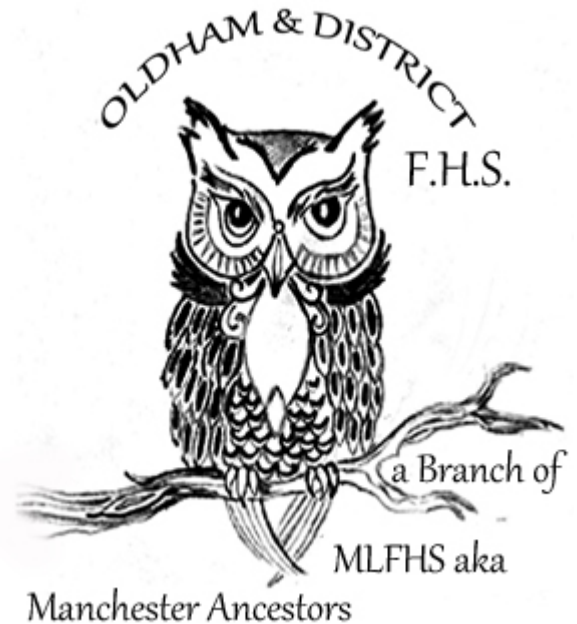


# 'e-Owls'



## Contact us :

Branch Website page: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>  
MLFHS Website homepage : <https://www.mlfhs.uk/>  
Email Chairman : [chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk)  
Emails General : [oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:oldham@mlfhs.org.uk)  
Email Newsletter Ed : [Oldham\\_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:Oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk)  
Email Website Ed : [Oldham\\_webmaster@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:Oldham_webmaster@mlfhs.org.uk)

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

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

**October 2023**

## MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

### Where to find things in the newsletter:

Oldham Branch News : .....	Page 2	Online Book links .....	Page 32
Other Branches' News : .....	Page 6	MLFHS Facebook picks .....	Page 32
MLFHS Updates : .....	Page 7	Peterloo Bi-Centenary : .....	Page 33
Societies not part of MLFHS : .....	Page 9	Need Help! : .....	Page 34
'A Mixed Bag' : .....	Page 12	Useful Website Links : .....	Page 35
From the e-Postbag : .....	Page 32	Gallery : .....	Page 37 - 41

### Branch Information & News :

#### Branch Officers for 2023 -2024 :

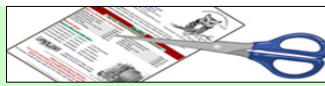
Committee Member : Chairman :	Vacant
Committee Member : Treasurer :	Gill Melton
Committee Member : Secretary :	Jan Costa
Committee Member : Newsletter :	Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Webmistress :	Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : 'Country Member' :	Linda Richardson
Committee Member : Joan Harrison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

#### Links to the Website :



*'Where to Find it'*

On the Oldham & District  
Website Pages



Newsletter *'Snippets' Page*  
Find Articles, Transcriptions and  
Gallery Images you missed

THE FORTUNE THEATRE 16TH CENTURY

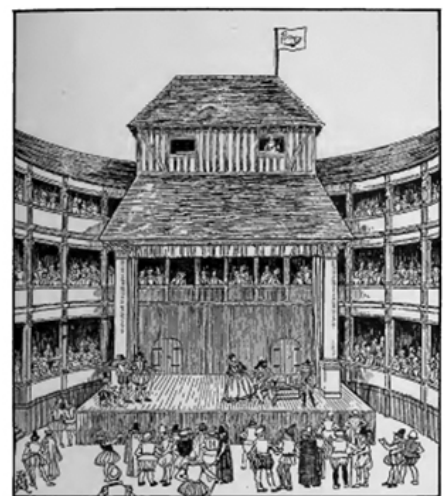


FIG. 39.—Elizabethan "Plaie" House.

