

'e-Owls'



Contact us :

Branch Website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>

MLFHS homepage : <https://www.mlfhs.uk/>

Email Chairman : chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk

Emails General : oldham@mlfhs.org.uk

Email Newsletter Ed : Oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk

MLFHS mailing address is: Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society,
3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library, St. Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 5PD, United Kingdom

November 2020

MLFHS - Oldham Branch Newsletter

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Branch News :

Following March's Annual Meeting of the MLFHS Oldham Branch

Branch Officers for 2020 -2021 :

Committee Member : Chairman : Linda Richardson
Committee Member : Treasurer : Gill Melton
Committee Member : Secretary : Position vacant
Committee Member : Newsletter : Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Webmistress : Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Dorothy Clegg
Committee Member : Joan Harrison



'1820s Market Street, Manchester'
from,
'Old Manchester - a Series of Views'
Intro. by James Croston, pub. 18975

Oldham Branch Meetings : Coronavirus Pandemic

Please note ... with great regret but in-line with the updated Statement, issued by the M&LFHS Trustees, and on the home page of the Society website, all M&LFHS Meetings, Branch Meetings and other public activities are to be suspended indefinitely.
Please check with the website for updated information.

The newsletter will be sent out as usual.

There will be further updates on the Society website Home Page and on the Branch pages.

The next issue of the Society Journal will go out to members as usual. It relies heavily on

Branch reports and what the Society has been doing at events and fairs etc. However, this sort of news won't be there for quite a long time! To fill the pages with interesting articles, it's hoped that more people will write up family stories and contribute them to the journal. Please refer to the page, '*Notes for Contributors*', in the Journal, for information on how to send articles, etc. The Society Facebook page [HERE](#) and the Twitter page [HERE](#) will be updated frequently.

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#### **Chairman's remarks :**

Hello again

I hope you are all keeping well, especially with the current lock down situation in the Greater Manchester area. When will it ever end?

I have made a start on planting my daffodil bulbs and digging out the old summer bedding plants (in between the downpours) ready for Spring.

The committee have decided that, in line with the other two Branches, we will start to hold our committee meetings and our Monthly Branch talks via Zoom. We will be doing a trial run for the talks, in December, in preparation for our programme for next year and no doubt Sheila Goodyear will give you more information about this.

I do hope you will all support the Branch and Zoom with us for the talks – who knows where we will end up but we will try our best for you all!

We are still hoping to recruit another committee member. If you would like to help us develop the Branch activities, in these difficult times, using on-line communication and capabilities, please let me know and we can arrange a zoom meeting for an informal chat.

My best wishes

Linda Richardson

Chairman, Oldham Branch

email me at < [chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk) >

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Editor's remarks.

So little seems to change ... life is still on hold with on-off restrictions and shut-downs! With the future being so uncertain, both the Anglo -Scots and Bolton Branches have 'dipped their toes' in presenting on-line talks so we, at Oldham, decided we had to join in! Oldham doesn't normally have a December meeting so that seems a good opportunity for us to do a trial talk so please put Saturday 12th December, 2pm in your diaries. Hopefully we will have thought of everything that might go wrong but, if there are any glitches, please be kind and we'll do our best to sort them out and not make the same mistakes again!

Of course, one advantage of on-line talks is that you don't have to be in Oldham! You can join us from anywhere in the world and be very welcome! Details to follow.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me through the newsletter email address.

Major updates to the Oldham & District Branch web pages are listed [HERE](#), along with with any local news and updates from around the area.

Page updates include:

The account of the *Manchester Hill Battle in 1918*, and the men who fought and died that day; [HERE](#)

and:

Transcripts of the '*Custom Roll and Rental of the Manor of Ashton-under-Lyne, November 11, 1422*'. [HERE](#)

Although I am always more than happy to receive articles, pictures etc., for the newsletter, copyright is

always a tricky issue so do please make sure that you have the right to use any text or illustrations that you send! It is also helpful if you include mention of your source material.

You will retain copyright of any contributions that you send unless you decide to waive that right, at the time of sending.

Editor reserves the right to edit any contributions before publication.

email me at : < Oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk >

Oldham & District, Bolton & Scottish Branches

Oldham & District

At last, we have something positive to report! With no end in sight for a return to our Oldham Branch Monthly talks, held at Gallery Oldham, the committee has decided to hold the meetings again, but this time on zoom. Booking/Registration will be, as before on Eventbrite (or by emailing either the chairman or myself), and will be essential in order to receive the necessary email zoom link to the meeting.

We have had a 'dummy run' to try and identify and deal with any problems that might arise. As a result, we now feel that we can plan our first full meeting, being as well prepared as possible! As mentioned in the 'Editor's Remarks', Oldham does not normally have a December meeting but we intend to have our first on-line talk on our usual meeting day, the second Saturday in the month.

Details of the talk and booking information will be sent to you via the newsletter subscription list and will also be posted on the '*Meetings*' page of the Branch website [HERE](#) . It will be free to members and non-members alike, wherever you live! Welcome!

All the MLFHS Branches are intending to start giving on-line talks to replace our monthly meetings. Please visit the Branch Websites for information and any updates :

Oldham & District [HERE](#)

Anglo-Scottish [HERE](#)

Bolton [HERE](#)

MLFHS updates

The MLFHS Family History Help Desk ... CANCELLED until further notice.
However, there is now a Virtual Help Desk [HERE](#)

Beginners & Quarterly Talks ... CANCELLED until further notice.

Please visit the website to find any updates on the situation [HERE](#).

MLFHS Online Bookshop: Is OPEN for business again [HERE](#).

with CDs, Downloads, Maps, Registers, Local Interest Books, More General Publications, Miscellaneous Items with MLFHS Logo etc., and Offers.

MLFHS & Branch e-Newsletters

MLFHS and each of the MLFHS branches publishes a monthly e-newsletter which provides useful news items and articles etc. The e-newsletters are free and available to both members and non-members of MLFHS. Society members receive the MLFHS newsletter automatically;

non-members can find them by following the links, below.

To sign-up, for a Branch newsletter, to be emailed each month, simply click the appropriate link below and complete the short form on the e-newsletter page, where you will also find copies of all past issues.

[MLFHS](#)

[Bolton](#)

[Oldham](#)

[Anglo-Scottish](#)

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### Meetings and Talks at other Societies &/or Venues

**Please note ... the relevant society/group websites or organisers are still being included, here, as they can be checked for further information or on-line resource material and activities.**

**All public activities are, of course, CANCELLED until further notice.**

**Oldham Historical Research Group: ...**

Website [HERE](#)

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Library Events & Gallery talks at Gallery Oldham

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**Saddleworth Historical Society & Saddleworth Civic Trust**

At the Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill.

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Family History Society of Cheshire : Tameside Group meeting.

See their website [HERE](#)

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**Tameside History Club :**

Website and programme [HERE](#)

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Tameside Local Studies and Archives - Regular Sessions and Events

Website and programme [HERE](#)

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**Moorside & District Historical Society**

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Regional Heritage Centre :

Website [HERE](#)

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### 'A Mixed Bag'

#### ***Cotton Mills ... a hint of the past***

Cotton and the mills dominated the lives of so many families, our ancestors, in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In the middle and later years of the 20th century the cotton industry declined and the mills fell silent. Many were demolished, a mill chimney here and another there, as the mills went through a phase of changed and varied usage or were left to rot and crumble before demolition became their final lot. Some still remain and have been successfully incorporated into local industries, leisure or housing. One however, has survived into the 21st century with a new purpose and become pivotal in a regeneration programme.

The Islington Mill, just into Salford and off Chapel Street, has had the same chequered history of ups and downs so many mills have suffered over the best part of 200 years. However, just over

20 years ago, the Islington Mill entered a new phase of its existence as an artist-led community which, today, is going from strength to strength in its new role but hasn't forgotten its industrial and textile heritage. You can see more [HERE](#)

In the Gallery, you can see an engraving of the Mill, from 1824, after the collapse of several floors, resulting in a number of deaths..

