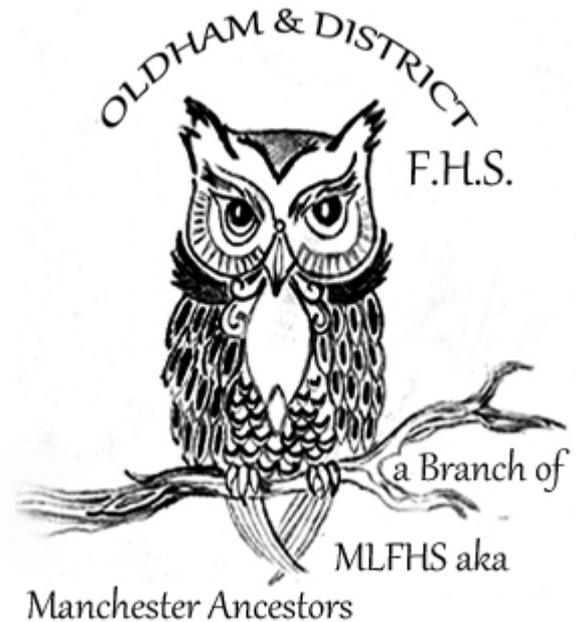


# 'e-Owls'



## Contact us :

Branch Website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>  
MLFHS homepage : <https://www.mlfhs.uk/>  
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**September 2023**

**MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter**

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## Branch Information & News :

### 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 :

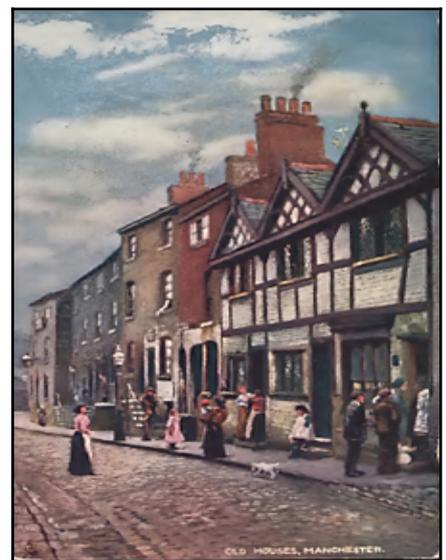


['Where to Find it'](#)

On the Oldham & District  
Website Pages



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



*'Old Houses, Manchester'*  
from the Newberry Collection  
at the Internet Archive - Postcards

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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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### Vice Chair report

Hello readers

In this newsletter we can mark a big change in the life of this Oldham branch of the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society (MLFHS). Linda Richardson, our chairman for several years, stepped down last month ready for her move out of the area. We are very sorry to see her go as she has nursed the branch back to health since taking on this role and she will be sorely missed.

We wish her well for her future. Meanwhile myself and Gillian Melton, also a longstanding committee member and treasurer, will be sharing the role of vice chair until such time as a person comes forward to fill the vacant role.

It seems we are already facing the ending of a variable summer and are heading towards autumn with chillier days and shorter evenings. With this in mind I hope you find this issue of the newsletter and our talks in branch and on zoom will warm and brighten your days.

Warm wishes,

Jan Costa  
secretary.

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. As I begin writing this month's remarks, I know today it is the 16th August, and the 204th anniversary of the Peterloo massacre. Our August talk was a hybrid, and given by Professor Robert Poole, author of '*Peterloo, The English Uprising*' published in 2019, the bicentenary year. His entertaining and informative presentation was about local Reformer, Doctor Joseph Healey. Researching anything and everything connected with Peterloo, in the years before the Bicentenary had been my passion so I was looking forward to this talk and I was not disappointed! Afterwards, and wanting to follow up on Robert's talk, I turned again to Samuel Bamford's '*Passages in the Life of a Radical*', which I last read about 7 or 8 years ago and from which, as our speaker told us, much of his information about Doc. Healey had come. It's a much longer write-up than usual as I wanted to include as many of the quotes, that Robert used, as possible. More about resources, with a number of links, at the end of the monthly write-up. In the Gallery is the 1817 Butterworth map of the district and the newspaper notification of Healey's death.

In the Mixed Bag we have more pages from *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men...* this month, continuing with volume (series) 1, I have transcribed the chapter, '*Mosley Street Memorials*'. We can also read more stories and anecdotes, from '*Short Stories about Failsworth Folk*' by Sim Schofield with three Illustrations accompanying in the Gallery.

I think everyone must be very busy at the moment as I haven't received anything for inclusion in the e-Postbag this month and I have no updates on the website to report!

My chosen image, for the front page of the newsletter, is '*Old Houses, Manchester*, in the Newberry Collection of Postcards. Searchable and freely downloadable, "*Images in this digital collection are available for any lawful purpose...*" from the Internet Archive [HERE](#)

For those living more locally, there is the annual 'Oldham Histories Festival' from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> September. A Programme and details are on the Oldham website [HERE](#) . Booking is necessary for some of the events, which can be done on Eventbrite [HERE](#) or by phone 0161 770 4654 or email : [archives@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:archives@oldham.gov.uk) .

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.

## Oldham & District Branch

### Monthly Meetings

#### Last Month's Meeting - 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  
author of '*Peterloo - The English Uprising*' pub. 2019

This was a hybrid meeting.

*'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.'*

**Editor's note:** This talk was delivered with animation and characterisation, as Robert quoted extensively from Bamford's '*Passages in the Life of a Radical*'. To ensure that I retain those mental images of Healey, and make no mistakes, I have taken the same quotes, shown in italics, directly from the book. The ellipsis (...) indicates where I have omitted some of the text.

Robert started his presentation by showing a part of Butterworth's map of 1817 (full map in Gallery) giving us some background against which we could set the story of Joseph Healey.

Most of what is known about Healey comes from the writings of Samuel Bamford. However, Robert also made reference to information about individuals that can be found in newspapers, letters and the many archived communications, about reform or radical activities over the years, passing backwards and forwards between local authorities, government officers and the many spies employed to entrap reformers and report on anything that had the whiff of 'reform'. So, what did we know about Healey? No image of him has come to light but we looked at a still from the film, 'Peterloo', with the actor playing Healey standing just behind Hunt. However, Robert had an image that he felt accorded more closely with Bamford's detailed description of his physical appearance, the clothes he wore and his personality (rather comical as Bamford perceived it!).

The first appearance of Healey's name found so far is in connection with the events following the 1817, ill-fated Blanketeers' March, to London, to petition the Prince Regent to restore Habeas Corpus (which had been suspended). Bamford had suspected that it was a trap and could see the many things that could go wrong. On the 9th of March, the day before the planned march, he dissuaded the Middleton reform group from joining the marchers. However, it went ahead and was the cruel disaster that Bamford had foreseen.

The following day, 11th March, Joseph Healey makes his first appearance in Bamford's account. Healey had brought a man to meet Bamford who had the aim of organising a 'Moscow of Manchester' in retaliation for the brutal treatment of the Blanketeers by the authorities and military; with enough support it would be that very night. Suspecting that it was a trap, Bamford invited fellow reformers, to join them at Healey's house to hear what the stranger had to say and then tell them that he would have nothing to do with the plan and neither should they. Bamford suggested that Healey and himself should spend the night away from home in a place where they could prove that they had not been involved in any attack in Manchester. This they did, staying at the home of an old female reformer.

Even so, as a result of the suspension of Habeas Corpus, Bamford had received a warning that his own arrest was imminent so he and Healey decided to leave Middleton for a few days whilst things, hopefully, quietened down. Healey had an uncle, Richard, who was a farmer and publican on the moors north-west of Middleton, so the two decided to head there. On the way, Healey talked about his family, and early life. His father was a cow-leech whose skills were frequently needed. He was also a devout Methodist who was a firm believer in witchcraft. When his father died, Joseph was apprenticed to a Bolton cotton weaver where, although he learned the skills, he was treated brutally. When he had fulfilled the terms of his apprenticeship, he went to live with his married sister in Chadderton and there met his future wife. On their marriage, they lived in Middleton with his wife's parents. He then began using books to teach himself "*to compound and prescribe medicines;*" then he turned to blood-letting, "*drawing teeth and general practitioner of the surgical art.*" However, he admitted that he still needed to learn about obstetrics but intended to remedy that lack!

What followed, in Bamford's account, as quoted by our speaker, was a description of 'Doctor' Healey. He "*was about 5 feet six in height; thirty two or three years of age, with rather good features, small light grey eyes, darker whiskers and hair with a curl on his forehead of which he was remarkably proud. He was well-set in body but light of limb; his knees had an uncommonly supple motion, which gave them an appearance of weakness... In disposition he was... generous and confiding; credulous, proud of his person and acquirements. A book-buyer, but little of a reader, less of a thinker, and no recollector of literary matters. Hence, with an imperturbable self-complacency, he was supremely oblivious of the world, its history, manners, and concerns; except such as directly interfered with the good and evil of his own existence... His hat was somewhat napless, with sundry dinges on the crown, and up-settings and down-flappings of the brim... he wore a long drab top-coat... his undercoat was of dark uncut fustian...*

*his legs were encased in top-boots, no worse for wear, except perhaps a leaky seam or two and a cracked upper leather."*

Continuing their journey they walked and chatted amiably, telling stories and teasing each other, Healey about his dubious medical activities and Bamford about his lost ancestral lands in the Civil War. On Bakslate Moor, Healey shared his and his father's belief that the area had once been "*infested with witches,*" and his father had been "*called upon to counteract their infernal schemes.*"

As they approached his uncle Richard's property they met up with him working in a quarry, nearby, and were given a "*blunt and frank welcome.*"

The following day they continued on their way towards Edenfield and were ruefully aware that their money was running out after enjoying perhaps too many drinks the previous night! Their plan was to get to Bolton that night where Healey had a brother who would probably help them. Their plans would change, though, after they went into a public house and Healey offered his services, as a "*surgeon,*" to take out a tooth that was causing pain to the landlady's daughter. It didn't go too well and he mistakenly pulled out two teeth as she screamed in pain and kicked him across the room. Her mother, having heard the screaming, returned with a constable and an overseer, believing her daughter might have been killed. Bamford suggested that they all sat down to have a drink, fill their pipes with tobacco, and have a chat to explain the situation. They called for the daughter and Healey made good his mistake by ramming the good tooth back into her gum and telling her to have a drink of rum and hold it in her mouth for a few minutes, which she did, and then said it was OK! Then followed an argument over how much money was owed; to Healey for removing a bad tooth or to the landlady for a broken crock and spilled cream when Healey was kicked across the room.

As this transaction was brought to a conclusion, a man from Bolton entered and they heard him mention that the Radicals there were very alarmed as King's Officers had arrived to arrest some of the reformers. They were still chatting when a woman and baby came in, wanting to speak to the overseer. She was in great distress and needed relief for her family. Questions and answers passed between them until the overseer eventually gave her two shillings. As she accepted a glass of ale, she collapsed and Healey caught the child as Bamford caught the woman. The men believed her to be dead but Healey was determined to bring her back, rubbing her hands and face and trying to get a drop of liquid into her mouth. Unbelievably she began to come round; the "*two shillings were made up to five*" and after having a cup of tea she set off to return home.

Instead of Bolton, Bamford and Healey went to Bury where they again entered a public house to have some food and a drink. Listening to the conversations around them they learned that two men who were known to them had been arrested on a charge of high treason. Deciding not to linger any longer, after having caught the eye of a man they learned was the deputy constable, they quickly left and decided to cut across the fields, in case they had been recognised as reformers. What followed was an unpleasant experience, in the dark, alongside the River Roach. Eventually reaching a road, they debated which way they should go. Out of the dark came an old woman carrying a lantern who offered to guide them when they asked the way to Whittle or Bowlee. Healey, in Bamford's opinion unwisely, was asking her questions when she accused them of being excisemen and promptly hid the lamp and disappeared into the dark, at which point Healey fell through the hedge and into a brook. Bamford managed to drag him out whilst Healey was exclaiming that she must have been a witch!

Stumbling along they eventually saw a distant light, and heard the sounds of revelry. Reaching the door they entered and conversation ceased. There were two rooms, each with several men in them, none very welcoming. When Healey and Bamford called for a drink, it was the old woman who had abandoned them who appeared and, on seeing them, screamed that they

were excisemen! They were only saved by the appearance from the other room of a man, 'Poacher', who knew them and could vouch for them. Peace didn't last long as the card-players in the other room quarrelled leading to a vicious fight behind the house, lit by "*candles, pitch-rope and bog-pine.*" It became a fight to the death as one man was thrown "*with his neck doubled under, [and] rolled over and lay without breath or motion, black in the face, and with blood oozing from his ears and nostrils.*" Then came the call for the 'Doctor'. Healey examined him and pronounced him dead. He was carried into the house and laid on a table where he began to breathe again after Healey had opened a vein. Healey then assured the other man (Poacher) that "*he would come round in a short time; he had only been a little 'stunished' which had brought on a fainting fit, and he would soon be better.*" Healey revelled in his triumph, drinking to "*the company all round, not omitting the wounded man, who remained motionless and prostrate. Some of them said his neck was awry...*" Healey again examined him, bracing his neck with two sticks, after which, his comrades took him home on their shoulders. Guided by Poacher, Bamford and Healey returned home to Middleton.

In the months that followed there were numerous secret meetings and plots, including those in Blackley, Middleton, Chadderton, Failsworth and Manchester.

