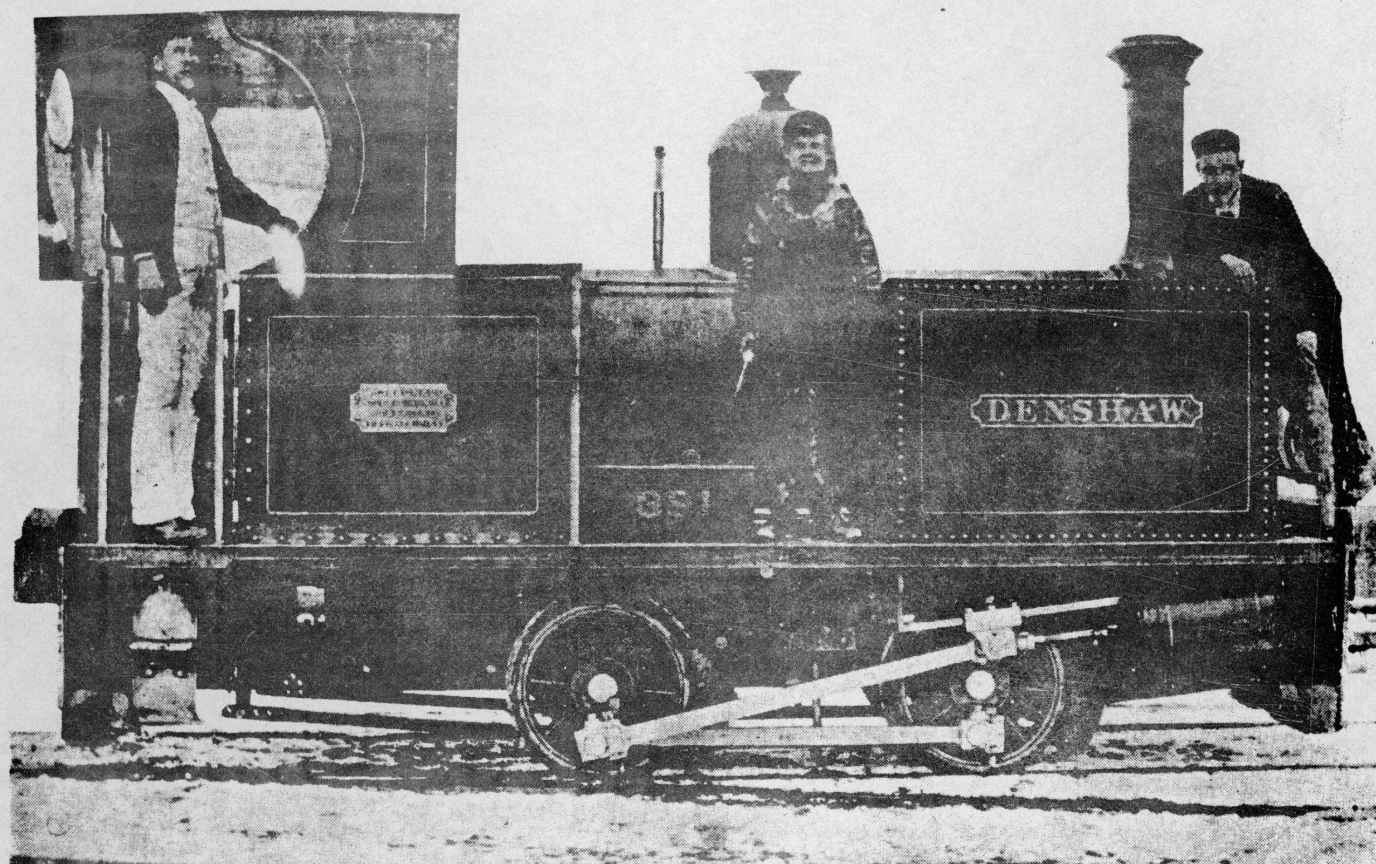


Saddleshworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 10 Number 2

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BULLETIN
OF THE
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ROCHER MOSS SOUTH 2

A Later Mesolithic Site in Saddleworth

This site lies 70 yards to the west of Rocher Moss South 1, which was excavated in 1972 and proved to have a rod-dominated Later Mesolithic assemblage. Both sites are situated on the gentle southern slopes of Rocher Moss at a height of 1325 feet O.D., Map Reference SE 028863 (1).

Twelve square yards were excavated which produced 24 flints, including the original surface find. An interesting feature was that 20 of these were firecracked. All the flints came from the sandy mineral layer which was on average $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, and which was protected by a covering of peat over the greater part of the site (Fig. 1).

The sandy layer contained quite a lot of charcoal in nearly all parts of the site, but markedly concentrated in one or two areas, in particular in a small pit, oval in shape, 16 inches long by 10 inches in width and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. This was surrounded by a rough circle of stones, the biggest of which was 10 inches long. All these features are illustrated in Fig. 1, including the distribution of the flints.

The firecracked flints were all grey or white in colour, but there were three small flakes which had not been affected by heat and these were of good quality, transparent brown flint.

Microliths and microlith fragments (Fig. 2)

These include:

