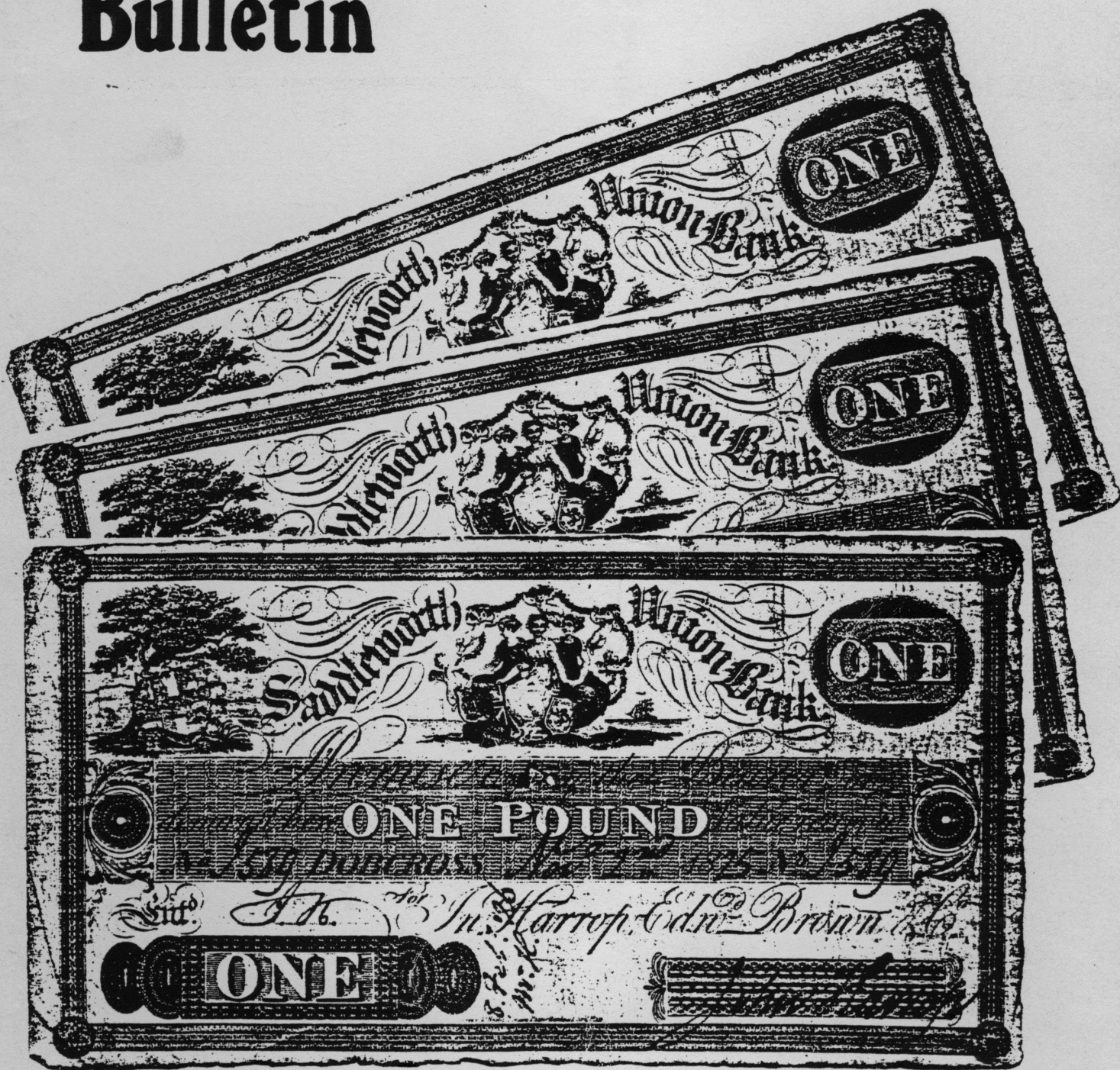


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



BULLETIN
OF THE
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 14

Number 2

Summer

1984

Contents

Page

Saddleworth in the Winter of 1947

17

Saddleworth Tithes in 1669

20

The Bank Notes of the Saddleworth Private Banks

26

An Accidental Death and its Aftermath -
Chew Reservoir, 1908

32

Another Local Bakestone Pit

36

SADDLEWORTH IN THE WINTER OF 1947

The winter of 1947 is often used by people who lived through it as a yardstick by which other winters can be assessed. It may be recalled that the winters of 1940 and 1963 were particularly noteworthy; but taking the country as a whole, February 1947 was probably unmatched by any other winter month since January 1814, unmatched for persistence of cold, dullness and repeated heavy snowfalls. How the 1947 winter affected Saddleworth has to be seen against a background of industrial unrest, ranging from a dock strike to coal shortages brought about by the severe weather, from electricity and gas cuts to temporary unemployment - the so-called "Shinwell Wakes".

Arctic conditions arrived in earnest on January 20th. Prior to this date, some snow had fallen on the higher ground in Saddleworth and had formed one foot drifts. The flow of traffic through the district was unhindered on the snow and ice-clad roads; even Standedge cutting remained open whilst the greatest problem for travellers was freezing fog on the highest ground. But by January 20th, daytime temperatures had plummeted to well below freezing. The first of the winter blizzards occurred during the weekend January 25th and 26th. Denshaw (which was to figure prominently over the next few weeks) and Grains Bar were cut off from the outside world by six-foot drifts. In the Delph area, snow filled up the roads level with the dry stone walls. Farmers in the area had to dig themselves out in order to deliver milk. Several vehicles were stranded between Delph and Standedge - one couple, on the way to Harrogate, abandoned their car near Denshaw and staggered to the Junction Hotel for succour. This was a foretaste of what was to come throughout February. The weather synopsis at the time showed an extremely high and obstinate anticyclone sitting over the Norwegian Sea and North Greenland. The normal passage of westerly winds and depressions which bring milder weather was completely replaced by a very persistent north-easterly wind. Hence the snow and sub-zero temperatures.

Monday 3rd February

A thaw had been forecast on January 31st. Instead of ameliorating conditions, the so-called thaw unleashed another blizzard and again Saddleworth's villages were cut off from Oldham and from each other. At the height of the blizzard, 40-50 vehicles were stranded at Standedge, many of them oil tankers, beer wagons and butter vans (a strange collection!). Temperatures managed to rise above freezing for the first time in over a week but the weather forecasters poured gloom on everybody by forecasting yet more cold conditions. In fact by Tuesday February 4th yet more blizzards had ensured that Saddleworth was now firmly cut off. People awoke on the Tuesday morning to find doors and windows covered with snow. Bus and train services were suspended. Schools and one or two mills closed down. Deliveries of papers, post and vital foods such as bread and potatoes ceased. Doctors found themselves tramping from patient to patient through deep drifts. Hardest hit seemed Denshaw. The village had been isolated since the Sunday night and whilst the cold and snow were bad enough, additional misery was brought by power cuts and a shortage of bread and meat. The local co-operative store failed to open and Slackcote Mill ceased to operate due to lack of workers. One Denshaw woman telephoned the Oldham Chronicle.

"We are absolutely cut off. We have no electricity and there is little food in the house. I told my children the best thing they could do is go to bed."

