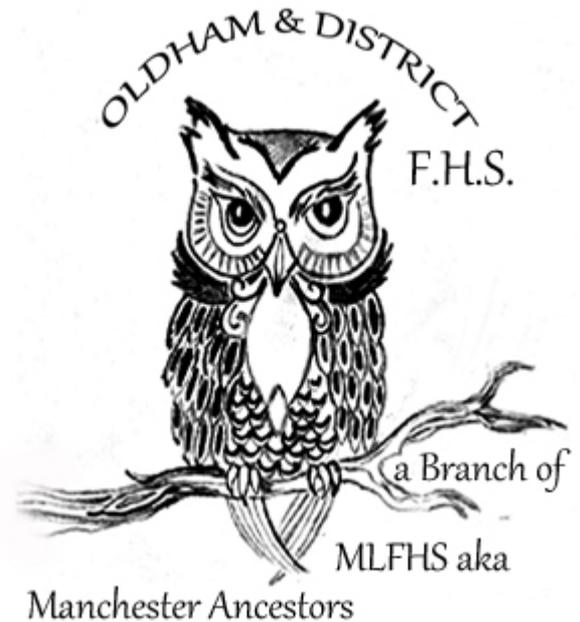


# 'e-Owls'



## Contact us :

Branch Website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>  
MLFHS homepage : <https://www.mlfhs.uk/>  
Email Chairman : [chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk)  
Emails General : [oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:oldham@mlfhs.org.uk)  
Email Newsletter Ed : [Oldham\\_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto: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

**Oldham & District Newsletter Archives :** Read or download back copies [HERE](#)

**June 2022**

## MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

### Where to find things in the newsletter:

Oldham Branch News : ..... Page 3  
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### Branch News :

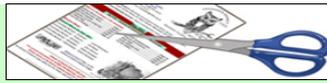
#### Branch Officers for 2022 -2023 :

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

#### Links to the Website :



['Where to Find it'](#)  
On the Oldham & District  
Website Pages



Newsletter ['Snippets' Page](#)  
Find Articles, Transcriptions and  
Gallery Images you missed



*Women's War Work*  
Government Publication 1916

### Oldham & District Branch Meetings :

**For current information on all M&LFHS Meetings, and other public activities,  
Please check on the Branch website pages for updated information.**

The Society Facebook page [HERE](#) and the Twitter page [HERE](#) will be updated frequently.

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**Chairman's remarks :**

Hello and welcome to the June Newsletter.

We have plenty to look forward to this month with the extra Bank Holidays (with sunshine I hope).

As mentioned last month we have now held our second "in person" meeting combined with Zoom. Again we had a slight problem with the sound transmission and have come to the conclusion that it is the room in which we have our meetings that is the problem. From June onwards, the remainder of our meetings will be held in the Performance Space at Oldham Library which we hope will have better acoustics, but we are going to have a run through before the next meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> June. Fingers crossed and hope we can resolve this problem. I hope that those of you living in the Oldham & District Branch area will be able to join us in person at our future meetings.

Enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter.

Best Wishes

Linda

Chairman, Oldham Branch

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

~~~~~

**Editor's remarks.**

Hi Everyone,

This month saw our second hybrid meeting in the Library. We had hoped that the new multidirectional microphone the branch purchased would solve the audio problems we encountered in the first of our hybrid meetings. Unfortunately, this didn't happen and many of our zoom attendees again found it difficult to follow what was being said by the speaker as it was described, variously, as echoey, quiet or muffled. As Linda mentions in her own 'Remarks', one of our concerns now is that the problem may lie in the acoustics of the meeting room which is high ceilinged and large. Hopefully, our re-location to the Performance Space at the Library will enable us to find the best way of setting up an enjoyable experience for both the audience on zoom and that in the room.

In the 'Mixed Bag' we have the next chapter of the '*Autobiography Of A Manchester Cotton Manufacturer*'. I'm making no excuse for including two pieces in the newsletter that aren't strictly connected with the Oldham District but I include them because our readers are scattered across the country and / or have ancestral roots in our neighbouring counties. The first is in the 'Mixed Bag' and is about Moreton Old Hall in Cheshire ... a transcribed personal description and brief history with some beautiful drawings to accompany it. The second is in the 'e-Postbag' and was sent by a reader living in Sudbury but who has Oldham connections. She has researched an American airman who flew from the 486 Bomb Group at Sudbury and died in a mid-air collision over Lincolnshire in April 1945.

It seems to be 'feast or famine' when it comes to the e-Postbag contributions! We also have a poster, sent by Mary Pendlebury, who asks, "Do you remember Windy City?" and, if you do, share your memories with her at the Local Studies and Archives Library. Finally, Steve Roman has sent us a notification of events in Manchester, in June, details of which are included. New on the website Video page is the May talk given by Dr. Alison Ronan, for the Oldham Historical Research Group and who kindly gave me permission to record it for our website pages. The title of her illustrated talk was, 'the Women's War Interest Committee in Manchester in WW1' You can find the video [HERE](#). In the Mixed Bag, I've added some more information on

the role of women in the workplace in WW1. To supplement it there are also some relevant photos in the 'Gallery'.

Also, new on the website Project pages is another contribution from Pat Etchells, in her 'Murders and other Criminal goings on in Oldham' series, called, 'The Bardsley Bookshop Murder, in 1913'. Read it [HERE](#)

Sheila

I am always very happy to receive articles, pictures etc., for the 'Mixed Bag' in 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, whilst allowing MLFHS to re-use the material in an appropriate manner.

Editor reserves the right to edit any contributions before publication.

email me at : < Oldham\_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk >

**Please note**, regarding using the links to website pages or .pdf documents : if clicking on a link when the newsletter is viewed on the internet, without first downloading it onto the computer, the new page opens in the same window so the 'back button' has to be used to return to the newsletter.

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## Oldham & District Branch

### *Monthly Meetings*

Happily, we are now planning to hold our monthly meetings as hybrids ... simultaneously on zoom and in the library. Over the past 18 months or so we have really appreciated the support that we have enjoyed both from local society members and those from further afield. However, in addition, we have also been able to welcome non-members with an interest in our programme, some of whom, gratifyingly, became members of the society as a result! Please continue to support the Branch, either in person at Oldham Library or on zoom if preferred.

Details, of the full programme of talks, are on the 'Meetings' page of the Branch website [HERE](#) .

\* Booking for an online talk remains free for everyone and is essential on [Eventbrite](#).

\* No need to book if you attend in the library.

For attendance in person, in the library, members are free, non-members £3.

Wherever you live, Welcome!

~~~~~

### *Last Month's Hybrid Meeting*



Saturday,  
14th May  
at  
2 pm



### *A History of the Coliseum Theatre, Oldham*

***Hybrid meeting in the Education suite, Oldham Library and on zoom***

Many thanks to David Rustidge who gave us a most interesting talk on the Coliseum and the

now famous faces who once 'trod the boards' in Oldham. Many of us who have been in Oldham for the last 50-odd years or more, recognised the household names who spent some of their early theatrical careers in Oldham.

David started by giving us a brief, 'potted history' of the Coliseum Theatre. It dates back to 1885 when it opened as the 'Grand American Circus and Hippodrome' on what is now Tommyfield Market, on Henshaw Street. The wooden building was dismantled and moved to its current site on Fairbottom Street and, by 1912, was known as the 'Coliseum'. For a few years in the 1930s, the theatre was closed and when it re-opened was known as the Oldham Repertory Theatre. It was a 'Members Only' Theatre and, as such members paid a subscription and had a 'founder-members' card. So successful were the plays, it became a springboard for many of the actors to enter the infant television industry and also films. David shared a few anecdotes, with us, about the many different actors, before they went on to become famous names.

The long-running 'Coronation Street' claimed many of the 'Rep.' actors, including William Roache, Jean Alexander, Pat. Phoenix, Barbara Knox, Anne Kirkbride and Roy Barraclough. Household names from the world of cinema could be seen at Oldham Rep., including Ralph Fiennes, Charlie Chaplin, Stan Laurel and Robert Newton (remember him as Long John Silver in the film 'Treasure Island'?). Then of course there were the northern stalwarts, like Dora Bryan, Thora Hird, Eric Sykes and Kathy Staff ... so many and just a few mentioned.

So successful was the theatre and its almost unbelievable weekly turn-around of plays up to 1968 that, in 1978, the theatre received a grant, one condition being that it opened its doors to the public and, as such, was re-constituted as the Oldham Coliseum Theatre.

The powerpoint presentation included photos of the exterior of the theatre; a line of WW1 soldiers who were given free admission to the theatre when home on leave; the early auditorium in which all the seats had a piece of paper pinned to them with the name of the person who had booked that seat! We were shown a shot of the bar, with an early poster for the Colosseum (as it was once named) advertising 'W. Hamilton's Excursions to Australia'. In March 1895, "for 6 nights only" Buffalo Bill Cody and his company came to the Colosseum. There were photos of the founder members' cards, and one of the 'First Staff at the Working Department of the Colosseum', 1888. there were also photos from early productions in which some of the names already mentioned, were featured.