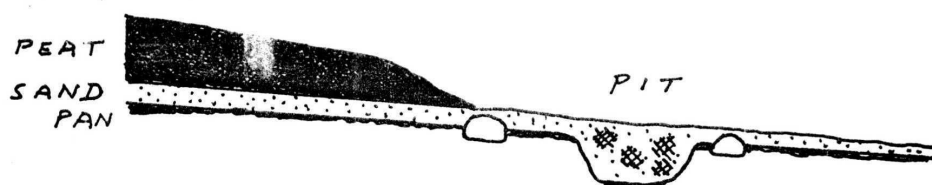
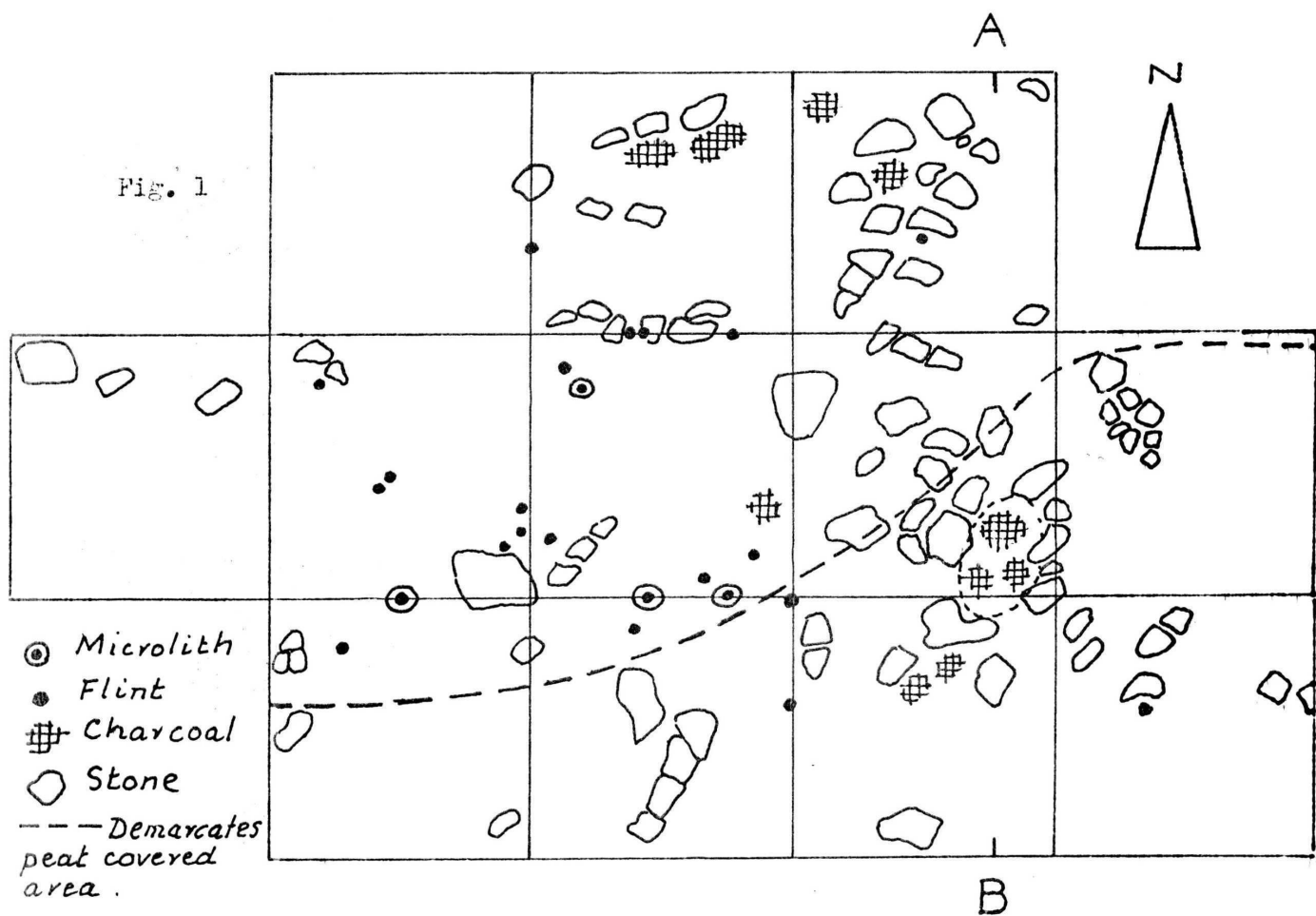
1. A rod blunted down one edge
2. and 3. Microlith fragments which were 11 inches apart and fit together to form another rod, blunted down one edge
4. A minute calcined microlith fragment, possibly part of a rod.

Charcoal

Charcoal sent for radio-carbon assay gave a date of 3880 ± 100 bc (Q 1190). This charcoal was not taken from the 'pit' which had lost its peat cover and therefore might have been contaminated.

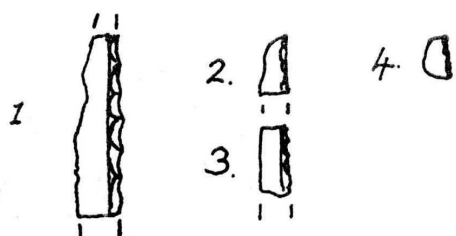
Pollen (2)

Pollen analysis of samples taken from a profile 40 cm. in depth indicated that the site could almost definitely be said to belong to the pollen zone VIIa/VIIb boundary. It was quite obviously both post-Alnus rise and post-Corylus rise. Ulmus and Tilia were beginning to decline and Plantago lanceolata was beginning to become apparent at the top of the profile. Heath development had taken place after the mineral soil - peat boundary, and a gradual increase in herbaceous pollen was seen. The pollen spectrum agreed not only with the site's own radio-carbon date of 3880 ± 100 bc but with the date of 3430 ± 80 bc for Dunford Bridge Site B, both of these sites having rod-dominated industries. The date from Dunford Bridge Site B has been fitted into the Dunford Bridge Site A diagram at a level which indicates a late Zone VIIa environment (3). Thus the palaeoecological evidence from Rocher Moss South 2 is seen to fit in with the archaeological evidence from its own and other sites.



Section A-B through pit.

Fig. 2



Microlith and microlith fragments.

Rocher Moss South 2.

Comments

1. The area excavated appears to be part of a hearth as shown by the presence of abundant charcoal and the fact that 20 out of the 24 flints were firecracked.

Francis Buckley described a hearth on Warcock Hill South, "about five yards from the main site", which was 3 feet in diameter and 5 inches deep (4). Hearths are recorded at most Mesolithic sites, so that it has been suggested that heat may have been used in the process of flint working.

2. The two microliths identified were both rods similar to the 27 found at Rocher Moss South 1, only 70 yards to the east. It seems possible that these two sites had some connection with each other and were occupied by the same group, either at the same time or in successive seasons.

Later Mesolithic sites often show a predominance of one or other type of microlith, so that it is reasonable to describe individual sites as rod, triangle, trapezoid sites etc. Rods may have been used as arrow tips whilst scalene triangles and trapezoids would be used as barbs.

3. The radio-carbon date of 3880 ± 100 bc has to be calibrated in order to obtain the chronological age, which would be about 4750 BC.

This agrees reasonably well with the assumption that this is a Later Mesolithic site.

4. The locality of the site at 1325 feet O.D., on a southern slope with an extensive view of low ground to the south west, is typical of Mesolithic sites in the Pennines, the majority of which are to be found between 1200 and 1600 feet in altitude (5).

This is also the altitude at which the pollen evidence suggests that forest gave way to open country - heathland and grassland. The Pennine watershed lies only 650 yards to the east, where a slight depression separates Black Moss to the south from Good Hill to the north. It would have been possible to keep this 'col', which was probably used by deer in prehistoric times, under observation from the site.

Conclusion

That this was the hearth of a seasonal site used by a small group of hunters in Later Mesolithic times, who were making microlithic 'rods' with which to tip their arrows.

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W.P.B. Stonehouse

THE WORKING CLASS OF SADDLEWORTH
IN THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION 1795 - 1842

War between England and France was as much a product of the industrial revolution as the spinning jenny or the steam engine. The French Revolution and the war which followed, embroiling Europe and the colonies, was the inevitable outcome of the development of capitalist trade and production. When they had thrown off the burden of a corrupt and degenerate aristocracy, the French bourgeoisie were able to aggressively challenge their other enemy - the commercial supremacy of England. But the economic expansionism of the English ruling class and its successive governments had not just created enemies abroad. The domestic expansion of industrialism had created a far greater internal threat - the working class: numerically greater, socially and economically more concentrated and homogeneous, and potentially far more politically powerful than any oppressed and exploited class in history. The entire sphere of class relations in this period is governed by the fear of the landlords, the merchants and manufacturers that the workers, inspired by the ideals and experiences of the French Revolution, would become conscious of their strength and use it against the wealth and privilege of the ruling class. Against the English Jacobins, republicans and parliamentary reformers, the whole panoply of state and church was brought to bear in an attempt to eradicate all subversive doctrines and organisations which taught the lower orders that they had a part to play in the political scheme of things. Although many workers eagerly read Tom Paine's Rights of Man and numerous other pamphlets and tracts, for the majority the truth of their social, economic and social position was not revealed through books and newspapers alone, but through the harsh necessities of the struggle to survive.

