

'e-Owls'



Contact us :

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April 2023

MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

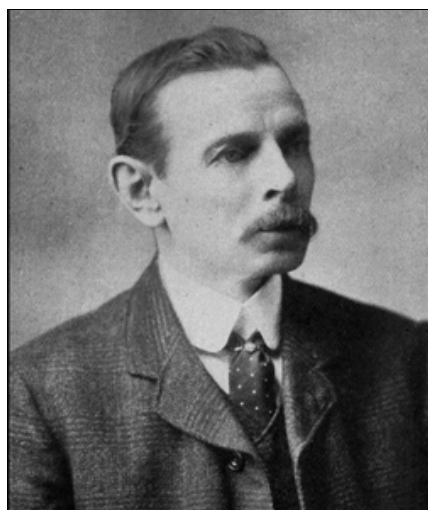
Where to find things in the newsletter:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Oldham Branch News : | Page 2 | MLFHS Facebook picks | Page 26 |
| Other Branches' News : | Page 6 | Peterloo Bi-Centenary : | Page 27 |
| MLFHS Updates : | Page 7 | Need Help! : | Page 27 |
| Societies not part of MLFHS : | Page 10 | Useful Website Links : | Page 28 |
| 'A Mixed Bag' : | Page 12 | Gallery : | Page 30 |
| From the e-Postbag : | Page 24 | | |

Branch Information & News :

Branch Officers for 2022 -2023 :

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Committee Member : Chairman : | Linda Richardson |
| Committee Member : Treasurer : | Gill Melton |
| Committee Member : Secretary : | Joan Harrison |
| Committee Member : Newsletter : | Sheila Goodyear |
| Committee Member : Webmistress : | Sheila Goodyear |
| Committee Member : Patricia Etchells | |
| Committee Member : Hilary Hartigan | |

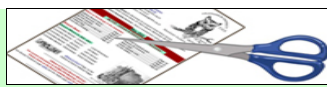


Sim Schofield
author of,
'Short Stories About Failsworth Folk'
pub. 1905

Links to the Website :



['Where to Find it'](#)
On the Oldham & District
Website Pages



Newsletter ['Snippets' Page](#)
Find Articles, Transcriptions and
Gallery Images you missed

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## Oldham & District Branch Meetings :

**For current information on all M&LFHS Meetings, and other public activities,  
Please check on the Branch website pages for updated information.**

The Society Facebook page [HERE](#) and the Twitter page [HERE](#) will be updated frequently.

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Chairman's remarks :

Hello and welcome to the April newsletter.

First of all I would like to welcome Hilary Hartigan to the Oldham Branch Committee.

This month is our annual meeting when the Chairman, Treasurer, Branch Secretary and Committee are elected.

We are looking for nominations for people to join the Committee and if you are interested, please contact me at < chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk >

I am also sad to have to announce that Joan Harrison, our Branch Secretary, has decided to step down due to health reasons. Thank you Joan for all your hard work during your time as Branch Secretary.

Enjoy reading the rest of this month's newsletter.

Best Wishes

Linda Richardson

Chairman, Oldham Branch

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

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### Editor's remarks.

Hi Everyone,

Our March Branch meeting was programmed as the first of our hybrids (zoom and in-person) for 2023, and our return to the Library since our last meeting there in November. I know March is often notorious for 'brutal' weather and this year was no exception but I didn't really anticipate our in-person part of the Branch Meeting, in March, to fall victim to the snow and ice.

Taking the decision to cancel the part of the meeting in the library, on the Friday morning, meant that we were able to edit the website programme page and the facebook notification to that effect, thus allowing time for everyone to sign up on zoom if they so wished. We were pleased that another dozen people took the opportunity to sign up in the interim. Unfortunately, as booking was not necessary for attendance in the library, we were not able to contact more than a few regulars whose contact details were already known to us. Our sincere apologies to those who visited the library and found the meeting cancelled.

In the Mixed Bag we have more pages from *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men* ... this month, we can read the chapters on Church Street. One of my favourite little books, sitting quietly on my bookshelves, with stories and anecdotes, is '*Short Stories about Failsworth Folk*' by Sim Schofield, pub. in 1905. Starting this month, it will be my next transcription project. The author, Sim, was a local man born in the middle years of the 19th century and had strong memories of the hard times during the American Civil War, when the weaver's family of six were existing on 2/- a week. His father, Thomas, was a veteran of Peterloo, and had been at that meeting as a 16 year old. The photograph of the Peterloo veterans, from Failsworth, used everywhere in the bi-centenary year, was taken on the occasion of the reunion in 1884 at the 'Great Reform Demonstration'. and is the subject of one of the stories later in the book. Sim was a friend of Ben Brierley's and was married to poet Samuel Laycock's daughter, the '*Bonnie Brid*' of his well-known poem.

As always, I have enjoyed transcribing the pages from both books and hope, as ever, you also find them enjoyable, informative and, perhaps, even useful!!

I always look forward to receiving one of Julie Schwethelm's '*Random Recollections*' and this

month I received two! One, I've saved for us to read next month; this month I've included *recollections* of 'Fog' (or rather something more like the smog of the '50s!) in the e-Postbag. In the Updates section of the Branch website pages [HERE](#) you can find a link to a new story from Pat Etchells, '*The Attempted Murder of Hannah Hall in 1840*' in her Project Pages ... *Criminal goings-on in Oldham*'

Also in the [Project Pages](#) and linked from the Updates and from the Pictorial Index ... '*The People Who Built Alexandra Park, Oldham – A Review of the Minutes of the Parks Committee and Other Sources*' by Gillian McCarthy.

If, like me, you love maps and the older the better, in the section for John Marsden's website updates (from the online Forum) you can find the link to a new section that he has created on the website, [Research/Reference/Reference-Library](#) and in there is the link to a street index for the 1848-'50, *Manchester 60 inch OS Map Index*. The links in the index will take you to the appropriate map (on the NLS website) with the street named in the centre. Give yourself plenty of time to browse it as it can become rather addictive!

Joe's talk, in March, was fascinating (write-up in the Branch Meetings section) and he made mention of pubs and common lodging houses as being the haunts of criminals. In the Gallery I've included a couple of images from, '*London Labour and the London Poor*', by Henry Mayhew published in 1865. Although in London, I don't imagine Manchester's conditions would be any better and, according to Joe, likely to be worse! Also in the Gallery are three pictures from '*Short Stories about Failsworth Folk*' by Sim Schofield. Two have already been included in the newsletter, at an earlier date, but I've added them again as they were used to illustrate the pages transcribed this month.

Finally, my chosen image, for the front page of the newsletter, is the portrait of Sim, the frontispiece of his book.

Sheila

I am always very happy to receive articles, pictures etc., for the 'Mixed Bag' in the newsletter, copyright is always a tricky issue so do please make sure that you have the right to use any text or illustrations that you send! It is also helpful if you include mention of your source material.

You will retain copyright of any contributions that you send, whilst allowing MLFHS to re-use the material in an appropriate manner.

Editor reserves the right to edit any contributions before publication.

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

**Please note**, regarding using the links to website pages or .pdf documents : if clicking on a link when the newsletter is viewed on the internet, without first downloading it onto the computer, the new page opens in the same window so the 'back button' has to be used to return to the newsletter.

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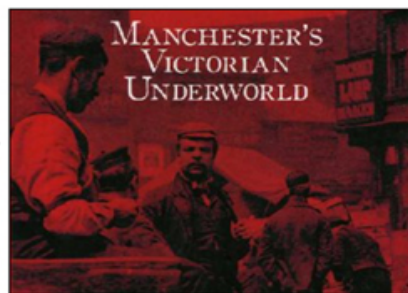
Oldham & District Branch

Monthly Meetings

Last Month's Meeting - March



Saturday
11th March
at
2 pm



Crime City : Manchester's Victorian Underworld

"Historian Joseph O'Neill recreates the sights, sounds and smells of a lost milieu in all their fascinating detail. He chronicles the era's crooks, cracksmen, pimps, prostitutes, conmen, garroters and bare knuckle fighters, and the gin palaces, dance halls and cheap brothels that were as much a part of Manchester as giant cotton mills."

An illustrated talk given by Joseph O'Neill,
author of '*Manchester's Victorian Underworld*'

This meeting was intended to be a hybrid, on zoom and in Oldham Library however, the weather was so bad on the Friday and the forecast so poor for Saturday that, after considering the possibility of icy and dangerous conditions in Oldham, it was decided to cancel the meeting in the library and just hold it on zoom.

This talk was so full of facts, figures and stories that the short account, that follows, can hardly do it justice!

Joe began his talk with a brief overview of Manchester in the middle years of the 19th century and showed that its terrible reputation for violent crime was well deserved and compared unfavourably with other towns and cities of the time. The population growth of industrial Manchester had been exponential with consequent poor quality accommodation, overcrowding and lack of sanitation. We were told of numerous statistics and shown excerpts from contemporary reports which did nothing to improve the city's reputation. The popular conception was that you couldn't walk down a Manchester Street, in deprived areas, without danger of being robbed or becoming the victim of a savage attack; that the streets were teeming with fighting, screaming women; and gutters were filled with blood, vomit and worse. Compounding the problem, Manchester had a very low detection and conviction rate of only 5% against, for example, 14% in Liverpool and 53% in Birmingham.

One man who tried to make a difference was Alfred Alsop, a Methodist minister who, in 1876, founded the Wood Street Mission, in the Deansgate slum, for abandoned children in Manchester and Salford. As the superintendent, he lived there and wrote a damning account of life there. Crime in the city was rooted in the abject poverty of the inhabitants of the slums (known as Rookeries), the large numbers of common lodging houses, pawnshops, workhouses and pubs. All towns and cities had their own share of these elements but in Manchester the numbers were disproportionate. The average income in these districts was below subsistence level and life expectancy was lower than elsewhere.

In 1845 John Phillips Kay had founded the Manchester Statistical Society to gather information that could be presented to the government in order to bring public pressure on government to address the problems. He based that survey on the city's 'Little Ireland', reporting on the terrible living conditions and suffering endured. Another, almost equally notorious slum was that of Angel Meadow.

Innumerable pawnshops enabled thieves and burglars to convert the spoils of criminal activity into hard cash. Common lodging houses afforded petty thieves and itinerants the opportunity to enter the building for the night, for a nominal sum, and at least have shelter ... but not usually a bed! Drunkenness in the streets frequently led to assault during a robbery or other crimes, petty or otherwise. As an example of the numbers of pubs, Joe compared the numbers of pubs in Chorlton-on-Medlock and Hulme, 100 years apart, in 1881 and 1981; Chorlton had 335 in 1881 and 23 in 1981; Hulme had 600 in 1881 and 18 in 1981.

When it became time to look at some of the criminals it was inevitable the Jerome Caminada's name would pop up. Caminada was born in crime-ridden Deansgate, Manchester, in 1844, to an Irish mother and Italian father. He joined the police force in 1868 and his success in tracking down criminals became the stuff of legends and it is said that Arthur Conan Doyle's detective, Sherlock Holmes, was based upon Caminada. He was responsible for the arrest and conviction

of some of the most notorious and violent criminals in the city, including Bob Horridge who, after one arrest, threatened that he would kill Caminada when he came out of jail. Horridge's latest exploit, only days after his release, on one occasion, was breaking into a mill. He stole a steel safe, weighing 450lbs., its contents being the £600 wages for the workers. He escaped with it in a handcart!

