

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin

Volume 13 Number 4

Winter 1983



G R E E N F I E L D

BULLETIN
OF THE
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 13

Number 4

Winter

1983

Contents

Page

Extracts from the Chairman's report to Saddleworth
Historical Society's A.G.M., 1983

77

Greenfield in 1792

82

The Howcroft Collection

83

The Roman name of the Agricolan Fort at Castleshaw

85

Saddleworth's other Bakestone Pit

89

Old Saddleworth: Wall Hill Barn

92

EXTRACTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY A.G.M. - 7 DECEMBER 1983

This has been another year of growth and achievement. However it will be remembered sadly as the year we lost Mr. Bernard Barnes. For members of this Society and for those of many other organisations his death came as a great personal tragedy. We set up the Bernard Barnes Memorial Fund to honour his memory. The objects of this are shown in the Autumn Bulletin. So far £668 has been given which include £367 profit from our Industrial Archaeology Conference. We are grateful to those who have already subscribed. Contributions are still coming in.

Mr Ken Booth indicated some months ago that he no longer had the time to devote to his post as treasurer because of business pressures. Very loyally however he has continued to accept this responsibility which will terminate when he has presented his annual report this evening, a gesture typical of Ken and very much appreciated by the committee. This will be his 12th consecutive annual report. One of our newer members, Mr. Godfrey Adams agreed to act as treasurer.

We have lost the services of Mr. Neil Barrow too. He did a great deal of work at the Museum as our Museum Officer and on Society publications. He has taken a post in Hong Kong for the next two years. The Museum workers organised a little farewell party for Mr. & Mrs. Barrow and invited our committee to join them. It was an enjoyable occasion and we presented Mr. & Mrs. Barrow with some views of Diggle as a memento.

It says a lot for the strength of the Society that we had the cover to keep us going after these setbacks. Mrs. Jean Barnes helped enormously by making all Bernard's records and files available. Mr. Julian Hunt stepped in the breach as Publications Officer and with the help of Mr. Barrow and Mr. Alan Petford was able to produce the special 50th issue of the Bulletin. We had co-opted Mr. David Latimer and Mr. Hunt and after Bernard's death, Mr. Petford. They have each justified our action by the contribution they have made to the running of the Society.

Mrs Booth, our Secretary, has again kept up with all the work this post entails, organising the lectures and committee meetings, dealing with a considerable correspondence and alerting the committee to any matters which needed their attention. Mr. David Chadderton our Vice-Chairman is still hoping to preserve Ash Cottage from demolition. He has renewed his efforts to protect Ladhill Bridge in view of the building developments which are proposed in the Borough Local Plan for that area which he believes could place it in danger of damage or destruction. He played an important part in the running of the Industrial Archaeology Conference and when anything requiring urgent attention has come up he would always help if he possibly could - all this in a year when his business life has been very disrupted.

Our Membership Secretary, Mr. Stanley Broadbent, reports that we have 335 members this year, including a record number of new enrolments - 51. Amongst these are Mrs. F. Gardener from Hertfordshire, Mr. J. Hunt from Worcester, Mr. M. F. S. Hoggett from York and three members forming a branch at Cambridge. He says 'Overseas' membership remains at 5 but will no doubt be increased next year when Neil realises he is missing out on his Bulletin. He concludes his report with thanks to the many members who paid their subscription early in the New Year 'which' he says 'has to a great extent reduced the workload of the Section' - I must point out that the 'Section' consists of Mr. Stanley and Mrs. Elsie Broadbent. However I do not propose to leave the Membership

Section without thanking them for their involvement in other areas of our work. They helped clear off the balance of the £1500 Society Museum Fund with the sale of the remaining shuttles at the Road End Fair (these have brought in £176) and a coffee morning/afternoon tea/bric-a-brac sale in April (£197). He modestly says nothing of all they have done for the Museum over and above this. Our Fund was finally topped up with £53 from a Himalayan film show, kindly put on for the Society by Mr. Ernest Cooke of the Saddleworth Pedestrians.

We have continued our representation on the Parish Council Conservation Area Advisory Committee. This also gives us the opportunity to raise with the Parish Council or the O.M.B.C. any unseemly developments in Saddleworth which may be reported to us. We have had a lot of help and support from the Authorities over the years and we are very fortunate that they afford us this facility. We in turn co-operate with them when we can. Canon Airne provided them with much historical data on Lydgate village to support the proposal to form a Conservation Area there - a proposal which was implemented. Mr. John Buckley likewise submitted information to support designation of the Shaws as a Conservation Area. This is still under consideration. Stonebreaks was also considered but the Authority rejected that.

Planning Applications with which we have concerned ourselves include the proposal to convert Sykes' Mill into flats, the deplorable appearance of the old Saddleworth Bank building in Dobcross Square, the proposed change of use of the offices at St Chad's and recently the conversion of the Cropping Shop at Dean Head. We have made depositions to the O.M.B.C. on the Oldham Borough Local Plan following discussion meetings of our members at the Swan.

At the end of March we decided to discontinue our affiliation with the F.E. Centre. It was expensive, typing facilities were no longer available to us there and we felt that all our requirements could be provided at the Museum. Mrs. Booth arranged this. Our last appearance at the Centre was at the annual Open Evening in March.

With the departure of Mr. Barrow, Mr. Parry, as I mentioned earlier, offered to act as Museum Liaison Officer. He volunteered also to continue writing the Press Reports of our lecture meetings but he resigned from the post of Publicity Officer believing, to use his own words, 'that there are others in the Society better adapted to that'. He reports that this has been a tremendous year for the Museum. All kinds of grants have been making it possible to employ archivists, joiners, cataloguers, education assistants, secretaries etc. There is now a sizeable office which, he believes, will relieve the pressure on the Archives Room where much of the research and clerical work takes place. The outstanding debt has now been reduced to about £2000. There is to be a Museum Management Committee which has its ear much closer to the ground. It will be made up of representatives from the various groups working at and using the Museum. The Museum Liaison Officer will be our representative on that committee.

Obtaining volunteers to man the Museum has been a laborious job in the past and Mr. Parry is adopting a new system to facilitate this. He will be explaining this system this evening.

A happy note, Col. Howcroft, a member of our Society since shortly after its foundation is also a Trustee of the Saddleworth Museum. He celebrated his 90th birthday in July and this happened to be the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Museum. Mr. Roger Tanner, our Patron, decided to combine the celebration of these two events with a party in the Museum. The number from

the Society had to be limited to 30 because of the size of the room. We were asked if we could provide one of the items of entertainment during the evening. We prepared a reading of a controversy in the Oldham Chronicle correspondence columns during the early 1920's, between the Colonel's father and Mr. Hartley Bateson on the subject of the claim of the Mallalieu of Delph to have been descended from the Huguenots, who fled from France in 1572 after the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre. As things turned out we did not get the chance to put it on that evening but Mr. John Howcroft very kindly invited us to come up to the Ridings a week later so that his father would hear it. We had a very pleasant evening there.

Our Archivist, Canon Airne, reports that the archives have now been transferred from Lee Street to the Museum. Mr. William Slater, appointed full-time archivist at the Museum under the Manpower scheme has compiled a Calendar of the Society's archives which is now available for consultation. With the help of Mr. Maurice Dennett, who is honorary Assistant Archivist of the Society, the card index has been altered to accord with the new catalogue numbers and new boxes have been labelled.

