Petition of John Kershaw of Royton, Lancashire.

House of Commons, *Votes and Proceedings,* [23rd December 1819].

Transcribed by Helen Eden

A petition of John Kershaw of Royton, Lancashire, was presented, and read; setting forth, that in company with many of his neighbours, the petitioner went to a public meeting at Manchester on 16th day of August in the present year, which meeting, according to the best of the petitioner’s knowledge, was convened legally, and conducted peaceably; but notwithstanding that it was sanctioned by the Law of the Land, which ought to have been a protection from ruffianly violence and outrage, the meeting was assaulted by an armed military force, many of the people trampled upon by the horses, many of them bruised and cut by blows of the sabre, and several were cruelly put to death, without having any means of defense or of resistance; that such was the rush of the crowd upon this violence taking place, that the petitioner with many others was pressed to the ground, and in that situation was sorely bruised, and the collar-bone of his right side broken, whereby he was prevented from earning his living for some time, and still experiences considerable pain and inconvenience from it, frequently being deprived thereby of his natural rest, which to the petitioner, who is in his sixty-seventh year, is particularly harassing, and that for the violence thus sustained by the petitioner no adequate compensation has hitherto been afforded; wherefore he humbly prays, that the House will adopt such measures as shall bring the parties thus accused before the tribunal of their County, to answer for their misdeeds.