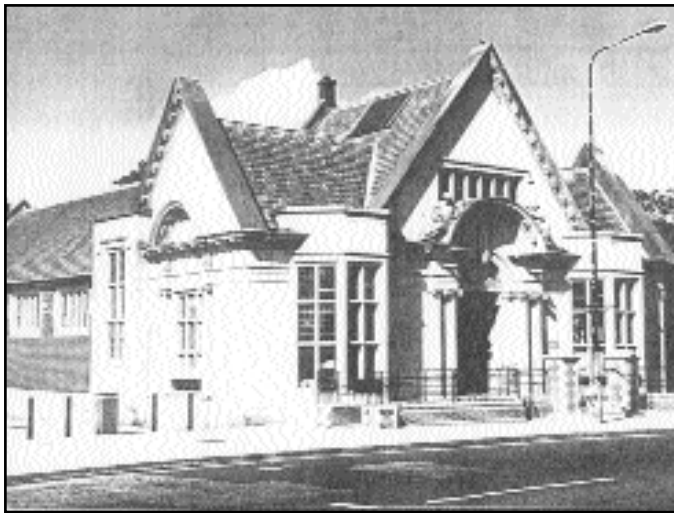


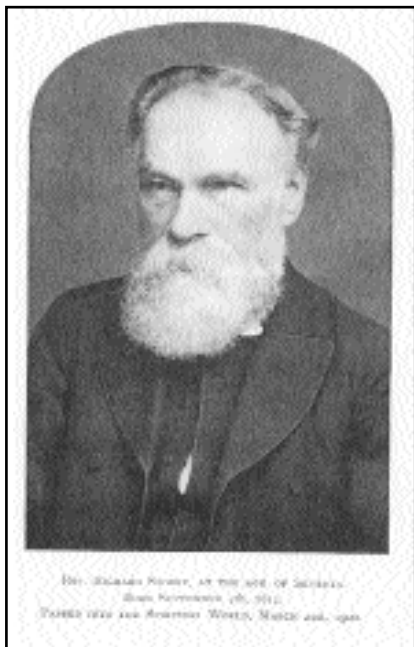
LOCAL STUDIES IN HEYWOOD

Morris Garratt



Heywood Library, showing recently-completed disabled access

The Heywood Free Library was established in 1874, when the Public Libraries Act of 1855, permitting local authorities to levy a rate for the maintenance of a public library, was adopted. The Rev. Richard Story was largely responsible for the library's



(Rev. Richard Story. Insert as reproduced)

establishment; he had founded a day school in the town in 1839, and had been a member of the Mechanics' Institute library committee since 1862. The nucleus of the present-day book stock in the Local Studies Room comprises the private collection of John Albert Green, an eminent local historian and a former librarian in the town, who donated a large amount of material to Heywood Library in 1928.



(Mr J.A. Green at home in his bookroom. Insert as reproduced)

There had been libraries in the town long before 1874. As early as 1819 a library had been established in the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School, when one George Brown donated 27 volumes, which had increased to 300 by 1829. Several other Sunday Schools began similar libraries, consisting almost entirely of theological works, for their teachers and pupils.

In 1840, following a public meeting held in the Queen Anne Hotel, a Mechanics' Institute was formed which ran evening classes, and a small room was rented in the Market Place 'over Mr. Pickup's shop' which contained a small library and reading room. The Institute subsequently moved to larger premises in the old vicarage, on the site of the present Municipal Buildings. In 1850 the trustees built new premises. In the *Heywood Advertiser*, June 1847, a visitor praised the work of the Institute, noting that it 'secured the delivery of London papers in Heywood on the day of publication; previously they had reached here in twenty-nine hours'. The trustees were, however, fighting a losing battle, and later the entire building, except the library, was let to the Reform Club. For many years this public library, such as it was, continued to be housed here but suffered from lack of funds. Attempts to raise money included a Grand Ball in 1857, which brought in only £20, enabling some 185 volumes to be added, while in 1858 a grant was made by the Co-operative movement, by which the stock was increased to 1,000 volumes.

Adam Whitworth was a Heywood bookseller who opened a commercial library in 1853 'at the old pork shop next door to John Berry in the Old Market Place'. The stock comprised over

1,600 volumes 'of history, tales, romances, etc'. By January 1854 he had extended his business to that of a stationer, bookseller, binder, librarian and newsagent, and this flourished until 1866, when he died at the early age of 49. Mrs Whitworth continued the business at 19, Manchester Street, but eventually it closed, some of the stock being acquired by the Free Library.

For a time the Free Library had a rival in the Heywood Industrial Co-operative Society Library, founded in 1863. From 1886 until 1897 it had an excellent librarian in John Albert Green.



