

Oldham and District Branch of the Manchester and
Lancashire Family History Society

Newsletter
November 2016
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Branch News

Last Meeting
Saturday 8th October
George Street Chapel
By Maggie Hurley

Maggie gave us a very interesting talk about the history of the chapel and how Age UK have restored it to its former glory.

The chapel was built from 1815 to 1816 by the members and was the first Independent Methodist chapel to be built in the world. The original chapel members had broken away from St Peter's Church in 1805. Downstairs there were four rentable dwellings and a school room. Later a Sunday school was built on the other side of the road. The organ was purchased as second hand around 1890 and was believed to have been originally made by George Benson.

The chapel was listed Grade II* in 1983 but was placed on the Buildings at Risk register. The last service was in 1990 when there were only six regular members. The building then went into decline.

Age UK bought the building in 2003. It took a time to get the funding to restore the building but finally funding was secured with a significant grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund, a grant from the first round of awards from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Challenge Fund, supported by English Heritage and the Architectural Heritage Fund and money from Viridor Credits.

Restoration included removing the roof and damp proofing downstairs. Whilst this was going on research was being carried out into the history of the building and the people who lived there. Restoration was completed in 2014. Many of the original features were retained including box pews, the organ and the gallery. Nowadays you can take a tour which takes you back to 1851.

Maggie then introduced us to "Mary Hall" aged 70 who actually lived in the chapel in 1851 and was a lady of independent means. The lady dressed as Mary explained that she has woven a story around this character which she relates when she takes visitors on tours around the chapel. Other volunteers take on the roles of other characters such as Mrs Knight whose husband runs a baker's shop, Miss Hopwood, the school teacher and various washer ladies.



If you wish to visit the chapel:
Tours take place on the last Wednesday of the month at 11am or at 2pm. It costs £5.50. Groups can go at any time with a minimum of 15 people.
<http://www.georgestreetchapel.com/>

Next Meeting
Saturday 12th November
Wills and Probate
Brooke Wescott

This talk will look at wills and associated records. It will cover what the jargon means and how these documents can help us. Brooke will also discuss pitfalls and preconceptions to avoid. Brooke first became interested in family history as a schoolboy. Having inherited the surnames Brooke and Foss he wanted to know where these forenames came from. He had a fulltime career in the Inland Revenue but also worked part time as a genealogist and translator of old documents.

**This meeting will be held at 2pm in the Education Suite, Gallery Oldham.
(nearest tram stop - Oldham Central).**

Talks are free to Members but there is a charge of £2.50 to non-members
Manchester Genealogist

We are looking for articles to publish in *The Manchester Genealogist*.

Whilst researching your family history have you found something interesting which you are willing to share with other members of the society?

We are particularly interested in articles with an Oldham connection which can go on the Oldham page.

Please submit any contributions to Jennifer Lever – email j-lever@outlook.com

Newsletter

If you wish to contribute to this newsletter in the form of news or short articles or if you have any suggestions of what to include please e mail me at **oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk**

Also, if you have not subscribed to this newsletter and wish to do so please go on to the website- **<http://www.oldham.mlfhs.org.uk/>**

Use the tab named 'Newsletter' and press the drop-down menu and complete the form. This will go directly to the subscribers' list and you will automatically get the next newsletter.

Also on this page you will find the latest and previous newsletters.

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. The last talk in the series will take place on

5th November: Wills and Probate at 10.30am.

The Help Desk will be open after the talk from 12.30 to 3.30pm

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.

Ango-Scots Meeting

The speaker at the Ango-Scots meeting on **19th November** at 2.00pm will be John Marsden who will discuss the principal records which can be used to trace a soldier who fought in WW1 and the information which can be found in each.

Local News

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

Chadderton Historical Society

A Centenary Parish: St Herbert's

A talk by Michael Lawson and Mark Johnson at Chadderton Football Club, Andrew Street at 7.30 pm on **Thursday 3rd November.**

Royton Historical Society

Three Ships on the Mersey

A talk by Gordon Speakman at Downey House, Church Street, Royton at 7.30pm on Monday 14th November.

Saddleworth Historical Society

From Diglea to Diggle: the Growth of a Village

A talk by Neil Barrow at Diggle Band Club at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9th November.

Oldham Historical Research Group

Riga to Rock Street and Other Journeys: A history of the Oldham Jewish

Community.

A talk by Hilary Thomas at Oldham Local Studies and Archives, at 7pm on Wednesday November 16th.

Research News

Findmypast has released [Registers of Licences to Pass Beyond the Seas](#) which details travellers who departed the British Isles during the 16th and 17th centuries.

Ancestry has released Oxfordshire parish registers which date back to the time of Henry VIII

Also released are thousands of historic medical records held by the Wellcome Library. The London-based archive has released six unique datasets via Ancestry together comprising over 1.4 million records relating to medical students and professionals across Britain and the Commonwealth.

FamilySearch has added thousands of new scans to its [Warwickshire Parish Registers collection](#).

Indexed by name, parish and year, the latest additions bring the total number of record images within the set to over 113,000, covering the years 1535-1984.

ScotlandsPlaces has given access to millions of historical documents including Tax Rolls, Ordnance Survey Name Books, Burgh Registers and antique maps.

<http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/resources>

Mary Pendlebury has sent this information which might be of interest to some of you.

Jews and Jewish Life in Medieval Germany

The Manchester Regional Group of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain invites you to come along, listen to and meet, **Dr Vivien Hacker Waine**, as she gives an illustrated talk, looking at aspects of the Jewish presence in the Middle Ages in Germany, especially in the Frankfurt area, and how her findings affected her own family.



The talk will highlight medieval Germany's ambivalent relationship with its Jewish communities and illustrate what life as a Jew in Germany in the Middle Ages looked like.

Sunday 20th November 2016 at 2pm

At Meade Hill Road Shul, M8 4LP
(located on the corner of Meade Hill Road and Middleton Road, Prestwich)
Non-members £3 Refreshments included.

Please let us know by email or phone if you intend coming.
Email: manchester.genealogy@gmail.com Mobile: 0734 234 2881

Update from Lancashire Online Parish Clerk

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

Recently added from our area:

[Marriages 1912 to 1922](#) from the Church of St Margaret of Antioch, Hollinwood

Banns 1858 to 1874 from the Church of St Mary, Oldham

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.

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Assisted by Irene Whitby & Jane Murphy