Finally, we saw an artist's impression of what the new Coliseum, which is still in the realms of make-believe, might have looked like. Only time will tell what actually transpires!

All the Coliseum resources are lodged at the Oldham Local Studies and Archives, and are a veritable treasure trove of memories.

Our many thanks to David for sharing this story with us.

~~~~~  
**June Meeting ... hybrid, in Oldham Library and on zoom**



Saturday,  
11th June  
at  
2 pm



*A dive into the archives of GMP Museum ... what we collect, why we collect it and how it is used now. Featuring case studies of some of our most unique items.*

An illustrated talk given by Katie Henderson

\* Online free booking, for all, for zoom link on [Eventbrite](#).

\* Booking not necessary for in person attendance at Oldham Library in the Performance Space. Members free, non-members in person £3.

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**MLFHS Branches delivering their monthly meetings and talks**

**Anglo - Scots ... June Meeting**

MLFHS, ANGLO-SCOTTISH BRANCH MEETING	Saturday, 4th June at 2:00 pm	<i>'Finding Scots in Canada'</i> given on zoom by Christine Woodcock
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Online, on zoom ... bookings on [Eventbrite](#)

**Anglo-Scottish Website Pages** [HERE](#) for more information and booking details

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**Bolton ... June Meeting**

|                                              |                                            |                                          |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| MLFHS<br>Bolton Branch<br>online<br>Meetings | Wednesday,<br>1st<br>June<br>at<br>7:30 pm | <i>Researching<br/>House<br/>History</i> |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|

A hybrid Meeting on zoom and at  
Bolton Golf Club, Lostock Park, Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL6 4AJ

all bookings on [Eventbrite](#)

**Bolton Website Pages** [HERE](#) for more information and booking details.

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**MLFHS updates**

**The MLFHS Family History Help Desk ...**

**For any updated information, please check the website** [HERE](#)

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**Manchester ... June Meetings**

bookings on [Eventbrite](#)

Keep an eye on the MLFHS Events Page or Eventbrite Bookings page, as some meetings may be added at short notice.

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**MLFHS Online Bookshop:** [HERE](#).

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

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**MLFHS Manchester & Branch e-Newsletters**

MLFHS Manchester and each of the MLFHS branches publish 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 Manchester newsletter automatically and non-members can browse the archive and download any they wish. You can sign up to receive the Branches' newsletter links monthly, 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 to browse.

[MLFHS \(Manchester\)](#)      [Bolton](#)      [Oldham](#)      [Anglo-Scottish](#)

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**MLFHS Updates to the Great Database** (located in the Members' area of the Website)

**Emails to the Members' forum**, from John Marsden (webmaster), listing the updates.

\* Paul Thomas has completed another index, this time to the Alan Godfrey map for Hyde. This adds another 238 references to the index, which now covers 21,539 street and building names from 62 maps. Thanks once more to Paul for this and his several earlier contributions.

~~~~~

\* A while back, Joe Hilditch sent me a file of the names of 130 people fined for breaking the blackout rules during WW2 reported in the Manchester Evening News for part of 1940. I have just completed a search through the MEN 1939-1945 and added a further 422 names to this collection. These are now in the Great Database. If you find a reference of interest it may be worth following up in the original newspaper as while many entries have little more than name and address, some have quite lengthy accounts of arguments and fisticuffs with wardens and police.

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\* I have just added another small but interesting dataset to The Great Database: Names and details of those killed in the explosion at Wood Pit, Haydock on 7 June 1878. Compiled by Graham Normansell. (191 records)

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\* Manchester School for the Deaf & Dumb  
Another book of admission documents for the above school has been completed by Jim Chadwick and his team. These are admissions between 1881 and 1889. Thanks to Jim and team for these.

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\* Manchester School for the Deaf & Dumb  
Jim Chadwick's team have completed the index to another volume of admission documents - these covering 1882-92.  
Thanks to Jim and team for these. All include a link to a scanned copy of the documents.

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\* New data has been added at [www.lancashirebmd.org.uk](http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk) as follows:

Added 797 Marriages for BN RD comprising:  
Edgworth, Methodist Church (Turton), registers at Blackburn (1991-2008)  
Darwen, Highfield Congregational Church (Edmund St), registers at  
Blackburn (1989-2019)  
Darwen, Methodist Church (Spring Vale), registers at Blackburn (1987-1997)  
Blackburn, St Paul's Church (Higher Audley St), registers at Blackburn  
(1999-2010)  
Blackburn, Elim Pentecostal Church (Park Rd), registers at Blackburn  
(1986-2010)  
Blackburn, Woodlands United Reformed Church (Cherry Tree, Livesey),  
registers at Blackburn (1985-1989)  
Darwen, St Cuthbert (1996-2010)  
Huddlesden, St Paul (1991-2010)  
Lower Darwen, St James (2008-2011)  
Darwen, St Peter (formerly Holy Trinity), registers at Blackburn (1991-2010)  
Tockholes, St Stephen (1993-2007)  
Blackburn, St Aidan (1993-2010)  
Blackburn, St Barnabas (1951-2005)  
Thanks to Tony Foster and team for the above.

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\* Another Alan Godfrey map has been indexed by Paul Thomas. This one is for Newton Heath in 1889. Paul had already indexed the same area for 1915 but this earlier map will be helpful where street names may have changed or where earlier institutions have disappeared in the intervening 26 years. Thanks to Paul for this addition which brings the index up to 22,153 references on 63 maps. More is in the pipeline!

