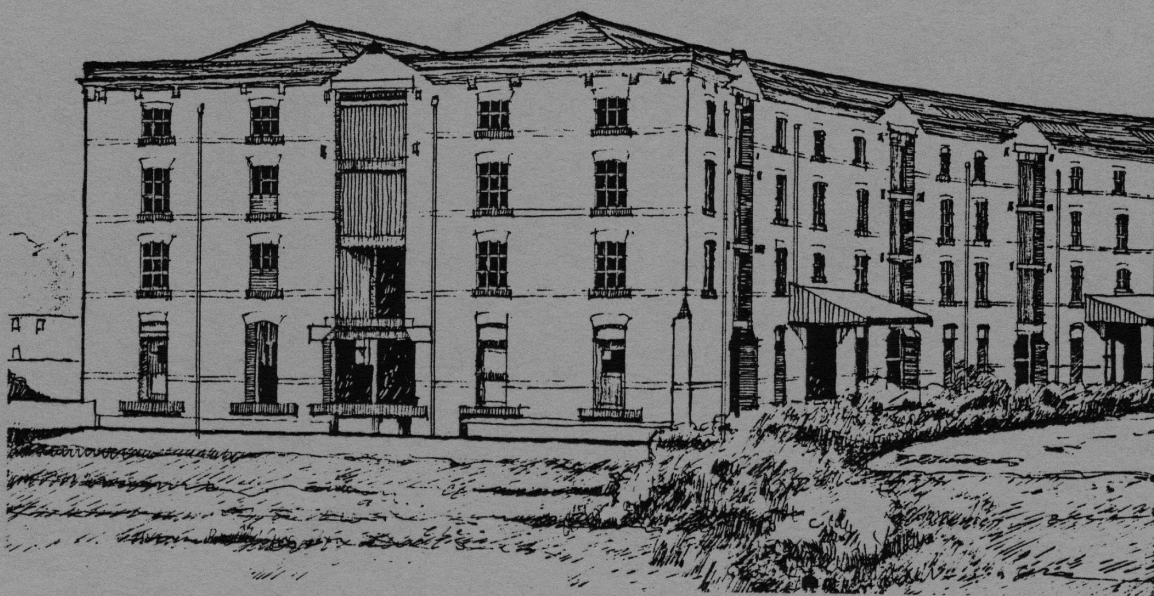


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Park Road Goods Warehouse, Oldham

Volume 15 Number 4

Winter 1985

BULLETIN
OF THE
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT A.G.M. 2ND DECEMBER, 1985

Much of the information in this report has been prepared by individual members of the committee and I am grateful to them for this and for their considerable service to the Society during the year.

We are, and have been in the past, very fortunate that year after year these members have devoted so much of their time on the Society's work and I say "year after year", because some of them, including myself, have continued in office for a long time.

I know that many societies have difficulty in persuading members to serve on the committee, but we have never had this problem and it is because of this that the Society flourishes. The policy of introducing younger members on to the committee either by appointment or by co-opting has proved very successful and should be encouraged. Mr. Julian Hunt and Mr. Godfrey Adams, Editor and Treasurer respectively now occupy two of the most responsible positions on the committee, positions which call for considerable work and skill. We co-opted Mr. W.J. Smith on the committee in July and Mr. David Gartside in November.

You will see from the Treasurer's report how much we have in the Bernard Barnes Memorial Fund. The Memorial Lecture this year was given in the Civic Hall by Mr. Mark Smith of Jesus College, Oxford, on 'Religion and Social Control in the Industrial Revolution'. The commemorative stone has been inserted in a field wall at Heights, Delph, where a dedication service, conducted by Canon Airne, was held in May. The area has been turfed and the Saddleworth Parish Council have generously purchased a seat which we installed there last month. A group of members have undertaken to keep the site tidy and arrangements are in hand to plant some suitable bushes there.

A working party has prepared a report which will be submitted to the next meeting of the committee. This report outlines the terms and conditions under which the Society will make grants from the Fund towards the cost of original research on the Pre-History and History of Saddleworth.

Six of our members have died during this year - Mrs. Edith Crank, Mrs. Janet Jones, Mr. Richard Jackson, Mr. Leslie Whitehead, Mr. William Broadbent, and Mrs. Kelly. In addition we lost a good friend of the Society when Mr. Kenneth Hirst died.

Our former Vice-Chairman, David Chadderton, keeps in touch with us. He has presented the Society with a light for the lectern. We were very pleased that his efforts to have Ladhill Bridge listed were successful this year. It has been given Grade 2 Protection as of special architectural and historic interest.

We have provided OMBC Chief Planning Officer, Mr. Coop with the history of the Old Saddleworth Bank in Dobcross. He has applied for this building to be listed. He has also applied for authority under Section 101 of the Town & Country Planning Act to carry out essential emergency repairs and to charge the owner for this if necessary.

Mr. Alan Petford reports on the work of the Listed Buildings sub-committee which he headed. Their survey of Saddleworth was finished in advance of the official one and Mr. Peter Bell, surveyor for the Department of the Environment found

this preliminary work of great assistance. Mr. Bell has finished his own survey and the report will be published in the New Year. He rounded off his stay in Saddleworth with an enjoyable talk on the buildings of our area. Alan concludes his report with thanks to all who participated in the Society's survey and the hope that they found it an enjoyable and educative experience.

The Society continues to have a representative on the Saddleworth Parish Council Conservation Advisory Committee which meets every month.

Our committee have been concerned about the overwhelming number of visitors who now descend on Saddleworth on fine weekends. They have written to Mr. Coop, Borough Planning Officer, expressing their fears that the commercial impetus to over-exploit the area could irreparably damage Saddleworth as a tourist attraction.

The committee learned that the OMBC are considering the formation and funding of a Tourist Association in Saddleworth. Two meetings have been held so far and our Society had a representative at each. We have been invited to discuss this subject with the OMBC and we are arranging a meeting with them.

The Membership Secretary, Mrs. Elsie Broadbent reports that we now have 337 members (231 subscriptions). This includes 19 new members, two of them Overseas, Mrs. Mary Martin from Texas researching the Edmund Wrigley Family and Mrs. D. Halmarick from Australia. The latter is researching the Whiteheads of Saddleworth with the help of another new member, Mr. T.G. Charles of Boston, Lincolnshire.

Professor Leonard Broadbent, our host for the Society outing to Ness Gardens on the Wirral has done extensive genealogical research into the Broadbents of Scouthead and Waterhead, together with the Broadbents from Diggle. Both he and his wife are descended from Broadbents.

Mr. Harold Rhodes Brown of Canada who is a fourth cousin of Lord Rhodes, has now brought his family tree up-to-date and has lodged a copy in our Archives.

Mr. & Mrs. L. Cavalier from Pennsylvania, U.S.A., paid another visit this year and continued their researches into the Woods with the help of Mr. & Mrs. L. Kidd of Greenfield, who provided some of the detail in our Summer Bulletin.

