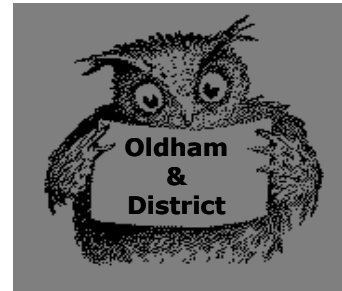


Newsletter

December 2015



Branch News

Our Last Meeting

Saturday 14th November

Glynn Hogan

John Hogan VC

Glynn gave us an excellent illustrated talk about his dad's cousin John Hogan VC. The talk was especially interesting to family historians as Glynn explained how John fitted into his family tree as well as describing John's military career and explaining how John won the VC. Finally he talked about the different ways John is remembered today.

Patrick Hogan and Bridget Hare were married in Oldham in 1854. They settled in Heyside, Royton and had five children. John was the son of their daughter Sarah and Glynn's father Joseph was the son of their son James.

John Hogan was born in 1884. There was no father named on the birth certificate. It has been said that Matthew Cregan was John's father but Glynn, being a good family history detective, using various sources proved that this was not the case. Sarah married Matthew Cregan in 1887 but John never seemed to be part of the family until Matthew, who had sent for the rest of the family to join him in America, was killed in a horrific accident in Rotch cotton mill in 1897.

Sarah returned home with her three daughters and by 1901 John was living with his mother and sisters at Water Street, Royton.

John signed up in 1903 to the Manchester Regiment when he was 18 years 3 months. He served in South Africa and India rising to the rank of corporal before leaving in 1912. He settled into a civilian life working for the Post Office.



With the start of the war John joined up again now with the rank of sergeant in the second Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. Glynn described how the first few months were a time of constant marching and fighting. By October 1914 the battalion was fighting at Festubert in France and it was there on October 29th that, along with Lieutenant Leach, he won the Victoria Cross when they voluntarily decided to recapture a trench which had been taken by the enemy. Working with great bravery they recaptured the trench killing 8 and taking 16 prisoners. The citation appeared in The London Gazette on 22nd December 1914.

John was given a hero's welcome when he returned home after being wounded around this time. When he returned to the front he changed battalions and was demoted to private after a court martial for drunkenness. However by the end of the war he was back to sergeant again.

In his civilian life he had mixed fortunes from being one of the guards of honour at the internment of the Unknown Soldier to having to pawn his medal due to a period of unemployment.

He died in 1943 in Boundary Park Hospital. There was some confusion over what happened to his medal but it had been sold in 1942. However in 1983 it came up for sale and it was bought for £10,000 with Norman Stoller putting up most of the money. It can now be seen in Oldham Civic centre.

John Hogan is remembered in various ways by his town. In 1996 His grave in Chadderton cemetery has now a Commonwealth war gravestone. In 2003 a blue plaque was unveiled near the parish church. There is a post box in his honour in Royton and a memorial stone in Royton Park. Nationally he appears on a cigarette card and he will be appearing on a postage stamp soon.



Glynn had one final fascinating piece of evidence to show us. In 1902 John tried to sign up to the Lancashire Regiment in which he lasted 47 days with the note "Not likely to become an efficient soldier." It just goes to show you never can know a person's true potential.

Our Meetings

There are no meetings in December and January.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 13th February.

The Restoration of Victoria Baths

Kate Dibble

This talk describes the background to Victoria Baths being built and how local people used the Baths and facilities for over 80 years, some of whom made history in their own right. We then follow the 'Restoration' story. The talk concludes by relating some of the inventive and surprising ways in which Victoria Baths is used today.

Kate Dibble is a Manchester and North West Blue Badge Guide, specialising in tours connected with literature and especially Mrs Gaskell, Manchester Town Hall, Chinatown and the Palace Hotel. She very much enjoys the variety of her work and the people she meets on her tours.

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

We now have a programme of talks for next year.

Please visit the Oldham Branch website for full information on these talks.

<http://www.oldham.mlfhs.org.uk/>

Committee News

We are very sorry to report that Irene has had to resign from the committee due to personal reasons. She has been a valued member of the committee for eight years and a society member for much longer. She also played an vital role at our meetings by running the publications table and has helped in the publication of this newsletter.

