

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



John Rooth.

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JOHN ROTH & CO., CARRIERS ON THE HUDDERSFIELD CANAL



John Rooth.

During the period of the construction of the Huddersfield Canal and for some years after its completion, there was only one carrier conducting a through traffic on this line. "John Rooth & Co." commenced a service from Manchester to Hull over the incomplete works in September 1801, and continued under the style of "Edmund Buckley & Co." and later as "James Buckley, Kershaw & Co." to be the principle carriers on the Huddersfield Canal for the next forty years. A letter-book of one of the firm's proprietors, William Rooth of Wakefield, has recently been deposited at Derbyshire Record Office, and this document helps to explain the origin of the firm and its relationship to its owners' other business interests.

William Rooth of Wakefield was Manager and Accountant for the prosperous Aire and Calder Navigation from 1797 to 1816 and Treasurer of the Barnsley Canal from 1797 to 1824. He held shares not only in these two concerns but also in the Dearne and Dove, the River Don, the Leeds and Liverpool, the Rochdale and the Huddersfield Canals. He was the owner, or part-owner, of several vessels trading between Hull and Selby and of ships sailing out of Hull where his brother George Rooth, another ship-owner, acted as his agent. As a Wakefield merchant, William Rooth would have been keen to capitalise on the increased trade expected to flow on the completion of the trans-Pennine canals begun in the 1790's, and accordingly set up the firm of "J. & W. Rooth, Merchants, Manchester".

His partner in this venture was John Rooth, son of his cousin Samuel Rooth of Timberfield House, Stretton, near Chesterfield. John Rooth was born on the 10th November 1758, and married Anne, the daughter of George Goodwin of Monyash, near Matlock on the 14th October 1790. They had one child, John, born in 1791. John Rooth first appears in Manchester directories in 1797 as a merchant at 2 Swan Lane, while his house is given as 12 Dale Street. At Dale Street, John Rooth would have been able to view the progress of the wharves being constructed for the Rochdale and the Ashton and Huddersfield Canal Companies. Given William Rooth's undoubted business skill and experience of canals, it is surprising that he should have chosen to back the Huddersfield line to Wakefield rather than the better engineered, if slightly longer, Rochdale route. The explanation probably lies in his existing contacts with Huddersfield merchants like Richard Clay, and the fact that he was able, as a potential carrier, to get better terms from the weaker company.

William Rooth purchased ten £100 shares in the Huddersfield Canal in 1800, a holding large enough to enable him to join the committee. Late that year, John Rooth approached the committees of the Ashton and Huddersfield Canal Companies with a proposal to start a service from Manchester to Hull despite the obstacle of the incomplete summit tunnel. From the Huddersfield he demanded a loan of £500 to be paid back after the first year at £50 p.a. The Company would need to build "commodious and convenient" warehouses at either side of the tunnel and to give his

firm a 5% drawback in tolls. From the Ashton, he required a loan of £1500, repayable at £150 p.a. to erect a warehouse for his firm in Manchester. Not only were his proposals accepted, but in February 1801 John Rooth was asked to superintend the works of the Huddersfield Canal on the western side of the tunnel. In April, John Rooth's offer to manage the whole concern at a salary of £300 p.a. was accepted. The Rooths had not only extended their carrying interests under most advantageous terms, but had also secured day-to-day control over another of the canals they traded upon.

John Rooth & Co's service from Manchester to Hull commenced in September 1801, using four boats on the west side and two on the east, all of them loaned by the Huddersfield Canal Company at 10s. per week each. Advertisements stated that "John Rooth & Co's boats, from the Ashton Canal Warehouse, Piccadilly, convey goods to Hull, Wakefield, Huddersfield, all parts of Saddleworth, Stalybridge and the intermediate places, every day, Sunday excepted". In 1802, John Rooth & Co's request for the loan of a boat, free of charge, to inaugurate a service from Manchester to Woolroad every other day, was accepted by the Canal Company.

By this time John Rooth had moved to Saddleworth in order to superintend the tunnel works. He leased a house at Brownhill belonging to Abraham Rhodes, from where he could oversee the Canal Company's expanding facilities at Woolroad. The new warehouses at Marsden and Woolroad would be ready for use in 1803, and the following year John Rooth & Co. built their own cottage and stables at Woolroad for the accommodation of their porter, carts and hauling horses. In 1806, John Rooth himself purchased a plot of land next to the turnpike road at Woolroad, on which he built the Navigation Inn.

Meanwhile, in Manchester, the work of building John Rooth & Co's warehouse appears to have begun in 1804. William Rooth, writing to John Rooth in July, sent a bond for £500 to be paid to Mr. Threapland (the Ashton Canal Company wharfinger at Manchester), and urged John Rooth to go with "Mr. T" to buy timber in Liverpool and get the building covered before the bad weather set in. Construction was evidently delayed, for, in February 1805, John Rooth was still negotiating with the Ashton Canal Company to let the stone for the warehouse pass down the canal free of dues. The building was four storeys high with stables to the rear and a wharf in front. It occupied a site north of the Ashton Canal, between the Store Street Aqueduct and Junction Street Bridge, and extended so far as to block off the end of Mather Street, which was diverted north to join on to Ducie Street. The cost was about £6,000, the Ashton Canal Company loaning £500 and the remainder being raised by John Rooth, William Rooth of Wakefield, and Richard Clay, now wharfinger at Huddersfield. The agent employed to manage the new warehouse was Edmund Buckley, born at Lydgate in 1780, the son of John Buckley, now the wharfinger at Stalybridge. John Rooth & Co's service was now advertised as starting from "the new stone warehouse, Ashton Canal", or "the Huddersfield Canal Warehouse, Mather Street".

John Rooth, now a widower, remarried in October 1809. The lady was Sarah Broadbent, daughter of the Sheffield banker, Thomas Broadbent. Amongst her Broadbent aunts were Elizabeth, wife of William Rooth of Wakefield, and Sarah, widow of Thomas Pemberton, who was joint owner with one of the Lloyds banking families of a colliery and iron works at Wednesbury in the Black Country. In the later years of her life, Sarah Pemberton lived at William Rooth's house in Westgate Common, Wakefield, and he and John Rooth gradually took over the management of her Wednesbury interests. John and Sarah Rooth had one child, William, baptised at Dobcross, 6th May 1811.

In April 1811 John Rooth's main task as agent to the Huddersfield Canal Company was accomplished, with the opening of the Standedge tunnel. The great hindrance of land carriage over the top from Woolroad to Marsden was now removed, and a great increase in the tonnage carried on the canal was to be expected. John Rooth & Co's directory advertisement for that year, listing agents Edmund Buckley at Manchester, Robert Clay at Huddersfield, and Martin and Rooth at Hull, is, however, the last under that title. A hint of a change is given in a letter from William Rooth to Edmund Buckley in Manchester on the 15th April when he remarks that "we shall want to see you very soon about our other affairs of which you shall have notice as soon as we can fix the day". The nature of the business is not clear but by September 1811 William Rooth is writing to "Edmund Buckley & Co., Huddersfield Canal Warehouse". Although Edmund Buckley now took full control of the business, he did not purchase the firm's assets; John Rooth and William Rooth continued to receive rent for the use of the Manchester warehouse, and many years later William Rooth was to list the firm's narrow boats amongst his own property.

