

# 'e-Owls'



## Contact us :

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**Oldham & District Newsletter Archives :** Read or download back copies [HERE](#)

**August 2023**

## MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

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#### Branch Officers for 2023 -2024 :

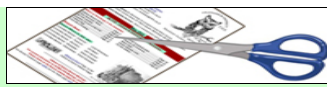
Committee Member : Chairman :	Vacant
Committee Member : Treasurer :	Gill Melton
Committee Member : Secretary :	Jan Costa
Committee Member : Newsletter :	Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Webmistress :	Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : 'Country Member' :	Linda Richardson
Committee Member : Joan Harrison	
Committee Member : Patricia Etchells	
Committee Member : Hilary Hartigan	

#### 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



Castlefield Viaduct  
from Julie Schwethelm  
More in the e-Postbag & Gallery

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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 : A message from our ex-Chairman :**

Hello All

I have to announce that this will be the last time I write the introduction to the monthly newsletter. I have stepped down as Chairman of the Oldham & District Branch and am relocating to Shropshire to live near my family.

At the moment, we do not have anyone to replace me but Jan Costa and Gill Melton will step in as joint 'caretakers' for the time being. However, I will stay on our Branch committee as a 'country member' and stay connected over zoom. The other Committee members have also agreed to help Gill and Jan with the other duties to enable the Branch to run smoothly.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chairman over the last four years and look forward to looking in from the outside, as they say.

Thank you all for your support and I look forward to the future meetings that I can join on Zoom. My very best wishes to you all.

Regards

Linda Richardson

If you are interested in finding out more about the position of Chairman or wish to put yourself forward please contact us through the email address [chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk)

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**Editor's remarks.**

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone is keeping well and, as I write this in Oldham, we seem to have passed from sweltering heat to something resembling monsoons which seem to arrive and disappear several times a day!

As you can read in Linda's final report, we are now, sadly, without a chairman at the Branch although we're happy to know that Linda will remain on the committee as our 'country member'. The committee have also started the planning of next year's programme of meetings and talks. We're hoping to have a similar meetings mix, of hybrids, zoom only, and in-person only, to that of 2023. It's likely that the first three meetings will only be on zoom to avoid having to cancel a meeting (as earlier this year) because of difficult weather conditions.

In the Mixed Bag we have more pages from *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men* ... this month, from volume (series) 1, I have transcribed the chapter about Peter Street. It seemed an appropriate choice as August sees the 204th anniversary of the Massacre of Peterloo.

We can also read more stories and anecdotes, from '*Short Stories about Failsworth Folk*' by Sim Schofield. Last month, the stories were about the veterans of Peterloo and other reformers. This month, the stories are still about Reformers but more about those in the 'Hungry Forties'. Illustrations accompanying both the transcriptions can be found in the Gallery.

In the Postbag, I'm happy to write that we have had some interesting emails with family stories and one from Julie Schwethelm about her recent visit to Manchester from her home in Germany. She sent 24 of her photos to accompany the narrative. I've also added this story and all the photos to the Branch pages on the website. [HERE](#)

Also in the e-postbag is the story of a man to whom money, and control from beyond the grave really mattered! the newspaper clip is in the Gallery. There is also reference to an email from a

society member, Liz Culley, who could link her family story to the Branch Meeting in March, about crime in Victorian Manchester. Links to the website page in the e-Postbag.

In the updates section of the Branch website pages [HERE](#) you can find links to some new additions to the website since the last newsletter.

My chosen image, for the front page of the newsletter, is one of Julie's photos of the Castlefield Viaduct in all its new glory.

And to catch up on anything you have missed, you can visit the '[Snippets](#)' page which has links to all transcriptions, articles and Gallery images in previous newsletters.

Sheila

I am always very happy to receive articles, pictures etc., for the 'Mixed Bag' or 'e-Postbag' 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, the new site opens in the same window so the 'back button' would have to be used to return to the newsletter. For more options, including 'open in a new tab', right-click on the link for a dropdown menu of choices.

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## Oldham & District Branch

### Monthly Meetings

#### Last Month's Meeting - July



Saturday  
8th July  
at  
2 pm



#### **King John Was Not a Good Man**

*An insight into the life and times of King John and the Magna Carta.*

*How many of us really know what Magna Carta was all about?*

*Why was it drawn up? What were the circumstances of its creation?*

*What were its implications and consequences?*

*And what was King John's part in all of this?*

*And, of course, was he really that bad?*

*An illustrated presentation given by Dr. Alan Crosby*

This was a zoom only meeting.

As Alan explained, the theme of the talk was to ascertain why and how Magna Carta came into being. The first part was to set the scene, starting with just who John actually was and how he came to the throne. As John became King of England, his other titles included Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy, Duke of Aquitaine, Count of Anjou, Maine, Poitou, Touraine and many more.

The first part of Alan's talk he titled, 'The troubled reign of John and the humiliating loss of Normandy' and we looked at John's family tree (the type of documentation we were all familiar with!). John and his three elder brothers, Henry (1155-1183), Richard (1157-1199) and Geoffrey (1158-1186), were the sons of Henry II, and grandsons of Henry I through his only child, Matilda. When Henry I died the Empress Matilda assumed that she should inherit the throne but her cousin Stephen, decided that the throne should be his (both Matilda and Stephen were the grandchildren of William the Conqueror). The following 15 years saw on-going civil war, known as 'The Anarchy' between the supporters of Stephen and those of Matilda. As neither of the antagonists could claim complete victory, it was eventually agreed that Stephen would become king but, on his death, the crown of England would pass to Matilda's son, Henry (II).

Henry II had four sons with his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, who was the divorced wife of Louis VII. There was constant bitterness and strife in the family as the three elder sons supported their father but John supported his mother, Eleanor.

Henry and Geoffrey died before their father and Richard I (the Lionheart) became king in 1189. Of the three elder brothers, only Geoffrey had children and Richard named his nephew, Arthur, born in 1187, as heir to the throne.

However, John, who was governing England whilst Richard was fighting in the Crusades, was not going to have that happen and, on Richard's death in April 1199, he assumed the throne within a couple of weeks under the pretext that Arthur was still a child and, as the Duke of Brittany, lived in France. John was proclaimed Duke of Normandy, in Rouen, and, 4 weeks later crowned as King of England in Westminster Abbey.

John had married in 1189 but later divorced his wife and subsequently, in August 1200, just three months after King Philip II of France acknowledged John as the rightful King of England and Duke of Normandy, John married Isabelle, daughter of the Count of Angouleme but already promised in marriage to Hugh de Lusignan. As Alan remarked, a powerful man and not the best choice to make as an enemy!

After having set the 'genealogical scene, Alan turned to the next part of his story, 'The Long Road to Runnymede and Newark ... The Loss of Normandy'.

Two years later, in 1202, after John refused to return to France to answer the complaints of Hugh de Lusignan, Philip II confiscated Normandy, reneging on his earlier decision to acknowledge John as Duke, and supporting Arthur's claim to the English throne. Inevitably, war followed in Normandy and Arthur fell into the hands of John, apparently disappearing from history and presumed to have been murdered. At the end of 1203, John returned to England and six months later, in 1204, with the fall of Rouen to the French armies, the Duchy of Normandy was lost to John.

'The Aftermath of Defeat' ... losing Normandy was a bitter blow and John was also facing uncertainty and chaos in England which continued in the years that followed. In 1205 he was in dispute with the Church with regard to the appointment of an Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1208 England was placed under a papal interdict and the following year John was excommunicated. Undeterred, over the next couple of years, John campaigned successfully in Scotland, Ireland and North Wales. Following these, in 1213, the Pope does a sudden 'about face' and throws the spiritual weight of the church behind John and against Philip II of France. However, when John's armies invaded Aquitaine in France, in early 1214, they faced stiff resistance and were defeated in July. In the autumn, following those defeats, the Barons began to show their increasing dissatisfaction with John's rule and, by spring 1215, there was civil war between the king and many of the barons. John capitulated and the Magna Carta, of barons' rights, was ratified by John in June 1215, at Runnymede. But John's problems were just going to get worse. Pope Innocent III stepped in to support John and annulled Magna Carta but, less than 12 months later, in 1216, a French army, with the support of the disaffected English Barons, landed in

Kent. King John led his own armies south, to confront the French invaders but, whilst in East Anglia, and popularly thought to be crossing The Wash, he lost his carts, baggage, horses and men and personal treasures. Roger of Wendover, in his account of this, records that John, as a result of the loss, fell ill (probably with dysentery) and deteriorated as he struggled to reach Newark on Trent, where he died in October 1216. He was succeeded by his son, Henry III. In the next part of his talk, Alan turned his attention to 'The Personality of the King and the stresses, strains and changes in English Society' and illustrated his first point with a virtually contemporary illustration of King John, from Matthew Paris's *Epitome of Chronicles* dating from the mid 13th century. It reveals a dissolute king, with crown askew on his head, and sitting on an unsteady throne with a depiction of the church firmly behind him and disregarded. This image, with all its symbolism, was compared, by Alan, to that of an earlier one where the king is portrayed as upright on his throne, crown firmly balanced on his head and the church in front of him, indicating that it was under the king's protection.

Historical attitudes and accounts change, as always, with the passage of time and further research. Alan gave us a number of unflattering quotations, from various later historians, about John and starting with, "*Foul as it is, hell itself is defiled by the presence of King John*".

However, against the charges of brutality and worse, he was also seen as being a shrewd administrator and, by one, "*He was the ablest and the most ruthless of the Angevins*."

