

'e-Owls'



Contact us :

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Oldham & District Newsletter Archives : Read or download back copies [HERE](#)

February 2021

MLFHS - Oldham Branch Newsletter

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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



Marjory Lees - Suffragist

Oldham Branch Meetings :

**all M&LFHS Meetings, Branch Meetings and other public activities
are to be suspended indefinitely.**

Please check with the website for updated information.

HOWEVER,

The newsletter will be sent out as usual. Meetings are now in place using the zoom app. There will be further updates on the Society website Home Page and on the Branch pages. 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 Everyone

Just a short note this month as I am incapacitated with a broken right wrist.

I hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to your Covid jabs. I have just had my first one.

Our Branch talks via Zoom are going well and we have noticed an increase in attendances especially outside the local area. We hope to figure out a way to continue with Zoom when we are back to holding physical meetings at the library.

You will also notice that there has been a change of talk for April and I am really looking forward to listening to that. It should bring back some childhood memories for us.

Take care,

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.

Hi Everyone,

And another month has flown by. As I write this, snow is falling yet again. We seem to have been alternating, between rain and snow, for weeks, with only a few short periods when the clouds lift and it seems brighter. It's been rather a busy month, for me, so my apologies for the late arrival of this newsletter. My own big news is that, by the time this goes out I shall have had my first vaccination!

Our zoom meetings are beginning to feel more comfortable and familiar, already, and bring interesting changes both to the way the meetings are run and also to the attendee audience. What I'm enjoying most, is that I can also attend the other Branch meetings when, before, it was often impossible. With Scottish and Irish ancestry, only two generations back, the zoom meetings are a definite bonus. However, in offering the meetings on zoom, there are still some niggles to deal with, for eg., to mute or not to mute; how should we allow questions to be asked; should we cap attendee numbers, and so on.

As family history enthusiasts we've probably already got quite addictive personalities ... have a look in the e-postbag for more!

Our talk, this month, given by local author Carol Talbot, is about local girl, Annie Kenney who, after hearing Christabel Pankhurst speak, joined the Women's Social & Political Union (later to be known as 'Suffragettes'). As an ardent and militant activist, Annie became one of Christabel's most loyal supporters, in the demand for 'Votes for Women'. However, on the 'other side of the coin', were the non-militant 'Suffragists', of the NUWSS, who campaigned within the bounds of the law. The usual, little monthly picture, for February, is of Marjory Lees. She was a lifelong campaigner for women's rights, in every sphere of life, and was president of the Oldham Women's Suffrage Society.

Keep safe and positive,

Sheila

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 >

Please note, regarding using the links to website pages or .pdf documents : if clicking on a link when the newsletter is viewed on the internet, without first downloading it onto the computer, the new page opens in the same window so the 'back button' has to be used to return to the newsletter.

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## Oldham & District Branch

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OLDHAM & DISTRICT BRANCH OF MLFHS

#### Notification for MLFHS members from the Branch Chairman:

We are approaching that time of year when we hold our Annual Meeting to elect a Chairman, Treasurer and Committee Members.

Due to the restrictions of the Covid regulations regarding public meetings, the Chairman and Committee members have agreed to stay in their current roles until such time as we are able to hold our Annual Meeting, when it becomes possible at a later date.

We have tried to keep members up to date with our Branch website pages and our monthly newsletter and have begun holding our regular meetings online, on zoom.

However, we realise that none of this is providing an opportunity for members to give us any feedback or ask us questions. With this in mind, we propose to hold a meeting, on zoom, possibly on the first or last Saturday in March or one evening, whichever appears most popular. The Chairman and Committee Members would like to thank you for your support over the last twelve months and look forward to seeing you in person again soon.

In the meantime, if you care to contact us at < chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk > with regard to your thoughts on an informal online meeting, we would be glad to hear from you.

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Online Branch talks with Zoom

Last month's talk:



Saturday,
9th,
January
at
2 pm



Just taken your DNA test with Ancestry

For our second online talk, we have to send our grateful thanks to Hilary Hartigan who agreed to give us a talk on DNA ... which appears to be the current 'hot topic' for discussion (other than, that is, the pandemic!). Hilary is a fellow member of MLFHS and the website general editor, including being editor of the Anglo-Scots pages. She has been researching her own family, through DNA links, for a number of years.

The talk was well attended by both local and more far-flung attendees which is something all the branches are hoping to find with their online meetings. It is a bonus that we are able to welcome new visitors as well as our 'regulars'.

I keep promising myself that I will 'dip my toe' in the DNA 'soup' but, even after having been to several DNA talks in the past few years, I am still not at all sure that I will know how to

understand the results that I receive or then use that information to discover how my links fit into my own family tree.

Hilary took us through the process and explained it all clearly and concisely, with plentiful charts and diagrams, using examples from her own findings (with the names changed for anonymity!). At the end of her talk, she answered a number of questions, which indicated just how engaged her audience had been and how much it had been enjoyed.

She has kindly made some help sheets available, for download [HERE](#)

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Please try and support the Branch, with your online attendance, as we hope to deliver as much of our 2021 programme as possible, whilst we are unable to hold our meetings in Gallery Oldham.

It would be of great help to us, for the smooth running of the talks (especially if for your first!!), if you would look at the two help sheets that we have prepared, [HERE](#) and [HERE](#), one of which will also help you in downloading and using zoom if you are a new user of it.

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Saturday,
13th,
February
at
2 pm



Annie Kenney ... a Working Class Suffragette.

This local girl became one of the most well known of Suffragettes. Imprisoned many times, she endured hunger-strikes in the fight for Women's Suffrage.

This is a free, online talk, given by Carol Talbot, author of the book, *Working-Class Suffragette: The Life of Annie Kenney.*

Login will be from 1:45

Details of the talk are on the 'Meetings' page of the Branch website [HERE](#).

Booking for an online talk is essential and can be by emailing us (newsletter or website email addresses) or on Eventbrite [HERE](#) (where you can also find more details of the talk).

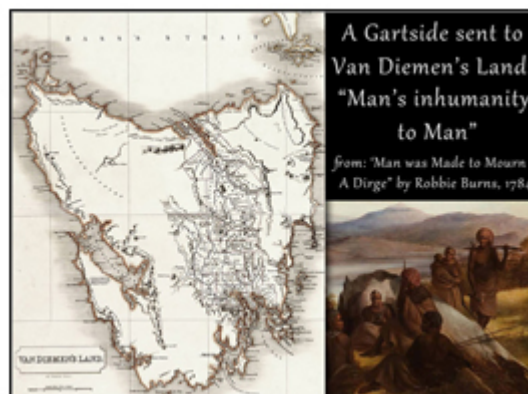
The talk will be free to members and non-members alike.

Wherever you live, Welcome!

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Saturday,  
13th,  
March  
at  
2 pm



### ***A Gartside sent to Van Diemen's Land: 'Man's inhumanity to Man'***

The transportation of Edwin Gartside in 1832 and the story of Van Diemen's Land, the convicts and the indigenous aboriginal population.

A free, online talk given by Sheila Goodyear

Login will be from 1:45

Details of the talk are on the 'Meetings' page of the Branch website [HERE](#) .

**Booking for an online talk is essential** and booking can be on [Eventbrite](#) or by email to the newsletter or website editor.

**The talk will be free to members and non-members alike.**

**Wherever you live, Welcome!**

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Saturday,
10th,
April
at
2 pm



Memories from Holidays Past

a talk given by Chris Helme

With no holidays allowed at present, we can at least look back at holidays we have enjoyed. This presentation will take you back to those childhood holidays in a caravan, Guest House and Butlin's. Everything from knobbly knee competitions to calamine lotion. From Sunday School annual treats to outings at Blackpool, the 1960s package holiday and then to futuristic holidays and a few laughs on the way.

Details of the talk are on the 'Meetings' page of the Branch website [HERE](#) .

Booking for an online talk is essential and booking will be on [Eventbrite](#) or by email to the newsletter or website editor from the middle of February.

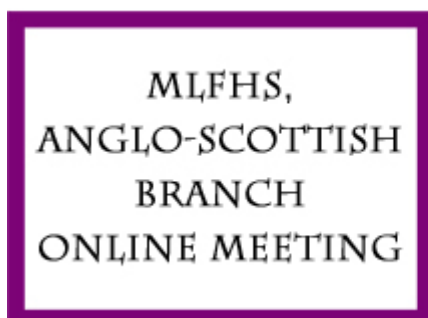
The talk will be free to members and non-members alike.

