

'e-Owls'



Part of Manchester & Lancashire
Family History Society

Branch Website: <https://oldham.mlfhs.org.uk/>
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OCTOBER 2019

MLFHS - Oldham Branch Newsletter

Where to find things in the newsletter:

Oldham Branch News :	Page 1	From the e-Postbag :	Page 11
Other Branch Meetings :	Page 2	Peterloo Bi-Centenary :	Page 12
MLFHS Updates :	Page 3	Need Help! :	Page 13
Societies not part of MLFHS :	Page 5	Useful Website Links :	Page 15
'A Mixed Bag' :	Page 6	For the Gallery :	Page 16

Branch News :

Following April's Annual Meeting of the MLFHS Oldham Branch :

Branch Officers for 2019 -2020 :

Committee Member : Chairman : Linda Richardson
Committee Member : Treasurer : Gill Melton
Committee Member : Secretary & Webmistress : Jennifer Lever
Committee Member : Newsletter Editor : Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : John Curnow
Technical Support : Rod Melton

Chairman's remarks :

The months are rolling along too quickly. It doesn't seem two minutes since the last newsletter. We have now arranged to have most of our meetings next year in the Performance Space at Oldham Library as the building works seem to have been put on hold for the time being. We also have some interesting talks coming up in 2020 and for those of you who live locally, I hope you will give the Oldham Branch your full support and attend as many of the meetings as you can.

We are still on the lookout for a couple of volunteers to join the committee (without portfolio for the time being). If you can spare a couple of hours once every two months, please give us your support and come and speak to me at the October meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at the October meeting.

Linda Richardson

Oldham Branch Chairman

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

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### Editor's remarks.

It only seems a few short weeks since the beginning of the year and yet, here we are, going into autumn ... the coming month will see Hallowe'en and, I imagine, we'll soon be finding the shops full of the things we should want to buy-in for Christmas!

**Still with Peterloo on my mind ...** The inquest on John Lees, a victim of beating and sabre wounds received at Peterloo, had opened on the 8th of September, 1819, at the 'Sign of the Duke of York', in Oldham, and was still dragging on throughout October. In 'Mixed Bag' I've included an abbreviated account of the inquest.

Although I am always more than happy to receive articles, pictures etc., for 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 unless you decide to waive that right, at the time of sending.

Editor reserves the right to edit any contributions before publication.

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

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Oldham Branch Meeting : **12th October, 2019, at 2pm :**

Elaine Taylor will give us a talk on :

'Thomas Hayton Mawson, Lancashire's Landscape Architect of the early 20th Century'
in the Education Suite at Oldham Library.

Members of the committee will be available to assist anyone for a further half hour following the speaker's talk.

Refreshments on arrival.

Entry free to members (donation always gratefully accepted), and non-members £2.50

(Note: Council Car park is free for three hours on Saturday, but make sure you get a ticket)

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### **Last Month's Oldham Branch Meeting :** Saturday 14th September, at 2pm, ***'Funny you should say that!'*** (Origins of everyday sayings), a talk by Peter Watson.

Peter entertained the meeting with the origins of well-known phrases which are used in everyday language. He had plenty of props and had everyone guessing what the phrase was. The phrases have their basis in either Anglo Saxon, Italian, Viking and Latin and some have been around a long time; the earliest the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

For example – 'Scot Free' – not the scots but from the Viking – Skot which is the Viking for tax. Popular saying, which has its roots in the Burtons' Beer advertisement of 1910 with a picture of a football team with a player missing. The punch line being 'Gone for a burton', and many more.

from Jennifer Lever

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Bolton & Scottish Branches

Bolton Branch :

Wednesday 2nd October 7.30pm:

Joe O'Neill, local author and speaker, will talk about:

The secret world of the Victorian Lodging House ... How the lodging house was at the centre of many Victorian social problems.

(This is a change of speaker from the programme as previously published.)

Montserrat Room [1st floor], Old Links Golf Club, Chorley Old Road, Bolton, BL1 5SU.

Guests and potential members are sure of a warm welcome. From 7.00pm tea & coffee are available in the room, and drinks are available from the bar. Unwanted genealogy magazines and CDs can be swapped/collected at the meetings. At the end of every meeting there is a Help Desk, manned by experienced researchers, available to assist you with your genealogy problems

The meetings are free for members of the MLFHS and £3 for non-members. There is no need to book.

Website link [HERE](#)

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### **Anglo-Scottish Branch, Saturday 19 October 2.00pm:**

***“Down and Out in Scotland: researching ancestral crisis”*** A talk by Chris Paton.

Chris goes in search of the records of ancestral hardship in Scotland to discover just what our ancestors had to endure. From poverty and illness to eviction and emigration, Chris searches for the greater story of how our ancestors overcame their struggles. Chris is a popular writer and blogger on Scottish history and a regular contributor of articles for the genealogy magazines.

