

'e-Owls'



Contact us :

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

July 2023

MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

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Branch Officers for 2023 -2024 :

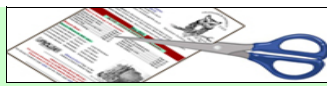
Committee Member : Chairman : Linda Richardson
Committee Member : Treasurer : Gill Melton
Committee Member : Secretary : Jan Costa
Committee Member : Newsletter : Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Webmistress : Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Joan Harrison
Committee Member : Patricia Etchells
Committee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

Links to the Website :



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On the Oldham & District
Website Pages



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



Clavicytherium
from

'A History of Everyday Things in
England 1500-1799 '
by M. & H.C.B. Quennell

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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 : A message from our Chairman :

As you may know, in the June newsletter I announced that I was stepping down as Chairman for family reasons and a move to Shropshire.

The Branch Committee now seek to elect a new Chairman to take over that role

I myself am anxious to find a replacement to take over to ensure the smooth running of the Oldham & District Branch through to the Annual Members Meeting in March/April next year.

Below is an outline of what I do.

CHAIRPERSON JOB DESCRIPTION

- * Chair committee meetings which are held every other month
- * Answer email queries and/or send on as necessary to Oldham Local Studies or other appropriate organisation
- * Represent Oldham Branch on Executive Committee meetings held in Central Library Manchester 5 or 6 times per year, and prepare a report about what has happened (if anything) at the Oldham Branch for those meetings
- * Host, introduce and thank speaker at the Oldham meetings.
- * There are other things I do on a voluntary basis that are not part of the Chairman's job. I do like to help out with the other things that go towards organising the meetings and setting up the room beforehand but this is not compulsory
- * Transport the leaflet stands to and from the meetings as well as the tea/coffee etc.

If you are curious about the job or wish to put yourself forward please contact me through the email address chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk

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### **Editor's remarks.**

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone is keeping well and, as I write this, enjoying (surviving!) the heatwave of the last few days.

In the Mixed Bag we have more pages from *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men* ... this month, we can continue 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, regarding notification of the 11th U3A Peak District Family History Conference which will take place in Buxton in September. There is also an email from Hilary Hartigan, drawing our attention to the Society Blog pages and the latest addition which is relevant to Oldham.

In the updates section of the Branch website pages [HERE](#) you can find links to some new additions to the website. One of the questions at the talk in June was regarding charges on Turnpike roads to which no-one had a definite answer. Following that, Mike Smith from Moorside, sent me two photos from his own collection showing the charges at Todmorden and at Platt Lane in Saddleworth. They can be seen in Research/Miscellany [HERE](#).

In The Gallery we've also included two engravings from '*A Description of the Country from 30 to 40 miles Round Manchester*'. One of Royton Hall and one of Chadderton Hall, both of which have transcriptions of their accompanying text.

My chosen image, for the front page of the newsletter, is of something I'd never heard of before! It is a 'clavicytherium'. Read more about them on wikipedia, [HERE](#)

And 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, the new site opens in the same window so the 'back button' would have to be used to return to the newsletter. For more options, including 'open in a new tab', right-click on the link for a dropdown menu of choices.

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Oldham & District Branch

Monthly Meetings

Last Month's Meeting - June



Saturday
10th June
at
2 pm



The History of Royton Hall

An illustrated presentation given by Frances Stott

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

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.

Frances began her talk with the earliest known image of Royton Hall alongside the hamlet of Royton, in a pastoral landscape looking towards Tandle Hill. The picture (copied in the newsletter Gallery) together with some facts and figures relating to Royton and other local towns, villages and cities, can be found in the 1795 publication of, '*A Description of the Country from 30 to 40 miles Round Manchester*' by J. Aikin.

Frances continued, telling us that Royton was not identified in the 1086 Domesday Survey but in a survey of 1212, a farmer was recorded as holding 12 oxgangs of land for which he paid an annual sum of 24 shillings. For comparison, the equivalent acreage would be about 180 acres. It's believed that this farm would become the location for Royton Hall. The earliest construction is thought to be at some time in the 13th century. At some time before 1246, the Lutteral family leased the land to Alice de Byron and the family name, of Byron, at Royton Hall, would survive for 400 years and 12 generations of that family. By 1270, Sir John Byron, of Clayton, had bought the estate from the Lutterals.

During the years of the Byron tenure at Royton Hall, they took an active part in politics and military campaigns. In 1540, Sir John Byron, during the Reformation, purchased Newstead Abbey. His illegitimate son, also named 'John', inherited Royton Hall and, in 1572, was created High Sheriff of Lancashire. He died in 1603 and his son, another John, inherited the estate and began to move in 'royal circles'. A strong supporter of the Stuart kings, he was created Lord Byron, Baron of Rochdale. Although his main home was Newstead Abbey, Sir John was a trustee of the Oldham Grammar School, founded in 1606. He began to dispose of other local holdings in 1620 and, in 1622, the Byron family sold the Hall. The Standish family held the hall for only 40 years and, in 1662, sold all their Chadderton and Royton interests to the Percival family. Back to the 1640s and we find that, during the Civil War, five of the Byron male family members were officers in the army of Charles I. Lord Byron fought at Edgehill, Naseby and Marston Moor and was the Commander of the Royalist garrison at the Siege of Chester. He died in Paris in 1652.

Frances then turned her attention towards the Hall itself as we looked at old photos, which showed the sadly dilapidated state into which the building had fallen. The first one, taken in 1910, was of the Jacobean East wing which dated back to the 17th century. Clearly visible were the mullioned windows, the gable without coping and the string courses. The next one showed the back of the hall in 1938, and a porch doorway thought to date from the 16th century. Any landscaping of the grounds had long since disappeared leaving rough and stony ground.

An interesting feature was found, in the third photo, of a small, square wing which had a spiral staircase constructed from stone at cellar level but becoming wooden as it ascended.

With the next photo we returned to the Percival family at Royton Hall. In 1758, Thomas Percival reconstructed the Georgian section of the Hall and new frontage. The Percival name disappeared from the history of the Hall when Thomas's only child was a girl, Katherine, born in 1740, who married Joseph Pickford in 1763. Their son, William Percival Pickford, was born in December 1763. Katherine died in 1765. Her son inherited Royton Hall, but died himself, without children, in 1815, leaving his estate to his father. Looking at the picture of the Hall, in 1794, again, we can see that it was a beautiful and desirable building in attractively landscaped gardens and meadows. However, in 1795, the Hall was made available for lease, and a chequered history followed ... over the following years it was home to a couple of ministers, a seminary, a cotton manufacturer, a surgeon and a farmer. In 1834, the rear of the building was converted into a number of tenements (dwellings); and so the years continued to pass as the hall decayed.

By the early 20th century, the Hall was divided into three separate sections and, when WW1 broke out, the present owner, Sir Joseph Radcliffe, lent the Hall to house Belgian refugees, the first two families were those of Mr & Mrs. Byl and Mr. & Mrs. Mayer.

In 1938, The Hall was considered unfit for habitation and was placed under a slum clearance order. It was demolished in 1939.

Frances then showed us a number of assorted photos, taken before the demolition, and then brought us into the 21st century and the 3-year archaeological dig through 2005 and 2007. She included a number of photos from that time and told us stories about what they expected to discover and the odd mystery or two!

A short, 12 minute, Youtube video had been made at the time so we pulled that up on the internet and watched what was happening on the dig. As a bonus, a few of our members in the audience recognised their younger selves in the video!

Many thanks to Frances for such an interesting talk about a local hall with such a long and colourful history.

Sheila Goodyear

If you want to read more :

* John Aikin's book from 1795 can be read online, or downloaded from the Internet Archive, [HERE](#)

* *A History of Royton Hall* by Frances Stott pub. 2001

* Link to the Youtube Video of the dig from the OHRG website [HERE](#)

* Royton Hall on the Royton Local History Soc. website [HERE](#)

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**Monthly Meetings ... July**



Saturday  
8th July  
at  
2 pm



***King John Was Not a Good Man***

*An insight into the life and times of King John and the Magna Carta.*

An illustrated presentation given by Dr. Alan Crosby

\* A zoom only meeting.

