

William Slater

The brother of Susannah Hargreaves, he had a great influence on the Hargreaves family. Thomas Hargreaves' father walked out when Thomas was four; Slater was employing Thomas aged 14 as a baker, and indeed Thomas was employed in Slater's businesses for the rest of his working life. William Slater seems to have had, in succession, a bakery and a butcher's business, but he was most successful in the manufacture of cotton goods, starting in Stoneyholme, Burnley, in partnership with a Mr Fulton, then moving to Spring Garden Shed in Plumbe Street and finally to Ashfield Mill in Caldervale Road.

Mahala also worked at Spring Garden Shed where she must have met Thomas, and they, and their children when teenagers Frank, Ernest, Harry and Clara, also worked in Ashfield Mill.

At the end of a very successful career William Slater retired to Heysham, to live in a very modest semi-detached house.

- Burnley Gazette, <sup>1</sup> Saturday 22nd December **1866** p.2 col.1; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.2; Burnley Gazette, Saturday 29th December **1866** p.2 col.2; Burnley Gazette, Saturday 5th January **1867** p.2 col.1; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.2; Burnley Gazette, Saturday 12th January **1867** p.2 col.1; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.2; Burnley Gazette, Saturday 26th January **1867** p.2 col.1; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.2; Burnley Gazette, Saturday 2nd February **1867** p.2 col.1; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.2; Burnley Gazette, Saturday 9th February **1867** p.2 col.1; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.2; Burnley Gazette, Saturday 16th February **1867** p.2 col.1; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.2.

To Be Sold By Private Treaty,

56 Power Looms, with all appertaining, now running at the Albert Shed, Burnley.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply at the Reindeer Hotel, Burnley.

- Blackburn Standard, Wednesday 20th February **1867** p.1 col.5

Sale of Power Looms & Effects.

Mr A.G. Denbigh will Sell by Auction, on Monday Feb. 25th, 1867, at Albert Shed, in Royle Road, Burnley, 56 first-class Power-Looms, by Bracewell and Bulcock and Sagar, 45 and 41 inch reed space, with the Healds, Reeds, Straps, Shuttles and other Effects. Sale to commence at Three o'clock in the afternoon prompt. For further particulars apply at the Offices of the Auctioneer, 8, Ormerod-street, Burnley, and Exchange Buildings, Town Hall-street, Blackburn.

- Burnley Advertiser, Saturday 23rd February **1867** p.2 col.3

Mr A.G. Denbigh begs to announce his instructions, from the executrix of the late Mr. T. Rumley, to Sell by auction, on Monday February 25th 1867, on that portion of Albert Shed recently in his occupation, situate in Royle Road, Burnley, 56 first-class Power Looms, by Bracewell and Bulcock and Sagar, 45 and 41 inches reed space, nearly new, with the healds ... [then as Blackburn Standard].

- Burnley Gazette, Saturday 4th April **1868** p.2 col.2; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.1 (but 124 looms); Burnley Gazette, Saturday 11th April **1868** p.2 col.1; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.1 (but 124 looms); Burnley Gazette, Saturday 18th April **1868** p.1 col.1; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.1 (but 124 looms); Burnley Gazette, Saturday 25th April **1868** p.1 col.2; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.1 (but 124 looms); Burnley Gazette, Saturday 2nd May **1868** p.2 col.2; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.1 (but 124 looms);

On Sale by Private, 130 Looms with all requisites for manufacturing purposes, including Winding and Warping at Albert Shed, Stoneyholme. – For particulars apply to Henry Law, Scar Top Mill, Burnley.

- Burnley Gazette, Saturday 13th August **1870** p.4 col.4; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.2; Burnley Gazette, Saturday 20th August **1870** p.4 col.4; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.2; Burnley Gazette, Saturday 27th August **1870** p.4 col.3; similar in Burnley Advertiser, same date, p.2 col.2; and Burnley Advertiser, Saturday 17th September **1870**, p.2 col.1; and Burnley Advertiser, Saturday 24th September **1870**, p.2 col.2.

To Be Sold by Private Treaty, all that newly erected Weaving Shed and premises situate at Stoney Holme, Burnley in the County of Lancaster now in the occupation of Mr Thomas Carr and others, together with the Engine-house, Boiler-house,

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<sup>1</sup> papers are available at the Newspaper Library, Colindale, and online at the British Newspaper Archive website

Warehouses, Scutching-room, Chimney, and other buildings and erections. And also the Steam-engines, Boilers, main, upright and cross Shafting, Gas and Steam Piping, and other Fixtures.

