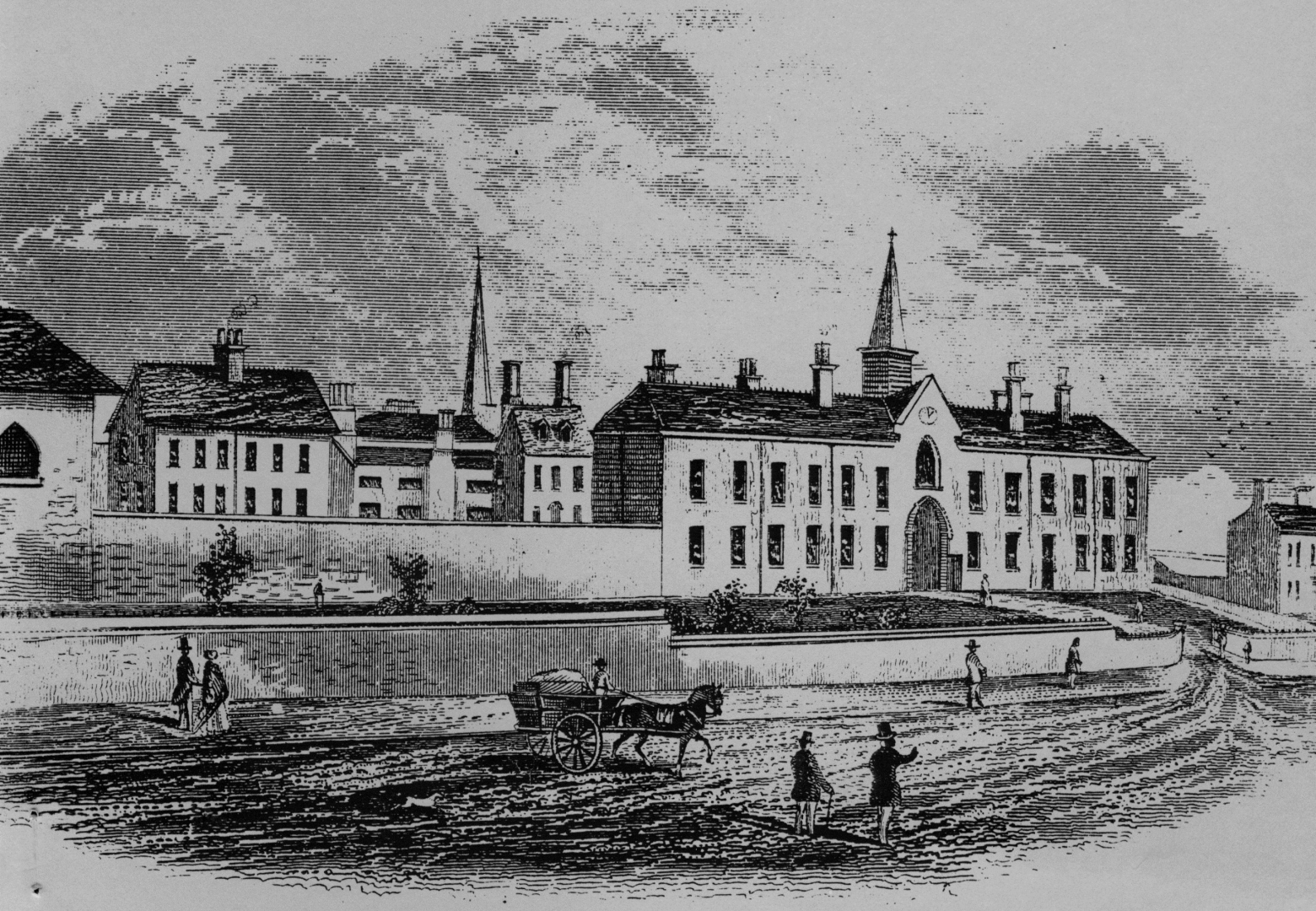
Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



OLDHAM UNION WORKHOUSE.

Volume 14 Number 4

Winter 1984

BULLETIN

OF THE

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 14 Number 1

Winter 1984

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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT A.G.M. 5TH DECEMBER, 1984

Once again I have the very pleasant duty to report on the activities of our Society during the past year and I thank the members of the committee for providing me with much of the relevant information to do so. I am grateful too for the friendliness and support society members have given me during many happy years as chairman.

You will have noted in the report last year what an important part Mr. David Chadderton, our vice-chairman plays in the running of the Society. No longer is he able to fill this role and he has had to resign from the committee. A victim of the recession he has had a worrying few months seeking employment, but now, he has secured another post down South and is moving house. Happily he expects to be making frequent trips up to Saddleworth. He was a founder member of the Society and I know will take as active a part in our affairs as time allows. David was anxious that a successor should be appointed and the popular choice of the committee was Mr. Stanley Broadbent who readily accepted the appointment and whose nomination has been put forward for the vice-chairmanship during the coming year.

David could have been excused if he had taken a back seat on the Historical Society's activities this year, but this is not the case. His campaign to save Ash Cottage from the developers has continued this year, apparently successfully, because the plan is now to restore the 3 storey loom house and to build only 2 other dwellings, Ash Cottage not to be touched. It has been offered, he believes, to a restoration group. He has also continued his fight for the listing of Lad Hill Bridge. He has been concerned because of the heavy traffic using the bridge and the housing developments planned in that area. By his involvement with other local bodies - the W.E.A., The Tame Valley Wardens, The Huddersfield Canal Society, The Museum, David has linked our society with other local groups who have the interest of the community at heart and this has helped to maintain good relations between ourselves and these other groups.

In fact, we co-operated with the W.E.A., in organising a one day school last month at the Lee Street Centre. The tutors were Dr. Roger Jacobi on "Mesolithic Flint Sites in Saddleworth," and Joan Charnley on "Pennine Flora Project - Saddleworth Flowers." In July with 7 other members David led the sponsored 27 mile Boundary Walk around Saddleworth which raised £58 for the Parish Council Chairman's Charity Fund. He also led a walk organised by Tame Valley Wardens.

A special meeting of the committee was called in March to devote itself to the implementation of the Bernard Barnes Memorial Fund. it was agreed that Dr. Stonehouse be invited to give the first lecture at the Millgate Centre. This took place in September before a large appreciative audience. Various ideas were put forward on the type of the Memorial we had undertaken to establish and it was agreed that it should take the form of a carved stone in a moorland position, the exact site to be decided after consultation with the stonemason, the land owner and Mrs. Barnes. A simple inscription was approved and the site chosen was Dinnerstones near the Ammon Wrigley Memorials. Mr. Chadderton took on the task of obtaining permission from the Water Board, but, unfortunately because of trouble the National Trust had experienced with a plaque erected on

Kinder Scout, the Board after a long delay made a general policy decision to refuse such applications. The stone has now been inserted on the field wall near the telephone booth at Heights. Mr. Julian Hunt is organising the landscaping of the site and a dedication service will be held next year.

At the last AGM the members decided, that as a fitting tribute to Ken Booth on his retirement from the office of Treasurer, they would purchase and present to him a book suitably inscribed. In fact Ken purchased the book himself "Coloured Views on the Liverpool & Manchester Railway", for which he was recompensed and it was presented to him at a subsequent meeting. He was also made a life member of the Society. In view of David Chadderton's long and devoted service to the Society the committee have decided to grant him life membership also and to present to him a book or article of his choice up to the value of £40.

Barbara Booth, our Secretary and my right hand in committee meetings, has again organised a varied, interesting programme of lectures to take us through to next April. The evening lectures take place on Tuesday's Wednesday's and Thursday's, as they did last winter. Previously we have favoured Tuesday night and there have been complaints from members who were otherwise occupied on that night. The current programme gives all members a chance to attend at least some of the meetings. We are grateful to the ladies who prepare tea at our lecture evenings and who readily respond when we need their help serving and providing refreshments on other occasions and organising social events.

