

'e-Owls'



Part of Manchester & Lancashire
Family History Society (MLFHS)

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SEPTEMBER 2020

MLFHS - Oldham Branch Newsletter

Where to find things in the newsletter:

Oldham Branch News : Page 1
Other Branch Meetings : Page 3
MLFHS Updates : Page 3
Societies not part of MLFHS : Page 4
'A Mixed Bag' : Page 4

From the e-Postbag : Page 9
Peterloo Bi-Centenary : Page 14
Need Help! : Page 14
Useful Website Links : Page 15
For the Gallery : Page 16

Branch News :

Following April's Annual Meeting of the MLFHS Oldham Branch

Branch Officers for 2020 -2021 :

Committee Member : Chairman : Linda Richardson

Committee Member : Treasurer : Gill Melton

Committee Member : Secretary : position vacant

Committee Member : Newsletter & Webmistress:
Sheila Goodyear

Committee Member : Dorothy Clegg

Committee Member : Joan Harrison



'The Dinner Hour'
'Lancashire' by Leo Grindon, pub. 1892

Oldham Branch Meetings : Coronavirus Pandemic

Please note ... with great regret but in-line with the updated Statement, issued by the M&LFHS Trustees, and on the home page of the Society website, to which I drew your attention in an earlier email, all M&LFHS Meetings, Branch Meetings and public activities are to be suspended indefinitely.

The newsletter will be sent out as usual.

There will be further updates on the Society website Home Page and on the Branch pages.

The next issue of the Society Journal will go out to members as usual. It relies heavily on Branch reports and what the Society has been doing at events and fairs etc. However, this sort

of news won't be there for quite a long time! To fill the pages with interesting articles, it's hoped that more people will write up family stories and contribute them to the journal. Please refer to the page, '*Notes for Contributors*', in the Journal, for information on how to send articles, etc. The Society Facebook page [HERE](#) and the Twitter page [HERE](#) will be updated frequently.

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

As I write this, Oldham is in partial lockdown at the moment, although that may change over the next couple of days depending on the increase/decrease in the number of cases of Coronavirus. What a year it has been so far. Again, I must acknowledge the hard work that the Newsletter Editor, Sheila Goodyear and also Gillian Melton who is acting as temporary Branch Secretary, have put in behind the scenes over the last few months. Thank you both. We have managed to book speakers for all our meetings from January through to November next year (if restrictions are lifted).

Some of you may know about the roof at St Pauls Methodist Church in Shaw collapsing and the building having to be demolished and the land put up for sale. I am happy to report that I have negotiated with the Minister of that Church to allow the Oldham Branch of MLFHS to transcribe the burial records for that chapel. I will be able to start the operation of transcribing the registers once the Government allows the churches to reopen fully, as the work will have to be done on site

There are still two vacancies on the Committee of the Oldham Branch. If anyone is curious about what the Committee does and may be interested in joining us, please contact me for a chat.

Linda Richardson

Chairman, Oldham Branch

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

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Editor's remarks.

Yet again, another month has whizzed past at a fantastic rate! My life seems to have settled into a routine of : shopping list for my son to get and another one for Asda to deliver. I hardly noticed when Oldham was 'sentenced' to another term of more rigorous lockdown. However, I have to confess to having had a trip out ... to the tip at Chadderton! Quite an exciting change! Seriously, I know we still have to treat this on-going situation with the respect that is necessary. However, restrictions change so swiftly, almost from day to day, that I can't keep track of them; I just rely on my two children to let me know what I can or can't do!

Enough ... the future beckons. As I write, the new MLFHS website is hovering on the brink of being 'live'. Only our Branch front pages will be on-line when it goes live (the only pages to which I have had only limited editorial access, as yet). Once the site is 'live', then the hard work starts as we try to get all the new pages up as soon as possible. Hopefully, I will also be able to put our own 'Oldham Stamp' on our new Oldham & District pages!

Always on the hunt for snippets of local and ancestral interest, I re-discovered Giles Shaw's '*Local Notes and Gleanings*' in 3 volumes (all available to browse on the shelves in the Local Studies and Archives at Oldham or download as .pdf files from the [Internet Archive](#)). I've included one of the illustrations in the 'Gallery' and a couple of transcripts from Vol. 1, in the 'Mixed Bag'. More to follow! Mary Pendlbury also sent me a newspaper clipping (about an elephant at Mumps!) which you can also find in the Mixed Bag.

For those of you with an eye for these things, you'll see that the url (in the address bar for web pages) is different from usual. This is because, as a temporary measure, I've hosted it in my own web space whilst the new website is 'closed' for new content. I didn't want to delay sending out the newsletter. I'll place it in the MLFHS Oldham newsletters archive as soon as

possible.

As always, I've not listed any talks, for obvious reasons, but I'm still leaving the society/group names there, with a website url where available, so that you can keep a check on what might be happening with them as lockdown rules seem to be changing by the day. Hopefully, we can all find ways of still pursuing our interests without risking our well-being.

PLEASE help us keep the journal and newsletters alive ... put on your 'thinking caps' and send us your photos, stories and pictures.

Although I am always more than happy to receive articles, pictures etc., for the newsletter, copyright is always a tricky issue so do please make sure that you have the right to use any text or illustrations that you send! It is also helpful if you include mention of your source material.

