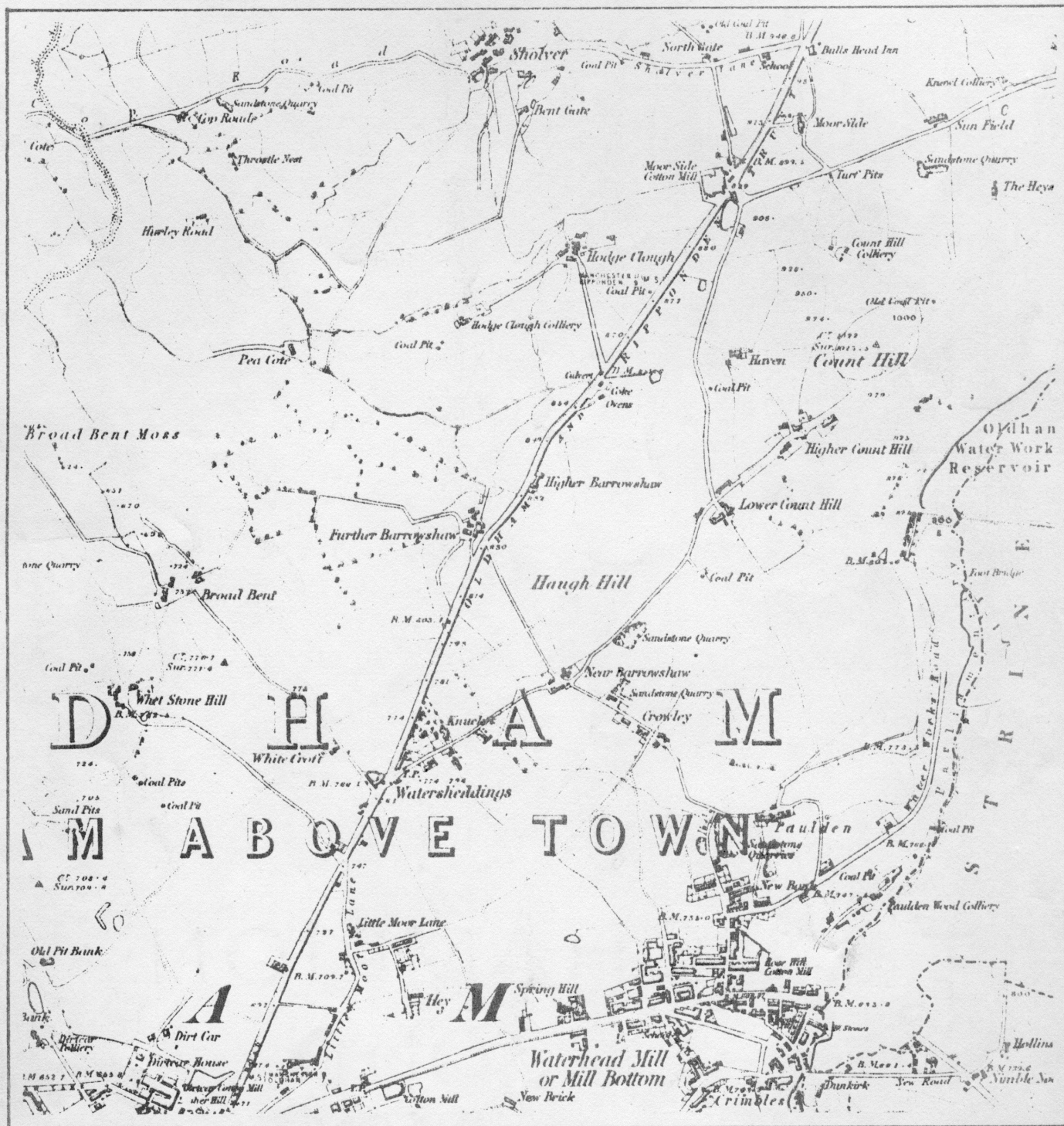


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Detail from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1844.

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THE WATERHEAD COLLIERS

(This article was written by Rev. R.J. Hunting, L.Th., Vicar of Waterhead 1953-1956, and is from an unpublished History of Waterhead in the possession of Rev. C.E. Shaw, B.A., F.L.S., the present Vicar, with his permission).

The clattering clogs and coal-blackened faces of miners, once part of Waterhead's way of life, has gone for ever. The present generation is barely aware that scores of men in this village spent their working days in the coal pits, and there some of them died. There was a time when colliers could be seen outside their cottages, or grouped together at street corners, crouching in their own peculiar way sitting on the heels of their clogs, discussing the affairs of the day and smoking clay pipes. To-day, these things remain only as memories for a few of the old folk.

The arrival of the cotton mills with their steam-driven machinery brought a demand for coal in quantity, and mines were opened in every direction around the village. The original Ecclesiastical District of Waterhead, which was formed in November, 1844, was larger than the present parish, extending from below Mill Bottom up to Grains. The old map drawn after a survey made in 1845 shows the sites of 23 coal pits in the district, and it is known that many were working at a later date. Apart from the collieries at Barrowshaw, Besom Hill, Count Hill, Knowl, Paulden and Sholver, the area was perforated with small workings. The names of many of the small pits have been forgotten, but it is still possible to identify the remains of the Bull's Head, the Bankhouse, Jones o' Jammies, the Heys, the Little Ireland, and the Sowerdock.

Most of the coal mines in the Ecclesiastical District were to the north of the village, but there is evidence that several were once worked in Waterhead itself. One was situated between Brideoak Street and Huddersfield Road, and another off Cobden Street. No doubt these supplied Brideoake's Daisy Hill Mill which was built in 1824. Thomas Mellowdew owned several mines which supplied his Moorside Mill. The Paulden Wood Colliery was near to what is now called New Royd Road, between Waterworks Road and Back o' th' Low. It was known in the village as th'Low, or th'ollow Pit. Between the colliery and Waterworks Road there were two small pits almost side by side.

Some of the small pits were known as "foot mines". They had only a 12-inch seam of coal which was usually worked about 30 yards below the surface. Colliers working at these pits were able to shout up to Coal Winder at the top of the shaft and ask him to send down their dinners which had been warming on the winding-engine boiler. Men who worked in the "two-foot mines" were 200 yards or more under the ground, and had to manage with sandwiches and cold tea. The pits miners disliked most were those they called "inch mines", where, according to one old collier, "There was nobbut an inch of coal, and that was in hard rock". These mines were so unprofitable that they were rarely worked.

Child Labour

Just over 100 years ago, conditions in the coal mines were shocking. A Parliamentary Committee reporting on the mines in 1842 told how children of five, six and seven years of age were working in darkness and water in the bowels of the earth. Sir Walter Besant wrote: "They

took the child - boy or girl - at six years of age; they carried the little thing away from the light of heaven, and lowered it deep down into the black and gloomy pit; they placed in behind a door, and ordered it to pull this door open and let the corves, or trucks, come and go, and keep it shut when they were not passing. The child was set at the door in the dark - at first they gave it a candle, which would burn for an hour or two then go out. If the child cried, or went to sleep, or neglected to pull the door open, they beat the child. The work began at 4 in the morning, and the child was not brought out of the pit until 4 or perhaps later in the evening, so that in the winter the children never saw daylight at all".

