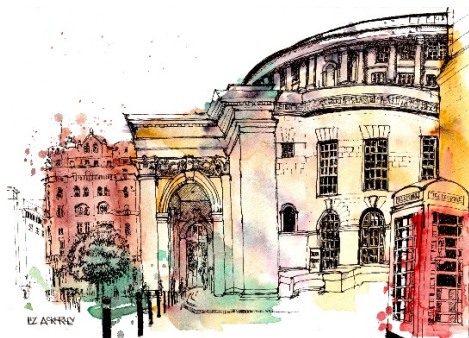


M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the
Manchester & Lancashire Family
History Society



October 2020 Issue 6

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Website: - <https://www.mlfhs.uk>

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MLFHS Office: - office@mlfhs.org.uk

The Manchester Genealogist: - office@mlfhs.org.uk

MLFHS mailing address: Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society, 3rd Floor,
Manchester Central Library, St. Peters Square, Manchester, M2 5PD.

SOCIETY BRANCHES

Oldham Branch of MLFHS - <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>

Bolton Branch of MLFHS - <http://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>

Anglo-Scottish Branch of MLFHS – <http://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots>

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I hope that you are all keeping well in these unprecedented times. With all the restrictions in place all events and shows have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. However, a number of organisations are experimenting with virtual events such as that proposed by the Family History Federation.

John Marsden brings us up-to-date about our website - Manchester Ancestors and also gives us a project update. This month I have had the opportunity to review two books recently added to our book store and over the next two months we will be running a book shop competition.

Leslie Turner tells us about the reopening, on a trial basis, of the Help Desk on Monday 12th October. Ray Hulley, a long-standing member of the Society gives us an insight into his search for his ancestors as part of a brief article on what your surname may tell you.

I hope that you are continuing to find the Manchester newsletter interesting and I would be delighted to receive your views and comments through our e-mail address
newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk.

Please be aware that if you are in any public areas in Central Library then you must wear a mask or face covering at all times.

Stay safe. [Barry Henshall]

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Hello everyone, the Covid-19 virus continues to bedevil our lives. I do hope that, wherever you are in the world, you are able to maintain the balance between keeping yourself and your loved ones safe and living your life as fully as you can.

The Society is now entering a period I have been looking forward to all year – post website launch. We are dealing pretty well with the snags and glitches that have emerged since Manchester Ancestors went live. I hope you have all found your path to the resources that will help you trace your ancestors. Even so, Covid-19 remains an obstacle to a return to normal working – meetings remain cancelled for the foreseeable future. We have had to postpone for a short time our plans to resume a physical Helpdesk at our home in Manchester Central Library, though we are hopeful this can take place soon, and you will see elsewhere that we have decided to cancel this year's Annual General Meeting.

David Muil
Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

With the increased restrictions recently imposed by the British Government and the possibility that volunteers may not be able to access our office could you please use the on-line option on our new website to join or renew your subscription to the Society. If, for any reason, this is not possible then please send cheques to

MLFHS
30 Elmsmere Road
Didsbury
Manchester M20 6FL

There could be delays if correspondence is sent to our office at Manchester Central Library.

Elsie Lowe

EVENTS/TALKS

FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

At
Manchester Central Library

On
Saturday 27th March 2021

10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

(More details to follow)



Sponsored by Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society

(www.mlfhs.org.uk)



Covid-19 and Government restrictions are still having an impact on public events. Looking to the future Mark Campbell, Michael Couper, Elsie Lowe, Susan Forshaw, Graham Holt and Barry Henshall are involved in organising a Family History Fair as shown here. A number of Family History Societies and other organisations have been approached to gauge interest. This event is the first of its kind to be organised by the Society and if you have any thoughts about what you would like to see then please contact the news editor at newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk

WORLDWIDE VIRTUAL EVENT

Saturday 14th NOVEMBER

- * 20+ Free Quality Talks
- * Exclusive Goody Bag
- * Specialist Vendors
- * Records & Books
- * Special Show Offers
- * Expert Help & Advice
- * Family History Societies
- * PLUS Much More ...



