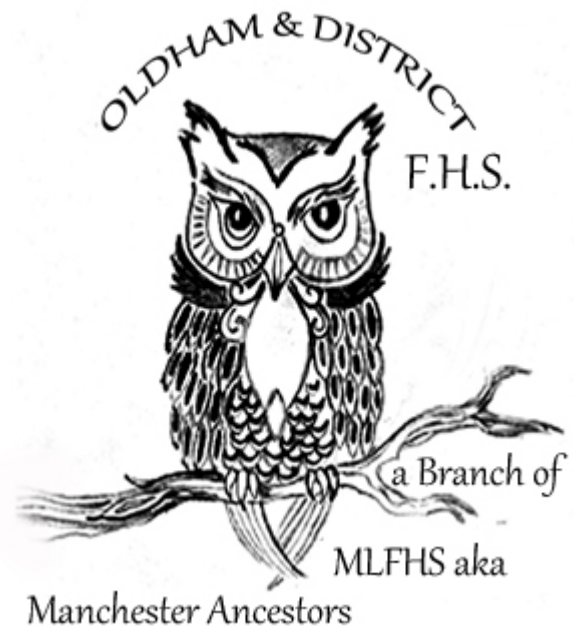


'e-Owls'



Contact us :

Branch Website page: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>

MLFHS Website homepage : <https://www.mlfhs.uk/>

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MLFHS mailing address is: Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society,
3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library, St. Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 5PD, United Kingdom

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

November 2023

MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

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Branch Information & News :

Branch Officers for 2023 -2024 :

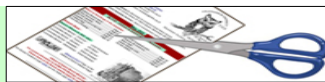
Committee Member : Chairman :	Vacant
Committee Member : Treasurer :	Gill Melton
Committee Member : Secretary :	Jan Costa
Committee Member : Newsletter :	Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Webmistress :	Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : 'Country Member' :	Linda Richardson
Committee Member : Joan Harrison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



"The Waterman"
from: *'The Costume of Yorkshire'*
pub. 1814

~~~~~  
**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.

~~~~~  
Joint Acting Chair's remarks:

Gill Melton our Treasurer...

Gill Melton here again; Jan and I have agreed that I will write these remarks. If you come to our meetings I can usually be found on the signing-in desk. Our November meeting is a hybrid, which means it is also on Zoom, although we would like to see you in the Library, if possible. The Speaker is Jean Bailo, who is coming to tell us about The Moravians and the story of their journey from Eastern Europe to Fairfield, Manchester. In this talk, we follow their progress and learn a little of their philosophy and way of life, their advanced ideas on education and equality, focusing on their settlement in Fairfield, Droylsden, and take a virtual walk around the community as is today.

Please be aware that there is no meeting in December, and January and February will be Zoom only so, weather permitting, we will be meeting again in the Library in March next year for our first hybrid meeting.

Enjoy reading the rest of this month's newsletter.

Best Wishes

Gill Melton

Treasurer and Acting Joint Chair

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

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**Editor's remarks.**

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone is keeping well. As I begin writing this month's remarks the wind is howling round the house and everywhere is awash. It's at times like this that I'm glad I live near the top of a hill and don't have to fear the flooding that Scotland is experiencing at the moment.

Still thinking about family & local history research, we have an update... the Local Studies & Archives on Union Street will now be closing its doors at the end of November, an extra month. There is a full statement on the Gallery Oldham website including...

*"The current base at 84 Union Street will close to the public on 30 November 2023. A new temporary home for the service will then open in March 2024 within Oldham Library, prior to the move to Spindles when the new permanent archives centre is created.*

*Moving to a new site is a huge task and we will have to reduce some of our archives services until this work is done. Users of all Oldham libraries will still be able to enjoy free access to family history websites, including Ancestry and FindmyPast, as well as to census information from 1841 to 1921 online on our public computers. From March 2024 we will be able to offer our popular Local Studies service in the main library, with access to newspapers on microfilm and a fantastic range of local history publications. We will also restart the popular expert advice sessions for people researching their family history every Monday and Wednesday, from 2pm to 4pm, in our temporary home.*

Over the years there have been a number of proposals and plans, for an exciting future for the Local Studies but, so far, all have led to disappointment. Fingers now crossed!

In the Mixed Bag we have more pages from *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men...* this

month, continuing with Series 1, I have transcribed the chapters, *Fountain Street*, and *Memorials of George Street*.

We can also read more stories and anecdotes, from 'Short Stories about Failsworth Folk' by Sim Schofield and, from the 1827, *Book of English Trades* we have 'The Apothecary'. In the new 'Online Book Links' section, with November, Guy Fawkes and Armistice Day in mind, I've added links to a book, entitled, 'A complete history of the Gunpowder Treason, AD 1605' pub. 1835, and to a book entitled 'A History of the Lancashire Fusiliers' pub. 1903. The other two links are more random... 'Fifty years of work without wages' pub. 1912 which could loosely be described as, 'social and cultural history' in 19<sup>th</sup>c Manchester. The other was only published in 2019 but has a creative commons licence allowing it to be read freely. It is about Oldham in the 19<sup>th</sup>c and documents the locality, family, and professional history, of the Jackson family of photographers.

In the e-Postbag we have another very welcome family story from Julie Schwethelm, 'Measles and Maidens'.

In the Gallery, we have a couple of illustrations, with descriptive text, from, 'The Costume of Yorkshire' pub. 1814, 'The Alum Works' and 'Wensley Dale Knitters'

There are no new additions on the Branch website pages but the 2024 programme is taking shape [HERE](#)

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 >

**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 drop-down menu of choices.

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Oldham & District Branch

Monthly Meetings

Last Month's Meeting



Saturday
14th Oct.
at
2 pm



A Trip to Switzerland in 1916

An illustrated presentation given by Tony Foster

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

The Switzerland talk is based on trips women from this country made to Switzerland to visit their sons/husbands who had been POWs in Germany. Their trips were made between Oct 1916 - Nov 1917. The costs were covered by a fund established by Lord Northcliffe.

It's only when the date gains significance that we realise this is not just a trip for holidaymakers. As the sub-title suggests, it was "*a little known aspect of WW1*," between 1916 and 1917. This was a two week trip to Switzerland, for a group of about 18 women, each time, with all expenses paid.

These women were the wives, mothers or sweethearts, of soldiers who had been prisoners of war in Germany, many having been captured in the early months of the war, but were so seriously ill or disabled that they would never be able to fight in the war again.

In early 1916, the Swiss government, with empty, costly, holiday hotels, came to a financial agreement with France and Germany that their respective prisoners of war, who were ill or disabled, could be exchanged and spend the rest of the war in Switzerland, in her empty tourist accommodation. By May 1916, the British Government had come to a similar agreement whereby the costs of accommodation were met by the respective governments.

The first group of British PoWs from Germany were re-located in the picturesque town of Chateau d'Oex, in late May 1916. The group was comprised of a cross section of soldiers from all ranks. For some of the more affluent, they were able to arrange for wives and daughters to join them in Switzerland for lengthy stays. It was when Lord Northcliffe realised how much the soldiers' morale was lifted, with these visits, that he set up a public fund, which raised £13,000 to pay for groups of women to visit their own menfolk.

Tony went on to tell us that there was a great deal of information to be found, in the newspapers of the day, with which to fill in names, dates, and many other details. Reporters would meet the trains coming in from Germany, filing reports and photographs of the soldiers, for publication at home. Tony had accidentally come across a newspaper account of one trip, dated December 1916, when he was actually researching a local soldier, and realised that this was such a little-known event from WW1. The article had the title, '*Darwen Wives Meet Soldier Husbands: A trip to Switzerland described*' and was accompanied by a photo of the women in the group who came from various parts of the UK.

The first British group to go was in September 1916, and the 17 women of the group met up for a stay in London where they were taken sightseeing and shopping before they set off for Switzerland. On the day of departure, they went to Waterloo Station, where they had a photograph taken before boarding the train taking them to Southampton where they were to board a ship bound for Le Havre. A brave undertaking as there was always a danger of enemy attack in the Channel. From Le Havre they travelled by train to Paris, where they had another sightseeing tour and in the evening a train to Switzerland. Once past passport control and into Switzerland, they travelled to Montreux where they transferred to the mountain railway car which took them to Chateau d'Oex. When they reached the station, there, it was to find it crowded with soldiers and welcoming dignitaries, and photos were taken.

Some sick and disabled British PoWs were interned in Murren, another Swiss mountain village, and the Red Cross organised visits for the wives in 1917. The Red Cross was also instrumental in setting up workplaces for activities such as leatherworking. The main centres for the PoWs were Chateau d'Oex and Murren, but they were also located in Rougemont, Rossinières, Gunten, Signal de Bougy, Vevey, Lausanne, Seebury and Meiringen.

In total, there were about 6,000 PoWs in Switzerland so it would have been impossible for everyone to have a visitor from home. The soldier would have had to request a visit. When asked about this, Tony said that he had never come across any information regarding the selection procedure... possibly, he thought, because the women selected were involved in

voluntary war work in Britain.

Looking at the various photos from the visits, it seemed that the soldiers were able to come and go in the locality as and when they wished... presumably because they were in the mountains and the men were not fit or healthy enough to try and escape. The one condition was that if they did try to escape, they would be re-captured and returned to PoW camps in Germany but, apparently, no-one did feel the urge to escape!! There were even marriages between some of the soldiers and their visiting sweethearts. One such was Lilian May Spencer, who went out with the Group in September 1916 and, in the November, married Edwin Baylie.

When Tony had filled in all the background for us he turned to some individual men, that he had researched in more depth, and gave us some of their accounts. Their comments served to underline the fact that, once on the train, they couldn't believe that they were passing from a harsh life in the camps to one of comparative freedom and comfort in Switzerland. They included accounts of the welcome, with presents and flowers, that they received as they passed through the various railway stations and, best of all, the sight of 'British faces'... and hearing English spoken.

A number of those in Switzerland, with severe health issues, were repatriated before the end of the war and formally discharged from the army.

Tony's talk was accompanied by a powerpoint with a wealth of illustrative and informative slides, bringing it all to life for us.

