

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

Newsletter November 2017

oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk



Branch News

Last Meeting

The last meeting on **Saturday 14th October** was a talk given by **David Scrimgeour** on **Early Asylum Life**.

David explained that he became interested in this topic when he was studying for a Post Graduate Diploma in Genealogy, Palaeography and Heraldic Studies with the University of Strathclyde. One task of course work was to study a building. For this task David decided to study Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield, which originally was the West Yorkshire Pauper Lunatic Asylum. In the West Yorkshire Archive Service he found the records of the asylum opened in 1818. Originally he was going to write a book about how to research asylum records using some case studies as examples. However he decided that the case studies were much more interesting so his book, entitled *Proper People - Early Asylum Life In The Words Of Those Who Were There*, became the stories of the patients using the actual words written at the time. It was these stories from 1818 to 1869 that David shared with us in this fascinating talk.

<http://www.davidscrimgeour.co.uk/>

Next Meeting

Saturday 11th November - The National Memorial Arboretum - Peter Hardy

At 2.00 pm at the Lees Suite at Oldham Civic Centre

The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire has 30,000 trees and 320 memorials across 150 acres and is a nationally-recognised centre of remembrance. Peter, a volunteer at the Arboretum for 9 years, will outline the history and development of the site and provide a visual tour of some of the memorials explaining the symbolism and stories behind them and what they represent.

Free to members. Non-members £2.50

Please note the change of venue.

This meeting will be held in the Lees Suite of the Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UT, as will all our meetings in 2018 whilst the Gallery is being refurbished. As this room will hold up to 70 people and the speaker is coming from Staffordshire, **please encourage anyone who may be interested to**

come along.

If you are coming by car or bus: walk down to the bottom of the Civic Centre car park (the Civic Centre, marked 14 on the map below, is the long low building at the bottom end of the car park.) Keep the Queen Elizabeth Hall on your left and the entrance is either a revolving or a disabled door to your left. If you go in one of these doors the security guard will direct you to the Lees Suite. There is also a ramp with a vehicle barrier leading to these doors from the bottom end of West Street.

If you are coming by tram: get off at King Street, and walk along King Street and a short way up West Street, where you will see a ramp (with a vehicle barrier) which you can walk up, leading to the entrance doors on your left.

If you are coming by car from outside the area and need more detailed instructions please email us on oldham@mlfhs.org.uk

There is a drinks vending machine in the reception area which costs 30p per cup but does not give change and there is also water available in the Lees Suite.



Contributions to the Journal

We are looking for articles for the next copy of the Journal from researchers who are pursuing, or have pursued, their interests in family history. All the better if it relates to Oldham, the difficulties experienced and how they were overcome, or any new or unusual records and archives or research into events before 1800.

Where possible please reference sources and their location. If you add photographs please do not send originals, or if the photograph is rare or of sentimental value, a TIF or JPG would be better. Please include your details i.e. name and address, email and tell us if you want your address/email address to be published.

Email: editor@mlfhs.org.uk

Quoting Oldham Branch

Society News

MLFHS Help Desk

The desk is normally open **every week day** from 10.30 to 3.30. A team of MLFHS volunteers will assist you in your family history research.

Ground floor, Manchester Central Library.

Saturday 4th November 10.30am: Beginners' Talk: Scottish and Irish Research

The usual problem for those of us with Irish ancestors is the lack of information on the origin of our forebears, apart from 'born in Ireland' on a census return. Carol Wells' talk gives help and advice showing how to start your Irish research plus the various records which are available to help you locate that elusive place of birth.

Research into Scottish ancestors is also an area requiring a rather different approach. Ina Penneyston from the Society's Anglo-Scottish branch will aim to put beginners on the right path and look at the increasing amount of data that is available.

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. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to book.

Saturday 4th November 10am - 4pm: Huddersfield and District FHS Fair

MLFHS will have a stall at the above event which will be held at Cathedral House, St. Thomas's Road, Huddersfield, HD1 3LG. Admission is £3 and there is car parking available.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

Saturday 18th November 2.00pm: Anglo-Scottish Branch Meeting

ScotlandsPeople is the official Scottish Government website for searching government records and archives. In the site you have access to the statutory registers of births, marriages, deaths, and so on; census returns; church records; valuation rolls; and legal records from Scotland's courts of law. It has seen some

significant changes recently.

