



# Bolton's Genies



**The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society:** <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/>

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

## September 2018

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



Picture of Hools herbalist stall. Market Hall 1960s.courtesy of <https://tinyurl.com/yafyo8tk> Now sadly closing down after 146 years family service to the town. See article below.

Well Hello everyone, and thanks joining us as we enter the meteorological autumn, which started Saturday ,September 1<sup>st</sup> . The astronomical one starts on September 22<sup>nd</sup> we are told, but whatever, I suspect many of us are greeting the cooler weather with some relief, even enjoying the rain, ( which has almost put the moorland fires out. I understand they are still smouldering in some areas!! )

We are now getting well into our autumn BFHS programme. Those who attended this months meeting will now know the details of our Open Day → on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, <https://tinyurl.com/y9pbv2aj> to which we hope you will all be attending. We are so lucky to have obtained such high profile speakers and specialists and now we need you to help give them a good Bolton welcome.



This is of course an extra project on top of our ongoing activities shown on our website (Web Master Michael Isherwood) and/or Facebook page (Admin Jeanette Holland) such as

- monthly meetings and talks,
- Help Desks there , and at the Central Library first Saturday of each month 10-12md,
- ongoing classes see here <https://tinyurl.com/ybr4dyix> for dates ,
- trip to the Terracotta Army at Liverpool October 10<sup>th</sup> now fully booked, and more in the planning stage, see below for more details, Thanks to Carole Wright and Pat Greenhalgh
- growing Facebook page (132 “liking” us, and 139 “following” our articles ,which is approx a 33% % increase from last month so confirming Jeanette is doing a grand job) ,
- Jeanette also coordinates Bolton contributions to the quarterly members journal “The Manchester Genealogist” so please keep contributions coming in,
- ongoing transcribing and indexing online (Rita Greenwood our Project Coordinator has asked me to thank the Bolton volunteers who have recently completed indexing work now on the MLFHS members only section of our website, including :- John Lippiatt’s – transcription of the Bolton Co-operative Jubilee Book, Gaynor Cox’s – Bolton & Deane Protestation Returns, Frank and Anne Jones’ – 1831 Bolton census, and Anne Taylor’s – Westhoughton constables, Overseers of the Poor, Churchwardens
- weekly cataloguing sessions at the History Centre by Christine Ellis and Barbara Bromiley .

- Not to mention several of our senior members are also involved on the Executive Committee at Manchester.
- And preparation of this newsletter and booking next years speakers,

**Yes , there is a lot going on, and we love it. You don't have to live locally , or even have ancestors from the area to join in a lot of it either. Check out the additional detail on our websites tabs, and stand by for an imminent Bolton planner. We are already on the front page of the MLFHS planner.**

## 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.**



## EVENTS

**Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup> David Burnham, Social historian and author** gave a talk on this weeks 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of WW2 entitled "**Dark Days, Dark Nights: Bolton's Home Front, 1938 – 1945**". At 11am on September 3rd, 1939, this is what the people of Britain heard on the radio.

**Neville Chamberlain - Britain's declaration of War 1939** <https://tinyurl.com/ybnk29aw> ...Dave has been good enough to supply notes on his own talk. Thank you Dave

"The Second World War still commands a great deal of attention in the life of the country. While people who served are few and far between, their children and grandchildren are still around and the impact of the war is still around: a welfare state, ungainly city centres which replaced bombsites, crude attitudes to modern day Germany.

Today most attention on the years between '39 and '45 is on the fighting and the bombing, whereas people's wartime experience was dominated by queuing, rationing and stumbling around in the black out. This lecture looked at those aspects of life: crime, transport, food and shopping, entertainment and leisure, health.

To start with we have to remember that in 1939 Britain was still climbing out of the recession. Unemployment in places like Bolton had remained stubbornly high, educational opportunities for working class people were limited and there was no universal health cover. Look at any newspaper of the day and you'll note scores of adverts for cure-all quack medicines (he showed us several examples of "cure alls") – that many people had to rely on. With the advent of war this began to change: unemployment was soon more or less nil, training was available across the forces, and industry and health care was freely available to the four million serving, and also children and nursing mothers. In this sense the revolution introduced by Attlee's post war government from 1945 was well trialled during the war years.