This meeting will be held at Manchester Central Library, in the Performance Space 1

The talk is open to both members and non-members. Please book on Eventbrite [HERE](#)

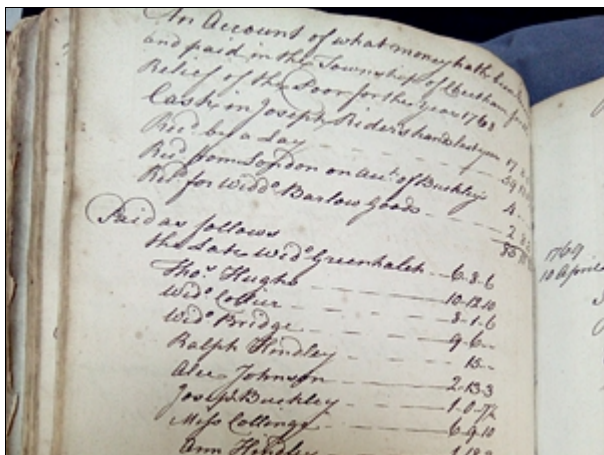
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MLFHS updates

On Saturday 21st September, MLFHS had an 'Archives Handling Table' in Manchester Central Library, in support of the Cheetham Cultural Festival which was taking place over that weekend. Even though it was a beautiful, sunny and warm day, the library was busy and a fair number of visitors stopped to talk to us about the archival material, referencing Cheetham, on our two tables.



On one table were Township Rentals from 1791 to 1799, from the papers of the Egerton Family (E4/50/2); a Board of Health Minute Book for 1854 to 1859 (M10/11/6/1); the North Manchester Synagogue, Prestwich, Marriage Register for 1905 to 1910 (M442/2/2/3); and a Cheetwood [School] Admission Register for 1913 to 1928 (M66/91/6/2/1). On the 2nd table were Records of the Cheetham Overseers of the Poor, from 1693 to 1791 (M10/7/2/1); an electoral Register for Crumpsall, from 1919, showing the names of the first women to be enfranchised; and, finally, a Names and Trade Directory from 1967.



Monies collected for relief of poor, 1768



Total monies paid out in 1759

For myself, the most interesting of these was the Records of the Overseers of the Poor from over 200 years ago. The pages showed lists of those inhabitants who were subject to the tax; the monies collected each year and how much was distributed, to whom and for what purpose. It included payments for 'binding' an apprentice, rent for widows and children, and payments to those unemployed and in need. It was a fascinating insight into the lives of a small community so long ago.

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## Beginners Talk

**Saturday 5th October at 10.30am:**

**Rita Greenwood gives an introduction to Civil Probate** and looks at the wealth of genealogical information that may be gleaned from Wills, and where to look for the records.

MLFHS help desk will be open after the talk.

This meeting will be held in the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library. The talk is free to members. A fee of £3.00 will be charged to non-members but this is refundable if the individual joins the Society on the day of the talk.

Booking is required. Please click [HERE](#) to book.

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MLFHS Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday 16 October

at 10.30 am Manchester During World War 2

Speaker: Ian Sanders

Ian Saunders of the Manchester Military History Society tells some well known and less known tales of wartime Manchester. Subjects include Blitz Ghosts, Decoys, Ringway, Prisoner of War Camps, Doodle Bugs, and many more

Booking is required. Please book [HERE](#)

12 noon Lunch

at 1.00 pm Rags, Bones and Donkey Stones - A Week in the Life of Grandma

Speaker: Harold Hogarth

Many of us remember from childhood days the familiar sound of the rag and bone man going round the streets and calling out. This is just one of my childhood memories of my grandmother and how each day had it's own job to be done, and depending on what the day's job was decided, it was decided what the main meal would be.

Booking is required. Please book [HERE](#)

The meetings will be held in the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library. The meetings are free to members. A fee of £3.00 will be charged to non-members but these are

refundable if the individual joins the Society on the day of the talk.

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### **MLFHS Online Bookshop:**

with CDs, Downloads, Maps, Registers, Local Interest Books, More General Publications, Miscellaneous Items with MLFHS Logo etc., and Offers.

Visit the [Online Bookshop](#) to see what is available.

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MLFHS Branch e-Newsletters

Each of the MLFHS branches publishes a monthly e-newsletter which provides useful news items. The e-newsletters are free and available to both members and non-members of MLFHS. To sign-up, simply click the appropriate link below and complete the short form on the branch e-newsletter page, where you will also find copies of past issues.

[Anglo-Scottish](#) [Bolton](#) [Oldham](#)

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

### **Oldham Historical Research Group:**

**Wednesday 16th October at 7pm**

***'The Spanish Lady :The 'Flu Epidemic of 1918-19' in Oldham'***

An illustrated talk by John Fidler

At Oldham Local Studies & Archives, Union Street, Oldham. Door opens 6:30 for 7pm start.

