

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



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BULLETIN

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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SADDLEWORTH AGRICULTURE IN 1725

The original latin deed of 1543 whereby Henry VIII sold the Castleshaw and Denshaw valleys to Arthur Assheton is preserved in the Tolson Museum, Huddersfield. A full translation was published in the Transactions of the newly formed Saddleworth Literary and Philosophical Society in 1911. A note on the back of the deed shows that it was produced in evidence during a case in the Exchequer Court in 1731 between John Whitehead and others and Ambrose Scholefield and others. The defendants' evidence to the Court has been traced in the Public Record Office (reference E 112/1317/55) and gives valuable information on local farming in the early 18th century.

John Whitehead, Timothy Whitehead, James Gartside and Thomas Rhodes held a lease of the tithes of the Chapelry of Saddleworth and claimed that the defendants had refused to pay them one tenth of the value of their crops during the years 1725-27. Ambrose Scholefield of Wood, yeoman, asserted that his land had formerly belonged to the Abbey of Roche and was therefore tithe-free. He gave a full description of the two holdings he had farmed in this period. In 1725 he held a farm called Slackyate (now Slackgate, between Denshaw and Delph) and the names of the fields belonging to it were:-

Part of the Meadow called Slackyate
The Great Meadow
The Marle

Scholefield valued the annual produce of the farm at £6 10s. By 1727 he had moved to a farm called Wood which from the following field names can be identified with the present house overlooking the lower Castleshaw Reservoir known as Lowbank:-

The Smoik Meadow
The New Meadow
The New Meadow Head

Ambrose Scholefield estimated the annual value of his produce here at £6 15s.

Ambrose Scholefield's co-defendants were John Scholefield of Castleshaw, yeoman, John Bradbury of Newhouse, yeoman, and Edmund Buckley of Linthwaite, yeoman. The information they provided concerning the acreage of their arable land, the number of days it took to mow their pasture, the numbers of the animals they kept and the amount of cheese they produced has been collected in the table overleaf.

During the three years in question, John Scholefield occupied a farm called Crowshaw's. From the field names it is clear that it was one of the holdings based on Castleshaw Fold:-

The Bent	Day Croft
Calf Hey Knowl	Upper Castle Hill
Long Bow Clough	Lower Castle Hill
Bowenhead	Little Meadow
Miles Bow Clough	Rough Pasture

Scholefield estimated the annual value of his crops and produce at £16.

TABLE

		Oats (acres)	Hay (days' mowing)	Barren Cows	Milk Cows	Gelded Beasts	Hens	Cocks	Cheese (cwt.)
John Scholefield									
Crowshaw's	1725	2	9	2	4	4	-	-	1
	1726	2½	9	2	4	4	-	-	1
	1727	2	9	2	4	4	-	-	1
John Bradbury									
New House	1725	2	7	1	3	3	3	1	1
	1726	2	7	1	3	3	3	1	1
	1727	1½	7	1	3	3	3	1	1
Edmund Buckley									
New Barn	1725	2	8	1	2	1	2	1	Small amount
	1726	1½	8	1	2	1	2	1	" "
	1727	1	7	1	2	1	2	1	" "

In 1725-27, John Bradbury occupied a farm then called New House but now known as Delph Greaves. His fields comprised:-

Rough Meadow
Delf Greave Meadow
Turn Field
Badger Field
Hollow Field
Three Heights Fields

Bradbury valued his annual produce at £11.

Edmund Buckley occupied New Barn, a farm house still standing between Delph and Heights Church. The fields he listed were:

Upper Setts	Heathy Hill
Lower Setts	Little Marled Earth
Lower Grange Field	New Field
Upper Grange Field	Old Intake

The annual value of Buckley's produce was £10.

