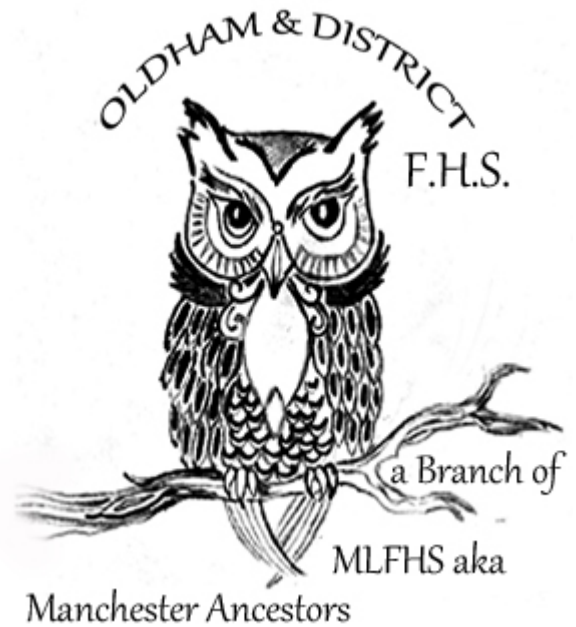


'e-Owls'



Contact us :

Branch Website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>
MLFHS homepage : <https://www.mlfhs.uk/>
Email Chairman : chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk
Emails General : oldham@mlfhs.org.uk
Email Newsletter Ed : Oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk

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

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

February 2022

MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

Where to find things in the newsletter:

Oldham Branch News :	Page 2	1921 - year of the census :	Page 24
Other Branches' News :	Page 6	MLFHS Facebook picks	Page 24
MLFHS Updates :	Page 7	Peterloo Bi-Centenary :	Page 25
Societies not part of MLFHS :	Page 8	Need Help! :	Page 26
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Branch News :

Branch Officers for 2021 -2022 :

Committee Member : Chairman :	Linda Richardson
Committee Member : Treasurer :	Gill Melton
Committee Member : Secretary :	Joan Harrison
Committee Member : Newsletter :	Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Webmistress :	Sheila Goodyear



Where to find it

'Where to Find it' Page, on the
Oldham & District Website Pages



Woman Roadsweeper
from 'Women's War Work' 1916
More examples in the Gallery

Oldham Branch Meetings :

**For current information on all M&LFHS Meetings, and other public activities,
Please check with the website for updated information.**

The newsletter will be sent out as usual. Meetings are now in place using the zoom app.
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 is in short supply! 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 and welcome to the February Newsletter.

I hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to the Covid restrictions finally being lifted.

I have noticed that Easter Eggs and hot cross buns are now on the supermarket shelves (groan). I still haven't finished the Christmas chocolates! I had better get a move on.

We have a very interesting talk for you this month given by Jenny Mallin, about her ancestors in India. Full details can be found on the website with booking on Eventbrite via the link.

Enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter and hope to see you at our next Branch Meeting.

Regards

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,

Christmas and New Year, only a few short weeks ago, were already distant memories from the past when I began writing this! I hope that most of you had the enjoyable celebrations you were planning and that the 'dreaded bug' didn't derail your plans! We're going into an uncertain new year but I know we'll deal with whatever is thrown at us ... after all, our experiences will be the stuff of future family research!!

There has been a flurry of activity from members on the forum discussing the rights and wrongs of Find my Past charging to view the census returns so I won't go into that topic! I imagine we've all had a quick look through the search facility and I've found that the titbits offered to help you to decide if it's your family or not, before you buy, have been very helpful. My policy is going to be to prioritise and treat myself with a copy periodically!

In September 1916, the War Office issued a booklet identifying the numerous occupations that might be undertaken by women when men we called up for service in the armed forces. There didn't seem to be much that was truly outside a woman's capabilities! Take a look at just a few in the Gallery!

In '[What's New](#)' in the Branch pages of the website you will find that the Video page [HERE](#), now functions as a menu page with links to a page for videos uploaded in 2021, and one to a new one for 2022. The first one for 2022 is a recording of a talk, on zoom, for Oldham HRG, entitled, '*Northerners, from the Ice Age to the 21st Century*' given by Brian Groom, author of the book with that title. Also on the 'What's New' page (for those living in reach of Oldham!) is notification that the Local Studies and Archives Library are running an 8 week course, in the library, for digital scrapbooking. Places will be limited so booking is on Eventbrite.

Added to the Links, 'Useful Sites', section near the end of the newsletter, is one to the Goad fire insurance maps of Manchester, from Wikimedia Commons. The 78 thumbnails shown are downloadable as readable .tif copies showing streets and businesses. This very useful link was taken from an email sent to the MLFHS members' forum.

The weather at the moment is truly dismal so I'm happy to stay in front of my computer.

However, finally, we have been able to book a date in February, at Oldham Library, to test our plans for holding hybrid meetings so, fingers crossed, I might be able to bring news of that (good hopefully!) in the next newsletter. Our 2022 Meetings programme is on the website [HERE](#) Our first three meetings are on zoom only; the other meeting details will be confirmed as soon as possible.

The AGM is on the horizon, in March, and you can find a little more about how we want to go forward, below.

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, whilst allowing MLFHS to re-use the material in an appropriate manner.
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

### OLDHAM & DISTRICT BRANCH OF MLFHS

#### 2022 Annual General Meeting

March 2022

The last AGM, held in Oldham Library, was at the March Meeting in 2020, only days before we went into the first lockdown of the current pandemic.

At that meeting officers and committee members were elected, and our programme of meetings went on hold, indefinitely. As we began to realise, gradually, that we were going to be in this for the 'long haul', we turned our attention to what we could do to try and bring back some sense of getting together, again, as our hopes and disappointments were alternated. In September, 2020, the new MLFHS website was launched and it felt like a new era. Finding a way of meeting together became a priority ... and then we discovered zoom!! We had a couple of 'tester' meetings to see how it would work and our first public zoom meeting was held in December! We were cautiously hopeful but we did our homework and found it worked for us! In 2021 we were able to deliver a full programme of successful meetings, on zoom. As we go into 2022, we are hopeful of re-starting our in-person meetings in the library, from April, but also live streaming them on zoom, as hybrid meetings.

Rewind to March 2021, when we should have been holding an Annual General Meeting ... we asked, on the website and in the newsletter, if members were interested in attending an AGM but there was no positive response; as a result, the four committee members agreed to carry on in their roles for the following year. An appeal for an additional couple of committee members was also unsuccessful.

As we approach March 2022's AGM, and still not able to meet in person in the Library, we are facing the same situation as last year. The current committee and officers are again happy to remain, as previously. However, we would still like to ask for a couple of committee members, or volunteers, who would be prepared to take on the roles of a Project Manager and/or Researcher for our website pages. The topics for research could be of the volunteer's own choosing.

- Possible topics to consider:
  - (i) local hatting industry ... or any other of choice.
  - (ii) local newspaper clippings (transcriptions and/or further research) of interesting / unexpected topics.
  - (iii) Locally celebrated / notorious individuals.
  - (iv) Local families of note.
  - (v) Transcription, as part of an on-going project, online through the Branch.
- The possibilities are endless!

This would be an opportunity to pursue research of your own choosing, or manage a group of

interested volunteers, in the knowledge that the end result would be accessible, on the website, and of help to so many others.

A project manager would need to be a committee member but volunteers needn't necessarily be on the committee.

If you are interested and want to know more about what would be involved, please contact our Branch Chairman, Linda Richardson. We hope that this suggestion might appeal and we will welcome your input.

In addition, if you have anything else that you would have liked to raise at a General Meeting, please get in touch with Linda.

email Oldham & District Chairman at < chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk >

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Monthly Meetings

Please continue to try and support the Branch, with your online attendance, whilst we are unable to hold our meetings in Gallery Oldham. The zoom app is free to download and use. Details, of the full programme of talks, are on the 'Meetings' page of the Branch website [HERE](#) . **Booking for an online talk is essential** and bookings are on [Eventbrite](#).

**The talks will be free to members and non-members alike.
Wherever you live, Welcome!**

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### **Last Month's Meeting ... on zoom**

#### **JANUARY 2022 MEETING... on zoom**



Saturday,  
8th Jan.  
at  
2 pm



#### ***'Hanging the Pacifist': Margaret Ashton (1856-1937) Manchester's first woman councillor***

given by Dr. Alison Ronan

*A short introduction to the life and times of Margaret Ashton. The talk will look at Ashton's extraordinary life, her political career, her involvement in the suffrage movement and, during WW1, her work in the anti-war and pacifist movement. It will look at the story of her lost portrait, rediscovered in 2006, and rehung in the Town Hall - hence the title of this talk ... 'Hanging the Pacifist.'*

We had a good audience in our zoom Gallery including old friends and newcomers, and it's always such a pleasure to invite Ali, as she's known to her friends (and we count ourselves amongst them), to give one of her talks. They are always both interesting and informative. Ali has such great enthusiasm for the topics she researches, in great depth and detail, and that love of her work come out through her talks. I think you can gather from this that it was a wonderful talk with some very appreciative feed back!

Ali's talk set the scene for Margaret Ashton's life with a little about her family circumstances.

