

Woolfenden/Wolfenden tidbits

Rochdale Connection

[James & Ann Wolfenden ... 1861 Census](#)

[James Wolfenden \(jnr\) Siblings in the census](#)

[Death & Burial – James & Sarah Ann](#)

For all the success we previously had researching this family ... there had been some gaping holes such as the 1861 census information for James and Ann and the deaths of James (Jr) and wife Sarah Ann! Well, with a little perseverance and some assistance, those are 2 less questions we now have! In fact, we have now answered the original "open" items in the original research. Still undetermined though is the ancestry of James (Sr) and the maiden name of wife Ann.

Rochdale Connection

As with other family lines, this one has been plagued with a brick wall when James Wolfenden shows up in Oldham after being born in Rochdale ... like the Taylor family! Also the availability of new, more readily accessible databases have made it easier to go back and fill in some holes! And, it never hurts to check out the www and see if anything new pops up! Additionally, as one fellow researcher lamented "why couldn't they have had unusual names and/or occupations instead of a first names of James and an occupation of Hatter;" both being quite common in Lancashire at the time!

For instance, the tombstone below from St. Chad's cemetery, Rochdale¹, refers to a Jonathan and Henry Woolfenden, from Rochdale who were both hatters! Are they somehow related to James? There are many other examples of individuals names Wolfenden that worked as hatters in the Rochdale and Oldham area ...



Here resteth the body of Jonathan Woolfenden Hatter
who died Oct 6th 1813 in the 47th year of his age.
Samuel son of Jonathan Woolfenden died March 28th 1799 aged 9
mths. Also Henry Woolfenden Hatter
who died Jany 9th 1813 in the 79th year of his age.
Also Henry the son of Joseph and Mary Woolfenden Painter
who died Decr 23rd 1836 in his 2nd year.

¹ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~todmordenandwalsden/St.Chads.htm>

James & Ann Wolfenden -- 1861

We previously had not been able to find the James & Ann Wolfenden in the 1861 census. We found them in 1841, 1851 and the widow Ann in 1871. So, for completeness we re-researched them in the 1861 census and found them! The embarrassing aspect of this quest .. they were living an address over from their son James and next door to or in the same abode as their daughter Mary Wolfenden Winterbottom! "Talk about the forest for the trees!"

1861 England Census²

Oldham, Oldham Below Town, Lancashire

James Wolfenden	head	67	owner of property	Lancashire, Rochdale
Ann Wolfenden	wife	66		Lancashire, Oldham
John Winterbotton	head	31	(illegible)	Lancashire, Oldham
Mary Ann Winterbottom	wife	25		Lancashire, Oldham
Frederick Winterbottom	son	1		Lancashire, Oldham

James Wolfenden (Jnr) Siblings Through the Census

With improved access to the 1861-1901 UK census, we were able to fill in some gaps on the Wolfenden siblings!

John Wolfenden, 1861 Census

1861 England Census³

Stockport, Cheshire, England

Carrington Field

John Wolfenden	head	40	Hatter	Oldham Lancs
May Wolfenden	wife	35	Hatter	Oldham Lancs
Mary Ann Wolfenden	daur	14	Reeler	Oldham Lancs
John Wolfenden	son	11	scholar	Oldham Lancs
William Wolfenden	son	3	none	Oldham Lancs
Arthur Wolfenden	son	1	none	Oldham Lancs

Mary Wolfenden Winterbottom, 1871 Census

1871 England Census⁴

² www.ancestry.com, 1861 England Census, RG9/3011, Oldham, Oldham Below Town, ED 22, Folio 76, Page 37, Household schedule #200, GSU #543064

³ www.ancestry.com, 1861 England Census, RG9/2567, Stockport, Stockport First, ED 19, Folio 20, Page 34, Household schedule #195, GSU #542991

⁴ www.ancestry.com, 1871 England Census, RG10/4065, Manchester, Failsworth, ED 5, Folio 114, Page 20, Household schedule #117, GSU #846347

*Failsworth, Manchester, England
New Road*

<i>John Winterbottom</i>	<i>head</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>Drayer</i>	<i>Lancashire, Hollinwood</i>
<i>Mary Winterbottom</i>	<i>wife</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>Milliner Dressmaker</i>	<i>Lancashire, Failsworth</i>
<i>Frederick Winterbottom</i>	<i>son</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>scholar</i>	<i>Lancashire, Hollinwood</i>

(Note: no idea why Mary's birthplace is given as Failsworth when all the Wolfenden siblings were born in Hollinwood, Oldham)

The Gap

After looking at the family for the zillionth time ... it is realized that there is quite a gap between the 4th son born to James and Ann in 1825 and their daughter Mary Ann born in 1836 ... hmmm ... so, off to the IGI (www.familysearch.org) for another look-see to see if we have overlooked an entry. Well, we have found the following "patron submitted" entry ...

