When I first started out researching my family history I had no idea what to do where to go or anything. I joined Ancestry.co.uk and from day one I have been impressed by the services offered there and would recommend it to anyone researching their family. I am not an expert in Family History research and the purpose of this page is to pass on the things I have found useful while researching my Bacupian ancestors.

**Early Boundaries**

Bacup borough originally consisted of several small townships which fell into two groups. The higher townships in one group were situated on the left side of the Sharney Brook, which discharged its water into the River Irwell, in the centre of the town near the Mechanics Institute, the lower ones being situated on the left side of the River Irwell below the point at which the Sharney Brook joins it.

The higher townships in the other group were situated on the right side of the Sharney Brook and on both sides of the River Irwell, the lower ones being situated on the right side of the River Irwell below the junction of the Sharney Brook with that river. Those townships which are comprised in the first group, and now consist of the south-eastern and southern parts and a large portion of the centre part of the Borough and the southern part of the district now known as Stacksteads, were originally part of the Hundred of Salford and of the Brandwood division of the township of Spotland forming part of the ancient parish of Rochdale. Those townships which are comprised in the second group and now consist of the north part of the Bacup portion of the borough and the northern portion of Stacksteads were originally part of the hundred of Blackburn and of the parish of Newchurch-In-Rossendale.

**St Johns and Newchurch St Nicholas**

In 1837 the original township of Bacup and some of the smaller places in the immediate vicinity became ecclesiastical purposes "the consolidated District Chapelry of St Johns Bacup". In consequence the church of St John became the Parish Church of Bacup.

**Poor Law**

For poor law purposes the area of the borough was formerly divided between two poor law unions the townships in the parish of Spotland being in the Rochdale union and the townships in the parish of Newchurch being in the Haslingden union. This being the case until 1894, when the portion of the borough within the Rochdale union was added to the Haslingden
Union. The borough of Bacup remained part of the Haslingden poor law union until 1930 when the functions of the boards of guardians were transferred to county councils.

Bacup and Stacksteads on Ancestry.co.uk are now covered right from 1841 to 1901. Don't be put off if when you search the 1841 census your ancestors place of birth is given as Whalley, this is correct Bacup was in the Blackburn hundreds and therefore was classed as Whalley.

For searches of the 1851 -1871 census returns in the Keywords box try putting Newchurch or Spotland rather than Bacup, and for the 1881 to 1901 census put Bacup. I have found doing this gives better and more comprehensive results.

Also if your ancestor doesn't show up first time try doing a Soundex search rather than an Exact search.

Manchester Central Library
Holds many Church Records for Baptism’s, Marriages and Burials carried out in the various Churches and Chapels of Bacup and Stacksteads.

Bacup St John Evangelist
Baptisms-1788-1838- MFPR 124
Baptisms-1838-1950- MFPR 1190
Burials-1788-1853- MFPR 124
Marriages-1838-1906- MFPR 1191

Bacup- Wesley Place Wesleyan
Baptisms-1786-1837- MFPR 286
Burials-1794-1837- MFPR 286

Bacup- Christ Church
Marriages-1855-1875- MFPR 1210
Bacup- Ebenezer Baptist
Births-1759-1837- MFPR 285
Burials-1776-1806- MFPR 285
Burials-1812-1837- MFPR 286

Bacup- Irwell Terrace Baptist
Births-1790-1837- MFPR 286

Tunstead- Holy Trinity
Baptisms-1840-1905- MFPR 1637
Marriages-1858-1918- MFPR 1638
Marriages-1918-1949- MFPR 1639

Rochdale- St Chad
Baptisms-1582-1700- Archives L48
Baptisms-1701-1816- MFPR 99
Baptisms-1713-1727- MFPR 1813
Baptisms-1816-1835- MFPR 100
Baptisms-1835-1841- MFPR 101
Baptisms-1841-1856- MFPR 615
Baptisms-1856-1877- MFPR 616
Baptisms-1877-1894- MFPR 617
Baptisms Tr.-1582-1700- 929.3272 R1
Baptisms Tr.-1894-1899- Rossendale Fiche R15
Burials-1582-1700- Archives L48
Burials- 1701-1835- MFPR 105
Burials-1713-1727- MFPR 1813
Burials-1835-1843- MFPR 106
Burials-1843-1848- MFPR 624
Burials-1848-1896- MFPR 625
Burials Tr.-1582-1700- 929.3272 R1
Graves-1814-1840- MFPR 625
Marriage Idx.-1813-1837- Rossendale Fiche R4
Marriages-1582-1713- Archives L48
Marriages-1700-1799- Archives L48
Marriages-1713-1727- MFPR 1813
Marriages-1728-1799- Archives L48
Marriages-1799-1815- MFPR 102
Marriages-1815-1830- MFPR 103
Marriages-1830-1837- MFPR 104
Marriages-1837-1838- MFPR 617
Marriages-1838-1843- MFPR 618
Marriages-1843-1847- MFPR 619
Marriages-1847-1851- MFPR 620
Marriages-1851-1855- MFPR 621
Marriages-1855-1862- MFPR 622
Marriages-1862-1883- MFPR 623
Marriages-1883-1898- MFPR 624
Marriages Tr.-1582-1801- 929.3272 R1
Marriages Tr.-1894-1906- Rossendale Fiche R16
Bacup Library


