



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
- General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Christine M Ellis bolton@mlfhs.org.uk
- Research help, please email 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)
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November 2018



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

Banner pictures of Bolton Cenotaph by courtesy of Alan Bromiley and Frank Green, with thanks

Hello again everybody and welcome to our November edition of your Bolton FHS newsletter. We hope you will appreciate that this has had to be very much a last minute production, although the last months activities started with our long awaited **visit to see the Terracotta Army** in Liverpool. No connection with most of our local family trees I suspect but it did show how another culture memorialised their Royalty and the thinking behind it, and I would suggest it was quite breath taking to anyone who has made the visit.

We then had the schools half term break, and I suspect a lot have taken the chance to inspect the refurbished Bolton Museum which combines many interesting local artefacts, with a natural history exhibition, and the world renown Barlow collection of Egyptian artefacts, (a more local display of how yet another culture cared for their ancestors). Just to compare the two though, we were told that the Chinese area of interest is 200 x the size of the Egyptian Valley of the Kings, all still being actively researched of course. Puts our "little" grave yards of a mere 1000+ into perspective doesn't it.

The next event has of course been our **3rd Open Day** hosted by Bolton Central Library. We have tried to learn and tweak after each previous experience, and we think this paid off well this time, hopefully without annoying too many people. Our Chairman has been in overdrive, visiting as many similar local societies as we could find in perhaps a 25 mile radius, and has been made welcome at all and allowed 5 minutes to spread the word. I think he would be the first to comment that this exercise in itself has been very interesting, in seeing how others manage their meetings, and compare same. He also covered all the local libraries in the same area, whilst Jeanette and I have been busy mithering social media, by "drip feeding" updates on our activities without wanting to overdo it. Hopefully we are going the right direction though as at the last count on Nov 9th, **our BFHS Facebook** page had 183 people "liking" it, and 197 actually "following" it. We hope you are finding it interesting and useful. Contributions and questions are always welcome of course. Please see the reports below about the events and talks, if you didn't manage to make it on the day.

Last but by no means least we had Tony Fosters visit, to tell us about the importance of the Protestation Oaths. All reported below. What a month!

We hope you also like our newly announced 2019 programme(see the website), and note **no meeting in December.**



OUR LAST and NEXT MEETINGS and EVENTS

- **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 October 10th BFHS Visit to Liverpool and the Terracotta Army <https://tinyurl.com/ybjuz324>



This had been a long awaited trip. Some of us had seen advertisements last year to say that the exhibition was to arrive in Liverpool in February, and we put it straight on to our bucket list as few of us, could imagine ever getting to China to see it. Many also have transport problems, or not much knowledge of Liverpool traffic and parking, and the logical solution was to arrange a team visit. We then needed someone to arrange this, and as all committee members are all already at full capacity multitasking, we approached Carole and Pat again, (who were already acquiring quite a reputation for very efficient well researched trip planning 😊). This is by no

means an easy job as we knew from previous outings. Transport including a driver has to be investigated re vehicles, quality and costs, dates and tickets have to be arranged, money has to be collected and banked, information has to be disseminated. This was our first venture at this level but thanks to these ladies it went "like clockwork".

Thirty three of us met at the very convenient new Bolton Interchange at 9.20am and set off 10 minutes later in a lovely new Grayways coach. The trip was uneventful on a beautiful sunny autumnal day and most were glad they were not having to negotiate the one way system and diversions as we approached Liverpool. John the driver, managed to drop us off at the front door of the museum, and we had 1 ½ hours to disperse in smaller groups, to explore the area and get a snack before our booked entry time at 12.30pm. Our little sub group of 4 managed to find a nice



café at the Liverpool Heritage Centre where we discovered we had also found the whereabouts of Liverpool Record Office. Suitably refreshed we returned to the museum, and after the now routine security checks we were ushered into the vestibule of the exhibition, tickets scanned and in we went. It was busy but not uncomfortably, and we soon met our first example of the terracotta works. There was plenty of information on all displays, and we tried to take in as much as we could. It was rather overwhelming. The structure of the different dynasties of ruling families was explained with a map on the wall showing the geographical origins of each. Thanks to their website, <https://tinyurl.com/y9t7rr4k> These are some more of the amazing facts about them

- *They were discovered completely by accident. The Terracotta Army was discovered on 29 March 1974 when farmer Yang Zhifa uncovered fragments of pottery when digging a well. This pottery led to the discovery of the first warrior of the famous Terracotta Army*
- *There were no historical records of them existing. The discovery of the Terracotta Warriors was a complete surprise to everyone because there are no*





historical records of them, or of an underground army. (although they are 2,200 years old.)