Wherever you live, Welcome!

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**All the MLFHS Branches will be delivering their monthly meetings and talks on-line**

**Anglo-Scottish Website Pages** [HERE](#)



Saturday,  
20th  
February  
at  
2 pm



Go to the Anglo-Scottish website for more information and booking details.

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Bolton Website Pages [HERE](#)

MLFHS Bolton Branch online Meetings	Wednesday, 3rd February at 7 pm	General Meeting followed by 'Researching Criminals in Bolton' by Dr Alan Crosby
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Go to the Bolton website for more information and booking details.

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### MLFHS updates

**The MLFHS Family History Help Desk ...**

**is closed under current restrictions**

**As situations change, almost by the hour, there is no certainty of anything!**

**For updated information, please check the website [HERE](#)**

**However, there is still a Virtual Help Desk [HERE](#)**

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Beginners' online Talk ... Saturday 6th February, 2pm.

MLFHS aka Manchester Ancestors	Saturday, 6th February at 2 pm	
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Exploring our New Website

A free, online talk (on zoom) given by Hilary Hartigan.

Hilary will show you how to navigate our new website; where to find our millions of records; what records we have and the new records we are adding, all the time, thanks to our dedicated volunteers.

Booking on [Eventbrite](#) is essential;

a zoom link to the meeting will be sent out to those registering.

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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 Updates to the Great Database (in the Members' area of the Website)

Emails to the Members' forum, from John Marsden (webmaster), listing the updates.

*Susan Mayall has transcribed the second volume of Sacred Trinity, Salford baptisms covering 1864-1872 - another 1,556 references and these are now in the Great Database in the member area at mlfhs.uk

Thanks to Susan for this addition, from a register which was particularly difficult to read, both from poor reproduction (it looks like parts were written in pencil) and from some eccentric handwriting.

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\* More MGS Admissions :

Linda Bailey has been busy and now, assisted by Chris Hall, has completed Volume 1 of the Admissions for the Manchester School. It covers 1730 - 1775. The 1,172 people named have been added to the Great Database and a copy of the transcript of this and the previous Vol 3 Part 2 added to the Document Collection (General-Institutions).

As before, information can be anywhere from basic date of admission through to quite lengthy biographical details.

Thanks to Linda and Chris for this useful resource.

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Visit the '*What's New in our Record Collections*', in the Manchester pages of the website, for links and information [HERE](#)

If you are a member of the MLFHS, you can sign up to the Members' email forum [HERE](#)
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**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 for on-line resource material and activities.**

**All public, activities are, of course, CANCELLED until further notice.**  
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Oldham Historical Research Group: ... Online Meetings on zoom



Wednesday
17th,
February
at
7 pm



Oldham's '**Amazing Mary Higgs** :

Student, Pioneer, Wife & Mother, Undercover Tramp; Social Reformer'

A free, illustrated talk, given by Carol Talbot, author of the book.

Booking on Eventbrite [HERE](#).

Your support for us would be appreciated and, if you would like to join us for our meeting on zoom, or need more information, please email me at < pixnet.sg@gmail.com >.

Website [HERE](#)
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Library Events & Gallery talks at Gallery Oldham; Curator talks [HERE](#)  
on [Eventbrite](#) and [Instagram](#)

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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'

More pages from *Oldham Town Centre - through the 'Brierly Map'* by Gary Millward, which is such a fascinating glimpse into early Oldham and its townsfolk in 1815. In the June newsletter, 'Mixed Bag', we included the newspaper article from 1880 about it and the descriptive text which accompanied the map when it was displayed in the Local Studies some years ago.

June newsletter [HERE](#)

To help fill in the 'story' of the map, you can see an enlargement of it [HERE](#), in 4 parts, with a transcription of Brierly's own notes from the back of the map. Each month, there will be a link to a .pdf download with the most relevant quarter of the map together with the Butterworth map of Oldham, circa 1817, which helps to put Brierly's map into context.

Part 3, continued from the February newsletter :



A northwest view of the original chapel of St Peter's.

The foundation stone of St Peter's was laid in 1765; indeed, this was the year inscribed in a stone alcove, above the northwest door, just under the roof guttering. The church was consecrated on 2nd June 1768, and it was described as a neat, plain, stone chapel of simple design.

There was a gallery, which surrounded the whole of the interior, and at the west end of the church above the gallery, stood three wrought iron,

stained glass windows. Below the gallery were two pictures, one of the Jewish Lawgiver and one of the High Priest. At the east end of the chapel there was a stained glass window, of which the centrepiece represented the Last Supper. On either side of this image were depictions of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, with the words, "Do this in memory of me," painted underneath in Greek.

The church was enlarged in 1804 and the churchyard in 1807. The organ was placed, unusually, above the Communion Altar in the gallery, during the extension work, but it had

originally been located at the west end of the church.

The *Rev John Muschamp Dover* was the first minister, and the *Rev William Winter* was the curate from 1797 until his death forty years later.

The chapel was demolished in 1899 and a new one erected on the same site which, in its turn, was pulled down in 1970.

St Peter's would have stood in the vicinity of present day Dixons and Mothercare in the Town Square, and its sloping churchyard and burial ground would have lain in the multi-storey car park area, though on much lower level than that of High Street.

We return back to High Street, on the illustration, and the final block on the southern side of the street, which started and finished with coaching inns; the '*Angel*', at the top of Chapel Street, and the '*George*', at the top of Clegg Street. By 1829, only the '*Angel*' of all the original buildings identified in the block, on the illustration, would be left standing. All the others were taken down and a new block was erected. These new structures were set further back for road widening purposes. The '*Angel*', not part of this new development, had to have its frontage remodelled. Had this not happened, the tavern would have stuck out about two metres further than the adjoining new development, defeating the object of the road widening exercise. The '*Angel*' had been constructed over a century before, on a slightly different angle and, taking down the offending corner of the inn nearest the new development, afforded a greater degree of symmetry; it widened the road and left the *Angel* with a doglegged frontage.

In 1815, before the redevelopment, High Street was at the narrowest it would ever be. How narrow cannot be overstated, when it can be realised that the building, that now contains Mc Donald's and Superpound, was built at the rear of the original '*Angel Inn*', and it can be understood how fifteen to twenty metres can be projected forward to the original line of the street.

In 1817, *Butterworth* complained, "High Street, in which at present is carried the chief traffic, is in some parts very narrow so as scarcely to admit two carriages to pass. Particularly that part which connects with Yorkshire Street, the narrowness of which is disgraceful to the town itself".

William Woodiwiss was the keeper of the '*Angel*' at this time and it was the town's largest coaching inn, with two coach houses and stabling for twenty-four horses. The *Cornwallis* left for Leeds every morning at 8 o'clock, and the *Sociable* for Manchester half an hour later. A special coach left for the market at Manchester on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 8.30 am. Although accommodation and shelter was available, it probably was not a regular over night stopping place for the coaching business. But it would have been a welcome respite, for those unfortunates whose horse had become lame or had thrown a shoe, or if bad weather had made travel impossible.

William Woodiwiss made a grim discovery shortly after Christmas in 1814. Whilst checking the horses in the morning, he discovered the body of *Thomas Butterworth* of Crompton, huddled in the straw. He had died of "hunger and starvation". Sad, and by a strange quirk of history, how a miserable wretch could die in such a way on the site of what would become a fast food restaurant.

Next door to the *Angel* was the small shop of *James Cheetham*, who was a shoemaker and leather cutter. In 1815, *Joseph Nadin*, who was a thief catcher from Manchester, arrested a number of people for "uttering forged bank notes"; amongst those detained was the wife of *James Cheetham*. She was sent to the New Bailey at Manchester and committed to Lancaster Gaol.

The '*Swan Inn*', at the side of *Cheetham's*, may have the oldest history of the inns on this side of High Street. The licence records date back to 1759 when James Whittaker was the keeper. In 1689, *James Clegg*, a ten-year-old boy from Rochdale, was sent to the Grammar School where the master was *James Lawton*. *Clegg* boarded with *John* and *Mary Whittaker* who kept an inn where other young gentlemen stayed. It is possible that *James Whittaker* was a

descendent of *John* and *Mary* and, given the close proximity of the Grammar School, and the known history of many inns close by, *James Clegg* could well have been staying at this house. In 1775 there is an account of the inn being rebuilt, further evidence, maybe, of its antiquity. In 1815 another *Whittaker, Mary*, who could neither read nor write, was keeping the inn. She was the unmarried daughter of *James*, who had died in 1804.

