

'e-Owls'



Contact us :

Branch Website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>
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3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library, St. Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 5PD, United Kingdom

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

March 2022

MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

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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 Working in the Shipyard
from 'Women's War Work' 1916

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### Oldham Branch Meetings :

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

The Society Facebook page [HERE](#) and the Twitter page [HERE](#) will be updated frequently.

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Chairman's remarks :

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT from our Chairman

We are happy to announce that from April - November 2022 we will, at long last, be able to meet in person at Oldham Library for our monthly meetings as well as continuing with Zoom. We are so looking forward to seeing you again and hope that you will continue to support us throughout the year. As usual, free tea/coffee/biscuits will be available.

This will be the first of our hybrid meetings and people living at a distance from Oldham will still be able to join our meetings via Zoom. Those bookings would, as usual, be on Eventbrite. Final details will be on the Meetings page of the Branch website pages

Our meeting on 9th April by Douglas Jackson will take place in the Education Suite at Oldham Library, Greaves Street, Oldham starting at 2pm (details on the website). There is free parking for 3 hours on the Council car park next to the Library or 3 hours free on Sainsbury's car park (no purchases required).

Regards

Linda Richardson

Chairman, Oldham Branch

email me at < chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk >

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## Editor's remarks.

Hi Everyone,

Yet another busy month to come as we prepare to get back to a more, dare I say the word, 'normal life', as we used to know it!

Hybrid meetings from Oldham & District Branch : we have now had a trial run in the Education Suite at Oldham Library and, with a zoom audience of just one, are cautiously hopeful that we can see how to make this work (touch wood!). There are still niggles to be ironed out so we will ask (plead!) for your patience whilst we learn through trial and error what layouts in the room etc., will work best. Booking, as ever, will be on Eventbrite for zoom attendees. If you intend to attend in person, in the Library, there is no need to book ... just turn up between 1:40 and 2pm! Our first Hybrid meeting will be the one in April. As ever, please keep an eye on the [Meetings Page](#) in case there are any changes.

On the [What's New](#) page of the website we have notices of two Family & Local History Events, one of which is in Manchester Library, organised by MLFHS and the other is a week-long festival, in Oldham, organised by Oldham Libraries. Details and links are in the 'MLFHS updates' and in the 'Other Societies or Venues' section of the newsletter.

Our appeal for volunteers to do research has resulted in a couple of new projects, which will be ongoing, on the website, as more information is gathered. Details of the first can be found on the [Projects](#) page of the website, and another is in the pipeline ... please take a look and see if you feel inspired to add your own research interests to our pages!

In the 'Mixed Bag' are the usual offerings but also an item from the Manchester Guardian, in 1822. In April 2022, It will be 200 years since the trial of '*Redford v. Birley & others*' (Manchester Yeomanry in 1819 at Peterloo) was heard at Lancaster. The trial was reported in full, in April but, as a preliminary to this, on the 16th March, 1822, in *The Manchester Guardian*, we can read the list of names for the special jury 'struck' at the instance of the defendants [ie. Birley & others]. You can read more about this, from the *Guardian*, in the 'Mixed Bag', below. In the Gallery are another three images from *Costumes of Yorkshire* with the transcripts. In the ePostbag we have a couple of links that have been sent which will be of interest to our readers ... don't forget this section gives you the opportunity to have your own say!

Sheila

Although I am always very happy to receive articles, pictures etc., for the 'Mixed Bag' in 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

Tuesday 15th March at 7pm

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 the March 2022 Annual Meeting, the current committee and officers are again happy to remain, as previously. However, we would like to ask for volunteers and/or additional committee members. If you would like more information, contact our chairman at the address below.

As many members of MLFHS live at a distance from Oldham and would find it difficult or impossible to join the meeting, the committee has decided to hold it on zoom, giving all interested members the chance to attend.

We will hold our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday March 15th at 7pm on zoom. Booking is on Eventbrite [HERE](#) and will be for MLFHS members only, with membership number required. All attendees will receive the Agenda, Minutes of the last meeting in 2020, the Treasurer's Report and any other relevant material, by email, with the meeting link. If you wish to raise any questions please contact the Branch Chairman by email at < chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk >

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### **Monthly Meetings**

Happily, we are now planning to hold our monthly meetings as hybrids ... simultaneously on zoom and in the library. Over the past 15 months we have really appreciated the support that we have enjoyed both from local society members and those from further afield. However, in addition, we have also been able to welcome non-members with an interest in our programme, some of whom, gratifyingly, became members of the society as a result! Please continue to support the Branch, either in person at Oldham Library or on zoom if preferred.

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

**Booking for an online talk is still essential** and bookings are on [Eventbrite](#).

No need to book if you attend in person.

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

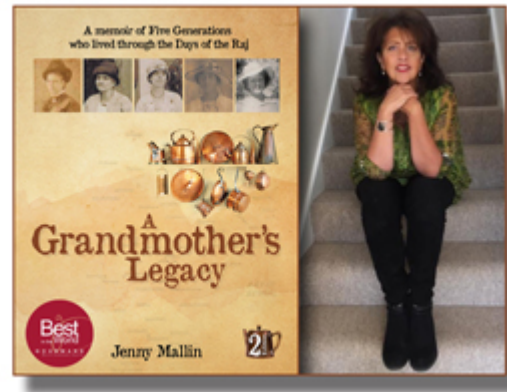
**Wherever you live, Welcome!**

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FEBRUARY 2022 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

Our talk from Jenny Mallin was wide-ranging both in time and location as she gave us a detailed insight into her ancestral connection with India, through Irish, Yorkshire and German recruits into the military. We learned about their army careers and the battles in which they were engaged, their marriages, births and deaths through five generations.

As an aside, Jenny told us that in the 18th century, when her story began, there were 150,000 soldiers, originating from Great Britain, serving in India.

Her story for this talk centred on three men who, in the late 18th century, signed up for the army in search of a better life. They were Benjamin Hardy, a clothier from Mirfield in Yorkshire, Samuel Sausman of Germanic origin, and James Shandley from Limerick in Ireland. They would be in India, with their descendants, in the years of civil unrest, East India Company dominance and, as soldiers, being part of the continuing power struggle for control of the different Indian States and territories.

