

# 'e-Owls'



## Contact us :

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

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

**May 2021**

## MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

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### Branch News :

Following March's Annual Meeting of the MLFHS Oldham Branch

#### Branch Officers for 2021 -2022 :

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



*A Street Market*

### Oldham Branch Meetings :

**all M&LFHS Meetings, Branch Meetings and other public activities  
are 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 :**

As I sit writing these few words, the sun is shining – what a glorious few days we have had.

For those of you who could not join us for the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society, the elected officers remain the same for the next 12 months.

Our research into events in Oldham in 1921 continues and we would welcome any contributions readers can make to ensure this project is a success. Your stories and pictures would be most welcome.

We continue with our monthly meetings on Zoom for the time being, until public meetings are allowed again. When that time comes, we will try to incorporate Zoom into our physical meetings in the hope that members from across the Country will continue to support us.

Enjoy reading this month's newsletter and don't forget, contributions of your articles and stories will be gladly received by our newsletter editor.

My Best Wishes

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,

I can hardly believe it ... as I sit writing this, the sun is shining and it is actually **hot** and not just warm! It made me wonder just what I was actually feeling, 12 months ago, as I wrote my comments and we were in the 2nd month of lockdown. I wrote that "... although in many ways the situation has deteriorated, in other ways, for some of us, a new 'normality' is evolving ... my own 'new normality' is taking some getting used to! Instead of meetings and constant backwards and forwards to Manchester and Oldham, and the company of like-minded friends, I'm making shopping lists for my son instead of wandering along supermarket aisles and picking up whatever caught my eye for our own next meals! It's a case of 'swings and roundabouts' and being grateful to be safe and well, still."

Certainly, when we look back over the past 13 months I think we would have found it difficult, then, to imagine just what changes in our lives we would have to make. Who would have heard of 'social distancing' and lockdown? Who would have imagined that, over a year later, the activities we once enjoyed and took for granted would still be missing from our lives or, so severely restricted, that we would still be watching the pandemic statistics on the news every day? However, we've learned to live with the difficulties (admittedly, so much harder for some than others), and so many of us have had the famous 'jab' which, hopefully, will become the passport to a more relaxed future.

In this month's newsletter we continue adding to our '1921 Memories' project and include a piece from Linda, our chairman, about an Oldham woman who entered the policeforce and proved that women could be just as effective as the men on the force! There are also a couple of newspaper items ... one to make you gasp in disbelief; the other about the Oldham Art Exhibition, with a list of artists many of whom are still famous, in their own right, today. The WW1 artist, C. R. W. Nevinson, is amongst them.

We also have scans from a Bible of 1685 (in the Gallery) and a little bit about them in the e-Postbag. They are of interest because they record the births of William Jones, Oldham's first Mayor, and his siblings, on the endpapers. The family story is told in another article ... a link to which is in the e-Postbag and in the Gallery. Also in our e-postbag is *Memories of the 'Tin Mission,' Neville Street, Oldham*, complete with a collection of photos.

And, last but not least, in the 'Mixed Bag' we continue our story of Mary Ann Higgs with, Part III : *A First Night in the Workhouse Tramp Ward*; and *'The Glass window Tax'* from Giles Shaw.

I hope you continue to enjoy reading the newsletter,  
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

### Online Oldham & District Branch Meetings on Zoom

#### Last Month's Branch Meeting :



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."*

Judging from the appreciative comments in the chat box, and some similar emails later, I think we can safely say that the talk was really enjoyed by the attendees. Blackpool might have a roller coaster on the Pleasure Beach but I think we were also on a 'roller coaster' ... one of memories! We 'visited' Blackpool in the days before it became a popular resort and then again as it grew in size and popularity until we saw it in all its glory with the annual 'lights'. We met 'the laughing policeman' again, on the Pleasure Beach ... impossible not to start laughing as well! Chris also showed us a variety of old Railway Posters, and comic seaside postcards from the Bamforth collection of the mid 20th century. Then it was time to remember donkry rides on the beach, and the early boarding houses where 'use of the cruet' was an item on the week's bill;



holiday camps and caravans were next with Billy Butlin's at Skegness and Wallis' Holiday Camp, at Cayton Bay, near Scarborough. There were photos of the early days of foreign holidays in Spain and, coming up to the present day, enormous cruise ships, and fireworks in Sydney ... before ending with a futuristic trip to the moon, bookable now!

It was a nostalgic trip down 'Memory Lane' with a final question of, "Which of these holidays, past or present, were the most enjoyable, for you?"

Our thanks to Chris for such a lighthearted hour, raising our spirits in a much needed way.

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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. The zoom app is free to download and use.

It would be of great help to us, for the smooth running of the talks (especially if 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. Please be aware that the zoom app on tablets and phones does not offer as many user-personalisation settings as found on a laptop or desktop computer.

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

**Booking for an online talk is essential** and bookings are 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,  
8th,  
May  
at  
2 pm



***Confessions of a Country Lane Researcher ...***

A free illustrated talk, on interesting family and local history items, from over 40 years as a researcher.

A talk given by Tony Foster, Saturday 8th May 2021, at 2pm.

Free booking on [Eventbrite](#) or by email to the newsletter/website editor.

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Saturday,  
12th  
June,  
at  
2 pm



## **'Market to Supermarkets and beyond ... 200 years of shopping'**

Covering the main changes in shopping over the past 200 years.

A free online talk, on zoom, given by Michael Winstanley,

Free booking on [Eventbrite](#) from 3rd May or by email to the newsletter or website editor.

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### **MLFHS Branches delivering their monthly meetings and talks on-line**

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

MLFHS, ANGLO-SCOTTISH BRANCH ONLINE MEETING	Saturday, 15th May, at 2 pm	<i>'The Great Tapestry of Scotland' by Sue Whitaker</i>
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Go to the Anglo-Scottish website for more information and booking details

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**Bolton Website Pages** [HERE](#)

|                                              |                                   |                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MLFHS<br>Bolton Branch<br>online<br>Meetings | Wed.,<br>5th<br>May<br>at<br>7:30 | <i>'Females in the Family:<br/>Ladies, Ships,<br/>Locomotives...'<br/>by Jackie Depelle</i> |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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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**MLFHS, Manchester Ancestors**

|                                         |                                        |                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MLFHS<br>aka<br>Manchester<br>Ancestors | Saturday,<br>1st<br>May,<br>at<br>2 pm | <i>The Flour Dealer in<br/>Georgian England</i><br><br>A talk given by<br>Hilary Hartigan |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Booking on [Eventbrite](#)

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

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**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.

\* Two new additions to the **memorial inscriptions** database in the member area, both relating to the Bolton area:

**Belmont Congregational Chapel** - 277 names from 72 memorials

**Edgworth URC** - 863 names from 205 memorials

Both were originally transcribed by Turton Local History Society and re-typed for online publication by Colin Calderbank

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\* An interesting new document has been added to the member area Document Collection (General - Military):

**The Gallipoli diary of Lt Charles Earsham Cooke M C 1896 - 1917** 1/9th Battalion Manchester Regiment (Territorial).

This is published with the kind permission of his nephew, Richard Cooke.

This albeit short diary provides a first hand account of Cooke's involvement in the Gallipoli campaign between 5 May and 2 September 1915

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\* Another addition to the Great Database. This time another **3,142 baptisms at St. Mary, Prestwich 1769-1791**, bringing total coverage to 1752-1791.

Thanks to Susan Mayall for these

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\* Listings of the **memorial inscriptions** for another batch of Manchester/Salford burial grounds have been added to the descriptive documents linked to the memorial inscription search in the great Database. These allow the memorials to be browsed rather than simply searched for a specific name.

