



Newsletter – October 2024

Dear Member,

Welcome to our short October newsletter. This is a very busy time for the meetings teams, beginning with our Explore! talk on 28th September at Manchester Central Library – what is an Explore Talk? Somewhere between Beginners and Advanced, Explore! talks help us to research with confidence and accuracy and to discover new records whilst also having a really interesting story to tell. Our Quarterly Talks at Manchester Central Library build on the themes of Research and Presentation offering two great talks with time to relax in the library and the library café during the lunch break. Anglo Scots, Bolton and Oldham branches all have meetings this month, typically with a nod towards their own localities but always appealing to, and open to, all our members.

Also in this short newsletter are details of new records that were added to the Great Database in September and a link to the website where you can browse details of all records added to our website since June 2020. Our Project teams are always busy making more data available every month, continuing our sixty-year tradition of saving, transcribing and publishing family history records.

It has been a busy year for the society as we celebrated 60 years as a family history society and 10 years in partnership with Archives+ at the newly refurbished Manchester Central Library. But in the city of Manchester we can see the changing seasons, and we are looking forward to some cosy evenings doing what we love best – trying out some new research ideas and searching – again – for ancestors in our Great Database.

Wishing you all luck with your research!

The Editor

List of Events September-October:

- "Two Sisters Who Emigrated to New Zealand" – 28th Sept – Manchester Explore!
- "Scuttled! Excavating a 19th Century Barge in Rochdale" – 2nd Oct – Manchester Quarterly
- "Getting It Right – Starting Your Family Tree" – 2nd Oct – Manchester Quarterly
- "The Hangman's Record – Crime & Punishment in the Bolton Area" – 2nd Oct – Bolton Br.
- "Social Event – Your Family History Brick Walls!" – 5th Oct – Anglo Scots Branch
- "Hesketh Booth of Oldham" – 12th Oct – Oldham Branch

See our planned meetings and meetings archives here <https://mlfhs.uk/meetings-calendar>

List of New records added to database

- 22 Baptisms from Duke Street Methodist New Connexion, Bolton
- 962 Manchester Court Leet Records
- 1945 Deaths of Local Servicemen from Bolton Journal 1916
- 1392 Memberships from Clarendon Baptist Chapel
- 256 Baptisms Cawdor Road Wesleyan Methodist
- 388 Baptisms from Duke Street Methodist New Connexion, Bolton
- 2139 Burials from St Peter, Swinton 1847 – 1878

See additions to the Great Database here <https://mlfhs.uk/manchester/events/whats-happening>



Meetings in Detail (as at 24 Sept.)

Saturday 28th September 2024 at 10.30am – MLFHS Explore! Meeting

The Performance Space at Manchester Central Library

"Two Sisters Who Emigrated to New Zealand" - Speaker: Barry Henshall

"During the Covid lockdown my partner and I looked into the lives of two sisters who left Edinburgh in 1927 and emigrated to New Zealand. The only additional fact was that one of them married a Norwegian, we think, leading to many unanswered questions. This is their story."

Eventbrite link: [Click here to Book now](#) In-Person event

Cost to members: free of charge; Cost to non-members: £5.00

Read on the website at <https://mlfhs.uk/manchester/events/meetings>



Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 10.30am - MLFHS Quarterly Meeting

The Performance Space at Manchester Central Library

"Scuttled! Excavating a 19th Century Barge in Rochdale" – Speaker: Kelly Griffiths

Six mid 19th century barges in a good state of preservation were excavated in the historic Rochdale canal basin as part of mitigation works prior to construction. Two of the barges were scuttled in the boat holes of a warehouse and a composite pontoon discovered nearby. The lives of the boats spanned 100 years and were left in the basin by the Rochdale Canal Company. Kelly will discuss the history of the Rochdale Canal Company culminating in the abandonment/scuttling of the boats,

as well as presenting the results of the mitigation and the obstacles that needed to be overcome in the recording of the archaeology.

Kelly will then continue to outline the subsequent creative engagement project – Scuttled – which saw a collaboration with a production company and local community groups, using the archaeology of the vessels and archival resources to write and produce an audio drama about the lives of the families who worked on the canal in the 19th century. Starring Christopher Eccleston, the audio drama was made possible by an AHRC grant and is available to be streamed online – free for all listeners.

Note – This talk is a captivating mix of digging in mud in snowy weather, against the clock, to complete the excavation before builders and diggers could start work. Find out what it is really like to work in an area prior to redevelopment! Then, of course, it's looking at dusty documents in archives – there is a lot of interest in this talk and we are fortunate to have Kelly to tell us the story. The talk is in-person only at the library.

