

# The History of the Durham Miners' Association: People



**Peter Lee**

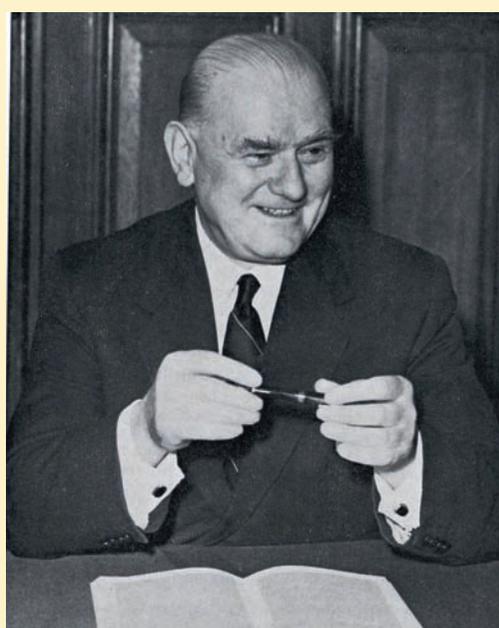
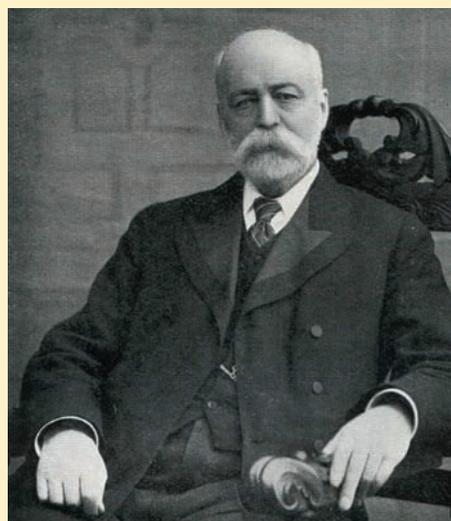
(Norman Emery, Banners of the Durham Coalfield, p.87)

Peter Lee was born in 1864 at Trimdon Grange. He was only ten when he began working as a trapper boy at Littleton Colliery, and then became a putter and then a hewer. He emigrated to the United States in 1886. He returned to Durham in 1887 and became involved with the DMA, but emigrated to work in the South African gold mines between 1896 and 1897. On his return he became checkweighman at Wheatley Hill, and became involved in the union. In 1919 he was elected as an agent, and became Financial Secretary, Joint Committee Secretary, Executive and Joint Committee Secretary, and finally General Secretary. He died at Bede Rest in Durham in June 1935.

**John Wilson**

(John Wilson, A History of the Durham Miners' Association, 1870-1904, opposite p.182)

John Wilson was born in 1837 at Greatham. He began work underground at Ludworth Colliery at the age of twelve. Between 1864 and 1867 he worked in the United States. He was one of the prominent figures in the creation of the DMA in 1869, and this led to problems with colliery owners which meant that he could not find work in the Durham coalfield. In 1882 he was elected as an agent, and became General Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and finally General Secretary. In 1885 he was elected as Liberal MP for Houghton-le-Spring, but was defeated in 1886. In 1890 he became MP for Mid-Durham. He died in 1915.



**Sam Watson**

(E. Allan, The Durham Miners' Association, 1869-1969, p.46)

Sam Watson was born in 1898 at Boldon Colliery. He began working in the local pit half-time at the age of twelve. He was elected to the lodge committee in 1917 and became lodge secretary in 1926. From 1919 he was secretary of the Boldon branch of the Independent Labour Party. In 1936 he was elected as an agent, and became General Treasurer and then General Secretary until his retirement in March 1963. He died at Bede Rest in Durham in 1967.



**William Crawford**

William Crawford was born in 1833 in Northumberland, and he was working underground by the age of ten. In 1863 he was a prominent figure in the creation of the Northumberland & Durham Mutual Confident Association. Although he was not involved in the creation of the DMA in 1869, he was appointed an agent in 1870, and became President and then General Secretary. He developed the system of collective bargaining based on the sliding scale of wages varying with coal prices and achieved a limited working day for hewers. He was elected as Liberal MP for Mid-Durham in 1885. He died in July 1890.