The working conditions of children in the Waterhead pits were as bad as anywhere else in the country. An Act of Parliament of 10th August, 1842, prohibited the employment of women and girls in the mines, and permitted boys of ten years and over to work underground, but this was ignored in the local mines. One old collier can still remember an elderly woman who lived at Birks, near Mill Bottom, who used to tell of her experiences when she worked in a Waterhead pit at the tender age of 5 years. A man who died about the turn of the century after working a lifetime in the mines, told his son that boys 6 years old were waggoners at the Sholver pits, and were often beaten with wooden rail-sleepers if they grew tired and were not moving the coal waggons quickly enough. He used to say, "Some of the coal-getters were very cruel to the lads. They were paid for the amount of coal they got out, so they kept the boys moving. Sometimes the lads were so tired when they got home, that they dropped off to sleep as they were eating their food". Joseph Buckley, a collier who lived in Morley Street, used to tell his daughter how his father, Abraham Buckley, took him to work in the Barrowshaw Colliery in the 1850's when he was 6 years old. He remembered his father holding his hand as they went to work together.

Robert Lees, better known in Waterhead as "Owd Bob o' Betsy's", was a remarkable character who died about 25 years ago. A journalist who visited him at his cottage in Paulden Street when he was over 80 years of age, wrote, "Any local historian wishing to write the history of Waterhead for the last 70 years would find Bob a mine of information". One thing "Owd Bob" could talk about was the time when boys worked in the pits. He said that some of these lads were so crippled with rheumatism that they were unable to walk properly and were carried to work, but once they were underground and their legs were in water, they were able to move without difficulty. He used to say that it was "th'ochre wayter" that helped them, and would point to the "golden steps" at the Waterworks, which indicated that there was a considerable quantity of iron in the water. As long as the lads were in the water they were able to work, but as soon as they returned to the surface the effect wore off, and they were soon hobbling about again. It is interesting to note that there was a spring in what is now called Wellyhole Street, which was renowned for its chalybeate waters. At one time people at Moorside collected "ochre water" in bottles from hillside springs, which was kept for medicinal purposes. It was used to remove warts.

Perhaps the most distressing account of child-labour in the local pits was told by John James Brierley, known in the village as "John o' Owd Nick's". He died on the 15th August, 1941, at the age of 87. He is said to have been the last surviving "belt and chain boy". Born in 1854, he began working at the Count Hill Colliery at 8 years of age, where he was employed as a waggoner, or coal-truck drawer. Stripped almost naked, he wore round his waist a leather belt which had chains attached. As the waggons were filled, the child connected the chains to a truck and dragged

two hundredweights of coal to a place where it was sent to the surface. John Brierley used to describe how the belt cut so deeply into his little body, that he was often covered with blood and coal dust. His hands and knees were often raw and bleeding from falling as he pulled the heavy loads. There were no rails to guide the trucks or to assist their movement over the uneven surface, which was sometimes under inches of mud. The tunnels were so low that it was barely possible for a boy to stand upright. In the very low tunnels, the boys had to haul the trucks on their hands and knees, which resulted in their legs being cut by the connecting chains.

Another man who worked in the pits at 8 years of age was John Whitehead. He could remember the days of his childhood when he was carried on his father's back to the Paulden Wood Colliery in the darkness of early morning. His daughter, who died recently at the age of 87, said that her father could not read or write because he never went to school. He spent too much time in the pits. When the local mines were worked out and closed, John Whitehead found work at the Snipe Colliery, Ashton-under-Lyne, and walked there and back every day. He rarely earned more than £1 a week.

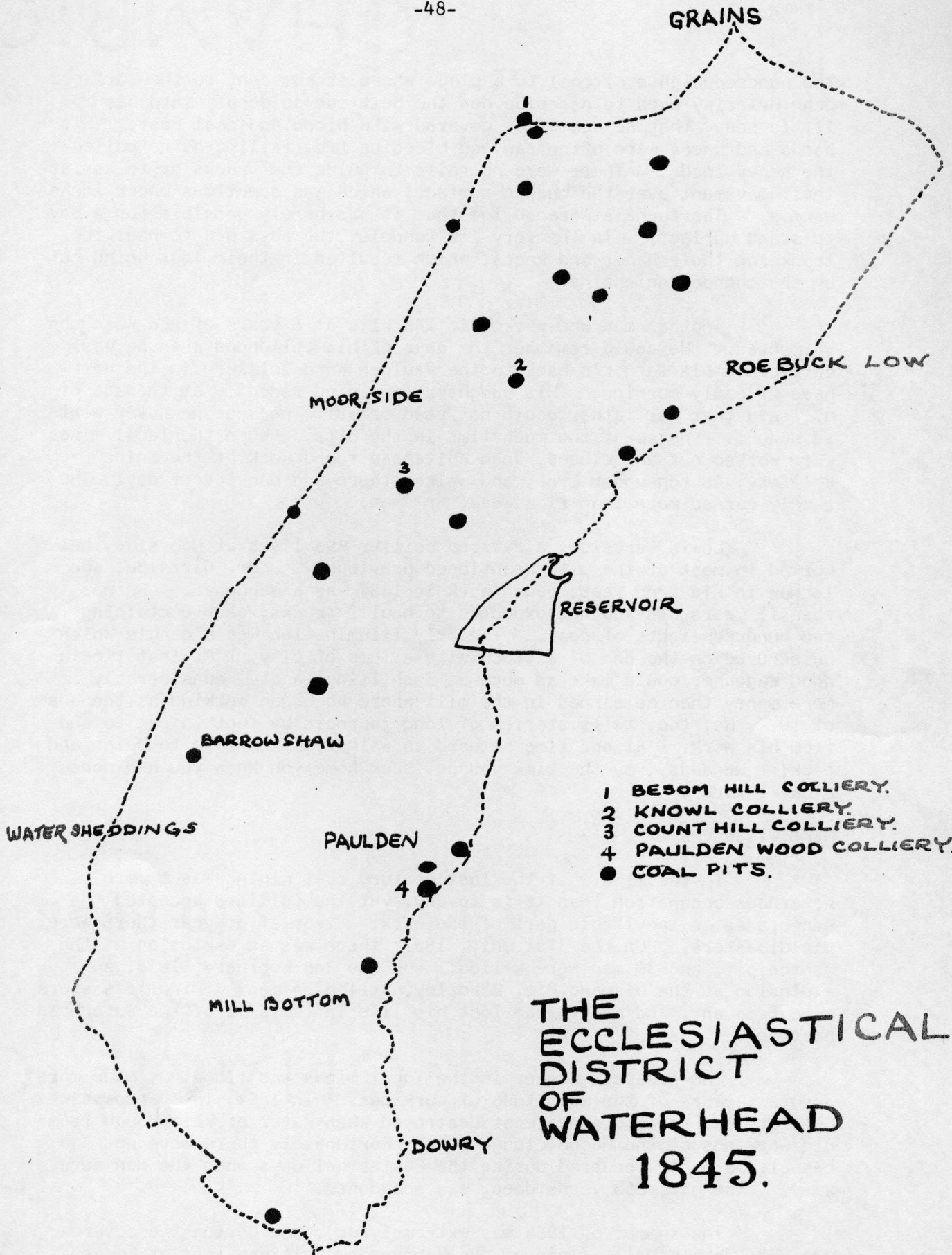
Lewis Gartside, a retired collier who lives at Moorside, has worked in most of the pits mentioned previously. Mr. Gartside, who is now in his 82nd year, began work in 1887, as a waggoner. He was then 13 years old and was expected to haul 2 trucks, each containing two hundredweights of coal. The only illumination was a candle which he secured on the end of a truck with a lump of clay. At that time a good waggoner could make as much as 3 shillings a day, considerably more money than he earned in the mill where he began working at the age of 10. He, too, tells stories of long journeys by foot to get to and from his work. At one time he used to walk from Moorside to Delph and back. He adds, "By the time you got back home you knew you had done a day's work".

