



# 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, Christine M Ellis [bolton@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:bolton@mlfhs.org.uk)
- Research help, please email [boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk) or visit our
- Help Desk Drop In 10am -12md Bolton Central Library. First Saturday of each month
- Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW>
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: <https://goo.gl/hJi8Ns> (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index>.

March 2019

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



Picture shows the Bull & Wharf pub built late 1700s at 12, Church Wharf, just before the Manchester to Bolton arm of the MBBC was completed. <https://tinyurl.com/ya3hlevv> It was demolished in 1966 in preparation for St Peters Way. The Parish Church and Church Wharf area, soon to be developed lie behind it. It has been suggested that as it pre-dated the canal, <https://tinyurl.com/yadt5gbd> the word wharf was originally was originally warth (wharth) a shore, strand or flat meadow close to a stream. See also here for a recent article in the Bolton News and more views of the area <https://tinyurl.com/y4zeses7>

Well, here we are nearly half way through March, the evenings are getting lighter and we will be changing the clocks before the end of the month. I suppose this means we will be juggling parking space with the golfers again at our meetings, but I think we can accommodate that for the better weather.

This month has been fairly quiet I hear, apart from our classes starting again,

<http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/Workshops.php> and I am yet to hear reports re their progress .

The first of our days out takes place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March and the organisers Pat and Carole tell me that there are still a few places available for the trip to see Gorton Monastery with a guided tour. £25 including transport from Bolton, leaving at 10am from Bolton Interchange, and including light refreshments. Please email [boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk) for more information or to book.

So we hope you enjoy the rest of this edition, and as always all contributions and comments , good or bad, are appreciated. This is your newsletter. Please help us to help you.

## 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.



## RECENT AND COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday 6th March 7.30pm, Mark Campbell - Senior member of the Anglo-Scottish FHS (meetings monthly on Saturday afternoons at Manchester Central Library <http://www.angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk/> )**

### **“Pre-registration Scottish research”.**

We were very glad to be welcoming Mark back for a follow up talk after his excellent discussion last year re researching Scottish ancestry post-Civil Registration i.e. from 1855. This talk was how to find records from before then, and we were soon to find out what a minefield this was.

Mark advised us to initially focus on finding out

- what records are available?
- what was the background to their creation?
- Where they might be
- How to find them and then research them

He added that much of Scottish family history was affected by the many political and social upheavals of the day. The population had to respond to these changes and adapt their lives accordingly. Many events were recorded meticulously and mainly in three ways i.e. by church records, Old Parochial Records (“OPRs”) which had been church records but not all church records were parochial records), and “Kirk Session” records.

Four key pieces of information were usually provided in all these documents: -

- Who? (and here we must allow for the wide variety of spellings and be prepared to be flexible, “Scotlands People” are particularly good at helping with “fuzzy spelling”)
- When was the individual born?
- Where were they from?
- What religion were they and which denomination? Finding the actual church is even better.

Mark next mentioned 'Scottish population statistics including Webster's analysis of population 1755' by J G Kyd (third series, volume 44). (© Copyright, Scottish History Society, Introduction, notes etc, 1952. All rights reserved.) <https://tinyurl.com/yy9wtn6d> in which the movement in population is demonstrated from 1755 to 1951.

Initially it was the Northern Highlands that were most heavily populated, and working on the land, but over the years this moved to the Central Highlands then the Southern Lowlands where the occupations had largely changed to manufacturing industries. The coordinating factor in much of this movement was the church and its civil laws, which in effect was also running the country politically. For pre 1855 research it is almost imperative to find the Church of Scotland parish that the individual and family lived in. This can be deduced however by post 1855 documents. The 1855+ birth certificates will provide the age and thus approximate date of birth, and parish of parents, whilst the 1861 + certificates even give parents place of marriage. Marriage certificates give the place and church, (remembering that Episcopalians were not members of the established Church of Scotland).

There were four recognised ways of getting married: -

- Regular by the established Church of Scotland
- Irregular by “habit and repute”, still recognised until May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- Irregular when it could be proved that marriage had been agreed prior to sexual relations, (following canon law of “mutual consent”)
- Irregular if both parties agreed in front of witnesses, (as in Gretna Green and other venues)

The bad news is that most of these methods did not produce records.