He then touched on the wider issues in society and around kingship of the time. It was a time of greater trade opportunities; there was a greater understanding of the need for clear laws and documentation to support oral evidence. The crown was suffering from lack of finances after the reign of Richard I and his time fighting in the Crusades which led to heavier taxation. In addition, there was growing demand from the Barons to have their voices heard in government. Importantly, John had been in perpetual conflict with the Pope and the Church from 1208 to 1213. The implicit questions being asked included those of whether the king was above the law or, himself, also subject to it; what were the king's obligations to his subjects; and what rights did individual Lords have? Crucially, could an anointed king be made accountable for his actions and, if so, by whom and in what circumstances? There were precedents, in earlier history of power sharing, for example the Anglo-Saxon Witan; there were historical chronicles that referred to laws being enforced and upheld, with a sense of justice.

Alan explained to us that the factors prompting Magna Carta at that particular moment in time were diverse. Firstly and painfully was the loss of Normandy in 1214; there were the years of heavy taxation; the king's complete disregard for customary procedures; the barons' own authority had been limited within their own land holdings as John placed 'King's men' to govern local districts; and then there was the distrust of anything the king said or did which left no confidence in his ability to govern wisely.

All of these issues came to a head with John being forced to agree to ratification of the the Magna Carta. The document itself, is an unadorned closely-written document. There were over 60 clauses in the document for general principles which should be adhered to, for example (39) which, in essence, stated that everyone should be subject to the, "lawful judgement of his peers or the law of the land." and (40) which stated that, "To no-one will we sell, to no-one will we refuse or delay, right or justice." The charter also limited the king's rights to assert his own feudal rights; military taxation had to be by consent; and no foreign troops or mercenaries should be employed by the king. The Charter was important in that it was designed to protect the rights of free men. It provided that certain taxation could only be raised with the consent of 'the common counsel' ie., the nobility, the Church and the greater barons. It called for the setting up of a council of 25 barons who would ensure that the provisions of the Charter were met with the right to seize castles, lands or possessions from the king if he broke the conditions.



Once it had been ratified, copies of the charter were immediately sent to major towns and cathedrals to spread the word. However, as before stated, the Pope annulled it as "shameful and demeaning but also illegal and unjust ... lessening and impairing [the king's] rights and dignity." Three papal legates to England denounced it as "despoiling the king of his royal dignity." Civil War was again the order of the day as the king rejected the Charter. What followed was the French Dauphin's expedition to take the English crown, the death of John and then his son being declared as Henry III.

The Magna Carta might then have become a footnote in history but the new king, Henry III, was only 9 years old and there was a desperate need to unite the English barons behind him. In November, the Magna Carta was formally issued again and, in 1217, a treaty was signed with France and Magna Carta re-issued again. Louis and his army returned to France and the dissident English barons, who had preferred to fight in support of Louis, changed their allegiance back to Henry. Over the years Magna Carta went on to be re-issued with revisions whenever necessary and became known and understood by the wider public. It was frequently referenced in legal proceedings and became acknowledged as setting an important precedent for the future.

Our many thanks to Alan for such an interesting and informative talk. I think most of us know about King John and Magna Carta, but we might not have looked more closely at the 'back story' and Alan gave us a much greater insight into the 'why', and the 'how' of its creation. What I particularly appreciated was that Alan had a series of bullet points and dates in his presentation which allowed us to keep track of the sequence of events and put them into his spoken context.

The chat box, at the end, was full of thanks for a great talk ... which was certainly well deserved.

As usual, after a talk that grabs my interest I go looking for more and Alan had mentioned Matthew Paris as a 13th century chronicler so he became my starting point. If you want to know more, as well, you can try out these links and see where else they can take you!

#### **Resources:**

\* Matthew Paris '*Epitome of Chronicles*' (at the British Library online)

<https://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/illmanus/cottmanucoll/r/largeimage75081.html>

\* For a full, contemporary account of King John's reign you can download the .pdf of Roger of Wendover's '*Flowers of History. Comprising the history of England from the descent of the Saxons to A.D. 1235*'. Formerly ascribed to Matthew Paris. vol 2, Translated from the Latin by J.A.Giles, pub. 1849

[https://archive.org/details/rogerofwendovers02roge\\_0/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/rogerofwendovers02roge_0/mode/2up)

\* King John:

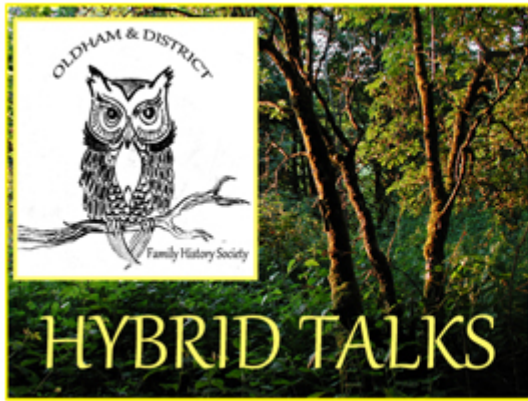
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John,\\_King\\_of\\_England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John,_King_of_England)

\* Search Results for 'Matthew Paris'

<https://archive.org/details/texts?query=matthew+paris>

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## Monthly Meetings ... August



Saturday  
12th Aug.  
at  
2 pm



The Account of Joseph Healey of Lees : "On the 16th of August, I went to the Manchester meeting with my friends, and ascended the hustings... " Joseph was a casualty, stabbed in the back by a Yeoman and received a contusion on the back of his head. He was arrested and found guilty at York Assizes in April 1820

### **Joseph Healey, of Lees (Friend of Samuel Bamford)**

An illustrated presentation given by Professor Robert Poole

The radical quack doctor Joseph Healey must be the oddest hero of Peterloo. Healey led the Saddleworth and Lees contingent with its controversial banner '*Equal representation or death!*', and was gaoled for a year as a result. Samuel Bamford of Middleton wrote warmly of his brave and hilarious comrade, and of their eventual falling-out. Thanks in part to hostile spies we know a surprising amount about 'Doctor Healey', and this talk will bring him roaring back to life.

A hybrid meeting in the Performance Space at Oldham Library and on zoom.

\* Booking essential for attendance on zoom and will be free to all.

\* No booking necessary for attendance in the library; members free, non-members £3.

Booking for zoom on [Eventbrite](#)

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Details, of the 2023 programme of talks, are on the '*Meetings*' page of the Branch website [HERE](#)  
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### **MLFHS Branches delivering their monthly meetings and talks**

#### **Anglo - Scots**

No Meeting planned for August

Next Meeting Saturday, September 2nd

**Anglo-Scottish Website Pages** [HERE](#) for more information and booking details  
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<b>MLFHS Bolton Branch Meetings - Hybrid</b>	<b>Wednesday 2nd August at 7:30 pm</b>	<b>'Life and Times of Smithills Estate' given by Tony Greenwood</b>
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#### **Bolton ... hybrid meeting**

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

at Bolton Golf Club, Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL6 4AJ

No booking necessary in the room ... Booking for zoom essential on [Eventbrite](#)

**Bolton Website Pages** [HERE](#) for more information and booking details.  
MLFHS Members free; non members £3

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## MLFHS updates

### Manchester Meetings in August

Manchester Central library

No Meeting planned for August

Bookings on [Eventbrite](#) : members free; non-members £3

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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**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.

\* Hi All

Another 1,037 names of streets and buildings have been added to the Godfrey Maps Index. These are all for the Bolton area and include:

Bolton East 1908

Bolton South 1927

Farnworth 1908

Horwich South 1908

Lostock Junction 1907

Rumworth & Daubhill 1907

Thanks to Graham Holt for this substantial addition to the indexes for the Bolton Area.

If you have any of the maps shown as not yet indexed (i.e. not coloured in) on the master plan at : <https://mlfhs.uk/?view=article&id=346&catid=9>

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\* Hi All

Another addition to the Great Database. This is a continuation of the entries extracted from the



Manchester Cathedral Sexton's books and consists of entries for 1812 copied from the John Owen MSS vol 58 and entries for 1803-1811 extracted from the original register book. The first set are, like earlier data from this source, incomplete since Owen extracted entries selectively, however those for the second set represent a complete extract. This second set is accompanied by images of the relevant register page.

Thanks to Geoff Edge for this latest addition which comprises 2,341 records making the total from this source 8,123 records relating to burials 1772-1792 and 1803-1812.

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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](#)  
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 ...**

**Please note there is no August Meeting of the Society.**

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

Wearing COVID masks is discretionary but subject to Government Guidelines at the time.  
Website [HERE](#)

**Saddleworth Civic Trust** has no meeting or event planned in August.  
If & when this situation changes members of the Society will be notified directly and through the local Press.

**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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**Moorside & District Historical Society ... No meetings in July and August**  
Next Meeting 9th September ... Heritage Open Day. Details to follow.

