

'e-Owls'



Part of Manchester & Lancashire
Family History Society

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JANUARY 2020

MLFHS - Oldham Branch Newsletter

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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



from: *The Everyday Table Book*, 1826

Chairman's remarks :

The Oldham Branch Committee and I wish you all a very happy New Year and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting on 11th January. We have some very interesting speakers booked for 2020 and look forward to seeing you soon.

My Best Wishes

Linda Richardson

Chair, Oldham Branch

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

Editor's remarks.

Why is it, that the older you get, the faster time runs away! This will be my 9th newsletter and I still feel like the 'newbie'!

When you receive this newsletter, we will be going into a new year with a brand new Government in Westminster. There was also a December General Election in 1832, 187 years ago. That one came as a result of the Great Reform Act, long demanded by the people but not happening until 13 years after Peterloo. It was a very limited extension of the franchise, and the labouring classes did not benefit at all. However, the rotten boroughs were cast aside and new seats created for the industrial centres that were still without representation in Parliament. On the plus side, Oldham gained two seats in Parliament; seats which were hotly contested. In the 'Mixed Bag' you can read a transcription of Edwin Butterworth's reporting of the Results.

Many thanks to John Curnow for forwarding the newsletter from the Regional Heritage Centre based in Lancaster, to me. They have a varied programme of full day events which may be of interest to some of our readers. I have included the events for January and February, in the 'Societies not part of MLFHS' section, because booking well in advance is, apparently, advisable. If you wish to receive their newsletter you can sign up for it on their website.

I hope you have all enjoyed Christmas and that you can look forward to a peaceful New Year.

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

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### **Oldham Branch Meeting :**

**Saturday 11th, January, 2020, at 2pm :**

**Sheila Goodyear** will give a talk on :

**'An ANZAC In Our Family'** - The story of Wykeham Henry Koba Freame from his birth in 1880 in Osaka, Japan, to an Australian father (William Henry Freame) and a Japanese mother, Shizu Kitagawa. He would become a sailor, marry



Wykeham Henry Koba Freame

an English girl, then go on to become mercenary in Mexico, a soldier in WW1 (awarded the DCM), a fruit farmer, a spy in WW2 until his murder at the hands of the Japanese, the subject of a biography, *'The Gallipoli Samurai'* by Brian Tate in 2011 and, finally, the subject of a chapter in a book about the history of Australian spies.

To be held in the Education Suite at Oldham Library.

Entry free to members and non-members £3 (refundable if you take out membership on the day).

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

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

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Oldham Branch Meeting :

Saturday 8th February, at 2pm :

Alan Crosby will give us a talk on :

'Crime in the 17th Century' - This talk uses original court records to look at crime and misdemeanours in the Stuart period.

To be held in the Performance Space at Oldham Library

Other details as for January.

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## **Oldham Branch Meeting :**

**Saturday 14th March, at 2pm :**

Jackie Depelle will give us a talk on :

**'Writing Your Family History'** - Suggestions and ideas on how to store and preserve your family history for future generations.

To be held in the Performance Space at Oldham Library.

Other details as for January.

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Proposed Day out in 2020 :

National Arboretum

The branch is considering organising a trip to the National Arboretum next year, probably in June, and we think the cost will be in the region of £10-£15 for the hire of a coach, depending on how many people wish to go.

If you are interested in such a trip please let us know by email to oldham@mlfhs.org.uk as soon as possible, so that we can discuss the matter further between those who are interested.

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## **Bolton & Scottish Branches**

**Bolton Branch : Wednesday 8th January, 7:30pm,**

**Please Note:**

**This meeting is on the Second Wednesday in the month and not the first Wednesday as is usual.**

***Mass Observation: A follow up on this Bolton project***

Speaker: David Burnham

Meetings are held in the Montserrat Room, 1st Floor,  
Old Links Golf Club, Chorley Old Road, Bolton, BL1 5SU. (There is parking for 70 cars).

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 meeting are free for members of the MLFHS, £3 for non-members. There is no need to book.

Website link [HERE](#)

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Anglo-Scottish Branch, Saturday 18th January, 2:00 until 4:00pm

Quiz and Social

This meeting will be held in the Chief Librarian's Office at Manchester Central Library.

Website link [HERE](#)

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## **MLFHS updates**

**The MLFHS Help Desk at Manchester Central Library  
will re-open on Monday 6th January 2020**

The Help Desk in the Library is manned from 10:30 to 3:30, Monday to Friday.

It is available to all members of the public whether MLFHS members or not.

Located on the Ground floor next to the Search Room, and virtually on the opposite side of the Library from the Performance Space.

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Beginners Talks : Saturday 11th January at 10.30am:

Starting You Family Tree

Madeline Best will explain how to start your family tree and how to avoid the pitfalls which you may encounter in your research.

