

Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the
Bolton & District Family History Society.

Email: boltonnews@mlfhs.org.uk

Secretary: Barbara Owen on 01204 309515

December 2014

A branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society

Hello All

Welcome if you have just joined us, and thank you if you have stayed with us and are still on our reading list. Please do help us by letting us know what you like/dislike about these newsletters. We are always open to constructive suggestions although unfortunately we probably can't please everyone. Is there anything you would like added or dropped?

Regular attenders at our monthly meetings will know that we have been going through a lot of changes this year, from the top downwards. Some might even call them "cathartic", but hopefully the outcome is just a few fresh pairs of eyes and some renewed energy to help the "long servers". We are also trying to move with the times and use some of the modern technology now available, to our advantage. Not easy for some of us dinosaurs, but necessary for survival and expansion.

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OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Normally the first Wednesday of each month. Note none in January whilst we have some R&R (although the committee will be meeting to "firm up" New Year plans, and there is a visit planned, see below).

December 3rds Christmas Party

Hope you all enjoyed it. As expected, Sid was a very knowledgeable treat and I think his TV stardom on BBC 1's "Countryfile" last week did not do him justice, and the violinist accompaniment was a bonus. We also have Elaine Taylor from the Rivington Gardens feature coming to talk to us in August. (Note all still available on Catch up, and Iplayer for 4 more weeks <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04tr3ln>), Do you think the BBC have been studying our programme? , Terry Walsh did what he does best with his books, the Quiz was (I hope) good fun, and the food yummy, (thanks to Alan and Pat Lee).

Wednesday 4th February 2015 is our next event in the New Year

With Steve Gill, photographer and restoration specialist, www.photo-consult.co.uk, making a welcome return. This time he plans to tell us about his journey of discovery, as he researched the story of his great grandfather who was a WW1 photographer. He now wonders "should seeing be believing?" though, where family photographs can lead us down the wrong path, and where images can deceive!!! Steve has a background of studying at Bolton Art College, 19 years as a Medical photographer, 5 years as a Canon Colour Printing specialist, 7 years as trainer and restorer in a photo-restoration company, then 4 years teaching photography plus all the time being a freelance photographer. A fascinating chap!

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VISITS and ACTIVITIES

- **MLFHS Courses Have you considered having a dabble???**

Barbara B and I thought we would try one of the recent free WW1 talks at Manchester Central Library. MCL <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/> in an effort to learn how to find more information about our ancestors who had both served in, and survived the Great War. . We booked online via the Eventbrite link on the website, were delivered to the door by the Metro from Radcliffe, and attended bright, and fortunately a bit early, for the 11am start. We found the Performance Space on the ground floor of Central Library quite easily, and were made welcome by the MLFHS volunteers. I was then embarrassed to find in asking for a replacement membership card for the one I had lost 3 years ago, that my subscription had actually expired 3 days previously, (not good for a committee member and the cause of much hilarity at my expense!!!). I had overlooked it of course because I had not got my card with the colour around it as a reminder, but the problem was soon resolved with £15. My next hurdle was that my Manchester library ticket had apparently not been properly activated since I enrolled at the old library on Deansgate, and therefore that also had to be sorted out before I could use the computer terminal. Once again this problem was soon sorted in a helpful manner, but of course all this took time. So

-> **1st Rule Good Preparation of Credentials to Use the Library Resources!**

We sat down to reserved terminals, and the coordinator Lesley Turner checked that we were all able to log on OK, and we were given a demonstration of how to use the various databases on the main genealogy sites. So

-> **2nd Rule Good Preparation of Facts Already Known to Facilitate Research.** The important first step of any research of course, is to first write down exactly what definite details are known about the individual to be researched.

We were now ready to explore the different approaches available on each genealogical website site. Unfortunately we did have some difficulty hearing due to background conversation in the open area, but I think we both benefitted from learning how to use the IT equipment. Perhaps the most satisfaction was in helping another student find his ancestor's military records from the Boer War records on Findmypast, which was a good

exercise for us as he had thought he served in WW1. We have also concluded that sadly, it is much easier to find information on those who died to those who survived.

There will be more courses, though on all sorts of subjects, and these are included in your membership, so I do encourage everybody to take advantage of same.

