

'e-Owls'



Contact us :

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

June 2023

MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

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Branch Information & News :

Branch Officers for 2023 -2024 :

Committee Member : Chairman : Linda Richardson
Committee Member : Treasurer : Gill Melton
Committee Member : Secretary : Jan Costa
Committee Member : Newsletter : Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Webmistress : Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Joan Harrison
Committee Member : Patricia Etchells
Committee Member : Hilary Hartigan



Ben Brierley
from

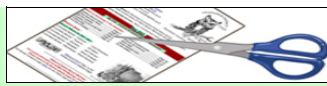
'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk'
by Sim Schofield pub. 1905

Links to the Website :



['Where to Find it'](#)

On the Oldham & District
Website Pages



Newsletter ['Snippets' Page](#)
Find Articles, Transcriptions and
Gallery Images you missed

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## 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.

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Chairman's remarks :

Hello Readers and welcome to the June newsletter..

I hope you are enjoying the good weather (whilst it lasts). This month we have a local speaker, Frances Stott, who is a retired Librarian from Royton. She is going to tell us about Royton Hall, the various occupants and the archaeological dig that took place on the site where the Hall once stood. Unfortunately this meeting is not on Zoom and will only be held in the Performance Space at Oldham Library on the 10th.

Finally, I have to tell you that at some point this year, I will be standing down as Chairman of the Oldham & District Branch. I am selling up and moving to Shropshire to live near my son and his family. I hope that we will be able to find a replacement Chairman soon. I will keep you up to date on progress.

Enjoy reading the rest of this month's newsletter.

Best Wishes

Linda Richardson

Chairman, Oldham Branch

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

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### Editor's remarks.

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone is keeping well and enjoying the odd days of sunshine that are beginning to arrive.

In the Mixed Bag we have more pages from *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men* ... this month, we can make a start on the pages on Cannon Street. We can also read more stories and anecdotes, from 'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk' by Sim Schofield. Illustrations accompanying both the transcriptions can be found in the Gallery.

In the Postbag, I've added an email, with links, that I received from the Internet Archive, about a new collection of illustrated adverts found in magazines; some examples are included, as well.

In the updates section of the Branch website pages [HERE](#) you can find links to some new additions to the website, including a video recording, of Douglas Jackson's presentation on the *British Tiffany Windows*, at the Branch Meeting in May. This was our first hybrid meeting of 2023 and I was hoping that everything would go as smoothly as possible and that, when we arrived, the room would have been set out as we'd requested ... and it was! There's always a glitch, though, and the wi-fi connection was playing up at first! Happily, it was soon sorted and we were able to welcome our zoom audience in good time, some of whom had joined us from as far afield as Japan and America.

My chosen image, for the front page of the newsletter, is a portrait of Ben Brierley, the 19th century, Failsworth author, who features in the pages from Sim Schofield's book this month. Finally, If you are a new reader and want to catch up on anything you have missed, you can visit the '[Snippets](#)' page which has links to all transcriptions, articles and Gallery images in previous newsletters.

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 >

**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

Last Month's Hybrid Meeting - May



Saturday
13th May
at
2 pm



The Tiffany Windows

An illustrated presentation given by Douglas Jackson

"Douglas's latest talk for us is about Tiffany stained glass windows, in which Joseph Briggs, born in Accrington, Lancashire, specialised. The company, in America, produced over 5,000 windows and sold them all over the world. While only six came to Britain, they are all linked to a fascinating series of events, and of people both famous and infamous."

Douglas Jackson, a journalist and writer, has made several visits to America to research the life of Joseph Briggs, and has produced a book on his work.

This was a Hybrid Meeting on zoom and in the Performance Space at Oldham Library.

In April 2022, Douglas gave us the Branch's first hybrid talk, *Joseph Briggs and the Tiffany Glass Collection at the Haworth Art Gallery Accrington*. It was also a first zoom talk for our speaker ... 'newbies' together!

Douglas had spent decades researching this subject and the result was a beautifully and lavishly illustrated book, 'Mosaic' from which many of his illustrations were included in that talk.

Douglas's latest talk for us was about Tiffany stained-glass windows, in which Joseph Briggs specialised. The company produced over 5,000 windows and sold them all over the world. While only six came to Britain, they are all linked to a fascinating series of events, and of people both famous and infamous. For this talk, Douglas recapped a little on last year's talk, to set the scene of the story again.

That story started with his meeting a man from Oldham who became the curator at the Haworth Art Gallery. On Douglas' first visit, he was shown a cupboard which, when opened, revealed glassware in a riot of colour and beautiful shapes. It was a collection of Tiffany glass ... out of fashion in the 1930s, and of low value, the Joseph Briggs of our story had sent it back to a small museum in his native county of Lancashire. It was to become a world class glassware collection of eye-watering, multi-millions of pounds in value.

Douglas took us back to the beginning, introducing Joseph Briggs and his family in Accrington, in a tiny terraced house and from which, in 1891, at the age of just 17 years old and an

engraver's apprentice, he bought a one-way ticket to America, having raised the money by any number of innovative methods, such as putting on puppet shows, delivering groceries and teaching a goat to jump through a hoop!

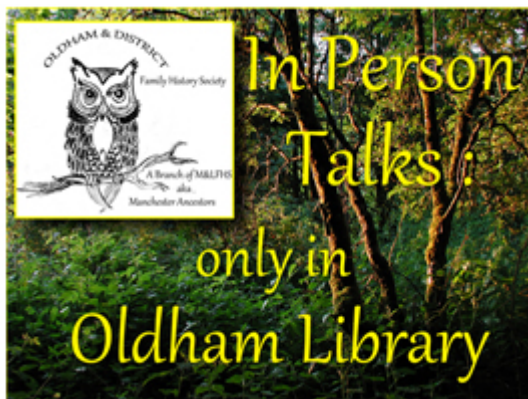
The full write up of that talk was in the Branch newsletter, 2022-05, a copy of which can be downloaded as a .pdf from the newsletter archives, [HERE](#)

This more recent talk continued with the emphasis on the fabulous windows that Joseph Briggs designed ... which came to England. Douglas had identified the whereabouts of five and had visited and photographed them.

Douglas was kind enough to allow us to record his talk so, if you missed this most interesting talk, or would like to watch it again, you can visit our video page [HERE](#) where you will find a link.

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### **Monthly Meetings ... June**



Saturday  
10th June  
at  
2 pm



#### ***The History of Royton Hall***

The talk is about the History of Royton Hall, the families who owned it or lived there, its influence on the village/town and the archaeological dig that was undertaken in 2005-7.

An illustrated presentation given by Frances Stott

A library-only meeting in the Performance Space at Oldham Library.

No booking is necessary ... Members free; non-members £3

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Details, of the 2023 programme of talks, are on the 'Meetings' page of the Branch website [HERE](#)

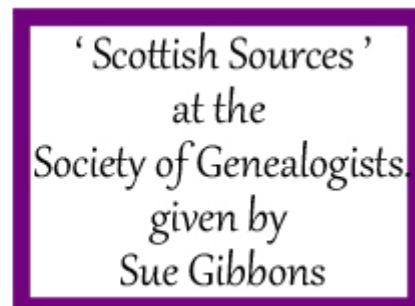
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### **MLFHS Branches delivering their monthly meetings and talks**

#### **Anglo - Scots ... only on Zoom**



Saturday,  
3rd  
June  
at  
2pm



Booking for zoom essential on [Eventbrite](#)

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

MLFHS Members free; non members £3

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Bolton ... hybrid meeting

MLFHS Bolton Branch Meetings - Hybrid	Wednesday 7th June at 7:30 pm	The story of Annie Barlow given by Ian Trumble, curator of Egyptology, Bolton Libraries & Museum
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Hybrid Meeting ... on zoom and on screen in the venue

at Bolton Golf Club, Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL6 4AJ

No booking necessary in the room ... Booking for zoom essential on [Eventbrite](#)

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

MLFHS Members free; non members £3

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## MLFHS updates

### Manchester Meetings in June ... no meetings currently planned

Manchester Central library

Keep an eye on the following pages, 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 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.

* Hi All

I have added a further 4,833 BMD announcements from the Manchester Courier for 1846 to the Great Database.

Thanks to Linda Bailey, Laura Lewis, Chris Norcross and Chris Hall for this substantial addition.
John

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\* Another excellent addition to the Great Database. Geoff Edge has added a further 2,338 transcripts of entries from the Manchester Collegiate Church (Cathedral) Sexton's Books originally transcribed by the antiquary Jo Owen. These relate to the period 1772-1781 and, unlike the burial registers) include in many cases the cause of death. Owen was 'selective' in what he transcribed, so these entries do not necessarily include all of the burials during this period. Thanks to Geoff (who is continuing this work) for this valuable contribution.

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All MLFHS publications previously issued as CDs/DVDs have now been converted into downloadable files with consequent reductions in price and saving the ever-increasing costs of postage - particularly to purchasers outside the UK.

The full catalogue can be found at :

<https://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk/collections/downloads>

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

**Please note ...**

**Please check society/group websites or organisers for updated information**

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Oldham Historical Research Group: ... on zoom



Information update ...

Please keep an eye on the Eventbrite bookings page or sign up to 'follow' and receive a notification when an occasional new meeting is planned.

Everyone will be welcome ... More details and free booking will be on [Eventbrite](#)
Your support for our meetings was, and still is, 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 14th June at 7:30**

***National Portraits - Fascinating Figures from the Region's Past***

an illustrated presentation given by Brian Groom

7:30 at the Saddleworth Museum Gallery, High Street, Uppermill.

At this meeting, Society members are free, but a charge to non-members is applicable at the door of £3. All are welcome. Refreshments are available.

Website [HERE](#)

**Saddleworth Civic Trust** has no meeting or event planned in June or July.



If & when this situation changes members of the Society will be notified directly and through the local Press.

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Library Events & Gallery talks at Gallery Oldham; [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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Moorside & District Historical Society ... Monday 19th June at 7:30



Moorside & District Historical Society

Monday 19th June 2023.

Then & Now

"150th Anniversary"

of St Thomas' Churchyard

plus a tour of the graveyard, weather permitting.

To be held in Moorside St Thomas' Church, OL1 4SJ
7-30 p.m. all are welcome.
No meetings in the summer break July & August + December.

In the Church, Lounge
£2 including refreshment.