Many thanks to Tony for such an enjoyable talk.

Sheila Goodyear

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**Oldham & District - November**



Saturday  
11th Nov.  
at  
2 pm



Fairfield  
Moravian

Settlement,  
Droylsden



***The Moravians***

An illustrated presentation given by Jean Bailo

*The Story of their Journey from Eastern Europe to Fairfield Manchester.*

*In this illustrated talk we can follow their progress and learn a little of their philosophy and way of life, their advanced ideas on education and equality, focussing especially on the Moravian Settlement in Fairfield Droylsden. We take a virtual walk around the community as it is today.*

Saturday 11th November at 2pm

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

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

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

Booking for zoom is on [Eventbrite](#)

~~~~~  
Details, of the 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 – November

|                                               |                                                       |                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MLFHS,<br>ANGLO-SCOTTISH<br>BRANCH<br>MEETING | Saturday,<br>4 <sup>th</sup><br>November<br>at<br>2pm | <i>Banishment<br/>and<br/>Transportation</i><br>given by<br>Ken Nisbet |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|

On Zoom only

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

Booking necessary on [Eventbrite](#)

MLFHS Members free; non members £3

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Bolton ... November, hybrid meeting

MLFHS Bolton Branch Meetings - Hybrid	Wednesday 1 st November at 7:30 pm	<i>'Researching First World War Soldiers: Using The example of the William Harcourt Diary'</i> given by Dr. Jim Beach
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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

~~~~~

## MLFHS updates

### Manchester Meetings... November 25th

|                                         |                                                             |                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MLFHS<br>aka<br>Manchester<br>Ancestors | Saturday,<br>25 <sup>th</sup><br>November<br>at<br>11:00 am | <i>The Road<br/>to the Aisle :<br/>Marriage Customs</i><br>given by<br>Rita Greenwood |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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](#)

~~~~~

MLFHS Online Bookshop: [HERE](#).

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

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### **MLFHS Manchester & Branch e-Newsletters**

MLFHS Manchester and each of the MLFHS branches publish a monthly e-newsletter which provides useful news items and articles etc. The e-newsletters are free and available to both members and non-members of MLFHS Society. Members receive the Manchester newsletter automatically and non-members can browse the archive and download any they wish. You can sign up to receive the Branches' newsletter links monthly, by following the links, below. To sign-up, for a Branch newsletter, to be emailed each month, simply click the appropriate link below and complete the short form on the e-newsletter page, where you will also find copies of all past issues to browse.

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

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

* Hi All

I have just added 362 records, mostly for inquests, taken from the Manchester Courier for 1841 (plus some other items for 1836-1840) to the Great Database. These are often very lengthy accounts and can contain a lot of detail about the circumstances of the deaths.

Thanks to Linda Bailey for these.

~~~~~

\* Hi All

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

Added 3,543 Deaths for Bury RD comprising: Bury (1973-1977)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team

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* Godfrey Maps

Hi All

I have added 344 references for the maps covering Heap Bridge, 1908 (with a 1930 map on the reverse) and Levenshulme, 1905.

This brings the total to 32,355 references to streets and buildings on 128 maps.

and

I have added 144 references for the map of Moses Gate, 1908.

Thanks to

Graham Holt for these entries.