Ina Penneyston is an experienced researcher who will illustrate the new features to this website. The meeting will conclude with live look-ups so come prepared.

This meeting will be held in the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library. The talk is open to both members and non-members. Booking is required. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to book

Volunteers Required (1) - MLFHS Help Desk

Can you help? Have you ever considered becoming a member of the MLFHS Family History Help Desk Team?

MLFHS has had several years experience providing a Family History Help Desk for members and non-members at Manchester Central Library. The Family History Help Desk which operates every weekday from 10.30am to 3.30pm delivers one of the society's constitutional goals, which is: "To promote and encourage the public study of British family history, genealogy, heraldry and local history." Our Help Desk volunteers provide a variety of services:

- Guidance for beginners including encouragement to attend courses.
- Identifying resources which will assist researchers with specific problems.
- Assist researchers in the use of resources, particularly online resources.
- Assist researchers in the interpretation of records.
- Promote the society and encourage volunteering.

If you are interested please [contact Leslie Turner](#) for further information.

Volunteers required (2) - Broome Undertakers Registers

There is an opportunity for volunteers to get involved in one of our current projects.

We are indexing the 20 volumes of the registers of T Broome & Sons, Undertakers. The first of these are already available in the member area. We have lost a couple of volunteers recently, so would like to fill the gaps and keep this project moving as quickly as before.

The work is done at home - images of the register pages are made available to volunteers who then extract key details such as name, date of burial and place of burial to a spreadsheet. The work requires internet access to download the images and a spreadsheet program to enter the data. Completed work is returned to the project manager using e-mail. As some entries may require checking of details, familiarity with online indexes such as FreeBMD and LancashireBMD is helpful.

If you would like to get involved with this work, please [contact Geoff Haslam](#), the project manager, who will explain in more detail what he requires.

Local News

Oldham Local Studies and Archives

84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN.

Phone: 0161 770 4654

Email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Oldham Local Studies and Archives is run by Oldham Council and is not part of our society. The archives date from 1597 and cover an enormous range of subjects and activities. However it is advisable to check on the archives website for coverage. http://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200539/archive_collections

Monday 10.00am-7.00pm

Tuesday 10.00am-2.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-5.00pm

Thursday 10.00am-7.00pm

Friday 10.00am-5.00pm

Saturday 10.00am-4.00pm

Staff will assist with family history enquiries at any time during the week but if you need extended one-to-one advice a family history expert is available between **2pm and 4pm every Monday and Wednesday**. There is no need to book, just drop in.

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

Chadderton Historical Society

Three Bombs in the Oldham Area?

A talk by John Fidler at Chadderton Football Club at 7.30 on Thursday 2nd November.

Royton Local History Society

Archaeology and Warfare: The British Army in Mesopotamia 1914-1918

A talk by Major Paul Knight at Downey House, Church Street Royton at 7.30 on **Monday 13th November 2017**.

Oldham Historical Research Group

St Thomas' Church, Werneth

A talk by Gordon Lees at Oldham Local Studies and Archives at 7pm on **Wednesday 15th November**.

Moorside and District Historical Society

May Day - Empire Day and Coronations etc

A presentation by Maureen Walsh and Ray Entwistle at St Thomas' Church Lounge, at 7.30pm on **Monday 20th November.**

Other News

[The General Register Office \(GRO\)](#) is again piloting a scheme where researchers can order birth and death records as a PDF.

From 12 October the digital records will be available to order via the GRO website for £6 each for a period of three months.

The PDF scheme provides a cheaper alternative to ordering print certificates, which cost £9.25 each or £23.40 for priority certificates.

The scheme applies to birth certificates from 1837 to 1916 and death certificates from 1837 to 1957.

Peterborough and the Great War

<https://www.peterboroughww1.co.uk/>

Peterborough Archives Service is embarking on an exciting three year project to bring to life two visitors' books from the tea stall run by the Women's United Total Abstinence Council on Peterborough East Railway Station during 1916 and 1917.

Servicemen travelling through Peterborough on their way to and from the front wrote messages, poems or drew pictures to express their gratitude to the ladies serving them tea and cake.

These slim volumes provide a unique insight into the servicemen who were passing through Peterborough during two years of the Great War. The men came from across the country and the books highlight the city's importance as a railway hub during this period.

That's all for this month. We hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter.

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