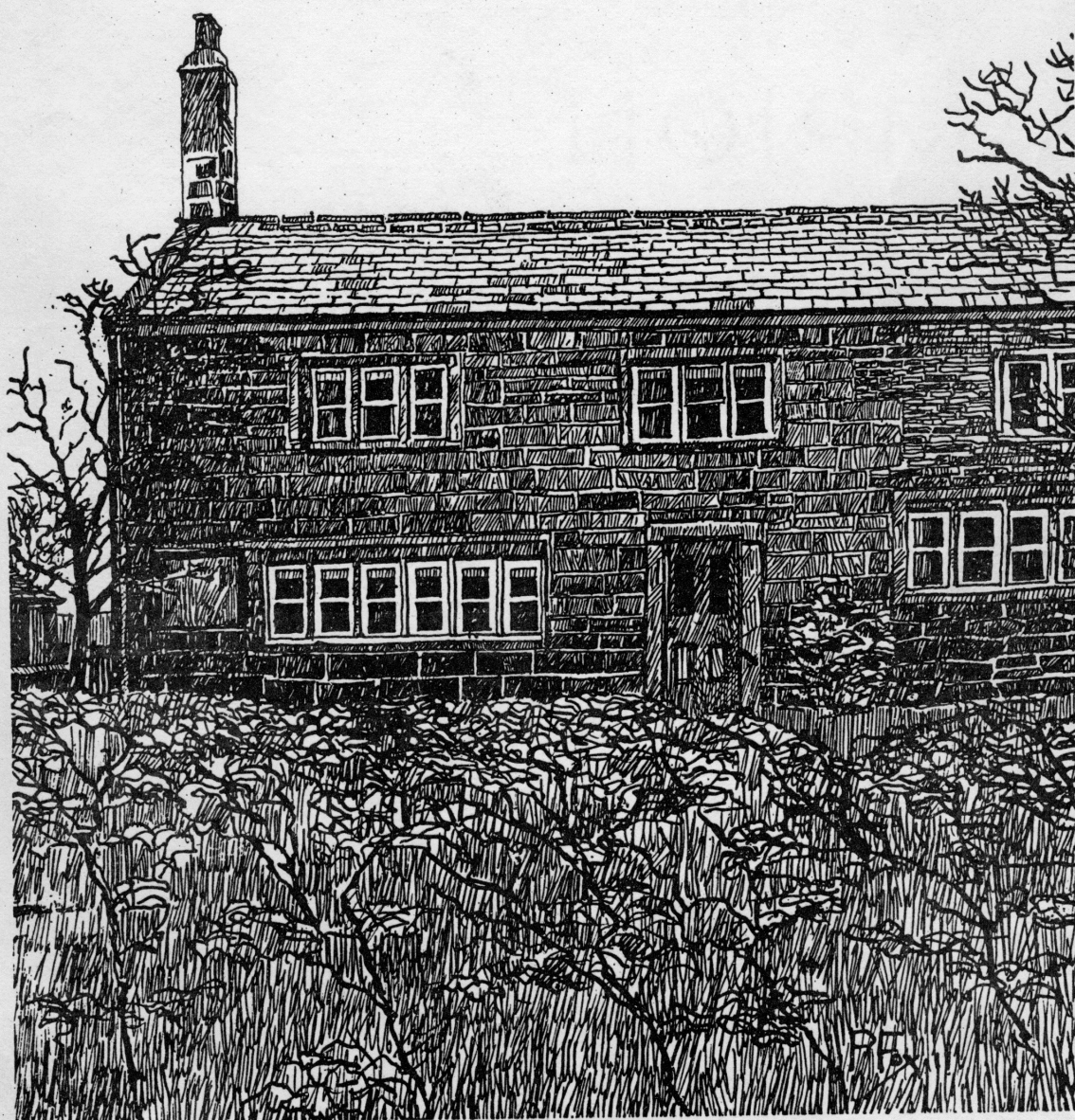


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



HIGHER CASTLESHAW FARM ca. 1900

BULLETIN
OF THE
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 11 Number 4

Winter 1981

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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1981

Extracts from the Chairman's Report

I propose to review first the more important events of the year. I would like to record the pleasure of the Society at the appointment of Councillor Alan Bradbury to the Chairmanship of the Saddleworth Parish Council and to thank Mrs. Bradbury and himself for finding time to attend our meetings in what must be a very busy year.

It has been an eventful year during which we have moved house from the Centre to the Museum here. We have not completely severed our connection with the Centre as we explained in the Spring Newsletter. The Committee are still affiliated and as a result they have been able to hold meetings there. We are holding general meetings here in the Museum, and we hope to improve the facilities for these meetings.

Mr. Barnes' important book, Passage through Time, went on the market early this year and although it wasn't reviewed for several months the book sold well - a measure of the regard which the public has for his work. Remembering how many people were disappointed in their efforts to buy a copy of his last publication, Saddleworth Heritage, I would advise anyone who has not already bought Passage through Time to do so whilst it is still available.

Another book is in preparation, a book of Saddleworth Maps. Mr. Michael Buckley was the prime mover in this project. Mr. Barnes and Mr. Hunt are piloting it through. Mr. Buckley and Mr. Alan Petford have already put in a lot of work copying old maps. It will be a comprehensive publication and will include amongst others all the Enclosure Maps. The Denshaw one which has been missing for so many years came to light only this year through the vigilance of Mrs. Barbara Booth and Mr. Hunt. It was in the Bolton M.B.C. archives. Mr. Hunt has delved deeply into the history of Castleshaw and Friarmere, and has succeeded in acquiring from the N.W. Water Authority in Warrington the custody of a stack of old Castleshaw and Denshaw deeds, which are now being listed at the Local Interest Centre in Oldham. He was co-opted on to the Society Committee at the beginning of the year and has taken a very active and helpful part in the running of the Society.

The Parish Council and the Oldham M.B.C. approved the scheme to re-open the canal between the Museum and the Wool Road warehouse. This project is being undertaken by the Huddersfield Canal Society, and our Society has supported the scheme since its inception on historical grounds.

The Archaeology Section have received permission from the N.W. Water Authority to excavate at Castleshaw. Professor G.D.B. Jones of Manchester University supported the application - evidence that the University think highly of the responsible manner in which this Section operates.

We have come to expect wholehearted commitment from our Secretary, Mrs. Booth, and this is precisely what she gives to the running of the Society. Once again she has organised an interesting and varied programme of talks, many of them by Society members whom she has always encouraged to participate in this way. She has ensured the proper running of the Society and has kept the Committee fully informed. We - myself in particular - are very fortunate to have such a conscientious and able person occupying this office, and I am very grateful to her for

her help and friendship.