The opening of the summit tunnel did not bring the great increase in trade with the Huddersfield Canal Company had anticipated, and the annual report of 1812 referred to "the slender capital afloat in boats upon this canal". So slight, indeed, was the competition for through traffic in the early years, that the returns of tonnages and dues given by the company largely reflect the performance of Edmund Buckley & Co. In 1812, the first year for which detailed figures are available, 34,689 tons were carried for which the company collected £4,000 in dues. These figures were made up as follows:-

	tons	dues
Merchandise	10,200	£2,705
Coal	8,024	369
Corn	7,655	366
Limestone	4,423	192
Stone	3,705	79
Pig Iron	682	84

The term "merchandise" here represents mostly woollen manufactures.

Despite the fact that William Rooth ceased to be a committee member in 1813, with John Rooth still Agent for the Huddersfield Canal Company, Edmund Buckley & Co. continued to enjoy good terms. In 1814 the Company agreed to lend Edmund Buckley & Co. £350 to build a warehouse at Wakefield. Relations with the Canal Company did, however, become strained in subsequent years. In January 1817 John Rooth, in his capacity as Agent to the Company, was instructed to write to "Messrs. Edmund Buckley & Co., the carriers on this Canal", for unpaid dues for the previous year, and to take legal proceedings against the firm if the account was not settled.

In October 1816 William Rooth, then aged 69, had been replaced as Agent for the Aire and Calder, and in August 1817, John Rooth in turn designed his position as Agent to the Huddersfield Canal Company. He was 59. The following year he left Saddleworth to take up the management of the Widow Pemberton's iron and coal interests in Wednesbury. His leaving was a considerable loss to Saddleworth as he had been a powerful force for progress in the economic life of the community. Having accumulated 32 shares in the Manor of Saddleworth, he had taken an active part in the running of the Manor concern, and had been on the committee formed to oversee the work of the Enclosure

Commissioner. He was Churchwarden in 1813-14 and had latterly served on the committee to superintend the valuation of the Parish.

With John Rooth gone the Canal Company resolved to clarify its relations with Edmund Buckley & Co. The firm was to be charged the full rate for any Company boats still on loan and such boats were to be recovered if the rent remained unpaid. The loan of £350 for the Wakefield warehouse was withdrawn so that the Company could build its own facilities there. The Company warehouse was completed in 1819 and offered to Edmund Buckley & Co. at a rent of £120 p.a. Edmund Buckley had by this time bought shares in the Huddersfield Canal Company and did attend committee meetings in 1819-20, but the success of his other business ventures steadily drew his attention away from canal carrying.

Edmund Buckley was now a highly-respected figure in Manchester business circles, living at Henry Street, Oldham Road, and describing himself as carrier, iron merchant, coal dealer and copperas manufacturer. Copperas was a valuable chemical used in the textile finishing industry. In 1814 Buckley had purchased a small copperas manufactory on the bank of the Ashton Canal at Droylsden; the site was repeatedly enlarged and was to become the main source of Buckley's considerable wealth. By 1818, he had added the St. George's Colliery, Collyhurst, to his growing empire, and was also selling moulders' sand which was abundant on that site. Increasingly Edmund Buckley left the running of the carrying business to his brothers, James Buckley (1785-1829) and Ralph Buckley (1802-1834), and to his agent in Manchester, William Kershaw (1787-1852), who lived near to the warehouse in Mather Street. The Buckleys and the Kershaws had grown up together in Stalybridge, and William Kershaw and his brother Robert Kershaw, the attorney, were later to join Edmund Buckley in founding the Openshaw Almshouses Charity in 1848.

By 1826 the carrying firm had been renamed "James Buckley, Kershaw & Co.", and its assets are listed in a letter from William Rooth to his nephew Samuel Rooth on the 3rd October that year:

"I have $\frac{1}{3}$ d share in the large Warehouse at Manchester called the Huddersfield Canal Warehouse, cost me better than £2,000 and accumulating interests and profits, in that carrying business we have employed in it 2 long Iron Boats, 1 timber one, 5 Iron Short Boats, 5 short Timber ones and 6 other Vessels & Wagons, etc."

It is noteworthy that more than half of these boats were of iron, probably iron-sided with elm bottoms, and that most of them were shortened narrow boats able to pass the shorter 57 ft. locks beyond Huddersfield. William Booth mentions the eastern end of the firm's operation in a letter to Edmund Buckley in March of the same year:

"I have this morning a letter from Messrs. Weddle & Brownlow of Hull complaining that they want £12l. 2s. 0d. from Messrs. Buckley & Co. for freights which have been due some time I am well aware of the Enmity that this and some other houses at Hull have against our Establishment ever since our Agents have been Established at Hull apparently in opposition to them I should also wish to have a copy of the statement of last year's Accounts and also of the Rental Accounts - for I think it high time that something should be divided amongst the Owners".

The remaining entries in William Rooth's letter-book are almost exclusively appeals to creditors to pay money owed on bond or accruing from joint

business ventures. Several of these are addressed to John Rooth at Wood Green, Wednesbury, seeking a proper share of the profits from the coal and iron works at Wednesbury and urging a division of the property they held in common, notably the Manchester warehouse, mortgaged to Messrs. Foly & Dixon, land at Diglee occupied by Thomas Garrett, and mills at Marsden, held by Messrs. E. & D. Armitage. William Rooth died at Wakefield on the 8th August 1829 with most of these debts outstanding.

In September 1835 the Huddersfield Canal Company had occasion to complain that Messrs. Buckley, Kershaw & Co. were making false declarations of their cargoes. The Committee resolved that:

"Whenever it appears by the gauges that the weight of any goods on board any boat belonging to them is greater than is stated in the declaration, the captain shall be required to pay for such overweight before the boat shall be allowed to pass"

The gauges referred to were graduated scales fixed to the planking of the boats from which the toll clerks could read off the tonnage carried according to the level of the water-line. Buckley, Kershaw & Co. denied the charge and the Canal Company pursued their claim unsuccessfully over several years.

William Rooth's letter-book contains a four-page account of Buckley & Co's expenditure on the Manchester warehouse, drawn up by his executors in November 1839. Covering the period 1811 to 1839, it lists payments for repairs, taxes, new machinery, chief rent, mortgage interest, new offices built in 1825, and amounts paid to John and William Rooth totalling £13,154. 13s. 1d. The document shows that despite the changes of name, the Rooths' interest in the carrying firm continued throughout its forty-year life.

By now Edmund Buckley had risen high in Manchester society and lived in an elegant mansion in Higher Ardwick. He was on the committees of the Infirmary, the Lunatic Asylum, the Blind Asylum, the Rochdale Canal Company, the Chamber of Commerce and the Exchange. In 1841, the electors of Newcastle-under-Lyme returned him as their Member of Parliament. No-one was in a better position than he to see the impact the new railway companies were to have on the canal carrying trade. Almost daily new railway bills were being submitted for Parliamentary scrutiny, and Edmund Buckley was not slow to buy shares and accept directorships in the most promising concerns. It was a logical step, therefore, for him to withdraw from canal carrying and 1841 is the last year that the familiar advertisements for "J. Buckley, Kershaw & Co." appear in Manchester directories.

