



# "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
- Bolton Help Desk Drop Ins 10am - 12md Bolton Central Library. First Saturday of each month  
10am - 12md Harwood Library- Second Saturday of each month  
Before and after each BFHS monthly meeting 7pm and approx 8.45pm
- Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 523 Likes and 556 following Feb 9<sup>th</sup>
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: <https://goo.gl/hJi8Ns> (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index>

February 2020

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



This month's banner picture is a 2020 new year picture of Firwood Fold with thanks to Julie Marks. Weathering well isn't it. No 10 of course was the birth place of Samuel Crompton in 1753, inventor of the spinning mule, and perhaps one of Bolton's most famous sons.

<https://tinyurl.com/sb282sv> I am still discovering more places that he lived as well if anyone else can contribute.

Welcome all to our February newsletter. When I first started to write this at the end of January, we were almost recovered from Christmas, "B Day" came and went quite painlessly in the end on January 31st, with little to show for it apart from a few bangs at 11pm, and we were almost beginning to think about an early Spring. Then Storm Ciara arrived, and as I write this the rain is rattling against the windows, and we are hopeful the roof will stay on, and the river stay where it should be. Onwards and upwards though to happier days.

Our only new announcements to date are within our General Meeting notes below so please do read same. Some trips will shortly be advertised but as yet dates not confirmed.

For all other news please just read below.

## OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

- Where?

**Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU. With 70 parking spaces.**

**Buses are the 501, 502 or 503 and 125, please check the timetables here <https://tinyurl.com/ssb8hd5>**

**PLEASE NOTE AMENDED DETAILS, THANKS TO AN ALERT READER.**

**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 5th February, 7.30pm, Our yearly General Meeting**

I think I might be permitted to say that this was a comparatively subdued and straight forward general meeting but giving some foreboding of things to come. David Muil, our MLFHS central Chairman was good enough to attend and lead the formalities, and it is always appreciated to be able to welcome him to our neck of the woods. We hope he enjoyed his visit. The meeting progressed smoothly with first the

**\*Good News** (I hope) , that all senior officials expressed their willingness to stand for another year, meaning we continue to have Graham Holt as Chairman, Christine Ellis as secretary, and Susan Boddy as Treasurer.

The current committee of Rita Greenwood, Barbara Owen, Colin and Margaret Calderbank ( the main teaching team with Christine), David Baker (membership coordinator) , Michael Isherwood (technical support and webmaster), Jeanette Holland (Facebook Admin and Journal Secretary) , and yours truly Jane Milne (newsletter editor, programme coordinator, publicist), have also agreed to serve for another year . You will see some very familiar names here, and those who manage to come to the meetings will also know the faces.

**\*The Bad News** is that this is not going to continue unfortunately. Graham is to stand down next February after approx 6 years' service, latterly performing both jobs of Chair and Vice Chair. These job descriptions have not just been administrative, but have also included things like visiting our venue (with Sue) the afternoon before each meeting to prepare the room furniture etc for the evening, arranging the printing out of all our handouts and putting them out on the chairs, liaising with and distributing our programmes to other societies, libraries etc all over Bolton and East Lancashire, representing us at Fairs etc, and many more hidden extras.

**Please can anyone else assist with any of these activities?**

**Is there anyone who lives near the clubhouse who could assist in the afternoon, maybe on a rota if there are enough volunteers? Many of us live some distance away rendering the idea impracticable. If we do not get help, these things are going to stop though. WE ARE NOT SUPERHUMAN. .**

Similarly, we are always looking for material for the newsletter and journal, if possible, as these activities are both physically and time demanding, and I certainly, cannot continue without pretyped help.

We are all very proud of how our membership has expanded over recent years, contrary to the national trend, and we hope you are also enjoying the meetings and activities. We now need help to ensure the momentum continues though. PLEASE!!!!

