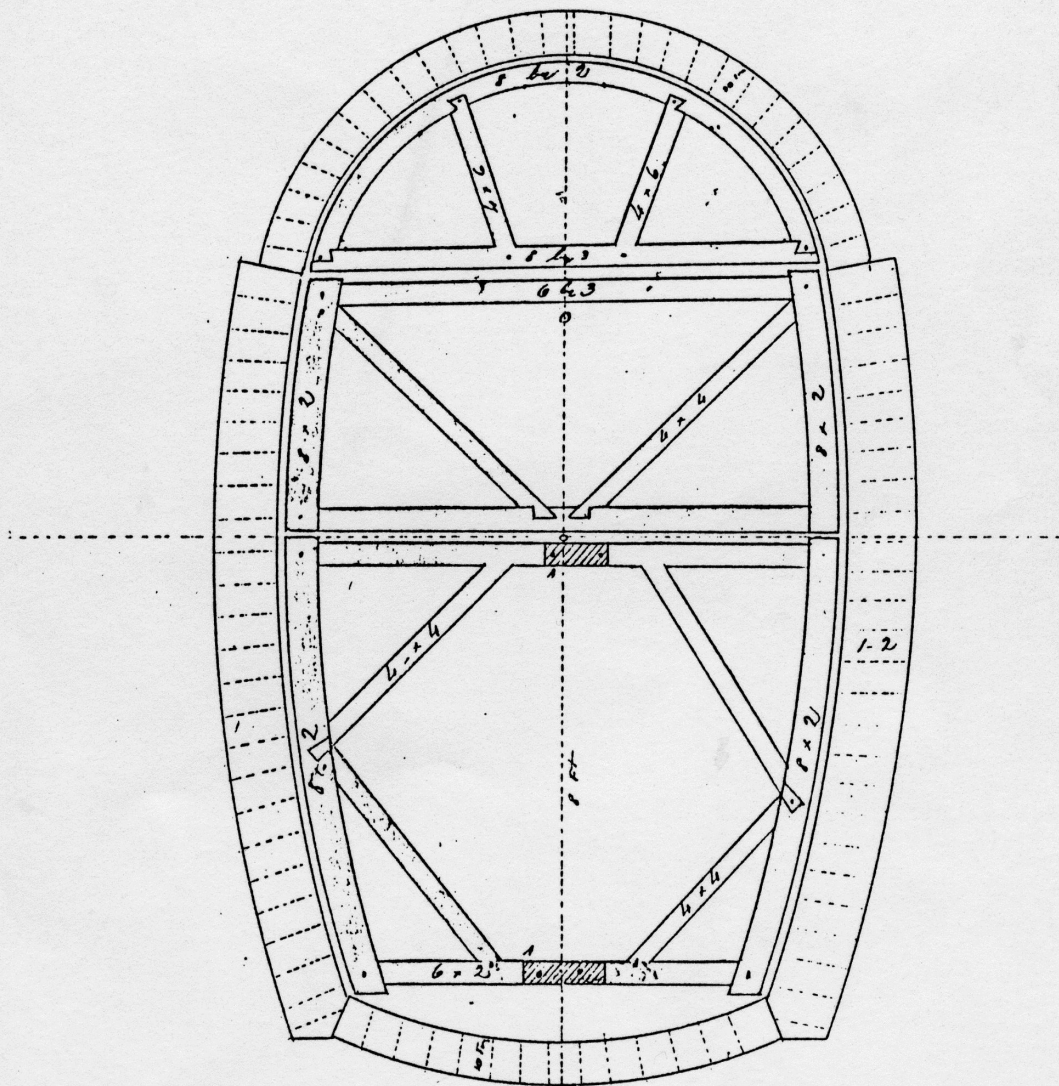


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin

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Standedge Tunnel

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THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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HARD TIMES

The allied victory at Waterloo ushered in a decade of economic uncertainty for Britain. The removal of war time demand for manufactured goods, the re-emergence of continental competition and a run of inadequate harvests all played their part in producing bouts of severe depression.

Poor harvests produced nation-wide misery by raising food prices up to and sometimes beyond, the limit affordable by the average labourer. The pattern of these harvest induced depressions may best be seen in the following table of wheat and oat prices for England during the period of 1815 to 1825. (Table 1.) (1).

TABLE 1

WHEAT

OATS

price per imperial
quarter.

price per imperial
quarter.

shillings pence

shillings pence

1815
1816
1817
1818
1819
1820
1821
1822
1823
1824
1825

65 " 7
78 " 6
96 " 11
86 " 3
74 " 6
67 " 10
56 " 1
44 " 7
53 " 4
63 " 11
68 " 6

23 " 7
27 " 2
32 " 5
32 " 5
28 " 2
24 " 2
19 " 6
18 " 1
22 " 11
24 " 10
25 " 8

It is immediately obvious that 1817 was the worst year of the decade: wheat prices being 10s. higher and oat prices 4s. higher per quarter than in any other year. Labourers throughout the country strained their budgets to buy sufficient food. In manufacturing areas like Saddleworth the effect was doubly catastrophic for this considerable increase in food prices came at a time when the textile trade was suffering from the effects of readjustment to peacetime conditions. The cessation of military contracts and the re-emergence of continental textiles on to the international market meant that the demand for English cloth fell off. The result was that work became scarce in the textile districts at the very moment when food prices were on the increase.

As the depression deepened action had to be taken and the Saddleworth Vestry appointed a committee to "solicit voluntary contributions for the relief of the distresses of the poor of this township." Concern was also evident in the capital and an "Association for the relief of the manufacturing and labouring poor" was formed in London with the object of relieving distress in the textile areas. Early in 1817 there was some correspondence between the Saddleworth Vestry Committee and the London Association with the result that the Vestry Committee completed a questionnaire sent out by the Association. The Vestry Minutes preserve the answers the Saddleworth men

gave to this questionnaire which was clearly designed to show the London Association the nature and extent of distress, presumably as a preliminary to them granting aid. The replies paint a graphic picture of conditions in the parish during this critical period. (2)

The Vestry Committee stated that the inhabitants of the parish were employed,

"In Agriculture, and chiefly in the Woollen and Cotton Manufacture, with the exception of a few Artisans and Labourers." (3)

Precise statistical information was obviously hard to come by and although the Vestry knew that 140 families were living entirely off poor relief and some 3,000 individuals received some assistance

"The Committee are not enabled to state correctly the Number of Persons in full and partial Employment, but beg Leave to observe that the Woollen Manufacture of this Parish is reduced one half within the last twelve months. The Cotton Manufacture is not so much reduced in Quantity, but a Weaver in full Employment cannot earn more than five shillings per week." (4)

We will probably not be far wrong if we estimate that this weekly income of five shillings was less than half the normal sum the Saddleworth cotton handloom weaver had been earning previously. (5).

