

'e-Owls'



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April 2022

MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

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Branch Officers for 2022 -2023 :

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



'Failsworth Lodge'
from, *Short Stories about Failsworth Folk*, 1905

Oldham & District Branch Meetings :

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

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

Chairman's remarks :

Hello,

Welcome to the April Newsletter. As I write this the sun is shining and it is quite warm for a change. The daffodils are blooming and the birds are nesting so all is well in the garden. Our Annual Meeting was held on the 15th March on Zoom. As we had no nominations from our members, the Chairman and Committee Members were re-elected. We need new blood on the Committee and, once again, I ask that you come forward to discuss the various opportunities, we have going forward, by email at < chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk >

On the 9th April, we are holding a hybrid meeting which will take place in the Education Suite at Oldham Library and also on Zoom. As this is going to be a trial run I would ask that as many of you as possible, who live in the Oldham area, attend this meeting in person. The Committee and I would welcome your views and comments after the meeting so that we can iron out any snags or problems that may arise.

Enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter.

Linda Richardson

Chairman, Oldham Branch

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

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## **Editor's remarks.**

Hi Everyone,

Dare we hope that Spring is here? Mother Nature definitely seems to think so! I bought two pots of primulas for the garden, the other day, but they looked so beautiful that they're going to be living on my kitchen windowsill until the flowers finish.

Back to all things genealogical and this week, as I try to put this newsletter 'to bed', is busy with FH events, the notices of which were in last month's newsletter. Oldham Libraries was running its week-long FH Festival, in libraries across the Borough, and our Branch of MLFHS was in the Local Studies and Archives on the Wednesday, to promote our own society and what we can offer or do. We were very encouraged by the response and it was an enjoyable session. We took all our leaflets and the laptop so were really able to promote the advantages of membership of MLFHS.

On Saturday (26<sup>th</sup>) we were again out in force in Manchester Library, at the MLFHS event, with the same intention. Trundling down to Manchester, on the tram, with banner, suitcase full of leaflets and books, the laptop and other items was something of a challenge. Being early, we hoped the tram would be pretty empty ... NO, it wasn't! Still, we got there and set up in good time. It proved to be a busy day for everyone on the various stands and we caught up with friends we hadn't seen for so long and chatted with people who were interested in what we do so we can look back and know that it was an enjoyable and worthwhile day.

Branch photos from the Event on Saturday are in the Gallery.

Also at the library, there was a little tour of the sound archive offered to visitors. Apparently, in collaboration with the British Library, thousands and thousands of old recordings, taken on now obsolete recording devices, which have been rescued from storage ranging from good to terrible, are being cleaned up and re-recorded for posterity. We were taken up to where the 'business end' of this project takes place and saw how they tackled this mammoth task. It was fascinating to learn how they cleaned up the tapes (some done professionally but many from amateurs) and re-recorded them, digitally, for the best possible result. The race is on to do as much as possible before the last playback machines, of all types, have become worn out and impossible to find any to replace or provide parts to repair them.

As you will have read (or will read) in the newsletters, our journal editor, Pat is finding that the 'cupboard is almost bare' for the next publication. The closing date for submissions is, technically, the 1st April, but this has been extended a little in the hope that we can all put on

our 'thinking caps' and send her an article, story, account, whatever, of our own FH interests or research etc. We all know that life is busy, and becoming more busy, and we don't always have the time for seemingly less urgent needs, but we all enjoy receiving and reading the Journal ... it needn't take us too long to share a short story or our thoughts so do please try and help.

In March, on our updates page [HERE](#) we uploaded a link to the story of the suffragist Dr, Catherine Payne, who was a doctor and Resident Assistant Medical Officer, at the Oldham Poor Law Institution. In brief, in February 1915, the Serbian Relief Fund asked Mrs. St. Clair Stobart to organise a hospital unit to work in the field with the Serbian army. In the few day that followed, Mrs St Clair Stobart gathered together a group of 89 volunteers including seven doctors, nursing sisters, orderlies, dispensers, cooks, chauffeurs, a treasurer, a chaplain, someone in charge of clothing and an interpreter. The seven doctors had all worked in northern hospitals and four had worked in Oldham. Along with Catherine Payne were, Dr Kate King-May Atkinson and Dr Mabel Eliza King-May who were sisters born in London; both had trained in Manchester and then held brief posts at Oldham Infirmary. Dr Edith Maude Marsden was born in Rochdale. Ten of the group were men but, apart from one of the dispensers and the man in charge of x-rays, all the medical staff were women. Within days they were en route for Serbia. We also uploaded a link, on our 'What's New'/'updates' section [HERE](#) to a new on-going project - '*Murders and other Criminal goings-on in Oldham*' from Pat Etchells. She'll be adding new stories as time permits.

Sadly, this month, again, we have no correspondence in the e-postbag to share.

Our April Meeting is the first of our hybrid meetings ... with an audience both in the room and on zoom. I'm quite and nervous about this undertaking, as I get to be at the computer, making sure our zoom audience have an interesting afternoon (in a good way!!). Apparently, it's a first for our speaker, as well, but he says he is looking forward to a new experience! Of course, there are bound to be some problems (minor, we hope!) to address for future hybrid talks but, with the help and patience of our two audiences, we'll do our best to make it work. I'll give you the highs and lows of the day in the next newsletter!

Sheila

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](mailto: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

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 on zoom will be free to members and non-members alike.

Wherever you live, Welcome!

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



Saturday,  
12th March  
at  
2 pm



**MARCH 2022 MEETING**

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

an illustrated talk given by Michael Winstanley

Michael told us about the importance of Edwin's travels, his 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. In Oldham, we are very fortunate in that anyone with an interest in the town's history will surely have come across the names of the diarist, William Rowbottom, writing from 1787-1830 and those of the Butterworth father and son historians, James and Edwin, in the early 1800s.

We learned that Edwin was born in 1812, the eighth of the ten children, of James who at times, during his lifetime, was a weaver, a postmaster, teacher, poet and local historian. Edwin died in 1848 but, in his short lifetime, produced an unbelievable quantity of material, his first published work being at the age of 16. Probably his most locally well known work being '*The Historical Sketches of Oldham*', an edition of which was published posthumously.