Booking essential for attendance on Eventbrite and free to all [HERE](#)

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



Saturday,
1st
July
at
2pm



MLFHS Members only

Limited number ... booking essential on [Eventbrite](#)

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

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### Bolton ... hybrid meeting

|                                                |                                           |                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MLFHS<br>Bolton Branch<br>Meetings -<br>Hybrid | Wednesday<br>5th<br>July<br>at<br>7:30 pm | <i>'Law, Literature,<br/>Lucie and<br/>Longmeadow'</i><br>given by<br>Dr Alan Crosby |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### 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 July

MLFHS aka Manchester Ancestors	Wednesday 19th July at 10:30 am	Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal : History & Preservation given by Paul Hindle
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Manchester Central library

Booking on Eventbrite : members free; non-members £3

MLFHS aka Manchester Ancestors	Wednesday 19th July at 1:00 pm	Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme : A Postcard Heritage given by Michael Billington
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Manchester Central library

Booking on Eventbrite : members free; non-members £3

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.

\* I have just uploaded 15,131 records of persons admitted to Bolton workhouse taken from the creed registers. These cover 1897-1908 and bring the total coverage to 95,531 entries between 1869 and 1911.

Thanks to Graham Holt and his volunteers at Bolton Branch for this magnificent collection of records.

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* New data has been added at www.lancashirebmd.org.uk as follows:

Added 422 Deaths for Bolton RD comprising:

Townleys A (1969-1969)

Townleys B (1968-1969)

Thanks are due to Bob Winder and his team.

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\* Another excellent addition to the Great Database.

This time it is Risley Chapel and Croft Unitarian Baptisms and Marriages.

Images and index to the register entries for baptisms 1774-1900 and the single marriage recorded in 1947.

Transcribed by Cheyenne Bower

(362 baptisms and one marriage record). Burials will follow once transcription is completed.

Thanks to Cheyenne for transcribing these entries from what was a "lost" register. If you want to know more about the background to this transcription, see <https://www.crofthistory.org/news>

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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** ... Saturday 15th July at 2:00pm

***'Annual Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture' :***

***'Edwin Butterworth of Oldham - Lancashire's forgotten Historian.'***

an illustrated presentation given by Dr. Michael Winstanley

2:00pm 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.

Wearing COVID masks is discretionary but subject to Government Guidelines at the time.

Website [HERE](#)

Please note there is no August Meeting of the Society.

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

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 ... No meetings in July and August

Next Meeting 9th September ... Heritage Open Day. Details to follow.

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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](#)

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## 'A Mixed Bag'

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.50**

### **PAINFUL POVERTY AND SOUP KITCHENS.**

During the trying times of the "Cotton Panic" there was a soup kitchen in Factory Fold, Hollinwood, where soup was sold to the poor at a very low charge. I can remember this very well, for I have been scores of times with a can for it. The kitchen was worked by the gentlemen of the district, and I can recall one man who took a prominent part in the work, a Mr. Renshaw. I do not know who made the soup, but of one thing I am quite certain that it was most excellent soup. I can smell and taste it to this day. I recollect waiting in a long line of lads and girls, and of even women, for my turn to be served. This long line of people reminds me of the present day crowds waiting to enter the theatre. Never shall I forget once waiting for about an hour in the smell of this delicious soup, and just as I reached the door being told it was "all done." At the time, it almost seemed to me as if I had just reached the gates of heaven to be told I was too late to enter. Words cannot picture the bitter disappointment which I, as a hungry lad, felt when told the soup was "all done." God knows what hard times those were for the poor people. There are some proud persons who are almost ashamed to refer to them, as though it were a disgrace to have been poor and suffer as we did. That this is a mistaken pride everyone with a grain of common-sense well knows. Even in those days there were some people too proud to send their own lads for the soup, but they were not too proud to ask me to bring them some. And so I might have been frequently seen returning from the kitchen with several cans on my arms containing soup for families who would not allow

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their own children to fetch it. As I have said, they were not too proud to eat the soup after I had waited and fetched it for them. I can remember when I reached home with the soup how eagerly it was devoured by our family of six. On a Friday, instead of serving out soup, it was a custom to sell for a penny two thick slices of bread with ham between. This was known as "Ham and bread day." If there be anyone living now who served in this kitchen he will remember what I am writing is strictly correct. To those who took part in this grand Christian work of "feeding the hungry," I now tender my heartfelt gratitude for the many meals I had at their hands.

Let me here relate an incident of painful poverty from my own personal experience, which will show what the poor had to endure during those days of adversity. This chapter out of my own life will linger with me as long as life lasts. In those days I was a scholar in a Sunday school in Failsworth, and I have a vivid and lasting recollection of once entering the class at this school to find that none of the other lads would sit beside me. At the time my clothes were so worn and patched that I was despised and shunned as if I had been a viper. But poor and ill-clad as I was, I was as neat and clean as the hands of a good and industrious mother could make me.

Often do I thank the Great Father for having blessed me with a loving and sainted mother, who helped me to struggle through those trying times. Her memory will ever be dear and sacred to me, and will remain with me as a priceless possession. My class-mates in this school, at the time I am writing about, were the sons of parents who could afford to dress them well, and so I was despised and shunned by them, so much so that none would sit beside

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me. Finding this out, I left the class and school almost heart-broken, and fled to my humble home for refuge and sympathy with my mother. God knows it was a sore trial for us both, for when I reached the house and told her how I had been treated, she cried as if her tender heart would break. We wept and sobbed together. Even to this day can I hear her sad sobs. When she had recovered a little, she took me fondly to her side, and in a consoling way said : - "Well, never mind, my lad, it winno' allus be dark. God is yet good, an' He'll send us sunshine some day." "Aye, aye," I replied, "but it's very hard ut we should suffer, an' be shunned i' this way becose we're poor." "So it is, my lad," said my dear mother, "but bear it bravely, an' better times will surely come." Thank God the sunshine did come, and my sainted mother was permitted to live and see it, and bask in its cheering beams. It became my priceless privilege to prove the depth of my love for her by providing her with a snug and comfortable home in which to end life's pilgrimage. At her death I tried to do justice to her memory in the following verses : -

ON THE DEATH OF MY MOTHER,  
*Who left Earth Life December 28th, 1897.*

If ere a saint dwelt on this earth,  
Performing deeds of love  
Instinct with true angelic worth  
Akin to that above,  
It was the kindly, loving soul,  
Which just has left earth life,  
And gained the grand, immortal goal,  
Where ceases human strife.  
  
How patiently her heavy cross  
With fortitude she bore,  
And, though her gain is our great loss,  
Her suff'rings now are o'er.

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We laid her worn-out body down  
Last day in 'Ninety-seven,  
But she will wear the well-won crown,  
And rest in peace in heaven.  
  
In childhood's happy, golden days  
I was her constant care -  
Guiding my steps in righteous ways  
With counsel and with prayer.  
In her old age I did my best  
To play a grateful part,  
And ere she took her final rest  
She blessed me from her heart.  
  
That blessing is more dear to me  
Than legacy of gold!  
'Twill be a loving memory  
Till life's short tale is told.  
Yes, I shall cherish while I live  
My mother's fondest blessing,

For though 'twas all that she could give,  
'Tis wealth well worth possessing.

With tender, Christ-like sympathy  
She laboured in her sphere,  
Assisting all most lovingly  
With soothing words of cheer.  
Many a neighbour's child has gone  
To her with tales of woe,  
And she would help the suffering one  
Before she let it go.

In doing this she'd stint herself,  
That she the more might give,  
And take the last loaf from her shelf -  
That needy ones should live.  
It seemed to be her daily aim  
A helping hand to lend:  
And even animals oft came  
To her - their fondest friend.

The dog or kitten, cast away,  
In dire distress would come,  
And she was often heard to say -  
"Poor thing shall have a home."

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Such was the kindness of her heart  
For every living thing;  
And, after playing such a part,  
'Tis fitting I should sing -

In praise of such a life as this,  
So near and dear to me,  
Which must live on in perfect bliss  
Throughout eternity.  
Good-bye, dear mother, for awhile,  
Till I to you shall come,  
And see again your own sweet smile,  
Bidding me welcome home.

Many a lad would have been driven from school, and never again have entered it by such treatment as I had received. But I was made of sterner stuff, and so I stuck to the school, and afterwards filled many important offices connected with it. It is only fair to the teacher to add that he came to our house and entreated me to come again, promising to use his influence with the other boys to treat me at least with respect. In these days we sometimes hear it asked why the poor and ill-dressed people do not attend church or chapel? Can we wonder why when we see even the sons of worshippers actually refusing to sit near those who are poor and ill-clad. Those who have had their trials and struggles, as I have had, and know what it is to be poor and despised, can easily see why it is that poorly-dressed people don't attend places of worship. But let me assure those who treated me so badly in my youthful days, that I bear no feelings of bitterness towards them. I freely and fully forgive them for the wrong they did to me in those days of adversity, and I pray that none of their children may ever suffer as I did. I have thought the touching story of my poverty might be a means of helping some of the young readers reading my stories to bear

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their crosses, and encourage them in their struggles in the battle of life.

