

## Addendum 2004

### Wolfenden

September 7, 2004

This is a compilation of tidbits on the Wolfenden family. Some of it may be "old news" (as with creating so many Addendum, the author does lose track sometimes as to what information has been shared and what hasn't!) and some of it is definitely news received recently!

#### Hannah Barnes Wolfenden Taylor

Some more information on the second wife of James Taylor, Hannah Wolfenden, also widow of William Wolfenden (brother to James Wolfenden Sr. who at one time was a partner with this James Taylor in a hatting business!) ... It ends up that she outlived her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband (James Taylor Sr.) and was buried with her first husband, William (as Hannah Wolfenden! Explain that?). So what happened to Hannah between the death of James in 1887 and her own death on December 3, 1899? Well, she was finally found in the 1891 census, living with Susannah Ashton... the details are:

37 Canal Street, Chadderton, Oldham, Christ Church<sup>1</sup>

Susannah Ashton	Head	Wid	50		Oldham
William Ashton	Son	S	25	Pattern Maker (Iron Works)	Chadderton
Thomas Ashton	Son	S	21	Operative Cotton Spinner	Chadderton
John Ashton	Son	Widr	30	Operative Cotton Spinner	Chadderton
Alice Ashton	Grand Daur	S	8	Scholar	Chadderton
Hannah Taylor	Aunt	Wid	68	Retired Hat Trimmer	Hollinwood

Not sure how Hannah is related to Susannah. Researching the 1881 census ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)), we find that Susannah was already widowed and that doesn't provide us with any new information.

#### Household:

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Age	Birthplace	Occupation	Disability
<a href="#">Susannah ASHTON</a>	Head	W	Female	40	Hollinwood, Lancashire, England	Housekeeper	
<a href="#">James ASHTON</a>	Son	U	Male	19	Chadderton, Lancashire, England	Piecer In Cotton Mill	
<a href="#">William ASHTON</a>	Son	U	Male	15	Chadderton, Lancashire, England	Warehouseboy Cotton Mill	
<a href="#">Thomas ASHTON</a>	Son	U	Male	11	Chadderton, Lancashire, England	Piecer Cotton Mill	

<sup>1</sup> RG12/3371, Page 23, Schedule No. 132. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

---

## Source Information:

Dwelling	37 Bottoms
Census Place	Chadderton, Lancashire, England
Family History Library Film	<a href="#">1341978</a>
Public Records Office Reference	RG11
Piece / Folio	4088 / 12
Page Number	17

The 1901 census<sup>2</sup> gives us no new information. Susannah is now living with her son William Ashton.

57 Albert Street, Chadderton, Oldham

William Ashton	Head	Widr	35	Pattern Maker Ironworks	Oldham
Susannah Ashton	Mother	Wid	60		Oldham
Thomas Ashton	Brother	Widr	31	Machine Minder Cotton Mill	Oldham
Alice Ashton	Niece	S	18	Cotton Reeler	Oldham

## WOLFENDEN & TAYLOR

The author also renewed acquaintance with Mavis Mason with whom the author had corresponded years ago in response to Ian McKee's mention of Mavis' name in the aforementioned section! Small world! Well, Mavis provided the following tidbits which involve the Wolfenden family<sup>3</sup>.

### Birch

"BIRCH. Annie Wolfenden Christened 10/5/1860, occupation hat trimmer married Joseph Birch, they had a family and lived for a time on Hollins Road Hollinwood. Later on the family moved to Hudson Street Hollinwood near to the Bethesda Chapel where most of the Wolfendens worshipped. When I was a youngster I can remember visiting the house on Hudson Street where two of Annie and Joseph's two daughters still lived, I remember them as very old ladies but of course they were not, they were very active in the Chapel activities. My two aunts – dad's two sisters were very good friends of theirs besides being cousins. My two aunts and Sarah and Doris Birch never married, but I seem to think there were other siblings. The Birchs were all buried in Hollinwood Cemetery in the Chapel grounds."

We previously discovered the family in 1891 at 915 Hollins Road ...

Joseph Birch	Head	M	30	Warehouseman at Hatters Mill	Lancashire, Manchester
Annie Birch	Wife	M	30		Lancashire, Oldham
Lucy Birch		Daughter	6	Scholar	Lancashire, Oldham

---

<sup>2</sup> accessed 8/24/04, <http://www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.jspx>, RG 13/3823, Page 58, entry 325

<sup>3</sup> e-mail received 7/12/03 from Mavis Mason, [baron@baronmaston.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:baron@baronmaston.freeserve.co.uk)

So, by 1901, Lucy would be 16, Sarah would be 14 and one supposes that Doris was born between 1891 and 1901!