He drew detailed maps of the district before the first Ordnance Maps of the 1840s; he wrote detailed reports, of events, criminal proceedings, leisure activities, lectures and political meetings, in the town, all of which were in the numerous journals he kept [in the Local Studies & Archives Library, are bound transcriptions of some of the journals in the '*Register of Oldham News and Reports*' by Edwin Butterworth]. Although his name is known and acknowledged for most of that work, he is probably less well known for the reports he sent to the Manchester newspapers of the day and for the enormous amount of work he did for Edward Baines for the publications, of '*The History of the County Palatine & Duchy of Lancaster*'. Michael told us that Butterworth's '*Parish Notebooks*' showed that he had visited every township in the county for Baines. His notebooks showed the questions that Baines wanted answered, and the information which Butterworth elicited. Michael also added that the Notebooks, when compared with the published works, showed that Butterworth frequently added more details than Baines actually used.

After Butterworth's early death, many of his papers, were sold off for use as wrapping paper, in commercial premises, and it was only some time later, that those which survived were saved and archived. Amongst them were numerous diary style papers that contained details of his various sources of incomes, dates and amounts; the places he lodged when working away from Oldham, his domestic expenses and so much more.

Our thanks to Michael for such an interesting account.



You can read more:

\* *News from Oldham: Edwin Butterworth and the Manchester Press, 1829-1848*, by Michael Winstanley, for the *Manchester Region History Review*, Volume 4 Number 1 Spring/Summer 1990, [HERE](#)

\* Transcription of Edwin Butterworth's, '*Historical Sketches of Oldham*' [HERE](#)

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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 link on [Eventbrite](#).

Booking not necessary for in person attendance at Oldham Library in the Education Suite.

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Saturday,  
14th May  
at  
2 pm



***A History of the Coliseum Theatre, Oldham***

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

The talk takes in the early history of the Oldham Coliseum and its varying fortunes. Also, the famous actors who have appeared at the theatre during its time.

A free, illustrated talk given by David Rustidge

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

Booking not necessary for in person attendance at Oldham Library in the Education Suite.

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MLFHS Branches delivering their monthly meetings and talks

Anglo - Scots ... April Meeting

MLFHS, ANGLO-SCOTTISH BRANCH ONLINE MEETING	Saturday, 2nd April at 2:00 pm	<i>Annual Meeting followed by Members' Heirlooms</i>
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In person in Manchester Central Library ... bookings on [Eventbrite](#)
Anglo-Scottish Website Pages [HERE](#) for more information and booking details

Bolton ... April Meeting

MLFHS Bolton Branch online Meetings	Wednesday, 6th April at 7:30 pm	<i>'Finding Aunt Sarah' given by Dr. Alan Crosby</i>
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A hybrid Meeting on zoom and at
Bolton Golf Club, Lostock Park, Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL6 4AJ
on zoom ... bookings on [Eventbrite](#)
Bolton Website Pages [HERE](#) for more information and booking details.

MLFHS updates

The MLFHS Family History Help Desk ...
For any updated information, please check the website [HERE](#)

Manchester ... April Meetings

bookings on [Eventbrite](#)

No meetings for April, at this time.

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

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

MLFHS Manchester, Eventbrite Bookings [HERE](#)

MLFHS Online Bookshop: [HERE](#).

with CDs, Downloads, Maps, Registers, Local Interest Books, More General Publications, Miscellaneous Items with MLFHS Logo etc., and Offers.

MLFHS Manchester & Branch e-Newsletters

MLFHS Manchester and each of the MLFHS branches publish 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 Manchester newsletter automatically and non-members can browse the archive and download any they wish. You can sign up to receive the Branches' newsletter links monthly, 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](#) (Manchester) [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.

\* In one of the biggest additions to our public Catholic Records Index, I have just added 243,155 names of those baptised, parents and godparents for baptisms at the following churches:

- St. Alban, Ancoats 1863-1898
- St. Aloysius, Ardwick 1854-1903
- St. Mary, Failsworth 1849-1908
- St. Mary, Mulberry Street 1850-1922
- St. Patrick, Livesey Street 1861-1897

The index now contains 1,076,294 names.  
The full details of the baptisms as well as images of the registers concerned are available on our latest DVD which is available from the MLFHS online shop.  
The DVD also includes images of the baptism registers for St. Casimir, Collyhurst 1904-1931 but no transcript or index owing to difficulties in finding someone who could reliably read the Polish and other eastern European names which appear in the register entries.  
The DVD can be purchased from the Online Shop [HERE](#)  
Thanks are due to Madeline Best and her dedicated team of transcribers for this, the fourth DVD of baptism registers, and the one which completes the indexing of baptisms for Catholic churches in Manchester.

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* Another valuable addition to the Great Database. This time a further batch of 1,586 burials at St. John's, Pendlebury between 1923 and 1940.
Thanks to Mark Harrey for these.

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\* I have just added references to the 543 streets and establishments, which appear on the Alan Godfrey reproduction OS map for Bolton (North), to the Godfrey Maps Index in the public area of the web site.  
Also now added to the listing page is a schematic showing the maps which cover much of the Greater Manchester area and the sheets which have been street indexed.  
If you own any of the other sheets and would be prepared to index the streets for the online index, please let me know and I will let you know what is needed.

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* Another and final batch of burials for Pendlebury St. John, courtesy of Mark Harrey. These are 489 burials 1940-45.
All now in the Great Database.

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\* Another sheet added to the Godfrey Map Index. This time the sheet for Bardsley 1906, which has been indexed by Barry Birch.  
A mostly rural area, but provides the locations of a number of farms as well as the street names.  
Indexing of several more sheets is in progress around the Oldham area, but if you have any of the sheets for areas south of Manchester or between Bolton and Oldham, there are

opportunities to contribute to this increasingly useful index.

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* Another addition to the Great Database: 100 admissions to the Royal Manchester School for the Deaf & Dumb between 1889 and 1895. Names as below. Please note that three of the names are duplicated as a result of being admitted on two separate occasions.

Thanks to Jim Chadwick for these.

