

# 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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**October 2016**

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

To join online simply left click <http://mfhs.org.uk/join/join.php>

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Greetings everybody

Well, here we are back again, launching our autumn season. The evenings are drawing in, the temperature slowly dropping, classes are starting again, (see last two newsletters for details), and we are all "raring to go" --- I hope. You should by now have also seen our 2017 programme is available both in hard copy and online. We hope you like it.

This edition of the newsletter has had a slow start I'm afraid, partly because of many of us going for off peak holidays, and also because of seemingly all the IT systems companies returning from their holidays and deciding to "upgrade", "modernise", "revamp" all the things that hadn't seemed to be broken anyway, at the same time. Too many BIG learning curves I am afraid, and they say it is making things simpler. I am feeling my age.

Anyway enough moaning and on with the show. We launched with a talk in September about internet research of the parish registers. This introduced the phenomenon of "transcribing", and its many forms. When we thought about it we hadn't really realised before what an apparently mysterious area this is, and what a vast variety of versions of it there are. We have depended on these people for so much, all over the world, for so many years. We have now decided to do a special edition about the process probably in Jan 2017, so if anybody would like to contribute thoughts or stories about their experiences of this please email to the Genie address above. It is anticipated there will be follow ups through the year as this is such a big subject. We do have Tony Foster, one of our local leading lights on the subject coming to speak to us next month, so this might start the ball rolling anyway. (see details below).

Perhaps the next big thing to consider though is



**Our Christmas Bash!** We have nearly completed our first year in our new venue. Do you remember last year's do at our previous venue at the Cricket club? How much has changed in the last 12 months.

As briefly announced last month, this year's party will be held on **Wednesday November 30<sup>th</sup>**, with no actual meeting in December as our usual date is unavailable. The Golf Club caterers are arranging the meal for us this year so our cooks can relax.

**Entrance will be with tickets only, and they are now on sale at £7 for none members and £3.50 for members** for the pie and peas supper, quiz, raffle, and a "ramble" with Rita, in no particular



order. Black tie optional Haha! **Please note they will be on sale at next month's meeting November 2<sup>nd</sup> and then only by emailing or ringing as above. Closing date Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 12mn**

## OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

- **Where?**

Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU. Buses 5SU <http://goo.gl/3llsRd> . All MLFHS members free. £1.50 to none members unless joining on the night.

- **When?**

7pm beverages available for 7.30pm start, on the first Wednesday of each month. Extras include a Help Desk for personal research, Stationery Table for discounted equipment, and recycle service for your used Family History Magazines



## RECENT TRIPS AND COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup> Dr Alan Crosby came to tell us about his great aunt's travels.** Well OK. He has been blessed with a very interesting family and I gave you duff information that he was planning a talk



about a different great aunt. But Heck did it matter. A Hollywood film is planned just for this one, **Marjorie Crosby Słomczyńska**. Born in Banbury 1884 into a professional banking family, they moved to London, and she "got bored" and left home in 1904 to go to the bright lights of Paris. Here it seems her red hair, green eyes and English rose complexion, (and many accomplishments including language skills), were an instant hit, and she was "escorted" to St Petersburg where she enjoyed the delights of the upper echelons for a modest price. She "rubbed shoulders" with the likes of Count Fyodor Keller <https://goo.gl/QFFaVz> and Prince Dolgorukov (of

Romanov blood, and Rasputin connections <https://goo.gl/dfd1w8> ), and returned to Britain to give birth near Dublin to her first child Dolores from whence much of Alans current information was initiated.

The plot thickened, she married "conveniently", survived WW1 in Warsaw and emerged to be working with the Polish government after their post war independence from Russia. Here she met Merian Caldwell Cooper <https://goo.gl/AZoT7E> , the love of her life. American → Polish aviator and adventurer, creator of the Kościuszko Air Squadron which supported the Polish Army in the Polish-Soviet War, film maker (he made "King Kong" and helped invent Cinerama and had dealings with Panam and MGM. The couple never married but he wrote a book about her, (now known as "Nina" Małgorzata Słomczyńska) whilst he was a POW in Russia having been shot down. He later regretted writing the book and retrieved most of the 5000 published copies and destroyed them. He married another, but financially supported their son Maciej Słomczyńska <https://goo.gl/zpz84O> , Marjorie's fourth child, for the rest of his life, and they all met regularly in Paris every summer for reunions. "Escaping ", to Warsaw from Russia in WW2 and pretending to be Irish, she was eventually arrested as an alien by the Nazis in 1944 and put in a concentration camp where she was made to dig graves. This broke her health and she finally died, an arthritic fragile old lady in 1954. Alan has been lucky enough to have made contact with his Polish cousins and they have researched much of this information via a team effort. We were kept spell bound as we were taken on the roller coaster tale of the lives of these wonderful larger than life characters from yesteryear. What a treat. We look forward to hearing about the other great aunt sometime.

