

Newsletter May 2016



Branch News

Last Meeting

The Lancashire Cotton Famine and how we survived the American Civil War
Sid Calderbank 9th April

Sid Calderbank, the chairman of the Lancashire Society and committee member of *The Edwin Waugh Dialect Society*, gave us a very interesting and entertaining talk in words and song.

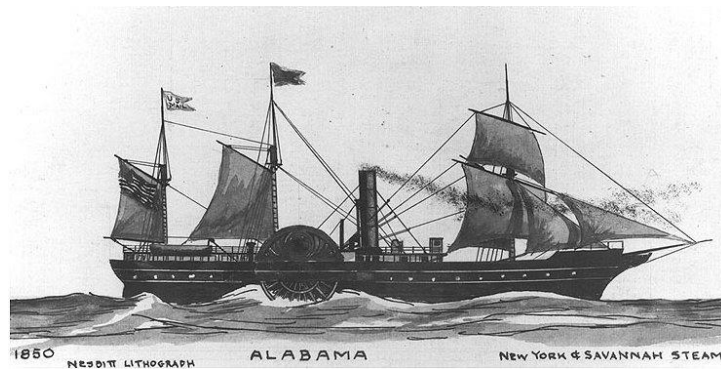
In 1860 the cotton industry in Lancashire was prospering. There were 2,000 cotton mills employing 500,000 factory hands. Then in 1861 the American Civil War began and the supply of cotton from the southern states stopped. This caused great hardship for the cotton workers of Lancashire. To illustrate this Sid read an extract from the writings of Edwin Waugh in which he writes about his



observations on a visit a soup kitchen in Preston. Sid then sang a song which was sung around Lancashire at that time in which the workers ask for assistance for relief from starvation.

Extracts were also read from Richard Ryley's diary, a weaver and fiddle player from Barnoldswick, in which he detailed his visit to the Relieving Officer for relief.

By 1862 many workers were out of work and the situation was wretched. Liverpool however was still doing quite well and some ship owners profited from building ships to fight their way through the blockaded southern ports. One such ship was the *Alabama* about which Sid sang a song with a rousing chorus.



Attempts were made to source cotton from Egypt and India. Cotton from Surat was brought in but it was different from American cotton in that it couldn't be pulled or twisted as hard. Samuel Laycock wrote *The Twelve Lyrics of the Cotton Famine* and Sid sang *The Surat Weaver's Song*.

Lancashire was now on its knees. In April 1862 a letter appeared in the Times from 'A Lancashire Lad' describing the plight of the Lancashire workers. This led to The Mansion House fund being set up to provide relief, £528,000 was raised. Soon other fund and other schemes were set up to provide money and help. Lord Derby arranged a meeting for a well-connected audience which raised £130,000. Sid then read from a poem by Samuel Laycock in which he expresses the thanks of the workers to their benefactors, "God bless 'em, it shows they'n some thought."

With a great effort Lancashire came though it and the war came to an end. It wasn't the end of the cotton industry indeed 130 new textile companies had been set up. The events are documented in Edwin Waugh's *Home Life of the Lancashire Factory Folk During the Cotton Famine* which can be found on the internet.

Sid finished with the final chorus of *The Alabama*.

AGM

The Oldham Branch Annual General Meeting took place at 2pm on Saturday 9th April at Gallery Oldham and the following were elected unopposed:

Chair : Rod Melton

Secretary : Gill Melton

Treasurer : Ian Etchells

Committee Members : Dorothy Bintley, Susan Forshaw, Jennifer Lever, Joan Secker-Wlodarczyk, Joan Harrison, David Gibbons



We still have one vacancy on the committee and another member who would like to step down but has agreed to stay on until a replacement can be found.

May Meeting

Saturday 14th May

Due to circumstances beyond our control we have had to change the speaker for our Saturday 14th May meeting. **The speaker is now Paul Hindle who will be presenting his talk *Maps for Family Historians*.**

The talk looks at the different types of maps available to the local historian but seen from the point of view of why they were drawn, by whom, for whom. Accuracy, omissions, exaggeration and survival are also covered.

Dr Paul Hindle was a Senior University Lecturer in Geography until taking early retirement 16 years ago. His interests were principally in the history of roads and, of course, old maps.

June Meeting

Saturday 11th June

**Between the Lines: What the records don't say, but can tell us
by Peter Park**

The records used by family historians have hidden depths – they often have more to tell us than what is actually written down. In this talk we look at some of those hidden clues and how to interpret them.

Peter Park has been actively involved in his own and other people's family history research for over forty years. He is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and Vice President of Cumbria FHS. He was awarded an MA by the University of Central Lancashire for his research into the Poor Law Commission's home migration scheme of the 1830s. An international speaker on local and family history, his books include *My Ancestors Were Manorial Tenants*, *Cumbrians in Liverpool in 1851* and the Lancashire and Cumberland & Westmorland volumes of the *National Index of Parish Registers*. A number of his articles have appeared in *The Genealogists' Magazine*, *Ancestors*, *Your Family Tree*, *Local Population Studies*, *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *The Bulletin of Local and Family History*.

