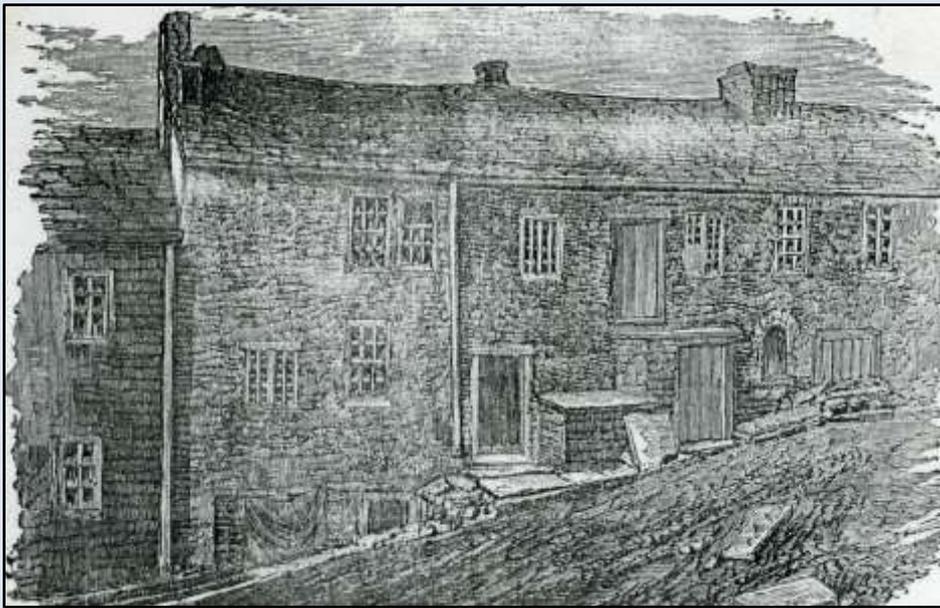


## Lane Head, St James Square & Bridge Street

Standing at the junction of Lanehead Lane was one of Bacup's oldest hostelry's when it was demolished in 1931, the Angel Inn Hotel. Unlike today Lane Head Lane was one of two main routes out of Bacup. A traveller wishing to get to Todmorden for example would travel up Lane Head linking up with the old road over Geensnook to Sharneyford. Across the road from the houses pictured above was Ebenezer Baptist Chapel which was built between 1868 and 1870 with an adjoining school remodelled from the original 1812 chapel.



A sketch of early Lane Head Lane.

Both premises were demolished 1964-1965. The burial grounds in Bacup left rather a lot to be desired and whilst carrying out the public health report of 1849, Dr Lees described the Ebenezer burial ground as appearing to be quite full.

One of the most famous grave stones in Ebenezer's graveyard was that of Mary Harrison, who had been born near Chatham, Todmorden in 1710. Mary entered the service of the Maden family at the age of 13, and was still attending to the family at the age of 108 when Sarah the youngest child was born. In full possession of all her faculties the only problem Mary had was a hearing loss. Mary died on the 21st December 1818 and was buried at Ebenezer Baptist chapel.

Her gravestone can still be seen it reads: This stone is erected to the memory of Betty Lord widow of Samuel Lord of South Grain who departed this life Jan 20th 1818 in the 73rd year of her age. Also here lies the body of Mary Harrison Mother of the above Betty Lord who departed this life 21st Dec 1818 in the 109th year of her life she lived the last 18 years of her life in the family of Mr James Maden Greens & nursed his children the youngest after she was 102 years old.

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The last services at Ebenezer were on the 28th October 1962.

Mount Infants was opened in July 1905 and closed in 1982. The junior departments having been housed in the Mount Pleasant Wesleyan buildings higher up Lane head.

The people in Lane Head Lane suffered the same problems as many in Bacup when it came to toilets and water facilities, in 1849 there was only one privy for 16 houses the maximum distance which the inhabitants had to go to reach it was 96 yards and the minimum was 35 yards. It was also used by persons passing by. Peggy's Spout was the name given to the well which was used for gathering water when this one dried up in the summer they had to walk to Broadclough for their water.



Lanehead was the route travellers took via Geensnook.

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Lane Head was also home to the Bacup St John's Ambulance Hall the land for which was bought in 1923, the hall opening in 1932.



Aftermath of gas explosion in 1985.



The King George, Bacup Natural History Society rooms and Meads Chemist, the latter two being demolished to make way for the Woolworths Store and Bacup Electricity Showrooms.

In August 1932 the Bacup Times announced the opening of a new Woolworths Store with a new Electricity showrooms opening 6 years later in December of 1938. Fifteen years later in 1953 to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth the Town Council erected an ornamental fountain which for the whole week of the coronation celebrations was floodlit and described as a beautiful thing to see.



[The Coronation Fountain.](#)

The Town Head properties were bought by the Town Council in 1926 as part of their St James Square & Yorkshire Street improvement scheme and demolished along with the original George & Dragon Inn in 1927.

No one really knows when the George was built but in 1927 it was reported in the Bacup Times, that there were deeds in existence connected to the property going back to the 16th century at the time of its demolition the stone porticoes that fronted the building were removed and have since been situated in Moorlands Park.

By the 10th September 1927 the whole area of the Town Head property had been demolished and plans were made to erect an island refuge with traffic signals and direction signs. Various materials from the demolition of the old George were used to erect the toilets at Sheep house and Height Barn.

Across the road in 1915 Boots the chemist opened and two years later the area was given the name of St James Square.