

# Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the

Bolton & District Family History Society.

Email: [boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk)

Secretary: Barbara Owen on 01204 309515

January 2015

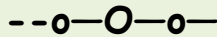
A branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society.

Hello All

Well I think the first thing that should be done is to wish everybody a happy new year. We have just completed a very successful 2014, and are now launching into hopefully an even more ambitious 2015. Thank you to everybody who has been so encouraging and helpful over our first few months. We have received offers of help for both editing advice and material for publishing, and also constructive suggestions about how to improve the service. This has all been really appreciated by us in starting from "scratch" and please keep them coming. .

Can we also now ask members if, even at this early stage of the New Year, anybody else could consider assisting as more needs show up? We are well aware that none of us are superhuman, nor getting any younger, we are only as good as our man/ womanpower, and we need more. We would only want it to be something you felt comfortable with and initially it does not even have to be as a member of the committee, but we would like to, maybe at first, just identify certain jobs and ask if anyone feels up to helping to spread the load a bit. Hopefully then, we can all continue to enjoy the activities and keep them going. Jobs that come to mind include coordinating ideas and arrangements for visits/ trips, and also assisting with our research projects. Articles and information for the Genie are also always appreciated. Did Father Christmas turn up with any genealogy books or bits of equipment that you can recommend? If anyone has any other ideas please don't be shy.

One other thought has been to ask if anyone requires, or could offer, help with transport from different areas of Bolton for our meetings. If you do/can, please let us know via the above contact details, and then maybe we can help link people up. We appreciate public transport is a bit daunting especially in the dark evenings, but it is a shame if that prevents folk from coming out, and Bolton does cover a big area. .



## OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

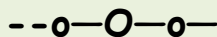
Our last meeting was of course our Christmas special on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. As expected Sid Calderbank and his violin accompanist were a treat and thanks to all for their help. No meeting this January whilst we have our R&R, and meet to plan our "2015 campaign".

**.February 4<sup>th</sup> is our next evening meeting** when we welcome back Steve Gill, local photograph restorer and historian <http://www.photo-consult.co.uk/about.html> . He plans to tell us about "My Ancestor, a WW1 Photographer", and explain how, since his previous visits, the topic of war photography has proved very interesting but not in the way he expected. More of that in the talk, but it has 'tweaked' the topic towards "Is seeing believing, where family photographs can lead us down the wrong path and where images can deceive?". Sounds like another cracker coming up to me.

As always:-

**All at the same venue, Bolton Cricket Club (Back door),  
Bishops Road, Farnworth, BL3 2JB 7.30pm,  
First Wednesday of each month apart from January).**

**We have a Help Desk for personal research after each meeting,  
and a recycle service for your used Family History Magazines and cds.  
Don't throw them out, bring your old ones in to be passed on.**



## VISITS and ACTIVITIES

- **MLFHS Event at Manchester Central Library**

**Friday 9 January 2015: 1pm "Getting the Best out of Findmypast"**

The new search interface introduced earlier in 2014 caused some confusion among the Findmypast ( <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/> ) user community. Myko Clelland of Findmypast will demonstrate the new interface and explain how to get the best out of it when looking for your ancestors in the extensive Findmypast data collections. This is a FREE meeting but strictly limited to MLFHS members only. To reserve a place please click the Eventbrite link <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/> .

Please note that booking is not possible before Monday 5 January 2015.

- **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 maybe at the John Rylands café, then visit the Cathedral on the way back to the station

Bookings for both to Brian via [Boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:Boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk)

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## GENIE'S TIPS for January 2015

### Military Research

The first place to look for assistance with military research websites is the

- **MLFHS toolbar** which has a military listing under "Misc / military". Particularly interesting is the Organisations listing, <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/toolbar/toolbar.php> (Editor's note. I know this is good advice but I personally still can't download this, I think because my virus checker thinks it is an alien and I don't know how to persuade it otherwise, so don't worry if you can't either, there is a Plan B).