Col. G.B. Howcroft has presented to our Society the papers of his father, the late Mr. A.J. Howcroft and Mr. Dennett is at present cataloguing them. They represent an important acquisition to our archives. He has recently published a Calendar of the Museum archives which was done entirely by Mr. Slater. Mr. Slater and Mr. Dennett deserve our highest praise for what they have accomplished. We are very grateful to them. Cannon Airne hopes that the new rooms being built in the Museum will result in the Archives Room being reserved for archives. It will not otherwise function as it should. It has been fitted with a photocopier and a microfilm reader and the Museum has acquired microfilms of Parish Registers in Saddleworth. The 1822 map has been restored with the aid of a grant from the Gulbenkian Foundation.

Mr. Jim Carr has reported on the work of the Archaeology Group. 1983 started with a series of W.E.A. classes called 'Under Your Feet' attended by several members of the Society and covering the practical elements of a dig based on Dr. David Hill's excavations at Offa's Dyke. Activities of the Society, of the Museum and of the Brownhill Visitors Centre filled most of February. The meeting of the group covered plans for the season and Mr. Alec Schofield gave an illustrated talk on 'The Ages of Prehistory'. This was enjoyed by all. Their next meeting was devoted to Mr. and Mrs. Barnes slides of Pompeii and Vesuvius accompanied by the original account by the Younger Pliny of the eruption in A.D.79 when his uncle was killed. Several members joined the Colin Harding weekend on Hadrian's Wall in the Spring and Dr. Pat Stonehouse and Mr. George Taylor gave slide talks at the late April meeting. The enjoyable summer Society trip in June was organised by Mr. Carr and included a visit to the Roman site of VIROCONIUM at Wroxeter and a journey on the Welshpool/Llanfair Railway.

The summer dig at Hilltop was curtailed by the requirements of Mr. Dransfield of Knar Barn Farm but some sections of the circle were taken and they hope to continue next season with the owner, Mr. Hewitt's, kind permission.

The September meeting was again led by Mr. Schofield, who ran a University Challenge type quiz on Roman Archaeology, which was enjoyed by both teams and by the audience. There followed two visits by other Groups: the Skipton Society came on 24th September, visited Castleshaw or Pule Hill where they also met the Huddersfield Society, and after a meal at the Swan, they were entertained by Dr. Stonehouse's illustrated talk on Prehistoric Saddleworth; Colin Harding's classes came on 22nd October and after visiting the Brownhill Centre, Wool Road Warehouse and Museum, had a meal at the Swan and slide talks by various members.

Mrs. Audrey Carr represented them at the Council for British Archaeology's Group 5 meeting in Bolton in November and reported on the various talks at the next group meeting when slides of The Lunt and the Ermine Street Guard were also shown. The most topical part of this report was the proposed development of the Castleshaw site over four years by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council with the North West Water Authority and the Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit under Mr. Philip Mayes. Mr. Mayes agreed to meet Society members on Tuesday 6th December to discuss this. Mr. Carr concludes his report with the Group's tribute to Bernard Barnes, who was one of their active members and is sadly missed.

The Industrial Archaeology Group arranged the North West Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference at Saddleworth School in Mid-April. Highly successful, we were complimented by many of the visitors on the excellent arrangements ever for this conference. Our committee subsequently decided to put the profits from that day into the Bernard Barnes Memorial fund.

Mrs. N. Buckley arranged a New-to-You sale in October for the Wool Road Warehouse. This raised £52. The Industrial Archaeology Group have also arranged with the Oldham Community Employment Agency for the pointing, inside and out of the warehouse and with the Royal Engineers Territorials to clear the site of rubble. They are also hoping the timbers will be given protective treatment soon. They have established a helpful relationship with a joiner, Mr. Harry Lord. As a result they now have one of the door frames ready for erection and the promise of further help from him.

Perhaps inevitably there has been some vandalism of the site and there has also been trouble with effluent discharge from a sewer. The engineer called in attributes it to the exceptional weather. They are watching this for any possible recurrence.

Mr. John Buckley, leader of this group, has done another very worthwhile year's work at the Museum. He and a small group of helpers there have fitted out the textile machinery floor which was officially opened by Dame Margaret Weston, Director of the Science Museum, South Kensington. He has therefore not been able to devote as much time this year to the Society's project at Wool Road.

Our major success has again been publications. Top of the list must come 'Saddleworth Surveyed' published for the Festival in May. The work of Bernard Barnes, Julian Hunt, Michael Buckley and Alan Petford, it is unique in that it brings under one cover all the historic maps of a single parish. It will be an indispensable tool for future historians of the area. Bernard's excellent Local Interest Trail on Delph Village with illustrations by Stanley Broadbent has also been issued this year. As Mr. Kenneth Hirst wrote in the Oldham Chronicle regarding Bernard's publications - 'Mr. Barnes left behind him a monument more lasting than his survivors could have devised'. I think he left us too an obligation that we should continue the work to which he had devoted so much of his energy and scholarship. He co-edited with Miss Dorothy Schofield 'Saddleworth - The Australia Connection'. There has been a spin-off from that. One of our members, Mr. Steven Roman, took his family to Australia this summer. He visited Saddleworth and met Mr. Albert Dennear, the local historian there who had provided much information for the book. Mr. Dennear gave Mr. Roman 140 excellent slides and literature on Saddleworth for us. This should make a good slide lecture next year.

The Saddleworth committee, which was responsible for the production of the very successful Saddleworth Countryside Guides, agreed to allow us to publish a reprint and these are now available in the shops.

The last Bulletin produced by Mr. Barnes was the Spring issue this year. In his report on the year's work Mr. Hunt wrote that he was anxious to maintain the standard which Bernard had set for the Bulletins. The commemorative Summer issue which was also the 50th embodied the full text of Mr. Barnes' authoritative essay on 'The Early Woollen Mills of Saddleworth'. The Autumn one is the first produced entirely by Mr. Hunt. With it members will have received a reprint of Daniel Nield's 'Addresses to the different classes of men in the Parish of Saddleworth', an extremely rare political pamphlet of 1795. It has been published by the Society with the aid of a Pasold Research Fund grant obtained by Mr. Barrow, who has also written an Introduction. Mr. Barrow has prepared another reprint for a future Bulletin - Samuel Andrew's notes on Joseph Wrigley of Stonebreaks entitled 'A Manufacturer's business 100 years ago'. Serialised by the Oldham Chronicle in 1870 this has also been financed by Pasold.

We can look back with pride over the years to the many publications we have been able to produce and to projects such as the restoration of the Wool Road Warehouse which we were able to undertake because we were strong financially.

But this hasn't always been the case. There was the historic occasion when we had to approach our bank for a comparatively small loan to finance a Society Christmas Calendar. The bank manager's response to that was 'Not a Chance'. We have had similar rebuffs since - not from the bank manager but from our Treasurer, Ken - 'Not a Chance'. Any extraneous requests, if they were likely to deplete the coffers, were turned down flat. If you argued your case you were told in no uncertain terms that we couldn't afford it.