Births Deaths and Marriages
Have been recorded in Civil Registers since 1837 and there are many Free websites on the internet that are in the process of transcribing these records for Free Public Access. Whilst obtaining Birth Death and Marriage certificates is a very good way of tracing your family history it can become expensive with certificates costing £7.00 each. I found three sites very helpful in tracing my Family's Births Deaths and Marriages.

http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk/index.html
A lot of my family members had been in Married in St Johns Church Bacup and I found this site particularly good for finding these marriages. Although the indexes are not yet complete for all years and districts, the database will eventually cover Lancashire births, marriages and deaths for the years 1837 to 1950.

http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/cgi/search.pl
This site was good for finding family members who lived in other parts of the country before moving to Bacup although because records are still being transcribed it is more difficult to find entries for after 1901.

http://www.1837online.com/Trace2web/
I found this site very good if I had a rough idea of when a family member was Born, Died or Married. It is a pay per view site and costs £5 for 50 Credits which lets you view 50 Images i.e. Birth, Death Marriage entries, however your credits can soon go if you have no idea when
a family member was Born etc and then you have to do a lot of searching. Ideally to get the most out of this site try to get a rough idea of dates etc. I also found this one of the best sites at which to order certificates through.

There are of course many more sites out on the Internet and every body will have their favourites these are just three that I found useful.

Bacup Library
Holds a large collection of research documents covering the areas of Bacup and Rossendale. With some material covering other areas such as Rochdale, Todmorden, Blackburn, Pendle.

St James Square Bacup Lancs OL13 9NH
Tel: 01706 873324
Fax: 01706 873324

Opening Times
Monday 10:00 - 12:30, 13:30 - 19:00 Tuesday 10:00 - 12:30, 13:30 - 17:00 Wednesday 10:00 - 17:00 Thursday Closed Friday 10:00 - 12:30, 13:30 - 17:00 Saturday 10:00 - 16:00

Local directories
Include BAINES’ Directory of 1824-25.
North Western Counties trades directory 1969-70
Macdonald's directory of Rochdale Milnrow, Littleborough, Bacup, Rossendale, Haslingden and Todmorden for 1879.
Local telephone directories from 1959 although coverage for the years years 1879 - 1901, 1904 - 1935, and 1940 - 1954 is weak.

Local Newspapers.
A large collection of The Bacup Times Newspaper 8th April 1865 - 27th November 1965 (originals deposited with Bacup Natural History Society). Indexed 1866 - 1876, 1879 - 1886, 1906, 1965. Also obituary index 1866 - 1879, 1923 - 1966 and some other years. Microfilmed. Obituary Index not microfilmed. can be read using the Micro Film readers two of which and a photocopier are available.
Rossendale Free Press Not indexed. Microfilmed November 1965 to date;
Rossendale Watchman 1876. Including the Bury Body and Rossendale Critic, 1876). All

Electoral Registers
Electoral Registers can be found for the years 1937 - 38 1938-39 (amended wards BJ, BK, BL only )
1975 - 76 and all main and amended registers to date.
1977 - (lacks 1986 -1989)

Census Returns
Returns for the years 1841 to 1891 are available on Micro Film with helpful staff on hand to help if you have never used a Micro Fiche reader before.

Parish Registers
Include
Lancashire Parish Register Society printed volumes:
Vol. 1 Bury 1590 - 1616.
Vol. 10 Bury 1617 - 1646.
Vol. 58 Rochdale 1642 - 1700.
Vol. 117 Todmorden 1666 - 1780.
Vol. 131 Eccles, St. Mary the Virgin, part 2 1632 - 1663/6.
Rochdale St. Chad's Church. Registers... 1582 - 1641. Edited by H. FISHWICK, 2 Vols.
Clegg, 1888 - 1889.
A few other scattered volumes in the L.P.R.S. series are also held, and the registers for Todmorden, 1624 - 1633, are included in the Rochdale registers mentioned above.
For a modern study based on local parish registers see:

Various Council Minutes and Minutes of other official Groups.
Bacup Mechanics' Institute Minute books, April 1839 - Dec.1900, together with sundry related manuscript and printed matter.
Bacup Relief Fund, General Committee Record of payments made, 1862 - 1863.
Bacup Trades Council Jubilee Booklet 1904-1953
Photographs and Pictures
The collection includes pictures in the Borough of Bacup Photographic Record, begun in 1924 and comprising 45 pages of illustrations. In addition, there is a general collection of local illustrations, mostly in black and white but a few in colour, including some postcards and some aerial photographs. A few colour slides are held, including a set showing the 1958 Bacup Carnival. The library also possesses 46 printing blocks of illustrations reproduced in the Bacup Times 1916 - 1917.

Books On Local History
* JESSOP, William. *Methodism in Rossendale and the neighbourhood*. Stubbs, Brook and Chrystal, 1880.
* OVEREND, Frederick *History of the Ebenezer Baptist Church*. Kingsgate Press, 1912.
* indicates lending copy available.