

Cribden House School (Formerly 'Brynbella')



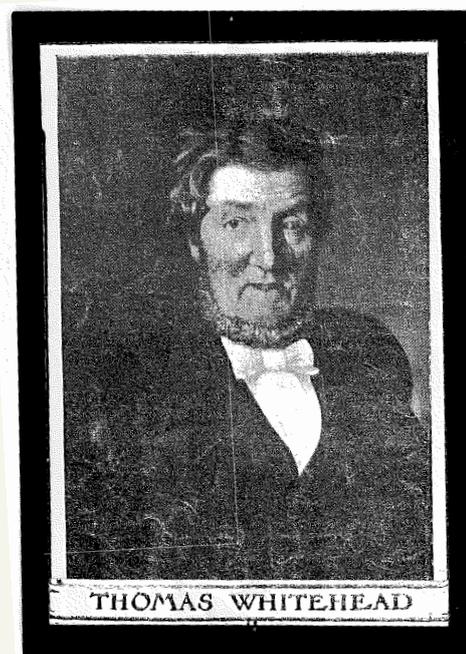
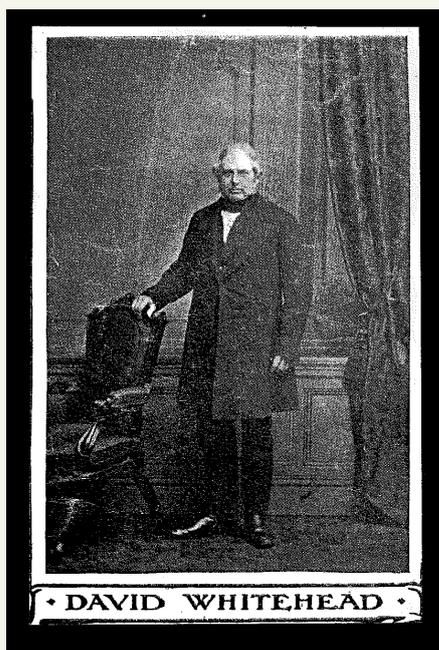
**BRYNBELLA AND ITS PLACE IN
RAWTENSTALL'S HISTORY**

History and Ownership of the Land and House

- *Prior to 5th October 1802 the land and house was owned by Thomas and Mary Edmondson, it was known as Lower House at this time.*
- *After the 6th October 1802 Miss Frances Bury is registered as the owner (she later married George Strong). The house became known as Egypt House which is how the terraces on Haslingden Road get their name.*
- *19th October 1859 Mr James Rushton.*
- *24th April 1860 Mr Peter Halsted Whitehead. The house that stands today was built in the 1860 and became known as Brynbella. There would have been amazing views up to Balladen before the trees matured and the bypass was constructed.*
- *6th July 1880 Mr John Walker Steed and Mr Adam Bealey (Trustees of Mr John Robinson Kelly).*
- *In 1905 the house and factory (including weaving sheds and own railway siding close to Rawtenstall railway station) were auctioned off in two separate lots. The factory sold but the house did not.*
- *28th February 1910 Mr Harold Margerson Kenyon.*
- *2nd February 1920 Mr Harry Whitehead and his sister Carrie (Rawtenstall's first female mayor).*
- *31st July 1947 Lancashire County council bought the house but the contents were auctioned off in lots over two days.*
- *Rawtenstall library has a book detailing the contents and lots available (RC728RAW).*
- *1991 the house was damaged by fire and many of the original features were destroyed, Lancashire County Council refitted it. The stream that ran through the grounds originally fed lodges at New Hall Hey, but has now almost dried up.*
- *The construction of the bypass took up large sections of the original wooded grounds.*

Brynbella and its Place in Rawtenstall's History

Lancashire claims to be the birth place of the industrial revolution. In Rossendale hand loom weavers flourished and spinning frames were driven by water power long before 'the dark satanic mills' of the larger towns made or lost fortunes for their owners. Rawtenstall's "Cotton Kings" the three Whitehead brothers Thomas, David and Peter had been in the business for over twenty years before Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837. They built themselves a unique terrace of three house at Holly



Mount Rawtenstall (now listed) but as each brother had a large family they were building a second generation of mill owner mansions by the 1860s.

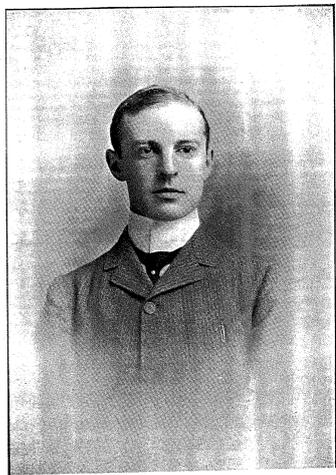
The Whiteheads were strict Methodists and put much of their money into the superb examples of Chapel architecture, which is reflected in the building of their houses. Brynbella is the finest example. The quality of the stone work is excellent throughout.

Peter Halsted Whitehead, second eldest surviving son of Thomas Whitehead, bought the estate in 1860 and the house was built over the next two years. It is in two parts the family front being two storey and the service quarters being of three. Once inside the hall opens to the full height of the building with a wide staircase carrying the eye to roof light. Around the hall are what were the dining room, drawing room, morning room and six principle bedrooms and bathrooms. On the other side were the servants hall, butler's pantry. Five cellars and three servant bedrooms.