In order to alleviate the distress the Vestry had employed those out of work in

"breaking up and cultivating the Common Lands" (6)

at Runninghill which they had recently acquired under the Saddleworth Enclosure Act. For this work they paid 1s 6d. per day which may have been just enough to maintain a family of five on. To gauge the severity of the depression we need to know the price of food. Fortunately, in the course of answering the questionnaire the Saddleworth Vestrymen gave the cost of a number of commodities which are tabulated in TABLE 11. (7).

TABLE 11

Price of various commodities in Saddleworth
in February 1817

	<u>price per lb</u>
Bacon,	7d.
Butchers' meat,	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Cheese,	6d.
Flour,	5d.
Oatmeal,	3d.
Potatoes,	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Bottomley states that,

"Oats are the general bread corn of this neighbour-hood" (8) and from other evidence it appears that, cheese, oat-cakes, porridge and butter milk were the principle ingredients of the Saddleworth diet. (9). Working on this basis it is possible to estimate the cost of feeding a family of five

on the most frugal fare..(10) Perhaps half a pound of cheese per person a week might just suffice; cost 1s. 3d. Two pounds of oatmeal per person would be a bare minimum; cost 2s. 6d. The cost of milk is not known, but even so 3s. 9d. has already been spent on a diet woefully lacking in protein leaving only 1s. 3d. to pay for cottage rent, fuel, light to weave by if work did come in, and perhaps rent of loom and other tackle. Clearly the weaver who could not earn more than five shillings a week was fighting a losing battle and a family subsisting on the Vestry's payments of 1s. 6d daily on six days of the week would not find themselves with much to spare.

The use of the potato could have helped to alleviate the situation, but the evidence suggests that it was not much eaten and very little cultivated in Saddleworth at this period in spite of enthusiastic advocacy by at least one pamphleteer. (11). Perhaps as E.P. Thompson suggests the weavers felt that the substitution of potatoes for bread or oatmeal was,

"a degradation..... a conspiracy to reduce them to the Irish level." (12).

Certainly the London questionnaire revealed very clear opposition, perhaps similarly based on some notion of status as well as on its unfamiliarity, to fish for the Saddleworth Vestry stated that fish

"..... would not be acceptable to the Poor in our District as an article of Food, if furnished at a Low Price - The Inhabitants not being accustomed to eat Fish." (13).

One other interesting sidelight furnished by the Saddleworth replies is that there were no bakers in the district since all the bread and oatcakes were baked at home.

The Vestry were struggling to keep pace with the deepening depression, they reported that 3,000 plus in receipt of weekly relief was more than double the normal figure of 1190 and that the poor rate had more than doubled in the last twelve months yet

"The Situation of the Poor generally with Respect to Bedding and Clothes and Articles of necessary Furniture is very deplorable." (14).

Whether Saddleworth ever received any assistance from the London Association is not at present clear nor indeed do we know anything about the nature or scale of its operations. Happily 1817 proved to be the year of deepest depression and thereafter things slowly improved, but for the handloom weaver the evil years of unequal struggle with the powerloom dawned as the textile trade began to prosper again.

A.J. Petford.

References.

- (1) B.R. Mitchell and P. Deane, 'Abstract of British Historical Statistics,' pp. 488-9.

- (2) The relevant Vestry Minutes are those for 12th February, 1817, Central Library, Manchester, Archives Department. 09/3/1/13a.
- (3) Ibid. p.17.
- (4) Ibid. p.17.
- (5) This estimate is based on figures given in F. Collier, "The Family Economy of the Working Classes in the Cotton Industry." In Appendix B Table 3, p.60 are given the average annual earnings of handloom cotton weavers in various branches of the trade from fancy cloths to plain calicoes. The average weekly earning for 1815 is 12s"5d. It is likely that the Saddleworth weavers would be earning wages of a similar value if perhaps slightly lower.
- (6) Vestry Minutes. p.18.
- (7) Ibid p.19.
- (8) J. Bottomley, (ed.) 'Greenfield, A Poem,' p.45.
- (9) The source of this is A.B. Reach who reported in 1849-51 an interview with an old lady in Saddleworth who said that forty years previously the people

"used to live on cheese, oat-cake, porridge and butter-milk"

reprinted in J. Ginswide, (ed.) 'Labour and the Poor In England and Wales 1849-51.' Vol. 1. p.147.
- (10) These quantities are probably an underestimate, meat would sometimes be added. Further investigation into quantities consumed is needed.
- (11) The anonymous author of 'Observations, General, Agricultural and Parochial addressed to the Inhabitants of Saddleworth,' published in 1814. pp.8-9.
- (12) E.P. Thompson, 'The Making of The English Working Class,' Pelican edition, p.348.
- (13) Vestry Minutes. p.19.
- (14) Ibid. p.19.

ADAM DE LA LYED AND THE LIDYATE

A charming account of a stroll around the village of Lydgate in 1871 was left to us by the Lees historian, John Higson (1). It includes a description of the Manor House, Quick Edge Lane, and in particular, of an adjoining structure since demolished whose quoin stones can still be seen facing away from the present building:

"Taking up the hillside to Crown Point we wound round to Lydgate, and stopped awhile to examine the old house lately occupied by Thomas Wrigley, but now empty. It is an irregular pile, comprising no less than five distinct erections. One portion is quoined at the angles with dressed ashlar, and is lighted by mullioned and transomed windows. In the rear, however, are two one-light windows, with semi-circular heads in the style of the early part of the seventeenth century. We scrutinised the panelled front door, having heard that it was the first of its kind ever seen in Saddleworth. If so it has been restored, or rather replaced, for the French lady, Magdalen Whitehead, who introduced it, has been dead nearly a century and a half."

Thomas Wrigley was the owner of Lydgate Mill and a descendent of the Joseph Wrigley of Alt whose account books were the subject of a supplement to the Bulletin in 1984. His family bought 'The Lidyate' (as the property was described in early deeds) from the Whiteheads in 1785 (2), building the present Manor House about 1800. The Magdalen Whitehead referred to by John Higson was the wife of Timothy Whitehead of Lydgate, a woollen merchant. It seems that the local tradition that she was French is erroneous as when the couple were married at Rochdale in 1708 her maiden name was Jobson.