All welcome ... no membership subscription, or entrance fee on the door.

Oldham HRG Programme of monthly talks [HERE](#)

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Library Events at Oldham Libraries - Crompton:

Tuesday October 1st, at 11:00am

'Conscientious Objection in Oldham during World War One' by John Fidler

Around 16,000 men were recorded as conscientious objectors during World War One. John Fidler tells the compelling story of the 150 conscientious objectors from Oldham. Some were assigned civilian 'work of national importance' while others were conscripted into the Non-Combatant Corps; a few suffered prison to defend their freedom of conscience.

At Crompton Library, Farrow Street East, Shaw, Oldham OL2 8QY

Admittance free but please book on Eventbrite [HERE](#)

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### **Library Events at Oldham Libraries - Local Studies & Archives:**

**Tuesday October 1st, at 2pm**

***'Activism in the Archives'***

Oldham has a long history of activism stretching back to the early 19th century. In this workshop Caroline Knight delves into Oldham's archives to bring to light the stories of Oldham's activists. See original documents telling the story of Oldham activists' contribution to history.

At Oldham Local Studies & Archives Library, Union Street, OL1 1DN

Admittance free but please book on Eventbrite [HERE](#)

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Gallery Oldham : Free Lunchtime Talks:

Wednesday 9 October, 1pm

Find out more about the works on display in the Oldham Open.

Lunchtime talks are free, informal and last around 40 minutes with time for a discussion and questions afterwards.

Talks are given by gallery staff or guest speakers.

All talks are drop in, no need to book. However, if with a group of more than 5, please let the Gallery know in advance. Phone: 0161 770 4742

Programme [HERE](#)

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## Saddleworth Historical Society

There is no lecture in October 2019 at the Saddleworth Historical Society,

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Saddleworth Civic Trust: -

There is no lecture in October 2019 by the Saddleworth Civic Trust.

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## Family History Society of Cheshire : Tameside Group meeting

**Wednesday 9 October, at 7pm**

**'Quarter Sessions'** by Claire Moores

Meeting in the Community Rooms of Old Chapel Dukinfield, opening our doors at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Refreshments are served on arrival.

There is an entry charge of £2.00 for members and £2.50 for non members.

See their website [HERE](#)

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'A Mixed Bag'

JOHN LEES INQUEST

After Peterloo ... The inquest on John Lees, a victim of beating and sabre wounds received at Peterloo, had opened on the 8th of September, 1819, at the 'Sign of the Duke of York', in Oldham, and was still dragging on, intermittently, throughout October.

It seems apparent that the authorities assumed this would be an open & shut case ... he was a 22 year old mill worker ... unlikely to have 'friends in high places' to make accusations of 'culpability and legality'.

The Coroner, Mr. Farrand, was away from town so his clerk, Mr. Battye, attended in his place. The jury of 12 men was sworn in and the body was viewed as required by law.

It was then that the proceedings started to unravel, as Mr. Battye discovered that there were also newspaper reporters and two solicitors in the room. On the defensive from the very beginning, and being asked his name and position by the solicitor, Mr. Harmer, Mr. Battye refused to answer the questions. Then, pointing to the reporters ... he said, "I suppose I shall see all this in black and white in the newspapers in a few days; but no-one has any business to be writing here...." and then, "If Mr. Farrand was here, I am sure he would not allow one of you in the room."

Mr. Harmer went on to point out to him, very politely, that it was a public court and they couldn't legally be excluded. Mr. Battye was then informed, by Mr. Harmer, that he himself was there representing the family and friends of John Lees, to prove that his death was the result of unlawful violence on the part of the military. At this point Mr. Battye, panicking, adjourned the

inquest to go in search of a coroner.

This exchange set the tone for the whole of the proceedings over the next 3 months. There were acrimonious exchanges - bullying behaviour by the coroner and his solicitor towards witnesses - the strenuous efforts to prevent anything getting out to the newspapers - and the points of law which Mr. Harmer frequently argued, in order to introduce his own witness statements.

Harmer constantly hammered home the facts that the Meeting was a peaceful assembly, one that had been murderously dispersed in an illegal action, and that accountability lay with those in authority.

On the 5th actual day of the inquest, September 29th, another person made an unexpected appearance in the courtroom. This time it was a Manchester barrister, Mr. Ashworth, who would represent 'the Town of Manchester.' A letter of authority was produced, signed by Jonathan Andrew, the Manchester Constable.

The inquest then continued ... dozens of witnesses called ... and frequent arguments between Mr. Harmer, the Coroner and Mr. Ashworth.

Attempts to exclude the press were on-going, and there always seemed to be someone upsetting the coroner by taking notes.

At the close of proceedings on October 5th the inquest was adjourned until the 7th October.

However, at 7am on the morning of the 7th, Mr. Harmer received a letter adjourning the inquest until the following day, the 8th, no reason being given.