Mine Disasters

In the middle of the last century coal mining was a more hazardous occupation than it is to-day, yet the colliers accepted the dangers as an inevitable part of the work. Year after year there were pit disasters. On the 31st July, 1857, there was an explosion at the Ashton pit, and 39 men were killed. On the 2nd February, 1858, an explosion at the Diamond Pit, Bardsley, killed 54 men. Minor disasters were frequent, and many a man lost his life in the pits of the Waterhead District.

The greatest danger in the local mines was flooding, made more acute because of the multitude of workings. In 1864, the Barrowshaw Colliery was flooded and almost destroyed when water broke through from old workings of the Hodge Clough pit. Fortunately there were no casualties as it occurred during the Easter holidays when the men were away. The pit, 250 yards deep, was abandoned.

The summer of 1868 was extremely dry, and during the severe drought, John Mayall, owner of the Barrowshaw Colliery (son of Edward Mayall, who was Mayor of Oldham in 1871) offered the Waterworks Committee a supply of water from the disused mine. Although the offer was not accepted by the Committee, discussions concerning the project revealed that there seemed to be an unlimited supply of water available. On the 25th September, 1868, Mr. Mayall stated that he proposed to instal equipment which would pump out 700,000 gallons of water.



The Barrowshaw Disaster

A sudden increase in the price of coal in 1873 brought about the re-opening of part of the Barrowshaw Colliery, which resulted in tragedy. On Monday, the 26th April, 1875, water broke into the workings from the direction of Paulden where a man named James Clegg had worked a pit in 1840. When the break-through occurred at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, 43 men and boys were working underground, and many of them, hearing the dreadful sound of rushing water, made haste to get out. All men escaped through the air-shaft near the Highfield Inn. As the men working in the main section rushed to get away, tools and clothing were left behind, and a number of them came up naked. Later 4 of them complained that they had left their watches underground!

In one tunnel, William Mellor, John Durran and a boy called James Buckley had a narrow escape when part of the roof collapsed. At 1 o'clock they were preparing to explode a charge under some rock when water broke through immediately above their heads. The sudden impact of the water knocked William Mellor on his back, and as he fell a large stone dropped from the roof and trapped his legs. Grasping the truck rails, he was able to pull himself free, and painfully made his way with the others to the shaft. They were all badly cut by falling stones.

The last men to reach the surface were John Kay and his young nephew, Thomas Kay. Both were saturated with muddy water. They had been working in one of the deepest sections of the pit when the water broke through, and were in the greatest danger. Two other relatives, anxious to warn them, ran to a coal truck and rode in it down to a place where they were able to call them. Hearing the shouts, the two men attempted to get clear to the section, but as the tunnel was only a yard high, they could not move quickly enough, and water rushed down the tunnel and swept past them, extinguishing their lamps. In the darkness, the torrent rose until it covered their shoulders. They would have been lost but for John Kay who knew the mine well, having worked there from 1848 until the flooding in 1868. Eventually the two men struggled to a higher level and made their way to the main shaft.

When a count was made at the pit head, it was discovered that there were 39 men and boys present. Four were missing. They were Joseph Buckley, aged 45, of Crowley View; John Broadbent, aged 35, of Heywood Street; Thomas Jones, aged 29, of Egerton Street; and John Wild, aged 15, of Wild's Court. The circumstances in which these men lost their lives was never really discovered, apart from the fact that they were drowned. A collier called Abraham Stott, who was working near these unfortunate men, said that he warned the boy, John Wild, who was hauling waggons, that water had broken through and that he should tell the colliers immediately. The lad replied that he would come out as soon as he had taken his last waggon of coal. Perhaps the lad waited too long, and the water overcame them before they could escape. Perhaps they were not able to get free because of a fall which was partially cleared by the moving waters a day or two later.

The bodies were not recovered until the following Saturday, and owing to the number of morbid sightseers, they were not brought up until 10 o'clock at night. They were all marked by stones which had fallen. When they were discovered, the men were holding the body of the boy in their arms. The inquest was held at the Old Soldier Inn, Huddersfield Road, on 10th May, 1875.

Two of the colliers, Joseph Buckley and John Broadbent, were buried on Tuesday, the 4th May, in the Churchyard at Waterhead, near the Vestry. Joseph Buckley was the father of the late Councillor William Buckley, J.P., who was Mayor of Oldham in 1917.

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"SEDITION" AND SURVEILLANCE IN SADDLEWORTH IN 1801 AND 1812

In our series on the history of the working class in Saddleworth (1), we referred to the existence of "sedition" in the area during the period of the Napoleonic wars, and particularly in the years 1801 and 1812. To the authorities, the term "sedition" embraced any manifestation of working class political activity, which appeared all the more sinister because it was forced underground by repressive legislation such as the Combination Laws and the Corresponding Society Acts. Documents from the Public Record Office supplied by Mr. Neil Barrow, and further research have helped to throw new light on to this secret history of Saddleworth - although systematic study of the Home Office papers may yet reveal more information.

Intimate evidence for the existence of republican sympathies is supplied by Canon C.C.W. Airne's note on the baptism of General Buonaparte Burton, but as he rightly observes "what evidence we have is mostly from those who were suspicious and there is little to inform us about the suspects" (2). Apart from the Oldham weaver and diarist, Rowbottom, who shows deep sympathy for the suffering of the working class and the efforts of the "Friends of the People", all the evidence presented here is from the enemies of republicanism or Luddism. Since clandestine movements, by their very nature, leave little documentation, this is unavoidable. Nevertheless, social and political history is not about any one class but is concerned with the interaction of classes, and the evidence that we have is very important for revealing the working of the State machinery at a local level.

Whatever the actual role of republicans like the United Englishmen in the years of food shortage and unrest in 1800 and 1801, the authorities worked on the assumption that their unseen hand lay behind every working class meeting. The official policy was to have troops in attendance at such gatherings and, if expedient, to attempt their dispersal - as occurred at Buckton Castle on 3rd May, 1801. On this occasion the Rev. William Hay (later rewarded for his exertions against the Luddites and at "Peterloo", with a living at Rochdale), in his capacity as a magistrate on the bench at Manchester, led a troop of light horse and flying artillery which scattered the meeting by musket fire and then made some arrests. Three Chadderton men were committed to Lancaster Castle and later transported for administering illegal oaths. According to Rowbottom who gives this account, more military were marching on the meeting from Bolton but were too late (3). The reaction of those in authority to this meeting shows how seriously they considered the threat, and even if their fears had no real basis as some historians (and also some of their contemporaries) claim, the repression they carried out was real enough.

It was in this atmosphere of tension that a few days later on the 9th May that Gamaliel Buckley (4), overseer of the poor, and William Wrigley, constable, as officers of the Saddleworth parish authorities, wrote to Hay's West Riding counterpart, Joseph Radcliffe of Milnsbridge House near Huddersfield. It had come to their attention that a "number of ill disposed people are intending to meet on treasonable and seditious purposes" at Chew Hills (5). The following week, Wrigley wrote with the additional advice that the meeting place was in part of Greenfield "almost inaccessible for Horse so that infantry are the fittest to be employed in this business" (6). Writing to his son on the 14th and referring to the growth of seditious tendencies and the proposed meeting, Radcliffe had already determined on which troops he

was to send, and he added, "I shall attend a party of the 11th Light Dragoons to disperse them" (7).

