

M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the
Manchester & Lancashire Family
History Society



November 2021 Issue 19

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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SOCIETY BRANCHES

Oldham Branch of MLFHS - <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>

Bolton Branch of MLFHS - <http://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>

Anglo-Scottish Branch of MLFHS – <http://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots>

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Hello and welcome to the Manchester newsletter for November 2021. The nights are closing in and I am finding time to carry out more research about my ancestors. Not just names and dates and where they lived but more about their lives in general. I have been searching photo libraries, maps and other sources to find churches, cemeteries and more about their day-to-day lives. It has surprised me as to where my searches have led me.

My choice of books this month is more limited than usual with reference to the Great War with Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday being remembered by many.

As usual I have listed the talks organised by Manchester and our three branches. Also included is a talk by the Research & Knowledge Exchange - Arts & Humanities on [Miraculous Cures and Pilgrimage in Manchester](#) as part of Disability History Month and Manchester Histories Online is providing a talk about what Manchester was like before the industrial revolution.

If you are going to be in Manchester then please pop into Central Library where you will find a small exhibition on the Ground Floor about Charles Dickens' association with Manchester which has been organised by Archives+.

You will find more details of these talks and event further in this newsletter. As always I have updated our regular features.

Happy reading
Barry Henshall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Historical Treasure

Goodness! It is hard to believe that our new website, Manchester Ancestors, has been with us for twelve months. I was reminded of this when I was asked this month to renew our technical support contract. In company with our splendid team of website managers, I reviewed our support experience since last year's September launch. It brought home to me just how far we have come in our quest to reach out to our members online during the many months of the global pandemic.

Enrolments and membership renewals are now much simpler to arrange online; our entire archival database is available from the Great Database link; the complete collection of our flagship journal, The Manchester Genealogist, together with our extensive range of newsletters and exchange journals can be viewed at the touch of a keypad; bookshop orders are still very popular and so much easier to arrange via the online system.

Perhaps the most appreciated change concerns our meetings programme. Our regular gatherings in Manchester Central Library and our other venues have had to be replaced by Zoom meetings. Including branch programmes, we held more than 20 such meetings during the year and plan for many more in 2022 [see the Meetings and Events listing link on the home page.]

In this way we can stay in touch with members across the world in a more immediate way than pre-pandemic. It is so satisfying to be able to speak to members in the USA, Canada, Australasia and Europe as well as those in the UK living outside Greater Manchester-people we would rarely welcome to our venues in the UK. I am sure many of you appreciate these opportunities to meet and exchange research ideas with fellow members across the globe. We have even been able to engage speakers from further afield than the North-West, sometimes as far away as USA.

Our web managers are striving continually to improve both the content and the navigability of the website. Fortunately, the templates chosen by the design team at the outset lend themselves to many of the innovations we are working to bring in to make access to these treasures easier.

I hope you have taken the opportunity to use the site in your research. It is a veritable treasury of archival information assembled for over fifty-five years by countless volunteers and testament to their massive contribution in that time. The pace at which our projects teams are delivering often obscure records for upload encourages me to believe we will soon be able to boast 9 million records in our database. I urge you to use them.

Best wishes in your research,

David

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

The office is being run from home, as is the bookshop, by our usual team.

Feel free to contact the office office@mlfhs.org.uk for enquiries about your membership. If contacting us please give your membership number and the surname of the member (it is not always the same as the person paying). We are finding that members have never informed us of changes to their email address from when they first joined so it is **important** on the new website that we have an **up-to-date address** so please check.

Because of the current lockdown volunteers are not accessing our office at Manchester Central Library. Could members still paying via cheque please note the address for sending them has changed. Please do **NOT** send anything to the library. There will be delays if correspondence is sent to our office at Manchester Central Library.

If possible please use the on-line option on our new website to join or renew your subscription to the Society.

We now use Stripe instead of PayPal so you can use Stripe or pay as a guest with your card. Have you considered taking out a Bank Standing Order? It means you don't have to think about renewing and you can stop it at any time. No need to think about it, just renews every year.

With the new system a reminder is automatically sent out two weeks before it is due date, it will not let you pay more than three months in advance. This is to stop members paying twice in the year.

