

# Uncovering Research Online

## Wigan Local History and Heritage Society



TDR Heritage  
Regeneration | Placemaking | People

**Welcome!**



**ABOUT TODAY**

**ABOUT THE SESSION**

# Embarking on a voyage of discovery!

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Fun

Informative

Answer questions and  
ask new ones!



# What you will take away

Understand the range of online research tools and how to use them

An awareness of local research sources and resources



Let's introduce ourselves

# About TDR Heritage

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TDR Heritage is an independent historic environment consultancy working across the UK.

We support – and sometimes develop – projects which look at historic places and the people that use them.

[www.tdrheritage.co.uk](http://www.tdrheritage.co.uk)





Over to you!

# Getting started

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- Charge your imagination!
- "Question everything"





# King Street High Street Heritage Action Zone



# Think about...

Set a timeframe

Get focused

Get organized



Identify your resources

Don't go it alone

Share

# Set a time frame

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- Is there a deadline?
- Are there resources you need to source?
- Everything usually takes longer than you think ...



# Get focused

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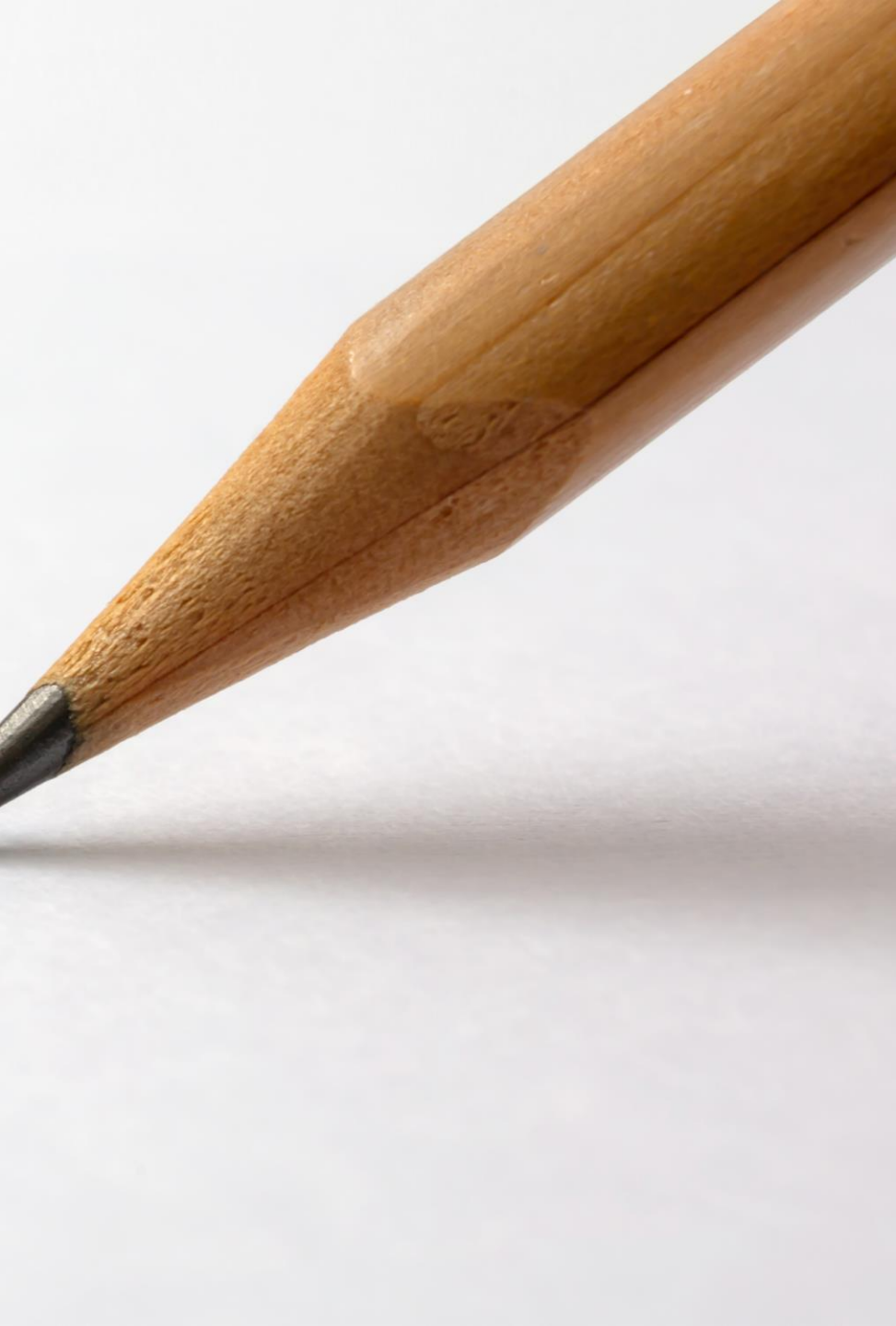
- What do you want to find out?
- How far will you follow new directions?





Get  
organised

- How will you process the information you gather?
- Are you working as part of a team?



# Logging information

- Keep it simple
- Take photographs of everything
- Keep a tidy folder structure
- Back everything up
- Be mindful of copyright
- Your mobile phone is a tool!





# Identify your resources

- Don't be intimidated!
- Embrace a blended approach



# Armchair research

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- Quick overview research and providing further in-depth analysis
- Some things aren't online!
- Quality control
- Books for non-historians



# Don't go it alone!

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- Build your research network
- Local history societies
- Specialist groups and societies
- Online forums & social media



# People near you!

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The screenshot shows the homepage of localhistoryonline. At the top, the logo 'localhistoryonline' is displayed in a blue serif font, with the URL 'www.local-history.co.uk' underneath. To the right of the logo are navigation links: 'Home', 'About us', 'Contact us', and 'Sitemap'. Below the logo is a search bar with the text 'ENHANCED BY Google' and a 'Search' button. On the left side, there is a vertical menu titled 'Sections' with the following items: 'Bookshop', 'Calendar of events', 'Local history news' (with sub-links for 'Latest news' and 'News archive'), 'Getting started', 'Links', 'Local history societies', 'Local history courses', 'Local history speakers', and 'Local History Magazine' (with sub-links for 'Latest issue', 'Subscribe', and 'Back issues'). Below the menu is a link for 'History into Print'. The main content area features several promotional boxes. The first box, titled 'Welcome to...', describes the website as a premier UK local history site. The second box, titled 'Visit our News section...', includes an image of a man in a wolf costume and a 'Find us on facebook' link. The third box, titled 'BREWIN BOOKS', features a logo of a book with 'K A F B' on it and a red banner that says 'SALE NOW ON!'. Below this is the text 'LOCAL HISTORY BOOK SPECIALISTS'. The fourth box, titled 'Local History Magazine', has a sub-headline 'Funding for former salt works' and an image of a salt stack, with a link to see the latest issue. At the bottom, there are partial views of other sections: 'The Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals' and 'Our Societies'.

localhistoryonline  
www.local-history.co.uk

Home About us Contact us Sitemap

ENHANCED BY Google Search

Home

**Sections**

- Bookshop
- Calendar of events
- Local history news
  - Latest news
  - News archive
- Getting started
- Links
- Local history societies
- Local history courses
- Local history speakers
- Local History Magazine
  - Latest issue
  - Subscribe
  - Back issues
- History into Print

**Welcome to...**  
...Local History Online,  
one of the UK's premier  
local history websites. Our  
aim is to help meet the  
needs of anyone with an  
interest in local history.

