

Greensnook House



Situated in off Todmorden Road Greensnook House was the home of Lawrence Heyworth born in 1786 he was the youngest of four sons born to Peter Heyworth and his wife Elizabeth who was the daughter of Lawrence Ormerod of the same place. Both sets of grandfathers were the principal cotton manufacturers at Bacup. He went to the old school in Bacup which stood where today's Mechanics Institute /Library now stands.

The turnpike road ran through the estate, George Ormerod of Greensnook and John Ormerod of Bankside were trustees of that road.

In 1802 he left school in Halifax being then sixteen years of age and went into work with his brothers who succeeded their father in the woollen business. At the age of nineteen in October 1805 he left Bacup by stagecoach bound for Lisbon, travelling through Birmingham and Bristol the last leg of the journey was at night. Inside the coach was one fellow passenger, sat on opposite sides to one another each had their windows open. In the morning with a frost on the ground they both expressed how cold they were and each explained that he had kept his window open thinking the other wished it. This led to a firm friendship developing between the two. His companion was a young German by the name of Grunin a traveller for a commercial house in Hamburg and himself on his way to Portugal but he first to visit London. Thinking they would not meet again on parting this would prove to be untrue. Whilst waiting for a suitable passage news came from Trafalgar and the death of Nelson. Accidently out up in Mr Heyworth's lodgings the German and he met once again sharing eventually the passage to Lisbon. I

introducing him to the many merchants of the place Lawrence speedily received many orders not only for goods that the Heyworth's produced but for other articles that he would take a commission on for supplying. Lawrence remained abroad for several years arriving in London he boarded a ship for the continent and opened up trade with the merchants of Spain and Portugal. On his return to England in 1819 he bought Yew Tree estate near Liverpool and married his second cousins Elizabeth Aked in 1820. They had six children, Lawrenca born Oct 1821, Peter George born June 1823, John born Oct 1824, Elizabeth born Oct 1825, James Ormerod, Born July 1827 and Lawrence Heyworth Feb 1831.

In 1848 he became M. P for Derby, after sitting through two parliaments extending over a period of about nine years he resigned his seat in 1857. Lawrence was the President of the Mechanics Institute from its opening in 1839 to his death in April 1872 aged 86 years.

His daughter Lawrenca married Richard Potter in 1844 and they had ten children the most famous of these being Martha Beatrice pictured right who would marry Sidney James Webb in July of 1892. Beatrice visited Bacup in 1883 following the death of her mother who had died the year before.



Christ church was built in 1854 on part of the Greensnook estate paid for by a bequest of the late James Heyworth of Rosehill, Bacup, afterwards of Liverpool his nephew the Rev James Heyworth M.A of Bristol was the first patron.

Greensnook House was occupied by W. J. Sleath in 1849 after the Heyworth's had left the district. In those days it was a treat to go around the grounds of the mansion. Mr Sleath was for a time partners with Hamiltons of Grove Mill. Mr Sleath retired to the South of England where he died in 1881.