The FHF Really Useful Family History Show

The virtual show will take place on **SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2020** Visit our dedicated website for the event - www.fhf-reallyuseful.com

Saturday 14th November 2020

Details:

The event is supported by:

AGRA (Association of genealogists and Researchers in Archives)

FamilySearch

Family Tree Magazine

Who Do You Think You Are Magazine

The event will provide:

Expert presentations from renowned speakers

Discussion panels to help you resolve research challenges

Access to all the "shops" on Parish Chest

The opportunity to meet and talk to exhibitors in the virtual exhibition hall

And much more

The event website has been launched and will be updated regularly with details - IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE ACCESS TO AN ONLINE TICKET BOOKING SYSTEM

Venue:

Online only

MANCHESTER ANCESTORS - OUR NEW WEB SITE



Manchester Ancestors: The First Three Weeks!

Now that our new web site is up and running, perhaps it is timely to tell you a bit more about it.

Why a new web site?

Over the past decade we have become increasingly dependent on our online presence. The considerable majority of new members learned about us and joined MLFHS after finding us on the internet while an increasing percentage of members used the online renewal facility. In response, we added more and more functionality to the web site including searchable databases – some public, some member-only – which now offer approaching 3 million name records to help with your research.

The site, however, was becoming old and limiting. Created in a world of desktop PCs, it was unfriendly to those who accessed it using smartphones and tablets, now around 25% of those who visit the site. There was also a disconnect between the web site and the membership management database. This meant that a member joining 'online' was effectively sending us an email asking to join and this might not be manually processed for several days, during which they had no access to the online resources to which membership entitles them. Worse, they had then to separately request access to the member resources, with a further delay. I could go on! Aesthetically too, the site was in need of a major face-lift.

What were our goals?

In redesigning the web site we had some key objectives:

- To maintain and improve the content and functionality of the present web site
- To offer the public an attractive and welcoming site which encouraged people to join the society.
- To enable people to join and members to renew online with immediate effect and for new members to be instantly able to access to member resources.
- To enable members to manage their own personal details such as residential and email addresses.
- To enable administration of membership records from any location
- To enable non-technical volunteers to provide and edit page content.
- To have a web site which was fully supported and did not depend on individuals with specialist skills

How did we go about it?

From the outset, it was recognised that the work could not be done as we wished using in-house skills and that the importance of our online presence warranted a substantial investment in this area. Starting in 2019 a small group representing the interests of the society and branches worked up a specification of our requirements and invited a number of local web design companies to submit proposals to meet our needs. The outcome of this was the appointment of Web Foundry Ltd., of Wilmslow, to design the new site.

Serious discussions began in early 2020 but almost as soon as we had signed the contract, the coronavirus pandemic made meetings with the provider impossible. However, by the use of Zoom meetings and shared online documents, the work proceeded and by the end of August, the design was complete and we were able to launch the site on Thursday 3 September.

How is it going?

Changing a web site so substantially can be expected to produce divided opinions and ours was no exception. However, on balance, the response has been positive and a number of the criticisms have already been addressed. Many members (and non-members) have commented on the attractive appearance of the site and find the mobile-friendly operation welcome.

Some liked the simpler menu system, though others found it a little difficult to get used to the rather different organisation of the site. Some expressed disappointment at the replacement of the 'Toolbar' feature with a new system called 'Weblinks'. For these members, we have reinstated the original toolbar at admin.mlfhs.org.uk/toolbar where it will remain indefinitely.

Some of the new functionality has also taken a while to get used to. For example, the appearance of search results below the search form was not obvious and some members did not realise that their search had produced results which could only be seen when they scrolled down.

Our branch managers are settling into the work of developing the greatly expanded and much more attractive branch sections and uploading newsletters to the new newsletter archives, while the office volunteers are beginning to get their heads around the much changed membership management system.

Given the short time the site has been live, it is premature to come to conclusions, but encouraging to see that both new memberships and online renewals are running at about double the rate they averaged in 2019. At least the change hasn't put people off!