Visit our **News** section to  
keep abreast of local  
history activity  
throughout the country.  
Please feel free to send  
us your own news for  
inclusion in this section.

Find us on **facebook**

**BREWIN BOOKS**  
**SALE NOW ON!**  
LOCAL HISTORY  
BOOK SPECIALISTS

Follow our tips for  
**Getting Started in  
local history.**

**Local History Magazine**  
**Funding  
for former  
salt works**  
Click here to see what's in  
the latest issue of **Local  
History Magazine.**

The Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals  
English Heritage.

Our **Societies**

# GMSTORIES

Explore Greater Manchester's heritage through blogs written by staff and volunteers of the

GMStories

TAG: WIGAN ARCHIVES



MADE IN GREATER MANCHESTER

## Made in Wigan



MADE IN GREATER MANCHESTER

## Memories of War

# Share

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- Helps sense check
- Order your thoughts and conclusions
- What format will you share your research in?



A man in a brown jacket and sunglasses is shouting into a white megaphone. The background is a solid olive green color. The text "A word about copyright" is overlaid in white, with a white brushstroke underline.

A word about copyright

Want to  
share?  
Any  
questions?

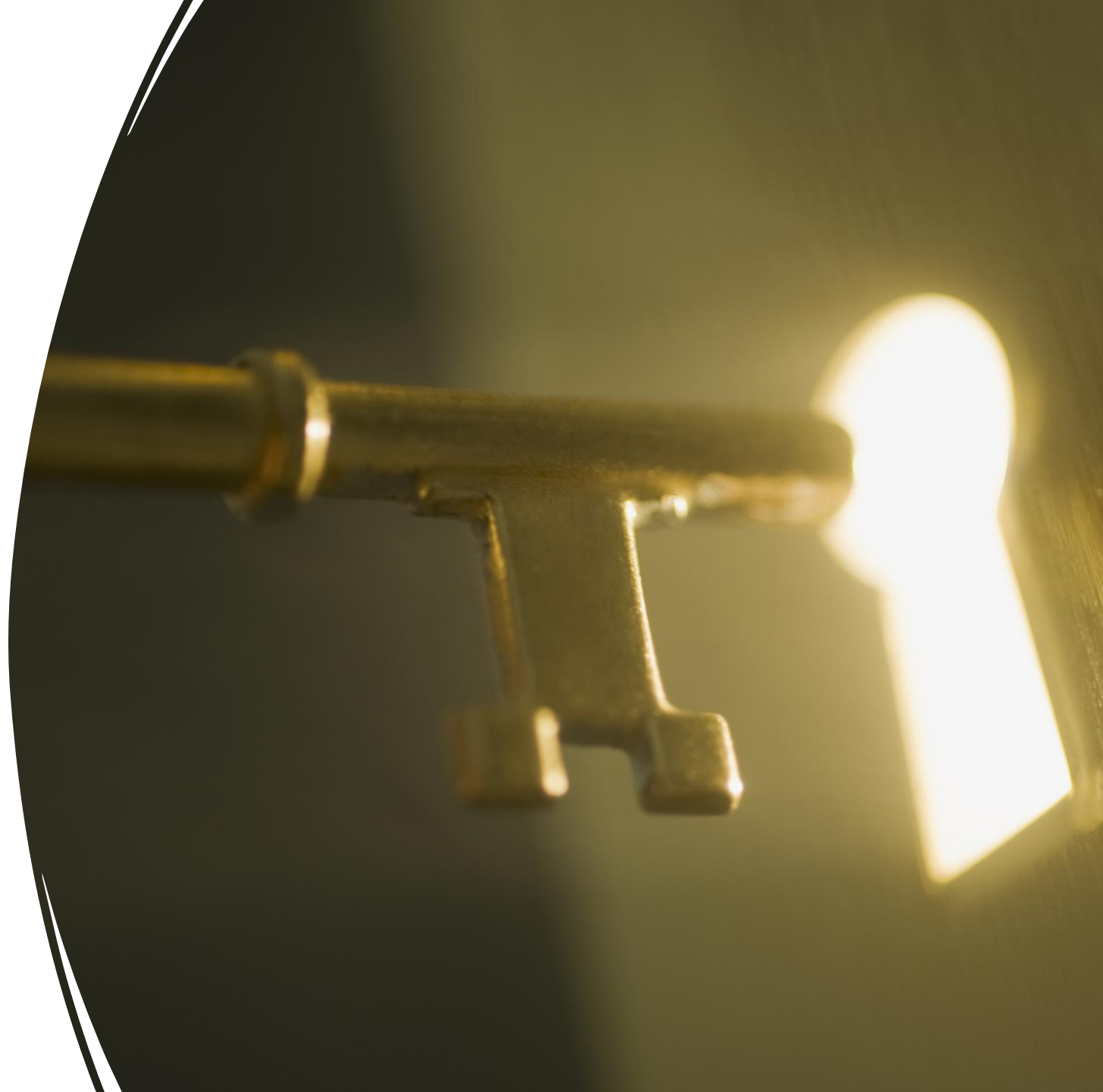
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# Archives unlocked

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- What is an archive
- What can I find at an archive?







# What types of records do local archives keep?

- Land registries
- Deeds and charters
- Censuses
- Maps
- Directories
- Electoral registers
- Poll books
- Local and country house histories
- Photographs / postcards / paintings
- General registration records
- Parish registers
- Wills
- Sales papers
- Newspapers
- Glebe terriers / church lands
- Land tax
- Enclosures
- Window tax
- House and inhabited House tax
- Fire Insurance records
- Rates
- Estate records
- Manorial records
- Court cases
- Inquisitions / post mortem
- Council / borough records



# Searching archives online

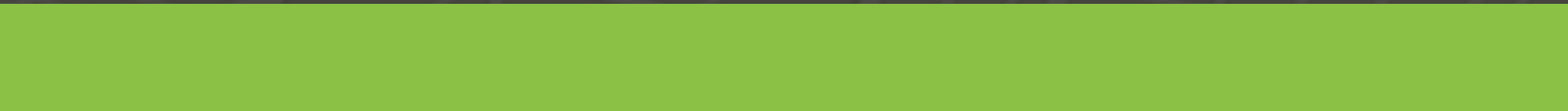
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The National Archives - Discovery  
British Library