John

~~~~~

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>

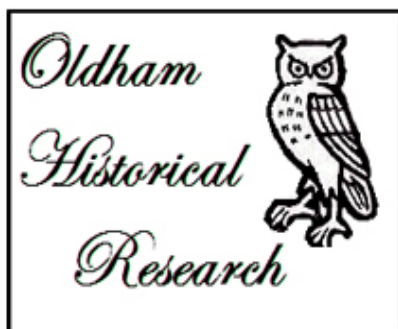
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Please note ...

Please check society/group websites or organisers for updated information

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



Information update ...

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November

'Lest We Forget' ... an illustrated presentation given by John Fidler

" 2023 marks the centenary of the unveiling of the Oldham War Memorial and a day close to Remembrance Day seems an appropriate time to respond to a request for a talk on the subject (plus mention of other memorials in present day Oldham). The grief of individuals, families and communities as day after day telegrams brought news of lives lost, called for some acknowledgement of that anguish and Oldham responded by having its marvellous Memorial unveiled a century ago. Individuals may, with the passage of time, "fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day" (from the hymn, 'Our God, our help in ages past' Isaac Watts,) but their sacrifice remains annually and rightly acknowledged."

Wednesday 15th November, on zoom, at 7pm

Booking Free on Eventbrite [HERE](#)

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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 >.

Website [HERE](#)

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Saddleworth Historical Society ... Wednesday, November 8th

The postponed Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.30pm.

The AGM will be followed by the Ordinary Members Meeting at approximately 8pm.

"Tentering in Marsden."

an illustrated presentation given by Graham Cooper

Society members are free, but a £3 charge to non-members is applicable at the door.

All are welcome to attend both these meetings. Refreshments are available.

The venue is the Saddleworth Museum Gallery, High Street, Uppermill.

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 ... No Meeting in December**



## Moorside & District Historical Society


*We are back, assuming the current regulations hold true.*  
**Monday 21th November 2023.**




### Photographic images showing changes in transport, work opportunities, leisure and local events as Moorside became part of expanding Oldham, from 1850 up to 1960s Part 3

illustrated presentation by Ray Entwistle

Out and about around Oldham as cotton  
provides opportunities for people of out-lying  
villages such as Moorside to experience  
**"Up Town"**



**To be held in the Moorside Cricket Club, Turfpit Lane, Moorside. OL4 2ND**  
**7-30 p.m. all are welcome. Please use the rear side door.**  
*Note: Other meeting planed for the third Monday of the month, next year.*  
Except for the summer break July & August + December. £2 including refreshment.  
April ~ September meeting in St Thomas' Church Hall.OL1 4SJ

**Licensed Bar**  


Monday 21st November at 7:30pm  
Moorside Cricket Club, Turfpit Lane, OL4 2ND  
All welcome ... £2 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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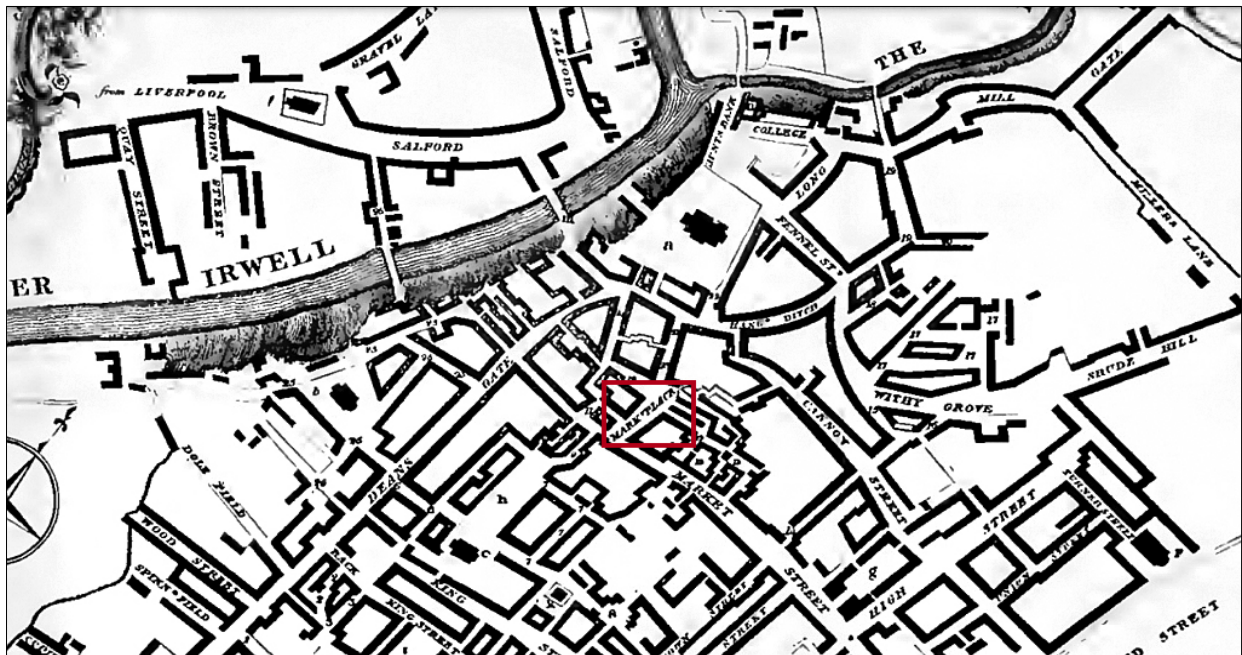
**'A Mixed Bag'**

Our serialisation of *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men Vol. 1 (1st series)* published in 1906 and started in our newsletter in 2023-08. It will continue through succeeding newsletters. This month we are reading the 'Fountain Street' and 'Memorials of George 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



**FOUNTAIN STREET.**

**PART I**

**THE FIRST CONCERT HALL.**

Fountain-street, like Spring Gardens, derived its name from the springs that were formerly to be found in the neighbourhood. Previous to the making of Norfolk-street, a reservoir supplied by one of these springs stood in what was known as Marriott's field, and formed a supplementary water supply to the conduit.

The first building of note was the Concert Hall that formerly stood at the corner of York-street and gave the name to Concert Lane. Prior to the erection of the hall, music had no recognised centre in the town. One old writer tells us that during two months of the year concerts were given three times a week, in the theatre that then stood in Marsden-street, the orchestra consisting of two violins, a clarinet, and a bassoon. In addition to this, concerts were given at Day's Coffee House (which stood where the pavement in Exchange-street now is), in the Market Place. In a room there, once a fortnight, "as much harmony as ten single-keyed German flutes could produce delighted the favoured auditors." With these flautists commenced the movement known for so many generations as the Gentlemen's Concerts; and by them and their friends the first Concert Hall was built. The foundation Stone was laid by Edward Greaves, of Culcheth, on August 24, 1775. The money for building was lent by Matthew Travis, the cost being £600. In September,

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1777, the building was opened by a musical festival, which extended over three days and is said to have been the first one held in England. The concert room was 81 feet long and 30 feet wide, and could accommodate 1,200 persons. The subscribers numbered nearly five hundred, the annual subscription being four guineas. Aston says -"The room was lighted by elegant gas chandeliers, and on public nights the numerous assemblage of fair Lancashire witches listening to the 'concord of sweet sounds' from the parterre and gallery, afford a rich treat to the eyes of the admirers of female beauty, whilst the lovers of harmony are gratified by the excellence of both amateur and professional performers." A century ago there were six choral and six miscellaneous concerts given each season. In 1812 Madame Catalini appeared there, and during her visit she sang at St. John's Church for the benefit of the Infirmary, when the collection amounted to £150; and in 1813 Mr. Braham appeared for the first time. In 1828 a great musical festival was held in the Theatre Royal; and in 1836 another was held. These were the outcome of the work done by the Concert Committee. Many well known local singers and musicians were associated with the concerts given in the building during the 54 years that it was in use. Most of these have been forgotten, and although many names could be given they would, therefore, convey no meaning to the reader. Perhaps an exception may be made in connection with the Sudlows, who for so many years played a prominent part in the work done. William Sudlow, who kept a music shop in Hanging Ditch,

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played in the orchestra for over twenty years; and Edward Sudlow played in many concerts. Both played the violin. Another familiar name is that of Richard Wainwright, organist at St. Ann's, who played the violoncello. Crosdell was at the same time chief violoncellist, his salary being £52 10s. per annum. The principal oboe was paid £42, principal trumpet £21, principal bassoon £21, and Ashbridge, who played the drums, received £31 10s. One of the occasional singers at the concerts a century ago was a tenor named Spray. He started life as a weaver at Bulwell, Nottinghamshire, but being dissatisfied with his position, he wandered through the country in search of work. When at Lichfield he heard of a vacancy in the choir,"applied for and got it. He afterwards became principal tenor in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, from whence he moved to London, when he sang at the Drury Lane oratorios. He was one of the finest tenor singers of his day. Another popular singer was Miss Deborah Travis, who began life as a cotton operative at Shaw, near Oldham, became a great singer, made her last appearance at the Birmingham Festival in 1847, and died at Shaw in 1876. In 1831 the concerts were removed to the new building in Peter-street.

**THE SECOND THEATRE ROYAL.**

Second in importance to the Concert Hall of the buildings that have stood in Fountain-street was the second Theatre Royal, of which the foundations were laid in 1806. It was opened in June, 1807, with the comedy, "Folly as it Flies," Mr. Macready, the father

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of the celebrated tragedian, taking the management. As originally built the theatre was much too large, as will be realised from the fact that facing Fountain-street, with the back entrance in Back Mosley-street, it extended from Charlotte-street to the Garrick's Head. The box entrance and lobby was wide enough to have permitted a carriage to pass along from one end to the other. This lobby was afterwards converted into a warehouse, which stood between the theatre and the Garrick's Head. Other alterations were made, and with the rent reduced from the original one of £1,600 to half that amount, the building proved more successful from a financial point of view. Many leading stars appeared on its boards, amongst the earliest being Mrs. Siddons, Munden, young Roscius and Elliston. When his father met with financial disaster, young Macready, then only a youth of sixteen, became manager of the stock company, and

soon showed wonderful aptitude for work. In 1811 and 1813 Joseph Grimaldi appeared, and towards the end of 1813 John Astley was there with his equestrian troupe. On its stage Pagannini gave some of those marvellous performances on the violin which are not yet lost sight of by lovers of that instrument. One who saw him, after describing the fight he had in order to secure entrance to the pit, speaks of his tall gaunt figure, fine forehead, and intellectual face. Nothing could exceed his awkward appearance as he stood bowing in response to the cheers that greeted him. But when he commenced playing a marvellous change came over him, and his whole soul seemed absorbed in the instrument from which he produced such delightful music.

#### **p.233**

In 1828 a great musical festival was held. It commenced on Monday, September 29, and lasted a week, closing with a fancy dress ball. The morning concerts, which comprised oratorios and choral selections, were given in the Collegiate Church, the evening concerts being given in the Theatre Royal. The great attraction was the celebrated singer, Madame Catalini, and included amongst the other vocalists were Madame Stockhausen, Madame Caradori Allan, Miss Stephens, Mr. Braham, Mr. E. Taylor, Signor Carioni, Signor Pellegrini, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Knyvett. The leader of the morning concerts was Mr. F. Cramer, and in the evenings Mr. Mori officiated. The band was composed of twenty- three violins, six violas, six violoncellos, six double basses, two flutes, two oboes, two clarionets, two bassoons, four horns, two trumpets, four trombones, one harp, and one drum. These figures will give some idea as to the composition of an orchestra eighty years ago. The profits of the festival, £5,000, were paid over to various charities. Eight years later an even greater festival took place when the Theatre Royal, the Assembly Rooms, and the Portico were joined by covered passages over the streets. Many great singers and musicians were heard at the concerts at the Collegiate Church and the Theatre; but a gloom was cast over the event by the death of the great singer Malibran, who although not entirely recovered from a serious illness, sang with extraordinary power. The effort was great, too great, for she was carried from the room to her bed, from which she never again arose. She was buried in the Collegiate Church, but her remains

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were afterwards removed to Laeken. In 1842 the theatre was used for the purpose of a bazaar organised by the Anti-Corn Law League. It continued open for ten days, and nearly £10,000 was taken.

The career of the building was rapidly drawing to a close, but a few interesting facts must be noticed. On October 21, 1843, John Reeves was engaged to sustain principal and other singing parts at a salary of three pounds ten shillings per week, and on the 23rd he played Edwy in "*Alfred the Great*," and a few days later he sang "*My Pretty Jane*." In later years as Sims Reeves he filled the greatest halls in the country by his inimitable rendering of this and other ballads. The stock company at this time included Charles Pitt, Charles Horsman, William Davidge, Walter Grisdale, R. H. Wyndham, Miss Fife (afterwards Mrs. Bickerstaffe) Mrs. Horsman, and Miss Emmeline Montague. On May 6, 1844, a performance of "*The Winter's Tale*" and Dickens's "*Christmas Carol*" was given by the company, and it proved to be the last, for early next morning the building was burned down, and visitors to the ruins next day saw the ladies of the ballet sitting disconsolate on the steps of Dr. Halley's Chapel, gazing at the wreck.

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### **FOUNTAIN STREET.**

#### **PART II - THE MEAL MARKET.**

A century ago oatmeal was a more essential article of food to thousands of English people than is the case to-day. In towns therefore the meal market was a useful institution, and formerly the Manchester one was held in a building, and an adjoining yard, in Fountain-street, just out of