- Since the discovery of the Terracotta Army, more than 2,000 warriors and horses have been excavated from three different burial pits with an estimated 6,000 still buried underground.
- --- each warrior has unique facial features and styles. The warriors of different ranks were buried in battle formation to represent a real army and are split into infantrymen, archers, generals, cavalrymen, charioteers, officers, and guards of honour – all different in their expressions, clothing, and hairstyles.
- They were part of the First Emperor's search for immortality. China's First Emperor Qin Shi Huang wanted to live forever. He spent a huge amount of resources building a magnificent underground empire, equipped with everything he would need for the afterlife.--- Covering an area of 56 square kilometers, it is the biggest burial site on earth. (It was pointed out elsewhere that the area is 200 x the size of the Egyptian Valley of the Nile , and yet strangely, the motive for building same , the wish for "immortality" seemed uncannily similar).
- The figures (although all individually modelled), were an early feat of mass-production. Government labourers and local craftsmen created the warriors in workshops. The warriors have the stamps or names of their makers, including administrators, craftsmen and foremen. (Reminiscent of what John Smith told us last month, about the history of stone masons). Lastly we have the fact that
- The greatest mystery is still to be revealed: the First Emperor's tomb has never been opened. Emperor Qin Shi Huang's actual tomb remains a mystery to archaeologists and historians as it is still sealed up. There have been geophysical surveys of the tomb mound, but the mausoleum itself has not been excavated.

We all slowly left the building quite overwhelmed at the magnificence of it all and from such a long time ago. With another 3 hours to spare some went on to explore other museums , whilst my group chose the less energetic option of taking advantage of the summery weather with an opentop bus tour around Liverpool. We left as planned at 4.30pm, arriving back in Bolton after heavy traffic shortly after 6pm. I know we would all like to thank Carole and Pat for a very well organised trip, and also John our driver who did a great job. There will be more pictures on our FB page when time allows.

Saturday November 3rd BFHS Open Day with Bolton Archives Service

Well the long awaited day finally arrived. We have been making plans for this for maybe the last 6 months, researching the best speakers to attract public interest, specialists to man the Help Desks, and finetuning who was doing what on the day. Believe me the final arrangements were just the tip of the iceberg, of what unseen preparation had been made, but I think all who attended will agree it was well worth it. What a super day. Many of our team arrived at least an hour before the event started at 10.30am and there was some dismay that the well advertised fact of the Octagon Car Park of 508 places, being free and next door, might have back fired, as apparently it was almost full at 9am! Display tables were soon prepared up and downstairs though, and both speakers arrived in good time to check the technical systems for their talks. It was nice to see that they both attended each others.



11am Professor Peter Higginbotham "Life in a Workhouse"

<http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Bolton/>

Although this was the general title of Peters talk, he had obviously made an effort to check up on the details of local institutions as well as the national system. He began, by reminding us that the principles of supporting the poor by legislation rather than religious charitable arrangements in England, had first started with the enforced **1601 Old Poor Law Act** <https://tinyurl.com/yaswwjdl> . (This compared with the largely unenforced **1388 Statute of Cambridge** which had tried to control





those able and fit for work from travelling out of their home parishes to find the best paid jobs, thus creating a competitive labour market, or of trying to dodge the necessity of working by begging or pretending to be unfit.)

Now each parish and township within a “Hundred” <https://tinyurl.com/yaobjgus> had been expected to take responsibility for all able bodied to be working for their living. The elderly and infirm were still to be supported. In the late 16th C various Acts tried to encourage voluntary alms from the better off, managed by the Church Wardens and the Poor Box. Provision was also arranged to earn these “handouts” by giving them occupations such as preparing hemp, wool, and oakum for further processing. Buildings began to be allocated for these activities. In 1597 Overseers of the Poor <https://tinyurl.com/ydf36rgb> were appointed by each parish to manage these activities. A sideline of “farming out” or as we might know it today, “contracting out” labour to other employers for gain developed, and competitive tendering for different activities and the cheapest labour available emerged. The **1662 Settlement Act** <https://tinyurl.com/ydehjmnf> reiterated the responsibility of each parish for its own residents by birth or marriage or a few other criteria, and introduced the enforced Removal Order to parish of origin, for those likely to have expensive needs

