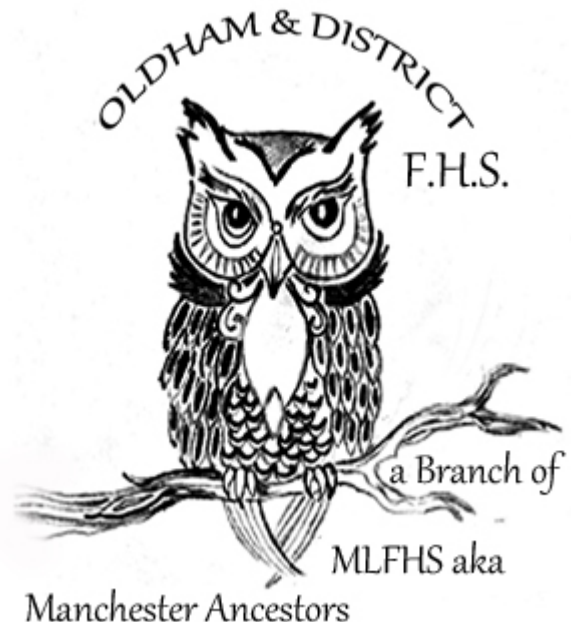


'e-Owls'



Contact us :

Branch Website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>

MLFHS homepage : <https://www.mlfhs.uk/>

Email Chairman : chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk

Emails General : oldham@mlfhs.org.uk

Email Newsletter Ed : Oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk

MLFHS mailing address is: Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society,
3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library, St. Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 5PD, United Kingdom

OCTOBER 2020

MLFHS - Oldham Branch Newsletter

Where to find things in the newsletter:

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Need Help! :Page 21
Useful Website Links :Page 21
For the Gallery :Page 23

Branch News :

Following March'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 : Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Webmistress : Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Dorothy Clegg
Committee Member : Joan Harrison



'On the Canal'
'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, 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 :**

Hello

I hope you are all taking care of yourselves and keeping well.

I also hope that you have had the time to have a look at the new MLFHS website, particularly the Oldham section. There is still a lot of work to do adding the documents and databases from the old website, but I think in the end, it will be well worth the wait. If you have already had a look at the Oldham section, you will notice that all our meetings for next year, together with the Speakers' names and their subjects, have been uploaded (together with pictures appropriate to the talk).

So, its fingers crossed that next year we can get back to our meetings, but do keep an eye on the website in case there are any changes or cancellations to the schedule.

Stay safe.

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.

Still in a time of pandemic, and with on/off changes in restrictions and the like, seemingly happening every day, 'uncertainty' seems to be 'the name of the game.' However, being positive, the new MLFHS website is now up and running although there are still issues to be ironed out. Our Branch pages have been edited within the constraints of the editorial permissions granted to a Branch editor. At the moment of writing, as Branch Editor, I am unable to create new pages for articles, or upload .pdf documents and make them available as links from the public pages. Please be patient, I'm sure that these issues will be addressed in the near future.

I know many of you will already have discovered the new website and I know, from some comments, that some of you might consider it confusing, at first. I know I did! Forgive me if you've already familiarised yourself with the navigation but, for those of you still struggling, or perhaps having lost patience with it, I've tried to make a navigation guide to our own Branch pages, in the 'Mixed Bag'.

Being at home all the time in late spring/early summer, I had time to notice that the new chicks were congregating on the flags in the garden, on twigs and even on the garage roof, all insistently demanding that their long-suffering mothers stuff food in their ever-open beaks! We were getting such an assortment that the bird feeders came out and seeds and nuts went on the weekly order from Asda. It's been amazing to watch the different characteristics develop ... the wood pigeons favour the garage roof for their supplies. Initially four of them, one, that we nicknamed 'bomber', became dominant and saw this as his own 'cafe'. He would force the other pigeons, and even the jackdaws, off the roof so that he could eat the lot! The nut and seed feeders are supposed to be for the blue-tits and sparrows but the Jackdaws have learned how to hang on, upside down sometimes, and peck the nuts out. This is all accompanied by a deal of flapping and squawking as the others 'queue' up in the branches! Lockdown has its compensations!

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 >

Oldham & District, Bolton & Scottish Branches

Please visit the Branch Websites for information and any updates :

Oldham & District [HERE](#)

Anglo-Scottish [HERE](#)

Bolton [HERE](#)

MLFHS updates

**The MLFHS Family History Help Desk ... CANCELLED until further notice.
However, there is now a Virtual Help Desk [HERE](#)**

Beginners Talks ... CANCELLED until further notice

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.

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](#)

[Bolton](#)

[Oldham](#)

Meetings and Talks at other Societies &/or Venues

Please note ... the relevant society/group websites or organisers are 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.

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### Family History Society of Cheshire : Tameside Group meeting.

See their website [HERE](#)

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Tameside History Club :

Website and programme [HERE](#)

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### Tameside Local Studies and Archives - Regular Sessions and Events

Website and programme [HERE](#)

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Moorside & District Historical Society

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### Regional Heritage Centre :

Website [HERE](#)

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'A Mixed Bag'

The new '*MLFHS*', aka '*Manchester Ancestors*', website.

Please take a few minutes (or more!) to explore it, especially if you've never done so before.

Let me introduce you to the '*Oldham & District Branch*' Pages ...

I realise that many of you will already have discovered the new 'face' of the website, and seen that we are now aka 'Manchester Ancestors'. I know from some comments (on the forum and elsewhere) that some of you might consider it confusing, at first. I know I did (and I'm the branch editor!). Forgive me if you've already discovered the following for yourselves!

In order to try and make our Branch pages into a recognisable entity and, hopefully, easier to navigate, I've used themed images for the pages.

Hovering over the 'Branches' link on the [Society Home page](#) opens a dropdown menu with the branches and direct links to the 6 main categories within each.

Clicking on the Branch name, 'Oldham', or the image (on the drop down menu) links you to the main landing page for the Oldham Branch, [HERE](#) which has links to the 6 categories and the sub-categories within each one. The 6 distinct main categories are, '*Branch Events*', '*About Branch*', '*Research*', '*Newsletter*', '*Shop*' and '*Contact us*'; the 6 main categories are duplicated in the 'breadcrumbs' (a gold bar across the top of the page).

Each of the landing pages for 'Oldham' itself and for the 6 main category pages have, as their header image, a sunset, (against which the headings can stand out).

Each of the category landing pages has a gold 'breadcrumbs' bar (think Hansel & Gretel!!) with links to the sub-categories.

Each of the 'Breadcrumb' bars has 'Oldham', as the first link, taking you back to the 'Oldham' main landing page with full menu.

The sub-category pages all have a themed image header with the owl logo plus a small image with, hopefully, some relationship to the content.

Over the fullness of time, it is hoped that some of these sub-category pages will, in their turn, become menus for a variety of articles etc. At the time of writing, Branch editors do not yet have

the necessary editorial permissions to create additional pages for this purpose.

'**Research**' has a sub-category, '**Speakers' Notes**', for which Oldham does not have any content.

'**Research**' also has sub-categories, named '**Documents**' and '**Weblinks**', for both of which, content is generated by the Society.

'**Shop**' links directly to the Society on-line shop.

Hope all that helped and didn't just confuse further! Trust me, once you become familiar with it, it makes sense!

Most of the categories and sub-categories are obviously self-explanatory but there is some unavoidable overlap. The pages, '[About Oldham/Ancestry & Local History](#)', '[Research/Databases](#)', and '[Research/Local Interest](#)' will all link to different articles, transcriptions and data, but of a similar nature.