These premises are capable of holding 1006 Power Looms of 43in. reed space, and 8400 Mule Spindles and the requisite preparation machinery.

And also the vacant plots of Land adjoining the said premises, containing in the aggregate upwards of 20,274 square yards, or thereabouts.

The premises are leasehold for a long term of years, subject to ground rents.

Also all that capital Weaving Shed and premises situate in Royle Street, in Burnley aforesaid, called “Albert Shed”, together with the fireproof Warehousing, main and cross Shafting, and Gas and Steam piping.

These premises are capable of holding 476 Power Looms of 43in. reed space.

Also all those extensive Buildings and premises in Royle Street aforesaid, called “Bankhouse Iron Works,” lately in the occupation of Mr James Wood, consisting of Iron Foundry, ...

And also the vacant Land adjoining the said premises, which with the sites of the said Albert Shed and Bankhouse Iron works contains 12,850 square yards of land or thereabouts. ...

To treat and for further particulars, application to be made to Mr Matthew Watson, Valuer, &c, Manchester Road, Burnley, Messrs. Handley and Artindale, Solicitors, Burnley, or to Mr Richard Holmes, Solicitor, Burnley.

- Burnley Gazette, Saturday 20th January **1872** p.4 col.4  
Wanted, A Lapper-up, and also wanted a sharp youth, one that has been accustomed to Oiling Looms preferred – Apply Fulton and Slater, Albert Shed, Bank-top, Burnley
- Burnley Gazette, Saturday 6th April **1872** p.4 col.2  
A good Oiler Wanted to oil Looms. – Apply to Fulton and Slater, Albert Shed, Bank-top.
- Burnley Gazette, Saturday 28th June **1873** p.4 col.4  
Wanted, immediately, a Bundler. – Apply Fulton and Slater, Spring Garden Shed, Burnley.
- Burnley Gazette, Saturday 9th August **1873** p.4 col.3.  
Wanted a Lad for a Warehouse, to Lap Up, fill weft, and make himself generally useful – Apply Messrs. Fulton and Slater, Spring Gardens Shed, Burnley.
- Burnley Gazette, Saturday 24th January **1874** p.4 col.3  
Wanted, 2 steady youths, about 14 or 16 years of age, to attend to Plaiting Machines – Apply to Fulton & Slater, Spring Gardens Shed, Burnley
- Burnley Gazette, Saturday 18th April **1874** p.4 col.5  
Wanted, a Young Man, to carry Beams for 132 Looms; none but a steady person need apply. – T. Greenwood & Co., Albert Shed.
- Burnley Gazette, Saturday 16th May **1874** p.4 col.3  
To Let as a Draper’s or Grocer’s Shop, No.39 Cheapside – Apply to W. Slater, Spring Garden’s Shed; or no.9 Fulfilledge-road Burnley.
- Burnley Gazette, Saturday 21st November **1874** p.4 col.3  
Wanted, a Lad about 13 years of age to assist in Warehouse and run errands; also a youth about 14 or 16 to assist in Oiling looms. – Apply Fulton and Slater, Burnley.
- Burnley Gazette Saturday 6th March **1875** p.4 col.2  
Wanted, a Boy to assist Oiler; wages 12s a week. – Apply Fulton and Slater’s, Spring Garden Shed, Burnley.
- Burnley Gazette Saturday 1st February **1879** p.4 col.3, and Saturday 1st March **1879** p.4 col.2  
A House To Let, at No. 5, Colne Road, containing three good rooms on ground floor and four bedrooms. – Apply on the premises, or to W.K. Fulton, Burnley Wood Gardens, Burnley
- Blackburn Standard Saturday 24th April **1880** p.1 col.2  
Blackburn and East Lancashire Infirmary.

Hospital Saturday March 20th 1880. Collections received from the Workpeople of the following firms, week ending Thursday April 22nd, 1880, viz.:- [25 firms plus]

Fulton and Slater Spring Garden Mill, Burnley ... ..	£1 0 0.
Total	£52 13 9½

- Burnley Express Saturday 24th September **1881** p.4 col.2

Blackburn and East Lancashire Infirmary.

Hospital Saturday September 17th, 1881. Burnley and District.

Collections received from the Workpeople of the following firms, up to Thursday evening September 22nd, 1881, viz.:- [17 firms including]

Fulton and Slater Spring Garden Mill, Burnley ... ..	£1 13 0
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- Burnley Express Saturday 4th February **1882** p.5 col.2

Legal Notices.

