



Quarry Accidents

Henry Heys Quarry

1866 A man named Kay who had been working at the stone polishing mill at Brandwood sidings was making repairs when he was struck in the face by a crank. Breaking his jaw and nose and knocking one of his eyes out. He was taken to the Commercial Inn Stacksteads where Dr Wilson of Stacksteads and Dr Stewart of Bacup attended him.

1882 A boiler explosion at Long End Pasture stone quarries killed engine tender Prince Saunders.

1881 A man killed by a stone wagon crossing Blackwood Road.

1907 A man had his leg fractured below the knee working in a stone mine of Henry Heys Brandwood quarry.

George Escott, a miner for Henry Heys & Co. working for Siddalls at Hell Clough quarry, was hurt whilst carrying out his work.

1908 Owing to a connecting link breaking, two loaded wagons dashed down the incline on to Messrs. Henry Heys & Co railway siding at Atherton Holme doing much damage to rolling stock etc. That same year a man working at Heys quarry Rakehead had his arm caught in a crane gearing, his arm was badly lacerated.

1908 A man named Foy was crushed between two railway wagons, in shunting operations. He walked home with assistance, to Yate Street, Bacup and was seen by Dr. Brown, who found he was in such a serious condition that to move him to the infirmary would have brought about his death. He survived until seven o'clock that evening. At the inquest it was stated that the deceased had walked from Back Cowm quarry to Yate Street Bacup, in a condition as stated by his Doctor; the Coroner, in his summing up said: "Foy was a hard one".

Britannia Quarry

1895 Richard Wylde 53 a quarry manager for Messer's Brooks & Brooks met with an accident when he fell from a wagon going up the 600 yards long incline to Britannia quarries. The deceased had a leg cut off by one of the wagons and died later from his injuries.

1902 Myles Hollows aged 87 had his hand trapped between the buffers of two railway wagons in shunting operations at Brooks sidings Britannia. His hand was badly damaged and the middle finger of his left hand was taken off.

1908 A man working for Brooks & Brooks fell into a quarry hole about 50ft deep.

1908 A man named Cross was crushed between engine buffers and a wagon. He was conveyed home where he was attended by Dr Brooks.

1912 John William Parkinson steam crane driver, aged 35 of Bright Street, Bacup was killed. It appears he was raising a block of stone out of the quarry, a distance of 25yards. It was estimated the block of stone would weigh about 7 tons, the lifting capacity of the crane was 15 tons, which was one of the largest of it's kind in local quarries. When the stone had been raised within 6yards from the top, Parkinson decided that it was impossible to land it without changing gear. In order to do this, he applied the brakes, but due to wet weather the brakes did not act. The 7 ton of block of stone began to run back into the quarry, the cogs failed to engage correctly, with the result the wheels were completely broken. Pieces flew in all directions some falling many yards away from the crane, whilst one piece severed a pipe on the cranes boiler, causing steam to escape. This cloud of steam obscured the area and hid Parkinson from view. He sustained terrible injuries, being horribly mutilated about the lower abdomen. He was conveyed to Rochdale Infirmary but had died on arrival.

Lee Quarry

1883 Joseph Ridehalgh of Plantation Street, Stacksteads was killed when he fell from his crane into the bottom of the quarry a distance of 50ft.

1885 Fatal accident to a man named Joseph Hocking, of Lodge Street, Bacup. It appears Hocking and another man, James Patrick, were employed by William Hoyle as labourers. They were working on a ledge some 6ft in area clearing rocks with a crow bar. The ledge was about 9 to 10 ft from the quarry floor. The rock or post as it was called gave way, Patrick jumped clear, but Hocking did not make an effort to get clear, he fell, and a piece of rock about 8 tons crushed his head into a shapeless mass. A steam crane had to lift the rock from his body, once extracted, the body was taken to his home and the coroner notified of his accident.

1885 Jonas Townsend who worked for Siddall Lee Wood was badly crushed when he was thrown between a stone wagon and a coal wagon.

1905 A Lee quarry accident. Owned by the Exors of Myles Hardman. A 50 foot long bridge collapsed, it was erected from 18 inch by 8 inch Pitch Pine baulks. A wagon loaded with over two tons of stone and two men, fell 50 feet. This accident proved fatal to one of the men.

1906 A fatal accident at the quarry of Exors of Myles Hardman at Lee.

Lovick & Philipson at Lee quarries. A man hurt.