AHERN Richard Henry; ALDCROFT John; ASHTON Lilian; BANCROFT Mary Emma;
BANCROFT Mary Emma; BARCLAY Jane; BARLOW Maggie; BAUGH John;
BOSWELL Frederick Charles; BOSWORTH Arthur; BROCKLEHURST Frank;
BRADBURY Esther Maud; PROVOST Harold; BRIGGS Ada; BURGESS Annie Isabella;
BURGESS Emma Jane; BURN Jessie; CLARKE Stanton; COOKSON Emily;
COOPER Mary; CORBISHLY Joyce Hannah; COXEY Edith Ann; DEAN Benjamin;
DURBER Ernest; EDWARDS Thomas; EGLINGTON Benjamin; ELLIS John;
FARROW Frederick; GALE Joseph Robert; GARNE Annie; GARNER Benjamin;
GIBSON Lily; GREEN Wilfred; GRIFFIN Joseph; HAKIM Joseph (Solomon);
HALL John Robert; HALL Samuel; HALL John; HAMER Joseph Taylor;
HARTLEY Ethel Carter; HARRISON Horatio; HARRISON William; HARRISON William;
HEAP Mary Ellen; HILL Jane; HILL Sarah Jane; HOLDEN Emma; HOLMES David;
HORRIDGE Minnie; HUBAND Henry Robert; HUGHES Louisa; HUNTER Ada Eleanor;
IRLAM Samuel; JACKSON George; JENKINS Charles; JACKSON Samuel; KEY Walter;
KNOWLES William; MANSFIELD Susan Elizabeth; MARSDEN John Thomas;
MELLING Jane; MERCER Lillian; MORRIS Frank; MORRISON William Thomas;
OLDHAM Edwin; PENNEY Herbert; POWELL John Dent; POWELL Edward;
RALPH A Edward L; RAWLINSON Owen; RHODES Samuel; ROYLE John William;
SANGSTER Edith; SHARP Joseph; SHARPE Richard Perry; SHARMAN Ben Ernest;
SIMPSON William Houghton; SLATER Isabella; SMITH Albert Edward;
SMITH Arthur Jackson; SMITH Charles; SMITH Mary; SMITH Mary Ellen;
SMITH Samuel Henry; STEER Reginald; STUBBS Frank; TAYLOR Gladys Alfreda;
THOMAS Ethel Annie; TITLEY Joseph; TOD Robert Glover; TOWN John Richard;
WARD Sarah; WARWICK Jane Ellen; WATKINS John; WILLIAMS Ada; WILLIAMS Harry;
WILLIAMS Harry; WINSTONE Amy; WORRALL Thomas;

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\* Another addition to the Great Database.

Bolton, King's Hall Wesleyan Methodist Mission Baptisms.

Details of baptisms 1932-1958 transcribed by Joan Bridges for Bolton & District FHS (264 records)

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* Lancashire BMD update

Added 47 Marriages for Blackburn RD comprising:

Darwen, Congregational Church (Hollins Grove) (2005-2008)

Blackburn, Ragged School (Bent St) (1976-2007)

Blackburn, Elim Pentecostal Church (Park Rd) (1986-1998)

Thanks to Tony Foster and his team for the above.

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\* Another addition to the Great Database:

Details of 402 baptisms at Walmsley Old Chapel, Dimple, 1789-1839,  
courtesy of Bolton & District FHS.

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* Another small, but welcome, addition to The Great Database:

Little Bolton Poor Rate Book 1831-32

Transcript of Poor Rate Book giving names of payees, residences and some notes.

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
20th
April
at
7 pm



The Murphy Riots of 1868 in Ashton-under-Lyne and District

A free, illustrated talk on zoom, given by Gay Jeanne Oliver

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](#)

Saddleworth Historical Society Wednesday 13th April at 7.30pm

"Edward Elgar: the Real Enigma"

an illustrated presentation given by Geoffrey Scargill

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 April 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.

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

Family History Society of Cheshire : Tameside Group meeting.

See their website [HERE](#)

Tameside History Club :

Meetings on zoom.


Website and programme

&


Tameside Local Studies and Archives - Regular Sessions and Events


Website and programme [HERE](#)

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**Moorside & District Historical Society**  
*We are back, assuming the current regulations hold true.*  
**NOTE 2nd Monday 11th April 2022.**  
**What our Ancesters Could See  
from the Hills**  
+ AGM ~ Plus other 'Oddities'  
illustrated presentation by Mike Smith





**Note 2nd Monday 11th because of Easter Monday 17th April.**

**NOTE To be held in Moorside St Thomas' Church, OL1 4SJ**

**7-30 p.m. all are welcome. Vestry or Lounge.**

*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.*

11th April, at 7:30, Moorside St. Thomas's Church

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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 XI

CHAPTER XI

A CRISIS IN TRADE - ART PURCHASES

FOR many ears I had known Mr. Frederick Moregood.* He was well known in business circles in Manchester, and especially on the Exchange, where his large transactions were often a topic of conversation, not unmixed with astonishment. Our intimacy had not been very close, but when we frequently met, his kind, frank manner had a charm for me, as doubtless it had for others. Were he absent during the hour of "High 'Change" I missed the commanding figure and cordial grip of the hand. Whether he expressed his views on things in general or Charles Halle's concert of the previous night - for he was very musical - or my own personal affairs in particular - for he took an interest in them - he always commanded my attention.

On several occasions he expressed dissatisfaction with the line of business I was following, and

urged that it did not afford scope enough for my energies, and that my talents should find a wider field of operation.

I met him one day on the Exchange; he had been looking for me. He knew a manufacturer, advanced in years, whose partner had recently died. Mr. Moregood, who knew everybody, was asked if he could find the old gentleman another partner, young, active, and competent; failing

footnote:

* Midwood

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which he should retire from business. Now, said Mr. Moregood, with his happy twinkle of the eye, you answer all his requirements. I recommend you to see him at once. His name is Tumbleton* and you will find him at his mill. In an hour afterwards I was deep in conversation with the proprietor, in his little office, in a weaving mill in one of the least attractive of the Manchester suburbs. On my entrance I found him engaged in writing what I thought was a sermon, which he afterwards put into a drawer. After introducing myself, he asked me abruptly what I wanted, probably fearing I had called to solicit a subscription for some charity. On my explaining the object of my visit, a look of intense earnestness overspread his countenance in place of the deprecatory one which had preceded it. When I mentioned the person who had sent me to him his manner became much less brusque. Probably he saw in the stranger the future young partner he required.

I felt I had a character before me. I always gave a preference to individuality of character, and had a natural aversion to human insipidity and milk and water. I do not say this particular character much charmed me - on the contrary, his churlish manner before he knew the object of my visit revolted me somewhat; and yet he had a certain attraction in his bluntness.