Elsie also reports on the very enjoyable Canal Evening which the Social Committee organised. It was held in the Museum in February. The proceeds £222 were given to the Museum who were very grateful for our help. The gallery was appropriately decorated for the evening and Elsie mentions particularly "Cloggers Knoll" by Gordon Parry. She also writes of the tireless efforts of Madame Porisse in the organisation of this function.

An interesting query arose this year. An Australian family, on a visit to this country, had been trying to trace what they believed was a town called Friezland. Fortunately, whilst staying overnight in Macclesfield they learned that Friezland was in Saddleworth and so they called at the Museum. Mr. Attard was descended from a Friezland woollen weaver who was sentenced to death in 1822 for the highway robbery of James Lawton, an employee of the Saddleworth Union Bank. The sentence was later commuted to transportation to New South Wales, Australia where he successfully established himself and prospered. The family was delighted to have found Friezland. I directed them to the old bank building in Dobcross and we have promised to do some back-tracking to see if we can uncover some information for them.

Mr. Jim Carr, leader of the Archaeological Group has given another detailed and interesting report as follows:-

Our last meeting of 1985 was held in the Swan, Dobcross when John and Wendy Murray gave an illustrated talk on their visit to Yugoslavia and the Roman remains there, especially the Emperor Diocletian's palace at Split. In February, Alec Schofield showed slides taken from the aerial survey of Saddleworth and a lively discussion took place. In April we had a joint meeting with the Huddersfield Archaeology Society who illustrated their Pule Hill excavations and took part in another interesting discussion. A fortnight later Canon Airne led us on an enjoyable tour of Lydgate and we looked at potential excavation sites. The Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit's Exhibition Caravan spent some time in Oldham, Uppermill, Delph and Castleshaw Roman Fort, the Roman Road through Saddleworth and our own Society's prehistoric excavations were prominently featured in the displays. We went to Blackstone Edge in May, to Meltham in June to see the Iron Age settlements excavated by the Huddersfield Society and reported in "The Brigantean".

We joined the Greater Manchester Unit's visit to Castleshaw with a tour of the site conducted by Mr. David Start, Director of the Castleshaw Project. In the following week the formal opening of the (Unfinished) reconstructed North Gate of the Roman Fort took place at Castlefield to mark the beginning of "Cordova Week". We have a longstanding reciprocal arrangement with the "Friends of the Craven Museum" and they came over to Saddleworth for a day in July when we went with them to the Castleshaw site and they had tea with us in the Museum followed by illustrated talks. During the following week David Gartside led us round the new Local Interest Trail covering Grotton, Lydgate and Springhead. It was a very wet day for this our last excursion of the summer. We met at the Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill in October for a quiz on Saddleworth set by Alec Schofield. Also in October Colin Harding held his WEA Class reunion at the Museum and the Swan Inn, Dobcross where they had a meal and showed slides of the Study Tour of Wales. On a November Saturday several members of our Group attended the reports meeting of the Council for British Archaeology Group 5 at Manchester University. On Wednesday last Dr. Stonehouse gave a very interesting talk entitled "Mesolithic Exploitation Patterns in Central Pennines", referring to a new book by Christine T. Williams of Sheffield University. The Group are now looking forward to Mr. David Start's talk later this month on "Castleshaw".

When weather has permitted Dr. Stonehouse has continued his excavation of a Mesolithic site on Pule Hill. The Group's Hon. Treasurer Mr. Fred Lees, has passed his cashbox to Bernard Tannock. We thank Fred for the excellent work he has done over the years and we hope he will continue to attend our meetings which will be held in 1986 on the second Wednesday of each month at the Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill.

Mr. Gordon Parry, Museum Liaison Officer points out in his report that he is also Reporter of the Society's lectures, writer of the quarterly Newsletter and responsible for drawing up the Museum Rota - for all of which posts, he claims, he is quite unsuited. Quite the opposite of course is the case. Like any tasks that Gordon has taken on these have been done with flair and care. Whenever possible he attends meetings of the Museum Management Committee where he never ceases to be amazed by the vigour and enthusiasm of the committee members and the work carried out - fund raising events, exhibitions (and particularly the Lord Rhodes Exhibition) and general maintenance and development of the Museum. The new gallery showing aspects of life in Saddleworth (made possible by a grant from the Carnegie Trust) is now complete and well worth a visit.

Much of the Committee time is spent in raising money to keep the Museum open. The Manpower Services Commission no longer funds the employment of Museum staff and further fund raising efforts have to be made to pay for their services. The Committee would be pleased to receive offers of help from Society members at any of their events. It is regrettable in some ways that so much attention must be given to fund raising, but at least it ensures an active participation in the Museum's affairs by many enthusiastic supporters.

It is a little more than a year since it was decided to include the Newsletter in the Bulletin. It was also decided to include a brief account of each of the lectures in the Newsletter. It would be interesting to have members views on these two developments.

The six monthly Museum duty rota is still working fairly well. It is satisfying that very few hitches occur. Once it is set in motion very little reference is made to Gordon, intelligent curators sorting out their own troubles. He would like to convey a sincere thank you to all those who accept the responsibility and do their duty stint so cheerfully.

Mr. Julian Hunt, our Editor, reports a very satisfactory year's work. Publication sales continue to be the backbone of the Society's finances. The Bulletins have been printed and produced on time. Three of our Local Interest Trails have been reprinted - Numbers 1, 2 and 6 and a new one Number 8 - 'Grotton, & Lydgate' has been produced with text by Mr. David Gartside. This has been well received. A further Trail 'Dobcross' is on the stocks. It should also be a winner. Mr. Gartside has taken on the onerous task of marketing all our publications except the Bulletins and Julian is very grateful for this help and he also expresses his gratitude to the Bulletin Distributors for the valuable part they play.

Our Archivist Canon Airne reports that our collection of Archives continues to grow. Among this year's acquisitions is the collection of the Delph Mechanics Institute. Mr. Maurice Dennett has produced an amended calendar this year. The provision of a Museum Archivist through the Manpower Services Commission has now come to an end so the work has now to be carried out in a voluntary capacity. The Museum has, therefore, appointed Mr. Maurice Dennett to take charge of its Archives with Canon Airne as his assistant. Canon Airne will continue to take charge of the Society's Archives and Mr. Dennett will be his assistant.

Canon Airne does not mention the responsible post he held in the organisation of Lord Rhodes 90th Birthday Celebrations and his broadcast on Radio Manchester on this subject. The Exhibition was formally opened by the Duke of Devonshire and the Lord Lieutenant and other local dignitaries were present.

Mr. Stanley Broadbent, our Vice-Chairman, since the departure of David Chadderton commences his report with "This year in office has been one of giving full support to the Chairman in his duties". This is indeed the case. He has been a great help to me, voluntarily taking on much of the work that should fall on me and I am very grateful to him and to Elsie.