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 5th May at 7.30pm

AGM

Chadderton Football Club

Saddleworth Historical Society

Wednesday 11th May at 7.30pm

Distress in Lancashire: The Cotton Famine and British Intervention in The American Civil War by Dr David Brown

This will be held at Uppermill Conservative Club.

Royton Historical Research Group

Monday 9th May at 7.30pm

Looking for Clara by Doug Ashmore

Downey House, Church Street, Royton.

Oldham Historical Research Group

Wednesday 18th May at 7pm

Remembering Oldham Hospitals in the early 1970s by Sandra Crashley
Oldham Local Studies and Archives, Union Street, Oldham.

OLDHAM
REMEMBERS



From the Oldham Remembers Website

Battle of Jutland 11am, 31 May 2016, Oldham Cenotaph

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

This is the centenary of the only major naval battle of World War One that took

place in the North Sea, off Denmark. The British lost 14 ships and over 6,000 lives. The Germans lost 9 ships and over 2,500 casualties. Oldham lost 16 men.

Join Oldham Remembers and Oldham Local Studies and Archives for a service around the Oldham Cenotaph on Tuesday 31 May, from 11am and show your respects.

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

Society News

Beginners' Talks

This series of instructional talks by experienced family historians is designed to guide beginners in family history step-by-step through the various elements of research.

7th May Civil Registration

4th June Census Records

2nd July Pre 1837 Research

3rd September 19th and 20th Century Resources

1st October Irish and Scottish

5th November Wills and Probate

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

Booking is recommended and helps in the planning. An online booking facility is available on our website at www.mlfhs.org.uk (Click on the 'Eventbrite' link)

Talks will normally be held in the Performance Space on the ground floor of Manchester Central Library

Research News

3d digital model of Manchester

Neil Millington has been working on a project to create a 3d digital model of Manchester in 1850 based on OS maps of the time. These can now be used to simulate train journeys, balloon flights, canal journeys etc, over Manchester in 1850.

View the following Video links to give you an overview of Neil's work so far.

<https://vimeo.com/137419626>

<https://vimeo.com/138953807>

<https://vimeo.com/156700384>

Message from Ian Hartas, UKBMD

Over the years I've had the honour to talk at a variety of Family History Society and U3A group meetings on the subject of *BMDs on the Internet*, offering an introduction and advice on how to get the best out of the various BMD websites that are part of the Local BMD Project. I've now split my talk up into a set of separate video tutorials which can be accessed, for free, via the UKBMD website.

Full details about the contents of these tutorials can be found on the Tutorials page. <http://www.UKBMD.org.uk/tutorials>

Military Sites on the Internet



<http://www.ukmfh.org.uk/index.php>

This site provides **1486** links to web sites that offer online information in a wide range of categories to help you with your Military Family History research. New links are added regularly.

Naval Pension Records 1709-1919

Findmypast has released a tranche of military pension records from The National Archives, revealing details of seamen who served in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines as far back as the 18th century.

Released in partnership with The National Archives, the latest tranche to be added to the site features an assortment of documents created by the Royal Hospital Chelsea and Greenwich Hospital to record details of seamen who were entitled to small, regular payments after retiring from service.

Borough of Sutton record sets

A number of South London record sets have been made available on **Ancestry** for the first time. Fully searchable, the new releases provide access to more than 3.8 million electoral records, 320,000 rate book records and 280,000 parish records from the London Borough of Sutton, comprising parishes historically part of Surrey. The website has also uploaded a list of children who were admitted to the Royal Female Orphanage in Beddington between 1890 and 1913.

Also on Ancestry **Indexes to thousands of historic Cornish records** have been made available to explore.

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.

Calderdale burial records on Deceased Online

<https://www.deceasedonline.com/>

The entries provide details of interments at both Brighthouse Cemetery (1874-1996) and Halifax General Cemetery (1842-1962), also known as Lister Lane Cemetery.

Historic Manchester sporting records sought

Researchers at Manchester Metropolitan University are on the hunt for historic sporting records from across the north-west. Margaret Roberts and colleagues from the International Sports and Leisure History Research Team hope to create a database of sporting archives available in Manchester and the surrounding region. The group particularly wants to see whether there are any hidden gems – such as newsletters and training schedules – lurking in people's attics.

<http://www.cheshire.mmu.ac.uk/sport-history/msl-archivesproject/>

Jewish Refugee Case Files

Records of more than 40,000 Jewish men, women and children who fled Nazi-occupied Europe have been digitised for the first time.

UK charity World Jewish Relief (WJR) has scanned its Second World War case files collection, providing details of refugees that the organisation helped bring to Britain during the 1930s and 1940s.

Although this material is available free of charge, researchers wishing to gain access must submit an application form via the WJR website, listing details of any forebears that they think may have been recorded.

<https://www.worldjewishrelief.org/about-us/your-family-history>

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.

Sue Forshaw, Newsletter Editor.

Assisted by Irene Whitby & Jane Murphy