**Crime:** The spike in crime was remarkable, but obvious when you think about it. Nights were dark: there was no street lighting. There were guns everywhere. People were on the move all the time and the traditional local means of managing young people's behaviour fell apart. Over 2 million children were evacuated, so rural areas had a supply of city kids, while cities were devoid of them. Schools lost teachers to the forces and perhaps most all the gigantic bureaucracy of wartime (just in terms of labour



management, ID cards and the rationing system) meant there were many more laws to fall foul of. So there was looting, war profiteering, desertions, hold ups and murders.



**Transport:** The railway system, dominated by military needs became fitful and unreliable. Petrol was impossible to get hold of, even bicycle lights were difficult to buy. The main problem though was the black-out. Despite cars having white paint on bumpers, the filtered headlights were useless. People died on the roads in droves.

**Food and shopping:** Everyone had a ration book for food – different colours for children, adults, new mothers, vegetarians, invalids. You had to register with a grocer, butcher and greengrocer. Everyone had stamps for clothes and ‘utility’ clothing meant you could only buy certain styles. The number of town hall staff working on this bureaucracy was staggering. There were shortages, but rationing was at least as much about fairness as shortages. There was a lot of fiddling, so for instance butchers and grocers might have ‘favourite’ customers and could share their food with each other. Such fiddling led to the identification of fiddling experts, ‘spivs’. Significantly though people ate more vegetables, had enough to eat and were probably healthier than before the war...or now.

**Entertainment:** The government closed down cinemas, theatres, football grounds immediately the war began – mostly as they feared a bomb on a theatre killing a thousand people at a time. But only football stayed closed down. Cinemas were great morale boosters and British films favoured light comedies and propaganda: favourite stars were George Formby, Gracie Fields, Arthur Askey and Leslie Howard. Football went local. Of course most of the players were called up and the government could not allow people to career around the country for games when no one else could travel.

**Health:** Immediately the war began the government took control of all hospitals, poor law and voluntary. More or less everybody in hospital was tipped out ready for the influx of war wounded...which did not come. But the control of health was maintained. It was necessary. All young people called up were given access to inoculations, regular check-ups and good care. Hundreds of day nurseries were opened to support women called into work, and they included check-ups for children. Evacuated children were checked and the full extent of the impact of poverty on many was revealed. Pregnant women and nursing mothers were offered virol, orange juice, free milk. This became the norm. A national health service post war became inevitable.



War's end was expected for about three weeks before it actually came. Bolton prepared, not just by stringing up images of Hitler, but by ensuring that everyone knew when the post office would be closed and how pubs applied for extensions. More bureaucracy. But by and large the bureaucracy worked. Privations and shortages prevailed but people got by. Rationing, although moaned about, was a considerable success. We were ‘all in it together’ and the legacy of that stays with us today, a bit battered, but still there.”

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>, then Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>**



**September Heritage Open Days** <https://tinyurl.com/ydau9fhd>

These are just some of the places of historical interest which are currently opening up their doors for free inspection within 25 miles of Bolton. There may be more still to add so do check on the website. Also, if you plan to be in another area on these dates it is worth checking locally.



**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm “Calderstones during the War”**



A talk by Mr Tom McLean in Whalley Abbey Conference House £5 including tea, coffee, biscuits. All welcome, no need to book! Did any of you have family in Calderstones Hospital during the 1st





World War <https://tinyurl.com/yd9bdrqm> ( a fascinating website and story), then this might interest them. Linda Sawley, one of our past speakers, has just shared with me that apparently it was opened as a military hospital during WW1, before becoming a hospital for people with learning disabilities. The “Friends of Whalley Abbey”, <https://tinyurl.com/y7lz4edu> are supporting the maintenance of the Abbey ruins and grounds and other charitable activities of the Abbey.

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October Bolton FHS “Headstones and How to Get the Most Out of Them” by John Smith of Crosby Memorials.** <http://www.crosbymemorials.co.uk/> John is a stone mason by trade,

specialising in letter writing. He has recently been involved in the preparation of the Terracotta Army display in Liverpool (see below), and has been recommended to us by the National Association of Monumental Masons as giving excellent talks about his profession , and how to get the best out of our ageing headstones. ( well I am sure we have all got them in our families). I think we are in for a treat.