In 1794, just as the government appeared to have scored one success by the arrest of the leaders of several Correspondence Societies and, so they claimed, broken the back of a conspiracy to stage a republican insurrection, a disastrous harvest compounded by a trade recession raised the spectre of far more real popular unrest. The following year the price of wheat doubled to around 100s. a quarter, and widespread food rioting occurred. It is against this background that we begin our survey of the working people of Saddleworth, the conditions they worked under, and the problems they faced.

"Glory and want went hand in hand; splendid reviews and meal mobs were contemporaneous; and loyalty continued to characterise one class of the community, while poverty was crushing another" (1).

The weavers of Saddleworth were squeezed between the rising cost of provisions and the falling price of their labour. Wage cuts meant that where they could earn 3s. in 1792 they could now earn only 2s., and many

were receiving 19s.4d. less per piece; consequently some had been forced to seek Parish relief. To the alarm of many master clothiers and the magistrates, apprehensive least the violence of elsewhere might be repeated, a meeting was called for 6th July, 1795, on Platt Hill to discuss these grievances. Some of the masters called upon the magistrates to ban the meeting, and it was rumoured that a detachment of light horse would be on hand. The meeting took place without incident, but its results must still have offered little consolation to the masters. A plan was proposed and adopted announcing that "..... for the prevention of future Incroachments and Reduction of Wages and in order to recover our former and accustomed Prices it will be necessary to form a relieving Fund or Society". To the employers and the authorities this declaration, which was published on a handbill for circulation, must have sounded like the intention to form a combination or trade union.

Perhaps partly to allay such fears the plan was published in a pamphlet by a sympathiser of the workers, D. Nield of Lees, who, since he described scenes of poverty witnessed when "I have visited patients", was obviously some form of doctor. His "Addresses to the Different Classes of Man in the Parish of Saddleworth", shewing in some Degree the Necessity of supporting the Plan laid down for augmenting the Price of Labour in the Woollen Manufactory, describing the distressed Situation of the Parish &c. &c." is possibly a unique document in which an advanced concept of the rights of the "working class" (the singular - an interestingly early use of the term) is combined with a warning of the detrimental effects of the decline of the domestic system of production (2). His pamphlet reflects this system during its transformation, when the small clothiers working at home had no prospect of becoming self-employed producers but merely "work at the Woollen business for wages". On the other hand is the corollary of this - the ominous growth of the large master clothiers.

"If the plan or some other to effect the same purpose be not adopted Saddleworth will very soon be in the situation of a neighbouring parish viz. the trade of the whole parish will be in the hands of a very few tradesmen and the workmen will be exceedingly poor, this appears to be what some masters are aiming at. "

The plan under discussion was therefore evidently not regarded simply as leading to economic improvements via increased wages, but was hoped to have a social effect in impeding the development of the concentration of capitalism, as embodied in the factory system.

One proposal he advanced, which he said was favoured by the "Gentlemen of the Parish", that is the landowners, and by others, was for a heavy tax on machinery - referring particularly to slubbing billies and carding engines. This, he suggested could make it as cheap to carry on carding and slubbing "in the old manner" but, he added, it would only relieve unemployment amongst children and the old "who are incapable of doing anything else". Responsibility for the "present calamity", however, he laid firmly at the door of the master clothiers: "There is nothing that will be of any material service to the working class of your parish till an increase of wages takes place".

In a statement of brilliant simplicity and humanism which contrasts with the obscurantism and ruthless hypocrisy of political economists even to this day, he appeared as an early advocate of the labour theory of wealth:

"The labouring part of mankind support every other part either directly or indirectly and the price of labour ought to keep pace with the price of provisions; if it do not the manufacturing poor are oppressed".

Eight years, another near famine, and the short Peace of Amiens later, the danger to the domestic system seemed much more imminent. In 1803 some of the merchant manufacturers pressed for a bill to repeal all the former restrictive legislation governing practices in the woollen industry. These laws, many of Tudor origin and some older, placed limitations on the introduction of machinery and defined the age and length of servitude of apprentices. For many of the large manufacturers they were already a dead letter and attempts to prosecute employers for infringements of these statutes were unsuccessful. By securing their repeal as obsolete and anachronistic, the legal basis of arguments against the factory system would be undermined and the way open for its unfettered development.

By 1802 strikes and threats of strikes had occurred in Leeds and Huddersfield amongst the clothworkers, or croppers, against the introduction of gig mills used in the finishing process and to prevent the taking on of over-age apprentices. In the West Country in that year, attacks on mills accompanied strikes against the "obnoxious machinery", and it emerged, to the concern of the magistrates and the Home Office, that croppers in the West Riding and shearmen in Wiltshire were organised into one "Institution" (3).

One of the Institution's delegates, or travelling organisers, William May, the brother of a member of the Trowbridge committee arrested for administering illegal oaths - the legal excuse for prosecuting leaders of workers' combinations - visited Huddersfield and Saddleworth, but there is no evidence for the activities of the croppers' institution in the latter area (4). However, since all such activity was clandestine because of the Combination and other laws, the Institution was particularly wary of allowing evidence to come to light of co-operation between different trades, and at the same time there was in existence a Clothiers' Institution with an organisation, regulations and objectives very similar to that of the croppers. To avoid being identified together, they conducted their petitioning campaigns for the retention of the old laws simultaneously but ostensibly separately. The Institution was welcomed by some West Riding master clothiers who saw it as a weapon against the factory system, but others feared "it would place the powers in the workman's hands to enhance their wages at any time they thought proper".

These conflicts of class interest within the domestic system are also evident in the campaign in Saddleworth against the repeal of restrictive legislation. How far clothiers here were directly influenced by the Institution is not known, but their activities in opposition to repeal can only be understood as part of this national movement focussing on the 1806 Parliamentary Select Committee of Inquiry into the Woollen Trade.

Opposition to the Factory System

Saddleworth's unique position as geographically part of the Lancashire cotton country and yet economically and administratively part of the West Riding woollen district made the woollen manufacturers particularly apprehensive about the decline of their trade. The only points on which the clothier John Platt and the merchant-manufacturer

William Knight agreed before the 1806 Select Committee was that cotton was making inroads. Platt, who wished to show that innovations in the woollen industry were having a detrimental effect, attributed the increase in cotton manufacture to the decline of the wool trade over the previous three years; Knight, wishing to minimise the changes taking place, claimed it was due to a particularly brisk period in the cotton industry, but even he exhibited some rivalry with the cotton manufacturers.

The hostility of supporters of the domestic system to cotton was not based on simple trade rivalry, however, but on the fact that the factory system and the grip of the great merchant manufacturers was far more advanced in that industry. The existence of this in Saddleworth is tragically highlighted by the trial of Samuel Collier of Dobcross in 1805, who was sentenced to death at York after a whole day's hearing for burning down the cotton factory of James Lees of Delph where he worked as an overlooker.