Mrs. Pat Deighton died at the end of September. She was a well liked and active member. We will miss her at our meetings.

The Society has been represented at nearly all the monthly meetings of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee. Either David Chadderton or myself attend. It is an important body whose recommendations carry a lot of weight when the Parish Council consider planning applications on listed buildings or conservation areas.

The monthly committee meetings are very useful. They give the committee members the opportunity to report back. In their particular fields of responsibility all of them have worked conscientiously.

Mr. Broadbent reports that the total membership this year has reached another record 351, deriving from 227 subscriptions which include 37 new members. There are now 7 Overseas Members, one of whom is Mr. Christopher Broadbent from Milan, Italy, who if you remember enquired for information regarding his Great Grandfather Franklin Broadbent who owned a mill in Delph about 1880. Within a few days Mr. Arthur Broadbent of Southend-on-Sea gave a detailed account of Franklin Broadbent who actually owned the Hull Mill in Delph, giving a family tree dating back to 1682 and mentioning in passing that 'no doubt Christopher must be Cousin Philip's lad'. Another satisfied customer, without doubt, is Mr. Harold Rhodes Brown from Canada, who has been furnished with a complete family tree on the Rhodes Family, compiled by Mr. Michael Buckley and dating back to 1634. It was discovered that he was a fourth cousin of Lord Rhodes. A new member, Mrs. Denise Heywood, who lives in Cumbria is also seeking information on the Shaws and Winterbottoms of Greenfield. If anyone can help with this one Mr. Broadbent will give them her address.

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You have been advised from time to time about Mr. Broadbent's efforts to recover the Horse Trough which was removed by the Brewery from the front of the Clarence Hotel. This was 4 years ago. Thanks, however, to Stanley's persistence it has now been returned and has been re-sited in the Friezland Equestrian Centre.

The Thé Dansant held at the Museum on the 21st July, 1984, raised £207 which completed repayment of the Museum debts, and for which Terry Porisse and all the ladies who helped and donated food are to be heartily congratulated. This was the second Thé Dansant and the Museum expressed their grateful thanks - a great success which could with a little help become a star feature of our social calendar.

Meanwhile at the Museum the Tuesday night volunteers are a growing and buoyant group with all the promise of growth that the Museum offers, many of our own members lead this happy band. If you can help at the Museum Stanley Broadbent asks that you ring him on 2870 and join these activists in the coming year.

Some members have been involved this year with Museum staff preparing a submission on the proposed layout of the Transport Gallery. This will be the next part of the Museum to be completed and the submission will form the basis of the application for a grant-aid from the Carnegie Trust. In response to an appeal from the Museum for the Society to commit itself to an annual payment to them the committee, after much deliberation, promised £250.

In his role as Museum Liaison Officer, Mr. Gordon Parry has concentrated his report on the rota for Museum curators. He points out that we are approaching the end of the first year's six monthly rota and is pleased to say that, on the whole, it has worked very well. This is due to the willingness of members of the Society to offer to man the Museum on two or three Saturdays or Sundays in each six month period. Without these volunteers it would be extremely difficult to open the Museum each weekend to allow the hundreds of visitors to learn something of Saddleworth heritage. On the last six months rota there were 84 volunteers, mostly members of the Historical Society, some Friends of the Museum and 14 members of Saddleworth Group of Artists. With these 84 volunteers and the readiness of some to do more than two turns of duty it was a reasonably easy exercise to draw up a rota, but - and it is a big but, and one that he regrets - the Art Group has severed its connection with the Museum. This will mean that about 10 names will be lost. Being a curator now is a much less arduous task than it used to be. Admission fees are taken in a comfortable kiosk free from draughts and everything is priced in the shop with no need to keep records other than the final takings. Nothing could be simpler.

It is now time to draw up the next six months rota so if anyone would be willing to help please let Gordon Parry know as soon as possible. All he wants to know are dates definitely unavailable to Oldham Wakes. Number of times prepared to serve to Oldham Wakes and whether Saturday or Sunday preferred. If a volunteer has been on the list before it will be assumed that he or she is willing to assist for a further six month period. One good piece of news is that the Pensioners admission fee is now 10 pence. Moves are afoot to extend the Museum weekend openings in the Summer months from 12 noon until 2.00 p.m., when it normally opened. Your officer is somewhat opposed to this idea as it would mean a large increase in the number of volunteers or a much greater commitment from present volunteers.

Canon Airne retired from his parish in July this year, but expects to have more time now to devote to the Society's archives. He reports that they continue to grow. During the past year a number of small items have been added, donated by different people and three large collections of deeds and other documents by Mrs. Margaret Fletcher J.P., Mr. Keith Nicholson and Mr. Julian Hunt. Mr. Maurice Dennett has given invaluable service during the year calendaring and cataloguing, for which we thank him.

Mr. John Buckley has again been heavily committed to work on the Textile Machinery Exhibits in the Museum. At the Wool Road Warehouse the timbers have been treated by Peter Fox Ltd., and the Warehouse has been pointed inside and out by Oldham Community Services. Unfortunately, the Royal Engineers in Failsworth have been unable to help us with clearance of the site; we had hoped that they could throw a bridge over the canal and barrow the debris across.

Mr. Jim Carr, leader of the Archaeology Group has given a detailed and very interesting report as follows:-

At our first meeting of 1984, George Taylor traced pack-horse trails and turnpike roads through Stalybridge and Mottram which encouraged us to try to follow them on foot in the future. In February we were visited by officers and members of the Tameside Metal Detector Club who described their organisation, rules and activities. At our next meeting Pat Stonehouse gave an illustrated talk on the megaliths at Brenig in North Wales; Dr. Roger Jacobi joined us for this talk and in the discussion that followed; on the same evening we also viewed and discussed slides from the British Museum's prehistory collection.

In preparation for the resumption of the Summer dig, a group visited Mr. Dronsfield of Knarr Barn Farm to arrange a starting date following Mr. Hewitt's kind permission for another season. In the event nothing materialised, because the weather was so good for farming, other than a magnetometer survey carried out by Bernard Tannock of the Group with Keith Mande of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Manchester.

During the summer our monthly meetings took the form of excursions on Wednesdays and at weekends. The first trip followed the Ashton Canal into Manchester and had a look at the Castlefield area before retiring to the 'Mark Addy'. In May we joined John Smith's W.E.A. group on a trip to Wingfield Manor, returning via the Old House Museum in Bakewell: our thanks go to John for his excellent conducted tour with running commentary. In June George Taylor met us at Melandra for a visit to the Roman Fort and then we were led to an inspection of putative Roman practice camps at Crowden. We had two excursions in July: Dr. Sheldon and the Skipton Society hosted a visit to Skipton and Grassington and our final summer trip was to the Bacup Natural History Society's Headquarters and Museum where we were conducted around their crowded exhibits from all ages and interests.

In October the Group was given a spot during the Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit's Fair at the University, where we also had a chance to hear and meet Dave Start the newly-appointed Director of the G.M.A.U.'s Castleshaw Project, and we started an indoor programme at The Swan with an illustrated talk by Wilf Leech on the Roman 'limes' in Germany and Austria - the turf and wooden rampart and ditch which marked the 'limit' of the empire - a defensive barrier and a customs frontier. At the end of October we entertained the Colin Harding W.E.A. class reunion. They visited Pule Hill and Uppermill Canal before viewing slides of their Rome trip in the Museum and moving to the Top House for a meal and social gathering. On Saturday 10th November, we joined the Saddleworth W.E.A., for the Day School with Dr. Roger Jacobi on the Prehistory of Saddleworth with special reference to Mesolithic sites. The following Saturday a group attended the Conference at Bolton Town Hall of the Council for British Archaeology's Regional Group V. At our next meeting at the Swan we enjoyed another illustrated lecture by Pat Stonehouse - this time on Cornwall; the year's meetings end on the 19th December with John and Wendy Murray's talk on 'Jugoslavia'.