Jane M

- **Second Trip to Chethams Library, Friday 7th November.** In contrast to our trip in June when the weather was fabulous this trip in November was the wettest day of the year so far, and many of streets around Manchester were waterlogged. Once again we were shown around by Michael Powell, and his knowledge of Chethams and its contents is incredible. The exhibition in the showcases on the first floor was on the history of Bellevue. .We did not spend as much time in the library reading room because there were other trips being taken round on the same afternoon. Michael did however give us a history of some of the furniture and also named many of the famous people who had used the library. We then went downstairs to another meeting room so that we could look at some of their books. Subjects related to Bolton included the history of St Marys Deane going back to the 15th century, and the history of Over Hulton , Westhoughton and Farnworth. Other items that he showed us were a scrapbook full of posters from the 19th century on Bolton Theatres, the first atlas known with a map of Lancashire, and a leather book presented to Henry V111.This was followed by a questions and answer session. The fifteen of us all enjoyed the visit and are looking forward to the next on the list, see above.

Brian W

Thanks to Brian who once again coordinated this trip and already has two more planned next year

- **Trip to Bolton Town Hall**
Monday 19th January 10am meet outside the main entrance. I am not sure if there is a maximum number here but I believe we have at least 15 booked already, and may split into two groups

- **Trip to Johns Rylands Library and Manchester Cathedral**
Friday March 13th to start at 11.00 am .The maximum number per trip is 15 but if there is a big interest we could have two trips at the same time as we did at Manchester Central Library. The trip takes about 45 minutes, with a plan to have lunch then visit the Cathedral on the way back to the station

Bookings for both to Brian via Boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk . also

We are looking for more Coordinators.

Any offers please???

We have more ideas, and are always open to suggestions.

Where would you like to go? Could you spare the time to collect the list of names, and liaise with travel details and timings?

Please contact as above

GENIE'S TIPS for December

This is actually a continuation of the theme launched last month. As we were about to publish, this new "string" (topic and conversation), appeared in the MLFHS forum. It seems to demonstrate perfectly how an apparently simple query from a member, can lead to loads of really interesting information from other readers.

In this case the question was answered by John Marsden our MLFHS Chairman, then other knowledgeable members joined in. Rather than inundate you last month, I have carried over to another with their permission. I hope you don't mind. (MCL of course houses many local records)

http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/448/archives_and_local_history

as well as being our HQ.

- Original message from: Julie D

Mon, 27 Oct 2014

RE MLFHS: Parish registers and MCL

I have a question about the above. Is there any on-going process by which MCL still receives registers handed over by a parish? And if so, are registers still "filmed" for use in the library? If so, would we be made aware of additions to the listing? I am just curious, as the recent Lancs BMD updates for Bury were most welcome, until I realised that the particular parish in Bury still holds the century old registers, and I am just wondering if they will ever be made available.

- Answer From: lists@johnmarsden.name

To: forum@list.mlfhs.org.uk

Date: Tue, 28 Oct 2014

Hi Julie

Each church which is registered to perform marriages and to hold its own registers keeps two copies of the marriage register.

When the registers are full, they are REQUIRED to send one copy to the local Register Office.

The other copy they are REQUIRED, in the case of C of E parishes, to send to the Diocesan Record Office UNLESS they can provide proper secure archival storage at the church. I do not believe the same requirement is placed on other denominations. (Parochial Registers and Records Measure of 1978)

Most churches take this option, but a few do retain the registers and provided they meet the storage requirements there is nothing can be done to force them to deposit the registers at the DRO.

The decision is down to the incumbent of the church concerned and so when a new minister comes in, there is always the possibility that the registers will be deposited. As far as I know, once deposited, they will not be returned.

My personal view is that few if any of the churches would really provide proper archival storage with temperature and humidity control to ISO standards, but this quality of storage does not appear to be enforced. The schedule to the measure says:

"Every register book or record to which this Schedule applies shall be kept in a wood-lined, rust-proofed, vented steel cabinet, the door of which is fitted with a multi-lever lock or in a fire-proofed muniment room conforming so far as practicable to British Standard Specification Number 5454 or any new British Standard which supersedes it. The temperature and relative humidity in such cabinet or muniment room shall be checked at least once a week by means of a maximum-minimum thermometer and a hygrometer, each of which shall be kept in the cabinet or muniment room. Records of all readings shall be kept for a period of not less than twelve months and be made available for inspection at any reasonable time by the archdeacon in whose archdeaconry the parish is situated or by such person or persons as he may appoint." In Manchester, it has generally been the practice to film the registers, though possibly they may be scanned these days.

