



THE FRIENDS OF BURNLEY CEMETERIES

Newsletter 7, Spring/ Summer 2019

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GETTING INVOLVED

The picture above shows some of the members of the Friends of Burnley Cemeteries who were invited to see the planting of a tree at Burnley Cemetery to mark the 100 year commemorations of the Great War. Friends of Burnley Cemeteries was formed in 2013 to help conserve and promote the historical, social and ecological value of the Burnley and District cemeteries. We are a small but enthusiastic group who meet every two months, produce fund-raising booklets, free self-guided walk leaflets, have carried out bulb planting/gardening and arrange tidy-ups and bench painting. We also arrange guided walks and attend local events to promote the group and raise funding.

If you have a few hours to spare every now and again why not consider joining us. Contact us via the details given on page 4 or simply come along to one of our meetings – you would be most welcome.

Influenza Havoc of 1919 – Burnley Express report Saturday 1st March 1919

Cemetery officials had a very busy time with 12 interments on that Saturday and a total of 61 during the week. A big proportion of deaths were due to influenza and bronchitis, pneumonia and lung complaints. A remarkable feature was the small number of children interred in comparison with the total number - of the 61 that week 12 were children whilst 20 were over sixty. The Health Committee, acting on advice from the Local Government Board was setting up special help measures - assistance to families; utilising the Isolation Hospital; and issuing a notice giving advice on precautionary measures.

Prominent townfolk affected were – Town Clerk, Peregrino Thomas; Cllr J. H. Grey, JP; Mr. W. C. Horner, managing director of Victoria Opera House and New Empire, who it stated were all improving. However, Herbert Reason, ventriloquist who appeared at the New Empire Theatre was taken suddenly ill with influenza and sadly died.

Burnley Cemetery Reminiscences - Fifty years progress

Burnley Express Review by Mr. B. Moore, JP, 14th June 1919

Mr. Moore writes that he is old enough to remember the opening of Burnley Cemetery on June 4th 1856. He gives information about some early burials including the fourth interment which was of Wm. Brackell Margerison, aged 39, master calico printer, Victoria Buildings, Burnley and buried by the Rev. T. Wilson of Holy Trinity Church. The 18th interment was that of a servant of the late Canon Rimmer, so well-known and so much respected in Burnley about 80 years ago. Her name was Ellen McShean, 28 years old and she was the first burial in the Roman Catholic portion of the cemetery.

He comments on the Pollard family of Atlas Foundry, a musical family, and their vault, large enough to hold 17 bodies, which “when opened seemed so large that it was sometimes humorously described as like opening a church”. The tombstone is inscribed with the names of all interred in the vault and its shape gives the plot its common name – Chest Plot



Mr. Moore also refers to an unrelated Pollard – John Pollard who was bell ringer for 65 years at St Peter’s Church where there is a tablet erected to his memory stating that he died Dec 18th 1902 aged 83. At the time of his death he was probably the oldest regular bell ringer in the

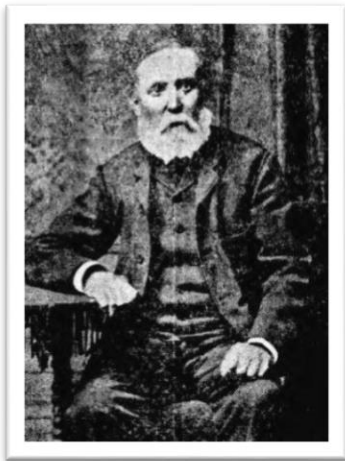
country, having rung at the accession of Queen Victoria and also at the coronation of King Edward VII who was pleased to recognise Pollard’s long service by sending an appreciative letter on account of his long services as bell ringer. There is a small memorial stone over his grave with representations in four panels of bells in different positions during ringing. He says that John Pollard’s portrait hangs in the Burnley room at Towneley. A photograph is still held at Towneley and is shown right (with thanks to Burnley Borough Council and Towneley Hall).