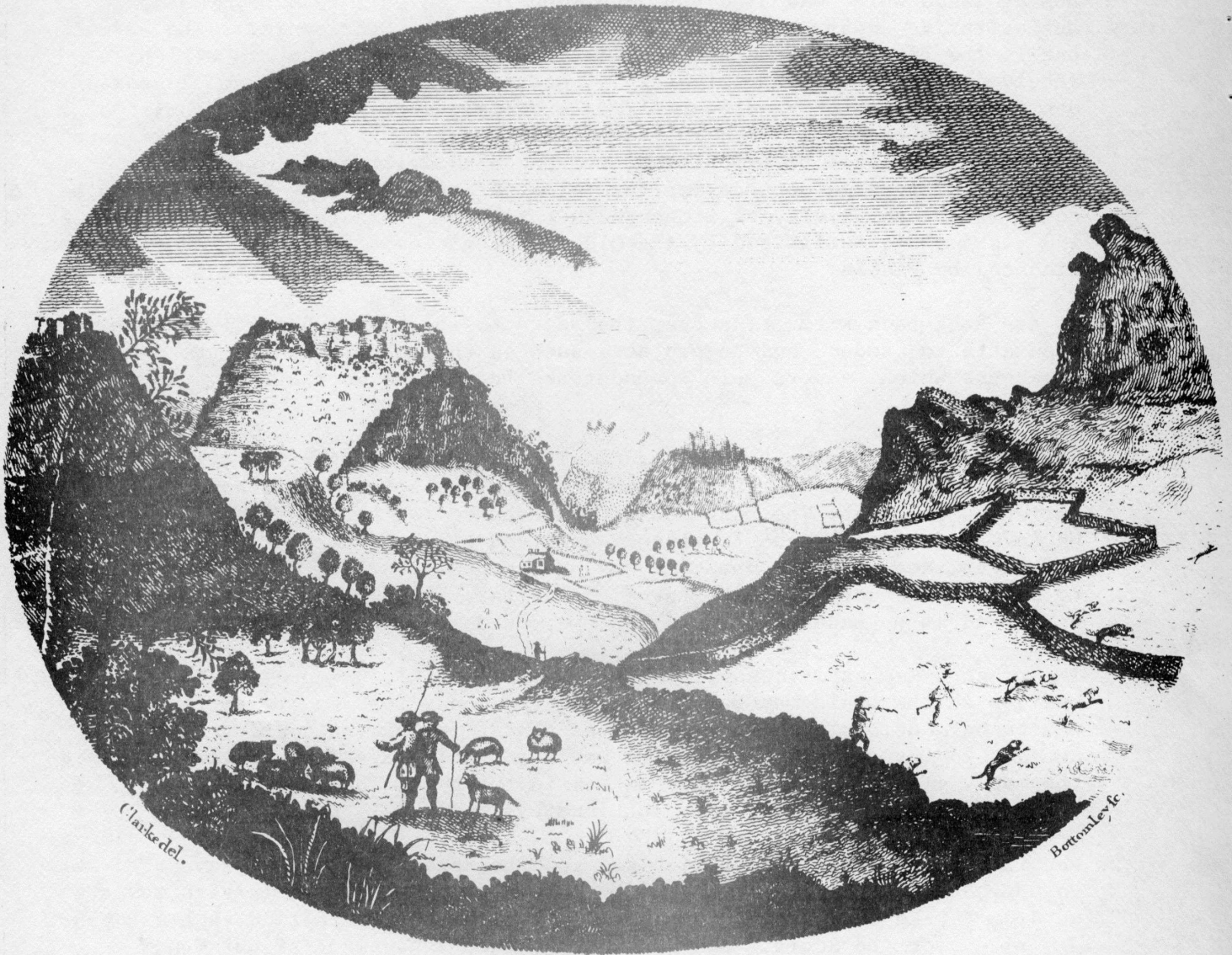
The reason, Ken used to say, was that we would need our money and more besides and he would say what we needed the money for. In the early days it was to buy our own premises and I feel that if we had been able and we had decided to buy our own premises he would probably have insisted that we raise the money without touching what we had in the bank. That would have been needed for some other unlikely contingency.

But it is thanks to Ken's thrift and good housekeeping that we have been able to do the things that have put us on the map. I think it is fair to say that we didn't take off as a Society until the arrival of Bernard with his hopes and plans for the Society and Ken whose astute management of our funds brought those plans to fruition and now that Ken is relinquishing his post of Treasurer it is my great pleasure to tell him that the committee have unanimously agreed to make him a life member of the Society.

J. Murray.

GREENFIELD IN 1792

This 1792 engraving is by far the earliest view of Saddleworth to have survived. The artist has selected a vantage point high up the Greenfield Valley at Ashway Hey, frequented he suggests only by shepherds and huntsmen. On the right, Alderman Rocks appear above the neat stone walls of Binn Green. On the left, the early homestead at Dovestone Wood is dominated by Dovestone Rocks. In the distance, new enclosures are winning farmland from the slopes of Alphin. This same view can be gained today from the hillside above Yeoman Hey Reservoir.



It was Samuel Bottomley of Gravemakers (now the Cross Keys Inn, near Saddleworth Church) who made this drawing for the frontpiece of Greenfield, a poem, which he published in 1792. It is probably new, even to Saddleworth readers, as the copy in the Hewkin Collection in Uppermill Library, and that referred to by Radcliffe in The Parish Registers of St. Chad, Saddleworth both lack this plate. A complete copy was recently donated to Oldham Local Studies Library by Rochdale Library and the value of the engraving was recognised. Samuel Bottomley died in 1795, but a second edition of his work, including a brief history of Saddleworth, was published in 1816 by Lieut. James Bottomley of Manchester. This work contains several fine engravings, including Saddleworth Church, Greenfield Mill, and the view of Waters Mill, Castleshaw, which was reproduced in our Summer Bulletin. A reprint of this second edition, containing the earliest written history of the parish, would be a very worthwhile project for the future.

THE HOWCROFT COLLECTION

In November, Col. G.B. Howcroft kindly presented to our Archivist, Canon C.C.W. Airne, two boxes of documents. These have now been examined and calendared, and fascinating material they proved to be.

The first box contained plans, deeds, conveyances, agreements, letters, notices, sketches, newspaper cutting and magazine extracts, as well as six notebooks packed with useful historical material. The contents of this box had been collected by, or were the work of, Col. Howcroft's father, Mr. A.J. Howcroft, O.B.E., and illustrate in a very emphatic manner the strong and scholarly interest which A.J. Howcroft had in the history of Saddleworth.

Should you wish to see what Saddleworth Church looked like in the previous stages of its existence, here are large sketches and plans. It is possible to read what the Court Baron of Saddleworth and Quick was discussing in the 17th century, or what pew ownership transactions were taking place in the 18th. One document is the original paper on which all the 31 freeholders who eventually bought the Manor of Saddleworth in 1791 attest their agreement to make the purchase if their offer is accepted.

It was Francis Robinson who built the Standedge to Mumps Turnpike Road - and here is the agreement between him, James Lees and J. Radcliffe, made in 1792.

The 31 gentlemen - now 'Proprietors of the Manor of Saddleworth' decided in 1794 that the parson at Saddleworth Church should have more land, so they gave him a plot 'to be annexed to the Glebe Lands' - and here is the plan. In 1799 they received the outstanding account of their solicitor, Joseph Mellor, covering the period 1794 - 1799, and the neatly inscribed details may be examined, as also may the notices of the meetings of the Proprietors, and the minutes of those proceedings.

The differing receptions received by a mob visiting two local mills in 1842 are shown - James Lees of Delph Lodge sent them on their way with a guinea; R.R. Whitehead produced a shot-gun!

You may read of the unfortunate balloonist who ascended at Belle Vue one afternoon in 1852, only to meet his death near the quarry at High Moor. The same magazine - The Illustrated London News - presents a graphic account, with sketches, of the Bilberry Reservoir catastrophe of the same year.

A.J. Howcroft's six notebooks in themselves merit many hours of study, and give details of a wide variety of aspects of Saddleworth life in the past.

