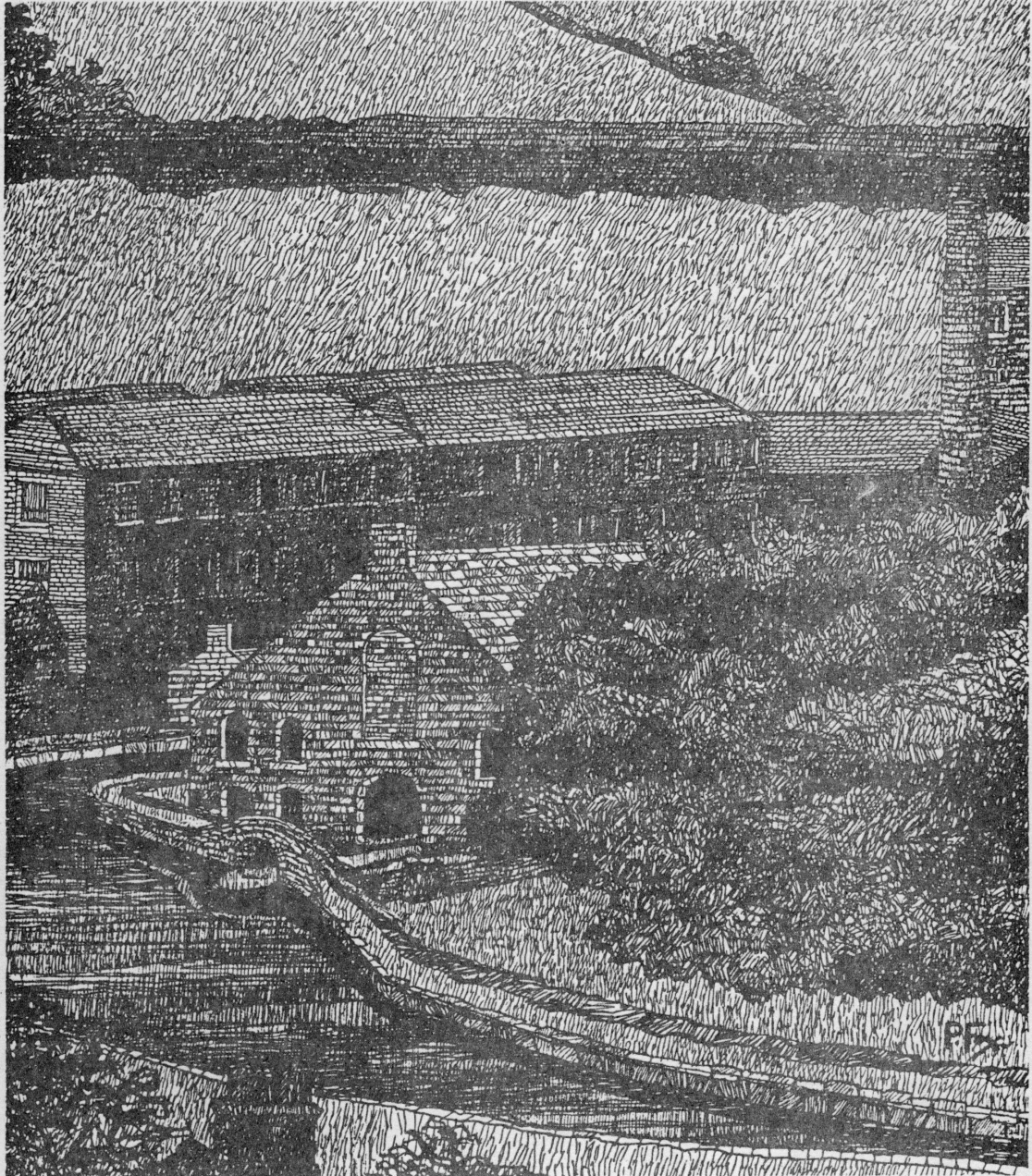


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



CANAL WAREHOUSE - WOOL ROAD - DOBCROSS. Ca.1900

Volume 11 Number 2 Summer 1981

BULLETIN
OF THE
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 11 Number 2
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THE FLINT IMPLEMENTS CONTROVERSY

On 1st January, 1910, an innocent letter appeared in the Saddleworth pages of the Reporter. This led to an exchange of further letters, and ultimately to much acrimony and disagreement involving several of Saddleworth's well-known personalities of the period. The correspondence has been extracted from the newspaper and is presented, annotated and only slightly edited, in two instalments.

1 January Can any of your readers say if flint implements have been found in Saddleworth? If so, where, and where can they be seen? Also, is there any local man engaged in this particular field of antiquarian research?

J. Stansfield, Greenfield

8 January I may say to your correspondent that flint implements might possibly be found on the hills around Saddleworth. The best place to look for them is on the tops of the hills where denudation has set in. I along with a friend have abundant evidence of pre-historic man on the hills around Mossley. I discovered one of their ancient "workshops" and I and my friends have found hundreds of flint chippings, and I am in possession of a very good stone hammer-axe-head.

S. Radcliffe, Post Office, Upper Mossley

15 January Your correspondent Mr. Radcliffe says that possibly flints have been found in Saddleworth. Some time ago Mr. Joseph Brierley of Delph (1) delivered a lecture on flints and said that implements had been found at Greenfield, Diggle and Cudworth. He also exhibited specimens which I understand he had purchased through a newspaper advertisement. These had, of course, no local interest. Still, the lecture was an interesting one.

J.S., Diggle

29 January Allow me to thank Mr. Radcliffe and J.S. for their replies to my query. I should like to see the implements which J.S. says were found at Greenfield, Diggle and Cudworth. Where is Cudworth? Is it a good flint site? I have looked about the site of the Chew Waterworks without finding even a chipping.

After what J.S. has said about Mr. Brierley's collection, I must say that I doubt its genuineness. Generally I look with suspicion upon all flint implements acquired through newspaper advertisements - for this reason, that flint implements are manufactured in Birmingham and quickly transferred to people in country districts, who then sell them to budding antiquarians as genuine specimens of prehistoric workmanship ...

J. Stansfield, Greenfield

29 January Will you kindly permit me to inform J.S. that there is no truth that flint implements have been found in Greenfield, Cudworth and Diggle.

A. Wrigley, Delph

5 February I thought of keeping out of this controversy, but last week's letters call forth a little explanation from me. The genuineness of the few flints I possess is questioned on the ground of being acquired through newspaper advertisements. In answer to this I may say that I did not get them in this way. I bought them from a worthy collector of some repute, and so far as they go they are genuine enough, and were not manufactured in Birmingham, nor yet made in Germany. They are genuine British implements, but I need not describe them here, because

your correspondents are seeking information of a local character, and these implements are too general.

Respecting the lecture I gave at Wrigley Mill School last October on "Stones", it will be just as well to refer to it and briefly give the particulars mentioned on the local prehistoric part of the subject ... Reference was made to the Transactions of the Yorkshire Geological Society who state that they found at Deign Clough (on Friarmere) 300 pieces of flint, 8 of which were worked, at March Hill 2300, 20 of which were worked, and at Pule Hill 212, 3 of which were worked ... (2)

All these relics go to show that primitive man sojourned upon our native hills. It is no stretch of imagination to say that the gallant hunters of the old neolithic stone age (3) traversed our hills and dales, and that the stones they have left behind are but their footprints in the sands of time.

Following this, I must refer to the stone celts found in Cudworth by Mr. William Watts during the construction of the Castleshaw Waterworks. I also referred to the find adze-head found some years since in Greenfield by the late Mr. R.T. Bradbury (4).

With respect to Diggie I said nothing of this place in the lecture nor yet of any prehistoric finds there. But at the close of the meeting a gentleman residing in that district showed to all present a rough piece of flint which he said he had found on the Diggie side of Harrop Edge ...
Joseph Brierley, King Street, Delph

12 February For reasons personal to myself I am at the moment not in a position to discuss, other than generally, questions of local prehistoric research. My reasons are connected with the projected publication of a paper on the subject (5).