There was every sort of scam that could be imagined by an army of conmen. In 1884, the Rev. E.J. Singleton, who professed to be able to heal every sort of ailment, advertised a meeting, in the Free Trade Hall, in the Manchester Courier. There were adverts from people offering to trace kin, who had emigrated, possibly made a lot of money and died without leaving a will. For a fee, the agency would offer to trace the relatives and facilitate any inheritance; the fee was 'pocketed' and no-one ever inherited. There were bogus agencies who, for a fee, would put people in touch with potential employers. Bogus lotteries and charities abounded ... and Caminada made it his mission to stop them and put the perpetrators in jail.

Caminada's most famous success story was that of the Manchester Cab Mystery, in 1889. A cab had picked up two passengers, a young man and an older one. They set off for their destination but not long afterwards the driver was flagged down by passers-by, who realised that something was wrong. Inside the cab, the older man was found to be either dead or dying and the younger man had disappeared. Caminada's investigations discovered that the victim, businessman John Fetcher, had, like others before him, been befriended by a younger man who, drugged their drink and then robbed them. Some would survive, others died as a result. Caminada discovered that the younger man was Charlie Parton, son of a known criminal and 'fixer' of boxing matches. Caminada found that Charlie had stolen a quantity of chloral hydrate, in Liverpool, only days before. This was also implicated in drugging boxing opponents so that they were unable to fight in the ring. Mixed with a quantity of alcohol, it would prove lethal. Caminada had a witness and pulled all the evidence together. Charlie was arrested and convicted but escaped the hangman's noose.

Charlie Peace, born in 1832, was the next criminal to whom we were introduced by Joe. Our first slide showed a photo of him in Madame Tussaud's waxworks, sitting in a chair next to his executioner holding his hangman's noose. He was a habitual criminal and murderer including that of a policeman and his lover's husband. Frequently on the run, he was finally tracked down, arrested and sentenced to death after a former girl friend gave evidence against him claiming the reward. He was executed in 1879.

And then we came to the 'Scuttlers' ... these were young lads (mainly in their teens) who came together in gangs based on their location and 'territory'. Joe showed us a map of their distribution (27 of them!), along Regent Road and Chapel Street in Salford then across Manchester, ranging through the city slums of Angel Meadow out to Bradford, Gorton and Openshaw to the east. The 'gang-warfare' had first erupted in the early 1870s and continued through the next 3 decades, subsiding to a much lesser degree in the late 1890s. For the Scuttlers it was all about the vicious and brutal fighting in defence of their 'territory', loyalty, and being recognised by their distinctive clothing and haircuts ... accessories such as belts were heavily buckled and doubled up as weapons which also included knives, stones and anything else that could inflict injury. One of the more notorious gangs were the Bengal Tigers based around the street of that name in Ancoats.

Murder was the next topic ... not during a fight or a burglary, but by a woman who poisoned family and friends when they 'got in her way'. Mary Ann Britland, born in Bolton in 1847, was the first woman to be hanged at Manchester's Strangeways jail. She had married Thomas Britland at St Michael's Church, Ashton-under-Lyne in 1866. By 1881, they were living at 133, Turner Lane, in Ashton, with their two daughters, Elizabeth Hannah and Susannah. Apparently unremarkable, in early 1886, her seemingly only complaint was that there was an infestation of

mice in the house and, she had bought some packets of "Harrison's Vermin Killer" which contained both strychnine and arsenic. The first victim was her daughter, Elizabeth Hannah, then aged 19. In the course of one day she went from being perfectly well in the morning but 24 hours later she was found to have died. Mary Ann claimed life insurance of £10. Several weeks later, her husband died with similar symptoms but, apparently, no questions were asked and she claimed insurance of £11 16s. Her neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. Dyson, presumably feeling sorry for her situation, invited her to live with them. A few weeks later, and Mrs. Dyson also died. Her husband claimed £19 17s. 6d in insurance. The police were made aware that these were suspicious deaths and an investigation was started. It transpired that Mary Ann had been having an affair with Mr. Dyson and hoped to 'go away with him'. However, traces of strychnine and arsenic were found in all three bodies (after Thomas and their daughter were exhumed) and Mary Ann was duly arrested and charged. She asserted her innocence throughout the trial but was found guilty and hanged in August 1886.

Joe concluded his talk by giving some of the reasons which contributed to the high levels of crime around Manchester. The police force of the time was poorly paid for long hours and there were never enough recruits to fill the gaps left by the reluctance of policemen to stay in the force when other work was available. Another factor was the low rate of convictions when witnesses were reluctant to come forward to give evidence after a crime had been committed. For many criminal vagrants, jail wasn't a deterrent as it meant 3 meals a day. He also made the point that, in the latter years of the century, social conditions began to change ... slums began to disappear and the concept of respectability and the desire for the good opinion of others, began to be felt in impoverished areas. Juveniles were not sent to jail with adults but were sent to 'industrial schools' where they were taught a trade and new skills.

Our many thanks, to Joe, for such an interesting and informative talk, which was enjoyed by the audience of almost 60 zoom attendees, as the subsequent Q&A, and chat box, proved with the numerous thanks and compliments.

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The 2023 Branch Programme of Meetings will include 4 meetings as hybrids, 4 meetings only in the library and 4 only on zoom.

Details, of the programme of talks, are on the '*Meetings*' page of the Branch website [HERE](#)  
Our Annual General Meeting will be held in April..

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MLFHS Branches delivering their monthly meetings and talks

Anglo - Scots ... on zoom only

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>MLFHS, ANGLO-SCOTTISH BRANCH MEETING</p> | <p>Saturday, 1st April at 2pm</p> | <p>'Prisons and their Records' given by Emma Maxwell</p> |
|---|---|--|

Booking for zoom on [Eventbrite](#)

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

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**Bolton ... hybrid meeting**

|                                                          |                                                       |                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MLFHS<br/>Bolton Branch<br/>Meetings -<br/>Hybrid</b> | <b>Wednesday<br/>5th<br/>April<br/>at<br/>7:30 pm</b> | <b><i>Document<br/>Preservation,<br/>Conservation<br/>&amp; Digitisation</i><br/>given by<br/>Mark O'Neil</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Hybrid Meeting ... on zoom and on screen in the venue**

Please note - change of venue for April meeting

Bolton Arena, BL6 6LB

Booking for zoom on [Eventbrite](#)

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

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MLFHS updates

Manchester ... No meetings for March in the programme at this time

All Bookings on [Eventbrite](#)

Keep an eye on the following pages, as some meetings may be added at short notice.

MLFHS Manchester,
Website Events Page [HERE](#)

MLFHS Manchester,
Eventbrite Bookings [HERE](#)

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**Saturday, March 25th, at Manchester Central Library**

***MLFHS, SPRING FAIR - Discovering Family Lives***

**Join us on Saturday, March 25th,** at the Manchester Central Library for our Spring Fair.

The list of attendees for 2023 is shown on the website.

Also listed are the extra library facilities which you will find useful.

Entry is free and we will be open from 10.00am to 3.30pm.

Website : <https://mlfhs.uk/fairs>

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MLFHS Online Bookshop: [HERE](#).

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

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**MLFHS Manchester & Branch e-Newsletters**

MLFHS Manchester and each of the MLFHS branches publish a monthly e-newsletter which provides useful news items and articles etc. The e-newsletters are free and available to both members and non-members of MLFHS Society. Members receive the Manchester newsletter automatically and non-members can browse the archive and download any they wish. You can sign up to receive the Branches' newsletter links monthly, by following the links, below.

To sign-up, for a Branch newsletter, to be emailed each month, simply click the appropriate link

below and complete the short form on the e-newsletter page, where you will also find copies of all past issues to browse.

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

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MLFHS Updates to the Great Database (located in the Members' area of the Website)
Emails to the Members' forum, from John Marsden (webmaster), listing the updates.

* Another large addition to the Great Database.
This consists of 15,778 records of inmates of Bolton Workhouse from the Creed registers 1902-1911.
Thanks to Graham Holt's team at our Bolton Branch for these.

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\* Another 2,774 records added to the Great Database.  
This time BMD announcements from the Manchester Courier for 1844.  
Thanks to Linda Bailey, Laura Lewis, Chris Norcross and Chris Hall for these.

~~~~~  
* New data has been added at www.lancashirebmd.org.uk as follows:
Added 75 Marriages for Fylde RD comprising: Fleetwood, St.Mary's (1971-1980)
Added 12 Marriages for Burnley RD comprising: Padiham, Baptist Church (Pendle St) (1966-1989)
Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

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\* I have added a new section to the [mlfhs.uk](http://mlfhs.uk) web site under the main public menu - [Research/Reference Library](#). This will be the place where in future public reference documents will be placed. It contains (initially) three documents:

**Census Details**  
The dates of each of the decennial censuses from 1801 to 1931 and a summary of the details which were requested for each.

**Civil Registration Key Dates**  
A list of key dates for civil registration including dates at which the Manchester Registration District was reorganised.

**1848-'50, Manchester 60 inch OS Map Index**  
An index to the 60 inch to one mile Ordnance Survey maps for Manchester and the surrounding district. Clicking on any street name will link to the area of the appropriate map on the National Library of Scotland website, with the selected place at the centre of the page. Created by Chris Willis.  
Chris's street index is particularly interesting. It parallels the information for the 60" maps in the Godfrey Map index but covers a wider area around central Manchester. Also, it links to the NLS online maps so you don't have to buy a map to make use of it.

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* Just added to the Great Database are the admission registers for the Royal Manchester School for the Deaf & Dumb for 1885-1908 and 1908-1922.
These 1,667 records mirror the existing collection of admission documents, but can contain differing information. Many entries, for example, contain the date of leaving and the reason for leaving. A few names may be included for which no documents survive.
Thanks to Jim Chadwick and his team (Marie Collier, Karen Hugill, Janet Moores and Chris Norcross.) for these.

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\* New data has been added at [www.lancashirebmd.org.uk](http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk) as follows:  
Added 17,034 Births for Bolton RD comprising:



Bolton A (1997-2000)

Bolton B (2000-2003)

Bolton C (2001-2007)

Thanks are due to Bob Winder and his team.

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* New data has been added at www.lancashirebmd.org.uk as follows:

Added 113 Births for Lancaster RD comprising: Lancaster (1942-1942)

Added 2,252 Deaths for Bury RD comprising: Bury (1968-1973)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

~~~~~  
\* Another 616 records added to the Great Database. These are stray entries relating to Lancashire people who appear outside the county in records as follows:

6 Source: Norwood Cemetery Burials, West Norwood, (Metropolitan) Surrey

469 Source: Surrey History Centre, Recruitment registers, Ref 2496

141 Source: West Surrey FHS, West SRY 1851 census)

Thanks to Chris Willis for these.

A brief reminder to members that anyone can submit strays for inclusion

in this collection. Simply go to <https://mlfhs.uk/research/find-out-more/strays> and then to the submission form.