She was the daughter of a wealthy cotton manufacturer whose business was in Hyde (at that time just into Cheshire but now in Tameside). Thomas Ashton, her father had a great interest in social reform and was instrumental in raising money for Owens College, in Manchester. Margaret wasn't allowed to take part in the family business, but was allowed to be involved with welfare and the Flowery Fields School which was founded by her grandfather for the children of the mill workers.

By 1900 she had already become a founder member of the Women's Trade Union League, was a member of the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies and, becoming more active politically, was elected to Withington Urban District Council. Her energies were devoted to improving women's and children's health, education, conditions of employment and wages.

Margaret had been a member of the Liberal Party but resigned in 1906 when it became obvious that party support would not be forthcoming for Women's suffrage. In 1908 she became the first woman to be elected to the Manchester City Council.

Her rift with the NUWSS came in 1914 when the Union was split over the executive decision to support the war effort (although not to be involved in recruitment of soldiers, as the WSPU suffragettes were) and the decision by the majority of the committee not to support the Women's Peace Congress at the Hague. Margaret and a number of the executive members of the Union resigned. It was at that conference in the Hague that the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WIL) was formed, which Margaret immediately joined.

This anti-war stance made her very unpopular during the war years and, in 1921, she was forced from the City Council when she was branded a 'friend of the enemy'. A portrait of her, commissioned by Henry Lamb to celebrate her 70th birthday and her great service to the City, was offered to the City for the Art Gallery but was never hung. It went into storage where it would have stayed except for the tenacity of Ali Ronan, in 2006, who tracked it down and was instrumental in having it hung in the Town Hall ... that is, until it went back into storage when the Town Hall was closed for the extensive and on-going renovations.

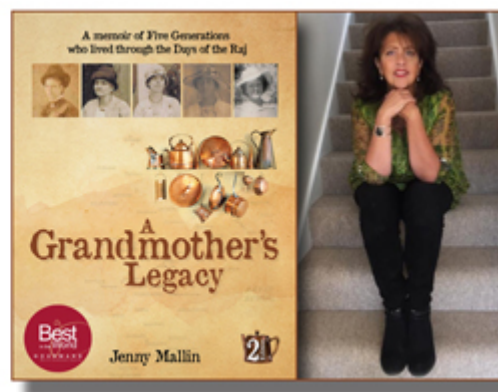
No doubt Ali will be there, when the Town Hall re-opens, to ensure the portrait is hung once more!

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February Meeting ... on zoom



Saturday,
12th Jan.
at
2 pm



A Grandmother's Legacy: the Early Days

How Benjamin Hardy in 1798, a seventh generation weaver ancestor of Jenny Mallin from Mirfield in Yorkshire, sails to Madras with his British Army unit, fights for the next 22 years in India and decides to settle his family there for the next five generations.

A free, illustrated, online talk, given by Jenny Mallin

Booking and more details on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

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### March Meeting ... on zoom



Saturday,  
12th March  
at  
2 pm



**Edwin Butterworth – Oldham's Forgotten Historian**

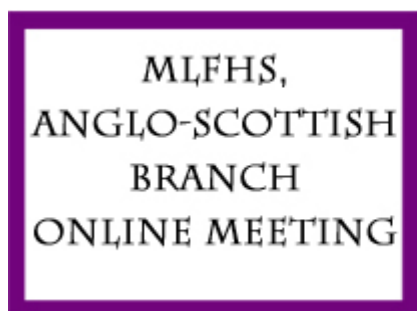
Michael tells us about the importance of Edwin's travels and historical researches on Lancashire and the news reports he supplied to Manchester newspapers in the 1830s and 1840s. Edwin's journals and publications provide an unparalleled insight into life in early industrial Lancashire.

an illustrated talk given by Michael Winstanley

Booking and more details on [Eventbrite](#)

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MLFHS Branches delivering their monthly meetings and talks on-line



Saturday,
5th
February
at
2:00 pm



Anglo - Scots ... February Meeting

on zoom ... bookings on [Eventbrite](#)

Anglo-Scottish Website Pages [HERE](#) for more information and booking details

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Wednesday,  
2nd  
February  
at  
7:30 pm



**Bolton ... February Meeting**

on zoom ... bookings on [Eventbrite](#)

**Bolton Website Pages** [HERE](#) for more information and booking details.

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MLFHS updates

**The MLFHS Family History Help Desk ...
is now open again**

**As the situation can still change, there is no certainty of anything!
For updated information, please check the website [HERE](#)**

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**MLFHS, Manchester Ancestors, on-line talks :**

## Manchester ... February Meetings

on zoom ... bookings on [Eventbrite](#)

Saturday, 29th January, 2022, at 2pm, ***The 1921 Census : What can we discover?***

Wednesday, 2nd February, 2022, at 7:30pm, ***Exploring the 1921 census***

Unfortunately, both the 1921 talks are already fully booked.

Keep an eye on the Eventbrite Bookings page, though, as some meetings may be added at short notice.

MLFHS Manchester, Website Events Page [HERE](#)

MLFHS Manchester, Eventbrite Bookings [HERE](#)

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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 Manchester, 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 to browse.

[MLFHS](#)

[Bolton](#)

[Oldham](#)

[Anglo-Scottish](#)

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

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

* Another 1,730 records have been added to The Great Database. These are birth, marriage and death announcements from the Manchester Courier for 1836.

Thanks to Linda Bailey and Chris Hall for this latest addition.

* Deaf & Dumb School Admissions :

I have just added a further volume of admission records (with images) to the Great Database. There are 80 names admitted during 1904-5.

Thanks to Jim Chadwick for these

* Another substantial addition to the Great Database - this time 866 birth, marriage and death announcements from the Manchester Mercury of 1815.

Thanks to Linda Bailey for these.

* Another useful addition to the Great Database: 758 records of birth, marriage and death announcements transcribed from the Manchester Mercury for 1819 by Chris Hall and Linda Bailey.

* This collection is now becoming quite extensive:

Extracts from a variety of newspapers including inquests, BMD announcements and other miscellaneous topics. Covers Manchester Courier 1825-1830, 1832, 183-1837, 1895 and Manchester Mercury 1804-1806, 1809, 1814-1815, 1819 (24,868 records).

* I have just added a further 1,598 burials at St. John, Pendlebury 1907-1923 to The Great Database.

Thanks to Mark Harrey for these.

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Please note ...

Please check society/group websites or organisers for updated information

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



Wednesday
16th
February
at
7 pm



The Oldham Town Centre Plan, 1948

given by Roger Ivens

Everyone welcome ... More details and free booking on Eventbrite [HERE](#)

Your support for our meetings would be appreciated and, if you would like more information, please email me at < pixnet.sg@gmail.com >.


Website [HERE](#)

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**Moorside & District Historical Society**

**Moorside & District Historical Society**  
*We are back, assuming the current regulations hold true.*  
**Monday 21st February 2022.**

**Moorside**  
**"Liberal & Conservative Club"**  
**History**

Local Public Houses and Drinking places in detail ~ Part Seven.  
illustrated presentation by Mike Smith



To be held in the Moorside Cricket Club, Turfpit Lane, Moorside.  
7-30 p.m. all are welcome.

Note: Other meeting planned for 2022 if all goes well for the third Monday of the month.  
Except for the summer break July & August + December. £2 including refreshment. Note April 2nd Monday.

**Moorside**  
**'Liberal & Conservative Club'**  
**History**

*Local Public Houses and  
Drinking Places in Detail - Part Seven*

Illustrated presentation by Mike Smith

Monday 21st February at 7:30pm

To be held in the Moorside Cricket Club,

Turfpit Lane, Moorside

All welcome

£2 including refreshment

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Saddleworth Historical Society Wednesday 9th February at 7.30pm

"Northerners from the Ice Age to the Present Day"

an Illustrated presentation, given by Brian Groom,

at the Saddleworth Museum, Art Gallery, High Street, Uppermill.

Society members free but a charge to non-members on the door of £3.

All welcome. Refreshments available. Masks should be worn.

Website [HERE](#)

Saddleworth Civic Trust has no meeting or event planned in February 2022. Please note that the Committee are reviewing the situation on a monthly basis, but because of the upturn of the COVID Pandemic at present, it is thought prudent to wait a little longer when the Society will recommence

meetings and events.

For both societies :

Please note that if there is any upturn in the state of the ongoing Covid Pandemic, any or all of these meetings might be cancelled. Members of each Society should check with any Committee member, at the Museum office, if in doubt.

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

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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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Regional Heritage Centre :

Website [HERE](#)

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**'A Mixed Bag'**

***'Autobiography Of A Manchester Cotton Manufacturer : Or Thirty Years' Experience Of Manchester '***, pub. 1887.

Originally published anonymously, later research showed that it was written by Henry S. Gibbs. The reviewer had given it 5 stars, as had others who had read it.

The author used pseudonyms throughout ... actual names, where discovered, in the footnotes.

**Serialised in the newsletter : Part 5**

The earlier chapters and an introduction can be read in previous months' newsletters, starting in October, and downloadable [HERE](#)

**Transcript: Chapter IX**

**CONTINUANCE OF THE RUSSIAN WAR - LIFE IN A SUBURB**

I LOST no time in issuing circulars to the whole of Mr. Thomson's customers, informing them he had placed the disposal of his wares in my hands, and promising them a continuance of that devotion to their interest which had so long characterized their transactions with his house. The list of names to whom I sent the circular comprised a goodly number of the best houses, and from the majority I received congratulations and promises of support.