This much however I can say to Mr. Stansfield - that I have found more flints, cores, flakes, chippings and implements on local moors than have been found by all the men in Saddleworth put together. Consequently Mr. Stansfield will see that I have not been compelled to resort to the somewhat shady expedient of buying questionable flints in order, as he says, to "show off".

On the 4th January this year, in one short afternoon, I picked up nearly 300 pieces of flint, on a Neolithic site a few miles from Delph, which is another thing from picking other people's brains.

A. Wrigley, Delph

19 February In regard to flint implements, the number which may be found in the district does not depend on "the picking of other people's brains" but on the amount of evidence that our own require in order to be satisfied as to the genuineness and authenticity of such implements. Flints are not uncommon on our hills, and there are places where one can pick up flint chips in abundance, but I regard these as evidence of old flint working, where gun flints were made. I know of no place that can be styled a "Neolithic hill", whatever that phrase may mean, and though I do not deny the former existence of Neolithic man in this neighbourhood, the general type of evidence adduced reminds me very much of some Neolithic remains exhibited at the entrance to the Cheddar Caves in Somersetshire, clay pipes and pieces of chert figuring largely in the contents of the cases.

W. Watson, Greenfield

19 February I wish to correct a statement in Joseph Brierley's letter. He says the "fine adze-head was found some years ago by the late Mr. R.T. Bradbury". This is incorrect, the implement was found at Spring Grove by a workman whilst excavating there, and he parted with it to Mr. Smith, who subsequently gave it to Mr. Bradbury. I was fortunate enough to see it when discovered, and the place from which it was dug.

J.B., Uppermill

19 February I was rather surprised at Mr. Ammon Wrigley's letter in last week's Reporter because it entirely omitted the question in dispute, which was flint relics at Greenfield, Cudworth and Diggle.

In the paper of 29th January, Mr. Wrigley stated that "there is no truth in the statement that flint implements have been found in Greenfield, Cudworth and Diggle".

The following week I wrote affirming that there was some truth in the statement made. But this week I find that Mr. Wrigley entirely evades the question.

Therefore I take it that he cannot substantiate the statement he made on the 29th January. If so, to put the matter in plain Saddleworth, "he's lost his kest".

Mr. Wrigley proceeds to boast of having found more flints, cores, chippings and implements than all the men in Saddleworth put together. Very well! I am not going to dispute this assertion. I will admit at once that I have found none on the moors, and when I have gone on the moors I have not gone for the purpose of picking up flints.

I am satisfied with the local flints I have seen, and the publications respecting them which have been issued, that an ancient neolithic people once sojourned among our hills and dales.

In my opinion, one well authenticated piece of flint bears as much testimony on the subject as 300 do, because the 299 only repeat the same evidence. But further, what advantage is it to pick up all the pieces of flint to be seen lying on the moors and carry them away?

I see no good in it, and if carried out to excess is nothing short of vandalism. I would rather let the moors repeat the story of prehistoric man to future generations by the evidence revealed in the flints as they lie silently upon the moorlands than have them disturbed and taken away.

We have no museum in Saddleworth, and if people will keep their meddling fingers to themselves we shall need none for some time to come.

Saddleworth district is a museum in itself, quaint, historic, and prehistoric, and so long as the time honoured relics which abound in our midst are not destroyed, removed, and lost to view of all interested in antiquarian subjects, just so long will Saddleworth continue to be an antique museum, and a most interesting neighbourhood for the study of geology, archaeology, architecture, old and fast decaying industries, old customs, religions, education, politics, arts and so on.

But once let the spirit of vandalism get rampant in the district, taking away and destroying our local relics, then we may say goodbye for ever to many things we now esteem.

There is another thought in Mr. Wrigley's letter with which I thoroughly agree. It is the last sentence where he says "that picking up flints is another thing from picking other people's brains".

This is very well put, and Mr. Editor, allow me to illustrate what I think Mr. Wrigley means here.

Some time ago a man, whose name I don't need to mention just now, went round our neighbourhood collecting information about the old legends and traditions. When he had collected sufficient, and "picked people's brains" he wrote a book and copyrighted it (6).

Now, this is what I take Mr. Wrigley to mean when he says that "picking up flints is another thing from picking other people's brains". Yes it is. There is a wide difference between the two, and I am sure Mr. Wrigley will agree with me, that it is unjust and unfair of anyone to try and monopolise the legends and traditions of the neighbourhood, and take away the relics of the district for their own selfish interest ...

Joseph Brierley, King Street, Delph

26 February For reasons stated in my previous letter I have no desire to

play even a minor part in this discussion. But Mr. Brierley is evidently anxious that I should reply to the various statements contained in his remarkable contributions to the subject. I will return to his letter of 5th February, and examine the statements in the order in which they appear. These statements are for the most part inadequate, erroneous and to the general reader grossly misleading. Mr. Brierley begins by giving the table of worked and unworked flints from the Proc. Yorks. Geo. and Polyt. Soc. For obvious reasons, Mr. Brierley suppresses the date; consequently the general reader assumes that the 3,824 pieces of flint are all that have been found up to the date of Mr. Brierley's lecture, 1909. The fact is that these 3,824 flints were found from 1879 to 1882.

He then proceeds to say that out of the 3,824 flints, "83 were worked celts and arrow heads". This statement, I beg to say, is inaccurate. The truth is that instead of "83 celts and arrow heads" there was one worked celt and three or four arrow heads of the leaf-shaped and stemmed double barbed types. Over 70 of the 83 implements were composed of worked flints, archaeologically classified as scrapers, graters, knives, borers, etc.

I will come to Mr. Brierley's next statement to the effect that two celts were found in Cudworth by Mr. William Watts. The celts were found by workmen engaged in the construction of the waterworks (7).

Mr. Brierley made the assertion that flint implements have been found in Diggle, Cudworth and Greenfield. I gave the assertion a direct contradiction. It then remained for Mr. Brierley to prove his assertion. This he has failed to do, and I am still awaiting the production of the necessary proofs. Let me ask Mr. Brierley to say who found the flint implements at the places named, of what type or character are they, and by whom were they identified as flint implements?

Not the least ridiculous part of Mr. Brierley's letter is that in which he treats of vandalism. When I read it my first impulse was to throw all my flints away, and, like Mr. Brierley, buy a collection. It is a peculiar characteristic of Mr. Brierley's newspaper correspondence that his letters invariably contradict each other. In his letter of 5th February he praises and glorifies the collecting from our moors of the 3,824 flints. Why? Because if those flints had not been collected Mr. Brierley would have no material for his lectures. In last week's letter he denounces the collecting of flints. Why? Because he has never collected any himself.

Although all living authorities, including Professor Boyd Dawkins, are opposed to Mr. Brierley on the point of vandalism, it does not follow that they are greater than he. If Mr. Brierley picked flints up from the moors that would be praiseworthy and legitimate work. It only becomes vandalism when I pick them up.

Ammon Wrigley

12 March When Mr. Wrigley stated in his four lined letter on 28th January "that there is no truth in the statement that flint implements have been found in Greenfield, Cudworth and Diggle", I felt in honour bound to defend my position, for although the statement is not mine, it originated from the impression my lecture gave to the people at Wrigley Mill. I have no intention to mislead anyone ...

The 3,824 are the total flints found by one society. I never inferred that these are all that have been found, as in the lecture I mentioned that other societies and individuals as having taken greater numbers of flints from the moors. I did not "praise and glorify" nor yet congratulate these town societies for their acts of vandalism on the neolithic sites which have been discovered on our moorlands in the lecture at Wrigley Mill. Any antiquarian would be proud to find a grant flint specimen fit to be placed in a museum. But to take away every splinter and chipping, is to strip the hills of every indication and evidence of pre-historic man, is no help, but a great hindrance to the science and study of

archaeology. This kind of vandalism is what I protest about ...

