

e-Owls



Part of Manchester & Lancashire
Family History Society

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Newsletter of the Oldham Branch Family History Society

Branch News

April is the month of our Annual General Meeting which will take place before the talk, the past year is reviewed and a chance to appoint new committee members.

Meeting on the 6th April – The Manorial History of Chadderton – Chadderton Hall

This talk is a week early not our usual second Saturday of the month and is presented by Mike Lawson.

The meeting will start at 2.00 pm in the **Education Suite, Gallery Oldham**

Free to members (donation always accepted) and non-members £2.50

Council Car park is free for three hours on Saturday, but make sure you get a ticket

Our retiring Chairman has been made a Fellow of the Society

Rod joined the society on the 15th May 2001 and became a committee member of the Oldham Branch in 2007 of the Oldham Branch, he worked on the Help Desk, and in the Press Office, becoming Secretary in 2008. He represented the Branch on the Society committee meetings, becoming vice chairperson and technical support in 2010.

He took over the position of Project Manager in 2011 from Colin Woods, overseeing projects such as Newton Heath, burial records and Peterloo which marks its bicentenary in 2019.

The branch has benefited from his determination and it is only his health that unfortunately is making him step down. The branch has struggled to find a replacement for Rod because he is a tough act to follow.

He will be presented with his certificate at the Society AGM on the 17th April.

Wanted Committee members

*For the Oldham Branch
For this very publication*

Put your own stamp on it and help take us into the 21st Century

If you are interested see the web site for job descriptions and nomination forms

Last Month's talk

CROOKS & COFFIN SHIPS: QUARANTINE & CHOLERA

A talk by David Muil

David gave us a flavour of the hardships and perils emigrant families endured in the early years of the reign of Queen Victoria. Ireland and Scotland were badly affected by the changes in the industrial climate – the north of England less so.

Mechanisation has reduced both the demand for work and the level of reward for it, the result added up to a struggle for the average man and his family to make ends meet. For many the answer to this over-population was to migrate to North America and later to Australia and New Zealand, taking passage on a wooden sailing ship which would leave, in the first instance from a Scottish port but increasingly as the century wore on from Liverpool. The migrants would often take up land grants and subsidies offered by government both in Britain and the Canadian provinces. Many were grateful for assisted passages, which would replace payments of Poor Law. Others were attracted by inviting but often over-extravagant offers from agents and businesses in the colonies. Frequently landowners in Scotland would be happy to incur the one time only expense of a passage to Canada for a man and his family. Emigration societies, financed entirely by donations and public subscription, grew up in specific areas. Glasgow, the Isle of Skye and the Highlands & Islands were some of these. There were also some instances of private charters.

Though mass emigration from UK ports to North America had taken place from the time of the Pilgrim Fathers, emigrant passengers were not protected under the law. No sort of government record was kept of people leaving these shores. The first Act of Parliament in 1803 required a list of passengers to be kept but relatively few pre-1865 lists have survived and those that have are to be found at the destination port. The legislation did result in improved conditions in respect of hygiene, food and comfort for passengers, but it proved difficult to enforce as it was not universally applied since it was not in the interests of shipowners, ship masters and emigration agents to do so. If anything, it raised

the cost of passage to limit the drain of passengers to the better off.

He then looked at some of the voyages and what some migrants had to go through.

The experience of James Cowe and his wife Isabel was a case in point. He and 150 of his neighbours sailed for Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada on 29th May. The vessel had been chartered by The New Brunswick Land Company, who recruited the settlers to take up land in the established community of Stanley situated north of Fredericton. On their arrival they learned that the company's project had been 'stopped' pending the arrival of a new commissioner. They also learned from established settlers that the economy of the province, 'reported upon so glowingly only a year before' was in rapid decline in the wake of an international financial crisis.

They appealed to the Governor and petitioned the legislature. Their pleas were successful, and they were voted a sum of money to defray the costs of relocation to a place 25 miles south of the city, which they named Harvey in honour of the governor.

He then read some extracts from a diary kept by John Hart aboard a ship, which left Glasgow in 1842 for Quebec. A transcript of his diary was donated to the society library by an Anglo-Scots member. The bunks and bedding would be removed to allow for the stowage of timber and installed again to accommodate the emigrants. Conditions below deck could often be squalid – often worse than those prevailing on board slave ships of former years. This ship had a cargo carrying capacity of about 550 tons burden, was little more than 130 feet long and maybe 27 feet wide and she would carry up to 400 passengers and a crew of 26. Trunks and cases full of the travelers' only possessions would litter the floor providing uncomfortable seating and obstructing passage. There is little or no ventilation, an atmosphere which can foster infections like cholera and typhus. It was not until the 1850s that both the British and American governments would introduce legislation to insist on adequate ventilation below deck, thus legislation protecting the travelling migrant developed only slowly.