The principal concern of our Publications Officer has been the delay in printing the Summer and Autumn issues of the Bulletin. Both were ready for the printer in good time, but were not done until last month (November) - for reasons entirely beyond our control. The Summer Bulletin was held up because the offset litho was occupied with a heavy run on a publication for the Oldham M.B.C. When this was cleared the machine broke down. Our Committee authorised putting both the publications out to a commercial printer but before this could be negotiated the offset litho was back in production. Mr. Barnes asked me to record his thanks to Mr. Gordon Parry for overseeing the production side of the Bulletins, which must have caused him much heartache over the past few months. And to Mr. Julian Hunt for finding the cover illustrations and many inside ones. He also thanks Mrs. Barbara Butterworth for interpreting his manuscripts with her usual patience and care in producing facsimiles for the printer. He reports that, in addition to local sales outlets, bookshops in Manchester and Leeds have sold many copies of Passage through Time. The Local Interest Trails continue to sell well. The Delph, Heights and Grange one is now virtually out of print and we are enquiring about a further reprint. We will soon be out of stock of the Uppermill Trail, and Mr. Barnes feels that further village trails round Delph and Dobcross would be worthwhile. He concludes his report: "..... finally a plea for contributions from members. No matter how slight your effort or how diffident you may be about putting pen to paper there is urgent need for more material for the Bulletin". As a matter of interest, the University of Liverpool and the Merseyside Museum are co-operating to publish an archaeological work in the New Year by Mr. Barnes, Man and the Changing Landscape in the Central Pennines. This should be worth buying too when it comes out. With all this work he still found time to lead us in July on a very interesting walk in the Calder valley. Mr. Mike Howarth provided the transport.

The Rev. Canon Airne reports that the Society's archives continue to increase, and interesting additions have been made this year - documents concerning the Whiteheads of Royal George, the Lawtons of Grove (Delph), the canals, railroads, turnpikes, etc. The cupboard in Lee Street is now almost full. A few members have availed themselves of the facilities to study the archives, as can be seen by the references appearing in some Bulletin articles and in Passage through Time. Also one or two students from outside the Society and Saddleworth have consulted them. The removal of the archives to the Museum is under consideration, but nothing definite can be decided until the proposed arrangements for the cataloguing, security and preservation of the Museum Archives are under way. There is now a wealth of material which if fully used could supply interesting articles for the Bulletin for a long time to come. Members who have not yet put pen to paper would be encouraged to do so by coming to see what is available. They may even be moved to offer to give a talk to the Society.

Mr. David Chadderton, Vice-Chairman and leader of the Social Committee, apologised for not organising any social functions since the winter blues party at the Swan last January. He pleads that he has been very busy this year at work. I must add that he has also been very busy with other Society affairs. He has always been a very active member of the Industrial Archaeology Section, and particularly so this year. He has acted as leader of the working parties at the Wool Road Warehouse in place of Mr. John Buckley who has been heavily committed at the Museum restoring the Dobcross Loom. The roof is now finished and the Wool Road Warehouse team held a meeting at the end of November to plan the next phase of the restoration. This will probably involve heavy expenditure and further money-raising

activities may be necessary. Mrs. Nell Buckley raised nearly £40 last month with another "Good as New" sale. Only a small number of people have worked on the warehouse during this year, and the Society is indebted to them for giving up their Saturday mornings to help. The group would welcome new members. Would anyone who is interested please contact Mr. Chadderton or Mr. Buckley. In addition to his work at the warehouse, Mr. Chadderton has applied to two firms for grants for the reconstruction. One, to a brewery, was rejected. The other, to Shell, yielded an award of £140 - the second we have had from this firm. He has tried, so far without success, to have the Heathfields water wheel site listed. He also addressed the public meeting called by the Saddleworth Parish Council when the Huddersfield Canal Society sought planning permission to re-open the canal lock. He led the Boundary Walk which raised £36 in sponsorship for the Parish Council Chairman's Charity and led the Uppermill Walk for the Tame Valley Wardens. He serves on the Museum Management and spent a full day helping run the Transport Extravaganza. He has investigated the possibilities of running a Society train trip which might be feasible in this coming year.

The Archaeology Section has had another interesting year, highlighted by the excavating permission I referred to earlier. They have held their meetings at the Swan in Dobcross and members in turn have presented a quiz as part of the evening's programme. They have had several enjoyable outdoor trips during the late Spring and Summer, and have done an exploratory dig on the conjectured line of the Roman Road at Old Nathans. At the last meeting, Mr. Jim Carr was nominated to replace Mr. Booth as leader. Mr. Booth has resigned the post after 10 years because of his business commitments and because he already has the onerous post of Treasurer to the Society. He has also resigned from the Museum Management Committee. Mr. Carr thanked Mr. Booth warmly on behalf of the members for his long service to the Section. Mr. Booth asked me to record his appreciation of the help given by the group members in running the events, particularly Dr. Pat Stonehouse and Mr. Alec Schofield.

Mr. Neil Barrow, Museum Officer, reports further progress and consolidation during 1981. Admission figures are expected to exceed £2,000 and publication sales £1,200. The income, however, has not covered running expenses and fund-raising events have been necessary to supplement it. One was the Beer Festival, now a regular feature on the Saddleworth Calendar. Another was the Transport Extravaganza, very well organised, held in atrocious weather conditions which seriously curtailed the attendance, but which made a small profit which will be used to improve the display in the Transport Room. The experience gained in organising and running this event should be invaluable in planning these displays in the future. Within the Museum two projects are nearing completion. A mock weaver's cottage is being built which will lead into the exhibit on the domestic woollen industry of Saddleworth. Downstairs the Dobcross Loom will soon be fully restored. This will form part of the display on the mechanised phase of the Saddleworth woollen industry. Elsewhere, work continues restoring costume items, cataloguing accessions and preparing exhibits. In all these areas, money raising and practical work, Society members have played an important part and Mr. Barrow is very appreciative of this contribution. The Community Enterprise Programme has agreed to assist with the employment of staff and craftsmen for one year. Society members have co-operated in preparing the applications for help from grant-giving Trusts, and we are hoping these will make it possible to complete the work which still needs to be done, particularly in the archives room and in the provision of an early history display. To sustain this level of activity in the

Museum a pool of helpers is needed, particularly curators, and Mr. Barrow will be pleased to provide further information to interested members.

We learn from our Membership Secretary, Mr. Stanley Broadbent, that the number of members increased this year by 33 to 308. Although he attributes this to the continuing appeal of the Society and the manner in which the Section leaders organise our various activities, I know that much of this increase can be put down to his own efforts, ably assisted by Mrs. Elsie Broadbent. He points out that we have 5 overseas members - 4 in the U.S.A. and 1 in Canada. The Cavalier family from Pennsylvania stayed with Mr. & Mrs. Parry during their visit this year, and Mr. H.C. Wrigley from North Carolina is expected in May, hot on the trail of the Wrigley family. Mr. Broadbent records the departure from Saddleworth of John and Janet Jones, two popular members whose ties with the district are not completely severed. And he makes the novel suggestion that members might like to consider buying Society Membership as presents for their friends and relatives. I must add to this report on Mr. Broadbent's work the fact that in February he went to a lot of trouble to assemble a small cast from the Society to give an historical sketch on the Saddleworth Weavers' Union in the last century. It was presented at the Millgate Centre along with contributions from other local bodies and the proceeds went to the Museum fund.

