

Useful Information

Oldham & District FHS

www.oldham.mlfhs.org.uk

Oldham Council Heritage Collection

<http://calmview.oldham.gov.uk/calmview/>

also at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/

GENUKI

www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/LAN/Oldham

Spinning the Web

www.spinningtheweb.org.uk

Revealing Histories

www.revealinghistories.org.uk/the-american-civil-war-and-the-lancashire-cotton-famine/articles/oldham-and-cotton-industries.html

Oldham Council – Family History Help

www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200390/family_history/655/family_history_help

Oldham Council – Register Search

<http://apps1.oldham.gov.uk/BacasWeb/GenSearch.aspx>

Paradise Mill

www.paradise.mlfhs.org.uk

The Workhouse in Oldham

www.workhouses.org.uk/Oldham

Books

The Cotton Mills of Oldham

by Duncan Gurr and Julian Hunt

Historical Sketches of Oldham 1856

by Edwin Butterworth

Oldham Local Studies & Archives

84, Union Street, Oldham (located in the Old Post Office building)



For more detailed information:

www.mlfhs.org.uk/guides

Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society

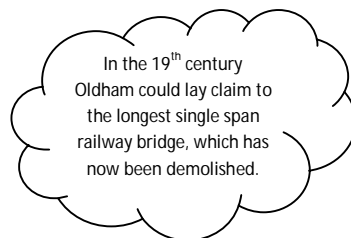
3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library

St Peter Square, Manchester, M2 5PD

Telephone: 0161- 234-1060

Email: office@mlfhs.org.uk

Archives +



Researching your Oldham Family History



A Short History of Oldham

The modern town of Oldham consists of seven original towns, these being Chadderton, Failsworth, Oldham, Lees, Royton, Saddleworth and Shaw. These towns were brought together in 1974 to the horror of some people.

Oldham started out in the diocese of Chester and didn't become part of the Manchester Diocese until the 19th century with some documents acknowledging Chester well into the 20th century.

This led to strange things happening, with many Oldham marriages being performed at Manchester Collegiate Church and later at Prestwich, St Mary's.

Oldham expanded rapidly in the 19th century, the population more than trebling between 1841 and 1891. This was due to the growing cotton industry and the many supporting industries; Platt Brothers produced cotton machinery for the world, at one point a single cotton mill had more spindles than the population of Oldham!

The Ferranti brothers created their electrical engineering works, producing everything from large electrical transformers to gun and missile manufacture and gun control.

At one point there were 365 coal pitheads in Oldham, most mills and large engineering companies having their own supply of coal.

The cotton industry has largely died out in the town but the heritage of the cotton mills lives on, with many used as multi-let industrial units producing everything from blister packaging to bullet-proof vests.

The population of Oldham continues to grow. Many in today's community came to the town from the Indian sub-continent, particularly finding employment in the textile industry, and have been joined more recently by immigrants from eastern Europe.

Oldham is undergoing many changes with the arrival of the Metrolink service, the creation of a cultural quarter, including a new theatre, a restored Art Gallery and Local Studies and Archives.

Each local township has its own local history society. If you contact a group please remember that the people running these societies are often volunteers and so your query may take a few days to answer.

Enjoy your research and may it be fruitful

Researching Ancestors from Oldham

The starting place for researching family history relating to the Oldham area is Oldham Local Studies and Archives located in the old Post Office, 84 Union Street, some 200 metres from the Oldham Central Metrolink stop.

Oldham Local Studies and Archives has free access to the Internet including Ancestry and FindMyPast.

There are microfilm copies of Church of England, Nonconformist and Roman Catholic records for the Oldham area, as well as transcripts of memorial inscriptions. There are also microfilm copies of all censuses from 1841-1901

Electoral registers date from 1850 although coverage becomes erratic between 1915 and 1974. Some additional registers for the area are held at West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield and Lancashire Archives at Preston.

There are also microfilm copies of local newspapers such as the Oldham Chronicle and Oldham Standard, as well as original copies of the more recent Oldham Advertiser.

Trade Directories are available dating from 1814 onwards and for researchers interested in the cotton industry there is good sequence of cotton directories produced by a local printing company, Worralls.

Oldham is well covered by maps including enclosure and tithe maps; Dunn's Map of Oldham from 1829; and Ordnance Survey Maps of all scales dating from 1848.

There is also a good collection of books and pamphlets relating to local history, in particular the cotton industry.

Oldham Local Studies and Archives also holds a collection of over 60,000 photographs.

The archives cover a wide range of subjects including, local authority records, schools, businesses, trade unions, local societies and organisations, personal archives, hospital records including Oldham workhouse etc.

Oldham & District Family History Society

The Oldham and District FHS is a branch of the Manchester and Lancashire FHS and supports those researching their families in the Oldham area. The branch meets at Gallery Oldham, usually on the second Saturday of the month, See our web pages at www.oldham.mlffhs.org.uk for details of our current programme.