Another witness claimed before the Parliamentary Select Committee that the number of spinners and weavers who were working in cotton were more than could be accounted for by the increase in population, and that over the previous seven years the master clothiers had declined. We know that by 1820 about one in ten weavers were in cotton, with about 3,500 woollen looms to between 300 and 400 cotton looms in operation. This compares with the 2,000 woollen looms recorded in 1794 when no cotton cloth was being produced here. The number of pieces had increased from 36,637 in 1792 to 59,484 in 1820, but the latter figure included c.40,000 kerseymeres and shawls which according to Aikin's account were not registered and were on the increase (5). Although a comparison of these figures with population statistics may give some indication of a net decline in woollen production, they do not in themselves inform us about the changing social relations and concentration of capital in the industry which concerned the adversaries of the factory system.

The meetings called in Saddleworth as part of the run up to the Select Committee inquiry reveal the different interests at work in the woollen manufacture. The first, convened on 14th April at John Wrigley's inn, Dobcross, invited only merchants, master clothiers and freeholders, but a large body of people "workmen as well as masters" sought admittance. The workers were initially refused entry, but as the room was not large enough to accommodate those referred to in the advertisement and the meeting had to be adjourned to the chapel, they were permitted into the galleries. This was not to the satisfaction of the callers of the meeting and, when only seven hands were raised in favour of repeal of all restrictive laws and several hundred against, they re-adjourned back to Wrigley's and drew up their own resolutions. These advocated the lifting of all restrictions as the prerequisite for the formulation of new legislation on the trade and although they supported restrictions on the number of looms and jennies in any one establishment, one of the main demands of the journeyman's clothier's institution, they did not want to see the enforcement of the apprenticeship rules. They claimed that this was not feasible in Saddleworth where few people had served legal apprenticeships but, as elsewhere, the merchant manufacturers and large clothiers feared that statutory apprenticeships would give the workers too much control over the labour market and increase the value of labour power.

The callers of the 14th April meeting had obviously underestimated popular feeling against the repeal, especially the concern

of many of the wage workers. According to William Knight an "inflammatory handbill" was posted afterwards libelling the people attending the closed meeting "and particularly the chairman", John Buckley. Another meeting was called for the 5th May at Lawton's inn, where another Buckley, Joseph, a spinner who also taught school classes in his mother's house, was called to the chair. Only a few masters objected to the workmen taking part, and John Platt claimed that it was a "respectable meeting". Knight, on the contrary, thought "the room appeared to be covered with people who had no more interest in the trade than any individual in this city could have, mechanics and day labourers so that I could scarcely get into the room", and the few manufacturers who were there "expressed their displeasure in consequence of that meeting and went so far as to say that they could see no use in it". He claimed that some of the most vocal were even cotton manufacturers, and accused some there of wishing to "make dissention and disturbance in the manufacture rather than do it a service".

The meeting reaffirmed the virtues of the domestic system:

" the domestic system is highly favourable to the cultivation of paternal, filial and fraternal affections, the sources of domestic happiness and to the generation to good, moral and civil habits, the sources of public tranquility; that the factory system tends to the prevention of these affections and habits and leads youth sooner into the strongest temptations "

Limitations on looms and jennies were called for, and even though many, including Platt and Joseph Buckley, had not served apprenticeships, this point found support. Buckley had been trained in the trade by his father who died when he was 14, and then by a relative and a married couple who came to live at his mother's house where they wove and spun. He, nevertheless, like Platt supported a statutory seven year apprenticeship. Platt and others before the committee emphasised that it was not just a question of learning the techniques of weaving but of all the trade of a clothier, and Buckley had spent about one and a half years under his father just doing warping. He now mainly spun on his own jenny for other people's looms. Platt's evidence reveals an interesting characteristic of the division of labour in Saddleworth in that weaving was done also by girls under the supervision of their fathers. Unlike other areas where harvest work by weavers was common, he said that there was little work in the fields, and the husbands were usually at home, although some women wove when their menfolk were working away.

As Buckley represents one end of the social and economic scale of the domestic system as a worker "for hire", Platt represents the other as a clothier with the ability to dispose of his own goods as a merchant and to buy pieces from the cloth hall to finish for marketing himself. He asserted that, unlike the factory owner, he only did this on a small scale and within the domestic system, "keeping the husband, the wife and the children together". The attitude of himself and other advocates of the domestic system was closely allied to notions of social and economic rights, and was formulated in the resolutions of the 5th May meetings:

" the clothiers are a numerous body of men and that their trade and employment are their chief, frequently their only birth-right and source of support, therefore

they ought to be protected and secured to them as the most sacred property".

For many these principles also had a political manifestation which was expressed in support for parliamentary reform.

Saddleworth clothiers may have taken the lead in organising representatives to appear before the Select Committee as "a general meeting of the inhabitants of the parishes of Almondbury, Kirkburton and other places in the neighbourhood of Huddersfield who are in any way interested in the woollen manufacture", held at Honley on the 28th May, adopted some of the 5th May resolutions almost verbatim. It may be simply that this phraseology, especially the two resolutions already quoted, might have had some other common origin, but the fact that Platt and Buckley were the only clothiers from the Huddersfield area appearing before the Committee to oppose repeal would indicate they were delegates for the area. That this was the case is indicated by a document presented to the Committee recording Platt and Buckley as delegates for the master clothiers of Mottram in Cheshire - who also expressed their approval of the resolutions of the Saddleworth 5th May meeting, which must have been communicated to them. A lot of preparatory organisation had obviously taken place in the grey area of semi-illegality, and Joseph Buckley, for one, may have been more involved than he was prepared to admit.

William Knight put forward the case for the merchant-manufacturers, advocating complete laissez faire with the removal of all restrictions on the trade, including the obsolete form of quality and export control exerted by the searching and stamping laws, one of the demands also of the 14th April meeting. He saw no danger of the factory system becoming established in Saddleworth, and was opposed to the "prejudice" against Harrop which many at the 5th May meeting expressed in claims that he

" would get the advantage over the rest of the country and that it must be stop'd for if that machinery was used, that is the gig mill and the finishing machinery, the country would be ruined he was about to adopt the factory system".

Harrop had also concentrated some looms and jennies on his premises, but claimed they were only used to employ laid-off cotton workers, to avoid them going on the parish. The agitation in this period, Knight claimed, "created a deal of uneasiness it makes the workpeople a little more irregular in their proceeding". Knight and other manufacturers, and Harrop in particular, were later to appreciate how little the people of Saddleworth were "irregular in the proceeding" compared to their neighbours in the Oldham and Huddersfield areas (6).

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To be continued

A.J. Brooke

LOCAL INTEREST TRAILS

The six Local Interest Trails are still available at the price of 25p each (40p including postage, etc.). They can be obtained from the Saddleworth Museum, Uppermill, or from the Editor of the Bulletin.

Recently they were reviewed in the Pennine Magazine (No.4. 1980, p.33), where it was stated that:

" some of the finest leaflets and booklets on the Pennine area are produced by voluntary bodies who seem able to achieve work of an exceedingly high standard An example of this is the series of trails published by the Saddleworth Historical Society If you find yourself perplexed by various features of the landscape, these trails are really for you. They are well written informative and full of interest and deal with an area which has really been underrated and under explored for many years. Whichever you choose, the trail will guarantee you learn a great deal of value, and will ensure your afternoon out has been well spent".

