



# Bolton's Genies



## The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History

Society: <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/>

- Newsletter Comments, and Speaker Bookings: [boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk)
- General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Mrs B. Owen, 01204 309515
- Research help, General Queries: [bolton@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:bolton@mlfhs.org.uk)
- Help Desk Drop In 10am -12md Bolton Central Library. First Saturday of each month.
- Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW>
- BFHS website <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/>
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: <https://goo.gl/hJi8Ns> (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index.php>

**April 2018**

Bolton Family History Society is a branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society 

Illustration is of the first St Peter's Bolton Parish Church circa 1425, with many improvements since, and of course two rebuilds.

Taken from Scholes, A History of Bolton <https://goo.gl/LJ6rn2>

Well greetings to all as we recover from another Bank Holiday weekend. We hope that those of the Christian persuasion have enjoyed commemorating the original reasons for the event, and you have all managed to have some family get togethers and catch ups. The weather was not encouraging as it, and I know that many events such as the annual Good Friday witness walk up Rivington Pike <https://goo.gl/sFkibz>, Easter Sunday egg "hunts" and "rolls" and other traditional festivities <https://goo.gl/dRmCpL>, have had to be adapted or rearranged. The fact that Easter Day fell on April 1<sup>st</sup> or April Fool's Day <https://goo.gl/awzKky> did add to the fun, however. Did you get caught out?

Here at home you can now see we are now launching our Spring programme. We have news of our first 2018 trip, Browsholme hall, with hopefully more planned. There are to be some changes in our ongoing workshops and classes, but they will continue, as will the Help Desks at each monthly meeting and in the Bolton History Centre on the first Saturday of each month. More details will be announced at our General Meeting next month, so we look forward to your company.

## OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

- Where?

Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU.  
Buses 519&125 <https://goo.gl/TH5zYC>. All MLFHS members free. £3.00 to non-members unless joining on the night.

- When?

7pm beverages available for 7.30pm start, on the first Wednesday of each month, except December and January. Extras include a Help Desk for personal research, Stationery Table for discounted equipment, and recycle service for your used family history magazines, books etc.



**Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm, Jackie Depelle** Chairwoman, Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies, 17 years a lecturer gave a talk entitled "**Writing Your Family History – Moving on from record sheets and charts**". Wow. The consensus after this talk seems to have been "What a perfect example of how to share a whole load of quality information, in such a concise and digestible form". We were enthralled.

Jackie used a PowerPoint presentation, and her first slide discussed what we probably all dream of doing, starting with the classic Pedigree Chart, progressing to Individual Record Sheets, and on to the Family Group Information sheets. Here she included extra columns for occupation, education etc. She showed BBC charts as examples <https://goo.gl/MhzcmT> but we do also have similar help on the



MLFHS website of course. <https://goo.gl/j8QEoB>. The next big step is to consider how snippets of this information and more, can be published and shared to others, perhaps initially as an article in an FHS journal or magazine?

She next homed in to selecting Individual Record Sheets for those offering particular interests, suggesting creating a Timeline of personal, and contemporary events which might have affected the "life journey" such as deaths, births, marriages, the inevitable family crises of unemployment maybe, or health issues etc and how they adapted. References and original sources should always be given, and the date of access, --- and note websites are NOT original sources, look at their references and citations.

The location of events is always useful and resources such as village websites, and Facebook groups can often provide extra information re the local families, businesses, housing conditions, type of employment, schools, transport methods, and other contemporary issues. Progress can be made from here, to national and then international events, such as strikes, wars, floods, poor harvests due to hard winters or droughts and often ensuing migrations thus changing the population mix.

Visual aids such as tables, pie charts and diagrams can be created to demonstrate all these factors, even using newspaper cuttings to give contemporary reports, and appropriate photos to show examples of fashion etc, and to date and compare how they might have changed over the years. A family tree could show family groups and how they related to each other in generations, location etc. Are they still near each other, or have they moved away? How often might they have communicated and how? Show a map to visualise the distance. Google's "My Places" feature <https://goo.gl/EKAKWu> was mentioned, and the NLS <https://goo.gl/hJwsJt> to compare different periods. Beware of copyrights. Creative Commons is OK to use but be careful with Google for anything more than personal use. The creator is the owner.

Local wills may also be helpful, of neighbours as well as the family. Shire books were recommended for information such as dialects and terminology, and examples were given such as "cods wallop" and, "glory hole" from glass making, and "tenter hooks" from the textile industry.