You will retain copyright of any contributions that you send unless you decide to waive that right, at the time of sending.

Editor reserves the right to edit any contributions before publication.

email me at : < Oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk >

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## Oldham & District, Bolton & Scottish Branches

Please visit the Branch Websites for information and any updates :

Oldham & District [HERE](#)

Anglo-Scottish [HERE](#)

Bolton [HERE](#)

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MLFHS updates

The MLFHS Family History Help Desk ... CANCELLED until further notice.

However, there is now a virtual Help Desk ... [HERE](#)

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**Beginners Talks ... CANCELLED until further notice**

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MLFHS Online Bookshop: Is OPEN for business again [HERE](#).

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

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## MLFHS & Branch e-Newsletters

MLFHS and each of the MLFHS branches publishes a monthly e-newsletter which provides useful news items and articles etc. The e-newsletters are free and available to both members and non-members of MLFHS. Society members receive the MLFHS newsletter automatically; non-members can find them by following the links, below.

To sign-up, for a Branch newsletter, to be emailed each month, simply click the appropriate link below and complete the short form on the e-newsletter page, where you will also find copies of all past issues.

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

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Meetings and Talks at other Societies &/or Venues

Please note ... the relevant society/group websites or organisers care still being

included, here, as they can be checked for further information or on-line resource material and activities.

All public activities are, of course, CANCELLED until further notice.

Oldham Historical Research Group: ...

Website [HERE](#)

Library Events & Gallery talks at Gallery Oldham

Saddleworth Historical Society & Saddleworth Civic Trust

At the Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill.

Family History Society of Cheshire : Tameside Group meeting.

See their website [HERE](#)

Tameside History Club :

Website and programme [HERE](#)

Tameside Local Studies and Archives - Regular Sessions and Events

Website and programme [HERE](#)

Moorside & District Historical Society

Regional Heritage Centre :

Website [HERE](#)

'A Mixed Bag'

Mary Pendlebury is a marvellous source of the unexpected snippets and interesting or amusing anecdotes ... this is just one such example that she sent, from the, *Oldham Evening Chronicle*, Monday, February 11, 1901 :

Troublesome Elephants at Mumps Station

Considerable stir was caused at Mumps Station on Saturday and today (Monday) by the lively doings of certain uncommon passengers. On Saturday morning Mr. Joseph Ball, the proprietor of Chadderton Hall, sent two elephants and three camels to Mumps Station, where they were to be boxed and despatched to Cheltenham. However on arriving at the station the elephants became quite troublesome, and the several attempts that were made to get the two beasts within the station gates proved fruitless. One of the elephants was a monstrous size, and had it only been as quiet as the smaller one the men would have easily completed their task on Saturday. The camels were tractable enough, but after several hours had struggling with the elephants the whole lot had to be led back to Chadderton Hall. Early this (Monday) morning the men again put in an appearance with the animals at Mumps Station and much fun was obtained by the spectators out of the large elephant's stupidity, and the manner in which the smaller one kept dodging around its companion when the former had been successfully got ahead. The pair of them appeared to know where they were for upon entering Coronation-street they became as troublesome as they could possibly be. However, a grand idea struck one of the porters for he got some hay and enticed the little one along. But the other animal

was too old-fashioned for the dodge, and would not budge.



Eventually its feet were bound with chains and ropes, and it was ignominiously dragged along. After the men had got their freight within the gates of the railway yard they had still a very hard task before them to get the animals into the box. The bigger beast came into contact with a standing lurry, but luckily did no damage beyond bringing down the shafts. Eventually it was boxed, but still there was plenty of fun to be had from the other brute, which turned as awkward as possible. About thirty men were seen trying to pull it in with ropes, but every time it was near the door the animal would give a strong pull and fall over the side. But these little games were not to be put up with all day, and a long rope which was attached to its foot was fastened to the foot of its captive comrade, and by this method the obstinate struggler, despite its efforts to fall over the side again was safely housed. It was nearly quarter to three

this afternoon when everything was made right. Fortunately no one was hurt in this sport, and the only damage was a window knocked out of the carriage.

A useful link :

Chadderton Hall Pleasure Gardens - Zoo [HERE](#)

Poster image from wikipedia [HERE](#)

Many thanks to Mary for this contribution. From a personal point of view, I have to add, however, that I'm glad to live in more enlightened times when we should find such treatment, of animals, far too disturbing.

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Reprinted from the 'Oldham Express' as 'Local Notes and Gleanings' by Giles Shaw, Vol.1, 1886 - 1887 p.194 - 195

### OLDHAM NEWSPAPERS

The first newspaper published in Oldham was the 'Oldham Observer', No. 1 of which is dated May 3rd, 1827. Some nine or ten years ago I know a copy was in the possession of the widow of the late Mr. James Bailey. In the strict sense of the term it was not a newspaper. The first and only number of the 'Oldham Argus' was published 6th March, 1847. The first weekly newspaper published in Oldham was the *Chronicle*, in May, 1854, the publisher being the late Mr. Daniel Evans. Besides the above, I remember the 'Oldham Advertiser', the 'Oldham Times', the 'Oldham Standard', the 'Oldham Telegraph', and the 'Oldham Express'. 'Oldham Express', December, 1867.- First daily evening paper in Lancashire. 'Oldham Standard', 1869.