In speaking of a house, the buyer is generally understood, as in many instances the members of a firm have no knowledge of the men who supply them. It is sufficient for them that the head of a department shows a good return when the time of "stock-taking" arrives. The buyers looked me up with interest, not unmixed with curiosity, and the quidnuncs called in quantity. Before I had been any length of time in swing, I discovered my greatest difficulty would be, not in procuring customers, of which I had sufficient, but in obtaining such commodities, and in such quantity, as would meet their requirements. With this fact in view, I laid my plans for seeming consignments from manufacturers; in other words, to find men who would send me the whole of their production

**p.101**

of cloth, or a portion of it, to sell on commission. To obtain my object I devoted a day or two in

each week to calling upon such country makers as I thought would be likely to respond to my solicitations. Very little or no results followed from these efforts, so I had to devise other methods for the furtherance of commerce. There were a few small men from whom we had made purchases when in the old place, and these men I carefully looked up and nursed. They would, however, none of them sell on commission. They preferred selling their cloth themselves. In doing so they saved the amount for commission; they could select their customers, and knew better by so-doing how and where they stood. But they would be pleased to sell to me as they had hitherto done to the old firm, and give me any occasional advantage that might arise.

I mentally measured the capacity of the thousand pounds sterling lying at the bank, and how far it would go, and then selecting one favourite maker I entered into a contract with him for many weeks to supply me with more than the half of his production. I would have taken the whole of it had he permitted me, but he preferred not to put "the whole of his eggs into one basket." I trafficked considerably in this cloth, which became a favourite one, but it was necessary the maker's individuality should remain unrecognised. To secure this desideratum I had my own devised combination of coloured stripes woven into the beginning and end of each piece, or, to use a technical phrase, had them made up with "private headings." I had the advantage of

#### **p.102**

a second entrance through a back street to my premises, where luries could be unloaded away from inquisitive eyes. This particular cloth had many good properties. It was sold for bleaching. It was regular in the weight, full in the pick, counting 14 square, round in the thread, free from unnecessary size, and measured 36½ inches to the yard. It was defective in colour, but as it was to be converted into a "Croydon" there was no objection made to it on that head. The cloth became known to the "white" men, who pursued it from all quarters. So favourite a fabric did it become that the selling of it gave me a reputation, I urged the old salesman (I never saw the maker himself) to "put on more looms" - to build another shed - do anything, indeed, to produce more of his cloth. But all was vain. I could only obtain from him a small proportion of the quantity I would have gladly taken.

It was amusing frequently, when a new comer arrived at the warehouse, to make a conjecture as to the object of his visit. The conclusion often arrived at was generally the right one. "Have you anything in 32-inch suitable for Croydons?" After showing him everything in the place but the one I knew he was in search of he would at length alight on the coveted article. When it had passed the ordeal of his experienced eye and well accustomed handling, it was in vain the buyer affected indifference. Though he knew already the virtues of the cloth he "doubted very much if it would bleach well;" nevertheless, at a reduction of an eighth per yard (I did not benefit frequently more than a quarter of that sum - viz.,

#### **p.103**

one thirty-second of a penny per yard) he would "take all I could make for six months." Another gentleman belonging to the "whites," with the appreciative faculty, made my acquaintance for the object of "encouraging early efforts." He, however, succeeded in persuading me to take an unusually large order, which I found a difficulty in executing except by curtailing deliveries to others, which I neither contemplated nor desired. Notwithstanding his benevolent professions and estimable intentions, he one day so lost sight of his original motive that in his inability to "corner" the calico he left me in anger, and I never saw him again. What a cloth that was! And yet it did not secure a fortune for its maker. Indeed, I believe he lost money by it. It was made near Rochdale, and the shed has since been converted into a machine shop.

An Australian shipper called on me during the second week of my proprietorship, and gave me an extensive order for finished goods, comprising a great variety of lots, none of which exceeded thirty yards in length. It was a tedious affair in its execution, but I realized £40 from the transaction. My old colleague Brownrigg kept a watchful eye on my movements, and was a frequent visitor. His curiosity to know how I was progressing was so intense I had to inform him I was then making at the rate of two thousand per annum, though of course I could not

calculate with any degree of certainty upon this result lasting. Brownrigg was hardly prepared for this announcement, and made no more inquiries.

Notwithstanding this windfall I was not satisfied

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with my progress. I wanted more cloth. I could sell unlimited quantities of the right kind could I only obtain it. My business was a source of pleasure to me as far as it went, and during the first year I had justification for the hope of making it one of importance. The Russian war continued, but it was generally spoken of in connection, either with the blundering of the Government (until Lord Palmerston took the premiership) or the reckless bravery of the English soldier and the cowardice of the Muscovite. Its effect on trade had been discounted. At the end of the first year I found my income had exceeded by a little that of any previous one. This I was told to regard as a case of success; so I endeavoured to feel satisfied.

Mr. Thornton improved in health after I went to reside with him, and I became to some extent like one of his household, entering into their various amusements, joining in their occasional festivities, and sometimes attending with them at their place of worship. Many friendships were formed during the time I abode with the Thorntons, who were socially inclined, and drew together select little circles, intellect and wealth being sometimes conspicuously represented. There were numerous relations, in the shape of sisters-in-law and step-sisters, all married or going to be, with their husbands and fiancés, who gathered festively from time to time at the house, which was so enlivened as to cause the time to pass with too rapid a flight. Amongst the many guests was Mr. J.S. Baring, a Londoner. He was the youngest son of an old friend of our hostess, and occasionally came over on a visit. He was not

#### **p.105**

tall in figure but inclined somewhat to rotundity, and carried an agreeable expression on his handsome face. He was quite a ladies' man, dressing well, and with an appearance so neat that he gave one the idea that had he worked in a boiler flue for a week he would have emerged therefrom as bright as a new sixpence! For many years our pens did active service in perpetuating a friendship begun under these happy auspices.

But another change was about to be made. Mr. Thornton discovered that he had not acted judiciously in removing from Kearsley, where, as his dilapidated mill became more ruinous, it was necessary for him to be continually present. It was a trying time for him. He had been relieved of his warehouse cares - if he could only find similar relief from those of his mill, which were gradually, but surely, becoming crushing, he might have a season of freedom. There were, however, three years of his lease which were unexpired, and his landlord's executors, the owner having recently died, were not just the men to forego their rights and privileges. The parting came, not unmixed with a tinge of sadness, and the removal was effected.

I obtained another lodging in the vicinity of Greenheys and the Oxford Road, where I soon settled down to my bachelor existence, which, however, was a more pleasant one than any preceding portion of it. I sold my German piano to my friend Renshaw, who was now living in my old lodging, which he had occupied from the time of my departure from it. He took my rooms, and also the pianoforte. In the place of the latter I

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provided myself with a Boudoir direct from Collard's factory, securing the maximum of quality with only a moderately handsome exterior. The arrival of this beautiful instrument made a sensation, not only in the house where it was quartered but in the street itself. A young German professor of music, newly arrived from the Continent, occupied the room above me. As he had only a hired instrument of inferior tone and construction for his use, his self-made introduction to me was a work of short time. He would, without knocking at my door, walk into the room, with a bundle of music under his arm, with the request that I "vood permit him to studee for von our on de new pi-a-no." I gave him the heartiest of welcomes, and he would immediately plunge into the depths of the finest classical compositions. He pronounced the pi-a-no to be perfect, and I passed the same eulogium upon his playing, which was of a high order. I was qualified to

pronounce judgement, having been familiar with much of his music from my early days as interpreted by my brother Walter, who was a recognised genius. He and I had been separated for many years, which seemed now to return as night after night we revelled, the Deutcher on the newly-found piano, and I as a listener to him. When the room became hot and the atmosphere opaque with tobacco smoke, the window was thrown up, when the pavement on either side of the street had become a promenade. Somehow the passers-by seemed to forget whither they were going, and lingered, perhaps to hear unexpectedly the finished execution of a prelude of Mendelssohn or a charming morceau of Stephen Heller

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(whose pianoforte music Mr. Charles Hallé at that time was introducing to Manchester) executed with consummate neatness and effect. My bachelor and other friends, who were not a few, found me out - especially those who were keen on harmony. Life was so pleasant for a year or more, apart from business, that the remembrance of it causes me to linger on the social aspect of my chequered experiences.

My Collard and I afterwards removed to a commodious residence in a more rural suburb. I heard of this attractive place, and having with Renshaw made an inspection of it which was satisfactory, it resulted in our taking the best four rooms in the house, and we then lived under one roof. My rooms were the more imposing, but R., being an affluent individual, he soon made up for this deficiency by the superior quality of his surroundings. My bookcase was of good size, and made to my own pattern, and contained a moderate number of standard and other works. He ordered one from the same maker, of the same pattern, and so much larger than mine as to hold some sixty more volumes. My Collard, though a gem, was but a Boudoir; he bought one by the same maker, which was a foot and a half longer, being a semi-grand. My collection of vocal and other music could not be improved upon, so he cut the matter short by purchasing the whole of it from me, giving the marked price on each copy, I throwing in the cost of the binding.