The first ancestor looked at was **Benjamin Hardy**, who married a local girl, Frances, in Mirfield, in 1795. Two years later, we find that he had signed up in the 86th Regiment of Foot and in 1798 was en route for India, via China, with his Regiment, on a voyage fraught with disease, danger and disaster. He disembarked in Madras, and would be there, fighting, for the next 24 years. In 1819, now age 43, Benjamin was discharged from the army, with a pension, with chronic arthritis. He had the choice of returning to England but chose, instead, to ask his wife, Frances, to join him in India, where they would make their home. They would enjoy a better life-style, with servants and could plan a family. Frances joined him in Bangalore and they had a son, Joseph. He would grow up to be a 'schoolmaster' and married Wilhelmina Sausman in 1844 (Samuel Sausman's granddaughter).

Samuel Sausman was born in 1758 and, having seen a newspaper advertisement recruiting men for the 77th Hindoostan Regiment of Foot he joined up in 1787. He married Caroline Azevedo (of Portugese ancestry) and they had a son, John, born in 1801. In 1805, widowed and heavily pregnant, Caroline married again. When John was 6 years and 3 months old he signed up as a regimental drummer boy and would spend his childhood on battlefields in India. In 1821, John married Lousa Dias and, in 1824, they had a son they named Samuel. John would be widowed twice, and re-marry each time. With his second wife, Elizabeth Wilson, John had a daughter, Wilhelmina. It was this Wilhelmina who married Joseph Hardy in 1844.

So where does **James Shandley** born in 1773 in Limerick fit into this story? He had been a private in the East India Company since 1793. In 1803 he had a son, John, who would be found on an alphabetical regimental muster list for the 41st Regiment of Foot serving with John Sausman. In later years two of their grandchildren would marry each other. Lydia Shandley

would become Jenny Mallin's grandmother.

Our thanks to Jenny who gave us this insight into her family's own story against the backdrop of India's turbulent history, the regiments in battle, and the East India Company.

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### March Meeting ... on zoom



Saturday,  
12th March  
at  
2 pm



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

an illustrated talk given by Michael Winstanley

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.

Booking and more details on [Eventbrite](#)

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April Meeting ... hybrid, in Oldham Library and on zoom



Saturday,
9th April
at
2 pm



Joseph Briggs and the Tiffany Glass Collection at the Haworth Art Gallery Accrington

Hybrid meeting in the Education suite, Oldham Library and on zoom

One of the world's finest collections of classic American art glass by Tiffany is not in New York or London or Paris - it's in the old Lancashire mill town of Accrington. Joseph Briggs, was a native of Accrington and emigrated to America.

a free, illustrated talk given by Douglas Jackson, author of 'Mosaic'

Online booking for zoom on [Eventbrite](#).

Booking not necessary for in person attendance at Oldham Library.

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

### Anglo - Scots ... March Meeting

|                                                      |                                                         |                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MLFHS,<br>ANGLO-SCOTTISH<br>BRANCH<br>ONLINE MEETING | Saturday,<br>5th<br>March,<br>on zoom,<br>at<br>2:00 pm | <i>'Banking Records<br/>in Scotland'<br/>given by<br/>Sian Yates</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|

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

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

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Bolton ... March Meeting

MLFHS Bolton Branch online Meetings	Wed., 2nd March at 7:15	<i>'Not Mass Observation Again!'</i>
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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 ...

**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

FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY IN THE CITY

Saturday 26th March

Manchester Central Library 10:00am - 4:00pm

Film - Archives - Displays

See the poster for details in the 'Gallery'

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### Manchester ... March Meetings

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

No talks scheduled in March

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: [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.

* Jim Chadwick and his team have completed scanning and indexing another volume of admission forms for the Royal Manchester School for the Deaf and Dumb. There are 87 new admissions (88 names as one has an alias!) admitted between 1889 and 1893. All indexed in The Great Database and linked to scanned copies of the admission documents.

A total of 1,133 admissions have now been scanned and indexed. Lots more to come.

* Another addition to the Great Database. This is a batch of 3,915 shopkeepers' names and addresses taken from Slater's Directory for Manchester & Salford for 1911. Thanks to Joe Hilditch for these.

* I have updated the information pages for the following Cheshire burial grounds which are included in the Memorial Inscriptions database. The updates consist of listings of the memorials, so that as well as searching for a specific name, you can browse the memorials. Thanks to Cheyenne Bower for this work, which is ongoing. Those included are:

C172 Appleton Thorn, St. Cross
C182 Ashton-on-Mersey, St. Martin
C181 Ashton-on-Mersey, St. Martin
C220 Bidston St. Oswald
C240 Carrington, St. George
C297 Compstall, Methodist Church, George St.,
C301 Congleton, St. Peter
C471C Crew Green, St. Michael
C368 Dukinfield Old Chapel
C451 Grappenhall, St. Wilfred
C471A Haslington, Primitive Methodist
C471B Haslington, United Reform Church
C215 Higher Bebbington, Christ Church
C501 Holmes Chapel
C229 Macclesfield, Bosley, Methodist Chapel
C485 Macclesfield, Henbury, St. Thomas
C298 Stockport, Compstall (Werneth), St. Paul

* Another substantial addition to the extracts of BMD announcements from Manchester Newspapers in the Great Database. This batch consists of 1,774 announcements from *The Manchester Mercury* for 1816 and 1820.

Thanks to Chris Hall and Linda Bailey for this addition

* In response to the recent discussions concerning Winwick Hospital, Cheyvyonne Bower has supplied a copy of the hospital's report for 1948-9 which gives the names of senior staff and information about the facilities and regime. No patients' names, of course, but good background information.

It can be found in the Member Area Document Collection under General - Institutions. Thanks to Cheyvyonne for this useful document.

* Sheila Goodyear has indexed the streets appearing on the Alan Godfrey maps below on the same basis as was used to index the Manchester sheets for the Godfrey Map Index in the public area of the web site at

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/databases/godfrey-map-index>

Sheila has generously agreed for this index to be added to the Godfrey Map Index so that you can now identify the map or maps on which a particular street appears for streets in Manchester, Salford and now Oldham and its environs. Thanks are due to Sheila for the addition of 3,162 new street names to the index.

Code	map	MapYear
3427	Ashton & Dukinfield	1907
3952	Ashton-under-lyne	1916
3427	Audenshaw & Droylsden	1916
3129	Chadderton	1907
3120	Denton Town Centre	1918
3122	Denton West	1916
3107	Droylsden	1906
3318	Guide Bridge	1918
3382	Lees	1906
3130	Lydgate	1906
3128	Oldham	1907
3127	Oldham East	1907
3125	Oldham South	1906
3902	Oldham South West	1916

Meetings and Talks at other Societies &/or Venues

Please note ...