**These relate to:**

St Mary Mulberry St (RC)      Manchester

St George      Hulme

Levenshulme Wesleyan Chapel

St Andrew      Levenshulme

St John      Longsight

St James      Gorton

Brookfield Unitarian Church      Gorton

New Jerusalem Salford (from Owen MSS)

St Ann Brindle Heath  
 Sacred Trinity Salford (two listings)  
 Weaste Cemetery Salford  
 Wesleyan Chapel Irwell St Salford (from Owen MSS)  
 New Windsor Old Independent Chapel Salford  
 Barton on Irwell Roman Catholic Burial Ground  
 Barton on Irwell Wesleyan Chapel  
 St Catherine Dumplington Barton on Irwell  
 Unitarian Chapel Monton  
 Unitarian Free Swinton  
 St Mark Worsley

Thanks are due to Cheyvonne Bower, for producing these helpful listings.

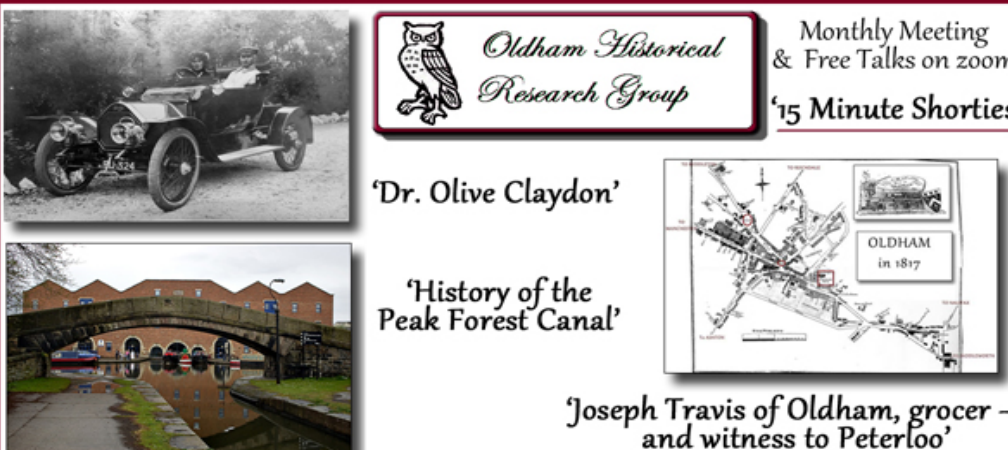
## Meetings and Talks at other Societies &/or Venues

**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.**

### Oldham Historical Research Group: ... Online Meetings on zoom



**Oldham Historical Research Group**

Monthly Meeting & Free Talks on zoom  
**'15 Minute Shorties'**

**'Dr. Olive Claydon'**

**'History of the Peak Forest Canal'**

**'Joseph Travis of Oldham, grocer – and witness to Peterloo'**

### **'15 Minute Shorties'**

Three short talks on subjects of personal interest :

The talks will be :

\* **'Joseph Travis of Oldham, grocer - and witness to Peterloo'** an illustrated talk given by Anne Grimshaw

\* **'A Brief History of the Peak Forest Canal, stretching from Portland Basin in Ashton-under-Lyne To Bugsworth Basin'** an illustrated talk given by Sheila Goodyear

\* **'Dr. Olive Claydon'** ... born in 1876 she was a pioneering woman doctor, and the first female GP in Oldham. an illustrated talk given by Dorothy Bintley

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](#)



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. Website [HERE](#)

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

See their website [HERE](#)

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**Tameside History Club :**

Meetings on zoom.

Website and programme [HERE](#)

&

**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'**

**Mary Ann Higgs, O.B.E. (née Kingsland) 1854 - 1937**

As we know, local author Carol Talbot gave a talk, on suffragette Annie Kenney, to the Olham & District Branch of MLFHS, at the February meeting. However, a few days later, she also gave a talk, to Oldham Historical Research Group, on another Oldham woman, this time one largely forgotten, named Mary Higgs. I found that Mary had written three books and, in the last couple of months' newsletters, I transcribed some pages from one of them. The three titles that I found were all related to her lifelong aim to provide decent and safe accommodation, especially for women in poverty, exposing the evil circumstances in which so many were forced to live.

So far, extracts have been from the opening chapter of, '*Glimpses into the Abyss*', and the first two parts of '*Five days and nights as tramp among tramps*'.

**Continued :**

***FIVE DAYS AND FIVE NIGHTS AS A TRAMP AMONG TRAMPS***

**III. *A First Night in the Workhouse Tramp Ward***

We were glad that the next ordeal before us would be the workhouse bath! For we were now really "destitute"; after purchasing a little more food we had only twopence left. We were so jaded by the imperfect sleep of the two last nights that we decided not to leave the town, but to wait about all day, and enter the workhouse at six o'clock. We had noticed a reading room and a park: to the latter we found our way. The day was gloomy and damp, but not actually wet, except for a slight drizzle at intervals. In the park we found shelter, drinking water, and sanitary convenience. We disturbed a sleeping man in a summer-house, and quickly left him. We wandered into every nook in the park, and talked, rested, or slept. The hours went very slowly, but we grew refreshed. Towards mid-day we made a frugal meal on our remaining provisions, drinking from a fountain. We still had a little sugar-plasmon left and a pinch of tea. In the afternoon, growing cold and stiff, we went to the free library, and stayed there reading an hour or two. Two or three ladies were there reading, but they took no notice of us beyond a stare, we had put our shawls over our heads, and might be taken for mill-hands. As soon as we thought it was time we set off to find the workhouse. It was about two miles, as near as we can guess, from the centre of the town, and on the way to it we made the acquaintance of an old woman who was going there. She was lame in one leg with rheumatism, and walked slowly, and she



also stopped to beg at houses en route. She got a cup of tea and a glass of hot milk between the town and the workhouse. She was walking from P--- to H--- to find her brother, having been in the workhouse infirmary for many months. She said she had received a letter from her brother, offering her a home if she would come to him. She lost his address and could not write, so she had no resource but to walk from workhouse to workhouse till she reached her destination. She was very tired, and groaned with pain during the night, and almost lost heart and turned back, but in the morning she plucked up courage to go on. She had the advantage of being too infirm to be made to work hard, and she evidently knew how to beg food. She seemed a decent woman, and had reared a large family of children, who were all married, and had "enough to do for themselves." Her brother, she said, was in comfortable circumstances, and she would be all right if she found him. Her clothing was well mended, but not clean.

We arrived, alone, a few minutes before six, at the workhouse lodge, which stood all by itself down a long lane which ended in iron gates. This lodge was very small, and was occupied by a man, the workhouse buildings being a little way off. There were a good many trees around, and it was a pretty spot, but lonely. The man was a male pauper, and no one else was in sight. We had to enter his hut to answer questions, which he recorded in a book, and we were then out of sight of the house. The nearest building was the tramp ward, the door of which stood open; but there was no one in it, as we afterwards found. A single woman would be completely at the mercy of this man. If our pilgrimage has had no other result, I shall be glad to be able to expose the positive wrong of allowing a male pauper, in a lonely office, to admit the female tramps. When we first arrived at the gate he told us to wait a few minutes, as we were before time. Some male tramps came up, and we saw him send away one poor, utterly ragged man, who begged pitifully to be admitted. The lodge-keeper told him he could not claim because he had been in that workhouse within the month. So he limped away. He could not possibly reach another workhouse that night. The man admitted three others, and sent them on to the male quarters. He let us in at five minutes to six. We thought this was kind, as he might have kept us waiting, and it had begun to rain. He took my friend's name, occupation, age, where she came from, and her destination, and then sent her on, rather imperatively, to the tramp ward. She stood at the door, some way off, waiting for me. He kept me inside his lodge, and began to take the details. He talked to me in what I suppose he thought a very agreeable manner, telling me he wished I had come alone earlier, and he would have given me a cup of tea. I thanked him, wondering if this was usual, and then he took my age, and finding I was a married woman (I must use his exact words), he said, "Just the right age for a bit of funning; come down to me later in the evening." I was too horror-struck to reply; besides, I was in his power, with no one within call but my friend, and all the conditions unknown and strange. Probably silence was best; he took it for consent, and, as other tramps were coming, let me pass on. I made a mental vow to expose him before I left the place. He took my bundle, and asked if I had any money. I gave him my last penny. I received a wooden token for the bundle. I then joined my friend, and told her she had better give up her umbrella and her penny. She went to do so after some tramps had passed, and though I stood and waited, and she was only gone a moment, he tried to kiss her as she gave him the things!