John Hollinhead

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Newspaper archives held at Oldham Local Studies & Archives Library ... all of which are available on the film readers.

Crompton and Royton Chronicle 1936 (January) - 1958 (June)

Royton is a chapelry in the parish of Prestwich, but before the erection of the present chapel (or church) was dependent upon Oldham or Shaw for what ecclesiastical benefits it enjoyed. The site of the chapel and graveyard were presented by Thomas Percival, Esq., of Royton Hull, and the structure itself was "erected by the voluntary contributions of several pious and well-disposed persons in Royton and its neighbourhood." The consecration took place July 1st, 1757, when the chapel was committed to the tutelage of St. Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles. The edifice is an oblong, grey-slatted structure, built of brick, and ornamented with stone cornices, and quoins at the angles. Each side is pierced with twelve windows, divided into two equal tiers. The western end comprises a slim tower, flush with the chapel gable to the height of three stages, which are divided by strong courses of dressed stone. The upper stage is embellished by a clock with four dials, and is surmounted by a vane or "weather cock," which, if it be as vigilant as it is relatively large, must be of great service to the villagers in pointing out the successive changes in the aerial currents. The western gable contains a square stone, on which is incised the following inscription: - "Deo immortalī hanc ecclesiam dedicavit munificentia vicinorum regnante Georgio II. pio felici Augusto P. P. Anno X. 1754." Over the vestry window is inscribed: - "This steeple was erected and clock purchased Anne Domtini 1828. G.R.IV. E. Collier, sculp." The latter personage has, it appears, usurped the province of the then wardens in thus handing down his name to posterity. The eastern gable displays a couple of inscribed tablets. One of them embalms the names of the "Trustees for the erection of this chapel- John Griffith, D.D., Thomas Percival, Esq., Samuel Town, C.I., Ra.[lph] Taylor, John Taylor, gent., John Booth, Richard Bury, John Wallworth, Henry Gartside, William Bury, John Travis, John Bury, yeoman." The other lapidarian memorial informs us that "This church, dedicated to St. Paul, was enlarged by public subscription, .A.D. 1854. Richard Hill, B.A.C.C.C.C., incumbent; Thomas Seville, Thomas Chadwick, churchwardens." The windows are severally divided by a central munnion, which branches off into two in the head. The entrance is through the tower, and the interior is galleried on every side, and supported by slender iron columns. The ceiling is divided by plaster mouldings into three compartments,

each of which is relieved by an ornamental rosette. Large square sashes having superseded the little quarrels in the numerous windows, the interior is flooded with light. This and the fittings generally accord more with the usual idea of a meeting-house than harmonise with the ecclesiastical adornments of an Established Church. The pulpit and prayer desk are joined together like the Siamese twins, except that the former rears and lords itself over its lowly brother. The pews are formed of oak, many of them are square or double, and one of them occupies the area of three ranges of seats. There is also a family pew, or semi-chapel, appurtenant to the hall, which, though reduced in its dimensions, yet as being railed off from the rest of the pews or congregation, it were wishful to see abolished, as also those seats where the occupants are necessitated to turn their backs upon the clergyman.

There is a small but sweet-toned organ in the eastern gallery, which latter structure especially wants removing; indeed, it needs no prophetic eye to foresee that the better taste now prevailing will shortly sweep away this plain structure, to make room for one of more decided ecclesiastical character and some architectural design. When Shaw Chapel is demolished - and we are told that event will soon take place - then may Royton Chapel tremble, its doom will be sealed. Placed within the communion recess, or sacarium, is the font, dated 1854, and comprising an octagonal bowl, with shallow scooped basin, and supported by a balustre-like stem or pillar. Among the mural tablets is one in memory of Katharine Pickford, a sincere Christian, who died May 15, 1765, in the 25th year of her age.

*How lov'd, how valu'd once avails thee not,
To whom related, or by whom beget;
A heap of dust alone remains of thee -
'Tis all thou art, and all the proud shall be.*

The number of sittings is given as 772, of which only 82 are free and unappropriated. An addition to the graveyard was consecrated August 15, 1822. The new Sunday schools were opened September 22, 1833. The first marriage in the church took place September 19, 1836. The first clergyman was the Rev. Richard Dean, nominated to the curacy in 1754, his successor, the Rev. Benjamin Travis, being nominated September 1, 1760. This clergyman was the son of Mr. George Travis, of Heyside, graduated at St. Catharine's Hall, Cambridge, and died October 27, 1774. His successor, nominated on the following Christmas Day, was the Rev. James Archer, by whom it was regularly served and two sermons preached every Lord's Day, and the sacrament of the Lord's supper administered every quarter of a year. He was nominated by the Rev. Levitt Harris, rector of Prestwick, duly qualified, and licensed by Dr. Markham, Lord Bishop of Chester. He was succeeded by the Rev. Richard Bury, who was nominated June 21, 1778. The Rev. Thomas Langhorn was nominated September 3, 1796, and was here in 1807. His successor was the Rev. J.T. Troutbank, M.A. The incumbent in 1841 was the Rev. J. Dobie. The present incumbent is the Rev. Richard Hill, B.A.

