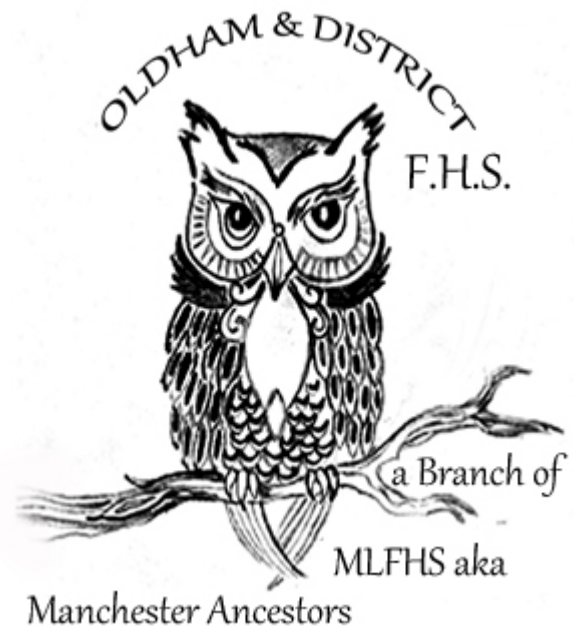


'e-Owls'



Contact us :

Branch Website page: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>

MLFHS Website homepage : <https://www.mlfhs.uk/>

Email Chairman : chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk

Emails General : oldham@mlfhs.org.uk

Email Newsletter Ed : Oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk

Email Website Ed : 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](#)

April 2024

MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

Where to find things in the newsletter:

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MLFHS Updates :	Page 8	Peterloo Bi-Centenary :	Page 30
Societies not part of MLFHS :	Page 10	Need Help! :	Page 31
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Branch Information & News :

Branch Officers for 2023 -2024 :

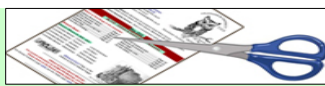
Committee Member : Chairman :	Vacant
Committee Member : Treasurer :	Gill Melton
Committee Member : Secretary :	Jan Costa
Committee Member : Newsletter :	Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Webmistress :	Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : 'Country Member' :	Linda Richardson
Committee Member : Joan Harrison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



Una,
heroine of the first book of the
"Faerie Queene," by Edmund Spenser
from : "Pictures from English Literature"
by John Francis Waller, pub. 1880

~~~~~

**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 and welcome to the April newsletter.

This month is our annual meeting when the Chairman, Treasurer, Branch Secretary and Committee are elected but, as no nominations have been received and the present committee, at this time, are willing to continue in their present roles, no elections are necessary.

We are still looking for people to join the Committee and if you are interested, please contact Jan Costa or myself at < chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk >. You do not need to live in Oldham or even have Oldham ancestors to join our committee, just have an interest in expressing your opinion on matters discussed and future speakers. The committee meetings usually take place on Zoom.

We are also looking for one or two volunteers to stand behind our table at Manchester Central Library for this year's Family History Fair on Saturday 13th April, to assist Hilary Hartigan. Unfortunately, as this is the same day as our annual meeting and normal monthly meeting, none of the present committee are able to attend. Again, if you are able to assist us in this way, please email Jan or myself at < chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk >.

Enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter.

Best Wishes

Gill Melton

Treasurer & Acting Joint Chair

~~~~~

**Editor's remarks.**

As always, I hope everyone is keeping well, despite the uncertain weather which is keeping us all guessing!

In the Mixed Bag we have more pages from *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men*, this month, continuing with Series 1. I have transcribed pages 57 through to page 89. In those pages was a brief mention of Manchester when the Jacobites entered the town in 1745.

Searching the Internet Archive, to refresh my memory, Harrison Ainsworth's novel, about the rebellion popped up... just for a change, I've included a piece of fiction in the Links to Books Online section. The Preface to it made interesting reading and, although it's fiction, it is based on well researched documents so I transcribed it and it's in the Mixed Bag.

In the Gallery, are two pictures, illustrating the transcription, from '*Manchester Streets and Manchester Men*' and four from the Ainsworth novel about the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745.

As Gill mentioned in the Chairman's Remarks, last month, MLFHS had a big birthday in March, which was celebrated with a 60th Anniversary Event in Manchester Library. The Oldham Branch had a presence at the event with maps, photos, handouts and a potted history of how and when, in 1996, the Branch came into being 38 years ago! It was a successful and enjoyable few hours as people stopped to chat to us about their own family stories and interests.

Unfortunately, the Annual MLFHS Family History Fair, in Manchester, is on the same day, Saturday 12th April, as our own Branch Annual Meeting and talk. Hopefully, this won't impact too greatly on our own audience numbers as it is a hybrid meeting. The Annual Meeting part is

very brief, a matter of minutes, and is just for a short Report concerning the Branch activities over the past year and the committee for the coming year. All are welcome.

In the e-Postbag, we have an email from Manchester Histories, inviting people to be part of the Festival in June. Closing date for applications is very soon, Friday 29th March so, if you think it might be for you, read that first and follow the link to apply! Also in the postbag was an email about a plaque being unveiled in Oldham on International Women's Day.

One of our society members regularly posts on the Members' Forum about interesting websites or talks she has found, which is really helpful. One of the more recent was a link to a website with "*an overview of the story of Manchester*" [HERE](#) which is both pictorial and informative. 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 >

**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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Oldham & District Branch

Monthly Meetings

2024

Last Month's Meeting, March - hybrid on Zoom and in th Library



Saturday
9th Mar.
at
2 pm



Made in Manchester :

'A History of the City that Shaped the Modern World'

An illustrated presentation given by Brian Groom,
author of his soon-to-be published book of that title,
and of '*Northerners - a History*'.

The astonishing story of how the people of Manchester and its region – including Oldham – shaped the emergence of the modern world, from the Romans to today, will be outlined by Brian Groom, author of the bestselling 'Northerners: A History'.

Based on his forthcoming book, 'Made in Manchester: a People's History of the City that

Shaped the Modern World', Brian will talk about individuals, famous or not, who built the region and its culture and ask what part it can play in Britain's future.

Brian opened his talk by outlining some of the features that would influence Manchester's place in history, including music, women's rights, immigration, culture, science and technology. It was inevitable that much of his book would cover the cities of Manchester and Salford but, at the same time, the Boroughs that make up the modern Greater Manchester plus a wider area that considered Manchester it's nearest big city, would also feature. He pointed out that the Greater Manchester that we know today, includes areas such as Saddleworth, that was historically in the West Riding of Yorkshire but now, for administrative purposes, is part of Oldham, together with those, in Trafford, Tameside and Stockport which had been absorbed from Cheshire. Following on, Brian gave us a 'potted history' of the wider district from early hunter gatherers, through early tribes, to the Roman times when Brian believes Manchester's properly recorded history, "got going". Briefly outlining the Roman period, during which a fort was constructed alongside a settlement housing soldiers' families, artisans, workshops and shops, all servicing the fort. Following the Roman withdrawal, there are no written records and very few artefacts from the several hundred years that followed. Manchester was on the fringe of Anglo-Saxon Northumbria, then of the Viking kingdom of York. By the Norman Conquest, Manchester was a tiny village, surrounded by peat moss and rough moorland, in the sparsely populated Salford Hundred. Mediaeval Manchester, almost a mile north of the old Roman fort, took root at the confluence of the Rivers Irk and Irwell. The Anglo-Saxon church of St. Mary became the Collegiate Church.

Manchester grew steadily and, as it reached Elizabethan times, had become established as a manufacturing and marketing centre for the woollen and linen trades.

Brian then touched on the story of John Dee, who was, amongst other attributes, a mathematician, astronomer, astrologer and alchemist, and lived from 1527 to 1608. Next, Brian turned to the Civil War, in the 17th century, which resulted in Cromwell's Commonwealth. Amongst other stories, he told us that the first known casualty of the War was a Mancunian linen weaver, in 1642 and, shortly afterwards, strongly Parliamentary Manchester, was unsuccessfully besieged by a Royalist force. However, by 1660, conflict-weary Manchester was able to welcome the return of the monarchy, on the arrival and subsequent coronation of King Charles II.

Manchester continued to flourish and cotton fustians were introduced in the earlier 1700s, and pure cotton from about 1750. It became a nationally important town whilst still retaining an earlier form of local government.

In 1745 Mancunians were again divided in their loyalties, this time between Stuart supporters of 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' (son of the deposed King James) and those of King George II. Although vocally supportive of the invading Scots, in reality, few signed up to join their army as it marched away towards London.

The next important character to whom we were introduced was Elizabeth Raffald, an enterprising woman who, amongst other achievements, published a cookery book and a directory of Manchester.

Next we turned to the construction of the Bridgewater Canal which, kick-started the canal-building era, facilitating the easier transport of heavy goods around the country.

Now moving into the industrial era, Richard Arkwright, brought the first cotton mill to Manchester in 1781. As the mill went up, crowds gathered to wonder at its immensity. By 1800, Manchester was on its way to becoming known as 'Cottonopolis,' and mills were no longer a novelty or source of amazement. Also in the town's favour was a workforce that already had textile skills and commercial expertise; rivers provided water power and coal fields were close by. Ideally placed geographically, it also had no craft Guilds to regulate the rapidly expanding

industry. Its relative closeness to Liverpool ensured it had a ready supply of slave-grown raw cotton from the other side of the Atlantic and, in addition, an outlet for exports.

Then it was Oldham's turn to get a mention... it's transformation from a hamlet to an important mill-town. By 1870, the number of Spindles in Oldham outnumbered those of Manchester. By 1914 Oldham was the "cotton-spinning capital of the world" with 360 mills. It had important engineering works and over 150 coalmines through its history.

In the 19th century, Manchester was enjoying a reputation in the sciences and technology and Brian mentioned some of the celebrated Mancunians, including the scientist John Dalton (1766-1834).

The period from about 1790 to 1850, was fraught with political, rural and industrial protest across the country. There had been the American Civil War, with the cotton famine in Lancashire; there had been the French Revolution and the radical ideology it engendered; there were the Napoleonic Wars, poor harvests and shortages of food and, when the wars were over, returning soldiers couldn't find work. The rapid expansion of industry led to an influx of people into the towns, looking for work in the mills, with the attendant urbanisation resulting in poor housing conditions, sanitation and a rise in the related diseases. In 1819, in Manchester, was the Peterloo Massacre in which a peaceful rally, in support of Parliamentary Reform, was brutally suppressed as the yeomanry soldiers attacked the thousands of men, women and children packed onto the field to hear the speakers.

The Reform Movement was temporarily stalled but not halted and, in 1832, the Great Reform Act was passed, in which Oldham and District gained two M.Ps, the Radicals William Cobbett and John Fielden.

Manchester was prominent in working class reform politics and was involved in the Chartist Campaign; Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels were researching conditions in the city, at Chethams' Library which resulted in the Communist Manifesto; the Trade Union Congress met in the city in 1868; and the Women's Suffrage Movement had its early beginnings in the city. Manchester employers also advocated Free Trade and a "city that had once been a minor, provincial town was now the centre of social, political and economic currents that were sweeping the world."

"Manchester had played an equivocal part in the slave trade," being at the centre of the campaign for abolition whilst at the same time its merchants and manufacturers were relying on the cotton produced by slaves. Today, we can still see many of the grand buildings built on the proceeds from cotton.