Wednesday 5th February

Denshaw still isolated. P.C. Webb, the village constable, and three other men attempted to reach Moorside to obtain bread. After struggling half way to Grains Bar, they gave up. Villagers baked bread in a shop but ran out of fats. Tinned food became the standby. However, Denshaw was not totally abandoned. Mr. J. Garrett, a Delph butcher struggled through from his shop to Denshaw with sacks of corned beef. Another Delph butcher, Mr. C. Broadbent, had also managed to leave tins of corned beef a day earlier, depositing them in a cobbler's shop - the nerve centre for food disposal.

Two hundred German prisoners and Polish soldiers were brought into action in an attempt at snow clearance. The Germans came from the Glen Mill and in parties of 50 or so, they each had a section of road to clear, Grotton to Greenfield; Delph to the Horse and Jockey Inn; Delph to Denshaw. The Polish soldiers worked from Marsden to Standedge. Farmers had the greatest difficulty feeding livestock. One farmer, Mr. Shepherd of Runninghill Farm, staggered into the police station at Uppermill after making his way in a wide detour to appeal "for something to be done" for his 150 pigs.

The Greenfield Mill kept working on three shifts per week. Many workers came from Lees, Oldham, Ashton, Stalybridge and Mossley by special buses. Coal was supplied to the mill by Mr. Sykes a Greenfield coal merchant after exhausting efforts to dig a way through to the snowbound wagons and then along Chew valley road to the mill. Housewives living in the isolated cottages at Hey Top were appealed to by the managements to cook the meals in the canteen since the cook had not arrived.

Travellers were also caught up in the general chaos. A Bolton man and his wife and child had been snowbound after leaving their car on the previous Monday. From Buckstones shooting cottage near Denshaw the couple made a makeshift sledge from a wooden form to which the child was tied. After three hours of struggling over 4 miles of moorland they arrived at Denshaw to be fed a hot meal by a Mrs. Gartside of Church Terrace.

Thursday 6th February

Denshaw received its first supply of bread in many days. P.C. Webb and 18 men (including Joel Buckley the village schoolmaster) ploughed their way from Denshaw to Delph carrying sacks which they duly filled with 240 loaves. By now Mr. Shepherd's pigs had also received a supply of food - taken by road as far as the Hanging Gate Hotel in Diggle and then by tractor to the farm.

Monday 10th February

Almost all of Saddleworth's mills had closed down, affecting 3000-4000 workers. By midday, 1200 workers had "signed on" at the Labour Exchange in Uppermill. Greenfield paper mill managed to keep going because it generated its own electricity. Some workers managed to get there and were put to work clearing snow. Burst pipes (of which there must have been many) and lack of heating exacerbated the problems. A strong easterly wind still blew dry snow about on the higher ground. Yet a further heavy snowfall on Saturday 8th February succeeded once more in blocking Standedge cutting. One train was trapped at Saddleworth Station containing 20 head of cattle. These were taken off and housed in Uppermill Goods Station leaving railway staff to find suitable food for them. Later the food was brought by sledge from a farm near Saddleworth Church.

Tuesday 11th February

A brief thaw quickly ended with a subsequent fall in temperatures. The wind reached gale force and snowfall whipped by the strong wind created six feet drifts. As fast as two bulldozers fought to keep Standedge open, the swirling snow blocked it again. It was a familiar story by now! Another train was stranded in Butterhouse Tunnel near Uppermill. Passengers had to alight and walk half a mile to Diggle Hotel. By now there was a food shortage in all Saddleworth's villages whilst out of 50 or so roads only 10 had been cleared, most after the third or fourth clearing.

The weather forecast for the 11th February read:

"Fresh or strong easterly wind, cloudy, snow at time, very cold with day and night frosts."

Morning (10 a.m.) temperatures for Oldham read:

	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Minimum</u>
Sunday 9th	30°F	25°F
Monday	34°	24°
Tuesday	32°	26°
Wednesday	30°	26°
Thursday	30°	27°
Friday 14th	31°	28°

Wednesday 26th February

Following a hiatus in the severe weather, the 1947 winter had its final fling. Further heavy snowfalls blocked all the major roads. Grains's Bar was described as a scene of desolation with the roads to Shaw and Denshaw obliterated. The people of Denshaw were described as remaining 'cheerful' but 'weary of the constant snow'. Needless to add that Standedge was blocked yet again!

Wednesday 5th March

The final blizzard of the winter (at least as far as Saddleworth was concerned) followed a brief respite. Denshaw was cut off again and Standedge blocked. Road workers in the area tried to keep the roads open but whiteout conditions prevented progress. Once again workers failed to reach their places of work having resumed full-time working on the previous Monday. On 6th March, milk deliveries were again hampered and farm animals were fed on precious dwindling hay. An express train was stranded outside Diggle Station for several hours.

From 13th March, the long-promised thaw worked its way northwards from the South. Saddleworth came off relatively lightly for NE England and Scotland had further heavy snow whilst the South and Midlands faced a new hazard, that of flooding caused by heavy rainfall on melting snow. No flooding was reported in Saddleworth, presumably because the grip of winter was released slowly. At the time, the 1947 winter was compared with that of 1895 which had the dubious merit of having nine weeks of sub-zero temperatures.

J. Wells

SADDLEWORTH TITHES IN 1669

An Oldham member, Mr. Herbert Priestley, has traced the list of Saddleworth corn tithes reproduced below. It was amongst a collection given to the Lancashire Record Office in the early fifties by Rochdale Library.

The list accompanies a letter written by a Rochdale solicitor, Jeremy Hargreaves, to a Mr. Francis Colles, The King's Armes, overagainst Bull's Head Taverne, Fleete Streete, London, 1st Nov. 1669.

'Accordinge to your Order I have sent a particuler of every mans Tythe Corne in Sadleworth for the yeare 1669 and the value thereof, being all Oats and noe other Grayne as I am Informed, But as to the Privy Tythes noe Account can be given for that yeare for they all refused to give any Account to the viewers for Sir Wm. Juxon...'

The 'viewers' did well to compile such a complete record of a Saddleworth harvest for no farmer willingly gave up a tenth of his produce to the church. The farmers of Friarmere always claimed exemption from tithe as their land had belonged to the Abbey of Roche; this dispute continued into the 19th Century. The 1669 survey may have arisen out of such a dispute or it may be typical of many parish assessments at a time when the Church of England was attempting to reassert its authority following the Restoration.

There are marked differences in the acreages of oats grown in the four meres of Saddleworth and the valuation depends upon the quality of the land. Some of the more obvious conclusions which can be drawn about local agriculture in 1669 are inserted between the returns for each mere.