At the moment, on each of the main category landing pages, you can find an introduction to the sub categories :

['Events' Landing page](#), is '*Calendar of Events*' : Introduction and a 'News Flash' when appropriate.

* on [Events/Meetings](#) ... self explanatory with 2021 projected programme.

* on [Events/Venue & Map](#) ... self explanatory; and a short introduction to the history of our venue, Gallery Oldham.

* on [Events/What's Happening](#) ... self explanatory; details of any 'News Flash'.

* on '[Help Desk](#)', '[Projects](#)' and '[Volunteers](#)' ... all self explanatory.

['About Oldham' Landing page](#) is '*About Oldham*' : self explanatory and introduction to the category.

* on [About Oldham/What We Do](#) you can find:

(i) '*A branch is born or we told 'em Oldham!...*' an article about the formal establishment of the Oldham & District Branch and its history up to the present day.

* on [About Oldham/Ancestry & Local History](#), you can find :

(i) an article about early local newspapers and a list of those archived on film at the Local Studies & Archives.

(ii) External links to Oldham HRG articles : a transcription of '*Historical Sketches of Oldham*' by Edwin Butterworth Pub. 1856; '*The Oldham Joneses : 'Where there's muck there's brass*'; and '*WW1 ... the Home Front, Failsworth War Comforts Society & Fund Raising*.'

* [on About Oldham/ Manchester Genealogist](#), you can find :

(i) what you can expect to read in the journal, contributions etc.

(ii) links to the 'search page' on the database and to the archived '*Manchester Genealogist*' and Exchange journals from other FH Societies, all downloadable by members of the Society.

[Research Landing page](#) is '*Research*' : self explanatory with introduction to the category; two images, '*Holebottom Colliery, Oldham*' and part of an embroidered sampler.

* on [Research/Local Interest](#) you can find :

(i) 'Early Church Burials in the District' plus 'Public Cemeteries', and Contact details.

* on [Research/Databases](#) you can find :

(i) A link to a transcribed extract of several pages from '*The Court Court Leet Records of the Manor of Manchester*' for Michaelmas 1819' as a .pdf link, including a list of the jurors, officers,

the Borough Reeves and Constables; and a picture of Market Street, circa 1820

(ii) An extract from a Wikipedia introduction to the 'Court Leet'

[Newsletter Landing page](#) is 'Newsletter' : about what might be included plus links to a sign-up page and to a page of archived copies.

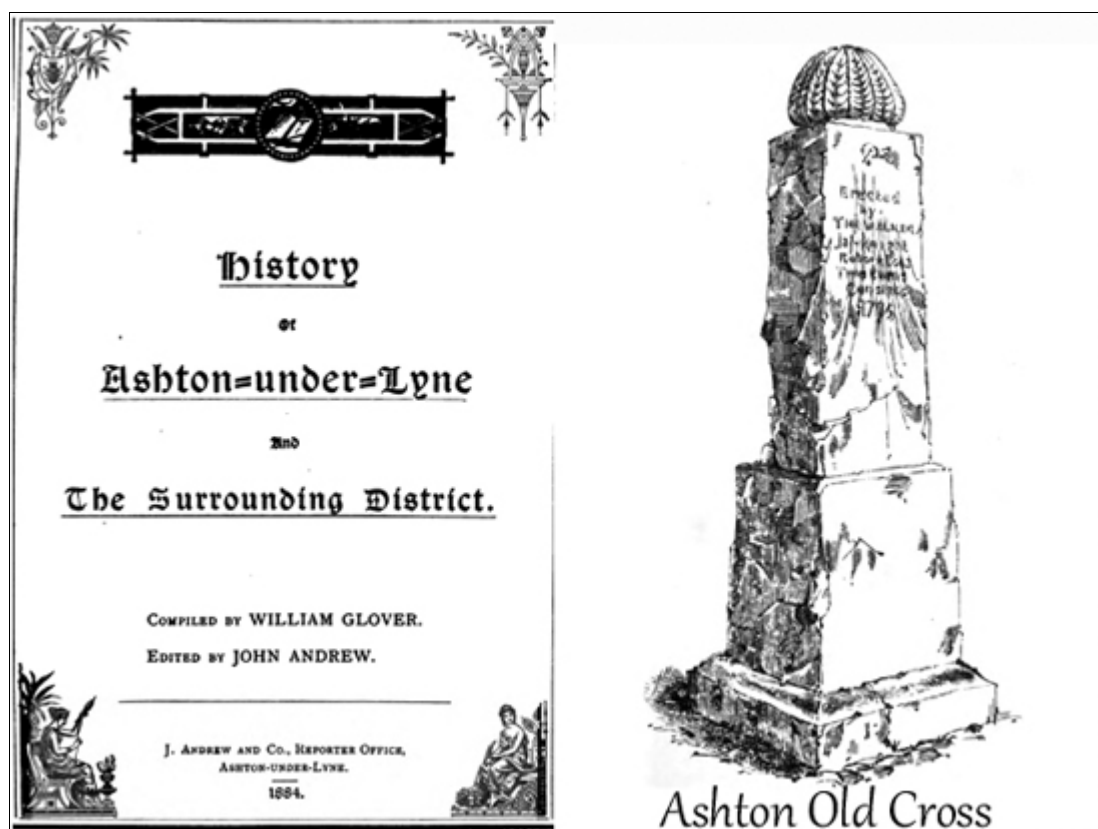
[Contact Us Landing page](#) ... self explanatory.

Hope this helps to whet your appetite to explore more!

The Court Leet

One of the pages already on the new website [HERE](#) is the first of several which will be about the Court Leet. The following transcription will, hopefully, also be added to those pages.

'The History of Ashton-under-Lyne and the Surrounding District',
by William Glover, pub. 1884. pps. 344 - 351



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CHAPTER XIII.

Manorial Court—View of Frank-pledge—Domestic Leets---Old Court House—Curious Farm Leases---Notice of holding the Court—Jurymen of the Leet—Charge to the Jury—Mayors of the Manor.

FOR many centuries the Local Government was vested in the officers of the Manorial Court, popularly known as the Court Leet, but more correctly styled the Court Leet and View of Frank-pledge. The term Leet is supposed to refer more especially to the neighbourhood over which the Court had jurisdiction, and was used in the first instance to denote the district within which the free male residents assembled at stated times for preparation for military defence, and for police and criminal jurisdiction. Traces of the latter object still remain. The portion of the title known as frank-pledge has been referred to the system of police which Alfred the Great perfected, and which provided that all free-men over twelve years of age should be received into a tithing, sometimes called a visne or neighbourhood. It was also provided that these free-men should form a society, to consist of not fewer than ten such persons, each of whom should be a pledge

or security for the good conduct of the others.⁽¹⁾ In illustration of the way in which Frank-pledge operated in those times it is stated that "When a person was accused of crime, his tithing was to produce him within thirty-one days or pay the legal mulct for the offence,

Footnote: (1) Political Cyclopaedia. vol. iii., p. 239

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unless proved on oath that no others of the tithing were implicated in the crime, and engaged to produce him as soon as he was found. For great crimes the offender was expelled from the tithing upon which he became an outlaw." Again, the principal free-man of the ten became responsible for the presentation and fidelity of his co-pledges, and the functions he performed were very similar to those of the head constable, an officer elected by the residents within the tithing at a later date, for the preservation of the peace.