Searching <http://www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> for the Birch family, assuming that they still live in Oldham, we find what the author thinks are the relevant entries (currently unverified).

<a href="#">Joseph Birch</a>	40	Lancs Oldham	Lancaster	Oldham	Warehouseman Cotton Mill
<a href="#">Annie Birch</a>	40	Lancs Oldham	Lancaster	Oldham	
<a href="#">Lucy Birch</a>	16	Lancs Oldham	Lancaster	Oldham	Weaver Cotton
<a href="#">Sarah Birch</a>	14	Lancs Oldham	Lancaster	Oldham	Weaver Cotton
<a href="#">Doris Birch</a>	6	Lancs Oldham	Lancaster	Oldham	

### Cheetham

Telephone—755, Oldham. Established 1878.

**Reuben Cheetham & Sons,**  
**FUNERAL DIRECTORS and OAK**  
**COFFIN MAKERS. CERTIFIED EMBALMERS.**  
 17, Ellesmere Street, Failsworth ;  
 Also at 89, Minor Street, Failsworth ; and at  
 24, Eastwood Road, New Moston.  
 Modern Hearses and Carriages. Wedding Equipages  
 Supplied. Reasonable Charges.

*“Emma married Reuben Cheetham who founded a very successful funeral business in Failsworth, he was the funeral director as was his son John who took over the business when his father died. The business prospered. John's one regret was that he never had a son to pass the business on (advertisement from 1914)*

to. He had two daughters but they were not interested, so when he died the business was sold.”

(Below: 1933 advertisement)

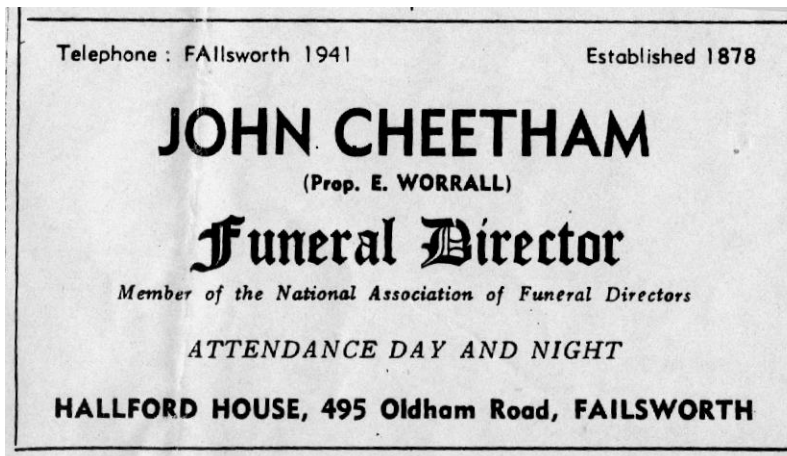
Tel.—Works Residence } 1931, Failsworth. Established 1878.

**Reuben Cheetham & Sons**  
**Undertakers and Funeral Directors.**  
**CREMATIONS. Coffins, Caskets, and Metallic Shells.**  
**ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERTAKERS.**  
 Our Motors, Hearses, & Carriages are the best in the District. Private Motor Saloons for Weddings.  
 Attendance Day and Night. All Funerals personally conducted.  
 — NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER FIRM. —  
**TIMBER IMPORTERS AND MERCHANTS. Sawing, Planing, and Moulding Mills.**  
 OUR ONLY ADDRESSES :—  
**Hallford House, 495, Oldham Road, Failsworth.**  
**Lindum House, Eastwood Rd., New Moston ; 108, Oldham Rd., Failsworth.**

Matter for the Magazine should be handed in to the Editor BEFORE the 18th of the Month. All communications respecting the advertising in this Magazine to be made to Rev. W. SMITH, 244, Ashton Rd. West, Failsworth. Magazines can be obtained from Mr. J. E. TUNNICLIFFE, 86, Church Street, Failsworth.