When she joined me, very indignant, we went forward into an oblong room containing six bedsteads with wire mattresses and filthy straw pillows. A wooden table and bench and "Regulations for Tramps" were the remaining articles of furniture. There were big, rather low, windows on three sides; the bottom panes were frosted, except one, which had been broken and mended with plain glass, and overlooked the yard where the male tramps worked. Presently our Wayfaring friend arrived, and we all three sat and waited a considerable time. A solitary woman might have been at the mercy of the man at the gate some time. No one was in sight, or came near us, till at last a motherly-looking woman entered by a door leading to a room beyond. She asked us if we were clean. Our fellow-traveller (whose garments were at any rate not clean) was let off, as she had spent the last night in a workhouse tramp ward. We said we

should like a bath, and were shown into a bath-room and allowed to bathe ourselves. Our clothes were taken from us, and we were given blue nightgowns. These looked fairly clean, but had been worn before. They were dirty round the neck, and stained in places; we *hoped* they had been stoved! The old woman dressed in one without bathing. We found in the morning that both blankets and nightgowns were folded up and put away on shelves, just as we found them, apparently, and left for new comers. We were told that the blankets were “often stoved,” but I have since ascertained that they are not stoved at all workhouses every day. All kinds of personal vermin might be left in them by a tramp who went straight out of dirty clothes to bed, and even a bath might leave them open to suspicion. We saw several bugs on the ceiling in this ward. Perhaps the using of others’ dirty nightgowns was the most revolting feature in our tramp. At neither workhouse were the garments handed to us clean. We found afterwards that by Government regulation clean bath water and a clean garment can be *demande*d, but this we did not know. It should be *supplied*. After the bath we were each given four blankets and told to make our beds and get into them. The art of bed-making on a wire mattress, without any other mattress to cover it, is a difficult one, even with four blankets. The regulation number is two, and with these I fancy the best plan would be to roll yourself round and lie on the mattress. For the wire abstracts heat from the body, and *one* is an insufficient protection. Even with one spread all over and another doubled under the body and two above I woke many times cold. In winter the ward is warmed by hot-water pipes, but the blankets are the same. A plank bed, such as is given in some workhouses, would probably be warmer, though harder. Put to bed, like babies, at about half-past six, the kind woman in charge brought us our food. We felt rather more cheerful after our bath, with the large, airy room, instead of the foul, common lodging-house; only one thing had exercised my mind - “What did that pauper mean by my going to him later?” However, I told the portress all about what he said. She was very indignant, and said I must tell the superintendent of the tramp ward next morning, that she had to leave us, but would take good care to lock us in, and I need not be afraid, he could not get at us. We were very hungry, having had nothing to eat since about twelve o’clock. Anything eatable would be welcome, and we were also thirsty. We were given a small lading-can three parts full of hot gruel and a thick crust of bread. The latter we were *quite* hungry enough to eat, but when we tasted the gruel it was *perfectly saltless*. A salt-box on the table, into which many fingers had been dipped was brought us; the old woman said we were “lucky to get that.” But we had no spoons; it was impossible to mix the salt properly into the ocean of nauseous food. I am fond of gruel, and in my hunger and thirst could easily have taken it if fairly palatable. But I could only cast in a few grains of salt and drink a little to moisten the dry bread; my companion could not stomach it at all, and the old woman, being accustomed to workhouse ways, had a little tea in her pocket, and got the kind attendant to pour the gruel down the w.c. and infuse her tea with hot water from the bath tap. We were then left locked in alone, at eight o’clock, when no more tramps would be admitted. The bath-room, containing our clothes, was locked; the closet was left unlocked; a pail was also given us for sanitary purposes. We had no means of assuaging the thirst which grew upon us as the night went on; for dry bread, even if washed down with thin gruel, is very provocative of thirst. I no longer wonder that tramps beg twopence for a drink and make for the nearest public-house. Left alone, we could hear outside the voice of the porter. I wondered if he expected us to open a window. However, we stayed quiet, but had one “scare.” Suddenly a door at the end of the room was unlocked, and a *man* put his head in! He only asked, “how many?” and when we answered “Three,” he locked us in speedily. I could not, however, get to sleep for a long time after finding that a *man* had the key of our room, especially as our elderly friend had told us of another workhouse where the portress left the care of the female tramps to a man almost entirely, and she added that “he did what he liked with them.” I expressed horror at such a state of things, but she assured me it was so, and warned us not on any account to go into that workhouse. She said, however, that it was some time since she had been there, and “things might be different.”

At last my companions slept the sleep of weariness. Sounds outside had ceased; within, my friend coughed and the old woman groaned and shifted. The trees waved without the windows, and two bugs slowly crawled on the ceiling. I measured distances with my eye. They would not drop on *my* bed! I pity the tramp who has only two blankets on a wire mattress. I could not get thoroughly warm with four; some part of me seemed constantly to feel the cold wire meshes through the thin covering. The floor would be preferable. I have been told since at one workhouse, with considerable surprise on the part of the portress, that the male tramps prefer the floor to their plank bed! I do not wonder. The pillow was too dirty to put one's face on, so I covered it with a blanket.

In this workhouse the management was lax - too lax to ensure cleanliness; clothes and towels appeared to have been used, and blankets were probably unstoved. As our own clothes are taken away and locked up, it would be impossible for a tramp to wash any article of personal clothing. Consequently she must tramp on, growing day by day more dirty, in spite of baths, especially as *really dirty* work is required of her in return for "board and lodging!" There was no comb for the hair; fortunately we had one in our pocket.

In the morning we were roused about seven o'clock and told to dress. Our clothes were in the bath-room. We had the luxury of a morning wash. Our garments had been left on the floor just as we took them off, and so were our companion's, which looked decidedly unclean by daylight. The kind attendant said she had to go, but waited till I had told the portress (who arrived to set us our task) the conduct of the man at the gate, and I claimed her protection, as I should have to pass him when going out. Both exclaimed when I told his words; and one said, "Plenty of cups of tea I expect he's given, the villain!" The portress assured me she would watch me out, and that I need not fear him, as he daren't touch me when she was there, and she said that after I had gone she should report him.

Before this happened, however, we had our breakfast given us, which was exactly a repetition of supper - saltless gruel and dry bread. We ate as much as we could and were very thirsty. I had drunk some water with my hand from the bath-room tap as soon as I got up. We put what bread we could not eat into our pocket as a supply for the day, and were told to empty the rest of our gruel down the w.c. It thus disappeared; but what waste! A mug of coffee or tea would at least have washed down the dry bread; or a quarter of the quantity of gruel, properly made, would have been acceptable, with a mug of cold water for a proper drink.

