

# **SOURCES ON THE PETERLOO MASSACRE 1819**

**A SUBJECT GUIDE ON LABOUR HISTORY THEMES BY THE  
SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF LABOUR HISTORY**

# **MARX MEMORIAL LIBRARY & WORKERS' SCHOOL**

Contact • Marx Memorial Library,  
37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU  
Tel: 020 7253 1485  
Web: [www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk](http://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk)  
Email: [m.jump@marx-memorial-library.org.uk](mailto:m.jump@marx-memorial-library.org.uk)

The Marx Memorial Library & Workers' School was founded in 1933 in response to the rise of fascism in Europe. Its aim today remains the advance of education, knowledge and understanding of all aspects of Marxism and the history of socialism and working-class struggle. At the heart of the British labour movement for over 80 years, the Library is home to a unique collection of published and archival sources on related subjects, including the Spanish Civil War, trade unionism and peace and solidarity campaigns. The Library's education programme – online and on-site – covers subjects ranging from political and economic theory to socialist art.

The Marx Memorial Library holds the following contemporary documents on the Peterloo Massacre:

- An Impartial Narrative of the Late Melancholy Occurrences in Manchester. Printed and Published by Henry Fisher (1819)
- Report of the Metropolitan and Central Committee appointed for the Relief of the Manchester Sufferers with An Appendix containing the names of the Sufferers and the Nature and Extent of their Injuries. Also, an Account of the Distribution of the Funds and other Documents published by order of the Committee (1820)
- Sherwin's Weekly Political Register Vol V No. 16 21 August 1819 on 'Horrid Massacre at Manchester'.

We also hold three contemporary ceramics celebrating Henry Hunt and commemorating the Martyrs. These, too, form part of our James Klugman Collection.

# **MODERN RECORDS CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK**

Contact ● Modern Records Centre,  
University of Warwick,  
Gibbet Hill Road, Coventry, CV4 7AL  
Tel: 024 7652 4219  
Email: [archives@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:archives@warwick.ac.uk)  
Web: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/>

Although the majority of the Modern Records Centre's collections date from after the time of Peterloo, some relevant documents are included in the collections of both the MRC and the University of Warwick Library Special Collections.

These include:

- Bound volume of satirical pamphlets published by William Hone between 1820-1822, some illustrated by George Cruickshank. Available online at <https://wdc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/spc/id/13039/rec/31>
- Published report of the 1822 court case brought by Thomas Redford, a Middleton hatter, against members of the Manchester Yeomanry for injuries from a sabre received during the Peterloo Massacre. Available online at <https://wdc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/spc/id/12777/rec/32>
- 'The story of Peterloo' by F.A. Bruton, 1919 - Pamphlet produced in Manchester to mark the centenary, available online at <https://mrc-catalogue.warwick.ac.uk/records/TMM/5/MIS/5>
- 'The centenary of the massacre of British workers, Peterloo, Manchester, Monday, August 16th, 1819' by C.A. Glyde, Aug 1919 - Communist Party pamphlet produced to mark the centenary, available online at <https://mrc-catalogue.warwick.ac.uk/records/MSH/2/566/72>
- 'Peterloo: The story of the terrible massacre of the Lancashire workers at St Peter's Fields, Manchester, on August 16th, 1819, and the lessons of Peterloo', Aug 1928 - Communist Party pamphlet, available online at <https://mrc-catalogue.warwick.ac.uk/records/MSH/2/103/86>
- The Modern Records Centre's online exhibition 'Dare to be free: Revolt and reform in Regency England' includes information about more documents relating to political protest in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century [ <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/explore/further/images/regency/> ]

# **THE WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES**

Contact ● The Welsh Political Archive,  
The National Library of Wales,  
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3BU  
Tel 01970 632800  
Email: [gofyn@llyfrgell.cymru](mailto:gofyn@llyfrgell.cymru)  
Web: [www.library.wales/welshpoliticalarchive](http://www.library.wales/welshpoliticalarchive)

The Welsh Political Archive was established in 1983 to coordinate the collection of archives and documents relating to the political history of Wales. We hold many works in our published collections related to the Peterloo Massacre – please see our online catalogue.

Our archival collections include;

- Harpton Court Estate Records (C816) Letter from Alfred Austin to Sir George Cornewall Lewis noting that Samuel Bamford wishes to have an accurate account of his trial after the Peterloo Massacre, July 16<sup>th</sup> 1848
- Bunsen and Waddington Letters (1/47) -file of letters from Frances Bunsen and Charles Bunsen to Mrs Waddington of Llanover Court. "thanks Mrs Waddington for account of [Manchester Massacre] or [Battle of Peterloo], October 13<sup>th</sup> 1819

# WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT LIBRARY

Contact ● Working Class Movement Library  
Jubilee House  
51, The Crescent  
Salford M5 4WX  
Tel 0161 736 3601  
Email: [enquiries@wcml.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wcml.org.uk).  
Web: <http://www.wcml.org.uk>

The Working Class Movement Library is a national collection of the history of British and Irish radical and labour movements from the late 18th century up to the present day. It includes books, pamphlets, leaflets, banners, pottery, prints, photographs, personal papers, posters, videos, trade union records and much else that documents and illuminates the story of working class struggles for social justice, democracy and equality. The Library is open to everyone to visit by appointment between 10am and 5pm Tuesday to Friday, and the catalogue is available online at [www.wcml.org.uk/catalogue](http://www.wcml.org.uk/catalogue) - although not all material has yet been catalogued, this is often a useful first port of call.

