

Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the

Bolton & District Family History Society.

Email: boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk

Secretary: Barbara Owen on 01204 309515

November 2014

A branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society.

Hello.

So it is November, our Autumn / Winter programme has arrived, and we are wrapping up 2014, but also I hope, looking forward to and planning for the New Year. Please can we have comments on what you have liked and disliked in our calendar this year, (and if you have not yet seen next year's please email as above). We have been trying to have a belated Spring clean of our programme and activities - well more of an Autumn shake up I suppose. Our numbers are also growing. We now have 445 readers (local, national and overseas), with Bolton interests. Comments so far have been generally favourable re our speakers, newsletter, and extra activities, but somewhat critical of the monthly meeting venue which we know is not perfect.

The Cricket Club is warm and comfortable, with reasonable rates, and some storage space for our bulky equipment has been made available, **but**, we have noted members' comments of it maybe not being "user friendly", as far as seating arrangements, for seeing speakers and screens, parking, and noise in the summer goes. So, we have listened and this was discussed at our last committee meeting. We are hopeful now of being able to

- raise the screen,
- try rearranging chairs to be off set, and even
- look in to the possibility of a microphone/ loud speaker system,

so we are trying-- honestly.

STOP PRESS

The other outstanding problem was also the unavailability of an internet connection. We can now announce that we have just learned at our November meeting that the Bolton Cricket Club now has WiFi!!! If I knew how to do happy faces you would be seeing one now. What a brilliant early Christmas present.

Can I also add at this point that if you have already had enough of these "missives" and don't want any more, please let us know by the above address. We do not want to be a nuisance, so just send "No more thanks" if that is the case.

OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

**(All at the same place, Bolton Cricket Club (Back door),
Bishops Road, Farnworth, BL3 2JB 7.30pm,
First Wednesday of each month apart from January).
You should know the extras by now!!! If not please ask**

Wednesday November 5th meeting welcomed the indomitable Lizzie Jones talking about "Blunders and Bloomers of the 17thC". We had heard so much about this lady and her talks, that we felt we should try to give you all the opportunity of actually meeting her in the flesh, and hearing her. I hope you were not disappointed, and will agree she is just one of a kind. What a fascinating, knowledgeable, and humorous talk she gave us. I will never look at a "farthingale" again without a smirk!!

Wednesday December 3rd Christmas meeting includes a welcome return of Sid Calderbank, who will hopefully regale us a bit more with his tales of the origins of the Lancashire and Northern dialects and traditional songs and poems. . What a joy he was last year. We will also be offering

- a festive quiz with prizes,
- Another book stall from Terry Walsh of the Family History Partnership for ideas for your Christmas presents? <http://www.thefamilyhistorypartnership.com/about-us/index.php>
- meat and potato pie and peas, tea or coffee, (and the bar next door)
- and a raffle

Please note.

As before there is no extra charge for this, the event will be free, and all MLFHS members and their guests are welcome, plus of course our regular visitors. You should also have noted that we have been taking names of those planning to attend, over the last two meetings as we have a maximum capacity of 70.

If you are not on our list we may not be able to welcome you.

If you have not been able to come to sign up, please could you either contact Secretary Barbara Owen on 01204 309515 or by email susan.boddy17@gmail.com before Monday 24th November to facilitate our catering arrangements.

We look forward to seeing you all.

GENIES TIPS for NOVEMBER

The MLFHS Website Do YOU Know How To Use It???

I have only recently come to realise just how many fully paid up members of the MLFHS I know well, do not take more advantage of <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/> , our website facility. Why not?? In effect you are paying the required £15 subscription fee for annual membership, but certainly not getting your money's worth.

I personally, and I know like quite a few others, do not actually have any relatives other than immediate family in the North West area, and therefore I presumed that many of the resources and databases were irrelevant to me. Wrong!! I still find the email forum invaluable for help and advice in other parts of the UK, and soon the new Toolbar will also be fully operational. <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/toolbar/toolbar.php>

Our own web master Graham Holt has already explained some of the resources and databases that are available for those with Bolton interests in our expanding Bolton section of the website (see previous Genies). I think it might also be useful if we have a look at the **Membership section and its facilities**, and in particular the **email forum**.

