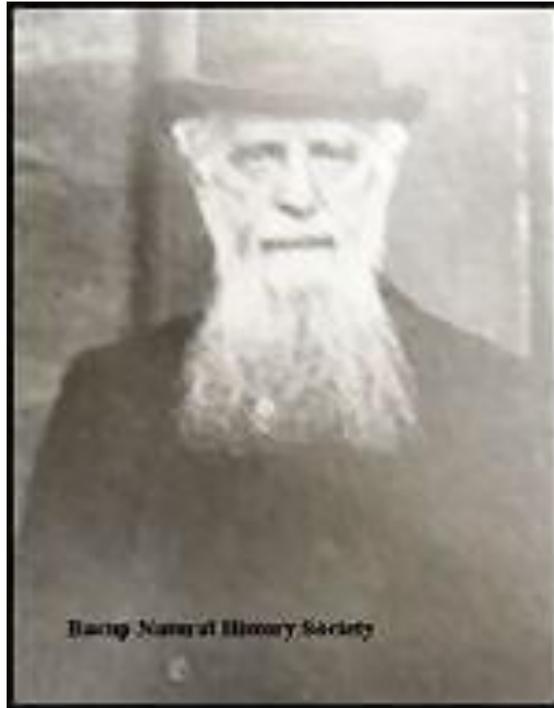


# Stubylee Hall



Situated just off New Line, Bacup Stubylee was the home of the Holt family built around 1808. The Holt estate originally covered the all the South side of the River Irwell from Cowpe across Brandwood Moor to Shawforth and then Sharneyford. John Holt was the only child of James Holt and his second wife Ann daughter of John Heyworth of Greensnook.

John married Judith Maden daughter of James Maden of Greens, on 25th June 1828. John became the second Magistrate of Bacup in 1838 and was one of the Poor Law Guardians. As such he became a target for the hand loom weavers anger in 1843 on a dark February night a friend approaching Stubylee through the extensive grounds and thick shrubberies surrounding the house was shot at. The would be assassin was never found even though the Chief Constable of Preston offered a reward of £200 for information leading to the arrest. Judith was suffering from influenza at the time and it is thought the shock of this incident helped to shorten her life and she died in March 1843. Followed six months later by Julia , Judith and Johns eldest daughter who died of Typhoid at the age of twelve.



John died in 26 December 1856, leaving two children James Maden Holt born in 1829 and Emily Sarah Holt born in 1836. James Maden Holt became a J.P in April of 1858 and became the first Bacup-born local MP when the North East Lancashire constituency was formed. His wife Anna whom he married in 1870 was the daughter of the Rev James Haworth of Penistone, Yorkshire. For five years James served on the local board and at the General Election of 1863 he was returned to the House of Commons as an Independent Conservative, and sat for the North East Division of Lancashire for twelve years. In 1876 he introduced the cruelty to Animals Bill to prohibit the practice of vivisection. years.

James Madens gift to the people of Bacup was to provide the land and funds to build St Saviours Church, Vicarage and School which he did between the years 1858-1865. St Saviours Church was consecrated by the Rt Rev. Bishop James Prince Lee on January 23rd 1865. The cost of the erection of the church, schools and vicarage was borne entirely by the Mr J Maden Holt, M.A of Stubylee Hall, and amounted to £8.000, £2.000 and £1.400 exclusive of the value of the sites. The first vicar was the Rev William Whitworth who came from St Judes, Ancoats, Manchester he remained until August, 1869 when he resigned to resume the vicariate of St Mary's Rawtenstall.



During the cotton famine of 1862-1865 James found work for the unemployed male cotton workers by constructing a "cotton panic road" behind Height Barn farm and through Lee Quarries and over Brandwood Moor the road was never completed due to the depth of the moorland peat and gorse. Emily Sarah died in London aged 57 in 1893 When he died in 1911 he bequeathed Stubylee Hall and grounds to Bacup .



In both the 1871 and 1881 census returns James, Anna and his sister Emily Sarah are living away from Stubylee in London, Emily Sarah a authoress with several novel sunder her name such as Alls Well, Clare Avery, Earl Huberts Daughter. The hall during this time is under the charge of a housekeeper