

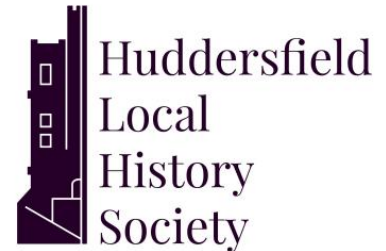
HLHS Members Newsletter

January 2023

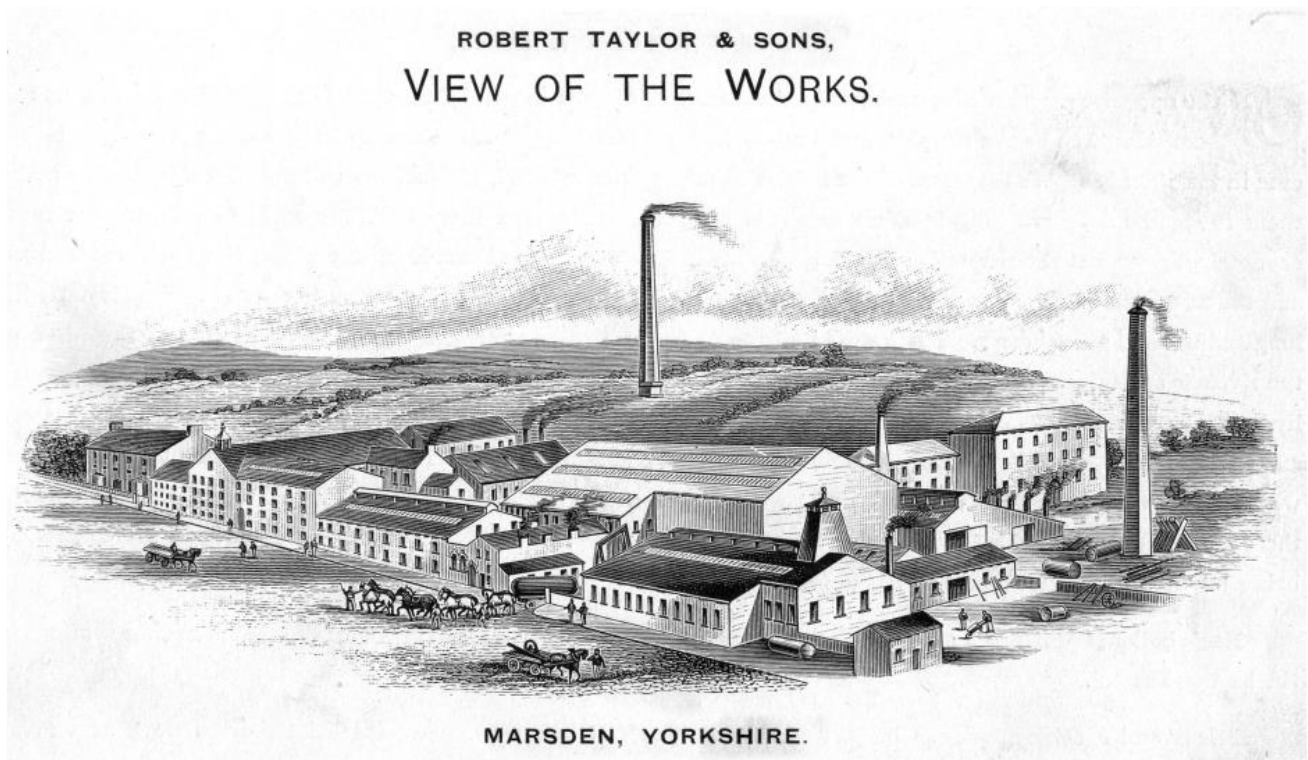
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We would like to hear from you! Please send any news, details of events and books, requests for information and comments that you think may be of interest to other Huddersfield Local History Society members to publications@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk



Taylor's Foundry at Marsden, the subject of our next monthly talk

Welcome to our January newsletter, with our very best wishes for the New Year. The next newsletter will appear in late February 2023.

