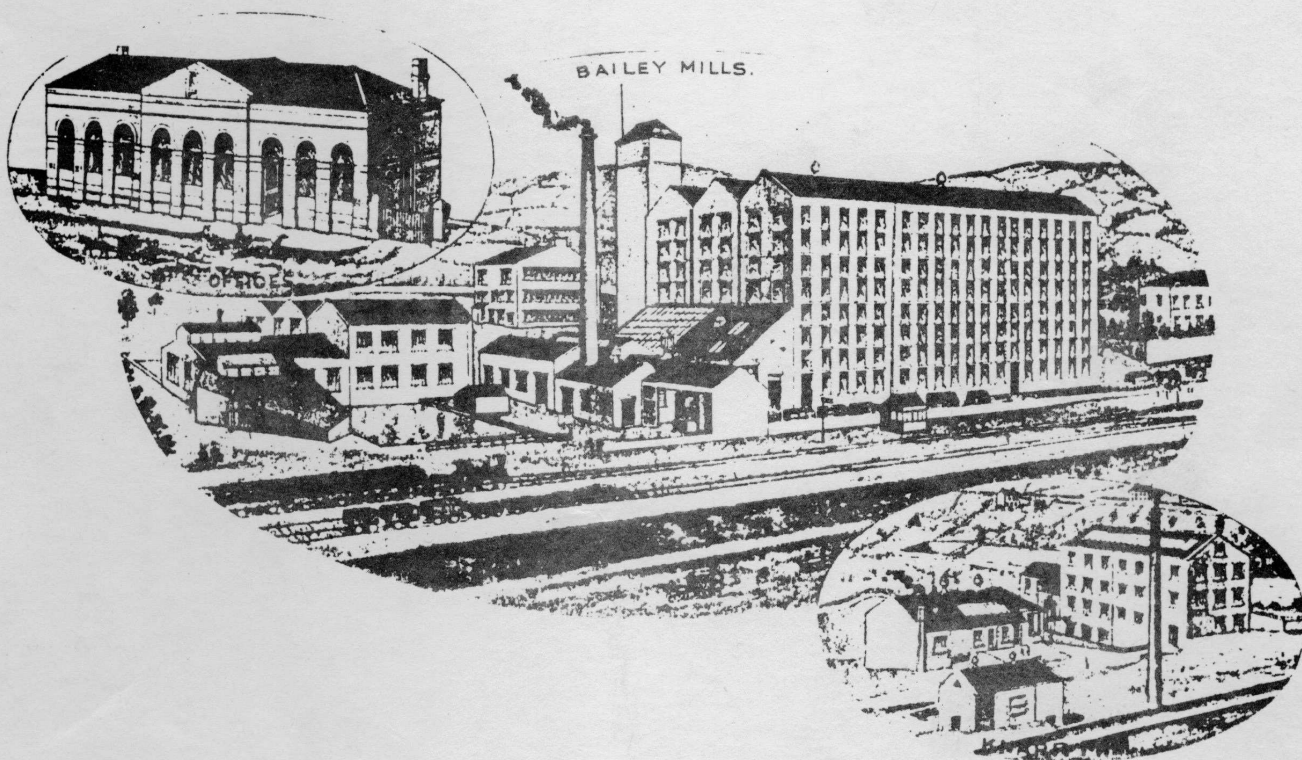


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 10 Number 3 Autumn 1980

BULLETIN
OF THE
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 10 Number 3
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THE MEDLOCK FLINT ADZE

This important discovery was made by Michael Crompton, aged 11 years, of Linley Drive, Oldham, on 31st May, 1980. He noticed the implement projecting from the nearly vertical right bank of the River Medlock at a point below Holts Mill some five kilometres from its source (G.R. SD 94850335). The stream is here entering an area of comparatively low relief, at about 475 feet O.D. The bank is 9ft. 4 ins. high, consisting, in ascending order, of 2 ft. 4 ins. of purple clay with glacial erratics, 3 ft. of gravel and 3ft. 6 ins. of alluvium. The adze was near the top of the gravel about 3 ft. 10 ins. from the surface. Michael and his family brought the flint to the Local Interest Centre in Oldham, where it was identified as a Neolithic flint adze.

Description

The adze, illustrated in Fig. 1, is somewhat clumsy in appearance, flaked rather coarsely on both sides. It weight 171.8 gms., is 141 mm. long, 48 mm. wide at its widest and 44 mm. at the not very obvious 'waist'. It narrows to a very thin butt, only 10 mm. wide.

Mr. T.G. Manby pointed out that there is a small residual polished area near the cutting edge. It seems probable that this polished area once extended across the whole breadth of the cutting edge and that its present condition is the result of its use as a working implement.

The flint of which it is made is very attractive, golden brown in colour with two darker bands. It originated probably from the glacial clays of the East Coast.

Other Local Finds

The only other example of a flint adze in the Central Pennines is in the Museum of the Natural History Society of Bacup. This was found on Tooter Hill at an altitude of 1450 feet (G.R. SD 888237), and is illustrated in Fig. 2. Unfortunately, it was broken into three pieces and the central piece lost. It is 172 mm. long, 54 mm. wide at the cutting edge, 39 mm. at the butt and 37 mm. at the waist. The maximum thickness is 20 mm. and the weight 194.4 gms. Both sides of the cutting edge are finely polished up to one third of the long axis, the remainder being carefully flaked, and the implement is fashioned from a piece of creamy-white flint with a bluish-tinted patina (1).

Discussion

Such elegantly waisted and fine edge-polished adzes as the Bacup example appear to be characteristic of Grooved Ware assemblages of the late Neolithic period, and have been described by Manby at 'Duggleby' adzes from the type site at Duggleby Howe in East Yorkshire. They are usually made of scarce and colourful material and appear to be 'prestige' objects (2). A comparison of the two adzes does reveal significant differences. The Medlock adze is of rather different shape and of inferior workmanship compared to the Bacup implement, and should not therefore be regarded as an example of the work of a Grooved Ware craftsman.

