

'e-Owls'



Part of Manchester & Lancashire
Family History Society

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FEBRUARY 2020

MLFHS - Oldham Branch Newsletter

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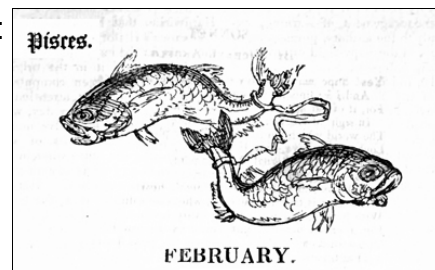
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Branch News :

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



from: *The Everyday Table Book*, 1826

Chairman's remarks :

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all keeping well despite the horrible weather we are having.

This year, the Branch is going to run meetings throughout the year up until November. This is a trial run to see how things pan out and if it's worth running meetings during the summer months. Attendance figures have risen quite a bit during the last few months and I hope this will continue during the year.

The Oldham Branch AGM will be held on the 14th March, and I hope as many of you as can will attend. This year will be a little different in that the Vice-Chairman of the MLFHS, Barrie Henshall, will be attending to oversee the meeting.

Sadly, our Secretary, Jennifer Lever, has informed the committee that she will be stepping down as an officer, after the AGM, owing to her other considerable commitments. However, we are glad to report that she will continue to serve on the committee. We wish to thank her for the

work she has done in the past, including also taking on the roles of programme planner and website manager.

Please note that the AGM will be held at 1:15, before the the talk, which will begin as usual at 2pm.

Non-members are welcome to attend but will not be eligible to vote.

We would really welcome nominations for a couple of additional committee members in order to ensure that the membership is democratically represented.

At this stage, no-one joining the committee would be expected to take on the role of one of the officers.

Nomination papers will be available at the February Branch Meeting and also on-line for download and submission. [HERE](#).

Members wishing to enter a motion for consideration at the AGM should email it to the Chairman.

Linda Richardson

Chairman, Oldham Branch

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

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### **Editor's remarks.**

I'm writing this as we're going into the last week of January ... New Year celebrations are in the past and the Christmas decorations have all been packed away (or been consigned to the rubbish bin!).

New Year's resolutions are rarely on my list of 'to do' items, as I know I never have the will power to keep them up, and this year was no exception. So, what can we look forward to? For me, it's a month to feel positive ... we can start looking forward to the days getting longer and, although there is always some bad weather to expect, we can tell ourselves that spring is only round the corner!

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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Previous Oldham Branch Meeting held on Saturday 11th January

An ANZAC in the family' ... the talk at the January Oldham Branch Meeting, given by Sheila Goodyear (myself!).

It's difficult to write a review of your own talk! The best I can do is to write an abbreviated version for the newsletter and journal. I hope that those visitors who came to the meeting enjoyed hearing the story as much as I enjoyed talking about this charismatic figure in my husband's family history.

As it was I who pushed for us to have meetings around the year, and the programme for 2020 was already in place, I offered to do the January Branch talk. My first choice had to be about my husband's ancestor by marriage, Wykeman Henry Koba Freame (to be known as 'Henry'). My husband's aunt, who lived until she was 94 had known and loved him and she would talk to us about him ... showing us the family letters, cards, photos and other reminders... such as the

bullets taken from his arm after he was wounded on Gallipoli!

I little realised when I started researching him more closely, in 1915, that such a fascinating family story would emerge (my husband's ancestors always seem to be the ones with the interesting lives ... mine were the usual, boring, run-of-the-mill workers!).



Wykeham Henry Freame,
with his father, 1880

Henry's story was one of 'smoke and mirrors'. His father, William Henry Freame, had been born in 1841 in Thatcham, in Berkshire where, according to the census of that year, his father worked in a solicitor's office. In 1852, the family (William now had 3 sisters) emigrated to Australia.

