

Augt 15th 1839 At the beginning of a New D [page torn] the most appropriate first Entry Seems to be the en[page torn] into a new sphere and condition of Life – In my [page torn] volume full particulars are entered of the of the Life & Death [page torn] my first Wife Mary Heaton¹ after which private [page torn] will be found of my having in 1838, paid my ad[page torn] to Betty Alston of Pepper Hill² in which for obvious re[page torn] there mentioned I failed, - No doubt that failure was felt at the time, a severe disappointment but since then I have had great reason to bless God that so bitter a Medicine was administered to me. In October of that year (1838) about or before my final separation from (B.A.) [Betty Alston] Mr John Eccles & his Wife, the respected Super^t [Superintendent] of Thunder Alley School³ left Blackburn and as Mr Hart⁴ was unwilling to take the whole charge of conducting the large Sunday School alone, I was asked by Mr Eccles to join him. After some consideration I concluded so to do and left G. [Grimshaw] Park School⁵ to attend Thunder Alley at the end of 1838. – It was here that I first formed an acquaintance with Miss Mary Callis, the daughter of the late William Callis of Salford, Grocer & Provisions Merchant,⁶ and after a courtship of seven or eight Months I married her on the above Date at the Parish Church, the Rev^d. Jackson Porter⁷ performed the Ceremony and Thomas Hart Esq^r gave her away. We spent Honey Moon at South Shore⁸, - and then returned Home to Mount Street, Blackburn!⁹

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Monday Nov-25th. This Evening a Meeting of the Teachers & women when the case of Mary Brandwood & Mary Whittaker, two girls [page torn] engaged to sing at St. Michael's

¹ Born in Lancaster on 25 March 1810, daughter of James and Dorothy Heaton; married at St. Mary, Blackburn on 25 December 1832; buried at St. John, Blackburn on 4 March 1838.

² Betty Alston, daughter of Thomas, a tanner, and Alice Alston from Bowfields, Bladerstone, near Blackburn, was born on 29 March 1818.

³ A Charity School was established in Thunder Alley (modern Town Hall Street) in 1764 by William Leyland to teach about 90 girls reading, sewing and knitting. There was, also, a National School with 300 pupils. The date when a Sunday Schools were incorporated is not known although it existed before March 1836. (Edward Baines, *History of the County Palatinate and Duchy of Lancaster Vol. III* (London, 1836), p. 320; *Blackburn Standard*, 2 March 1836.)

⁴ Thomas Hart (1799-1861), rope manufacturer, was an Improvement Commissioner, member of the committees for building St. John's schools, the Market House, Town Hall and Infirmary, treasurer of the Strangers' Friend Society, a supporter of the Church Missionary Society, the Bible and Religious Tracts Society, acting warden of St. John's Church for many years, a councillor for the St. John's ward for 3 years after Blackburn was incorporated in 1851 and J.P. from 1852. The *Blackburn Standard* described him in their obituary as 'respected and esteemed for his straightforward character, his urbanity of manner and his integrity' (*Blackburn Standard*, 21 August 1861).

⁵ Grimshaw Park is a district of Blackburn about half a mile to the south of the town centre.

⁶ Mary Callis was born in Blackburn on 10 December, 1810, daughter of William Callis who was born in Walesby, Nottinghamshire, and his first wife wife, Elizabeth, who died on 12 August, 1812; William married Alice Riley on 18 April, 1813.

⁷ Jackson Porter (1797-1879) was the Perpetual Curate at St. John's between 1826 and 1841. He was born in 1797 in Corney, which was then in Cumberland. He gained an BA from Cambridge in 1819 and an MA in 1826 and was ordained in Chester in 1821. After leaving Blackburn he was rector in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Burton Pidsea and Keyingham in Yorkshire and Oddingley in Worcestershire. He wrote a book on the catechism and several of his sermons were published. He died in Essex in 1879 (*Crockford's Clerical Directory for 1874* (London, 1874), p. 694).

⁸ Part of Blackpool, Lancashire.

⁹ Mount Street was immediately to the north of Blackburn railway station. It was demolished and built over in 1966.

Ch: [Church],¹⁰ was considered I decided [page torn] from the opinions of the majority of the Teachers, that they ought not to be allowed to go again - & D. Tomlinson moved & W. Holden seconded that They should not be permitted to go there again to sing S. Ashton moved an Amendment - viz: That these Girls should be allowed to bring their money to School & attend St Michael's Church for 3 Months. This Amend^t [Amendment] having been put & lost - The original Motion was submitted to the sense of the Meeting & carried by a Large Majority. -