**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October Bolton FHS Terracotta Army Visit.** For those of you who have booked places. Please meet at Stand G Bolton Interchange at 9.20am for a 9.30am coach departure, We arrive at Liverpool 10.45- 11am, with a timed entry to the display between 12.30-12.59pm. The afternoon is then yours with cafes are available at the museum and nearby . We depart from Liverpool at 4.30pm to arrive in Bolton 5.30-6pm. Tickets will be distributed on the coach.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November Bolton FHS Open Day at the newly refurbished Bolton Museum and Central Library DON'T FORGET .**

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/y9pbv2aj> for full details but we are offering FREE

- Help Desks with various specialists and bookable 30 minute appointments covering
    - \*"Scottish Research" staffed by senior members of the Anglo- Scottish Family History Society,
    - \* "Irish Research" staffed by a specialist advisor from the Manchester Central Library Family History Help Desk team,
    - Plus Bolton Family History Society specialists for
      - \*"Useful Family History Websites", by Margaret and Colin Calderbank
      - \*"Solving your brick walls" by Rita Greenwood and
      - \*"Beginners level, where to start" by Barbara Owen,
- To make an appointment telephone just call Barbara Owen on 01204 309515



**\*Also 11am Professor Peter Higginbotham, internationally acclaimed historian** Speaking on the subject of “Life in a Workhouse”, <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/> . (←Did you see him in the recent WDYTYR with Jonnie Peacocks story? ) He will , I am sure, give particular reference to Bolton and the north west, <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/author/> Bolton Workhouse aka Fishpool and Royal Bolton Hospital



( <https://tinyurl.com/y8lclcs5> ). →

Peter also has a well researched study and website on Childrens Homes <http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/>

- **1pm Steve Gill local photograph restorer and historian** <https://www.photo-consult.co.uk/> talking about old photographs that have been sent in earlier by the audience and how to detect their story He will explain how to spot the clues about the story the pictures are telling. The images that have been

selected will be projected on to the wall of the theatre and are likely to be at least two metres across, for all to see and discuss.

**Members of the public are invited, in the first place, to send a jpeg scan of the front and back of their photographs, [out of its frame or album] together with what they know about the image and what they want to know about it, to [boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk) \*before the 30th September\***. This will give Steve time to select some interesting pictures.

**NB (If you have glass ambrotypes, daguerreotypes, or others of a similar fragile nature, please contact us before doing anything with the photograph.)**

We are expecting that there will be more photographs submitted than Steve can talk about in his time slot so yours MAY NOT be selected for the show.

Plus

- There will also be a **specialist family history book stall from the Family History Partnership** present.

<https://tinyurl.com/y8qnmkks>

Please email [boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk) or message our Face Book page <https://www.facebook.com/BoltonFHS/> for further information.



### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November Bolton FHS visit to Christ Church Walmsley Blackburn Rd Egerton Bolton BL7 9SA**

<https://tinyurl.com/yappdeum>. Picture from their website. This is another significant Bolton church situated in Egerton, with relics from Saxon times . There will be a guided talk and tour of the church (about an hour) by Derek Bailey at 10 am around and also a chance to see some old maps and plans dating from about 1845. Contributions of £5 to church funds with tea/ coffee , biscuits for refreshments. Names being taken now, maximum 20 , via the Genie email, . Carole and Pat are coordinating.



### **GENIE'S TIPS for September**

**Findmypast has added over 37,000 'open' records to its 1939 Register dataset, bringing the total number of records to over 33.9 million. (apparently there are 45 million actually on the Register)**

<https://tinyurl.com/y9qtnmge>

An interesting update about the programme with some good extras about life in the late 1930s. Of course it is an ongoing project and *"The records of people younger than 100 who are still alive, or who died after 1991, are redacted to protect their privacy"*. From the *WDYTYR* newsletter By Rosemary Collins, 9 August

<https://tinyurl.com/yaeu8a8r>

### **Imminent free citation generator tool for referencing records on FreeCEN and FreeREG**



<https://tinyurl.com/ycvtogls>

*"This summer, we've had two students from Google's Summer of Code programme working with us on some exciting new projects. One of these was to develop a citation generator tool for referencing records on FreeCEN and FreeREG, and it's almost ready to go live.*

*We're offering you the opportunity to have a sneak preview and put it through its paces before we roll it out on FreeCEN and FreeREG.---*"

### **WORKSHOPS and their LEADERS**

The Bolton Branch has always been committed to offering help to researchers and to this end, there have been workshops over very many years for beginners and later