Stanley's report is very brief. He refers to the Summer Outing to Ness Gardens and Ellesmere Port which he led, his liaison with the Museum on the Management Committee and the Steering Committee, the publicity he provides in the local press for the Society and the Museum and the work associated with the Lord Rhodes Exhibition. To go into the detail of each of these areas of activity would fill pages and still leave much unsaid. You will probably have seen last Summer the long banner on the outside wall of the Museum publicising Edna Lumb's Painting Exhibition. It measured 17ft x 2ft 6" and was made, drawn and painted by Stanley on his lounge floor at home. This sort of commitment should not pass unrecorded and it's a pleasure to acknowledge it.

Mr. John Buckley, head of our Industrial Archaeology Section has again this year devoted much of his time to the Textile Machinery Section of the Museum. Open Days have been held on five occasions when the Museum Textile Team demonstrated Spinning and Weaving. These have been well attended. The Dobcross Loom is weaving good quality cloth and some of this is being sold in the shop. Weekly working parties are held on Thursday evenings and at present a jacquard is being rebuilt for use on a hand loom.

In addition to this commitment, however, Mr. Buckley has laid down plans for a campaign of work at the Wool Road Warehouse in the coming year. Mr. Adrian Lord, the Honorary Architect for this project has had to withdraw from his post because of his professional commitments. The Group has, however, with his agreement, enlisted the help of Mr. William Hibbert, another Architect who has prepared working drawings for the next stage of the restoration. Meetings have been held on site and in the Museum. Once the doors are fitted to the Warehouse, the building work will be finished and it will be possible to use the building for storage. I hope that in 1986 more members will enrol in the Industrial Archaeology Group and that as a result we will be able to show considerable progress in the restoration of the Wool Road Warehouse.

Our Secretary, Mrs. Barbara Booth, continues to do all the jobs expected of a Secretary and more besides and she does them well. It is difficult to understand how she managed to cope before the post of Membership Secretary was created some years ago to relieve her of some of the work.

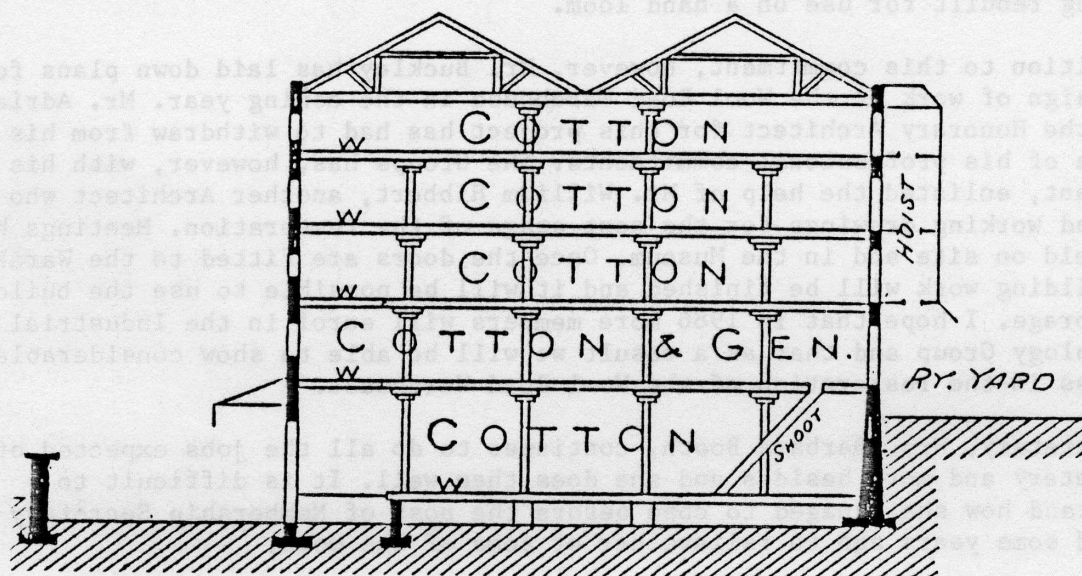
Today she still has a considerably workload arranging our meetings and those of the Committee, organising the lecture programme, dealing with outside bodies, always with a watchful eye on the interests of the Society and always ready to put me right when the occasion so demands. I am very grateful to her.

The 20th Anniversary of the founding of our Society falls in 1986 and I hope the new committee will arrange to celebrate this even with due acclaim.

PARK ROAD GOODS WAREHOUSE, OLDHAM

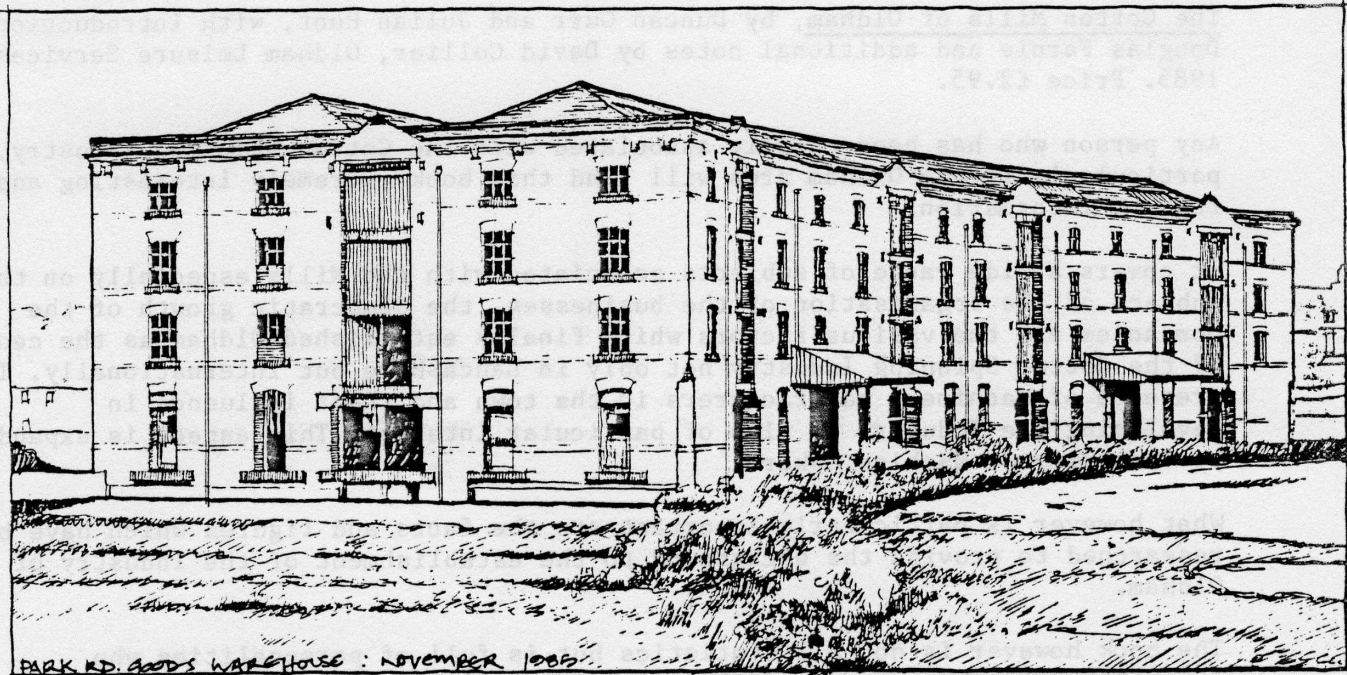
The railway goods warehouse on the corner of Park Rd. and Woodstock St. has received a good deal of local press coverage recently, following the Borough Planning Department's application for its demolition. The application has now been passed to the Secretary of State for his consideration.

