

# Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin

Dale House,  
Delph,  
nr Oldham.

11/6/08

Dear old Relicstone

We intend to make  
our State entry into  
Marsden on Saturday  
noon Keep sober  
and engage a Band.  
I intend to raise  
you to the perage.  
It will cost you  
£100 Yours Most  
as usual  
A. Higley

BULLETIN  
  
OF  
  
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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LETTERS FROM AMMON WRIGLEY TO GEORGE MARSDEN

AND GARSIDE MARSDEN

(Grateful acknowledgements are due to Ellen Firth Marsden who kindly made this correspondence available)

Introduction

In 1896 Ammon Wrigley wrote to George Marsden shortly after the latter's important and much publicised archaeological finds. Thus began a firm friendship, one which fostered and contributed a good deal to Ammon Wrigley's knowledge and deep interest in archaeology, leading ultimately to the publication of his book about prehistoric Saddleworth (1). The correspondence continued with Garside Marsden after his father's death in 1915.

References in the letters indicate that they made many explorations of the moors round Marsden, sometimes in the company of other friends, the Millstone Edge, Pule Hill and West Nab districts being particularly favoured by them. In 1909 they conducted an exploratory dig at Oldfield Hill, Meltham, which was then considered to be a Roman site.

George Marsden was born on 31 October, 1848, and lived at Bridge End, Marsden. In 1896 he found three Food Vessels (Early Bronze Age pottery associated with a burial site) on the summit of Pule Hill. (Shortly afterwards a fourth vessel, which quickly decayed, was found by a neighbour of the Marsdens, Firth Fell, who lived in Towngate). George Marsden owned a small mill or workshop in Marsden: he was a mechanical genius, an inventor who patented several of his dream-children, including modifications to textile looms and creations like "Marsden's Patent Brisket Bone Cutter". He would often roam the moors for days on end when thinking up his inventions, and his detailed knowledge of these upland areas was probably responsible for the many other archaeological discoveries that he made in the Colne Valley district. He collected antiques and, as a great lover of local history and poetry, he contributed articles to the Huddersfield Examiner under the pseudonym "Th'Owd Relic". He also designed the memorial to Samuel Laycock, the dialect poet, which is now in the gardens near Marsden Church; he had corresponded with the poet for a number of years, often in verse. References to "the Pinder" in Ammon Wrigley's letters are explained by the fact that George Marsden held honorary positions such as Pinder (by which he was theoretically responsible for the impounding of stray farm animals) and Warden of the Stocks for the Manor of Marsden. He died on 24 June, 1915. The stone at the summit of Mount Road, below Pule Hill, is said to be nicknamed "Th'Owd Relic Stone" in memory of him.

Garside Marsden was born in 1878. In his youth he worked on the tramway associated with the construction of the Wessenden reservoirs at Marsden, eventually driving one of the engines there. At the age of 18 he moved to Lees, between Oldham and Saddleworth, where he lived in lodgings and was employed in the locomotive shed there. After his marriage at Zion he lived at 17 Aden Street, near Salem Brow, and later was put in charge of the engine shed. His main interests, however, were unassociated with engineering: he undertook a good deal of lecturing and writing about dialect and dialect writers, many of whom he had met and known personally. He was a founder member of the Ammon Wrigley Society.

The Correspondence

4  
Harrison Cottage,  
June 12/98

My Dear Sir

I purpose coming  
to the Great Western night  
Sunday if the weather  
is favourable for our  
proposed journey to Bath.  
Not much probably I  
shall be accompanied by  
a friend.

I should like you  
reply - saying if the  
suggested meeting place  
is meets with your  
approval - also I  
request you to fix the  
time

We intend to return by

train from Maiden

If the date is it  
at all inconvenient we  
could easily defer it  
till later in the season

Yours very truly  
Harrison Wesley

Dr Geo. Martin



The Correspondence

Friar Lodge,  
Nov. 2nd 1896.

Dear Sir,

I have no doubt you are tired of receiving letters and enquiries respecting your recent finds - but really I have no other alternatives but to risk your displeasure. When I visited you I think I mentioned the names of two friends of mine who are very anxious to see the urns. So we propose coming to Marsden on Saturday afternoon by train. If this is inconvenient please let me know as early as possible as one of my friends lives some distance away. I enclose two pencil sketches of the millstones on Millstone Edge.

I remain  
Yours truly  
A. Wrigley

P.S. If the weather is unfavourable we shall abandon the idea of visiting you.

AW

---

Friar Lodge  
August 17th 1897

Dear Sir,

I am afraid I cannot accompany my friends to Marsden next Saturday. But I can confidently predict an enjoyable and instructive time for all concerned.

Coming to other matters I should feel much indebted to you if you could allow Mark or some other friend to bring me a photograph of the old Church however small, as I am desirous of possessing a sketch of interesting landmarks which have disappeared either in our own or in adjacent parishes.

It is scarcely necessary to say that the photo will be returned to you uninjured and as early as possible.

I remain  
Yours truly  
Ammon Wrigley

Mr. Geo Marsden

---

Friar Lodge  
Sept. 28th 1897

Dear Friend,

I propose coming to Marsden next Saturday bringing with me the photo and my poor efforts at reproduction. Should I receive no reply to this I shall regard the date as being convenient and satisfactory to yourself.

With best wishes

I remain yours truly  
A Wrigley

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Friarmere Cottages  
June 12 1898

My Dear Sir,

I propose coming to the Great Western next Sunday if the weather is favourable for our projected journey to West Nab; most probably I shall be accompanied by a friend.

I should like your reply - saying if the suggested meeting place meets with your approval - also I request you to fix the time.

We intend to return by train from Marsden.