- Set up an online account and bookmark your findings



Your Locals



A photograph of Leigh Town Hall, a large, ornate building with a central clock tower, viewed through a dark overlay. In the foreground, there are various colorful flowers, including yellow and pink blooms, which are slightly out of focus. A small green horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

# Wigan Archives and Local Studies

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- Leigh Town Hall
- Museum of Wigan Life

## Archives: Wigan and Leigh collections



### Official records

From hospitals, courts, local government, canals, schools, churches and more



### Family history

Research local studies and your family history



### Personal stories

Family estate papers, biographical cuttings, Edward Hall diaries and more



### WW1 and WW2

Tracing your WW1 ancestors, soldier burials, WW1 council minutes



### Miners relief society

Records of financial relief given to injured miners from the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners Permanent Relief Society



### Miscellaneous

Contain some of the most interesting and unusual items in the archives



### Newspapers

List of all the newspapers and diary of local events from the Leigh Chronicle



### Maps

Comprehensive Ordnance Survey maps



### Image archive

Search online for historical images, records, postcards and more



The Greater Manchester  
County Record Office



Greater  
Manchester  
Lives

# Greater Manchester Lives

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Online catalogue for archives and local studies in  
Greater Manchester.

# Lancashire Archives

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- Uniformed Lancashire police officers taken at Wigan around 1910.
- [PLA LC48/51](#)







# University of Manchester Special Collections

# Wigan World

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- Upload your photos. Thousands of old Wigan photos to browse and comment on
- Index covers 3rd September 1856 to 30th November 2007
- General Wigan chat, find out more about Wigan, trace relatives, get help
- 'Stuff' - pubs, memories, street histories, roll of honour, directories
- Cemetery records



# Wigan Buildings



Lost Buildings of  
Wigan

[more >](#)

# Wigan Local History and Heritage Society

Sharing local history articles

Films, videos and presentations

Links to other special interest heritage groups and forums

Local heritage projects

Collated topic information (such as canals and rivers)

Online publications (primary and secondary) including transcriptions

# Heritage Gateway

The screenshot shows the Heritage Gateway website. At the top, the logo 'HERITAGE GATEWAY' is displayed in blue and green. To the right, there are links for 'Site Map' and 'Text size: A A A'. Below the logo is a banner image of a fence with the word 'welcome' written in white. A navigation menu on the left lists various options: Home, More Detailed Search, Help and FAQs, Cookies, About Heritage Gateway, Historic Environment Records, National Datasets, Professional Access, Contact Us, Terms And Conditions, and Accessibility. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail 'You are here: Home', a search introduction, a 'Quick Search' section with a search box and radio buttons for search criteria, and a note about local HER records.

**HERITAGE GATEWAY**

Site Map  
Text size: A A A

welcome

You are here: [Home](#)

**Search for information on England's historic sites and buildings, including images of listed buildings.**

This website allows you to cross-search over 60 resources, offering local and national information relating to England's heritage. Click [here](#) for full details of the range of records that you can search on this website

PastScape results now appear as Historic England Research Records. [Further information on Historic England Research Records](#)


**Quick Search**

Use this to carry out a simple search by building name or location. To carry out more complex searches use the [more detailed search](#)

[\(What's This?\)](#)

any order  exact  any words

Please note that local HER records contain much more detailed information than is currently available here. Please contact the relevant authority direct for all planning matters or queries relating to their records.



Visiting an archive



# Thinking about costs

## Researching online

- Subscriptions to websites
- Buying downloadable digital images
- Buying BDM certificates
- Lectures / training courses

## Visiting the Archives

- Travel
- Parking
- Photography permits
- High-res image

A cup of coffee on a saucer with steam rising from it, set against a dark background with light rays.

Comfort break!



# Research Resources

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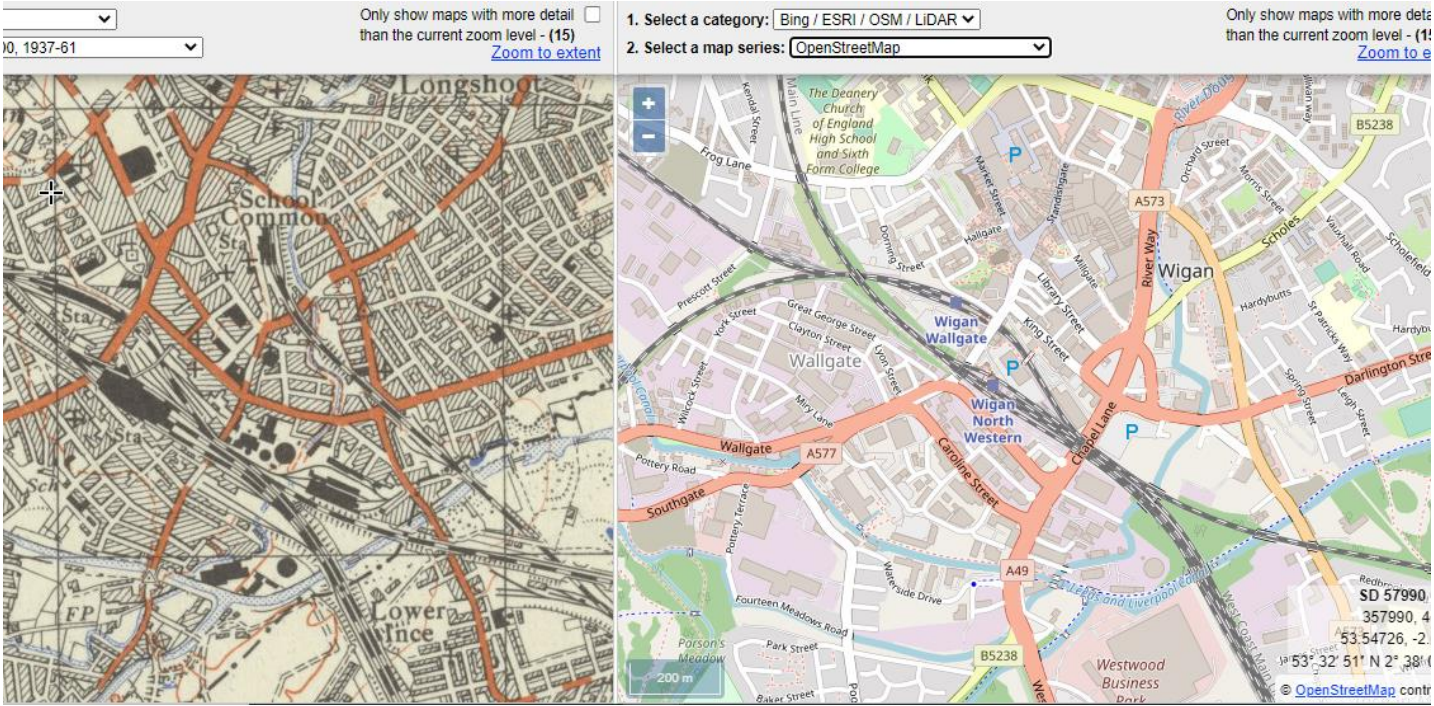
- What type of resources are available?
- How can I access them?