I come to the main contention, flint implements at Greenfield, Cudworth and Diggle.

Greenfield - First, Mr. Editor, allow me to thank your correspondent "J.B.", of Uppermill, for his correction. It is immaterial for the purpose of this controversy who found the adze-head. That it was found at Greenfield is all my argument requires.

Diggle - The large piece of flint produced at the meeting at Wrigley Mill proves beyond doubt that primitive man once inhabited Diggle Valley.

Cudworth - Mr. Wrigley says that I contradict myself, but when I come to deal with Cudworth and notice what he says about it, I find one of the most glaring contradictions that ever was put in print in his letter of last Saturday ... In the first place he admits that two celts were found in Cudworth, then he goes and contradicts his own statement. Really this is very poor logic. It does not matter who found them if they were found in Cudworth. Mr. Watts wrote a letter about them (Mr. Brierley then gives an extract from Mr. Watts' letter - Editor of Reporter).

I now claim to have proved the statement I made in the Reporter of 5th February ...

Mr. Wrigley is willing to admit that the flint chippings and various other implements have been found on the moorlands indicate the existence of man in pre-historic times, but anything not found on the moors he looks upon with great suspicion. He does not seem to conceive the idea that all the country was open for primitive man to go where he liked, and that after long ages of change and civilisation an ancient implement may yet be found in the centre of a modern town. But he clings to the notion that nothing can be genuine unless it hails from the moorlands ...

Joseph Brierley, King Street, Delph

To be concluded.

Notes

1. Joseph Brierley, a watchmaker and jeweller in Delph, was a prominent local character at that time. In June 1910 - shortly after the conclusion of the correspondence reprinted here - he published privately his small booklet, Prehistoric Saddleworth, which was based on articles in the Oldham Chronicle written in April and May of that year. Ammon Wrigley's book on the area's prehistory was actually in the press at the same time. Nevertheless he rushed out an immediate, vitriolic counterblast, in the form of a 2d. pamphlet entitled A Reply to Prehistoric Saddleworth, in which he dissected Brierley's work in scathing terms - continuing and repeating, in many ways, the points made in these letters.
2. This is a reference to a paper by R. Law and J. Horsfall, entitled Discovery of Flint Implements on the Hills between Todmorden and Marsden, Proc. Yorkshire Geological & Polytech. Soc., Vol. 8, 1882, pp. 1-15.
3. In 1910, when this correspondence took place, the concept of a Mesolithic (or Middle Stone Age) period was not yet realised. In the writers' minds the earliest stages of human culture prior to the first use of metal were divided into two: the Palaeolithic (or Old Stone Age), during which man subsisted by hunting and collecting; and the Neolithic (or New Stone Age) in which the domestication of animals and the cultivation of crops occurred. Before 1910, in the earlier days of the study of prehistory, a yawning gulf was thought

to exist between the Upper Palaeolithic and the true Neolithic period, and to fill this gap the famous "hiatus" theory was put forward, suggesting a period when Europe was completely devoid of population. However, certain cultures were discovered which fitted neither the Palaeolithic nor Neolithic periods. From the 1870's onwards numerous discoveries were made which increasingly demonstrated the existence of cultures between the Upper Palaeolithic and Neolithic, and these in Britain were traditionally called "Early" or "Old" Neolithic - hence the frequent references in the correspondence to implements belonging to the latter period. It was only after the First World War that the concept became generally accepted of a long period of time - christened the Mesolithic - between the hunting economy of the Palaeolithic people who inhabited Britain during the Ice Age and the farming of the Neolithic which reached this country round about 4,000 BC. It was during this long period of time, as the climate gradually ameliorated and man had to adapt himself to forest conditions and a hunter-gatherer existence, that the microliths of the Pennine moorland were fashioned and left behind; these are the flint implements referred to in the letters. Much of the correspondence is concerned with larger stone implements, "celts" as they were then called, largely consisting of the polished stone axes of Neolithic times.

4. The "fine adze-head" found in Greenfield was, in fact, not a stone implement at all, but a bronze palstave. This was found in 1860-1 on the site of the Co-operative Stores at Spring Grove, Greenfield. It is odd that Ammon Wrigley did not alight on this error in this series of letters - particularly as he illustrated the palstave in his book.
5. This is a reference to Ammon Wrigley's Saddleworth: its Prehistoric Remains, which was published in 1911, and is altogether a more substantial and knowledgeable version of events than Brierley's earlier work.
6. This is obviously an allusion to Ammon Wrigley's book, Saddleworth Superstitions and Folk Customs.
7. The "celts" found during the construction of the reservoirs at Castle-shaw were in fact Neolithic polished stone axes. One was found during the excavation of the higher reservoir in 1891, and the other was discovered in a rock cleft in Cudworth Quarry in 1887. Both were probably of Cumbrian origin, the allusion to "greenstone" referring to the characteristic colour of the volcanic rocks from that region, in particular from the Langdale area. They were certainly not flint. William Watts F.G.S. was the Manager of the Oldham Waterworks at the time of the axes' discovery. He lived for 25 years in the Piethorn valley until in 1897 he became waterworks manager for the City of Sheffield, and went to live at Deepcar. He had started his working life as a journeyman mason on the Liverpool waterworks, and his expertise in geology - for which he was later noted - must have had its foundations laid at this period. Later he became assistant surveyor as Ashton before becoming responsible for the construction of ten reservoirs for Oldham. During his stay in the Piethorn valley, he was a member of the Manchester Geological Society and contributed regularly to their lectures and excursions. The following are some of the lectures he gave to the Society which were printed subsequently in the Proceedings. (Copies can be found in the Local Interest Centre, Oldham). 27 April, 1880, "Geological Strata and Mode of Procedure in Driving a Tunnel at Saddleworth" - describes the tunnel between Marsh Bottom, Denshaw, and Piethorn. 6 June, 1882, "On a Section of Coal Measures in Saddleworth" - describes a geological section at Readycon Dean. 9 November, 1886, "Geological

Sketches at Piethorn and Denshaw". On 30 August, 1879, Watts led an excursion from Delph via Broadhead Noddle to Denshaw, at the end of which he gave a talk entitled, "The Surface Geology of the Pennine Range", at the Junction Inn. (A description of the walk and his actual lecture were also included in the Society's Proceedings, and can be read in the Local Interest Centre).

Bernard Barnes

SADDLEWORTH RECORDS

Part 4

The Beaumonts of Whitley Collection
in Huddersfield Public Library

In this large collection of documents there are nine deeds relating to land in Saddleworth. Deeds WBD/X/64-67, and possibly WBD/X/63 also, appear to be part of the title to Furlane. WBD/X/68-71 are all leases from the Ramsdens, then Lords of the Manor of Saddleworth, to various tenants.

The leases are particularly valuable in that they show the conditions under which the tenants for years at the beginning of the seventeenth century held their land from the Lord of the Manor. During the Middle Ages tenants held land in return for services due to the Lord. By the end of the Middle Ages most of these feudal services had been commuted to money payments or rents. The leases show that at this time several of the feudal conditions of tenure still survived: in particular the requirements of military service, the custom or service of boons in which tenants were required to supply hens or cocks to the Lord on certain feast days or other times of the year, the requirement for the tenants to grind their corn at the Lord's corn mill and to pay a toll called multure for this service, and the obligation to attend the Lord's Court Leet or Court Baron. By the end of the seventeenth century most of these services had disappeared, although the obligations to grind corn and to attend the Lord's Court survived until the breaking up of the Manor in 1791.