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* New data has been added at www.lancashirebmd.org.uk as follows:

Added 5,844 Births for Bury RD comprising:

Bury (1982-1986)

Added 812 Marriages for Bury RD comprising:

Elton, St.Stephen (1991-2019)

Holcombe, Emmanuel (1997-2020)

Prestwich, St.Hilda (1949-1959)

Prestwich, St.Mary (1981-1996)

Shuttleworth, St.John (1970-2015)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

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\* I have just added 3,444 entries from the Manchester Collegiate Church Sexton's Books which were copied by John Owen (Owen MSS vol 58). The entries for 1782-1792 have been transcribed by Geoff Edge.

While these parallel the burial registers, during this period, the sexton's books recorded the cause of death.

Please note that Owen was selective in what he recorded and at the very least, he did not record child burials. Beyond this, the parameters for his selection are unknown, so the absence to find a person mentioned in the burial register does not necessarily mean that the burial was not recorded in the original sexton's records.

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* Another addition to the Great Database and Document Collection.

These rolls list all pupils admitted to the school 1825-1922. They provide some information not always included in the admission documents or admission registers.

Thanks to Jim Chadwick and his team: Marie Collier, Karen Hugill, Janet Moores and Chris Norcross.

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\* Some new maps from the NLS

One-Inch land utilisation and agricultural maps of England and Wales

Geological Survey of England and Wales,  
One-Inch and Six-Inch to the Mile maps, 1860s-1950s

<https://maps.nls.uk/additions/>

Martin Briscoe

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* New data has been added at www.lancashirebmd.org.uk as follows:

Added 266 Marriages for Bury RD comprising:

Prestwich, St.Hilda (1975-2017)

Prestwich, St.Mary (1997-2021)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

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All MLFHS publications previously issued as CDs/DVDs have now been converted into downloadable files with consequent reductions in price and saving the ever-increasing costs of postage - particularly to purchasers outside the UK.

The full catalogue can be found at :

<https://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk/collections/downloads>

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Meetings and Talks at other Societies &/or Venues

Please note ...

Please check society/group websites or organisers for updated information

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**Oldham Historical Research Group: ... on zoom**



**Information update ...**

Please keep an eye on the Eventbrite bookings page or sign up to 'follow' and receive a notification when an occasional new meeting is planned.

Everyone will be welcome ... More details and free booking will be on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)  
Your support for our meetings was, and still is, appreciated and, if you would like more information, please email me at < [pixnet.sg@gmail.com](mailto:pixnet.sg@gmail.com) >.

Website [HERE](#)

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Saddleworth Historical Society ... Wednesday 12th April at 7:30

"Chimney Pots & Chamber Pots - Domestic Accommodation in Victorian Lancashire."

an illustrated presentation given by Professor John Geoffrey Timmins

7:30 at the Saddleworth Museum Gallery.

At this meeting Society members are free, but a charge to non-members is applicable on the door of £3. All are welcome. Refreshments are available.

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**Saddleworth Historical Society ... Saturday 22nd April from 9.30am to 3.00pm.**

The General Theme and subject of the day's meeting is :

## ***Tudor Beds in general & in particular King Henry VII's Bed - Fact or Fiction***

There will be two illustrated Presentations:

One in the Morning, given by Helen Hughes FIIC AER of London entitled

**"Crime Scene Investigation - The Autopsy of a Wooden Bed - You decide".**

the second, in the afternoon, given by Peter N. Lindfield entitled

**"Recovering Knowledge of Tudor Beds : form, features & context."**

The day's proceedings will include Tea/Coffee on arrival, Light Lunch, midday, & Tea/Coffee in afternoon.

The morning session will be in the Saddleworth Museum Gallery in Uppermill and the afternoon session at the Uppermill Library both of which are close together.

Admittance by ticket only at cost of £15 per person, fully inclusive.

Tickets can be purchased at the Saddleworth Museum in Uppermill, the Library and Uppermill Post Office.



Website [HERE](#)

**Saddleworth Civic Trust** has no meeting or event planned in April.

If & when this situation changes members of the Society will be notified directly and through the local Press.

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Moorside & District Historical Society, Moorside St. Thomas's Church, OL1 4SJ



Moorside & District Historical Society



Monday 17th April 2023.

Short AGM followed by

Then & Now

Bishops Park area history.

illustrated presentation by Mike Smith



NOTE

To be held in Moorside St Thomas' Church, OL1 4SJ

7-30 p.m. all are welcome.

Church, Lounge

No meetings in the summer break July & August + December. £2 including refreshment.

Please note: Moorside St. Thomas's Church, OL1 4SJ, at 7:30pm

All Welcome, £2 including refreshment

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Library Events & Gallery talks at Gallery Oldham; [HERE](#)  
on [Eventbrite](#) and [Instagram](#)

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Family History Society of Cheshire : Tameside Group meeting.

See their website [HERE](#)

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**Tameside History Club :**

Meetings on zoom.

Website and programme

&

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

Website and programme [HERE](#)

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Regional Heritage Centre :

Website [HERE](#)

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**'A Mixed Bag'**

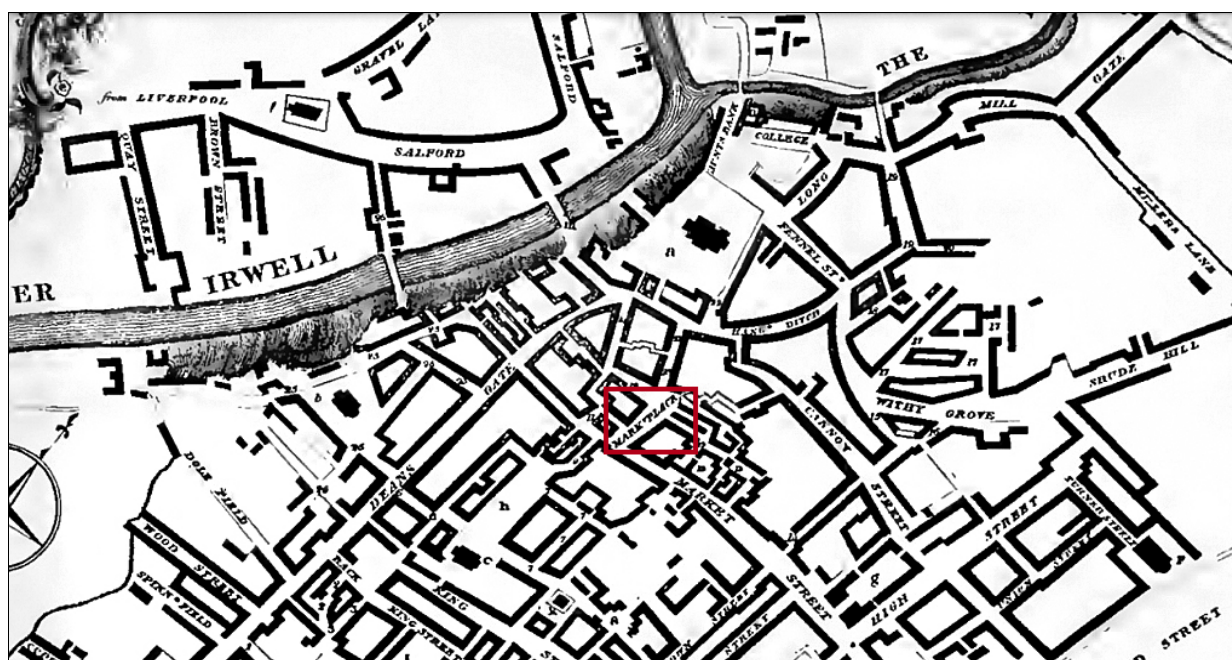
***Manchester Streets & Manchester Men (3rd series) by T. Swindells, pub. 1907,***

Our serialisation of *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men* (3rd series) started in the newsletter for 2022-12, and through the newsletters for January and February, with transcriptions of 'The Market Place', from p.131 to p.220. The next transcription, below, takes us back to page 1, and 'High Street Annals'

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

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

Introduction by James Croston, Pub 1875



**CHURCH - STREET ANNALS.**

**PART 1**

**THE ORIGIN OF THE STREET NAME.**

The tracing of the origin of place names is at all times an interesting occupation, and in making the search we often obtain glimpses of the past not otherwise easily obtainable. The name



Church-street is to be found in probably every city and town in England, and in nearly every case is traceable to the parish church to which it usually forms an approach. In our case the origin of the name is shrouded in mystery. I know that some readers will remind me of St. Paul's Church, which stood for many generations on a portion of the site of Messrs. Philips' warehouse. In reply, I would point out that whereas the church was built in 1765, the street name is to be seen on the plan of Manchester published by Casson and Berry twenty years earlier. Another suggestion is that it was so called because it formed the direct route from the district to the Collegiate Church, now known as the Cathedral. Again our plan supplies evidence of an interesting nature. Church-street is depicted as a short cul-de-sac lane closed by a field-hedge that must have stood near to the river Tib. Cannon-street did not exist. The lower portion extending from Hanging Ditch to a few yards beyond where Corporation-street now crosses was known as Hunter's Lane. From there to High-street were open fields, across which there was probably a footpath running along the line of the present

**p. 41**

Cannon-street. Under these circumstances it is hardly likely that a short street situated so far away would derive its name from the parish church. We must, therefore, leave the solution of the problem, and proceed with the story of the street.

**A FORGOTTEN POET.**

When Manchester's second directory was issued in 1773 there were a fair number of residents in Church-street, and a few years later it was completely built up on both sides. Probably one of the earliest births in the street was that of Charles Kenworthy, who was born at the Red Lion on September 12th, 1773. Although his education had been exceedingly limited he developed early in life a love of literature, and wrote a number of poetical effusions which appeared in the columns of two well-known local newspapers, "Cowdroy's Manchester Gazette" and the "Manchester Observer." In 1808 he published a shilling pamphlet of poetry and politics under the title of "A peep into the Temple." This was followed at intervals by a number of small ventures, and it was not until 1847 that he issued a larger volume. This consisted of his verses that had appeared in various publications, and bore the title, "Original Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects." Like many literary men his life seems to have been one of trouble and struggle. He died on July 31st, 1850, and was buried in the Rusholme Road Cemetery. On his gravestone may be seen the eloquent epitaph, "Here slumbers sorrow's child." One of the curious features of the strenuous lives of the Lancashire workers of the earlier part of the last century

**p.42**

was the fact that quite a number of them evinced more than the average share of literary ability.' Kenworthy was one of these. To him poetry was a solace and a source of comfort in the dark' days through which he passed.