If the date is at all inconvenient we could easily defer it till later in the Season.

gentian it improves  
the flavour and  
remember your  
thirsty pal  
Ammon Angley

Hilltop  
May 4<sup>th</sup> 09

Dear Sir

If the plan of the  
Roman Station at  
Meltham is not  
delivered into  
my hands within  
4 days I shall  
enter you into the  
County Court  
When brewing  
add a little



Mr. George Marsden

Yours very truly  
Ammon Wrigley

---

Beswicks  
18/7/06

Most Potent

I send you two Cards one of which you will give with my respects to the friend who accompanied us last Saturday night. I reached home at 1.0 a.m. Sunday morning just in time to hear the Missis deliver an able lecture on Late Hours. I moved several resolutions which unfortunately were defeated by amendments - finally I moved a vote of thanks to the Lecturer, and explained that my late arrival was due to my having been Compelled to assist the Pinder in the discharge of his professional duties at several alehouses. This explanation was quite satisfactory.

And I remain

Yours

A Wrigley

P.S. I have received a note from Joe Whitehead and he wants copies of the Moor Song. If you find any difficulty in getting rid of yours let him have some.

A W

---

Hilltop  
May 4th 07

Dear Sir,

If a plan of the Roman Fort at Meltham is not delivered into my hands within 7 days I shall enter into the County Court. When brewing add a little gentian. It improves the flavour and remember your thirsty pal

Ammon Wrigley

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Tuesday morning

Dear Friend,

I am as "reet as a ribbin" this morning and a moment's reflection on our jaunt leads me to conclude that I must have been a great trouble and inconvenience to you. My sickness was unaccountably sudden as I felt perfectly sober when we entered the 'Captain Inn'.

Still I shall remember the holiday for other reasons. Just my ideal, "ploughing" over purple moorlands, through green pastures, and along dusty highways, meeting freehanded folk and bits of character at every land-ends.

"Every man his maid, every man his boon companion" they say in Argyle, and the saying is equally applicable here. Coming over the Round Ings I was not in a particularly appreciative mood but I think I remember the strong features of the way.

I saw the pastures dotted with farmsteads that grew into villages and villages that grew into towns, where beat the great Industrial heart of Yorkshire.

It is difficult to imagine a landscape with more varied English characteristics. The mystical silence of the dusky moors, then down by gentle gradations of hamlet and village to the hum and noise of the town.

If old Pule had possessed the faculty of speech what words would have expressed her feelings at seeing her favourite struggling with a boosed fool on a hillroad above that quick straggling hamlet of Scapegoat Hill. I remember Clough Head with its timbered hedges, sheltered hollows and prosperous neighbour homesteads. Summed up, the day is to me like a painting of the Impressionist School, a mass of colour difficult to characterise. But "one isn't allus", they say on Friarmere, and I shelter myself under the saying.

Yours penitently  
A Wrigley

Can you make this scribbling out?

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Dale House (2)  
Delph  
nr Oldham  
11/6/08

Dear Old Relicstone,

We intend to make our State entry into Marsden on Saturday noon. Keep sober and engage a Band. I intend to raise you to the peerage. It will cost you £100.

Yours Knocked  
as usual  
A Wrigley

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Hilltop  
St Swithin's Day

Dear G,

I have got Mr. Hirst's permission to find gold and precious stones at Meltham - if Saturday is fine we are coming by the 12-40 from Saddleworth. Meet us at the Station: we travel via Huddersfield. Look out for a decorated saloon.

Bring your snuff box or you will not be permitted to enter the Camp Field.

I have appointed yourself and Mr. Thompson principal navvies and if you disobey instruction you are liable to instant dismissal. Joe Whitehead and P. Winterbottom have sole charge of the Canteen, and I am bossing the whole show. I also reserve the privilege of sacking the boss. Pray for the soul of Lloyd George like

Yours truly  
A Wrigley

I hear Mr. Hines of Hull is after the Pinder with a gun.

A W

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(Written on the reverse of a leaflet advertising "Saddleworth: its Prehistoric Remains")

Hilltop  
Delph  
16.12.12

Dear George,

Mr. Thompson has said something about you requiring two books. Before I send them I think it only right to inform you that the price is now 7/6. If the demand continues it will be raised to 10/-. If you require them let me know by post card.

Yours Respectfully  
Ammon Wrigley

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Hilltop  
Delph  
26/6/15

Dear Mrs. Marsden and family,

Words fail me to express the deep sorrow at the great loss you have sustained. I measure your loss by my own which is great, for where shall I turn to find another George Marsden. He was so jovial, kindly and companionable that whenever we met it was always hard to say the parting word. Now that he has gone, Marsden will never be the same village to me.



The happy days we have had together on moor and fell - to think that they are ended saddens me to the heart. We were fellow workers in the field of antiquarian research and his work will remain his great memorial. He added new and important pages to local history and I have no doubt the whole village sorrows with you. Marsden has lost a man that it cannot replace and it must be some solace to you to know that he was respected by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. That he was a good husband, a kind father and a true friend is general knowledge.

Believe me  
With deep sympathy  
Yours Ammon Wrigley

(Written on the reverse of the poem-pamphlet, "The Delph Show")

111B Stamford Rd.  
Waterhead  
Oldham  
8/12/23

Dear Garside,

Aw bin spoilin papper agin an aw thowt aw'd let thi know.  
Thern mun get this book an' if thean doesn't like it thern con  
ha thi brass back.  
Best o' luck  
Me as usual

Ammon

65, Birks Brow  
Waterhead  
19/6/31

Dear Mr. Marsden,

The book is going famously. Orders are coming in every day from non-subscribers which means that the book will soon be up in price and easy to sell.

I had Lewis Whitehead from Marsden over at my place one night this week, and he showed me a photo of your father standing by the stocks.

Re your enquiry about books I will look up and let you know.

Yours faithfully  
A Wrigley

Mr. G. Marsden  
17 Eden St. (sic)  
Breeze Hill  
Oldham

65, Birks Brow  
Waterhead  
Sunday

Dear Mr. Marsden,

I will meet you Wednesday night at the Salisbury, Mumps Bridge, 8 or 8.30 as you think fit. I would like to see you before you write Dr. Woodhead.