Fenny Wolfenden

Female

Event(s):

Birth:

Christening: About 14 AUG 1825 St Mary, Oldham, Lancashire, England

Death:

Burial:

Parents:

Father: [James Wolfenden](#) [Family](#)

Mother: [Mrs Ann Wolfenden](#)

Though, this would be a bit of a conflict with son Henry baptized 3 July 1825! ... and, we are not seeing if "this" James is a hatter and there were many James & Ann Wolfenden families at the time!

Death & Burial – James & Ann

Oldham Local Studies⁵ was a tremendous help with tracking down where James and Ann were buried which gave us the details of their death dates ...

"St. Margaret's Church, Hollinwood -- found the following entries that are the nearest matches to the details you sent:

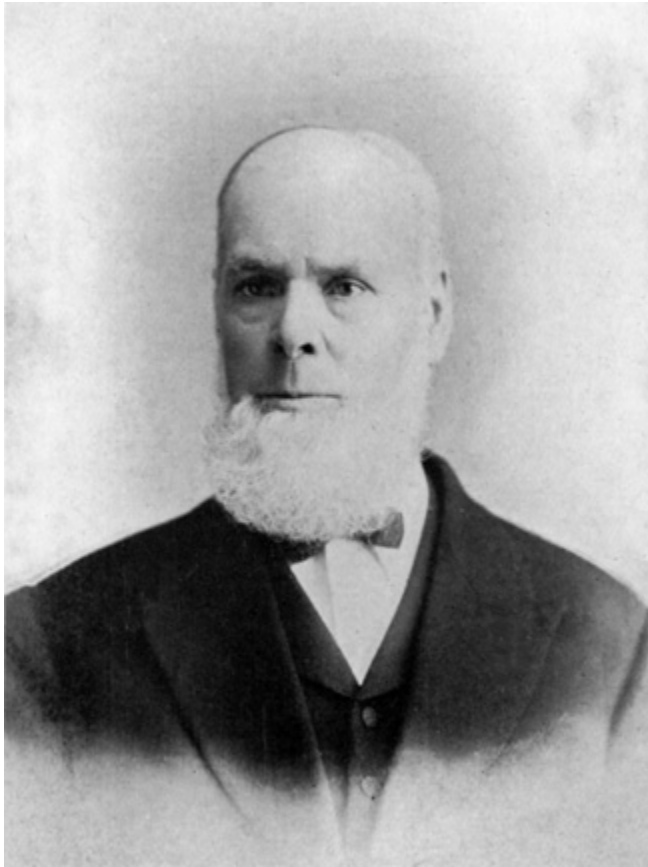
1888, November 19th, James Wolfenden, aged 69 years, abode Prestwich

⁵ e-mails received 9/17/2005 & 9/19/2005, Local Studies local.studies@oldham.gov.uk

COMPLETE

Wo(o)lfenden – Bits 'n Pieces

1900, August 3rd, Sarah Ann Wolfenden, aged 77 years, abode 619 Hollins Road (funeral under Act 1880 - S F McKee Baptist Minister)



Note that though Sarah Ann was buried in St. Margaret's churchyard, the service was performed by S.F. McKee, a Baptist Minister (who had a child that married into the Taylor family ... also Particular Baptists and Hatters by trade!)

From the site of Ian McKee (a familiar name from the Taylor family research), we find a photo of S.F. McKee, taken a few years after the burial of Sarah Ann.

[source: photo --

<http://www.locus.plus.com/genealogy/Pages/McKeeSF.html>
... the site also contains biographical information on SF McKee]

Although we cannot be sure about why James's place of abode is down as Prestwich, it was the location of a large asylum and workhouse. People categorized as 'lunatics' in the Oldham Union were sent to Prestwich."

Hmmm ... someone has checked a published index for Prestwich Asylum covering this period and James is

not listed. So, options are:

- visiting someone and happened to die there, or,
- according to Kathryn McKee, "there was a hospital in Prestwich (became Delaunay's Hospital) attached to the workhouse but for the surrounding area, not just inmates. Unfortunately, yearbooks for the hospital don't survive before 1889."
- The index is wrong!

Using FreeBMD to access the death indices, we can correlate these deaths to the following entries:

1. Wolfenden, James, 69, Prestwich, 8d 328 (Dec. Q 1888)
2. Wolfenden, Sarah Ann, 77, Oldham, 8d 443 (Sep. Q 1900)

COMPLETE

Wo(o)lfenden – Bits 'n Pieces

The Lancashire Record Office⁶ reports:

A copy of the National Probate Index to 1966 is held at this office and a search revealed the following entry for James Wolfenden:

1889 Probate Calendar 24 April

Personal Estate £721.10s.