It is very satisfying to dwell on the way this Society has grown since its formation 15 years ago, and as the years go by we are discovering more and more of Saddleworth's history - not only discovering it but making a lasting record of it in the Society Bulletins which Mr. Barnes produces and in the archives which the Society and the Museum have accumulated. We can claim too, without boasting, to have given considerable encouragement to the study of our local history - which, of course, is set out as our remit in the Society's constitution. No-one can dispute that the Committee deserve a lot of credit for this progress. They have devoted a lot of their leisure time to our affairs - and what of the future? We invited nominations for the Committee in our Spring Newsletter, but only one has been received and that is from the Archaeology Section for Mr. Carr to replace Mr. Booth as leader of that Section. This means that the motion of Mr. Carr which was approved at the last A.G.M. becomes operative and that the Committee, or as many as are willing to continue in office, will be automatically re-elected for the coming year. The Committee, however, are concerned about the specialist posts, those of Publications Officer, Secretary and Treasurer, which are vital to the running of the Society and yet are vulnerable. If any of these posts were unoccupied it is difficult to imagine how the Society could function. The first meeting of the new Committee will, therefore, have this topic as the principal item for discussion.

I cannot end this report without acknowledging the obligation of this Society to Mr. Roger Tanner our patron and to the Museum Management Committee for providing us with this venue for our meetings. The Committee are trying to organise another Society function for the Museum fund. Individual members of the Society might have their own schemes for raising money towards this fund. I may add that any contributions would be welcome, particularly if received by February because I believe the outstanding bank overdraft comes up for review then. I am very grateful to all the members of the Committee for the work they have done this year and to the membership and friends who have rallied to the calls for help we have made so frequently. I hope this spirit continues within the Society when we can look forward to another successful year in 1982.

John Murray.

SOME ROMAN COINS FROM THE OLDHAM AND SADDLEWORTH AREA

A bronze coin allegedly found in the Fitton Hill area and brought into the Local Interest Centre, Oldham, recently has proved to be a modern copy of a gold solidus of Arcadius (AD 383-408) made from two unifacial discs joined by lead solder. It has, however, prompted a review of genuine Roman coin finds in this area. Several of these, which were donated to Oldham Library and Museum earlier this century, have remained unpublished but are of interest in light of current research on the Roman road.

A bronze follis of Diocletian (AD 294-305) donated unprovenanced in 1954 is now thought by the donor to have been discovered by Abraham Schofield, a bakestone cutter, whilst quarrying in the Castleshaw valley between 1900-1920. Although its position cannot be accurately stated it is probably related to the road rather than the fort which it post-dates by almost 175 years.



The obverse legend reads IMP(ERATOR) C(AESAR) DIOCLETIANVS P(IVS) F(ELIX) AVG(VSTVS): the reverse GENIO POPVLI ROMANI with Genius standing left holding a patera, in exergue, ALE(XANDRIA) in field, XXIB. Coins such as this one, minted in Alexandria, are not uncommon in Britain, whereas the billon tetradachm of Claudius II Gothicus (AD 268-270), allegedly dug up at Moorside in 1924, was struck specifically for use in Egypt. Another billon tetradachm, this time of Carus (AD 282-283), was found at Snipe Clough in 1916, and one of Probus (AD 276-282) was discovered at Albert Mount, Derker, in 1937. In 1934 a worn silvered radiate of Postumus (AD 259-268), recognisable by its pronounced crown, was dug up in Springfield Lane, Royton; and finally, in 1937, the last of the series, a Constantinian coin of unknown denomination (AD 305-337), was excavated from "an old lane in Pitses".

A list of Roman coins compiled from various sources is given below, with coins from the Local Interest Centre collections marked thus - *.

<u>Issuer</u>	<u>Date (AD)</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Reference</u>
Domitian	73-96	Fortuna with Cornucopia	Alexandra Park	worn	*TLCAS 8, 1890, 155
Antoninus Pius	138-161	-	Crow Knoll	-	TRLSS 15, 1923-25, 59
Marcus Aurelius	161-180	-	Unknown	-	TLCAS 8, 1890, 155
Marcus Aurelius	161-180	-	Spaw, Royton	worn	C. Pickup, <u>History of Royton</u>
Postumus	259-268	MONETA AVG C.199	Springfield Lane, Royton	worn	*

<u>Issuer</u>	<u>Date (AD)</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Reference</u>
Probus	276-282	Eirene - Standing right	Albert Mount, Derker	slightly worn	*
Carus	282-283	-	Snipe Clough	worn	*
Claudius II	268-270	BMC G2320 Nike standing right? Genius standing left	Moorside	slightly worn	*
Diocletian	284-305	R.I.C.32	Castleshaw valley	good	*
Constantine	306-337	-	Pitses	-	*
Unknown	Roman	-	Millstone Edge	-	SMRS
Unknown	Roman	-	Slences	-	TLCAS 1, 1892, 251
Hoard of 100+ coins	135-235	-	Heron St., Oldham	mainly worn	TLCAS 8, 1890, 136

Coins from the Castleshaw Fort

Dossenus	83 BC				F.A. Bruton, <u>The Roman Fort at Castleshaw, Second Interim Report, 1911</u>
Vespasian	69-79 AD				
Trajan (3 copies)	98-117				
Hadrian	117-138				

Abbreviations: TLCAS - Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society
 TRLSS - Transactions of the Rochdale Literary and Scientific Society
 SMRS - Saddleworth Museum Record Sheets
 R.I.C. - Roman Imperial Coinage
 BMC - Roman Coins in British Museum
 C. - Cohen Number