Living conditions are of course a major factor. Had they moved from being "ag labs" in basic pre 18<sup>th</sup> C country cottages, to multi occupancy residents in the 19<sup>th</sup> C tenements of the "Great Filth" of the industrial cities?

"Pen and Sword" books were recommended for specific information and insight about occupations, and situations. Those in comparatively well paid "service" often managed to save up and start their own businesses such as shop owners.

Social Legislation was changing domestic situations, and divorce records in particular may be useful.

All these factors can contribute to an individual's life story or "narrative", putting the "flesh" on them and getting the "feel" of the person.

The outcome could finish in two scenarios depending on what information you home into. If the dramatic and glamorous events are picked out, it could become almost a "James Bond" type drama as seen at the cinema. If on the other hand, the "nitty gritty" factors of everyday life are investigated and documented, it should develop more as a "soap opera", and someone you can identify with.

The researcher needs to decide which type of creation will best reflect what they hope to achieve. The enclosed photo shows Jackie showing some examples of her students' work to our members. Our turnout was 105 on our books, the best ever, (and it was good to welcome back some faces we had not seen for a while), but please we think more were there. You MUST sign in for insurance purposes.

**Wednesday 2nd May 7.30pm, BFHS Monthly Meeting and General Meeting,** before **Gillian Lonergan, Librarian, Co-operative Heritage Trust, National Co-operative Archive will give a talk entitled "Researching the Co-op"**. A few of us managed to hear Gillian give this talk at the last Manchester Quarterly meeting and it was fascinating. Some may remember older Bolton Co-op shops, a dairy, a bank, and even be grateful to another branch of the business for providing a mortgage, or even seeing their nearest and dearest through the "departure lounge". Here is some of the background story.



**Note This will be preceded by our statutory annual Bolton General Meeting which should take approx 10 minutes and we are pleased to announce that this will be Chaired by David Muil, our senior MLFHS Chairman. There are some constitutional changes to announce so please do your best to attend.**

## RECENT AND COMING EVENTS



### **Wednesday 25th April MLFHS Quarterly Meeting + Annual General Meeting**

10.30am **Karen Brackenridge** from The Manchester Museum will give an insight into the workings of the Museum.

11.45 am ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1.30pm After lunch **Anna Watson** talks about **How to find illegitimate children.**

Members wishing to be nominated at the AGM must have their nominations in by 3rd of March form available [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:office@mlfhs.org.uk). Pre booked Tickets are required for both, , free to members of the MLFHS, £3.00 to none members via Eventbrite <https://goo.gl/DBt4Kr> .



### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> (NOT 3<sup>rd</sup> as published previously) May, Browsholme Hall** <https://goo.gl/BeuDwM>

The first BFHS trip out for us this year but more planned. This event will be open to members only. I must admit I had never heard of the place until last year, and as it is still a private residence it is not that easy to visit. We have been offered a wonderful opportunity here to look at the history of the place and their family tree <https://goo.gl/9q7R7w> . Coordinated by Carole Wright. This will be a self-drive trip, cost of £11.50p per person to include a guided tour and light refreshments. Please email

[boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk) to book a place, and money to be in by our April meeting. Picture courtesy of Linda Frew



**Saturday 13th May at the Police College, Sedgeley Park. The 16th Annual Northern Jewish Genealogy Conference** <https://goo.gl/Mup27g> Jim Lancaster reports these are "friendly events, often with around 50 participants. The speakers are chosen to provide a wide range of interest. Those who have dealt with their own Jewish family history searches have been interesting, clear and informative. This year there are two speakers who will interest all family historians.

One is the founder of the 'Who Do You Think You Are', Sarah Williams, and the other is Alex Cox of FMP speaking about British newspapers. The buffet is good, and the parking is secure and free”.