We would like to thank her and express our appreciation for her dedication and help over the years. I am pleased to say she is going to continue to help me with the newsletter.

If there is anyone who would like to join our committee in helping to run the branch please let us know.

Website

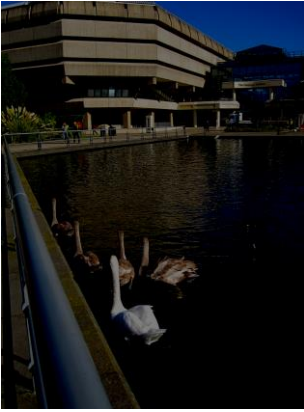
<http://www.oldham.mlfhs.org.uk/>

Jennifer Lever has been very busy updating the Oldham Branch website. Please visit it for information about our branch as well as information about Oldham history, archives and people.

London Research Visit – 2016

Accommodation has been booked at *Connaught Hall*, Bloomsbury Square, for next year's research trip to London. The dates are Monday 18th July to Saturday 23rd July. As usual we leave travel arrangements up to each individual. There has been a rise in the price of the accommodation (surprise! surprise!) and so the cost will be £240 per person for 5 nights' bed and breakfast.

Connaught Hall offers simple but comfortable accommodation in a central, quiet and safe location. It is within easy walking distance of Euston Station and is convenient for bus and Tube connections to all the main places of interest in Central London.



We will be going to the National Archives at Kew, as usual, on the Tuesday to introduce any newcomers to the wealth of records there. (Who can resist the swans? There is often a heron in residence as well.) All TNA on-line records are available to view, and print, free of charge at Kew and this includes the *1939 Register*, so it makes a worthwhile visit.

If you would like to come on this visit with us or have any questions please email me at mary@magic-cats.fsnet.co.uk

Mary Pendlebury

Society News

Help with Family History Research

Manchester Central Library

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

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

Research Guides

Free research guides are available to download on the MLFHS web site. They are also available at Manchester Central Library Help Desk.

Visit to Chetham's Library

Thursday 14th January

A free visit for our members has been arranged for **Thursday 14th January** at 2 o'clock. The visit will be about an hour to an hour and a half. During that time we will see the library and archives relating to family history.

Booking is essential and, due to the nature of the library, there will be a maximum of 20 places. Places will be allocated on a first come basis.

To find out more about this event please visit [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com), where you can also book your place online or via the Eventbrite logo on our web page

<http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/>

The Manchester Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, 27 January 2016

Programme 10.30 am The Police Museum & Archives

Speaker: Duncan Broady

Duncan will be showing examples of archives and objects which are held at Police Museum, Newton Street, Manchester,

12.00 Lunch

1.00 pm Baby Farming, a Victorian Phenomenon

Speaker: Martin Baggoley

Martin has written a number of true crime books. Eight Women were executed for baby farming, and their crimes will be discussed, together with others committed in Manchester & Tranmere

To be held in the Performance Space, Central Library

Registration is essential

Please register at **Eventbrite** or via the Eventbrite logo on our web page www.mlfhs.org.uk.

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.

Do you have Irish Ancestors?

Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society, in association with the Ulster Historical Foundation, have planned a special event at Manchester Central Library on **Saturday 6 February 2016** to help family history researchers discover their own Irish roots.

Experts from the Ulster Historical Foundation will explain how to get the most out of Irish resources and records, discover strategies for breaking down brick walls and grasp important historical context that may help fill in gaps in your research. Whether you are just beginning your Irish research or have been at it for years, you won't want to miss this programme.

There is a fee of £25.00 per attendee, but members of MLFHS may attend for a reduced fee of £20.00

To find out more about this special event please visit Eventbrite, where you can also book your place online. Book soon! - We expect places to go fast.

Local News

Oldham Local Studies and Archives

84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN.