The author received a letter from Jim Middleton<sup>†</sup> and this is what he shares:

*“When I was a boy in the 1950s I lived close by Cheethams funeral directors on Oldham Rd, Failsworth. It is on a block of houses and is still there today, although it is now a normal house... I passed the premises on Oldham Road today and it still looks exactly the same, even the paintwork has not been renewed. When I was a teenager I started work in a butchers shop which was opposite Cheethams and was completely fascinated by watching the comings and goings at Cheethams. One of our customers was the other funeral director Harold Heywood. I was always keen to watch funerals go past and eventually became a funeral director myself.”*



*(apparently after John died ... notice the reference to E. Worrall as the proprietor)*

An excerpt from *“A Glimpse of New Moston”* by Bernard Savage, New Moston History Society, 1999, states on page 30 – *“Over the road (Eastwood Road), the large detached house, now Lindele House – the old peoples’ home, was previously called Willow Cottage and here lived the Robinsons. Mrs. Robinson ran a cats home. The Robinsons first lived at Willow Cottage as the housekeepers for a lady, who later went to live in Cheshire, and Robinsons took the house over. Their daughter Winnie, was at one time the Rose Queen in the 1930’s at St. Chads Church, she later married Dick Hallam, who had to spend all his life in a wheelchair. Further down the road on this side, at Lindum House, No. 24, one of the two semis between the chapel and the scout hut, lived Ruben Cheetham, who had the undertaker’s business in Failsworth.”* There is also an entry on page 56 – *“There was Reuben Cheetham, the undertaker and funeral director in Failsworth, who had a private address at Lindum House on Eastwood Rd. – next to the 346 scout hut.”*

---

<sup>†</sup> letter received 2003, Jim Middleton, 5 Ockendon Drive, Harpurhey, Manchester M9 5UB, via inquiry in *Funeral Director Magazine*

The author asked the Oldham Local Studies Library about Reuben Cheetham and the Library provided a listing of his entries from the Directories of the time.<sup>5</sup> She learned that Reuben is rarely listed between 1875 and 1938 and that a Sydney Cheetham is similarly listed as a joiner and as an undertaker. One wonders if they are related given the common nature of their surname and occupations

- "1875            Sydney Cheetham, joiner & builder, Partington Street. House: 4, Rothwell St.
- 1879            Sydney Cheetham, joiner & builder, Partington St.
- 1880            Reuben Cheetham, joiner, builder & coffin maker, New Rd., Failsworth
- 1880            Sidney Cheetham, joiner & builder, Partington St. House: 19 Regent St.
- 1884            Reuben Cheetham, New Road, Failsworth. Residence: 907, Hollins Road, Hollinwood
- 1888/9          Reuben Cheetham, joiner, builder & coffin maker, Holebottom, Wickentree Lane.  
Residence: 603, Oldham Road, Failsworth
- 1891            Sidney Cheetham, Senior & Sidney Cheetham, Junior, 19, Regent Street
- 1891            Sidney Cheetham & Co., 13, Partington Street, Mumps
- 1895            Sidney Cheetham, joiner & builder, 13, Partington Street, Mumps Residence: 9,  
Regent Street
- 1901            Sidney Cheetham, joiner & builder, 13, Partington Street, Mumps
- 1905            Sidney Cheetham, joiner & builder, 13, Partington Street, Mumps
- 1924            Sidney Cheetham & Sons, undertakers, Albert Street, Mumps
- 1924/5          Sidney Cheetham & Sons, undertakers, Albert Street, Mumps
- 1926/7          Sidney Cheetham & Sons, undertakers, Albert Street, Mumps
- 1933/4          Sidney Cheetham & Sons, undertakers, Albert Street, Mumps
- 1938            Sidney Cheetham & Sons, undertakers, Albert Street, Mumps

I have also found a newspaper cutting detailing those attending the funeral, in April 1965, of John Cheetham, of 296, Hollinwood Avenue, Chadderton, formerly of Failsworth. He was 80 years old and had been a timber merchant and funeral director until retiring 12 years previously. The cutting just lists names with no addresses and some have no surname." The following is an excerpt from the notice that appeared in the Oldham Weekly Chronicle, 10 April 1965. "The funeral took place on Monday of Mr. John Cheetham, of 296 Hollinwood Avenue, Chadderton, formerly of Failsworth, who died in hospital on the Thursday. He was aged 80 and before his retirement 12 years ago, he was a timber merchant and funeral director. Committal was at Oldham Crematorium, where the service was conducted by the Rev. G.G. Wakefield, minister of Failsworth Methodist Church... Mourners were ... Misses L. and D.