SADDLEWORTH RECORDS

It was often the lament of local historians that Saddleworth, in common with most upland communities, was so poorly documented that the basic problems about its origin and development might never be solved. In more recent times, the new record offices, the ease of travel to distant repositories, the greater range of published material, the cheap photocopy and the new methods of exploiting traditional sources, have all caused us to revise this opinion. In Saddleworth, we are especially fortunate that in the last few years several major sources of information on our pre-industrial past have come to light, and this series is intended to calendar this material and to publish extracts from the more significant documents.

The first calendar is of a collection of Court Rolls, Rentals and Deeds relating to the Manor of Saddleworth which forms part of the Wentworth-Woolley Hall Papers, deposited at the Brotherton Library, Leeds University, in 1946. These documents probably came into the possession of the Wentworth family on the marriage of Godfrey Wentworth to Amelia Fawkes (grand-daughter of the last Lord of the Manor of Saddleworth, James Farrer) in 1794. We are indebted to Mr. Michael Buckley of St. Albans for bringing this exciting collection to our notice.

Wentworth-Woolley Hall Papers

Box 8/4b

8 Deeds relating to Saddleworth

1. Receipt for £7 10s. paid by William Farrer to the Lords of the Honor of Wakefield re. a fine in the Court of Common Pleas, Easter Term 1655. William Farrer to accord with William Ramsden. Manor of Saddleworth, 150 messuages, 300 acres of land, 300 acres of meadow, 600 acres of pasture. 16 Jan. 1656
2. Lease for 999 years, James Farrer to Henry Whitehead of Saddleworth, of a plot of waste land near Dobcross. 10 April 1717
3. Assignment, Sir Henry Bridgeman and Wanley Sawbridge to William Lord Mansfield, of Mr. Farrer's mortgage of £8,000 on the Manor of Saddleworth. 11 Feb. 1765
4. James Farrer to the Archbishop of York.
A further mortgage on the Manor of Saddleworth to raise £3,000.
23 Mar. 1773
5. James Farrer to Henry Preston.
Sale of Sunfield, Olivers and Thorns estates. Consideration £680.
15 Nov. 1777
6. William Earl Mansfield to John Way.
Limitation of Mr. Farrer's mortgage on the Manor of Saddleworth to include only those estates listed. 9 July 1777
7. James Farrer to Oliver Tilson, Francis Barlow and Daniel Jones.
Mortgage of the estates withdrawn from Earl Mansfield's mortgage to raise £1,500. 8 Jan. 1780
8. Memorandum prior to the execution of a bond re. an indenture of (21 July 1787) assigning Mr. Farrer's mortgage on the Manor of Saddleworth from Earl Mansfield to Francis Fowke, and raising the principal to £13,000. Undated

Box 8/4b (continued)

4 Deeds relating to Midgley

1. John Farrer to James Farrer.
Grant of annuity charged on Ewood, Midgley. 17 May 1758
2. James Farrer to Susannah and John Lockwood.
Agreement re. $\frac{1}{3}$ share of pasture in Midgley called Handroyd Bank
to be let to John Broadbent for 21 years. 6 June 1774
3. James Farrer to Susannah and John Lockwood, Richard Thomas and
John Dearden. Lease for 1 year of $\frac{1}{3}$ part of Handroyd Bank,
Midgley. 5 June 1774
4. James Farrer to Susannah and John Lockwood, Richard Thomas and
John Dearden. Release of $\frac{1}{3}$ part of Handroyd Bank, Midgley.
6 June 1774

44 Court Rolls of the Manor of Saddleworth

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. 21 April 1743 | 23. 15 June 1763 |
| 2. 23 May 1744 | 24. 22 June 1764 |
| 3. 12 June 1745 | 25. 14 June 1765 |
| 4. 29 May 1746 | 26. 5 June 1766 |
| 5. 23 Nov 1747 | 27. 18 June 1767 |
| 6. 18 Jan 1748 | 28. 18 June 1768 |
| 7. 13 June 1748 | 29. 1 June 1769 |
| 8. 2 Dec 1748 | 30. 14 June 1770 |
| 9. 14 June 1749 | 31. 6 June 1771 |
| 10. 13 June 1750 | 32. 17 June 1772 |
| 11. 5 June 1751 | 33. 9 June 1773 |
| 12. 27 May 1752 | 34. 2 June 1774 |
| 13. 8 June 1753 | 35. 15 June 1775 |
| 14. 20 June 1754 | 36. 6 June 1776 |
| 15. 5 June 1755 | 37. 4 June 1777 |
| 16. 23 June 1756 | 38. 14 June 1778 |
| 17. 16 June 1757 | 39. 3 June 1779 |
| 18. 8 June 1758 | 40. 1 June 1780 |
| 19. 28 June 1759 | 41. 14 June 1781 |
| 20. 18 June 1760 | 42. 6 June 1782 |
| 21. 3 June 1761 | 43. 18 June 1783 |
| 22. 24 June 1762 | 44. 17 June 1784 |

Box 8/5

18 Rentals of the Manor of Saddleworth

1. Rent Roll, 1719
n.b. Wrapped in fragment of a lease, John Farrer to George
Lawton, of two dwelling houses and a fulling mill, for 21 years,
dated 2 Feb. 1693
2. Rent Roll, 1728
n.b. Wrapped in fragment of a lease, John Farrer to Thomas
Bradbury of Fairbanks, dated 1687

Box 8/5 (continued)

3. Rent Roll, 1731
n.b. Wrapped in fragment of a lease, John Farrer to Thomas and Edmund Platt, dated 2 Feb William III (1689-1702)
4. Rent Roll, 1733
n.b. Wrapped in fragment of a lease, John Farrer to Henry Winterbottom, of 7a 2r 10p of land in Strines, for 21 years, dated 1731
5. Rent Roll, 1734
n.b. Wrapped in a fragment of a lease, John Farrer to John and Martha Kenworthy, of Philips, late in the occupation of John Kenworthy of Halls deceased, for three lives, viz. Sarah Kenworthy, Mary Buckley and, undated
6. Rent Roll, 1735
n.b. Wrapped in fragment of a lease, (John) Farrer to John Heawood of Osterlands, of land at Pastures, dated 13 Oct Queen Ann (1702-1714)
7. Rent Roll, 1737
n.b. Wrapped in fragment of a lease, James Farrer to Thomas Kenworthy of Dobcross, of land at Harrop Edge and a cottage at Wharmton Brow, for 21 years, dated Queen Ann (1702-1714)
8. Rent Roll, 1737 (another copy)
n.b. Wrapped in fragment of a lease, John Farrer to John Buckley of Co. Lancaster, of a dye house and land in Dobcross, formerly in the occupation of Josiah Lawton, for 21 years, dated 1725
9. Rent Roll, 1738
n.b. Wrapped in a fragment of a lease, John Farrer to John Lees, of Millcoate Cottage. Undated.
10. Rent Roll, 1739
n.b. Wrapped in a fragment of a lease, John Farrer to Robert Kenworthy, of Hobbhole. Undated.
11. Rent Roll, 1740
n.b. Wrapped in a fragment of a lease, John Farrer to Robert Winterbottom and John Winterbottom, of land at Pastures, for 21 years, dated (16)88
12. Rent Roll, 1741
13. Rent Roll, 1742
n.b. Wrapped in a fragment of a lease, James Farrer to Josiah Lawton, of a cottage at Dobcross. Dated 2 Feb 1714
14. Rent Roll, 1743
n.b. Wrapped in a fragment of a lease, John Farrer to James Taylor, of Banktopp, for 21 years. Dated 7 June
15. Another copy
n.b. Wrapped in a fragment of a lease, William Farrer to Grace Broadbent, of land in Diglee for 21 years. Dated 2 Feb 1674
16. Another copy
n.b. Wrapped in a fragment of a lease, William Farrer to John Platt. Undated.
17. Rent Roll, 1744
n.b. Wrapped in a fragment of a lease, William Farrer to Abraham Rhodes of Deanhead clothmaker and Rhomas Rhodes of Saddleworth, of