Whilst I have no desire to assume the role of preacher, yet I would entreat my youthful readers to never be ashamed to acknowledge what they owe to a good mother. It is with tears that I have penned this painful incident from my own life. At the same time, I take an honest pride in feeling that I have the moral courage to frankly admit that I owe a great deal to what success I may have achieved in life to the influence of a good mother. My object in writing these sketches is not simply to amuse, but also to instruct, and though forty years have passed, since the times I write about, yet I remember them as if they were only last week. Well might Laycock, my father-in-law, sing in those days to his new-born babe : -

Tha'rt welcome, little bonnie brid,  
But shouldn't ha' come just when tha did;  
Toimes are bad.  
We're short o' pobbies for eaur Joe,  
But that, of course, tha didn't know,  
Did ta, lad?

It is somewhat remarkable that I should actually marry the "Brid" of whom Laycock so sweetly sang in the "Cotton Panic." Surely it was most fitting that she should become my partner in life, especially as she came upon the world's scene at a time when I was suffering so acutely. I am pleased to acknowledge that I have every reason to be proud and thankful of the happy choice I made, for no one on this earth has been blessed with a better wife than I have. After the struggles I have endured, who is there more deserving of such a sweet companion in life? Some of my readers may wonder how it is that Laycock describes the new comer as a lad, when she is of the other sex. Let

#### **p.56**

me explain. The poem was written during the birth of the babe, and when father was told the little stranger was a girl, he made it known he had written a poetic welcome to a lad, and no one, he said, would persuade him to alter the poem. And so the "bonnie lad" that was to be, turned out a "bonnie lass," and afterwards became my wife. This beautiful and tender poem did much to establish the fame of Laycock, for the "Spectator" declared it to be "worthy of the best effort of Burns." In my opinion it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for anyone to have written such a piece unless he had suffered as Laycock did. Out of his trials and tribulations came this delightful poem. It was this, and his other "Cotton Panic" lyrics, which drew me to the poet, and which ultimately ended in my marrying his daughter. "A fellow-feeling makes one wondrous kind."

### **STORIES OF MUSICIANS.**

As I have already said, Failsworth has long been noted, not only for its love of music, but also for the many musicians of note which it has produced. At one time there was scarcely a family that had not some musician, vocal or instrumental, connected with it. Even at the present day, few districts can boast of more vocalists and instrumentalists than Failsworth. It is only of recent date that the orchestral band has been displaced at some of the places of Worship by the organ. The Failsworth musicians at one time used to go to the anniversary services held in other districts, and give their services for the benefit of the places of worship. The only payment they got was a "good feed" where they had sung or played. I have heard a story of a particular

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company who were wont to attend a church some distance from the district. At this place it was a custom for the musicians to have a fine feast, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all of them. One of their number, who was said to be a "bit queer," had got them in disgrace at this place by eating and drinking too much. It was therefore decided to leave him out when next they went to this particular place. The slighted musician did not relish this, and he determined to have his revenge for being left out. He got to know the anthems and hymns they were to sing. The first

hymn to be rendered was the well-known one commencing- "Come, let us join with one accord."

The grieved and disappointed musician accordingly went in advance of the party. He had cut a line out of an old hunting ballad. This he took with him, and, getting to the church and pulpit before anyone came, he neatly gummed the line under the first one of the hymn. The old vicar who was to preach the anniversary sermon was one of those rare old-fashioned type, who was not over-particular about the language he used. It was said he could swear like a trooper. On this old parson commencing to announce the hymn, after reading the first line, he stopped, took his spectacles off and wiped them, and began again. He finished the first line, and still he hesitated. He could not believe his own eyes as he read out:

"Come, let us join with one accord,  
And round the world a-hunting go."

After he had read the second line, he exclaimed, on the spur of the moment, " By Gad it is." There was quite an outburst of laughter in the place, in which the slighted musician joined. In this way he had his revenge, and went home afterwards quite content.

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At one time in Failsworth there was one place of worship where some of the old members had a great aversion to any instrumental music in their chapel. The young people strongly resented this prohibition of such music. Eventually a meeting of the congregation was held to settle the question, and the decision they arrived at was exceedingly funny. They agreed that the big fiddle could come, but the little one must not, as there was too much "divvule" in it.

#### **CURIOUS MILL CUSTOMS.**

I remember when I was a lad and a little piecer at Baxter's Park Mill, Hollinwood, there were some curious and interesting customs connected with the factory workers in that mill. Both the minders and piecers were allowed what at the time was called "outs." In the morning half-an-hour was allowed them, and the same in the afternoon. The workers could go where they liked in the time allowed for these "outs." Not only could they do this, but they were even allowed to let their "outs" accumulate, and have them all at once. I recollect the piecer in the next mule-gate to where I worked doing this along with myself. When we had got two or three hours in hand we would go out together and bathe in the canal. It was in such a way that I learned to swim. At other times we would go almost as far as Daisy Nook, and practise wrestling in the fields. Some of the minders, instead of following our example of learning to swim and wrestle, went to the public house and learned to drink. Others would have their drink brought into the mill, and often have I seen four or five minders sitting in the steps having a bit of a fuddle

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together. To such an extent did this practice prevail that the masters had to make a stand, and prohibit beer being brought into the mill during working hours. I remember once a breakdown happening to one of the mules. The overlooker, after he had been working hard to get the mule right again, sent a piecer for a jug of beer. On returning to the mill with the beer the piecer met one of the masters in the steps, who took both the jug and beer and flung them through the window. The lad came into the room quite crestfallen, and informed the overlooker what had been done. "Thee go an' tell th' mestur aw want him," said the overlooker to the piecer. The master accordingly came, and this is how he was spoken to by his employee. "What dun yo meon, Mr. Leigh, by throwin' my ale through th' window? Let me tell yo' aw'm noan goin' to stand this. When aw've bin workin' hard at a break-deaun aw'm goin' to ha' a drink o' ale if aw like." The master replied, " Eh, aw didno' know it were thine, Harry, aw'm very sorry for what aw've done." "That 'ull no' do for me," said Harry; "what abeaut my ale, yo'n ha' to mak' it good, jug an' o'." "Of course aw shall," said the master, and so a fresh supply was sent and paid for by the master. This incident clearly shows on what friendly terms the master and overlooker were



on with each other in those days. But the workpeople at Baxter's mill had other privileges. They were allowed to grow cucumbers in the window sills, and I have seen some remarkably fine ones grown. In fact there used to be a keen competition amongst the hands as to which could grow the largest. The minder I pieced for, "Jack Hilton," was most anxious to beat all the others. Knowing of this craze which he had, I said to him on one occasion, "Misthir Hilton, aw

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know wheer ther's some rare good soil." "Tak' a bucket an' fotch some at once," said Jack. This was just what I wanted, for I was anxious to have a nice out, and at the minder's expense. I would then take the bucket and go as far as Moston, bringing the bucket full of some sort of soil. It was the "outing" I wanted more than the soil, and Jack was so trusting and innocent that he never found me out. He got the soil, but I regret to say that he was beaten in cucumber growing. He was a most curious character was Jack, as many living in Failsworth to-day will know. He believed himself to be an inventive genius, for he was always trying some new experiment with his mules. I question if he would have been allowed to experiment as he did at any other mill. Jack attended the same school as I did, and was a member of what was called in those days "the essay class." He once brought a paper to read at the class, but when he got up he could not read it, the writing being so bad. There was a rent collector named Standring, a member of the class, and he was thought to be a good hand at reading writing. Someone suggested that Standring should read Jack's paper. "Nay, nay," said Jack, "if aw conno' read it, aw'm sure Standring conno'. Aw know what aw wrote at th' time, but it's gettun a bit mixed up. My thowts flowed faster nur my pen. Heawever, aw'll give it yo' beawt paper." And so he did, and got fairly well on with the subject, which-Was "Powin' (hair-cutting) an' Shavin'." At the time, Jack did not believe in either hair-cutting or shaving, and he had a fine mop of hair, which in the mill he had tied up with "Jnny bant." But he was a good-hearted soul, although he was a little eccentric. The last time I heard of him, he was in America, farming. A

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friend of mine wrote me some time since to say he had been paying him a visit. Going over his land, my friend said to him, "Jack, there's a great deal of weed growing on this land of thine." "That's quite true," replied Jack; and, continuing, he said, "An' aw'll tell thi another thing. If this lond o' mine'll grow hell, aw'll mak' it grow heaven." This was Jack's quaint and original way of putting it. Let us hope he is now growing his produce better than he grew cucumbers. '