Elsewhere mention has been made of Edith Crank's illness and time in hospital. Our thanks go to all group members who have devotedly visited her and we wish her a speedy recovery. Finally our gratitude is expressed to Mr. & Mrs. Whitehead of the Swan, Dobcross, 'The Top House', for their continued kindness and hospitality.

Jim has not included in his report the very enjoyable trip he organised for the Society in June to Styal Country Park and Quarry Bank Mill - on a double decker bus - it was enjoyed by all. Nor has he mentioned the stand we had at the Pennine Heritage Swop Shop, Hebden Bridge in March where we sold Society publications.

We have continued the association with Pennine Heritage, Hebden Bridge, which Bernard supported and have given them some articles this year for the Pennine Magazine.

The Society was represented at the Rotary Club's Medieval Craft Fair where a worthwhile quantity of booklets and maps were sold. Publications sales continue to be the main income of the Society and the new edition of the Countryside Guides have been extremely popular. In June, Sam Seville's "With Ammon Wrigley in Saddleworth" was launched with an enjoyable reception at the Museum. Harry Walne, at 96, stole the show with his moving recitation of Ammon's "The Throstle's Lament". Mr. Walne was President of the Ammon Wrigley Fellowship and has given us the gavel and block which that Society used. It will be suitably engraved and put into use. Our Editor Mr. Julian Hunt, is pleased to report that the print quality of the Bulletin has improved and each issue has appeared on time. The Autumn edition included Samuel Andrew's "A Manufacturer's Business 100 years ago", the second of the supplements prepared by Neil Barrow and funded by The Pasold Research Fund. We look forward to Neil's return in September and to his further contributions on the economic history of Saddleworth.

There are now just over 100 copies of the 1983 Festival publication, "Saddleworth Surveyed", in stock. The Festival Committee have generously agreed that the Society should market the last 100 copies on its own account. These are still available to Society members at the original publication price of £10.

Mr. Hunt would like to thank the new Society Treasurer, Mr. Godfrey Adams, for his help in keeping publications records in order and the willing volunteers who distribute the Bulletin to an ever growing local membership.

In view of the impending revision of the 'Listed Buildings' schedule for Saddleworth, the committee decided to compile its own list of buildings and monuments which they feel should be brought to the attention of the Commissioner. In preparation for this a small group of Society members, led by Mr. Alan Petford, have been drawing up lists of buildings meriting consideration and they hope to have this complete by Easter time. Contact has been made with the Commissioner who has warmly welcomed our initiative.

BUILDING THE OLDHAM UNION WORKSHOUSE, 1847 - 1851

1851 was the year of the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace. The political turmoil of the 1820's in Lancashire and Yorkshire had lessened but not disappeared. By 1848, iron output in Britain was greater than the rest of the world. Coal output was two-thirds and cotton cloth manufacturing more than half the total world production. Britain was the workshop of the world.[1] The factory systems had become established as the main new unit of production by the 1820's. After 1820, real wages probably increased until 1851 with the exception of handloom weavers who suffered greatly. In spite of the overall increase in wages, these were years of volatile prices and severe fluctuations in unemployment.

The population of Oldham Parliamentary Borough had increased from 21,677 in 1801 to 60,451 in 1841, and was to expand further to 72,354 by 1851.[2] The new workers drawn into this growing manufacturing centre experienced the booms and depressions which characterised the trade cycle of the cotton industry. Foster has shown how wages accounted for the major part of manufacturers' costs and how, in a depression, wages were reduced and female and child labour substituted. He suggests that in the terrible depression of 1847-48, over 40% of the population was living below the subsistence level.[3]

It is important to give a brief description of the administrative confusion following from the New Poor Law Act of 1834. First we had the Poor Law Commission which existed from 1834 to 1847. It was not a success with too little power and too small a staff to make effective what power it had. The high hopes which the Poor Law Commission had entertained in its early years, of effecting a drastic reduction in the cost of poor relief and of abolishing or severely restricting outdoor relief to the able bodied poor, had been dashed by 1847. The number of indoor paupers remained relatively small.[4]

In 1847, the Poor Law Board took over from the Poor Law Commission in a further attempt to strengthen central control. Even before 1847, attempts to restrict relief to those resident in workhouses was modified in manufacturing areas like Oldham to "an outdoor labour test order".[5] This stated that able bodied men only received relief if they performed a task, set by the Board of Guardians, of an unpleasant and monotonous nature taking the place of the workhouse and maintaining the principle of "less eligibility". Even then, given the exceptions listed in the orders and the lack of any hard and fast definition of such terms as 'able bodied', most Boards of Guardians found themselves left with considerable latitude in granting outdoor relief. In fact, it was preferred. It was dictated by commonsense and even humanity. Entry into the workhouse meant breaking up a family. If confined in a workhouse, an unemployed man would be unable to find another job quickly. Outdoor relief was cheaper. The ratepayers would have to bear the cost of maintaining an applicant and his family if they were taken into the workhouse. A grant for outdoor relief could be augmented by small earnings and donations from private charity.[6]

The introduction of the New Poor Law was considerably delayed in Oldham and it is important to consider the reason for this. For the years 1850-51, the expenditure of Oldham Borough Council was only £1,300: that of Oldham Union - £16,000. Manipulation of poor relief expenditure by job contracts and relief itself with its influence on shopkeepers etc, provided a source of patronage far greater than anything else in local government. Prior to 1847, Oldham had opted for control by the select vestry rather than control by magistrates (Sturges Bourne Act of 1819). The select vestry had a maximum

membership of 24 including rector, church wardens and overseers. It would transact poor relief business by the week. The overseers were usually 'large' employers and had the arduous day to day supervision without much authority which was placed in the select vestry. This seems to have been dominated by radicals until 1847 when the central authorities in London issued writs against the overseers. The elections coupled with ex officio members gave the establishment control of the Guardians. This had followed a protracted battle between the radicals and the establishment. This extended from 1837 to 1847 in a series of skirmishes when radicals outmanoeuvred the Poor Law commissioners.[7]

It wasn't therefore concern at the state of the small local workhouses left over from the old Poor Law that worried either faction. A meeting of the newly elected Guardians on October 6th 1847 gave an unfortunately short account of the existing workhouses in Chadderton, Oldham, Crompton, Royton, Middleton and Thornham and Tonge. Apart from Royton, none of them was said to be a credit to the district. With the exception of Oldham workhouse, they must have been small. In the words of the committee who visited the workhouses; "The amount of accommodation in such workhouses is very deficient; that with due regard to the proper treatment of the poor as well as due attention to economy in management of the affairs of the poor, this board is of the opinion that a new workhouse is absolutely necessary and that steps should be taken for attaining such object."

A committee was formed to choose a suitable site and ascertain the probable rate of interest at which a loan could be obtained. The workhouses at Oldham, Royton, Middleton and Chadderton were retained for continued use whilst the new workhouse was built. It would seem certain that the existing amount of accommodation was already proving inadequate. At a meeting on the 1st December 1847, an assistant master and matron were appointed for a new workhouse and fever ward at Lowerfields, Oldham. Even this proved insufficient. Six months later, the Poor Law Board instructed the guardians to look out for a suitable temporary building as an additional workhouse "in lieu of some or one of the present workhouses" because of their unsatisfactory state.

A mill recently built by Mr. John Jackson, the younger, was leased for two years at £200 rent for the two years. It was capable of accommodating 200-250 paupers. This was called the Northmoor workhouse because of its location but should not be confused with the Union workhouse under construction but also at Northmoor.