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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](#)

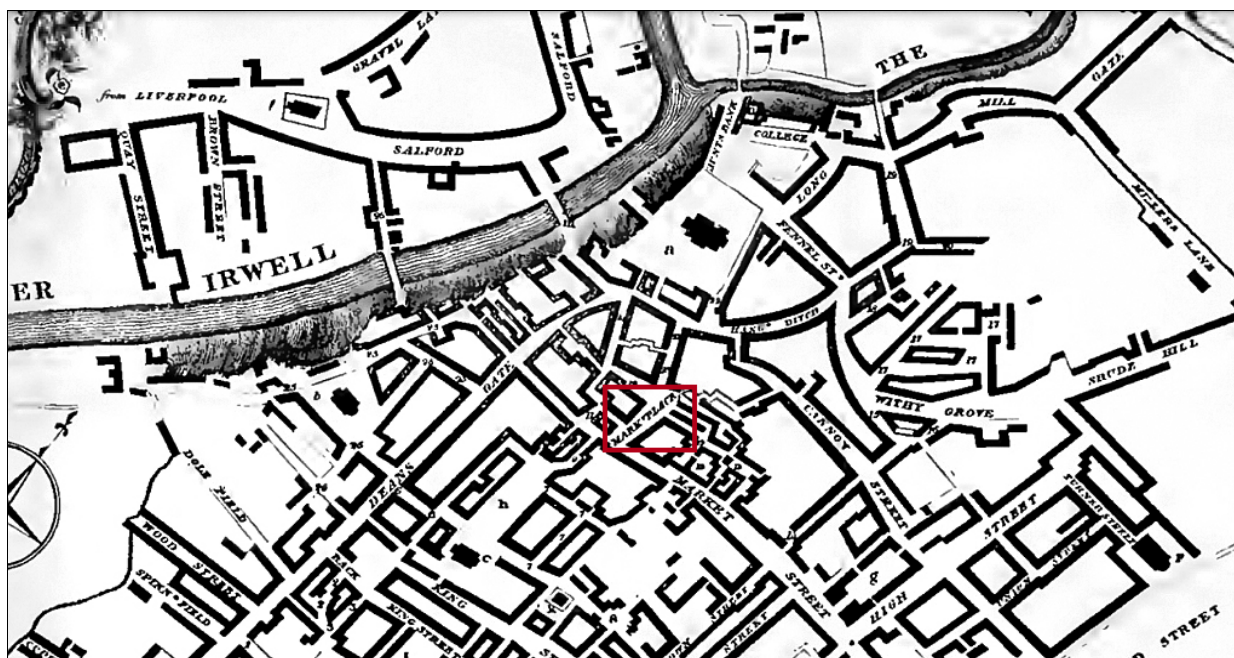
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**'A Mixed Bag'**

**Our serialisation of *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men* (3rd series) started in the newsletter for 2022-12, and through succeeding newsletters. This month we return to the **1st Series** (volume 1) published in 1906.**

August 16th, will be the 204th anniversary of Peterloo, so it seemed appropriate to include the pages on Peter Street, in Volume 1, in this newsletter.

**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



## **PETER STREET.**

### **PART 1 - Its History and Institutions**

#### **PETER-STREET IN 1745.**

Peter-street, now so generally devoted to buildings used for recreative purposes, cannot be classed as one of our oldest thoroughfares. There is nothing about it which takes us back more than a little over a century. But during the century it has seen many changes, and its record is well worth telling. Long before the opening of the last century, a short, narrow street containing a few cottages ran out of Deansgate, opposite to Quay-street, bearing the name of Yates-street. Behind the few cottages were gardens, and beyond these open fields extended. The little lane was only about sixty yards long, and was closed at the end by a field hedge. Quay-street was a country lane leading down to the quay on the river side, and Deansgate itself ran through the open fields when Quay and Yates streets were passed.

Maps of the Manchester of those days are scarce, and records as to the gradual opening out of streets are almost equally scarce. In 1790 a new road was opened extending from the new St. Peter's Church to a point represented to-day by Booth-street, and thus a new continuous thoroughfare to Rusholme was obtained; Yates-street having in the meantime been extended and re-named after the new church. Prior to that being done the alternative roads to Rusholme and the districts beyond were either by Bank Top and Ardwick-street

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(now London Road and Downing-street) and Rusholme Lane or by Garratt Lane (Portland-street) and Old Garratt. When Oxford Road was formed it ran through open fields, which for some years remained unbuilt upon. The river Tib, now culverted over, ran open, and in the Medlock fish could be caught. Peter-street itself was almost entirely unbuilt upon, a few houses standing near the corner of Deansgate.

#### **MR. COOPER'S COTTAGE.**

Opposite to the new church stood Mr. Cooper's cottage, the grounds connected with which covered the whole of the site of the Midland Hotel. The gardens were tastefully arranged, and in the centre was a fish pond ; the whole being surrounded by a high wall. Mr. Cooper, who inherited the property from a Mr. Dawson, was a well known character in the Manchester of a century ago, and is said to have walked from Manchester to Doncaster and back again each year for forty years for the pleasure of seeing the race for the St. Leger. His only daughter married a Mr. Brown, who removed to Lea Castle, Kiddemiinster, about 1830, when certain of the land was sold, the first portion disposed of being the site of the Gentlemen's Concert Hall. Later still the cottage was sold, and on the site was erected the warehouse so long occupied by Schunck, Sonchay, and Co. When Mr. Cooper occupied the cottage a windmill stood on land behind it, and from the corner of the garden wall a pleasant field path led the way to Castle-field.

A word about the windmill which was described in 1792 as standing on the mount, near to St. Peter's

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Church. The position of Mount-street would enable us to locate the position of this once well known land mark. The windmill included four pairs of stones for grinding dye woods, two grindle stones, and two rasping mills. Connected with the house was a stable and carthouse, a summerhouse, and a garden well planted with wall fruit trees. The whole comprised two thousand five hundred yards, and was enclosed by a wall. The first reference we have to the windmill is in an advertisement published in 1766. In 1793 the mill was destroyed by fire, but was rebuilt, and the last mention of it is contained in an advertisement announcing its sale by

auction in 1811. The first building of any importance erected in our thoroughfare was

### ST. PETER'S CHURCH

The church owes its origin to the broadminded action of its first rector, the Rev. Samuel Hall, M.A., who will be familiar to readers of Thomas de Quincey, as having been one of the guardians and tutor of the great essayist. Mr. Hall was appointed curate of St. Ann's Church in 1777, occupying the position until 1784, when he resigned. He also was appointed chaplain of the Local volunteers, and in that capacity conducted a service at St. Ann's Church, at which they were present. In deference to the opinions of the Dissenting members of the force he omitted the Athanasian Creed; and as a result he was refused election to the position of a Fellow of the Collegiate Church when a vacancy occurred. As a result a number of his supporters purchased land at the bottom of Dawson-street (now Mosley-street),

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and erected thereon the church to which we are referring. The foundation stone was laid on December 11, 1788; but the building was not consecrated until September 6, 1794; the delay also having reference to Mr. Hall's conduct. The architect, James Wyatt, intended erecting a dome to the building, but was overruled, and he designed a steeple to take its place, which was erected in 1822. A curiously incorrect view of the building was published in 1826, in which the steeple is replaced by a spire surmounted by a wind vane. Over the altar was placed a fine oil painting representing the Descent from the Cross, the work of Annibal Carracci, and presented by Mr. Dawson. The Rev. Samuel Hall died on September 22, 1813, and was succeeded by the High Master of the Grammar School, the Rev. Jeremiah Smith, D.D. Dr. Smith, whose deep voice was said to resemble the rumbling of thunder, was introduced by his pupil Harrison Ainsworth into "Mervyn Clitheroe" as the "Archi-didasculus, Dr. Lonsdale." He resigned in 1825, and was succeeded by the Rev. Nicholas German, M.A., assistant master, and afterwards High Master of the Grammar School. Mr. German, who was called "the handsome and faultlessly attired," was one of the old-fashioned type of High Churchmen. He was incumbent for nearly sixty years, dying on November 22, 1882, in his 84th year.

### THE SWEDENBORGIAN.

The next public building to be erected in Peter-street was the Swedenborgian or New Church. The local pioneer of the new faith was the Rev. John Clowes,

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rector of St. John's Church, Deansgate. His curate, the Rev. William Cowherd, was the first minister of the new church, which was opened on August 11th, 1793. Mr. Cowherd was in many ways a remarkable man. He very soon abandoned his adopted faith, and founded a new one known as the Bible Christians; and leaving Peter-street in 1800 he built Christ Church, King-street, Salford. He abstained from the use of flesh meat and intoxicating liquors, and his followers were often called "pudding eaters," the Swedenborgian Chapel in Bolton-street being called by way of distinction the "Beefsteak Chapel." He was an active worker amongst the poorer classes, for whom he improvised a vegetarian soup that was in great demand in times of distress. He also practised bleeding and tooth-drawing, and was in many respects a useful member of society. In spite of these facts, the epitaph inscribed on his tombstone, written by himself, was "All feared, none loved, and few understood."

We cannot attempt to give a list of the various ministers who preached in the Peter-street church after the resignation of Mr. Cowherd; but one fact should be noted. In common with several other denominations of Nonconformists, the Swedenborgian pastors did not devote the whole of their time and energies to the performance of duties pertaining to their positions, but were actively engaged in business. Thus Mr. Richard Jones, fustian manufacturer, Charles-street, St. John's, was for thirty years also known as the Rev. Richard Jones; and he was

succeeded by the Rev. J.H. Smithson, who was also a schoolmaster. Many of

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Manchester's most prominent public men during at least half of the last century were members of the congregation; and many of their sons were educated at the school so long associated with the church, and known at various periods as Moss's School and Peter-street School. In 1888 the building was sold to the Whitworth Trustees to be used as a manual training school. It still stands, and although its surroundings have changed so completely, it does not appear to be out of place.

#### **PETER-STREET AND OXFORD-STREET IN 1826.**

The first quarter of the nineteenth century saw great changes in our thoroughfare, for although the site occupied by the Free Trade Hall was still open, and known as St. Peter's field, the back land was being rapidly covered with buildings. Fields and gardens were disappearing, and cottage property was springing up all round. Warehouses were confined to the district round Market-street and Cannon-street. The Rochdale Canal had been opened, the river Tib had been covered over, and much of Oxford-street had been built up. A bowling green stood at the corner of Grosvenor Square, and most of the houses thereabouts had gardens attached to them. Trees were still to be seen overshadowing the roadway, and unbroken stretches of farm land extending to the gardens of many of the houses erected near All Saint's Church. Very few houses were to be found beyond Clifford-street, which marked the extent of the town in those days in that direction.