Nevertheless both these two adzes probably belong to the late Neolithic period and represent casual finds. Sites dating from this period in Northern England are concentrated on the chalk of the Yorkshire

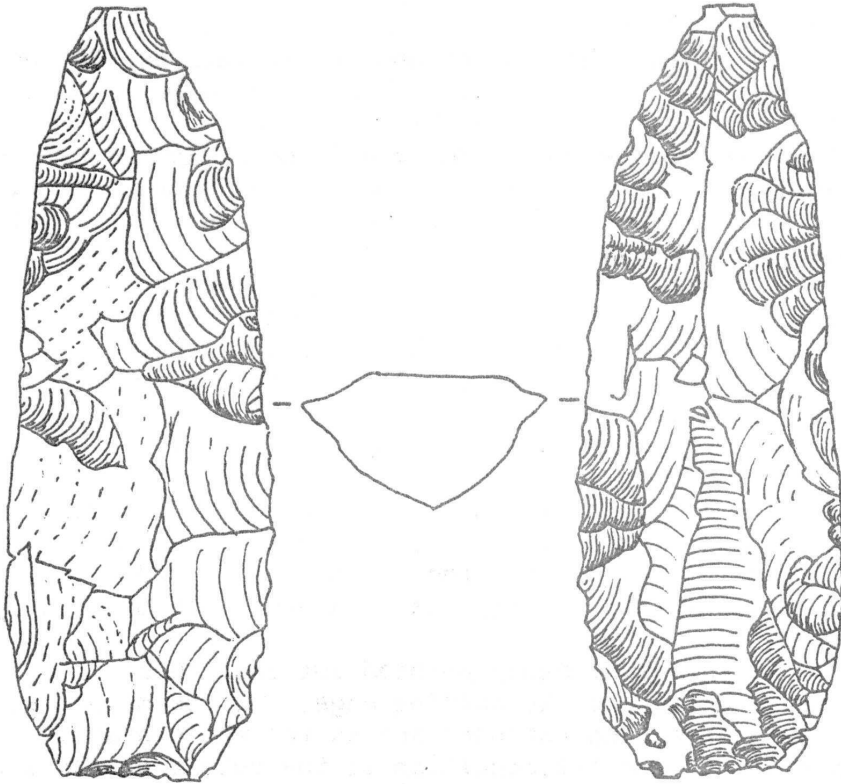
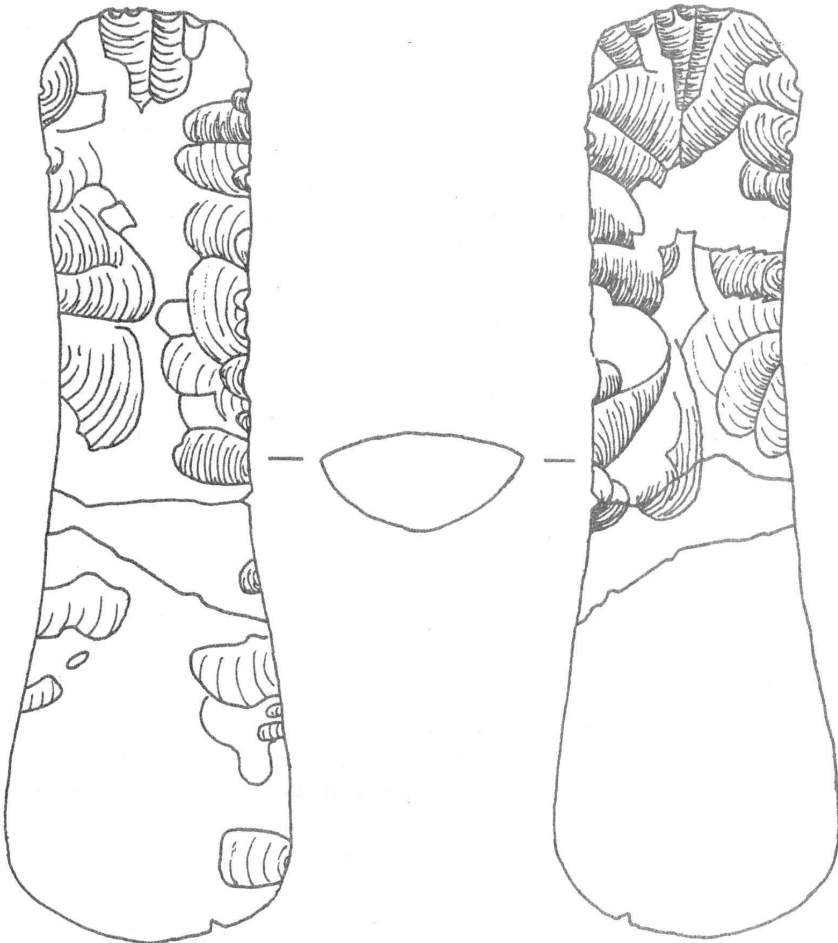


Fig. 1 - The Medlock Adze

Fig. 2 - The Bacup Adze



Wolds, with lesser clusters in Derbyshire and Lincolnshire. Calcareous soils were obviously preferred. The flint industry includes scrapers, leaf-arrowheads, Petit Tranchet Derivative arrowheads, flake and discoidal polished knives and chisels, all of which have been found in the Central Pennines in small numbers as stray finds, together with 'Duggleby' adzes and 'Seamer' axes (again named after the type of site in East Yorkshire). A discoidal flint knife was found in 1961 on an erosion patch on Slatepit Moor overlooking Carr Brook (G.R. SE 000009) at a height of 1150 feet. This is of a grey flint, flaked on both surfaces to a thin disc and then partially polished (3). There is a cast of this implement in the Tolson Museum, Huddersfield. A fragment of a bifacially-flaked blade knife was found on Shore Moor, near Rochdale (4), and also an edge-polished flint chisel in Torside Reservoir, Longdendale (5).

The only other finds - besides arrowheads and scrapers, have been in the Keighley - Burley Moor area, again as stray occurrences. A 'Seamer' axe was found at Keighley, while a polished flint knife and a fragment of an edge-polished blade knife have come from Burley Moor (6).

No evidence of corn growing has been found on the Grooved Ware sites in East Yorkshire and elsewhere, and this, together with evidence from bones found on these sites, has led Manby to suggest a pastoral economy based on cattle and pigs with some sheep or goats, with hunting playing a limited role (7). The distribution of these finds in the gritstone Pennines may not necessarily represent a pattern of settlement in these parts in late Neolithic times. Taken in isolation they could be misleading, but if coupled with a comparison with the Peak District and with evidence from pollen analysis, the most probable conclusion is that prehistoric activity at this time comprised pastoralism on the lower ground in clearings within an otherwise forested area, with hunting (and perhaps seasonal grazing) on higher ground which was partly forested but also had areas of grassland and bog.

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W.P.B. Stonehouse
B. Barnes

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Regarding the report in the current Bulletin (V.10, pp. 37-38) about the Austerlands milestone, I heard Mr. K. Booth talking about this some time ago and I thought I knew the one he was referring to. It would, however, appear that I was mistaken since the one I know of is still in position, directly opposite the former Austerlands Institute. It is in similar condition to the one described and is inscribed "Huddersfield 15 miles; Manchester 9 miles 1135 yards". It is similarly in hazard due to demolition of property.

I would be interested to know if this is a twin on the one in the Museum and if there are any plans for its salvage.

Yours etc.,

Gordon Bottomley.

47, Belmont Avenue,
Springhead,
Oldham.