Market-street Lane. Meal-street denotes the site. One writer says of the market that “the quantity of oatmeal exposed there for sale every Saturday is matter for astonishment to persons from the Southern counties, where that kind of food is only used as an addition to broths, or to make gruels.” A resident of Meal-street in 1836 attained to a certain amount of fame by reason of his enormous size. This was Alexander M<sup>c</sup>Minn, whose smithy stood two doors from Fountain-street on the right hand side of Meal-street. When Henry Liversedge, the Manchester artist, was painting his picture representing Falstaff and his soldiers, “the villains who marched wide between the legs as though they’d gyves on,” he selected the jovial blacksmith to sit for the fat knight. When the smithy and adjoining premises were pulled down to make way for a warehouse M<sup>c</sup>Minn crossed over Market-street, and took up his quarters in a smithy that stood near the present entrance to Ryland’s warehouse in Tib-street. He was a well known character, and when not at work would usually be seen standing with his leather apron on at the corner of Garden-street, now known as Bridgewater Place.

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### **AN EARLY RESTAURANT.**

Amongst the quaint effusions contained in that curious publication bearing the equally curious title of “*Gimcrackiana*” is one entitled “*The Fountain-street refectory.*” It essays to describe what was probably Manchester’s first restaurant. In 1824 it was customary for business men to dine at home. Country manufacturers dined at the licensed houses that were to be found in the vicinity of the Market Place and Hanging Ditch. There was therefore little demand for the accommodation that forms a feature of our present day business life. The first venturesome spirit to enter upon a new departure was James Hudswell who opened a dining room in Fountain-street. The novelty of the venture is thus dealt with by Gregson:-

"Since Hudswell first in Manchester began  
 To dress a dinner on the Cockney plan,  
 A guttling mania hath assail'd the town,  
 At one o'clock, to gulp his good things down.  
 If near that hour I meet some well-known face,  
 He asks if I have dined at this new place;  
 Inquires not now if I am well or not -  
 Nay, th' weather is itself forgot.  
 That omnipresent theme when others fail,  
 Like salt at table, or 'mine host's' mild ale;  
 The truths we hear on what we knew before,  
 Such as, 'tis cold,' 'tis wet,' are now no more;  
 'What is there doing in your way of late?'  
 Or, 'What the upshot of the next debate?'  
 Are all absorb'd, like gravy in a chop,  
 The only converse now, 'the new cook shop.'"

In humorous fashion the writer refers to the various items contained in the bill of fare, describes the bustle of the place, and closes with a word of apology for writing on so “unworthy” a subject. As showing how slowly the number of eating houses grew, it may

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be pointed out that in 1838 there were only eighteen in the town, six of which were in Deansgate.

### **A LICENSED HOUSE WITH INTERESTING ASSOCIATIONS.**

At the corner of York-street and Fountain-street, where the Union Bank stands, there formerly stood a public-house known as the ‘George and Dragon’. In 1813 the house was kept by Thomas Whitlow, and after his death by his widow. She married again, and in 1824 Matthew

Depear was the landlord; and in 1838 the name Henry Jewsbury appears in the directory. Around these names an interesting story is woven. Mrs. Whitlow had a son and a daughter. The former was apprenticed to J. W. Gualter, who kept an old-fashioned chemist's shop that stood at the corner of Market-street Lane and Tib-street. There he became acquainted with a fellow apprentice, Henry Jewsbury, whose father, Thomas Jewsbury, was the local agent for the "West of England Insurance Company," and whose sisters became well known in literary circles. Henry Jewsbury and Whitlow afterwards commenced business as chemists and druggists in Market-street, and after the latter had retired from the partnership, Jewsbury took a new partner named W. Scott Brown, thereby founding the concern known as Jewsbury and Brown. Henry Jewsbury was also financially interested in the firm of Jewsbury, Crux, and Gething. He married Mrs. Whitlow's daughter, and this accounts for the appearance of his name in connection with the 'George and Dragon'. Mrs. Whitlow married Mr. M. Depear, who was a fustian manufacturer of Cannon-street, and

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who was a man of literary tastes and a contributor of poems to various periodicals. He presided at the meeting held at the house of Wilmot Henry Jones, St. Stephen-street, Salford, on April 27, 1839, to celebrate the publication of Philip James Bailey's "*Festus*." Considering the associations of the house we are not surprised to learn that John Stanley Gregson, whose "*Gimcrackiana*" has just been referred to, was a frequenter of it. The story is told that on one occasion having imbibed too freely he was the cause of a disturbance in the house, He was turned out as a consequence, and was requested not to enter again. He thereupon produced the following lines: -

“ ‘Who'er has travelled life's dull round  
Where'er his toilsome journey's been,  
Must sigh to think how oft he's found  
His warmest welcome at an inn.'  
The contrary we here may trace;  
For quaffing of an extra flagon  
The writer held in sad disgrace  
Was banish'd from the *George and Dragon*.”

**A MANCHESTER WORTHY.**

Many notable men have been associated with Fountain-street, but few were for so long a period connected with it as George Hadfield. Mr. Hadfield was a Yorkshireman, having been born at Sheffield in 1788, and it was in his native town that he served his articles to an attorney. He afterwards came to Manchester, and was for many years in partnership with Joseph Grave at 38, Fountain-street. In 1825 the Rusholme Road Congregational Chapel was opened, the funds for building it having been obtained largely by his efforts.

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He resided at that time in a large house numbered 20, Oxford-street, but removed later to one in Cavendish-street, facing All Saints' Church. The statement made by several writers that he came to Manchester in 1839 is therefore incorrect. He was resident at Cavendish-street in 1829, when he published the report of His Majesty's Commissioners concerning Dame Sarah Hewley's Charity, the inquiry into which had resulted from his efforts. In 1832 the first Parliamentary contest in Manchester took place, and at the nominations. which took place in St. Ann's Square, Mr. Hadfield seconded the nomination of Charles Poulett Thomson, who, with Mark Philips, was returned at the head of the poll. He was one of the earliest supporters of the Free Trade movement, and was a member of the provisional committee formed prior to the organisation of the Anti-Corn Law League. He gave much valuable assistance to the League, and when in 1860 a fund was raised to assist Mr. Cobden, Mr. Hadfield subscribed the sum of

£500. When the Lancashire Independent College, Whalley Range, was established in 1840 he contributed £2,000 to the funds, and in many other ways assisted the Independent movement in Manchester. In 1852 he was returned Liberal member of Parliament for Sheffield, which town he represented until 1874. He died at his residence, Conyngham Road, Victoria Park, on April 21, 1879.

Among others who have been connected with the street may be mentioned James Pigot, engraver and copper plate printer, whose apprentice, Isaac Slater, afterwards became his partner. About 1841 Mr.

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Pigot retired, leaving Mr. Slater in charge of the business that has become famous as publishers of directories. Prior to 1858, S. and J. Watts occupied a warehouse at number 22; at number 47A, John Bright and Brothers carried on business nearly fifty years ago; and at number

77, Messrs. Callender, Sons, and Dodgshon were located for a period.

John Kaye, who carried on business as a cabinet maker, at number 82, was the builder of the first villa erected in Greenheys Lane, Greenheys Hall up to then being the only house with the exception of a few country cottages. Mr. Kaye's house stood at the corner of Greenhill-street; and assisted financially by Miss Byrom, he afterwards built many of the fine houses that have in our time, along with the pleasant gardens that surrounded them, given place to rows of small houses.

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### **GEORGE STREET MEMORIALS.**

#### **PART I - THE LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.**

The history of George-street has not yet extended over a century and a half. Like many neighbouring thoroughfares it was in its early days purely residential, and at one time was extremely select. The name does not appear in the list of streets that formed the town in 1773 and in the directory for 1788 few references to it are to be found. It had, however, thus early in its career become the centre of two important movements, the one scientific and the other religious. The former movement had taken concrete form under the designation of the Literary and Philosophical Society. Like many other leading organisations, the society had a very humble origin. Thomas Percival, M.D., F.R.S., M.R.C.S., lived in King-street for many years; and, being a scientific scholar of remarkable attainments, attracted to himself the scientific men resident in the town. At first the reunions were confined to those who were personal friends; but the circle increased so much, and the value of the communications prepared and read ranked so high in value, that it was necessary to arrange for more formal gatherings. The friends, therefore, formed themselves into a club that met weekly at a tavern for the promotion of science and literature. The next move made was the erection of a building that should provide accommodation and facilities not to be obtained in any other way. This

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resulted in the purchase of land and the erection of the house still standing in George-street. This took place in 1804, the building costing £600. In 1880 structural alterations were made at a cost of £4,000. Few English societies can boast of a career so distinguished or so closely associated with scientific research, or including in the lists of their members so many men who have earned more than national fame as can the "Lit. and Phil." In the early years of its career it embraced amongst its members Dr. Thomas Percival; Dr. Watson, Bishop of Llandaff; the Rev. Dr. Barnes, of Cross-street Chapel; Mr. Thomas Henry, F.R.S.; Dr. John Ferrier, whose "*Illustrations of Sterne*" betokened fine taste and wide reading; Dr. James Currie, and John Dalton. To enumerate the names of distinguished men who have been associated with it would be a serious undertaking, and we must content ourselves with a few of the more important

discoveries made by some of its members.

Of the work done by Dr. Dalton I shall say something in a later paragraph. William Sturgeon, the originator of the electro magnet, made a number of important discoveries in the study of electricity. His attention was drawn to the science in a peculiar manner. Early in life, when serving in the artillery, a terrific thunderstorm caused him to commence those investigations which ended in him making the discoveries which preceded the remarkable developments of later days. Dr. P. J. Joule enriched scientific knowledge by his discoveries in the conservation of heat, and the determination of the equivalence of heat and energy. He had

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studied mathematics and chemistry under Dalton, and much of his work consisted in following up and further developing the investigations of his tutor. E. W. Binney was a recognised authority in geology. He was unequalled in his knowledge of the geology of the Manchester district, and of the carboniferous strata more particularly. Engineering science has been enriched by the researches of Richard Roberts, Sir William Fairbairn, and Osborne Reynolds and other members of the society. Professor Arthur Schuster, who conducted four expeditions formed to observe solar eclipses, and who in 1882 succeeded in photographing the spectrum of the solar corona; Dr. Edward Schunck, the discoverer of chrysammic acid; Dr. Balfour Stewart, Sir Henry Roscoe, and Dr. Schorlemmer have also been distinguished members. After a career extending over more than a century and a quarter the society is still carrying on its valuable work; and included in its roll of members are all the leading scientists of the district. Having thus roughly sketched the career and work of the society we may turn our attention to the life and labours of one of Manchester's most distinguished citizens.

