





## TWO BROOKS HISTORY

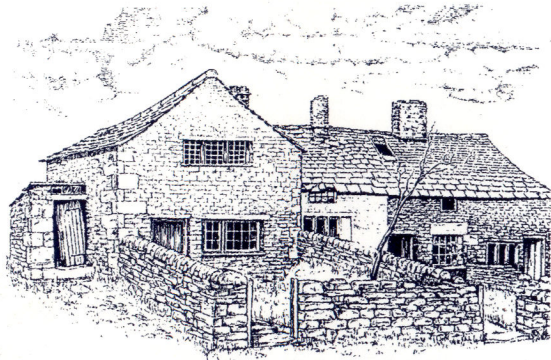
### Industry and Growth

Until industry came to the area in the 1700's the whole of the Tottington, Greenmount and Hawkshaw area was little more than a collection of hamlets scattered around the hill sides and valley bottoms. The industrial revolution brought some of the larger textile manufacturers of the time to the area, making use of the damp atmosphere and the plentiful supply of soft water and they in turn attracted bleaching and calico printing companies.

The population grew rapidly from around 1,000 in 1650 to 4,500 in 1801, and a peak of nearly 17,000 in 1891. Many of these lived and worked in the Two Brooks area, and traces of its industrial past can still be found throughout the valley (see map overleaf).

### Hawkshaw Families

Hawkshaw and the Two Brooks Valley had a number of notable families, although they were people of a relatively humble background when compared to the more thriving parts of the county. Only a few could call themselves 'landed proprietors' (as they liked to be known in census records), and two of these were the Fletchers of Bleaklow, and the Eltons of Loe. Members of these two families, together with the Riggs, Edward Howarth and the Whowells were to play a leading part in the Hawkshaw community, and the area as we know it today. Of these, none had more impact than the Whowells.



Former Two Brooks Church Sunday School, drawing by Les Horton

### The Whowell Family

Charles Whowell took over the business at Two Brooks Mill in 1850 after earlier employment at Hardcastles Bleachworks at Bradshaw. His wife Sara, and subsequently thirteen children made their home at Higher Brook Bottom Farm, also known as Two Brooks House.



Frederick, their ninth child was born there in 1855, and was then eventually to take over and run the business himself. Frederick Whowell was to become a prominent figure in Hawkshaw village life. Not only did he run the bleachworks, he served as a JP and was a Poor Law Guardian; he was a member of the Bury Rural

District Council. He organised science classes before the days of technical schools.

He was a member of the Society of Chemical Industry, the Society of the Arts, and the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, and made several trips abroad to the continent, India and the United States.

The Whowell family home was Croich Hey, in Hawkshaw, built by Whowell in 1904. Sadly his wife Alice died after a long illness in 1906 at the age of 37, leaving two small sons Charles Frederick and Edmund, but Whowell stayed at Croich Hey and gained a reputation as the 'Squire of Hawkshaw', where the property became a local 'Liberty Hall', as Whowell invited people to join him at his stately home for garden fetes and village gatherings. It is also thanks to him that the village has a recreation ground.

Frederick Whowell devoted much time to working for the benefit of St. Mary's Church and school. He was at different times secretary, correspondent and treasurer and also, for a short while, Sunday School Superintendent. He died on January 5th 1927. He was a man much loved by all who knew him and remembered with great affection.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION IN AND AROUND BURY

### BY METROLINK & BUS

The metrolink and buses stop at Bury Interchange. Travel information is available from GMPTE on 0161 228 7811 between 8am & 8pm.

### BY BICYCLE

The 'Bike Rides around Bury' leaflet, available at Bury Tourist Information Centre, recommends cycle routes throughout the Borough of Bury.

### CAR PARKS

Car parks are marked on the enclosed map.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Bury Tourist Information Centre (0161 253 5111)  
Bury Archive Service (0161 797 6697)

### WEBSITES

Bury Tourist Information: [www.visitbury.com](http://www.visitbury.com)  
East Lancashire Railway: [www.east-lancs-rly.co.uk](http://www.east-lancs-rly.co.uk)  
Bury Markets: [www.bury.gov.uk/bury/council\\_markets.asp](http://www.bury.gov.uk/bury/council_markets.asp)  
Irwell Sculpture Trail: [www.getoutguide.co.uk/outdoors/outdoors/sculpture\\_trail.htm](http://www.getoutguide.co.uk/outdoors/outdoors/sculpture_trail.htm)



[www.bury.gov.uk/Planning/Home.htm](http://www.bury.gov.uk/Planning/Home.htm)



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(April 2005)

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