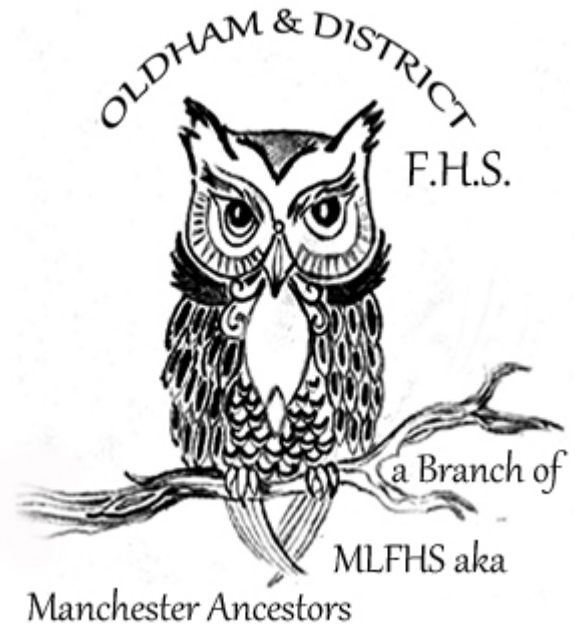


'e-Owls'



Contact us :

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

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

Email Chairman : chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.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](#)

May 2024

MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

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Branch Information & News :

Branch Officers for 2023 -2024 :

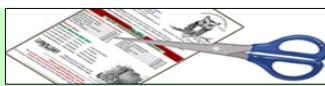
Committee Member : Chairman :	Vacant
Committee Member : Treasurer :	Gill Melton
Committee Member : Secretary :	Jan Costa
Committee Member : Newsletter :	Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Webmistress :	Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : 'Country Member' :	Linda Richardson
Committee Member : Joan Harrison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



Hartshead Pike

from : "30-40 Miles Around Manchester"
by J. Aikin, pub. 1785

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

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

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Joint Acting Chair's remarks:

Gill Melton our Treasurer...

Hello and welcome to the May newsletter.

As I write this the sun is shining through the window, but it is still a bit cold for Spring. Let's hope it continues to warm up but without as much rain.

Our Annual Members Meeting was held in Oldham Library before our meeting on the 13th April. Jan Costa and I continue as Joint Chairmen, as do the other officers and general committee members, therefore no elections were necessary. The various Annual Reports can be viewed on the Oldham pages of our website. We are still looking for one or two more people to join our committee, even if you don't live in Greater Manchester. If you are interested please email Jan or I on: <chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org>.

We continue to see a good audience on Zoom but the number of people who joined us in the library in April was particularly disappointing, there only being 10 including 3 committee members, although it is possible this was partially due to having to change the talk at the last moment when our scheduled speaker had to cancel for personal reasons.

There was also a Family History Fair in Manchester Central Library on that date so it is possible this also affected our numbers.

Our May speaker is Jackie Depelle who will tell us about .Business and Family Fortunes in the 19th century. and this is a Zoom only meeting.

Hope to see a few more of you at our June meeting.

Best Wishes

Gill Melton

Treasurer & Acting Joint Chair

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**Editor's remarks.**

As always, I hope everyone is keeping well.

Gill has already noted that our speaker for the April Branch meeting was unable to join us but, hopefully, we will be able to include this talk in our programme for 2025. As this was a last minute cancellation, I filled in with a talk of my own dating back to 2014 and the centenary of WW1. I had been looking forward to the Manorial Records talk and, I'd remembered John Marsden (MLFHS webmaster) giving a zoom talk, about '*The Manor*', in April 2021, which I had found so interesting. I revisited the notes and links that I had taken and put them together for the 'Mixed Bag'.

Also in the Mixed Bag, we have more pages from *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men Series 1*; this month, pages 90 through to 126, mainly about King street, St Ann's Square and Bridge Street. There's also included a transcription of the chapter on Ashton-under Lyne, from *A Description of the Country from Thirty to Forty Miles Round Manchester*, by J. Aikin, M.D., pub. 1795.

In the Gallery, is one picture, from *Manchester Streets & ...* plus eight from Aikin's chapter on Ashton.

In the e-Postbag, we have another very welcome *Random Recollection* from Julie Schwethelm. Unfortunately, as Gill has written, the Annual MLFHS Family History Fair probably impacted our

numbers in the library but, as it was a hybrid meeting, didn't seem to impact our zoom audience numbers too greatly.

The Annual Meeting part of the day was very brief; a matter of minutes, and the short Report concerning the Branch activities over the past year, and the committee for the coming year, is available to read as a .pdf on the website [HERE](#).

The MLFHS members' email forum, and the Society facebook page, both reference an interesting, ongoing study conducted by Cambridge University, called '*Economies Past*'... "*This website allows users to create and view maps of occupational structure across England and Wales from 1600-2011 and to zoom in to examine patterns and change at the local level.*" A good explanatory introduction to it is a BBC article [HERE](#)

A link to the actual website is [HERE](#) and an 'Overview' page is [HERE](#).

I've added the main website link to the Links section for future reference.

My suggested books for download, this month, are the two suggested by John Marsden on Manors and, the third, a history of Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield by Edwin Butterworth.

Two more videos have been uploaded to the Branch website pages. Firstly, the recording of March's illustrated presentation, *Made In Manchester* by Brian Groom, and April's illustrated presentation, '*The Great War - How It Touched Lives In Oldham Part 1*'. You can find them on the Video Menu page [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

2024

Last Month's Meeting, April - hybrid on Zoom and in the Library

[Branch Annual Reports .pdf](#)

**Brief Annual Members' Meeting followed by :
Manorial Records of Chadderton : Foxdenton Hall
by Michael Lawson.**

Unfortunately, Michael was unable to give us his talk on Foxdenton Hall which was replaced by the following presentation:



Saturday
13th Apr.
at
2 pm



'The Great War - How it Touched Lives in Oldham' (Part1)

an illustrated presentation given by Sheila Goodyear.

'When war was declared on 4th August 1914, 120,000 regular soldiers, were re-deployed, as the British Expeditionary Force, and sent to the defence of Belgium. Britain had no system of conscription and her regular army, of about 250,000 volunteers, was a fraction of those of the other great powers. On that first day, Oldham crowds were waiting for the expected mobilisation of the Army Reserves and the embodiment of the Oldham Territorials.

One of those first regular battalions was the 2nd Manchesters, which had been stationed in Ireland, and in which a number of our local men were serving. It was this battalion that Oldhamer, Sergeant John Hogan, in the Army Reserve, would re-join when it reached France. He would later be awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery.

Over the next 4 years, men would be exhorted to join up as volunteers, come together in 'Pals' Battalions, attest under the Derby Scheme in 1915 and, finally, in 1916, face conscription. We follow the story of the Oldham Territorials (the 10th Manchester Battalion), and that of the Oldham Comrades (the 24th Manchester Battalion, through some of the Oldham men who volunteered.

We also look at the civilians, on foreign soil or on board ships, who were caught up in the conflict in the early months.

This talk focuses on local people against the wider background of enlistment, training, conscription, internment and POWs'.

This is the first time I've had to do a review of my own presentation, and it seems rather strange; I think I need to write it in the third person in order to try and remain objective!

Sheila opened her talk by putting the talk into the context of the 2014 centenary, of the declaration of war against Germany in 1914, and apologising for the inevitable mispronunciation of some of the European location names. She went on to explain that the talk would focus on the experiences of local men.

We learned that the first local fatality, on August 5th, was Frank Morrison, in the Royal Navy, when his ship, the *Amphion*, hit a mine and sank. The irony was that, the *Amphion* had sunk a German minelayer and rescued German crewmen were on board ... they also lost their lives when the *Amphion* sank.

The European powers had large regular armies of conscripted men, whereas Britain had only a small regular army of volunteers as there was no system of conscription; however, her Navy was considered the strongest.

When war was declared, the Reservists set off to rejoin their regiments, the Territorials were embodied and the 2nd Manchesters, stationed in Ireland, would be on their way to France. The regular soldiers who were fighting in France, between the 5th August and 22nd November 1914,

would become known as the 'Old Contemptibles' and would be awarded the 1914 Star medal. Next we looked at 'Mobilisation and Recruitment', in which we saw the Oldham Territorials (10th Manchesters), embodied and members of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade set off for duty in naval hospitals or on a warship. Excitement and patriotism were the order of the day.

The Territorials spent a couple of weeks marching and drilling around Oldham, before setting off for real training, at Bury, with other local Territorial Battalions attached to the East Lancashire Division. Whilst there, they were asked to decide ... serve only at home or prepare to be posted 'anywhere'. Emotional blackmail – don't let your comrades down – and it worked! In March, the Division embarked for Egypt for more training and defensive duties, and a couple of months later, in May, were on a ship bound for the Dardanelles and the ill-fated invasion of Gallipoli.

Back in Oldham and there was a euphoric need to 'do their bit for King and county'. The Recruiting office was on High Street and men rushed to enlist as the war wouldn't last long and they might miss out! Many would sign up, able to choose the Regiment with which to serve ... part of Kitchener's 'New Army', believing they would come back as conquering heroes, and enjoy status and respect.

One local teacher, George Edward Joseph Marriott, was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Territorials, the 1st/6th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. We would follow him through training at Bury, then in Egypt and with the Division taking part in the invasion of Gallipoli. He was in the evacuation from Gallipoli, in December 1915, and the return to Egypt. By March 1917 he had earned promotion twice and was a Temporary Captain. On May 2nd, he celebrated his 29th birthday in the trenches near Cambrai. On the 6th July, in the trenches near Havrincourt, he was shot and killed.

Back to Oldham and, even in the early days, there were anti-war meetings and demonstrations, but the campaigners were met with violent hostility, the speakers accused of treachery and worse. Recruitment at all costs became a priority, when it slowed down, as casualty figures were ominously high. Posters emphasised the brutality of the enemy; women were depicted as wives and mothers wanting to be proud of their men, not ashamed. No angle was too trivial to be exploited and moral blackmail became the order of the day. Men not in uniform ran the risk of being presented with the dreaded white feather denoting their perceived cowardice.

One ploy was the recruitment of men from the same home towns, with the same occupations or the same interests. These groups would form their own Battalions, training and fighting together for the duration of the war. They became known as the 'Pals' Battalions. In autumn of 1914, Oldham was sure it could find the requisite 1150 volunteers, for a Battalion of 'Oldham Comrades', and the wheels were set in motion. However, it wouldn't be that easy and it would be January 1915, before the number was reached, after 'Recruitment Week' with a decorated bus, and cash incentives to recruits who introduced other recruits.

Training came next even though uniforms and equipment, etc., were in very short supply. Their first training camp was in Chadderton – 36 wooden huts and a sea of mud – just off Burnley Lane. In March they were sent to Llanfairfechan for more training. Whilst there, news came that they had to raise another 250 men, so another recruitment drive was needed in the town.

Success came, at last, in April 1915 and the 24th Manchesters, the 'Oldham Comrades' became official.

Training continued at Grantham, where Edmund Leach, from Chadderton enlisted then it was on to Larkhill Camp, on Salisbury Plain, where the Battalion was attached to the 30th Division. In November 1915 they were on their way to France.

Once in France, the Battalion found that life was about digging, moving around and then some fighting; some boring and much dangerous. Wherever they found themselves, they improved the facilities, wherever it was needed. So far, the Battalion had suffered no fatalities, but things

would change. In February, they were attached to the 7th division and were in the front line at Fricourt. Whilst there, 17 of the Comrades were killed and at least 15 wounded. In May, the Battalion would find that they were no longer a frontline infantry battalion but one of the new Pioneer Battalions (because they were so good at improving things!). At this time, there were some letters, in the local newspapers, that suggested the 24th were not really 'pulling their weight' and had it 'easy'. Angry responses put the record straight with details of an incident, on the Somme, where a working party of the 24th downed tools and went to the aid of a number of soldiers under attack.

In October 1917, the 24th were told to expect a draft of Royal Engineers (significantly, not Oldhamers). In return, they were to lose a number of their own Battalion to be transferred to other Manchester Regiments. Days later, and the 24th were on their way to Italy, where they would remain for the rest of the war. Life was much the same except that they would be on the move, in the mountains, on the plains or in the frontline. The end came with a successful attack on the Austrian frontline and an armistice on the 4th November 1918.

The next section of the talk looked at the training of recruits; and followed one man's story. In February 1915, a Failsworth man, Frank Ramsbottom, enlisted in the 19th Manchesters and was in a training camp in Heaton Park. He wrote home to a family friend describing a typical day from reveille at 6am through cleaning rifles and kit, having breakfast, going on parade, practising drilling and manoeuvres until it was time for dinner at 12:45. Afterwards there was Swedish drill, tea, lectures on the day's work and care of the rifle. Some night they would be trenching or patrolling with just 45 minutes left before lights out at 10:15. In another letter he writes of route marches, and the 5 minute rest every hour. By August, he was at Grantham where he writes that it is much the same except more strenuous. In January 1916, he wrote to say that training was finished and he was in the Reserve Machine Gun Section of the 19th Manchesters and had been posted to France. In July, on the Somme, both he and his brother Walter were killed, in action, within days of each other. They are both remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

Another recruit at Grantham was Albert Bentley, who sent a postcard, with a photo of Church Parade, home, to his mother, on Keverlow Street.