**A BOOK WITH A CURIOUS HISTORY.**

Dr. John Wallis was a distinguished mathematician of the closing decades of the seventeenth century, and was at one time Savilian Professor at Oxford University. He wrote several books dealing with a variety of subjects, mostly scientific. Like many eminent men of his day he ventured into the arena of controversial theology, and embodied his views on the Trinity in eight letters and three sermons. These were published in one volume dated 1692. They were printed for "Thomas Parkhurst, at the Bible and Three Crowns, at the lower end of Cheapside, near Mercer's Chapel." When Wallis's collected works were published in 1698, the letters were not included, and for a century and a half no reprint of them appeared. Then in 1840 a volume appeared published by J.G. and F. Rivington, bearing the title "Eight Letters concerning the Blessed Trinity, by John Wallis, D.D." It was described as a new edition "with the author's last revisions and corrections, together with a preface and notes by Thomas Flintoff." In his preface the editor explains the reasons that prompted his appearance in the world of letters, and he



dates from Broughton, 27th July, 1840. Thomas Flintoff was a manufacturer who carried on business at Back Alley, Union-street, Church-street, and resided at Roman Road

**p.43**

Terrace, Higher Broughton. The appearance of the book excited much interest in certain circles in Manchester life, for with the exception of this volume Mr. Flintoff was not credited with any literary labours. The volume might have been a success, but copies are now but rarely to be met with. From a literary point of view the editor had done his work well, and he displayed an amount of familiarity with the works and views of the old-time writer that was a matter of surprise to his best friends. He died in 1849, and about that time it was rumoured in certain circles that he had not edited the book at all. No definite statement was, however, made until shortly before the death of James Crossley. I have in my possession Mr. Crossley's copy of the book, and on the flyleaf he wrote a confession dated May 19th, 1883, less than three months before his death. The inscription is interesting and worthy of reproduction. He says :--

"This work, though my friend Thomas Flintoff's name appears as Editor, was entirely edited and the introduction and notes written by myself. He undertook the risk of the publication, and being myself then in practice as a solicitor, and not wishing to appear prominent in theological controversy, it was arranged that his name should appear ostensibly as the Editor. Since his death in 1849 it is no longer necessary that the fact of his having no further connection with the work than as above stated should be kept a secret. Indeed, I do not wish his memory to be held responsible for anything that I have written. He had a high opinion of the merit and value of Wallis's Letters, and his judgment was sound on all literary and theological productions which came

**p.44**

in his way. A worthier man never lived or a kinder friend.

James Crossley. 19th May, 1883."

Mr. Crossley was concerned in at least one other case of literary deception, but as it has no bearing upon the one now under notice, details of it must be deferred to a more suitable occasion. It is certainly remarkable that despite the reason assigned in the above note for making the explanation, he should have allowed thirty years to elapse after his friend's death before making it, and that in less than three months after writing it he had joined the great majority.

**SOME TENANTS IN 1836.**

Seventy years ago the street was given up almost entirely to business purposes, and even in those days had become fairly well-established the system of business firms occupying only a portion of a house or warehouse. Calico printers were much in evidence, a dozen firms having rooms or warehouses in the street. One of the best known of these firms was that of John Barge and Co., whose works were then situated in the country at Broughton Bridge. Their cashier, John Fildes, afterwards became M.P. for Grimsby. The top end of the street was still largely occupied by shopkeepers, the warehouses ceasing at the Robin Hood and Nottingham Tavern on the left-hand side, but extending a little further on the opposite side. Short although the street is, there were in it four fully licensed houses, all of which did a roaring trade on market days, when manufacturers and others engaged in business in many Lancashire and Cheshire towns and villages would pay their weekly visit to the greater town.

**PART II.**

**THE SCRAMBLE CLUB.**

About a century ago Henry Froggatt became the landlord of the Unicorn Inn. In those days business men either dined at home or hastily swallowed an apology for a meal at one of the many inns that were to be found in every part of the town. Tuesday was market day, and many men who on other days went home to dinner, dined in town on that day. There were also a

number of country manufacturers in town on that day, all of whom required a mid-day meal. The present-day system of dining at restaurants had not commenced, and many of the inns therefore did quite a roaring trade as a result. A number of well-known business men, including Edmund Buckley and James Kershaw, afterwards M.P. for Stockport, were in the habit of partaking of a hasty meal consisting of a fourpenny pie and a glass of ale at the Unicorn. Froggatt's wife had, prior to her marriage, been cook in the family of Mr. Winter, of Stocks, concerning which mansion an interesting story will be told in some future volume, and Henry Froggatt had gained some reputation as a caterer. It was therefore suggested that every Tuesday he should cook a joint for the convenience of his patrons, and that the cost of the joint should be shared by diners, who should also each pay one penny towards the expense of cooking, and twopence each towards the catering and providing

**p.46**

of the joint. As the same persons met week by week, the party in time became known as a club; and bore the name of the Scramble Club. The name which was originally applied in joke by Jonathan Peel, a cousin of the first Sir Robert Peel, owing to the manner in which the diners scrambled through their meal in order to hastily return to business, seemed at first to be peculiarly apt. As further illustrating the primitive conditions under which the meal was served and consumed, mention may be made of the peculiar form of the bill of charges. As soon as dinner was over old Froggatt would enter the room, carrying the loose lid of an old-fashioned salt box, on which he had chalked the various items of cost, and apportioned the sum to be paid by each guest.

**THE FIRST TOAST.**

In course of time the proceedings became a little more leisurely, and members would linger over the meal, and the menu was extended. The first change consisted of toasted cheese, which took the place occupied to-day by puddings and pies. Then came bowls of spiced ale with toast in it, which was known as "swig" and was handed round the room much as the "wassail bowl" was passed round. The toast on such occasions was "The salt box lid." The cost of the dinner was usually about tenpence per head, with an average of about sixpence each for drink. The latter items were chalked on the parlour door in a peculiar system of notation, not to be found in Cocker, but well known to "Old Froggatt" and his friends in the taproom, though it would have

**p.47**

puzzled some of the wisest heads of the club. The members increased in number, and additional accommodation was necessary. In addition to this, many of the younger members demanded better fare and wine. The landlord refused to move in the matter, being of opinion that the increase of trade would not compensate him for the expense. Towards the close of 1819 it was decided to have an anniversary dinner annually. The first of these was a most auspicious occasion, and so well did the hostess display her capabilities as a cook that a special vote of thanks was accorded her. It became evident, however, that a change must be made if the requirements of the club were to be met. A move was therefore made to the Garrick's Head Inn, Fountain-street.

**SOME MEMBERS OF THE CLUB.**

In January, 1820, the club met at the Garrick's Head for the first time, when the members included Edmund Buckley, James Kershaw, R. Entwistle (who was an accomplished musician, and whose son William entered Parliament), P. W. Dumville, solicitor to the Waterworks; S. Gasquoine, auctioneer; Samuel Lees, cotton merchant; William Eland, secretary to the Commercial Travellers' Society; and William Carruthers, cotton spinner, who gave the name to Carruthers-street, Ancoats. As showing how completely the character of the dinners had changed it may be noted that it was resolved to limit the price of the second anniversary dinner

to five shillings per head, with a further allowance of three pounds for dessert for the party of twenty-four. By dessert was meant wine. When this decision was

**p.48**

arrived at, the Madeira of the host was solemnly tasted and approved - and was ordered to be supplied at the dinner. Ultimately twenty-five guests attended, and the total cost per head was twenty-three shillings.

A fine of sixpence was imposed in cases where members being in town on Tuesdays failed to put in an appearance at the club; and as a result of frequent absence, members were to be excluded. In June, 1821, it was resolved to make a further move to the Spread Eagle, Hanging Ditch. Before leaving the Garrick, a resolution was passed by which each member paid one shilling to the "large waiter" and sixpence to the "little waiter."

### **AT THE SPREAD EAGLE.**

The career of the club in its new quarters was long and successful. They marked the opening of the era by deciding that in future each member should pay the waiter a penny for each dinner. Fines and penalties were increased until it became doubtful whether any action of a member was not a penal one. Certainly fines in the form of one or more bottles of wine were to be paid if a member removed to a new house, if one got married, if he became a father, or if he won a race horse. There were fines for not taking the chair when elected to it, for leaving the chair to ring a bell, for asking a stranger to ring it, or for allowing a stranger to pay for anything. All charges of infringement of rules were brought before the club and voted upon, and if any members failed to vote further fines ensued. The chairman and vice-chairman did not vote, but if one of them inadvertently put up his hand he was promptly fined. It will thus be

**p.49**

readily understood that the meetings of the club were far from being solemn occasions. In 1823 the landlord was desired to provide a dinner "for thirty gents at five shillings per skull." Betting was in those days popular with the members, wagers being laid on all kinds of subjects. Thus one bet another one half-a-dozen of wine that the canal from Manchester to Macclesfield would be open for traffic before July 31st, 1830; another bet was three bottles to one that the Duke (Wellington) would vote for the Reform Bill, and another one that Captain Gibson "cannot produce in writing on Tuesday next the names of five hundred Tories." In 1833 the thanks of the club were voted to "Samuel Green, Esq., Mayor of Garratt." Mr. Green was a calico printer, whose works were at Number 1, Brook-street. Later in the year Captain Grimshaw "volunteered a pot of turtle" which the members present accepted for themselves and the other members. On that occasion the proceedings were prolonged until midnight, and it is said in the minutes that two glasses of brandy and Water enabled the secretary to "scrambell" home (two miles) by two o'clock. N.B. - He saw no watchman nor anything else." In later years the list of members included such well-known names as Joseph Whitworth, William Gibb, Alexander Rowley, and W. B. Watkins. The last named attended a meeting on November nth, 1845, immediately after his election to the position of Mayor of the town, and his health was drunk with "acclamation."

### **PART III.**

#### **THE STORY or A MANCHESTER FOUNDATION.**

In the directory for 1797 there is an intimation to the effect that Owen Owens carried on business as a hat-lining cutter and glazier at 34, Church-street. A few years later we find him described as a hat-lining cutter and furrier with a place of business at 10, Carpenter's Lane, and residing at Nelson-street, Chorlton Road. In 1824 the style of the firm was Owen Owens and Son, with the same addresses. Nelson-street was in those days a country lane, surrounded by fields and hedgerows.

Owen Owens, as the name denotes, was a Welshman. He was born at Holywell, in Flintshire, and as a youth came to Manchester to seek his fortune. He married Sarah Humphries, and in

1790 the only child of the union, John, was born. John Owens received his education at an academy conducted by John Huthersal in one of the old houses still standing on Ardwick Green, near to the corner of Manor-street. Another scholar there at the time was George Faulkner, and between the two there was thus formed a friendship that was only closed by death, and which as will be seen was fraught with great importance to the people of Manchester. About 1815 the son became a partner in his father's business, and a few years later they abandoned the hat-lining branch, becoming general home-trade merchants. In 1834 John Owens became a partner in the firm of

**p.51**

S. Faulkner and Co., along with his friend George Faulkner, but soon retired from it. Ten years later Owen Owens died and left the whole of his property to his son. The latter never married, and living a quiet life in Nelson-street accumulated a substantial fortune.

### **GEORGE FAULKNER.**

John Owens' friend, George Faulkner, was in many ways a remarkable contrast to the founder. He was born in 1790, and after leaving school entered the employment of Robert Appleby, who carried on business as a silk, cotton, and linen manufacturer at Bridgewater Yard. In 1812 he became a partner, the firm being known as Appleby and Faulkner. Mr. Appleby died in 1829, and the firm became George Faulkner and Co., and in more recent years was known as Fallows and Keymer, whose warehouse was in Parker-street, and whose mills were in Bradford Road, Ancoats. The differences between the two friends were in matters religious and political. John Owens, on the one hand, was a man of pronounced Radical views, and a Dissenter. He was strongly opposed to any form of religious test, contending that the universities should be open as freely to the sons of Dissenters as to those of Churchmen.

