

[January] The frost remitted about the 7<sup>th</sup> & a rapid thaw commenced

1854 Jan<sup>y</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Took Charles my son to the Brookhouse Mills where I have obtained for him a situation in the Warehouse To begin Work in the Morning

Things went on smoothly until a certain went home & Essy being unsettled I took her to another Bed. My Wife got into one of her tantrums and we quarrelled violently -

[January] On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday I was informed that Tho<sup>s</sup> had formed an intimacy with Miss Forrest (Mason's Arms.) and that he was in distress of mind. I expostulated<sup>1</sup> with him, but found out he was in a very melancholy way; The following day had with him WBS. -

Told Rev C.R. & Uncle Ratcliffe and also took the advice of Doctor Grime, He said it was a religious Melancholy & he must have change. Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> went to Darwen & assisted at the purchase of a plot of Ground adjacent to the Gas Works - from Miss Walsh.

Friday last Thirty one years since I was apprenticed & 24 since loose - Building Society Meeting. Annual at the school Rooms.

[January] 10<sup>th</sup> John Bramley, Tallow Chandler, died

Jan<sup>y</sup>. 9<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. My Son Thomas remained in a very restless, unsettled, and extraordinary condition - I could make nothing of him, when greatly to my astonishment he said he would leave home. Accordingly an Advertisement appearing in the Preston Chronicle, he said he would take the situation vacant and he left me on the 21<sup>st</sup> Day of Jan<sup>y</sup> 1854.

Of course this resolution & proceeding of his caused me intense feeling - but being now used to heavy disappointment, I felt it were best to be resigned.

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1854. April 1. Tho<sup>s</sup> Orrell accused of Embezzlement by his old mas [master] Tom Forrest. Trial at the Sessions on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> at Preston - great sensation - universal sympathy to Orrel believed all to be spite - Went down to Preston, swore to his character as an upright Man, - After two days he was fully acquitted.<sup>2</sup>

[April] 14<sup>th</sup>. Good Friday (fine). Mary & Charles went down to Blackpool. - Saturday - Tho<sup>s</sup> followed by his own request. He seems better

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[1854]

Drought Continues. April 25<sup>th</sup>. Great Meeting of the Philanthropic Burial Society to petition against certain Clauses in the New Friendly Societies' Act Petition carried with acclamation.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> Abram Crossthwaites died of the Hay market Tavern.

[April] 25<sup>th</sup> George Gorton Died. Waterloo Tavern. He was nicknamed "The Old Duke"

[April] On the Evening of the 26<sup>th</sup> to Morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> Rain began, a great relief to Agriculture

Sold 2000 Copies of the Form of Prayer for the 26<sup>th</sup> the Day of Humiliation & Prayer on account of the War with Russia.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> To remonstrate with someone about conduct: *OED* 'expostulate', v. 2.a.

<sup>2</sup> Tiplady was one of many tradesmen, that also included his brother-in-law, Joseph Callis, who were called to give witness to Orrell's character (*Blackburn Standard*, 12 April 1854).

<sup>3</sup> Queen Victoria, on instruction from her government, issued a proclamation on 15 April 1854 ordering a Public Day of Humiliation and Prayer to 'send up Our Prayers and Supplications to the Divine Majesty, for imploring His Blessing and Assistance on Our arms for the restoration of Peace to Us and Our dominions' in the war against Russia in the Balkans and Crimea. The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England were instructed to compose a prayer for use on the day (*London Gazette*, 14 April 1854).

May 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Tremendous Poll for the Appointment of Assistant Overseer -  
Candidates

Votes	317	Frederick Ashton - retired	
"	578	Michael M <sup>c</sup> Manus	
		John Clough	Majority 261

The same day Mr John Durham, died, he voted at the poll - was much pressed by the crowd. He died of Apoplexy Aged 67 years. Also Died Richard Bell the Glazier, much & deservedly respected.

[May] 25. Cock Robin, alias Robert Riding married his Bar Maid Rachel - In the course of the Day some of the children rebelled, an ill-assorted marriage

[May] 27<sup>th</sup> Died W<sup>m</sup> Yates, Sen<sup>r</sup> Ironfounder he also voted at the last Election - Truly in the midst of life, we are in death.

[May] 28 Sunday Went to Balderstone - Afternoon.  
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1854

June 2<sup>nd</sup> Started to London, as a Deputy at the AMC [Annual Moveable Conference] with G. Allen & L Coupe there until the 11<sup>th</sup> then came down to Atherstone. Was appointed a Member of the Board of Directors.

July 6<sup>th</sup> Mrs Houlker retired from the Bay Horse Inn - where I usually with other Tradesmen consorted.

Aug<sup>t</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup>. R. R. Jackson, Esq<sup>r</sup> married Miss Whittaker the Daughter of our worthy vicar - He lies dangerously ill at home - not likely to recover.

[August] 3<sup>rd</sup> Miss Feilden of Witton married to young Mr Ashton [Assheton] of Downham.

[September] 1<sup>st</sup>. Was again troubled in my mind respecting my pecuniary, and having met wine cross - got angry & vexed with my wife - who I am sorry to say rather provoked than allayed the heat which led the way to much unpleasantness but, ended I sincerely trust in a true and lasting reconciliation.

[September] 3<sup>rd</sup> This moment has departed my best and earliest friend Dr Whittaker, Vicar of this Town, - I hope the Lord has taken him to heaven.

[September] 10<sup>th</sup> Public Funeral of Dr Whittaker - from 3 to 400 Gentlemen in procession - the Clergy of the Town & Neighbourhood, the Bishop of Manchester - the Teachers of the Schools - the Mayor & Corporation - and a great concourse of Inhabitants - D Riley played the Organ and an Anthem was sung on the occasion - The procession extended from the Church nearly to the Vicarage. Very solemn and affecting Service.

Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 1854 T Poulton Church with my Wife - heard the Bishop of Manchester preach also saw the Confirmation - Got Tea at Black Bull, - Walked back to Blackpool.

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> Yesterday (the 24<sup>th</sup>) my Eldest Son Thomas attained his majority, - I gave him necessary advice as to his future career. - At present he stays with me.

On the same day J H Pickup had a Son born and the first marriages at St John's & Trinity Church were solemnised

Mr John Clayton to Mrs Knowles (St John)

Mr Pearson to Mrs Morris (Trinity)

Mr Charles Glover<sup>4</sup> to \_\_\_\_\_ Parish

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<sup>4</sup> No Charles Glover was recorded as being married in Blackburn on 24 October 1854 but Ellen Glover married Richard Ormerod Aspin at St Mary's on that date.

Nov<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday, My Niece Priscilla Martin died an irreparable loss to her afflicted Mother and Husband. She had but poor health from the time of her first Childbirth and gradually grew worse. She leaves a little Girl to lament her loss. - Aged 23