Next we turned to National Registration and Conscription. As early as mid 1915 it was obvious that numbers enlisting were dropping and far short of numbers needed. A new strategy was needed, as there was still strong resistance to conscription, and a way had to be found to identify men who were fit and able but had not enlisted. Government needed information, which would come through the National Registration Act in July (everyone, including women, had to register). This data identified 5 million men who could serve as soldiers, as well as women who could fill their places in the workplace. The men would have to be pushed.

In October the Derby scheme was introduced, enticing men with the promise that, if they attested as prepared to serve at a later date, they would still be able to join the regiment of their choice. Those attesting were put into groups according to age and marital status. Two million attested ... still not enough. Deferment for those attesting was short-lived. The only solution was conscription, which was introduced in the Military Service Act, which came into force in March 1916.

The next job was to deal with those who still refused to serve, when called up. Tribunals were set up to consider appeals; some were allowed – many rejected, with those on grounds of conscience the more 'thorny' to deal with. Many conscientious objectors suffered long periods of hard labour, some died as a result, and a few were executed.

Turning now to the three local men who earned the Victoria Cross and about whom we learned a little about their life and citations. They were John Hogan, a reservist in the 2nd Manchesters, who earned his medal in October 1914, and was an 'Old Contemptible', as was Thomas Steele,

a regular in the Seaforth Highlanders, who earned his medal in 1917. Both men would survive the war and return home. The third was awarded posthumously to Walter Mills, in the Oldham Territorials (10th Manchesters).

We then came to the War at Sea. In 1914 Britain enjoyed supremacy on the seas but Germany was intent on challenging that. However, neither side was prepared to risk taking their fleet to sea, for a pitched battle; a single battle in which the whole war could be won or lost. Both Germany and Britain had ships on the seas, patrolling, protecting and attacking, but the Dreadnoughts and warships, and German equivalents, were kept safe in harbour. The German fleet was protected by the string of islands in the Heliogoland archipelago, and the British fleet was in the Orkneys, at Scapa Flow. Both navies attacked enemy shipping to disrupt essential supplies. Things changed when Britain claimed the right to intercept any ships claimed to be carrying goods to Germany. In retaliation, Germany declared that the waters around Britain were to be considered a war zone, and ships would be a legitimate target. Enter the u-boats, centre-stage. We've all heard of the sinking of the *Lusitania* by a u-boat and the horrific loss of passengers' lives. Less familiar, is the sinking of the *Arabic*, in the same waters and outward bound from Liverpool, only 3 months later. We looked at some of the local men and women who lost their lives on those ships.

The battle for naval supremacy came to a head in May 1916, a pitched battle, between the two fleets, at Jutland. Both nations claimed victory ... Britain with heavier losses of ships and men but the German fleet broke off and, in the mist, ran for the safety of port.

Next we turned to the prisoners of war and to those interned at the outbreak of war because they were 'in the wrong place at the wrong time'. A tourist group from Oldham, with Felix Mills (an excursion agent living on Lee Street) were in Europe when war was declared but, after numerous difficulties, were able to get back to England. Not so lucky were the British men, working in Germany, who were rounded up and interned. They couldn't be allowed to return home to swell the British army ranks. As long as they followed the rules, they were generally allowed to run their own lives. The internment camp at Ruhleben housed a number of men from Oldham who had been employed by Platt Brothers. They were able to send Christmas greetings in 1914 and a photograph of their group in 1916.

POW camps were a different 'kettle of fish'. Conditions were bad, and got worse as time passed and food for everyone was scarce. Food parcels could be sent by the Red Cross and War Comforts groups to specific prisoners but, numbers exceeded capability and the scheme was discontinued with monies going into the General POW fund.

One POW, Michael Dowdall, wrote of his experiences as a POW, after his return home to Royton. He was captured in November 1917, near Cambrai. He details the journey to the prison camp in Munster, the diet they lived on, the work they had to do, and the places they moved to. In June 1918, bombs were dropping too close for comfort, and he wrote of one that fell on a nearby ammunition depot and set off a chain of explosions in which many lost their lives. In October, the Germans were retreating, taking with them the prisoners to walk the horses, five to a man. Four weeks later they were in Liege ... and an armistice had been declared. Three weeks later Michael was on his way home.

Almost at the end of our story, as Failsworth & Woodhouses War Comforts Society state in their subsequent Report, that Failsworth men who returned in need of underclothing were given "a full outfit", along with their grant of £5 from the prisoner of War Fund.

Throughout 1919 and 1920, there were 'Welcome Home' celebrations across the country.

If you wish to read a full, illustrated transcript, it can be found as a .pdf document in the Branch Miscellany Pages [HERE](#) or, if you wish to view a recording of the talk, it is on the Branch video pages [HERE](#) .

Sheila Goodyear

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**May Meeting, on zoom only**



Saturday  
11th May.  
at  
2 pm



**19th century Boom and Bust- Exploring Business and Family Fortunes.**

an illustrated presentation given by Jackie Depelle

Let's consider utilising some of our familiar genealogy sources from a different search angle and see what we can discover. Turning away from traditional family tree building this talk looks at exploring business and family fortunes through elements of a case study. Was your family in business or did they support my ancestors' retail offerings? Join us to review additional sources in Archives, Libraries and Museums as well as those online that can bring surprising results.

A free, zoom only meeting... all are very welcome

Booking for zoom attendance will be free to everyone, on [Eventbrite](#).

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Details, of the 2024 programme of talks, are on the 'Meetings' page of the Branch website [HERE](#)

A .pdf, printable copy of the 2024 programme is available [HERE](#) to download from the 'Miscellany' page.

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**MLFHS Branches delivering their monthly meetings and talks**

**Anglo - Scots – May 4th**

|                                               |                                      |                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MLFHS,<br>ANGLO-SCOTTISH<br>BRANCH<br>MEETING | Saturday,<br>4th<br>May<br>at<br>2pm | 'Who are the Scots?<br>What is a Clan and<br>Why are we not Celtic?<br>given by<br>Bruce Durie |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**A Meeting only in Manchester Central Library**

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

Booking on [Eventbrite](#)

MLFHS Members free; non-members £5

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Bolton – April

MLFHS Bolton Branch Meetings - Hybrid	Wednesday 1st May at 7:30 pm	'Catholic Research in East Lancashire' given by Kate Hurst
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A Hybrid Meeting on Zoom and in the Golf Club

MLFHS Members free; non-members £5

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

& Online via Zoom for which booking on Eventbrite is necessary

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

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## MLFHS updates

### Manchester Meetings / Events... 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2024

#### MLFHS Quarterly Meetings and AGM

at Manchester Central Library

|                                         |                                           |                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| MLFHS<br>aka<br>Manchester<br>Ancestors | Wednesday<br>22nd<br>May<br>at<br>1:00 pm | 'Salford<br>Through Time'<br>given by<br>Paul Hindle' |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|

Booking: on Eventbrite. Details on the website : [HERE](#)

Cost: members - free of charge; non-members - £5

#### Annual General Meeting at 11:45

Our AGM will follow on immediately from the morning talk. If you attend the morning talk we invite you to stay (only members can vote, of course), as there will be a few minutes to wait for the AGM to start at 11.45.

|                                         |                                           |                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| MLFHS<br>aka<br>Manchester<br>Ancestors | Wednesday<br>22nd<br>May<br>at<br>1:00 pm | 'Salford<br>Through Time'<br>given by<br>Paul Hindle' |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|

Booking: on Eventbrite. Details on the website : [HERE](#)

Cost: members - free of charge; non-members - £5

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

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

MLFHS Manchester,
Eventbrite Bookings [HERE](#)

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**MLFHS Online Bookshop:** [HERE](#).

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

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MLFHS Manchester & Branch e-Newsletters

MLFHS Manchester and each of the MLFHS branches publish a monthly e-newsletter which provides useful news items and articles etc. The e-newsletters are free and available to both members and non-members. All MLFHS 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

Our Catholic Register indexing team under Marie Collier have completed another substantial register and this is now published in the MLFHS shop as a download.  
This download, which is in PDF format, contains a scanned copy of the original baptism registers complete with a transcript of the 9,057 baptisms performed and an index to the 40,144 names of children, parents and godparents which appear in the register.  
You can download from  
<https://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk/collections/registers-roman-catholic/products/DL1695>  
Thanks to Marie and the team for this latest addition.

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* A further 319 records have been added to the Great Database for Manchester City Transport staff surnames CRABTREE to CZERNEDA.
Thanks to Barry Henshall and his team for these.

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\* I have now added what I think is the final part of the Bolton workhouse records. This consists of the 6,444 admissions and discharges 1837-1861 for Turton Workhouse. These have been transcribed by members of the Bolton Branch.  
Thanks to Graham Holt and the transcribers for these records which bring the total number of workhouse records to over 130,000.

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* New data has been added at www.lancashirebmd.org.uk as follows:
Added 2,444 Deaths for Bury RD comprising: Bury (1979-1980)
Added 341 Marriages for Lancaster RD comprising: Lunesdale, Wray, Holy Trinity (1863-2017)

Added 931 Marriages for Bury RD comprising:
Radcliffe Register Office or Registrar Attended (1960-1962);
Prestwich, Higher Prestwich Hebrew Congregation, Bury Old Rd. (1964-2019);
Whitefield, Sha'arei Shalom North Manchester Reform Congregation, Elm St. (1983-2019);
Prestwich, Sedgley Park Synagogue (L&D), Park View Rd. (1992-2018);
Meade Hill, The United Synagogue and Beth Hamedrash Hagodol (1938-2004);
Bury, Beis Hamedrash Chaniche Hayeshivos (2021-2021)
Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

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\* I have finally added a small set of Memorial Inscriptions for Salford, Irwell Street, Wesleyan Chapel to the MI database. These were from ledger stones uncovered during building works and transcribed by Salford University's Archaeologists. There are just 8 stones but 74 names (two are large inscription graves with about 25-30 interments).

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

The full catalogue can be found at :

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

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**Meetings and Talks at other Societies &/or Venues**

**Please note ...**

**Please check society/group websites or organisers for updated information**

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Saddleworth Historical Society ... Wednesday, 8th May at 7:30

"A Yorkshire Year: 366 Days of Folklore, Customs & Traditions."

an illustrated presentation given by Catherine Warr

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

All are welcome to attend meetings. Refreshments are available.

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

Website [HERE](#)

ADVANCE NOTICE. There will four planned walks in Saddleworth of a historical nature, around areas of Saddleworth, dates & times etc. to be announced shortly. Routes include:


1. A Medieval Routeway involving St.Chads & its Hinterland.
2. Friezland & Grasscroft. from Well-I-Hole to Beech Hill.
3. Delph, Linfits, Pingle Mill, New Barn, Slackcote & New Tame.
4. The Stones left behind, the Cotton Road on the Moors above Diggle.



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

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01/04/2024

**Moorside & District Historical Society**  
**Monday 20th May 2024**  
Times Past  
**"The 1936 Sholver Plane Crash"**  
*Explanation of the circumstances and aftermath of the crash.*





*Repeated by request - with up-dates etc -*  
Illustrated presentation by Ray Entwistle  
To be held in the St Thomas Church lounge/hall, Moorside. OL1 4SJ  
7-30 p.m. all are welcome.  
*Meetings are the third Monday of the month.*  
Except for the summer break July & August + December. £2-50p including refreshment.  
April ~ September meeting in St Thomas' Church Hall. OL1 4SJ



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'A Mixed Bag'

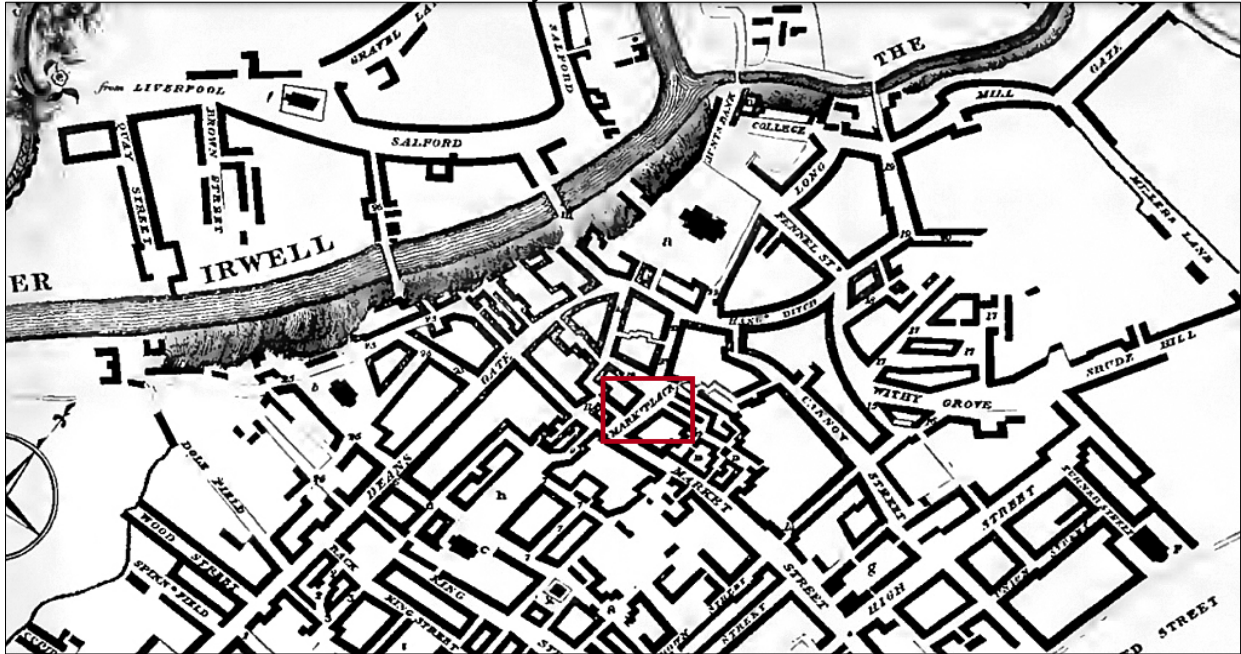
Our serialisation of *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men* Vol. 1 (1st series) by T.