The warehouse is Grade II listed on the D.O.E. List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. To be considered for listing a building after 1840 should have 'definite quality and character' (as Mr. Peter Bell informed the Society during his talk on 16th October). In fact, in the list it is described as "... a fine building of good proportions". The building is of red brick construction with stone facings under a double hipped, Queen post truss slated roof. It stands four storeys high from the yard level and five from ground level on the Park Rd. side. The design is the Cambrian style of architecture and it is unusual in its curvilinear plan shape of radius 5 chains (330 ft).



Cross-section of Warehouse - Oldham Local Studies Library

The history of the building's ownership is not entirely clear. A letter received by Oldham Borough Surveyors Office dated 22nd November 1875 confirms that it was designed by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Engineers Office in Manchester. This letter, which accompanied six revised drawings of the warehouse, requests that the drawings be substituted for those sent the previous August, the position and form of the structure having been considerably altered. The first set of drawings for the scheme show that the building was originally intended to be constructed over the tunnel and adjacent to the earlier warehouse which once stood on the site. The proposal was also for a rectilinear building. No indication is given for arranging its location and form to that of the present design.



The Oldham Chronicle of 6th May 1876 stated that on Monday morning, Mr. Henry Morgan, General Manager for the Oldham, Ashton and Guide Bridge Junction Railway Company laid the memorial stone of a new goods warehouse for that company on the Sheepwashes Lane (now Park Rd.) side of Clegg St. Station. The building was intended to be 253 feet long by 75 feet in width. The memorial stone which was placed under a window at the South East side, bore the following inscription: "This stone was laid by Henry Morgan Esq. Manager of the Oldham, Ashton and Guide Bridge Junction Railway, May 1st, 1876". Mr. Morgan after laying the stone said that the erection of the warehouse had become a necessity, seeing the prosperity of the Borough of Oldham. He hoped that the memorial stone would be the memorial of the prosperity of the people of Oldham. At the conclusion of the ceremony a dinner was given at the Central Hotel at which Mr. Bustard, one of the contractors for the new building, presided. Among the toasts proposed was that of "the Oldham, Ashton and Guide Bridge Junction Railway", to which Mr. Morgan responded, dwelling upon the advantages which the company had placed within the reach of the inhabitants of Oldham.

As Mr. J. Leeson pointed out in his recent letter to the Chronicle, the O.A. & G.B. Railway was vested jointly between the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway and the London and North Western Railway until the M.S & L.R. was renamed the Great Central in 1897. The drawings for the warehouse by the M.S. & L.R. Engineers' carry the title O.A. & G.B. Railway - Oldham (Local Board).

N. Wood.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Cotton Mills of Oldham, by Duncan Gurr and Julian Hunt, with introduction by Douglas Farnie and additional notes by David Collier, Oldham Leisure Services, 1985. Price £2.95.

Any person who has been closely associated with the Cotton Spinning Industry, particularly in the Oldham area will find this book extremely interesting and a fund of information.

It covers a wide range of subjects associated with the Mills especially on the subject of the organisation of the businesses, the democratic growth of the companies and the various factors which finally established Oldham as the centre of the Cotton Spinning Industry not only in Lancashire but internationally. The presence of Machinery manufacturers in the town and their influence in developing the Industry is also of particular interest. This aspect is expanded by a chapter on Machine Makers.

What however is particularly important are the facts and figures which have been researched to provide the background to the establishment of the Industry of Oldham.

The book however is not all statistics but is full of personalities who contributed to the success of Oldham. The names of John Platt, T.E. Gartside, Sir Sidney Stott readily come to mind. The Gazetteer of the Mills must have created a tremendous task and is very comprehensive and will be a major contribution as a record in the years to come.

The work and practices of the Architects of the Mills has been thoroughly researched and was of particular interest to me as some of the practices were still in being when I started as a junior architectural assistant, but most had disappeared by the beginning of the 1939/45 War.

The potted histories of the practices I found to be informative in tracing their foundations and developments.

The planning of the Mills was very much restricted by the limitations imposed by the Machinery Manufacturers which determined the width of the Mill to the length of the Mule carriages, the disposition of the Rope Race and the consequential effect of the location of the Engine House and Boiler House. This was somewhat restrictive to the architectural design of the Mills and limited the architects to treatment of the elevations and not least to the Sprinkler Towers which took many forms. As Architects their main contribution was in the actual construction of the Mills in which they introduced Cast iron for columns and beams and later used steel beams. The floors themselves were made fire proof (fire resisting) by using brick arching to span between the beams which was a real step forward by reducing the constant fire hazard in Mills.

The Builders also played their part and I was told in my early days that it was known for a Mill to be producing within one year of cutting the first sod on the site.

The book does not pretend to cover the development of Cotton Spinning through the years but perhaps an Introductory Chapter on the transition from a Cottage Industry to a machine produced product would fill the gap for those who are not so familiar with the early days of spinning.

It is rare indeed that within a lifetime that one becomes a part of history but for the older people of Oldham this book does just that.

A. Fairbrother.

Mesolithic Exploitation Patterns in the Central Pennines- A Palynological Study of Soyland Moor -Christine Williams, with a contribution by V.R. Switsur. B.A.R. British Series 139, 1985. ISBN 08 86054 329 3. Price £11.00

This book describes pollen research carried out on the peats of Soyland Moor. It is written by a specialist for specialists and is difficult for an amateur to assess but it is an important book - important to local prehistorians because Soyland Moor lies within six miles of Rochdale Town Hall and important to all prehistorians because the author's interpretations of her results undermines what she describes as 'the long held but unsubstantiated hypothesis of a Neolithic Invasion'.

Soyland Moor lies just to the North of the Littleborough-Ripponden road, on the Eastern flank of the Pennine watershed at a height of 1200' O.D., at a point where the Pennines are very narrow.

This area was selected for research because it contains a mire where the peat is more than 7 metres thick and because of its proximity to what Christine Williams describes as 'the most densely occupied area of Mesolithic Britain', an area which includes Rishworth Moor and the Saddleworth - Marsden moors, where Francis Buckley carried out his extensive field work and excavations in the 1920's.