The Whiteheads farmed the land in a triangle bounded on the West by Quick Edge Lane and on the East by Stockport Road, yet their great house was on the West of Quick Edge Lane. It is described in the 1770 survey of the Lord of the Manor's holdings as:

"One good Dwelling House Wooll Shop and Outhousing."

When Timothy Whitehead renewed his lease in 1730, it was:

"One messuage or dwellinghouse containing four bays of building one shop being two bays one barn one stable being four bays one swine coat and dog kennel being both one little bay ..." (3)

The earliest reference to the Whiteheads of Lydgate is the will of Henry Whitehead of Lydgate in 1631 in which the property is left to a son Thomas. Doubtless, Henry Whitehead lived there in 1625 however and was able to play a part in the Division of Quick Moor which was settled in that year. The Map of the Division shows a substantial house named Lydgate on roughly the site of the present Manor House. It is positioned on an irregularly-shaped wedge of enclosed land to the West of Quick Edge Lane, around which the allotments of the former common land are drawn.

The deliberations which preceeded the Division are documented in the Cornwall Leigh Mss in John Rylands Library and include the evidence of one Thomas Whitehead, aged 82.

One particular document (4) throws light not only on the antiquity of the settlement at Lydgate, but, also on the origin of the name. In listing problems to be resolved it poses the question whether Quick Edge

"be devyded and distinguished from Quick more and whether there be dyvers tenementes and ancient closes Lying directly betweene Quicke more and Quicke Edge. And whether there be not a great space & distance between those ij comons and whether there be not ij Lanes leading from thone comon to thother viz thone on the toppe of the hill and thother on the bottom & whether there be not as yet two gates in the Lane on the toppe of the hill viz at either end of the Lane one, and whether they have heard there have not in ancient tyme been a gate at the Lane end in the bottom next Quicke Edge & whether doe there not as yet appeare some parte of the postes of the same gate. Whether at such tyme as Quick Edge hath been dryven the cattle taken thereon have alwayes been Impounded at Lydyat ffold being within the deseisors severall Landes and never at the fold on Quick more called pynfold cloughe. And whether such cattle as have been Impounded of the Quicke more have been Impounded in the pynfold clough on Quicke more and never at Lydyat folde."

Earlier in the document, a similar question is put:

"Whether such beastes of strangers as they have found there the have impounded in Lydyat pynfold."

Here we have a pinfold at Lydgate and three gates associated with it, two on what must be Quick Edge Lane and the other possibly on what is now Coverhill Road. This ties in remarkably well with A.H. Smith's analysis of the word Lydgate (5). 'Hlid-geat' he asserts is Old English meaning a swinggate, especially one to prevent cattle straying from pasture across a road or on to arable land. The earliest reference to Lydgate is in the 1297 Lay Subsidy which lists one Adam de la Lyed as holding a farmstead, two cows and other goods together worth 18s. It is tempting to imagine Adam de la Lyed looking after such a gate and impounding any stray cattle in the pinfold and this activity may well have given rise to the original settlement at Lydgate.

Could Adam de la Lyed have been the ancestor of the Whiteheads? In looking at the early ownership of Lydgate, we do find mention of Whiteheads living in the vicinity certainly in the sixteenth century. They would then be tenants of the Trafford family who owned extensive properties in Saddleworth and claimed to be the lords of the manor of Quick. Their descendents sold that part of Quick including Lydgate in 1593 to William Stubbs of Congleton (6) who sold it to Sir John Ramsden, lord of the Manor of Saddleworth, in 1606 (7). Margaret Trafford, widow of George Trafford of the Garrett in Manchester, and Ralph Trafford her son, included in their Saddleworth tenantry prior to 1554 a Robert Whyteheade, a John Wheateheade and a Rauf Whiteheade (8). Ralph Trafford died leaving his estates to his five

sisters, whose husbands made a division of the inheritance in 1561 (9). One of the sisters, Thomasine Trafford, had married Ranulf Clayton, and was allotted ten tenements including Hollingreave and Quick. One of these tenements was occupied by a Robert Whytehead. In 1579, Thomasine's son John's tenantry included an Edmonde Whithead and a Thomas Whithead (10). It was this Clayton portion which passed to William Stubbs in 1593. We cannot trace the Whiteheads any further back, but the Trafford ownership is well documented.

In 1461 an inquiry was made into the title of the Trafford family to their estates in Saddleworth (11). It traces the descent of the property from a Robert Trafford living in the mid-fourteenth century who

" purchased the manor of Whyke with the appurtenances of Robert of the Whyke. And also the forsaide Robert Trafford purchased of other divers men othir placez of lande within the towne of Whyke that is to say a place of land callit Wynterbothum & a place of lande callit Litelthaghe with Qnotfeld and a place of lande callit Shelderslow with newrode & the stryndes & a place of land callit bryghowes and a place callit bronhull & a place of land callit holyngreve and a place of land callit tunstiddes with all thaire appurtenancez libbertez eassementez and annewmentez of wastez within Sadelworth ffrythe."

Although no date is given for the above purchase, it is probably contemporary with the 1302 sale by Robert son of Adam son of Robert of Quick to Simon Bradshaw of "a part of his landes in Quicke to witt that which was called gresscroftes" (12).

It is clear from these sales that there was a local family called de Quick selling off the Manor of Quick in the fourteenth century. On the 1297 Lay Subsidy referred to earlier, there appears a Gilbert de Quick holding land and other possessions valued at 32s. He was the most affluent person assessed and is the earliest figure we can assume was Lord of Quick. That one of the de Quicks was named Adam leads to the question was Adam de la Lyed one of this same family. Obviously the evidence is not sufficient to make such an assumption, but it is not unlikely that a member of the family would occupy a house at such a strategic part of their estate as Lydgate.

Canon C.C.W. Airne.

References.

1. Higson, J. Lydgate - an interesting sketch. Fifty year old manuscript. Reprinted from the Oldham Standard, 1924.
2. West Riding Registry of Deeds. CR 432 632.
3. Ibid RR 445 571.
4. Cornwall-Leigh Mss. 1056b, John Rylands Library.
See S.H.S. Bulletin. Vol. 10, No.3., 1980.