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 on Eventbrite [HERE](#)

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## **MLFHS Quarterly Meeting, Wednesday 15th January from 10:30am:**

### **10.30 am *Research into Jewish Ancestors***

Speaker: Errol Gross

This illustrated presentation will mention some Jewish customs of genealogical relevance, world events and Jewish migration, civil and religious document and other resources, pointers to extending research to European countries of origin and more.

Please Book [HERE](#)

### **12.00 Lunch**

### **1.00 pm *The Amazing Story of Edward Watkin - Manchester's Forgotten Star***

Speaker: Geoff Scargill

Sir Edward Watkin MP was one of the best-known people in Victorian England, but is now almost totally forgotten. In a public career spanning more than 60 years, he achieved remarkable success and spectacular failure locally, nationally and internationally. These are the subject of the talk. Known as Nimble Ned because of his energy and daring he lived and died in the family home, Rose Hill, in Northenden. Almost 80 years after his death, his four million secret there was revealed.

This meeting will be held in the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library. The meeting 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 book [HERE](#) .

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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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Oldham Historical Research Group:

Wednesday 15th January, at 7pm

An informal get together and chat, around the table ... everyone can have their say about the sort of talk they would like to hear at future meetings and, if you know of any speakers that would volunteer to visit us then please let either Roger or me know.

We can also take a look at some of the websites that are of interest when researching Local or Family History and if you have any 'pet' websites, that we might not have come across, then let me know on the night so that we can include them.

There will be refreshments on arrival.

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](#)



Library Events & Gallery talks at Gallery Oldham :

Gallery 1 – *Oldham Stories*:

This gallery permanently houses both:

***Oldham Stories* exhibition**, "featuring selected objects from our extensive collections to tell and show the stories of Oldham and its local communities. From birds and shells to a recreation of an Edwardian chemist's shop, every object has a fascinating tale to tell. The display features local figures such as suffragette Annie Kenny, the pioneering natural history collector James Nield and the popular artist Helen Bradley."

The Community Gallery, "which has a wide range of exhibitions by groups and individuals from the Borough of Oldham."

Website [HERE](#)

Saddleworth Historical Society

Wednesday 8th January, at 7:30pm

'Hathershaw Hall, an Illustrated Presentation by Carl Gannon

At the Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill.

All welcome. Members free but a charge on the evening of £3 to non- members of the Society. Refreshments available.

Saddleworth Civic Trust: -

There are no events planned for January

Family History Society of Cheshire : Tameside Group meeting

Wednesday 8th January, 7pm for 7:30 start.

Members' Evening

Meeting in the Schoolrooms of Old Chapel Dukinfield

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

See their website [HERE](#)

from the website: "We also run an "Family Tree Detectives" session at Tameside Local Studies and Archives Library on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month between 2.00pm and 4.00pm, chiefly aimed at beginners in family history or those who may have hit a brickwall."

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## **Tameside History Club :**

**Wednesday 22nd January, 2pm**

*'Diaries of a Forgotten Conflict : Hear how Lieutenant Colonel Pavasovic of the Royal Yugoslav Army & Royalist Resistance in Second World War made his way to Dukinfield'*

"Tameside History Club is a series of events that are held at Tameside Local Studies and Archives, Central Library, Ashton. These events are for everyone from local historians to those with a more casual interest in a range of popular topics and are completely **free**. Book a place on any of the talks by ringing 0161 342 4242."

Website and programme [HERE](#)

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Moorside & District Historical Society

Monday 20th January, 7pm

Times Past - 200 years ago :

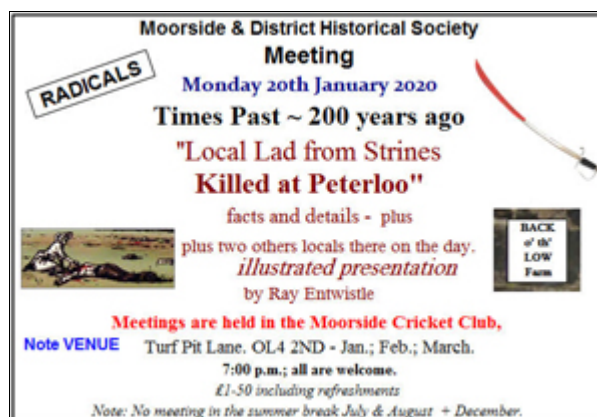
'Local Lad from Strines Killed at Peterloo'

Plus 2 other locals there on the day

Illustrated presentation by Ray Entwistle

at Moorside Cricket Club, Turf Pit Lane, OL4 2ND

All welcome ... £1.50, including refreshments'



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New entry ... **Regional Heritage Centre** : Website [HERE](#)

**Saturday 25th January, full day, 9:30 - 16:00**

***North West Antiquaries and the Development of Historical Writing (c. 1650-1850)***

"Traditionally, antiquarianism was seen as the 'handmaid' to History as an academic discipline, providing the raw materials from which a historical narrative might be constructed and locating material evidence such as coins and inscriptions to corroborate historical theory. Often associated with amateur enthusiasts, it is criticised for being overly focused on empirical detail at the expense of the bigger picture. However, antiquarianism has strong links with Local History, recognising the importance of localised studies to consideration of the impacts historical change on individuals and communities. Our speakers examine the roles of antiquaries, and investigate the ways they have shaped understandings of our region's past."