John Marsden

Webmaster:

- And then an afterthought

Date: Tue, 28 Oct 2014

Hi Julie

Sceptic? I? (Join the society and get the tee-shirt)

I should have said that it is always possible that a register at the church is still in use. One good example is Manchester Cathedral. In 1837 it was common for the marriages to fill four books, each of 500 entries, in a single year. However, the last deposited register ends in 1948 - 66 years ago - and the present book might go on for several years yet as there are very few marriages there these days.

These days the registrars seem to issue small books where the churches are not likely to perform many ceremonies so that the books do not sit around for ever (I am sure they have a guideline for this).

John Marsden

Webmaster:

- And then another contribution

From: lancaster.jim@zen.co.uk

Date: Tue, 28 Oct 2014

In Bury, St Mary, Hawkshaw, was established in 1892, according to Genuki, and is still using the original marriage registers. It was probably a volume that held 500 entries and is not yet full (an average of about four marriages a year!). The Bury Registrar has tried more than once to provide new smaller registers for the church so that there is a copy in the Register Office but his offers have not been accepted. I believe that a few years ago, the Diocese of Manchester and Manchester Central Library sent an archivist round the diocese to encourage incumbents to deposit their registers in the Diocesan Archives in Central Library.

The three Catholic dioceses in Lancashire encourage the parishes to deposit the registers no longer needed for religious purposes in the Lancashire Archives in Preston. Catholic Canon Law makes the Parish Priest responsible for the care and safety of the parish registers and expects them to be kept 'properly'. Many Parish Priests have done so as this relieves

the Parish Priest of the responsibility for their safety and stops him being asked for information from them - but not all have done so.

Jim Lancaster (Bury, Lancs.)

(See also

The Catholic Register Index from the registers of a number of R C churches in Manchester http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/data/catholic_churches.php#3 courtesy of the **Catholic Family History Society**)

You may be impressed to note that we had already booked both of these responders to talk to us next year in Bolton!!

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WORKSHOPS and COURSES

"Enjoy Learning" Spring Term

Just to remind you as the Autumn term finishes, if you want to consider a course in the Spring this is one of the options, with our Rita Greenwood in charge again. As usual there are the "Progresser" morning sessions and the "Advanced" afternoon classes. <http://www.enjoy-learning.org.uk/courses-by-centre.php>

Also in 2015 Rita and Barbara Owen of the
B&DFHS, in partnership with Bolton Central Library

So You Want to Get Back Before 1837?

A series of five workshops on more advanced sources for family history research
Saturdays starting at 10.00 a.m. Cost £25 including refreshments

- 28th February Parish Records

What are they, where to find them and how can you use them to further your research

- 7th March The Parish Chest

Studying the contents of the parish chest and how they can assist in locating ancestors in parishes where they were not born

- 14th March Illegitimacy

How to go about proving who the father of an illegitimate child was

- 21st March Pre-1858 probate

Most researchers will find wills relating to their ancestors. How to use them to further your research.

- 28th March What next?

Further sources to be used by advanced researchers

**Rita also has a complete set of the 1881 census for the whole of the country on CD looking for a good home. **

All enquiries and bookings to Bolton@mlfhs.org.uk or Barbara Owen Secretary on 01204 390515

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SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

Bolton History on a Chorlton blog, courtesy of Face Book. (Resource discussed last month).

<http://chorltonhistory.blogspot.co.uk/2014/11/in-bolton-in-1937-before-national.html?spref=tw>

ENG-GEN-EVENTS-L Archives

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/ENG-GEN-EVENTS/2014-12/1417555880>

This is run by our good friend Lynne Klein who is good enough to spread the word near and far, even though she herself lives overseas

"Cartes de Visites and Cabinet Cards"

<http://www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php?topic=430761.0>

from Toni Booth, Collections Manager at the National Media Museum , Bradford

Do you know about

Lancashire Council Libraries website

<http://new.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/join-a-library.aspx>

to join for free if you have an address in the UK, then follow the links

<http://new.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/digital-library.aspx>

and

<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/lancs?db=BNCN> to see amongst other interesting things

British Library 19th Century Newspapers 19th Century British Library Newspapers has been developed by Gale in partnership with the British Library and offers national, regional and local newspapers, taken directly from the holdings of the British Library. The whole collection is fully searchable and you can view digital copies of the original newspapers

Burney Collection 17th-18th Century Newspapers The largest single collection of 17th and 18th century English news media available from the British Library and includes more than 1,000 pamphlets, proclamations, newsbooks and newspapers from the period. The whole collection is fully searchable and you can view digital copies of the original documents.