### **A PRISON STORY.**

I remember that my old minder, Jack, had a brother named Dan. Dan turned out a bit wild, and once thrashed his father. For this lawless act he was had up, and got a month's imprisonment. It just happened at the time that I and my old friend, Ned Wright, had been going through the prison at Strangeways with a pass granted to us by Sir John T. Hibbert, who was one of the visiting justices, and had at the time the privilege of granting such passes. Reaching the inside of the prison gates, who should we see brought in but Dan. Coming up to us, Dan, who had then not been put under prison discipline, said to us, "What sort of a feyther would yo' think yo' had 'at would put yo' here?" "Well," said my friend Ned, "aw reckon thee an' thi feyther han it between yo'. There's no meddlin' wi' yo'." Dan, who, it seems, had been in before, said, "Well, my case is not as bad as that woman's theer," pointing to another prisoner brought in with him. "Hoo'll ha' to be hung, they say." Continuing, he said, "They'll mak' me into a bit of a gaffer. Aw shall ha' to look after sich beggars as thoose," referring to a number of others who had been

**p.62 John Moores (portrait in Gallery)**

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brought in with him. Just as he had uttered these words, the order was given to march off in single file. Dan, desiring to show off a little, instead of falling in the file, commenced to walk on one side, as though he had been a warder, or, as he said, "a bit of a gaffer." the man in charge,

seeing this, sang out, "Hilton, fall in." Dan did not need twice telling; he fell in and marched off, much to our amusement.

I have heard of another Failsworth character who was wont to be "sent down" pretty frequently for drunkenness. When asked by the presiding magistrate his occupation, he invariably used to say he was "a haymaker," no matter what the period of the year was. He got to be well known by the prison authorities, and he was mostly set to whitewashing when he entered. It got to be a saying with the warders, as soon as they saw him, "Hello, here's our whitewasher coming again."

### **AN OLD FAILSWORTH RADICAL.**

Old John Moores was a sturdy Radical reformer of the old school. In his time he played a useful part in the history of Failsworth Radicalism. During the many years I filled the office of hon. secretary of the Failsworth Liberal Association, "Old John," as we called him, rendered splendid service to the cause by his untiring efforts to enfranchise his fellow-men. Mr. Moores, who was a man of independent means, was a freehold voter himself, but this did not make him indifferent to the rights of others. During the agitation for the extension of the franchise to the county householders, he delivered thousands of circulars to the reformers in the district, summoning them to meetings. He was always

#### **p.64 Peterloo Veterans (photo in Gallery)**

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ready for work of this kind, and he was sensible enough to do anything of a useful nature. Frequently did he come to my house and say, "Neaw, Sim, if theaw wants onything doin', an' aw con do it, let me know, an' aw'll see ut it's done." He would have walked ten miles any day, delivering circulars and messages, if by so doing he could have saved the association a shilling in postage. At one time he kept the Bridge Inn, and I well remember him once going to London to attend a reformers' meeting. He had never been to the great city before, and Ben Brierley, knowing this, desired me to invite his friends to a Lancashire supper, to celebrate his safe return home. This I did, and got a goodly number together at the Bridge Inn. Brierley was present, and I shall never forget a remark he made at the supper. Old John had a tremendous "twist," and could eat almost the weight of himself of potato pie. He was a short, well-set man, and sat at the opposite end of the table to Brierley, behind a big pile of potato pie. Ben caused some amusement amongst the company by saying, "There's somebody behind that big plate of potato pie whose face I cannot make out fairly, but perhaps I shall do as his plate gets lighter." As John's pile got less, his face came in view, which elicited the remark from Brierley, "Hello, John, I see it's you."

At the great Reform demonstration at Failsworth, in 1884, Old John was the means of getting eleven persons together who were present at the Peterloo massacre in 1819. He procured a conveyance for these veteran reformers, and got the tattered banner which Sam Bamford's contingent carried with them to Peterloo. Besides this banner, the aged reformers carried with them a motto bill: "Population of Failsworth, nearly 8,000; resident voters, 137. We mean to alter this." This striking feature in the demonstration,

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although now a matter of history, was mainly the work of John Moores. I got an excellent photograph taken of this group of reformers, and of a large size, a copy of which is in my possession. A reproduction of this photograph appears in this book. After the meeting on "Ridgefield Croft," Old John got a Failsworth gentleman to entertain these veterans at tea in his house, when the late Mr. Robert Leake, M.P. one of the members for South-East Lancashire, joined them. A most enjoyable evening was spent together by the old people, many of whom sang the political songs of their early days, whilst others related the struggles they had taken part in for the emancipation of their fellow-men. Mr. Leake, M.P., sent me a very interesting

letter of this memorable meeting of old reformers, and the letter was published at the time. When out canvassing and talking with Tories, Old John would often say to them, "Yo' talk abeaut bein' friends o' th' workin' men; yo're nowt o' th' sort. Aw'll gi'e five peapounds to th' Failsworth Church if yo' con prove 'at yo'n ever held a single meetin', or passed a resolution i' favour o' givin' votes to th' workin' men i' Failsworth." Old John never had to pay his five pounds to the church. It is well to remind our young men of to-day of the battles that have been fought in order that they might have the rights which they now enjoy.

But Moores was not only a politician, he was a kind of a "village philanthropist," carrying sunshine into many a poor man's home. True, he had no religious opinions, and he was often dubbed "Atheist" by men who had less real religion than he had. Although not a man of creeds, yet he was a man of deeds. Many a time have I met him carrying something wrapped up in a "check napkin," and

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on asking him where he was going, he would answer in his own quaint and simple way, "Well, theaw sees, owd Mrs. \_\_\_\_ 'as bin badly laft. Hoo's a large family, an' they've hard wark to mak' ends meet. Aw'm takin' 'th' childer some clogs, a loaf, an' a tay cake or two." At other times I have seen him collecting the poor children to take them for a day's out in the country, and treating them when he got them there to a good tea. Such were the quiet ways of this quaint old reformer. He was not a man of much education, nor had he mixed much in society. When the great conference was held at Leeds, on the county franchise question, Moores expressed a wish to go. I got him appointed as one of the Failsworth delegates. Never shall I forget an incident which happened while he was attending this conference. Before going, he said to me, "Neaw, theaw mun just coach me a bit, an' tell me heaw to act. Aw dunno' want to mak' a foo' o' misel'." He was prepared to do anything I told him, for he had such an unbounded confidence in my friendship for him. I told him he must try and be as polite as he could to everyone, and to use the word "Sir" in addressing people. A reception was given one night to the delegates. On entering the room, he was asked his name by the attendant at the door of the reception room. Old Moores, remembering the advice I had given him, and desiring to be polite, said to the functionary, "Sir, John Moores." As the attendant announced the name of Sir John Moores, there was quite a titter of laughter, and some of the guests seemed to wonder if there had been a general resurrection, but old John passed on, shaking hands with all the officials he came across, quite innocent of the amusement he was causing. He was the character at the reception, as he walked about in his old-fashioned dress, trying to be

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polite to those around him. During the evening, coloured ices were being served out. Old John, noticing this, whispered to me, "Aw should like some o' that; it looks rare an' nice." On getting him some on a glass plate and handing it to him, he commenced to eat it, remarking, "Well, aw never tasted owt like that i' my life; it's as cowl as ice." On asking him if he would have a little more, he replied, "Nay, aw's't ha' no more o' that mak' o' stuff. Ax 'em for some potato pie; aw'd raythur ha' that."

It was quite a treat to hear him, in after years, relate his experiences at "the grand reception at Leeds." Equally amusing were his adventures in London. He had never been to London before, but a Failsworth man he once knew was living there, who, when he resided in Failsworth, was known by the name of "Charley Dick." On arriving at King's Cross, Old John met a man in the street, and inquired of him if he knew where "Charley Dick" lived. The man said he thought he did. "Well," said Old Moores, "if theaw'll find him for me, aw'll stond a pint for thee." Old John tells how the man "prowlart abeawt Lunnon" in search of "Charley Dick," and how often the explorer got thirsty in his wanderings. But no "Charley Dick" could they find. When Old John left the Cockney, he said to him, "Well, theaw's done thi best; here's twopence for thi; come again i'

th' mornin' to wheer aw'm lodgin', an' we'll try again." But the Cockney did not turn up on the following morning. Yet, strange to say, Old John did find "Charley Dick" before he returned. He got in some Radical Club, and, on inquiring from the company if anyone knew "Charley Dick, fro' Failsworth," it so happened that one person knew him, and he soon brought the two Failsworthites together, and a rare time they had in the Great City. He took John about to  
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see the sights of London. When Old John came home, he said, "Aw'st never goo to Lunnon again till it's cut i' two. It's too big for any one mon to see." Such are a few of the incidents in the life of good Old John Moores, the Failsworth Radical.