Swindells, published in 1906, and started in our newsletter in 2023-08. It will continue through succeeding newsletters. This month we have pages 57 to 89. Illustrations are in the Gallery.

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



KING STREET A CENTURY AGO.

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Writing in 1795, Dr. Aitken [sic] gives a few interesting features of the social life of the town in his own time and in that of the preceding generation. In those days the district round about King-street was entirely residential, and was occupied by many of the best and most wealthy families in the town. Speaking of the houses our author says they “displayed a new style of light and convenient rooms, very different from those of the rest of the town.” This was caused by having larger rooms with larger windows. He also tells us that the front parlours were formerly reserved for company only, a fashion which he says “continued to our own times, and in all small houses subsists in some degree at present.” And in this year of grace (1905) we find the fashion still in vogue. Referring to King-street more particularly, he mentions the establishment of a dancing assembly, for the holding of which Lady Ann Bland erected “a handsome room upon pillars, leaving a space beneath to walk in,” which passage also formed a convenient way to the new churchyard. St. Ann’s Church was for many years spoken of as the new church, to distinguish it from the older building, the Collegiate Church. The passage referred to is known as St. Ann’s passage, and the new building bears the name of the “Old Exchange.” The latter name appears to have arisen from the fact that after the pulling down of the first Exchange building in 1792,

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and before erection of the second one in 1805, business men met in the room erected by Lady Bland. The passage itself forms a portion of an ancient field path which ran from the land owned by William Hulme, the founder, on which Brazennose and the adjacent streets were built, to the land also owned by Hulme, and known as the Acker’s Field. Dr. Aitken says that the dancing assembly was held once a week at the low price of half-a-crown a quarter; and that the ladies had their maids to come with lanthorns and pattens to conduct them home; nor was it unusual for their partners also to attend to them. What a picture of the social life of the town have we presented to us here; and in imagination we can see the daughters of the prosperous manufacturers daintily picking their way through the badly-lighted narrow streets of the town. Originally the name of King-street was applied only to the portion of the thoroughfare lying below Pall Mall, and when the portion from Pall Mall to Brown-street was laid out it was known as St. James’s Square, the topmost portion being called St. James’s-street. It was intended that

the Square should vie with St. Ann's Square as a residential centre. In those days (1741) political feeling ran high in the town, and as the land round St. Ann's Square was held largely by the supporters of the Hanoverian cause, the Jacobites adopted the tactics named in order to perpetuate the name of their exiled Prince James, the elder Pretender. This arrangement did not long survive the disaster of 1745, and long before the close of the century the general name of King-street was applied to the entire length of the thoroughfare.

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The oldest building in the street is the one known as the District Bank. It carries us back into the early years of George the Third, and in spite of the changes it has seen on every hand, to the passer-by it presents the same appearance that it did a century ago. It has a long and interesting story, but we will confine ourselves to a brief sketch. In 1789 a young man named Lewis Loyd came to Manchester to finish his studies preparatory to joining the Unitarian ministry. He was drawn here by the Manchester Academy that had been opened in 1786 in a building that stood near the bottom of Mosley-street. In later years it became known as Manchester College, and is to-day called Manchester New College, Oxford. Not only did Loyd continue his studies here, but he joined the teaching staff, which included such fine scholars as Dr. John Dalton and Dr. Barnes, and taught the subject then styled the Belles Lettres, but now known as Literature. In addition to this he undertook pulpit work, preaching on Sundays at Dob Lane Chapel from 1789 to 1792, and occasionally he officiated at Blackley. At Dob Lane he met Samuel Taylor, a successful merchant, who rapidly imbued the preacher with the idea of accumulating wealth. Whilst at Blackley he met Sarah Jones, whose father was a banker at the King-street house. Marrying her, he was admitted to a partnership in the banking business. The Jones family for many years combined the business with that of tea dealing; and in Manchester's first directory, we find that John Jones and Co. were tea dealers and bankers at 104, Market-street Lane. The father died three years

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later, and the sons, giving up the tea business, removed their bank to King-street. When Loyd joined the concern, the style of the firm was changed to Jones, Loyd, and Co. Three of Loyd's brothers followed him from Carmarthenshire to Manchester, and one of them, Edward, became a clerk in the bank. In 1809 he married a niece of Mr. Taylor, previously referred to, and resided at the bank. Lewis Loyd had one son, who afterwards became Lord Overstone, and who was an unsuccessful Parliamentary candidate for Manchester in 1832. He died in 1883, aged 87 years. In 1821 William Jones retired from the bank, as Lewis Loyd had previously done; and Edward Loyd, already a partner, became sole proprietor. When he retired in 1848 he was succeeded by Edward Loyd, junior, W. Entwistle, H. Bury, and J. B. Jarvis; and finally in 1863 the concern was taken over by the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company. At the bottom of King-street there stood for many years the police office which gave the name to Police-street. In those days King-street did not open into Deansgate, but across the bottom stood the stables and yard of a carrier. Aston says that Manchester's first theatre was a wooden erection that occupied the site afterwards covered by the police office. In that office, a century ago, Joseph Nadin ruled supreme. As we have previously seen, the Lord of the Manor and the Court Leet were concerned in the Municipal government of the town. The maintenance of the peace was in the hands of two constables. These were leading citizens appointed by the Court Leet. These gentlemen appointed

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a deputy, who had sole charge of police matters. Instead of the smart officers of to-day, the deputy was assisted by a number of constables who bore a strong resemblance to Dogberry. These worthies, whose costume included coats of a brown colour corded with crimson, were not noted for the celerity of their movements. To compensate for this, Nadin organised a

number of runners, whose chief object in life seemed to be to hunt down politicians who advocated Reform. In this capacity they were known to Sam Bamford, who has left us his impressions of them. During the twenty years that he held office Nadin earned the ill-will of all earnest Radicals, whose movements were watched and reported by a number of spies. Another old resident has described how a half-starved man was placed in the pillory that formerly stood opposite to the old shambles in the Market Place, at midday, and was pelted by a crowd of onlookers for the space of an hour, being more dead than alive when removed, whose political opinions were the only offence charged against him. Nadin's association with the scene at Peterloo still further intensified the feeling against him, and no single reformer regretted his retirement after about twenty years' service. The police affairs of the town were conducted from Police-street until the erection of the Town Hall in 1825.

At a house that formerly stood two doors above where the Reference Library stands to-day Harrison Ainsworth, whose centenary has just been celebrated was born; and nearly opposite to it lived Samuel Greg, fustian manufacturer, whose son Robert Hyde was

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born there. The latter was elected M.P. for Manchester in 1804 under peculiar circumstances, which will be dealt with in the next chapter. Another son was Samuel Greg, bom in 1804, and who published several works; and a third, W. R. Greg, is well known as the author of "The Creed of Christendom" (1851), "The Enigmas of Life" (1872), and "Rocks Ahead" (1874). Opposite to the Gregs' was the house of Dr. Thomas Percival, where the first meetings of the Literary and Philosophical Society, of which he was the first president, were held. Dr. William Henry lived close by. He was one of the first secretaries of the Literary and Philosophical Society, published an important work on chemistry, and was the personal friend of Jeffries, Brougham, and other celebrities. At 96, King-street, Dr. Edward Holmes lived for many years. He came to Manchester in 1794 and commenced practice, and was for thirty-four years a physician at the Infirmary. He was the first president of the Chetham Society, and died in 1847. Then there were the Touchets, Thomas and John, distant relations of the Ainsworths, who were prominently associated with the Cross-street Chapel.

At the corner of Chancery Lane lived the Misses Hall, in whose back garden was the well-known rookery occupying two poplar trees; and whose brother removed the heads of Syddall and Deacon from the roof of the first Exchange, where they were placed in 1746. John Wheeler, the proprietor of "Wheeler's Chronicle," known to his familiar friends as "Chronicle Jack," lived just below Dr. Holmes's house. These were a few of the residents of King-street when, a century ago,,

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Harrison Ainsworth was receiving the attentions of his family and nurse. One of the last of the houses to be pulled down was that of John Touchet, that faced down the street, and which was known to later generations as the Albion, and later still as the Bridgewater Club.

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KING STREET IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

Amongst the features of residential districts few are more striking than the tendency shown by medical men to live in certain thoroughfares. Take the case of Oxford Road to-day, and Piccadilly in the forties, as examples, and many others will occur to the minds of the readers acquainted with our cities and more important towns. Sixty years ago King-street supplied an illustration, but the profession represented was the legal instead of the medical. Great changes were taking place, houses were being built in the suburbs, and better class people were removing out of town. King-street had its share of these changes, and whereas at the commencement of the century it was a high-class residential thoroughfare, in the late thirties and the forties it was very much affected by members of the legal profession. In 1838 there

were in Manchester 170 solicitors and barristers, of which 45 were to be found in King-street, Back King-street, and St. James's Square.

Next to solicitors the street soon came to be recognised as a banking centre. In 1826, the same year in which Samuel Brooks opened Cunliffe Brooks and Co.'s bank in Market-street, the local branch of the Bank of England was opened in King-street. For over twenty years the two banks conducted business on the premises named, and then came a double change. Finding the premises

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too small for their requirements the Bank of England authorities purchased land lower down the street and erected on the site the present premises. The older building was purchased by Samuel Brooks, whose intention was to pull it down and build a more commodious one in its stead. Before this was done, but soon after the Bank of England had removed, Brooks' premises in Market street were burnt down. This necessitated the immediate transference of the business to King-street, and as a result the building as we see it to-day is as it was sixty years ago, with the exception of internal alterations. The Manchester and Salford Bank commenced operations on August 15, 1836, next door but one above Pall Mall. The directors afterwards purchased the Unitarian Chapel that formerly stood where the tailoring establishment of Messrs. Nichol now stands in Mosley-street, and erected the building now standing. In 1862 they once again removed, this time to the well-known premises standing at the corner of York-street. Other banks connected with King-street include the Manchester and County, who removed from York-street to the site next door to the Town Hall, previously occupied by the York Hotel, and the Lancashire and Yorkshire, which commenced business in 1864, at 73 and 75, with a capital of £1,000,000.

Ranking high for the interest attaching to it was the York Hotel, where many important meetings were held. Of these several are worthy of special mention. The first of these were those held in the early days of Manchester's incorporation. I have referred previously to the police office that stood at the bottom of King-street,

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and from which the town was policed, &c., until the erection of the Town Hall. In those days the government of the town was largely vested in certain police commissioners, whose powers had been gradually increased by successive acts of Parliament. The qualification necessary for a seat on the commission was the ownership or occupation of premises rated at £30 a year. In 1820 the commissioners decided to build a new Town Hall, and purchased the house formerly occupied by Dr. White, and which stood at the corner of King-street and Cross-street. Early in February, 1821, the old mansion, to which reference has been previously made, was pulled down, and in 1825 the new building was opened. Thirteen years later as a result of a successful agitation a charter of incorporation was received, and on December 14, 1838, the first municipal elections were held in Manchester. Not only did a section of the community oppose the prayer for incorporation, but at the elections that followed they refused to nominate any candidates, with the result that the whole of the councillors were liberal in politics. Not content even with this they insisted on regarding the new council as an illegal body, refused to recognise Joseph Heron as the Town Clerk, and further refused permission to the council to hold their meetings in the Town Hall. I have before me a copy of the "Manchester Guardian" for January 12, 1839, containing a six column report of a meeting of the Police Commissioners held in the Town Hall to consider the question. Proceedings commenced at 11 o'clock, the Boroughreeve being in the chair, and 194 commissioners

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being present. Thomas Hopkins moved that the Council should be allowed to use such room or rooms in the Town Hall as might be necessary for the transaction of their business. This was

seconded by John Kenworthy. An amendment declaring “that it is inexpedient to grant this application” was moved by James Consterdine, and seconded by Thomas Read. Succeeding speakers were S. Fletcher, E. Nightingale, T. Flintoff, James Wroe, A. Prentice, James Crossley (who rose at 1:30), G. W. Wood, M.P., and Mr. Milne; and a vote was taken, the amendment being carried by a majority of ten.