This is the official website link <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/email/detailed.php> with things about cookies etc

or alternatively just try the home page of the MLFHS site

1. <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/> from there look at the
2. **Quick Links** in the top left hand corner,
3. Left click on the arrow and scroll down to
4. "Email forum". You should now see this
5. Members page <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/email/index.php>
Note, this is also the area where you can do other things **such as change/correct email addresses**, as I have been asked recently, and **search the forum archives**. Just scroll down through the list below.
6. You now need to complete the details in the boxes for the forum and maybe also look at the links for other options re forum membership details.

I prefer receiving my messages in a block digest form rather than as individuals, and am finding I might receive anything from 0, to 4 or 5 a day. To keep this under control you should be able to set your own computer up to only keep the latest message if you don't want to feel overwhelmed.

The forum is of course confidential within the MLFHS and unavailable to none members. There are **many reasons to use this facility** which describes itself as for "Genealogy and family history in the Greater Manchester area." Questions can be sent by emailing to forum@list.mlfhs.org.uk . Topics may include location and interpretation of records, the meaning of old words, pastimes and customs, and announcement and discussion of new web sites. Some forum members are prepared to look up information in their local archives for members who have difficulty accessing these records. A frequent comment is about how friendly and helpful the members are. Many problems have been solved and connections made as a result of comments made to the list.

You do not need to contribute but I would encourage everyone to at least monitor it, it is surprising what you can learn just by reading other peoples queries. If you are lucky they

might be about something you have been wondering about but been too embarrassed to ask because you thought it was stupid.

I have also had help from someone in Australia and another in the USA, who have been delighted to feel involved despite the miles, by using some of their local resources to look up details on my behalf. It is another aspect of the "family" in "Family History". Serious researchers enjoy the challenge of helping each other, it is how we all learn.

So give it a try, and let us know what you think of it. Maybe a local reader would like to help by doing Bolton look ups???? There is a vacancy here.

Bolton pages on the MLFHS website. <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk>

The Bolton pages have been active for some time now and hopefully you have had a look at them even though Google have refused to update the cache page and note the Genies link is Boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk **not** the Boltonnews address given here. . The easy way in is via the MLFHS homepage / Branches. In time we aim to add a Newsletter archive and some photographs of the buildings. Did you find the pages informative? Could you find what you wanted? What would you like to see added? Will you return to use them again? Answers to these questions and any other points you want to make about the pages to the above Genies link.

Free BMD tips from Roy Stockdill (nationally known Genealogist, and member of the Society of Genealogists <http://www.sog.org.uk/> accessed via Facebook which I seem unable to copy in but try this)

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/gs/Newbie.html>

When you are searching the births, marriages and deaths on the FreeBMD website, <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/> try this technique.....

Leave the surname field BLANK and put in the first name(s) field a surname that you are interested in, preceded by a plus symbol. Pressing Find will then bring up all those entries where your chosen surname has been used as a middle name or a first name! For instance, entering "+STOCKDILL" produces eight entries in which my name was given as a middle name and one entry in which it was a given first name.

Of course, this works best with the rarer surnames, but it can be very useful in finding ancestors and relatives you may have missed with a normal search, and it's also VERY good for one-name studies.

In my examples, this is how some years ago I found a girl called SARAH STOCKDILL RIDOUT, who was born at Gillingham (the Dorset one) in 1863 and married at Lambeth in 1885. She does not appear to have been related to me or my family but I believe my great great uncle and his wife were close friends of her family.

Remember.....

1) Put nothing in the surname field, leave it BLANK.

2) Enter your surname - or whatever surname you're interested in - in the first name(s) field with a PLUS symbol in front of it. An asterisk works as well but it doesn't produce those entries where the surname has been used as a first name alone, only as a middle name.

