

# 'e-Owls'



Part of Manchester & Lancashire  
Family History Society

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**JULY 2019**

## **MLFHS - Oldham Branch Newsletter**

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### **Branch News :**

Following April's Annual Meeting of the MLFHS Oldham Branch :

#### **Branch Officers for 2019 -2020 :**

Chairman : Linda Richardson  
Treasurer : Gill Melton  
Secretary & Webmistress : Jennifer Lever  
Newsletter Editor : Sheila Goodyear  
Technical Support : Rod Melton

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

Just to say that I hope everyone has a good summer and we look forward to seeing as many people as possible at our next meeting in September, in the Performance Space at Oldham Library.

Linda Richardson  
Oldham Branch Chairman  
email me at [chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk)

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#### **Editor's remarks.**

Hi Everyone,

I just cannot believe how this year is running away ... as I start compiling this copy of the newsletter, we're just 1 week away from the longest day! I don't feel as if summer has even started properly yet!

You'll find a new section added to the newsletter this month, which I have called, 'From the E-Postbag'. This came about because there have been three emails ... one from a reader in

response to our Whit Walks feature in last month's newsletter, and then two queries with which the senders hope someone can help.

So then I started thinking about what I thought I could add to the 'Mixed Bag' section ... just one clue for each ...! (1) Annual Celebration & (2) Rain!

At the end of June the Peterloo 'season' was officially launched by Manchester Histories so for those interested in this period of Manchester's and Oldham's history there is a lot to visit and do over the next 2 or 3 months.

I have to confess, here, that I missed the June meeting of the Branch because I was already booked on the talk, at Manchester Library, about the photo of the Failsworth Peterloo Veterans taken in 1884. It was given by historian and broadcaster Michael Wood and Michaela Hulme, a professional genealogist and social historian at MMU. It's the same photo that hangs, blown up to a gigantic size, in the Peterloo Exhibition at the People's History Museum. I first came across this photo, myself, in an old book I have, and I included a copy on the 'Peterloo-Manchester' website with the accompanying story that tells of it. Since then, I've discovered an Oldham Chronicle account of the day the photo was taken so I'll add a transcription to the next newsletter, and also to the Oldham HRG website Peterloo Project, and to the Peterloo-Manchester website, as soon as possible.

'*From the Gallery*', this month, remembers that July 31st, 1917, is the anniversary of the beginning of the 3rd Battle of Ypres, known as Passchendaele. There were many Oldham men, our ancestors, who fell in those months between July and November.

Don't forget, I'd love to include any family history stories you might want to share, or local history pieces that you wish to write. Either speak to me at a meeting or email me.

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.

email me at [Oldham\\_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:Oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk)

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## **Last month's talk, Saturday June 8th**

### ***'Famous People and Things from the North West'***

by Alan Morrison

Despite some initial projection issues, which took some time to resolve, Alan gave an illuminating talk about famous people who lived in the North West or were born here.

To take just a few from the long list ...

#### **Ann Lee, 1736-1784,**

Ann Lee had been born in Manchester into a poor Quaker family. She was a founder member of the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, also known as the Shakers.

With a small group of her followers, she emigrated to New York, in 1774, escaping from the persecution she suffered as a result of her increasingly radical religious beliefs.

She spent the rest of her life preaching and converting others to her own beliefs, despite suffering more persecution.

She died in New York age 48.

#### **3rd Duke of Bridgewater – Francis Egerton 1736-1803**

He was the younger son of the first Duke and succeeded to the title on the death of his brother, the 2nd Duke. He never married and the direct line died out with him.

He commissioned the construction of a pioneering waterway, the Bridgewater Canal (opened in 1761), to carry coal from his mines in Worsley to Manchester. In 1762 he put his energies (and finances) into the construction of a canal between Liverpool and Manchester. He devoted the remaining years of his life to developing his coal and canal interests, accumulating great wealth

along the way and collecting art. He became the richest nobleman in England.

### **Dr Charles White 1723-1813**

He was born in Manchester, the only son of a surgeon. After studying medicine he joined his father's medical practice. He was a well respected surgeon and well known in the field of obstetrics, introducing many innovative practices.

He co-founded the Manchester Royal Infirmary in 1752 and was involved in the foundation of St. Mary's Hospital in 1790.

It was Charles White who is famous (notorious?) for having kept his dead sister's embalmed body, to become known as the 'Manchester mummy', in a clock case for the 58 years after her death, until his own death in 1813.

### **Patrick Steptoe 1913-1988**

Patrick Steptoe was responsible, with biologist and physiologist Robert Edwards, for developing in vitro fertilization. Louise Joy Brown, the first test-tube baby, was born in Oldham on the 25th of July 1978.

Patrick Steptoe started work in Oldham in 1951, at the Oldham Boundary Park Hospital (later known as Oldham & District General and then the Royal Oldham Hospital). He began his collaboration with Cambridge physiologist, Robert Edwards, and became the Director of the Centre for Human Reproduction, Oldham, in 1969.

Their work attracted a great deal of criticism and hostility but there were also increasing numbers supporting it. In 1980 Steptoe, together with Edward and Jean Purdy (who had provided laboratory expertise) founded the Bourn Hall Clinic, in Cambridgeshire. Steptoe would be its Medical Director until his death.