(Quickmere)

	Acres	Roods	Perches	Values	
				s	d
John Whitehead of Quickhedge	2	2	0	9	2
Wm Kennerley de ead	1	2	0	5	2
James Kennerley Junior de ead	3	0	0	11	0
Hugh Kennerley de eadem	1	0	0	3	8
James Kennerley Senior de ead	1	1	20	5	0½
Enoch Andrewes de ead	3	1	0	11	11
Solomon Hardy de ead	0	2	30	2	6
& New land first yeare plowed	0	1	0		
John Benison de Litlehey	3	2	0	12	10
Daniel Whitehead de Quickhedge	0	1	30	1	7¼
new land 4 yeares plowed	0	1	0		
Thomas Whitehead de ead	1	0	20	4	1½
John Heyward de ead	1	2	0	5	6
Joane Heyward de ead vid	0	1	0	0	11
Anne Leigh de ead vid	0	1	0	0	11
Thomas Shawe de ead	0	2	0	1	10
John Barrett de ead	0	1	30	1	7¼
Henry Shawe de Lane	2	2	0	9	2
Thomas Winterbothom de Thornylee	1	2	0	5	6
Jonathan Shawe de Grauton	1	0	0	3	8
John Shawe de ead	0	1	0	0	11
John Lawton de ead	1	0	10	3	10½
Edmund Leigh de Austerland	2	3	0	10	1
Edmund Buckley de Shoolderlow	1	1	30	5	3½
Ellis Taylor de ead	3	0	10	11	2½
Wm Scolefeild de ead	0	3	0	2	9

	Acres	Roods	Perches	Values	
				s	d
Robt Winterbothom Senior de Stonebricks	1	0	20	4	1½
Robt Winterbothom Junior de ead	0	3	20	3	2¾
John Winterbothom de ead	2	2	10	9	4¾
John Winterbothom Senior de ead	0	1	10	1	1¾
John Winterbothom Junior de ead	0	1	20	1	4½
James Meare de ead	0	0	30	0	8½
James Clayton de Shooldermore	2	1	0	8	3
Samuel Heyward de Austerland	2	3	0	10	3
Joseph Taylor de Shoolderlowhill	2	1	0	8	3
James Leigh de ead	1	3	0	6	5
George Thorpe de Shoolderlow	1	0	0	3	8
Daniel Leigh de ead	0	0	20	0	5¾
Samual Leigh de Straynes	0	1	20	1	3
James Leigh Senior de Austerland	1	2	0	5	6
James Leigh Junior de ead	0	2	0	1	10
Daniel Dixon de Straynes	0	3	0	2	9
Wm Garlick de ead	1	0	0	3	4
John Andrew de ead	1	3	0	5	10
George Tweedall de ead	1	2	0	5	0
John Tweedall de ead	1	2	0	5	0
Edmund Scolefeild de ead	1	0	0	3	4
John Scolefeild de Roebrooke Lowe	1	0	10	3	6½
Abraham Leigh de ead	2	1	0	7	6
Wm Hardy de Doctorhouse	0	2	0	1	8
Edmund Buckley Junior de Newhouse	1	0	0	3	4
Edmund Buckley Senior de ead	2	0	0	6	8
James Neild de Loadhill	1	2	0	5	0
Thomas Buckley de Newhouse	2	0	0	6	8
John Buckley Senior de Grottonhead	1	3	30	6	5½
John Buckley Junior de ead	2	3	0	9	2
Sarah Taylor de ead vid	0	3	0	2	6
James Shawe de Crowshawbent	0	1	30	1	5½
Wm Buckley de ead	2	2	0	8	4
Robt Buckley de Gracecroft	2	3	0	10	1
John Buckley de ead Junior	1	2	20	5	11
John Buckley Senior de ead	2	1	10	7	5¾
Robt Buckley Junior de ead	3	1	0	11	11
Henry Buckley de ead Junior	1	0	0	3	8
Henry Buckley de ead Senior	2	3	10	10	5¾
Richard Radcliffe de Brunedge	0	3	10	3	0
Samuel Golden de Lidyate	1	1	20	4	11½
John Whitehead de ead	1	1	10	4	9¾
Edmund Buckley de ead	1	1	0	4	7

In Quickmere, 49 farmers grew 72 acres of oats, that is roughly 1½ acres per farm. The tithe assessment was 3s. 8d. per acre. Two of the farmers had land recently ploughed for the first time; such land was exempt from tithe, usually for the first seven years. The remaining 18 farmers occupied recently enclosed lands in Straynes (Strinesdale), Roebuckloe, Doctorhouse, Loadhill, Newhouse, Grottonhead and Crowshawbent. They grew a further 25 acres of oats, again about 1½ acres per farm, but the assessment was only 3s. 4d. per acre. This concession to the farmers of the higher land is reflected in the returns for the other meres.

Freare Meare

	Acres	Roods	Perches	Values s	d
Francis Gartside de Denshaw	3	0	20	10	5
Robt Gartside de ead	0	3	0	2	6
Elizabeth Gartside de ead vid	3	0	15	10	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Francis Gartside Senior de ead	1	0	20	5	0
John Gartside son of Robt Gartside de ead	3	3	0	12	6
John Gartside de ead Senior	3	2	0	11	8
John Gartside de Well in Denshaw	3	2	0	11	8
James Gartside de ead	1	3	0	5	10
John Gartside son of Raph Gartside de ead	5	1	20	17	11
Henry Gartside de ead	1	3	0	5	10
Edmund Gartside de ead	1	3	0	5	10
John Wrigley de Ould Tawme	4	2	20	15	5
John Buckley de ead	1	0	10	3	9
Edmund Buckley de ead	1	2	0	5	0
Henry Buckley de New Tawme	4	0	0	13	4
Wm Buckley de ead	3	2	30	12	1
Mary Buckley de Ould Tawme vid	1	0	0	3	4
Robt Scolefeild de Hey	0	2	0	1	8
John Gartside de Heyes	1	0	0	3	4
John Buckley de Linfitts	1	2	0	4	11
new land 3 yeares plowed	2	1	0		
Isaac Lees de ead	2	1	20	7	1
James Buckley de ead	1	2	0	5	0
John Whitehead de Knotthill	0	3	30	3	2
Robt Whitehead de Delfe	1	2	0	5	0
John Wrigley de Frearemeare	0	2	20	2	1
Daniel Whitehead de Woodbothom	0	3	0	2	6
new land 6 yeares plowed	0	2	0		
John Scolefeild de Grange son of Lawrence	1	2	0	5	0
John Wood de Linfitts	1	1	20	4	7
John Scolefeild Junior de ead	2	0	0	6	8
John Scolefeild Senior de ead	6	0	0	20	0
Thomas Milne de ead	5	2	0	18	4
Geo: Scolefeild de Castleshaw	2	2	0	8	4
Robt Linfitt de ead	3	0	20	10	5
George Gartside de ead	2	0	0	6	8
Edmund Scolefeild de ead	4	1	0	14	2
Edmund Buckley de ead	2	2	20	8	9
James Hall de ead	3	0	20	10	5
John Scolefeild de Hustidd	0	2	0	1	8
George Scolefeild de ead	1	3	0	5	10
Edmund Scolefeild Senior de ead	3	0	0	10	0
Francis Scolefeild de ead	1	3	0	5	10
Edmund Scolefeild son of Walter Scolefeild	2	3	0	8	4
John Scolefeild son of Walter Scolefeild	0	1	10	1	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
John Wrigley de Midgerowe de ead	1	1	0	4	2
Robt Wrigley de ead	2	0	0	6	8
Anne Whitehead de Delfe vid	1	1	0	4	2

Although there are only 46 farms listed in Friarmere as against 67 in Quickmere, slightly more oats were grown, 107 acres as compared with 97, or about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres per farm as against 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Evidently the former monastic land had not been subdivided to the extent of the old enclosed lands in Quickmere. Some individuals grew large amounts of oats, particularly the four occupants of Grange with 15 acres between them, suggesting that some of the crop found its way to a local market. These farms all paid tithe at the lower 3s. 4d. rate, perhaps because of the height of most of the land. The reference to "John Scolefeild de Hustidd" is significant in that the Roman fort at Castleshaw occupies two fields called "Little Husteds" and "Great Husteds". The tithe document shows that the local farmers were aware that there had been a settlement there even in 1669.