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October we have two events

### \*10am to 4pm Halliwell Local History Society's Local History Fair and 30th Anniversary.

This will include an exhibition of previously unidentified war memorials around Bolton

<https://goo.gl/SOZqVS> as researched by Margaret Koppens of HLHS and Julie Lamara of Bolton Archives.

Displays of old photographs, maps, notices and newspaper cuttings. Visitors from the "Metal Detectors" and "Bolton Tram and Bus Societies" and refreshments Many local historical related societies will be there including ourselves, so come and see us.

**\*2.00pm: Manchester Central Library "The Office of the Lord Lyon", the Anglo-Scottish Branch** announce that they are privileged to welcome the actual Lord Lyon.

*NB The Court of the Lord Lyon is the Office responsible for the granting and matriculating of Armorial Bearings in Scotland. All Scottish Heraldic business is conducted through the Court of the Lord Lyon. The Lord Lyon King of Arms is a judge and the duties of the Court are divided into two broad categories. The first concerns establishing rights to arms and pedigrees which, when satisfactory evidence is produced, results in a recording in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, or in the Public Register or All Genealogies and Birthbrieves in Scotland. The second concerns the ceremonial duties of the Lord Lyon King of Arms and Officers of Arms."*

*It is not possible to say which room is available at the moment. Please enquire at the main entrance on arrival. The meeting is free for MLFHS members. Non-members £3.00.*

### Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. A visit to Bolton Methodist Mission Victoria Hall <http://goo.gl/jtcFZv>.

photo cy of Wikimedia <https://goo.gl/3HPzaR> Locals will know this as a thriving church situated in the heart of



Bolton town centre, and which has been a part of the Bolton "family" since 1777 when John Wesley opened the original Ridgway Gates Chapel on 16<sup>th</sup> April. The Victoria Hall was opened in 1900 in the style of a music hall or theatre with over 1,250 seats to ensure everyone feels welcome. They endeavour to still carry on the "values and traditions set out all those years ago with concerts and entertainment for all at affordable prices".

Unfortunately, we have had recent news that this is another church under threat with "**Victoria Hall facing closure in less than 3 years if money cannot be found**" <https://goo.gl/qX2yrZ> . Bolton

News 27 Sep 2016 / Rosalind Saul, Senior reporter. There will be a nominal charge of £2 and we are promised we will be shown around the building and refreshments will be served. Meet at the front entrance. We are told

- There is an NCP car park at the back of the building (BL1 2AF) that has a small charge of £1.20 after 6pm.
- The Market Place (BL1 2AL) First 90 mins are FREE or £1 for 90 mins to 2.5 hrs
- Topway NCP (BL1 2DJ) 1 to 4 hours £2.40

**Wednesday, 2nd November, 7.30pm, Tony Foster, of Lancs OPC and Lancs BMD** will give us a "**A deeper look at Civil Registration**". Tony will use his vast experience as the organiser for the massive Lancashire BMD project, which is already proving a boon to researchers with free access on the web, to help us delve deeper into registration. We hope he might also be able to tell us a bit about the transcribers.