Venue: The Storey Institute, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1TH

All details, Booking and Programme for the day [HERE](#)

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Regional Heritage Centre : Website [HERE](#)

Saturday 22nd February, full day, 10:00 - 16:00

The End is Nigh: aspects of death and mortality in North West England

a study day with Dr Alan Crosby

'In the midst of life we are in death'; thus has it ever been ...but in the pre-modern era, people were particularly vulnerable to outbreaks of epidemic disease, general ill-health associated with

poverty, and a lack of medical care or knowledge. Death was a part of life – today, an infrequent visitor, then a permanent resident. Documentary evidence from the 16th century onwards provides the raw material for our understanding of this ever-present aspect of the lives of our forebears. We can find statistical information, but more importantly, begin to explore perceptions of and attitudes towards death over time and in specific localities. In this Study Day, Dr Alan Crosby looks at statistics from mortality crises in the 16th and 17th centuries, the evidence of parish registers and eyewitness accounts from diaries and autobiographies, and the burning issue of child mortality in the 19th century, to introduce the subject of death in the North West."

Venue: Frankland Lecture Theatre in Faraday Building, Lancaster University

All details, Booking and Programme for the day [HERE](#)

'A Mixed Bag'

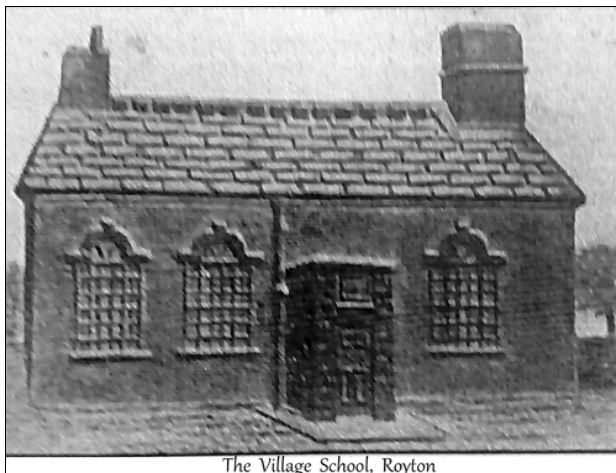
The 1832 General Election in Oldham, following the Great Reform Act of that year

extracted from the transcription, by Gary Millward, of :

'Register of Oldham News & Reports of Edwin Buterworth' :

12th December 1832 - 30th October 1833.

Copy on open shelves in Oldham Local Study and Archives, on Union Street.



The Village School, Royton

The Poll was opened at nine o'clock on Thursday 13th December in three different portions of the borough viz: for Oldham Below town at the Grammar School, Oldham, for Oldham Above town at St. James' Sunday School, Greenacres Moor, Oldham, and for Chadderton, Royton and Crompton at the Village School, Royton. Each of these schools was fitted up for the occasion by the returning officer who spared no expense in affording convenience and facility.

The polling places were severally divided into

five compartments one compartment being allotted to each candidate, into which the voters were introduced. In the background were stationed the polling clerks and attorneys of the respective committees and the space still further back was devoted to the accommodation of the returning officer, the candidates and such persons as could gain admittance. [No secrecy of the ballot we have today]

The entrances to the polling places were guarded by special constables who took 'especial care' to prevent the groups of people who came to gaze from being too intrusive. Messengers in coaches and on horseback were hourly plying betwixt one polling booth and another bearing the colours of the candidates, to which they belonged.

There was no means of knowing exactly the state of the poll except through the hands of the committees of the successful candidates. As near as we can guess the state of the poll at one o'clock was as follows:

Fielden : 180, 174, 234, total 588
Cobbett : 169, 168, 2208, total 557
Bright : 18, 15, 65, total 98
Burge : 10, 13, 36. total 59
Stephens : 0, 0, 2, total 2

Voters became scarce at all of the booths in the afternoon and it was rumoured that some

were holding back and reserving their votes till the next day.

The issue of the contest becoming no longer doubtful it was expected the three losing candidates would resign in the course of the evening but they persisted till the close of the poll. Great numbers voted in the early part of the day. Some ludicrous scenes occurred to one or two of the worthy and independent freemen such as their giving the wrong answers to the questions put to them by the poll clerks. One of the voters, apparently a farmer, when asked his name replied "Cobbett and Fielden."