Lords Meare

	Acres	Roods	Perches	Values	
				s.	d.
James Broadbent de Know	0	1	0	0	10
Thomas Roads de Brownehill	1	0	0	3	4
Edmund Scolefeild de Thurston	4	0	0	13	4
George Broadbent de Harropp	3	2	0	11	8
James Broadbent de Digglee	1	0	30	4	0
Thomas Bredbury de ead	1	0	30	4	0
Edmund Shaw de ead	1	0	25	3	10
James Scolefeild de ead	0	1	10	1	0½
James Wrigley de ead	1	1	20	4	7
Robt Broadbent de Church	1	0	0	3	4
Edmund Ward de ead	0	2	0	1	8
Edmund Farrand de ead	1	0	0	3	4
George Mellalew de ead	0	2	0	1	8
John Houlden de Rinningehill	0	0	25	0	6
John Scolefeild de Hollingreave	2	2	20	8	9
John Wheewall de ead	2	2	0	8	4
John Taylor de ead	1	1	30	4	4½
Edmund Platt de ead Junior	2	1	30	7	8½
John Fowley & Tho: Wilde de ead	3	2	0	11	8
Wm Wheewall de ead	0	0	20	0	5
Edmund Platt de ead Senior	0	1	20	1	3
John Farrand de ead	2	3	0	9	2
Thomas Bredbury de Farebancke	1	0	0	3	4
James Broadbent Senior de Greene	1	3	20	6	3
Elizabeth Broadbent de ead vid	1	3	0	5	10
James Broadbent de ead Junior	1	3	0	5	10
George Hurst de Harropp	0	3	0	2	6
James Broadbent de ead	1	2	0	5	0
Edmund Platt de Thornes	0	3	20	2	11
Sarah Broadbent de Shaw vid	0	0	25	0	7½
George Broadbent de ead	0	1	0	0	10
John Broadbent de ead	0	1	20	1	3
Richard Whitehead de ead	1	3	0	5	10
Robt Tompson de Harropp	1	0	20	3	9
Ambrose Scolefeild de ead	1	1	0	4	5
John Marsland de ead	1	0	20	3	11½
Elizabeth Platt de Wallrode	1	0	10	3	8¼
Edmund Platt de ead	0	2	20	2	2¼
John Whitehead de Nichoes	1	0	20	4	1
John Shaw de Dobbcrosse	2	1	20	8	9½
John Wood de ead	1	1	0	4	7
Richard Lowton de Walkmillne	0	1	20	1	4½
George Lowton de ead	1	2	20	5	5½
John Kennerley de Dobbrode	1	0	20	4	1
James Kennerley de ead	0	1	10	1	1¼
George Hamer de ead	0	1	10	1	1¼
Edmund Wood de ead	0	0	15	0	3¼
John Radcliffe de ead	0	1	0	0	11
Robt Platt de ead	0	2	0	1	10
Elias Wrigley de Brownehill	1	1	20	5	0½
Alice Wrigley de ead vid	0	2	0	1	10
Ellis Wrigley de Sadleworthfould	4	0	0	14	8
James Broadbent de ead	1	2	0	5	6
Anne Taylor de ead vid	1	3	0	6	5
James Taylor de Church	0	2	10	2	0¼
George Platt de ead	0	0	30	0	7¼
Peter Bredbury de ead Senior	0	1	0	0	11

	Acres	Roods	Perches	Value s. d.	
Peter Bredbury Junior de ead	0	1	0	0	11
John Platt de ead	0	1	15	1	3
John Leigh de ead Minister	1	3	0	6	5
Sarah Shaw de ead vid	1	0	0	3	8
John Whewall de Lane	0	2	0	1	10
John Radcliffe de Crosse	0	1	20	1	4½
John Shaw de ead	1	0	20	4	1½
John Wilde de ead	1	0	20	4	1½
James Greave de Pinfould	2	0	0	7	4
Edmund Buckley de ead	1	0	10	3	11
George Winterbothom de ead	1	1	0	4	7
John Whitehead de ead	0	2	20	2	2½
Wm Broadbent de Furlanes	1	3	30	7	1½
Peter Bredbury de ead	2	2	0	9	2
John Scolefeild de ead	0	3	20	3	2½
Joseph Scolefeild de Borehurst	0	2	0	1	10
Raphe Andrew de ead	1	3	0	6	2
John Lowton de ead	1	2	0	5	6
John Shaw de ead	2	2	0	9	2
Robt Harropp de ead	0	0	10	0	2¾
John Shaw de Shawhouse	2	3	0	10	3
Joshua Shaw de ead	0	1	10	1	1¾
Wm Radcliffe de Ballgreave	1	3	20	6	10½
Gyles Shaw de Uppermillne	1	1	0	4	7
James Whitehead Senior)					
James Whitehead Junior)de ead	1	1	0	4	7
Wm Knight de Tunstidd	2	1	20	9	9
John Buckley de ead	1	1	10	4	9
Isaac Bothomley de ead	1	0	0	3	8
Lawrence Wood de ead	0	2	0	1	10
Thomas Mellalew de ead	1	0	0	3	8
Wm Leigh de ead	0	3	0	2	9
Edmund Hawkeyard de ead	0	2	0	1	10
Robt Tompson de ead	0	1	0	0	11
George Shaw de ead	2	0	0	7	4
James Shaw de Hollins	0	1	10	1	1½
Alice Harropp de ead vid	0	1	20	1	4½
James Buckley de Granfeild	1	1	0	3	9
Richard Bredbury de Hollins	2	3	0	10	1
John Harropp de ead	0	0	30	0	8
James Bredbury de Granfeild	1	0	0	3	8
Anne Bredbury de ead vid	1	0	0	3	8
Alexander Scolefeild de Fearnalee	1	2	0	5	6
James Scolefeild de ead	1	2	0	5	6
Robt Walker de Weetelee	2	3	0	10	1
Thomas Wheewall de ead	0	2	0	1	10

Lordsmere, that part of Saddleworth where a majority of farmers were still tenants of the Lord of the Manor, grew 123 acres of oats on 102 farms, or just under 1¼ acres per farm. This is only half the average crop in Friarmere, and significantly less than in Quickmere, suggesting a smaller farm size and a long process of sub-dividing the ancient farmsteads. The farmers of the higher land in the Diggle Valley paid tithe at the lower 3s. 4d. rate, but those in the Uppermill and Greenfield areas paid the full 3s. 8d. rate.