# 1. Historic maps

- A snapshot through time
- King Steet, Wigan OS 1900
- OS 1.25: 5000
- Open Street Maps



# What map?

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- Tithe maps
- Estate maps
- Ordnance Survey (OS) maps
- Surveys for major works (e.g. canals)



# National Library of Scotland

Maps home

New: Scottish maps miscellany, 20th century

[Guide to this website](#)

[Ordnance Survey maps](#)

[Maps of Scotland](#)

[County Maps](#)

[Estate Maps](#)

[Town Plans and views](#)

[Coastal / Admiralty charts](#)



[Map Finder -  
with Marker  
Pin](#)

Find maps using a  
Marker Pin



[Map Finder -  
with  
Outlines](#)

Find maps with their  
outlines shown



[Explore  
Georeferenced  
Maps](#)

Maps overlaid on a  
satellite image  
backdrop



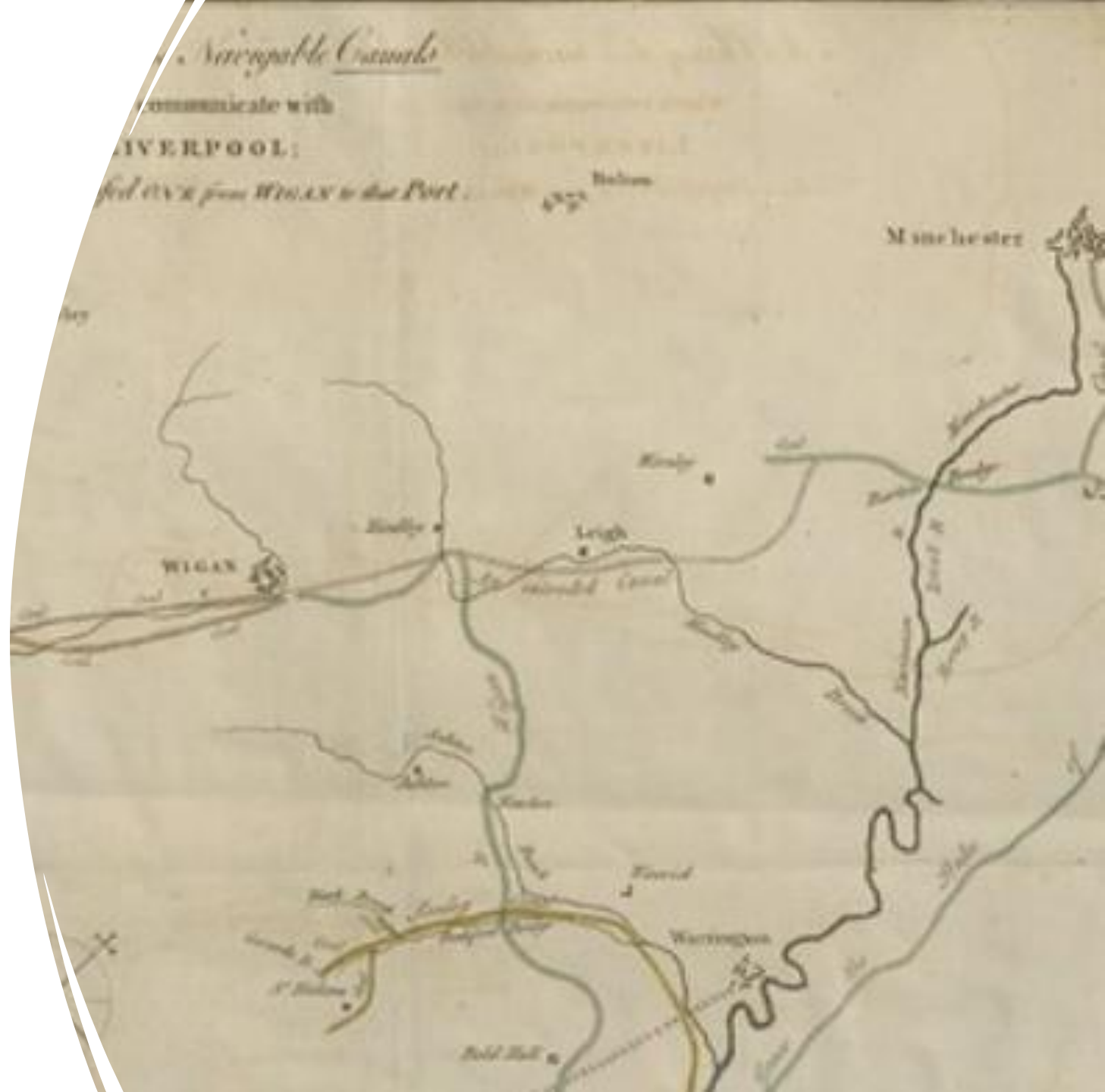
[Side by side  
viewer](#)

Compare maps in a  
split-screen viewer

# British Library

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A Plan of the Navigable Canals  
which communicate with Liverpool;  
And of a Proposed One from Wigan  
to that Port / Survey'd by Rob t  
Whitworth 1768