There is little information in the Guardians' Minutes about the numbers receiving indoor relief at this time but they kept a strict account of outdoor relief with a dramatic increase in recipients starting in May 1848. April/May of that year registered 2,260 recipients with average costs between 2/4d and 3/3d with a massive increase to 6,700 recipients with an average cost of 10½d each during May. This must have been reflected in the urgent measures proposed to increase indoor relief.

Returning to the progress at the new Union workhouse, on the 15th December 1847 a total of seventeen sites were presented to the Board of Guardians; their choice was 9¼ acres from R. & R. Rothwell with a yearly rental of £10 per annum. per acre, part of the present District Hospital site.

In mid January 1848, an advertisement was placed in the Manchester newspapers for suitable plans for a new workhouse capable of containing 600 inmates, with all suitable offices and outbuildings, the expense not to exceed £10,000. After examination and alteration of the plans by the Poor Law Board in London, the architects, Messrs Travis & Mangnall of 3 Norfolk Street, Manchester, were selected with a commission of 5%.

As early as April, the clerk to the guardians was complaining of lack of progress in laying the drains. However, the main upset was announced at the meeting on the 31st May. The building committee indicated that the architects had revised the cost of erecting the building to be upward of £20,000. They were left with no alternative but to abandon the arrangement and readvertise for further tenders on the 7th June at the original terms plus a written certificate that the architects can carry out the plans for the sum mentioned. After a delay of three months, new sets of plans were examined and Messrs Travis & Mangnall were again chosen and presented plans at close on £10,000. Tenders went out again on the 6th December, the tender including a claim giving satisfactory security for the performance of the work.

Alterations to the mill at Northmoor were completed by early October 1848 and the paupers were removed from Lowerfields workhouse to the mill and to Oldham workhouse. This seemed an odd arrangement as the mill could house more than Lowerfelds. The clue may be in two other Minutes. The first was a cheque drawn for the master and matron of Lowerfields in consideration of no notice being given for the sudden termination of their services. The second was a special payment to a Mr. Hudson, Medical Officer at Northmoor workhouse, for extra attendance due to extraordinary sickness during the last four months (Minute dated 17th December 1848). We know from other sources that this was a bad year for cholera. Perhaps the need for extra fever facilities at the mill may explain it. Several days after Lowerfields workhouse was vacated, it was converted into a schoolhouse for children in the workhouse.

More evidence of a pragmatic and somewhat hasty action appears in a Minute of the 31st January 1849. Mr. Hudson, Medical Officer to the Northmoor workhouse, first claimed that the arrangements for the sick paupers were satisfactory but then in contradictory fashion recommended that the attic be divided into two sickrooms and finally offered the solution of converting the old workhouse at Chadderton to a fever hospital. The instigator of these alterations was a Mr. Austin, assistant commissioner to the central authority in London.

The same Mr. Austin was again complaining to the Guardians in early March, this time about the Lowerfields schoolhouse and the Guardians reply was both interesting and testy - ".....the beds are sufficiently capacious to accommodate three small children in each bed and there is no room to set up further beds in the house. The Guardians would have no alternative but removing a part of the children back to the workhouse, a course which the Guardians considered exceedingly objectionable and tending to a more injurious effect on the children than any overcrowing complained of in Mr. Austin's letter."

By the 21st march 1849, the provision of building materials and the construction work must have accelerated dramatically putting stress on the capital available to the Guardians. The clerk and members of the Board were authorised by central authority to negotiate a loan from Mr. Humphrey Nichols of £10,000. This was divided into a loan of £5,000 at 5% interest being repayable in total or in instalments of not less than £500 and a mortgage for £5,000 secured on the rates of the Union to bear interest at 5% per annum from the 5th April. The loan was deposited in two local banks - the Saddleworth Bank and the Manchester & Liverpool District Bank at 2½% interest.

It is evident that work proceeded at a very fast rate. By the 14th November, arrangements for laying down the gas mains with the Oldham Gaslight & Waterworks Company, painting work and the purchase of firegrates, were discussed. On the 27th February 1850 the Guardians used the boardroom in the Union workhouse for the first time.

The table taken from the Minutes and prepared by the architects gives a breakdown of the costing and the account of the overspending (some £3,305 2s 2½d over the estimated £10,000) along with the different varieties and types of work schemes and employees involved.

On the 21st July 1850, it was reported that the inmates of the Northmoor and Oldham workhouses were removed to the new Union workhouse. A general visiting committee for the management of the new Union workhouse was formed "to inspect the workhouse weekly, to receive the medical officer's report, examine stores, investigate complaints, order necessary provisions and see to the classification and good regulation of the house."

By October, the numbers reported in the new Union workhouse were as follows - 147 males, 99 females, 56 boys, 39 girls, amounting to 341 inmates. This figure did not exclude 87 male and 32 female vagrants.

The education of pauper children was well established in the old workhouse systems. Some of the duties of the new Medical Officer give an indication of the extending role in medical services that the workhouse began to play for the poorer members of the community. Firt, the Union workhouse was designated a separate medical district with its own Medical Officer. In fixing the salary of the Medical Officer, the Guardians took into account that in addition to attending ordinary patients, the officer will frequently be called upon to atten cases of fever sent from the other medical districts in the Union "in any sudden epidemic in the Union". The lunatic asylum was now an integral part of the Union workhouse. Although this did not meet with the approval of the central authorities, it appears to have become an established practice in the Oldham Union. Two other services were a continuation of those existing in the medical districts; extra remuneration for midwifery cases and vaccination against smallpox.

On the 1st January 1851, conveyancing of chief rents from the Guardians, church wardens and overseers, with sale of a plot of land and five cottages at Lowerfields, provides some evidence of sale of the vacated workhouse property. The total from the sale amounted to £1,052 10s 0d.

To summarise, if the basis of the New Poor Law was to only give relief to those who were resident in the workhouse, it was a failure. Even during 1847-48 when unemployment soared, outdoor relief remained the dominant method of administering relief. Individual and total costs were reduced but the factors influencing this are complex such as the price of commodities and the improvement in employment. The continuing increase in population must have stressed the Poor Law systems as well as other services.

Unfortunately, so far, we have no information on the age groups, classification of the adult inmates and the standard of care of individuals in the workhouse. The impression from the Minutes is that of a strict authoritarian regime but life outside was also harsh for the lower paid worker. Perhaps the radical influence in Oldham toned down the more extremes of authoritarianism; perhaps the Guardians were not all establishment figures in Oldham - this will require more research.

Names		1 Expenses incurred in Preparing the land for Building upon viz: Soil Stripping Removal of Earth, Temporary Road, Proving the necessary Foundations required for the Building, Ventilating, Tubes, Excavations, and Draining			2 Original Contracts made on a Base Line given on Plan			3 Extras on Original Contracts			4 Deductions from Work included in the Original Contracts, but ordered by the Committee not to be done		
Wm Henthorn	Earth Work &c	517	9	8¼	2495	-	-						
Geo Whitaker	Brick Work &c	2	1	-	2750	-	-	45	13	9½	42	8	8¼
Robt Neill	Joiners Work &c	17	9	1	2717	-	-	62	5	5¼	28	16	7¼
Jno Heywood	Plumbing & Glazing	8	7	6	612	17	-	160	17	11¼	34	6	5
Jas Walters	Slating	-	-	-	606	-	-	56	15	10	8	8	-
Wm Ward & Co	Plastering & Painting	4	3	8	479	15	-	52	3	4¼	9	6	11¼
Josh Scholes	Paving &c	5	1	3				12	14	6¼			
Jas Spencer	Draining &c	63	1	8									
Josh Scholes	Making Lodges												
Josh Karney	Getting & Laying Sods												
J Huddleston	Sand Screenings												
Hurst & Co	Draining & Levelling	58	18	4									
Butterworth & Others	Cinders												
M Hill & Others	Gravel & Sand												
Jno Hall & Son	Draining Tubes	53	8	-									
Josh Jackson	Flagging .												
Jno Wainwright	Iron Bolts							2	1	6			
Andw Schofield	Draining Tubes	18	12	2									
Josh Cliffe	do Ventilating Tubes	60	4	-									
Travis & Mangnall	Architects												
M Lipson	Clerk of the Works												
Jas Booth	Ventilators	3	30	-									
Fisher & Co	Plants												
		812	6	4¼	9660	12	-	392	12	5¼	123	6	8¼

We, the undersigned, Messrs Travis & Mangnall, Architects, do hereby Certify that we have carefully said Accounts and Summing Contain a True and Correct Account of the Expenditure for the Building of of the Building and Subsequent thereto, the expenses of enclosing the Land, Draining and Laying out the above eight separate heads.