The generality of the ten pounders executed their duty much better than the novelty of their situation would have lead one to suppose.

The poll closed at at four o'clock at each place with the announcement that it would again open at the usual time on Friday morning if no unforeseen matters prevented its continuance. Subsequent circumstances rendered this day the final close of the poll, when the total number as near as can be well ascertained was as follows:

Fielden 675

Cobbett 642

Bright 153

Burge 101

Stephen 3

This astounding majority for Cobbett and Fielden was more than their best friends could have calculated upon. It produced many downcast looks and great mortification to the Whigs and Tories, but Mr. Stephen finding that the two popular candidates were secure of their return did not wish to poll a single vote.

About dusk Mr. Cobbett presented himself at the window of the Albion Inn to the crowd in the street who loudly applauded him while he spoke, which was only for a few minutes.

"At last," said he, "you have said to the tyrants and enemies of your liberties this is the man we will have represent us." Every artifice, every trick, every act had at last prevented him from finding his way into Parliament. The people of Oldham had entered into a contest, which he saw plainly would end in his return. Mr. Fielden and him were certain to be the representatives of Oldham and if the people did their duty they would not neglect to do theirs. When he got into Parliament he should regularly inform them of what he was doing.

Mr Fielden rejoiced at the prospect of Mr. Cobbett's return, because he knew if he went there the working man would soon recover the comforts he used to enjoy, he would soon get back the beer barrel, the bread and the cheese and the good things, which used to make him happy, they might depend upon it that so long as he was in Parliament Mr. Cobbett should never want a seconder to his measures. He thanked them for their orderly conduct they had manifested till now and he hoped it would prevail to the end of the election. At the close of the day the town was thronged with persons anxious to learn the result of the poll.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE ELECTION

Early on Friday morning 14th December it was rumoured that Messrs. Bright, Burge and Stephen had given up the contest and signified their intention to retire. It was likewise announced that the returning officer would declare the Radical candidates duly elected from the hustings at half past ten o'clock. A large crowd of the inhabitants hastened to the hustings at the appointed hour and after waiting some time the returning officer and a considerable number of his friends with all the candidates including Mr. Cobbett mounted the stage. At this period the audience was fast increasing, and the same flags and music were brought as on Wednesday. Great numbers of people repaired to the spot from all quarters and continued to come into the town till evening.

The proceedings in hand commenced by the announcement of the resignation of the defeated candidates and the declaration that William Cobbett and John Fielden Esqrs., were duly elected to serve in Parliament, in consequence of them being the only two candidates who remained in the field. This intelligence was received with loud acclamations and clapping of

hands.

By the kindness of the returning officer each candidate was permitted to address the multitude after the return had been out to the sheriff and the signatures of 42 electors attached to it.

Mr. Casson, on behalf of the returning officer, said he was extremely gratified at the propriety and peace, which had been manifested on the nomination day, and he hoped the same regard would still influence those present. He requested them to keep up to the old English character of allowing fair play to all by giving each gentleman a patient and candid hearing. (Cheers)

It was agreed that the three unsuccessful candidates should speak first. Mr. Bright therefore addressed the audience. He had much to say in congratulating them upon their glorious triumph and the peaceful way in which it had been accomplished. Though his cause had not prevailed and though he had been defeated yet he would try to bear as and as good humorously under the misfortune as possible. If the electors had acted bravely so would he. (Cheers)

For anything, which he was going to say he must hope the pardon of his friends. He trusted he should not injure their feelings. His numbers on the polls had been much lower than he expected them to be. Had his zealous parties considered he would have been so low they never should have brought him. He would state a fact, which alarming as it might be to them was notwithstanding strictly true. Out of 350 votes promised him only 150 had been mustered at the poll. How this defect had arisen he knew not, except it was to be ascribed to improper influence, to which had been resorted to by certain parties. Individual happiness had been compromised by party feelings and undue influence. The state of the representation had been reduced to a mockery. Had he been fortunate as to meet with their choice, old Tory politics would not have been a guide to his conduct. He differed from Mr. Burge when that gentleman had said he wished to be called anything but a Whig. (Laughter) He had been rather disappointed to hear Mr. Burge exclaim so bitterly against the Whigs. (Laughter) When it was said that the Whigs had sent to France to get a better mode of keeping the public accounts it should have been said that the Tories had kept them so badly that the ministers wanted a model. (Laughter) Because the present government were doing all they could to prevent a war it was said they were allowing themselves to be dragged at the chariot wheels of France. (Cheers and cries of bravo) He neither liked nor understood the alliance between his friend Mr. Fielden and Mr. Cobbett. He was surprised at his friend's strange and unaccountable association. Neither did he approve of Mr. Burge's inconsistency. Before the Reform Bill passed that gentleman was a violent Tory, but now he came forth in the double-dealing, unblushing mask of Conservatism. He would leave those mysteries and doubtful matters to be solved by others and withdraw by wishing them health and happiness. Mr. Bright then retired.

