

# Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society:

<http://www.bolton.mfhs.org.uk/>

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Newsletter Comments and Speaker Queries to: [boltongenies@mfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@mfhs.org.uk)

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June 2016

Bolton Family History Society is A branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society.

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Well hello again and welcome everyone, and here we are, already half way through the year. We have been maintaining our new momentum with quite a few activities and some revised arrangements being made.

First of all, the good news is that we can now confirm we have managed to book the upstairs room at the Old Links Golf Club for our meetings until the end of next year. There are a couple of minor down points though in that

- this room has already been booked for the first Wednesday this December 7<sup>th</sup> 2016, so we are hoping to have our Christmas event actually on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November but yet to be confirmed
- and the stair lift arrangement is in place, but may not actually happen until later this year. I believe they have planning approval but not the expected grant yet.

Brian, Graham, and team have also done more tweaking with the loud speakers and are hopeful that the poor sound reception at the back of the room has now almost been resolved. All (human) speakers though will also be asked to use a mike, which is particularly helpful if they are also turning away to discuss a visual aid. Please, please though, if you cannot hear or see the presentation do tell us at the time. If we don't know there is a problem, we can't fix it can we. So ---

- **Where do we meet?**

**Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU.**

**Buses <http://goo.gl/3llsRd>**

**All MLFHS members free. £1.50 for none members unless joining on the night.**



- **When do we meet?**

**The first Wednesday of each month, with 7pm beverages available for 7.30pm start. 70 parking places but still don't leave it too late in the summer months—the golfers are “golfing” Extras include a Help Desk for personal research, Stationery Table for discounted equipment, and recycle service for your used Family History Magazines**



## TRIPS, MEETINGS, AND COMING EVENTS

**Tuesday May 17th Stockport Hat Museum** <http://goo.gl/CcL0eQ>



Well what can I say about this trip, other than despite initial concerns re making these arrangements in the middle of a lot of other BFHS activities, I think this trip was another great success. It was a new venture in that most of us were able to make use of the direct (airport) train from Bolton, and others managed to join us via the Bury tram, but I think we all felt this was much more convenient and cheaper than driving there. Seventeen of us in all arrived on time and after paying the combined entrance fee of £6 for two of the museums we were ushered into a small cinema area, to be shown a brief

introductory film about the creation of the felt industry and hat making in Stockport <https://goo.gl/dpV839> in the early 1800s. We were told of how as far back as the 16<sup>th</sup> C certain locals initially caught beaver in the area to supplement their food supply (illegal and classed as theft from the landowners), and hid the evidence of the fur by selling it to local felt makers. When the beavers ran out they progressed to wild then bred rabbits, then other furs.

The Stockport felt industry was initially cottage based until the silk weavers moved to the Macclesfield area, and the felt hat makers took over their mill premises in the early 19<sup>th</sup>C. The industrial revolution made its influence with new machinery and the hatters did well despite (to us), appalling health and safety conditions until the World Wars changed fashions and people no longer routinely wore hats.

We began to understand the horrendous reasons for the phrase “as mad as a hatter” where the mercury used in the felt processing was absorbed through the skin (see photo above), and we were told a version of the origins of the nursery rhyme “Pop goes the Weasel” as being where the tool the “weasel” was put in and “popped” out of the pawn shop, depending on what stage the hat making was at on that day of the week, the “weasel” being one of the final finishing tools, (although there are other parallel theories <http://goo.gl/1bNixY> ).

See right-->. Hats are now used mainly as fashion attire, or as part of specialised uniforms and for head protection, as in police and firemen’s helmets, and we were shown a variety of samples from all over the world.



We thanked Sharna our guide for a fascinating tour involving much social history as well. Unfortunately, no café facilities but we managed to find a quick lunch at the local M&S, before moving on to our 2pm booking to see the

**Underground Air Raid Shelters** <http://goo.gl/ChHmeB>

Here we met Ruth another guide, and once again we were ushered into the first reception area, at the entrance of the tunnel labyrinth, maybe the size of a small garage. The doors were shut, the lights went out and we were shown a 5-minute film show explaining briefly, by newsreels of the day, how Prime Minister Chamberlain thought he had avoided World War 2, then found he hadn’t, and war was declared against the German Reich on 3rd Sept 1939 <http://goo.gl/oMhdn> .