But the race for pre-eminence was not yet ended. My walls were hung with some lovely water-colour drawings, whilst his boasted of worn

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impressions of inferior engravings. The difficulty here was also surmounted by his buying them all, *en bloc*, as they hung upon the walls. My office lad's father was a picture-frame maker, and did all my work. He was soon in requisition towards the formation of another "hang," which in a few weeks, with the aid of the contents of my portfolios, was accomplished, with results more brilliant than those which attended the first display. But I was still nowhere. Doomed to lay a second part, I accepted the inevitable, and Renshaw became the owner of "hang" No. 2. I was contemplating yet another "hang," when a circumstance of an untoward nature arose.

My friend was a judge of horse flesh. Our establishment afforded coachhouse, and stable accommodation, for it was a good residence, with extensive premises. There was also a suitable ground for the game of quoits. Fresh milk, butter, and eggs were in close proximity to us, through the neighbourship of a farmer who had thirty head of cattle browsing in an adjoining meadow.

It was not 'surprising that Renshaw should indulge his predilection by the introduction to our establishment of a horse and drag and a groom. The horse was a handsome one - 16 hands, with clean fetlocks, and a good stepper.

The drag and harness were the best Manchester could produce, and the groom, who was an Irishman, was a model of a groom. He only once waited at table that I can remember. My rides to and from business and drives into the country were so frequent that I began to find myself growing stout and attributed the degenerating tendency

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to lack of exercise. The threatened obesity, however, received a check, and soon ceased to be a matter for disquietude. One morning R. came home with a long face, and whispered to me, "The bailiffs are in the house!" The information scared me on reflecting on the amount of

valuable property he possessed in it. I had been thinking recently, our state of happiness was too good to last.

Fortunately I had a slight acquaintanceship with the agent for the property, who doubtless had put the man into possession. I went to him and explained our position, as lodgers. He relieved me of all anxiety. Our landlord soon after satisfied the claims made upon him for rent, and the bailiffs disappeared. Renshaw was, however, disgusted with the circumstances, and fearing any future complications he removed, with the whole of his belongings, including piano, pictures, horse drag, and the Irishman.

The prompt decision of my friend in his departure led me to conclude he had ulterior objects in making so speedy an exit. Hints had now and then been dropped which caused me to conclude he was contemplating an establishment of his own. The acquisitions, too, which he had made since we lived together, were of themselves almost sufficient to furnish a house.

I had no such visions of the immediate future myself, and remained a solitary occupant of my pleasant quarters.

*More in next month's newsletter.*

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Again, a continuation from previous months' newsletters, starting in October with an introduction, which is downloadable, [HERE](#)

from, '*The Book of English Trades*' published in 1827

THE IRON-FOUNDER



The Iron Founder.

The art of founding in metal, or of melting it and forming it into various shapes, now occupies a space in our wants, which entitles it to considerable attention.

If the Greeks, and after them the Romans, perfected it as far as refers to casting in brass and bronze, we have extended it more than they did, inasmuch as we have turned it to all the great features of general utility.

Iron is the staple commodity in the modern foundry. The great abundance of this metal, with its consequent cheapness, together with the developements of chemistry, have, amongst us, opened to it a field, and created for it a demand, the extent of which is at present absolutely incalculable.

It is generally believed that cannon have been made use of in Europe ever since the year 1338, and that they were employed for naval purposes in the Baltic Sea, in 1350; at any rate, it is certain that they were used by the Venetians in 1366, at the siege of Claudia Jessa. Lamey ascribes the invention of brass cannon to J. Owen; he asserts

there, were none such known in England till the year 1535, and that iron cannon were for the first time cast in this country, in 1547. Specimens of great guns, as they were first used, and before the casting of them in foundries came into use, are still to be seen in many parts of Europe, and some also in the Tower of London, and at Woolwich.

The uses to which cast-iron was applied, previously to the last century, are, comparatively, of trivial importance: it now enters more or less into the materials of almost every manufactory, forming wheels, cylinders, pipes, arches, grates, stoves, and innumerable other appendages

and implements, without which, the mechanic would be almost undone, and the domestic concerns of mankind would suffer considerable disadvantage and inconvenience. If value be estimated by utility, iron is, unquestionably, the most valuable of the metals, for in addition to its use in the various arts of life, it is perfectly harmless in its effects upon the human constitution, when taken either in its crude state, or in the form of oxide, or rust, unless in immoderate quantity; a quality which few if any of the other common metals possess. Iron is employed in three states, each having peculiar properties, by which it is applicable to various purposes: the first is *cast-iron*, the second *wrought or malleable iron*, and the third is called *steel*.

Our business, at present, is with the cast-iron manufactory, of which we have a representation in the plate; the Founder has just taken from the furnace a ladle full of liquid metal, with which he is going to cast, perhaps the front of a stove, or some other article, the form of which is moulded out in stiff sand. It will be readily conceived that this business requires great strength, and a constitution that will bear a vast degree of heat.

Iron is dug out of the earth in the form of stones, and in this state it is called ore. The richest ores, that is, those which yield most pure metal, are heavy, and of a brownish colour, inclining to red.

Before the metal is extracted, the ore is sometimes roasted, or calcined; this is done by a different process, in different places: at the iron works in Staffordshire, after the ore is dug, they calcine it in the open air, with small charcoal, wood, or sea-coal, in order to break it in small pieces. This process requires three days. But at the Forest of Dean, in Gloucestershire, the ore is calcined in kilns, made like common lime-kilns: these are filled up to the top with coal and ore, one layer upon another, alternately; and then setting fire to the bottom layer of coal, it burns till the coal is wasted away. By these means the ore becomes brittle, but the metal is not fused.

It is now taken to the furnace to be melted, or, as it is usually termed, to be *smelted*; that is, to extract the metal from the dross.

The furnace, such as is represented in the plate, is built of brick, and is about twenty-four feet square on the outside, and near thirty feet in height within: the middle or widest part of which is not above eight or ten feet, the top and bottom being brought into a narrow compass, something like the shape of an egg. Behind the furnace are fixed two pairs of bellows, which are worked by means of a waterwheel; and they are contrived so as to play alternately, the one giving its blast whilst the other is rising. But in many founderies, the bellows used are constructed after Mr. Wilkinson's plan, by which a regular and uniform blast is continually produced. Holes are left in the furnace, which may be opened at any time to take away the scoriæ, or dross, or to permit the metal to flow out.

The furnace is filled with ore and charcoal, or coke; when coke is used, limestone is added, to promote more effectually the reduction of the metal, by supplying carbonic acid for that purpose. The ore gradually subsides into the hottest part of the furnace, where it is melted, and the metallic parts being the heaviest, fall to the bottom, where there is a passage made for taking off the scum. As soon as there is a sufficient quantity of metal in a complete and strong state of fusion, it is let out by a tap-hole into furrows, made in an immense bed of sand, which is prepared before the mouth of the furnace: the large mass which sets in the main furrow, is called by the Founders a *sow*, and the lesser or side furrows are termed *pigs* of iron. The metal is generally made so hot before it is drawn off, that it will not only run a great distance, but will keep boiling for some time in the sand.

For chimney-backs, hearths of ovens, the fronts of stoves, and other small articles, the Founder takes the metal out of the receiver in large ladles, from which he pours it into moulds of fine sand.

But for the more intricate cases of Iron-Foundry, as casting of cylinders for steam engines, or pipes with various branches, moulds are formed of loam or clay, which are made nearly in the same manner as the moulding of plaister for busts, &c.

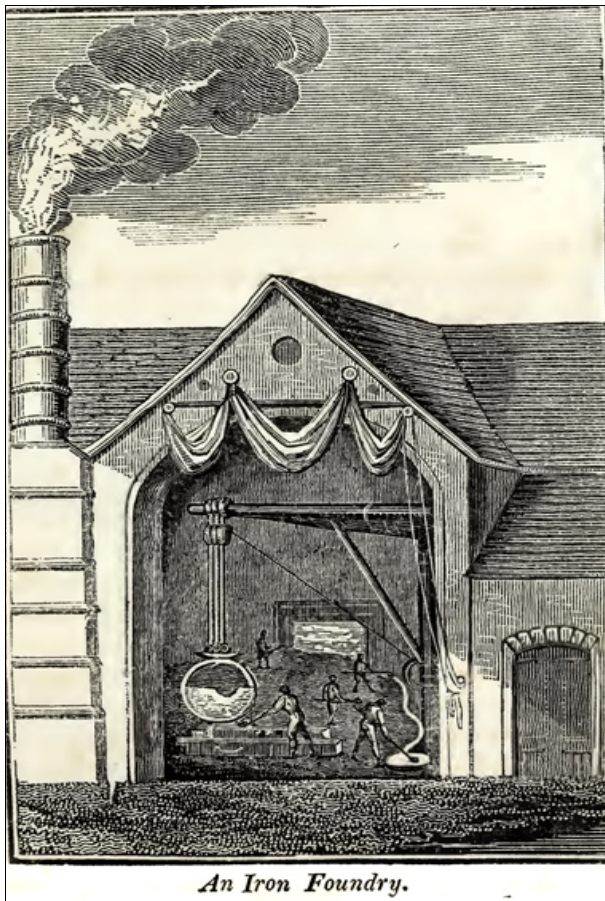
When the furnaces are once at work, they keep them constantly employed for many months

together, never suffering the fire to slacken night or day, but still supplying the wasting of the fuel and the ore, by fresh materials poured in at the top. The excessive and long-continued ignition kept in these furnaces, gradually wastes the brickwork, till the sides, which are many feet thick, become unable to sustain the weight of the melted metal; so that it has sometimes been known to burst out suddenly in a violent and dreadfully-destructive stream. At certain intervals, therefore, the fire ought to be allowed to go out, whatever may be the expense of rekindling it, in order to examine and repair the furnace.