3) Do the search.

Try it!

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

- <http://apps.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/> Some will have been using this service from The National Archives for some time now, to try to home in to what records are available where, and reduce much leg work and frustration, as the whereabouts of collections can be quite unpredictable. I have just checked this site again though and apparently it closed on Oct 28th to be taken over by this new site <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>. The function, should in essence be the same and hopefully more efficient and user friendly. Please let us know what you think. Similarly the ARCHON directory which told you where each Record Office was, has also now closed in favour of the above Discovery site
- <http://www.marriage-locator.co.uk/> **The Marriage Locator.** This is a free site offered by the Guild of One Name Studies It describes its self as "Cracking the code of the GRO Marriage Index. This website enables you to *interpret the Marriage Index created by the General Register Office for England and Wales. By using it you can determine where your ancestors were married - not just which Registration District, but which church. Family historians researching their ancestry in England and Wales can learn a lot from a marriage certificate, and the most common way to obtain one is to send for a GRO "copy certificate", quoting the reference (year, quarter, volume number and page) from the GRO Marriage Index.* <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/> This will cost you, currently, a minimum of £9.25 per certificate. However, if you know the Anglican church in which the marriage took place, and the church Marriage Register has been deposited (as most have been) in the local County Record Office, then you can go to the appropriate CRO and look at the actual Marriage Register that your ancestors signed. This is the purpose of this website: to deduce, from the year, quarter, volume number and page that you have acquired from the GRO indexes, where the marriage took place."

(NB Editor's note: you are strongly advised NOT TO ORDER VIA ONE OF THE SUBSCRIPTION WEBSITES unless you are happy to pay their "exorbitant" charges. It is not necessary. Go direct to the GRO or Local Record Office.)

- http://www.familyrelatives.com/post_search.php for research into "colonial" records
- <http://genealogy.about.com/> research into at least various European records. I am not sure how I found this site. The home page "About.com" is not a genealogical specialist, but I think I registered for regular newsletters out of curiosity and since then all sorts of fascinating and unusual records have been offered. If you have Continental origins maybe this will help, and please let us know how you go on.
 - <http://www.manxbmd.com/> and <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/iom/> for **Isle of Man** records (also well represented on <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1784428>)
 - <http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/> I have recently been reminded of this site which is a

composite of many others , and describes itself as "providing 2493 links to websites that offer on-line transcriptions of UK births, marriages, deaths and censuses. A wide range of other indexes and transcriptions are also available for most counties, these may include parish records, wills, monumental inscriptions etc.

- <http://www.freereg.org.uk/> **Free Reg** which is part of the **FreeBMD** system and describes its job as "to provide free Internet searches of baptism, marriage, and burial records, that have been transcribed from parish and non-conformist registers of the U.K. FreeREG is a companion project to FreeBMD (a database of the GRO birth, marriage and death indexes from 1837) and FreeCEN (a database of census information)."

- Search for the **will or probate of any person in the UK who died in or after 1996**
<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>

Did you know it is now possible to search for and obtain for £10, the will, or probate of any person in the UK who died in or after 1996? I have just found my fathers who died in 2000.

- **Deceased Online** <https://www.deceasedonline.com/> . This is not free and I have had little success from it personally , but I suspect it depends on where you want to look.

<https://www.deceasedonline.com/servlet/GSDOSearch> . I know many looking in the North West are singing their praises. I live in hopes, and this is how it works isn't it.

- **Richard Heaton's Index to Digitalised British and Irish Newspapers Online Beta (updated 24th April 2014)**

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dutilleul/BritishandIrishNews.html>

Richard is on our mailing list (yes the news is getting around), and responded to our last Genie with the above web link. I thanked him for it, we got into conversation, and eventually I hope I have booked our first speaker for 2016 (even though he does live in Buckinghamshire he has some Bolton roots to be researched!).

