

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

**Newsletter**  
**December 2016**  
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## **Branch News**

### **Last Meeting**

**Saturday 12th November**

**Wills and Probate**

**Brooke Wescott**

Our speaker showed us a portrait of his ancestor Brooke Foss Westcott (1825-1901), after who he had been named. He told us that this man had been a teacher at Harrow School and then had gone into the church. At his death in 1901 he was Bishop of Durham and left £54,640 in his will. He said this had got him interested in Family History and he showed how he had traced this line back through time by Wills and Probate.

He explained that only Spinsters and Widows could make a will until the Married Women's Property Act came into force and that a lot of documents were written in Latin until the 1750s, when they started to be in English, though Inventories tended to be in English before this date.

He told of two generations, a father and son both called George Foss, both died at sea and were both ships Captains and sailed from England to India and back, a two year round trip with the crew only being paid when they got back to England, only George Senior having made a will.

Another ancestor Foss Westcott, whose wife's maiden name was Brooke, had served with Clive of India.

The names Brooke and Foss had come down the family line and he had passed them on to his sons, one having Foss and the other Brooke in their names.

*By Joan Secker Wlodarczyk.*

**There will be no meetings in December and January.**

## **Our Future Programme**

February 11th 2017 - Love and Romance in Victorian Lancashire - Sid Calderbank

March 11th 2017 - Poor Law in 1834 - Alan Crosby

April 8th 2017 - And in Flew Enza - Tony Foster

May 13th 2017 - North Country Folklore - Peter Watson

June 10th 2017 - Skeletons in the Cupboard - Alan Morrison

More details to follow in subsequent newsletters.

## **Local News**

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

### **Chadderton Historical Society**

**Noted for Fresh Air And Fun.**

A talk about the development of Blackpool by **John Doughty** at Chadderton Football Club, Andrew Street, at 7.30 pm on **Thursday 1st December.**

### **Royton Local History Society**

**A Lancashire Garland**

**An evening with Sid Calderbank** at Downey House, Church Street, Royton, at 7.30 pm **on Monday 12th December.**

### **Oldham Historical Research Group**

**The History Quiz.**

Find out how much you know, or don't know, about the history of Oldham.

At Oldham Archives and Local Studies at 7 pm on **Wednesday 21st December.**

### **Remembrance Day Royton Park Sunday 13th November 2016**

On a cold but dry and bright morning, wearing Poppies and Medals, people arrived at the War Memorial in Royton Park. Shortly before 11am the music got louder as the band and marchers arrived and the service started.

The two minutes silence allowed for thoughts and memories, each with their own. Reveille was sounded, followed by the laying of the wreaths to the playing of Elgar's Nimrod.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



*By Joan Secker Wlodarczyk*

On the right of the photo is the Standard of the newly formed Royton British Legion Branch, which was blessed by the Bishop of Middleton at St Anne's Church, Royton on Friday 11th November, before being paraded for the first time at the Annual Festival of Remembrance on the same Friday evening, held at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham. We have been in existence just 12 months and are still looking for new members, either male or female. We meet at Royton Cricket Club on the last Thursday of the month and our next meeting is on Thursday 26th January 2017 at 7.30 pm, all are welcome. If you want further information please contact Rod or Gill on [oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:oldham@mlfhs.org.uk).

## **Society News**

The MLFHS Family History Help Desk will close at 3.30 pm on Friday 16th December 2016 and re-open at 10.30 am on Monday 9th January 2017.

## **The Quarterly Meeting - 18th January**

To be held in the Performane Space, Manchester Central Library at **10.30 am**

10.30 am **Probate Records for Family Historians**

Speaker: David Lambert

Wills, administrations, inventories, intestacy laws

12.00 Lunch

1.00 pm **John Ellis: The Rochdale Hangman**

Speaker: Ian Etchells

He was a hangman at Strangeways and the talk relates to three murderers he hung.

**Please register via Eventbrite on the Society home page.**

**That's all for this month**

**We would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and all the very best for  
the New Year**

**Sue Forshaw, Newsletter Editor**

**Assisted by Irene Whitby**