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing between us the undersigned William Knapton Fulton, and William Slater, carrying on business at Spring Garden Shed, in Burnley, in the County of Lancaster, as cotton manufacturers, under the style or firm of "Fulton and Slater," was this day dissolved by mutual consent, and that all debts due to and owing by the late firm will be received and paid by the said William Slater, and by Frederick Slater, by whom the business will in future be carried on under the style or firm of "W. Slater and Sons".

Witness our hands the first day of February 1882.

William Knapton Fulton

William Slater

Frederick Slater

Witness: T.F. Artingdale  
Solicitor, Burnley

- Burnley Express Saturday 29th April **1882**, p.5 col.1.

Burnley Mechanics Institution.

Debt Extinction Fund.

List of Subscriptions.

[A large number of individuals and firms including]

Fulton and Slater ... ..	0 15 0
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- Burnley Express – Wednesday 10 June **1891** p.2 col.2

Sales by Auction.

By Messrs. W. Salisbury & Hamer.

Modern Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills in Burnley and Padiham for Sale.

Re. J.H. Whitaker.<sup>2</sup>

Messrs William Salisbury and Hamer have received instructions from Mr Joshua Rawlinson, the Trustee, to offer for SALE BY AUCTION at the Bull Hotel, Burnley, on WEDNESDAY, June 17th 1891, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then and there produced, and in the following, or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale.

LOT 1. – All that MODERN WEAVING SHED, called 'WHITTLEFIELD MILL,' Burnley ...

LOT 2. – THE whole of the Machinery belonging to the Estate in Whittlefield Mill ....

LOT 3. – ALL that modern WEAVING SHED called "Ashfield Mill," Burnley, holding 896 patent power looms. The buildings are of stone. The motive power consists of one three-flued Steam Boiler by Layfield, 1886, fitted with Proctor's Patent Stokers. Pair of Beam Steam Engines by Woods, McNaughted by W. and J. Yates. Horizontal Steam Engine 5in. cylinder, 10 in. stroke, Green's Economiser, 96 pipes. Mill gearing, Shafting, Steam, Gas and Water Piping. Patent Aerophor Air Moistener and Ventilator, with other attached features; good supply of water for driving purposes from a goit from River Calder, charge of which is included in ground rent. The land forming the site contains 4,751 yards subject to a yearly ground rent of £55 6s.

LOT 4. – THE whole of the MACHINERY in the "ASHFIELD MILL," comprising 896 looms, 350 of which are twills 36 in. and 38 in. reed space, and 546 for plain cloths 32 in. and 36 in. reed space, by G. Keighley, 1886, 1887. Each loom is fitted with driving straps, yarn beam, 2 weights, 2 shuttles, weight rope, and leather clothing. One Tape Sizing machine with driving straps, 2 Winding machines with driving straps and clothing, size mixing becks with all fittings, pipes and pumps, 9 Beaming Frames, 3 Plaiting Machines, Cloth Press, all fitted with driving straps, &c.

<sup>2</sup> Whitaker seems to have been a bankrupt cotton manufacturer – further research required

Lots 3 and 4 will first be offered in one lot.

This Mill is in first-class condition, and in good working order and repair.

LOT 5. – STONE BUILT COTTON SPINNING and WEAVING MILL called “ORCHARD MILLS PADIHAM”...

For full particulars and card to view apply to the AUCTIONEERS, 4 Norfolk-street, Manchester, and 54, Church-street, Blackburn; Mr JOSHUA RAWLINSON, Chartered Accountant, Burnley, the Trustee; Messrs ARTINDALE & SOUTHERN, Solicitors, Burnley; or Messrs. COBBETT, WHEELER & COBBETT, Solicitors, 61 Brown-street, Manchester.

- Burnley Express Saturday 15 August **1891** p.4 col.6

Re: J.H. Whitaker.

Ashfield Mill, Burnley. Monday next Aug 17 **1891**.

Messrs. William Salisbury and Hamer have received instructions from Mr Joshua Rawlinson, Trustee, to catalogue and sell by auction, piecemeal, at the above mill on Monday August 17, 1891, the whole of the machinery, mill stores, loose articles and effects comprising 896 patent power looms ....<sup>3</sup>

- Burnley Express Saturday 22nd August **1891**, p.4 col.1.

To be Let.

Room and Power to Let in Spring Garden Shed, Plumbe-street, Burnley, for 520 looms with necessary preparation. Tenancy February 1st 1892.<sup>4</sup> – Apply Thos Courban, Spring Garden Mill, Turf-street, Burnley.

### Obituaries

- The Burnley Express and Advertiser 15th January **1910**. p.11 col.4.

Death of Mr William Slater.