In 1867 William married but within months left his heavily pregnant wife and took ship for Japan. Life wasn't the easiest for westerners in Japan, at that time, but trade links with the West were being opened and someone who could teach English could find employment. William not only found employment, he found a wife (bigamously!) and 'married' Shizu Kitagawa, a daughter of an influential Samurai family, in 1873.

This marriage was well documented as they were the first to receive government permission for a Japanese woman to marry a foreigner, in Japan.

The couple had a daughter, Grace and then, in February 1880, the Henry of our story was born in Nagasaki. In the December of that year William died and this was where Henry's own problems would begin. His father hadn't registered his marriage, or Henry's birth, at the British Embassy so Henry could not claim British citizenship; as the son of a Japanese mother (not the father) Henry could not claim Japanese citizenship; Henry hadn't been born in Australia so he couldn't claim Australian citizenship. He was stateless!

Henry and his sister were brought up in the traditional Samurai/Bushido extended family of their mother.

Nothing further is definitely known of Henry until we see from his seaman's Continuous Certificate of Discharge, from 1902, that he was almost continuously at sea, visiting ports around the world, with just a couple of weeks on-shore between each voyage. At some stage he met Edith May Soppitt and they married, in Middlesborough, in 1906. In the days after the marriage they found time to visit the relatives in Failsworth.

He was back to sea within weeks and the story goes that he jumped ship and became a mercenary soldier in Mexico for the next 12 months. Then, back to sea with long voyages including several to Brazil, the West Indies and Australia. Between 1912 and 1914 the story has him again serving as a mercenary ... possibly Mexico again or even East Africa!

All this time, wife Edith May, was living at home with her family in Middlesborough.

In 1914 Henry was in Australia, and enlisting in the army, as soon as war was declared. Henry, with the Australian First Battalion embarked for Egypt, in October ... more training followed and Henry was promoted to Lance-Corporal. In early 1915 the Australian troops were en-route to the Dardanelles to take part in the doomed Gallipoli Campaign.

During the first days of the campaign Henry was in the forefront of the fighting, wounded, he was recommended for the DCM. In the weeks that followed he was promoted to Sergeant and was constantly employed as a scout, spying on enemy movements. Fighting was constant ... backwards and forwards ... gains and losses.

In August the first shots were fired in what became known as the Battle of Lone Pine and Henry was shot, again ... his elbow shattered. He was invalided back to England where he spent several months in hospital before being declared fit for duty again. During this time he decided to

apply for an officer's commission in the army and was supported by many of the officers with whom he had served. However, the commission would never happen. It's strongly maintained that his mixed race origins were not considered suitable for a military officer. Although he returned to his unit, in Alexandria, he was immediately hospitalised again, declared physically unfit for duty, discharged from the army and sent back to Australia.

The next phase of his life was about to begin. Australia had set up a Soldier Settlement Scheme, to re-integrate returning veterans into civilian life again. Henry applied for a holding, which was approved in November 1916. He moved onto the settlement, at Kentucky, in New South Wales, in early 1917.

As soon as the war was over, Edith May sailed from England to join her husband. Letters home, from her, were cheerful, positive and newsy ... but it was hard work. Much of the land granted to the new settlers was poor; the plots were not really large enough to be financially viable; the settlers were inexperienced as farmers; financial aid was insufficient. Despite all this, Henry and Edith May settled down comfortably and, in December 1921, their son, Henry Wykeham, was born. With hindsight we can understand that Edith May probably suffered from severe post-natal depression. She was desperate to see her mother and, in the August of 1922, she sailed for England with her son and a 'mother's help'. Despite long letters from Henry, to the family in Middlesborough and Failsworth, Edith May couldn't be persuaded to return until July of the following year. It was obvious to her mother and brothers that she was still not well. Only months after her return, news came that her mother had died; was this the final straw for her already fragile mental health? She disappeared from the electoral rolls from 1925 until 1931. In 1927, the 'mother's help', Josephine, had a child with Henry, which was baptised as Josephine Grace.