In a previous article on tithes paid by Saddleworth farmers (S.H.S. Bulletin Vol. 14, No. 2, 1984, pp. 20-25) it was calculated that the average farmstead in Friarmere grew about 2½ acres of oats in 1669, slightly more than was the case in Quickmere and significantly more than in Lordsmere. The average crop of the three farms described in this document of 1731 is just under 2 acres, suggesting that further subdivision of farms had taken place in the intervening 60 years. It is surprising that none of the farmers kept sheep which do appear in numerous Saddleworth inventories of the period, albeit valued at rather low sums. In their detailed evidence, all of them specifically say that they had no sheep, pigs, geese, turkeys or ducks and that they grew no fruit.

It is unlikely that these men could subsist on these small dairy farms without a supplementary income. Although they all style themselves 'yeomen' it is more than likely that they were clothiers. From our knowledge of subsequent tithe disputes it is clear that the defendants did not prove once and for all that Friarmere was tithe-free, but their income from woollen manufactures was at least beyond the reach of the tithe collectors.

J. M. H.

The author wishes to thank Michael Buckley for tracing the document on which this article is based, and Alan Petford for undertaking the major part of its transcription.

HENRY VIII's GRANT OF FRIARMERE TO ARTHUR ASHETON, 5th JUNE 1543

HENRY THE EIGHTH BY THE GRACE OF GOD KING OF

England France and Ireland Defender of the Faith and in earth supreme head of the Church of England and Ireland TO ALL to whom the present letters shall come greeting. KNOW YE that for the sum of three hundred and sixty one pounds seven shillings and fourpence of lawful money of England paid into the hands of the treasurer of our Court of Augmentation of the revenues of our Crown by our beloved subject Arthur Asheton of which same sum we acknowledge ourselves to be fully satisfied and contented and the said Arthur his heirs and executors thereof by these presents acquitted. We of our special grace and by our certain knowledge and mere motion have given and granted and by these presents give and grant to the aforesaid Arthur Asheton all that our tenement with the appurtenances called Aschenbenthe otherwise Thoome situate and being in the town of Sadilworth within the parish of Rochedale otherwise Rattesdale in our Counties of Lancaster and York and formerly belonging and pertaining to the late Monastery of Rupe otherwise Roche in our said County of York and now or late in the separate or joint tenures or occupations of Ralph Chetam Christopher Chetam and John Wrigley or their assigns or the assigns of any of them And all and singular the houses buildings lands tenements meadows feedings pastures rents reversions services and other our hereditaments whatsoever in the said parish with the same tenement or any part of the same to the said Ralph Christopher and John or to any one or any of them leased or let AND also all that our farm of Denshawe with the appurtenances in the town aforesaid within the aforesaid parish formerly belonging and pertaining to the said late monastery and now or late in the separate or joint tenures or occupations of Ralph Chetam Christopher Chetam Henry Garside William Garside Richard Garside and John Garside or their assigns or the assigns of any one of them and all and singular the messuages mills houses buildings lands tenements meadows feedings pastures rents reversions services and other our hereditaments whatsoever in the same parish with the same farm or any part or parcel thereof to the same Ralph Christopher Henry William Richard and John or to any one or any of them leased or let AND all and singular the messuages lands tenements meadows feedings pastures and other our hereditaments whatsoever in Saddelworth aforesaid known by the name or by the names of Castylshaw and formerly belonging and pertaining to the said late monastery and now or late in the separate or joint tenures or occupations of John Scofeld Alexander Scofeld Laurence Scofeld and Edmund Scofeld or their assigns or the assigns of any one of them AND also all that our Grange with the appurtenances lying and being in Saddelworth aforesaid and formerly belonging and pertaining to the said late monastery and now or late in the separate or joint tenures or occupations of the aforesaid John Scofeld Alexander Scofeld and Laurence Scofeld and of a certain Otwell Scofeld or their assigns