Logging in

Finally, a reminder about logging in which you need to do to:

- Access the member only resources
- Change your personal details
- Join the member Forum or change your Forum settings
- Renew your subscription

Go to mlfhs.uk and click the **Log In** button on the top right of the home page

If you had a password for the old member area, your membership number and that password should log you into the new member area.

If you hadn't used the old member area previously then simply click the '**Forgot Password**' link. You will receive an email with a link to allow you to set a password. When done, continue as above.

If you have a problem, use the **Contact Us** link in the home page footer to email the office. Tell us your name and membership number and we will do our best to sort it out.

John Marsden

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Executive Committee of the Society has decided to cancel this year's Annual General Meeting [AGM].

There is currently no provision within the Society's constitution for an online AGM, so this was not an option. Accordingly, following consultation with the Charity Commission, Trustees decided to adopt emergency measures and cancel the event until 2021. This decision has been recorded to demonstrate good governance of the charity.

The Society is obliged as a Registered Charity to file its Annual Return in accordance with Charity Commission regulations. The Annual Return for the year 2019 has now been duly filed in compliance with those regulations and may be viewed by clicking on the appropriate link in the Footer menu on the Society website, Manchester Ancestors.

While there will be no AGM this year, we value members' opinions and it is important to us that members still have an opportunity to ask questions of the Officers. To facilitate this, there will be an online members' broadcast presently scheduled for Wednesday, November 18th. The date and time will be confirmed in due course. You will have an opportunity to hear from the Officers and to ask questions. We will let you know how to join in and submit questions in October.

The Society Trustees have also decided to cancel this year's elections to the Council. Again, the temporary procedural changes allowing this to happen have been notified to the Charity Commission. With no elections this year, the Executive Committee has agreed that all existing elected members of the Council will serve one additional year. Elections to the Executive Committee will proceed as usual in 2021.

Fortunately, our digital presence continues to fill some of the gaps. We have added more records to our archives, courtesy of our hardworking home-based volunteers, our virtual Helpdesk remains available to provide answers to research enquiries and our social media platforms continue to provide a wide range of family-history related topics.

Best wishes to all as we move into the autumn with the prospect of continuing restrictions affecting our lives,

David Muil
Chairman

WEBSITES

Last month I highlighted sites that may be useful in your family research, particularly for our newer members interested in their Irish ancestry. Sadly I omitted to mention <https://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/Irish-family-tree-research.html> giving free Irish genealogy information, tools and advice.

No matter where in the world you now call home – whether it be the Canadian Rockies, the Australian Outback, one of the world's great emerald cities such as Liverpool (UK) or Boston (USA), or the beautiful craggy coast of Donegal – you'll find page after page of relevant advice on this website plus the very latest information on genealogical resources in Ireland.

BOOKSHOP

You can see all our stock via our website including new arrivals.

With the increase in government restrictions we are only manning the bookshop once during the week so there may be a slight delay in receiving your orders.

We are not as yet able to provide a 'Collect from Central Library' service as the Help Desk remains closed.

Georgian Recipes and Remedies - A Country Lady's Household Handbook

by Michael J. Rochford.

As soon as I saw this book land on my desk I knew that anyone who takes pleasure in cooking would enjoy this book. As it says on the dust cover

‘ These are just some of the delightful Georgian recipes found in the recipe books of Sabine Winn, the eighteenth-century Swiss-born wife of Sir Rowland Winn, 5th Baronet Nostell of the impressive Palladian mansion, Nostell Priory in Yorkshire.’

The book is divided into three sections -
Recipes for soups, starters, mains and desserts,
Remedies covering all type of illnesses,
Glossary.

Many of the food recipes can be followed today but beware, some of the ingredients will be hard to find such as in the recipe for a stew of calf's head. Not only would you need a calf's head but also stewed oysters, a cockscomb, sweetbread and another ingredient I hesitate to mention.

It is interesting to note that many of the recipes rely on herbs and spices for added flavour together with copious quantities of wine.
Beware of the section on remedies; try them at your peril! Even such an innocuous sounding Fine Raisin Marmalade for a Cough or Cold has, as two of its ingredients, vitriol and oil of sulphur.