The Beaumont family were neighbours of the Ramsdens and the two families intermarried. This collection of Saddleworth deeds, which must have originally belonged to the Ramsdens, must have either passed to the Beaumonts by marriage or may have been acquired by Richard Henry Beaumont, a keen antiquarian, during the nineteenth century. The Ramsdens added Furlane to their Saddleworth possessions in 1602 when William Ramsden purchased two messuages called Greenfield Styght from George and William Hollingworth of Hollingworth Hall (1,2). These messuages were apparently sold to the tenants in 1637 (3); it is possible that the early title deeds were retained by the Ramsdens at this time.

WBD/X/63

Deed of Feoffment from William Welefed, chaplain (?), to Robert, son of Richard le Brown of Stavelegh, of all his messuages, land and tenements in Sadilworthefrith in the Vill of Quicke. Remainder to Richard, son of the aforesaid Robert and the lawful heirs of his body;

failing which to Edmund, brother of the aforesaid Richard and the lawful heirs of his body; failing which to John, brother of the aforesaid Edmund and the lawful heirs of his body; failing which to Adam, brother of the aforesaid John and the lawful heirs of his body; failing which to Philip, brother of the aforesaid Adam and the lawful heirs of his body; failing which to Robert, brother of the aforesaid Philip and the lawful heirs of his body; failing which to the heirs of Robert, son of Richard le Brown of Stavelegh. Witnesses: John deerneley, John vassal (?) of Robert de Quicke, Robert of Grotton, Edward of Hollingrave, Adam (?) son of Richard (?) of Sadilworth, Gilbert le Frenchesse and others. Dated at Sadilworth on the Sunday next after the Feast of the Apostles Philip and James in the twenty first year of the reign of Kind Edward son of King Henry (3 May 1293).
Endorsed on reverse: E. Davenport.

WBD/X/64

Deed of Feoffment from Robert, son of Adam del Fernylegh, to Thomas de Staveley and Thomas de Oldham, of all his messuages, land and tenements in Sadylworthfryth in the Vill of Qwyke which he has held since the death of Adam, his father. Witnesses: Sir John de Assheton, Robert de Staveley, Robert del Schagh, Richard del Haukyerd, John del Fernylegh and others. Dated at Sadylworth the Sunday after the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mary in the sixth year of the reign of King Henry the fourth since the conquest (16 August 1405).
Endorsed on reverse: This is a parcell of evidence of John Fernele.

WBD/X/65

Deed of Feoffment from John Fernele, son and heir of John Fernele, to Richard Fretwell of Owlcottes, Roger Fretwell of Heleby, John Fretwell son and heir of the aforesaid Richard Fretwell, and William Fernele brother of the first John Fernele, of all his land and tenements in the Parish of Sadilworth frythe called Grenefeld Sty. Witnesses: Hugh Schulfeld, Lawrence Schawe, Thomas Hardewyk, Alexander Schulfeld, Robert Rypley and many others. Dated at Grenfeld Sty on the tenth of August in the eleventh year of the reign of King Henry the eighth (1519).

WBD/X/66

Deed of covenant whereby John Fernele of Kyrkeby in Asshefeld, Co. Notts. yeoman, who has enfeoffed John Holynworthe of Mottram in Longdendale, Gent., with two messuages, lands and tenements in Sadilworthe, covenants to sell the same to John Holynworthe for the sum of twenty three pounds, paid over a period of six years at the Feasts of St. Martin in winter and Pentecost, in the Parish Church of Mottram at the altar of Our Blessed Lady. John Holynworthe in turn covenants to immediately enfeoff John Fernele with the said lands if John Fernele pays to him the sum of ten pounds at any time during the six years. Dated the twenty ninth of June in the eighteenth year of the reign of King Henry the eighth (1526).
Endorsed on reverse: John Fernele to John Holynworth, Deed of Covenant 24 June 1532.

WBD/X/67

Quitclaim by John Hollenwurth of Hollenwurth Hall, Co. Chester, Esq. to John Shawe of Sadlewurth, husbandman of all his title, interest etc. in one messuage or tenement with all the lands etc. in the Parish of Sadlewurth in the occupation of the said John Shaw, George Shaw and James Shaw, brother of the said John Shaw. Dated the thirty first of March in

the fourteenth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1572).
Endorsed on reverse: On the day and year within mentioned this release was sealed and delyvered in the presence of Robt. Holynworth, John Cheth'm, Henry Cheth'm, Rauff Whitehead & James Scoofeld with others.

WBD/X/68

Lease by William Ramesden of Longley Hall Co. Yorks. Esq. and Mary his wife to James Whewall of Ballgreave within the Lordship of Saddleworth, husbandman, of the messuage etc. in Saddleworth now in his occupation from the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary last past for twenty one years, in consideration of twenty eight pounds already paid to William Ramesden and then paying yearly twelve shillings and eight pence at the Feasts of Pentecost and St. Martin the Bishop in winter in even portions, and three fat hens yearly at Christmas. James Whewall to bring his corn to some convenient milne of William Ramesden in Saddleworth to be grounded and moultered, to do service at the Court of William Ramesden within the Manor or Lordship of Saddleworthe, to maintain the good repair of the property and to aid and bear part of the charge with William Ramesden when he shall be called upon to serve in the wars with the King's most excellent majesty or to find or make forth any men, horses or any part of armour as other tenants of William Ramesden in Saddleworth shall do. Also for any tenant of William Ramesden, by his or his bailiffs appointment, to dig up and convey away marle from the said premises. And James Whewall not to let or assign the premises to any other person, save his wife in her widowhood or one of his children, without the special licence of William Ramesden obtained in writing. Dated the twenty ninth of May in the tenth year of the reign of King James (1612).

WBD/X/69

Lease by William Ramesden of Longley Hall, Co. York, Esq. and Mary his wife to John Whewall of Hawkeyard within the Lordship of Saddleworth, husbandman, of a moiety and undivided half part of the messuage etc. called Hawkeyard within the Lordship of Saddleworth now in the joint or several tenures of the said John Whewall and his father George Whewall from the second of February last past for twenty one years, in consideration of twenty five pounds already paid to William Ramesden and then paying yearly fourteen shillings and seven pence half penny. Conditions of tenure as in WBD/X/68. Dated the sixth of August in the eleventh year of the reign of King James (1613).

An attached indented memorandum of agreement between William Ramesden and Mary his wife and George and John Whewall grants to William Ramesden for a period of twenty years the new buildings lately erected at Hawkeyard.

Endorsed on reverse: Sealed and delyveryd in the presence of Thomas Frenche (alias Marrelewe) (who signs Thomas Marrelew) Martin Akroid and Edmonde Hopkinson.

WBD/X/70

Lease by Sir John Ramsden of Longley, Co. Yorks. Knight to Edward Hawkyard of Wallhill within the Township of Saddleworth, husbandman of a moiety and undivided half part of the messuage etc. called Wallhill within the Lordship of Saddleworth late in the tenure of Oliver Hawkyard, father of the said Edward Hawkyard, from the eleventh of November last past for twenty one years paying yearly six shillings and ten pence at the Feasts of Pentecost and St. Martin the Bishop in Winter by even

portions and additionally paying yearly thirty four shillings and two pence on the same occasions. Conditions of tenure as in WBD/X/68 except no mention of requirements for military service. If Edward Hawkyard pays twenty pounds and ten shillings to Sir John Ramsden before the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel next ensuing at his dwelling house called Longley Hall, then the only annual payment shall be that of six shillings and ten pence. Dated the twenty first of January in the twenty first year of the reign of King James (1623).

WBD/X/71

Lease by Dame Anne Ramsden, widow, late wife of Sir John Ramsden, Knight, deceased to Robert Shay of Sadleworth, husbandman, of the messuage etc. in Sadleworth now in his tenure, from the date of the deed for forty years paying yearly eight shillings and seven pence at the Feasts of Pentecost and St. Martin the Bishop in winter in even portions and two fat hens yearly at the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle. Conditions of tenure as in WBD/X/68 except no mention of requirements for military service. Dated the first of March 1648/9. Endorsed on reverse: Sealed and delivered in the presence of Robt. Broadbent, Michall Shawe, Jo. Watmough.