I retained the veteran reformer's friendship as long as he lived, and at the old man's death I found he had made me his executor. He left a little sum of money to "Th' Owd Schoo'," a place he had been associated with most of his lifetime. Peace be to his memory -

"For a kinder heart never throbb'd human breast  
Than the one the worthy reformer possessed."

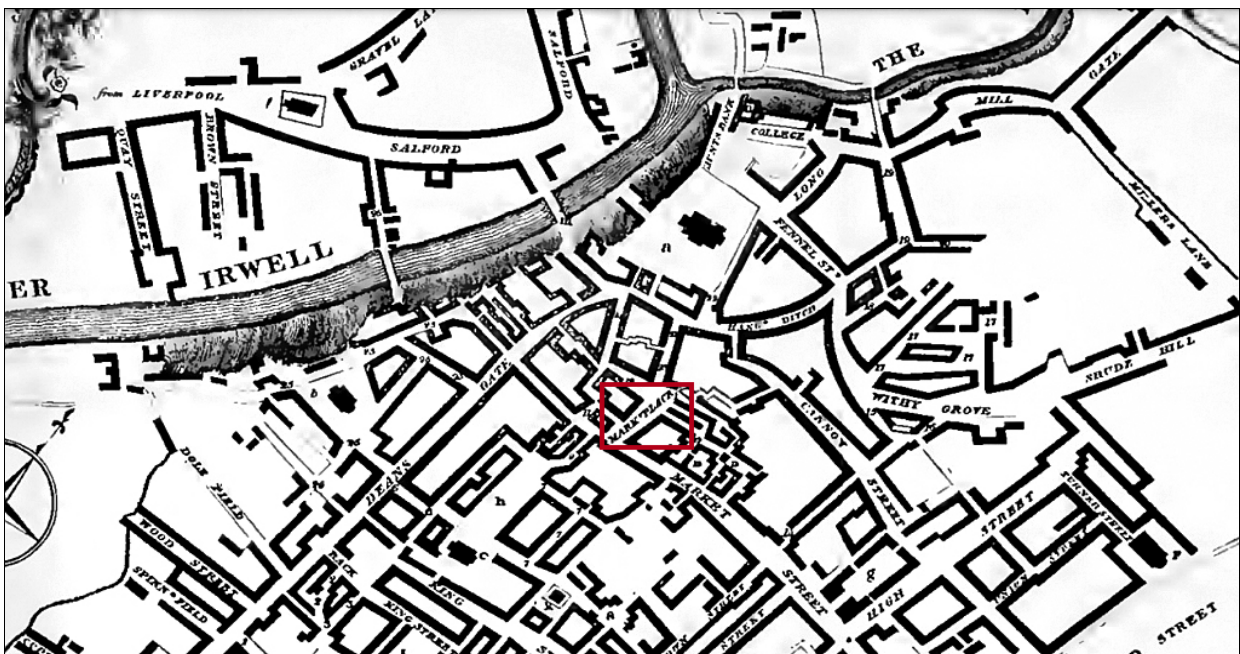
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Our serialisation of *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men* (3rd series) started in the newsletter for 2022-12, and through succeeding newsletters. Last month we read the final chapters relating to Church-Street, this month's transcription, below, are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

CANNON-STREET.

Use to accommodate the map or delete

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



CANNON STREET PART VI OLD TIME BUSINESS CUSTOMS.

In the days that preceded the introduction of the railway, the carriage of goods was either by road or canal. All the calico printers and bleachers whose works were situated outside the town would have their goods delivered at their warehouses by their own carts. In many cases this

would take place on the Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday in each week, and as it was usual for the carts to take back with them such drugs and drysalteries as were required at the works, the drysalters' representatives were busily engaged searching for orders. Gregson in his "Gimcrackiana" describes the familiar scene in a few lines :

"Dear drysalters! who on accustomed round
Each Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday are found,
Skipping up warehouse steps with action smart :
'Good morning, sir! Pray have you had a cart?
Is there ought wanting for the works to-day?
Promptest attention shall our porters pay.
Our drugs are excellent, and you will know
That at this time they are extremely low.' "

We can imagine what a lively scene would be thus enacted in the warehouse portion of the town, for not only were the drysalters' representatives to collect orders by passing from warehouse to warehouse, but in most cases the goods so ordered would be required to be delivered at the warehouse before the cart left the same evening.

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Certainly many parcels were conveyed by the general carriers, but in the great majority of cases goods were delivered as stated, punctuality of delivery and a saving of the cost of carrying being secured. It was, therefore, important that the drysalters should be represented by smart men who knew their work. Such an one was W.B. Watkins whose figure was well known, and whose buckskin knee-breeches and top boots earned for him the nick-name of "Buckskin Billy."

HOOKERS-IN

Leaving the drysalters and their representatives, we must refer to another large class of workers who played an important part in the commercial life of the town seventy or more years ago. Again we shall find Gregson's lines of use by enabling us to understand what manner of men hookers-in really were, and what the nature of their duties. He says :-

"First then, and foremost, I uphold to view,
The practices of that commercial crew,
Termed hookers-in; a poor and patient race
Who every morning resume their fishing place.
They angle all day long with eye intent,
Their fish a customer - pay, one per cent
On the amount he buys; these men indeed
Have studied well the nature of their creed,
Which seems to hold that impudence alone
For every other failing will atone;
This their excuse, should they one have made,
Oh, it was only - in the way of trade.' "

Country drapers coming to Manchester to purchase goods travelled by stage coach, and would put up at one of the inns during their stay. The hookers-in haunted the coaching houses and inns in their search for information

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as to new arrivals. Armed with the necessary particulars the hooker-in would call up the visitor, and endeavour to persuade him to allow himself to be escorted to his client's warehouse. These men were quite an important institution, and although Gregson mentions one per cent on purchases made as the rate of remuneration, some of them amassed great wealth.

Mr. T. Brittain knew one who was reputed to make a thousand a year in this way. He also tells

us that the members of the fraternity were known to one another by certain nick-names. "One of the most successful of them was a Mr. Peel, who was known as 'Sir Robert Peel.' Another, a Mr. Lewis, was reported to have made an attempt on his own life, and was named 'Sudden Death' ever afterwards. Previous to this one of the hookers-in had obtained the name of 'Murder,' and another the name of 'Battle,'; so that amongst this interesting fraternity there were 'Battle,' 'Murder,' and 'Sudden Death.' One story told by Mr. Slugg may be repeated. A member of the brotherhood was talking with an intended victim when a third person passed. 'Oh,' said the old stager, 'That is Mr. So-and-so, from Leicester; he is a large buyer in your way.' Away went the hooker-in after the gentleman, and presenting his card, begged him to turn in to the warehouse and look round. This he did, but after passing through the first room he assured the salesman that there was nothing in his line. It was so with each successive room, and at last the question was put to him, 'What line is yours?' 'Oh,' he replied, 'I'm David Bellhouse, the timber merchant.'

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The merchants in those days adopted another means of securing the attendance of buyers at their warehouses. As soon as it was known that a probable customer had arrived in town, which could be ascertained by a reference to the way-bills of the coaches recently arrived, a clerk was dispatched to interview the visitor. It is on record that one gentleman who had arrived over-night from London was honoured one morning before breakfast by no fewer than forty such callers. Needless to say the custom rapidly developed into a nuisance, and many were the indignant protests made by the victims of it. Once again we must quote our friend Gregson, who thus pungently expresses his opinions of the custom : -

"One more disgraceful custom I'll expose,
Before I bring my verses to a close:
A custom that degrades your manly fame,
Makes you unworthy of a tradesman's frame ;
And is at once disgraceful to your sense,
And the quaint essence of impertinence.
I mean your daily sending forth your clerks,
To wait like hungry and voracious sharks
On all new-comers to the Mosley Arms,
Bepraise your goods, their cheapness, and their charms,
Request the buyers to call before they go,
In Cannon-street at number so-and-so."

Such were some of the means adopted by the merchants of seventy and eighty years to extend their business operations. When we remember that the means of transit were limited to horsed vehicles and canals, that travellers passed from town to town either by stage-coaches or by post-chaises, and the postal system was in a very primitive state; whilst the telegraph

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and telephone were not even dreamed of, we begin to realise how very different were the conditions under which trade was carried on, as compared with those in vogue to-day. The introduction of the railway did much to render former business customs obsolete and out of date. As the means of travelling multiplied and became cheaper, firms began sending out travellers to call upon customers, carrying an array of samples, that would have been impossible under the former conditions. The improvement and cheapening of the rates of postage, and the introduction of the telegraph led to still further changes, and thus it was that the hookers-in and canvassing clerks disappeared. It is said that the brothers Grant whose name is so closely associated with Cannon-street were the first to commission hookers-in, and also that they were the first to discontinue the practice. In the next chapter reference will be made to some of the firms that have been connected with Cannon-street, the smaller

thoroughfares leading out of it being dealt with later.