Recently, the following article from the '*Manchester Courier*', dated 22nd January 1853, about the Islington Mill, was passed to me and I thought how typical this must also have been of the many hundreds of mills in this, our own area :

### ***The Amenities of Factory Life***

#### **The Manchester Courier, 22nd January, 1853**

There is, perhaps, no more striking mark of that social and moral progress which the working classes have made in the factory districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire, than the manner in which they spend a festive period like that which has just expired, or celebrate some event of more individual character, such as entering upon some new employment, the marriage of fellow-workmen, or the completion of new works. A dozen years ago these celebrations took place in the large room at some public house, where gross indulgences were permitted, and men went reeling home to their families in a sad state of inebriety. Occasionally the wives of the men were invited to be present, and tea was provided for them as being their favourite beverage; but oftentimes they too got to drinking, and instead of checking the men only led them to greater excesses while 'standing treat' as their gift of liquor was called. The tea parties with which Sunday School teachers regale themselves and their little flocks at Whitsuntide or Christmas, and the large spread of total abstinence principles, have effected a vast change in this respect. The public-house is no longer patronised, and in lieu of mischievous alcoholic drinks taken intemperately, we have large supplies of tea and accompaniments of a choice and agreeable character. Instead of being the exception it is the rule to have the female operatives, or the wives of the men, present; and while there has been a considerable infusion of the intellectual element of enjoyment, there has been no undue restriction of those pleasures which youth can enjoy with so much zest - the song, the recitation and the dance are all continued, but with the difference, that the vocalists, the reciters and the dancers are in their sober senses, and conduct themselves with propriety. Sometimes the party is given by the employer, sometimes he is the guest of the workpeople. Occasionally, when a marriage occurs, instead of the benedict having to entertain his fellow workmen they subscribe and not only entertain him and his partner, but hand over some piece of furniture towards his housekeeping - an eight day-clock and a set of chairs were the presents in two cases of which we have recently heard. We visited a party of this character on Saturday night at the Islington Mill in Salford, the establishment of Mr. William Morris, a manufacturer engaged largely in the fabrication of that description of calico called 'domestics'. The large room of a store was the scene of festivity, and within its walls there was assembled a pleasant though somewhat crowded party of above 400 persons. It was decorated profusely in a rough and ready manner; the beams supporting the roof were hidden by boughs of laurel, holly and bay, the gas pendants had donned garments of bright-coloured tissue paper cut into fringe - even the iron pillars down the room had been made gay with glazed calico, and at the back of the raised table for the chairman and his guests there was an expenditure of ornament which showed the will more than the ability to make a fine-art display. We noticed but one motto in the room, the word 'Unity', which, in silver letters, was disposed in a semi-circle behind the chairman's seat. A series of framed engravings depicting the course of a drunkard from rural innocence to the convict's cell, hung upon the walls and indicated that total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks is the guiding principle of the proprietor, and most of those he employs. The feast was got up by the operatives themselves; they contribute 6d, and Mr. Morris added a fair portion of the estimated expense. He with his family and a select party of friends were present as guests, and enjoyed themselves greatly while participating in the proceedings. There was an abundance of good currant bread, bread and butter, and tea, served

upon long tables covered with cloths improvised out of the products of the mill; and in the course of the night a dessert of oranges and American pippins was served out to each with the addition of raisins, almonds, figs, nuts, &c., for the principal table. There was something to excite the risible faculties in the celerity with which the edibles disappeared from the tables, and we could not help thinking that we probably saw before us an illustration of the old proverb, "Quick at meat, quick at work." The appearance of the people was interesting; not novel to a person resident in the district, but quite so to someone accustomed only to hear of such gatherings. The majority were young women, just rising into life, dressed with all the smartness that has ever been their characteristic. We noticed a few silk dresses, but scarcely any of the staple fabric of the country; the majority had got their exterior habiliments from the other side of Blackstone-edge. Mohair, alpaca, and wool, was in nearly all cases, substituted for cottons of Lancashire. These dresses showed off the forms of the wearers to the greatest advantage; tastefully but neatly made they were rendered more agreeable to the eye by nice habit shirts or pretty little collars of pure white turned down about the throat, and confined by a ribbon and a sparkling brooch. The hair of each was smoothly combed down and brushed into brightness; some few of the matrons wore caps, and some had curls, but the majority abstained from these extra fascinations and had merely hair snodded down to the side, with 'black knots', confined by silken nets. There were some there with little ones - the factory workers of another generation most likely; and though the hue of rual health was wanting in the little faces of the infants, their appearance was a great improvement on what we have seen in former years, and showed that not only is the pecuniary condition of their parents much altered for the better, but that their habits were also materially changed. An episode in the proceedings was occasionally created by these juveniles, but a motherly recognition of the wants of nature speedily quieted them, while the manner in which the solace was afforded was remarkable for delicacy on the part of both the mother and the persons around her. The men were well dressed, and looked contented. Some few of them seemed to have worked in factories when their occupations were very different to what it is now. The cause of the appearances which we have attempted to describe are to be found in the cheapness of food, and the good wages paid in the mill. Many of the weavers, who are first-class hands and can manage four looms, earn as much as 16s. per week (net) and there are few who make less than 12s.; the overlookers, upon whom the responsibility of managing the work rests are paid proportionately more. Even the 'helpers', the boys and girls, can make a fair amount of wages, averaging 4s. 9d. each, though their appearance indicated less of comfort and advance. There was some little speaking. Two or three sentiments were proposed and spoken to by gentlemen who had been invited, 'The manufactures by which we live; may our foreign trade prosper, and our home trade increase,' was the first and most appropriate one for such a company. Then they wished, 'Health, happiness, and prosperity to their employer and his family,' and got a speech from him that seemed to one of the uninitiated, from the manner in which various parts were received, to be full of practical advice, by attending to which they might avoid errors of conduct, and still further improve their condition. And, lastly, they prayed that each merry meeting at the Islington Mill might only make firmer the bond of union between the employer and the employed. When these appropriate sentiments had been briefly commented upon the room was cleared for dancing, the helpers was [were] sent home to bed and an hour was spent in a recreation of which the working classes in Lancashire appear to be passionately fond, if one may judge by the numerous announcements of balls that are to be seen upon the walls of their large towns, and from the clatter of clogs which frequently issue from public-houses and beer-shops in response to the the screeching of an ill-tuned violin, or the shrill note of a penny whistle of tin. By eleven o'clock all had separated; many of them, we were assured, to take rest as a preliminary to active duty next day in a Sabbath school. In this, we believe, the proprietor sets them an example.

See an engraving, from 1824, of an accident at the Islington Mill, when several floors collapsed, in the Gallery.

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A sneak preview of a couple of pages from what will, hopefully, be one of the next updates on the Oldham & District Branch Pages on the MLFHS website :

Extracted from the Preface to :
'History of the Cotton Manufacture in Great Britain'
by Edward Baines, Jun., Pub. in 1835.

Pages 6, 7 & 8

The Cotton Manufacture of England presents a spectacle unparalleled in the annals of industry, whether we regard the suddenness of its growth, the magnitude which it has attained, or the wonderful inventions to which its progress is to be ascribed. Within the memory of many now living, those machines have been brought into use, which have made as great a revolution in manufactures as the art of printing effected in literature. Within the same period, the Cotton Manufacture of this country has sprung up from insignificance, and has attained a greater extent than the manufactures of wool and linen combined, though these have existed for centuries. Sixty years since, our manufacturers consumed little more than THREE million lbs. of raw cotton annually; the annual consumption is now two hundred and eighty million lbs. In 1750 the county of Lancaster, the chief seat of the trade, had a population of only 297,400; in 1831, the number of its inhabitants had swelled to 1,336,854. A similar increase has taken place in Lanarkshire, the principal seat of the manufacture in Scotland. The families supported by this branch of industry are estimated to comprise a million and A HALF of individuals; and the goods produced not only furnish a large part of the clothing consumed in this kingdom, but supply nearly one-half of the immense export trade of Britain, find their way into all the markets of the world, and are even destroying in the Indian market the competition of the ancient manufacture of India itself, the native country of the raw material, and the earliest seat of the art.