Pre 1834 any clergy critical of the established church were not allowed to perform marriages, but from then up to 1855 it was permitted if banns had been read there. Banns did thus appear in established church records, even if the service was in a Catholic church. Particular recommendations given were for



Familysearch and a video by Paul Milner, (an ex pat apparently from North West England with Americanised pronunciations 😊), re Old Parochial Records, <https://www.familysearch.org/ask/learningViewer/241> . This link may also help <https://tinyurl.com/y32uwa6u> , and the whole Family search section on Scotland seems to very helpful, and FREE.)

We were again reminded of the cardinal rule, that the Church and State were one. Paul Milner's talk told us how births and marriages were first recorded in 1553 by the Catholic Church but that was abolished in 1560. There were many political disruptions after this, and many "vital" events were just not recorded. The Presbyterian Church (congregation lead by ministers), became the established Church in 1584 and then oscillated with the Episcopalians (bishop lead and appointed by land owners). In 1690 the Presbyterians formed the Established Church of Scotland at the same time as the Episcopalians formed the Episcopal Church of Scotland. In 1707 the still disputed, "Act of Union" <https://tinyurl.com/yywdtt36> , joined Scotland, England and Wales. In 1712 the "Patronage Act" <https://tinyurl.com/y6dhnd72> allowed landowners to appoint the minister, rather than the congregation. Unrest worsened, the two Jacobite rebellions of 1715 and 1745 came and went, and branches split off from the main churches. Stamp duty of 3d was briefly introduced for marriage registration but soon reduced recordings and was abandoned. It wasn't until 1820 that Parishes were officially required to keep registers. In 1829 Catholics were emancipated, and in 1843, the "disruption" occurred, where nearly 60% of the established church left to form the Free Church of the United Presbyterian. In 1855 Civil Registration commenced and in 1874 Patronage was abolished. Eventually in 1900 the Free Church and United Presbyterian united to form the United Free, and in 1929 the United Free and Established Church of Scotland combined. The enclosed screen shot shows Paul's explanation with the red line being the established church jumping between many factions.



Throughout all this Quoad Omnia Parish Records recorded both religious and administrative data such as church, education, poor relief and tax collections, whilst Quoad Sacra Parishes recorded purely religious records. <https://tinyurl.com/y5dwl2h> . Pre 1855 there were 901 Parishes, all numbered from Shetland to Wigton and the Church of Scotland records are now recorded as Old Parish Registers freely available on the National Library of Scotland database. The relevant parish is named at the top page of all census pages and is the main route to investigate other useful sites such as Scotlands Places (free), Scotlands People (credits), and the Scottish Archives Network which gives details re many more sources. It is always worth looking at other churches in the area as well as the established one, (e.g. Shetland has 12 Church of Scotland but 17 "others"), and Episcopalian records are not yet digitalised.

It was added that there are other very useful records available besides religious ones e.g. various tax and employment records, and those not online might be available at record offices at the Glasgow Mitchell, Inverness, and Edinburgh record offices. Kirk sessions involving judgement on civil matters e.g. drunkenness and fornication were often mixed up with BMD registrations. Strict discipline regarding church attendance and behaviour generated records. Children's educational standards were monitored, and measures taken if not good enough. The call to arms often came from the pulpit. Monumental Inscriptions have also been recorded by various family history societies and the MLFHS is a member of the Scottish Association of FHS <https://www.safhs.org.uk/> and so members can use their facilities. Valuation Rolls were recorded every 10 years giving indications of land details.

Mark finished his talk by reminding us of the forthcoming Scottish Heritage Day when representatives of ScotlandsPeople are venturing south of the border for the first ever time ever to talk to us at Manchester Central Library on May 16<sup>th</sup>, tickets are essential and will be available shortly via the MLFHS website. He also has been good enough to provide us with a link to his references on our database <https://tinyurl.com/y2yskpv6> . Many thanks Mark.