Yours faithfully,  
A Wrigley

65, Birks Brow  
Waterhead  
Oldham  
30.6.31

Dear Mr. Marsden,

I have been looking up my stuff and I find that I cannot supply your friend with a set of my books and pamphlets.

"Songs of a Moorland Parish" and "Old Saddleworth Days" are sold out. I have copies of "The Wind Among the Heather". I sold a copy last week through Messrs. Whitaker & Sons for 35/-. Their client offered that sum. That is the price asked for secondhand copies. It is perhaps too much for your friend and I never offer them.

I have copies of "The Three Bonnie Lasses" at 5/- each, "Saddleworth, Its Prehistoric Remains" 1/- each, "Delph Feight in Prose and Verse" 6d, "Castleshaw Poem" 2d and "Saddleworth Church" poem with illustration 2d, Song with Music by Dicken Whitehead 6d.

I cannot think of anything else at the moment.

Yours faithfully

A Wrigley

Mr. G. Marsden  
17 Eden St.  
Breeze Hill  
Oldham

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643 Huddersfield Rd.  
Waterhead Oldham  
January 20th 38

Dear Garside,

I have got 38 copies to deliver to Subscribers and the few that I have left over and above that number are selling at 10/- each. I shall have to stop shortly or I shall have none for myself and family, so an early application is necessary.

Yours faithfully,

Ammon Wrigley

They are also 10/- at the publishers.

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Notes

- (1) Wrigley, Ammon (1911) Saddleworth: its Prehistoric Remains, Oldham
- (2) This letter was written on headed notepaper. Dale House was the home of Thomas Thompson who became a great friend of Ammon Wrigley's: he was responsible for the publication of a number of his works.  
See  
Ammon Wrigley (1949) Rakings Up, Rochdale, 65-68.

B.B.

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WEAVER'S LAMENT

The following poem was in the possession of the late Mr. A.G. Butterworth of Valley Cottages, Greenfield. Unsigned, it is written on a sheet of paper torn from a foolscap notebook or ledger. Transcribed, it reads as follows:

FUNERAL HYMN

(Tune, Coal Hill)

Sep. 30 1863

With permission I dedicate this to John Hill, Haybottoms.  
To be sung by weavers on solemn occasions.

And am I only born to weave,  
To size my warps twice o'er,  
And must I on my shoulder heave  
My beam, healds, warp and reed.

Must I go down to sigh and size  
And lay it on the floor,  
And then go out to view the skies  
My maker to implore.

For weather fine, a gentle breeze  
To dry this damn'd soft warp  
Before the bailiff comes to seize  
My bed, chairs, pans and ark.

Here it may lie from day to day  
Without a gleam of sun,  
Abiding nature's changing lay  
My course is nearly run.

For out of debt I cannot keep,  
My warp I cannot dry.  
My credit's up, I cannot sleep  
And prostrate here I lie.

And am I only born to weave,  
For fifty years or more,  
By such frail webs my bread to earn:  
My fate I do deplore.

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S.H.S. PUBLICATIONS

The following back numbers of the Bulletin are still available -  
at reduced prices:

Vol. 3 Nos. 2 - 4  
Vol. 4 Nos. 1 - 3  
Vol. 5 Nos. 1 - 4  
Vol. 6 Nos. 1 - 4

Vol. 7 No. 4  
Vol. 8 Nos. 1 & 4  
Vol. 9 Nos. 2 & 3  
Vol. 10 Nos. 3 & 4  
Vol. 11 Nos. 1 - 4

Owing to the continuing demand, Local Interest Trails Numbers 1 and 2 have recently been reprinted. All six Trails are now available,

30p each (45p each including postage, etc.). They are:

- No. 1 Delph, Heights and Grange
- No. 2 Uppermill and its Environs
- No. 3 The Greenfield Area
- No. 4 The Saddleworth Section of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal
- No. 5 The Grasscroft Area
- No. 6 The Denshaw Area

Copies of "Passage through Time: Saddleworth Roads and Trackways, a History" are also available, price £3.90 (£4.50 including postage, etc.)

All these publications can be obtained from the Editor, 7 Elsted Road, Greenfield, Oldham OL3 7LL.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

On a recent visit to Preston (Lancashire Record Office) to research a family of Wrigleys who lived in Heptonstall, I met a gentleman from North Carolina who also was researching his own line of Wrigleys, and he told me about the Saddleworth Historical Society. I am from New Zealand and my grandmother was a Wrigley, descended from James Wrigley, born 1824 Heptonstall. It seems at least two generations lived in this place, but as James's father, John Wrigley (married in 1819 to Mary N. Cockcroft also of Heptonstall) died at a young age, and I have found two John Wrigleys in the records who died at 32 (1831) and 37 years of age (1838) - I cannot be sure of the parents. The wife, Mary, remarried in Manchester in 1839, so either of these 'Johns' could have been her husband.

I would like to learn something of the origin of the Wrigleys, and in due course may learn something to help my research. Rochdale seems to be connected with the generation before John, should I follow the Census Records of 1841 and 1851 of Heptonstall.

Yours, etc.  
Mrs. Betty M. Dallas.

P.O. Box 240,  
Paraparaumu,  
New Zealand.

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SADDLEWORTH SCRAPBOOK

Saddleworth Advertisements in the Manchester Newspapers

Manchester Mercury, 12 Feb. 1771 To be Sold

On Wednesday, the 27th Day of February 1772, betwixt the Hours of One and Five of the Clock in the Afternoon of the same Day, (if not sold before by Private Contract, of which timely Notice will be given in this Paper) at the House of Mr. James Lawton, at Delf, in Saddleworth, in the County of York ...

All that Messuage or Tenement, called HEAWOOD'S, situate and being at AUSTERLANDS, in Saddleworth aforesaid, with all the Outhousing and Appurtenances, and the several Closes of Land and Ground therewith now occupied, as the same are now in the Occupation of John Scholefield, Carrier, his Assigns or Under Tenants. And also three Cottages or Dwelling Houses, at AUSTERLANDS aforesaid, now or late in the several Occupations of James Buckley and Henry Whitehead, their Assigns or Under Tenants.

