

Newsletter April 2016



Branch News

Last Meeting

The Battle of the Somme

Bill Mitchinson 12th March

Dr Bill Mitchinson is a lecturer with King's College, London at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham.

Bill's interesting talk dealt with the general opinions that the Somme created, the context of the battle, the tactics and finally a synopsis of resources for family historians.

Bill recommended Ian Beckett's "The Great War" as being the best overall view of World War One.

Over forty people attended.

Somme Tour

Bolton Branch are organising a visit to the Somme entitled "Manchester on The Somme", which is open to anyone, from 9th -12th July 2016 through Esprit Tours with 2 pick-up points in Bolton and Manchester. Contact Nicholas on 0151 556 9858 or nicholas@esprittourservices.com.

The tour will be over 4 days/3 nights and will cost £319 (£329 for non-members) per person (based on two people sharing).

Battalions CD

We have a CD on sale in our online bookshop.

Oldham Battalions 1899-1938

Three scanned books: Amateur Soldiers by K. W. Mitchinson, The Oldham Battalion of Comrades by H. Wilde and Cotton Town Comrades by K. W. Mitchinson and I. McInnes. Includes index to Oldham servicemen whose names appear in the Oldham Chronicle 1914-1919.

<http://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk/collections/cdrom-bolton/products/1666>

Have Your Say

Also, as reported last month, Oldham Historical Research Group are collecting "Have Your Say" comments about the Somme ... all anonymous, of course ... and are hoping for as many as possible. If you can't get into the Local Studies on Union Street, send them to the email address, pixnet.sg@gmail.com marked, 'Have your say on the Somme'.

Local Somme website

You can visit the Oldham Historical Research Group Somme site at <http://www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg/World-War1/Somme/menu.html>

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 9th April at 2.00pm.

The Lancashire Cotton Famine and how we survived the American Civil War

The speaker will be Sid Calderbank, chairman of the Lancashire Society and committee member of *The Edwin Waugh Dialect Society*, has been over 40 years researching, collecting and performing works in the Lancashire dialect. The founder, in 2008, of *National Dialect Day* and a very popular speaker at arts and literature festivals, has been invited to contribute to several BBC radio and television programmes including *Flog It!*, *Countryfile* and *Great British Railway Journeys*.

The talk describes the terrible hardships experienced by Lancashire's mill workers during the early 1860's. These were recorded in songs, stories and poems of the time and Sid Calderbank, brings this history to life through the "Songs of the People".

This meeting will be held in the Education Suite, Gallery Oldham. (nearest tram stop - Oldham Central).

Talks are free to Members but there is a charge of £2.50 to non members

The AGM will take place before the speaker gives his talk. We have two places to fill on the committee so if you would like to join us in helping to run the Oldham Branch please let us know. Nominations can be made between now and April.

May Meeting

Due to circumstances beyond our control we have had to change the speaker for our Saturday 14th May meeting. **The speaker is now Paul Hindle who will be presenting his talk "Maps for Family Historians".**

The talk looks at the different types of maps available to the local historian but seen from the point of view of why they were drawn, by whom, for whom. Accuracy, omissions, exaggeration and survival are also covered.

Dr Paul Hindle was a Senior University Lecturer in Geography, until taking early retirement 16 years ago. His interests were principally in the history of roads and, of course, old maps.

Beginners' Talks at Oldham Local Studies

Rod and Gill will be delivering their talks at Oldham Local Studies. All talks will start at 10.30 and last for about an hour. All talks are free but they do ask for a donation to Dr Kershaw's via a collection box.

Friday 1st April - Wills

Friday 8th April - Maps

We ask that you book please via Oldham Local Studies.

Phone: 0161 770 4654

Email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Society News

Online Book Shop

<http://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk/>

The online shop has a new look.

There are a number of books about Oldham, local maps and CDs on sale in the online shop. You can also purchase the popular Ancestral file for £4.00.

Discount

Don't forget that you can get a discount of 15% off a total spend of over £10.00 at our online shop by entering the discount code **NUSHOP** when you get to the checkout (offer ends 17 April 2016).

To save on postage you can arrange to collect at Manchester Central Library.

Beginners' Talks

This series of instructional talks by experienced family historians is designed to guide beginners in family history step-by-step through the various elements of research. The first talk will be:

First Steps and Record Keeping on Saturday 9th April

Madeline Best will be talking about the basics of beginning your family history research along with mention of items you need to check along the way and the possible pitfalls and incorrect information you may find.

Other talks in the series are:

7th May Civil Registration

4th June Census Records

2nd July Pre 1837 Research

3rd September 19th and 20th Century Resources

1st October Irish and Scottish

5th November Wills and Probate

The talks are free to Society members but non-members are most welcome to attend for a small charge of £3.00 (refundable for anyone who joins on the day).