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#### **PART II. - THE REFORMERS AND PETERLOO.**

No account of Peter-street would be complete without some reference to the meetings held to advocate reform, and which may be said to have culminated in the scenes enacted on August 16, 1819. Commercial distress and poverty and suffering on the part of the workers were general in Lancashire in the second decade of the century. The demand for Parliamentary intervention and reform was growing stronger year by year, until on November 4, 1816, five thousand people assembled on St. Peter's field to "take into consideration the present distressed state of the country." Other meetings followed, and at one held on March 10, 1817, it was decided to march en masse to London in order to personally present to the Prince Regent a petition for the redress of grievances. Each man carried a blanket in which to wrap himself at night when sleeping at the roadside, hence the term "blanketeers," as applied to those who took part in it. The action was ill-advised, and ended in a disastrous failure. The soldiers were sent in pursuit of the reformers, and 250 of them were lodged in the New Bailey Prison. These were taken prisoners at Lancashire Hill, Stockport. Less than 200 out of several thousands arrived at Macclesfield, 50 went as far as Leek, 20 got as far as Ashbourne, and it is said that a few reached Derby. One of the results of the movement was the arrest by order of the Manchester magistrates of eleven leading

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reformers, including the redoubtable Sam Bamford, to whose works, "Early Days" and "Life of a Radical," I would refer my readers for further particulars of the events of those stirring times. The event known as Peterloo has been often described, and I shall therefore not attempt a detailed account of it. We all know how on the bright Monday morning the Reformers from many districts round Manchester, accompanied by their wives and children, walked to the great meeting-place, how as succeeding parties arrived they took up their positions on the field, how the meeting was being peaceably conducted, how without any warning the defenceless crowd was charged by the Yeomanry (previously it was said, primed for their work by drink), how men,



women, and children were remorselessly slaughtered, and how the magistrates afterwards contended that they had done a great public service by ordering the attack to be made. The leading Reformers were afterwards tried and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, Henry Hunt being imprisoned for two years, and Bamford, Healey, and Johnson to one year each. P. B. Shelley wrote his poem, "Masque of Anarchy," in commemoration of the event. The cause of reform was not crushed out of existence by Peterloo, but grew and extended until in 1832 its fruits were reaped by the passing of the Reform Bill.

Considered chronologically, the next noteworthy event incident was the building of the

### GENTLEMEN'S CONCERT HALL

Apart from the churches and educational movements few institutions in Manchester. have so interesting and

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so long a career as has that known as the Gentlemen's concerts. Commencing at a tavern in the Market Place in 1770 it prospered so satisfactorily that in 1775 the foundation stone of a concert room was laid in Fountain-street by Edward Greaves. For nearly sixty years concerts were given in the building, respecting which many interesting notes have survived. On some future occasion I may deal with its history, but at present we shall confine our attention to a building of more recent date, erected in 1831. Built on the site of a portion of Mr. Cooper's garden, it was opened on August 30, 1831, by a concert, at which the leading performers were Madame Malibran, Signor Curioni, Signor de Begnis, Monsieur and Madame Stockhausen, and Mr. Mori. That marvellous singer, Malibran, presented a wonderful rendering of "Ombra Adorata," and at another of the early concerts her future husband, De Beriot, appeared. Italian opera was exceedingly popular seventy years ago, and few English vocalists or musicians figure as principals in the early concerts, and few English

numbers appear in the programmes. The building with which we are all familiar was designed by Richard Lane, an architect who produced many of the buildings erected in the middle portion of the century. These included the Salford Town Hall, the Blind Asylum, the Union Club, the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Higher Broughton, the Richmond Independent Chapel, and the Friends' Meeting House, Mount-street. The subscription for membership of the concerts was fixed at five guineas, and the number of subscribers was limited to six hundred. At the concerts were heard all

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the great musicians and vocalists of the day, the names of Travis, Tree, Stephens, Catalini, Corri, Paton, Braham and Sinclair being a few of the more popular ones. A decade later and the fashionable element in the town crowded to hear Tambourini, Perisiani, Grisi, and Lablache; and thus for half a century more, succeeding generations of Manchester people delighted in the performances of succeeding generations of musicians and singers, until at last the building disappeared. The concerts still continue, having enjoyed an unbroken career extending a hundred and thirty years.

### THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

Four years after the opening of the Concert Hall another new building was opened in Peter-street. This was in connection with the Manchester Society for the Promotion of Natural History, who had commenced operations in rooms in St. Ann's Place, in June, 1821. The society commenced the formation of a museum of natural objects. The nucleus of the collection were a number of birds and insects which had been collected by Mr. J. Leigh Philips, who in 1804 met Colonel Hanson on Kersal Moor with the object of fighting a duel. Philips was a silk manufacturer of Queen-street (now St. Ann's-street), and was also a well known naturalist. After

his death his fine collection had come into the possession of T. H. Robinson, from whose executors the Natural History Society purchased it for the sum of £400. As the collection increased in size, fresh rooms were taken on the site of the Reform Club, King-street; and in 1835 the society opened a building

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which they erected at a cost of £3,750. The officials of the society included many well known men, including Dr. Holme, Dr. Henry, Messrs. John Moore, J. Ainsworth, T. Turner, and Thomas Fleming. Until 1839 the museum was confined to members and their friends, but in that year the rooms were thrown open to the public on the payment of one shilling each for admission. In 1850 the premises were extended at a cost of £1,473, and the collection of the Geological Society was added to the already extensive one. In course of time interest in the society and its work fell off, and the list of subscribers became seriously reduced. The collection was offered to the Corporation on terms that were not acceptable in 1864. Three years later it was decided to hand over the collection, which was valued at £20,000, to the Owens College authorities, and a large section of it forms a portion of the Manchester Museum of to-day. Some of the objects were sold by auction. The condition accompanying the gift was that the museum should be open free to the public. The society held its last meeting on January 29, 1868. In 1875 the building was sold to the Young Men's Christian Association for £30,000. Such is the history in outline of a movement that rendered much valuable service to science, long before the days of science classes, technical institutes, and compulsory elementary education. It would be out of the question to attempt even a summary of the thousands of objects shown in the cases, but mention should be made of the well known mummy that for many years could be seen there.

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### THE MANCHESTER MUMMY

It was originally the body of Ann Beswick, of Birchin Bower, Hollinwood, who died at Cheetwood Old Hall in 1758. For reasons that are variously stated her body was embalmed by her medical man, Dr. Thomas White, and was kept by him at the Priory, Sale. After his death it passed into the possession of Dr. Ollier, and when the Peter-street museum was formed it was placed there, where it remained until 1868, when it was buried in the Harpurhey Cemetery. Thus, more than a century after her death the body of the eccentric lady was buried.

Another building erected in the thirties and still standing, although much changed in appearance was formerly known as a Methodist New Connexion chapel. After serving such a purpose for over thirty years it was sold, and was converted into the Alexandra Music Hall. To a later generation it has been known successively as the Folly and the Tivoli. A portion at least of the original chapel front is hidden away behind the present outside wall.

### PART II. - THE FREE TRADE HALL.

The Anti-corn-law League had not been engaged in their work very long ere the want of a large room in Manchester for the purpose of holding public meetings was acutely felt. The Corn Exchange was the largest such room, but it could not accommodate the thousands who crowded to hear the great apostles of free trade. The Council of the League therefore made inquiries for suitable sites, and Mr. Cobden, who owned nearly

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the whole of the unbuilt upon portion of St. Peter's Field, offered the land as a site. This was accepted, and in eleven days a temporary pavilion was erected. This was opened by a banquet, attended by nearly 4,000 persons, on January 13, 1840. The event caused great excitement in the town, and hundreds of people met at the railway station in Liverpool Road to welcome Daniel O'Connell. Nearly thirty members of Parliament were present at the meeting, in addition

to representatives from over 70 towns, delegates coming from places as far distant as Gloucester, Kirkcaldy, Paisley, London, Edinburgh, Stranraer, and Cheltenham. It is worthy of note that John Bright, whose powers as an orator were unknown, occupied a seat in the body of the hall as a delegate from Rochdale. In this way was inaugurated a series of meetings, held in the interests of Reform on the site where the Reformers of 1819 were murderously attacked by the Yeomanry.

#### THE SECOND BUILDING.

Three years later a brick building was opened on the site of the pavilion. The principal entrances of the building were in South-street, the back joining up to the Methodist New Connexion Chapel, and the sides of the building being bounded by Peter-street and Windmill-street. The walls were 27 feet in height, and the roof was supported by a number of massive iron columns. Along one end and both sides there ran galleries provided with double rows of seats. The columns supporting the roof extended in two lines down the room, which was 135 feet long by 105 feet wide.

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The inaugural meeting in the new building was held on January 30, 1843, when the hall, described as being second in size to Westminster Hall, was crowded in every part. The proceedings were commenced by George Wilson reading a list of subscriptions representing £40,000 contributed towards the £50,000 fund opened by the Council. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed, and over £2,000 more was subscribed during the meeting. On the two following days other meetings were held, and one of the few views of the old hall existing depicts the interior when the banquet held on Wednesday, February 1, was being held. Later in the same year the first of the Athenaeum series of soirees was held in the hall, under the presidency of Charles Dickens. In 1844 the second soiree was held, Benjamin Disraeli, M.P., presiding, Lord John Manners also being present. All sorts of movements have appealed for support from the platforms of the two halls since those days, one of the most remarkable of which was a gathering that took place on March 17, 1848, at which Fergus O'Connor, M.P., was the principal speaker, the object of the meeting being to promote an alliance of the Chartists with the Irish Repealers. On January 31, 1849, a meeting was held which demands special notice. That day marked the close of the final stage in the repeal of the corn laws, and the occasion was celebrated by a great banquet. The room was splendidly decorated, a profusion of flowers being used. George Wilson occupied the chair, and he was supported by C. P. Villiers, Richard Cobden, John Bright, Milner Gibson, Colonel Thompson, and others, who had taken

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leading parts in the attack upon Protection that had resulted in its downfall. Many speeches were delivered, but five minutes before midnight the Chairman asked for silence, and the vast audience sat in solemn stillness until the midnight chimes had sounded. Then he called out "The Corn Law is dead," which was followed with three cheers by the audience, who then sang "There's a good time coming."