Tho^s [Thomas] Oddie in a very disrespectful manner charged C Tiplady with having insulted the Teachers on the day before, by adverting to the business of the last Tea^{rs} [Teachers] Meeting, and saying that some of the T.^s [Teachers] were opposed to the Sup^{ts} [Superintendents] checking & Repeating the Scholars. Sidney Ashton was the person pitched upon to open this charge. [illegible] Mr Hart told him not to be made the cats-paws¹¹ for another but [illegible] had a complaint, let them bring it forward themselves - After [illegible] of unpleasant observations - W^m [William] Holden called Mr Harts attention to the fact that there had been no Teaching in the Afterⁿ [Afternoon] of the day before - because the Sup^t [Superintendent] had taken it into his head to address the Children on the death of Mary Walmsley, which address had occupied that time wh. [which] sh^d [should] have been spent in Teaching - He objected to these addresses - and so did most of the other Teachers - & for himself he avowed, That the next time Mr C. T. [Charles Tiplady] stood up to speak to them in address he would put on his hat & leave the Schoolⁿ [Schoolchildren] J Walsh said he w^d [would] not do so but his Scholars would leave him & T. Oddie & others having spoken nearly to the same effect C. Tiplady replied:- He said when he entered the School the day preceding he found it in a complete state of uproar - the Boys to the No^s [Numbers] of 40 or 50 were chasing one another over the forms - & running races - and to his surprise - several Teachers were in the School at the time & did nothing to prevent them. - After some other remarks justifying his conduct he said Tho^s Oddie had properly said that he was the person meant & alluded to by C.T. in his Address to the Scholars - for no one who had the Language uttered by T. O. [Thomas Oddie] could fail to understand he was one who did not like to hear the Sup^t [Superintendent] blame the Scholars. - As for his Address he had done no more than he had authority for doing, and in his first Address to the Scholars he had made that fact known that Mr P [Porter] had given him full liberty on divers occasions to exercise his discretion when he thought an Address would be serviceable - Yesterday there had an occasion occurred in the death of the abovementioned Girl & He had read a portion of St Matthew to them & endeavoured to improve the death of the Scholar & he was thankful to observe such strict attention paid thereto by them & hoped it would have a beneficial effect. S Ashton had asked whether it was more likely 40 Teachers would be doing more good than one Sup^t C. T. said every Teachers exertions were useful in their classes, but it was possible for the S [Superintendent] to deliver an Address which w^d be beneficial to all - The T [Teacher] could only be heard by his own class [illegible] by the whole body of the School - He had been accustomed [illegible] the Scholars from where he came - he had reproved Scholars

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singly - and generally - as occasions required. - Some of the Teachers complained he had insulted them, if he had done so, he had not done it intentionally lest he must say that the

¹⁰ Originally built as a chapel by the Wesleyans in the Daisyfield district of Blackburn, it was purchased by the Church of England in 1839 and opened as a mission on 29 September 1839. The building was not consecrated until 1844. The Mission was replaced by a new church which was consecrated in 1869 (W. A. Abram, *A History of Blackburn, Town and Parish* (Blackburn, 1877), p.352).

¹¹ Someone used by another to accomplish a purpose: *OED* 'cat's-paw', n., 2.

Language wh. [which] both T Oddie and W^m. Holden had used to him was very insulting. He did not desire to do anything against the rules of the School - or the feelings of the Teachers - and if he [illegible] not work together cordially - he would withdraw his services. What he had said with regard to some of the T. [Teachers] being against his reproving - he had conscientiously and spoken the truth. - The Teachers hoped he w^d [would] not think of leaving.

The hour being now late Mr. Hart suggested it was time to dissolve - and in this state of feelings the Meeting ended.

[November] 26. Rev^d J P [Jackson Porter] & Mr Hart called, and we talked the matter over he was surprised and grieved at the conduct of the Teachers. - In the Evg [Evening] I attended the Fourth Annual Meeting of the B^u Op Con As^{sn} [Blackburn Operative Conservative Association]¹² - Mr. C Wilkinson delivered one of the most eloquent & sublime Speeches that I ever listened to since I was born. The Dinner, was excellent, the Company numerous, and the demonstration very strong.- Heard this Day of the illness of Tho^s Grandmother Heaton.

[November] 28. This Day visited Grandm^r Heaton found her labouring under strong inflammation - with but little chance of recovery. By her wish I prayed with her. Same Even^g. took Tho^s to visit her. She was much affected and blessed him and self.-

[November] 29. Again visited her, she much worse. Lingered until Sunday Morning at 1/2 p [past] 8 o'clock, when she expired - aged 58.

Dec^r 4. Mrs. Heaton was this Afnoon [Afternoon] interred, St John Church Yard - not far from the remains of my beloved Mary.

Decr 14th Up to this Day, I have lived in great peace and love with my second wife - except in three instances, in which she greatly provoked me. On this day having let fall some unjust expression respecting Shilling &c. I felt myself aggrieved and insulted, the consequence was that in the heat of passion to which I am much subject, I struck her and in the Even^g slept apart. After mature reflection she confessed her faults and forgiveness on both sides ensued. The Lord knows that in all sobriety - industry - faithfulness, and integrity it has been - and is my wish to make her happy - I am rather apprehensive that she inwardly frets - in not finding herself likely to have a Child - But this is not my fault - for I have used all lawful means similar to my first wife - and therefore am not to blame - This is God's doing no doubt wisely intended, why then sh^d She murmur. - Thomas has had an attack of the erysipelas¹³ - through cold & much crying - as well as fever.

The generality of the Teachers at Thunder Alley have seen the injustice of their conducts to me - & so expressed themselves. I conceive Sidney Ashton to have been an instrument of good in this case. It is agreed to have a "Tea Party" - I was not present, being at Burnley at the funeral of Richard Sharp on Christmas Day. -

¹² Blackburn Operative Conservative Association was formed in November 1835; Tiplady was president by November 1836 (*Blackburn Standard*, 25 November 1835; 23 November 1836).

¹³ Erysipelas is a bacterial infection of the skin which results in raised, tender, bright-red patches which can be accompanied by fevers and chills and can result in sepsis (*Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 2nd Editions, David Schlossberg (ed.) Cambridge 2015, p. 148).