



Cartoon of late 18th century British Volunteers (public domain)

1799 ... residents of Oldham centre who might be considered for the Militia in the case of French Invasion

The 'Annals of Oldham' were published in serial form in the *Oldham Standard* from 1887 to 1889. They were edited by Samuel Andrew and were taken from the diary of William Rowbottom. Amongst the diary pages he found a paper which listed the residents of the central part of Oldham. Evidently this was the result of a thorough canvass which had been made of the entire population when there were fears that the country would be invaded by the French. The object of the exercise was to list those men between the ages of 15 and 60 who could be called up to serve in the militia. It noted those who were already serving in volunteer corps or armed associations, those who were unfit to serve and those who would be incapable of moving themselves if an invasion happened. The dependents of each person were also numbered though not named.

Introducing the list, Samuel Andrew wrote:

"This list has not before been published, and it is interesting as showing the state of the public mind, evidently under fear of an invasion from the French. The schedule is without date, but I have arrived at the date by testing the ages of some of the persons mentioned; for instance the Rev. Thomas Fawcett died 1818, aged 74, so that he would be born in 1744, and would be 55 in 1799, which is the age stated in this schedule. Many names of persons appear in this schedule whose descendants still live in Oldham, and I doubt not this list will be referred as marking an epoch in many a family history."

120 years later there will still be those who are able to find family connections in this list. The area covered is that of the very centre of Oldham, around the parish church and along what is now Yorkshire Street. The canvass of the other parts of the town has been lost.

| SURNAME | First Name | Residence | Age | Dependant Children | Dependant Adults | Notes |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Abbott | Edward | Oldham | 48 | | 2 | |
| Allcock | Mary | Oldham | 67 | | | housekeeper; infirm |
| Allen | James | Markfield | 70 | 1 | 2 | very lame & incapable to serve |
| Allen | James | Markfield | 28 | | | |
| Andrew | Samuel | Markfield | 30 | 3 | 1 | |
| Armstrong | John | Markfield | 35 | 1 | 1 | |
| Ashton | James | Mill End | 51 | 4 | 2 | |
| Ashworth | Ann | Oldham | | 6 | 2 | one sick person |
| Bamford | Richard | Oldham | 33 | 1 | 2 | |
| Bamford | Elizabeth | Oldham | | | 3 | |
| Banks | John | Oldham | | | 2 | absent |
| Bardsley | Joseph | Holebottom | 29 | 3 | 1 | |
| Barlow | Edward | Oldham | 18 | | | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Barlow | John | Oldham | 42 | 3 | 2 | rather deaf and one eye |
| Barlow | Henry | Oldham | 15 | | | rather deaf |
| Barlow | Robert | Oldham | 26 | 3 | 1 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Barnett | Peter | Oldham | 36 | 7 | 1 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Batty | Benjamin | Chapel Street | 19 | | | one eye |
| Beeston | Wm. | Mill End | 34 | 4 | 1 | |
| Bentley | Robert | Holebottom | 16 | | | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Berry | James | Oldham | 54 | | 1 | one eye and lame hand |
| Binns | Thomas | Holebottom | 18 | | | (a Quaker) |
| Binns | James | Holebottom | 26 | 3 | 1 | |
| Bradley | Joseph | Oldham | 30 | | 1 | also one person upwards of 60 |

| SURNAME | First Name | Residence | Age | Dependant Children | Dependant Adults | Notes |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Brierley | Benjamin | Chapel Street | 35 | 1 | 1 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Brierley | James | Oldham | 33 | | | |
| Bromett | Henry | Mill End | 24 | 2 | 1 | |
| Brown | James | Oldham | 24 | | | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Bryan | Thomas | Mill End | 29 | 2 | 2 | |
| Buckley | John | Holebottom | 36 | 6 | 2 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Burrow | John | Markfield | 24 | 2 | 1 | one person infirm; Oldham Loyal Association |
| Burrow | John jun. | Markfield | 18 | | | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Bury | John | Markfield | 50 | | 1 | very bad windy complaint and mostly in the head |
| Butterworth | James | Markfield | 33 | 4 | 1 | infirm but willing |
| Cartwright | R. | Markfield | 40 | 1 | 1 | bodily infirmity |
| Chapman | James | Markfield | 28 | 1 | 1 | lame leg and very bad |
| Chapman | John | Oldham | 30 | 4 | 1 | crushed and infirm |
| Cheetham | James | Oldham | 29 | 2 | 1 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Clegg | John | Oldham | 52 | 1 | 3 | |
| Clegg | James | Oldham | 25 | | | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Clegg | Benjamin | Holebottom | 23 | | | |
| Cocks | James (Doctor) | Oldham | 46 | | 1 | |
| Consterdine | Benjamin | Oldham | 31 | 3 | 2 | |
| Cowper | Dan | Mill End | 31 | 5 | 1 | |
| Crook | James | Markfield | 33 | 2 | 1 | |
| Crossdale | William | Markfield | 45 | | 4 | |
| Dixon | Benjamin | Church Lane, Oldham | 21 | | 2 | |
| Dixon | Robert | Oldham | 21 | | 1 | apprentice |