#### **DR. JOHN DALTON.**

John Dalton, Manchester's foremost scientist, was born at Eaglesfield, near Cockermouth, in 1766. He was of Quaker parentage, and remained a Friend until his death. He commenced teaching when only twelve years old in his native village; but in 1781, carrying his belongings in a bundle, he walked to Kendal. There

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he became usher in a school where his eldest brother already taught, and a few years afterwards the brothers took over the school. For 12 years Dalton lived a quiet, secluded life, filling up the intervals of teaching by studying natural philosophy. In 1793 he came to Manchester, and remained here until his death in 1844. He became tutor of mathematics and natural philosophy at the Academy in Mosley-street, his income being £50 a year. In 1800 he became secretary of the "Lit. and Phil.," in 1808, he was appointed vice-president and in 1817 he became president, holding the position until his death. For nearly 30 years he lived with the Rev. William Johns, whose acquaintance he made at the Academy. It is said that when the two friends met on one occasion Mr. Johns asked Dalton how it was that he never came to see them. "I don't know," replied Dalton, "but I will come and live with you if you will let me." Thus were the preliminaries of a long residence arranged. Mr. Johns lived in a house that stood opposite the home of the "Lit. and Phil.," and as the society had given up one of its rooms for Dalton's private use as a study and laboratory, the arrangement was a most convenient one. Dalton was systematic in his habits, allowing himself only two forms of relaxation. One consisted of spending Thursday afternoon in the summer months on the bowling green of the 'Dog and Partridge,' at Old Trafford, and the other was an annual visit to the Lake district. For 42 years on the same day of the same month, he is said to have ascended Helvellyn. In 1808 he published "*A New System of Chemical Philosophy*," which was followed

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two years later by a second part. The first hint of his great discovery of the atomic theory was contained in a paper read before the members of the "Lit. and Phil." in 1803. Without Dalton's



great discovery, Professor F. W. Clarke tells us, that “organic chemistry would be quite unintelligible, a mere dust of unrelated facts.” In 1826 he received the gold medal of the Royal Society for his scientific discoveries, and in 1833 his statue was raised by Sir Francis Chantry, the cost, £2,000, being met by subscription. In the same year he received a pension of £150 a year from the King, which enabled him to pass the closing years of his life in comparative ease. He died on July 27, 1844, and was buried in the Ardwick Cemetery. Such was the respect in which he was held by his fellow townsmen that 40,000 visited the Town Hall on the day that his body lay in state. The funeral procession took the form of a great public function, most of the mills, workshops, and shops being closed.

### **REV. WILLIAM JOHNS.**

The year following the death of Dalton saw the death of his old friend the Rev. W. Johns, whose house for so many years had been to him a home. Mr. Johns was a man of literary attainments, and he was the author of “*Use and Origin of Figurative Language*,” “*Importance of the Scriptures*,” and “*Origin of Verbs*.” It was as a schoolmaster that he was best known, his school in George-street ranking high among the academies to be found in the district round George-street. He was assisted by his two daughters and an

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assistant master. As showing how the prevalent ideas on education differed from those of today, it may be noted that in the upper class scholars were obliged to learn ten lines of Ovid by heart at home each day, and severe punishment awaited the lad who dared to face his master any morning without knowing his lines. Amongst his scholars were the sons and daughters of the Murrays, of Ancoats Hall; the Kennedys, of Ardwick Hall; the M<sup>c</sup>Connells, of the Polygon, and other well known local magnates. When warehouses commenced taking the place of private houses, Mr. Johns removed to Broughton, where he died. Amongst other residents in the street were the Rev. Henry Fielding, chaplain of the House of Correction; and William Lewis, surgeon, his next-door neighbour; whilst close by, at No. 31, were Austin’s livery stables. At 57 the Rev. J. Wheeldon conducted a school; at 65 M. A. Mordacque, whose eldest son afterwards entered the Church, gave lessons in French; and at 63, Richard Drury obtained a precarious living as an artist. Henry Marsland, who was one of the first members of the city Council, lived at No. 18; the Revs. J. Parsons and W. Turner, connected with Rook-street Roman Catholic Chapel, lived at 58; and a little lower down the street was the house of Mrs. Leresche, who, with her neighbour George Condry, ran the “*Manchester and Salford Advertiser*.”

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### **GEORGE STREET MEMORIALS.**

#### **PART II. - St. JAMES’S CHURCH**

The above church in George-street owes its foundation to its first rector, the Rev. Cornelius Bayley. The foundation stone was laid in 1786, and on August 18, 1788, the building was consecrated by the Bishop of Chester (Dr. Cleaver), Dr. Bayley preaching the consecration sermon. The right of presentation was vested in the heirs of the founder for sixty years, and after that period in the Wardens and Fellows of the Collegiate Church. Dr. Bayley, who lived in a large house that stood in Charlotte-street, was the son of a leather breeches maker, who carried on a lucrative business in High-street. His father was a follower of Wesley, and the son, after taking his Doctor of Divinity degree at Cambridge, acted for a time as a teacher at Wesley’s Kingswood School, receiving a salary of £12 a year and his board. Leaving the Wesleyan body he was ordained, and at once took the preliminary steps that led to the building of St. James’s Church. Being exceedingly popular, he attracted a fashionable congregation to the church, and although he had left the Wesleyans many of them attended his church. This popularity caused him to be regarded with envious feeling by some members of the staff

clerical at the Collegiate Church; and on one occasion the Rev. Joshua Brooks expressed his opinion about Bayley in a characteristic manner. When asking Charles Hulbert as to why

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he had not been seen regularly at the old Church, he was told that on some mornings he attended at St. James's to hear Dr. Bayley. "Oh! he's a rank Methody, and you may as well go to John Wesley's preaching shop in Owdham-street at once." And Brooks certainly spoke truly, as for many years the Wesleyans commenced the day with an early morning service, many of them attending the ordinary morning service at St. James's; and when Wesley visited Oldham-street he was assisted at the crowded communion service by Dr. Bayley. Another story about the rector is worth repeating. In features he so strongly resembled a Jew that when he was a candidate for ordination the Bishop at first hesitated to ordain him; but the candidate settled all doubts by asking that pork should be set before him for dinner. Bayley took part in the introduction of Sunday Schools into Manchester, and continued as rector of St. James's until his death in 1812. Beneath the church. are extensive vaults which were formerly used for purposes of interment. There repose the remains of Dr. Bayley, and many other citizens, including the notorious deputy-constable, Joseph Nadin. The church, although with a much changed congregation attending it, remains to remind us of the days when its parish bordered on the fields and when well-to-do people lived round it.

#### **GEORGE-STREET BAPTIST CHAPEL.**

In 1825 the Baptists purchased from Daniel Grant a piece of land that lay nearly opposite the church, and built thereon a chapel. The founders had been

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members of Gadsby's congregation in Rochdale Road, or St. George's Road as it was then called, and had been drafted off to form the new congregation. It was not a successful movement, and in 1830 the management was taken over by the York-street Chapel people. Under the Rev. John Aldis it prospered for some time, and branch chapels were founded in Wilmott-street, Hulme; Wellington-street, Gorton; and Great George-street, Salford. Another period of decadence set in, the congregation fell away, and in 1844 the chapel was sold, the proceeds being applied to the reduction of the debt resting upon the Grosvenor-street (C.-on-M.) Chapel.

#### **A WELL KNOWN CONCERN.**

Nearly seventy years ago a firm then known as Potters and Norris took premises at No. 1, George-street, and remained there for over forty years. The history of the firm is so interwoven with the political history, both local and national, of the last century that it is well worth recording. In 1801 two young men, William and Richard Potter, came to Manchester from Tadcaster to seek their fortunes. They were the sons of a Yorkshire farmer, whose farm was too small to find work for the members of his family. William had therefore been employed by a Wigan manufacturer, for whom he travelled, carrying samples, on horseback throughout the country. He was a man of indomitable energy, and in partnership with his brother Richard, who had served an apprenticeship with a Warrington draper, he commenced business at No. 5, Cannon-street. Two years later a third brother, Thomas, joined the

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concern, but in 1806 William retired. The remaining brothers did not confine their energies to commercial matters, but took a leading part, in local reform movements. The suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act by the ministry of Lord Liverpool, and the subsequent suggestion of an Act of Indemnity for all illegal acts committed during the period of suspension drew forth from the reformers of Manchester a vigorous protest. Their meetings were held in a little room connected with the Potters' warehouse. In 1826 the brothers and Robert Philips (father of R. N. Philips, M.P.), were mainly instrumental in presenting a requisition to the churchwardens to call

a meeting of ratepayers to consider the state of the country. The refusal to comply led to the commencement of the agitation that ended to the incorporation of the borough. After the passing of the Reform Bill, Richard Potter was elected M.P. for Wigan, and when Manchester was incorporated Thomas was the first Mayor selected. In 1840 the honour of knighthood was conferred upon him, and he died in March, 1845, in his 71st year. In the meantime business had prospered, and in 1830 S. H. Norris was admitted a partner, the name being changed to T. and R. Potter and S. H. Norris, but when the premises at George-street were entered the style became Potters and Norris. In 1836 Mr. Norris withdrew from the firm, his place being taken by Francis Taylor, the title became Potters and Taylor. Mr. Norris was a Conservative in politics, but Mr. Taylor, like the Potters, was an advanced Radical, and took a leading part in educational matters. After the death of Sir

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Thomas his son John took a more active part in public life, sharing with Dr. John Watts the honour of inaugurating the Free Library system in Manchester. When the late Queen visited Manchester in 1851 he was Mayor, and received the honour of knighthood. In 1857 he was elected M.P. for Manchester, but a year later he died. A younger brother, T. B. Potter, was for many years M.P. for Rochdale, his record of public service being particularly honourable. The next change in the name of the firm took place in 1872. Mr. Taylor had died, and in the year named Mr. T. B. Potter sold the business to S. T. Martin, the name becoming Potter and Martin. Two years later the concern was converted into a limited company, and in 1878 it was purchased by H. Bannerman and Sons. It may be mentioned that Sir Thomas Potter built the house at Buile Hill, Pendleton, where he died.

#### **MANCHESTER'S "MAN of ROSS."**

This term has been applied to Joseph Adshead, who formerly carried on business as an estate agent in George-street. Mr. Adshead commenced life as a merchant, and was one of the first councillors elected for St. Michael's Ward, but resigned soon afterwards owing to failure in business. He afterwards became an estate agent, was elected a representative for Oxford Ward in 1846, and continued to be a member of the Council until his death in 1861. He wrote "*The Wreck of the Rothesay Castle*;" "*Prisons and Prisoners*;" and a number of pamphlets. The treatment of prisoners occupied much of his thoughts, and in