Shawe Meare

	Acres	Roods	Perches	Values	
				s.	d.
Robt Woollen & Tho: Buckley de Lanehead	2	1	20	8	8½
John Platt de ead	0	1	20	1	4½
Robt Brobin de ead	1	3	20	6	9½
Anne Buckley de ead vid	3	0	0	11	0
James Scolefeild de ead	2	2	20	9	7½
Edmund Hawkeyard de ead	3	2	0	12	10
James Shaw de Wellyholes	3	0	0	11	0
James Hawkeyard de ead	0	1	0	0	11
Henry Hawkeyard de ead	1	0	20	4	1½
Robt Shaw de ead	1	0	10	3	10¾
Alice Shaw de ead vid	1	1	20	5	0½
Hugh Scolefeild de ead	2	2	20	9	7½
Alexander Radcliffe de Shawhall	5	2	0	20	2
Edmund Radcliffe de ead	6	2	0	23	10
John Mellalew de Lowermillne	1	2	0	5	6
John Kennerley de Hose	1	2	0	5	3
Gyles Shaw de ead	2	2	0	9	2
Raphe Hawkeyard de Tawmewater	3	3	0	13	8
Nicholas Booth de ead	3	0	0	11	0
James Haslegreave de Wallhill	2	3	0	10	1
Henry Buckley de ead	1	3	0	6	5
Edmund Buckley de ead	2	1	30	8	11½
John Greave de ead	2	2	20	9	7½
Joseph Whitehead de ead	1	0	0	3	8
Wm Kennerley de Hilltopp	1	0	20	4	1½
James Linfitt de ead	4	0	0	14	8
& for New land	0	3	0		
Wm Buckley de Stones	3	1	0	11	11
Raphe Houlden de Gatehead	1	0	30	4	3¾
Robt Scolefeild &)					
Wm Kennerley) de Hilltopp	1	0	20	4	1½

Shawmere, in area the smallest mere, also had the smallest number of farms at 29. The farmers paid tithe on 69 acres of oats, about 2¼ acres each, all at the higher 3s. 8d., even those on the very high land around Lanehead. The two occupants of Shawhall grew 12 acres of oats, a considerable surplus. Shawhall had of course been the centre of a large estate with its own corn mill, sometimes known as Shaw Mill. On this list it is called "Lowermillne", to differentiate it from Uppermill. The Occupant is John Mellalew, whose family have traditionally been linked with Frenches Mill. It seems more than likely therefore that the old cornmill had already been converted to a fulling mill and was re-named "Frenches" following the long established nick-name for this family.

J.M.H.

THE BANK NOTES OF THE SADDLEWORTH PRIVATE BANKS

From the late 1790s to 1833 there existed in Saddleworth at various times five banks. A history of these banks, interesting in itself would also give insights into the operations of the textile industry which they served and the relations between the leading entrepreneurs who were the partners.

This article attempts a more modest task. It is to provide a listing of the notes that the banks issued.

Banks operating outside London, the 'Country Banks', were allowed to issue notes. During the period 1797-1829 notes could be issued in denominations down to £1 and most banks did so, although Lancashire was an exception. Here opinion was strongly against note issuing as memories were still retained of the bank failures of 1788. Bills of exchange and Bank of England notes were used and there were only 4(8) note issuing banks in 1808(1822) compared with 68(56) in Yorkshire (6). Saddleworth's proximity to the expanding trade of Lancashire was probably one of the incentives for note-issue. There was an unsatisfied demand for currency. Saddleworth notes certainly circulated in Oldham, Ashton and Stalybridge where the banks opened branches. How widely they were used can be gauged from the fact that, when in December 1825 the two major banks, the Saddleworth Bank and the Saddleworth Union Bank, were subject to a run, petitions of support were printed in the Manchester Guardian from 43 Ashton traders, 199 in Oldham and 133 in Saddleworth (4).

A further incentive to provide note issues arose in 1797 when the Bank of England suspended cash payments. From 1797 until 1821 it was not required to give gold on demand against its notes and minting of coinage was considerably curtailed (7).

Finally an incentive to issue notes was simply that it was a form of printing money, or at least of obtaining a continuous circulating credit. As long as confidence prevailed, and it was in the interest of holders of notes to maintain that confidence, only a small proportion of the notes circulating would be returned for redemption. Clearly this was a particularly lucrative business encouraging note-issue, even below par. This would seem to be illustrated by the practice followed by the Saddleworth Union Bank of issuing notes at a discount to local employers who then used them to pay wages. When the bank went bankrupt in 1826 it was noted that ..

"Many spinners and manufacturers who had been accustomed to pay the wages of their hands in the notes of this bank will now be at a great loss for discounts" (emphasis added) (5)

It is possible that some of the 'bank-notes' listed below were not issued by banks. The note issued by John and James Buckley & Co (of Hollyville) was payable on demand at Messrs. Silvester Sikes, Bankers, Huddersfield. This is possibly an example of a 'works note' issued for the payment of wages, thereby, effectively, paying on credit. The Schofield notes are possibly akin to trade tokens issued to supplement the money supply. No metal trade tokens are known for Saddleworth during this period.

To date I have not discovered any reference to William Radcliffe or the Schofields as bankers. Commercial directories exist for Saddleworth from the 1810s and national directories from an earlier period list banks. It would seem likely that anyone carrying on banking would wish to advertise the fact, but no references appear.

By 1833 only the Saddleworth Bank remained and it became a joint stock company which still continued to issue its own notes. These were in the £5 denomination which after 1829 was the legal minimum.

To date 20 issues have been discovered. This is relatively large compared with similar areas (2). It is unlikely that this list is complete. Low denomination notes under £1 were made illegal in 1808(7) and Butterworth noted that in Ashton

"...for some years prior to 1800 the circulating medium... consisted almost entirely of notes issued by local country bankers which passed for low denominations of ten shillings, five shillings and even 2/6" (1)

Or perhaps even lower : Adam Smith noted

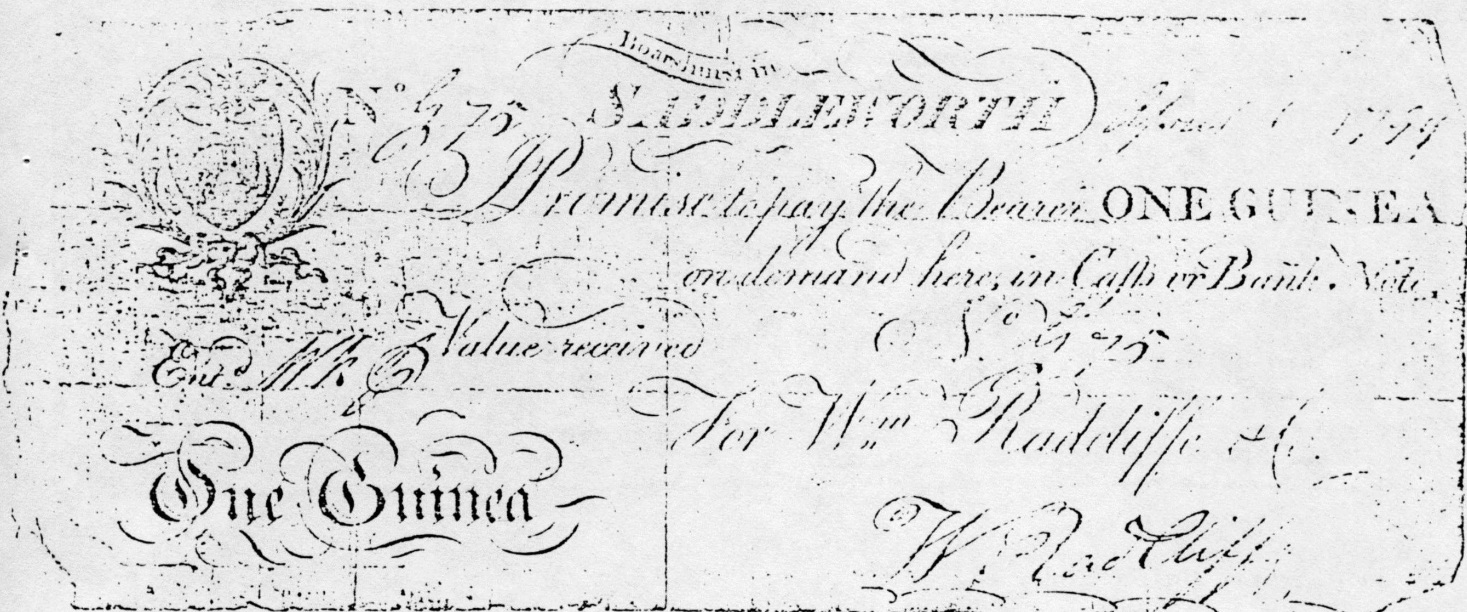
"In some paper currencies of Yorkshire it was issued even for so small a sum as sixpence" (9)