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CHAPTER VII

SOME WELL-KNOWN NAMES.

In my earlier volumes several well-known Cannon-street names have been mentioned, but there remain a few with which we shall deal in this and the next chapter.

JOSEPH HANSON.

In 1788 William Hanson carried on a successful business as a merchant and manufacturer of checks and African goods. The exact location of the old warehouse is not known, but the street name of Hanson Court denotes the locality, he having given the name to it. He is only known to us as a business man; but his son Joseph took a leading part in public affairs in the early part of the last century. In May, 1803, England was in a state of excitement consequent upon the threat of Napoleon to invade the country, and military preparations on a large scale were made in all parts of the country. In Manchester various corps of volunteers were raised, amongst them being the Loyal Masonic Volunteer Rifle Corps, whose chief was Colonel Joseph Hanson, who resided at Strangeways Hall. Colonel Hanson must have loomed large in the public eye in those days, for we are told that when in December of the same year he was presented at Court, he was ordered to appear in the uniform of the Manchester Rifle Regiment of which body he was also the commander, and was requested by

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the King to wear his hat. When the Duke of Gloucester reviewed the Manchester and Salford Volunteers at Sale Moor on April 12th, 1804, Lieutenant-Colonel Hanson commanded the Manchester, Salford, Bury, and Stockport Rifle and Pikemen who were 676 men strong; but in July he was arrested and bound over for meeting to fight a duel. In June of the following year two cousins named Faulkner, who belonged to the Hanson's Corps, were practising shooting at a target in the grounds of Strangeways Hall, when one accidentally shot the other as he passed behind the target. A few months later the members of the corps presented their colonel with a sword, a pair of pistols, and a pike, all of splendid workmanship; but in 1807 in consequence of certain calumnious statements respecting his character he resigned his commission. The disputes between the weavers and their employers were at this time occupying much attention, and Mr. Hanson openly expressed his sympathy with the workers. In May, 1808, a large meeting was held in St. George's Field, when after the riot act had been read one of the weavers was killed, several were wounded, and others were arrested. Mr. Hanson was present and addressed the meeting on horseback. For this he was indicted at the Lancaster Assizes, was found guilty on perjured evidence, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the King's Bench prison, in addition to a penalty of one hundred pounds. The weavers expressed a wish to pay the fine by penny subscriptions, but Mr. Hanson refused to consider the offer. As a result a public fund was opened, nearly forty thousand persons subscribed pennies each, and upon

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his release he was presented with a gold cup. His imprisonment, however, left its deadly mark on him, and on September 3rd, 1811, he died from a disease contracted in prison, in his thirty-eighth year. His tombstone in Stand Unitarian Chapel-yard has disappeared.

JOHN DUGDALE.

Eighty years ago the firm of John Dugdale and Brothers was to be found at 18, Cannon-street. In those days they were calico printers with works near Burnley. John Dugdale lived at Richmond Hill which is certainly not one of the spots in the Manchester district one would choose to-day for residential purposes. In 1830 it was very different. At the top of Greengate the traveller was out of town, and the houses of John Dugdale, William Lockett, and Thomas Agnew

were pleasantly situated, the fields coming up to their garden hedges. In 1835 Mr. Dugdale contested Salford against Mr. Joseph Brotherton who was returned by a good majority. It was during that contest that Mr. Dugdale earned a name that stuck to him through life. He was a blunt sort of Lancashire man who spoke his native dialect, and when he was chaffed by a voter as to his wealth, he replied, "Ay, I fairly stink o' brass." Ever afterwards he was known to many of his fellow townsmen as "Owd Stink o' Brass." In 1834 he purchased a fine house in Mosley street, next door to Mr. Daniel Grant's house for £7,500, another proof of the great increase in land values in the city. To-day such a site would be worth at least £50,000.

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JOHN WHITEHEAD & SONS.

A near neighbour of John Dugdale's was John Whitehead, who commenced life in very humble fashion at Levenshulme where he was a bleacher. Successful in this he experimented in calico printing in the closing years of the eighteenth century. The products of the works at Brightmet rapidly became popular, and "Whitehead's bird's eye" became almost as famous as "Hoyle's lilacs." It is said that so great was the sale of this particular pattern that the firm's profit on it was over thirty-thousand pounds. For many years Messrs. Whitehead's warehouse was at 39, Cannon-street which number gave way to 76 when the street was re-numbered. The numbering had formerly started at High-street instead of from the bottom end. The Whiteheads became very wealthy, one of their number, Miss Mary Whitehead, who formerly lived in Mosley-street, purchasing an estate in Burnage, on which she built a mansion to which she gave the curious name of Brook Flat. In later years it was known as Burnage Hall, but now the parkland around the house is rapidly disappearing. Like the old Mayfield firm, the firm of Whitehead & Sons has completely disappeared, and nothing now remains of two once famous firms, but the record of their name and fame.

SIR THOMAS PHILLIPS.

Still another calico printing firm of the olden days demands a moment's attention. In 1788 Messrs. Phillips, Nash and Lowe, were calico printers with a

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warehouse in Hanson's Court. Mr. Phillips lived in Cannon-street, the warehouse forming, very probably, the back portion of the premises, which were entered accordingly from Hanson's Court. Mr. Phillips' son Thomas was educated at the Grammar School, and showing great promise as a scholar was sent to Oxford, where he graduated M.A. Science, in various branches, occupied much of his time and thought, and he was admitted a Fellow of the Royal Society. He had a wide knowledge of books, and as a collector he was well known; his library at Middle Hill being famous for the many choice and valuable manuscripts contained in it. Not content with collecting printed books and manuscripts, he set up a private press from which he issued a number of tracts and pamphlets, many of which are now extremely rare. He died at Cheltenham on February 6th, 1872, and the title of baronet that had been bestowed upon him became extinct, he having no son.

Thomas Crewdson, one of four brothers who were well known in the city eighty years ago, was in business as a silk manufacturer in Cannon-street before he embarked in the banking business. Mr. Crewdson with Mr. John Robinson, who had been a cashier at Lloyd's bank, began the new venture on the piece of land in Cross-street between the chapel and the Reference Library. Ambitious for larger premises, they afterwards put up a fine building near to the corner of Brown Street, in Market-street, which, however, they never occupied, but which was taken by the unfortunate Bank of Manchester. The bank was wound up after a short life. Mr. Thomas Crewdson, who was the personal

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friend of Richard Cobden, was one of the early agitators for the Repeal of the Corn Laws, and

issued a pamphlet on this subject in 1830.

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Photo of Cheeryble House in Gallery

PART VIII CHEERYBLE HOUSE

Recent alterations will result in the pulling down of a warehouse that was associated with the brothers Grant, who, as the "Cheeryble Brothers" are familiar to the readers of Dickens. The Grants were calico printers whose Works were at Ramsbottam, where William Grant lived for many years. His brother, Daniel, lived in Mosley-street, and some account of him will be found in my first volume. It will, therefore, only be necessary to say a few words concerning the warehouse, under whose roof not only was business transacted, but many hundreds of kindly and charitable deeds were done by a man who deserved and obtained the respect and love of his fellow-citizens of all classes. The warehouse stands near the corner of Corporation-street on the right-hand side of Cannon-street as you go down the street. The house had formerly been a residence, but the Grants converted it into a warehouse, and in some of the rooms could be seen cornices of carved oak, which, together with the oak staircase and massive oaken doors, were reminiscent of the closing years of the eighteenth century. Interesting though the building is by reason of its associations, it will be compelled to retreat before the ever-increasing demands for street room, and in the early part of the present year it was purchased by the Corporation. In its later years

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it has had as tenants Messrs. I. Newton Grundy and Co., who, amidst many internal changes were careful to preserve the structural features which were associated with its former occupiers. This is a line of action that might with advantage have been observed by the occupiers of many notable buildings in Manchester and elsewhere.

MESSRS. RICHARD HAWORTH & COMPANY.