The above Premises are all Freehold (except two Closes called the Timeshaws, which are held by Lease of which near 1000 Years are yet to come) and adjoining to the Turnpike Road leading from Wakefield to Manchester, and are near the Fulling Mills and Corn Mills; there is also a Coal Mine on the Premises.

For further Particulars Enquire of John Scholefield of Castleshaw, in Saddleworth aforesaid, or Mr. John Battye, Attorney at Law, at Croslandhill, near Huddersfield.

Manchester Mercury, 28 Sept. 1773 To be Sold to the best Bidder

At the House of Mr. Knott, the White Hart, in Ashton-under-lyne, in the County of Lancaster, on Thursday the 21st day of October 1773, in the Evening of that Day ...

The following Freehold Lands of Inheritance, situated at SHELDERSLOW, within Saddleworth, in the County of York.

Lot 1st All that Messuage and Tenement, with its Appurtenances, now in the Possession of Jonathan Booth, consisting of one Dwelling-house, with necessary and convenient Outbuildings and five Acres of Meadow and Pasture Land, of the Measure there used, or thereabouts, and now let to him at the clear yearly Rent of £9.

Lot 2nd All that other Messuage and Tenement, with its Appurtenances, now in the possession of Joseph Dawson, and his Under-tenants, consisting of three Dwelling-houses; with necessary and convenient Outbuildings, and five Acres of Meadow and Pasture Land, of the Measure there used, or thereabouts, and now let to him at the clear yearly Rent of £12.

Note, SHELDERSLOW lies near to the Turnpike Road, leading from Manchester to Huddersfield, within a few Roods of Hey Chapel, and about 9 miles from Manchester and 15 from Huddersfield.

The whole of the Buildings on the above Estates are exceedingly good, being well built with Stone, and covered with Slate, the Lands belonging thereto lie convenient for the Occupiers and are capable of great Improvement.

The Tenants will shew the Premises, and further Particulars may be had at Messrs. Taylor and Dewhurst's Office, in Ashton-under-lyne aforesaid, or of Mr. Jones, an Attorney in Manchester.

Manchester Mercury, 1 Oct. 1776 To be Sold to the best Bidder

At the Public House of Henry Whitehead, known by the Sign of the Hare and Hounds, at Delph, within Saddleworth, in the County of York, on



Thursday the 17th Day of October 1776, to begin exactly at four of the Clock in the Afternoon of that Day ...

Lot 1st All those two Messuages or Dwelling-Houses and the Lower Part of the Barn, as it is now marked out, to be divided with the Stable, and Shippen thereto adjoining; and the several Closes, Fields, and Parcels of Land herein after named, situate, lying and being at HANSON HOUSE, within Saddleworth aforesaid, now in the several Possessions of Hugh Kenworthy, Robert Wood and John Shaw, as Tenants thereof; which said Closes, Fields or Parcels of Land, are commonly called or known by the several Names of the Hanson Meadow, the Hanson Field, the Little Meadow, the Back of the House, the Brow, the New Field, the Plantation and the Solter Binns, containing by admeasurement 17 Acres 3 Roods and 9 Perches of Land, of the Measure there used or thereabouts, be the same more or less

Lot 2d All that other Messuage or Dwelling House and the higher Part of the Barn, as it is now marked out, to be divided with the Shippen adjoining to it, and the several Closes, Fields and Parcels of Land herein after named, situate, lying and being at HANSON HOUSE aforesaid, now in the several Possessions of the said John Shaw and John Buckley; which several Closes, Fields and Parcels of Land, are commonly called or known by the several names of the New Meadow, the Great Fough, and the Little Fough, containing by Admeasurement 7 Acres and 28 Perches of Land or thereabouts, be the same more or less.

Lot 3d All those several Closes, Fields, or Parcels of Land, situate, lying and being at HANSON HOUSE aforesaid, called or know by the several Names of the Great New, the Little New, and the Little Grains, now in the Possessions of Robert Wood, as Tenant thereof, and containing in the Whole by Admeasurement 9 Acres of Land, or thereabouts, be the same more or less.

Lot 4th All that Meadow, called the Coteman Meadow, situate lying and being at HANSON HOUSE aforesaid, now in the Possession of the said Hugh Kenworthy, and Robert Wood, as Tenants thereof, and containing in the Whole by Admeasurement 6 Acres 1 Rood and 2 Perches of Land, or thereabouts, be the same more or less.

Note: The above-mentioned Premises are Freehold. The Buildings built with Stone and covered with Slate, now in good repair. The Lands are capable of great Improvements, and under which there is a great quantity of Coal, which may be got at an easy Expence.

Mr. John Buckley, the Owner, who lives on Part of the Estate, will shew the same, and a Plan thereof may be seen, and further Particulars had, by applying at Messrs. Taylor and Dewhurst's Office, in Ashton-under-lyne, near Manchester.

Manchester Mercury, 8 Apr. 1777 Stolen

From SWAINSCROFT MILL, in the Parish of Saddleworth, in the County of York, on Friday the 28th of March 1777, about eight o'Clock in the Evening.

One Piece of Woollen Cloth, wet as it comes out of the Mill, the Colour a dark Pepper and Salt, the List has three Stripes Black at the Edge, White in the Middle, and Yellow next the Cloth, it is stamped 33 Yards long and 32 Inches broad, mark'd Head End T S S F 75.

Therefore this is to give NOTICE

That whoever will give Information of the same so that it may be had again, or the Offender or Offenders be brought to Justice, shall receive two Guineas Reward, by applying to John Roberts of Lynthwaites, and James Buckley of Tame Barn, both in Saddleworth aforesaid, Mill Master, or of Thomas Shaw, of New Barn, in Saddleworth, the Owner of the said Cloth. Swainscroft Mill, 5 April, 1777.