Chief

John & Andrew for Barsburst
George Buckley and Sir Scheldt & Farulce
James Buckley Pasfeld
James Buckley de Tunstead
M^r. Kemwerth was Laurence Woods
Rob^t. Buckley
James & Edm^d. Buckley

M^r. John Buckley for Hellingreave
M^r. Buckley for new Land at Crumshawbent
Thomas Bradbury at Parnham
James Broughton for M^r. Goodall Land
Wit: Maltolue & her Daughters for Ranninghill

W^m. Buckley for Richard Scheldt's Land
John Leach
John Greave de Wallhill
Hurdle The Boath was John Wied Mason
George Shaw de Hawkyard

Mr. Whitehead and M^r. Greaves Land
The Plan for Nicholas Beeths
James Hazeldgreave
James Hazeldgreave was James Lees Scouthall
W^m. Kemwerth
John B^d. Miller

Thomas Shaw	for Woods	22
John Wied Miller	see above	
Abraham Laves		
Thomas Milnes	for Grange	

Thomas Platt for Waters
Hendee de Ch^r Marsden Gent:
M^r Pickford or Occup^y of Henry Whitehead's land
John Platt
Thomas Platt Woodrall
William Rhodes
Giles Shaw was William's Brethren
Thos^{rs} Shaw for Upper Mill Land
George Buckley & Jos^{ph} Schofield sue above
Elias Knight
William Schofield for 4 Heps
John Schofield de Grange
Thos^{rs} Hunkyard was Joseph Whitehead's
Ruden Men
Edw^d Amosworth for Ch^r Taylor's Land
Robert Walker
John Whitehead de Delf
James Whitehead Dale
John Whitehead de Quick
Edmund Whitehead
Dan^l Whitehead de Quick for Leadhill Land
James Wrigley for John Rhodes
John Wrigley
Thomas Winterbottom Brownedge
Lawrence Hunkyard for Land 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
The Inhabitants of Grapscroft

Andrew John *Barnhurst*
Buckley James & Scholefield James for *Fearnlie*
Buckley John's Heirs for *Birchington*
Buckley James for *Tunstead*
late Arthur Scholefields *Lawrence*
Buckley Robert for *Walthill*
Buckley James Edm^d for *Walthill*
Rev^d Cook for *Walthill-Barn*
M^r Buckley H^r for *Hellingrave*
_____ and for new Land at *Craneshaubent*
Bradbury Thomas for *Ferri*
Bothomley John for *David Sutton's Land Tunstead*
John for *Runninghill*
Bradbury John for *Holthwaite*
Radcliffe John for *Sa. Aldenworthsfold*
Byron Lord Byron for *Leach's*
Greave John for *Walthill*
Harrop John for *Debergs*
M^r Wagstaff for *Sluckhead*
Hawkyard W^m for *Tinshaw Meadow*
Bentley Philip & Sam^l for *Kidder*
Harrop John for *Mowwells*
Hazelgreave John's H^r for *Walthill* *Sold*
_____ & for *Scuthead or Kister Intake*
Kenworthy William for *Hilltop*
Lawton Joseph for *Debergs*
_____ and for *Lanehead*
Lawton Joseph for *Robtane*
Lawton Benjamin for *Debergs*
Lees James for *Robtuchloe*
Milnes James for *Cowscapett & Sandred*
M^r Marsden Luke for *Wiltens*
_____ for *Thurstones & Brun Clough*
M^r Pickford Joseph for *Earnshawhead*
Platt John for *Whitlee*
Platt Thomas for *Woodroad*
Rhodes Thomas for *Warrackhill*
Shaw Giles for *Farlane*
_____ and for *Hyner Mill*
Scholefield James See Buckley James for *Fearnlie*
Scholefield James for *Tunstead*
Scholefield John for *4 Heys*
Scholefield John for *Cowscapett*
Stock James & Hinchliffe George for *Brownedge*
M^r Sidebottom's Heirs for *Land near Strindale*
Winterbottom John for *Bridghwaite*
Walker Roberts's Heir for *Whitlee*
Whitehead John for *Delf*
Whitehead Henry for *Dale*
Whitehead John for *Quickedge*
Whitehead Edmund
Whitehead Thomas for *Leadhill*
Miss Greaves for *Skandedge foot*
Wrigley Jas^d & Jonathan for *Hellingrave*
Winterbottom Timothy for *Brownedge*
Radcliffe H^r for *Lanchad* *purchase of 1840*
The Inhabitants of *Grasbrook*

[illegible]

Note. Where several Persons live in the same Village or District and each of their Lands, perhaps, have names peculiar to themselves; It is not here assum'd that each has its peculiar name, but the name of the Village or District to which such Lands lie adjacent, as Buckley James for Tunstrey.

Box 8/5 (continued)

Knowlman tenement. Dated 2 Feb George I (1714-1727)

18. Rental of Mr. Farrer's Estate at Saddleworth in the County of York, proposed as security for £8,000 and interest at 4%.
1777