It was under these circumstances that the first meetings of the Council were held at the York Hotel. Matters were afterwards arranged, and in 1841 the validity of the charter was confirmed by the judges in the Court of Queen's Bench. It was not till 1845 that the last Boroughreeve was elected. The last Council meeting in the old Town Hall was held on January 31, 1877. Another movement connected with the York Hotel was the Anti-Corn Law League, which was founded at a meeting held on September 24, 1838. Less than a dozen persons attended, but at a further meeting held at the same place on January 10, 1839, nearly £2,000 was promised towards carrying out the policy of the newly-formed association. The meetings were afterwards held at Newall's Buildings. At the York Hotel was also held the first meeting of the Manchester Geological Society under the presidency of Lord Francis Egerton, afterwards first Earl of Ellesmere.

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The Chamber of Commerce occupied rooms in Town Hall buildings for many years, and in 1846 the members held their first annual meeting there under the presidency of Thomas Bazley. Another commercial movement of forty years ago should be mentioned. In April, 1865, the prospectus of the Manchester New Exchange Company, Limited, was issued, bearing on its front page a list of the promoters, amongst which were included such names as Armitage, Ashton, Behrens, Bannerman, Heugh [sic] Balfour, Joshua Hoyle, Henry Kessler, Daniel Lee, Sam Mendel, John Munn, James MacLaren, Samuel Ogden, Rylands, Slagg, Watts, and Westhead. The object was to build a new Exchange, and for the purpose the site of the present Reform Club, together with land extending as far as the Clarence Hotel was purchased. The capital was £400,000, and it was estimated that the cost of land and buildings would be half that amount. Ultimately the site was purchased for £127,255, but the new Exchange was never built, the company being wound up. Although abandoned, the scheme was not attended by any serious financial loss, as shareholders received for the £11 per share paid a sum of £13 2s. 8½d. The liquidators' report is dated October 7, 1871, and is signed by Charles Potter, Samuel Watts, Richard Johnson, W. H. Wilkinson, and Thomas Haywood. A few days later the Reform Club, built on a portion of the site named, was opened with a dinner at the club and a banquet at the Free Trade Hall.

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At number 51 Jasper Fletcher carried on an auctioneer's business. He was commissioned to sell the animals and fixtures that formed the Zoological Gardens, that stood in Higher Broughton Road. Many of the animals were purchased by Mr. Jennison, who formed forthwith the nucleus of the present collection at Belle Vue. At 46 a well-known character, Joseph Gale, was for some time a print seller. A man of Bohemian tendencies, he was not a success in business, having amongst other experiments acted as an auctioneer, and later as a hatter in Ducie Place. In the latter capacity he introduced a novelty in the way of advertising, keeping a barrel of beer on tap, which together with bread and cheese he supplied free to customers. This was probably the earliest form of “free lunch” introduced in the city.

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AROUND ST. ANN'S SQUARE.

ST. ANN'S CHURCH

The foundation stone of St. Ann's Church was laid on May 18, 1709, by Lady Ann Bland, daughter of Sir Edward Mosley, of Hulme Hall, and lady of the manor; the site being given by

William Baguley, executor of the estate of William Hulme. The church was dedicated on July 12, 1712, by Sir William Dawes, Bishop of Chester. As originally built, the tower was surmounted by a cupola, which was removed in 1777, and the tower was finished off as we see it to-day. The first rector was the Rev. Nathaniel Bann, and amongst his successors was the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Smith, who was also head master of the Grammar School; whilst from its pulpit John Wesley preached in 1753. Buried in the adjacent churchyard are the remains of the father and two sisters of Thomas de Quincey, who was himself baptised in the church, his name being entered in the Church Register. Until December 11, 1736, the register of baptisms, marriages, and burials was kept at the Collegiate Church, but on that date a new register was opened in St. Ann's Church. When the church was built the churchyard was not enclosed, with the result that a century ago it was little better than a plague spot, all manner of nuisances being connected with it. In 1818 this disgraceful state of things was remedied by the erection of railings round the area, a footway being preserved round it.

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RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES IN 1715.

When the church was built political and religious feeling ran high, and as the old or Collegiate Church was associated with the High Church or Tory party, the new one was regarded as a rallying centre for the Low Church or Whig party; those who favoured the Hanoverian succession being the Dissenters, who worshipped at the Meeting House in Cross-street. This resulted in the riotous attack upon the Meeting House when the Jacobites found that George would adhere to the Toleration Act. In those days when the inns were resorted to for social purposes as clubs are to-day, the Tories had their headquarters in the Bull's Head Inn in the Market Place, the Whigs rallying at the Angel Inn in Marketstead Lane. Amongst the political ladies of the town Madame Drake was the leader of fashion of the Tory party, whilst Lady Bland occupied a similar position in the Whig section. Between these two ladies there was much rivalry, and it is said that on one occasion Lady Bland was so much incensed by the ostentatious display of Stuart tartan made by her rival on her carriage and four horses that she led the ladies who met at her assembly in King-street, decked with orange blossoms, into the street, where they danced by moonlight. Leaving the ladies so occupied, we turn our attention to another interesting reminiscence of the square.

OLD BANKING FIRMS.

On December 2, 1771, the Manchester Bank was opened at the corner of St. Ann's Square and Bank-street, giving the name to the street, and was conducted

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by Byrom, Sedgwick, Allen, and Plaice. In 1773 Edward Byrom died, and the firm became Allen, Sedgwick and Co. Eight years later Allen alone conducted the business, but during the great commercial crisis of 1788 he failed, and the concern was wound up. A few months later the Heywoods, a well-known Liverpool banking firm, opened a bank in Exchange-street, removing soon afterwards to the corner of Marsden Square. In 1794 they purchased Allen's premises, but in 1796 they finally settled at the corner of Queen-street, now St. Ann-street, and the Square. When Benjamin Heywood died he was succeeded by his sons Benjamin, Arthur, and Nathaniel, the last-named residing at the bank. He married Miss Percival, and had a son Benjamin who joined the firm in 1815, the year of his father's death. Benjamin was created a baronet in 1837, and in later years his four sons became partners, Oliver in 1847, Arthur Henry in 1848, Edward Stanley in 1851, and Charles James in 1857. Sir Benjamin retired in 1860, and the firm became Heywood Brothers and Co., by which name it continued to be known until in 1874, when it was taken over by the District Bank. The name of Heywood has been so long associated with deeds of philanthropy that to attempt to enumerate them would fill more space than a short article could possibly allow. From 1825, when Benjamin Heywood originated and

matured the idea that resulted in the opening of the Mechanics' Institution, onwards, every movement that has had the spread of education, the relief of suffering, and the raising of the moral tone of the city has had their generous support.

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THE POST OFFICE IN 1801.

The system of sending letters from Manchester to distant places was in full swing in 1721, when the "mail" left for London three times a week ; but so slow was the rate of progress in travelling that under the best possible circumstances the time required for an interchange of communication between the two towns was eight days. The postal system at first developed very slowly, and in 1790 the whole of the work of the Manchester office was performed by Mrs. Sarah Willert and two clerks. In that year the office stood at the corner of Toll Lane and St. Ann's Square, and it was mentioned as a remarkable circumstance that Manchester paid £11,000 in postages, that being a larger amount than was paid by any other provincial town. The postmistress died on December 25, 1801, and she was succeeded by Joseph Harrop, whose newspaper the "Manchester Mercury" had nearly completed its fiftieth year of publication, and who, removed the Post Office to his shop in Market Place. The building occupied a site now partly covered by the front window of Beatty's shop, and partly by the pavement. In 1830 it was back again in the St. Ann's Square district, occupying a low, shabby building in Ducie Place, opposite to the back part of the Exchange. A few years later the latter building was extended, absorbing a portion of Ducie Place, after which the Post Office occupied the back part of the Exchange building, and was then approached from Crow Alley. In 1840 the first Brown-street Post Office was erected.

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A FEW OLD FIRMS.

Perhaps the oldest business in the Square is that of Satterfield's. In 1788, John Satterfield was in business in Exchange-street, and one of the pews in St. Mary's Church had a brass plate bearing his name with the same date. In 1794 he removed to St. Ann's Square and occupied at least a portion of the premises held by the firm to-day. Amongst the many persons who have found employment at the well-known drapery establishment was Robert Owen, who in later years became famous as a philanthropist and reformer. Perhaps next in age, although not now in the Square, was the firm of Binyon's, the tea dealers. The business was commenced in 1817 by the two brothers, Thomas and Edward, grandsons of the Kendal banker, who had financed Richard Arkwright when he commenced in the cotton trade. Another brother, Benjamin, was partner in the firm of Binyon and Taylor, twine manufacturers, Hollinwood, and lived with his sister Deborah, who kept a draper's shop in Piccadilly; whilst two sisters, Hannah and Ann, kept the tea shop in Market-street Lane. The family were well-known Quakers. The pile of buildings in London Road, known as Borough buildings, were erected by Alfred Binyon (a cousin of the above), who had married a daughter of Thomas Hoyle, of the Mayfield Printworks, and had become a partner in the concern.

Another well-known name was that of Thomas Sowler, who on January 1st, 1825, issued from his shop in St. Ann's Square the first number of the "Manchester Courier." The stamp duty in those days was fourpence, and the price of the paper was sevenpence.

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It consisted of a four page sheet, the size of the pages being about 22in. by 16in. Let us glance at the sheet that cost our grandfathers so much. There are five columns to a page. The front page is filled with advertisements, one column being devoted to an announcement of a volume, "The Literary Souvenir," by Alaric A. Watts, a member of the "Courier" staff. The second page is occupied by four more columns of advertisements, and a portion of the leading article. In the news columns we read of the arrest of "the noisy zealot, O'Connell," of a music meeting at

Mossley, and the eighth report of the committee of the Manchester Royal Institution. Two columns of advertisements and three of literary contributions complete the paper. Taken as a whole, it compares very badly with an issue of the "Evening News." Two years later its issue was 2,635 copies.

For a few years Charles Swain kept a bookseller's shop in Ducie Place, his first poetical effort having previously appeared in the columns of the "Manchester Iris," published by Henry Smith and Brothers, whose office was in the Square. Swain was born in Ancoats on January 4, 1801, and died in September, 1874. As a poet, Swain had a great admirer in Robert Southey, who predicted that "if Manchester is not proud of him now, the time will come when it will be." A portrait of Swain by Bradley may be seen in the entrance hall of the reference Library. Another bookseller was Robert Robinson, who occupied a shop in St. Ann's-Place in 1829. Prior to this he had been in partnership with Thomas Bent, who had gone to London, and there established Bent's Literary Advertiser. Robinson was related to the wife of Sir Benjamin Heywood.

Picture in the Gallery – St. Ann's Square

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THE BRIDGE

Manchester's second bridge over the Irwell originated in a curious manner. In 1761 a company of actors who had been refused permission to open a second theatre in Manchester, took a riding school that formerly stood in Water-street, Salford, and opened it as a theatre. Water-street was a narrow thoroughfare running from Chapel-street to the river bank, and for a short distance is represented by the present Blackfriars-street. On the Manchester side of the river a narrow court, the Ring o' Bells entry, ran off Deansgate, immediately opposite to St. Mary's Gate. A few yards away was the Rose and Crown entry, which ran parallel with it, the two passages leading to the street now known as the Parsonage. When the players settled in Salford they built a wooden footbridge across the river, running from near the bottom of the Ring o' Bells entry to the end of Water-street for the convenience of their Manchester patrons, who otherwise would have been compelled to go round by the old bridge. Owing to the rocky bank of the river on the Manchester side it was necessary to erect a flight of twenty-nine steps leading down to the bridge. The name given to the bridge was very probably selected by the players in remembrance of the Blackfriars Theatre, where William Shakespere [*sic*] and his friends entertained the London citizens of Queen Elizabeth's time. Although intended for

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temporary use only, the bridge stood for over half a century, when increasing population and traffic demanded the provision of a more substantial one.

Therefore it was that in 1817 an Act of Parliament was passed giving the necessary powers, and an attempt was made to raise the requisite funds. A second attempt was more successful, £20,000 being raised in £50 shares, and on January 4, 1819, the first stone of the new bridge was laid by Thomas Fleming. The same gentleman opened it on August 12, 1820, his carriage being the first vehicle to pass over the bridge. The shareholders in order to reimburse themselves for their expenditure imposed a toll on vehicles using the bridge, but also upon pedestrians. In periods of distress this was the cause of much hardship among the poorest persons, who used the bridge in going to and from their work, and in the "hungry forties" Dr. Fleming, the son of Thomas Fleming, told the bar-keeper that when he heard the early morning bells ring he must remain in bed, and also arrange not to see the operatives who passed until after seven o'clock. In 1847 as a result of public agitation the sum of five thousand pounds was raised by public subscription in order to free the bridge from tolls. The Flemings surrendered their seventy-five shares, and a few other subscribers followed suit. In the end the bridge was made free to all on March 11, 1848.