| SURNAME | First Name | Residence | Age | Dependant Children | Dependant Adults | Notes |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Down | Richard | Markfield | 18 | | | |
| Drake | John | Mill End | | 1 | 1 | absent |
| Etherington | John | Goldburn | 78 | 2 | 1 | very feeble |
| Farrand | Robert | Oldham | 46 | 1 | 2 | infirm of a knee |
| Farrand | William | Oldham | 23 | | | |
| Farrand | John | Oldham | 21 | | | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Fawcett | Thomas (Rev) | Oldham | 55 | | 3 | rather deaf |
| Fawcett | Richard | Oldham | 18 | | | Oldham Yeomanry |
| Fletcher | James | Oldham | 29 | 1 | 2 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Fletcher | John | Markfield | 56 | 3 | 1 | woman upwards of 60 |
| Fletcher | Henry | Markfield | 28 | | | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Fletcher | William | Markfield | 30 | 2 | 2 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Furnivall | Benjamin | Oldham | 31 | 3 | 1 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Ganger | Thomas Hall | Oldham | 68 | | | two persons upwards of 67 years and one upwards of 68 years and incapable to remove |
| Gartside | James | Markfield | 29 | 2 | 1 | very lame but willing to serve |
| Gartside | John | Oldham | | 2 | 1 | |
| Gibson | Abraham | Markfield | 17 | | | apprentice |
| Gill | Andrew | Oldham | | | | |
| Greaves | John | Markfield | 26 | 1 | 1 | |
| Green | William | Oldham | 22 | | | provincial cavalry |
| Greg | John | Markfield | 40 | 3 | 1 | |
| Griffiths | Thomas | Oldham | | 3 | 1 | absent |
| Haigh | James | Markfield | 54 | 2 | 2 | one person upwards of 60 years |
| Haigh | John | Markfield | 15 | | | |

| SURNAME | First Name | Residence | Age | Dependant Children | Dependant Adults | Notes |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Haigh | Thomas | Markfield | 21 | 1 | 1 | supplementary militia |
| Haigh | Sarah | Oldham | | | | housekeeper; very infirm |
| Halkyard | Joseph | Goldburn | 34 | 4 | 1 | one eye |
| Hall | Martha | Mill End | 67 | | | housekeeper; vey infirm; not able to remove |
| Hall | William | Mill End | 70 | | 1 | wife |
| Hall | William | Mill End | 19 | | | |
| Hall | William | Oldham | 35 | 3 | 1 | |
| Hardman | John | Oldham | 51 | | 1 | |
| Hardman | George | Oldham | 16 | | | |
| Harrison | John | Holebottom | 35 | 6 | 1 | |
| Harrison | Henry | Oldham | 40 | 7 | 1 | |
| Harrop | William | Markfield | 28 | 1 | 1 | |
| Haworth | Robert | Holebottom | 47 | 1 | | |
| Hindle | Henry | Markfield | 50 | 3 | 1 | rheumatism |
| Hindle | John | Markfield | 16 | | | apprentice |
| Hodson | James | Markfield | 15 | | | |
| Hodson | Abraham | Oldham | 41 | | | |
| Holt | Joseph | Oldham | 26 | 1 | 1 | |
| Hopwood | William | Goldburn | 38 | | | very infirm |
| Horsefall | James | Markfield | 46 | | 3 | surfiet and other infirmities |
| Horsman | John | Markfield | 40 | 1 | | |
| Houghton | Samuel | Holebottom | 45 | 4 | 1 | |
| Houghton | William | Holebottom | 20 | | | |
| Hyde | Thomas | Markfield | 19 | | | apprentice |