On the point the friends had many discussions, and never could agree upon it. This is not to be wondered at, for Faulkner held strong Tory views and was a Churchman. It is said that when Owens complained about the importance attached to a faith in the Thirty-nine Articles and the Prayer Book, Faulkner would

**p.52**

retort, "Well, Jack, if thou dislikes them so, why dost thou go to Church. I'm a Churchman, and I like them." This was said in reference to Owens frequently attending St. Saviour's Church after he had ceased to attend Dr. M'All's Independent Chapel in Mosley-street. The difference of opinion thus illustrated did not prevent Faulkner from acting in a wonderfully unselfish manner on one occasion.

Owens' wealth had accumulated gradually, and having no near relations, he decided to make a will bequeathing the whole of it to his schoolfellow and life-long friend. He told Faulkner of what he had done, and was surprised to be told by him that he did not want it and would not have it, and that he must make another will. He little expected such a reception, and leaving Faulkner, he stayed away from him for a week. At the end of that time he called at his friend's warehouse and demanded a reason for the refusal. Faulkner reminded him of his views on university tests, and urged him to leave his money to found a college that should be entirely free from all religious tests.

In this way was born the idea that led to the founding of our Owens College, and after a process of evolution of Victoria University. When we honour John Owens' memory for what he has done for the youth of our city, we should not forget the high-minded and unselfish act of George Faulkner, to whom we are equally indebted. John Owens died on July 29th, 1846, at his house in Nelson-street, aged fifty-five, and was interred in St. John's Churchyard, Deansgate. When his will was read it was found that he had left the residue of his estate

**p.53**

in trust for the foundation of a college, the fundamental and immutable rule of which was to be

that the “students, professors, teachers, and other officers connected with it should not be required to make any declaration as to, or submit to any declaration whatever of, their religious opinions, and that nothing should be introduced in the matter or mode of education in reference to any religious or theological subject which should be reasonably offensive to the conscience of any student or his relatives.” In such manner did our great educational foundation originate.

### **THE FORMING OF A TRUST.**

Under the will a Trust was formed, the members of the committee being named in the will. A glance at the names will show how cosmopolitan Owens was in his views in the matter of education. There were ten members, all of whom in some way or other had shown themselves to be public-spirited men. They included the executors, George Faulkner and Samuel Alcock. Previous reference has been made to the latter gentleman, who gave up his business in order that he might devote the whole of his time to carrying out his duties as executor and a trustee of the new college. William Nield was a member of the firm of Thomas Hoyle and Sons, became alderman of the city, and was chairman of the board of trustees. James Heywood was a noted scientist, being F.R.S. and F.S.A., and in later years became an M.P. Alexander Kay was a well-known solicitor, who took a prominent part in municipal affairs, being appointed Mayor of Manchester for the years

**p.54**

1843-5. Samuel Fletcher was a cotton spinner, and devoted much time to Sunday school work. A good story is told about his remarkable memory. On one occasion Dr. M’All was engaged to preach in Southport on a Sunday morning and in the evening at a small preaching room at Churchtown. There was a service at the latter place in the afternoon, and this was taken by Samuel Fletcher. He had heard the popular preacher in the morning, and his remarkable memory enabling him to remember the sermon he had heard, he decided to give it to his afternoon congregation. All went off well until the evening, when the Doctor, in ignorance of what Mr. Fletcher had done, proceeded to repeat his morning’s sermon. Many of his hearers were mystified as to his repeating Mr. Fletcher’s address, but matters were explained afterwards when that gentleman owned up.

Then there was Richard Cobden who occupied a seat on the Committee; Mark Philips, concerning whom something will be said in my next article; John Frederick Foster, stipendiary magistrate and chairman of Quarter Sessions; and John Benjamin Smith, first president of the Anti-Corn Law League, who was M.P. for Stockport and for some time president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Such were the men named by John Owens to see that his wishes in the matter of education were carried out, and that they were faithful in the carrying out of those wishes is evident to all who have read the story of the Owens College. Having told the story of its origin we must leave the subsequent history of the Institution to a future occasion.

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Starting a new serialisation; one of my favourites ...

'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk '

Reprinted, with additions, from the '*Oldham Chronicle*' & '*Manchester City News*'
by Sim Schofield pub. 1905

Preface.

In response to the numerous requests of my friends I have ventured to reprint a series of Sketches contributed to the "*Oldham Chronicle*" and "*Manchester City News*," with some additional stories, illustrated from a number of excellent photographs. Most of these photographs were originally taken by the late Mr. Squire Knott, of Oldham, for the purpose of inserting in an album presented to our Failsworth author, Ben Brierley, by his local admirers and friends in 1880, prior to his leaving England upon a visit to America. I spent several days with

Mr. Knott in going round with him, and pointing out the various places of interest. When we had completed the work, he made me a present of a complete set of the views. As some of the old buildings have recently disappeared, or been transformed to meet modern requirements, they should be assured a welcome on that account alone. The preservation of their old-time aspect may serve a useful purpose by reminding my readers of bits of Old Failsworth.

For some years I have been collecting stories and anecdotes relating to many of our well known local characters, believing that such would tend to preserve, in a tangible form, much of our quaint, homely humour, and at the same time be a desirable contribution to the Folk Lore of my native district. I have carefully avoided trenching upon the ground so well covered by my old friend, and our revered author, Ben Brierley. As a life-long resident of Failsworth, which is so rich in its fine and quaint characters, I have had exceptional facilities in being personally acquainted with most of the men and women I have written about. It would be a pity if these characters, who have played such prominent parts in the village life of the past, were allowed to pass into oblivion for the want of someone to place on record their customs, manners, and racy humour. I trust that such a work will be acceptable, not only to the residents of Failsworth, but to all who take an interest in the village life of the past. Especially will this be so with all those whose daily toil has compelled them to leave their native district, to win their bread in other climes and places.

I may add that it has been my aim and object, in what I have written, to picture as faithfully as I could, the quaint humour, the customs, simplicity, and even the rough manners of village life in the old days.

Whilst I have tried to amuse, I have, at the same time, written to instruct, and to show what education has done in the matter of social progress and good manners. It is in the hope that I have succeeded in some small degree that I send forth this little volume.

THE AUTHOR.

Auburn Bank, New Moston, Failsworth,
February, 1905.

Short Stories about Failsworth Folk.

THE recent decision of the ratepayers of Failsworth to become incorporated with the great city of Manchester has been suggested to me as presenting a favourable opportunity for placing on record, in a tangible form, some stories and anecdotes of the old and quaint characters ere they are lost for ever. Through some hitch in the arrangements, the decision to become incorporated with the City of Manchester has not yet been carried into effect.

For several generations my family have been connected with the district, and the fact that I have myself been a resident, in and about Failsworth, for almost a half of a century gives me some claim to a knowledge of its people and traditions. Our revered author, and my own personal friend, Ben Brierley, has put in sketch and story some of the characters, but there are many which have escaped his notice. It is almost impossible for any one man to be in possession of information concerning all the noted characters of a district like Failsworth. I have, therefore, set myself the task of playing the part of a gleaner, and it will be my object to pick up what Brierley has overlooked. There are few districts in Lancashire so rich in its quaint and original characters as Failsworth, and it would be a pity for these to be lost in the new life which awaits the people as citizens of Manchester.

I am old enough to remember the time when the Failsworth folk were most intimately connected with Manchester by ties of industry. Forty years ago the main

p.2 Picture in Gallery : '**A Failsworth Loomhouse**'

p.3

industry in Failsworth was that of hand-loom weaving. I can recall the time when the old villagers were wont to be seen carrying their woven goods in "wallets" to the warehouses in the

city. This used to be better known as "Bearin' whoam," or "Buntin'." I have myself carried, over my shoulders, one of these white "wallets," containing silk goods woven by my family. In those days there was no railway, and the journey of over four miles had to be done on "shanks' pony." The carrying of the "wallet" was not confined to the male sex, for I remember my mother "bearin' whoam," and in hard times I have a vivid recollection of awaiting her return with the money to buy food to feed hungry mouths with. I have known what it is to "clem" for nearly two days before "buntin'."

STORY OF THE "COTTON PANIC."

During the Civil War in America, the poor handloom weavers of Failsworth endured great hardships and privations. These they bore with almost heroic fortitude, for they were loyal to a man to those who were fighting for the emancipation of the slaves.

Our family was one of six, and in the trying times of the "Cotton Panic" I can remember we existed for fourteen weeks on the miserable pittance of two shillings per week, which my sister earned at a sewing class. And out of this small sum we never once missed purchasing "*The Manchester Weekly Times*," at twopence. On a Saturday morning it was the custom of the old hand-loom weavers to assemble at our house to hear the war and other news

p.4 Picture in Gallery : '*A Failsworth Bobbin Winder*'

p.5

of the week read by my brother. How we lived during those dark days, God alone knows. Rent for the house we could not pay, and it had to "run on," to be afterwards wiped out when the better days came. Butcher's meat was seldom seen on our table. In these times I remember an incident well worth relating, and which burnt itself into the very core and fibres of my starving nature. We had in our family an old heirloom of a pistol. One of the village lads, who knew of our possession of this pistol, and being in better circumstances than we were, offered me a half-penny if I would procure this weapon, and lend it him for a day, whilst he went sparrow shooting. I remember taking it down from the nail over the mantelpiece during the absence of my parents from the house, and lending it to the would-be sportsman for the coin named. With the halfpenny I bought a herring, and that day we had quite a royal feast, six of us dining off this one herring. When the dinner was over, I informed my parents how I had got possession of the halfpenny. I got my ears well boxed by my father for having taken such a liberty, but I would have stood the punishment every day if only I could have shared in such a feast. It was the kindest blow I ever received in my life, and I believe my father repented it as long as he lived.

The struggles of the poor people of those days for bread were something terrible, and the present generation have no conception of the sufferings endured by the sturdy but independent hand-loom weavers.

Relief was doled out at some of the places in the district, which was better known by the name of "Dow." Many of the weavers were so independent that they would have suffered, and even starved to death, rather than apply

p.6

for this relief. My parents were among such, and my father could not be induced to make any application for assistance. Not only were we short of food, but we were only half clothed. I remember going, unknown to my parents, to the place where the clothes were being given to the poor. A relief committee was sitting there, the president being the rector of the township, the Rev, Mr. Delemere. The late Messrs. John Stott, James Wood, and others formed this committee. On appearing before this body, the rector said "What can we do for you, my lad?" In my broad Failsworth dialect I said "Aw'm come to see if yo'n gie my feyther a senglet (vest), and if yo' con let me hav' a pair o' clogs." The rector, who was a fine, stout-looking man, addressing, me, said, "What size of a fellow is your father?" This was rather a puzzling question

to me, and I shall never forget the outburst of laughter when I answered and said, pointing to the rector, "He's abeawt as big as thee." I got a vest, and also fitted with a pair of. "Dow clogs wi' brass buckles."