Amongst the many firms that were associated with Cannon-street half a century ago, none occupied a higher position in the business world than did the firm of Messrs, Richard Haworth & Co. The founder of the concern, Richard Haworth, was born at Bury in 1820, his parents belonging to the artizan class. At the age of twelve he obtained employment at the mill of Messrs. Openshaw & Co. After passing through the mill he became a book-keeper, but being extremely careful in his money affairs, and having supplemented his income by various means he was enabled to commence business on his own account. Consequently in 1852, in partnership with Messrs. Frederick Copley Hulton and James Craven, he began operations as yarn and cloth commission agents in Cannon-street, under the style of Richard Haworth and Company. The agency business proved only to be a very modified success, and they launched out as cotton manufacturers and home trade merchants. Their first works was a small weaving shed that stood behind the Friends' Meeting House in Mount-street. This limited accommodation soon proved to be much too small to enable the young firm to execute the orders that went to them, and consequently a series of

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extensions were commenced. In course of time new mills were leased, and later, others were purchased. The result was that new warehouse premises were required, and a move was made from Cannon-street to 32, High-street. About 1868 the building numbered 28 was taken, and later again the warehouse next door was absorbed. For over thirty years the firm continued in High-street.

The "tide in the affairs of men, which, if taken at the flood, leads on to fortune," came in the way of Messrs. Haworth & Co., during the terrible period still remembered by many thousands of Lancashire people, and known as that of the cotton famine. Internal war between the Northern

and Southern States prevented the exportation from America of raw cotton. The result was a general stoppage of cotton mills throughout Lancashire, and untold misery, privation and suffering to the operatives and those whose prosperity depended upon them having regular work. Famine stalked through the county, and relief funds were raised to relieve the sufferings of its victims. During the whole of this terrible time Messrs. Haworth's mills never stopped, not even for a single day. Not only so, but their consumption of cotton steadily increased, and in spite of the famine prices reached by the raw material the firm made their payments with the most scrupulous punctuality. The natural result was that the firm rose to a very high position in public estimation, and became one of the most popular cotton-buying firms in the market. Increasing success marked the progress of the firm during the first thirty years of its career, but in 1883

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there occurred an event which unfortunately did not stand alone. Mr. Haworth died on November 30th, 1883, at his residence, Mersey Bank, Didsbury. Although he had led a strenuous business life Mr. Haworth found time to render valuable services in other spheres. He was a member of Manchester's first School Board; and was an influential member of the Wesleyan body. Of his four sons, one entered the Wesleyan ministry, but the other three devoted themselves to a commercial life. The youngest one retired from the firm, but the other two retained their positions, the one managing the warehouse, and the other taking charge of the mills. Three years after Mr. Haworth's death his two original partners died, Mr. Hulton in June 1886, and Mr. Craven soon afterwards. These events very much increased the responsibilities of the remaining members of the firm, but owing to the business capacity of Messrs. G.C. Haworth and J.F. Haworth the operations of the concern increased in a remarkable manner, until a few years ago the extended premises in High-street were too cramped to enable the business affairs to be conducted satisfactorily. As a result a search was made for more convenient premises, but without success; and as a last resort the firm were compelled to build a warehouse. For this purpose they purchased a site at the corner of Port-street and Dale-street, and pulling down the old buildings that covered it they erected one of the finest and best equipped warehouses in the city. Early in 1903 a move was made to the new building, where for many years the affairs of the firm will probably be conducted. As showing the great extent of its operations

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it may be stated that the amount of cloth turned out by Haworth's mills averages something like two thousand miles per month. Their principal mill in Ordsall Lane known as the "Ordsall Mill" is fitted with the best of modern machinery, and was erected about twenty years ago. In 1897, following the lead of many notable concerns, the business was converted into a limited liability company, with Mr. G.C. Haworth as chairman. It is only a little more than half a century since Richard Haworth and his partners entered upon the small agency business in Cannon-street, unknown to all Manchester business men save a few with whom they had dealings. To-day the firm ranks amongst the most important of Manchester's mill-owners. It occupies one of the finest warehouses in a city notable for such buildings, and is one of the greatest employers of labour in the city. From having only a very local significance, the name has come to be known in all parts of the world, and it is better known now in India, China, and Japan than it was in Lancashire fifty years ago. The mills in Ordsall Lane may be regarded as one of the show places of our city, and in the visitors' book are the autographs of a large number of distinguished people who have visited them. These have included Lord Beaconsfield, Lord Salisbury, the Shah of Persia, the Sultan of Zanzibar, and many others.

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Yesterday, I had an email from **Hilary (Hartigan)**, who is one of our Branch's newest committee members but known to more people for her DNA talks and as the Manchester editor on the website. She had visited Oldham on the Saturday for a Branch meeting and, arriving early, wandered round taking photos (it was that heatwave Saturday!). They certainly showed Oldham in a rare but beautiful way! When she returned home she wrote it up for the website blog. Blog? I was ashamed to admit that I'm usually too busy editing our own Branch pages to investigate the website further... a mistake! If you visit the Blog page (link at the top of all website pages or [HERE](#)) you'll go to a menu of lots of readable, interesting and useful pieces dating back to the first days of our new website. Give it a try!!

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An email from Society Member, Michael Coupland,

The Society will be represented at the Buxton U3A Conference, which will be open to anyone, not just U3A members.

**11th U3A Peak District Family History Conference
Saturday 16 September 2023
at the Palace Hotel in Buxton**

The following organisations will have a stand at the event

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • My History | • Nottinghamshire FHS |
| • Chris Makepeace – Maps | • Manchester & Lancashire FHS |
| • Family History Federation | • Huddersfield FHS |
| • Military & Family Genealogy | • UKBMD |
| • Derbyshire Record Office | • Cheshire FHS |
| • Historic Environment Scotland | • Guild Of One Name Studies |
| • Family Tree Magazine | • Mary Evans / Penny Walters |

Presents.....

Mary Evans – *‘Chasing those Brickwalls!’*

Dave Annal – *Death & Taxes*

Jackie Depelle – *“Digging into the Parish Chest”*

Dr Penny Walters – *“Why the Welsh left Wales”*

Tickets: £30. Book early to avoid disappointment - it's always very popular.
Includes talks, refreshments & 2-course finger buffet lunch

To book your place, please complete the booking form on this link:

<https://forms.gle/mXnsgpBhQpmafuNU6>

Please put your surname and postcode as a reference if paying by BAC

[So we can match your payment with your form.]

Tickets will be issued at our reception desk on the day, not posted.

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**MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE**

[HERE](#)

A short selection of entries from the MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE ...  
since the last newsletter :

\* Welcome to the Fusiliers Museum online experience.

The Fusilier Museum (Bury) is home to the collections of the XX Lancashire Fusiliers and the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Together they record over 300 years of history and heritage of the people who served and continue to serve in the regiments. Something for all the Family why not visit

[HERE](#)

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* Manchester Day with a bit of a difference

[HERE](#)

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\* The Edwardians and the age of the mega-sized commercial building arrives in Manchester.  
Read all about it in Jonathan Schofield's history of city

[HERE](#)

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* So many exquisite collections, culturally rich archives and not enough hours in the day to
explore them all.

Follow this link / rabbit hole and enjoy our growing digital collection.

[HERE](#)

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\* How to find Merchant Navy records

[HERE](#)

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* MGS Hoots from the Archive - A New High Master's Assessment, 1962

[HERE](#)

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\* Mercer's Medical centre - Medical services have been provided on this site for well over 700  
years.

[HERE](#)

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* Family Tree - 101 Best Genealogy Websites of 2023

[HERE](#)

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\* IWM... What was D-Day?

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
* 17th Century History, Commons In The Civil Wars

Property, profit, principle and hazard: being an MP during the civil wars and interregnum

[HERE](#)

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\* New online records will help Mancunians find out more about the lives of their relatives

[HERE](#)

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* Unearthed images of Dambuster bombers being built in Greater Manchester factory

[HERE](#)

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\* What is a workhouse infirmary?

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
* Historic England Blog ... Brief History of Prefabs

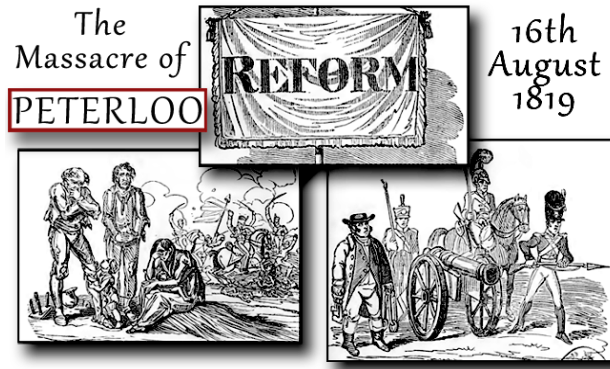
After thousands of homes in Britain were destroyed during the Second World War, temporary
houses known as 'prefabs' were built.