Originally the curate's salary was wholly derived from the seat rents, but about two years after its erection a grant was obtained from Queen Anne's bounty fund, being met by local subscription and laid out in lands, which in 1778 produced £19 a year. Another grant was obtained from the same bounty in 1774, which four years later was not invested. The living was returned at £146 per annum in 1835, and is now said to be worth £300 a year. There is a parsonage house, which closely adjoins the graveyard. Despite their plain village church, the Roytonians seem to be a symbol loving people, at least if we may judge from the sculptures and devices displayed on many of the gravestones. One of them, after giving an inscription to the memory of Richard Haywood, who died in June, 1836, aged 56, and his widow (Isabella), who followed some quarter of a century later, has the representation of a crown depicted on it, which one of our companions declared to be an emblem of their loyalty, but the other pronounced it to signify "a virtuous woman is a crown to her husband." Another in a similar manner exhibits a couple of crossed swords, which our "professor of signs" declared to mean when interpreted "they were ever at strife," or, in the local patois, "awlus fratchin'." Another stone, covering what was mortal of John Whitworth, of Thornham, clothier, who died in

February, 1765, is carved with a somewhat grotesque representation of a "death's head and marrow bones," with a couple of intertwining sprays of laurel. Some of the inscriptions have illustrative rhymes, the outpourings, we suppose, of the rustic muse of the locality. One quaintly informs us that :

*Our glass' is run, and yours is running;
Prepare for Death, for it is coming.*

A sun-dial, inscribed "John Barlow, Oldham, 1766." stands on a square pillar on the south side of the graveyard. Just outside, inscribed "J.M., 1777," stand the stone pillars, once appertaining to the village stocks.

Royton has the honour of giving birth to many men of talent in humble life, some of whom, after honourable labour and various vicissitudes, now quietly repose in their village churchyard. John Butterworth, of Haggate, Royton, mathematician, was born February 16, 1774, and died December 3rd, 1845, aged 71 years. In the early part of his life he followed the vocation of hand-loom weaving, but finally taught a day school. After his decease, a few friends purchased a gravestone, which has a lengthy inscription engraved upon it, "in the hope that future votaries to science may be stimulated and encouraged by his honourable example." Another stone commemorates Edmund Crompton, mathematician, who died May 29th, 1846, aged 73 years. Like Butterworth, he was employed in his earlier years as a hand-loom weaver, but finally his days were ended in the Workhouse. Not far distant is the last resting-place of John Grime, of Royton, a self-taught chemist, who died November 6th, 1808, aged 33 years, and of whom his epitaph records that "in chemistry found a sweet retreat." Another stone remembers John Kay, of Royton, who was born July 16, 1781, and died December 31, 1824, aged 43 years. In the outset of life he followed the occupation of hand-loom weaving, but subsequently began to manufacture muslins in a small way. He was not only a mathematician, but also acquired considerable local fame as an orator and political reformer. There does not seem to be any stone marking the place where John Mellor, the botanist, is interred, but a mural tablet, placed in the church October 6, 1852, informs us that he died on the 5th of October, 1848, aged 81 years. A Botanical Society was established at Royton in 1794, and existed thirty years. A fresh one was formed February 18, 1844, and of which, we believe. Mellor was an active member. Still another flat stone on the south side is inscribed to the memory of Thomas Taylor, of Royton, orator, poet, and litterateur, who died December 3, 1801, aged 52 years. He, also, earned a livelihood by hand-loom weaving, and in the lapidarian memorial is described as a "philanthropist and a citizen of the world."

*Stop gentle traveller. and shed a tear
O'er him whose memory holdeth dear;
Beloved Mechanicus, whose noble soul
True genius join'd with patriotic zeal,
His life was spent t' improve the public weal.*

The inscription further briefly commemorates John Taylor, his father. In the yard also was buried, though no stone marks the spot where reposes the body of James Taylor, a poetical contributor to various newspapers and periodicals of the day. He also is said to have been originally a hand-loom weaver, but when that employment declined he flew to the power-loom, and finally opened a small shop, and became a pedlar, or hawker. His birth took place May 30, 1794, and his death occurred September 15, 1863, when a volume of his poetical works was published, and met with a ready sale in the locality. Here sleep also the mortal remains of William Barnes, who died March 13th, 1843, after having obtained more than local fame as an eminent player on the violin. He was for many years a member of the orchestra at the Concert Hall, Manchester. In conclusion, we append notices of some miscellaneous events which have occurred in the township : - James Mellor, an eccentric and pedestrian of Royton, died May 5, 1804; William Fltton, M.D., was known as a consistent reformer; Napoleon Chadwick, the well-known surgeon, died May 8, 1847. About the close of the last century Royton was known for being a stronghold of "Jacobinism," for so were those designated who held advanced political