In 1830, the steam-powered passenger railway came to Manchester. The opening day was marred by a fatal accident when the Liverpool M.P. was struck by the train and he was killed. In the 1840s, Manchester was a place of great opportunities for some whilst, for others, there was deprivation, disease and suffering. It was in this period that Friedrich Engels visited the most deprived areas of Manchester and published, *'The Condition of the Working Class in England'* in 1845. It was also in these years that Elizabeth Gaskell saw the misery and hardship being suffered, as a result of bad harvests and a slump in trade, and wrote *'Mary Barton'*, reflecting the living and working conditions of the time.

Mutual self-help initiatives came into being, such as trade unions, mutual societies and, in Rochdale's Toad Lane, the Co-operative movement began in 1844.

In the 1860s cotton manufacturing districts around Manchester were badly affected by the Cotton Famine, caused partly by "over capacity" and partly the blockaded southern ports in the American Civil War. Initially, the mill towns tended to support the South and there were 'pro-Confederate Clubs'. Attitudes only changed when President Lincoln included the abolition of slavery in his war aims.

The 19th century, in Manchester, saw the ambitious construction of grandiose buildings,

including the Town Hall, designed by Alfred Waterhouse, which took almost 10 years to build. Another massive project, following complaints by Manchester Merchants, concerning excessive charges at Liverpool Docks, was the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal, opened in 1894. Eventually, it enabled Manchester to become the third busiest port in the country. Industrial estates sprang up and thrived alongside it, including the American engineering firm of Westinghouse.

In the first decade of the 20th century, The Women's Social & Political Union was formed by Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst. Initially peaceful, it quickly turned to violence and damage to properties. When WW1 started, they suspended suffrage activities, in order to support the government war effort, and began distributing the white feathers of cowardice to men whom they believed should have signed-up for the army.

The years between the two world wars had their difficulties but the Ship Canal and Trafford Park, supported Manchester's economy. Manchester Central Library was opened in 1934, underlining "civic confidence" in the future. 'Garden Cities' began to appear and in 1926, building began on Wythenshawe Park, which had been donated to the City.

Next, Brian turned to the world of entertainment naming Rochdale's Gracie Fields and George Formby from Wigan.

When War broke out in 1939, Manchester would become within reach of enemy bombers and December 1940 saw a two-night devastating bombardment of the city. After the war, an ambitious plan for Manchester's regeneration was published and included tree-lined boulevards, with different zones for industry, housing and leisure. The plan was to sweep away the old mills, warehouses, banks, offices and even the Town Hall, to make way for this new vision of Manchester. Little of what was envisaged actually came to fruition as the costs became insupportable.

1948 saw the implementation of the National Health Service and a visit from Aneurin Bevan to Park Hospital in Davyhulme, which later became Trafford General.

Manchester's university researcher's produced a first-of-its-kind computer, in 1948, which they nicknamed 'Baby'

Brian then rounded off his talk by bringing back memories from the last half of the 20th century. There were two football disasters; in 1946, 33 fans were crushed to death and 400 injured at a Bolton Wanderers match against Stoke City. In winter 1958, the Munich air disaster took the lives of 23 of the 44 passengers on the aircraft, 8 of whom were Manchester United players, nicknamed the 'Busby Babes'.

In the years after WW2, Manchester declined and its struggle to turn things around was hampered by badly designed 'modernist' flats and housing which were also poorly constructed. They were described as "Europe's Worst Housing Stock." Oldham was hit hard by the importation of cheap foreign yarns and, by 1964, was no longer the largest centre of cotton spinning; in 1998, the last cotton was spun at the Elk Mill.

The Arndale Centre, built in the late 1970s, was the target of an IRA bomb, in 1996. Coded warnings ensured that no-one was killed but over 200 people were injured.

Manchester had a growing 'pop' scene and the iconic Hacienda Club opened in 1982 but closed in 1997 with heavy debts.

Now, in the 21st century, Manchester is regenerating as privately developed skyscrapers proliferate ... some love the 'new look'... others hate it.

Many thanks to Brian for such an informative and interesting 'gallop' through Manchester's history with a wealth of illustrations in the accompanying powerpoint.

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**April Meeting, hybrid in the library and on zoom**



Saturday  
13th Apr.  
at  
2 pm



**Saturday, 13th April, at 2pm**  
**Brief Annual Members' Meeting followed by :**  
***Manorial Records of Chadderton : Foxdenton Hall***  
an illustrated presentation by Michael Lawson.

"This is the story of an ancient Hall, built in the mid 15th century, and long associated with the Radcliffe family. The old Hall was pulled down and a new one erected in 1620. In 1922 the grounds were leased to Chadderton Council for use as a park and, in 1960, the Hall itself passed into the ownership the Council and was subsequently refurbished in 1965."

This is a hybrid Meeting, on zoom and in the Performance Space at Oldham Library.  
In the Performance Space : MLFHS members free; visitors £5.  
Refreshments on arrival.

Booking for zoom attendance will be free to everyone, on [Eventbrite](#). All are most welcome.

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Details, of the 2024 programme of talks, are on the 'Meetings' page of the Branch website [HERE](#)

A .pdf, printable copy of the 2024 programme is available [HERE](#) to download from the 'Miscellany' page.

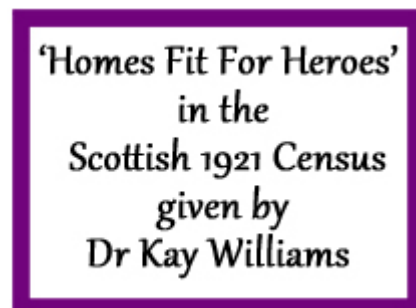
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**MLFHS Branches delivering their monthly meetings and talks**

**Anglo - Scots – April 6th**



Saturday,  
6th  
April  
at  
2pm



**A Zoom only Meeting**

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

Booking necessary on [Eventbrite](#)

MLFHS Members free; non-members £5

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Bolton – April

MLFHS Bolton Branch Meetings - Hybrid	Wednesday 3rd April at 7:30 pm	'Henry Dawson's presentation album and T. Taylor Ltd., of Bolton' given by Maggy Simm
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A Hybrid Meeting on Zoom and in the Golf Club

MLFHS Members free; non-members £5

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

& Online via Zoom for which booking on Eventbrite is necessary

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

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## **MLFHS updates**

### **Manchester Meetings / Events... April 2024**

|                                                   |                                                                     |                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MLFHS<br/>aka<br/>Manchester<br/>Ancestors</b> | <b>Saturday,<br/>13th<br/>April<br/>10:00 am<br/>to<br/>3:00 pm</b> |  |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **Annual Spring Fair**

at Manchester Central Library

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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. All MLFHS 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.

\* A new index and transcript has been published in the MLFHS Online Shop:

St. Mary & St. Philip Neri RC Church, Baptisms 1886-1913

This can be found at <https://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk/products/dl1692>

This download also includes the single surviving page of the first baptism register for this church (the rest lost as a result of damp) covering some baptisms 23 Oct 1864-9 Jul 1865.

Thanks are due to Marie Collier and her indexing team for this latest publication.

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* The latest in our series of catholic baptism register downloads is now in the MLFHS shop at:

<https://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk/collections/new-products/products/dl1693>

This is Pendleton, St. Sebastian (RC) Baptisms 1892-1918 and, like most of our other RC downloads, includes name index, transcript and images of the original register.

This one contains 11,427 names which appear in 2,724 baptisms.

Thanks to Marie Collier and her team for this new one.

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

Added 1,942 Births for Bury RD comprising: Bury (1989-1990)

Added 2,604 Deaths for Bury RD comprising: Bury (1976-1979)

Added 2,355 Marriages for Bury RD comprising:

Bury Register Office or Registrar Attended (1971-1974);

Radcliffe Register Office or Registrar Attended (1960-1962);

Whitefield, Whitefield Hebrew Congregation, Park Lane (1961-2022);

Prestwich, Higher Prestwich Hebrew Congregation, Bury Old Rd. (1964-2019);

Whitefield, Sha'arei Shalom North Manchester Reform Congregation, Elm St. (1983-2019);

Prestwich, Sedgley Park Synagogue (L&D), Park View Rd. (1992-2018);

Meade Hill, The United Synagogue and Beth Hamedrash Hagodol (1938-2004)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

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* I have just added a new download to the MLFHS online shop. This is a scanned copy of a book originally published by the Catholic Family History Society but which has for some time been out of print. It contains lists of pupils for the following Catholic girls' colleges and periods: Ghent, 1624-1794, Preston, 1795-1811, Caverswall, 1811-1853. and Oulton, 1853-1969.

They are presented as a PDF file and include alphabetical and numeric indexes.

Further details can be found at:

<https://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk/collections/new-products/products/dlc0001>

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\* I have just added details of 55 memorials and an index of 200 names to the Memorial Inscription index. These are for Croft Unitarian Chapel and were supplied by Cheyenne Bower, to whom, many thanks.

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* I have just added 399 records, the latest batch of staff records for Manchester Corporation Transport, covering surnames BOWMAN to BRACKEN.

Thanks to Barry Henshall and team for these.

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\* Another addition to the Great Database. This is a list of 1,183 persons present in the Bolton, Fletcher Street Workhouse 1820-1833, originally transcribed by Julie Lamara. The records give age, occupation or condition, and the date on which they were recorded as present.  
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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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Moorside & District Historical Society

Monday 15th April 2024

Times Past

"The Three Great Mellodew's Mansions" *Then & Now*

Plus other local houses owned by the company
History - Location - People etc.



Repeated by request - with up-dates etc -

Illustrated presentation by Ray Entwistle

To be held in the St Thomas Church lounge/hall, Moorside. OL1 4SJ

7-30 p.m. all are welcome.

Meetings are the third Monday of the month.

Except for the summer break July & August + December. £2-50p including refreshment.

April ~ September meeting in St Thomas' Church Hall.OL1 4SJ



To be held in St Thomas' Church Lounge, North Gate Lane, OL1 4SJ

Moorside & District Historical Society ... Monday 15th April at

£2.50, including refreshments
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**Saddleworth Historical Society ... Wednesday, 10th April at 7:30**

***“Sketches of a Saddleworth Childhood in the 1960’s”***

an illustrated presentation given by Michael Fox

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

All are welcome to attend meetings. Refreshments are available.

The venue is the Saddleworth Museum Gallery, High Street, Uppermill.

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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Tameside History Club :

Meetings on zoom.

Website and programme

&

Tameside Local Studies and Archives - Regular Sessions and Events

Website and programme [HERE](#)

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**Regional Heritage Centre :**

Website [HERE](#)

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'A Mixed Bag'

Our serialisation of *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men* Vol. 1 (1st series) by T.

Swindells, published in 1906, and started in our newsletter in 2023-08. It will continue through succeeding newsletters. This month we have pages 57 to 89. Illustrations are in the Gallery.

SOME FENNEL STREET REMINISCENCES.

p.57

Another of Manchester’s oldest streets is Fennel-street, and it is particularly suitable that one of the earliest references to it contained in our records should be in connection with one of our oldest families. To the Bexwickes belonged various plots of land in the town, and being engaged in business they held high social rank in the little community. One Roger Bexwicke had three sons and a daughter. The youngest son was a chaplain at the Collegiate Church, and it is to them that we owe the stalls on the north side of the Cathedral. The only daughter married Richard Becks. She gave to Manchester the conduit which for many generations supplied the burgesses with water. It stood in the Market Place, and was fed by springs rising in the neighbourhood of Spring Gardens and Fountain-street. One of the founders of the Manchester Grammar School was Hugh Bexwicke, and another member of the family was Bishop Hugh Oldham. In the court leet records from March 27, 1600, we read that Roger Bexwicke, had died, leaving his cousin as heir to certain of his property. This Roger had been

heir to the Roger previously named. In his will he left three burgages in Manchester, one in Fennel-street to Roger Bexwicke, who was engaged in business in London, one in St. Mary's Gates to his son Hugh, and one in Market place to his son Myles.