1906 Richard Walmsley, aged 46 of 52 Vale Cottages, Newline, had his thigh pierced with a crowbar. Dr Brown attended and he was later taken home on a stretcher and then conveyed to Rochdale Infirmary in the horse ambulance by Engineer Jackson but died four days later from Gangrene.

1908 Quarry accident at Holts Siding, Lee Mill. A man named Frank Fogg, a stone mason, received injuries to his head, he was working near the saw mill belonging to William Jackson, stone merchant, when his head came in contact with the revolving handle of a hand crane.

1908 Two accidents at Lee quarries, Bacup. A man named John Robert Fell injured his foot and was moved to Rochdale Infirmary. Sevatus Lord, (44) nearly had an arm torn off when he got caught in the cogs of a crane he was driving. This accident was fatal. The owners of the quarry were the Exors of Myles Hardman.

1934 A runaway wagon tragedy. Alfred Evans (49) a mason lost his life at Lee quarries, trapped between a rail wagon and a sett edge (wall of setts). At the time of the accident he was trying to uncouple a horse from the runaway wagon but was trapped as stated. The wagon, 10 feet long and 3 feet in width was loaded with about 4 tons of stone being drawn by a horse, in the evidence it appears that the wagon should not have been on that line, some how the points had been moved. The rail gauge was 3ft. 6ins. 207

Richard Siddall Quarry

1881 Michael Hines had to have a leg amputated after having accident while riding in a stone wagon attached to a locomotive which runs across the moor above Blackwood from Siddalls quarry. The locomotive slackened speed and Hines jumped off the wagon and landed on a steel plate. He slipped and was run over by one of the trucks, he was eventually taken to Manchester Infirmary.

1884 Thomas Brierley aged 20 was killed through his injuries. Brierley had been standing in a wagon on the rail siding Law Head, a locomotive struck the wagon whilst shunting operations were going on. Brierley was thrown from the wagon onto the rail lines and was run over by a locomotive which inflicted dreadful injuries.

1884 A shocking and fatal accident at Stacksteads to a Shunter named, Richard Henry Richmond, aged 24 of Cloughfold. A runaway wagon loaded with 16yards of 3inch stone struck him and killed him instantly.

1889 A man named Turner slipped on to the main line and was run over by an engine at Siddalls polishing mill.

1907 George Escott a miner for Henry Heys & Co working for Siddalls at Hell Clough quarry, was hurt whilst carrying out his work.

1908 Greens Moor quarry a man had his foot crushed by falling rock.

1908 An accident to a stone miner at Hell Clough quarry, John Thomas Stevens (33) of Huttock End Lane, Stacksteads, was caught under a fall of earth and was for a short time entombed. When he was dug out it was found he had head injuries. He was carried to Dr. Falconers surgery at Stacksteads, and later to Rochdale Infirmary in the horse ambulance by engineer Jackson. Death occurred at Rochdale Infirmary, where a inquest was held. A further fatal accident at Greens Moor quarry, owned by the exors. of Richard Siddall. Albert E. Howarth (28) died in Rochdale Infirmary due to injuries received when a rock being hoisted out of the quarry fell and pinned him to the quarry face.

Rakehead Quarry

1867 Richard Tyler was killed by a landslip at the quarry.

1881 Man killed at Arch Hole quarry Rakehead Stacksteads.

1908 Patrick John Moran (32) a quarry man of Taylor Holme, Stacksteads, was working in the mine hole of Messrs. Lord & Phillipson stone quarries Rake Head when several tons of stone etc. which comprised the roof of the mine, suddenly collapsed and entombed him. The worse was feared, but a gang of men got to work and after two hours Moran was released in a fainting condition.

1908 In the same year a similar accident happened in the same quarry by the same owners. A man named James William Rothwell was killed. The deceased and witness were getting rock when a beam, about 12 inches square and 19 feet long broke and the roof came in, stones and earth fell on the deceased. He was enveloped but for his legs. They promptly extracted him. The height of the mine was about nine feet. 95 After being treated by a doctor who ordered him to be taken to Manchester Infirmary. Rothwell was conveyed to Stacksteads railway station, but he died on the platform whilst awaiting the arrival of the train.

1939 A fall of rock in a stone mine at Rakehead quarry, killed Alfred Kyme aged 25 years. 178 Accident at Lee quarries, J. T. Brown, a 22 year old quarryman died in Rochdale Infirmary. 204