



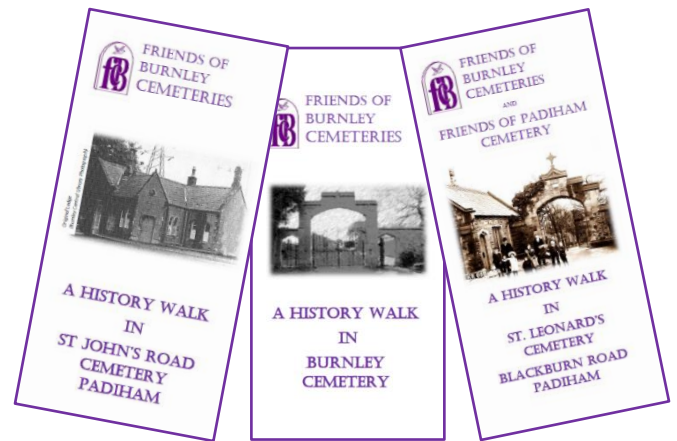
THE FRIENDS OF BURNLEY CEMETERIES

Newsletter 5, Spring/ Summer 2017

www.fbc.btck.co.uk

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

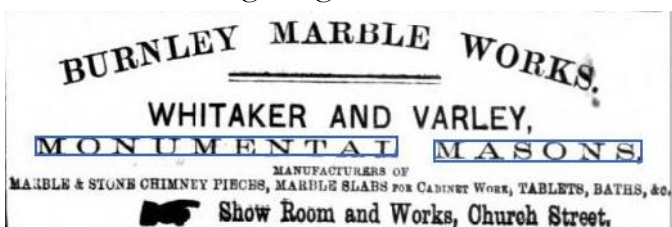
- 1 Trail Leaflets Available
- 1 Stonemasons
- 2 Epitaphs in St. Peter's Churchyard
- 3 Murder and Suicide in Whittlefield
- 4 1870 Advertisement
- 4 First Burials in Burnley Cemetery
- 4 Useful Information and Events



These new guided walks leaflets are available at local centres and as downloads from our website. The Padiham Blackburn Road leaflet is also available on: www.friendsofpadihamcemetery.org. They give a brief history of the cemeteries and highlight a variety of headstones. In the main the routes follow pathways but you are advised to wear suitable footwear and take care as paths can be uneven. Most of the gravestones tell an interesting story so take a closer look at others as you walk around.

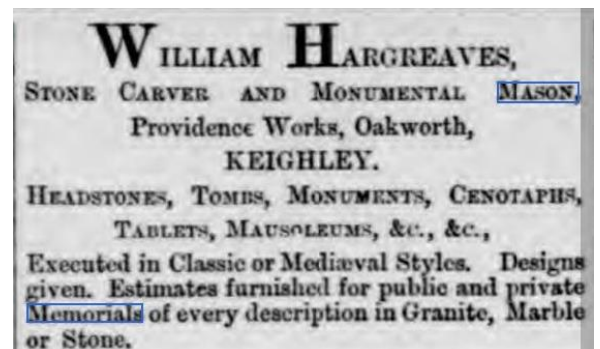
STONEMASONS

At the base of many of the stones you might be able to find the stonemasons names engraved. Monumental Masons are listed in the Trade Directories of the 1880's – John Bamford, Rectory Road; Luther Nightingale, Curzon St; Richard Riding, Accrington Rd; Fred Stevenson,



Cemetery Rd; Matthew Watson, Westgate; Jonathan Whittaker, Church St (see the 1866 advert from the Burnley Advertiser left); and Lawrence Yates, Accrington Rd. Some of the Masons were not local and William Hargreaves who created the Healey Music Memorial came

from Keighley but advertised in the local newspaper regularly as shown in this 1871 Burnley Advertiser example (right). The Ingham family of Padiham were Monumental Masons and the headstone of William, created by his son Nicholas is included in the Padiham Blackburn Road Cemetery Trail Leaflet. Nicholas was buried in St. John's Road Cemetery but his headstone has not survived.