Editor

We are grateful to Mr. Bottomley for drawing the attention of the Society to this milestone, and a watchful eye will be kept on its condition. It is, in fact, of later date than the one which has been removed to the Museum, and belongs to the 1800 realignment of the Wakefield - Austerlands turnpike road. It does have a twin, however, which is still in situ near Sandbed Lane, Delph, and is inscribed "To Huddersfd 12 Miles; To Manchestr 12 Miles 1135 YARDS". It is interesting to note that the "1135 YARDS" has in each case been added at a later date.

DISAPPEARING LANDMARKS

Following on the demolition of Bentfield Mill (Greenfield) and its chimney late in 1979, the last few months have seen the disappearance of three more chimneys in Saddleworth. These belonged to the former workhouse on Runninghill, to Bankfield Mill (Dobcross) and to the Royal George Mills (Greenfield).

The round, brick chimney at the workhouse was probably the last physical reminder of the former existence of a small cotton manufactory on the site. The round, stone chimney at Bankfield, which had an upper extension of brick, had formed a landmark on the hillside above Wall Hill Brook ever since the mill (built 1858) was destroyed by fire in 1945. The high, round, brick chimney at the Royal George Mills may well have been the one which replaced the chimney which fell with such tragic consequences in 1864. It has been replaced by a metal chimney, which joins three other examples in Saddleworth: at Gatehead Mill (Delph); Greenfield Mill; and Walk Mill Dyeworks (Dobcross).

At the present time a relatively small proportion of the nineteenth century factory chimneys survive in Saddleworth, and this may be an opportune moment to list them. In the upper part of the Tame valley

the only survival is at the former printworks at Denshaw Vale. Around Delph, chimneys survive at the Hull, Rasping, Lumb and Bailey Mills, while a little further down the valley one is still standing at Tamewater Mill. In the Diggle valley, there are examples at Diggle Mill, Harrop Court Mill and at the former Dobcross Loomworks, while part of the Warth Mill chimney still survives. The chimneys at Buckley New Mill, Damhead Mill, Spring Mill and Alexandra Mill are all that remain in Uppermill, and on the boundary of Saddleworth the Austerlands chimney still forms a well-known landmark. A lesser-known example still stands over the site of the Lower Grove Dyeworks, near Grasscroft.

Bernard Barnes.

THE WORKING CLASS OF SADDLEWORTH
IN THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Part 2

The Background to Luddism and its effect on Saddleworth

Protection of the domestic system remained a major issue in the county election of the following year. Whether this contributed to the riot in Huddersfield for which some croppers and clothiers were arrested we do not know, but the Report of the 1806 Select Committee, which had not only exhibited scepticism about the threat of the factory system but had been severely critical of the Institutions, practically denouncing them as subversive organisations, had done nothing to placate the workers.

One clothier canvassed for the candidate of his choice in verse, indicating the importance attached to statutory apprenticeships:

" As apprentice to the county, Milton begg'd us to elect him,
And the merchants on that score may wish us to reject him,
But without their assistance on Wednesday we'll venture,
To sign and seal for seven years young Rockingham's indenture. " (1)

Despite the election of Milton no assurances were given to the clothiers, and the bitterness of some of them is reflected in a letter in the Leeds Mercury, which is worth quoting in full for its expressive metaphor and bluntness:

" Enough of the Election The Clothiers have no objections to the use of Machinery; they use Machinery themselves. The principle question at issue is simply this:- Shall the Apprentice Law as it at present exists, be supported, or shall it not? The Clothiers say, Yes. In other words, for the whole matter resolves itself into this question:- Shall the Domestic System, that nursery of good morals, family comfort and general happiness continue to prevail; or shall it, the Pharoah's fat and well favoured kine, be swallowed up by the lean fleshed and ill favoured kine - the Factory System, that contagious sink of vice,

poverty and wretchedness.

A CLOTHIER

18th March 1808 "

(2)

1808 brought further difficulties for the clothiers. The Orders in Council restricting trade with Napoleon's continental empire severely hit the woollen industry which, the Mercury claimed, was at its lowest ebb in living memory. Pieces were piled up so long in Huddersfield Cloth Hall that birds nested in one, and the government's policies had "converted the merchant's warehouse into a useless pile and the workshops of the manufacturers into a deserted hovel" (3). These conditions spurred the opponents of the war, and in March a massive public meeting was held at Huddersfield to petition for peace. John Platt was one of the speakers, and in the following week he chaired a "numerous and respectable" meeting at Dobcross. It is likely that Saddleworth workers were involved in this campaign as in the Huddersfield area, where about 20,000 signatures were added to the Peace petition "including all classes of the people" (4). To many it was increasingly apparent that peace was essential for the preservation of the domestic woollen manufacture and that the only guarantee of a lasting and prosperous peace was reform of Parliament.

The cotton manufacture was also severely depressed and the weavers, subjected to wage cuts and disappointed in their hope of securing a Bill to fix a minimum level, launched a series of strikes in Lancashire and Cheshire leading to some clashes with troops. In an attempt to spread the strike, parties of weavers scoured the country, including Saddleworth, confiscating shuttles, and one Home Office informant claimed in June that "every description of woollen, cotton and other weavers and spinners" were becoming involved (5). He enclosed a handbill from Royton which stated "..... distress can only be removed by removing the cause - which cause we have no hesitation in pronouncing is the WAR". Under the circumstances it gave the workers no practical lead, ending with a denunciation of illegal actions and calling on them to return to their homes. Another leaflet from Bolton, more explicit in its objectives, was accused of attempting to "excite and spread revolutionary principles". It criticised the cabinet for causing the war and also condemned the merchants and manufacturers "for their parasitical nonsense in which they propose to support the war with their lives and fortunes", concluding with an unequivocal demand for reform, "Is it not time to drag the British Constitution from its lurking hole and expose it in its original and naked purity, to show to each individual the laws of his forefathers?" (6). The battle lines of the Luddite movement were thus being drawn. This disillusionment with Parliament, which gained ground amongst the weavers after the rejection of their minimum wage bill, had its counterpart in the West Riding with the passing of a Bill in 1809 finally lifting all regulations affecting the woollen manufacture. The Huddersfield croppers alone claimed they had spent £7,000 on petitioning. Now they and other artisans and labourers, frustrated by the legal procedures, war weary, socially insecure and some economically distressed to the point of starvation, turned their organisations towards extra-Parliamentary, illegal forms of redress of their grievances. The common origin of their problems, the common nature of their response and a common hostility to the same foe was recognised in the widespread adoption of one symbolic leader - General Ned Ludd.

A pamphlet written at the end of the Luddite disturbance in 1812, describing the distress which prevailed in that year as one of the contributory factors, refers to evidence laid before Parliament by Francis Platt of Saddleworth and spokesman for Bolton and Stockport claiming that hardship was as severe as it had been in 1800-1801. Although provisions were more plentiful than at that time, employment was not and many were subsisting on

oatmeal porridge and, if they were lucky, potatoes (7). This factor in the struggles of that turbulent period is revealed in the only recorded "outrage" in Saddleworth.