Not only have political meetings and concerts innumerable been in the old and the present buildings, but there have from time to time been produced on its platform dramatic performances. One of these, that took place on February 11, 1852, is worthy of special note. At that time the "Guild of Literature and Art" were raising funds to form a means of assisting unfortunate authors and artists; and with this object a number of members of the Guild produced "Not so bad as we seem," a comedy by Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, followed by an original farce written by Charles Dickens and Mark Lemon, entitled "Mr. Nightingale's Diary." The cast included Charles Dickens, Douglas Jerrold, John Forster, Mark Lemon, Peter Cunningham, R. H. Home, Charles Knight, Wilkie Collins, and John Tenniel. Rarely, if ever, have so many

eminent literary characters been seen on the platform of either building at one and the same time. On July 19, 1853, it was decided to pull down the building and to erect another one on the site. The Anti-corn-law League was disbanded, and a company was formed to build the new hall. In January, 1855, the process of destruction was commenced, and on October 8, 1856, the

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new building was inaugurated by a public gathering presided over by George Wilson. To attempt to enumerate the many movements that have been associated with the present building is altogether beyond the scope of the present article, although it might form an interesting record of public life in Manchester for nearly half a century. Political opinions of all shades, social movements of all descriptions, orations by eminent lecturers, bazaars innumerable, and concerts ranging from Banks' Monday evening concerts to Halle's, which have furnished opportunities for Manchester people hearing the finest musicians and vocalists of the day, would be noted. One performance only will I refer to in detail. Douglas Jerrold died in 1857, and on August 24 of that year Charles Dickens superintended a dramatic performance given in his memory. Wilkie Collin's drama entitled "The Frozen Deep," followed by Mr. Buckstone's farce "Uncle John," comprised the bill of fare, and the company included Mark Lemon, Charles Dickens, Augustus Egg, and Shirley Brook. Two sons of the eminent novelist also appeared, Charles Dickens, junior, being styled Mr. Young Charles. With this note we leave the hall.

#### MINOR MOVEMENTS.

The Manchester Crichton Club, founded in 1853, removed in 1856 to Scott's Coffee-house, 51, Peter-street. Its object was the study of literature, science, and art, and in 1856 it published the Crichton Annual, to which Joseph Parker, afterwards (Dr. Parker) wrote an introduction. The Comedy Theatre and the

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Grand Circus were built by Edward Garcia, the former (costing £15,000) being opened on December 22, 1885.

#### THE PRINCE'S THEATRE.

The building was erected from the plans of Edward Salomons for a company whose capital amounted to £20,000. Rarely, if ever, has a theatrical venture been commenced in more auspicious fashion. Charles Calvert, already popular on account of his association with the Theatre Royal, was engaged as manager, and under his direction "The Tempest" was produced on Saturday, October 15, 1864. The cast was a remarkably strong one, including such well known names as Fred Maccabe, J. L. Cathcart, Philip Day, H. L. Haynes, Miss Julia St. George, Miss Florence Haydn, Miss Fanny Lauri, and Mr. and Mrs. C. Calvert. The feature of the performance was the singing of Ariel's song, "Where the bee sucks" by Miss St. George, who, on the opening night was compelled to sing the song three times. Nightly during the revival similar enthusiasm was displayed by the audiences that crowded the building. For ten years the theatre was famous for Mr. Calvert's Shakesperian productions, the plays revived being "Much Ado about Nothing" (1865), "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (1865), "Anthony and Cleopatra" (1866), "Winter's Tale" (1869), "Richard III." (1870), "Timon of Athens" (1871), "Merchant of Venice" (1871), "Henry the Fifth" (1872), "Twelfth Night" (1873), and the second part of "Henry IV." (1874). Surely in the annals of the stage there must be few instances where the early years

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of a new theatre has been signalised by the production of so many masterpieces in a manner that secured so general an amount of popular enthusiasm. Since those days many great

players have appeared on the Prince's boards, but few have been so popular with the audiences as was Charles Calvert.

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Continuing the serialisation of:

**'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk'**

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**STORY OF ANOTHER OLD REFORMER.**

There were other worthy reformers in the district of Failsworth whose acquaintance I had, and prized. I remember one who lived in Woodhouses, known as "Old Bellfield." The little village of Woodhouses is practically a part of Failsworth, although of recent years it has been a township itself, and the residents vote in the Prestwich division. At one time the villagers were mostly hand-loom weavers, and they were Radicals almost to a man. Many of the weavers owned their own houses and gardens in the old days, and were, therefore, ownership voters before the extension of the franchise to the county householders. At election times, they used to poll at Waterloo, near Ashton-under-Lyne, and I well remember the time when all the Tories could have been taken to poll in one cab. As many as ten cabs were required to convey the Radicals to the poll; But a change has come over the village with the gradual disappearance

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of the hand-loom. Now, many of the inhabitants work at the surrounding mills, and some walk night and morning to Platts' works at Oldham. With the change of occupation has come a change in the politics of the residents. The parties are now nearly balanced, but the old people still retain their Radicalism. At the parliamentary election in 1885, a public meeting was held in Woodhouses, in support of the candidature of Mr. Abel Buckley. When we got to the meeting, I inquired who was to move the "fit and proper" resolution. There was some difficulty in obtaining a mover, as none of the residents felt equal to talking, they said. I sought out Old Bellfield, and his reply was, "Eh, lad, aw con talk noan." Knowing the character I had to deal with, I said, "But you can tell them a good tale, Mr. Bellfield. "Aye, aye," he answered, "aw con tell them a tale." On being called upon, Bellfield said, "When aw're axt to move this resolution, aw said aw con talk noan, but Mr. Schofield would not be put off with this excuse, so he said aw could tell yo' a good tale. Well, neaw," said the old man, "aw'll tell yo' a tale. Aw'm neaw gettin' an owdchap, an' aw've seen summut i' my time. Aw con recollect th' time when white flour wur four shillings a dozen, when tay wur sixpence an ounce, sugar tenpence, currants a shilling, and candles ninepence a pound, an' when everythin' yo' touched wur taxt. If yo' went to wash, yo'r soap wur taxt. Th' glass wur taxt, an' so God's own sunleet wur taxt. If th' little lads wanted to build a rabbit-cote, they wur taxt wi' th' bricks they used. Thoose wur th' good owd times,' an' th' days o' Protection. If yo' dunno' want to goo back to 'em, yo' mun work an' vote for Mesther Buckley, like aw shall." The old man's speech was short, simple, and straight, and was most telling with the audience.

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He said a great deal in a few words. Old Bellfield was noted as a good tale-teller. I have heard a good story told about him. In his later life he was a carrier, and had a horse and cart of his own. A number of his neighbours, aware of his weakness for tale-telling, arranged to see how long they could keep him in the street story-telling. It was accordingly arranged that one should meet him on a Sunday morning on his way to feed the horse. The first was to stop on duty for half an hour, the second was to come up as the first was leaving, and so on till about six had talked with the old man. When it got far on in the forenoon, Bellfield bethought him of the time,



remarking, "VWhy, it's Welly dinner-time, an' aw ha' nor fed my horse yet." There was quite a laugh among those who were watching close by, and then the old man found out how he had been sold.

### **PROTECTION DAYS [ when Corn Laws in force]**

While out for a walk one Sunday morning I met a Lancashire worthy, an old friend of mine, named Wright May. Knowing that my friend was a sound politician, I asked for his opinion upon the fiscal question. He delivered himself as follows in his own native dialect: -

"Aw'm surprised 'at ony mon wi' a mind of his own, an' a memory, an' havin' ony claim to common sense should be carried away wi' this craze o' Protection. Aw've yerd mi feyther tell 'at he wur fifteen years of age afore he tasted white bread, an' then he had to feight for it." I asked him what he meant by having to "feight for it." He replied, "Well, theaw sees, it wur this way. Livin' near to us wur a factory mesthur's son, abeawt th'

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same age as mi feyther wur then. This lad wur walkin' i' th' street one day wi' a piece o' white cake. My feyther axt him to gie him a bit o' this cake. Th' lad refused. My feyther then said, 'Theaw'll oather ha' to gie me a bit o' that cake, or else feight for it.' Th' lad still refused, an' put th' cake beheend him wi' one hont. My feyther set to, an' they had a regular good feight, an' i' th' lung run he beat him, an' then took a lump o' this cake fro' him. That wur th' first time he had ever tasted o' white bread."

"Eh, mon," continued the old worthy, "th' yung folk at th' present day have no idea heaw poor folk suffered i' thoose dark days of Protection. Aw can recollect mysel' my mother bakin' black bread, an' th' dough were so thin 'at when it wur put i' th' oon we had to bang th' oon dur to, an' be rare an' sharp, or else th' dough would ha' bin eawt an' on th' hearthstone. Thoose were th' days o' Protection, an' aw conno' believe 'at poor folk 'ull be so foolish as to support ony policy 'at 'ull tend to bring back thoose days, by puttin' a tax on corn an' other foodstuffs."

At the present day there resides in Woodhouses an old handloom weaver Radical named Fred Potter. Only the other day Potter was telling me that his mother could remember flour being six shillings a dozen, and that once when she went to buy some the shopkeeper asked her if she wanted the flour for "sow" or bread. It seems he thought it was too dear for poor folk to eat, but it was not too dear to make "sow" or flour paste with. I only wish those working men who are in favour of Protection. could have an hour's chat with my old friend Potter on this subject. If they had, I feel sure they would alter their views. Speaking of Chamberlain, Potter said to me, "Aw keep lookin' i' th' pappur to see if they've a plague o' frogs i' Egypt sin' he londed theer, or if he's gotten stuck i' th' Red Sea."

#### **page 73 Portrait of Thomas Parkinson in the Gallery**

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Another veteran friend of mine, Mr. Thomas Parkinson, some time since, delivered a most, impressive speech on Protection, so much so that I afterwards wrote the following verses on it, calling the piece -

#### **PROTECTION : OR "THE HUNGRY FORTIES."**

Our vet'ran, with the fire of youth Pleaded for justice, right, and truth,  
By Tory rule laid low.  
We listened to the words he spoke,  
Of how they bore the heavy yoke,  
Some sixty years ago.  
"The Hungry Forties" was his theme,  
When Free Food seemed a mocking dream,  
For bread was scarce and dear.