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dutilleul/ZHeaton/HeatonLink1.html>

if you can help with this one. (and also look at how Ron Smith has been acknowledged here - well done Ron) . In the meantime he will be updating his **British and Irish Online Newspaper List** before Christmas," and he also hosts this subscription website

<http://www.lastchancetoread.com/> . If anyone fancies a "dabble" please let us know and report. And please read the extra autobiographical piece below.

- **Wigan Parish Records 1580-1979**

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/worldrecords/search-all-uk-records/birth-marriage-death--and-parish-records/births-and-baptisms/parish-baptisms-1538-2005>

Also

- **Wigan, England, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1580-1812**

<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=9038>

These are not free obviously but maybe by using the local library you could access these new records from both. Over 600,000 parish records from Wigan have been digitised and uploaded in partnership with Wigan Archives and Local Studies, The collection of baptisms, marriages and burials spans 1580-1979 and is searchable by details including name, date and parish. As well as the chance to discover forebears, the records also chart the growing population of Lancashire during the Industrial Revolution. Between 1750 and 1800 the number of ceremonies conducted in Wigan alone is shown to have risen by 400 per cent.

- **Merchant Navy Seamen** 2.6 million records recently released also on Findmypast

<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/merchant-navy-seamen> and

- **Liverpool, England, Crew Lists 1861-1919**

<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=2364>

- **First World War volunteers** <http://www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/Who-we-are/History-and-origin/First-World-War>

Over 90,000 people volunteered for the British Red Cross at home and overseas during the war. • The personnel records for surnames starting with A and B are currently available. Volunteers are updating the site with more names every few weeks

- **Aircrew Remembered** <http://aircrewremembered.com/SiteMapComplete.html>

The objective is to remember those who served within the aviation story of our past and to create a website that will be online - forever, with the assistance of the British Library Web Archive. - At the time of writing (April 2014) we have over 400,000 individual records at various levels of detail, but, of course, there are millions more still to be recorded. - See more at: <http://aircrewremembered.com/all-about-us.html#sthash.dMfsjqPL.dpuf>

As you can see, the race for new databases is getting very competitive.

Other offers at time of printing include

- 3 months free subscription to Findmypast if you subscribe to WDYTYR magazine <http://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/subscribe> (a very useful free 2 weekly newsletter anyway)

- 6 months free Premium Ancestry if you buy Family Tree Maker Platinum version.

Offers vary by the day but there are two available on Amazon at the moment with the 2012 version for £29.99 http://www.amazon.co.uk/Family-Tree-Maker-2012-Platinum/dp/B005NPFKX4/ref=sr_1_sc_2?s=software&ie=UTF8&qid=1414746403&sr=1-2-spell&keywords=FTM+Platinum+2012

and the 2014 version at £49.98 <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Family-Tree-Maker-Platinum-Edition/dp/B00FXJ5MAQ> . Not bad for approx. £70 worth of subscription and I understand you don't actually have to upload FTM if you don't want it.

Beware of the ongoing contract though, and there are likely to be more offers coming up for Christmas.

- 6 months free World Ancestry if you buy Family Tree Maker World Edition (PC) (CD-ROM). This looks like a good offer for £53.99p. http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/offer-listing/B00FXJ5MA6/ref=dp_olp_new?ie=UTF8&condition=new&qid=1413970227&sr=1-2

and I have done this in the past. The full annual subscription is of course £155.40p <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/offers/subscribe>

once again, **read the small print.**

MISCELLANEOUS

The 800th Anniversary of the Sealing of the Magna Carta 2015

http://magnacarta800th.com/newsletters/Magna_Carta_Newsletter_October_2014.pdf

Some of you may have noticed that I have actually managed to book a talk about this event on our 2015 programme. This coming major anniversary has, I feel, been somewhat "submerged" lately by other anniversaries of more recent events, but surely we should be so proud of this document, which was the prototype and copied in principle for the creation of so many other democracies in various forms worldwide. Even the most recent and hotly disputed Human Rights Act of 2004 <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/your->

[rights/human-rights/what-are-human-rights/human-rights-act](#) which is still being tweaked is a descendant of this. I find the above newsletter fascinating, and look at how the North West and William Marshall of Cartmel were involved. More next year!!