The following list shows how we had spent our money :--

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Lodging, first night ..... | 6d. |
| Lodging, second night ...  | 8d  |
| Loaf .....                 | 2½d |
| Two cobs .....             | 3d  |
| 1 brown cob .....          | 1½d |
| 1 tea-.. lb. butter .....  | 4d  |
| ¼ lb. cheese .....         | 2d  |
| In hand .....              | 2d  |

We ate the cheese for dinner for two days. I do not think we could have kept our strength up for five days' tramping if it had not been for the plasmon mixed with our sugar, which we ate on our bread and butter or drank in our tea. My companion was very exhausted before evening this day, and her cough troubled her a great deal. Another week of this life would have made us both thoroughly ill. It is not only exposure and poor food, but anxiety as to the next night's experience, that tells on the mind. Yet we knew that in two nights we should be no longer friendless. Pity the poor woman who has no home. Is it not almost inevitable that she should sink?

As we had now no food, we were glad to appropriate the remainder of our workhouse bread, putting it in our pocket. We should have nothing else that day, for the portress told us when we had done our work we might go out at eleven o'clock. We thanked her - we had expected to stay another night, and perhaps pick oakum, but we should have almost starved on the food, as our sugar was in our bundle, so we were relieved to find we had only to clean the tramp ward and go. We were told to "sweep the ward and make all clean." We did not think of *scrubbing* the room, which, as it was large, would have been a big task, but the portress afterwards scolded us for not doing so. It was not dirty, so we swept it, cleaned the taps, bath, and wash-basins, washed up the pots, dusted, and, having made all tidy (except that we could find nowhere to empty our dust-pan, unless it was the w.c.), we waited for release. We sat on the form, and when the portress came in and saw us sitting down she spoke to us very sharply. I suppose she did not like to see us idle. We told her we would have scrubbed the floor if we had known we ought; but we did not know, as we had never been in a workhouse before. She was somewhat mollified, and let us off with a mild scolding some time before eleven o'clock. She stood at the door and watched us receive our things from the male pauper and leave the gates. He hastened to give us them without a word, and also restored our two pennies. We said farewell at the end of the lane to our companion, who was going the opposite way, and commenced our tramp. We expected the next workhouse to be about four miles away, in a town which we knew lay between us and our final destination. But it turned out that the Union we were leaving and the Union on the outskirts of the town to which we were ultimately bound absorbed all the paupers from the intervening places, though of considerable size. So we had really a very long walk before us; but, not knowing this, as it was very gloomy and inclined to rain heavily, we thought we had better seek shelter. We bought some butter with a penny, and walked on to find a quiet place to eat something, as it was some hours since we had had breakfast. We could not find anywhere but a damp stone wall in some fields. There we feasted on bread and butter and plasmon sugar; but we were any thirsty, so we took courage to beg, as we had a screw of tea left. I went to a cottage and asked for a drink. There was a boiling kettle on the fire, so I said we had a little tea of our own, and the kind young woman, who had a blind old father, made us tea and sweetened and milked it for us. I knew the town to which we were going well, so we talked about the changes in it of recent years, as I 'was "returning to friends there." She did not know the distance of the next workhouse, but told us about the intervening towns. We left refreshed, but it was beginning to rain, so we walked on, looking for shelter. We saw a church surrounded by trees standing all by itself, with a large graveyard. This looked a hopeful spot, so we made for it, though it was rather out of our route. There we stayed an hour or two, sheltering under trees or in the porch, and eating the last of our workhouse bread about one o'clock. Part of the time it rained very heavily, and though it was summer time we felt cold. At last the rain moderated, and we set off for a steady tramp.

**More next month.**

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From Giles Shaw:

*'Local Notes & Gleanings - Oldham and Neighbourhood in Bygone Times' Pub. 1888*

### ***The Glass Window Tax***

It would be interesting to refer to the Act of Parliament giving the exact terms of the basis on which the window tax was levied in the year to which the interesting list you have printed refers. It originated in 1676. It was a source of the most prolific revenue; but the basis of the exaction changed according to the exigencies of the exchequer. In 1789 the duty was levied on houses containing twenty or more windows. It is clear that in 1730 the tax was laid, as shown by the Oldham list, on all houses which had seven or more windows, those containing six being exempt. Houses containing seven to nine windows were then charged 2d., while from those containing 11 to 19, 6d. was demanded. Oldham, it is clear, in the year 1730 possessed some houses of good size, and the names of about twenty of those dwelling in them are indicated by



the prefix "Mr." In 1758 a tax of 6d. yearly was levied on every window or light in every dwelling, - house inhabited which contained 15 windows or upward. At another date, in the time of Brande, the limit was eight windows. This tax supplanted the iniquitous hearth tax of the Stuart dynasty, one of the chief causes of bringing about the retreat of that family from this country. In the first year of the reign of William and Mary the hearth tax was abolished, to the gratification of every housewife. The immediate cause of the levying of the glass window tax was the deplorable condition of the English coinage - hammered, unmilled pieces, all worn out, and so very badly clipped that some were not worth half their nominal value. The large expense of the renewal of the coinage, when several mints were set to work, fell on the exchequer, and a new tax, to raise £1,200,000, was necessary. Montague, as described in the passage you have quoted from Macaulay, was the ingenious author of the impost, which was far less oppressive than the hearth tax; it brought vast sums into the revenue for over 150 years, viz., up to the 24th July, 1851, when it was abolished. The accomplished financier referred to was Charles Montague, afterwards Earl of Halifax, Chancellor and Under Treasurer of the Exchequer from 1694, one of the most eminent statesmen of the reign of William III., and known not only for statesmanship but for his literary ability, being the author, in connection with his friend Prior, of the burlesque on Dryden's "*Hind and Panther*," called "*The Story of the Country and the City Mouse*." Montague was the patron of Addison and Steele, who dedicated to him in 1711 the second volume of "*The Spectator*" and the fourth volume of "*The Tatler*." "While I bury myself," says the writer of the first dedication, "as a stranger upon earth, and can pretend to no other than being a looker-on, you are conspicuous in the world of men and that of letters." In the year following the establishment of the Bank of England' in which Montague had an important share, he began to establish the English currency on a sound basis, and thereupon that public confidence in British finance was secured which supplied the sinews for the subsequent wars, loans being henceforth made with great facility at low interests. The window tax has always led, up to our own time, to the diminution of Windows in houses, and to the blocking of them up. Other devices of ingenuity were encouraged by it, such as bay windows, bow-windows, or double or treble lines of windows. These arrangements frequently indicated penurious householders, and a poetaster once described his friend's residence in gloomy terms :—

Their bounty never sheds her ray-  
 You e'en shut out the light of day  
 To save a paltry shilling.