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\* Manchester School for the Deaf & Dumb  
A further volume of admissions has been added to the Great Database, this time consisting of 55 admissions between 1902 and 1904.  
Thanks to Jim Chadwick and his team (Marie Collier, Shirley King, Janet Moores, Chris Norcross.) for these.

~~~~~  
\* I have added new records to the great Database as follows:  
Audenshaw (Red Hall) Methodist New Connexion Baptisms [HERE](#)  
Baptisms 1875-1898 transcribed by John Cameron. Note, there is a gap between 2 Dec 1877 and 17 Jul 1878 where two pages have not been scanned. (388 records).  
Thanks to John for this.  
I hope that we will be able to insert the two missing pages in the future.

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\* Indexes to two more maps now added to the Godfrey Map Index. These are 288 entries for Didsbury & Heaton Merset 1904 and Fallowfield 1904, which have been indexed by Martin Sullivan. Thanks to Martin for these.

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

**Please note ...**  
**Please check society/group websites or organisers for updated information**

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# Moorside & District Historical Society

Monday 20th June 2022.

## 150th St Thomas' Church Anniversary.



### "Lesser known Mellodew Mansions"

The Mellodew family homes over the years.

### West View & West Leigh/Lea.

Plans for separating the two dwellings and turning the servants quarters in a separate dwelling were submitted in 1924.

The properties were up for sale in 1925. (*West View - £1,200*).

No more Mellodew's lived in these three properties after that date although Thomas Mellodew & Co. Ltd still owned the freehold etc until the early 1950's.



*West View on the left.*

*Moorside House  
would have been  
behind the trees  
before it was demolished.*



1

**To be held in Moorside St Thomas' Church, OL1 4SJ**

7-30 p.m. all are welcome.

**Church, Lounge or Vestry.**

*Note: Other meeting planned for 2022 if all goes well for the third Monday of the month.  
Except for the summer break July & August + December. £2 including refreshment.*



Wednesday  
15th  
June  
at  
7 pm



**Oldham Historical Research Group: ... Meetings continue on zoom**

### "A Manchester man - Nathan Mayer Rothschild"

a free, illustrated presentation, on zoom,  
given by Melanie Aspey, Director at the Rothschild Archive

Everyone welcome ... More details and free booking on Eventbrite [HERE](#)

Your support for our meetings is appreciated and, if you would like more information, please email me at < pixnet.sg@gmail.com >.

Website [HERE](#)

**Saddleworth Historical Society Wednesday 8th June at 7.30pm**

**'The Origins of King Arthur'**

an illustrated presentation given by Emeritus Professor Nick Higham.

at the Saddleworth Museum, Art Gallery, High Street, Uppermill.

Society members free but a charge to non-members on the door of £3.

All welcome. Refreshments available. Masks should be worn.

Website [HERE](#)

**Saddleworth Civic Trust** has no meeting or event planned in June 2022.

**For both societies :**

Please note that if there is any upturn in the state of the ongoing Covid Pandemic, any or all of these meetings might be cancelled. Members of each Society should check with any Committee member, at the Museum office, if in doubt.

**SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**GUIDED WALKS, SUMMER 2022 (Series 9 Rev.1)**

**Sunday 19th June 2022.**

Meet 6pm at Dobcross Band Club Car Park.

Walk entitled "Dobcross: the first Nuclear Settlement." Distance around 1 mile at slower pace.

For contact details, a list of the walks and other details, view or download the .pdf programme

[HERE](#)

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**Library Events & Gallery talks at Gallery Oldham; Curator talks** [HERE](#)

on [Eventbrite](#) and [Instagram](#)

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**Family History Society of Cheshire : Tameside Group meeting.**

See their website [HERE](#)

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**Tameside History Club :**

Meetings on zoom.

Website and programme

&

**Tameside Local Studies and Archives - Regular Sessions and Events**

Website and programme [HERE](#)

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**Regional Heritage Centre :**

Website [HERE](#)

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**'A Mixed Bag'**

**'Autobiography Of A Manchester Cotton Manufacturer : Or Thirty Years' Experience Of Manchester ', pub. 1887.**

Originally published anonymously, later research showed that it was written by Henry S. Gibbs. The reviewer had given it 5 stars, as had others who had read it.

The author used pseudonyms throughout ... actual names, where discovered, in the footnotes.

**Serialised in the newsletters :**

The earlier chapters and an introduction can be read in previous months' newsletters, starting in October, and downloadable [HERE](#)

## Transcript: Chapter XIII

### **NEW FRIENDS.**

I WAS a frequent visitor at the house of Mrs. Alison,\* a widow lady, living in a handsome detached residence in one of the suburbs. I first knew her in her husband's lifetime. He was one of Mr. Thornton's intimate friends, and at his house I made their acquaintance. Mr. Alison was a retired merchant. He possessed literary taste and a cultivated mind; moreover, he had an ample fortune, kept almost an open house, and received his visitors with hospitality. In my early days he gave me considerate attention, and would frequently call at the governor's warehouse to invite me to dance or dinner party, or "music and muffins," as the case may be. Alison had a smart, active personal appearance. His figure was slight, and he dressed well. His hair was white, but abundant, with none on the face or chin. He had sharp features, a massive forehead, and a fine eye. I was always glad to behold him, for he was not only a pleasant subject for the eye to rest on, but I knew him to be good-hearted, though sarcasm more frequently than smiles were detected on his countenance; but I knew he was true to me. When he frequently called at my own office in after years, he would enter it in a manner so lordly and autocratic that it disconcerted me not a little if a client happened to be engaged with me when he

\* Allcock

#### **p. 138**

made his appearance. My friend was impatient, and required immediate attention, no matter who was present. It required all my tact and skill to prevent offence to the customer on the one hand, and irritation to my inconsiderate old friend on the other. Notwithstanding his genuine hospitality, he sometimes shocked his friends. He had no children, no occupation, but much wealth. It was not surprising, therefore, he should indulge in some whims and fancies. He was justly proud of his wines, and of this fact no frequent visitor to his house could long remain in ignorance; but how on earth were people to know he had the same weakness for mustard? But so it was. I joined him one night at supper in a Welsh "rarebit," and at the end of the feast a portion of mustard remained on my plate. His quick eye detected my delinquency, and he exclaimed with the utmost gravity, bordering on severity, "Perhaps, sir, you are not aware the mustard you have left to waste on your plate is the finest mustard manufactured in Durham, from whence I have it regularly sent me every month from the factory." I was conscience-stricken and penitent, but escaped further reproaches by exclaiming to him that I had put on my plate the exact quantity of mustard and no more which accorded with my usual consuming capacity. His mustard, however, possessed double the strength and virtue of any mustard I had before tasted, but of this fact I was not previously aware, and an inspection of the quantity of the unconsumed condiment left on my plate would convince him of the correctness of my conduct in the matter. He considered I had made

#### **p. 139**

so good an *a priori* case that he condoned my offence. On another occasion a different case of victimization occurred. In this instance, a young friend was taking some of his rare port wine with him. After filling his glass, he drank the wine off with an expressive smack of the lips. "Do you know sir," said Mr. A. "you have just swallowed two shillings and sixpence?" The guest on this occasion, knowing that he had the best of it, remarked that the quality of the liquor was so fine that when the delicious fluid began flowing, it was impossible to stop its course until the whole had disappeared.

"A pipe! It is a great soother! a pleasant comforter! Blue devils fly before its honest breath! It ripens the brain, it opens the heart, and the man who smokes thinks like a sage and acts like a Samaritan." The repetition of the foregoing sentiments, which were those of no less