THE FIRST METHODIST PREACHING ROOM.

Fourteen years before the players built the wooden bridge, a number of young men met in the garret of an

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old cottage that stood upon the rocky bank of the river, with its front door facing up the Rose and Crown entry. They were followers of the great revivalist of those days, the Rev. John Wesley, and when their great leader visited Manchester in 1747 he visited the court with the intention of conducting service in the tumble-down room. In anticipation of the visit so large a crowd had assembled that Wesley deemed it unwise to enter the building, and he consequently led the way over Salford Bridge to the cross that then stood opposite to the Bull's Head Inn, Greengate, and from the steps of the cross he conducted service. In a few years it was necessary to secure more accommodation for the increasing congregations, and as a result Manchester's first Wesleyan Chapel was built in Birchin Lane. In 1805 the old cottage and other property was taken down, and Bateman's Buildings erected on the site, which in their turn have made way for more modern erections.

AN EARLY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL.

Another early place of worship connected with the neighbourhood was one used by the Roman Catholics. Rather more than a century and a half ago a dyehouse stood on the river bank, just out of Parsonage, and was approached by a flight of steps, very probably the Press House Steps so recently removed. Those were the days of persecution, and it was necessary to have sentinels posted at the top of the steps in Parsonage to give warning in case priest hunters put in an appearance. The flock was probably visited frequently by the Rev.

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Edward Helme, who in 1753 removed the meeting place to a room just out of High-street, the location of which is marked by Roman entry. Mr. Helme died in 1773, and three years later the Rook-street Chapel was built.

St. MARY'S CHURCH

Another and a more important religious institution was the church that formerly occupied the site now known as an open space. When erected it was the third in point of age of the Manchester churches, St. Ann's having preceded it by nearly half a century. The land belonged to the Warden and Fellows of the Collegiate Church, and the Act of Parliament granting powers for its erection also empowered the warden and fellows to sell the land round the church to residents in the town, to grant leases for 99 years, and to sell pews in the church when built. The foundation stone was laid on July 16, 1753, and the building was consecrated on the Feast of St. Michael, 1756. The first rector was the Rev. Thomas Foxley, who died in 1761, and he was succeeded by the Rev. Maurice Griffith, who died in 1798; the Rev. James Bayley, who resigned in 1808, making way for the Rev. John Gatcliffe. Parson Gatcliffe, who was a fellow of the Collegiate Church, was in many ways a remarkable man. Born in Manchester in 1763, he graduated at Brazenose College, Oxford, in 1789, and was appointed clerk the Collegiate Church in 1792, chaplain in 1794, and a Fellow in 1798. He was one of the most impressive readers and eloquent preachers of his day; and Charles Mayne Young,

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the eminent tragedian, after hearing him, introduced himself to him, and highly complimented him upon his powers. Whether these powers were responsible for it or not we cannot say, but the fact was that Gatcliffe often preached other men's sermons.

A REFORMER OF 1792

Amongst the residents in the immediate neighbourhood of the church more than a century ago was Thomas Walker, whose mother is said to have been the first lady to carry an umbrella in the town, and who got mobbed for her temerity. When Pitt imposed the Fustian Tax in 1784

Thomas Walker and Thomas Richardson were sent to London to protest against it, and mainly through their effort it was repealed. In 1790 he was elected boroughreeve, and soon afterwards the Constitutional Society, of which he was a leading member, prevailed upon Matthew Falkner, a printer in the Market Place, to issue a reform paper called the "Manchester Herald." As an outcome of intense political excitement, a Church and King, or Tory, mob assembled in the Market Place on a May morning in 1792, and proceeded to debate matters by demolishing the offices of the newspaper. After this they made their way to South Parade, and there continued their performance by smashing the windows of Mr. Walker's house. After a while they went away, but returned a second and a third time, and on the following day again assembled. Mr. Walker, whilst addressing them, was hit on the head with a stone, when, seeing that the authorities were encouraging rather than attempting

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to disperse the rioters, the occupants of the house fired a volley over the heads of the mob, who thereupon retired. On the following morning a further demonstration was made, and an attempt was made to set fire to the house. At this the authorities interfered, and the disturbance ceased. In April, 1794, Mr. Walker and a number of other reformers were charged at Lancaster on a charge of endeavouring to overthrow the Constitution, and assisting the French to invade the country. The case for the government was based upon perjury of so pronounced a character that their counsel threw up his brief, and their chief witness was committed to stand in the pillory, and afterwards to be imprisoned for two years. In spite of this the trial cost Mr. Walker three thousands pounds. Two of his sons afterwards became public characters, one, Thomas, becoming a metropolitan magistrate and was the author of "The Original;" and another, C. J. S., became well known as a local magistrate. The latter, who, known as "Button-up Walker," said that as a child he remembered the attack upon his father's house, and how he and the other children and servants were taken down the back gardens and across the fields to a place of safety. In those days a field footpath ran from behind South Parade to Hulme Hall.

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BRIDGE STREET MEMORIALS

DR. HALL.

When Casson and Berry issued their plan of Manchester in 1746, Bridge-street had not a being; and many years afterwards the thoroughfare was represented by a narrow passage, giving access to the back portions of some of the houses that faced into Deansgate. One of the most interesting of these houses was the black and white one that stood at the corner of the passage, and was occupied for a number of years by Dr. Edward Hall. Dr. Hall was a Jacobite like his friend, Dr. John Byrom, but unlike another friend Dr. Peter Mainwaring, of Ashton-on-Mersey. When the Pretender visited Manchester in 1745, Dr. Hall openly declared his adhesion to the Stuart cause, Dr. Byrom on the other hand avoided publicity, and only visited the Prince after nightfall, and in response to a request for his attendance; but Dr. Mainwaring urged the people of Ashton-on-Mersey and Stretford to arm themselves, and sent many of the villagers into the town armed with scythes, sickles, and other implements tied at the ends of mop sticks to oppose the rebels. In later years a son of Dr. Hall's removed the heads of Syddall and Deacon from the top of the Exchange, and buried them in the garden behind his sisters' house in King-street.

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SOME SHOEMAKERS' PRICES

The names of these three friends appeared in the ledger of a Manchester shoemaker that has survived for a century and a half. From its pages a few prices and entries may be culled. Dr. Diggles of Deansgate paid 5s. a pair for shoes, a pair of girl's shoes costing him half a crown. Squire Ashley of Ashley Hall is credited with a pair of shoes for his wife costing 4s. 6d.; whilst

Mr. Ashton Blackburn was charged for "five pairs of best stitched boots, and you found the uppers," at 5s. 6d. per pair. John Gore Booth, Esq., and Peter Brooks of Mere Hall were customers, and we find that Sir Peter Lester of Tabley was somewhat fastidious about the furniture for his feet. The Rev. Mr. Mosley, who resided at Turf Moss, near Chorlton-cum-Hardy, purchased a pair of splatterdashes for 7s. 6d. in March, 1757; and Lady Lester paid 9s. 6d. for a pair of pumps.

THE NEW BRIDGE.

Leaving Dr. Hall and his friends we are reminded that in his day the only means whereby vehicular traffic could pass between the two towns was the old Salford Bridge. As the population increased this traffic also increased, and although the old bridge was widened in 1778 it soon became evident that greater facilities were required. Therefore early in 1783 a movement was set on foot which resulted in a company being formed, and £40 shares being issued. By this means funds were raised, and on May 3, 1783, the foundation stone of the new bridge, afterwards known as the new Bailey bridge, was laid; and two years later it was opened

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for traffic. Tolls were levied, and with a portion of the proceeds the proprietors purchased many of the buildings standing at the upper end of Bridge-street. These were pulled down, new shops and houses built, and the street widened until in 1794 it had become one of the best in the town. In after years the tolls were sold by auction annually, and in 1802 the sum paid for them was £1,150. This, however, was the end of the tolls, for in January, 1803, they were entirely removed, and the bridge became free to all traffic. The subscribers had in the meantime been repaid for their capital together with interest at the rate of seven and a half per cent. per annum. Some years ago the present stone bridge replaced the old brick one.

NEW BAILEY PRISON.

About two years after the new bridge had been opened the justices of the county of Lancaster selected a site on the Salford side of the river for the erection of a new prison. At that time the Manchester prison, known as the House of Correction, stood on Hunt's Bank, on a site covered by a portion of the Palatine Hotel Buildings. The arrangements were of a primitive nature, as will be seen from an old print, which represents a number of prisoners behind the barred windows of the upstairs rooms. These are holding through the windows cords, at the end of which are cans intending for the reception of alms contributed by generous passers-by. In 1774, and again in 1775, John Howard, the prison philanthropist, visited the old building. In 1782 an act was obtained, but it was not until

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May 22, 1787, that the foundation stone of the new building was laid by Thomas Butterworth Bayley, of Hope Hall.

The erection and equipment occupied another three years, the place being opened for the reception of prisoners in April, 1790. One of the first prisoners confined there was John Macnamara, who was charged with having committed burglary at the Dog and Partridge Inn, Old Trafford. He was arrested at Liverpool, and the principal evidence against him was the identification of some sewing on the neckerchief he wore by the landlady of the inn. Having been tried, found guilty, and received sentence, the prisoner was taken in procession to Kersal Moor, on September 11, 1790. There he was hanged on a gibbet that was erected near to the grand stand of the racecourse, the site of which is marked to-day by the Kersal Moor Hotel. Eight years later George Russell was found guilty of croft breaking near Scotland Bridge. In those days linen was bleached by being exposed to sunlight in open fields connected with bleach works. To steal cloth so exposed was a penal offence, and George Russell was gibbeted at Newton Heath. A prisoner, James Massey, who hanged himself in his cell in 1807, was buried the same evening at Kersal Moor. A few days later his body was dug up and buried

in a ditch near to where "Owd Grindrod" was gibbeted in Cross Lane in 1753; but another change was made, and finally the remains were buried near to the Salford weighing-machine. On October 3, 1818, Mrs. Fry visited the prison, and in 1837 Mrs. Elizabeth Pryor requested that a few Christian ladies might be permitted

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to read the Scriptures to the prisoners, but the justices refused to grant the concession. On February 18, 1824, a tread wheel or treadmill was erected, and was used for grinding logwood. In the same year a prison van was first used to convey prisoners from the lock-ups to the prison, and ten years later the building was lighted by gas.

During the riots arising out of the scarcity of employment and the dearness of food, in 1842, the number of prisoners was so great that the prison chapel was converted into a ward. The average number of prisoners under normal conditions was about 700, included amongst which were a number of county court debtors. One of the prisoners who occupied a cell in 1832 should be mentioned. In that year Abel Heywood, afterwards Mayor of Manchester, was imprisoned for selling newspapers that bore no government stamp, and although this was his only offence, he was treated as though he had been guilty of some more serious breach of the law, such as attempted murder. We have a glance of the treatment referred to in the correspondence that his brother John, who founded the Deansgate business, had with the justices. He complained that letters sent by him to the prisoner were opened by prison officials, that his brother was not allowed to have books to read, and that the interviews with friends and relatives were rendered as disagreeable as possible. The last executions in the building took place on April 4, 1868, when Timothy Flaherty and Weartherill were hanged on a scaffold overlooking New Bailey-street. Six months earlier

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one of the most notable execution scenes recorded in the annals of the prison took place. On a really typical, depressing morning in November, 1867, three Fenians, Allen, Larkin, and Gould, were executed for participation in the attack made upon the prison van in Hyde Road, when Kelly and Deasey were liberated, and Sergeant Brett was shot. As a boy I remember being taken later in the day to see the scaffold, and remember how the street was rendered impassable by the dense crowds that remained grouped in front of the prison during the whole of that memorable Saturday.

THE LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

Down Stanley-street, and immediately behind the prison, was for many years the Lying-in-Hospital. Instituted originally in May, 1790, its first home was in a building adjacent to the Old Bridge, on the side now occupied by Messrs. Woolley's warehouse. In 1796 the building in Stanley-street was purchased and immediately occupied. It stood on the bank of the river, and the situation is described as follows by Aston: "Perhaps a better situation could not possibly have been found for the site of such a hospital. The neighbourhood of the New Bailey Prison will prevent its being built up one side by overshadowing houses; at the principal end it has an open area which probably will never be altered; and the back part of the building is bounded by the River Irwell, which must be highly salubrious." In later years the hospital was moved to North Parade, afterwards to Quay-street, and more recently to Gloucester-street, its name having, in the meantime, been changed to that of St. Mary's Hospital.

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BRIDGE STREET MEMORIALS.

PART. II. - THE MANCHESTER OPHELIA.

The winter of 1813-14 was one of those often described as the "old-fashioned sort." A frost set in on December 16, and continued until early in February. So severe was it that after a couple of days the river Irwell was frozen over, and for seven weeks its surface was covered with ice.