Manchester 18th Februry 1851

Nett Amount of Extras on Original Contracts			5 Additional Expenses in Walling for Foundations incurred in Consequence of the Contracts being made from a Base Line			6 Additional Building, not included on the Original Contracts			7 Paving, Flagging, Water Tanks and Laying out the Ground			8 Half Measurement of Contractors Works, Architects Commission for Plans and Specifications, and Clerk of the Works Salary			Total		
						253	15	11	73	9	1¼	17	10	-	3925	5	11¼
3	5	1¼	564	14	1½	223	5	11¼				3	10	-	3012	5	9¼
33	8	10				61	12	6¼				2	15	-	2925	8	2
126	11	6¼				17	6	3¼	10	6	-	1	1	-	698	5	7½
48	7	10				3	-	-					15	6	652	11	11¼
42	16	5¼				6	13	4¼					7	6	503	14	1
12	14	6¼				67	1	-	242	6	2½				314	8	5½
	-														63	1	8
	-								42	2	-				42	2	-
	-								20	15	4				20	15	4
	-								8	15	-				8	15	-
	-														58	18	4
	-								47	10	6				47	10	6
	-								7	6	8				7	6	8
	-														53	8	-
	-								2	1	-				2	1	-
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												Commission 500 - - and for quantities 150 - - Subsequent plans &c 40 - -			))))690))	-	-
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269	5	9¼	564	14	1½	632	15	1¼	459	9	9¼	905	19	-	13305	2	2¼

examined the Accounts, of which this Sheet is the Summary, and that the
the Oldham Union Workhouse, and the expenses contingent thereon, before the Commencement
the same, Architects Commission, and Clerk of Works Salary, the particulars of which are stated under

Travis & Mangnall, Architects,
3, Norfolk Street, Manchester.

Central administration seemed to improve the emphasis on the care of the sick and infirm. The infirmary, fever ward, lunatic asylum and a midwifery service, lay the basis for the development of non-voluntary medical services in the late 1800's. In addition, the influence of the Guardians on public health measures has not been described.

One has to admire the achievement and resilience of the system during these years. How quickly it adapted to two temporary workhouses, held costs stable and built the new Union workhouse within three years under differing boards of guardians. Kay Clegg, the secretary to the board, must have played a major role.

In all, the government policy was in many ways a failure but the New Poor Law opened unforeseen benefits eventually leading to major socio-medical advances in the future. However, overshadowing everything, the attitude of the poor and unemployed remained unchanged. They continued to detest the workhouse from before and after 1847 into the present century.

D. O'Brien

References

1. Briggs, A. A social history of England, 1983, p. 189
2. Butterworth, E. Historical sketches of Oldham, 1856, p. 243
3. Foster, J. Class struggle and the industrial revolution, 1974 pp. 82-3, 96
4. Rose, M.E. The English poor law 1780 - 1930, 1971, p. 127
5. Glen, W.C. General orders of the Poor Law Commissioners, 1852, pp. 364-5.
6. Rose, M.E. op. cit. p. 141
7. Foster, J. op. cit. pp. 61-4

SADDLEWORTH COURT ROLLS Cont.

4. Mannor of Saddleworth or Quick

The Court Barron of James Farrer Esquire holden for his Mannor aforesaid at the usual and accustomed place (to Witt) at the dewelling house of Robert Broadbents, Inholder, in Saddleworth afforesaid on the Twelfth day of June in the year of oure Lord 1745 before the free Suiters of the Said Court and Robert Lowndes, Gentleman, Steward of the Court of the Manner aforesaid, and Adjoyrned to the 20th of November next Ensueinge to be holden at the place aforesaid in Manner as aforesaid.

pains Laid by the Juriors as Follows:

Wee lay in pain that no person, or persons, Make any maner of Footway up or dou[n] a Close called Red Mires now in the occupation of R..... Broadbent, parish Clark of Saddleworth. Every one so offending to forfet to the Lord of the Manner The Sum of one pound Nineteen Shilling and Eleven Pence.

Also Wee lay in pain that no person, or persons, do make any Horse or Foot Way over or Cross the pastures lying between new houses and Wood Brook now in the occupation of James Farrer, Esquire, contrary to the ould Accustomed Manner. Every person so offending to forfet to the Lord of the Manner the Sum of, 0 : 5s. : 0d.

....Mercements presented by the Jury of the Said Court as Follows:

Wee A Merce Mary Wood for puting her Sheep to the Lord's Waste not haveing a Right Thereto so to do in the Sum of 0 : 2s. : 0d.

Also Wee Amerce James Buckley of Shaw Houses for Cutting down the ?Dich and Leading away the Soyle Betwixt Great Gowburn and Micael Shaw Intack and for not Seting the Fence in the sum of 0 : 10s. : 0d.

Also Wee Amerce Isaac Scholfield of Fewrakes for putting an Ass on the Lord's Waste, not having a Right There unto in Sum of, 0 : 0 : 6d.

Also Wee Amerce James Broadbent of Car for not Turning the Water into the Right Course in the Warth in the Sum of,[1] 0 : 10s. : 0d.

Also Wee Amerce Joseph Holden for putting his horse on the Lord's Waste, not haveing a Right there unto in the Sum of 0 : 1s. : 0d.

Also Wee Amerce Matthew Slater for Cuting Stone on the Lord's Waste and Seling it of in the Sum of, 0 : 2s. : 6d.

Also Wee amerce Jonathan Bradbury and Thomas Wood for Cutting Stone and seling it of the Lord's Waste in the Sum of, 0 : 1s. : 0d.

Joseph Lawton
John Hezelgreave
Thomas Bradbury
Thomas Rhodes
Henry Buckley
James Buckley
William Shaw
John Sevill

Michael Bothomley
Robert Winterbottom
Abraham Rhodes
The mark of
Robert ⊤ Buckley
The mark of
James J Shaw
John Bradbury
James Bradbury

Affeerers, Joseph Lawton)
John Hazellgreave) Sworne

1. The whole of this entry is crossed out.

5. Manor of Saddleworth) The Court Barron of James Farrer Esquire, holden
or Quick) for his Mannor aforsaid at the House of Michael Bothomley Innholder at Saddleworth aforesaid on the 29th day of may in the year of our Lord 1746 before the Free Suitors of the Said Court and Robert Lowndes, Gentleman, Steward of the Court of the Mannor aforesaid, And Adjourned to the Nineteenth day of November Next Ensuing to be held at the place aforesaid in Maner as Aforesaid.