In 1930 Edith May returned home, to Henry. In England, those missing years were only spoken of in hushed tones, in front of the younger generation and, to this day, nothing has been discovered to shed any light on them. Henry has been the subject of numerous articles and books and it's implied that she was in a psychiatric institution following her depression. It seems a likely scenario.

She took up her old life but her health was impaired ... Josephine remained with the family until 1934, but little Grace stayed in Kentucky with her father and 'Aunty May'. By this time young Henry (Harry as he was known) had entered his teens and was way at boarding school ... achieving good results academically and also on the sports field.

Henry made frequent visits to Sydney and it's now known, from a recent book published about the first Australian spies, that he was having long conversations with the infant Military Intelligence Service, as he moved amongst the Japanese community, in the years leading up to WW2.

Just days before war was declared in September 1939, May died, suddenly, at home. Harry felt it his duty to return to Kentucky to help his father ... but, in the meantime, Henry had been persuaded to return to Sydney and become an undercover agent for Military Intelligence. In August 1940, he married again and, in September 1940, he was appointed to the staff of the Australian Ambassador to Japan. Ostensibly, he would be in Tokyo, with the first Australian Legation, as an interpreter and translator ... but in reality, as a spy.

Within a few weeks, he was the victim of an attack in which an attempt was made to garrotte him. At this time Japan had not entered the war and the Australian government refused to admit that it was a murder attempt, choosing, instead, to present it as a result of illness ... probably cancer. Presumably, this was so as not to endanger the already fragile relations between Australia and Japan. Henry was sent back home but died only days later. His son, Harry, was with his father who, although unable to speak, was able to indicate the nature of the attack.

Bitter and angry, Harry left the farm and enlisted ... life in the army suited him and he applied

for a commission. He passed with flying colours, coming out as a Lieutenant. He was then attached to a tank regiment. In May 1945, the newspapers reported that Harry and his platoon had taken a heavily defended Japanese pillbox, on Tarakan. A few days later, on VE Day, Harry was killed whilst in hospital ... by a bomb thrown under his bed. Revenge ... or just coincidence?

So, although the Freame name lives on in stories and history, and the memory is respected, this branch of the Freame family name died out. Harry fulfilled his father's own ambitions but never got to follow his own dream.

If you want to read the whole of his story (with numerous illustrations) you can find it [HERE](#)

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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.

Refreshments on arrival.

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)



from: 'London in the Time of the Stuarts'  
by Sir Walter Besant, Pub. 1903

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Oldham Branch Meeting :

Saturday 14th March, at 1: 15pm :

Members' AGM - Non-members welcome to attend but, please note, unable to vote.

at 2:00pm :

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 February

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### **Oldham Branch Meeting : Please note this is the 3rd Saturday in the month**

**Saturday 18th April, at 2:00 pm**

**'Manchester Oddities'** a talk by Keith Warrender.

"A light-hearted look at customs, buildings and characters around Greater Manchester"

Other details as for February.

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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, as soon as possible, by email to oldham@mlfhs.org.uk, so that we can discuss the matter further with those who are interested.

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## Bolton & Scottish Branches

**Bolton Branch : Wednesday 5th February, 7:30pm**

***By His Tattoos You Shall Know Him - tracking down an elusive great uncle***

A talk by Alan Crosby

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 15th February, 2:00pm until 4:00pm

A talk by Dr. Alan Crosby :

"Crossing the Solway, tracing the Rickerbys of Dumfriesshire and Cumbria"

"A life at sea was rarely romantic but, for many people of Dumfries and Galloway, life was lived on the Solway Firth, a life dictated by tides and winds, of ... (read more on Eventbrite booking page)

Members free, visitors £3.

The meeting will be held in Performance Space 1, Central Library, Manchester.