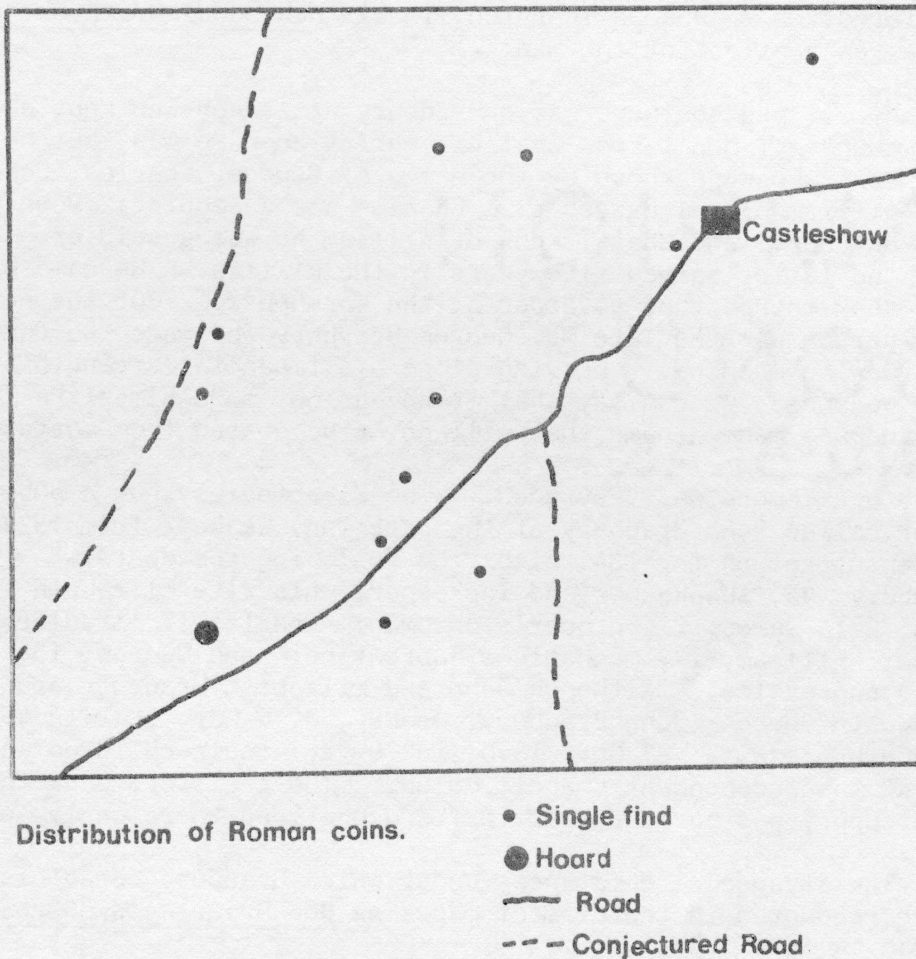
Dating

The absence of coins between 180 AD and the mid-late 3rd Century follows the pattern of finds from the Roman Fort at Manchester, but this may reflect a general fall in available currency as much as a break in occupation. New discoveries could easily change this picture based, as it is, on such a small sample.

Distribution (see Map)

At least five of the single coin finds are in close proximity to the Roman road from Manchester to Castleshaw and can be attributed to casual loss by its users, whilst the hoard found by workmen during the construction of Chamber Mill in 1887, although deliberately concealed, is only half a mile away. The two coins from Royton lend some support to the theory of a Roman road from Manchester to Ilkley via Blackstone Edge, as does a single pottery lamp (c. 300 AD) from Chadderton. The remaining find spots probably relate to local trackways: indeed, the coin from Pitses comes from "an old lane", but the long-held Roman road up to Oldham Edge can be dismissed. There is no evidence for a Roman settlement which would necessitate such a line of communication. Despite the frequency of building and re-building

over the last century, the only Roman pottery from the Oldham area itself is an enamelled patera of red pottery discovered in the vicinity of the road. In general these finds reinforce the existing picture of military



occupation.

Footnote

A temporary display of local archaeological material including the above-mentioned coins can be seen at the Local Interest Centre until May, 1982.

References

Mattingley, H., and Sydenham, E.A., The Roman Imperial Coinage.

Frank Carpenter.

THE RISE AND FALL OF GEORGE FRANCIS BRADBURY

Saddleworth is unlikely to forget that the great textile machinery concern, Platt Brothers, had its origin in a small Dobcross workshop, yet that Europe's first manufacturer of sewing machines came from Diggle seems entirely forgotten. Joseph Thornton, in his New Saddleworth Sketches, has one of the few mentions of the man:

"..... and so there was a Bradbury at Weakey who kept a grocer's shop. I don't know what his christian name was, but he had four sons who were known by the names of George, Charles, John and William o' th' Badger's. Charles was a saddler; John was a pig-butcher; and what I know of William he was a soldier. I think the latter served five years in the Militia. He came back and took the post of governor at the Workhouse. But the noteworthy person was the late Mr. George Bradbury who made the famous Sewing-machine. Leaving alone his financial strength or weakness, we can say that if he has not made himself a "Carnegie", he has made a name that will never be erased from mortal memory. "

Thornton's own memory was very good. The directories show a publican and shopkeeper called John Bradbury at the Gate Inn, Weakey, from 1824 to 1843, and the Census return for 1841 gives the following residents:- John Bradbury, 45, shopkeeper and innkeeper; his wife Elizabeth, 49; his sons John, 24; James, 21, grocer's chapman; Charles 19, saddler's apprentice; William, 17, mechanic's apprentice; and George, 15, also a mechanic's apprentice. Although John and Elizabeth Bradbury are buried at Saddleworth Church (John Bradbury, Weakey, d. 9 Mar. 1842 in 49 yr.; and Elizabeth his w. d. 23 Oct. 1870, in 70 yr.) their children were baptised at the Independent Chapel, Delph. The registers show that George Francis Bradbury was born 26 Feb. 1827 and baptised there on 15 April 1827.

The strange circumstances under which Bradbury began his business career are recounted in the dialect magazine Ben Brierley's Journal, 11 Mar. 1882:

"..... About the year 1852, a gentleman who had procured a model of a sewing machine from America applied to Messrs. Platt Brothers of Oldham with an order to construct a machine on the principle of the model obtained. The workpeople at this establishment were at that time "locked-out" through some dispute in the trade Two of the lock-outs, Messrs. Bradbury and Sugden, came in contact with the gentlman who had applied to Platt Brothers; and an agreement was made that they should try to copy the machine. They at once rented a cottage on Primrose Bank; and commenced operations. An engine and boiler, which had cost them £18, were placed outside the premises, there being no room for them inside; and with very simply constructed machinery the two workmen-partners managed to produce the first English sewing machine. "

When Brierley wrote this article in 1882, Bradbury's original partner, Thomas Sugden, was head of the firm's experimental department and was probably the source of the story. Sugden's obituary in the Oldham Chronicle, 17 Mar. 1888, gives further detail:

"..... He was by birth a Yorkshireman, but came at an early age to Oldham where his first employment was at Hartford Old Works, Lowermoor he and his brother Frederick, some time about the

year 1852, established themselves in association with Mr. Bradbury and Mr. Firth. Their place of business was at Primrose Bank in a small way, but like many other firms in Oldham, subsequently became of great size. A short time previous to starting the works, the deceased invented the Lancashire sewing machine which was held and still is held deservedly in great favour by tailors and workpeople of that class The business of the concern increasing, larger premises were found at Rhodes Bank to which locality the works were removed. Mr. Firth dying, Mr. Bradbury in association with Mr. Chadwick, became proprietors of the concern which by this time had become known as one of the most successful sewing machine works in England. The deceased did not remain in business association with Mr. Bradbury, but shortly afterwards restarted in the same line and in the same locality of Rhodes Bank. "

Bradbury's new partner, Thomas Chadwick, remained with the firm until his death in 1886. The Oldham Chronicle of 21 Mar. 1885 reports the presentation to him of a testimonial on his 25th year in the industry. Over 500 employees of Bradbury & Co. Ltd. attended the function, and the following is part of Chadwick's reply:

"..... I first entered the business of sewing machine manufacturing in 1860 along with a few others in a small way at Werneth, they having previously been engaged by a local firm in the making of sewing machines. I soon discovered that they had but little knowledge of the trade which they had entered into, and I took at once steps to disengage myself from them. This I did by purchasing the shares of each partner respectively till I was left alone. At this juncture I took in partnership Mr. William Jones, now of the firm of Jones & Co., Guide Bridge. It was agreed to leave Oldham and establish ourselves at Ashton-under-Lyne in the name of Chadwick and Jones. This partnership came to an end after which I joined the late Mr. Bradbury in January 1864 ... The number of machines made in 1863, previous to my joining the firm, was about equal to one week's production at the present time. It was in 1866 we commenced to build the first instalment of Wellington Works. The years from 1866 to 1874 were years of great prosperity to the private firm. The rapid increase in the business necessitated increased capital, so that early in 1874 the private firm disposed of their entire works and business to the Limited Company, myself and the late Mr. Bradbury being appointed managing directors. "

These accounts speak volumes of the formation and dissolution of simple business partnerships and the number of small firms manufacturing this early domestic appliance, but they tell us little of George Francis Bradbury save that he was dead by 1885.

We catch a glimpse of him living with his family in Coronation Street, Oldham, at the time of the 1861 Census. Aged 34, he describes himself as a "master mechanic employing 17 men and 6 boys". By 1871 he has moved to one of the large houses on Queen's Road, overlooking the Park; now he is a "master sewing machine maker employing 244 hands", and his son, Charles, is a commercial clerk with the firm. Already a councillor for Oldham St. Peter's Ward, he is elected an Alderman in November, 1871. As a guide to his wealth, we can take the valuation of the sewing machine works and plant of £79,763, given in the

1874 agreement turning the firm into a limited company (P.R.O. BT31/14487/8327).

With Bradbury & Co. now a limited company, its shareholders' meetings are open to the public and to the press. The Oldham Standard of 19 Feb. 1876 reports the 4th General Meeting of the shareholders:

"..... Allusion was made to a manufactory which Mr. Bradbury had erected at Pendleton. The Board notified him that he had committed a breach of the articles of association by the share he had in the operations on behalf of his son, who was under age. As soon as the matter was brought under Mr. Bradbury's notice, he at once admitted it was a breach of the articles It was stated that Mr. Bradbury had made a valuable discovery in sewing machine manufacture and had offered its benefits to the Board, who, however, being anxious to concentrate their endeavours in making special machines, considered they could do without it, and allowed Mr. Bradbury to sell it. So long however as he retained his position as a director, the patents he brought out were the property of the Company, and the price which he obtained for his invention, £800, he gave to the Company. "

The dispute between Bradbury and his fellow directors was not resolved and his commitment to the Pendleton project is shown by his removal to a new home, Crumpsall House, Middleton Road, Crumpsall, in 1875. In 1880 he sold his shares in Bradbury & Co. Ltd., and severed all connection with the firm. It is not clear what became of the money he received for the shares but it appears to have been swallowed up in the failure of the Pendleton factory. In a bold attempt to start afresh, he left England to settle in Christchurch, New Zealand. This too was a failure; he was reduced to a job as a mechanic and his wife to keeping a lodging house. The Oldham Standard, 1 Mar. 1884, reporting another shareholders' meeting at Bradbury & Co. Ltd., refers to an appeal to the Company to provide a £100 annuity for Bradbury and his family. Although the request was approved, the money arrived too late. George Francis Bradbury succumbed to a sudden illness and died 8 Mar. 1884.

Neither the Oldham Chronicle nor the Standard saw fit to record his death when the news reached Oldham. Only the Oldham Evening Express printed an obituary, this on the 7 May, 1884:

"..... Only recently, the firm of Bradbury & Co. Limited, granted the deceased an annuity of £100, which however, he had not lived to enjoy. Yesterday the white flag was hoisted half-mast over the works. "

J.M. Hunt.

Footnote:

These notes were compiled during research for a display of Bradbury products at the Local Interest Centre, Oldham. The exhibition featuring Bradbury Motor Cycles made between 1911 and 1923, continues until May, 1982.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I am searching my ancestors who came from Saddleworth, Yorkshire, England.

The 1851 England Census returns for Diggle, Upper Mill, Yorkshire, show

William Wrigley	(head)	28 years	born Saddleworth, Yorkshire, my great
Nanny Wrigley	(wife)	25 years	ditto grand parents.
Andrew Wrigley	(son)	3 years	ditto My grandfather.
Hervey Wrigley	(son)	1 year	ditto
James Wrigley	(father)	68 years	ditto My great, great grandfather.

I have a copy of a marriage record which shows the following were married in Mottram in the Parish of Mottram in the County of Chester, 20 June, 1847:

William Wrigley 25 years of Micklehurst, father's name James Wrigley.
Nanny Hurst 21 years of Micklehurst, father's name John Hurst.
The above is shown from records in the Registration District of Ashton and Oldham.

I also have a copy of the birth certificate of Hervey Wrigley, born 4th March, 1850, at Diggle, Saddleworth, father William Wrigley, mother Nanny Wrigley, formerly Hurst.

I have tried to review the 1841 England census for Diggle, but the microfilm roll is so faded I cannot read it.

I plan to come to the Saddleworth area this coming Spring, and any information you might be able to give me would be greatly appreciated. I have visited the local Mormon Library and have copied a number of their records on the Chapelry of Saddleworth.

Box 116 AA Route # 2
Arden, N.C. 28704,
U.S.A.

Yours, etc.

Harold Chandler Wrigley

SADDLEWORTH SCRAPBOOK

Advertisements concerning Saddleworth in the Manchester newspapers

Manchester Mercury 6 March 1770 To be sold by Auction

At the House of Mr. James Lawton, being the Sign of the Blue Bell at Delph, in the Parish of Saddleworth, and County of York, on Thursday the 22nd day of March, between the Hours of one and four in the Afternoon

The Fee Simple and Inheritance, commonly called or known by the Name of GREAN'S, lying and being in the Parish and County aforesaid,

consisting of a large convenient and new built House, Barn, Shippen and other suitable Conveniences, with about 14 Acres of Arable, Meadow and Pasture Ground, be the same more or less, now let after the Rate of £20 a Year or upwards; it is situate not far from the Turnpike Road, leading from Manchester to Huddersfield, and about the Mid-way between them, one Mile from Delph and 5 from Rochdale, very convenient for a Tradesman, capable of great Improvement and well watered with excellent Springs. Likewise, there is a Bed of Coal under the whole Estate, which may be gotten at at easy Expense, with free liberty to get Turf (for fuel) and Slate Flags, or any kind of Stone Materials for building, fencing or repairing in most Mines or Quarries near the Premises, with a right to Hunt, Fish and Fowl on the Frier Mear, in the Parish of Saddleworth, aforesaid.