Please check society/group websites or organisers for updated information

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



Wednesday
16th
March
at
7 pm



The Greening of the City: Urban Parks and Public Leisure

An Illustrated talk given by Dr. Carole O'Reilly, author of the book of that name.

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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**Saddleworth Historical Society Wednesday 9th March at 7.30pm**

***A History of the South Pennine Landscape***

an illustrated presentation given by Rob Vincent

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 March 2022.

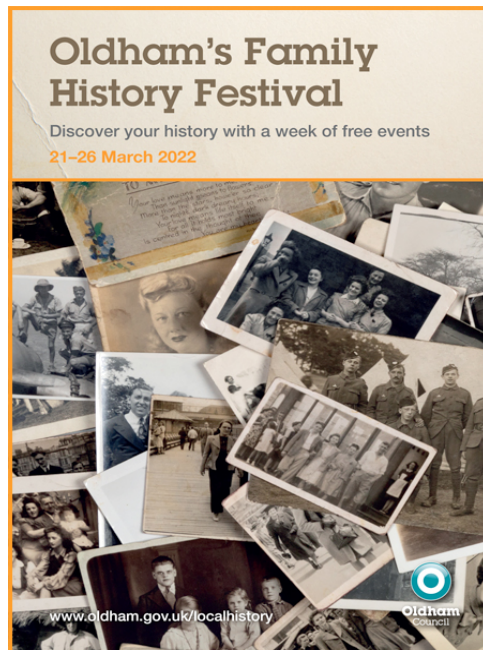
**For both societies :**

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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Oldham's Family History Festival

21st - 26th March



Find out how you can trace your ancestors at the various sessions across the borough, with Oldham Local Studies & Archives, and local Libraries.

In the leaflet, downloadable as a .pdf [HERE](#), you can find details and venues of a family Help Desk; Ancestry, Find my Past, and the British Newspaper Archive; Family History in the Local Archives; A World War 1 Family History Story; Oldham & District Family History Society Day; a Family History story, of transportation to Van Diemen's Land, online on zoom; a Pop-up History Stall; and a chance to learn how to digitise your precious family history photos and documents.

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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](#)

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

Website and programme [HERE](#)

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**Moorside & District Historical Society**

**Moorside & District Historical Society**  
*We are back, assuming the current regulations hold true.*  
**Monday 21st March 2022.**  
**Local Apprenticeships  
and Trades.**  
"Souces of Local History" on the Web.  
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 planed 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, Location not finalised, going to press. Possibly in the Church area.*

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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 newsletters :

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

Transcript: Chapter X

**THE ART TREASURES EXHIBITION—CHARLES HALLÉ
OPERA.**

IT was May, 1857, the never-to-be-forgotten year of picture lovers. The Art Treasures Exhibition had been opened with great *eclat* by the Queen and Prince Albert, and for six months was to remain the glory of Manchester and one of the chief topics of the day.

The Exhibition contained the cream of art, collected from the highest sources. Royalty and

nobility, with millionaires by the score, vied with each other in contributing the best of their treasures, which, when gathered together, formed such a collection as the world, it was supposed, had not previously seen. Although it was not then I had first heard that "a thing of beauty is a joy for ever," I was brought into a feeling of sympathy with the poet who penned the words. My business was so quiet at that time, for want of material and other causes, that my presence in the afternoons was rarely needed for its supervision. Being free, therefore, to turn them to the best account, I devoted them to the Exhibition. To mount the roof of an omnibus and be transplanted to Old Trafford became a regular occurrence.

On my first entrance to the building, which was erected by Paxton on a similar plan to that of the London Great Exhibition of 1851, the

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effect of beholding just so much as the eye could take in at a glance of this forest of pictures was to cause my knees to tremble with emotion, and to become temporarily deaf! I have never yet met any friends sufficiently physiological to satisfactorily account for this peculiar result. Had I become blind through giddiness the explanation would not be far to seek. So recently as 1880 I slightly experienced a similar sensation when going through the Louvre Gallery. If the contemplation of High Art in prodigious masses produces deafness, the enjoyment of Music, on the same principle, should cause blindness. It never has affected me beyond the desire to close the eyes, the better for the music to be undisturbed by visible objects. On turning my back upon the first scene which so curiously affected me, my eye alighted on Gainsborough's "Blue Boy," who looked so life-like, handsome, and jolly, that I contemplated him for a long time. I cared nothing for the criticisms which I had read about this individual. The enjoyment of beholding the young fellow, with his healthy-looking countenance, and the folds of his deliciously blue garments, was of the highest. The Queen's picture of "Charles I," by Vandyke, had also a rivetting tendency. These two works should have been enough for one afternoon, but I must go through the building; and I went through it, with no return of deafness, and feeling no more emotions. I loitered until the strains of Charles Hallé's Orchestra were heard commencing some familiar operatic selections, which were the signal for leaving the pictures; "one thing at a time"

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being one of my mottoes. Hallé had recently returned from the Continent, where he had been occupied in selecting the finest performers on their various instruments to be obtained for "love or money; " and these formed a large portion of the orchestra. now assembled for the first time in Manchester. The orchestra. remains in undiminished excellence and increased strength to this day; but how many of its members have passed away and been replaced by others since 1857!

After hearing Mr. Hallé's orchestra play, say, Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* or the *Midsummer Night's Dream*, the thought arises, can any of these men be so human as to die'? With what perfection that harmonious cluster work together! Death must be a relentless foe to detach any member from that compact little army, so finely adjusted and complete in organization. How their faces became familiarized! Even now, doubtless, there are some left of that original gallant band doing duty on every Thursday evening from October until the following March, and still instructing and delighting thousands upon thousands of thirsty musical souls, as they did at the Art Treasures in 1857!

I knew well one member of that popular body. He was greatly esteemed by the great *maestro*, and under his enduring and unerring baton begun and completed his Manchester career. Apart from his musical genius he was a man of high attainments. Any community is honoured and elevated by the presence of such a one in its midst. His valuable life closed shortly before my

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departure from Manchester. I am frequently reminded, when a piece of violoncello music crops

up, of his earnest though unavailing efforts to make me an efficient performer on that instrument.