Mr. Moore gives information about the Registrars. From 1856 to 1862 there had been three registrars, the first being Joseph Cobb who left on Dec 23rd 1857 the year following his appointment. From that date until January 26th 1858 the duties of Registrar were carried out by Mr. W. H. Colbran, then employed by the Board of Commissioners, but who afterwards became Borough Surveyor, and later surveyor and estate agent at Bank Hall. On January 27th 1858 Charles White Melville Philip commenced duties as Registrar and finished February 28th 1862. George Houlden was then appointed to the post and remained in office until June 1903, over 41 years. His son John William Houlden (formerly headmaster at Wood Top School) succeeded him and was still in post at the time of the article in 1919.

GEORGE HOULDEN, REGISTRAR

This portrait is from a Burnley Gazette obituary dated 29th April 1905.



George Houlden was a long serving registrar from 1862 to 1903. He died in April, 1905 at the Cemetery Lodge and left 3 sons and 2 daughters, his wife having pre-deceased him.

He was born at Pocklington and served his time as

gardener at Kildwick Piercey, then as professional gardener at York and Leeds before becoming head gardener at Ripley Castle. He moved to Manchester and Rochdale from where he took up the post as Registrar at Burnley Cemetery, chosen from a long list of applicants. When he took up his post there had been 3,118 burials and when he retired 61,076. The cemetery was extended twice during his office and he took an active part in supervising the work.

He took a deep interest in the Burnley and Padiham Floral and Horticultural Societies and frequently officiated as judge at local and regional shows, his specialism being cut flowers. Dahlia growing was his great hobby.

His funeral took place on Saturday morning the 29th April 1905 and he was buried in Burnley Cemetery.

The family grave (pictured right) overlooks the former Church of England Chapel Site in the lower, older, part of the cemetery.



VICTORIAN CEMETERY SYMBOLISM

Angels

Images of spirituality/guardians of the dead
Flying angel signified rebirth in heaven

Occupations

Anchors or ships for maritime connections
Roll of cloth for a tailor
Musical notes or instruments for musicians
Books, quills, pens for a teacher or scholar
Eagle or weapons for a military career

Animals and Birds

A bird represents the soul
Wings only symbolise a divine mission
A dove Christian symbol of the Holy Spirit
An owl signified wisdom
A fish for faith, honesty or courage
Lion for faith, power of good and as a guard against evil spirits
Serpent swallowing its tail signifies eternity

Shapes

Pyramids for eternity
An arch denoted victory over death
An arrow for immortality
A broken column signified an early death
A draped urn for an older person

The Human Body

Hands as a symbol of parting
Hands holding a heart for charity
Hand pointing upward for life after death
Hand pointing down for mortality or sudden death
Praying hands for devotion
Arms outstretched a plea for mercy
Eye for the eye of god

Children's Memorials

Cherub often signified a child's grave
Lamb was the most common symbol used
A cut or broken rose was often used
A carved butterfly indicated a short life
A swallow signified a child or motherhood

From notes by Brenda Hayman

2019 EVENTS

Guided walks

Summer Walks

Burnley cemetery: Sunday 14th July - meet at main Chapel by Rossendale Road entrance at 1pm or at the bottom of Cemetery Road at 1.15pm.

Padiham St. John's Road cemetery: Friday 19th July – meet at the entrance gate for 2pm

Padiham Blackburn Road cemetery: Tuesday 30th July – meet at the Blackburn Road entrance for 2pm

Heritage Open day walks

Burnley cemetery: Saturday 14th September – meet at Rossendale Road entrance gates for 2pm

Padiham St. John's Road cemetery: Thursday 19th September – meet at the entrance gate for 2pm

Padiham Blackburn Road cemetery: Saturday 21st September – meet at the Blackburn Road entrance for 2pm

Civic Trust Heritage Open Day

On Saturday the 19th October we will have an information stand at the Burnley Civic Trust's Heritage Open Day at St. Peter's Church. The event starts at 11am and runs until 4.30pm and will have displays from a range of other heritage related organisations. Admission is free.

Other Events

We hope to have information displays at other events and these will be detailed on our website www.fbc.btck.co.uk as they are arranged

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 12th July 2019 1pm at Cemetery Offices, Rossendale Road.

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

See our website for more information about using this website.

If you want any help with finding ancestors' graves please get in touch with our secretary via the above contact information and we will do our best to help.