For further particulars in the mean Time, enquire of Mr. John Scholefield, of Sandbed, in Saddleworth, or of Mr. Joseph Buckley, of Delph in Saddleworth, the Owner, or of Mr. Charles Heswich the present Tenant, who will shew the Premises.

Manchester Mercury 21 May 1771 To be Sold without Delay

A Freehold-Estate, situate at GRANES, in Saddleworth in the West Riding of the County of York, in the Occupation of Joseph Buckley, and his Under-Tenant, consisting of 2 Dwelling-houses with suitable Out-housing and Conveniences, and four Closes of Ground, containing 14 Acres and an Half, or thereabouts, together with some particular Liberties, and other Appurtenances thereto belonging. The said Joseph Buckley will shew the Premises; and further Application may be made at Almondbury, near Huddersfield, or any Tuesday Afternoon at Mr. North's Rooms in Huddersfield or Mr. William Armytage, of Almondbury, Attorney at Law, who is impowered to sell the same.

Manchester Mercury 18 June 1771 To be Sold by auction

On Thursday the 4th of July 1771, between the Hours of Two and Six o'clock in the Afternoon of the same Day, at the House of Mr. James Lawton, the Sign of the Blue Bell, at the Delf, in Saddleworth

The Fee Simple and Inheritance of all those two Messuages and Tenements, with their Appurtenances, commonly called or known by the Name of the MOOR CROOF, within the Freer Meer, in Saddleworth, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, now in the possession of James Dawson and Jonathan Mills, or their Under-tenants, consisting of two good Stone Dwelling-Houses and two good Stone Barns, and other Out-buildings, and about 40 Acres of good Arable, Meadow and Pasture Land, of the Measure there used, or thereabouts, be the same more or less, subject to the yearly Rent of 6d. to the Government, with free Liberty for the Purchaser thereof to Hunt, Shoot and Fish, within the Township of the Freer Meer, without Molestation of any Person whatsoever; all which Premises are well situated, being 4 miles distant from Rochdale, 4 from Marsden, 4 from Oldham, 12 from Huddersfield and 12 from Manchester.

N.B. One Half of the Purchase Money may lie in the Purchaser's Hands, if required.

The Tenant James Dawson, will shew the Premises to an Person minded to view the same.

For further Particulars Enquire of Mr. Francis Meadowcroft, at Heywood, in Lancashire.

Manchester Mercury 5 May 1772 To be Sold to the best Bidder

At the House of Mr. James Lawton, at Delf, in Saddleworth, on Wednesday the third Day of June, 1772, between the Hours of Three and Six in the Afternoon of the same Day

All those two several Freehold Messuages or Tenements, situate, standing and being at DELF SLACK, in Saddleworth aforesaid, with the Out-housing and Appurtenances to the same belonging, and about 19 Acres of Land (Statute Measure), be the same more or less, as the same are now in the several Occupations of Henry Whitehead and John Wrigley, their Assigns or Under-tenants.

The Tenants will shew the Premises; and for further Particulars enquire of Mr. John Battye, Attorney at Law, at Crosland-hill, near Huddersfield.

Manchester Guardian 12 May 1849 Sale by Auction

By Mr. George Wrigley at the Commercial Inn, in Upper Mill, in Saddleworth, in the Co. of York, on Friday the 25th Day of May, 1849, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon

The following Valuable Property:-

- Lot 1 The inheritance in Fee-simple of and in a Plot of Land, situate in Oaken Clough at or near LEE CROSS, in Saddleworth aforesaid, called the Intakes, containing 3a 0r 14p or thereabouts, in the occupation of Thomas Bradbury.
- Lot 2 The like Inheritance of and in an Allotment of Common Land, part of BROADSTONE MOOR, in Saddleworth aforesaid, containing 180a 3r 35p or thereabouts, now or late in the occupation of James Lees, Esq.
- Lot 3 The like Inheritance of and in 29a 2r 16p or thereabouts, part of an Allotment of Common Land, situate in ASHER-HEY, in Greenfield, in Saddleworth aforesaid, containing 47a 1r 21p or thereabouts.
- Lot 4 The like Inheritance of and in Two Doles of Inclosed Common Land, situate in LEE, in Saddleworth aforesaid, containing 3a 2r 0p or thereabouts.
- Lot 5 The like Inheritance of and in Two other Doles of Inclosed Common Land, situate in LEE BACK, in Saddleworth aforesaid, containing 3a 2r 0p or thereabouts.
- Lot 6 The like Inheritance of and in Three other Doles of Inclosed Common Land, situate in LEE BACK aforesaid, containing 5a 1r 0p, or thereabouts.

All the lots are tithe-free and situate in a romantic and picturesque neighbourhood, abounding with game; the roads are good, and the premises easy of access both by rail and water, lying contiguous to the Manchester and Huddersfield Railway and Canal. Lot 1 is well fenced, in a high state of cultivation, and contains a never-failing spring of pure soft water, and a larger stream flows through the land, which is eligible for building either a manufactory or private residence. Lot 2 is situate in the centre of preserves, is well stocked with grouse, has

long been noted as one of the best shooting and breeding grounds on the moor, and contains a constant spring of pure water, affording a favourite retreat for sportsmen, and an eligible site for building a shooting lodge and other accommodation; a good turnpike roads leads to a shooting cot on the ground on which are a never-failing supply of turf, and an inexhaustible bed of fine free-stone from which blocks of the largest dimensions can be procured. Lot 3 is also situate in the centre of preserves, and well stocked with game, and intersected and bounded by occupation roads; the Greenfield Brook runs through the land and contains a waterfall which is an eligible site for a Mill. Lots 4, 5 and 6 are highly improvable Lands, well watered and easy of access, and are well situated in a populous district where a large woollen mill has been recently erected. The whole property offers an opportunity to sportsmen, manufacturers, agriculturalists and others, for investment of small capitals, rarely to be met with.

Manchester Guardian 19 Jan. 1850 Sale by Auction

Valuable Freehold Property in Saddleworth, giving Votes for the West Riding of Yorkshire.