Court Leets, like Ashton-under-Lyne, appear in the first instance to have been granted by the Crown, to holders of Manors, for the purpose of relieving their tenants of the duty of attending the leet of the hundred. At this domestic tribunal residents within the leet or district, in olden times, took the oath of allegiance, and the frank-pledges were supervised. The duties in such a private or domestic leet were performed either by the Lord of the Manor himself or by proxy, his steward representing him. It was within the province of the court to repress offences against the public peace, and to enforce the removal of all public nuisances. Formerly all offences which were punishable by amercement could be presented to the court.

Private or domestic leets, such as Ashton-under-Lyne, were held twice in the year, within a month after Easter and Michaelmas. This court has been held from time immemorial in the Manor of Ashton-under-Lyne. In the first instance, like other similar courts, it may have been held in the open-air, according to the custom of olden times, but subsequently it was held in the "Ancient Manor Court House, a curiously formed structure near the Old Market Cross, and believed to have been erected in A.D. 1636, upon the site of a still more ancient edifice, of the same description. This court, which has fallen into disuse in many towns, holds its sittings here every six months; and the numerous amercements which are from time to time made upon the owners of property in respect

Footnote: (2.) Political Cyclopaedia. vol. iii., p. 239.

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of dangerous tenements, defective sewerage, and filthy necessities, contribute in no small degree to correct abuses and to punish a class of careless or avaricious landlords, that neither local acts nor common law could really effectively reach.³ The officers of the late Earl of Stamford and Warrington's Court Leet in Ashton-under-Lyne consist of a Manorial Steward, Mayor, High Constable, Assistant Constables, jurymen, Bye-lawmen, Bailiffs, Pounders, Affeerers, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Market lookers, Ale-tasters, and Bellmen, who are annually appointed at the Michaelmas Court.

In 1844 there were in all about 2,030 tenants within the Manor of Ashton-under-Lyne, from whom the Lord of the Leet received over £30,000 as rent. Referring to the relation which these tenants held by suit and service to the Lord of the Leet, John Ross Coulthart says :—

"All the tenants have covenanted in their leases to perform suit and service at the Manor Court, whether they hold under his lordship in fee-farm, on rack rent, or for lives renewable or determinable. His lordship's farm leases are in many respects curious specimens of ancient feudal tenure; and covenants for free warren, grinding of grain at the Manor mills, keeping dogs for the use of his lordship, and furnishing carts, horses and men when required, 'with proper shovels and forks,' are still retained, but are very leniently enforced. All his lordship's rents were made payable half-yearly, namely, on the 25th of March and 29th of September, and they are generally collected, and the Manor Court held, at the expiration of a month from these dates."⁽⁴⁾

In olden times the common notice of holding the court is said to have been from three to four days, when the Steward issued a precept to the bailiff of the leet, "commanding him to warn the

residents to appear at the time and place appointed for holding the court, and to summon a jury." In some private leets the notice was given in the church, in others in the market. But in the leet of Ashton-under-Lyne, whatever custom was observed in distant parts, the notice in modern times has been by placard, and summonses issued by the Steward to the jurymen of the leet,

Footnote: (3.) Report on the Sanatory Condition of Ashton-under-Lyne, by John Ross Coulthart. Esq.

(4) *ibid*

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requiring their attendance. All persons, whether as new jurors, or otherwise, are also summoned.

About nine o'clock in the morning of a Court Day the Leet Steward usually meets the Mayor, Constables, and Jurymen, and receives information and presentments on all subjects affecting the common weal of the residents of the manor. The court is opened by proclamation; the foreman of the jury delivers in a written verdict as to the several offences that have been inspected during the preceding six months, which the Steward reads in aloud voice in the hearing of every one present, and at the conclusion of the reading undertakes, as far as Lord Stamford is concerned, to remedy without unnecessary delay the grievances presented in the verdict ... When the Steward has finished reading the verdict, he uniformly directs one of the officers of the leet to call over the names of the suitors, which comprehend the tenants of Lord Stamford, also all the freeholders (or frank-pledgers, as they are anciently called) within the manor, whether they be tenants of his lordship or not. In cases where the suitors appeared by proxy, when their names are called over in court, a charge of 2d. per head is exacted as an acknowledgment, and one of the bailiffs of the court receives the same in a leather purse attached to the end of a rod ten or twelve feet in length. The roll of suitors having been called twice, and the names of defaulters carefully noted in a book, a new jury for the ensuing twelve months is empanelled and sworn. The oath administered is very similar to that taken by the grand jury at assizes.⁽⁵⁾

The Steward, or his deputy, then addresses the jury. The following address, delivered by Mr. Roscoe, deputy-steward, at the Court Leet in 1856, has been preserved, and as it fully represents the kind of presentments made in court, it has been thought advisable to insert it in full, along with the opening ceremony, in order to perpetuate the true character of this Court in modern times :—

MANOR OF ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

COURT LEET AND VIEW OF FRANK-PLEDGE

The Court Leet and View of Frank-Pledge for the Manor of Ashton-under-Lyne, was held on Wednesday, November 5th, with more than ordinary ceremony. About half-past ten o'clock a procession of the jury, bye-law men, and other officers of the court, headed by the mace-bearer and javelin men,

Footnote: (5) Report on the Sanatory Condition of Ashton-under-Lyne, by John Ross Coulthart. Esq. p.9

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in all 56 persons, entered the Old Town Hall, Old Cross, when the proceedings of the court were opened by the crier, in the following manner :—

"Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!"

All manner of persons who owe suit and service, or were summoned to appear at the Court Leet of the Right Honourable the ' Earl of Stamford and Warrington, here this day for the Manor of Ashton-under-Lyne, let them draw near and give their attendance, and every one answer as he shall be called.

THE CHARGE

Gentlemen of the Jury.- As justice and peace are the great foundations of human happiness, so the advancement and preservation of them is, or ought to be, the end and

design, not only of meeting together at this time, but of all Government, laws, and Courts of Judicature whatsoever. Gentlemen, all administration of justice was originally in the King's hands, but afterwards for the greater ease and benefit of his subjects, these courts wherein we are now met were ordained, and they are of very great antiquity, being in use long before the Norman Conquest, and were instituted for many good and wholesome ends and purposes, and certainly, gentlemen, if duly considered, it is a very great advantage and benefit to you that you may have such an easy and speedy redress of all offences and nuisances within your precincts, and justice done you even at your own doors, where matters must undoubtedly be best known and most easily remedied, and this would quickly be found to be true if the courts should be taken away. Gentlemen of the jury, I shall proceed to matters of your charge. Defaulters. —You shall inquire if all persons that owe suit and service to this court have appeared and done the same, and present the defaulters to the end that they may be amerced.

Rents. - You shall inquire if any rents, duty, custom and service due to the Lord of this Manor be detained, concealed, or withdrawn, and present the same, and the persons by whom and out of what lands issuing.

Mills. - If any withdraw their suit from the lord's mill by not grinding their corn there, as they ought to do, you shall present them.

Encroachments. - If any of the lord's lands be withdrawn or concealed from him, or occupied without licence, or if any encroachments may be made on the lord's soil, you are to present the same.

Escheat. - If any lands be fallen to the lord by way of escheat, as by the death of tenants without heir, or by the tenants being attainted or outlawed of felony, you are to inquire and present the same.

Heriots. - If any tenant of the manor be dead since the last court, whose death is not yet presented, as you believe you are to present the same, and also what advantage accrued to the lord thereby as heriots or otherwise, and whether the same have been duly rendered him.