William Kershaw moved to Hulme where he carried on in business as a corn dealer until his death on the 6th May 1852. Edmund Buckley vacated the Mather Street warehouse and opened a counting house at 5 Ducie Street to receive his estimated income of £20,000 p.a. He died at Ardwick on the 21st January 1867. The writer of the Oldham Standard obituary notice which appeared on the 2nd February recalled walking to school alongside the canal at Mossley when he would often read "the superscription on the outside of the dingy cabins of the boats belonging to E. Buckley & Co. couched in those red, yellow, and sometimes black letters, on a white ground". John Rooth, the founder of the firm, died at Wednesbury on the 28th March 1845. His estate included premises in Manchester held jointly with the executors of William Rooth, shares in the Huddersfield Canal Navigation, 16 shares in the Manor of Saddleworth, and

a messuage at Woolroad in Saddleworth in the tenure of Henry McKennell - the Navigation Inn.

Sources

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J.M. Hunt.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

In the third part of his article on "The Working Class of Saddleworth in the Industrial Revolution" (Bulletin V. 10 1980), Mr. A.J. Brooke says that Saddleworth "was suspected of being a centre of disaffection". Unfortunately, what evidence we have is mostly from those who were suspicious, and there is little to inform us about the suspects. A small clue, however, is to be found in the Registers of St. Anne's, Lydgate.

On January 4th, 1801, the baptism is recorded of "General Buoneparte, Son of Joseph and Sarah Burton of Grasscroft Clough". He was the sixth of the nine children of Joseph and Sarah Burton baptised at Lydgate, but probably at least their seventh child, as a burial is recorded of a son born in 1787 before Lydgate Chapel was built. All the other children were given conventional names. Poor General Buoneparte was the only one not to survive infancy, being buried on 1st May, 1802.

All references to the family in the Registers from 1788 to 1814 give the residence as either Grasscroft Clough or Grasscroft, but Joseph Burton died at Micklehurst and was buried at Lydgate on August 2nd, 1840, aged 72 years. Sarah died at Mottram and was buried at Lydgate on January 12th, 1848, aged 84 years. None of the entries give Joseph's occupation, but one of his daughters was described as a weaver in 1812. Probably Joseph Burton and his family had been resident at Gibbs Tenement (adjacent to the Royal George Mills) when they described themselves as living at Grasscroft Clough or Grasscroft. Certainly, Joseph Burton was one of the tenants of Gibbs in 1826, the property being owned by the Schofield family of Wellihole. When R.R. Whitehead and Brothers purchased the estate in 1838 from the assignees of Joseph Harrop, the Gibbs Tenement was described as being "late in the occupation of Joseph Burton".

In the political climate of the time, Joseph Burton showed considerable courage in flaunting his French sympathies in such a way, and one is tempted by the possibility that here is one of Lord Eldon's "thirty thousand".

Lydgate Vicarage,
Near Oldham

Yours, etc.
C.C.W. Airne.

Sir,

May I first send my best wishes to the Society, and to yourself for the very interesting Bulletins you have produced over the last ten years. I have them all except for a couple of numbers of Volume 1. I obtained a reprint of Ammon Wrigley's "Songs of a Moorland Parish" which the Rotary Club published last year, and what an excellent job they made of it. I should be delighted if they or your Society could do another one of his books. I put a request in for one of them last August at my library and have just received it. I suppose that a lot of people in your area will have the original copies, and have no difficulty in reading them. I think he was a wonderful man considering his lowly upbringing, and I should dearly love a set of his works.

Last summer my friend and I did three of your Local Interest Trails and we found them really good. I was very impressed with the Greenfield one, and on it we came across a crew of B.B.C. T.V. men making an episode for "The Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy". I wonder what Ammon would have thought of that!

In conclusion may I wish you once again my congratulations for the last ten years and my good wishes for the next decade.

5, Norr Green Terrace,
Wilsden,
Bradford BD15 0DN

Yours, etc.
S. Bradbury.

Sir,

I am always delighted to receive the Bulletins. The one which arrived this morning is quite up to the high standard of previous ones, and I am pleased to see your list of Society Members.

"Chamfer",
Marlborough Road,
Hampton,
Middlesex.

Yours, etc.
Ethel W. Wood.
(long ago E.W. Buckley of The Shaws,
Uppermill).

Sir,

First of all may I compliment you on the continuing high quality of the Bulletins of the Saddleworth Historical Society. My wife and I read them with very much interest and it is always a pleasure to receive them.

We hope that one day it will be possible to include an article on the history of Friarmere. I know that this area is different to the rest of Saddleworth, and an article on this subject would be very welcome if it is possible.

The series on "Old Saddleworth" is always of absorbing interest. One of our special interests is Sandbed at Delph, and perhaps at some time in the future this place could receive "honourable mention".

With renewed thanks for all your efforts,

207, Hardhorn Road,
Poulton-le-Fylde,
Blackpool FY6 8DW.

Yours, etc.
Robert B. Snowdon.

Sir,

Could you possibly assist with the following enquiries regarding ruined "shooting cabins" (?) in the Saddleworth area?

- (a) Have you any information as to when the Shooting Cabin in Rimmon Pit Clough, above Ravenstones Rocks (GR.043058) was either built or demolished? I presume it was the property of Upperwood House, on the A.635 road.
- (b) Have you any idea why "Wrigley's Cabin" on the plateau of Black Hill (GR.085052) should be so named, i.e. who was the "Wrigley" in question? I believe the ruin was at one point used as a shooting cabin, but has been derelict for over 45 years.
- (c) What was the origin of the ruin at GR.020075, above Running Hill Pits? I assume that it had some connection with the quarries.

If you have any information regarding the above, I would be grateful for details.

6, Leefields Close,
Uppermill,
Oldham.

Yours, etc.
Bob Tait.

THE WORKING CLASS OF SADDLEWORTH
IN THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Part 4

Crises, Trade Unions and the Revival of Political Consciousness

In December 1825 a run began on the London banks and was immediately followed by the stoppage of the provincial banks including Dobson's of Huddersfield. "From Oldham to Dobcross the road was a scene of complete hurry and bustle, tradesmen and manufacturers being seen hastening on their way to exchange the paper of the Saddleworth banks for gold". There the crash of Harrop, Brown and Co. was temporarily averted by the declaration of over 200 of the main investors that they would still accept the bank's notes at face value, but by February it was forced to close its doors (1). By July there was such an extreme of depression in Saddleworth that the Whig manufacturers requested their county M.P's, Milton and Marshall, to delay their visit until a revival of trade permitted an enthusiastic reception (2). It is possible that they expected the M.P's, who had campaigned on a "Free Trade and Cheap Bread" platform, to get a hostile reception. A few weeks later Middleton and other Lancashire towns were the scenes of rioting, "instigated by seditious agitators whose object seems to be a general insurrection of the poor against persons of property". The "Mercury" contrasted this with the West Riding "where a perfect tranquillity has prevailed and the sufferers in these times of severe and universal pressure have displayed a most exemplary and honourable patience. We trust that the same uniform obedience to the laws and respect for property will be inviolably maintained by the poor" (3). It was as much this fear of revolution which motivated the middle classes to carry out relief schemes as it was Christian charity. Subscriptions were started in Saddleworth to employ the poor "on the church-road and byeways not subject to composition". A grant of £250 from the London Committee and £50 from the Earl of Stamford gave the fund an initial boost. The workers were to receive 12 lbs. of oatmeal for a day's work, but no person was allowed more than two days' work per week. One correspondent to the "Mercury" suggested that the unemployed should be used to repair the notorious Marsden-Delph road, but it is not known if any of this stretch was worked upon. Stonebreaking, the "Mercury" noted, was an "employment not suiting the habits nor indeed the constitution of the weavers", and many preferred to weave even for starvation wages (4).