Enough said, and I will now come off my soap box



I might also add that we enjoyed another excellent attendance considering the time of the year with 76 members and 5 visitors. →

Our meeting was now followed by



## Dr Alan Crosby "By his tattoos you shall know him, tracking down an elusive great uncle"



It was next a great pleasure, as always, to be able to welcome Dr Alan Crosby back to hear another of his excellent talks. He seems to have this happy knack of offering good advice re some aspect of research whilst entertaining us with another story from his illustrious family.

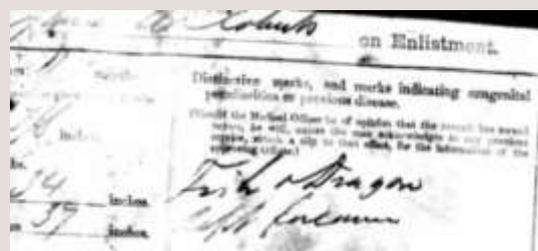
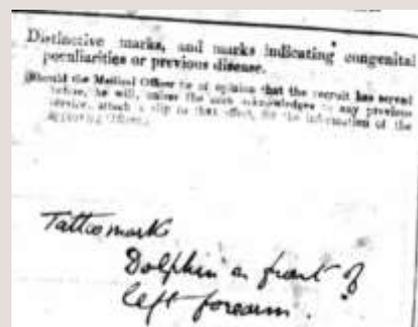
This talk was about his Great Uncle Norman Ashmore Crosby b 1874 Banbury, Oxfordshire, the brother of the great aunts of previous Crosby talks, i.e. Great Aunt Marjorie b 1884 Banbury who became a WW1 Russian courtesan, and Great Aunt Edith b 1882 who was a cowboy manicurist amongst other things. ( See our previous newsletters for those stories in October 2016, and February 2019). All the siblings were the children of George Crosby and Kate Goldring and had all also no doubt suffered from the ups and downs of the relationship between these dysfunctional parents. George had benefitted from marrying Kate, his boss's daughter, and being absorbed into the prosperous family firm of lawyers, based in Lincolns Inn.

They had 6 children in all, the first 3 born during the honeymoon period, and the others conceived during the intermittent reconciliations in between separations. George was apparently a violent alcoholic, who had survived an attempted divorce by Kate because adultery was never proved. The claims of physical and mental cruelty and that she had even been thrown down the stairs whilst pregnant, were irrelevant in those days. Alan has tracked the family's attempts at separation via census returns.

Norman was the eldest, and we can only imagine his thoughts, seeing his mother and family treated this way. Alan has found him in 1881 lodging at Grantchester (no less 😊), with his Mum and sisters, then in 1891 as a 15-year-old scholar boarding with the Vicar of Royston Joseph Harrison and his family, and another 35-year-old clerical boarder named William Roberts. An 1892 entry in Guy's Hospital records suggests he had next enrolled as a medical student but left before finishing. He has not been found so far in the 1901 census however, but looking elsewhere, a chance discovery from military records suggested he had attested for military service in July 1893 in the medical service at Aldershot. In Sept 1893 he was discharged from the Royal Lancs Regt after paying a £10 severance fee, ( apparently a mutual suitability period used at that time). **In 1894 more attestation papers → noted he had an unusual tattoo of a dolphin on his left forearm!!** Here the roller coaster of records starts.

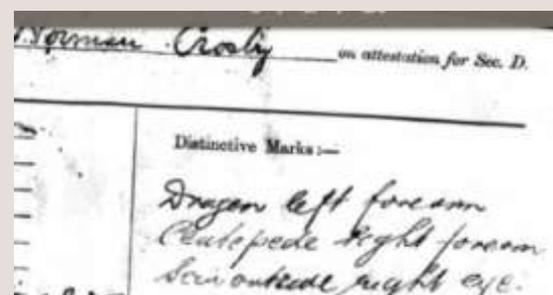
In June 1894 he had signed up again to the medical staff at Cambridge as a medical student but deserted, then three and a half months afterwards in 1895 he joined the Royal Navy under the name of Michael O' Connor. This deception was discovered in 1896, he was imprisoned, court martialled and demoted, and later sent to the Royal Army Medical corps as an orderly. We find him next in hospital in Portsmouth in August 1896, being treated for mania due to drink. He was apparently back at work 6 weeks later but discharged soon after due to mania.