I went home quite elated with my success, but my glee was of short duration, for on reaching home and showing what I had got, my father, examining the "senglet," exclaimed, "Aws't never wear that; it's gotten no collar on." At that time waistcoats without collars were coming into fashion, and my father did not take kindly to the new fashion, and so he never did wear the "Dow senglet." My good mother, who was a great schemer, made a kind of a combined jacket and waistcoat for me out of the despised article. This was the extent of the "Dow" that our family got. There were, however, some people not as badly off as we were who got both blankets, clothes, coals, and other things.

p.7

Touching on the sufferings of the poor people in Lancashire, and especially the Failsworth folk, during the American Civil War, Mr. James N. Ogden, a former resident of the district, writes me :- "The "poverty of the people, and the assassination of . President Lincoln, will never be forgotten." I remember, during the latter part of the war, when trade was almost at a standstill, two or three of us young fellows going out on a shooting expedition. It was a cold frosty day, and the snow lay in the fields to the depth of nearly a foot. We were accompanied by an eccentric character named Rowley, who was always ready for a nice, "easy job". When he got to near Clayton Bridge we came across some sparrows chirruping in a tree, behind some houses. There were some women chattering near by. One of our party, in an unsportsmanlike manner, fired and killed several of the birds with his gun. The report of the gun quite scared these women, and they gave vent to their fear with their tongues. We all cleared off except Old Rowley, whom we left to face the music. He told them if they had been minding their work instead of gossiping, they would never have heard the report of the gun. Proceeding up Medlock Vale, where occasionally a snipe might be got, our party wended its way to the village of Woodhouses. On our way we met a few men idling away their time. One of these men enquired 'What we were shooting?' 'Only a few sparrows,' was the answer. 'Why conno' yo' shoot a two thri wavers, the're's plenty eaut o' wark.' We did not think that good policy, but feeling for the poor fellows we invited them to come with us to Old Ann Wild's, where they could have some warm ale and toasted cheese with us. They did not need twice asking, but they followed us like hungry wolves, and

p.8

on the way they were joined by others of the workless residents. Old Rowley went in search .of some loaves, some onions, and a few pounds of cheese. These were all taken to Old Ann Wild's public house, and the kind, worthy landlady prepared quite a royal feast for the party. When the toasted cheese was ready, and served out with warm ale, the hungry fellows set to and enjoyed the repast with such a relish that I shall never forget. Since that time I have attended many banquets, but I have never, in all my life, seen a repast so thoroughly enjoyed as those poor weavers did theirs during the hard and trying times of the 'Cotton Panic.' This little incident of the starving poor will never be effaced from my memory. Happily the war soon after ended, and may we never again have to pass through the same trying ordeal.

CHANGES IN FAILSWORTH.

What a change has come over the district during my lifetime! I have watched the township's life gradually grow from a small straggling village to its present town-like population of nearly 15,000 souls. I can well remember gathering wild flowers and blackberrying where now stand huge cotton mills and other places of industry. Sometimes my mind wanders back to the happy days of my childhood, and once again I am running through the fields, the clough, and the country lanes, bird nesting and "jumping craddies" over the brooks that run through the district.

In these brooks I have caught fish, but I question if even a rat would live in them at the present day. Whilst fortunes may have been made by some few of the people, in many

p.9

instances they have been made at the expense of natural beauty, and of even health itself. Our beauty spots are becoming rarer and rarer, and it is well at times that our Corporations should seek to preserve some of these natural beauty spots of nature and local scenery. Surely wealth is not everything worth living for? Pleasant surroundings and health must have something to do with making this life worth living. Sometimes we hear it said that wealth must be made at all costs, and that it is a mistake to prosecute authorities for polluting streams, and mill-owners for poisoning the air with too much smoke. In reply I would say perish industry if it can only flourish at the cost of health and human life.

It is well we have such public spirited and determined persons as Mrs. Hopwood to restrain us from going too far in our race and rush for wealth. Call her crank and faddist as you may, but her name and good work will be handed down to posterity as one who in her day and generation did her best, in a private way, to show her love and service for her fellows by striving to make the conditions of life sweeter and purer. As I have before said, What marvellous changes have taken place in my time! Even where the big gasworks stand, at the higher end of the district, have I gathered blackberries and wild flowers.

AN OLD DAME'S SCHOOL.

Speaking of gas reminds me of my boyhood days, when the only place where any education could be got was at an old dame's school. It was a custom of a few of us boys to go to this old dame's night school, and to take a candle and a halfpenny each night in return for the

p.10

teaching we got. Those were not the days of gas. But our teacher, dear old Mrs. Hall, I remember her well. She was a good Christian soul of the Calvinistic faith, but she was a true teacher. In my mind's eye I can see her now, making her porritch, and repeating to us the Lord's Prayer while stirring them over the fire. Near the hearthstone she had a long rod, which would reach across the house, and it was a custom of hers to break off in the middle of the prayer, and use the rod vigorously on any boy who was not paying the inecessary attention to her. After laying the rod about some unruly boy she would piece up with the prayer exactly where she had broken off. This amusing situation still lingers with me, and I can see her now smoking her long clay pipe, making her porritch, beating some boy, and all the while repeating the Lord's Prayer. But for all this she was a good old soul, and I shall ever revere her memory for such education as she was able to impart to me. Referring to such times, my old friend Ben Brierley says - "In those days there were but few schools where any education could be obtained. If we wanted to climb we had first to make our own ladders."

Mrs. Hall, the old lady who taught this dame school, went on one occasion to London to see her son George. Travelling in the same compartment was a man who enquired of the old dame, when they had got about half-way, if she had any objection to him having a pipe of tobacco? Mrs. Hall replied, much to the astonishment of the would-be smoker, "Eh, felley, aw've bin longin' for a long time to have a pipe mysel'." The old dame took out of her carpet bag a long clay pipe, charged it with the soothing weed, and the two completed

p.11

their journey together in smoke and friendly chat.. Such is a reminiscence of one of the pioneers of education of Failsworth. Thank God those days. are gone for ever, and with the advent. of incorporation some of the very people who lived in them may yet live to see fully equipped modern schools, the free library, open spaces, recreation grounds, and other advantages of city life. The old order of things and men is fast passing away, and giving place to the newer and better state of things. With the changing condition of life naturally comes the

change of characters, and hence how important it is that the incidents of village life of bygone days should be recorded.

Anyone who has been absent from Failsworth for fifty years would scarcely know it now. The music and rattle of the shuttle, and the buzz of the bobbin wheel are rarely heard in these days. With modern life has come the noise and motion of mill machinery. The little low huts where hatting was wont to be done, at the back of some of the dwellings, are all but gone. The making of felt hats, at home, at one time was a flourishing industry in Failsworth. Now they are mostly made by machinery in large workshops.

HAT SHOP STORIES.

At one time there was a large firm on the borders of the district, just in Hollinwood, named Gee's, where hats were made. There is a good story told of a hatter who was employed at this place. This workman had got in the habit of coming late to his work, and Mr. Gee had threatened him with dismissal if he did not break off this habit. It seems that this workman's wife was an exceedingly stout woman.

p.12

The hatter, however, came late to his work again, in spite of the warning. The master, on seeing him, thus addressed him: "Neaw, hav' nor I tow'd thee theaw'd ha' to goo whoam if theaw coom late again?" The late workman replied: "Yo' mun just o'erlook it this time, Mesthur Gee. Yo' seen aw geet i' bed ut wrung side last neet, an it wur like sleepin' beheend Owdham Edge, aw couldno' see when it coom day leet, my wife is sich a big un." This excuse got him off another time.

The little hat planking shops attached to the houses tended to develop a sturdy race of independent workers. Like the handloom weavers, they were practically their own masters, and could start and finish work when they pleased. When the hounds used to appear in the village, hunting hares, I have known the hatter to leave his bench, and the weaver his loom, and join in the hunt till dark, then return home and work till a late hour to fetch up lost time, feeling better for the outdoor exercise they had indulged in.

I remember being in one of these hat shops one night, when a lad, whom we called Jack Thurston, came running in, quite agitated, and exclaiming, "Silas, am aw wick? Aye," replied the hatter, "but whot mak's thee to ax sich a question, Jack?" The frightened lad said, "Well, yo' seen, Silas, my feythur's just punced me deawn th' stairs, but yo're sure aw'm wick?" continued Jack. "Of course theaw'rt wick," replied the hatter. "Well, aw'm fain aw'm wick," said Jack, "an' aw dunno care a rap, Silas, if yo're sure aw'm wick." it got to be a common saying afterwards in the village, if anyone had been in trouble, "Well, aw'm fain aw'm wick." When the hatter took his finished work to the warehouse, it was said "He's gone a-paddin'!" He, like the weaver, carried his work home in a white wallet.

p.13

A RACE FOR WORK.

Often have I seen, when work was scarce, the weavers and the hatters having quite a race on the road as to which should reach the warehouse first, and thus have the best chance of any work that was to be given out. In hard times I have known weavers walk to both Manchester and Middleton, a distance of about five miles each way, to be told on reaching the warehouse, "Call again in the morning." Six days out of seven have I done this myself, each day receiving the same answer. I remember on one occasion a weaver losing his temper and saying to the "putter out" of work, "Yo' met think aw only live next dur, tellin' me to call again in the mornin'." When aw get whoam aw'st ha' walked ten miles, an' aw'm gettin' weary o' bein' tow'd to 'Call again." Never shall I forget once, a weaver from Macclesfield, more servile than the others, taking off his hat and bowing to the "putter out" as he asked for work. On seeing this, one of the Failsworth weavers sang out, "Strike him at th' top o' th' yed, a mean creep as he is" This little

incident is evidence of the sturdy, although rough, independence, of the handloom weaver.

WOLFENDEN, THE MATHEMATICIAN.

I know of no occupation so conducive of study as that of hand-loom weaving. Many are the poems that have been composed, and many are the problems that have been worked out by mathematicians while sitting on the “shed board.” Wolfenden, the renowned mathematician, was a hand-loom weaver, and a resident of Hollinwood, and while weaving at his loom he compiled “*The Liverpool Tide Table*,”

p.14 Picture in Gallery : '***Wolfenden, the Mathematician***'

p.15

although he never saw the sea. He was a fine, sturdy character. I have heard a good story told of him. Returning from Manchester with his wallet, he stopped to watch them erect the first village pole in Failsworth. The pole, it is said, was erected as a kind of a token of royalty, and to overawe the Radicals and Jacobins. It seems that a promise had been made to an old farmer in the village that before the pole was put up he should be allowed to touch the weathercock. The erection of the pole was almost completed, when it was found out that the farmer had not touched the weathercock. Finding out this mistake, the pole was hauled down again, and the farmer was sent for. On arriving, he touched the weathercock, and the pole was again put up. Old Wolfenden, being a spectator of all this, exclaimed, “What a piece of childish nonsense!” The poleites, concluding his remark to be an act of disloyalty, kicked him out of the district to Hollinwood.

The following is copied from Wolfenden’s gravestone, in Hollinwood Churchyard :-

“James Wolfenden, died March 29th, 1841, aged 87 years. Born in a humble station in life, and compelled to toil as a weaver for his daily bread, self-instructed, he became a distinguished mathematician, familiar with the writings of Simpson, Emerson, and the ancient geometers, an able contributor to the Diaries and other mathematical publications, and a student of the works of Newton. A few members of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, with other individuals anxious to mark their sense of acquirements like his, made under such unfavourable circumstances, raised in 1841 a sum sufficient to purchase an annuity for his support, but his death occurring shortly after, they determined, besides bearing the expenses of his funeral, to place this stone over his remains, to perpetuate the memory of his name and merits,
Born 1754. Died 1841.”

