting to secure payment
- Punishing the mother and sometimes the father
- Paying the mother or the mother seeking financial assistance
- Potentially removing the mother and/or child to another parish.

It was normal for the mother to be pressed to name the father whilst in the throes of labour. As a punishment for being pregnant she might well be whipped at the stocks till she bled. The only punishment for the father, if he was found, was the payment of money for maintenance of the bastard child.

There was a steady increase in illegitimacy during the 18th century. In Deane, Bolton in 1680 the rate was 3% but by 1840 the rate was 8%. Young people, foot-loose and fancy-free, were moving to the towns from the countryside. It was not uncommon for young men and women to move from London to gain employment in Lancashire mills or in Liverpool in the shipping industry. Young women had jobs and money so were able to socialise. If a couple was betrothed, it was accepted they could co-habit (by the middle of the 19th century there was not as much influence from the church).

Dr Crosby showed many examples of documentation which will now be held at County Record Offices in each county outlining court cases. He also included Quarter Sessions records and Parish records. These records are the best way of finding the father of a child whose name is not on a birth certificate or baptism.

Cath Cole thanked Dr Crosby for a most interesting, entertaining and information talk.

Report by Rita Greenwood and Ron Cole

Please Note that a record of this talk and all previous talks are available for members on the MLFHS website. Members have to log-in find the Bolton Branch and click on ‘Newsletter’

Non-members can go to the MLFHS website

Click on ‘Branches’

Highlight ‘Bolton’

Click on ‘Newsletter’

Scroll down to ‘Bolton Newsletter Sign Up’

Enter your ‘Name and Email address’

Click on ‘SIGN UP’

Each Newsletter contains a report of that month’s talk.

Neolithic Find in Horwich

This link to a recent Bolton News article could be of interest to those Boltonians whose DNA indicates Scandinavian ancestry.

<https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/24413385.Norwich-neolithic-axe-head-found-eroded-footpath/>

Sourced by Jane Milne

Upcoming Event



Family History is an attractive pastime. Its related research will absorb those who pursue their own family's history. The talk offers help to beginners and the more experienced researchers. Future Family History will be affected by current trends.

Speaker: Mike Coyle

Date: Wednesday 7 August 2024

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Bolton Golf Club & Online via Zoom

Booking: In-person at Bolton Golf Club (no advanced booking required)

Booking: Online via Zoom - Eventbrite can be reached via the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-future-of-family-history-bolton-fhs-tickets-925096898727?aff=oddtcreator>

Please note: All events are subject to last minute changes due to circumstances beyond our control. Please check our monthly Newsletter and Facebook page for any last minute changes, as that is the only way we can contact people.

Advance Notice of 2024 BFHS Speakers

Speakers for the remainder of 2024 will be published each month in this newsletter.

Speakers have been invited for all months up to November 2024 and are available to view on the following website:

<https://mlfhs.uk/Bolton/events/meetings>

Bolton History Centre and Bolton Records

Bolton History Centre is now open in the Central Library. The Centre has informed us that “It will be located in the far right hand corner of the main library; in one of its original positions!”

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 Bolton Archives and Local Studies Service aim to answer all enquiries within 10 working days.

The service can carry out 20 minutes of research free of charge. More detailed research may be carried out for a fee, this is dependent on staff capacity. Please refer to our website for charges, opening times and full details of our services: [History Centre – Bolton Libraries and Museums \(boltonlams.co.uk\)](http://boltonlams.co.uk)

A list of freelance Record Agents who can undertake more in-depth research is available at [Record agents | Research service for archives and local history | Manchester City Council](#)

In person visits to Bolton History Centre to view our digital resources can be made without appointment.

Visits to view archives and local studies material require at least 7 days’ notice to enable transfer of material from stores.

Access information about our local studies collections here (selecting Local Studies from the drop down menu):

<https://bolton.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

Access to the archive collections here (select "Search Other Archives" from bottom of page and enter Bolton Archives and Local Studies):

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advanced-search>

References to some of the websites:

<https://boltonremembers.org/> has some of the WW1 & WW2 records we have found for Bolton military personnel born, resided, or enlisted in Bolton.

<https://bolton.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

This following link is the History Centre page for the services that are offered to researchers. It gives some information about archives and the records that are held. <https://www.boltonlams.co.uk/history-centre-1>

An interesting website sourced by Bolton News – “Unclaimed estates in Bolton revealed by HM’s Treasury Department for June and July”

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

<https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/23688759.unclaimed-estates-bolton-revealed-treasury-july/>

Lancashire Records

News from The Archives



Lancashire Archives News and Events - their latest newsletter and more - follow the link:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/t80G2RPY4Cx7CP8?ref=Link>

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

Lancashire Parish Register Society link - www.lprs.org.uk

Lancs Online Parish Clerk - follow the link www.lan-opc.org.uk

Lancashire Infantry Museum link - www.tinyurl.com/lanacs-inf-mus

Activities and Events from MLFHS Branches



Please note these events are all free to subscribed MLFHS members, £5 to guests.



Manchester Branch

Next meeting – There is no Manchester Branch meeting in August



Oldham and District Branch

Next meeting - Saturday 10 August 2024 at 2.00 pm - “Exploring the Licence Family through Photo Postcards” An illustrated journey by Linda Hammond. A free zoom only meeting all are very welcome - booking via Eventbrite.



Anglo Scottish Branch

Next meeting: There is no Anglo-Scottish meeting in August

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

Next meeting – Tuesday 27 August 2024 at 7.30 pm - “Cotton Town Chronicles” presented by Peter Snape at St Luke’s Church, Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1 4JE. Members £1.00 and Guests £2.50



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

Next event - 22 August 2024 “Made in Manchester” a talk by Brian Groom - Harwood Methodist Church at 7.30 pm.

Email: mlandypublishing@yahoo.co.uk

Westhoughton Local History Group – <http://goo.gl/XNugI5>

Next meetings - Thursday 15 August 2024 at 10 am - “Annual Quiz” by Alex Prescott at Westhoughton Library, Market St, Westhoughton BL5 3AU.

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



Next event – Tuesday 13 August 2024 at 7.30 pm. “English Village from 1750 to Present” by Stuart Elliott. Visitors are £2.00, pay at the door.

“Horwich Timeline” Exhibition - June to August - Free admission.

Open Days, Admission Free, are held most months on Saturdays between 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Exhibition: June to August 2024: “Horwich Timeline” at Horwich Heritage Centre with free admission.

BFHS's Regular Venue

Our regular venue is Bolton Golf Club, Chorley New Road, Bolton 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.

Key Information about Bolton Family History Society

- Website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>
- Speaker Bookings: boltonprog@mlfhs.org.uk
- Genies enquiries: boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk
- Bolton helpdesk: 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
- 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>