On 20th April a crowd assembled at the shop of Mr. Bostock of Lydgate and "by putting him in fear compelling him to sell a quantity of flour and potatoes at much less than the market price". William Whitehead, a clothier of Quick, was taken before Radcliffe, Huddersfield's magistrate and detested Luddite prosecutor, and committed to York Castle (8). In both the West Riding and Lancashire, such intimidation to lower prices, or outright seizure of provisions, appears to have been an integral part of the Luddite movement, since on the same day a large attack was launched by weavers, colliers, and other artisans and workers against Burton's power-loom mill at Middleton, under "a sort of red flag" (9). According to a report to the Home Office this also involved the "rude, uncultivated savages of Saddleworth". (10).

It was perhaps because Saddleworth itself was relatively quiet that it became the retreat for at least one Luddite fugitive who, if he was seeking anonymous retirement, failed to keep his head down. John Harrop, "the owner of a large shearing mill" and a member of the Huddersfield Committee of Merchants and Manufacturers for the Suppression of Luddites, requested the military commander in Huddersfield, Major Gordon, to supply a garrison for Saddleworth. The area could not be effectively covered from Marsden, and William Horsfall was reluctant to leave his factory there unprotected. On or about the time of the Middleton attacks, Harrop heard or anticipated that a body of rioters from Oldham were to march on Saddleworth, and he wrote to Radcliffe once more requesting troops. On the 26th Horsfall was shot down in a Luddite ambush and was in no position to worry about troop dispositions. Twenty horse were sent, ten of them being quartered at Dobcross, six at Delph, and four at Mr. Bell's Inn.

Also about this time, Harrop received a death threat against himself and his brother if they did not take down the machinery, and he was understandably extremely apprehensive. After ten o'clock one night, after dark, a body of men stopped outside his house. One of them shouted "Damn the guard", but the soldiers who were keeping special watch on Harrop's premises challenged them and managed to apprehend four. Harrop was asked to identify the prisoners but he knew none of them; three were apologetic and said that they had been to the "Clothiers Arms" and were on their way home to Uppermill (although it was pointed out to them that they were well off the most direct route), but the fourth refused to give his name. He was finally persuaded to do so by his companions who were eager to get home, and he called himself George Wilson.

On what information it is impossible to say, but Harrop associated George Wilson with an incriminating letter dated 19th April which had been intercepted at Dobcross post office. Written by John and Martin Middleton to their "Dear Brothers and Sisters" at Nottingham, this acknowledged a letter received via a friend, who also over a pot or two of beer related news of a "victory" and sang "Mr. Ludd's Song". Enclosed in this letter was another, signed "G.W." and referring to the writer's journey, presumably to Saddleworth, which took him through Tideswell where he had been unable to find the recipient's brother as requested. He described the attack on Rawfold's Mill at Liversedge and the funeral of the two Luddites shot. He concluded on a note of intrigue, asking for "all the particulars" by return post and saying he could find work for "any person that are obliged to come away". He asked that his name be not mentioned at all in the letter and that it be directed to

"Edward Wood, Over Mill, Saddleworth, near Manchester, Yorkshire".

After Wilson's initial questioning, a courier was sent to Radcliffe with the details and requesting a warrant if the Magistrate thought it necessary. On Tuesday, 5th May, he was duly arrested, the Mercury reporting the apprehension of "a very suspicious character" in Saddleworth (11). That day Harrop sent a report in which he said Wilson's master, Edmund Wood, had offered to testify to his character but was himself not very respectable as he had called at Harrop's house "in liquor and expressed himself very improperly". Harrop informed Radcliffe two days later that the Edward Wood mentioned in G.W's letter was a relation of Edmund's who was living with him, adding "he works occasionally at the stocking frames". Whether he followed this trade in the West Riding or in Nottinghamshire was not specified, but if, as Harrop suspected, he was writing the letters for Wilson (who claimed he couldn't write), he would probably not have referred to Upper Mill as Over Mill had he been a native.

Radcliffe thought the incident serious enough to apply to General Maitland for more military at Saddleworth, especially to cover Harrop's residence at Dobcross, and to write to Nottingham for information on his detainee. On the 9th he received a reply. The description fitted that of a "notorious character", Peter Green, who had been arrested as a suspected Luddite but subsequently released through lack of evidence (12).

What became of Peter Green alias George Wilson will be best revealed by further research in the Nottinghamshire archives and the Home Office papers: a person of that name was later involved with the framework knitters, but even if this was the same man it may not throw much light on what he was doing in 1812. Was he in Saddleworth solely as a fugitive or as a delegate carrying out liaison between the West Riding, Lancashire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire? He was obviously interested in the "particulars" of Luddite activities, and Saddleworth was a strategic place for intelligence-gathering. He referred enigmatically in his letter to a contact at Manchester, and to meeting the recipient's "brothers" - which may be meant in the familial sense and refer to the Middletons, or in the social sense, but either way it reveals an established Nottinghamshire connection. The Middletons, although they were interested to hear news from Nottingham, do not themselves seem very well-informed about Luddite activities in their area, leaving their brothers and sisters to "judge about it" from the papers. If Green was indeed an itinerant delegate then the episode outside Harrop's house was not very discreet.

The Luddite associations of the brother of another Saddleworth man are more certain. William Blakeborough, aged 21 and a Halifax shoemaker, was one of a circle of artisans around the veteran Jacobin, John Baines, who hoped to see the Luddite movement become an attempt to establish a republic. Blakeborough used his brother to supply an alibi. He claimed on his arrest for administering an unlawful oath, into which the Halifax men had been trapped by a police provocateur, that he had been at his brother's house in Saddleworth for eight days, including the 8th July in question. Either his brother perjured himself or the court convicted on false evidence, for William Blakeborough was found guilty and transported for seven years (13).

Besides these individual connections, it appears that some clandestine organisation did exist in Saddleworth at this period, as a weavers' committee was reported to be amongst those sending delegates to meetings in Lancashire according to the reports of spies, including the notorious Bent, the spy "B" of Colonel Fletcher the Bolton magistrate. **Spies** are known to have been operating Saddleworth itself. General Maitland proposed a plan in early May to place infiltrators on the Luddite's secret

committees, including one at Saddleworth - this implying that he suspected the existence of some underground movement in the area. By late August to early September, Captain Raynes who was commanding a mobile anti-Luddite detachment of the Stirling militia, some of them in plain clothes, had two agents in Delph, Sergeants Todd and Tomlinson (14). The lack of reported activity on either side from Saddleworth makes one wonder what they were doing or what useful information they could gather. The under-development of the factory system locally, especially on the cloth dressing side, may have meant little organised opposition on the scale of the croppers and of the cotton workers, Oldham offering the main target. It would be wrong to conclude from this, however, that Saddleworth was immune from the general social, economic and political unrest which culminated in the Radical Reform movement of the post-war years.