After confirming Mr. Moregood's statement respecting the decease of his late partner, and the interchange of a few questions, we parted. During my interview I discovered that the mill was an old one, and that the looms therein had seen their best days.

footnote:

*Turnbull

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The proprietor impressively informed me he was in possession of an income sufficient for his family requirements; that he had no children to provide for, and was therefore indifferent in the matter of either remaining in or retiring from business. My introduction to him, however, had kindled new emotions when he arranged to call upon me. The next day I received his visit, which he utilized in the close inspection of my little clerk and the establishment generally, ending with an invitation to take tea with him on the following day. The next day was the one on which the Exhibition was to close, and the prospect of the dispersion of the collection disquieted me. I had been a constant visitor to the Exhibition, and had experienced with much delight its educating influence. I had there unexpectedly met friends from the West of England who had been attracted thither by the love for the beautiful. There I had been introduced to the lady who was soon to become the handsome wife of William Renshaw. She was musical, and had made intelligent remarks on some of the pictures and also of the music of the orchestra. had eagerly chaperoned, from time to time, the youthful and middle-aged of the fair sex, who allowed themselves to be conducted to those objects which I considered the most interesting, being satisfied the time would thus be judiciously occupied; and never was there a greater sufferer than myself from pictorial *embarras de richesse*. I had sat for hours there with J. S. Baring, of London, and talked over the prospects of our respective future lives. I had there listened to much music which I had never previously heard,

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and which to this day I associate with that time. I became sadly conscious of the fact that "all things to their period tend."

My visit to the house of Mr. Tumbleton was made. I was introduced to his wife, and elderly maiden sister, and also his niece, who resided with them. I became confirmed in my opinion that the old gentleman had struck out ideas of renewed business life, and that he had no intention of carrying his contemplated retirement into effect. He was cheerful, and altogether more sociable than on our first interview. On this occasion I discovered I was correct in supposing he was writing a sermon at his mill on my appearance there, for he now informed me he was not only a theologian but also a preacher. This announcement gave rise to mixed feelings as I walked home that night, but I was more concerned that the Fine Art Treasures Exhibition had become a thing of the past.

During the few succeeding days I heard from various sources of the anxiety with which Mr. Tumbleton had canvassed me amongst those who were able to supply him with all the information he required of me before concluding our final arrangement.

Mr. Thornton's affairs at this time were approaching a crisis. His latest balance-sheet showed so disastrous a result that he urged me to go over to the mill to assist him in investigating his affairs. On the following day I had a heavy time with him, being for many hours absorbed in his books, and working indefatigably. At the conclusion I felt quite satisfied what course I should urge for

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his adoption. What was it? To cease buying another pound of cotton. To work up all the cotton on hand. To discharge the workpeople. To sell the machinery, close the mill, make some kind of a compromise with the landlord for the annulling of the unexpired portion of his lease, and then, clear out!

The wretched balance-sheet was studied again and again and again, with microscopic care and attention, in the hope of detecting some clerical error. It too faithfully revealed the true state of affairs, and demanded the remedy described as above, which was the only one that could rescue the remnant of a fortune which had been frittered away. He was reluctant to act on my advice; but, as I was backed by his wife, I assumed an authoritative manner, and in a week the mill was closed, the cotton having been worked up, and the hands dismissed. The machinery was also advertised for sale. It sold well, and Mr. Thornton, for the first time since I had known him, was in possession of ready funds, but they barely reached in amount an eighth of the fortune he had invested in the old mill.

A week or two only elapsed from the day of the sale when one of those crises which seemed to recur every ten years took place - the crisis of 1857. It was sharp whilst it lasted for some three months. The whole course of trade in Lancashire has now become changed, and instead of the crises coming round every decade of years they seem to last that time. As far as I can learn, that of 1877 still drags with its desolating effects. Mr. Thornton warmly acknowledged the

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prompt decision I exercised, and which led to the immediate closing of his mill. Had it not been effected at once the remnant of his fortune would have been completely absorbed in the widespread depreciation which immediately followed.

One of my first introductions in Manchester was to Mr. John Rareworthy* who kept an art establishment in the Oxford Road. For this privilege I was indebted to my old acquaintance Mr. E. Phelps, the happy possessor of the fine old Woollett and Morghen line engravings. Wishing to make my change of residence to Manchester as congenial as it could be, he conducted me in triumph to the chief source of his own valuable acquisitions; and I formed a friendship with one of the best and gentlest of men which lasted 32 years, and has only terminated with his removal from the turmoils of the present life. In those days expensive works of art were not within my reach, but to collect choice prints of fine quality was one of the keenest pursuits of my leisure moments. In the pictorial establishment of my newly-formed acquaintance I found daily delight, and in turning over numerous folios frequently secured a valuable specimen. The

attraction to his rooms was like that of the hart to the water-brook.

Mr. Rareworthy was a man who had a discriminating love of the beautiful, whether in art or literature. He was engaged in a business which from one of its aspects was consonant with his nature. His happiness was to foster in the minds of others the same true love of art which he himself possessed, and this he accomplished without

Footnote:

* Rowbotham

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much regard to pecuniary considerations. His abnegation of self which I often thought to be excessive, soon became obvious to his visitors. It is no wonder that in the presence of such a spirit and surroundings I passed every hour I could occasionally steal from the prosaic duties of everyday life. My friend frequently changed his place of business, but wherever he went thither I followed him, with undeviating interest and increased pleasure. To know him was indeed a privilege. Whatever weakness might be consciously or unconsciously revealed in the desire to become possessed of some good thing in art, no advantage was ever taken of the revelation; but, on the contrary, facilities were afforded to enable you to become the possessor of the coveted work. The result of my regular visits was, I had access to information and other privileges which were of great value.

I was duly informed when art sales were to be attended, and the probability was that I should have the first glimpse of any purchases made. I remember his unfolding a parcel containing sixteen sketches, which he had bought on the previous day at a sale of Ackermann's. They were the original designs by Rowlandson, illustrating *The Tour of Dr. Syntax*. They were not mounted, and appeared to lack importance. My good friend thought I would like them, and sold me the sixteen drawings for ten shillings. Had they been nicely mounted he might have obtained two pounds each for them, a sum for which I sold them after keeping them for a quarter of a century in a folio. On another occasion