[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



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

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

You can make searches on websites such as :

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

Visit their website [HERE](#)

## Need Help!

### Oldham Local Studies and Archives

#### 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](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](mailto: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

Cheshire Local History Association – www.cheshirehistory.org.uk

Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk

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

Lancashire Local History Federation – www.lancashirehistory.org

Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – www.lswlfhs.org.uk

Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – www.mrias.co.uk

Oldham Historical Research Group – www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg

Peterloo - [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

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

Royton Local History Society – www.rlhs.co.uk

Saddleworth Historical Society – www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk

Tameside Local History Forum - www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk

Tameside Local & Family History - <http://tamesidefamilyhistory.co.uk/contents.htm>

The Victorian Society - [Manchester Regional Website](#)

Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - [Lancashire](#)

Free BMD - [Search](#)

[National Library of Scotland](#) - Free to view, historic, zoomable maps of UK :

1891 - Oldham and locality [HERE](#)

Online Parish Clerk Project : Lancashire - [HERE](#)

British Association for Local History - [HERE](#)

and for their back issue journal downloads - [HERE](#)

Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, website, [HERE](#)

and for their back issue journal downloads, website, [HERE](#)

Internet Archive ... The Internet Archive offers over **24,000,000** freely downloadable books and texts. [HERE](#) There is also a collection of 1.3 million modern eBooks that may be borrowed by anyone with a free archive.org account.

Made in Greater Manchester (MIGM) [HERE](#) and Research guide [HERE](#)

Historical Maps of parish boundaries [HERE](#)

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

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

FmyP - The Manchester Collection [HERE](#)

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

Cheshire Parish Register Project [HERE](#)

Huddersfield Exposed [HERE](#)

Some Local Archives

Barnsley Museum & Discovery Centre – www.experience-barnsley.com

Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](#)

Bury – www.bury.gov.uk/archives

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

Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](#)

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

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

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)

Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

Preston – www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives

Stockport – www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives

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

York – www.york.ac.uk/borthwick



Two engravings and descriptive text from :

'*A Description of the Country from 30 to 40 miles Round Manchester*' by J. Aikin. pub. 1795.

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"Royton, ten miles east of Manchester, contains 576 statute acres of enclosed land, and has (Oct. 1793) 424 inhabited and 26 new houses, total 450; and 2511 inhabitants. Of the houses, only 118 are assessed to the window tax, though almost all the omitted ones are

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rated to the church and poor. There are in this township five mills moved by water, four horse mills for carding cotton, one fulling mill for the Rochdale baizes manufactured in the neighbourhood, and one large malt kiln. From this variety of employ population has more than doubled since 1772, in which year the inhabitants were 1105.

The soil is for the most part dry and sandy, a few acres only wanting draining. There is no waste land. The proportion of arable is small to that of meadow and pasture. The manures are marl, got in the township; lime, brought from Ardwick near Manchester or Buxton; and black muck. The products are oats, potatoes, and a few turnips; seldom any wheat, the vicinity of the hills making it subject to mildew from damp. These are consumed on the spot, but are not sufficient for the wants of the people, who are supplied from the Manchester market. The timber is in hedge-rows and some small plantations. There are no woods. The farms are small, from 10 to 30 and 40/- per annum. The rent per acre very various, the meadows highest. Tithes are compounded for at 7s. 8¼d. per acre, Lancashire measure, for oats, and double that for wheat. The greater part of the vicarial tithes are compounded for by a modus, and paid with the Easter dues. The living is a chapelry under Prestwich, value about eighty pounds; present curate, Rev. Richard Berry. The chapel was erected by subscription in 1754. There is a Quaker's meeting-house in the township.

Three branches of the *Irk* take their rise in this township, as also one of the *Bail*, a stream which joins the Roch. These streams are subject to frequent floods from the quantity of rain which falls here, but on account of the height of the ground they soon subside.

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The manufactures of the place are the different branches of the cotton trade, especially the heavy fustians. The raw materials come from Manchester by land carriage, and the made goods are sent thither to the Tuesday's markets. A number of hands are also employed by the *putters-out* on account of the merchants in Manchester. The manufactures employ all the people, except some colliers, shop-keepers, and husbandmen. The gains are from 2d. per day by young children, to 3s. 6d. and 4s. by grown people. Women will sometimes earn 16 and 17s. per week by spinning with a jenny.

Coals are a considerable product in this township, more than half of it containing valuable beds of this mineral. They have been worked hereabout 100 years back. The present price at the pit is 10d. the horse load, weighing 280lb. and measuring two baskets, each thirty inches by twenty, and ten inches deep. The quantity worked is, by the nearest computation, about 315 tons 17½cwt. per week. They lie from 20 yards to 100 and upwards from the surface, in different beds, dipping to the S.S.W. one yard in five and a half. Some of the beds are six feet thick. The coals are sent to Manchester and other parts in the neighbourhood in carts. Some free-stone is got in the township, and sold at 4d. per foot.

There is a good chalybeat spring in the township."



Royton Hall

"Royton-hall the seat of Joseph Pickford, Esq. formerly belonged, together with vast possessions in these parts, to the Lords Biron. It is pleasantly seated in a deep valley, surrounded by high grounds. It is a firm, well-built stone edifice of ancient date, remarkable for an uncommonly strong and heavy round staircase, like that of a church, but
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more massy. In the front of the house runs a small stream, dividing the gardens from rich meadows. The annexed view gives a just representation of the house, and part of the town of Royton, with a summerhouse in the adjoining walled park, built upon a hill called the Sun Low, whence is a very extensive prospect; of the circumjacent country as far as the Welch mountains.

A very providential escape from danger which happened in the house of Mr. Pickford, is worth recording. On April 10th, 1790, in the morning, a tremendous gust of wind blew down two very large chimnies in the front of the house, each raised to the height of eighteen feet, in order to prevent smoaking. They fell across the west gable roof covered with thick and ponderous slates, broke the beams, and brought the whole down together through three heights of chambers, into the cellars. Two of Mr. Pickford's daughters were in bed in the uppermost chamber, and one in that beneath. Their beds with all the furniture were shivered to pieces. Two of the young ladies were precipitated into the cellar; one of whom was soon discovered scrambling up the rubbish, without any material hurt, having only received some slight bruises on the head and arms. The other, who was buried in the rubbish, was found in about twenty minutes, after the exertions of a number of neighbours, lying in the midst of a feather-bed, not at all injured except by the fright. The third was caught in the second floor, across a beam, and fixed down by a heavy piece of wood. She was much bruised and hurt, but had no bones broken except one or two of her ribs and recovered after a month's confinement in bed. Their maid, who was just retiring from the door after calling them up, when the accident happened, was confined in the narrow space of the door-way, and obliged to remain in that situation till the carpenter relieved her

from it by cutting the door from the hinges; for had it been pushed open, she would have fallen headlong down the breach."

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***Chaderton [sic]***



***Chadderton Hall***

"Chaderton contains a chapel of the establishment. In this township is situated *Chaderton-hall* the residence of the ancient family of the Hortons, much improved by the present owner, Sir Watts Horton. It is rather a modern house, built of brick, and nearly surrounded by shrubberies and pleasure-grounds, laid out with great taste. In the front of the house is a beautiful park, from several eminences in which are delightful prospects. The park contains several clumps of trees, and much fine timber. A commodious shooting-ground is laid out within view of the house, for the amusement of the archers in the neighbourhood, who frequently resort to this hospitable retreat. Sir Watts possesses some valuable paintings. The annexed view is taken from the park, at a small distance from the fir-trees which appear in the fore-ground. On the right, near the house, is an elevation which was formerly a tumulus, a considerable part of which has been lately taken away. Several relics of antiquity were dug up on the occasion. Chaderton also contains a seat of Robert Ratcliffe, Esq. of Foxdenton."

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Two Illustrations from :

'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk '

by Sim Schofield pub. 1905

PETERLOO VETERANS.

(From a Photograph by John Birch, September 27th, 1884.)



David Hilton (79).

Thomas Chadderton (81). John Davies (78). Thomas Ogden (81). Jonathan Dawson (82).
Susannah Whittaker (81). Mary Collins (83). Catherine McMurdo (88). Richard Waters.
Thomas Schofield (81). Alice Schofield (79).
Father of the Author.

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THE LATE JOHN MOORES.

p.62 John Moores

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from **Manchester Streets & Manchester Men (3rd series)**
by T. Swindells, Pub. 1907



CHEERYBLE HOUSE, CANNON STREET.

from a Photograph by Mr. W. Ellis,

Cheeryble House, Cannon Street

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