The causes of this unexampled extension of manufacturing industry are to be found in a series of splendid inventions and discoveries, by the combined effect of which a spinner now produces as much yarn in a day, as by the old processes he could have produced in a year; and cloth, which formerly required six or eight months to bleach, is now bleached in a few hours.

It is the object of this volume to record the rise, progress, and present state of this great manufacture;—briefly to notice its ancient history in the East, and its sluggish and feeble progress in other countries, until the era of invention in England;—to point out the advantages of this country for manufacturing industry;— to state, more fully and accurately than has hitherto been done, the origin and authorship of the great mechanical inventions, including the fly-shuttle, the spinning by rollers, the carding machine, the jenny, the mule, the steam-engine, the power-loom, the dressing-machine, the cylinder printing machine, and mechanical engraving; — to mention the important chemical discoveries in the art of bleaching, and the various and beautiful processes of calicoprinting;—to shew the combined effect of these inventions and discoveries, in the astonishing extension of the manufacture;— to give the natural history of the raw material, cotton-wool; to shew how far the trade has been interfered with by legislative enactments and fiscal regulations;— to describe and illustrate the present state of the manufacture, and the condition of the vast population engaged in its various departments;— and, finally, to weigh the probabilities in favour of, or against, the continued pre-eminence of the English Cotton Manufacture.

Thus extensive and interesting is the field which I have aspired to occupy. In the greater part of it I have had no predecessor. The want of a comprehensive and accurate history of the Cotton Manufacture has often been lamented, and has been justly considered discreditable to the literature of the country which is the birth-place of so many admirable inventions, and where the most extraordinary branch of manufactures and commerce ever known has sprung up with marvellous rapidity. In executing my task, I have received valuable assistance from gentlemen, who combine a thorough practical knowledge of the manufacture with the best information as to its history. I have been fortunate enough to meet with evidence as to the real authorship of the greatest inventions in cotton spinning, never before published, and as decisive as it is novel. I

have also had the advantage of the evidence recently given before the Commission to inquire into the condition of children working in Factories, and before the Select Committees of the House of Commons on Manufactures, Commerce, and Shipping, and on Hand-loom Weavers; by which much light is cast on the actual state of the Cotton Manufacture, and on the condition of all classes of persons engaged in it. I have been favoured by the Factory Inspectors with a body of valuable statistical information, altogether original, shewing the number of cotton mills in each county, town, &c. of England, Scotland, and Ireland, with the number of operatives engaged in them, and the amount of steam and water power by which the mills are moved.

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Transcribed from : '**Lancashire Illustrated**', pub. 1831

Illustration in the Gallery

**ENTRANCE TO THE TUNNEL  
OF THE LIVERPOOL AND MANCHESTER RAILWAY, EDGE HILL.**

This magnificent undertaking, the greatest of its kind hitherto attempted in this or any other country, has resulted from the dissatisfaction of the merchants and manufacturers of Liverpool and Manchester with the management of the pre-established modes of conveyance—these are, the Duke of Bridgewater's Canal, and the Mersey and Irwell Navigation : with regard to both of them, allegations were made, which continue still unimpeached—that they are not only inadequate to the accommodation of the merchant and carrier, but subject to such risks and charges as rendered it imperative to seek out some other channel of communication.

Accordingly, the attention of the trading part of the community was called to the advantages of Rail-roads, and a deputation sent to inspect the Rail-ways and Steam-carriages already in active employment in the counties of Northumberland and Durham. The report of this deputation proving favourable, application was made to Parliament for an Act enabling the Subscribers to proceed with the undertaking. The first application was negatived, in consequence of the strenuous exertions and great parliamentary influence of the Canal Proprietors, who already possessed a monopoly of the carrying trade in this district, and value of which may be estimated from the fact, that a share in the Mersey and Irwell Navigation, that originally cost £70, had been recently sold for £1250. In the ensuing session, however, the applicants were more successful, and, having obtained the requisite powers, commenced their proceedings in the year 1826. In consequence of the opposition experienced from the Select Vestry, and other inhabitants of Liverpool, to the passage of locomotive engines through some of the most frequented streets, the conductors determined to construct a Tunnel, extending from the outskirts of the town to the neighbourhood of the Docks, where their warehouses will be situated. From a recent report of the surveyor, Mr. George Stephenson, it appears that this gigantic enterprise was commenced in January, 1827, and the excavation completed in September, 1828; and that the dimensions of the work are 16 feet high by 22 feet wide ; the length being 2200 yards, or nearly a mile and a quarter. Though inferior in length to the famous Tunnel of the Grand Trunk Canal, it is greatly superior in height and width ; and is, we believe, the most spacious subterranean passage hitherto constructed. At a short distance from the mouth of the Tunnel, a smaller one branches off from the main line, and is intended for the convenience of passengers, &c. who will be set down in the suburbs, instead of being conveyed to the chief depot at Wapping. The depth of the floor-level at the lower end of the Tunnel, where the warehouses are to be situated, is 20 feet below the surface of the earth, and at the upper end, represented in the engraved Plate, it is upwards of 50 feet, two-thirds of which is red sand-stone, and the remainder marl. The machinery erected at this spot, for the removal of earth, stone, &c. exhibits considerable ingenuity, and daily attracts the attention of the curious.

After leaving the Tunnel and adjoining excavation, the road proceeds but a very short distance on the level of the adjacent land, until it arrives at a considerable hill, called Olive Mount, composed entirely of rock, through which it has been found necessary to cut a passage of two



miles in length, and, in some places, of 70 feet in depth. The stone obtained here has been found sufficient to build all the necessary bridges and walls on this part of the line.

Emerging from this deep enclosure, the road is conducted across a valley of considerable depth and great extent, by means of an embankment nearly three miles long, and, for a distance of 400 yards, averaging 45 feet in height. The appearance of this embankment strikes the spectator with a sensation almost approaching to awe, when he contrasts the magnitude of the work with the diminutive size of the workmen.

In this manner the engineer has proceeded along his line of operations, "exalting the valleys, and making the rough places plain," until, arriving at the Sankey Valley, where, in consequence of the insecurity of the foundation, he has been compelled to drive pile\* into the alluvial soil, and upon them to erect a viaduct, supported by nine arches, each 50 feet span, and from 60 to 70 feet in height. Thence the Rail-road crosses the main post-road, and also a small river, over a bridge of, four arches ; so that the extraordinary spectacle will be exhibited, of vehicles, at different elevations, crossing each other's line of route. Then succeeds an excavation of 700,000 cubic yards at Kenyon; after which we arrive at Chat Moss, a mere bog and shaking morass, over which, only two years ago, no person was able to walk except in the driest weather. Upon the softest portion of this moss the engineer has laid hurdles thickly interwoven with twisted heath, which forms a platform for a covering of sand and gravel, generally two or three feet thick ; and such has been the success of this plan, that the road will sustain, without shrinking, a weight of from six to twelve tons. This is certainly the weakest point of the whole scheme, and that to which the most sedulous attention of the curators of the road must be hereafter directed, especially in seasons of unusual moisture.

By an extension of the original plan, it is proposed to carry forward the line of road into the town of Manchester, by means of a lofty bridge over the Irwell. To effect this purpose, a new application has been made to Parliament, and an increase of the number of shares authorized. Notwithstanding this and other additions to the original estimate of cost, which was £400,000, the shares have, almost uniformly, borne a large premium. Nor does the confidence of the public in the successful result of this important speculation appear misplaced, if we take into view not merely the vast quantity of merchandise requiring to be transmitted along the existing lines of communication, amounting to at least 1200 tons per day ; but the immense accession also to that amount which must arise from the completion of a more economical, direct, and speedy mode of conveyance, as well as from the creation of new manufactures, and the increased stimulus to old ones lying in the vicinity of the line. Add to all this, that goods conveyed along the Rail-road will not be subject to the risks of river-navigation, to detention by frosts during the winter, or a rate of tonnage much enhanced by the necessarily circuitous route of water-carriage.