*"Elizabethan "Plaie" House*  
from: *A History of Everyday Things in*  
*England* vol. 2 pub. 1919  
by M & C.H.B. Quennell

~~~~~

**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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**Joint Acting Chair's remarks:**

**Gill Melton our Treasurer...**

Hello Readers and welcome to the October newsletter. I am currently the Treasurer and Acting Joint Chair, together with Jan Costa, until our next AGM in 2024.

I think Autumn has definitely arrived now, but it is late September as I write this so perhaps we shouldn't be surprised. This month we have Tony Foster, who is a speaker we have had before on various occasions. This time he is telling us about "A Trip to Switzerland in 1916", which is based on trips women from this country made to visit their sons/husbands who had been POWs in Germany between October 1916 and November 1917. Unfortunately, this meeting is not on Zoom and will only be held in the Performance Space at Oldham Library on the 14th. Enjoy reading the rest of this month's newsletter.

Best Wishes

Gill Melton

Treasurer and Acting Joint Chair

If you are interested in finding out more about the position of Chairman or wish to put yourself forward please contact us through the email address [chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk)

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**Editor's remarks.**

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone is keeping well. As I begin writing this month's remarks I find myself reflecting on a couple of emails I had through the Oldham Historical Research [Group] website. Both concerned questions to how certain family members' lives were affected by their occupations, circumstances and interests. Of course, there is no really definitive answer as everyone had different experiences and responded to them in different ways. My advice was to read contemporary material, as widely as possible around the subject, the location, the times and what was also happening further afield that would have a bearing on their lives. Local newspapers are an enormously important part of that research and we are lucky, in Oldham, that we have a local newspaper archive with unbroken coverage of almost 200 years. The sad thing is that I can find no digitised source for it although, I think I remember that, before the pandemic lockdowns, digitisation had started but how far it had progressed, I have no idea. Still thinking about family & local history research, I have been reliably informed that the Local Studies & Archives on Union Street will be closing its doors at the end of October. Much of the archived material will be going into permanent storage, and inaccessible, for possibly 18 months or more. It's to be hoped that some accommodation can be found, in Oldham Library & Lifelong Learning Centre, on Greaves Street, for the more widely used archives and particularly the historic newspapers that are, at present, available on the film readers in the Local Studies Library. Fingers crossed!!

I find that I am constantly going back to the Internet Archive (Books and Texts category) to search for more free (to read or download) 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century publications on something that grabs my interest; sometimes random but sometimes more focused. With that in mind, I'm going to introduce some links, each month, to old publications that I've come across that might

be of general interest or use to some of our own readers; it could be just a chapter that's of interest; some of those old publications are just such weighty tomes that, at the thought of reading it all, the spirit quails!! Most will be from the Internet Archive but a smaller number will be from Google Books or the Hathi Trust.

The Performance Space at Oldham Library is booked, months in advance, for our monthly hybrid and in-person meetings but, on more than one occasion, we have found that the room was unprepared and, worse still, the theatre seating still extended and no-one authorised to 'press the button' to fold it back against the wall! September's meeting should have been in the Performance Space but we couldn't use it for the reason just mentioned. After what seemed an interminable length of time, we were eventually told that we could use the Education Suite, which we did. However, it appears that some members who came weren't re-directed to the Education Suite and so missed the Meeting. If you were unable to find us for this talk, please accept our apologies and, if possible, let us know by emailing Jan, our Secretary and Joint Acting Chair, at < [oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:oldham@mlfhs.org.uk) > For future reference, if you don't find us in the right place, at a meeting, please look for us in the other.

In the Mixed Bag we have more pages from *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men*... this month, continuing with Series 1, I have transcribed the chapter, 'York Street Annals'. We can also read more stories and anecdotes, from 'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk' by Sim Schofield. There was only one illustration in the *Failsworth* stories (for the Gallery) and none in the *York Street Annals*. This gave me the opportunity to browse through other illustrated publications and the ones I selected were from *A History of Everyday Things in England* vol. 2, as is the small image on the first page, next to the 'Branch Officers'.

Also in the Mixed Bag, this month, is another entry from the 'Book of English Trades', published in 1827: 'The Confectioner'.

In the updates section of the Branch website pages [HERE](#) you can find links to a new addition to the website, *Oldham's Lost Fossil Forest*... the real question must surely be, "however did Oldham manage to lose a forest of fossil trees?"

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' or 'e-Postbag' in the newsletter, copyright is always a tricky issue so do please make sure that you have the right to use any text or illustrations that you send! It is also helpful if you include mention of your source material.

You will retain copyright of any contributions that you send, whilst allowing MLFHS to re-use the material in an appropriate manner.

Editor reserves the right to edit any contributions before publication.

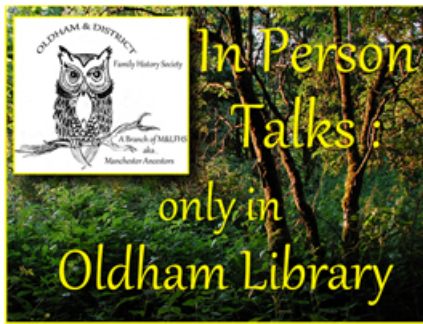
email me at: < [Oldham\\_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:Oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk) >

**Please note**, regarding using the links to website pages or .pdf documents : if clicking on a link when the newsletter is viewed on the internet, 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 drop-down menu of choices.

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**Monthly Meetings**

**Last Month's Meeting - September**



Saturday  
9th Sep.  
at  
2 pm



***Chimney Stacks and Climbing Boys : the art and mystery of Chimney Sweeping***

An illustrated presentation given by Claire Moores

*Children were widely used as chimney sweeps in England for about 200 years and the lives of these children who were forced to climb chimneys were the stuff of nightmares.*

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

On what felt like the hottest day, in Oldham, ever, Claire made the journey from Macclesfield to give us her talk on little chimney sweeps in the late 1700s and 1800s. With a background of employment with the Fire Service, she was going to be well prepared!

Claire started off by giving us some context to what other services chimney sweeps might offer, for instance, putting out chimney fires, removing rubbish such as rubble, from chimneys, repairing chimneys, removing the soot and selling it to farmers and industry. The soot from coal fires was, itself, a valuable commodity, especially to farmers who used it as a fertiliser on the fields; it was also used in making dyes, inks and lampblack. The sale of soot represented a substantial part of a Master Sweeper's income.

Chimneys began to appear in the 1100s; prior to that fires had been on an open hearth, in the middle of the space, with smoke escaping through a hole in the roof, doorway or window hole. Claire told us that the oldest chimney still in existence is to be found in the Keep at Conisborough Castle, built around 1185. It was a simple recess in the wall, with a flue built out from the wall, up which the smoke from the fire could escape.

Over the next 400 years chimneys became more common on the stone built homes of the well-to-do. The weight of multiple stone chimneys on a roof was becoming too great and builders turned to making chimneys from bricks. Some were ornate and highly decorated. In the 1600s, most houses would be built around a central stack, large enough to accommodate 4 chimneys. As many as 6 stacks could be built on the larger houses. The desire for chimneys was curbed drastically when the hearth tax was introduced in 1666.

Life was going to become even harder for the young 'climbing boys' as cities became larger and more crowded, with tall, narrow buildings, meaning the chimneys would have to become narrower, 9 inches by 14 inches; coal was being produced in greater quantities and replaced wood by the late 1700s. In earlier times it had been possible to sweep the soot produced by log fires, with wider flues, by someone standing in the cold hearth with a brush.

Coal fires produced soot that stuck more quickly to the insides of chimneys and built up at the twists and turns in the flues. It wasn't possible to sweep them in the old ways. Only the smallest children could climb these chimneys. They would become known as the 'climbing boys'. Many were as young as 4 or 5 years old and worked long hours cleaning about eight chimneys every

day. In 1788 an Act had been passed making the minimum age for a boy so used, to be 8 years old and that they should have the same treatment as other apprentices. There were no regulatory checks in place and the Master Sweepers ignored the laws and carried on as usual. These children were taken from foundling homes, orphanages, and even from desperately impoverished parents. It was also known that some boys were kidnapped, stolen from streets and smuggled away to a different place. As these atrocities, abuse and the shortened life of these children became more known to the public, there were strong voices heard demanding regulation of the trade. In 1792 a Master Sweeper, David Porter, self-published a 56 page report, '*Considerations on the Present State of Chimney Sweepers*' which included critical comments on the 1788 Act, its failings and proposals for improvement and effective implementation.

The business of the Master Sweeper was based on a hierarchy of experience... there was the Master Sweeper at the top, below him several journeymen then came a number of older apprentices and, at the very bottom of the pile, the 'climbing boys'.

Claire moved on, then, to show us some of the adverts and fliers by the master sweepers, some of which were very decorative, and promising exceedingly good results. We also heard of coroners' reports when infants had died as a result of suffocation, burns, accidents, becoming trapped in the flue and any number of other equally horrific injuries or sickness. Very few ended with the Master Sweeper getting more than what we would term a 'slap on the wrist', today. In 1803, awareness of the plight of the climbing boys grew and a society was formed which invited testimonies, from Master Sweepers, journeymen, apprentices, boys and doctors – anyone who could add something to the story of suffering. They didn't just want to alleviate the suffering, they wanted to find a new way of cleaning chimneys, without climbing boys. The Society offered a large prize for anyone who could come up with a viable idea. The winning design was the one with which we are so familiar today... the extending pole with a bush at the end which, when pushed up to the top of the chimney, by adding more poles at the bottom, could then be opened up and dragged back down, dislodging the soot. Experiments showed how successful it could be and a bill was introduced into Parliament saying that the use of boys should be illegal and the new brushes used instead. Unbelievably, the bill was defeated ... expenses would be increased for the Master sweepers; they wouldn't be able to sweep as many chimneys in the day; profits would be cut, and there was pressure from those homeowners who would need to make alterations to their chimneys to facilitate the brushes. It was re-introduced in 1817 and in 1819 without success.

In 1833, the government had passed a bill prohibiting the employment of children under nine, in mills and factories and limited the working hours of children between nine and twelve, and those between thirteen and eighteen. It included apprentice climbing boys and raised the minimum age from eight to ten and required all chimneys to be altered to accommodate cleaning with the poles and brushes. It would prove to be a slow process to enforce it. It was 1840 before any real changes would be made, with the publication of the 30 pages of, '*The Nature of Chimney-Sweeping, the Attempts Made to Alter Its Character, and the Final Accomplishment of this Object ...*' 1840. It detailed the exploitation of the boys, the ill-treatment, the dangers and poor life expectancy and much, much, more. In 1840, a bill was finally passed making it illegal for young men under the age of twenty one to be employed to climb and clean flues.

Did the Master Sweepers comply? NO! It wasn't until 1875 that strict requirements were brought in to regulate employment.

Claire finished up by bringing in the question of whether or not there were 'climbing females' and the answer was, not very many are known of. The *Edinburgh Review*, in 1819, was quoted as having testimony that there were a few that had been known of; one in particular in



Paddington and another in Galashiels. Interestingly, one of the Georgian advertising fliers was for the widow of a Master Sweep, who was carrying on her late husband's business. Our many thanks to Claire for such an informative talk.

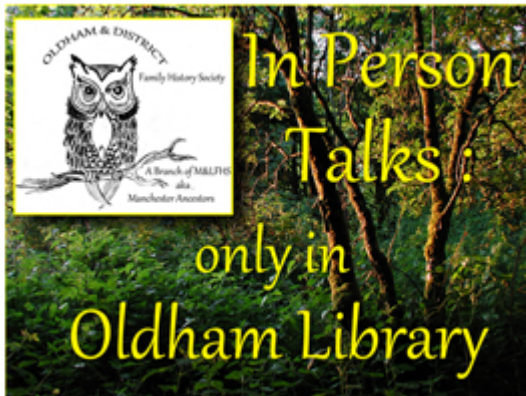
### Other Resources:

\* *The Nature of Chimney-Sweeping, the Attempts Made to Alter Its Character, and the Final Accomplishment of this Object*, 1840 Google books as .pdf download [HERE](#)

\* *Considerations on the Present State of Chimney Sweepers'* 1792 Google books as .pdf download [HERE](#)

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### Oldham & District - October



Saturday  
14th Oct.  
at  
2 pm



### A Trip to Switzerland in 1916

An illustrated presentation given by Tony Foster

The Switzerland talk is based on trips women from this country made to Switzerland to visit their sons/husbands who had been POWs in Germany. Their trips were made between Oct 1916 - Nov 1917. The costs were covered by a fund established by Lord Northcliffe.

Saturday, 14th October at 2pm

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

No booking is necessary

Members free; non-members £3

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

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### MLFHS Branches delivering their monthly meetings and talks

#### Anglo - Scots - October

|                                               |                                      |                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MLFHS,<br>ANGLO-SCOTTISH<br>BRANCH<br>MEETING | Saturday,<br>7th<br>Oct<br>at<br>2pm | NLS's<br><i>Collection of Maps</i><br>given by<br>Laragh Quinney |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|

On Zoom only

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

MLFHS Members free; non members £3

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**Bolton ... October hybrid meeting**

<b>MLFHS Bolton Branch Meetings - Hybrid</b>	Wednesday 4th October at 7:30 pm	<b><i>'Lancastrians: Mills, Mines and Minerals'</i></b> given by <b>Paul Salveson</b>
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Hybrid Meeting ... on zoom and on screen in the venue  
at Bolton Golf Club, Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL6 4AJ

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

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

MLFHS Members free; non members £3

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**MLFHS updates**

**Manchester Meetings... October 4th**

|                                                   |                                               |                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MLFHS<br/>aka<br/>Manchester<br/>Ancestors</b> | Wednesday<br>4th<br>October<br>at<br>10:30 am | <b><i>From the Manchester<br/>School for the<br/>Deaf and Dumb -<br/>to the Seashell Trust</i></b><br>given by<br>Ed Baines |
| <b>MLFHS<br/>aka<br/>Manchester<br/>Ancestors</b> | Wednesday<br>4th<br>October<br>at<br>1:00 pm  | <b><i>The Clifton Hall<br/>(Black Harry) Tunnel<br/>Disaster</i></b><br>given by<br>Carol Lee                               |

In Manchester Central library

Bookings 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.

\* New data has been added at [www.lancashirebmd.org.uk](http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk) as follows:

Added 1,641 Marriages for Bury RD comprising:

Bury, Bury Unitarian Church, Bank St. (2003-2019)

Radcliffe, Methodist Chapel, Radcliffe Close (1970-2000)

Elton, All Saints (2005-2021);

Walmersley, Christ Church (1977-2019)

Bury, Bury Synagogue, Sunnybank Rd. (1972-2019)

Prestwich, Holy Law Congregation, Bury Old Rd. (1935-2020)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

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\* Godfrey Map index

I have added 772 references for :

Whitefield 1907, Little Lever 1907, Cleworth Hall 1907, Kearsley 1907, Clifton North & Wet Earth Colliery 1907, Patricroft & Monton 1906.

Thanks to Valerie Poole, Chris Willis and Mike Halliday for these valuable additions which close up one of the last substantial gaps in the coverage.

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\* Godfrey Map index

I have added 138 references to the map for Walkden North, 1907

These have been indexed by Mike Halliday, to whom many thanks.

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\* Horwich Locomotive Works.

A further addition to the index (with images) of staff record cards.

These cover surnames EDEN-THOMAS.

Thanks to Jim Chadwick and his team for these

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\* Godfrey Map index

I have just added a further 113 references for Little Hulton, 1907.

Thanks to Mike Halliday for these.

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\* Godfrey Map index

I have just added 69 references for Worsley Hall, 1904.

Thanks to Mike Halliday for these.



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\* Godfrey Map index

I have added 285 references for the map covering Tyldesley and Atherton (SE), 1905. Thanks to Mike Halliday for these latest additions.

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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 :

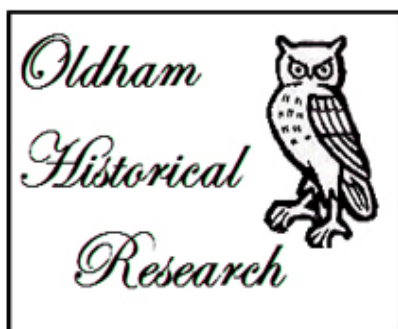
<https://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk/collections/downloads>

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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: ... October on zoom**



**Information update ...  
October**




*Oldham Historical  
Research [Group]*

**‘My Great War  
Family’**

a free, illustrated presentation  
given by Roger Ivens,  
on zoom

Wednesday, 18th October, at 7pm



**‘My Great War Family’ ... an illustrated presentation given by Roger Ivens**


*“In this talk Roger Ivens shares his journey of discover as he seeks to find out if any of his family had a connection to the First World War”*

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, on zoom, at 7pm

Booking Free on Eventbrite [HERE](#)

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November




Oldham Historical  
Research [Group]

**'Lest We Forget'**

a free, illustrated presentation  
given by John Fidler,  
on zoom

Wednesday, 15th November, at 7pm



**'Lest We Forget'** ... an illustrated presentation given by John Fidler

*" 2023 marks the centenary of the unveiling of the Oldham War Memorial and a day close to Remembrance Day seems an appropriate time to respond to a request for a talk on the subject ( plus mention of other memorials in present day Oldham). The grief of individuals, families and communities as day after day telegrams brought news of lives lost, called for some acknowledgement of that anguish and Oldham responded by having its marvellous Memorial unveiled a century ago. Individuals may, with the passage of time, "fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day" (from the hymn, 'Our God, our help in ages past' Isaac Watts, ) but their sacrifice remains annually and rightly acknowledged."*

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, on zoom, at 7pm

Booking Free on Eventbrite [HERE](#)

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Please keep an eye on the Oldham HRG 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 ... October**

**Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 7.30pm,**

followed at approximately **8.00pm by an Ordinary Members Meeting.** The venue of both meetings is the Saddleworth Museum Gallery, High Street, Uppermill.

The Ordinary Members Meeting :

**"Saddleworth's Unprotected Heritage - Some Candidates for a Local List."**

an Illustrated Presentation by Mike Buckley

Society members are free, but a £3 charge to non-members is applicable at the door.

All are welcome to attend both these meetings. Refreshments are available.

Website [HERE](#)






**Saddleworth Civic Trust** has no meeting or event planned at the present time.

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**



**Moorside & District Historical Society**

**Monday 16th October 2023.**

Up date on  
**'Local Lad Clem Beckett'**  
**Blacksmith - Mechanic -**  
**Dare Devil - Speedway Rider - Communist -**  
**Fighter in the Spanish Civil War.**  
illustrated presentation by Patrick McKenna  
Member of the M/c. branch of the International Brigade Memorial Trust.

**Clem**  
centre  
at  
**Nicks**  
Motor  
Cycle  
Depot.

**His wife**  
**Mrs Leda**  
**Eli Marie.**

**To be held in the Moorside Cricket Club, Turfpit Lane, Moorside. OL4 2ND**

**NOTE Venue:** 7-30 p.m. all are welcome. Licensed Bar

No meetings in the summer break July & August + December. £2 including refreshment.

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Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm  
Moorside Cricket Club, Turfpit Lane, OL4 2ND  
All welcome ... £2 including refreshment

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**Tameside History Club :**

Meetings on zoom.  
Website and programme  
&

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

Website and programme [HERE](#)

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**Regional Heritage Centre :**

Website [HERE](#)  
~~~~~

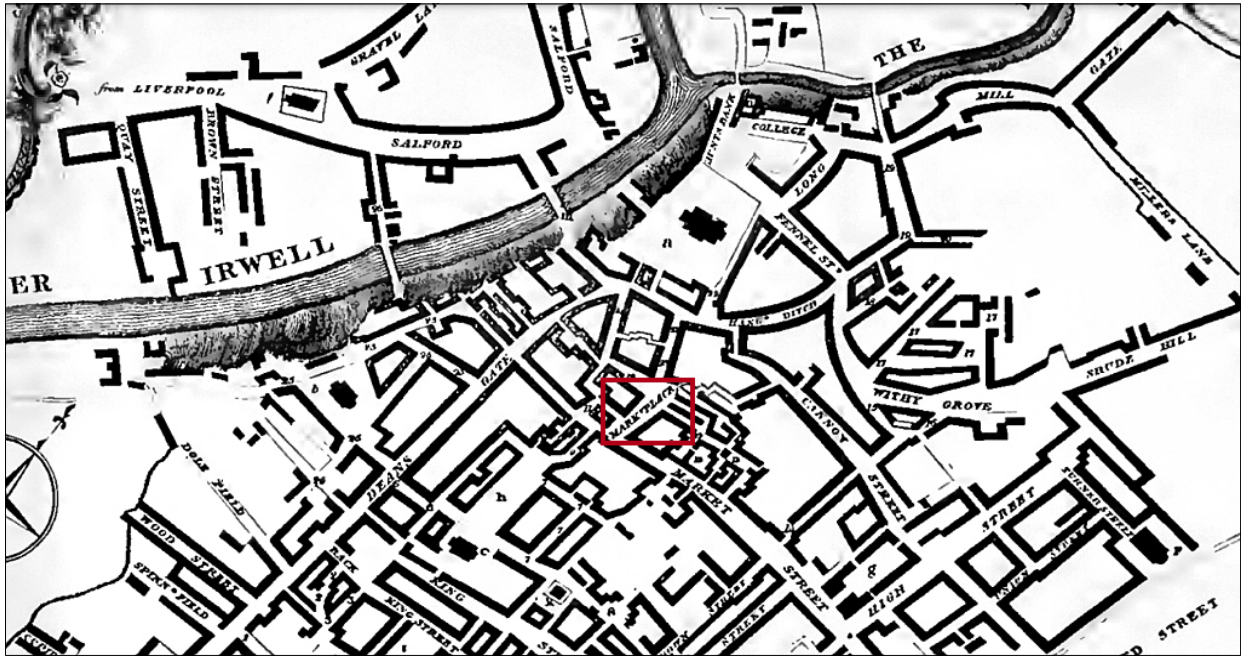


Our serialisation of *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men Vol. 1 (1st series)* published in 1906 and started in our newsletter in 2023-08. It will continue through succeeding newsletters. This month we are reading the 'Annals of York Street'

**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



## YORK STREET ANNALS

p.205

When Laurent issued his survey of Manchester in 1793, York-street extended from Spring Gardens to Mosley-street, the portion from Mosley-street to Portland-street being called New York-street. This would arise from the fact that for many years Mosley-street marked the extent of the town on the southern side; and as it grew in later years, and new buildings arose beyond Mosley-street, the new street was so named to prevent confusion with the older one. Early in the last century they were merged in one thoroughfare, and the entire length became known as York-street. At the corner of Spring Gardens stood the Theatre, and at the corner of Fountain-street the Concert Room, both of which will be referred to in connection with the streets named. Unlike many of the streets in the neighbourhood, York-street does not appear at any time to have been popular as a residential thoroughfare, but its history is marked by several incidents and associations that are of great interest.