| SURNAME | First Name | Residence | Age | Dependant Children | Dependant Adults | Notes |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Isherwood | William | Markfield | 36 | 2 | 1 | woman upwards of 70 |
| Jackson | David | Chapel Street | 55 | | | nervous complaint |
| Jackson | James | Markfield | 31 | 3 | 1 | |
| Jackson | Charles | Holebottom | 49 | 4 | 2 | |
| Jackson | John | Holebottom | 21 | | | provincial cavalry |
| Jackson | Jesse | Holebottom | 35 | 3 | 1 | one eye |
| Jackson | Jesiah | Goldburn | 41 | 6 | 2 | |
| Johnson | George | Chapel Croft | 18 | 1 | | |
| Johnson | John | Mill End | 30 | | 1 | |
| Johnson | Christopher | Goldburn | 42 | 5 | 1 | |
| Johnson | Richard | Goldburn | 17 | | | apprentice |
| Jones | David | Goldburn | 60 | 1 | 1 | very infirm |
| Kershaw | John | Oldham | 48 | | 1 | very infirm |
| King | Henry | Markfield | 48 | 2 | 2 | very lame (a Quaker) |
| King | James | Holebottom | 16 | | | a Quaker |
| Lawson | William | Chapel Street | 42 | 1 | 4 | Oldham Yeomanry |
| Lawson | John | Chapel Street | 16 | | | |
| Leanardness | Humphrey | Markfield | 26 | | | |
| Lee | Nelly | Goldburn | | 6 | 2 | housekeeper |
| Lees | James | Chapel Croft | | | 1 | upwards of sixty years but willing to serve |
| Lees | John | Holebottom | 26 | 2 | 1 | woman infirm |
| Lees | John | Oldham | 52 | | 5 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Lees | Edward | Oldham | 25 | | | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Lingard | John | Oldham | | | 1 | |

| SURNAME | First Name | Residence | Age | Dependant Children | Dependant Adults | Notes |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Lowe | James | Chapel Street | 45 | 5 | 1 | very infirm |
| Marlor | William | Markfield | 21 | | 3 | apprentice |
| Marshall | James | Oldham | 22 | 3 | 1 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Mason | Edward | Markfield | 20 | | | |
| Mayall | Robert jun | Oldham | 31 | | | two persons upwards of the age of 72 years |
| Mayall | Samuel | Oldham | 27 | | | |
| McDonald | Peter | Mill End | 31 | 2 | 1 | |
| Meadowcroft | William | Markfield | 15 | | | apprentice |
| Mellor | John | Chapel Croft | 45 | | | |
| Mellor | John jun. | Chapel Croft | 16 | | | |
| Mellor | George | Chapel Street | 30 | | 1 | one eye and infirm |
| Mellor | Daniel | Holebottom | 24 | | 1 | |
| Mills | Thomas | Mill End | 43 | 5 | 3 | bad eyes |
| Mills | John | Markfield | 27 | 1 | 1 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Mills | Thomas | Markfield | 28 | 1 | 1 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Neild | Mark | Oldham | 39 | 1 | 1 | |
| Nelson | George | Markfield | 30 | 1 | 2 | |
| Nicholson | John | Goldburn | 60 | 2 | 1 | |
| Nield | William | Chapel Street | 22 | 2 | 1 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Oddy | Matthew | Holebottom | 20 | | | a Quaker |
| Ogden | Mary | Oldham | | 2 | 1 | housekeeper |
| O'Neal | John | Goldburn | 31 | 3 | 1 | |
| Owens | Roger | Mill End | 54 | | | lost a finger |
| Patterson | William | Chapel Street | 33 | 3 | 2 | |

| SURNAME | First Name | Residence | Age | Dependant Children | Dependant Adults | Notes |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Peacock | Edward | Oldham | 15 | | | |
| Pettygru | Archibald | Oldham | 48 | | | very infirm |
| Pool | James | Oldham | 47 | | | |
| Poole | Joseph | Oldham | 33 | 5 | 1 | |
| Poole | William | Oldham | 32 | | | |
| Potter | Sarah | Holebottom | | 1 | 1 | housekeeper; woman infirm |
| Radcliffe | John | Chapel Street | 30 | 2 | 1 | |
| Radcliffe | John | Mill End | 48 | 7 | 2 | |
| Radcliffe | Robert | Mill End | 16 | | | |
| Ramsbottom | Alice | Oldham | 70 | 1 | 2 | housekeeper; child under 15 years |
| Ridgehouse | William | Holebottom | 17 | | | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Rigby | Alexander | Markfield | 46 | 3 | 1 | piles bad |
| Roch | Henry | Goldburn | 40 | 1 | 1 | very weak |
| Rowland | James | Oldham | 19 | | 1 | also one person upwards of 68 years and not capable to remove; OLA |
| Rowland | George | Oldham | 16 | | | |
| Rutherford | George | Markfield | 17 | | | apprentice |
| Schofield | John | Oldham | 61 | | 1 | one person upwards of seventy years and not capable to remove |
| Schofield | Jos. | Oldham | 50 | | | |
| Shakshaft | Thomas | Oldham | 59 | 1 | 1 | infirm |
| Smethurst | Samuel | Oldham | 15 | | | apprentice |
| Spaight | William | Chapel Croft | 36 | 6 | 2 | |
| Stansfield | John | Oldham | 35 | 6 | 1 | rheumatism |