Further court leet references appear under date October 8, 1618, when John Bamford, whose house and

p.58

garden extended from Fennel-street to Toad Lane, was ordered to repair the pavement before his house. In all probability either John or some of his neighbours, requiring clay, or daub as it was then called, for the repair of their houses, had taken what they required from the roadway. By this means they would save themselves a journey to the daub holes which stood where the Infirmary esplanade now is. That such a practice was not unknown is shown by the many entries in the Court Leet records referring to it, and by the penalties inflicted by the Court on various occasions.

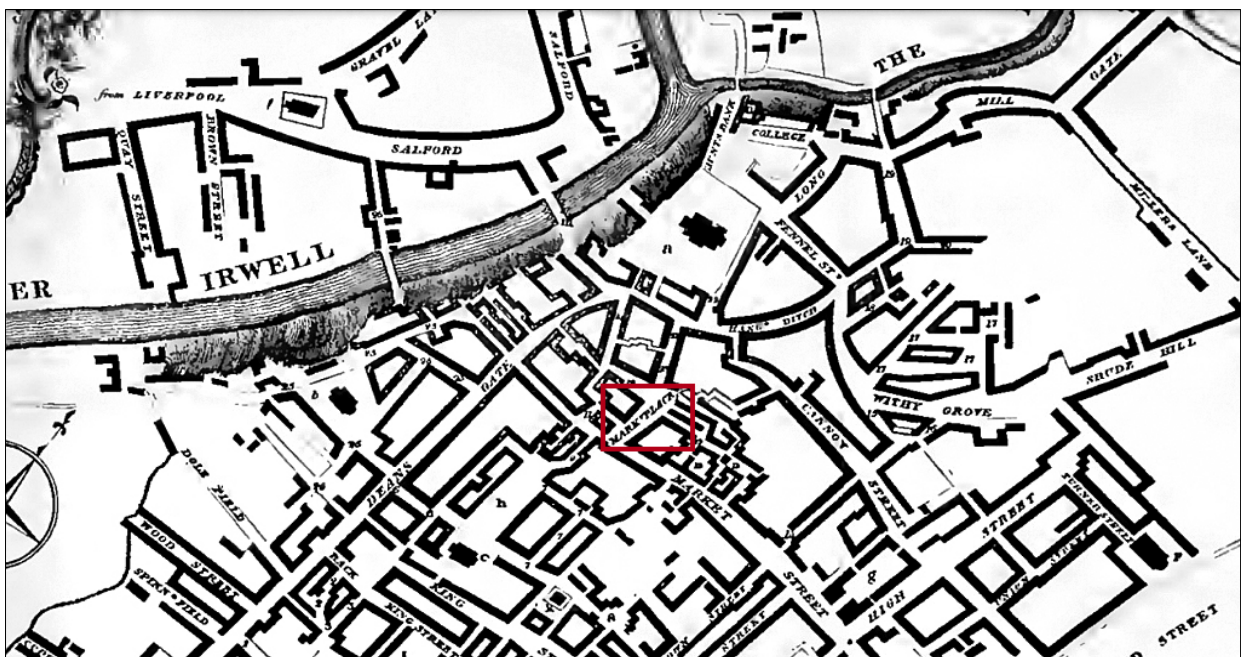
AN ANCIENT CHARITY.

The Fennel-street house belonging to Roger Bexwicke was tenanted in 1600 by Edward Mayes, to whom a passing reference should be made. The Mayes Charity originated in 1621, when Edward Mayes by will bequeathed £120, which sum should be invested in land or other security, the profits and rents of which should be devoted annually to the use of the poor of Manchester. The money was invested in the purchase of four cottages near Miller's Lane, together with three adjacent fields, the whole comprising four acres. The rents were directed to be distributed every Good Friday. This was in 1635. Early in the last century various changes were made with reference to the property, the making of new streets absorbing some of the land. The remainder of the land was let on long leases, and warehouses were built on the site in more recent years. Previous to these changes there were some almshouses with gardens in Miller's Lane inhabited by six poor

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

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

Introduction by James Croston, Pub 1875



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women, who were nominated by the trustees of the Mayes Charity, each receiving in addition to a house free from rent, the sum of five pounds per annum. In 1807, when Edward-street was made, the houses were pulled down, and the poor tenants evicted. In 1818 a memorial stone

which had been placed in front of the almshouses was fixed at the corner of Mayes-street, but disappeared many years ago. It was, however, discovered in 1866 in one of the cellars of the City Art Gallery by the late Alderman Harry Rawson. As showing how enormously land values have increased, I may say the annual value of the Charity founded by Edward Mayes benefaction of £120 is no less than £479.

Another of the residents of Fennel-street who founded a charity was Anne Hinde.

THE GREEN COAT SCHOOL.

Anne Hinde, daughter of William Page, a Manchester merchant, and widow of the Rev. John Hinde, a Fellow of the Collegiate Church, by her will dated February 11, 1723, left certain property for the endowment of the charity that still bears her name. Certain lands, including the site of New Bailey, but now of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company's goods yard in New Bailey-street, were to be so used. She directed that six feoffees should manage the charity, and that twenty poor children, ten belonging to Manchester and ten to Stretford, should be maintained and educated. The children were to receive a plain education, and should *"publicly say their Catechism in the Collegiate Church of Manchester and Chapel of Stretford upon*

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some Sunday every year." Mrs. Hinde also left directions as to the clothing to be worn by the children. It certainly did not agree with modern ideas of comfort or neatness. Green was the predominant colour. The girls' gowns and peculiarly shaped hats resembling a Cardinal's hat formed of hard felt, with narrow brims were green in colour, and the boys wore green coats, hard felt hats, somewhat like a tall hat in shape, and breeches made of a yellow shade of leather which proved very uncomfortable wear in wet weather. For the Stretford scholars a school was provided that stood on the site of the present Temperance Hall and adjacent cottages; and the Manchester ones were educated in a school that was connected with St. Mary's Church, but in later years in the St. John's School. The election of schoolmaster at Stretford in 1788 gave rise to the writing of *"The School candidates. A prosaic Burlesque, by Henry Clarke, LL.D.,"* a book that was reprinted in 1877, by the J. E. Bailey, F.S.A.

Unfortunately, some years ago, the property was sold, and the money invested in Consols, with the result that the charity has not benefited from the increase in land values to the extent that other charities have done. At present about sixty children are educated, a number of them being clothed in addition.

In one of the clauses in Mrs. Hinde's will is a reference to the Rev. Radley Aynscough, a chaplain of the Collegiate Church, who was a tenant of Mrs. Hinde's in Fennel-street, and who died in 1728. It gives particulars respecting the tenancy and is worth reproducing as showing how matters stood in the street

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in those days. *"Having regard to the covenant I gave W. Radley Aynscough concerning the sale of the said last-named messuage after my decease, by which covenant it was never by me intended that the pump and gate, on way standing, being and adjoining to the house where I now inhabit and dwell, shall be any ways made separate from the house I now inhabit after the expiration of Mr. Aynscough's lease, but that after the expiration of the said lease the said pump and way should go along and be disposed as appertaining and belonging (as usual it did) to the house I now inhabit and dwell in."*

DR. DEACON.

Connected for many years with Fennel-street was Dr. Deacon, who belonged to a community styled by the public as "Nonjurors," but denominated by themselves as the "True British Catholic Church." The members differed from all other churches on numerous grounds, and recognised a considerable number of Sacraments. They appointed Bishops, some at any rate

of whom were notable for their lack of theological training. They were principally noted for the support they gave to the Stuart cause in 1745. At that time Dr. Deacon, who resided in Fennel-street, was the Bishop, and the services were held in a room over a shop in Fennel-street. Three of the Doctor's sons joined Charles Edward Stuart, and one of them was executed along with Thomas Syddall for his share in the enterprise. After the execution their heads were sent from London to Manchester, and were placed on spikes on the roof of the first exchange that formerly stood in the

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market place on a site opposite where the lower portion of the present exchange stands. We are told in Whitworth's "*Manchester Magazine*" for September 23, 1746, that the heads were placed on the roof about five o'clock in the morning on the previous Thursday, and that great numbers of persons viewed them later in the morning. Amongst these was Dr. Deacon who, removing his hat, remained for some time looking at the ghastly display. Less than seven years later he died, and was interred in St. Ann's Churchyard. His tomb prior to the alterations stood opposite to the Williams Deacon Bank just inside the rails, and after the alterations the stone was placed against the corner of the Church. It bears the inscription, "*Here be interred the remains (which through mortality are at present corrupt, but which one day must surely be raised again to immortality and put on incorruption) of Thomas Deacon, the greatest of sinners and most unworthy of primitive bishops, who died the 16th of February, 1753, in the 56th year of his age.*"

The directory for 1788 contains the entry, "Paynter Richard Walter, attorney, Fennel-street." Paynter's son, David William, received his education at the Manchester Grammar School, and in early years developed great literary ability. His works comprised "*History of Godfrey Ranger*," 1813; "*Eurypilus: a tragedy*," 1816; and "*Muse in Idleness*," 1819; and a tragedy, "*King Stephen*." His "*Muse in Idleness*"

brought down the thunders of "*Blackwood*" upon Manchester 'poetry, past, present, and future. Paynter, however, was not the only author who earned the

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denunciations of the quarterlies of the period. He died young, however, and had little opportunity of justifying the good opinions of his friends. He was the personal friend of Jemmy Watson, and the pair often figured in the local publications of the period as "*Corporal Trim*" and "*Uncle Toby*." A century ago the corn market was held in Fennel-street. This would in the first instance be in the open street, probably in front of where the Dog and Partridge Hotel now stands. The bell now hanging in front of the building was rung at the hours of opening and closing the market. In an interesting picture that has never been copied and published we have a representation of two old black and white houses, which we are told were the Dog and Partridge Inn and the St. Ann's or New Church alehouse in Fennel-street, and an additional foot note tells us that both were pulled down to make way for the new Corn Exchange. This must have been very early in the last century. Why the market left Fennel-street we are not told, but it seems probable that the building referred to on the picture mentioned was some portion of the new Dog and Partridge Inn, and possibly some disagreement between the traders and the proprietor of the inn resulted in their removal to the Spread Eagle Yard.

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HANGING DITCH REMINISCENCES

Of the older parts of the city few can claim a greater antiquity than can Hanging Ditch; for we find actual reference to it as far back as 1473, when in the rental returns of Thomas West, lord of the Manor, we read that Nicholas Raveald paid for one "*burgage of land lying near the Hanging Bridge, on the east side, twelve-pence.*" This would be for land bounded on the one side by the churchyard and on the other by the ditch, that then found its way under the bridge,

the partial exposure of which four years ago aroused so much interest. Many antiquarians are of opinion that when the Saxons, or their successors the Normans, made their settlement on the site of the present College, at the confluence of the Irk and Irwell, a ditch or dyke was cut connecting the Irk and the ditch, which running from the upper lands drained the water collecting there, into the river at a spot near to where Salford Bridge stood. Surrounded thus by water the inhabitants of the settlement communicated with the surrounding country by means of a draw bridge, on the site of which in later years was built the stone bridge referred to.