## **GENIE'S TIPS for OCTOBER**

**Five Steps to Verifying Online Genealogy Sources** <https://goo.gl/pCrEZY> **About Parenting** by Kimberly Powell Genealogy Expert accessed 14<sup>th</sup> September who advises us that "*The trick is to learn how to separate the good online data from the bad. Follow these five steps and you too can use Internet sources to track down reliable information about your ancestors ---*"

Welcome to ancestor-search.info <https://goo.gl/jifDeL> Copyright © 2006-2016 Suzanne Brown accessed 22.09.16

*"This site provides guidance on WHERE to find information on your English and Welsh ancestors ---" A good selection of useful databases for a starter package, and a reminder for us all wherever we are looking similarly*

**"Family History References & Resources"**. <https://goo.gl/QPkPtw> ExploreGenealogy. This site claims to be a *"unique site that covers every aspect of tracing your family tree, from the very first steps to the more complex issues"*

**Using Search Engines and Social Media for Family Research** <https://goo.gl/MBkdWy> Geneosity/May 2, 2016/Genealogy Blog/ *"When you think, "I'd really like to do some genealogy research today," what comes to mind first? If you're like most people, you probably thought of a website like Ancestry.com, or maybe even of a trip to the courthouse to look for documents.*

*Facebook and Google were not likely at the top of your list — but they should be, especially if you're hitting a roadblock in your research. In this connected day and age, not only are people online almost constantly, but they are also much easier to find---*"

**Familysearch: A Guide to the British Batches** <https://goo.gl/J2WHdE> Steve Archer Archer

Software and also the **Hugh Wallis website** <https://goo.gl/68c9mY> I am just repeating this Tip because it is a while since I have mentioned it and there will be new readers. This is a free site enabling the researcher to look further at family groups in a geographical area having found the correct parish and the first family member. Just click on the blue BN number and you will find other similar BMD events in that time at that location *" This website lists the Extracted batches for the British Isles that previously formed part of the IGI (International Genealogical Index), the on-line database created by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) and available at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) ".---* *"To search for a particular parish or church, click on the Country link at left (e.g. 'England'), then on a County name. This displays an index of places (mostly parishes), from which you can either go on to list the data in batch number sequence, or click through to the FamilySearch website".* also



**FamilySearch User Newsletter** September 2016 <https://goo.gl/tt8S8f> free and maybe useful to some, also

**"Twile Integrates with FamilySearch"** <https://goo.gl/nMRzJv> Doncaster, UK and Salt Lake City USA, September 28, 2016

*"Twile and FamilySearch International have announced the launch of a new feature that will let FamilySearch.org users generate a family history timeline and share their research with other family members online. The timeline is designed to make research and discoveries more engaging for the broader family—especially younger generations—and to encourage collaboration.*

*Connecting securely to FamilySearch.org, Twile imports a user's tree and automatically adds events, such as births and marriages, to a personal, interactive timeline of their family history. Users can then browse the timeline, add photos, and share it privately with other family members". ---"UK-based Twile won two awards in the Innovator Showdown at RootsTech 2016, including the People's Choice award."*

**"Added explanation of 1841 census age rounding"** <https://goo.gl/d4Flra> Durham Records Online Posted on September 17, 2010

*"In the 1841 census, the age of persons over 15 was supposed to be rounded down to the nearest multiple of 5. ---".* I have mentioned this very useful site before for anyone with north east ancestry

**Newest Genealogy Records** <https://goo.gl/2di27A> GenealogyInTime Magazine. I have also previously mentioned this site which has now had some revamping. It is a free Canadian based newsletter covering a large part of world resources.

**Genealogy Discount** <https://goo.gl/k5RzAX> The latest discounts for your new season

### OTHER WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES



**October 8<sup>th</sup> One Day Conference “Tracing your Irish Ancestors”** <https://goo.gl/zi3grN>  
**Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society** I am sure a few of you are also Chris Patton groupies, if only through subscribing to his free blog <https://goo.gl/z4vvSt> . This is your chance to meet the real person, and I am sure his talks will be helpful

**Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> Catholic FHS (NW Region) meeting**, in Fulwood Methodist Church, Watling Street Road, Preston, PR2 8BA. Programme

11.00am Registration and Coffee

11.30am Dr William Shannon “The Battle of Preston and its Aftermath with reference to Cottam Chapel and Catholic Families in Lancashire”.

12.30pm Lunch

2.00pm Dr James Hagerty “The Catholic Record Society – Parish Registers and Returns of Papists”

3.00pm Tea

Cost £20 – Details from D. Heneghan, 15 Maveen Court, Edmonton Rd., Woodsmoor, Stockport, SK2 7BG Tel: 0161 483 7372 email

[dmheneghan@gmail.com](mailto:dmheneghan@gmail.com)

### THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

So have you actually joined the society yet?