[The Mears and Boundaries Viewed by the aforesaid Jurors on][1] The 20th day of August 1746 an account of the Boundarie mears[2] between the [James Farrer Esquire] Lord of the[is] Mannor of Saddleworth and the Lords of the Mannors of Holmfirth, Marsden and Several others [on the one part and the severall Manors of his Grace the Duke of Leeds, Lord Newport and William Radclyffe, attorney at Law] begining at Stockerford and from thence [so Eastward] to a Spring Called white wall, and from thence to the Top of Noonsun Hill [Eastward] and from thence to a mear [Southward] Called Cloven Edge, and from thence to a mear [Southwest] Called Wharlow Pike, and from thence to a mear on the South Side [near the] alfen [offen] Stone, [on the South side] and from thence to a mear called Horstone Edge [South west] And from thence to a mear called Black Clough Head, and from thence to a mear Called Clodbury Knowle [Northwards],and from thence to a Mear on the Top of Holme Edge [Eastwards], And from thence to a mear Called Silver Hill, and from thence to a mear Called the Black Gate, [Northward] and from thence to a Mear Called [the] South Clough Head, [Northward] And from thence to a Mear Called the North Clough head, and from thence to a Mear Called Red brook Knowl and from thence .....Called Rams [Rooms] clough Head and from thence to Standedge.

Pains Layd by the Jurors as follows:

We lay in Pain that George Mellalue of whickn's does keep the water in the Antient Courses and Gutters so as not to Damage any foot way Leading Through the Said Tennement within 30 days under pain to forfeit to the Lord of the Mannor The Sum of .2s. : 6d.

also We lay in pain that Jonothan Bentley and widdow Shaw do take off al the water from Boarshurst to the Nooks....So as not to Damage the Road within Thirty days or forfeit to the Lord of the Mannor the Sum of 5s. : 0d.

also We lay in pain that Nathaniel Holden do Remove the wall by him Erected at Top of the old garden at Kinders an[d] Set up the Same in the Antient place within Forty days or forfeit to the Lord of the Mannor the Sum of 10s. : 6d.

also Whereas Joseph Holden hath gotten Stones etc. incrouched on the Lord's waist by Erecting the walls of a Cottage on the side of Harropedge Therefore we do lay in pain that the said Joseph Holden do abate the Said Incroachment on or before Whitsuntide next of forfeit to the Lord of the Mannor the Sum of 39s. : 11d.

also we lay in pain that James Kenworthy of Lydyate Pull down his Garden wal which he hath Erected on the Lord's waist and leave and keep the Same open (within Thirty days) or forefeit to the Lord of the Mannor for Everytime that he shal Inclose the Same the Sum of 5s. : 0d.

1 Words in brackets have been inserted in a different hand

2. Words underlined have been crossed out.

Amercements Laid by the Jurors as follows:

We Amerce Samuel Lees for Inclosing the Lord's waist by the Side of Turf Lane haveing no right so to do In the Sum of 1s. : 0d.

Affeerers, Joseph Buckley)
) Sworne
Giles Shaw)

John Wrigley Complains against ?James Buckley of a plea of) Trespass upon the Case to the damage of the plaintiff) 39s. : 10d.

Damages found by the Jury 39s : 10d.

Joseph Buckley
Giles Shaw
Thomas Bradbury
John Hazelgreave
Henry Buckley
John Sevill
John Andrew
Michael Bothomley

The mark of
J
James Shaw
The mark of
ꝛ
Robert Scholefield
The R mark of
Robert Broadbent
Robert Winterbotham
The mark of W of
James Whitehead
James Scholefield
The mark ⅁ of John
Wrigley

6. Manor of Sadleworth) The Court Baron of James Farrer Esquire holden for
or Quick) his Mannor aforsaid at the Dwelling House of Michael Bothomley, Innholder in Sadleworth aforesaid on the twenty third day of November in the year of our Lord 1747 before the free Suitors of the said Court and Samuel Fenton, Gentleman, Steward of the Court of the Mannor aforesaid.

Inquisition there taken the Day and year above said upon the Oaths of

William Kenworthy Gentleman Sworn

Henry Buckley)		Henry Whitehead)		James Rhodes)	
William Buckley)		John Winterbottom)		John Broadbent)	
William Shaw)	Sworn	Thomas Shaw dead)	Sworn	George Maleadew)	Sworn
Abraham Savil)		Abram Rhodes)		James Buckley)	

Endorsed on reverse

Saddleworth Court
23rd November 1747 adjourned to 6th June 1748

7. Manor of Sadleworth) The Court Baron of James Farrer Esquire, holden for
or Quick) his Manor aforesaid at the House of Michael Bothomley Innholder in Sadleworth aforesaid on the Eighteenth day of Jannuary in the year of our Lord 1748 before the free Suitors of the said Court and Samuel Fenton Gentleman Steward of the Court of the Manor aforesaid.

Inquisition there taken the day and year above said upon Oaths of

John Platt Sworn

Thomas Bradbury)		James Scholefield)		James Winterbottom)	
Giles Shaw)		James Shaw)		James Wood)	
William Shaw)	Sworn	John Bentley)	Sworn	Henry Whitehead)	Sworn
James Kenworthey)		Robert Scholefield)		James Rhodes)	

Amercements presented by the said Jurors as follow:

We amerce James Harrop of Tame Water for withdrawing his Suit from the Lord's Water Corn Mill called the upper mill in the Sum of £0 : 5s. : 0d.

Also We present Robert Lees of Staley Hall for the like in the Sum of £0 : 5s. : 0d.

Also We present John Whitehead of Narr Barn for the like in the Sum of £0 : 5s. : 0d.

Also We present Mr. John Whitehead of Shay hall for the like in the Sum of £0 : 5s. : 0d.

Also We present Abram Lees of Roebuck loe and Isaac Leas of the same place[1] for the like in the Sum of £0 : 5s. : 0d.

Also We present John Platt of Buttersworth for the like in the Sum of £0 : 2s. : 6d.

Also We present Isaac Leas of Roebuck loe for the like in the Sum of £0 : 5s. : 0d.

Pains laid by the Jurors aforesaid as follows:

We lay in pain that if any person or persons pass or repass through the Lands belonging to Widow Shaw of Boaershurst out of the Foot Way each person so offending shall forfeit to the Lord of the Mannor the Sum of five shillings.

Also We lay in pain that if any person or persons make a Foot Way through the middle of a Close called great Field belonging to Philip Bradbury each person so offending Shall forfeit to the Lord of the Mannor the Sum of two shillings and sixpence.

Also We lay in pain that if any person or persons go out of the Foot Ways in the Lands belonging to Nathaniel Bottomley at Sadleworth Fold each person so offending shall forfeit the Sum of ten Shillings.

Also We lay in pain that if any person pass or repass through a Close called Warth belonging to Widow Rhodes each person so offending shall forfeit the Sum of two Shilling and six pence.

Also We lay in pain that if any person or persons make a Horse Way betwixt Peer's and Gawburn Gap each person so offending shall forfeit to the Lord of the Mannor the Sum of five Shillings.

Also We lay in pain that if any person or persons make a Horse Way except with Corn to the Lord's Mill from Peer's to Shaw Houses each person so offending shall forfeit the Sum of five Shillings.

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1 Crossed out

Also We lay in pain that if any person or persons make a Horse Way through a Close called the Bent belonging to John Bentley of Boor's Hurst each person so offending shall forfeit to the Lord of the said Mannor the Sum of two Shilling and six pence.

Also We lay in pain that if any person or persons pull down the Fences in a Wood called Quick Wood belonging to the Lord of this Mannor each person so offending shall forfeit the sum of thirty shillings.

Also We lay in pain that if any person or persons make a Horse or Foot Way through any of the Lands belonging to John Bradbury of Thurstones each person so offending shall forfeit to the Lord of the Mannor the sum of ten Shillings.

Also We lay in pain that if any person or persons pull down the Fences or make a Way where they have no right in the Lands belonging to Henry Whitehead of Dobcross each person so offending shall forfeit to the Lord of the Mannor the Sum of five Shillings.