The next record found in November 1896 showed Norman, on board a ship sailing for Halifax, Nova Scotia, then returning in Spring 1897 to go to Halifax Yorkshire and sign on for the West Riding Regt under the name of James Roberts, home address Banbury, Ross, Ontario, and with several fictitious family connections and a profession of sailor! The 1897 records → **described a tattoo of a fish and a dragon on his left arm.**



Following Alans story Ancestry records help by next showing

- 5th April to May 1898 Certificate of Deserters Balance to 22642 Gunner J Roberts from 4th Field Royal Artillery 4s 1 1/2d Norman Crosby 5742,
- 30th August 1898 Attestation of Short-Term Commission to the "Ox and Bucks" Infantry at 21 years 7 months. Profession of clerk. He declared he "Has not lived away from home in last 3 years, and asked for Ox and Bucks service, was 5 ft 8 1/2 ins, weight 142lbs chest 35 1/2ins to 37 1/2 ins. Eyes grey, hair light brown. Service completed 28th Oct 1910, **Tattoo dolphin front of left arm**
- 13th February 1911 Attestation Section D (the Reserves as was normal after serving with the Colours) aged 33 years . Blue eyes, fair hair. Chef by occupation. Single. Address c/o H Robertson Esq MP 36, Bedford Square. Chest 39ins Waist 37ins **Tattoos Dragon Left forearm Centipede right forearm →**
- In 1912 we have Norman as a mess steward at the Officers Mess in Pennarth Pembrokeshire , informing his commander of his marriage to Olive Bromley in June 1911 but encountering some problems due to his dropping his middle name of Ashmore!!
- In August 1914 he was mobilized with the outbreak of WW1 but terminated engagement 12th Feb 1916
- On the 12th Feb 1916 a Certificate of Sobriety was issued at Portsmouth from his Commanding Officer "I believe that Norman Crosby is thoroughly trustworthy and to the best of my belief he has never been under the influence of liquor the last 3 years of his colour service which expired 28th October 1910, nor during the 18 months he has served with the colours on mobilization 5th August 1914 to 12th Feb 1916. Signed Capt Spencer CO"
- On the 14th Feb 1918 we have a letter from Norman requesting a medal and certificate to reflect war service . His address given 118 Commercial Road Portsmouth. He pointed out he was still mobilised in Section D (Reserves) until 16th Feb 1916, and in March 1918 from the Ox and Bucks Regiment Service number 351839 he was awarded a war badge and certificate forwarded "to Pte Crosby 5742 in respect of war service" , receiving it in 13.3 1918.



The might of the military record has kept track of him throughout, due to a series of meticulously recorded tattoos on his forearms. Perhaps these coincide with the trips to India??? The summary of his earlier service does show he was at home 30.8.1899 to 3.10.1899, in India 4.10.1899 to 16.12.02, home 17.12.02 to 21.09.03, India 22.09.03 to 26.10.10 and home 27.10.10. Alan reckons that to his knowledge Norman has used at least 3 names and variations i.e. Norman Ashmore Crosby, Michael O/Connor, and James Roberts, and served in 6 military units . Records on Ancestry suggest he and his wife Olive had a child Olive Bridget in 1912 but there is little record of Norman since then, and of course he might have used any name. His daughter married and died in 1972 in Southend.