Stretford, Manchester. John E. Bailey

~~~~~

## From the e-Postbag

### ***Memories of the 'Tin Mission,' Neville Street, Oldham***

from Eileen (Mills) Taylor & Sylvia (Mills) Cornell



This is a photograph of our family – our parents, Samuel and Dorothy Mills, our brother James Albert, and our sister Dorothy, with Eileen being the youngest. It was taken outside the 'Tin Mission' in Neville Street, Oldham, where we went to church when we were children, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints ('Mormons' or LDS Church).

As siblings we've been reminiscing about the 'Tin Mission' recently and looking at our mother's old photographs relating to the building.



This is Neville Street as we knew it as children, with the chapel on the left side of the street, behind the large corner building. It sat on the corner of Daintry Road. Over the years the little tin mission served as a meeting house for LDS Church members living in Oldham and Rochdale, then Ashton and Hyde joined the branch.

Before the Neville Street chapel was built, meetings and conferences had been held in Union Street, Henshaw Street, Horsedge Street and Back King Street, Oldham.

This next photograph of a group of LDS Church members in Oldham in 1907 includes our grandmother, Susan Howarth (nee Boyd) seated on the front row with our mother Dorothy as a baby on her lap. Our grandfather James Edward Howarth is also in the photograph, standing to the right of our grandmother and wearing a flat cap.

They had been introduced to the LDS Church by a member, Mrs Neild, who came to them as a housekeeper.



Above are our grandparents later in life.

In 1842 a Church conference was held in Manchester. At this time there were 86 members in Oldham LDS branch. In 1843 the membership was 120. The branch president was a Luke Neild. But many things were happening in Lancashire at this time and people were emigrating to America to 'Zion.' In 1894 our great-grandma had taken some of her family to America, although they were not members of the LDS Church.

The Oldham congregation became few in number because of emigration but they somehow managed to build their first chapel on Neville Street. It was completed in 1908.

These are the four full-time missionary Elders who built the chapel: Elder F.B. Meads, Elder C.D. Spence, and the two Elders Glen, who were cousins.





The photograph below, was taken on the day the chapel was dedicated. These are all missionaries, and the four who built the chapel can be seen in the picture: Elder Spence on the back row; Elder W.S. Glen in front of Elder Spence in the middle row; and Elders Meads and William Glen on the front row. Mission president Charles W. Penrose, seated with his wife in the centre, gave the dedicatory prayer.



Below, is the interior of the building. There were large pictures on the wall inside the chapel.



One picture was of the prophet and president of the Church, David O. McKay; another was the prophet Joseph Smith. There was no font, so baptisms took place at the swimming pool or at the LDS chapel in Wythenshawe. The chapel had wooden floors and wooden seats, so every little noise echoed. The classrooms at the back of the stage were very small and could be very cold; there was an old electric bar fire for heat, that didn't work properly. There was a mat well at the front door as you entered the building. Non-members would say it was a trap door that people would fall into and be shipped to America.



The photograph on the left, of a group of Oldham branch members on the front steps of the chapel, must have been taken not long after it was built, as Elder W.S. Glen is the man in the bowler hat.

The photograph on the right is a group of ladies belonging to the Oldham Relief Society (the LDS equivalent of the WI), who took part in a concert at the chapel in 1910:

Relief Society president Sister Mortimer, with Sisters Annie Wiseman, Elizabeth Pearce, Gladys Ward and Mary Platt.



This photograph of the chapel, below, seems to have been taken before the houses in Daintry Road were built.



The smaller photograph was taken in 1937, when Oldham 'Tin Mission' was one of sixteen LDS chapels in the UK. At some point in between, the building acquired its black and white exterior.

The group photograph, below, was taken in 1926. Our mother Dorothy is on the far left with the straight fringe.





Our father, Samuel Mills, was introduced to the LDS Church by our mother. They were married in 1934.

Over the following years they were both very actively engaged with the Church, as were our grandparents. Having been introduced to the Church as young people, our mother and father were surrounded by good examples of how to be followers of Jesus Christ. Our mother kept a Book of Remembrance, which she dedicated to Sister Platt, who was the branch Relief Society President in 1926:

*"In the memory of Mary Ellen Platt, whose life was one of love and kindness to everyone. Therefore I dedicate this book to her in the hope that I might live a life as pure and humble as she."*

We were taken to church along with our brother Jim and sister Dorothy. It was only a few streets away from where we lived in Granville Street, Chadderton. We would also take our cousins, Alan, Walter, and Douglas Howarth and cousin Sylvia Barnes, none of whom were officially members of the Church. Our dad's brother Harry and his wife Edna would also attend with their daughter Barbara. As a congregation, we were more like a large family, we all knew each other socially as well as in church.



The photograph, above, taken around 1950, shows some of our family outside the 'Tin Mission.' The children from left to right are Anne Pearce, Douglas Howarth, myself, Walter Howarth, and

my sister Dorothy. Brother William Giles is kneeling. The lady standing on the left is Barbara Wayne.

When we were children at Neville Street, Freddie Fowles, an invalid, was brought to Church in his invalid carriage. It looked like a coffin on wheels. His relatives would push him to and from Sunday School and later in the day to the evening service every Sunday. They lived up a very high and steep hill in Oldham off Middleton Road, and pushed him down to the Neville Street Chapel and then back up again to their home twice every Sunday. I would marvel at how this could be done.

Below, a group photo outside the Neville Street Chapel with Brother Freddie Fowles in the foreground lying in his carriage. Sylvia is the smallest child in the front row.



Freddie had a hard life as he could only move his arms and hands, but since he could see, he was able to make jewellery by setting everything out on his chest. With this ability he helped his family financially, as people were quite impoverished and there was no State Benefit system at that time. But another serious health challenge was about to overtake Freddie. It was discovered that he was going blind. This would have been a total disaster since he would have been unable to see to make the jewellery which had allowed him to earn a small amount of money to support himself. Members of the church and other friends of Freddie bought his jewellery at a cost, which was difficult for them to raise because none of us was at all rich.