### YORK-STREET BAPTIST CHAPEL.

The second place of worship built in the town by the members of the Baptist persuasion was the one that stood for over forty years in York-street. Built in 1807, it was attended at one time by a wealthy Congregation, but as the district changed the congregation changed, and ultimately the building and

p.206

the site were sold, and the proceeds assisted in the erection of another chapel in Moss Side. The first minister was the Rev. W. Stephens, who resided amidst rural surroundings at Green-street, Ardwick. He was succeeded by the Rev. John Birt, under whose ministry the cause

prospered, and the chapel was attended week by week by numbers of strangers.

#### **YORK-STREET - BANKS.**

The site now occupied by the Williams Deacon's Bank, at the corner of York-street and Mosley-street, was occupied early in the last century by Cardwell, Longworth and Co.'s silk mill. When the warehouse invasion of Mosley-street took place the mill was pulled down, and a warehouse erected, the first occupants of which were E. and J. Jackson. The premises were afterwards sold to the Manchester and Salford Bank, who erected the present building, and who removed thither from the corner of Marble-street. Another bank whose early years were associated with York-street was the Manchester and County, which commenced operations at numbers 2 and 4 on August 4, 1864. The Union Bank started business at 65, King-street in 1836, but removed soon afterwards to 7, Brown-street. There they remained until 1846, when they purchased the Lancashire Bank buildings at the corner of York-street and Fountain-street. The buildings had been erected by the South Lancashire Bank, another concern that had connections with Brown-street. In 1836 the licensed house, the George and Dragon, stood at the corner of Fountain-street.

#### **p.207**

The premises were purchased by the Lancashire Bank, who removed thither soon afterwards. In 1842 it was decided to wind up the concern, and when the process was completed the building was purchased by the Union Bank, who took possession in 1846. The National Provincial Bank was commenced in London in 1833 with a capital of one million, and in 1836 a branch was opened in offices next door to the Portico in Mosley-street. In 1852 a removal was made to other premises in Mosley-street, and in 1891 possession was taken of the present premises at the corner of Spring Gardens.

#### **A TALENTED FAMILY.**

Henry Winkworth was a member of the firm of Winkworth and Proctor, whose warehouse was in York-street. He lived for some time at 56, Oxford-street, and afterwards in a large house at the corner of Polygon Avenue, Stockport Road. He removed to Alderley, but retiring from business he went to reside at Clifton. His daughters showed marked ability, and received their education at the hands of the Revs. W. Gaskell and Dr. Martineau. The elder daughter, Susanna, attained a high position in the literary world, and became the friend of the Hares, the Rev. J. D. Maurice, the Rev. Charles Kingsley, the Rev. Canon Percival, and Baron Bunsen. As a translator she produced English versions of a number of German works, including the "Theologia Germanica," and Max Muller's "German Love." Baron Bunsen entrusted to her the translation of his "Signs of the Times" and "God in History."

#### **p.208**

Not content with literary work, she devoted much time and thought to practical work among the poor. In this connection she rented houses in Bristol, let them out in tenements, and afterwards formed the company which built the well known Jacob's Well industrial dwellings, which she managed until her death in 1884. Her younger sister, Catherine, also showed great ability as a translator, her best work being "Lyra Germanica." Another business in the neighbourhood of York-street was that of James and Samuel Alcock, who occupied a small warehouse in Rook-street. Samuel Alcock was one of the executors under the will of John Owens, the founder of Owens College; and he ultimately gave up business to devote his whole time to the winding up of his friend's affairs. Mr. Alcock was a Manchester man, having been born in a house that formerly stood at the corner of the present Lever-street and Piccadilly, when fields covered the space between there and Ardwick. For seventy years York-street has been a business street, but few names are still associated with it that were to be found here in the thirties or forties. Perhaps the firm that has been located there longest is that of Bannermans.



## **BANNERMANS.**

It will be of interest to many to have a brief resume of the history of the house of Bannermans. The closing decades of the eighteenth and the opening decades of the nineteenth centuries were noteworthy, among other matters, for the number of young Scotchmen who made their way to Manchester, and founded in our city prosperous business concerns. Amongst

**p.209**

these were John Kennedy, James M'Connell, and William Fairbairn. At the same time Henry Bannerman, a Perthshire farmer, sent his son David to the town to test the prospects of success in the cotton trade. The experiment proved successful, and a few years later the father, along with the whole of his family, joined David. In 1813 the family (the father and four sons) were in business at 66, Market-street as fustian, shirting, and cambric manufacturers. Ten years later the father died, and his son David became the head of the firm, who, however, had removed to more extensive premises at 8, Marsden Square. The next move was to premises at the corner of Market-street and West Mosley-street, over the Royal Hotel coach office, that formerly stood where Standring's chemist shop now is. Up to that time warehouses had been confined to the opposite side of Market-street and the streets round Cannon, High, and Church-streets; and the innovation caused much uneasiness amongst the wealthy residents of Mosley-street and the neighbourhood. David Bannerman did not confine his energies to business matters, but took a prominent part in public work. He was appointed Boroughreeve in 1828, being the first Scotchman and Dissenter to occupy the position. He died at his residence, Mosley-street, in the following year, leaving a widow and three sons and two daughters. His brother Andrew had not joined the firm, but in partnership with J. S. Grafton carried on business as calico printers, with a warehouse at 110, Market-street, a little distance past the corner of Fountain-street. Bannermans' business still growing, it soon became

**p.210**

necessary to secure still more extensive premises. This was done by purchasing a plot of land in York-street, used hitherto as a timber yard; and erecting thereon the present building. John Bannerman died at Wyastone Leys, on the banks of the Wye, in Monmouthshire, in 1870, he having retired some years earlier. His brother Alexander had died in 1846, and his remaining brother Henry, had retired in 1850. Henry died at Hunten Court, Kent, in 1871. His landed estates are now held by his nephew, who is familiarly known to us as the leader of the Liberal party, he having adopted the name Bannerman, thus becoming Henry Campbell-Bannerman. In 1890 the firm was converted into a limited liability company.

Amongst the firms who were at the Spring Gardens end of York-street when Bannerman's built their warehouse were George Fraser and Son, H. and E. Tootal, and Horrockses, Miller and Co.; and the residents included James Chapman, the first borough coroner. He was appointed by the newly-formed Corporation; W. S. Rutter occupying a similar position as coroner for the county. On one occasion Mr. Chapman summoned Mr. Rutter before the magistrates on a charge of assault in connection with an inquest. Friction between the two officials continued until the law courts declared the Charter of Incorporation to be valid.

**p.211**

## **FAULKNER STREET.**

### **SOME FORMER RESIDENTS.**

Despite its present appearance and surroundings, Faulkner-street was not an undesirable place for residence at the close of the 18th century. At the one end it was closed in by the kitchen gardens attached to the Infirmary, where garden produce grew prolifically. At the bottom end it entered the open fields that marked the site of Dickinson-street, and fringed both sides of the newly-formed Oxford-street. It is, therefore, not surprising to find that for many years after

the opening of the new century it was a residential street. A glance at the directory for 1836 tells us that in that year T. Cooper conducted a dancing academy at No. 7. His rival, S. W. Pitt, who had resided close by, had died a year earlier. Art was at one time represented by W. F. Ayrton and T. H. Illidge, the latter being a portrait painter. Religion was represented by the Rev. Samuel Bradley, who was minister of the Mosley-street Independent Chapel for 20 years, after which he resigned the position to become pastor of the Cannon-street Chapel. He removed at the same time to Cheetwood, then a delightful rural village, famed for its leafy bowers and tea gardens. For some time the Rev. John Dallas, a master of the Grammar School and curate of Birch, lived in the street. The medical profession was at one time well represented, two of the physicians belonging to the Infirmary staff, Drs. Edmund Lyon and Davenport

#### **p.212**

Hulme living at Nos. 11 and 55, with Reuben Perry and J. C. Gordon, surgeons, as fellow-residents. A neighbour of theirs, and residing at No. 27, was Dr. John Dalton, of whom an account will be given in a future article. At the bottom of the street A. Andrews, comedian, let rooms to actors paying flying visits to the town. One of these was Dowton, one of the finest Falstaffs that ever trod the boards, and a colleague of the famous Mrs. Jordan.

#### **PINE STREET SCHOOL.**

The street will, however, be longest remembered for its association with the Medical School, which was the forerunner of Owens College Medical School. It was founded by Thomas Turner, the well-known surgeon, in 1825. It commenced in humble fashion in a small building in Pine-street, and had as a teaching staff T. Turner, J. L. Bardsley, J. A. Ransome, John Dalton, Kinder Wood, W. Thompson, H. Ollier, and R. F. Hunt. In 1832 the school was enlarged, and four years later, in consideration of its excellent equipment, and of its being the first school of medicine and surgery established in the provinces, it was permitted by William IV to attach the prefix "Royal," and became the "Manchester Royal School of Medicine and Surgery." The second of the reasons assigned is not quite correct, inasmuch as Joseph Jordan had commenced his school in 1812, and had, in 1825, built the School of Anatomy in Mount-street. The Pine-street school, however, did a good work, and became increasingly successful, and as the Mount-street school closed in 1834, and as one opened

#### **p.213**

in Marsden-street only existed for six years, in the early forties it was the only medical school in the town. The teaching staff was always a strong one, and included the best surgeons and physicians in the district. Perhaps anatomy was the branch most fortunate in its teachers and demonstrators. Following Mr. Turner was Edward Lund, who, in later years, along with Mr. Southam, became joint professor in Owens College. The eminent physician, Sir W. N. Broadbent, who entered the Pine-street school in 1854, says of Mr. Lund: "As the teacher who impressed me most, and to whom I owe a great deal in the way of mental discipline." In 1850 a fourth medical school was opened in Chatham-street, Piccadilly, but eight years later it was amalgamated with the Royal school. The latter had now, by reason of its extension, become in reality the Faulkner-street school, the principal entrance being in that street. For 15 more years it still continued to do its great work, but in 1873 it was incorporated with Owens College. The amalgamation was one of the results that followed the giving of £10,000 to the college by Miss Hannah Brackenbury. Of this sum £5,000 was devoted to the building of premises to form a medical school in accordance with the conditions of the gift, and £5,000 was devoted to the endowment of the Brackenbury Chair of Physiology and Histology, the first endowed chair in the medical school. Mr. Robert Platt endowed two scholarships for the study of Physiology ; and Mrs. Dumville, widow of one of Manchester's finest surgeons and a founder of the Chatham-street School, gave £500 to establish an annual prize in surgery.

Following the announcement of these gifts came the amalgamation, and in November, 1873, plans for the new building were approved. For a time the classes met in Faulkner-street, but on October 2, 1874, the new buildings in Coupland-street were opened by Professor T. H. Huxley, F.R.S.

#### **THE MEDICAL SOCIETY.**

The first home of the Medical Society was at 40, Faulkner-street, where the then small library was housed, the landlady acting as librarian. The society was formed at a meeting of medical men held at the York Hotel, King-street, on September 4, 1834, its object being the establishment of a medical library and reading-room, and the holding of occasional meetings for mutual improvement and the advancement of medical science. In 1845 the society took rooms at the Royal Institution, where it remained until about 1875, when it removed to Owens College. The library of the society is exceedingly valuable, and comprises about 31,000 volumes, in addition to a large number of pamphlets.