The de Staveley Family and their Saddleworth Holdings

WBD/X/63 and 64 are just two old charters by which the de Staveleys came into possession of lands in Saddleworth. Several other charters exist whereby the family added to their Saddleworth holdings. By the end of the Middle Ages the de Staveleys appear to have held a large proportion of the cultivated land in Quickmere, in particular, Grotton, Shelderslow and Thornlee, much of the land in Lordsmere and Shawmere to the south of Chew Brook, including Fernlee and Whitelee, and messuages at Woolroad and Hollingreave (4).

Richard le Brown of Staveley appears as a witness to another charter dated about 1279 in which Robert de Stapleton endows the Chapel of Saddleworth with 13 acres of land (5). The de Staveley estates appear to have descended first to Robert son of Richard le Brown of Staveley, then to his son Robert and following this to yet another Robert, son of the latter. This Robert de Staveley in 1378 was involved in a Trial by Combat for the disputed overlordship of certain freehold lands in Staveley (6). His champion in the combat was Ralph de Staveley, his son, and it was to this son that the estates passed after his death. Ralph de Staveley is probably the fifteenth century de Staveley knight whose effigy lies (or lay) in Mottram Parish Church (7). The last of the de Staveleys was another Ralph de Staveley, nephew to the first, whose will was dated 1456. One of the conditions of this will was that his daughter Elizabeth should be married to Thomas de Assheton, heir to the Manor of Ashton under lyne. This marriage took place and the de Staveley estates including their Saddleworth holdings thus passed into the Assheton family. Following the death of Sir Thomas Assheton in 1514, the extensive Assheton possessions passed by the marriage of Sir Thomas's daughter Margaret with William Booth of Dunham, Esq., into the Booth family, later Lords Delamere and Warrington.

By virtue of their Quickmere holdings and the associated rights of common, the Booths acquired a large proportion of Quickmere following its enclosure in 1625 (8,9). Most of the Saddleworth holdings were sold off by the Booths in the 1630's. In particular, Grotton, Shelderslow, Whitlee, Woolroad and Hollingreave, together with large awards of enclosed waste, were sold to John Buckley of Grotton and John Winterbottom of

Stonebreaks in 1635 (10,11). Some of the newly enclosed land, however, remained with the Booths and their descendants, the Earls of Stamford, and are part of the Stamford Estate at the present day.

The Ramsdens

The Ramsdens of Longley Hall near Huddersfield were Lords of the Manor of Saddleworth and Quick from 1590 until 1654. The manor was purchased by John Ramsden and his son William Ramsden from Francis Tunstall of Thurland, Lancs., by charter dated 20 December, 1590 (12). The father, John Ramsden, died either the same year or early in the next, an Inquisition Post Mortem on his estates being held at York in the same regnal year (13). William Ramsden the son was Lord of the Manor until his death in 1623 (14). This William Ramsden bought the Manor of Huddersfield from the Crown in 1599, and considerably added to his Saddleworth estates by purchasing Shawmere from the Radcliffes of Ordsall in 1604 (15) and Quickedge from William Stubbs, Esq., of Congleton in 1606 (16), as well as numerous other smaller purchases. He was succeeded by his son, Sir John Ramsden.

Born in 1594 and knighted in 1619, Sir John Ramsden became Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1626, M.P. for Pontefract in 1628 and 1640, and fought at the King's side and was taken prisoner at Selby in 1644, when he was committed to the Tower for High Treason, but later released. He was killed at Newark Castle and buried in the Parish Church there in 1646. He married, first, Margaret, daughter of Sir Peter Frecheville, Kt. of Staveley, Derbs., and secondly Ann, daughter of Lawrence Overton of London. Sir John Ramsden was succeeded on his death by his son William Ramsden (born 1625) who on 9th August, 1654, sold the Saddleworth Manor for £2,950 to William Farrer, Esq. of Ewood, Co. Yorks. This last Ramsden to be Lord of the Manor of Saddleworth died in 1679, and was succeeded by John Ramsden, created baronet in 1689. The Ramsdens kept their Huddersfield estates until 1920 when the sixth baronet sold them to Huddersfield Corporation.

Early Ancestry of the Mallalieu Family

The value of these and other newly discovered Saddleworth records is illustrated by the new light they shed on the origins of the Mallalieu family. Thomas Frenche (alias Marrelewe) who witnesses Deed WBD/X/69 would certainly appear to be the ancestor of the Saddleworth Mallalieus. This reference to him in 1613 is predated by another in 1588 in the inventory of James Kenworthy of Saddleworth. In a list of debts to Kenworthy, Thomas Marralew alias French of the Parish of Saddleworth, yeoman, is mentioned as owing 11s. 8d. The title "yeoman" at this early date is quite unusual, and shows him to be a man of some substance, either a freeholder, or, more probably, the holder of a lease for life. The absence of any reference to him in either Lordsmere or Quickmere records at this time points to his being a resident in Shawmere, and as such a tenant of the Radcliffes.

Although the surname "French" was not uncommon in Yorkshire in these times, the above references, coupled with the early spelling of the surname as "Marrelewe" rather than "Mallalew", do tend to give support to the family legend that the earliest member of the family to reside in Saddleworth was a French Huguenot who was associated with Robert Radcliffe of Shaw Hall (17). He is referred to again simply as Thomas Mallelew in the will and inventory of Robert Broadbent of Saddleworth in 1604 and in the inventory of Richard Kenworthy of Saddleworth in 1616 (spelt Maralew). Also, in the will of Edmund Buckley of Saddleworth in 1606, Agnes Marralow, the wife of Thomas Marralow, is named as a legatee. There are no further references to Thomas Marrolew after 1616. However, in the same year a letter in the Ramsden

Collection (18) complains about Wrigley Maralew, miller and tenant of William Ramsden, encroaching upon ancient rights of way. Since the only corn mills on the manor at this time were Uppermill and Frenches, it is tempting to conclude that both Thomas and Wrigley Mallalieu were resident at Frenches, and that Thomas therefore was a tenant of the Radcliffes.

The last reference to Wrigley Mallalieu is in a list of debtors in the will and inventory of George Broadbent of Harrop in 1629, when Widow Mallalew and her son George are listed as owing 20 shillings. That the latter is the same George Mallalieu whose will was proved in 1674 seems almost certain, as in this will reference is made to a brother, Wrigley Mallalieu. The descendants of this George Mallalieu can be clearly traced down to the present day. It should be noted that the early part of the previously published pedigree of the family (19) is quite erroneous.

References

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- (3) Feet of Fines, Yorkshire, Easter Term 1637. John Ramsden, Kt. and Anne his wife, to Lawrence Kinder, John Shaw Sr., John Shaw Jr., Edward Shaw and John Scholefield. 3 messuages etc. in Saddleworth. Public Record Office, Feet of Fines, CP 25 (2) 523.
- (4) The Stayley Rental (1397 - c.1430). Original c.1960 in the Stamford and Warrington Estates Office, Ashton-under-Lyne; now apparently lost. Mss. notes on the Rental by W.M. Bowman in Lancashire Record Office DDX 350.
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- (6) England in Ashton under Lyne, W.M. Bowman, Ashton, 1960, p. 95.
- (7) History of Cheshire, G. Ormerod, 2nd Edition, 1882, p. 866.
- (8) Quickmoor, C.E. Higson, Trans. Lancs. & Cheshire Antiq. Soc. Vol. 39, 1921.
- (9) Saddleworth Records, Part 2, Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin, Vol. 10, No. 3, Autumn 1980.
- (10) Old Charter of 1635 in possession of R.F. Buckley, Esq., the heir to the Grottonhead Estates in the early nineteenth century. Abstract in Edwards Collection, Saddleworth Historical Society Archives.
- (11) Feet of Fines, Yorkshire, Michaelmas Term 11 Chas. I (1635). George Booth, Knight & Baronet, William Booth, Esq., & Peter Clarke to John Buckley & John Winterbottom. 13 messuages etc. in Quickmere, Quick, Saddleworth and Saddleworth Fryth. Public Record Office, Feet of Fines,

CP 25 (2) 522.