When Freddie's diagnosis of impending blindness was known to the membership attending Neville Street Chapel, our father, Samuel Mills, along with other male members from the branch laid their hands on Freddie's head to administer a blessing to him. The miracle was that the Lord saw fit to allow him not to lose his sight, and he was able to continue to support himself. There were always social activities like dances, pantomimes, fancy dress parties. Most of these were run to raise money and local people would attend. We remember Eileen sewing small white satin pouches, filling them with lavender, then closing with a ribbon to make lavender bags to sell. She would be about 7 or 8 at the time, and had an ice cream tray that hung around her neck (like they had in the cinemas). She would walk around the streets selling them to raise funds. We can't remember how much she sold them for. It could have been an old sixpence. As a family we would also wash out and fill old jam jars with bath salts and cover the top with pretty fabric and ribbons to sell. Sylvia took a suitcase filled with chocolates and sweets to work to sell among her workmates to raise money. Our mother was continually sewing and baking for church events and dad, who was a very good artist, made scenery for shows.

As children we were taught not to talk, or wriggle about in our seats or leave the meeting while it was in progress, we always had to be reverent and under no circumstances was food or sweets to be eaten in the chapel. As a small active child, Eileen found this very hard to do, so she



would either sit on our mother's knee, or Mary Giles' knee who was a close friend of the family, and fall asleep. As we grew older, we would sit reverently on our chairs and not move as dad was usually sitting on the stage, leading the meeting, and would watch us all. If you were seen to move or try to talk, you got the LOOK, which was dad's piercing blue eyes staring at you, as a warning to be reverent. We loved the Sunday school lessons and the scripture stories.

The photograph, below, was taken outside the Tin Mission in the 1950s. The children sitting in the front from right to left are my cousin Douglas, Dorothy, Eileen, Sylvia Barnes and Anne Pearce.

Our father is kneeling on the left and his brother Harry is kneeling in the middle. Sister Lizzie Pearce is standing in the middle at the back, with Dorothy Newton and Eric Heaton to the left. The lady standing on the far right is Sarah Kershaw, with Henry Kewley behind her to the left.



The last photograph, below, was taken about 1954 and also shows some of the branch members. As well as our immediate family it includes members of the Finnegan, Newton, and Pearce families, and full-time missionary Elder Russell.



The 'Tin Mission' is long gone now, and the Oldham branch of the LDS Church now meets in a much larger chapel in Scottfield Road, but those of us who attended the 'Tin Mission' in Neville Street will always remember it with great fondness.

Reprinted with the kind permission of Eileen (Mills) Taylor & Sylvia (Mills) Cornell.  
With many thanks to their 'editor', Jill Morgan, who sent the '*Memories*' to us.

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**Next, an email, from John Copleston**, that came to me through the Oldham HRG website, and which I thought would also be of interest to our own newsletter readers.

"An old (1685) Bible in my possession has a number of entries on the front and far end-papers pertaining to the Joneses of Oldham.

The first entry clearly refers to Oldham's first Mayor, William ...'born 2nd August 1797 about 3 o'clock in the morning...'

At the end of the same page it is recorded that William weighed 40lbs on his 5th birthday and measured 43¼ inches in height.

The Bible was bought in Malvern, Worcs in 1971, from a shop run by the then Lechmere Baronet [Sir Reginald Anthony Hungerford Lechmere, 7th Baronet ?].

Some pages have been carefully repaired, in a few places, by pieces of newsprint from what look, by the typefaces etc, to be 18thc. On one I can just make out part of an ad for Bamford in Oldham marketplace."

John kindly sent high quality scans of the papers, which also recorded the births of William's siblings.

I've included these scans, with transcriptions, in the Gallery at the end of the newsletter.

Many thanks to John for this interesting contribution.

There is an article, on the Oldham HRG website, about the Oldham Jones family history, [HERE](#)

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## 1921 ... a Census Centenary

As all we family history enthusiasts are well aware, the 1921 census should have been released this year ... however, for obvious reasons, it won't be! Hopefully, we can look forward to its release in 2022.

On the Members' forum, was a notification that MLFHS would be using this period of time to do just that ... follow the links to the short video [HERE](#) and blog articles [HERE](#) on the website (they're on the public access pages).

What a good idea! We could start with some regular '1921 pages' in the newsletter!

To create more context we thought we could include the two year before and after 1921, ie., from 1919 (when servicemen were returning home, after the war, with high hopes for a better future) to the end of 1924 when the full reality of a damaged economy was being suffered.

Amongst our Family History collections, most of us have 'snippets', anecdotes and little stories, personal ephemera such as birthday, christmas or memorial cards, postcards, holiday photos, event programmes, marriage invitations, letters etc., etc., from those years. Many war memorials were erected; there were organised visits for families to visit the battlefields; there will be local newspaper clippings; photos and so much more.

Please, get in touch with me, through the newsletter email address, either to ask questions or contribute scans of ephemera, photos or narratives (long or short!).

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### **CLARA WALKDEN** 1894 – 1982

Clara Walkden was born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1894 to Edwin and Clara Walkden (nee Kell)

The 1901 and 1911 census records show her occupation as Tailoress working alongside her father.





Clara joined the Oldham Borough Police on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1921 and pioneered a path that thousands of other women would follow. She became the first known sworn-in Police Woman Constable in the Greater Manchester area. Along with two women in the Lancashire Constabulary, they appear to have been the only sworn-in women Constables in the area until the late 1930s. Many authorities still dragged their feet over giving women police powers – some even suggesting that it was illegal for a woman to take the Oath of Constable, because she was physically unable to carry out the arrest of a violent man (this legal challenge was overcome by the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act of 1919).

She also attended the first police women's conference in Leicester in 1937.