Website <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/join/join.php>

Facebook <https://goo.gl/TZ6NA4>



This is what you will get from Manchester: -

- Four quarterly issues of our journal “The Manchester Genealogist”
- Publication of your surname research interests in the journal and on our web site to facilitate possible links with others for the same family
- Publication of your research enquiries in The Manchester Genealogist and free membership of our e-mail discussion forum
- Free entry to all Society meetings and Beginners' Talks
- Access to our Library look-up service
- Access to a number of local resources in the member area of our web site

And if you consider attending the Bolton branch, you can also

- Attend convivial and free monthly meetings with speakers on family and local history. (£1.50p for visitors).
- Sign up for “Bolton’s Genies”, this monthly digital newsletter (although free to all)
- Join training courses in family history catering for most levels (extra charge to cover costs)
- Watch our presence on Facebook <https://goo.gl/6ePQN0>
- Make full use of the research assistance available at the end of each meeting
- Join in on the various organized trips we have to local places of interest
- Enjoy the benefit of specialist stationary supplies available at discount prices, and recycled family history magazines, and even books at most meetings

**“History of Bolton: With Memorials of the Old Parish Church”. by James Christopher Scholes Published 1892** <https://goo.gl/k5FCYv> This is a free “Book digitized by Google from the library of the New York Public

Library and uploaded to the Internet Archive" <https://archive.org/> Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, and more.

**The Bolton History Centre is moving!** We will be closing on Sunday, October 23 at 4pm. Bolton History Centre services will resume in Central Library on the ground floor on Monday, November 28 at 9am. The team look forward to greeting researchers new and old to our permanent new search room. For more information, contact Julie Lamara, Collections Access Officer-Local Studies, Bolton History Centre, Bolton Museum and Archive, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, BL1 1SE, Tel: 01204 332194 or [Julie.lamara@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.lamara@bolton.gov.uk)



#### Lancashire Records



<http://goo.gl/I29JpL> → Lancs BMD New stuff coming up every month.

Lancs OPC <http://goo.gl/AN699Z> (Lancashire Online Parish Clerk) and left click on the "What's New" tab on the left



#### NB Transcribers and how the Process Works

We are thinking now that we should try to enlighten readers a little more about how these, and other records are researched, transcribed, and recorded.

Some will know that we had a welcome visit in September from Pat Hough and her husband. A MLFHS member and ex Boltonian, now living in **Canada**, Pat is a perfect example of someone who is still interested in keeping in touch with her roots if only from a distance, and she and her colleagues have just finished transcribing all the Bolton marriages from 1st July 1837 to 31st December 1992 for LOPC. According to the coordinators calculations they dealt with 3,377,238 pieces of data and appear to have achieved better than 99.999% accuracy. It seems unlikely anybody can do better.

Teams are formed from ordinary volunteers like Pat, working under area coordinators, and all these people can live anywhere in the world. Pat actually worked for a while with team leader Peter Wood, another ex Boltonian living in Rotorua New Zealand and currently the Area Coordinator for what were the old ecclesiastic parishes of Bolton-le-Moors, Deane, Leigh & Wigan.

Transcribing in **Spain!** Rosemary and I "met" via a Facebook query she made, and I am afraid I love a challenge if it is only a break from my own. I think we made a bit of progress with her tree, she joined the MLFHS glad to find some kindred spirits and information, and she has now kindly offered to write an article for us. She says

*"Whilst it is done on a voluntary basis, to think I have helped preserve a little bit of history is all the reward you need, well for it is for me anyway! So go on, bite the bullet and see if you can become a part of the world wide team, there is a lot of information to be worked on, and it is people like you with an interest in history that will benefit!"*

**Coordinated in USA.** As you can see the process of transcribing crosses all geographic boundaries seamlessly, and most find it a very satisfying and productive way of keeping in touch with their roots and helping to preserve, and share the records for all. Their stories are so interesting and varied that we have decided to do a special feature about transcribing and the different opportunities in our New Year edition. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please email in.