By the early 1777 a Parliamentary inquiry reported there were approximately 1916 old style parish workhouses in England. Greater Bolton had 60 places, Liverpool had 600, Wigan had 200. <https://tinyurl.com/y6vjq4ra>. To put populations into perspective. It is suspected that there was actually a workhouse in Bolton in 1677 although the site is still unconfirmed. Records in the Bolton Archives

<https://tinyurl.com/ycdzfqgd> show the first known one was established on Old Hall Lane, sometimes called Workhouse Lane, off Deansgate in 1785. This was replaced in 1812 by a new building on Fletcher Street, now where the Army barracks are, and the old building became a pub called the Three Arrows.

“In 1811-12, a new purpose-built workhouse was erected on Fletcher Street, with the paupers at Old Hall Street being transferred to the new premises on 8 May 1812. The governor of the establishment was then John Cartwright. Men were accommodated at the east of the site, women at the west, and children at the south”. <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Bolton/>. It was emphasised that admission to the workhouse was never compulsory, and at all times the individual could just leave, albeit not taking their obligatory “uniform” with them as this was Workhouse property. Later local institutions were built in Westhoughton on the High Street where the Rosehill Tavern is now, and in Turton on Cox Green Road, where there is now a quarry. The Turton institution was apparently strictly disciplined with economy in mind. The elderly, infirm, and orphan children were provided for, but the able bodied were expected to work, children were taught trades, and religious and moral guidance was given freely! Aware of the concerns for poor water quality for drinking, milk was provided rather than beer, and home grown vegetables provided good nutrition. The diet was repetitive though with milk, bread and cheese, and gruel appearing most days. Some occupations were arranged outside in the community.

In the early 1800s though costs were escalating with the return of soldiers from the Napoleonic wars, and the social unrest of the Corn Laws <https://tinyurl.com/y7ow6ako> leading to the high cost of bread. The situation was deemed unsustainable in its present form, a Poor Law Commission was appointed and the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act was introduced, redesigning the boundaries of the country by moving approx 15,000 parishes into almost 600 Poor Law Unions each managed by a Board of Guardians. See here for Familysearch.orgs explanation of the Bolton, Lancashire Poor Law Union’s three parishes, Bolton le moors, Deane, and Middleton and their component townships <https://tinyurl.com/yd6tfexc>, here for others in Lancashire <https://tinyurl.com/y9qz2dda>, and here for a wider national overview. <https://tinyurl.com/yd5zy9a3>. The philosophy was that workhouses should be deterrents, as last resorts, but entry was still voluntary.





Initially after the 1834 Poor Law Act, Bolton with others, had resisted the pressure (and expense), of building a new purpose built establishment, still relying on Fletcher Street, and Turton, but by 1856 they had a reality check with the increasing needs and, under pressure from the Poor Law Board, land was bought at Fish Pool Farm in Farnworth, and the new site accommodating 1045 inhabitants opened in 1861.-->. Here families usually entered en bloc. They were processed by paperwork, and medical assessment, then bathed, and “loaned” blue and white striped clothing to be returned on discharge. Some were quarantined if there was any suspicion of the dreaded small pox or similar infection. Families were split up and segregated by sex, age, and ability to work, only meeting up briefly on Sundays. The elderly and infirm were exempt from heavy work, and provided with shawls and bonnets). All but very young children were separated from parents, and all groups were divided by 8ft walls, A master and matron were in charge with a team of staff to supervise the women doing all the housekeeping jobs, men stone breaking, oakum picking or maybe gardening or similar, and children at school or learning trade skills. Meals were planned out a week at a time as recommended nationally, with proportions allocated according to age, sex, and activity. They were basically a monotony of bread, cheese, and gruel with little fruit, meat or vegetables, so poor nutrition. Some workhouses were self supporting re meat and vegetables. By the 1900s food was improving however with an awareness that unhealthy teeth could not manage some of the food, and a new menu similar to the school dinners that many of us knew and enjoyed, was introduced.