EPITAPHS AND MEMORIALS IN ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD



Here lie buried Thomas Greenwood and his wife Margaret to whose Memory this stone is dedicated from Motives of Gratitude By an Orphan whom they reared and educated

27th June 1810

ooooo

John Dodgeon died 1875

To whose Genius the Country ought to be grateful for the celebrated invention of the brake as applied to the power loom of this nation.

ooooo

John Threlfall of Lane Bridge

Who departed this life April 6th 1850, aged 36 years who, with the aid of a Sabbath School instruction, intense application and a penetrating genius acquired a large fund of useful knowledge, which united with genuine piety, he faithfully employed both in the Church and Sunday School of Mount Pleasant, Burnley for more than fifteen years. For several years he jealously and efficiently advanced the Temperance cause.

His class of young men in the Sunday School have caused this Monument to be erected as a token of gratitude and esteem. The memory of the just is blessed.

ooooo



Accidents and tragedy were ever-present hazards:

John Landless

*Who was killed by the Explosion of a Steam Engine Boiler near Blackburn
December 11th 1819 aged 25*

William Dent

who, in his 29th Year of his Age, was accidentally killed in a Stone Quarry at Hack Gate, within Briercliffe, whilst supervising the operations of his workmen, by which melancholy event a beloved wife lost an affectionate husband, two children a kind and indulgent parent, and the Church of England a zealous and consistent member

Reader, by trade he was a Mason, but like a wise master-builder he built for eternity; and there is every reason to hope that he is in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

11th June 1838

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Last Thoughts by Brenda Hayman, a light hearted look at epitaphs, is available from the Secretary for £1.50 plus postage (Cheques to be made out to Friends of Burnley Cemeteries).

MURDER AND SUICIDE IN WHITTLEFIELD

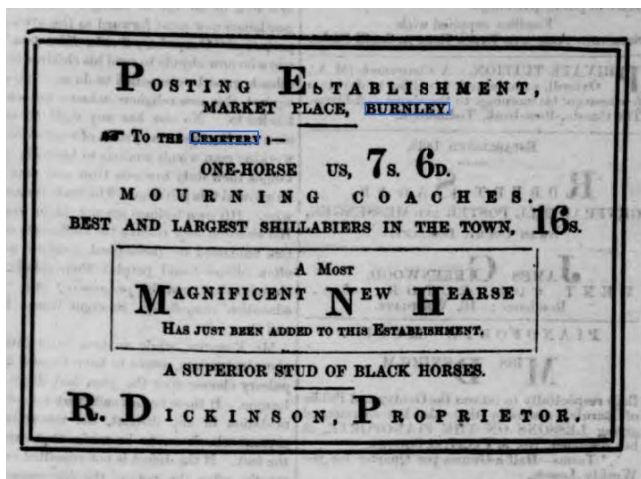
One of the most terrible tragedies in Burnley's history took place on December 2nd 1904, when Michael Walsh a 47 year old casual labourer bludgeoned to death his wife Eliza Alice Walsh in the presence of their 12 year old daughter Annie. The family lived at 20 Stock Street in the Whittlefield area of town. According to neighbours Michael Walsh was a brutal bully and had frequently assaulted his wife and served time in prison for disorderly behaviour. He had only been out of prison for two weeks prior to this heinous act.

He was the father of six children, had never been in regular employment and had only been in the habit of working odd days here and there, drawing his wages, and drinking till his money was done. He was described as excitable and quarrelsome, had been regularly heard to threaten his wife and children, especially his eldest daughter who was twenty six and had moved out of the family home to escape his violent outbursts; in fact she had had a lucky escape on that day as he had sent for her to come to the house, but she refused and this was believed to have saved her life.