Tenants Selling without Licence. - If any tenant has mortgaged or sold his tenement without giving notice to the lord and having his consent, it is here inquirable so that the lord may have cognisance who is his tenant and from whom to have his rents and services.

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Fishing &c. - If any persons who have fished, fowled, hawked, coursed, or hunted within the lord's demesnes, or elsewhere within this Manor, without the lord's license, you shall present the same.

Waste. - Also, you shall inquire if any tenants, within this Manor, have committed any waste in pulling down any house or buildings, or suffering the same to decay, in cutting down any timber, trees, or the like, and present them.

Repairing Buildings. - You shall inquire if all the tenants and farmers within this Manor do sufficiently uphold their buildings and tenements, for every tenant is obliged to do three things: 1st, That he be a true tenant to his lord ; 2nd, That he sufficiently repair his buildings; and 3rd, That he pay and do all his suits, customs, and services at the day assigned.

Ways. - You shall inquire if the highways and by-ways within the precincts of this leet be kept in good and sufficient repair, and present all defaulters therein,

Hedges, &c. - You shall inquire if all the hedges and ditches next adjoining to the highways be sufficiently scoured and repaired, and present all defaulters therein.

Rubbish in the Streets. - If any persons lay any wood, muck, carrion, or the like in the streets or highway, whereby the passage is straitened, or persons otherwise annoyed by

the filth and stench of it, this is a common nuisance and here inquirable; and if any soil be cast into the streets or highway and suffered to remain there, the offender forfeits 12d. for every load, and you ought present it.

Roads Diverted. - You shall also inquire if any ancient common way be stopped or diverted, or any ancient causeways be broken or decayed, and who ought to repair them, and present the defaulters.

Victuals. - If any butchers, fishermen, or others sell any corrupt meat or victuals not wholesome to men's bodies, it is a common nuisance and here inquirable. If any brewers, bakers, butchers or the like tradesmen, shall conspire or make any covenant or promise together not to sell their victuals at such certain prices, this is here inquirable and presentable.

Weights. - You shall also inquire if any persons have used any false weights and measures, or double measures and weights, a greater to buy by, and a lesser to sell by, in deceit of the King's people, and present the same.

Meers. - If any persons have removed any ancient meers, bounds or marks set for the distinguishing of one man's land from another, you are to present them.

Pound. - If any distress only impounded have been taken thence without due course of the law, this is a pound-breach, and here inquirable.

Rescons. - If any of the lord's officers, or other officers, have duly seized or distrained any goods, and the same have been resconed from them, you are to present the same and the person by whom the rescons was made.

Officers. - You shall also inquire if all constables, bailiffs, overseers of the poor, surveyors of the highways, and other officers within your limits, have well and duly executed their several offices, and present the defaulters.

Former Presentments. - You shall also inquire if all defaulters here formerly presented and pains set, whether they have been sufficiently amended within the time

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limited, and if all by-laws and orders heretofore made by this court have been duly kept and observed, and present all defaulters therein. And if there be any other matter or thing which either by the laws of the land or the particular use of this place is here inquirable, and by me omitted to be given to you in charge, you are also to present the same."⁽⁶⁾

After the business is finished the court is adjourned by the Crier, when it is customary for the gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood to be entertained at dinner by the Lord of the Manor, who is generally represented by his steward. It is needless to state that the dinner is the most popular part of the proceedings, and is generally very refreshing after the exacting duties of the day.

During the progress of the country it has been found necessary at different times to introduce various changes into the methods of local government, but while many other ancient manors have lost their ancient customs, they have been preserved to a very great extent in Ashton-under-Lyne, and "when the County Courts Act," was passed, "it was found necessary to make special legislative arrangements to meet the case of the lord of this manor. (⁷) On this account the feudal court leet "has not indeed been deprived of any of its ancient privileges, but has been superseded by more modern courts of concurrent and wider jurisdiction, while the ancient institution has remained as a

Footnote: (6) The Ashton-under-Lyne: Reporter.

(7) Referring to the utility of the Court, John Ross Coulthart. Esq.. says : - The prescriptive manorial powers exercised within the manor of Ashton-under-Lyne are not found to be in any respect oppressive; but, on the other hand. are found to be invaluable adjuncts to the effective working of our various local Acts of Parliament. Indeed I know of my own knowledge that the Commissioners appointed under our Police, Gas, Market, and Water Acts frequently derive much valuable assistance from the presentment:

of the Court-leet jury; and that if it were not for such excellent auxiliaries several of the provisions of these Acts would be altogether inoperative. In all these local Acts of Parliament a provision is introduced, reserving unimpaired the privileges of the manor to Lord Stamford, and the clause is generally expressed in these words :- " Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed or deemed or taken to extend, in any way to affect, extinguish, defeat, lessen, abridge, impeach, annul, prejudice, or destroy any rights, privileges, jurisdictions, immunities, rents, tolls, stallage, or lawful customs belonging, due, or in anywise appertaining to the lord of the manor of Ashton-under-Lyne; but all and every such rights, privileges, jurisdictions, immunities, rents, tolls, stallage, and lawful customs may be exercised, demanded, exacted, received, and enjoyed in as full and ample a manner, to all intents and purposes, as if this Act had not been passed."- Report on the Sanatory Condition of Ashton-under-Lyne. p. 13. Note.

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peculiarity of the estate,⁽⁸⁾ and the authority of the court is still unimpaired in the hamlets and divisions outside the borough.⁽⁹⁾

Before the town received the Charter of Incorporation the Mayor of the Manor was a very important personage, but since that time the honours of the town have been very unequally divided between the Mayor of the Manor and the Mayor of the Borough, the latter being the more influential and popular position.

Footnote (8) Soon after the holding of each half-yearly Court, notices are issued by the steward to all persons presented by the jury, and which notices contain all necessary extracts from the verdict. An estreat is likewise made out very soon after the holding of each Court. which contains the names and respective americiaments of all defaulters, be they who they may, who failed to appear at the Court-leet when their names were called. and also the names and escheats of those persons who had neglected or refused to comply with the directions or verdicts of former jurymen in regard to soughing, fencing off, building necessaries, repairing roads. &c. It is important to notice that this document, which is called an estreat, is written on a large skin of parchment, and is neither more nor less than an ancient manorial distress warrant. The following is the heading of this important instrument, which is invariably signed by the leet-steward, under seal, and is always put into the hands of two or more manorial bailiffs for execution :-

"The manor of Ashton-under-Lyne, in the county of Lancaster, to wit.

An estreat of the several americiaments or sums of money set and imposed on the several persons hereunder named for the particular defaults and offences hereunder mentioned at the Court-leet and view of frank -pledge of the Right Honourable George Harry, Earl of Stamford and Warrington, holden for the manor of Ashton-under-Lyne, at the Court-house in Ashton-under-Lyne, within the said manor, on Wednesday, the eighth day of November, in the seventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria, Queen over Great Britain, and so forth, before Legh Richmond, gentleman, steward of the said Court."

(Then follows a list of persons who have been amerced in the sum of 1s. for non-performing suit and service when their names were called in Court; and attached to that are the names of all persons who have neglected to comply with the order of the Court in respect of the removal of nuisances, &c., and who are for that reason amerced in the sum of £1 19s. 11d. each. At the bottom of the skin of parchment, and immediately under the names and sums, are these words :—)

"The manor of Ashton-under-Lyne, in the county of Lancaster, to wit.

Legh Richmond, gentleman. steward of the Court aforesaid, to A— B— bailiff of the said Court, and also to C-- D-- my bailiff for this time only, jointly and severally, GREETING.