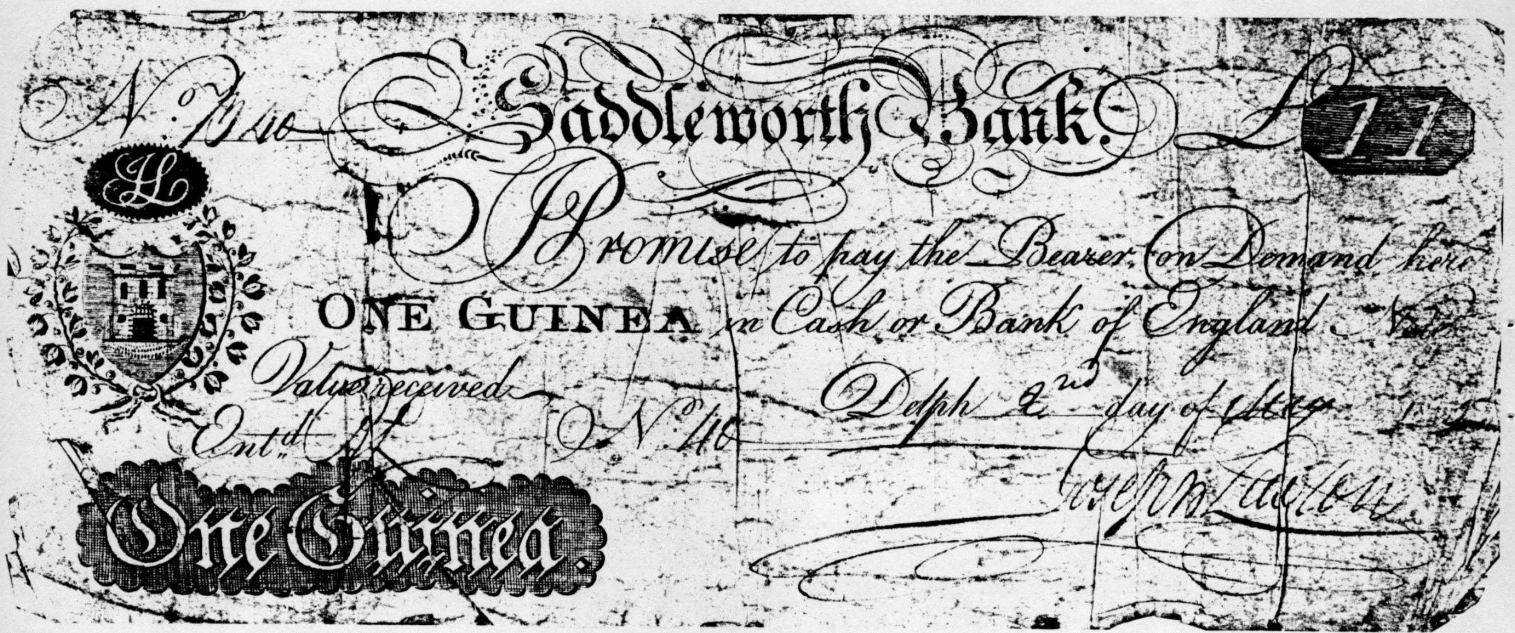
Lastly, in addition to genuine issues there were also forgeries.

"Forged notes of the Saddleworth Union Bank have also been found. The imitation of Perkin and Heath's plate on the face of the note is good, but that of the government stamp is defective" (10).

The forgers were perhaps

"Two men by the name of Law, natives of Lees, near Oldham, were apprehended at the Colliers' Arms, Cross circulating forged £1 notes of the Saddleworth Bank. They were on the 25th committed to Lancaster for trial by Mr. Lees of Clarksfield" (8)





Joseph Lawton, Saddleworth Bank, c. 1800



Saddleworth Union Bank, 1825

Saddleworth Banknotes in Local Collections

<u>Banker</u>	<u>Bank</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
(1) Joseph Lawton	Delph	5s.	3/9/1798	647	Original - Saddleworth Museum
(2) Joseph Lawton	Saddleworth Bank, Delph	21s.	2/5/1--5	B40	Original - Kirklees Libraries
(3) William Radcliffe	Boarshurst	21s.	27/3/1799	D43	Original - Saddleworth Museum
(4) William Radcliffe	Boarshurst	21s.	30/3/1799	F68	Original - Saddleworth Museum
(5) William Radcliffe	Boarshurst	21s.	1/4/1799	G75	Original - Saddleworth Museum
(6) William Radcliffe	Boarshurst	21s.	4/4/1799	H128	Original - Saddleworth Museum
(7) -	Boarshurst	5s.	179-	-	Blank - Saddleworth Museum
(8)	Boarshurst	5s.	-	-	Blank - Oldham Libraries
(9) John Wrigley	Dobcross	7s.	179-	-	Plate - Saddleworth Museum
(10) John & James Buckley	Saddleworth	10s. 6d.	179-	-	Plate - Saddleworth Museum
(11) John Harrop, John Rhodes, John Roberts, Joseph Lees, James Buckley, John Wrigley	Saddleworth, Dobcross	21s.	18--	-	Plate - Saddleworth Museum Partnership dissolved in 1813 (3).

	<u>Banker</u>	<u>Bank</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
(12)	John Platt, John Buckley, John Roberts, John Wrigley, Robert Shaw.	Saddleworth Bank, Dobcross	30s.	182-	-	Plate - Saddleworth Museum
(13)	James Buckley, John Roberts, John Wrigley, Robert Shaw, Francis Shaw Buckley.	Saddleworth Bank, Dobcross	20s.	11/6/1825	K786	Original - Saddleworth Museum
(14)	 Roydes, James Hobson	Saddleworth New Bank	20s.	2/11/1820	548	Original - Saddleworth Museum
(15)	John Harrop, John Lees, Edward Brown	Saddleworth Union Bank, Dobcross	60s.	18--	-	Blank - private ownership - photocopy in Saddleworth Museum
(16)	As above					
(17)	John Harrop, John Lees, Edward Brown	Saddleworth Union Bank, Dobcross	20s.	1/10/1824	H775	Original - Oldham Libraries
(18)	John Harrop, Edward Brown	Saddleworth Union Bank, Dobcross	20s.	2/11/1825	J589	Original - Saddleworth Museum
(19)	John & Joseph Schofield	Old Tame	20s.	18--	-	Blank - only known as a photocopy
(20)	John & Joseph Schofield	Old Tame	20s.	182-	-	Blank

References :-

- (1) E. Butterworth Historical Account of Ashton under Lyne 1842p. 112-113
- (2) G.L. Grant : Standard Catalogue of Provincial Banks and Bank Notes. 1977
- (3) London Gazette 21/12/1813
- (4) Manchester Guardian 17/12/1825
- (5) Manchester Mercury 7/12/1826
- (6) L.S. Pressnell : Country Banking in the Industrial Revolution
(1956) p.152
- (7) L.S. Pressnell : Ch 6 & p.511
- (8) Rowbottom : Diaries 5/10/1825
- (9) A. Smith : The Wealth of Nations Book II (1776)
Pelican edition 1970 p.422
- (10) Todmorden & Hebden Bridge Historical Almanack 1882 : Extracts from
a Dairy kept by an Old Resident at Shore in 1825 p.85. (I am grateful
to Terry Wyke of Hebden Bridge for providing this reference).