At a distance of four miles from Manchester lies the little township of Fairfield, which mostly belongs to the Moravians. There exists there a large school, abounding in traditions and associations with Manchester men, many of its distinguished citizens having there been educated. The principal of the school many years ago was Mr. Clare. He was a man of genial temperament, though sometimes absent-minded. He was an Irishman, and possessed the traditional humour of his countrymen, which never failed to manifest itself under any and all circumstances. He was popular with the boys, and a devotee of the violoncello and other instruments. We were very intimate, and my visits to Fairfield were frequent. There were generally some five or six masters in the establishment, which was a flourishing one, and I found myself often in their private sitting-room, participating in their recreations after the day's toil. Mr. Höhn was a conspicuous figure there; and though a quiet man, yet he seemed to be the presiding influence. He was a man who would cause one to wish himself young once more - to return to school life, and have him for a master. There was little that he could not do. He drew well, he sang with a cultivated tenor voice, and he was poetical. On one occasion he sat carelessly on the dining-table, copying or composing music, when from some cause he had to leave hurriedly. On his return he found that the servant in laying

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the table-cloth had spread havoc over his unfortunate production, and she appeared to have resorted to a licking process. Höhn, though a good-tempered man, was much vexed, indeed he was angry, until he relieved himself by penning the following lines, which he afterwards put into my hands, and which I reproduce, as they are as fresh now as in the early days :—

Sing, O muse, the sad disaster
I was called on to endure,
Which no draught or sticking plaister,
Pill or globule e'er could cure.

On the table, all unspotted,
Lay my music, copied neat;
When the servant went and blotted
With the inkstand one whole sheet.

What came next I scarce can utter -
Better were it left unsung!
She, the servant, in a flutter,
Tried to cleanse it with the tongue.

Oh, the mess that now resulted,
From each new polluted stain ;
All the paper was insulted,
Penknife scratched the blots in vain.

Could a moral, think you, ever
From this blotted sheet be wrung?
When in error, ladies, never
Spoil the matter with the tongue!

Höhn, with myself, spent many a pleasant hour in the enjoyment of music. The first opera I heard was in his company and that of one of his colleagues, whose sight was gradually departing from him, but who found consolation in his love for music. The opera was *Fidelio*. Cruvelli took the part of Leonora, Zelger that of Rocco, and

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Florestan was represented by the great Tamberlik. The performance was considered to be

almost perfect. The music was, of course, of the highest order. My introduction, therefore, to opera was a good one; and during the few succeeding years, when the enthusiasm reached its height, I became a keen and discriminating observer. I heard Mario, Grisi, Viardot Garcia, Alboni, Bosio, Gassier, Titiens, Piccolomini, and Reichardt, Giuglini, Formes, Beletti, and a host of other less-celebrated singers as they arrived season after season. Jenny Lind and the Lablaches I had heard in my youngest days. I was present at the first performance in Manchester of *Il Trovatore*, when Graziani took the part of the Count, Tamberlik of Manrico, Grisi of Leonora, and Viardot Garcia of the Gipsy woman. Verdi, I thought, was happy to have such interpreters for a first rendering. It was a triumph. The demand on the next day for “*Il balen*,” “*Del suo sorriso?*” “*Ah! che le morte*” was something unprecedented in the annals of music selling. *Don Giovanni* was of all the operas the greatest favourite of the musical portion of Manchester. I once heard it given with Mario as the great libertine, Grisi as Donna Anna, Gassier as Zerlina, Giuglini as Don Ottavio, and Beletti as Leporello, the best Leporello that ever came before an orchestra. Indeed I once heard the late lamented leader of Mr. Halle’s orchestra affirm of Beletti he was the best living singer of his day, male or female. No higher praise could be accorded to an artist than to be pronounced a favourite with the orchestra by its leader. Many enthusiastic

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amateur and other tenors attended to hear Giuglini’s rendering of “*Il mio tesoro*.” Giuglini made a good impression. The quality of his voice and the perfect finish of his execution established his reputation as the first living tenor. His career was a very short one. At this performance of *Don Giovanni* there was a hitch in the working of the machinery. In the last scene, when the demons appeared to take the irrepressible Don to his final place of retribution, the trap door would not move downwards, and the favourite libertine, amidst the laughter of everybody, escaped his doom.

Viardot Garcia once produced a sensation in her singing of “*Il segreto per esser felici*” in *Lucrezia Borgia*. Mario, who was taking the part of Gennaro, watched her with astonishment, and at the end of the song forgot for the moment he was not one of the audience, and applauded her with vehemence. *Norma* was once a memorable performance, with Grisi as the Priestess, Tamberlik as Pollione, and Formes as Oroveso. Tamberlik afterwards was seldom seen. I heard, however, that the great *tenore robusto* is singing away now somewhere at seventy years of age.

An attempt to obtain an encore from Herr Formes was once made after one of the closing acts in *Don Giovanni*. The audience was determined, and so was he, and there was no encore. When he appeared to sing in the ‘next scene he was vigorously hissed, and a commotion ensued. At so unheard-of an exhibition of feeling in the midst of one of the finest performances ever listened to, the great basso strode up to the

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footlights, and with a look of indignant anger, and arms folded, faced the audience until the dissatisfied ones were awed into silence and the music proceeded. I wondered much how he could sing after such a *contretemps*. Bosio, whose career was a short one also, once visited Manchester. I heard her in *Fra Diavolo*. Many years afterwards, in speaking of her at a public dining-table to the leading amateur tenor of the city, he showed such unfeigned delight in meeting a person who was present at that marvellous display of her singing as to beg my acceptance of half-a-crown in commemoration of the event. The waiter, into whose pocket the coin found its way, expressed a desire that “the late Mrs. Bosio” would again make her appearance. During recent years a series of four operas were given on behalf of the Infirmary funds, and Titiens was announced to sing in *Norma*. *Lucia di Lammermoor* was substituted, Madame Titiens being too ill to appear. She never sang again, and died soon afterwards. The performance of *Lucia* was poor, and I have never heard an opera since.