An Old Burnley Manufacturer.

Burnley people will regret to hear of the death of Mr. Wm. Slater which took place suddenly on Wednesday morning. The deceased gentleman had enjoyed good health up to his death which took place with tragic suddenness at his residence St John's-road Heysham. On Tuesday he was working in the garden, and on Wednesday morning he got up in his usual health and partook of breakfast. He then adjourned to another room to have a smoke, and expired immediately. Mr Slater was one of the best known cotton manufacturers in Burnley. He was born at Overtown, Cliviger<sup>5</sup> some 77 years ago, and migrated to Burnley 55 years ago. At once he started in business as a butcher in Hammerton-street<sup>6</sup> at the shop which was recently used as an office for the Central Skating Rink.<sup>7</sup> Subsequently he removed to Sandygate<sup>8</sup> and he erected two shops on the river arch at Bridge End.<sup>9</sup> Mr Slater continued to carry on his butchering concern until about 37 or 38 years ago,<sup>10</sup> when he started in business as a cotton manufacturer at Spring Garden Shed, Plumbe-street.<sup>11</sup> He at first ran 500 looms, and his venture proving highly successful, he bought the mill<sup>12</sup> run by the late Mr James Hitchen Whittaker, in Calder Vale. His firm grew to be a large one, and when he retired some three years ago and left it to his sons, the shed contained 900 looms.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>3</sup> So the looms and machinery were not sold on June 17th with the mill. According to his obituary, Slater bought the mill. He may have moved the looms from Spring Garden Shed – there is no notice of auction for these. Perhaps he also bid for certain items on August 17th.

<sup>4</sup> So William Slater planned to complete the move to Ashfield Mill before 1st February 1892.

<sup>5</sup> in fact probably at Southward Bottom, as the family were living there in 1841, but they moved to Overtown by 1851

<sup>6</sup> Hammerton Street is in central Burnley running from SD 839323 to SD 839326

<sup>7</sup> Slater also had a boot shop business; in 1861 he was indeed a butcher, and in 1871 a butcher and baker, with Thomas Hargreaves working for him as a baker.

<sup>8</sup> Sandy Gate is the road in west central Burnley, running from SD 829325 to SD 837326

<sup>9</sup> Bridge End (in Habergham Eaves) is at present unknown, but should be traceable through the 1861 census. It may be in the vicinity of Bridge Street at SD 842326, or near Sandy Gate (but this crosses the canal and not the river)

<sup>10</sup> ie. 1872-3. The *Gazette* has 1871

<sup>11</sup> Spring Garden Shed was actually in the adjacent Craven Street at SD 845324. But the *Gazette* says the business had started previously in Stoneyholme, and also that he was in partnership there with Fulton

<sup>12</sup> Ashfield Mill at SD 837328; the business moved there in the autumn of 1891

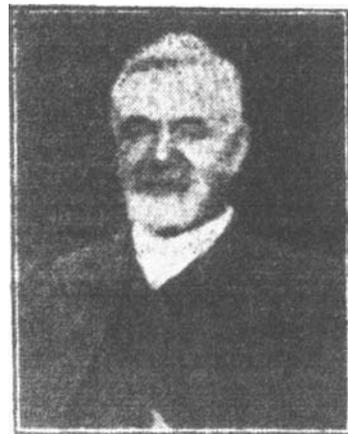
<sup>13</sup> One person ran six looms, so there were 150 weavers; with loom preparation, sales and administration, the business may have employed 300-400 people

Mr Slater who was a Liberal in politics, was highly respected throughout the town. He left Burnley some three years ago, going to reside at Heysham. Though he had never taken an active part in politics, he once contested Burnley Wood Ward in the Liberal interests, and was defeated by the late Alderman Carrington. Since that time he had never made a further attempt in this direction. The deceased gentleman was at one time a well-known figure at Cronkshaws. At the New Year celebrations, Mr Slater, by request, generally sang Edwin Waugh's famous melody "A lift on the way". He was also connected with Enon Baptist Chapel. His remains will be interred today at three o'clock at the Wheatley Lane Inghamite Chapel graveyard.<sup>14</sup> The coffin will arrive at Brierfield Station at 2-7 pm.

- The Burnley Gazette Saturday 15th January 1910. p.8 col.4.