### **George Bradshaw 1800-1853**

He was a cartographer, printer and publisher whose name is synonymous with the railway timetables and maps he published. The Guides that he developed continued to be published for over 100 years after his own death

Bradshaw was born in Salford, apprenticed to a Manchester engraver and then set up his own engraving business in 1820, returning to Manchester in 1822 to set up as an engraver and printer, mainly of maps but in 1841 also started the 'Bradshaw's Manchester Journal'. He became a Quaker but was also a supporter of radical Reformers such as Richard Cobden. In 1853, he contracted cholera, and died, whilst visiting Norway. He is buried in Oslo.

### **Daniel Adamson, 1820-1890**

Born in County Durham, Adams was educated at a Quaker school before becoming apprenticed to an engineer on the Stockton & Darlington Railway. In 1850, he had become general manager of the engine works and subsequently moved to become manager of Heaton Foundry in Stockport. A year later he started an iron works, between Hyde and Dukinfield, specialising in building engines and boilers. Over the years, in a rapidly expanding market, he was able to pioneer, invent, and patent numerous innovative designs. In 1872 the Daniel Adamson & Co factory was built, less than half a mile from the old foundry. When he died in 1890 he employed around 600 men.

Adamson had other business interests, mainly involving iron and steel, but also including some mill building.

He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Manchester Ship Canal Project, living to see the Act enabling construction, but not living to see its completion in 1894.

### **Frederick Henry Royce (Sir) 1863-1933**

Born near Peterborough in 1863, he was the youngest of 5 children. When his father died in 1872, having had very little education and with little money in the family, Royce had to start finding work. He moved around, doing different jobs and gaining experience, and in 1884, with a partner, started a business making electrical fittings in Hulme, Manchester. Ten years later and

they registered a limited company making dynamos and electric cranes. In 1899 a factory was opened in Trafford Park and the company re-registered as a Public Limited Company. Trade declined in the face of increased competition and Royce turned his attention to motor cars as a possible manufacturing option.

In 1904 he went into business with Charles Rolls and in 1906 the partnership became Rolls-Royce Ltd. Royce still kept his Royce and co. business as a separate entity until 1932.

Henry Rolls died in 1910 in a flying accident.

Royce's health began to deteriorate but it didn't prevent him overseeing all aspects of his businesses and developing prizewinning engines for aircraft.

He was awarded the OBE in 1918, and was created a baronet in 1930 for his services to British Aviation. He died in 1933.

### **Robert Owen 1771-1858**

Born in Wales, in 1771, he was the son of a saddler and ironmonger. By nature a boy who read avidly, loved music and enjoyed sports, he had a lively and enquiring mind. By the time he was 21 he was a mill manager in Manchester and was already driven to improve the lot of the working man. He was passionately interested not only in the arts but also in Reform and philosophy.

In 1799 Owen (in a partnership) bought the New Lanark Mills from his new father-in-law and became the manager. They consisted of 4 cotton mills and stone housing for the workers. From 1800 to 1825, Robert Owen created a 'model community' where he brought into being the social and educational reforms which would transform the workplace into a more 'caring' environment whilst at the same time improving the efficiency and productivity of the mills. However, in 1813, not always seeing eye to eye with his partners, he sold his shares in the mills although continuing with his pioneering factory reforms both there and elsewhere. He was instrumental in the demands for an eight hour work day as early as 1810 and went on to be active in demands for a wide range of social and economic reforms ... although his ideas were often met with open hostility.

To test his 'community' theories further, he went to America and in 1825 set up his first community village, New Harmony.

However, his permanent home remained in England, where he continued to promote his ideals for better living and working conditions, equality and education, until the end of his life.

### **Sir Joseph Whitworth, 1803-1887**

"Was an English engineer, entrepreneur, inventor and philanthropist. In 1841, he devised the British Standard Whitworth system, which created an accepted standard for screw threads. Whitworth also created the Whitworth rifle, often called the "sharpshooter" because of its accuracy and considered one of the earliest examples of a sniper rifle. Upon his death he bequeathed much of his fortune for the people of Manchester, with the Whitworth Art Gallery and Christie Hospital partly funded by his legacy." He was created a Baronet in 1869.

[Wikipedia]

Whitworth was born in Stockport where his father was a teacher and non-conformist minister. "A strong believer in the value of technical education, Whitworth backed the new Mechanics' Institute in Manchester (later UMIST) and helped found the Manchester School of Design. In 1868, he founded the Whitworth Scholarship for the advancement of mechanical engineering. He donated a sum of £128,000 to the government in 1868 (approximately £6.5 million in 2010) to bring "science and industry" closer together and to fund scholarships."

[Wikipedia]

### **And yet so many more great names associated with the North-West ...**

Alcock and Brown, British aviators; Richard Arkwright, inventor and industrialist; John Dalton, scientist; James Prescott Joule, physicist and mathematician; Ernest Rutherford, physicist. Companies that had their start in the North West, such as The Co-Op, Manchester Guardian,

Mather & Platt, Clayton Aniline, Kendal Milne & Faulkner, to name just a few.  
Artists such as LS Lowry and Helen Bradley; Scientists such as Professor Brian Cox; musicians, film and TV stars; sportsmen and women ... too many to even try and name them all.

My apologies again, for missing this meeting, but I'm sure that those of you who were lucky enough to be there, and hear Alan's talk, must have found it of great interest to learn of this proud heritage we all share.

This review based on meeting notes kindly sent by Jennifer, plus some internet 'padding'. Editor.