With this brief reference to this interesting relic of mediaeval Manchester, concerning which so much has been written, we leave the bridge and turn our attention to the "Ditch." When the ditch was filled up and the site built upon and used for street purposes, we have no record; but [Joseph] Aston, writing in 1804, says:

picture in the Gallery

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"Within the memory of persons now living, and whose ages promise many additional years, the cart road through Hanging Ditch was through a washway so narrow that only one cart could pass at once, the rest of the space between the opposite houses being a raised causeway, guarded by a battlement to prevent foot passengers from falling into the water which ran along the cart road." It is probable that when Cateaton-street and Old Millgate were improved and widened in 1776 the streets would be drained. As a thoroughfare Hanging Ditch was certainly known in 1552 when at the first meeting of the Court-Leet of which we have any record a "Skevenger" was appointed for the "Henging Dyche and Meyle Gate;" and in the record for October 2, 1566, we read that George Holland, gent, residing in a street called Hanging Ditch, was ordered to make provision that the water dropping from his house should no longer be hurtful to the house of his neighbour.

An interesting glimpse of life in the town three hundred years ago is obtained in an order of the court made in October, 1602. It runs thus: *"The jury order that John Fletcher, Richard Greenhalgh, Thomas*

Morrisse, and all other inhabitants within the circuit of the Hanging Ditch, do forthwith amend, cover and sufficiently repair the pump in the Queen's highway there standing, so that it be not hurtful or dangerous to horses and other cattle, but also to every passenger, and especially to children." Passing on to the close of the century we find a reference in the records to the White Horse Inn that formerly stood nearly opposite to the Spread Eagle. For many years this was a popular

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house with country manufacturers visiting Manchester on market days.

TWO OLD CHARITIES.

One of the numerous charities still dispensed annually was for many years associated with the district of Hanging Ditch. This was a school that stood in Tippings Court, one of those curious winding narrow thoroughfares so characteristic of our old towns. It formed a short cut from Hanging Ditch to Cannon-street before Corporation-street was made, and when the last named street was made nearly the whole of Tippings Court was absorbed. A century ago there stood in the court a school at which a number of children were educated in accordance with the wish of Catherine Richards, who, in her will, dated March 3, 1711, directed that the rents of certain property should annually be paid to the relief of widows of decayed tradesmen, and for the instructing and apprenticing of poor boys and girls, in such manner as the wardens of Manchester might direct. The school has gone, but the charity is administered by the Dean and Lord Ducie, the annual income being £117 18s. 8d.

Another of our charities associated with Hanging Ditch is that known as the Mynshull. In 1689 Thomas Mynshull, of Chorlton Hall, directed that the income of two houses then standing

besides Hanging Bridge should be devoted to the apprenticing of poor boys born in Manchester. In course of time the old cottages were pulled down and a more modern building erected in their stead. The present

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building stands on the original site, and is estimated to produce £153 per annum. When the present building was erected the trustees took special precautions to prevent any injury being done to the ancient Hanging Bridge, a portion of which, in a splendid state of preservation, can be seen in the cellars of Mynshull House. The charity is administered by a board of trustees, a list of whose names can be seen carved on a stone in the present buildings.

On December 1, 1745, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, the young Pretender, left Manchester amidst the plaudits of many of the burgesses. He was accompanied by a large body of supporters, nearly two hundred of whom had been enrolled during his two days' stay in the town. Despite their determination to march to London, the rebels "took fright" at Derby, and on December 8, as a disorganised rabble, the wearers of the white cockade re-entered Manchester. It is said that some of them passed down Hanging Ditch, where they were stoned. On their way they passed the house of John Byrom, the author of "Christians Awake," whose town house stood at the corner of Hunter's Lane, now known as Cannon-street. Byrom's sympathies were with the Pretender, but he showed a considerable amount of caution at a time when most Jacobites were noisy in their demonstrations of loyalty to their Prince. John Byrom, who inherited Kersal Cell on the death of his elder brother, was succeeded by his son Edward, who built St. John's Church, Deansgate.

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OUR FIRST STREET IMPROVEMENT.

In 1776 an act of Parliament was obtained for carrying out Manchester's first scheme of street improvement. This consisted of widening Old Millgate, Cateaton-street, and St. Mary's Gate, which had been exceedingly narrow, and of the making of Exchange-street, which gave very much improved means of access from the Market Place to the fashionable residential district round St. Ann's Square. In 1791 one of the Hanging Ditch taverns received the attention of the Court Leet, for we find that William Whitehead, the landlord of the Spread Eagle, was fined a guinea for leaving carriages and post-chaises in Hunter's Lane, to the annoyance and danger of His Majesty's subjects. In those days the Spread Eagle was a coaching house, a coach leaving for Liverpool every morning at eight o'clock, the fare being fourteen shillings, and the journey occupied about six hours. The coaching house has now shared the fate of the stage coaches, both giving way before the advance of modern improvement. Mention must be made of several one-time residents of our thoroughfare. One of these individuals was the cause of an outburst of passion on the part of the Rev. Joshua Brookes. When an infant he was taken by his father, a man of Republican tendencies, to the Collegiate Church to be christened. On being asked the child's name the father replied, "Citizen." "Citizen," growled Ioshua, "that's no name. I shall not give the child a name like that." "I've a right to call my child what name I please, and I dare you to baptise him otherwise," boldly asserted Mr. Cowdroy. "Oh,

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yes, you may call him Beezlebug if you like," responded the chaplain. And Citizen - the boy was accordingly christened: and in later years he and William Rathbone issued the first number of the "Courier" or "Manchester Advertiser," from an office in Hanging Ditch. The paper bore the motto "This is not the cause of faction or of party, or any individual, but the cause of every man in Britain." The paper continued to be issued for several years, but in 1821, inasmuch as it did not meet the requirements of the party of reform, the first issue of the "Manchester Guardian" appeared on May 5, 1821, the price being sevenpence. In January, 1825, the present "Courier" was commenced. A neighbour of Cowdroy's was William Sudlow, a member of a musical family

who were intimately associated with the Manchester concerts of a century ago. William Sudlow, senior, was a noted performer on the violin and violoncello. He died in 1802, and was succeeded in the business of music seller at 11, Hanging Ditch by his son, who was for many years organist at the Collegiate Church. Another member of the family, Edward Sudlow, was also an organist and taught music.

Another resident in Hanging Ditch was John Watson, druggist, whose son James was, a century ago, a well-known character in the town. He was one of those whose genius and ability are overclouded by a complete want of will power. Although possessed with a talent for the stage, which enabled him to take the lead in amateur theatricals and brought him in personal contact with many actors, amongst whom was G. F. Cooke, the eminent tragedian; and also some literary

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ability, as shown in his poems, published under the title of "*The Spirit of the Doctor*," his life was a complete failure. Appointed librarian when the Portico was opened in 1806, he soon lost the position in consequence of his drinking habits and neglect of duty.

The Corn Exchange familiar to the present generation, but pulled down a few years ago, was opened in January, 1837. Prior to that date the market was held at 21, Hanging Ditch, probably the old Corn Exchange building recently removed, and prior to that in the Spread Eagle yard.

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ROUND THE "EVENING NEWS" OFFICE SITE

Although Cross-street is not one of the oldest street names in Manchester, there is associated with it a large amount of interesting information. Long before the present wide thoroughfare with its fine buildings was even thought of, there was a narrow country lane giving access to a fine moated hall that stood on the higher land now occupied by Pall Mall and the adjacent streets. Of the hall and its associations I shall have somewhat to say in my next article, as for the present we are concerned with the Market-street end of Cross-street.

When Joseph Aston was a schoolboy in the Manchester of a hundred and thirty years ago he lived with his parents in a house that stood in Market Stead Lane, and received his education at a school standing in a lane known as Pool Fold. The school occupied a portion of the site now marked by the Exchange steps. The house faced the lane, and in front of it was a garden which extended as far as Brown-street. The lane was, however, doomed very soon after this to lose its rural appearance, and as plot after plot of land was built upon it became gradually changed into a street of irregular width, and bearing various names. Thus, a century ago it was known as far as Chapel Walks as Pool Fold, from there to Back King-street it was called Cross-street, from thence to Taseel Alley the name was Red Cross-street, and finally it became Longworth's Folly, which

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lay near to where the Friends' Meeting House now stands, and fields that are now represented by Albert Square and the Town Hall.

The opening into Market-street Lane was only narrow, and was not available for vehicular traffic; in fact, on that side of Market-street there was no thoroughfare suitable for such purposes from Brown-street, then much narrower than it is to-day, to Exchange-street. From Pool Fold to Exchange-street were a number of old-fashioned, many being half-timbered, buildings, and a number of narrow passages giving access to the back premises. These included Fothergill's Court and Travis Court running out of the Market-street Lane, Crow Alley, which ran parallel to Bank-street, and a small area abutting on the last-named and bearing the expressive name of Mad Dog Yard. These were all situated on the area now covered by the Exchange. A portion of the site was cleared when the Exchange was built a century ago; but it was another quarter of a century before Cross-street was formed. This improvement, which

was commenced in 1831, resulted in the street being widened to the extent with which we are familiar.

As seventy years have elapsed since this and a number of other improvements were effected, it will be as well to remember that they were entered upon long before the incorporation of the town took place. The earliest of the improvements were carried into effect by the Police Commissioners; but when the improvement of Market-street was decided upon a special committee, known as the "Market-street Improvement Commission,"

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was formed. The Police Commissioners were empowered to make improvements out of gas profits, but for some years they moved slowly. In 1828, as the Manchester Improvement Committee, they obtained very much increased powers, and rapidly extended the scope of their operations. Under the Police Commissioners widening was a slow operation, inasmuch as the available annual gas profits were small; and only sections of streets could be dealt with. As a result the improvement of one side of a street would increase the value of the remaining property, and the Commissioners in order to complete the work they had commenced were compelled to pay very much enhanced prices for any further property required. One of the first improvements entered upon by the new Committee was the making of Cross-street. It may be mentioned incidentally that the entire cost of widening, including purchase of property from Market-street to Princess-street was £19,367, a sum which in the light of prices paid for land thereabouts to-day seems very small. Cross-street land, including buildings, was only worth about £5 per yard.

When the improvement was decided upon the entrance into Market-street was through a narrow passage with a room over. The room formed a portion of a somewhat ancient hostelry known as the Pack Horse. Beyond this were three small tenements, one of which had the half circular windows fitted with small panels of glass, now becoming so rare in our city. Adjoining the furthestmost of these shops was another narrow passage giving access to the new market. In Pool Fold was

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for many years the shop of John Hopps, an eccentric bookseller. Old Hopps came of a farming stock in the North Riding of Yorkshire, but removed to London, where he carried on business as a silk mercer. Failure following a fire, he tried his luck at bookselling at Old Sarum, but soon came to Manchester, where he opened a bookseller's shop in Fennel-street, migrating afterwards to Pool Fold. Leaving his business to a son-in-law, he commenced farming at Worsley, but losing money he again resumed bookselling, taking a shop in Bridge-street. He died in 1822 at the age of eighty-two, and was buried in Flixton Churchyard. He was a remarkable man in several respects. Standing six feet three inches in height, he was perfectly straight, and the day before his death said that he had never felt the need of a walking stick. When at Pool Fold he would close his shop for several weeks at a time in order to enjoy a lengthened holiday in the country. On one occasion when ill he closed his establishment and placed the following notice on the shutters :—

I, John Hopp,
Can't come to my shop,
Because I, John Hopp, am ill;
But I, John Hopp,
Will come to my shop,
When I, John Hopp, get well.