Thus from some unknown informant, intelligence of the planned meeting was relayed to the Saddleworth parish authorities, thence to the Huddersfield magistrate and from him to the county authorities. On 23rd May, Radcliffe enclosed a newly printed poster, issued by the Saddleworth authorities, in his report to the Lord Lieutenant of the Riding, Earl Fitzwilliam at Wentworth House. Radcliffe believed that there were few United Englishmen in the Huddersfield area, but that "Saddleworth produces more being so near to the general body of them in Lancashire and the eastern part of Cheshire". He reported that he was in correspondence with the Rev. Hay, who from his experience in leading parties to disperse such meetings was of the opinion that the United English "are very circumspect in their conduct and it will be difficult to get at their leaders" (8). This can either be interpreted as a reflection of the efficiency of the United Englishmen's organisation or of the limitations of their actual influence and activity. Events would seem to indicate the latter, as Radcliffe wrote on the 30th to report that the anticipated meeting had not occurred, but that one had been assembled on Rivington Pike where a number of arrests were made (9).

Some light on the conditions which generated the discontent that produced the mass meetings is thrown by a further letter from Gamaliel Buckley referring to the location of Chew Hills. He reported that Mr. Harrop of Dobcross was to sell "good oatmeal" to the inhabitants of Saddleworth at the reduced rate of "2s per dozen or 40s per load", and that the cotton masters had increased their weavers' wages by 4s per piece with the promise of a further rise. "Every branch of the cotton manufactory is going remarkably well", he added, "which has made a visible alteration to the people all about us so that I do not hear a word of the proposed meeting" (10). This is corroborated by Rowbottom, who noted that "the Cotton business of all denominations is remarkably brisk" and who, as a meticulous recorder of the price of provisions, described a great improvement in the cost of living in the following months (11). The signing of the Amiens peace treaty in October improved the economic hopes of those who blamed the war for their distress - at the same time it dashed the political hopes of those who looked to France for liberation.

But both prosperity and peace were short-lived: political agitation remained and grew, as did the machinery created to combat it. Radcliffe at Huddersfield, Hay of Manchester and Colonel Fletcher of Bolton, all gained experience from the disturbances of 1800-1802, which they were to use in 1812 when the spy system and military repression were carried to a higher level of sophistication under the auspices of the Home Secretary.

In this year the manufacturing districts were the scene of virtual guerilla warfare waged by workers and artisans against workshops using the "obnoxious machinery". The military adapted its tactics accordingly. Captain Francis Raynes of the Stirlingshire Militia, who had shown initiative in mounting conventional garrison and patrol duties at Mottram, was selected by Major Acland on the 24th June to command a highly mobile and flexible detachment to carry out secret service missions. So secret were they that he was not even allowed to tell the lieutenant and the four N.C.O's under him where the patrol was to head next. Apart from 40 private soldiers, two special constables supplied by Joseph Nadin the ruthless loyalist constable of Manchester were under his command, masquerading as his servants (12).

On the 28th, he was given permission to advance from the Stockport-Mottram-Ashton area into the vicinity of Royton and Crompton, and on the 30th he was at a place code-named "R", which in his dispatch of that date to Acland he describes as one and half miles from Delph. He reported that most people considered the area to be quiet, but "from my own observations I know it to be very much the contrary" (13).

A mission of one of his Special Constables (S.C.'s) to Uppermill reveals how they operated and by what, often fragile, criteria they defined seditious activity. In April, a letter had been intercepted at Dobcross post office from a certain "G.W." to Nottingham, recounting Luddite incidents in Yorkshire and requesting that replies be addressed to Edward Wood at "Over Mill". On the apprehension of this "G.W.", enquiries by Joseph Radcliffe exposed him as Peter Green, a Luddite suspect known to the Nottingham authorities. Edward Wood, already incriminated by the reference in the letter from "G.W.", was more deeply implicated by the fact that he was Peter Green's employer and above all that he was a stockinger - the very trade whose artisans had initiated the Luddite outbreaks, and who were suspected of dispatching emissaries to rouse other workers (14).

Captain Raynes, in his report of 30th June, alludes to the existence of a list of suspects - naming a certain Buckley of Delph in this context - and it is clear that Edward Wood was at the top of this or a similar list. An S.C. was sent to call upon him and to win his confidence by pretending to be a stocking weaver from Nottingham looking for work, as Peter Green had genuinely been. The S.C. also claimed that he was going to visit Huddersfield, which was probably to add further credibility to his assumed identity, since that town was the acknowledged hotbed of Luddism in the West Riding. Despite this deception, on this occasion at least the S.C. had nothing to report except some loose talk. Wood told him, with obvious exaggeration, "that the people here would rise to a man, rich and poor", and that he would take him to one of their meetings. Inconclusive as this appears, Raynes thought it something of a breakthrough. Further research in the Home Office papers might justify this optimism, but the lack of actual arrests would suggest not.

Raynes continued in his sphere of operations from North-East Cheshire to Saddleworth:

"I continued marching and patrolling every night. The system I adopted on the road was to send two men in plain clothes in advance; the first person being desired on meeting any person or persons, to let them pass, but to give a signal to the second, by whom it was conveyed to the soldiers in the rear, who were marching in small bodies of seven or eight; they on receiving the signal immediately closed up and the travellers, whoever they were, found themselves in the midst of the soldiers before they suspected we were near. By this method and observing the most profound silence, we avoided the noise usually attending the march of troops. We interrogated every one, and not infrequently on these patrols, apprehended those of whom I had information" (15).

In August his force was mainly concerned with persuading Luddites to renounce their secret oath and to take an oath of allegiance to the Crown - which, he claimed, the men of the Mottram area were doing in droves. Acland instructed Captain MacDougal and his detachment to liaise with Raynes in the task of increasing the pressure on the Luddites: "the

confessions of those who have taken the oath of allegiance attaches to every part of the neighbouring country; for it cannot be too often inculcated that this coming in proceeds from fear and fear only; we must take advantage of the moment" (16). The modus operandi of the military is candidly expressed in these last two quotations. Acting as an army of occupation, their effect on the civilian population is not hard to imagine.

On the 28th, MacDougal left Roe Cross for Gee Cross, and then proceeded by stages to Glossop and thence to Saddleworth and Mossley. On 3rd September Raynes himself was at Dobcross, where he made a contradictory report. "I cannot learn that any of the disaffected from this place or neighbourhood have come forward to take the oath of allegiance", he states, yet at the same time he claims that "Sergt. Todd and Tomlinson have got amongst them at Delph and are doing very well" (17). These few cryptic lines raise several questions. If there were few taking the oath to the Crown, was this because they were standing firm, or was it because few were actually "twisted in" to the Luddite oath, and, either way, who had Todd and Tomlinson "got amongst" at Delph?

A day or so later, Raynes received orders to make a night march to Mill Bridge, between Huddersfield and Leeds and near Rawfolds Mill which had been attacked in April, leaving MacDougal in control of operations in Saddleworth and the adjacent areas. On the 8th, MacDougal left Dobcross for Marsden and forwarded some new intelligence to Acland's H.Q. at Huddersfield (18).