Administration of the personal estate of James Wolfenden late of 915 Hollins Rd. Hollinwood in Oldham in the County of Lancaster who died 12 Nov. 1888 at Prestwich in the said County was granted at Manchester to Sarah Ann Wolfenden of 915 Hollins Rd. Widow of Relict.

No further details are recorded.

In a subsequent e-mail, the Lancashire Record Office⁷ reports:

“This index [the National Probate Calendar] was searched and the following entry was found for Sarah Ann Wolfenden:

1900 Probate Calendar 1st Oct

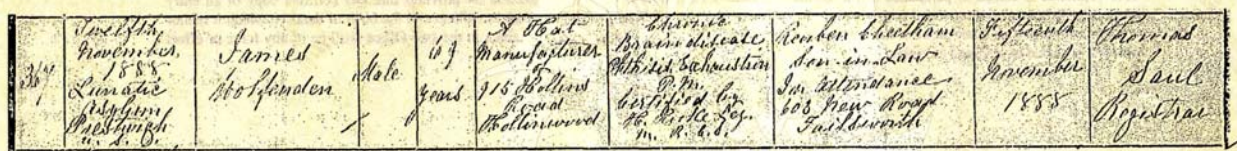
Personal Estate 276.10s. Sarah Ann Wolfenden of 915 Hollins Rd. Oldham widow died 31 July 1900

Administration Manchester 1 Oct. to Alice Taylor widow and Emma Cheetham (wife of Reuben Cheetham) Effects 276.10s. Resworn March 1901. 334.17s.6d.

No further details are recorded.”

This is interesting as it doesn't mention Annie or Joseph Birch ... with whom Sarah Ann was living in 1891. It also mentions our direct line ... which is Alice Wolfenden Taylor, widow of Samuel Taylor who died in 1890! And, obviously the 12 years between the death of James and that of Sarah Ann depleted the money left since only about half was left after the total was resworn!

To clarify what happened to James, we obtained his death certificate!



#367 Twelfth November 1888, Lunatic Asylum, Prestwich U.S.D.

James Wolfenden male 69 years

⁶ e-mail received 9/22/2005, Record Office [Record.Office@ed.lancsc.gov.uk], Bruce Jackson, County Archivist, Ref A1/R-CS, email by C Swarbrick

⁷ e-mail received 9/30/05, Record Office [Record.Office@ed.lancsc.gov.uk], Bruce Jackson, County Archivist, Ref A1/R-CS, email by C Swarbrick

COMPLETE

Wo(o)lfenden – Bits 'n Pieces

A Hat Manufacturer of 915 Hollins Road Hollinwood

Died of: Chronic Brain disease, phthisis, exhaustion

Informant: Reuben Cheetham, son-in-law, in Attendance, 603 New Road, Failsworth

So, apparently James did die at Prestwich and so we don't know why he is not listed in its records ... this information matches age, occupation and address as we already knew and the informant was his son-in-law!

Okay ... have persevered with the Lancashire Record Office⁸

"I was initially very puzzled by your information but I now appear to have solved the problem. James Wolfenden does not appear to be listed on the CD of admissions to Prestwich Hospital, 1851-1901, which has been published after extensive research by the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society, but I have looked at the actual hospital records. I was even more puzzled when I did not find James Wolfenden listed in a Register of Discharges and Deaths, 1887-1892 (reference QAM 6/16/8), but a search of the Notices of Deaths, 1887-89 (reference QAM 6/19/14) revealed a Notice of Death for James Wolfenden, indicating that he had died in the hospital on **12** November, 1888 (I note that you state that the death certificate indicates 19 November), and most crucially, that he was a **private** patient. These were comparatively few in number and are recorded differently; this probably explains, for example, why he was not included in the above mentioned Register of Discharges and Deaths."

So, we will work towards seeing about getting more info on James and his stay at the hospital from either the Lancashire Records Office or the Greater Manchester County Record Office either via Ian McKee or directly.

⁸ e-mail received 10/6/2005, Record Office [Record.Office@ed.lancscc.gov.uk], Bruce Jackson, County Archivist, LL/RO/A1/R/DB, (This e-mail has been answered by David Blake), Having identified a record of James Wolfenden and his status, there may also be information about his time spent as a patient at the hospital in the following records: Reference QAM 6/6/39 - Medical Case Book - Private Patients, 1884-1892; Reference QAM 6/11/5 - Index to Patients' Registers, 1886-89; Reference QAM 6/12/1 - Register of Admissions of Private Patients, 1884-1900; Reference QAM 6/17/1 - Register of Removals, Discharges and Deaths of Private Patients, 1884-1906; Reference QAM 6/19/14 - Notices of Deaths, 1887-89