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he sold me for twenty pounds a leaf folio, containing some thirty plates of Sir Joshua Reynolds's works in all states, some being worn, lettered prints, though in good preservation; many others, however, were proofs before letters, and some of these the full-length favourites. I kept these for very many years, giving my doctor one or more at the birth of each of my children, and selling others at prices out of all proportion to that at which they were purchased. From Mr. Rareworthy I bought the first David Cox drawing I ever possessed, of course for a small sum. I paid him three pounds for it, and kept it for nearly thirty years. The subject was called "Rowsley," but I never was able to discover from what point of the village it was taken, though on all occasions of a visit to Rowsley I never failed to scour the neighbourhood in the hope of alighting on the actual scene, and I would have given much to have succeeded in my hunt. The colour of the drawing was confined to green and grey, with only an indication of blue sky. There was a cottage, having an open lattice window, with the shadow dexterously thrown on the other side, facing the spectator, and between him and it the gable end of another house appeared, the whole being canopied with a chestnut tree, the shadow of which also fell with lovely effect on the whitewashed wall of the house. The laneway which passed the garden gate came to an abrupt bend, and would conduct a pedestrian right round the cottage. There was no figure in the drawing, nor any attempt at atmospheric effect. It belonged to the late middle period; the handling being

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unusually vigorous even for David Cox, and it was pronounced by connoisseurs to be a masterly production. Since then I have paid large sums for highly-finished works by the same artist, but no one of them has given me more intense gratification than the "Rowsley" sketch. The visits of Mr. Tumbleton to my office became frequent. He made a daily appearance, urging

me to close the place and repair to his mill at an early date. In vain I urged that to do so would be prejudicial to the interests of my clients, and that time was needed. I afterwards found he was keen on making a visit to the Hydropathic Establishment kept by the late Doctor Grindrod at Malvern, and this could not be accomplished until my installation. Mr. Thornton came to the rescue, and relieved me by taking the whole of my little establishment off my hands, and then began a fresh chapter in my Manchester life.

continued 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 MACHINIST



If any thing is capable of persuading man that he is of a superior order of being to that of the animals which surround him, it is above all the beauty of his inventions, and the inexhaustible resources which he finds in his industry. He is born weak and absolutely naked. His weakness renders him even active and industrious. Upon a contemplation of his own poverty, he calls into activity all his senses. He applies force to force, opposition to resistance—velocity to weight—and weight to velocity. By the assistance of Mechanics this little being of five or six feet in height, with two arms, can expedite as much work as a giant whom we might imagine having a thousand. Take Mechanics from man, and you reduce him to barren thought. Mechanics have done what there is of most beautiful upon the earth.

The Machinist, who embodies in his profession the chief principles of Mechanics, and brings them into active use, is the follower of an occupation of very recent introduction amongst the social and useful arts.

It is true, we had to a remote period the common smith, the founder, and the carpenter; and the optician has also been for some time known; but such has been the rapid improvement in mechanical machinery during the last fifty years, that the Machinist was wanting to unite the correct precision of the finer branches of Mechanics to the practical utilities of the common smith, the carpenter, &c.

As the *steam-engine* occupies so conspicuous a portion in this trade, indeed, is the chief moving power in it, we deem it necessary to say, that it is, unquestionably, one of the noblest monuments of human ingenuity. It was originally invented by the Marquis of Worcester, in the reign of Charles the Second. This nobleman published, in 1663, a small book called "A Century of Inventions," giving an account of a hundred different discoveries or contrivances of his own; amongst these is an account of raising water by the force of steam, which, now that we are possessed of the engine, appears to agree very well with its construction. But as there was no plate accompanying his description, we are entirely unacquainted with the particular mode in

which he applied the power of steam. It does not appear, however, that he met with sufficient encouragement, and this useful discovery was long neglected.

Towards the end of the seventeenth century, Captain Savary succeeded in constructing a machine of this kind, having probably seen the Marquis of Worcester's account; obtained a patent for the invention, and erected several steam-engines, which he described in a book entitled the "Miner's Friend," published in 1696.

In the beginning of the eighteenth century, Newcomen and Crauly first conceived the project of applying a piston with a lever and other machinery. They were contented to share the profits of the invention with Savary, who procured a patent for it in 1705, in which they all three joined. But it was not till 1712, that the difficulties in working it were removed.

About 1762, Mr. Watt began to turn his attention to this machine, which he has since brought to so great a degree of perfection. Perhaps we cannot better describe the trade of a Machinist than in enumerating some of the most important articles which he manufactures, which are, machinery constructed and manufactured for experimental and scientific elucidation, steam-engines, both of condensing and high pressure, to any required power. Digesters, chemical apparatus, philosophical and gas-light machines; conductors for protecting buildings and shipping from lightning. Pumps, both atmospheric and forcing, machines for soda and artificial waters; syphons, air and fluid cocks; exhausting and condensing syringes; garden engines, fountains, hydrostatic engines, and hydro-mechanical presses, cutting engines for screws, wheels, cylinders, and boring bars, stamping and cutting presses with dies and punches. Saw-mills, portable iron forges, mill work, and large framing in wood and iron. Mechanical modelling, and experimental machinery. Turning-lathes, lead and pewter pipe-moulds, all sorts of turning, in iron, steel, and brass, with screw cutting, and a great variety of other articles for mechanical movements, which it would not be easy to enumerate.

It is obvious that the person who carries on this business must be possessed of considerable ingenuity, and great mechanical knowledge; his employment being of a very complicated kind. He requires the talents and experience of the joiner, the brass and iron founder, the smith and the turner, in their most extended variety. It is by uniting the powers of these several occupations into one, together with the great assortment of excellent tools which he unavoidably requires, that the Machinist is furnished with those facilities of manufacture which peculiarly belong to his employment. The saw, the plane, the chisel, and the hammer; the furnace, and all the implements for casting; the forge, the anvil, the vice; and the products of these tools are, at last, submitted to the *turning-lathe*. This machine and its apparatus, as they are now found in the Machinist's manufactory, form the grand and rapid instrument that, by the assistance of the steam-engine to give it motion, produces the accuracy which we find in all the different machinery and instruments that the Machinist prepares.

The *turning-lathe*, and its various applications, would occupy much more space than we can spare to describe: we can only hint at them. Cylinders, both interior and exterior, are turned and bored; plain surfaces of any form, are smoothed; cones, globes, and every other figure that the skill of the workman, or the ingenuity of the apparatus can effect, are brought to their exact shape and polish by this machine, which ranks above all others in usefulness, as well as in the endless variety of its powers.

The plate represents the Machinist's work-shop, with the five mechanical powers, viz. the screw, the pulley, the wheel, the wedge, and the lever. There is also the turning-lathe, the steam-engine, and the saw-mill.

Able journeymen at this business, will get from thirty to fifty shillings per week.

We have obtained the principal part of this description from an inspection of the workshop of Mr. Alexander Galloway, the Machinist, West Street, Smithfield, who, we understand, was the first person who established himself under this designation, and who is a proof, in his own person, of the great power, activity, and ingenuity of man.