The glossary is a very comprehensive list of ingredients that were available to the more well off people of the late 18th and early 19th century

Overall, this book gives a flavour of what life was like in the late Georgian era for those who had the money to indulge in fine dining. A very entertaining book, well written, and worthy of any cooks bookshelf. Highly recommended. £15.99 reduced to £13.99

The Peasants' Revolting Lives

by Terry Deary

I am sure many of you will recognise Terry Deary as the author of the Horrible Histories books. He now takes us back through the centuries with a poignant but humorous look at how life treated the common folk who scratched out a living at the very bottom of society. Their world was one of foul food, terrible toilets, danger, disease and death and the last, usually premature.

The book is divided into 10 chapters covering such topics as work, entertainment, food, housing, education and other subjects of daily life. And life was not easy, to say the least. Bad sanitation, bad living conditions and disease all leading to a miserable and hard life and bringing on of an early death.

I doubt whether many people would want to read this book from cover to cover but it is one that can be picked at as the mood takes you.
Perhaps this book will lend some meaning to the books of Charles Dickens and the trials and tribulations experienced by his characters.

Did any of your ancestors have to experience any of the hardships mentioned in these pages?
It's worth a thought. £12.99 reduced to £10.99

The Bookshop Competition

In October and November we will be running a competition where the winner would be able to choose a book of their choice from the entire stock of the bookshop.

Each time a member places an order during these two months their order number will be put into the draw. At the beginning of December all order numbers will be listed in an Excel spreadsheet and, on command, Excel will choose a number at random.

Please ensure that your email address is up-to-date so that we can contact you swiftly so that your selection can arrive before Christmas (post delivery allowing).

Good luck

Barry Henshall

SURNAMES AND WHAT THEY MAY TELL US

I have recently been looking through the back issues of the Genealogist and found a fascinating article in Volume 2 No. 1 December 1965 by Mr R.G. Chorlton, Secretary to the Society. The title 'Origin of Family Surnames - The Name of Chorlton' immediately caught my eye. Why. Well, it appears that the Chorlton name is taken from an area a little south of Manchester, namely Chorlton-cum-Hardy. This is the area in which I lived for 45 years save for 3 years in Stirling, Scotland. It was fascinating to read and is another aspect to researching your family history.

This is an example of a surname derived from an area in which someone lived.

There are many surnames ending in son derived from either a mother or fathers first name. Examples of this are Williamson, Jameson, Johnson etc. Then again your occupation, particularly in the middle ages, would provide surnames such as Smith, Turner and Baker. Another source of surnames may come from a persons character or feature such as William the Younger being shortened to Young or possibly from the colour of someones hair such as Brown or White.

A local dialect may also provide alternatives, particularly when literacy was poor and names spoken at baptisms, marriages, deaths and legal documents could also be mis-heard. An example is my own surname Henshall which may lead to Henshaw, Henschaw, Henshell and even Enshaw.

Transcriptions are another source of error as we all know. One example that baffled me for some time was that Harrison had been transcribed as Hamison. The old style written rr being seen as m. An easy mistake to make.

So, I now ask the question, 'How many people researching their family history think about their surname and what information it could provide?'

I know that my family roots lie within Cheshire, particularly around Macclesfield, Bollin Fee, Pownall Fee and Upper/Lower Peover. This was confirmed from the results of a DNA test provided by Ancestry and this tied in nicely with my ancestors occupation working on the land. But I thought that I would like to look further afield and see whether any of the Henshall clan were in other parts of the country.

This led me to look at the Guild of One-Name Studies or GOONS for short. Sadly, no one had studied my surname but I gained some knowledge on how to go about looking further afield. Those of you who follow the Society's forum may remember one of our members asking

whether anyone could provide information about the GOONS and one of our long-standing members Ray Hulley posted the following:-

I have been a member of the GOONS since 1985 and have found them to be useful if you have an unusual surname and variants. They offer a discount to members if you are considering having a DNA test from Family Tree DNA, whom they recommend as being the best for one-namers. They publish an Annual Register of One-Name Studies listing all current members with their variant names.