During the whole of this period the good folks of the town were interested and excited by the disappearance of Lavinia Robinson, the daughter of William Robinson, wireworker. On the evening of December 16, she, in company with a gentleman named Holroyd, a surgeon practising at 66, Bridge-street, and to whom she was engaged to be married, visited her sister's house in Bridge-street. The couple went out for a walk, and as Lavinia was expected to stay over night at her sister's house, when the family retired to rest they left the front door loose. In the morning it was discovered that she had not been in bed, and on the parlour table was found a note in her handwriting, from which it was feared that she was no longer alive. Her family and friends were in great distress, and as time passed, as Christmas came and went, their suffering became more acute. Holroyd stated that during their walk angry words passed between them as a result of a charge of infidelity preferred against her by him, and that in the end they parted at her sister's door in Bridge-street. On January 18, 1814, an advertisement appeared

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in the "Manchester Mercury" offering a reward of 30 guineas for information that should lead to her recovery, either dead or alive. A week later the boroughreeve and constables added seventy guineas to the reward offered. No response was received until the seventh of February, when Mr. Goodier, of Eccles, saw the body on a sandbank in the river about a mile from Barton. The frost had given way two days before, and when the ice that covered the river broke up, the body rose to the surface. A medical examination preceded the inquest, at which an open verdict was returned. Public sympathy with the family was evinced in a variety of ways. The interment took place in St. John's Churchyard, where the stone can still be seen. It is the nineteenth from the Camp-street wall and the sixteenth from the Lower Byrom-street railings. And what about Holroyd? It would appear that he bore the mark of Cain upon him, for he immediately left the town, and in the "Shrewsbury Chronicle" for Friday, March 18, 1814, there appeared an announcement that he had committed suicide by poisoning after endeavouring to drown himself in the canal at Stafford.

THE BRIDGE-STREET MARKET.

A century ago there stood at the corner of Bridge-street and Deansgate a butcher's market known as the "New Shambles." The stalls were removed thither in 1803 from the Shambles that were opened in Pool-Fold in 1781; and occupied the site now occupied by Ogden's Buildings and the adjacent property. Where the

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Household Stores stands was the pork market. In those days the markets were the property of the Lord of the Manor, and no person was allowed to open a shop for the sale of flesh meat in the town unless he occupied a stall in one of the various markets. One of these butcher's markets stood for seventy years in Brown-street on a portion of the ground covered by the Post office, and another was in London Road, close to the corner of Store-street, and where the entrance to the goods yard now is. The manorial rights, which included the right to hold fairs and markets in the town, were purchased from John Lacy, silk mercer of London, by Sir Nicholas Mosley in 1596 for £3,500. Sir Nicholas, after being Sheriff and Lord Mayor of London, removed to the neighbourhood of Manchester, and resided at Hough (Oose) End Hall, Chorlton-cum Hardy. The rights remained in the possession of the family, who enjoyed an increasing revenue from them, until, in 1845, they were sold to the Corporation for £200,000; forming a striking illustration of unearned increments.

BEFORE THE QUEEN'S THEATRE.

Seventy years ago Hayward's Hotel, kept by Joseph Ladyman, was numbered 35 in Bridge-street. Situated at the rear of the building was a fine room, which was connected with the hotel by a narrow covered bridge. It was frequently let for balls and concerts, and there were held the earliest meetings of the Gentlemen's Glee Club. A fire in the building caused the removal of the

club to the Clarence. The hotel afterwards became known as the London Music Hall, where
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every kind of music from grand operatic selections down to "Dr. Mark and his little men" was tried and failed. Ultimately the dingy looking music-hall was converted into the most capacious theatre in the city, and on November 5, 1870, the new Queen's Theatre was opened with T. F. Palmer's drama, "Insured at Lloyd's." "Barney" Egan's first pantomime here, "The Forty Thieves," was a pronounced success. Much might be written of those early years of the popular house, but limits of space forbid. Reference should be made, however, to the performances of the Mapleson Opera Company, notably their production of "Semiramide," with Tictjens, Trebelli-Bettini, and Agnesi in the cast; of Madame Ristori in "Elizabeth," "Marie Stuart," and "Marie Antoinette"; of Henry Irving, who appeared with Isabel Bateman and Henry Forrester in "Charles I"; of Barry Sullivan; of Sims Reeves in "Guy Mannering," "Beggar's Opera," "Lucia de Lammermoor" and "The Waterman;" of Charles Dillon, Miss Wallis, Mr. and Mrs. Billington, J. C. Cowper, and Ada Cavendish. In our own day Mr. Flanagan has once again raised the status of the Queen's by means of his magnificent series of Shakesperean [sic] revivals for which all lovers of the higher forms of dramatic art are his debtors.

SOME WELL-KNOWN NAMES.

A little past Hayward's Hotel was Mendel's Hotel. Emmanuel Mendel was in business as a rope, twine, and pitch-paper manufacturer, nearly opposite the end of Brown-street in Market-street, where the Liverpool and Manchester Railway opened. Like many other people

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he thought that one result of the railway would be a great increase in the prosperity of the Deansgate side of the town. He therefore opened a new hotel known as the Manchester and Liverpool Hotel near the corner of Dolefield. It was not a great success, and was abandoned, and for some time the building was used as a Children's Hospital. The son of the hotel proprietor in later years became remarkably prosperous, and few names in Manchester were better known than Sam Mendel, whose mansion at Manley has recently been acquired by the Education Committee. The story of his rise and fall may be told on some other occasion.

At No. 9, Bridge-street, an old-fashioned double fronted house, whose windows were filled with small panes of glass, which reminded one of by-gone days, one of Manchester's most famous surgeons, Joseph Jordan, resided for many years. Born in Manchester, he practised in his native city until he was about seventy-seven years of age. He was the founder of Medical schools in the provinces, and as early as 1814 he gave courses of lectures on anatomy, with demonstrations and dissections to classes of medical students and pupils. He was the first provincial lecturer whose certificates were accepted and recognised by the examining bodies in London, the Apothecaries accepting them in 1817, and the College of Surgeons in 1821. In 1826 he built a medical school at his own expense, and in addition to a lecture hall, provided it with one of the most commodious and best fitted dissecting rooms in England, and transferred to it his valuable museum containing nearly 4,000 anatomical specimens. The collection

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was afterwards placed in the Manchester Royal School of Medicine. For twenty years he continued to lecture, and when retiring from the platform he was entertained to a public dinner, which was attended by almost every medical man of repute in England, and was presented with a valuable service of plate. As a surgeon he made several inventions of first importance in the treatment of fractures; and as senior surgeon to the infirmary rendered valuable services to the community. He died on March 31, 1873, aged 87.

Almost opposite to Dr. Jordan's house Thomas Whaite carried on business as a portrait painter. He designed and painted one of the banners carried by the Reformers on the occasion of Peterloo. This was probably the first of such work done by a member of the family whose

productions are so well known to-day. For many years the name was associated with Bridge-street, and childhood's memories cluster round the recollections of the German Fair and monster Christmas tree, which were alike a source of wonder and delight. To-day, wherever painting in water colours is known, the name of Clarence Whaite is known, and deservedly popular. He has brought honour to a well known Manchester name.

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### ***A Description of the Country from Thirty to Forty Miles Round Manchester.***

by J. Aikin, M.D., pub. 1795

#### **ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE PARISH.**

THIS parish is situated in the south-eastern corner of the county. Ashton itself is a small but populous town, which has received a great increase of late years, and now consists of several streets of well-built, commodious houses. It stands on a rising situation on the north side of the Tame. There was formerly a market held here every Wednesday, at a place where an ancient cross is still standing; but it has been discontinued above thirty years, though such a convenience is now particularly wanted from the augmented population.

The earl of Stamford, to whom the town and a principal part of the parish belongs, holds a court leet here yearly, where his agent presides

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as judge, and all disputes, breaches of trust, rights of tenants, together with actions of debt under forty shillings, are cognizable. It appears from a very ancient manuscript now in the possession of Joseph Pickford, Esq. of Royton, containing the rent-roll and several very curious particulars concerning the estate, drawn at a remote period, to have been a borough; but why the charter was withdrawn, or by what means the privilege was lost, there is no account: yet the custom of yearly nomination, and the insignia of office, are still kept up by the inhabitants.

There is nothing that excites the curiosity of a stranger so much at this place as the annual custom of *Riding the Black Lad* which is always celebrated on Easter Monday. There are different traditions concerning the origin of this extraordinary circumstance, and the idea is generally prevalent, that it is kept up to perpetuate the disgraceful actions of Sir Ralph Ashton, who in the year 1483, under the authority of vice constable\* of the kingdom, exercised great severity in this part of the country. The following are the particulars of the ceremony. An effigy in the human form, which is made of straw, inclosed in a coarse wrapper, and seated on a horse, is first led through the town, after which it is hung up at a cross in the market-place, and there shot away in the presence of a large concourse of the neighbouring people, who always attend to be spectators of the exhibition. Yet from a sum issued out of the court to defray the expense of the effigy, and from a suit of armour which till of late it usually rode in, together with other particulars handed down by tradition, a very different account of the origin of this custom is preserved, of which the following is the substance:

\* The commission is still to be seen in *Rymer's Fædera*

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In the reign of Edward the Third, surnamed of Windsor, lived Thomas Ashton, of Ashton-under-lyne, of whom nothing but the following particulars are known: In the year 1346, when the king was in France, David king of Scotland brought an army into the middle of this kingdom; and at Nevil's Cross, near Durham, Edward's queen, with the earl of Northumberland as general, gained a complete victory over the Scots, about the same time that her husband obtained a great victory in France. In this battle, Thomas Ashton, one of her soldiers, but in what station is unknown, rode through the ranks of the enemy, and bore away the royal standard from the king's tent, who himself was afterwards taken prisoner. For this act of Ashton's heroism, when

Edward returned from France, he gave him the honour of knighthood, and the title of Sir Thomas Ashton, of Ashton-under-lyne; and to commemorate this singular display of his valour, he instituted the custom above described, and left the sum of ten shillings yearly to support it, (within these few years reduced to five) with his own suit of black velvet, and a coat of mail, the helmet of which is yet remaining.

Ashton has a large and ancient church, furnished with a fine ring of ten bells, and a large organ erected by the subscription of the inhabitants. Under the seats of some of the pews are rude carvings on wood, relating to different families in the neighbourhood, of a very old date. Several of these are preserved, though the church has been newly pewed. A popular tale is current concerning a supposed ace of spades cut upon the south side of the steeple. This has been found by Mr. Barritt to be an old triangular shield charged with a mullet, the arms of Ashton, impaling the arms of Stealey, of Stealey, in that neighbourhood, which seems to denote that a lady of that family married to an Ashton was a liberal contributor towards the building. The living is a valuable rectory in the gift of the earl of Stamford, now in the possession of the Rev. Sir George Booth, Bart. Near the church is a building of great antiquity,

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called the Old Hall, which is supposed to have been built about the year 1483, at present occupied by Mr. Brooke. Adjoining to it is an edifice which has the appearance of a prison, and till of late years has been used as such; it was formerly regarded by the inhabitants as a sort of Bastille to the place. It is a strong rather small building, with two round towers overgrown with ivy, called the dungeons, but which appear to have been only conveniences for the prisoners, as they have door places, a flag for the feet, and a rail to prevent them from falling backwards, with drains from the bottom and they are not large enough for a person to live in. The prison is now occupied by different poor families. It has two court-yards, an inner and an outer, with strong walls. Over the outer gate was a square room ascended to from the inside by a flight of stone steps, and very ancient. It has always gone by the name of the Gaoler's Chapel, as it was supposed that prayers were occasionally read in it to the prisoners. The annexed view will give a good idea of its state in 1793, just before it was taken down. The house to the inner court is still standing, and in tolerable repair. It is inhabited by a venerable and very aged man, who remembers the gate being open through the house about sixty years ago. The other view annexed is of the two supposed dungeons and back part of the prison, taken at the same time. On the other side is a view of the back front of the Old Hall adjoining the prison, overlooking the gardens and river Tame, with a beautiful prospect. On this side of the building are strong parts of immense thickness with numbers of loop holes. This view was taken from Spring Pasture. At a short distance is a meadow well known by the name of Gallows-field, doubtless the place of execution when the lord of Ashton had power of life and death.

Ashton is joined by two very considerable hamlets of houses, built in the beginning of the American war, and called *Boston* and *Charlestown* after the places of that name in New-England. It also extends in every

#### **4 pictures in the Gallery – Jailer's Chapel, The Dungeons, Old Hall, View of Ashton**

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direction towards the neighbouring towns. It is well supplied with water, except about two months in the summer, when the inhabitants are obliged to fetch their soft water in carts from the Tame. This river abounds with trout. It is also of the highest utility to the machinery of the woollen and cotton factories of the neighbourhood; it being reckoned that within the space of ten miles from Ashton there are near 100 mills upon this stream and its tributary branches. The annexed view of the town was taken from the terrace in the front of Dukinfield lodge, an eminence looking down to the Tame and Dukinfield-bridge, about half a mile from the church.



On the right is the prison; on the left, the town, stretching towards Manchester.

