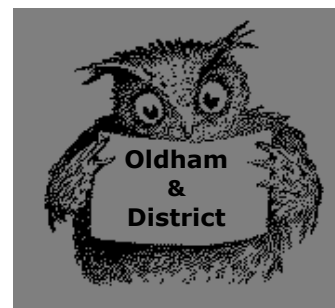


Oldham and District Branch of the Manchester and  
Lancashire Family History Society  
Contact us at [oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:oldham@mlfhs.org.uk)

## Newsletter October 2015



### Branch News

#### Our Last Meeting

Saturday 5th September

David Muil

Crooks & Coffins Ships - The Southern Ocean - The Perils of 19th Century Emigration.

David's talk about emigration to Australia during the 19th century, supported by an excellent power point, was extremely informative and interesting.

Emigration increased to Australia during the 1850's with the discovery of gold by Edward Hargreaves. Adverts for skilled and unskilled workers soon appeared in newspapers enticing settlers. As this was the time of high unemployment in Lancashire due to the cotton famine, many left this area looking for a new life with the



prospect of work and free grants of land. A further incentive was the chance of working in cotton with the introduction of cotton seed into Queensland at that time.

The journey was long and hard on the clipper ships with deaths, disease, cramped conditions, and disregard for the well-being of the passengers. However many settled happily including a group from Oldham who settled in the area of Moreton Bay in Queensland.

David has done extensive research into this subject and the talk is highly recommended if you missed it this time.

## Online Resources

ancestry.co.uk findmypast.co.uk and familysearch.com have passenger lists and also-

[http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlscant/lancashire\\_witch.htm](http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlscant/lancashire_witch.htm)

<http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/>

<http://www.naa.gov.au/>

<http://www.coraweb.com.au/shipindex.htm>

## **Our Next Meeting Saturday 10th October Ian Gibson**

The Lancashire Textile Industry and How It Can Be Seen in 2015

Ian Gibson retired in in November 2010 as Head of Lancashire County Museum Service which has three textile mill sites which are "Designated" as being of both national and international importance. In his talk he hopes to give a flavour of the once vast scale of the Lancashire textile industry and how a little of it is being preserved for future generations to wonder at.

At The Education Suite, Gallery Oldham, Greaves Street, Oldham beginning at 2pm. No charge for members, £2.50 non-members.

## **Events at Oldham Local Studies and Archives**

### **2nd October**

**Before Civil Registration:  
Using Parish Registers**

**16th October  
Maps for Family Historians**

### **9th October**

**Wills and Probate Records**

All talks are 10.30am-12noon

All talks are **free** and given by members of the MLFHS. **Booking essential**  
Telephone 0161 770 4654 or e-mail [archives@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:archives@oldham.gov.uk)

## **Help with Family History Research**

### **Oldham Local Studies**

Family history experts are available every Monday and Wednesday from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm to help with any family history enquiries you may have.

There is also free access to Ancestry.co.uk and findmypast.

## **Society News**

### **Beginners' Talks**

#### **19th and 20th Sources**

Saturday 10th October

#### **Room F12 of the Friends Meeting House, Mount Street.**

The talk starts at 10.30 and lasts for about 2 hours.

The talks are free to Society members but non-members are most welcome to attend for a fee of £3.00 (refundable for anyone who joins the Society on the day).

**Booking is essential.** An online booking facility is available on the MLFHS web site (**Click on the 'Eventbrite' link**) or alternatively telephone us on 0161-234 1060 or email office@mlfhs.org.uk

## **The Manchester Quarterly Meeting**

### **Wednesday 21st October**

Programme

10.30 am **A Lancashire Garland – The History of Lancashire and its Dialect in Songs, Stories & Poems.**

Speaker: Sid Calderbank

12.00 Lunch

1.00 pm **A History of Manchester Newspapers – First Edition to City Final.**

Speaker: Peter Levy

To be held in the **Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street.**

**Registration is essential** to register, click the Eventbrite logo on the MLFHS web site

The meeting is FREE to paid up MLFHS members, but there is a charge of £3 (payable at the time of booking) for non-members. If, however, you decide to join MLFHS on the day this fee will be refunded.