I COMMAND that you, some or one of you, do levy and raise on the goods and chattels of the several persons above mentioned, the several sums of money on them respectively imposed; and that you have the same monies at the next Court-leet to be holden for the said manor; and likewise this estreat. Dated at Ashton-under-Lyne aforesaid, within the said manor, the eighth day of November, in the seventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria, Queen over Great Britain, and so forth, and in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-three. Legh Richmond, Steward" L.S.

A manorial distress warrant of the above description is issued every six months, and the bailiffs

collect the sums specified in it without the slightest difficulty. -

Report on the Sanatory Condition of Ashton-under-Lyne, pp. 11 - 12, Note.

(⁹) Ibid.

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**'The Jubilee History of the Oldham Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd. 1850 - 1900'**

by J.C. Taylor, pub. 1900

Back in February, I transcribed Chapter I for the newsletter. This month, I've added Chapter II, **'How the Society Started'** with the photos of 2 of the main founders.

**CHAPTER II.**

***How the Society Started***

*Wanted : Men —*

*Not systems fit and wise,*

*Not faiths with rigid eyes,*

*Not wealth in mountain piles,*

*Not power with gracious smiles,*

*Not e'en the potent pen.*

*Wanted : -- Men.*

*Wanted : Deeds —*

*Not words for winning note,*

*I'ot thoughts from life remote,*

*I'ot fond religious airs,*

*Not sweetly languid prayers,*

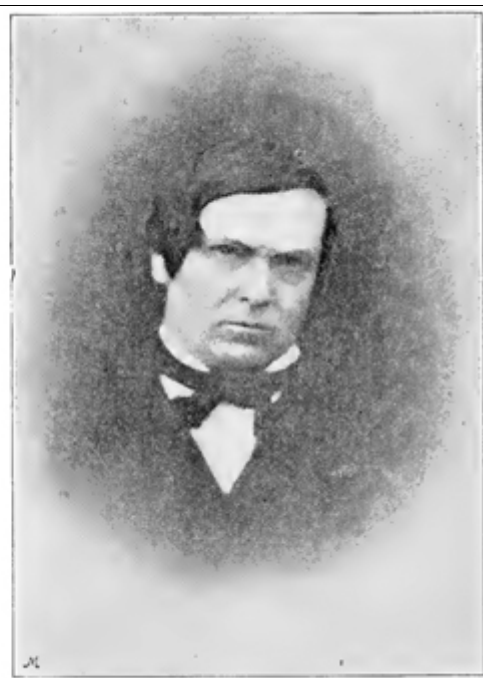
*Not love of sects and creeds.*

*Wanted : — Deeds*

Duncan McGregor



WILLIAM MARCROFT.



WILLIAM BOOTH, *First President.*

THERE were other attempts to form Co-operative Societies in Oldham prior to the establishment of the one whose history is now placed before you, just as there were many Societies commenced in various parts of the country before the hirth of the famous Rochdale Pioneers' Society. Into the causes of failure of these worthy struggles it is unnecessary to inquire. We may rest assured that lessons were learned that proved beneficial when the two greater Societies launched forth upon their useful career a little later.

About this time great unrest prevailed throughout the country. Thrones seemed to totter, and the power of the wealthy classes seemed to he slipping away. This was a fruitful time for dreamsand dreamers. The agitator was omnipotent. People were daily expecting the abdication of the Queen and the overthrow of the Lords and Commons. It was at this time that neither systems nor words were wanted, but men. Newspapers were few, and ignorance fanned the flame of discontent. Groups of men were wont to meet in and about the market place and near the Town Hall discussing the political situation

with an earnestness and a vehemence that would be considered folly to-day.

But amongst these groups which met on the Town Hall steps was one composed of a few men who, it was noticed, indulged in no wild rhetoric nor seemed to anticipate an improvement in their position by a general division of the wealth of others. They clamoured not for the compulsory exile of monarchs and statesmen, they pinned not their faith in "systems fit and wise;" they realised that if their position must be redeemed they must redeem themselves.

*Hereditary bondsmen, know ye not*

*Who would be free themselves must strike the blow ?*

These men wished to be free, but they resolved not to wait for the favours of either princes or statesmen. They determined to free themselves. The example of Rochdale was a beacon light to them. One or two of them had been to see the wondrous development themselves. There was little railway travelling at that time, and nobody dreamt of trams, but people thought little then of walking several miles for either business or pleasure.

The preliminary steps taken to form a Co-operative Society in Oldham are quaintly given in a letter written by Mr. William Booth, the first President of the Society. He says —

"The first time of talking about forming a Store, as we then called it, took place one Sunday evening on the Town Hall steps. There were five of us present, William Booth, William Marcroft, William Mills, James Wild, and another I did not know. Our discourse turned on working men lighting at elections, and we thought that it ought to be put down some way or other. It happened that William Marcroft had either been to or heard of the Rochdale Pioneers' Society and he told us how they were going on, so we thought that was the right way of changing things, as we should associate more together and might turn things in a different direction, as it was always shopkeepers that were sworn in as special constables and they took care to use their staves when they had got a lot of working men drunk and mad. At last we all agreed to attend a meeting if one was called for the purpose of forming a Society. So one Sunday morning William Marcroft came to us and said that a meeting was being held that afternoon at two o'clock, at George Winterbottom's, in Royton Street, for the purpose of forming a Co-operative Society so I promised to attend and take as many with me as I could, so I got John Booth Lees and William Booth Lees to go with me. On our arrival we only found William Marcroft, George Winterbottom and James Jackson were there, but were busy with their baths and herbs, so we had it to ourselves."

## p. 19

It should be explained here that this George Winterbottom prescribed treatment for physical as well as social diseases. His house in Royton Street was a sort of medical dispensary, and the attention of the public was drawn to it by the significant words on a signboard: - "George Winterbottom, Medical Botanist."

As you entered the shop a peculiar perfume greeted you, and the many-tinted bottles on the shelves round the room seemed to welcome you. The writer has still a vivid recollection of the infallible remedy for all ills that flesh is heir to - "Third Preparation." The name used to assume the dignity and proportions of a world-wide compound before it was realised that a first or even a second preparation might play some little part in the celebrated treatment. It always seemed somehow that "Third Preparation" was the only safe cure, but in cases of doubt there was always the wooden box upstairs in which the patient would sit, with only his head exposed to view, whilst his body would be undergoing a system of perspiration by steam in the hope that the malady might be boiled out of him. A shock, and a gasp, under the cold shower bath, and the patient was once more a free man. Yet this was the birthplace of the Oldham Industrial Co-operative Society.

Mr. Booth goes on to state, in his interesting letter, that, whilst the others were engaged in their

medical pursuits, they read and discussed a copy of rules which Mr. Marcroft had obtained from the Rochdale Pioneers' Society. The scheme, which previously had appeared to be without form and void, now began to take shape, and the first meeting ended with a decision to meet again the following evening if the use of the room could again be granted. Permission was readily conceded, and the second meeting was attended by nineteen persons. This was a tremendous increase and the enthusiasm of the new reformers rose in a corresponding degree. Nothing would satisfy them only more meetings. They resolved to meet at one another's houses, and we are told that such meetings were held at William Booth's, William Marcroft's, John Davenport's, Stewart Smethurst's, and others.