The Unions in the Huddersfield area, of the Clothiers and the Fancy Weavers, energetic in the first year of their legal existence and the brisk trade of 1825, practically disintegrated under the impact of unemployment. One of what must be the first cases of victimisation reached the columns of the press because of its blatant injustice, when an Almondbury man, who was refused relief work by the parish overseer, had his complaint dismissed when the magistrate learnt that he was a former union man, "one of the persons combined in the course of last year to obtain an advance of wages, but which society has now no existence", explained the "Mercury" (5). In this context it is all the more surprising that an active Union not only existed in the Saddleworth area but actually flourished under these conditions and had to be actively suppressed by the employers.

Besides outright cuts, workers suffered reductions in real wages through payment in truck. Opposition to this practice in Saddleworth was announced in February 1827 and the following month a Society for the Prevention of Wages in Goods attempted the prosecution of Messrs. Taylor,

Son and Gibson of Bank Mill (Springhead), but without success. A workman, Nelson Buckley, had been paid in checks of Joshua Wood, a meal and flour dealer, who would only reimburse him in commodities. The case, however, and another against Messrs. Heginbottom, was dismissed on the technicality that the payment had been an advance of wages on work not yet finished (6). Whether the Union was involved in this we do not know, but the workers were organised by June, as Saddleworth Weavers and Spinners at a meeting on the 7th adopted an address to the merchants and manufacturers against the "extreme lowness" of wages and requesting they be regulated on the 1823-24 scale (7). The Saddleworth Weavers Union appears to have been formed at the end of this year and to have had resistance to truck as one of its main objectives.

The employers saw in it a different intention - "the view of dictating to and controlling the masters", and on the 16th October 1828 at a meeting at the Commercial Inn, Uppermill, of merchants, manufacturers, dyers and master clothiers chaired by Joseph Harrop, a society was established "to dissolve the Union by every fair and legal means". Two weeks later the meeting was much more explicit as to what it considered the "mischievous effects" of the Weavers Union to be in dictating "the description of workmen they are to employ, the manner in which the work is to be done and ultimately the prices that are paid for it". The Society proposed to model itself on others in the neighbourhood "formed to counter-act the combinations of their workmen", and to operate a blacklist of Unionists by starting with the sacking of all its members and then requiring new workers to have a signed reference from their former master.

The Union appears to have had some popular support, even if, as one observer noted, the shopkeepers and victuallers only subscribed "to preserve business". In September he described it as quite formidable, the "Lodges" assembling one morning and around 1,500 people marching in "military order" behind a band to the parish church to hear a sermon. By the beginning of November a full-scale lock-out had occurred as many refused to give up the Union, whilst the employers sought, and received, the backing of the magistrates "to preserve the peace of that populous district" (8). It was decided to revoke the licences of all victuallers "entertaining or encouraging" the Union - that is giving donations or permitting meetings on their premises - and to prosecute the Secretary of the Union, George Rhodes, for a placard which had been posted throughout the district causing annoyance to a manufacturer, Mr. Bottomley. By the beginning of December it was claimed that damage had been done to people's property and some masters were angry that the magistrates were not living up to their promises of support. They consequently issued a poster offering £10 reward for information on the breaking of blacklegs' windows and other violence. The Union also published a placard claiming that one boy who had allegedly been beaten up had in fact run into a wall.

At the beginning of the lock-out, deputations had travelled into the Colne Valley and Huddersfield for support, but with what success we do not know. It was said that £30 a week had been arriving for the duration of the dispute from a Trade Union Committee in Rochdale and £39 from a West of England Committee. But the depletion of Union funds plus Bottomley's threatened prosecution of Rhodes (one of the last entries in the Weavers Society minute book) signify the breaking of union resistance (9). The numerous grievances which lay behind the workers' stand were summarised in the "Weekly Free Press" of December 19th indicating the methods used by some masters to cut prices under the fierce competition of the commercial crisis - violations of existing agreements, up to three months delay in payment, false measurement, payment in orders at local shops and "other methods of swindling" (10).

By the end of 1829 conditions had further deteriorated. The

"Mercury's" well-informed correspondent "K" wrote in December that the "piecemakers" were mainly on half work and those fully employed were only earning 10s., and a piece which would have fetched them home 45s. at 1827 prices now gave them 27s. - if they were lucky, "for every piece they are making they suffer some reduction". Some of the large manufacturers were dismantling their looms and putting them out to workers' houses, as a piece could be made up by domestic labour from spinning and weaving cheaper than it would cost just for the weaving in the factory (11).

In the Huddersfield area economic hardship led directly to the formation of a working class Political Union for Parliamentary reform with weavers playing a prominent part, but evidence for activity in Saddleworth is as yet lacking. The middle class reformers held a meeting at Saddleworth on the Reform Bill then going through Parliament in March 1831, but the involvement of workers is not referred to (12). In September a slight diversion from social and political strife was provided by the Coronation celebrations, when a feast was held on the moors at Pots and Pans, beef, bread and ale being distributed to the working classes present, reminiscent of the paternalism of an earlier age (13). It may be that Saddleworth's radicals were active in Oldham at this period.

Similarly, another expression of the growing political strength of the working class, the national tradeunion movement, is not in evidence in the area. In 1834, at a time of widespread strikes and lock-outs resulting from the employers' and government's attempts to smash the two great General Unions, the National Association for the Protection of Labour and the Grand National Consolidated Trade's Union (leading in Oldham to a police raid on a Union meeting which erupted into rioting, leaving one worker shot dead), an attack was also made on Union organisation in Saddleworth. Messrs. J. Taylor, William Taylor and Launcelot Gibson of Springhead required their handloom weavers to sign a version of the notorious document which employers throughout the country were trying to enforce. This example bound the workers to work regularly, not to join a Trade Union or Regeneration Society (which was fighting for an eight hour day) "or any other union or society that may inconvenience or annoy their employers", and never to be found in any "tumult". They were also required to work a fortnight in hand which was forfeit if the agreement was broken. The "Manchester Times" noted that all Taylor's workers were woollen weavers and had not been in any way involved in the Oldham disturbances, which were the employers' justification for imposing the document. Rather than sign, a number of weavers were sacked (14). The Union alluded to may have been the continuation of the earlier Weavers Union, but it is not known if it was affiliated to a wider body - or what support the Regeneration Society had amongst its members.