or the assigns of any one of them ALSO ALL and singular the messuages mills lands tenements meadows feedings pastures rents reversions services and other our hereditaments whatsoever in the same parish leased or let with the said Grange or any part or parcel thereof to the said John Alexander Laurence and Otwell or to any one or any of them AND ALSO all that our fourth part of the customs or services vulgarly called Boonez to the said late monastery formerly belonging and pertaining or with the fourth part of the aforesaid lands called Castelshawe to the aforesaid Edmund Schofeld leased or let ALSO all that our farm with the appurtenances called Swaynescrofte lying and being in Saddleworth aforesaid and formerly belonging and pertaining to the said late monastery of Roche and now or late in the separate tenures or occupations of James Lynthwayte and Robert Lynthwayte or their assigns AND all and singular our messuages houses buildings lands tenements meadows feedings pastures and other hereditaments whatsoever in Saddleworth aforesaid leased or let with the same farm called Swaynescroft or any part or parcel thereof to the same Robert and Ralph or either of them AND ALSO all that our pasture with the appurtenances called Knotthill lying and being in Saddleworth aforesaid and formerly belonging and pertaining to the said late monastery and now or late in the separate tenures or occupations of Robert Lynthwayte and Ralph Whytehede or their assigns or the assigns of either of them AND ALSO all that our tenement with the appurtenances situate lying and being in the territory of Hilbrihthope in Saddleworth aforesaid called le Delfe to the said late monastery formerly belonging and pertaining and now or late in the tenure or occupation of the aforesaid Henry Whytehede or his assigns ALSO ALL that stone quarry with the appurtenances called Blackstondelf in Saddleworth aforesaid lately belonging and pertaining to the said late monastery and now or late in the separate tenures or occupations of the aforesaid Henry Whytehede Henry Garside William Garside Richard Garside and John Garside or their assigns or the assigns of any one of them and all and singular our messuages lands tenements meadows feedings pastures woods underwoods and other hereditaments whatsoever in Saddleworth aforesaid with the said stone quarry or any part or parcel thereof leased or let to the same Henry Henry William Richard and John or to any one or any of them AND ALSO all that yearly rent of sixteen pence paid yearly by the aforesaid Henry Whytehed his heirs and assigns to the said late monastery formerly belonging and pertaining AND all that yearly rent of fourpence formerly belonging and pertaining to the said late monastery and paid yearly by the said Henry Garside his heirs and assigns AND all that yearly rent of fourpence paid yearly by the aforesaid William Garside his heirs and assigns and formerly belonging and pertaining to the said late monastery AND all that yearly rent of fourpence paid yearly by the aforesaid Richard Garside his heirs and assigns and formerly belonging and pertaining to the said late monastery AND all that yearly rent of fourpence paid yearly by the aforesaid John Garside his heirs and assigns and formerly belonging and pertaining to the said late monastery WE GIVE ALSO for the consideration aforesaid and out of our certain knowledge and mere motion