Who Lived in a House Like This? By Jean Boardman.

http://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/lookingback/11492711.Jean_s_book_on_Chorley_New_Road

this is a recently written book which readers of the Bolton News will already know about. Jean has written about the houses and families of Chorley New Road of yesteryear after a lot of local research and input. Those with families from this area will I am sure, find it an invaluable resource as well as being a "good read". We are privileged that Jean has agreed to make us one of her outlets, and it will be available at the desk for £19.50p or by mail order. I am hopeful that Jean will be able to come and tell us more about the stories she has discovered in the not too distant future.

Bolton Library and Museum Services

• Centenary of the First World War

<http://www.boltonlams.co.uk/archives/family-history-resources>

2014 marks 100 years since the beginning of the First World War. Bolton Library and Museum Services are putting together exhibitions, events and projects over the next 4 years to mark this important commemoration. Some of the resources here on the

The Archives Indexes list <http://www.boltonlams.co.uk/archives/availability-of-archives-and-reserve-stock> will help you to prepare if you choose to visit the archives. I note particularly that there are old newspapers available

<http://www.boltonlams.co.uk/archives/archives-indexes/bolton-newspapers> as was recently queried. Please refer to availability of archives and reserve stock before visiting. Some resources are only accessible on certain days. <http://www.boltonlams.co.uk/archives/family-history-resources>

Also

• Fred Dibnah talk on Thursday 6 November 1pm-2pm. And

Photographs of Fred Dibnah: Did you like that? - Bolton Museum

The museum will be marking the 10th anniversary of the famous steeplejack's death with an exhibition of black and white photographs by Andy Bramah. "The photographs capture Fred doing what he did best- knocking down chimneys. This is a rare opportunity to see photographs which have not been exhibited since 1980."

Sat 18 October to Sun 18 January, Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri and Sat 9am - 5pm, Wed 9.30am - 5pm and Sun 10am - 4pm.

• Bolton Worktown Collection <http://boltonworktown.co.uk/>

Do you also know about this? The Worktown Archive is a unique historical document of everyday life in Bolton in 1937 and the first Mass Observation study to take place in Britain

- View Worktown photographs by Humphrey Spender
- View a selection of Mass Observation archive material
- Map showing location of Worktown photographs
- The Bolton Worktown blog
- Background of Mass Observation's founders

Enquiries to archivist Julie.lamara@bolton.gov.uk

- "The Bolton News" <http://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/lookingback/> "Looking Back " feature every Wednesday in which Gayle McBain offers some very interesting reminiscing , and usually gives us a mention at least once a month if not more. (She is always looking for more material as well on gayle.mcbain@nqnw.co.uk).

- **Lancashire OPC Additions October 2014** <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/>
Church Street Wesleyan Methodist, Farnworth Marriages 1915 to 1921
Egerton Street Wesleyan Methodist, Farnworth
Baptisms 1894 to 1930, Marriages 1899 to 1922
St Paul's, Halliwell, Marriages 1972 to 1986
Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Middle Hulton, Baptisms 1865 to 1957

Members Comments and Queries

This was the response that accompanied the above article by Richard Heaton

•**Richard Heaton's Index to Digitalised British and Irish Newspapers Online Beta**
Hi.

Many thanks for your email - the list was last updated in April this year and I aim to make one further update close to December this year.

A bit about me...

I work full time and I've been a family historian since my very early teens and yes also have Bolton roots.

My interest in newspapers was sparked by a visit to the then Newspaper Library Colindale in my school holiday's and re-awakened about 14 years ago while at Bracknell Family History Fair (in Berks) when browsing a stall I came across original copies of a London paper for sale on called The Globe and bought a couple of copies for £2 each. They were a terrible read! But I persisted and put transcripts up on Rootsweb and continued to collect - and now have c.25,000 examples dating from the early 18th century.