David Griffiths and Dave Pattern

HLHS Committee

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Janette Martin

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Richard Hobson

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*With the exception of
our own web site,
Huddersfield Local
History Society is
not responsible for the
content of any web sites
linked to
in this newsletter.*

New venue for our talks

From January our Monday evening talks will be held at the University's Oastler Building, not in the Bronte Lecture Theatres.

This move has been required by the University (who continue to support us with free accommodation) but is actually a more visible location. [Oastler Building](#) is the prominent recent building overlooking Shorehead roundabout (although the entrance is at the opposite end, off 'University Square', the central open space). Guides will be on hand to ensure you find it!



Blue badge car parking is available on the campus. The University also has car parks at Queen St South and Firth St, but nearer than either of these is the car park of Sainsbury's, Shorehead, which offers up to two hours' free parking without any entry control or requirement to purchase. The Civic Centre car park, and on-street parking in the town centre, are also free after 6 pm (but Kingsgate shopping centre car park is closed).

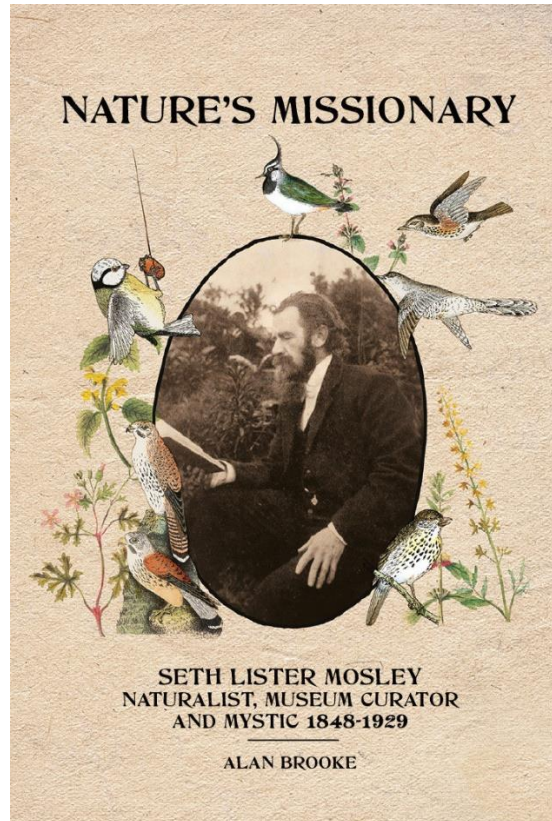
Our next talk...

After Enoch's Hammer: the Taylors of Marsden and their Iron Foundry

This talk, by our Treasurer Steve Challenger, is on Monday 30 January at 7.30 pm in Room OA4/01, Oastler Building, University of Huddersfield. It will cover the history of Marsden's 19th century iron foundry from the time it was established, after Enoch Taylor's involvement with the Luddites, to its demise in the 1890s. It will examine the impact the Foundry and its owners made on the local community. It will also briefly address how members of the Taylor family went on to establish Lord and Taylor, the oldest department store in the USA.

Prize nomination for our latest book

We have nominated our latest book for a national prize! *Nature's Missionary*, Alan Brooke's biography of pioneer naturalist Seth Lister Mosley, will be considered for the biennial Hughes Prize. This is offered by the British Society for the History of Science for the best book in the history of science, technology, and medicine, first published in English in 2021 or 2022, which is accessible to a wide audience of non-specialists.



If you've not bought it yet, the book is available at £15 [via our website](#), at our meetings and in Waterstones.

Edward Law History Prize 2023

Sadly we have not yet received any entries for this year's essay Prize, for which the closing date is 28 February. For further information go to the [Edward Law History Prize](#) page on our website.