opinions. A meeting of reformers was held in a barn at Royton, April 21, 1794, when being routed by the "church and ringers," it became known round the country under the satirical epithet of "Royton Races." Several of the routers were imprisoned, and three of them were tried at Lancaster, March 14, 1795, and acquitted. A few years later, March 25, 1799, the countryside was gratified by the procession of J. Starkie, Esq., of Royton, as high sheriff of Lancashire. A great reform meeting was held at Royton, May 16, 1832, since which time politics have somewhat slumbered in the locality. Rural police introduced at Royton, July 24, 1840. The first agricultural show held at Royton, October 12, 1857. Although Royton was not included in the "Fine of the Manor of Clayton" in March, 1547, yet the "recovery of Sir John Byron's lands in Lancashire" August, 1581, comprises among other places Ryton, alias Ruyton, and Thorpe. John Tetloe, of Ouldham, and Sarah Milnes, of Royton, were married November 6, 1670, at the Collegiate Chapel, Manchester. A Wesleyan Chapel, built of brick, was founded in 1804, and opened on the 1st of September in the following year. A beautiful Independent Chapel, in Pickford-street, was opened in 1865. Here for the present we close these miscellaneous notices of the township, and the jottings towards the history of its church or chapel. The above contribution was written by the late John Higson.

T. W. Hand

From the e-Postbag



This email requesting help in finding information on the photographer, came in to us just too late to make it into the August newsletter, but better late than never!

I've tried a couple of leads, including the excellent book, **'A Victorian Society' 'Oldham Photographic Society - The First 150 Years'** by Christine Widdall pub. May 2017, but with no luck, so far.

I hope someone can help.

*Hello,
hope you may be able to assist me. I have a photograph of my great grand parents x 3. It was taken by a E.Buckley of Henshaw Street, Oldham, I would think around 1870 as this grandfather passed in 1888 at the age of 76 and he looks about 50- 60 years old. Would you have any info on this photographer, or when he was in business?*

*Thank you for any help you can give,
regards,
Les Charnley,
Winsford, Cheshire.*

If you can help, please email Les directly, at <l.charnley@hotmail.com >

I noticed recently, that there have been some comments, on the MLFHS forum, regarding the *London Gazette* being newly included on 'Find my Past', but which has revealed some search problems not apparent on their own website. Personally, I never found the Gazette website easy to navigate! My only successful experience being researching the recipient of a DCM in WW1. However, coincidentally, the following email came in from Mary Pendlebury, a

couple of weeks ago :

Has anyone in your family been 'gazetted'? I thought that it was only something that happened to those with important jobs or who were awarded an honour of some kind but I was wrong.

The *London, Belfast and Edinburgh Gazettes* are the journals of record for the UK. Important Government appointments, details of medals awarded, bankruptcies, shipwrecks, commissions in the Services and many other official matters have published each week in these journals since the 1600s. It never occurred to me that such a publication could also be the source of information for family history.

There is now a digitised archive available on-line containing every issue of the London Gazette from 1st January 1900 to 31st December 1979. It is searchable and free, so I decided to have a look to see what interesting information is available.

There are two specific searches that can be made, *World War 1 records*, *World War 2 records*, and a general search by keyword. The first two are self-explanatory; it is possible to find the citation for anyone who was awarded a special medal during these wars, a most useful resource. The third search leads to all sorts of other information that is of great value to family historians trying to find out about their families in the 20th Century. The Search page is [HERE](#) .

The medal search is revealing in its detail. If you enter *Walter Mills* in the "Find" box and check "World War 1 Records" and then press "Search" you will be given several results to choose from. Click on 12th Feb 1918 and the page with his citation for the award of the Victoria Cross will open. Full details of the brave, selfless actions of this Oldham soldier are given.

The general search produces all sorts of fascinating details about people working all over England. If you enter the name *Dorrit Louisa Alabaster* in the "Find" box and check the box "Dates Between" and press the "Search" button you will be presented with one result, for 5th Feb 1929. Click on 'PDF' file and the appropriate page will open up. There, near the bottom of the first column, you will see Dorrit listed under *Telephonists, London*.

The page is full of the names of people appointed to quite lowly positions in the public services. Ernest Claydon was to become a postman in Newmarket; John Godbeer was to be a workman at the Mint; and Charlotte Brocklebank was taken on as a sorting Clerk & Telegraphist at Stoke-on-Trent. Elsewhere my mother is listed as having passed the examination for Writing Assistants in the Civil Service. A later edition of the Gazette confirms that she was assigned to the Inland Revenue.

From these examples you can see what a valuable resource this Archive can be. Even though your family may have been quite minor members of staff they might well be mentioned.

Bankruptcies of both individuals and companies, people who died without any known relatives (might there still be some money owing to you?), changes of name by deed poll and many other useful categories are listed. Who knows what you will be able to unearth about your forebears!

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### **School sports teams in 1933**

In the gallery, we have two photos which were forwarded to us by our chairman, Linda. The sender believes they are of girls at Hulme Grammar School and are dated 1933. One photo shows a successful hockey team with trophy, and the other is of the cricket team. Happily for us, the names of the girls are written on the back! Have a look and see if you recognise any of the names and can confirm that they are indeed Hulme Grammar girls.

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And another email from Mary ...

This was part of a talk I gave about ***"my" section of Coppice Street.***

It was an interesting exercise to look at a particular street in WW1. I found that almost every other house from Manchester Street to Chamber Road had someone in the war ... I found that the head teacher of Hulme Girls School lived in our house. Further along, the end house was used to house Belgian refugees. Lots of interesting stuff :

Coppice Street in WW1

The stretch of Coppice Street between Osborne Road and Wellington Road in Oldham has a variety of houses which have changed very little externally since the First World War.