**Lancashire Will Search** <https://goo.gl/y3NbwX> *"The purpose of this page is to aid one in finding a will of a person who died in Lancashire, England from the time period of the mid sixteenth century to the early nineteenth century."* I think I have mentioned this site before but just to remind you all.

### Five Lancashire Museums Will Now Close, but there's still hope....

<https://goo.gl/52RbFI> Posted on September 20, 2016 *"Lancashire County Council has made the decision to close five museums at the end of September 2016, but four organisations have come forward with bids to run them---*"



**Family Tree Maker Updates for the UK** <https://goo.gl/xKAXvZ> Have those of you who already use, or are considering starting to use FTM, received the recent information about updates etc? It seems progress is being made and imminent offers made available. Watch this space

**"Project to preserve historical place names"** <https://goo.gl/dILGM9> **The National Library of Scotland, along with the National Library of Wales and the University of Portsmouth** 20 September 2016



*"Volunteers are invited to join an online project to preserve Britain's historical place names. The GB1900 project aims to create a list of up to three million place names on Ordnance Survey county maps dating from 1888-1913. These maps show every town, village, farm, hill and wood in Scotland and the rest of Britain, but there are no detailed listings of historical place names ---"*

## SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

**"Could You Have Royalty Hiding in Your Family Tree? Check This List of Surnames"**

<http://goo.gl/FvOTww> **Family History Daily** accessed 10.09.16. Mainly targeted at Americans but apparently a lot of European nobility did cross the "pond", in search of adventure, to maybe make their fortune, and to escape other financial or religious "pressures" at home.

**Surnames & The Norman Conquest** 3rd September 2016 <http://goo.gl/DZjJDG> **Heritage Family History** by Gyles Brandrith accessed 10.09.16. *"I was recently interviewed for the BBC's "The One Show" regarding the introduction of surnames into England at the time of the Norman Conquest. Here I expand on the short interview to give you a better idea of the complexities of this subject"*.

**"Adoption records"** <http://goo.gl/ORsamr> **Adoptions Section of the HM Passport Office** Lots of options for more information here

1. Accessing your birth records 2. The Adoption Contact Register 3. Intermediary agencies  
Find birth relatives if you were adopted. Find someone who was adopted if you're a birth relative also

**Don't tell social services! How a new book proves that yesteryear's little darlings were real "toughies".**

By Daily Mail Online Reporter Published: 23:36, 5 September 2016 *Those were the days before they put the word 'care' into childcare. Author Chris Wild has unearthed some astonishing historic photos for his new book — "The Retronaut Guide to Raising Children: The Past Like You Wouldn't Believe"*.

**Cynefin Project** <http://goo.gl/Oqhb7V> **Welsh Archive**



*This project aims to repair and digitise around 1,200 tithe maps and transcribe over 30,000 pages of index documents by March 2017. The aim of this project is to create an online resource which can be freely accessed to research the tithe maps and their indexes in an efficient and innovative way. In order to create the online resource, this crowdsourcing website has been set up to allow anyone to contribute to the project by volunteering online*

**“New ScotlandsPeople website launches online”** <https://goo.gl/dSVqUV> A partnership between the National Records of Scotland and the Court of the Lord Lyon. Well as promised, and after a few hiccups, the new site is launched. Check here <https://goo.gl/YTiKG6> for Chris Patton’s helpful assessment of it in his blog British GENES (Genealogy News and Events).



**Scotlands Places** <http://goo.gl/jlfQla> supported by School of GeoSciences at the University of Edinburgh and the Scottish Government. This is “a free website that allows users to search across different national databases using geographic locations. The user is able to enter a place name or a coordinate to search across these collections or they can use the mapping in the website to both define and refine their search. The results pages provide the data relevant to the search conducted, from each of the project partners. These partners currently include:

- Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
- The National Records of Scotland (NRS)
- The National Library of Scotland (NLS)

**Highland and Island Emigration Society, HIES** <https://goo.gl/N3DBjf> “The emigration organised by the HIES in the 1850's was the last substantial chapter in the story of the Clearances. This society represented a short-term response to a specific problem in a particular geographical area. The potato blight which brought on the Great Famine in Ireland earlier in the decade, struck the Isles and western Highlands in 1846. Sir Charles Trevelyan” --- of the Treasury , “saw emergency food supplies as a “useless palliative. He wrote to the Sheriff Substitute of Skye, Thomas Fraser, concerning the necessity of adopting a final measure of relief for the Western Highlands and Islands by transferring the surplus of the population to Australia”. -- - “4,910 Souls Emigrating This does not include the Births on Board:---“