Alternatively, whilst I usually avoid mentioning the subscription sites Ancestry <http://home.ancestry.co.uk/> and FMP <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/> websites here, I do feel it appropriate to note that they have been adding vast quantities of military data in the few last months.

As mentioned previously,

- **Bolton History Centre** is trying to record all the War Memorials in the Metropolitan Area. See <http://www.boltonmuseums.org.uk/archives/first-world-war-centenary/bolton-war-memorials-project> for the list of the ones they know of and those they still need details of. It could be that you know of one that is unlisted, maybe where you worked or in a school. [I attended Oxford Grove School but never realised there was a memorial on the wall over the radiogram/piano in the main hall until this listing prompted me to investigate.]

- **Military definitions. For those of us who did not serve in the Forces** <http://www.army.mod.uk/structure/structure.aspx> will explain the structure of the Army and thus what is a Regiment or a Battalion etc. Also <http://www.bl.uk/world-war-one/articles/military-structures-and-ranks> and <http://www.secondworldwar.co.uk/index.php/army-sizes-a-ranks/86-army-units-a-sizes> could help.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/army-muster-1730-1898.htm> from the National Archives will help with army personnel in that 168 year period.

In addition to the wars mentioned in the Toolbar,

- others wars of interest include
- 1642-1651 English Civil War** ~ <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/medieval-early-modern-soldiers.htm#23682>
- 1803-1815 Napoleonic Wars** ~ <http://www.ukmfh.org.uk/category/napoleonic> including
- 1805 Trafalgar** [and there were more ships than just the Victory involved]
- 1815 Waterloo** ~ <http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/men-of-the-battle-of-waterloo>  
[http://archive.org/stream/waterloorollcall00daltuoft/waterloorollcall00daltuoft\\_djvu.txt](http://archive.org/stream/waterloorollcall00daltuoft/waterloorollcall00daltuoft_djvu.txt)

1853 1856 Crimean War ~ [www.forces-war-records.co.uk/crimean-war-records](http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/crimean-war-records)

Also of note

- **The Genguide to "Royal Navy/Royal Marines - Muster & Pay Books"** (Service Records) - Ratings & Officers (Military - See more at: <http://www.genguide.co.uk/source/royal-navyroyal-marines--muster-amp-pay-books-service-records--ratings-amp-officers-military/260/#sthash.jgA4ESnG.dpuf> and <http://www.genguide.co.uk/source/royal-navyroyal-marines--muster-amp-pay-books-service-records--ratings-amp-officers-military/260/>

This is also an area of research where the National Archives are an excellent resource and Regimental Museums and Archives are also to be recommended..

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## WORKSHOPS and COURSES

- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 "Enjoy Learning" Spring Term**

Just to remind you if you want to consider a family history course this Spring, that this is one of the options, with our Rita Greenwood in charge again. "Enjoy Learning" is a not for profit association, and their web site <http://www.enjoy-learning.org.uk/about-us.php> explains that their "fees are based on what it costs to run ", and though they do not normally offer concessions you can see that they are reasonable for what they offer. As usual there are the "Progresser" morning sessions and the "Advanced" afternoon classes.

<http://www.enjoy-learning.org.uk/courses-by-centre.php> .

Also

- **For Complete Beginners Bolton MLFHS** members Margaret and Colin Calderbank will be starting a new series of 5 classes at local libraries at Blackrod and Bromley Cross at the end of February, These sessions are aimed at starter level with questions such as, "what do we know?, how much has anyone done?, what is a tree programme?, how to draw a family tree". Don't be shy. We have all had to start at the beginning sometime. The cost for the 5 sessions is £15 to include refreshments and hand outs. Contact the local libraries for places Blackrod on 01204 332380 or Telephone 01204 332384 24 hour automated line Bromley Cross on 01204 332354 or Telephone 01204 332384 24 hour automated line

- **"So You Want to Get Back Before 1837?"** - For more advanced sources Rita Greenwood and Barbara Owen of the B&DFHS, in partnership with Bolton Central Library are offering a series of five workshops at the library on Saturday mornings, starting at 10.00 a.m. Cost £25 including refreshments. Topics include

- 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.