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### **Next Oldham Branch Meeting :**

There will be no Oldham Branch Meetings in July and August.

The next meeting will be :

**Saturday 14th September, at 2pm,**  
in the Performance Space, Gallery Oldham

**'Funny you should say that!'** (Origins of everyday sayings), a talk by Peter Watson.

Members of the committee will be available to assist anyone for a further half hour following the speakers talk.

Refreshments on arrival.

Entry free to members (donation always gratefully accepted) and non-members £2.50

(Note: Council Car park is free for three hours on Saturday, but make sure you get a ticket)

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## **Bolton & Scottish Branches**

### **Bolton Branch :**

**Wednesday, July 3rd**

***'The DICK KERR Ladies Football Team; a team that took the country by storm'.***

by Gail Newsham, Official Biographer to the team

Tea /Coffee will be available from 7.00pm

Meeting starts at 7.30pm,

Montserrat Room [1st floor], Old Links Golf Club, Chorley Old Road, Bolton, BL1 5SU.

All MLFHS members are welcome to attend our meetings.

Visitors are also welcome to attend the meeting @ £3

Website link [HERE](#)

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### **Anglo-Scottish Branch,**

**Saturday, July 20th**

***Visit to The People's Museum.***

Meet at Manchester Central Library at 1.30 p.m. 10 minute walk to museum.

or ... Meet at Museum at 1.50 pm

This event for MLFHS members only, booking will be required ... [HERE](#)

There is a charge of £3

'E Scotia' <https://anglos Scots.mlfhs.org.uk/> on the MLFHS website.

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**MLFHS organised visit to Touchstones Museum & Art Gallery, Rochdale,****Wednesday, 26th June**

Fifteen MLFHS members enjoyed an excellent visit to the Touchstones Museum and Art Gallery, in Rochdale, and our thanks go to Sue Forshaw for arranging it for us.

Even though I only live a few tram stops from Rochdale I rarely go, and have only actually been to Touchstones once, and that was several years ago to see an art exhibition. The museum looked interesting, on that day, and I promised myself a return visit. Of course, what always happens ... things on the 'doorstep' are neglected ... so it was last week before I eventually re-visited.

It is a very welcoming and attractively laid out little museum ... so much displayed in such a thoughtful way. Sue and I were the first to arrive so our first port of call was the cafe, for a welcome cup of coffee.



Replica Middleton Banner used in the film, 'Peterloo'

When we had all assembled, our guide, Helen, took us round the Peterloo exhibition with its flagship exhibit ... the Middleton Banner from **the** day.

Protected between sheets of glass, on one side could be seen the legend, 'Liberty and Fraternity' and on the other Unity is Strength. Fragile, battered and worn as the banner was, it was very emotional to see it and feel it resonate with the fearful stories of two hundred years ago on the field of St Peter's. It is the only banner to survive, hidden and protected through the years; all the others had been destroyed ... the targets of sharpened sabres.

According to [Rochdaleonline](http://Rochdaleonline) :

*"The Middleton banner was made from locally-woven blue silk and hand-painted with gold lettering; it was one of two carried by the Middleton contingent to Manchester. The second was green and inscribed with 'Parliaments Annual' and 'Suffrage Universal'. This was lost after being cut from marcher Thomas Redford's hand by a soldier soon after violence broke out.*

*The surviving banner was smuggled out of Peterloo and reunited with the Middleton group, who carried it home where it was then hung in the Suffield Arms pub. For many years, the historic banner was also hung in Middleton library.*

*In the 1970s, urgent conservation work was undertaken to help preserve it after years of exposure to heat and light had caused the silk fabric to split and disintegrate ... After consultation with conservation experts, Touchstones is showing the banner for the first time in years."*

To one side was a show-case, containing some of the prized objects belonging to Touchstones. In one corner was a reddish horsehair plume ... purportedly found on the field after the crowds had dispersed. The 15th Hussars were known to have worn such plumes in their hats. Next to it was a red-painted finial, shaped like the cap of liberty, which would have decorated the top of a banner pole. Round the edges can be read, 'Hunt and Liberty' Then there were two commemorative jugs ... the first was inscribed 'A Freeborn Englishman', with a verse of poetry on the back. The second jug was inscribed 'Hunt and Liberty - Bad Luck to The Manchester Butchers (Peterloo)' Commemorative ware of all descriptions, and quality, was produced in the



months directly after the massacre. They were reminders, of the day, to keep alive the events and spirit of the day. Many were produced to raise money for the Relief Fund.



In front of those first exhibits was a truncheon ... the constable's baton ... made of rosewood and decorated with the Royal Arms. This object was also believed to have been found on the field, after the massacre.

And then there was a small pair of spectacles, with their wooden case, which had belonged to Samuel Bamford, leader of the Middleton Contingent on the day, and author of '*Passages in the Life of a Radical*'. Finally, there was a handwritten note from Thomas Chadwick, whose family owned a manufacturing company on Packer Street in Rochdale. This letter, written to his brother, on the day of the massacre, relates the stories he had been told, of what happened on the field, and the strong anger being generated as result.