Manchester Guardian, 18 Aug. 1849      Sale by Auction

County Votes - Freehold & Leasehold Land  
Chief Rents & Bank Shares in Saddleworth

By Mr. John Ousey, at the house of Mr. James Kenworthy, the Commercial Inn, Upper Mill, in Saddleworth, in the county of York, on Wednesday the 29th Day of August 1849 at six o'clock in the evening.

Lot 1      All those two freehold Closes or Parcels of Land situate at or near MARSLANDS in Saddleworth aforesaid, and called or known by the Names of the Holme and the Bottoms (but formerly in three Closes), and containing by estimation 5 acres 2 perches Statute measure or thereabouts, and in the occupation of William Walker and Henry Buckley as tenants thereof.

Lot 2      All those three Leasehold Closes or Parcels of Land situate at or near MARSLANDS aforesaid and commonly called or known by the Name of the Milltowns, and containing 3 acres 1 rood 23 perches Statute measure of thereabouts, and in the occupation of William Walker as tenant thereof.

Lot 3      All those two several Yearly Chief Rents of £7-7s and £1-1s payable from portions of Land adjoining the Milltowns.

The Leasehold land and the Chief Rents will be sold for the Residue of a Term of 150 years, created by an indenture, dated on or about the 16th August 1788, and subject to a yearly Chief Rent of 10s.

Lot 4      Ten Shares of £5 each in the Saddleworth Banking Company upon which a dividend of nine per cent is paid, and which possesses a reserved surplus fund amounting to nearly one-half of the whole paid-up capital.

Lot 5      Ten other Shares in the same Company.

The Land is of first rate quality, in a high state of cultivation, and is within a short distance of the Saddleworth Station, on the Huddersfield and Manchester Railway and near to good roads, and well supplied with water and presents a favourable opportunity for investing a small capital to advantage, for the purchase of freehold qualifications for the West Riding of Yorkshire, or for the erection of a large manufacturing establishment.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, or to Mr. William Buckley, solicitor, Ashton-under-lyne.

Manchester Guardian, 20 Feb. 1850      Sale by Auction

By Mr. Ousey (by order of the assignees of the estate and effects of Messrs. William & Samuel Shaw, bankrupts) at the Commercial Inn, in Upper Mill, in Saddleworth, in the county of York, on Wednesday the 6th day of March, 1850, at six o'clock in the evening ...

The Estate and Interest of the said assignees of and in all that Plot of Land, situate at UPPER MILL aforesaid, containing 2000 square yards or thereabouts, and used as a WHARF, and held under a lease from the Huddersfield Canal Company, subject to a yearly rent of £10, and to certain covenants and agreements which will be stated at the time of sale.

Together also with the counting-house, stable, saw-pits, wharf walls, sheds and other erections upon the said plot of land, and the powerful crane and weighing machine thereon. The whole premises are admirably adapted for a timber, coal, lime and salt yard or wharf, having a considerable frontage to the Huddersfield Canal, and no expense has been spared to render them as complete as possible.

For further particulars apply to the assignees; to Messrs. Rowley & Taylor, solicitors, Manchester; to the Auctioneer; or to Mr. William Buckley, solicitor, Ashton-under-lyne.

Bernard Barnes

### GOOD HILL - AN EARLIER MESOLITHIC SITE

There are some 200 to 300 known Earlier Mesolithic sites in England and Wales. This brief account suggests the presence of the remains of another site of the same period on our local moors.

In March 1972 three white flints were found on the surface of a large denudation patch on the moor to the north of Black Moss Reservoir, one of the small reservoirs which supply the Huddersfield Canal, at a height of 1350 feet O.D. (Grid reference SE 033090). The position of the flints was marked carefully. During the next ten years thirty more flints were collected from this area, and their find positions noted. When plotted, the flints were seen to extend for a distance of a hundred metres down slope from north-west to south-east (Fig. 2).

Twenty eight of the finds, all in white flint, were lying within thirty metres of each other.

It seems very probable that this collection marks the position of a Mesolithic flint knapping site, and it is possible to make some further observations on the nature of the site. White flint of this type originates in the Yorkshire or Lincolnshire Wolds, some 70 miles away, and is usually associated with the Broad Blade or Non-Geometric industry, now regarded as being typical of the Earlier Mesolithic.

Some of the flints, which include some 16 blade/flakes, show secondary working and are illustrated in Fig. 1. They include two microliths, which are indeed typical of the Earlier Mesolithic (Fig. 1 - 1 and 2), and three microburins, which are very common in the Broad Blade industry.

Thus it seems certain that this small assemblage of 33 flints does demonstrate the presence of an Earlier Mesolithic site which can be roughly dated to 7500bc - 6000bc, at a time when Britain was joined to the continent. The site was probably just above the densest of the birch forest, where it gave way to more open landscape, at a time when the climate was more continental than it is now, with harsh winters but drier summers. The likely season of occupation would be summer or early autumn, and the objective the hunting of red deer.

There are other sites of the same period in the neighbourhood, in

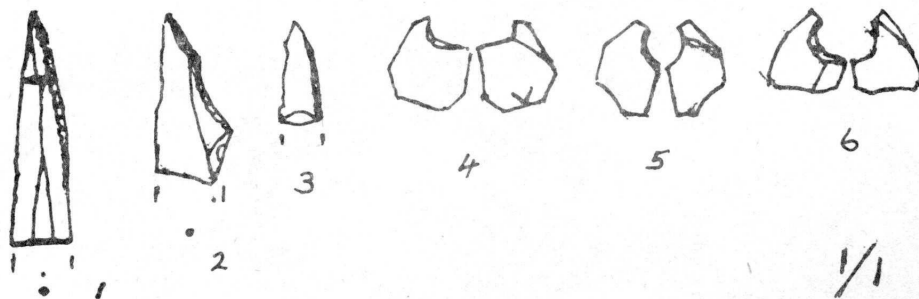


Figure 1. Good Hill. Microliths and microburins



particular Warcock Hill North, which is less than one kilometre distant.

It is interesting to note that if the position of each flint had not been plotted as it appeared, it would have been impossible to demonstrate the existence and nature of this site.



Figure 2 - Good Hill. Distribution of flints.

