

# M&LFHS NEWSLETTER

The monthly newsletter of the  
Manchester & Lancashire Family  
History Society



## June 2020 Issue 2

### SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

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

### SOCIETY BRANCHES

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

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

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

### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We are still not clear of Covid 19 and reports from Government imply that we may have to comply with social distancing measures until the end of the year. These have been extended until the 28<sup>th</sup> May throughout the United Kingdom although some businesses, shops and amenities will be allowed to open in England. As we all know many family history events have been postponed or cancelled but those organised for later in the year may still go ahead. Being positive, you will find details of three such events in this newsletter. Also included is an update of projects, interesting websites and news from Archive+ and Manchester Film Archive. Although the bookshop is closed I have added some information for those members who would like to examine the world of e-books and e-magazines.

Don't forget to go to our branch websites for further updates and news from their areas.

If any of our members wish to contact me with news and forthcoming events in their area I will do my best to include it in a subsequent issue. It would also be useful if you could also provide a website address that would provide additional information. No long articles please, these should be forwarded to our journal editor.

I would be delighted to receive your views and comments through our e-mail address [newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk).

### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN**

Hello again fellow members,

The lockdown seems to have been with us in Manchester for a lot longer than 10 weeks. The pattern of our lives has changed drastically in that time and it may never return to how it was before. Even so, all across the world, governments are taking baby steps towards easing the restrictions. So too in Manchester, where the Society has opened discussions with our Archives+ partners about a planned, though gradual, resumption of operations at Central Library, when government advice allows. It is hard to predict how many months it will take before we will be fully operational again at our home base, but we have taken the first step.

Meantime, the business of the Society continues to operate courtesy of home-based volunteers. Contact is maintained with members across the world using a variety of online platforms - Facebook, Twitter, e-forum, Branch newsletters and The Manchester Genealogist all dispense the latest help and guidance to assist family historians in their research. Enrolment and subscription renewals are managed online and our website continues to attract visitors to the vast collection of records in our online database. I trust this second edition of the Society Newsletter will also provide encouragement in your research during a difficult time for everyone.

The development of our new website is progressing well with the completion of the first build stage and we look forward to the delivery of the finished site later in the summer.

And so, I take heart from these green shoots of renewal and look forward to a return to a new normality in time to come. Meanwhile, I send you and your families, my best wishes for the coming period. Keep up with your research, and leave records of your lockdown experiences for future generations of family historians. Won't they have stories to unearth?

David Muil

Chairman

### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY**

You can still renew your membership, join the forum or sign up to the members area just as you did before. The journal will be out soon. Please note on the front of the envelope it will tell you if your membership is due. Some members see the renewal form and think they are individually sent out but this is not the case. There is a renewal in every journal even if it is not your time to renew.

I hope you have found the extra postings on Facebook useful. I have tried to post something for everyone to help pass the time and be of use. You will find crafts and stories to keep young children amused, ideas for exercise for all ages and fitness, places you could get access to FindMyPast and Ancestry and free books and magazines on line, music and shows to watch and of course articles on family and local history. I hope these have helped you get through these difficult time. I would be interested to know which you enjoyed or found the most useful. Those of you who still haven't taken the plunge and tried

Facebook will find the link on our website. All you have to do is click the icon, there is no need to sign up. Give it a try, it may help you to get through while in social isolation. Stay safe and well.

Since the lockdown, we have had 25 new members 3 or 4 have lapsed and renewed, and 131 have renewed. FB had 4641 followers on 16 March and has now climbed to 4914.  
[Elsie Lowe]

## **EVENTS/TALKS**

**Please note that because of Covid 19 all talks and events previously programmed have been cancelled or postponed. Please check our website for update information.**

Perhaps, later in the year we will not have the restriction of social distancing. With this in mind here are some events that are planned and have not, as yet, been cancelled.