distinguished a man than Sir Bulwer Lytton, formed my reply to Mr. Alison when he expressed opinions very hostile to the use of tobacco. When it became known to him I had quoted from so high an authority his views on the subject became modified. On my next visit to his house I was not a little surprised when the servant appeared with a tray containing two exquisite "London straws" and a packet of tobacco, together with spels and an ash-holder. Sir Bulwer had made an impression, and my friend had begun to "think as a sage and act like a Samaritan" already. The pipes were attractive, and the tobacco excellent, and we were soon engaged in our respective fumous operations. But my old friend was a

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neophyte. It was, I think, his first attempt, and somehow he did not take kindly to it. The tobacco was Latakia, of delicate flavour, but he thought it could not be very good. I assured him it was excellent. He considered it was too strong; but, on the contrary, I told him it was very mild. His pipe, he thought, did not draw properly, so he pulled at it with such vehemence that more smoke than was necessary was inhaled; but inasmuch as exhalations did not follow at the right moment, a fit of coughing ensued, resulting in the pipe being laid aside, and a gasping for breath on the part of the smoker, which was not pleasant to contemplate. There were no more pipes introduced after this well-intentioned though unsuccessful effort, and my old friend relapsed into his former adverse views, irrespective of Sir Bulwer Lytton. He passed away in a few years, and I mourned his loss, but his friendship always remain in grateful remembrance. His widow was true to his memory, and, as the young friend of her late husband, I became, more than formerly, a constant visitor at her house, where I met many persons from time to time, and some of them so frequently that intimate acquaintances were formed and friendships perpetuated.

John Brindlebury\* was one of the choice spirits who were frequently allured to my rooms. His visits were welcome ones, and in early days were frequent. He was a civil engineer, and the son of a Manchester physician, who died early, falling a victim to the disease with which he was battling on behalf of others. John's mother thought it would be a fine thing to make a rich Manchester

\* Pendlebury

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merchant of him, and with that well-intentioned object apprenticed him to a leading firm for five years. She paid the firm a handsome premium, doubtless thinking that in after years it would prove to have been a fine investment; for would not her boy become acquainted with all the elements of success that are to be found in those princely warehouses, and in the fullness of time become the proprietor of one of the commercial mansions himself. John desired to comply with his parent's wishes, and to fulfil all her aspirations if it were possible. With these good intentions he donned the mercantile harness and put his shoulder literally and figuratively to the wheel. He conscientiously applied himself to the discharge of every duty that was imposed upon him, and for some months each day was spent in the customary manner, of carrying on his shoulders the heavy bales of white calico as they were delivered by the bleacher's lurry. These weighty bundles had to be piled away in the uppermost room of a five-storied building. As there was no hoist, they must find their way thither on the shoulders of the youngest articulated apprentice. My friend occupied this distinguished position in the house, and discharged the functions pertaining thereto as long as he could. The time arrived when overtaxed nature refused any longer to be overtaxed, and the willing victim broke down. When other and less laborious occupation was requested and refused, the rebellious spirit of opposition was aroused, and even a mother's solicitude failed to detain John in that particular process of climbing to distinction. When I first knew him he had

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the more congenial work for which he was best fitted. The construction of a bridge or a railway was more to his mind, and he left us to carry on his new calling in South America, India, and other parts of the world, with such brilliant success that I believe he has now retired from active life, and devotes his hours to art and the muses. It was well for him his back became unequal to the burden of the bale, or he might, if not still climbing to fortune by that method, have made a fortune and again lost it, as not a few of us have done in Manchester.

No young man could long occupy a prominent position in Cottonopolis without becoming known intimately, or otherwise, with John Volumnus.\* My knowledge of him began through a business transaction with his father. The old gentleman, who was a very mild-mannered man of the old school, and as John Volumnus would assert, "too good for this world," had been unsuccessful in the completion of the negotiation. So far the matter seemed to be at an end, when the enterprising and irresistible son appeared upon the scene, displaying that tact and determination in effecting a successful issue which has distinguished him in after life. He was a lively young fellow - tall, handsome, and brimful to overflowing of animal spirits. The business in question was that of an insurance on my life. His father's office declined the risk through the recommendation of the medical referee. I had only just recovered from my illness, and selected the wrong time apparently for life insurance. The son, nothing daunted,

\* John William Maclure M.P. for Stretford

**p. 143**

insured me in another office, aided by the satisfactory examination by a more competent doctor, who informed the zealous young agent that I possessed "a splendid conformation."

Many a time, for years afterwards, has my progress in the street been arrested by a familiar voice on the other side of it, in stentorian tones, inquiring if the "splendid conformation" continued satisfactory. His sagacity and smartness were justified. For more than twenty-five years I have paid him annual premiums, a proceeding by the way of which I am now heartily tired. Doubtless mine was only one of a number of instances where similar difficulties were surmounted by similar adroitness.

A conspicuous member of my little coterie was a handsome young Irishman. It was when on a visit to my native city I first heard of this young aspirant to Manchester glory. I was asked to cultivate his acquaintance and extend to him a helping hand in the race to fortune. Eusebius\* Pigott was then pursuing with avidity, in an office in the city, the duties pertaining to the sale of oil. The consumption of oil in Lancashire and Yorkshire is enormous, and although many substitutes have, from time to time, been introduced for economic objects, nothing as yet has supplanted its use.

A man who has an extensive oil business with cotton spinners and manufacturers may be regarded as one who is in a fair way to realize a large fortune, if he have not already done so. It was in the establishment of such a one that I first made myself known, according to promise, to my young Hibernian friend. I found him to be

\* Sir Eustace Piers, Bart.

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all he had been described to me - bright, active, and intelligent. He appeared not more than eighteen years of age - he had an engaging manner - expressed himself delighted with the raid I had made upon him which resulted in his spending the whole of the following Sunday with me at my rooms. I asked him to come early, and by the time I had reached the breakfast room, my new acquaintance was at the door. It was a lovely summer morning. Not knowing how he would wish to spend his Sunday, I hinted to him I was in the habit myself of going to church; he

informed me he did the same thing. Before we sat down to dinner that day we had a topic sufficient to occupy us to the exclusion of all others, had we been so minded.

At that time Puseyism had been making rapid strides in some of the Manchester churches. The newspapers teemed with letters of complaints from old parishioners of the innovations made in the services by young curates and rectors, but generally by the curates, who seemed to delight in shocking the susceptibilities of the old worshippers. The more moderate of the old High Church party, whilst standing aloof, looked grave and shook their heads, whilst the youthful of the extremes rubbed their hands with delight in the contemplation of the ever-increasing ceremonial adopted in some of the churches. My friend and I were not concerned about this subject on this occasion. We had attended our service. We had no intoning. We had heard "Jackson in F," and the Psalms had been read and not sung; and we had also heard an extempore sermon on a text from the Romans -