- (12) Saddleworth Records, Part 1, Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin, Vol. 10, No. 2, Summer 1980.
- (13) Inquisitions Post Mortem, Yorkshire, 33 Elizabeth I (1590/1). Public Record Office, Inq. P.M. C142/229/124.
- (14) Inquisitions Post Mortem, Yorkshire, 20 James I (1623). Public Record Office, Inq. P.M. C142/393/165 also Wards 7/66/104.
- (15) Feet of Fines, Yorkshire, Hilary Term 1604. John Radcliffe, knight & Alice his wife to William Ramsden, Esq. 18 messuages, 3 cottages, 20 barns, 1 water corn mill etc. in Sadleworthe & Quicke. Public Record Office, Feet of Fines, CP 25 (2).
- (16) Feet of Fines, Yorkshire, Michaelmas Term, 4 James I (1606). William Stubbs, Esq. to William Ramsden, Esq. 11 messuages etc. in Sadleworthe and Quicke. Public Record Office, Feet of Fines, CP 25 (2).
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Michael Buckley

"PRATTY FLOWERS" - A YORKSHIRE MYSTERY

(This article is a shortened version of an investigation which appeared in The Dalesman, September 1963, pp. 467-470, and has been reprinted here by kind permission of the Editor).

It is strange that the Yorkshire Pennines, the home of such a great musical tradition, should have so little traditional music. We have nothing to compare with the lively musical heritage of the Welsh valleys or our neighbours north of the Tees.

Even our two "national anthems" are foreign products, lifted from hymn books and chosen, too, for square and stolid impressiveness, rather than for any great imaginative quality. The one called "Ilkla Moor", alias "Cranbrook", is a joke at the expense of a tune which was not originally intended to have any local associations. The other, known as "Yorkshire", or "Stockport", or "Christians Awake", comes from the wrong side of the hills.

There remains another "anthem" which would seem to be a horse of a different colour, with a background mysterious enough to challenge investigation. It was first printed in 1857 as "Pratty Flowers, an ancient ballad", described as having been "harmonised and arranged" by Joseph Perkins, and dedicated by him to Mr. C.S. Floyd.

Perkins was an enthusiastic and largely self-taught musician. Shortly before the publication of the song he had become the first honorary conductor of the Holmfirth Choral Society, of which Floyd was president. There is a strong presumption that the four-part arrangement of "Pratty Flowers" was in their repertoire before it was given to the world at large. Its association with the town soon earned it the nickname by which it is still known, "The Holmfirth Anthem".

The melody, originally a free and somewhat irregular affair, has been given a more formal pattern by the simple device of repeating each half before going on to the next. This is - in the strict sense of the term - a classic way of establishing musical form, and the idea underlies most of eighteenth century instrumental music.

Later this technique of construction was taken over by glee-composers like Spofforth, whose life-span coincided almost exactly with Beethoven, and whose "Hail, Smiling Morn" might almost be called a Scarlatti sonata in vocal terms. The Glee Unions of the West Riding were greatly attached to the work, and Perkins must have been familiar with the principles of "regular" composition which lay behind it.

We may note that he claims merely to have "harmonised" the song, and that he says nothing about the words. These, omitting the repetitions, comprise the three rough stanzas which follow:

Abroad for pleasure as I was a-walking,
It was one summer, summer's ev'ning clear,
O there I beheld a most beautiful damsel
Lamenting for her shepherd dear.
The dearest ev'ning that e'er I beheld thee,
Ever, evermore with the lad I adore.
Wilt thou go fight yon French and Spaniards?
Wilt thou leave me thus, my dear?
No more to yon green banks will I take thee,
With pleasure for to rest thyself and view the lands;
But I will take thee to yon green gardens,
Where the pratty flowers grow.

It should be noted that this is a "preferred" version, because alternative words have been sung at certain points. These include "'Twas there" in line 3, "recline" for "rest thyself", and the very plausible "lambs" in place of "lands".

In any case the words considered as a complete poem lie open to three severe criticisms: they don't scan very well, they don't rhyme very much, and they don't really make sense. One has a feeling that the poet was not terribly worried about rhyme or scansion, and that he gave up readily on the technical front.

Yet the breakdown in sense is so abrupt and complete that no writer, however simple-minded, can possibly have meant it that way. Something quite disastrous has happened to the middle of the story, and the only satisfactory explanation is that several lines have been omitted, while others have been reproduced in a garbled form.

Possibly at some stage before the publication of the song, the missing passages had been forgotten, and crude attempts made to gloss over their absence. The existence of some uncertainty about particular words, even since publication, supports the belief that the poem was traditional, and that it was not written specially to accompany Perkins' version of the tune.

This impression is very strongly reinforced by the general character of the song, and especially the first stanza. Here we clearly have a variant of the stock folk-song, "As I walked out". The grammatical structure is loose and casual, but the vocabulary is quite elegant. Even the word "shepherd" has behind it a hint of a pastoral tradition.

Over 50 years ago an old Wiltshire man in Southampton Workhouse sang five stanzas of a song to Dr. Vaughan Williams, and this was later printed under the title of "Through the Groves". In this song the narrator also meets a "damsel" who laments the loss of a shepherd. There is no mention of any military commitments - the lover had simply gone overseas. A shorter version of four stanzas, later published by F. Keel, was even more vague on this point - the young man had just "gone away". In each case, however, the words seem reasonably coherent and complete, and there appears to be nothing more to the story than the lover's departure and the distress of his sweetheart. In each case, also, the melody opens and closes like that of the Yorkshire song, but elsewhere it takes its own way.

What is the link between Wiltshire and the Holme Valley? At what stage did the shepherd become involved in the wars, and which war in particular? And what is the exact nature of the happy ending which seems to be hinted at in "Pratty Flowers", but which is missing from the Wiltshire versions?

There seems to be no reliable answer to these questions, but it is worth noting that Perkins did not say that his work was based on a Yorkshire song. On the other hand, he was not a very widely-travelled man, and the word "pratty", though not distinctively Yorkshire, does seem like a deliberate attempt to suggest dialect.

This does not prove that he did not import both words and melody from elsewhere. It is a well-known fact, however, that folk-song themes have a strangely universal quality, and often appear in widely-separated places without obvious geographical connections. "Pratty Flowers" has elements which do not appear in "Through the Groves", and these are probably authentic Yorkshire folk elements.

One of them is the wartime background - the lover is off to fight "yon French and Spaniards". This fact has been used to date the original song at the period of the Peninsular War, but it is impossible to think of a less conclusive piece of evidence. In the struggle against Napoleon the Spanish people became, in fact, our allies. The conjunction of French and Spaniards as enemies would fit a number of earlier wars much better.

There are, however, three more related melodies. The tune of "Bold General Wolfe" is a traditional song which enjoyed a wide popularity in several versions, one closely associated with Wiltshire. Another is an air published in 1783, with words "Distress me with these tears no more", addressed by a young man going overseas to the girl he is leaving behind him. Thirdly, there is a hint of kinship in a German love song dating back to around 1640.

It has been suggested that the melody of "Distress me with these tears" provided the basis for that of "Bold General Wolfe". But one feels that a date after 1783 (Quebec having been taken from the French in 1759) is curiously late for the sudden appearance of a song about Wolfe. Is it possible - especially considering the nature of the words - that "Distress me with these tears" itself represents an early published adaptation from traditional stock? As for the similarity of the German melody, this may be purely fortuitous.