The summer was a fine one, and the influx of visitors to Manchester was enormous. The

building of the Art Treasures at Old Trafford was capable of accommodating unlimited numbers without inconvenience. On a cheap entrance day, when an unusually large number of visitors came from all parts of Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Cheshire, to participate with the more favoured Manchester citizens in the rare intellectual feast provided for them, it was sometimes difficult to examine various works which were especially

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popular. In front of these were gathered little crowds of spectators too dense to be penetrated. On such occasions no loss of time ensued in deferring the inspection of *one* particular picture for a future visit. There were others of equal or superior merit in its immediate neighbourhood that would satisfy the cravings of the most inordinate lover of pictures. There were two pictures by Linnell of moderate dimensions, one showing a cornfield with a glowing effect of sunset, the other representing "Early Spring," with the green corn just bursting into life from the soil. These never failed to attract a cluster of worshippers. From the moment the building was opened to that when it closed, the devotees crowded to this spot, keeping up the perpetual adoration. But the idol of the public was the "Death of Chatterton," by Wallis. The self-destroyed young poet, lying on a couch in his garret, and clothed in a silk suit, remained there for six months in his alluring ghastliness, attracting thousands of morbid eyes day after day. There was also an imposing picture of fruit by Snyders, from whence the mothers had a difficulty in removing their children. The strawberries appearing so inviting and real, as surely as a child appeared before that fruit piece so sure was there to be a howl of disappointment on leaving it.

I was impressed with the knowledge which I ever kept in mind of the rapidly-approaching close of the Exhibition, and in contemplation of it resolved to extend and systematize my visits, the more so that I was anxious that not a single work amongst the thousands being exhibited

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should escape my criticizing eye. With this object in view I divided the building into sections, devoting each day some four hours to the careful inspection of each. The idea was well enough in theory, but impracticable. It was impossible to do even scant justice to any section in a few hours, say, for instance, of Turner's works of his middle and early middle period. Consequently the hours passed, and day after day found me in the same spot, absorbed in the contemplation of some of the great man's finest creations. Here were his early, carefully-made drawings without much colour, and also drawings made for the celebrated illustrations, and vignettes in profusion. The *Liber Studiorum* also were there—and so were his two latest works, executed when his mind wandered and his colouring became incoherent. These two drawings, "Lake of Lucerne" and "An Alpine Pass," showed that his sense of colour had given way, and they were designated respectively "Scarlet Fever" and "Yellow Fever." No man with the faintest love for art can fail to be inspired by Turner, if studied before the great painter reached his dotage. These two works were simply curiosities, and afforded pain rather than pleasure. Had Turner's works remained there twenty years, I suppose I should have continued during that time to satisfy the cravings for his art. The English School of Water-Colour Artists, which has no equal, was profusely represented. David Cox, P. de Wint, Samuel Prout, Copley Fielding, George Barrett, George Cattermole, William Hunt, John Varley, Havill, Cristall, Dayes, and Girtin, all culminated there. It was, however, necessary to act

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on some principle of divided attentions to prevent an oversight.

In one of the vestibules I frequently found myself surrounded almost exclusively by the works of Murillo and Hobbima. The galleries and vestibules were filled with the works of modern artists and ancient masters. The works of Titian, Paul Veronese, Velasquez, Rembrandt, Rubens, became as familiar as the Mulready's, Websters, David Wilkies, and Ettys. Living portraits looked down upon you, go where you would. I passed by the forests of statuary, of which there appeared no end, as I did the exquisitely-carved and inlaid furniture, rich cabinets inlaid with

coloured woods, ivory, and precious stones, or delicately-painted medallions of porcelain. There was the buhl cabinet which had belonged to Cardinal de Retz, now the property of the Queen; Venetian glass of various kinds with wonderful effects; enamels, showing the whole history of the art; cases filled with porcelain specimens of Majolica, Pallisy, Chinese, Persian, Dresden, Chelsea, Wedgwood, Sevres, and of every other country and manufacture; cases filled with glittering treasures of the goldsmith's art, ancient and modern, and of immense value. Sir David Wilkie was well seen, and Sir Edwin Landseer could be contemplated to perfection. There were the finest oil paintings by Creswick I have seen, before or since, Millais's "Autumn Leaves" left a lively impression. I hear it looks as bright and beautiful now in the Manchester Corporation Autumn Exhibition as it did in the Art Treasures in 1857.

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 GOLD-BEATER.



The Gold-Beater is a workman who by continually beating gold or silver Upon marble with a hammer, in thin skins, reduces these metals into very thin leaves proper for gilding or silvering copper, iron, steel, wood, and a variety of other materials.

This art is very ancient. Although the Romans did not carry it so far as we now do, it is very certain that immediately after the destruction of Carthage, and during the censorship of *Lucius Mummius* they began to gild the interior of their houses in Rome. The wainscots of the capitol were the first done, and luxury afterwards became so great, that private persons had both the walls and ceilings of their apartments ornamented with this precious metal.

Pliny assures us that they made from one ounce of gold five or six leaves four fingers square; but that a much greater number could be made having regard to their thickness. That the thickest were called *prænestines*, from a statue of Fortune at *Præneste*, which was gilt with thick leaves, and that those which were thinner were called *questoriales*.

Gold in itself, and when very pure, is soft, easily cut or graved, and so tough that when at length made to break by repeated bendings backwards and forwards, the fracture on each of the pieces appears drawn out like a wedge.

The fineness to which a body of gold may be reduced is almost incredible. Mr. Boyle found that upwards of fifty square inches of gold weighed but a single grain; and as a cubic inch of gold contains four thousand nine hundred and two grains, the thickness of the gold-leaf was less than the two hundred and forty thousandth part of an inch.

Gold to be made into leaf is first melted in a crucible with some borax; it is then poured into an iron mould, from which it is taken and made red hot and forged into a long plate, which is

farther extended by being passed repeatedly between polished rollers till it becomes as thin as paper. It is now cut into pieces of equal size and weight, which are forged and well annealed to correct the stiffness which the metal has contracted in hammering and flatting.

In farther extending these pieces into fine leaves it is necessary to interpose some smooth body between them and the hammer for softening the blow, and defending them from the rudeness of its immediate action; as also to place between every two of the pieces some proper intermedium, which, while it prevents them from uniting together or injuring one another, may suffer them freely to extend. For this Gold-Beaters use three kinds of membranes: for the outside cover common parchment made of sheep-skin; for interlaying with the gold the closest vellum made of calf-skin; and afterwards finer skins made of a thin substance stript off from the gut, slit open and curiously prepared for the purpose; hence the name of *Gold-beater's skin*. The preparation of these membranes is a distinct business, practised only by a few persons in the kingdom.

The beating of the gold is performed on a smooth block of marble, weighing from two to six hundred weight; fitted into the middle of a wooden frame, so that the surface of the marble may form one plane. Three of the sides are furnished with a high ledge; and the front, which is open, has a leathern flap fastened to it, which the Gold-beater takes before him as an apron for preserving the fragments of gold which fall off.