I trust you are all keeping well in these difficult time, looking forward to the time when we can all meet up again.

MLFHS
17 Fortyacre Drive,
Bredbury,
SK6 2EZ

Stay safe and well Elsie

EVENTS/TALKS

All our meetings and events are ticketed through Eventbrite. Please ensure you use the links in this newsletter, or our website, to book a place.

Manchester Branch.



Irish Family History

Sat, 6 November 2021
14:00 – 15:00 GMT

Get the most out of your Irish research

The talk is a practical guide to help you get the most out of your Irish research using the main websites that are available and introducing some that you may not be familiar with.

Carol Wells is a member of the MLFHS Tuesday helpdesk team at Central Library, Manchester with a particular interest in Irish Genealogy. "I have been researching the Irish branch of our family I am a member of the MLFHS Tuesday helpdesk team at Central Library, Manchester with a particular interest in Irish Genealogy. I have been researching the Irish branch of our family for over 30 years and have travelled to Ireland many times over a number of years visiting all the main genealogy centres in Dublin. I have learned many different ways of moving your research forward and will hopefully show you how much information there is available if you know where to look."



Booking through [Eventbrite](#).

Bolton Branch.



Researching Welsh Ancestors

Wed, 3 November 2021

19:30 – 20:30 GMT

This session will start with a historical overview of life in Wales, looking at maps, counties, 1720 and 1833 gazetteer descriptions, the Welsh language, traditional dress, Welsh dragon and patron saint. We will look at the steady heavy industrialisation of the beautiful rural countryside, into coal mining and Merthyr Tydfil specifically. Emigration posters of the 1840s reveal the call to build a new and better life abroad. The crucial role of DNA testing with specified regions and surname distribution will be revealed, as will language, translation tools and scripts. Censuses in Welsh will be analysed and compared to English language censuses. A variety of resources and research strategies will be given to aid looking for ancestors and relatives in Wales. The feeling of connectedness, diaspora and homelands will be explored.

Booking through [Eventbrite](#).

Full details of Bolton Branch meetings <https://mlfhs.uk/bolton/events/meetings>.

Oldham Branch



Family Life in the Industrial Revolution - autobiography of Benjamin Shaw, 1772-1841

Sat, 13 November 2021

14:00 – 15:30 GMT

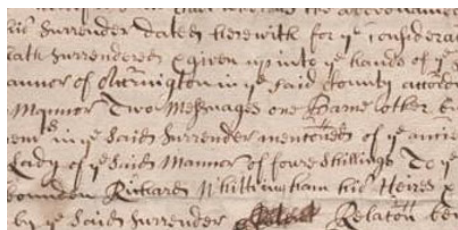
The talk covers everything from child labour, via bastardy and terrible working conditions, to problem teenagers and early death; the world of your Lancashire ancestors, 200 years ago.

Please Note:

A meeting reminder email will be sent out 3 or 4 days before the talk; a zoom meeting link on Thursday morning 11th of November. Registration closes at 9am on the 13th. A final reminder and link will be sent at 10:30am, on the meeting day. Login will be from 1:45, for an informal 'meet and greet' of old friends and a welcome to new visitors to our meetings. All are welcome and we hope you will enjoy the meeting and join us again in the future. Booking through [Eventbrite](#).

Full details of Oldham Branch meetings <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham/events/meetings>

Anglo-Scots



Palaeography and the Kirk Session Records

Sat, 20 November 2021
14:00 – 16:30 GMT

A Practical Guide to Understanding the Writing by Robin Urquhart

Robin Urquhart was Head of Digitisation at the National Records of Scotland until March, when he retired. Prior to that he worked in local archives in the west of Scotland. He was the creator of the Scottish Handwriting website, namely www.scottishhandwriting.com. We have had a few talks about Kirk Session records over the years, but now that a large tranche of Kirk Session records have been released online, we might want to look at the originals, and get that 'feel' for and insight into the events recorded therein.