There are 22 houses in this section: a terrace of 13 substantial houses facing 8 larger houses on the other side of the road. The whole section was a desirable, respectable area in which to live and the residents, just before WW1, were engaged in a wide range of middle-class occupations.



As in any other street in the country men of the families signed-up or were conscripted for service in World War 1 and went off to 'do their bit'. They experienced war in many different places and, fortunately, all from this section of the street came back although it is not possible to know how they fared physically and mentally in later years.

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Allan and Walter Mellor lived in the middle of the terrace of houses at number 165, the sons of a clerk at a local textile machinery manufacturers (according to the census); this was most likely to be Platts Works, adjacent to Werneth Station, just a short walk from their house. Both brothers served in the forces. It has not been possible to find details of Walter's service but Allan's medal card and a reference in the *Oldham Chronicle* have survived which give us a glimpse into his career.

November 16, 1918

Wounded

Scout A.S. Mellor

Scout A.S. Mellor, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment of 165 Coppice Street, Oldham, has been wounded, a piece of shell passing through the right wrist, and he is now in hospital at Shrewsbury. Previous to enlisting in the 9th Manchester Regiment 2½ years ago, he was a sports artist for the 'Manchester Evening News' (A.S.M.) and whilst with the Manchester Regiment contributed drawings to the 'Periscope'.

Allan signed up at the beginning of March 1916 and joined the *1/6 Manchester Regiment*, according to the medal card but the *9th Manchesters* according to the *Oldham Chronicle*. At some point he transferred to the *Loyal North Lancashire Regiment* where he remained until he was discharged in April 1919. Many another soldier would have had a similar career – ordinary men moving from unit to unit at the diktat of officialdom.

The newspaper item refers to him being wounded in the right wrist. This must have healed without too much damage as he continued his career as a sketch artist/cartoonist after the war. (Unless he was left-handed, when it would not have mattered!)

His obituary in the *Oldham Evening Chronicle* of July 25th 1951 gave a comprehensive resumé of his life and interests. He had attended Hulme Grammar School, as had several boys living in the same section of Coppice Street. He was described as a well-known newspaper cartoonist and artist, and a writer of ramble and nature articles who used to contribute to the *Chronicle* under the initials A.S.M. He was a personal friend of Ammon Wrigley, the Saddleworth poet and writer, and shared his love of the Saddleworth Moors.

He was well-known in football and cricket circles and contributed cartoons of the players to the *Green Final* each week. His father was a founder member of Werneth Cricket Club, in 1864, and so Allan and Walter must have attended matches and activities at the club during their childhood. The ground is only a short distance away from their house and the cheers and groans of the crowds can be clearly heard on match days.

We have evidence that Walter followed his father in supporting Werneth Cricket Club. According to his obituary in 1971 he had been President of the club and held many other offices. As a player he worked his way up through the teams until he was captain of the first team. He was described as one of the most stylish opening bats with the club's first team. During his working years Walter was a director and secretary of the Oldham Brewery.

These two brothers survived the war and took up their lives again as everyone else had to. They, no doubt, kept the memories of all that they had seen and heard during the war to themselves. With a little research it has been possible to find out more about them; they were just two individuals among millions who survived, all of whom had stories to tell.

Many thanks Mary ... please keep them coming!

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**A short selection of entries from the MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE, [HERE](#) ... since the last newsletter :**

\* New normal at Manchester Central Library. Has anyone been yet?

All returned books will be quarantined for 72 hours before they are put back on the shelves

[HERE](#)

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* The origins of English place names.

In this article, we'll give you a brief history of how English places got their names and highlight the origins of some of our favourites.

[HERE](#)

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\* A short history of enclosure in Britain.

Simon Fairlie describes how the progressive enclosure of commons over several centuries has deprived most of the British people of access to agricultural land.

[HERE](#)

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* Could you imagine your ancestor wearing a wig?

Wigs: Their Wearers and Eighteenth-Century Anecdotes.

[HERE](#)

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\* Peterloo anniversary.

Manchester Histories, 16 August at 13:47 ·

Poignant moment reading the names of those who died at the Peterloo Massacre and laying a laurel wreath on the Peterloo memorial.

[HERE](#)

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* I wonder if this is where dancing to their tune came from?