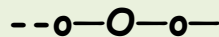
- 28th March What next?

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](mailto:Bolton@mlfhs.org.uk) or Barbara Owen Secretary on 01204 390515

**TNA "Using Discovery, our online catalogue"**. The webinar will take place at 16.00 on 19 January 2015, and it will last for no more than one hour. Book on <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/events/webinar-using-discovery.htm>



### SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

#### **The Long, Long Trail -The British Army in the Great War of 1914-1918**

<http://www.1914-1918.net/> I know many of you will already know about this definitive site but I thought this page <http://www.1914-1918.net/abbrev.htm> covering military abbreviations was particularly useful (although they still have n't got "MOL" on, or was that just WW2? I presume it is Ministry of Labour?)

#### **Deceased Online**

<http://www.deceasedonline.com/servlet/GSDOSearch?AcctView=LoggedIn&SrchView=Basic&lang=E&DetsView=Content&section=CONTRIBUTORS&context=BOLTONMI&lang=E> Our own Bolton MLFHS volunteers have added records for 20 burial sites in the Bolton, Lancashire area comprising over 52,000 memorial inscriptions carefully transcribed to computerised format. The records date back to 1555.

**About Parenting** <http://genealogy.about.com/> This is a free American website run by Kimberley Powell, offering a free newsletter with a strong interest in Genealogy. Try this bit about old photographs

<http://genealogy.about.com/library/authors/ucmishkin1a.htm>

#### **UK Surnames**

<http://uk-surnames.com/>

**GenealogyInTime Magazine.** Once again this Canadian site has come up with some useful goodies. It is free and I feel well worth subscribing

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/top-100-genealogy-websites-of-2014-page01.html>

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/more-great-genealogy-brick-wall-solutions-part1-page1.html>

### **The Bank of England website**

which claims to "promote the good of the people of the United Kingdom by maintaining monetary and financial stability". This section on inflation discusses how "*over long periods, the definitions of goods and services included in the price index have changed. For example, a family's food and clothes today are very different to those of a typical family a hundred years ago: even a simple loaf of bread has changed over the last century*"

<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/Pages/resources/inflationtools/calculator/flash/default.aspx>

### **TNA Reading and Understanding Old Documents**

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/reading-old-documents.htm>

### **British Military Nurses** <http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk/index.html>

This new website gives information on all administrative and organisational aspects of the British military nursing services in France and Flanders during the Great War. It covers areas that have previously been passed over or ignored, such as pay, contracts, mobilisation and demobilisation, marriage, off-duty time, sickness, discipline and more - the basics of life for military nurses. Hopefully it will prove a useful addition for anyone researching a relative who served, or for those trying to find small facts to use elsewhere." And the

**British Red Cross First World War volunteers** Over 90,000 people volunteered for at home and overseas during the war. <http://www.redcross.org.uk/en/About-us/Who-we-are/History-and-origin/First-World-War>

**Historical weather events.** <http://booty.org.uk/booty.weather/climate/wxevents.htm> This site managed by Martin Rowley, attempts to collect together in one place some notable events in our 'weather history' across the British Isles. It is certainly not comprehensive but does give an idea of what our ancestors had to cope with, with quite unsophisticated resources.

and

**Lost Cousins** <http://lostcousins.com/newsletters/xmas14news.htm> I don't think anybody will mind me once again recommending this excellent site. Even experienced genealogists still find these free two weekly newsletters invaluable for advice and up to date information. For £12 a year it is well worth subscribing to for the regular offers he seems to keep finding. .