We must thank Alan for this amazing account of another of his Greats!!! Perhaps it is a little sad to see how such a disastrous family life affected a generation of children, but what resilience has been shown by the three we have heard about so far. Norman must have felt so helpless

### **Wednesday 4th March, 7.30pm, Rod Brackstone BSc Geology, Zoology, and Genetics, Member of Society of One Name studies, "DNA for family research"**

Rod is a respected member of the world wide "Guild of One Name Studies" <https://one-name.org/about-the-guild/> and has only recently retired from serving in the subcommittee which is responsible for organising seminars to educate the public in one-name studies. (Rod tells me Jackie Depelle , our May speaker, has now taken over this role <https://tinyurl.com/skndlx5> ). He has taught biology for 30+ years at secondary school "A" level, and plans to explain to us in simple terms, what DNA is, and how simple analysis can be used in genealogy

research. He will come with suggestions for more research, and look particularly at Peter Calver's "Lost Cousins" Masterclass methods <https://tinyurl.com/vm7z6i7> , so it might be worth casting your eyes over this first. Really looking forward to this one.

## EVENTS

### **January 30<sup>th</sup> The Family History Federation Desk at the Recent Creative Craft Show**

Our Graham Holt flew the flag for the Bolton branch of the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society when they were asked to represent the FHF on the Thursday of the three day show at Event City, (across the motorway from the Trafford Centre Tram Terminus, I didn't know either 😊).

They described themselves as "ready and willing to answer your family history queries on Stand B38 at the Creative Craft Fair", and I have heard they got far more enquiries than they bargained for with more than forty, and the enrolment of several new members. In Bolton of course we do also "man" the Stands at various local events. Left to right: Graham Holt, plus Michael Cooper [Anglo-Scots Chairman], Elsie Lowe [MLFHS Gen Secretary], Barry Henshall [MLFHS Vice-Chairman].

In Bolton of course we do also "man" the Stands at various local events. Come and talk to us. Find more information at <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/> or our own <https://www.mlfhs.org.uk/>



### **Help Desks**

Just to remind you of the various Help Desks available as shown in our banner details . This year we have introduced another one on the second Saturday morning of each month at Harwood library. I am told that although the first January event was a bit more of a "no starter" , the February session was the complete opposite with the two-person team needing the help of two others who had dropped in, and enquirers queuing to be seen. This is clearly a little unpredictable at the moment, and we need to consider a Plan B, but please do be aware of the alternative sessions as above.



## GENIE'S TIPS for FEBRUARY



**"Lancashire Parishes" from Family Search Wikipedia** <https://tinyurl.com/v5Srnja>

*Lancashire is by far one of England's most populated counties. Yet from early times Lancashire possessed only about 75 ancient parishes (equivalent to a parish in other counties)- far fewer than most other counties, making it exceptionally unique among all of England's counties. To handle the dramatic population explosion within its county boundaries, the Church of England created hundreds of chapels of ease (or chapelries) and district churches, each one attached to an ancient parish. There were about 400 chapelries in Lancashire*

### **Helping you trace your family history in Australia and elsewhere**

*"Cora Num is a fellow of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra and she has worked as a professional family history researcher and lecturer for over thirty years. She has been writing and publishing quality Australian genealogy guides since 1995. She has also written and published numerous family*

histories. In 1997 she established CoraWeb. Today this site is internationally recognised and attracts thousands of visitors each day.

*“CoraWeb originally grew from a collection of websites compiled as class handouts for various adult education programs in Canberra. These handouts evolved into the book Web Sites for Genealogists published from July 1997 until 10th edition, 2008. In August 1997 a website to compliment the book was launched. It is still online today as CoraWeb and is older than Google ”*

**GRO add birth indexes for 1984-2004 EXCLUSIVE** <https://tinyurl.com/t9vct3> Lost Cousins Newsletter - 22nd January 2020

*Just 2 months ago I revealed that the General Register Office, the statutory guardian of civil registration records for England & Wales, had added deaths from 1984 onwards to their online indexes. As noted in November, this was a particularly valuable addition, since they stopped selling copies of the indexes over a decade ago.*

*Now they've added birth indexes for 1984-2004, and whilst this is not quite as valuable a resource - since they're already available at numerous sites, and have been for over a decade - it's still an interesting development, since it's the first time the GRO have themselves put any birth indexes from the past 100 years online.*

*Although they have digitized and (presumably) indexed births up to 1934, the GRO's own online indexes currently only extend to 1919, which means there's no option to purchase a PDF copy of a birth registered between 1920 and 1934.*

Further to this article, Eric Kent, who attends one of Rita Greenwoods classes, has been good enough to clarify these details for us.