| SURNAME | First Name | Residence | Age | Dependant Children | Dependant Adults | Notes |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Steeple | John | Oldham | 34 | 7 | 1 | |
| Stockdale | Leonard | Oldham | | | | absent |
| Sudbury | William | Markfield | 28 | | 1 | |
| Swire | Elias | Oldham | 24 | 1 | | |
| Taylor | John | Chapel Croft | 58 | | | |
| Taylor | John jun. | Chapel Croft | 22 | 1 | 2 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Taylor | Robert | Chapel Street | 37 | 1 | 1 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Taylor | Thomas | Oldham | 36 | 4 | 1 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Taylor | Abraham | Markfield | 50 | 3 | 2 | |
| Taylor | James | Markfield | 19 | | | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Taylor | Joseph | Oldham | 50 | 5 | 2 | rhumitism |
| Travis | John | Markfield | 27 | 3 | 1 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Travis | John | Oldham | 50 | 1 | 2 | |
| Travis | Joseph | Oldham | 22 | | | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Travis | John jun. | Oldham | 15 | | | |
| Tunstall | John | Chapel Street | 33 | 1 | 1 | |
| Warburton | Paul | Holebottom | 17 | | | (a Quaker) |
| Ward | Benjamin | Oldham | 32 | | | one person very infirm |
| Waterhouse | Samuel | Markfield | 15 | | | apprentice |
| Waterhouse | Jos. | Oldham | 28 | 2 | 1 | |
| Watson | John | Markfield | 39 | 2 | 2 | |
| Watson | Sharp | Holebottom | 26 | | | |
| Webb | B. D. | Oldham | 29 | | 2 | |
| Whitehead | Thomas | Goldburn | 15 | 1 | 2 | apprentice |

| SURNAME | First Name | Residence | Age | Dependant Children | Dependant Adults | Notes |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Whitehead | John | Oldham | 28 | 1 | 2 | |
| Whittaker | James | Oldham | 46 | 2 | 3 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Whittaker | Thomas | Oldham | 36 | | | |
| Whittaker | John | Markfield | 38 | | 2 | lost two fingers of right hand (Quaker) |
| Whittaker | Miss | Oldham | | | | |
| Whittaker | Edward | Oldham | 38 | 2 | 2 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Whitworth | James | Markfield | 26 | 2 | | bad leg |
| Wilde | James | Holebottom | 33 | | 1 | |
| Wilde | Robert | Holebottom | 28 | 1 | 1 | woman upwards of 60 |
| Wilde | James | Oldham | 61 | 2 | 2 | |
| Wilde | James jun | Oldham | 18 | | | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Wilde | Robert | Oldham | 16 | | | |
| Wilkinson | James | Mill End | 34 | 3 | 2 | lame leg |
| Williamson | George | Holebottom | 23 | 2 | 1 | Oldham Loyal Association |
| Wilson | Thomas | Holebottom | 36 | 4 | 1 | |
| Wiltshire | Thomas | Mill End | 46 | 3 | 2 | lame |
| Wimpenny | George | Markfield | 40 | 5 | 1 | |
| Winter | W (Rev) | Oldham | 28 | | | |
| Winterbottom | Jonathan | Holebottom | 16 | | | |
| Winterbottom | Mary | Goldburn | 75 | | | housekeeper |
| Winterbottom | Dorothy | Goldburn | 60 | 3 | 1 | housekeeper; one lame daughter and three children under 15 years |
| Wire | James | Oldham | 26 | 1 | 1 | |
| Wolstencroft | Thomas | Oldham | 38 | 4 | 2 | |
| Wood | John | Oldham | 36 | 4 | 3 | Oldham Loyal Association |

| SURNAME | First Name | Residence | Age | Dependant Children | Dependant Adults | Notes |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Wood | John | Goldburn | 36 | 4 | 1 | |
| Wright | James | Mill End | 49 | 2 | | |
| Wright | George | Markfield | 48 | 1 | 1 | a lame wife |
| Wright | William | Markfield | 26 | | | |
| Wright | Samuel | Markfield | 24 | 1 | | supplementary militia |
| Wright | James | Markfield | 16 | | | apprentice |
| Wright | Daniel | Goldburn | 47 | 3 | 1 | infirm |
| Wright | Benjamin | Goldburn | 18 | | | |
| Wrigley | Miles (Rev) | Goldburn | 50 | 5 | 2 | one hand lost and most of left. two people upwards of 60 years |
| Wrigley | John | Goldburn | 20 | | | Oldham Loyal Association |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Many thanks to Mary Pendlebury for supplying this information.

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