#### **THE EYE INSTITUTION.**

Still another medical institution connected with Faulkner-street was the Eye Institution that was established under humble circumstances in a house numbered 35, in the year 1815. Some years later it was removed to 13, Princess-street, a few doors from Cooper-street, and in 1874 it took up its quarters in St. John's-street. Twelve years later the final building in Oxford-street was opened, forming a striking contrast

to the commencement in 1815. When in Faulkner-street the institution was managed by a strong and representative committee, including the Rev. Moses Randall, one of the chaplains of the Collegiate Church, who resided at 6, Mount-street; John Chippendall, calico printer; John Potter, calico printer; Drs. Hull, Hulme, and Outhwaite; J. Jordan, the surgeon; Daniel Lynch, founder of the firm of Lynch and Bateman; Daniel Grant; and Adam Dugdale, the calico printer. Dr. Hull was the consulting physician, and Messrs. W. J. Wilson, Samuel Barton, and John Windsor were the surgeons. The last-named was at the time just commencing a successful career. He lived for 53 years in the house numbered 29, Piccadilly, dying in 1868, aged 81 years. One of his sons afterwards became known as a member of the City Council, and the late Mr. J. C. Needham married one of his daughters.

#### **THE FOUNDER OF A WELL KNOWN FIRM.**

More than a century ago Thomas Sharp built a block of buildings at the corner of York-street, and lived in one of the houses for many years. In 1793 his son Thomas died, and ten years later the father followed. His business of a joiner and builder was conducted for a short time by William, his only surviving son. When he retired from the business it passed to David Bellhouse, another Faulkner-street resident, and since then the name has been associated with that branch of the trade, the family retaining the business founded so long ago by Thomas Sharp. About the same time Thomas Sharp, of the third generation, commenced an

iron business in Market Stead Lane. In 1811 the business was known as Sharp, Greenleaves, and Co., New York-street, with a warehouse at the Oxford-street Wharf, not far from Bellhouse's timber yard. Another change took place when R. C. Sharp joined his brother, the firm becoming Sharp Brothers, and in 1823 a third brother, John, became a partner. Subsequently Richard Roberts, the well known engineer joined the brothers, the style of the firm becoming Sharp, Roberts, and Company. In 1838 they had removed their works to Oxford-street, their offices being in Faulkner-street. In 1841 William Sharp died. and two months later his elder brother Thomas passed away. He had taken a prominent part in public affairs, and

had been Boroughreeve in 1819. The making of locomotives was rapidly absorbing the attention of the members of the firm, who now comprised representatives of a new generation; and about 1849 a new element was introduced into the firm by the admission of C. P. Stewart, a grandson of the seventh Earl of Galloway. Other changes took place, and the firm became Sharp, Stewart, and Company. Time brought further changes, but space will not permit reference to them here. It will be seen, however, how two great concerns owe their origin to a one-time resident of Faulkner-street.

**p.217**

## **SPRING GARDENS.**

### **PART I - THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME.**

Few subjects are more interesting to antiquarians than the tracing of the origin of place-names. Some names require no such investigation. They are self-contained within themselves. Of such is our street name, Spring Gardens. Given over now entirely to the pursuits of commerce, there was a time when gardens abounded, when flowers bloomed, and when to live there was to live beyond the actual town. No black smoke polluted the atmosphere save that arising from the small number of domestic hearths that clustered round the parish church and the market place; and no manufacturing refuse poisoned the streams that ran through open fields. In 1745 a few houses stood in Spring Gardens, but the open fields extended to the gardens of the houses on the south side. In one of these gardens there had been found many years before a spring supplying water of a clearness and a coolness that made it superior to much found in other districts round the town.

A plentiful supply of pure water was as important to the community in those early days as it is to-day, and, therefore, the burgesses were deeply indebted to Isabella Beck when she caused the construction of the Manchester's first waterworks to be commenced. carried out, and endowed at her own personal expense. This would be about 1557, for we find a reference to the

**p.218**

conduit in the court leet records for 1558. The supply was conducted down the lane now known as Spring Gardens, and down the Marketstead Lane by pipes to a conduit that stood in the Market Place. For over two hundred years it continued to be the principal water supply in the town. Further reference to the conduit will be in place when dealing with the Market Place. For the present we leave it, having noted the origin of our street name.

### **THE THEATRE : THE FIRST THEATRE ROYAL.**

Just about the time that the conduit ceased to flow, a movement was set on foot for the erection of a theatre in the town. When erected, it would appear to have been built upon the garden in which the spring to which we have referred rose, for when the theatre was pulled down in 1869 the spring was once again brought to light. It was found to be below the stage, about 15 feet below the street level, and contained water about another 15 feet deep. During the alterations then in progress it was drained away, thus removing all traces of Manchester's first water supply.

In 1775 the Manchester Playhouse Bill passed through Parliament in spite of a most determined opposition to it, and on June 5, 1775, the first Manchester Theatre Royal was opened. It stood at the corner of Spring Gardens and York-street, and was opened by Messrs. Mattocks and Younger. It speedily became a popular resort, and many eminent players appeared on its boards. Miss Farren, who afterwards married the Earl of Derby, and whose younger daughter married the Earl of Wilton

**p.219**

in 1821, thereby becoming the lady of Heaton Park, made one of her earliest appearances on

the stage there. In 1776 another great actress joined the stock company, and when we remember that that combination included Mr. and Mrs. Siddons, Mr. and Mrs. Inchbald, and John Philip Kemble, we realise what an array of histrionic talent appeared before the citizens more than a century ago. About the same period there also appeared such well known stars as Munden, F. J. Cooke, Mrs. Jordan, Ryley, and Wright Bowden. But the career of the building was checked for a time by a fire which burned the place down on June 19, 1789. It was rebuilt by Joseph Harrop, the proprietor of the "Manchester Mercury," and was reopened on February 15, 1790, when Messrs. Ward and Banks undertook the management. The stock company was a strong one and included G. F. Cooke, the Manchester Roscius, Ryley, and Dibdin, some of whose songs still survive. Whilst here he was a sort of man-of-all-work, in turn acting, singing, writing songs and farces, scene painting, and prompting. In 1793 he married Miss Hilliar, of the Bolton Theatre, and retired to London. Under the name of Green, which he soon dropped, Charles Mayne Young made his first appearance in December, 1798. As an actor he displayed marvellous versatility, playing comedy and tragedy with equal facility. He married Julianna Grimani, who appeared with him in "Romeo and Juliet," in 1805; but a year later she died, and was interred in Prestwich Church yard. She Was only 21 years of age, and the touching lines placed On her gravestone can still be read. Young made his

#### **p.220**

first appearance in London in 1807, playing Hamlet." His was a successful career, closed by a few years of ease and retirement.

In 1804 for a week the boards were occupied by a prodigy known as the young Roscius. He made in all eight appearances, and on the last night, in spite of increased charges for admission, the theatre was again full, the receipts being £300, Although only a boy, he played on those nights Frederick, Young Norval, Richard III., Octavian, Hamlet, Achmet. Another name that should be mentioned was Stephen Kemble, whose Falstaff required no stuffing, and who seems to have been the only entirely warm-hearted member of a family whose histrionic ability was too often marred by an undesirable temperament. The career of the building as the patent theatre was rapidly drawing to a close, and on Friday, June 12, 1807, the closing performance under such designation took place. The new Theatre Royal had been erected in Fountain-street, and for many years the older building had a variable career.

#### **THE AMPHITHEATRE.**

In 1809 Robert Bradbury, well known in Manchester, opened the building under this new designation. As the sole right to produce stage plays in the town was vested in the holders of the "patent," Bradbury sought to attract patronage by introducing a form of entertainment so popular in our days. His were variety shows, and the items included singing, dancing, acrobatic performances, and a new pantomimic every week. Later on Walford appeared in tight rope performances, and

#### **p.221**

displays of horsemanship were also provided; but the venture failed to secure popular support and Bradbury abandoned the undertaking in 1812. Mr. Roe renewed the attempt two years later and produced "pantomimes, spectacles, and melodramas as at the Surrey Theatre." He changed the name to that of the Minor Theatre, and appears to have been fairly successful. Succeeding managers had varying success, until just after the ascension of Queen Victoria a relaxation of the law enabled the production of stage plays, when it took another name, being known as the

#### **QUEEN'S THEATRE.**

In the early days of the Queen's the most popular players appearing there were the Beverleys and Mrs. M'Gibbon, Vandenhoff, and Miss Fife. The last-named made her first appearance



under the management of J. H. Anderson, the "Great Wizard of the North." At first engaged as a dancer, she did not attempt serious acting until as Mrs. Bickerstaff she made herself famous for her representation of Sophia in the "Vicar of Wakefield," and other leading parts. Another famous actress belonging to the same period should be mentioned. In 1845 Helen Faucit made her first appearance in Manchester on the Queen's boards. Thirty-four years later she made her final appearance on any stage at the Theatre Royal. Samuel Butler was a popular actor half a century ago, and it was said that his Macbeth and Richelieu were next in point of finish to those of Macready; whilst his Iago was rarely excelled on the Manchester stage. He died at an early age, and was

**p.222**

interred at the Ardwick Cemetery, near the grave of John Dalton, his gravestone bearing a beautifully worded inscription by his friend Charles Swain.

In 1853 Barney Egan took over the management in succession to G. Preston. It was under the latter that two young men who afterwards became famous, made their first bows to Manchester audiences. Charles Dillon, who became popular for his acting in such plays as "Belphegor," "The Three Musketeers," "Don Caesar," "William Tell," and "Hamlet," first appeared in 1849; and a year later Douglas Stewart was announced. Very soon the adopted name was dropped, and A. E. Sothorn, a member of a Lancashire family with connections with Worsley and Eccles, commenced that career which ended so brilliantly in the creation and representation of Lord Dundreary. Before this, but after his connection with the Queen's had closed, he managed the theatre at Weymouth, where he gave Charles Calvert his first engagement on any stage. With this reference to an interesting association of the names of well known actors with its boards, we must close our chat about the building which was finally closed and pulled down in 1869. In my next I shall refer to some notable residents in Spring Gardens.

**p.223**

## **SPRING GARDENS.**

### **PART II - SOME NOTABLE RESIDENTS.**

On the site of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank buildings at the top of King-street there stood a large house owned and occupied in 1773 by Robert Hamilton, fustian and check manufacturer. He also owned land in Crow Alley, so called from the rookery that occupied some trees in a garden there. After his death disputes arose as to the division of his property, and ultimately his estates were thrown into Chancery; and it is said that on account of this arose the change of the street name Crow Alley into Chancery Lane. Another resident was John Hardman, silk and fustian manufacturer, who built Granby Hall, and went to reside there. The hall was then delightfully situated with a garden at the back sloping down to the river.

### **A PIONEER OF CHEAP LITERATURE.**

Another one time resident deserves a more lengthy notice. In 1797 George Nicholson, printer, occupied premises then numbered 9, Spring Gardens, and issued from that address several publications, including a reprint of Robert Dodsley's "The Economy of Human Life," and a pamphlet written by himself "On the Conduct of Man to Inferior Animals." Born at Bradford, Yorkshire, in 1760, Nicholson became a printer, and at once turned his attention to the improvement and cheapening of books. He recognised the advantage

**p.224**

possessed by duodecimos over folios for general reading, and when he commenced publishing his "Literary Miscellany," which comprised a series of choice anthologies, he printed it in small 18mo., so that the volumes could be carried in the pocket. Beautifully printed and illustrated by some of Thomas Bewick's choicest work, the set of 20 volumes is now scarce and valuable. He published many other works, some compiled or written by himself, but all small in size, and low

in price. As a vegetarian he issued several books in favour of the system, and was one of the first to publish what might be termed a vegetarian cookery book. This was a tract, published in 1803, in which may be found recipes for the preparation of "one hundred perfectly palatable and highly-nutritious substances which may easily be secured at an expense much below the price of the limbs of our fellow-animals." He resided successively at Manchester, Poughnill, and Stourport, and died at the last-named place on November 1, 1825, aged 65 years. A writer in the "Gentleman's Magazine" said that "he possessed in an eminent degree strength of intellect, with universal benevolence and undeviating uprightness of conduct." Allied to the printing business is the art of the engraver, consequently we may supplement our reference to Nicholson by noting the fact that in 1821 Thomas Cave, a well known engraver and copper-plate printer, occupied premises next door to those previously occupied by Nicholson. In 1839 the firm had changed to W. and H. Cave, and the street having been renumbered, their premises were numbered 23.

**p.225**

#### **THE LOGIERIAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.**

The system of teaching music instituted by J. B. Logier was taught by Andrew Ward at 29, Spring Gardens. He was a partner with Richard Andrews in 1839 in a music business conducted at number 55. The system taught has since then been pretty generally adopted, although the name of its introducer may be forgotten. It consisted of teaching pupils the theory as well as the practice of music, in the early as in the later stages of tuition. Thus in teaching a class, the treble of a simple but not well known tune would be written on the blackboard, and the pupils were required to fill in the bass notes. Mr. Ward's nephew, D. W. Banks, was in later years a leading light in local musical circles, and reference will be made to him in connection with the Concert Hall. Mr. Andrews composed a number of popular pianoforte pieces.