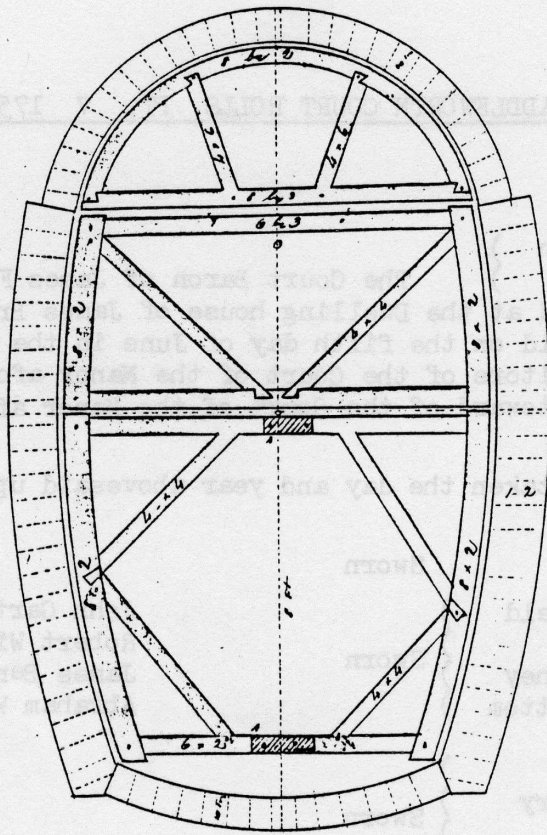
5. Smith, A.H. English place name elements. 1970
6. Howcroft, A.J. Chapelry and Church of Saddleworth, 1915, p.109
7. Yorkshire Archaeological Society Transactions. Vol. 53. p.57
8. Public Record Office, Court of Requests. REQ2 158/206.
I am indebted to Mrs. A. Barlow of Surbiton for this reference.
9. Cornwall-Leigh Mss. 970.
10. Ibid, 1050.
11. Public Record Office, Wards and Liveries, Wards 2/3 13A/10
I am indebted to Mr. Michael Buckley of St. Albans for this reference and his guidance in compiling these notes.
12. Cornwall-Leigh Mss. 1055.

DRAWINGS OF CANAL WORKS.

Messrs. Wild and Griffiths, who have recently taken over the old established firm of Heywood, Hartley and Whipp, Surveyors, Oldham, have deposited an extensive collection of local estate and colliery plans with Oldham Local Studies Library. It will be many months before the collection is listed, but already some interesting items have come to light.

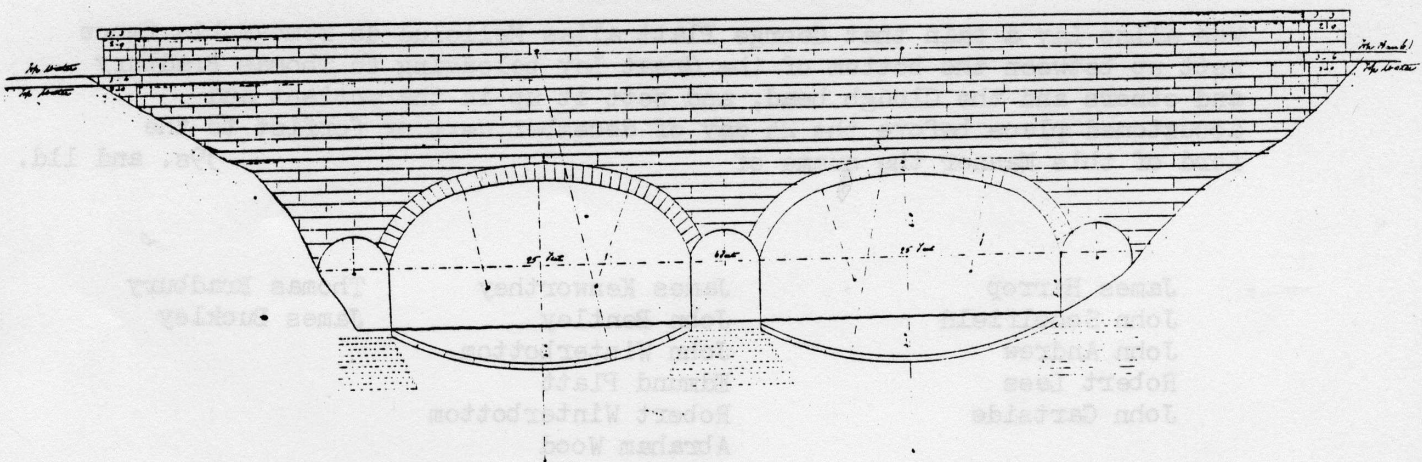
The practice was started around 1840 by George Heywood. A series of architectural and engineering drawings, all dated around 1838-40 and possibly made whilst he was serving an apprenticeship, are included in the collection. Amongst them are several drawings of engineering works on local canals, two of which are illustrated here. The other plans of relevance to canals are listed below.

1. Tunnel at the Sand Hill near Ashton.
2. Bridge at a Lock Tail.
3. Lock Forebay.
4. Swivel Bridge.
5. Tunnel for Sand Hill at Ashton and Scout.
6. Section of Roof to Marsden Warehouse.
7. Standedge Tunnel.
8. Ground plan Derby Canal Locks.
9. Plan for a Stop Lock to be built at Hall Green.
10. Plan of proposed bridge at Moulding Water.
11. Plan for a Road Aqueduct with Cast Iron Waterway to be built at Dog Lane.
12. Design for a Road Bridge for the Lancaster Canal.
13. Elevation for a lock intended for the Macclesfield Canal.
14. Elevation of the Bridge facing the Peak Forest Canal.
15. Elevation for a Bridge over the Macclesfield Canal.
16. Plan for a Culvert over the River Dane.
17. Douglas Aqueduct.
18. Molding Water Bridge.
19. Ground Plan of a Bridge over the Macclesfield Canal.
20. Elevation of a Culvert over the River Dane.
21. Smart Roads Aqueduct, Saddleworth.
22. Bagauly and Lunbrick Aqueducts.
23. Ground Plan of the Culvert over Dogford Brook.
24. Design for the Locks proposed to be built on the line of the Lancaster Canal at Tewitfield.