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connection with his book on prison life he visited many prisons in the United Kingdom, on the continent, and in the states. For his efforts he received a gold medal from Oscar, King of Sweden. He was one of the promoters of the Lancasterian School, and was connected with the Industrial School movement. When the Committee of the Manchester Ragged and Industrial Schools was formed in 1846 he was elected a member and in later years became chairman and treasurer; and was also active in the formation of the Manchester Reformatory. In 1858 Mr. Adshead read a paper before the National Association for Social Science, on "*Reformatory and Ragged Schools, their comparative economy*." He was a supporter of voluntary education, founded the Night Asylum for Destitute Poor, and in many ways worked for the improvement of the social condition of the working classes. He published a map of Manchester, which consisted of twenty-four sheets, and on which every building in the town was marked. It was a tremendous undertaking, and the map is full of interest, enabling us to realise the vast changes that have taken place during the last half century.

When mentioning the names of some former residents of the street, I should have said that when Benjamin Heywood, the banker, married the daughter of Thomas Robinson, of Cheetham Hill, he commenced housekeeping at 41, George-street. In 1820 he removed to Pendleton, was returned M.P. for the county in 1831, and was created a baronet in 1838.

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STORY OF WHISTLER.

At one time, we had in the district a character whom I will call by the name of "Whistler," for, as Edwin Waugh once wrote, "He was as fine a whistler as ever cockt a lip. Whistler was thought to be a bit queer. He did odd jobs for people, and at times fetched cinders for the good

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housewives with a donkey and cart. He was a strong man, and I remember once seeing his donkey "stow" with a load of cinders. He took the ass out of the shafts, got in them himself, and drew the load on good ground, then yoked the animal in again, and went on his way whistling and rejoicing. He was the organ blower at a neighbouring church, and it was with him that the well-known "organ story" had its origin. There was a party being held in connection with this place of worship, and one of the speakers was praising the organ-player for his skill. The player, in reply to the praise showered upon him, said "he always did his best." Whistler, who was present, whispered to him, "Say 'we'." He, however, took no notice of the interruption. On the following Sunday, Whistler stopped blowing the organ in the middle of a hymn. The player, turning to him, said, "What have you stopped blowing for?" Whistler's time had come, and so he said, "Wilt say 'we' neaw?" The player, in the dilemma, had to say "we," and so Whistler was at last recognised. An effort was once made to get Whistler in the Workhouse, and, knowing what was afoot, he was very chary about the matter, as he had no desire to go in. The services of the village pastor were sought. He accordingly wrote a letter, in which the Workhouse authorities were requested to keep the bearer on arriving at the Workhouse. This Whistler was induced to take and deliver at the Workhouse. On getting near the gates of the Workhouse, Whistler, who had an idea of what was being tried on with him, was equal to the occasion. He met a tramp, to whom he said, "Wilt tak' this letter to th' Workheawse? Aw'm in a hurry, an' have somewheer else to go. Aw'll give thee a penny if theaw will." Whistler had himself been given a shilling to take the letter. The tramp jumped at the job,

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and took the letter. On arriving at the Workhouse, the tramp was taken inside and to the bathroom, where he was told to undress for a bath. He could not understand this, and he said, "What the dickens do you mean?" "Come, come," said the officials, "let's have no bother, but do as you are bid." The tramp naturally protested against the bath, and eventually it was found out they had got the wrong man. Whistler returned home as lively as a cricket, and with elevenpence to the good, having outwitted both the parson and his relatives. Whistler was quite a favourite with the lasses, for he had always ready some funny remark for them. My sister once told me that she and a companion were walking out together when they met Whistler. Previous to going out, this female companion of my sister had been having a "bit of a tiff" at home for a new dress. Whistler, on meeting them, exclaimed to her in a way he was wont to do at-times, "Eh, theaw art vext, becose theaw conno' ha' a new frock." "Who the dickens us bin an' tow'd Whistler?" said my sister's companion.

A BONFIRE STORY.

At one time there used to be large bonfires in Failsworth, particularly in Wrigley Head and Holebottom. These fires were lit on the Saturday nearest the "fifth of November," and I remember that there used to be great rivalry between the lads connected with each fire. Sometimes as much as two pounds would be collected in money for each fire, with which coals would be bought. If the lads of Wrigley Head trenched on the ground of the Holebottom lads,

there would be a battle between the two groups. There was one very numerous family in the district, called the "Birch lot." This

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family could never agree to join either the Wrigley Head or the Holebottom fire, and so they would have one of their own. This provoked much feeling in the neighbourhood. I recollect, on one occasion, old James Rydings was bringing in a load of coals to the "Birch lad's fire." He was met at the top of Holebottom, and was told the "Birch" lot had decided to join the Holebottom fire, and that he had to take the coal there. This the unsuspecting old man did, and the coal was put on the fire without delay. When the "Birch lads" came home from their work, they found themselves without coal. Going to old Rydings, they asked him what he had done with the coal, and when he told them, there were some long faces. They told the old carrier he had done wrong, and that he must fetch them back. He and the "Birch lot," came to the Holebottom fire with horse, cart, and spades, and commenced to fill the cart with the hot coal. When the cart had got almost filled, it set on fire, and there was a great blaze. Old James tipped the coals over again, remarking, "Aw'm no' goin' to ha' my cart burnt, whatever tak's place." So the coals were again put on the Holebottom fire, and the "Birch lads" were told they could join at the fire. Thus, were they compelled to join us in spite of themselves, and in the future there was no further trouble with them. Amalgamation was, in those days, brought about by forcible means. As I have said, the Birch family were a numerous body, and the father of one branch, Sam Birch, was a noted character. He had an impediment in his speech, and he was renowned for the peculiar way in which he sang "Sitting on the Stile, Mary." Sam had a garden, and I remember once he had a fine show of "sunflowers." One day some friends stood admiring his display of these flowers. He was asked how he managed to grow

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such a fine and beautiful bloom. He answered, "Well, aw'll just tell yo' o' th' sacrit. Yo' seen my garden catches o' th' mornini sun." "Nay, nay," said one of the bystanders, "aw'l noan ha' that; my garden catches a bit." Sam, finding his expression was taken literally, replied, "Well, aye, aw'll alleaw theaw gets a bit, an' it is a bit, too."

PAT CUSICK

was another character we had in the district. He once tried to pull a trail dog called "Sammy Infant" through the canal, but he failed, and was drawn through by the famous, big, strong dog. Pat did not see the joke, and he declared, "if he had only had spikes in his boots, he could have pulled the dog through Jordan." One Monday morning, when the rent-collector called at Pat's house, he found him beating his wife. On being remonstrated with by the collector, he said, "I ought to have done it a month since." "Then," said the collector, "theaw'rt in arrears wi' that, like 'theaw art wi' thi rent."

A FAILSWORTH BOMBARDON PLAYER.

The late George Whittaker, the father of James Whittaker, the well-known bass singer, of Failsworth, was a most musical man, and at one time the leader of a fine Failsworth choir. George also played the bombardon in the band. When he was learning to play this instrument, he used to set the dog of a neighbour of his "howling on its hind legs." The neighbour went into George's house one day, and said, "Aw'll tell thee what, George, yon dog o' mine 'ull larn a tune afore theaw does." This story

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reminds me of another, connected with a big drummer of a Hollinwood band. The drummer was a very little man, and one day the band was out, and the players marching through the streets turned a quick corner into another street; It was at a part of the tune where the drummer was having a rest, and, being a little man, he could not see over his drum. He consequently lost the band, and turned down the wrong street. Finding he had lost the band, he put down the drum

and inquired of a person in the -street, "Has theaw seen a band abeawt here?"

A PIGEON-COTE STORY.

John o'Berry's, who was a great pigeon-fancier, one night met a neighbour, a collier, at an inn. "What hasta bin doin' to-day?" said the miner. "Oh," replied John, "aw've bin renovatin' my pigeon-cote." "Theaw should mak' a pigeon-cote like that aw've made," said the collier. "Thee mak' a pigeon-cote?" said John, a bit nettled. "Aw never knew a collier ut could drive a nail th' hawe-road in beawt bendin' th' yed. Besides," said John, "theaw never knew a collier ut had th' sense to goo i' th' heawse when it rained." Such was the way the old characters had of talking and falling out with each other in the old days. No-wonder that such plain speaking often led to a battle. The spread of education has certainly put a stop to such scenes as these, and to the battles to which they often led up.

A FAILSWORTH RACE-RUNNER.

A good story is told of a foot race-runner who went by the name of Charley. One night, Charley came home

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and told his brother he was matched to run a race for ten shillings. "They tell me aw shall have to train for this race. Will theaw train me?" Charley said to his brother. "Aye, aw will," he replied, "an' aw'll begin to-neet." Charley was a simple-minded youth, and believed in all his elder brother did or said. The trainer put, the pan on the fire, and made Charley a big mess of porritch. Then he got a basin and filled it with churn-milk (butter-milk), saying to him, "Theaw mun get these into thee for a start. Then theaw mun undress thisel, an' run twice reawnd th' fielt at back o' th' heawse. Charley's brother tells how he came panting in with the porritch suilking about in his stomach. In this strange way he trained his brother, and it is needless to say that he lost the race; but it had the effect of putting a stop to his race-running career, and this was what his brother desired.

"BEGGING OFF" STORIES.

In the old days it was a custom, if lads had been trespassing, or pilfering turnips in the farmers' fields, and, if caught, to have to go to the house of the farmer, apologise for what they had done, and "beg off." The farmer was allowed to punish the lads as he thought fit. This the parents preferred to the present method of taking the lads before the magistrates. It was very effective punishment, too. I remember once going to Joe Walmsley's "a-begging off" for taking turnips out of his field. There were a number of us in at the turnip pilfering. One of the lads, named "Tummy," took his mother with him, being afraid what Walmsley might do at him. On arriving at the farmer's house, "Tummy's" mother, not believing her son could do

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anything wrong, said, "Theaw did no' tak' ony, did-ta, 'Tummy.'?" Evidently "Tummy" did not like this remark in the presence of his companions, so he said, "Yi, aw did, mother; aw took one." Old Walmsley locked us all up in his pantry as punishment. Some of the lads cried, but a few of us found some nice tarts in the pantry, and we ate them up during the time we were imprisoned. After being locked up for about an hour, we were let out, and it was some time afterwards before Old Walmsley found out his "nice tarts" had all gone. I shall not soon forget this incident, for I had such a feast of tarts as I had never had before in my lifetime, and I can taste them to this day. It was a laddish trick, and in those days lads were lads; and as full of mischief as "an egg is full of meat." I remember once, by arrangement with the other lads, turning "informer," and going to Joe Walmsley's to tell him of some lads who had been trespassing in one of his fields. Old Joe gave me a halfpenny for my information, and told me I was a "good lad" to come and tell him. I returned to my companions, and we spent the halfpenny at "Owd Joe's" shop in "cumfits." These we divided amongst us, as a halfpenny was something in those days, for it was very rare that lads ever got sweetmeat of any kind. Such