## 2. Digital Libraries

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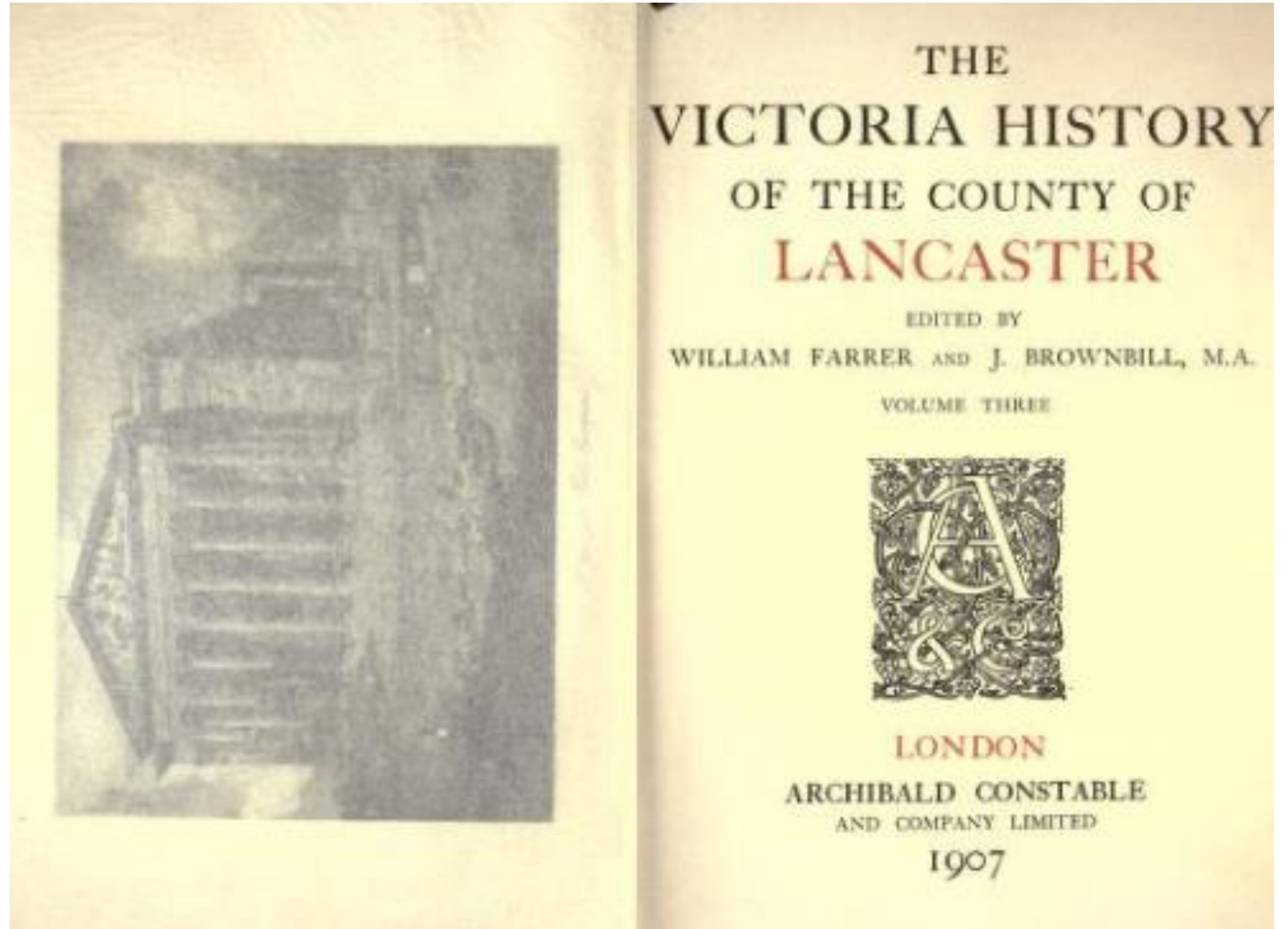
- British History Online
- The British Architectural Library
- Internet Library



# 3. Local histories

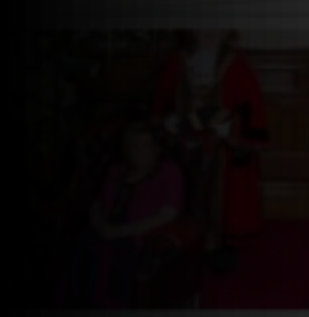
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- Antiquarian County Histories
- The Pevsner Architectural Guides
- Amateur historians and local history societies
- The Victoria Country History
- Remember! Wigan historic county of Lancashire



# Projects

- Civic Histories: Wigan Borough Mayoral Project



Wigan Metropolitan Borough



Wigan County Borough



Leigh Municipal Borough



Abram U



Wigan-in-Makerfield Urban District



Aspull Urban District



Astley Parish Council



Atherton





## Wigan and Leigh Archives Online - First World War Database

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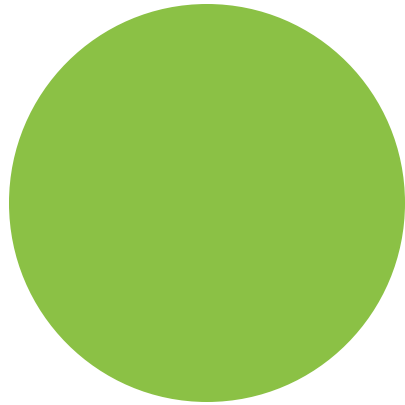
- 50 volunteers helped to index, catalogue, digitise and transcribe these records, which are now available online for users to browse and explore.



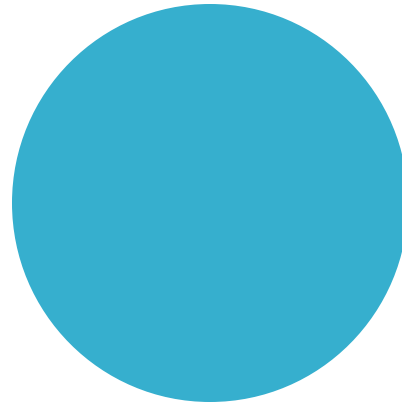
**First Batch of Wounded Soldiers at The Woodlands, Atherton, November 18th,**

# 4. Companies

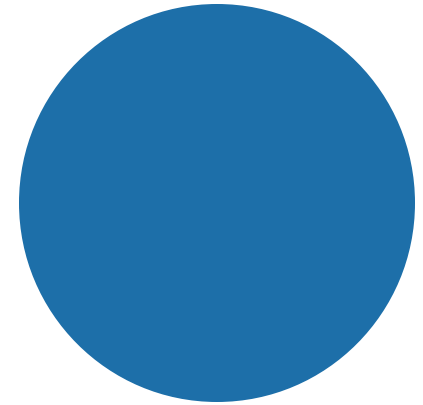
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LOCAL ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS  
RECORDS



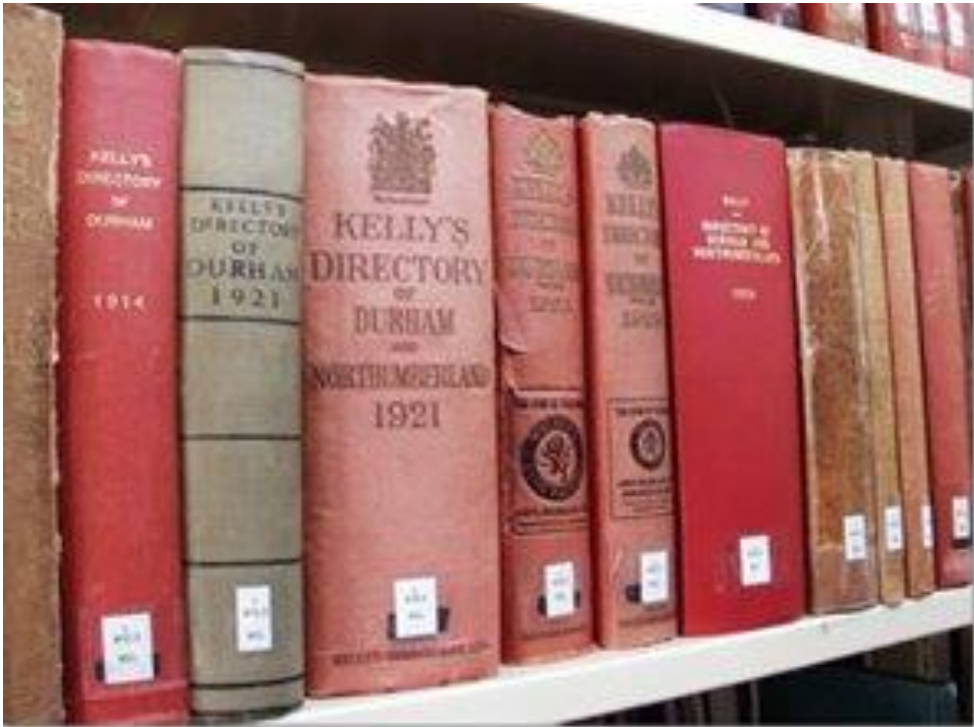
LOCAL BUSINESSES



RETAILERS

## 5. Directories

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Almanacs

Trade directories

Telephone directories

# Local snapshot

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- Wigan photo Year Book 1901