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Monday 9th June, at Moorside St Thomas' Church at 7:30  
All welcome ... £2 including refreshment

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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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**Regional Heritage Centre :**

Website [HERE](#)



Continuing the serialisation of:

**'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk '**

Reprinted, with additions, from the '*Oldham Chronicle*' & '*Manchester City News*'

by Sim Schofield pub. 1905

**p.34**

**STORIES ABOUT BEN BRIERLEY.**

James Dronsfield was a bosom friend, and a great admirer of Ben Brierley. He once told me a good story of our author. A friend of Dronsfield's had been depreciating Brierley's attempt at authorship, and saying he would never make a name as a writer. Some time after this, Brierley published, in the "Manchester Spectator," his really fine sketch entitled, "A Day Out," in which he beautifully "describes a "Summer Ramble to Daisy Nook," and introduces some splendid characters, which, for broad humour and tender pathos, have, in my opinion, never been surpassed in the dialect. Brierley published this sketch under the *nom-de-plume* of "Saxon Wallbridge." Said the friend of Dronsfield's, "That writer, whoever he be, will make his mark in Lancashire literature." He wound up by saying,

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Ben Brierley ... **In the Gallery**

"If I were Ben Brierley, I would never again venture as a Lancashire writer, because he cannot compare with 'Saxon Wallbridge.'" When Dronsfield told his friend that he believed "Saxon Wallbridge" was no other than Ben Brierley, he was simply laughed at. But shortly after, the authorship of the sketch leaked out, much to the astonishment of Brierley's unfriendly critic. Good old Sam Bamford sent

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Author with artist Charles Potter ... **In the Gallery**

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"Red Bill's," Daisy Nook ... **In the Gallery**

Dronsfield a very flattering opinion of this early effort of Brierley's, at the same time predicting a future for the author.

Some time since, Charles Potter, the well-known Oldham artist, told me a good story of this sketch, "A Day Out." The story is too good to be lost, and I will try to relate it. Brierley had asked Potter to make him a vignette sketch of Daisy Nook. Potter consented, and asking Brierley where his Daisy Nook was, the author replied, saying, "I've no particular place; theaw con fix it where theaw likes." Potter went to Waterhouses, and made a drawing of that lovely little spot. When he had finished his sketch, he went to the little inn, kept at that time by Nathan Spencer. Potter told the landlord that Ben Brierley had written a little book called "A Day Out, or a Summer Ramble to Daisy Nook." In it he had a publican whom

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he designated "Red Bill." "Now," said Potter to the landlord, "aw want yo' to be 'Red Bill'." The landlord's worthy spouse, on hearing this, exclaimed, "Yer thi, theer, whoever yerd th' like?" Boniface, with an eye to business, put this question to Potter: "Will it sell ony ale?" "Aye," replied Potter, "it will that." "Then," continued Boniface, "theaw con coe me what the divvule theaw likes." Potter, a few days after, got a swinging sign made for the inn, bearing the inscription of "Red Bill's, Daisy Nook," and so this is the true history of Daisy Nook, and to my old friend Potter belongs the credit of locating Brierley's Daisy Nook.

Brierley once related to me a story, which somewhat told against himself; but Ben was broad enough to appreciate good things, even if they did tell against him. Brierley was once giving some readings at Stockport, and, previous to the entertainment, he was being entertained by



the Mayor of the borough at his house. Among the company, and sitting next to Brierley at the dinner table, was the Mayor's mother, an old lady, who was near-sighted and a little absent-minded. During the progress of the meal, the old dame inquired in her quaint way, of her son, "Which is Misther Brierley?" Her son replied, "That is Mr. Brierley sitting next to you." "What!" continued the old lady, "is this Ben Brierley ut's written so many good things? Well, he does look some simple."

Bearing on Brierley's personal appearance, Sam Bamford once said to him, "Aw'll tell thi what, Ben, theaw looks like a carter donned up." I remember once having a conversation with our Failsworth author about spiritualism. At the time seances were quite common in many houses in Failsworth. Naming this

#### **p.39**

to Brierley, and asking for his opinion upon the matter, he related to me a most amusing incident from his own personal experience. He said, "I was once attending a seance, and, having my doubts about the genuineness of the medium and of the manifestations that were taking place at the circle, I asked permission to put a few questions. Naturally, the medium promised to answer my questions. I then asked for some information concerning a near relative of mine, and how he was faring in the other world. A most detailed answer was given to my questions, together with an elaborate description of this relative. On being asked by one of the company if I was satisfied with the information given, I replied: 'Well, the person I have inquired about is still living, and is weaving at this very moment in his loom house.'" I don't suppose Brierley was ever again asked to attend any more seances connected with that circle.

#### **BEN BRIERLEY AS A POLITICIAN.**

It may be of interest to some of the admirers of Brierley to know that he was an ardent politician, and took a deep interest in all matters affecting the welfare and progress of his fellow-men. I once took a conveyance to his house in Hall Street, Moston, to carry him to the polling booth, for I knew he was in a weak state of health and could scarcely walk. When I told him I had a carriage for him, he said: "Nay, nay, Sim, aw'm noan gooin' t' begin 'a-ridin' neaw. Aw shall walk to th' poll." He took my arm, and walk he did. I only wish we had more Ben Brierleys in this respect. Meeting him on one occasion he put the usual question, and in the old familiar way he was accustomed to speak to me: "Well, Sim, an' heaw

#### **p.40**

are they o' gettin' on at Failsworth?" I told him we had just had a keen political fight, and that one of his old friends had been the Tory candidate. With astonishment Brierley exclaimed, "What, an' has owd So-an'-So turned Tory? Well, that caps o'. Why, his feythur were at Peterloo in 1819 with thine an' mine, Sim. But then," remarked Brierley, after reflecting a little, "aw'd forgettun he's begun a keepin' an alehouse, an' he's gettin' too well off to be a Radical."

I once heard Brierley relate how he became a student of politics, and a Radical. We were having a Lancashire supper ("a potato pie stir") at the Bridge Inn, Failsworth, to celebrate the worthy old landlord's visit to London on a political mission. The landlord was a dear old Radical friend of mine, and a distant relative of Brierley's, whom the author used to call his "cousin-in-law." On being asked to say something to this social gathering of old friends, Brierley told how he became a politician. He said :- "My father was not only a Waterloo veteran, but he was at Peterloo in 1819, when that bloody massacre took place, and when many were cut down for peacefully agitating for freedom. At that time Radicals were not allowed to mix in bar-parlour company. The tap-room was the only place where they could give vent to their views, and they had to be careful of what they said even there, as there were so many spies going about in those days." He continued: - "I remember the time when William IV. was crowned, an ox was roasted near the old village pole. I was then five years of age. I was sent with a can for some soup which was being given out to the people in the district. When I presented myself the

person who was doling it out remarked: "That lad mun

#### **p.41**

ha' noan, his gronfeyther were a Jacobin." Brierley said: "I went away without soup, but those words have rung in my ears ever since. They set me a-thinking, and I wondered what sort of an animal a Jacobin was that his little starving grandson could have no soup. This treatment had much to do with the formation of my political character, and as I grew up I felt determined I would never belong to a party which made me suffer for what my grandfather believed."

#### **FAILSWORTH PROUD OF BEN BRIERLEY.**

Among all the celebrities and noted characters that Failsworth has produced, I know of none of whom the inhabitants are more proud than Ben Brierley. They have every reason to revere his memory, for he depicted the quaint and sterling characters of the poor hand-loom weavers with a faithfulness that has never been excelled. He knew their ways and their trials, for in his early days he suffered, and felt the pinch of poverty with them. No Lancashire author has done more to beautify the humble goodness, and dignify the honest and lowly toil of the poor folk than has Ben Brierley. Just one cherished recollection of Brierley, and then I must leave him. When George Perkins had finished his excellent oil portrait of the author, I went with the subject to view it. On leaving the artist's studio Brierley said, "Sim, I should feel honoured if that picture could be placed in some institution in Failsworth, so that my old friends and neighbours could look at it when I am gone." "Yes," I replied, "and I will see that your wish is carried out." In a few days we raised sufficient funds (twenty~five guineas) among the working folk of Failsworth to purchase the picture, and to-day it

#### **p.42**

hangs on the walls of the Failsworth Liberal Club. The price of the picture was fifty guineas, but the artist promised me, if it could be hung in Failsworth, we could have it at half-price. The painting was presented to the club, and uncovered in the presence of the author and artist, and it is a really fine work of art. Many of the weavers with whom Brierley was associated in his early days were present at the gathering, and entertained the company with quaint songs and stories. This gathering was a most memorable one to Brierley, and was evidence to him that the work he had done with his pen had won for him the fond and endearing affections of his own humble class of fellow toilers. I shall never forget the closing sentence in Brierley's address to this Failsworth gathering. He said : - "I have dedicated a life's work to that class of my countrymen and women who were most in need of it." Brierley died at his residence, Hall Street, Moston, January 18th, 1895, and his body was laid at rest in the Harpurhey Cemetery by the side of his dear daughter, whom he so well loved. Among the many wreaths which were sent to adorn his coffin and grave was one from the poor weavers of Failsworth, bearing the couplet from my pen : -

"The weavers of Failsworth this floral harp send,  
A tribute of love to their author and friend."

Since his death the public of Lancashire have erected a statue to his memory in Queen's Park, Manchester, the plaster model of which I am the happy possessor, and which now stands in my front room. The statue is a noble monument to a man who by sheer force of his own genius has left behind him an abiding place in the hearts of his fellow-men.

#### **p.43**

#### **EDWIN WAUGH AND FAILSWORTH.**

Perhaps it would not be out of place here to mention an incident connected with Edwin Waugh and Failsworth. Although Waugh was not a native of Failsworth, yet he had many fond admirers in the district, and he often visited the place in company with the late Jarnes Dronsfield. Waugh's seventieth birthday was celebrated at the Queen's Hotel, Manchester, by a banquet given to him by his more wealthy admirers. The banquet was not within the reach of such

humble individuals as myself, so Mr. Councillor Trevor and I wrote to the papers suggesting that some appreciation of Waugh should be shown by his poorer admirers and friends. We therefore started a popular movement, and asked for subscriptions of not more than sixpence from each person falling in with it. A respectable sum was thus raised, and it was decided to purchase a good walking stick, and have a suitable inscription put on it. We tried hard to get Waugh to come to Failsworth to receive it. Samuel Laycock, my father-in-law, who was staying at my house at the time, supported our efforts by sending him the following original verses, which were not published in his book of collected poems: -

To MR. EDWIN WAUGH.

Neaw then, dear owd songster, wheer arto,  
After ole this good atin' an' drink?  
I allude to that twenty-five bob do -  
Theaw should feel middlin' hearty aw think.  
Eh, mon! aw fair longed to be present,  
But, somehow, aw couldn't find th' cheek;  
An' th' charge 'at they made for that supper  
Would keep me a month or six week.

**p.44**

Edwin Waugh ... **In the Gallery**

**p.45**

Well, then, there's another objection,  
Though it may be a small thing to note,  
An' is soa in my estimation  
Aw haven't a narrow-lapped coat!  
Neaw this seems a trifle, but is it?'  
Mon, snobbery isn't yet dead -  
It's th' cut o' one's cooat 'at's still looked at,  
Not what a chap has in his yed.  
Well, it's o'er, an' aw wish to forget it,  
Tho' it's bin very painful to me;  
An' could one but look i' thy heart, Ned,  
It's noan bin so pleasin' to thee.  
Is it reet 'at a brid o' thy plumage  
Should be mainly usurped bi a "ring?"  
While theawsands eawtside it are waitin'  
To hearken their favourite sing?  
Put that winterly yed o' thine nearer,  
For aw've summat to tell thee, owd brick.  
If tha'll promise to come on to Failsworth,  
We'll gi'e thee a splendid knobstick!  
An' i' th' place o' thoose white-chokered flunkeys  
Tha'll see lasses wi' bonny print frocks,  
An' maybe owd dames i' their bedgeawns,  
An' labour-stained men i' their smocks.  
This affair isn't got up bi th' wealthy,  
As a nice chance for airin' their wits,  
But poor folk will buy thee this present  
Wi' their pennies and thrippenny bits.  
What arrangements they've made abeawt atin'

Aw really couldn't tell if aw tried,  
 But it may be a potato pie do,  
 Wi' an onion or two i' th' inside.  
 Neaw, aw hope tha'll decide "at tha'll come, Ned,  
 Ah, an' bring thi owd rib wi' thee, too;  
 We'll get some real pain an' cigars, mon,  
 An' won't we just have a grand. do!  
 Friend Ben will come o'er fro' owd Moston,  
 An' noa deawt mak' thee laff till tha skrikes;  
 An' aw'll wish thee as mony moor birthdays -  
 Well, as mony as ever tha likes.