We are considering whether to change the focus of the Prize for future years, to encourage local history research and writing specifically by school students. If any member is a history teacher who would be interested in helping to develop this idea, please contact us via info@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk

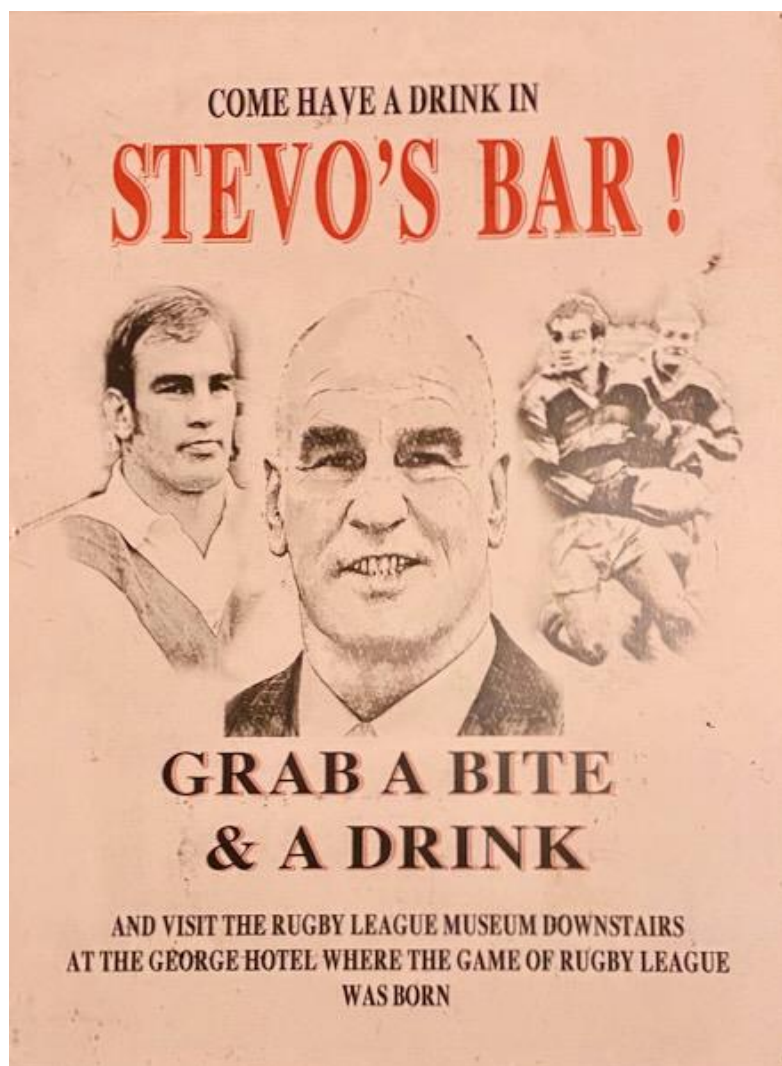
At the George! – your memories please

As readers of the newsletter will know, the Society has been collecting stories about St George's Square and its surrounding buildings. Our **Memories of Our Square** project will culminate in the publication of a book in the autumn which we are now starting to pull together.

But surprisingly, very few people have said anything about visiting the George, so we are now taking this opportunity to appeal to members to get in touch with memories of the hotel. Perhaps you held your wedding reception there, or just went in to enjoy a meal or a quick drink at one of its bars. You may have spotted a familiar face there – Gordon Kaye and James Mason are just two of the actors who are known to have visited the hotel.

Please do send us your memories, however insignificant, and take a look at this advert for Stevo's Bar – it was found in the abandoned hotel! You can message email@oursquare.org or find out more on the dedicated website:

<https://oursquare.huddersfieldhistory.org.uk/>



Heritage Action Zone – it's already year 3!

The Our Square project is of course our contribution to the Huddersfield High St Heritage Action Zone cultural programme. 2023 is the third year of the programme, for which the theme is Music, complementing the [Kirklees Year of Music](#) and plans are now being made for a range of events during the year.