Trade with  
**GEORGE H. BROWN,**

*The Universal  
Provider,*

**"AT THE MINT."**

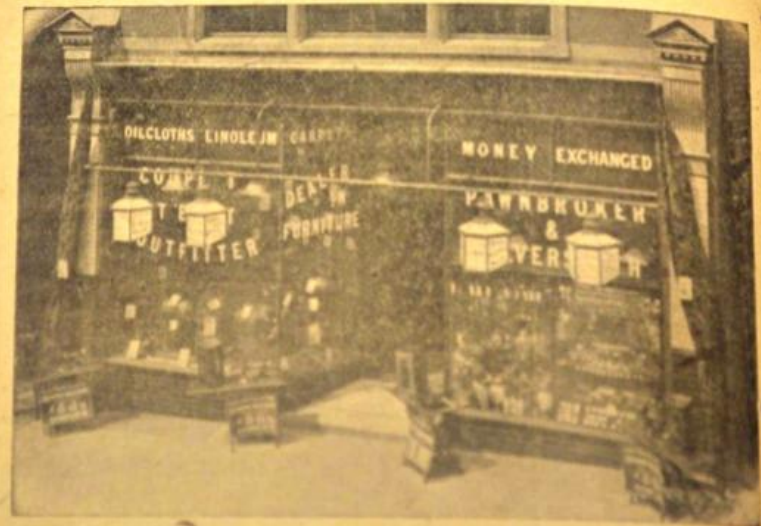
\* \* \*

*The Leading Tradesman  
of the Twentieth Century.*

**"THE MINT,"**

**SCHOLES.**

**WIGAN.**





# 6. Newspapers

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- British Newspaper Archive
- The Gazette



## Unteora Inn. Standlsbgate, Wlgaa. Bed Don, Seooles. Wigan. Back Inn. Behoks Wigan. Douglas Tavern, MUIgats. ...

... Unteora Inn. Standlsbgate, Wlgaa. Bed Don, Seooles. **Wigan**. Back Inn. Behoks **Wigan**. Douglas Tavern, MUIgats. **Wigan**. Tan. **Wigan**. ...

Published: Saturday 07 April 1906

Newspaper: [Wigan Observer and District Advertiser](#)

County: Lancashire, England

Type: Article | Words: 18 | Page: 12 | Tags: none



## lists a istt> oi\*noxAJa'S) ltd., 48, VAUSATI. WIOAK. THE CHAWrOHD PHARMACY, 25, StaadMicaU, Wigan, fmmm THE ..

... lists a oi\*noxAJa'S) ltd., 48, VAUSATI. WIOAK. THE CHAWrOHD PHARMACY, 25, StaadMicaU, **Wigan**, THE CLIPTOM PHAUACT. 26, **Wigan** Lana. **Wigan**. THI SCHOLBS PHARHACT|I44. SdMIn **Wigan**. PILES CAN BB CURED WITHOUT 5 OPKBATIOM OR MONEY BACK FBOM YODE OWH CHEMIST. 1 BwmA ...

Published: Saturday 02 February 1918

Newspaper: [Wigan Observer and District Advertiser](#)

County: Lancashire, England

Type: Article | Words: 118 | Page: 6 | Tags: none



# 7. Magazines & journals

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- The Builder
- Country Life



# PAST FORWARD

ISSUE No. 33

SPRING 2003

WIGAN  
LEISURE & CULTURE  
TRUST



*The Newsletter of Wigan Heritage Service*

**FREE**

## Local Snapshot

- Past Forward is the 'people's history' magazine for Wigan and Leigh. The magazine is produced by Archives: Wigan and Leigh three times per year (in December, April and August).



# 8. Articles

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- Academic articles
- PHD publications



# 9. Family history

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- Ancestry
- FindMyPast





# Frederick Spray

1823-1910

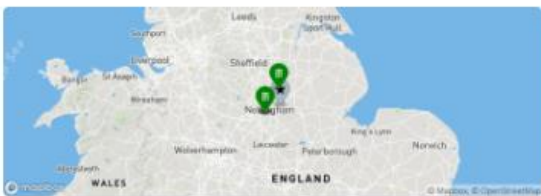
LifeStory Facts Gallery Hints



When Frederick Spray was born in 1823 in Gunthorpe, Nottinghamshire, his father, Samuel, was 29 and his mother, Ann, was 26. He married Hannah Spray on 30 March 1845 in Beeston, Nottinghamshire. They had 12 children in 22 years. He died in 1910 having lived a long life of 87 years.

Edit

Show Add



1823

## Birth

Frederick Spray was born in 1823 in Gunthorpe, Nottinghamshire, to Ann Pepper, age 26, and Samuel Spray, age 29.

