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**#PETERLOO2019**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**June 2019**

## **Uncover Your Peterloo Descendants** **Peterloo 2019 • 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre**

**Peterloo 2019** is inviting people to explore their own family history, including the chance to start their journey of discovery to find out whether they are connected to one of the Peterloo descendants; the 60,000 people who on 16 August 1819 gathered to peacefully demand parliamentary representation.

**Manchester Histories**, the charity leading the Peterloo 2019 programme to mark the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre, has organised two events focused upon the Peterloo descendants as part of its extensive summer calendar of activities and events. These will delve into the fascinating stories of the people involved in one of the most defining moments of Manchester's history, that's impact was to be felt across the world.

### ***The Peterloo Photograph with Michael Wood at Manchester Central Library***

*Saturday 8 June, 2pm (pay what you can £3, £5, £8), booking recommended, suitable for all ages*

Book at: [www.thepeterloophotograph.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.thepeterloophotograph.eventbrite.co.uk)

Historian and broadcaster **Michael Wood** joins **Michala Hulme**, genealogist and social historian at Manchester Metropolitan University for a very personal exploration of the Peterloo descendants.

It was two years after the death of his mother that Michael found a box of memorabilia including photos, letters, postcards, and books that had belonged to his father, whose family had lived in Manchester. Among them was a photograph from 1884 showing a group of eleven Peterloo veterans from Failsworth. This is thought to be the only

surviving image of Peterloo veterans. Starting with the photo, Michael discusses how he uncovered a fascinating tale of family history, local politics and the national story, drawing on Michala's extensive research.

### ***Trace your Peterloo People at Manchester Central Library***

*Saturday 13 July, 10am, free event, booking recommended, suitable for all ages*

Book at: <https://peterloo1819.co.uk/event/trace-your-peterloo-people/>

Throughout the day there will be different activities taking place with the aim of providing participants with assistance to start or develop their own family tree. A workshop with **Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society** gives beginners the opportunity to take part in a one to one session that could be the first step to uncovering your Peterloo past! There will also be access to a wealth of resources as well as expert assistance.

Genealogist and historian at Manchester Metropolitan University Michala Hulme will be giving both a talk about the research she's been doing into Peterloo descendants, tracing links over 200 years of family history, and carrying out a hands on Masterclass. The Masterclass is intended to help those on their research journey advance their progress, and will include computer-based work.

Also featured are a series of tours of the Library and its Vaults, including a look at the Peterloo archives in the Search room.

The sessions take place at different times across the day starting from 10am and are bookable on an individual basis.

Peterloo descendants is a theme that is running throughout the programme of activities and learning that Peterloo 2019 is delivering to mark the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre. It is also developing a newly commissioned film featuring some of today's descendants of Peterloo and the journeys that their families have gone on over the last 200 years. Now scattered across the region, nation and world, this film, which will be screened at HOME in early autumn, will bring together their stories to paint a contemporary picture and reflect upon their shared histories.

**Peterloo 2019** is led by **Manchester Histories** and supported by the **The National Lottery Heritage Fund**. For more details of the Peterloo 2019 projects, work and to explore what took place at the Peterloo Massacre visit [www.Peterloo1819.co.uk](http://www.Peterloo1819.co.uk).

## ENDS

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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 led by Manchester Histories, with support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Working with key cultural organisations and communities across Greater Manchester it is delivering a programme of activity that combines public events, learning opportunities and creative exploration to mark the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre. An interactive website leads the story-telling experience and from June to August a vast public events programme will unfold exploring the themes of protest, democracy and freedom of speech.

For further information: [Peterloo1819.co.uk](http://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](http://ManchesterHistories.co.uk)

### The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)

Thanks to National Lottery players, The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) 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. [heritagefund.org.uk](http://heritagefund.org.uk). Follow NLHF on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund.

### 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/](http://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](http://mlfhs.org.uk)

### Peterloo 2019 partners