Mr. Burge next appeared. He was happy, yes happy though routed to meet them all in such a good and peaceable humour. (Cheers) He perceived on the nomination day who were likely to be the lucky gentlemen and he would have retired that day if the Whig candidate had not pressed for a poll. Though he might have personal motive in prolonging the contest yet he thought it more proper not to delay the issue of the matter, which had become no longer doubtful. How could Mr. Bright judiciously say he was double-dealing, masked and unmeaning when he had all along declared his opinions openly and boldly? (Laughter) Mr. Bright seemed to think it was his duty to raise angry feelings by sticking to old prejudices but he would do such things. He would not behave rashly or badly to any man because he happened to differ with him. (Cheers) His opponent had not made him a convert to Whiggery by what he had said. Men, in his opinion, ought never to palm false professions upon other men. He had done nothing of that sort nor ever would do (Cheers) wrong he would then retract. He had not been in the least converted by what he had heard on that hustings, except it was a conversion of respect and admiration for the people on the ground who had behaved so honourably and credibly. He had not been hostile towards France he had only deprecated the late alliance betwixt the two powers and expressed his dissatisfaction at seeing them fighting against one of

our oldest allies, the Dutch. If these were differences of a local nature betwixt France and Holland why did they [not] leave it to settle it themselves? (Cheers bravo)

He could not withhold his regret at seeing England with her soldiers and honour involved in an unnatural war. He should not excite anyone's thoughts by speaking on slavery and he hoped his opponent would not again treat them with a lecture on the subject. Had he time, accommodation and a number of colonial documents he could fully clear himself of all the charges brought against him or the planters.

Mr. Burge withdrew from the front of the hustings by returning the people of Oldham his sincere thanks for the kind reception they had given him.

Mr. Stephen then spoke. He would first explain how he had determined not to take one vote least it might injure the cause of the two anti-slavery candidates, who, he was glad to find, had gained a glorious and peaceful triumph. (Cheers). They had heard much that morning about alliances. One alliance, they were told, had been made betwixt a Tory and a Conservative a second alliance was the junction of England and France, a third was said to be a strange and unaccountable association between their two successful candidates. For his part he had come to knit an honourable alliance with the Oldham electors rather than they should be represented by slave holders. He did not consider the friendship of these two members strange and unaccountable. He thought it on the contrary a judicious union of two champions in the cause of humanity and the ranks of freedom. He was highly gratified to find they had returned two decided opponents of slavery. (Loud applause) He would follow the request of Mr. Burge by not adverting to the question of slavery (Cheers) and conclude by expressing his unqualified admiration of their noble and orderly conduct during the election. Mr. Stephen was loudly applauded.

Mr. Fielden followed the last speaker and addressed the people a considerable time. He experienced the same hearty receptions as before. He rejoiced that Mr. Cobbett was elected for Oldham along with himself for he should now fulfil his duty by seconding his efforts to relieve the country's burdens. The excellent conduct they had displayed merited the highest praise and if anything was wanting to convince him how an extension of the suffrage was necessary this was sufficient proof. (Cheers) His friend Mr. Bright seemed to be delighted that he was a Whig (Laughter) For his part he thanked God he was not so. (Laughter) He did not know why his friend disapproved of his alliance with Mr. Cobbett. but he could tell him he was not in the least ashamed of his principles. (Applause)

He had been a Radical for 20 years and many gentlemen of Oldham knew that to be true. He had long been anxious to see Mr. C. in Parliament for in 1816 he had attended a meeting held to forward that object. (Cheers) Mr. Bright had said something about undue influence, but if anything of that kind had occurred he was not aware of it. He had come forward on the express condition of not being obliged to solicit a single vote or contribute a penny towards the expenses and he had done so. He had never asked a single elector for his vote, much less influence them. (Cheers) Perhaps his friend had heard of threatening to use exclusive dealing. This might have been the case. If threats had been used he was sorry for it, but his opinion had never been asked on the propriety of such a proceeding therefore it was unfair to ascribe the measure to him. (Cheers) If there had been influence used on one side a much worse species of tyranny had been resorted to on another. He had heard of men being turned without work by their employers because they refused to vote against Mr. Cobbett. Was this true? (It was, it was) And yet with all the opposition they had been met with they had still gained the victory. (Cheers)