Healey had, against Bamford's advice attended some of the meetings and later, realising his folly when some reformers were arrested, asked Bamford for advice which when given was to hide out with his brother in Bolton. Bamford offered to keep him company as far as Agecroft. They didn't want to be seen leaving together and arranged to meet at Rhodes. However, as Bamford set out, he was seen by the deputy constable, Joseph Scott, who arrested him. They were quickly joined by Mr. Nadin (deputy constable of Manchester) and a number of armed police officers. Handcuffed, Bamford was taken by coach to the Red Rose, at Chadderton, where they hoped to arrest the landlord for allowing a meeting to be held on his premises.

Travelling on, via Hollinwood, they eventually arrived at the New Bailey prison in Salford where Bamford was charged on suspicion of high treason and placed in a cell. Looking through the iron bars of his window he saw Healey being brought in, "*... with his hands resting upon his hips, his legs extended to a straddle, and an air of authority... I am a reformer, and such will I live and die. My name is Dr. Healey, and I will never flinch, so help me God!*"

The next day, on the 30th March, the eight prisoners who had been rounded up, were split into two groups, in leg-irons, for the journey, by coach to London. Healey recounted his story of what happened after he parted from Bamford. He hadn't set off for Rhodes immediately but had stopped at home to collect some clothes, some of his medical instruments and a dictionary with which he hoped to raise money. He was diverted when trying to sell his book, then stopped to "*draw a tooth*" but, by then the constable had caught up with him and he was arrested. En route to the New Bailey, his captors stopped at the Royal Oak, Bowlee, where they and the doctor enjoyed numerous drinks which were paid for by the doctor's well-wishers and a farmer bought his dictionary. "*An hour or two were passed in jocular entertainment, the doctor spouted and sung for them as was his wont, and a verse of a fine old song, on a genial subject, made his captors almost as jovial as himself.*" Leaving Bowlee, their next stop was in Old Millgate, where they all dined, "*and the doctor again went through his performances, to the great amusement of a room full of country and townspeople...*" and from there he was sent on to the New Bailey.

As the two coaches travelled towards London, they became known as 'The Manchester Rebels'. Stopping at Disley, for breakfast, they ate so well that Healey said, "*If that was being a state prisoner, he wished he had been one five years before.*" They continued their journey through the night and, when they stopped for a break, just before entering London, the eight men had the opportunity to speak privately and Bamford realised that they were afraid of each other, and that one or more would give up the others. Bamford encouraged them all to unite and agree to, "*say as little as possible when examined by the Secretary of State; and at length*

*they all agreed to say that the meetings they had attended were those to raise subscriptions for the families of prisoners..."*

On arrival in London, as Lord Sidmouth couldn't see them that day, they were to stay in a public house called the Brown Bear. After supper, Healey again entertained the prisoners, and the eight or ten police officers, with recitations until it came time for bed and they were chained together in groups, Bamford, Healey and Lancashire together. *"We continued our amusements during an hour or two, and then went to rest on beds in the same room, still secured by chains to the bedposts, and to each other."*

The following day the prisoners were interviewed separately, at the Home Office, after which all said they had stuck to the agreed story. Afterwards, they were taken to the prison at Coldbath Fields. Two of their group (Ridings and O'Connor) were put into the prison hospital. the remaining six were placed in a single cell with a fire, chairs and table, six beds, candles and other necessary things. Again, their time alone was spent in singing and chatting about families and friends.

On the 16th of April, the prisoners were informed that, although not charged, they would be remanded in separate jails, Healey being sent to Dorchester. Bamford was to be interviewed again. A week later he was to be examined at the Home Office for the fourth time only to be told that the expected evidence against him hadn't arrived so he would be remanded for another week. On the 29th he was informed that he would be released without charge after agreeing to certain conditions, and eventually arrived home on the 2nd of May.,

In January 1818, the Habeas Corpus Act was restored. Healey and the State prisoners that hadn't been convicted, had been released. Healey was described as, *"an altered man; instead of being flattish in front, and somewhat gaunt looking, he came home plump and round, and genteely dressed, with one or two large boxes, a rather heavy purse and his finger bedizened by a broad gold band, which he said he had received for an 'extraordinary operation on the teeth of a great lady of Devonshire."*

Bamford found out, to his dismay, that one of his fellow-prisoners had been spreading a rumour that Bamford was a government spy and gained his own freedom by betraying another. Sadly, he discovered that Healey was inclined to believe the rumours and was keeping his distance. However, he contracted typhus and, believing that he would die, sent for Bamford. His wife, with Bamford's assistance, placed him in a large tub and filled it with the hottest possible water. Afterwards, Bamford *"... lifted him out, rubbed him with a cloth till his skin burned, and then put him to bed... and from that time he began to get better."*

Through 1818 agitation for reform of parliament was renewed with even greater energy and, as 1819 came round Bamford was active in Middleton. Manchester reformers resolved to follow the lead of Birmingham and hold a massive reform meeting. It would be held on St. Peter's Field on the 9th of August but, when the object of the meeting was declared illegal, the wording was modified and the date was changed to the 16th of August. The organisers were determined that it would be peaceful, within the law, without violence and prove to the authorities and government that the working people were responsible men and not a disorganised, violent rabble. Bamford would be leading the Middleton contingent and Healey was at the head of the Saddleworth contingent, with their black flag with, 'Equal Representation or Death,' 'Unite and be Free' in bold white letters, and the clasped hands of love.

However, as is so well known, the meeting never got started properly as 'Orator' Hunt and the other organisers, journalists and prominent reformers on the hustings were arrested in the first few minutes and the thousands of people at the meeting were mown down by the Manchester Yeomanry and vilified as rioters.

A few days after the meeting Healey was arrested and Bamford, learning of this, expected his own arrest to be imminent. In the early hours of the 26th August, came the banging on his door

as the constables, backed up by armed soldiers, carried out his arrest. He was sent by coach, to Salford, where he was charged with High Treason. The following day, Bamford's wife, along with Healey's visited the two men in prison. In the court, the charges of High Treason were dropped and replaced with that of Conspiracy. *"From the bar I was conducted to the yard of my former cell, where I was joined by several of the other prisoners, and we were taking what should have been our dinners, when an order suddenly came that we were to prepare to set off for Lancaster Castle. Our meal was soon despatched, and we quickly bundled up our few things. We were then taken to the turnkey's lodge, and each hand-chained, after which we were placed on a four-horse coach, in the inside of which were Mr. Hunt, Mr. Knight, Saxton, and Nadin. The outside party consisted of myself, Swift, Wilde, Healey, and Jones, with a number of constables armed with pistols; we were also escorted by a strong detachment of hussars, and thus, amid the huzzas of an immense multitude, we drove off."*

Changing horses at Bolton, the coach carried on through the darkness but, *"the coachman, who knew not the way, drove upon a piece of new road, and, endeavouring to extricate himself, the coach began to heel on one side, and we should have gone over constables, prisoners, and all had not the pole broken, on which the horses were steadied, and we dismounted, and being most carefully looked to by the constables and soldiers, we walked down to the village of Lower Darwen, and were all snugly counted into a public house there."* Once the pole was repaired, the journey continued, via Blackburn, Preston (where they had supper), through the night until in the early morning they reached Lancaster Castle (the prison). In their prison accommodation, *"... without any admixture with other prisoners, [we] were consequently at liberty to converse freely amongst ourselves. There were a good kettle and pan in the day-room, and good water in a pump in the yard; we sent into the town for other kitchen requisites, as plates, knives, forks, and such articles; also for bread and butter (until our prison allowance was given us), tea, coffee, and other grocery matters, and having a fire in the place, we soon contrived to make a good breakfast, and were quite merry over it. At dinner we fared no worse; we sent out for whatever we wanted, ales and liquors excepted; the prison allowance of vegetables and soup was in part used by us, and the remainder we gave to a felon, who was allowed to come in and clear our day-room and cells every morning. The day passed off pretty agreeably... Night came, and the rattle of keys informed us that we were about being introduced to our sleeping berths."* The following morning Hunt and Knight were bailed, *"We were all now that Hunt and Knight were gone young men and full of life and spirits. We chatted, sung, told stories, had hopping and leaping matches, and walked in the yard; we sometimes also wrote letters, and when one arrived from a wife or a friend the lucky wight would retire aside and read it by snatches and morsels, lest it should be too soon done; newspapers were also permitted to pass, and we received one or more daily."* The days passed but, *"at length the day came when we were to appear before the court, to plead to the indictments found against us. The turnkeys conducted us through the round-house, through another yard, through a part of the great tower and into a long room at the back, which at this time was lighted by a lamp or two, casting a pale but distinct gleam through the place... This room, I should inform my reader, was, as I afterwards learned, termed 'the sweating-room'; it was the room in which prisoners waited until called for trial, and to which they were, in the first instance, conducted after trial; it was therefore indeed fitly named... The door from the interior opened... we were motioned to go forward. We descended some steps, and passed along a subterranean passage... and our guide motioning us to advance, we mounted the steps, and found ourselves in an oblong box or compartment, mounted by iron spikes, in a large crowded place, lighted by numerous lamps and chandeliers, and with hundreds of eyes gazing upon us..."*

*"Mr. Littledale, who on this occasion acted for the Government, requested that the indictment might be read, and was accordingly read by the clerk of the arraigns. It stated that the*

*prisoners, being persons of a wicked and turbulent disposition, did on the first day of July, conspire and agree together to excite tumult and disturbance : and that they did, on the 16th day of August, unlawfully, maliciously, and seditiously, assemble together, and cause others to assemble, to the number of sixty thousand, in a formidable and menacing manner, with sticks, clubs, and other offensive weapons; with banners, flags, colours, and placards, having divers seditious and inflammatory inscriptions, and in martial array; and did on the said 16th of August, make great tumult, riot, and disturbance; and for half an hour unlawfully and riotously did continue assembled, making great tumult and disturbance, contrary to the peace of our Sovereign Lord, the King, &c., &c. Each of us pleaded 'Not Guilty' "*

*"On Tuesday, the 17th of September, we were again brought up to put in bail... and the conditions were that we should severally appear on the first day of next session of Oyer and Terminer, to answer the indictment which had been read."* The men returned by coach to Manchester passing through towns and villages with folk cheering them and waving banners. The months passed, until the time came for them to set off for trial at the York Assizes. Henry Hunt, Joseph Johnson, John Knight, James Moorhouse, John Thacker Saxton, Robert Jones, Robert Wilde, Joseph Healey, Samuel Bamford and George Swift all presented themselves at court on the 16th March, in the spring of 1820. The court was packed with spectators. Healey, Hunt and Bamford, amongst others, conducted their own defence. With hindsight, they were never going to be found not guilty, no matter how scanty or corrupt the evidence was. The trial dragged on as each of those defending themselves had the opportunity to state their case and then it came to the time for Healey to make his statement.

*"Healey had for a day or two appeared to be labouring under a cold with hoarseness. He sat opposite the judge, with a handkerchief thrown over his head, the corners drooping on his shoulders, exactly as the flaps of his lordship's wig drooped on his. He frequently looked up towards the glass dome above him, as if a stream of air came from thence and he was affected by it; but he did not attempt to move to another seat, which he probably would have done, had he experienced illness from that cause. Whether this was the case or not, it is a fact that he had a speech to read which had been written by a friend at Lees, and he could not read it. He then had a cold, became hoarse, and the clerk of the court read the speech for him. This official was a well-fed, red-faced, snubnosed personage, with spectacles on his nose, and a wig of legal cut on his head. He held the document at a considerable altitude, as if he were looking over his spectacles instead of through them, and he read the speech in a monotonous, half-speaking, half-singing tone, much as a school-boy, some twenty years ago would have droned out his lesson. The doctor stood at his elbow, his looks evincing surprise and disappointment, that his document should have fallen into such incapable hands; next he became impatient, as was manifest by his varying gesticulations, by which he meant to supply the want of modulation and emphasis in the reader."*

Eventually, the 10 days of the trial came to an end with Moorhouse, Jones, Wilde, Swift, and Saxton being found 'not guilty'. Henry Hunt, Joseph Johnson, John Knight, Joseph Healey, and Samuel Bamford, were found guilty, but released on bail, of *"assembling with unlawful banners, an unlawful assembly, for the purpose of moving and inciting the liege subjects of our sovereign lord the king to contempt and hatred of the government and constitution of the realm, as by law established, and attending at the same."*

Returning home, the next stage, for the men on bail, would be sentencing, in London, to which they had to make their own way. *"Healey and Johnson arrived in London, and on the 27th of April we all made our appearance in the Court of King's Bench."* Hunt tried to have the York verdict overturned or a re-trial but it was denied and a new date for 13th May was set at which the defendants would be able to make a statement in mitigation. *"When Healey's turn came, he produced a speech ready written by his friend at Lees. It was all to no use, however the doctor*

could not make out the polysyllabic words without spelling, and I, who stood behind him, had to look over his shoulder and read for him, whilst my cheeks burned, and my ears tingled with mortification, amid the suppressed titters of the gentlemen of the long robe and the spectators. When he was fast, and I was not attentive, he would look over his shoulder supplicatingly, and say in an undertone, 'Prompt, Bamford! prompt,' and then I set him going again. At last this was beyond endurance, and I said, 'Throw that confounded paper down, man, and speak offhand.' He accordingly wrapped the paper up, and went on very fluently, arguing that the inscription, 'Universal Suffrage or Death,' which was on the black banner from Lees, was only meant as the expression of an opinion, and was not a demand, with death as the alternative. 'Suppose,' he said, 'that one of your lordships had a bad leg.' The gentlemen of the long robe looked aghast, wondering what would come next; for it was well known that Justice Best, who was on the bench, had two of the worst legs in England. 'Suppose,' said our imperturbable friend, 'hat one of your lordships had a bad leg, and I, amongst other medical and surgical gentlemen, was called in. Well, we hold a consultation, and we pronounce it to be a bad case, a case of gangrene, my lords; and my opinion as to the mode of treatment is asked, my lords. I say, amputation or death! my lords, amputation or death!' And so he went on to argue that bribery and corruption having produced a political gangrene in the State, there must be amputation of the corrupting influence, or political death would ensue. Hunt sat on a low seat behind Healey, and when this scene was passing I, half-diverted, half-ashamed, looked down at him, and saw him nearly suffocated with his efforts to refrain from laughing outright."