**Thursday 28 March at 2pm Tracing your ancestors using DNA, with Graham S Holton, principal tutor in the Genealogical Studies postgraduate programme at the University of Strathclyde. Talk at Lancashire Archives Cost £7. Places limited – booking essential.**

To book please email [record.office@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:record.office@lancashire.gov.uk) or phone 01772 533039 (Tues-Fri) Payment MUST be made in advance. Your place is not secured until payment has been received. Please make cheques payable to Friends of Lancashire Archives and send to Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston, PR1 2RE. To pay by BACS please see the Friends' website: [www.flarchives.co.uk](http://www.flarchives.co.uk).

Jacque Crosby Archives Service Manager



**Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> Ukrainian Club, 99 Castle St BL2 1JP, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April All Souls Community Centre, Astley St off Blackburn Road, BL1 8EY, and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April St Luke's Chorley Old Road, BL1 3BE,**



**Live from Worktown presents, "Obituary on a Postcard".** By Dick Perkins.

all performances are FREE and start at 2pm for approx one hour

*"One night in 1967 Bill Naughton has an important decision to make. Unable to sleep, he sits alone in his kitchen---- or so he thinks".*

Friend and BFHS member Dave Burnham has asked us to pass this event on.

Please email [play@livefromworktown.org](mailto:play@livefromworktown.org) to book seats at your chosen venue so that they have an idea of numbers attending.

An "Ambition for Ageing" initiative funded by The Big Lottery via the Bolton CVS, Age UK Bolton, and Bolton At Home.



**Wednesday 3rd April 7.30pm, Jackie Depelle - Chair of the Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies**  
**"Ideas for researching non-conformists"**

We are looking forward to welcoming Jackie for a return visit, following her very successful talk last year re **"Writing Your Family History – Moving on from record sheets and charts"**, with a 100+ attending. She encouraged quite a few of us to try alternative ways of telling the individual stories of ancestors. Jackie is Chairman of the Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies, and a very experienced tutor of family history <https://tinyurl.com/y6r8m7vc>. We are expecting this will be a popular meeting so make sure of seats.



**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April: "Disrupt? Peterloo and Protest" at the People's History Museum**

<https://tinyurl.com/y249z8cc>

NB This visit is restricted to MLFHS members only. For those travelling from Bolton by public transport we are advised it is only 2 minutes' walk from Salford Central Railway Station

11:00 - 12:00 Guided tour of the exhibition (see below)

12:00 - 14:00 An opportunity to visit the rest of the museum independently

Opening in March 2019 the museum building was a former Edwardian pumping station housing and now offers displays on local and national working-class life. The headline exhibition for 2019, "Disrupt? Peterloo and Protest", forms a central part of its bicentenary programme. The nature of Peterloo and the political repression that followed means there are few artefacts remaining, which in bringing together for the first-time key items from the time makes this exhibition even more powerful. This includes a Peterloo medal, the only one of its kind uncovered to date, which carries the strong and impassioned words of the time, "These things will not endure or be endured". A newly commissioned film will feature as part of the exhibition, telling the story of Peterloo and the road to democratic reform.

Alongside the exhibition a gallery will become a Protest Lab, for individuals, communities and organisations to use as an experimental space for creative campaigning and collective action.

There is a charge of £4.50 per person for this visit.

To book a place please **CLICK HERE**. <https://tinyurl.com/ycw5qlwb> Or book on Eventbrite via the Society main page. See also

\* <https://www.freehistoryproject.uk/> **1819 “the FREE history project Today's information about yesterday”** by John Evans, a former BBC political, news and sports journalist and editor, accessed 05.03.2019

*“The Free History Project aims to increase awareness of no-cost resources about Britain's history - websites you may not know existed, academic research, other online material, library services, and museums and archives that don't charge for admission. In 2019 and 2020 we will progressively highlight more and more illuminating material about key figures and events, reforms as well as the dark moments in the UK's history, selected for their quality, extent, accuracy, and objectivity or range of opinions.*

*Our first project is live tweeting the events of 1819, the year of the Peterloo massacre in Manchester, where as many as 18 people were killed and hundreds injured when soldiers and police broke up a peaceful demonstration in favour of political reform”.*

\* if you are researching the events of August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1819 at Peterloo for whatever reason, some of us found some rather interesting documents at Lancashire Archives last week, including letters, and accounts of repercussions around the event, some in Bolton. Please visit our Facebook page <https://tinyurl.com/y2ymu7tm> to see same, plus some other rather interesting documents. There will be a more detailed report here next month.