Times Digital Archive The complete digital edition of The Times (London) from 1785 to 1985. Every page of every issue includes headlines, articles, images, editorial, birth and death notices and classifieds. Search or browse through each issue

NewsBank NewsBank enables you search and read articles published in the UK newspapers in the last 5 to 25 years (varies with different papers). All the major national daily papers are included as well as many local and regional ones

<http://forebears.co.uk/> I found this site quite by accident whilst looking for Parish Records in Scarborough, but I find it amazing. This how it describes itself.

"Forebears is a genealogy portal featuring:

- A geographically indexed and cross-referenced directory of sources for family history research
- A dictionary of surname meanings, including information on their geographic distribution
- News articles and genealogical research advice

The main aim of the site is to bring together the wide variety of genealogical sources available on and off-line and catalogue them; so as to make them easily accessible by researchers looking for records relating to ancestors in a particular town, region or country. The site covers the British Isles, India, antipodes and South Africa for starters

Local examples are

<http://forebears.co.uk/search?q=Bolton%2C+> which should lead you to

<http://forebears.co.uk/england/lancashire>

<http://forebears.co.uk/england/lancashire/farnworth>

<http://forebears.co.uk/england/lancashire/turton>

<http://forebears.co.uk/england/lancashire/little-lever>

<http://forebears.co.uk/england/lancashire/horwich>

I have also found these in my travels with some interesting stuff on all in case you get bored over Christmas

Findmypast blogs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQZvSCZj7ro>.

Irish Archives Resource <http://www.iar.ie/Links.shtml>

Mediaeval Childhood <http://www.medievalists.net/2014/11/11/survive-childhood-medieval-europe/>

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MISCELLANEOUS

"Manchesters Guided Tours" <http://www.manchesterguidedtours.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/MGT-Leaflet-Oct14-Mar15.pdf> and

<http://www.manchesterguidedtours.com/> "Discover inside knowledge of fabulous Manchester and the amazing North West on a guided walk or bus tour with Manchester's largest team of experienced, professional and thoroughly entertaining tour guides". Where would you like to go if we tried for a group booking maybe, or possibly we could just agree to meet there???

Suggestions please.

A Book Review on "Who Lived in a House like this". By Jean Boardman

This book is beautifully written and illustrated about nineteenth century houses on or around Chorley New Road in Bolton and the families who lived in them. This area was a very affluent area of Bolton and most of the houses were very large, and lived in by famous and in some cases rich families. Some of the houses were demolished in the twentieth century and in some cases large development of apartments built on the land. The book of course is very interesting to people researching their family trees particularly those people who live far away from Bolton. Listed below are the surnames of some of families who lived or worked in this part of Bolton and are mentioned in this remarkable book including some of the architects who designed many of the houses.

Ainsworth, Barry, Bradshaw, Brimelow, Compstive, Cheadle, Cannon, Coe, Crook, Cross, Craigie, Cunliffe, Dobson, Freeman, Fell, Gass, Haseldean, Hope, Herd, Harwood, Haslam,

Holden, Holdsworth, Jackson, Knowles, Kilroe, Lever, Lord, Magee, Mellor, Musgrave, Makant, Marsden, Nuttall, Ormrod, Potter, Pate, Peel, Ramwell, Roscoe, Salmon, Scott, Stockdale, Stott, Sherry, Simpson, Temperley, Taylor, Thomasson, Tillotson, Tong, Waddington, Walmsley, Warburton, Wolfenden, Whitehead, and Woodhouse.

The book is priced at £19.45 + £4.00 P & P. and can be obtained from B&DFHS, or by contacting jean.boardman36@btinternet.com

CHURCH RECORDS - Where are they?? by Jim Lancaster

The websites mentioned in Jim's recent article in the Manchester Genealogist magazine are as follows:

- Cheshire Record Office

http://archives.cheshire.gov.uk/what_we_hold/church_of_england_parishes.aspx

- Lancashire Archives

<http://new.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/archives-and-record-office/search-the-archives/church-registers-guide.aspx>

- Liverpool Record Office

<http://liverpool.gov.uk/libraries/archives-family-history/>

(Apologies. There seems to be some difficulty with this site at times)

- Manchester Archive and Local Studies Unit (ARLS)

http://www.manchester.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=448&documentID=464

- Wigan Archives (2 sites)

http://www.wlct.org/wigan/_assets/museums-archives/CHURCH%20REGISTERS%20PDF.pdf

and [http://www.wlct.org/wigan/_assets/museums-](http://www.wlct.org/wigan/_assets/museums-archives/MONUMENTAL%20INSCRIPTIONS%20AND%20CEMETERY%20REGISTERS%20PDF.pdf)