The first meeting officially recorded is described in the minute book as a "Preliminary Meeting at William Marcroft's, 1, York Street, Oldham, on Wednesday evening, November

## **p. 20**

13th, 1850; Mr. George Winterbottom in the chair." The following persons were elected officers of the Society: -

President - William Booth; Secretary - Edward Clegg; Treasurer - George Winterbottom; Trustees - James Lees, William Marcroft, and Swainson Howarth; Board of Directors - John Booth, John Davenport, James Jackson, Henry Barlow. and Edward Barlow; Auditors - Thomas Schofield and John Booth Lees.

It was resolved at this meeting "That this Society be called by the name of 'The Oldham Industrial Co-operative Society.' "

The new Committee met at Mr. Marcroft's on the Friday evening of the same week, November 15th, 1850, and solemnly resolved that if capital could be raised to the amount of £50 they would at once commence business. This was £22 more than had been raised at first by the Rochdale Pioneers. and the gravity of the step was not underrated. It was felt to be a delicate question to ask a man how much money he could pay down on or before a given day, or how much he could subscribe by weekly instalments, so the device was adopted of two of their number being told off as a kind of Sub-Committee, who sat in the back kitchen, before whom the regenerators of society were to attend singly and secretly declare the extent of their ability to give a fair start to the new departure. Fifty pounds seemed a huge amount, and there were fears that the combined capital of all of them would fail to reach it. But when the promises were totalled up it was found that they amounted. in the words of William Booth, to "£56 odd." what the "odd" shillings and pence were is not known - probably never will be known now. Harold Skimpole used to remember the pence and forget the pounds.

We can only record the fact that "£56 odd" was the practical faith these men had in the new movement. It represented determination, economy, self-sacrifice. At this meeting a Mr. Hyde deposited £3 on shares, but it was returned to him until someone had been appointed and bound to take care of the money. Another member created some astonishment by applying for five shares of £1 each and proposing that they should contribute threepence per share per week until the shares were paid up. What! subscribe one shilling and threepence per week? Surely he must be possessed of

## **p. 21**

a little gold mine somewhere. Much as they admired his courage they were not in a position to follow his worthy example. With a somewhat despondent expression one member muttered, "We're not o Rothchilds."

The Committee was next divided into sections in order that there might be an equitable division and a speedy despatch of labour. Some were told off to visit the various ironmongers and brokers of the town to ascertain the prices of scales and weights, others were to prepare the rules for adoption, and the President was to purchase an abstract of the Act of Parliament relating to Joint Stock Companies.



At the next meeting, November 20th. 1850, it was resolved, among other important matters, to adopt the rules of the Rochdale Pioneers, "to look out for a shop for a Store for this Society," and to purchase a pair of scales, price seventeen shillings, for weighing sugar and coffee. And that was how the Oldham Industrial Co-operative Society started.

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From the e-Postbag

Extracted from an email sent by reader, Rodney Hampson, who was interested to read about William Rowbottom's Diary in an earlier newsletter :

" ... I was born in Royton and The Royton Mill / Stottfield / Royley / Haggate part of the town is of particular interest to me ...

The July Newsletter contained a link to the Dairy of William Rowbottom a handloom weaver from Chadderton but with lots of entries relating to the Streetbridge / Stottfield part of Royton which is of great interest to me. So on rainy days during this lockdown I have been entertaining myself with further investigations on some at least of these diary entries.

The Hollands or Hollonds of Royton Walk Mill were of interest because they were the previous owners of this mill to my family the Liveseys who came from Haslingden.

The editor of this diary was Samuel Andrew, another Royton family I am familiar with through my searches. The comments in italics after some of the entries are his, including this first one.

William Rowbottom's Diary
Handloom Weaver of Burnley Lane
1787 – 1830

1821 January 18th -Died at Royton Walk Mill Ann wife of John Holland. She was daughter of William Rowbottom, of Burnley Gate. She was a loving wife, a fond mother, a kind neighbour, and a warm friend. Her age, 40 years, 3 months, and 23 days; disorder, child-birth.

Probably this Ann Holland was the married child of the William Rowbottom who wrote these annals. As so little is known of him and his family, I merely call attention to the matter, the particulars of her age and other details leading me to the supposition.

This Ann was indeed the daughter of William Rowbottom the Diarist. She was baptised at Oldham St Mary's on December 10th 1780 the daughter of William Rowbottom a weaver of Northmoor and his wife also Ann.

She married John Holland on December 5th 1802 at St Mary's Oldham when one of the witnesses was Guy Holland who turns out to be John Holland's brother.

Ann wasn't buried until March that year possibly due to severe weather. However on March 21st 1821, some nine weeks after William Rowbottom records her death in his diary, she was buried at Middleton St Leonards where the Holland family did much of their hatching, matching and dispatching.

Ann's husband John Holland, born 1778, was the son of Richard and Mary nee Hall who had been married at Prestwich on May 17th 1778. Mary Holland became the subject of another diary entry:-

William Rowbottom's Diary
Handloom Weaver of Burnley Lane
1787 – 1830

1822 August 25th -Died at near Street Bridge, Mary, wife of Richard Hollond, of that place; her age upwards of 70 years.

In fact Mary Holland was buried at St Leonards Middleton on August 2nd 1822 aged 78 years so our diarist was a bit late with that one. Richard also went to St Leonards on October 22nd 1827 aged 80 years.

John and Ann Holland baptised four sons at Middleton St Leonard's:-

Thomas 1803

William 1805

James 1807

John 1810

Their third son, James b.1807 was also the subject of another diary entry:-

William Rowbottom's Diary

Handloom Weaver of Burnley Lane

1787 – 1830

1830 February 24th - James Hollond, of Royley Clough, a collier of that place, met with a serious missfortune in a coalpit there, he having the missfortune to be seriously crushed wilst at his work thereby, a large stone falling on him. He, being a quiet, peaceable man, was universally pittied. He was taken to Manchester Infirmary, with strong hopes of his recovery.

1830 February 26th Died at Manchester Infirmary, James Holland, after suffering the most tortering and afflicting pains in consequence of the missfortune he met on the 24th instant. As stated before, he being a quiet, peaceable man, was universally pittied. Peace to his ashes.

James had been baptised at St Leonards on November 1st 1807 and they took him back there for burial on March 2nd 1830 where he is described as a coal miner aged 23 years from Chadderton.

You do find reports of pit accidents in the newspapers but I searched in vain for a report on James accident or an inquest that may have followed it.

Rodney Hampson

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**A couple of weeks later, Rodney sent me another 'episode' from the 'Diary' :**

*"This is the story, backed by newspaper reports, in which "our William" tells us about a 19<sup>th</sup> century mugging of enormous proportions. And the villains get off scot free. Bit like today really. As with the last one I have tried to compile a family tree and show how the two families are linked together. Fairly common amongst business people in those days I think.*

### **George Holden of Holden Fold**

These two diary entries and the newspaper reports that refer to them report on the Holden and Travis families, mill owners and cotton manufacturers at Royton. Holden Fold where they lived is an area off what was Royton Lane at Royley, through Highlands, and into a fold in the landscape still known as Holden Fold.

The Holdens and the Travis families would dominate cotton weaving and spinning in Royton all through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At the time of these diary entries they had been living and working at Holden Fold for fifty years.

The £200 George Holden was carrying home from the office on that night in February 1827 is equal to £11,500 in 2020. Who in their right mind would risk walking around with that much about their person now?