A “reality check” then set in. Within weeks most young men had joined up or been conscripted. The pre-planned 1939 Register was initiated for allocating eligibility for the rationing of everyday necessities such as food <http://goo.gl/iiRxgA> and clothing, and the well planned Operation Pied Piper took place. Most children of 4-14 years were evacuated within 3 weeks from high/ medium risk areas to safer districts, <http://goo.gl/ljNZQQ> , often without their mothers, and destination initially unknown. Like the Register, plans had also already been made to protect those left at home and in Stockport the well anticipated need already met, by the construction of

the near mile long network of tunnels built into their red sandstone earlier that year. This had already been

manually built in approx. 3 months, an incredible engineering feat, and was ready to receive. It was intended for 3,850 people but due to demand the tunnelling was extended to accommodate as many as 6,500 during the height of the Blitz. We were shown how the essential needs of safety from the bombing, hot drinks, toilets, medical checks and some beds were met, but under unimaginably dark and claustrophobic conditions, with pure terror on the surface during the air raids. The traditional English sense of gallows humour and community spirit seems to have helped many pull through, but of course we all have our own family tales of the period, and many have no doubt been researching this time for their own investigations.

We left after an enlightening visit, about an hour later, and glad to see the sunshine again. I think we were all much more appreciative of what our parents and grandparents had lived through before our generation arrived on the scene. With many thanks to Ruth our guide.

**Wednesday June 1st David Lloyd local transport historian came to talk about "The Bolton Tram Service and Tram 66"**. Well wasn't this a treat for the boys and some of the girls as well. We were first shown pictures of the first horse drawn pre rail trams running from the Royal Oak on Tong Moor Road down to town (with a mind boggling description of how they managed to turn the vehicle around in such a tight space at the terminus), and then they brought the rails in and metal wheels, then eventually progressed to electric powered trams. We progressed on through the decades to WW2 days and the last trip on March 27<sup>th</sup> 1947 <http://goo.gl/5BVcb1> when the trolley buses finally took over. (Thanks to Brenda Hall Admin of "Bolton Lancashire Bygone Day"s FB group <https://goo.gl/hMafHW> for finding that Bolton News link) Some of the trams are still running at the museum in Heaton Park on Sundays and we are planning a trip there next, probably Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup> to be confirmed. This will hopefully include 3 tram rides, a tour of the museum workshops and light refreshments for a "contribution" of £6 per adult and reduced for a child Please email [boltongenies@mlfhs.org](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org) to show interest and be kept informed.

**A National Commemoration of the Battle of the Somme Evening Concert Tickets for Battle of the Somme Evening Concert at Heaton Park Friday 1st July 2016 Concert Start: 7:30pm** <https://goo.gl/4791ea>



features soldier's songs from the time performed by a national children's choir, interwoven with archive film. A dance piece inspired by the Pals Battalions will then be followed at approx. 8.30pm by the Hallé Orchestra, who will play several well-known pieces linked to the First World War, including a piece by George Butterworth, a young English composer who died at the Somme.

Picture courtesy of Wikipedia. The concert will also feature a range of letters, poems and diary entries depicting the lives of those affected by the Somme, including a specially commissioned poem read by author and broadcaster Lemn Sissay. It will finish at sundown at 9.45pm. Sign up for your FREE ticket on this link. The performance is suitable for all ages. You are also invited to make your own Memory Square for the event. For more information, see <https://www.1418now.org.uk/somme100>

Next talk **Wednesday 6th July, 7.30pm Bill Huyton, Chairman of the Ormskirk FHS** will come to tell us about "The Boat people of the Leeds - Liverpool Canal". Bill is the co-founder of "The Boat People" web site, <http://goo.gl/Ofy3RY> and will come to tell us about the purpose of this fascinating project to assist researchers whose ancestors worked on this canal, and its associated waterways, especially in South-West Lancashire