Booking is recommended and helps in the planning. An online booking facility

is available on our website at www.mlfhs.org.uk (Click on the 'Eventbrite' link)

Talks will normally be held in the Performance Space on the ground floor of Manchester Central Library

Local News

Local Volunteers win Award

A team of volunteers at Oldham Local Studies and Archives, along with volunteers in other Greater Manchester Archives recently won a national award.

The award is the National Archive Volunteering Award, 2015 awarded by the Archives and Records Association for GM1914 which was a project which explored the impact of the Great War on local communities.

The award was presented at the 2015 Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies Partnership (GMALSP) Volunteering Awards in Salford which recognised volunteer contributions across Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies.

Working as a volunteer at Oldham Archives and Local Studies

The volunteer group was started about 25 years ago to create surname indexes for the censuses of the Oldham area. Once that was finished we moved on to other indexing and transcribing, the aim being to help make the huge quantity of material held in Oldham Local Studies and Archives available to everyone. Some jobs are better than others. The Higson archive was interesting, it was possible to spend a whole afternoon looking at the contents of just one envelope and we unrolled some beautiful mill plans in another archive which had not seen the light of day for years. On the other hand, transcribing a Royton rate book seemed never ending because the handwriting was terrible but we hope all the work will help people find what they want from the archives.

For the last couple of years several of the volunteers have been researching the stories of Oldham people who were part of the World War One effort, not all of them serving soldiers. Some of this work has been put on <https://gm1914.wordpress.com> and <http://www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg/index.html> both excellent sites with many contributors from Oldham and the rest of Greater Manchester.

Keep visiting Oldham Local Studies and Archives, there is a very friendly atmosphere, they welcome your support and there is always an interesting display to look at.

By Dorothy Bintley

Talks by Other Groups (which are not part of our society)

Chadderton Historical Society

Thursday 7th April at 7.30pm

Working Waterways of England by Michael Greenwood

This will be held at Chadderton Football Club

Saddleworth Historical Society

Wednesday 6th April at 7.30pm

The Norman Conquest of Yorkshire by Dr Paul Dalton

This will be held at Uppermill Conservative Club.

Royton Historical Research Group

Monday 11th April at 7.30pm

The Last Laugh of the Railway King by Geoff Scargill

Downey House, Church Street, Royton.

Oldham Historical Research Group

Wednesday 20th April at 7pm

The Summit Tunnel Fire by Donald Reid

Oldham Local Studies and Archives, Union Street, Oldham.

Research News

Children's Homes Website

Mary Pendlebury has sent this information:

Peter Higginbotham, the owner of the award-winning Workhouses website, has just launched a Children's Homes website at:



<http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/>

The website aims to provide information on all the many and varied institutions that became home for thousands of children and young people in Britain. They range from orphanages, homes for those in poverty, or with special needs, through to reformatories, industrial and approved schools, training ships, and hostels. As well as each home's location, history etc. the site includes many maps, census listings, and historic images of the buildings and their inmates.

Irish Catholic Records

Who Do You Think You Are magazine recently reported this in their online magazine:

A vast set of Catholic parish records from both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic spanning almost 150 years can now be explored more easily on the web via **Ancestry** and **Findmypast**.

The databases on both sites feature records of around 10 million baptisms, marriages and burials that took place from the 17th century until 1880 across more than a thousand parishes. All of the entries can be searched by details including name, date and location, and are linked to high-quality images of the original registers.

The release is the most comprehensive set of such records yet made available online, and represents one of the most valuable resources for genealogists searching for Irish connections in the years before the 1901 census. The new databases include data from several counties, such as Wexford and Clare, not present in some other online collections.

Update from Lancashire Online Parish Clerk

<http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/>

Recently added from our area:

[Baptisms and Burials 1801 to 1812](#) from the Church of St Margaret of Antioch, Hollinwood

[Baptisms and Burials 1835 to 1837 and Marriage 1836](#) from the Church of St Leonard in the Parish of Middleton

[Baptisms 1883 to 1916](#) from the Church from the Roman Catholic Church of St Aidan, Royton

[Baptisms 1866 to 1885](#) from the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary in the Parish of Ashton under Lyne

[Baptisms 1741 to 1749](#) from the Church of St Chad, Rochdale

[Baptisms 1813 to 1815](#) from the Church of St Michael and All Angels in the Parish of Ashton under Lyne

[Banns 1874 to 1910](#) from the Church of St Mary, Oldham

That's all for this month. We hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter. Thank you to those of you who have been in contact with us. We value your comments and contributions.

Sue Forshaw, Newsletter Editor.

Assisted by Irene Whitby & Jane Murphy