Extracts from the diary of Canon Raines describe his parting from his great friend, George Shaw, who had ridden with him as far as Delph when the young curate was leaving Saddleworth for Rochdale. F.R. Raines had wanted to become Vicar of Saddleworth at some future time, and felt that the best way of doing so would be to leave the district for a time, in the hope of returning eventually as Vicar. He tells of leaving his comfortable lodgings in Saddleworth for the much less welcoming rooms in Drake Street, and of how he was not comforted by the Bishop's informing him that if he had wanted the living of Saddleworth he should have stayed there.

There are A.J. Howcroft's drafts of articles written for the Yorkshire Archaeological Society's Journal, a copy of Col. Howcroft's book, 'George Shaw of St. Chad's', and of the lecture given by the Colonel to the Historical Society in 1975 - 'War in Saddleworth 1,000 Years Ago'.

Autographed copies of Hartley Bateson of some of his books presented to A.J. Howcroft; notes on the Manor Mill - 'Overmyln'; pedigrees - the Andrews and the Yannes of Lees, the Buckleys of Grottonhead and Tunstead; paper-back stories - John Hartley's Yorkshire Tales etc.; broadsheets; pieces on place-names and dialects; all the original drawings done by A.J. Howcroft for his 'Tales of a Pennine People'; a selection of photographs of local people and places; deeds of conveyance of parts of the Bakestone Pit; such are some samples of the contents of this part of the Howcroft Collection.

The second box contained what could be called the 'George Shaw' section of the whole. In 1920, when St. Chad's, Uppermill, was sold, Mr. Howcroft bought many of the Shaw Papers, and this part of the collection consists of these (some or all), as well as notes made by A.J. Howcroft on the Shaw Family and its connections, especially with the Radcliffes, and transcripts from George Shaw's diaries.

There are beautifully executed sketches and drawings of the armour and other artefacts which formed part of the furnishings of St. Chad's house; of the churches and other buildings which George Shaw designed; plans for the restoration of Woodfield House, Oldham. There are copies of George Shaw's sketches of Stonebreaks, Boarshurst, 'the old house at Overmyln' and of Shaw Hall.

George Shaw's friend, Sir Stephen Glynne of Hawarden, obtained for him a copy of W. Gladstone's Book of Family Prayers, which is in the collection, along with a set of autographs of famous people sent for Shaw's sister. You may read extensive notes by A.J.H. on the Shaws, St. Chad's, the Radcliffe Family; copies of the wills of some of the Shaws in the 16th. and 17th. centuries; notes on the marriages of the Shaw family; pedigrees and coats of arms; plans of land in Saddleworth belonging to Giles Shaw; Shaw Family photographs - these are further tastes of this fascinating archive material.

The Shaw and Radcliffe letters themselves give a close view of many aspects of life over a period of a hundred years. In these the Radcliffes of Stonebreaks figure prominently in the early part of the 19th. century. Henry Lascelles of Harewood House writes in 1806 to solicit Capt. Radcliffe's support in an election. J. Radcliffe writes in 1800 to Wm. Wilberforce to thank him for his efforts in the Commons 'on behalf of the Woollen Manufacturers of this Country'. In 1803 James Lees of Clarksfield invites Mr. Radcliffe to a dinner at Mr. Bell's, The New Inn, Delph, 'in consequence of a Rump and Dozen'.

There are letters from F.R. Raines, Thomas Wm. Kind - 'Rouge Dragon', and Sir Samuel Mayrick of Goodrich Court to George Shaw, and one from T. Spencer Stanhope, Penrhyn Castle, Bangor to 'My Dear Shaw', apologising for 'my unwitting part in the accident which led to the loss of your brother's eye.

The majority of the Shaw letters are to Thomas Shaw, from his son, George Radcliffe Shaw; from his brother, John R. Shaw, and from a wide variety of correspondents, local and national.

This collection is an extremely important addition to the archives of the Society, and our sincere thanks are due to Col. G.B. Howcroft for his generosity in making this truly magnificent gift.

M.D.

THE ROMAN NAME OF THE AGRICOLAN FORT AT CASTLESHAW

Over the years, antiquarians have tried to discover the Roman name for the Agricolan auxiliary fort situated at the head of the Castleshaw Valley in Saddleworth. In his paper Observations upon the Roman stations in Lancashire and Cheshire, read to the Royal Society in 1751, Thomas Percival of Royton says:-

'Perhaps the names of Castlesteads, Castleshaw, Campfield or some other name, may yet remain to guide an antiquarian to the place, as the name of Castleshaw was the guide to me to find out the station, which I suppose to be Alunna'.

His plan, which accompanied the paper, was titled 'Alunna'. Recent work has proved that Percival had no basis for supposing that the name of Castleshaw was Alunna.

The main sources for Roman names are as follows:-

The Geography of Ptolemy, compiled in Alexandria in the second quarter of the second century A.D. It covers the whole of the known World and takes the form of a list of the latitudes and longitudes of sufficient points to enable a series of maps to be drawn. (See figure 1 for the British Isles).

The Antonine Itinerary is a road book giving routes throughout the Roman Empire with the distances between places lying on them.

The Peulinger Table is named after Conrad Peulinger into whose hands the map fell in the sixteenth century. The map has places, routes and milages indicated on it but is very distorted in scale. The Western portion, including Spain and the greater part of Britain, is missing.

The Notitia Dignitatum is a list of officials and military units of the Empire with their respective stations, relating so far as Britain is concerned to the fourth century.

The Ravenna Cosmography is a list of the countries, towns and rivers of the known World compiled by a cleric of Ravenna in the late seventh century.

Of the above sources, only Ptolemy gives any clue to a Roman name for Castleshaw. If one enlarges the section of the map dealing with North West England (Figure 2) it immediately indicates the distortion, but lying between Camulodunum (Slack, near Huddersfield) and Deva (Chester) is Rigodunum.

In 1883, Watkin, in his book Roman Lancashire refers twice to Rigodunum. Early in the book he says:

'Rigodunum seems to have been on the Ribble but has not yet been identified'.

Later on he comments that he strongly suspects that the Rigodunum of Ptolemy is the station at Walton, near Preston. He also says that the name of the river (Ribble) is a further justification of his suspicions. Writing much later, Arthur Raistrick, in his booklet Romans in Yorkshire, says:-

'Rigodunum was almost certainly the walled village which covers the summit of Ingleborough'.