The length of the Liverpool and Manchester Rail-way is about 33 miles, being considerably less than that of the shortest post-road ; it is laid with a double row of edge-rails, and the greatest rise, per yard, does not exceed one-twenty-third part of an inch. This very uncommon degree of equality in the level renders it peculiarly well adapted for the employment of locomotive steam-engines. By means of these, the velocity of travelling may be increased to any degree compatible with the safety of passengers ; and it is confidently anticipated that a rate of from nine to ten miles per hour may be maintained without reasonable apprehension of danger.

In connexion with this most important undertaking, which may well be designated a "National Improvement," it may not be irrelevant to mention, that a proposal was made, nearly at the same time, to construct a Rail-road, on the same extensive scale, from the town of Birmingham through Staffordshire to Liverpool : this proposal was nullified by the preponderance of the same monopolists who had offered so serious an opposition to the Manchester and Liverpool Rail-way. Should the latter work succeed, to the extent anticipated, it is probable that many other undertakings of a similar kind will be commenced or resumed in different parts of the kingdom. The example of South Wales ought to stimulate other districts to exertions. In that portion only of

the kingdom, the aggregate extent of Rail-roads exceeds 400 miles. All these have been constructed since 1790, and some of the most considerable by individual proprietors ; among whom we may particularize Mr. Bailey, of Nant-y-Glo, near Abergavenny. This spirited individual cut a road of eight miles through tremendous rocks, and over ground almost impassable, in the short space of seven months.

When we contemplate these and other great undertakings, originally projected and solely executed by combinations of comparatively obscure individuals, we cannot but feel a high degree of confidence in the national resources ; a confidence which other considerations might have tended to diminish. Even France, the most civilized nation of the European continent, is far behind us in the race of improvement ; her Rail-roads are too few and too insignificant to deserve notice ; her canals are not numerous, and scarcely maintain themselves ; her steam-engines are equivalent only to a power of 480,000 men, while in England the power acquired by the use of steam is equal to that of 6,400,000. As long as our mechanical advantages continue so eminently superior, we have little to fear from the numerical inferiority of our population ; and it is only necessary that fair scope be afforded for our confessedly superior powers of industry and invention.

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Transcribed from : '**Lancashire Illustrated**', pub. 1831

MARKET-STREET - CUNLIFFES, BROOKS, and CO's BANK, MANCHESTER.



In the course of our work, other views of Market-street are given, which mark the character of this street more distinctly than the subject under review; we shall, therefore, reserve our notices of the improvement that has been made in this quarter of Manchester, till we come to speak of those Illustrations, merely stating, at present, that all the old buildings in this View will shortly be taken down, and replaced by erections in a line with the Bank, and more worthy of this elegant street.

The principal feature in the Engraving, is the Banking-house of the highly respectable firm of Cunliffes, Brooks, and Company. The front of this building is elegantly classic in design and execution. Four Doric columns support an entablature, from which rise four Ionic pillars,

crowned with a characteristic cornice, and terminating in an attic story. The edifice recedes between two elegant shops, which, from a similarity in their architecture, form two noble wings, and render the coup d'oeil more effective.

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## From the e-Postbag

**A tale of two fires ... many thanks to Mary Pendlebury**, who sent in a newspaper clipping, from the '*Yorkshire Post*', August 18th 1928, the transcript of which is below. She included a note that, "*The fire station was just down the hill on Ascroft / Peter Street so the firemen turned up quickly.*"

### **TRAPPED BY FIRE Girls Rescued by Window Cleaners**

" Hundreds of people watched the rescue of three girls and a woman from a burning shop in High Street, Oldham, yesterday.

The shop belongs to Madame Ward, milliner and costumier, and when the fire broke out in the workroom, 15 to 20 feet from the ground, there were in the room Mrs. Ward, her daughter Marjorie, two assistants - Marion Jackson and Milly Heap - and Mrs. Grace Cheetham, aged 76, of Freeman Street, Oldham.

It appears that Mrs. Ward had been cleaning a coat with petrol, which the fumes ignited. She rushed downstairs to telephone for the fire brigade, but so quickly did the fire spread that the staircase was ablaze before the others could get down, and they were trapped in the workroom. The girl Marjorie dashed to the window and climbed over onto a ledge, along which she ran calling for ladders to the crowd below. Three or four window cleaners who were in the street placed their ladders against the burning building and rescued the three young women who then informed them that there was an old woman in the room.

On hearing this a 'bus driver, Albert Preston climbed a ladder and entered the smoke-filled room, followed by a man from the crowd. They could not get Mrs. Cheetham out of the window, so they supported her with her head out, to enable her to breathe freely, until the arrival of the fire brigade, when Superintendent Penketh and Firemen Kershaw and Penketh rescued her. She was taken to the local Infirmary suffering from burns about the hands and cuts. Several of the men who had been engaged in rescue work had to be treated for minor cuts and burns. The contents of the room were burned out.

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Earlier in the day an invalid woman, Emma Wiggins, aged 85, of Peel Street, Oldham, accidentally set fire to some paper in her bedroom, and collapsed on the bed. She was rescued by a neighbour, Peter Hallam, and died last night."

Note ... if you want to know a little more, the author of '*Iron Men and Wooden Ladders*', Mark Beswick, wrote an introductory article about the history of Oldham Fire Brigade, along with a couple of pictures, for 'Oldham Historical Research Group', which you can read [HERE](#).

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**This email was kindly sent to us by Desmond Flanagan :**

Dear Linda and Sheila, Thank you for your brave efforts in keeping the Oldham 'Newsletter' going in these really difficult times ... I enjoy anecdotal items so I submit one of my own ...

### **FEET UP!**

This morning I set out to walk to our village. My shoes felt a little loose so I stopped to tighten the laces. To my dismay the lace on my right shoe snapped. The only thing to do was return to the house and change shoes – which I did. This trivial event set me thinking about how much we take our footwear for granted, and how significantly our feet and what we wear on them reflects something of ourselves.

Footwear goes back many thousands of years and depending on the climate, earlier peoples

either went barefoot or wore shoes as a sign of power or for ornamental show. Shoes and boots came into prominence with the growth of the Roman empire, and buying and wearing foot coverings has become such a constant feature of everyday life that boots and shoes have even gained personal and even sexual significance. The manner in which we walk can also reveal our health, our mood, and our general attitude to life.

I recall when as an aspiring director at Crewe theatre in 1957, I was directing a young actress (now a famous household name) in a production of 'Jane Eyre'. She had recently graduated from RADA and was an assistant stage manager also playing small parts – the usual post for newly trained actors in those days. The fragile looking actress we had engaged for the part was suddenly not available, but in weekly Rep. adaptability is essential and I had already observed emerging talent in our assistant stage manager. My co-director was sceptical when I suggested that she could take over the part as, in her youthful years, she had a healthy and vigorous look, but I overruled him and we began rehearsals. However, we had a problem; her portrayal was good, but the way she walked as 'Jane' was too strong and contradicted the 'vulnerability' of the character. I suggested some 'step changes' and as I anticipated, she and the production proved popular with both audiences and critics.

Our 'will-force' is revealed in the way we place our heels, and our 'Feelings' of thoughtfulness or uncertainty can show in the way our toes lead our step forward. These signs often proved useful in later life when I became a psychologist in the NHS mental health service.

Our thanks to Desmond for his kind words of appreciation.

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Many thanks, again, to our reader Rodney Hampson who has again been browsing William Rowbottom's Diary and doing his own fascinating research on the characters and events mentioned ...

JOHN and DINAH OGDEN

William Rowbottom's Diary
Handloom Weaver of Burnley Lane
1787 – 1830

1789 Oct. 19th, Ogden, Dina, wife of John Ogden, of Dry Clough, formerly keeper of the Red Lion Inn in Royton, died

1789. Nov. 30th, Ogden, John, formerly keeper of the Red Lion Inn, Royton, died of Alderroot Disorder, apoplexy; aged 64.