#### **AN OLD CARRYING FIRM.**

In 1829 the firm of Pickford and Co. were described as the only carriers by van from Manchester, their office being at No. 5, Spring Gardens. The name of Pickford as a carrier has been familiar to Manchester people for over sixty years. In our first directory, published in 1772, we find that Matthew Pickford carried goods to London by waggon, and four years later he advertised his business in "Prescott's Manchester Journal." His flying waggons, which accomplished the journey to London in four and a half days, left Manchester twice weekly. His carrying business increased so much that in 1803, when fears of a French

**p.226**

invasion troubled all classes, he offered to place at the disposal of the Government, in order to facilitate the transport of troops and baggage, four hundred horses, fifty wagons, and twentyeight boats. The concern passed from the Pickford family to Joseph Baxendale in 1815, but the name was retained and is still familiar.

When Manchester was incorporated, W. B. Watkin was one of the first councillors elected for Ardwick Ward. He resided at Legh Place, and carried on business as a drysalter at 42, Spring Gardens. He retired from the Council in 1841, but was appointed an alderman in 1844 occupying the position until his resignation in 1862. He was the fifth Mayor elected. As a business man he was a well known character seventy years ago. We are told by a contemporary that his buckskin breeches and top boots earned for him the designation of "Buckskin Billy." He died on June 24, 1864.

#### **TWO SCARCE BROADSIDES.**

On Tuesday, December 27, 1825, a sheet was issued entitled "The Manchester Times and Stretford Chronicle," No. 1,000, price 6d; printed and published by Paul Pasquin, Panton Press, Spring Gardens. A month later No. 1 of "The 'Whip'" was issued by Paul Pasquin, Pavilion

Press, Spring Gardens. The price charged was sixpence, and it bore the following motto:

*Satire's my weapon; but I'm too discreet  
To run amuck and tilt at all I meet;  
I only wear it in a land of hectors -  
Thieves, super cargoes, sharpers, and directors.*

**p.227**

Both productions were satirical, the former having reference to a proposal to cut a ship canal from Manchester to the mouth of the Dee. The share capital was to be £1,000,000, but the bill was rejected by Parliament. Both sheets were issued by Ben Oldfield, who then kept the White Bear, Piccadilly. Oldfield was a humorous character, and it was said after his death that "he might not be inaptly called the Peter Pindar of Lancashire; his wit was keen and brilliant, and his humour rough."

One story told of him had reference to Robert Wilson, the proprietor of the Albion. One night when Oldfield was dining with a party of gentlemen at the Albion, Wilson asked the head waiter, in a loud whisper, to fetch two bottles of port from bin 27 in the cellar under the Infirmary pond. Presently the waiter returned with an old hat on his head and enveloped in a tattered overcoat both covered with whitewash and cobwebs, as also were the bottles he carried. Many of the guests really thought they had come from a cellar under the pond, until Oldfield sent for one of his waiters, and told him to run to his cellar under the new Bailey and bring half a dozen bottles from bin 102. This order given in all seriousness produced the desired effect.

#### **A WELL KNOWN HOUSE.**

When the clearance was made preparatory to the erection of the present Post Office, a well known house was pulled down. The Clarence Hotel was a noted meeting-place for business men, merchants and manufacturers crowding it on Market days. Not only so,

**p.228**

journalists, literary men, and artists frequented the smoke-room, where J. P. Stokes, for a quarter of a century the Manchester correspondent of the "Times," was a sort of presiding genius. In another room the Literary Club met for a time, when Joseph Chattwood was president.

#### **BANKING ASSOCIATIONS.**

The Manchester and Liverpool District Bank commenced operations in 1829 in the premises at the corner of Norfolk-street and Brown-street, occupied now by the branch of the Union Bank. On June 20, 1834, the foundation stone of the present building in Spring Gardens was laid by Robert Barbour. After its vacation by the District Bank, the Norfolk-street Bank was occupied by James Sewell and Nephew, whose business was taken over by the Union Bank.

A younger Bank is that known as the Lancashire and Yorkshire. It dates back to 1872, when a company was formed to take over the Manchester business of the Alliance Bank, who in 1864 had commenced business in King-street in offices nearly opposite to the premises of Cunliffe Brooks and Co. For ten years the new company under the style of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank conducted business in the old premises; but in 1889 a move was made to the building in Spring Gardens. As illustrating the development of banking facilities during the last few decades it may be pointed out that forty years after the Alliance opened its Manchester branch, its successors had sixty-two branches.

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Continuing the serialisation of:

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

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## **FAILSWORTH GHOST STORY.**

Another amusing story, to which I have given the above heading, is one relating to a person whom I will call "Donty at Tum's." "Donty," who was a weaver, resided at the top end of Holebottom, and was well known for a most timid man, and one who was easily frightened. So timid was "Donty" that it was a common occurrence with him, when a thunderstorm came on, for him to "creep

**p.95**

under the bed," out of the way, or sight, of the lightning. It is told of him that once, during the night time, he and his wife thought they heard someone in the house. They both got up, when he said to his wife, "Thee goo deaun th' steers, an' aw'll follow. If theaw sees onyone coe eawt, an' aw'll come to thi rescue." When his wife had got down the stairs she found that the cat had got its head fast in a salmon tin, and was bumping it about the floor trying to get its head out. This was the burglar that had awakened them. But the ghost story I wish to tell was of a very curious kind. It seems "Donty" had been on the fuddle, and in the middle of the night he got up to quench his thirst. His wife had been brewing, and they had in the pantry a mug full of home-brewed, ready for "tunning," or bottling. There was a broken pane of glass in the pantry window which opened to the road. I have myself a distinct recollection of this window with the pane out. "Donty" had just got to the mug, and was in the act of taking a cupful from under the barm when he heard a voice call out, "Donty, hoo's gone." Turning round he saw a face at the broken pane of glass, seeing which he loudly cried out, "Murther, thieves, ghosts." In his excitement and fright he knocked the mug of beer over, and was nearly drowned in the liquor. The whole family were roused up, and came running down the stairs to the terrified man's aid. It turned out that the person who had been the innocent cause of "Donty's" fright was a certain John Booth, a relative of mine. Booth had a deep, bass, sepulchral voice, and he had been sitting up with a sick person, who it seems had died during the night. Seeing "Donty" in the pantry he thought he would impart the information to him of the death. It was a long time before "Donty"

**p.96**

came to his former self again, and the family had some difficulty in convincing him he had not seen a ghost. It was only when John Booth himself came on the following morning and explained the whole affair that "Donty" was persuaded that he had not seen a real ghost.

## **BOYISH TRICKS IN OLD DAYS**

In the days of my youth lads used to indulge in all kinds of mischievous tricks, regardless of the feelings of others. It was their way of getting amusement at the time. If the same kind of tricks were played on people in these days many lads would find themselves in the Police Court. With the advance of education, and the progress of good manners, a change has rightly come over, even the habits of our boys. They can now enjoy themselves in a more rational way, as so many avenues have been opened for their pleasure. Close to where I was born, in Holebottom, there was an entry, or what we called then "a ginnel." This led to "Joe Walmsley's shop," who was, besides being a grocer, a farmer also. Many women at the time used to fetch milk from this shop. The "ginnel" leading to the shop was a narrow one, and there were bricks out of the walls in some places. When darkness came, we, mischievous lads as we were, used to get to the top of this "ginnel," spanning it with our legs. When some unsuspecting milk carrier used to be bringing home the milk through the "ginnel" we would drop down on the top of the person, and then there would be a shout of "Murder!" heard ringing through the village. It was a rough, dangerous trick, and sometimes we hurt ourselves, but what did we care for a bruise in those days.

**p.97**

Another trick we had, was to get an old tin can, without bottom in, and when "Th' owd mussle

seller" came round one of the lads would go to him and ask for a quart of mussels. He would measure them, and in the darkness pour them into the can without bottom. Of course they would all go on the ground, and then we would laugh, run away, and leave the old man to pick up his mussels. At other times we would collect the empty shells of the mussels, and the lad who was the best runner would go to some house, open the door, and ask what time it was. While he was doing this another lad would fix some mussle shells between the door. Then the door would be pulled to amidst a crackling noise, and we would have quite a race, the householder running us through the lanes. "Once I did this, and, miscalculating the running powers of the householder, was caught and well "clouted" for the trick. I took good care never to go again to that house.

Speaking of my boyhood's days reminds me of a schoolmaster we once had at Pole Lane School, Failsworth, who was a regular terror to the boys, for he was nearly always beating some of them. Once he was beating a big boy whom we called "Ned." Ned was said to be the best "feighter".in the village, and he set to and beat the schoolmaster soundly, amidst the cheers of us schoolboys. Ever after he was the hero of the school, and known as "Th' lad who could brek th' skoo' mesthur."

I can recall an incident which happened during the trying times of the "Cotton Panic" which will cling to me as long as I live. Seeing a load of coals tipped at the door of a house, I inquired "if they wanted someone to get them in." I was started at the work, but forgot to make terms before I commenced. It was a big load, and

#### **p.98**

I had to carry them all through the house to the back yard. When I had done I was as black as a collier. Naturally I expected to be paid at least sixpence for the job. Judge of my surprise and disappointment when I was rewarded with a "butter cake" (slice of bread and butter). I went home to wash myself, and told my father what had happened. He said to me: "Theaw little foo', theaw'll happen larn sense sometime. Theaw should ha' made thy bargain before theaw began." I had my revenge that night, for I went and almost sent my clogs through the door with "puncing" it, for I knew I could "o'er run" "Owd \_\_\_\_\_," the man who had treated me so badly. Shamefully treated as I was, I did not throw the "butter cake" away, like I have seen some beggars do of recent. years. In those days a "butter cake" was not to be despised.

Tingling windows by the aid of a bobbin of thread, a pin, and a pea was another trick by which we lads had of enjoying ourselves. We once tried it on the loom-house window of "Owd Donty," the timid chap. He was at the time doing something at one of his treadles, in what was known as "th' threadle hole," under the loom. He rose up, and went through the "Ratch," breaking all the silk threads of the piece he was weaving. There was an outcry about this at the time in the village, for it was a most serious loss for "Owd Donty." We never let on, and to his dying day "Donty" never found us out.

### **A YOUTHFUL HERO.**

I oftentimes think of a companion of mine, one "Bob o' Isabel's." He was a. favourite with all the lads in the village, and in my youthful eyes he was, at the time,

#### **p.99**

possessed of all the qualities that went to make a hero. He was the best fighter, the best runner, and the finest shot with a bow and arrow we had in Failsworth. He was the idol of my boyish days, and I almost worshipped the lad, who was an orphan, and resided with a relative of his. Frequently have I seen him kill a bird with an arrow. We called him William Tell.

Bob and I would sit and read together the brigand and pirate stories until our young souls were fairly fired with a burning desire to go out and fight those rascals, the brigands, for the cruelties practised on our fellow-men. Bob one day conceived of a plan by which we could give vent to



our imaginary wrath on the villains we had read about. It was in this way. He took me to the Bower Clough, and he had with him his bow and arrows. In a browside he placed a stump, and near to a thicket. The stump he called "King Jud the Brigand." My part was to stand near his majesty, as one of his intended victims. The part of Bob was to hide himself in the thicket, and to come to my rescue by felling the king with an arrow shot from his bow. Time after time Bob hit the stump with an arrow. I got a little bolder, and went closer to the stump. Our sport was brought to an abrupt termination, for Bob shot an arrow which, instead of hitting the king, embedded itself behind my ear. I declared I was killed.

My companion rushed from the bush, came up to me, and carried me like a child to the brook, where he bathed my wound. I can even now hear him saying: "Theau munno dee, Sim; if theau does aw shall go to America." Not desiring my companion to leave the country I got better, but I had a narrow escape. Fortunately for me it was the shooter's dullest tipped arrow. Had it been another

**p.100**

arrow. I should have been killed outright. Notwithstanding my recovery, Bob did, strange to say, go to America shortly after. A person from that country came over and wanted some youths, he said, for shepherd boys. My companion's love for adventure was such that he fell in with the offer of this American. At the time, the Civil War was being waged in the States, and on Bob arriving in the country he was soon drafted into the war. I have heard he displayed great bravery, and fought in many battles. At the close of the war he was rewarded with a grant of land for the bravery he had shown. This was the last I heard of the daring and brave Failsworth lad.

Although so many years have passed since I saw the hero of my boyhood, yet I shall never forget him, and today I would go a long way to see and shake hands with the companion of my boyhood, dear, brave Bob.