Three tons of iron are sometimes run off in twenty-four hours, with the application of the bellows, whilst the heat without these would scarcely melt a single hundred weight in the same time: indeed, we knew a well-conducted furnace at Redbrook, near Monmouth, where two tons of cast-iron were regularly run out into pigs every eleventh hour: the ore in this furnace was reduced entirely by charcoal, and being in small lumps underwent no previous roasting. Cast-iron is now employed in the formation of bridges of great extent; in roofs, and the girders, and joists in buildings, as well as the sash-frames, and sashes. It has also been used with success in wheels and other machinery to our steam-engines. Birmingham and its neighbourhood is the great entrepôt for works of all kind in iron. The Soho of Messrs. Boulton and Watt, near that town, is of known celebrity. And the Colebrook-dale Company, in Shropshire, have long been famous for a variety of cast-iron materials for building both houses and bridges. The Carron Iron-works in Scotland are also well known: the guns known in war under the name of carronades, derive their name from this last foundry; for the mode of casting which, as well as cannon generally, we refer to more voluminous writings, merely adding that cannon are always cast with a large cap at their muzzle, which was originally cut off with a saw, but now a machine is used for the purpose, which a man works by turning a lathe, and as the turning goes on the turner uses a chisel, with which he cuts into the gun to about one inch and a half deep. The cap so cut is broken off by being hammered.

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### IRON FOUNDRY.



*An Iron Foundry.*

This engraving represents the interior of one of the principal iron foundries in Colebrook Dale, Shropshire. The air-hole is visible at the end, and a man is employed drawing the dross from the liquid metal, which is represented to the right running from an orifice into a basin, where a man is lading it to pour into the moulds or matrices; two other men are also visible, similarly employed; and a fourth is emptying the metal into moulds.

To keep the moulds steady weights are commonly placed on them; but in the present case a cask of metal is suspended by a crane and let fall on the moulds, and by means of the crane shifted from mould to mould as occasion requires; such weights not only give precision to the casting, but prevent explosion from the expansion of the air and moisture within the moulds.

The tarpauling in front is intended to be let down in case of wet weather, as rain to windward would spoil the moulds, and explode in contact with the liquid metal. The chimney of the furnace is

represented to the left, and the intensity of the fire is maintained by means of double-blast bellows, the noise of which exceeds the conception of those who never heard them.

Following on from the email sent by Glyn Collin, with the newspaper account in the *Manchester Guardian* Feb 25th, 1852, concerning the **FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION AT OLDHAM**, (which was transcribed for the ePostbag) the inquest was opened and reported in, *The Manchester Guardian*, Feb. 28th, 1852,

### **THE LATE BOILER EXPLOSION**

The inquest on the bodies of Mary Newton, Sarah Ann Newton (an infant, her daughter), and John Gartside, who were killed by the explosion of a boiler, in connection with a small building known as the Diamond Mill, at Westhill, Oldham, on Monday morning last, was commenced on Wednesday, before Mr. T.E. Dearden, coroner, and a very respectable jury. The following evidence was given:-

**Hannah Newton** : I live in York Street, and I am a widow. The deceased, Mary Newton, was my sister-in-law; she was in her forty-fourth year, and has left six children, the oldest being nearly twenty years one years, and the youngest living is about 5 years old; the youngest, who is killed was sixteen months old. I heard the report caused by the bursting of the boiler about half past eleven o'clock on Monday morning, and immediately ran to the spot. I saw Mary Newton in Mr. Rhodes's house, where she had been taken after she was got out of the ruins. She was sick and fainting; there was a terrible wound on her left breast. she died about two hours afterwards I think; I was present at the time, and she spoke to me before she died. the deceased child's name was Sarah Ann Newton. Mary Newton lived with her husband in the cottage directly opposite the end of the mill and boiler-house.

**Peter Ford**, a labourer: When the boiler burst on Monday morning, I was working in Whitehead Lane, and I immediately ran round to the Diamond Mill, which belongs to a man named Clough, I think. When I got in front of the five cottages, I heard Mary Newton calling out for help, and I ran in among the ruins of the house; before I went round I saw the boiler end come over just above the tops of the chimneys, and there were also a great number of bricks. When I got into Newton's house the place was full of steam, so that I could hardly see; but I found the deceased, Mary Newton, lying upon the hearth stone, with bricks and slates, chairs and tables, and the window frame upon her. Two other men were in the place, and when they had picked her up, I began to, look for a child who was said to be among the ruins; the child was found outside the house, about ten minutes afterwards. Subsequently I saw a man brought out from the ruins at the corner of the mill; he was much burned.

**By a Juror**: I knew the premises before the accident; the chimney joined up to the gable end of the mill. I don't know it's height, but it had been cracked for some time before the explosion.

**James Clough**: I live at Lower Moor. I have been a good many trades, and an engineer for a good while; I am better than 30 years old. Daniel Clough is reckoned to be the owner of the Diamond Mill, where this explosion took place; he was a wood turner. I'm his brother. I've been engineer at this mill. I don't exactly know how long, but I think between three and four years. The boiler which burst was put down last May; it was "reckoned to be" a new one then by the man it was bought of. It was bought of Mr. Fernihough, of Dukinfield. I never-measured the length of it, but I know the width of it was 6 feet. There were three or four different tenants of the mill, and they had seven or eight willow there. I left being engineer about a fortnight since; the engine was eight horses' power and high pressure. The safety-valve had one round weight in the shape of a pear, upon the lever. I never measured the the size of the valve, but I think it was 3 inches. When the old boiler was took down, the "silver" in the steam-gauge got wasted, and so the gauge has never acted since. I don't know what pressure of steam we worked the new boiler with; there was not much need for a gauge; I don't. know at what preasure the steam would escape; the lever was about 2 feet long and the weight which was about 21lb, was kept about an inch from the end. I am not able to calculate what pressure would be

necessary to raise the valve. I've seen the steam blow off many times; we considered it was too low if it didn't blow off. There was a force-pump, which always worked well enough, for getting water into the boiler. When the boiler was full, we used to stop the tap and turn the water off. There was a steel float, and I used to try it six or seven times a day, and if it stuck, I oiled it. I never stopped in consequence of the water being low since we had this boiler; I have done so a time or two with the old one. All the time I worked the engine I found the valve and the water gauge in good order; I always looked after them, because they ought to be looked after. We generally used to work with 34 inches or 35 inches of water in the boiler, and I never had lower than 30 inches except sometimes in the morning; the float would act when the water was as low as 28 inches. The top of the flue outside was 30 inches up the boiler; I always calculated to keep my water as high as the flue. The force-pump was worked by a strap. We could get water into the boiler when the steam was blowing off. After I left, Daniel Clough, the owner of the building, drove the engine for a fortnight; I never had any-thing to do with a boiler before I went to the Diamond Mill. My brother professed to understand it, and he taught me as much as he could; he never was an engineer before, but "he'd been among it, for a good time." I had been a piecer in a factory before I went to the Diamond Mill; my brother gave me better wages than I got in the factory; I never had less than 10s. a week; I didn't leave because my brother wished to reduce my wages, or because I had been drinking; I was looking after another place, but couldn't get it. I used to clean the boiler once a month or five weeks. I never heard Fernihough or anybody else say what pressure of steam there must be before it would blow off, when the weight was at the end of the valve. When the steam was low I've seen my brother lift the weight a little, and he'd said sometimes "I hadn't 20lb. on." Daniel Clough (my brother) fitted the boiler up himself. I think the patch in the end of the boiler which had been burst off, was in consequence of the boiler having been coupled to another; Fernihough said this had been done, and that the boiler had not been working more than three months before my brother bought it. I was in the boiler-house on Monday morning up to nine o'clock; my brother had told me he would find me another job. I did not notice whether any extra weight had been put on the valve that morning, but I saw the steam blow off. I looked at and touched the float; it was at its general height, and I thought it was in working order. I don't think I ever heard anybody say anything about there being danger from this boiler; people did talk about the old boiler, which was less. On Monday morning, I spoke to the new man, and pointed out different things, as to the fittings, to him. I know that thimble "tented" the engine at Bentley's before he went to my brother's; he was working as a labourer at Messrs. Hibbert, Platt, and Sons, when they stopped; I dare say he was 21 years old, but I don't know what wages my brother was to give him. On Monday morning, I thought that my brother would give me my shop as tender again; I never knew of the other man coming until I saw him in the fire-hole, and then I talked to him for an hour.