It was all to no avail, "Taking all the circumstances of the case into consideration, and giving the defendants the benefit of such mitigatory suggestions as had been urged, the sentence was - That Henry Hunt be imprisoned in his Majesty's gaol at Ilchester, in and for the county of Somerset, for the term of two years and six months, and at the end of that time to enter into security for his good behaviour for five years, himself in £1,000, and two sureties in £500 each; and that the other defendants, Healey, Johnson, and Bamford, be severally imprisoned in His Majesty's gaol of Lincoln for one year, and that they do severally enter into securities for their good behaviour for five years, themselves in £200, and two sureties in £100 each."

On arrival at Lincoln jail, "our governor showed us the apartments we were to occupy. We mounted two heights of stone steps, and our rooms were the first two on the right hand. Our day-room was a very good apartment, with fireplace, table, chairs, and every requisite; lofty overhead, a smooth floor of hardened mortar or composition, and a sash window, with a strong grating of iron before it. Our bedroom was the next to it, and of the same dimensions. In it were two good clean beds, a table, some chairs, and, I think, a cupboard or two, for clothes or other articles. The rooms were remarkably clean, airy, and agreeable, and we expressed more than satisfaction, thankfulness, for the indulgent feeling which had assigned us such comfortable quarters."

We can read in Bamford, very detailed descriptions of life in the jail where money could legitimately purchase all the extra comforts needed, including a measure of ale (but not spirits). Bamford remarks that "... there was little distinction betwixt us and the debtors." Sadly, the three erstwhile friends began to have strong disagreements about money, where it was coming from and what each share should be. Bamford writes, "After I was sentenced a number of my friends at Middleton bestirred themselves, and besides making a present collection, they put down their names for a regular monthly contribution so long as I remained in prison, and thenceforward I received from them one pound per month. Without this aid I should have been sadly put to my wits as to the means of living... Healey complained that he had not the means for supporting himself and paying for his room and bed, and on making a representation to that effect to the governor, a room above was assigned him with a bed, free of any charge, together with the county allowance to prisoners, consisting of three loaves a week, one pound of

*butcher's meat, and a quantity of coals."*

He goes on to write that when Johnson was ill and his wife came for a visit, he offered to share Healey's room to give the Johnsons more privacy, and Bamford writes, "*I was in the habit of receiving a considerable number of letters, newspapers, and pamphlets perhaps four or five where Healey received one. Letters of a general nature I read to him, those of a private nature I of course did not. Letters containing money for myself I sometimes read to him, and sometimes did not, as I judged most proper; those with money for both of us were open to both, and when I divided the money I always took his receipt for it, giving him mine when he had to pay. The circumstance of so many letters coming to me I soon found excited envy and jealousy in his breast. He suspected that I did not disclose to him all the letters that contained money on our joint account. This was, perhaps, his most weak point, and it was not long ere I discovered that an influence was at work with him which at length entirely put a stop to all confidence and friendly feeling betwixt us, and rendered me during the remainder of my imprisonment a stranger to the society of my two fellow prisoners."*

There were more altercations between the two men and their mutual animosity came to a head when Healey tried to hit Bamford, unsuccessfully, with a poker.

In May, 1821, the three men were granted their freedom and went their separate ways.

Robert was able to tell us that, on their return, Bamford and Healey were both guests at dinners given in their honour. However, Healey then almost disappears from our view apart from a newspaper report in March 1822, under the heading, 'Ilchester Gaol' when he petitions the House, "*to address his Majesty to remit the remaining part of Mr. Hunt's sentence. The petitioner was one of those who had been arrested at the same time with Mr. Hunt.*" It was met with a favourable response. There were a couple of letters in the newspapers in 1826 and 1827. Finally, there was a newspaper notice, of his death, in March 1830, in Oldham. (image in the Gallery).

Our many thanks to Robert for such an enjoyable afternoon.

The chat box was filled with appreciative comments, for an entertaining and informative talk, which were certainly well deserved.

**Online Parish Clerk**, Lancashire has the following information:

**Burial:** 28 Feb 1830; St Leonard, Middleton, Lancashire, England

Joseph Healey - Age: 50 yrs.; Abode: Oldham; Occupation: Surgeon.

Buried by: George Cole Curate

Register: Burials 1829 - 1837 from the Bishop's Transcripts, Page 13, Entry 99

Source: LDS Film 1545701 and 1545702

As usual, after a talk that really grabs my interest I go looking for more and, If you want to know more, as well, you can try out these links and see where they take you!

\* Samuel Bamford, '*Early Days*' (pub. 1849) and '*Passages in the Life of a Radical*' (first pub. in parts between 1839 and 1841)

Download 1893 publication, with introduction, from the Internet Archive [HERE](#)

\* *The Autobiography of Samuel Bamford Volume 1: 'Early Days'* together with '*An Account of the Arrest of Samuel Bamford*'. Pub. 1967

... Read (online only), as .pdf (published 1967) from the Internet Archive [HERE](#)

... Reference copy, at Oldham Local Studies and Archives, Ref. L16155

... Reference copy and a copy to borrow, at Salford Museum/Library, Ref. L920 BAM

\* Oldham Historical Research ... Peterloo Project [HERE](#)

\* Oldham Historical Research ... Peterloo Maps [HERE](#)

\* '*An Account of the Arrest of Samuel Bamford*', 1817, by himself.

Download from google books, [HERE](#)

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**Oldham & District Branch, September Meeting**



Saturday  
9th Sep.  
at  
2 pm



***The Art and Mystery of Chimney Sweeping***

An illustrated presentation given by Claire Moores

*Children were widely used as chimney sweeps in England for about 200 years and the lives of these children who were forced to climb chimneys were the stuff of nightmares.*

A library-only meeting in the Performance Space at Oldham Library.

No booking is necessary

Members free; non-members £3

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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 - September**

MLFHS, ANGLO-SCOTTISH BRANCH MEETING	Saturday, 2nd September at 2pm	Social Event 'Mining in Canada' and 'Brick Walls & Heirlooms'
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In Manchester Central Library

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

MLFHS Members free; non members £3

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**Bolton ... September hybrid meeting**

|                                                |                                                |                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MLFHS<br>Bolton Branch<br>Meetings -<br>Hybrid | Wednesday<br>6th<br>September<br>at<br>7:30 pm | 'How my Grandfather,<br>pro-cricketer,<br>came to Bolton via<br>Scotland and Darwen'<br>given by<br>Dougie Tobutt |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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... September**

MLFHS aka Manchester Ancestors	Saturday, 23rd September at 10:30 am	Deep-Dive your Family History Research and keep on-track with a Timeline with Barry Henshall and Hilary Hartigan
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In Manchester Central library

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.

\* New data has been added at [www.lancashirebmd.org.uk](http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk) as follows:  
Added 8,201 Births for Bury RD comprising: Bury (1982-1987)  
Added 4,009 Deaths for Bury RD comprising: Bury (1971-1975)  
Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

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\* I have added a further 1,467 names taken from 340 memorials in the churchyard of St. Andrew, Blackley. These were originally transcribed in 1982-5 by pupils of Crab Lane Primary School, Blackley. The manuscript/typescript copy was donated to MLFHS by Margaret Sloand and was transcribed for online publication by Susan Fielding.

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\* I have added a further 326 records to the Great Database. These consist of a transcript the register entries for burials 1808-1972 with images of the register 1808-1899 and 1941-1958.

Thanks are due to Cheyenne Bower for these latest additions.

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\* New data has been added at [www.lancashirebmd.org.uk](http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk) as follows:

Added 3,232 Marriages for Bury RD

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

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\* One of our most recently started projects is to index the staff record cards of the Horwich Locomotive Works. This is a large undertaking with seven boxes of index cards to scan and index, so it will continue at least to the end of 2023.

I am pleased to announce that the first 1,322 records have been added to the Great Database. These relate to employees surnames ABBOTT to BWYE (no not a typo!). Further additions will appear in roughly alphabetical order, so sorry to those with ZUILL ancestors who worked there. The results are linked to scans of the card and generally provide, in addition to names, date of birth and/or age on joining, nature and department of employment, career progression and date of leaving, with reason.

Thanks are due to Jim Chadwick for scanning this collection and to his team for compiling the index.

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\* I have just added 290 references from the maps for Preswich 1915, Higher Blackley 1906 and Heaton Park 1907. Thanks are due to James Fieldhouse and Lynne Wilkinson for these latest additions which begin to close the gap between Manchester/Salford and Bolton/Bury.

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\* I have just added 5,410 BMD announcements from Manchester Courier for 1847 to the Great Database. Thanks to Linda Bailey, Laura Lewis, Chris Norcross and Chris Hall for this latest substantial batch which brings the total number of newspaper index entries to 65,320.

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\* Another 720 records have been added for staff employed at Horwich Loco Works. These latest cover surnames COATES to DODD.

Thanks again to Jim Chadwick and his team for these.

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\* I have added 1,528 baptisms carried out at chapels on the Bolton Wesleyan Methodist preaching circuit 1782-1815. These have been transcribed by our Bolton Branch.

Thanks are due to Graham Holt.

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\* As always, if you have one of the maps which has not yet been indexed (still white on the master map at <https://mlfhs.uk/?view=article&id=346&catid=9> ) and would be prepared to create an index, I'll be happy to hear from you.

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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 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... Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

***Clem Beckett - Motorcycle Legend & War Hero with a strong Saddleworth Connection***

An Illustrated Presentation by Rob. Hargreaves

at the Saddleworth Museum Gallery, High Street, Uppermill.

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.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

A Guided Walk at 7.00pm to 9.00pm led by Neil Barrow on the '*DELPH HISTORY & HERITAGE TRAIL*'.

Meet Neil at the Millgate Car Park opposite the theatre and the circular distance is just over a mile, all on good level surfaces with a few short gradients. Wear boots or sensible footwear. Children with adults welcome but no dogs, please.

Non-Society members welcome as well as members. A charge of £3 on the evening. Advance booking not required. Further information on 07779 301632 (Neil).

Website [HERE](#)

**Saddleworth Civic Trust** has no meeting or event planned at the present time.

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

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**Library Events & Gallery talks at Gallery Oldham; [HERE](#)**

on [Eventbrite](#) and [Instagram](#)

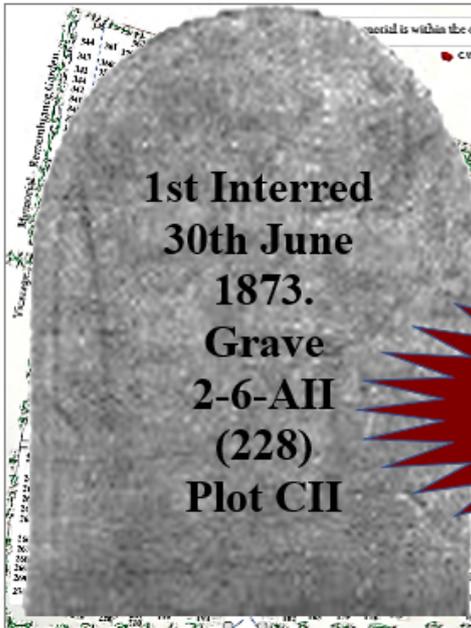
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**Family History Society of Cheshire : Tameside Group meeting.**

See their website [HERE](#)  
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Moorside & District Historical Society... Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September, during Oldham Histories Festival.

**Moorside & District Historical Society**  
**Heritage Open Day**  
**Saturday 9th September 2023.**  
**Then & Now**  
**"150th Anniversary"**  
**of St Thomas' Churchyard graveyard**  
plus a tour of the graveyard, weather permitting. 11-00a.m. & 1 p.m.





**NO Meetings July & August'**  
Summer break.  
Back 9th September'  
**HERITAGE OPEN**

**To be held in Moorside St Thomas' Church, OL1 4SJ**  
10-30 a.m. to 2-30 p.m. all are welcome. **Call in for a chat etc.**  
No meetings in the summer break July & August + December. Including refreshment.

