

5/ THE MALSTER PLOT 11 GN (7746)

William Atkinson AKA “ Big Bill “had worked as a Maltsman for Twenty six years and was held in high esteem by his employee Massey’s Brewery and by his fellow townsfolk , Much anxiety was manifested to see his coffin, dimension length 6ft 6”, width 2ft 6”, depth 19” . The coffin was so big that the window of the Planetree Inn, Back Lane had to be removed to get the coffin out . Coincidentally William died on April 1st.

6/ ROSE BED AND BENCH PLOT 11 (C OF E)

The Rose Bed and bench are currently restored by the Friends of Burnley Cemeteries. It is on the site of the Anglican church which was demolished in 1970.

7/ GEORGE SLATER PLOT 11 GN (9812)

George Slater was born in 1807, he employed over three hundred people and built and managed three mills in Sandygate . He built Slater Terrace which was an unusual row of two up, two down houses built above a warehouse for his workers. Some say his workers liked him, as would let none go to the workhouse who had done him good.

8/ MASSEY’S PLOT 7 GN (11458)

The Massey family dabbled in the cotton trade and owned Victoria Mill in Trafalgar Street, but were better known for being the owners of Bridge End Brewery Westgate, founded around 1750. The company once owned one hundred and fifty pubs and off licences in the town and Edward Stocks Massey was very generous with his wealth . The first name Lord was not uncommon and over a thousand examples exist . It was given to several members of his family.

9/ JOHN HARGREAVES SCOTT (BBP1) GN (11891)

Born in Blackburn Scott, unlike many other leading citizens of the town was not involved in the textile industry but was a Silversmith and watch maker. The 1851 census shows his premises on Market Street in the town where he was living with his wife Anne. It appears they had no children, explaining the generous legacy he and his wife left to create Scott Park . He was related to James Hargreaves, inventor of the Spinning Jenny in 1766. The family originally came from Oswaldtwistle and were associated with the spinning industry in Blackburn.

10/ RICHARD FAWCETT (BBP1) GN (4640)

Richard Fawcett was manager of Burnt Hills and Hapton Valley pits, along with colleague Thomas Woods they lost their lives in a horrendous accident in 1889. Both men died when the tub they were being hauled up in, gave way and both men plummeted two hundred feet to the pit bottom killing them both instantly

11/TIM BOBBIN TRAGEDY PLOT 5 GN (272/3/4

Over three thousand people attended the funeral of five brave men, all related to each other, who on Boxing day 1887, lost their lives trying to rescue two young boys who had got into difficulty on the ice of a disused quarry behind the Tim Bobbin pub on Padiham Road. Ironically the boys were rescued and suffered nothing more than hyperthermia and exhaustion.

12/ MORECAMBE BAY TRAGEDY PLOT 5 (A16610)

Monday September 3rd 1894: a sad catastrophe occurred in Morecambe Bay which cast a shadow on many a Burnley home. In the beautiful sunshine, a happy crowd of holidaymakers went for a sail on the calm waters of the Bay, but their cries of joy turned into screams of panic when the boat capsized and hurled them into the sea. Twelve Burnley lives were lost on that glorious September day including Arthur and Edmund Clegg a father and his four year old son.

13/ RACHEL BROXUP (PLOT 12) GN (2822)

On 17th February 1866, the funeral of Lady Towneley took place at St Peters church in Burnley. Mass crowds attended the ceremony that day, but unfortunately a school wall adjacent to the church collapsed from the sheer weight of the people climbing onto the wall for a better view, which then gave way under the enormous pressure. Rachel Broxup age twelve along with another young girl lost their lives and many more were left badly injured.

14/ MARY NIXON (PLOT 12) GN (1906)

Mary age 74 was the first burial in the cemetery on 4th June 1856. F.B.C are hoping to mark the grave in the future.

15/ JOHN MOORE (PLOT 4) GN (1661)

John Moore a cotton spinner was elected as Burnley’s first Mayor in 1862, there have been over one hundred and twenty one Mayors since then, some of them served two years in office. The first woman to hold office was Marie Brown who was elected the year that the second world war broke out. I think that the two events were unconnected !

16/ WILKINS BROTHERS (PLOT 7) GN (A8410)

A tragic accident which happened in 1907 happened when two young brothers, Thomas age 3 and James 7, were crossing Briercliffe Road at Harle Syke . The two brothers were halfway across the road on their way home from school when they were hit by a horse and cart . Both boys sadly died, a verdict of accidental death was recorded.

FRIENDS OF BURNLEY CEMETERIES NOTABLE MEMORIALS AND GRAVES OF INTEREST

1/ HAPTON VALLEY MEMORIAL (ADJ OFFICE)

Memorial to the men who were killed in the Hapton Valley mining disaster in March 1962 when 19 men lost their lives . Many of the men are buried in the cemetery.

2/ SPANISH AIR DISASTER PLOT 3 (C OF E)

In July 1970, holiday makers from Burnley and East Lancashire were killed in an air crash near Barcelona. On that day there were delays at air traffic control in Paris and the routine charter flight flew a different route. The flight was mistakenly reported as having passed the Sabadell beacon and was cleared to descend 2,800 feet, the aircraft descended and crashed into the mountain side killing all 112 on board. Due to Spanish law at that time all the victims had to be buried in a communal grave within 48 hours. There is an eight foot memorial in Arbucias Spain with the names of the victims.

OLDER GRAVES

If you walk down the main avenue to the point where the cemetery levels out, you are now approaching the older part of the cemetery where there are many Victorian headstones which are prominent to people who have been important to shaping Burnley’s history, and are much more opulent and majestic demonstrating status and their wealth .

3/ MICHAEL WALSH (PLOT 2) GN (A16610)

One of the most terrible tragedies recorded in Burnley's history took place on December 2nd 1904, when Michael Walsh bludgeoned to death his wife Elizabeth, before slitting his own throat in front of his twelve year old daughter. In a macabre aspect of this crime the couple are both laid to rest in a family plot.

4/ HEALEY MEMORIAL (PLOT 11) GN (13634)

One of several memorials in the cemetery to be erected by public subscription. It commemorates the life of Thomas Healey, a well known Burnley musician who died in 1858. He and wife his were buried elsewhere in the cemetery, but were exhumed and moved to this more prominent position.

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