The elderly had little stimulation but were allowed to barter items such as their allocation of gruel for tea and sugar. They also received care of a sort in the infirmary where a doctor visited to check the **frail, sick, and provide basic maternity care**. The nurses were of “dubious quality” though, with little training or enthusiasm, and stories of misappropriation of prescribed alcoholic medications etc. Post Crimean War 1854-56 <https://tinyurl.com/y8za2ctc> innovations initiated by Florence Nightingale had their effect nationally



though, and Bolton’s new fever and isolation block were considered very modern at that time. Later in 1896 an adjacent new purpose built hospital known as Townleys was built, and well used in World War 1. ←Picture left shows the Board of Guardians c 1900. In 1919 it was declared completely separate from the workhouse but the shame and stigma of being there was embedded in the Boltonians psyche, and they were often prepared to wait for bed availability at the new voluntary

Bolton Royal Infirmary rather than resort to admission to the dreaded “Fishpool”.

On another note Bolton had helped pioneer the care of **pauper children** <https://tinyurl.com/yah73uqu> with the first Ragged School on Commission Street→. In 1879 they introduced into separate cottage type homes in groups of 30 with “house parents”, and Hollins Cottage Homes and a school were built.--> © Peter Higginbotham. . Nearby Swinton built its famous Industrial (Ragged) School and other authorities built their own variations.

Those assessed as **tramps or vagrants** were expected to complete a set amount of work each day to earn any food or bed, then moved on as soon as possible. In 1898 they were allocated a special centre on Idle Lane (now Central Street) known as the Kings Gate Institution, where the car park is now.

The system of the Board of Guardians finally closed April 1st 1930, and the buildings became Public Assistance Institutions, and were later absorbed into the National Health service in 1948.





We would like to thank Peter for his fascinating and informative talk. He also stayed for some time afterwards, patiently answering many questions from the floor, and has been generous enough to leave us two of his books, which will be used and much appreciated as part of our Christmas raffle.

Thank you Peter

1pm Steve Gill "Analysing Old Family Photographs, and Finding Their Hidden Stories

Well we suspected Steve was putting a lot of enthusiasm into this event from the amount of time he had asked for, for preparation time. His new venture 50 years into his career, of photograph assessing and restoring, is obviously fulfilling a project of love, not just a career move. We had collected maybe 30 pictures for him to inspect from various sources, and we handed them over to him, a month previous, at a meeting in the Archives, and left them to him to assess, with baited breath. He was selective even then, looking for interesting twists in stories from minute clues and a magnifying glass. On visiting his studio I got a glimpse of the equipment he has been using as those watching our Face book page will already know.



He opened his talk by inviting us to think about why a picture had been taken, and showed as an example his brothers grainy 3"x2" black and white photo from 1967 of a field and a tree. When asked why this had been taken, his brother indignantly pointed out a tiny squirrel in a corner. At that time, and with that equipment, it was the best he could do to record what was an interesting event to him! The lesson being that we need to look at each picture from a contemporary perspective, and ask why, where, when, who is in it, who took it and how? Remembering also of course that many of these pictures are antiques in their own right of 100+ years of age. In days gone by photographing anything was a much more expensive process than now in the days of digital phones etc, and there was usually a well considered, valid reason for the investment.

*First photographs in the 1840s and 50s were the professionally taken **daguerreotypes** which were invented by Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre (1787–1851), born during the French Revolution to give a time perspective, and it was the first commercial photographic process. This site from the Science and Media Museum (SMM) is helpful in explaining the technique. <https://tinyurl.com/y8pm2mln>. A highly polished silver surface on a copper plate was sensitised to light by exposing it to iodine fumes. After exposing the plate in a camera it was developed with mercury vapour. In England Richard Beard opened the first public photographic studio in March 1841 in London's Regent Street and was the sole patentee of the process here. The downside of this method is the uncontrollable ageing process of degradation of the silver, and although there are some techniques to salvage some of the image, the original picture will slowly disappear with time.



*New methods developed such as the cheaper **ambrotypes** more correctly called **collodians** which were back to front on glass (SMM 1855-1880s <https://tinyurl.com/l5w34rj>). Although appearing similar these can be distinguished from the next method **tintypes** → actually made on thin iron also called **ferrotypes**, (1855-1940 according to the SMM <https://tinyurl.com/va36n3vf>), by putting a magnet against them. This gives a -ve attraction to silver or copper, +ve to iron. Steve dated a submitted example of a stylish man in a Victorian suit by the buttoning on the suit which was the reverse of the norm, and he also noted the support being used called a "brady board" which was apparently in common use in the 1860s to enable holding a position for exposure time. The strange hairstyle was less explicable!