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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 :**

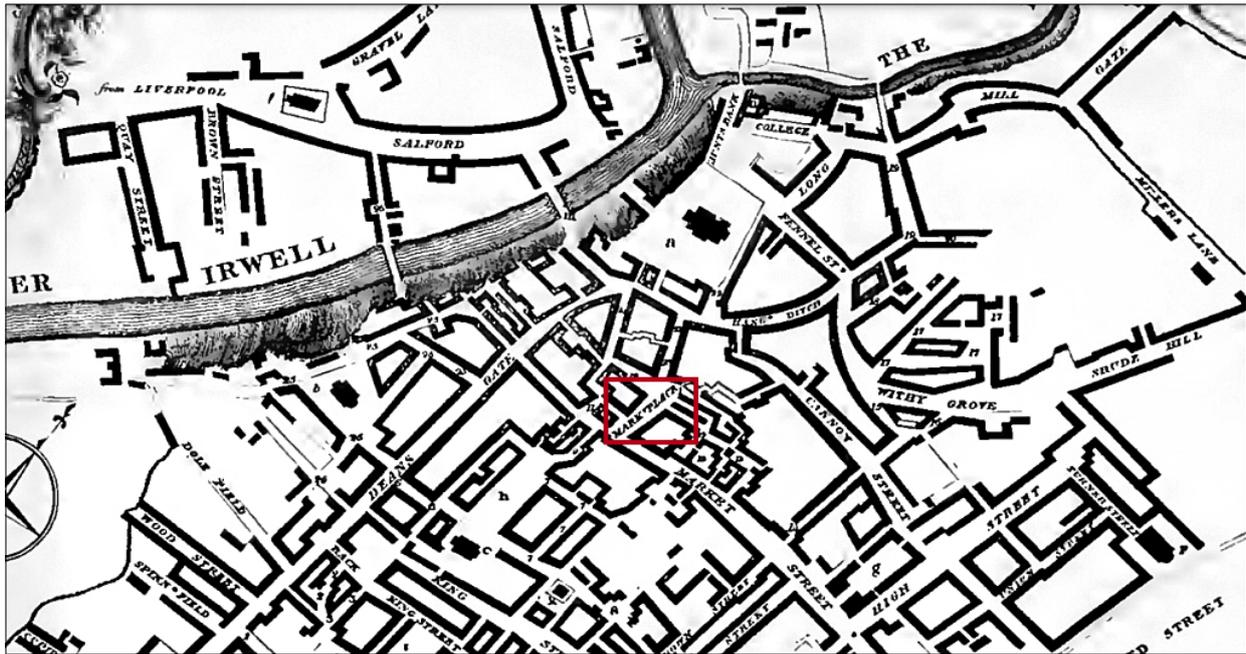
Website [HERE](#)

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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 are again taking our pages from the **1st Series** (volume 1) published in 1906, and reading about Mosley Street.

**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



### **MOSLEY STREET MEMORIALS PART I - THE MOSLEY FAMILY**

In one of my earlier articles I referred to the Mosley family who for so many years owned the manorial rights of the town. As we are now recording the history of the street bearing their name, we may briefly trace their descent, showing how intimately they were associated with the town. Much of the land around Mosley-street belonged to them, and to them we are indebted for the open space known as the infirmary flags. Descended from a Staffordshire family, we know that Jenkyn Moseley resided at Hough End, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, in 1465, and that through his wife one of the quarters of the Mosley coat of arms was added. His grandson Edward died in 1571 leaving four sons. Oswald, the eldest, died at Garratt Hall, and his property descended to the second son Samuel, who sold it and went to Ireland.

The two younger sons, Nicholas and Anthony, entered into the woollen trade, then the staple industry of Manchester, and were exceedingly prosperous, carrying their goods across the Caspian Sea, and throughout Turkey. Nicholas settled in London, whilst Anthony managed their affairs in Manchester. In 1599 Nicholas became Lord Mayor of London, and took such active steps in the defence of London against the second attempted invasion by the Spaniards that he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth. In 1596 he

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purchased for £3,500 the manorial rights of Manchester, and appears to have returned to Manchester soon afterwards. In 1604 he was appointed High Sheriff of Lancashire, and died in 1612, a monument in Didsbury Church representing him in his civic robes. The spelling of the name had been changed to Mosley, ere his eldest son succeeded to the estate.

#### **ANCIENT COLLYHURST.**

In those days Collyhurst was a forest, 50 acres in extent, to which the burgesses of the town were wont to send their swine for pasture upon fallen mast. Under the charge of the swineherd the porkers were conducted by way of Ashley Lane to the feeding ground. The payment made was 6d. per annum for each animal, the swineherd receiving 2d. and the lord of the manor 4d. Before his death Nicholas Mosley commenced enclosing and cultivating portions of the

woodlands. The burgesses resisted this, and a lawsuit ensued, during the hearing of which the father died, leaving matters to be settled by his son Rowland. In the end the Mosleys were allowed to enclose all but six acres upon which were built cabins for the reception of persons infected by the plague, those who succumbed being also buried there.

After the death of Sir Nicholas the succession was broken, his youngest son eventually taking possession. He purchased the Rolleston estate about 1614, and, dying in 1638, was succeeded by his nephew Edward, the son of Anthony Moseley previously mentioned. During the civil wars Sir Edward espoused the cause of

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the King, supplying, it is said, £20,000 to the royal cause. After the wars his estates were sequestrated, but he resumed possession on the payment of £4,874. He died in 1657, being succeeded by his son Edward who, dying young the estates came into the possession of the Mosleys, of Ancoats. The Ancoats mansion and estate had been purchased by Anthony Mosley from Sir John Byron, from whom the poet Lord Byron was descended. Anthony Mosley died leaving five sons, the eldest of whom, Oswald Mosley, of Ancoats, acted as steward of the Court Leet from 1613 to 1630, when he died at the age of 47. His eldest son, Nicholas, like his cousin Nicholas, was an adherent of the Stuart cause, and was compelled to pay heavy fines to the Parliament for his delinquency.

### **RESTORATION REJOICINGS AT ANCOATS HALL**

Nicholas was still squire of Ancoats, when, at the close of the Commonwealth period, Charles II was welcomed to the throne. There were great rejoicings on April 23, 1661, when Captain Mosley mustered 220 men, some of them being survivors of a troop he had raised for the executed King. They carried their own arms, wore rich scarves, and were preceded by 40 young boys, about seven years of age, clothed in white stuff, had plumes of feathers in their hats, with small swords hanging in black belts and with short pikes shouldered. After Captain Mosley's company were a number of older boys, with muskets and pikes.

Arranged in this manner in front of the old black and white hall that stood on the site of the present hall,

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and duly reviewed by their captain, amidst the cheers of the villagers, the party headed by drums and banners marched to Manchester, when they were met by Major Byrom with a similar retinue. After attending the Collegiate Church, where Warden Richard Heyrick preached, they joined in a grand procession which included the boroughreeve and constables, leading burgesses, and the warden and fellows of the Collegiate Church. Preceded by the "Town-musick playing upon loud instruments" they marched through the streets to the Cross, and so forwards to the conduit, from which ran three streams of claret. The cross together with the stocks and pillory stood in the Market Place opposite to the Shambles, and the conduit which was the principal water supply of the town stood close by but nearer to the Market Stead Lane end of the Market Place. There the health of the King was drunk with much cheering, after which the gentlemen and officers dined together. The soldiers visited the houses of some of the leading burgesses, bells were rung, and at night fireworks were discharged and bonfires lighted. When, on May 1, Captain Mosley heard of the tidings of London's celebration, he again led his men into a field, made them a learned speech, drank the King's health, and led them in procession to the Market Place where further rejoicing took place. Nicholas Mosley, who was a man of broad views and extended his friendship to several of the ministers ejected for nonconformity, died in 1672. His younger brother Edward held the Hulme estate, and on his death was succeeded by his daughter Ann, who married Sir John

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Bland. When she died the estates together with the manorial rights passed to Sir Oswald Mosley, grandson of Nicholas Mosley.

**THE YOUNG PRETENDER AT ANCOATS**

Sir Oswald held strong Jacobite views, and the story is told that in 1744 he entertained at Ancoats Hall Charles Edward Stuart, the young pretender. The evidence in support of the statement is far from satisfactory, being based solely upon the identification by a servant of the Prince when he was here in 1745 with a guest who had stayed at the hall. Sir Oswald was, however, resident at the time at Rolleston, where he died in 1751. Thirty years later the then Lord of the Manor, John Parker Mosley, took up his residence at Ancoats; and the old hall was the scene of great rejoicing when on March 24, 1782, his eldest son, Oswald, attained his majority. At a great ball that was given 400 guests were present. The scene was a brilliant one, many notable persons being there. This was one of the last incidents in the history of the old building, for soon afterwards it was sold to George Murray, who pulled it down and erected the present hall on its site.

Sir John died in 1798, and was succeeded by his grandson, Oswald, who was born in 1785. In 1807 he entered Parliament as member for Portarlington, and in 1816 he was returned for Midhurst. After the passing of the Reform Bill he sat for North Staffordshire from 1832 to 1837, but never made a name as a Parliamentarian. Soon afterwards negotiations were opened between his representatives and the Manchester

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Corporation respecting the manorial rights owned by him, and on December 3, 1844, an interview was held at which certain preliminaries were arranged. In the end the representatives of the city agreed to pay £200,000, and on March 12, 1845, the agreement was finally concluded at Rolleston Castle. Although never actively associated with any movement in the borough from whence he drew so large a portion of his income, Sir Oswald recognised his responsibilities to the district where he lived, and did much to encourage studious habits amongst the young people of Rolleston. For 50 years he conducted a class in the Sunday School there, and was generous in his private and public benevolences. He died on May 25, 1871, and was succeeded by his second son Tonman. The Mosleys, as will be seen, were intimately associated with Manchester for many generations, and their name is perpetuated by the street name. We should at the same time remember that it is to the Mosleys that we are indebted for the infirmary esplanade, inasmuch as when that institution was built Sir Oswald gave the land conditional that it remained open for public use for ever.

**p.187****PART II - A RURAL HAMLET**

To one intimately acquainted with the traffic of Mosley-street it is difficult to associate the idea of rural peacefulness with any part of it; but in the days when the Court Leet ruled in the town such was the case. Where York-street now crosses there once stood a fold consisting of a few cottages surrounded by fields and approached from Market Stead Lane by a narrow lane. In the Court Leet records for 1586 there is a reference to this lane which, in all probability, is represented to-day by West Mosley-street. The Labreys, who gave the name to the hamlet, are supposed to have been Flemish Huguenots, who fled from religious persecution. The name appears on several occasions in the Collegiate Church registers, and around the last of such entries there lingers a pathetic interest, as we read that in 1598 Mr. and Mrs. Labrey fell victims to fever on successive days. What were the later incidents relative to Labrey's Fold we know not, nor do we know when its formation commenced. It does not appear in the map issued in 1751, but forty years later it was a fashionable residential street; and before the close of the

century several interesting buildings had been erected in it.

### **MOSLEY-STREET IN 1793.**

We can form some idea of the appearance of the street in 1793 by making an examination of Laurent's plan, issued in that year. Although many houses

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had been erected there were still unoccupied spaces. One of these was at the corner of York-street, another at the corner of the present Nicholas-street, whilst across a third, near to St. Peter's Church, was a footpath leading into Dickinson-street. St. Peter's Square was entirely unbuilt upon; and from there to Nicholas-street the street was known as Dawson-street. Behind Dawson-street, in the direction of Deansgate, open fields extended as far as Longworth's Folly, the name given to several houses that stood near to where the Memorial Hall stands; and in one of the fields near Princess-street was a pond. Dr. Dalton, speaking of the street as it then appeared, said that it was "the most elegant and retired street in the town." Its public buildings included the Unitarian and Independent Chapels, the Manchester Academy, and the Assembly Rooms.

### **THE MANCHESTER ACADEMY**

In 1757 an educational institution known as the Warrington Academy was founded in that town, but after a career extending over a quarter of a century it was dissolved. Soon afterwards a number of gentlemen decided to commence a school in Manchester based upon the same liberal plan. Land was purchased on the western side of Mosley-street, and between Bond (Princess) street and St. Peter's Square; and on it was erected a pile of buildings that stood until 1866. They stood a little distance from the street, and were enclosed by palisades. The first principal was Dr. Barnes, minister of Cross-street Chapel, and in 1793 Dr. Dalton was appointed Professor of Mathematics

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and Natural Philosophy, and Lewis Loyd, afterwards a member of the well known banking firm of Jones, Loyd, and Co., lectured on literature or Belle Lettres, as it was then styled. The course of training was comprehensive and free from religious tests. One of the pupils, a Frenchman, afterwards became famous as Marshal Wortier, Duc de Treviso. He died on July 28, 1835, being one of the victims of the infernal machine levelled at Louis Philippe and his sons in the Boulevard du Temple; and another one, Samuel Hibbert, afterwards Dr. Hibbert Ware, is known as the writer of "The Foundations of Manchester." In 1803 the Academy was removed to York, and became the Manchester College. After several other changes it finally became settled at Oxford, where, as the Manchester New College, it is conducted on the liberal basis that marked its early days.

### **THE UNITARIAN CHAPEL**

The year 1788 was an important one in the annals of our thoroughfare, inasmuch as it marked the commencement of three religious institutions connected with it. We have noted the laying of the foundation stone of St. Peter's Church, we now refer to the erection of a Unitarian Chapel at the corner of Marble-street, on the site now occupied by Nicholl's tailoring establishment, and presently we shall chronicle the laying of the foundation of the Independent Chapel that stood at the lower corner of Charlotte-street. Before the date named Unitarianism was preached in the Cross-street Chapel only; but the holders of those views were not satisfied

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with some opinions expressed by the then ministers, the Rev. R. Harrison and Dr. Barnes. As a result they purchased land in Mosley-street, and in 1789 the new chapel was opened with the Rev. W. Hawkes as minister. Attached to the chapel was a Sunday School and a small

graveyard. The building was plain and unassuming in appearance, but its congregation included many learned and wealthy citizens. At least three of them entered Parliament, G. W. Wood for the county, E. Potter for Carlisle, and R.H. Greg for Manchester. There was also Dr. Henry and Dr. Ashton, John Kennedy, of Ardwick Hall; Henry Houldsworth, father of Sir W.H. Houldsworth, who also lived on the Green; Henry M'Connel and Peter Ewart, Leopold Reiss and Leo Schuster. In 1834 the chapel and school were sold for £10,000 to John M'Connell and the congregation removed to a new chapel built in Upper Brook-street from the designs of Sir Charles Barry. The Manchester and Salford Bank occupied the Mosley-street site for many years.