Last year's theme was Arrivals, and HLHS publicity officer Christine Verguson has put together a summary of all that went on [which you can find here](#).

Cultural Heart latest

Members will be aware of the major project to create a 'cultural heart' in the area around today's Piazza Shopping Centre. Huddersfield Library has now closed, and the lending library has moved to the Customer Service Centre in Civic Centre III on High St. Local historians will have to wait a little longer for the Local Studies Library, and West Yorkshire Archive Service, to reopen in the former Argos premises in Victoria Lane – this is expected soon but no definite date is available at time of writing. Both arrangements are temporary (though for several years) until a new library is built on the Queen St side of the Piazza. Meanwhile the former Library building is to be occupied in due course by the new town centre museum.

An exhibition about the cultural heart concept, **Of Time and Place**, opens on 10 February at the temporary Art Gallery on the Piazza. It asks: 'What makes up the cultural heart of our town? Is it the people or the buildings, the past or the present, the language or the landscape?' The exhibition runs until 1 April and [full details are here](#).

Local access to the 1921 Census

The Family History Society now has the 1921 census from Findmypast at the Root Cellar in Meltham, on three of the six computers there. These can be accessed at £3 per visit for non-members, £1.50 for HDFHS members. If you have queries you'd like to make, this is a real bargain compared with £2.50 *per entry* for Findmypast subscribers. [Details of opening hours etc are here](#).

Free on-line history lectures

Gresham College in London has notified local history societies of a large number of hybrid (in person/on-line) lectures over coming months. There are several series with themes ranging from medical history to art, architecture, archaeology, landscapes and women in world religions. [Full details of the huge programme can be found here](#).

The Irish in Huddersfield: another perspective

by Richard Hobson



John Lambe talked at the November meeting about the different groups of Irish people who arrived in Huddersfield at different times from 1770. I would like to add another group – former soldiers. There were five Irishmen in Frederic Collins's 1897 photograph of veterans of the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny. They can be seen wearing their medals in four known copies, including this one from the National Archives. This image was taken in front of the Cloth Hall as part of the celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. ('A photograph fit for a Prince', [HLHS Journal](#), issue 33, 2022/23)

Andrew Moloney (back row, third from left) and John Cunningham (back row, fifth from left) were two who were enlisted for the Crimean War. Andrew (1831-1903) from Kildare served for 21 years as a private in the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers. He was active during the Indian Mutiny as well. For someone who served for such a long time it seems strange that he was considered an indifferent character. Depicted as 'addicted to drink', he faced two courts martial and was disciplined a further 25 times. However, during his time as a member of the Huddersfield Veterans' Association, he was 'of very cheerful disposition and entertaining to his comrades.'¹

¹ 'Funeral of Andrew Moloney', *Huddersfield Chronicle*, 6 July 1903.

John Cunningham (1837-1906) was born in Dungannon, County Tyrone. He was 5' 8" tall with grey eyes, brown hair and a sallow complexion. He served in the Corps of Sappers and Miners, later to become the Royal Engineers. He was in the trenches before Sebastopol. He attested on 8 May 1854, probably, seeing the Army as a better prospect than working on the land. Hiring fairs were held around the twelfth of May in more than eighty Ulster towns in the mid to late nineteenth century – a date coinciding with a time in the farming calendar when workloads and labour requirements changed.² The recruiting company 'reaped a rich harvest' on the market day for the half yearly hiring of servants in County Tyrone. The recruits, generally, were 'fine specimens of young men, likely to make good soldiers'.³

Despite serving 14 years, John was another ill-disciplined soldier, appearing before 12 courts martial. He received 50 lashes on two occasions: once, in 1859, for breaking out of barracks and losing his 'necessaries' and once for desertion while at Woolwich in 1862. He was described as an 'habitual drunk' on two occasions.