We progressed on to “**cartes du visites**” (1850 to 1910 SMM <https://tinyurl.com/y792z896>) which could be



copied more easily to share to family, friends etc for collections in albums, and were shown two pictures of apparently the same lady in a striped dress, ← but by different named studios. Why? The quality of mounting varied in thickness and shape, and there was a slightly differing pose, (although the same chair and curtains!). It was surmised that the pictures had been taken at home in two sittings, by two different photographers after dissatisfaction with the first!

These later progressed to the larger “**cabinet cards**” (1866-1914 SMM <https://tinyurl.com/ydfbo6k2>) which apparently lasted until the start of WW1. Here Steve showed an example of a picture of a lady dated about 1910 who, with high magnification, he found blemishes had been painted out by a nib a few mms in width.

(early air brushing!! 😊). A lovely picture of Saltburn lifeboat and its crew, → was dated to Dec 1922 by clues such as the style of their life jackets, appearance of the launching wheels, and checking records of known chronological events. It was concluded that this picture was taken after its last call out, thus commemorating a special occasion and those involved at the time.



The last example of old photography was the traditional “**post card**” (SMM 1900-1950s <https://tinyurl.com/y6vfyoj>), which of course most of us are familiar with. This was also the time when it became possible for ordinary members of the public to buy a camera and take their own snaps, with technology making rapid improvements, and the price steadily reducing. Preserving pictures of less significant events became easier, and we were shown examples such as apparently two theatrical Edwardian ladies and a man in the middle ←, turning out to be three ladies, one mimicking a contemporary fashionable actor, another pretending to smoke (both actions being social statements of rebellion). A picture of a “Hall Lane Waterloo” train crash on a

post card, had obviously been bought as a significant event to the buyer. An apparently ordinary black and white picture of a man on a 1924 BSA motorbike → was expanded on by dating the Reg plate to 1924, the style of the printed word Velox on the back of the photo dated the development paper to after 1929, and the fact that we knew the identity of the man and that his father had died in 1931, leading to the suspicion that the bike had been bought with what his father had left him, and the picture was taken and developed then as a memento of his father.



He showed others demonstrating how silver based photos deteriorate as the silver rises to



the surface, and another demonstrating historical social change with mixed race pictures evident ←, a mystery black and white picture of a lady was located to Gibraltar by the 1930s hair and clothing style, and 4 different languages in the small print →, a b&w picture of a group of men in trilbys with a gun, seemed to portray gangster connections but analysis suggested more of a fashionable mirror trick with photography.



Steve concluded with two military contributions. The first a Bereavement Silk, of a face of a soldier in a kepi hat on a silk commemoration ribbon, with the name, and place of death at Khartoum in 1916. These



were apparently given to families as mementoes pending more solid memorials , white silk if single, and purple if married. The second two were more poignant and they were certainly not typical family photos although found in a family collection. A member brought the pictures retrieved from an elderly aunts shoe box that her brother had taken during WW2. It was apparent that they were pictures of a scene on a rocky hillside, with shirtsleeved Tommies looking at something protruding from in the ground. The writing on the back said "Germany1944" . The writing on the envelope said "Polish soldiers, hidden in field in Germany, found while playing football!!". It was pretty obvious what they were looking at, but of course it was a disciplinary offence to have a camera on the Front so no further action take from this source. Steve has researched though and suspects it may have been the site of a concentration camp named Mauthausen on the Austria/Germany border <https://tinyurl.com/y9b3vj4c>. He has advised a referral to the Imperial War Museum. This was a perfect example of an event of major historial importance being recorded unwittingly by ordinary people. Who knows what else may also be hiding in any attic somewhere?



Steve finalised here describing the dilemma of a photograph restorer i.e. how much should be "corrected"? Some glass mounting will still have the finger prints of the original cameraman, should this be retained or removed? What "improvements" should be attempted or should the historical individuality of the picture be retained? Why is restoration required? Hopefully to preserve the image for another 100+ years for future generations.

With the permission of all submitters, we will be able to show all the pictures discussed on our Facebook page shortly, and we could not have done it without you. Thank you.

The Help Desks manned by Margaret, Colin, Barbara O, Christine, Rita and Carol Wells.