#### **A FINE FAILSWORTH CHARACTER,**

and one who, I am pleased to say, still lives, is one Joss Coop. Joss is full of droll and quaint sayings. He once had a garden, and was a great celery grower for shows. An exhibition of celery for prizes was being held at one of the inns in the village. The night previous to the show, Joss had some of his finest celery stolen. He had a strong suspicion who had taken them, for I remember someone saying to him, "Joss, has theaw no idea who's ta'en them?" In his droll way, he replied, "Well, it's oathur me or else Owd \_\_\_\_," naming the person whom he suspected. In this way Joss safeguarded himself against the person who might have had him up for making a charge against him he could not prove. Some time after, it turned

**p.101**

out that Joss was right in his suspicion, for the man who took them made it known, after the show, that he had taken them in order to win the prize.

There has been more roguery and deception practiced in connection with flower and vegetable shows than anything I have known of. I was once the secretary of a "flower show," and we had to cease holding it because of the trickery resorted to by some of the exhibitors.

#### **OWD PAT COLLIN,**

was a chum of Joss's, and he was another quaint character, and I have one or two good stories about him. I once heard "Pat, who was a workmate of mine in the brickyard, relate how he had gone to bed without supper because his wife had "buttered his bread on the wrong side." It seems his wife had been cutting him some slices off a big cob, and she had put the butter on the narrow or lesser side. He strongly objected to this, and said to her, "Have nur aw tow'd thee afore ut aw wouldno' ha' my bread buttered o' th' wrung side? Aw'll goo to bed beawt suppur to show thee aw meon what aw say." And so he went to bed supperless as a protest. He said, "It

were allus buttered reet i' th.' future."

On another occasion, Pat went home worse for drink. His wife had cooked him some nice sausages for his supper, but Pat fell fast asleep before they were put on the table. The sausages were too tempting to his wife, and so she ate them, and then greased the lips of her sleeping partner. When he awoke, he asked for his supper. "Theaw's had it," said his wife. "Aw dunno' remember havin' had 'em," said Pat. "Well, but feel at thi lips," said his wife, "an'

**p.102**

theaw'll see." Pat did so, and then replied, "Well, aw could no' ha' thowt it; aw feel as hollow as a drum." His wife began to lecture him as follows: "Theaw should gi'e o'er drinkin'. Theaw drinks till theaw does no' know what theaw'rt doin'."

Once Pat acted in the capacity of judge in a dispute between two men as to which had the "best wife." These men had been disputing in an inn as to who had the "best wife," and a bet had been made by them on the matter. Pat was selected as the judge, and it was arranged that he should accompany each home and decide the dispute by the way they were received at their homes by their wives. He went home with the first and, on reaching the house, the wife, on seeing her husband come home a little earlier than usual, said, "Eh, aw'm fain theaw'rt come; aw've gotten some nice cheese an' onions on th' hob ready for thee." Sit thee deawn an' get thi supper." "Come," said .Pat, "that'll need some beatin'." He next went home' with the second one, who, it seems, had for a wife a fine strapping woman, quite a contrast to him, for he was a very little man, and known as "Little Billy." On reaching Billy's home, his wife met him at the door, and, getting hold of his hair, dragged him into the house, saying, "Theaw'rt come, arto, theaw little drunken slotch." Billy called out, "Pat, aw've lost."

### **THE RECTOR AND HIS SURPLICE.**

The Rector of Failsworth, some short time since, told me a bit of a "crack" which is too good to be lost. A cycle parade was announced to take place in the district, and prizes were to be given for the varied turnouts, one

**p.103**

being for the "most comic dress." One night a noted and well-known character in the township sent someone to the rector's house and asked for the loan of the clergyman's surplice. Said the messenger: "They are goin' to give a prize for th' biggest foo' i' th' parade, an' Mesther \_\_\_ thinks he con win it if yo'll lend him yo'r surplice." The rector was equal to the occasion, for he said, "Go and tell him to go to the parade in his everyday natural dress, and he will win the first prize, for he will be the biggest fool in the parade." The man did not, however, turn up in the parade, and so he did not get the prize.

### **THE ELECTRIC CARS.**

When the electric cars commenced to run through Failsworth, an old woman in the district was somewhat astounded at them. She gave expression to her feelings in the following terms:

"Well, aw've seen some changes' in my time. Aw con recollect seein' th' owd stage coach runnin' on th' road. Then coom th' 'bus, an' next we had th' horse-car. But this thing we han neaw caps o'. This is first time 'at aw ever seed a car drawn wi' a feeshin'-rod"

### **THE CHRISTMAS WAITS.**

I have heard a good story told in connection with a band of Christmas singers. A company of Failsworth waits were out one Christmas morning. It was cold and foggy, and going to an out-of-the-way farmhouse they commenced to sing at what

**p.104**

they thought was the house. After singing the well-known carol, "Christians, Awake," and two others, and there seemed no signs of a light, one of the party said, "Let's knock at th' dur." They were anxious to be let in, as they usually had a fine feed with the old farmer. One may judge of

their surprise when the “knocker up” went up to what seemed the house and exclaimed, “Why, chaps, we’ve bin singin’ at a haystack.” In the dense fog they had mistaken the haystack for the house. “Dunno’ tell onybody abeawt this,” said one of the singers, “or we shall never yer th’ last of it.”

They afterwards found the house, sang three carols, were taken in, and had a good time around the blazing fire in the farmer’s kitchen. Leaving the farm they decided to sing at “Owd Skinflint’s” house. “Skin-flint” was noted for being well off, but he was a bit of a miser, and was never known to give much to any object. He was a regular “Scrooge.” Still it was thought the festive season of Christmas might have melted his heart and induced him to be a little generous.

“Skin-flint” had retired for the night, and after the waits had sung two or three carols, he got up, opened the window, and called out, “Who’s th’ money carrier?” One of the party replied, “I am.” “Well, howd thi hat,” said Skin-flint. “Neaw, tak’ that,” he called out, “an’ divide it fairly amung yo’,” at the same time emptying the contents of a chamber vessel into the man’s hat. “Han yo’ gettin’?” he continued, “if yo’ have dunno’ foa eawt abeawt it, but see yo’ o’ get yo’r share.” The man who had caught in his hat “Owd Skin-flint’s” gift gave vent to his wrath and feelings by

#### **p.105**

hurling at him some words that were not to be found in the Christmas carols they had been singing. But the matter did not end here.

The waits found a clothes line near the house. With this they tied fast “Skin-flint’s” doors. On getting up he was unable to get out of his house, and about noon on Christmas Day he was seen at his bedroom window calling out to a passer-by, “Will theaw come an’ unfasten my dur an’ let me eawt?” The man he desired to be his deliverer had heard of “Skin-flint’s” shabby treatment of the waits, and determined to come straight with him he replied, “Aw’ll let yo’ go eawt on one condition, if yo’ll give five shillin’ to th’ Kesmus singers ’at sung for yo this mornin’. If yo’ winno’ give that yo’n ha’ to stop i’ th’ heause till doom’s day afore I let yo’ eawt, or afore anyone else shall let yo’ eawt.” Seeing it was no use appealing for help, “Skin-flint” had to drop his five shillings through the window. Then the man, who happened to be one of the waits, cut the ropes and let him out, remarking, “Neaw let this be a lesson to yo’, an’ never again treat Kesrnus singers, or ony one else, same as yo’ did this rnornin’.” What effect this trick had on “Skin-flint’s” future life it is difficult to say, but he was often taunted with being tied up in his own house.

This reference to a fog reminds me of another amusing incident I once heard of. A Moston farmer was manuring his field out of a cart. There was a dense fog at the time, and somehow or other the horse got out of the shafts. The farmer caught the horse, and commenced to back it in what he thought were the shafts. But in the fog he missed the shafts, and for some hours he was wandering about the field in search of the cart. Eventually he had to make his

#### **p.106**

way home as best he could, and there was some laughter in his dwelling when he told the family he had lost his cart in the fog.

### **A FISHING STORY.**

There was once a noted character in the district who was very fond of fishing, and he was not over particular where he followed the sport, or of the water in which he fished. In fact, he was a bit of a poacher. He once was fishing in forbidden waters, when the gamekeeper was seen approaching. As he knew it was impossible for him to get away with his tackle, he suddenly hit on a plan to get himself out of the scrape. He had his worms to bait with in a gill pot. Drawing out his line, he fastened the pot to his hook. When the gamekeeper got to him, he asked what he was fishing there for. “Oh,” said the fisher, “aw’m fishin’ for washin’ mugs.” “An’ what art’

baitin' wi'?" enquired the gamekeeper. "Why, wi' a gill pot," replied the fisher, at the same time withdrawing his line from the water. On seeing this, the gamekeeper, concluding he was a bit daft, said, "Oh, theaw con fish away, an' aw wish thee good luck. If theaw catches one, bring it to me, an' aw'll give thee ninepence for it." This was the price commonly paid for mugs in the old days.

### **HOW A RENT SCORE WAS WIPED OUT.**

Another character we had in the village was one of great resource. I once heard him tell how he wiped off some arrears of rent. He was a hand-loom weaver, and

**p.107**

had been without work for some time; consequently he had not been able to pay his rent. The landlord, who was a miserly sort of man, knew he had a house well stocked with antique furniture, and threatened to put the bailiffs in. The workless weaver did not relish the thought of his furniture being taken and so he conceived of a way to get out of the difficulty. He knew there was a drain running through his loom-house. This he stopped up, and, after a heavy downpour of rain, he sent for the landlord to come and see his flooded loom-house. The landlord came, and arranged with the weaver that if he would make the drain right, he would remit the rent he owed. The following day the weaver went to the landlord, and told him he had found the stoppage and set the drain right again. In this way he escaped the bailiffs, and saved his furniture. When he told me this story, it was on the condition that I was to keep quiet, but as both he and the landlord are dead, there can be no harm done by relating it.

### **A VESTRY MEETING IN THE OLD DAYS.**

With the progress of the times, the antiquated system of government by vestry meeting has disappeared. There have been some lively times at these meetings, and frequently very strong party feeling has been shown, but it is not of the party feeling I wish now to speak. The model village of Woodhouses, which, as I have previously said, is practically a part of Failsworth, was governed by a vestry meeting before the Parish Councils Act came into force. I remember, when I was connected with the Oldham press, going to one of their annual vestry meetings. When I

**p.108**

arrived at the school, I found that no one had turned up. As I had written a descriptive sketch of the village, and expected something of an amusing nature happening at the meeting to fill in my report, I was sorely disappointed at no one putting in an appearance. Having an old friend in the village, I went to his house, and asked him if he knew there was a vestry meeting to be held that night in the old village school. He said, "Eh, aw'd forgotten it, an'aw darsay o' th' other villagers han done th' same." I told him we must have a meeting, and so he went to whip up the villagers to the school. In a short time we had a fair muster, and eventually a chairman was appointed, and the meeting commenced. It seemed they had a kind of surveyor and rate collector combined in one office, and the person filling the position was one James Taylor. His salary was thirty shillings a year! An old weaver who was at the meeting got up and said, "Aw dunno' think we're payin' James enough for his wark; so aw beg to move 'at we raise his salary fro' thirty to five an' thirty shillings a year." This came like a bomb shell into the meeting, but, after being discussed for a short time, it was agreed to advance the salary to the sum named.

The next business discussed was the condition of a certain road in the village. It was reported to be in a wretched state, and so it was, for I had tramped through the mud in this road on my way to the meeting. One old man got up and said, "Aw beg to move that next Setturday afternoon Jim O'\_\_\_ fatches a load o'cinders, an' Jack Jim O'\_\_\_ tak's a barrow, some spades, an' that we o' goo an' gi'e this road a regular good rnendin'." This was seconded and carried, and I have no doubt the road got the needed mending. Such is a faithful description of how

these quaint

**p.109**

old villagers conducted the local government of the district in the "Good Old Times."

Often have I been with my old friend, Ben Brierley, to the old folks' tea party at Woodhouses, and many a happy hour have we spent in the genial company of the aged villagers. The good old rector of Bardsley, the Rev. Mr. Byrth, used to preside, and Brierley would entertain the old folks with recitations, and at times I would take a little part in the proceedings. It was a rare sight to see the old people, with the extra long clay pipes provided, "reeching" away until the room was filled with clouds of tobacco smoke. I have no doubt Brierley got much material from the old folks for his sketches, but as I have purposely avoided trenching on any ground he has covered, I must refrain from narrating stories told at these most enjoyable gatherings. Even to-day I question if there is any village in Lancashire where the dialect is so purely spoken as it is in this village of Woodhouses. In bygone days the village was better known by the name of "Cat Alley." How it got this name I never knew, but it has died out, and it would now be taken as an offence if you were to say to one of the residents, "Art theaw still livin' i' th' Cat Alley?" The scene of Brierley's famous and humorous sketch, "Boggart o' th' Stump," is laid close to the village. Then there are some of his noted characters hailing from the village of Daisy Nook, which is close by. Good old Sam Broadbent, the original of "Sam Smithies," who played such a part in Brierley's sketch of "Eatin' a Bootjack," was a Woodhouses resident. I knew him well. His last days were spent at Mossley, where he kept a public house, and I rarely ever went to the little borough but I gave him a call, and had a chat with him about Ben and old

**p.110**

times. He was a great Radical, and although he became a publican, he always remained loyal to his principles, and supported the cause to the utmost of his ability.'