### **MOSLEY-STREET INDEPENDENT CHAPEL**

The third religious institution to which reference has been made was the Independent Chapel that formerly stood at the corner of Charlotte-street. Like the Unitarian Chapel, it originated in a secession from an older congregation, in this case from the Cannon-street Chapel. Built in 1788 and enlarged in 1819, it survived until 1848, when the Cavendish Chapel was built. In the course of sixty years five ministers conducted its services. Two of these were notable men, one, the

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Rev. R.S. M'All, LL.D., being one of the most eloquent preachers ever associated with the city, and the other, Dr. Halley, ranking high for his great intellectual powers. In the years when carriage people lived in and around Mosley-street, the former attracted crowded congregations to the chapel. Included amongst them were J.H. Heron, father of Manchester's first Town Clerk; J.S. Grafton, Richard Roberts, W.R. Callender, William Woodward, William Newall, the builder of Newall's Buildings; John Fildes, afterwards M.P. for Grimsby; James Lamb, the cabinet maker; John Cassell, the founder of the famous publishing firm, who started life as a carpenter; James Kershaw, afterwards M.P.; Joseph Thompson, father of the present Alderman, and the Rev. Joseph Whitworth, father of Sir Joseph Whitworth. From the Mosley-street pulpit sermons were delivered by many visitors, some of whose names are still cherished by members of the body. They included John Angell James, of Birmingham; Dr. Raffles, of Liverpool; Dr. Harris, of Cheshunt; Thomas Binney, of London; and Dr. Liefchild, of London. Dr. M'All often preached such long sermons that the deacons adopted various methods to limit them. One of these is worth noting. A gilded ball, which was released at twelve o'clock by a deacon, who sat below the pulpit was set swinging. As the ball swung backwards and forwards the preacher stretched over the front of the pulpit, stopped it, and proceeded with his sermon.

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### **AN EARLY HOTEL**

Still recurring to the year 1788, we find that on the twelfth of June William Shaw sold the stock, furniture, and fixtures of "the Hotel" that he had opened in Mosley-street. The reason which is assigned in the advertisement is curious reading to-day. After a few months' trial the venture was abandoned, the proprietor "finding from its distant situation that it is highly inconvenient" for such a purpose. Some of the items named are worth noting, giving us some idea of the stock laid in by an innkeeper in those days. There is mention of a puncheon of Holland's Geneva, a hogshead of Vin-de-Grieve, a butt of Sherry, 200 dozens of old bottled Port, forty dozens of old Hock, four dozens of Burgundy, forty dozens of Rhenish, five dozens of Champagne, four dozens Claret, thirty dozens of Perry, and twenty-nine barrels of Porter. Mr. Shaw also offered for sale the whole of the buildings erected by him, including coach-houses and stabling for twelve horses; and a plot of land. The experiment would appear to have been a most unfortunate one for Mr. Shaw, and it is to be regretted that we cannot locate the exact site of the hotel. Where the Royal Hotel stands was a private house with gardens attached, and across

Mosley-street was the pond stretching the full length of the Infirmary. Within the grounds of the latter were many flourishing trees; and in the kitchen gardens behind the building were grown many of the vegetables used by the patients and staff of the institution.

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### **PART III - THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS**

The population of the town a century ago was divided into two classes, the somebodies and the nobodies. The line of demarcation was most rigidly drawn, and the wives and daughters of the wealthy avoided contact with the majority of the population, except on such special occasions when they condescended to patronise them. The local home of the somebodies was the Assembly Rooms, which, with the billiard room, occupied a fine range of buildings opposite to the Portico. The rooms were opened on September 20, 1792, by a "most brilliant assembly." The membership was at first confined to the hundred subscribers who contributed £70 each towards the cost of erection. A brief description of this one time fashionable resort will be of interest. The entrance from Mosley-street was by a lofty and spacious vestibule leading to a wide staircase. The ballroom occupied the front part of the first floor. It was 87ft. long and 34ft. broad. The walls and ceiling were painted in compartments, the lighting was by 15 glass chandeliers, the seats around the room were upholstered in orange coloured satin, and the orchestra occupied a place over the front entrance. The tea room was 54ft. by 31ft., and the walls of the card room were covered with a rich Chinese paper. The rules that regulated the assemblies were elaborate in their detail. Gentlemen were to change partners every two dances,

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no couple were to leave a dance until it was concluded, no refreshments were allowed in the ball room, and negus only in the card-room. Instructions as to carriages and chairs were equally precise. Chairs were to set down and take up at the back door in Back Mosley-street, where there was a convenient room for the purpose. Gradually, as it became fashionable to live out of town, the attendances fell off, and ultimately the building was sold by auction. Connected with the Assembly Rooms was the Billiard Room. The entrance fee was five guineas and the annual subscription was two guineas. No inhabitant of the town except members were admitted, but strangers could be introduced. The charge for a game was threepence in the day and sixpence by candlelight. Betting was limited to half a crown; and no person could play at whist for more than one shilling the point, or bet more than half a guinea on the rubber. The room was opened in 1795, and the list of subscribers for 1796 includes the names of all the leading townsmen of the day. For half a century it was the resort of men of fortune and education, and in 1840 it numbered 85 subscribers, this being the limit. As members died or resigned, there was great competition for the vacancies so called. Soon after this there came a change, the number of members was gradually reduced, expenses were cut down, and ultimately silence reigned in the splendid room, until on December 13, 1850, the club was dissolved. Soon afterwards the buildings were sold by auction for £9,000, warehouses being erected on the site.

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### **THE ROYAL INSTITUTION**

The Royal Institution originated in a public meeting held in October, 1823, for the purpose of furthering the interests of literature, science, and art, and to obtain a means whereby the work of local artists might be brought before the public. At first the promoters intended purchasing premises in King-street, and having them remodelled internally. A committee was formed, and as a result of their recommendations a larger scheme was decided upon, and premises at the corner of Bond-street, occupied by Dr. William Henry and others, were secured. The architect of the building was Sir. Charles Barry, and the cost of the land and buildings was £26,000. As

about £32,000 had been subscribed a balance of £6,000 remained, which was spent in the purchase of works of art. For nearly sixty years the governors endeavoured to carry out the wishes of the founders, and from time to time lectures were delivered and art exhibitions held; in addition to a school of art, which met in some of the rooms. The hope that the profits accruing from the exhibitions would be sufficient to form a permanent representative collection of works of art was not realised. Therefore negotiations were opened with the Corporation, and in 1882 the building and its contents were transferred to the latter, conditional on £4,000 per annum for twenty years being provided from the rates for the purchase of the works of art, and that the Governors should nominate seven members of the Committee of Management. These conditions have been loyally observed, and in the permanent collection are a few

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pictures of first rank, and many other fine examples of lesser importance. Several other buildings should be noted. The Portico was opened in 1806, and for nearly a century has had a quiet and uneventful career. Dr. Holme was its first chairman, and James Watson, the author of the "Spirit of the Doctor," was its first librarian. Previous references have been made to him. Amongst its members have been Dr. Dalton, the Rev. William Gaskell, and Dr. Ferriar. The Union Club building was erected in 1836, the club having commenced in 1825.

#### **TWO FAMOUS COACHING HOUSES**

The Royal Hotel has a history full of interest; and taking us back to the days of stage coach travelling, forms a link connecting the town of a century ago with the city of to-day. The site was for many years occupied by a dyehouse kept by a man named Hazlehurst; but at a later period a large private residence was built. This was standing, unaltered, in the early part of the last century, and in the "Exchange Herald" for September, 1814, was the subject of an advertisement. The sale by auction was announced of the "Capital premises at the corner of and fronting extensively both Mosley-street and Market-street, now in the possession of Mrs. Thomas Potter." We are told that the site included a spacious garden surrounded by a wall, the whole area being 1,422 square yards. After the sale, Mr. C.B. Potter occupied the mansion until about 1826. In 1827 the house was converted into an inn, and under the name of "The Royal Hotel and New Bridgewater Arms" was conducted by Henry Charles Lacy. Lacy

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had, for some years, kept the Bridgewater Arms in High-street, a famous hostelry which I shall refer to on a future occasion. Space will only permit reference to his later venture at present. He was known as proprietor of mail and post coaches, and ran many of the most important coaches running to and from various parts of the country. When he took the Mosley-street premises he made great alterations, building a coachhouse at the corner of Back Mosley-street, over which were rooms which he let to David Bannerman, who used them as a warehouse. Hitherto warehouses had been confined to the district round High-street, and the innovation was regarded with alarm by some of the residents in Mosley-street. The garden was covered over with stabling and coachsheds, and an archway was made, opening from the yard into Market-street. The passer-by can see the archway, long since filled in, in the wall near the stationer's shop. From under that archway the mail coaches rattled, as they set out on their journeys north and south. Four o'clock in the afternoon was an exciting time in the Market-street of those days, for at that hour the principal mail coaches from London, York, Birmingham, and Liverpool were timed to arrive. Punctuality was a feature of the system, and the four splendidly appointed vehicles arrived within a few minutes of each other. The coaches were usually painted red and black, the coachmen and guards were elaborately attired, the latter having a red coat, top boots, and a hat with a broad gilt hatband. The guard sat behind the roof of the coach with a pair of pistols within easy reach,

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and his horn close to hand. By hearing its sound toll keepers and horse keepers were warned of the approach of the coach. The London mail from the Royal Hotel left at 7:45 a.m., and passing through Macclesfield, Ashbourne, Derby, Leicester, and Northampton arrived at the Swan with Two Necks, Lad Lane, London, at 6:30 next morning. The Birmingham mail left at 11:15 p.m., arriving at 10 o'clock next morning, and the journey to Edinburgh occupied 26 hours. In addition to the mail coaches a number of others ran from various houses in the town, eight or nine setting out daily for London alone. Thus there were arriving in and departing from the town, daily, about a hundred vehicles each way. Some of these were two-horsed, but the majority were drawn by four. May-day was always celebrated by a special turn-out. As many coaches as could be spared formed a procession, and with horses well groomed, coaches polished up, and guards and coachmen often in new livery, they must have made a splendid display. The mail coaches also formed a procession on the King's birthday, being accompanied on those occasions by the military. With the advent of the railway the old system was doomed, and although we have gained much by the railway system, the removal of the old coaches took much brightness out of our streets.

**p.199****PART IV - SOME FORMER RESIDENTS****SAMUEL ROBINSON.**

At least one leading local literary man was born in Mosley-street. Samuel Robinson was born on March 23, 1794, and received his education at the Manchester New College. In the intervals of a business life he engaged in literary pursuits, and ranked high as a translator. His works included translations of Schiller's William Tell; Schiller's Minor Poems; Specimens of the German Lyrics; and Persian translations, in six volumes. He died at Wilmsow, December 8, 1884.

**NATHAN MEYER ROTHSCHILD**

In 1808 and 1809 in the house that stood at the corner of York-street, where the Mercantile Bank stands, N.M. Rothschild, the future great financier, resided, carrying on business in a warehouse at 3, Back Mosley-street. Sent over from Frankfort by his father to purchase Manchester goods, he lived, first in a house in Downing-street, Ardwick, removing later to Faulkner-street, and later again to Mosley-street. In 1812, probably as a result of his father's death, he left Manchester, and settled in London. In the course of his business career, he achieved several notable feats, one of which was the securing of the intelligence of Bonaparte's escape from Elba, twenty-five hours before the news reached the British Government. He died at Frankfort, whither he had gone to attend the marriage

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of his son on July 28, 1836, and was interred in the Jews' burial ground. At the corner of York-street, where the Manchester and Salford Bank was afterwards built, was a silk mill, worked by Cardwell and Longworth. At the other two corners of Mosley-street resided persons well known in the town life of eighty years ago.

**HUGH HORNBY BIRLEY.**

Where Chatwood's safe shop recently was, was the house occupied for many years by Hugh Hornby Birley. Mr. Birley was a captain of the yeomanry and a magistrate. In the latter capacity, he, along with a number of fellow magistrates, was present at a house overlooking St. Peter's field on the morning of August 16, 1819. It was said that he requested the Rev. C.W. Ethelston to read the Riot Act, and afterwards gave the order for the yeomanry to attack the crowd. So strong was the feeling shown against him on this account, that for many years afterwards

groups of Radicals would meet opposite to his house and groan, on the anniversary of the eventful day.

The fourth corner was occupied by the house of Miss Mary Whitehead, whose father, starting in a small way as a crofter or bleacher at Levenshulme, afterwards began calico printing at Brightmet, near Bolton. He was very successful, and left the business to his three sons. Miss Whitehead, when Mosley-street commenced to change its appearance, bought an estate at Burnage, and then built a mansion which she named Brook Flat, where she lived. After her death it was re-named Burnage Hall, and as such was in more recent years tenanted by Samuel Watts.