"improvers" mostly at Bolton Central Library, led by Rita Greenwood and Barbara Owen. →

For several years, Margaret and Colin Calderbank← have also been running very successful beginners' workshops at Branch

Libraries – Harwood, Westhoughton, Blackrod and Bromley Cross. However, they have



decided to retire. and Christine Ellis has assumed their mantle. In 2017, Harwood Library approached the branch asking for further workshops for more seasoned researchers and again, a very successful session of four weeks was achieved by Barbara and Rita. This was followed by another four week course in May of 2018. A further development in the future might be arrangements to offer one-to-one assistance to researchers who have hit the proverbial brick walls. Venue and date as yet unconfirmed but please let us know if interested.

In summary Bolton Family History Society are now currently offering <https://tinyurl.com/ybr4dyjx>

### **Two Beginners series of 5, weekly workshops. Fee £20 Leader Christine Ellis →**

- Harwood Library Friday September 21st 10am-12md. Phone contact 01204 332340 when open Tuesday and Thursday 5.30pm -7pm or Saturday 9am to 5pm, Sunday 10am to 4pm
- Blackrod Library Monday 1st October 10am-12md. Phone 01204 332381 when open Monday 9am – 7pm , Thursday 9am - 7pm, Saturday 9am – 12.30pm to book. Christine is available for further information on 07847335340



### **Basic and Intermediate Level series of 4 , weekly workshops. Fee £25 Leaders Rita Greenwood and Barbara Owen,**

Bolton Central Library Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> 10am – 12.30pm. Contact Rita on 01204 525472

For more information re this autumns projects please contact our Facebook page <https://tinyurl.com/vc9nitev> , email [boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk) , or ring Rita Greenwood on 01204 525472

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

### **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

### **The Changing Face of Bolton**

- **New look museum to open its doors 22.09.2018** <https://tinyurl.com/y9jax54s>

*“BOLTON Museum’s exciting new exhibition and gallery spaces are to open their doors this September. The refurbished museum opens with a Family Fun Day on Saturday 22 September with a whole range of activities.”*

(NB This of course will be available to see during our Family History Day on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. at The History Centre, 10.30am to 3.00pm .

<https://tinyurl.com/y9pbv2aj> for more details. You might also like to reminisce about

what was there before with Gayle McBain from the Bolton News <https://tinyurl.com/yddvjvxx>



- **“Hool's to shut:146-year-old Bolton Market stall to close”**

<https://tinyurl.com/y7pqa3dn> Bolton News 23rd August Mary Naylor

*“A MARKET stall that can trace its roots to a cholera epidemic in 1868 is shutting up shop . . . John Hool Herbalist was set up by the first John Hool, the current Mr Hool’s grandfather in 1872. Mr Hool started work there as a boy in his father’s stall*





under the clock inside Bolton Market Hall. Next to his chair is a print by a local artist of how the Market Hall used to look. Mr Hool showed *The Bolton News* a copy of “Common Plants and their Uses in Medicine” published in 1922, written by none other than a Richard Lawrence Hool. <https://tinyurl.com/ybqahdpf> . Mr Hool pointed out a section about a herb called purple loosestrife which Richard Hool described himself selling in July 1868 in the middle of a “raging” cholera epidemic in Bolton. The book says the flower Purple Loosestrife was a “means of saving hundreds of people from death by cholera”.


- **Bolton Post Office the old branch on 124 Deansgate which first opened over one hundred years ago on November 19, 1916.**

<https://tinyurl.com/yd5sddob> closed its doors for the last time today 15th August., and has moved to Oxford Street. Story and picture courtesy of the Bolton News

- And more planned from this article from the Bolton News 16th May 2018 “Fascinating history of Bolton town centre buildings facing demolition”

By Andy Scoble <https://tinyurl.com/y7bwsfom>



 **The National Archives has published a new set of guidelines for archiving personal data.** The rules for handling information about living people in archives and records intended for transfer to archive services changed on 25 May 2018. The Data Protection Act 1998 was replaced by The Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018). This is as a result of new legislation in the EU: the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The DPA 2018 makes additional provisions around areas not covered by GDPR. In general, ‘archiving’ which complied with the 1998 Data Protection Act will continue to be permitted under the new law and no major changes are required. ew guidelines for archiving personal data Monday 20 August 2018

## SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

**“Mill workers’ poems about 1860s cotton famine rediscovered”** <https://tinyurl.com/ycejmwhn> The Guardian Alison Flood Thu 9 Aug 2018 06.00 BST

“Research has uncovered 300 works by writers in Lancashire struggling during the economic crisis caused by the US civil war, --- The forgotten voices of Lancashire’s poverty-stricken cotton workers during the US civil war have been heard for the first time in 150 years, after researchers at the University of Exeter unearthed a treasure trove of poetry.---

Up to 400,000 of the county’s cotton workers were left unemployed when the war stopped cotton from reaching England’s north-west in the 1860s and the mills were closed. Without work, they struggled to put food on the table, and experts from the University of Exeter have discovered that many of them turned to poetry to describe the impact of the cotton famine.

Written between 1861 and 1865, many of the poems are by the workers most affected by the famine---

**“Council Housing and the Addison Act of 1919”** <https://tinyurl.com/y7l34ljw> Living Heritage



“The end of the First World War in 1918 created a huge demand for working-class housing in towns throughout Britain or “Homes fit for heroes”, being the slogan. In 1919, Parliament passed the ambitious Housing Act which promised government subsidies to help finance the construction of 500,000 houses within three years. As the economy rapidly weakened in the early 1920s, however, funding had to be cut, and only 213,000 homes were completed under the Act’s provisions.

The 1919 Act - often known as the ‘Addison Act’ after its author, Dr Christopher Addison, the Minister of Health - was nevertheless a highly significant step forward in housing provision. It made housing a national

responsibility, and local authorities were given the task of developing new housing and rented accommodation where it was needed by working people.

Further Acts during the 1920s extended the duty of local councils to make housing available as a social service. The Housing Act of 1924 gave substantial grants to local authorities in response to the acute housing shortages of these years. A fresh Housing Act of 1930 obliged local councils to clear all remaining slum housing, and provided further subsidies to re-house inhabitants. This single Act led to the clearance of more slums than at any time previously, and the building of 700,000 new homes.”

### Exploring Scotlands Historic Environment <https://pastmap.org.uk/map> Pastmap



Dig deep into the history of places in Scotland and beyond to discover fascinating insights into hidden stories and histories of buildings, towns and cities. Offering a choice of modern, historical, aerial and data in layers with a detailed choice of points of heritage interest in all areas. A fascinating website which actually extends to English maps as well, and I have inspected the Bolton area here but do not seem to be able to link direct. You need to left click on the circle or rectangle top right, then left click on the area of interest over the map of Great Britain and then choose the type of map and layer required. , The best layer seems to be the OS 1900 option

### Scottish Services of Heirs indexes on FamilySearch-Decennial indexes to the services of heirs in Scotland, commencing January 1, 1700--ending December 31, 1859 Authors: Scotland. Chancery Office (Main Author)

<https://tinyurl.com/yatrf6nt>, i.e. “the stuff not found on the ScotlandPeople's wills collection, which mainly deals with the inheritance of moveable property prior to 1868. The records in question are the indexes to the Services of Heirs from 1700-1859:”, with thanks to Chris Paton for passing this on in his blog <https://tinyurl.com/y9x3p3ob> Sunday, 12 August 2018



### Peoples History of the NHS <https://tinyurl.com/yb8ngsps>

An ongoing research programme looking for any first hand stories from all our experiences of the early days of the NHS. Can you contribute anything, ( before we all forget it 😊). Listen to the first 12 oral histories in the NHS at 70 Digital Archive. These are a taster of the oral histories recorded by our volunteers in South Wales and Greater Manchester. To listen to the stories in full, register here and visit the Digital Archive. We will be adding to the Archive over the coming weeks. More than 140 interviews have already been collected by our fantastic team of volunteers and you can find out more about their work here. Everybody has a story to tell about the unique place of the NHS in everyday life since 1948.



### Do DNA Tests Put Your Personal Information at Risk? <https://tinyurl.com/y9onqh44> Judy G. Russell with Sunny Jane Morton July 19, 2018

Have the millions of DNA test-takers made a grave mistake when it comes to their personal information? Our legal expert answers 19 crucial questions about DNA testing and your privacy.

### More Military Record Updates



### Canadian Personnel Records of the First World War <https://tinyurl.com/lpn2pql> Library and Archives Canada

“This ( free) database combines references to various First World War personnel records.