To be continued

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A.J. Brooke.

SADDLEWORTH RECORDS

Part 2

Deeds and Papers Relating to Saddleworth in the Cornwall-Legh Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library, Manchester

This small but important collection advances our understanding of both the manorial history and agricultural practice of Saddleworth in the 16th and early 17th centuries. The purpose of this article is to bring these documents to the attention of those interested in this period, to calendar them more exactly than has been done hitherto, and to provide a few explanatory notes on their nature and content.

Between 1560 and 1590, the Legh family of High Legh in Cheshire built up a considerable estate in Saddleworth by inheriting and purchasing much of the land formerly owned by the Trafford family; several of the documents deal with this process. One of the Legh's acquisitions was a quarter lordship of the manor of Quick, which they bought from William Buckley of Derby, and it was by virtue of this purchase that Thomas Legh was involved in the division of Quick Moor in 1625, together with Sir John Ramsden of Longley and Lady Booth of Dunham Massey, the two others who could claim lordship. Before the division could take place, the precise nature and extent of each claimant's manorial right had to be determined, and the remainder of the documents relate to this investigation. Some comprise very rough notes of questions put to a jury of very old men and their replies as to what rights each claimant had and how long they had been exercised. It is these details which provide such valuable information on the agricultural practice of the time.

The Cornwall-Legh Manuscripts were given to the John Rylands Library in 1951, but had been indexed many years previously by the Cheshire historian J.P. Earwaker, whose manuscript list is available in the Library. The numbers of the documents and the underlined titles given in this calendar are those used by Earwaker in his original index, but in many cases it has been thought useful to add further information about individual items. In 1053 and 1056, Earwaker bundled together several papers he thought related to the same subject; in the present calendar these have been given a distinguishing letter and a brief description.

We are indebted to Mr. Neil Barrow and Mr. Julian Hunt for locating this collection, and to the Editor of this Bulletin for preparing a preliminary handlist of its contents.

-
- 970 A Deed Between Gilbert Gerrard Esq. The Queen's Attorney General, Thomas Legh of High Legh Esq. Isabel his wife and others, for the Division of the Messuages Lands Etc. of Ralph Trafford late of the Garrett Esq. deceased
20th September 3 Elizabeth I (1561)

This deed divided the Trafford inheritance into five parts. The Saddleworth lands were divided as follows: four tenements in Tunstead to Thomas Nowell Esq. and Alice his wife of Reed near Burnley, twelve tenements in 'Sadleworthe frythe' to Anne Traves, and ten tenements in 'Sadleworthe frythe' to Tomasyn Clayton.

- 1046 Fine of the Manor of Quick, and messuages, land, etc. in Quick and Saddleworth Frith between Richard Ratcliff and George Dornbell gentlemen plaintiffs and Edmund Trafford, Knight, and others deforcants

Morrow of Holy Trinity 3 & 4
Philip and Mary (1557)

A Latin fine conveying 28 messuages, 10 cottages and extensive amounts of land from Trafford to Ratcliff and Dornbell.

- 1047 Contemporary copies of Indenture dated 10th July 12 Eliz..... the above fine levied at Lancaster 7 Aug. 12 Eliz..... And also a fine levied at Chester 26 Henry VIII

A single sheet of paper with copies of the following documents:-

- a) Fine 7th August 12 Elizabeth I (1570). A Latin fine for the transaction dealt with in the next copy (1047b).
- b) Indenture between Thomas Nowell of Reed Esq. Alice his wife and Thomas Legh of High Legh Esq., to levy a fine of lands etc. in Manchester and in Tunstead and Quick in Saddleworth.

10th July 12 Elizabeth I (1570)

Six messuages, ten cottages and 370 acres of different kinds of land form the Saddleworth portion of this transaction (1).

- c) (On the reverse of the sheet). Fine of lands at High Legh Northwood and Knutsford in Cheshire. Tuesday next after the feast of St. Hilary 26 Henry VIII (1535).

- 1048 Certificate of a certain fine of messuages, lands etc. in Tunstead and Quick in Saddleworth Frith between Thomas Leigh Esq., plaintiff and Thomas Nowell Esq. and Alice his wife deforcants.

30th October 12 Elizabeth I (1570)

This is the Latin certificate of the fine copied out in 1047(a), so that taking documents 1047(b), 1047(a) and 1048, we have all the stages in the ancient procedure of conveying land known as levying a fine.

- 1049 Petition from John Clayton of the City of Bristol to Sir Nicholas Bacon Knight, in a matter in dispute between him and George Legh Esq. relating to lands etc. in Saddleworth, late the inheritance of Ralph Trafford of the Garrett near Manchester.

The Queen's writ attached to the petition is dated 14th June 1578.

John Clayton is described as being an apprentice and is the son of Thomasyn Cleyton mentioned in document 970, and the lands in question are the ten tenements conveyed in the division deed. It appears that John Cleyton had fallen into debt to Thomas Legh and that the latter was attempting to use the situation to his advantage and force Cleyton to sell him the Saddleworth lands. The solution to this dispute appears in document 1050.

- 1050 Appointment by John Cleyton of Bristol of Thomas Legh of High Legh Esq. as his attorney to collect the money due to him from his tenants in Quicke and Saddleworth.

11th April 21 Elizabeth I (1579)

Legh is given permission to collect £40 from Cleyton's ten tenants. The sum of £40 was one of the debts mentioned in Cleyton's petition

(1049) although he claimed to have repaid it with interest.

- 1051** Quitclaim from Thomasine Cleyton, sister and heir of John Cleyton late of Hollyngreve in the parish of Saddleworth Frith gent. deceased to George Legh of High Legh, of all her right in certain lands in the County of York.

10th July 29 Elizabeth I (1587)

- 1052** Conveyance of a messuage in Tunstead in the County of York from George Legh of High Legh Esq. to John Wood of Tunstead yeoman.

22nd June 14 James I (1616)

Conveyance of a messuage in Tunstead now or late in the occupation of Lawrence Wood father of John Wood from George Legh to John Wood for £50.

- 1053** Division of the Waste Lands in Quick. 1624.

A bundle of five papers all but the last dealing with the division of Quick Moor.