Also see <http://goo.gl/u3wftH> for more MLFHS based courses and activities in June/ July

## GENIE'S TIPS FOR JUNE

**"5 free parish register resources that will boost your online research"** By Guest, 19 May 2016

<http://goo.gl/LPG0Vy> **Who Do You Think You Are**

*"FamilySearch has an unrivalled collection of parish registers, but there are many more free sites out there. Laura Berry shares details of five other online resources that can be used for tracing baptism, marriage and burial records without costing a penny"*

**"Expert advice - what to do when you hit a brick wall"** <http://goo.gl/n1SMJO> **Findmypast** another goody.

**The Yorkshire registers parish lists** <http://goo.gl/YLddrx> **Findmypast**. For all you lucky people who can claim to have a bit of "tyke" in their DNA, *"Findmypast is pleased to be working with family history societies and archives throughout Yorkshire to bring you over 10 million baptisms, banns, marriage, and burial records from Yorkshire. To help you find your ancestor we have created full parish lists for each life event."* From my observations so far much of it still seems to be only transcriptions if that, but I live in hopes---

**"Historic Map images"** <http://goo.gl/xrCi9h> **National Library of Scotland**

Just to remind you that **this** wonderful free resource covers England & Wales as well as Scotland --- *the collection now also includes maps of WW1 trenches in France and Belgium - indeed, there are a lot of maps that weren't there last time I visited, including Estate Maps of Scotland, and maps of Scottish towns, some of which are 25in to the mile. Maps of English towns are on their way too.* Thanks to Peter Calver of **Lost Cousins** <http://goo.gl/gfwzBB> for reminding us

**"Purchasing Power of British Pounds from 1270 to Present"** <https://goo.gl/qNQdWW> **Measuring Worth**

*"A Purchasing Power Calculator compares the relative value of a past amount of pounds to a present amount. A simple calculator uses only the prices of consumer purchases to do this whereas a complete purchasing power calculator, such as found in this website, uses various prices, wages, output, etc., depending on the context"*

**"Quick-Start Guide to Using Instagram for Family History Research"** <http://goo.gl/Rv17XL> **Crestleaf**

08.05.16 *"Instagram is simply a mobile app that is used for photo-sharing, video-sharing and social networking. It enables its users to take pictures and videos with their smartphones or tablets and share them on a variety of social networking platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter".*

**"A Country Guide to Google Search Engines"** <http://goo.gl/xEyYj1> **GenealogyInTime Magazine** 14.05.16

Most people don't realize that the choice of Google search engine has a profound impact on the search results that are delivered to you. Choose the right Google search engine when searching for your ancestors and you will get good results. Choose the wrong one and you will almost certainly come up empty handed. In this article, we show you how to choose the right Google search engine. —

**"(+ I am Moving to the Cloud"** <https://goo.gl/omSdyG>

**Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter** Dick Eastman · May 17 2016 *"I've decided to move. Well, not my personal possessions, my clothes, my tools, or even my computers. I am moving my data. I am moving to the cloud. First, here is a quick definition of a "cloud" as the word is used in computer technology ---"and then an explanation of why this is so useful for genealogists. See also Wikipedia's*

<https://goo.gl/sdEsDH>



**“Genealogy Latin Dictionary”** <http://goo.gl/zFpkDY> **GenealogyInTime Magazine “**

*Latin terms appear often when looking through ancestral records. In particular wills, parish records and land records tend to be full of Latin terms. Our Genealogy Latin Dictionary helps you navigate all those unfamiliar terms.”*

**“Why archives want to destroy their reams of papers and risk a digital dark age”** <https://goo.gl/0DyA12>  
**by I Team** May 18th 2016 *“Sweden and Hungary are cutting open their books, and legislation enabling the institution here in Helsinki to dispose of its documents after digitising them is being finalised. Is this necessary?”*

## **WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES**

**“Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree”** <https://goo.gl/vkXTf1> **Future Learn Strathclyde University**



*Develop an understanding of genealogy – how to research your family tree and communicate the results – in this free online course. With Tahitia McCabe*

Starts 18<sup>th</sup> July for 6 weeks. I recommend it but am still barely half way through myself as I have other commitments like newsletters etc. Like everything else you proportionately get out of it what you are able to put into it.