#### Death of Mr William Slater.

A large circle of friends will learn with regret of the tragically sudden death on Wednesday morning of Mr Wm Slater, of Greenfield House, Morecambe, formerly so well-known in Burnley as a cotton manufacturer. Mr Slater got up at the usual time on Wednesday, apparently at his wonted state of health. He was sitting in a chair awaiting breakfast when he suddenly expired from heart failure.<sup>15</sup> He was a man of exceptionally vigorous constitution, and had not been attended by a doctor for over forty years. Mr Slater, who was 77 years of age, hailed from Cliviger. He started life in Burnley as a butcher, carrying on business for a long time in St James'-street.<sup>16</sup> In 1871 – thirty-nine years ago – he started business as a cotton manufacturer in partnership with Mr Fulton at Stoneyholme.<sup>17</sup> They afterwards moved to Cowburn's Shed in Plumbe-street.<sup>18</sup> Twenty-two or twenty-three years ago<sup>19</sup> the partnership was dissolved. Then Mr Slater took in his eldest son Frederick as a partner under the style of Wm. Slater & Son. Seventeen years ago<sup>20</sup> the firm moved to Ashfield Shed where the firm have since carried on business. Mr Wm. Slater retired from an active part in the business five years ago,<sup>21</sup> and the concern was turned into a limited company under the style of Wm Slater & Sons Limited. Mr Slater who was a shrewd and successful businessman was the last survivor of a notable group of cotton men who used to journey to Manchester together.<sup>22</sup> These were the late Richard Stuttard, William Briarley, Robert Emmott, Henry Nutter, John West and Cyrus Scaife. Mr Slater was always a sterling Liberal, but took no part in public life. He was a man of a most genial and sociable disposition, and was always a welcome figure in social circles. He was a familiar figure at Cronkshaw's room for many years, and at the annual New Year's Eve gatherings there his song "A lift on the way" was always one of the annuals that could not be spared. Mr Slater leaves seven grown up children by his first wife and one daughter of sixteen by the widow who also survives. The children by his first wife are Mr Frederick Slater, of Todmorden-road, Mr Joseph Slater, auctioneer, Mrs Joseph Heap<sup>23</sup> of Burnley, Mr P.S. Slater,<sup>24</sup> chemist, Mrs Riley,<sup>25</sup> Mr Benjamin Slater, Manchester-road,<sup>26</sup> and Miss Fanny Slater of Morecambe. While in Burnley Mr Slater attended Enon Baptist chapel.



The interment will take place this afternoon at the Inghamite chapel, Wheatley Lane. The coffin will arrive at Brierfield station about two o'clock.

#### National Probate Calendar

<sup>14</sup> The Inghamite Chapel is at SD 839384. There is a large Slater family grave and memorials

<sup>15</sup> The circumstances described in the *Express and Advertiser* are different, and more believable as they are in more detail

<sup>16</sup> St James' Street is in central Burnley

<sup>17</sup> Stoneyholme is the district in Burnley NW of Bank Top railway station

<sup>18</sup> Cowburn's Shed was Spring Garden Shed. It seems that the owner was in fact Thos Courban (*Express* 22.8.1891).

<sup>19</sup> it was much earlier – 1st February 1882, see the legal notice in the *Burnley Express* on 4th February

<sup>20</sup> 1893 is also the wrong date – see note 12. Maybe this obituary was prepared a few years earlier than 1910

<sup>21</sup> the *Express and Advertiser* gives the date of retirement as three years ago

<sup>22</sup> to monitor the price of cotton and cotton goods etc.

<sup>23</sup> Kate Heap whose husband was a builder

<sup>24</sup> he must in fact be Thomas Sutcliffe Slater

<sup>25</sup> possibly Ada, but Thomas Sutcliffe Slater's wife was also a Riley

<sup>26</sup> Benjamin Slater lived at "The Castle", 254 Manchester Road, and was a friend of Thomas Hargreaves

SLATER William of Greenfield House St John's-road Heysham near Morecambe Lancashire died 12 January 1910 Probate London 8 February to Frederick Slater cotton manufacturer and Joseph Heap builder. Effects £8660.16s.10d.

- Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser Friday 11th February 1910, p.10 col.2.

Latest Wills.

Mr William Slater of Greenfield House St John's road, Heysham, Morecambe, and formerly of Burnley, retired cotton manufacturer. left £8,660.

Notes

William Slater's home addresses were, in 1861 4 Bridge End, Habergham Eaves; in 1881 and 1887 10 St James Street; in 1889 Wood Nook, 2 Brooklands Avenue Burnley; and around 1906 he retired to Greenfield Ho. St John's Rd. Heysham. He toured the world at some time, visiting William Hargreaves in Australia. He also went to New Zealand and brought back tree ferns and a piece of green jade. The jade was given to Mahala Hargreaves.

18.4.2013

J H Hargreaves

Amersham