## Peterloo resources include:

- Map that once belonged to William Hulton, the magistrate who ordered that the crowd be dispersed and Henry Hunt arrested. It shows the area surrounding St Peter's Fields and includes description of the yeomen and cavalry's movement on the day. The magistrate's signature and the name of the estate, Hulton Hall, are on the back. *Shelfmark: FRAMED/189*.
- Three contemporary framed cartoons and two examples of the same commemorative headscarf (see [www.wcml.org.uk/catalogue](http://www.wcml.org.uk/catalogue)).
- Scrapbook of newspaper cuttings relating to the Peterloo massacre, dating from 1956 to 1988 and useful for historiography. *Shelfmark: S52*.
- Robert Walmsley - draft of his book *Peterloo: the case re-opened*. Extent: 6 boxes. *Shelfmark: AG Peterloo Walmsley*.

A very large amount of printed material, including:

Periodicals such as ...

- *The Black Dwarf: a London weekly publication*. Vol 1 No 1-Vol 4 No 16 (29 Feb 1817-26 Apr 1820); Vol 5 No 1-Vol 11 No 27 (5 Jul 1820-31 Dec 1823) [Vols 5-10 in facsimile]. *Shelfmark: D57*.

- *The Manchester Observer: or literary, commercial, and political register.* Vol 1 Nos 1 and 2, 3 and 10 Jan; Nos 5-10, 31 Jan-7 Mar; Nos 12-22, 21 Mar-30 May; Nos 24 and 25, 13 and 20 Jun; Nos 29-50, 18 Jul-12 Dec; No 52, 26 Dec 1818; Vol 2 Nos 1-14, 2 Jan-3 Apr; Nos 31 and 32, 31 Jul and 7 Aug; Nos 36-48, 4 Sep-27 Nov; Nos 50 and 51, 11 and 18 Dec 1819; Vol 3 Nos 105-108, 1-22 Jan; Nos 110-117, 5 Feb-25 Mar; No 120, 15 Apr; No 123, 6 May; Nos 127, 128 and 130, 3, 10 and 24 Jun; Nos 132-134, 8-22 Jul; No 136, 5 Aug; No 141, 9 Sep; No 146, 14 Oct; Nos 150-152, 11-25 Nov; No 156, 23 Dec 1820; Vol 4 Nos 1 and 4, 6 and 27 Jan; Nos 5, 7 and 8, 3, 17 and 24 Feb; Nos 10 and 11, 10 and 17 Mar; No 13, 7 Apr; Nos 15-19, 21 Apr-19 May 1821. *Shelfmark:* R21.
- *The Republican* Vol 1 Nos 1-15 (27 Aug-3 Dec 1819); Vol 5 Nos 1-21 (4 Jan-24 May 1822); Vol 8 No 13-Vol 9 No 2 (3 Oct 1823-9 Jan 1824); Vol 9 Nos 6-9, 11-20, 22-24 (6-27 Feb, 12 Mar-14 May, 28 May-11 Jun 1824); Vol 12 Nos 1-4, 6-10, 12-16 (8-29 Jul, 12 Aug-9 Sep, 23 Sep-21 Oct 1825) *Shelfmark D84* and Vol 8 No 11 (19 Sep 1823); Vol 9 No 10 (5 Mar 1824) - Bound in *The character of a priest etc* *Shelfmark D54*.
- Copy of the *Trial of Henry Hunt* that originally belonged to William Hulton, who gave evidence about the day's events in a trial which lead to Hunt being sentenced to imprisonment for his part in them. Bound within the volume are a series of handwritten notes, taken by Hulton during the trial before he gave his several hours of testimony. This volume is to be digitised in 2019 thanks to funds from the Society for the Study of Labour History. *Shelfmark:* D36.
- Copy of *The Trial of Redford v. Birley* that also originally belonged to William Hulton; again he gave evidence at the trial. *Shelfmark:* D55.
- Report of the inquest into John Lees of Oldham, who died at Peterloo. *Shelfmark:* D54.
- Bamford, Samuel. *Passages in the life of a radical.* Manchester, [?1840], issued in parts - Vol 1 Nos 1-18 and Vol 2 Nos 1-16. *Shelfmark:* D05.
- *Papers relative to the internal state of the country.* London, 1819. *Shelfmark:* X18. Most of the reports here are of large bodies of reformers marching and drilling on the moors and other open spaces, prior to Peterloo.