Phone: 0161 770 4654

Email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Oldham Local Studies and Archives is run by Oldham Council and is not part of our society. The archives date from 1597 and cover an enormous range of subjects and activities. However it is advisable to check on the archives website for coverage.

http://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200539/archive_collections

Monday 10.00am-7.00pm

Tuesday 10.00am-2.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-5.00pm

Thursday 10.00am- 7.00pm

Friday 10.00am-5.00pm

Saturday 10.00am-4.00pm

Staff will assist with family history enquiries at any time during the week but if you need extended one-to-one advice a family history expert is available between **2pm and 4pm every Monday and Wednesday**. There is no need to book, just drop in.

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

Chadderton Historical Society

Thursday 3rd December

Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Manchester Rebels

Talk given by John Doughy

Chadderton Football Club at 7.30pm

Saddleworth Historical Society

Wednesday 9th December

Saddleworth Territorials Go to War: the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) in the Great War

Talk given by John Spencer

Civic Hall 7.30pm

Royton Local History Society

Monday 14th December

Banking in a Gentler Age

Talk by Alan Hayhurst

Downey House, Church Street, Royton at 7.30pm

Oldham Historical Research Group

Wednesday 16th December

Where is it? What is it? When was it?

A talk given by Jeremy Sutcliffe

7.00pm at Oldham Local Studies and Archives

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

Research News

Historical Directories

If you use the Historical Directories web site provided by the University of Leicester, you should note that it has moved to:

<http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16445coll4>

There is information about this at:

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/library/find/specialcollections/specialcollections/historical-directories>

Free on-line course on English Handwriting

<https://www.english.cam.ac.uk/ceres/ehoc/>

A free, on-line course in English Handwriting 1500 - 1700 from Cambridge University.

World War One At Home



A collection of stories about the home front of World War One is brought back to life in a free, interactive BBC ebook. The experiences of people and communities across the UK and Ireland are depicted using digital technology, archival film and recordings, photographs and documents from Imperial War Museums and a host of other museums, archives and individuals. Use this link to find out more:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5cvqC8jX2J8gwq93bL6MrdR/world-war-one-at-home>

New Additions to the British Newspaper Archive

The Anti -Slavery Advocate
The Dublin Weekly Nation

Change in Adoption Law

Family historians hoping to discover the origins of an adopted forebear could make new breakthroughs in their research thanks to a change in the law. Certain persons of a 'prescribed relationship' to an adopted adult – including descendants – are now allowed to access details of biological family members through specialised adoption agencies. Previously, only the adopted person themselves or immediate family members, such as a spouse, could apply for the information.

<http://www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk/search/dap/>

Findmypast

Recently added:

Lloyd's register of Merchant Ships Index 1843

England and Wales Electoral Register 1832- 1932

Devon Social and Institutional Records

Staffordshire, Dioceses Of Lichfield & Coventry Marriage Allegations and Bonds, 1636-1893

1939 Register (not available as part of a Findmypast subscription.)

Records are **£6.95** per household, £24.95 for 5 households (**£4.99** each) or

£54.95 for 15 households (**£3.66** each)

News from ancestry.co.uk

Recently added:-

Civil Defence Gallantry Award Records 1940-1949

Surrey Rolls Regiment collection 1914-1947

Scotland, National Probate Index (Calendar of Confirmations and Inventories) 1876-1926

Freemasonry Membership Records - England 1751- 1921, Ireland 1733-1923

Suffragettes Arrested 1906-1914

Ancestry and Findmypast are free to search at Oldham Local Studies and at libraries across the borough. They are also free to search at Manchester Central Library.

N.B. Although you can search the 1939 register at the library we don't have facilities to handle the payments so you are advised to do this at home.

Update from Lancashire Online Parish Clerk

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

Recently added from our area:

[Marriages 1881 to 1885](#) from the Church of St Matthew, Chadderton

[Burials 1888 to 1901](#) from the Church of St Margaret of Antioch, Hollinwood

[Baptisms 1816 to 1837](#) from Shaw Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Shaw and Crompton

[Baptisms 1826 to 1830](#) from the Church of St Margaret of Antioch, Hollinwood

[Marriages 1866 to 1872](#) from the Church of St Matthew, Chadderton

If you have any tips or know of any useful websites please email us so we can include them 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

Sue Forshaw, Newsletter Editor

Assisted by Irene Whitby & Jane Murphy