[based on descriptive item notes next to the showcase]

Moving round, we found ourselves in Sam Bamford's local, '*The Olde Boar's Head*', with jugs and bench for the customers. On the wall were facsimiles of posters and pictures, displayed



in the way in which they would probably have been seen in the days after Peterloo. We could see pages from the satirical pen of William Hone, in '*The Political House That Jack Built*', illustrated by George Cruikshank. There was also a page from Hone's satirical publication, '*A Slap at Slop*', showing the Cruikshank image of a Manchester Yeoman, slashing at the people lying under his horse's hooves, on a pedestal of human skulls and, in the middle, a crown radiating daggers and bayonets.

Round a corner, on the walls and interspersed amongst the other exhibits, were a number of pictures from the new graphic book, blown up to impressive dimensions, and telling the story of the massacre in a very compelling manner.

There were also items exhibited from the film, '*Peterloo*', which had been loaned to the museum for the exhibition, and included a replica of the Middleton Banner, a military uniform, sabre, a yeomanry banner and photos of the film actors.



We came to the end of our little tour in time to take an hour out for lunch in the cafe ... the menu of which offered us salads, soups, curry, vegetarian dishes, wraps and toasties. I chose avocado on toast ... which was delicious!

After lunch we went into the Local Studies room, where Janet talked us through their local history collections, and brought out a selection of archival material for us to look at, including local police records, photographs, a map of 1851, publications by the Chetham Society, A Methodist Register and Thomas Chadwick's '*Notes and Correspondence*' 1831-1855 and 1855- 1862.

As if all this wasn't enough, in what is a relatively small 'but perfectly formed' space, there is a museum reflecting the heritage of Rochdale and upstairs an art gallery.

We left the building after what was a most interesting and informative day ... our many thanks to the organisers of the day and the staff at Touchstones.

Review by Sheila Goodyear (editor) relying, as usual, on notes from Sue Forshaw and photos from Joan Secker-Wlodarczyk.

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**MLFHS Quarterly Meeting,  
Wednesday July 17th**

**PETERLOO EVENT DAY**

10.30 am '*The Peterloo Massacre*'

A talk by Chris Makepeace

Chris is a local Historian who has worked in Manchester Public Libraries and was Librarian of the Local History Department from 1969-1973. Chris has written almost 30 books and articles on the history of Manchester.

To be held in the Central Library Performance Space

This talk is free to both members and non-members but please register to book a place [HERE](#)

**Also on this day :**

**12.15 pm :** A Performance by the Oakenhoof Friends (Littleborough based clogging group)

**From 1.15 pm :**

We will be holding a special handling session with three 'stations' that can be visited :

1. A cotton themed table, including films and sounds from the cotton industry
2. The John Owen Collection
3. Early Poor Law Archives

Music performed by the Free Radicals

Note: Timings are approximate

Registration is only required for the 10.30 am Talk

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**MLFHS Online Bookshop:**

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

Visit the [Online Bookshop](#) to see what is available.

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**MLFHS Branch e-Newsletters**

Each of the MLFHS branches publishes a monthly e-newsletter which provides useful news items. The e-newsletters are free. To sign-up, simply click the appropriate link below and complete the short form on the branch e-newsletter page, where you will also find copies of past issues.

[Anglo-Scottish](#)    [Bolton](#)    [Oldham](#) (for back copies).

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**Meetings at Societies not part of MLFHS**

**Oldham Historical Research Group:**

**Wednesday, 17th July, 7pm**

**'Just for a change!'** Instead of a speaker we will be looking at a selection of very short film clips from 1901 to 1906 then talking about them and the memories they stir. Perhaps they will bring to mind stories told by our families that we can all share.

The clips cover school activities; working people in various industries; fun days and holidays; places; and a couple referencing the Boer War.

At Oldham Local Studies & Archives, Union Street, Oldham. Door opens 6:30 for 7pm start. All welcome ... no membership subscription, or entrance fee on the door.

Oldham HRG Programme [HERE](#)

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## Gallery Oldham Free Lunchtime Talks:

**Wednesday, 3rd July, 1pm**

Jack Fishwick talks about his work as a taxidermist.

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**Wednesday, 24th July, 1pm**

Join Dr. Alison Morgan for a fascinating talk about the songs and ballads linked to Peterloo.

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Lunchtime talks are free, informal and last around 40 minutes with time for a discussion and questions afterwards.

Talks are given by gallery staff or guest speakers.

All talks are drop in, no need to book. However, if with a group of more than 5, please let the Gallery know in advance. Phone: 0161 770 4742

Programme April to October [HERE](#)

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## Saddleworth Historical Society

**Wednesday 10th July, at 7.30pm**

***"John Harrison's Chronometer and Captain James Cook: their Joint Contribution to our Society."***

An Illustrated Presentation by O.H. Boyd

At the Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill.

All welcome.

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

Refreshments available.

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## Saddleworth Civic Trust: -

The is no meeting of the Civic Trust in July

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## Family History Society of Cheshire : Tameside Group meeting

**Wednesday 10th July**

***Peterloo Banners*** by Kate Booth

Needlework groups around Tameside have been sewing banners which have been on display at churches, libraries, museums etc.

Meeting in the Community Rooms of Old Chapel Dukinfield, opening our doors at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Refreshments are served on arrival.

There is an entry charge of £2.00 for members and £2.50 for non members.