## **the Bolton News**

**The Bolton News** is also advertising two coming events commemorating significant changes in Bolton’s history. The first on **Saturday, June 30 “Full steam ahead for a special celebration at Bolton Interchange”** <https://goo.gl/YfEVcb> commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the day since the last steam locomotive puffed out of Bolton loco sheds in Crescent Road, Great Lever and the second **Weekend of July 7th and 8<sup>th</sup>** commemorates **“The Storming of Bolton”** <https://goo.gl/am7mgY> *“in the grounds of Bolton School as re-enactors from The Earl of Manchester’s Regiment of Foote, the local regiment of the Sealed Knot re-enactment society, recreate the era. The real Storming of Bolton happened on May 28, 1644 of course and is also known as the Bolton Massacre.”* Many will remember David Casserley’s talk to us about this in June last year <https://goo.gl/85kTri>

## **GENIE’S TIPS for MARCH**

**Church registers** <https://goo.gl/ssJvk5>



Search for a word OR Banns books, Births, Baptisms and Confirmations, Burials, Graves and Deaths, Location A-Z, Marriages/Registers, Sexton's books



**Lancashire, England, Quarter Session Records and Petitions, 1648-1908**

<https://goo.gl/EnggQJ> Provided in association with Lancashire Archives. *“The Order books record the decisions made at the court and include records of costs of prosecution, filiation and*

*maintenance orders, settlement orders, removal orders, transportation orders, sentences passed on criminals as well as a variety of county administration matters such as setting highway rates, appointing officials and presentments for repairs to roads and bridges. The Petitions were brought to court by those seeking poor relief, settlement, licences for various trades, filiation and maintenance orders, removal orders and payment of costs such as coroners' accounts, solicitors' prosecutions, carting baggage and conveying prisoners to the hulks”*



**Irish Family History: Parish Registers** <https://goo.gl/XfynZ1>

*“Free UK Genealogy is a charity dedicated to providing free public access to family history records. We do this through our dedicated team of volunteers who transcribe public records such as the indexes of Births, Marriages and Deaths, Parish Registers and Censuses. The Charity also actively campaigns to improve access to public history through its commitment to making data available as Open Data. In the third instalment on Researching Your Irish Family History, Nicola Morris explains how to research your Irish ancestors through the useful resource of parish registers., and their latest Spring newsletter is here* <https://goo.gl/z1f18J>

*NB: Ancestry and Find My Past are free to search, but require subscriptions to view records”.*

**Scottish Indexes** <https://goo.gl/Tq4A8o>



*“The aim of this website is to help you trace your Scottish family tree and find out more about the lives of your ancestors by helping you access historic documents that are here in Scotland. We have a wide range of indexes from birth, marriage, death and census records to mental health and prison records. You can search all of our indexes from this page or you can go to our 'Record Sets' page and search by individual category. Find out exactly what we have indexed so far on our coverage page”.*

*NB This site includes data bases such as “Web: Scotland, Sheriff Court Paternity Decrees, 1792-1922”, currently being advertised on Ancestry.*

### Living DNA Scottish Project <https://goo.gl/LBV4bm>

*“working with the world's leading academics, scientists and genealogists at the **University of Strathclyde and the Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS)** are seeking your help. Together we are looking to map the world's genetic ancestry to the finest scale possible, one where we identify patterns of DNA within countries. Following our collaboration with the academic team involved in the landmark publication "The fine-scale genetic structure of the British population", we are now looking to extend the level of genetic detail throughout Scotland.*

*Our preliminary research indicates at least 20 regions in Scotland that may have distinct genetic differences. The aim of the project is to confirm whether the proposed genetic boundaries are correct, and redefine them based upon the genetic data submitted by participants that fall within these regions. By participating in this project, you will help us to map the genetic heritage of Scotland and show how we are all connected based on our DNA”.*



### About Geneanet, the “first French genealogy website”. <https://goo.gl/NiCxxz>



*“Geneanet was launched in 1996 by genealogy enthusiasts to help family history researchers sharing their data and it was an instant success. We wanted our users to pay only if they want and that’s why we created the Premium service. Most of the website pages and features are available for free but you can take advantage of Ad-Free browsing, more effective search engine and access to additional records by subscribing to the Premium. Today, Geneanet is the first French genealogy website and the company has 25 employees.”*

### Dutch “WieWasWie” <https://goo.gl/QHFVJA>



We have mentioned this site before, but they have now just upgraded and the website now tells us that “this makes your search through the several sources much easier: The CBG Centre for family history in The Hague is the owner of [WieWasWie.nl](https://www.wiewaswie.nl). The CBG is the national centre for knowledge, documentation and publicity for genealogy and heraldry”, and the website reports that it is the result of several databases teaming up. There is a modest subscription charge I believe. Please if anyone uses this could they give feedback for us all. Another interesting Dutch site is **Dutch Genealogy** <https://goo.gl/Ue2Uw8> which seems to be a commercial business but offering a useful blog

### Swedish National Archives Database <https://goo.gl/jPW6mm> (English version)



*Free Access. At the end of 2017, the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament) decided that the Swedish National Archives would be given SEK 10 million for the purposes of making its digital collections freely available in accordance with a proposal from the Swedish Government. The digital collections were made free of charge on 1 February 2018.*

*Genealogists are currently the single largest group of users that have been using the National Archives’ digital collections.*

### Genealogy Discount <https://goo.gl/7BohkS>

Always a useful free newsletter to subscribe to as they do keep pretty well up to date on current offers.