**IrishGenology.ie.** [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie) is a website that allows users the opportunity to search a wide range of record sources in their search of their Irish Ancestry. The website is home to the on-line historic Indexes of the Civil Registers (GRO) of Births, Marriages, Civil Partnerships and Deaths and to Church Records of Baptism, Marriage and Burial from a number of counties. The website also operates as a search portal that allows users to search the following record sources as well:



**“Latin in Irish Catholic parish registers”** <http://goo.gl/EPWT8S> Welcome to Irish Genealogy Toolkit Your free and independent guide to finding your Irish ancestors – also from the same website

**“Top 10 free Irish genealogy databases online”** <http://goo.gl/OPzj9Z>

**“Irish censuses transcription errors”** from Chris Pattons The GENES Blog (Genealogy News and Events)

Tuesday, 6 September 2016

There's an interesting article at <http://goo.gl/nVRA4U> about transcription errors made during the digitisation and indexing of the Irish 1901 and 1911 censuses (available at <http://goo.gl/8eqcz> ), , a project carried out by Library and Archives Canada ( <http://goo.gl/xpUEip> ) on behalf of the National Archives of Ireland ( <http://goo.gl/uzOEq> ), from 2006-2010.

The principle problems arose from the fact that many of the Canadian staff employed were unfamiliar both with Irish names and the old style of handwriting in Ireland known as seanchló---

**Bath Records** <http://goo.gl/iTct5o> Discover your family history in Bath Record Office

I believe quite a few readers are also researching this area. These are freebies I am assured.

**Dutch Genealogy** <https://goo.gl/HUv2Uh> This is actually a professional genealogists site but there is some interesting information for some in this blog. “Yvette Hoitink is a professional genealogist in the Netherlands who helps people find their Dutch ancestors---“





## Grave Business <https://goo.gl/8GbbTz> Time Walk Project Promoting Sheffield's Heritage



Yes, this is not from Bolton but t'other side of the Pennines, and a sobering if enlightening, long read. It seems very likely that the practices performed here in the management of the dead, and the furtherance of anatomical study in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> C were replicated much further afield than Sheffield. It might also explain why so many graves are difficult to locate.

Picture courtesy of Bing unable to find source

**The Corpse is Ready** <https://goo.gl/Zyd0hB> Posted 14th June 2015 by Suzie Lennox "A dim

*light flashed across the waters of the Forth would send a signal to the resurrection men on the other side that a fresh corpse was ready for lifting. Climbing into their rowing boat, an arduous journey lay ahead of the men determined to get a subject for the dissecting table."*

**"Difference between 'cemetery' and 'graveyard' in English"** <https://goo.gl/Sy0qsb> by Jakub Marian

*"Some people think graveyard and cemetery mean the same, but, if we want to be a little nitpicky, we should say that graveyard is a type of cemetery, but a cemetery is usually not a graveyard. To understand the difference, we need a little bit of history---*". This Wikipedia site <https://goo.gl/sqEabj> expands on the subject a bit more

**Photographs of UK Churches (and a lot more)** <https://goo.gl/6g39i6> Last Updated on 26/08/2016

Copyright 2002 to Present By Martin Baird" All rights reserved. Predominantly north west but open to contributions from anywhere including Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man.

**Internet Archive** <https://archive.org/>

*"Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, and more".* This is an amazing resource if only looking at out of date books. I typed Bolton Lancashire into the search bar and the first thing on the list was *Registers of the Parish Church of Bolton Lancashire 1587-1660*. Just try it for any area, and it is free. How do so many books etc about English localities end up in North American archives?

**"Progress Report on the Prestolee Locks Restoration"** <https://goo.gl/5WkP7P> Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal Society. You may remember I mentioned this amazing project which is currently taking place on



one of our local canals. Many of you will have had family involved directly or indirectly with this site of historical interest. Narrow boats were used along here to move coal, building material, textiles etc and also recycle human "waste" along the embankment. Society volunteers have been working hard on it over these last few months and the 5 locks and associated waterways are now clearly visible making it much easier to imagine times past.