See their website [HERE](#)

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## 'A MIXED BAG'

## The Annual Wakes Holidays

As soon as Wimbledon fortnight starts to get a mention on TV etc., we know that Oldham Wakes is round the corner ... end of June and beginning of July. When I first came to live in Oldham, over 50 years ago, I remember that the whole town seemed to shut down for two

weeks ... the schools where my husband and I worked were closed so, like practically everyone else, we took our annual holidays in those two weeks. I seem to remember, from somewhere (long ago!) that Oldham Wakes was once celebrated in August but the date was changed because the weather was usually bad (does anyone know anything about this?). In the 19th century, owners would take the opportunity to close their factories, works and mills to maintain and overhaul the engines and machinery. But how was it celebrated by those workers who had a few days' respite from their toil? The following is an extract from:

**'Old English Customs' by P.H. Ditchfield pub. 1896**

The Wakes festivals are also great occasions for the morris-dancers, especially at Oldham, Lancashire, and in that neighbourhood. This is one of the oldest of our feasts, and has survived with a surprising tenacity of life in most of the villages and towns of Lancashire. The day of the wakes is the festival of the patron saint of the parish church, and is so called because, on the previous night or vigil, the people used to watch, or "wake," in the church till the morning dawned. It is the custom for the inhabitants of the parish to keep open house on that day, and to entertain all their relations and friends from the surrounding neighbourhood, who always make a point of visiting the village on "Wake Sunday." It is a great time for the assembling of shows and roundabouts, which, with their steam-organs, make night hideous. Nearly every town and village in Lancashire observes its wakes. Rochdale, Heywood, Ashton-under-Lyne, and Oldham are especially celebrated for their observance of this festival; though the people are now in the habit of rushing off to the seaside, and desert the local fair grounds for the attractions of Morecambe and Blackpool. The feasts or wakes in the neighbourhood of Bradford are called "Tides," except at Brighouse, where the festival is still known as the Rush-bearing, and are kept up vigorously. The Sunday after the feast is known as the "Thump."<sup>1</sup> Thus we have the Queensbury Thump, the Clayton, Thornton, Denholme, and Allerton Thumps, [and in Saddleworth the 'Longwood Thump'] when the natives who reside elsewhere make a rule to visit their old home, and the reassembling of scattered families causes much social happiness ...

At the Oldham wake a rushcart used to be sent from each surrounding locality, and as many as ten rushcarts have been seen in the town on that occasion. They are not now quite so plentiful.

<sup>1</sup> A writer in the Oldham 'Observer' suggests that the name arose from the rude custom of "thumping" any one who entered an inn on these occasions and refused to pay for liquor. At a recent Halifax "Thump," an offender of this description was laid face downwards and beaten with a heated fire shovel. The ringleader of this frolic nearly suffered a month's imprisonment on account of his strict adherence to old customs.

p.130-131

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**Too Much Rain !**

Recently, I've been traveling backwards and forwards to Manchester or Oldham quite frequently and seem to have got soaked each time I got off a tram! This started me thinking about St. Swithin, his Saint's Day being July 15th, and then doing a little bit of 'digging' to find out a bit more about this poor saint who somehow gets the blame when we get too much rain!

from : **'The Every-Day Book and Table Book' by William Hone, pub. 1826**

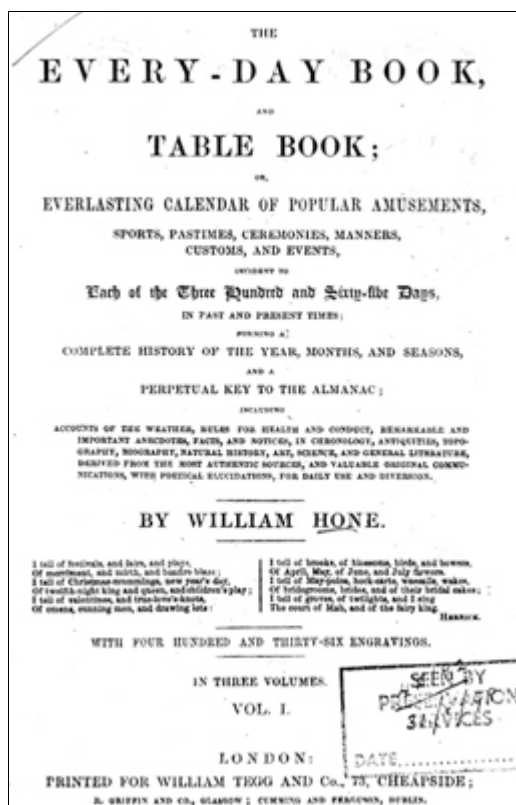
**July 15th, St. Swithin's Day**

He was of noble parentage, and also called Swithun, or in the Saxon language Swithum. He received the tonsure in the church at Winchester, and became a monk in the monastery there, of which, after being ordained a priest, he was made provost or dean. He studied grammar, philosophy, and theology. For his learning and virtue, Egbert, King of England, appointed him his priest, in which character he subscribed a charter to the Abbey of Croyland, in 833. Egbert also committed to him the education of his son Ethelwolf, who on succeeding to the throne procured Swithin to be chosen Bishop of Winchester in 852.

Tithes were established in England through St. Swithun, who prevailed on Ethelwolf to enact a law, by which he gave the tenth of the land to the church, on condition that the king should have a prayer said for his soul every Wednesday in all the churches for ever. Ethelwolf solemnized the grant by laying the charter on the altar of St. Peter at Rome, in a pilgrimage he made to the city, and by procuring the pope to confirm it.