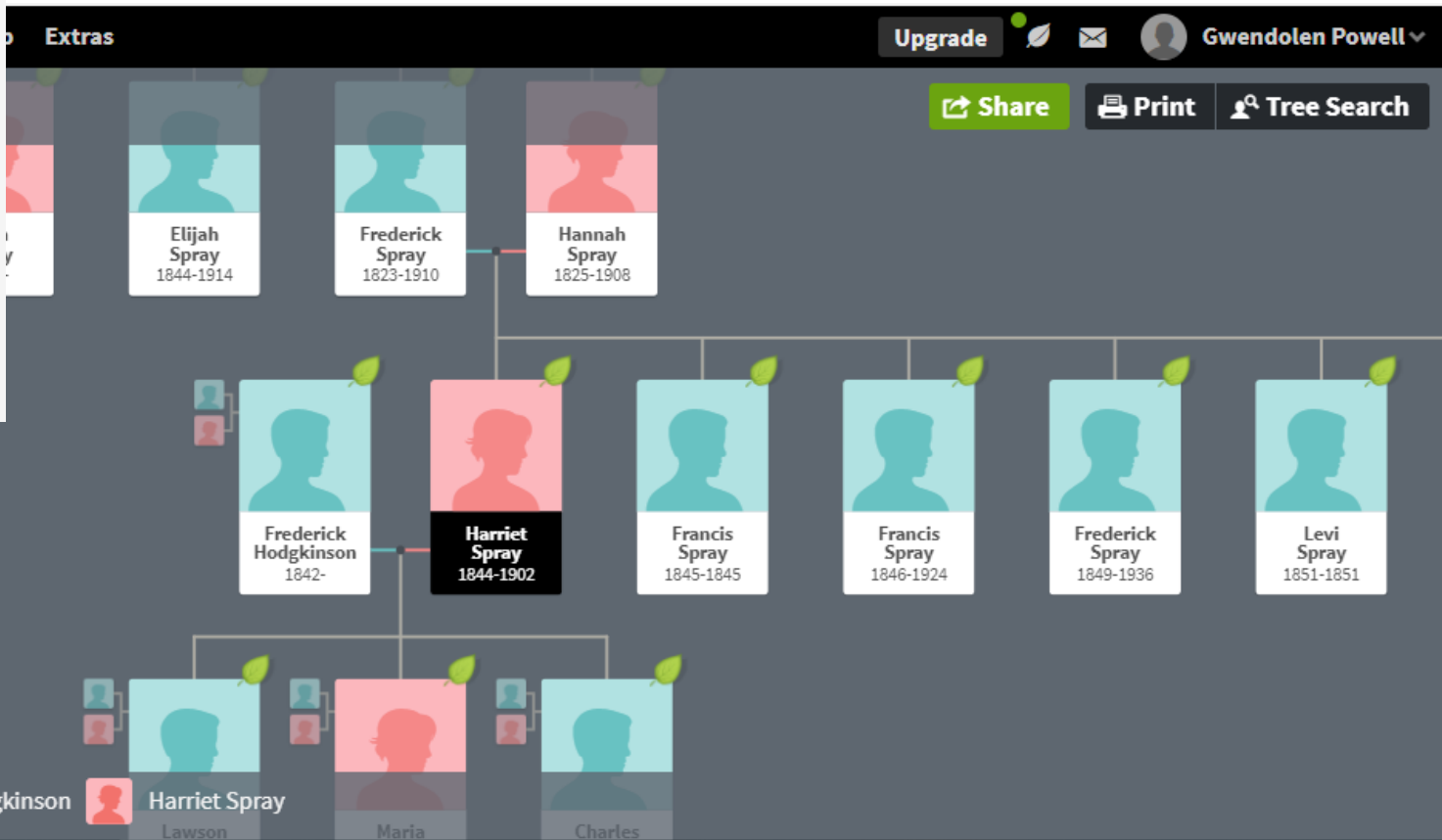
1823 • Gunthorpe Nottinghamshire

Edit

18 Feb 1825 Age 2

## Birth of sister

His sister Mary was born on 28 February 1825 in Beeston, Nottinghamshire, when



The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

*Civil Parish (or Township) of		Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		Village or Hamlet, &c., of		Local Board or Improvement Commissioners District of		Electoral District of		
Basseton								Basseton								
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited or Building (15.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN		Whether					
						Males	Females				1. Deaf-and-Dumb	2. Blind	3. Imbecile or Idiot	4. Lunatic		
157	The Nuptials (The Locks)	1	Frederick Spray	Head	Mar	50		Game Keeper	Hotts	Southwell						
			Kenneth Do	Wife	Do	49		Do Wife	Do	Basseton						
			Kenneth Do	Daughter	Unm	26		Silk Winder	Do	Do						
			Frederick Do	Son	Do	7		Under Game Keeper	Do	Do						
			Enoch Do	Do	Do	17		Carpenter	Do	Do						
			Levi Do	Do	Do	15		Silk Worker	Do	Do						
			Alice Do	Daughter	Do	9		Scholar	Do	Do						
			Richard Do	Son	Do	10		Do	Do	Do						
			Kate M Do	Daughter	Do	5		Do	Do	Do						
			Lucy Do	Do	Do	4		Do	Do	Do						
158	Nottingham Street	1	John Moore	Head	Mar	63		Ag. Labourer	Derby	Our Caton						
			Sarah Do	Wife	Do	61		Do Wife	Do	Willford						
			Louisa Do	Daughter	Unm	26		Naukage Assistant	Hotts	Basseton						
159	The City	1	George Beckett	Head	Unm	74		Farmers Sergeant	Do	Southwell						
160	Do Do		Richard Dawson	Do	Unm	67		Do Labourer	Do	Southwell						
			<p>Cherubs 157 should be No. 1. No. 160 is the first house in Notting St.                  Do 159. 160 Cause to block on late Mrs Sumners farm (at end)                  the way. Properly they fall Nos. 68, 69 being at the first house                  in the City                  J.P.</p>													
Total of Houses..		3	Total of Males and Females..			87										

\* Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate.

10. Museum  
collections

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## Delve into PHM's collection online and search for key objects, special collections, or themes.

These pages allow you to access a wide range of material, combining digitised images with explanatory text.

- Use the 'Keyword search' field to search both the object and archive collections
- Use the 'Object collection title' field to choose from the drop down list of collections to search
- Use the 'Archive collection title' field to limit your search to a specific collection

Keyword search


Object collection title

Archive collection title

Search →

Clear →

# National Trust Collections online



Collections, Places, Articles 1,050,772 items online [Search](#)

Explore and refine your search [×](#)

You searched , Maker: "Christopher Saxton (c.1540-c.1610)"

Show me: [Full collection](#) [Just highlights](#) and  Items with images only  Currently on show [Show results](#) [Clear all filters](#)

Places	Category	Date	Details
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[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#)



# 11. Governance & legislation

The Parliamentary archives





A historical black and white photograph of a street scene. In the background, a large, ornate church tower with multiple spires is visible. The street is lined with multi-story buildings, some with signs. A few people are walking on the street, and a horse-drawn carriage is visible in the foreground. The overall atmosphere is that of a busy urban street from a past era.

## 12. Image collections

[www.history.in.pictures.co.uk](http://www.history.in.pictures.co.uk)

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# Film

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- British Pathe
- British Film Archive
- Regional film archives – North West Film Archive



# Local snapshot

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<https://www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk/viewVideo.php?token=5628agw976649H196804Ym9192b4>

Scenes from Wigan Carnival in July 1929. Brief views of a brass band, followed by "Wigan on Wheels Pageant," a procession along Wallgate Street featuring numerous horse-drawn vehicles, bicycles and carnival floats. Many of the participants are in fancy dress, and others collect money from the watching crowds. The film ends with views of the fun fair at Bull Hey.