Three hammers are employed; all of them with two round and somewhat convex faces, though the workman seldom uses more than one of the faces.

The first hammer weighs fifteen or sixteen pounds, and is called the *catch* hammer; the second is called the *shodering* hammer, and weighs twelve pounds; the third is the *finishing* hammer, and weighs about ten pounds.

One hundred and fifty pieces of gold are interlaid with leaves of vellum three or four inches square, one vellum leaf being placed between every two of the pieces, and about twenty more of the vellum leaves on the outsides; over these is drawn a parchment case open at both ends; and over this another in a contrary direction. So that the assemblage of gold and vellum leaves is kept tight and close on all sides. The whole is beaten with the heaviest hammer, and every now and then turned upside down till the gold is stretched to the extent of the vellum. The pieces taken out from between the vellum leaves are cut into four with a steel knife: the six hundred divisions are next interlaid in the same manner with pieces of ox-gut skins, five inches square. The beating is to be again repeated till the golden plates have acquired the extent of the skins, when they are a second time to be divided into four. The instrument used for this division is a piece of cane cut to an edge, the leaves being now so slight that the moisture of the air or the breath condensing on a metallic knife would occasion them to stick to it.

After a third beating in a similar way the leaves are taken up by the end of a cane instrument, and, being blown flat on a leathern cushion, are cut to a size one by one with a square frame of cane, made of a proper sharpness; they are then fitted into books of twenty-five leaves each, the paper of which is well smoothed, and rubbed with red bole to prevent their sticking to it.

The process of Gold-beating is very much influenced by the weather; both damp and frost are injurious to the operation.

Gold-leaf ought to be prepared from the finest gold, as an admixture of other metals, though in too small a proportion sensibly to affect the colour of the leaf would dispose it to lose a part of its beauty in the air. Besides the greater hardness of alloyed gold occasions as much or even more to be lost in time and labour than can be gained by adulterating the metal.

Gold-leaf is applied in the art of gilding to the surface of bodies, and it is done in two ways.

Wood, leather, paper, and other like substances, are gilt by fastening on leaves of gold by some cement; but metals are gilt by a chemical application of gold to the surface. This last is called water-gilding. Silver-leaf is, however, often applied to the plating of metals without the intervention of chemical agents, if we except pumice-stone and heat.

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A Report of the Proceedings in the Case of *Redford v. Birley & Others*

In the two years following the Peterloo Massacre, in August 1819, the leading Reformers in Manchester, along with Henry Hunt, were all tried and sentenced to terms in jail; and brutal Government legislation was brought in to suppress any on-going radical or reform activity.

In April 2022, It will be 200 years since the trial of '*Redford v. Birley & others*' was heard at Lancaster when Thomas Redford, injured at Peterloo, brought an unsuccessful action against Hugh Hornby Birley and others of the Manchester Yeomanry. *

As a preliminary to this, on the 16th March, 1822, in *The Manchester Guardian* , we can read the following:

MANCHESTER OUTRAGE

Redford v. Birley & Others

The following is the list of the special jury struck** at the instance of the defendants [ie. Birley & others].

The names marked thus || appear also in the list of the special jury struck in the case of the King v. Reddish.

1. || John Harrison, of Landing.
 2. Roger Taylor, Fintwaite.
 3. || John Strickland, Rusland hall.
 4. || Joseph Pinney, Bridgefield.
 5. || Robert Michaelson, Barrow.
 6. James Slackdale, Cark.
 7. James Newby, Cark.
 8. George Bigland, Bigland.
 9. || Edward Dawson, Aldcliffe.
 10. || Christopher Burrow, Hutton.
 11. Peter Marsden, Hornby.
 12. || George Wright, Hornby.
 13. || Edward Tatham, Leck.
 14. || William Buck, Alston Lodge.
 15. || James Greenhalgh, Bilsborow.
 16. || Thomas Butler Cole, Kirtland.
 17. || Thomas Walmsley, Ashton.
 18. John Bourne, Stalmin.
 19. || Thomas Westby, Whitehall, Upper Kockcliffe.
 20. William Cockerill, Haslingden.
 21. Richard Sagar, Southfield, Marsden.
 22. James Ridehalgh, Scholefield.
 23. Henry Sudell, Mellor.
 24. || I. F. Butler, Pleasington Hall.
 25. William Fielden, Feniscowles.
 26. || Richard Fort, Read.
 27. || James Whitaker, Broad Clough.
 28. || Robert Whalley, Whalley.
 29. James Taylor, Whalley.
 30. Jno. Hodson, Duxbury.
 31. || William Anderton, Euxton.
 32. || Thomas Hawkshead, Heskin.
 33. || William Farington, Leyland.
 34. James Rothwell, Much Hoole.
 35. || Lawrence Rawstorne, Penwortham.
 36. || Peter Horrocks, Penwortham.
 37. || Charles Standish, Standish.
 38. Peter Heatley, Whittle Le Woods.
 39. || John A. Nelson, Wrightington.
 40. || Robert Gillow, Forton.
 41. || Sir William Gerard, Ashton.
 42. || Charles Walmsley, Ince.
 43. || Charles Blundell, Ince.
 44. Michael Hughes, Sutton.
 45. Thomas Earle, Smeatham-lane.
 46. Edward Falkner, Fairfield House.
 47. William Blundell Hollinshead, Days-lane.
 48. Edmund Rigby, Blackinoor Moss.
- Esquires.

As law proceedings in England are taxed, according to the number of words employed,

we cannot but congratulate our readers that the Court of King's Bench have struck out from the Special Pleas filed by the Manchester Yeomanry Cavalry in the action against them, no less quantity than 38,448 words, or 534 folios, *as unnecessary*. there were 51 pleas. Of these, 37 have been removed, and 14 including the general issue still remain to be tried.

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The *Manchester Guardian* reported the five days of the trial (Thursday 4th April to Tuesday 9th (excepting Sunday) from the 13th April, under the first headline :

**LANCASTER ASSIZES**  
***NISI PRIUS* COURT, THURSDAY.**  
**Before Mr. Justice Holroyd, and a Special Jury**  
**OUTRAGE AT MANCHESTER**

**Redford v. Birley & Others.**

This was an action against the defendants, members of the Manchester Yeomanry, to recover a compensation in damages for injuries sustained by the plaintiff during the dispersion of the meeting of the 16th August, 1819.

The cause being fixed for this morning, great interest was excited; and, as soon as the doors were opened the court was filled in every part.

