

Newsletter July 2016



Branch News

Last Meeting

Saturday 11th June

Between the Lines: What the records don't say, but can tell us

by Peter Park

Our speaker, 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*.

Peter's fascinating, illustrated talk showed us how to read between the lines of many different types of records. By reading between the lines we can learn a lot more about our ancestors. Peter showed us various examples such as census returns, Settlement papers, death and burial records, christening records, wills, manorial records and many more.

To pick a few examples he gave us:

In a census record of 1891, the inclusion of place of birth as Pakistan shows that this record has been tampered with at a much later date.

By looking at another example of a census record of 1841 we can see that many

of the people living in an area of Liverpool are all from the same area in Furness and could possibly be related. Therefore we should always look at neighbours and other people in the same vicinity to see if they have any connection to our ancestors. In connection with this record Peter showed us how he used an Atlas of Surnames to look at the origin of the surnames on this census return revealing how they all originated in the Furness areas.

Christening records of June 1837 at first sight show many twins and triplets being baptised at the same time. However, on a closer examination, we realise that this birth 'explosion' shows a misunderstanding of the immediacy of Civil Registration leading to people taking their children to be baptised before the act came into force thinking that they needed to do this. This misunderstanding is very useful to the family historian as we can put together family units in just one record.

A burial example from the 18th century states in the burial of Anne Parker that she was given a midnight funeral. Her husband's burial of 1723 stated that he was a most obstinate sinner. Both these entries suggest that the Parkers were probably Catholics.

Therefore Peter advised us to always think about how and why the record was created; look for other entries other than yours; if the entry looks odd ask why; finally look for evidence from other sources.

This brief summary can't do justice to the records and fascinating details that Peter uncovered.

There will be no meetings in July or August

Local News

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

Chadderton Historical Society

Wednesday 7th July

Local History Ramble: Browsing Around Butler Green

Victoria Street Car Park at 7.00 pm

Saddleworth Historical Society

Wednesday 13th July

Richard The Third: Putting A Face To A Name

Speaker- Professor Caroline Wilkinson

7.30 pm at Uppermill Conservative Club

Oldham Historical Research Group

Wednesday 20th July

A Tour of the Somme Cemeteries

Speaker- John Fidler

7.00pm at Oldham Local Studies and Archives, Union Street, Oldham.

Wednesday 17th August

Remembering & Recording Peterloo - Before, on the Day and Afterwards

Speaker- Sheila Goodyear

7.00pm at Oldham Local Studies and Archives, Union Street, Oldham.

OLDHAM
REMEMBERS



The Battle of the Somme Commemorations

See the the Oldham Remembers Website for full details

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

Oldham Church, and perhaps others who have a bell, are ringing a single bell at 7.30am for 15 minutes on Friday 1st July.

Sir Douglas Haig's Great Push: Oldhamers and the Battle of the Somme Exhibition Opening, 1st July, Oldham Archives.

The National Service of Commemoration, Friday 1st July, 11am, Manchester Cathedral. (This will be for ticket holders only)

Heaton Park Concert, Friday 1st July 7.30 pm: a free concert in Heaton Park in the evening starting at 7.30pm and finishing at 9.45pm, tickets for this are available through the *Oldham Remembers* website. If you have a ticket for the concert you are encouraged to arrive after 4pm by public transport to visit the 'Experience Field', an outdoor heritage event showcasing stories, artefacts and expert information about life on the home and western fronts a century ago. You can take a rug to sit on or seats, if necessary; food and drink and toilets will be available on site. We understand the "Experience Field" will consist of 20-30 tents displaying various aspects of WWI which will be open to the public on Saturday.

Service of Remembrance: Battle of the Somme, Sunday 3rd July, 2pm at Oldham Parish Church: A local service of commemoration will be held at

Oldham Church at 2pm on Sunday 3rd July and is expected to last about 45-50 minutes. All those with relatives who were wounded or killed at the Somme are encouraged to join a parade from the Civic Centre at 1.30pm, tea and coffee will be available from 1pm for those who wish to join the parade.

A commemoration dinner is being held on Friday 15th July at Oldham Athletic Event Centre. Tickets are £25.

Oldham Local Studies Library is also keen to have your personal feelings, for evaluation purposes, about the Battle of the Somme; the events, the legacy and how you feel it affected people either as individuals or as a community. Anything you write would be completely anonymous and you can fill in a sheet at the Local Studies Library or send it by email to pixnet.sg@gmail.com. Just title it, *Battle of the Somme - What it means to me*. If your opinions change over the course of the commemorative months you can fill in another one!

<http://www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg/World-War1/Somme/menu.html>

Oldham Historical Research Group is undertaking a special project in conjunction with **Oldham Local Studies and Archives** which reflects the impact of the battle on Oldham. See:

<http://www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg/World-War1/Somme/menu.html>

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.

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

Quarterly Meeting

12th July

10.30 am to 3.00 pm

To be held in Meeting Room 1, 2nd Floor, Central Library

Programme

10.30 am Missing in Action – WW1

Speaker: Bill Taylor

Tracing a volunteer from 1914, his commissioning, wounding, and being taken prisoner, etc.

12.00 Lunch

1.00 pm Angel Meadow: Britain's Most Savage Slum

Speaker: Dean Kirby

Angel Meadow was one of the poorest slum areas of Manchester, in which Dean's ancestor lived. He has written a book on this subject, which is available from our Bookshop.

Registration is essential

To register, [CLICK HERE](#) 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.

Research News

Update from Lancashire Online Parish Clerk

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

Recently added from our area:

[Marriages 1885 to 1890](#) from the Church of St Matthew, Chadderton

[Marriages 1915 to 1924](#) from the Church of St Matthew, Chadderton

[Baptisms 1721 to 1771](#) from the Church of St Leonard in the Parish of Middleton

[Baptisms 1582 to 1600 and 1832 to 1834 and Burials 1582 to 1600](#) from the Church of St Chad, Rochdale

War time fashion at IWMN

Imperial War Museums North is encouraging people to dig deep in their family albums to find photos of clothing from the wartime era. June 1st marked the 75th anniversary of the announcement of clothing rationing in the Second World War and coincides with a new exhibition at IWM North - Fashion on the Ration: 1940's Street Style.

Organisers of the exhibition have asked people to share their memories and clothing photos on social media using the hashtag #WhatMyFamilyWore. Suitable contributions may then be incorporated into the exhibition.

Battle of Jutland Records on FMP

More than 38,000 records of Royal Marine and Royal Navy servicemen who fought at the Battle of Jutland have been made available to search on Findmypast. British Royal Navy & Royal Marines, Battle Of Jutland 1916 Servicemen

FMP Guides

FMP has produced a series of guides:

Tracing Your Globe-Trotting Ancestors: <http://tinyurl.com/gp6hrnh>

Tracing Your Seafaring Ancestors: <http://tinyurl.com/zqftwvc>

How To Search Our Parish Registers: <http://tinyurl.com/z8kaknw>

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