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### **An Anglesey Adventure from a Bolton member**

On a recent holiday to Anglesey my husband and I visited Penmon Priory not far from Beaumaris. Whilst looking round the ancient graveyard of St Seiriol's Church I came across a headstone which read "Sacred to the Memory of John Wilkinson of Bury in Lancashire one of the sufferers who perished in the unfortunate wreck of the Rothsey Castle, August 17th 1831 - aged 34 years". I was surprised to see a grave of someone who lived in Bury in a churchyard on a small Welsh island. Needless to say I decided to investigate.

A Google search (where would we be without Google) showed that the Rothsay Castle (spelt differently, but still the same vessel) was wrecked off Anglesey due, it is said, to the incompetence/intoxication of the Captain and the Mate, and the bad condition of the ship. <http://www.anglesey-today.com/the-wreck-of-the-rothsay-castle.html> The vessel itself, a paddle steamer of 200 tons, was hardly seaworthy and was ill equipped with only one life boat, no lanterns or distress flares. As she got into trouble in a storm in darkness she was unable to alert the mainland of her distress, until, when dawn broke, it was obvious that help would come, for some, too late. In all 130 lives were lost.

Further investigation led to a website of Jean Hood, which gives detailed lists of passengers and crew. Of the 93 passengers, aged from three months to 70 years, only 23 survived. I was surprised to see that about half of the passengers came from the Lancashire area, 22 from Bury, 18 from Manchester, three from Rochdale and one from Oldham. The website lists some relationships and occupations, but not all.

I haven't been able to establish why the passengers were on the ship, were they travelling for business purposes or pleasure - given that it was August probably the latter, but maybe a mixture of both. Whatever the reason it cost many of them dearly.

To add insult to injury it appears that the Owner, a man named Watson, offered to take the deceased home, at a cost of £5 per coffin - a very large sum in those days - hence the burials in Anglesey, not just in this churchyard but others near to Beaumaris. It appears that any remorse the Owner may have had was short lived as he tried to profit from the repatriation of the victims.

Taken from a Google search from "The Wreck of the Rothsay Castle" by Ross Davies.

[www.jeanhood.co.uk](http://www.jeanhood.co.uk)

- **The Boat Families of the Leeds- Liverpool Canal**

<http://www.odfhsboatfamilies.org.uk/site/surnames.php>

Some of you may have seen the report in a recent edition of the WDYTYR magazine by Alan Crosby, about the Ormskirk FHS project re these canal workers.

At the launch of the site, in March 2010, they had more than 3,000 names, mostly families of canal workers, all connected by marriage in one huge tree, Canal Family 1. Since then the number of individuals in this tree has grown to 20,227 (as at 11th November 2014) after creating and then merging several more. Could you have lost someone in a census search who was actually earning a crust as a "waterman." in the north of England? I have now arranged for a member of the group to come and tell us all about their discoveries next year (yes I know it is only just 2015 but we have to grab the good ones ASAP. Their project leader Keith Jenkins has now asked if any of our members think they might have had a family member working in this area, who he can (confidentially) research. If you have and would like to help, please let us know and we can pass on the details, and maybe he can use it in his talk?

**Petition to open historic registers** <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/62779> Read more about Guy Etchells petition to ask that historic birth marriage & death registers be open to public inspection at county record offices or the National Archives. Go on. Sign it. Closing date 25.03.2015

### Members Comments and Queries

In the last couple of weeks, just before the Manchester Genealogist arrived, I found details of Methodist records. It is a site -

"**Methodist Heritage**" <http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk/> ). This site is very informative of the Methodist Church, with an outline history that includes an easy to follow chart of the various secessions and reconciliations, details of current districts and circuits with clear maps, and there are contact addresses for ministers, and others. An excellent, very welcoming site, one of the best I have seen, and would be an example for others. I have written a note with this information that you might want to use in Bolton Genie, or on MG Bolton

The Methodist Church has a national policy dealing with the retention and preservation of its records. This is explained on the site "Methodist Heritage" (<http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk/index.htm> ). For the records that concern us, baptisms, marriages, and burials, it states these should be deposited with the local archive service. The current arrangements are that the archive service of the place where the 'head' church of the Circuit is, should be used. This sometimes means that the Methodist records for a place are not in the same repository as other 'official' records.