Box 8/6

12 Saddleworth Deeds

1. Richard Andrews de Hayles in the County of Gloucester and William Ramsden de Longley in the County of York yeoman. Conveyance of lands and tenements in Saddleworth in the occupation of John, James Reginald and Edmund Wrigley, formerly held by the Monastery of Priory of Kirklees. Dated 30 July 35 Henry VIII (1543). In Latin. Endorsed 'I'
2. Grant by Francis Tunstall de Thursseland to John Ramsden de Longley gent. and William Ramsden his son, of all his Manor of Saddleworth and Quick. Dated 20 Dec 33 Elizabeth (1590). In Latin. Endorsed 'II'
3. Lease, William Ramsden and Mary his wife to Edmund Broadbent of Diglee, husbandman, of a tenement in Saddleworth for 20 years at a rent of 3s. 6d. p.a. Consideration £8. Dated 17 Aug 11 James (1614). Wrongly dated on reverse, and endorsed 'III'
4. Lease for 100 years, William Ramsden to Richard Wrigley of Diglee yeoman and Francis Platt alias Wrigley reputed son of the said Richard Wrigley, of a messuage in Diglee lately the inheritance of James Wrigley deceased father of the said Richard Wrigley. Dated 13 Feb 15 James (1618). Endorsed 'IV'
5. Lease, John Ramsden to Edmund Broadbent and Edmund Shaw, of land at Diglee for 21 years at a rent of 1s. 6d. p.a. Dated 7 May 9 Charles (1633). Endorsed 'V'
6. Lease for 1 year, James Farrer of Ewood to Edward Aiscoghe of Barnards Inn, concerning the Manor of Saddleworth. Dated 19 Oct. 1701. Endorsed 'VI'
7. Receipt by Mary Shaw of Manchester spinster, administratrix of Farrer Shaw deceased during the minority of Mary Shaw his sister, for a legacy of £211. 5s. bequeathed by James Farrer from the Manor of Saddleworth. Dated 24 July 1725. Endorsed 'VII'
8. Lease, William Ramsden and Mary his wife, to John Wrigley of Diglee husbandman, of a messuage in Saddleworth in the occupation of the said John Wrigley at a rent of 3s. 8d. p.a. Dated 20 Jan 10 James (1613)
9. Release, William Farrer to Abraham Lees of Roebuckloe yeoman, of 3 closes of land called New Intacks at Strinds near Roebuckloe. Consideration £45. (Chief) rent 2d. p.a. Dated 3 Sept 32 Charles II (1680)
10. Release, John Farrer of Ewood Esq. to James Farrer his son and heir apparent, of his Manor of Saddleworth. Dated 10 Feb. 11 William III (1699)
11. Agreement between Thomas Shaw of Uppermilne yeoman and James Farrer of Ewood, for enlarging the goit and dam of the ancient water corn mill. Dated 7 July 1712
12. Abstract of 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10, above. 19th Century.

Box 8/6 (continued)

4 Chief Rent Rolls

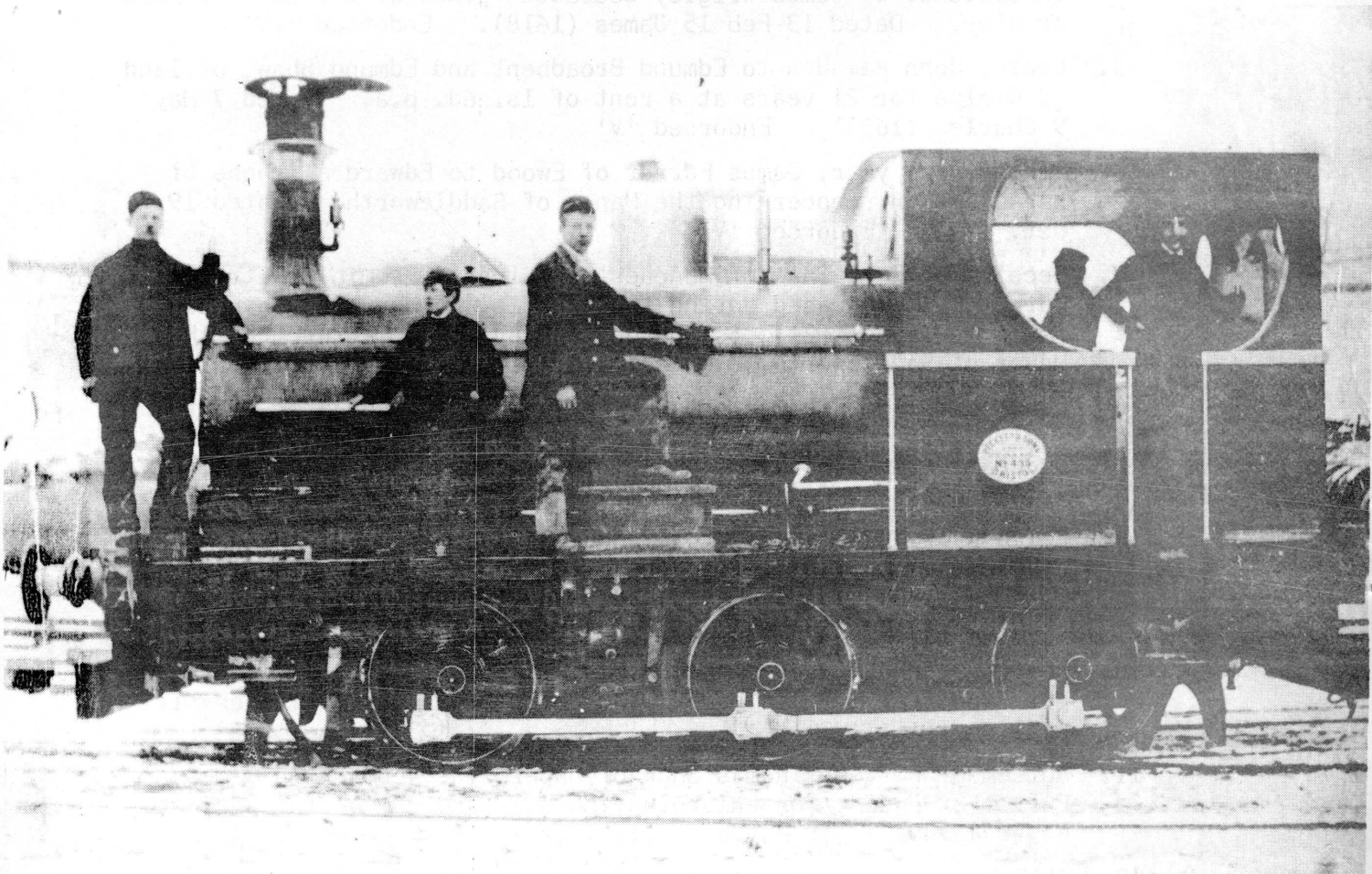
1. Chief Rent Roll, 1745-47
n.b. Also lists tenants paying chief rent on these properties in 1712
2. Chief Rent Roll, 1764-70
3. Chief Rent Roll, 1778-84
4. Chief Rent Roll, 1785-89

To be continued

J.M.H.

CASTLESHAW WATERWORKS LOCOMOTIVES

Included in the Bulletin three years ago (Bulletin, Vol. 7, 1977. p.39) were Becket Whitehead's reminiscences concerning the Castleshaw waterworks tramway. Three locomotives were in operation, named Castleshaw, Denshaw and Piethorn. Photographs of these engines have come to light recently, and copies are kept in the Local Interest Centre, Oldham, and in the Saddleworth Museum. While Denshaw and Piethorn were built to work on the narrow gauge line near the waterworks, Castleshaw - which is



illustrated above - was of the conventional gauge and travelled regularly down to Delph Station to pick up supplies.