**AN OLD FAILSWORTH DOCTOR**

I can remember the time when we had only one doctor residing in Failsworth. He was a quaint character, and came from Hollinwood to Failsworth. He used to walk with a peculiar kind of limp, having a long leg and a short one. It was a common saying of his that he had had more "ups and downs" in life than any living being. When I knew him, he resided in Pole Lane, and he was a most skillful medical man. At times he would get on the spree, and spend all he could get hold of. When he was having one of these "bouts," his family would keep all the money they could out of his way, which caused him to resort to various methods of "raising the wind." He was our family doctor, and I recollect him once coming to our house, and saying to my father, "Let's see, Tum, theaw owes me a bill, .Heaw mich is it?" My father replied, "It's between four and five peauds." "Well, bring it eawt, an' aw'll settle it for thee for a have a creawn," said the doctor. My father found him pen and ink, and got the bill settled, after which the old doctor said, "Neaw, Tum, theaw mun come an' help me to spend this have a creawn." The Old Doctor, as we called him, once went to see a man who had some imaginary ailment. He told the doctor he could eat and sleep well, but he did not feel equal to work. "What done yo' think is wrung wi' me?" said the, patient. In his quaint way, the doctor replied, "Theaw ails nowt but idleness." In contrast with this, let me say that Old

**p.111**

John Rydings, our local poet, once went to consult with him. On seeing him, the doctor said, "There mun be summat wrung wi' yo', or else yo'd never come an' see me."

At the present day we have no less than five medical men residing in Failsworth, besides others from Hollinwood and Newton Heath who come into the district, so we have even made progress in this matter.



## **A DROWSY PUBLICAN.**

The Old Pack Horse Inn, Failsworth, is a most interesting hostelry. It is one of the few inns in Failsworth that still retains its ancient-like appearance, and it is likely to do so as long as it is owned by the Ogden family. Radical as I am, I should be loath to see it altered, or rebuilt in the form of a modern inn. Several of the old inns in the district have of recent years been rebuilt, doubtless with a view of increasing the drinking accommodation. But the Pack Horse has not followed suit in this matter. There are still the steps at the door, from which people in the old days were wont to mount the pack horse. The rooms in the inn are still kept intact.

My friend, Ben Brierley, says a society of spies, in the "Jacobin times," was held in a room that acquired the name of "Star Chamber." One of Brierley's characters, referring to those days, says, "Joe Nadin, the famous deputy constable of Manchester, had someb'dy at everybody's keighole, hearkenin' eaut for treason. By thoose meean he geet to know a good deel moore nur folk thout he did abeawt such as wouldno' be satisfied wi' things as they wur; an' ther hardly a day went by but someb'dy wur bein' marched off to th' New Bailey." Failsworth was the

### **p.112 picture in Gallery**

#### **p.113**

favourite hunting ground of Nadin for reformers. In my time there have been many changes of the landlords who have kept the inn. A good story is told about one of the former landlords. He was noted for his easy-going and drowsy habit. It is said that on one occasion a well-known character, John o' Berry's, had entered the taproom of the inn. He called for his usual "gill," and, no one shaping to serve him, he commenced to look round, when he found Boniface fast asleep in one corner of the room. Berry, who was much given to soliloquising, thus commenced: "Well, this caps o'. Here is th' landlord ceaurin' asleep, an' no one attendin' to th' customers. By th' mass, aw should like to see a breed of his, an' another family (which he named) mixed. It strikes me abreed like this never would wak'n." Berry shook Boniface up, and ordered his "gill." The beer was brought in by the landlord, who again fell asleep, with the penny in his hand. Old Berry, after he had drunk up his ale, slyly took the penny out of the landlord's hand, then roused him up and ordered another "gill." This was brought in, and the beer was paid for with the self-same penny. It is said that during the time Berry stayed in the house, he got no less than three "gills" with the same penny. Such is an instance of the way in which our old Failsworth characters were wont to amuse themselves in the old days. They even got fun and enjoyment out of the failings of their fellows.

This story of a drowsy publican reminds me of an amusing incident that once happened at the little place of worship which I attended. Owd Snoozer, as we called him, was a regular attender at this chapel, but I could never understand why he went, except it was to have a quiet snooze, for he rarely missed having a nap during the sermon.

#### **p.114**

Certainly it was not because there were snug cushioned pews in the place, for the chapel was filled with old-fashioned forms. Owd Snoozer used to sit on the first form, near the pulpit, and I remember on one occasion he was indulging in his quiet nap, and nodding his head to and fro, when suddenly he fell forward, and went with a bang on the floor. There was quite an outburst of laughter, in which the preacher heartily joined.

In one of his poems, Waugh makes a rector give some advice to such a drowsy worshipper, in these words:

"Well, James," said he, "I'm fain to see  
Your pew so well attended,  
But, then, yo' shouldn't fo' asleep  
Afore my sarmon's ended.

To drowsy ears it's useless quite  
 To scatter holy teychin;  
 'Why don't yo' bring a bit o' snuff,  
 An' tak' it while I'm preychin?"  
 The drowsy worshipper thus replies:  
 "Well, well" said James, "there's mony a way  
 O' keepin' e'en fro' closin';  
 A needle would keep th' body wake,  
 An' th' soul might still be dozin'.  
 But this receipt would set it reet,  
 If th' mixture wur a warm un--  
 Yo' get some stingin' gospel snuff,  
 An' put it into th' sarmon."

~~~~~

**The Confectioner** ... from, '*The Book of English Trades*' published 1827



### THE CONFECTIONER,

A Confectioner is one who makes sweetmeats, preserves of various kinds, jellies, jams, gingerbread, &c. and is generally combined with the Pastry-cook, who makes tarts, cheese-cakes, pies, &c. Confects, or confits, is a denomination given to fruits, flowers, herbs, roots, and juices, when boiled and prepared with sugar or honey to keep them, or to render them more agreeable to the taste.

The ancients only confected with honey; at present sugar is more frequently used. Confits, half sugared, are those only covered with a little sugar, to leave more of the natural taste of the fruit.

The making of gingerbread, we are told, is an art of the highest antiquity, and that its use has come to us from Asia. We read, in fact, that a bread sweetened with honey was made at Rhodes, of such an agreeable taste, that it could be eaten with pleasure after the most sumptuous feasts. The Greeks called this bread *melilates*: thence it came into Europe, and descending to our own times, has obtained the name of gingerbread.

Confects are reduced to eight kinds, viz. Liquid confects, marmalades, jellies, pastes, dry confects, conserves, candies, and sugar-plums, sometimes called comfits.

*Liquid confects* are those whose fruits, either whole, in pieces, in seeds, or in clusters, are confected in a fluid, transparent syrup, which takes its colour and name from that of the fruit

boiled in it. A good deal of art is necessary in preparing these well; if they be too little sugared, they will ferment and spoil, and if too much, they will candy. The most esteemed of the liquid confects, are plums, especially those called mirabels, barberries, quinces, apricots, cherries, orange-flowers, little green citrons from Madeira, green cassia from the Levant, myrobalans, ginger, cloves, &c.

*Marmalades* are a kind of pastes, almost liquid, made of the pulp of fruits or flowers that have some consistence; such as apricots, apples, pears, plums, quinces, oranges, and ginger. Marmalade of ginger is brought from the Indies by way of Holland. It is esteemed good to revive the natural heat in aged persons.

*Jellies* are juices of several fruits, wherein sugar has been dissolved, and the whole, by boiling, reduced into a pretty thick consistence, so as, upon cooling, to resemble a thin transparent glue or size. Jellies are made of various kinds of fruits, especially gooseberries, currants, apples, and quinces: there are other jellies, made of flesh, fish, hartshorn, &c. but they are not kept long, being very subject to corrupt.

*Pastes* are a kind of marmalades, thickened to that degree, by a proper boiling, as to assume any form when put into little moulds, and dried in an oven. The most in use are gooseberries, quinces, apples, plums, pears, and orange-flowers; those of pistachoes are the most esteemed; those of ginger are brought from the Indies.

*Dry confects* are those whose fruits, after having been boiled in the syrup, are taken out again, drained, and put to dry in an oven. These are made of so many kinds of fruit, that it would be troublesome to mention them all: the most considerable are citron, lemon, and orange-peel; plums, pears, cherries, and apricots.

*Conserves* are a kind of dry confects, made with sugar-pastes of flowers or fruits, &c. The most usual amongst them, are those of roses, mallows, rosemary, of hips, of orange-peel, orange-flowers, violets, jessamine, pistachoes, citrons, and sloes.

*Candies* are, ordinarily, entire fruits, candied over with sugar having been boiled in the syrup, which renders them like little rocks crystallized, of various figures and colours, according to the fruits enclosed in them. The best candies are brought from Italy.

*Sugar-plums*, or comfits, are a kind of little dry confects, made of small fruits or seeds, little pieces of bark, as cinnamon or cassia, or odoriferous and aromatic roots, &c. incrusted, and covered over with a very hard sugar, ordinarily white, but sometimes of other colours. Of these there are various kinds, distinguished by various names; some are made of raspberries, others of barberries, melon seeds, pistachoes, filberts, almonds, cinnamon, cassia, orange-peel, coriander, aniseed, carraways, &c.

*Ice-cream* is, also, an article to be found in the Confectioner's shop; who generally lays in, during the winter, a competent supply of ice, preserved in a proper receptacle, to furnish his customers with this agreeable treat in the summer months.

The Confectioners of London are famous for the elegance and size of their Twelfth-Day cakes: for some days previously to this period, their shops are decorated with a great variety of them, made of different shapes, and with various devices upon them: some weigh many hundred pounds.

There are various forms and preparations of *gingerbread*: we shall content ourselves with giving the following recipe, which is well recommended.

Into a pound of almonds, blanched and pounded, grate a penny white loaf; sift and beat them together; to the mixture add an ounce of ginger scraped fine, and of liquorice and aniseed, in powder, of each a quarter of an ounce; pour in two or three spoonfuls of rose water, and make the whole into a paste with half a pound of sugar: mould and roll it; print it, and dry it in a stove. Some make gingerbread of treacle, citron, lemon, and orange-peel, with candied ginger,

coriander, and carraway seeds, mixed up with as much flour as will make it into a paste.  
The plate represents the Confectioner's shop, with jellies, sugar-plums, jams, &c.

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## From the e-Postbag

Sadly, nothing this month.

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## Internet links for freely available books/texts

This is a new section which I hope will be of interest to some or even all, of our readers! Each month I will add a few links to publications at the Internet Archive of Books & Texts website and on some occasions Google books or other free websites. The ones I include will be mostly out of copyright and available, as a .pdf, to read online or download to your own device. There is no need to sign up unless you want to 'borrow' the more recent, copyrighted publications which are available to read online but not download.

I really hope you can get the enjoyment that I do from just browsing through the chapters and hearing authentic voices from over 100 years ago.

To start us off ...

### \* ***Manchester banks and bankers: historical, biographical, and anecdotal.***

by Leo H. Grindon. Pub 1878

~ [HERE](#) Hathi Trust - to read online or download

~ [HERE](#) Google books - Hover over 'Read EBook' and see instructions to read online or download.

### \* ***Factory folk during the cotton famine***

by Waugh, Edwin, 1817-1890 Pub. 1881

[HERE](#)

### \* ***Historic byways and highways of Old England - Social life and customs***

by William Andrews, 1848-1908 Pub. 1900

[HERE](#)

### \* ***Royton Industrial Co-operative Society Limited: History of the Society's Formation and Progress ... Jubilee Souvenir, 1857-1907***

by Thomas Burton Pub. 1907

[HERE](#)

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## MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE

[HERE](#)

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

### \* Genealogy Tips: Researching Your Immigrant Ancestors

[HERE](#)

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### \* Manchester's Science and Industry Museum celebrates 40 years at home on site of global historical significance

[HERE](#)

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### \* How to Build a Family Tree: Tracing Your Ancestors

[HERE](#)

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\* 120 Years Of The Iconic Salford Lads Club

[HERE](#)  
~~~~~

\* Irish ancestry: How to trace Irish ancestry

Discover if you have Irish ancestry with the help of our list of the best Irish ancestry websites

[HERE](#)  
~~~~~

\* Manchester - FIFTY city centre towers built in the last five years, another fifty on the way - but are they already 'outdated'? Fast moving developments "loom over the middle of the city like a gang of encircling bullies".

[HERE](#)  
~~~~~

\* Find my Past podcasts

[HERE](#)  
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\* How to - Valuation Office Survey The Valuation Office annotated large-scale Ordnance Survey maps to create records on thousands of properties. These records are often referred to as plans. Accompanying 'Field Books' contain information collected about properties during the Survey. Properties referred to in the Field Books can be identified from accompanying Ordnance Survey sheets.