---

<sup>5</sup> e-mail received 8/14/03, ecs.archives@oldham.gov.uk, Mary Pendlebury, Library Assistant, Oldham Local Studies & Archives, 84, Union Street, OLDHAM OL1 1DN, Tel/Fax: 0161 911 4654

Birch... Floral tributes were from ... Lucy and Doris... Mr. E. Worrall (John Cheetham) Failsworth, was the funeral director.

The author also has access to "Kelly's Directory, Manchester, Salford & Suburbs 1929"<sup>6</sup> which lists under Manchester Suburban:

Cheetham Jn, Undertaker (R. Cheetham & Son); res Hallford Ho. Oldham Rd. Failsworth, TN Failsworth 141

Cheetham R. & Son, Undertakers, Oldham Rd, Failsworth

Cheetham Reuben & Son, Timber Merchants, 91 Wicken Tree Lane, Failsworth, TN Failsworth 141

Cheetham, Mrs Emma; 24 Eastwood Road, Failsworth

### Whittaker

We know that Lucy Wolfenden married Dennis Whittaker in 1885. From the marriage certificate, the author was curious as to how some one from Surrey (near London) could marry someone from Hollinwood even if the groom shared a profession (hatter) with the father of the bride! Well, it ends up that Dennis was originally from Failsworth and his father and family still lived there at the time of their marriage. We find in 1881 that Dennis is living in Surry at 51 Hatfield St., Southwark Christchurch, Surrey as a lodger.<sup>7</sup>

Alfred Hayler	Head	M	Male	50	Hasting, Sussex	Carpenter
Elizabeth Hayler	Wife	M	Female	39	Langley, Buckingham	
Deniss Whittaker	Lodger	U	Male	21	Failsworth, Lancashire	Hatter
George Levalette	Lodger	M	Male	46	Caen, France	Printer Reader

At the time, his father and family were living at Wicken Tree Lane, Failsworth, Lancashire<sup>8</sup>

Nelson Whittaker	Head	M	Male	47	Failsworth	Felt Hat Body Maker
Sophia Whittaker	Wife	M	Female	46	Failsworth	
Hanh. Whittaker	Dau	U	Female	22	Failsworth	Hat Trimmer

From the marriage license, we know that one of the witnesses was Harvey Whittaker ... figuring that this was a relative ... from above we see that it might or might not be a brother and further search reveals a Harvey Whittaker, also a Hatter, whose family lives just down the street from the family of Nelson Whittaker<sup>9</sup>. The author suspects that this was a cousin.

<sup>6</sup> A facsimile reproduction of the Original Book, The Archive CD Books Project, [www.archivecdbooks.org](http://www.archivecdbooks.org), copyright 2002

<sup>7</sup> accessed 8/10/2003, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), RG 11, 0515/110, Page 41

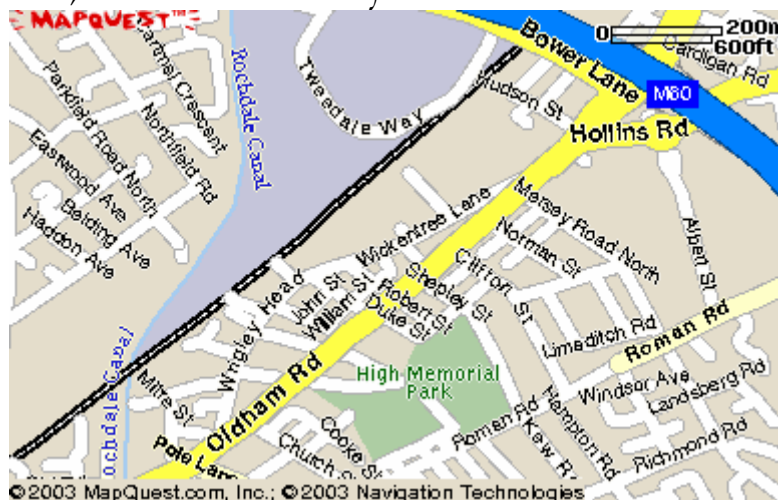
<sup>8</sup> accessed 8/10/2003, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), RG11, 4028/12, Page 18

<sup>9</sup> accessed 8/10/2003, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), RG11, 4028/13, Page 19