Just out of Pool Fold there formerly stood a quaint old building, whose thatched roof gave its name to the place. The old building has gone, its thatched roof is almost forgotten, but the name remains familiar to all Manchester men. A century ago, and even earlier, the old place

was a popular resort, and on one of the views which have survived we see the old-time announcement

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of “Home brewed beer.” In the days when the townspeople used the inns for club purposes, and when anyone wishful to hear the latest news circulating in the town went to the Bull’s Head or Newton’s Coffee-house, or the Thatched House, the little inn was a popular resort. There is a story told that in the days of the Merry Monarch a rhymster, whose thirst was rather persistent, ran up a score which he was unable to liquidate in the usual manner. It is said that, pressed for payment, he offered to compromise the matter by writing a poetical inscription for the signboard, then newly-painted. His offer was accepted, and he produced the following lines, which he submitted to the landlord :—

Ye farmer ’neath thatch keeps his stacks fro’ the rain,
For elsewhere would perish his hay and his grain;
But here we see men (what a contrary set)
Come under the thatch when they wish to get wet.

It is said that the landlord failed to appreciate the humour of the lines, and kicked the unlucky poet into the street.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century the number of stalls in Smithy Door and the amount of trade transacted there had increased so much that there was an urgent necessity to relieve the pressure upon the market. Therefore, about 1780 Thomas Chadwick and Holland Ackers purchased land in Pool Fold and erected thereon a market hall and provided 144 open stalls. The stalls covered the site of the “Guardian” office buildings. This was an infringement of the rights of the lord of the Manor, Sir John Parker Mosley, Bart., who entered an action against

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Chadwick and Ackers. The case was tried at the Lent Assizes at Lancaster in 1782, when a verdict was returned for the plaintiff. The building and stalls were afterwards sold to the lord of the Manor, and the market was continued until 1803, when it was removed to Bridge street. The space that had been occupied by the stalls was gradually built upon, but the site of the market continued to be noted by the street name which has survived to our own time.

To the man of to-day the area under review is principally associated with journalism. This is one of those topics on which much could be said, but we must confine our notes to brief summaries. The “Guardian” naturally demands first notice. The first issue bore the date May 5, 1821. It was originally published weekly on Saturday at the price of sevenpence, and was printed and published at 28A, Market-street, by Jeremiah Garnett for John Edward Taylor. Its commencement arose out of the fine defence made by Mr. Taylor in a law suit tried at Lancaster 1819. Mr. Taylor conducted his own case, and secured his verdict, whereupon his friends urged him to commence a newspaper, they undertaking to supply the necessary funds, which they were only to be repaid in case of success. In 1825 Mr. Taylor purchased the “Manchester Mercury” and “British Volunteer,” and for some time the paper appeared under the title of “Manchester Guardian and British Volunteer.” Before the erection of the present building the “Guardian” was issued from a tumble-down structure from which were also issued 370 numbers of the “War Telegraph,” owned by John

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Bastow and edited by Mr. Barrow from November, 1854, to December, 1855. The “Manchester Evening News” owed its origin to the candidature of Mr. Mitchell Henry at a by-election in the city in 1868. Finding his meetings and proceedings not satisfactorily dealt with by the existing newspapers, he decided to commence the issuing of one of his own. The result was the issue of the first number of the new journal on October 10, 1868. The first number of the “Manchester City News” was issued on January 2, 1864, from an office now included in the “Guardian”

building's site. Many other journals have been associated with the same district; but our final reference must be to the "Examiner and Times." At first issued as a weekly paper, at the price of fourpence, it dated from January 10, 1846, and bore the title of the "Manchester Examiner." In 1828 it absorbed the "Manchester Times," and the title was altered accordingly. In 1854 Mr. Henry Dunckley (Verax) was appointed Editor, and in 1855 it became a penny daily paper with the exception of Saturday's issues, which were charged threepence. In 1889 the paper was purchased by the Manchester Press Company, Limited, and was issued as a Unionist journal, but after various changes its final number appeared on March 10, 1894.

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CROSS STREET MEMORIALS

When Manchester was emerging from the state of a large village to that of a prosperous town the land lying between Cross-street and Brown-street was occupied by Radcliffe Hall, a half-timbered mansion surrounded by orchards and fields. The building was of great importance to the growing community, and for several centuries members of the Radcliffe family took an active part in connection with the work of the Court Leet. The house, like many of the granges and halls of the black and white order, was moated round, its high projecting chimneys were similar in character to those of Garratt Hall, another of the Manchester residences of the Elizabethian period. Admittance to the hall was obtained by means of a drawbridge from which a roadway led up to the principal entrance, flanked on either side by a garden. In an adjoining meadow was a pool fed by a running stream, where for many years was fixed the ducking stool, a form of punishment dealt out by our forefathers to scolding wives and women of ill-repute. The Court Leet who controlled all such matters, frequently dealt with the condition of the pond and stool, and we find that in October, 1590 "the duckstool is in great need of repair," and that in the following year complaint was made that William Radclyffe had not removed the "yearthe" that had been taken from the ditch supplying the pool. There had evidently been a change in the situation of the

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stool tried prior to 1598, for the record of the meeting of the Court held in October of that year contains this reference, "*The jury order and find that the old accustomed place is most convenient for the cooke-stool to stand in, and that Mr. William Radclyffe shall lay open the space again according as heretofore it hath been used, before Christmas next.*" Whether the order was complied with, or not we do not know, but in 1602 the court desired the chief lord to "*provide a cooke-stoole to be set up in some convenient place according as hath oftentimes been promised.*" It was probably after this that the ducking-stool was fixed up over one of the pits that lay just beyond the top of Market Stead Lane, and known as the Daubholes. Butterworth tells us that the drawbridge, together with the posts and chains, were taken away, and the moat probably filled up about 1672.

In 1642, when the Royalists under Lord Strange besieged Manchester, the defence of the town was undertaken by troops under Colonel Rosworne. Captain Radcliffe commanded the men to whom the defence of the Market Stead Lane approach was entrusted, and in later years the same gentleman was appointed member of Parliament for the town. The hall was still in the hands of the Radcliffes fifty years later, but in 1770 it was inhabited by Mrs. Patten, and in 1780 it was converted into two inns, the Sun and the King's Arms. In 1810 the house and some remaining ground was sold by Sir Oswald Mosley to Thomas Robinson, who pulled down the building, and erected on the site some warehouses.

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Reverting now to the pond or pool (which gave the name to Pool Fold itself) previously mentioned, we find that in a deed dated 1694 mention is made of Plungeon field wherein it was situated. We also have a reference to Plungeon Lane, and we are told that William Plungeon

was constable of the town from 1641 to 1648. We are further told that the Dissenters' meeting house, as Cross-street Chapel was originally called, was erected in 1694 in Plungeon Meadow. From this we gather that some time, probably not long, after the removal of the ducking stool the Radcliffes sold the meadow to someone of the name of Plungeon. Cross-street Chapel came into existence owing to the passing of the Toleration Act, being built for Henry Newcome, who had been ejected from a Fellowship at the Collegiate Church for refusing to comply with the Act of Uniformity passed in 1662. Little more than twenty years after its erection, the building was wrecked by a Jacobite mob headed by Tom Syddall; Parliament afterwards granted compensation to the amount of £1,000. In 1693 Nathaniel Gaskell was a member of the congregation. One of his daughters, Rebecca, married Mr. Clive and their son Robert is famous in history as the conqueror of India, and known as Lord Clive. Another daughter married Mr. Bayley, of Hope Hall, from whom there descended T. B. Bayley, who was High Sheriff in 1768, Lieutenant-Colonel of volunteers raised during the American War in 1774, and who, as chairman of the Salford magistrates, laid the foundation stone of the prison that formerly stood in and gave the name to New Bailey-street. The most prominent minister at

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Cross-street during the nineteenth century was a descendant of Nathaniel Gaskell, William Gaskell, whose wife enriched Lancashire and English literature by her delightful novels. Many have been the famous names connected with the old place, but space will only permit reference to one other. The Rev. Ralph Harrison, after acting as minister for many years, died in 1810. He was a linguist and a musician, composing several hymn tunes including the well-known one named "Warrington." He commenced a school in a building behind the church and built for the purpose. In that building there also commenced the Literary Society that flourished for sixty years, and in connection with which Richard Cobden made his first speech. Mr. Harrison's daughter married Thomas Ainsworth, a well-known solicitor, and was the mother of William Harrison Ainsworth, whose name as a novelist shows few signs of diminution, and the centenary of whose birth in King-street will very shortly be celebrated.

Another of the cherished memories of Cross-street is connected with Dr. Charles White, whose house stood at the corner of King-street in the site now occupied by the Reference Library. In conjunction with Joseph Bancroft, Dr. White was instrumental in founding the Manchester Infirmary, first in a house in Garden-street, Shudehill, and afterwards on its present site. Dr. White is also well-known in connection with the mummified remains of Hannah Beswick, which for some time occupied a place in the natural history museum that formerly filled the building now known as the Y.M.C.A. in Peter-street. It may be, noted that

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the building known as the Reference Library was built by the Police Commissioners to serve the purposes of a Town Hall some years before the incorporation of the borough. These worthies strongly opposed the agitation that ended in the incorporation, and carried their opposition so far as to refuse the newly-formed Council permission to hold their meetings in the building. The earliest meetings of the Manchester Borough Council were therefore held at the York Hotel, that formerly stood next door to the Town Hall, higher up King-street. Matters were, however, amicably arranged soon afterwards, and the business of the Council was conducted in King-street until the erection of the building in Albert Square.

We cannot close our notes on Cross-street without a reference to the building that formerly stood at the corner of John Dalton-street. Without belonging to the oldest part of the town the Prince's Tavern was an interesting spot. It dated back about a century and a half, for we find that on May 26, 1749, an indenture was made between Samuel Dickenson and Samuel Clowes, of Broughton Hall conveying from the former to the latter part of a certain fold "commonly known as Tasle Croft." Dickenson had purchased the land from Edward Bootle and

Jonathan Stockton, the latter, who resided at Monton, being a land owner in other parts of the town, as his will, dated 1748, shows. When Clowes purchased the land he covenanted to pay a ground rent of 30s. per annum, and to put up a building known in latter days as the Prince's Tavern. In 1797 the son of Samuel Clowes by will demised the property

p.83

then in the occupancy of Thomas Swan to William Dinwiddie. It was probable that the fact that very friendly relationships existed between the Quincey, Clowes, and Dinwiddie families, that the story of the birth of the great essayist was associated with the house. In 1772 James Dinwiddie conducted business as a fustian manufacturer at Tib Lane, but in 1794 he was located at 4, Redcross-street. Between these dates Thomas de Quincey was born, and baptised at St. Ann's Church, the entry in the register being dated September 25, 1785. In 1805 the house was sold to Thomas Potter, cotton merchant, who in July, 1824, disposed of it to Francis Woodwiss for the sum of £2,200. In 1828 the name Prince's Tavern makes its appearance, the tenant being Beaumont Hodgson, a descendant of Brian Hodgson, who as proprietor of the Old Hall Hotel and baths at Buxton had been well-known sixty years before. In 1885 the property was sold by auction for £14,300; and four years ago its doors were finally closed.