To be continued

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### **From the e-Postbag**

Another couple of very welcome '*Random Recollections*' from our reader, Julie Schwethelm in Germany ... I've saved the second one for next month.

#### ***Random Recollections ... Fog***

People always seem to remember their childhood summers as being “proper summers” with endless sunny days, and the winters as “real winters” with frost and snow. We tend to polarize our memories all the time. All those fuzzy periods when it was simply dull, or muggy or warmish or drizzling or damp or just plain cold and miserable, merge into a grey haze that simply serves as a backcloth for those proper summers and real winters.

Were the winters really colder in the sixties? Whether they were or not, the outdoor school toilets would sometimes freeze, and as a result we had to be sent home from school. But much more frequently we were sent home early when it was foggy. In the days when people still had coal fires, fog in the north west was literally black. “You could cut it with a knife.” Whenever people used that expression, and they seemed to all the time, I imagined thick pieces like cake

on plates. "Have another slice". "Pea soupers" were for Londoners. Pea soup isn't black, it's a kind of murky greenish grey. Our fog was as black as they can get. And as thick. You could have cut it with a knife.

We would walk to school not only muffled up in our endless layers of clothes, topped by the duffel coat or, even worse, the hooded gabardine, but also donning fog masks. These were light metal contraptions to which thick cotton gauze pads, probably purchased at Boot's or our local Green's Chemist, could be attached, and held in place around the head with elastic, underneath the hood but on top of the inevitable woollen bonnet. Muffled up to the eyeballs, we must have looked like miniature aliens Dr. Who might have encountered as we were bundled out of the playground and whisked home through the tacky darkness by our mothers. When you got home and squirmed your way out of the layers of clothing and finally peeled off the cold soggy mask, the cotton gauze was black and smelled of smoke.

Although the Clean Air Act had been introduced in 1956, restricting the burning of domestic fuels in urban areas through the introduction of smokeless zones, fogs continued to be smoky. It wasn't until the act was revised in 1968 that industries burning coal, gas or other fuels were ordered to use tall chimneys.

Our first geography field trip at High School was to Manchester Ship Canal on a cold and very foggy November day in 1968 or maybe 1969. Having completed the chapter in our geography textbooks about a certain Mr. Onafusi who earned a living from growing yams somewhere in Africa, we had graduated to "doing ports". I can still picture the black and white photographs of a cheerful Mr. Onafusi and his family. I can recognize a yam when I see one out of context. But I don't recall having learnt anything about Africa as a continent, and our geography lessons were light years away from the realities of families dying from famine in Biafra at that time. But we had nevertheless progressed to ports, and because Rotterdam, the one in our textbook, was logistically more challenging to visit, we ended up on the Manchester Ship Canal, cruising through the busy industrial hub around Trafford Park that would soon fade away and die, to be reincarnated around twenty years later as Salford Quays. The fog was so thick we could barely make out the factories and warehouses. There was no way we could envisage the thousands of men who found employment at the docks. It required a lot of imagination to picture the wheat that was stored in Kellogg's silos originally growing in Canada. It must have felt very miserable, and was no doubt feeling as cold as we were as we chugged along the Ship Canal.

Years later we visited Salford Quays during its early development phase. At Imperial Point there are plaques on the ground with statements that have no referenced source. One of them says "The silence fell like smog smothering, suddenly everything went dark and the docks died". It wasn't quite as dramatic as that and certainly not sudden death. The decline of Manchester docks was a gradual inevitable process, but I can definitely vouch for the bit about the smog smothering.

For a long time I used to think fog was black and mist was white. I didn't know there was officially such a thing as smog. Mist was what you saw at the seaside or in the country. It was white and transparent and seemed to float in wisps or sometimes it was opaque and solid like a wall. I could never understand why sparrows on the Isle of Wight were brown and distinctly speckled, whereas the sparrows who visited our garden were black. All the birds were black: starlings, thrushes, blackbirds. The blue tits or greenfinches that populated our garden in later years didn't even bother to come to our part of the country, it simply wasn't worth the effort. Even robins had a hard time convincing us they had red breasts.

Gradually as heavy industry diminished, the local coal pits closed down and the government took air pollution control more and more seriously, Manchester fog lost its characteristic blackness. But it never reached the pure whiteness of those eerie swirling fogs that can suddenly enveil you at the seaside and spirit you away into the ocean world of your mind's eye

with ghost-like sailing ships, pirates, mermaids and sunken treasure.  
Many thanks, Julie; as always, knowing so well the places you write of, I can always empathise and visit my own past.

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an email query from our reader, Anne Grimshaw ...

I remember going to St Matthew's churchyard, Chadderton, in 1968 or 1969 and seeing the gravestone of my 3x great-grandparents, James (d.1859) and Ann (d.1861) Lomax. Both are listed in the burial register of St Matthew's which is on FindmyPast. I was not 'doing' family history at the time although I was interested and jotted down the names and dates but whether there was anyone else in that grave or any text, I can't remember. I returned to St Matthew's in 2019 and looked for the gravestone. It simply was not there although another family gravestone (Howarth) was, the Lomax one had been quite near this.

I asked the vicar and he said that many gravestones (mostly before 1895) had been cleared away as they were dangerous and may fall over. They were not placed around the churchyard as is often the case but, I was told, carted off to become hardcore for the local A627 motorway in 1970-2. (I was lucky I had seen the gravestone at all. It's a vain hope but, I wonder, did anyone think to photograph or record the wording on these gravestones before they were deemed 'rubbish'?

If anyone can add anything to what Anne has already discovered please get in touch at <Oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk> and I'll pass it on to Anne

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**MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE**

**A short selection of entries from the MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE [HERE](#) ...**

since the last newsletter :

\* Parliament's Committees of Privileges

[HERE](#)

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* Early British Mountaineering - Britain (and beyond)

[HERE](#)

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\* Toyota returns to Oldham to film a spectacular light projection powered by green hydrogen

[HERE](#)

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* Occupations: Colliery Byeworker/Byeworkman/Byworker/Bye-Worker/By-Worker

[HERE](#)

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\* Fuelled by Coffee - The evolution of fire insurance (1696 - 1760)

[HERE](#)

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* Shackleton's Endurance: The book that records all disasters at sea

[HERE](#)

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\* What is an agricultural labourer?

[HERE](#)

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* Life in the 'Tripe Colony' - Manchester's lost district

[HERE](#)

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\* Manchester And Salford: So What's The Difference?

[HERE](#)

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* Discover how some Satsuma students started a thread that runs from Oldham's 19th Century cotton-spinning mills, to Japan's modern-day car industry.

[HERE](#)

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\* The Victorian Workhouse by Jessica Brain

[HERE](#)

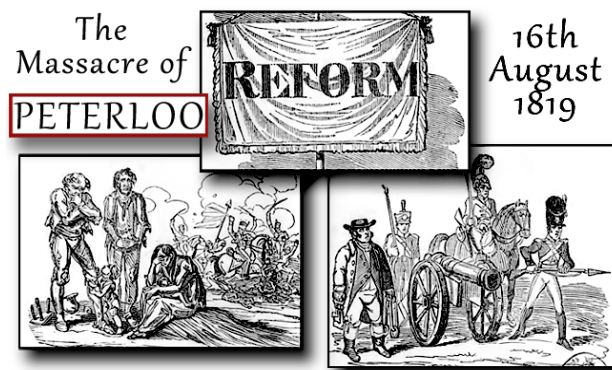
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* National Archives Blog

[HERE](#)

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\* For many more, visit the MLFHS Facebook Page : [HERE](#)

And [HERE](#) is the link to the MLFHS Twitter page.

## PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary



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Visit the website for **The Peterloo Project** with particular reference to Oldham, people, accounts, life at the time and more ... at [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

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Although the long-anticipated Bi-Centenary has come and gone, there are some Peterloo websites still active with history, news, photos and reports.

You can make searches on websites such as :

**Manchester Histories - Peterloo 1819** ... Manchester Histories have created a website which publicises all that is happening, or has happened, around the region.

Visit their website [HERE](#)

## Need Help!

### Oldham Local Studies and Archives

**Opening hours are as follows:**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10am-5pm; Tuesday 10am-2pm; Saturday 10am-4pm.

Although it will not be essential to book your place as has been the case previously, we encourage you to consider booking in advance as this enables us to get everything ready in time for your visit, particularly if you wish to view archives. To order archives please visit :

[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/forms/form/891/en/local\\_archives\\_document\\_order\\_form](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/forms/form/891/en/local_archives_document_order_form)

If you wish to use PCs to access family history websites or to use microfilm readers, we advise you to book a place by contacting us at:

[archives@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:archives@oldham.gov.uk) or telephone 0161 770 4654.

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

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.**

[Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

There are regularly changing displays in the Local Studies Library.

[Opening hours](#) and contact details.

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| | Website Links | |
| Other Society Websites | | |
| Catholic Family History Society – www.catholicfhs.co.uk | | |
| Cheshire Local History Association – www.cheshirehistory.org.uk | | |
| Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk | | |
| Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society - https://www.lfhhs.org.uk/home.php | | |
| Lancashire Local History Federation – www.lancashirehistory.org | | |
| Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – www.lswlfhs.org.uk | | |
| Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – www.mrias.co.uk | | |
| Oldham Historical Research Group – www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg | | |

Peterloo - [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) - [Ranulf Higden Soc.](#)

Royton Local History Society – www.rlhs.co.uk

Saddleworth Historical Society – www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk

Tameside Local History Forum - www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk

Tameside Local & Family History - <http://tamesidefamilyhistory.co.uk/contents.htm>

The Victorian Society - [Manchester Regional Website](#)

Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - [Lancashire](#)

Free BMD - [Search](#)

[National Library of Scotland](#) - Free to view, historic, zoomable maps of UK :

1891 - Oldham and locality [HERE](#)

Online Parish Clerk Project : Lancashire - [HERE](#)

British Association for Local History - [HERE](#)

and for their back issue journal downloads - [HERE](#)

Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, website, [HERE](#)

and for their back issue journal downloads, website, [HERE](#)

Internet Archive ... The Internet Archive offers over **24,000,000** freely downloadable books and texts.

[HERE](#) There is also a collection of 1.3 million modern eBooks that may be borrowed by anyone with a free archive.org account.