### Family and Local History Fair in Stretford

St Matthews Church Hall, Chester Road, Stretford M32 9AJ

Saturday 12 September, 10am - 4pm

<https://www.fhsc.org.uk/sale-events/event/1889-family-and-local-history-fair-in-Stretford>

### Family & Local History Fair with Craft Stalls 2020

Saturday 3rd October 2020 10:00am – 4:00pm

Doncaster Deaf Trust, Leger way, Doncaster

Organised by Doncaster & District FHS

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/event-doncaster-district-fhs-family-local-history-fair-with-craft-stalls-2020-2020-10-03>

### Huddersfield Family and Local History Fair

Saturday 7th November 2020 10:00am – 4:00pm

Cathedral House, St Thomas' Road, Huddersfield

Organised by Huddersfield FHS

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/event-huddersfield-fhs-huddersfield-family-and-local-history-fair-2020-11-07>

**Please check regularly in case these events are postponed or cancelled.**

## **WEBSITES**

Each month we will highlight sites that may be useful in your family research, particularly for our newer members

### GENUKI

Provides a virtual reference library of genealogical information of particular relevance to the UK and Ireland. There is a huge amount of information available which includes

regional page links to UK & Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. Accessing one of these links leads to a page containing a map of the region together with links to a huge number of useful pages. There is therefore a large amount of information with the emphasis on primary sources or means to access them. Perhaps one of the most useful general genealogy sites on the internet.

<https://www.genuki.org.uk>

### Free BMD

Ongoing project, the aim of which is to transcribe the Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales, and to provide free Internet access to the transcribed records. The database contains over 277 million records.

<https://www.freebmd.org.uk>

### Free UK Genealogy

Contains free, online access, to family history records. This site is a portal to FreeBMD, FreeCEN – 37,000,000 individuals from census data for 1841 to 1891 and FreeREG – baptisms, marriages and burials of the Church of England and other organizations.

46,000,000 records from parish registers

<https://www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk/>

### Old Maps Online

This is an excellent site allowing you to view over 400,000 maps. Search for an area of interest and a box will appear on the right of the screen. Choose your map then zoom in for greater detail. You can also print out a map from a PDF.

Download the mobile app?

Use your iPhone, iPad or any Android device to view over 250,000 historical maps from the 15th to the 20th century.

The Old Maps mobile app can display the relevant maps according to the places of interest to you. Don't like traveling yourself? No worries, you can still use it from home. Search for your place of interest by name, or simply zoom and pan, to get the most accurate results instantly.

<https://www.oldmapsonline.org>

There are a number of websites that you can visit that provide cemetery or crematorium records either by imaged headstones or by transcription.

Deceased online is the first central database repository for indexed images of the original registers of municipal cemeteries and crematoria for the UK and is a unique resource for family history researchers and professional genealogists. You can search registers by Country, Region, County, Burial Authority or Crematoria.

Trafford's registers were added some years ago, but the most recent local addition is Salford with the addition of the registers for Agecroft and Peel Green (cemeteries and crematoria) and the Swinton and Weaste cemeteries. Weaste is particularly interesting as our memorial inscription database contains many of the earlier memorials for this vast cemetery. Deceased Online is a pay-to-view site, but the (free) search results can be very informative.

<https://www.deceasedonline.com>

Billion Graves is a name index of burial records. It is a family history database of records and images from the world's cemeteries, all tagged with GPS locations. Volunteers around the world capture images of headstones in a cemetery and upload them to the site.

<https://billiongraves.com>

Find a Grave is owned by Ancestry.com and allows you to search and add to an online database of cemetery records. It receives and uploads digital photographs of headstones from burial sites, taken by unpaid volunteers at cemeteries. Find a Grave then posts the photo on its website.

<https://www.findagrave.com>

Gravestone Photographic Resource is an attempt to provide a free on-line resource for family historians and other researchers. It provides a list of all the grave monuments within a cemetery that were legible, when they were photographed by a GPR volunteer and showing the names mentioned on a grave monument together with their relationships to each other.

