

# Out of Darkness

## The Story of Catch

Ruslan Pashayev

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Dedicated to the memory of Adam Ridings (1820-1894), pioneer of Lancashire Catch-as-Catch-Can, champion wrestler of Lancashire at Back Hold, and owner of the pub "Lancashire Wrestler" (1840's)



Adam Ridings (1820-1894)

Dear Friends,

My name is Ruslan and I am a pro-wrestling fan from Delaware, Ohio of USA. Besides that I am a ballroom dance coach.

I did hobby wrestling history researching for my own education since probably 2005. It was mostly American Pro-wrestling History, 1870-1950.

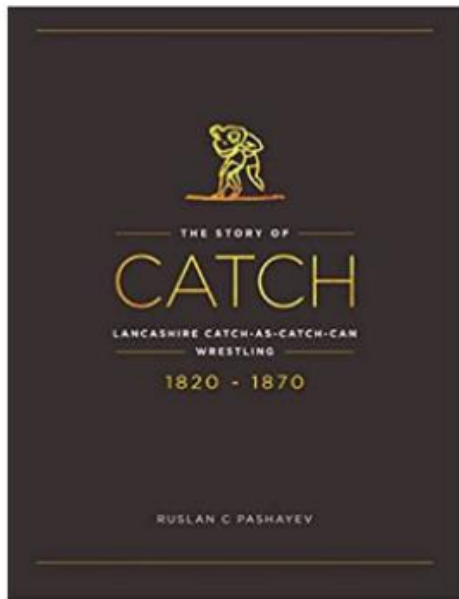
In 2012 I met Dan Anderson researcher from Wisconsin and he kindly presented me with results of his "English Studies". That episode changed my life. Dan's Studies had a great factual content as well as many "new names from very long ago". When I first read it questions started popping up here and there as mushrooms after the rain. Since then I mostly researched English Wrestling History. All styles which were historically practiced and wrestling territories were present on England's wrestling map. Some of them still exist in some forms some of them became extinct. Of course my main focus was Lancashire Catch-as-catch-can, and what was most surprising, that I shortly figured that there was definite uncertainty about its origin and evolution into current pro-wrestling. Literally no official records, no documentation was left from the "olden days", mostly verbal traditions, which people believed and treated as historical truth. Dan and I were working together on English Wrestling studies for few years. Last year I met Ron Historyo and shared with him some of my ideas and results of my studies. Ron suggested I put together all the facts and write a story of catch. Ron helped me a lot with a better understanding of Lancashire geography which was crucial for understanding of the Catch's Evolution. He also did a phenomenal work on building up the biographical background of the catch-as-catch-can heroes.

Its interesting but Originally Birth of Catch wasn't even my major topic, my biggest concern was the so-called Wrestling Boom Era (Hack's Era), 1904-1914, as well as all the great tournaments and forgotten titles and characters from the late 1800's early 1900's. But the more I was digging into it the more I wanted to know about "what was before that", what pre-dated it. And that's how my research switched from Music Hall Era to the pre-1870 Era. And then I discovered for myself a completely New World, unknown chapters of catch history. I want to share this exciting "Story of Catch" with all the wrestling fans and members of Heritage. This story has many heroes who affected catch in its early stages and remained in history as true symbols of Lancashire Wrestling. But the whole story is dedicated to the memory of the Lancashire catch-as-catch-can Pioneer from the 1840's Adam Ridings who saw it all, birth of catch, its evolution and the final picture the music halls of 1890's.

Special thanks to Dan and Ron for all their help. I wish everyone to have a fun time reading this series (Out of Darkness) and hope it'll bring some interest and discussion on the forum regarding the subject it covers.

Best regards to everyone.

Ruslan



## **The Story of Catch: The Story of Lancashire Catch-as-catch-can Wrestling.**

**FIRST FIFTY YEARS 1820-1870. by Ruslan C Pashayev**

The Birth and Evolution of Catch-as-Catch-Can Pro-Wrestling in East Lancashire, England. "The Story of Catch" covers the most forgotten stages of Lancashire's Catch Wrestling history, including its origin, its fast growth and evolution during first fifty years of Catch, introduction of professionalism and its Golden Era, as well as introduction and popularization of it in the United States. This story has many heroes who affected Catch in its early stages and remained in history as true symbols of Lancashire Wrestling. But the whole story is dedicated to the memory of Adam Ridings of Bury, Lancs (1819-1894), who was also known under the nickname of "Dockum of Bury" a pioneer of Catch Wrestling, and the most prominent and popular wrestler of Lancashire in the 1840's-1850's. For anyone with a serious interest in history of professional wrestling "The Story of Catch" is a must.

**Buy From Amazon**

**Research mainly at [British Newspaper Archive](#).**

**Please comment in the [Talk Wrestling Forum](#)**

**All questions, comments and corrections are welcomed at**

**[ruslan-pashayev@yandex.ru](mailto:ruslan-pashayev@yandex.ru)**

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