William Rowbottom's Diary

Handloom Weaver of Burnley Lane

1787 – 1830

**1827 February 21<sup>st</sup>** – Audacious robbery last night. George Holden, of Holden Fold, and William Travis, of same place, cotton manufacturers, on returning from Manchester, where about the hour of nine o'clock at night, furiously attacted in a field, near Holden Fold, by six

men, who robbed Holden of 104 sovereigns and a quantity of Bank of England notes, the whole amounting to £211. Travis was more fortunate; from him they got only a small quantity of copper, a knife, and some stocins. The villains made a clear retreat with there booty. Hand bills have been stuck up offering thirty guineas reward for the discovery of the offenders.

**1829 August 25th** – Last night the house of George Holden, of Holden-fold, broke open and robbed of six fustian pieces and not a trace left behind.

**Lancashire General Advertiser. Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> 1827.** Serious Highway Robbery. On Tuesday night last, Mr George Holden, cotton manufacturer, was robbed by footpads within a short distance of his own dwelling, in Holden Fold, near Royton, of £209 in sovereigns, Bank of England and Country notes. It appears that on Tuesday evening, Mr Holden, an old gentleman upwards of sixty years of age, left his warehouse in Wimotts Court, in this town, (Salford Hundred) and took coach for Oldham. On arriving at that place, he was joined by a neighbour (Mr William Traves sic. (Travis), and they proceeded together to Holden Fold, when, just as they had arrived within three hundred yards of Mr Holden's house, they were surrounded by six men, who demanded their money. Mr Traves being a powerful man, fought with the ruffians, and eventually succeeded in making his escape; but whilst he was thus engaged, they got Mr Holden down, and having rifled his pockets of the money in question, made a precipitate retreat. Mr Holden, we are happy to state, received no personal injury. He attended at the Manchester Police office the next morning, and gave information of the robbery; but, unfortunately for the ends of justice, was unable to identify any of the robbers. The particulars of the property of which he was plundered are as follows:- 100 sovereigns, one bank of England note for £20: three Bank of England notes for £10 each; four bank post bills for £10 each, one Bank of England note for £5, and two country notes of £5 each. The police are on the alert, and it is hoped that this gang of footpads will not long escape the hands of Justice.

**The Lancaster Gazette, Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> 1827:** John Fielding, 28, charged with stealing, at Royton, from George Holden, 104 sovereigns. *Acquitted:*

John Standring, 32, and Edward Lowe, 29, charged with having uttered, at Royton, a forged bank of England not, for payment of one pound, knowing the same to be forged. *No prosecution.*

This George Holden was Bap; 23 April 1770 at St Paul's Royton.

His parents were Simeon and Judith nee Scholes who came from Chadderton and had been married at St Mary's Prestwich on Jan 30th 1770.

George was one of six children born to Simeon and Judith, three boys and three girls. All baptised at St Paul's between 1770 and 1789.

He married on 17 June 1798 at St Mary's Prestwich to Hannah Fallows of Royton and he and Hannah had ten children between 1798 and 1816.

He died in 1842 and was buried at St Paul's on March 2nd aged 71 years.

Hannah appears as Ann in the 1851 census aged 79 but I failed to find a burial at St Paul's.

George makes a brief appearance in the 1841 census living as one household with his son John who had been baptised at St Paul's on July 2nd 1809. This John was the second of that name baptised to George and Hannah, the first was born in 1808 and buried the same year. John II also married a Hannah Holden but from a different family I believe although she may well have been a cousin.

| Surname     | Forename | Rel                               | Stat | Age | Occupation     | Where Born |
|-------------|----------|-----------------------------------|------|-----|----------------|------------|
| 1841 census | for      | Holden Fold Royton H107/548/11/58 |      |     |                |            |
| Holden      | George   | xx                                | xx   | 70  | Independent    | Lancashire |
| Butterworth | Betty    | xx                                | xx   | 65  | female servant | Lancashire |

|        |        |    |    |    |                     |            |
|--------|--------|----|----|----|---------------------|------------|
| Holden | John   | xx | xx | 30 | Cotton Manufacturer | Lancashire |
| Holden | Hannah | xx | xx | 25 | none                | Lancashire |
| Holden | John   | xx | xx | 6  | none                | Lancashire |
| Holden | Jane   | xx | xx | 4  | none                | Lancashire |

William Travis who I think was baptised at Shaw Chapel in 1773 married George Holden's sister Mary Houlden at St Mary's. Prestwich on November 4th 1793. So the two men in this diary entry and newspaper report were brothers in law and their families lived alongside each other at Holden Fold.

The Travis's had nine children baptised at St Paul's Royton between 1793 and 1813  
William Travis died in 1845 and was buried at St Paul's on December 8<sup>th</sup> aged 71 years.

William Travis makes just one appearance in the census

| Surname     | Forename | Rel | Stat | Age | Occupation                        | Where Born |
|-------------|----------|-----|------|-----|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 1841 census | for      |     |      |     | Holden Fold Royton H107/548/11/60 |            |
| Travis      | William  | xx  | xx   | 65  | Cotton Manufacturer               | Lancashire |
| Travis      | Mary     | xx  | xx   | 65  | none                              | Lancashire |
| Travis      | Joseph   | xx  | xx   | 40  | cotton worker                     | Lancashire |

Mary with son Joseph appear in the 1851 census

| Surname     | Forename | Rel  | Stat | Age | Occupation                                          | Where Born     |
|-------------|----------|------|------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1851 census | for      |      |      |     | Croft Head, Crompton Chapel Lan.<br>107/2243/485/31 |                |
| Travis      | Mary     | head | wid  | 73  | proprietor of house                                 | Thornham Lancs |
| Travis      | Joseph   | son  | um   | 50  | manager of cotton mill                              | Royton Lancs   |
| Taylor      | Helen    | srvt | um   | 13  | house servant                                       | Royton Lancs   |

I failed to find a burial at St Paul's for Mary Travis post 1851

The Travis family also came to the attention of William Rowbottom as the next entry shows:-

William Rowbottom's Diary  
Handloom Weaver of Burnley Lane  
1787 – 1830

**1827 February 28th** – Last night the factory of Mr. Wm. Travis, of Holden Fold, was broke open and robbed of a quantity of weft, and some rovings, is the same Travis as is mentioned on the 21st.

Lancaster Assizes commenced on the 10th of March, when Fielding and Moses Marsden, on a charge of robbing George Holden, where acquitted

**The Lancaster Gazette, Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> 1827:** John Fielding, 28, charged with stealing, at Royton, from George Holden, 104 sovereigns. *Acquitted:*

John Standing, 32, and Edward Lowe, 29, charged with having uttered, at Royton, a forged bank of England not, for payment of one pound, knowing the same to be forged. *No prosecution.*

Rodney Hampson

Many thanks, to Rodney, for again giving some substance to the names we find in William Rowbottom's Diary, making them far more 'real' to us, almost 200 years later.

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Many thanks to Barbara Meredith who sent a swift response to our query about the school teams' photographs and the need for confirmation that they were of Oldham Hulme Grammar girls. Yes, they were! Our reader kindly emailed us... *"I just picked the one name from the photos and searched it with hulme grammar school, and up popped the document. I didn't check for any other names. Happy to be of assistance!"*

The link to the OHGS archived Speech Day programme which has the name of one of the girls is [HERE](#) .

This prompted me to have a 'wander' round the school's other archived material and, in the photos, I found one of the Old Grammar School just before its demolition in 1921 [HERE](#). The school's caption includes, "*The Grammar School was built in 1611 as a one-room school. It was situated in a pleasant area across from the church on the other side of the High Street. Oldham at that time was little more than a Pennine village...*"



OLDHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN 1830.