An interesting account of the "Cutting of the First Sod" at the Castleshaw Waterworks involved this engine (Oldham Chronicle, 28 May, 1887):

" The Waterworks Committee and guests assembled at Clegg St. Station accompanied by the Police Band. Four saloon carriages conveyed them to Delph, the engine being decorated with flags. At Delph a change was made to two carriages which were waiting on the line of rails laid in the road for the purpose of conveying material for the construction of the reservoirs from the station to the site of the works, about 2 miles distant. Some hundreds of people had assembled near the station nearly all Delph. It was soon discovered that the 2 carriages, to which was attached the new locomotive "Castleshaw", the property of the Corporation, would not contain the whole of the party. Some set out to walk the distance - not a pleasant experience in the rain and on a dirty road. Others, along with the members of the Police Band, stayed behind to give the villagers a few tunes whilst waiting for the return of the train to convey them to Castleshaw. The little locomotive, in front of which were fixed two Union Jacks, set off up the hill at a rapid speed, which, however, gradually lessened, until, before the top was reached, it came to a standstill. More than half the gentlemen who had intended to go to their destination by train, left the carriage and boldly footed it. The rain was now coming down harder than ever, and a thick mist overshadowed the hills surrounding the place on all sides. Some hour's walk brought the pedestrians to a large wooden building erected at the terminus of the lines. Shortly afterwards the other members of the party arrived by train. After a stoppage of a few minutes, tracks were made for the two sites where the sods were to be cut ... down a lane, in some parts almost ankle deep in mud"

OLD MILESTONE

In early November, 1979, members of the Lees Civic Trust and Saddleworth Historical Society carried out a joint rescue of a 220 year old milestone at Austerlands.

The milestone has been in use as a field gate post and was not in its original position on the first Wakefield-Austerlands turnpike road. With the clearance of adjacent property the milestone was known to have been in danger. Already a pile of earth had been bulldozed against one side of it and some small damage had occurred to its lower portion.

With the permission of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, who hold the responsibility for all milestones in the

district, and with the assistance of mechanical civil equipment kindly provided by Mr. Rex Shepherdson, Chairman of the Lees Civic Trust, and Mr. T. Greenhalgh, of Greenhalgh & Crossley (Builders) Ltd., the milestone was carefully lifted and placed on a lorry for transportation. Then, with the help of members from both the Societies, the milestone was moved for safekeeping to the Saddleworth Museum in Uppermill where it is to be temporarily stored in the new Transport Section. Subsequently when the Austerlands Improvement Plan has been completed, it is intended that the milestone could be reinstated in its original position.

The milestone records the distances to Manchester and Huddersfield from Austerlands in miles and yards, via the route of the first turnpike road. It was recorded by Ken Booth in the Bulletin in 1971 (Vol. 1, No. 3, p.14).

OLD SADDLEWORTH

This is part of the work being carried out on a Gazetteer of Saddleworth by the Historical Society. As more of this work is carried out, details will be published in future editions of the Bulletin.

SLACKFIELD

Grid Reference: SD 982075

Location: Knott Hill Lane, Delph, 900 feet above sea level.
Superb situation on the south-facing slopes of Knott Hill with fine views down the Tame valley.

Description: Three storey, stone-built house with recessed, pointed mullions. Building T-shaped in plan. Small out-building has dovecote. Built 1778-80.

History: 1778 31 July. Confeyance between James Farrer, Lord of the Manor, on the one hand, and James Lees of Thurston Clough, clothier, and William Thompson of Huddersfield, apothecary (the mortgagee) on the other. This deed concerned an old barn in the field called the Slackfield, together with the closes called the Little Hey above the Turnpike Road, the New, the Hey Head Field, the Slackfield, the Kirkual Waste and the Higher One Furr, containing 11 acres 11 perches, which premises were part of a tenement called Stones late in the occupation of John Harrop; also a small parcel of land at the eastern end of the close called the Higher One Furr containing 20 sq. yards, and right of common on Badger Edge (Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, CD 423).

1779 24 Feb. Conveyance between William Thompson and James Lees of Thurston Clough, clothier, concerning various plots of land: a) 60 yds. x 12 yds. on north side of turnpike road between Delph and Thurston Clough; b) the 3 lowest corners of 3 fields called New, Slackfield, Kick Nab Waste (joined together); c) 107 yds. x 12 yds. on north side of turnpike at the bottom or eastern end of the Higher One Furr; d) piece called Stone Pit on north side of turnpike and on east side of Higher One

- Furr, extending between the turnpike and old Knotty Lane and being in a triangular form, all in the occupation of James Lees (R.D. CE 357).
- 1780 James Lees of Slackfield was a churchwarden (Registers).
- 1784 21 June. Transfer of mortgage between William Thompson of Huddersfield and James Lees late of Thurston Clough now of Slackfield, clothier, on the one hand, and Richard Collingwood of Bayhall, Huddersfield. The deed reads as the 1778 deed with the addition of the words "together with the messuage or dwellinghouse lately erected in the said close called the Slackfield in the occupation of James Lees". (R.D. CP 433).
- 1785 7 Oct. Mary, daughter of Joseph Wrigley clothier and Mary his wife of Slackfield buried aged 4. Their son Ben was christened 28 May 1786. (Registers).
- 1788 27 Feb. James son of Robert France clothier and Ann his wife of Slackfield christened (Registers).
- 1793 31 Jan. Benjamin Wrigley of Slackfield buried. (Registers).
- 1797 26 Apr. Conveyance between Richard Collingwood and James Lees late of Slackfield now of Manchester, gentleman - as 1784 deed (R.D. DX 592). Now in the tenure of Abram Broadbent.
- 1805 Deed referred to Slackfield being in tenure of John Hall, owner James Lees of New Delph (R.D. EX 781).
- 1807 28 Oct. Will of James Lees of New Delph: he left his estate at Slackfield to his daughter Mary. It was in the occupation of John Hall.
- 1822 Samuel Millns, cloth finisher, lived at Slackfield (James Lees Mss., Hewkin Collection).
- 1823 28 Feb. Marriage settlement between Mary Lees (daughter of James Lees, senior, deceased) and Ernst Wolff of Manchester, commission agent, involving Slackfield (R.D. HT 427).
- 1825 Baines' Directory lists James Heawood of Slackfield, cloth dresser.
- 1835 The Saddleworth Church Ratebook lists two houses under Slackfield: one owned by Ernst Wolff and occupied by James Kenworthy and John Hulley, the other owned by Ann Broadbent and occupied by John Allen and Betty Broadbent.
- 1871 The Census listed Joseph Mills of Slackfield, woollen weaver.

B.B.

The Society would welcome any further information on the houses and hamlets mentioned here, and also on any other property of possible interest in Saddleworth. The Gazetteer will also encompass turnpike roads, canals, bridges, railways, etc.

Information should be sent to the Editor of the Bulletin:

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7, Elsted Road, Greenfield, Oldham OL3 7LL.

Enquiries about membership of the Society should be sent to the Membership Secretary:

Mr. S. Broadbent,
45, Beechfield,
Grasscroft,
Oldham.

THE CASTLESHAW ECHO

Apropos of the Castleshaw Waterworks Locomotives:

In 1888, when the reservoirs were being built at Castleshaw, William Watts, Oldham's Water Engineer and a member of Oldham Microscopical Society wrote a letter in the Society's Journal commenting on the interesting echo produced by the locomotive whistles and the workshop buzzer.

The locomotives were used to ferry materials from Delph to the reservoir site and Watts said that the one working at the upper end of the valley "produces the most frequent and distinct echo" but that the workshop buzzer was "more sonorous and its answer is much longer in fading away".

The echo could be heard between the altitudes of 740 and 850 feet. To hear it at its best it was necessary "to pace the valley, especially in the early morning", and Watts believed that it was produced "not in the sense of sound returning from one object to another, but the lower sound waves strike the near objects first and the upper waves the knolls and hills further away producing a louder or feebler sound according to the angle at which the sound waves strike the objects".

Anne Parry