N. Barrow

Hong Kong

AN ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND ITS AFTERMATH - CHEW RESERVOIR, 1908

In 1908 work on the Chew Valley dam high on the moors above Greenfield was in full swing. A trench (across the top of the valley) was being excavated to be eventually filled with concrete and clay to form a watertight seal upon which the clay core of the dam could be raised.

"Well it was a very cold winter and we were seventy foot down by December and there was ice half way down the trench sides. We went back to work after one dinner time and Tommy Tucker goes into the sump hole with his brother. We'd blasted just before dinner, but one of the holes had misfired and when Tommy struck it with his pick, it blew out. It blew half his face off and caught his brother on the head.

We needed a round-bottom skip to get them out of the trench but the skips on the derricks were square ones with doors in the bottom. Eventually they got hold of the right skip and wound them out. They carried them down the mountain side and put them on the paddy train but Tommy died just before they got him to hospital in Manchester."

This account survives in a recently published book [1] by the witness's father, and substantially accords with a contemporary report in a local newspaper [1], in which the unfortunate Tommy Tucker was more formally identified as Thos. Armison (Arnisson, in another account [3], age 38, date of accident 4 Dec), aged 37, of 10 Benson Street Beswick, Manchester. The date of the accident was given as Saturday 5 December. More details of the method of working were also given:

"Armison and others were engaged in excavating a cutting in solid rock ... To do this gelignite cartridges were used for blasting purposes. Twelve holes were bored and charged with gelignite, to which three-foot fuses were attached. All the men were cleared away out of the cutting and the shots were fired. The men again went to work, and some time later an unexploded shot went off"

By this time this report appeared in the local paper, Mr. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent) had received a written reply from Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons (Winston Churchill, then Lib. MP for Dundee and President of the Board of Trade) to a question calling for a report on this accident. He was told that, in accordance with the Notice of Accidents Act, 1904, a report would be called for from the contractors, and an inquiry would be held either by the Board of Trade or by the Home Office.

Evidently the inquiry was held by the Home Office, as this further exchange on 1 March, 1909, reveals [5, 6]:

"In the House of Commons on Monday Mr John Ward (Lab., Stoke) asked whether the Home Sec. had received any report on the explosion which occurred at Greenfield Reservoir on Dec. 16; (sic) whether he had drawn the attention of the contractors to the absence of provision for dealing medically with accidents to the navvies engaged on these works; and whether he had any power to visit upon suitable medical requisites being provided.

Mr. Gladstone A report of this accident has been received by my department and inquiry made as to the circumstances. It occurred while debris was being cleared away after blasting and was no doubt due to one of the injured men striking an unexploded cartridge with his pick. I have no information as to the ambulance provisions made at these works, nor any powers at present in the matter. If the bill which is being introduced by the Under Secretary becomes law I hope it will be possible to take some effective action in regard to this class of accidents.

Mr. Ward Would it be possible for the Right Honourable Gentleman to make regulations visiting on the provision of proper medical attendance?

Mr. Gladstone No.

Mr. Ward Is the Right Honourable Gentleman aware that men are already stopped some portion of their wages for the purpose of providing medical attention?

Mr. Gladstone I am afraid I have no power in this matter."

(Mr. Gladstone, son of W.E. Gladstone, was MP for Leeds W and Secretary of State for Home Affairs).

Why was John Ward, MP for Stoke, interested in this commonplace, albeit tragic accident? Ward was born the son of a journeyman plasterer, in Weybridge in 1866. He worked as a navvy on the Manchester Ship Canal, then became a soldier serving in the Soudan in 1885. He founded the Navvies Union in 1889 and become the Lib/Lab member for Stoke-on-Trent in 1906. Although our eyewitness of the accident was signed up as a member of the Navvies Union in the Red Sign public house [1], Ward found it hard going to persuade the independently minded navvies to combine to protect their interest. He had visited the waterworks site at Chew on Sunday 23 August 1908 [7], the day after a visit to the Stockport Waterworks, the Kinder Dam, at Hayfield, where he had addressed the navvies. A long account of a somewhat disjointed speech is given in the same newspaper report [7] under the headline 'Navvy MP's advice to His Comrades'. He contrasted the navvies lack of 'self help' with the strong unions formed by the Welsh miners.

"The navvies could curse and swear ... but they had no idea of combining for their own protection or maintaining the dignity of their trade. If there was a debate whether they should consider something for their own improvement or which horse would win the St. Leger, the St. Leger would win hands down. (50 years ago) ... conditions were thoroughly disgraceful. At that time men were paid their wages once in two months, and in the meantime they were given tickets to go to the 'tommy shop'. When they went to square up they thought they were entitled to something, but family men, instead of having wages to draw, found themselves hopelessly in debt. He supposed that was where the navvies first got the idea of 'sloping'. The first Act for granting compensation was passed in 1880, but the compensation was not paid until the man was dead. The wives and families were left dependent on the Guardians. For nine or ten years he never heard of a navvy claiming compensation. They had not sense

to know there was such a law, and the great contractors never paid any premiums because they were never asked for a penny. What other trade had a reputation like that? Were they (the navvies) going to do anything to improve the status of their trade? How the devil could anyone represent them? They could not represent themselves. Their idea was to get something for nothing. Was it their union? No. It was their mates Union. If the fourpence per week (subscription) was the only reason they had for not joining the Union he only wishes they were as careful about the other fourpences. They would spend six bob on drink and think nothing of it. The hon. member (Ward) asked the navvies to consider whether the amount of wages they were receiving, the time they had to lose in wet weather, the time they were out in frosts and inclement weather, the amount of money married men spent in removing their families from one job to another, the weeks they had to walk about waiting for new work, the consequent loss of wages, the loss of comforts which accrued to men of more settled occupations - whether the amount of wages was what they ought to have? If they wanted to raise the status of their trade, to maintain the dignity of their work, to raise their wages, to improve their conditions, to protect themselves, they must join the Navvies Union." (Loud applause).

Perhaps the inertia of the navvies and many brush-offs in the House of Commons similar to the cited example, prompted Ward to serve in the Army during the First World War, whilst he still remained the Member for Stoke. In all events, he had a most interesting war, serving in Siberia from 1918-19, rising to the rank of Lieut. Col., winning the Croix de Guerre of France, Czechoslovakia and Italy, together with the Japanese Order of the Sacred Treasure [8]. He was returned as the Independent Labour MP for Stoke in December 1918, and until his defeat in May 1929, continued to press officialdom for justice for the navvies, who themselves were becoming a dying breed as the nature and quantity of public works employment changed in the Twenties. Ward died a disillusioned man in 1934, shortly after his brilliant doctor son, had died of blood poisoning contracted during his medical training.

Other visitors to the Chew Reservoir sought to divert the navvies from the evils of drink, but although the Navvy Mission Society had opinions violently opposed to the politics of the Navvies' Union, it was equally unsuccessful in capturing the navvies' minds. Its attempts will be described in the next paper in this series which will examine various aspects of the social implications, engineering, transport and purpose of the Chew Reservoir scheme.