Unknown to Mr. Harmer, It turned out that at 1am, that morning,

" ... the grave of the deceased was opened, by order of the coroner and the lid of the coffin being raised up with a shovel, the Coroner came to the graveyard about 3 o'clock and with the assistance of a lantern just saw the face of the deceased. The coffin was then closed ..."

The adjourned inquest was to be re-located, to the Star Inn, Manchester, although no-one informed Mr. Harmer and he claimed he only heard of it through rumour!

The third witness that day was Joseph Nadin, the much feared Deputy Constable of Manchester. Conveniently, Mr. Ashworth apologised for the fact that, the 'warrant executed in the field,' by Mr. Nadin has been 'lost or misplaced'! This was the warrant to arrest Hunt, Knight, Johnson and Carlile.

Nadin finished his testimony, having been put under great pressure from Mr. Harmer and, "in quitting the court, with the assistance of his constables, he forced many auditors from the further end of the room, with the most brutal violence."

The Inquest was adjourned until the following day, the 9th of October.

Amongst the witnesses called on that day was Ann Rayborn who lived at No. 1 Watson Street, at the corner with Windmill Street. Her testimony concerned the reports of gunfire. She swore that soldiers had forced entry into her house, having first fired their guns at the house and then also, whilst in the house, fired their guns again. She produced a bullet in evidence.

The inquest was adjourned until the 13th of October, the 11th day of the inquest.

Before they could resume, on the 13th, the Coroner stated that he had been requested by the jury, who were feeling the strain of the long inquest, to adjourn for a longer length of time.

Despite Harmer's strenuous objections, the Coroner agreed to their request and adjourned until the 1st of December, a period of just over 6 weeks..

In the intervening weeks, Mr. Harmer and Mr. Dennison, requested the court in London to compel the Coroner to continue the inquest, without the frequent adjournments. An affidavit was presented in support of the motion, detailing the progress of the inquest and the obstructions they had encountered in conducting their inquiry.

At first the Lord Chief Justice ruled in their favour but a challenge was mounted. On the

Monday morning, Mr. Serjeant Cross undermined Mr. Harmer's statements and stressed the illegality of the inquest proceedings from the start. This was based on the technicality that the Coroner hadn't initially sworn in the jury, himself, and viewed the body with them, as required by law. He also stressed how the Coroner was put at a disadvantage, by not being a solicitor himself, and had turned to the magistrates and their own solicitor, purportedly in all innocence, in a desperate need for advice.

On Wednesday the 1st of December, when Mr. Harmer with his assistant and witnesses, presented themselves at the Star Inn, Manchester, they were met at the door by Mr. Battye who informed Mr. Harmer of the Court's decision:

The inquest would not continue ... ruled null and void !

If you want to read the whole record of the proceedings it can be downloaded, without charge, from Google Books [HERE](#)

Mouse-over 'Read EBook'; dropdown menu with options comes up, including 'Download pdf'; when .pdf downloaded, click on the download arrow and save.

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**In last month's 'Mixed Bag' was a mention of the Boggart of Clegg Hall**, but no details. It caught my attention because, years ago, my daughter had been terrified by stories of ghosts and boggarts at the then derelict Hall. In those days I had a very keen interest in photography and a group of us had planned to visit the hall and take some atmospheric photographs. On hearing this, my young and very imaginative daughter became practically hysterical, begging me not to go near the Hall as she was convinced I would come to some grisly end! Nothing would pacify her so I never got my photos! The following is the story of Clegg Hall, from ...

### **'Lancashire Legends'**

by Harland & Wilkinson, pub 1873, Manchester. pps 10-12



**Clegg Hall**

(picture from '*Traditions of Lancashire*' by John Roby pub.1872)

### ***THE CLEGG HALL TRAGEDY.***

CLEGG HALL, about two miles N.E. from Rochdale, stands on the only estate within the parish of Whalley which still continues in the local family name. On this site was the old house built by Bernulf de Clegg and Quenilda his wife as early as the reign of Stephen. Not a vestige of it remains. The present comparatively modern erection was built by Theophilus Ashton, of

Rochdale, a lawyer, and one of the Ashtons of Little Clegg, about the year 1620. After many changes of occupants, it is now in part used as a country alehouse; other portions are inhabited by the labouring classes, who find employment in that populous manufacturing district. It is the property of the Fentons, by purchase from the late John Entwisle, Esq., of Foxholes.