It was well known that a long series of bygone parliaments had regularly lessened the rights of the people and abrogated the Constitution. One of these rights, which had been withheld from them, but which he wished to see restored was a power of stopping the supplies until the grievances of the people were redressed. (Loud huzzas) There was another subject, which he would advert to and that was excessive taxation and a debt of £800,000,000. The consequence of this debt was alarmingly manifested in the fall of prices, in the number of

bankruptcies, agricultural failings and decrease in wages. While the workingman of England was sinking into the most abject destitution the labourer of the United States of America was acquiring more wages and of course more comfort. (Yes)

Mr. Fielden here entered into a detailed statement respecting the condition of the poor weavers in the neighbourhood of his residence and the attempts he had repeatedly made to better their situation. His friends, the Whigs, had been in office two years and what had they done? Why, they had carried on a war in defence of Irish tithes they had augmented the army and swelled taxation to a greater amount. (Cheers) They had not sent down a commission to enquire into the state of the poor weavers. No they had not done that, but had voted £5,000 a year to the speaker in the House of Commons. (Cries of shame) He could, along with Mr. Burge thank God he was no Whig. (Laughter)

Now they had elected him he would see whether those large pensions and salaries we were saddled with could not be a little changed. (Laughter) He would see whether an equitable adjustment could not be had. So long as the gentleman who proposed that measure was in Parliament he should second his endeavours to procure relief for the people. (Cheers) Though he had no abilities for speaking his heart and his soul were with them. (Cheers) If they would support him in voting for abolishing all taxes on the necessities of life, the extinction of tithes, the reform of the church, the reduction of enormous salaries and sinecures, he would second Mr. Cobbett's endeavours. (Much applause)

The Whig faction were always cajoling he had almost said cheating the people. They were always preaching the advantages of free trade and talking of a plan of national education. He was as great a friend to the education of the people as any man, but he well knew that books would not clothe or feed them. (Loud cheers) Then they had sent into France to know how to keep the public accounts when there were plenty in England who could have kept them better. (Laughter) The system of Scotch banking was another thing, with which the Whigs diverted and amused the people instead of giving them substantial reform. (Cheers) Mr. Fielden next alluded to the benefits, which would result from a gold and silver currency. The Whigs he said were always hankering about the Corn bill and contending for their repeal. He should not vote for an instant abolition of the Corn Bill because it would be attended with great distress to the agriculturist unless the tithes were first removed. He would attack the monied interest and the fundholders and he would require them to cease their demands upon the nation for he could prove he had paid both principal and interest of the debt and had a balance due to him. (Applause and laughter)

He was exceedingly thankful for the honour they had done him and his friend Mr. Cobbett and he hoped at the close of the next session of Parliament they would not find their efforts had proved vain. Mr. Fielden closed his speech amidst loud cheers.

Mr. Cobbett followed Mr. Fielden and was equally well attended to. Many as were the years, which had rolled over his head he could still remember how he used to follow the plough in his smock frock and his nailed clogs; from this low station that had raised him to a member of parliament. (Laughter) He trusted he had not been raised in vain. (Cheers) He hoped if they had made an improper choice they would mark him with their detestation and contempt. It was impossible to look at the flag, which stood before him and was inscribed with the harrowing name of 'Peterloo' without promising to do justice to those who were injured on that horrid occasion. (Loud approbation) Much had been said that morning about the Whig faction and he would say a little about them. (Laughter) He compared the people to Christ when on the cross and the two parties, Whig and Tory to the two thieves, which hung on each side of the Saviour. (Laughter) The Whigs would have the people believe they were sincere, honest minded Reformers. They had the advantage of knowing what they had done when they were in power before. The first act of their last Whig ministry was bringing a bill into Parliament to enable Lord Grenville to hold two offices at one time, or in other words to allow him to plunder the nation with each hand at once. (Laughter) The second act of the Whigs was bringing the German soldiers into this country for the purpose of keeping down the voice of Reform. (Yes)

And the more effectually to do this it was provided these whiskered un-English savage beings should not be sent abroad. (Laughter) These Whigs had always talked of retrenchment and yet they had augmented the salaries of all the Royal Family a third, though they were twice too much before. (Laughter) Lord Grey himself had even said it would become a question whether the people would be justified in submitting to it or not. Why they would say that they would abolish the act certainly. No they did not. (Laughter) These were the facts no one could deny for they were to be seen on the statute book. And yet this was the Whig party they were called to place confidence in. He might say it was the same faction that plotted the overthrow of Queen Caroline.