- a) A proposal to divide the wastes of Quick Moor between Sir John Ramsden, Sir George Booth and Mr. Leighe. Dated 'At Ouldham xxiith 7 1624'.
- b) A less detailed abstract of above. Endorsed 'Wastes in Quick xxII 7th 1624'.
- c) The draft proposals for the division of Quick Moor subscribed to by Sir John Ramsden 5th October 1624.
- d) A folded sheet of paper with copies of (a), (b) and (c) made probably in the 18th or early 19th century.
- e) A folded sheet of paper with statistics of acreage involved in the division. In the same hand as (d).
- f) A note of the same date as (d) and (e) recording a grant by William Buckley to George Legh of a quarter of the manor or township of Quick and lands in Saddleworth in 1589-90, the conveyance of these lands to George's son Thomas in 1593, and the letting of them in 1598.

- 1054** Assignment of the half moiety of the Manor of Quick etc. by Townsend Legh of High Legh, widow to Thomas Marbury of Marbury in the County of Chester and others.

24th August 5 Charles I (1629)

This indenture deals with the quarter manor and the lands mentioned in the note 1053 (f).

- 1055** Pedigree of the Family of Bradshaw of Grasscroft in Saddleworth.

This traces the descent of the Bradshaw lands in 'Grasscroftes' from the reign of Edward I down to 1432-3. From the handwriting it would appear to be a 17th century document.

- 1056** Miscellaneous Papers Relating to Quick and Saddleworth. (17th century).

A bundle of six papers, all but one dealing with the division of

Quick Moor.

- a) Latin Fine conveying half the manor of Quick and 60 messuages. 6 cottag and extensive amounts of land from Thomas Marlar gent. and Anne his wife to Richard Hunt and Thomas Chatterton. Octave of St. Michael 4 Elizabeth I (6th October 1562).
- b) This document appears to be rough notes of questions and answers designed to test the validity of the claims of Ramsden, Booth and Legh to Quick Moor. It begins with a list of seven men to whom these questions were probably put, and it reveals a good deal as to current agricultural practice.
- c) A folded sheet of paper with the lower part torn away, headed 'A breief note what the persons hereunder written can saie concerninge the joynt occupacion of the lands in Quick and Saddleworth Frythe'. Underneath are the answers to some of the questions about Quick Moor. Over the page is a pedigree of the Traffords of the Garrett.
- d) A single sheet of paper headed with a list of four old men and underneath notes of their verdicts on several questions concerning Quick Moor.
- e) A single sheet containing answers only to questions about Quick Moor. It begins 'First they do not hold that neither Mr. Ramsden nor any of his predecessors had ever any more title but as quarter lords upon the quicke meere'.
- f) A folded sheet of paper endorsed 'To the right worshipful Sir George Knight and Baronett Mr. William Booth and Thomas Leigh Esquires or any of them'. It contains copies of three letters:-
 - i) From Sir John Ramsden addressed simply 'Good Sir' and dated 'Longley this 24th February 1624'.
 - ii) From Thomas Leghe addressed 'Good Cosen' and endorsed 'Heghe Leghe March 7th 1624'.
 - iii) A note neither addressed nor signed.

All deal with the business of the Quick Moor division.

1057 Copy of the Will of James Farrer of Ewood 20th January 1717/18. (2)

Notes on the Lords of the Manor and Quick Moor

The Traffords

Their residence was 'The Garrett', a large house, now demolished, which stood on the north bank of the River Medlock in Manchester, south of the present Whitworth Street, near the junction of Granby Row and Princess Street. They acquired their manorial status and land in Saddleworth from Robert of the Whyke (Quick) as appears by a document in the Public Record Office (P.R.O. Wards and Liveries 2/3 13A/10) for a copy of which I am indebted to Mr. Michael Buckley of St. Albans. If, as seems probably, this Robert is the same Robert of Quick who sold 'grasscroftes and Armitrid' to Simon Bradshaw in 1274/5, a transaction recorded in document 1055, then we can date the acquisition of Saddleworth land by the Traffords to the 13th century. The male line of the Traffords died out when Ralph



T H E G A R R E T T

Trafford died about 1555 without children, and left his property to his five sisters:-

- i) Jane, whose share was acquired by Gilbert Gerrard, afterwards Master of the Rolls.
- ii) Isabell, who married Thomas Legh of High Legh.
- iii) Alice (according to V.C.H. unmarried) married to Thomas Nowell according to document 1056.
- iv) Anne, who married successively, Richard Shallcross, Hugh Travis and John Marler.
- v) Thomasine, who married Randle Clayton.

(See document 970 and V.C.H. Lancashire, Vol. IV, p.240).

The Leghs

High Legh in the parish of Rostherne, Cheshire, the family seat of the Leghs, lies on the Warrington-Knutsford road (A50). The Leghs acquired their Saddleworth land in three stages:-

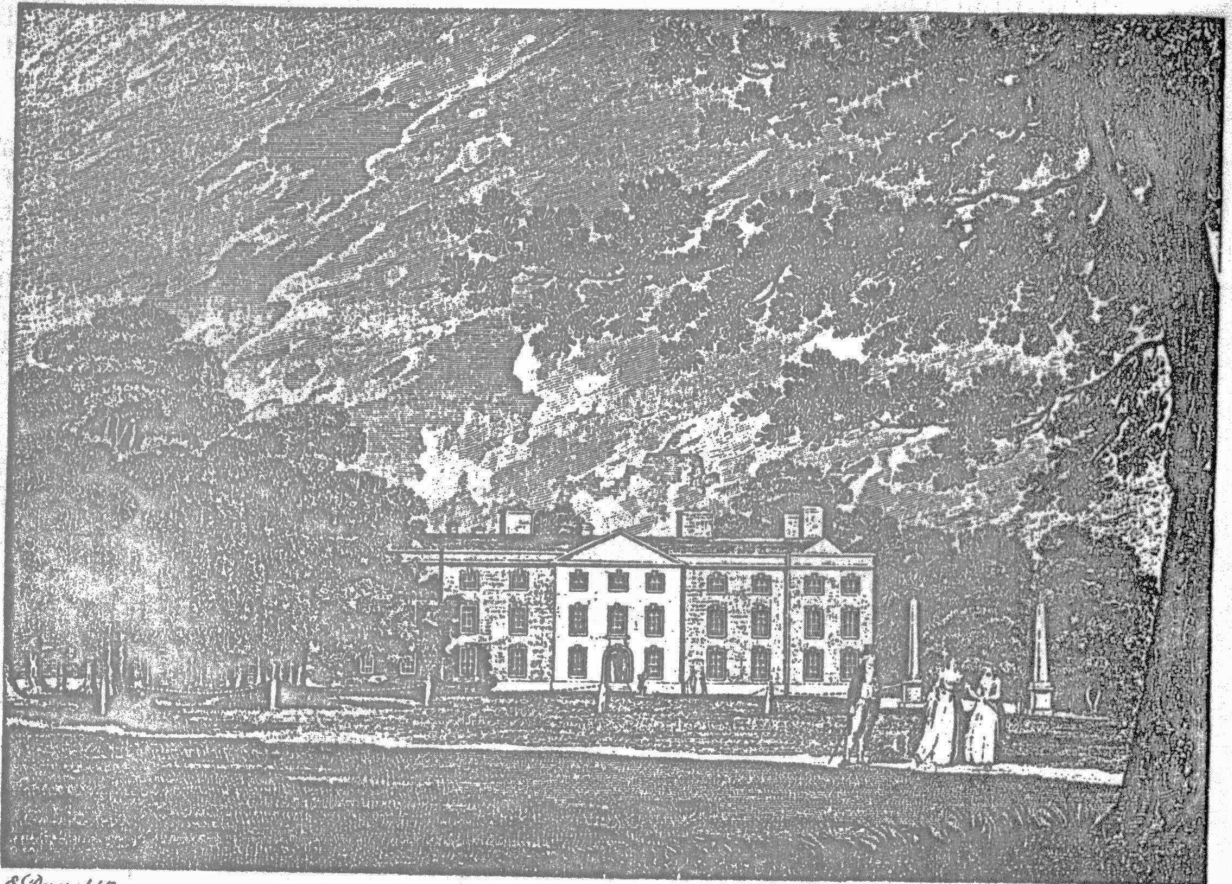
- i) By inheritance from the Traffords. Thomas Legh married Isabel Trafford, one of the sisters of Ralph Trafford, each of whom received a portion of his estate (see document 970).
- ii) From Thomasine Clayton descendant of another of Ralph Trafford's sisters (see documents 970, 1049, 1051 and 1052).
- iii) From William Buckley (see document 1053 (f)).