There is a list of all the cemeteries that have been photographed and indexed and can be viewed by country, state, county, city, town or village. It is also possible to get a high resolution image.

<https://www.gravestonephotos.com>

The [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk) web address for the Family History Federation will be going offline at the end of May.

Please update this with the new link to the brand new Family History Federation website address at [www.familyhistoryfederation.com](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com)

## **PROJECTS UPDATE**

We may be in lockdown, but that doesn't mean that there is no work going on.

One clear effect of the lockdown has been a 50% increase in the number of searches of the member area resources on the society web site. If you have not already explored the member area, now may be a good time to discover the wealth of information it contains. Among the large collections is the society's accumulated memorial inscription database. This covers most of the transcribed memorials for Manchester plus many for places further afield in Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire. Then there is 'The Great Database', which has at its core the collected burial indexes for most of the Manchester and Oldham churches (still being extended as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter). In addition, there are many unique and specialised collections such as the admissions to Henshaw's Asylum for the Blind, The Royal Manchester Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Prestwich Asylum. This is just a fraction of the dozens of record collections searchable by name, so why not take a look?

[John Marsden]

Thank you to two of our members who sent me scanned images in PDF format of birth, marriage and death certificates. These have been transcribed and are now in our database. As I said in the last newsletter if you have certificates you wish to send me then please email to [newseditor@MLFHS.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@MLFHS.org.uk). giving me details of the certificates you hold. I will then be able to provide further details.

### Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue – Cheetham Hill Road

Transcription of the births and marriages from records held by the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue – Cheetham Hill Road are now complete and are being checked before being made available to members. Thank you to the volunteers who have given their time to this project. Their help has been greatly appreciated.

John Marsden has recently added some new records to The Great Database in the member area.

Burials of St. Michael, Angel Meadow 1789-1854 have now been completed and the index uploaded.

Thanks to a dozen volunteers from the Forum who contributed to this index - many of whom are now working on Newton Heath, All Saints.

#### Withington Hospital Deaths 1922-1936

An interesting index compiled by Joe Hilditch. Aside from telling you an ancestor died in Withington Hospital and the cause of death, there is in many cases a coroner's verdict on the cause. Of greatest interest, perhaps, is that for most of the deceased the place of burial is given. About 1,100 records but I believe Joe is continuing to add to these.

#### Royal Manchester School for the Deaf & Dumb

Another couple of hundred records added bringing the total to 965 for various years c1860 to 1919. Each record links to the original admission documents for the individual. This is a major society project but is frustratingly now on hold pending the ending of the lockdown as further work requires scanning of the registers held by Manchester Archives.

#### Bolton Out Relief Pay Book 1839

A small data set, but contains interesting personal details of paupers receiving payments.

#### Bolton 1811 Census

One of the rare survivals before 1841. Not much detail beyond the name of the householder and their residence, but these may be helpful alongside other records.

Work is storming ahead on the All Saints, Newton Heath burials and I hope to have the first register online very soon (1854-1860). Also a small collection of Bolton baptisms and burials coming along.

#### New Project - Manchester Probate Names Index

As a good researcher, you have of course obtained all of the wills left by your ancestors, and useful they are too. But what if your ancestor is mentioned in somebody else's will? Wills are a great source of information about the people related to and known by the deceased and can lead to new lines of research. However, if one of your ancestors is mentioned in a will from outside the known family, particularly as a beneficiary, how would you ever know? Wills are indexed by the name of the testator, so there are no finding aids to help you find such references.

What is proposed is to create an index of the names (and details such as residence and relationship to the deceased) which appear in the wills and administrations of those deceased persons who are described as "of Manchester". The wills and administrations concerned will be wills proved in the Chester Consistory Court before the introduction of the civil probate process.

The index will list beneficiaries, executors/administrators and witnesses named in each document so that you can identify those in which your ancestors' names appear.

