

Taken From A Newspaper Cutting.

**Mr. Thomas Whittaker's
Reminiscences.**

Mr Thomas Whittaker J.P.; who died in April, 1914, aged 78, gave some interesting reminiscences of the Primitive Methodist Chapel at a re-union he had at Grane-road. Though later prominent with Ebernezer Baptist, he attended in his youth the Primitive Methodist Chapel and then Salem U.M.F.C. when the split from Grane-road occurred.

At this re-union Mr Whittaker took back the congregation fifty years from the time he was speaking. He said at that time morning school was devoted to writing and in the afternoon to Butter's Spelling Book. On Monday nights reading, writing, etc, the teaching of which was voluntary and free. On Saturday night the library was open, and as the collection of books was very fair it was appreciated.

Local preachers at that time, said Mr Whittaker, were principally William Heap, Richard Barnes, Richard Hoyle, Edmund Ashworth, James Sharples, George Law, John Hindle, and Mrs Warburton.

Richard Hoyle was the later famous lay preacher at Salem, Mrs Warburton was Mrs Susan Warburton, mother of the late Mr Thos Warburton, musical instrument dealer and first leader of Haslingden Orchestral Society's band. She also preached at Salem (where she settled down) and at the Primitive Free Church, now Independent Methodist. As a preacher she was somewhat emotional and had great power. She often had a large congregation, though she was not a novelty as a woman preacher in the district.

The late Mr James Holden Salem veteran, said that he heard her offer prayer hundreds of times, and at that time women offered prayer oftener than men to-day.

The Congregation

Recalling the congregation at the time he was speaking of Mr Whittaker said it would probably consist of the following: William Heap, James Parkinson Gibson, Peter Rothwell, James Sharples, John Whittaker (the speaker's father), Thos Warburton, George Barnes, Edmund Ashworth, John Ashworth, Thos and James Warburton, Christopher Hoyle (senr.), John Hindle, George Law, John Haworth (more familiarly known as John of Edmund's), Richard Barnes, (Hutch Bank), James Wade, James Hayhurst, George Westwell, Thos Parkinson, James Cronkshaw, John and James and Rodger Holt, Matthew Hayhurst, Merritt Rothwell, Hy Haworth, Robert Fenwick, William Dent, John Ormerod, Richard Threlfell and their families. (Among these are a few Salem names).

The Orchestra.

In the seats for the orchestra were Mr Robert Brierley (leader) with his clarinet, old Richard Hoyle (trumpet), and his brother James (three keyed bugle). James Emmett (father of Cornelius), who played the clarinet, William Henry Rishton (clarinet) and

Tennant Hall (violin). The names of some of the trombone and flute players Mr Whittaker could not remember.

The Singers.

The singers included Edward Dearden, Lawrence Fiton, Simeon Holden, Hy Warburton and the daughters of Robert Brierley.

Old stalwarts.

To the names of old stalwarts could be added. Barlow, Riley, Ravens, Warburton, Taylor, Elton, Hoyle, Heywood, Schofield, Platt, Fitton.