In the hurried demand for berths in the wake of the Highland Famine of 1844 and the Great Irish Famine [1847], ship masters, continued to flout the law, leading many vessels to be known as Coffin Ships. These ships, crowded and disease-ridden with poor access to food and water, resulted in many deaths during the Atlantic crossing and led to a typhus epidemic in 1847 at Quarantine Stations in Canada. Although they were the cheapest way to cross the ocean, high mortality rates were common. It was said that so many bodies were thrown overboard that the ships were followed by sharks.

It wasn't only ships filled with Irish immigrants that were shamed as Coffin Ships. Some of those transporting Highlanders during the clearances bore the same hallmarks of neglect and criminal carelessness. The term came to be applied to many vessels operated by otherwise successful British shipowners. Among her passengers were several German immigrants described as being 'in a filthy state on their arrival.' Of the 337 passengers, 60 were detained at the quarantine station at Partridge Island. During July full-blown cholera broke out, reaching its peak in August. The causes of Cholera are the ingestion of

contaminated food or water supply on board ship.

During the first two weeks of the voyage it was recorded that the issue of rations for one day were 1lb of biscuit, 10 lbs. of potatoes and 3 quarts of water; another - meal and water; yet another - 2lbs of biscuit, 3 oz of tea, 1 lb. of sugar, most certainly in the form of loaf. A few days out, still within sight of land, 21 of their party collected to buy a pig between them from 'some Highland men ... out from the shore.'

John Hart's story is worth telling. He was born in England, His father, also John, was a Scot however and had served in the British Army during the Napoleonic Wars. In the aftermath of peace, he had been reluctant to leave his Scottish homeland to take up a government offer to serving soldiers to a grant of land – 160 acres - in Upper Canada. As the post-war depression progressed in Scotland his son, his wife and family saw migration as the way to improve their lot. In 1842 at the age of 32, John with his wife, Jean, four children and his brother in law], together with 392 other souls, embarked on board the sailing from Glasgow to Quebec.

In his diary John Hart writes: *'I forgot to mention that the day we were inspected we found out a lad stowed away in the hold. He was put ashore.'* He goes on to say: *'On Thursday night last [21st] the watch below came to me and told me that there was a boy stowed away among some ropes in the stern. He turned out to be a boy from Mile End called Dick, who was a piecer in one of the mills. We were too far from land to put him ashore, so we are taking him with us.'* The likelihood is that Dick was pressed into service attending to much of the dirty work necessary aboard a sailing ship and he would thus work his passage. John Hart does not relate what became of Dick on their arrival in Canada.

He concluded that we had seen cramped conditions, rationed water, infection, quarantine, spurious land offers and speculative pricing., covering the first half of the nineteenth century, a period when emigrant numbers grew rapidly as new opportunities opened up in the new world. Despite the reluctance of politicians and shipowners' voyages were better regulated, conditions on board continued to improve, stricter safety regulations were introduced, and larger vessels were constructed. But the single most important change came when gold was discovered in Australia and the Colonial Governments were intent on attracting both skilled and unskilled laborer's alike to support a growing population of administrators, soldiers, convicts and prospectors.

Sister Branch

Bolton Branch – Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Room (1st Floor), Chorley Old Road, Bolton, see the website on MLFHS/Branches/Bolton for full details.

Meetings are at 7.30pm, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. There is a helpdesk before and after the meeting. Tea/coffee & biscuits available from 7pm. Drinks available from the bar.

3rd April – Speaker Jackie Depelle – **Ideas for researching non-conformists**

Main Branch

Saturday 6 April 10.30am: Beginners Talk

Researching Before 1837

Jean Newman explores Parish Registers and the importance of the Parish to our ancestors. Jean will in particular look at the registers of Baptism and Burials 1813 to 1837 and Marriages 1754 to 1837. She will talk about the pitfalls and problems and offer ideas for solving them.

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 is required. Book via Eventbrite on the Society home page.

Wednesday 24 April 11.00am: Visit to the People's History Museum

The visit is for MLFHS members only

11:00 - 12:00 Guided tour of the exhibition (see below)

12:00 - 14:00 An opportunity to visit the rest of the museum independently

Disrupt? Peterloo and Protest

Opening in March 2019 the museum's headline exhibition for 2019, Disrupt? Peterloo and Protest, forms a central part of its bicentenary programme. The nature of Peterloo and the political repression that followed means there are few artefacts remaining, which in bringing together for the first-time key items from the time makes this exhibi-

tion all the more powerful. This includes a Peterloo medal, the only one of its kind uncovered to date, which carries the strong and impassioned words of the time, "These things will not endure or be endured". A newly commissioned film will feature as part of the exhibition, telling the story of Peterloo and the road to democratic reform.