Coals are got at the very edge of the town in abundance, whence they will be conveyed to Manchester by the canal which is now nearly finished. Its advantages to the town and neighbourhood will be inestimable, particularly in the improvement of the soil by lime and other manures. At a short distance from Ashton, on the Manchester road, is an extensive moss, from the edges of which the surrounding poor cut turf, which supplies them with fuel. The turf is cut away till the diggers come, at about ten feet depth, to a tolerable foil of loam, which on proper improvement becomes good meadow land. The moss itself is a shaking bog, which nevertheless can be crossed in any season, and probably might be made solid ground by means of judicious draining. Red fir trees are frequently found in it, which, being fresh and full of turpentine, serve, when split, the purpose of candles to the poor; also numbers of large oak trees perfectly found and as black as ebony.

Ashton and its townships have rapidly Increased in population, with the increase of manufactures. From an enumeration made in 1775, it appears that there were.

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In the town, 553 houses, 599 families, 2859 inhabitants.

In the parish, 941 houses, 971 families, 5097 inhabitants.

The parish register of births and burials is as under:

| Years | Christen. | Br. |  | Years | Christen. | Br. |
|-------|-----------|-----|--|-------|-----------|-----|
| 1765  | 235       | 159 |  | 1784  | 422       | 187 |
| 1770  | 281       | 167 |  | 1785  | 427       | 201 |
| 1775  | 323       | 239 |  | 1786  | 409       | 175 |
| 1776  | 230       | 131 |  | 1787  | 428       | 351 |
| 1777  | 324       | 180 |  | 1788  | 438       | 244 |
| 1778  | 350       | 174 |  | 1789  | 412       | 232 |
| 1779  | 342       | 199 |  | 1790  | 469       | 259 |
| 1780  | 348       | 180 |  | 1791  | 461       | 185 |
| 1781  | 364       | 200 |  | 1792  | 572       | 308 |
| 1782  | 373       | 186 |  | 1793  | 545       | 348 |
| 1783  | 353       | 237 |  | 1794  | 399       | 399 |

The following Epitaph may be seen on a tomb in Ashton churchyard in pretty good repair:

“Here resteth the body of John Leech, of Hurst, buried the 16th day of October 1689, aged 92 years, who by Anne his wife had issue 12 children, and in his life-time was father to 12, grandfather to 75, great grandfather to 92, great great grandfather to 2, in all 181 persons.”

Upon the tomb there has been something or other like a coat of arms, upon the top of which is entwined a Serpent, which tradition says he kept tame in his house. Motto - “*Virtus est venerabilis*”

The following list of houses in the several districts, paying the window taxes, was taken in 1793

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|             |     |  |           |     |
|-------------|-----|--|-----------|-----|
| Ashton Town | 279 |  | Mossley   | 5   |
| Boston      | 28  |  | Smallshaw | 22  |
| Charlestown | 23  |  | Hurst     | 108 |

|                                |     |  |                                      |      |
|--------------------------------|-----|--|--------------------------------------|------|
| Audenshaw, inc.<br>Hooley Hill | 238 |  | Luzley and Towracre                  | 40   |
| Knott Lanes                    | 202 |  | Ridgehill Lane, or Staley-<br>Bridge | 112  |
| Hartshead                      | 37  |  |                                      |      |
|                                |     |  | TOTAL                                | 1154 |

It is certain, however, that this is very short of the real number, as evidently appears by comparison with the return of houses in the town in 1775, since which period it has manifestly received a great increase.

The town of Ashton, including Boston, Charlestown, Botany-Bay, Hurst, and the adjoining buildings on the Manchester, Mosley, and Staley-bridge roads, with the new street, &c. near the church, cannot be much short of 1,600 houses. In this town five inhabitants may safely be reckoned to a house, making in all 8000 souls. Staley-bridge, Oldham, Dukinfield, Hooley-hill, Audenshaw, Openshaw, with the other towns and villages in this neighbourhood, have increased nearly in the same, proportion as Ashton.

With respect to the school, the appointment of a master is jointly betwixt the earl of Stamford and the Rev. Sir George Booth, Rector. The inscription is as follows:—"Given by the Right Hon. George, earl of Warrington, and rebuilt by the parish Anno Domini, 1721." The salary is three pounds per annum with a small house over the school; the three pounds paid from Crime estate.

*Staley-bridge* near two miles above Ashton-under-Lyne, has an excellent stone bridge across the Tame. A little below it another was

### **p.230**

lately built by the late John Astley of Dukinfield, Esq. for the convenience of his own estate. The place is now a very large and extensive village, the houses well built, some of stone, but the greatest part of brick. On an eminence stands an octagon chapel of the church of England, in which is an organ. Part of the village is on the Cheshire side of the Tame, but by far the greatest in Lancashire, in a continued street of half a mile, well paved. The greatest part of this village, as well as the chapel, has been built in the last eighteen years.

This place has been famous, for a great length of time, for woollen cloth, dyers and pressers, as well as weavers. These branches will continue to flourish. Here and in this neighbourhood commences the woollen manufactory, which extends in various directions as we proceed to Saddleworth. Here is an old hall, long in the possession of a family of the Kenworthy's, who are principally concerned in the clothing business, but the great support of the place has for some time past been the cotton trade. The annexed view was taken from below the bridge.

On a high ground on the Cheshire side of the Tame, about two miles above Staley-bridge, is situated Staley-hall, the old family seat of the Staleys. It is a roomy, spacious house with extensive barns and stables of modern date, strong and well built with stone. The annexed view was taken at the bottom of the yard.

In the back ground is a distant view of Bucton Castle. The stabling, &c. forms a wing on the left, but being of great extent could not be brought into so small a compass. It is now a farm-house in the occupation of a Mr. Morse, with very extensive possessions belonging to it, bordering on the Yorkshire moors. A new turnpike road from Staley-bridge

### **3 pictures in the Gallery – View of Staley-Bridge, View of Staley Hall, Scout Mill**

### **p.231**

passing this hall into Yorkshire, is nearly finished, and the canal from Ashton, running up this valley at the side of the Tame, is carrying on with speed.

A little above Staley-hall, on the Lancashire side of the Tame, stands *Scout Mill* a place well known to the surrounding neighbourhood, partly from its very rural and romantic situation, and partly for its melancholy and unfortunate inhabitants. For many years it has been in the occupation of Mr. Wilson, a respectable man, now very far advanced in life, who has long had the care of insane persons, but has now in a great measure declined it. A few are still under the care of his son. The mill is now used in the cotton branch. It is descended to from the turnpike road near Mosey by a long steep hill, with a lofty broken ground, nearly perpendicular to the river, overhung by a fine wood. The annexed view was taken from a rock in the middle of the river, in order to comprehend the beautiful fall of water at the Wear. In the background is a view of the high hill on which stood Bucton Castle.

*Mosley* [sic] is a considerable village, with upwards of 100 houses, many of them large and well built, chiefly of stone. It is about three miles from Ashton, in the high road to Huddersfield, with a large chapel in the gift of or under the rector of Ashton.

Near this stands Hart's-head Pike, a favourite and well-known object for the surrounding country, which is seen at a considerable distance, and in general has been supposed to be a sea mark. It is situated

### **p.232**

on very high ground betwixt Oldham and Mosley, from whence the traveller has a most delightful view of the surrounding country. We have ascertained, from good authority, that it was formerly used as a beacon, and there are others in the neighbourhood to answer it. It was rebuilt of solid stone in 1758, and is of considerable height and circumference. It is now split from top to bottom near half a yard in width. A few pounds laid out in repairs, if done in time, might preserve this pile for a century to come. On the top are the small remains of a weather-cock, probably a hart's-head.

*Fairfield* is a new settlement belonging to the Moravians, near four miles from Manchester and within two fields of the Ashton turnpike road. Though established within these twenty years it has the appearance of a little town. There is a large and commodious chapel, with an excellent organ. The ground plot is laid out with great taste and judgement. It forms a large square. The chapel and some large dwelling houses well built of brick form the front. On each side of the chapel are two deep rows of dwelling houses; on the back front behind the chapel is a row of elegant large houses. These, with the chapel, form a large square mass of buildings, round which is a broad paved street, and the whole is flagged round. On the outer side of the street is another row of excellent buildings, which surrounds the whole, except the front; at a short distance from which is a fine row of kitchen gardens, and opposite to the chapel a large burying ground; the whole divided and surrounded with quickset hedges. One of the houses is a convenient inn with stabling, &c. for the accommodation of those who frequent the place.

### **Picture in the Gallery – View of Fairfield**

### **p.233**

The neatness of the whole has a very pleasing appearance, and the place is frequented by numbers from Manchester. The annexed view is taken from the right of the turnpike road leading from Manchester.

The cotton manufactory forms a principal part of the employment of the inhabitants, including spinning, weaving, &c. Tambour and fine needle-work is carried to a great pitch of perfection, and is chiefly sent to London. There are also in this settlement taylors, shoemakers, bakers, and a sale shop for most articles, as well for the convenience of the settlement, as for the neighbourhood.

The Manchester, Ashton, and Oldham canal comes close to this place, which will be of infinite

advantage to it, as well for the carrying of goods to and from Manchester and Ashton, as for procuring a supply of coals nearly as cheap as at the pit.

At a short distance is *Shepley-hall*, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Tame, and now in the occupation of Thomas Phillips, Esq. adjoining to it are the very large cotton factories and extensive bleaching grounds of Messrs. Phillips and Lowe.

The people of Ashton and the neighbourhood about sixty years ago were almost wholly employed in spinning cotton wefts for check-makers or twist to make fustian warps. They likewise furnished single cotton harder thrown to make warps for slight goods. Of late they have fallen more into the practice of making twist and warps for velverets, cotton thicksets, &c. The inhabitants of several of the townships near Hooley-hill are employed in a hat manufactory lately set up at a new village called Quebec, on the road from Ashton to Stockport.

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Feeling disappointed that the Branch talk on the Manorial Records had been cancelled, I remembered a talk by MLFHS webmaster, John Marsden, which I had found so interesting, that I had written a couple of paragraphs intended for the newsletter but never used ... it seems it might be appropriate now.

The Manor, and Manorial Records ... what a minefield ... at the same time fascinating and yet so frustrating. I knew the basics of the Conqueror's feudal system; scraped the surface of Tudor, Stewart and Hanoverian dynasties, and the French Revolution, before finally concentrating on Irish Land Tenure in the early 19th century, when at College. Not exactly a springboard for understanding 'The Manor' in mediæval England, as it evolved for hundreds of years, until the early years of the 'industrial age' began to dominate the economy.

Having avoided the Manor (as a topic) as much as possible, I began to realise what a big hole this created in my understanding of family and local history. In a way, this was my 'brick wall', not just for family history but for local history, as well. I usually like my facts as accessible bullet points and this was never to be the case when looking further back in time. What I hadn't fully accepted was that it was an ever-evolving way of life, based on long-held customs, all of which were gradually identified, defined and set down as the manorial rights; importantly, each manor having similar but different ways of working.

John Marsden's zoom talk, on 'The Manor', in April 2021 pushed the 'door' of understanding open enough for me to investigate further (and, as a bonus, enjoy it!) Always ready to be diverted, I was then determined to build on this new understanding ... getting the books recommended and searching the internet with the advantage of having a better idea of what I was actually looking for! I'd had John's booklet, '*The English Manor and its Records*', on my bookshelves for years; unfortunately, it was buried and forgotten! It provides a brief but concise overview, for the foundations of further enquiry, and is still available from the Society shop for a mere £2, [HERE](#)

Going back to John's talk, his '*Speaker's Notes*' (based on the powerpoint presentation) have been uploaded to the MLFHS website, in '*Speakers' Notes*' 2021-06 with public access. [HERE](#). It includes a comprehensive bibliography:

His recommended title was, '*Life on the English Manor, 1150 - 1400*' by H.S. Bennett, pub. 1937. I managed to buy a 2nd hand copy of it, as a 1971 reprint, on Amazon.

'*The Manor Houses of England*' by P.H. Ditchfield pub. 1910 was also referenced in his 'Further Reading'.

Both these titles are available, for free download, on Archive.org, Links are in the section for the '*Internet Book Links*', below.

Many thanks, John, for giving that talk and re-kindling my interest in '*The Manor*'.

Sheila Goodyear
17245

A quick search on google for local manor houses, still in existence, and with a new lease of life, threw up the following selection:

- * The manor house **Ordsall Hall**. The oldest part of the house dates back to the 15th century.
- * **Bramall Hall** - a black and white timber-framed Tudor manor house.
- * **Little Moreton Hall** - a moated half-timbered manor house that is also known as Old Moreton Hall. The oldest part of the manor house dates back to 1504.
- * **Gawsworth Hall** - a Tudor manor house.
- * **Smithills'** - origins in mediæval times.
- * **Hall i' th' Wood** - early 16th century origins.

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Xxx x xxxxxxxx **From the e-Postbag** xxxxx xx xxxxx xx

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

### ***Random Recollections ... Playing out***

Throughout my school life, PE and sports were always at the very bottom of my to do list, and I was grateful for any excuse to avoid having to jump over boxes, balance on upturned benches or, later at high school, hang around the netball court clad in flimsy PE uniform with the sole luxury of the school jumper, but only if the PE teacher (herself wrapped up in a warm track suit) considered it cold enough. Playground games on the other hand were fine. In Infants' school we would play the nursery type games such as "ring a ring o' roses", "the farmer's in his den", "in and out the fairy bluebells", usually under the auspices of a teacher. This was necessary, as when it came to the patting part, a feature of both farmer's den and fairy bluebells games, some of the children did this with such vigour that it almost knocked the living daylights out of you if you happened to be the "bone" or the "leader".