To Clegg Hall, or rather what was once the site of that ancient house, tradition points through the dim vista of past ages as the scene of an unnatural and cruel tragedy. It was in the square, low, dark mansion, built in the reign of Stephen, that this crime is said to have been perpetrated,—one of those half-timbered houses, called post-and-petrel, having huge main timbers, crooks, &c., the interstices being wattled and filled with a compost of clay and chopped straw. Of this rude and primitive architecture were the houses of the English gentry in former ages. Here, then, was that horrible deed perpetrated which gave rise to the stories yet extant relating to the “Clegg Hall boggarts.” The prevailing tradition is not exact as to the date of its occurrence; but it is said that some time about the thirteenth or fourteenth century, a tragedy resembling that of the babes in the wood was perpetrated here. A wicked uncle destroyed the lawful heirs of Clegg Hall and estates - two orphan children that were left to his care - by throwing them over a balcony into the moat, in order that he might seize on their inheritance. Ever afterwards - so the story goes - the house was the reputed haunt of a troubled and angry spirit, until means were taken for its removal, or rather expulsion. Of course, this “boggart ” could not be the manes of the murdered children, or it would have been seen as a plurality of spirits but was, in all likelihood, the wretched ghost of the rufianly relative, whose double crime would not let him rest in the peace of the grave,

Even after the original house was almost wholly pulled down, and that of A.D. 1620 erected on its site, the “boggart” still haunted the ancient spot, and its occasional visitations were the source of the great alarm and annoyance to which the inmates were subjected. From these slight materials, Mr Roby has woven one of those fictions, full of romantic incident, which have rendered his “Traditions of Lancashire” \* so famous. We have taken such facts only as seem really traditionary, recommending the lovers of the marvellous to the work just cited for a very entertaining tale on this subject.

In a curious MS. volume, now the property of Charles Clay, Esq., M.D., of Manchester, Mr Nuttall states that :

“many ridiculous tales were told of the two boggarts [so that they were the ghosts of the children] of Clegg Hall, by the country people. At one time, they unceasingly importuned a pious monk in the neighbourhood to exorcise or ‘lay the ghosts,’ to which request he consented. Having provided himself with a variety of charms and spells, he boldly entered on his undertaking, and in a few hours brought the ghosts to a parley. They demanded, as the condition of future quiet [the sacrifice of] a body and a soul. The spectators (who could not see the ghosts), on being informed of their desire, were petrified, none being willing to become the victim. The cunning monk told the tremblers, ‘Bring me the body of a cock and the sole of a shoe.’ This being done, the spirits were forbidden to ‘revisit the pale glimpses of the moon’ till the whole of the sacrifice was consumed. Thus ended the first laying of the Clegg Hall boggarts. But, in later times, it was conceived that the sacrifice must have been wholly consumed, and, consequently, that the two boggarts had full liberty to walk again ; and hence the revival of the tradition and superstition.”

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* It is only just to state that the story of “ Clegg Hall Boggart ” was communicated to Mr Roby by Mr William Nuttall, of Rochdale, author of “Le Voyageur,” and the composer of a ballad on the tradition. In this ballad, ‘entitled “ Sir Roland and Clegg Hall Boggart,” Mr Nuttall makes Sir Roland murder the children in bed with a dagger. Remorse eventually drove him mad, and he died raving during a violent storm. The Hall was ever after haunted by the children’s ghosts, and also by demons, till St Antonea (St Anthony), with a relic from the Virgin’s shrine, exorcised and laid the evil spirits.

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And from another favourite publication of mine, '*The Everyday and Table Book*' Vol 1. Published by William Hone, in 1826, comes the following, for October 5th, 1825 :

### **SALE OF HYDE-PARK-CORNER TOLL-GATE.**

Before the close of the sessions of parliament in 1825 an act passed for the removal of the toll-gate at Hyde-park-corner, with a view to the free passage of horsemen and carriages between London and Pimlico. So great an accommodation to the inhabitants of that suburb, manifests a disposition to relieve other growing neighbourhoods of the metropolis from these vexatious imposts. On the present occasion a gentleman, evidently an artist, presented the Editor with a drawing of Hyde-park-corner gate on the day when it was sold; it is engraved opposite.

This liberal communication was accompanied by the subjoined letter :

To the Editor of the Every-Day Book.