**Coming Family History Shows over the Summer** <https://tinyurl.com/y5m4zblg> **Discover Your Ancestors**

*“We run several events across the country throughout the year.*

*Our aim is to offer engaging events that bring family historians, societies and genealogical organisations together. Making the search for your family history educating and enjoyable with captivating events accessible for people of all ages.”*

There are at least three Family History Shows currently being advertised; in York on 22nd June, London on 24th August & Bristol on 6th July.

## **GENIE’S TIPS for MARCH**

**Announcing our New and Free Bolton FHS “Advanced Guide to Family History Research”** by Rita Greenwood

Those of you who have managed to attend any of our events in the last year or so, either at society meetings or at our Open Days or Workshops, should already have managed to acquire Rita’s Beginners Guide (green one), to family history research. Plenty of good solid advice to help launch anyone researching in the UK, and useful to help start many on overseas research. She, and we on her behalf, are now proud to announce that the sequel for Advanced Researchers is now available, also free, from any of our meetings and events. Well done Rita, and thank you.



## Welcome to CEMSEARCH-uk <https://tinyurl.com/yxodczqk>

Strange that this site covers a lot from Lancashire but apparently none from Bolton. Folk have been known to emigrate across borders though so maybe useful for some.

*"CEMSEARCH-uk is a useful tool for family history and genealogy researchers, for people looking for their ancestors, researching their family tree or trying to find a grave. We hold databases of monumental or headstone inscriptions from cemeteries and graveyards in Lancashire, including Accrington, Colne, Bacup, Blackburn, Burnley, Little Hulton, Loveclough, Manchester, Nelson, Preston, Salford, Tyldesley, Weaste, Wheatley Lane and Whitworth"*

## Welcome to Irish Genealogy Toolkit <https://tinyurl.com/y653qvtv> by Claire Santry

*"Your free and independent guide to finding your Irish ancestors."*



This seems to be a very comprehensive website for assistance with Irish family history research in general, with the main target being the "colonies", particularly America. A lot of free stuff though so maybe worth a try.



## <https://tinyurl.com/y4le9wwh> "Links"

Do you all know about this site? *"About Free UK Genealogy?" It is described as "a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) acting as an umbrella organisation for FreeBMD, FreeREG and FreeCEN.*

*FreeBMD was founded in 1998 by Ben Laurie, Graham Hart and Camilla Gemmingen von Massenbach after they realised the potential that the online genealogy community had to make records accessible to support research. Volunteers came together online to transcribe the General Register Office (GRO) indexes of Births, Marriages and Deaths for England and Wales.*

*Work continues to complete a transcription database covering the indexes from 1837 to 1983. All three founders are still actively involved with supporting and managing the organisation.*

*At Free UK Genealogy, we wish to help as many people as possible in their family history research. As well as our own records, the below list provides access to a number of useful links. Please note, not all are free to access".*

With all these facilities in mind may I add that later this year we have two speakers to explain about recent developments here. On September 4<sup>th</sup> we have Phil Stringer of Fylde FHS, coming to tell us about the amazing recent developments and uses of GENUKI the free "virtual" reference library, and then on November 6<sup>th</sup> we have Victoria Coyle, one of our own, coming to tell us about how to make the most of the other contributors to the site.



## Lithuania Genealogy <https://tinyurl.com/yyj2ul62> Familysearch.org.

*Guide to Lithuania ancestry, family history, and genealogy: birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, and military records.* I wonder how many people have ever found the need to research this country, and yet in the early 1900s thousands came over to England to escape the pogroms. We helped an enquirer the other day, who typically knew his ancestors had arrived in Hull, on the east coast, planning to cross over the Pennines and leave for the USA via Liverpool. In his case, his great grandmother had been so sea sick she wanted no more sailing and her family settled here. Since then we have also heard of the Lithuanian Global Genealogical Society <https://tinyurl.com/y4oktabf> It is of course always worth having a look at the vast and free international resources that can be found on Familysearch. As more people enrol on the DNA tests, I am sure more will become aware of their international backgrounds, and here is a good starting point.

## WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES

We now have three courses advertised, with two starting this month, one at Bolton Central Library, and another at Harwood Library. A third has just now also been announced starting at Brightmet Library in May. Please follow this link for more details and to book. <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/Workshops.php>. We hope the contents and timing of these workshops will assist your research. May we also reassure you that all our fees go to support our costs for the hire of our room for our monthly meetings, and obtaining the high-quality speakers, that we hope you are enjoying. Our tutors are all experienced members of the BFHS and provide their time and material free of charge. Please do let us know if you can suggest any other venues or times, or any other ideas even.

## 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



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

### News Re Two of Bolton's Historic houses

**2-bedroom cottage for sale, Firwood Fold, Bolton, Lancashire. Birth place of Samuel Crompton.** <https://tinyurl.com/yyn28rnt>



I hasten to add that this is an article intended merely for information on a local event of family history interest, and any sales promotion is not intended. On the other hand, it would be nice to see the cottage built in 1610, sympathetically renovated perhaps, rather than it be allowed to literally fall apart as is apparently threatened. The accompanying video is also interesting although SC might not recognise it from when he left it at 5 years old.

And in contrast

**Moses Gate Rock Hall, ( built by Thomas Crompton), could be taken over by community group** by Joseph Timan [Bolton News https://tinyurl.com/y45l3yc3](https://tinyurl.com/y45l3yc3)

**11.03.19** This hall is 200 years younger built in 1807 by Thomas Crompton <https://tinyurl.com/y5bzjksc> but still offers so much to Bolton's heritage. What a sad scene



## SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES



Isle of Man BMD Certificate Ordering Service <https://tinyurl.com/y57p6u2m>

*“Certified copy certificates of births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships registered on the Isle of Man can be obtained from the Civil Registry. Registration of births and deaths became compulsory on the Isle of Man in 1878, prior to this date they will usually be burial or baptismal records. Registration of marriages became compulsory from 1884, prior to this date there may be a marriage record. We also hold records of civil partnerships registered since 2011”.*



**“The Victorian Deaf in England. Part 1: Family Life**

**“<https://tinyurl.com/yxng3br7> Leaves Family History Research Services**

*“When an ancestor who was born in the early 19th century was recorded as being deaf-and-dumb \* from birth, researchers may not understand how that affected their lives. Some researchers may assume that they would be placed into an asylum, or would live solitary lives, with little contact with the world around them. This is not necessarily the case.”*

This source is “Anne”, a professional genealogist from East Yorkshire, (which I think

gives her a flying start but then maybe I am biased 😊). Her blog is full of some very interesting articles related to family history research, and this is just one of them. Well worth a read <https://tinyurl.com/y5vkasle>.



**“Understanding Cemetery Symbols and Crosses” <https://tinyurl.com/yycv9czu> Billion Graves Blog**

There are actually links here to three recent blogs which are all quite interesting reads. Two are about the variety of symbols which might be found on some of the older headstones, and the third is about the different kinds of cross you might find. From personal experience I suspect much also depends on the location of the graveyard and the local culture and stonemasons skills, it might make a wander through a grave yard even more challenging for you.



**Free Online Convict Records <https://tinyurl.com/y6mk8z8v> The Family Historian, An Australian Family History Perspective** ...Another useful and free collection of Ozzie databases if that is the way your research is going.