Alongside the exhibition, a gallery will become a Protest Lab, for individuals, communities and organisations to use as an experimental space for creative campaigning and collective action.

There is a charge of £4.50 and booking is ESSENTIAL

Please go to mlfhs.org.uk then click on Eventbrite

Wednesday 22nd May Peterloo walk at 10.30

To commemorate the 200th anniversary Chris Makepeace will take us on a walk around the area of St. Peter's Square where the event known as Peterloo took place in August 1819. He will show us some of the buildings which witnessed the massacre and are still standing, and which give us an idea of what the area was like at the time.

Chris was once Manchester's Local History Librarian and later the prover of historical information for the Greater Manchester Planning Department. He has also been a part-time tutor for the University Extra Mural Department and has taught local history courses at Wilmslow Guild for the WEA, Opportunities and Activities, Ridge Danyers College and for History Inc. He has also compiled a number of books of photographs of Manchester over the years and has given talks to a number of local organisations and societies and written over 100 sets of notes for the Godfrey series of Old OS Maps.

The walk will last approximately one and a half hours so probably won't be suitable for people with mobility problems.

For MLFHS members only.

Free

Booking is essential as places are limited. Please book on Evenbrite on the Society's Home Page

Meeting point is Manchester Central Library for 10.30.

Oldham Branch Mailbag – No Correspondence

Events at Other Societies not part of MLFHS

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY: -

Wednesday 10th April 2019, 7.30pm. At the Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill, Saddleworth Historical Society has an Illustrated Presentation by Dr. Martin Dodge entitled "**Mapping Manchester – the Good, the Bad & the Missing Ones**".

All welcome.

Society members free but a charge on the evening to non-members of £3. Refreshments available.

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST: -

No meeting in April,

But there is a members' outing on 11th April 2019 to "World of Glass", St Helens by coach.

The Society is organising a coach trip to Wentworth Woodhouse Estate on 18th May 2019.

Moorside & District Historical Society
Meeting
Monday 15th April 2019
AGM
followed by
"Weather"
a mixed bag of events
an illustrated presentation
by Mike Smith

Note NEW VENUE

Meetings are held in the Moorside Cricket Club, Turf Pit Lane. OL4 2ND
7:30 p.m.; all are welcome.
£1-50 including refreshments
Note: No meeting in the summer break July & August + December.



Manchester Histories

Check out their website for latest updates on Peterloo, if you did not know it has been 200 years this year since that fateful date. They are looking for volunteers, if you want to be part of the festivities go to the website – manchesterhistories.co.uk

There will be a **Peterloo Big Weekend** 15-18 August 2019, with events, including the unveiling of the new Peterloo permanent public memorial produced by the artist **Jeremy Deller**.

There is also a new website: peterloo1819.co.uk

Family History Society of Cheshire

Tameside Group meets at the School Rooms of the Old Chapel, between the Church and the Astley Arms Pub. Usually, every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm admission £2 for non-members including refreshments. There is parking in front of the Chapel.

10th April speaker – Gay Oliver and Adrian Brown and the talk is:

Demonstration of the results from various DNA tests

Gay and Adrian will be illustrating the results from various DNA tests which they have taken. It should help people to decide which tests to take for the results they want.

Manchester Victorian Society

Friends Meeting House, Mount Street M22 5NS £8 – no need to book

Tuesday 16th April – 7pm: speaker Elaine Taylor and the talk is:

Gardens of Lord Leverhulme

Local News

Victoria Baths - Stained Glass at Victoria Baths

Victoria Baths was named "Manchester's Water Palace" when the Swimming Pool and Turkish Baths opened in 1906, with its stunning stained-glass windows, tiles and mosaic floors amongst its features. Built to provide washing and bathing facilities for local people, the Grade II* listed building is now wowing visitors from all around the world.

I thought it was time to update you on our Amazing Glazing [Crowdfunder](#) now that we're at the halfway point. Great news - we've raised a tremendous £3750 in pledges already and they're still coming in.

The National Archives

National Archives shop is having a sale 10% off on-line purchases

hello@national.archives-gov.uk

Find My Past

Updates include: Birth India office of Births and Burials 1897-1947

USA passport applications 1795-1925

US Servicemen in North Devon 1943-45

Scotland – people of Banffshire 1335-1851

Ancestry

Updates include: London, England Poor Law Hospital Admissions and Discharges 1842-1995

UK WWII Alien Internees 1933-1945

England & Wales National Probate Calendar 1858-1995

Oldham Archives and Local Studies

- ✚ Archives are unique, original documents created in the course of everyday activities.
- ✚ Oldham's archives date from 1597 and cover an enormous range of subjects and activities:
- ✚ Hospital records
- ✚ Poor Law Union records
- ✚ Coroners Court records
- ✚ Local Authority records including Chadderton, Crompton, Failsworth, Lees, Oldham, Royton and Saddleworth
- ✚ Schools and education records
- ✚ Records for statutory bodies like the police force
- ✚ Church and religious records
- ✚ Business records
- ✚ Solicitors and estate agents records
- ✚ Trade unions and associations records
- ✚ Co-operative Society records
- ✚ Sports, entertainment and leisure records
- ✚ Personal, family and property records
- ✚ Society and Association records
- ✚ Records of Oldham communities

It's free to look at the archives although you will need to bring proof of your name and address (e.g. your driving license).