St. Swithun died on the 2nd of July, 862, in the reign of King Ethelbert, and he was buried, according to his own order, in the churchyard. Alban Butler, from whom these particulars are related, affirms the translation of his relics into the church a hundred years afterwards and refers to the monkish historians for the relation of "such a number of miraculous cures of all kinds wrought by them, as was never known in any other place." His relics were afterwards removed into the cathedral of Winchester, on its being built under William the Conqueror. It was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, under the patronage of St. Peter, afterwards to St. Swithun, in 980, and was called St. Swithun's until Henry VIII ordered it to be called by the name of the Holy Trinity.

Among the notable miracles alleged to have been worked by St. Swithun is this, that after he had built the bridge at Winchester, a woman came over it with her lap full of eggs, which a rude fellow broke, but the woman showed the eggs to the saint, who was passing at the time, and he lifted up his hand and blessed the eggs, "and they were made hole and sounde." To this may be added another story; that when his body was translated, or removed, two rings of iron, fastened on his gravestone, came out as soon as they were touched, and left no mark of their place in the stone; but when the stone was taken up, and touched by the rings, they of themselves fastened to it again.



Title Page from 'The Every-Day Book ...'



Frontispiece from 'The Every-Day Book ...'

### St. Swithin's Day

"If it rains on St. Swithin's day, there will be rain for the next forty days afterwards." The occasion of this old and well-known saying is obscure. In Mr. Douce's interleaved copy of Brand's "Popular Antiquities," there is a printed statement "seemingly cut out of a newspaper" cited, in the last edition of Mr. Brand's work, thus :- "In the year 865, St. Swithun, bishop of Winchester, to which rank he was raised by King Ethelwolfe, the Dane, dying, was canonized by the then pope. He was singular for his desire to be buried in the open churchyard, and not in the chancel of the minster, as was usual with other bishops, which request was complied with; but the monks on his being canonized, taking it into their heads that it was disgraceful for the saint to lie in the



open churchyard, resolved to remove his body into the choir, which was to be done on the 15th of July. It rained, however, so violently on that day and for forty days succeeding, as had hardly ever been known, which made them set aside their design as heretical and blasphemous; and instead, they erected a chapel over his grave, at which many miracles are said to have been wrought."

Also, in "Poor Robin's Almanac" for 1697, the saying, together with one of the miracles being related, is noticed in these lines :-

"In this month is St. Swithin's day;  
On which, if that it rain, they say  
Full forty days after it will,  
Or more or less, some rain distill.  
This Swithin was a saint, I trow,  
And Winchester's bishop also.  
Who in his time did many a feat,  
As popish legends do repeat:  
A woman having broke her eggs  
By stumbling at another's legs,  
For which she made a woeful cry,  
St. Swithin chanc'd for to come by,  
Who made them all as sound, or more  
Than ever that they were before.  
But whether this were so or no  
'Tis more than you or I do know:  
Better it is to rise betime,  
And to make hay while sun doth shine,  
Than to believe in tales and lies  
Which idle monks and friars devise."

pages : 954-956

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## FROM THE E-POSTBAG

This query came from Jennifer, our webmaster ...

### Can you help?

I am researching Cyril Bayliffe - born 7<sup>th</sup> July 1928 in Oldham, died 9<sup>th</sup> February 1987. He was a member of the Magic Circle.

The magician, whose catchphrase "Inky Pinky Plinky Plonk" delighted audiences for decades. His collection of magic tricks contained in two trunks were auctioned off in London, on the 10<sup>th</sup> June this year.

Does anyone remember Cyril and if he had a stage name? I would like to add his name to the list of entertainers on the website.

if you can help, please email Jennifer, at : [Oldham\\_webmaster@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:Oldham_webmaster@mlfhs.org.uk)

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### Can anyone help with this query?

Hello All

I was wondering if any of your members can help. About 2 years ago a gentleman called to my grandad's (Mr George Heywood) house. He was interested in his family tree and Squire Knott. My grandad didn't think it was anything to do with him. However, I have been completing our family tree and most names, that the gentleman mentioned, that grandad brushed off, are all in

his tree. He would like to find whoever this gentleman was. He did leave a number but my grandad cannot find it.

I am sure my grandad said the man lived in Greenfield which is why I have started with your history group.

Can you help? Any information greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance

Sorry it is so vague but it is all I have.

Kind regards

Kay

If anyone can help, please email me at : [Oldham\\_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:Oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk) and I will pass it on.

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## Whit Walks :

This photograph was sent in by Ron Bullock (a reader in Canada!) in response to our 'Whit Walks' features in the last newsletter.

He tells us that his paternal grandparents were both from Failsworth.



Their grandparents were shoemakers from Nantwich and weavers from Macclesfield. His great grandfather, Reuben Bullock, broke away from the family tradition and was an engine driver with the LYR, based at the Deans Lane rail yards.

This photo is associated with his mother's family (surnames Hutton and Hampson) and was taken circa 1916 ... actual location not known but thought to be probably in the Edgeworth/Radcliffe/Pilkington/Whitefield area.

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## PETERLOO : the BI-CENTENARY

Visit the website for **The Peterloo Project** with particular reference to Oldham at [Peterloo-Manchester](#)



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## Manchester Histories - Peterloo 1819

Manchester Histories have created a website to publicise all that is happening around the region in the weeks leading up to the anniversary on 16th August.