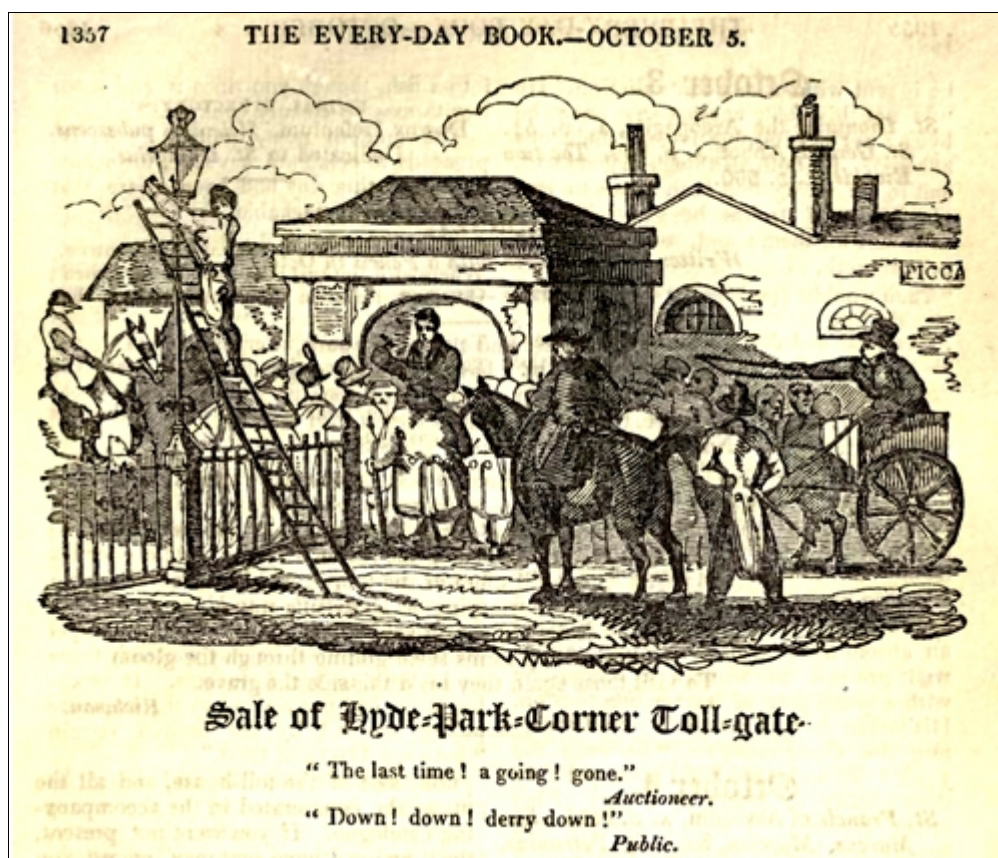
Sir,

I have taken the liberty of enclosing you a representation of a scene which took place at Hyde-park-corner last Tuesday, October 4th, being no less than the public sale of the toll-house, and all the materials enumerated in the accompanying catalogue. If you were not present, the drawing I have sent may interest you as a view of the old toll-house and the last scene of its eventful history. You are at liberty to make what use of it you please. The sale commenced at one o'clock, the auctioneer stood under the arch before the door of the house on the north side of Piccadilly. Several carriage folks and equestrians, unconscious of the removal of the toll, stopped to pay, whilst the drivers of others passed through knowingly, with a look of satisfaction at their liberation from the accustomed restriction at that place. The poor dismantled house without a turnpike man, seemed "almost afraid to know itself. Othello's occupation was gone." By this time, if the conditions of the auction have been attended to, not a vestige is left on the spot. I have thought this event would interest a mind like yours, which permits not any change in the history of improvement, or of places full of old associations, to take place without record.

I remain, sir,

Yours, &c.

A CONSTANT READER



The sale by auction of the "toll-houses" on the north and south side of the road, with the "weighing machine," and lampposts at Hyde-park-corner, was effected by Mr. Abbott, the estate agent and appraiser, by order of the trustees of the roads. They were sold for building materials; the north toll-house was in five lots, the south in five other lots; the gates, rails, posts, and inscription boards were in five more lots; and the enginehouse was also in five lots. At the same time, the weighing machine and tollhouses at Jenny's Whim bridge were sold in seven lots; and the toll-house near the bun-house at Chelsea, with lamp posts on the road, were likewise sold in seven lots. The whole are entirely cleared away, to the relief of thousands of persons resident in these neighbourhoods. It is too much to expect every thing vexatious to disappear at once; this is a very good beginning, and if there be truth in the old saying, we may expect "a good ending."

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From the e-Postbag

From an email, received by our Chairman, from the People's History Museum in Manchester ...

Rare Peterloo commemorative knitted sampler – now on display

Expressing craftivism of the past, PHM has acquired the only known example of a Peterloo commemorative knitted sampler, created in the aftermath of the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester 200 years ago. Now on display in the unmissable [Disrupt? Peterloo and Protest exhibition](#), the hand crafted piece carries the words 'Sacred to the memory of H Hunt Esq' in reference to the key speaker that the crowd of peaceful protestors had gathered to hear on 16 August 1819. It also remembers 'J Johnson Esq', one of the organisers of the meeting as well as 'those who escaped the bloody massacre'.



From People's History Museum

Purchased with assistance from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, The National Lottery Heritage Fund's Collecting Cultures Programme and participants from [The Fabric of Protest](#), PHM's monthly textile workshop.

The next 'Fabric of Protest' workshop day is Saturday 12th October, from 1pm to 3:30.

Booking on Eventbrite [HERE](#) ... free but donations welcomed.

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## Oldham Histories Festival & Heritage Open Days

9th September to 5th October

Pick up a printed copy of the programme

in Gallery Oldham, local libraries or the Local Studies Library.