Handedged Tunnel

E L E V A T I O N



SMART ROADS AQUEDUCT

SADDLEWORTH

SADDLEWORTH COURT ROLLS PT. V 1751-1752

Manor of Sadleworth)
or Quick) The Court Baron of James Farrer Esq. holden for
his Manor aforesaid at the Dwelling house of James Broadbent Innholder in
Sadleworth aforesaid on the fifth day of June in the year of our Lord 1751
before the free suitors of the Court of the Manor aforesaid and Samuel
Fenton Gentleman Steward of the Court of the Manor aforesaid.

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

James Harrop	Sworn		
John Scholefield	) Sworn	John Cartside	) Sworn
John Andrew		Robert Winterbottom	
James Kenworthey		James Bentley	
John Winterbottom		Abraham Wood	
Edmund Platt	) Sworn		
Thomas Bradbury			
Robert Lees			
John Bentley			

Benjamin Wrigley Pindar Sworn

Pains Laid by the aforesaid Jurors

Wee Lay a pain That no person or persons Whatsoever do make any way over
The Great field The Great Ley, And the Coal Hall Lyeing in the digglee
Belonging to Thomas Bradbury James Broadbent and others other than Such
persons as have accustomed right so to do. But for every such offence to
forfiet to the Lord of this manner the summe of 12d " 0

Wee allso Lay a pain that George Platt alias Mellolue do remove his fence
sett up between the bottom of the Great Ley belonging to Thomas Bradbury
and others and the Clough head, and sett it up in the antient and
accustomed place before the 25 day of december next or forfiet to the
Lord of this Manner the summe of 39s. and lld.

James Harrop	James Kenworthey	Thomas Bradbury
John Scholfield	John Bentley	James Buckley
John Andrew	John Winterbottom	
Robert Lees	Edmund Platt	
John Cartside	Robert Winterbottom	
	Abraham Wood	

Manor of Sadleworth
or Quick

) The Court Baron of James Farrer Esq. holden for his Manor aforesaid at the Dwelling house of James Broadbent Innholder in Sadleworth aforesaid on the Twenty seventh day of May in the year of our Lord 1752 before the free Suitors of the Court of the Manor aforesaid and Samuel Fenton Gentleman Steward of the Courts of the Manor aforesaid.

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

James Harrop	)	Sworn	
John Scholefield	)		John Radcliffe
Robert Lees	)	Sworn	Thomas Bradbury
Henry Buckley	)		John Platt
William Buckley	)		John Winterbottom
	)		) Sworn
John Andrew	)		
Giles Shaw	)	Sworn	
James Savil	)		
James Wood	)		

Amersments found by the Said Jurors as follows

Wee amerce John Sykes of Nab end for turning the Water ariseing on Harrop edge out of the antiant and accustomed way, to the
..... (1) of severally other the tenants of the Lord of the Manner in the sum of (2)

pains Laid by the said Jurors as Follows

Wee Lay in pain that John Buckley of abills do open his Ditch and Water Course on the Milne Lane on or before the 25th day of Jully Next or Lose to the Lord of the Mannor the sum of 10s. Od.

- (1) The court roll has been folded at this point and the word has disappeared completely, presumably it has the sense of "to the detriment."
- (2) The amount has not been entered and the whole of this entry is crossed out.

Allso Wee Lay in pain that John Radcliffe open his Water Course
Cross the Miln Lane on or before the 25th day of July Next or
forfiet to the Lord of the Manner 10s. - Od.

Allso wee Lay in pain that no person or persons do make any horse
way over John platt Close leading from Hollingreave to brownhill Other
than Such as have a Right so to do. Nor make any foot Way to the
Church from woolroad to the said John platts butt for every Such
offence to forfiet 12d to the Lord of the Manner

Allso wee Lay a pain that no person or persons do make any foot
Way over Henry Buckley Hays than the antient foot Way but to forfiet
to the Lord of the Manner For every Such offence the sum of 2s - 6d

Wee allso Lay a pain, that no person or persons do make any horse
Way or foot Way over Thomas platt Land other than the antiant and
accustomed way butt for every Such offence to forfiet to the Lord
of the manner the sum of 12d for each offence

Wee allso Lay in pain that no person or persons do make any foot
way over belonging to John other than the
accustomed Way but for Each offence to forfiet to the Lord of the
Manner the sum of 12d.

Wee amerce James Mellolue for suffering his houseing under Wharmton
brow, to Lye Bare to the damage of the timber in the Sum of five
shillings forfiet to the Lord of the Manner for such Neglect.

Wee amerce Richard Boothroad for Keeping Cattle upon the Lords Wast
haveing No right so to do in the Summe off 5s.

Wee Lay a pain that John Bently of boreshurst do open his ditch
and Water Course Lying down by the borshurst Lane and Keep the Same
in the antiant Course from time to time nor turn the Spent Water out
of the il Course fore the time being on or before the 10th day of
Jully Next but to forfiet to the Lord of the manner the sum of
5s Od for every Such offence. (1)

We allso Lay a pain that no person or persons whatsoever do make
any footway over the Broad doaland broad doalfoot (belonging to
John Radcliffe of Fould) other than the accustomed way but for every
Such offence to forfiet to the Lord of this Manner the sum of 12d.

We Lay a pain that John Bently of borshurst do suffer the spent
Water in the fould to run its antiant course And allso open his ditch
down by the Side of the boreshurst Lane and Keep the Same in the Antiant
Course for the time being on or before the 10th day of July Next or
forfiet to the Lord of the Manner the sum of 5s.

- (1) This entry does not make complete sense and is full of
insertions and evasions. The whole entry has been heavily
crossed out and replaced by the final order on this
court roll.

June the 25th 1752 the Inquisition of the Jurors the day and Year
abovesaid.

James Harropp
John Scholfield
Robert Lees
Henry Buckley
William Buckley

John Andrew
Giles Shaw
James Seville
John Radcliffe
Thomas Bradbury
John Platt
John Winterbottom
James Wood

Affered by us

James Broadbent
Robert Andrew

(to be continued)

A.J. Petford.

OLD SADDLEWORTH.

This is part of the work being carried out on a gazetteer of Saddleworth by the Historical Society. Contributions are invited detailing the history of other buildings not yet covered in this series or amending previous entries.

HIGHER BARN, nr. DELPH.

Grid Reference SD 981 088

Location: East side of Dark Lane, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of St. Thomas's Church, Friarmere.