Dancing into the Houses of Parliament: the role of balls in Georgian electoral campaigns.
[HERE](#)

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\* The history of Avro did your ancestors work there?  
[HERE](#)

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* Any of these words in your vocab?
[HERE](#)

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\* Hooked on viral news (or is it gossip?), today's Twitter hordes owe a lot to history's coffee-houses.  
The News Junkies of the Eighteenth Century.  
[HERE](#)

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* In this blog the focus is 1832 when cholera came to Manchester, looking at how the town (Manchester was not yet a city) was affected.
A Pandemic from the Past: Manchester and Cholera 1832
[HERE](#)

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\* A Remarkable Couple in China: Archibald and Alicia Little  
Archibald John Little (1838-1908) was a Manchester merchant and businessman in China. He first went to China in 1859 as a tea taster for a German company.  
[HERE](#)

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* The maps of Matthew Paris
[HERE](#)

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\* What is a Parish? In Ireland, people most readily identify themselves with their Parish.  
[HERE](#)

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* Watch before you visit Here are some of our favorite short welcome back films:
Museums turn to film to welcome back visitors
Our favourite videos from museums in the UK and beyond.
[HERE](#)

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\* Here's how Polly ended up a celebrity.  
Hidden Histories: Polly the Pig's Grave, Worsley  
[HERE](#)

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* I love how they all dress up to go to the fair
Pleasureland, Southport
Gentle thrills on the North West coast - a fun day out for everyone, without getting a hair or whisker out of place.
[HERE](#)

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\* A GUIDED BROWSE THROUGH A SLICE OF MANCHESTER HISTORY  
THE MANCHESTER SCRAPBOOK  
Chetham's Library  
[HERE](#)

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* For much more, visit the MLFHS Facebook Page :[HERE](#)
And [HERE](#) is the link to the MLFHS Twitter page.

PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary

Visit the website for **The Peterloo Project** with particular reference to Oldham, people, accounts, life at the time and more ...



at [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

Although the long-anticipated Bi-Centenary has come and gone, there are some Peterloo websites still active with news, photos and reports.

You can make searches on websites such as :

Manchester Histories - Peterloo 1819 ... Manchester Histories have created a website which publicises all that is happening, or has happened, around the region.

Visit their website [HERE](#)

Peterloo Memorial Campaign Group ... to find out more about the memorial etc. organised by the Memorial Campaign Group, visit their website. [HERE](#)

Need Help!

Oldham Local Studies and Archives - CLOSED until further notice.

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

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.

There are regularly changing displays in the Local Studies Library.

[Opening hours](#) and contact details.

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## Website Links

### Other Society Websites

Catholic Family History Society – [www.catholicfhs.co.uk](http://www.catholicfhs.co.uk)  
 Cheshire Local History Association – [www.cheshirehistory.org.uk](http://www.cheshirehistory.org.uk)  
 Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – [www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk](http://www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk)  
 Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society - <https://www.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](#)  
 Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) - [Ranulf Higden Soc.](#)  
 Royton Local History Society – [www.rlhs.co.uk](http://www.rlhs.co.uk)  
 Saddleworth Historical Society – [www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk](http://www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk)  
 Tameside Local History Forum - [www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk](http://www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk)  
 The Victorian Society - [Manchester Regional Website](#)

### Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - [Lancashire](#)  
 Free BMD - [Search](#)  
[National Library of Scotland](#) - Free to view, historic, zoomable maps of UK :  
 1891 - Oldham and locality [HERE](#)  
 Online Parish Clerk Project : Lancashire - [HERE](#)  
 British Association for Local History - [HERE](#)  
 and for their back issue journal downloads - [HERE](#)  
 Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, website, [HERE](#)  
 and for their back issue journal downloads, website, [HERE](#)  
 Internet Archive ... The Internet Archive offers over **24,000,000** freely downloadable books and texts.  
[HERE](#) There is also a collection of 1.3 million modern eBooks that may be borrowed by anyone with a free archive.org account.  
 Made in Greater Manchester (MIGM) [HERE](#) and Research guide [HERE](#)

## Some Local Archives

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

Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](#)

Bury – [www.bury.gov.uk/archives](http://www.bury.gov.uk/archives)

Chester - [Cheshire Archives & Local Studies](#) (linked from Discovery at the National Archives)

Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](#)

Leeds - [Leeds Local and Family History](#)

Liverpool Archives and Family History – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/archives>

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)

Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

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

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

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

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

## For the Gallery

### Illustration from '*Local Notes and Gleanings*' by Giles Shaw Pub. 1887



UNVEILING THE STATUE OF JOHN PLATT, ESQ., M.P., OLDHAM, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 1878.