*“Please feel free to use the following list of Free Online Convict Records to assist with your research into your convict ancestors or to find out if one of your ancestors arrived in Australia as a convict in the late 17th or early 18th centuries.”*

**The British-Irish Dialect Quiz <https://tinyurl.com/y4zrv7nj> By JOSH KATZ FEB. 15, 2019 accessed 05.03.2019 The New York Times** *“For each question, choose whichever answer comes closest to how you talk casually with friends. Do you call the common playground game tag, tig or it? Is that bit of bread on the table a roll, a bap or a bun? And do the words but and put rhyme when you say them out loud? The way that people speak — the particular words they use and how they sound — is deeply tied to their sense of identity. And it’s not just about geography. Education, gender, age, ethnicity and other social variables influence speech patterns, too. These dialect markers are so ingrained into people’s sense of self that they tend to persist well after they move away from home. “Identity is what underlies most people’s retention of at least some of their local features,” said Clive Upton, professor emeritus of English language at the University of Leeds, “because ultimately what we say is who we are.”*

On first look this might seem to be just a bit of fun, but on closer inspection there would seem to be a lot more potential to the investigation. Bearing in mind how most of our ancestors have “wandered about a bit” over the last few centuries, (some a lot more than others), the suggestion is that these options on



dialect words go much deeper than a superficial quiz, and the locality results might seem to even complement migration routes indicated by our DNA results????.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Mary Barnes honoured with portrait in Farnworth Library**

<https://tinyurl.com/y3df4xwe> By Mary Naylor Bolton News 11.03.19

*"Farnworth Library now proudly displays a specially commissioned portrait to a lady the town owes a great deal to. A portrait of Mary Barnes OBE, the first female councillor for the town, a suffragist and campaigner for the poor, was commissioned thanks to grant money from the government's 'Centenary Cities' fund. <https://tinyurl.com/y52vcm72>. The unveiling on Saturday at the Market Street library was deliberately close to International Women's Day (Friday) and was a proud moment for Carole Crawley who has spent around a decade fighting for recognition for Mary Barnes ---".* Census checks suggest she used to live just up Bolton Road at No 40 with her husband Alfred, a local cotton magnate, but it seems doubtful if her actual house is still standing there after several changes.



### **"James Barlow (1767–1839): operator of the first successful caesarean section in England – in Blackrod, Lancashire",** by Dr N. H. Naqvi First published: May 1985 vol 92, pp 468-472 <https://tinyurl.com/yyq9xwl8>

So how many times have you walked up and down the staircase in Bolton Central Library, feeling a bit embarrassed that few of those faces were familiar, (except maybe Amir Khan's). Here is the story of another of Lancashire's great sons with strong connections to this area. I was given information about this some time ago by friends who are volunteers at the Bolton Archives, helping out with indexing and filing the mountain of documents that lies there, yet to be processed. I wonder how many of you know this tale though.



The crux of the story is that in 1793 James Barlow, a Lancashire surgeon, whilst practicing in Chorley, performed a caesarean section on a woman in Blackrod, on a table, in a house. It was apparently the first of its kind in Great Britain where the woman, a Jane Foster, survived the operation and she actually lived until 1829, when she died 13<sup>th</sup> October in Bolton at the ripe old age of 76 years, (not 86 as claimed in some places, but still an achievement at that time), and is buried in "Bolton le Moors Parish, Lancaster", (not I think Pennsylvania as is suggested by Find My Past but in Little Bolton 😊).

James was born at Croichley Fold Farm Hawkshaw, (which now appears to have been altered – into two cottages) , and his baptism is recorded on Lancs OPC as 7th Jan 1767 Emmanuel, Holcombe, Lancashire, England, James Barlow - Son of William Barlow fustian maker , Croychley <https://tinyurl.com/knp94r> .(There are two other baptisms in that year and in that area but this appears to be the correct one with the location of Croichley. This is where his mother , 43 year old Catherine Taylor of Entwistle ,died in October 1768, the year after James birth, leaving at least three young children motherless). When William remarried to Betty Whitaker the year after Catherine's death, he was now a yeoman, so was obviously going up in the world. According to Dr Naqvi, his biographer, dedications in his text book suggest he trained with a surgeon called

John Abernethy <https://tinyurl.com/ltbkydw> who lectured at St Bartholomew's London. By 1790 he had a practice in Chorley, and on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1795 he married Elizabeth Winstanley at St Laurence's Chorley. The relationship was only brief apparently though, and within weeks he had left Chorley for a practice in Blackburn at one of the towns oldest addresses, Bank House on Dukes Brow. By 1826 he had built a nearby new house called Spring Mount to accommodate the growing practice. His initials were on the door, and it later became part of Blackburn Girls School. He never remarried but did adopt a son James Barlow Stewardson Sturdy, who later became Mayor of Blackburn.