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

### **Bolton News** Bolton News

**6<sup>th</sup> April 2018 Plan to convert old Bradshaw church into new homes gets green light** <https://goo.gl/RrfYZg>

**6<sup>th</sup> April Repairs will safeguard historic Prestolee Packhorse Bridge for future generations** <https://goo.gl/F2uv8A>

## Lancashire Records



**Bolton FHS** are pleased to announce a little update on our website as above. Our “techy” expert Michael has been playing around a bit. If you haven’t discovered it yet, go to the Miscellaneous Tab on our front page, then scroll down to “video”, (in fact even easier now, as it is on the rolling link), and you will now see a list of video tutorials that we hope you find helpful. Any other similar sites can be added to the list if we are told about them, so please do share



<http://goo.gl/I29JpL>



**Lancs OPC** <http://goo.gl/AN699Z> and left click on the “What's New” tab on the left



**Lancashire Archives News and Events** <https://goo.gl/H8UexE> for their latest newsletter and more



**GRO Index PDF Extended Pilot** <https://goo.gl/vMbb8w>

The GRO has been piloting a service from 12 October 2017 to provide portable document format (PDF) copies of digitised historical birth and death records. The pilot will now run for a minimum of 9 months. Applications for each PDF cost £6, must be made online, and include a GRO index reference. England and Wales records which are available as PDFs in this extended pilot include: Births: 1837 –1917 Deaths: 1837 –1957

Note: A PDF is not a certificate and has no “evidential” value, and therefore a paper certified copy [certificate] is required for official purposes, e.g. if applying for a passport, driving licence or where required to give notice of marriage.

## SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES



**“A Checklist of Compiled Sources and Where to Find Them”** <https://goo.gl/WgCm54>  
**FamilySearch**

*“This article contains a list of online resources that may contain references to compiled sources. These compiled sources may or may not be verified or contain original source references for the information submitted or collected. Searches in compiled sources should supplement, but not replace, your genealogical researching in original sources”.*

**Relationships May Change Over Time** <https://goo.gl/Nwd7ms> **Genealogy Today** by Karan Pittman accessed 12.03.18

*“Often relationship terms had different meanings in earlier centuries. Wills, deeds, diaries, letters and guardianship records, while providing many clues for the genealogist, may also lead a person to a wrong conclusion and many frustrating hours of searching for an ancestor that is not yours.*

*The most commonly misunderstood term is the word cousin. The meaning has changed over the years” ---*

**Railway Work, Life and Death project** <https://goo.gl/SLZizg> **University of Portsmouth and the National Railway Museum**

The project is led by Dr Mike Esbester (Portsmouth), and Karen Baker (Librarian, NRM), with the assistance of Craig Shaw (Volunteer Administrator, NRM).

*“a joint initiative between the University of Portsmouth and the National Railway Museum (NRM). We’re aiming to make it easier to find out about railway worker accidents in Britain between 1911 and 1915 – who was involved, what they were doing on the railways, what happened to them and why. Although today most people don’t realise it, working on the railways 100 years ago was incredibly dangerous, with hundreds killed and tens of thousands injured each year.*

## Historical records Houses of Parliament Archives <https://goo.gl/MjB3vh>



Do you all know about this wonderful site? “What's in the Archives?”

