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Feb. 16th Monday After a succession of very heavy storms of Wind prevailing throughout the month of January, we are now favored with fine, calm, clear & frosty Weather - in fact cloudless for some days

Died Feb 25th 1863 - Old Mr Astley of the Dutton Brewery at Blackpool - This is incorrect. It was his son John at Clitheroe who committed Suicide by hanging - Old Mr. A. continued at Blackpool several years & there died above fourscore years old.

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March 10th 1863. Grand Demonstration on the occasion of the Marriage of HRH the Prince of Wales, and the Princess of Wales, -

1st A Procession about four miles long,

2nd The planting of Two Oaks,

3rd The Laying foundation Stone of New Exchange,

4th The Illumination, - very good,

5th The Fireworks, - poor, expensive & miserable

6th A Monster Bonfire, on Revidge - under the able management of Henry

Duckworth.

In the Evening Banquet &c. in which I got more liquor than I ought to have done.

Good Friday, April 3rd This day departed this Life our excellent and respected Treasurer, Ja^s Parkinson Esq^{re} after a very short illness. He was interred at Accrington on the 9th - Aged 49 years, - The Relief Committee, and many Gentleman assembled on the morning of the Funeral & escorted the same on the way to Accrington.

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March 19th Messrs R H Hutchinson, John Proctor, James Thompson & Joseph Callis, were duly initiated in the first Degree of Masonry. - Two of the first proceeded to P.M. Thompson resigned.

This is a year since I wrote my Letter to the Times and received so large a sum of Money - Though things are somewhat better, there is much distress existing. - I have had many trials - and hence alas fallen into many sins thro heavy temptations. There is no help but in God thro Jesus Christ our Lord - whose blood alone cleanseth from all sin. My Mercies during the year have been great - what has been my return to God. - deep ingratitude and imperfect services, - "O Lord, correct me but with judgment, not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing"

April 21 Died James Hadfield, Grocer, aged 76 years, and old & respectable Tradesman for many years.

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April 25. This day Duncan McPhail and George Woods were executed at Kirkdale jail Liverpool, for the wilful Murder of Anne Walne of Ribchester on the 11th of Nov 1862. - Dan Carr had died in Prison, on the first Morning of the Trial Ben Hartley turned approver,¹ and

¹ An informer, one who confesses and gives evidence against his accomplices: *OED* 'approver' n.1. 1.

was acquitted - There was immense excitement existed with regard to the Trial and efforts were made to obtain a commutation of the Sentence.²

[April] 26th Died Mr Sedgwick, Schoolmaster, aged ___ a worthy & most respectable Man, - and very useful in his day & generation -

All flesh is grass, - the grass withereth & the flower fadeth - but the word of the Lord standeth fast forever.³

May 1st Appointment of chief Constable in place of Mr Laverty -

Mr Potts	}	
Mr Tattersall	}	Candidate
Mr Summersgill	}	

[May] 9th David Thornber left.

The Watch Committee met at 7 o'clock 27 were present, After a long discussion Mr Summersgill's name was struck off - and on the other Two being put Mr Potts was declared elected. - In the Evening I was most grossly insulted by Mr H^y Backhouse, Mr B. Sandford & Mr Tattersall, because I would not sacrifice the interest of the Town to personal feelings.

May The following persons died in the course of about 10 or 12 days

Mr W ^m Brennand,	}	
" Geo Walsh	}	all of whom were in the prime of life - but
" John Hebden	}	injured their health by Intoxicating Liquor.
" Douglas Baron	}	
" Thomas Pemberton	}	

May 24th Whit Sunday - Weather cold and dry - E.W. [Easterly Wind] Went with Mrs Tiplady to visit Misses Callis of Bolton - painful foot - At Bolton Church in the Morning - No Sermon - Hymns very long.

On the following day rode to Slaidburn My first visit - The Club day - Procession to Church - visited Dunnaw the residence of Leo Wilkinson Esq^{re} - spent a very pleasant day & returned home to Bⁿ. at 8 o'clock pm - This Day there was a Grand Review at Bⁿ. - All things went off well.

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June 22nd. Meeting of the Mechanics Institution rather strong discussion on the appointment of the Officer - Good Speech from Mr Woodhouse, - Mr Sturdy in the Chair, - Baynes, Hutchinson, Livesey, Thompson, Booth, Proctor, Tiplady, Gourlay and other spoke - All concluded peaceably.

A heavy fall of rain in June about the 15 & 16th Days. The river much swollen.

[June] 23rd 55th Birthday - very fine Morning - In good health and all the family. Thank God. Down to Ribchester with Wife & two Daughters delicious day & very fine visit - Bad in my Water, & obstruction from Stone

[June] 25 Was probed for the stone - very painful - Will have to be cut - passed a Stone afterwards

[June] 26 paid Dr Rushton £31.17.8 for the Societys Books.

² Anne Walne, who was 79 and lived alone, was murdered on 10/11 November 1862 in her house. The two accused, the approver and Carr, who died before the trial, burgled Walne for her rent money which she kept in her mattress. During the burglary she was tied to the bed and beaten about the head and then strangled. According to coroner, the cause of death was suffocation. Although Carr was the murderer the other two were found guilty of murder under the contemporary interpretation of the law. The jury asked for clemency but the judge sentenced McPhail and Woods to death (*Blackburn Times*, 4 April 1863).