Brynabella and its Place in Rawtenstall's History

From 1880 the house was lived in by Mr. John Stead and Mr. Adam Beasley. In 1905 the house and factory were auctioned off in two separate lots. The factory sold but the house did not.

In February 1920 the house came back to the Whitehead family. David Whitehead's grandson, Harry, set up home with his sister Carrie. Harry became the head of the company David Whitehead & Sons Limited. Neither of them ever married, but spent their lives playing prominent roles in the development of the town during the first half of the 20th century.



HARRY WHITEHEAD c.1867-1947



Carrie Whitehead, First Lady Mayor of Rawtenstall 1935

Under Harry the company came successfully through the second world war. Harry died in 1947 but foundations were laid for producing denim for overalls and jeans, which took pride of place in 1951 Festival of Britain. The company pioneered improved working conditions, including canteens and crèche facilities and set up factories in Rhodesia.

Carrie was no less remarkable, in 1980 she had several novels under the name of Caroline Masters. She became the town's first woman councillor in 1920 and mayor in 1935-1938. Carrie died in 1945.

After Harry's death the house was put up for sale, purchased by Lancashire County Council for £3,400. Lancashire County Council used the building as a special school but in the 1960s it had a spell as a home for the elderly, before coming back into use as Cribden House School.

Cribden House School Fire

There was a near disastrous fire in 1991, but it is credited to the solid quality of the original building and the good will of Lancashire County Council that a superb programme of restoration took place. The house was listed as Grade II in 1984 (for full information of the listing visit www.historicengland.org.uk) and County took the opportunity to reinstate not only the architecturally features of the building but it's feel of homeliness also.



In 1938 the Whitehead brothers built their own school for mill worker's children at Holly Mount. It is a pleasing thought that one of their family homes is now used as a school to educate children with special educational needs, to help them achieve their full potential. Cribden House School is continuing to develop ideas, and is opening the grounds with Forest trails and outdoor pursuit areas for the whole of the Community.

WITH REFERENCES FROM RAWTENSTALL
LIBRARY AND RAWTENSTALL CIVIC
SOCIETY

The WHITEHEAD family

textile man.

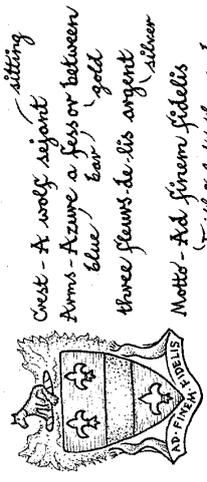
John Whitehead = Ann Ormerod
 b. 1672
 farmer of 40 acres
 at Meadowhead
 near Cambeside

Whitehead =

John Whitehead
 b. 1732
 of Meadowhead
 d. 26. 5. 1802

* painting or photograph in Museum or Library

Peggy Nuttall
 ① Ann Blakey
 b. 1760
 d. 1849 age 89



Crest - A wolf sejant sitting
 Arms - Azure a fess or between blue bars (gold) three fleurs-de-lis argent
 Motto - Ad finem fidelis
 Faithful to the end

Joseph Whitehead Benjamin Whitehead
 b. c. 1804

Peter Whitehead Betty Whitehead
 b. 1793

David Whitehead
 b. 11.12.1790
 Holly Mount
 d. 28.1.1865 age 74

Alice Whitehead
 b. 1788
 Holly Mount
 d. 5.11.1859 age 72

Betty Halstead
 b. 1827
 Holly Mount
 d. 5.3.1821

Thomas W. Joseph Wood W. Alice W. Peter Halstead W.
 b. 1821
 Holly Mount
 d. 5.3.1821

Elizabeth W. David Blakey W. Jonathan Wood W. Sarah W. Thomas Hoyle W.
 b. 4.6.1819
 Holly Mount
 d. 10.1827

Ann Elizabeth W. Elizabeth W. Annabella W. Harry W.
 b. 1825
 Holly Mount
 d. 1867

from Alder Chantry - near at Museum
 Coat of arms
 from Alder Chantry - near at Museum

Quaker
 Cousin of Thomas Hoyle of W. Co.
 Ann Halstead - dau. Nicholas Halstead of Highgate Weston
 ② Anne Blakey
 b. 1760
 d. 1849 age 89

Whitehead
 ③ Joseph Whitehead
 b. c. 1804

Whitehead
 ④ Elizabeth Kay
 b. 1804
 d. 21.10.1829 age 25

Whitehead
 ⑤ Peter Ormerod W. Elizabeth W. Margaret W.
 b. 1835
 d. 1839

Whitehead
 ⑥ John Ormerod W. Samuel Sanderson W.
 b. 4.6.1835
 d. 1865

Whitehead
 ⑦ Thomas Hoyle W. George Elizabeth W. Herbert W. Frederick Taylor W.
 b. 1874
 d. 1862

Whitehead
 ⑧ John P. Gavanagh d. 1947
 age c. 80

John, James, George, Mary, William, Peggy + 4 d. in infancy
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