### **The Archives' holdings include:**

*Official records of both Houses of Parliament, including Acts, Journals, Hansard, deposited plans and appeal cases.*

*Other collections relating to Parliament, including the papers of the Lord Great Chamberlain and the Lord President of the Council.*

*Collections of private political papers and records of political bodies and pressure groups.*

*Records about the Palace of Westminster, including the papers of architect Charles Barry.*

### **Surviving the 1834 fire**

*A fire in 1834 destroyed most of the records of the House of Commons, so the bulk of records held on the Commons date from after 1834 (apart from a series of manuscript Journals and minutes that survived).*

*Records of the House of Lords were undamaged and date back to 1497”.*

Recently they have been upgrading the access to this site and they are now asking for volunteers to try it out for them. This can be done by either visiting in person which would be a bit of a trek from our neck of the woods, or by doing it online <https://goo.gl/hNsXhT>. Obviously, this can be done from anywhere in the world so why not give it a go. Look at what they have there, though. <https://goo.gl/h7qmQA> I think this place is on my bucket list. Why does it have to be down south though 😊



### **“Machines reading the archive: handwritten text recognition software”**

<https://goo.gl/LjNRmw>

Monday 19 March 2018 | Dr Richard Dunley | Behind the scenes, Records and research, Technology and innovation

*“The National Archives has been running a pilot project to test out the feasibility of using a type of handwritten text recognition (HTR) software.*

*You may be familiar with OCR – the technology that enables us to search the words written inside a book, newspaper or archival document. It’s what’s behind The Gazette search. However, OCR doesn’t work on documents that are handwritten.*

*The new platform, called Transkribus, developed by the EU funded READ Project, offers the potential to use computers to do just that, for the very first time.*

*The National Archives is focusing on the PROB 11 wills collection, due to its uniform handwriting style and structured language patterns. Also in the Gazette*

### **“Victoria Cross Recipients of World War 1, and where to find their citations in The Gazette”**

<https://goo.gl/UhT7Bm>.

*The Victoria Cross (VC) is of course the highest military decoration, awarded for valour and devotion to duty in the face of the enemy to members of the armed forces, regardless of rank. Up to two bars may be awarded in recognition of further acts of gallantry.*



### **RootsTech 2018 Highlights <https://goo.gl/7DZTcw>**

I don’t suppose many from this side of The Pond know about this annual event in the USA , let alone managed to get there, but it does claim to be the biggest of its kind in the world, (and that means even beyond the USA borders as well 😊). The above link gives a selection of their talks from their 2018 archives.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **The Salford Hundred Townships <https://goo.gl/2wXm6q>**

The maps below are adapted from a “Victoria County History” map <https://goo.gl/xnZLhz> by Harry King San Diego Nov 25th, 2001”, <https://hking1.sdsu.edu/> . (picture from his website).



I have contacted Harry, who I have learned is, amongst many other things, an “amateur mapmaker”, born near Manchester, apparently taught maths at Heywood Grammar School, Bolton, and is now living in San Diego, California, where he is professor emeritus in the Department of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences at San Diego State University, no less. He is particularly interested in historical maps of England for genealogical purposes. and he has told me

*“This section has been set up to display historical and genealogical information covering the south east corner of the pre-1974 county of Lancashire. The area is now known as Greater Manchester and was anciently known as the Salford Hundred, one of six hundred that made up the old county of Lancashire”.*

### The Hundreds Administration System and What was it?

With thanks to **Jim Lancaster**

Most of us do not have a clear idea of the various administration changes over time, particularly since around 1830. This was when the Industrial Revolution was in full swing and new villages and towns were springing up. It is from that time that various civil authorities have been established, merged and disappeared.

Before about 1835, the civil administration of society was still based on the old parish system. The

traditional county of Lancashire stretched from the River Mersey in the south, almost to Kendal in the north, and from the Pennine Hills in the east to the Irish Sea. It was divided into Hundreds and each Hundred was divided into Parishes. South east Lancashire formed the Hundreds of Salford. An old family history related web-site called “Mancuenesis” <https://goo.gl/csqfYX> posted by Elaine and Roger Hart of Bolton, included these maps, redrawn to show clearly the parishes in the Hundreds of Salford prepared by Harry King, and drew our interest to same.

Each parish was divided into Townships, smaller units. **Map 1** of the “**Hundred of Salford**” above → shows the distribution of the parishes within the Hundred. One thing that is striking is that the southern parishes of the Hundred seem to be single units, Manchester, Eccles, Ashton and Deane, together with Rochdale. The other parishes are fragmented to a greater or lesser degree. They range from Prestwich cum Oldham – a large parish divided into two almost equal separate parts – to Middleton – a smaller parish that has seven constituent parts.