Well I am told 74 people actually signed in for 30 minute appointments for the Help Desk but it is thought at least 10 more were there, The official start time was 10.30am but apparently enquirers were there at 9.10am, and certainly the lockers were full to overflowing by 10.30am. Many received quite detailed help, some travelling from quite long distances. The guest MLFHS Irish specialist Carol Wells barely had a break, and we are very grateful for her assistance. We know people travelled from such places as Leeds, Alsager, Sheffield, Ormskirk and even further afield, hoping to see someone about their particular "brick wall". Several of the visitors went on to consult the various sources held in the History Centre. The final numbers are not yet available though. Thanks also to Carole and Pat who coordinated in the basement, and helped to host our guests.



Wednesday November 7th BFHS Monthly Meeting

"Protestation Oaths -What Were They, and What Can They Tell Us Now?" by Tony Foster MA Projects coordinator of LFHHS <https://www.lfhhs.org/projects.php>



Well this was a long anticipated talk after all the developments with local editions this last year, and we knew Tony Foster was the man to explain it all. Information actually came so thick and fast it was difficult to keep up with him so I hope the website links help.. He first reminded us about the reason and context of making the documents.

As the Parliamentary Archives website says

"The Protestation Returns are the closest record we have to a census from 1642. If you can trace your ancestors back to 1642, and you know which county and parish they lived in, it may be worth looking to see if their names are in the Protestation Returns.

By order of the House of Commons, all adult men were asked to swear an oath of allegiance to the Protestant religion in 1642. Their names were duly inscribed in a list in each parish, and the list sent back to Parliament. In a few areas such Cornwall, people wrote their own names, but usually a local official wrote

out all the names. *The Protestation Returns survive for about a third of English counties*".

<https://tinyurl.com/y9b3yj4c> accessed 08.11.18 .

Tony told us of comments that had been made about this project such as "a mere list , in 1642?", and the value of trying to "ring out" all the subtle information that is in these documents, particularly those in Lancashire. He then explained in detail how the decision had been made to initiate these documents. Their purpose was set out by the Protestant Long Parliament between 1641 and 1643, i.e. during the reign of the Catholic Charles 1, in effect to ascertain loyalty to Parliament rather than the King. There was concern that Protestantism was dwindling, and many "recusants" , particularly Catholics were returning their allegiance to the Crown. Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Strafford (13 April 1593 – 12 May 1641) , <https://tinyurl.com/ya2pu73e> initially served in the protestant parliament but voted against James 1 support for Spain. In effect he was a Royalist in theory but a Protestant in practice , and he did not support the Kings belief in his Divine Right. After some experience in Parliament representing Yorkshire constituencies he resisted the war subsidies being requested for the war against Spain by the protestant Parliament, (preferring to concentrate on more domestic problems). At the same time he supported the 1628 Petition of Right, <https://tinyurl.com/y7qtgx58> which tried to control King Charles 1 , (who still believed in the Divine Right of Kings) , from trying to overrule Parliament . Perhaps Wentworth was a traditionalist at heart , but trying to walk a tight rope, in controlling the kings influence, and also supporting people power. The King grudgingly signed the Petition, so Wentworth supported him, and was then judged a turncoat by the Parliamentarians!! The King continued to be obstructive, and Wentworth tried to moderate in various situations first in the north of England, then in Ireland, and finally in managing the Scottish covenanters. Finally his luck ran out in trying to juggle all the factions and he was tried and although found not guilty of treason, John Pym led Parliament to resort to a "Bill of Attainder" <https://tinyurl.com/y8dj6w67> , needing only the Kings signature, for him to be executed on May 24th 1641 on Tower Hill.

After these manoeuvres it was decided by Parliament that all men of 18+ should be asked to swear an oath of allegiance to the Protestant religion in 1642. Their names were duly inscribed in a list in each parish, and the list sent back to Parliament. The letters were sent out , demanding same over the next few months, with varied and unreliable responses. Excuses for not filling them in included "away from home", "ailment", "impotent", "no reason", " in London", This Parliamentary website link <https://tinyurl.com/yaqzwnxe> shows where results were obtained from. The documents retrieved were stored in the House of Lords vaults, but some are thought to have disappeared between their source and the Lords, and others, removed for safety after a fire, were not recovered until the 1800s . Local ones completed include Bolton le Moor, and Deane St Mary Parishes , and transcriptions for the townships and hamlets of Blackrod, Brightmet, Darcy Lever, Deane, Edgworth, Entwistle, Farnworth, Great Bolton, Harwood, Halliwell, Haulgh, Heaton, Horwich, Kearsley, Little Bolton, Little Hulton, Little Lever, Longworth, Lostock, Over Hulton, Quarlton, Rumworth, Sharples, Tonge, Turton, Westhoughton, are available to members in the Bolton section of the MLFHS website. In addition the transcriptions include the township of Great Lever, which was a detached part of the parish of Middleton. Transcriptions by BFHS member Gaynor L. Cox, 2017/8. A map showing all the parishes of the Salford 100 can be found here. <https://tinyurl.com/ycdgw68k> . A fiche copy of the local Oaths is of course also available on microfiche at the Bolton Archives , but it might be best to order in advance.