by these presents do grant to the aforesaid Arthur Asheton all and singular the other messuages lands tenements meadows pastures feedings commons of pasture common of turbary and other our hereditaments whatsoever in Saddelworth aforesaid formerly belonging and pertaining to the said late monastery. And also the reversion and reversions of all and singular the premises with all their appurtenances. And all and singular the rents reversions and other yearly profits whatsoever leased upon the premises or any parcel thereof made reserved and all and every our woods underwoods and trees growing out of in or upon the premises. WE WILL ALSO for the consideration aforesaid and out of our certain knowledge and mere motion by these presents do grant to the aforesaid Arthur Asheton his heirs and assigns that the same Arthur Asheton his heirs and assigns may have hold and enjoy the aforesaid messuages lands tenements meadows feedings pastures quarries woods and other all and singular the premises above expressed and specified with all their appurtenances. As fully and wholly and in as ample manner and form as the last Abbot and the late Convent of the said late monastery of Rupe or Roche or any one or any of their predecessors in right of that late monastery at any time before the dissolution of the same late monastery or before that late monastery came to our hands had held or enjoyed or ought to have had held or enjoyed the aforesaid messuages lands tenements and other premises or any parcel thereof. And as fully and wholly and in as ample manner and form as they all and singular came or ought to have come to our hands by reason or pretext of the dissolution or surrender of the said late monastery or by reason or pretext of any charter gift grant or confirmation or surrender by the said late abbot and the late convent of the said late monastery under their conventual seal made thereof to us or in any other wise whatsoever and now are or ought to be in our hands. TO HAVE to hold and to enjoy the aforesaid Grange farm messuages houses buildings lands tenements meadows feedings pastures quarries woods underwoods rents reversions services and other all and singular the premises above expressed and specified with all their appurtenances to the aforesaid Arthur Asheton his heirs and assigns for ever. TO HOLD of us our heirs and successors in chief by service of the fortieth part of a knight's fee. AND RENDERING yearly therefor to us our heirs and successors forty shillings and one penny of lawful money of England to our said Court of Augmentation of the revenues of our Crown payable every year at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel in the name of the tenth part of the premises for all rents services exactions and demands whatsoever in any wise to be rendered paid or made for the same to us our heirs or successors. AND FURTHER we will for us our heirs and successors and out of our certain knowledge and mere motion for the consideration aforesaid do grant by these presents to the aforesaid Arthur Asheton his heirs and assigns that we our heirs and assigns for ever will yearly and from time to time acquit exonerate and hold immune as well the said Arthur his heirs and assigns as the aforesaid Grange farm messuages lands tenements and all and singular other the premises with all their appurtenances towards us our heirs and successors and towards any other persons and person whatsoever of all and all manner of corrodies rents fees annuities and sums of money whatsoever of the aforesaid Grange farm mes-

suages lands tenements and other premises or of any parcel thereof in any wise issuing or payable or thereupon charged or to be charged except of the rents and services reserved above to us by the present WILLING MOREOVER and by the present firmly enjoining and commanding as well the chancellor and our council of the said Court of Augmentation of the revenues of our Crown for the time being as all our receivers auditors and other officers and ministers whatsoever that they and every one of them upon the mere showing of these our letters patent or the enrolment of the same without any other writ or warrant in any wise to be sought obtained or prosecuted from us our heirs or successors upon payment of the said yearly rent above reserved to us by the present shall make or cause to be made full entire and due allowance defalcation deduction and manifest exoneration to the aforesaid Arthur his heirs and assigns of all and all manner such rents fees corrodies annuities and sums of money whatsoever issuing or payable out of the premises as is aforesaid or thereupon charged or to be charged And these our letters patent or the enrolment of the same shall be yearly and from time to time sufficient warrant and exoneration in this behalf as well to the said chancellor and our council of our said Court of Augmentation of the revenues of our crown for the time being as to the aforesaid receivers auditors and other our officers and ministers whatsoever and to every one of them WE GIVE ALSO for the consideration aforesaid and out of our certain knowledge and mere motion by the present do grant to the aforesaid Arthur Asheton all the issues rents revenues and profits of the aforesaid Grange farm messuages lands tenements and of all and singular other the premises with all their appurtenances issuing or growing from the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary last past until now TO HAVE to the said Arthur by our gift without any account or other thing to be in any wise rendered paid or made for the same to us our heirs or successors AND ALSO WE WILL for the consideration aforesaid and out of our certain knowledge and mere motion do grant by the present to the aforesaid Arthur Asheton that he may and shall have these our letters patent under our great seal of England duly made and sealed without fine or fee great or small to be in any wise rendered paid or made to us in our hanaper or elsewhere to our use ALTHOUGH express mention be not made in the present of the true yearly value or of any other value or certitude of the premises or of any one of them or of any gifts or grants made before these times to the aforesaid Arthur Asheton by us or by any of our predecessors Or any statute act ordinance provision or restriction thereof to the contrary made issued ordained or provided Or any other thing cause or matter whatsoever in any wise notwithstanding IN WITNESS whereof we have caused these our letters patent to be made.

WITNESS myself at Westminster the fifth day of June in the thirty-fifth year of our reign (5th June 1543).

FLETEWOOD

by writ of privy seal and of the date aforesaid
by authority of parliament.

The original patent under the Great Seale of England enrolled by
Hugh Fuller Auditor.