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THE STORY OF ST. ANN'S SQUARE

Few parts of Manchester have a longer record of events than has the area known as St. Ann's Square and the land thereabouts. Although its modern name originated with the church that overlooks it, it had an earlier name which frequently finds a place in the records of our Court Leet. That name was Acresfield; as to the derivation and meaning of which there are two distinct opinions. One writer derives it from Aca, a clerk or priest to whom Robert Greslet gave some land in Mamecestre nearly seven centuries ago; but John Harland rather derives it from the Anglo-Saxon Cecer, plural, cecras, meaning field or fields. Whichever be correct the land so designated originally covered about six and a half acres, and comprised the present square and the land thereabouts. In the Court Leet records we read of Over Ackers, Nether Ackers, and Further Ackers, in addition to the Ackers ditch which ran into the great ditch, Ackers Barn, Acres Stile, Old Acres, and Acres Gates. Acres Court was the name of a narrow passage running from the Market Place to St. Ann's Square, prior to the making of Exchange-street. For many centuries the area was the site of an annual fair which, taking its name from the field, was known as Acres fair. The granting of the right to hold this fair takes us far back into the history of Manchester, for the third Henry, in 1227, granted to Robert Greslet, lord of the manor of Mamecestre, the right to hold a

p.85

fair on St. Matthew's Day and the two following days. When granted this would be September 20, 21, and 22, but when the new style of reckoning was adopted the dates became October 1, 2, and 3. The chief articles of sale were cattle, horses, and pigs, the tolls being collected by the Lord's officials as the animals entered a narrow lane leading from the ancient thoroughfare, Deansgate, to the fairground. The lane became known as Toll Lane, and continued to be called such until 1832, when it was widened and renamed St. Ann's street. In 1320 the tolls charged were: for every horse, mare, ox, cow, bull-calf, cow-calf, or swine, was 4½d each. Not only had the Lord of the Manor the right to enter the Acres field for the purpose of holding the fair, but his officials were entitled to trample under foot growing crops not gathered in; and inhabitants living in the early part of the last century remembered in late seasons seeing the crops hurriedly gathered in, to save them from destruction. It was also customary to leave the field open after the holding of the fair, until the second day of February. This does not seem to have been always observed by the person farming the land, for in 1586 the Court Leet complained that the

custom had ceased to be carried out. What effect resulted from this action is not recorded; but we are enabled to estimate somewhat of the condition of the Acres field at the opening of the eighteenth century by a pamphlet published in 1783. In it we read that the field, which was large, was almost surrounded by a ditch, and that buildings did not exist behind the Market Place shops. This means that most of the land occupied by Exchange and

p.86

Bank-street and by Barton Arcade was open. The entrance to the field was an easy matter, and as the soil was very much trodden by the "annual fair, the owner could neither occupy it himself nor let it to a tenant. He was therefore advised to give land for a church at the upper end, and sell the rest for building, reserving for a purpose of the fair the central portion of the field. Except when occupied by the fair this open space was to be used by the owners of the plots of land overlooking the field. Some time afterwards when a number of houses had been built, the owners used this right to eject certain butchers that the Lord of the Manor had placed there at stalls that he had set up.

The building of St. Ann's Church produced a rapid change, and the lower portion of King-street, Ridge Field, and Brazennose-street was planned and built up. Houses were also built on both sides of the Square, a space of thirty yards across being left open. In 1718 trees, protected by framework, were planted, and remained until 1822. For many years the Square was one of the most fashionable residential areas in the town. In 1745 when Charles Edward Stuart, the Pretender, was here, he reviewed his troops in the Square on November 29. As they entered the Square it was observed that the funeral service over the remains of the Rev. Joseph Hoole was being conducted, and many of the officers, removing their bonnets, joined in the service. On the same night the bold Pretender having been proclaimed James III, there were illuminations in the principal streets of the town, including the Square.

Prior to 1788 the approach from the Exchange and

picture in the Gallery

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the Market Place to St. Ann's Square was about as mean and bad as could be imagined. Foot passengers made their way through a narrow passage, over which ran a portion of the old coffee house rooms. So dark and dismal was the passage, even at midday, that it became known as the "Dark Entry." Townsfolk who knew its nature, paused before entering, to make sure that no person was coming in that direction, as such an incident as two persons meeting in the middle of the passage might have very serious results. For vehicles there was a second covered passage, at the entrance of which stood a cobbler's stall. Over the stalls were stairs leading to the coffee house, the rooms of which extended over several shops facing into the Market Place. Such was the state of affairs when in 1776 an Act of Parliament was obtained which empowered the Commissioners thereby appointed to make a new street between the southerly side of the Exchange and St. Ann's Square. The result was the making of Exchange-street. When Napoleon was disturbing the peace of Europe, Manchester shared in the general excitement, and corps of volunteers were raised. The parades often took place in the Square. An old resident of St. Ann's-street, in the course of her reminiscences, speaking of the fair held in 1814, says:—"All the shops had to be closed," for shops had commenced to take the place of houses, "*and cattle and pigs occupied the flags and roadways, until one o'clock, when those that were not sold were driven away to make room for horses.*" "*The Beech and Hawthorn, the Lord Hill in St. Ann's-street,*

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and the Half-Moon all did a roaring trade on the fair days, particularly the Half-Moon, which was kept by a very fat brewer named Acton, commonly called Billy Acton, who was celebrated all over the town for brewing good, bright and sparkling beer." The fair became a serious source of

loss as well as a great nuisance to the shopkeepers, with the result that Sir Oswald Mosley, the lord of the manor, removed it in 1823 to Knott Mill. In those days the king's birthday was celebrated in grand style in the town, "*the boroughreeve and constables meeting the gentlemen of the town in the Square just before noon. The calvary stationed here, then marched into the Square and formed round it, the gentlemen being in the middle, surrounding two large tables covered with wine glasses and decanters, in order that the gentlemen and officers might drink the King's Health. Immediately after this a feu-de-joie was fired by the regular troops, followed by another by the yeomanry cavalry; and the day was finished by a public dinner in the Exchange dining-room.*" Another occasion when military were present in the Square was on the afternoon of August 16, 1819, when, after the scenes enacted on St. Peter's Field, the Scott's Greys made it their headquarters, pitching their tents in the Square, from whence they assisted in the patrolling of the streets during the following night.

For many years the Square witnessed annually a more peaceful gathering together, for it formed the meeting place of the Sunday scholars taking part in the Whit Monday procession. When the first gathering took place, 2,500 scholars took part, and after the

p.89

procession the teachers were supplied with bread and cheese. A year later the refreshment provided consisted of a dinner and a quart of ale, for which, a few years afterwards, a shilling was substituted. The last gathering in St. Ann's Square took place in 1878.

Still another historical association with the Square was the nomination of candidates for Parliament. This took place on hustings specially erected for the purpose. The first of these occasions was on Wednesday, December 12, 1832, when the candidates appeared in a procession led up by a band of music. The Boroughreeve (Mr. Benjamin Braidley, a Bennett-street School worthy) took the chair. The shops were all closed, and the Square was filled with an excited crowd. After an attempt had been made to secure order, the various candidates addressed the crowd, amidst the shouts and cheers of friends and opponents. After the speeches the names were put to vote, and Mr. Braidley declared the result to be in favour of the reds and greens, which decision was ridiculed by the blues. In the end Messrs. Mark Philips and Charles Poulett Thomson were elected. The hustings scene was repeated at each Parliamentary election until the adoption of the Ballot Act brought about a more orderly manner of conducting election contests.

In 1867 the statue to the memory of Richard Cobden was erected and uncovered by George Wilson, who, as chairman of the Council of the Anti-Corn Law League, had been closely associated with the great Free Trade leader in his work. There have been many well-known names connected with the buildings that overlook the Square, but I must defer reference to them to a further chapter.

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**A passing mention, in this month's transcript from '*Manchester Streets and ...*' to the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745, led me to look for more and refresh my memory about it.**

In my search on the Internet Archive, up popped the novels of William Harrison Ainsworth, the *Preface* of one of which I have included below. Illustrations from the 1880 and 1900 editions are included in the Gallery. If this encourages you to read more of the story, the link, for a download, is in the 'Books Online' section, below.

***THE MANCHESTER REBELS of the FATAL '45***

by William Harrison Ainsworth (published 1900)

## **PREFACE**

All my early life being spent in Manchester, where I was born, bred, and schooled, I am naturally familiar with the scenes I have attempted to depict in this tale. Little of the old town, however, is now left. The lover of antiquity — if any such should visit Manchester — will search

in vain for those picturesque black and white timber habitations, with pointed gables and latticed windows, that were common enough sixty years ago. Entire streets, embellished by such houses, have been swept away in the course of modern improvement. But I recollect them well. No great effort of imagination was therefore needed to reconstruct the old town as it existed in the middle of the last century; but I was saved from the possibility of error by an excellent plan, almost of the precise date, designed by John A. Berry, to which I made constant reference during my task. Views are given in this plan of the principal houses then recently erected, and as all these houses were occupied by Prince Charles and the Highland chiefs during their stay in Manchester, I could conduct the rebel leaders to their quarters without difficulty. One of the houses, situate in Deansgate, belonged to my mother's uncle, Mr. Touchet. This is gone, as is Mr. Dickenson's fine house in Market Street Lane, where the prince was lodged. Indeed, there is scarcely a house left in the town that has the slightest historical association belonging to it. When I was a boy, some elderly personages with whom I was acquainted were kind enough to describe to me events connected with Prince Charles's visit to Manchester, and the stories I then heard made a lasting impression upon me. The Jacobite feeling must have been still strong among my old

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friends, since they expressed much sympathy with the principal personages mentioned in this tale — for the gallant Colonel Townley, Doctor Deacon and his unfortunate sons, Jemmy Dawson, whose hapless fate has been so tenderly sung by Shenstone, and, above all, for poor Tom Syddall. The latter, I know not why, unless it be that his head was affixed on the old Exchange, has always been a sort of hero in Manchester. The historical materials of the story are derived from the CHEVALIER DE JOHNSTONE'S *Memoirs of the Rebellion*, and DR. HIBBERT WARE'S excellent account of Prince Charles's sojourn in the town, appended to the *History of the Manchester Foundations*. But to neither of these authorities do I owe half so much as to Beppy Byrom's delightful Journal, so fortunately discovered among her father's papers at Kersal Cell, and given by DR. PARKINSON in the *Remains of John Byrom*, published some twenty years ago, by the Chetham Society. Apart from the vivid picture it affords of the state of Manchester at the period, of the consternation into which the inhabitants were thrown by the presence of the rebel army, and the striking description given in it of the young chevalier and his staff, the Journal is exceedingly interesting, and it is impossible to read it without feeling as if one were listening to the pleasant chat of the fair writer. Pretty Beppy is before us, as sprightly and as lovable as she was in life. In no diary that I have read is the character of the writer more completely revealed than in this. Of Beppy, the bewitching, and her admirable father, I have endeavored to give some faint idea in these pages. While speaking of the Chetham Society, which has brought out so many important publications, edited with singular ability by the learned President, MR. JAMES CROSSLEY, DR. HIBBERT WARE, MR. WILLIAM BEAMONT, CANON RAINES, and others, I desire to express the great satisfaction I feel at learning that a very large collection of the letters of

**p. ix**

HUMPHREY CHETHAM, and some of his friends and contemporaries, have been placed, for publication, in the hands — and in no better hands could they have been placed — of CANON RAINES. Unquestionably, this will be the crowning work of the Chetham Society, and at last, from the able editor of *The Journal of Nicholas Assheton, of Downham*, we shall no doubt receive an adequate biography of the great Lancashire worthy. To return to my tale. I must not omit to mention that the tragic incident I have connected with Rawcliffe Hall really occurred — though at a much more remote date than is here assigned to it — at Bewsey House, an old moated mansion, near Warrington, still, I believe, in existence. At one circumstance I must needs rejoice. Since the publication of this tale, and incited, I am told, by its perusal, MR.