**John Forman**

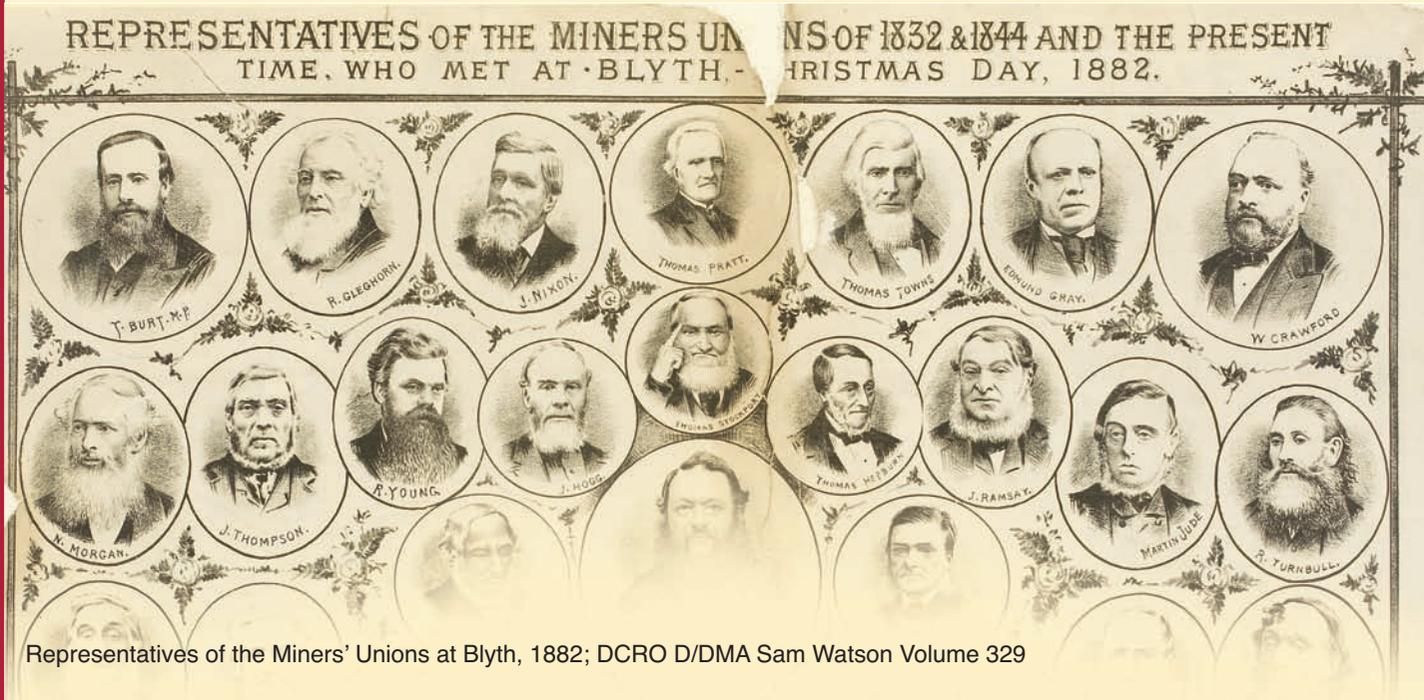
John Forman was born in Northumberland in 1822/23. He was checkweighman at Roddymoor Colliery when he was elected as an agent of the DMA in 1872. He was President of the Association until his death in 1900. He served in rescue teams both before and after his election.



**William Patterson**

William H. Patterson was born in 1847 at Newcastle. He began working underground at the age of twelve at Heworth, and became lodge secretary in 1865. In 1870 he was elected as an agent of the DMA, becoming Financial Secretary and then General Secretary until his death in 1896.

Photographs of statues courtesy of David Butler



Representatives of the Miners' Unions at Blyth, 1882; DCRO D/DMA Sam Watson Volume 329