The poor were starved and underfed,  
And on their tables, good white bread  
Would rarely then appear.  
They suffered in those dismal days  
In various other trying ways,  
For many were ill-clad.  
They laboured long on loom and soil,  
And went about their daily toil  
With faces wan and sad.  
On ev'ry hand was discontent,  
And starving men then often lent  
Themselves to petty crime.  
They entered shops, and took out bread,  
That crying children might be fed  
In that disastrous time.  
Such was the sad state of affairs,  
That many offered lit'ral prayers  
For bread that they might live.  
Ill-clothed, they went about the street,  
Like hungry wolves prowling for meat  
Their rulers would not give.

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By taxing food they were denied  
What other lands would have supplied  
To feed their bodies well.  
Their trials lasted long enough,  
And mild men grew both wild and rough,  
And then Protection fell.  
Our fathers suffered keen and long  
Before they crushed this cruel wrong  
With which they were oppressed,  
In Freedom's grand and glorious cause,  
They freed us from those wretched laws,  
And gave us peace and rest.  
Shall we, their sons, unworthy prove,  
And let men make another move  
To tax our bread again?  
Be ours to play the better part,  
And ev'ry brave and loyal heart  
Resist so dark a stain.  
Then let us all be up in arms,  
Dispelling such illusive charms  
That men are holding out;  
Our vet'ran bids you "think it o'er,"  
With wisdom fraught with years four score  
To "mind what you're about."  
Ye younger men, take heed, beware,  
And let no greed nor selfish snare

Becloud your sense of right;  
An old man counsels you to stand  
To save your own loved fatherland  
With truth and morning light.