See also MLFHS courses included on <http://goo.gl/u3wftH>

## **THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES**

Lancashire Records



<http://goo.gl/l29JpL>



**Lancs OPC** <http://goo.gl/AN699Z> and left click on the “What's New” tab on the left. There is actually lots more useful information on here about Bolton. Worth a look if you have not done lately <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/Bolton-le-Moors/index.html>

**“Lancashire Archives cuts hours for public access”** Tuesday, 24 May 2016 Jacqui Crosby courtesy of Chris Paton’s British Genealogy Blog <http://goo.gl/yneeN5>

Please note that from Monday 4 July 2016 Lancashire Archives will be open as follows:

- \* Monday CLOSED
- \* Tuesday 9.30-5.00 – open until 7.00pm on the second Tuesday of each month
- \* Wednesday 9.30-5.00
- \* Thursday 9.30-5.00
- \* Friday 9.30-5.00
- \* Saturday 10.00-4.00 on the second Saturday of each month only



**The Hulton Archives** <http://goo.gl/UGY14V> (courtesy of The Friends of Lancashire Archives <http://www.flarchives.co.uk/>)  
**“Hulton of Hulton, c1190-1998 Estate and family papers of the Hulton family of Hulton Park”**

Some of you will remember we had Jacqui Crosby from The Lancashire Archives visit us earlier this year to tell us



about this wonderful collection which the MLFHS helped to purchase and retain in its native Lancashire last year. We also arranged a visit with Rita Greenwoods class to see some of the original items now stored, and available for inspection at Preston CRO. These items have now been catalogued and can be located via the above link. There are 345 pages on this pdf file, which also explains much of the history of the north west and beyond. A wonderful read. I am told that the original documents are now available for inspection at the Preston CRO (see opening times as above) on production of a CARN ticket <http://goo.gl/UCLyf0> (just take two evidences of ID such as utility bills/ passport if you haven't got one yet, and a wait of approx. 10 minutes. As a Yorkshire lass I am telling you they form part of your Lancashire heritage, and you should all be visiting and reading.

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


**“Researching a past change of name”** <https://deedpolloffice.com/research> **Deed Poll Office** A fascinating overview of the process and spin offs including: -

1. *Finding proof of a change of name*
2. *What is a deed poll?*
3. *How can I find out if a deed poll was enrolled?*
4. *Change of name declarations 1939–1945*
5. *Changes of name by foreigners in the UK 1916–1971*
6. *Changes on a birth certificate*
7. *Royal licences*
8. *Private Acts of Parliament*
9. *Phillimore and Fry Index to Changes of Name 1760–1901*

**“Using Citations and References in Family History Research”** <http://goo.gl/tlvaVh> **Twile Bringing family history to life** by Caroline Brooks accessed 05.05.16 *“When researching your family history, there are many types of information available, such as parish registers, tax records, census forms, wills military service records, electoral rolls etc., and although their interpretation is often not at all straightforward – they are very useful if you are looking to share your findings with other members of your family. We asked Professional Genealogist Anne Sherman, for her advice on how to cite your sources and why this is important”*

**“5 Types of Maps Every Genealogist Should Know”** <http://goo.gl/JW9kIG> by Amy Johnson Crow accessed 05.05.16 Maps are incredibly useful in our genealogy. They can put our ancestors in context with their surroundings like few other sources can. There are numerous types of maps, each with its own benefits to our research. Here are 5 types that you should know



 **“Genealogy Records by Country”** <http://goo.gl/dBv44i> **Genealogy in Time** *“A handy guide to find the most recent genealogy records on the internet organized by country and region”* Always a good Canadian resource.