Two aspects of his character are revealed in newspaper accounts - the violent husband and the good comrade. He was a labourer in Halifax in 1871, a bricklayer in 1891 and was living in the Mason Lodging House, off Upperhead Row in 1901. In 1881, he wasn't living with his wife and children. The following year, he was reported as ill-treating his wife in a cruel and shocking manner. He stood over her with a trowel and threatened her life. Neighbours said that he was always creating a quarrel and that his behaviour was bad and noisy.⁴ Nearly twenty years later, as a regular member of the Veterans Association he was being referred to as 'Old John Cunningham' and remembered as 'one of the stalwarts' who formed B Company of the local volunteer regiment. On 7 September 1899 he wrote a letter of thanks to Major Welsh, a leading light in the Association, for getting him to the Meltham Convalescent Home which he thought would be 'the making of him'. He, also, referred to the fall of Sebastopol:

It was on Saturday at 12 noon, that we made the dash for it and by time the clock had struck 12 a few were in the happy land. But the few of us that are left in the town of Huddersfield were born lucky. To think that we got through that affair and then to be blessed by the gentlemen of this town who take such an interest in the old veterans.⁵

² 'The Hiring Fair' www.cotyroneireland.com, extracted 29 April 2021.

³ 'Recruiting goes on briskly in this locality', *The Tyrone Constitution*, 24 November 1854

⁴ 'Borough Police Court', *Huddersfield Chronicle*, 22 June 1882.

⁵ 'An old veteran reminisces', *Huddersfield Daily Chronicle*, 9 September 1899.

Thomas Ahearne (middle row, eleventh from left) was born in 1822 in Michelstown, Cork and when he enlisted in Killmallock, County Limerick in 1840, there were measures in place for the relief of the poor in Limerick City. The price of provisions and fuel had been high during the whole of winter. The condition of the poor over the previous 12 months had been unusually hard. Finding subsistence through the summer months became a problem earlier than usual because the previous potato and oat harvest had failed. His army career in the 75th Regiment of Foot lasted 21 years. At the time of his discharge, he was described as 5' 6" tall with brown hair, grey eyes and a fair complexion. In 1881 he lived on Kilner Bank, Dalton and worked as a nightwatchman in a mill. The photograph shows him wearing the Indian Mutiny medal with Delhi clasp along with medals for long service and good conduct. He died in 1898.

James Cronley (middle row, thirteenth from left) was born in 1835 and died in 1904. He was from Tullamore, County Offaly and served in India with 52nd Oxfordshire Light Infantry. He had the Delhi clasp to his Mutiny medal. On demobilisation, he was described as 5' 6" tall with brown hair and hazel coloured eyes. In June 1861 James Cronley faced an enquiry into an 'alleged' injury to his arm which concluded that he was unfit for service due to the 'impaired use of the left shoulder and from the result of a bad fracture of the clavicle.' In 1891 he was a cart driver living in Elland and in 1901 was described as an army pensioner

Thomas Galvin (1832 -1898) (middle Row, eighth from left) was born in Galway in 1832 and moved to Huddersfield as a boy. He joined the 83rd Regiment of Foot. His complexion was fresh. He had blue eyes and brown hair. After Army service, Thomas became a policeman in 1860 and was quickly promoted. In the 1861 Census he was living, as a lodger, in Duke Street, in the parish of St. Thomas. Ten years later, and married, he was an Inspector of Police living in South Street, Parish of St. Peter's. He had married Mrs Maria Toughey at St. Patrick's Church, New North Road in 1866. Later, they lived in Spring Street. On his death in 1898 it was reported that he was 'a good officer and though zealous in his duties he did not allow his zeal to run away with him. He used to describe in graphic language the hardships that were undergone by the brave heroes who did so much to build up the Empire'.⁶

Here are five men born in Ireland who served in the British Army during famous military campaigns. They settled in Huddersfield, contributing to the life of the town.

⁶ 'Death of an Indian Mutiny Veteran', *Huddersfield Daily Chronicle*, 20 January 1898.