According to the 1939 Register she was living on Meadow Lane, Garden Suburb, Oldham.

Clara retired from the Force on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 1943. Note that even by the time she retired after 22 years service, the force's retirement certificate still assumed that all constables would be male. On Clara's retirement certificate the word "He" is crossed out and "She" is handwritten over it.

Little is known about her life after leaving the police force.

Clara died on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1982 at Edward House, Edward Street, Oldham. She was cremated at Oldham Crematorium.

Her Will states that she left her estate to her sister, Gladys Millicent Walkden

*If anyone reading this knows anything further about Clara, we would be pleased to hear from you.*

Contributed by Linda Richardson, MLFHS Oldham Branch, Chairman

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### **Newspaper item**

*The Manchester Guardian (1901-1959); Mar 2, 1921*

#### **FALLING WORKMAN LASSOOED:**

#### **"LIGHTNING ACTION" THAT SAVED A LIFE**

The King has awarded the Edward Medal to Frank Platt, who for a second time has been instrumental in saving a man from injury from falling. Last May three men were pointing the walls of the Oak Mills at Shaw, near Oldham, One of these men, named Cavaghan, was seated at the top of the wall in a cradle controlled by pulleys and ropes, the latter being held by Platt and another labourer, standing on the sloping roof of a shed fifty feet below. Owing to the displacement of one of the pulley blocks the cradle swung round, and Cavaghan was precipitated head downwards.

Platt's companion ran away, but Platt, standing firm, swung his rope so that it encircled Cavaghan. The rope tightening broke Cavaghan's fall, and Platt managed to swing him onto a projecting sill. "Only wonderful presence of mind and lightning decision could have enabled Platt to do what he did," says the official record, "and but for the instantaneous action Cavaghan would have been dashed to the ground in two seconds."

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### **Newspaper item :**

*The Manchester Guardian (1901-1959); Feb 16, 1921;*

## THE OLDHAM SPRING EXHIBITION

This year's exhibition at the Oldham Art Gallery shows how many clever artists there are today in England painting in what have come to be accepted styles. They represent the general mass of good, safe painters - those who are active and alert without following modern notions to the unpopular point. Really, the selection of such an exhibition involves a great deal of energy and judgement. Not all of these pictures are to be found in Royal Academy exhibitions, and even if they were, it would need very considerable discrimination to choose so well amongst all that the big exhibitions offer. But more labour than this is involved in digging out so many varied pictures by artists each in his way deserving of recognition but comparatively little known, and in securing the right kind of picture from well-known and popular artists. When this has been said for the taste and judgement with which the Oldham exhibition has been compiled it must be confessed that many of the pictures, fresh and capable as they are, leave one unsatisfied. The conventions in which they are conceived were developed by other artists as the means of personal expression. Here they have mostly been adopted as second-hand. They are not the inevitable mould in which warm, original ideas are cast. The drawing does not express clear, definite conviction; the colour tends to lack just the note of distinction that shows individual taste and discovery.

The group of pictures with the sharpest flavour includes four by Mr. Walter Bayes and others by Mr. Sickert, Mr. Fergusson, and Mr. Nevinson. Most of them have a cold and disillusioned air, but they give a striking impression of first hand observation and experience. Mr. Bayes, one of whose pictures was bought last year for the Oldham Gallery, especially shows power and a kind of fantastic humour in his two interiors. Mr. Walter Sickert's 'the Bridge at Bath' is also a peculiarly brilliant piece of painting. Among the other pictures in the same room, two of the best have just been presented to the Gallery. One is Mr. Strang's 'The Feather Fan,' which is rather cold in colour but is intensely exact and able in its draughtsmanship and shows a dramatic sense in the pose of the figure. Mr. Strang's 'Dreams' is more subtle, both in colour and in facial expression. The second of the gifts to the Gallery is Mr. Harry Watson's 'Morning in a Wood', in which the charm of broken lights and shadows that are soft and yet dazzling is admirably given. In the fine large gallery a place of honour is rightly given to 'Mercy Greville', by Mrs. Swinnerton, the most distinguished of Manchester-born artists, whose work is well represented in the permanent collection at Oldham, but not yet, unfortunately, in Manchester. Other large pictures here are Mr. Sargent's full length painting of a boy lying on a rocky bank of a river, and at the opposite end Mr. Bertram Priestmans' very well managed landscape 'The Valley of the Stour'. Mr. J.J. Shannon's famous portrait of 'Phil May' is here, as well as pictures that deserve attention by well-known painters like Mr. Walter Russell, Mr. Solomon, Mr. Sims, Sir John Lavery, Mr. Olsson, Mr. Adrian Stokes, Mr. Harcourt, Mr. G.F. Kelly, and others. these, with the paintings of Mr. Howard Somerville and Mr. Connard, in the first room, might be considered to have been fairly easy to select. An even better test of judgement is to be found in the choice of pictures in oil and watercolour by Messrs. Charles Simpson, David Muirhead, B. Meninsky, A. Hallet, and George Graham in the first room, and in the large room by Mr. Oppenheimer, Mr. H.J. Gunn, Mr. Denys Wells, and Miss Dorothea Sharp.

A very well painted portrait of the ex-mayor of Oldham by Mr. Howard Somerville and pictures by William Stott and the late Mr. F.W. Jackson have the added interest of local association.

B.D.T.

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

\* How Do I Figure Out if I Have a Full or Half Relationship with a DNA Match?  
[HERE](#)

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\* Articles with Oldham historical interest

[HERE](#)

\* National Archives - No need to visit yet, there is so much online

[HERE](#)

\* MLFHS, Manchester Ancestors ... What's new in our collections

[HERE](#)

\* 23 things you (probably) didn't know about No 10 Downing Street, the official residence of Britain's prime ministers

[HERE](#)

\* One of the places to visit after lock down, what colour was your bus route?  
Museum of Transport

[HERE](#)

\* First ever Festival of Libraries comes to Manchester for five days of arts, culture and books

[HERE](#)

\* Interactive map of Britain's Roman roads

[HERE](#)

\* Guided online tours of the Palace of Westminster

[HERE](#)

\* When Records Began- A Plotted History of the Parliamentary Archives Firsts

[HERE](#)

English Heritage ... The History of Chocolate