As my interest developed I began to give talks on newspapers and newspaper research (online, microfilm, and hard copy) and have even begun to digitalise a fraction of my own collection at "Last Chance to Read." <http://www.lastchancetoread.com/>

It was after a talk over a year ago - and having taken the audience through various online sites - I thought wouldn't it be a good idea if someone pulled together one site containing details of all the newspapers online - both free and pay for view - for Great Britain and Ireland. Then I realised - it wouldn't hurt to have a go myself - so I put something together on Rootsweb <http://www.rootschat.com/> and let various family History Societies know - and this then led to feedback on other online sources which I built in to help make the collections easier to find. Of course just because its online doesn't mean you can always find what you are looking for (and I cover this in one of my talks), but it's a good start.

Hope this helps.

Very Best Regards

Richard Heaton

I consider ourselves very lucky to have obtained the services of this fascinating researcher, and it does demonstrate how far our fame is spreading already. Sorry but he is not here until May 2016 as we are already booked up for next year. Email us for a programme if you haven't got it already.

OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES' NEWS

This month we welcome two new groups

Edgworth Remembers on Saturday 8th November 2014

at The Barlow, 216 Bolton Road, Edgworth, Bolton, Lancashire BL7 0AP

http://www.thebarlow.co.uk/index.php?mact=News.cntnt01_detail,0&cntnt01articleid=215&cntnt01origid=60&cntnt01returnid=60 a full day of events commemorating the 1st World War. Visit their period tea rooms, view research into the lives of Edgworth men who fought in 1st World War. Library and produce stall and lots more. If you would like to join the internet project to find out more about people from the village who fought in the war and commemorate their sacrifices, contact Linda Spencer on 07779 060962. The group meets on Wednesday afternoons from 1.30pm and are looking for help to research the 144 photos in The Barlow

Halliwell Local History Society

<http://www.halliwell-lhs.co.uk/monthly-meetings/> Email margaretk@talktalk.net

Meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, at St Luke's Church, Chorley Old Road, BL1 3BE opposite Shepherd Cross St, Bolton. Their November talk on 25th November is also by Lizzie Jones and entitled "Poets and Poisoners" - the Elizabethan Earls of Derby".

Turton Local History Society

Normally all events are on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm except for December, (which is too close to Christmas). This month's event on 26th November is on the subject of Moses Holden: Bolton born architect and is by Steve Halliwell.

Please email Secretary PeterMHarris@care4free.net for more information.

Westhoughton Local History Group

Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, between 10am and 12md in the room above Westhoughton Library, Market St, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU

http://www.westhoughtonhistorygroup.org.uk/Westhoughton_History_Group/Home.html .

Their November events include

- 6th November Westhoughton Town Trail - Pam and Ruth
- 20th November Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway - Roy Chapman

Horwich Heritage Centre - Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at

7:30pm at the Horwich Resource Centre, Beaumont Road (off Longworth Road), Horwich BL6 7BG. Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am --- 1pm

Their November 11th talk is by Tom Heavyside looking at "Steam Railways Revisited"

With lots more on offer please consult their web site at

<http://www.horwichheritage.co.uk/meetings.htm>

The Historical Association - Bolton Branch

http://www.history.org.uk/resources/he_resource_1098_17.html

According to their web site this is a national association with 53 local branches. This may be a little late at this time of posting—apologies—but their **November 3rd meeting** was held at 7.30pm at Girls' Division Great Hall at Bolton School, when they had Prof Sir Peter Hennessy talking about 'Cold War Whitehall: Writing about the Secret State'. Admission for visitors is £3, students free. Free refreshments. Their **Monday 1st December 2014 meeting** is by Rob Thompson: 'Will the Real Great War Please Stand Up? The Development of Great War Historiography over the Last 100 Years'

For more information contact Secretary Jenni Hyde 01772 93033 or boltonhistory@aim.com

The End.