Tony concluded with recommending "Protestation Returns 1641-42, and other contemporary listings" By Jeremy Gibson and Alan Dell for further reading. Apparently it was commented there that Lancashire returns were particularly interesting as they showed more women than most other areas, (albeit as "the wife of"), and quite a few occupations, thus indicating the varying trades and occupations in different areas at that time. Clusters of different names might also help some research.

Next Event, the Last of 2018

Wednesday November 28th Christmas Party Ticket Only

Linda Sawley returns to tell us "**More about Christmas Traditions and Their History**"

Plus our usual challenging Christmas Quiz, which will also be shared with those unable to attend, nearer Dec 25th, also pie and peas supper, and raffle





This is a last urgent reminder to get your tickets for our Christmas party on Wednesday Nov 28th if you haven't already done so . The closing date is Sunday 18th Nov so that we can order the catering, and if you couldn't make Nov 7th to place the order please email the secretary as above.

WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES

On checking with those of our members who have been good enough to lead workshops this Autumn I think they can all report very successful outcomes.

*The next BFHS course will be **"Introduction to Family History Websites"**, series of workshops starting on Saturdays in March . Please see here for more details <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/Workshops.php>

THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Lancashire Records



<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

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

electoralregisters.org.uk

Electoral Register Codes <https://tinyurl.com/y9lzxsf>

Welcome to the electoralregisters.org.uk site ...information about the electoral registers, electoral rolls, poll books from 1700 to the present day, how to access the registers online, how to make the most from your searches, what is available and not available, and much, much, more.

Until 1948 when a simple one person, one vote finally arrived, the electoral registers usually contained a reason or reason codes against electors showing the basis on which they qualified for the vote.

1885

There is usually a description of what entitles the person to be on the electoral register. This may include extra information such as for lodgers the landlord's or landlady's name, the weekly rent and how many rooms were rented. Where someone had moved house during the last 12 months, the word "successive" often appears followed by their previous address to show that each was of a sufficient rateable value to qualify its occupier to vote.

Follow this link <https://tinyurl.com/y96zh4cp> "Using the Registers to Research Your Family Tree" to understand how it works WOW!!!

Deadly Poison Discovered on Medieval Book Covers Could Have Killed <https://tinyurl.com/y8n5xao1> 1 July, 2018
ancient-origins

"Some may remember the deadly book of Aristotle that plays a vital part in the plot of Umberto Eco's 1980 novel The Name of the Rose . Poisoned by a mad Benedictine monk, the book wreaks havoc in a 14th-century Italian monastery, killing all readers who happen to lick their fingers when turning the toxic pages. Could something like this happen in reality? Poisoning by books?"

Our recent research indicates so. We found that three rare books on various historical topics in the University of Southern Denmark's library collection contain large concentrations of arsenic on their covers. The books come from the 16th and 17th centuries---

Worker Safety Background, A brief overview of railway worker safety <https://tinyurl.com/y9vjpsnk> **University of Plymouth and the Railway Museum**

"At the birth of the mainline railway era, in the 1830s, public concern grew over passenger accidents and the lack of standardisation between railway companies. The 1840 Railway Regulation Act imposed some



duties upon railway companies, including providing the state with statistics about passenger accidents; crucially the act also established the Railway Department of the Board of Trade, including the appointment of Railway Inspectors. Until the early 1890s, the majority of their accident investigation work was focused on passenger accidents – employees were, largely, neglected. However, from the 1890s dedicated inspectors were appointed solely to investigate employee accidents – and it is their reports into employee accidents we are working on.---"

MISCELLANEOUS

Re Some Specifications for Patents for Bolton Applicants



Many of you will have already met Bob Dobson who has become a familiar face at most north west local and family history meetings over the last few years. Following the article in last months Bolton Genies where I mentioned Thomas Bradshaw of Bolton, inventor of a steam powered Dobby Horse roundabout seen in Bolton in 1861 and patented in 1864 , Bob has got in touch with me to say he has 50 + applications for similarly inspired inventions (well maybe some were more than others) , in his second hand stock, for sale at £5 a go.