are a few of the incidents connected with the days of my boyhood, and which have been brought to my mind whilst writing these stories. They are characteristic of a lad's life, and, as such, are worth recording.

CATCHING A THIEF.

Another story, in which I played a part, comes to my mind, and which I will relate. A companion of mine had

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got two rabbits, which he was keeping in their loom-house. One Sunday night I went with him, after his parents had gone to the chapel, to assist him to make a "rabbit-cote" in an empty part of the loom-house. We had got a candle, and were busy at the work. Some of the neighbours, having seen this light through the window, had concluded there were thieves in the house. They had gone to the chapel to fetch out the parents of my companion. We were in the midst of our work when we heard a knock at the door. On going to open it, we found the house surrounded with men and women armed with fire pokers, pikels, and the like, all bent on catching the thief. There was quite an outburst of laughter when it was found out who the supposed thieves were. My companion and I got off with a "good clouting," but, for years after, the armed thief catchers were teased about their bold and daring attempt at "thief catchin'."

A FAILSWORTH MAN'S VISIT TO THE TOWER OF LONDON.

I remember once visiting the Tower of London, accompanied by a Failsworth character. This friend of mine was a bit of a wag, and I can recall to my mind a joke he played on our Cockney guide whilst being taken round the building. As we were being shown the various objects of interest by the "Beefeater," or guide, my friend thus addressed him: "Con theaw show us ony arms or relics fro' th' 'Delph Feight'?" The guide replied, "Oh yes, I think I can." He accordingly took us to a room where, I believe, were kept some relics from the Indian Mutiny. Evidently he had concluded that a place bearing the outlandish and queer name of Delph must be somewhere in India. He sought

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high and low for arms and relics from the "Delph Feight," but none could he find. Turning to my friend, he said, "Was the battle at Delph an important one?" "Aw should think it wur," he replied, "My feythur were in it, an' aw've yerd him tell there wur hundreds kilt, an' th' blood wur flowin' deawn i' streoms." "Very strange," continued the guide, "that I don't seem to remember it." He further said, "Are you staying in London long?" My friend replied, "Only a few days." The guide then said, "Can you come-again in the morning, and I will look the relics up in the meantime?" My friend promised to go again the following morning, remarking, "Neaw, see ut theaw finds these relics afore we come again, becose we've come over two hundred miles, an' we dunno' want to come here again an' pay another shillin', an' then find eawt theaw's feaund nowt." "Trust me for that," said the guide. It was with the utmost difficulty that I could hold myself from bursting out with laughter at the joke my friend was playing. Of course, we did not turn up on the following morning. If we had, there can be no doubt the Cockney would have been equal to the occasion, and shown us something which had come from the "feight." On leaving the Tower, my friend said, "Theaw sees, these Cockneys dunno' know everythin'. Yon' great yorney thinks Delph is somewheer in India."

TINKER LONE PUMP

I remember, in the old days, there used to be a pump close to where the, Congregational Chapel now stands in Hollinwood. It was known as "Th' Tinker Lone Pump," but the Failsworth folk called it "Th' Up-Lone Pump." A great number of the inhabitants in both Hollinwood and

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Failsworth fetched their water from this pump. It was very good drinking water, and the pump was well looked after, by an old man, named John Dunkerley. He used to lock up the handle,

and unlock it two or three times a day, at stated hours. On a Saturday he would come round and collect a copper or two from all who used the pump. In the old days, when newspapers were scarce, the news of the district would be told at this pump, and people would return home, and tell their neighbours the news they had heard. I used to go with my mother for water, and I have seen as many as thirty persons there at one time with their "burn cans." Many are the tales I have heard told at this village pump. Besides the pump, there were two wells in the higher end of Failsworth, one in Bower Clough, and the other, called "Bungs Well," near to the Wrigley Head Bridge. These were the only sources of supply of drinking water for the residents, but the water from the wells was not near so good as that got from the pump. And so "Th' Tinker Lone Pump" was well patronised even by the Failsworth people. I remember, when the Oldham Corporation water was put in the houses, there was a strong feeling against what was called at the time "pipe water." They had a great prejudice against this "pipe water." "Besides," said some, "what mun we do for eawr news?" I have a vivid recollection of my first visit to the pump. I had persuaded my parents to let me go with the "burn can" to fetch some water myself, and I came home with it on my head, as proud as Punch at the achievement. On getting near my home, fully half a mile from the pump, I met one of my companions. He was astounded at seeing me carrying the can, and could not believe it was full of water. I stepped in the gutter to

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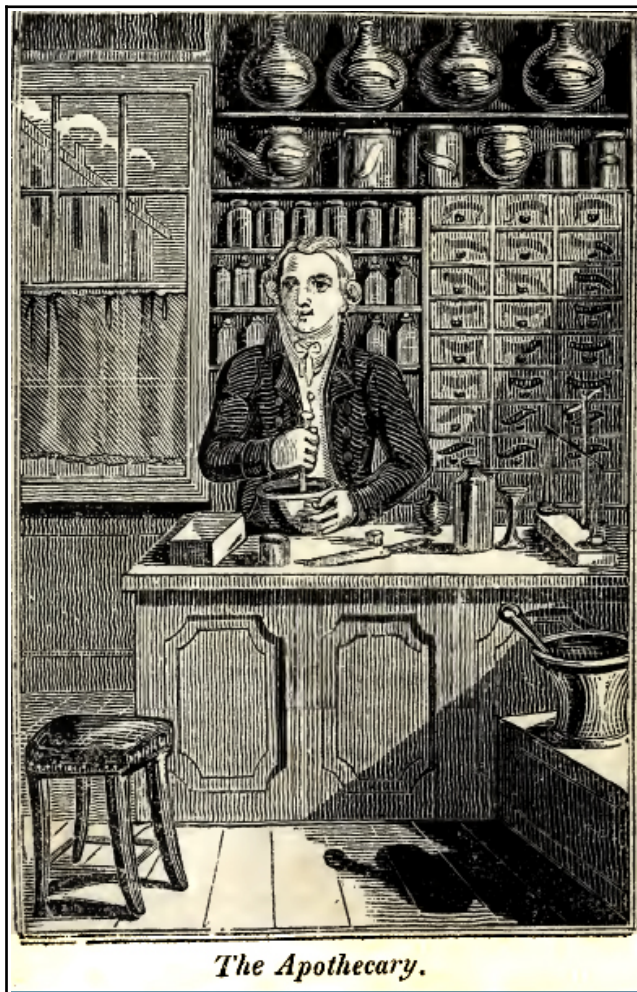
let him look, and I can recall how he got hold of the top of the can to get a peep at the water. With such force did he get hold of the can, that he pulled it and the water on the top of him, and so my first visit as a water carrier ended in failure. It was too late to go for a fresh supply, as the pump would have been locked up before I could get there, and so my parents had to borrow water from the neighbours until the evening, when I went again and succeeded in bringing home another canful, which was considered a great feat at the time. Talk about cricket or football, they were not in it compared with fetching a "burn can" full of water from the village pump.

I have heard of Wrigley Head lads being sent to the "Bungs Well," for water, and bringing back with them a "ring can" full of canal water instead of the well water. This they would not tell until the water had been all used. The canal was much nearer than the well; hence the lads went to

the first place. In drougthy weather I have known both the wells and pump run dry, and there was great scarcity of water at the time. Frequently have I known the villagers wait for water at the Well and pump for two or three hours at a time. On reaching the well or pump, the new-comer would call out "Who's last afore me?" Such is a reminiscence of the way water used to be got in the old times. What a change has come over the scene since then! Now the people can go to their taps and draw water at will, and there is no stint. In connection with water, I remember a lad in our village going once to the farm for milk with two cans. On being asked why he had brought two cans, he said, "My mother says there's ' so mich water i' yo'r milk, that aw've browt two cans, one for th' milk an th' other for water. Yo' have to put th' milk

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***The Apothecary...*** from, '*The Book of English Trades*' published 1827



*The Apothecary.*

**THE APOTHECARY.**

The office of an *Apothecary* is to attend on sick persons, and to prepare and to give them medicines, either on his own judgment, or according to the prescription of the Physician. It is well known that the word *Apotheca*, signified originally any kind of store, magazine, or warehouse; and that the proprietor or keeper of such a store was called *Apothecarius*. We must not, therefore, understand by the word, when mentioned in writings two or three hundred years old, Apothecaries such as ours are at present. At those periods, persons were often called Apothecaries who, at court, and in the houses of great people, prepared for the table various preserves, particularly fruit incrusted with sugar, and who, on that account, may be considered as confectioners. Hence, perhaps, we see the reason why Apothecaries were in this country combined with the grocers till the reign of James the First. They were then separated, and the Apothecaries were incorporated as a company: the reason assigned for this was, that medicines might be better prepared, and that unwholesome

remedies might not be imposed on the sick.

From this period, Apothecaries were distinguished for selling drugs, used in medicine, and preparing from them different compounds, according to the prescriptions given by physicians and others. Prior to this, it is probable, Physicians usually prepared their own medicines; and it has been thought that they gradually became accustomed to employ Apothecaries for the sake of their own convenience, when they found, in their neighbourhood, a druggist in whose skill they could confide, and whose interest they wished to promote, by resigning in his favour that part of the occupation.

Such an employment as that of an Apothecary is, however, mentioned at a much earlier period of our history; for it is said, that King Edward the Third gave a pension of sixpence a day to Coursus de Gangeland, an Apothecary in London, for taking care of and attending his majesty during his illness in Scotland; and this is the first mention of an Apothecary.

In the year 1712, the importance of this profession was acknowledged by an Act of Parliament, which exempted, for a limited time, Apothecaries from serving the offices of constable, scavenger, and other ward and parish offices, and from serving upon juries; which act was, a few years afterwards, made perpetual.

The Apothecaries, as a body, have a hall near Bridge Street, Blackfriars, where there are two magnificent laboratories, out of which all the surgeons are supplied with medicines for the British Navy. Here also, drugs of all sorts are sold to the public, which may be depended upon as pure and unadulterated. They are obliged to make up their medicines according to the formulas prescribed in the Dispensary of the Royal College of Physicians, and are liable to have their shops visited by censors of the College, who are Employed to destroy such medicines as they think not good. But as almost all persons who practise in this profession are men of liberal education, and acquainted with the theory and practice of chemistry, there are very few of them who do not prepare their own drugs, either wholly or in part.

In many places, and particularly in opulent cities, the first Apothecaries' shops were established at the public expense, and belonged in fact to the magistrates. A particular garden also was also often appropriated to the use of the Apothecary, in order that he might rear in it the necessary plants, and which was therefore called the Apothecaries' garden.

In conformity to this principle Sir Hans Sloane, in the year 1721, presented the Apothecaries' company with a spacious piece of ground at Chelsea, for a physic-garden, on condition of their paying the small ground-rent of £5 per annum; of continuing it always as a physic-garden, and of presenting to the Royal Society fifty samples of different sorts of plants grown there, till they amounted to two thousand. The latter of these conditions has been long since more than completed.

In this garden there are two very magnificent cedars, which were planted in 1683, and were then about three feet high. The pine-tree, the coffee-tree, the tea-shrub, and sugar-cane, are amongst the curiosities which may be seen at this place.

This is a very genteel business; a youth intended to be an Apothecary should be a good scholar, at least he should know as much Latin as to be able to read the best writers in the various sciences connected with medicine. Indeed, the late Act of Parliament renders it more necessary than ever for a person to be well acquainted not only with the classics, but with *Botany*, the *Materia Medica*, *Chemistry*, *Anatomy*, and the outlines of *Medicine*: for by that Act, passed in 1815, a Court of Examiners is appointed by the Apothecaries' Company to examine into the qualification of every person applying for a certificate to practise as an Apothecary in *England and Wales*: for which certificate, when obtained, £10 10s. are to be paid for every Apothecary practising in London or within ten miles of it; and for a certificate to practise in the country, £6 6s. are to be paid. Even *Assistants* to Apothecaries must now undergo examination. The price of a certificate for an Apothecary's assistant is £2 2s. - The penalty of practising without a certificate is £20 - Assistants' penalty £5. There is also a numerous class of medical men in London, and various parts of England and Wales, called *Surgeon and Apothecary*, to which is commonly added the designation of *Man-midwife*; and to such persons, in the country more especially, are the lives and health of by far the greater part of the community intrusted, by those whose finances will not enable them to consult a regular Physician. These of course must undergo an examination not only at Apothecaries' Hall, but at the College of Surgeons. All persons applying for a certificate to practise as an Apothecary, must produce testimonials of having served at least five years Apprenticeship to an Apothecary; and, in general, five years are the usual number for which Apprentices are bound. The premium is very various: sometimes two hundred guineas have been given. An assistant or journeyman to an Apothecary will sometimes have from forty to eighty pounds per annum, or more, exclusive of his board; but in general the salaries are much lower, often not exceeding twenty-five. The