Booking is essential, on Eventbrite [HERE](#)

Branch Website link [HERE](#)

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## MLFHS updates

**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.

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

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 from the inter-change 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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Beginners Talks : Saturday 1st February at 10:30 am:

Civil Registration

Jean Newman talks about Birth, Marriage and Death certificates and what you can learn from them.

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 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 26th February at 7pm** **Please note: 4th Wednesday (edited from original newsletter)**

#### ***'Historic Oldham in Pictures'***

An illustrated talk by Roger Ivens

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 & 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](#)

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### **Saddleworth Historical Society**

**Wednesday 12th February, at 7:30pm**

**"Oldham's Seven Holy Crosses".** an Illustrated presentation by Roger Ivens

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.

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Saddleworth Civic Trust: -

There are no events planned for February

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### **Family History Society of Cheshire : Tameside Group meeting**

**No Meeting in February**

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 19th February, 2:00 pm

'The American Civil War : Lancashire and the Cotton Famine'

A talk by Dr. Gervase Phillips from Manchester Metropolitan University.

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

**Tuesday 25th February, 2:00 pm**

**'Making Friends with the Archives - Crime & Punishment '**

At Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. OL6 7SG.

To book on any of the activities below please telephone 0161 342 4242 during our opening hours or email [localstudies.library@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:localstudies.library@tameside.gov.uk)

Website and programme [HERE](#)

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Moorside & District Historical Society

Monday 17th February, 7:30pm

**'Times Past & Present - Sold at Auction -
Local auctions, facts and details ...
Going, Going, Gone!'**

Illustrated presentation by Mike Smith

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

All welcome ... £1.50, including refreshments'



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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

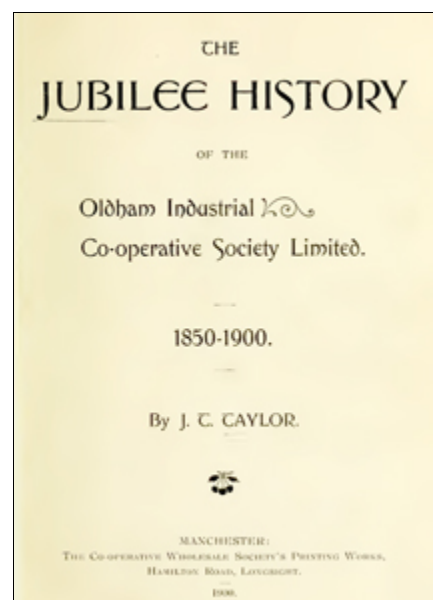
All details, Booking and Programme for the day [HERE](#)  
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'A Mixed Bag'

Always on the lookout for old books with something to catch my eye I found the following :

THE
JUBILEE HISTORY
OF THE
OLDHAM INDUSTRIAL
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED
1850 - 1900

BY J.C. TAYLOR
MANCHESTER
1900



PREFACE



larger image in 'Gallery', with names

THERE is no attempt in this short history to give anything approaching a detailed account of the struggles and the triumphs of the men and women who have made the Oldham Industrial Co-operative Society what it is. To do that a much larger volume would be necessary. It is possible, under these circumstances, that much may have been omitted that ought to have been included, and something may have been included that, in the opinion of some people, should have been omitted.

It is impossible to present a complete statement of the growth of the various departments because in the early stages of the Society the balance sheets were only written and read to the members at the Quarterly Meetings. Unfortunately those records have not been preserved. The Registrar-General has been communicated with, but with no better result. The desired returns have been destroyed.

The minute books, however, are available from the commencement, and with the aid of these, supplemented by the recollections of a few of the old pioneers, three of whom are still living, it is hoped that a narrative has been compiled which will be sufficiently interesting to ensure a perusal of the book by all those into whose hands it may fall.