Most archives can be produced immediately with no advance booking required. However, some archives are stored off-site so at least 2 days' notice is required to see them.

Other archives may be closed due to their fragile condition, or because they contain confidential information.

Local Studies and Archives, 84 Union Street, Oldham OL1 1DN

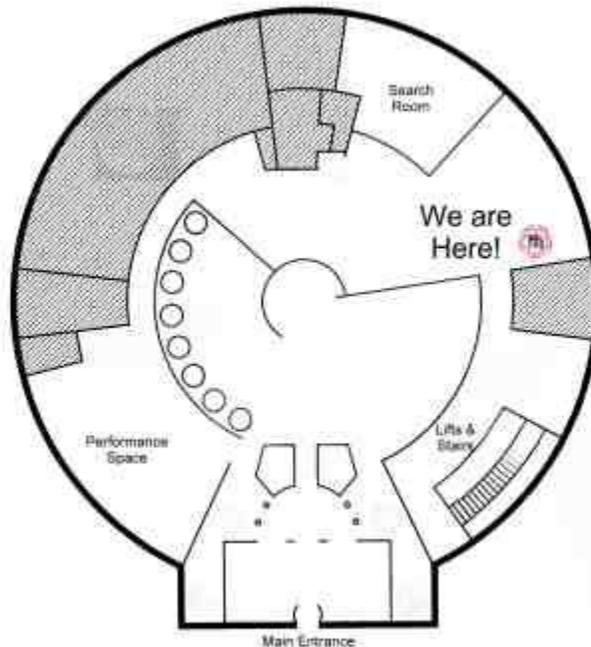
Tram link Union Street – opposite Sainsbury's

Telephone Number: 0161 770 4654 Email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Opening Hours: @OldhamArchives

Don't forget if you hit a wall, the Society has a help desk at the Central Library

The MLFHS Family History Help Desk is located on the ground floor of Manchester Central Library at St. Peter's Square. Our location is on the far side from the main entrance as shown below.



The Help Desk is open every weekday, Monday to Friday, except for Bank Holidays, between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

Central Library is adjacent to the **St. Peter's Square Metrolink** station with direct services from Altrincham, East Didsbury, Eccles, Bury, Oldham, Shaw, Rochdale and Ashton under Lyne and simple connections from other lines.

Many bus services from South Manchester stop at the Oxford Street end of Portland Street, which is a five-minute walk from the library. Other services may arrive at Shudehill Interchange or Piccadilly Bus Station. Shudehill is about 15 minutes and Piccadilly about 10 minutes' walk from the library. There are Metrolink connections adjacent to both bus terminals.

If you can avoid coming by car then do! There is no parking at Central Library including disabled parking. There are several car parks in the vicinity, but parking charges are relatively high.

Other Society websites

- Catholic Family History Society – www.catholicfhs.co.uk
Cheshire Local History Association – www.cheshirehistory.org.uk
Chadderton Historical Society – www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk
Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society – www.ifhhs.org.uk
Lancashire Local History Federation – www.lancashirehistory.org
Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – www.lswlfhs.org.uk
Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society – www.mlfhs.org.uk
Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – www.mrias.co.uk
Oldham Historical Research Group – www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham.hrg
Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) – www.ranulfhigden.org.uk
Royton Local History Society – www.rlhs.co.uk
Saddleworth Historical Society – www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk
Tameside Local History Forum – www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk
The Victorian Society – www.victoriansociety.org.uk

Archives Directory

- Barnsley – www.experience-barnsley.com
Birkenhead – www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives
Bury – www.bury.gov.uk/archives
Chester – <http://archives.cheshire.gov.uk>
Leeds – www.wyjs.org.uk/archive-services
Liverpool – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/archives>
Manchester – www.manchester.gov.uk
Matlock – www.derbyshire.gov.uk
Northallerton – www.northyorks.gov.uk/county-record-office
Preston – www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives
Shrewsbury – www.shropshirearchives.org.uk
Stockport – www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives
Wigan & Leigh – www.gov.uk/archives
York – www.york.ac.uk/borthwick