Description: Range of two-storey buildings with attached Barn. Internal datestone records a rebuilding in 1728, but parts of structure are mid-17th Century. Note the very deeply recessed chamfered mullion windows on the south aspect.

History: Higher Barn is a subdivision of an ancient farmstead called Swainscroft or Swinescroft, situated to the East of the River Tame between New Tame and Delph. When the whole of Friarmere belonged to Roche Abbey, the tenants of Swainscroft were called Linthwaite, from which surname the modern place-name Linfitts is derived.

1649 Michaelmas. Fine in the Court of Chancery. Thomas Hutchinson was the complainant; Richard Holt and Jane his wife, and James Buckley and Jane his wife were the defendants; the property in dispute was 1 messuage, 20 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 15 acres of pasture and 5 acres of moor, in Swinescroft. Richard Holt was the last absentee landlord of the former monastic land; James Buckley was his tenant and Thomas Hutchinson was an outsider lending Buckley the money to purchase his farm.

1649 Aug. 14. An abstract of title to Higher Barn found amongst the deeds to Delph Slack shows how Thomas Hutchinson secured his loan. It recites a lease of this date for 999 years at a rent of £10 p.a. of the messuage called Swinescroft by Thomas Hutchinson of Failsworth yeoman to James Buckley of the "Newhouse within Swinescroft" yeoman. Later deeds to Higher Barn refer to James Buckley having built the "Newhouse". It seems, therefore, that a barn some distance from the main settlement had been converted into a farmhouse by James Buckley some time before 1649.

1653 11 Feb. Inventory of the goods of James Buckley of Linthits lately deceased prized by Edmund Buckley, John Butterworth, Jeremy Rigley and Edmund Whitehead: the list includes beasts, £13. 10s; two mares, £10. 10s.; five lambs, £1; and spinning wheels and a pair of looms, 3s; the total value being £41 18s. 4d. James Buckley died during the Commonwealth period when all wills had to be proved in London. His widow Jane delayed proving title to his estate until ten years later.

- 1663 Aug. 11. Administration of the estate of James Buckley was granted to Jeremy Wrigley, Jane Buckley's brother, probably because her children were still under age. Their names are given in the will of their grand-father, Jeremy Wrigley of Tame, 20 Aug. 1662, as James, Edmund, Abraham and Ann.
- 1669 James Buckley of Linfitts pays 5s. tithe on 1 acre 2 roods of oats.
- 1670 Nov. 17. Will of James Buckley of Swinescroft in which the family home is left to his brother Edmund who is not yet 21.
- 1673 May 3. Will of Edmund Buckley of Swainscroft in which he leaves his tenement to his brother Abraham. Abraham Buckley is mentioned in the wills of some of his neighbours. In 1701, James Whitehead of Delph names as his executor Abraham Buckley of Newhouse in Saddleworth, clothier. Jeremy Wrigley of Carhouse (later Carrcote) in 1702 left 5s. to John Buckley, son of Abraham Buckley of Barn, when he reaches the age of 21. It is worth noting here the variety of descriptions of Higher Barn in contemporary documents, including Swainscroft, Linfitts, Newhouse and Barn. In later years, Upper Barn and Higher Barn are also used.
- 1703 April 30. The Abstract of Title already referred to lists a conveyance of this date whereby the Hutchinson family sell the freehold of Higher Barn to Francis Beswick of Manchester, chapman. Here the property is described as being heretofore in the occupation of James Buckley, now of Abraham Buckley.
- 1715 Dec. 29. Abraham Buckley was granted the right to administer the estate of his late father James Buckley left unadministered since the original 1663 grant.
- 1715 Feb 2. Abraham Buckley of Newhouse in Swinescroft clothier sells his tenement to an Edmund Buckley. The Abstract of Title does not give Edmund Buckley's residence, but he was probably a younger son of the Buckley family of New Tame who bought half of Swainscroft in 1649. (See Higson Mss. Vol. 48).
- 1720 Nov 15. Will of Abraham Buckley of Sweanscroft yeoman appointing as executors James Buckley of Sweanscroft yeoman and John Wood jun. of Saddleworth clothier. His remaining property was to be divided between numerous members of the Wood family of Linfitts. Abraham Buckley of Barn was buried at Saddleworth Church 31st March, 1722.
- 1728 June 6. By a deed of this date, Edmund Buckley of Swinescroft clothier gave his son John Buckley his messuage at Swinescroft with the following fields: The Middups, the Carr with one bay of building, Denboe Hill, Round Lowke, Meadow under the House, Little Marled Earth, New Marlt, $\frac{1}{4}$ Turnough Bank, $\frac{1}{4}$ Linthwaite Slack inclosed or meared out, and $\frac{1}{10}$ part of bakestone pit at Grange. This is the earliest deed to Higher Barn registered at Wakefield (Z 364 495).

1728

Having taken legal possession of his father's tenement, John Buckley and his wife Margaret rebuilt the farmhouse. Their initials also appear on the datestone to nearby Lower Barn (now called Edge Hill), which was built in 1737, on part of Linthwaite Slack. The name Upper Barn then appeared to differentiate the two houses.



1734

Feb 6. In a complex transaction of this date, John Buckley purchased the freehold of Higher Barn from the Beswick family. The residue of the term of 999 years created by the lease of 1649 is conveyed to Jonathan Chadwick of Windhills, Rochdale, clothmaker, a trustee on behalf of John Buckley. His house is described as "a messuage then lately erected by James Buckley of the Newhouse within Swinescroft and the barn adjoining to the same now in the occupation of James Buckley and theretofore in the occupation of Robert and John Linthwaite". (Abstract of Title and AQ 161 195). The lawyer who drew up this conveyance evidently had access to the original 1649 purchase from Richard Holt and has repeated the description of the property given rather than create a new version.

1758

Aug. 11. The heirs of Jonathan Chadwick reconvey Higher Barn to John Buckley of Swainscroft yeoman and Jonathan Buckley of Stalybridge, Tanner, his son (AQ 162 196). On the 15 August father and son mortgage that part of their property including the houses at Carrhouse and Lower Barn to Sarah Elmsall of Thornhill, Yorks., a widow and William Wilcock of Thornhill, gentleman. The messuage called Carrhouse is occupied by Jonathan Broadbent and the fields which go with it are the Upper Butt and Meadow below the House (formerly in one close called the Carr), Lower Butt, Round Lowke and Middups otherwise Middups Holme. The messuage called Lower Barn is occupied by John Buckley and the fields which go with it are the New Marlt otherwise Great Marlt, Little Marlt otherwise Little Marled Earth, Meadow below the House lately separated from the New Marlt otherwise Great Marlt, $\frac{1}{4}$ Turnough Bank and the Load lately enclosed from Linthwaite Slack (AQ 164 199)

1765

John Buckley of Barn yeoman was one of the promoters of St. Thomas's Church, Friarmere. Showing a surprising degree of sophistication he had his pew-plate inscribed with his name and the Buckley coat of arms - three bulls heads.