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and it was the sermon that caused our ceaseless prattle during the remainder of the afternoon. The young rector had but one object and one idea, and he could, of course, prove himself to be right from Scripture. The proofs were forthcoming in abundance, but how they could be enunciated and the enunciator not break his heart in enunciating them I could not understand; neither could my Irish friend, though he attempted some lame kind of apology for the enthusiastic preacher. The sermon which perturbed our youthful minds was delivered to show that the churches were generally in a bad way, especially in Manchester. Indeed, there was scarcely one of them where God's elect people could worship with comfort; and to make matters still worse, we were told that even in the church where we were assembled there were very few true worshippers. But, worst of all, the preacher averred that the elect were the only portion of the congregation to whom he was then preaching; all he had to tell the others being, that they had "no part or lot in the matter." In the evening, as we considered the parson had failed "rightly to divide the word" in the morning, we remained indoors, and I was favoured with my friend's views of things in general and Manchester in particular. He informed me he came to it in a thunderstorm, during the time of the Art Treasures Exhibition. He had seen and enjoyed the collection, but had never liked Manchester since, and considered he was not the right man in the right place.

Pigott was so satisfied with his first visit that he renewed it several times before the following

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week had passed over. He had a little lodging of his own, very similar in its surroundings to that in which I passed my first few months in Manchester, though in his case he was not called upon by his landlady and her husband to adjust matrimonial differences. Our respective abodes, although a mile from each other, were not more than twelve minutes apart in point of time, the youthful Piers being of a light build and a rapid walker; so that when he returned from business to his empty room and found it uninviting, he easily transplanted himself to my more elaborate apartment, where he was sure of a welcome. He could have a book to read as long as he pleased (Macaulay's History, which had just appeared, was the favourite volume at that time), a game of chess, or hear a pianoforte performance of the "Dead March" in *Saul*, which greatly delighted him, and was, he thought, the finest composition ever written. He had it repeated so frequently that he would lose himself in abstraction, and on his return to consciousness would assert he had watched the last moments of the dying warrior, accompanying his body to its last resting-place, and in spirit followed him to the celestial city. Pigott had some pretty sentiments, but woe to the man who ventured upon a smile at them, for he was a true son of the soil, and as hot-tempered and quick to take offence as the average of his countrymen. On the whole, we got on fairly well together, for am I not half an Irishman myself? Moreover, his early struggles

enlisted my warmest sympathy, for it was easy to see that in the absence of his acquaintance with any business or profession his life for some years

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would probably be one of vicissitudes and disappointment, of which he afterwards had his share.

In time he began a career for himself. Pigott was well connected and of good family, and, moreover, he had brought some good introductions to Manchester friends, who were not directly connected with the Manchester industry, but they had not been of much service to him, and this circumstance was a cause of irritation and disappointment. For weeks and months and years I never lost an opportunity to introduce Eusebius to any commercial or professional friend whom I thought might be of service to him. He was so much at my rooms he soon knew all my visiting friends as well as I did myself, and I took him to the houses of not a few of my married acquaintances. W. Renshaw had for some time been a benedict, a householder, and a paterfamilias, and for a while nothing pleased him better than to entertain his bachelor friends, and so it came to pass that Eusebius was included in their number. The business he began was in conjunction with another aspirant to fortune, and an office was opened in a leading thoroughfare, though on the very highest story of the building, under the firm of "Harewood\* and Pigott," agents for the General Protection Fire and Life Assurance Society; capital incredible millions." Harewood was also a smart young fellow. His chief characteristic was the possession of an attractive voice, and although too stentorian for an evening party, yet in the matter of doing re and life business nothing could be better adapted. He could go to the busiest of merchants at their busiest moments, and

\* Heywood

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when ordinary men would be shown the door, he, by the sheer quality of his deep and emphatic tones, would frequently come away with a valuable life or an important risk. Eusebius was indeed to be congratulated on having such a promising partner, whose eminent qualifications he did not fail to recognize. They worked actively and well together for a time. A larger office was required for their increasing business, which presently was so augmented as to justify a descent from the top story of the building. When I remember, at this distance of time, the numberless daily journeys made up and down those interminable stairs by those two young hopeful spirits, and think of the result as I see it now, of all their labours and aspirations, differing so widely from what was then contemplated by either of them, I am reminded of the mutability of all earthly affairs as well as the inexorable course of destiny.

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In 1916 the Government published a 94 page booklet called,

**'WOMEN'S WAR WORK'**

***In maintaining the Industries & Export Trade of the United Kingdom.***

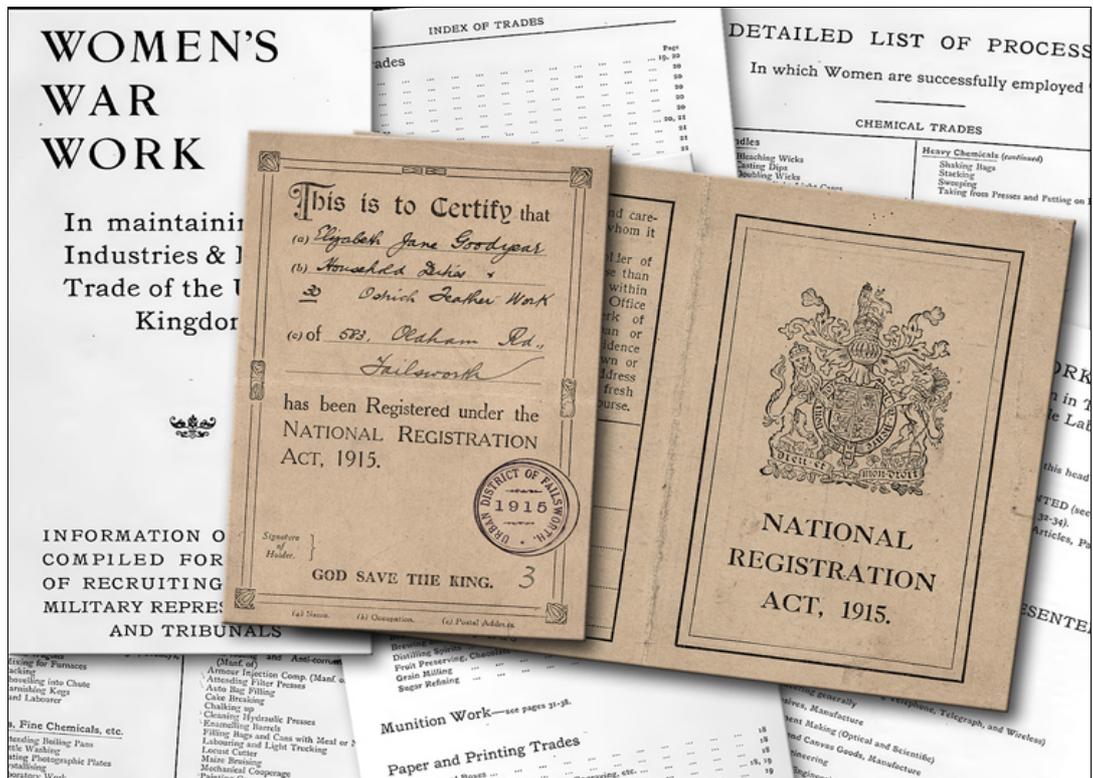
*"Information Officially Compiled for the use of Recruiting Officers,  
Military Representatives and Tribunals."*

Issued by the WAR OFFICE in September 1916

Alison Ronan's recent talk, '*Women's War Interest Committee in Manchester, in WW1*' to Oldham HRG, which has found a 'home' on our video pages, was on a topic in which I've long been interested. This 'offering' of mine is taking the understanding of employment of women in workplaces, that were only previously open to to men, a bit further.

Below is the National Registration card from September 1915, agains a few of the pages from

the above mentioned booklet.



**Part 1** is "**Trades and Processes In which Women are successfully employed in temporary replacement of Men**". A two page 'Index of Trades' follows, including the Chemical Trade with 10 different categories for eg., 'Manures & Fertilizers'. A 'Detailed list of Processes' fills the next 18 pages and breaks down the categories still further, for eg., employment in Manures & Fertilizers includes, 'Feeding Elevators', 'Taking Bags from Chutes', 'Weighing Bags of Manure', and 'Wheeling Barrows'. Impossible to count, the tightly packed pages, with double columns of tiny print, contain many hundreds of jobs considered within a woman's capabilities .

'**Munitions Work Successfully Undertaken by Women in Temporary Substitution or Dilution of Male Labour**' has its own 8 page section.

**Part 2** is **Photographs Of Women Workers** illustrating the successful employment of Women in temporary replacement of Men. Some of which have an asterisk ... "The photographs marked with an asterisk illustrate heavy physical work successfully performed by women"

Finally, **Part 3** is "**Lists Of Officials** whose assistance is available to Recruiting Officers and Military Representatives on questions affecting the supply of Women Workers to release men for the Army, and the conditions of their employment."

Starting on page 81, are the lists of H.M. Inspectors of Factories; Labour Exchanges and Local Agents with Labour Exchange Powers; Board Of Trade - Women Agricultural Organizing Officers; Honorary Secretaries of Women's County Committees for Agriculture.

## PREFACE

"THE formation of large Armies has necessarily had a far-reaching effect on the industrial and commercial life of the Nation, and in view of the increasing demand for men of military age to bear arms in the defence of liberty, it is incumbent on those not engaged in Military Service to make a supreme effort to maintain the output of Articles required for the War and the export trade.