He had heard from the Constable of Dobcross, Thomas Harrop, that Joseph Kenworthy of that village was behaving very suspiciously, disappearing for weeks or months on end. About the time William Horsfall of Marsden was shot, Kenworthy had been absent from home and yet his family had been supplied with "plenty of provisions" from Huddersfield. Edward Wood's name also occurs again, with MacDougal referring to him as "a very bad character". Harrop's source was one of his employees, a certain Whitaker of Quick, who was "well acquainted with the Luddites and even knows what they are about to do". Although this was all unsubstantiated evidence, Acland thought it serious enough to send an agent, John Knight, into the area to make further investigations about Kenworthy, and he sent back a detailed report from Dobcross on the 19th:

"Sir,

Agreeable to Your Orders of the 17th I Arrived here at 4 o'Clock in the evening but did not think it prudent to enquire immediately after Kenworthy for fear of any suspicion, but about 7 o'Clock the same evening I had the opportunity of hearing his name mentioned several times amongst the company in the Swan Inn where I took up my quarters and likewise got to know he was in the habit of buying and selling old cards at the different factories and mills round the country. But it is the opinion of the people here that is only to screen his roguery. -- I immediately assumed the character of a hatter and wanted to buy a quantity of old cards and by that means got introduced to him. I have had a deal of conversation with him and made him believe I was of the same opinion he is himself but the fellow is so very reserved that there is no taking hold of him it is the general opinion here that he is a chief planner of the disturbances in the different parts of the country and the inhabitants here would give a great deal if there could be anything proved against him so as to convict him but he acts in that kind of way that no hold

can be taken of him at present. I am informed that the chief rendezvous for him and his associates is at Long Royd bridge the better class of people here seem very well disposed but the lower class seems ripe for all kinds of mischief. I am going to Oldham this morning in company with Kenworthy and shall do everything in my power to get every information from him and likewise to know the minds of the people in what ever part of the country you may think proper to order me, You will please to direct for me at Oldham to be left at the post office till called for,

John Knight" (19).

His expressions, "it is the general opinion" and "it seems", indicate how the allegations rested on subjective suspicions rather than hard evidence, although it is interesting that Longroyd Bridge is mentioned as a Luddite centre. It was not until October that arrests and interrogations in the Huddersfield area led to the arrest of four workers from two cropping shops in that village for the assassination of Horsfall.

The main question of all is, was the "lower class" indeed "ripe for all kinds of mischief"? This is a safe assumption for a spy to make, given the extent of disturbances that year, but it also betrays the fact that he could not pin any actual act of mischief on the working class of Saddleworth, and he is so vague that he certainly could not have uncovered any specific plans. All these spy reports are similar in that the agents and their commanders were aware of general discontent - as, indeed, practically everyone in the country was, according to the contemporary newspapers - and yet they could not discover anyone consciously organising it. Men like Kenworthy and Wood, who could articulate politically the sufferings of the time, existed in every community, but it could not be discovered whether they were preparing the disaffected for revolution. If they were, this is one aspect of Saddleworth's history which is certainly lost for ever.

References:

- (1) Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin, 10, 1980, 45-49 and 77-80
- (2) Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin, 11, 1981, 6
- (3) Rowbottom Diaries, May 1801 (Oldham Local Interest Centre)
- (4) An interesting note on this overseer is recorded in the miscellaneous writings of George Rhodes inserted in the Account Book of the Saddleworth Weavers' Union
- (5) Radcliffe MSS, I (Papers of the late Everard Radcliffe deposited in Leeds City Archives). My thanks are due to the Archivist for permission to quote these extracts.
- (6) *ibid.*
- (7) *ibid.*
- (8) Fitzwilliam Papers, F.45/18 (Wentworth Woodhouse Muniments, Sheffield City Libraries). My thanks are due to the Director of Sheffield Libraries and the Fitzwilliam Trustees for permission to quote this extract. Another specimen of this poster was reproduced in Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin, 11, 1981, 12
- (9) Fitzwilliam Papers, F.45/19
- (10) Radcliffe MSS

- (11) Rowbottom Diaries, 1801, passim
- (12) Francis Raynes, An Appeal to the Public &c, London 1817 (Manchester Central Library)
- (13) Public Record Office, H.O. 40/2 (42), Raynes to Acland, 30th June 1812
- (14) Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin, 10, 1980, 47-48
- (15) Raynes, op. cit. 40-41
- (16) ibid. Acland to Raynes, 26th August 1812, 72-73
- (17) Public Record Office, H.O. 40/2 (29)
- (18) Public Record Office, H.O. 40/2 (57)
- (19) Public Record Office, H.O. 40/2 (118). (The "cards" referred to, I assume, were those used on the drums of scribbling and carding engines rather than hand cards. I would be interested if anyone could suggest what use hatters and others had for such used cards).

A.J. Brooke

THE FLINT IMPLEMENTS CONTROVERSY

Part 2

26 March 1910

In my letter of 26 February I described Mr. Brierley's previous statements touching this subject as "inadequate, erroneous, and, to the general reader, grossly misleading". This description is equally applicable to the statements contained in his letter of last week. He professes to be greatly concerned about what he calls the truth, but unfortunately he had allowed little of this concern to enter into his part of the controversy

This lover of truth told your readers that "83 worked celts and flint arrowheads had been found on the moors of Todmorden and Marsden up to 1882". This statement I at once challenged and described it as outrageously inaccurate. What has Mr. Brierley done with my challenge? He has not replied to it, for the simple reason that he cannot. Perhaps he is still wondering what a celt is (1).

He then told your readers that Mr. Watts had found two celts. I also challenge this statement, because I can prove that there is not a word of truth in it. And Mr. Brierley says we must stick to the truth. He then goes on to say that the two celts were found in Cudworth. This is also untrue, as the smaller celt was found in a clayfield quite outside the Cudworth area.

Having disposed of these baseless fabrications, I come to Mr. Brierley's pet statement ... to the effect that "flint implements have been found at Diggle, Greenfield and Cudworth". The statement passed for fact until I gave it a straight contradiction and required Mr. Brierley to produce his proofs. Finding that he cannot produce proofs, he replies by

saying that he never made the statement, and tries to back out of all responsibility concerning it. Then he turns again and tries to substantiate it. The result is, of course, an utter failure. Driven into a corner, he calls the two celts belonging to Mr. Watts "flint implements". This is simply a wild guess, and as far from the truth as it can possibly be.

The celts in question were exhibited in Manchester and examined by all the leading antiquarians in the north, but it was reserved for Mr. Joseph Brierley of Delph to discover that they were "flint implements". Now the discovery would have been an important one had it been true I say just as distinctly that they are not flint implements, never were, and never will be

Therefore my assertion that no flint implements have been found in Cudworth is based on fact, not empty supposition. Mr. Brierley from want of information sets out the theory that all prehistoric implements must necessarily be composed of flint. I suppose he would identify the bronze celt found on Ringstone Edge by a gamekeeper as a flint implement.

..... I find that Mr. Brierley is still parading his nonsense about vandalism. I answer it by saying that I shall go on searching our local moor because I prefer my vandalism to Mr. Brierley's Brummagem flints.

Ammon Wrigley

2 April

It is not the "outrageous" and "inaccurate" statements in my letters that are troubling Mr. Ammon Wrigley. No, it is the truth which he cannot bully me out of. He seems quite unable to get over the 83 worked flints which I stated in my letter of 5th February to have been found on the moors of Todmorden and Marsden up to 1882. If it is not true then I must refer Mr. Wrigley to the Yorkshire Geological Society, and ask him to point out to those gentlemen the statements that are "inadequate, erroneous, and to the general reader grossly misleading".

