

Member Histories

Henry Halstead

Became the first president of the Nat pictured, he led a ramble to Greens Clough at the end of May 1878, starting at the Bulls Head at 2pm. A working stonemason by profession Henry Halstead was a tall sparsely built man characterised by his long white beard. A keen naturalist with an absorbing passion for botany he managed to christen no fewer than 72 species of plants in the area of Easden Clough when he led a ramble there averaging a walking speed of 5 miles an hour, busily naming and observing the various habitats of ferns and mosses. He was credit with the discovery of a new fern, the BLECHNUM HALSTEAD. Henry died on the 29th April 1892 aged 70.

Dr Joseph Hardman Worrall

Dr Joseph Hardman Worrall was the best loved patron and Vice-President of the society. Dr Worrall initiated a scheme whereby potential owners of a microscope could each pay 1/- per week and when £5 had been contributed a ballot took place as to who should be the owner of the microscope, so enabling the working man who would not normally have been able to afford the £5 to have his own microscope. Dr Worrall died on 18th January 1889.

Herbert Bolton

Herbert Bolton began as a Bacup weaver and enthusiastic youngster who bettered himself to become Curator then Director of the Bristol museum. He was regarded as one of the greatest authorities on Geology. In 1890 he wrote the standard Geology of Rossendale, 18 of his papers repose at the Nat as do several of his rare Coal Measure fossils.

Rev J.S Doxy

The Reverend Doxy was Vicar of Christ Church Bacup, taking over the role in 1888. Ten years later he became the president of the Nat, serving in this role until 1908.

George Shepherd

George Shepherd of Holmes Villas, was another cotton manufacturer who became president of the Nat in 1889, a busy year for George as he began to serve as a Justice of the Peace. A year before his election as president of the Nat he was elected Mayor of Bacup, serving in his role of Mayor for a further four times. As with many of the Nat presidents George came from families of humble beginnings working their way to wealth. George was president for 8 years.

James Hargreaves

Mr James Hargreaves, became president in 1939. His great love was geology, he would also serve as the lanternist at lectures, and make scenery for the Lancashire Neets, the proceeds of which were during the Great War shared between the Fernhill Military Hospital and St Dunstons. James died in 1950.

James Horrocks

James became president of the Nat on April 5th 1908, remaining president and taking a very hands on and active part in the running of the Nat for 30 years. One of his closest friends said at the time of his death

In 1939 that "He has done more than any other individual, during his connection with us, to advance the cause we have all so much at heart".

Clarrie Read

Clarrie died on Tuesday 31st Mar 1977, he became president two years earlier in 1975. Clarrie wrote many of his childhood memories down and they still today make brilliant and interesting reading. He was known for "getting things done".

Arthur Shelton

When Arthur died on 4th July 2002 he was the longest serving curator of the Nat museum, holding office from 1972 until 1995. Arthur spent many hours cataloguing the many exhibits,.

John B Taylor

John died on the 16th May 2010, aged 69 a former teacher at Fearn's High School he had been a member of Bacup Nat for many years. John published two books Stories in Stone and Date stones in Rossendale. John had collected various artefacts and stones from buildings all over Rossendale and had a collection of bricks manufactured in Rossendale. John was instrumental in setting up the wall of history situated in Newgate Gardens. Following his death a memorial to him was erected on the Path of History at Stacksteads.