To be sure the Whigs have not put on the abominable six acts, but had they taken them off? No, and yet they used to call them tyrannical and atrocious. (Laughter) The Tories made those acts but they had never put them in force as the Whigs had done by punishing 300 persons in the space of two years, for vending cheap publications. (Shame)

This bit-by-bit, scurvy prosecuting ministry (Laughter) has also augmented the standing army. They had besides passed the Reform Bill and a pitiful thing it was. (Laughter) But they would not have passed the bill or got into office but for Wellington's impudent declaration against any reform at all. The King finding he could not go on with Wellington for minister dismissed the old and got a set of new servants. These servants were obliged to profess Reform or they would not have got into office. Had they not observed how deliberately these new ministers went to work on Reform, how they watched their steps and how they stopped and paused, paused and stopped, how this conduct was unlike them when they could pass a bill in 48 hours to put him and some others in prison. (Laughter) It had taken them three whole months to prepare a document for granting them a mere slice of what they expected. (Laughter) It was the people that had made the Reform and crammed it down the ministers' throats. (Laughter) Could they believe after they had said about them that there was any trust to be put in the Whigs? If they could he would put no trust in them. (Laughter) This party told him all persons who enjoyed pensions no matter whether merited or not, and had a right to them while they lived. He would tire them no longer but proceed to read a copy of an address, which had been agreed by him and Mr. Fielden containing their thanks for the high honour the electors had been pleased to bestow upon them their representatives in Parliament. In this address he and his colleague declined to be chaired or carried in triumph as was customary at elections. The only thing, which could gratify him, would be to allow a poor weaver to walk arm in arm with him to the committee room. In conclusion he begged to assure them they remained their true and trusty representatives and that they would always feel conscious of the gratitude they owed to the brave men of Oldham.

Mr. Cobbett finished his discourse shortly afterwards and left the hustings along with his friends. An operative weaver named Ogden was honoured with the distinction of walking him to the Committee Room of the Albion Inn.

The proceedings of the election were closed about 2 o'clock by a vote of thanks to the returning officer being agreed to amidst general acclamations. Mr. Alex Taylor in moving and Mr. Fitton in seconding this proposition spoke highly of the conduct and impartiality of the returning officer.

This mark of respect so appropriate and so deserving was answered on behalf of the officer by Mr. Casson, his deputy. Mr. Jones, said he, has always done his best to serve each candidate and without distinction. The more he acted uprightly the more they would value him; and nothing afforded him more pleasure than to congratulate the assembly upon their peaceable demeanour. He was glad to find his humble endeavours met with their approval and it would always be his study to serve them justly and honestly. (Cheers)

The business of the day then ended by the dispersion of the crowd from the area and the hustings. The two candidates retired in the company of their friends. The flags, bands of music and spectators marched into the Market Place and having arranged themselves into a

procession paraded the town during the remainder of the afternoon. Messrs. Bright and Stephen left the borough for Manchester at an early hour Mr. Fielden went home and at nine o'clock in the evening Mr. Cobbett set out for Manchester on his way to London. Mr. Burge remained a day or two after the election.

Thus terminated the first election for the Borough of Oldham in the return of two members of the Radical School of politics in opposition to a Whig, an Ultra Whig and a Tory.

The borough has already acquired a notoriety, which will soon die away for having one of its representatives a celebrated, wonderful and extraordinary political writer, celebrated for his powers and genius, wonderful for his vulgarity and inconsistency and extraordinary for his financial knowledge and homely eloquence. Of the other member little can be said. He is a large manufacturer much esteemed by his neighbours and popular as a local politician.

The Whigs, if they had meant to carry their point ought to have selected a more liberal and disinterested candidate than Mr. Bright. We say disinterested because that gentleman proved himself directly concerned in slavery and therefore was incapable of acting independently. Mr. Burge and his little coterie of followers did more than any other party to injure and thwart Mr. Bright and acted just as the Radicals deposed. They came forward and abused and attacked him with being equally guilty as the Tory respecting slavery. Though their share in this iniquitous question might not have influenced the generality of the voters against them yet it proved their death blow amongst the religious portion of the constituency.

Mr. Stephen was another thorn in the side of the Whig and Tory and tended to secure what might be expected, the election of Cobbett and Fielden. Had not the exclusive dealing system been practiced the return of the Radicals would [still] have been secure, so strong had popular favour set in on their behalf.

Scarcely any election ever passed over more quietly, not a single assault occurred while it continued, not a single pane of glass was broken in connection with it, no rows took place, no disorderly persons kicked up a riot, no assemblages of mischievous boys happened, in short not the least infringement of the peace in any way disturbed the tranquility of the event.

A train of recollections, reflections and explanations might be entered upon about this all-absorbing and all-important occurrence, but the length, to which we have already extended the account, must stop our indulging in these vain speculations.

The Neighbouring Elections ... which follows the above, in '*Register of Oldham News & Reports of Edwin Buterworth*' can be read in the Local Studies and Archives on Union Street.

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### From the e-Postbag

From our reader Anne ...