The Kirk Session Records are held on the Scotlands People website; they are court records of the times, whilst they contain legal terminology they are not too difficult to read. The earliest of these records, from perhaps before the 1780s are more difficult to read, and this is where the experience of Robin Urquhart, formerly of the National Records of Scotland will become invaluable as he shows us read and understand these older scripts.

The Zoom invitation will be sent to those who have booked at 6.00 am on Friday 19th November. If you do not receive your invitation at that time please contact angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk. Booking through [Eventbrite](#).

Full details of Anglo-Scots Branch meetings at <https://mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots/events/meetings>

A reminder that you can register for your favourite Branch(es) by going to our website 'Manchester Ancestors', choosing your chosen Branch(es) and clicking on the 'newsletter' option. This will take you to the newsletter sign-up page. If you have logged on as a member then the form will be automatically filled for you. Just hit the sign up button. If you are not a Society member then you will have to fill in the form manually, identify yourself as not a robot and then sign in.

The National Archives

Please note that places are limited for these meetings and so early booking is essential
In the future why not monitor the [National Archives site](#).

The wedding of the century: Arthur and Katherine (1501)

Friday 12 November at 14:00

The wedding of Katherine of Aragon to Arthur Tudor in November 1501 was the most spectacular royal wedding and public festival of the 15th/16th century. Join us in looking at the incredible detail of the wedding but also its wider consequences for the Tudor family and for England.

All the Kings' Fools: Disability and the Tudors

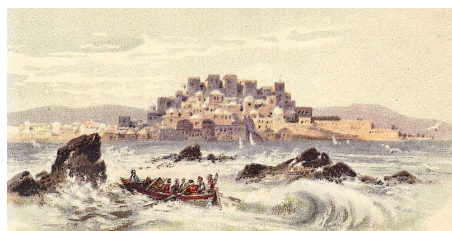
Wednesday 17 November at 19:30

From the nobility to the lowest of society (including William Somer, Henry VIII's fool at court), Phillipa Vincent-Connolly casts a light on the lives of disabled people in Tudor England and guides us through the social, religious, cultural and ruling classes' response to disability as it was then perceived.

RootsTech Connect 2022

FamilySearch has announced that [RootsTech Connect 2022](#) will take place on March 3–5, 2022, as a fully virtual family history event. RootsTech Connect 2021 attracted more than 1 million visitors from over 240 countries, making this year's gathering the largest in RootsTech history. Further details can be found [HERE](#).

Family history enthusiasts can [access](#) over 1,500 free, on-demand sessions from RootsTech 2021.



Disability History Month: Miraculous Cures and Pilgrimage in Manchester

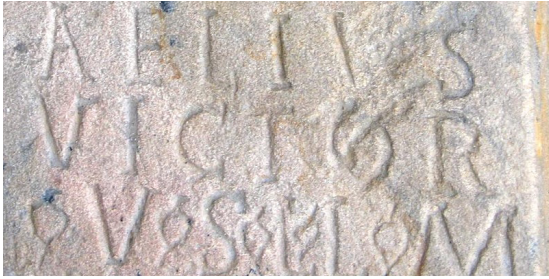
by Research & Knowledge Exchange - Arts & Humanities

Wed, 10 November 2021

18:00 – 19:30 GMT

This lecture examines the practice of pilgrimage in Manchester and the North-West in the 18th and 19th centuries, showing how people sought miracle cures for a range of illnesses and impairments.

Dr Kathryn Hurlock is a Reader in History at Manchester Metropolitan University. She is an expert in both pilgrimage and historical experiences of disability. Her recent publications include *Medieval Welsh Pilgrimage* (2018) and *Crusading and Ideas of the Holy Land* (2021). [Eventbrite](#)



Manchester Histories Online November History Salon Wednesday 17 November 1pm - 2pm

What did Manchester look like in the years before the industrial revolution, when the city as we now know it was barely the size of a small provincial town? Or earlier still when the Romans dominated

the region and gave Manchester its current, internationally recognised name? Did the area have a name before the Romans settled? Has the location of the centre of power changed in Manchester and if so, why? Who were the influential figures and what impact did they have on the early development of this global city?

