

# Researching In Bacup



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 a 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 situate 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 situate on the right side of the Sharney Brook and on both sides of the River Irwell, the lower ones being situate 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 a 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**

Newchurch, St. Nicholas. On microfilm. Baptisms, May 1853-Sept 1890; Marriages, Apr 1754-Jun 1763 & Jun 1864-Sept 1914; Burials, May 1871-May 1932.

Bacup, Ebenezer Baptists. On microfilm. Baptisms, 1759-1874; Burials 1759-1866.

Bacup, Mount Pleasant Wesleyan. On microfilm. Baptisms, 1786-1950; Burials 1794-1964.

Goodshaw, Rossendale, St. Mary & All Saints. Printed. Marriages, 1907-1991; Burials, 1893-1946.



## **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 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.

Bacup Echo Nos. 1-155, 1972 - 1977. Not indexed. Print and Microfilmed.

Bacup and district advertiser December 1967 - June 1972. Not indexed. Microfilmed.

Bacup and Rossendale News May 1863 - 1890 (originals owned by Bacup Natural History Society). Not indexed. Microfilmed.

Bacup Chronicle and Stacksteads and district News 30th Jan. 1909. Not indexed.  
Microfilmed.

Rossendale Free Press Not indexed. Microfilmed November 1965 to date;  
Rossendale Front December 1967 - December 1974. Not indexed. Microfilm only.  
Rossendale Watchman 1876. Including the Bury Body and Rossendale Critic, 1876). All  
published. Not indexed. Microfilmed.

### **Electoral Registers**

Electoral Registers can be found for the years 1937 - 38 1938-39 (amended wards BJ, BK,  
BL only )  
1939 - 40 1953 -54 (amended for 1954 -55 ) 1966-67 (amended for 1967-68 ) 1971 - 72 (   
amended for 1972-73)  
1972 - 73 (amended for 1973 - 74) 1973 - 74 1973 - 74 (amended for 1974 - 75)  
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

Newchurch, St. Nicholas. On microfilm. Baptisms, May 1853-Sept 1890; Marriages, Apr  
1754-Jun 1763 & Jun 1864-Sept 1914; Burials, May 1871-May 1932.

Bacup, Ebenezer Baptists. On microfilm. Baptisms, 1759-1874; Burials 1759-1866.

Bacup, Mount Pleasant Wesleyan. On microfilm. Baptisms, 1786-1950; Burials 1794-1964.

Goodshaw, Rossendale, St. Mary & All Saints. Printed. Marriages, 1907-1991; Burials, 1893-  
1946.

Lancashire Parish Register Society printed volumes:

Vol. 1 Bury 1590 - 1616.

Vol. 10 Bury 1617 - 1646.

Vol. 58 Rochdale 1642 - 1700.

Vol. 45 Newchurch-in-Rossendale 1653 - 1723.

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:

ORMEROD, M.B. *Social and medical history, derived from an 18th century Parish Register*  
(Newchurch-in-Rossendale). (Typescript, 1968).

### **Various Council Minutes and Minutes of other official Groups.**

Bacup Corporation. Yearbooks, 1885, 1890 - 91, 1900 - 2, Council handbook 1923,  
yearbooks 1940 - 41, 1942 - 43, 1945 - 48, 1949 - 1965, 1966 - 1974.

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

- \* BOROUGH OF BACUP. *Jubilee souvenir handbook*, 1882 - 1932.
  - \* BOLTON, Herbert. *The Geology of Rossendale*. Tyne & Shepherd, 1890.
  - \* BOWDEN, Kenneth F. *Book of Bacup*. Baron Birch, 1994.
  - \* CRAVEN, Harry and DIGBY, Ronald Y. (compilers). *A Bacup miscellany*. Borough of Bacup Amenities Committee, 1972.
  - \* DIGBY, Ronald. *A Rossendale anthology*. Forest Press, 2nd edition, 1969.
  - \* DIGBY, Ronald Y. and BOWDEN, Kenneth F. (compilers). *A Second Bacup miscellany*. Lancashire County Council, 1975.
  - ENSUM, Jan. *Bacup Mill trail*. Rossendale Groundwork, 1984 (?)
  - GOLDTHORPE, Ian. *Rossendale rambles*. Rossendale Groundwork, 1985.
  - \* JESSOP, William. *Methodism in Rossendale and the neighbourhood*. Stubbs, Brook and Chrystal, 1880.
  - MATHER, J. Marshall *Rambles round Rossendale*. J.J. Riley, 1888.
  - MATHER, J. Marshall *Rambles round Rossendale*. (2nd series). J.J. Riley, 1894.
  - \* NEWBIGGING, Thomas *History of the Forest of Rossendale*, Simpkin Marshall, 1868. 2nd ed. J.J. Riley, 1893.
  - \* OVEREND, Frederick *History of the Ebenezer Baptist Church*. Kingsgate Press, 1912.
  - TAYLOR, John. *Stories in stone: datestones in Rossendale*. 1988.
  - TAYLOR, W.G. *Bacupian Mills*. 3 vols. Author, 1989-1992.
  - \* TUPLING, G.H. *The Economic history of Rossendale*. Manchester U.P., 1927.
- \* indicates lending copy available.