By Mr. W.H. Fletcher, at the House of Mr. Ben Buckley, the Temple Inn, at Waterhead Mill, in Saddleworth, in the County of York, on Wednesday the 30th day of January, 1850, at six o'clock in the evening

- Lot 1 All that Close, Piece or Parcel of Land situate at and called by the name of CARRIER LOWE, within Saddleworth aforesaid, containing by admeasurement 3a 2r 18p or thereabouts, and now in the possession of John Jackson. And also all those Three Messuages or Dwelling Houses and all that Sand Mill, with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, situate at VALIANT and CARRIER LOWE in Saddleworth aforesaid, now in the occupation of Widow Kershaw, John Buckley, James Hoyle and another. And also a small Chief Rent of 2s. reserved from a plot of land, part of the said premises. These premises are near the turnpike road from Oldham to Huddersfield, and adjoin the highways from Waterhead Mill to High Moor. There are several valuable mines of coal, stone and other minerals in the property.
- Lot 2 All those Four Messuages or Dwelling Houses with the Outbuildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging situate at and called LATHAM, within Saddleworth aforesaid, now in the occupation of William Holroyd, George Bray, Samuel Mills and Sarah Fletcher. And also all those Two Crofts or Closes of Land adjoining thereto, and containing by admeasurement 2r 35p or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of John Winterbottom. And also a Chief Rent of £1.14s. 8d. reserved and payable from a plot of land and premises formerly part of the said closes of land. These buildings are in a good state of repair and well tenanted. There is a never-failing spring of water on the premises, and the land affords excellent sites for building purposes.
- Lot 3 All those Three Several Messuages or Dwelling Houses and the Barn and Stable adjoining thereto, with the Outbuildings and Appurtenances to the same belonging, called the LOWER HOUSE, and situate at High Moor, in Saddleworth aforesaid, and adjoining the old turnpike road from Oldham to Delph, which said premises are in the several occupations of John Durham, George Collins and Joseph Seville. The barn and stable can be readily converted into a cottage, and there is vacant land for the erection of

several other buildings.

The respective tenants will shew the premises; and for further particulars apply to the Auctioneer; or to Mr. Samuel Lees Driver, Waterhead Mill, shopkeeper; or at the Office of Mr. Henry Radcliffe, solicitor, Oldham.

B.B.

"HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF OLDHAM"

The republication in December 1981 of the great unfinished labour of Edwin Butterworth, his Historical Sketches of Oldham, is long overdue. This tragic figure, who died in 1848 at the early age of 35, had published histories of Lancashire, Manchester, Middleton, Heywood and Ashton, and a description of the Manchester and Leeds Railway; he was responsible for the vast majority of the notices in Baines's great History of Lancashire; he had been the Oldham correspondent to the Leeds and Manchester newspapers; and he had left behind him not only the original notes for his newspaper reports, but also the diaries he had purchased from the widow of William Rowbottom, together comprising a day to day record of Oldham events from 1787 to 1842.

The Historical Sketches fall into two types: the traditional description of old houses and heoman families, and the breathless account of the rise of Oldham in the wake of the Industrial Revolution. Butterworth's style betrays his journalistic calling. Facts tumble from the pages. No point is made without full reference to date, time, name and place, and statistics abound. Rarely do Butterworth's own opinions intrude into the narrative; the reader is presented with more than enough information to draw his own conclusions. His work has often been referred to by the professional historians, and this reprint can only enhance his reputation.

The reprint of the Historical Sketches of Oldham has been prepared by E.J. Morten of Didsbury from copies of the original 1856 edition. It is embellished by the addition of the fold-out map of Oldham which Butterworth's father included in the first 1817 history of the town. Hard-bound in red cloth and printed on antique wove paper, it makes a handsome addition to any local bookshelf. It is available from local booksellers and from the Local Interest Centre and Central Library, Oldham, at £5.00.

J.M.H.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REGISTER

Late Neolithic "Burnisher" from Green Withens

This interesting tool has been presented to Saddleworth Museum by Mr. H.E. Iredale of Ripponden, who found it on the bank of Green Withens reservoir during the drought of 1976 when the water level was very low, at SD 991165 (Fig. 1).

It is made of a light coloured, almost white flint, and has the appearance of a small axe with a narrow butt and a wide cleaving edge. It is 7 cms. long, 4.5 cms. at its broadest, and 1.4 cms. thick. The edge, however, is not sharp but round and polished and, in the opinion of Mr. T.G. Manby of Doncaster Museum to whom it was submitted, may have been used for polishing and rubbing skins. He considers it to be Late Neolithic in date, and that it may have started life as a true flint axe.

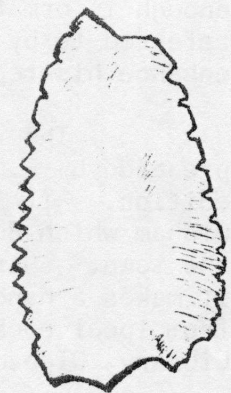
Mr. Iredale also presented four flint "saws" found during the same period on the floor of the reservoir some 300 to 400 metres further west. One of these is illustrated (Fig. 2). It is made of excellent transparent brown flint and has teeth on both edges. Mr. Manby considered that this was also possibly Neolithic in age.

Neolithic finds, apart from arrowheads, are far from common in the gritstone Pennines, so these are particularly interesting finds.

Fig. 1 - Actual size



Fig. 2 - x 2



W.P.B.S.
A.S.

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.

HIGHER CASTLESHAW

Grid Reference SE 002095

- Location Southern end of a fold of dwellinghouses and barns on the road from Castleshaw to Bleak Hey Nook.
- Description The present Higher Castleshaw Farm is a two-storey, double-fronted house with two single-storey wings at the rear. It is an unusual mixture of styles, but the earliest appears to be late 17th or early 18th century. The deeds abstracted below relate only to this property and not to the three-storey housing in the fold which was sold to Oldham Corporation Water Works in 1908 and subsequently demolished.
- History
- 1664 8 Nov. Inventory of the goods of William Scholefield of Castleshaw deceased. Administration of his estate was granted at Chester 8 Aug. 1665 for the benefit of Jane Scholefield his widow.
- 1688 8 May. Division of the lands of William Scholefield of Castleshaw yeoman deceased. To his daughter Mary and her husband Francis Matthewman of Deepcarr Mill, Bradfield was allotted a dwellinghouse and garden in Castleshaw Fold, a barn situate at the Black Hey, $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Croft, the Black Hey Meadow, the Rough Meadow, the Great Black Hey, the Longlands, $\frac{1}{8}$ of Cudworth Pasture and $\frac{1}{4}$ of all the commons late belonging to William Scholefield. (O.C.W.W. Deeds, Oldham Local Interest Centre).
- 1712 9 Nov. Francis Matthewman sells to Francis Scholefield of Castleshaw yeoman a dwellinghouse within Castleshaw Fold and the buttery with chamber over the said house and buttery, a garden, the little Croft, the New House Meadow with 3 bays of building thereon erected called the New House, the Longlands, the Black Hey, the Black Hey Clough Meadow, containing 6 acres, $\frac{1}{8}$ of Cudworth Pasture, and so much of one great common or waste ground called Woodhead as doth belong to the aforesaid premises which is by estimation $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres 30 falls of large measure called Cheshire measure. (West Riding Registry of Deeds F 484 659). Francis Scholefield probably rebuilt the house, adding the left-hand bay and the two rear wings, whose style and stonework bear a striking resemblance to those of his house at Castlehill Cote with its datestone FS LS 1715.
- 1721 4 July. Will of Francis Scholefield of Castleshaw yeoman, leaving a parcel of land and housing at Castlehill to his younger son Mark, and the remainder of his estate to his elder son Edmund. (O.C.W.W. Deeds).
- 1749 29 Jan. Will of Edmund Scholefield of Castleshaw yeoman, leaving Castlehill estate to his nephew James Gartside, lands in the further fold purchased from William Heap to his nephew James Savil, and the residue of his property to his nephew