Join two of the country's leading archaeologists, Dr Mike Nevell and Ian Miller of the University of Salford, as they delve into the fascinating history of Manchester and explore what life was like for its residents over the past 2000 years up until the birth of the industrial city. Book through [Eventbrite](#)

PROJECTS UPDATE

The following update has been posted to War Memorials

Added 229 names from:

Astley Wesleyan Methodist Church Memorial, WW1;

Bickershaw War Memorial, St. James and St. Elizabeth Church, Bickershaw, WW1; Atherton

Colliers Memorial, Atherton Parish Church House, WW1;

Oldham, Shaw, St Paul's Methodist Church, Memorial Window, WW1

Barry Henshall has been busy at Urmston Cemetery transcribing the memorial inscriptions from plots H, N and P. I have just added a further 996 names recorded on 364 memorials to the Memorial Inscription database.

Work on adding complete browsable alphabetical listings to the Great database burial datasets is moving ahead steadily. The registers completed are:

Manchester, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, St Clement
Denton, St Lawrence
Gorton, St James
Manchester, St Ann
Manchester, Hulme St George
Manchester, Didsbury, St James
Manchester, St James, George Street
Manchester, St Mary, Deansgate
Manchester, St John, Deansgate
Salford, Christ Church Bible Christian, King St
Salford, New Windsor Independent Chapel
Manchester Collegiate Church (Cathedral)
Clayton, St. Cross
Manchester, St. Peter, St. Peter's Square
Cheetham, St. Luke
Longsight, St. John
Dobcross Holy Trinity
Failsworth, Dob Lane Unitarian
Friezland, Christ Church

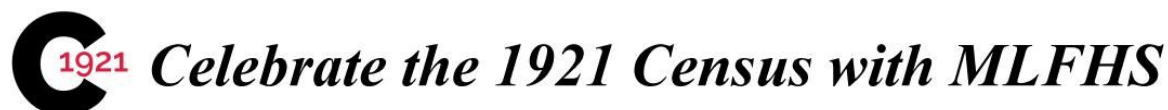
Heyside Friends (Quaker)
Leesfield, St. Thomas
Lydgate, St. Anne
Oldham, Hope Congregational
Oldham, St. James
Oldham, St. Mary
Oldham, St. Peter

This is approaching half of the datasets in the Great Database and more than half of the burials.

Since I started the work, I have received transcriptions for two more graveyards (plus some baptisms) so the target is ever moving!

Hope to have the lot completed by the end of October.

John Marsden



The MLFHS website has a dedicated 1921 Census project page which can be found at <https://mlfhs.uk/blog>. This contains a growing variety of 1921 related information.

A radio style play titled One Family's Life in 1921 by Jenny Roche can also be found at <https://mlfhs.uk/1921-census-event>.

We also have our whole world 1921 Timeline here: <https://mlfhs.uk/1921-timeline>

This has some great events and people mentioned with clickable links! Do you perhaps know of anything else we could add?

The 1921 Project still has a few more interesting items still to be included into our webpages and a couple of blogs to be posted before the end of the year. We have just one more topical speaker to hear (Horatio Bottomly MP Swindler of the Century? Presented by Jef Parks) We certainly enjoyed hearing Dr Éamon Phoenix's presentation about the Anglo Irish Treaty which gave us a better idea of the circumstances surrounding this event!

We hope that you have been checking the 1921 Project webpages regularly and are looking forward to the 1921 edition of the Manchester Genealogist which rounds off our 1921 themed year. I'm sure those of you who have been following the project will agree that 1921 was a fascinating year. We can't wait to finally see the actual 1921 census material which we believe is still on target to be released in early 2022.

WEBSITES

How to find First World War records. An interesting article listing 10 best websites for First World War records at the Who do Think you Are? [website](#)

Was your ancestor a Diplomat? If so then visiting <https://www.gulabin.com/britishdiplomatsdirectory/pdf/britishdiplomatsdirectory.pdf> may help with your search.

Irish historical certificates for most counties are online free <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>

I was recently carrying out some research on a couple of my ancestors who worked in the silk trade in and around the Macclesfield area and came across the following site:-

<https://www.wcml.org.uk/our-collections/working-lives/silk-workers/>.