The scanned images of these documents are online on the Family Search site so there is no problem in accessing the material to be indexed and there will be no problem, if the

index produces a name of interest, in seeing the original document to find out what other information it contains about the person.

The project has been conceived, and will be managed, by Geoff Edge and to create the index, Geoff will need around half a dozen volunteers. All that will be required is access to a spreadsheet - Excel or another program capable of reading/writing Excel files. A spreadsheet template and instructions will be provided. If you are interested in contributing to this project, please contact Geoff direct at [geoffedge292@gmail.com](mailto:geoffedge292@gmail.com) for more information.

As the project progresses, the indexes will be added to The Great Database. The original documents are all available on the LDS Family Search site, so it will not cost you anything to see the original and find out more. [John Marsden]

**[BOOKSHOP](#) – new additions/book reviews/special offers/downloads.**

**The bookshop is currently closed.**

However, you can still see all our stock via our website.

Details can be found at. <https://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk/>

I suspect that many of our members own a Kindle or some other e-reader. There are many sites on the internet offering free books for download and here is a site listing “25 Sources of free public domain books”. <https://ebookfriendly.com/free-public-domain-books-sources/>

If you have registered with a Manchester City Council library then you will have access to a large selection of ebooks, audio and e-magazines and comics.

Go to <https://secure.manchester.gov.uk>. Click library and on the next page “Download an e-book, digital audio book or e-magazine”. This will take you to another page headed “Download books, magazines and courses”. Scroll down to e-magazines and comics, getting started for new customers on your PC.

Go to RB Digital Clicking on this will take you to <http://greatermanchester.rbdigitalglobal.com>

Create a new account, and enter your library card number

Browse the selection

Click on +explore to list all the magazines available

You will find a number of magazines relating to family history. At the time of writing these were:-

BBC History Magazine

Your Family Tree presents: get started in family history

Irish Roots magazine

History of war

Your Family Tree presents: get started in military family history

Checkout your chosen publications to read in your browser



I do not know if the choice of magazines changes but many look regulars. Good luck and happy reading.

This source of e-books and e-magazines is not limited to Manchester Central Library. Many libraries now offer e-books and e-magazines. Search for your local library and add the search term e-magazine (e.g. Liverpool libraries emagazine). Registration should be similar to the example above.

### **THE SOCIETY FORUM**

The current forum membership is 561. This is perhaps 10% up on the pre-lockdown. It has been much busier, though, over that time.

The Forum has proved to be very useful if you have hit a brick wall with your research. 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. At the Member Area Main Menu click on the E-mail list at the right of the tool bar. This will take you to the MLFHS E-Mail Forum page. 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.

### **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+ will publish a memory box for an area in Manchester.

In the last newsletter Withington was highlighted. Since then the following areas have been covered:-

Gorton, Beswick, Manchester City Centre, Wythenshawe

In addition to these blogs, the online memory box will be published on the Archives+ Facebook page. Dig out your old photos too, these can also be a brilliant resource to trigger fond memories of family times. We encourage you to share your findings on social media, either as comments on our Facebook page or on Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #A+memorybox.

### **NORTH WEST FILM ARCHIVE**

While staff are working from home they are 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.

**HELP DESK – Closed until further notice.**

Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society volunteers provide guidance from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm Monday to Friday at the Family History Help Desk at Manchester Central Library. You will find a knowledgeable team waiting to provide you with free family history advice and assistance, whether your ancestors come from Greater Manchester or from further afield.

There is free access to Ancestry and Findmypast along with links to other databases. In addition Central Library holds a large collection of registers, transcripts and records and our volunteers are always on hand to assist you in your family history searches. These collections will be discussed in more detail in subsequent newsletters.

The only time the help desk will normally be closed will be for Bank Holidays, Easter and the Christmas periods.

You can also find us on facebook



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

and Twitter



[@M&L Family History@MLFHS](https://twitter.com/M&L_Family_History)