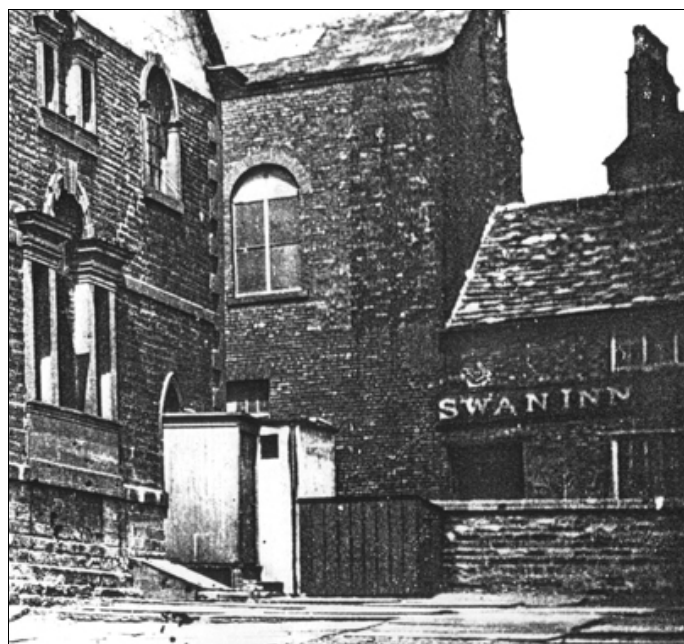
Thomas Whittaker, of "Tommyfield" fame, lodged at the 'Swan' but was not a known relative. He had moved into the inn after the death of his young wife *Betty*, in 1794, aged 24.

On Jan 1st 1810, late in the dark afternoon, *Tommy Whittaker* had his mare with saddle and bridle stolen after it had been tied up at the front of the inn. He discovered the mare, thanks to a tip off, pulling a boat near Manchester, a month later.

Thomas Whittaker died in 1829 aged 68, never remarrying, and there was a tablet erected to *Tommy* and his family within St Peter's Chapel. *Mary Whittaker* kept the inn until her death in 1829. The 'Swan Inn' had been taken down in the street-widening scheme, shortly before her death, and this rebuilt 'Swan' closed in 1926. It was, in its turn, demolished in a further street widening enterprise, a century after the first one.

The next building in the block belonged to *Joseph Bradley*, who was a corn dealer. On the 30th July 1795, *Bradley* had all his windows smashed, along with a number of other provision dealers, by an unruly mob angered at the high prices being charged. Several of the rioters were arrested, and taken into custody, after which they were remanded to Salford Gaol and sent there under a military escort. As they reached the corner of St Domingo Street and Manchester Street, the mob charged and attempted to rescue the prisoners. The rescue attempt failed, and many of the rioters were wounded by the "firing of pistols and the slashing of swords".

Joseph Bradley later became a member of the Oldham militia where he attained the rank of Sergeant. *Rowbottom* recorded how, on a night in March 1811, *Bradley* fell down the back stone steps of the 'Lamb Inn', which led to the entry that would become known as *Jenny Horrocks'* hovel, where he was "much hurt in the head". He died in 1828, aged 68, and was buried at the Parish Church.



The rear entrance of the ancient Swan Inn. It was reached through a ginnel in Back Chapel Street. Looking at the age of the fabric of the inn in the photograph, it suggests that the rear of the inn escaped demolition in the successive alterations of the High St.

Brierly identifies *Charlotte Moon* as living next door to *Joseph Bradley* on the illustration. But in a letter, he recorded "*Michael Gunn* lived opposite *Mr Wright* next door to *Joe Bradley*". He omits *Charlotte*, and being unable to find any trace of her apart from her inclusion on the map, she must remain a mystery. This may be a nickname or a maiden name, of course, making her research even harder. There was, at this time, a counter in one of the shops near the 'Angel Inn' that sold tickets for the coaches and maybe *Charlotte* performed this duty from the shop of *Michael Gunn* the tailor?

On the other side of *Michael Gunn* lived *John Steeple*, the butcher, who also "helped himself to a living by selling milk". *John* had two sons who were both apprenticed at butchery.

One of the sons, *George*, would become the keeper of the 'Dog and Partridge' next to the 'Lamb Inn', around 1829. His brother, *William*, met with a "lamentable misfortune" on a night in November 1806. He was assisting hanging up a pig on a large iron hook and, for a better

purchase, he stood on a barrel. The barrel flew from under him and in his fall his arm caught in the hook leaving him dangling. He hung there until assistance came and with "great difficulty released him from his perilous situation". His arm was so badly gored that no surgeon in the parish could do anything.

Dr Gibson from Manchester was sent for and arrived very late that same night. On his arrival, he deemed it "absolutely necessary to take it off". The amputation was performed immediately.

William survived the ordeal and went from being a one armed butcher to a one armed innkeeper; he was running the '*Cock Inn*' on Cheapside in 1840.

[Editor's note .. John Steeple was actually my 4x gt.grandfather and I'm descended from his sixth daughter, Amelia, born in 1806. He came from a farming family in Wirksworth, in Derbyshire, and came to Oldham in the early 1790s. In total, he had 14 children, 7 of whom were sons. All his children lived into adulthood, except for the last, Jane, who died in infancy].

Next door to *John Steeple* lived *John Oaks*, a clocksmith and watchmaker, who may have had a partner or an apprentice by the name of *Baker*? In one of Brierly's letters he mentions "*Baker the watchmaker*" as the neighbour of *Steeple*.

In the next shop, Brierly has written "*Wood*, after new druggist *Braddock*". *William Braddock* opened his chemist in a portion of the '*George Inn*' on 11th March 1820, but before this, *Kinder Wood* had his surgery there. *Wood* was born in Oldham in 1785 and was admitted as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1807. He had a practice in the town until 1817 and in July 1815, the surgeon was rushed to the '*Spread Eagle*', an ancient coaching inn, that once stood in the vicinity of the Aldi car park on Manchester Street. On reaching the inn, it was deemed necessary to sew up the throat of *Joseph Taylor*, the keeper of the inn. The innkeeper had tried to commit suicide, but this troubled individual slashed his throat again, two months later, this time succeeding in his life terminating endeavours.

Kinder Wood moved his surgery to Manchester in 1817 and had his practice there until his death in 1830, when it was said, "He achieved more than local eminence in his profession and made important contributions to gynaecological literature".

William Braddock took over the premises a couple of years after the surgeon had moved to Manchester. He was a native of Bugsworth, near Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire. He served his apprenticeship at a well-known chemist in Nottingham and, after fifteen years in the town, *Braddock* gambled on a huge development that once stood near the iron railings on Yorkshire Street. The frontage was used by a number of vendors and the huge cellar became the town's first indoor market. The venture was not very successful and, in 1856, the first Victoria Market Hall was built on the site of the present one, and there it has remained ever since in one guise or another [destroyed by fire in 2005].

Braddock died in 1869 and was buried at Taddington Church in his native Derbyshire.

In 1815, there was another portion of the '*George Inn*' being used by *Benjamin Consterdine*. He ran his business in a room between the surgery and the High Street door of the '*George Inn*'. Brierly has omitted him from the illustration, but remembered him in a letter whilst mentioning *Braddock*, "and beside him was old *Consterdine*". *Benjamin* was a grocer, flour dealer and seedsman and had settled in the town from Blackley. Two of his sons would die in foreign lands, one in Portugal and the other in South Africa.

On the 31st May 1822, *Consterdine* entered into an agreement to take down the building for the road-widening scheme mentioned earlier. The document still exists in the archives of the Local Studies Library. It signalled the end of the narrow High Street as illustrated on the Brierly map.

Benjamin Consterdine died in 1830 aged 65 and was buried in the chapel of St Peter's where a tablet was erected in honour of him and his family.

The '*George*', like the '*Angel*', was a coaching inn. The "*Umpire*" stopped on its way to Huddersfield and the "*True Briton*" on its journey to Leeds. The "*Clothier*" and the "*Defiance*"

also made regular stops at the 'George'. The building was large enough, to let off two portions as shops and was known locally as the "*Roundabout House*". It was named as such because the building's facade curved round to Clegg Street from High Street and it had doors on both these thoroughfares.