Oldham does not loom largely in history. It can boast of no illustrious families with ancient lineage. It has no ducal palaces nor lordly mansions. It has neither lords spiritual nor temporal of its own, though occasionally one of these will make a brief visit either on religious or political business. It has neither a knight nor a baronet to add dignity to its state or lustre to its proceedings. It has a Mayor, but he is not a Lord Mayor; it has Aldermen, but they are not Aldermen for life: it has Councillors whose ambition is to become Aldermen and Mayors, and it has common burgesses. Its people are all commoners. There were a few old halls scattered about the place, but some of them have disappeared, some have degenerated into public restaurants, and a few have been turned into ordinary dwelling-houses.

The only ancient feature about the town is the character of its people. They are acknowledged everywhere to be a rough, hard-working race. Not long ago, according to Butterworth, the Oldham historian, the few inhabitants in and around the old village were chiefly interested in the woollen trade. The moors, whose names are now so familiar to us, though their significance is almost lost, have long since ceased to afford grazing ground for sheep. The air about them vibrates with the whirl of machinery, and the face of them is covered over with mills, workshops, and cottages. To the people who live and move, and almost have the whole of their being in these mills and workshops the Co-operative Movement has proved a friend, and a history of the town would be incomplete that took no account of the great social reform by which the people have been made more comfortable and happy.

My thanks are due to many personal friends for their valuable assistance, which in every case has been most kindly given, and particularly would I express my gratitude to Mr. Harrison, the Secretary of the Oldham Industrial Society, for the willingness with which he has compiled and supplied much of the statistical information contained in this book.

J. T. TAYLOR

November 1900



OLDHAM FIFTY YEARS AGO

*Owdham is a bonny teawn,
Ther' isn't sich another;
There's heauses up one side o'th' street
An' ess' middens up th' other.*

*There's o' sorts o' places, and o' mak's o' faces.
But Owdham, brave Owdham, for me.*

THE history of Co-operation in Oldham is so inseparable from the history of the town itself that a brief introductory glance at the extraordinary progress of the people, as a community, may be excusable, if not necessary. The town can be said to have been largely made what it is by Co-operation, and the prosperity of the Co-operative movement, locally, may be attributed to the favourable conditions of its surroundings. Both have mutually aided each other, and both have benefited by the contact.

If you would know what an article really is you must know of what it is made. Some years ago a representative of the Co-operative Wholesale Society waited upon the Committee of one of the Oldham Societies with reference to the quality of the boots and shoes manufactured by that great federation. He offered to take any boot of the Wholesale Society's make from the shop and compare it with the productions of any private manufacturer. He would cut the boots up and show the Committee of what materials they were actually made. So, if you would know what Oldham Co-operators are you must learn what they were, what were their surroundings, and how they emancipated themselves.

You must go back fifty years and see what the town was that was to provide such a favourable ground for the growth of Co-operation, and of what were the people made who were to prove such excellent husbandmen in nurturing and cultivating the young and tender plant.

It is well known that the man who has sailed the roughest seas and braved the fiercest storms, as a rule, makes the safest mariner. It is an equally well-known fact that the industrial towns which suffered so much in consequence of the Corn Laws, the Crimean War, and the American Civil War have been amongst the most successful in their efforts to establish Co-operation on an extensive and enduring basis. Their lives of heroic struggle, manly self-sacrifice, and patient endurance have yielded a rich and abundant harvest.

John Strange Winter says that "perfection is only attained through suffering, and no man or woman is fitted for the higher life save those who have suffered." These pioneers not only attained that higher life, but have bequeathed a few of its richest blessings to us in the hope that we might strengthen that Co-operative influence which beautifies and ennobles wherever it extends.