W.P.B. Stonehouse.

### THE THOMAS HILL COLLECTION

Mr. S. Lawrence of Bamford, Rochdale, has recently loaned to the Saddleworth Museum a small collection of flints made by his grandfather, Mr. Thomas Hill, who then lived at Mount Sorrell, Dobcross. The collection was made in the early decades of this century and contains flints belonging to the Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic), the New Stone Age (Neolithic) and the Bronze Age, and also includes two gun flints which probably belong to the 18th or 19th century AD.

Some of these flints are illustrated here. The two upper rows show small microliths which were collected on Crompton Moor (which lies between Shaw and Denshaw) and Shore Moor (to the west of the Summit Gorge which runs between Littleborough and Todmorden), and are straight-backed blades, sometimes called "rods", except for Nos. 8 and 18 which are triangles. The purpose of such tools is by no means certain, but they may have been mounted as points to arrows. Rod forms are reasonably common in the South Pennines, the North York Moors and Lincolnshire, and it has been suggested that they may help to define a social territory during the latter part of the Mesolithic period, a territory which would include much of the North of England together with Lincolnshire (1).

Rods, small triangles and other Geometric tools are regarded as belonging to the Later Mesolithic Period (6000bc - 3500bc), as compared with the Earlier Mesolithic (7500bc - 6000bc) which is characterised by larger, asymmetric microliths (2). Britain had by this time become separated from the continent by the rising sea levels, and the climate was wet and warm - warmer, indeed, than it is to-day. This area was covered by deciduous forest up to a height of about 1200 feet, the higher ground being more open in character, perhaps kept open intentionally by a policy of deliberate burning. Certainly the vast majority of sites lie about 1200 feet in altitude, just above the level of the closed forest.

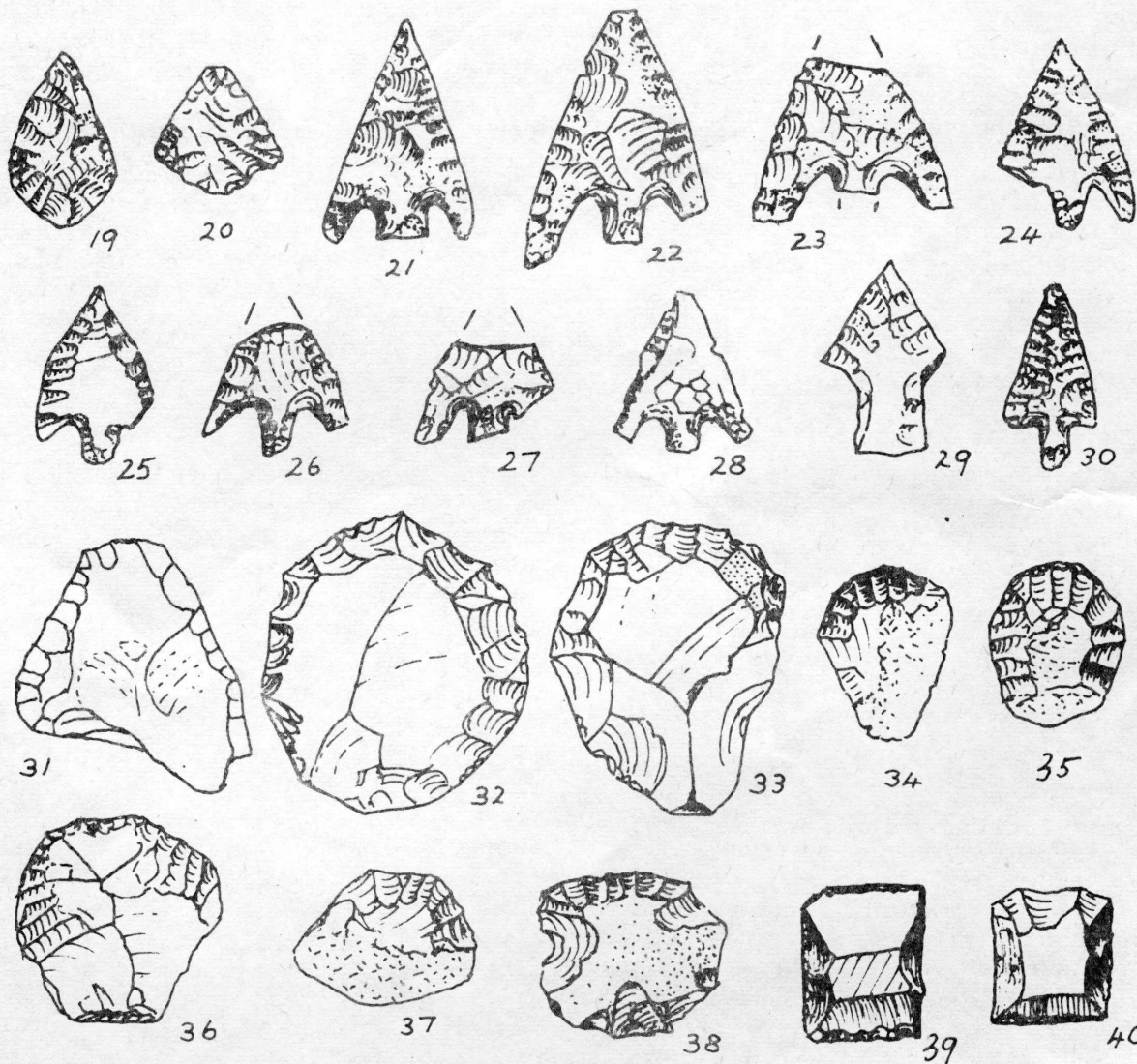
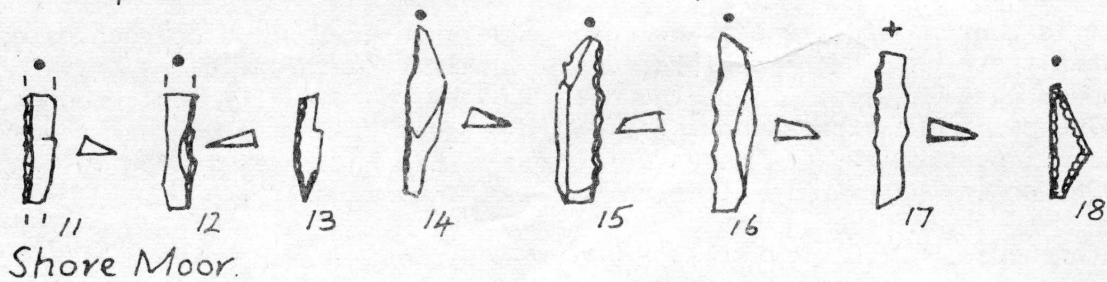
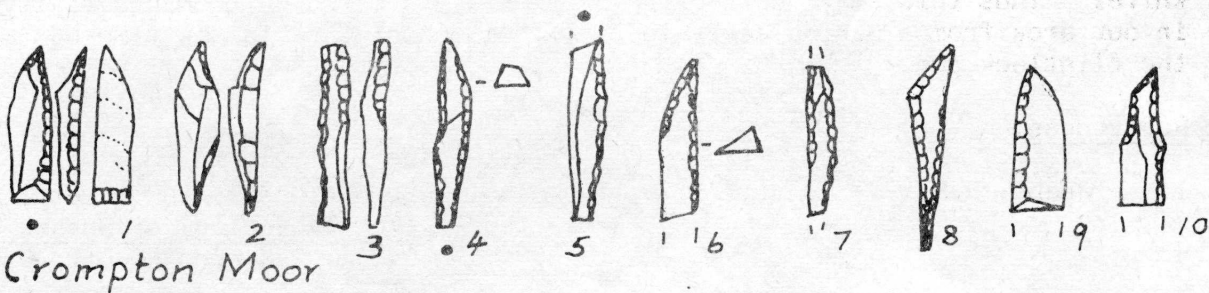
A description of a local rod site - Rocher Moss South I - had already been given in this publication (3). This site was near Black Moss Reservoir at a height of 1325 feet, and produced 543 flints, which included 30 rods. The chronology of such sites is uncertain, but 60 metres to the west of Rocher Moss South I another small rod site was excavated and this produced a radiocarbon date of  $3880 \pm 100$  bc, which agreed quite well with the pollen analysis from the site, the latter indicating that the site was occupied near the end of the warm Atlantic period (4). Dunford Bridge B, a rod site near Penistone, gave a radiocarbon date of  $3430 \pm 80$  bc, so it seems possible that these rods were being made by some of the last hunter-gatherer groups in this part of Britain.