The 'George' was pulled down, with the others, in the 1820's, and a new inn was built, set back from the original one, in line with the new development. *James Clegg* was one year into his two-year stint as innkeeper in 1815. The residence of *Arthur Clegg* will be noticed on the illustration and his house stood on the corner of St Peter's Street and Clegg Street, at the back of the 'George Inn'. *Arthur* would own the newly built public house several years later, and he also owned the land on which the sports hall and swimming baths now stand on Lord Street. The 'George Inn' would have stood about twenty metres in front of the Bradford and Bingley office.

On the other side of the street, back in the Market Place, stood the 'Red Lion', whose licensing records can be traced back to 1753. *Joseph Bastow* took over the tavern in 1804 and, while he was there, he modified a large upper room and turned it into a temporary theatre. It must have been quite an undertaking as he split the room into two levels creating a gallery in which members of the audience paid a shilling for a seat.



The Red Lion and what had been Farrand's, next door

The 'Red Lion' had an unusually wide staircase, which must have been a blessing for those carrying the props to and fro. The theatre was reached via the side door down the alleyway that separated the inn from *Hamlet Lowe's* butcher shop. The staircase was on the left, immediately behind the door, and went through two ninety-degree turns before it reached the theatre. With many seats being arranged in this upper room, it also became a popular location for auctions.

At the rear of the inn there was a brew house, some stables, and a smithy belonging to *Robert Farrand*, the ironmonger next door.

The 'Red Lion' survived into the 20th century and eventually became a shop for a while. It was taken down in the 1920's and Burger King now stands on the site of the inn's outbuildings.

There was a census taken around the year 1800, for the purpose of counting those who were capable of taking up arms and fighting for their country. It was feared that, after Napoleon's victories in Italy, Sardinia and Austria, he would turn his attention to Britain. This was especially the case, after Nelson had destroyed the French fleet, in the River Nile, and it ended Napoleon's plan of closing Britain's overland route to India. As a precautionary measure, local voluntary militia sprang up as a sort of home guard. On these returns, *Robert Farrand*, the ironmonger, is described as "infirm of knee", while his son *John*, is described as "fit and ready to serve". Quite fit really, in the summer of 1799, he walked to New Cross in Manchester for a wager, a distance of six and a half miles. He won the wager with three minutes to spare, completing the journey in one hour and six minutes.

Robert Farrand was well known to Brierly; he recalled, "Old *Bob Farrand* lived next door to the 'Red Lion'. He used to run into his house for his best hat whenever he saw *Sir Watts Horton* of Chadderton Hall coming, to make his bow". This gesture by *Farrand* must have been handed down in a jocular fashion for several years.

Sir Watts Horton had died before Brierly could have known him. *Farrand's* wife, *Isabella*, died in 1824 aged 69, and *Robert* died two years later aged 73. His old property survived for many decades and shared the same ornamental frontage that adorned the 'Red Lion' from the 1860's

onwards. In 1910, a carved, wooden, American Indian was placed on the signage over the doorway, in olden days the sign of the tobacconist. It had once been at the prow of a wooden sailing ship. The building was probably taken down at the same time as the '*Red Lion*', after serving its final years as a tobacconist.

The title grocer, and *Miss Whittaker*, are indicated on the map as the next two shops after *Farrand*. Both the shops were owned and run by three old, unmarried sisters, *Sarah*, *Ann* and *Mary*. They were the daughters of *Samuel* and *Sarah Whittaker*, who had been tallow chandlers, in the middle of the 18th century, in the same old, three-storey premises.

Thomas Whittaker, of 'Tommy Field' fame was their brother. Apart from continuing the tallow Chandler's business of their parents, they started up a grocery business, and Brierly indicates on the map that the sisters also sold stamps. The spinsters all lived into old age, *Sarah* died in 1836 aged 77, *Ann* in 1846 aged 81 and *Mary* in 1847 aged 84. A few years after their deaths, the property came into the hands of *John Chadderton*, who turned the old tallow Chandler's into a beerhouse known as the '*Confectioners Arms*'. Next-door to the *Whittakers* lived *Mrs Jackson*, whom Brierly informs us "keeps leeches". Leeches were kept for medical reasons and would have been sold to the surgeons in the parish. There was also a man called *Thomas Burdikin*, who lived at School Croft, also keeping leeches, at the same time. *Mrs Jackson* probably resided in the bookshop and stationers that belonged to a *Peter Jackson*, not mentioned on the map, and kept leeches as a sideline which was probably a profitable one. Five million were imported from France in 1824, such was the shortage.

There was a small pathway, that ran up the side of the bookseller's, that led to a gate, beyond which lay the Tommy Field ground and gardens and, at the other side of the pathway, stood the 'White Horse'.

On a stone slab, high on the wall of the Hilton Arcade, is a painted advertisement for the '*Albion Hotel*', which has survived for maybe a century. It is the only tangible evidence regarding the '*Albion*' or its predecessor the '*White Horse*'.

Although there are quite a few *Bamfords* around at this time, *William Bamford*, the keeper of the '*White Horse*' in 1815, is almost certainly the same man, who will become Oldham's second postmaster after the retirement of *James Butterworth*.

The '*White Horse*' was described as being, "an irregular, low, but long edifice". The barn and the brew house were not situated at the rear, as they usually were, but adjoined the inn on its left-hand side. It was a series of ancient stone structures with white-washed walls set back from the High Street by about ten metres. Brierly recalled, "on fair days the horse stood in front of the house". In March 1821, *Rowbottom* recorded, "a few days since the workmen began to pull down the old barn adjoining the '*White Horse*' in order to make an opening for a new street". This signalled the birth of Curzon Street and the demise of the '*White Horse*'.

By 1831, the inn had gone and been replaced by the '*Albion*', which had taken over the licence from its predecessor. In 1973 the '*Albion*' itself was taken down to create two retail units currently occupied by a shoe shop and a mobile phone dealer.

It must be remembered that, apart from the shops, there were also street vendors trading from barrow stalls on wheels, which were dotted throughout the Market Place.

These stalls could not be pitched beyond the '*White Horse*' as the street became too narrow and this was the place from which the town crier would begin his walk, ringing his bell, to signal the close of trading for the market. He would make his way to the tops of George Street and West Street and to the bottom of Henshaw Street. Market day was Saturday and trading was allowed to go on until 11.30 pm.

Joseph Howarth or "*Blind Joe*" as he was known locally, performed the duties of town crier from 1820, although he was not the town's first crier. He was born in Oldham in 1787 and was the son of a hatter. He was blind at birth and with the town not having any facility for such an affliction, he was sent to a blind asylum at Liverpool. Some years after his return to his native

town, he was elected town crier and bellman for the district. He performed this duty until he retired in 1860. The George Street Independent Methodist Church also employed *Blind Joe*; his clear, booming voice would announce forthcoming events for which he was paid 8d. The industrious bellman further augmented his living by selling muffins and mutton pies.

He was a religious man and served many years as a Wesleyan lay preacher, being able to recite long passages of religious text from memory.

Joseph could find his way around unaided, and would have been recognised by all the townsfolk. He wore a distinctive dark green coat and a black top hat, which was given to him by a *Mr J. W Mellor*, a solicitor, who gave *Joe* most of his cast off hats.

Just before he retired as bellman, a man called *Squire Knott*, the first man with a photographic studio in the town, took a snap of *Joe* on the Town Hall steps. The bellman arrived for the sitting in his Sunday best, but *Squire Knott* sent him home to change, as he wanted to capture *Joe* in his bellman's uniform.

The photographic process used was the Wet Collodion Process, invented by Frederick Scott Archer in 1851. Collodion (cellulose nitrate) was mixed with a soluble iodide. The mixture was then coated onto a glass plate, which while still wet was exposed in the camera. It was developed by pouring a solution of pyrogallic acid and potassium cyanide over it.



Squire Knott's image of Blind Joe.

Joseph Howarth died at his home in Greaves Street in 1862, aged 75, and he was buried at Chadderton Cemetery. Such was the affection for *Joe* that, after his death, money was collected by public subscription for the commissioning of a statue. The sculptor chosen was a *Mr Barnett*, who lived in Clegg Street, who also happened to be the creator of the Lions Den in Alexandra Park. *Mr Barnett* used the photograph taken by *Squire Knott* for inspiration and the statue was unveiled in Alexandra Park in May 1868. It was stated at the time, that the statue was erected in appreciation of his services to the cause of religion, rather than his services as bellman.