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Samuel Laycock ... **In the Gallery**

**p.47**

Aw'm aware it may feel rayther toilsome  
 To return to this naybrud so soon;  
 An' th' journey won't be quite as pleasant  
 As it would be i' th' middle o' June.  
 Then tha'rt noan quite as young as tha wur once,  
 So it's needful to keep thisel warm;  
 Get a rug an' a foot-warmer, Edwin,  
 An' we'll pray God to keep thee fro' harm!

Samuel Laycock.

Notwithstanding this poetical appeal, the state of Waugh's health would not permit him to come to Failsworth, so one Saturday Messrs. Councillors W. Trevor and James Middleton, Samuel Laycock, Alexander Forrest, myself, and a few others went to Waugh's house at New Brighton, and made the presentation there, and a most enjoyable time we had with the veteran author. This led to a further acquaintance with the poet on my part, which lasted as long as he lived. Never shall I forget the pleasant hours I afterwards spent with Waugh at his house, nor the many good stories that he told me. Waugh was not only a fine story-writer, but he was a really splendid story-teller, and was one of the most genial men I ever met.

#### **AN UNPUBLISHED STORY OF WAUGH'S.**

I remember Waugh once telling me a capital story whilst on a visit to him at his house, at New Brighton. Although the story is not connected with Failsworth, yet it is too good to be lost, especially as I have never seen it in any of his writings. I will endeavour to tell the story as he related it to me. At the same time, it will be impossible to give it with the same telling effect as he did. However, I will attempt it. We were conversing together about people;

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whose sole aim in life seemed to be making money, and of the way some of them spent when they had amassed wealth.

Waugh commenced his story by saying, "He once knew a man - a cotton spinner, who had made a lot of money. He was a man void of culture and refined tastes. In short, he was a kind of a human gormandiser, who lived to eat, and whose god was his stomach. Having no higher or better tastes of life than eating and drinking, he became a devoted worshipper of his stomach. But eat and drink as he would, he found, to his dismay, he could not spend his money as fast as he was making it. This gave him great trouble, and many an anxious moment he spent in considering how to get out of this dilemma. At last he hit on a plan by which he could relieve himself of his cash. He decided to take a number of his less fortunate friends on the Continent, and pay all their expenses. This he did, and spent his money freely, returning home



with empty pockets. Naturally, this kind of life could not last. Eventually the spendthrift found himself in the bankruptcy court. It having become known how he had wasted his means, and neglected his business, the registrar began to question him as to what had become of his wealth, and where it had gone? The big, burly bankrupt sat there among his creditors, listening to the questions, mopping the perspiration from his brow, and shaking in his shoes. He was reluctant to answer these questions, but, being pressed, he said, in his broad dialect, 'Fur goodness sake, dunno put sich questions to me. Aw've had trouble enough i' spendin' my money, witheawt bein' bothered abeawt it like this.' Again were the questions put, but no information could the creditors get from the bankrupt, who sat there sweltering in his own remorse and agony. While in this condition, his stomach gave a growl,

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which was audible to most present. The bankrupt could stand this no longer; so, striking his stomach, he thus commenced to address it: "Thee howd thy noise. I owe thee nowt. Theaw'rt no creditor. Aw've bin a good friend to thee. Theaw's had twenty shillin' i' th' peaund. It's a beggar when one's own belly turns agen him." It is needless to say that this outburst concluded the examination. The way Waugh told this story will never be effaced from my memory. . But Waugh was not only a genial companion, and the soul of good company; he was a most kind and tender-hearted man. I have heard of him going home, late in the evening, and seeing a poor newsboy with papers, saying to him, "Here, lad! heaw mony has theaw left?" The lad would count his evening papers, and tell him. Then Waugh would buy all he had, saying to him, "Be off whoam! It's time theaw were in bed, lad."

### **A STORY OF WAUGH AND BRIERLEY.**

I remember Brierley once telling me a good story of how he and Waugh had been giving readings before a scanty audience at Blackpool. They had scarcely drawn sufficient to pay for the room. Returning to their lodgings, after the entertainment, in a downpour of rain, they met a dog slouching along the street, the very picture of misery as it went along with its tail between its legs.

"Does theaw see that dog?" Waugh said to Brierley. "Aye, aw do," replied Ben. "Well, it strikes me," Waugh continued, "that dog's bin givin' readin's."

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Our serialisation of *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men* (3rd series) started in the newsletter for 2022-12, and through succeeding newsletters. Last month we read the final chapters relating to Church-Street, this month's transcription, below, are those of the first pages relating to Cannon Street.

CANNON-STREET.

PART I

THE COCKPIT.

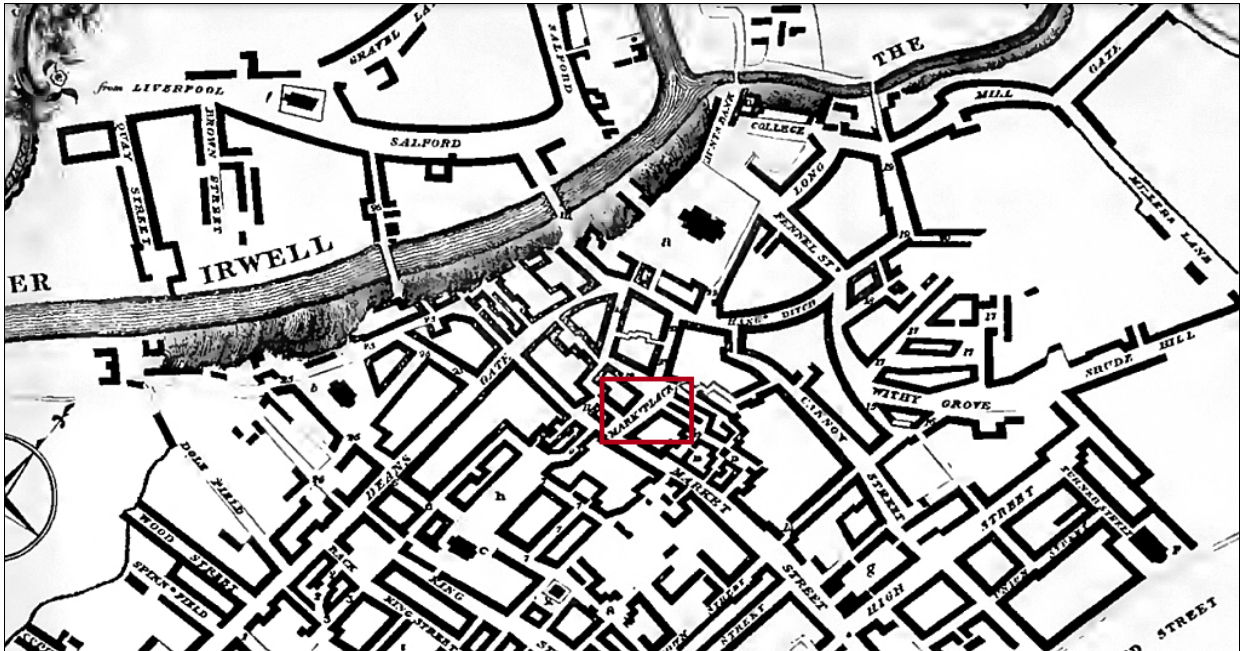
When Casson and Berry published their plan of the towns of Manchester and Salford, a hundred and sixty years ago, Cannon-street as such had no existence. The greater part of its length was represented by a footpath through the fields that extended from the backs of the houses in Market-street Lane to Shude Hill; whilst the lower portion, dog-legged in shape as it was until very recently, extended only about as far as the site of the "Courier" Office. About one half of this length, on either side, was fringed with houses, but much of the land represented by Corporation-street was divided into gardens. Cockpit Hill was a narrow crooked thoroughfare with approaches from Market-street lane, probably the street now known as Cromford Court, and from the Market Place. A little way down Cockpit Hill the street opened-out and formed a sort of square, in the centre of which stood the Cockpit, which was for many generations a place of popular resort at holiday times. Cock-fighting, or cocking, was a form of sport that had

many supporters amongst the well-to-do classes. Cock-fighting was not the only sport of which the unfortunate birds were the victims. In common with most other towns in England it was usual in olden times after cock-fighting had been denounced by the Puritans as brutal and unchristian, to throw stout sticks at cocks. As in the case of cock-fighting this pastime was indulged in at Easter and Whitsuntide, and

Map of Manchester - Salford 1772, with Market Place (Larger scale on website [HERE](#))

from: *OLD MANCHESTER - A Series of Views ...* Drawn by Ralston, James, and Others

Introduction by James Croston, Pub 1875



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in Manchester Shrove Tuesday was specially allotted to it. On that day the Grammar School boys enjoyed themselves in this fashion, and it seems strange to us that so gentle a soul as Henry Newcome, the first minister of Cross-street Chapel should allow his boys to "shoot at the cock." The cruelty of the sport did not appeal to him, but concern for the safety of his children seems to have troubled him, for in one of his letters we read:- "I was much afraid of the children going to the shooting of the cock", lest they had any hurt, and prayed that God would preserve them, and the Lord has done it for me." Leaving Cockpit Hill for the present, we turn our attention to a more worthy object.

CANNON-STREET CHAPEL

Few pages in our local history are of greater interest than those which refer to the early days of Nonconformity in the town; and in those pages the story of the Cannon-street Chapel occupies a prominent position. Before telling the story of the building itself, it will be as well to glance at the remote days of Independency in Manchester. When Charles I. sought the suppression of the Independents by pretending to combine with the Presbyterians, he aroused a feeling throughout England that culminated with his own execution. In Manchester the Independents obtained the ascendancy and appointed a Committee of Sequestration which seized the church lands, dissolved the Collegiate body, and appropriated the revenues. At the same time they set up a meeting at the College to which the Rev. John Wigan acted as pastor. For about a century little is recorded

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concerning the movement, but we know that in 1753 regular services were held in the Coldhouse Chapel, which, after serving the purposes of a barn, was fitted up in 1671 as a chapel, and was used by the followers of the Rev. Henry Newcome when that gentleman had

obtained permission to preach under the Declaration of Indulgence. So great was the popularity of the Independent minister, the Rev, Caleb Warhurst, that in 1756 the little meeting-house, was enlarged, and five years later a piece of land known as Hunter's Croft was purchased, and on it was built the chapel that was opened on April 21st, 1762, Evidence of this event is found in Byrom's diary where, under the date April 20th, we read that the Rev. John Newton came to Manchester“ upon account of the new meeting-house at the upper end of this croft to-morrow, and to see some ministers and friends with whom he is acquainted.”