A local authority, writing a few years ago of the period which marks the birth of Co-operation, said :-

Fifty years ago domestic life was wretched compared with the comforts and conveniences that are now enjoyed by the poorest and most lowly ...The trust system was carried on to an alarming extent amongst the working classes. Few indeed practised thrift and economy, but spent their whole earnings as if it were a matter of necessity to do so. Clothes were got on trust. and butchers' meat was obtained in the same way. The grocers were called "badgers," and every family had its "badger." As soon as the wages were drawn on a Friday or a Saturday night, the wife would go with the "badger's" book in her hand to pay for the week's provisions. Unable to reckon up the book herself, and the husband seldom caring about these matters, she had to depend entirely on the honesty of the person with whom the family had dealings. The week's "score," as it was called, not unfrequently exceeded the week's earnings after the butcher's bill had been paid, and thus at the "badger's" an old "score" was kept

continually on the increase. Thus a week behind, another week was begun on trust, and where the income was pretty fair there were no restraints on the visits to the shop; but when the income was small the visits were seldom and few. and, however few they were. undertaken with a dread of growling and complaining on the part of the "badger," with perhaps, the unpleasant reminder that the "score" was already too high.

As the foregoing extract indicates, the working people of those days enjoyed comparatively few luxuries. Meal porridge - or "porritch," as it was commonly called - was a necessary daily dish in most families. Our Lancashire authors generally refer to this kind of food with a zest as though it were not altogether unpalatable.

The writer before quoted says : -

When the mills stopped for breakfast at eight in the morning and closed for the day in the evening the different members of a family would hasten to breakfast in one case and to supper in the other. A large " porritch deesh" (dish) filled with " stifdicks " would await them, and be placed in the centre of the table. A family of half a dozen or more would soon be seated round, father, mother, sisters, and brothers, each a bowl in hand filled with either "traycle an' wayther" or "greaut," sweetened: A couple of minutes or so and the whole mess was despatched. A "butther cake" or a "traycle cake" after the porritch was looked upon as a luxury, and seldom indulged in. Blue or skimmed milk was generally taken along with the "porritch." Buttermilk was much used, and could be got any day in the street from the hawker.

Jerry Lichenmoss, speaking through one of his characters, the Lord of Mushroom Hall, says:—

I went a livin' at a farm heause when I wur abeaut nine year owd an' I sarv'd seven year an' never knew what it wur for t' have a whole shute o' clooas. What I had wern ta'en in i' numbers, but they'rn never wo'th bindin'! It wur a good shop for meat an' drink. but it wur of a rough sort. Porridge thirteen times a week, wi' shudes among th'

meal an inch long an' they'd ha' scrat yo'r throat same as if yo'd be'n swallowin' a pincushion. Blynt bo' an' dip wur a luxury, lumps o' dough abeaut buckth o' yo'r fist boilt i' th' broth, no shuit in.

Ben Brierley ("Ab-o'-th'-Yate") says :-

Awve sin battles for th' getherins off a porritch slice. Aw've sin my feyther byet time to eaur spoons when we'n bin atin us porritch; an' ony on us 'at had dipt his spoon i' th' deesh afore he ceaunted ten an' then said "Dive, lads!" ud had to ha' th' leeast spoon th' mornin' after.

Do not imagine, gentle reader, that these are spicy items conjured up by humorous authors to please their patrons. The present writer, who entered upon this chequered, but not altogether joyless stage in less than a month from the opening of the first shop of the Society whose history he is now writing, can testify to experiencing during the days of his boyhood almost all that is portrayed by these faithlul delineators of Lancashire character. But the severe restraint thus imposed, and the rigid discipline necessarily enjoined, were largely instrumental in producing a race of people who have gained a world-wide reputation as sturdy. persevering, honest, "gradely" folks. Though not in the enjoyment of wealth they were not despondent, but always cheery and sociable. As one of them was gaily singing one day as he sat picking away at his loom, he was asked hy a rich neighbour how he could be so cheerful and yet so poor. "Eh! mesthur," he said, "I haven't time to be unyezzy."

Nor had they. Their riches consisted "not in the extent of their possessions, but in the fewness of their wants." They earned the title of "Owdham Roughyeds," but they were known to be hard workers, diligent, kindly, and generous to a fault.