Visit their website for all the news [HERE](#)

The following entries are a selection from the Manchester Histories Peterloo1819 printed programme which can be found in local libraries, galleries etc. and on their website

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**Learn about Manchester Histories' Peterloo Descendants Project ...  
the research, the people and the film - with Dr Michala Hulme.**

**Saturday, July 13th**

Join us at Manchester Central Library, for a full day of discovery, at our Peterloo focussed genealogy open day.

Book a 30 minute 1-1 session with a member of the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society (MLFHS) and delve into the wealth of resources to start you off on your own family tree, or help break through a brick wall in your research.

Dr Michala Hulme, genealogist and historian at Manchester Metropolitan University, will bring to life stories of modern day descendants of Peterloo witnesses, tracing links over 200 years of family history.

Join Michala's masterclass for expert guidance in furthering your own research or explore the amazing library building on a special tour with a member of the library team, including a visit to the vaults!

These are free events but please register :

- \* 11am to 12:15 ... Talk by Dr Michala Hulme [HERE](#)
- \* 10am, 12:30. or 2:30 ... Tour of the library and vaults. Duration 1 hour. Book a time slot [HERE](#)
- \* 2pm to 3pm ... Trace Your Peterloo People - Masterclass [HERE](#)
- \* Throughout the day : One to One Bookable Sessions with a family history expert. Bring your research with you, or start a new search. No experience necessary.  
Book a time slot [HERE](#)

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**Book at Eventbrite** for all Peterloo related events. Search with filters. For example ...

Peterloo + Manchester + 1st July to 31st July [HERE](#)

For more specific searches eg. replace the subject with a speaker's name, or a different location eg. Rochdale.

Some talks or activities need to be booked on the website of the organisation or gallery.

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**Working Class Movement Library,**

**Saturday, July 3rd, 2pm to 4pm**

**'Ballads and Songs of Peterloo'** a talk by Alison Morgan

Alison Morgan's new book includes over 70 poems, published either as broadsides or in radical periodicals and newspapers of 1819. Alongside her talk we will hear musical examples of some of the Peterloo broadside ballads from Pete Coe and Brian Peters.

Alison is a senior teaching fellow in the Centre for Teacher Education at the University of Warwick. Pete and Brian are professional folk singers & multi-instrumentalists

Admission free; all welcome. More details on their website [HERE](#)

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**The following entries are for PETERLOO exhibitions on-going for several weeks :**

**Oldham Gallery**

Website [HERE](#)

May 25th to September 21st

**'From Waterloo to Peterloo' ...**

**Working Class Movement Library**

Website [HERE](#)

May 31st to September 19th

**'Peterloo: News, Fake News and Paranoia' ...**

**People's History Museum**

Website [HERE](#)

March 2019 to February 2020

**'Disrupt? Peterloo and Protest'**

**Touchstones Museum & Art Gallery, Rochdale**

Website [HERE](#)

May 18th to November 2nd

**Protest & Peterloo**

**Manchester Craft & Design Centre**

Website [HERE](#)

May 23rd to September 7th

**Misshaping Peterloo**

**John Rylands Library**

Website [HERE](#)

March 21st to September 29th

**Peterloo, Manchester's fight for Freedom**

**Manchester Central Library**

website [HERE](#)

June 7th to September 28th

**'The Hidden Tableaux's Peterloo Massacre 1819'**

'Hidden' is an on-going series of photographic tableaux by Red Saunders, artist and founder of 'Rock against Racism'

"The 'Hidden' project shines photographic light on great moments in the long struggle of working people for democracy and social justice. The aim of the project is to reproduce important historic scenes involving the dissenters, revolutionaries, radicals and non-conformists who have so often been hidden from history."

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**NEED HELP!**

**The MLFHS Family History Help Desk**

Don't forget if you hit a wall, the Society has a help desk at the Central Library.

It is located on the ground floor of Manchester Central Library at St. Peter's Square. Our location, from the main entrance, is to the right, beyond the cafe.

The Help Desk is open every weekday, Monday to Friday, except for Bank Holidays, between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

Central Library is adjacent to the St. Peter's Square Metrolink station with direct services from Altrincham, East Didsbury, Eccles, Bury, Oldham, Shaw, Rochdale and Ashton under Lyne and with easy connections from other lines.

Many bus services from South Manchester stop at the Oxford Street end of Portland Street, which is a five-minute walk from the library. Other services may arrive at Shudehill Interchange



or Piccadilly Bus Station. Shudehill is about 15 minutes and Piccadilly about 10 minutes' walk from the library. There are Metrolink connections adjacent to both bus terminals.  
If you can avoid coming by car then do so! There is no parking at Central Library, even for disabled parking.

## Oldham Archives and Local Studies

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

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


## Health in Oldham

### Before the NHS

The NHS came into being on 5 July 1948. Medical care was then free for everyone... but how did the people of Oldham manage their wellbeing before this?

This exhibition looks at how local people coped with illness and infirmity and what kind of care they could expect.

- Where did you go for medicines?
- What hospitals were in the area?
- How qualified were local physicians?
- What did you do if you had toothache?
- Where would you get spectacles from?
- What was Phrenology?



