

A Bolton Dungeon, the Pemberton's of Bolton le Moors and a Coca-Cola Connection

This story starts with a casual comment on Denis McCann's Facebook page "Ancient Bolton Pre 1800s" about the possibility of there being a 17th-18thC dungeon on the north east bank of the River Croal at Little Bolton Wharf, as it goes under Windy Bank in the centre of Bolton. The post on August 21st, 2018, was of a map from 1797 supplied by Andrew Hodson, and sourced from the Albinson Collection [ref ZAL855] at Bolton Archives and History Centre. It showed a plan of Windy Bank, with the inscription, "1797 Plan of Windy Bank and of Little Bolton, and the bridge to Mr Horridge's gate, also sections of the elevation on both sides of the bridge". It included the site of the dungeon. The intrepid Denis decided to investigate further and found in "History of Bolton: with memorials of the old parish church" by Scholes, James Christopher, 1852-1890 Publication date 1892 Publisher Bolton, The Daily Chronicle office <https://tinyurl.com/y3w6r8dx>, several references to the dungeon, re its site, and discussion in the early 1700s regarding the need for its renovation. (Editor's note, just put "dungeon" in the search box to obtain 5 references). Denis also noted on p352 of same, that there was an anecdotal reference in a reported conversation between "J Brown and James Brandwood" re an "Israel Pemberton" <https://tinyurl.com/y57td6gd> as being a shop keeper at the foot of Windy Bank pre 1721, "prominent among local Quakers, who had been imprisoned and eventually took refuge in New England". Intrigued by all this I decided to look up Israel Pemberton on Ancestry, from the late 17th C. Trying different rough dates of birth and nearby locations, it soon became evident that although there was much about an "Israel" born 1684 in Bucks County Pennsylvania USA, it was his father Phineas, who had moved into the Bolton grocers shop in the early 1670s after an apprenticeship in Manchester, and his mother Phoebe Harrison, daughter of James Harrison, a shoe maker and minister from Styal Green, Cheshire, joined Phineas after they were married in 1672. There are several entries on Ancestry of this marriage event from England & Wales, Quaker Birth, Marriage, and Death Registers, 1578-1837 for Phinehas Pemberton Lancashire Piece 1616A: Quarterly Meeting of Lancashire (1776-1794, 1644-1775) at John Haydock's Meeting House (now Bogburn Hall, Coppull which I visited a few months ago, where it still has the Chapel Room. This document is just one of them <https://tinyurl.com/y53arf4p>, and look at the long list of interesting names witnessing same.

Phineas was apparently born into a Society of Friends family in Aspull in 1649. I am unable to find definite original documentation to confirm this, but it is recorded anecdotally in "Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography, 1600-1889" (Lehi, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016, Volume: Vol. IV. <https://tinyurl.com/yyplz5h2> accessed 21.07.2019), viz father Ralph Pemberton. At 15 years of age he is reported to have served an apprenticeship in Manchester to a John Abraham, "Friend" and grocer, (from an American book "A history of Bristol borough in the county of Bucks, state of Pennsylvania, anciently known as "Buckingham"; being the third oldest town and second chartered borough in Pennsylvania, from its earliest times to the present year", 1911 by Green, Doron, b. 1868 Publication date [1911] A History of Bristol Borough" p31 <https://tinyurl.com/yyokunwn>. Both Phineas and Phoebe may have had relatives who served as Overseers of the Poor in Great Bolton as Thomas Pemberton 1677, and James Harrison 1673 are both listed in this reference p455 <https://tinyurl.com/y5bbzrb6>. The couple seem to have settled into married life well enough, but there was still much social unrest nationwide post the Interregnum <https://tinyurl.com/y2ghfuo> Wikipedia accessed 26.07.2019 with persecution of

many of the dissenters including the Friends , and Phineas had several imprisonments, with others, for practicing their faith. They lost their first child Ann, born October 1677 Aspull, and buried in July 1682 St Peter's, Bolton. A second daughter Abigail was born in 1679 in Bolton, (seems to have been recorded at several Meeting Houses across the country with slight variations of dates). A son, Joseph, apparently arrived in 1681, as he is entered on the list of 49 passengers on the manifest of the Submission, in the "U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s" <https://tinyurl.com/y2r6hy8s> . The decision to sail for Chop Tank, Maryland, may have been made after Ann's death, and another period in Lancaster prison for Phineas and friends. There are many original records on Ancestry re this trip, too many to reference here. The Pemberton's, Harrisons and perhaps Yardley's, and several other families from the North West and Wales, arrived at the settlement already started by William Penn, and Phineas was soon appointed in various administrative roles by same.