**The British Colonist** <http://goo.gl/sXpYmC> *On December 11th, 1858, in the midst of a gold rush, a man with the improbable name Amor de Cosmos inked up an old hand press and launched a newspaper -- the British Colonist -- into the world. Published in Victoria, Canada it became the leading paper in the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, and was the paper for the province of British Columbia until the emergence of Vancouver and competitors in the 1890*





**National Library of Wales** <https://goo.gl/k7zzmH> **Family History Section** including Civil Registration, Census, Records, Tithe Maps, Newspapers, Archives



**Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS** <http://goo.gl/1U8WOI> Branch of the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society Registered as a Charity No. 515599 May 2016 Issue No 2.



Also the **Scotlands People Bimonthly Newsletter April/May** <http://goo.gl/32xzHc> and the **National Records of Scotland** <http://goo.gl/qGbC4h> and **Map: Where in Scotland does your surname come from?** <http://goo.gl/J3m7Oi>  
**The Scotsman Newspaper**

*Until the 12th century most Scots did not have surnames. It was not until King David I's decision to give large amounts of Scottish land to Norman nobles in return for their support of the Crown that the Norman tradition of surnames came into fashion and see also* <http://goo.gl/KECGzV> **A history of surnames from Edinburgh and the Lothians**



**Irish Genealogy I.e.** <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/> "the website dedicated to helping you search for family history records for past generations. Last year saw the introduction of a new search facility to explore a number of on-line sources of genealogical information e.g. the 1901 and 1911 Census

*returns, in addition to the Church records which were already available on the site. Now the site also contains the Indexes to the Civil Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths. All of these records can be searched through the main search" also . .*

**National Library of Ireland Catholic Parish Registers** <http://registers.nli.ie/>

*"This website contains images from the NLI's collection of Catholic parish register microfilms. The registers contain records of baptisms and marriages from the majority of Catholic parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland up to 1880 ---"*

**Table of Church of Ireland Parish Registers** <http://ireland.anglican.org/about/168> **The Church of Ireland: Online Parish Records** A small number of parish registers have been digitised and are available to view here and on the Anglican Record Project. This digital record is a work in progress



**CastleGarden.org** <http://castlegarden.org/> "is an educational project of The Battery Conservancy, a free site offering access to an extraordinary database of information on 11 million immigrants from 1820 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened. More than 100 million Americans can trace their ancestors to this early immigration period" This site from Family History Daily <http://goo.gl/xitWtL> explains a bit more about it.

**FamilySearch Indexing Projects** <https://goo.gl/crMZYn> "All projects being administered by FamilySearch indexing are listed below. Each project is posted with a unique set of indexing guidelines and interesting facts"



**Jewish Genealogy Surname Project** <http://goo.gl/8WYNyR> "has been created to build the largest ONLINE database spreadsheet on Facebook

*consisting of Surnames, Given Names, Towns, Villages and Countries from where our ancestors emigrated and DNA information if you have tested. Since most of us have exhausted all records available, we are trying to connect via Surnames--- and*



see also **How Jews changed surnames in Poland Index (1919-1935)** <http://goo.gl/7vWjYK> **Polish**

**Ancestors.** I know it was not just those from Poland who did this either so there must be a real challenge for researchers in this area.

## “What Victorian Agricultural Workers and Other Countrymen Wore”

<http://goo.gl/PZY3GD> **The Victorian Web** George P. Landow, Shaw Professor of English and Digital Culture, National University of Singapore. Illustration Courtesy of <https://goo.gl/xoDpPk>

*“Throughout the nineteenth century, men of the rural working class continued to wear the traditional linen smock, and this costume long served to distinguish them sharply from factory workers ---”*



“The Servant Hierarchy” <https://goo.gl/g05eL5> **countryhouse reader** the following is a list of servants predominantly from the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, and a very brief note of duties for those respective positions.