SAMUEL BRIERLY, of Rochdale, has put together a very interesting collection of anecdotes relating to the visit of Lochiel, with a small portion of the Highland army, to Rochdale, in 1745.\* These stories, I understand, were narrated to MR. BRIERLY by his great grandmother, who died in 1806, aged ninety-three. That they were well worth preserving will be apparent from some extracts which I propose to make from the little work.

Here is a well- told incident which might be entitled "Lochiel and the Lancashire Lad." *"On the 25th November, 1745, the rebel army, supposed to be 5,000 or 6,000 strong, and composed of cavalry, infantry, and artillery, arrived at Lancaster, under the personal command of Prince Charles, who gave instructions that the greater portion of this force should, on its arrival at Preston, proceed to Manchester by way of Wigan, and the smaller part through Blackburn and Rochdale, and thus concentrate*

\* "Rochdale in 1745 and 1746." By an Old Inhabitant. Rochdale, John Turner, Drake Street, 1874.

**p.x**

*the main body at Manchester. The latter portion was seen marching over Ashworth Moor, under the command of Lochiel of Glengarry, where they halted to have refreshment, which consisted of oatmeal steeped in water. Most of the country people fled on their approach, but there was one who stood looking on, and that was James Lomax, of Woolsten-holme; he was asked to join the army but feigned not to understand the question, but said he would jump agen the measter — pointing to Glengarry — o'er that big stone fence, for a gallon of ale. The bet was accepted, and Lomax had the first jump. Being a lithe and supple fellow, he cleared it at a bound, ran down the back of the fence wall, and was no more seen. The officers and men laughed at this incident; and Lochiel, on turning round, perceived a streak of smoke rising from the top of Knowle Hill. This and Lomax disappearing so suddenly, caused great perplexity to those in command; and suspecting that there might be a surprise before they got to the town, the troops were ordered to fall in and make ready, and the advanced scouts to keep a watchful eye both right and left of the road." Another very amusing story relates to a Highlander who was billeted at the Union Hotel. "One of the privates, a kilted man, went into the kitchen and spoke to Betty the cook, told her she was a bonnie lassie, and said, 'Wull ye let me put a piece of bread in the drippin?' pointing to the beef on the spit; she replied, 'Naw, haw winnut,' but at the same time he threw a piece of black bannock into the dripping pan, and cook said in a loud voice, 'Horn noan gooin to hav ony o thaw impidunce,' at the same time throwing out the bread with her basting-spoon, into the ashes. This so exasperated the Scot that he placed his hand on his sword, but Betty, as quick as thought, got the basting-spoon full of hot dripping, and threw it at him, covering his face, hands, and bare knees with it, thereby causing him to scream with the burning pain; at the same moment*

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*Mally Garlick, who had been paring potatoes, said, 'Do go away, for this dog is breakin out of his cage,' — she had privately opened the door, and the dog rushed at the Scot, and chased him out of the house, tore a large piece out of the back part of his kilt, which he had to get repaired before he could decently attend another parade. But the scalds or burns inflicted upon him proved more serious than was anticipated, and he was placed under the medical skill of Doctor Moulton. The doctor recommended a short rest from his laborious duties; this rest, with the unremitting attentions bestowed upon him by the relenting cook, led to mutual affection, and when he recovered he never rejoined the invading force, but married her who had caused his injuries, settled in the town, became a thriving tradesman, and has descendants here who are highly respectable and wealthy." Our last extract describes the interview of Valentine Holt, a young volunteer in the Stuart cause, with Prince Charles. "After a little conversation, Lochiel wrote him a note and told him to go to Manchester forthwith, and present it at the house of Mr. Dickenson, at the top of Market Street Lane, which is now called the Palace Inn, and wait for an*

answer — the interview lasted only a few minutes. Clegg and Holt then went into the churchyard, and the latter looked upon his native town and the hills surrounding, and said, with a sigh, 'I feel a presentiment that I shall never see my native town again. Ah, my dear mother, do forgive the many faults of an erring son. I confess I have caused thee many pangs of sorrow, and I leave the town with an idea that if I get weaned from my wild companions, I may become a wiser and a better man.' These and other sorrowful thoughts came crowding upon his mind, and Clegg observing that he was in deep thought, proposed to have a parting glass in the neighboring tavern; after which he departed for Manchester, along what are now called the back lanes of Castleton, as at this

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time there was no road by Pinfold. He arrived at Manchester late in the evening, and was stirring early on the morrow; being at the house aforementioned at 10 am., he presented the letter given to him by Lochiel — which was directed in such a way that Holt was unable to imagine who it was for — to the orderly standing at the door; the latter appeared astonished, looking at Holt with a scrutinizing eye, and told him he must wait at the door until he delivered the letter. He returned in a few minutes and ushered Holt into a room in which was seated a young man, tall, well-built, with a handsome face, auburn hair, and good eyes; the latter speaking to Holt, said, 'You are the young man from Rochdale — this was no less a person than the prince himself — who has offered to join our cause?' Holt replied 'I am.' 'I hear you use the rifle with unerring aim.' The prince taking up a loaded rifle that was in the corner, said, 'You see that jackdaw on the ridge of the house opposite, try to bring it down!' Holt fired, and it rolled down the roof. 'Ah! very good, ' exclaimed the prince, and calling in the orderly, said, 'Tell Dickson that he must enroll this man as sergeant in the Manchester contingent.'

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From the e-Postbag

Very last minute, on our part, but we have received this email which some of you might find of interest.

<https://manchesterhistories.co.uk/our-festival/manchester-histories-festival-2024/>

Get Involved in Manchester Histories Festival 2024: 6-9 June

Be on stage. Do you know something about history that we don't? We all have a story to tell, and histories to share. It could be fascinating, obscure, amusing, geeky, absurd, random, kind, entertaining, or extraordinary. We invite you to take part in the 'R Histories Open Mic Extravaganza' as part of Manchester Histories Festival on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 June 2024 at Manchester Central Library. You will get 10 minutes on the stage to perform, play, show, sing, speak, tell, or dance your piece of history that you are passionate about. You must be at least 16 years old to take part. **To find out more and how to apply follow this link to Manchester Histories website. Deadline Friday 29 March 2024.**

Open Call to Get Involved NOW

<https://manchesterhistories.co.uk/r-histories-open-mic-extravaganza/>

R Open Mic Extravaganza

As part of the Manchester Histories Festival 2024, we invite everyone to take part in our open mic sessions in the Performance Space, Manchester Central Library.

Details, guidelines and application form

Get involved in this extraordinary two day Open Mic Extravaganza! All about the histories & heritage you love. Friday 7 & Saturday 8 June 2024

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## An email from our reader Anne Grimshaw:

"Hi Sheila,

I expect you have seen this? "

'This' was a link to a Plaque being unveiled in Oldham on International Women's Day (full article and photo [HERE](#) ) and I hadn't seen it!

The inscription on the plaque reads:

*The beginnings of female emancipation in the UK originate in this field in Lydgate where, on 4th May 1818, women were first recorded as being given the opportunity to vote in a political meeting.*

The meeting in question was organised by radical reformer Samuel Bamford and is recorded in the National Archive.

Plaque unveiled by Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of Oldham Council on 8th March 2024

Many thanks, Anne, for bringing this to my attention.

The article makes mention of Samuel Bamford's book, *Passages in the Life of a Radical* and, if you want to read more, it's downloadable [HERE](#)

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Internet links for freely available books/texts

A monthly selection of links to mainly 19th century publications at the Internet Archive of Books & Texts website and on some occasions Google books or other free websites. Those included 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.

* *The Manchester Rebels of the Fatal '45*

by William Harrison Ainsworth (published 1900)

[HERE](#)

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\* *The Manchester Guide: A Brief Historical Description of the Towns of Manchester & Salford*

by Joseph Aston, pub. 1804

[HERE](#)

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* *The Place Names of Lancashire*

by Eilert Ekwall, pub. 1922

[HERE](#)

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MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE

A short selection of entries from the MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE ...

since the last newsletter :

* Mairi Chisholm was a frontline ambulance driver in World War I.

She was given one of Belgium's highest honours for her service. In #ScotlandsPeople1921 census she is living at Whinnieknowe in Nairn with her cousin.

Find her story in our records

[HERE](#)

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\* Once Upon a Time in Manchester Manchester cellar dwellings - a Victorian housing scandal

[HERE](#)

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* Lord Mayor Yasmine Dar with members of the MLFHS Family History Help Desk team at the '10 Year' Event

[HERE](#)

and [HERE](#)

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\* What was rationing, when did it start and when did it end? Who remembers sweet rationing?

[HERE](#)

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* Dutch project tells wartime stories of intrepid 'England voyagers'

[HERE](#)

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\* Ancoats refused to leave it behind - now this gem has a new beginning

The Grade II listed Neo-Classical Victorian gem, Ancoats Hospital, has been transformed into affordable apartments

[HERE](#)

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* Irish Genealogy News - New at FindMyPast: Irish Land Purchase Acts: transfers to tenants, 1891-1920

[HERE](#)

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\* Women who shaped Manchester

[HERE](#)

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* Bringing to light British Home Children's stories

Between the 1860s and 1970s, over 130,000 children were sent to live in overseas dominions by the British government. Known as British Home Children, many of their stories have been lost to history.

[HERE](#)

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\* Glen Mill Prisoner of War camp, Oldham, Lancashire

[HERE](#)

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* Did you know that in the 18th and 19th centuries, you could be imprisoned just for failing to pay your debts? We take a look at the debtors' prisons that inspired Charles Dickens:

[HERE](#)

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\* WW2 War Diaries: What are they, and where can you find them?

[HERE](#)

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* A digital repository of emigrant letters is being made available to view online as a result of a major initiative by the University of Galway.

Spanning a period of almost 400 years, the letters give detailed insights into the ways in which generations of Irish people struggled and succeeded in the new world. Fascinating

[HERE](#)

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\* 'The bigger villain bit through Billy's hand': Victorian street fighting Manchester style

On a Sunday afternoon, the usual time for settling grudges, hundreds of people watched two one-armed beggars fight for their lives

[HERE](#)

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* Land Owners in Ireland 1876

Between Feb 1873 & Nov 1875, returns were made of Ireland's landowners of 1 or more acres. Published in 1876, they're a snapshot just before the 'land wars' which a generation later led to a huge redistribution of landownership

[HERE](#)

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\* The 'Extraordinary Emigrants' series from our resident Historian, Catherine Healy, continues in the Irish Times with the story of The Irish female convicts who launched Australia's first industrial action.

