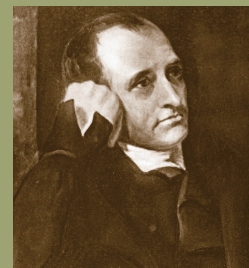


The Crompton Trail, Bolton

Follow the life and times of Bolton's beloved son, Samuel Crompton who revolutionised the cotton industry when he invented his Spinning Mule in 1779.



1. Firwood Fold



You'll take a step back in time when visiting Firwood Fold. The cottages here still retain many of the original features from Crompton's days.

Samuel Crompton was born at number 10 on 3rd December 1753. He lived here until 1758, when the family, who made their living from farming and spinning, moved to nearby Hall i' th' Wood. The cottage dates from the 17th century and had been owned by the Cromptons for generations before Samuel was born. They later mortgaged it to the Starkie family who already owned Hall i' th' Wood. Eventually Crompton's father, George sold the cottage to the Starkie family, though the Cromptons continued to farm there.

A stone plaque on the cottage commemorates his birth.

There is also a colourful information panel on the green, interpreting his life, works and the historical significance of Firwood Fold.

The residents of the Fold welcome visitors to the area and encourage you to wander round the lodges and trails which are a haven for wildlife. They can also tell you a few tales of its history and they've even been known to hold the odd birthday party in Crompton's honour.

Firwood Fold has its own website at www.firwoodfold.co.uk.

www.visitbolton.com

2. Hall i' th' Wood Museum



Hall i' th' Wood was originally built as a half timbered hall in the 15th century. Crompton and his parents lived here as tenants, farming the land as well as spinning and weaving cotton. It was here, in 1779, that he invented his Spinning Mule after 5 years of experimenting to combine the 'spinning jenny' and the 'water frame'. Though crude and built mainly of wood, with metal pieces constructed for him by a blacksmith friend, the machine proved immediately successful as it was able to spin fine cotton yarn in quantities never achieved before and significantly transformed Britain's textile industry. The industry boomed from a domestic enterprise to a mass-production one and was responsible for the huge growth in the region's mill towns, Bolton standing as a fine example.

The shape and character of the familiar Bolton we see today, with huge mills and row upon row of housing, built for the workers, has undoubtedly been influenced by its historic links to the cotton industry. You can view a part replica of the spinning mule and some of Crompton's other belongings at the museum.

For information on opening times and events at Hall i' th' Wood, visit:

www.boltonmuseums.org.uk

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3. Nelson Square – standing tall



Samuel Crompton was honoured for his contribution to the cotton industry of Bolton with a statue in Nelson Square, paid for by public subscription. Crompton was unveiled on 24th September 1862 and still stands proud today.

4. Bolton Parish Church – in peace



Crompton died at his house in King Street on 26th June 1827, at the age of 74.

Crompton rests at the Church where he also married his wife Mary. He died a poor man and his original gravestone was very simple. It is said that many people attended his funeral, including some of Bolton's factory owners.

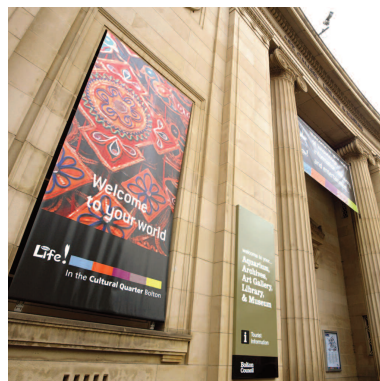
In 1861 a granite monument, paid for by local textile workers, was placed over the grave and this is what you see today.

The inscription reads: **Beneath this stone are interred the remains of Samuel Crompton, of Bolton, late of Hall i' th' Wood, in the township of Tonge, inventor of the spinning machine called the Mule; who departed this life on the 26th day of June 1827, aged 72 years.**

“Mors Ultimo Linea Rerum Est.”

For some reason, they inscribed '72 years' when it should have been '74 years'. The Latin means “Death is the last boundary of human affairs”.

5. Bolton Museum at The Crescent



Find out more about Crompton, who has never been forgotten by the people of Bolton, at the museum.

Here, you can see the only surviving Spinning Mule, built by Samuel Crompton, whilst other items of interest about Crompton are often on display, including a 3D film of a meeting between Samuel Crompton and Richard Arkwright, another great inventor of the industrial revolution.

For a trip down Bolton's memory lane there are also original records, photographs and books to be seen in the Bolton History Centre at Bolton Library and Museum.

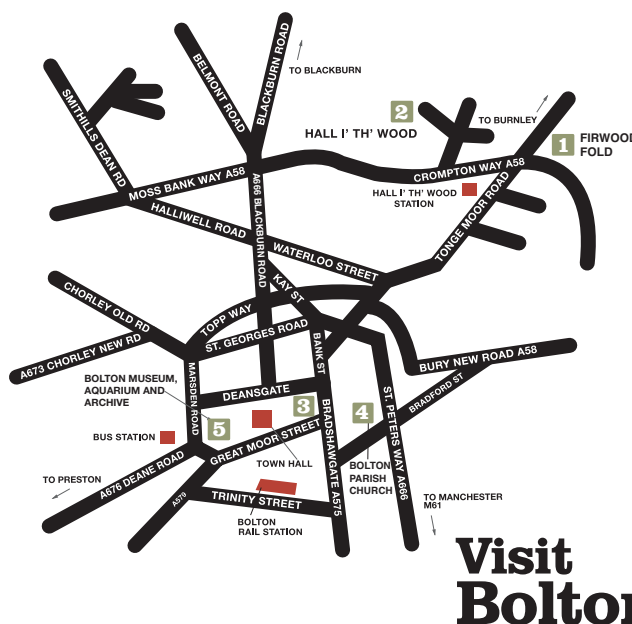
For more information on the museum and Crompton's life, visit

www.boltonmuseums.org.uk

For the latest visitor information on Bolton, go to www.visitbolton.com or call Bolton Tourist Information on **01204 334321**.

6. How to get there

Public transport details can be obtained by calling **0871 200 2233** or visiting www.tfgm.com



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