## **The 1939 Registers**

### **Tuesday 1st December**

#### **THIS IS A MLFHS MEMBER ONLY EVENT**

The Society will be welcoming Myko Clelland of Findmypast to Central Library on Tuesday 1st December. Myko will be delivering a presentation about Findmypast's forthcoming launch of the 1939 Registration Records.

While we find the census invaluable for our research up to 1911, a problem looms because the returns for 1931 were destroyed in a fire and in 1941 there was no census owing to the war. Consequently this vital source will be denied to researchers between 1921 and 1951.

Fortunately, the war prompted government to set up a registration system and, even more fortunately, today's government has agreed to publication (with

some small reductions) of the original registration records. Findmypast are digitising these records and indexed images will appear on their web site later this year.

Myko will be giving two presentations at Central Library on Tuesday 1st December. One will begin at 11am and the other at 1.30pm. Each will take about one hour.

Demand for places at these sessions is expected to be high and booking will therefore be ESSENTIAL.

Book on Eventbrite via the MLFHS website.

### **Findmypast.ie**

The Irish version of Findmypast can be searched for free at the Help Desk in Manchester central library. There is one subscription to the site so priority will be given to members and will be limited to about half an hour.

The Society Help Desk, which is located on the ground floor, is open every week day from 10.30am to 3.30pm

Free access also to Ancestry.co.uk, findmypast, Manchester online burials and British Newspaper archives.

### **Local News**

#### **Who Do You Think You Are?**

Oldham recently featured in the Jerry Hall episode.

Jerry's great-grandfather, James Hall, is to be found on the 1881 census living in Waverley Street, Derker, with his wife Martha Ann (nee Standeven who he had married in 1877 at St James' Church), and daughter Clara. Living in the houses on the same street were the family of his married sister Margaret Ellen Clegg and his widowed mother Mary Ann Hall.



Soon afterwards he left England for a job on the railroad in Texas tempted by the promise of land and a job with good money. He also had the necessary experience of working with machinery in a supervisory role from his job as a cardroom jobber.

His wife and young family followed him a little while later but sadly Martha Ann died in 1883. His son James also died and his daughter was adopted by a friend.

Happily for Jerry James met Jerry's grandmother, bought farmland and started a new life.

## Oldham National Schools Admission Registers and Log Books on Findmypast

A number of admission registers and log books from Oldham schools have been added to the National School Admission Registers and Log Books 1870-1914 on findmypast:

Christ Church School	St Luke's Church of England School
Clarksfield School	St Paul's Church of England School
High Crompton National School	Royton
Roundthorn County Primary School	Waterhead Church School
Scottfield County Primary School	Waterloo Board School
	Wellington Street Council School

These records are also at Oldham Local Studies and Archives but are easier to search online.

*Findmypast is free to search at Oldham Local Studies and at libraries across the borough. It is also free to search at Manchester Central Library.*

## Peterloo Ancestors

Thank you to Ray Hulley who has very kindly sent us this information about his ancestors Nancy Prestwich nee Hulley born in 1757 and her son John Hully 1779 -1838, both from Mossley. Both of them were called as witnesses at the trial of Henry Hunt held at York Assizes from Thursday 16th March 1820 to Monday 27th March 1820.

The Peterloo Massacre (or Battle of Peterloo) occurred at St Peter's Field, Manchester, England, on 16th August 1819, when cavalry charged into a crowd of 60,000–80,000 that had gathered to demand the reform of parliamentary representation.

The end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 had resulted in periods of famine and chronic unemployment, exacerbated by the introduction of the first of the Corn Laws. By the beginning of 1819 the pressure generated by poor economic conditions, coupled with the lack of suffrage in northern England, had enhanced the appeal of political radicalism. In response, the Manchester Patriotic Union, a group agitating for parliamentary reform, organised a demonstration to be addressed by the well-



known radical orator Henry Hunt.

Shortly after the meeting began, local magistrates called on the military authorities to arrest Hunt and several others on the hustings with him, and to disperse the crowd. Cavalry charged into the crowd with sabres drawn and, in the ensuing confusion, 15 people were killed and 400–700 were injured. The massacre was given the name Peterloo in ironic comparison to the Battle of Waterloo, which had taken place four years earlier.