With the great challenge he throws out to me defying me to produce proof for what I have written, I can give no other proof than the bare assertion contained in this volume which lies open before me on the table while I am writing this letter. I have read the article on "Flint Implements found on the Hills between Todmorden and Marsden" over and over again. I have asked other people to read it too, so that they could see if I was making a misrepresentation of it in my letters, but the article and the letters correspond. Therefore it seems to me that if Mr. Wrigley will ferret out more literature on this subject, of which he boasts of possessing such profound knowledge, it will pay him a great deal better than rambling on the moors after flint chippings.

Now then for the celts belonging to Mr. Watts. Mr. Wrigley here charges me with being both untruthful and ignorant. I wonder if he knows what he is writing about, and who he is contradicting, because my authority in this case is two letters written over 20 years ago by Mr. William Watts, F.G.S., who states them to be composed of "impure flint" If I am wrong, Mr. Watts is wrong also

I do not wish to continue this discussion any longer with Mr. Wrigley. The mean personal attacks show that it is not the truth he is seeking. Therefore, I now withdraw, as I don't consider his

personalities worthy of your valuable space to print them.

Joseph Brierley, King St.,
Delph

2 April

Mr. Joseph Brierley deserves the thanks of all your readers for the valuable information he has recently given in your columns. Being backed by such excellent authorities as the Yorkshire Geological Society's records, and by one so eminently reliable as Mr. William Watts, his statements may be accepted with confidence.

It seems to me the original querist may take it that primitive man once occupied our hills and dales, and he has left behind him his stony "implements". In the neighbouring Piethorne Valley many flint chippings and flakes were found in the various excavations opened out during the construction of the waterworks. At Dean Clough they have been gathered by the hundred, and in the neighbourhood of March Hill, near Marsden, by the thousand.

A Neolithic hatchet, probably of impure flint, was found in Cudworth Quarry in 1887, and was described by Mr. Watts as "well polished, and as nearly perfect as when it left the hands of the primitive workman".

Mr. Watts has also described an almost perfect stone celt which was found in a bed of clay at Castleshaw in 1891, and has remarked anent the same valley that "no doubt primitive man lingered in its shady recesses long after he had retreated from the more rugged vales of the parish".

It is evident that a fine adze-head was found at Spring Grove, and a rough piece of flint in the neighbourhood of Diggle, as already reported.

There is little doubt that intelligent research will in the future reveal many more such old-time relics at Greenfield, Cudworth and Diggle; whether or impure or pure flint is of quite minor import, except for quibbling purposes.

Brandon T. Brierley, Linthwaite,
Delph (2)

9 April

The Brierleyan Camp is evidently in a desperate plight, signals of distress are flying, and a new hero is in the field hurrying to the relief of the beleaguered garrison. I am between the besieged and the relieving forces. I have J.B. in front and B.B. behind, but if a hundred Brierleys entered the field I should stand my ground or position, based as it is upon truth and unassailable fact.

Mr. Joseph Brierley's letter is a compound of evasion and reckless distortion He says that the "article and his letters correspond". This statement he must know to be deliberately untrue. There is a wide and material difference between "83 worked flints" and "83 worked celts and flint arrowheads", of which Mr. Brierley appears to be utterly ignorant.

Perhaps one may reasonably expect to receive mis-statements from a man like Mr. Brierley, who has not a moment's actual research behind him

who does not know the geographical position of one flint site on our moors, who has not picked up a flint in his life, and whose reading is confined to an out-of-date article written at the beginning of local flint research. Strictly speaking, Mr. Brierley is 30 years behind the time; and, in other words, behind current investigation. This is what Mr. Brandon Brierley calls "valuable information". It would be rejected by a mothers' meeting.

I now come to one of those self-contradictory statements which form a peculiar feature of Mr. Joseph Brierley's epistles. Referring to the Castleshaw celts he says that he has never seen them, consequently he never expressed an opinion about them. This is a remarkable declaration when we consider that he has described them as "flint implements"

The letter of Mr. Brandon Brierley now demands a little attention. He begins by making a touching appeal to your readers for thanks on behalf of Mr. Joseph Brierley. I beg to unite with Mr. Brandon in the appeal, because I feel that thanks are urgently needed. It is a case of dire necessity. The two letters were evidently written in close collaboration and pre-arrangement But Mr. Brandon Brierley contradicts Mr. Joseph's "valuable information" He proves that the celts found near Castleshaw are not "flint implements" as contended by Mr. Joseph Brierley.

This is precisely what I have said all along, and drawings of the two celts by Mr. Watts are before me as I write. Mr. Brandon Brierley says that the celt found in the clayfield outside Cudworth is of stone. That is quite true, but when he says that the celt found in Cudworth Quarry is probably impure flint" that statement is incorrect, as Mr. Watts has written on the drawing before me the word "greenstone" (3).

All I seek is the true classification, that an implement may be called what it really is. At the close of his letter Mr. Brierley puts in a strong plea for the intelligent investigations of our moorlands. A thousand men in the north are advocating the same thing. Against this thousand stands Mr. Joseph Brierley, denouncing as valueless all intelligent research and investigation. To my view research which sits at a fireside with a few bought flints and an out-of-date article on the subject, is bogus research and advances nothing.

In conclusion I have reason to know that some little curiosity exists in the district as to what a flint implement really is. Now, I am prepared to attend the next meeting of the Delph Naturalist Society to exhibit various types and explain as fully as I can the workmanship and the supposed uses of flint implements. The only condition I impose is that Mr. Joseph Brierley attends the same meeting, with specimens from his collection, and gives an explanation of the same.

Ammon Wrigley

16 April

As my final contribution to a discussion which it would serve no useful purpose to prolong, let me inform Mr. Ammon Wrigley that when he told your readers that the celts found in Cudwrth were found by workmen he quite understated the case, probably through lack of accurate knowledge.

The workmen who picked up the celts were directed to look for what they found, and were duly rewarded by him who inspired them, namely Mr. Watts, but for whose presence they would never have been recognised or preserved.

The latter gentleman has paced our valleys, day by day, for many years in the past, and it was my valued privilege to be his daily companion during four of them. He has picked up flakes and chippings in nearly every valley in Saddleworth, and has stated, quite recently, that the celt found in the clayfield at Castleshaw is "practically perfect in every way, and is, I believe, flint".

..... The word "greenstone" which Mr. Wrigley finds upon his drawing helps him but little. As a geological term it is indefinite and inexact.

Greenstone contains some 60% of the substance called flint, and were anyone to term it impure flint he would not be far from the truth.

Brandon T. Brierley, Linthwaite,
Delph

16 April

Will you please just allow me a short space to thank Mr. Ammon Wrigley for acknowledging that the two celts belonging to Mr. Watts are, after all, "flint implements".

Mr. Wrigley acknowledged in his last letter the description given by Mr. Watts that they are "greenstone". He might as well have said green flint, which is the same thing.

Mr. Wrigley has actually answered his own contention, and I am very pleased with this acknowledgement. I heartily thank him for making such an important admission.

