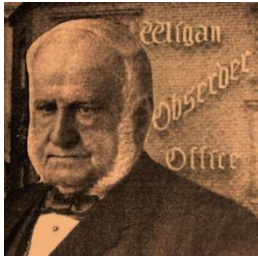


Thomas Wall (1815-1904)



Thomas was born in 1815 “Waterloo Year” at Wednesfield, Staffs, the son of a builder.

He worked for the Wolverhampton Chronicle as a compositor and came to Wigan in 1838.

Married Elizabeth Johnson at Wigan Parish Church on 3rd August, 1841, a fruitful marriage bearing 11 children, 6 girls and 5 boys.

Elizabeth’s father was Thomas Johnson, licensed victualler, of the Hole i’th Wall in Market Place. Her brother was Richardson Thomas Johnson, architect of Grimes Arcade and the Royal Court Theatre, both are still prominent buildings in King Street.

Connected with failed first newspaper “Wigan Gazette” and founded the Wigan Observer in 1853.

Played in the first Wigan Cricket Club game in 1848 on Brick Kiln Field.

He also had a shop in Market Place, as a stamp distributor, later postmaster, printer, etc – later the building was demolished to make the opening of Library St into Market Place.

Thomas was an early tenant of the Minorca Building.

The existing building in Rowbottom Square was originally a temperance hotel, purchased in 1901 from Peter Grant and would be the home of the Wigan Observer for many years.

He was one of the original members of the Anti-Corn Law League and gave enthusiastic support to the great Trade Movement.

In local affairs he was a persistent and notable worker:-

Member of the Wigan Board of Guardians “Workhouse”, becoming Chairman.

Councillor then Alderman of the Borough

Borough and County Magistrate

One of the three promoters of Wigan Infirmary.

Thomas died at Southport in 1904, aged 88 years, attended by his five spinster daughters.