One of our games though did create a scare among the teachers. We would have a tennis ball in the foot of an old stocking, stand with our backs against the wall of the shelter, which also housed the toilets, and whack the ball from side to side for all we were worth. Why? No idea, but it was fun until the teachers decided it was too dangerous and regularly confiscated the stockings. That probably made it even more fun.

Whereas the Infants only had one small playground, the Juniors had separate playgrounds for girls and boys, so all the games we played as Juniors were girls only. That was fine with us as we could concentrate on them without the boys interfering or causing a nuisance, which is what they tended to do outside the playground.

There was a very clear line in my head which divided prancing about in PE and jumping about in the playground. As Juniors we learnt to play independently by copying the older girls. Our outdoor games were seasonal and we played them at junior school during "playtime", the term used for the two morning and afternoon breaks, sometimes alone at home in the garden, or with our friends in the street. There were so few cars that playing out in the street was something we could do all evening without one single interruption. Our road was a cul-de-sac, and the only traffic during the day was the milk float in the early hours with its clinking bottles, the Mother's Pride bread man's delivery van in the morning, and the occasional car, usually one of the rare car-owning neighbours coming home for dinner, which was what we called the midday meal. Lunch was something eaten by posh people and the mere sound of the word evoked something frivolous and much less substantial than a decent dinner.

Linda and I would spend hours playing two ball against the brick wall, sometimes we would try

it one-handed, or even have a go at three ball if we were feeling very adventurous, with all the accompanying rhymes:

“Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, let your neighbour carry on”, then the next girl would continue, trying hard not to let a ball drop. We had all sorts of techniques: dropsy - letting one ball bounce once, slamsy - slamming one ball overhand against the wall, twirly - doing a little pirouette in between catching balls, leg under – passing the ball underneath one leg.

One of the favourite two ball rhymes we would chant was:

“I went to Morecambe for the day,  
lost my ticket upon the way,  
the porter said I had to pay  
for travelling on the railway.”

At the end of each line we would perform some little contortion with one of the balls.

“One, two, three O'Leary  
four, five, six O'Leary  
seven, eight, nine O'Leary  
ten O'Leary  
catch the ball”

at which point the next girl would take over.

Rope skipping was much more fun in the school playground than alone in the back garden. There would be a fairly large group, two would turn the rope, usually a piece of clothes line brought from home and wound umpteen times around the hand to get it the right length, and the others would have to “jump in”. Goodness knows how the rhymes originated, they never made any sense but we chanted them very seriously and they were passed on orally from one class to the next.

“Too late, too soon  
to catch the moon  
to go to bed in the afternoon.”

This must have been gleaned from something more poetic but all we could muster was a remnant.

“Under the moon, over the stars” seems to have been a familiar skipping game.

One at a time we would try to run underneath the rope without touching it as it was being turned, then in turn we jumped back over it. You had make sure the rope was being turned equally and not wobbling, and you would wait for the rope to be at the right height before trying to jump over it. This was quite tricky and if you messed it up you were relegated to taking an end, or turning. Once the whole group had been back and forth, we would all “jump in” and skip together, chanting

“All in together  
to see Cinderella”

I don't think we knew any more of that rhyme but there must have been a more complete version that at least made some sense. Like manuscripts handed down over the centuries, transcribed by generations of monks, our version was a fragment with considerable chunks missing. But unlike generations of scholars, this didn't bother us in the least.

Another popular skipping rhyme was:

Little fat doctor how's your wife?  
Very well, thank you  
That's alright  
She won't eat a bit of fish

or a stick of liquorice  
O – U – T spells out with a bottle of stout  
I – N spells in with a bottle of gin  
IN OUT a bottle of stout  
OUT IN a bottle of gin

We must have jumped backwards and forwards like mad. There were games where the turners would shout out commands: “Salt, Mustard, Vinegar, Pepper” Salt was normal skipping, what were mustard and vinegar? One was turning the rope backwards as you skipped, then we had a version where you just hopped rather than skipped. Pepper was skipping as fast as you could. There was another version, “High, Low, Dolly, Pepper” where the rope was raised for “High”, lowered for “Low”, Dolly was some fancy twist or footwork and Pepper the fast-as-you-can. Skipping had its own strict rules and we all knew them by heart. It was a disciplined game and one which I spent many a happy hour playing, in the school playground, in our back garden or with my friends in our road.

French skipping, or “elastic” as we called it, was another popular girls’ game, but not one played by my group of classmates. Two girls would step inside a long loop of elastic, loop it around their ankles and stretch it. Then the girl skipping inside the loop would have to hop and jump about according to certain rules. If she did it correctly the elastic would be raised gradually, and the hops repeated until she made a mistake. Then she would replace one of the girls at the end.

We would draw a Hopscotch grid on the ground using a stone if we couldn't get hold of any chalk, and sometimes we would play with an old Elastoplast tin as it made more noise when shoving it with our foot from square to square, hopping on one leg. Typewriter ribbon tins were good as they were round and could be shunted about more easily.

Our outdoor games also featured many imaginary scenarios, often involving horses and stables. My friend Jill's elder sister Diane could do an impressive impersonation of a horse whinneying and we would gallop pell-mell up and down the street, sometimes to the annoyance of an elderly neighbour who would be having a late afternoon nap prior to her evening of ballroom dancing at Belle Vue. She was nicknamed “Mrs. Redwall” because her front garden wall was painted red. My father was rather surprised when she gave him a funny look once when he addressed her as “Mrs. Redwall”. Somehow he wasn't aware that she was in fact called Lynch. As children, we thought that was hilarious but my father probably found it rather embarrassing. On long summer evenings we never ran out of games, and we would play out until we were called in because it was high time to go to bed.

Many thanks, Julie, for another enjoyable trip down Memory Lane.

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Internet links for freely available books/texts

A monthly selection of links to mainly 19th century publications at the Internet Archive of Books & Texts website and on some occasions Google books or other free websites. Those included 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 online but not download.

* *Life On The English Manor (a Study Of Peasant Conditions 1150-1400)*

by H.S. Bennett, pub. 1937

[HERE](#)

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\* *The Manor Houses of England'*

by P.H. Ditchfield pub. 1910

[HERE](#)

\* *An Historical Account of the Towns Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield.*

by Edwin Butterworth, pub 1842

[HERE](#)

## MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE

A short selection of entries from the MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE ...

since the last newsletter :

\* Richard Johnson, The First Librarian: No Surplus Surplice?

[HERE](#)

\* How to find Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills

[HERE](#)

\* The Chartist movement

[HERE](#)

\* New Evidence for Old Stories: The Scribbled Books of the House of Lords

[HERE](#)

\* Exploring The History Of Brass Banding Across The North Of England

[HERE](#)

\* D-Day 80: Servicemen silhouettes en route to Normandy

[HERE](#)

\* Occupations and designations from Scotland's people

[HERE](#)

\* 18 forgotten Cadbury's Easter eggs that will bring childhood memories flooding back

[HERE](#)

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

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

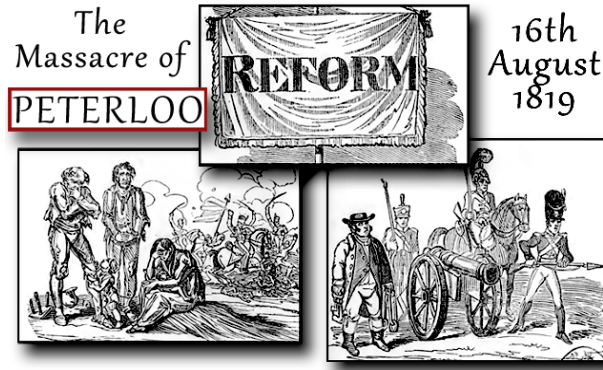
## PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary

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](#)

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The Website of Oldham Historical Research [Group]



For more local articles, images and information, please visit the website [HERE](#)

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**Need Help!**

**Oldham Local Studies and Archives**

**CLOSED on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 - Temporary accommodation now open**

From their website:

*In preparation for our new home at Spindles the service will close at 84 Union Street on 30 November 2023. A temporary service will operate from Oldham Library in March 2024 until the Spindles site is ready. We will not be able to accept new donations or provide access to physical archives during this time. Our digital resources will be available as usual.*

**Opening hours**

*We are open Mondays and Wednesdays to Fridays, 10am–5pm, Tuesdays 10am-2pm, and Saturdays 10am-4pm.*

**[Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)**

There are regularly changing displays in the Local Studies Library.

[Opening hours](#) and contact details.

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Website Links

Other Society Websites

Catholic Family History Society – www.catholicfhs.co.uk

Cheshire Local History Association – www.cheshirehistory.org.uk

Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk

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

Lancashire Local History Federation – www.lancashirehistory.org

Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – www.lswlfhs.org.uk

Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – www.mrias.co.uk

Oldham Historical Research Group – www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg

Peterloo - Peterloo-Manchester

Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) - [Ranulf Higden Soc.](http://Ranulf-Higden-Soc)

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

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

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

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

The Victorian Society - [Manchester Regional Website](http://Manchester-Regional-Website)

Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - Lancashire

Free BMD - Search

[National Library of Scotland](http://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

Economies Past : A study conducted by Cambridge University HERE

Some Local Archives

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

Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](http://Local-Family-History)

Bury – www.bury.gov.uk/archives

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

Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](#)

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

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

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)

Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

Preston – www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives

Stockport – www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives

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

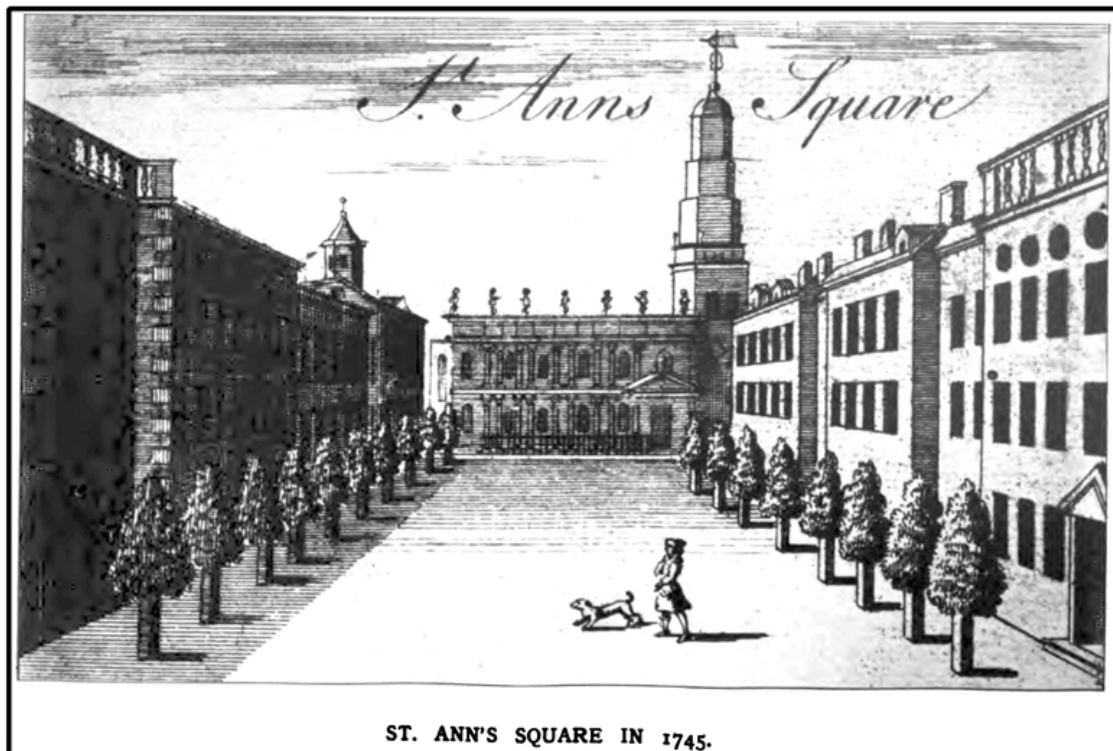
York – www.york.ac.uk/borthwick



For the Gallery

images from :

Manchester Streets & Manchester Men Vol. 1 (1st series) by T. Swindells
published in 1906



St Ann's Square, between pps. 109 & 110.

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From : *A Description of the Country from Thirty to Forty Miles Round Manchester.*

by J. Aikin, M.D., pub. 1795



View of Jailer's Chapel

Between pages 226 & 227



The Dungeons

Between pages 226 & 227  
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View of Old Hall

Between pages 226 & 227



View of Ashton - under - Lyne

Between pages 226 & 227



View of Staley Bridge

Between pages 230 & 231



View of Staley Hall

Between pages 230 & 231



View of Scout Mill

Between pages 230 & 231

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*View of Fairfield*

Between pages 232 & 233