**John Lane’s Masonic Records 1717-1894** <http://goo.gl/v5D2nJ> Lane's Masonic Records, version 1.0



(<http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/lane>, October 2011). Published by HRI Online Publications, ISBN 978-0-955-7876-8-3 *“is an authoritative listing of all the lodges established by the English Grand Lodges from the foundation of the first Grand Lodge in 1717 up until 1894. It was published by the United Grand Lodge of England in 1895 and proved to be a very useful reference book for anyone with an interest in freemasonry under any of the English Grand Lodges. Masonic Records enables the early history of freemasonry in a particular place to be readily traced and provides information about individual lodges”.*

“The military hospitals at home” <http://goo.gl/3eoKgC> **The Long Long Trail** *“The flow of casualties from the various theatres of war soon overwhelmed the existing medical facilities in the United Kingdom, just as it did the recently established bases in France and Flanders. Many civilian hospitals and large buildings were turned over to military use. This listing is by no means complete”* Many of us will of course have already seen the recent Dunham Massey exhibition <https://goo.gl/X35yIS>  
Photo courtesy of NT Images & David Jones



**Royal Commission gains Forgotten U-boat War**  
2016 **The blog of the Wales**



**Heritage Lottery Fund approval for the development of ‘The around the Welsh Coast’ Project** <http://goo.gl/S5RaXt> Monday, 9 May  
**Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of**

**Watch: First tour inside Wythenshawe Hall shows the devastation caused by fire** 20 May 2016 Updated 20:52, 20 May 2016 By Charlotte Cox <http://goo.gl/jYxVpE> **Manchester Evening News.**  
A sad sight for us all.

“The London Gazette, Supplements August 1914 - January 1920” <http://goo.gl/wTcf6o> **Findmypast** *“Was your ancestor gazetted in the official newspaper of record in the United Kingdom? The London Gazette printed announcements of promotions within the armed forces, appointments of official public offices, Royal proclamations and much more. Additionally, read through full reports and despatches from key battles of the First World War”.*  
and lastly but by no means least



**5 Unspoken Laws of Genealogy** <http://goo.gl/pemgSi> Copyright © 2016 Amy Johnson Crow, All rights reserved. From Amy Johnson Crow's blog this article rings so many loud bells I felt I had to share it.  
*“You’ve heard the rules of genealogy. Cite your sources. Start with the known and move to the unknown. What you may not have heard are the Laws of Genealogy ---”.*



**23/5/2016 LostCousins Newsletter** <http://goo.gl/z6lXLk> 23rd May 2016 The LostCousins newsletter is usually published fortnightly. Just in case you do not know about this resource I am repeating the information. Some of it will probably already be out of date by the time you read it but I think this just shows how useful it will be for you to sign on yourself for a free notification. There are some particularly helpful articles this time, some with relevance to the article below re DNA.

## **MEMBERS COMMENTS, QUERIES, and MEMORIES)**

### **Two Appeals for Help in Search of long-lost Relatives but different Methods**

**Bolton News** A Local Newspaper Appeal <http://goo.gl/UoyqF7> Bolton News 9.05.2016

**Christopher Taylor is appealing** for people to help him find the long-lost relatives of his grandfather. He has spent years trying to track down the descendants Cyril Wilford Williams Horton, who lived in Radcliffe and is buried at Bury Cemetery. Having pieced together, the story of his life from what little information he could obtain, Mr Taylor believes that his grandfather married his third wife, Ethel Sharples, in Heywood in March 1945 before moving to Radcliffe. If you think you might be able to help please contact Chris on [cstaylor8@icloud.com](mailto:cstaylor8@icloud.com) . I am showing this story as it does seem a good example of trying to track down local relatives when researching from some distance. It seems he has already got some results.



Here below is another method

### **Have You Considered Trying the DNA Route? Susan Brouwer has ---Here is her story**



Many will know that I am quite a cynic in this area. I feel I understand the process in principle, mainly because of my previous job, but confess I have really not felt the urge to investigate any deeper, probably because I have no vested personal interest in this area.