His Lordship entered the court precisely at nine o'clock. Counsel for the plaintiff Mr. Blackburne and Mr. Joshua Evans; Attorney, Mr. Hayward (of London). Counsel for the defendants, Mr. Sergeant Hullock, Mr. Sergeant Cross, Mr. Littledale, and Mr. Starkie; Attornies Messrs. Sharpe, Eccles and Crie, Manchester.

**The following special jurors answered to their names:**

John Harrison, Landing; Roger Taylor, Finthwaite; James Newby, Cark; R. Sager, Southfield, Marsden; J. Whitaker, Broad Clough; Robert Gillow, Forton. [all] Esquires

**Mr. Blackburne prayed a *tales*\*\*\*, and the following gentlemen were called:**

Matthew Jackson, Carnforth; W. Barrow, Church Coniston; John Ditchfield, Ardwick; Robert Chadwick, Heap; Isaac Walker, Wyredale; W. Tomlinson, Kirkham.

**Mr. Joshua Evans stated the case to the jury:**

The declaration charged that the defendants, on the 16th of August 1819, cut and wounded the plaintiff with sabres, by which he sustained grievous bodily injury, and was rendered unable to follow his employment.

To this the defendants pleaded, in the first instance, that they were not guilty. There were also fourteen other pleas, in which was pleaded, in various ways, that the plaintiff had attended a seditious and unlawful meeting, and refused to depart when desired to do so, and that the defendants *gently laid their hands upon him* to remove him; also, that what they did was in their own defence...

Transcript of the coverage of the April trial in next month's newsletter

**Footnotes:**

\* "Report of the proceedings in the case of Redford v. Birley & Others in the King's Bench : between Thomas Redford, plaintiff, and Hugh Hornby Birley, Alexander Oliver, Richard Withington, and Edward Meagher, defendants, for an assault on the 16th. of August, 1819 : report of the proceedings on the trial of this cause at Lancaster, on Thursday the 4th., Friday the 5th., Saturday the 6th., Monday the 8th., and Tuesday the 9th. Five days of April, 1822, before Mr. Justice Holroyd and a special jury, and the judgment of the Court of King's Bench in Easter term following, upon an application on the part of the plaintiff, for a rule to shew cause why a new trial should not be granted / taken from the short-hand notes of Mr. Farquharson." (in Warwick Digital Collections)

\*\* The terminology used confused me a little so I turned to my old friend, the 'Internet Archive' and found 3 pages, about '*Special Juries*', in '*The History of Trial by Jury*', by William Forsyth, pub. 1853

p. 173 ... it cannot be ascertained at what time the practice of appointing special jurors for trials at *nisi prius* first began, but that it probably arose out of the custom of appointing jurors for trials at the bar of the courts at Westminster, and was introduced for the better administration of justice, and for securing the nomination of jurors duly qualified in all respects for their important office ...

p.174 -p.175 ...The practice with respect to forming or '**striking**,' as it is technically called, a special jury at the present day is as follows. Each party is entitled to have the cause tried by such a jury, and the attorneys on both sides, and the under-sheriff or his agent, attend before the proper officer of the court with the special jurors' list, which, under the provisions of 6 Geo. IV. c. 50, [my note: 1825 but similar?] the sheriff is directed annually to make out from the jurors' books; and from among those described in that book as Esquires, or as persons of higher degree, or as bankers or merchants; and tickets corresponding with the names of the jurors on the list being put into a box and shaken, the officer takes out forty-eight, to any of which names either party may object for incapacity; and supposing the objection to be established, another name is substituted. The list of forty-eight is next, and at a subsequent period, reduced by striking off; before the same officer, the names of such twelve jurors as either party shall in his turn wish to have removed; and the names of the remaining twenty-four are then inserted in the writ of *distringas* as the jurors to be summoned for the cause, which persons are then summoned by the sheriff to attend the trial'.

\*\*\* **tales** - a writ for summoning substitute jurors when the original jury has become deficient in number (definition from 'Oxford languages')

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From the e-Postbag

If you are not aware of it, I think this one (below) would be a good candidate for inclusion [in the Links]. I use it a lot, but then my family came from Nantwich to Ancoats in the 1830s and from Macclesfield to Droylsden a bit later - I imagine a lot of other folks have Cheshire associations, and would find interest in the Cheshire Parish Register Project (last revision 8th Sep 2021) [HERE](#)

It's really a match for the OLPC, although very different in format. Go to "database" for the goodies. Regards, Ron Bullock

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And from Melanie, we have a link to the British Film Institute's site ... " You probably know this but you can get a free 14-day subscription after which you have to pay. However a lot of their content is always free and here is the link to free content about Oldham, [HERE](#)"

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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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I finally took the opportunity, this week, to visit Manchester Library and check up on what my ancestors were doing and where they were, in 1921. With some real help, I was set up on a computer, with the census, and instructions on how to email the images and transcripts to myself. Forewarned was forearmed and, as I'd read that the transcriptions were not the best (!!)

I'd already searched on my own computer for the ancestors I wanted to find and made a list of

what search terms I'd used to find them. It saved a lot of time in the library!! It was a satisfying experience and (finding results for 20 odd names) saved me a considerable amount in charges. If you're still in doubt, it was well worth the effort.

Editor

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

since the last newsletter :

* Accessing Hansard : The Victorian Commons

[HERE](#)

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\* 25 great pictures of 1970s Manchester city centre - on the streets and from the skies

[HERE](#)

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* The Together Trust is a charity based in Cheadle, Greater Manchester, which has services covering North West England. It was founded in 1870 by Leonard Kilbee Shaw and Richard Bramwell Taylor as the Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges and Homes This report from 1905 makes interesting reading

[HERE](#)

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\* Tibby Tinkler, bookseller of Richmond, Yorkshire

[HERE](#)

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* 10 Websites For The History Of Ordinary People

[HERE](#)

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\* the Nation's Family Album

[HERE](#)

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* National Archives : Then and now: The People's Palace in the 20s

[HERE](#)

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\* The Notorious 1880 Police Raid of the Cross-Dressing Ball at Temperance Hall

[HERE](#)

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* BL Untold Lives Blog : Opening the coffin of King Charles I

[HERE](#)

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\* Performances from the world's greatest bands and hundreds of adoring fans - these images capture concerts of days gone by at Manchester's Belle Vue

[HERE](#)

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* Rutland sea dragon: How remarkable ichthyosaur fossil was protected