After the division of Quick Moor, the Leghs certainly sold

land, for instance to Dr. Byram (see C.E. Higson, 'Quick Moor', Trans. Lincs. and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, Vol. XXXIX, 1921, p.22), but they retained some land in Saddleworth until well into the 18th century.

The Booths

Lived at Dunham Massey in the parish of Bowdon, just west of Altrincham, off the A.56, no more than three miles from High Legh. This family inherited the lordship of the manors of Ashton-under-Lyne and Alt, together with a considerable amount of land, from the Assheton family, the direct male line of which became extinct in 1516. The Asshetons held land in Saddleworth at least as early as 1429 when their Saddleworth tenants are listed in the 'Rental of Assheton, Staveley, Longedendale and Sadyllworthe Frythe' (see W.M. Bowman, 'England in Ashton-under-Lyne', p. 48). The extent of this land is made clear in the inquisition post mortem of Sir George Booth of 1531 where it is stated that he held land in Grotton, Shelderslow and Quick (Bowman, p117).



VIEW OF DUNHAM.

Engraved by J. Poyes. & J. Land sculpt.

The Booths were an important family and after following the difficult path of moderate presbyterianism throughout the disturbances associated with the absolutism of Charles I, the Civil War and the Interregnum, Sir George (the fourth of that name) survived to welcome the Restoration, and to profit by it, being created 1st Baron Delamere in 1661. Henry Booth succeeded his father as 2nd Baron Delamere in

1684. He also succeeded to his father's principles, promoting the Exclusion Bill, probably fomenting rebellion in Cheshire in 1685, and actively assisting the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688, for which he was rewarded with the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, and in 1690 with the title of Earl of Warrington. The 1st Baron Delamere had married a daughter of the Earl of Stamford and the Booth inheritance ultimately came into the hands of this family. In 1796, the Earls of Stamford revived the then extinct Earldom of Warrington and were henceforth known as the Earls of Stamford and Warrington; portions of land in Saddleworth are still owned by the Trustees of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington.

The Ramsdens

This family lived at Longley Hall in the parish of Almondbury, near Huddersfield. By 1625, they were occupying the New Hall which has since been rebuilt and converted to a school. It lies just to the west of Huddersfield, south of the A629 to Penistone.

The Ramsden family speculated in church land in the years immediately after the dissolution and this activity brought them estates in Saddleworth formerly belonging to Kirklees Priory, a small house of Cistercian nuns. In 1590, the Ramsdens augmented their Saddleworth estate by purchasing lands and manorial rights from Francis Tunstall. In 1642, Sir John Ramsden appears to have bought out all the other manorial rights to become sole Lord of the Manor of Saddleworth.

During the Civil War, the Ramsdens were uncompromising royalists and suffered for their allegiance. It may have been the prospect of sequestration or the pressure of fines which forced William Ramsden to sell the manor in 1654 to William Farrer of Ewood, and interestingly, there is some evidence to suggest that Farrer was already holding some Ramsden property in trust for precisely the purpose of avoiding confiscation. Saddleworth continued in the hands of the Farrers for 136 years until the sale to the freeholders of 1791. (3).

Quick Moor

Quick Moor was a large area of common embracing Wharmton, High Moor and Badger Edge. As a common moorland, Quick Moor was owned by the lord or lords of the manor, but although they had what was known as the 'right of the soil', their possession was not absolute; all those possessing a right of common could exercise that right, be it in the pasturing of stock, the getting of stone, the cutting of peat, or any other right they had been granted on the common, and the lord of the manor was bound to respect that right.

Common rights were granted by the lord of the manor in return for specified services or dues but often by the 17th century these had so fallen in value owing to the steady rise in prices as to be almost worthless. It became increasingly obvious to many manorial lords that much more profit could be made from the commons if they were divided up, improved, and then sold or let at realistic rents. In theory the commoners should have been compensated for the loss of their rights when the process of enclosure took place. In practice the compensation was often non-existent or inadequate, hence the great debate among contemporaries as to whether or not enclosure should be allowed.

Sometimes a lord of the manor could simply compensate the commoners, divide up the common and sell it off in a fairly simple operation, but in Saddleworth, with at least three people with manorial rights over Quick Moor,

the process was more complex. In Saddleworth, as in other areas of divided lordship, the essential preliminary to enclosure was division. Instead of all the lords exercising a joint ownership over the whole common, each had to be allotted a separate piece of common over which he had an exclusive right of soil. Only then could a lord begin to enclose without impinging on the rights of his fellow lords. The documents in 1053 and 1056 are concerned with this complex process of division between the manorial lords. (4).

Notes:

- (1) In the Dr. William Farrer papers in Manchester Central Library Archives Department, there is another contemporary copy of this indenture. (L1/20/4).
- (2) The original will is in the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research at York.
- (3) The information on the Ramsdens comes from the handlist to the Ramsden papers at Huddersfield Library, but much remains to be done on the role of this family as lords of Saddleworth.
- (4) There is more information on the division of Quick Moor in Manchester Central Library Archives Department, notably the documents in L29 Box 9.

A.J. Petford.

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.