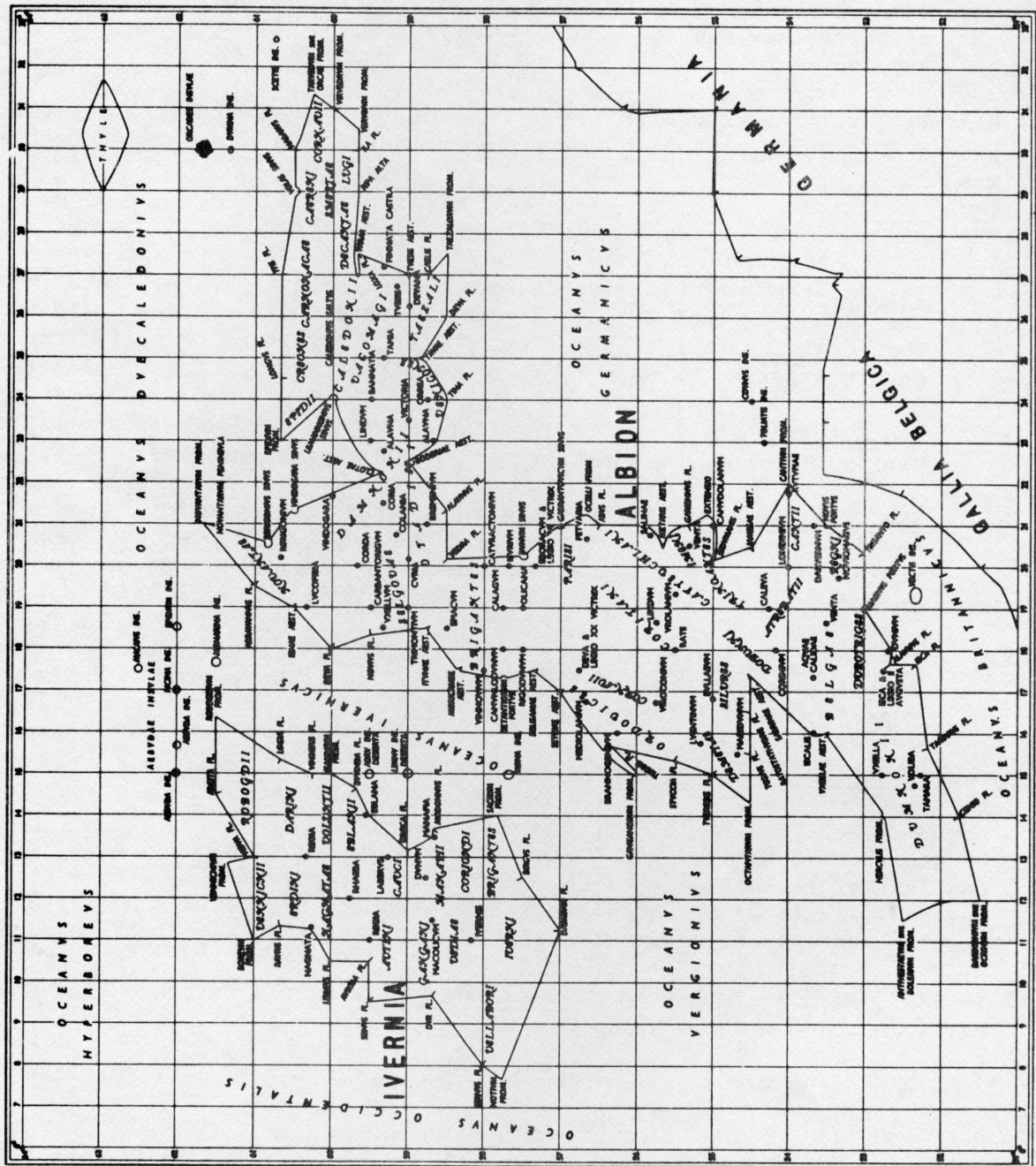


Figure 1. The British Isles according to Ptolemy.

There the matter rested until 1979 when A.L.F. Rivet and C. Smith had their monumental work The place names of Roman Britain published. Under the heading Rigodunum they state:-

'Source Ptolemy II. 3, 10:

Rigodunum. a polis of the Brigantes.

Derivation For the first element, see RERIGONIUM; for the second, see BRANODUNUM. The sense is 'King-fort', 'royal fort', similar in formation to Kingston, Konigsburg, etc. Compounds of this kind involving RIGO- are listed by Holder II. 1187, Ellis Evans GPN 243-49; they are numerous on the Continent.

Identification From its position in Ptolemy, probably the Roman fort at Castleshaw, Yorkshire (SD 9909).

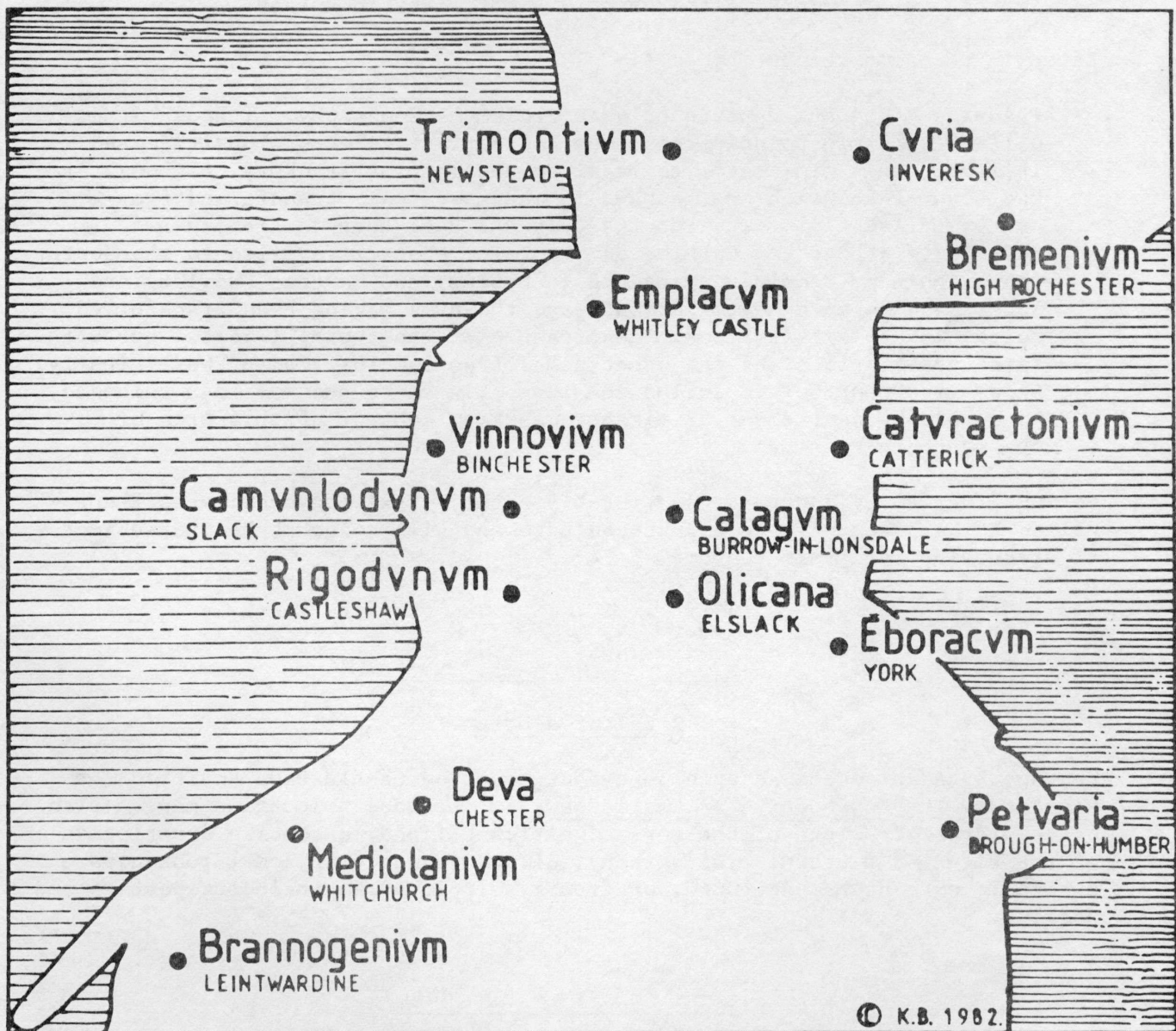


Figure 2. The British Isles according to Ptolemy (enlarged section)

Modern names from The Place-names of Roman Britain Rivet and Smith, 1979.

Whilst the above does not prove conclusively that Rigodunum is the Roman name of Castleshaw, modern scholars seem to have accepted the suggestion put forward by Rivet and Smith.