“For quite a while it has been possible to search birth indexes on the GRO website for years 1837 - 1919. You have the option of ordering a certificate on paper (£11) or as a PDF (£7) if you wish.

Now GRO have added birth records for years 1984 - 2004. However, there is no option to order a PDF for these years, only a paper certificate.

Similarly, it has also been possible to search death indexes on the GRO website for years 1837 – 1957, and you have the same options of ordering certificates / PDFs if you wish.

Now GRO have added death records for years 1984 - 2019. However, there is no option to order a PDF for these years, only a paper certificate.

Best wishes, Eric

**Barnsley Cemeteries** <https://www.cemeteries.org.uk/>

As the title suggests this website covers the cemeteries in and around this area. It is run by volunteers who seem to have been very active in collecting onsite information , and an excellent maintenance programme. Worth a visit if you might have ancestors in this vicinity.

## WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES

<http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/Workshops.php>

As promised last month, we are launching this year's series of workshops with 4 Saturday morning sessions to be held at Bolton Central Library. Please check the link for cost and contact details, and have a chat with one of our tutors to ensure we are offering the right level for you, whether you are just starting off, or stuck at something further up the ladder, ( and we all benefit from regular updates anyway, let's face it 😊).



## THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

### **“Last look at Horwich Loco Works erecting shop before Demolition”**

Bolton News Jan7th <https://tinyurl.com/vb2osom>

*“VISITORS were given the last chance to look around the Horwich Locomotive Work s erecting shop, of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, which turned the sleepy village into the heart of the first Northern Powerhouse. Demolition is imminent at the site to make way for a 1,700-home development. Rosalyn Roden reports.---”*

*(Picture courtesy of Urban Explorer Photography)*

### **Lancashire Records**



**UK BMD Summary** <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 and more

### **RootsWeb Update**

This is an organisation that is currently metamorphosing (is there such a word )? Some might remember it was very busy a few years ago and could be accessed as an option from the Ancestry front page when logging in and clicking on the RootsWeb link for more specialised information from the ordinary community. The system was originally funded and supported by Ancestry.com and their “loyal RootsWeb community”. There were forums for virtually everything imaginable to do with genealogy research; local knowledge for places all over the world, , militaria, photography , occupations, one name studies, etc with some very knowledgeable people freely contributing their knowledge and assistance. More recently the popularity seemed to dwindle a bit and their function replicated and even taken over by social media. I think they also had technical problems and had to close the site a couple of years ago. It reappeared for a while, but now the Ancestry hosting closes on March 2nd, BUT it seems many of the forums are now finding new hosts and locally at least, they are rising again and rapidly.

Lynne Klein , a long-suffering ex pat who still manages to administer from afar, has created an alternative scheme replacing the LancsGen list, via the all-encompassing <https://groups.io/> website. I know every little about this apart from what is announced on their front page, but claims are that it supports all the useful community information and discussion that it did before. It seems similar to what many social media groups do, but without all the adverts, and tracking concerns that many worry about elsewhere. Communication is by email but beware of the options to receive. I innocently joined three groups reflecting my personal interests and found myself quite overwhelmed by posts on various threads within the group. If that is what you want that is fine, and the posts are very interesting and helpful, BUT I had not completed the options on watching the posts, similar to those of the MLFHS forum.

There are choices as I understand it e.g. to receive all posts without control, to receive a daily digest , or to confine it to special announcements.