Well worth a visit to learn more about your ancestors occupation There is a long list on the right hand side of the page.

Another interesting site is Russian Genealogy Tips for Beginners found at

<https://thegenealogyreporter.com/russian-genealogy-tips-for-beginners>

Familysearch News releases are regularly updated at <https://media.familysearch.org>.

[GENEVA --- GENealogical EVents and Activities](#)

Run on behalf of GENUKI and the Family History Federation

Findmypast

[United States Marriages](#)

We've added over 5.7 million new marriage records from California, Indiana, Iowa and Massachusetts. Where will your family's love stories take you?

[Essex Marriages and Banns 1537-1935](#)

From the other side of the Atlantic, we've also released thousands of marriage records from four parishes in Essex, England.

THE BOOKSHOP

At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month – we will remember them.

The Armistice, an agreement to end the fighting of the First World War as a prelude to peace negotiations, began at 11am on 11 November 1918.

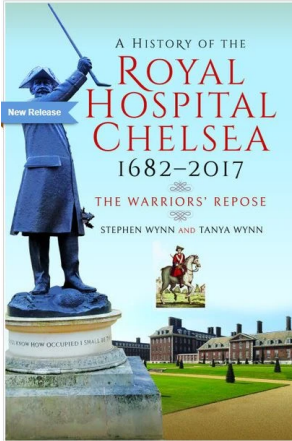
Armistice is Latin for to stand (still) arms.

To this day we mark Armistice Day around the United Kingdom with a Two Minute Silence at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month.

[Remembrance Sunday](#)

The [National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph](#) in London is held on Remembrance Sunday, the closest Sunday to 11 November. The service is attended by senior members of the Royal Family, including Her Majesty the Queen, HM Government and usually features a March Past involving 10,000 veterans.

On the next page I highlight three books that may be of interest to our readers.

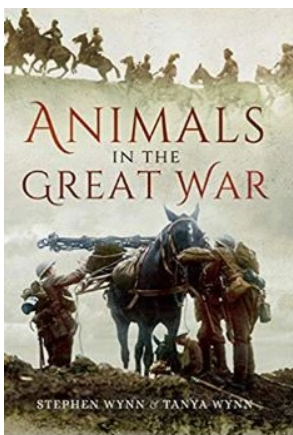


A History of the Royal Hospital Chelsea

Code: 8072

£14.99

A History of the Royal Hospital Chelsea looks at the hospital's beginnings, with its Royal patronage and heritage which dates back to King Charles II in 1682. It then goes on to look at some of the characters who have been in Pensioners at the hospital over the centuries, as well as some of the individuals who have been buried in the Hospital's grounds. This includes the ashes of the ex British Prime Minister, Baroness Margaret Thatcher and her husband, Sir Dennis Thatcher. More details [HERE](#).

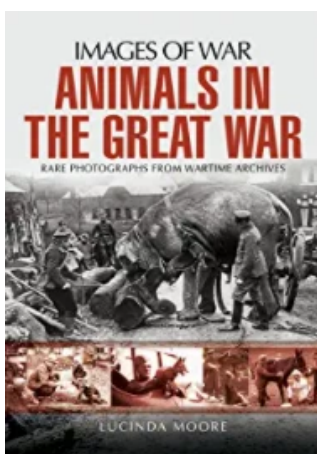


Animals in the Great War

Code: 8074

£13.00 ~~£16.99~~

Animals in the Great War looks at the use of animals by all sides in the Great War and to what effect. In the main, it focuses greatly on horses, dogs and pigeons but also addresses the war efforts of other animals. In the early years of the war horses were, to a large extent, the only form of transport that was available to the British Army, ranging from use by cavalry units, artillery units as well others such as the Army Ordnance Corps for the conveying of ammunition supplies to men fighting at the front. Britain sent an estimated one million horses to fight in the war, most of them to France and Belgium, but only 60,000 of them ever returned home, and only then were they returned because of the intervention of Winston Churchill. More details [HERE](#).



Animal in the Great War - Images of War.