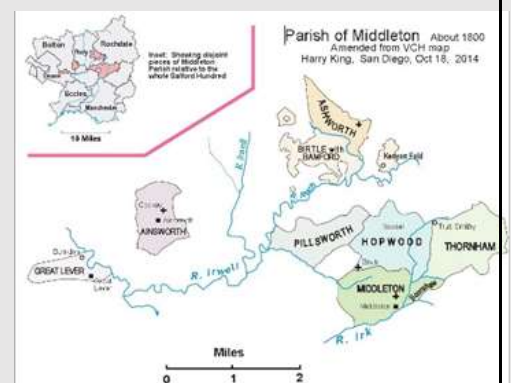
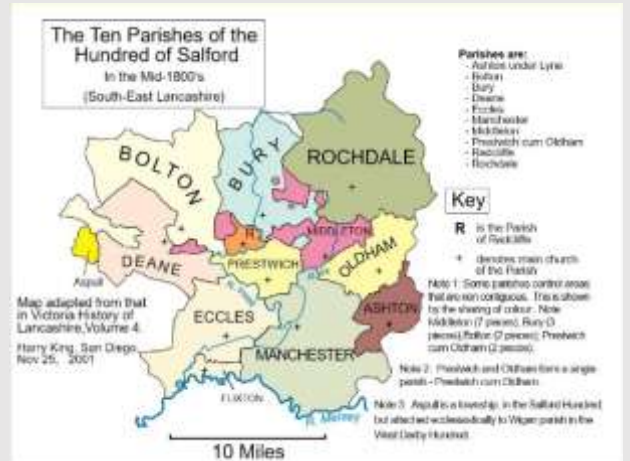
It will be seen that present-day Bolton is a combination of the two mediaeval parishes of **map 2 Bolton-le-Moors** →

and **map 3 Deane** →

Bolton has eighteen townships and two of these, Lostock and Blackrod, are detached from the main group.

The parish of Deane has ten townships with none of them detached. Interestingly, the two detached townships of the parish of **Bolton-le-Moors** are surrounded on three sides by the parish of **Deane**.

What could be missed very easily is that Great Lever was not part of either of these two parishes but was part of the parish of **Middleton**, see **map 4**. Likewise, Ainsworth was also part of **Middleton** → parish.





This accounts for the 1841 Census Returns for Great Lever and Ainsworth appearing in the Census Pieces based on Middleton. The 1841 Census was organised on the mediaeval parish pattern but operated by the post-1837 Registrars which at times confuses us today.

The whole of the "Hundred" of Salford has been part of the Church of England diocese of Manchester since 1847. This diocese requires its churches to deposit their old sacramental registers no longer needed for religious purposes in the Archive Unit of Manchester Central Library. The holdings of the Archive Unit can be searched on <https://goo.gl/ssJvk5> This Library has allowed Ancestry to film these registers and they form part of their Manchester Collection. The general advice given to the Non-Conformist chapels by their central bodies is to deposit their old registers in the local Record Office, so Manchester has a large collection. Catholic registers from old Lancashire are mainly deposited in Lancashire Archives in Preston. The Lancashire On-Line Parish Clerk Project <https://goo.gl/75iK4e> is transcribing what it can access. Jim closes with the "coup de grace", that *"It always amused me that the old Bolton Wanderers' ground at Burnden Park, was originally part of Middleton parish (see above), and NOT either Bolton or Deane!"*

### **Yorkshire Wills Index Special Offer British Record Society** <https://goo.gl/98kvG5>

The British Record Society is delighted to announce the publication of Vol.134 in the Index Library series, being: Yorkshire Probate Records: Medieval and Peculiar Courts 1267-1858 edited by Cliff Webb. The volume of over 900 pages of preliminaries, main index and supplementary indexes lists all the probate material in the medieval courts of Yorkshire, and that in the 54 peculiar courts. Full references are given so that copies may be ordered of documents of interest from the Borthwick Institute.

**In addition to Yorkshire, there are substantial numbers of wills and administrations from Lancashire, Nottingham and Northumberland.** The documents are indexed by name, place and occupation. The places are also mapped down to township level.

Such a volume is by its nature expensive, and the list price of £35 is already a bargain. However, in order to make it available to as many people as possible the Society has decided that for any orders received before 1st Jul 2018 a special price of £10 + £5 p&p will apply.