The introduction tells us that, " *the new lists on Groups.io are up and running smoothly. (There were 722 former RootsWeb lists there when I last looked!) If you haven't joined yet, please do. You can accept the invitation that was sent to you or go to each list's home page, as noted below, and join from there*".

So locally I have found

Bolton: <https://groups.io/g/Eng-Lan-Bolton> → ; Lancashire: <https://groups.io/g/LancsGen>

Liverpool: <https://groups.io/g/Liverpool> ; Manchester and Salford:

<https://groups.io/g/ManchesterSalford> , and further afield Yorksgen

<https://groups.io/g/Yorksgen> ; Cumbria, Lancashire & adjoining parts of

Yorkshire, UK <https://groups.io/g/NORTHWEST-UK> ; Liverpool <https://groups.io/g/Liverpool> ,

and I am sure there are more . If you have been a member of Free BMD subscribers list, it seems that is also now under this umbrella.

I have joined those within my interests and have been surprised at how busy they are. If this feels like your "cup of tea" why not try it out, and please report your thoughts back to us. I believe a Facebook presence is also being considered, so let's just watch this space.



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

**Irish Genealogy** <https://tinyurl.com/yxyaufqr>

*Update to the Civil Records*

*All civil marriage records from 1845 to 1944 are now available online to members of the public, along with the release online of birth register records for 1919 and death register records for 1969. Over 15.5 million register records are now available to the public to view and research online on the [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie) website. The records now available online include: Birth register records – 1864 to 1919; Marriage register records – 1845 to 1944 & Death register records – 1878 to 1969.*

I have been using this for some family research and have been very impressed by this. I have found several records from the original registration documents with ages , addresses and occupations. Very helpful.

**List of mining disasters in Lancashire** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_mining\\_disasters\\_in\\_Lancashire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mining_disasters_in_Lancashire) Wikipedia 10.02.20

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**"The accidental Singer sewing machine revolution"** <https://tinyurl.com/qoy5jzh>

By Tim Harford BBC Presenter, 50 Things That Made the Modern Economy 15 January 2020

How many family researchers have ancestors who were seamstresses/ dress makers , even tailors, and casually thought what a skilled but hard job, this must have been, but not put a lot more thought into it? I found this fascinating article last week on the BBC website, and thought I just had to share it. Part of the introduction explains that in the 1850s " *the New York Herald said: "We know of no class of workwomen who are more poorly paid for their work or who suffer more privation and hardship." But sewing took so much time - 14 hours for a single shirt - that there would be a fortune in speeding it up.*

*And it was not only seamstresses who suffered: most wives and daughters were expected to sew. This "never-ending, ever-beginning" task, in the words of contemporary writer Sarah Hale, made their lives "nothing but a dull round of everlasting toil".*



Apparently, Isaac Merritt Singer (b1811Pittstown, New York, –d1875 Torquay England), after failing as an actor, then having various casual jobs was now trying his hand with inventions whilst a sewing machine repairman. Initially he tried to build a machine that carved wooden type, but this failed as there was no demand. His boss asked him to fix a Lerow and Blodgett sewing machine, suggesting he could try to improve on its erratic action. Perhaps the fact that he apparently had four concurrent families with at least 22 children to clothe and support, added to his pressures and he decided to try, opting for a “to and fro” action shuttle rather than one going around in circles, and a vertical straight needle going up and down. He claimed



patencies on his adaptations and the system worked well but included various other adaptations which others had already patented. After being successfully sued by one, and various negotiations and bargaining with others, he eventually became a business partner with Edward Clark in 1857, and together they launched the I.M. Singer & Company. The business took off, expanded, became worldwide and he was a millionaire. <https://tinyurl.com/smt3gjp> The Biography.com website accessed 18.01.20

This timeline from the Singer site <https://tinyurl.com/v9p34br> shows how the revolutionary invention took the world by storm. Typically, shirts that used to take 14 hours to hand sew, could be made in an hour with this machine. It has been suggested that this freed up so much of women's time, that it contributed to their emancipation in that they had more free time !!!! A contentious statement, I think. BUT Looking at census returns with these occupations I wonder how many of them were hand sewers, and how many were using these super new machines. I know my Mum and her Mum had treadle machines, and I bet many over 50s were making their children's clothes on similar home machines. How about you?