1767

March 11. Will of John Buckley of Barn yeoman leaving Higher Barn to his younger son Joseph and Carrcote to his elder son John. Lower Barn was to be sold. Also mentioned are his wife Margaret, sons Jonathan, James and Henry, his son John's wife Elizabeth (daughter of Henry Monday), daughters Betty and Deborah, and his grandson Jere Buckley. He appoints as executors his son John and his friend Henry Buckley of New Tame.

1772

May 12. Sale of Lower Barn in the occupation of Edward Kenworthy to Jonathan Lees of Hilltop clothier. (BQ 295 395).

- 1778 March 21. By a deed of this date, Carrcote, with a newly erected willow mill with chamber over in the occupation of John Farrand, is mortgaged to John Haigh of Golcar Hill and Thomas Haigh of Gleadholt merchants. (CB 315 493). The Haighs sold it to James Mills of Wood, Merchant, in 1801. (EM 247).
- 1807 May 14. Will of John Buckley of Barn yeoman appointing trustees - his sons Edward and Henry and his friend James Shaw of Dale - to sell Higher Barn following the death of his brother James who is to continue to receive an annuity charged on this property under the will of his brother Joseph. He also mentions his sons John, Joseph, Jeremiah and Edmund and his daughter Deborah wife of Thomas Shaw. John Buckley died 14 March 1808 and was buried at St. Thomas's, Friarmere.
- 1816 June 6. Edward Buckley of Barn cotton spinner, Henry Buckley late of Barn now of Dublin cotton manufacturer and Thomas Shaw of Dale clothier sell Higher Barn to Queen Anne's Bounty to augment the income of the Curate of Friarmere. The property is described as two messuages called Upper Barn otherwise Barn, with garden, formerly in the occupation of Jonathan Broadbent, Henry Buckley, Mark Schofield and Jonathan Heywood, late of John Buckley deceased, the said Edward Buckley and Joseph Buckley and the said James Buckley, then of Edward Buckley and James Shaw, with fields called the Chapel Field otherwise Ashbut Dole, New Meadow, Croft and Longlands heretofore in one called Long Lowke, Upper Meadow and Lower Meadow heretofore Meadow under the House, Little Grange Field, otherwise Over Grange Field, Great Grange Field otherwise Lower Grange Field, theretofore in the occupation of Jonathan Broadbent and Henry Buckley, then late of John Buckley deceased, Edward Buckley Joseph Buckley and James Buckley and of Joseph Shaw, Joseph Heginbottom and James Ainley, then of Edward Buckley and James Shaw (GH 745 818).
- 1851 Higher Barn remained the property of the incumbent of St. Thomas's Friarmere for over 100 years. The 1851 Census returns show that the tenant at that time was a John Broadbent, a clothier, age 45. By 1881, the tenant was Thomas Longbottom who is described in the Census as aged 41, a farmer of 21 acres.
- 1927 A list of 119 Saddleworth Dairy Farms in 1927, compiled by Saddleworth U.D.C's Sanitary Inspector, shows that the tenant, William Henry Schofield, kept only three cows.
- 1930 March 28. The Rev. Thomas Storey Bates, Incumbent of St. Thomas's, Friarmere, sells Higher Barn, with 22 acres 2 roods and 8 perches of land, to William Henry Schofield of Higher Barn, farmer, for £200 (1930 40 188 77). William Henry Schofield died 2 March, 1936 leaving a wife Alberta and a son, Ernest.

- 1948 April 3. Alberta Schofield sells Higher Barn to Christopher Joseph Roche of 18 Tiverton Road, Coventry, plasterer, for £950 (1948 55 713 329)
- 1956 Nov. 12 Roche sells Higher Barn to Ernest Hughes of Wellhead Cottage, Heights (1956 206 321 143). In 1970 Ernest Hughes now of Heights Farm, conveys Higher Barn farmhouse and the field on which it stands, to the present owners, Councillor and Mrs. K. Greenwood, both active members of Saddleworth Historical Society.

J.M.H.

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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER SPRING 1986

Alan Petford's talk at the April meeting brought to an end another successful season of lectures. They have been successful, too, in terms of attendances. So much so that we have been finding it difficult to seat everyone comfortably. Your committee even considered holding next season's meetings at the Civic Hall in Uppermill, but members at the March meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour of staying at the Museum. We shall have to look into ways of raising money to buy about forty extra chairs. Has anyone any good ideas?

Since the last newsletter there have been three lectures.

The first was given by Julian Hunt, who seems to be able to enthuse about a new subject each year. By delving into old records and maps he was able to tell the fascinating story of the development of Dobcross. He saw the establishment of fulling operations at Walk Mill at Tamewater as the beginning of the village as we know it today with traders setting up in business along Woods Lane, the packhorse route to Harrop Edge and Standedge. He spoke of the enterprise of the many clothiers and business men whose names are prominent in the records of those early days - Harrop, Lawton, Wood, Whitehead, Platt and Winterbottom.

The second lecture was given by John Walker, Deputy Director of the Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit on Roman Manchester. He traced the history of the Roman fort in Manchester from a turf and timber fort like the one at Castleshaw in Delph, to the stone fort at Castlefield near the junction of the Rivers Medlock and Irwell. Excavations and the North Gate reconstruction are now features of the Castlefield Heritage Park on Deansgate, Manchester.

The third lecture was given by Alan Petford who gave members an architectural tour of the extensive mediaeval parish of Halifax in his talk "A look at Old Halifax." He considered ecclesiastical and secular buildings tracing their development and style from the vernacular to the classical showing slides of churches, chapels, halls, laithe houses, quarrymen's cottages and the two model villages Copley and Akroyden founded by Sir George Akroyd.

Unfortunately, there was insufficient support for the proposed conducted tour of the Halifax area the following Sunday and the trip was postponed.

Summer Programme.

Several outings have been arranged for the coming months and we are indebted to Jim Carr for his efforts in this field.