On that fateful day he had apparently won some money at gambling and sent for his wife who was at work to join him in the local pubs in and around town. After both arriving home shortly afterwards, and having been in the house only minutes when they began arguing, he having accused his wife of robbing him of some money the night before. At this time there were three children in the house, two of the children were sent out and Annie their twelve year old daughter was ordered upstairs and he then locked the door. She then witnessed the most appalling savage attack on her mother and Walsh was heard to say to his wife "you robbed me of my money last night, are you willing to die?" Eliza in a terrified state replied "No". Walsh then struck her about the head with an axe with such veracity the handle broke. Terrified and hysterical Annie screamed out, her father then ordered the little girl downstairs whereupon he struck her too with the shaft of the broken axe, fortunately she was uninjured and was then subjected to seeing her father pull out a razor blade and cut his wife's throat, he then unlocked the door and started to threaten people in the street with the razor. Returning back into his house he then preceded to cut his own throat, Annie then ran past her father to make her escape and in doing so he made a final grasp at her clothing as she passed him leaving a bloodstained handprint on her dress.

A neighbour who had witnessed Walsh's bizarre behaviour in the street had sent for the police. On reaching the house PC Heap made the gruesome discovery, Eliza was lying face down on the floor clearly dead in a pool of blood and Walsh who was still alive, died from his injuries some time later. The bodies were removed later that day to the mortuary and the offensive weapons taken away for evidence.

In the last act of this terrible tragedy, the remains of Eliza Alice Walsh were given a Roman Catholic burial at Burnley cemetery which took place from her daughter's house and mourners consisted of family members only. Owing to the verdict of "Felo de se" (suicide) the body of Michael Walsh was interred at Burnley cemetery without any religious rites. In a macabre aspect of this heinous senseless crime, Burnley cemetery recorded that the couple are both laid to rest in the same family grave!



Burnley Advertiser 12th March 1870

First burials in Burnley Cemetery

The cemetery was opened for burials on 1st June 1856 following a consecration service carried out by the Bishop of Manchester on 24th May 1856. The first burial on 4th June was that of Mary Nixon aged 74 of Howarth Street Burnley, Grave 1906. No newspaper report of this first burial can be found. During the first month 27 burials took place and over half (17) of these were in unmarked public graves. 9 were of infants under 1 year old. Only one was reported in the Burnley Advertiser and this was of Private James Porter of the 15th Hussars aged 42, based at the Barracks and a soldier for over 23 years with good conduct medals. He had suffered bouts of drunkenness and had shot himself: the inquest jury returned a verdict of "Temporary insanity". He was buried on Sunday 22nd June 1856 in a public grave.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME



USEFUL INFORMATION

Friends of Burnley Cemeteries:

www.fbc.btck.co.uk

Chair: Roger B. Frost M.B.E 01282 435836

Secretary: Susan Barker 01282 692076,

97 Reedley Road, Burnley. BB10 2NE

E-mail: burnleybarker@btinternet.com

Next Meeting: Friday 19th May 2017, 1pm at Cemetery Offices, Rossendale Road.

Working Party: Friday 5th May 2017 10am, meet inside Rossendale Road entrance.

Open Day: June 2017 Walks, stalls, displays, books, plants, raffle, light refreshments.

Heritage Open Day Walks at various cemeteries 7th to 10th September, 2017.

See web site for more details.

Bereavement Services: Cemetery Offices 01282 477148 & 477232,

www.burnley.gov.uk, Email:

bereavementservices@burnley.gov.uk

Cemetery and Crematorium Grounds

Opening hours: every day 9 am to 8 pm (or sunset whichever is earlier) **Please note that at times vehicle access may be restricted**

Family History Burial Records:

Cemetery Office holds Registers for Burnley Cemetery/Crematorium and for Padiham Cemetery. Please Telephone to arrange to view. Burnley Central Library hold basic burial records on microfiche.

The Parish Clerk Website is also a very useful on-line source of information for family historians. In addition to church registers it contains information about Burnley and Padiham Cemeteries.

www.lan-opc.org.uk/Burnley/index.html

Why not come along to one of our meetings, join one of our walks or try one of our 'working parties' – bulb planting, bench painting and tidy-ups.

Take a look at our website for more information and to download a membership/donation form.

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