References

- 1) 'Navyman', Dick Sullivan, Coracle Books, London (1983).
- 2) Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter, Saturday 12 Dec., 1908.
- 3) A Quarterly Letter to Men on Public Works, From the Navy Mission Society, No. 123, March 1909.
- 4) The Parliamentary Debates, Vol. 198, p. 719, 10 Dec, 1908.
- 5) The Parliamentary Debates, Vol. 1, p. 1103, 1 March 1909.
- 6) Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter, Saturday 6 March 1909.
- 7) Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter, Saturday 29 Aug, 1908.
- 8) 'Who's Who of British MPs', Vol. III, 1919-1945, Ed. M Stenton and S Lees, The Harvester Press, Sussex, 1979.

Dr. R.A. Smith
Queens' College
Cambridge

ANOTHER LOCAL BAKESTONE PIT

In some notes on the bakestone pit at Diggle (Bulletin Vol.13, No.4, pp. 89-92) I suggested that the Lancashire towns may have had their own bakestone quarries to supply this very basic household utensil. Field-name evidence has now unearthed another local bakestone pit, this one on a north-facing hillside in Shaw, part of Whitfield Hall Farm.

The Crompton Survey of 1789 (Higson Mss 36) lists a field of 5a 1r 1lp called "Backston Lands", belonging to John Milne, Whitfield Hall. The same field, now called Bakestone Lands and measured at 8a 3r 4p of pasture with a quarry, appears on the Crompton Tithe Award in 1848.

The quarry is shown on the Tithe Map and still appears on the modern 25":1 mile Ordnance Survey maps at grid reference SD 934 107.

A site visit revealed a modest excavation cut into the side of the hill about thirty feet wide and twelve feet deep. The farmer is now filling the hole to remove this intrusion into his lush pasture, but I was able to pull away flakes of the fragile mudstone from the old face of the quarry. It looks and feels exactly like the stone in Brun Clough and at Hull Mill, although the works visible were on nothing like the scale of the Saddleworth quarries.

No doubt more bakestone pits will come to light as field-name research progresses and I would be interested to know if any reader has come across similar references.

J.M.H.

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.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER JUNE 1984

The tranquility of a warm Thursday afternoon in Grasscroft was shattered for Gordon Parry with Julian Hunt's telephone announcement that the Bulletin was ready for typing and was there a newsletter. Shattered because the Parry's were about to embark on their last minute preparation for a holiday in France. It didn't do much for the peace of Denshaw either, when a few minutes later Gordon rang asking if I could deputise for him on this occasion and prepare the newsletter, what could I say?

Let me start with a progress report on the Bernard Barns Memorial Fund. Our thanks to those who have contributed since our last newsletter appeal. The fund remains open for anyone else who wishes to subscribe. You will know from the Spring Bulletin newsletter that Dr. Pat Stonehouse will be delivering the first Annual Memorial Lecture at the Millgate Centre, Delph on Friday 21st September, 1984 "A Survey of the Pre-history of Saddleworth."

We have had a set back to our plans for a memorial stone to Bernard. We had chosen a moorland site, decided on a suitable inscription and appointed a stone mason to execute the work. We are having difficulty, however, obtaining permission from the Water Authority (the land owners) for the work to go ahead and unless we are successful we will have to decide on an alternative location.

The last two lectures of the season were very well received. "The Post War Monte Carlo Rally," by Hartley Schofield, who was a co-driver taking part and "Saddleworth Inventories, Court Rolls etc," given by Alan Petford. Both were excellent talks.

Barbara is busy preparing the programme for the next season's meetings - some very interesting topics being introduced.

Jim Carr led a very enjoyable half day outing on the 9th June, to Styal Country Park & Quarry Bank Mill. We hired a double-decker bus for the trip. The weather was glorious and those who came thoroughly enjoyed it.

We had a very pleasant evening too, when Sam Seville's book "With Ammon Wrigley in Saddleworth," was launched (It is selling well). The evening was enlivened by talks and reminiscences by Sam and by Lord Rhodes and Harry Walne. Mr. Walne is 96 years old, although you would never guess it from his appearance and his moving rendering of "The Throstle's Lament," and other poems. Sam was autographing and selling copies of the book during the evening and at the Museum the following morning.

A few of the Archaeology Group accompanied Jim Carr in May, on an evening tour of points of interest on the Ashton Canal. He provided us with an information sheet and explained the various features. Another good trip was led by George Taylor on the 20th June, when a small party visited Melandra and Crowden.

Readers may remember an appeal in January, 1983 from Mr. Harold Rhodes Brown, one of our Society members, of Abbotsford, British Columbia, for information on his ancestry. After some research by Anne Parry, it was a delight to receive the family tree of Lord Rhodes compiled by Michael Buckley, in which it appears that Lord Rhodes is the third cousin of our Canadian member, and their ancestor purchased Brownhill (Warrock Hill) 10 Jan 1637. The effort and research by Michael Buckley and his friend Max Taylor of Shaw in producing this mammoth three page family tree is to be much admired and commended.

Gordon has prepared a new Museum Rota for Museum Curators covering the next 6 months. He has obtained 30 more volunteers to add to the list and will be happy to entrol any more who would like to help.

We have had quite a lot of helpful publicity in the Oldham Chronicle and are very appreciative of their continued support.

Canon Airne's retirement from St. Anne's, Lydgate is imminent. He conducts his last service there at 6-30 p.m., on the 8th of July. We wish him a happy retirement, but are glad he will still be living in the area and continuing his very active and valuable interest in the Society.

The Archaeology Group have arranged a trip to Skipton and Grassington on Saturday the 7th July, at the invitation of the Craven Museum Group. Those intending to go should telephone Jim (Sadd. 3612). The party will assemble at the Museum Car Park at 10.00 a.m., and Grass Woods & Lea Green and the Craven Museum will be visited. Those attending should make their own lunch arrangements and an evening meal will be booked at the Coronation Hotel.

On Wednesday the 18th of July, the Group will pay a visit to the Bacup Natural History Museum. Meet at Saddleworth Museum Car Park 6.00 p.m.

Any members interested in local archaeological excavation and able to take part should contact Mr. Jim Carr (Sadd. 3612). Help is urgently needed.

David Chadderton has been discussing with Dr. Pat Stonehouse the possibility of running a weekend school on Archaeology in the Autumn with Dr. Roger Jacobi and including an outing. He also feels that we might organise some evening or half day walks along our local interest trails.

Anyone interested in walking the Saddlworth Boundary (27 miles) ? This is an exercise undertaken every few years by a small party under the leadership of David Chadderton (Sadd. 6493). It is planned for Saturday the 4th of August, 1984,

Stanley Broadbent appeals for volunteers to help with refreshments on Textile Open Days at the Museum, 1st July, 5th August, 2nd September and 7th of October, 1984. If you can help on the day (or perhaps provide a cake or a few scones) please contact Elsie Broadbent (Sadd. 2870) or Nigel Haslock (Sadd. 6278).

Members of the Wool Road Warehouse working party will be contacted soon about the future programme of work. Anyone wishing to join will be very welcome (Sadd. 2896 John Buckley).

The Social Committee are back in action organising this time the Thé Dansant at the Museum on the 21st July, 1984. Terry Porisse is spearheading the effort and informs me that tickets will probably be sold out by the time this reaches you, but we had already advised all our members in the special newsletter issued in May. The proceeds from this event will be given to the Museum.

Forgive me please if I have missed anything I should have mentioned.

John Murray.