[HERE](#)  
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\* British Newspaper Archive blog - Requisitioning of Country Houses in the Second World War – Evacuated Schools in Wartime

[HERE](#)  
~~~~~

\* Plans submitted for Coliseum's new home. Oldham's new £24m theatre; set to be a new home for the Coliseum at the heart of the town's new cultural quarter

[HERE](#)  
~~~~~

\* What are almshouses?

Caroline Roberts explores the history of the almshouses that provided housing for the poor before the welfare state.

[HERE](#)  
~~~~~

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

And [HERE](#) is the link to the MLFHS Twitter page.  
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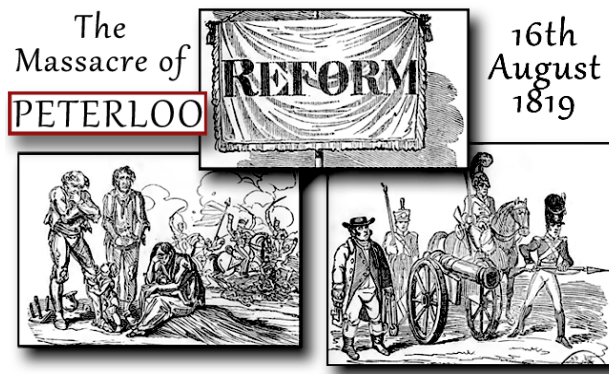
## PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary

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

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**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](http://www.catholicfhs.co.uk)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peterloo - [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - [Lancashire](#)

Free BMD - [Search](#)

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

1891 - Oldham and locality [HERE](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Historical Maps of parish boundaries [HERE](#)

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

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

FmyP - The Manchester Collection [HERE](#)

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

Cheshire Parish Register Project [HERE](#)

Huddersfield Exposed [HERE](#)

### Some Local Archives

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

Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](#)

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

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

Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](#)

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

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

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)

Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

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

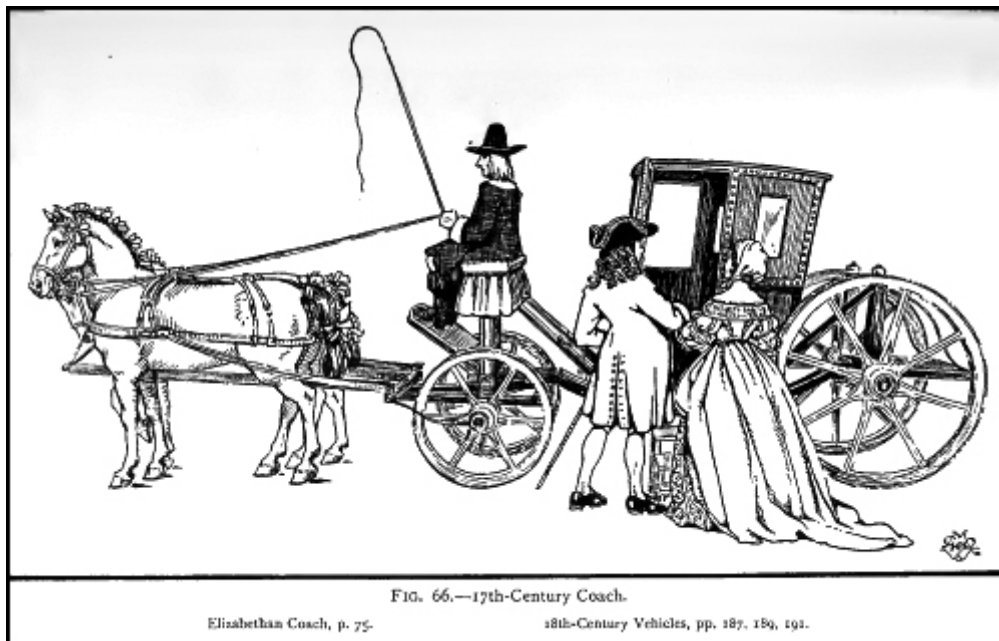
Stockport – [www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives)

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

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



from: **A History of Everyday Things in England** vol. 2 pub. 1919  
by M & C.H.B. Quennell



### 17<sup>th</sup> Century Coach

There was a great development in coach-building in the seventeenth century, and the Company of the Coach and Coach-Harness Makers was founded by Charles II. In 1677. This points to improved roads and an increase in traveling. In Thrupp's *History of Coaches*, a very reasonable suggestion is made, that the coach invented at Kotze in Hungary in the fifteenth century was modelled on the German wagon. This very much resembles the English timber wagon of to-day.

Fig. 66 shows a chariot such as Pepys might have selected. Chariots were smaller and lighter than coaches. He wrote in his diary on November 5, 1668, how he went to see his coach-maker, and "did pitch upon a little chariot, whose body was framed but not covered, it being very light, and will be very genteel and sober." In December he was "abroad with my wife, the first time that I ever rode in my own coach." The following April Pepys was "calling about my coach which hath been to the Coachmaker's to be painted and the window frames gilt again." So coaches had windows by this time. A few days later he found "my coach is silvered over, but no varnish yet laid. I stood by it till eight at night, and saw the painters varnish it, and it dries almost as fast as it can be laid on. I sent the same night my coach-man and horses to fetch the coach home."

And the next day was May Day, so Pepys went "at noon to dinner, and after through the town with our new liveries of serge, and the horses' manes and tails tied up with red ribbons, and new green rains," and doubtless old Pepys was very pleased with his gay turn-out.

In 1605 it was said that "coaches have increased with a mischief, and have ruined the trade of the waterman by hackney coaches, and now multiply more than ever."

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### Costume - XVIth Century

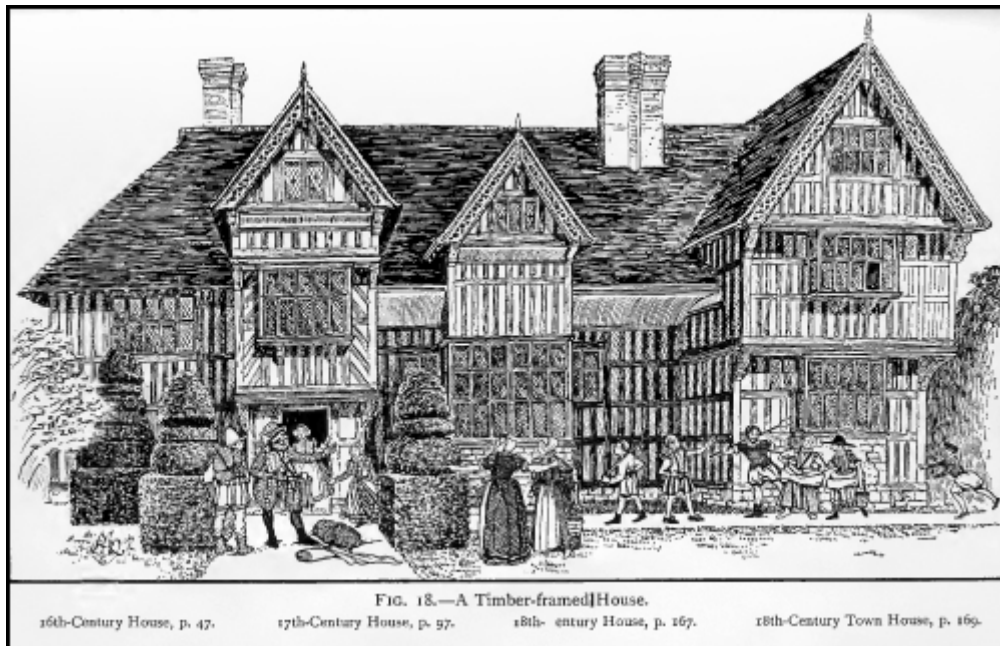


### Costume - XVIIth Century



### Costume - XVIIIth Century





***A Timber-Framed House***

**p.30**

Our next illustration (Fig. 18) has been drawn to show a timber-framed house. From the earliest times houses had been built in this way, and such method of construction can always be accepted as evidence that at one time there has been a good supply of timber in the locality. The old workmen always used local materials, and by so doing

**p.32**

ensured harmony with surroundings; a house built of local stone, bricks, or timber, seems to fit in and tune with the countryside, and does so because it is so closely related to Mother Earth. Slates, for instance, imported into a tile country look out of key. So where sturdy oaks flourished you find timber-framed houses. The oaks were felled and sawn up by hand. Placed over a pit, a long two-handled saw was used by two men; the man on top of the log was the top sawyer; the one in the pit under, the bottom sawyer. Smaller stuff was squared and faced up with a beautiful tool called an adze, which now has nearly gone out of use. In shape it was like a garden hoe, with a longer and sharper blade, and shorter handle. The man using it stood on his work and chopped off thick shavings towards his foot; a skillful craftsman could face up oak to nearly the same smoothness as with a plane, but the general surface was more undulating and pleasant. This was really a great advantage. The old builders realized that oak was fibrous, and the more you followed the fibre the better, and this the adze did. When one of the writers was a boy (and only one of us could have been) there were old workmen who for a wager would take off one boot, put a penny under the big toe, bring their adze down, and nick the edge of the penny, and not damage the toe. This gives some idea of what dexterous handling of tools can mean.

In building a timber-framed house, the foundations and two or three courses above the ground were built in masonry to keep the oak away from the damp. On the top of this was laid a sill-piece, into this were framed the uprights, called studs, and the earlier the work is, the closer the studs come together; at the top of the studs was another horizontal sill, and the joists of the floor were rested on the top of this, and projected over the framing under. So stage by stage the floors jutted out until the gables were reached, and these again were finished off in overhanging "barge boards"; here the old carpenters enjoyed themselves by inventing beautiful pierced patterns that are almost lace-like in their richness.

**p.33**

The roof was sometimes covered with tiles, thatch, or thin stone slabs. The oak studs were filled between with wattle, rather like a hurdle is made now, and then plastered, and this is called wattle-and-daub work, or brick was used for the same purpose, and this is called brick-nogging. The oak was generally left to take on a pleasant grey tint by exposure to the weather, rather like a field gate is now; many half-timbered houses have been ruined in appearance in modern times by being tarred, and the result is altogether too startling and black and white to be pleasant.

Now as to the sort of life which would have been lived in such a house as we have been describing, and the everyday things they would have used. A good deal of information can be obtained from old wills...

**p.37**

In a typical manor of the Middle Ages, the lord retained perhaps one-third of the land for his own use, and this was called the demesne, but it was not enclosed or fenced off, and

**p.38**

it formed part of the arable land on which crops were grown; the remainder was divided between the villeins, and farmed by them for the common benefit. They shared the hay grown on the meadows, and their pigs under the charge of the swineherds fed on the acorns in the woodlands. The villagers paid for their share of the common fields by working for the lord on the demesne land for two or three days in the week, and they sometimes paid a little in kind, like eggs, or fowls, with the further obligation that they followed their lord to war.

This method of farming was called the open field system, and did not altogether die out in England until the end of the eighteenth century.

The enclosures of which we hear so much started with the demesne land, and two causes contributed to this. These were the scarcity of labour caused by the Black Death of 1348, and the fact that it was more profitable to keep sheep, and sell wool, than grow corn. The lord often withdrew his demesne land in the common fields, and put them down to pasture; this helped at first, because less labour was required to tend sheep than to grow corn, and the waste lands were enclosed for the same purpose. Later on, however, as the population increased, this became a great hardship, and men could not find work to do. In Part I. we saw how some of the landowners who could not get men to work their land, as villeins, started letting it on stock and land leases, and charged a rent; from this class the yeomen developed, and judging by the number of small houses they built in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, they must have been prosperous then. But in the sixteenth century an altogether different spirit was introduced into land-holding. In the Middle Ages land was held to produce food, and to guarantee a supply of sturdy men-at-arms; at the dissolution of the monasteries nearly one fifteenth part of England changed hands, and the new landlords were a greedy, rapacious lot, who wanted to make things pay. Under the old system the land was worked

**p.39**

for the common good; the new method allowed the pushing man to forge ahead, often at the expense of his fellows.

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Illustration from :

**'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk '**

by Sim Schofield pub. 1905

***"Th' owd Pack Horse Inn"***



"TH' OWD PACK HORSE INN."