It will also be available :

to download as a free .pdf copy of the 16 page programme from the Oldham Council website,  
or view all pages on the Programme & News Page of the Oldham HRG website [HERE](#)



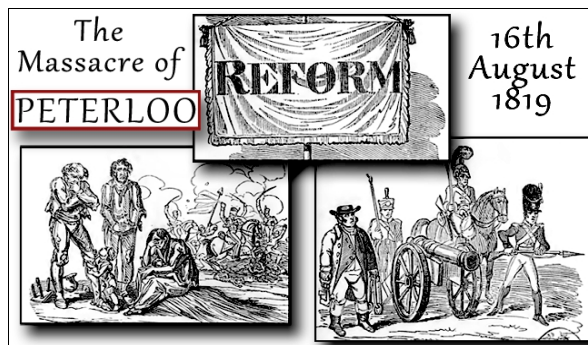
Front cover



Page 4  
16 pages of event details

## PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary

Visit the website for **The Peterloo Project** with particular reference to Oldham  
at [Peterloo-Manchester](#)



Although the long-anticipated Bi-Centenary has come and gone, there are still some exhibitions to be visited, if you have missed them; and the Peterloo websites are still active with 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](#)

**Peterloo Memorial Campaign Group** ... to find out more about the memorial etc. organised by the Memorial Campaign Group, visit their website [HERE](#) and their Facebook page [HERE](#).

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The following entries are for PETERLOO exhibitions still on-going :

People's History Museum

Website [HERE](#)

March 2019 to February 2020

'Disrupt? Peterloo and Protest'

Touchstones Museum & Art Gallery, Rochdale

Website [HERE](#)

May 18th to November 2nd

Protest & Peterloo

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**Need Help!**

**The MLFHS Family History Help Desk**

Don't forget if you hit a wall, the Society has a help desk at the Central Library.

It is located on the ground floor of Manchester Central Library at St. Peter's Square. Our location, from the main entrance, is to the right, beyond the cafe.

The Help Desk is open every weekday, Monday to Friday, except for Bank Holidays, between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

Central Library is adjacent to the St. Peter's Square Metrolink station with direct services from Altrincham, East Didsbury, Eccles, Bury, Oldham, Shaw, Rochdale and Ashton under Lyne and with easy connections from other lines.

Many bus services from South Manchester stop at the Oxford Street end of Portland Street, which is a five-minute walk from the library. Other services may arrive at Shudehill Interchange or Piccadilly Bus Station. Shudehill is about 15 minutes and Piccadilly about 10 minutes' walk from the library. There are Metrolink connections adjacent to both bus terminals.

If you can avoid coming by car then do so! There is no parking at Central Library, even for disabled parking.

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Oldham Archives and Local Studies

Local Studies and Archives at 84 Union Street, Oldham, [OL1 1DN](#),

There are regular Family History Advice Sessions every Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2-4pm.

There's no need to book. Just turn up with all the information you have and the resident family history experts will be on hand to help.

Archives are unique, original documents created in the course of everyday activities. Oldham's date from 1597 and cover an enormous range of subjects and activities :

- Hospital records
- Poor Law Union records
- Coroners Court records
- Local Authority records including Chadderton, Crompton, Failsworth, Lees, Oldham, Royton and Saddleworth
- Schools and education records
- Records for statutory bodies like the police force
- Church and religious records
- Business records
- Solicitors and estate agents records
- Trade unions and associations records
- Co-operative Society records
- Sports, entertainment and leisure records
- Personal, family and property records
- Society and Association records
- Records of Oldham communities

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There is no charge to look at archival records although you would need to bring proof of your name and address (e.g. your driving licence) to do so.

Most archives can be produced immediately, with no advance booking required. However, some archives are stored off-site, in which case at least 2 days' notice is required in order to see them.

**Other archives may be closed due to their fragile condition, or because they contain confidential information.**

**Health in Oldham Before the NHS**

The NHS came into being on 5 July 1948. Medical care was then free for everyone... but how did the people of Oldham manage their wellbeing before this?

This exhibition looks at how local people coped with illness and infirmity and what kind of care they could expect.

- Where did you go for medicines?
- What hospitals were in the area?
- How qualified were local physicians?
- What did you do if you had toothache?
- Where would you get spectacles from?
- What was Phrenology?

**Operating theatre at Boundary Park General Hospital c. 1948**

**Aneurin Bevan on the first day of the NHS, 5 July 1948**

**NHS70: Celebrating 70 years of the NHS**

**Public information leaflet, distributed in 1948, advises on the concept of the new NHS for Britain.**

**THE NEW NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE**

Your new National Health Service begins on 5th July. What is it? How do you get it?

It will provide you with all medical, dental and nursing services. It will be free at the point of use. There will be no charges, except for a few special items. There are no insurance qualifications. But it is not a 'handout'. You are all paying for it, mainly in taxes, and it will relieve your money worries in time of illness.