Such an area might reasonably be expected to provide evidence of forest clearance by Mesolithic man if such took place. Christine Williams claims that she can indeed demonstrate two long and intensive periods of clearance in the Late Mesolithic of the fairly light upland tree cover, both lasting 500 years or more and both brought about, not by fire but by long term artificially heightened forest grazing. In the author's opinion these intensive clearance activities suggest that we should be thinking, not of small groups making small temporary short lived hunting camps in the late autumn, but rather of much larger numbers staying for a much longer time, perhaps for the whole summer or for the whole year.

As she admits the archaeological evidence does not support such a model - the excavated sites are small with a dearth of domestic and maintenance equipment but she points out that David Clarke has suggested that microliths might be used for processing food. I imagine that most local workers will find this a somewhat unlikely scenario but it is certainly true that many sites are found to have a sister site with a similar industry close at hand.

Cereal grains were found in the profile of Site D. (one of her four sites) at a point which was dated to 3870 b.c. by V.R. Switsur who carried out a series of radio-carbon determinations which provide the only lengthy pollen diagram in the Pennine Hills which has been dated.

This date, 3870 b.c. is the earliest date for the finding of cereals in the British uplands and long precedes the Elm Decline.

Certainly, anyone who reads this book must be convinced of the great changes that have occurred in our hills in the course of the comparatively short time of six or seven millenia, during which a landscape of light woodland and scrub with rich and varied vegetation has been translated into the barren but beautiful peat moorlands of today, changes which may in part have been initiated by the activities of a mere handful of hunter-gatherers, several thousand years ago.

Dr. W.P.B. Stonehouse.

THE MASTERS FAMILY

The 1983 Saddleworth Festival of the Arts saw the appearance of an excellent publication entitled Saddleworth - The Australian Connection, written by the late Bernard Barns and Dorothy Schofield.

One of the fascinating stories told by the above writers concerns a James Masters who left Saddleworth, England in 1839 for South Australia, where James built a homestead just north of the present day Riverton and called it Saddleworth Lodge. Around 1846 he established a township about ten kilometres north from here, and named it Saddleworth.

Describing their attempts to trace the history of the Masters family in England, the authors tell how their investigations led them to the graveyard of Bolton Percy Church in the Vale of York. As a result of this visit they were able to establish beyond doubt that James Masters had returned from Australia and had died at York on 4th October, 1861.

My own interest in the Masters family arose partly through reading the above publication, and also through a conversation I had with two of my wife's distant relatives concerning the Platt branch of their family. As a result of researches into the latter it was discovered that Serena Platt married William Masters at St. Chad's Church, Rochdale, on 9th November, 1848. Serena, born 2nd September, 1827 (bapt. 22nd November, 1827, at Uppermill Wesleyan Chapel) was the daughter of Joseph Platt, painter, of Uppermill and his wife Jane (nee Wood) (3). Serena's sister Frances Amelia, born 13th January, 1846 (bapt. 2nd February, 1846, at Ebenezer Congregational Chapel, Uppermill) was my wife's paternal grandmother.

William Masters, son of John and Henrietta, was born at Stockport, Cheshire, around 1824 (5), although his baptism did not take place until 24th May, 1829, at St. Chad, Saddleworth. William's father, John Masters, Excise Officer of Halifax, married Henrietta Hitchin, of the same parish, at Halifax Parish Church, on 6th June, 1819 (6,7). Their son John, born 23rd November, 1819, was baptized at Halifax Parish Church on 7th July, 1822 by which time the family was living at Stockport (6,8). Precisely when John and Henrietta Masters moved from Stockport to Saddleworth is not known, but probably it was by 1829, the year in which their son William was baptized here. By the year 1838 John had become victualler at the Nudger Inn, Dobcross (9), his predecessor there, being William Warhurst who combined the trade of blacksmith with that of licensee (1) and was at the Nudger until at least 1830 (10).

The Masters seem to have been somewhat nomadic by nature, for we find by 1841, that they had moved to Lees, where John had become Toll Collector (11). So far I have been unable to trace their movements after 1841 although at the time their son William was married in 1848, John was still being described as a Toll Collector.

During their sojourn in Saddleworth, Henrietta at least, was admitted a member of Ebenezer Congregational Church, although an entry in the Church Book states that she had been absent for years and was "dismissed to Springhead, May, 1845". According to the same Church Book, William Masters of Uppermill, was admitted to the church, 1st May, 1840, on the same day as his wife's cousin, another Serena Platt, daughter of James Platt of Prospecation, and future wife of James Bottomley, a woollen manufacturer of Hollingrove.

According to the 1841 census, William Masters was then a cloth dresser's apprentice living in Uppermill with William Broadbent, a woollen cloth dresser and his family. Ten years later at the age of 27, he was an auctioneer and valuer, living with his wife and seven month old son, Sidney H., at Platt Lane, Dobcross. A trade directory of the year following lists "Wm. Masters, Dobcross, auctioneers and appraisers" (12).

A second son, Charles James Swinden Masters, was born to William and Serena on 4th January, 1852. The latter, who became a joiner by trade, married Alice Adamson, a native of Lowton, Lancs., in 1874, the marriage being registered in the Altricham District of Cheshire.

This latter couple had at least two children - Sidney Adamson Masters, born 26th October, 1874, at Uppermill, and Serena Margaret, born 1877 at Salford, Lancs. In 1881, Alice Masters, a milliner and dressmaker, was living in High Street, Uppermill, with the above two children, and a servant, Dinah E. Fuller, a native of Gravesend. Alice's husband was presumably away from home at the time of the census (14).

Further research is necessary to trace William and Serena Masters' movements after 1851, but it would appear that they probably moved to Uppermill (15). It is known that they eventually moved to Manchester, a 1877/78 directory listing William as auctioneer, valuer, estate agent, and agent for the Life Association of Scotland, with offices at 3 Macdonalds Lane, Corporation Street, Manchester. The family's residence was Anson Terrace, 136 Dickenson Road, Rusholme.

Although living in Manchester, William and Serena had two of their children baptized at St. Chad, Saddleworth on 8th January 1878. They were Serena Florence, born 17th February, 1862, and Amelia Jane, born 25th October, 1863. Another child Percy, aged 14 months, was buried at St. Chad on 26th April, 1867.

Whilst recently looking through a fascinating collection of old photographs in a family album, I was dismayed to find how few there were which carried any name or other means of identification. However, one photograph which is reproduced here, has written on the back, "From Bro. William to Sister Amelia, Oct. 6. 1886". It is assumed that it was given to my wife's grandmother Frances Amelia, and that it was from her brother-in-law, William Masters.



William Masters

My first encounter with the name Masters came during a study of Oldham Inns and Taverns which I carried out for Oldham Libraries Department some years ago, although at that time I did not know of the relationship with the Platt family. It has already been pointed out (1) that the James Masters who went to Australia, had been victualler at the King's Head in Dobcross (now the Swan) although it was not known at the time what the relationship was between him and the John Masters discussed above.