A comparison of the 3 best DNA companies shows the following:

AncestryDNA

A DNA test kit that's great for tracing your roots and finding relatives; AncestryDNA makes it easy to explore your ethnic origins and offers the largest family-matching database. However, it can't differentiate between maternal and paternal lineages, and the company may monetize your DNA data if you opt into its research program.

23andMe

A more polished interface, with results for maternal and paternal heritage; 23andMe is as accurate as AncestryDNA and also provides the migration paths for maternal and paternal lineages. But its DNA database is smaller than AncestryDNA's, and the company monetizes the biomedical data of customers who opt in to research.

FamilyTreeDNA

A data trove for genealogists with a bigger budget; This DNA test is fine for tracing your general ethnic origins but shines in its optional add-ons, which provide highly detailed analysis of maternal and paternal lineages. Just be aware that the company voluntarily provides law enforcement access to its customer database.

Ray kindly provided me with one of his success stories.

MASSIVE DNA BREAKTHROUGH!

7 - YES SEVEN! FAMILY TREES IN 3 COUNTRIES NOW LINKED TOGETHER - THANKS TO JUST ONE DNA TEST!

I never thought it would be possible but the impossible has happened. Jeffrey Hulley Dayne is a member of my DNA project and submitted his 37-marker results to me. Jeff's ancestors are shown on the Norfolk/Glamorgan Family Tree and Frederick Adolphus Hulley born 1858 was his great grandfather. His grandfather Frederick (George) Hulley born 1884 and brother Archibold emigrated to the USA in 1916 and changed their surname to Dayne for professional purposes - they were both talented musicians. A new FT at USA03 - has been created to include these members.

The results for Jeff are an exact copy of my own in 35 out of 37 markers making us from the same line several hundred years ago. But how are we related? The head of the Norfolk/Glamorgan FT was Thomas Spencer Hulley born 1796 at Stockport, Cheshire who was a son of James Hulley born 1768 at Stockport, who was a member of the Ches11 FT.

For several years I have searched for a link between my own FT at Lancs01 and the Ches11 FT, both with Hulley members. The only possibility was Robert Hulley born c1710 who was the

grandfather of James Hulley born 1768 at Stockport and I had entered this comment in his Notes several years ago:

Note: A person by this name is shown on the Lancs-01 Family Tree baptised at St Michael's church Ashton under Lyne on 29 July 1705/06 as son of James Hulley and Anna Kershaw. No evidence has been found to date to prove that these two persons are the same.

The DNA result for Jeff Dayne is the missing link and proves conclusively that the Robert Hulley shown in Ches11 is the same Robert in Lancs01.

I already know that Lancs01 is the source of the USA01 and USA02 FTs, whilst Ches11 is the source of Aust02 and NorfGlam01 FTs. Now that Jeff has joined the DNA project as a member of USA03, which is a spin-off from NorfGlam01, these 7 Family Trees can be linked together into one Tree with almost 2,000 members.

That's the advantage of joining the Guild of One-Name Studies and using DNA in Family History!

Ray Hulley

Perhaps this may encourage you to look more closely at your surname.

Barry Henshall

THE HELP DESK

In the September issue of the newsletter I said that we remain unable to reinstate our Family History Help Desk service in Manchester Central Library. I am now pleased to say that we are reopening the Helpdesk together with the safety measures which have been agreed with our Archives+ partners.

Initially I plan to open on a trial basis each Monday starting on the 12th October. Opening time will be limited from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm. The session will be by appointment only and these can be made by emailing me at: helpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk.

Please remember that visitors will need to comply with library/Covid restrictions and wear a face mask or face covering. Assistance at the Help Desk will be either face-to-face distanced or via Zoom.

On the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society website you will find 'Hints from the Help Desk' videos hosted by Vimeo, following the launch of the Virtual Helpdesk (VHD).

As a reminder here is the list of videos currently available and can be found at <https://mlfhs.uk/virtual-help-desk-landing>

The National Archives Research Guides

Masses of high quality information for free - what's not to like?

The 1841 Census

Often written off as providing much less information than later censuses, you can still get a lot out of the 1841 returns. Find out how.

Squeezing the Most out of the 1911 Census

There is a lot of information on the forms - get the most out of it!