With the Unions curbed and an improvement in trade (15), the Whig capitalists had reason to be triumphant. Their optimism was marred only by the Factory Act which was intended to phase out the youngest child labour and introduced a restriction in March 1835 on children between 11 and 12 years old. The "Mercury" claimed that the effect would be disastrous and numbers of mills would be forced to close, as sufficient children over this age could not be found. A campaign was launched to petition against the Act, the Saddleworth masters meeting for that purpose in March. Many responded simply by defying it, and in 1838 several cotton and woollen manufacturers, including Bottomley of Greenfield, Bradbury of Bakestone Pit and Butterworth of Knowl and some of their overseers, were prosecuted for breaches of the Act's provisions (16). The Whigs' county election campaign of 1835 was nevertheless an enthusiastic affair, and Milton and Morpeth travelled in a cavalcade of fluttering

SEDITIONOUS MEETINGS.

ALL the peaceable and well-disposed Inhabitants of Saddleworth, and the Township of Quick, are requested (as far as lies in their Power) to prevent, discountenance and discourage any treasonable or seditious Meetings, and to assist the Civil Power to apprehend any Person or Persons charged with using treasonable and seditious Expressions; and if they hear or know of any Person or Persons using such Expressions, or of encouraging any Person or Persons to attend such Meetings, to give immediate Notice thereof to the Constable. And all Innkeepers, and Keepers of Public-houses, are desired to prevent any Meetings of the above Description being held at their respective Houses; and to give Notice to the Constable of every Person who makes Use of any treasonable or seditious Expressions in their Houses. And all Persons are cautioned not to leave their Houses, out of idle Curiosity to watch the Proceedings of any seditious Persons, who may at any Time assemble upon the Commons in the said Township, or the Neighbourhood thereof.

By Order,

J. INGHAM, Vestry Clerk.

Dobcross, May 23, 1801.

orange flags and banners from Huddersfield to Delph, where people crowded the hillsides to watch, and back through Uppermill, Greenfield and Holmfirth (17). But unshaken Whig confidence, like the economic prosperity, was only transitory, with the escalation of popular agitation against the new Poor Law escalating into sporadic violence throughout the country - not least in Huddersfield.

By April 22nd 1837, the "Mercury" reported that the Saddleworth woollen trade was very dull with many on short time and no new orders coming in (18). Messrs. Taylor, Son and Gibson of Springhead again attempted to cut losses. Forty five weavers from various parts of the district were summonsed before the Saddleworth Petty Sessions for allegedly damaging and spoiling their work and woollen warps and wefts committed to their care. A piece made by Sam Shaw of Knotty Lane was claimed by Taylor and his manager, Binns, to be "reed-rod", i.e. damaged by unevenness of reeding of the warp. Wilkins, the defence lawyer, established that Binns had in fact paid Shaw for another piece that was supposed to be equally damaged, and that the fault lay in the slubbing of the warps. The cases went to the arbitration of a manufacturer and a weaver, who awarded damages ranging from 3/2d. - 5/4d. - 3/4d. a yard. Wilkins on hearing of the weavers' "extreme distress" returned half his 10 guinea fee. The radical reform newspaper, the "Northern Star", thought that this case revealed the need for a statutory board of adjudication which could decide such cases at little cost to the men - whether the cost in this instance was borne by a pre-existing Trade Union fund or raised specially we do not know). As for Taylor, Son and Gibson, they were "adepts in procuring a large amount of labour at small cost (19).

As if to underline this assertion, the weavers struck around early April after a reduction of 1/3d. in their wages was demanded. The "Northern Star" described many of the workers as being in a "pitiable condition" and urged operatives in other places to support them (20). By August of the following year it appears that Taylors and Gibson had had enough either of the trade or of their workers, or both, as an advertisement for the sale of their machinery, including 23 broad and narrow looms "by power and hand with gearing", appeared in the "Mercury" (21).

With the effects of a deepening depression since 1837 exacerbated by such petty tyrants and the failings of purely trade union actions so recent an experience, workers were receptive to the propaganda and agitation of the blossoming radical reform movement. The different currents flowing together in this countrywide wave were reflected in June 1838 when the Lancashire Tory Methodist, John Rayner Stephens, champion with Richard Oastler of the Anti-Poor Law Movement, and Fergus O'Connor, founder of the Leeds-based Great Northern Union for radical reform, were the main speakers at a large rally in Saddleworth. A procession with band and banners marched to the hustings, Stephens' Stalybridge contingent "in beautiful order", where a local radical, Greaves, opened with a comment that caused much amusement: "Men of Saddleworth, you are now assembled upon one of those beautiful slopes upon which my Lord Morpeth so recently complimented you". Stephens' speech was loudly cheered, although an observer from the Birmingham Political Union was shocked at his statement that the people ought to be considering "when they should commence burning and destroying the mills" (22). O'Connor, too, received an ovation and "seemed to have roused the dull spirit of Saddleworth to a sense of the necessity of union and action", whilst other speakers also "seemed to inspire the hitherto sleeping men of Saddleworth with the hope of better days". The meeting ended with three cheers each for Oastler and the speakers and for the "downfall of Whiggism in this unfortunate and destitute parish". That evening the principle radicals rounded off

the day with a dinner in The Swan at Delph (23).

From the references in the speeches it would appear that there was no Radical Reform organisation in the area; if so, then the Saddleworth Association which is recorded as being part of the Oldham District of the South Lancashire Radical Reform Association and sending delegates to a meeting in Manchester to plan a demonstration for the 24th September (24), may have been the fruit of this meeting. It also indicates what was a practical and perhaps traditional orientation of Saddleworth working class radicals towards Oldham rather than the West Riding, especially after the creation of Unions of parishes under the new Poor Law which made Huddersfield and Saddleworth different administrative districts and thereby excluded the latter from the violent opposition to the operation of the Law expressed by Huddersfield workers.

In an attempt to tap the steam of working class revolt, the Whigs were organising too. In the 1826 depression merchants and manufacturers had met to petition for the repeal of the Corn Laws on the basis that the removal of what was virtually a tax on food to benefit the landowners would permit them to lower wages and thus better survive the drop in prices. The recession of 1837 and the disastrous slump of 1839 led to a revival of this demand, many Whigs also seeing that they could appear as champions of the working classes in the fight for a lower cost of living and thus divert them from demands for radical reform - especially with the growth of Chartism in 1839 and the following years.

On the request of several manufacturers an Anti-Corn Law meeting was held in February at the King's Head, Dobcross. The radical workers pursued their usual tactic of taking over the meeting and it had to be adjourned outside owing to the numbers present. They demanded that the chairman be elected, but withdrew when Lees, a manufacturer, called for a vote by division which would have meant that the employers would have seen, literally, where their workers stood. The Radicals accepted and nominated chairmen on the grounds they could put a resolution on universal suffrage, which was permitted and passed to great cheers. The meeting concluded with three cheers for O'Connor and Stephens and three groans for the Whigs (25).