Over the next few years, digitized versions of all of the files will be added to the database references. At present, the database includes digitized files for many individuals of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and Newfoundland Forestry Corps (courtesy of the Rooms Provincial Archives). Newly digitized CEF files are added to the references every two weeks.

This database includes names indexed from the following First World War personnel records:

Files of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF): Soldiers, Nurses and Chaplains

Files of CEF volunteers who were rejected at Valcartier



Non-Permanent Active Militia Files

Files of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and Newfoundland Forestry Corps

Imperial War Service Gratuity Files



**The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation Newsletter** <https://tinyurl.com/yd3okdfj>

Do any of you subscribe to this newsletter? I do, mainly just to try to keep an eye on news and pass it on to you, but some particularly interesting items in this latest one :-

- What's in a name? = some of the stories behind the naming of various WW1 cemeteries by Peter Francis <https://tinyurl.com/y76onvmq> and
- Lest We Forget = "The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation is working in collaboration with Oxford University to create a digital archive of the First World War artefacts stored in bedrooms and attics across the UK. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund we will be staging events across the UK, encouraging people to bring along their family heirlooms to be included in the project". I am sure many of you could help out here. More news as soon as we know more.



**Who will you Remember?** <https://tinyurl.com/y84xn5gj> **Imperial War Museum**

"We believe that each and every one of the 8 million who served during WW1 deserves to be remembered. Join Imperial War Museums and help tell these Life Stories by adding your images, sharing their stories, find their records and adding known facts."



**First World War (1914-1918)** <https://tinyurl.com/y7ac7x34> **TracesOfWar.com**

This seems to be a Dutch site but written in English, and I found it whilst surfing for Pilgrimage Trip information re the story in last month's Genie. Although it was originally created to collate information for those researching WW2 battle related sites it has now extended both by boundaries and events and seems a very useful, and "neutral" resource.



**Major Charles Henry Holden (12th May 1875-1st May 1960) (following last months talk about WW1 War Memorial)** <https://tinyurl.com/y72mfgfu>

After the posting of last month's newsletter Julie Lamara Bolton Archivist, was good enough to draw my attention to one of Bolton's own sons, contribution to the Memorial project. "In September 1918, Holden transferred to the Imperial War Graves Commission (now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission) with the

new rank of Major. From 1918 until 1928 he worked on 69 Commission cemeteries. Initially, Holden ran the drawing office and worked as the senior design architect under the three Principal Architects in France and Belgium (Edwin Lutyens, Reginald Blomfield and Herbert Baker). Holden worked on the experimental war cemetery at Louvecourt and, probably on the one at Forceville that was selected as the prototype for all that followed.

In 1920, he was promoted to be the fourth Principal Architect. His work for the Commission included New Zealand memorial to the missing at Messines Ridge British Cemetery (he also designed the cemetery), and the Post Office Rifles Cemetery at Festubert.



**"Chatsworth House Historic servants and staff Database"** <https://tinyurl.com/y99gj8kq>

"Over the last 500 years, thousands of people have worked at Chatsworth or lived on the Cavendish Estates, and over the last five years with help from PhD students from the University of Sheffield we have compiled a database that lists servants and staff going back to 1700. We will continue to add to the database over the coming years from other sources, especially for pre-1700 servants, or those living on the estates but not working for the dukes of Devonshire."



**New records website by the Isle of Wight Council.** <https://tinyurl.com/yaxobcrn>

Almost 100,000 cemetery records are now available at the touch of a fingertip with the launch of a new records website by the Isle of Wight Council. Aspiring genealogists will be able to search the burial ground information and 72,000 crematorium records by registering to the site, which holds the

information for 12 cemeteries across the Island. The Council are charging £3 for a digital download of a record, ( a lot cheaper than the petrol to get there 😊 ).



**Digital Ellis Island Immigration Records Now Available** <https://tinyurl.com/ybsuz6nn> Familysearch 14<sup>th</sup>

August Newsroom Staff “The entire collection of Ellis Island New York Passenger Arrival Lists from 1820 to 1957 is now available online at FamilySearch.org and the Statue of Liberty–Ellis Island Foundation. This online database contains family connections for more than 100 million Americans living today.”