Keeping Track of Electronic Records
Name your documents meaningfully

Using the GRO Web Site and Mother's Maiden Name Facility
Get the most out of this important web site

DNA Testing: How to get the best value for your money
There are a lot of DNA tests on the market. Here are some ways to decide which one to choose.

Leslie Turner
Help Desk Co-ordinator

PROJECTS UPDATE

Just because the web site has moved to a new platform it doesn't mean that the databases don't continue to expand. Here are the latest additions:

Scutari Hospital Deaths

Anthony Steven has made a flying start on compiling a list of those soldiers (and the odd civilian) who died in the Scutari Hospital (think of Florence Nightingale) during the Crimean War 1854-56. His initial batch relates to 1,541 deaths 1854-5 and he is continuing to work on the balance. These are taken from reports published in a variety of newspapers. While these are not (by far) all going to be men from the Manchester area, there will undoubtedly be local men in some of the regiments. Details given include (mostly) rank, regiment, date of death and cause of death.

Manchester Probate Names Index

Geoff Edge and his team have completed another 12,782 names which appear in the probates of Manchester testators 1821-1828. Work continues to complete coverage 1812-1837.

Manchester Courier BMDs

Linda Bailey has added another 1,320 records of births, marriages and deaths published in the Manchester Courier, this batch relating to 1826. Both this and the probate names index provide valuable information for that troublesome period before the introduction of civil registration.

Withington Hospital Deaths

Joe Hilditch has added another 85 deaths at Withington Hospital to the index which provides details of 770 deaths between 1923 and 1938. These are valuable because (1) they often include place of burial and (2) the deaths were subject of inquests so may lead to newspaper reports giving more information.

Burials at All Saints, Chorlton-on-Medlock

No additions this time, but the team have completed indexing of the first six of the eight registers covering 1820-1877. The 16,000+ burials will be added to the burials database as a single batch when the work has been completed.

Protestation Rolls for Salford Hundred

I have received from John Coupe copies of the 1642 protestation rolls for part of the Salford Hundred. Those for Bolton have been transcribed previously and are on the web site but the remainder includes returns for Oldham, Middleton and several other townships. I am looking at completing the work, and so will be looking for volunteers. HOWEVER this is not easy work! The names are written in Secretary Hand, a style of writing which can be challenging to

decipher accurately. I would therefore be interested to hear from members who have some experience with this script and who would be prepared to take on some of the transcription of these lists. I do not have a start date for this - the photocopies need to be scanned first.

John Marsden

THE SOCIETY FORUM

The Forum continues to be very active with many members asking for help in tracing family members.

Why not post your query or problem to like-minded and very knowledgeable members and you may be surprised at the result.

To register go to our website and sign in as a member. On the Member Area home page you will find a link to the Member Forum halfway down on the right hand side. Click the "Enter Forum" button. This will take you to a page about the Forum and from here you can access the registration form.

I know that forums of this type and social media in general is not to everyone's taste but why not give it a try.

During the last few months there have been a number of interesting threads helping members to carry out their family history. If you have an interesting story to tell then why not let us know. I am sure that members outside the forum would be interested.

MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY ARCHIVES+

<http://manchesterarchiveplus.wordpress.com/>

During these unprecedented times, it's more important than ever to stay connected with your loved ones whilst observing the government led social distancing guidelines. We hope Archives+ can help you to do this by publishing our popular memory boxes online which can be used as a starting point in discovering your family history, find out what their childhood was like, look back at the area where they grew up, discover their fondest childhood memories and maybe uncover some hidden gems in your family's story.

On-Line Memory Box – Each week Archives+ has been publishing a memory box for an area in Manchester. The following Memory Box has been added: How disabled people's campaigns helped Alf Morris in 1970.

NORTH WEST FILM ARCHIVE

While staff are working from home they have been sharing with you each day a highlight from the collection through 'A Film A Day'. Please visit <https://www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk> for more information on how to view these short films.

This is a site well worth visiting The NWFA was set up in 1977 and preserves moving images made in or about Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire, Merseyside and Cumbria and offers a variety of access services to users in the public, academic and commercial sectors.



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

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