It is considered that a more widespread knowledge of the success which has been attained by Women in nearly all branches of men's work is most desirable, and will lead to the release of large numbers of men to the Colours who have hitherto been considered indispensable.

Employers who have met the new conditions with patience and foresight readily admit that the results achieved by the temporary employment of Women far exceed their original estimates, and even so are capable of much further extension. If this is true in their case, how much greater must be the scope for such substitution by those Employers who have not attempted it from reasons of apprehension or possibly prejudice? The necessity of replacing wastage in our Armies will eventually compel the release of all men who can be replaced by women, and it is therefore in the interests of Employers to secure and train temporary substitutes as early as possible, in order to avoid any falling off in production.

Military Representatives and Chairmen of Tribunals will, it is hoped, find the lists and examples given in this book of service in dealing with claims put forward on grounds of indispensability, while Employers of Labour may find new ways of increasing their output in spite of the shortage of male labour. The Factory Inspectors of the Home Office, of whom a list is shown on pages 81 and 82, should be consulted in regard to the suitability of any particular process for the employment of women, or in regard to the conditions under which they are to work.

Particulars of Divisional Offices and Labour Exchanges, also Agents with Labour Exchange powers, will be found on pages 83 to 90. The Divisional Officers and Managers of Labour Exchanges, who represent the Board of Trade and Ministry of Munitions, will be able to give information as to the local requirements of labour and the probable labour supply which would be available to fill any given vacancy. They will give every attention to requests for information on these lines, and are anxious to assist by registering, advising, and finding suitable employment for women workers. Reference may also be made to the Information Bureau of the Board of Trade Employment Department, Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, S.W., and to the Women Agricultural Organizing Officers and Honorary Secretaries of Women's County Committees for Agriculture, lists of whose names and addresses are shown on pages 91 to 94.

In some parts of the country most effective substitution has been achieved by getting one of the womenfolk of a soldier's own family to replace him in civil life. Thus wives have taken up their husbands' work, sisters their brothers', daughters their fathers', even mothers their sons'. Substitution of this kind has much to recommend it. It helps to avoid domestic disturbance and the breaking-up of homes.

Women of Great Britain, employers of labour, remember that :

(a) No man who is eligible for Military Service should be retained in civil employment if his place can be temporarily filled by a woman or by a man who is ineligible for Military Service.

(b) No man who is ineligible for Military Service should be retained on work which can be performed by a woman (for the duration of the War) if the man himself can be utilized to release to the Colours one who is eligible for Military Service and who cannot be satisfactorily replaced by a woman."

In the Gallery are 5 or 6 photos from the booklet.

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**MORETON OLD HALL**

from '*Old Manor Houses*', written and illustrated by Cecil Aldin, pub.1923.

"Men can no more knowe weoman's  
mynde by teares  
Than by her shaddowe judge the  
clothes she weares"

ONE of the many wise sayings with which this house of carved legends, Moreton Old Hall, is decorated.

We must remember, however, that a "weoman's" shadow was a very different shape in Elizabethan days, when the rhyme was carved, to what it is to-day. Then perhaps it might have been difficult to judge from her shadow the clothes "she weares."

Now, alas, her shadow often tells us ... which, my wife reminds me, has nothing whatever to do with old Manor houses!



I always feel that this legend should have been written by the lord of the Manor of Shoyswell in Sussex, who left to his wife in his will in 1580, "the use and weringe of her weddinge ring during her lief and free liberty to bake and brewe

**p.28**

in the bake-house and brewhouse for her necessarie use, and to dry her clothes upon the hedges and bushes about his Manor of Shoyswell." A gentleman who no doubt kept his good lady in her proper place during his lifetime.

As Stokesay includes three distinct periods of architecture, so Moreton Old Hall is confined to one; and is about as unlike the former in character and appearance as is possible.

Here in Cheshire, we have that peaceful domestic character very strongly developed, which one generally associates with the name of Manor house, instead of the grim and heavy type as at Stokesay. Popularly called Moreton Old Hall, its real name is Little

**p.29**

Moreton Hall, its pedigree going back as far as the Conquest; if only for that reason, we may class it as one of the aristocrats among Manor houses.

Let us just glance at its story and the history of the Moreton family, who built the house and lived in it so long. The first record is of one Gram de Lostock who lived at Moreton in the time of Henry III, and the rather uncommon name of Gram appears constantly in the Moreton family pedigree at subsequent dates. A Richard de Moreton lived here in Edward II's reign, and

**p.30**

his descendants until 1449, at which time Sir Richard de Moreton of Moreton is heard of fighting in the Wars of the Roses.

Also, we have it on record that a William Moreton lived here in Henry VII's reign, his successor

marrying a daughter of Sir Andrew Brereton of Brereton, the gentleman who had the celebrated law-suit with his neighbour, Thomas Rode of Rode, to decide whether Rode of Rode or Brereton of Brereton "should sit highest in churche and foremost goo in procession"; which important litigation cost both Rode of Rode and Brereton of Brereton a very considerable sum of money. All of which happened before the house we see to-day was built.



In early Elizabethan times, Sir William Moreton built our Little Moreton Hall, or rather the first part of it :

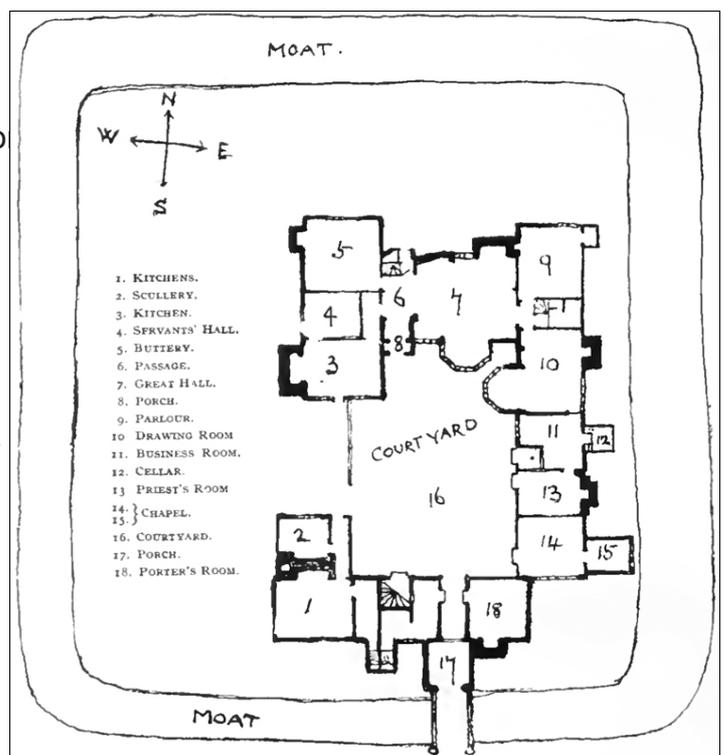
**p.31**

and then as various members of the family came into the property they each added a roo or wing until the house was finished

forming as it did originally the complete four sides of a quadrangle like Ightham.

**p.32**

Mote House and similar buildings. Indeed the process of development being very similar to that of Ightham.



Mr. Richard Dale the "carpeder " (with the cold in his head) has dated his window MDLXI and various other people (including, I am sorry to say, a gentleman from Lancashire who was at

Moreton in 1922) have recorded the dates of their visit on the woodwork and glass of the building - the staunch old Tory, Mr. Henry Mainwaringe, scratching on one of the windows in 1627:

"All change I scorne."



**p.33**

I wonder if he was a relation of our Sir George Mainwaringe who bought Stokesay in 1570 from the Vernons?

Little Margaret Moreton dated her signature on August 3rd, 1649.

**p.34**

More and more Moretons lived at Moreton Litde Hall until 1762, when the direct male line terminated in a Recorder of the City of London, Sir William Moreton, Knight, who was followed by his nephew, the Reverend Richard Taylor, of West Dean in the County of Sussex, who took the name of Moreton. His descendants continued owners of the house until the death of Miss Elizabeth Moreton, a few years ago, when the property was left to the Right Reverend C. D. Abraham, D.D., Lord Bishop of Derby, the present owner.

That, roughly, is a sketch of its story.

Besides the dates recorded in carving and cut

**p.35**

on windows, we have many architectural landmarks which give definite date to portions of the building, but it is probable that the great hall and buildings on the south side were built first - with the gate-house portion - and that the other parts were added at a slightly later date.

It has been definitely settled by the "competent architectural authority" that the greater part of the house was built about the year 1540, all previous references in its genealogical tree relating to a building standing upon the same site.

Four miles from Moreton is the town of Congleton, known to all north countrymen by the rhyme :

Congleton rare, Congleton rare.  
Sold their bible to pay for a bear,

**p.36**

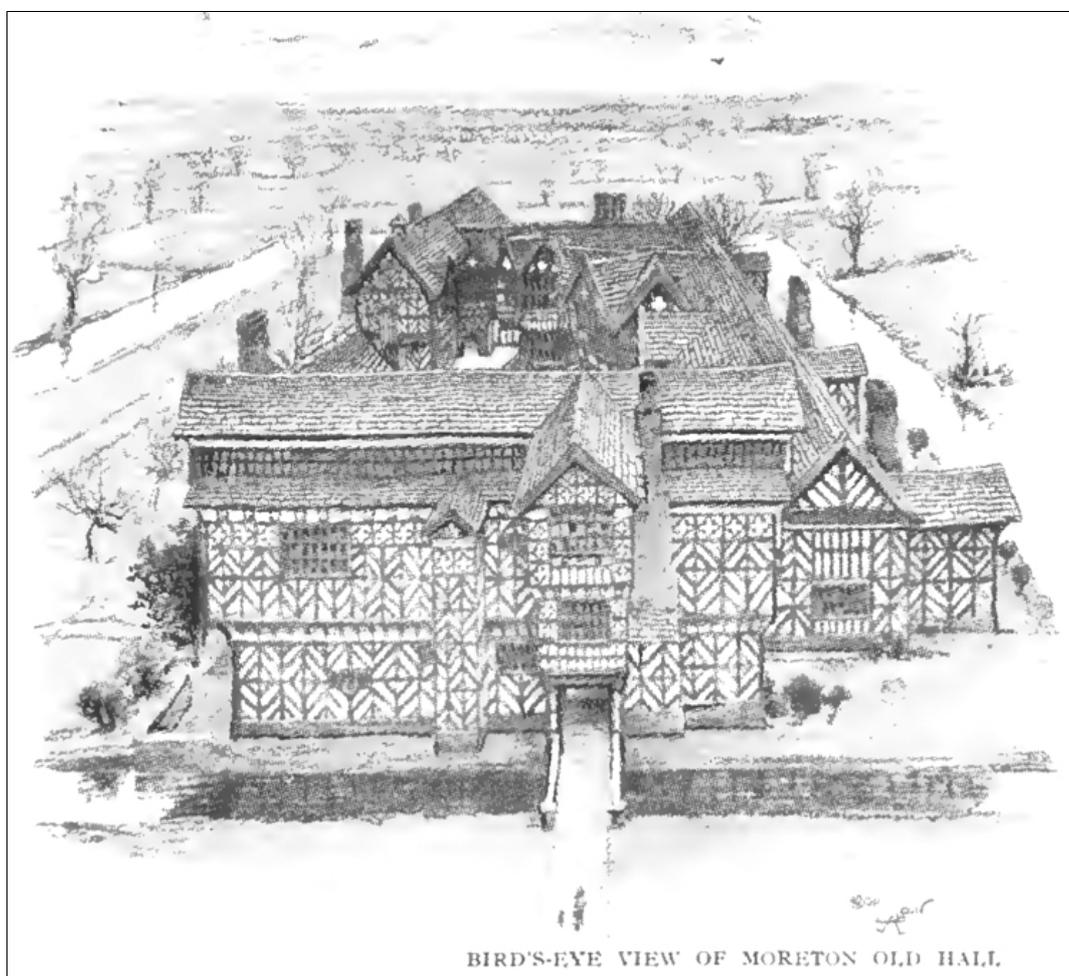
which, I believe, refers to the Mayor and Corporation - about the time Moreton Old Hall was built - disposing of the town hall bible, or rather, collecting money for a town hall bible, and using it to buy a bear for baiting purposes instead. A truly inexcusable thing to do.

