

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

## Newsletter January 2018

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A Happy New Year to you all

### **Branch News**

**No meeting in January. Meetings will recommence in February.**

### **Future Meetings**

Please put these dates in your diary. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

#### **Saturday 12th February**

##### **Zepplin Raid on Cleethorpes**

Speaker: Dorothy Bintley

The day when 31 soldiers of the Manchester Regiment died in Cleethorpes.

#### **Saturday 10th March**

##### **The Battle for Kinder Scout**

Speaker: Keith Warrender

A gripping account of the struggle for access to Kinder Scout and other privately owned stretches of moorland and its significance in the Ramblers' campaign for Freedom to Roam.

#### **Saturday 14th April**

##### **Edwin Waugh**

Speaker: Sid Calderbank

Talk on the life and works of Edwin Waugh, Lancashire's most respected and prolific 19th century author, illustrated by songs, stories and poems.

#### **Saturday 12th May**

##### **Courage or Cowardice?**

Speaker : John Fidler

A talk looking at the stories of Oldhamers in World War One who were reluctant or who refused to take up arms.

## **Saturday 9th June**

### **Evolution of Asylum Patient Photography**

Speaker: David Scrimgeour

The archives of the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum in Wakefield contain hundreds of photographs of the insane poor. Rare examples date from 1868, by which time pioneering photographers at other institutions had been capturing patients' images since the 1850s. Asylum Director James Crichton-Browne, the driving force behind the use of photography, corresponded with celebrated naturalist Charles Darwin enclosing numerous patients' portraits, usually annotated with a diagnosis of their illness. Through a presentation rich in images captured nearly 150 years ago the audience learns what motivated photography, how it evolved during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and what legacy remains today.

## **Saturday 8th September**

### **World War One**

Speaker Stewart Cook

Details of this talk will be given later in the year.

## **Saturday 13th October**

### **Clarinda Rowbotham and the Mossley Military Hospital**

Speaker Rita Vaughan

Details of this talk will be given later in the year.

## **Saturday 10th November**

### **Tracing my Grandfather**

Speaker Dr Alan Crosby

Details of this talk will be given later in the year.

All meetings will commence at 2.00pm and will be in the Lees Suite, Oldham Civic Centre. Free to members, non-members £2.50.

Free car parking on Oldham Civic car park for 3 hours but please get a ticket.

## **Society News**

### **Saturday 13th January 2018, 10.30am: Beginners' Talk - Time to Start Your Family Tree - First Steps**

Leslie Turner will be talking about the basics of beginning your family history research along with mention of items you need to check along the way and the possible pitfalls and incorrect information you may find.

This meeting will be held in the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library. The talk is free to members. A fee of £3.00 will be charged to non-members but this is refundable if the individual joins the Society on the day of the talk.

Booking on Eventbrite is required.

## **The Quarterly Meeting - Wednesday 17th January 2018**

To be held in the Performance Space, Manchester Central Library.

Programme:

### **10.30 am More Than Just a Shop**

Speaker: Gillian Lonerger

An introduction to different types of co-operatives, the roles that individuals take in their co-operative societies and a review of some of the research available.

**12.00** Lunch

### **1.00 pm Manchester's Radical Mayor: Abel Heywood, the man who built the Town Hall**

Speaker: Joanna Williams

Twice mayor of Manchester, a successful businessman as a newspaper distributor, publisher, printer and wallpaper manufacturer. He oversaw the building of Waterhouse's Town Hall.

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

## **Local News**

### **Walter Mills VC**

On Monday December 11th at 11am we attended a service at Oldham Parish Church for Walter Mills, the last V.C. awarded to an Oldham soldier in WWI. It was very well attended and there was very little space inside. Towards the end of the service we went outside to unveil the commemorative stone and the remainder of the service was conducted. After the service there was an interesting and informative exhibition in the Egyptian Room of the old town hall detailing his life and army service, and tea and coffee were served in the church.

Gill & Rod Melton



**That's all for this month.**  
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