After James's return to England shortly before his death, he resided at York with his brother Charles Masters, to whom he had mortgaged his land and house at Lark Hill, Saddleworth, in 1838 before leaving for Australia. Charles at that time lived at Nun Appleton, Yorks., and described himself as a "gentleman" (1). Charles Masters died at 61 Market Street, York, on 24th November, 1868. Under the terms of his Will (15) made 30th March, 1863, he gave his nephew, William Masters of Uppermill, Saddleworth, his six cottages situated at Dobcross, also a sum of one hundred pounds. Sums of money were also left to his nephew Charles Carrack of Appleton Roebuck, niece Mary Carrack of the same place, and to his nephew Aaron Thomas Carrack of Whitwell. A sum of two hundred pounds was left to his niece Jane Hancock "now residing in South Australia", whilst to his nephew Charles Swinden of Riverton in South Australia he left his seven cottages situated at Middlesbro', Yorks., as well as the residue of his personal estate both in the United Kingdom and in South Australia. The latter was also appointed executor for those parts of his personal estate outside the United Kingdom. His late wife's sister, Eliza Ewing of Glenavon, County Antrim was also a beneficiary under the Will.

The above Charles Swinden died during the lifetime of Charles Masters as did one of the other executors and a third executor renounced his right and title to the probate and execution of the Will. Letters of Administration were therefore granted on 15th February, 1869 to William Masters, auctioneer, of Uppermill, and Charles Carrack of Appleton Roebuck, farmer.

It is now time to examine the earlier history of the Masters family, and I must record here my appreciation of the help received from Mrs. Heather Perkins of Bishopthorpe, who undertook research on my behalf at the Borthwick Institute in York.

The ancestors of the above family came from the county of Dorset where they were already resident by at least the mid 18th century. Charles Masters, grandfather of the above John, James and Charles, was bailiff and gamekeeper to the Cary family of Up Cerne, Dorset. The manors of Up Cerne and Stockwood with land in several parishes, were sold to Nicholas Cary of Hackney, Middlesex in 1685 (16) and it seems likely that Charles Masters was employed by the latter's grandson, another Nicholas Cary who died in June 1761, aged 42 years.

Charles Masters married Frances Foote, daughter of Jerome Foote, a tailer of Alton Pancras, Dorset, and their family included a son Henry who was baptized at Alton Pancras on 14th November, 1761 and a daughter Fanny, baptized at Up Cerne on 11th April, 1765.

Henry Masters (b. 1761) left Dorset for Yorkshire where he married on 2nd October, 1787, at Bolton Percy, Margaret Idle, daughter of John Idle, a schoolmaster of York. Henry became a servant and then huntsman to Sir William Milner of Nun Appleton (formerly of Pudsey). By the year 1799 he was a turnpike bar keeper.

The publication (1) mentioned earlier, illustrates a gravestone in the churchyard of Bolton Percy and this records six of the eleven children of Henry and Margaret Masters who are all listed below:

Baptized at Bolton Percy

HENRY MASTERS	bapt. 13th January, 1788 died 7th February, 1805; bur. 10th February, 1805 at Tadcaster.
MARY MASTERS	bapt. 19th September, 1790 married Thomas Carrack, 15th June, 1819, at St. Mary's Bishophill Senior, York.
CHARLES MASTERS	bapt. 24th June, 1792 died 24th November, 1868 at York.
THOMAS MASTERS	bapt. 13th August, 1794 married Mary Forth, 8th december, 1823, at Bolton Percy.
JOHN MASTERS	born 23rd September, 1796; bapt. 13th February, 1797 (see earlier for other details)
ANN MASTERS	born 24th March, 1799; bapt. 27th March, 1799 died 4th August, 1809 at Tadcaster; bur. at Tadcaster.

Baptized at Tadcaster

JAMES MASTERS bapt. 17th May, 1801
 died 4th October, 1861 at York.
 Married twice, his second wife being Elizabeth Brown, the
 marriage being by licence at Bramham Parish Church, Yorks.,
 on 21st December, 1829. James, a widower, was living in
 Dobcross, Saddleworth at that time. The couple's son, Edwin,
 aged 5 months, was buried at Holy Trinity, Dobcross, on
 1st April, 1831. (see Saddleworth - The Australian Connection
 for details of his activities in Australia.

FRANCES MASTERS born 2nd June, 1803; bapt. 18th October, 1803
 married John Swinden, 1st November, 1825, at
 Bolton Percy.

WILLIAM MASTERS born 9th December, 1805; bapt. 6th June, 1806
 died 1823.

ROBERT MASTERS born 27th April, 1808; bapt. 23rd December, 1808
 died 3rd March, 1810; bur. 6th March, 1810 at
 Tadcaster.

JANE MASTERS born 9th February, 1810; bapt. 6th March, 1810
 died 6th June, 1832.

I am informed that one descendant of the Masters family became a member of the dental profession.

Some time ago whilst looking through the scrapbooks in the Irad Hewkin collection at Uppermill Library, I noted a newspaper reference to a Church of England minister called Masters who apparently had Saddleworth connections. The article referred, I believe, to a meeting in London about 1938 of the above

clergyman with a Mrs. R. Mallalieu of Dobcross. I have wondered whether the minister in question was in any way related to the Rev. Frederick George Masters who died on 14th April, 1939 (Obit. The Times). The latter was at one time stationed in South Australia.

I shall be delighted to hear from any members of the Masters family who happen to read the present article.

In conclusion I should like to record my appreciation to Mrs. Kathleen Thornton and Mrs. Betty Mills of Uppermill, who first aroused my interest in the Masters family, to the staff of the Dorset County Record Office who checked several registers etc. on my behalf, the Rev. D.G. Openshaw and Mr. R. Wilde for making available the Ebenezer Church records, and finally my friend Mr. Harry Horton for supplying various information from sources in the Manchester Central Library.

L. Kidd.

References

- (1) Barnes, Bernard, and Schofield, Dorothy (1983), Saddleworth - The Australian Connection
- (2) Uppermill Wesleyan Chapel (Microfilm of Baptisms, 1813-1837). Local Studies Library, Oldham
- (3) Kidd, L.N. (1985), The Wood family of Saddleworth Fold, Heathfields and Spring Gardens, Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin, 15, 27-30
- (4) Ebenezer Congregational Chapel, Uppermill (Register of Baptisms 1837 -).
- (5) 1851 Census (microfilm). Local Studies Library, Oldham.
- (6) International Genealogical Index (IGI), Yorkshire (Microfiche). Local Studies Library, Oldham
- (7) Halifax Parish Church (Microfilm of Marriage Register). Local Studies Dept., Kirklees Library, Huddersfield.
- (8) Halifax Parish Church (Microfilm of Baptismal Register). Local Studies Dept., Kirklees Library, Huddersfield.
- (9) Pigot & Sons Directory, 1838.
- (10) Parson & White's Directory of Leeds etc. : Saddleworth, 1830.
- (11) 1841 Census (microfilm). Local Studies Library, Oldham.
- (12) Whellan & Co., Manchester Directory, 1852.
- (13) St. Catherine's House Marriage Index (microfilm). Genealogical Branch Library, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Huddersfield.
- (14) 1881 Census (microfilm). Local Studies Library, Oldham.
- (15) Will of Charles Masters, Principal Registry, Family Division, Somerset House, London.
- (16) Hutchins' (1870), History of Dorset, 3rd edn., Vol. IV.
- (17) Crockford's Clerical Directory.