John Hully (baptised at St George's chapel Mossley on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1779) was the illegitimate son of Nancy Hulley (born 1757 at Mossley who married Josuah Prestwich at St Michael's church Ashton under Lyne on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1781)

### **24th March 1820 - The Times**

*<http://archive.org/details/trialofhenryhunt00huntiala> (pages 225-227)*

### **Evidence of John Hully – taken on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the trial i.e. Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1820.**

**John Hully** deposed:

I am a clothier, residing at Moseley. I had business at Manchester, and went to it on the 18<sup>th</sup> August. I went with my mother and my wife. My mother is Nancy Prestwick; she is in the 65<sup>th</sup> year of her age. I saw no shops shut up in Manchester on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The people were following their usual avocations. I saw the procession that came from Oldham, Royton, Leeds and Moseley. The people appeared to be passing in a quiet and orderly manner. I saw no persons in the procession offer any insult to any of the respectable inhabitants. I went about to my customers to know if they wanted anything.

I left my goods at a private house; not because I was afraid, but because I wishes to see the procession. I found my customers on whom I called at their usual occupations. I did not see one shop shut up. None of my customers expressed to me any fears about the meeting. My wife was with me. My mother had business of her own, and we agreed to meet after the meeting was over. I took my wife with me. I did not see my mother there. I did not see any acts of violence committed, or any insult offered by the people.

Did you see any acts of violence committed at the meeting?

Yes.

By the people?

No.

**Mr. Hunt** Will your Lordship allow me to ask by whom?

The learned **Judge** replied No; that question is not now to be tried. It is the

character of the meeting, and not of the parties, that we are trying.

Examined by the Court:

I saw the cavalry enter. I was about 15 yards from the hustings, and about 80 from Buxton's house. I could see the whole of the way between Buxton's house and the hustings and saw no act of resistance done by the crowd, nor any insult offered by them, to the cavalry. I did not hear the cavalry state their object in proceeding to the hustings. I could have heard any communication made from them if the people on the hustings could have heard it, for I was nearer to the cavalry than the people on the hustings. I did not know that the cavalry were going to the hustings to enable a constable to serve a warrant if any communication had made to the hustings that this was their object, I should have heard it sooner than any person on the hustings.

**Evidence of Nancy Prestwick (sic) taken on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the trial i.e. Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1820**

**Nancy Prestwick**, the mother of the last witness, an old woman, with rather an infirm appearance, deposed:

I live at Moseley about 10 miles from Manchester. I went to Manchester on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August. I am 64 years of age. I walked to Manchester that day all the way. I did not walk in procession; I went with my son and my son's wife. I saw a dozen of our townswomen at Manchester. I saw other women there in great numbers. After taking some refreshments, I took a walk out to Mr. Johnson's. They formed me in a line with two or three hundred women, because I was the oldest. I knew St. Peter's-field, and went the nearest way to it, as I thought. I was there before Mr. Hunt came on the ground; and after waiting to see him went to get a gill of beer; and when I returned the cavalry were coming on the ground. I then stopped, and did not go further. I saw the cavalry.

Is your eye-sight good?

Yes, good at my age.

**Hunt** here asked witness did you and the 300 women attempt to take the cavalry prisoners?

No, Sir, exclaimed the witness, with great emphasis. I joined in the cheers when Mr. Hunt arrived.

Did you join in the cheers when the cavalry came on the ground?

No, I did not. I did not know what that cheering was for.

Did you hoot and hiss at them?

No, Sir.

Were you alarmed at the number and behaviour of the people assembled?

**Mr. Scarlett** here intervened, and speaking in a low tone of voice, which we at

first did not distinctly hear, objected to the question being put to the witnesses for the defence, as to their own fears or apprehension of danger. He would admit that Mr. Hunt did not mean at this particular time to offer resistance; and that the word "enemies" he used, was not applied to the military.