Made in Greater Manchester (MIGM) [HERE](#) and Research guide [HERE](#)

Historical Maps of parish boundaries [HERE](#)

Regiments & Corps of the British Army (Wayback machine) [HERE](#)

Special Collections on Find My Past [HERE](#)

FmyP - The Manchester Collection [HERE](#)

Goad fire insurance maps of Manchester [HERE](#)

Cheshire Parish Register Project [HERE](#)

Huddersfield Exposed [HERE](#)

Some Local Archives

Barnsley Museum & Discovery Centre – www.experience-barnsley.com

Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](#)

Bury – www.bury.gov.uk/archives

Chester - [Cheshire Archives & Local Studies](#) (linked from Discovery at the National Archives)

Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](#)

Leeds - [Leeds Local and Family History](#)

Liverpool Archives and Family History – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/archives>

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)

Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

Preston – www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives
Stockport – www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives
Tameside Local Studies and Archives - <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/archives>
York – www.york.ac.uk/borthwick



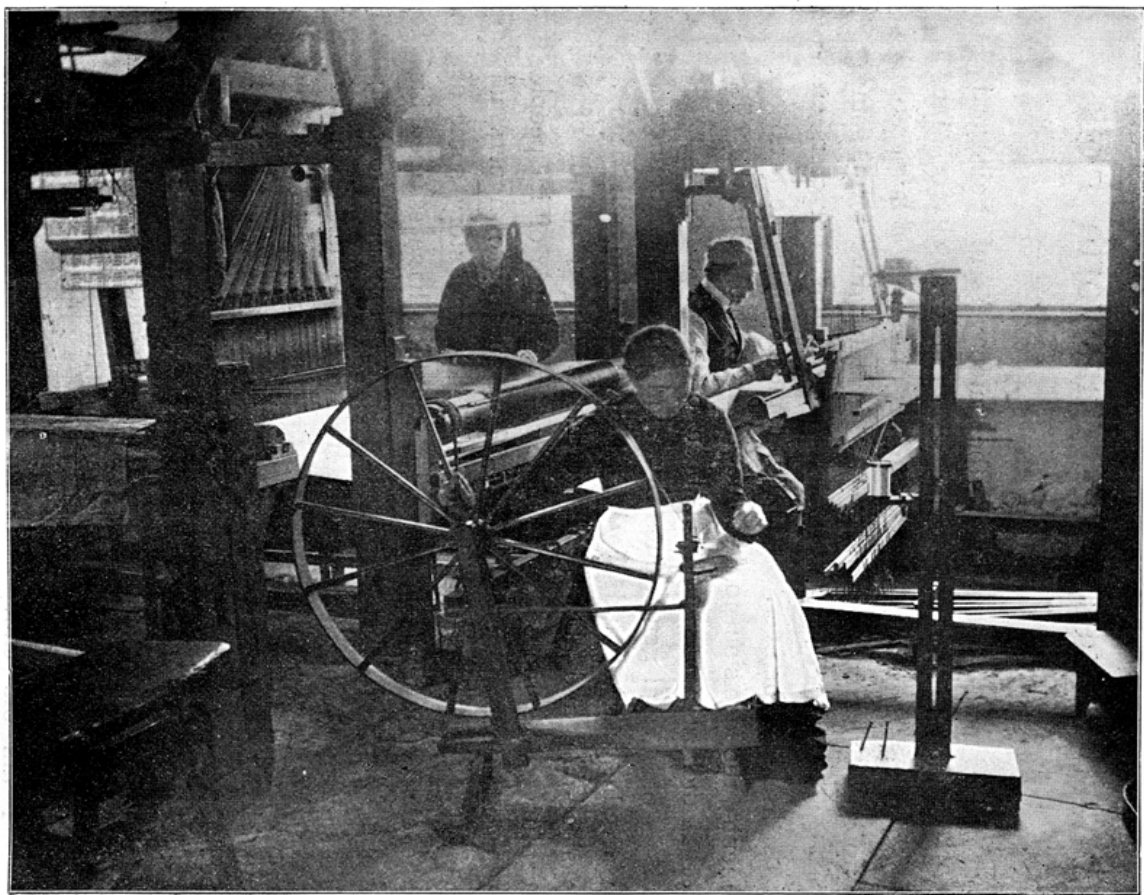
For the Gallery

Illustrations from the transcription in 'Mixed Bag':
'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk'
by Sim Schofield pub. 1905



p. 14 ... **Wolfenden, The Mathematician**

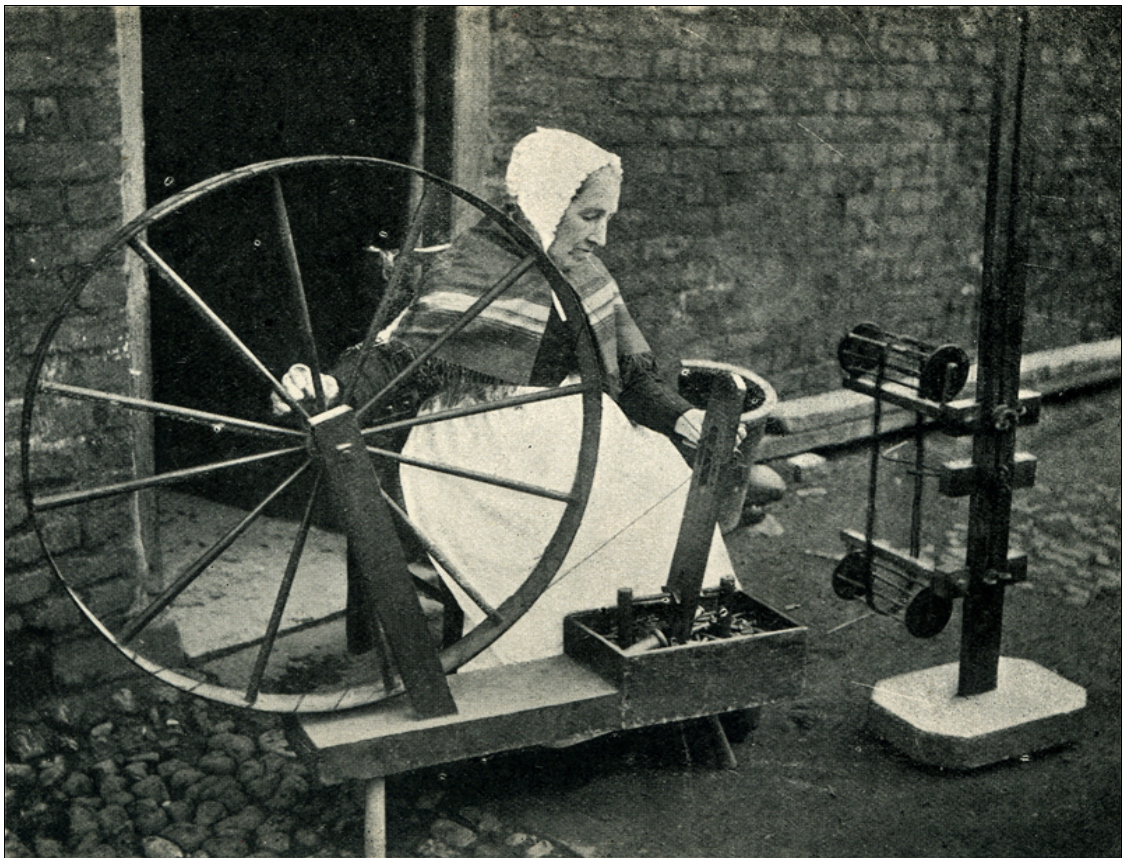




A FAILSWORTH LOOMHOUSE.

p. 2 *A Failsworth Loomhouse*

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A FAILSWORTH BOBBIN WINDER.

p. 4 *A Failsworth Bobbin Winder*

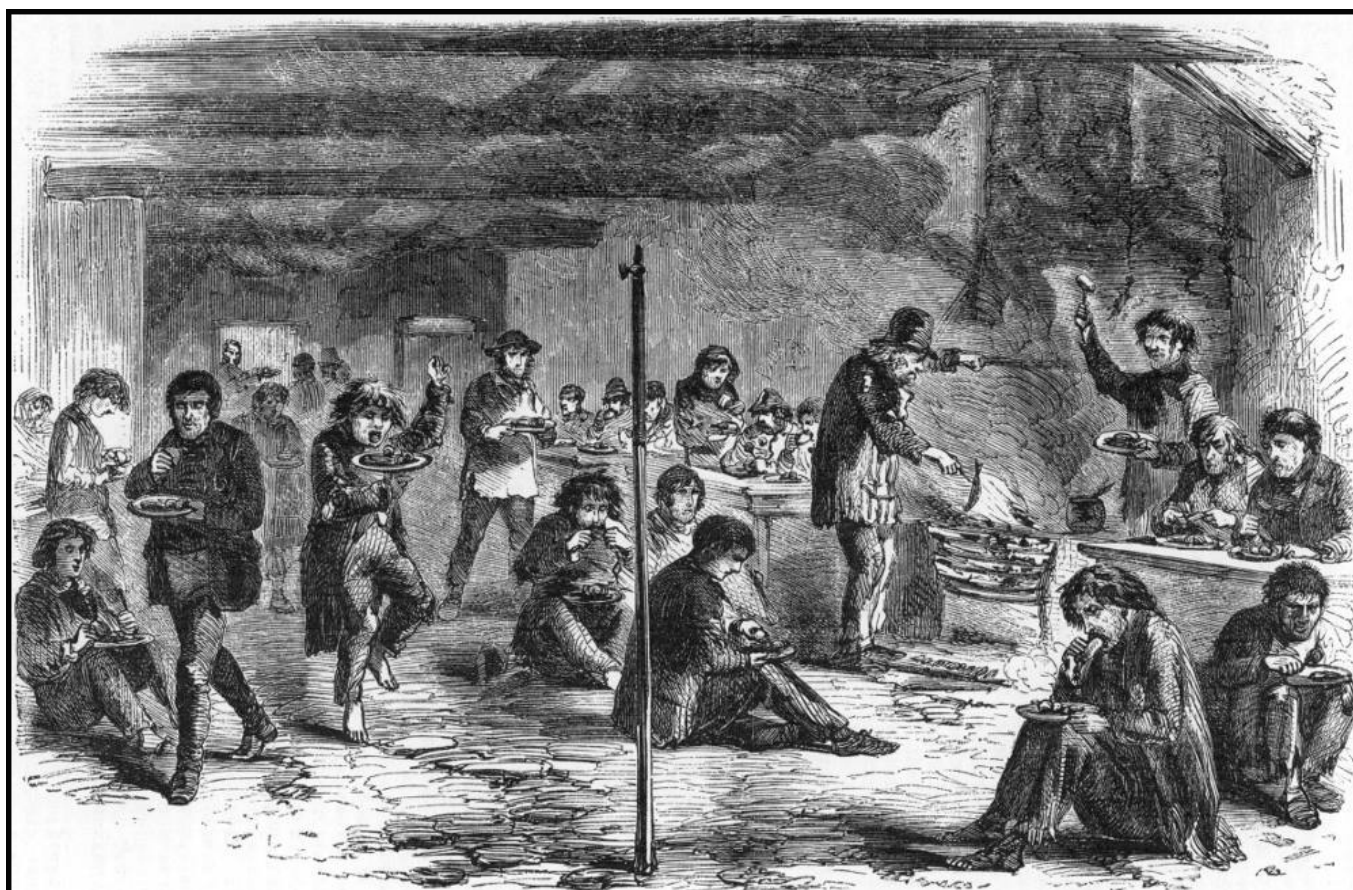
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The Kitchen," Fox-Court, Gray's-Inn-Lane

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From '*London Labour and the London Poor*' , Vol 3, by Henry Mayhew published in 1865



*Dinner In a Cheap Lodging House*