In his book Rome against Caratacus, published in 1981, Graham Webster, discussing the possible site of Queen Cartimandua's stronghold, says:-

'There is a place-name which offers a good pointer and that is Rigodunum, listed by Ptolemy as a polis of the Brigantes. As this means the 'royal-fort' it could lead us to a Brigantian power-centre. It has been identified with the Roman fort at Castleshaw which is on the great Pennine cross route from Manchester to York. The next fort at Slack, ten miles to the North East, has been linked with Camulodunum. But in both cases these are names which could well have been transferred from native sites, and one of these is Castle Hill at Almondbury, an impressive hill-fort, although only eight acres in extent'.

Later in the same chapter he says:-

'The name Rigodunum appears only in Ptolemy's Geography. Although it is difficult to pin-point places from Ptolemy's figures of longitude and latitude, this site seems to be along the Pennine trackway. Although it has been linked with Castleshaw, it must be a name transferred from a nearby native hill-fort. But the only one near here is the tiny univallate at Buckton Castle, on the Tame, about five miles to the south-west. The name Camulodunum occurs in Ptolemy and Ravenna (No.106) and appears to be much nearer Almondbury, the name having been transferred to the Roman fort at Slack. The presence of the two hill forts, one with royal associations and the other named from Camulos, God of War, clearly shows important Celtic influence along this route and may have belonged to a primary settlement of migrants seeking control of this area of the southern Pennines.

So much for the evidence, it is probably a subject as provocative as the so-called Roman pavement over Blackstone Edge and will no doubt be the subject of discussion for years to come.

K. Booth

Editor's Note

Ken Booth has produced an excellent fact-sheet on Castleshaw. Entitled Rigodunum. The Roman forts at Castleshaw, it includes a location map, a plan of the forts, drawings of the more significant finds, a concise description of the site and a useful bibliography. It is available in local bookshops and at Saddleworth Museum at £0.40, or from myself at £0.65 including postage and packing.

SADDLEWORTH'S OTHER BAKESTONE PIT

As long as oatbread was baked in the North of England, there must have been a steady demand for the fired mudstone slabs on which it was baked. Bakestones were certainly produced in large numbers by 1320 when a toll of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per horseload was levied on Bakestones sold at Manchester Market (1). The earliest reference to the trade in Saddleworth is in 1330 when William and Robert Bakestoneman, 'honest men of the town of Qwyck', collected the Lay-subsidy demanded by Edward III (2). Many have suggested that Manchester must have been supplied from the bakestone pit which gave our village of Delph its name, but place-name evidence from the West Riding alone (3) shows that there must have been many such quarries in the Pennine region. There is a reference to a quarry near Bolton in 1375 when Ralph de Pennington prosecuted two 'Baxton men' for digging in his quarry at Rivington (4), proving that the Lancashire towns had their own source of bakestones.

Readers may have noticed the reference in the Summer issue of this Bulletin to Backstonpit Mill in Brun Clough, near Diggle. The earliest use of this place-name appears to be a 1789 lease from the owner of Thurstons, James Hobson of Oldham gentleman, to Robert Broadbent of Thurstons clothier (5).

'All that plot piece or parcel of land or ground commonly called the Bakestonepit situate lying and being in the bottom of a close near Thurstones ... called the Intake containing in the whole fifteen perches upon which an old cottage formerly stood now gone down to build on and improve the same ...'

The map overleaf shows the location of this plot of land and also of the neighbouring fields to the East which are listed in the 1770 survey of James Farrer's estates (6). They are both called 'Backstone Intack' and are in lease to James Wood of Harrop Green and the Executors of James Broadbent late of Harrop Green. Neither James Wood's lease of 1745 (7), nor the conveyance following his purchase of the estate at the sale of the Manor (8), list a bakestone pit as an asset, but the field name 'Backstone Intake' is still used in 1791.

In earlier manorial documents, the bakestone pit is called 'Digle Delfe' and those who had rights to dig there are listed in the cottage rentals (9). In 1719 the following tenants appear on the rental:

Leases upon Fine for years	£	s	d	£	s	d
Abraham Broadbent for part of Green		3	6			
The same for part of Digle Delfe			3 $\frac{1}{2}$		17	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
The same for hill 4s: for Lee 10s		14	0			
Racke Rents						
John Bradbury Backstoneman					17	6
James Broadbent for half of Green	1	15	0			
The same for part of Digle Delfe			3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	15	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
George Broadbent Harrop	3	5	0			
The same for Digle Delfe			7 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	5	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Abraham Rhodes	2	5	0			
The same for Digle Delfe			7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	8	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
The same for 2 parcels of Common		2	6			

By 1740, the rents of these tenements have been adjusted but the payments for Digle Delfe remain constant. There is a logic to the sums involved; the share attached to [Harrop] Green tenement has been divided but totals 7½d., the same amount paid by Abraham Rhodes [Deanhead] and the occupant of Harrop [Ridge]. It is unlikely that the Lord of the Manor would exact a total rent of 1s. 10½d. for his bakestone pit; evidently there was once another shareholder bringing the rent up to 2s 6d. In a much earlier rental, that of 1591 (10), there is listed amongst chief rents:

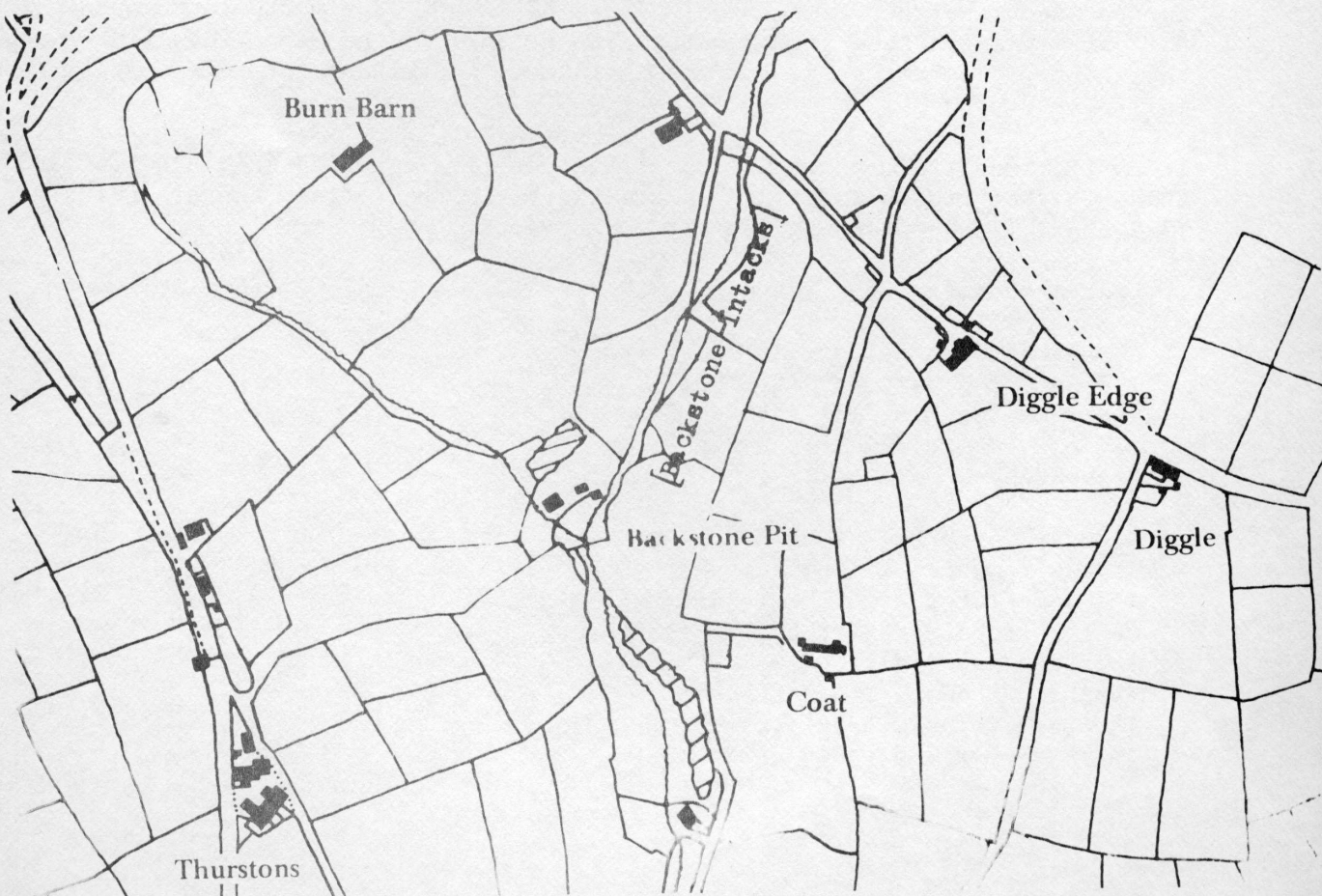
The gelde rente for Digle Delf

vs. [5s]

The arithmetic above only produces half of the original rent. Perhaps the other half was bought out when John Marsden purchased the freehold of Thurstons from the Lord of the Manor in 1650 (11). If this is the case, there is a striking parallel with the bakestone pit at Delph which in 1537 was occupied by four Gartside, together paying half the rent, and a Whitehead on whose tenement the pit was situated paying the other half.

Returning to the 1719 rental of the Manor of Saddleworth, John Bradbury 'Backstoneman' is one of the few tenants identified by his occupation. It is not clear where he lived but he is listed between two tenants at Diglee. He is the subject of an intriguing entry in the diary of John Hobson, the Yorkshire landowner who was later to purchase the farm called Delph in Friarmere. On the 3 July 1732 he writes:

'John Bradbury, of Saddleworth, having late had his house and barn burnt came to ask relief. He is an old man, aged 87, and has sold havercake backstones in this country upwards of 60 years. He says he is a relation of Mr. Bradbury, the noted dissenting teacher at London, whose ancestors came out of that country. His father was a taylor; lived in a little house near Woolley, behind Darton, where Mr. Bradbury was born'. (12)



The tenants whose leases included bakestone rights would be farmers and weavers, too busy to work the pit themselves. John Bradbury may have been employed by them both to make and sell bakestones. If the workings extended over both sides of Brun Clough, where the stream formed the boundary between the manorial land and the Thurstons estate, he may also have worked for Luke Marsden, the owner of Thurstons.

Production from the quarry must have been considerable for in 1721, the proprietors of the bakestone pit at Grange in the Castleshaw valley thought it worth paying Luke Marsden to cease mining on his land (13). The agreement drawn up is of equal importance to the history of both bakestone pits and is reproduced here in full.

may ye 17 : 1721

We whose names are here under Subscribed have made an agreement as followeth viz:

first I Luke Marsden of marsden do Covenant and Agree with John Scholfield of grang Thomas Millns John Gartside Robert Heape John Gartside jnr & Lawrence Scholfield that no Bakstones Shall be gotten or made or Sould in two tenements commonly called or known by the name of Thirstones & Burnd tenements During the term and time of Seven years from the Eight Day of August next following the Date above Expresed In Consideration whereof

2ly John Scholfield Thomas Millns John Gartside Robert Heape John Gartside jnr & Lawrence Scholfield Do promiss & Agree to pay yearly During the Said term of Annuall or yearly Rent of one pound & foure Shillings a yeare to be paide at the ffeast of pentecost which will be in the year of our Lord 1722 In Witness whereof the parties above named have hereunto Sett their hands the Day and yeare ffirst above written

Luke Marsden

John Scholfield

Thomas Millns

John Gartside

Robert Heape

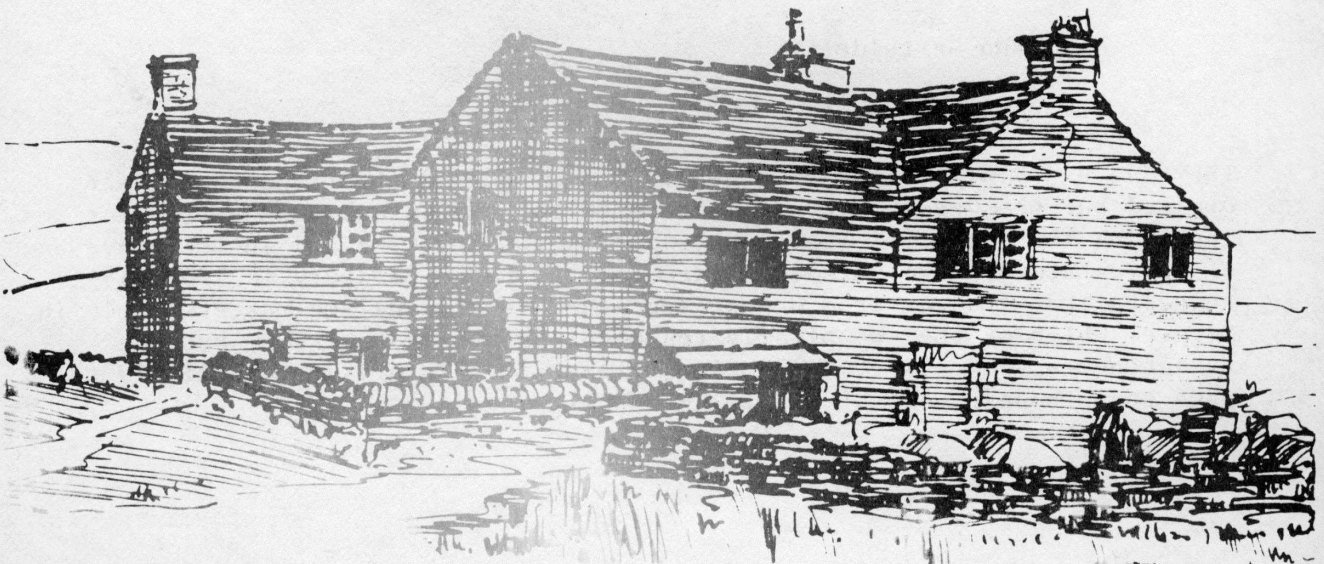
There is no evidence that the agreement was renewed after the seven years expired but the absence of any mention of the pit in subsequent transactions involving the tenant of Thurstons, James Kenworthy (14) and in the conveyance of the estate by Luke Marsden's executors to Peter Bradbury in 1766 (15), suggests that the men from Grange succeeded in closing the bakestone pit in Diggle. Which of the two pits is the older is pure conjecture, but the bakestonemen who collected the King's taxes in 1330 are just as likely to have been 'honest men' of Diggle as of Delph.