Code: 8560

£14.99

Tails from the Great War throws a spot light on the experience of creatures great and small during the First World War, vividly telling their stories through the incredible archival images of the Mary Evans Picture Library. The enduring public interest in Michael Morpurgo's tale of the war horse reveals an enthusiasm for the animal perspective on war, but what of the untold stories of the war dog, the trench rat or even the ship's pig? More details [HERE](#).

UKBMD Updates

The search engine on the LocalBMD websites has been updated.

Message from Ian Hartas, Local BMD Project.

The search forms on the Local BMD Project websites have been updated to enhance how the forename field is used. Previously you could enter a name or part of it, and if you wanted to add a second initial in the search you had to specify the first-name in full.

The updated version now allows you to enter just initials if you wish.

For example if you are searching for "John William" you can now enter the forename as any of these examples:

John, John The beloved wife of, Jo Wi, J The beloved wife of, Jo Willi or any combination of the names. This could be of use if you do not know if your ancestor was a John, Jon or Jonathan.

Cheshire BMD has been updated as follows:

Marriages:

407 for Birkenhead, Civil Marriage, registers at Wirral (1972-1974)

Births:

Updated 1,007 for Bebington, registers at Wirral (1895-1898) to add mother's maiden name.

Updated 2,039 for Wallasey, registers at Wirral (1902-1906) to add mother's maiden name.

For access to all the UK's major BMD and Census sites visit <https://www.UKBMD.org.uk/>

For access to all the UK's major Family History sites visit <https://www.UKGD.org.uk/>

For access to all the UK's major Military Family History sites visit <https://www.UKMFH.org.uk/>

THE HELP DESK

Just a reminder that our Helpdesk is now open with sessions running Monday - Friday as usual. However, we will be operating restricted sessions hours 11.00 - 2:30 until December 2021 when we will close for the Christmas holidays. We certainly enjoyed seeing our Help Desk colleagues again and greeting visitors and society members back to the Help Desk. The number of customers has varied from day to day, as you would expect, ranging from 2 to 5 per day. If you are hitting a 'brick wall' or just wanting to access our on-line resources then please come on down. The volunteers are always there to help.

The Virtual Help Desk currently remains open but from October will revert to members only. This is considered a member benefit but was open to all during the pandemic when our physical Helpdesk had to close. We would like to thank our Virtual Help Desk team: Sue Williams, Lynne Wilkinson, Leslie Turner, and Pat Etchells for all of their assistance they have provided during the past 18 months or so! There were many interesting queries and

we hope that everyone was able to move forward and make further progress with their research as a result.

On the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society website you will find 'Hints from the Help Desk' videos hosted by Vimeo.