Anybody visiting the park in the 1970's may have noticed the sincere face captured by *Squire Knott* and chiselled by *Mr Barnett*, had gone. Savaged by the vandal, ravaged by the wind; the statue looked grotesque. Black with grime it appeared the image of a masked fiend.

On a visit to the park today, you may notice the portly figure in the top hat. There stands *Blind Joe*, one hand in

his bell the other clasping his walking stick, all cleaned and sporting a new face, with the brilliant colour of the yellow sandstone shining through.

Next door to the '*White Horse*', but five metres nearer the road, stood the butcher shop belonging to *Joshua Waterhouse*, and his wife *Nancy*. *Joseph Waterhouse*, who had a butcher shop next door to the '*Hop Pole*', in a recess on Henshaw Street, was a relative.

On Feb 24th 1810, "a woman from Rochdale was detected stealing beef from *Joshua Waterhouse* and was taken to the lock-ups at the workhouse. On Monday she was sent to the New Bailey to take her trial for the same".

It would appear that the *Waterhouse*'s had left the premises by 1817, because *Joseph Riley* had taken possession of the butcher shop and turned it into a cooperage by then. He had left his old cooperage in 1817, where he had been in partnership with *Daniel Walker*. The change in ownership of the butcher's is identified on the Brierly illustration.

The '*Punch Bowl*', beside *Joshua* and *Nancy*, was a very old and small inn measuring only 64 square yards. The inn may have had some restriction on it selling alcohol, during the year

1815, as *John Barnes* and *John Schofield* were both denied licences to run the tavern in 1814. It is not until 1816 that records show *John Schofield* as successfully obtaining the licence. Brierly informs us in a letter, "there was also *Bailey* the tinman next door to *Old Schofield* the druggist, who was conveniently established beside the '*Punch Bowl*' ". The druggist was *John Schofield* who ran the apothecary next door to the public house. Quite what Brierly meant by "conveniently" beside the '*Punch Bowl*' is uncertain. It could suggest that it was an inn often frequented by the druggist, but, more probable that it is the same *John Schofield* keeping the '*Punch Bowl*' in 1816 and, if this is so, he maintained ownership of his apothecary whilst running the inn.

Joseph Bailey lived and worked in his very small premises beside the old chemist. Being a tin plate worker, he was one of the most skilled tradesmen in the town. He would not only have worked with tin plate but other malleable metals such as copper, brass, lead and iron. Apart from the mundane, ordinary objects such as buckets, drinking vessels, plates and pans, he would also be called upon to make more decorative items and, with his skills of annealing and hollowing and raising, was able to produce large brass dishes with raised decoration, candlesticks, doorknockers and fireside furnishings.

Next door to *Bailey* was *John* and *Jonathon Mellor's* boot and shoemaker's shop. They had the largest premise on the block, it being about a third longer at the back than the others.

On March 16th 1808, the Assizes at Manchester heard the guilty plea of *John Eastwood*, who admitted paying a forged bank note to *Jonathon Mellor*, for which he was punished with fourteen years transportation. His wife *Mary* was acquitted on a similar charge.

This method of punishment, banishing convicted offenders from their country, was very common at the time. The sentence of death could be passed upon crimes such as burglary, robbery, perjury and forgery. But in 1717, power was given to the courts enabling them to transport offenders convicted of such crimes, normally for a minimum of seven years. It was not a humanitarian gesture; the object was to populate the colonies. *John Eastwood* would probably have been sent to Australia. The loss of the American colonies in 1776 put an end to transportation there. Between 1787-1867, 160,000 convicts were shipped to Australia, with 12% of them being women. The convicts were locked behind bars in the bowels of transport ships. Life was hard and military discipline strict. Supplies were scarce and rigid rationing was imposed. It is not surprising that two out of every five of the weakened prisoners died during the six-month voyage, or shortly afterwards.

John Mellor was running the shoemaker's on his own in 1818. *Jonathon* may have moved to Manchester Street. In the directory at this time a man of the same name was trading as a currier and leather cutter there, trades allied to shoemaking, so this may be him.

The '*Punch Bowl*', the apothecary, and the tinsmith stood on the site now occupied by Woolworth's. The shoemaker's shop was on the Ethel Austin and Max Spielman site.

Brierly depicts the house of the *Rev Thomas Fawcett* as being detached and to the rear of *John* and *Jonathon Mellor*. It was actually attached, and ran off at an angle towards Church Lane, in an almost identical way as the '*Up Steps*' public house does today. Between *Rev Fawcett* and the shoemaker's was a wine and spirit merchants, which would later become the original '*Up Steps Inn*'; named because of the flight of steps that had to be negotiated to reach the front door. The wine merchant's and the parsonage were built together in 1734. The front door to *Rev Fawcett* was on the gable end of the building where there was also a small stone walled garden. In the keystone above the door was carved the Latin inscription "nunc mei mox hujus sed postea nescio cujus". Which translates as "now mine, presently his, but afterwards I know not whose". At the front of the building, on the head of the rain water pipe, high on the wall of the wine merchant's, was the inscription BDM 1734. A *Mr S.O Ward*, writing in 1904, presumed they were the initials of the builders and owners of the property. From his research he had reason to believe they represented the names of *Benjamin* and *Mary Dawson*.

Benjamin was described as being a fustian manufacturer and grocer; he was also an overseer

of the poor.

Mr Ward stressed that he had no doubt, that the property was built and owned by *Dawson* because, up to a very recent date (writing in 1904), a descendent of his, *Sir Martin Wilson*, had been in receipt of the ground rent of this property.

The building became a licensed outlet in 1805, when *Richard Fawcett*, the son of the parson, went into partnership with *Joseph Wright*, whom *Rowbottom* recorded as “died awfully sudden” in 1808.

In 1815, the licence holder of the wine and spirit merchants was *John Andrew*. Brierly recorded. “*John Andrew* was fortunate in having the water supply of the district in his back yard in the form of a pump and sold the water to those who applied for it”. Apart from the wells at Nook, Moo Meadow and Swine Clough this appears to be the only source of “drinking water” in the parish.

The Rev Thomas Fawcett arrived in the parish in 1770 to take up the post of curate at St Peter's. He had served in a similar role at the chapel of Unsworth in Yorkshire. Two years later he was nominated as master of the Grammar School where he also started up the town's first Sunday school. Six months later he was appointed curate of the ancient Parish Church and, in Dec 1777, he married *Margaret Townson*, the widow of *Thomas Townson*, a surgeon, who had died earlier in the year. Around the year 1800, *Rev Fawcett* was described as “deaf rather” in the military census returns. The document also recorded him as having an “infirm wife”. They had two children that survived into adulthood, *Richard*, who ran the wine merchant's next door and *Margaret*. Brierly remembered, “The mention of parson *Fawcett* and his daughter recalls the fact that she walked like a duck, five over five”. An expression now long lost so that I am still trying to conjure up a vision of it.

Reverend Fawcett was curate of the Parish Church for 43 years and was well respected for his tireless work. He died on Jan 20th 1818 aged 74, and was buried in the Parish Churchyard.



High Street at the bottom of Lord Street, The parsonage was situated at the gable end of the shop and had a small walled and fenced garden at the front.

Though it is hard to imagine, now, that in the middle of the road off Lord Street, roughly parallel with the Armed Forces recruitment centre, stood the 'Coach and Horses'. It was an ancient building and, like the 'Up Steps' you had to climb to reach the front door. To the left of this inn, but set back about a metre, was an attached two-storey structure of a far greater age than the main fabric of the public house. It was taken down in the 1930's, to open up Lord Street, when it was recorded that the attached two-storey structure could date back to the early 17th century.

It will be noticed on the illustration that Brierly nearly makes a mistake at this point by identifying the 'Coach and Horses' as the 'White Horse', but he rectifies his error by putting a couple of lines through it.

The keeper of the inn, at the time of which we speak, was a man called *John Whitehead* and, apart from the business of running an alehouse, *John* was also a master joiner and timber merchant and he ran his timber business, at the rear of his premises, in the yard of the public house.

On February 24th 1834, at about 7 o'clock in the evening, *Mr Charles Wolstencroft*, who was the manager of *John Whitehead's* timber yard, was standing outside the 'Rope and Anchor', the old name for the 'Regent' in Market Place, when a man suddenly approached him dressed in a short, round jacket. He sprang behind *Mr Wolstencroft* and threw a quantity of vitriol, from a pot he held in his hand, into his face, chiefly on his chin. (Vitriol is an ancient name for sulphate

obtained from metals. In its crystalline form it was known as white, green or blue vitriol. In its liquid form it was known as oil of vitriol or just vitriol. Today we call it sulphuric acid and it was in this form that it was used against *Mr Wolstencroft*).