Archaeology Group.

Evening trips leaving the Museum Car Park at 7.0 p.m., on Wednesdays 14th May, 11th June and 9th July. Visits being considered are:- Brough on Noe Roman Fort, (NAVIO); Croal Valley Country Park; the 712 Roman Road within Saddleworth; Trencherfield Mill (Wigan Pier); Higher Mill, Helmshore and the Edward Hart Collection at Blackburn College.

Saturday 26th July, 1986

The Archaeology Group have been invited by the Friends of Craven Museum, Skipton, to a guided tour of Bolton Priory and Barden Tower followed by a pie and peas refreshment and a slide show in the evening. Further details from Jim Carr, 3612 or Alec Schofield 4397. Sufficient numbers would warrant a coach.

Bronze Age Moor.

There is an exhibition 'The Bronze Age Moor' at the Manor House Castle Yard, Ilkley up to the 18th May, 10.0 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. (except Mondays), admission free. Please ring Jim Carr if you are interested in a mid-week visit.

Summer Trip. Saturday 12th July, 1986

Museum Car Park 8.30 a.m.

Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet, Sheffield.

Roche Abbey from whence the monks of Grange in the Castleshaw valley came.

Hardwick Hall of T.V. fame. Bess of Hardwick Hall.

Bolsover Castle, Bolsover.

Gresswell Crags, Visitor Centre, Welbeck.

The cost is £3.50 per coach seat, Admission to sites extra, but OAP/child party rates in each case. There is a booking slip at the end of the newsletter.

W.E.A. Walks.

Did you know that the W.E.A. has organised several walks along the society's Local Interest Trails? The first two were the Grasscroft and Dobcross Trails. Both were enjoyed by all who participated. Forthcoming walks are :-

Thursday 1st May, Uppermill Trail.

7.0 p.m. at Museum Car Park.

Thursday 15th May, Grotton.

7.0 p.m. at Station Road Car Park.

Thursday 29th May, Denshaw.

7.0 p.m. at Denshaw Post Office.

Thursday 5th June, Heights & Grange.

7.0 p.m. at Millgate Car Park.

Just turn up on the evening.

Trails.

A Dobcross Trail is at the printers and should be available at Whitsuntide. There is a Diggle Trail in the pipeline which should be out in 1987.

These trails are evidence of the hard work that Julian Hunt puts into his job as editor. He tells me that he is in need of contributions for the bulletin so if you have suitable material let him know.

Saddleworth at War Exhibition 15th June - 3rd August, 1986. 1914-18

I hear that several members are at present finding plenty to interest them in their researches for the above exhibition. It is being staged by the Museum's band of enthusiasts who meet on Tuesday evenings. If you would like to help or have any interesting material for display or information ring the Museum 4093, or go along some Tuesday evening.

Exhibition of Drawings.

Kit Smith, wife of W.J. Smith, our vernacular architecture lecturer, is staging an exhibition of drawings entitled 'Hooked on Buildings', at the Museum from the 17th May, to the 8th of June, 1986.

White Hart Inn, Lydgate.

It was good to see in the Oldham Chronicle that Stanley Broadbent's efforts to stem the dubious march of progress at the White Hart Inn at Lydgate have been successful. Extensive developments had been planned which would have altered the character of the area and objections by residents have had their effect.

20th Anniversary Dinner.

1986 is a year which provides another excuse for a celebration - the Society's 20th Anniversary. To mark the occasion your Committee is planning a splendid dinner with a first class caterer at the Civic Hall, Uppermill, on Friday the 10th of October, 1986 with speeches and reminiscences. This is to be followed on the Saturday by a walk in the afternoon and an informal Social Evening at the Museum. A booking form will be included in the next bulletin.

We are hoping that members who have moved away from Saddleworth might like to join us in the weekend celebrations. We may be able to offer accommodation, so ring or write to John Murray 4493 if you would like to come.

Membership Section.

We would like to report a most generous donation to the Society from Mrs. Mary Martin of Sugar Land, Texas, America for the sum of 150 dollars, for which we give our most sincere thanks. Incidentally, Mrs. Martin's Grandmother is a direct descendant from the Wrigley Family of Saddleworth, in which she has a great interest.

We have another new member from America Mr. Galand W. Nield, from Afton in Wyoming, who this month visited Saddleworth together with his

sister. During their visit they stayed at The Old Bell Inn, Delph, and visited our Editor, Julian Hunt at the Local Interest Centre in Oldham, gaining knowledge on the Oldham Nields from whom Galand is descended. These Nield men seemed to have married into many of the Saddleworth families so there is a lot of work yet for Galand to do, but, no doubt, we will hear more of him in the future. If anyone would care to correspond with him regarding the Nield family his address is Box 102, Afton, Wyoming, 83110, U.S.A.

Before we list the new members who have joined the Society since the publication of the last bulletin, we would like to remind some of the old members still owing subscriptions for 1986 that the easiest way to pay without using a Subscription Form is to send a cheque and just write one's address on the back of the cheque. Although there has been a fairly good response on subs there are still over 80 subscriptions outstanding.

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

Cheques payable to Saddleworth Historical Society and forwarded to Mrs. E. Broadbent, 45 Beechfield, Grasscroft, Saddleworth, Oldham. OL4 4EL.

New members who have joined the Society since the last bulletin publication are :

Dr. & Mrs. G. Corbitt, Grasscroft.	Mrs. P. Diskin, Greenfield.
Mrs. E.M. Maguire, Lees.	Mrs. B. Wardle, Grasscroft.
Mr. Galand W. Nield, Wyoming, USA.	Miss E. Ronald, Bolton.
The Misses M. & O. Kirkham, Lydgate.	Mr. & Mrs. G. Read, Greenfield.
Mr. & Mrs. K. Broadbent, Royton.	

Ammon Wrigley Anniversary Sunday 31st August, 1986

To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Ammon Wrigley's death the Society is organising an event with the following format.

- 2.30 p.m. Assemble in Museum Car Park.
Travel by car and foot to Dinner Stone.
- 4. 0 p.m. Brief address by Canon C.C.W. Airne.
Return to Museum for refreshments and supper at approximately
- 6. 0 p.m. Talk by Alan Petford.
- 7. 0 p.m. Recitations from the works of Ammon Wrigley.

The price of refreshments will be £1.50 and reservations should be made with Mrs. Elsie Broadbent, Saddleworth 2870.

J.G. Parry.