The first two arrowheads illustrated (Nos. 19 and 20) both belong to the Neolithic period, and were found on Crompton Moor. They show that hunting activities continued to take place in the area, and this is even easier to demonstrate in the succeeding Bronze Age as shown by the barbed and tanged arrowheads. All these are from Crompton Moor, except for Nos. 24 and 25 which came from Windy Hill. The scrapers are all from Crompton Moor, except for No. 30 which was from Piethorn. No. 31 is an unusual flint, difficult to describe. It is polished, and is probably of Neolithic or Beaker age.

The two gun flints are typical of those made for flintlock guns in the 17th - 19th centuries at Brandon in Suffolk, which is near the famous prehistoric flint mining site of Grimes Graves.

This does not exhaust the interest of the collection which includes







flints not illustrated here, among which is a beautiful plano-convex knife. Thus this small collection provides information of human activity in our area from a period early in the 5th millennium BC to the time of the flintlock gun.

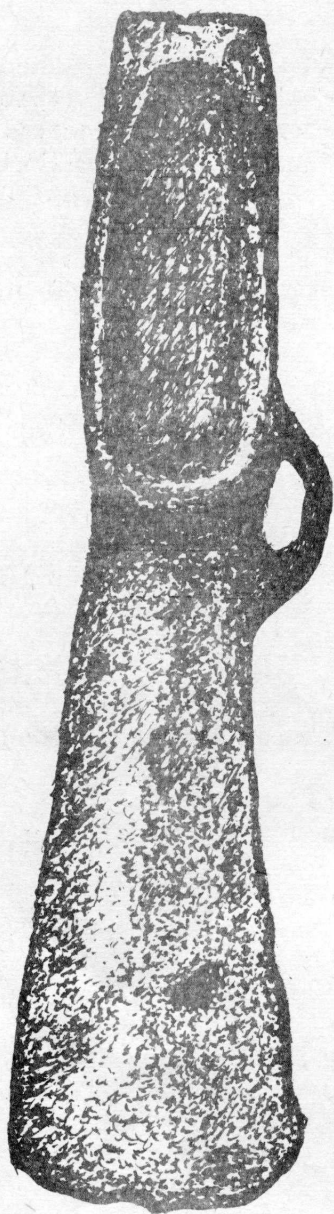
References:

1. Jacobi, R.M. (1978) The Mesolithic of Sussex, in Drewett, P.L. (ed.), The Archaeology of Sussex to 1500 AD, C.B.A. Research Report 29.
2. It is conventional to use the lower case when giving radiocarbon dates. When these have been "calibrated" to obtain calendrical dates the upper case is used. Thus the date 3880 bc, when calibrated, becomes 4700 BC. The expression  $\pm$  followed by a number indicates that there is a  $\frac{2}{3}$  possibility of the date falling within the bracket 3780 to 3980 bc in the example given above.
3. Stonehouse, W.P.B. (1972) Rocher Moss South: report on a recently excavated Mesolithic flint site in Saddleworth, Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin, 2, 36-40.
4. Stonehouse, W.P.B. (1980) Rocher Moss South 2: a later Mesolithic site in Saddleworth, Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin, 10, 21 - 24.