Greaves and Beaumont, the local Chartist leaders, called a meeting on June 22nd on Harrop Edge at which two delegates to the National Convention (elected to promote the petition for the Charter calling for working class suffrage and representation in Parliament), O'Connor and James Taylor of Rochdale, were to speak - according to the posters. The former was in Sunderland and did not appear, and the "Mercury's" correspondent cynically claimed his name had just been used as a crowd-puller and that to little effect. Only 700 at the most were there, he claimed, and of these about 200 were a "shabby looking band" of boys and girls from Oldham. The hustings was formed from a one horse cart with a banner in which sat four women of "anything but respectable appearance", and in the whole meeting there were not five respectable people - most were of the "lowest grades of society". The "Mercury" concluded: "Mr. Stephens should be sent to this part of Yorkshire to preach the funeral service of Radicalism" (26). This account gives us little useful information on the meeting, but it does give a vivid illustration of the attitudes of the "respectable" middle class Whigs towards the working class which appears here as almost sub-human. Such degradation forced on the workers by their betters was one of the factors in the smouldering revolutionary mood of these years, but the employers and the ruling class in general never ceased to be amazed when their beasts of burden kicked back, and the summer of '42 provided them with one of their biggest shocks.

The opening of the "Hungry Forties" saw distress more serious than

even 1826 in both the cotton and woollen districts, and it would be surprising if Saddleworth workers had not been caught up in the desperate fervour of 1842, as in June, according to the Factory Inspector's Report, of 8,169 workers 2,912 were fully employed, 2,674 were on short time and 2,583 were wholly unemployed (27). On Friday 5th August, a strike of power loom weavers occurred at Bayley Brothers of Stalybridge against wage cuts, and throughout the following week the weavers persuaded "with the most extraordinary success" workers in industries not even connected with the cotton industry to turn out. Processions marched into neighbouring towns - west to Ashton and Manchester, east to Mottram and Glossop, south to Hyde and Stockport and north to Oldham and Saddleworth, which was reached by the 11th. The Stalybridge banner captured the spirit of the movement which so perturbed the ruling class: "The men of Stalybridge will follow wherever Danger shows the Way; They that perish by the Sword are better than they that perish of Hunger". Strikes spread by a billiard ball effect, the workers of one area moving into the next. By the afternoon of the 12th a deputation appeared in the yard of Sykes and Fisher's mill at Marsden and demanded that the men turn out. After being told in no uncertain terms to leave, the crowd of about 1,000 men and women forced the gates, drew the boiler plus and opened the shuttle of the mill. They next closed Taylor's foundry and then returned to Uppermill and Dobcross for meetings, deciding to "renew their revolutionary plans the next day". That day, a Saturday, an estimated crowd of 5,000 turn-outs marched down the Colne Valley drawing plugs and opening so many dam shuttles that the river at Huddersfield was swollen. On reaching the town a meeting was held where speakers from Ashton and Saddleworth spoke on what had become the slogan of the turn-out - "A fair day's work for a fair day's pay", whilst some of the Huddersfield strikers called for their objectives to include the Charter. Although individual Chartists participated in the strike and may have made some of the initiatives, probably including some amongst the Saddleworth crowd as there was a branch of the National Charter Association at Delph by this time (28), the Chartists as an organisation were totally unprepared for the movement.

To say, however, as many historians do, that this was merely an economic strike, is an over-simplification. It was spontaneous insofar as it was a response to economic hardship, in that it blew up over an unplanned incident and in that its spread was not centrally co-ordinated, but there was no iron curtain insulating the workers from politics. The workers in the areas affected had long continuous traditions of political struggles - for radical reform, against the Poor Law, for factory legislation, for the formation of trade unions, and, most recently, for the Charter - and their whole mode of thought and their concepts about the social and political system were moulded by these struggles. The general strike weapon was one which had been much discussed over the previous decade and the Chartists were responsible for raising the idea of a "National Holiday" to secure their Charter. The strikers adopted more from Radicalism and Chartism than their marching songs and anthems.

It is also a misconception to portray the strikers simply as ragged half-starved bands ranging lemming-like over the countryside. Ragged and half-starved many of them were, but this did not make them blind desperadoes. Many attended the meetings where the issues, including the Charter, were debated and courses of action determined, and in some areas strike committees sat and on occasions even gave some masters dispensation to complete work where it was necessary (29).

Robbed of their most conscious and articulate leadership by the

indecision and vagueness of the Chartists, lacking an effective organisation to liaise with other manufacturing districts, and unsure of the next step even in those places where the strike was solid, the movement disintegrated under the impact of hunger and repression. A meeting of trade delegates at Manchester was dispersed by police, and its chairman, a Chartist and "a socialist of long-standing", arrested. Strikers were swept off the streets by troops as in Huddersfield where, according to the "Mercury", excessive force was used, and several were shot dead in Preston. Despite this, the workers exhibited great determination, and one Saddleworth worker, Abraham Howarth, was still assisting in the stopping of mills at Clayton West, ten miles east of Huddersfield, on the 17th - five days after the first appearance of the Saddleworth turn-outs over the Pennines - for which he was imprisoned.

That winter the continuing misery in Saddleworth was highlighted by a report in the "Northern Star" of a death through want and hunger (30), but the following year saw slight economic improvement. 1842 was more than an economic turning-point, it was a critical period for the political development of the working class. This is expressed emotively in a letter from Ashton intercepted at Hull which captures the spirit of the strike and indicates how many workers viewed the relationship of wages and politics:

"Now is the time or never - lose this opportunity and we are lost! lost!! lost!!! We get plenty of something to eat; the shops are open they give us what we want. To-day August 11th to Stockport; they are stop't, but we go a parading the streets like soldiers six abreast. News from Manchester, bloody fights, soldiers ready to fight for the people, police the same; now's the time for liberty. We want the wages paid in 1840; if they won't give it us revolution is the consequence" (31).

Revolution, for the reasons outlined above, was not the consequence, but many of the workers were certainly "lost!". For the handloom weavers and others in domestic manufactures, the strike was the last opportunity to arrest the growth of the factory system, or at least to ameliorate its impact. Although many joined the strike movement, either over wages or the Charter or both, the initiative and the driving force came from the factory operatives. The leadership and ideology which the domestic workers had supplied to the radical movement was not adequate for the conditions facing the working class under mature industrial capitalism, and this crisis of leadership was reflected in the confusion amongst Chartists following the strike. One tendency of Chartism sought to relate its political programme to the reality of the class nature of the social and economic system, and, as such, contributed to the evolution of socialist thought. The 1842 general strike was a vital experience in the shift of political ideas from the concept of "the people" versus the "aristocratic government" to that of the working classes against the capitalists. The development which was taking place is evident from the "Northern Star" of the following year. At a Huddersfield meeting in September Joshua Hobson, an editor of the paper, in a speech against the Whig Anti-Corn Law League "enumerated the many struggles that the working people had had to obtain the protection of labour; and also showed that they had failed because LABOUR had no power over the law, while CAPITAL had". The following month at the request of a number of workers he attended a meeting at the Swan in Dobcross, which the "Northern Star" reported under the heading "The Truckster Leaguers pounded to pieces". Another speaker, Dr. Sleight, denounced "the rich oppressor" and advocated the rights of labour (32). The search for an explanation and an answer to the relation of the workers to capital was also assuming an international dimension. The "Northern Star" ran a series on social philosophies and

reform movements on the continent, describing French socialism and communism and the German Hegelian philosophers and Weitling's communist workers' groups. The experiences of the British working class and the Chartists were in turn to have an effect on continental communists and social philosophers - not least Marx and Engels. From the meetings of the Saddleworth Chartists and from the "Plug Riot" of 1842 stems a continuous struggle to form a local organisation to further working class interests, although obviously this was not occurring in a vacuum. Its culmination was the formation of the Colne Valley Labour League and the election of Victor Grayson as M.P. Without the sacrifices of the domestic workers of the early nineteenth century in striving for a better existence even this achievement would have been impossible.