I must admit I had never thought of this site as being very useful for British research, until I had a “light bulb moment”, when someone pointed out that this is one of the main ways of checking if your missing ancestor had actually been attracted by the delights of the USA as opposed to struggling on in the UK. You might be lucky 😊



**India Office Family History Search** <https://tinyurl.com/ybgzfiq2>

“The information included in the India Office Family History Search website is taken from a card index hitherto available only at the British Library. The card index was compiled by members of staff at the India Office Records from the mid-1970s onwards to meet the growing interest in genealogy.” And more coming I believe

### MISCELLANEOUS

**“A Cultural History of Ophthalmology in Nineteenth-Century Britain”** <https://tinyurl.com/ybx3mlwz> by Mary Wilson Carpenter published October 2012

OK. I appreciate this might be a bit too detailed for some, but how many of us have had, or know of friends and relatives who have had, cataract surgery? It has almost become part of the ritual of getting older. Now how many of you knew that the Rev. Patrick Bronte, (1777-1861), father of Charlotte et al, had cataract surgery without the use of any form of anaesthesia, at the age of 69 in August 1846 by a Mr Wilson at 72 Mosley Street, Manchester ? <https://tinyurl.com/ya6qrcfbin> Picture shows the traditional seated position for cataract surgery , courtesy of the Wellcome Library. ( I took particular note of this because the Rev Bronte married my 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandparents at Hartshead in 1815, one of my few claims to fame 😊 ).



**Civil War Petitions: Conflict, Welfare and Memory during and after the English Civil Wars, 1642 – 1710**

<https://tinyurl.com/ybv8zewp> Arts and Humanities Research Council. *The English Civil Wars were a time of terrible conflict. In England and Wales alone, a greater proportion of the population died in the Civil Wars than in the First World War. For those who survived, thousands suffered from terrible injuries whilst wives, children and other family members faced daily struggles as a result of bereavement. During and after the Civil Wars, wounded soldiers, war widows and other military family members submitted petitions to the state for financial relief. Civil War Petitions is a fully-searchable digital edition of over 4,000 petitions for relief from maimed soldiers and war widows. It includes the accompanying certificates from military commanders, medical practitioners and local communities in support of their cases. There are additional details of tens of thousands of names of those who received military welfare for injuries and bereavement sustained during the Civil Wars in all English and Welsh counties.*

*The material is organised by county with ten counties currently online. Four more will be added every quarter until completion in June 2021.*

**NB Re English Civil Wars Research and the Bolton Massacre**

Please also can anyone help MLFHS member Sam Bourne please. “I'm researching the Civil Wars in Bolton and the surrounding area as part of a MA dissertation. I was wondering if anyone knew of any 'family' stories or local folklore regarding the Massacre in Bolton. I'm aware of previous research (re David Casserleys book “Massacre: The Storming of Bolton”), but I'm particularly interested to see if there were

any local legends, stories etc - even ghost stories! Any snippets would be appreciated". Best wishes Sam  
email contact sam@jrbourne.com

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



### **Always Ask the Family (thanks to Rita Greenwood)**

"My father was 45 years old when I was born and his father died many years before my birth. My grandad ← was 62 when he died, and dad's oldest brother was only 50 when he died, so my dad (see below) thought he was on his way out all during my childhood. As it happens, he died when he was 82 years old!

As a fairly new researcher, I followed all the advice and got in touch with as many relatives as possible, including my dad's youngest sister. She was a goldmine of information and as she didn't live near me, getting to know her well and remaining in

regular contact during her old age, was the icing on the family history cake.

Auntie held a lot of photographs of family members who she identified for me and allowed me to copy. She had also squirrelled away some family documents including wedding and death certificates, thus saving me the cost of purchase.

The most precious document however was a letter sent by my grandad to my father, who was serving in the army of occupation in Germany after World War I. Why it ended up in auntie's care is a mystery but I know so little about my grandfather, apart from the usual birth, death and wedding certificates and census returns, I gladly accepted the original letter and copied it for my auntie.