# Photographs

- Local Archives
- Frith collection
- Mirrorpix
- Historic England
- Museums

Keyword(s)

## Featured Collections



The Lancashire and Cheshire  
Miners' Permanent Relief  
Society (LCMPRS)



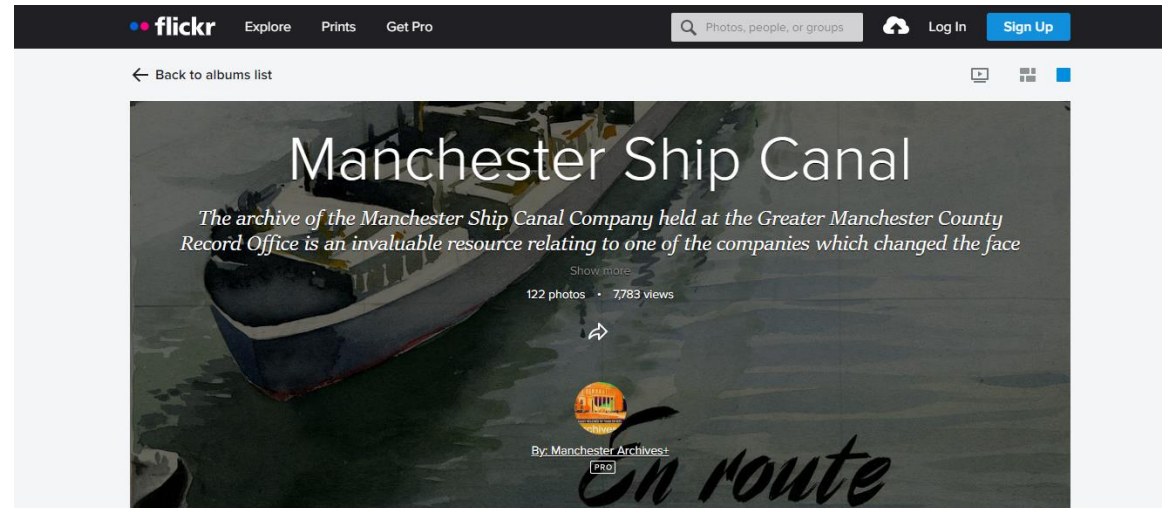
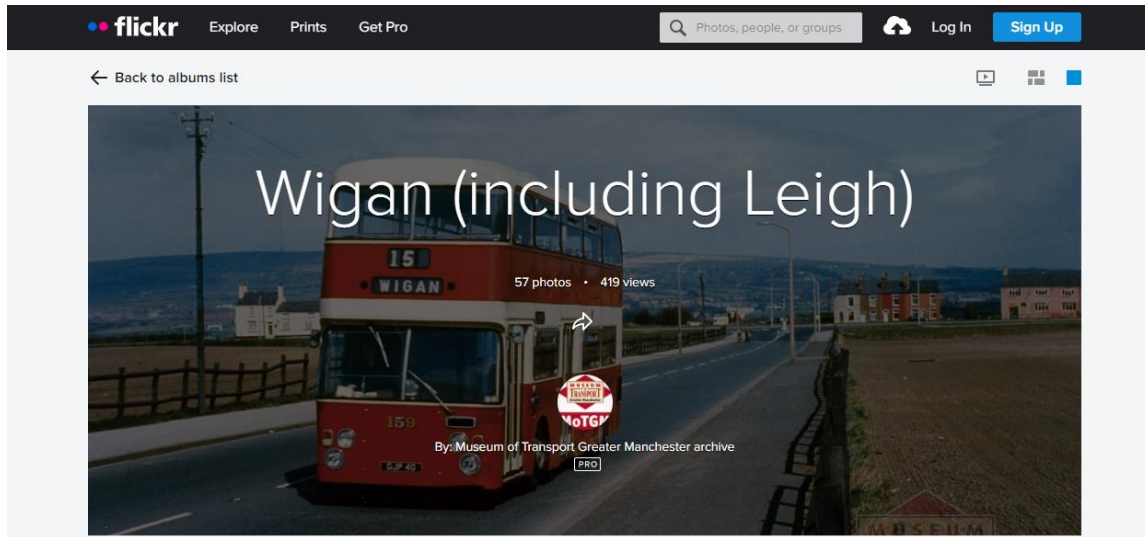
First and Second World War  
Records



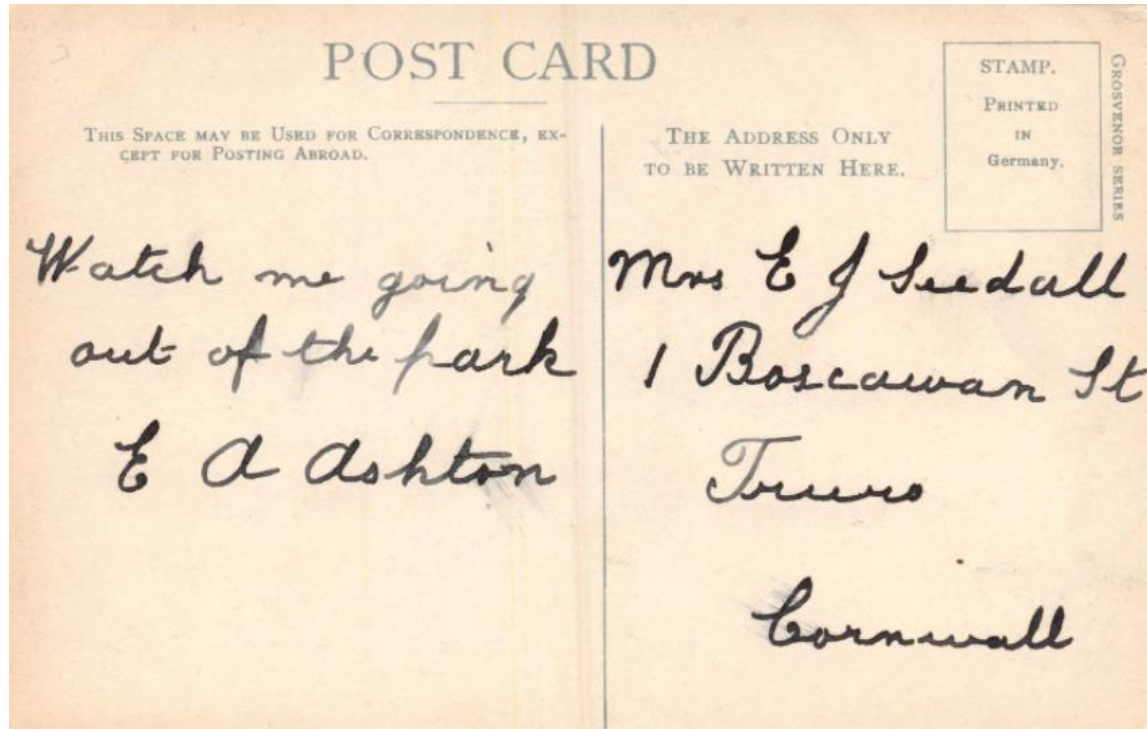
Photograph Collections



# Flickr



# Postcards



# Art

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- Art UK
- Google Culture
- Museum collections

Wigan Pier

[Harry Walder \(1909–1992\)](#)

[Wigan Arts and Heritage Service](#)





# Remember the golden rules!

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- Just try searching – you won't do any harm: see what happens
- Cast your net wide, then narrow down
- Download and save your findings
- Try different websites for the same thing
- Be critical of every piece of data that you find – test and check and test
- Stand on the shoulders of giants – look for work that others have done – and use and learn from it!



Want to share?  
Any questions?

Thank you for  
coming!

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