But Congletonians have a very great admiration and reverence for their old house of Moreton, and this, notwithstanding the slur upon their character of the unfortunate bear incident, at once gave me a great liking for them.

Those I met at my inn were the descendants of the "wisket makers, jersey combers, mugmen, moldthrowers, towdressers, aledrapers and galloon weavers, and broaches-makers," recorded in the archives of Astbury Church in the Manor of Moreton, trades which were carried on in the village of Astbury and town of Congleton; and all these gentlemen without exception to-day are proud to have Moreton Old Hall to show the visitors to their town.

**p.37**

One enthusiast - he was not a "towdresser," "galloon weaver," or "broaches-maker," but an ordinary, or I might say extraordinary, butcher - showed me an old book he had just purchased for two guineas, because he had heard it contained some reference to, and particulars of, his beloved Moreton Old Hall.



Moreton is the Congletonians' "baby," and, like every other baby in existence, is considered by its parents the finest that was ever made.

Although we must make allowances for the ecstasies of parents and guardians, it is one of the most beautiful old houses we have, of what is usually known as the "Magpie" type, so typical of Cheshire and Lancashire.

The house itself is to-day but three sides of a quadrangle, and is completely surrounded by a moat; but I do not think it ever had a defensive drawbridge entrance. The old stone bridge now spanning the moat is probably

**p.38**

the original one that was built with the present house.

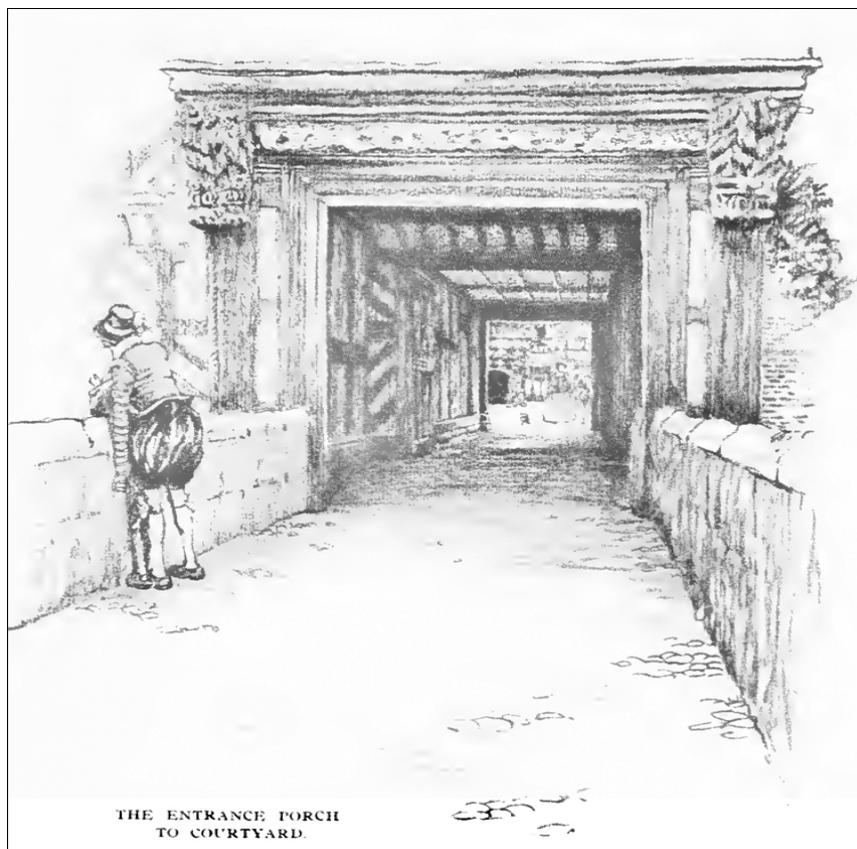
Once inside the courtyard, we expect to see Queen Elizabeth and her courtiers, or perhaps only one of the Moretons of that period, step from under the window carved by "Richard Dale, carpenter," the previously mentioned gentleman with the cold; but when failing to meet an Elizabethan squire and his wife, we meet or rather are shown over the house by the wife of a Mr. Richard Dale, whose family at present farm the adjoining land and have done so for over a hundred years, we can only marvel how small the world is, and that to-day a Dale, possibly a descendant of our old friend the "carpenter" of MDLXI, should be showing us the window his ancestor carved.

When I taxed Mr. Dale himself with being a descendant of his celebrated forebear in the carving line, like our present-day politicians, he did not commit himself to any definite statement. "The guide-book says so," was all I could get from him.

In my perspective view, the gate-house is seen in the foreground, with its wonderful, rather top-heavy upper story. But I must mention

**p.41**

the delightful little doorway giving entrance from the courtyard to the spiral staircase which takes you giddily to the long gallery. This long gallery I have seen described as a picture gallery, and also as a dancing hall; the former is perhaps the more ludicrous of the two, as there is no single wall or yard of wall, with the exception of the small bay over the porch, above four feet from the floor which has not a window in it, the room (measuring in all twelve feet by sixty-six feet) being almost one continuous window from end to end. Whoever could turn this into a picture gallery would be a very clever man indeed. Nor do I think it was built primarily for dancing - a long, narrow room (only twelve feet wide) would be hardly the ideal one to show off the stately dances of Elizabethan days. I think it is quite apparent that it was built



**p.43**

for that popular Elizabethan game bowls, or skittles - certainly not for pictures, and probably not for dancing. It was just the skittle alley, built as part of the house, which was so constantly done

in Elizabethan and Jacobean houses, the game Samuel Pepys tells us he watched the King play in St. James's Park.

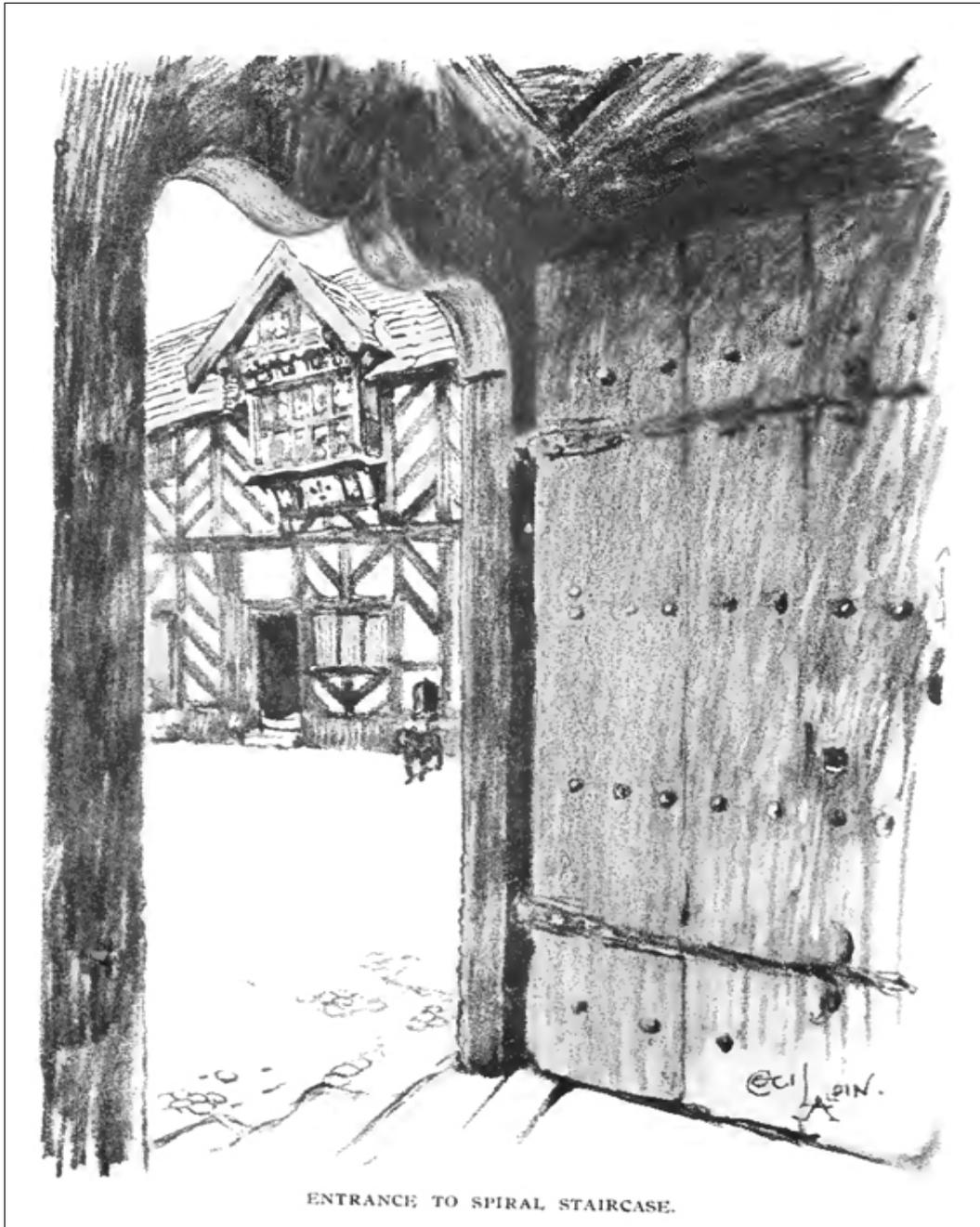
At either end of this room are frescoed above the window Moreton legends :

"The wheele of Fortune whose rule is ignorance"  
at one end, and opposite to it,

" The Spear of Destiny whose ruler is knowledge."

Both very good maxims to have facing you as you play any game of skill.

At present there is very little of the original furniture in the house. A fine spice chest in the kitchen, an oak table or two, and a few pewter plates with the Moreton crest is all that survives.



#### p.44

The great hall has at some period been greatly misused. The minstrels' gallery has been built up and the screen below it taken away, while what has been left has been thickly coated with lime white which has eaten deeply into the oak and is almost impossible to eradicate. The open fireplace has also been built up to form a modern kitchen range.

Under whose régime this was allowed to be done I do not know. If a Moreton, it must have been

a very degenerate Moreton, and I cannot think that it was in Miss Elizabeth Moreton's ownership, as she was such a very great lover of the old house. I am afraid it must have been a case of the pearls once more, and some tenant perpetrated it who did not realize or appreciate the beauties of the old house he was inhabiting. In any case, the lime whitening of the whole of the upper part of this great hall has completely spoilt the charm of it - in fact, everywhere in the inhabited part of the house the outside is the best.

If only Moreton was furnished as Ockwells Manor, which we shall come to presently.

**p.45**



Nash

What a house it must have been before it was made into a Cheshire "Magpie," that is to say, before the timbering was plastered over with tar, which preservative has been lavishly put all over it at least every fifty years during its lifetime.

A comparison of the building as it stands today with Nash's careful drawing of it (seen above) in *Mansions of Old England(sic)* [actual title is '*Mansions of England in the Olden Time*' series 4, by Joseph Nash] published about 1840, shows very clearly the encroachment of the British workman's tar brush on the delicate work on the outside of the building. He could not even leave alone the chimney-stack, in brick, near the entrance to the gate-house, but must plaster it with black and white stripes painted on the brick itself. I can only hope that the Bishop of Derby did not use similar language to mine when he came into the property and found this desecration.

It is very sad to see a beautiful old house like this not occupied by a Moreton. I am not sure that I would not rather see it kept empty, as Stokesay is, than see some of its rooms, as they are today, sprinkled with Tottenham Court Road and Victorian furniture.

**p.46**

Cannot some wealthy North Country man be found who would appreciate and live in it, and furnish it appropriately, allowing visitors to see it on one day of the week as is done at Ightham Mote House, making perhaps, a small charge to help some charity or to pay for a guide?

It is one of those places where you would like to pick the tenant yourself, but, unfortunately, the one you would choose never has the wherewithal to live in the house.

But what a fascination there is in making a pilgrimage to see and study these old buildings.

First, the excitement of a fresh inn - not hotel, mind you - but just a plain real inn, wondering what your room and your landlord will be like; and then on the morrow your first glimpse - the first impression - of the house you have come far

to see.

Or to go over, on the evening of your arrival, and see it at sunset, which I think is perhaps the best time of all to get a first view of it; and then to return to your inn, leaving exploration until the morrow. Unfortunately, I never sleep that first night if I do this.

**p.47**

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## From the e-Postbag

**An email from Mary Pendlebury** ... Find My Past have just added Oldham Workhouse admission and discharge registers from 1867 -1917.

A really useful and interesting set of records.

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**Here is an email from Anne Grimshaw** an Oldham born reader and contributor who now lives in Sudbury.

Born in Oldham, brought up in Wakefield, Yorkshire, a spell down south in Hertfordshire (for work) and now retired in Suffolk, East Anglia, I can now do as I please! Amongst the things that please me are family and local history. Putting the two together in 2016/17 resulted in a 'project' centred upon a pair of flying goggles found in France during the war which led back to Suffolk, to the airfield at Mendlesham. This became a 'home-made' book (not published commercially) entitled 'Collision in the Clouds: who wore the goggles?', a PowerPoint talk and an item on BBC TV Look East. (See this [LINK](#) for a brief version of it all.)