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In last month's newsletter, I drew attention to the fact of the civil action brought by Thomas Redford against Hugh Hornby Birley and others of the Manchester Yeomanry, in April 1822, just 200 years ago, and looked at the jurors and how they would be selected. The five days of the trial, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday) were reported daily in the *Guardian*, in very great detail. Fortunately (for us!) on the 14th the *Guardian* produced a single report covering all the salient points of the case ... transcribed below.

Manchester Guardian, 14th April, 1822

LANCASTER ASSIZES - LANCASTER

THE MANCHESTER MEETING

At these Assizes an action was brought by a man named Redford, who was wounded in the affray of the 16th of August, 1819, against - Birley, the Captain of the Manchester Yeomanry and others, to recover compensation in damages for the injury which he had sustained. The trial lasted five days: it commenced on Thursday the 4th instant, and terminated on the 9th - Messrs Evans and Blackburne were counsel for the plaintiff; and Mr. Serjeant Hullock, Mr. Littledale, and Mr. Starkie for the defendant.

The declaration, in the first count, stated that the defendants, on the 16th of August, 1819, assaulted the plaintiff at Manchester, and with certain swords gave and struck him a great many violent cuts and strokes on and about his shoulders, by which means he became greatly wounded and bruised, &c., & there was another count for common assault, and the damages were laid at £500. - The pleas set up by the defendants were 14 in number; and in substance were to this effect : that the plaintiff and others conspired to excite the King's subjects to hatred and contempt of the government; that they committed a riot; that they unlawfully met to disturb the public peace; that they refused to disperse when proclamations were made to that effect; whereupon the defendants *gently laid their hands* upon them to make them disperse; and that when the defendants endeavoured to restore the peace, on the riot having been committed, they were assaulted by the plaintiff and others. The 14th plea was, that the plaintiff and others made an assault on the defendants, wherefore the defendants defended themselves; and if any damage happend to the plaintiff, it was from his assault on the defendants, and in defendants' own defence. There were originally 51 pleas, containing 39,000 and odd words, and spread over 541 sheets, but the Master struck out 37.

The case was opened to the Jury by Mr. Blackburne, who, in a long speech, gave a history of all the events which occurred at Manchester on the 16th August, and a repetition of which, after our former account of these unfortunate proceedings, would be now tiresome.

The first witness called was Alexander Anderson. He said he was a weaver at Manchester, and was present at the meeting, which had been assembled for the purpose of petitioning for a reform in Parliament. there were present a great number, old and young; women and children were then walking about on the place. He stopped till Mr. Hunt passed in a sort of carriage, and until he went to the hustings; soon after he quitted the spot and went home.

William Mickleroy, another weaver, said he had been at the meeting; that he stopped till the cavalry charged, and that until then there was no disturbance. "I saw," said he, "some of the people fall, several of them went down before the horse. There was not the least attack made on the yeomanry further than to cheer them as they came down. The cheers took place as the cavalry advanced. I saw no stones thrown, and am certain there were none thrown, for I stood upon a height, and might have seen if any were within my view. I am positive no one struck at the Yeomanry as long as I durst stand where I did, on the height." Being asked on examination whether the peole were not armed with bludgeons, he said many of them had sticks but most of them small rods in their hands.

Wm. Harrison, a cotton-spinner at Oldham, from which place about 5 or 6,000 proceeded on the 16th August, to Manchester, said he was one of them. He then went on - The proportion of

women in the 5 or 6,000 might be about 1,000, including girls of 10 or 13 years old. We had no sticks, except for a few of the old men. When we reached New-cross, at Manchester, we stopped upon seeing three or four gentlemen on horseback, whom we thought were Magistrates. I saw the cavalry come on the field and form before Mr. Buxton's house. I saw the Yeomanry get among the people and begin to get up to the hustings. In their way I saw them cutting their way right and left among the people, at the same instant the constables used their truncheons.

Abraham Ridley stated as follows: - I was a cotton spinner, living at Oldham in 1819, and went with the Oldham people to Manchester on the 16th August. In the course of our progress nothing whatever was done to excite disturbance. I was within five or six yards from the hustings; and up to that time, all appeared to be peace, harmony, and conviviality, in the people's conduct. The Yeomanry were close up to me before I could properly see them. They were cutting at the people with their swords.

Joseph Brierley examined:- I heard the cry of the cavalry coming up before I saw them. They were coming up two or three deep to the hustings, and in a trot. I saw them making havock, and cutting; and cries of murder, shame, and scandal, came from every side.

Joseph Hindle, examined by Mr. Evans : I saw the Manchester Yeomanry; when they got near the hustings they began to form a circle; they began to cut with their sabres. I was wounded on the right arm. I endeavoured to get away but could not. The yeomanry cut at the people who were near their horse. An old man was cut across his head, and the blood spouted into my breast. I saw no stones thrown at the yeomanry. The people could not stoop to pick up stones. I saw no resistance to the military.

Other witnesses were examined for the purpose of showing the demeanour of the meeting. They were of the same class of persons as the preceding witnesses; had attended the Manchester Meeting from the neighbouring towns; and described what occurred nearly in the same terms.

The court met again on Good Friday, and the witnesses on the second day spoke in a similar manner as those who had preceded them, respecting the transactions of the 16th August.

At six o'clock on Friday evening the plaintiff's case was closed, and Mr. Serjeant Hullock rose and addressd the jury for the defendants in a speech of two hours length. The main points upon which he rested their case was, first, the state of alarm at the time around Manchester, in consequence of the systematic drilling of the people in large bodies, with bugles and military tactics; the fear and terror inspired by the manner in which they entered Manchester on the 16th August; the necessity for the magistrates acting at the moment to prevent the consequences then apprehended; the reading of the riot act out of the window at which the magistrates were; the impossibility of executing by the civil power, the warrant against the leaders on the hustings, owing to the dense mass of people, with locked arms, round the hustings, and the necessity of calling in military aid to protect the constables. He also said he should prove the fact of the yeomanry being assaulted with sticks and stones during their advance to the hustings.

The opening witnesses for the defence on Saturday were the parties who saw the drilling at Whitemoss, who were beat as spies by the drillers, and who recognised some of them in the procession to the Manchester Meeting.

The next head of evidence related to the terror and alarm inspired by the Meeting at Manchester.