**Mines and mining** <https://goo.gl/c2yZ6E> The National Archives

*The National Archives does not hold mining or quarrying personnel records. Information about individual miners and other staff, if it survives, is more likely to be found in records deposited in local record offices. This guide will direct you to the most appropriate records for researching government involvement in the mining industry up to and including the 21st century. The guide includes information on records relating to nationalisation, welfare, accidents, labour relations and general policy and administration.*



**The Coalmining History Resource Centre from Raley's Solicitors** <https://goo.gl/B1PJ0c> Internet Archive Wayback Machine "Welcome to the UK's largest and most comprehensive website concerning the history of coalmining - including a searchable database of over 164,000 recorded accidents and deaths...." and this is accessed via this

resource <https://archive.org/web/> which seems to be a way of preserving old websites if I am understanding it right.

#### More DNA Stuff



**DNA confirms cause of 1665 London's Great Plague** <http://goo.gl/4xoSaj> By Nicola Stanbridge BBC Today programme 8 September 2016  
*The plague of 1665-1666 was the last major outbreak of bubonic plague in Britain, killing nearly a quarter of London's population. ---*

*Testing in Germany confirmed the presence of DNA from the Yersinia pestis bacterium - the agent that causes bubonic plague - rather than another pathogen*

**Study reveals 'extraordinary' DNA of people in Scotland** <https://goo.gl/B5268D> BBC News Scotland 17 April 2012 *"For many thousands of years, migrants could move no further west. Scotland was the end of many journeys." ---"Scotland's DNA also found that more than 1% of all Scotsmen are direct descendants of the Berber and Tuareg tribesmen of the Sahara, a lineage which is around 5600 years old." ---"Royal Stewart DNA was confirmed in 15% of male participants with the Stewart surname. They are directly descended from the royal line of kings."*

**"An Ancestry DNA Test like no other"** <https://qoo.gl/072vx2> All Contents © Living DNA Ltd, a company registered in England and Wales. Registered number: 10221519 The claim is *"Living DNA can show your family ancestry broken down across up to 80 worldwide regions – more than any other company". ---"It is also the only test which can break down British ancestry among 21 regions of the UK."* I have no further information about this company and it is also £120 fee so more expensive than many, but it is the first one I have seen which actually homes into the UK as opposed to just "Europe"

#### More Military Stuff

**Lost Medals** <https://goo.gl/vcxOtI> *"This website is open to everyone to list the medals they are looking for or the medals they own. Whether you are researching your family's history or a medal collector or dealer, the aim of this website is to locate and re-unite the millions of medals out there, with the people who would treasure them the most."* I have just found the owners of this one, which my family had for some unknown reason mixed up with ours. The story to follow shortly.



**"Forensic Lip Reader Deciphers Silent Footage from World War"** <https://goo.gl/ieaib6> History Buff  
This is so fascinating to watch these oh so familiar bits of black and white footage from "Battle of the Somme: The True Story", (a 2006 documentary created by Yap Films that attempts to use forensic science to determine the legitimacy of footage taken on July 1, 1916—the opening day of one of the bloodiest conflicts in history), where a forensic lip reader, who has been deaf since birth manages to decipher what the soldiers are saying. However, for me, it isn't just the lip reading feature but also the other examples of how forensic science is being used to bring these old records to life, as in the looking at the different features of the face squared off to help identify photographs and family links. It isn't just the lip reading.

### **OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS**

**Halliwel 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,



**15th October The 30th Anniversary Local History Fair** 10am. – 4pm. Details as above

**25th October The Crowning Glories – two contrasting buildings – the Liverpool Cathedrals** by Malcolm Tranter.

**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, please email Secretary [PeterMHarris@care4free.net](mailto:PeterMHarris@care4free.net) for more information.

**Westhoughton Local History Group – <http://goo.gl/XNugl5>**

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.

- 6 October Building the Big Ditch - Judith Atkinson**  
**20 October Henry Hacking beats the Hangman - Bill Taylor**  
**3 November Saving the Hulton Archives - Jacquie Crosby & Keri Nicholson**

**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

**11th October ~ Steve Halliwell St. Kilda & the Lonely Isles**

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