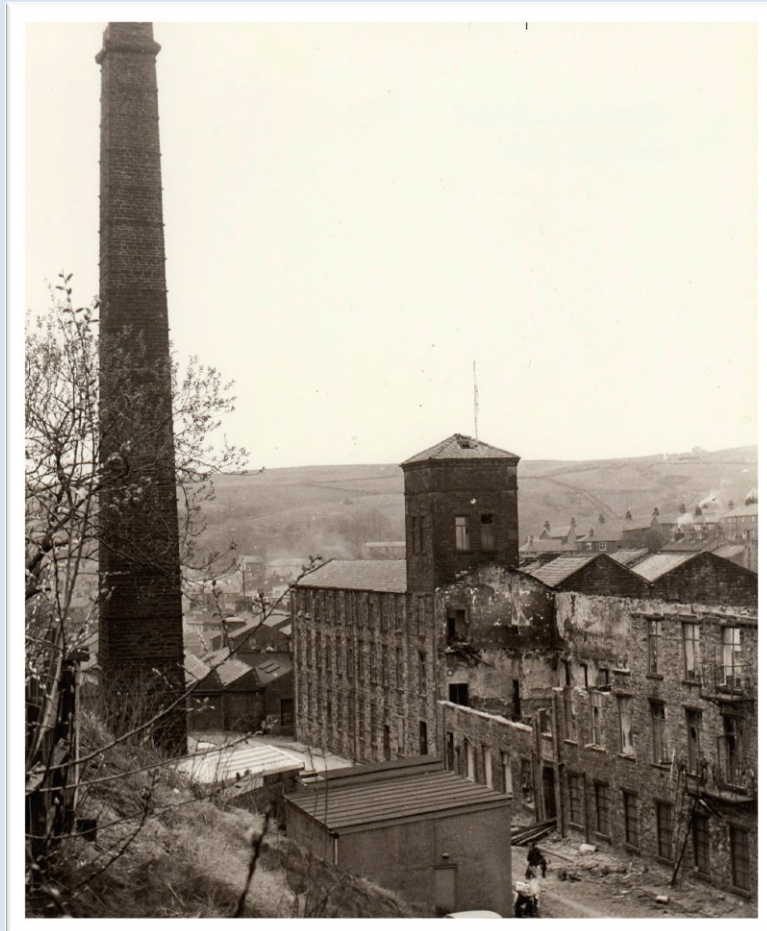


Beech Mill



Beech Mill was built by grocer James Carter and his business partner William Sleath of Grove Mill in 1853-1854. In 1868 Mr Sleath instructed Tattersall Auctioneers of Irwell Terrace Bacup to auction the contents of the mill. Joshua Hoyle & Sons bought the mill and continued in business there until 1937 when it was taken over by the Bacup Felt Manufacturing Company Limited. By the end of January 1976, trading had ended and demolition was carried out in April 1978.

Out of the 122 years of the mill's history, 80 years was devoted to the manufacture of cotton goods. Beech Mill chimney stood at a height of 150 feet, it took six days in all to demolish the chimney the last hundred feet of the chimney being demolished by explosives.

Accidents and Fires at Beech Mill were many in March 1899 Mary Jane Calvery a Throstle Spinner was struck on the head by a leather strap, the impact knocking her to the floor at which point her clothes became entangled in the machinery. Fortunately her workmates freed her quickly saving Mary from further serious injury other than a compound fracture.

1906 A young man named Herbert Tattersall aged 19 years, of 3 Gladstone Buildings, Bacup, was found by his father the manager of the mill hanging from a beam. April 1912 William George Garrard a Scutcher operator, of 36 Vale Street Bacup, was suddenly taken ill but succumbed before the arrival of a doctor. Earlier Mr Garrard had assisted in extinguishing the flames when a fire broke out in the Scutching Room. Shortly afterwards he went outside and began to vomit. Taken into the waste room by his workmates he died at 3.15.