There is another possibility. Our melody already seems to be associated with eighteenth century wars. Did the tune itself come to this country as a prize of war, in much the same way that "Lili Marlene" became popular during the 1940's? During the three great European conflicts of the eighteenth century, British troops saw service in the Low Countries and Germany and encountered the Prussian armies, both as allies and as enemies. If these adventures failed to leave their mark on the barrack-room ballads of the day, then soldiers have changed more than most of us think.

If, on the other hand, such a tune was imported in this way, then it would be a natural both for heroic pieces like "Bold General Wolfe" and for the expression of the more persistent theme of "the girl left behind".

If we are on the right lines here, and if the earliest association of the melody in England were with soldiers and wars, the Holmfirth Anthem is more faithful to the tradition than the vague Wiltshire versions. At all events it suggests, in spite of its garbled form, a fuller and more satisfying story.

Our approach to the reconstruction of the full version depends partly on the identity of the "I" in the third verse, and the most probable explanation seems to be that the song develops, after the narrator's introduction, into a dialogue between the damsel and her shepherd, who comforts her with the enigmatic promise of future meetings in "yon green gardens". But why "no more to yon green banks"? The implied contrast is between wild, open country and tamed, cultivated plots. This suggests a connection with the enclosures of open grazing land characteristic of the so-called "agricultural revolution" in the eighteenth century. It also supplies a plausible reason for a shepherd's loss of employment and his departure for foreign lands, either as a soldier or as an emigrant.

We have already noted that it is the vigorous middle section of

the melody which is absent from the other versions, and here, surely, we can detect the hand of Perkins guided by his experience of choral music. In the last verse this section rises to a climax which has been dear to the hearts of several generations of singers. It is a simple, almost obvious device, but completely effective. Perkins was an amateur musician who earned his living as a wool-sorter. In "Pratty Flowers" he seems to have caught the very moment of transition from folk music to working-class music.

Walter Pickles and
Norman Kerrod

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.

STONES

Grid Reference: SD 984071

Location: Situated at 670 feet O.D. on the western slopes of the Tame valley south of Delph, it is just below the A.62 road to Oldham - originally the second line of the Wakefield-Austerlands turnpike road, constructed soon after 1778 (see 1785 reference below). The 1770 Manorial Survey indicates that the Stones Estate was a large one, over 43 acres. It had been divided around 1758 by the building of the first Wakefield-Austerlands road (the present Thurston Clough Road) across its upper slopes, and the 1778 realignment of the same road was to divide it yet again. These divisions were reflected in the breaking up of the estate, and this is described below. Thus the 1848 Ordnance Survey map calls Stones "Lower Stones". "Higher Stones" shown on the map is the present day Stoneswood. A third estate hived off from the original was that of Slackfield (see Bulletin, Vol. 10, 1980, 38-39).

Description: Originally a fine example of a weaver's cottage with a long mullioned window giving light to the workroom. The present structure, a hotch-potch of styles completely foreign to the area, appears as though it was thrown together by a committee, each member of which insisted on having his contribution represented in the final building!

History: 1639 12 June. Will of William Kenworthy of Stones. To his eldest son Robert he left "the farm I noe occupy under Sir John Ramsden, Knight". William Kenworthy was buried 3 Aug. 1639. (Registers).

1692 6 May. Will of William Buckley of Stones, husbandman. Lease of estate (held for a term of years, ten yet in being) bequeathed to wife Ann and brother in law (?) James Broadbent, son of Abraham Broadbent. Witnesses James Buckley, Henry Buckley (both of Wall Hill?), James Woolfenden and Henry Whittaker. William Buckley's inventory was dated 18th May, 1692. He was possibly one of the Wall Hill Buckleys, and may have lived at Stones as early as the 1660's.

- 1719 Rental lists William Buckley of Stones. A William Buckley is also listed in the 1731 and 1744 rentals, and all these mention leases for lives.
- 1722 6 Nov. Jane wife of William Buckley of Stones buried (Registers). Jane Winterbottom had married William Buckley at Rochdale on 27 July, 1707. They had 5 children: Abel, christened 23 Oct. 1715 (see below); Robert, who was later a clothier and then an inn-keeper of Wallhill and Doctor Lane Head, was buried 11 Aug. 1795 (also see below); Henry; William (see below); and Mary (who later married John Dale).
- 1724 5 June. Jane daughter of William Broadbent clothier and Jane his wife of Stones christened (buried 1 June 1727) (Registers).
- 1725 21 Feb. Mary daughter of Henry Broadbent clothier and Sarah his wife of Stones christened (Registers).
- 1730 30 Nov. William Buckley junior of Stones married Elizabeth Wrigley of Broadhead. They had 2 children: Henry, christened 27 June 1731; and Jane, christened 23 Mar. 1733 (she married John Buckley of Philips, clothier 6 Jan. 1757). Elizabeth, wife of William Buckley of Stones, was buried 25 May 1737.
- 31 Dec. Thomas Shaw junior of Boarshurst clothier married Jane Buckley of Stones (Registers).
- 1735 27 July. Hannah daughter of Philip Buckley clothier and Margaret his wife of Stones christened (buried 10 Oct. 1735). A second daughter Hannah was christened 19 Sept. 1736 (Registers).
- 1739 19 Jan. Henry son of Anna Whitehead of Delph-hill spinster by Abel Buckley of Stones husbandman christened. Their son John was christened 5 July 1741 and buried 10 Aug. 1742. On 18 June 1749 John son of Martha Wheawall spinster of Hollingreave by Abel Buckley husbandman of Stones christened. Their son James was christened 27 Mar. 1752. James son of Alice Bradbury of Garners spinster by Abel Buckley of Stones was christened 7 Feb. 1756. Abel son of Martha Wheawall of Hollingreave spinster by Abel Buckley was christened 18 Oct. 1761. Sarah daughter of Jane Hall widow of Cotemans by Abel Buckley of Stones was christened 7 Oct. 1763 and buried -- Aug. 1766. Anne daughter of Alice Bradbury of Garners spinster by Abel Buckley of Stones was christened 19 Jan. 1764 and buried 24 Jan. 1764. Anne daughter of Martha Wheawall of Hollingreave spinster by Abel Buckley was christened 20 May 1764. Sarah daughter of Alice Bradbury spinster of Garners by Abel Buckley of Stones was christened 6 May 1766. Abel Buckley of Stones married Martha Whewell of Hollingreave 19. Nov. 1767. Martha died 28 May 1770 aged 48. Abel Buckley of Hollingreave died 24 Jan. 1773 aged 59 (Registers).
- 1740 22 Feb. William Buckley senior of Stones yeoman buried (Registers).
- 3 Jan. Robert Buckley of Stones clothier married Alice Bentley of Boarshurst. Alice was buried 17 Apr. 1740. Their son William was christened 12 Apr. 1740. 6 May 1742 Robert Buckley of Stones clothier married Mary Milnes sojourner (Registers).
- 1750 Court Roll: William Buckley occupied tenement at Stones, under lease for three lives of which the said William Buckley was the only surviving life.
- 1764 6 Nov. Betty Buckley of Stones buried (Registers).