[HERE](#)

\* Online Memory Box: Manchester Theatres part 2

[HERE](#)

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

## PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary

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



at [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

Although the long-anticipated Bi-Centenary has come and gone, there are some Peterloo websites still active with 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](#)

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## 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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### Other Society Websites

Catholic Family History Society – [www.catholicfhs.co.uk](http://www.catholicfhs.co.uk)  
Cheshire Local History Association – [www.cheshirehistory.org.uk](http://www.cheshirehistory.org.uk)  
Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – [www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk](http://www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk)  
Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society - <https://www.lfhhs.org.uk/home.php>  
Lancashire Local History Federation – [www.lancashirehistory.org](http://www.lancashirehistory.org)  
Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – [www.lswlfhs.org.uk](http://www.lswlfhs.org.uk)  
Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – [www.mrias.co.uk](http://www.mrias.co.uk)  
Oldham Historical Research Group – [www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg](http://www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg)  
Peterloo - [Peterloo-Manchester](http://Peterloo-Manchester)  
Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) - [Ranulf Higden Soc.](http://Ranulf-Higden-Soc)  
Royton Local History Society – [www.rlhs.co.uk](http://www.rlhs.co.uk)  
Saddleworth Historical Society – [www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk](http://www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk)  
Tameside Local History Forum - [www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk](http://www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk)  
Tameside Local & Family History - <http://tamesidefamilyhistory.co.uk/contents.htm>  
The Victorian Society - [Manchester Regional Website](http://Manchester-Regional-Website)

### Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - [Lancashire](http://Lancashire)  
Free BMD - [Search](http://Search)  
[National Library of Scotland](http://National-Library-of-Scotland) - Free to view, historic, zoomable maps of UK :  
1891 - Oldham and locality [HERE](http://HERE)  
Online Parish Clerk Project : Lancashire - [HERE](http://HERE)  
British Association for Local History - [HERE](http://HERE)  
and for their back issue journal downloads - [HERE](http://HERE)  
Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, website, [HERE](http://HERE)  
and for their back issue journal downloads, website, [HERE](http://HERE)  
Internet Archive ... The Internet Archive offers over **24,000,000** freely downloadable books and texts.  
[HERE](http://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](http://HERE) and Research guide [HERE](http://HERE)  
Historical Maps of parish boundaries [HERE](http://HERE)

### Some Local Archives

Barnsley Museum & Discovery Centre – [www.experience-barnsley.com](http://www.experience-barnsley.com)  
Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](http://Local-&-Family-History)  
Bury – [www.bury.gov.uk/archives](http://www.bury.gov.uk/archives)  
Chester - [Cheshire Archives & Local Studies](http://Cheshire-Archives-&-Local-Studies) (linked from Discovery at the National Archives)  
Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](http://Local-&-Family-History)  
Leeds - [Leeds Local and Family History](http://Leeds-Local-and-Family-History)  
Liverpool Archives and Family History – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/archives>

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)

Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

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

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

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

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



### For the Gallery

See e-Postbag for details from an email, kindly sent to us by John Copleston...

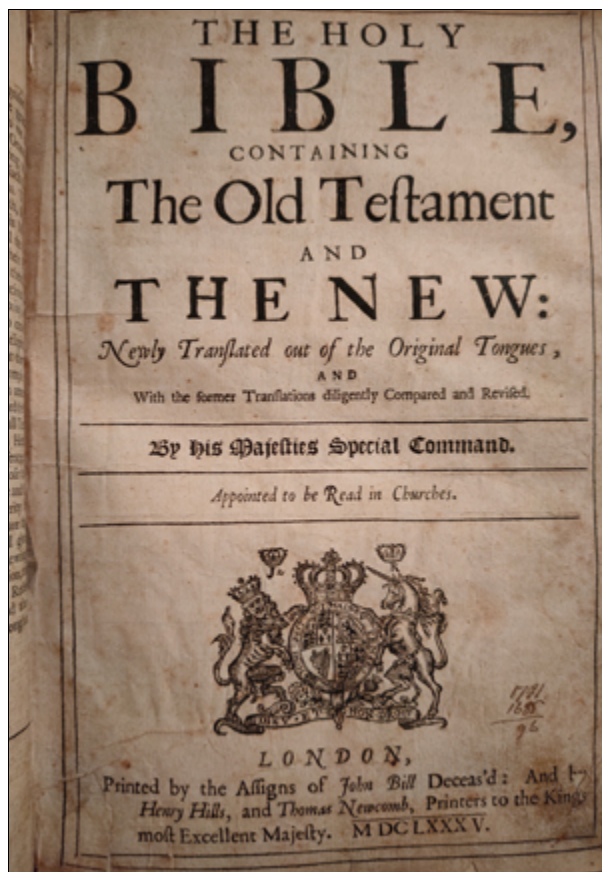
*"An old (1685) Bible in my possession, which has a number of entries on the front and far end-papers, pertaining to the Joneses of Oldham".*

There is an article, on the Oldham HRG website, about the Jones family history, [HERE](#)

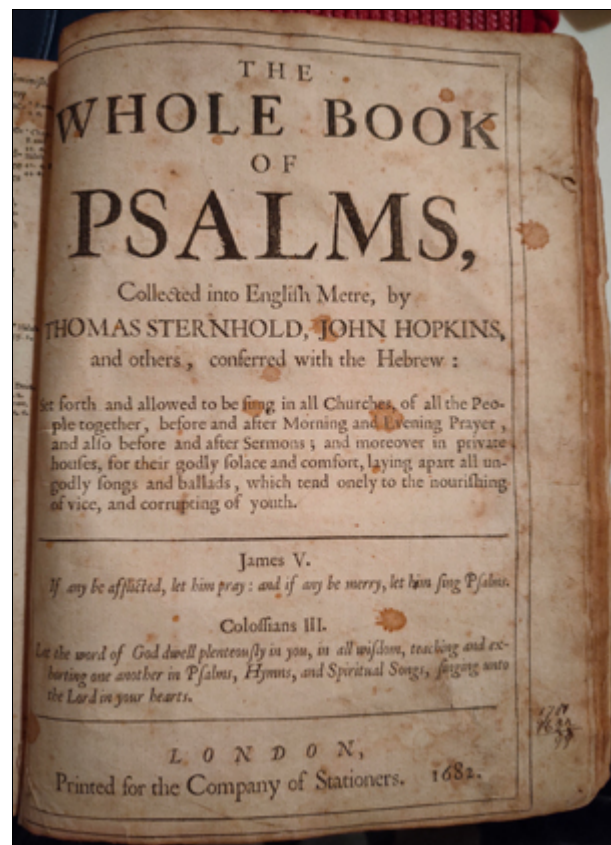
**Bound together as one book**

**Title Page - Bible**

**Title Page - Book of Psalms**

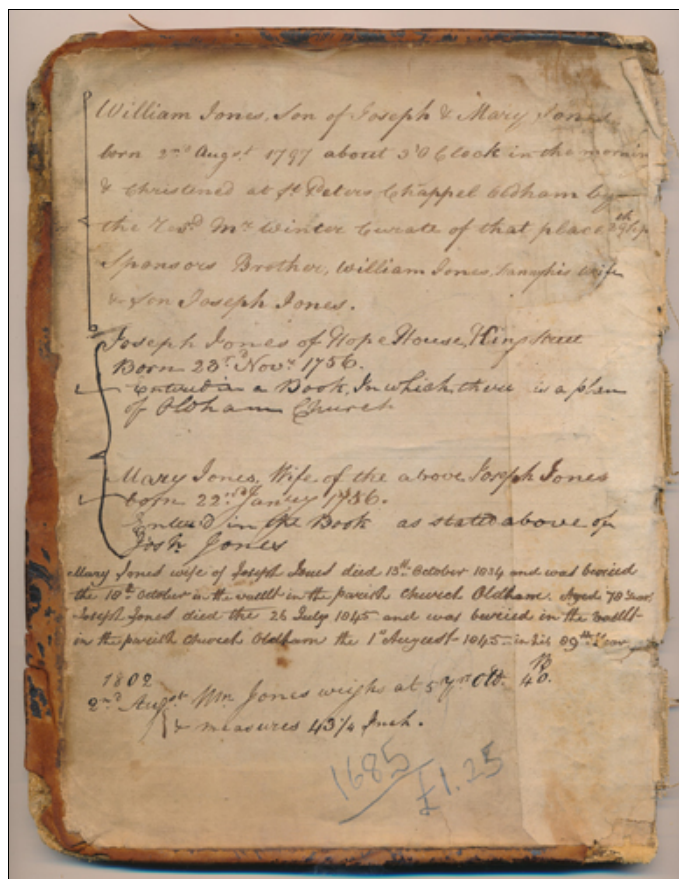


**Pub. 1685**



**Pub. 1682**





### Transcription - Flyleaf

**William Jones**, Son of Joseph & Mary Jones born 2nd. August, 1797 about 3 o'clock in the morning & christened at St. Peters Chappel [sic] Oldham by the Revd. Mr. Winter, curate of that place 29th Sept. Sponsors Brother, William Jones, Fanny his wife & son Joseph Jones.

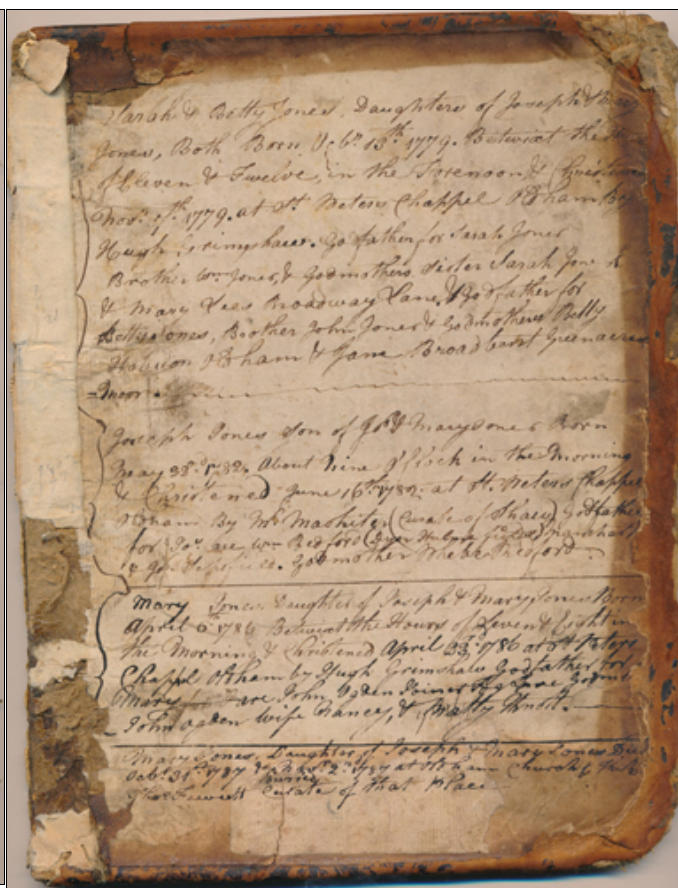
**Joseph Jones** of Hope House, King Street, Born 23rd Nov. 1756.  
Entered in a Book, In which there is a plan of Oldham Church.

**Mary Jones**, Wife of the above Joseph Jones born 22nd January 1756.  
Entered in the book as stated above of Josp. Jones.

**Mary Jones** wife of Joseph Jones died 13th October 1834 and was buried the 18th October in the vault in the Parish Church Oldham, Aged 78 years.

**Joseph Jones** died the 26th July 1845 and was buried in the vault in the Parish Church Oldham, the 1st August 1845 in his 89th year.

1802  
2nd August, **Wm. Jones** weighs at 5 yrs. old, 40lb & measures 43 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches



### Transcription - Endpaper

**Sarah and Betty Jones**, Daughters of Joseph & Mary Jones. Both born October 13th 1779. Betwixt the hours of Eleven & Twelve, in the Forenoon, & Christened Nov. 7th 1779 at St. Peters Chappel [sic] Oldham by Hugh Grimshaw. Godfather for Sarah Jones, Brother Wm. Jones, & Godmothers Sister Sarah Jones & Mary Lees Broadway Lane, Godfather for Betty Jones, Brother John Jones & Godmothers Betty Hobson Oldham & Jane Broadbent Greenacres Moor.

**Joseph Jones** son of Josp. & Mary Jones born May 22nd 1782. About nine o'clock in the morning & Christened June 16th 1782 at St. Peters Chappel[sic] Oldham by W. Mashiter (Curate of Shaw) Godfathers for Jos. are Wm. Bedford (Dyer Hulme Fields[?]) Manchester & Jos. Schofield. Godmother Bhebe Bedford.

**Mary Jones**, Daughter of Joseph & Mary Jones Born April 6th 1786. Between the hours of seven and eight in the morning & Christened April 23rd 1786 at St. Peters Chappel [sic] Oldham by Hugh Grimshaw. Godfather for Mary are [sic] John Ogden joiner Fog Lane. Godmothers John Ogden wife Nancy, & Mary Knott.

**Mary Jones**, Daughter of Joseph & Mary Jones Died Oct. 31st. 1787 & Buried Nov. 2nd 1787 at Oldham Church & [illegible word] Thos. Fawcett Curate of that place.