We're probably all familiar with the sketch of the Old Grammar School in the 1830s (this taken from '*Local Notes & Gleanings*' by Giles Shaw, pub. 1887) but it doesn't give us any sense of its location in the town. The same photo, as that found in the OHGS archives, from 1921, is also found in a number of local publications, including '*Oldham, Brave Oldham*' by Brian Law, published in 1999 to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Oldham's incorporation as a Borough in 1849.

These can all be seen and read at the Oldham Local Studies & Archives.

Brian Law, in his '*Oldham, Brave Oldham*', tells us that...

"The Old Grammar School in School Croft, immediately behind High Street, was in what had become one of the poorest Irish neighbourhoods ... However distinguished its patronage, it was poorly resourced with an endowment of £30 annually. A single teacher was teaching seventy boys, mainly the sons of shopkeepers, in a single room without a playground when Leonard Horner, the Factory Inspector, visited in 1843. Twenty years later, the number had fallen to a dozen and the school, described as filthy, was sinking into disuse."

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

\* The Great Flood of Philips Park Cemetery [HERE](#)

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* Can you find your ancestors occupation in this list? [HERE](#)

~~~~~

\* The heart-rending scene at day-break on the morning after the fire was indescribable [HERE](#)

~~~~~

* Do you now where Manchester rivers run? [HERE](#)

~~~~~

\* Museum of Transport Greater Manchester @MoTGM [HERE](#)

We'll reopen from 26 Sept, Saturdays/Sundays, to take you on a ride back in time to see the history of Greater Manchester's road passenger transport heritage.

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* The Petty Sessions were the lowest courts within Ireland's judicial system up to the early 20th century. [HERE](#)

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here are some great crowd shots from this 1919 film from Saddleworth.

\* [Saddleworth Returning Heroes] (1919)

VIMEO.COM [HERE](#)

[Saddleworth Returning Heroes] (1919)

In the years after the end of the Great War films scenes like these were repeated, and indeed filmed, up and down the country.

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* Learn Wills & Probate [HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* Trade Directories can be very useful [HERE](#)

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* 1968: Fyfe Robertson reported about equal pay for women. There are some astonishing comments in this clip. [HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* Why did the Great Fire of London start? Who was to blame? And how many died? Discover the story of the 1666 blaze that destroyed the City of London – from diarist Samuel Pepys's first-hand accounts, to the aftermath of the devastating fire [HERE](#)

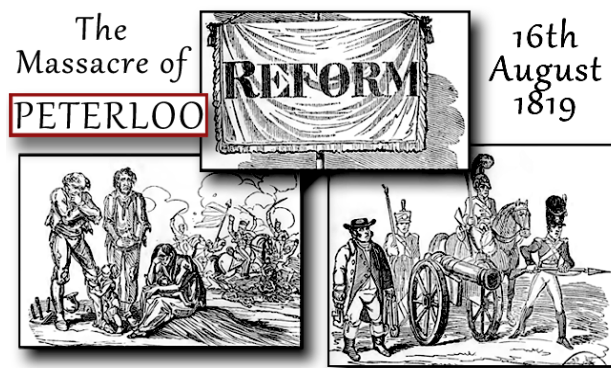
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* The History of Parliament [HERE](#)

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\* What Is a Second Cousin? [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](#)

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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

Cheshire Local History Association – www.cheshirehistory.org.uk

Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – 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

Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – www.lswlfhs.org.uk

Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – www.mrias.co.uk

Oldham Historical Research Group – 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

Saddleworth Historical Society – www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk

Tameside Local History Forum - www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk

The Victorian Society - [Manchester Regional Website](http://ManchesterRegionalWebsite)

Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - Lancashire

Free BMD - Search

[National Library of Scotland](http://NationalLibraryofScotland) - 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

Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](http://Local&FamilyHistory)

Bury – www.bury.gov.uk/archives

Chester - [Cheshire Archives & Local Studies](http://CheshireArchives&LocalStudies) (linked from Discovery at the National Archives)

Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](http://Local&FamilyHistory)

Leeds - [Leeds Local and Family History](http://LeedsLocalandFamilyHistory)

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

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](http://Archives&LocalHistory)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](http://LocalStudies&Archives)

Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](http://OldhamCouncilHeritageCollections)

Preston – www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives

Stockport – www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives

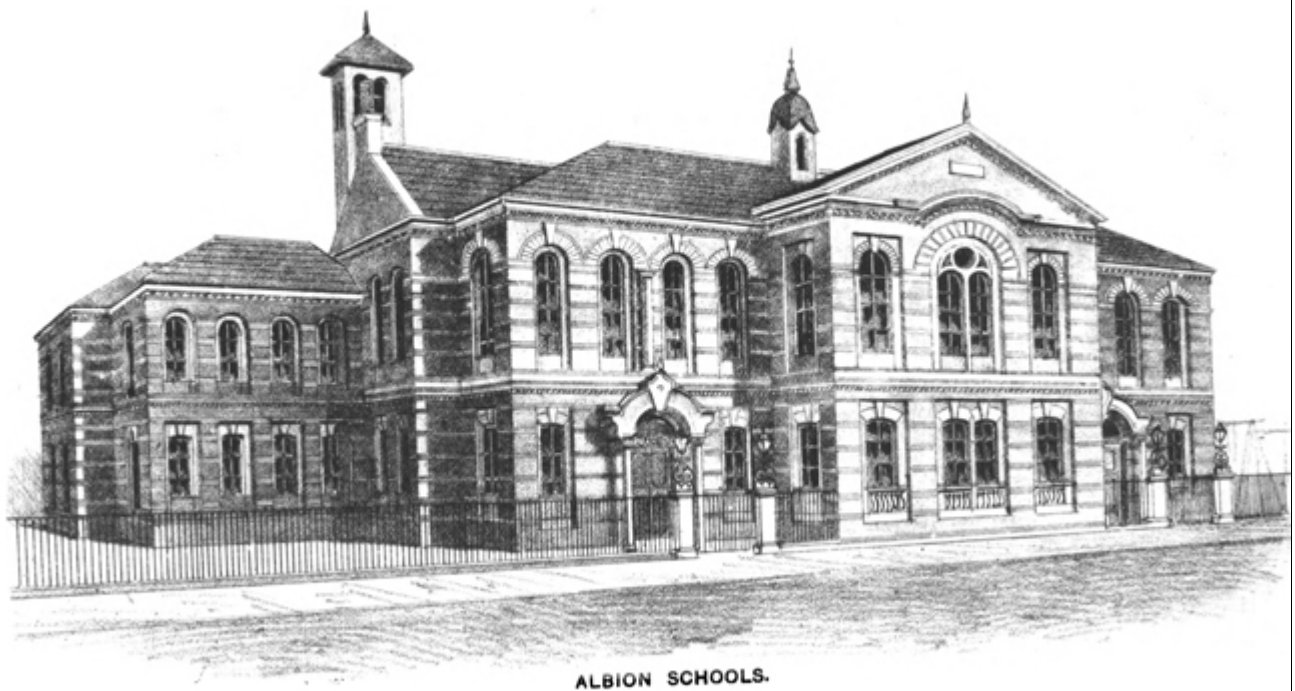
Tameside Local Studies and Archives - <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/archives>

York – www.york.ac.uk/borthwick

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Images From : *'The History of Ashton-under-Lyne and the Surrounding District'*,  
by William Glover, pub. 1884.



ALBION SCHOOLS.



*Ashton Old Stocks in the last century.*