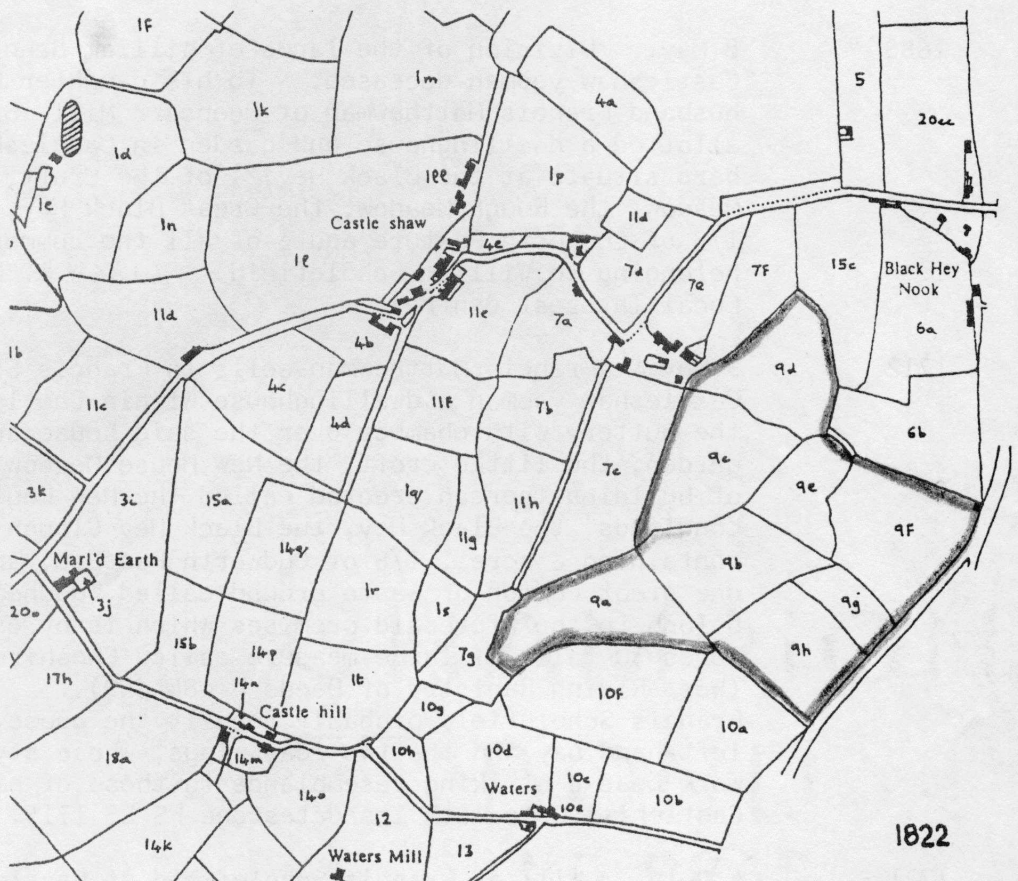
John Savil. (O.C.W.W. Deeds).

1761

24 April. John Seville of Castleshaw yeoman and Sarah his wife sell to Timothy Harrop of Oldham yeoman a messuage at Castleshaw in the occupation of the said John Seville, the Tenter Croft, the Meadow under the Old Barn, the little Bedding Place, Miles Bedding Place, the Longlands Bottom, the Clough Meadow Top, the Hall Croft, the Kirkblakehey, the Great Blakehey and the New House Meadow; a messuage at Castleshaw in the occupation of John Kenworthy, the How Meadow, the Flatt, the Little Blakehey, and the Marled Earth; and a messuage at Castleshaw in the occupation of James Gartside, the Rough Field, the Longlands Top, the Clough Meadow and the Kiln Meadow; reserving to John Seville a piece of land lately enclosed from the common or waste adjoining to the highway near Castleshaw containing 13 acres lying on the south side of the said common. (AT 676 891).

1766

12 June. Will of Timothy Harrop of Oakenhill Lee yeoman leaves his estate called Oakenhill Lee in possession of himself and his nephew Benjamin Gartside to John Benjamin Abraham Mary Ann and Sarah children of his said nephew Benjamin; and an estate at Castleshaw in possession of William Kenworthy Joseph Scholefield



James Gartside and others to John Benjamin and Abraham sons of his said nephew Benjamin. (O.C.W.W. Deeds).

- 1811 23 Mar. Will of John Gartside of Haugh, Rochdale, yeoman, leaving property in trust to pay the income to various beneficiaries including his daughter Betty wife of John Shaw of Hollinbank. His lands include a $\frac{1}{2}$ share with his brother Benjamin in an estate at Castleshaw in the occupation of John Kenworthy and a $\frac{1}{3}$ share of an estate at Oakenhill Lee in the occupation of Samuel Shaw. (O.C.W.W. Deeds).
- 1853 1 July. James Shaw of Castleshaw, farmer (son of John Shaw of Hollinbank) buys from other beneficiaries under the will of John Gartside, 3 messuages with barns at Castleshaw late in the occupation of Joseph and Thomas Mills and Mrs. Kenworthy, the Great Meadow (formerly in 2 - the Great Meadow and Croft), Bleak Hey (formerly in 2 now in 1), the Clothes Croft and the Garden, containing 21a 1r 28p, and $\frac{1}{3}$ of a messuage and barn with land at Oakenhill Lee, now in the occupation of John Whitehead, containing 41a 3r 15p. (SE 211 243).
- 1861 Census returns. Castleshaw: James Shaw, farmer 55, Hannah Shaw, wife 57, Elizabeth A. Shaw, daughter 26, Margaret Shaw, daughter 22, John Shaw, farmer's son 20, Alice Jane Shaw, daughter 19.
- 1877 29 July. James Shaw of Castleshaw, farmer, dies. His will was proved at Wakefield 11 Feb. 1878 by his widow Hannah Shaw.
- 1922 23 Sept. The Trustees of James Shaw sell to Walter Broadbent of Sheffield and Ann his wife, the farmhouse, barn and shippon at or near Castleshaw, the Great Meadow, the Bleak Heys, the Further Bleak Heys, the Garden and a triangular piece of land part of the Garden exchanged with one Joseph Shaw for a piece of land called the Clothes Croft, containing in all 21a 1r 28p. (1922 72 127 46).
- 1943 30 Nov. Frank Broadbent sells the same property to Eli Bradbury. He sold it 7 Jan. 1950 to Thomas Tetlow. Tetlow sold it to John Shackleton, 13 Aug. 1954, and Shackleton conveyed it to the present owners, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Maylor 2 Feb. 1963. (1944 7 639 316; 1950 9 927 415; 1954 155 431 205; 1963 33 433 208).

J.M.H.

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:

Mr. B. Barnes,
7, Elsted Road,
Greenfield,
OLDHAM OL/ 7LL.

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

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