THE COST OF BUILDING.

When built, the chapel stood behind two cottages which opened into the lane and when in later years the lane was widened and re-named, the cottages were removed, and the chapel front wall formed the new building line. The original cost of the building was £343, and the galleries which were added three years later cost £149. A few items in the bill of cost may be quoted :-

Paid for victuals, ale and wine at the opening of the meeting	15s. 0d.
For Candlesticks	16s. 0d.
Cloth for the Communion Table	3s. 3d.
Ale for Plasterers and Carters	4s. 0d.

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Mr. Warhurst died on November 5th, 1765, and was interred under the chapel pulpit. For three years there seems to have been no regular minister, but at the end of that period the Rev. Timothy Priestley was appointed. Mr. Priestley was brother to the celebrated Dr. Priestley, who suffered so grievously for his religious views. Between the new pastor and his deacons there were frequent quarrels arising out of his conduct. One charge made against him was that of ascending the pulpit wearing his hat, and another was that he devoted his Sunday evening to the making of packing cases. In defence he said that the former charge was an impertinence unworthy of notice, and as for making packing cases on Sunday, he pleaded that whilst the deacons kept him so miserably poor, he thought it was his duty “to provide things honest in the sight of all men” as well as to remember the Sabbath Day. In spite of the squabbles referred to, Mr. Priestley continued at Cannon-street for nineteen years, and was succeeded by David Bradbury, under whose regime a division took place amongst the members of the congregation. The seceders met for worship for a time in St. Andrew's Lane, but in 1788 they built and opened a chapel, the one in Mosley-street, previously referred to. Mr. Bradbury resigned in 1795 and was succeeded by the Rev. William Roby, who became so popular that it became necessary to erect a larger building in order to accommodate the crowds who were wishful to hear his sermons. As a result the chapel and schools in Grosvenor-street, Piccadilly, was opened in 1807. When Mr. Roby took charge of the new chapel, the Cannon-street

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pulpit was occupied by the Rev. William Marsh who resigned in 1812. The other ministers who held the pulpit were the Rev. William Evans, who resigned in 1817 (after which for two years no pastor was appointed), the Rev. Robert Allott, who resigned in 1822, the Rev. John Whitridge, who resigned in 1827, the Rev. Samuel Bradley, who came from the Mosley-street chapel, and remained at Cannon-street till 1844, when he resigned, the Rev. James Dean, who resigned in 1847, the Rev. William Parkes, who resigned in 1855, the Rev. James. Bruce, who resigned in 1859, and the Rev. Professor Newth, of the Independent College, under whose regime the building was sold, and the Chorlton Road Chapel was built to take its place. It is remarkable that although thirteen pastors in turn ministered to the Cannon-street congregation, only one, the Rev. Caleb Warhurst died whilst occupying the position. The pastor who held the pulpit for the longest period of time was the Rev. Samuel Bradley, who, after being at Mosley-street for some years remained at Cannon-street for seventeen years. In his second year at Cannon-street the chapel was enlarged and considerably altered at a cost of £1,800; the building being

left externally in the style in which it is to-day. The growth of the town and the removal of the members of the congregation to the suburbs, resulted in the sale of the building in 1860. Under the Charitable Trusts Act power was given by the Commissioners to sell. This was in November 1856, but nearly four years elapsed before the property was sold. Behind the chapel there was formed a small burial ground, which, after years of neglect, was the

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subject of a somewhat animated newspaper controversy a few years ago. A list of some, if not all the persons buried there will be found on page sixty-five, in volume twenty, of the Owen Manuscripts now preserved in the Reference Library. Amongst the names are few that are in any way notable. They are almost without exception those of residents who lived uneventful lives in and around Cannon-street, and were buried in this little, forgotten, and dismal space. It may be interesting to some of my readers who are either connected with the Chorlton Road Chapel or who are familiar with the old building to know the names of the men who were responsible for the erection of the older building. They were John Seddon, a whitster or bleacher in modern parlance; Arthur Clegg, a timber merchant, whose yard was in Shudehill; Alexander Farrier, linen draper; John Mitchell, linen draper, of Deansgate; William Jemison, chapman or hawker; John Clegg, a Dutch loom-weaver of Turner-street; Henry Hope, a brick-layer, who in 1772 lived in Methodist-street, now Birchin Lane; Nicholas Haughton, a shoemaker, who lived in Red Bank; and Ralph Strettel, a flaxman.

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Part II

THE EARLY DAYS OF THE WAREHOUSE SYSTEM.

When the first Sir Robert Peel decided to secure land in the neighbourhood of High-street in order to build on the site business premises, he commenced a movement which was fraught with the greatest importance to the growing town. At the time referred to, now nearly a hundred and thirty years since, the greater part of the ground now covered by Peel-street and the adjacent warehouses were fields connected with Aldred's dye-house, the whole being let at fourteen pounds a year. For some time after Peel had purchased the land the surroundings were very different from those of to-day. When built, the warehouse of Peel, Yates, Halliwell and Co., was approached by an avenue of trees. The cart was in the habit of bringing, a load of prints on three mornings in the week - Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays - from the Works. The warehouse doors were not opened till nine o'clock, by which time the prints were all arranged in the sale room. A crowd of drapers were generally waiting for the doors to be opened, when they would rush upstairs to the sale room, and a scramble for prints would ensue, each draper making a pile on the floor of such prints as he had chosen, and waiting for the entering clerk coming round to look them over, and enter them.

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SOCIAL LIFE IN THE TOWN IN 1780.

Let us now glance at the social life of the better class citizens of the time when this change was introduced. It is taken from the third edition of Aston's "Picture of Manchester," published in 1826, and now scarce. "Till the time that spinning by machinery was invented, when calicoes were first printed with success, when it was discovered that webs might be woven into cotton warps, the education and consequent taste of the population of Manchester, was on a very limited scale. It would be curious to take a retrospective view of the habits of the town about half a century ago. At that time there were not (excepting in the Grammar School) more than two or three teachers of youth, who possessed qualifications which would not in these days be required from the master of the lowest charity school in the parish. The Grammar School could only educate a limited number, and of those boys who commenced in it, not one in a hundred ever ascended to the higher classes, which were chiefly filled by the sons of independent

country gentlemen, of this and the neighbouring counties, since they only, being aware of the value of a sound classical education persevered in their attendance. Three boarding schools for young ladies, who regularly walked in procession to church on Sundays and Saint-days, two and two, as the Blue-coat Boys do at this time, seemed to indicate more attention to the female part of the then rising generations, who by the sure process of time, have now the honour of being grandmammias, if they have had the good fortune to escape the grave. But these were chiefly the children of persons living at a distance;

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those in the town being day scholars, who, in common with the boarders, were taught the arts of chain-stitch, tambouring, embroidery with worsted, and filigree work; nay, one school went so far as to give instructions in the art of making artificial flowers of coloured paper, and artificial fruit of well-tempered clay, which being rolled round and round in the little hands of the pupils, and dipped in dragon's blood, verdigris or turmeric, by the aid of bits of wire which served as stalks, made their dear mammias quite proud that their daughters' accomplishments had enabled them to make cherries, greengages, and oranges, as natural as any which were hawked about the streets and sold at a halipenny each, to decorate the chimney-pieces of those who had taste sufficient to admire them.

Then, in the town at the time, it would not be exaggerated to say, that there were at least (it might not be quite safe to double the number) half-a-dozen harpsichords, and as many spinnets, on which nearly as many ladies could play with the treble hand, and here and there a chord on the left, as an apology for double bass: "God Save the King," "Over the Water to Charley," "The White Cockade," "Kitty Fisher's Minuette," "The Bellside March," and the 104th Psalm. Not only music, but dancing, about this time, began to form a part of education, and the two dancing masters who taught minuettes, country dances, cotillions, and "Manners," in order to give them a certain air so useful in the *beau monde*, once a month, on their "public days," were used to promenade their pupils, like the boarding school misses, through the principal streets; perhaps to inure

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them to the stare so liable to overcome young ladies when they "come out," on their first introduction to a crowded assembly. And as well-educated young men for many ages have finished their studies at one of the Universities, so the young ladies in those days completed theirs under the celebrated Mrs. Blomiley, without which (provided the deficiency in education was known), it would have been vain for them to hope that any young man would deem one of them fit to be his wife. Mrs. Blomiley's finishing school was situate in the entry which leads out of Smithy Door into Deansgate, she cooked dinners and suppers for the merchants when they had visitors; and the provident matrons of those days experiencing the want of knowledge themselves, took care that their daughters should not feel the evils attendant on such ignorance, and therefore sent them to the Culinary Academy to be taught the polite accomplishments of killing turkies, ducks, and sucking pigs; of making mock-turtle, apple pasties, mince-pies, and fish sauce, as well as the art of keeping steady in their paces, by the help of a short whip, the little bandy-legged dogs, who in those days, were condemned to the "tread mill" (lately revived for the benefit of thieves and vagrants), by help of which the spits, loaded with beef, mutton, pork, poultry, and game, were kept in constant rotary motion. Nor were the accomplishments of young gentlemen, on the dawning of Taste, neglected, for besides learning to dance with the young ladies, there were two drawing schools in the town, where the fine arts were studied, when pupils were taught to draw stars with a pair of compasses, and after tracing

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the outlines of parrots and running horses from prints at a window, to cover them with gamboge,

sap-green, and rose pink, *ad libitum*. Nay, Taste, did not stop here: for it was the fashion for the gentlemen, who, on leaving school, wished to increase their acquirements, to put themselves under the tuition of Mr. Bury Bridge, an artist of celebrity in his day, who made stays for the ladies, and taught their brothers and their lovers the use of the small sword, which he himself handled almost as adroitly as he did his shears or his needle, which is saying not a little, since in air, manner, and appearance he was every inch a tailor, and fit to have been transplanted to the stage by the comic muse. So much for the rising generation. For that which was risen, Manchester furnished some amusements; at the head of which was the theatre in Marsden Street, during two months of the year, where, three times a week, to evade the law against vagrants, a concert was performed by an orchestra consisting of two violins, a clarionet, and a bassoon, between the acts of which, tragedies, comedies, and farces were “acted gratis by ladies and gentlemen for their own amusement,” as the play bills declared, which were delivered through the town, to eke out a scanty weekly pittance, by poor Dunn, the low-comedian of the company, who used to delight his auditory by the manner in which he divested himself of numberless waistcoats and pairs of breeches, preparatory to his sextonial operations on the grave of poor Ophelia. But the theatre had a formidable rival in “Mr. Punch and His Wooden Family,” under the direction of the famous Mr. Scott, who made an annual visit to Manchester, and

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performed in the “Great Room” as it was called, which formerly was part of an old building in Smithy Door, where Mr. Stelfox’s shop now stands. There, nightly, the would-be wits of the town used to resort to profit by the wise saids and sayings, and libels of “Punch,” who was a very Pasquin in his day, dealing out local scandal and personal abuse, more promptly, and as effectively, though not quite so widely, as the most determined scandalous Radical journal of the present day.”