The letter on A5 sized paper, is in good hand, with good grammar but the punctuation is somewhat sketchy and spelling not 100%. However, you do get some insight into a granddad with a very ordinary job in a factory but with clear intellect. The letter is accompanied by an envelope in poor condition, which is postmarked 19th January 1920 (he died on the 3rd December 1920) and reads:

"Dear Harry →

*Just a few lines to wish you (if not too late) a Happy and prosperous New Year and I hope it will be one attended by every success. I have not much time for letter writing as I work practically all the hours that God sends and when I get home, tired and weary, I do not feel like anything, only my pipe and paper. As you must know, I am getting on in years and require a lot more rest. Anyhow here you are.*

*I was very pleased to think that you thought of the kiddies at Xmas, the watches are champions and keep good time. I have just been talking to Sergt. Kirby out of Lucas Str., one of our men from the shop. He has been over 12 months in Cologne and he says it is a champion place and he will have a week there before he starts work.*

*You must have had a glorious time at Xmas from your letters, we did all right considering that we had a fire at the shop and I was not working for three weeks. I managed to see that the kids of all familys had something and we got through all well. Ma one a turkey but she had the money 16/6 at the Liberal Club, curiously she started at the same table that you did when you won but she did not know till told by a friend at the drive. The knives and forks are champion steel and we wanted them badly. Anything you see useful get it and I will see you paid for them.*

*Before you come home, I would like you to do me a favour. I have seen here a pen knife that belongs to our cashier, German made, it had white metal hafts very neat and compact and I should say would fetch 8/6 or so over here. If you see one, purchase it for me and I will reimburse you. Of course use your own judgement. I have looked all about Macr. but do not see any. Ma is writing you and Frank says he will write tomorrow. Frank is not yet working since he left the railway. Freddy Pilkington has started work. Our Nellie is supposed to be getting married in March next but we have heard that tale before many a time. Our Ren is on the lookout for a house so there will according to the above be plenty of room for you when you return, which I hope will be before long. All are well here. Emmie and Elsie send their love.*





*Love from all here, With best wishes, I remain Your Loving Dad"*

I immediately put the letter into an archival quality sleeve and it has remained there in exactly the same condition for at least twenty years. However, on retrieving it for the purpose of this article, I have realised that I have no copy of it. That will be rectified at once!

Just as a footnote, Frank is my dad's brother, Ren is a sister, Nellie is the oldest of a family of ten children and the "kiddies" are my dad's youngest sisters, one of whom is the auntie mentioned above. Ma of course my grandma."

Thanks for this Rita. (who hasn't mentioned for the benefit of the uninitiated this is a great example of Primary Source evidence of family relationships.)

## OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS



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

**25th September 'The Boat People of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal' – Bill Huyton** (a highly recommended talk if you missed Bill in 2016 at Bolton FHS. He is the Chairman of Ormskirk FHS and will be talking about the families who worked on the north western canals and the amazing database they have created. ) <http://www.boatfamilies.website/>. Meetings are 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,



**Turton Local History Society** <https://goo.gl/adx4GM> **26th Sept - The Origin of Surnames -Peter Watson.** Illustrated talks and meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, and are at Longsight Church Centre, Harwood BL2 3HX beginning at 7.30pm in the winter season.

**Westhoughton Local History Group –** <http://goo.gl/XNugl5> **6th September Crystal Palace and the Great Exhibition : David Hill, and 20th September VISIT to Holker Hall .** 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.

**Horwich Heritage Centre-** <http://goo.gl/fSPsij> **11th September Russell Hedley - Wildlife Of The Smithills**



**Estate** Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm at the Horwich Resource Centre, Beaumont Road (off Longworth Road), Horwich BL6 7BG. Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am --- 1pm

**Oldham MLFHS Branch Meeting** <http://www.oldham.mlfhs.org.uk/> **Saturday 8th September 2.00pm: Stewart Cook from the Manchester Regiment will talk about "1918 the last hundred days".** This meeting will be held at The Lees Suite, Oldham Civic Centre, OL1 1UT (5 minutes walk from Oldham King Street Metrolink Stop.) 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.



**Anglo-Scottish MLFHS Branch Meeting** <http://www.angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk/> **Saturday 15 September 2.00pm.:**



**"Researching Soldiers and Nurses of the Great War 1914-1919" - Ken Nisbet** who has been involved in military research for over 30 years, will explain how to research your relative's service looking at on line and offline resources and how they can best be used. He will also cover Military Nurses service. Ken has worked on many projects and compiled the Nairnshire Roll of Honour of the Great War. The talk is at the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library , and open to both members and non-members. Booking is required. <https://tinyurl.com/yd22m3dk> to book.

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