Immediately after the attack, he witnessed the perpetrator run down a narrow passage, that ran in front of the '*Rope and Anchor*', known as Tom's Ginell, in the direction of George Street. He obtained relief from the burning as soon as possible and was relieved to find that, apart from his chin and clothes, had received no great material injury.

Scarcely two hours had passed, since the attack on *Mr Wolstencroft*, before his employer, *Mr John Whitehead*, was treated in a similar but more brutal manner. Whilst he was at the urinal at the '*Angel Inn*' door "the most public place in Oldham". He saw a man run across the moonlight, at the top of Chapel Street, just before 9 o'clock who stopped to "gaze about him".

Mr Whitehead, sensing that there was someone behind him, turned around and, to his surprise, found that vitriol had been thrown upon his face and clothes and in no small quantity.

"Fortunately his eyelids were closed at the time or he would have been ruined forever".

Sensing the outrage of the acid attack, and quickly coming to his senses, he fumbled his way into the nearest of the drinking rooms of the '*Angel*' and procured some water to help ease the burning sensation on his skin.

Dr Rowntree, who we will meet presently, was fetched immediately; his surgery, which building still stands, was only a short distance away on Church Terrace. On arrival, he assisted and prescribed for *John Whitehead*. He suffered shockingly from the effects of the burning liquid, during the Saturday and Sunday the 22nd and 23rd, but the burning pain was beginning to subside by the Monday.

His forehead, eyebrows, nose and under lip were much injured after the attack. His hat, neckerchief and waistcoat all bear marks of the dreadful outrage and were much burned. It was supposed that at least a gill of the liquid was thrown upon his person.

Mr Whitehead, now permanently disfigured, believed that a "turn out" joiner, recently arrested, was the same man he saw running at the top of Chapel Street just before the attack. He remembered that he was one of three "turn out" joiners, who had been drinking at his premises, the '*Coach and Horses*', the same night as the attacks.

The individual accused was a man called *William Spencer*. He was taken into custody on the Monday following the attacks, and it was discovered that he had worked for *Mr Whitehead* as a "turn out" joiner, a few weeks previous to the attack, and had since become a prominent leader in the Joiners' Union. A threatening letter, was discovered in the pocket of *Spencer*, in which was written that *Mr Whitehead's* concern was to be "blackened".

There was a great wave of trade union activity during 1833-1834. The Whig Government at the time was alarmed at the scale of working class discontent and it appears that Oldham was a hotbed of trade union activity itself at this time.

On Saturday night February 22nd 1834, the night after the acid attacks, one of *Mr Whitehead's* new hands had a missile thrown at him whilst he was in the Market Place. On the same night, a cottage on Boardman Ground, which stood on the western side of Cheapside, where another of *Mr Whitehead's* hands lodged, had all the windows smashed.

These various and destructive acts were naturally ascribed to the "turn out" joiners of which there were about twenty. Some of this number left the employ of John Whitehead around the Christmas time of 1833 because, "he would not pay them a full day's wage for working winter days."

They were ruled somewhat, by the length of daylight time, and being that there would be only seven hours at best during mid winter, and the normal working day was one of twelve hours, employer and employee were poles apart.

Some of the trade union activity, it appears, was too radical; maybe they wanted too much too

soon. This incident, in Oldham, was just one example along with many others, in the rest of the country, that would result in the arrest of six farm labourers who would become known as the Martyrs, only a month later, in the village of Tolpuddle. They were sentenced to seven years transportation for trade union activity.

A man called *Thomas Henshall* was also arrested, a short time after for the acid attack on *Mr Whitehead*. It was deemed that, to stop any communication between the two suspects, they were to be separated. *William Spencer* was to be lodged at the lock-ups and *Henshall* was to be held in the attic of the '*George the Fourth*', an inn adjoining the prison on *Lord Street* (which had not been built in 1815).

Thomas Henshall broke out of his confinement and escaped. Some friends or sympathisers handed him a fire poker with which he burned holes, around the lock in the door, until it gave way. He then proceeded to descend the many stairs to the ground floor, and walked through the drinking rooms, "without being observed by the inmates".

A reward of £25 was offered for the detection of the runaway, £5 from *Mr Heywood*, the deputy constable, who was responsible for the confinement of villains, and £20 from *Mr Whitehead*.

It was soon discovered that *Henshall* had skipped town and was seen heading in the direction of Ashton. *Mr Heywood* followed the leads, following the runaway to Manchester and Stockport. He eventually caught his man, working in a timber yard in Macclesfield, and he was committed to Lancaster Castle under the charge of "maiming and disfiguring".

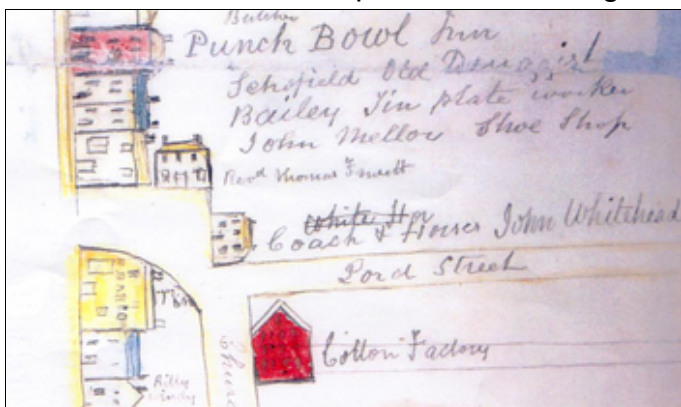
Whilst *Bill Heywood* was consumed with the re-capture of *Henshall*, *William Spencer* also broke free from his confinement, with assistance from sympathisers. His whereabouts may never have been discovered, as there is no mention of him ever being re-caught.

Nearly a month later at 11.30 on a Sunday morning, the timber yard belonging to *Mr Whitehead* was entered into and many saws were bent. Laths and timbers were also damaged and destroyed. There was little doubt that the "turn out" joiners also performed this act.

The map identifies Lord Street running to the right of the '*Coach and Horses*' where it joins on to Church Lane, then the more important street.

The proportions and locations for the rest of Church Lane now become abstract. To accommodate the large illustration of the ancient Parish Church, in the corner of the map, the cotton factory has been squeezed further toward the Coach and Horses than it actually was.

Brierly has drawn two oblong shapes, shaded with dots, further up Church Lane, maybe depicting gravestones. Church Lane ended at the Cotton Factory so the rest of the street must be a churchyard path. If the oblong shapes are gravestones, he has illustrated two more elaborate ones further in the churchyard. Firstly, the grave of his father, *John Brierly* and the year of his death 1836, and secondly a tomb with an ornate surrounding railing. The drawing of the tomb has the word "Dunk" upon it. It appears to be the tomb of *Joseph Dunkerley* of Rhodes House, and the *Dunkerley* family. Although it may not be that Brierly knew the family personally. He may have identified the tomb as the most prominent in the churchyard and therefore as a reference point to mark the gravestone of his father.



A section of the Brierley map featuring Lord Street and the cotton factory on Church Lane.

It will be noticed in the depiction of Church Lane that there are two sets of horizontal lines. In my own opinion, the first set of lines is a railing or a churchyard gate, and the second a small series of steps, to lessen the gradient of the pathway, leading to the church from the main gates near the village stocks. It appears, from the illustration, that the old Parish Church had an inclined path, from the main gates, and not the flight of steps we see today.

The cotton factory is actually Church Lane Mill, built around 1780 by *John Lees*, son of *Daniel Lees* a farmer at Barrowshaw. He had built the factory after outgrowing the premises he had moved into in 1775, lower down the lane, possibly in the building that would become the '*Coach and Horses*' in 1804.

Church Lane Mill was at least four stories high, which does not include the huge loft space under the sloping tiled roof. There were eight windows per floor on its Church Lane side and six windows per floor on its gable end.

In the early years of the factory's life it was driven by horsepower or 'Dutch Wheels' that rotated horizontally and operated from twelve to twenty spindles.

As the Industrial Revolution gained pace, a steam engine was installed, from which sprouted a tall chimney. By 1815, *John Lees* had left the factory and had set up a horse powered spinning concern at Mount Pleasant; *Thomas Cussons* was the owner of the Church Lane mill at this time.