Bob Dobson has been a secondhand book dealer for fifty years. He specialises in books on Lancashire , selling them by post. He does not have a website, preferring to publish a catalogue by email. His stock comprises local and family history, dialect, sport, and fiction - in fact anything that can be called Lancastrian. In addition to his stock of books, he has a stock of patents taken out by residents of Lancashire towns such as Bolton and Bury. A retired Lancashire policeman and fiercely proud Lancastrian, Bob is a member of The Friends of Real Lancashire, <http://www.forl.co.uk/> , which seeks to preserve the traditional county boundaries. When asked about his upbringing, Bob usually replies " I was born and bred in Accrington - you can't BUY class".

In the 1970s, Bob wrote two books -'Lancashire Nicknames & Sayings' and 'Concerning Clogs', then became a publisher of local history and dialect books. His trading name later became his email address - landypublishing@yahoo.co.uk .. He no longer publishes.

'Landy' is short for L and Y - Lancashire and Yorkshire.

These applications for patents were printed by HMSO in the year shown and are approx. A4 size . (Do you know what a “scutcher” or “nut frazer” was. Now is your chance to find out). They are disbound from a book, and have no cover. The number of pages is shown, and unless stated those pages are followed by at least one page of illustration in the form of a drawing. In some cases, the pages are stapled together. £5 each, post free , pay on receipt. For more information and a copy of the latest catalogue please contact Bob on 01253 886103 or Email: landypublishing@yahoo.co.uk



Any “Kearsleys” out there? Message received from Alexandra Haslip 12.10.18

Hello Boltongenies: I am wondering how to go about getting the word out to your group, or any other like group, that I am doing a One-Name study of “Kearsleys” – that is. I am gathering information and establishing key Kearsley lines as I work from county to county, country to country. Along the way I am looking for men with the Kearsley surname who would be interested in Y-DNA testing so that we can determine relationships between the lines if they exist.

I am about 2 years into this project and have developed a substantial database I would like to enlarge. Of course, I hope also to confirm information I already have. Bolton and its surrounds have many key Kearsley family lines – thus my interest in your group. Can you suggest to me a way or ways to get the word out? I already am a member of the Guild of One-Name Studies. Thank you very much for your consideration. Very Sincerely, Please contact Alexandra via alexandra333@comcast.net if you can help. She lives in the USA.



COMMENTS, QUERIES, and MEMORIES)



“Who really owns population and census data: and should commercial use be allowed?” <https://tinyurl.com/y7w8byck>

Some interesting and thought provoking comments here from Jim Killock, a Trustee of Free UK Genealogy. By the time this newsletter is published you should also be able to note that we have a talk planned about how to get the most out of this free facility next October.

OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS



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

Email 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,
27th November ‘Victorian Times’ – Graham Stirrup.



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 **28 Nov - Egerton before the Ashworths (Stephen Tonge)**

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.

8 November Anniversary Lunch at Olympus Grill

10 November Opening of exhibition : Westhoughton in the Wake of World War 1

11 November Events commemorating centenary of the end of World War 1

See below.

15 November Westhoughton after the Great War : On the Go Theatre Group



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

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.

13th November Steve Williams - The Road To Armistice

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

10th November 10th 100 Yrs Since The End Of World War I



Saturday 10 November 2.00pm: Oldham Branch Meeting

“Tracing my grandfather: a life of secrets, drama, disappearance and discovery”,

Speaker: Alan Crosby This meeting will be held at The Lees Suite, Oldham Civic Centre (5 minutes walk from Oldham King Street Metrolink Stop, commencing at 2 pm and ending at approximately 3.30 pm. Members of the committee will be available to assist anyone for a further half hour following the speakers talk. The meetings are free to members. Non Members £2.50. No need to book.



Saturday 17 November 2.00pm: Anglo-Scottish Branch Meeting
Ancestral Breakthroughs.

Members will be talking about their success in family research. This meeting will be held in the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library. The talk is open to both members and non-members.

That’s all foks. Apologies for the length of this but a lot to pass on.

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