<https://mlfhs.uk/virtual-help-desk-landing>

Leslie Turner
Help Desk Co-ordinator

ORPHAN BMDs

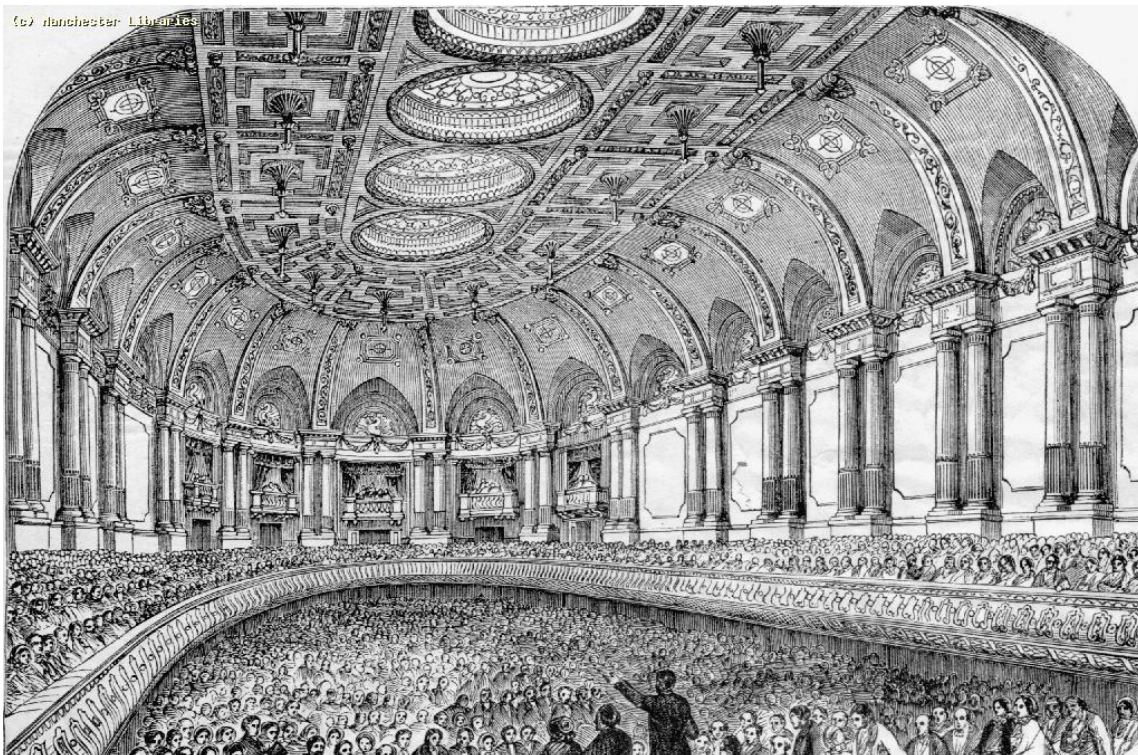
Over the years members have been sending birth, marriage and death certificates to the Society that have either been ordered in error or are no longer needed. This has proved to be a valuable asset and has no doubt been useful for many. The scanning was carried out at Manchester Central Library but we are now in a position to scan and transcribe when working from home. Therefore, if you have any BMDs you no longer want then why not consider sending them to the Society. You can send them to:

M&LFHS
61 Queens Road
Urmston
M41 9HF

It may take a little time for the information to be entered into our database as I tend to enter them in batches and not singly

MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY

Archives+ - Events at Central Library Dickens and Manchester



Free Trade Hall 1865 *Manchester Libraries Local Image Collection (m51890).*

Charles Dickens is of course well known for his association with London. However people might be less familiar with his links to Manchester. These are discussed here and accompany a small exhibition on the Ground Floor, [Central Library](#) running until January 2022.

Dickens made a number of visits to Manchester and three notable ones are mentioned here. One of his earlier visits was to lend his support to the Athenaeum building on Princess Street in 1843. The Athenaeum was a club that aimed to promote and enable learning amongst the middle classes offering a newsroom, library, lecture hall and coffee room. Dickens attended a soiree at the Free Trade Hall in support of the institution. The Free Trade Hall is another significant building in the Dickens-Manchester story as we will discover later in this [blog](#).

NORTH WEST SOUND HERITAGE

Unlocking our Sound Heritage

Thousands of cassettes, open reels, CDs and MiniDiscs are sitting in archives, museums, libraries and in people's homes all over the UK. All kinds of unique live music, radio and conversation are recorded on these tapes and discs. We've already lost many of the people captured on them. And the British Library estimates that we have fifteen years to preserve the sounds themselves.

That's why the British Library has received funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to establish Unlocking Our Sound Heritage, an exciting new national project to save thousands sounds which are at risk of being lost forever.

Archives+ is the hub partner for the North West region, which covers Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside. We'll be digitising around 15,000 recordings on 5,000 cassettes, reels and optical discs held all over the region here at Manchester Central Library.

This is a fascinating site providing a flavour of times gone by. If you are a sword swallower then discover what not to eat and drink before a performance!

Find more information [here](#).

NORTH WEST FILM ARCHIVE

Welcome to the North West Film Archive, the professionally recognised public home for the moving image heritage of the North West of England.

We're continuing to offer a good range of services, including some footage sales, so tell us what you want and we will do what we can.

This is a site well worth visiting The NWFA was set up in 1977 and preserves moving images made in or about Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire, Merseyside and Cumbria and offers a variety of access services to users in the public, academic and commercial sectors.



<https://www.facebook.com/MandLFamilyHistory>



and Twitter

M&L Family History@MLFHS