How they laid the foundations of Industrial Oldham will be seen from a perusal of the following instructive figures:

	1850	1900
Population	52818	153297
Ratable Value	£112,490.00	£676,162.00

As Chadderton is within the area covered by the Oldhain Industrial Society, a statement of its growth is equally important.

	1850	1900
Population	6088	25500
Ratable Value	£20,635.00	£138,896.00

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**FEBRUARY**

from: *The Everyday Table Book*, 1826  
by William Hone

"\_\_\_\_\_ Then came cold February, sitting  
In an old waggon, for he could not ride,  
Drawne of two fishes, for the season fitting,  
Which through the flood before did softly slyde  
And swirl away; yet had he by his side  
His plough and harnesse fit to till the ground,  
And tooles to prune the trees before the pride  
Of hasting prime did make them burgeon round."

*Spenser*

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From the e-Postbag

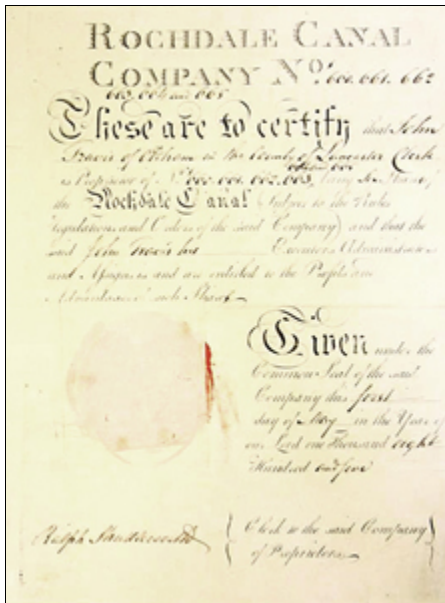
In the December newsletter, we included a post from our reader Anne, entitled :
"**Joseph Travis, Grocer, of Oldham**". Never one to leave an interesting search alone, she
couldn't resist finding out more about his bankruptcy. So here is the postscript, sent from Anne :

Further Adventures of Joseph and John Travis

The snag about doing family history (anybody's not just mine) is that I cannot leave it alone!
Even when something is 'finished' it is niggling at me all the time. Such was the case with
"Joseph Travis, grocer, of Oldham" who appeared, as executor on the 1813 will of Edmund
Elson my 5 x great-uncle. According to the Enclosure Award map of 1804 of the Coldhurst area
of Oldham, the land next to Edmund Elson's two properties was owned by a John Travis.
I am forever trawling the brilliant website of the Oldham Historical Research Group and what
should I find there but another reference to Joseph and John Travis [HERE](#) . In 1799 when
invasion by the French under Napoleon Bonaparte was anticipated, a list of men aged between
15 and 60 had been drawn up and Joseph Travis was one of them. Aged 22 he was a member
of the Oldham Loyal Association, a sort of Dad's Army raised to defend the homeland in the
event of a French invasion. In the list above him was John Travis junior aged 15 and above
that, John Travis, aged 50 and two unnamed women (probably wife and daughter) - all four in
the same household and whose dates fitted the John and Joseph Travis I knew.
I stated in my article, that Joseph, son of John Travis, had played a minor role as a Special

Constable in the build-up to Peterloo on 16 August 1819 - counting and noting how many people walked along the road towards Manchester. This entailed having to leave his shop in the care of his 71-year-old father, John Travis. Further research indicated that Joseph had been born c.1776 and died 1852 and his father was born c.1748 and died 1820 leaving his son, Joseph, with considerable debts that could not be covered even by the sale of his land. The annotator, Samuel Andrew, of William Rowbottom's diary (1787-1830 fully transcribed) stated that John Travis had bought shares in the Rochdale Canal Company which had got into financial difficulties and he lost a lot of money. I think it was at that point that I was Googling for more information about the Rochdale Canal Company. I cannot remember my exact search terms but when it came up with an image of a Rochdale Canal Company share certificate I was pleasantly surprised. When I read it, I could hardly believe my eyes - it had belonged to John Travis!