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PART III DR. JOHN BYROM

Much has already been written concerning Dr. John Byrom, but in a work like the present it is necessary to make some reference to him, seeing that his town house stood at the bottom of Hunter’s Lane. Owing to recent street alterations it is no longer possible to mark with any definiteness the spot occupied by his house. It faced to Hanging Ditch and was bounded on the one side by Hunter’s Lane. Although it is no longer possible to locate the site of the interesting old building, a view of it will enable the reader to realise the kind of house it was. It takes us back to the early days of the town before bricks came into general use for building purposes, and the loss of this and so many other specimens of this charming style of architecture should rouse the citizens to the importance of retaining as long as possible the very few remaining specimens that we have. In this, as in many other matters, we are under a responsibility to future generations who will value more highly than we do the few black and white buildings that may be handed down to them. But to the immediate subject of this chapter.

John Byrom was a younger son of a family long connected with Manchester, and living at that delightful old residence, Kersal Cell. When the future poet was born in 1691 the Cell must have been a pleasant place

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to live in. Remote from the small town it stood on the banks of the river, then clear and the home of fish innumerable, surrounded by trees, and sheltered by the breezy moors above. His father was in business in the Market Place, and as a result sent John to the Merchant Taylors’ school in London from whence he proceeded in due course to Cambridge, where he matriculated B.A. in 1711. His holidays were spent at home, and in a letter by his sister dated

October 4th, 1712, We obtain an interesting glimpse of the young student. She says : - "Brother John is most at Kersal. He goes every night and morning down to the waterside, and bawls out one of Tully's oratories in Latin, so loud they can hear him a mile off, so that all the neighbours think he is mad, and you would think so too, if you saw him. Sometimes he threshes corn with John Rigby's men, and helps them to get potatoes, and works as hard as any of them. He is very good company, and we shall miss him when he is gone, which will not be long now; Christmas is very near." This casual mentioning of Christmas by his sister is very interesting in view of the fact that at Christmas time so many people in our time are reminded of the author of "Christians awake." In 1714 our townsman was doubly fortunate. In the first place he was admitted a Fellow of his College, and in the second place he was honoured by Addison by having his verses commencing, "My time, O ye muses, was happily spent," issued as part 603 of "The Spectator." This was on October 6th, 1714. Thus early in life was Byrom associated with the most notable writers of his day. To appear in the pages of "The Spectator" as an author

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was a great honour, and presaged the success achieved in later years. After spending some time in France studying medicine, the profession of which he decided to adopt, he was back again in London in 1718, when the position of librarian of the Chetham Library became vacant, and he would willingly have accepted it had other conditions been favourable. In one of his letters he said "I should be very willing to have the Library. It would be better worth while than staying for a doubtful fellowship, where profit will be slow a-coming; besides, 'tis in Manchester, which place I love entirely." At that time an income of fair dimensions was of first import to Byrom who had fallen in love with his cousin, whose father objected to a lover without profession or definite prospects. In 1721 however the pair were married, and Byrom, who had invented a system of shorthand, proceeded to give lessons on the subject. He had settled down in Manchester, but finding his pupils in London, he did much travelling between the capital and the northern town. Some idea of what travelling was in those days may be gathered from a glance at some of his letters. His mode of travelling was on horseback, and he would leave Manchester at noon on the Monday. By Tuesday night he would reach Lichfield, and passing through Oswestry, Towcester, Stony-Stratford, Barnet, and Highgate, he would reach London on Friday night. After giving a course of lessons he would return to Manchester and join his wife at their house at the bottom of Hunter's Lane. In this way he earned his living until the death of his elder brother Edward, who, leaving no children, the estates held by him passed

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to John. This occurred in 1740, and the new proprietor entered upon his new mode of life. The remainder of his days were passed in ease and quietness, for although he possessed strong sympathies for the members of the deposed Stuart family, he acted with a wise discretion in 1745 when the visit of the young Pretender set the town by the ears. His discretion is marked in the well-known lines written in response to a challenge to toast the health of the king :-

"God bless the king! I mean the faith's defender,
God bless - no harm in blessing - the Pretender!
But who Pretender is, or who is King,
God bless us all, that's quite another thing."

A man of refined and cultured tastes, there must have been much in the social life of the period that jarred upon his feelings; and the reprimand contained in another verse was addressed to a Jacobite colonel whose language was bad even for those days :—

"Soldier so tender of thy prince's fame,
Why so profane of a superior name?
For the king's sake the brunt of battle bear,
But for the King of king's sake - do not swear."

Living the life of a country gentleman, Byrom spent much of his time at Kersal, where he engaged in congenial literary pursuits. These consisted of the still further development of his system of phonography, and the writing of verses. The results were seen in the volume "The Universal English Shorthand," published in 1749, and the two-volume edition of his poems published after his death, and printed by Joseph Harrop in 1773. The best known of the latter is the hymn - "Christians awake," the manuscript of which is one

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of the most treasured possessions of Chetham's College. It was written on a single sheet of notepaper headed "Christmas Day - for Dolly," and was found on a Christmas morning on her dressing-table by his daughter Dorothy. This would probably be in 1749 for in his pocket-book Byrom left the memorandum "Xmas 1750. The singing men and boys with Mr. Wainwright came here and sang 'Christians awake.' " The singing men and boys were, of course, the choir of the Collegiate Church, and Mr. Wainwright was most probably John Wainwright, the organist of the church, and who also composed the well-known tune to which the carol is sung. This, possibly the first public rendering of the well-known hymn, would take place in the street in front of the house in Hanging Ditch. Thirteen years later Dr. Byrom died in the same house and was buried in the family chapel in his beloved Collegiate Church.

Many are the hallowed memories that crowd into the mind as we pace the floor of our fine old church, but no memory is dearer than those connected with the Byrom family. Dr. Byrom's house has gone, its site can no longer be marked, but his carol remains and will for generations to come serve to remind intelligent Manchester men of the days when our city was in its infancy, and when well-to-do men lived almost under the shadow of the Collegiate Church tower.

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PART IV.

WHEELER'S "MANCHESTER CHRONICLE"

For more than half a century Wheeler's "Manchester Chronicle" occupied a high place in the esteem of a large number of the citizens. It was originated by Charles Wheeler whose printing office was in Hunter's Lane, long years before the more modern name had come into existence. The actual building that served the purposes of a printing office still stands on the opposite side of Tipping's Court from Cheeryble House, as Grant's warehouse was called. Charles Wheeler was a Manchester man, his father having been associated in later years with the Manchester theatre. Born in 1751 he served an apprenticeship with Joseph Harrop, who was the publisher of "Harrop's Manchester Mercury and General Advertiser." On June 28th, 1781, the first number of Wheeler's publication appeared, and was at once successful. Such, at least, is the conclusion to be drawn from the fact that less than two years later the proprietor was declaring that it had a circulation not only exceeding that of the contemporary "Mercury," but larger than that of any other paper out of London. We are accustomed to similar declarations made by the proprietors of present-day journals, and do not always attach the importance to such statements that their originators would wish us to do. We can, however, credit Charles Wheeler with telling the truth when he declares

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with pride that the circulation of the "Chronicle" was 4,750 copies per week. This fact he gave as a reason for increasing the price of the paper from 3½d. to 4d. His large circulation, he said, compelled him to increase his staff, and the additional expense thus incurred compelled him to raise the price of his paper. Charles Wheeler continued the proprietorship of the "Chronicle" until his death on September 26th, 1827, when he was succeeded by his son John Wheeler. It may be noted that in 1783 Charles Wheeler printed an interesting pamphlet entitled "A Description of Manchester, by a native of the town." It is an account of the town as it was in those days, and has been reprinted several times, the last edition issuing from John Heywood's

press. John Wheeler had a very tender skin, and when he indulged in riding on horseback he wore a veil, thereby obtaining the sobriquet of the "Veiled Prophet." The "Chronicle" expired in June 1838, but six months later the Conservative Party having purchased the copyright and type, it was re-issued in January, 1839, under the extended title of "The Manchester Chronicle and Salford Standard." In this form it survived for three years, but on December 31st, 1842, its last number was issued. John Wheeler had three sons all of whom stepped somewhat out of the beaten track.

Charles, the eldest, born in 1800, died at the early age of thirty-three. As a youth he showed literary ability, and at the age of twenty-one he contributed to Blackwood's Magazine "A Sketch of the Rev. Josiah Streamlet" (Joshua Brooks), and wrote a number of other articles to the same periodical. John Wheeler, the

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younger, was intended for the medical profession, but taking up journalism he became the editor of a Bolton newspaper, and was in other ways engaged in literary pursuits until his death in 1854; James, another son, published in 1838 a volume of poems by various writers under the title of "Manchester Poetry," and four years later a history of Manchester. The latter contains a large amount of valuable information, but the absence of an index prevents it from being of much use as a book of reference; and the greater part of it is written in a style which prevents it from being so interesting as it might be. The most notable of the sons of John Wheeler, attained to a high position in legal circles.

MR. SERJEANT WHEELER.

Serjeant Wheeler was born in 1806 and at eight years of age entered the Manchester Grammar School, then under the direction of Dr. Jeremiah Smith and Dr. Robinson Elsdale. Among his schoolfellows young Wheeler had quite a number of youths who in later years became notable in various walks of life. There were for instance - William Harrison Ainsworth, the future novelist, and his younger brother Thomas Gilbert Ainsworth, together with J.P. Aston, a literary friend of Ainsworth's, and the author of the novel "Sir John Chiverton." Amongst the scholars were Robert Mosley Master, afterwards Archdeacon of Manchester; Thomas Higson, afterwards clerk to the Manchester City Justices; Thomas Bellott, who became a noted Chinese and Oriental scholar; John Peel, afterwards M.P. for Tamworth; and John Howard Marsden. The Wheelers

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were at that time living in a house in King-street, next door to Dr; Ainsworth's, and only a few doors away from the residence of the novelist's father. Young Wheeler, therefore, took part in certain theatrical representations, improvised by the embryo novelist, in the cellar of his father's residence. Winning a Somerset scholarship he afterwards proceeded to St. John's College, Cambridge, and afterwards became articled to the law. He commenced practising about 1827, and was remarkably successful, but in spite of that fact Mr. Wheeler determined to read for the Bar. At the age of forty he was "called" by the Hon. Society of the Middle Temple, and relinquishing his Manchester business he removed to London. Although his connection with his native town was in this way broken, Mr. Wheeler had many calls which brought him North where he soon became a familiar figure at the Manchester, Salford and Preston Sessions, in addition to which he acted as Revising Barrister in South Lancashire. In 1859 he succeeded Mr. Robert Segar, as Judge of the Court of Record for the Hundred of Salford which position he held until May 26th, 1862, when he succeeded Mr. William Adam Hulton, as one of the judges of the Liverpool County Court. During this period he was admitted a Sergeant-at-Law. For eleven years Serjeant Wheeler performed the duties of a judge at the Liverpool Court with the approval of all concerned in the multifarious cases brought before him. It has been said that he was not a profound legal scholar, but any deficiency that might have existed in that respect was more than compensated for by an abundance of common-sense which he brought