CLOUGH HOUSE

Grid Reference: SD 982045

Location: 69, Clough Lane, Grasscroft. Situated originally between two small streams flowing down the southern flanks of Wharmton, it was built on lands acquired from the Buckley family of Grasscroft. Much of the adjoining land is now built upon. Clough Lane (and its continuation Old Lane) was the main highway through this part of Saddleworth when the house was built.

Description: Original house 3 storeys high, stone built with mullioned windows on all floors. Mullions are flat and slightly recessed. Later 2 storey, Georgian addition at front and side with watershot stonework and sash windows. Older section of house later subdivided to make small cottage at rear. Flagged cellars beneath later part of house at front have window at side at ground level and

stone stands for barrels. At rear of house one of the flag-stones in the yard is faintly engraved, Ann Moss, Servant of Mrs. Taylor's, 1853. On large stones forming garden walls at rear are many carved names and initials, including J E H (twice), J H, J Tunstall and A Hirst.

History:

1773 1 May. Philip Buckley of Grasscroft, clothier, leased part of his estate to Robert Kenworthy of Quickwood, blue dyer for 999 years, rent £3. This included the land "from the Rivulet or Brook near to a Stone Platting (i.e. bridge) down to an Oak Tree then standing near the Clough leading to Shaw Hall, from thence sliding close to James Harrop's fence upwards to an Oak Stubb, then in being near to Isaac Whittaker's field, from thence downwards taking the above rivulet to the road namely that was to the beginning of the bounds, containing $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in Grasscroft Clough". (Deeds in private hands). Robert Kenworthy then "greatly improved the said premises by erecting amongst other buildings the Messuage, Dye House and Hereditaments"

1791

Feb. Robert Kenworthy died intestate, leaving Mary his widow, and his children John, William, Edward, James, Susan Seville, Martha Wright, Ann Kenworthy, Sarah Wright and Mary Eastwood. (1791 7 Apr. James Wright married Martha Kenworthy. Martha died 18 Oct. 1801, aged 32. James Wright married Ann Kenworthy, Martha's sister. Ann died 25 July 1833, aged 51. 28 Oct. 1795, Elizabeth, daughter of James and Martha Wright of Grove buried, aged 13 weeks. 23 Jan. 1799 their son William buried, aged 1. 7 June 1800 their daughter Margaret christened (all at Grove, i.e. High Grove). (Registers). 1826 31 Dec. Commission of bankruptcy against James Wright of High Grove, woollen manufacturer, dealer and chapman. On 29 June 1827 his estate (including High Grove Mill and High Grove House) were advertised for auction in the London Gazette, and this took place at the Bell Inn, Delph on 18 July, 1827. James Wright then went to live at Clough House. James Wright late of Grove died 28 Jan. 1830).

1806

May. Mary Kenworthy widow died intestate, leaving John, William, Edward, James, Susan Seville, Ann (now Ann Wright), Sarah Wright, together with James Wright (widower of Martha deceased and husband of Ann), and James Eastwood (widower of Mary deceased).

1814

11 June. Letters of Administration of goods etc. of Robert Kenworthy and Mary Kenworthy granted to John Kenworthy.

1819

15 Feb. Indenture between (1) William, Edward and James Kenworthy, Susan Seville, James Wright husband of Martha Wright deceased, Ann Wright and Sarah Wright, and James Eastwood (2) John Kenworthy (eldest son of Robert Kenworthy) reciting that John on the death of his father entered into the said leasehold premises which was then estimated at £1,000, and since continued in possession thereof as his own property, at different times paying to each of (1) various sums of money for their respective shares. This deed witnessed that the first parties quitted their claims. (Deeds in private hands).

1819

29 apr. John Kenworthy's will proved. He had made it on

- 8 Feb. 1819 appointing his brother Edward Kenworthy and William Wright, son of James Wright, his executors. He made no specific bequest of Clough House and the dyeworks.
- 1830 5 Aug. Deed between (1) Edward Kenworthy of Holt Head, Almondbury, blue dyer (2) James Kenworthy of Grasscroft Clough, blue dyer (3) William Kenworthy of Thornlee Brook, blue dyer, mentioning that William had contracted with Edward for the purchase of his share of the premises for £200. This included the "messuage or dwellinghouse with outhousing erected on the lower part of the said piece of land described in the 1773 Indenture, with the garden, etc., now in the occupation of James Wright, which are now divided from the residue of the said piece in the 1773 Indenture by an occupation road leading to a close of land belonging to the assignees of Joseph Harrop, bankrupt for the rest of the term of 999 years rent £1".
- 1835 18 Nov. The Saddleworth Church Rate book listed James Wright as occupier of Clough House (and improvements - i.e. the Georgian addition ?) owned by the executors of William Kenworthy.
- 1843 Slater's Directory included James Wright of Clough House, woollen manufacturer.
- 1851 The Census listed under Clough House: Alice Taylor, widow and gentlewoman, aged 61, and her sons Richard and Henry Lees, aged 34 and 29, proprietors of lands and dividends, her son William Taylor, aged 21, an unemployed clerk, her daughter Margaret Taylor, aged 19, her son James Taylor, aged 17, a banking clerk, and Elizabeth Morris, aged 19, servant.
- 1876 27 Nov. Indenture between (1) Thomas Wright of Brunswick Street, Victoria, Australia (2) William Wright of Prestwich Park, cotton manufacturer (3) John Thompson Booth of Macclesfield, butcher, Rev. John Wade of Haworth and Sarah his wife (4) John Edward Taylor of Westfield, gentleman, concerning the messuage, garden etc. called Clough House, late in the occupation of Rev. Thomas Holme. (John Edward Taylor, aged 24, gentleman of Uppermill, son of John Taylor, merchant, married Mary Margaret Bailey, aged 22, daughter of Frederic Bailey Esq., of The Thorns, Grasscroft, 25 Sept. 1872. On 19 Dec. 1873 John, son of J.E. Taylor, yeoman, and Mary Margaret his wife of Westfield, born. Mary Margaret died 16 Dec. 1903. J.E. Taylor died 1 Oct. 1879).
- Prior to 1896 Clough House occupied by George Watkins.
- 1896 2 Jan. Clough House leased to John Henry Bradbury
- 1909 29 Sept. Freehold messuage or dwellinghouse in Grasscroft Lane called Clough House now in the occupation of John Henry Bradbury as tenant sold by auction at the Railway Hotel, Greenfield. (Deeds).

1909

25 Nov. Indenture between (1) John Taylor of Brownhill, Dobcross Esq. (2) John Henry Bradbury of Clough House, solicitor, concerning the sale of Clough House for £390. The premises consisted of dwellinghouse, garden, out-buildings and adjoining cottage, and contained 39 perches 20 yards. (Deeds).

B.B.

The Society would welcome any further information on the hamlets and houses 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:

Mr. B. Barnes,
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