[archives/MONUMENTAL%20INSCRIPTIONS%20AND%20CEMETERY%20REGISTERS%20PDF.pdf](http://www.wlct.org/wigan/_assets/museums-archives/MONUMENTAL%20INSCRIPTIONS%20AND%20CEMETERY%20REGISTERS%20PDF.pdf)

- Cumbria Record Offices

http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/Online_catalogues/ecclesiastical.asp

- Most Jewish congregation did not submit their records. (See

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/redirect/?CATID=12173&CATLN=3&CATID=12173&CATLN=3&Highlight=&FullDetails=True>

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OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS

Westhoughton Local History Group - 6 December Victorian Fayre when the Group will be presented with a certificate of achievement by Westhoughton Mayor Kevan Jones for its World War 1 exhibition. For further information

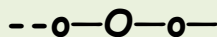
http://www.westhoughtonhistorygroup.org.uk/Westhoughton_History_Group/Home.html

Halliwell Local History Society <http://www.halliwell-lhs.co.uk> Email

margaretk@talktalk.net Their next month's talk is on 16th December 2014, with another "Lancashire Evening" from Sid Calderbank followed by a supper of pasty and peas. He is a busy chap!

Turton Local History Society No meeting in December. Please email Secretary PeterMHarris@care4free.net for more information.

Horwich Heritage Centre- This month's talk is on December 9th ~ Neil Smith "A Life with my Guitar" (Christmas Event). Please consult <http://www.horwichheritage.co.uk>



AND NOW A CHRISTMAS TREAT

[HTTP://WWW.ENGLISH-HERITAGE.ORG.UK/DAYSOUT/INSPIREME/PICK-OF-SEASON/THE-HISTORY-OF-CHRISTMAS/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/inspireme/pick-of-season/the-history-of-christmas/)

AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO COULD N'T MAKE THE PARTY

OUR QUIZ.

Answers next month (just to annoy you until then)

General

1. The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square is an annual gift from which country?
2. If you were to receive all of the gifts in the song "The 12 Days of Christmas", how many gifts would you receive in total?
3. "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents" is the opening line of which classic novel?
4. If you were born on Christmas Day, what would be your star sign?
5. Who was crowned King of England on Christmas Day 1066?
6. Which plant, associated with Christmas, has the Latin name *Viscum Alba*?
7. Who introduced the Christmas tree to England?
8. From which modern day country is St. Nicholas thought to have originated?
9. What were the names of the Magi ? (1 point for each)
10. In which poem by Clement C Moore were Santa's reindeer first given names.?

Total possible points = 12

Pantomime

1. What is the name of Aladdin's brother?
2. Who is the father of Cinderella and the Ugly Sisters?
3. What is the name of Prince Charming's assistant?

4. From which set of stories does the tale of Aladdin originate?
5. From which creatures does the Fairy Godmother create Cinderella's footmen?

Total possible points = 5

Christmas Food and Drink

1. What is the alcoholic ingredient of a Snowball cocktail?
2. Who created a Christmas pudding for Waitrose in 2010 with a whole orange inside?
3. A Norfolk Black is a variety of what?
4. From which part of the World does the turkey originate?
5. Which spice is usually used to flavour an Egg Nog?

Total Possible Points = 5

Christmas TV and Film

1. In which classic Christmas film is it said that "Every time a bell rings an angel gets wings"?
2. Which three film stars starred with Bing Crosby in the film White Christmas ?
(1point each)
3. Which long running character left Coronation St on Christmas Day in 1987 to become a housekeeper for a doctor in Derbyshire. ?
4. The song "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" comes from which 1944 Judy Garland film?
5. In the TV cartoon series, what is the name of the Simpsons pet greyhound?

Total possible points = 7

General

1. Good King Wenceslas ruled over which country?
2. Which English leader banned Christmas carols in 1647?
3. Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem?
4. Which is the only book of the Bible to mention the arrival of the Magi at the birth of Jesus?
5. Name all of Santa's 8 original reindeer – **note that Rudolf was not an original** (1 point each)

Total possible points =12

I make that 41 points in Total-- Yes???

That's All Folks

Merry Christmas to you and wishing you all a

Happy and Healthy 2015

from

all of us on the B&DFHS Committee,

Brian, Barbara, Susan, Jane, Graham, Val, Margaret, Colin and David