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to play in arriving at his judgments, which were, as a rule considered sound and impartial. In 1873 Serjeant Wheeler was appointed Judge of the County Courts of Brentford, Brompton, and Marylebone, in succession to Mr. H.T.J. Macnamara, which position he held until his death. As might have been expected Mr. Wheeler possessed certain literary abilities, although he did not do the amount of work in this direction that might have been expected from a brilliant member of a gifted family. Perhaps the most important literary work that he achieved was a publication entitled "The Foundation Charter of Christ's College, Manchester, granted by King Charles the First, and dated 2nd October, 1635" which he published in 1847. The work, which was a translation from the Latin of the original roll in the Rolls Chapel, was regarded as a faithful reproduction of the important charter in question, and spoke well for the scholarly attainments of the translator. From time to time pamphlets on various topics appeared from his pen. One of these should be mentioned, in as much as it arose out of the opposition to municipal reform offered by certain office-holders in Manchester, and their friends. It was published in 1832, and was entitled "A Statement of Facts, being a History of the Opposition to the Police Bill," in which the author rates all round the "constables, overseers, select vestry-men, and commissioners of police" of Manchester and its suburbs for an attempt "to insinuate through the gates of Parliament an enactment not only perpetuating the grievous abominations of the existing act, but making still further

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infractions upon the rights of the ley-payers." It may be noted in closing that just a century before Serjeant Wheeler was appointed to the Marylebone Court, his great-grandfather, John Wheeler, was engaged at the old Theatre Royal that stood in Spring Gardens, and where in 1777 he saw John Philip Kemble make his first appearance in Manchester.

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**PART V.
THE FIRST SIR ROBERT PEEL.**

The connection between the first Sir Robert Peel and Manchester was so close, and his business arrangements had so great an effect upon the growth of the town, that some further reference must be made to him. Before he ventured into the neighbourhood, Cannon-street was remote from the business part of the town. Land was therefore cheap, and about 1780 the land now represented by Peel-street and the adjacent thoroughfares was field land, which, together with a dye-house was let to a Mr. Aldred for the small rental of fourteen pounds a year. In our first two directories we find the entry "Aldred, William, blue-dyer, Sugar Lane." The cottage in which he lived probably stood in Sugar Lane. By 1788 a change had taken place. Warehouses had commenced to spread over Mr. Aldred's fields, and he had removed to Miller's-street. On the other hand the directory tells us that Peel, Yates, Tipping, and Halliwell, calico makers and printers, carried on business in Cannon-street. The story of the first baronet's life has been so often told that it is not necessary to do more than give a very brief sketch of it here. He was born at Peel Fold, Blackburn, in April, 1750, and was educated at the Blackburn Grammar School. In 1773 he left home to try his fortune in Bury, and in 1774 he entered into partnership with Mr. Yates

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and Mr. Howarth, inhabitants of Bury, the firm being styled Howarth, Peel, and Yates. A few years later a warehouse was taken in Tipping's Court, Cannon-street. The owner of the warehouse whose family gave the name to the court, became a partner along with Mr. Yates and Mr. Peel, but retired in 1785. Mr. Halliwell joined the firm later, and in 1788 it was designated as previously stated.

Thomas Tipping resided at Ardwick Green and owned a considerable amount of land

thereabouts. His name is perpetuated in the street named Tipping-street. Some memoranda concerning the family will be found in vol. 23 of the Owen Manuscripts, now in the possession of the Free Libraries Committee of the Manchester Corporation. James Halliwell resided at Cheetham Hill, where he built several houses in the thoroughfare still bearing his name. When Mr. Peel first commenced operations he limited himself to calico printing, but gradually extending his operations he in later years imported his own cotton, spun the yarn, wove the cloth, bleached and printed it, and exported the manufactured goods. Some curious stories are told of his attention to business. Bleaching was at that time a very delicate process, requiring much attention, and occupying a month or six weeks in its performance. It was quite the usual thing for Mr. Peel to leave his bed at the most unreasonable hours, and in the most inclement weather, for the purpose of visiting his bleach-crofts to ascertain how the cloth there exposed was faring, and if desirable would call up his men to remove it. Not only so, but he was an expert in designing improved machinery, and

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on the other hand he sketched many of the patterns imprinted upon his calico. The operations of the firm grew and extended with extraordinary rapidity, works being established at Bury, Hinds, Radcliffe, Burs, Heywood, Bolton, Warrington, Blackburn, Burnley, Padiham, Walton, Stockport, Bradford, Lichfield, Tamworth, and other places.

In 1788 Mr. Peel purchased Drayton Manor, near Tamworth, from the Earl of Bath, and took up his residence there a few years later. His connection with Manchester and Lancashire was thereby considerably relaxed, but was not entirely severed until 1817 when he retired from business.

His parliamentary career opened in 1790 when he was returned as member for Tamworth, and he was returned for the same constituency in 1796, 1802, 1806, 1807, 1812 and 1818. He was not prominent as a speaker in the House of Commons, but one of his few speeches may be referred to. He was a great admirer of William Pitt, and when in 1802 a vote of censure on that minister was proposed in the House, Mr. Peel spoke in very strong terms eulogising the statesman's services to his country. When the French Revolution and the resulting war were harassing the Government, Mr. Peel and his partner, Mr. Yates, whose daughter he had married, contributed £10,000 to the fund raised in support of the Government. In addition to this he formed and took command of six companies of men styled the Bury Loyal Volunteers. This was in 1798, and in recognition of these and other services he was created a baronet on November 29th, 1800. His eldest son, Robert

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who became the famous statesman, whose name and reputation will ever be associated with Free Trade, was born at Chamber Hall, in 1788. The father died at Drayton Park, on May 3rd, 1830, in his eighty-first year, leaving property valued at two millions sterling, the whole of which had been accumulated by his indomitable perseverance and industry. The effect produced by Robert Peel's adoption of the Cannon-street district for business purposes was great, and in less than a quarter of a century the whole of the available land in the neighbourhood had been bought up, and the greater portion of it covered with warehouses attached to which in many cases were the houses of the merchants. The greater portion of the changes brought about through the action of Robert Peel are traceable to one small incident in his career. He conceived the idea of printing calico by means of rollers, and being engaged at the time in farming operations he used the parsley leaf as his first pattern. The experiment was successful, with the results that have been noted; Parsley Peel being a name still familiar to the older people amongst us.

PEEL, GREAVES & CO's BANK.

It will be well to note that Robert Peel did not confine his efforts to the Manchester trade, but for

some time at least took a leading part in one of the banking concerns that flourished more than a century ago. John Greaves, after acting as clerk in Jones's Bank for some time, commenced business on his own account about 1790. In connection with Mr. Greaves' name as it

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appeared in the directory for 1788, a curious error may be noted - for he is stated therein to have been a clerk at the Bank, Prince's-street. Jones's bank was in King-street. When Mr. Greaves entered upon his venture he had as a partner Robert Peel, the style of the firm being Peel, Greaves and Company, and their first premises were in Cannon-street, in an old building that stood at the corner of Duke-street. When Mr. Peel retired from the concern in 1804, Mr. Greaves removed to premises lower down Cannon-street, the site of which is now covered by the offices of the "Manchester Courier." In 1823 Mr. Greaves retired, and the firm became Scholes and Tetlow, the two new partners being nephews of Mr. Greaves. The next change took place on the death of Mr. Tetlow, after which Mr. Scholes carried on business at the same premises as Scholes and Co.

Mr. John Tetlow was the son of Mr. Edmund Tetlow, who was a century ago a resident of the secluded hamlet of Barton-on-Irwell. He included amongst his collateral ancestors Hugh Oldham, founder of the Manchester Grammar School. Mr. John Tetlow resided at Barton Lodge for many years, but in 1822 he removed to Alkington Hall, near Middleton, once the home of the Lever family, and where Sir Ashton Lever accumulated his famous museum referred to in a previous volume. Mr. Tetlow was a man of antiquarian tastes and scholarly attainments. He died at Alkington in 1836, and was interred in Middleton Church. Before retiring to Alkington he took an active interest in the affairs of

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the town, was borough-reeve of the town in 1801, and in that year he founded the Union Public Corn Mill in David street.

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### **From the e-Postbag**

Another email notification, of a new collection from, my all-time favourite website, the Internet Archive.

#### ***Art in Magazines and Adverts.***

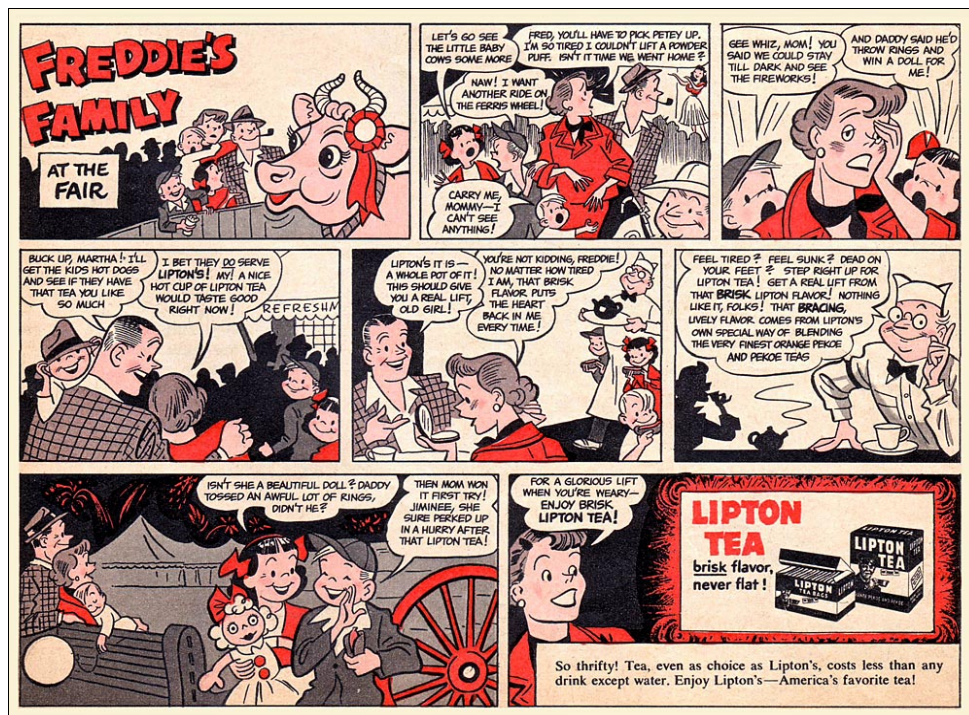
" In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, advertising exploded from a niche art form into a massive industry. Companies began to invest heavily in marketing their products, and many artists would supplement earnings by creating brand advertisements for print magazines. A century later, over 2,800 print graphics have been digitized and preserved in our Advertising Art in Magazines Collection.