Orders should be sent to: James Henderson, MA, MPhil, CA, Rosemount, Riggs Place, Cupar, Fife KY15 5JA (sent by Cliff Webb [cliffwebbhistorian@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliffwebbhistorian@yahoo.co.uk))

### **Military Stuff**

**Lives of the First World War** <https://goo.gl/mPTR9w> March 27<sup>th</sup> 2018

*"Findmypast and Imperial War Museums today announced their ground-breaking collaboration, Lives of the First World War, will cease taking submissions on 18th March 2019. From this date onwards, IWM will act as the custodian of the millions of contributions made by members of the public, creating a permanent digital memorial that will always remain free to access. Annual subscriptions will no longer be available from 30th March 2018 and all automatic renewals will be cancelled. Monthly subscriptions can still be purchased until 1st March 2019.*

*This site was launched in 2014 as the IWM's flagship digital centenary project. Since then it has captured the stories of more than 7.6 million men and women from across Britain and the Commonwealth who contributed their 'toil and sacrifice' during the First World War. Charlotte Czyzyk, Public Engagement and Project Manager for Lives of the First World War, said: From factory workers and members of the armed forces, to medics and conscientious objectors, Lives of the First World War has curated over 2.2 million biographical details, anecdotes and images thanks to the contributions of more than 130,000 dedicated members. These rich, personal life stories will be preserved by IWMs for future generations, serving as a powerful and permanent record of the 'lost generation'.*

*As the project enters its final year, Findmypast and IWM are calling on members of the public to help them preserve as many stories as possible. By joining Lives of the First World War and uploading scans of photos, letters and diaries, by researching a name on a local war memorial, or by sharing anecdotes passed down through the generations, family historians will contribute to a permanent digital memorial that will help shape our understanding of this important period of world history, both now and in the future"*

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Julie Lamara The Bolton Archivist in charge of the Bolton Project has added “Those who attended our war memorial workshop back in 2017 will remember we began with 309 war memorials for Bolton taken from the list available from the IWM. Our volunteers have been busy identifying, photographing, recording memorials and we now are aware of over 550 in Bolton. We are sending the images taken to the War Memorials Online <https://goo.gl/dkeW8N> website for uploading and also to the Imperial War Museum <https://goo.gl/Eo7xvF> for transcribing or uploading.” All the names we have found will be added to our database and fully researched for further information <https://goo.gl/tcMiVx>

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

**“A Day at Bolton Museum 1960s Style”** posted on Face Book by Norm Mac Bolton Lancashire  
**Bygone Days** <https://goo.gl/8kr218> 3 March at 10:13

Some of you who use FB might already be following Norms postings on the above, as he recounts his experiences through the peaks and troughs of his slowly advancing Lewy body dementia. His memories of this particular time, will I think, bring a smile to a lot of faces. This is his unedited story.



*“As I stepped off the number 54 bus at Moor-lane bust station from Oldham estate I crossed over toward the Arches of Le Mans Crescent and as I passed underneath them the excitement started to build. As I emerged, the sheer enormity of the Crescent hit me. For some reason, I turned back and looked up, then left, and then right, the 360-degree vista is just INCREDIBLE.*

*HOW? Came to mind as my young brain was racing trying to figure out how it was built as I walked towards my destination for the afternoon, BOLTON MUSEUM. I skipped up the steps, (many years to go before I started to use the ramp lol) and as I walked in the first thing I saw was the staircase on the left. What a magnificent beast that was, and as I climbed in, on MY mind, and I bet every other Bolton kids mind was “I wish they hadn't put those brass studs on the bannister, it would have made a brilliant slide down, though? I do know, but won't name, a couple of brave souls who did try it but have never walked the same way since!!*

*As I reached the top and entered there she was, the black lady (Statue I may add) with the boobies!! I didn't know where to look!! Well, I did but made sure nobody was watching me!! As I passed her, not taking a second look of course harrumph, there it was. I was surrounded by history, natural history and things I had never seen before, it was wondrous!!*

*There were bones of dinosaurs, elephants and the likes, and on the top balcony so many stuffed birds and animals, some I had never even heard of. But I have to say what fascinated me most upstairs was the Egyptian mummies, do you remember them? I can remember standing as close to the glass would allow me and staring at them for ages, as if I expected them to move. There were two that were so colourful, and then there was one that wasn't! It looked like someone had dressed a Skelton in old rags and dirty bandages lol. Next on the agenda was the ART dep't but I have to say I didn't spend long looking at people with long hair, moustaches and beards and I didn't find the laughing cavalier funny at all, so off I went, down, down, down to the bowels of Bolton museum where our darkest fears could be lived, otherwise known as the Bolton Aquarium!!!!*