**Daniel Clough:** I live at Westhill, Whitehead Lane, and have been a bobbin maker by trade for twenty years; before that I worked at piecing in a factory. It is about six years since the Diamond mill was built. It has been recently let off to different tenants, and I occupied part myself. I had an eight-horse engine; and Mr. John Fernihough, of Dukinfield, from whom I bought the boiler which has burst, said it was about 21 horses' power. Mr. Fernihough is a boiler maker. There was a water-gauge and steam valve, but no steam-gauge, to the boiler, at the time of the accident. The steam gauge was taken off about nine months since; it didn't act as I wanted it to do. It worked the boiler up to 12lb or 14lb; when the weight was at the end of the lever, the steam blew off at 25lb. but we never wanted it so high as that. The new boiler was nearly as big again as the old one, but I took the fittings from the old and put them on to the new one; I thought they'd do again, because the old boiler drove a great deal more weight than ever, this one has done. I rather think the valve was 2½in. The old steam gauge was put up to the new boiler, but it never acted. When the old boiler was put down, the fitter told me that when the weight was at the end of the valve, it was equal to 25lb to the inch; I used to keep the weight 3in. or 4in. from the end of the lever on the new boiler, and I calculated then it would be

equal to about 12lb or 14lb. The steam gauge has never acted in connection with the new boiler. I was at the engine house the first on Monday morning. We generally worked with the boiler about half full, and then the top of the water was about level with the top of the flues. I let the new man start on Monday morning with the same amount of pressure as I usually started with; and I looked after the boiler very well up to half-past ten. The engine ran a deal quicker than usual after half past ten, and I and the tenants told the man to slacken two or three times. I noticed the safety valve that morning, and I am sure the steam was blowing off; I put the in weight 3in. from the end of the lever, and told the man that it would be safe to run at that point. I believe the lever is about 21in. long from the fulcrum, and I think the weight was 25lb.; from the fulcrum to the valve would be 5in. or 6in. (Several jurymen remarked that if the lever was 21in. from the fulcrum, and 5in. thence to the valve, and if the weight at the end was equal to 25lb. to the inch, it never could be reduced to 12lb. or 14lb. by removing the weight 3in. from the end.) I discharged my brother, because the tenants of the mill used to complain of his running the engine too slow; we tried the new man for a few hours one afternoon, and then I said I would see if I could engage him, as the tenants liked him and wished me to engage him. The engine was usually driven at 60 strokes per minute. It could be driven with the weight more than 3in. from the end of the lever; but I put the weight there as a substitute for a steam gauge; because I felt that when the steam blew off with the weight there, it was as high as it should be. The new man was to have 14s. a week. When the tenants complained of the engine going too fast on Monday morning, the engineer checked it by "throttling" the steam into the boiler. I don't know whether it was very dangerous to do so. The engineer could tell immediately, when the pump was on, whether the water was being pumped into the boiler; because, if it stopped, the water would immediately run over the tub. I think the ram of the force pump was two inches and a half diameter, and there was a six-inch stroke. Howarth, the new engineer, told me he had tented engines in one or two places before; and that he, as well as his father and brother, had been among engines all their lives, and that "he ought to know" I said he ought to know, and I engaged him. I did not notice the effect upon the safety valve when Howarth "throttled" the steam, on Monday morning; if it did blow off afterwards I could not have heard it, from the noise of the saw at which I was working. The water-whistle from the old boiler was never put upon the new one. All the machinery was at work on Monday morning; and when the tenants complained of going too fast, Howarth must have had the steam higher than usual. The water pipe was one inch in diameter: I should think it was large enough to take the water from a 2½ ram. It was the same pipe as we had for the old boiler. Neither me nor my brother was brought up as an engineer, and we had nothing to do with engines until I built the Diamond Mill. We have had plenty of experience and trouble with the engine there. I could run the engine as well without a steam gauge as with. I could tell the pressure by the valve. If the engine ever ran above or below the usual speed, when I was managing it, I used to go and lift the weight, and I could tell, about the pressure from that. The was cleaned once a month. I always went in myself, and I never missed examining the stays and seeing that they were all right. I considered that there was a fair quantity of water - perhaps about 30 inches - when I tried the float, about half past ten on Monday morning. I think that at that height, it would sink an inch at least during the hour before the explosion, if no water went in. The cylinder of the engine was 10½in. the stroke was 2ft. and the engine made 60 strokes a minute. (several of the jurors remarked that a much greater quantity of water than supposed by the witness, must have been evaporated during an hour.) The tenants had complained several times between breakfast time and half-past ten, that the engine was running too fast; I went down to the engine at least ten times during the morning, because the engineer was a new one. I never heard that the neighbours complained on the Monday morning that the water was too low in the boiler, or that they wanted the engineer to stop and get more water in. It would never do to stop the engine with the steam at that pressure. 'I don't know whether the engineer opened the furnace doors when he "throttled" the steam at half-past ten; I didn't tell him to do so, because I thought he ought to have known and done it; I went and examined the water-gauge (A Juror said that the quicker

the water was boiling, the greater would be the apparent quantity in the boiler - it would, perhaps, appear to be an inch or upwards more than it really was.)

**Robert Coop** : I am a roller-maker and I have occupied part of the upper room of the Diamond Mill for more than three years. I paid £11 a year for "room and power." I commenced work at seven o'clock on Monday morning last; there was a fresh engineer at that time, but I don't know him at all. I went down to the engine-house between nine and ten o'clock, because I found the engine was running at more than its usual speed, and I could hear that the pump was not pumping water. I found the engineer getting the pump 'agatete,' and I said to him, "If I were thee, I'd run the engine a little slower, and thy pump would 'work better then.'" There has been a good deal of difficulty with the pump, but not within a week or two. I did not see the engineer alter the engine; but after I went up to my work, I heard water being pumped into the engine for two or three minutes. I was not in the building more than a quarter of an hour after this before the explosion; and I cannot say whether the pump got wrong again. I never heard the steam blow off from this new boiler, but I did frequently from the old one; if there had been u. blowing off I must have heard it. I never feared, or heard a fear expressed, that this new boiler would burst; the neighbours used to be afraid of the old boiler, because, as it was small, the engineer had to fire very hard. I've seen two or three bricks upon the lever of the safety-valve of the old boiler, and the steam blowing off at the time; I never saw the steam blow off from the new boiler, and I've thought it was because the boiler being larger, a less pressure of steam would drive the machinery. I never saw anything but the weight upon the safety-valve of the new boiler; I don't know at all whether the valve ever stuck. I have seen a little steam come out through the valve on the new boiler, but not enough to call anything like blowing off.

A discussion took place as to the desirableness of having at once the evidence of Howarth, the engineer, regarding the state of the safety-valve, which several of the jurors said they believed to have been altogether out of working order on the Monday morning. It was urged that, if possible the man should be examined that day, before there was any possibility of his being tampered with.

**William Charlesworth**, cotton and waste spinner, was next examined, but his evidence was unimportant. He stated that there was frequently "something up" about the boiler, at the Diamond Mill, and that, especially before the new boiler was put up, the neighbours used frequently to talk of being in fear of an explosion. He thought "there wasn't a greater nuisance in the township of Oldham," than was caused by the dirt and dust from the willows in the Diamond Mill; but he admitted that he knew nothing about the practical working of boilers, and he did not appear exactly to know why the neighbours had been frightened.

**Mr. J. Rowntree**, surgeon, said he did not think there was any immediate fear of death resulting from Howarth's injuries; but he could not say that the excitement of the jury going to his house to take his examination might not be too much for him to bear at the present time. Howarth had received severe injury to his back, and that morning he had complained severely of his head, to which injury might have been done, although there was no external mark. He would not have Howarth brought out in a cab, and his house would not accommodate the whole of the jury. If it was not very important, the examination had better be adjourned for a few days; although he (Mr. Rowntree) would not say that great danger would result from his immediate examination. Having been sworn, Mr. Rowntree said that he saw Mary Newton about half-past twelve, at which time she was moribund. She appeared to have a severe bruise on the chest near the left breast, and was extensively scalded in different parts of the body. She died five minutes afterwards. In consequence of her being in a dying state, he did not closely examine her; so that there might have been other injuries than those he had mentioned. He saw Gartsdale during Monday afternoon; his skull was fractured in two or three places, there were several severe wounds on the body, and he was severely scalded. After a short consultation, the jury determined (at half-past three) to adjourn to Wednesday morning next at ten o'clock; the coroner being empowered to direct Mr. Fairbairn, C.E. or Mr. Jas. Nasmyth to examine the boiler, and report as to the cause of the explosion.

Evidence was afterwards taken as to the finding of the bodies of Gartside and the child Sarah Ann Newton.

## **2nd day of the Inquest**

*The Manchester Guardian (1828-1900); Mar 6, 1852*

### **THE LATE BOILER EXPLOSION**

The adjourned inquest on the bodies of Mary Newton, Sarah Ann Newton, and John Gartside, who were killed by the late boiler explosion, at the Diamond Mill, West Hill, was held at the Spread Eagle Inn, on Wednesday. Shortly after the assembling of the jury, Mr. James Nasmyth arrived. He stated that he had made the examination of the boiler at the Diamond Mill, on Saturday last. He had prepared a report, which he would read; but before doing so would point out to the jury the condition of the safety valve, which, being in such a leaky state, would be constantly allowing an escape, which would be very deceptive, - the valve apparently working when at the same time it was completely gagged. He believed that at the time of the explosion, there was an ample supply of water in the boiler; and there was no indication that the plates had been overheated; but he found the engine and all the fittings in such a filthy state as almost to prevent their working. One thing was to be said, that the work carried on at the mill was of such a dirty character as to cause the engine and all other things to be covered with dust, thus rendering necessary constant cleaning, which it did not get.

