



Part of Manchester & Lancashire
Family History Society

Newsletter October 2018

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Branch News

Branch Suspension

It is with deep regret that I must inform you that the Oldham Branch will be suspended as from the 10th November, that meeting will be the last and that newsletter will also be the last.

As you may already be aware, Rod has stepped down as Chairperson of the Branch for personal reasons and no one has come forward to take over his position. We are also short an editor for the newsletter and three committee members.

The Branch cannot survive without volunteers to run it.

We on the committee (Rod, Gill, Joan and Jennifer) - thank you for your time in coming to the meetings and participating in the newsletter.

We also want to thank Rod Melton for the years he, and his wife Gill, have dedicated to the branch.

He will be missed.

Jennifer Lever

Secretary

Last Meeting

Saturday 8th September

1918 - The Last One Hundred Days

A talk by **Corporal Stewart Cook**

Stewart firstly took us further back to significant events which happened before the last one hundred days so that we could understand the situation in 1918. For example how the capitulation of Russia in 1917 meant that Germany had more men and supplies available to them. Also, the fact that America had entered the war after the sinking of the Lusitania but, at first, although they had the men, they didn't have the weapons.

By the end of 1917 Germany had retreated to a prepared position - the

Hindenburg line. From this position at SaInte-Quentin they launched Operation Michael in March 1918 using stormtroopers as a new tactic. Germany knew where the weakest spots of the British line and took advantage of it.

Operation Michael lasted two weeks and by the end the Germans had advanced 40 miles. By the end of August 1918 the Germans had almost made it to Paris but with a loss of a hundred thousand men. However Operation Michael petered out. Haig declared that every position must be held and instead of attacking separately the British, Belgian, American and French armies all attacked together in an offensive known as the Hundred Days Offensive commanded by Foch but engineered by Haig so that in 4 days all German gains had gone. It was actually 96 days before the Germans capitulated culminating in the Armistice of November 11th 1918.

Next Meeting

Saturday 13th October

Clarinda Rowbothom - Mossley Military Hospital WW1

A talk by Rita Vaughan

Clarinda was sister in charge at the Mossley Military Hospital during WW1 and the Lady Superintendent of the Mossley Branch of the St John Ambulance Brigade for over 50 years. Whilst researching Mossley in WW1 Rita found references and articles about Mossley Hospital, intrigued she wanted to find more.

This meeting will start at 2.00 pm in The Lees Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham.

Free to members

Non-members £2.50

Free car parking on Oldham Civic car park for 3 hours but please get a ticket.

Society News

World War One Workshop

Friday 12th October 2018

1pm - 3pm

Manchester Central Library

£ 3.00

To commemorate the end of World War One we have organised a special hands-on workshop to enable you to research your military ancestor.

Powerpoint Presentation by Frank Harrop of the MLFHS

Hands-on Personal Research (with assistance if required)

Every attendee will receive an information pack and a copy of the DVD *The First*

World War : Life on the Home Front in North West England.

You will need to bring as much information as you have about your ancestor.

You will also need to be able to use a computer.

Meet on the third floor of the library, at the bank of computers by the lift, at 1pm.

Places are limited so booking is essential

Book on Eventbrite through the Society's webpage

Anglo Scottish Branch meeting

Saturday 20th October

2.00-4.00

Manchester Central Library

Resources at Central Library

A talk by Larysa Bolton, Heritage Collections officer.

Open Day

The Bolton FHS is holding an Open Day at the **The History Centre, Central Library, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton** on **Saturday 3rd November 10.30am to 3.00pm**

There will be specialist Help Desks covering Irish and Scottish research, Internet sites, your Brick Walls & Beginners.

To book your free exclusive 30 minute time slot telephone Barbara on 01204 309515

There will two free lectures in the basement Library Theatre:

11.00am **Peter Higginbotham** will talk about "**Life in the Workhouse**". Peter created the famous workhouses website.

1.00pm **Stephen Gill**, the popular local speaker on photography history, will be talking about photographs that have been provided by the audience. The images will be projected on to the wall of the theatre for all to see.

If you want Steve to talk about your photograph send a scan of the front and back of the picture [out of its frame or album] together with what you know about the image, and what you want to know about it, to

boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk

There will be more photographs submitted than Steve can talk about in his time slot so yours may not be selected for the show. You will have to come to the presentation to find out if it is used.

There will also be a specialist genealogy book stall and the opportunity to join the Bolton Family History Society.

Local News

Talks by Other Groups (not part of our society)

Chadderton Heritage

Ashes to Ashes

A talk by Rod Melton in the lounge of Chadderton Football Club on **4th October** at 7.30

Saddleworth Historical Society

AGM

Saddleworth's Lost Servicemen of World War 1.

Illustrated Presentation by Ivan Foster at Saddleworth Museum on **Wednesday 10th October** at 7.30pm.
non-members £3

Oldham Historical Research Group

A Hard Time We Had Of It 1918- Oldhamers at Home and Abroad

A talk by John Fidler at Oldham Local Studies and Archives on **Wednesday 17th October** at 7pm

Moorside and District Historical Society

The Last Months of WW1

1918- Moorside and District Graves on the Western Front

An illustrated presentation at St Thomas' Church Lounge, Moorside on **Monday 15th October** at 7.30 pm.

£ 1.50

Sue Forshaw

Newsletter Editor

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