- 1770 In the 1770 Survey of the Manor, Stones was tenanted by William Buckley. The estate contained 43 acres 2 roods and 29 perches, made up by the following fields: Meadow under the House, Lowerwood Meadow, Lower Field and Shrogg, Upper Field, Field at Door, Hey, New, Heyhead Field, Slack Field, Kicknabwaste, Lower One Furr, Higher One Furr, Great Meadow, Long Butts, Birches, Clay Butt, Lower Longlands, Calf Meadow, Smithy Croft, Upper Longlands, Little Field.
- 1774 23 Dec. William Buckley yeoman of Stones buried (Registers).
- 1775 16 May. James son of Widow Buckley of Stones buried (Registers).
- 1778 31 July. Indenture between 1) James Farrer, Lord of the Manor, 2) James Lees of Thurston Clough, 3) William Thompson of Wakefield, concerning barn called the Upperbarn in a field called Slackfield, together with the following fields - Little Hey above the Turnpike Road, New, Heyhead Field, Slack Field, Kirknabwast, Higher One Furr, all now or late in the occupation of John Harrop and containing 11 acres 0 roods 11 perches (Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, CD 423).
28 Nov. Indenture between 1) James Farrer, 2) Samuel Heginbottom of Dobcross, shopkeeper, 3) Daniel Maude and Francis Maude, both of Wakefield, merchants, concerning messuage at Stones, late in the occupation of John Harrop, now in two dwellings occupied by Josiah Lawton and James Lawton, together with the following fields - Field at the Door, Upperfield, Lowerfield, Lowerfield Shrogg, Lowerwood Meadow, Meadow under the House, Smithy Croft, Calf Meadow, Great Hey on the lower side of turnpike road, all late in the occupation of John Harrop, but now of Josiah Lawton and James Lawton; and the following fields - Little Field, Lower One Furr, Great Meadow, Long Butt, Clay Butt, Birches, Lower Longlands and Upper Longlands, late in the occupation of John Harrop but now of Richard Turner, in all totalling 32 acres 2 roods 18 perches (Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, CE 48).
- 1779 8 May. Josiah Lawton clothier of Stones buried aged 88. Sarah his wife was buried 28 Feb. 1781 (Registers).
- 1781 4 Feb. Josiah son of James Lawton clothier and Mary his wife of Stones christened. Their son George was christened 31 May 1784 and their son Haigh on 2 Jan. 1788 (Registers).
- 1783 23 Nov. Helen daughter of John Hall clothier and Betty his wife of Stones christened. John Hall of Stones died 24 Nov. 1811 aged 79 and Betty died 29 Jan. 1837 (Registers).
- 1785 24 and 25 Jan. Lease and release between 1) Daniel Maude of Wakefield merchant and Maurice Maude of the same place merchant and Samuel Heginbottom of Dobcross shopkeeper, 2) William Radcliffe of Milnsbridge Esq. concerning messuage etc. at Stones once in the tenure of John Harrop and now occupied in two dwellings by Josiah Lawton and James Lawton together with the following fields - Field at Door, Upper Field, Lower Field, Lowerfield Shrogg, Lower Wood Meadow, Meadow under the House, Smithy Croft, Calf Meadow and Great Hey on the Lower Side of the Turnpike Road, together with other closes called Little Field, Lower One Furr, Great Meadow, Longbutt, Clay Butt, Birches, Lower Longlands and Upper Longlands, all which closes were once also in the occupation of the said John Harrop and late of Richard Turner and contain 32 acres 2 roods 18 perches, together with the messuage lately erected on part of the said Little Field and one barn lately erected on part of the said Lower One Furr now in the tenure of John Hall as tenant to Samuel

- Heginbottom, together with the messuage lately erected on part of the said Field at Door in the tenure of Peter Seville as tenant to Samuel Heginbottom (Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, CP 1097).
- 1790 7 Mar. Ralph son of James Lawton and Sarah his wife of Stones christened (Registers).
- 1798 19 May. Samuel Heginbottom junior of Stones buried (Registers).
6 Aug. Edward son of James and Margaret Lees of Stones christened (Registers).
- 1799 22 & 23 Mar. Lease and release between 1) Samuel Heginbottom of Dobcross yeoman, 2) James Lees of Stones cotton manufacturer, concerning messuage etc. at Stones late in the occupation of John Hall and now of James Lees together with the closes - Little Field, Lower One Furr, Great Meadow, Long Butt, Clay Butt, Birches, Lower Longlands, Upper Longlands, containing 11 acres 31 perches together with the closes now divided and fenced off from the land of Samuel Heginbottom called Great Hey at Stones containing 1 acre, save James Lees will allow the spring of water to pass through the lands to the messuages or dwellinghouses and lands of Samuel Heginbottom below the Turnpike Road at Stones (Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, EB 732).
- 1800 The Land Tax Returns for Upper Agbrigg list James Lees as owner of Stones (including dyehouse and stove), in the occupation of William Haigh.
- 1806 William Haigh of Stones was a Warden of Saddleworth Church (Registers).
- 1807 28 Oct. By his will, James Lees of New Delph bequeathed to his son Edward the Bell Inn and the messuage called Stones (+ fields) then in the occupation of William Haigh.
- 1818-19 James Scanlan of Stones was a Warden of Saddleworth Church (Registers).
- 1822 Baines' Directory lists William Haigh and Sons, woollen manufacturers, of Stones; and Ralph Lawton, merchant of Stones.
- 1824 Reference in Indenture to William Blacket Haigh of Stones clothier and Esther his wife, and Lawrence Haigh of Stones clothier. Esther was grand-daughter of James Lees late of Mossley and then of Heyrod, yeoman. She died 11 May 1880 when she was living at 216 Greenacres Road, Oldham. Lawrence Haigh died 10 Apr. 1865.
- 1825 Joseph son of John Lawton clothier and Mary his wife of Stones christened (Registers).
Baines' Directory lists Ralph Lawton of Stones, merchant. In 1829 he was a member of the Committee reporting on the dilapidated condition of Saddleworth Church and estimating the costs of repairs and rebuilding.
- 1832 The Poll List includes Joseph and Ralph Lawton under Stones; Pigot's Directory of the same year lists Ralph Lawton, woollen manufacturer; William Haigh and Sons, woollen manufacturers; and Thomas Rhodes, dyer, all under Stones.
- 1835 The Church Rate Book listed Ralph Lawton as the occupier, and Edward Lees as the owner of Stones; and Thomas Buckley as occupier of the house and warehouse, owner Joseph Lees.
- 1837 The West Riding Poll Book listed Joseph Lawton of Stones.
- 1840 James Shaw of Stones was a Warden of Saddleworth Church (Registers).
- 1848 John Broadbent of Stones was listed in the Poll Book.

STONESWOOD

Grid Reference: SD 983072

- Location: On higher side of A.62 road, i.e. between first and second Wakefield-Austerlands Turnpike roads, at 740 feet O.D.
- Description: Large house set in over 4 acres of rounds, formerly the home of the Wilby family, wallpaper manufacturers. Now an old folks' home.
- History: Possibly a house at Higher Stones, the present Stoneswood, originated after the division of the Stones estate by the Indenture of 28 Nov. 1778 (see above). Certainly one existed in 1785, occupied by John Hall. By 1799 this was occupied by James Lees (see above), an 1802 deed referring to "James Lees, late of Manchester, now of Stoneswood, gentleman". Soon after this Lees built Delph Lodge, the house at Stoneswood then seemingly being tenanted by William Haigh (see above). In the 1790's parts of the Stoneswood Estate were sold off by James Lees and other houses erected; hence the references below.
- 1797 28 Apr. Indenture between, 1) James Lees of Manchester, gentleman, and Margaret his wife, 2) Jonas Ainley of Delph, gentleman, concerning a close now divided into two at Stoneswood called the Higher One Furr late in the occupation of Hugh Kenworthy now of Jonas Ainley, together with a parcel of land at the eastern end of the said close containing 20 sq. yds. and a platt or parcel of land, part of the said field, upon which James Mills has erected a dwellinghouse ... (Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, EA 335).
- 1822 Baines' Directory listed Samuel Milnes of Stoneswood, cloth dresser.
- 1825 Baines' Directory included James Milnes of Stoneswood, cloth dresser, and John Settle of Stoneswood, also a cloth dresser (in 1822 the latter had been listed under Millcroft).

B.B.

The Society would welcome any further information about the houses and hamlets mentioned here, and also about 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:

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