There are other old Failsworth people still living, who could relate some of the struggles of the poor in the days of Protection, but I must not linger on this question.

~~~~~

### From the e-Postbag

Another welcome contribution of a family history story from our reader Glyn Collin.  
Hi Sheila

I've put a story together about The Queen's Hotel, Shaw Road ...  
the news article mentioned was in the *Manchester Evening News*, 19th June, 1873.

#### **MONEY MATTERS**

Oldham was a work town, full of entrepreneurs chasing wealth, one such was Gregory Clough Whitehead who built the Queen's Hotel on Shaw Road, and even tried to control his fortune after his death. He was a builder and timber merchant who married Mally Collin.

The couple had an illegitimate son, Joseph Thomas, in 1830 named after both their fathers. They were married by Gregory's uncle, the Rev. Francis Gardner, at St Chad's, Rochdale, in 1834 and had four more children.

Gregory built Whitehead Street and Collins Street at the bottom of Greenacres Moor, a place known as Chat Moss. He also designed and built the Queen's Hotel in 1858.

In 1861 the household consisted of nine people, At the head was Gregory a master builder and publican, followed by wife Mally, son John 25 a joiner, daughters : Ursula 22 a dressmaker, Ann Mary 19 a weaver, and Sarah 16 a dressmaker. Also in the household were Gregory's sister, Mary 43, a servant, his son (but listed as a son-in-law) Joseph T. who was a joiner, and Mally's brother, Jonathan 31, who was an iron moulder. By 1873 the whole lot of them were dead.

Ann Mary died first in 1863 aged 21 of phthisis, followed by Ursula in 1865 aged 28 also of phthisis a year after her marriage. Jonathan had gone to America in 1862 to fight in the civil war and died in Nashville in 1865 aged 35. Gregory died in October 1866 aged 56, with abscess of the liver, son Joseph died in 1870, aged 40 and son John was found dead in bed aged 36.

Gregory's sister Mary went to live with another brother in Denton and died in 1872.

Mally died in May 1873 aged 65 of bronchitis followed by daughter Sarah a few weeks later, of weakness, aged 28. They were all buried at St Thomas's, Friarmere, Delph (Heights Chapel) where Gregory's uncle had been curate from 1835-1848.

In his will Gregory said his wife was at liberty to reside at the Queen's Hotel rent free but if she did not keep up the establishment upon the same scale and mode as in his lifetime and defray the housekeeping expenses, servants wages & incidental expenses, then the executors were to give her one month's notice to leave. A valuation & inventory was to be taken of household goods, chattels and stock in trade and a copy to be delivered to his wife, if she should leave for any cause she had to pay the amount of the valuation to the executors. Out of his real & leasehold estate he left £20 annually to his sister.

All real & personal estate was left to the trustees to receive rents and produce thereof and invest the sums arising in the Saddleworth Bank now called the Manchester & County Banking Company Limited.

If his wife leaves, the trustees were to pay her £30 per year and his daughter £13 per year, to cease if she married. If his wife remarried she was to get one month's notice to quit and demand the payment of the valuation of the inventory but continue to pay her the £30.

Payments into the bank were to be invested for six years after his and his wife's death and the product to be divided equally between his son and daughter, the illegitimate son was not mentioned.

After six years the trustees were to dispose of all estates and divide it between the two children or their children at age 21 if the parents were dead.

Daughter Sarah was to have power to bequeath her share to whom she thought proper. Lastly, Gregory appointed two fellow publicans as his trustees. They were William Ainsworth of the 'Ordnance Arms' and Joseph Collin, his brother-in-law and licensee of the 'Rose & Crown' Lees Road (also a notorious poacher).

The effects were under £3,000 with leaseholds.

Mally died on May 7, 1873 and Sarah as interim manager applied for the licence but was refused because the trustees including her own uncle deemed her too weak to run such a large establishment. A manager was installed and Sarah went into a decline and was taken to the house of her fiancée, James Ellis, a hay and straw dealer of Shaw Road. Sarah had the last laugh, though, as she made a will on June 2 leaving all to James Ellis before dying on June 13. James organized her funeral but the trustees thrust their carriage to the front of the procession and James was whipped across his face. A large crowd had gathered expecting trouble and a riot was feared. There was an article in many papers headed, 'Disgraceful Scenes at a Funeral.' (Image of newspaper account in the Gallery).

There must have been a compromise as James Ellis was in the 'Rose & Crown' in 1881 and William Ainsworth was in it in 1886.

James Ellis married within a year of Sarah's death and he was only 38 when he died in 1884. Gregory had three grandchildren from his son John; two of the grandsons, Gregory & Joseph Collin Whitehead, both became pork butchers in Oldham.

**Note:** Scanned image of the newspaper account in the Gallery.

Many thanks, Glyn, for sharing this story from your family research.

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Another welcome email from Julie Schwethelm about her return visit to Manchester in May of this year. To accompany the narrative Julie also sent me lots of the photos that she took. I've included a selection in the Gallery at the end of the newsletter but I've also added her story and all 24 photos to the Gallery on the Branch pages of the website. You can see it [HERE](#)

### **A TALE OF TWO CITIES – MANCHESTER REVISITED**

It's been a very long time since I've visited my home town of Manchester. Too long. After an absence of eight years I decided it was high time. Then came Covid. When all the lockdowns and restrictions were finally over, the thought of being at an airport with all those other humans was simply too daunting. Last year I very boldly booked my husband and me flights and accommodation, only to have the flights cancelled by EasyJet three weeks before we were due to depart. It was a mixture of disappointment and relief, as the airport scenes in the media were not exactly confidence inspiring. Pictures of crowds trying to check in or pass through security but not getting anywhere, people fondly bidding farewell to their luggage, wondering if they would ever see it again. So we postponed for another year.

At the end of May 2023 we finally made it and landed in Manchester on time and without any stress whatsoever. That must be a record. I had been reading so many Facebook posts about the changing face of Manchester and was wondering if I'd be able to recognize it without a tourist guidebook. Even Manchester Town Hall and the Albert Memorial are heavily disguised in their white wrapping paper during refurbishment (and what a surprise that it's going to take longer and by the way will be just a tad more expensive than planned). Our hotel was on Cross Street next door to Boots so it was very convenient and far enough away from today's version

of Piccadilly Gardens. I shan't start to reminisce about the sunken gardens of yore as it would take up too much space.

With the impending rail strikes (on three out of four days, chapeau!), I'd rearranged our plans and abandoned the little rail journeys in favour of bus trips. This meant a change of destinations of course. However I must say the public transport services have improved vastly as far as the buses go, in that you can use one ticket for any bus. I remember standing at bus stops, equipped with Stagecoach Megarider tickets, waiting forever while a seemingly endless stream of buses from at least three other companies passed by.

After attending two fascinating and inspiring MLFHS Oldham Branch Zoom talks by Douglas Jackson on Joseph Briggs and then on the Tiffany Windows, I thought a trip to Haworth Art Gallery just outside Accrington would be interesting. So off we went, in search of one of those elusive Manchester bus stops for the limited stop bus to Accrington. The journey took us through the lovely Lancashire countryside and only cost us two pounds each.

Haworth Art Gallery is well worth a visit. It is Lancashire's finest Arts & Crafts house and garden. It was designed by the architect Walter Brierley, and houses Europe's largest Tiffany glass collection, donated by Joseph Briggs, a local lad who made his fortune in America, ending up managing director of Tiffany Studios. The collection is beautifully displayed and provides a wealth of information on the various glass making techniques.

By way of contrast we opted for a tour of Ancoats the following day. The first official recording of the area dates back to 1212 when it was called 'Elnecot' – a name derived from the Old English 'Ana Cots' or 'lonely cottages'.

The 1800s changed this radically as it became known as "the world's first industrial suburb" with a multitude of mills that earned Manchester its nickname 'cottonopolis'. With the closure of the mills much of Ancoats degenerated into an industrial wasteland, which is more or less how I remember it. Our bus from Droylsden ran through Ancoats, passing Star Hall, the Salvation Army Hospital, then Ancoats Hospital and then along Great Ancoats Street. It was dark and dismal and gloomy and Lowry-like. I can remember two buildings which looked very different, one of them has even survived the upheaval of redevelopment – the beautiful Art Déco Daily Express building. I've even been inside, my father had a photographer friend who might have worked there, I can't remember, but I do remember the enormous printing machines and those impressive rolls of paper, not to mention the racket. Another Art Déco building was J.G. Neeedham, "Ladies Coats Costumes", later they sold fabrics if I remember rightly. It always looked slightly out of place amidst the rows of little shops. It didn't survive. Ash of Ancoats sticks in my mind, I remember gaping through grimy bus windows at hundreds of ladders stacked outside the shop. And of course Volmax where you could buy anything that could be stored comfortably in the garden shed.

And today? Ancoats has disposed of its flavour-of-the-1980s central retail park with Toys 'R' Us, JD Sports, a DIY shop which I somehow link to W.H. Smith and no doubt a string of others I fail to recall, and has completely reinvented itself, and is moreover considered one of the coolest places to live and eat out.

We began our walk at New Islington, me feeling completely lost with absolutely no landmarks to cling onto. We passed the Chips building with its newsprint as a reminder of the Daily Express, then walked along the Ashton Canal which leads to Islington Marina with its waterside bars and restaurants overlooking Cottonfield Park, and made our way to Cutting Room Square with St Peter's, the rehearsal venue for the Halle Orchestra. There were people sitting drinking coffee (don't ask me which fancy type of coffee) outside the Ice Plant building, so called because it had an ice-making plant, was used for the storage of chilled goods. It was also a distribution centre for the ice-cream barrows that operated in this area in the nineteenth century. We



reached Anita Street, originally called Sanitary Street, one of the first with municipal houses in Manchester. They were built to replace back to back terraced houses with no sanitation.

### ***088- Anita Street, Ancoats ... in the Gallery***

Urban regeneration with hip housing for (affluent) young people (with small dogs) brings with it gentrification. Not all the inhabitants are happy. I wonder what Friedrich Engels would have thought? My personal opinion? I find it somewhat overrated and most likely overpriced, although I must admit the Ashton and Rochdale Canals definitely look much better for the facelift.

### ***070 - Ashton Canal, New Islington, Ancoats ... in the Gallery***

Whit Friday! That means Tameside Whit Friday Brass Band Contest, if you revolve in a circle with brass band connections. Which we do, so there we were in Carrbrook on a balmy early summer's evening, families spread out on blankets on the grass watching the bands as they marched onto the little stage. My friend Christine explained the procedure and how the judging is carried out by people surreptitiously cowering in unobtrusive caravans and tents with their clipboards. Very English, that. There was that familiar grassy smell I associate with Daisy Nook fair on Good Friday when I was a child. A kind of garden fête scenario with bunting and refreshment stalls and lots of people walking about generally enjoying the atmosphere. And maybe occasionally paying attention to the band.

On Saturday I finally managed to cross the moat and discover Clayton Hall. It's within walking distance of where I grew up at the North Road end of Droylsden. I remember a derelict building hiding in the trees during the sixties. In the later seventies the council used the building as an administrative base, but pretended it wasn't there. Now it's a beautiful hands on museum and definitely worth a visit. And you might even bump into somebody you know. What a coincidence that the volunteer lady who welcomed me just happens to be the elder sister of a childhood playmate!

### ***178 - Clayton Hall ... in the Gallery***

From the lovely renovated Clayton Hall to the wastelands of Villemomble Square in Droylsden. I compared two photographs, before and after. One picture was taken in 2009 when there were flower beds, benches, trees and shops. Today's picture with half a tree is a sad witness to the decline of Droylsden town centre. Even the police station is being converted into flats. The lamp has been dismantled and the mullioned windows replaced. So much for Concord and Industry, Droylsden's motto.

Droylsden Marina however is definitely an improvement. The Ashton Canal was filled in during the sixties, once they'd fished out all the old prams and bicycles, and mutated into a mass of ugly tarmac. You can now stand beside the marina and look directly towards Manchester Road where the old library used to be. Unfortunately, the old library built in 1937 has been demolished. And I always used to think it was a listed building.....

### ***186 - Droylsden Marina Looking towards Manchester ... in the Gallery***

No trip to Droylsden is complete without the obligatory pilgrimage to Fairfield Square, my old haunt of seven years as a pupil at Fairfield High School for Girls. I love the place, it's like a time warp. I have many happy memories of my Fairfield schooldays. It was a lovely sunny day with a deep blue sky, ideal for taking even more photographs of the Square, as if I didn't already have enough. But then you can't have too much of a good thing. My gran used to sing in the choir and was married at Fairfield Moravian Church, and my mother baptized there. I decided to have a look around the Moravian Museum, yes I've been before, but still. When I was charged the senior citizen rate without being asked, I wasn't sure whether to feel chuffed at saving fifty pence or slightly offended!