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### **DANIEL GRANT**

Few townspeople were more generally respected in their day than the Brothers Grant, whom Dickens immortalised as the Cheeryble Brothers in Nicholas Nickleby. The introduction of the manufacturers to the novelist occurred on the occasion of the latter's first visit to Manchester. He was at the time engaged in writing the novel, and had issued the earlier parts of it, when he expressed to W. Harrison Ainsworth the desire to see the interior of a cotton mill. The friends, accompanied by "Phiz" and John Foster, visited Manchester, and whilst here were entertained to dinner by James Crossley. Amongst other guests invited to meet them were the Brothers Grant. Dickens was so struck by the personality of the brothers that he at once introduced them into his novel. Generosity was a strong feature in their characters. On one occasion a firm with whom they did business failed for £70,000. Daniel Grant was appointed chairman of the creditors' meeting, and he expressed his intention to use all the power the law gave him inasmuch as four days before the filing of the petition the debtor had obtained from them goods to the value of £1,200. The chief partner of the unfortunate firm was called in, and gave such a description of their misfortunes that Grant at once withdrew his previous decision, and promised to do all he could to extricate them from their troubles. It is said that when he arrived at the warehouse in Cannon-street in the mornings, he would find a number of needy persons awaiting his arrival; and, further, it is said that these were rarely sent away unrelieved.

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Daniel Grant lived in later years lower down Mosley-street, and died there. An interesting reminiscence of his later years was told by Beddoes Peacock. It took place in 1851 when the late Queen paid her first visit to the city. In the course of a walk through the streets in the evening to see the illuminations his brother and he passed down Mosley-street, when they saw a display that far exceeded anything else in the city. It was a private house, and the whole of the front was one blaze of light produced by innumerable small oil lamps arranged amidst festoons of flowers and evergreens. In the centre of the building was a huge transparency of the Queen, surmounted by the words in letters about six feet high, "Welcome our beloved Queen." At one of the upstairs windows was an old gentleman. "He wore a coat of old-fashioned cut - short-waisted, deep-collared, double-breasted, and buttoned - in the breast of which he thrust his right hand. His double chin rested in the folds of an old-fashioned, unstarched white neckcloth." Such was the appearance of Daniel Grant a short time before his death.

### **DR. THOMAS TURNER**

One of the last residents in Mosley-street was the surgeon, Thomas Turner, popularly known as Dr. Turner. Born at Truro on August 16, 1793, he entered Guy's Hospital as a student under Sir Astley Cooper in 1815. He passed his College of Surgeons' examination in 1816, and afterwards spent some time in Paris. Having commenced practice in Manchester, he opened the Pine-street School of Surgery in 1824, and three

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years later his certificates were accepted by the College of Surgeons. In 1830 he took up his residence in Mosley- street, and was elected on the Infirmary staff in the same year. He died on December 17, 1873, having lived in Mosley-street over forty years. As a medical man he was exceedingly popular, his professional ability being accompanied by a genial disposition that enabled him to shed rays of hope into the minds of depressed sufferers.

Other residents included Thomas Worthington, smallware manufacturer, who afterwards removed to Sharston Hall; Leo Schuster, merchant; S. L. Behrens, the founder of the well known shipping firm; and J.F. Foster, stipendiary magistrate; and John Hall, whose son became a judge in the High Court of Chancery. David Bannerman, who was the first Scotchman and Dissenter to hold the position of boroughreeve of Manchester, died on December 1, 1829, at his house in Mosley-street; and the Rev. Thomas Calvert, D.D., warden of the Collegiate Church, lived there prior to his removal to Ardwick Green.

**SAM BROOKS AND RICHARD COBDEN**

The last resident in the street that we shall mention is Samuel Brooks, the banker. He came to Manchester and became a partner in the firm of Reddish, Brooke, and Co., calico printers, and a year later opened a branch bank at his warehouse in High-street. He first resided at Granby Hall, Granby Row, removing later to 4, Lever-street, and subsequently to a house in Mosley-street, opposite to the house of Daniel Grant.

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Whilst residing here the change that was destined to completely revolutionise the appearance of the street was commenced. This will be best described by quoting from a letter which Richard Cobden wrote to his brother Frederick in September, 1832. He said: "I have given such a start to Mosley-street, that all the world will be at my heels." He had purchased a house in the street, and had proceeded to convert it into a warehouse. "My next-door neighbour, Brooks, of the firm of Cunliffe and Brooks, bankers, has sold his house to be converted into a warehouse. The owner of the house on the other side has given his tenant notice for the same purpose. The house immediately opposite me has been announced for sale, and my architect is commissioned by George Hole, the calico printer, to bid six thousand guineas for it; but they want eight thousand, for what they paid only four thousand five hundred only five years ago." He then refers to his good fortune in securing his own premises for three thousand guineas. Two years later the Unitarian Chapel was sold, and within a decade business premises occupied most of the space on both sides of the street, so rapid was the change.



Continuing the serialisation of:

**'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk '**

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Enough has been said to show how much better fed the poor are now than in the old days. At Christmas time many of the working people will have turkeys, or geese, for their dinner. In the old days such were never seen on the tables of the poor. My father used to say if they ever.

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by chance did have a fowl it was an old hen they killed, because it had ceased to lay eggs, and it was as tough as leather. But even this was considered a dainty, and only the families who kept hens could afford it.

### **SICK AND BURIAL CLUB CUSTOMS.**

In the old days, most of the sick and burial clubs were held in public houses, and it was a custom for the members to pay, in addition to their contributions to the funds, two-pence each at the monthly club-night meeting. This had to be spent in liquor, for "the good of the house." As some of the members sent their contributions, there was always a good supply of ale, and oftentimes it would run to warm ale and rum. I believe that this pernicious custom still prevails at some of the clubs. It ought to be abolished, for it often leads to a drunken debauch. I have every reason for strongly condemning this silly custom, as it often happened that my father, who was a member of one, frequently came home the worse for drink. Many a time was he induced to get on the "spree" through it, and the fuddle would occasionally last a week or so, much to the discomfiture of the-family. In connection with my father's club, there was a member who prided himself on his singing powers. But the singer was an awful bore, and often did he sing the room empty; then he would be left to drink all the liquor himself. Whenever my father came home earlier than usual, I used to say to him, "Has owd \_\_\_ bin singin' again?" "Aye, he has," replied my father; "an' he's sung us o' whoam. We've laft him to sup o' th' ale hissel', an owd foo' as he is. Aw dar' say he's drollin' it eawt neaw, bit by bit. Aw never yerd sich a singer i' o'

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my life. He's too slow to go to a buryin'. Aw could sing that song o' his three times o'er while he's singin' it once." Evidently my father thought, by this expression, that speed was everything in singing. But even this infliction had a redeeming feature in it, as it often had the effect of sending my father home sober. Many a time have I secretly thanked this slow-coach of a singer for driving my father home.

There was one club which had its meeting~place at Th' Owd Bell, and the members gradually dwindled down until there were only three or four left. One of these was known as "Sober Ogden." He was the original of Ben Brierley's "Ab o' th' Yate," and was a fine, humorous character.

They would meet together on a club night, and crack their jokes over their ale. One of the chief topics of conversation was as to who would live the longest, and have all the money left in the club. Sober used to say to one of the party, "John, aw think theaw'll see us o' eawt. Theaw's a lung neck, an' aw've noticed ut folk wi' lung necks alus live th' lungest." Singular to say, Sober was right, for old John did live the longest, and saw the others all out. What brass there was left for him I never knew. No doubt there was sufficient to lay him decently in the ground.

### **AN ELECTION STORY.**

There was another fine character we had in Failsworth, who rejoiced in the name of "Little Harry." He was a most genial fellow was Harry, and was full of good humour, being one of the best story-tellers in the district. It was a rare treat to get in his company, and frequently has he

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picture of 'Crown and Cushion' in the Gallery

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entertained his fellows in the snug at the Liberal Club. He was a loyal Liberal, and one of the best canvassers I ever knew. If anyone could get round a voter, it was Harry with his racy stories. In the 1895 election he went to canvass an elector residing in Wrigley Head, and, after a long conversation, he got him to promise to vote for Mr. Cawley, the Liberal candidate. He got Harry to promise to send for him at a certain time on the polling day. But on leaving the house, the voter's wife, who was a strong Tory, told Harry she would see that he did not record his vote for the Liberal candidate. It was quite evident that this elector was a little henpecked, and was under petticoat government at home.

On the day of polling the voter was sent for, with the result that the canvasser who went for him

brought back the news that he was ill in bed.

Harry, on hearing this, said : - "Aw dunno' believe a word his wife has told thee. It's a thousand to one he's locked up i' th' chamber." Continuing, he said : - "Let me have a cab, and somebody find me a pair o' clogs, an' a hat, an' aw'll fetch him." Harry started off with the clogs and hat. On getting near the voter's cottage he procured a ladder. Rearing this against the house of the elector he went up, and rapped at the bedroom window. The man came to the window, for it turned out he was locked up in the chamber. The voter opened the window, but said he could not go to the poll, as he had no clogs nor hat. Harry was equal to the occasion, for he said to the prisoner : - "Aw've brought thee a pair o' clogs an' a hat. Get 'em on, an' come down wi' me." The voter did as he was told, and in a few minutes Harry was bowling him off to the poll amidst the cheers of the neighbours. He

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often used to tell the story of how he polled Owd \_\_\_\_ The Liberal candidate was returned by a majority of 101, on a very heavy poll, and many claimed the credit of polling the odd vote, but to no one was the credit more due than to my good old friend, "Little Harry." After the election, Mr. Cawley, M.P., happening to be in Failsworth on a Saturday afternoon, paid a visit with me to "Little Harry's" house. When I knocked at his door, and told him who was with me, Harry came running out of the kitchen stripped to the waist, for he was washing himself. On seeing Mr. Cawley he exclaimed : - "Hello, Mesthur Cawley, will yo' shake hands wi' a chap 'beawt shirt?" Naturally we were amused at his state of dress, and we had a good laugh out of him. I said to my friend, "Let's see, Harry, yo' won a bit o' brass eaut o' th' election." "Heaw did yo' win it, like?" Harry replied, "Aye, aw won thirty peounds. Aw dunno' reckon to be a bettin' chap, but aw were i' th' Royal Oak one neet, an' there were a Tory nob swaggerin', an' sayin' Mr. Cawley had nur a dog's chance. He wur offerin' to bet ten to one he wur brettun. Aw happent to ha' abeaut three peound wi' me, so aw geet this on wi' him, an' aw told him aw'd fetch some moore if he liked, an' cover his ten peounds wi' my one as often as he liked. But he would hav' no moore, and so aw won his thirty peounds. Theaw sees aw larnt this mon a lesson he'll not so soon forget."

Since this event happened my good, genial, and kind-hearted friend has left this world's scene of strife, and he will be no more troubled with either Tories or canvassing.

He has fought the good fight in the battle of life,  
And laid down his arms at the close;  
As he ne'er soiled his hands in the stiff party strife,  
May he now have a peaceful repose.

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##### **'OWD DANNY.**

There was once a character who lived in Failsworth known as "Owd Danny," who was noted for his quaint sayings. A friend of mine told me he was once sitting in the taproom of a Failsworth public house, and among the company sat Danny. This friend of mine noticed that Danny did not dally long with his pint of beer, but drank it pretty quickly, as if he were afraid of it getting flat. He said to Danny, "Aw notice theaw does no' keep thy ale lung i' thi pot." "Nawe, nawe," replied Danny, "theaw sees aw once had a pint knocked o'er, an' it tow't me a lesson aw shall no' soon forget."

Old Danny had a son, who lead a somewhat wild sort of a life, and was always getting into trouble. A friend of mine once said to him, "If that lad o' thine were my son aw'd break every bone in his hide, if he carried on like he does." "Aye, aye," replied Danny in his own quaint way, "so would I if he're *thy* son, but theaw sees he's my son, an' that mak's o' th' difference."

I remember this same wayward lad once giving his companions an idea of what he thought was manliness, which will clearly show what sort of a lad he was. Speaking to his companions he said, "Aw'll tell yo' what aw'st do when aw become a mon. Aw'st goo an' get wed, get drunk,

goo whooam, kick up a row, pounce th' table o'er, leather my wife, an' say damn." Such was the wild lad's mistaken idea of what constituted a man. Alas, there are too many grown-up men, at the present day, who act in this way, and who evidently think they are playing a manly part by such foolish actions. This story recalls to my mind an incident which I well remember. In the days

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of my youth a companion 'of mine imparted to me the astounding information that he "durst swear i' th' heause." Doubting his word he invited me to go home with him, and "he'd show me." I went with him, and on reaching his home he met his mother in the house. Knocking against her he said, "Damn it, mother, get eawt o' th' road!" No sooner had he uttered these words than he received, at her hands, a sound box on the ears, which sent him spinning on the floor. His mother, who was a sensible woman, served him right, and never shall I forget the scene as she exclaimed, "Aw'll taich thee better for usin' sich words to me." I quite enjoyed seeing my companion "clouted," and hearing him cry. It was a lesson to him which he never forgot. Evidently, he had some time sworn in the house, but had not been heard, and so he concluded he was privileged to indulge in such language. I can recollect this same lad once going to Tommyfield, in Oldham, along with his brother. They had a penny to spend between them. When they got to the fair ground they both wanted to go in a penny show. They were at their wits end what to do, as the penny would only admit one. "Aw'll tell thee what we con do," said my companion, "aw'll goo in, an' tell thee what aw've seen." His brother willingly agreed to this proposal. My companion entered the show, witnessed the performance, came out, and told his brother what he had seen, and they returned home, both being well satisfied.