**Mr. Superintendent Jackson** here produced the safety valve, when Mr. Nasmyth pointed out the state of the spindle, and other indications, showing clearly that the valve did not work. The foreman asked whether, if an intelligent engineer had had the care of it, he would not have known that it was not working? Mr. Nasmyth said that he would, but that the escape of steam owing to the leaky state of the valve would be very deceptive. He (Mr. Nasmyth) would venture to recommend to the jury, that it should embody with its verdict its opinion that no shut-up safety valves should be used, as they were at all times dangerous. He considered the defective staying of the boiler, with the state of the valve, to be the main causes of the explosion.

Diagonal stays were bad in principle with flat ended boilers. (Mr. Nasmyth here illustrated by drawings the position of the stays in the boiler, and minutely explained their defects, both in application and principle.) It was much to be regretted that there was not some public functionary appointed by the boiler owners themselves, well qualified by practical knowledge and experience to visit and examine their engines and boilers, to point out defects, suggest improvements, and exercise a regular supervision. Such a functionary should be removable at any time by a vote of two-thirds of the proprietors, if he were found not competent; but he should be liberally paid, which could be done at a very trifling sum per horse power. He (Mr. Nasmyth) believed that a repetition of these accidents would be frequent until such an officer was appointed; and he was of opinion that such an appointment would be acceptable to proprietors generally. The foreman thanked Mr. Nasmyth for his many valuable suggestions, and said he was of opinion that owners of engines and boilers generally would be willing to adopt them. Mr. Nasmyth then read the following report:—

" Having carefully examined the various portions of the boiler which lately exploded at the Diamond Mill, West Hill, Oldham, with a view to discover the most probable cause of this disastrous accident, I shall now endeavour to lay before the jury, the result of my investigation, stating in the first place the facts from which I have drawn the conclusions I have arrived at. The form of the boiler was that of a plain cylindrical body with flat ends, the diameter of the body being 6 feet, and its length 17 feet; the thickness of the plates nearly  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch, the flat ends having been stayed by one central wrought-iron stay, reaching from end to end, and finally attached to the boiler ends by cotters and straps of boiler plate. Besides the central stay each end had two additional stay bars, attached to the boiler ends and body by means of pins passing through short pieces of angle iron, held to the boiler by  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. rivets, each of these additional stays being about four feet long, and placed diagonally. The construction and workmanship of the parts, by means of which the stay bars were made fast to the boiler ends

and sides, were alike defective in principle of construction and workmanship, inasmuch as that whatever strain the stay bars were subjected to, the strain on the rivets which held the angle iron to the boiler end would be doubled. (Mr. Nasmyth here introduced drawings, showing the position of the stays, and minutely explained the principle). It is to the defective nature of these attachments that I am inclined to ascribe the main cause of the accident. The safety-valve, if it deserve the name, is of a very defective construction, and appears to have been in a most neglected condition. It is only 2¼in. diameter, the valve itself being placed out of sight, inside a cast iron case, so that it could not be examined while the boiler was in use. The action of the weight was conveyed to it by means of a lever and outside guide spindle, the latter passing through a hole in the corner of the valve box. The spindle is in a very dirty and neglected condition. The weight spindle is attached to the top of the valve by a fork joint and pin or bolt. The weight was found to be 20¾lb, which placed three inches from the outer end of the lever (where it is admitted to have been at the time of the explosion), would require a pressure of 44lb to the square inch to overcome it (all other circumstances being favourable), and so prevent the accumulation of higher pressure. That a thoroughly well made boiler of the proportions of the one in question might withstand such a pressure as stated above. I have no doubt, although I should not think of recommending such a form of boiler in such case; but with a due amount of staying, and that on the best principle, such a boiler might be made comparatively safe. But as the workmanship of this boiler is of a very inferior character, and the stays, as before said, both defective in principle and execution, I should have considered it most hazardous to subject it to the pressure to which it would appear it has been habitually exposed. By reason of the inefficient manner in which the flat ends have been stayed, the fluctuations in the pressure of the steam would cause the imperfectly stayed ends to bulge outwards more or less, according to the variations of the pressure of the steam. This action would inevitably result, sooner or later, in cracking the flat ends at the part where they are attached to the cylindrical body of the boiler, and where they are naturally weakened by the rivet holes round the edge. There is no kind of action more destructive to the tenacity of iron than this sort of short and continued bending backward and forward, as is doubtless familiar to most persons who have any experience in the capabilities of iron. the metal round the flat end of the boiler appears to have, by the above-named action, at length arrived at its breaking point, and to have yielded to the pressure and given way, in the first instance, at the lower portion of the end opposite to the fire, and by the leverage thus acquired, the defective stay attachments, were torn away; and the circular end finally parting from the body, as or near the upper side, into the air. would be cast whirling upward into the air. The body of the boiler must have partaken of a similar flight in the opposite direction, but by reason of its weight it appears to have made only one end to end turn in its flight.

So far as appearances enable me to judge, I feel pretty confident, that there had been an ample supply of water in the boiler at the time of the explosion. I feel confident that we may look for no more likely cause for the accident than that resulting from the subjecting an imperfectly constructed boiler to a pressure which must, sooner or later, have brought about its destruction. The gradual, but certain fracture of iron, especially angle iron, by the continual, although slight backward and forward bending action, is a most dangerous, because insidious, cause of such accidents. On inspecting the safety valve at the police office, I observed that the screwbolt or pin, which attached the valve to the weight spindle had, for want of a nut to retain it in its proper place, got so far out of the joint as to abut its head, in a diagonal position, against the rough side of the valve box, whilst its point was yet just within the edge of the hole in the fork-like joint of the weight spindle. Whether that was the position of it at the time of the explosion, it is impossible to say; but supposing it to have been so, it would, in such a position, most effectually gag or hold down the valve; and by the defective fitting of the valve to the seat, just as much steam might escape as to make it appear that the valve was in action, while in point of fact a most fatal accumulation of steam and pressure was progressing. Whether this was the immediate cause of the explosion, it is impossible to say with certainty. The slovenly

state of the engine in respect of accumulation of old oil and dirt, was quite in character with the condition of the boiler apparatus. (Signed) James Nasmyth

**Mr. Rowntree**, surgeon, having been requested to visit the engineer, reported that he was not in a fit state to be removed for the purpose of examination. The jury were unanimously of opinion that after the lucid report and verbal explanations given by Mr. Nasmyth, the engineer's evidence could throw no further light on the subject. After a short consultation, the Foreman handed in the following verdict :- "The finding of the jury is 'accidental death.' The jury is of opinion that the accident is to be attributed immediately to deficiency of the boiler fittings, there being no steam gauge attached, and the safety valve being, in the opinion of the jury, entirely inoperative. The boiler itself also, as is shown by the able report of Mr. Nasmyth, is very improperly constructed for high pressure power. The jury think there has been great ignorance displayed by the owner and his servants, but do not think that they are open to any criminal charge. At the same time they feel they should not be doing their duty if they separate without expressing their opinion that the frequency of boiler accidents renders it imperative that there should be some general supervision of steam boilers; and having made this suggestion, they would leave the application with the public."

In delivering this verdict the Foreman requested that Mr. Clough, the owner, should be called and reprimanded by the coroner, which was done by Mr. Dearden.

**The Foreman** also addressed Mr. Clough, and said that he had only escaped a verdict of manslaughter in consequence of the jury considering that he was ignorant of the amount of danger to which he exposed himself and others. This terminated the proceedings; after which the jury, composed of 16 gentlemen, all with one exception engine and boiler proprietors, had a good deal of conversation as to carrying out the suggestion of the appointment of a general inspector. The desirableness of such an appointment was admitted by all.

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Error message

An email was sent to me, at Oldham HRG, with regard to a contribution at the Group's December meeting in which attendees would remember and share Christmas memories. It was about the tune written by an Oldham composer and performed in 2011. According to Wikipedia, "Robert Jackson, parish organist at **All Saints' Church**, Oldham, Lancashire, wrote a tune to "*While shepherds watched their flocks by night*" in 1903 for the Westwood Moravian Church. It was called "*Jackson's Tune*." In actual fact, Robert Jackson, and his father before him, were the organists at **St. Peter's**.

It can be heard on Youtube, [HERE](#).

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We have had a request regarding an Oldham man named Arthur Hill who lost his life in 1944 in Holland:

### ***"Request for information about Arthur A. Hill, driver Royal Army Service Corps, died in the battle of Overloon, Netherlands"***

I herewith would like to contact you on behalf of the Overloon War Chronicles Foundation and would like to ask your assistance in our project concerning the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in Overloon (The Netherlands).

The Battle of Overloon (18 September – 18 October 1944), also mentioned 'The forgotten Battle', followed immediately after Operation Market Garden and resulted in as many casualties as Market Garden (some say even more!)