On Monday morning in glorious sunshine we went on a tour of the Castlefield Viaduct. This 330 metre long Grade II-listed structure was built in 1892 by Heenan and Froude, the engineers who worked on Blackpool Tower. The viaduct was used to carry heavy rail traffic in and out of the Great Northern Warehouse until 1969.

The National Trust has transformed the viaduct into an elevated park with trees, plants and flowers. It was almost surreal standing on this magnificent structure full of plants, peering through the iron girders at the contrasting buildings. It was interesting to learn about the planting of Manchester poplars during the Great Depression. Since many trees in the city had died as a result of the heavy pollution, the Government and Manchester Parks and Cemeteries Committee introduced a project called "Unemployment Relief Works". A panel tells us that "Men would head out on their bikes every day to plant poplar saplings and swathes of Manchester Poplars started to pop up in parks, towpaths and fields across the borough". We also learnt that comfrey leaves were bought by cotton mill workers to line their clogs, there were gooseberry growing competitions, beech was used for everyday clogs, but ash for dancing clogs, silver birch was used for spools, bobbins and reels, sycamore for textile rollers due to its ability not to stain cloth. Overall this was an extremely informative visit and I'd definitely recommend it.

### ***298 - Castlefield Viaduct ... in the Gallery***

Back into the centre. The Northern Quarter. Hmm. In my youth (recently...) street cafés were definitely not a thing. We used to blame it on the weather of course. But it was definitely something that people only did "on the continent". Who would have dreamt of sitting outside with a pot of tea unless you were in your own back garden? But it did indeed start to happen, and the choice of café was no longer restricted to those with sticky Formica tabletops where the only decorative item was an even stickier tomato ketchup bottle. Attractive street cafés and restaurants were now firmly established as a part of the British culinary scene.

But surely not in Thomas Street? Stevenson Square?? The dirty back streets of Manchester. We used to wait for our bus in Stevenson Square, it was a dreary place, it always seemed to be raining. The one highlight was Fred Aldous, the craft shop. I could hardly believe it's still there. But what surprised me most was seeing people sitting in Stevenson Square eating and drinking. Most likely a hot beverage with oat milk accompanied by something containing quinoa. The Northern Quarter possesses a kind of morbid charm. The cracked flags and metal rimmed curbstones still recall the time when Tib Street was famous for its pet shops, and Thomas Street for its jewellers. Sleazy little streets you would scuttle through hastily, litter everywhere, smells you couldn't or didn't want to identify. I'm still working on getting my head around this new image.

Perhaps it's because people are sitting outside that you actually take the trouble to look twice at the setting. I rediscovered the remains of Smithfield Market in High Street, it's always been there but I had never really paid any attention to it. The same goes for many other buildings. When you walk around Manchester and consciously look at the lovely old buildings you realize just how beautiful some of them are. And nowadays they're nice and clean, not covered in soot and dirt. I used to think that Manchester Cathedral had been built of black stone until the council began cleaning up the city. And not everything that is no longer there was worth saving anyway. The underground market for example. That was not exactly an architectural jewel. I used to shuffle around there in my lunch hour, occasionally buying cheap clothes, when I was working as a Saturday girl at True-Form on Market Street.

It's comforting to be able to go inside Manchester Art Gallery with my favourite Pre Raphs, or John Rylands Library, or the Portico Library, whose first Secretary Peter Mark Roget wrote the first English thesaurus, or Manchester Central Library. They are all still there, with friendly staff welcoming the visitors. In fact I spent a good hour in the Central Library, having located the

MLFHS helpdesk. I was able to search the 1921 Census and successfully found the families of my Gran's four brothers. I find it quite fascinating that one James Walker from Wigtownshire is ultimately responsible for what seems like half the population of Liverpool, and a large portion of Manchester's. There are simply too many Walkers. So I was quite thrilled to have found them.

A walk down Deansgate revealed the new complex at what is now Deansgate Square. Those four towers. They started to appear in the distance as if they were sprouting out of one of the old railway bridges near Castlefield. It was strange watching them grow in height as the former Knott Mill, now Deansgate, station got nearer. And there's another one being built – Three60, Manchester's first cylindrical skyscraper. I felt very uncomfortable standing at the foot of these towers and managed to lose my bearings completely. For a split second I thought I would never be able to escape from the looming monstrosities. On the way back a short stop at Quay Street. Sunlight House. My father used to work there when he was with British Rail, I remember going with my mother to the scary swimming pool in the basement during my father's lunch hour. It had big pillars in the pool that you had to circumnavigate, and that scared me to death. I was glad we didn't go again. Sunlight House and Kendals, Victoria Station, the Royal Exchange, and the bollards and litter bins with the familiar Manchester bees, lulled me back into my comfort zone. My Manchester.

At the beginning of our visit I felt as if Manchester was a very different city, unfamiliar and full of new buildings I didn't particularly appreciate. It took about a week to reclaim and rediscover my Manchester, and even to discover things that had always been there but that I simply hadn't noticed before.

Many thanks to Julie for sharing her holiday research with us.

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An email that came in, in a rather roundabout way, via our Journal Editor, was with regard to the Branch meeting in March, about *Crime City : Manchester's Victorian Underworld*, given by author Joseph O'Neil. It was the mention of the 'scuttlers', street gangs who terrorised the city in the later years of the 18th century, which caught the attention of MLFHS member Liz Culley. Liz told us that she could add to the story as she was descended from the Manchester (Ancoats) police sergeant, Wright Whitehead, who was instrumental in bringing to justice some gang members in 1892. I contacted Liz who was kind enough to send me the family story and transcription of the newspaper report of the trial which mentioned her ancestor. These have been added to the Branch pages on the MLFHS website, [HERE](#). If want to read the original write-up of the Branch Meeting, it was in the Society Journal, Vol 59 no. 2, and in the e-Owls-2023-04 newsletter downloadable [HERE](#)

Our many thanks to Liz for sharing her story with us.

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MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE

[HERE](#)

A short selection of entries from the MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE ...  
since the last newsletter :

\* Manchester in the 1990s captured in 90 incredible photos  
[HERE](#)

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\* Women pioneers in environmental health  
[HERE](#)

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\* Preparations for the Coronation of Richard II

[HERE](#)

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\* Historic England Blog - Do You Know Your Gloriette From Your Grotto?

[HERE](#)

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\* Wimbledon: Paraffin, matches and the plot to burn down All England Club

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* Natural History Museum - Quick, hide the dodo - the suffragettes are coming

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* Piccadilly Gardens is about to change again - but it probably won't look like this ...

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* 10 Medieval Inventions that Changed the World

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* Four grand Venetian chandeliers graced Manchester Airport's T1 for more than 40 years ...  
now one is returning

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* From the Archive: '18th Century Silk Dyers

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* Where can I view old electoral registers?

[HERE](#)

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\* Women's Suffrage Movement Archives

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* Witchcraft: Eight Myths And Misconceptions - Has anyone found a witch in their tree?

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* How the NHS was born in Greater Manchester. Happy 75th NHS

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* Looms with a view: a tour of Lancashire's former mill towns

[HERE](#)

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

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

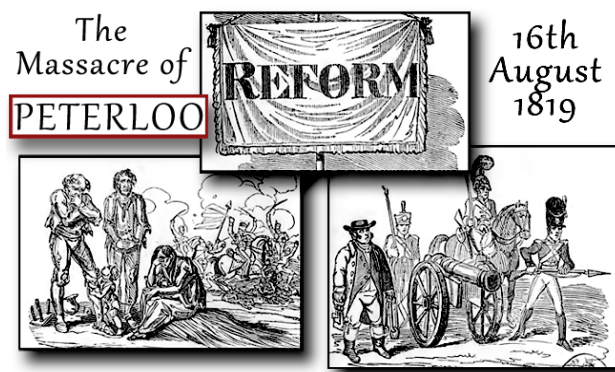
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**PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary**

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](#)



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

**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](http://www.catholicfhs.co.uk)

Cheshire Local History Association – [www.cheshirehistory.org.uk](http://www.cheshirehistory.org.uk)

Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – [www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk](http://www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk)

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society - <https://www.lfhhs.org.uk/home.php>

Lancashire Local History Federation – [www.lancashirehistory.org](http://www.lancashirehistory.org)

Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – [www.lswlfhs.org.uk](http://www.lswlfhs.org.uk)

Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – [www.mrias.co.uk](http://www.mrias.co.uk)

Oldham Historical Research Group – [www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg](http://www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg)

Peterloo - [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

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

Royton Local History Society – [www.rlhs.co.uk](http://www.rlhs.co.uk)

Saddleworth Historical Society – [www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk](http://www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk)

Tameside Local History Forum - [www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk](http://www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk)

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](http://www.experience-barnsley.com)

Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](#)

Bury – [www.bury.gov.uk/archives](http://www.bury.gov.uk/archives)

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

Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](#)

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

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

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)

Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

Preston – [www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives)

Stockport – [www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives)

Tameside Local Studies and Archives - <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/archives>

York – [www.york.ac.uk/borthwick](http://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick)



Manchester Evening News, 19th June, 1873

See e-Postbag for the family story, '*Money Matters*'

## DISGRACEFUL SCENE AT A FUNERAL.

A disgraceful scene occurred at a funeral at Oldham, yesterday, and at one time a serious riot was feared. Miss Sarah Clough Whitehead, late interim tenant of the Queen's Hotel, Shaw's-road, had been unwell since she dispossessed by the trustees of the property under the will of her father, the late owner, on the ground that she was not fit to conduct such a large establishment. In consequence of this, it is said, she became seriously ill, and last Thursday was removed to the house of her betrothed, Mr. James Ellis, in the same street. On Friday she died, and arrangements were made by Mr. Ellis for the funeral yesterday morning, he reserving to himself the post of chief mourner. The trustees, however, thought this proceeding unwarrantable, and prepared means to frustrate the plan. Yesterday morning, when the funeral procession, headed by the hearse, was passing the hotel, a coach, having them as its occupants, was thrust into the first position behind the hearse. The procession was, of course, immediately brought to a standstill, and a scene of indescribable confusion occurred. Several hundred persons had assembled in anticipation of there being a row of some sort, and they proceeded to make the utmost possible misuse of their lungs: abuse of the trustees was the favourite text. Mr. Ellis, on attempting to remove the obstructing vehicle, was switched smartly across the face; and as it became evident that nothing could be done unless the intruders were allowed to keep their position, they were tacitly permitted to do so. The procession, with its unwelcome addition, moved on towards St. Thomas's churchyard, Chadderton, where the interment took place.

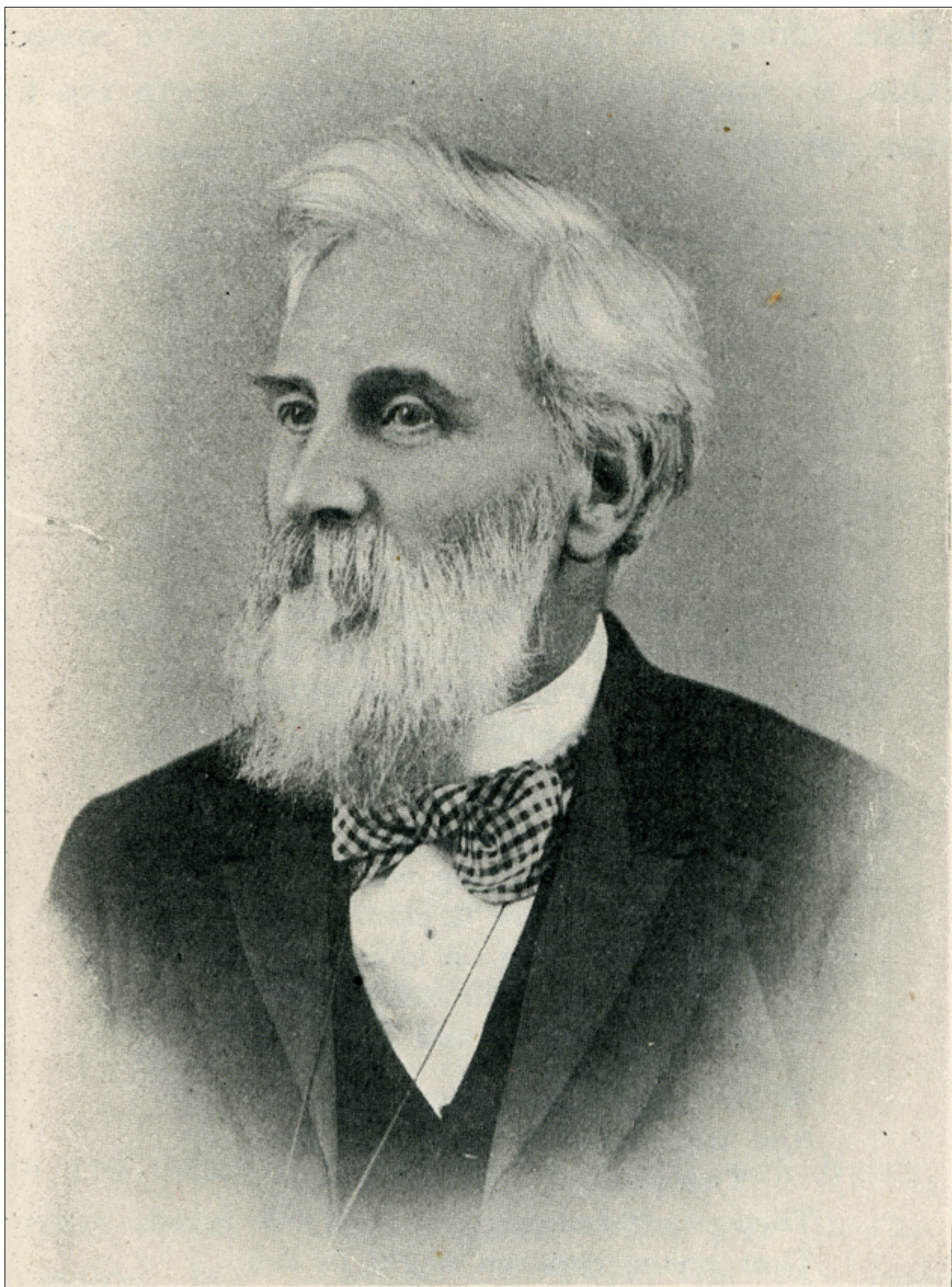
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Illustration from :

**'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk '**

by Sim Schofield pub. 1905



**p73 Thomas Parkinson**

~~~~~



from ***Manchester Streets & Manchester Men (Volume, 1st series)***  
by T. Swindells, Pub. 1906



**PETER STREET IN 1830.**

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5 Photographs from '***A Tale of Two Cities - Manchester Revisited***'  
by Julie Schwethelm, 2023, in the e-Postbag.



***Anita Street, Ancoats***





***Ashton Canal, New Islington, Ancoats***

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***Clayton Hall***





***Droylsden Marina, looking towards Manchester Road***

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***Castlefield Viaduct***