There are regularly changing displays in the Local Studies Library. The current one is : **'Health in Oldham Before the NHS'.**

**Self-medication**

At a time when many people in Oldham could not afford to consult a doctor the market for proprietary preparations claiming to cure every ailment known to man was huge. Newspapers were full of advertisements making outrageous claims for products and local druggists or chemists placed prominent adverts in the trade directories. Taking these preparations was a dangerous business as throughout the Victorian period they were unregulated. The 1875 Sale of Food and Drugs Act made it an offence to sell an article falsely labelled. It also reduced the medical licence duty and the number of vendors of these medicines increased from over 12,000 in 1874 to 20,000 in 1895. Many remedies contained opium and morphine and could be highly addictive. However, preparations were not always made by charlatans. Many were developed by medical men with others established over many years. Pharmacists made their own versions of patent medicines.

**JOHN S. GLOVER, Chemist and Druggist, 344, MANCHESTER STREET, WERNETH, OLDHAM.**

PROPRIETOR OF GLOVER'S RHEUMATIC MIXTURE, AND FEMALE PILLS.

Some potions were made with poisons such as strychnine - which was used in tonics to stimulate the appetite. A 'cure' for head lice in children contained bichloride of mercury that came with the warning 'this lotion must be used with caution as it is deadly poison if taken in the stomach'. Qualified medical men did not approve of many patent medicines and certainly not the 'quacks' who dispensed them. Whether this was due to the fear that patients might not be getting the best treatment or because they disliked the idea of losing out financially is debatable.

**Apothecaries and Chemists**

The Apothecaries Act of 1815 confirmed apothecaries as general practitioners who left others, the druggists and chemists, to sell and supply medicines. Many druggists sold a huge variety of products from medical preparations to horse and cattle medicines, fresh roast coffee and varnishes. Some were also known as 'drysalters' who dealt in a range of other chemical products such as glues, dyes and colourings. Others were seedsmen and some specialised in preparations made from herbs, roots, barks and other botanic ingredients. The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain was set up in 1841 and the Pharmacy and Poisons Act of 1868 made it unlawful for any person to keep open a shop or use the title Chemist, Druggist, Pharmacist or Dispensing Chemist unless registered under this Act. Two years later it was ruled that the word 'person' in this Act did not include corporate bodies, allowing companies to not only use restricted titles but also sell poisons provided they were sold by a qualified person. Boots the Chemist Ltd. was established in 1849 but the first Oldham trade directory in which it is mentioned is 1905 when it was based at 42 Mumps.

**ORANGE QUININE WINE**

Prepared according to the BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA 1890

Know One amongst 2 or 3 times a day with water or ruskine, one glass of pure hydrochloric acid.

Chemists often advertised various brands of tonic wine. Quinine was a popular additive, not only because of its supposed health-giving qualities but also because of its bitter flavour.

**SEIDLITZ POWDERS**

This was the generic name for a commonly known laxative marketed and sold under a variety of names. Ingredients were tartaric acid, potassium iodine tartrate and sodium bicarbonate. While the powder could be somewhat helpful as a laxative, its use could be fatal in patients with conditions such as hernia, bowel obstruction or other ailments.

[Opening hours](#) and contact details.

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Other Society Websites

Catholic Family History Society – www.catholicfhs.co.uk
Cheshire Local History Association – www.cheshirehistory.org.uk
Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk
Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society - <https://www.lfhhs.org.uk/home.php>
Lancashire Local History Federation – www.lancashirehistory.org
Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – www.lswlfhs.org.uk
Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – www.mrias.co.uk
Oldham Historical Research Group – www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg
Peterloo - Peterloo-Manchester
Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) - Ranulf Higden Soc.
Royton Local History Society – www.rlhs.co.uk
Saddleworth Historical Society – www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk
Tameside Local History Forum - www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk
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

Some Local Archives

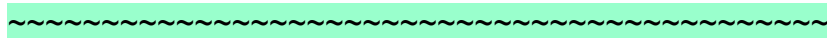
Barnsley Museum & Discovery Centre – www.experience-barnsley.com
Birkenhead – www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives
Bury – www.bury.gov.uk/archives
Chester - Cheshire Archives & Local Studies (linked from Discovery at the National Archives)
Derbyshire - Local & Family History
Leeds - Leeds Local and Family History
Liverpool Archives and Family History – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/archives>
Manchester - Archives & Local History
Oldham - Local Studies & Archives
Preston – www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives
Stockport – www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives
York – www.york.ac.uk/borthwick

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Collection of Sheila Goodyear

**Interior of St Thomas's, Friarmere (Heights Chapel), Delph  
(Photo from 2013, Oldham Heritage Open Days)**



Collection of Sheila Goodyear

**Elizabeth Jane Rydings ... one of the earliest women cyclists in Failsworth**