Read the full story

[HERE](#)

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* Understanding Irish court records & where to find them can be a headache. Luckily there's a handy page on the National Archives of Ireland's website explaining all of Ireland's pre-1922 courts

[HERE](#)

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\* Judy, the only dog registered as a prisoner of war

[HERE](#)

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* Historical trade directories are a crucial tool in family history - luckily, there are plenty available online

[HERE](#)

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\* Discover The Wheelbarrow Influencer of the Victorian Age

[HERE](#)

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* Corruption at elections in Britain in the 19th century

[HERE](#)

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\* Letter From a 'Lunatic'

[HERE](#)

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* 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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***The Website of Oldham Historical Research [Group]***



For more local articles, images and information, please visit the website [HERE](#)

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Need Help!

Oldham Local Studies and Archives

CLOSED on the 30th November 2023 - Temporary accommodation now open

From their website:

In preparation for our new home at Spindles the service will close at 84 Union Street on 30 November 2023. A temporary service will operate from Oldham Library in March 2024 until the Spindles site is ready. We will not be able to accept new donations or provide access to physical archives during this time. Our digital resources will be available as usual.

Opening hours

We are open Mondays and Wednesdays to Fridays, 10am–5pm, Tuesdays 10am-2pm, and Saturdays 10am-4pm.

[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)

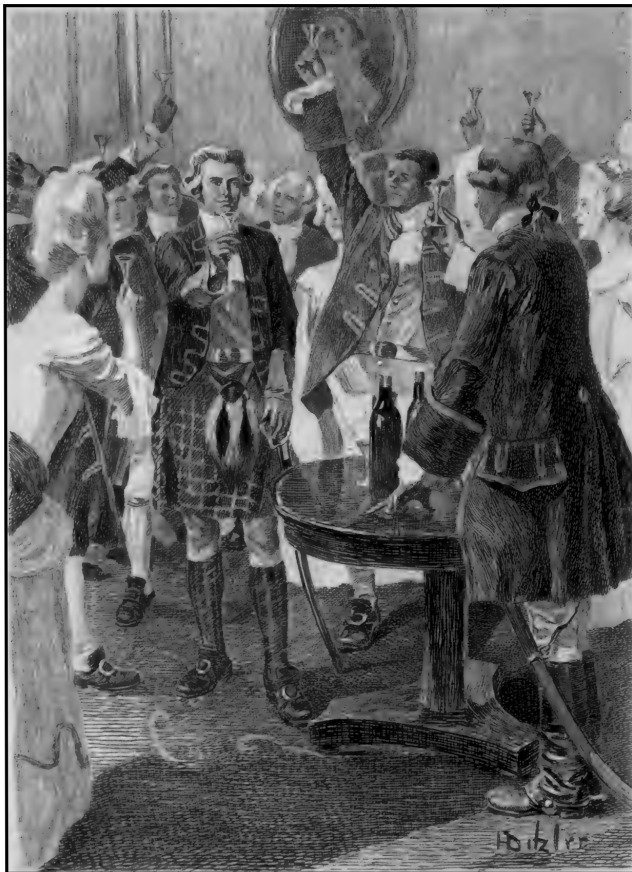


## For the Gallery

Four Images from :

***THE MANCHESTER REBELS of the FATAL '45***

by William Harrison Ainsworth (published 1900)



**At the Prince's Levee  
(Frontispiece, 1900 ed)**

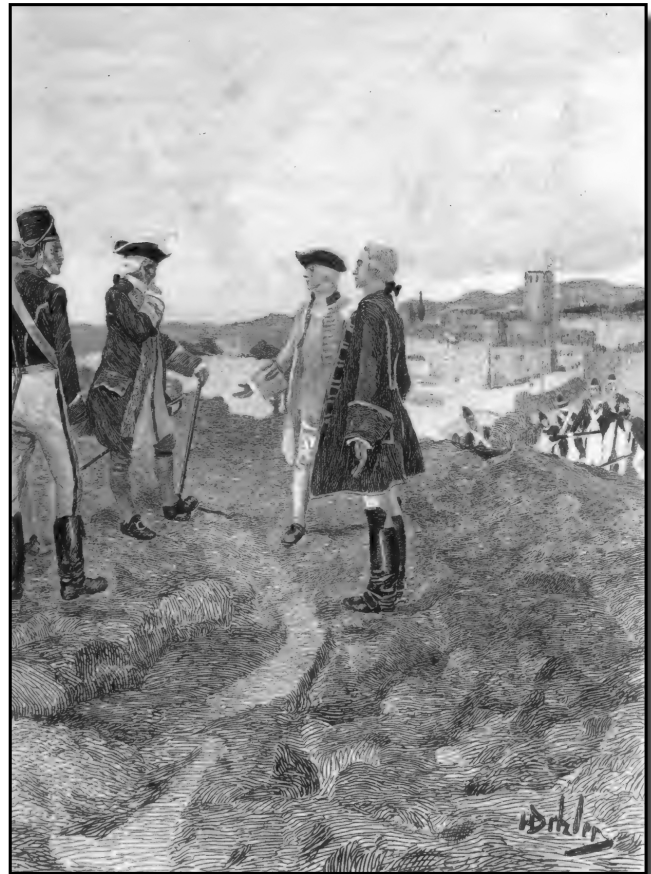


**The Rescue of Sir Richard Rawcliffe  
(p. 224, 1900 ed)**





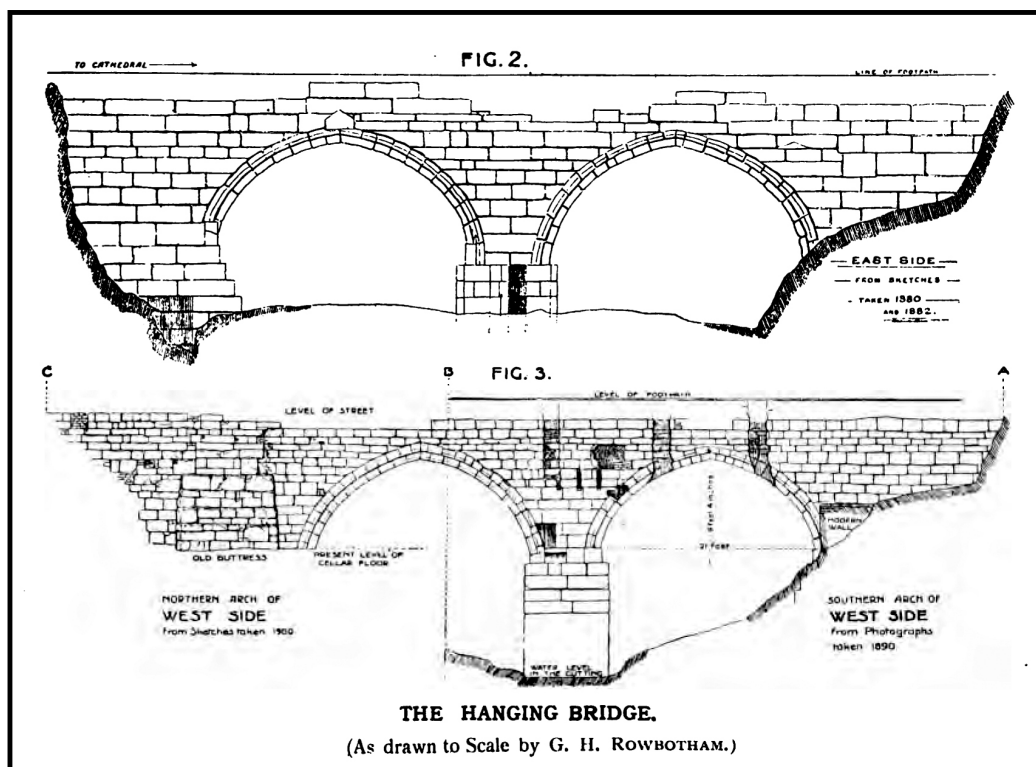
Faithful unto Death. (p. 246, 1880 ed)



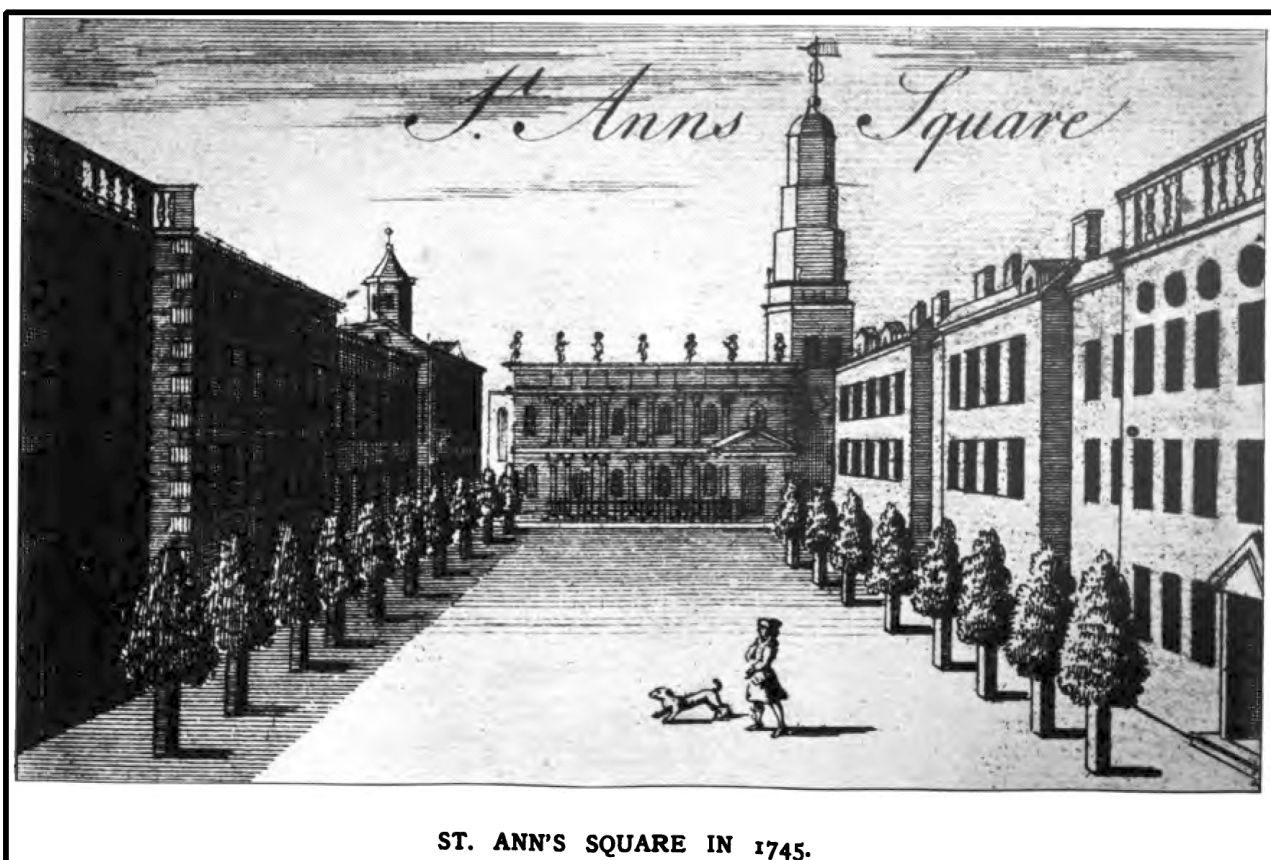
Captain Legh Brought Before the Duke of Cumberland  
(p. 336, 1900 ed)

Two images from :

**Manchester Streets & Manchester Men Vol. 1 (1st series)** by T. Swindells  
published in 1906



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ST. ANN'S SQUARE IN 1745.

St. Ann's Square in 1745
opposite page 86

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