John Albert Green, librarian of Heywood Industrial Co-operative Society Library, 1886-1897

Several printed catalogues, showing a well-balanced stock, were published. In 1906 the Library was closed and the entire stock was given to the Free Public Library. Many of the volumes, including several of the printed catalogues, are preserved in the Local Studies collection. The present library building was opened on 17 March 1906 by the mayor of Heywood, following a grant of £6,300 from the trustees of the Andrew Carnegie Fund.

The Local Studies Service

The Local Studies Service operates from a room on the ground floor, and now contains many books, pamphlets, maps, photographs and documents of local interest, though as explained below, not all of this material is generally available. The Local Studies Room contains a good selection of books relating to Lancashire history, together with the photograph collection, an index to the local newspaper and files of newspaper cuttings. You will also find many items relating specifically to Heywood. Burgess Rolls and Electoral Registers dating from 1887 are here - a note informs the local historian that missing Burgess Rolls are held at the Lancashire Record Office. Among early parish magazines are incomplete sets for St. Luke's, 1866-85, and the Wesleyan Methodist Association Magazine, 1845-47, together with the United Methodist Reformed Church Magazine for 1887 and 1888. Library catalogues include those for the Bury Cooperative Society, 1903, the Heywood Industrial Cooperative Society, 1871 and 1886, Bethel Street Methodist Free Church Sunday School, 1881, and, appropriately, Heywood Public Library, 1896, together with various Reports of the Borough Librarian.

Serials in the Local Studies Room include the *Journal of the Lancashire Dialect Society*, 1951-1988, incomplete, and *The Record, the Official Circular of the Lancashire Authors'*

Association, August 1917-December 1974, though missing 1935-65. Of the major regional serials, the Library has volumes 1-115 of the Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, and volumes 1-139 (1995) of the Lancashire Parish Register Society (both of these available on request, being stored in an upper room - see below), but does not subscribe to the *Transactions* of either the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society or the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, nor to the Chetham Society. Two non-book items of local significance in the Local Studies Room are the Charter of the Heywood Borough Council, 1881 (bought with money left to the Library by Miss Edna May Taylor), and a mounted emblem with a plaque which reads: Presented by The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to the Borough of Heywood to commemorate the adoption of HMS P.223 during Warship Week 7th to 14th March 1942.

There is no specialist librarian dealing solely with the local collection, though the library staff are always ready to give what help they can. The service is run on a team basis in conjunction with staff in the Local Studies Department at Touchstones Heritage Centre on the Esplanade, Rochdale. The archive material held by Heywood Library, stored in a room on the upper floor, is not presently available to the public generally, as much of it, though listed, awaits full cataloguing and classification; items required by a researcher identified from the lists available for consultation in the Local Studies Room, will be made available on request. Researchers requiring assistance in depth are advised to make an appointment, when a member of staff with detailed local knowledge will be made available. Material relating to Heywood and held at other institutions appears in separate lists for Greater Manchester [County] Record Office, Bury Archive Service (including railway plans), the Local Authority Archives at Touchstones, Lancashire County Record Office at Preston (this list is dated January 1983) and Manchester Central Library Local Studies and Archives. What follows attempts to give a flavour of the material in this upper room, and highlights some of the items held.

Archive Material

There is a large deposit, some 19 boxes in all, from the now defunct Ames Crosta Mills & Co. Ltd. This firm was founded by Mr. Matthew Mills c.1824; in its early days it carried out engineering work for the textile industry, before later specialising in sewage and sewage purification engineering. One of their early contracts was for Manchester Corporation in 1898, when they installed chain screens and elevators at the Davyhulme sewage works. At this time they were still known as Mills Engineering, but this changed c.1900 when the Ames Crosta Sanitary Engineering Company took over the selling agency for the Mills Company's products. The deposit includes souvenir booklets concerning the official opening ceremonies of sewage disposal works; many photographs; selected company publications; publicity material including advertisements; drawings; periodical and newspaper cuttings and articles, and sketch books covering 1901-67.

There are four boxes relating to Standard Railway Wagon. The first contains a catalogue of railway wagons made by the firm, and two interesting plans, unfortunately undated: no.1054 Borough of Heywood, Building Plan, Lancashire and Yorkshire

[Railway] Waggon Works, Green Lane - demolished and rebuilt; and no. 2248, proposed switch house for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Waggon Co. Ltd. The second box, in addition to the firm's Purchase Day Book April 1876-February 1977, also includes a Minute Book (Astley Vu I can Finance Ltd) September 1973-March 1974, and a Sales Ledger (Reddish/Heywood Sales) October 1969-November 1976. Two further Minute Books are in Box 3: these relate to Vulcan Finance Facilities Ltd., June 1953-November 1959, and the Lancashire Machinery and Scrap Co. Ltd., May 1943-November 1952. This box also contains a Directors Attendance Book. The final box contains Standard Wagon nameplates.