Great Seal
of England
attached.

THE REAL HISTORY OF DACRES HALL

Introduction

"A marvellous PERIOD GENTLEMAN'S RESIDENCE set amongst mature lawned and wooded GARDENS. Whilst the property is claimed to have origins dating from the year 1640, the majority of the building was constructed at the beginning of the 18th century and was once owned by the Diocese of York during the reign of Queen Anne".

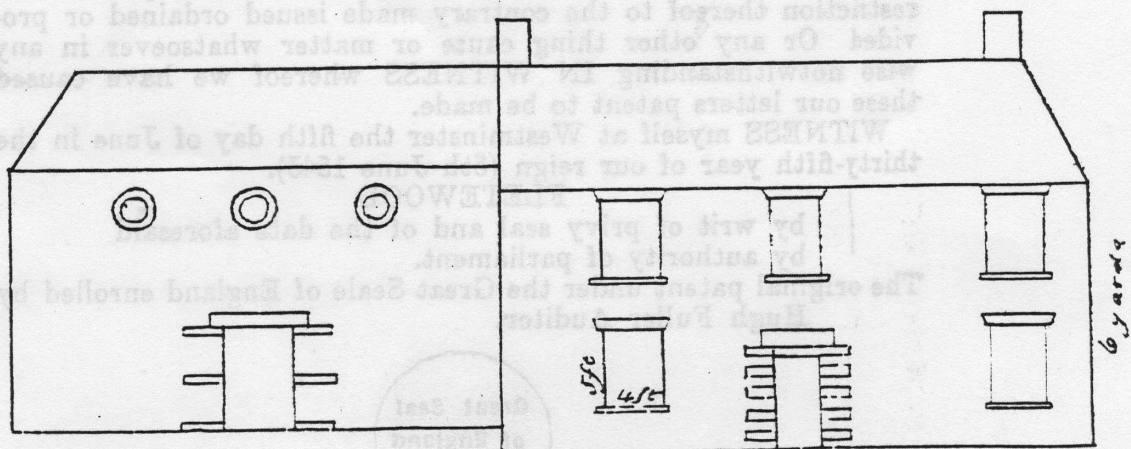
Thus read the sales literature and we as the new owners set out, during rebuilding work in late 1984, to find out the real story of the house. Perhaps, as is often the case, the house has a shorter but odder history than indicated! So far our research has been very brief and there are many gaps to be filled, but a further note will be prepared with greater details, hopefully for publication in 1987.

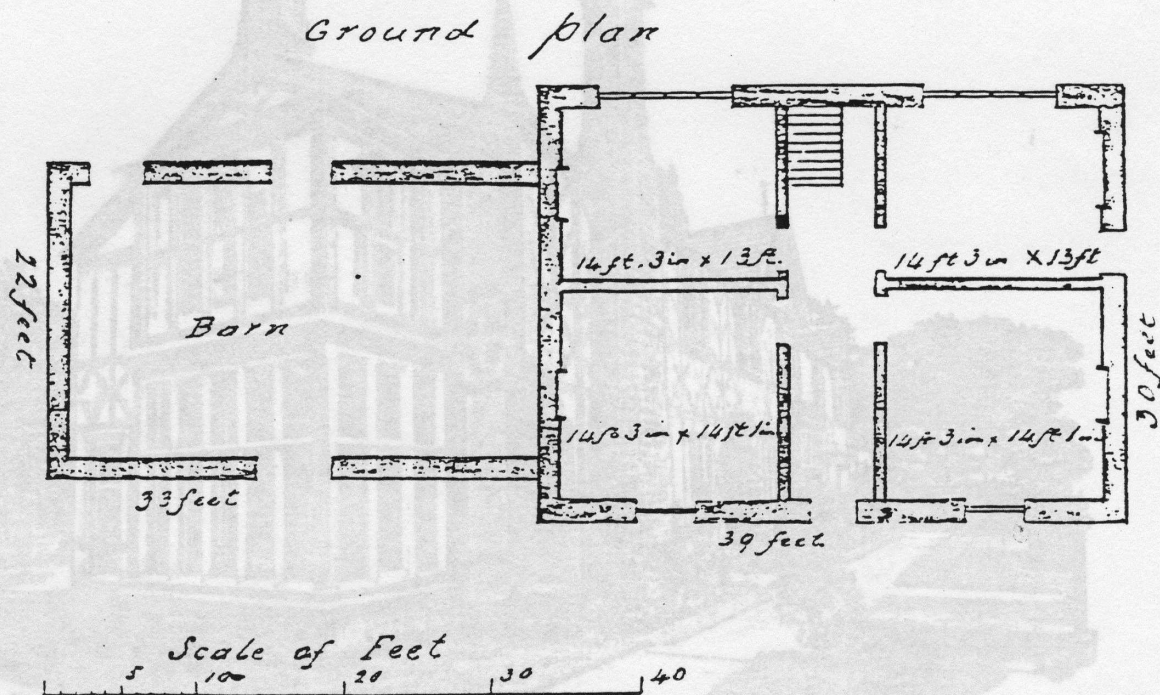
The history of the house can be conveniently divided into three phases as follows:-