Take a look through some of the nostalgic treasures we've highlighted below":

#### **Brand Evolution**

"Some household items that were popular from the 1900s to the 1930s remain pantry staples even today. Lipton Tea was marketed as "a glorious lift when you're weary" and Lifesavers were proclaimed "an amazing new taste sensation", while Campbell's Soup promoted itself as a luxury dinner party course without the hassle. While these brands didn't retain the prestige they were attempting to claim (recipes like wine Jell-O aren't an essential dessert for every occasion), advertisements from this time served their purpose of keeping these goods top of mind, even for today's modern households."





## Cigarette Supremacy

"Before tobacco marketing was legally restricted, cigarette advertising was a big business. Popular brands such as Lucky Strike, Camel, and Chesterfield used visually-compelling imagery and memorable slogans, like "It's toasted," to differentiate themselves. Holidays were even fair game for promotions, with tobacco companies featuring Santa Claus as a smoker and brand ambassador for their products."



## Likely Discontinued

"Over the past century, many goods have demonstrated their long-term viability. However, several others did not stand the test of time. Products that appeared helpful—such as the Pillow Inhaler (1869), designed to alleviate asthma, bronchitis, and lung ailments, or Magnetic Foot Batteries (1900) for warming cold feet—turned out to be nothing more than snake oil and were banned from sale."





## EXPLORE THE COLLECTION ... ['Signs of the Times'](#)

"There is plenty more to explore in Advertising Art in Magazines and we encourage you to check out all the collection has to offer. We hope you enjoy this and the other fascinating works all across the archive!"

The Internet Archive Team

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an email forwarded from our chairman, Linda who received it from the organiser of the MLFHS, FH Fair held in Manchester in March (it just missed arriving in time for the last newsletter!) ...

"Hi Linda, You may recall that the "Our Generation" magazine was at the Fair and were going to do an article about it. [HERE](#) is the link to it, as we promised."

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## MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE

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

since the last newsletter :

\* When was Greenwich Mean Time established?

[HERE](#)

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* 1976: HOLIDAY In OLDHAM | Nationwide | Weird and Wonderful | BBC Archive

[HERE](#)

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\* What Do All Those Letters Mean? Abbreviations, Acronyms, Initialism, Post Nominals, and Credentials Used in Genealogy

[HERE](#)

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* Can we pull 'critically endangered' millwrighting back from the brink?

[HERE](#)

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\* VE-Day and V-J day are important events to commemorate each and every year.

VE Day was not the end of the Second World War, but the immediate threat to the British Isles was over, and 8 May saw scenes of relief and joy.

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
* The boy Behind the Picture: Sometimes we discover a story that's so remarkable that even though it's not a member of your own family, we feel compelled to make sure that the story is told.

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* The History of Failsworth Pole (page has link to archived account of full history)

[HERE](#)

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* Death of the salesman - Training for grocery in 1945 ... Co-op heritage

[HERE](#)