Five boxes, donated by the Argent Group, Europe, Ltd., relate to the firm of Silvester Litton. The first has Board Meeting minutes, December 1913-March 1933, various Annual Reports and Accounts, and copies of a Memorandum of Association, Silvester Litton Ltd., for various years from 1928. Box 2 has a Stock Account dated 1926, monthly Stock Analyses 1928-48, and Bills Receivable 1910-68. An Inventory of land, buildings and machinery dated 1931 is on Box 4, and various insurance policies and other documents, together with payroll documentation 1964-67 is in Box 4. The final box contains copies, some signed, of Directors' Reports for various years from 1936 to 1986.

A major item is the Education Archive, deposited as recently as October 2003, and consisting of records relating to the Boys County Secondary School, Bamford Road, the Girls County Secondary School, Hornby Street, Heywood Junior High School and Heywood Grammar School, all contained within four boxes. The most important documents among a varied collection in the first box are Admission Registers: Central Senior Girls School, 17 August 1931-27 November 1944, Hornby Street Secondary Modern School (Boys), 27 August 1945-23 August 1954, and Girls, 23 August 1954-12 June 1968. Other items include Summary Registers of Attendance, and the Log Books for the Central Senior Girls School, August 1931-July 1968 and Heywood Junior High School, September 1968-November 1973. Finally there are selected copies, 1929-46, of *Flyer*, and of *Phoenix*, 1947-57, the magazine of Heywood Grammar School.

Smaller collections include the Mutual Mill archive, mainly consisting of newspaper clippings 1948-76 and newspaper cuttings 1969-97; Heywood Evening Towns Womens' Guild (formed 1949) - eight Minute Books covering 1949-2002; and Healey Brothers Ltd., Carriage Rope and Twine Works, established 1843, including weekly wage books 1927-64 (wanting 14 October 1938-March 1944), and an interesting Alphabetical List of Employees, with date of birth, giving also whether they had one or more Labour Certificates, copy Birth Certificate, Certificate of Proficiency and School Attendance Certificate.

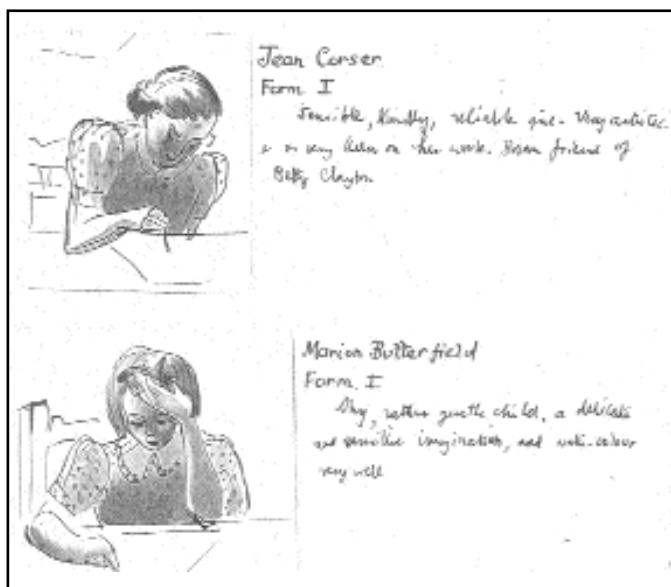
A number of unlisted maps include 'Heywood Hall and its Estate', 1637, described as 'very rare', a photocopy of 'Land at Chamber House', not dated, a 'Plan of Buerdsall's Estate in the township of Heap belonging to James Arthur Clegg Esq', dated 1887, and 'Pilsworth Bleach Works and Pilsworth Moor', dated 1930, at the 1:2500 scale.

Local authority (Heywood Corporation) printed records include Medical Officer of Health Reports, 1893-1972, Abstract of Accounts, 1881-1971, and Minutes of Committees, 1910-70. In one box there is a book of photographs of the members of the first Town Council of Heywood (1881), some of whom are identified, some not so.

A number of boxes contain deposited Archives from local Methodist churches, including Bamford Chapel, baptisms 1846-54, Bethel Street, minute books 1907-35 and Leaders' meetings 1866-41, and Market Street Wesleyan Methodist, baptisms 1838-1965. Microfilmed records, available in the Local Studies Room, include Bamford Chapel, baptisms 1801-1943, marriages 1852-1913, and burials 1826-1942, plus Grave Lists (no date), Membership Rolls 1803-1901 and Pew Rents 1868-98; these microfilms also include St. Luke's, christenings May 1745-September 1900, marriages October 1837-June 1895, and burials October 1766-November 1906, St. James, Ashworth, baptisms 1813-43, marriages 1824-33 and burials 1813-48, and St. James, Heywood, baptisms 1838-1976, marriages 1841-1977 and burials 1838-1980. Finally, there is the *Heywood Advertiser* complete from 1855 to date.