It transpired that the certificate had been through auctions twice a year or two ago but remained unsold. So where was it now? Had it been returned to the vendor? Yes! Did he still have it? Yes! Was it still for sale? Yes!



To cut a long story short ... John Travis' share certificate is now mine! Apparently there are thought to be only three such certificates in existence. But, even if, maybe, I have the wrong John Travis (there were dozens of them it seemed to me), I have a wonderful piece of Oldham history and a great 'story' - I just wish these Travises were my family!

Image:

Rochdale Canal Company Certificate -
for Six £100 shares

made out to John Travis of Oldham. 1805.

Share numbers: 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665

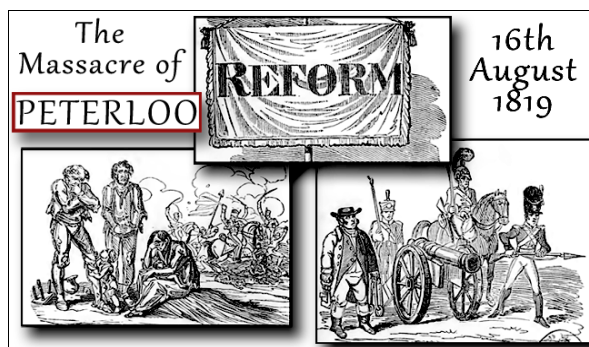
Courtesy of Anne Grimshaw

Larger file [HERE](#)

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](#)



Although the long-anticipated Bi-Centenary has come and gone, there are some Peterloo websites 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 now in its final month :**

**People's History Museum**

Website [HERE](#)

March 2019 to late February 2020

**'Disrupt? Peterloo and Protest'**

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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

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](http://Lancashire)  
Free BMD - [Search](http://Search)  
[National Library of Scotland](http://National Library of Scotland) - Free to view, historic, zoomable maps of UK :  
1891 - Oldham and locality [Here](http://Here)  
Online Parish Clerk Project - [Lancashire](http://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](http://Local & Family History)  
Bury – [www.bury.gov.uk/archives](http://www.bury.gov.uk/archives)  
Chester - [Cheshire Archives & Local Studies](http://Cheshire Archives & Local Studies) (linked from Discovery at the National Archives)  
Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](http://Local & Family History)  
Leeds - [Leeds Local and Family History](http://Leeds Local and Family History)  
Liverpool Archives and Family History – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/archives>  
Manchester - [Archives & Local History](http://Archives & Local History)  
Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](http://Local Studies & Archives)  
Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](http://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)

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***The JUBILEE HISTORY
of the Oldham Industrial Co-operative Society Limited 1850 - 1900***
by J.C. Taylor Pub. 1900

Preface and Chapter 1, from this book, are transcribed in the '**Mixed Bag**' section on page 9.

THE JUBILEE COMMITTEE

across top : back row (standing)

J. Farrer, G. Heath, B. Shore, S. Platt, F. Hardern, J.P., E. Marland, T. Rodgers, Z. Nield,
S. Bentley, J.T. Warburton, J.R. Marland.



frontispiece from :

The JUBILEE HISTORY of the Oldham Industrial Co-operative Society Limited 1850 - 1900
by J.C. Taylor Pub. 1900

Across bottom : front row (sitting)

J. Chadwick, P. Brooks (Manager), R. Hadfield (Vice-Chairman), T.A. Watson (Chairman),
E. Bardsley (Secretary), W. Thomas (Manager), L. Whitaker



NEW MILLINERY AND MANTLE DEPARTMENT,
KING STREET



NEW MILLINERY AND MANTLE DEPARTMENT, KING STREET.

page 84 from :

The JUBILEE HISTORY of the Oldham Industrial Co-operative Society Limited 1850 - 1900

by J.C. Taylor Pub. 1900