Barlow's skills and reputation had grown rapidly though, and a Wigan surgeon named John Hawarden, had asked him for a consultation on Jane Foster, a 40-year-old lady from Blackrod. Jane nee Watmough b1753 (a wide variety of spellings found here on various records), had married Henry Foster at Bolton St Peters 20th July 1773, (by Parson Folds no less,) and had already had at least 7 living children. Barlow's later book "Essays on surgery and midwifery: with practical observations, and select cases", (dated 1822



<https://tinyurl.com/y4bhjr8> pp355-361 courtesy of the Wellcome Foundation Barlow, James, University of Glasgow), reports how Jane had been returning from Wigan market on a cart, fallen off it, and her pelvis had been run over by the back wheel. She did apparently sustain considerable damage, but recovered enough to lead a near normal life, and later became pregnant again. She went into labour at full term on February 22<sup>nd</sup> but five days later still no progress. The midwife called John Hawarden from Wigan for advice and he contacted James Barlow surgeon, who examined her and concluded that a Caesarean section was the only option. This was of course considered a pioneering procedure in these early days, especially before anaesthetics, and Mr Hawarden and her attendants declined this as impossible. The next day, however, he was called back by the lady's assistants. This time John Hawarden refused to assist with this "advanced treatment from the Continent", but it seems his brother Thomas, a "doctor" (contemporary newspaper reports suggest more of an apothecary), based in Blackrod, was to help as Jane was prepared on a table. Barlow subsequently reported that he in turn apparently fainted as the surgery started and it fell to a woman attendant as, "a last resort" to assist in the surgery. The procedure was never the less successful, in that Jane made a good recovery, (although the baby had already died in utero), and the solution to the problem remained hotly contested as an acceptable intervention for many years after. It seems there was some some intrafamily "sniping" involved as well, but James performed 3 more successful Caesareans and went on to teach his procedure to more. It seems likely that there are still descendants in the area from both the Fosters and the Hawarden's, having superficially looked at their trees.

The story gives an interesting insight into the development of local medical care, and the differences between an apothecary and a surgeon. Thomas Hawarden's daughter Hester married a "druggist" John Taylor, who seems to have moved on to Chorley where he started a successful pharmacy business. John Hawarden with a surgery at Market Street, Wigan, remained a successful surgeon in his own right and is recorded as taking on an apprentice William Pegge in 1796. As yet I have not found the Hawarden's origins, but I suspect Bryan Hawarden surgeon b1695 Appleton was an ancestor.

## OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS



**Halliwell Local History Society** <http://goo.gl/8erYyr> and Face book <https://tinyurl.com/yxgtgeou>

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 meeting

**26th March 'The Lancashire Cotton Famine ': How we survived the American Civil War as told by Sid Calderbank**



**Turton Local History Society** <https://goo.gl/adx4GM> Face book <https://tinyurl.com/y4xwmfh7>

The old Urban District of Turton, includes the ancient Townships of Bradshaw, Edgworth, Entwistle, Harwood, Longworth, Quarlton and Turton. 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

**27th March - Photographic Tour of Bolton (David Lloyd)**

**Westhoughton Local History Group** – <http://goo.gl/XNugl5> Face Book <https://tinyurl.com/y4x96exw>

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.

**21st March "Charles Dickens and his Children - Veronica Walker** How many of you know about his children", Veronica will enlighten you.

**4 April "Medals from around the World" - Tony Foster** making his fourth visit to the Group will tell you about tracing his father's war medals.



**Horwich Heritage Centre-** <http://goo.gl/fSPsij> Face Book <https://tinyurl.com/y44nonb8>

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.

**March 12th, 2019 Tom Heavyside - Lancashire Steam**

Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am --- 1pm, next one

**March 16th, 2019 Happy 130th Birthday**

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