[HERE](#)

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\* How One's Knowledge of History can Help Understand Genealogy

[HERE](#)

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* Museum of transport : Who doesn't like a something-for-nothing freebie? We've put a superb book download on our website - a fleet history of Lancashire United Transport, who served the west part of Greater Manchester for decades. You can get *Lancashire United - The Fleet: 1900-1981* (Second Edition) by Richard Allen, Michael Eyre, Peter Greaves, March 2020

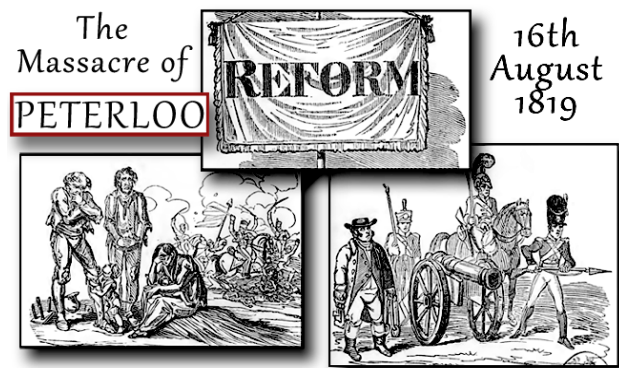
TOTALLY FREE from our library :

[HERE](#)

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

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

PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary



Visit the website for **The Peterloo Project** with particular reference to Oldham, people, accounts, life at the time and more ... at [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

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

You can make searches on websites such as :

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

Visit their website [HERE](#)

Need Help!

Oldham Local Studies and Archives is open

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)

### 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](#)

Cheshire Parish Register Project [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)



# MLFHS FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORY EVENT

## Manchester Central Library



Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society

**SATURDAY, 26TH MARCH 2022**

Manchester Central Library 10.00am - 4.00pm

Showcasing the wealth of expertise available to family and local historians within the Cities of Salford and Manchester and the boroughs of Trafford and Tameside.

### Film - Archives - Displays

Talk to the people who preserve our records, transcribe lists, look after our heritage, our buildings, canals, and cemeteries, who curate personal stories and oral histories. Ask the experts from your area of research, join their societies, become volunteers and get as much out of your family or local history interests as you wish.

Manchester  
Military History  
Society

Archives+  
Manchester  
Central Library

MLFHS  
Manchester  
Ancestors

Salford  
Cemeteries  
Trust

GMP Fraud  
and Scam  
Prevention

Greater  
Manchester  
Police Museum

Anglo Scottish  
Family History  
Society

Oldham &  
District Family  
History Society

Bolton Family  
History  
Society

Manchester,  
Bolton & Bury  
Canal Society

Victoria  
Baths

North West  
Film Archive

Salford u3a  
Local History

Family History  
Society of  
Cheshire

Tameside  
Local & Family  
History



More details on the website [HERE](#)

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from : '**The Costume of Yorkshire**' published in 1814

More images from the above mentioned book ... although referencing Yorkshire specifically, I imagine that, at that time, their dress would have been pretty similar to that of others, at least in the North of England.

The Collier



One of these workmen is here represented as returning from his labours In his usual costume. This dress, which is of white cloth bound with red, may probably be ridiculed as quite inconsistent with his sable occupation; but when the necessity of frequent washing is considered, surely none could have been adopted more conducive to cleanliness and health. The West Riding of Yorkshire it is well known, abounds in coal, the consumption of which is prodigiously increased by the general use of steam engines. In the back ground of the annexed Plate is a delineation of the steam engine lately invented by Mr. Blenkinsop, agent at the colliery of Charles Brandling, Esquire, near Leeds, which conveys above twenty waggons loaded with coals from the pits to Leeds. By two of these machines constantly employed, the labour of at least fourteen horses is saved.

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### **THE EAST RIDING OR WOLDS WAGGON.**

The account given of this carriage by H. Strickland, Esq., in his late excellent publication on the agriculture of the East Riding of Yorkshire, is so perfectly descriptive of the annexed Plate, that we here take the liberty of quoting it verbatim.

" Little can be said in favour of the waggons which are in general use here: they are high, narrow, and long: an inconvenient form for the purposes for which they are intended, that of carrying a top-load, particularly in such parts of the country as are irregular; and they have but one peculiarity in their construction which seems worthy of more general adoption. This is a strong chain on each side of the waggon, of which one end is fixed to the back of the fore axletree, and the other to the under side of the body, of such a length as just to prevent the opposite wheel from locking against the side of the waggon in

turning; by which means the body may be set much lower between the wheels, without being weakened by cutting the side to admit the wheel (as is sometimes done), and the Waggon may be turned within a much smaller space.



The mode of yoking the waggons also, in great part of the East Riding, appears to be a practice nearly peculiar to that district, and is deserving of imitation. The four horses are yoked two abreast, in the same manner as they are put to a coach, two drawing by the splinter-bar, and two by the pole; those at the wheel drawing also by a swinging bar; which the wheel-horses of every carriage ought to do, as they thereby obtain considerable ease in their draft, and are less liable to be galled by the collar than those which draw by a fixed bar. The driver then being mounted on the near-side wheel-horse, directs the two leaders by a rein fixed to the outside of each of their bridles, they being coupled together by a strap passing from the inside of each of their bridles to the collar of the other horse. In this manner, when empty, they trot along the roads with ease and expedition; and when loaded, the horses being near their work, and conveniently placed for drawing, labour with much greater ease and effect than when placed at length. Were the waggons, indeed, of a better construction, the team would be excellent."

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THE FOOL PLOUGH.

This is the name given to it by Strutt, though it is better known in Yorkshire under the title of *Plough Stotts* which may not improbably be derived from the German word *stütze*, a prop or support. Plough Monday, or the first Monday after Twelfth-day, has been considered as the Ploughman's holiday, and the annexed Plate represents a ludicrous procession on that day, not unlike that of the Mummers. or Morris-dancers, at Christmas. The principal characters in this Farce are the conductors of the plough, the plough-driver with a blown bladder at the end of a stick by way of whip, the fiddler, a huge clown in female attire, and the commander in chief *Captain Caul Tail*, dressed out with a cockade and a genuine calf's tail, fantastically crossed with various coloured ribbands.



This whimsical hero is also an orator and a dancer, and is ably supported by the manual wit of the plough-driver, who applies the bladder with great and sounding effect to the heads and shoulders of his team.

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### THE HORSE DEALER