I moved on to the next stage of their story expecting it to be a happy ending to another sad story of religious persecution causing emigration. I was surprised to find a website depicting the "Pemberton Story" <https://tinyurl.com/y58j3nvx> , and the building of a house near the river in 1683. called Grove Place or Bolton Farm. The area was apparently deemed unhealthy, due to the prevailing fog, and several family deaths including Phoebe's, and they moved to higher ground in the Bristol Township to build Bolton Mansions <https://tinyurl.com/yy22bp6a> , under the supervision of Phoebe's father James in the 1690s. The family even had their own graveyard after Phoebe had died in 1698. Phineas remarried, as many did, to Alice Hodgson. There are many pictures, stories, and references and Pemberton family trees online via Ancestry and other sources, some probably more accurate than others. The dynasty flourished. Phineas, progressed in his career with William Penn, and took up many senior posts, apparently profiteering quietly from various deals on land speculation, eventually dying in 1702. His son, Israel Snr, a merchant and evangelist dubbed "King of the Quakers", and grandson Israel Jnr made names for themselves in many senior administrative roles. Their families married into the Logan's, Clifford's, Yardley's, Morris's, the Wistar's, and other influential families originating from early emigration to the colonies. Phineas' grandson John, b1727 Philadelphia, followed a similar career, and returned to Europe three times, briefly visiting Bolton again before travelling to the Continent and dying in 1795 in Prussia. <https://tinyurl.com/y6pwjqol> . Several Friends were imprisoned in the USA for their religious beliefs, and efforts to support the rights of the members of the "First Nation", as they are now called, in various land disputes. The family also became involved in the struggle for emancipation of slavery. This cause of course culminated in the American Civil War, and several Pemberton's were involved in this. Perhaps the most interesting aspect for Boltonians though is the connection of Phineas and Phoebe to the inventor of Coca-Cola, Confederate Lieutenant Colonel, John Stith/Smith Pemberton b 8th July 1831 Knoxville, Crawford, Georgia, United States. John was the son of James Clifford Pemberton b 1803, and Martha Worsham. b abt 1791. (Her parents were Archer Worsham and Nancy Clark Ann Smith, so John's middle name seems likely to have become a corrupted Smith). A doctor and pharmacist by profession, John returned from the Battle of Columbus in April 1865 where he had sustained a sabre wound to the chest and became addicted to morphine. "How the Civil War created Coca-Cola"... <https://tinyurl.com/y53s57mj> by Melissa A. Winn November 2016, Civil War Times "Seeking a cure from his addiction" Pemberton began in 1866 to experiment with making painkillers that were opium-free alternatives to morphine. Eventually he began experimenting with coca and coca wines, creating a recipe he dubbed Pemberton's French Wine Coca. The medicine was sold and advertised

in Atlanta to war veterans suffering drug addiction, depression, and alcoholism, and to “ladies, and all those whose sedentary employment causes nervous prostration.” Sadly, he doesn’t seem to have lived long enough to enjoy the profits of his efforts. Shortly after much wheeling and dealing, and the official launch of the Coca-Cola Company in 1886 his health began to deteriorate, and he was taking increasingly massive doses of morphine for the pain. This was costly and he began selling the rights to his formula and pieces of his company to support his family and treatment. He died in 1888 of stomach cancer and penniless. See The Sad History of John Pemberton, The Man Who Invented Coca-Cola, Pavel 23 Feb 2019. <https://tinyurl.com/yyznkb2e>

Working backwards from Lieutenant Colonel, John Stith/Smith Pemberton, b 8th July 1831,

- his father was James Clifford Pemberton, b1803,
- whose parents were John Pemberton, b 1783, and Rebecca Rawle Clifford, b 1792,
- the parents of John were Joseph Pemberton, b 1745, and Ann Galloway, b 1750,
- the parents of Joseph were Israel Pemberton, Jun, b1722, and Sarah Kirkbride, b 1714,
- the parents of Israel, Jnr, were Israel Pemberton, Sen, b 1684, and Rachel Read,
- the parents of Israel, Snr, were Phineas Pemberton, b 1649, and Phoebe Harrison.

This means that John Stith/Smith Pemberton, inventor of Coca-Cola, was the 4th great grandson of Bolton’s Phineas and Phoebe Pemberton.

There is much good documentation available via Ancestry and other sites, and I have found this story has been fascinating to research. The Quaker records are very detailed re each monthly meeting both in the UK and USA, where records of births marriages, and deaths were also meticulously recorded. These BMD events also seem to have been celebrated in more than one Meeting in various parts of the country, and the dates do vary slightly so this gives an interesting insight into their apparent travel efforts to share with other Friends. The dates also cross the change from Julian to Gregorian calendar’s, so this might explain some anomalies. Later documents on the American censuses and similar, are also a bit of a shock from modern perspectives because of the slavery details, and later, notes on “colour”.

There is much more to this story of course, for anyone wishing to take it further, and please let us know if you find anything more.

I do know that Denis has recently revisited the Windy Bank site, <https://tinyurl.com/y2vwuerh> and thinks he may have found evidence of the dungeon having been destroyed during the rebuilding of the original Windybank Bridge into the new extension of the Bank St Bridge in the early 19thC, which is where this story started of course.

There are photographs of Windy Bank [now Bank Street] and the maps etc at

My thanks to Bolton Archives Service for permission to show their map and Denis McCann for his permission to include his photographs.