John and Dinah Ogden mentioned in the diary are the central characters in the story of the 'Park and Unicorn' Inn, Royton. Although our William the Diarist places them at the 'Red Lion' Inn, various other sources clearly place them at the 'Unicorn'. I always believed that the 'Unicorn' stood on the High Street roughly first or second building on the right. Opposite to where the "round house" stood in later years. (sorry about that, you would need to be a Roytoner to understand). The new road, what we now know as Rochdale Road, was built in the early 1830s until then the road through Royton wound around Royton Hall, what is now Hall Street, crossed Pickford Street, what is now Middleton Road, and along High Street and Sandy lane to Dogford Road. Ogden would likely see the advantage of being on the new road although he couldn't have foreseen the coming of the railway in another thirty years. However he built the new 'Unicorn' where the station would be placed and where the 'Railway Hotel' stands today.

The Ogden's public house was obviously central to the life of the growing village as the newspapers tell us. From auctions of property to the appointment of a schoolmaster for the newly opened school and just a hint of low grade crime:-

Manchester Mercury; Tuesday February 6th 1770: To be sold by way of Auction: on

Wednesday the 21st day of February 1770, at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the public alehouse of John Ogden, the sign of the 'Unicorn' in Royton near Oldham.

The lots were parcels of land with fine beds of coal under near Edge lane.

Manchester Mercury Tuesday December 26th 1775: announcement of auction: to be sold by auction. At the house of John Ogden, at the sign of the 'Unicorn', in Royton, in the Parish of Prestwich, and County of Lancaster, upon Wednesday the 10th day of January 1776, various mining interests.

Manchester Mercury; Tuesday March 21st 1786; School Master Wanted. At the new erected school in Royton, near Rochdale, in the County of Lancaster. The trustees will proceed to the election of a Master, on Thursday the 20th day of April next, between the hours of eleven and one o'clock of the same day, at the house of John Ogden, the 'Unicorn', in Royton. The candidates in the meantime are requested to send testimonials of their abilities and moral character, to Messrs, James Taylor, Crofters, near Royton, or to Wm. Taylor, of Royton. He must be perfectly acquainted with teaching the English tongue grammatically, writing, and all the branches of common arithmetic; and on the forenoon of the same day they the candidates are desired to attend, in order to be examined if thought proper. NB: there will be a certain salary of thirty pounds a year.

Manchester Mercury Tuesday September 30th 1783: Whereas a certain person, answering the following descriptions, ie: tall and slender, about five or six and twenty, fair complexion, had on a brown coloured coat, striped waistcoat, black breeches, brown and white stockings, large buckles, his hair tied, long pig-tail, without side curls, and wore a cravat, came to the Unicorn Inn, in Royton, kept by John Ogden, on the 28th August last, supped, slept, and had liquor there, personating a Rochdale Gentleman, and leaving his shot unpaid.

John and Dinah nee Hilton were married on November 21st 1759 at St Mary the Virgin Prestwich where most Roytonians went to be married in those days. St Paul's in Royton, an earlier building than the one we see today, was licensed only for baptisms and burials, the church had a large church yard for burials. Where, as the diary tells us, John and Dinah were buried in 1789.

They appear to have had just two children baptised at St Paul's; John on December 4th 1760, and Molley on February 13th 1763.

Molley gave birth to a William Ogden who was baptised on July 20th 1783 and buried on March 3rd 1784. The reputed father doesn't appear to have married Molley and she sort of disappears from the scene.

John Jnr. married first Hannah Kershaw in 1780 and they had three boys; Thomas b. 1780; John b. 1782 and William b. 1785. Unfortunately Hannah succumbed to Consumption and was buried at St Paul's on March 25th 1785 aged only 28 years.

Having three young boys to care for and having business interests in cotton manufacture as well as probably helping to run the 'Unicorn', John couldn't afford to mourn for too long and as was fairly common in those days he remarried in 1788 to Hannah Broadhead and they baptised a daughter, Maria, at St Paul's in 1789. Unfortunately history repeated itself and Hannah succumbed to consumption and was buried on January 21st 1791 aged only 24 years.

By this time John Jnr as he was known was in sole charge of the 'Unicorn' and so he married for a third time to Peggy Holt in October 1791. They baptised two boys and two girls all at St Paul's; Margaret in 1792; Joseph in 1794; Dinah in 1795 and James in 1797.

The 'Unicorn' was obviously still at the centre of things in Royton and they had plenty of stabling so a lost horse is taken there to be cared for as the newspaper tells us:-

Manchester Mercury Tuesday June 20th 1797: Taken Up, (found) on Monday June 12th 1797, at Royton near Oldham. A Black mare of the Cart Kind. Whoever can lay a proper claim

to her by describing her Marks etc; may have her again paying all reasonable charges on applying to John Ogden of the 'Unicorn' in Royton aforesaid.

John Ogden Jnr died in 1826 aged 66 years and was buried at St Paul's.

The story of the 'Unicorn' moves forward with **William son of John Jnr and Hannah Kershaw**. He married Susannah Gartside at Prestwich on April 10th 1803 and William and Susannah baptised six children at St Paul's, John bap 1808, William bap 1811, Hannah bap 1813, Susannah bap 1817, Sarah Ann bap 1824, Esther bap 1826.

The 'Unicorn' continues to be a focal point for things happening in the village although perhaps William runs a slightly rougher house than his father and grandfather did. We will start with manslaughter:-

Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, Saturday July 23rd 1836: Oldham July 22nd: Death by Fighting: about twelve o'clock on Sunday last, a party of men were drinking in the new public house on the Rochdale and Oldham new road, at Royton; a quarrel ensued betwixt two of them, James Tattersall, and Robert Mellor, owing to the disposition of the latter to fight. He struck Tattersall and dislocated his spine. He afterwards fell on and fought with another of the company. Tattersall survived till two o'clock on the Monday morning; he intended to have been married in a fortnight. He was a recent inhabitant of Royton, was employed as a brickmakers labourer, and came from Rossendale. Mellor was quickly apprehended; he is a coal miner of brutal conduct. An inquest took place on Tuesday, at the public house where the affair happened, the 'Park and Unicorn', Royton Park, before Thomas Ferrand Dearden, Esq., coroner and a jury, who after an attentive investigation of several hours, agreed to a verdict of "manslaughter" against Mellor, and he was committed to Kirkdale for trial at the ensuing Liverpool assizes.

Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, Saturday August 13th 1836: Liverpool Assizes: Manslaughter: Robert Mellor, 31, was charged with killing and slaying James Tattershall, at Prestwich cum Oldham, by throwing him down the on the ground with both his hands, and thereby giving him one mortal wound and fracture in the neck, whereof he died on the 18th of July last. It appeared from the evidence that on the day in question the prisoner and a party of friends were drinking in the 'Park and Unicorn' public house, in Royton, when the deceased came in. the prisoner had been told that the deceased had, two or three days before, said he could beat the prisoner at wrestling, and on his coming into the public house the prisoner asked if he would have a trial with him then. The deceased declined the challenge, on which the prisoner seized hold of him by the shoulders and threw him *down with such violence as to occasion a compression of the spine, from the effects of which he died the following morning. Before his death he was asked by the surgeon who attended him whether he thought that the prisoner had intended to do him any serious injury, and he declared that he did not believe that the prisoner had any such intention. The prisoner was very much affected at what had occurred at the time, was in tears during nearly the whole of his trial, and repeatedly declared that there had been no unkind feeling or dispute between him and the deceased.*

The jury found Mellor guilty of manslaughter but Mr Baron Parke presiding said that he believed the prisoner did not intend to harm the deceased and was very sorry for the consequence. Having been in Goal since July 19th Mr Parke said one calendar month in prison would answer the justice of the country. However, a report three weeks earlier tells a different story:

Ten years previously the case was murder but the pub only played a bit part in that one.:-

Westmorland Gazette; Saturday March 25th 1826; *report on a murder case where the prisoner was seen in Royton at 'The Spread Eagle' and 'The Unicorn'.*

Susannah Ogden sworn. Witness is the landlady of the 'Unicorn' at Royton; on the 3rd of October between twelve and two, witness received a pair of shoes which were brought by

Joseph Taylor; he got them from James Ashworth.