Joseph Brierley

23 April

In previous letters I have conclusively proved that the "valuable information" alleged to have been furnished by Mr. Joseph Brierley is composed of spurious statements

Now at the tail end of the discussion, I am confronted with the amazing assertion that flint and greenstone are one and the same thing. Here for the moment I may digress to remind Mr. Brandon Brierley that in an early letter I intimated that it was my intention to memorise the prehistoric finds in Saddleworth, and I am now at work upon drawings connected with some of them. It will, therefore, be recognised by Mr. Brierley that it is of the utmost importance to my work that I should know whether the celts in question are "stone implements" or "flint implements". They require a strict and definite classification. I have not moved hastily in the matter, and from the evidence in my possession I have decided to tabulate them as "Saddleworth stone implements".

A greenstone celt, though it contains a percentage of flint, is not and, so far as I know, never was classified as a "flint implement", which is composed of flint only. There is an ambiguity about "greenstone"

but none about flint.

Now, there is Mr. Joseph Brierley's letter. It is plain as the proverbial pikestaff that he has tried to write down what Mr. Brandon Brierley told him. How miserably he has failed will be seen when the two letters are compared. He opens by making another of those wonderful discoveries with which he periodically electrifies himself and convulses his readers. He contradicts his collaborator, and discovers by some process of analysis hitherto unknown to science, that there is no such thing as flint, it is really greenstone. His argument amounts to this: if I throw an orange into a basket of apples the orange immediately becomes an apple, or if I pick a piece of greenstone up on the moor everything there must necessarily be composed of that greenstone.

One need not be surprised when one considers the source from which such statements come. They are typical of Mr. Joseph. His premature boasts about the flint implements of Diggle and Greenfield vanished into thin air, and his Cudworth flints are vanishing the same way.

Ammon Wrigley

This letter concluded the correspondence on the flint implements.

Postscript

Although most of the prehistoric artifacts found on Saddleworth's moorland areas consist of flint microliths and chippings, much of the correspondence was concerned with the larger stone implements, or "celts" as they were described in the letters.

From the 1870's onwards, many people began to collect the flint implements, so often exposed after heavy rain. Most of these were surface finds and there was little attempt to excavate the sites or to correlate the results. Some of the correspondents fall into this category, though Ammon Wrigley did carry out some "excavations" ("digging" as opposed to careful "scraping"), and he acquired a considerable collection of flints of all ages.

However, it was not until after the First World War that excavations in a more scientific manner began, and Francis Buckley of Tunstead, Greenfield, undertook re-examination of the sites disclosed by the earlier workers as well as discovering many new ones. Although modern excavators might frown on some of his methods, in the process he did bring to light many new facts concerning the Mesolithic flint industries, and he became a leading authority on this period. Buckley wrote and published privately two booklets on the subject (4), and a synthesis of his early work was also provided by J.A. Petch in 1924 (5). His scientific work was summarised by Clark in 1932 (6), and his classification of the flints into broad blade and narrow blade industries is still accepted at the present day. However, despite Buckley's example, mere collecting of flints continued, and much less information was gained from detailed observation than might have been up to the 1950's. Field activities were (and sometimes still are) confined to casual surface collecting, often without due attention to separating the finds from different sites. Thus Francis Buckley's work was the "outstanding exception to the general rule" (7). He excavated microlithic industries from beneath the peat on the high moors (mainly between 1,200 and 1,500 feet) and produced a number of large,

complete and unselected collections of flints known to have come from small well-defined areas, and for decades these represented the only true assemblages of Pennine Mesolithic material available.

Notes and References

1. The word "celt" (with a soft "c") was the usual name in the last century for an axe, adze or hoe blade of stone or bronze. The term has largely died out.
2. Brandon T. Brierley, F.R.A.S., F.R.G.S., was the son of Morgan Brierley of Denshaw House and was born in 1863. His early interest in mathematics and science led to his being articled both as an engineer and architect in later life. He married a daughter of John Butterworth of Denshaw, and around 1902 built a house near Linfitts, Delph, which he called Lynthwaite. About this time he retired from an active business life to devote his time to travelling, scientific interests and local affairs. His travels took him, for example, to Egypt, where he studied the Pyramids not so much from the archaeological standpoint but with regard to their astronomical value in the calculation of time, and this led to much discussion with other Egyptologists. A member of the Royal Astronomical Society, Brierley purchased a powerful telescope with clockwork motion, and housed this equipment in an observatory which he had erected in the grounds of his house: its foundations can still be distinguished at the present day. His travels led to his admission to the Royal Geographical Society, and he lectured frequently and widely on his various interests. It was said that he would give the same care to the preparation of a lecture for members of the Delph Botanical Society as for one given in the biggest hall. A founder member of the Saddleworth Literary and Philosophical Society, he was elected its president and was very active in the Society's organisation for many years. Indeed, its eventual break-up was to a large extent due to his illness, which was prolonged for some years. In 1920 he was elected president of the re-organised Denshaw Band, and was a moving spirit in the erection of the Denshaw Memorial, preparing its design and superintending the completion of the scheme free of charge. He died in March, 1921, at the age of 58, and was buried at Denshaw.
3. "Greenstone" is a loose term comprising a variety of rocks, usually volcanic in origin. The general term is useful, however, as ancient man employed these different materials interchangeably, particularly for high quality or ceremonial polished stone axes. The term greenstone and flint are not interchangeable.
4. Buckley, F. (1921) A Microlithic Industry, Marsden, Yorkshire
(1924) A Microlithic Industry of the Pennine Chain
5. Petch, J.A. (1924) Early Man in the District of Huddersfield, Tolson Memorial Museum, Huddersfield, Handbook No. 3 (with an appendix on "The Nature and Making of Graving Tools" by Francis Buckley)
6. Clark, J.G.D. (1932) The Mesolithic Age in Britain, Cambridge, pp.21-28
7. Radley, J. & Mellars, P. (1964) A Mesolithic Structure at Deepcar, Yorks
..... Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society. 30, p.1

Bernard Barnes

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.

DALE

Grid Reference: SD 989081

Location: Eastern side of Delph Hill between 700 and 750 feet above sea level.

Description: Called Brown Knot Hill in early deeds, the houses at Dale can be divided into two groups. At Lower Dale are Dale House and the former farmhouse, now called Dale Cottage. Dale House is an early nineteenth century, three storey house, built of stone (watershot stonework) with a stone roof and symmetrical front. Later cottage added to rear. Also at rear are outside steps giving access to 'taken-in' door on first floor of main house. Dale Cottage, a two-storey former farmhouse is also built of watershot stonework and has a large barn with arched entrance attached to the rear. Further up the hillside at Upper Dale are two buildings. The southern one is a two storey cottage built of stone with flat-mullioned windows. The larger building to the north is again two storeys in height. The eastern end is older and is divided into 3 or 4 cottages. These have been much altered: the roof has been raised and windows inserted into the gable end. The western end of the building (part of which is called Higher Dale Cottage) is a flat-mullioned, later building, consisting of 3 or 4 back-to-back cottages.