The Independent Methodist Churches have a Resource Centre in Wigan that holds its archives and has registers from some churches, see - <http://www.imcgb.org.uk/pages/pv.asp?p=imcgb24>

Regards,  
Jim Lancaster (Bury, Lancs.)



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## OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES' NEWS

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

Email [margaretk@talktalk.net](mailto: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 next month's talk is **27th January 2015, Music Hall memories of the Grand Theatre.** -Peter Smith

**Turton Local History Society**

Normally all events are on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm at Longsight Church Harwood.

Please email Secretary [PeterMHarris@care4free.net](mailto: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 . Their next meeting is **15th January A.G.M. and Trams of Westhoughton - Garth Ratcliffe**

[http://www.westhoughtonhistorygroup.org.uk/Westhoughton\\_History\\_Group/Home.html](http://www.westhoughtonhistorygroup.org.uk/Westhoughton_History_Group/Home.html)

**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

This month's talk is on **January 13th Steve Williams when is speaking on 'WW1 Battlefields -- then and now.** With lots more on offer please consult their web site at

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

**Historical Association Bolton Branch Monday 12th January 2015**

Dr Charlotte Starkey: 'From This Foul Drain the Greatest Stream of Human Industry Flows Out to Fertilise the Whole World: Conflicting Perceptions of Nineteenth Century Industrial Landscapes' .The Bolton Branch of the Historical Association meets monthly on Monday evenings between September and April, and our current home is the Girls' Division Theatre at Bolton School, Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL1 4PA.

<http://boltonhistoricalassociation.wordpress.com/current-programme/>

[http://www.history.org.uk/resources/he\\_resource\\_1098\\_17.html](http://www.history.org.uk/resources/he_resource_1098_17.html)

For more information contact .Secretary Jenni Hyde 01772 93033 or

[boltonhistory@aim.com](mailto:boltonhistory@aim.com)

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## 2014 Christmas Quiz Answers

### General

1 Norway, 2 364, 3. Little Women, 4. Capricorn, 5, William! (The Conqueror) 6, Mistletoe, 7. Prince Albert 8. Turkey, 9. Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior ( 1 point for each), 10. The Night Before Christmas (accept A Visit from St Nicholas)

### Pantomime

1. Wishee-Washee, 2 Baron Hard-up, 3. Dandini, 4. The Arabian Nights, 5. Mice

### Christmas Food and Drink,

1. Advocaat, 2. Heston Blumenthal, 3. Turkey, 4. North America, 5. Cinnamon

### Christmas TV and Film

1. It's a Wonderful Life 2. Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera Ellen (1 point each)  
3. Hilda Ogden 4. Meet Me in St Louis 5. Santa's Little Helper

### More General

1. Bohemia 2. Oliver Cromwell 3. To pay their Taxes 4. The Gospel of St. Matthew  
5. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen (1 point each)

NB Perhaps I may comment that we did receive a, quite "insistent", complaint from a senior member (in appearance and general demeanour quite similar to FC himself, I will say no more!!), stating that the answer to General Question 4 should be "census" rather than "taxes" . If you feel the same can I add the rider:-

*"And it came to pass in those days, that there went a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.( and this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David,) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, " Lk 2:1 to 5*

And then the information

*It does depend on which version of the bible you read. I have gone through six versions (the first being 1742) and the older versions have "taxed" and the modern ones have "census. The word census, is only about 250 years old (we think) and in the Oxford Dictionary it says: "an official count of the population or of other things."*

So there you are!. Well I thought it was rather interesting. Sorry if you did n't.

Jane Milne Editor