Manchester Times; Saturday August 15th 1840: Petit Sessions: Information against publicans: the county police stationed at Royton appeared at the Oldham petit sessions on Thursday week, and charged Mr Pickup, publican, of the Halfway House, Thornham, and Mr Ogden, publican, of the 'Unicorn', Royton, with having suffered company to be drinking in their houses during prohibited hours on Sunday week. Pickup was amerced in a penalty of £5, and Ogden in £2. 10s, and costs.

Some sixty years later another case of illicit drinking, same public house and a landlord with the same surname.

Manchester Evening News; Tuesday July 7th 1903: James Ogden Cooper, licensee of the 'Unicorn Inn', Royton, near Oldham, was challenging a charge of allowing drunkenness. He had been summoned and fined £2 but he claimed he threw the drunks out when they got rowdy. His appeal was allowed.

Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, Saturday March 11th 1848: a case involving counterfeit coin lists public houses from Thornham to Oldham where these coins were passed, amongst them Mr William Ogden's, 'Park and Unicorn' Inn. Royton.

We find the family living at the 'Unicorn' in the first three census but this is possibly the new building as a newspaper gives us a wonderful description of the house.

Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, Saturday May 23rd 1840: Property for sale; by Mr Richard Sellers (by order of the mortgagee), at the house of Mr Abraham Tweedale, sign of the Grapes Inn, in Baillie Street, Rochdale, on Friday the 29th May instant, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to such conditions as will be there and then produced.

Lot 1: All that Inn or Public House, known by the sign of the 'Unicorn' or 'Park' Inn, situate in Royton, in the parish of Oldham, to the front of the new turn pike road leading from Oldham to Rochdale, with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereunto belonging, occupied by William Ogden; and also the messuage, cottage, or dwelling house, thereto adjoining, occupied by Jonathan Hulme. The site of the above premises contains 500 superficial square yards of land, or thereabouts, and is subject to a yearly rent of £4. The Inn or public house, is newly and substantially built, two stories high, 40 feet wide in front, and 36 feet from front to back; and has three good cellars, four rooms, lobby three yards wide, and an excellent bar on the ground floor; four good bedrooms, two good attics, a brew house, coach house, and stable for eight horses, and is replete with fixtures.

1841 census for : High St, New Road, Royton, Lan: 107/548\14/27/18						
Surname	Forename	Rel	Stat	Age	Occupation	Where Born
Ogden	William	xx	xx	55	publican	Lancashire
Ogden	Susanna	xx	xx	55	none	Lancashire
Ogden	John	xx	xx	30	none	Lancashire
Ogden	Hannah	xx	xx	25	none	Lancashire
Ogden	Sarah	xx	xx	15	none	Lancashire
Ogden	Esther	xx	xx	14	none	Lancashire

1851 census for : Oldham Road or Park Road. 107/2243/278/22						
Surname	Forename	Rel	Stat	Age	Occupation	Where Born
Ogden	William	head	mar	66	innkeeper	Royton, Lan

Ogden	Susannah	wife	mar	66	none	Royton, Lan
Ogden	William	son	um	36	master cotton spinner	Royton, Lan
Ogden	William				emp. 1 man, 6 boys,	and 14 girls
Wilde	Henry	gson	um	20	farm labourer	Royton, Lan
Ogden	plus 5 visitors					

1861 census for : 22 Park Road, 'Unicorn and Park' Inn. 9/3029/13/11						
Surname	Forename	Rel	Stat	Age	Occupation	Where Born
Ogden	William	head	mar	48	innkeeper	Royton, Lan
Ogden	Susannah	sist	um	43	housekeeper	Royton, Lan
Ogden	Sarah Ellen	niec	um	20	servant	Royton, Lan
Ogden	John	neph	um	10	scholar	Royton, Lan
Ogden	Henry	neph	um	9	scholar	Huddersfield Yks

William Snr died in 1855 aged 70 years

Susannah died in 1857 aged 76 years.

In 1855 **William Jnr**, who didn't marry, takes over officially as landlord of the 'Unicorn' and the Inn doesn't become any more salubrious than in his father's time :-

Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, Saturday September 28th 1861; Adjourned Brewster Sessions: Adjourned Brewster Sessions was held at Oldham on Thursday, when the licenses of those publicans who had not appeared on the first occasion were renewed. The County sessions were held the same day, and the licence of William Ogden, 'Unicorn and Park' Inn, Royton, which had been suspended because he had music playing in his house on the wakes Sunday, was renewed on his promising not to repeat the offence.

A month earlier on August 24th the same newspaper reported:-

The bench suspended the licenses of William Ogden, 'Unicorn and Park Inn', Royton, and Robert Lees, 'Bulls Head', Royton, because they employed musicians to play in their houses on Wakes Sunday, notwithstanding that they had formerly been reprimanded by the bench for the practice.

So our William had been closed for about a month.

The licence was threatened many times in later years but even as late as 1909 the house was still going strong:-

Manchester Evening News; Wednesday February 3rd 1909; the Licensing sessions at Royton refused several public houses their renewal and amongst these we find :- 'Unicorn Inn', Royton.

However, the Rochdale Observer in February 1910 tells us that Royton Harriers ran a five mile handicap from the 'Unicorn' Inn, Royton to Castleton Junction. But no mention of a landlord.

By February 1912 the Rochdale Times tells us that the 'Unicorn' is still open for business as compensation for loss of the licence has not been agreed.

When William Jnr took over the pub he was also involved with cotton manufacture but this took a sorry turn:-

Manchester Times; Saturday February 17th 1855: Insolvent Debtors to be heard at the

court house, at Lancaster castle, in the County of Lancaster, on Friday the second day of March 1855, at eleven o'clock in the morning precisely. William Ogden, the younger, late in lodgings at the 'Park' Inn, Rochdale Road, Royton, near Oldham, in the County of Lancaster, and occupying a room in the Union Mill, Royton, aforesaid, cotton spinner (sued by the name of William Ogden).

Perry's Bankrupt Gazette; Saturday February 24th 1855. Ogden William jun. of Royton, near Oldham, cotton spinner.

The family of William Ogden Snr b.1783 and Sarah Gartside

Baptism: 27 Mar 1808 St Paul, Royton, Lancashire, England

John Ogden - Son of William Ogden & Susannah

Abode: Grinaces Moor

Baptised by: Thos.Langhorn Minister

John appears in the 1841 census age 30 with parents. Unfortunately he dies early.

Burial: 6 Aug 1846 St Paul, Royton, Lancashire, England

John Ogden -

Age: 38 yrs

Abode: Royton

Buried by: Richard Hill

Baptism: 25 Oct 1809 St Paul, Royton, Lancashire, England

James Ogden - Son of William Ogden & Susey

Abode: Greenacres Moor

Notes: Born on the Jubilee day with a vale over his face

Baptised by: Thos.Langhorn Minister

That would be the Golden Jubilee of George III

James is found in 1841 census in Back Cotton St, Royton

James is found in 1851 census in Cotton St, Royton

James is found in 1861 census in Sandy lane, Royton

James is found in 1871 census in Cotton St, Royton

James is found in 1881 census in King St, Royton with sister Susannah

James Ogden - Age: 84 years

Abode: Royton Buried by: Edwd. T. Wigg

Baptism: 22 Dec 1811 St Paul, Royton, Lancashire, England

William Ogden - Son of William Ogden & Susy

Abode: Royton

Baptised by: Thos.Langhorn Minister John Taylor Warden

William Jnr is found in 1841 at Bottom o'th Fold, Royton

living alone. Age 25 a cotton spinner

William Jnr is found in 1851 census with his parents

William is found in 1861 as Inn Keeper at the 'Unicorn'