1819 to about 1860

The house was built in 1819 to serve as the Parsonage for the Rev. Bartholomew Dacre, then living a Lane Head. He was the Curate of St. George's Church, Mossley from 1793 to 1821 and used money from Queen Anne's Bounty to meet the building costs of £500. The church charity entitled Queen Anne's Bounty is administered now as then by the Church Commissioners from whom we obtained the original drawings for the house and various other documents such as the specification. As can be seen, the house was originally an eight roomed house with a large barn attached. It was constructed of random stone and was rendered. Obviously living over two miles from the church was inconvenient for the incumbent and the Rev. Dacre's successor, the Rev. John Hextall, succeeded in getting another parsonage built in Mossley about 1840. He leased the original house to tenants until its sale to Thomas Shaw in 1858/9.

Elevation of the Front





1860 to 1930

George Shaw substantially redesigned the house for his brother Thomas Shaw in about 1860 and incorporated the barn into the living area. As many will know, George Shaw remodelled his own house (now Uppermill Library) and designed Ashway Gap, Wharmton Tower and Christ Church Friezland and its vicarage. Thomas Shaw called his new house Dacres Hall and it stood on a wooded site of about seven acres.

George Shaw is an architect with a mixed reputation! Some of his buildings such as Ashway Gap have in time shown structural weaknesses but this is fortunately not the case with Dacres Hall. He often incorporated into his designs items from other buildings and this house is no exception with its two distinctly ecclesiastical stained glass windows.

The Shaw family sold Dacres Hall in 1898 by which time it was probably tenanted. Increasing delapidation took place and the house was leased to the company building the Chew Valley Reservoir. During this period extra sinks and waste pipes seem to have been installed in each bedroom. The narrow gauge railway used during reservoir construction passed through the garden and a large pond and spring were probably used to obtain water for the locomotives. The line of the railway is still visible in the garden.

After the First World War, the house was refurbished by a new owner, Mr. W. T. Crossman, and it was he who promoted the building of houses on Dacres Road, Dacres Drive and Dacres Avenue. The look of Dacres Hall remained essentially unaltered until at least 1930 when the photograph reproduced overleaf was taken. This appeared in a sale brochure used by W. T. Crossman of which we have a copy.



1930 to date

Either just before or after the Second World War, Dacres Hall was divided into two. The original parsonage became Dacres Hall and the portion originally built as a barn became Dacres Hall East. Over the years, a bewildering number of outhouses have come and gone, leaving now garaging for three cars and a hay loft. We found that two additional layers of rendering had been added to Dacres Hall since its division, the final layer being a Tyrolean finish. This extra rendering might have been more successful if someone had taken the trouble to remove George Shaw's mock-Tudor woodwork first! At the time of writing, a random stone house is emerging and soon the site will cease to resemble a builder's yard.