John Platt
Thomas Bradbury
Giles Shaw
William Shaw
James Kenworthey
James Scholefield
James Shaw
John Bentley
Robert ℛ Scholfield
his mark
Jonothan Winterbottom
James Wood

Henry Whitehead
James Rhodes

Affered by us

Michael Bothomley
James Buckley

(To be continued)

A.J. Petford.

OLD SADDLEWORTH

This is part of the work being carried out on a gazetteer of
by the Historical Society. As more of this work is completed, details
be published in future editions of the Bulletin.

WATERS GATE — Grid Reference SD 999

Location: Western side of Harrop Edge, where Waters Lane meets the abandoned original line of the Wakefield to Austerlands Turnpike.

Description: Early 19th century double-fronted farmhouse, with attached barn to South-West (now demolished), and modern garage and bedroom extension to North-East. North-West wall and North-East gable include masonry from an earlier building on the site.

History: In the early 17th century, several Castleshaw farmers rented or purchased 'intakes' in Lordsmere on their Eastern boundary. Sandbed, Intake Mead and Pack Horse (datestone on barn 1642 recorded by Higson) are all farms built on these

early enclosures on Harrop Edge. One such pioneer was Walter Scholefield after whom Walters (or Waters) Farm, Waters Mill, Waters Cote (now Castleshaw Camp School) and Waters Gate are named. Walter Scholefield is mentioned in the will of James Scholefield his father in 1617. He purchased the freehold of his farm in Castleshaw in 1618 and probably bought land on Harrop Edge around 1640. He is listed on the 1642 Protestation Returns and his sons Edmund and John are mentioned in the 1669 tithe survey.

1712 Thomas Platt pays 2d. chief rent for Waters.

1713 5 April. Will of Thomas Platt of Thorns, husbandman, leaving to his son Thomas a parcel of land in Castleshaw called Waters purchased of Robert Buckley and his wife Mary. These Buckleys have not been traced but they may have been related to the Scholefields or to the Harrops of Micklehurst and Bardsley who purchased other land from the descendents of Walter Scholefield.

1713 29 June. Edmund [should this be Thomas?] Platt of Waters buried at Saddleworth Church.

1723 26 May. John son of Thomas Platt clothier and Alice his wife of Waters baptised.

1726 18 February. James son of Thomas Platt clothier and Alice his wife of Waters baptised.

1726 21 December. Thomas Platt of Waters yeoman, mortgages his messuage, barn and outhousing with 3 acres of land in Castleshaw to George Wrigley of Further Hollingreave yeoman. The deed states that the land was originally enclosed from th common and divided by one Walter Scholefield into three closes, the Hall Green, Lower Intack and Upper Intack, but that it is now divided into six closes. (Registry of Deeds Z 96 133).

1729 2 November. Mary daughter of Thomas Platt clothier and Alice his wife of Walters baptised.

1729 6 Nov. Thomas Platt of Waters yeoman transfers the mortgage on his farm to Daniel Haigh of Marsden yeoman. Haigh died in 1733 and his property was held in trust by Luke Marsden on behalf of his daughters Hannah (who never married) and Mary (who married Joseph Wood of Almondbury). The Platts never redeemed their mortgage and their farm remained in the possession of the Wood family until very recently.

1736 6 Feb. Mary daughter of Ann Broadbent of Castleshaw spinster by Thomas Platt junior of Walters clothier baptised.

1741 15 July. Peggy daughter of Ann Broadbent of Castleshaw spinster by Thomas Platt clothier of Walters baptised.

1743 13 March. Thomas Platt junior of Walters clothier married Sarah Jackson of Moorcroft spinster.

1748 29 Dec. James Winterbottom of Grange clothier married Sarah Platt of Walters spinster.

1753 19 March. Mary daughter of James Winterbottom clothier and Sarah his wife of Walters baptised.

1754 3 Jan. John Platt of Walters clothier married Martha Kenworthy of Warrock Hill spinster.

1760 19 Feb. James Platt of Walters clothier married Hannah Carter spinster of Slackwood in Huddersfield.

1762 31 May. Alice daughter of James and Hannah Platt, Walters baptised.

1765 23 Sept. Thomas Platt of Waters senior buried. In his will he left his 'Messuage and Tenement situate at Walters which I hold under Mr. Luke Marsden Gentleman' to his younger sons John and James. Also mentioned are his eldest son, Thomas, his daughter Sarah wife of James Winterbottom and his daughter Mary who receives £5 10s. and 'the Bed wherein she usually lies together with the Beding thereto belonging... the Greater Chest in the House and also the Wheel which she usually spins wooll on'.

1767 John Platt of Waters a Churchwarden.

1769 7 May. James son of James Platt clothier and Hannah his wife of Waters baptised. The child was buried on 21 June that year.

1770 25 May. Mary Platt spinster of Waters buried.

1777 13 Aug. John Wood of Gatehead, Marsden, yeoman leases to John Platt of Waters clothier a 12yd. by 10yd. plot of land at Waters called the 'Old Garden where an Old House formerly stood' on which to build a house. (EA 520 731). The new house was built on the north side of Waters Lane (Grid Reference SD 998092) some distance from Waters Gate and adjacent to Waters Farm.

1779 1 April. Hannah wife of James Platt clothier of Waters buried.

1789 27 Sept. Martha wife of John Platt of Waters clothier buried.

1791 10 July. John Platt widower married Nanny Buckley.

1792 30 May. James Platt of Walters buried.

1793 17 May. Sarah wife of James Winterbottom of Walters buried.

1795 1 Dec. John Platt of Walters buried. In his will he directed that his 'freehold messuage at Waters' was to be occupied by his wife Nanny for life; then it was to be sold, John Wood to have first refusal. His 'tenement which I hold under lease under John Wood of Marsden' was to be sold and the residue of his estate divided amongst his nephews and nieces John Winterbottom, James Winterbottom, Joseph Platt, James Platt, Samuel Platt, Alice Platt, May wife of Robert Kenworthy, Mary wife of Jonathan Kershaw and Isabella Platt. Executors Thomas Law of Thame Barn and James Buckley of Sunfield.

1796 23 Oct. John son of Robert and Nanny Byrom, Waters, baptised.

1808 5 Nov. James Buckley of Sunfield clothier (surviving trustee of John Platt of Waters clothier deceased) sells to John Schofield of New Barn clothier the plot of land called the Old Garden with a dwellinghouse erected thereon by the said John Platt. (FQ 614 895). The Schofields later sold this house to the Longbottoms of Moorcroft who conveyed it to Oldham Corporation in 1888. (KB 483 438; 1888 35/818/439).

1833 29 June. Daniel Hague Wood of Gatehead, Marsden, gentleman, mortgages the messuage called Waters in the occupation of James Aked. The deed lists the fields as the Hall Green, Further Hall Green, Long Field, Even Field, Barn Hill Field and Moor Yate Field, comprising 10a. Or. 6d. (LO 551 511).

1841 Census. Waters: Michael Hirst, 41, Farmer.

1843 Tithe Award, Lordsmere. Waters: owner John Wood of Glossop, occupier Daniel England, acreage 8s. 3r. 12p n.b. Daniel England farmed the neighbouring property Waters Cote or Liftry Ditch.

1850 Ordnance Survey map gives the name of the farm as Mount Tabor. The origin of the name is obscure but most official references still use the name Waters.

1851 Census. Waters Lane Top: Edward Binns, 23, Woollen Slubber; Daniel Schofield, 37, Farm Labourer.

1860 21 Dec. John, Daniel and Samuel Wood, all of Glossop, cotton-manufacturers, purchase the neighbouring farm called Spring House (now the Cottage Motel). This was built on new land bought at the sale of Harrop Edge in 1810 by John Schofield.

1861 Census. Waters Top: William Redfern, 52, Farmer.

1886 Petition against the Oldham Corporation Water Works Bill signed by William Redfern, Mount Tabor.

1887 5 April. Daniel Wood and others sell a strip of land to Oldham Corporation for the construction of the Waterworks Road. The farm is then in the occupation of Ann Redfern. (1888 8/381/218).