History: 1712 Chief Rent Roll: James Whitehead of Dale paid 2d.
1726 11 Sept. Martha daughter of James Whitehead of Delph-hill clothier and Mary his wife was christened. Robert son of James Whitehead clothier and Mary his wife of Dale christened.
1729 5 Jan. James Whitehead of Delph Hill husbandman was buried 18 July 1741 (Registers).
1732 26 Dec. Benjamin Whitehead clothier of Upper Mill married Mary Whitehead of Dale (Registers).
1739 Henry son of Anna Whitehead of Delph-hill spinster by Abel Buckley of Stones husbandman christened on 19 Jan. John son of Anna Whitehead spinster of Dale by Abel Buckley of Stones was christened and buried on 10 Aug. 1741 (Registers).
1743 7 Aug. Henry Whitehead clothier of Dale married Hannah Wood of Dobcross (Registers).
1744 12 Apr. John Kenworthy of Thurstons clothier married Sarah Whitehead of Delph-hill.
1748 24 Nov. James Whitehead clothier of Dale married Elizabeth Armitage of Delph-slack. Their daughter Mary was christened 22 Jan. 1749 (Registers).
1749 James son of Robert Whitehead clothier and Sarah his wife of Dale christened 14 July (Registers).
1763 9 Nov. Widow Whitehead of Dale buried (Registers).
1768 John Whitehead of Dale was a Warden of Saddleworth Church (Registers).
1768 31 Mar. Henry Whitehead married Hannah Gartside. 24

- Dec. 1769 Mary daughter of Henry Whitehead clothier and Hannah his wife of Dale christened. Their son John was christened 13 Dec. 1772, their daughter Sally on 5 Jan. 1776, their daughter Anna on 12 July 1778 and their daughter Betty on 24 June 1781 (Registers).
- 1788 20 Oct. Indenture between 1) John Rhodes of Brown Knott Hill otherwise Dale clothier 2) Abel Rhodes of Delph clothier 3) Edward Brisco of Wakefield Esq. and Walter Brisco the younger of St. Mary-le-bone in Middlesex Esq. (two of the executors of the late Musgrave Brisco late of Wakefield Esq.) 4) Mary Brisco widow concerning messuage called Brown Knot Hill or Dale, together with houses, cottages etc. and fields called Marled Earth, Higher Field, Lower Field, Rough Meadow, Meadow below the Door, containing 18 days work and now in the occupation of John Rhodes, together with waste on Harrop Edge (Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, CY 705).
- 1789 26 July. Thomas Shaw, the Saddleworth poet, was born at Dale. In 1824 he published by subscription a volume of verse entitled "Recent Poems on Rural and Miscellaneous Subjects", which was 200 pages in length. He died at Oxhey on 10 March 1861, aged 72 (Registers).
- 1807 James Wilde of Dale, clothier, dealer and chapman, was declared a bankrupt. He was the owner of Woodhouse Mill, Delph (Mill deeds).
- 1810 The Enclosure Records list James Shaw of Dale, occupier of 11 acres 1 rood 15 perches.
- 1814-25 Various directories list James Shaw of Dale, woollen manufacturer and merchant. In 1814 he had become the owner of Hull Mill, and later he was also at Old Tame Mill.
- 1826 The Registers mention Joseph Shaw and Mally his wife of Dale, and Thomas Greaves clothier and Mally his wife.
- 1827-8 Thomas Greaves of Dale was a subscriber to the Saddleworth Weavers' Union.
- 1832 Pigot's Directory listed James Shaw, merchant and manufacturer of Dale. He was also mentioned in the 1838 West Riding Poll Book.
- 1835 The Church Rate Book listed James Shaw as the owner of Dale, and the occupiers as James Shaw, Henry Hall, William Schofield and Joseph Shaw.
- 1841 9 Jan. Will of James Shaw of Dale: he bequeathed his messuage etc. at Dale to his son John and his son-in-law James Bradbury, together with the "liberty to use the water in the well and dyehouse at Dale and to wash cloths, brew in and use the said dyehouse in the manner it has heretofore been enjoyed". He also left John Shaw and James Bradbury a cottage at Sandbed Lane, 6 closes on Harrop Edge, cottages at Higher Dale, "liberty to drain water from Sandbed Spring to Dale through the closes of land at Sandbed Green", and an estate at Broadmeadow, near Denshaw. James Shaw died on 14 March 1841 aged 76 (Ann his wife had died on 27 Mar. 1831, aged 62). The Registers record the marriage between James Shaw and Ann Schofield on 19 Feb. 1789.
- 1841 The Census recorded the following households at Dale: Sarah Shaw, of independent means, together with a son and 2 daughters; John Shaw, a manufacturer aged 35, his wife Betty (35) and 1 servant; William Schofield, a woollen weaver, + 3 males and 2 females; Samuel Rhodes, a woollen weaver, + 5 males and 4 females; Thomas Hall, a woollen weaver, + 1 male and 4 females; Thomas Shaw, a woollen weaver, aged 34

- and his daughter Esther, aged 10.
- 1843-8 Pigot's Directories listed John Shaw, woolstapler of Dale. In 1846-7 he contributed £5 to the building of the tower at Saddleworth Church.
- 1851 The Census listed 9 families at Dale: John Shaw, a woollen carder, + 1 m 5 f and 2 servants; Joseph Shaw, overlooker in a woollen mill, + 1 f; John Bailey, woollen power loom weaver, + 1 m 2 f; John Hurst, a woollen hand-loom weaver, + 5 m 4 f, among whom were 1 hand-loom weaver, 1 hand spinner, 1 power loom weaver and 2 shawl twisters; Thomas Schofield, a carter, + 4 m 2 f, one of whom was a shawl twister; Thomas Shaw, a woollen hand-loom weaver, + 3 m 1 f, one of whom was a woollen spinner; John Buckley, a woollen dyer, + 3 f; and John Kershaw, a woollen power loom weaver, + 2 m 2 f.
- 1852 Slater's Director listed John Shaw, woollen manufacturer and carder of Dale.
- 1862 George Shaw of Dale served on the Committee for the relief of people in distress due to the cotton famine. John Shaw of Dale subscribed £10 to the Friarmere Relief Fund.
- 1868 3 Sept. John Shaw of Dale, woollen manufacturer, mortgaged his estate called Brown Knot Hill or Dale to Martha Haworth of Openshaw, widow. The following fields were included: Marled Earth, Higher Field, Lower Field, Rough Meadow and Meadow below the Door, all of which were more recently called the Large Meadow, Back Field, Higher Back Field, Marled Earth, Field below the Door and Little Meadow, containing 11a 3r 39p and in the occupation of John Shaw. The deed referred to land devised by James Shaw to John Shaw and James Bradbury in trust for his daughter Sarah Shaw. The mortgage also included Hull Mill, land at Old Tame and Old Tame Mill (Registry of Deeds, Wakefield 616/102). Shaw redeemed the mortgage by an Indenture dated 28 October 1870 (650/567).
- 1870 16 Nov. George John Shaw of Dale, woollen carder, released to Shakespear Shaw of Manchester, merchant, and John Callow Wilson of London, merchant, the messuage at Dale formerly in the occupation of John Shaw, liberty of using the water in the dyehouse, a messuage at Sandbed Lane formerly in the occupation of Joseph Shaw, and cottages at Higher Dale (Registry of Deeds, 650/568). On the same day, George John Shaw released to Charles Shaw of Copthall Court in London, merchant, a messuage at Dale and land containing 11a 3r 4p (650/570).
- 1871 The Census recorded 8 households at Dale: John Kaye, a woollen hand-loom weaver; Thomas Shaw, a woollen hand-loom weaver; Thomas Hall, a woollen hand-loom weaver; Samuel Whiteley, a farm worker; Mary Ann Brierley, a woollen shawl twister; George John Shaw, woollen carder and spinner; Elizabeth Wood, a power loom weaver; Mary Shaw, an annuitant.

B.B.

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

Information should be sent to the Editor of the Bulletin:

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Greenfield,
OLDHAM OL3 7LL.

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

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