Word got around that I had done this project and people seemed to like it – a bit like WDYTIA with more than a dash of Miss Marple! I was asked what I could find out about a name on a flight bag bought off ebay by a friend – 2nd Lt Clyde R. Simmons. East Anglia is covered with former US Army Air Force airfields and Lt Simmons had been based at Sudbury where I live. Having just 'done' 'the goggles saga' I was fairly au fait with where to look for American information. Both had flown B17s, Flying Fortresses, so I watched the film *Memphis Belle* to get up a bit more on them and go inside a real one at the American Air Museum at Duxford, Cambridge. What was more, Simmons had been buried in the American military cemetery at Maddingley near Cambridge, about an hour's drive from me – and the airfield was almost within walking distance of my house!

To cut a long story, this project also resulted in a home-made book, 'The Name on the Bag', and a PowerPoint. I had read about a local film producer and wondered if it might make a film. As it was a Sudbury-based company I felt that The Bag stood more chance than The Goggles. I could hardly believe it when the film-maker agreed to take it on! I didn't tell anyone in case it didn't materialise! So, a year or so before covid, I worked with Paul Press of Offshoot Films here in Sudbury, Suffolk, to make a film about my research into an American airman, 2nd Lt Clyde R. Simmons, who flew from the 486 Bomb Group at Sudbury and died in a mid-air collision over Lincolnshire in April 1945.

Then covid struck and delayed everything. However, we made an interim presentation filmed in my garden as a fundraiser for a local theatre and this was reported in the local paper: [HERE](#) .

However, the film proper finally came to fruition! Here is the [LINK](#) to 'The Name on the Bag'!



I 'cut my aviation teeth' on an RAF Lancaster bomber in 1992 and put my findings into a book entitled 'The Last Flight of Lancaster LL919'. It has been revised and updated several times and is available only from me. I researched it for a friend who lives in Oldham and whose cousin was the wireless operator and came from Radcliffe - which brings me back to my Lancashire roots!

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**From Steve Ronan ...** Hello all, please circulate:

'Trailblazers! Women of Greater Manchester' is the group promoting commemoration of other women in Greater Manchester who were on the list for the Womanchester statue. The link is now live to the free event on 18 June, including the first Margaret Ashton Memorial Lecture to be given by Kate Green MP: [Eventbrite](#) for details. Booking advisable but not always necessary.

The Manchester Histories Festival programme on the History of Climate Change, June 8 – 12, is now live also: [Eventbrite](#) Booking advisable but not always necessary.

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

since the last newsletter :

\* Tour the streets of 1960s Manchester in these incredible unearthed photos [HERE](#)

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\* How many pubs do you remember? [HERE](#)

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\* Manchester Histories Festival – Manchester Central Library  
We are delighted to be returning to Manchester Central Library – the most visited library in the UK, and home to a new permanent hub for Manchester Histories. [HERE](#)

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\* Imperial War Museum ... What you need to know about VE day  
VE Day 8th May 1945 a day to remember! [HERE](#)

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\* Tentative steps being taken to open up Land Commission's vast files to public  
Once these are digitized, it will really help genealogists researching Irish ancestors. [HERE](#)

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\* National Archives Blog  
'Experimental in every sense': The Metropolitan Police Women Patrols [HERE](#)

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\* Manchester Archives + collections on flickr

[HERE](#)

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\* History of Parliament Blog

'Why not you?' Sir John Cust, reluctant Speaker of the House of Commons

[HERE](#)

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\* British History Online - Always worth browsing.

[HERE](#)

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\* Civil War Petitions

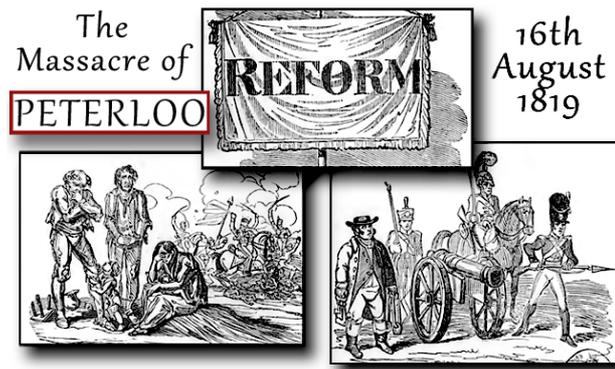
Conflict, Welfare and Memory during and after the English Civil Wars, 1642 - 1710

[HERE](#)

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\* For much more, visit the MLFHS Facebook Page : [HERE](#)

And [HERE](#) is the link to the MLFHS Twitter page.

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**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 history, 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](#)

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**Need Help!**

**Oldham Local Studies and Archives is open**

**Our opening hours are as follows:**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10am-5pm; Tuesday 10am-2pm; Saturday 10am-4pm.

Although it will not be essential to book your place as has been the case over the last few months, we encourage you to consider booking in advance as this enables us to get everything ready in time for your visit, particularly if you wish to view archives. To order please visit:

[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/forms/form/891/en/local\\_archives\\_document\\_order\\_form](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/forms/form/891/en/local_archives_document_order_form)

If you wish to use PCs to access family history websites or to use microfilm readers, we advise you to book a place by contacting us at:

[archives@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:archives@oldham.gov.uk) or telephone 0161 770 4654.

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

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.**

[Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

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](http://www.catholicfhs.co.uk)

Cheshire Local History Association – [www.cheshirehistory.org.uk](http://www.cheshirehistory.org.uk)

Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – [www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk](http://www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk)

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

Lancashire Local History Federation – [www.lancashirehistory.org](http://www.lancashirehistory.org)

Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – [www.lswlfhs.org.uk](http://www.lswlfhs.org.uk)

Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – [www.mrias.co.uk](http://www.mrias.co.uk)

Oldham Historical Research Group – [www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg](http://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](http://www.rlhs.co.uk)

Saddleworth Historical Society – [www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk](http://www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk)

Tameside Local History Forum - [www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk](http://www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk)

Tameside Local & Family History - <http://tamesidefamilyhistory.co.uk/contents.htm>

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](#)

Historical Maps of parish boundaries [HERE](#)

Regiments & Corps of the British Army (Wayback machine) [HERE](#)

Special Collections on Find My Past [HERE](#)

FmyP - The Manchester Collection [HERE](#)

Goad fire insurance maps of Manchester [HERE](#)

Cheshire Parish Register Project [HERE](#)

### Some Local Archives

Barnsley Museum & Discovery Centre – [www.experience-barnsley.com](http://www.experience-barnsley.com)

Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](#)

Bury – [www.bury.gov.uk/archives](http://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](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives)

Stockport – [www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives)

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

York – [www.york.ac.uk/borthwick](http://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick)



## For the Gallery

from : '**WOMEN'S WAR WORK**'

*In maintaining the Industries & Export Trade of the United Kingdom.*

Information Officially Compiled for the use of Recruiting Officers, Military Representatives and Tribunals." Issued by the WAR OFFICE in September 1916



[Photo Central News]

Shipyard: Working on a Propeller



*(Photo Topical Press)*

### Gauging Shells

Volunteers making shells at a large munition works. They have been met with every encouragement from the firm, who guarantee to turn them out efficient hands in three weeks



*(Photo Central News)*

Window Cleaners



*(Photo Photopress)*

Steam Roller Driver



Splitting Leather



*[Photo Sport and General Press Agency]*

Women Roadsweepers