*Unveiling the Statue of John Platt, Esq. M.P., Oldham, September 14th, 1878*

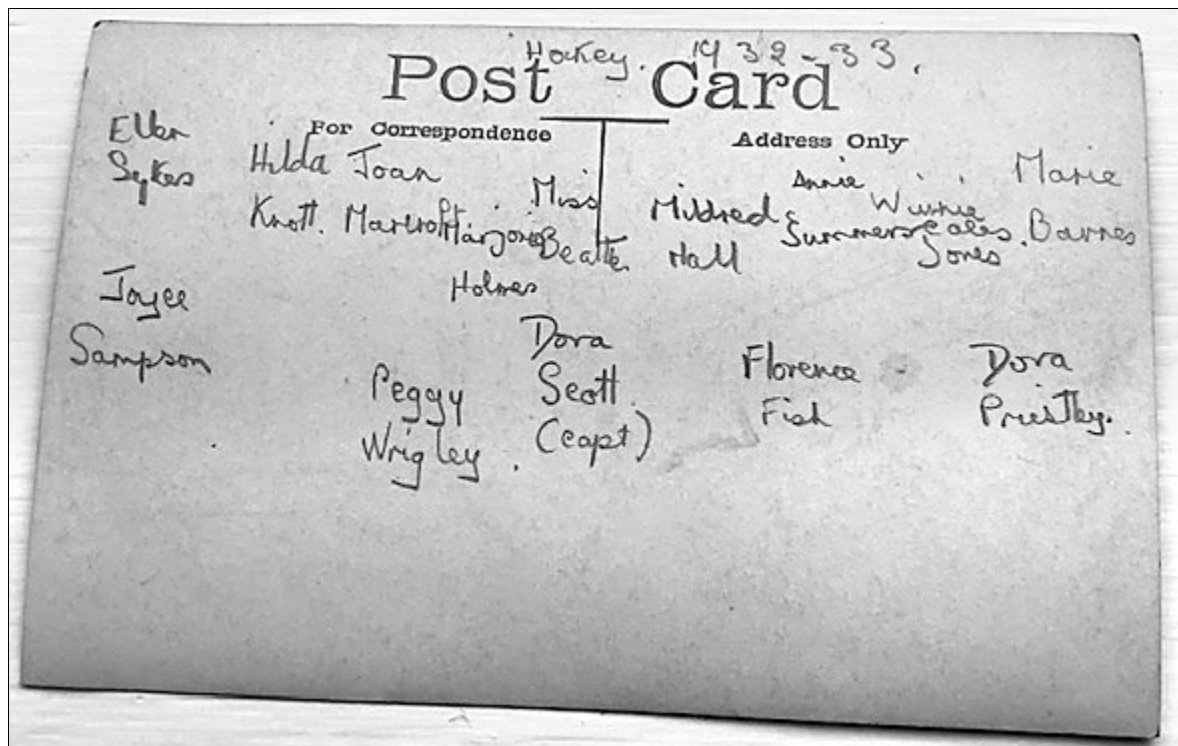


# School Sports Teams in 1933

Believed to be Hulme Girls' Grammar School



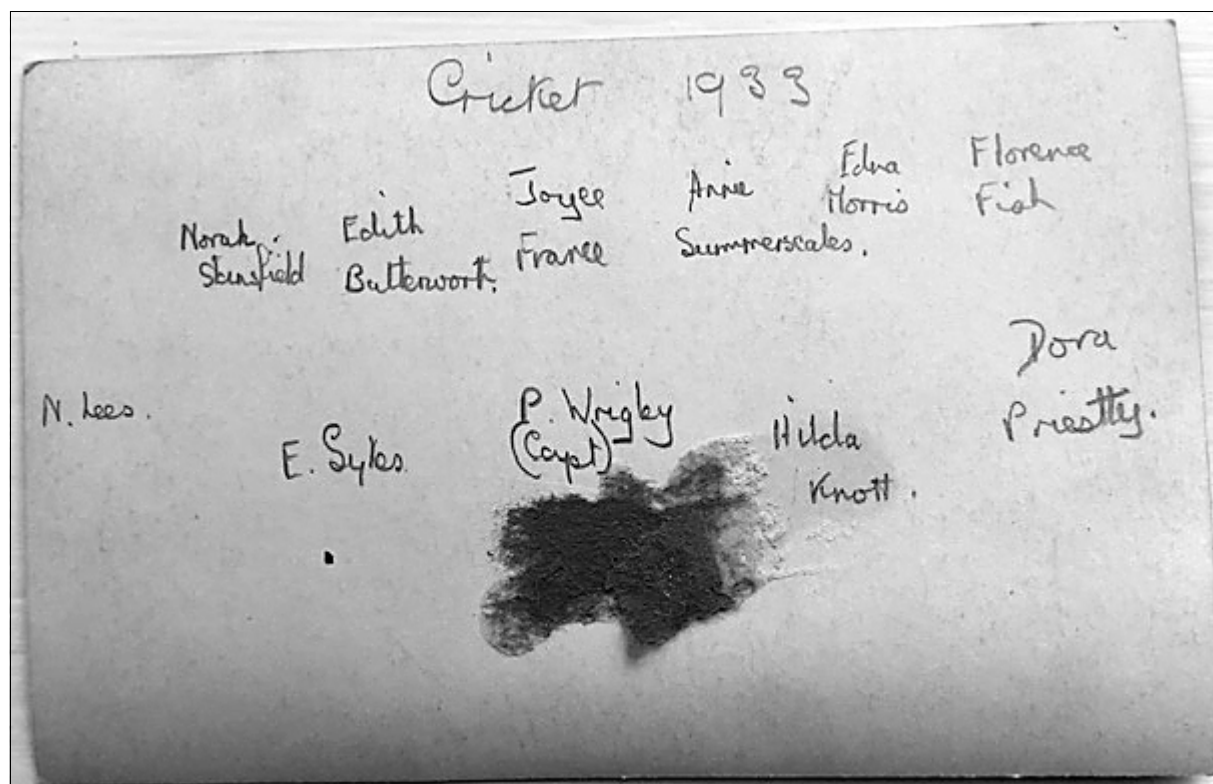
1932-1933 Hockey Team  
Hulme Grammar School?



Names on the back of the photo



**1932-1933 Girls' Cricket Team  
Hulme Grammar School?**



**Names on the back of the photo**

Please let us know if you can confirm that you know any of the girls' names or that they are indeed Hulme grammar School teams.