Operating theatre at Boundary Park General Hospital c. 1948


Aneurin Bevan on the first day of the NHS, 5 July 1948

**70 NHS70: Celebrating 70 years of the NHS**

There are regularly changing displays in the Local Studies. The current one is :  
**'Health in Oldham Before the NHS'.**

### Self-medication

At a time when many people in Oldham could not afford to consult a doctor the market for proprietary preparations claiming to cure every ailment known to man was huge. Newspapers were full of advertisements making outrageous claims for products and local druggists or chemists placed prominent adverts in the trade directories. Taking these preparations was a dangerous business as throughout the Victorian period they were unregulated. The 1875 Sale of Food and Drugs Act made it an offence to sell an article falsely labelled. It also reduced the medical licence duty and the number of vendors of these medicines increased from over 12,000 in 1874 to 20,000 in 1895. Many remedies contained opium and morphine and could be highly addictive. However, preparations were not always made by charlatans. Many were developed by medical men with others established over many years. Pharmacists made their own versions of patent medicines.



Some potions were made with poisons such as strychnine - which was used in tonics to stimulate the appetite. A 'cure' for head lice in children contained bichloride of mercury that came with the warning 'this lotion must be used with caution as it is deadly poison if taken in the stomach'. Qualified medical men did not approve of many patent medicines and certainly not the 'quacks' who dispensed them. Whether this was due to the fear that patients might not be getting the best treatment or because they disliked the idea of losing out financially is debatable.

### Apothecaries and Chemists

The Apothecaries Act of 1815 confirmed apothecaries as general practitioners who left others, the druggists and chemists, to sell and supply medicines. Many druggists sold a huge variety of produce from medical preparations to horse and cattle medicines, fresh roast coffee and varnishes. Some were also known as 'drysalter' who dealt in a range of other chemical products such as glues, dyes and colourings. Others were seedsmen and some specialised in preparations made from herbs, roots, bark and other botanic ingredients. The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain was set up in 1841 and the Pharmacy and Poisons Act of 1868 made it unlawful for any person to keep open a shop or use the title Chemist, Druggist, Pharmacist or Dispensing Chemist unless registered under this Act. Two years later it was ruled that the word 'person' in this Act did not include corporate bodies, allowing companies to not only use restricted titles but also sell poisons provided they were sold by a qualified person. Boots the Chemist Ltd. was established in 1840 but the first Oldham trade directory in which it is mentioned is 1905 when it was based at 42 Mumps.



Chemists often advertised various brands of tonic wine. Quinine was a popular additive, not only because of its supposed health-giving qualities but also because of its bitter flavour.



Seidlitz Powder  
This was the generic name for a commonly known laxative marketed and sold under a variety of names. Ingredients were tartaric acid, potassium sodium tartrate and sodium bicarbonate. While the powder could be somewhat helpful as a laxative, its use could be fatal in patients with conditions such as hernia, bowel obstruction or other ailments.

[Opening hours](#) and contact details.

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.

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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.lfhhs.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](http://Peterloo-Manchester)  
Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) - [Ranulf Higden Soc](http://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)  
The Victorian Society - [Manchester Regional Website](http://Manchester Regional Website)

### Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - [Lancashire](http://Lancashire)  
Free BMD - [Search](http://Search)  
[National Library of Scotland](http://National Library of Scotland) - Free to view, historic, zoomable maps of UK :  
1891 - Oldham and locality [Here](http://Here)  
Online Parish Clerk Project - [Lancashire](http://Lancashire)

### Some Local Archives

Barnsley Museum & Discovery Centre – [www.experience-barnsley.com](http://www.experience-barnsley.com)  
Birkenhead – [www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives)  
Bury – [www.bury.gov.uk/archives](http://www.bury.gov.uk/archives)  
Chester - [Cheshire Archives & Local Studies](http://Cheshire Archives & Local Studies) (linked from Discovery at the National Archives)  
Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](http://Local & Family History)  
Leeds - [Leeds Local and Family History](http://Leeds Local and Family History)  
Liverpool Archives and Family History – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/archives>

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)

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)

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

## For the Gallery

### 102nd Anniversary

#### THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE (3rd YPRES) 31st July to 10th November 1917

Many local men fell in the eight Allied Offensives which comprised the 3rd Battle of Ypres. My great uncle was a machine gunner, in the Grenadier Guards, and was killed on the first day of the Battle, as a result of a direct hit by a shell, on their gun emplacement.

Edward Garside Whitehead, age 21, is remembered on the Menin Gate War Memorial and on the Clayton War Memorial.

#### Clayton War Memorial - after the unveiling



Courtesy Editor



## **The Eight Battles that became known as the 3rd Battle of Ypres - Passchendaele :**

Battle of Pilckem Ridge (Boesinghe) 31-Jul-1917—02-Aug-1917

Battle of Langemarck, 16th Aug to 18th Aug

Battle of the Menin Road Ridge 20th Sep to 25th Sep

Battle of Polygon Wood 26th Sep to 3rd Oct

Battle of Broodseinde 4th Oct

Battle of Poelcapelle 9th Oct

First Battle of Passchendaele 12th Oct

Second Battle of Passchendaele 26th Oct to 10th November

### **Oldham Memorial Window - in Ypres**



Picture Courtesy Denise North

The town of Ypres was lovingly restored after the war and rose like a phoenix from the ashes, new born.

When the church was rebuilt in 1928, the people of Lancashire donated money, for a stained glass window to commemorate the Lancashire men who died there.

The above panel, in that window, commemorates the Oldham men.

If you wish to read more about the Battle, and the local men who died, visit the Oldham HRG Website [HERE](#)