On the 23rd November 1838, there was a fire at Church Lane Mill. Two weeks later a plan was set up by the Oldham Police Commission for establishing a fire brigade service. This may have been brought about by the lack of fire engines and water in dealing with the blaze. The building survived the fire and was patched up; it was eventually taken down around the end of the 19th century. The Magistrates' Court was erected on the site, and this court moved to Rochdale Road recently, with the old building becoming a cafe.

John Lees was a very prominent figure in the parish, for he had purchased the title "Lord of the Manor of Oldham" for £30,000 in 1795. The eccentric *John Lees* had amassed a small fortune from his thriving business and tried to revive ancient rights and entitlements, of the Lord of the Manor, by placing tolls upon the street vendors in the Market Place. The traders showed great indignation and the charges were dropped.

On 24th June 1799, a corps was formed, under the title of the Oldham Association, where it received its colours off *Miss Lees*, daughter of *John Lees*. The colours were consecrated and a sermon was preached by the *Reverend William Winter*. On receiving the colours, *Lees* added. "Ladies we receive these colours with gratitude. We will defend them with fortitude and if the French shoot the rags away we will bring the poles back". In 1803, the Oldham Volunteers were formed, with *John Lees* as Lieutenant.

He built his house adjacent to the factory on Church Lane, where he also erected a house next door, for his son-in-law, *William Chippendale Esq.* They were described as "two handsome modern built houses" and stood between the '*Coach and Horses*' and the cotton factory. An attorney by the name of *John Higginbottom* also lived between the inn and the mill. *Lees*, *Chippendale* and *Higginbottom* all resided on Church Lane in 1815 but, because of the large depiction of the Parish Church on the map, Brierly does not seem to have left much room for the inclusion of them. *John Lees* died in April 1828.

To be continued next month.

Courtesy of, and ©, Gary Millward

Please note: Although extensively researched, few resources (other than Butterworth and Rowbottom) are identified so opinions expressed, have to be regarded as such, ie., opinions and not proven fact. This research, 'labour of love', was probably completed around the late 20th century, before family and local history material was so widely available on the internet. Many of the modern shops and businesses identified as 'now' have also disappeared from the streets of Oldham (as of 2020).

Links :

* Full map and transcription from the back of it [HERE](#)

* Left top quarter of the Brierly map with Butterworth's 1817 map of Oldham as .pdf [HERE](#)

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Another welcome contribution from our reader, Rodney Hampson.

**from : William Rowbottom's Diary**

**Handloom Weaver of Burnley Lane, 1787 – 1830**

**John and Mary Eastwood**

*Serialised in the Oldham Standard January 4<sup>th</sup> 1887 to March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1889*

*Edited by Samuel Andrew with his comments and observations in italics.*

**1806 July 29<sup>th</sup>** - John Eastwood, of Highgate [possibly Haggate], near Royton, was committed to Lancaster Castle, charged with the wilful murder of Nicholas Kershaw on Preston Racecourse, on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> inst.

**1808 February 8<sup>th</sup>** - Last night Mr. Joseph Nadin, thief-catcher, of Manchester, and his assistants, came to the house of John Eastwood, of Highgate, near Royton, and took Eastwood and his wife into custody; searched his house for forged Bank of England notes, but found no notes, but took a large sum in gold and silver. Nadin conveyed them to the New Bayley, where they were examined on a charge of uttering forged notes, and where both committed to Lancaster Castle for trial.

*“Nadin the Thief-catcher” was a terror to evil-doers all over the country. This being a capital crime, he was employed by the county authorities to “run in” capital offenders. “Nadin and his runners” as they were called, were well-known in Oldham and the neighbourhood. Old Sam Bamford describes him as a coarse and brutal man, but that is what we might expect from breakers of the law which Nadin was charged to maintain. From recent accounts I am glad to learn that Nadin had two sides to his character.*

In the first of these diary entries we may be a little shocked to find John Eastwood charged with murder. However a week later the Manchester paper tells us that John Eastwood is to be sent to the next session of the Assizes at Lancaster.

**Manchester Mercury. Tuesday August 5<sup>th</sup> 1806:** Committed to Lancaster Castle by Richard Palmer, coroner, John Eastwood, charged with the wilful murder of Nicholas Kershaw of Preston. ( listed with other unrelated sentences passed down)

And in a further two weeks the Lancaster papers described the new session and list those being tried.

**Lancaster Gazette. Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> 1806:** this day our assizes commence, before the Hon. Baron Graham, and the Hon. Thomas Sutton, Knight. – there are fifty four prisoners to take their trials, (*amongst them*) John Eastwood, with the murder of Nicholas Kershaw of Preston.

I failed to find a report of the actual trial but the history section of the Lancashire Post tells us that towards the end of the Assizes in late August the Jury found John Eastwood not guilty of the murder of Nicholas Kershaw and presumably he returned to Royton and his home at Haggate.

But then two years later as “our William” records in his diary John is in bother again.

**Lancaster Gazette. Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> 1808:** on Wednesday se’nnight, at the new Bayley, Manchester, John and Mary Eastwood, of Royton, near Oldham, were committed to Lancaster Castle, by R A Farrington, Esq., for uttering forged Bank of England notes.

**Lancaster Gazette Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> 1808** tells us that John and Mary Eastwood would be tried for uttering five pounds, Bank of England notes at Oldham.

But there is no mention of Joseph Eastwood.

NB: £5 in 1808 is equal to about £300 in 2020

**Lancaster Gazette Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> 1808** tells us that both John and Joseph Eastwood pleaded guilty.

**Lancaster Gazette Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> 1808** tells us that John and Joseph



Eastwood were sentenced for minor offences of having forged bills in their possession and were each transported for fourteen years.

**Manchester Mercury Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 1808.** Lancaster Assizes. At Lancaster assizes, which commenced on Wednesday last, before the Hon Justice Lawrence and the Hon Justice Le Blanc, the following prisoners have taken their trials:- John Eastwood for uttering a forged five pound note at Oldham; and Joseph Eastwood for having forged notes in his possession; were sentenced to be transported for fourteen years. Mary Eastwood for uttering a forged note was acquitted.

Presumably Mary Eastwood returned to Haggate where she disappears into history.

We learn nothing from the newspapers about the early life of John and Mary Eastwood, although they may have baptised two children at St Paul's in 1800 and 1803. The newspapers publish no personal detail unlike today where we would have an age and how much their house was worth just to start us off, like.

I must confess Joseph Nadin was a character I knew nothing about but luckily the Internet does:-

Joseph Nadin was born in 1765 in Manchester where he worked as a spinner before becoming a thief-catcher. For each thief he captured, he was paid £2 and received a certificate that exempted its holder from public office. He sold the tickets for cash - between £350 and £400 each in 1816.

By 1803, Nadin was Manchester's deputy constable and had begun a career of repression and corruption; he victimised innocent men as well as criminal

And I found this physical description of him:-

Joseph Nadin was about 6ft 1in in height, with an uncommon breadth and solidity of frame. His head was full-sized, his complexion sallow, his hair dark and slightly grey; his features were broad and non-intellectual, his voice loud, his language coarse and illiterate, and his manner rude and overbearing to equals or inferiors. He was exceedingly crafty in his business, and somewhat unfeeling. He was certainly a somewhat remarkable person in uncommon times. He showed that he had the homely tact to take care of his own interests. He housed a good harvest whilst the sun was up, and retired to spend his evening in ease and plenty ...

Nadin retired in March 1821, purchased an estate in Cheshire and lived there until he died at the age of 83, in 1848.



Joseph Nadin

He was buried at St James Manchester March 20<sup>th</sup> 1848 aged 80 years

I was rather hoping for a more detailed biography but the Lancashire papers published a bland report.

**Liverpool Mail: Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> 1848:**  
Deaths: on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst , aged 80 years, Joseph Nadin of Cheadle Moseley, Cheshire, and formerly deputy constable of Manchester,

**The Blackburn Standard**  
**Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1848 :**

On Wednesday last, at his residence, Cheadle Moseley, at an advanced age, Joseph Nadin Esq., formerly and for a very long period deputy constable of Manchester.

~~~~~

An email enquiry from the USA ...

I recently discovered that Old Blind Joe, the statue of whom is in Alexandra Park, is my 4th great grandfather.

Could you help me by sharing potential bookstores or libraries that might be able to give me more details about his life or his family history that I might not have been able to find out about online? I found some basics about how he was blind at birth, that he had gone to a school for the blind but didn't stay there long, that he was not only the town crier but also a Methodist minister. That he didn't have a sense of humor though. But I'd like to find out even more if there are books about his life that I may be able to purchase.

Thank you

Coincidentally, there is a picture of 'Blind Joe' and a little about him, on p. 14, in the account of the Brierly Map.

If you can give further help, please reply to Hilda Bowen <hildaclarkbowen@gmail.com >

~~~~~

## From Mary Pendlebury, another glimpse of a long-gone way of life ...

I couldn't resist this advert, the top one, when I was looking for something else in Worrall's 1871 Directory of Oldham.