SADDLEWORTH COURT ROLLS PT. IV 1750

Manor of Sadleworth)
or Quick) The Court Baron of James Farrer Esq. holden for his
Manner aforesaid at the House of Michael Bottomley Innholder in Sadleworth
aforesaid on the thirteenth day of June in the twenty fourth year of the Reign
of our Sovereign Lord George the second by the grace of God of great Britain
France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and in the year of our Lord 1750
before the free Suitors of the said Court and Samuel Fenton Gentleman Steward of
the Courts of the Manner aforesaid.

Inquisition there taken the day and Year abovesaid upon the Oaths of

James Harrop Gentleman	Sworn		
Ralph Whitehead Gentleman	)	Robert Low Gentleman	)
John Scholefield Gentleman	) Sworn	Robert Buckley Gentleman	) Sworn
John Andrew Gentleman	)	James Saville Gentleman	)
Henry Buckley	)	John Winterbottom	)
John Garside Gentleman	)		
James Scholefield Gentleman	) Sworn		
John Platt Gentleman	)		
John Whitehead Gentleman	)		

pains Laid at the Court aforesaid

Wee Lay in pain that if any person or persons make a foot way through Josiah
Lawton closes called the Green bottom the Stoney Road, the back side and the
High field (belonging to the Gate head tenement) out of the accustomed foot way
Each person So offending Shall forfeit the Sum of 0^l 1^s 0^d

Wee Allso Lay in pain that if any person or persons make a way through Elias
Wrigley further Long field and Nearer Long field (Except Such as have a right So
to do,) Lyeing Near Saddleworth fould, Each person So offending Shall forfeit
the Sum of 0 1^s 0^d

Wee allso Lay in pain that James Wrigley of Saddleworth fould do open the
antiant watercourse through the overfield and Little field and Keep the Same
open for the future So as the Same will not anoy William Buckley of Saddleworth
fould aforesaid in his fould or houseing but for Neglect shall forfeit the Sum
of 0^l 1^s 0^d

Also an Exact account Given in of all the freehold Estates held by Lease for
Life or Lives under James Farrer Esquire within his manner of Saddleworth as
Follows
to Witt.

James Harropp tenement at tamm water Leased for the term of three Lives,
Thomas Platt of Woollroad the onely Surviving Life

William Buckley tenement at Stones allso Leased for three Lives the Said
William Buckley the onely Surviving Life

John Whitehead of Shaw hall tenement Called Shaw Hall allso Leased for three
Lives the Said John Whitehead the onely Surviving Life

James Scholfield and John Andrew tenement Called Wellehole Leased for the
term of three Lives Mary Andrew wife of the Said John Andrew the onely Surviving
Life

George Shaw tenement Called Hawkyard tenement allso Leased for three Lives the Said George Shaw the Elder the onely Surviving Life

William Shaw tenement at boreshurst Called Lower house Leased for 3 Lives the Said William Shaw the onely Surviving Life

Joshua Radcliffe tenement at fould Leased for three Lives and John Radcliffe his Son the onely Surviving Life

Robert Buckley tenement at Whitelee Leased for three Lives and Said Robert his Wife Mary Buckley the Surviving Lives

John Buckley of Lydyate tenement at Brownhill held by Lease for three Lives by the Said John Buckley Ann his Wife and Son James Lives all in being

Allso his tenement at Gatehead Joyntly with Robert Buckley his Brother held for three Lives Robert Buckley and Alice his Sister Surviving Lives

Allso their tenement at Lydyate held for three Lives John and Robert Buckley the Surviving Lives

Robert Winterbottam tenement at Knarr Joyntly with John Whitehead of Knar Barn held by Lease for three Lives, thomas Lees of osterlands blacksmith and Elizabeth (gap in the original) Late Relict of John Lees the two Surviving Lives

John Wrigley tenement at midgreave held by Lease for three Lives the said John Wrigley and Robert Wrigley his Brother the Surviving Lives

John Hazlegreave tenement at Wallhill Leased for three Lives the Said John Hazlegreave and Hanna his Mother and Mary his Sister Lives in being

Mr Ralph Whitehead tenement at Lydyate held by Lease for three Lives to Witt the Said Mr Ralph Mr William and Mr James Whitehead Lives in being

William Kenworthy the Elder at hobhole held by Lease for 3 Lives the Said William Kenworthy the onely Surviving Life

Robert Scholfield tenement Called Brow Leased for three Lives the Said Robert the onely Surviving Life

Robert Winterbottom of Brunedge tenement at brun edge Leased for 3 lives Thomas Robert and timothy all alive

William Kenworthy the younger for Load hill tenement for 3 Lives James Kenworthy his Brother Surviving Life

William Kenworthy the elder tenement leased for 3 Lives the onely Surviving Life John Nield

Isaac Scholefield tenement Leased for 3 Lives the onely Surviving Lives the Said Isaac Scholfield and John his Brother Survive

Widow Rhoades of Green tenement Leased for 3 Lives the onely Surviving Life Enoch Andrew

James Broadbent Carr head tenement Leased for three Lives the Said James Broadbent and Elias his Brother the Surviving Lives

Thomas Bradbury of Diglee tenement Leased for 3 Lives the Said Thomas
Bradbury the Surviving Life

Joshua Radcliffe Berches tenement Leased for 3 Lives the Said Joshua William
and Sarah his Brother and sister all in being

John Bentley Boreshurst Leased tenement Leased for 3 Lives the said John and
Elizabeth his Mother the 2 Surviving Lives

Alexander Radcliffe tenement at Mallockhill Leased for 3 Lives the Surviving
Lives Martha Wrigley and Ann Radcliffe Widow the 2 Surviving Lives

Edward Lees tenement Leased for 3 Lives the said Edward Lees the onely
Surviving Life

William Radcliffe of cross for old Radcliffes tenement Leased for 3 Lives
Surviving Lives the said William And Joshua Radcliffe Surviving Lives

Edmund platt tenement Called Swifts Leased for Lives the said Edmund and his
Brother Thomas platt the 2 Surviving Lives

Amercements Laid by the Jurers aforesaid as Follows

Wee amerce John Wrigley of Thorps for getting turff upon
Esquire Farrar Common haveing no right so to do
in the Sum

)
) 10 s0 d6

Joseph Hewood Pindar Sworn

James Harropp
Ralph Whitehead
John Scholfield
John Andrew
Henry Buckley
Robert Lees

his
Robert **R** Buckley

mark
James Sevell
John Winterbottm
John Gartside
James Scholefield
John Platt

his
John **I** Whitehead
mark

(To be continued)

A.J. Petford

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 1986

There have been several meetings since the last newsletter starting with Mr. Peter Bell's talk on 'Historic Buildings in Saddleworth.' As usual when this subject is on the agenda there was a good attendance. Mr. Bell, an architect, is engaged on the Department of Environment Survey of Historic Buildings in Greater Manchester.