Dr. Jeremiah Smith : I am the headmaster of the Grammar School at Manchester, and resided there on the 16th of Aug., 1819. On that morning I took the precaution of dismissing the boys from the school, locked up my own boarders, after collecting them in my own premises, and locked both the doors leading to the street, as well as closed the front shutters. I was induced to do so by the great influx of strangers into the town. I saw many come in small parties early, and at a later hour larger ones. When I secured my own premises, I went out with a view of

ascertaining the state of things in the town. The fear of the most serious consequences, from the meeting and the influx of strangers, induced me to send the boys home. I could not proceed homeward with the crowd and therefore I returned to the house in which I had previously been. On going into a room on the first floor, I saw from the window the whole party pass, conducting Mr. Hunt in an open carriage with others. They stopped opposite the Star Inn, shouted, groaned, and hissed at it. After a time they proceeded onwards to the end of Back King-street, leading to the Police-office, where they stopped, and did the same as at the Star. A great number were attending Mr. Hunt. The street was very full for a great length of time; those that hissed were stretched along the street, but the principal hissing came from the party nearest the carriage. I did not observe whether Mr. Hunt took any part in it. My fears were much increased after what I saw out of doors, so that I should have been very thankful if my wife and children had been at a distance from Manchester, and I felt serious alarm for them. From their demeanour before the Star towards those whose bounden duty it was to protect the peace of Manchester, I was certainly alarmed. That demeanour, I thought, evinced an intention to insult the authorities. During the time I was in Dean's-gate, I did not observe any kind of business carrying on.

John Barlow examined by Mr. Serjeant Hullock : I am an inn-keeper in Manchester, and resided in Dean's-gate in Aug. 1819. My residence is within 150 yards of the Police-office. I remember seeing a party, in which Mr. Hunt was, pass my house about half past twelve. He was in an open carriage. I saw the party at the end of the street in which the Police-office is; they made a stop there. When they stopped, those in and about the carriage turned their faces towards the Police-office, shouted, hissed, and groaned. I considered the town of Manchester in danger, from the number of persons who had entered it, & from the manner in which they conducted themselves.

Several other persons in business at Manchester also declared the danger in which they felt their property was placed during the meeting of the 16th August.

On Monday the next head of evidence was to show the arrangements of the Manchester police for the 16th August. The first witness was Mr. John Moore, one of the constables, who after stating his previous knowledge of Mr. Hunt, and some row at the theatre, entered into a detail of the measures taken, previous to the meeting, to preserve the public peace. Among these, were swearing in between 300 and 400 special constables. This witness stated that on the day of the meeting he could not, in compliance with the orders of the magistrates, keep up a communication between the hustings and Buxton's house, where they had taken up their station. In his judgement it would have been impracticable to execute the warrant without the aid of the military. He conceived that Manchester was that morning in very imminent danger, & the civil power totally unequal to the preservation of the peace. In approaching the hustings he was thrown down by the pressure of the crowd: his second fall was occasioned by a horse of the 15th dragoons.

Mr. Joseph Nadin : I was the deputy constable at Manchester when these transactions occurred. I was so for 20 years. I have retired from the situation I then held, but I am a constable still. I was at the meeting of the 16th of August. The body of special constables were first assembled in St. James's square. There were 3 or 400 of them, more or less. They were afterwards stationed in the field in a double line, up and down which I frequently moved until Hunt came. I observed how the space between the hustings and the line of constables was occupied; there were only a few persons between the hustings and the line till the black flag came; then there was a considerable rush and the constables were separated a good way from the hustings. I observed that the people were linked together before the black flag came; but they linked together more after it came. After I got the warrant, they were linked ten or twelve deep. Previously to going with the warrant I saw a man with a roll of papers, whom I had seen before at meetings, and whom I had seen at the theatre the night that Hunt was expected there. When I was in the line of constables, and before I got the warrant, the reformers came to look at

us : they said, " That's Joseph." Others said, "He's a great guts, and he has more meal in his belly than we have." (laughter in the Court). Another set said, "This is the black mob," alluding, I suppose, to the constables. Another said, "They have very good coats on their backs; better than we have." When the man I have described with the rolls of papers went into the mob, they unlinked. That admitted him to the front of the hustings, to which he was going, as I supposed. I endeavoured to follow him several paces. Somebody then said, "A spy." I had then got past some of those who were linked. As soon as the word "Spy" was heard, they stopped me and I went no further. Someone then said, "It's Joseph." It was repeated further down, and then someone said, "Knock him down and keep him down," or "Put him down and keep him down." I then went back again. I observed several with sticks, and some large ones, as they marched on to the ground. From all that I had observed among the multitude before I received the warrant, I deemed it impracticable to execute the warrant without military aid. Mr. Hulton gave me the warrant, and I told him that it would be impossible to execute it without the military. I went towards the hustings, along the line of the constables, to where the crowd was. I wanted to get into the crowd to hear what Hunt was saying about knocking down their enemies. I then perceived that the people between the constables and the hustings were linked. I perceived it because they swarmed about, and didn't stand steady like the other mob. I then returned to the magistrates' house, and the Manchester cavalry came. I drew the special constables back to the magistrates' house; I did that to let the Yeomanry advance. After I had done that, a stone which appeared to come as it were from a Quaker's house, fell upon the spot from which I had withdrawn the constables. I afterwards followed the cavalry down to the hustings. Mr. Moore and Mr. Andrews set off before me. that gave me an opportunity of seeing how the military conducted themselves in their advance to the hustings. I did not see them cutting the people from right to left as they went up to them. I did not see them cut at all with their swords. I think I should have seen them, if they had done so in going to the hustings. I finally got to the hustings, and took those on them into custody. It was my particular duty to execute process in Manchester.