There is loads of information out there of course and perhaps Wikipedia

<https://goo.gl/QCIPkQ> , or Peter Calver of "Lost Cousins" provide some of the most easily digested explanations of all the intricacies of it <http://goo.gl/Eup3V3> .

I do have this sneaky theory though that we at "base camp" are being encouraged to have DNA samples taken, processed and logged, much for the benefit of distant cousins, whose British ancestors left our shores and moved all over the world to find a better life, but now want to know (understandably), where they came from. It could be called the "Route to your Roots!" (am I the first one to coin that? Surely not)

I apologise if I have got it all wrong but it was quite a surprise to note that one of our group who went to the Birmingham WDYTYR show last month had his sample taken for free by Ancestry, because his surname was on their list, (although apparently full details of his tree were needed up front, and he has still not heard any results 7 weeks on) , whilst another who didn't ,but whose well researched local family tree goes back at least 400 years was charged £100. I can also sympathise with an overheard conversation of a visiting American lady, to the effect that she had Belgian, English, Scots and Norwegian ancestors just at grandparent level. What a nightmare. Money works wonders though doesn't it, and there must be so much being invested in this area by big companies seeing ££££s and \$\$\$s floating past.



Here at Bolton FHS we have received a few enquiries from North America, where descendants of "ex pats" have had DNA samples taken and tested, and results have supported research suggesting that they have blood relatives who have lived in the Bolton area. This revelation is understandably very exciting for those living 1000s of miles away, who may have very little idea about their origin, and apart from the family

history point of view, there could be other good reasons for some, such as medical traits which may be useful for health background.

Now without getting too technical, and remembering that men have XY chromosomes and women XX. I am going to mention Susan Brouwer who is an “ex pat” living in Canada. She had some success cracking a “genetic brick wall”, in her Aberdonian paternal line, via her brother’s Y DNA analysis, (remember it is only the Y factor that can track the direct male XY line, females are XXs so don’t have Ys) . With this success she was then encouraged to arrange for more Y DNA testing to look at the men in her mother’s line and investigate her known Bolton links.

She asked her maternal cousin Jim Vickers to have the Y DNA test done as the nearest male of this blood line, to help trace the father and ancestors of their illegitimate great grandfather Joseph William Vickers who was born in Bolton, Lancashire in 1858 to Ann Jane Vickers. Ann Jane herself also seems to be illegitimate, as does her mother Ann (Mary) Vickers. Ann (Mary)’s mother appears to be Mary Vickers who was probably born about 1790 in Ainsworth (?baptised 11.07.1790 Bolton to be confirmed). There is also a possible baptism of a Mary to a Mary Vickers in Tonge 1812 which seems the most likely baptism for Ann (Mary) but no simple Annes to be found. 😊

Matching User ID 4GNIV on at least 8 markers, allowing a maximum genetic distance of 3  
Check the boxes of the individuals you want to compare and then click the underlined word "COMPARE" at the top of the column  
Check All Clear All

Compare	User ID	Pedigree	Last Name	Origin	Haplogroup	Tested With	Markers Compared	Genetic Distance
<input type="checkbox"/>	4GNIV		Vickers	Bolton, Lancashire, England	F1b1b1 (tested)	Family Tree DNA	3/	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	5ZNLW		Munro	unknown	E (tested)	Family Tree DNA	3/	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	YFSP5		Knowles	Lancashire, England	Unknown	Family Tree DNA	<u>3/</u>	<u>2</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	6BC8B		Craeshe	Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England	F1b1b1*	Other - DNA Diagnostic Centre	18	0

Much to their surprise however, cousin Jim Vickers Y results showed a nearest match with a living American called Keith Munro whose ancestors are from the Sutherland area of Scotland. <https://goo.gl/jDeXeK> (map). Susan then, nothing daunted, found a chronologically possible Sutherland ancestor George Munro, a single man living with his sister around the corner at the Bay Horse Inn on Deansgate from the