William Ogden - Age: 51 yrs

Abode: Royton Buried by: Rich. Hill

Baptism: 18 Apr 1813 St Paul, Royton, Lancashire, England

Hannah Ogden - Daughter of William Ogden & Hannah

Abode: Royton

Occupation: Landlord

Baptised by: Thos. Langhorn

Hannah is found in the 1841 census at home with parents

Hannah first married Haslam:- no burial for Haslam found

Marriage: 25 Aug 1834 St Leonard, Middleton, Lancashire, England

James Haslam - (X), Weaver, this Parish

Hannah Ogden - (X), Spinster, this Parish

Witness: Richd. Kenyon; Thomas Worrall

Married by Banns by: Richard Heslop, Curate of Birch

She then married John Schofield

Marriage: 1 Jun 1849 St Mary the Virgin, Prestwich, Lancashire, England

John Schofield - (X), 49, Publican, Widower, Copster Hill, Oldham

Hannah Haslam - (X), 44, Widow, Copster Hill, Oldham

Groom's Father: Joseph Schofield, Collier

Bride's Father: William Ogden, Publican

Witness: Isaiah Greaves, (X); Susannah Gaffney, (X)

Married by Banns by: John Booker

1851 census for Copster Hill, Oldham, Lan. 107/2240/362/22						
Surname	Forename	Rel	Stat	Age	Occupation	Where Born
Schofield	John	head	mar	50	Inn Keeper	mar
Schofield	Hannah	wife	mar	45	none	mar
Schofield	John	son	mar	21	boiler maker	mar
Schofield	Hannah	DiL	mar	23	none	mar

Baptism: 23 Oct 1817 St Paul, Royton, Lancashire, England

Susannah Ogden - Daughter of William Ogden & Susy

Abode: Royton

Occupation: Innkeeper

Baptised by: Thos. Langhorn

Susannah is found in 1841 census with brother James Ogden, butcher

Susannah is found in 1851 census with brother James Ogden, butcher

Susannah is found in 1861 census with brother William Ogden at the Unicorn Inn

Susannah is found in 1871 census living alone in St Paul's Street, Royton

Susannah is found in 1881 census living in King St, Royton with brother James

Susannah died at Royton in 1888 aged 68 years I didn't find a burial.

Baptism: 27 Jun 1824 St Paul, Royton, Lancashire, England

Sarah Ann Ogden - Daughter of William Ogden & Susannah

Abode: Royton

Occupation: Innkeeper

Baptised by: J. Holme

Sarah Ann is found in 1841 census with parents at 'The Unicorn'

Marriage: 15 Aug 1847 St Mary the Virgin, Prestwich, Lancashire, England

Jonathan Kershaw - full age, Bricklayer, Bachelor, Royton

Sarah Ann Ogden - (X), full age, Spinster, Royton

Bride's Father: William Ogden, Publican

Witness: John Taylor; James Sheldrick

Sarah Ann is found in 1851 census on Park Road next to the 'Unicorn'

Sarah Ann is found in 1861 census at 23 Park Rd. next to the 'Unicorn'

1861 census for : 23 Park Road, Royton, Lan: 9/3029/13/11						
Surname	Forename	Rel	Stat	Age	Occupation	Where Born
Kershaw	Jonathan	head	mar	39	brick maker	Royton, Lan
kershaw	Sarah Ann	wife	mar	37	none	Royton, Lan
Kershaw	William	son	um	9	scholar	Royton, Lan
Kershaw	John	son	um	5	scholar	Royton, Lan
Kershaw	Maria	dau	um	1	none	Royton, Lan

Jonathan Kershaw died in 1863

Sarah Ann Kershaw died in 1866 both buried at St Paul's

The three children go to James and Ellen Campbell at Werneth 10/4096/23/1

Baptism: 19 Apr 1826 St Paul, Royton, Lancashire, England

Esther Ogden - Daughter of William Ogden & Susannah

Abode: Royton

Occupation: Innkeeper

Baptised by: Wm.Dawson

Esther is found in the 1841 census living at the 'Unicorn' with parents

Marriage: 9 Oct 1848 St Mary the Virgin, Prestwich, Lancashire, England

Joseph Howsey (*sic*) - full age, Shoemaker, Bachelor, Royton

Esther Ogden - full age, Spinster, Royton

Groom's Father: Thomas Howsey, Labourer

Bride's Father: William Ogden, Publican

Witness: William Schofield; James Ogden

Married by Banns by: John Booker

1851 census for : Sandy Lane, Royton, Lan; 107/3029/13/11						
Surname	Forename	Rel	Stat	Age	Occupation	Where Born
Ousey	Joseph	head	mar	27	shoemaker	Ormskirk, Lancs
Ousey	Esther	wife	mar	24	cotton reeler	Royton, Lan
Ousey	John	son	um	2	none	Royton, Lan

So with the death of William Ogden Jnr in 1862 without any children this Ogden family break their link with the 'Unicorn' and our story comes to an end.

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**A short selection of entries from the MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE [HERE](#) ... since the last newsletter :**

\* Manchester After Engels

[HERE](#)

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* IRISH LIVES REMEMBERED

Ireland's Premier Digital Genealogy Magazine

[HERE](#)

~~~~~

Walking in their Footsteps:

\* "Mapping Magic for the Family Historian" *"The best stories always start with a map."*

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
* If these walls could talk.

Long Lost Histories: The Caretakers' House,

The John Rylands Library, Manchester

"Can you imagine living in a library? "

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* Penny Journey: The Story of a postcard from Manchester to Graffham...A 1938 movie about the postal services that are now long gone.

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
* "I think you're going to love this short film from the NWFA. Any descendants of people from Milnrow and Newhey out there?

A compilation of early material - staff of the Empire Cinema lined up outside; Whitsuntide procession; scenes of work inside the Newhey Spinning Mill and Coral Mill - textile workers leaving the mills; children queuing outside the Empire Cinema, Milnrow."

[HERE](#)

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\* a Virtual Tour of the '*Mayflower*'

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
* IWM

Our Stories: Battle of Britain, Eileen O'Sullivan

"In our final short film to mark Battle of Britain 80, we've teamed up with War and Conflict Subject Specialist Network (SSN) member The Royal Air Force Museum, London to share Eileen's story of the London Blitz."

[HERE](#)

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\* [The John Rylands Library Special Collections Blog](#)

Ancoats Survey 1937-38: A Study of a Clearance Area

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
* This is the introduction to our short guide to historic 'Horrible Handwriting' (otherwise known as palaeography!)

Cheshire Archives

[HERE](#)

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\* National Archives

Currency converter: 1270–2017

Calculate purchasing power

[HERE](#)

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* Science Museum Group

"As the world's leading group of science museums, we share our unparalleled collection spanning science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine with over five million visitors each year. "

[HERE](#)

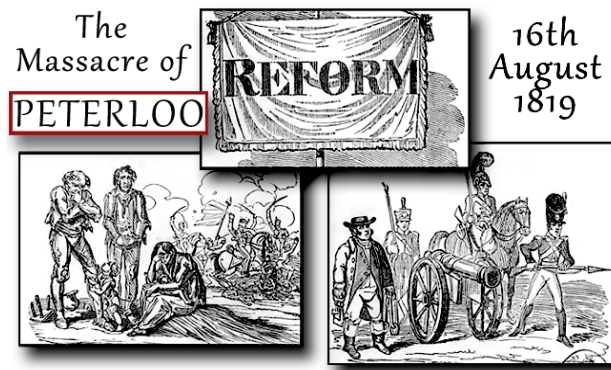
~~~~~  
\* Builders renovating the oldest surviving synagogue in the city [Manchester] make discovery in the original cornerstone

[HERE](#)

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* For much more, visit the MLFHS Facebook Page : [HERE](#)
And [HERE](#) is the link to the MLFHS Twitter page.

PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary

Visit the website for **The Peterloo Project** with particular reference to Oldham, people, accounts, life at the time and more ...



at [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

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Although the long-anticipated Bi-Centenary has come and gone, there are some Peterloo websites still active with news, photos and reports.

You can make searches on websites such as :

**Manchester Histories - Peterloo 1819** ... Manchester Histories have created a website which publicises all that is happening, or has happened, around the region.

