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PRESS RELEASE

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Search for Peterloo Descendants

Peterloo 2019 • 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre



Failsworth Veterans of Peterloo © Gallery Oldham

Peterloo 2019 is hoping to connect the stories of those who were present at the **Peterloo Massacre** with the stories of today by searching for the **Peterloo Descendants**. 60,000 people assembled in Manchester on **16 August 1819** seeking rights and equality; confronted by local government forces, the day would end with the death of 18 and the injury of around 700. 200 years later the potential number of descendants is vast, as is the geographical area they could live in and the variety of stories that link to this watershed moment in British history. *Could you be a Peterloo Descendant?*

The search for Peterloo Descendants will draw upon the expertise of **Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society** and **Michala Hulme**, a leading oral historian and genealogist based at **Manchester Metropolitan University**. This is one of a number of projects that forms **Peterloo 2019**, which is led by **Manchester Histories** and funded by the **Heritage Lottery Fund**.

One of the starting points of the research is a photograph of the Failsworth Veterans of Peterloo, in which 11 men and women are pictured together (see above).

Michala Hulme, genealogist and Lecturer in History at Manchester Metropolitan University says, “We want to trace the story of Peterloo through the generations, to understand the impact of its legacy in the lives of people. We know that in a number of towns Veterans of Peterloo met in the years after the massacre, but records from the time itself are limited in their nature and in what they reveal. So we are also fascinated to hear from anyone who believes they have a family link to Peterloo.”

Karen Shannon, Chief Executive of Manchester Histories, says, “Our approach to the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre is to connect and explore the threads of what happened then to the issues and world of today. Peterloo Descendants seems a fitting way to reflect upon the journey of democratic reform and the point that we are at 200 years later.”

If you think that your family had a presence in the events that unfolded on 16 August 1819 and would like to find out more about Peterloo Descendants and how you might get involved or follow the progress, please email Janine Hague (Project Manager for Peterloo 2019) with the details that you have available at Janine@manchesterhistories.co.uk.

Those interested in starting an exploration into their own family history to see whether they have any Peterloo connections will be able to take part in a **Genealogy Open Day** that Peterloo 2019 will host during the summer.

Peterloo 2019 will mark the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre with a programme of public events, learning and creative exploration that has been developed through the partnership work of cultural organisations and communities, led by Manchester Histories and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. To find out more about plans for 2019 and the public events that will take place visit:

ManchesterHistories.co.uk and Peterloo1819.co.uk.

ENDS

Enclosed is the image of the Failsworth Veterans from 27 September 1884 © Gallery Oldham.

For further information please contact Fido PR:

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Notes to editors

The Peterloo Massacre was a watershed moment that would mark Manchester as a radical city like no other and become a defining moment for Britain's democracy. On Monday 16 August 1819, a 60,000-strong crowd walked to the meeting point at St Peter's Field in Central Manchester from as far afield as Wigan, Rochdale, Saddleworth and Altrincham to call for parliamentary representation. Shortly after the meeting began and whilst the orator Henry Hunt was making his address, local government forces charged into the crowd on horseback and with swords drawn, injuring around 700 and killing 18 men, women and children.

About Peterloo 2019

Peterloo 2019 is a Heritage Lottery Fund funded project that is led by Manchester Histories. Working with key cultural organisations and communities across Greater Manchester it will deliver a programme of activity that combines public events, learning opportunities and creative exploration.

For further information: Peterloo1819.co.uk

About Manchester Histories

Manchester Histories is a growing and dynamic charity. We work collaboratively with people, organisations and partners to reveal and celebrate the stories of the people and places that make up Greater Manchester. We connect people together to explore the past and shape the future through histories and heritage. Manchester Histories runs a yearlong programme of work as well as the magnificent Manchester Histories Festival.

For further information: ManchesterHistories.co.uk

About Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. hlf.org.uk. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #HLFsupported.

About Manchester Metropolitan University

Manchester Metropolitan University is one of the most extensive higher education centres in Europe with 38,000 students and more than 1,000 undergraduate, postgraduate and professional courses. The University educates and trains large numbers of legal and business professionals, scientists, engineers, teachers, health workers and creative professionals.

Manchester Metropolitan achieved the silver award in the Teaching Excellence Framework, has 85% of research impact rated world-leading and internationally excellent as judged in the REF, is the UK's greenest university as ranked by the People and Planet sustainability league tables and is one of the country's top 25 best employers for LGBT staff, as featured in the Stonewall Top 100 Employers ranking.

The University is in the top 200 global universities under 50 years old as ranked by the Times Higher Education and has more than 290,000 alumni living across the world, with a further 10,000 new graduates joining the community each year. Notable alumni include fashion designer Sarah Burton, actor Julie Walters, designer Thomas Heatherwick and marketing expert Jonathan Mildenhall.

For further information: 2.mmu.ac.uk/about-us/

About Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society

Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society was formed in 1964 and is now one of the largest family history societies in the world. Although the Society is united by a common interest in Genealogy and Family History, members also pursue interests in closely related fields. Many are also local historians, whilst others share an interest in the application of computers to genealogy. The Society and its Branches, between them, offer around 50 meetings a year at which an invited speaker or a Society member will speak on a topic of genealogical interest.

For further information: mlfhs.org.uk

Peterloo 2019 partners