References

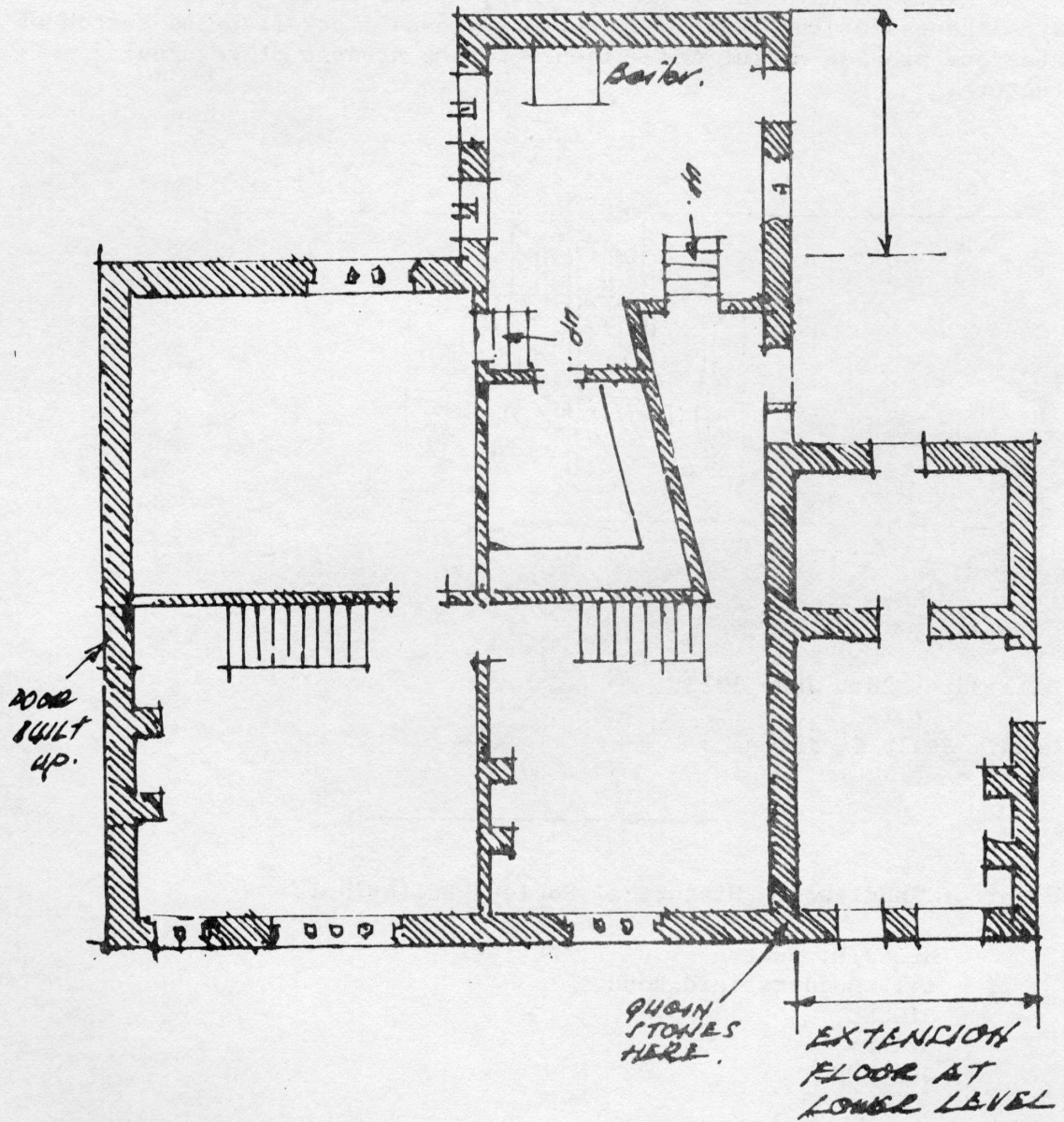
- (1) John Harland Mamecestre Chetham Soc. 1st. Series, Vol. 56, p. 324
- (2) Morgan Brierley Outlines of a History of Saddleworth 1888, p.12.
- (3) Peter Brears Oatcake in the West Riding Folk Life Vol.12, 1974
- (4) V.C.H. Lancashire, Vol. 5, p. 288
- (5) Wakefield Registry of Deeds (W.R.D.) CZ 642 774.
- (6) Bernard Barnes and others Saddleworth Surveyed 1983, p. 32, 44.
- (7) W.R.D. SS 730 985
- (8) W.R.D. DI 288 329
- (9) Wentworth-Woolley Hall Papers Box 8/5. Brotherton Library, Leeds.
- (10) William Ramsden's Account Book. Ramsden Papers. Huddersfield Library.
- (11) Public Record Office Feet of Fines CP 25(2)525.
- (12) C. Jackson Diaries and Autobiographies Surtees Society Vol.65, p. 315.
- (13) C. and R. Heape Records of the Family of Heape 1905. p. 78.
- (14) W.R.D. KK 864, II 300, PP 531.
- (15) W.R.D. BD 719 921.

J.M.H.

OLD SADDLEWORTH



Wall Hill Barn, June 1923

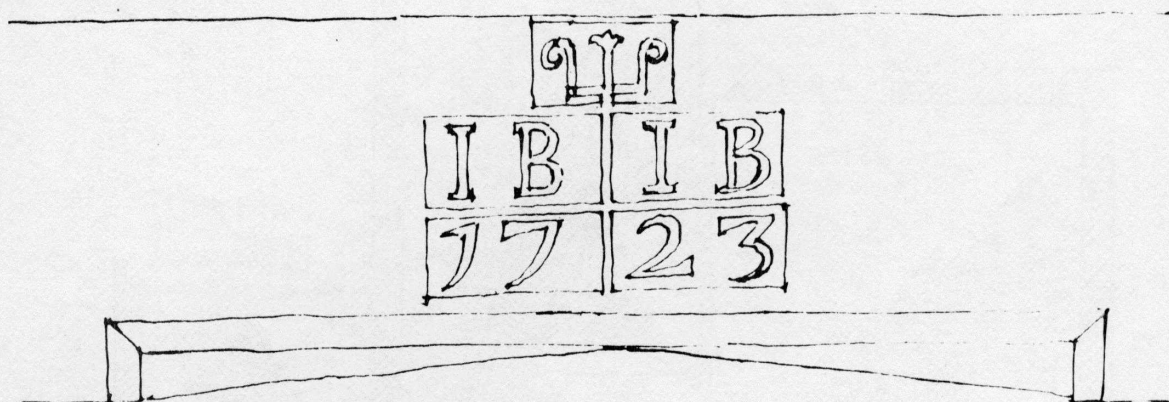


Wall Hill Barn, 28th June 1923.

Ground plan of house build 1723.

Scale approximately one eighth inch : 1 foot

Following the Gazetteer article on Wall Hill Barn in the Autumn Bulletin, Mr. George Wilde of Great Sankey, near Warrington, has written to the Society enclosing some drawings of farmsteads near Lydgate which he made some sixty years ago. At this time, Mr. Wilde worked in the drawing office of the famous mill architect Sir Philip Sidney Stott, but he went on to become Chief Architect in the Warrington Borough Surveyor's Department. The drawings were made for his own amusement, but that of Wall Hill Barn, reproduced here, is of particular value as the building was demolished shortly afterwards and no photograph seems to have survived. Not only has Mr. Wilde supplied an accurate likeness of the farmhouse, but his ground floor plan and sketch of the datestone provide useful new evidence to the student of vernacular architecture.



Wall Hill Barn, 28th June 1923.

Door head. Scale $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches : 1 foot

The Editor of Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin is:

Mr. J.M. Hunt
151, Huddersfield Road,
DIGGLE,
Oldham,
OL3 5NU

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

Mr. S. Broadbent
45, Beechfield,
GRASSCROFT,
Oldham,
OL4 4EL