Visit their website [HERE](#)

**Peterloo Memorial Campaign Group** ... to find out more about the memorial etc. organised by the Memorial Campaign Group, visit their website. [HERE](#)

## Need Help!

### Coronavirus Pandemic

**Oldham Local Studies and Archives is now open again for limited access and with restrictions. However these are subject to change at short notice. Check the website [HERE](#) for up to date details and information.**

**Local Studies and Archives at 84 Union Street, Oldham, [OL1 1DN](#),**

**In normal times** there are regular Family History Advice Sessions every Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2-4pm.

There's no need to book. Just turn up with all the information you have and the resident family history experts will be on hand to help.

Archives are unique, original documents created in the course of everyday activities. Oldham's date from 1597 and cover an enormous range of subjects and activities :

- Hospital records
- Poor Law Union records
- Coroners Court records
- Local Authority records including Chadderton, Crompton, Failsworth, Lees, Oldham, Royton and Saddleworth
- Schools and education records
- Records for statutory bodies like the police force
- Church and religious records
- Business records
- Solicitors and estate agents records
- Trade unions and associations records
- Co-operative Society records
- Sports, entertainment and leisure records
- Personal, family and property records
- Society and Association records
- Records of Oldham communities

There is no charge to look at archival records although you would need to bring proof of your name and address (e.g. your driving licence) to do so.

Most archives can be produced immediately, with no advance booking required. However, some archives are stored off-site, in which case at least 2 days' notice is required in order to see them.

**Other archives may be closed due to their fragile condition, or because they contain confidential information.**

There are regularly changing displays in the Local Studies Library.

[Opening hours](#) and contact details.

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Website Links

Other Society Websites

Catholic Family History Society – www.catholicfhs.co.uk

Cheshire Local History Association – www.cheshirehistory.org.uk

Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society - <https://www.lfhhs.org.uk/home.php>

Lancashire Local History Federation – www.lancashirehistory.org

Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – www.lswlfhs.org.uk

Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – www.mrias.co.uk

Oldham Historical Research Group – www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg

Peterloo - [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) - [Ranulf Higden Soc.](#)

Royton Local History Society – www.rlhs.co.uk

Saddleworth Historical Society – www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk

Tameside Local History Forum - www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk

The Victorian Society - [Manchester Regional Website](#)

Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - [Lancashire](#)

Free BMD - [Search](#)

[National Library of Scotland](#) - Free to view, historic, zoomable maps of UK :

1891 - Oldham and locality [HERE](#)

Online Parish Clerk Project : Lancashire - [HERE](#)

British Association for Local History - [HERE](#)

and for their back issue journal downloads - [HERE](#)

Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, website, [HERE](#)

and for their back issue journal downloads, website, [HERE](#)

Internet Archive ... The Internet Archive offers over **24,000,000** freely downloadable books and texts. [HERE](#) There is also a collection of 1.3 million modern eBooks that may be borrowed by anyone with a free archive.org account.

Made in Greater Manchester (MIGM) [HERE](#) and Research guide [HERE](#)

Some Local Archives

Barnsley Museum & Discovery Centre – www.experience-barnsley.com

Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](#)

Bury – www.bury.gov.uk/archives

Chester - [Cheshire Archives & Local Studies](#) (linked from Discovery at the National Archives)

Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](#)

Leeds - [Leeds Local and Family History](#)

Liverpool Archives and Family History – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/archives>

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)

Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

Preston – www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives

Stockport – www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives

Tameside Local Studies and Archives - <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/archives>

York – www.york.ac.uk/borthwick



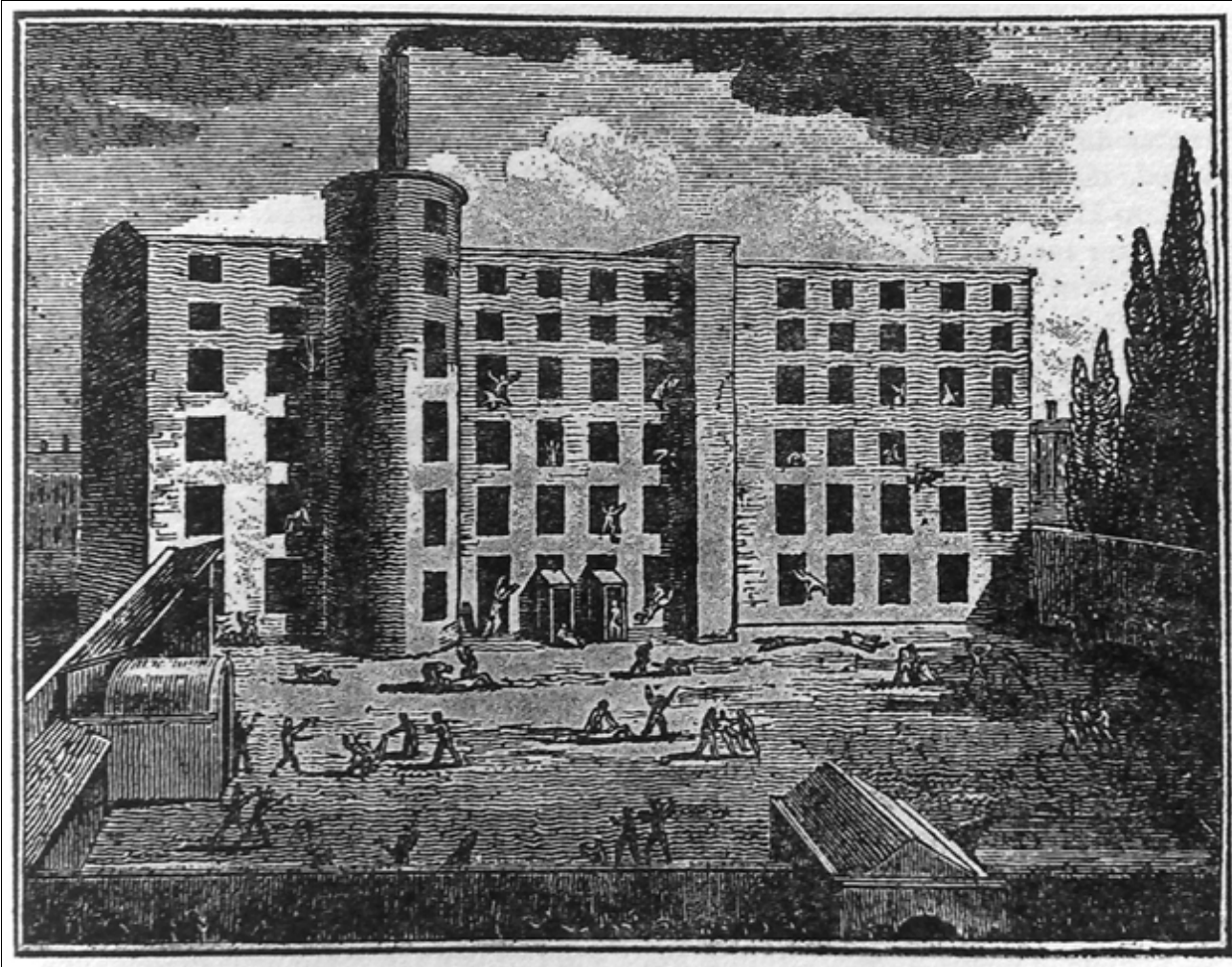
For the Gallery

The Islington Mill

1824, Nathan Gough's mule spinning mill, off Oldfield Road, Salford;

scene of an accident, when several floors collapsed, and a number of workers died.

Transcript, *The Amenities of Factory Life*, about this Mill, in the 'Mixed Bag'



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**'ENTRANCE TO THE TUNNEL**  
**OF THE LIVERPOOL AND MANCHESTER RAILWAY, EDGE HILL'.**



Drawn by C & G. Pyne.

Engraved by John Davies.

**ENTRANCE TO THE TUNNEL OF THE LIVERPOOL & MANCHESTER RAIL-WAY, EDGE-HILL.**

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