Conclusion

As implied earlier, we intend to assemble a more complete history of Dacres Hall over the next twelve months and should welcome access to information others may have. For example, we wish to find out the truth about whether Hewlett Johnson once lived here and we should particularly like to look at any photographs or documents anyone can show us.

Jill and George Read.

SADDLEWORTH COURT ROLLS Pt. VI 1753-1755

Manor of Saddleworth)
or Quick) The Court Baron of James Farrer Esq.
held for his Manor aforesaid at the Dwelling house of James
Broadbent Innholder in Saddleworth aforesaid on the twenty
eighth day of June in the year of our Lord 1753 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

Joseph Lawton)	Thomas Bradbury)
Joseph Buckley)	John Wrigley)
Isaac Scholefield)	John Radcliffe)
John Andrew)	John Gartside)
	Sworn

James Rhodes)	
James Buckley)	Sworn
George Malalieu)	

Pains Laid by the aforesaid Jurors as follows

Wee Lay in pain that no person or persons Whatsoever do Defile
the Water belonging to John Bradbury for his house use Called
peters where he now dwels. But for every Such persons (voluntary
Act) shall for every Such offence forfeit to the Lord of this
Mannor the sum of 5s.

Allso wee Lay a pain that no person or person whatsoever do
make any mannor of footway over John Radcliffe of Fould
tenement other than the right and accustomed ways but for every
Such offence to forfeit to the Lord of this Mannor the Sum off
Six shillings Eight pence for every Such offence

Allso wee Lay a pain that no person or persons do make any foot
or horse way over that part of James Harropp tenement Called
the Rood the Gate head field End, and the over Hay bottom, or
any of them but for every Such offence to forfeit to the Lord
of this Mannor the Sum Five shillings

Wee Lay in pain that no person or persons do make any other
than the accustomed Way over any part of the tenement belonging
to John Mellodue of Clough Bottom but for Every Such offence to
forfeit to the Lord of this mannor the Sum 5s.

Wee amerce John Bentley for Not opening his Ditch and Keeping
his spent water in the antient Clough according to a pain Laid
the 25th of June 1752 in the Sum off 5s.

July the 9th 1753 presented by us

James Harropp
Joseph Lawton

Thomas Bradbury
John Wrigley

Joseph Buckley
Isaac Scholefield
John Andrew
John Radcliffe

John Gartside
James Rhodes
James Buckley
George Malladue

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 twentieth
day of June in the year of our Lord 1754 before the free
Suitors of the Court of the Manor aforesaid and Samuel Fenton
Gentleman Steward of the Courts of the said Manor.

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

Joseph Buckley Gentleman Sworn

John Andrew	)	Henry Whitehead	)
James Bradbury	)	James Whitehead	)
John Seville	)	Thomas Bradbury	)
Robert Winterbottom	)	Edmund Platt	)

Sworn Sworn

James Buckley	)
John Broadbent	)
George Malalieu	)

Sworn

Pains laid by the Jurors aforesaid as follows

We lay in pain that if any person or persons make any Foot
Way or Ways over three Closes called the Acre the upper
Thurstones and the lower Thurstones in the Occupation of
Robert Winterbottom and John Whitehead and lying within the
Manor aforesaid, each person so offending shall forfeit for
every such Offence to the Lord of the said Manor the Sum of
Six shillings and eight pence

Also we lay in pain that if any person or persons make any
unusual or unaccustomed Foot Way or Ways in over or through
any lands lying at Thame Water within the Mannor aforesaid
in the Occupation of James Buckley each person for every
such Offence shall forfeit to the Lord of the said Mannor
the Sum of ten shillings

Also we lay in pain that if any person or persons make any
unusual or unaccustomed Foot Way or Ways in over or through
any Lands lying at Upper Mill within the Manor aforesaid in
the Occupation of James Whitehead each person so offending
shall for every such Offence forfeit to the Lord of the said
Manor the Sum of five shillings