1888 29 Sept. A Wood family settlement of this date describes their farm at Waters, 'formerly in the occupation of James Aked as tenant thereof', containing 10a. Or. 6p. with the fields called the Hall Green, Further Hall Green, Long Field, Corn Field, Barn Stile Field and Moor Yate Field. (1888 34/41/20). The Wood family remained landlords of Waters Gate until John Greaves bought the farm in 1964. Since 1970 it has been the home of Mr. Brian Begley.

The Editor of Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin is:

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Diggle,
Oldham.

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 JANUARY 1985

I am sad to report that Mrs. Edith Crank died early in January after a long period in hospital. Edith was a very enthusiastic member of the society, joining its many activities with a gusto which belied her 80 odd years. We remember her selling about 3000 'bricks' for the Museum extension at 50 pence a time, selling raffle tickets at social events, digging for flints with the Archaeological Section, spinning and weaving at the Museum and gallantly climbing mountains on expeditions to the Dales and the Lakes. She thoroughly enjoyed her Historical Society. We shall miss her. She asked for no flowers at her funeral, but donations to the Bernard Barnes Memorial Fund.

A site has now been chosen for the Bernard Barnes memorial stone and we hope to hold a dedication service, to be conducted by Canon Airne on Sunday the 12th May, 1985.

David and Audrey Chadderton have set up house in Beaconsfield and are, no doubt, getting involved in the local scene there. The other day we received a very handsome lamp for the lectern from David. We shall think of them as we listen to future talks at the Museum.

We have had some very interesting talks since the last newsletter.

Major Alan Mellodew of Moorside told the story of the Mellodew Family, a story which centred round Thomas Mellodew who was born in 1801 son of a hand loom weaver from Castleton, Rochdale. Thomas set up a business in Royton in 1838 with 32 looms. Installation of steam engines caused unrest and he established a business at Cowper Mill, Moorside in 1842. Major Mellodew read several extracts of letters to Thomas from his elder brother William and showed several items of industrial and sporting memorabilia.

The October meeting was held at the Millgate Centre when Michael Buckley gave a talk on 'The History of Denshaw'. Although living far away from Saddleworth Michael continued his interest in the history of the area which was fostered by his essay on Denshaw for the centenary of the Church when he was 16. In the 12th Century Saddleworth was granted to the Stapletons of Cudworth, near Barnsley, who used the land as hunting territory. Friarmere was transferred to the monks of Roche Abbey in 1245, but in the confiscation of land held by the monasteries in the 16th Century, Roger Gartside acquired much of the land in the Denshaw area. Mr. Buckley told of the industrial development in Denshaw particularly of the Print Mill established by the Butterworths and how after the Enclosures Act which parcelled land on Denshaw Moor John Gartside was able to buy most of the land from the holders and how in 1867 he built the shortlived Dowry Castle demolished by Oldham Corporation 30 years later when constructing reservoirs.

Mr. Buckley spoke of the works of Morgan Brierley, writer and historian, who married a Gartside from Dowry. Many of Morgan Brierley's writings are missing - if anyone knows of their whereabouts Julian Hunt, of the Local Interest Centre, would like to know of them.

The November lecture was by Councillor Ian McInnes who spoke on 'The Orders & Medals Research Society'. This society was formed in 1942 in London by seventeen men interested in medal ribbons and Mr. McInnes is member number 1233 out of 2500 members worldwide. In later years interest has shifted from ribbons to the men behind the medals and Mr. McInnes gave some fascinating accounts of the research about the recipients. The Northern Branch has 30 members and meets at Cheadle Hulme.

The Annual General Meeting in December was well attended and after the business of the meeting Julian Hunt showed some fascinating slides of press photographs from the 1950's.

The Members Slide Evening and party was an enjoyable affair with 5 collections of slides from members.

So interesting was the talk given by Alan Rose on Methodism in January last year that he was asked to give the January lecture this year. Taking 'Methodism in Saddleworth from 1828-1914' as his title he told of the building of the chapels in the area, information gleaned from research into the minutes of various committees. The first chapel on Millgate in Delph cost £900. To pay for it £231 was collected in Saddleworth, £300 was borrowed from John Marsden of Manchester at 5% and the rest came, as was the custom, from churches in the circuit connection from places such as Sheffield, Holmfirth, Sunderland, Bridlington, Whitby and Liverpool. The £300 was a long standing debt on which a yearly interest of £15 was paid. Mr. Rose read several interesting and humorous passages from 'On Larkhill,' by J.P.W. Mallalieu whose grandfather, Henry Mallalieu, owner of Bailey Mill, Delph, provided much of the cash required for the reconstruction of the chapel after a fire in 1894.

Future Programme. Museum 7-30 p.m.

Tuesday February 12th	Gilbert & Sullivan in Saddleworth. A. Thornton Hodge.
Wednesday March 20th	Building in Saddleworth 1600-1840 W.J. Smith.
Wednesday April 24th	Crimean War Letters. E. Hobson.

At the last committee meeting it was decided to tape lectures on request. This could be difficult when slides are shown, but if there is anyone expert in this service please come forward.

Archaeological Section. At the Swan Inn 7-30 for 7-45

Wednesday February 20th	Saddleworth from the air. A. Schofield.

Castleshaw Fort Excavation.

According to a report from Mr. D.R. Start, the Castleshaw Project Manager, work on the fort is progressing well. Mild weather allowed a base

survey and a contour survey to be completed before Christmas and these should provide material for a map to be ready in February. The team have begun exploratory work on the north eastern rampart of the inner fort and an area of cobbling has been uncovered which is presumed to be part of the intervallum road. Large spoil heaps of previous digs will have to be removed to ease further excavation.

Visitors are welcome at anytime during the working week. The site office telephone number is 71507. From July 8th - August 17th an opportunity will be given for anyone interested to help with the excavation so ring or call at the office to arrange things.

Museum.

The Museum rota from January to July is now in operation thanks for about 71 willing volunteers. 70 people doing 4 duties per year covers 90 of the 100 days per year so more volunteers are still required so if you would like to help please let me know.

There is to be a exhibition in the Museum Gallery 6th July - 11th August to celebrate Lord Rhodes 90th birthday and art exhibitions include work by Terry Kirman in March, Bernard Maplethorpe and Jeff Beaumont April/May, Peter Fox and John Holmes May/June, Edna Lumb September, Russel Howarth October, Mike Haken November and an exhibition of Costume from Castle Howard in August.

Circulation of Publications.

The Society subscribes to several publications which may be of interest to members.

These are:- Bulletin of the Association for Industrial Archaeology.
'Flywheel', Northern Mill Engine Society.
Proceedings of the Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society.
The Local Historian.
Local History News.

It is proposed that a list of people interested in one or more of these publications be drawn up so that circulation could be arranged with exchange being made at meetings. John Buckley has offered to take charge of the list.

Swap Shop.

There is to be another Swap Shop at the Heritage Centre in Hebden Bridge on the 23rd March. This is an occasion when local historical societies display their work and publications. It makes a very interesting afternoon out.

Membership Subscriptions 1985

May I take this opportunity of reminding you that the Membership Subscriptions for 1985 are now due and I would be pleased if you could complete the attached form at your earliest convenience in order to assist the Membership Section in the manner in which you have done so promptly in previous years.

Family Membership ..... £4. 75 Single Membership £3. 75
Students & Retired Members (per family) £2. 75
All inclusive of quarterly bulletin.

I seem to have gone on long enough - so, in the hope that if you do not come to the lectures you will and if you do not volunteer for Museum duty you will think about it. I will close now with best wishes for 1985.

J.G. Parry.
27.1.85