Eventbrite link: [Click here to Book now](#) In-Person event

Cost to members: Free of charge; Cost to non-members: £5.00

Read on the website at <https://mlfhs.uk/manchester/events/meetings>



Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 1.00pm - MLFHS Quarterly Meeting

The Performance Space at Manchester Central Library

“Getting It Right – Starting Your Family Tree” – Speaker: Hilary Hartigan

Why is this so important? The success of DNA testing has resulted in a new phenomenon - family trees that are misleading. Because online trees can be copied easily it only takes one tree to be wrong and, before you know it, that error has been copied, unwittingly, by perhaps hundreds of people. If your computer tells you that Mr X in America is your 3xgreat grandfather, or that Miss X in Sunderland is your second cousin, can you verify this? Is there a story to tell? Yes - this is also a family story with many twists and turns, from the Welsh borders to discovering how miners travelled all over the world to find new work, the difficulty of a family facing illness, loss and uncertain employment in the mines of Vancouver Island, and the surprise of finding and exploring new sources of information that name the family but also tell the story of these miners.

Eventbrite link: [Click here to Book now](#) In-Person event

Cost to members: Free of charge; Cost to non-members: £5.00

Read on the website at <https://mlfhs.uk/manchester/events/meetings>



Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 7.30pm - Bolton Branch Meeting

Bolton Golf Club hybrid meeting – in-person and online via Zoom

“Hangman’s Records” – Speaker: Steve Fielding

Born in Bolton, Lancashire, Steve Fielding is a former apprentice engineer turned crime writer and professional musician. As a writer his first major work was The Hangman's Record a three-volume trilogy detailing the history of capital punishment in the UK between 1868-1964. The local bestselling Murderous Bolton was released in 1994 and reprinted in 2009. More Murderous Bolton

was published a year later. He has written four volumes for the Countryside Books Murder Casebook, and seven books for the History Press Hanged at... series followed. He is also the author of Lancashire Tales of Mystery and Murder, Pierrepont: A Family of Executioners, and The Executioners Bible for major publishers John Blake.

Eventbrite link: [Click here to Book now](#) for a Zoom ticket.

In-Person attendees - No booking required, refreshments on arrival.

Cost to members - Free of charge; Cost to non-members: £5.00

Read on the website at <https://mlfhs.uk/bolton/events/meetings>



Saturday 5th October 2024 at 2.00pm - Anglo-Scottish Branch Meeting

Online via Zoom

“Social Event – Your Family History Brick Walls! “

Not too literally! But let's gather together online and see if we can help each other and learn from each other as we have done, so often previously, with our "Brick Walls" meetings.

Bring us a brick wall or tell us of your latest breakthrough, or some research that you are undertaking. Whatever it is, we will all be interested. There is nothing quite like these meetings for teasing out answers and generating enthusiasm.

Eventbrite link: [Click here to Book now](#) In Person event

Cost to members - Free of charge; Cost to non-members: £5.00

Read on the website at <https://mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots/events/meetings>



Wednesday 12th October 2024 at 2.00pm - Oldham Branch Meeting

Held in the Performance Space at Oldham Library.

“Hesketh Booth of Oldham” – Speaker: Hilary Hartigan

Hilary looks into the corners of Victoria's reign to tell the story of one boy, Hesketh Booth, one-time town clerk of Oldham: family, friends, business acquaintances - what is it that shapes and develops a young man's career and what footprints does he leave in the history of the town?

Read on the website at <https://mlfhs.uk/oldham/events/meetings> In Person event.

No booking required, refreshments on arrival.

Cost to members: Free of charge; Cost to non-members: £5.00



New Records added to the database in September

See all additions to the database here: <https://mlfhs.uk/manchester/events/whats-happening>

A small (22 records) file of baptisms at Bolton, United Methodists, St. Georges Rd./Duke St. has been added to the Great Database. Thanks to Graham Holt and his volunteers at Bolton for these.



A particularly interesting addition to the Great Database: 962 records of deaths and names of heirs recorded in the Manchester Court Leet records 1553-1684. Indexed by both names of deceased and heirs. Not only do you get the name of the heir, but you will note that these records start some 20 years before the surviving burial registers. These have been transcribed by Linda Bailey from an online copy of the published records available on Internet Archive (link in the descriptive document). Thanks to Linda for these.



Added a further 1,945 announcements of the deaths of local servicemen taken from the Bolton Journal and other local newspapers for Jul-Dec 1916 to the Great Database. These have been transcribed by Linda Bailey and Chris Hall. This is considerably more than the 716 which appeared in the issues for the first half of 1916 and almost certainly reflects the high mortality of the Somme campaign which started at the beginning of this period. Thanks to Linda and Chris for this valuable addition.



Added three new data sets to the Great Database including: Bolton, Claremont Baptist Chapel Membership c1867-1920 (with earlier records to 1821) (1,392 records). Thanks to Graham Holt and his team at Bolton for these useful records.



Added three new data sets to the Great Database including: Bolton, Duke Street/St. George's Road Methodist New Connexion Baptisms 1874-1921 (388 records). Thanks to Graham Holt and his team at Bolton for these useful records.



Another addition to the Great Database: 2,139 burial records 1847-1878 for Swinton, St. Peter. Thanks to Susan Mayall for this latest addition.

And to finish...

We hope you have enjoyed this short newsletter and we really look forward to seeing you at in-person, hybrid and online events.

We shall leave you with a picture taken just after the AGM on 22nd May this year. The venue was the performance space at the Manchester Central Library where we made good use of the library's projector screen to showcase some of the society's events over the last 18 months.

The Editor