principal expense in establishing a young man as an Apothecary is his education, certificate, &c. His whole stock in trade, exclusive of books, does not often exceed the value of one hundred pounds.

In China they have a singular mode of dispensing their medicines. In the public squares of their cities, there is a very high stone pillar, on which are engraven the names of all sorts of medicines, with the price of each; and when the poor stand in need of such assistance, they go to the treasury where they receive the price each medicine is rated at.

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From the e-Postbag

Another welcome, '*Random Recollections*' from our reader Julie Schwethelm in Germany, This time it's all about '***Measles and Maidens.***'

Learning to read, write and do sums at infants' school was only part of a child's development in the early nineteen sixties. Infectious diseases, particularly measles, mumps, rubella (German measles) and chickenpox, were also considered an inevitable part. Whooping cough and scarlet fever, which even then sounded rather Victorian, were less frequent, and catching them was bad luck. Linda managed to catch scarlet fever. And her untimely bout of German measles coincided with my birthday party, which meant she couldn't attend. Thanks to widespread vaccination, tuberculosis and polio were in decline, although it wasn't unusual to see children of my generation with crippled limbs as a result of polio. The ones that slipped through the net. It wasn't until 1968 that a vaccination against measles was introduced in Britain, but by then I had successfully mastered the full range of infectious diseases commonly available at Manchester Road, County Primary School. It would take another twenty years to introduce a combined vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella.

Measles was the most dreaded of our selection of infectious diseases. It was seldom fatal, but its consequences could be severe. My mother remotely knew a woman who had lost her sight as a result of measles as a child. In the early sixties it was common practice to protect children's eyes from bright light to prevent blindness. It was thought that the light exposure was responsible, nobody mentioned vitamin A in those days. So when I inevitably contracted measles and, not doing things by halves, I managed to get myself set up with a particularly hefty dose, the first thing my mother did was confine me to semi-darkness. I was not quarantined or even vaguely isolated in my bedroom during the daytime, but lay feeling very poorly on the settee, propped up with cushions and most importantly, shielded from any daylight.

My mother built a sort of tent around me. For the frame she used the maiden. The clothes maiden. Or clothes horse, depending on where you come from. We just called it the maiden. We had two maidens, both made of wood. The other one was a more compact folding rack which opened like a concertina and, draped with washing, stood steaming in front of the fire in the winter. You had to be careful not to trap your fingers in it. My light-shielding tent maiden consisted of two, (or was it three?) frames nailed together with firm pieces of linen to act as hinges, so that it could be opened and closed like a giant book. It was fairly cumbersome, and goodness knows where we used to keep it in our small kitchen. Most likely it was kept in the garden shed. It was used for drying bedding and bath towels that didn't fit so well on the other maiden. Carefully draped with dry woollen blankets, it made the perfect light shield.

I spent what seemed like weeks languishing under my makeshift tent with its faint smell of mothballs. It was here that I first encountered Lego. I remember my father peering under the layers of blankets one evening when he was home from work and giving me a box of Lego. My Lego set had red and white bricks, grey and white panels, red roof tiles, doors and windows. I played with it for years, and must have built dozens of houses, garages and blocks of flats.

Later I would combine the Lego buildings with my Britain's animals to build a zoo. All this construction work took place before Cindy came on the scene. Cindy, "the doll you love to dress", was the British answer to Barbie, only of course she was much prettier and not as painfully thin. Cindy, made for the first few years of her career in Great Britain by Pedigree, had a more wholesome girl-next-door look about her. Her rival was a doll called Tressy, with "hair that grows". Tressy, a doll of American origin, possessed a long bunch of hair that could be pulled out of the top of her head by pushing a button on the poor doll's midriff. This opened up numerous opportunities to develop latent hair styling skills. However, many little girls also discovered - tearfully - that Tressy's hair didn't grow again if they cut it. Barbie, therefore, didn't stand a chance against Cindy and Tressy. Of course; Linda had a Cindy too, in fact we both had the auburn haired Cindy who came in her weekender outfit, straight jeans, white sneakers and a red, white and blue horizontally striped long sleeved top. She could go out today in those clothes and still look modern. We played with our Cindy dolls for hours, dressing them up in partly home made clothes, as the outfits devoured very large portions of our pocket money. Cindy was revolutionary, there had never been a teenage doll like her in Britain before, and it was such fun in the swinging sixties to be able to dress Cindy in the latest fashions even if we were still wearing our little girl dresses fastened with buttons at the back where later zips would appear. Cindy's first wardrobe in the early sixties was typically English and included tweeds, tartans and checks. She wore her skirts knee length and sometimes her style was even reminiscent of Audrey Hepburn or Jackie Kennedy. Gradually Cindy updated her wardrobe and by the time the nineteen seventies were looming up on the fashion horizon, we had not only grown out of our own clothes, but sadly out of playing with our Cindy dolls. Instead, we were now buttoned up firmly into our school uniforms and, as Fairfield High School girls, we considered ourselves far too grown up to be playing even with teenage dolls. Many thanks, Julie, for another nostalgic trip down Memory Lane.

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**An email from Mark Campbell**, executive committee member, requesting that we include a 'head's up' announcement with a date for your diaries. Following the success of the 2023 MLFHS Family History Fair, the next one will be in Manchester Central Library, on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. Unfortunately, this does clash with our own 'Library-only' monthly meeting, and AGM, but was the only suitable date available at Manchester Library. More details will follow.

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Internet links for freely available books/texts

I added this section in the last newsletter, 2023-10 and each month I will add a few more links to publications at the Internet Archive of Books & Texts website and on some occasions Google books or other free websites. As mentioned before, the ones I include will be mostly out of copyright and available, as a .pdf, to read online or download to your own device. There is no need to sign up unless you want to 'borrow' the more recent, copyrighted publications which are available to read on line but not download.

As always, I really hope you can get the enjoyment that I do from just browsing through the chapters and hearing authentic voices from over 100 years ago.

Some more ...

* *The Jackson Brothers – A Family of Photographers*

by John W. Taylor pub. 2019 (it has a Creative Commons licence: CC BY-NC-ND 4.0, enabling download)

[HERE](#)

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\* *A History of the Lancashire Fusiliers (formerly XX Regiment)*

by Benjamin Smyth, pub. 1903

[HERE](#)

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* *Fifty years of work without wages*

by Charles Rowley, pub.1912

[HERE](#)

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\* *Guy Fawkes; or, A complete history of the Gunpowder Treason, AD 1605*

by Thomas Lathbury, pub. 1839

[HERE](#)

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MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE

[HERE](#)

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

* She Took a DNA Test to Find Her Father... and Found a Brother She Never Knew Existed

[HERE](#)

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\* How to find passenger lists for ships

[HERE](#)

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* Manchester, Cotton And Slavery

[HERE](#)

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\* Australian ancestry: How to find your Australian ancestors

[HERE](#)

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* The Incredible 165-Year History Of The Halle Orchestra

[HERE](#)

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\* Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands-

Part One [HERE](#)

Part Two [HERE](#)

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* The Land Tax 1692-1963

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* Tommy Ducks: the real story behind an infamous demolition

[HERE](#)

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* The History Of Surnames And What They Can Tell Us About Our Ancestors

[HERE](#)

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\* Who were the British Home Children?

[HERE](#)

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* Manchester Cathedral Timeline :

A timeline of the Cathedral's history, from the 7th century up until recent times.

[HERE](#)

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\* How to look for records of... Criminal court cases: an overview

[HERE](#)

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

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

PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary

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

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 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>

### 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)



## For the Gallery

2 engravings from: *The Costume of Yorkshire* pub. 1814



### PLATE XXXII. **ALUM WORKS.**

*There are various alum works on the coast of Yorkshire, in the north of Scarborough, and particularly in the neighbourhood of Whitby, which carry on a very extensive trade. It is impossible, within the compass of a print or drawing, to give an adequate idea of the sublimity of the alum rocks and neighbouring scenery; the annexed Plate, therefore, can only be given as a very faint and humble miniature.*

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PLATE XXXVIII.

WENSLEY DALE KNITTERS

SIMPLICITY and industry characterise the manners and occupations of the various humble inhabitants of Wensley Dale. Their wants, it is true, are few; but to supply these almost constant labour is required. In any business where the assistance of the hands is not necessary, they universally resort to knitting. Young and old, male and female, are all adepts in this art. Shepherds attending their flocks, men driving cattle, women going to market, are all thus industriously and doubly employed. A woman of the name of Slinger, who lived in Cotterdale, was accustomed regularly to walk to the market at Hawes, a distance of three miles with the weekly knitting of herself and family packed in a bag upon her head, knitting all the way. She continued her knitting while she staid at Hawes, purchasing the little necessaries for her family with the addition of worsted for the work of the ensuing week; all of which she placed upon her head, returning occupied with her needles as before. She was so expeditious and expert, that the produce of the day's labour was generally a complete pair of men's stockings.

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