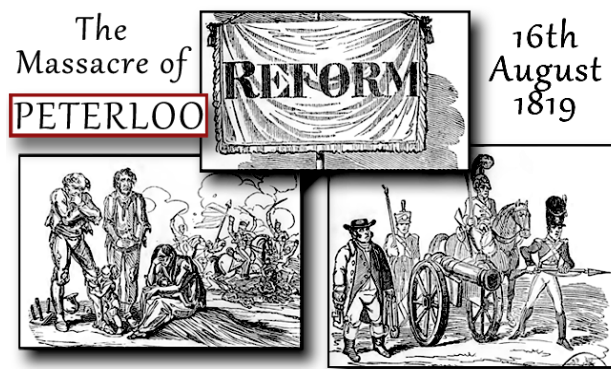
~~~~~  
\* The Joy of Tithe Records – Finding an Ancestor's Home and More

[HERE](#)

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

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

PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary



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

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

You can make searches on websites such as :

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

Visit their website [HERE](#)

Need Help!

Oldham Local Studies and Archives

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 previously, 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 archives 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.

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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](http://Peterloo-Manchester)  
Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) - [Ranulf Higden Soc.](http://Ranulf Higden Soc.)  
Royton Local History Society – [www.rlhs.co.uk](http://www.rlhs.co.uk)  
Saddleworth Historical Society – [www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk](http://www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk)  
Tameside Local History Forum - [www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk](http://www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk)  
Tameside Local & Family History - <http://tamesidefamilyhistory.co.uk/contents.htm>  
The Victorian Society - [Manchester Regional Website](http://Manchester Regional Website)

### Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - [Lancashire](http://Lancashire)  
Free BMD - [Search](http://Search)  
[National Library of Scotland](http://National Library of Scotland) - Free to view, historic, zoomable maps of UK :  
1891 - Oldham and locality [HERE](http://HERE)  
Online Parish Clerk Project : Lancashire - [HERE](http://HERE)  
British Association for Local History - [HERE](http://HERE)  
and for their back issue journal downloads - [HERE](http://HERE)  
Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, website, [HERE](http://HERE)  
and for their back issue journal downloads, website, [HERE](http://HERE)  
Internet Archive ... The Internet Archive offers over **24,000,000** freely downloadable books and texts.  
[HERE](http://HERE) There is also a collection of 1.3 million modern eBooks that may be borrowed by anyone with a free archive.org account.  
Made in Greater Manchester (MIGM) [HERE](http://HERE) and Research guide [HERE](http://HERE)  
Historical Maps of parish boundaries [HERE](http://HERE)  
Regiments & Corps of the British Army (Wayback machine) [HERE](http://HERE)  
Special Collections on Find My Past [HERE](http://HERE)  
FmyP - The Manchester Collection [HERE](http://HERE)  
Goad fire insurance maps of Manchester [HERE](http://HERE)  
Cheshire Parish Register Project [HERE](http://HERE)  
Huddersfield Exposed [HERE](http://HERE)

### Some Local Archives

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



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

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)

Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

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

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

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

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



## For the Gallery

Illustrations from :

### **'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk '**

by Sim Schofield pub. 1905



“ RED BILL’S,” DAISY NOOK.

p.37

**"Red Bill's," Daisy Nook**

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CHARLES POTTER, THE OLDHAM ARTIST, TELLING THE
AUTHOR THE TRUE STORY OF DAISY NOOK.

p.36

Charles Potter, the Oldham Artist, Telling the Author the True Story of Daisy Nook

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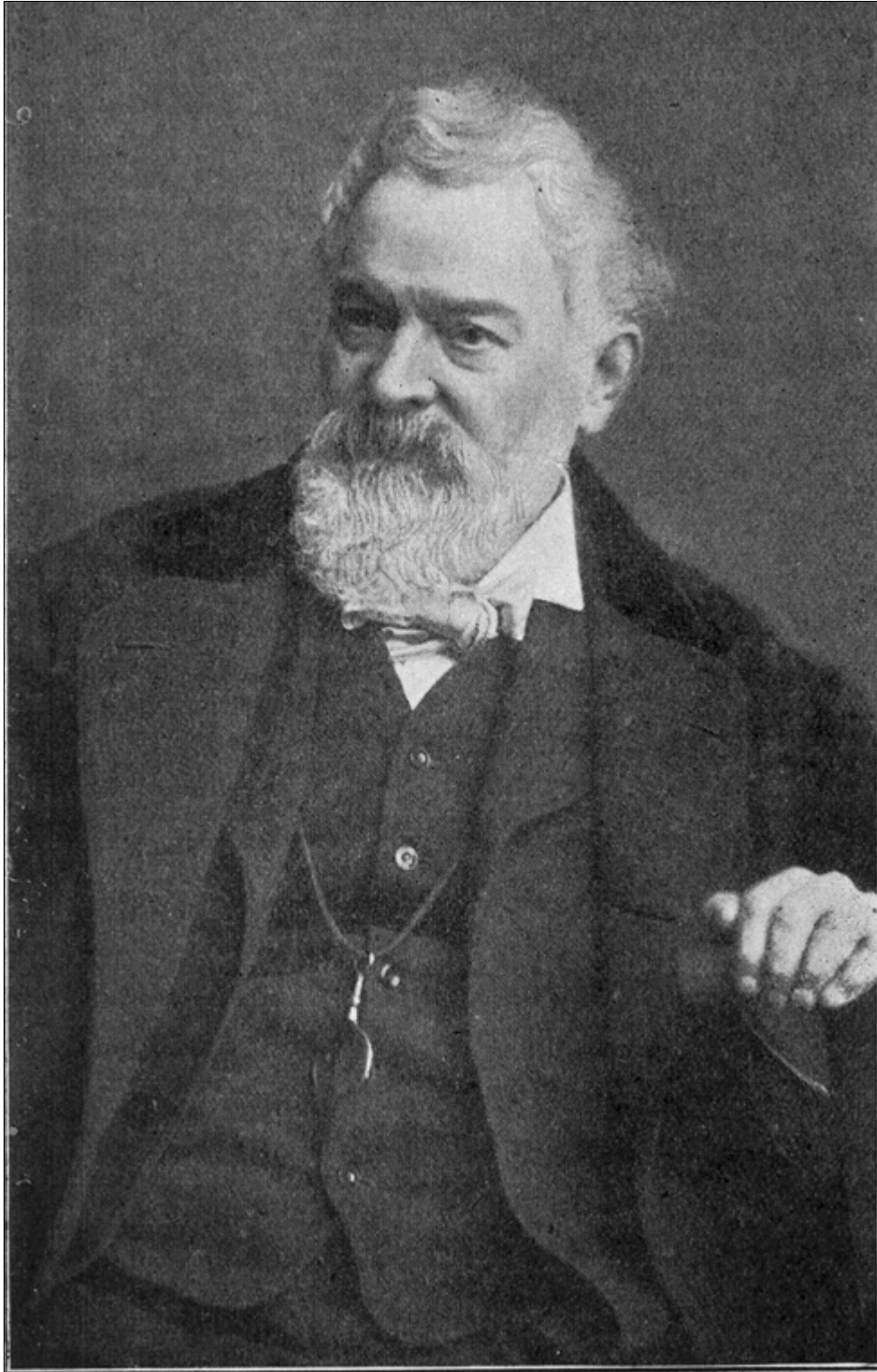


BEN BRIERLEY.

p.37

*Ben Brierley*

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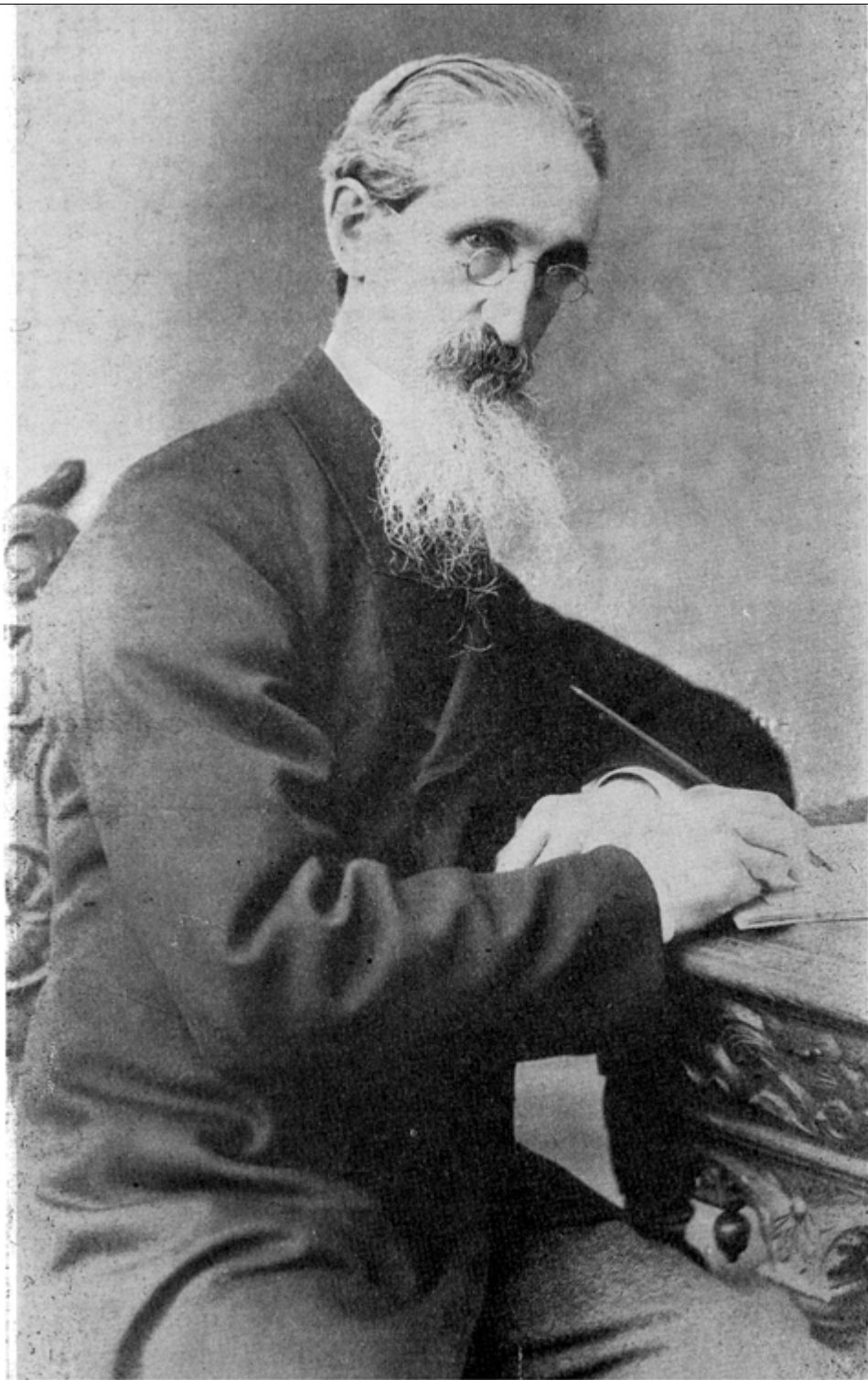


EDWIN WAUGH.

p.44

Edwin Waugh

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*Photo by]*

SAMUEL LAYCOCK.

*[Hindley, Blackpool.*

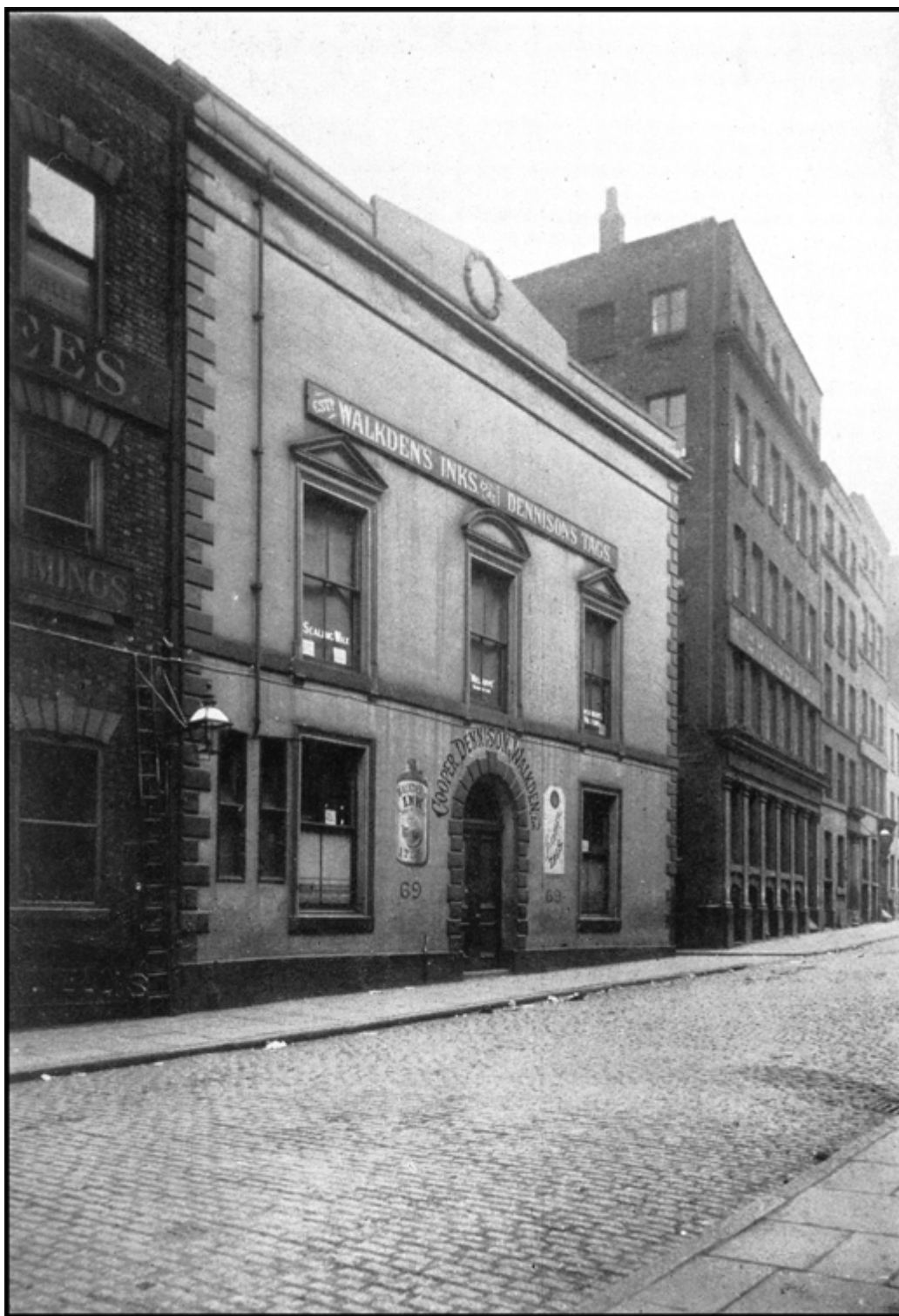
p. 46

***Samuel Laycock***

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Two pictures from ***Manchester Streets & Manchester Men (3rd series)***

by T. Swindells, Pub. 1907



From a Photograph by Mr. W. Ellis.

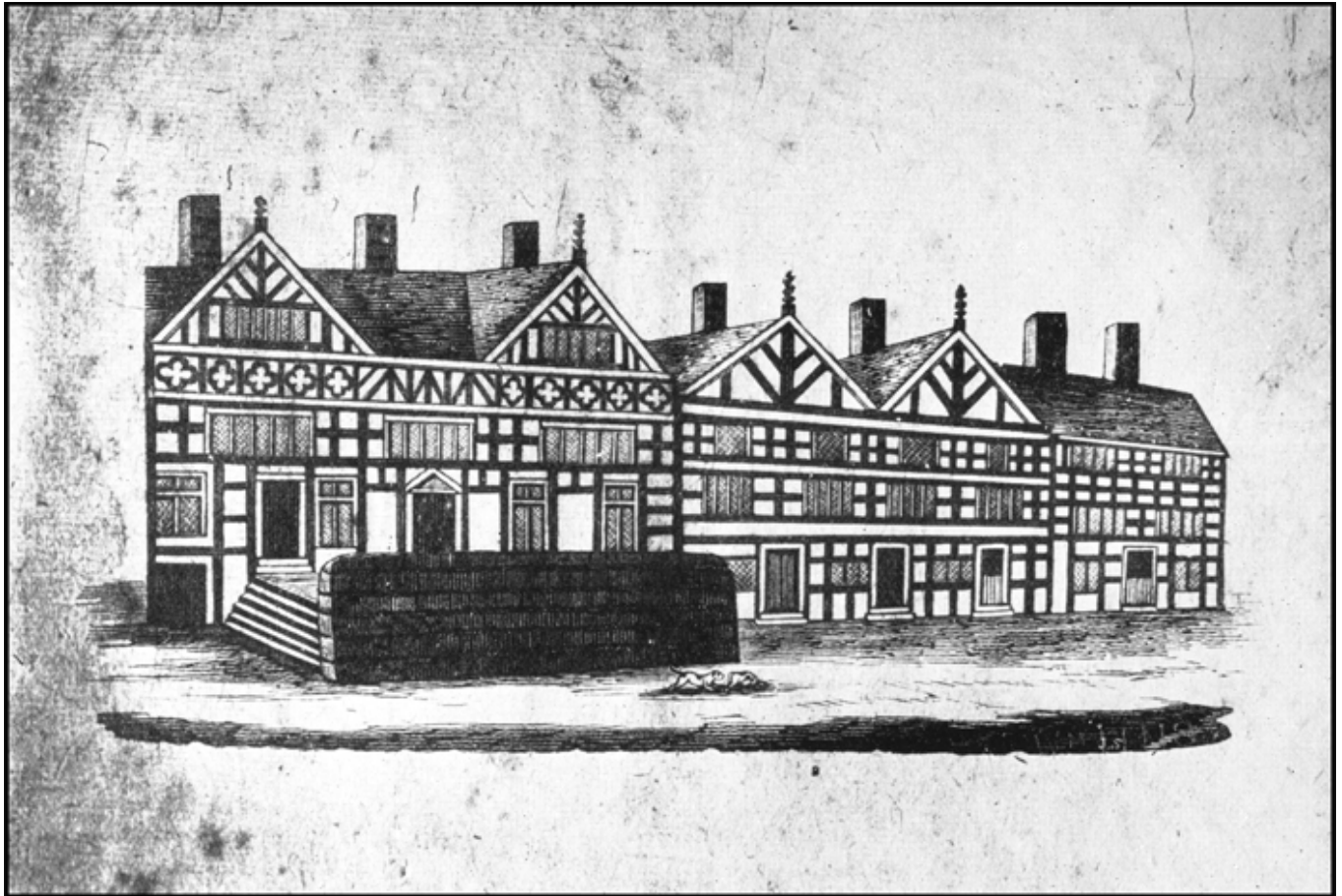
CANNON STREET CHAPEL.

p.74

Cannon Street Chapel

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*Photographed from an Old Print by Mr. W. Ellis.*

**DR. BYROM'S HOUSE, HUNTER'S LANE.**

p. 84

***Dr. Byrom's House, Hunter's Lane***

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