I have looked up 'peggying' and it is a phrase in use in the Navy in the 1970s or so and referred to cleaning and washing so is probably an old term.

A peggy is described as a washerwoman's dolly in my Chambers Dictionary. Follows on from dolly-tubs etc.

I love the reference to "respectable" grocers and Noggins, Gills, Pints and Quarts. I've heard of the last three but never knew a Noggin was a measure of liquid.

Anyway, thought it was interesting given that it was 1871 and was it advertising their version of a detergent. I wonder what was in it?

**Editor's note** ... a 'noggin' was about one quarter of a pint, which is the same measure as a 'gill'. If my memory serves, as a child, I remember men of an older generation would speak of going to the local pub for a 'noggin of ale' which, in their case, usually meant more than one!

98 ADVERTISEMENTS. Worrall's 1871

Registered Trade Mark—"All Peggying."



EVERYBODY SHOULD USE

**TRAVIS'S WASHING SOLUTION**

IF THEY WANT SHORTER HOURS OF LABOUR!

No Rubbing or Boiling of Clothes required.

Give it a trial, and ask your neighbours, for once used right always used.

May be had in Bottles, from any respectable Grocer, in Noggins, Gills, Pints or Quarts.

**JOSEPH TRAVIS,**

Wholesale Manufacturer of Washing Solution and Vinegar,

**SELF-HELP WASHING SOLUTION WORKS,**

UPPERMILL, SADDLEWORTH, near MANCHESTER.

DIRECTIONS WITH EACH BOTTLE.

Part of a page from Worrall's 1871 Directory of Oldham.

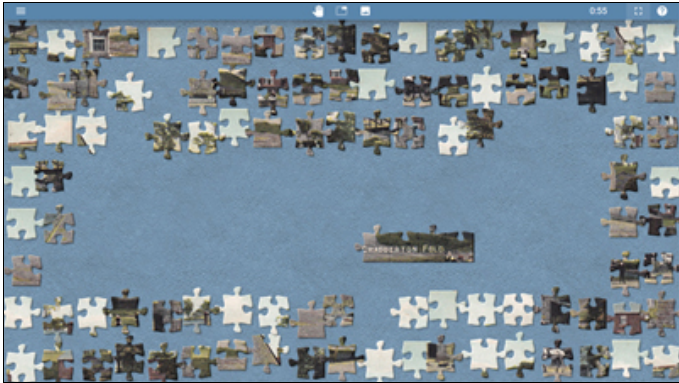
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This link should probably come with an addiction warning ... if you're easily distracted from any task already in hand!

Dorothy Bintley emailed me with a link to the National Archives and writes :

I follow The National Archives, they have put out lots of stuff during lockdown, they do free talks, you can access past ones and I'm addicted to their online jigsaws!

You might like to use this link to their 'Boredom Busters' in the next Newsletter: [HERE](#)



The link to the jigsaws is the last one on the page ... but the others look good, as well.

The fun gets even better, though ... if you finish all the N.A. jigsaws, you can even upload your own picture and create a jigsaw ... as many pieces as you want, from an easy 6 or 8 to around 1,000!

Need to go now ... just started a new jigsaw!

Thanks, Dorothy!

~~~~~

**A short selection of entries from the MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE [HERE](#) ...**

since the last newsletter :

\* The Portico a place to put on your must-visit list.

[HERE](#)

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* Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Centre. Digital Collections and more

[HERE](#)

~~~~~

\* England's lesser known ancient monument[s]

[HERE](#)

~~~~~

* Worsley New Hall Project

[HERE](#)

~~~~~

\* BE OUT WHEN YOU'RE IN, WITH LOCKDOWN AT CHETHAM'S LIBRARY

[HERE](#)

~~~~~

* An interesting post on Dr. Olive Claydon pioneering Oldham woman doctor, [by](#) one of our members. Well done Dorothy

[HERE](#),

~~~~~

\* Across Great Britain there are @CWGCwar graves & memorials at over 12,000 locations, ranging from dramatic memorials to small local churchyards. We've created an interactive map to explore some of the highlights in your region:

[HERE](#)

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* Irish ancestry research experts Paul Blake and Maggie Loughran explain how to find Irish wills.

[HERE](#)

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\* What are Scottish Poor Law records?

[HERE](#)

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* For much more, visit the MLFHS Facebook Page :[HERE](#)

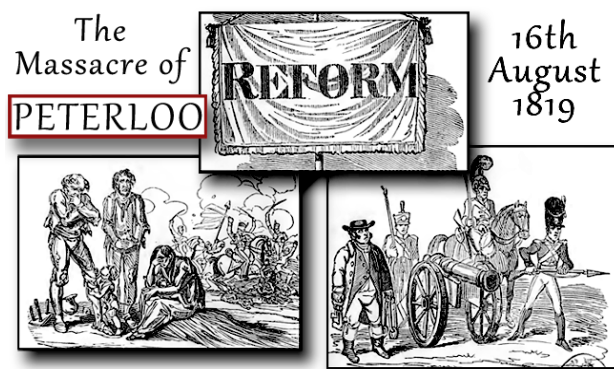
And [HERE](#) is the link to the MLFHS Twitter page.

For some reason unknown to me, Facebook wouldn't let me scroll down past January 20th!

~~~~~

## 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 history, 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!

### Coronavirus Pandemic

**Oldham Local Studies and Archives is closed.**

**However the restrictions are subject to change at short notice.**

**Check the website [HERE](#) for up to date details and information.**

**Local Studies and Archives at 84 Union Street, Oldham, [OL1 1DN](#),**

**In normal times** 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
 Tameside Local & Family History - <http://tamesidefamilyhistory.co.uk/contents.htm>
 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](#)

Historical Maps of parish boundaries [HERE](#)

Some Local Archives

Barnsley Museum & Discovery Centre – www.experience-barnsley.com

Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](#)

Bury – 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

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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### For the Gallery

**1908 Temperance certificates :**

**Horace Ratcliffe at the top ... Vincent Ratcliffe at the bottom  
they were brothers, of 47, Chadderton Fold**

Courtesy of Colin Ratcliffe



HEALDS GREEN (Chadderton) PRIM. METH.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION.

WINE IS A ROGUE



IT IS GOOD NEITHER TO EAT FLESH NOR TO DRINK WINE NOR ANYTHING WHEREBY.




DRINK IS RUINOUS

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT



PURITY. TRUTH. LOVE.

## Temperance Pledge.

By Divine assistance I will abstain from all Intoxicating drinks as Beverages and discountenance all the causes and Practices of Intemperance

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENCE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ WITNESS \_\_\_\_\_

DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

THY BROTHER STUMBLETH OR IS OFFENDED OR IS MADE WEAK




ONWARD PUBLISHING OFFICE, LIMITED, MANCHESTER. COPYRIGHT.



HEALDS GREEN (Chadderton) PRIM. METH.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION.

WINE IS A ROGUE




IT IS GOOD NEITHER TO EAT FLESH NOR TO DRINK WINE NOR ANYTHING WHEREBY.

DRINK IS RUINOUS

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT



PURITY. TRUTH. LOVE.

## Temperance Pledge.

By Divine assistance I will abstain from all Intoxicating drinks as Beverages and discountenance all the causes and Practices of Intemperance


NAME *Wincent Peter*

RESIDENCE *47 Chadderton Road*

DATE *Feb 21 1898* WITNESS *Mr. J. H. ...*

DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

THY BROTHER STUMBLETH OR IS OFFENDED OR IS MADE WEAK



ONWARD PUBLISHING OFFICE, LIMITED, MANCHESTER. COPYRIGHT.



**A Different Viewpoint of Oldham Town Hall or War Memorial from those we normally see**



**The Duck Lake ... Alexandra Park**



More postcard scans, from the collection of photos, scans and postcards, sent to me by **Colin Ratcliffe**, from and about his family who had lived at 47 Chadderton Fold.

Many thanks, Colin, for your kind contributions.