On another occasion this same lad was admiring, with me, some fine English hothouse grapes in a window. He had a penny to spend, so he entered the shop, and enquired the, price of the grapes. He was told 4/6 per pound was the price. "Well," he said, "let me have a pennyworth.

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o' carruts, aw'm a beggar for fruit." Once I had been a long ramble with him round Moston and Boggart Hole Clough. On getting back he said to me, "Aw'll tell thi what, Sim, England is a rare lot bigger than aw thowt it were. Evidently his impression of the size of the country was confined to Failsworth.

Such are a few incidents of my boyhood, which I remember well. ,

**STORIES OF FAUSE JUDDIE.**

Readers of the writings of Ben Brierley will not require to be told of the prominent part played in them by Fause Juddie. But Brierley had such a way of disguising his characters that only those who were in the "know" could tell who the originals were. For instance, Martin Wright I knew to be the original of Fause Juddie. Old Martin kept a grocer's shop at the lower end of the township, and he was quite a character. I knew him very well, and he was indeed a fause one. Brierley used to picture him as an old Tory. "On the contrary, he was a Radical, and a subscriber to the cause as long as he lived. I remember an incident about Martin which is well worth relating. Connected with his shop, the old man had an outdoor beer licence, and at the 1895 election it was reported to me he had gone wrong on the drink question, and was going to vote Tory. As I was intimately acquainted with Martin, I got Mr. Cawley to go with me to see him. When we got to his house, I knocked at the door and asked if Mr. Wright was in. Coming into the shop and seeing me, he exclaimed, "Hello, "Sim, is that thee?" I told him Mr. Cawley was with me, and would like to have a few words

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with him. What!" he said, "Mr. Cawley, eaur candidate? Come in, come in an' sit yo' deaun. Aw never wur moore honoured i' my life - havin' a Parliamentary candidate i' my heawse. Yo' mun ha' summat to ate an" drink wi' me." The old man reached down some oatcake, and fetched us

a pot of beer each, and commenced to freely chat with us while we were partaking of his homely hospitality. During our conversation I told Martin that it was reported he was going to vote Tory. I expressed my surprise at this report, and said I could not believe he would forsake his Radical principles in his old days and turn Tory. Old Martin thus delivered himself: "Dunno' thee believe 'em, Sim; aw conno' turn my back o' my owd principles. An' besides," he continued, "a chap ut will mak' trouble to come an' see me hissel', and ha' some oatcake and cheese wi' me, an' a drop 'o ale, is just my sort." Turning to me, he said, "Dunno' bother ony moore abeawt me; aw shall vote for yo', Mesthur Cawley, when th' pollin' day comes." Old Martin was as good as his word, and some time after the election Mr. Cawley and I called to see the old man again. We were entertained in the same old-fashioned way. When we left his house, he came to the door and said, "Well, I am preawd to see yo', an' aw'm quite pleased yo'n coed. It's th' first time i' my lifetime ut aw've had a member o' Parliament i' my heawse. Good luck to yo', Mesthur Cawley, an' may yo' lung be th' member for Prestwich Division." Such is an instance of Fause Juddie's loyalty to Liberalism.

I have been told another story of Juddie, which is well worth relating. He was once sitting in an inn near his own home, when a man came in with a valuable picture he had for sale. "Owd Juddie" told him he had a better

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picture than his at home. The man disputed it, and said there was not a picture in all Failsworth equal to the one he had. "Owd Juddie" offered to bet drinks round that the one he had hanging up in his house was a better one. The bet was accepted, and a judge was appointed to go with the disputants to Juddie's home. On reaching the house, Juddie pointed to a fine flitch of bacon he had hanging up, remarking, "That's my picture." The judge decided in favour of Juddie, and they then went back to the inn, had the drinks in, all admitting that "Fause Juddie" had fairly won. I think Brierley must never have heard of this story, but it is quite a true one, for Old Martin was noted for his cuteness in trying to play pranks on people.

Some time since a friend of mine told me a story which I had not heard before, but one which was characteristic of the fause one. A Failsworthite one day called at Juddie's house. It was a beautiful summer morning. During a conversation they had, this Failsworthite said, "What a fine day this is. If aw could only borrow a trap, aw'd tak' my wife for a drive wi' yon horse I have." Juddie, seeing an opportunity for a bit of a trick, said, "Well, aw've a trap aw'll lend thi." Juddie's son-in-law, who was present, said, "Feyther, aw never knew yo' had a trap before." Juddie replied, "Theaw does no' know what aw'm worth, an' it would no' do for thee, lad." Continuing, he said, "What does theaw think a grocer could do beawt a trap i' these days?" Turning to the man who wanted an out, he said, "Thee goo an' fotch thi wife, an' bring thi horse, an' I'll find thee a trap - a nice new one." The man hurried off home, and in about half-an-hour's time brought his horse and his wife, dressed up ready for the drive. With a merry twinkle in his eye Juddie said to

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the man, "Thee tak' thi horse reawd to th' back, an' aw'll show thi mi trap." The man did as he was told, and Juddie went out at the back door. On meeting his friend he said, holding in his hand a new mouse trap, "This is my trap. Does theaw think theaw could yoke thi horse to it?" The man, seeing that he had been sold, took the trick in good part, exclaiming, "Well, aw dunno' think 'at 'Ab o' th' Yate' could ha' sowd me better nor theaw has done. But let me tell thee," he said, as he took his departure, "Aw'll come straight wi' thee some day." Some time afterwards the man did get straight with Juddie, for he was one of the party who was in at the adventure of "Catchin' a Weasel," when Juddie was so well sold by "Ab o' th' Yate." The incident of "Catchin' a Weasel" forms the subject of a most amusing sketch written by Ben Brierley, in which "Fause Juddie" plays a most important part. There are some good stories told about Juddie by Brierley,

but as they have been put on record I must not trench upon the ground so well covered by our Failsworth author.

### **FAILSWORTH AMATEUR ACTORS.**

Failsworth has long been noted, not only for its love of music and poetry, but also for the fondness of its people for the drama. There is not a district in the country where the performance of the drama is more popular than at Failsworth. Out of the nine Sunday schools, no less than eight play dramas, and the other one has now got so far as to play dialogues in character. Not only do these schools allow the performance of dramas, but some of them illustrate them with scenery, and have even footlights to the stage.

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Two of the most noted amateur actors in my time were the late John Hall and Ned Wright. The former shone in tragedy, and the latter in comedy. I knew them both very well. They were both genial souls, and the very life of mirth in any company they chanced to get among. Ned Wright was one of the best story-tellers I ever met, and he could tell them with great effect, being an exceedingly good mimic. I have known him to sit in my house telling tales until the small hours of the morning, and frequently have I had to find him a bed after a night of story-telling. It was a custom of his, before he began to tell a story, to look round among the company and say, "Let's see if there's any one here akin to this story afore aw begin to tell it." John Hall not only played parts in dramas in many of the schools, but occasionally he performed in theatres. I have known him to grace the boards of the Theatre Royal in Oldharn, and with conspicuous success. If he had adopted the stage as a profession, I feel sure he would have made his mark.

Frequently have I accompanied him to other districts, to witness his performances and listen to his recitals. Not only was Hall an actor, but he was a keen politician, and at one time he was the president of the Failsworth Liberal Association, and he has filled the office of chairman of the Failsworth Local Board. I remember once waiting upon him, along with other members of a deputation, to ask him to stand as a Liberal candidate for the Board. of Guardians. At that time there was a high ratal, or money qualification, for the office of a Guardian. I acted as spokesman for the deputation, and, on telling Hall what our mission was, he answered, "Well, if yo' con qualify me, aw'll stond as yo'r candidate." We found out, to our sorrow, that we had over-estimated Hall's worldly

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Picture in Gallery

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possessions, and so he could not stand for lack of means. Never shall I forget a scene which once happened at a Local Board meeting, when he was the chairman. The Board, at the time, was "The School Attendance Committee," to enforce the attendance of children at day schools. I was present at the meeting as a correspondent for the "Chronicle." A poor widow woman was summoned for not sending her girl to school regularly. She told a pitiful story of her poverty and said she sometimes kept the girl at home to assist her in washing, as this was her only means of earning her livelihood. When the poor widow had told her story, the school attendance officer said that was no excuse for not sending her child to the school. She must apply to the Guardians for relief. The widow replied, "Apply to th' Guardians! Aw never will. Awd sooner goo to prison nor ax th' Guardians to help me." This was another instance of the sturdy independence of the Failsworth character. The officer told the Board. they had no option but to compel the woman to send her child to the school, even if she had to apply for relief. Mr. Hall, in a fit of temper, got up, and said in loud, indignant tones, "Aw'll never be a party to persecuting this poor woman by takin' her before th' magistrates. If we conno' exercise a bit o' discretion in a case like this, aw'll goo whooam, an' stop theer, an' mind my own business." So impressed were the members of the Board with Hall's outburst that they made a concession to the widow

in spite of the illegality of their act. Hall once told me of an incident connected with his acting. He was performing at a place on one occasion, and he was the only one who had got his part "well off" or well in hand. The prompter was as often heard as the players. At the close of the performance, Hall was called before the

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curtain, and given a hearty reception for the way he had played his part. When he retired, a wag in the audience called for the prompter. This was heartily taken up by others in the assembly, and eventually the prompter had to appear, and acknowledge the plaudits of the audience.

On another occasion Hall was playing the part of Othello in Shakspeare's tragedy. They had got to the scene where the villain, Iago, is trying to poison the mind of Othello against Desdemona. A woman in the audience, being carried away by the reality of the scene, and no longer able to restrain herself, called out: "Dunno' believe him, felly; he lies, an' he knows he is lyin'." Of course, there was quite a roar of laughter created by this interruption.

There is a very good story about Hall's appearance at a "penny gaff." In the old days the proprietor of one of these shows was a person who went by the name of Val. He used to fix his show at Gravel Hole, Hollinwood, and stay there a few weeks at a time. On one occasion he was at Hollinwood, and they had announced the play of "Macbeth." The person cast for the character of Macduff fell ill, and Hall, having been known to play this part, was asked to take his place. He consented to do so on the understanding that it was "kept quiet." In those days it was the custom of the band connected with the show to go round the village, when someone would announce the piece they would perform in the evening. Hall was on his way to the show when he met the band at the top of Holebottom. To his surprise he heard the showman announcing that "Mr. John Hall would appear in the character of Macduff." He hesitated whether to go on to the theatre or return home. He, however, eventually decided to go forward and

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give "Old Val" a turn. The performance went well, and Hall played the part to the satisfaction of the audience. Afterwards it got to be a common saying in Failsworth whenever Hall was speaking at a meeting to say "Lay on, Macduff."

I remember asking Hall to preside at a Reform meeting on Wrigley Head Green. In his quaint way he said when I asked him, "By gow, Sim, theaw munno' tak' me theer. Afore aw've said two words theaw'll ha' someone sheawtin' eawt, 'Lay on, Macduff'" However, I did persuade him to preside at this meeting, and there was an incident happened at it which is well worth relating. Mr. C.H. Fitzwilliam, of Oldham, was the principal speaker. Some time before the meeting, Mr. Fitzwilliam had joined the temperance movement, and was quite full in his advocacy of the cause. Although the meeting was one in favour of the franchise for Failsworth folk, yet the speaker could not refrain from saying something for temperance. He began to picture the drinker with his red nose and flushed face. My friend Hall, it so happened, had a somewhat flushed face and red nose. Never shall I forget him saying to me as we stood on the lurry, "By gum, Sim, let me get deawn; theaw sees everybody is starin' at me an' my red nose." It took me all my time to keep him on the lurry till the meeting was over.

In connection with Old Val's show I have heard of another amusing incident. They were once playing "Hamlet" and the ghost fell ill and could not appear. A big hoblin lad, who sometimes took part in pieces in Sunday schools, was fetched out of the audience and induced to take the part, as there are only a few words to be spoken by the character. He came on the stage, and on speaking in the

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picture in Gallery

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words, "Hamlet, I am thy father's ghost," a youngster in the audience sang out, "Nay, theaw art no'; theaw'rt eawr big piecer." The "ghost" came to the front of the stage, and, shaking his fist at the interrupter, cried out to the amusement of the audience, "Aw'll warm thee thy divvule i' th' mornin'."

Another good story of a dramatic performance which was taking place at Hollinwood is worth telling. They were playing the piece of "Merchant of Venice." Mr. John Brierley, father of Mr. Wynford Brierley, was playing the part of Bassanio. Brierley was a lean, lanky fellow. When they got to the scene where Shylock is demanding his pound of flesh, Mrs. Brierley, who was in the audience, called out, "If he does tak' a peound o' flesh off eaur Jack, it'll ha' to be a boilin' piece."

Old Rothera, of Hollinwood, was once a noted amateur actor, and it is said on one occasion he was playing and putting so much of his soul into the part, and walking the stage in such an excited manner that he for the moment forgot himself, and getting near the edge of the platform fell off and alighted on the drum in the orchestra, sending his foot straight through the instrument.