**Mr. Justice Bayley** said, this was a liberal admission.

**Mr. Scarlett** said, he did not mean to ascribe to persons any design, at that time, to make a tumult.

Then, said **Mr. Justice Bayley**, you have not expressed what you mean in the indictment.

**Mr. Scarlett** thought the question was, was terror excited? and if twelve persons said they were alarmed, it would not be disproved though 100 should say they were not alarmed.

**Mr. Justice Bayley** said that the question which would come to the Jury would probably be twofold; was there fear, and was there rational ground for fear?

**Mr. Scarlett** I admit that Mr. Hunt did not design to produce disturbance, but I do not admit that he did not mean to intimidate.

**Mr. Justice Bayley** I think the design to intimidate is not in your case.

The witness was then cross-examined by **Mr. Sergeant Cross**.

I was not at Smedley cottage. I do not know who formed the line. There was no man; they were all women. I had nothing to do with the flags.

**Hunt** You were at the head of the female party?

Yes.

You did not wear a sword, or carry a musket, did you?

No, Sir. (A laugh.)

## Exhibitions

Exhibitions about the Oldham Pals and Oldham's Victoria Cross recipients are touring local libraries.

Date	Library	Exhibition
26th September - 16th October	Failsworth Royton	Victoria Cross Oldham Pals
16th October - 6th November	Uppermill Oldham	Victoria Cross Oldham Pals
6th November -	Oldham	Victoria Cross



27th November	Uppermill	Oldham Pals
27th November - 11th December	Royton Failsworth	Victoria Cross Oldham Pals
11th December - 8th January	Crompton Chadderton	Victoria Cross Oldham Pals

### **Talks by Other Groups** (which are not part of our society)

#### **Chadderton Historical Society**

Thursday 1st October

#### **History of Thornham**

Talk by Leon Mcleod

Chadderton Football Club at 7.30pm

#### **Royton Local History Society**

Monday 12th October

#### **Fire in the Summit Tunnel**

Illustrated talk by Donald Reid

Downey House, Church Street, Royton at 7.30pm

Saddleworth Historical Society Wednesday 14th October

AGM and Saddleworth Surnames DNA Project: An Update

Neil Barrow

7.30pm at the Civic Hall

#### **Oldham Historical Research Group**

Wednesday 21st October

#### **The Development of the King's Highway through the village of Oldham in the early 18th Century**

A talk given by Jack Dawson

7.00pm at Oldham Local Studies and Archives

### **Research News**

#### **Findmypast**

- Has made more than 330,000 Manchester electoral records available for browsing. The new collection, created from microfilm copies held by Archives+ at Manchester Central Library, includes registers of local government and parliamentary elections, Citizens' Rolls and Burgess Rolls. The electoral wards featured include Harpurhey, Hulme, Newton and Salford.
- One million records of troops taken prisoner during the Second World War have been published. The collection provides the name, rank and

location of each of prisoner.

- Thousands of Hertfordshire parish records have been digitised and made available on the web. Around 5,000 baptism and burial records have been added.

### **Deceased online**

Has digitised and uploaded pages of the burial registers for four cemeteries owned by Wyre Council, including Fleetwood Cemetery – the final resting place for nearly 27,000 people.

### **Scottish Indexes**

<http://www.scottishindexes.com/>

A new website has indexes to help you trace your family tree in Scotland. While currently many of the records are from the south of Scotland, their Quaker records and mental health records cover all of Scotland.

### **Update from Lancashire Online Parish Clerk**

<http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/>

Recently added from our area:

- Burials 1813 to 1829 from the Church of St Margaret, Hollinwood
- [Marriages 1857 to 1866 and 1877 to 1881 and Burials 1890 to 1901](#) from the Church of St Matthew, Chadderton
- Baptisms 1813 to 1826 from the Church of St Margaret of Antioch, Hollinwood

*If you have any local news, tips or photographs please email us so we can include it in our newsletter.*

**That's all for this month. We hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter. Thank you to those of you who have been in contact with us. We value your comments and contributions.**

[oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:oldham@mlfhs.org.uk)

**Sue Forshaw, Newsletter Editor**

Assisted by Irene Whitby & Jane Murphy