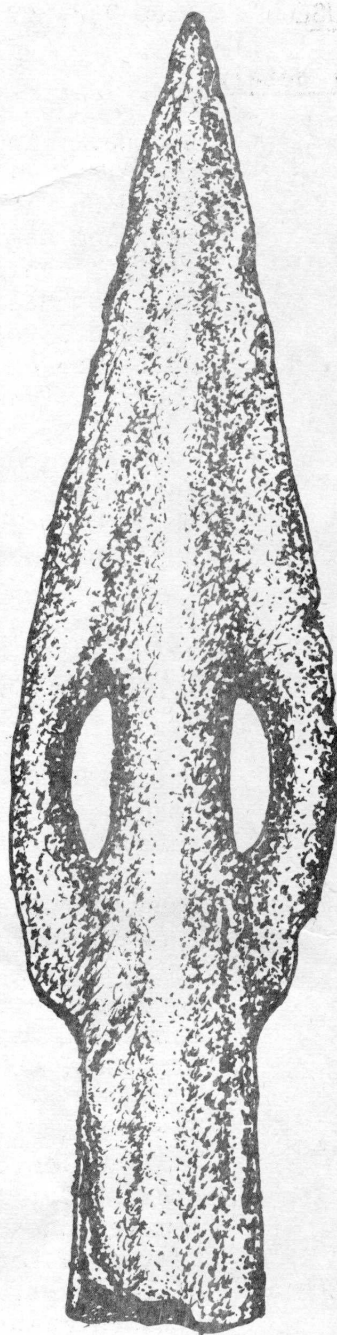
W.P.B. Stonehouse.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL REGISTER



Bronze looped palstave.  
Late Bronze Age.  
Found about 1 foot down  
in clay soil at Wall Green,  
Denshaw in 1927.  
Actual size. Private  
ownership.



Bronze, lunate socketed  
spearhead. Late Bronze Age.  
Found near Piethorn Reservoir,  
Newhey. Actual size.  
Oldham Museum.

A. Schofield.

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.

BOWKHOUSE (see V.2, 1972, pp. 31 - 32, of the Bulletin)

Further details

- 1743 8 June. Indenture between 1) Edmund Buckley of Bowkhouse clothier 2) John Whitehead the younger of Delph clothier 3) John Radcliffe of Saddleworth Fold clothier, concerning messuage etc. called Bowkhouse, together with the following fields - Whiteroad Head, Nearer Redmires, Further Redmires, Redmires Head, Lower Hey, Over Hey (the last two lately divided into the Two Lower Heys and the Two Over Heys), Routh Hey and Dowry Green, together with 1/8 part of Deanshaw Moor ... (Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, RR 403).
- 1766 12 June. By his will, Timothy Harrop of Oakenhill, yeoman, left his estates called Hey and Bowkhouse in Friarmere, in the occupation of John Radcliffe and Thomas Platt, to Timothy and Jonah Buckley of Greenhill, Oldham ...
- 1780 In his will, John Radcliffe of Saddleworth Fold, yeoman, referred to his freehold estates at Bowkhouse and Dowry Green, in the occupation of John Milnes and James Kenworthy (+ other estates at Stonebreaks etc.).
- 1796 Joseph Radcliffe of Bowkhouse sent wool to John Mellor at Rasping Mill, Delph, for scribbling (Ammon Wrigley, "Those were the Days", p. 164).
- 1834 Joshua Radcliffe of Bowkhouse mentioned in Commissioners Award (Hewkin Collection).
- 1835 Saddleworth Church Rate Book listed: owner Joshua Radcliffe, occupiers Joshua Radcliffe and Ben Buckley; owner Miss Armitage, occupiers William Wood and John Durham Travis.
- 1851 The Census listed the following under Bowkhouse: Robert Travis + 2 females, he was a farmer of 12 acres and his wife was a dressmaker; James Lawton, a farm labourer, + 3 males and 1 female, one of his sons being a cotton hand-loom weaver; John Lawton, a farm labourer, + 2 females; James Buckley, a farmer of 14 acres, + 2 males and 7 females - of these 1 was a Chelsea Pensioner, 1 a woollen power-loom weaver and 3 woollen mill workers; Joshua Radcliffe, a farmer of 38 acres, + 2 males and 3 females.
- 1852 The Church Rate Book listed the following: owner and occupier Joshua Radcliffe; owner James Wrigley, occupiers James Buckley and John Lawton; owner Mary Armitage, occupier Robert Travis.
- 1885 The Poll List included the following under Bowkhouse - William Buckley and Thomas Lumb.



SUNFIELD (see V.4, 1974, pp. 15 - 17, of the Bulletin)

Further details

- 1624 The will of James Broadbent of Green listed John Broadbent of Sunfield as a debtor.
- 1629 3 Aug. John Broadbent of Sunfield was a debtor of George Broadbent of Harrop (listed in the latter's will).
- 1719 28 Dec. Inventory of George Broadbent of Sunfield (Lancs. Record Office, Preston).
- 1745 29 May. Indenture between 1) James Farrer 2) Thomas Rhodes of Sunfield, clothier, concerning 2 parcels of common on Harrop Edge, one lying on Hunter's Hill and containing 2 acres, and the other adjoining Thomas Rhodes' tenement at Sunfield containing 4 acres 30 perches (lease for 999 years). (Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, SS 981).
- 1835 The Church Rate Book listed the following under Sunfield: owner Henry Preston, occupiers Henry Buckley, Samuel Holden, Mary Schofield, John Byrom and Henry Buckley.
- 1861 18 Jan. Indenture between 1) Thomas Henry Preston of Moreby Hall (Yorkshire) Esq., 2) Joseph Lees of Clarksfield, Es., 3) James Bradbury of Huddersfield, gentleman, concerning messuage etc. called Sunfield with barn, stable, garden and fields - Croft, Calf Croft, Backside, New Meadow, Lower New Meadow (in two closes), Upper New Meadow and Hunter Hill, containing 14 acres 2 roods 23 perches, formerly in the occupation of James Buckley ...
- 1871 Worrall's Directory listed Henry Bradbury & Sons, flannel manufacturers, of Sunfield.

B.B.

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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

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45, Beechfield,  
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