'Miss Bishop's Diary'

To return to the upper room, an item quite unique to Heywood is identified as 'Miss Bishop's Diary'. This consists of two parts: in the first, in a Heywood Grammar School exercise book, entitled by her as 'My drawings of my pupils 1942', she has left sketches of each of her pupils, with their Form number. It begins with Jean Corser, Form 1: 'Sensible, kindly, reliable girl. Very artistic & so very keen on her work. Bosom friend of Betty Clayton', though only Jean Corser and Audrey Neale, Form 2a ('a shy and retiring girl, one could find out very little about her') are given a pen-portrait. She does, though, note any nicknames which the pupil had, thus Edward Sutcliffe, 'Fat' or 'Sucker', and she noted that George Spencer, Form 3 Boys, was an 'evacuee from Liverpool' and that Brian Pengilly, Form IV, came from Cornwall. Miss Bishop was an art teacher at Heywood Grammar School, and in the second part of this item she has left us a



A page from 'Miss Bishop's Diary'

daily account of her life at the school. This is in seven 'chapters' or sections, typewritten, single-spaced, with corrections in biro, and covers the period September 1941-December 1942. A typical entry, for 29 September 1941, begins: 'The old man had Pilkington out in front at Assembly because he had another detention. He looks abashed. Miss Eccleston says he is really fun. He refused to read "Macbeth" as it contained the word "blarsted" saying "I will not read this indecent book"! He, Aspinall and Chadwick gave her a lot of trouble in French'.

Deeds

Finally there are five boxes of various deeds relating to Heywood from Messrs Stott, solicitors, Rochdale. The development of the firm can be seen from the endorsements on the documents: Stott & Son, Rochdale, Stott Son & Wallis, Richard Stott & Son, Rochdale, and some stamped Richard Stott & Son, 1 Whitehall Street, Rochdale. For the most part these seem to be agreements for the sale or transfer of land for new streets; many of these feature as the vendor The Venerable Archdeacon Hornby. The documents mainly date from the late nineteenth century to the earlier twentieth century, and, curiously, mention poultry pens! In searching through these five boxes, though, I did notice a few choice items. In one box is an attested copy of an agreement between William Langton and John Chadwick to enforce repair to Heywood Gaol; this is dated 1 November 1860. Elsewhere is a bundle of attested copy conveyances relating to the Heywood Hall Estate, all dated 1859; and farm leases, including one dated 1 February 1839 from James Starky Esq., to John Ashton, for 'a Farm, Lands and premises ... Paved Brow', and another, dated 20 January 1831, from Starky to Mr. Anthony Holmes, for 'a Farm called Back o'th'Moss' for a term of 21 years at £35 per annum. A draft 'Abstract of Title of Charles Langton, Hamilton Boswell Gilmour Esqrs and the Venerable Archdeacon Hornby to the Heywood Hall Estate and Queen Anne Tenement..'[*] begins with 'Articles of Agreement', of four parts, including John Starky, senior and junior, dated 13 May 1747, and there is a document dated 4 December 1884 between Langton, Gilmour and Hornby, being a 'Draft.Deed of Partition of the Heywood and Tonge Hall Estates in the County of Lancaster'. Finally, under Starky & Hilton, is an 'Office Copy [of the] Record of Deed enrolled in Chancery ... relating to the Leigh & Heywood Charities [... in the] Close Roll 11 George 2, Part 5, No.5'; this begins in 1730.

Contact Details

This article has provided a glimpse into some of the lesser-known archive material held by Heywood Local Studies. Researchers who would like to consult any of the items mentioned should, as was suggested earlier, make an appointment with a member of the library staff. Library details are as follows:

Heywood Library
Church Street
Heywood
OL10 1LL

Tel: 01706 360947
Fax: 01706 368683
Email: library.service@rochdale.gov.uk
Website: www.rochdale.gov.uk

Opening Hours

Monday 10.00 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Wednesday 9.30 p.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Services: Microfilm reader; Microfiche reader; Microfiche/film reader and printer

Charges:

Photocopies: A4 = 10p; A3 = 20p
Fax: first sheet £1.00, each subsequent 50p; incoming faxes 50p.
Internet facilities: free
Computer print-outs: 10p per sheet
Microprints: 50p per print