³ 1 Peter, chapter 1 verse 4.

July 2nd. Notice of Action delivered in Laverty's Case Damages £2000 - always some bother.⁴

[July] 6th Glorious fine July - Was favored with a Letter from Richard after a months delay. - In good health but cannot come home this year.

[July] 7 to 11th Exceedingly fine, hot & dry -

[July] 11th Died Richard Greenwood, much esteemed left Eight Orphan children - aged 47 Years.

[July] 20th Visited Manchester at a Sale where good Bargains might have been made but had not money to spare. In the Evening visited Belle Vue and the Magnificent fire Works, which surpassed any thing I ever witnessed, - Home with Mrs T. at 1.30 am. 21st The Weather Glorious

Up to this day July has been one of the driest, most Sunny and delightful seasons ever remembered. The Hay Harvest in very early and quite concluded in July. There was a day or two's rain after the 20th but the 6 last days were Magnificent - Fruits beautiful -

[July] 27th James Bury died - aged 38.

Thursday the 30th [July] John Dean treated a large Company of his friend to a fishing excursion on the Ribble at Lytham. Weather Grand.

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Aug 2nd Very fine. Went to Langho Sermons - very good singing - and a plain homely discourse.

Letter from Son Richard to his Mother, all well, thank God, - sent £15.0.0 to his Mother

[August] 13th Went down to Liverpool to consult Mr Meakin on my Complaint the Stone - He gave me some Decoction of Herbs, -

[August] 14th Urine - 4-30 - very Muddy which after lying until cold, settled at the Bottom - as of from Inflammation

[August] 28th Borrowed of my Son Richard the sum of Fifteen Pounds, to pay my Insurance Premium -

Sep 10th Clithero[e] Show, - very well attended went to Worthorn, - by myself

[September] 13th Mr Littlewood Died aged 70 - a good Man.

[September] 15th Mr Horrocks died suddenly. Tailor & Draper

[September] 16th Mrs Tiplady went to Scarborough, and on the 19th (Sat) I followed. The Day was very dull and when the Train reached Scar^h. it rained heavily. I had some difficulty in getting to my Lodgings, but arrived safely and was welcomed by Mrs C. about 1/2 past 8 o'clock; After Tea, I rested - In the Morning to Church (X^t [Christ]) Aristocratic Assembly - Collection - Noticed that the Beadle was purloined[?] to find sittings tho' there was plenty of room, In the Afternoon took a long walk round by the Castle Hill and on to the Pier, - Saw a French Sloop of War, the "Cuvier" fully manned - Evening at Home. -

Monday after Breakfast sailed on board the Confidence to Whitby - fr^e [fare] 1/-. The day at first gloomy - afternoon very fine - visited the fine old Church & Abbey - had to walk up 200 Steps to the church - Whitby in some parts is not unlike Douglas in the Isle of Man. The old part is very ruinous - the new part beautiful The Harbour is very strong & piers neatly built

We also at this time visited Bridlington and Filey & other places and returned to Blackburn on the 26th September.

⁴ Laverty, the former Blackburn police Chief Constable discharged after the Game Riots in November 1862, issued a notice of action 'that Watch Committee wrongfully, wilfully and maliciously, and without any good or probable cause, discharged Mr Laverty ... and turned him and his family out of his dwelling-house, and other wrongs to him, to his damage of £2,000' (*Blackburn Times*, 4 July 1863).

1867

Killed on the Accrington Line Mr Daniel Leach one of the Members of the Clayton-le-Dale Lodge A very worthy Man. He leaves a Widow & 2 children to lament him.⁵

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[October] 12th At Whalley in the Afternoon with Mrs Tiplady a nice walk and Tea at Lamb Row -

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Nov 2nd Re-elected a Councillor for St Johns Ward without much opposition, cost about £12.0.0⁶

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Mem. Nov 27th 1863. Sent off this day the sum of £73.3.0 being the amount of money in the Bank, and owing by me to Miss Jane Tiplady of Atherstone! - also the Scrip for the Shares in the Darwen Gas Company. -

Dec. 8th Died Mr James Bolton at the Old Bull Inn, - very unhappy with his Wife, in consequence of her unfaithfulness

Dined this Evening at Lovely Hall, the seat of the Mayor, Thomas Lund, Esq^{re} - a very quiet and pleasant Company comprising his Worship and Mr George Lund - the Rev Archdeacon Rushton, Ja^s Pilkington Esq. M.P. - W^m Pilkington, Esq. - Aldⁿ Stones, Coddington and Grime; - Councillors, Ja^s Lewis, Tiplady, Smith, T.H Pickup, - Cartwright, Polding, Yates, Shackleton, and J.B. Sturdy.

Dec 26th St John's, large Meeting of Free Masons.

[December] 29. Dined with Mr Hutchinson, who presented T Butterfield with a neat silver cup in token of his services to the Soup Kitchen.

⁵ Leach died on 18 April 1867 after being found hanging from a carriage of a train from Blackburn. According to witnesses at the inquest he had exited the carriage for the platform on the wrong side. He survived his injuries but died the following day (*Burnley Gazette*, 20 April 1867).

⁶ The result of the election was Charles Caughey, 241; Tiplady, 234; John Howarth, 11 (*Blackburn Standard*, 4 November 1863).