Concluded.

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4. Leeds Mercury, 29 July 1826 and 26 Aug. 1826
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9. Records in Uppermill Library. The Union has been described by A.C. Chadderton, "The Attempts to form a Woollen Weavers' Union in Saddleworth, 1827 and 1894", Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin, 2 and 3, 1972 and 1973; and by F. Singleton, "Industrial Revolution in Yorkshire"
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11. Leeds Mercury, 19 Dec. 1829
12. Leeds Mercury, 19 Mar. 1831
13. Leeds Mercury, 10 Sept. 1831
14. Halifax and Huddersfield Express, 29 May 1834; the close relationship of Saddleworth to Oldham is indicated by a report of Bouverie, General of Northern Command, 21 July 1834: "The population of Oldham is in itself extremely numerous and in conjunction with that of Saddleworth forms a mass of people bound and connected together by unions that is all together very formidable" (q. Foster J. "Class Struggle and the Industrial Revolution", London, 1974, 153)
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16. Leeds Mercury, 4 Apr. 1835; Leeds Mercury, 25 Aug. 1838
17. Leeds Mercury, 2 May 1835
18. Leeds Mercury, 22 Apr. 1837
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28. Northern Star, 24 Dec. 1841

29. Gammage R.C. "History of the Chartist Movement", London, 1969
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for same dates
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A.J. Brooke.

INTERIM REPORT ON THE MANOR FARM WELL-DIG,
SHELDERSLOW

(Grid Reference SD.962051)

In his book The Common Stream, Rowland Parker observes, "When every spring of water and every stream born of those springs was the object of veneration by groups of primitive men who knew, as surely and instinctively as the birds and beasts still know, though most men have forgotten, that the water of those springs and streams was Life itself".
(1)

Springhead, as the name suggests, has no shortage of these water sources. And in Springhead exists the hamlet of Shelderslow, this name being first recorded in 1297 as Scheldlau, which taken from the old Norse, Skjaldary Hlaw, seems to indicate, "a shieldmaker - a hill". (2) Was it then a Viking Settlement? Who knows at this distance of time.

In this district the wells are manifold, as previously recorded in Early History of Shelderslow and Grotton, by Hartley Bateson (3) and Springs and Wells in and around Lees, by Charles E. Higson (4). A list of these local wells is as follows:-

Sweeting Wall Spring, between Stonebreaks and Clayton (4)

Shelderslow Well, was the last to be used for drinking purposes
(3)

Blackleach Well, found to be contaminated in the eighties of the last century, and only fit for watering horses (3)

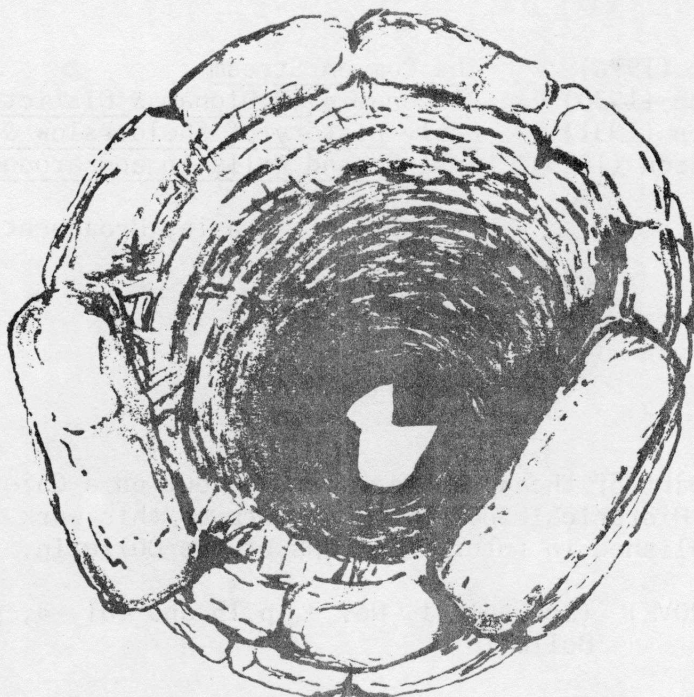
Pingot Well, was situated in a tiny plantation on the right of the approach to the Council School playground (3) - this name deriving from "pin-gout", a small source of water rising or gouting from the ground. Of very frequent occurrence in the Oldham area.

The well at Claytons, now utterly vanished, was in a field opposite to Claytons on the other side of Cooper Street (3)

All these wells were in fact public wells, the one concerned in this report seems to be a private well situated at No. 1 and No. 2 Manor Farm, Shelderslow, this being the residence of Mr. Malcolm Sweeting, who commenced the well-dig on Good Friday, the 4th April 1980. His surname

and the peculiar name of Sweeting Wall, "Therein rises the Sweeting Wall Spring. On the 19th April 1746 James, son of Matthew Morton, mason, and Mary, his wife, "de Sweeting Wall", was baptised at Saddleworth Church" (4), have no connection. It seems pure coincidence for Mr. Sweeting has only lived at Shelderslow since March 1967. No doubt he will draw strength from this thought throughout the arduous of the well-dig yet to come.

First knowledge of the well came in 1968 from Mr. Albert Lingard of No. 5 Shelderslow, who has lived there for 50 years. Initially, the well had 2 feet of earth over it, which when dug away exposed a perfect dry stone wall well-shaft of 41 inches internal diameter having an initial depth of 18 feet.



Manors Farm Well, Shelderslow.

The well shaft now stands at a depth of 21'6" after a season's digging by Mr. Sweeting assisted by his neighbours, Mr. Lingard, Mr. Brian Holland of No. 4 Manors Farm, who has a date-stone 1697 in his house, and Dr. Don Walton of Stamford Road. The Historical Society members on the dig last summer were Eric Baker, Alan Dunn, David Latimer and Stanley Broadbent.

The first item retrieved from the well was an old "Cherry Blossom" boot polish tin floating on the water; other items include a musket ball, a Christening spoon, harness, buckles, pieces of willow-pattern china, pipe stems and broken pipe bowls, which are no doubt worthy of dating.

Mr. Ken Wray of Grasscroft has memories on musket balls. Having been born at No. 3 Manors House and lived as a child in Shelderslow, he remembers finding hordes of musket balls in the bank of the brook to Ashes Farm, which is now culverted. Mr. Holland also found musket balls under the different levels of his flooring during the renovation of No. 4.