Ben Brierley himself once took a prominent part in these amateur theatricals. He had no equal in the character of "Joe o' Dicks" in his own drama of "Lancashire Weaver Lad." Often have I seen him play this part, and he could play it with great success. I remember once going to witness his performance. Sitting next to me was a man who had gone purposely to hear Brierley. When the piece was nearly over, the man said, "When is Ben Brierley goin' to come on?" So well had Brierley got

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himself up for the part that even one of his own friends did not know him.

Once they were playing this drama of Brierley's at the Hollinwood Institute. There is a very effective snow scene in the piece, where a band of children come on carrying bushes of holly, and singing during the fall of snow. The late James Dronsfield was up aloft showering bits of white paper down to imitate the falling snow. The scene was so much appreciated by the audience that an encore of it was demanded. The children again came on, but no "snow" came down. One of the players behind the stage, noticing this, called out to Dronsfield, "Snow, Jim, snow." Dronsfield sang out, "Heaw the dickens con aw 'snow' when o' th' snow's done." It seems Dronsfield had exhausted all his "snow" in the first scene, not counting on an encore. Such are a few of the stories I have heard of our district amateur actors, none of which do I remember having been published before. There are, however, others which have been told, but my object is to only relate such as have never been publicly related previously.

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

Nothing to add this month ... we would love to hear from you.

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### **MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE**

**HERE**

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

\* 20 fascinating photos of Manchester in the 1920s

[HERE](#)

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\* Second world war US air force photos of England at war available to public for first time

[HERE](#)

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\* Manchester's best loved chippies how many are left? It's Friday will it be chippy tea?

[HERE](#)

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\* 21 foods served up for school dinners you either loved or hated

[HERE](#)

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\* Oldham burials and cremation records.

[HERE](#)

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\* 17th Century History, Early Modern History, James I To Restoration, Parliament Away From Westminster.

One of our seals is missing! How a summer vacation brought Charles I's government to a grinding halt

[HERE](#)

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\* Behind the scenes of the massive task to transform a crumbling 600-year-old Greater Manchester hall... Hopwood Hall

[HERE](#)

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\* What is a workhouse infirmary?

[HERE](#)

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\* History of the Bridgewater Canal

[HERE](#)

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\* Routine on a Royal Navy warship, late-19th Century

[HERE](#)

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\* 40 moving photos of Manchester in the 1940s

The 1940s were one of the most devastating decades in Manchester's history

[HERE](#)

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\* Mike Rendell - Is Earl Grey your cup of tea? The man behind the cuppa, who died 17 July 1845

[HERE](#)

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\* Our Journey Down The Salt Mine

[HERE](#)

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\* The Match Girls Memorial ... The Story of the Strike

[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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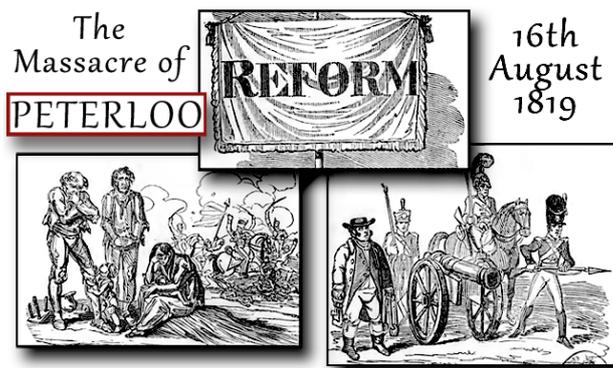
**PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary**

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)



Three Illustrations from :

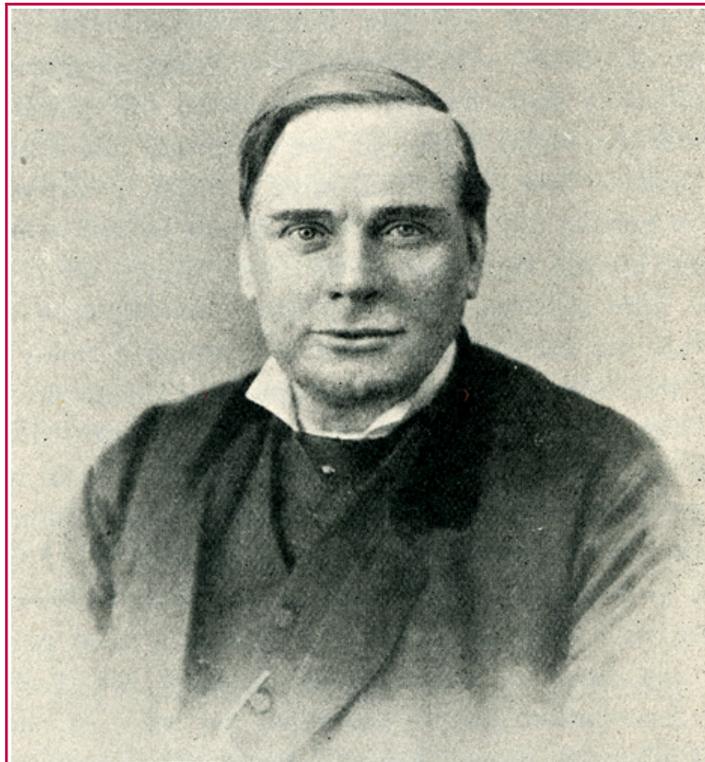
**'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk'**

by Sim Schofield pub. 1905

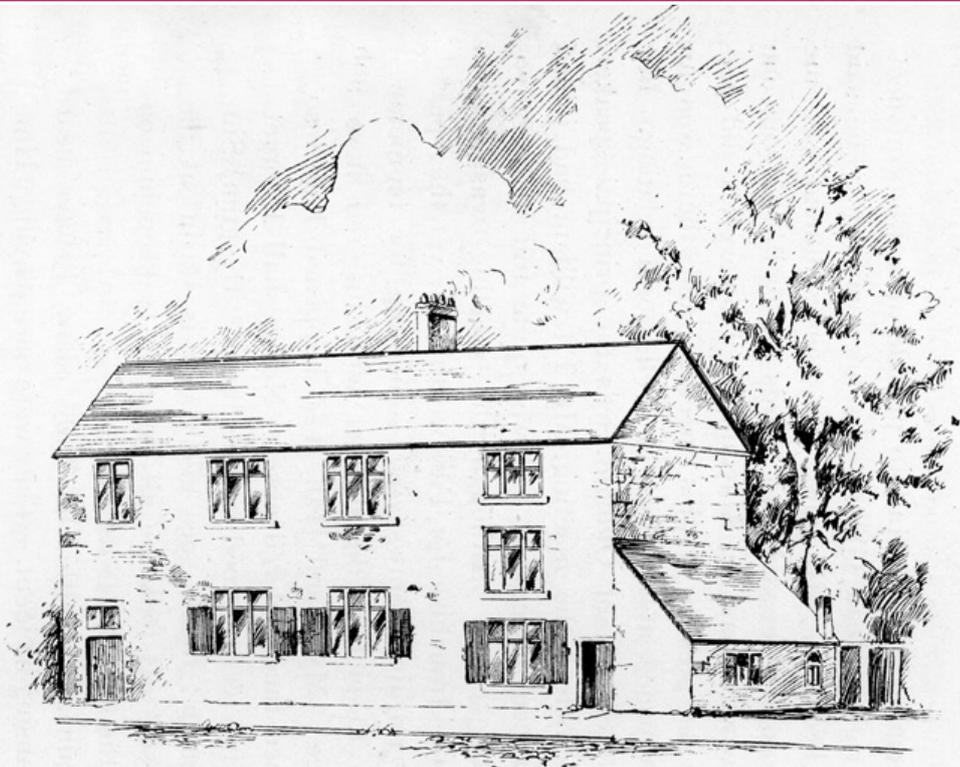


THE CROWN AND CUSHION.

"Th' Owd Bell" of the "Ab o'th Yate" Papers, a place where many a good story has been told.



THE LATE MR. JOHN HALL,  
The Failsworth Amateur Actor.



From a drawing by Mr. Thos. Anderton, Sen.

THE "OLD SCHOOL."

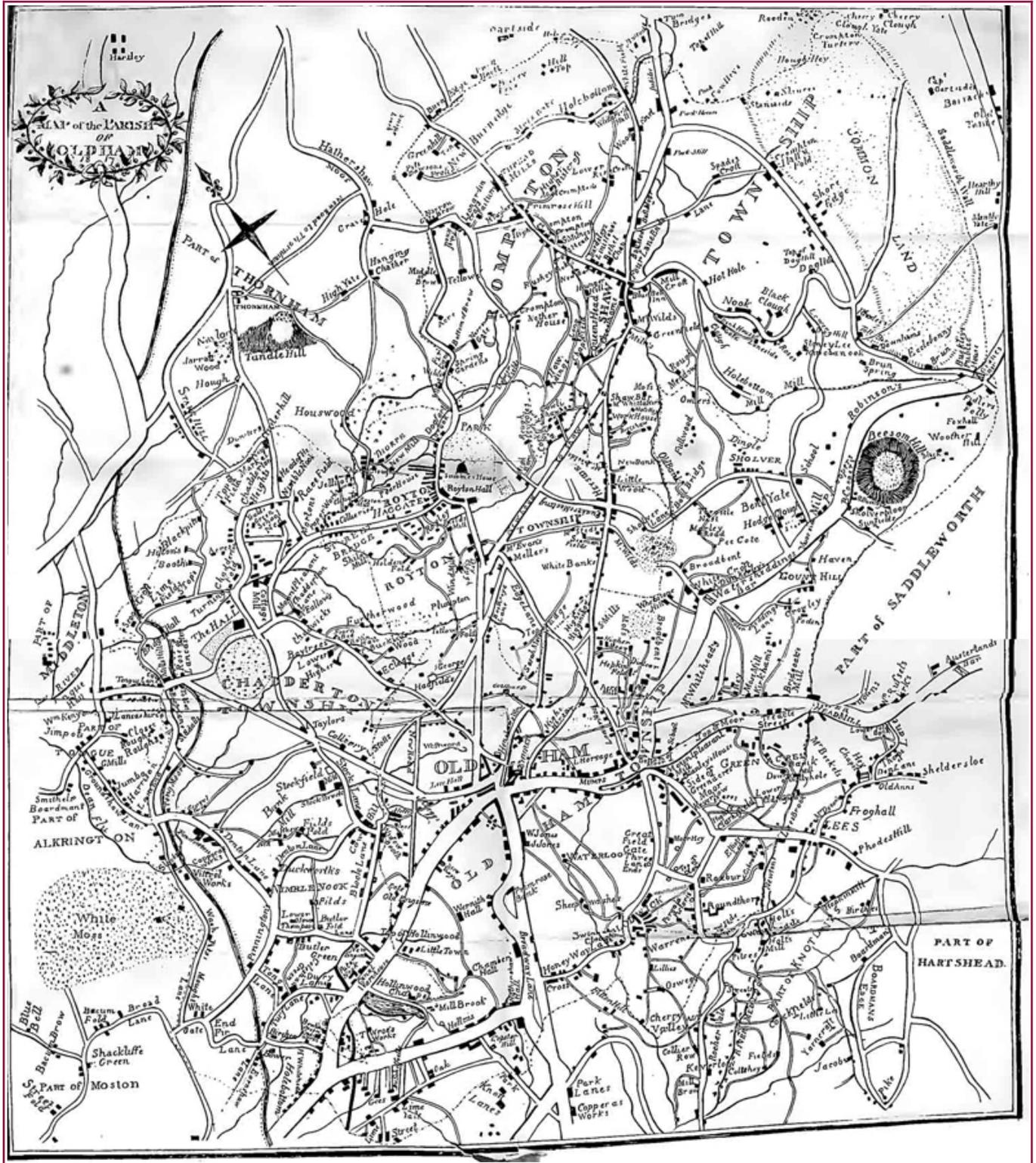
An institution with a remarkable history. Founded in Jacobin times. A building noted for the performance of amateur plays.

From the August Meeting write-up ~ Notification of the death of Doctor Joseph Healey, Oldham

**DIED.**—In Lower Grosvenor-street, Col. J. Mackenz  
 C. B. of the East India Company's Service on the Madras  
 Establishment.—In Park-street, Bath, aged 78, Mrs. J.  
 Bowdler.—At Saffron Walden, on the 1st inst. after  
 short illness, aged 70, Mrs. M. Catlin, the revered  
 of the late Martin Catlin, Esq.—At Woolwich, justly  
 sincerely regretted, Captain Chas. Hamilton Ballingall,  
 the Royal Marines, from the effect of severe wounds re-  
 ceived in his Majesty's service.—At Stewkley, Bucks,  
 Rev. Charles Ashtfield, Vicar of that parish, and a Magis-  
 trate of the counties of Buckingham and Bedford.—In his  
 76th year, Mr. Wm. Pontey, of Kirkheaton, the eminent  
 landscape gardenor.—At York, aged 82, Mrs. Cayley, the  
 lady of Samuel Cayley, Esq. of Upp Hall, Lancashire.  
 At Oldham, Mr. Joseph Healey, commonly called Dr.  
 Healey, of Manchester Meeting notoriety.—At Chateaufort,  
 Bonaparte

Bury and Norwich Post, March 10th, 1830  
 Notice of death

From : 'An Historical and Descriptive Account of the Town and Parochial Chapelry of Oldham, in the County of Lancaster' by James Butterworth in 1817



Larger copy, in 2 parts, on Oldham Historical Research website [HERE](#)