The CWGC cemetery was realized in 1946.

Our foundation was founded in 2020.

Our foundation has several goals, I would like to mention the 2 most important ones at this stage:

\* To find pictures and background stories of all 281 men who are buried in Overloon.

Who were these men who gave their lives for the liberation of The Netherlands? In that way we will be able to tell their stories not only to the present generation but also to the generations to come.

\* To honour these men via removable pictures which will be placed next to their graves during special occasions, for example during Liberation day in The Netherlands, Overloon liberation day and Christmas eve on which our task force places burning candles on all 281 graves. This is always an emotional moment and these ceremonies are accompanied by a group of war veterans, Majors and councilors, and also children of the local primary school.

As the CWGC Commission does not allow to place permanent objects at all, we will create removable pictures.

Our foundation would like to find relatives of these men, who would be able to provide us with copies of pictures/photographs and background information (for example copies of letters, operation reports, regiment diaries etc.) of these men.

In that way we will be able to complete every individual story as much as possible.

In particular we are looking for more information about Arthur A. Hill. He was born in 1908 and was killed in action on 9 October 1944 at the age of 36. He lived in Oldham, Lancashire.

Surname: Hill

First name: Arthur A.

Initials: A.A.

Date of birth: 1908

Army Reg.nr: T/10674098

Age at day of death: 36

K.I.A.: 9-10-1944

Rank: Driver

Regiment: Royal Army Service Corps

Place: Oldham, Lancashire

Husband of: Esther Hannah Hill

Hopefully you can assist us in our search for more information about Arthur Hill in order to achieve our ultimate goal: a picture of him and obtaining more information about who he was.

Best regards from The Netherlands,

Iwan van Dijk.

(Overloon War Chronicles Foundation)

Overloonwarchronicles.nl

We managed to find information about Arthur Hill from the census returns, the 1939 register and bmd records etc, which we sent off to the foundation. We were also able (through our treasurer, Gill) to put them in touch with the British Legion who were able to provide more information to them.

It appears that Arthur and Hannah had a daughter, Barbara. What would be so lovely would be if we could find Barbara, or her children, and put them in touch with the foundation.

If you think you can help at all, you can contact Iwan van Dijk at :

< Overloonwarchronicles@gmail.com >

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Another email that arrived just after the last newsletter went out, is **this one from Desmond Flanagan, who as a young child, was sent to live with a family in Denshaw during WW2.**

Dear Sheila ... in the house opposite the 'Junction Inn'. Half of this large house was painted

White – and was called appropriately ‘The White House’ which was lived in by a family I never knew. The other half of the building, where I was boarded, was lived in by a very kind family. I recall living with a mother, father, Grandfather, and unmarried daughter. This young lady’s boyfriend was in the Forces, she cried a lot when she got his letters!

I went to the local ‘Christ Church’ school – which is still there – as is the house. I recall some Home Guard drilling in the front of what used to be a gents urinal - on the left side of the Junction Pub. I also recall a hot summer, followed by a great winter snow fall - which completely blocked the road to Rochdale – and the Milk Man had to make his deliveries on a horse-drawn Sledge!

Apart from going with ‘the mother’ into Oldham on the bus for some shopping, going to school, sliding on the ice-covered pond near the school in winter, and playing in the field with a stream behind ‘our’ house – I cannot put a precise year - or names to the people from this phase in my life. I have visited the Denshaw house at the Junction – which is now a single unit, and was received very kindly by the present owners – who are as mystified as I am as to the details of the WW2 owners of the property. This enquiry is merely to put in place a piece of the jigsaw picture – which goes to make up a fairly long and interesting life.

If you chose to publish this enquiry in ‘Owls’ newsletter, whenever – I would be pleased to receive any Denshaw memories from your readership relating to around 1944 and please reply to: < DrDesflanagan@freeserve.com >

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## 1921 ... a Census Centenary

MLFHS, **1921 Centenary Project** ... follow the links to the short introductory video [HERE](#) , other short videos and the many blog articles (20 and counting!) [HERE](#) which are full of unexpected information, making fascinating reading (they're on the public access pages). A dedicated 1921 page, bringing it all together, is [HERE](#). and a 1921 World Timeline is [HERE](#). A great deal of hard work has gone into this project, including bringing us some talks, on zoom, with a 1921 connection ... follow the links and enjoy just what the team have found for us. The final Journal (*Manchester Genealogist*) of the year, was the special **1921 Centenary** edition.

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

since the last newsletter :

* New online service for RAF Records

[HERE](#)

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\* On the buses: how the National Union of Railwaymen organised bus workers

[HERE](#)

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* Did you live in Manchester Town Hall? We need your help

The Town Hall is now closed for renovation but when it reopens there will be an exhibition about its history . Library staff and their families and maybe the Lord Mayor used to resided there some for many years. If you have any information about living in the Town Hall we would love to hear from you. We would like to know what it was like to live there.

Please send to < office@mlfhs.org.uk >

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\* Manchester Theatre History : The history of Manchester theatres and stars that appeared there

[HERE](#)

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* Lifelines Research - ...being a very brief history of the releases of the English & Welsh

census returns

[HERE](#)

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\* Working Class Movement Library - Digitising anti-capitalism

[HERE](#)

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* Seven labour history anniversaries in 2022

[HERE](#)

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\* In the footsteps of the women who escaped a Nazi death march

[HERE](#)

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* Manchester's lost concert hall that hosted worldwide artists and thousands of adoring fans - Belle Vue's Kings Hall

[HERE](#)

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\* Treasure trove includes record for almost all land in Ireland

[HERE](#)

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* Ancient mass migration transformed Britons' DNA

[HERE](#)

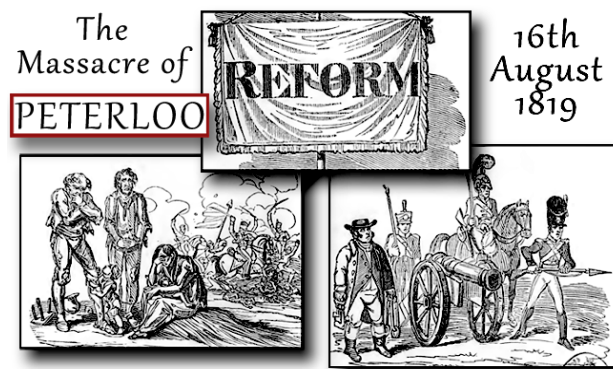
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\* 'The Girls Behind the Counter' – The Daily Life of a Victorian Shop Girl

[HERE](#)

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

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

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**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](#)

Coronavirus Pandemic
Oldham Local Studies and Archives is open again

Coronavirus Update and Statement July 2021 :

Oldham Local Studies and Archives is pleased to announce that it is now fully open to the public.

Our opening hours are as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10am-5pm; Tuesday 10am-2pm; Saturday 10am-4pm.

Although it will not be essential to book your place as has been the case over the last few months, we encourage you to consider booking in advance as this enables us to get everything ready in time for your visit, particularly if you wish to view archives. To order please visit:

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/forms/form/891/en/local_archives_document_order_form

If you wish to use PCs to access family history websites or to use microfilm readers, we advise you to book a place by contacting us at:

archives@oldham.gov.uk or telephone 0161 770 4654.

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.

[Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

There are regularly changing displays in the Local Studies Library.

[Opening hours](#) and **contact details.**

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## Website Links

### Other Society Websites

Catholic Family History Society – [www.catholicfhs.co.uk](http://www.catholicfhs.co.uk)

Cheshire Local History Association – [www.cheshirehistory.org.uk](http://www.cheshirehistory.org.uk)

Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – [www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk](http://www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk)

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society - <https://www.lfhhs.org.uk/home.php>

Lancashire Local History Federation – [www.lancashirehistory.org](http://www.lancashirehistory.org)

Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – [www.lswlfhs.org.uk](http://www.lswlfhs.org.uk)

Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – [www.mrias.co.uk](http://www.mrias.co.uk)

Oldham Historical Research Group – [www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg](http://www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg)

Peterloo - [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) - [Ranulf Higden Soc.](#)

Royton Local History Society – [www.rlhs.co.uk](http://www.rlhs.co.uk)

Saddleworth Historical Society – [www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk](http://www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk)

Tameside Local History Forum - [www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk](http://www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk)

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](#)

Regiments & Corps of the British Army (Wayback machine) [HERE](#)

Special Collections on Find My Past [HERE](#)

FmyP - The Manchester Collection [HERE](#)

Goad fire insurance maps of Manchester [HERE](#)

### Some Local Archives

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

Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](#)

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

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

Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](#)

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

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

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)

Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

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

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

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

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



## For the Gallery

### **WOMEN'S WAR WORK**

**a Booklet Issued by the War Office ... September 1916**



*(Photo Topical Press)*

#### **Harvesting**

Farmer's daughter driving and cutting "laid" wheat, which work she carried out the whole of the season 1915



*[Photo Central Press]*

Women Barrowing Coke at a Gas Works



Cleaning a Locomotive

Large numbers of women are thus employed



*[Photo Central News]*

### Brewery Workers

Women workers rolling barrels in the brewery yard. They wear suitable costumes and are remarkably capable and energetic



*[Photo Sport and General Press Agency]*

### Women Roadsweepers