And it must be remembered that Cromwellian Troops were supposed to have lodged at the nearby Latham Hall.

Mr. Sweeting has another well in the flag floor of one of his end rooms, but it was concreted over and now has a wooden floor over it, so there is no way he is digging that well. Mr. Terry Wright at Walkers View has another well in a garage which is reputed to be 60 feet deep.

Another well-digging season approaches, and this year it should be easier, because we now have a tripod supplied by Mr. F.K. Stott of Grotton, which will be of great help in hauling the digging spoil from the well to the surface. Access to the well is gained by ladder.

If anyone is interested in joining this project ring Saddleworth 2870.

References

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| 1. | Rowland Parker (1976) | <u>The Common Stream</u> |
| 2. | Hartley Bateson (1930) | <u>Placenames of Oldham & Distict</u> |
| 3. | Hartley Bateson (1931) | <u>Early History of Shelderslow & Grotton</u> |
| 4. | Charles E. Higson (1925) | <u>Springs and Wells in and around Lees</u> |

Stanley Broadbent.

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 completed, details will be published in future editions of the Bulletin.

BALLGREAVE (BALL GROVE) (See Vol. 1, No. 3, p.15 and Vol. 3, p.74 of the Bulletin).

Additional information

1658	19 May	Francis Wheawall husbandman of Boegreave buried (Registers).
1658	18 Aug.	Mary Wheawall widdowe of Balegreave buried (Registers).
1723	3 Nov.	James son of Samuel Radcliffe clothier and Ann his wife of Bowgreave christened. Their daughter Ann was christened 13 Mar. 1726 and buried 21 Jan. 1728; another daughter Ann was christened 4 Feb. 1728. Their daughter Sarah was buried 10 Mar. 1728. (Registers).
1724	7 June	John son of John Wood clothier and Ann his wife of Bowgreave christened. (Registers)
1729	8 June	Mary daughter of Samuel Andrew clothier and Mary his wife of Bow-greave christened. (Registers)
1729	3 Nov.	Sarah daughter of Hugh Shaw clothier and Ann his wife of Bow-greave buried. Their son James was christened 31 May 1730, and their son Hugh buried 19 Apr. 1731. (Registers)
1733	5 Feb.	John son of Daniel Marsland clothier and Esther his wife of Bow-greave christened. (Registers)
1734	11 Aug.	Jane daughter of John Scholefield clothier and Sarah his wife of Bow-greave christened. Their son James christened 19 Feb. 1737. (Registers)
1738	11 May	Alexander Radcliffe of Bow-greave clothier married Sarah

Bottomley of Hollingreave. Their son Samuel was christened 1 July 1739, their son John on 3 Apr. 1743, their son Isaac on 26 Jan. 1746 (buried 3 Nov. 1776), their son James on 23 Aug. 1752 (died 26 Apr. 1818), their son William on 7 Sept. 1755. Sarah wife of Alexander Radcliffe of Bogleave died 19 July 1786 aged 70 and Alexander Radcliffe was buried 11 Apr. 1788 aged 73. (Registers)

1741 31 Dec. William Radcliffe of Bow-greave clothier married Rosamund Buckley of High Moor (daughter of Edmund Buckley innkeeper and Mary his wife). William and Rosamund later lived at Cross and then at Intake. William Radcliffe of Intake died 20 Aug. 1803 aged 85 and Rosamund died 25 Mar. 1755 aged 32. (Registers)

1744 20 May John Radcliffe of Hollins clothier married Sarah Wheawall of Bow-greave. (Registers)

1745 25 Apr. Lease for 31 years between 1) James Farrer (Lord of the Manor) 2) Alexander Radcliffe of Ballgreave clothier of messuage called Ballgreave now in the tenure of Radcliffe together with land containing 20 acres 3 roods 15 perches. (Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, SS.984)

1745 8 Dec. James son of Jonathan Scholefield clothier and Mary his wife of Ball-greave christened.

1746 13 July John son of William Collier clothier and Mary his wife of Ballgreave christened (buried 3 Aug. 1746). (Registers)

1748 23 Oct. William Hinchcliffe of Dobcross scribbler married Mary Shaw of Ballgreave. (Registers)

1749 1 Jan. Anne daughter of Mary Smith of Gowburn-clough spinster by James Radcliffe clothier of Ball-greave christened. 9 Jan. 1753 James Radcliffe of Ballgreave clothier married Mary Smith of Gowburn-clough. (Registers)

1750 18 Feb. John son of Joseph Hirst clothier and Anne his wife of Ballgreave christened. (Registers)

1753 15 May Ann Radcliffe of Ballgreave widow buried. (Registers)

26 Sept. Anne wife of Benjamin Hurst of Ballgreave clothier buried. (Registers)

25 Oct. Charles Garlick of Wallhill-barn clothier married Anne Radcliffe of Ball-greave. (Registers)

1762 28 Jan. Samuel Radcliffe of Ball-greave clothier married Sarah Winterbottom of Burn-edge. Their son Alexander was christened 13 June 1762; their daughter Sarah on 9 Jan. 1765; their daughter Betty was buried 28 Jan. 1790 aged 22. Sarah wife of Samuel Radcliffe of Ballgreave died 5 July 1776 aged 35. Subsequently Samuel Radcliffe married Betty ----. Their son Samuel was christened 14 Aug. 1785. Betty wife of Samuel Radcliffe of Ballgreave died 11 Apr. 1811 aged 71, and Samuel died 4 July 1813 aged 73. (Registers)

1786 7 Jan. John son of Hannah Harrop spinster of Shaws by Alexander Radcliffe of Bogleave christened. 16 Mar. 1786 Alexander Radcliffe of Boargreave married Hannah Harrop of Shaws. Hannah died 20 May 1831 aged 65. (Registers)

1790 7 Feb. Alexander son of William and Mary Radcliffe of Ballgreave christened (died 25 Oct. 1854). 27 Dec. 1790 (sic) William Radcliffe married Mary Blackburn sojourner. Their daughter Mary was christened 23 May 1796 (buried 8 Aug. 1797) and another daughter Mary on 21 July 1798 (died 20 Nov. 1813). William Radcliffe of Ballgreave died 23 Jan. 1826 aged 68 and Mary died 7 Sept. 1843 aged 77. (Registers)

- 1793 25 Aug. William son of John and Betty Johnson of Ballgriev christened;
their daughter Ann was christened 23 May 1796. (Registers)
- 1799 20 Oct. Samuel son of Robert and Ann Lees of Baldgreave christened;
Ann wife of Robert Lees buried 23 Sept. 1800. (Registers)
- 1835 The Church Rate Book lists Alexander Radcliffe as owner and
occupier of Ballgreave (including improvements and one
storey added). The other house at Ballgrave was owned by
Giles Shaw and occupied by James Wood.
- 1852 The Church Rate Book lists 4 dwellings at Ballgrave in the
two houses. One house was owned by Alexander Radcliffe and
occupied by himself and Aaron Radcliffe; the other house was
owned by Giles Shaw and occupied by William Cartside and
Daniel Lees.

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.

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

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