#### **A Bible from the Coop Family of Bolton**



We have recently had contact re another Bolton family bible, this time turning up in Edinburgh.

*“Hello, I am writing to you as I have been given a family bible relating to a Bolton family to which I have no connection. However, I believe that someone with a connection to the Coop family to whom it belonged may be interested in having it. I enclose some photographs and some background information on the family that a quick look at some family history sites has found. If any of your members is interested in the bible, I would be happy to discuss delivery etc. bearing in mind that the Bible weighs over 5kg and I live in Edinburgh.*

*Yours sincerely, Daryl Sawyer*

The owner is more than happy to reunite it with their descendants if we can find any, and we have even arranged transport to bring it down to Bolton. What a team!! Any Coops out there please??? Contact our secretary as above

Daryl also went to the trouble of finding the probable family in the 1871 census living here on Clarendon Street, Halliwell, Bolton, Lancashire, England. I must admit, having looked at the direct descendants I suspect both lines have died out, one in Bolton, and one in the USA, but if anyone had ancestors named Levi Coop, and Esther Kay married in 1872 Bolton, please do get in touch.

#### **An Enquiry from Sandra Clarke**

Hi there. I am descended from the Cooper family. My ggg grandfather was Simpson Cooper who was the Registrar for Bolton and was in the Board of Guardians to the workhouse, I think. I wondered if anyone has any research or info regarding him and his family that they could share with me? Or if indeed anyone is related to the family? He was originally from Chepstow in Monmouthshire. Any info would be gratefully received. Thankyou.

Please send any responses to our Secretary or Newsletter as above, and we will pass on.

**Britain's forgotten watermen to be remembered for their wartime sacrifice** <https://tinyurl.com/qgbqate> The Telegraph Patrick Sawyer, Senior Reporter 27 October 2018. Picture courtesy of the IWM.

An area you might not have thought of in your research  
*"The names of Britain's wartime dead are etched on countless plaques and memorials across the towns and villages to which they would never return. But one group of wartime heroes has long been forgotten, their names rarely carved in stone or cast in lead. To this day the sacrifice of thousands of watermen who worked on Britain's canals before serving on the front line has yet to be commemorated. Since most of the watermen lived an itinerant lifestyle, their home the boat on which they worked, there was no fixed community to record their sacrifice at the end of the First World War.---*"



## OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS



**Other MLFHS branch meetings as on Calendar**

<https://www.mlfhs.org.uk/calendar/index.php?mo=3&yr=2020>



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

Email [margaretk@talktalk.net](mailto:margaretk@talktalk.net). Meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, at St Luke's Church, Chorley Old Road, BL1 3BE opposite Shepherd Cross St, Bolton, Next Meeting **Tuesday 25th February 'The Mass Observation Archive' – David Burnham.**



**Turton Local History Society** <https://goo.gl/adx4GM>

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

**"Belmont History"** <https://tinyurl.com/rnj5wpb> -**Tom Carr** 7:30pm in St. Peters Church, Belmont on Monday 24th February 7.30pm First meeting of 2020 and we are kicking the year off with a Social Evening. We hope you can bring photos and information you have about Belmont (doesn't matter how old) with you so we can chat and enjoy the evening. There will be a pasty and pea supper (so please let us know by the 19th February if you can come for food numbers). We hope you can join us!

**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.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February Animal Heroes the ways in which animals served in both World Wars. A tribute to the remarkable roles they undertook - Graham Stirrup**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March "A Bolton Journey" - David Lloyd takes us down some of Bolton's famous streets in a nostalgic journey**



**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. Next Meeting

**Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> "Old Photos Of Bolton Pt.3" - David Lloyd**

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