Vickers cellar household in Bolton on Bark Street, <https://goo.gl/v4Sfyh> (map) in 1851. In 1861 he is a wine merchant at 66, St Georges Road, but with his wife (married Scotland 1863) and family <http://goo.gl/mPzuls> (Lost Pubs of Bolton). Another “fly in the ointment”, is that apparently both Keith Munro’s and Jim Vickers samples do not match any other Munro’s but rather a Knowles line going back several previous generations. More intrigue! 😞


I must admit at this point I have been getting a bit lost with the plot and I should imagine most of you are as well, but this does seem to illustrate well the convolutions of all the possibilities created in DNA research. As Susan points out, the more samples made available, the more cross checking that can be done to suggest and eliminate, if that is the way you want to go. She also comments

*“I would much rather do the cross checking with a paper trail, believe me, but when you have 3 generations of illegitimacy (who don’t mention fathers), and you want to know about the roots of those people, then this is an alternative method. I am not trying to take away from any other methods.”*

On the upside we do know that although J W Vickers b 1858 married twice and took his second wife and family to Canada in 1911. He left two grown sons by his first marriage in Bolton. James b 1880 had already married Betsy Hall in Salford 1908 and settled there, working for the GPO, and had several sons and one daughter. Edward b1884 was a fireman on Deansgate, and m Lilian Dixon in 1915 at Deane Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Bolton, with no known children. There may therefore be some of the Vickers line, perhaps still in the Salford area.

Susan has also added

*“I think I mentioned at the beginning of all of this that no matter where people get their DNA tested I recommend they should transfer their results to “Gedmatch”. <https://goo.gl/O2Zw4j> It is a free site that collects results from all over the world, so easier to match up with people at home or abroad. In case you are not familiar with how the matching goes, if you can imagine a long strand of DNA. If someone only takes the Y12 test, they are comparing 12 markers on a long strand of DNA with everyone else. It is quite easy to match hundreds if not thousands of people with 12 markers. The closer you match,*



the lower the number, so a 0 is a perfect match and 6 is quite distant. Someone could be a 0 on a Y12 test, but if you upgraded to the highest test - Y111 and they are still a 0 then they would be your twin practically.

My Dad used to say "you don't want to go digging around there, you don't know what (skeletons) you are going to find". Maybe he and previous generations had more insight into past "goings on" than we give them credit for. --- but if anyone can help Susan re the Bolton Vickers/ Munro dynasty she would love to hear from you. She can be contacted on [sasbrouwer@rogers.com](mailto:sasbrouwer@rogers.com) , and I have a more detailed copy of her story if interested. See below George Munro b 1832 Sutherland, Joseph William Vickers b1858 Bolton, and his son John W Vickers b 1878 Bolton



And here is another example  
press



of a success story hot off



the

**"Grandfather's royal roots revealed by advanced DNA test"** May 27th, 2016 by Kirsteen Paterson **The National**  
<http://goo.gl/eHb0wE> A GRANDFATHER who worked in a tractor factory has been revealed as a descendant of Robert III in a transatlantic project to trace the king's men.

### OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS

**Halliwell Local History Society** <http://goo.gl/8erYyr>



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, Next talk **28th June "The Liverpool Cowkeepers" – the story of Yorkshire farmers who in the mid 1800s relocated to Liverpool and kept a cow in their backyards to sell fresh milk to the growing population in the city.** An illustrated talk by David Joy.

**Turton Local History Society**



Normally all events are on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm All start at Longsight Church Centre at Harwood, BL2 3HX. This month's event **22nd June Kingfisher Trail A Guided Walk with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust**, Please email Secretary [PeterMHarris@care4free.net](mailto:PeterMHarris@care4free.net) for more information.

**Westhoughton Local History Group –** <http://goo.gl/XNug15>

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. Next talks

**16 June Blackpool, Fresh Air and Fun - John Doughty**

**7 July A Tale of two Villages (Barrow Bridge & Doffcocker) - Alan Simpson**



**Horwich Heritage Centre-** <http://goo.gl/fSPsij>

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

**June 14th ~ A.G.M. Westhoughton Local History Society**

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