*Now, was it me or was this place the most understated place in the building? And what I mean by that is this.....*

*If my memory serves me right all there was to guide you in was a clear sign about 12" square over a door with green writing on it saying “Aquarium” SO UNDERSTATED, because as you walked in you lost your sight just for a split second because it was so dark. As your eyes adjusted, so many luminous colours started to appear right in front of you. It was without a doubt the most Magical thing I had ever seen. At every turn there were fish!! YES REAL FISH swimming there right in front of your very eyes, I felt like a cross between*

*Jacques Cousteau and AQUAMAN both at the same time, I didn't know where to look first, so I just followed everybody else started on the left and worked my way round. This was their world, this is how they lived, I was so excited I thought my heart was going to beat out of my chest!! The hardest thing for a child was keeping quiet and there was a very hushed air about the place. I saw one tank that had Roach in and thought, at last, now I could see what my DAD wasn't catching LOL Every tank was full of something different, all I had only seen on telly before, but here I was only inches away with my face pressed up to the warm glass trying to stop myself going cross eyes as some of the glass was so thick it played tricks on your eyes.*

*Just as I was about to come out I reached the last tank, I thought I saw something that moved as big as a small log, "That's impossible " I thought, it can't be ?? but OH YES it was, it was a HUGE CONGER EEL , and the sign said it was electric as well!! At that age I had no idea how Physics worked ( I Still Don't ! ) and I jumped back from the glass as if I had just been shocked myself!!! I looked it right in the eyes as if defiant, but as it flicked its huge tail, I fled!!! The sounds of my footsteps echoing as I ran up the stair and out into the fresh air of Bolton Town centre.*

*I have to say it was a while before I went back, but go back I did, and also took many others with me. Bolton Museum is without a doubt a "Giant Amongst Giants "*

I do hope you all enjoy this trip down memory lane with me and if ok, and as long as I am able (dementia permitting) I would love to carry on for as long as possible

Norrms McNamara Now living in Torquay but BORN and MADE in BOLTON

Norm has also written a book about his life in Bolton in the 60s and 70s " Just A Boy from Bolton " available from Amazon (amongst other places) <https://goo.gl/CSFWqR>

### **Follow Up Comments**

**From Barbara Bromiley re an article in last month's Genie "A Genealogical Will" <https://goo.gl/tnvwwr>**

(what a great idea!), here are a few suggestions for keeping your personal arrangements up to date: -

- (i) Review your Will periodically - this will make life easier for your loved ones. (Remember making a will is not signing your death warrant.)
  - (ii) Consider a Funeral Plan - this again will be of great benefit to your next of kin at a time of great sorrow, make sure you get the kind of send-off you want, and don't forget to question arrangements in case you away from home.)
  - (iii) Consider appointing a Power of Attorney. This comes in two parts, one financial and one medical, you can do either or both. Once registered this will only come into effect when you are diagnosed with being unable to make your own decisions. You may want to take legal advice about this.
  - (iv) Get your personal papers in order, eg bank details, pension providers, savings, house deeds, etc, with addresses and telephone numbers, and tell your loved ones where this information is kept.
- You'll feel relief when everything is "sorted" and your nearest and dearest will thank you - but hopefully not for a long time yet!

## OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS



**Halliwell Local History Society** (apparently, they have had a hiccup with their website which is temporarily unavailable)

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,

**24th April Annual General Meeting – followed by Ian Trumble talking about the new Egyptology Gallery at the Museum**



**Turton Local History Society** <https://goo.gl/PHNXjA>

Illustrated talks and meetings are held from August to April inclusive on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at Longsight Church Centre, Harwood BL2 3HX beginning at 7.30pm. This next month's event

**Wednesday 25 April 2018 Lost Pubs of Entwistle - John Barlow** (Following on from last year's talk on the pubs of Edgworth, and the subsequent guided walk around the area, John will now share with us his research into the pubs of Entwistle".

**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.

**19<sup>th</sup> April VISIT to World Museum Liverpool for the Terracotta Warriors Exhibition**

**3rd May Howfen to Hyderabad Part 2: David Kaye**



**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.

**April 24th, 2018 Bill Naughton's Bolton Life**

**April 14th, 2018 Family History, Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am --- 1pm**

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