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
<a href="#">Reubin WHITTAKER</a>	Head	M	Male	50	Failsworth, Lancashire	Felt Hat Body Maker
<a href="#">Mary WHITTAKER</a>	Wife	M	Female	52	Failsworth, Lancashire	
<a href="#">Alexandria WHITTAKER</a>	Dau	U	Female	23	Failsworth, Lancashire	Hatter
<a href="#">Jasper WHITTAKER</a>	Son	U	Male	21	Failsworth, Lancashire	Hatter
<a href="#">Harvey WHITTAKER</a>	Son	U	Male	18	Failsworth, Lancashire	Hatter
<a href="#">Effie WHITTAKER</a>	Dau	U	Female	15	Failsworth, Lancashire	Cotton Operative
<a href="#">Archie WHITTAKER</a>	Son	U	Male	13	Failsworth, Lancashire	Hatter
<a href="#">Mabel WHITTAKER</a>	Dau	U	Female	10	Failsworth, Lancashire	Scholar

Again, notice the occupation of Hatter!

What is listed as Wicken Tree Lane appears to be Wickentree Lane<sup>10</sup> now and in 1848 was listed as Hole Bottom which connected Whigley Head with Stake Leach (familiar from the Taylor family ... literally just down the road!). Also, Wicken Tree Lane is one of the addresses where Reuben Cheetham can be found.



<sup>10</sup> accessed 8/16/03, [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) & [www.old-maps.com](http://www.old-maps.com)



Now, in 1891, we find the Whittakers, son and father. Dennis is in Leyton<sup>11</sup> (in Essex and a suburb of London!) and living on a street with many Hat Manufacturers and his father, Nelson is at 47 Wicken Tree Lane, Failsworth, with wife Sophia and many of Whittakers<sup>12</sup>. Obviously Failsworth had a large Whittaker clan!

3 Oakdale Road, Leyton, Essex

Dennis Whittaker	Head	M	31	Hatter	Lancashire, Failsworth
Lucy Whittaker	Wife	M	27		Lancashire, Hollinwood
James Whittaker	Son		4		Essex, Leyton
Harold Whittaker	Son		3		Essex, Leyton

Apparently, in 1901 the Whittaker family remained in Leyton Essex. The 1901 census lists Dennis, Lucy and Howard and James Whittaker in Leyton. No occupation is listed for Dennis.

Dennis Whittaker	41	Lancs Failsworth (born)	Essex, Leyton (where living)	... (occupation)
Lucy Whittaker	39	Lancs Failsworth	" "	
James Whittaker	14	Essex Leyton	" "	
Howard Whittaker	13	Essex Leyton	" "	

From Vestry House<sup>13</sup> it is now known that the family was at:

Kelly's Directory, 1901/02, gives this entry:  
Whittaker, Dennis: 61 Murchison Road, Leyton

<sup>11</sup> accessed 9/9/2003, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), 1891 UK Census, RG 12/1348, Folio 35, Page 18, ED 31

<sup>12</sup> accessed 9/9/2003, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), 1891 UK Census, RG 12/3267, Folio 62, Page 17, ED 3

<sup>13</sup> e-mail received 9/6/2003, Jo Parker (Archivist), Waltham Forest Archives, Vestry House Museum, Vestry Road, Walthamstow, London E17 9NH



John Wolfenden (brother of James)

Unfortunately, one of the Wolfenden clan had some notoriety in his manner of death. The Manchester Courier on August 9, 1882 reported the following:

DEATH FROM DRINK.—An inquest was held at Hollinwood yesterday before Mr. Coroner Molesworth, on the body of John Wolfenden, who terminated his existence by hanging himself on the previous day. Deceased's wife stated that he had been married 26 years. Her husband was a journeyman hatter by trade, but had not worked for 12 years. He had been drinking heavily for a fortnight, and she did not think he had tasted food in that period.—William Wolfenden, son of deceased, found him hanging from the bed-post on Monday evening dead. He had been left alone during the afternoon, and had taken this opportunity of committing the rash act which ended his life. The jury returned a verdict that deceased committed suicide while of unsound mind.—*Manchester Courier*, Aug. 9.

This entry was brought to the author's notice via a web-site called "Black Sheep Index"<sup>14</sup> and this site was also able to provide the above entry.

This was the brother of James Wolfenden. This would make his death about August 7, 1892. Apparently the tombstone stated August 17<sup>th</sup> and that could be an error in reading the stone as our John Wolfenden was a hatter in Hollinwood who died in August 1892 and had been married to his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife for 26 years and had a son William.

---

<sup>14</sup> accessed August 2003, <http://www.lightage.demon.co.uk/>