Nothing material occurred in this witness's cross examination. Several other witnesses spoke to the same facts as Mr. Nadin

Wm. Hulton, esq. examined : I am a magistrate of this county, and was so in 1819. I was elected chairman of the Committee of Magistrates which was formed when the magistrates were called together at July Quarter Sessions. At that time a very large number were assembled at the New Bailey, Manchester. It was a remarkably numerous meeting, on account of the disturbed state of the country. The state of the country became the subject, and only subject, of consideration at that meeting. There was not the slightest difference of opinion on that subject among the gentlemen so assembled. It was then considered necessary to appoint a committee, and one was appointed on that day which met soon after. Of this committee I had the honour of being appointed chairman. A committee was formed in the town, termed "The Committee of Public Safety," with whom we were in constant communication. The view & objects of this committee were the same as ours. It was composed of some of the principal gentlemen of the town & neighbourhood of Manchester, of great property. I do not know of what number this committee consisted. We met on Sunday, the 15th, immediately after church, and made such arrangements as we thought necessary to meet what we deemed an impending danger. On the 16th we assembled at the Star Inn, about nine in the morning, and proceeded about eleven to Mr. Buxton's house, which commanded a perfect view of the area in which the meeting was held. I think there was a cart on the field when we arrived though I cannot be positive. All the members of the committee of magistrates except two were present. Mr. Trafford was not, but was with the military. I observed the parties arriving, going to the window when anything remarkable occurred. There was a declaration handed to the magistrates, signed by about sixty gentlemen, stating their alarm of danger. It was brought to me as chairman of the committee, and I read it at the time. (It was here handed to witness) I know the names of many

of the gentlemen who signed this paper. They are gentlemen of the highest respectability. this paper was put into our hands before Hunt appeared on the ground, and when we were in Buxton's house. I observed the parties arrive at the meeting. They marched forward in beautiful order, attended by persons who appeared to command them, and in such a manner as could only result from long previous preparation. I allude to those who came up Mosley-street, for I had not the same means of judging of the rest. I observed one of the parties march into the area, wheel round, and march to the hustings, depositing the colours on or around the hustings. A great proportion of the men had sticks. I remember Hunt's arrival. I was attracted to the window by the shout, which was louder than any I ever heard before. I remember a warrant was filled up immediately. (The witness was here presented with the warrant, and his examination continued) I know the magistrates whose names are to this warrant. On signing it I sent for the Boroughreeve. He and the deputy head constable had been in the magistrates' room before. I gave the warrant first to Nadin, desiring him to serve it on the parties named in it. Nadin said he could not serve it. I remember what passed. I replied to Nadin, "What! not with all those special constables?" I therefore could not take upon myself the responsibility of ordering the execution of the warrant without military assistance, and all the magistrates present concurred with me in that opinion. In concurrence with all the other magistrates then present, I therefore wrote two letters, one to Col. L'Estrange, and one to the Commander of the Yeomanry, requesting assistance. Mr. Trafford, a magistrate, was particularly deputed to attend the military, that, if it should be found necessary to call them we might have one of our body with them. When the cavalry drew up and formed in front of the magistrates' house there was a tremendous loud cheering. The people faced round and waved their hats and sticks in the air. I heard som hisses and groans, but I don't mean to say that these were general. Upon that, the cavalry cheered and waved their swords. I then observed the cavalry to advance, but by whom commanded I did not then know. I saw either Nadin or Moore join them, but I cannot say which. I pursued them with my eye towards the hustings as nearly as possible, but I won't say absolutely, to their arrival. There seemed to me to be a general resistance.

Cross-examined : We prohibited the meeting of the 9th but not of the second for the 16th, considering the avowed object of that second requisition to be legal. We had before that time understood the training and drillings to be carried on, and also received information before the 16th of the state of the country. We were not aware on the morning of the 16th from whence the parties would arrive. The magistrates unquestionably expected the parties to come from the various places where they had been drilling.

The Rev. Wm. Robert Hay was the next witness examined. He was one of the magistrates, and proved the reading of the Riot Act by the Rev. Wm. Ethelstone (who afterwards confirmed it by his own evidence), and also the general concurrence of the magistracy in the necessity of dispersing the meeting.

The evidence of Tuesday (the last day) was in corroboration of the above. - The case closed, and Mr. Blackburn was heard in reply at four o'clock.

Mr. Justice Holroy then charged the Jury. He enumerated the different heads of the evidence, and commented upon the previous drilling of parties who had been seen at this meeting; their assault on the constable, and on Murray; their hissing before the latter's house when marching into Manchester; their hooting before the Exchange, and again at the soldiery; and after dwelling upon these topics for upwards of two hours he left the case in the hands of the Jury. At six o'clock the Jury retired for about six minutes, and then returned with a verdict for the defendants.

Note : Hardly an unexpected verdict but, as with the published account of the lengthy and acrimonious inquest into the death of John Lees, the shameful deeds at Peterloo, on the 16th August 1891, are still known and remembered, 200 years later.

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No correspondence in the e-postbag this month

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

since the last newsletter :

* Historic England's incredible images show how Manchester has changed over the last 100 years

[HERE](#)

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\* Historic England's Aerial Photo Explorer

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* Genealogy Explained - Build Your Family Tree Like a Pro

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\* Should Your Ancestry Tree Be Public or Private?

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* Smog, slums and stars in the making - 25 pictures of a lost era in Oldham

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\* Hoots From The Archive - Showcasing 500 Years Of Manchester Grammar School

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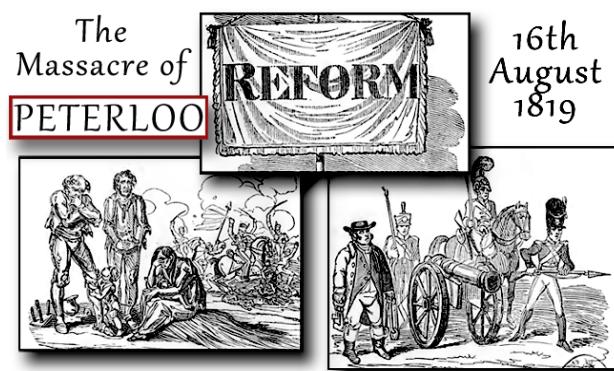
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* Historic England's 9 Interesting Facts About Life as a 19th-century Mill Worker

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

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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.

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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](#),

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.

Website Links

Other Society Websites

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

Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - Lancashire
Free BMD - Search
[National Library of Scotland](http://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
Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](http://Local-&Family-History)
Bury – www.bury.gov.uk/archives

Chester - [Cheshire Archives & Local Studies](#) (linked from Discovery at the National Archives)
Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](#)
Leeds - [Leeds Local and Family History](#)
Liverpool Archives and Family History – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/archives>
Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)
Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)
Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)
Preston – www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives
Stockport – www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives
Tameside Local Studies and Archives - <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/archives>
York – www.york.ac.uk/borthwick



For the Gallery

MANCHESTER & LANCASHIRE FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORY EVENT

MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY 26th MARCH, 2022



Looking into the Performance Space (Partition walls removed)

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**Linda and Gill manning the Oldham & District table**

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**Oldham & District Branch along with
Oldham HRG papers and books to look at**



**Setting out the Oldham & District
Leaflets and Pamphlets**

Photos of the event courtesy of Joan Harrison (Branch Secretary)