#### **A Warning to Vegans?**

Taken from William Rowbottom's diary (1787-1830), weaver of Oldham, Lancashire:

[James] "*Taylor, of Middleton, [near Oldham, Lancashire] was stricken over the loins with a carrot that weighed 1lb. 6 ounces, of which wound he died.*

*He was buried at Middleton, January 28th, 1788.*

*A thousand ways there is on earth*

*For to deprive poor man of breath,*

*Pace [Peace], ye critics, it's only the last word that won't rhyme."*

(Strange epitaph, isn't it? It's funny because it doesn't rhyme where you think it ought to, and that is in addition to the last rambling line! I don't know whether this epitaph actually goes with the death-by-carrot report but this is how it is printed!)

See website [HERE](#)

Follow-up: No first name was given in William Rowbottom's diary but I have just checked the (beautifully written) burial register for Middleton and his first name was James. His parents' names were given as John and Ann and his father was a weaver. I wonder, then, if he was a



child or teenager? This may be him for the baptism register shows: 1 Jan 1770 St Leonard's church, Middleton, Lancashire. James Taylor – son of John Taylor, weaver, & Anne, his wife. Middleton. That would mean James was 18 when he was struck down by the carrot. There is no explanatory note about his death in the burial register but you'd have thought an 18-year-old lad was tough enough to withstand an attack by carrot.

There were 11 Taylor burials in the village of Middleton in 1788, seven of those (or their fathers) were weavers. The others were one carpenter, one servant, one illegitimate child and one with no occupation stated. Weaving was big in Middleton!

Isn't it incredible to be able to find so much information from one snippet in a diary?

I cannot find any records of whether the Middleton area was renowned for growing giant carrots!!...

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Another email from my friend Anne ...

Still ploughing on with my mother's side of the family tree and not doing too badly. The large scale c19th maps on the National Library of Scotland website are brilliant. I had found a place name in a burial register of 1692 for my 8x great-grandfather, Daniel Chadwick, but could not decipher it. Well, I could make out most of the letters but had never heard of such a place. The old handwriting looked like Boarfrees – which didn't seem right. I couldn't find anything remotely like it on Google nor even under Beartrees which it also looked like. (Sounds a bit like Teddy Bears' Picnic: "If you go down in the woods today...") So where, in all those acres of large-scale maps of the Oldham area, was it? I spread them all out on the floor and prepared for the long haul of examining the maps inch by inch. Then Daniel, bless him, came out of the ether to my rescue for after barely (ha! ha!) ten seconds I found it. Called Bare Trees, it's just off Burnley Lane and about 300 yards from where my aunt used to live with whom I stayed when I was a student in Manchester. Can't honestly say I felt any vibes in the two years I was staying in the area! Turned out there were dozens of Chadwicks in that area but I cannot find a marriage of a Daniel although there are two children claiming him as their Dad... and even Daniel has five potential fathers... I wonder which side he was on during the Civil War?

Memo to Anne ... Bare Trees is still known today and William Rowbottom would have known it well!!

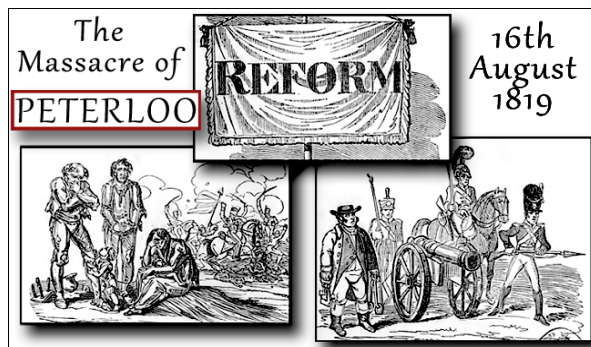
Maps on National Library of Scotland website [HERE](#)

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## PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary

Visit the website for **The Peterloo Project** with particular reference to Oldham, people, accounts, life at the time and more ...

at [Peterloo-Manchester](#)



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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](#)

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**The following entry for this PETERLOO exhibition is still on-going :**

**People's History Museum**

Website [HERE](#)

March 2019 to February 2020

**'Disrupt? Peterloo and Protest'**

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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.

There are regularly changing displays in the Local Studies Library. The current ones are : **'Ben Brierley', 'Activism in the Archives'**, and a display of plans and information about the new Local Studies and Archives to be housed in the old 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](http://Peterloo-Manchester)  
 Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) - [Ranulf Higden Soc.](http://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)  
 The Victorian Society - [Manchester Regional Website](http://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](#)

British Association for Local History - <https://www.balh.org.uk/>

## 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

The two photographs in the Gallery this month are taken from :

**'The Jackson Brothers : a family of photographers' by John W Taylor** which can be downloaded (or read on-line), as a .pdf file, from the Internet Archive [HERE](#)

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The Jackson Brothers, in the 19th century, had their photographic studios around Oldham, Rochdale and Jumbo. The Oldham premises were at 2, Clegg Street.



## Chadderton Hall

- **Chadderton Hall** (demolished in 1939)



## Foxdenton Hall

- **Foxdenton Hall**