For a few months in 1985 Mr. Bell was inspecting houses and architectural features in Saddleworth in order to submit recommendations to the Department for listing. The present list was drawn up in 1967.

He showed slides of various things which could be considered for listing saying that there was a need to look for special architectural or historical features and to include buildings of quality and character or the innovative use of materials or technical achievement.

Mr. Bell took many photographs during his survey and copies of these will shortly prove to be a valuable asset to the Society's Archives.

At the November meeting Alan Brooke, author of a series of articles in the Bulletin on the working class in Saddleworth, gave an illustrated talk on Huddersfield Mills. We had a look at the development of the textile industry's architecture on the other side of the Pennines. Although many of the huge six storey mills built in stone still stand today the general trend is that many mills in Huddersfield and district are now being demolished and Mr. Brooke expressed a hope that as every mill's biography was unique their history should be recorded.

Then came the Annual General Meeting when the principal officers were re-elected for a further year. For our Chairman John Murray this is his 18th year of office. A remarkable achievement. I believe it is true to say that he is as enthusiastic about the Society's affairs today as he was in those early days and his report in this Bulletin for 1985 will testify.

Other officers re-elected were the Vice Chairman, Stanley Broadbent; the Secretary, Mrs. Barbara Booth; the Treasurer, Godfrey Adams. Members of the Committee are :- Julian Hunt, Editor; Canon Airne, Archivist; Jim Carr, Archaeology Group; John Buckley, Industrial Archaeology; Elsie Broadbent, Membership Secretary; Alan Petford, David Gartside, David Latimer, John Smith, Gordon Parry.

After the business of the meeting Julian Hunt gave an illustrated talk on 'The Cotton Mills of Oldham.' This is the title of a new publication which tells the story of Oldham's cotton mills, their architects and their architecture. Julian spoke of the work of the architects A.H. Stott, E. Potts, F.W. Dixon, P.S. Stott, A. Turner and George Stott. He hopes the book will increase our awareness of the quality of the buildings and that in spite of the decline of the cotton spinning industry many mills could be preserved.

The Members' Slide Evening on the 13th December, was a very pleasant affair with wine and mince pies. Particularly interesting were the slides shown by Alan Petford. They were of early colour photographs taken before the

14-18 War by a Russian photographer who took three photographs of the same scene using three different filters, red, yellow and green, and then projected them simultaneously to give a coloured image on a screen. As well as being an interesting technical achievement they presented a picture of Russia before the Revolution.

The January meeting was also very well attended to hear a talk entitled 'Lidyate in Saddleworth', by Canon Airne the Society's Archivist, who gave a well researched and detailed account of the principal families of Lydgate such as the Whiteheads and the Buckleys, from the 13th century to the 19th century linking historical records, wills, deeds and maps with slides of the hamlet as it is today. No doubt his findings will form the basis of a Bulletin article at some future date.

Future programme.

Tuesday
18th February.

Museum - 7.30 p.m.

Dobcross: The Growth of a Pennine Village.
Julian Hunt.

Tuesday
18th March.

Roman Manchester.

John Walker. Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit.

Tuesday
22nd April.

A look at old Halifax.
Alan Petford.

The latter lecture is to be followed by a visit to Halifax on Sunday 27th April, 1986, and not Saturday the 26th, as printed in the Syllabus. Alan now feels that a Sunday visit would be more enjoyable.

Friday 10th October, 1986 at the Civic Hall, Uppermill. 20th Anniversary. Looking well ahead your Social Committee has booked the Civic Hall for a celebration of our 20th anniversary.

Julian Hunt has arranged a meeting with the Lancashire Dialect Society to be held on the 31st August, 1986. Further details later.

Saturday 12th July, 1986 Society Trip.

Jim Carr has plans for a trip to Roche Abbey, Hardwick Hall, Abbeydale and Creswell Crags. Again, details later.

Archaeological Group Programme.

Meetings at the Cross Keys, Uppermill. 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday
12th February.

Romans on the Rhine.
Ken Booth.

Wednesday
12th March.

To be arranged.

Wednesday
9th April.

Grasscroft Trail. A W.E.A. walk.
6-30 p.m. at the Farrars Arms.

The W.E.A. have planned a 10 week Spring Course 'Ancient Greece' with Mrs. Elizabeth Henry. This is to start on Wednesday, 9th April, 1986 at 7.15 p.m., at Saddleworth School.

I hear that the W.E.A. is also organising monthly evening walks based on the Society's Interest Trails starting 9th April.

Circulation of Publications.

John Buckley has a circulation list for the following publications Flywheel, Local Historian, Bulletin of Association for Industrial Archaeology, Local History News, Proceedings of the Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society. If you would like to be included on the list contact John Buckley 2896.

Subscriptions.

Once again the Society yearly subscription is due and the new rates are detailed. Your payment would be most welcome by the Membership Section and a form is enclosed with the Bulletin for your completion.

Family Membership		£5. 00
Single Membership		£4. 00
Retired Membership (per family) ...		£3. 00
Student Membership		£3. 00

By way of a new item a welcome is extended to the new members joining in 1986 and their names are listed below, wishing them a happy and fruitful membership to the Society.

Mrs. A.M. Bogdanovic, Exeter,	Miss R. Smith, Dobcross.
Mr. & Mrs. A.I. Garnett, Shelderslow,	Mr. & Mrs. K. Whitehead, Delph.
Mr. & Mrs. T. Kimblin, Lees.	Mr. & Mrs. E. Radcliffe, Uppermill.
Mr. & Mrs. P.N. Taylor, Greenfield.	

Esther Shaw Lawn Donation.

Mrs. Shaw Lawn of California, our most generous benefactor, has made another donation to the Society. 200 dollars, with which we plan to purchase portable display equipment to fill a long felt need.

Bernard Barnes Memorial Fund

The seat so kindly provided by Saddleworth Parish Council is now in position at the memorial site at Heights. Perhaps I shall see you up there one day this summer.

Bernard Barnes Memorial Fund - Research Grant.

Applications are invited for grants towards research on the pre-history social, economic, industrial, political, ecclesiastical and administrative history of Saddleworth. The Society intends to make a grant annually in the region of £100. Applications in the first instance must be made to The Secretary, Mrs. Barbara Booth, Ceann, Friezland Lane, Greenfield, Saddleworth, Oldham OL3 7EU, not later than the 31st May, 1986.

J.G. Parry.