Also we lay in pain that if William Radcliffe of Cross in
Saddleworth aforesaid shall at any Time turn the Water out
of the usual Course in the Lands in his Occupation in
Saddleworth aforesaid he shall forfeit to the Lord of the
said Manor for every such Offence the Sum of ten Shillings

Also we lay in pain that if any person or persons make any Foot Way over the Closes called the Platt Hills near Dobcross in the Occupation of Henry Whitehead and within the Manor aforesaid each person so offending shall for every such Offence forfeit to the Lord of the said Manor the Sum of five Shillings

Joseph Buckley
John Andrew
James Bradbury
John Seville
Robert Winterbottom
Henry Whitehead
Thomas Bradbury
Edmund Platt
James Buckley
John Broadbent
George Malladue

Manor of Sadleworth)
or Quick) The Court Baron of James Farrer Esq.
holden for his Manor aforesaid at the Dwelling house of
Michael Bothomley Innholder in Sadleworth aforesaid on the
fifth day of June in the year of our Lord 1755 before the
free Suitors of the Court of the Manor aforesaid and Samuel
Fenton Gentleman Steward of the Courts of the said Manor

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

James Harrop Gentleman Sworn

John Andrew)	Edmund Platt)	
Robert Lees)	John Bentley)	Sworn
John Radcliffe)	Radcliffe Whitehead)	
James Buckley)	Thomas Bradbury)	

pains laid by the abovesaid Jurors as follows

Wee Lay a pain that Peter Greave nor the Occupyers of his Land do turn the Water belonging to Joshua Radcliffe Kiln Croft out of the antient and accustomed Courses but for every time So offending to forfeit to the Lord of the Manor 2s. 6d.

Wee allso Lay a pain on William Radcliffe and Joshua Radcliffe that they putt the house Called Lane House in Suffeccent Repair before the twenty Ninth day of September Next of forfeit and pay to the Lord of the Manor 20s.

Wee Lay a pain that no person do make any foot way or horse way over Thomas Platt Hey head or the Intake, but for every offence to forfeit to the Lord of the Manor the Sum of 5s. Od.

THE SADDLEWORTH UNION BANK

The Saddleworth Union Bank had its origins in the closing years of the 18th century when control of the rapidly expanding woollen industry of Saddleworth was becoming concentrated in the hands of a few wealthy and able merchants and manufacturers. Prominent amongst these was John Harrop of Dobcross, a partner in several fulling and scribbling mills, a leading member of the committee running the Manor of Saddleworth, a strong backer of the Huddersfield Canal Company and one of the largest landowners in the district. His mansion, Woods House, still stands and amongst his tenants in the neighbouring property was John Wrigley, whose name appears on a printing plate for bank notes dated 179- now preserved in Saddleworth Museum (1). Wrigley was not a man of great wealth (2) and was in all probability Harrop's cashier or manager of his bank.

The bank premises survive as an elegant row of houses and shops forming the southern end of the square in Dobcross. They had originally been a pub called the White Lion (3) built by Benjamin Buckley in 1779 (4). Buckley sold the buildings to John Harrop in 1786 (5). They are described as three dwellings in a deed of 1808 whereby John Harrop conveyed five sixths of the property to his partners in the bank, John Rhodes of Halifax, John Roberts of Linfits, Joseph Lees of Clarksfield in Oldham, James Buckley of Greenfield House, and John Wrigley of Dobcross. All of these men styled themselves merchants except John Wrigley, who called himself a banker. (6)

The London Gazette of 21 December 1813 contains a notice of the dissolution of this partnership. The partners had already conveyed the bank premises to a trustee, Joseph Harrop of Grasscroft, proprietor of the Royal George Mills and a second cousin of John Harrop (7). The reason for the split may have been as much religious as commercial for the two congregationalists, James Buckley and John Wrigley, brought together another group of local merchants to open a rival bank in Dobcross. As early as September 1813, these men had purchased a house on the opposite side of the square (8) which to this day bears the legend 'Saddleworth Bank' over its window. The other partners in this new venture were John Platt the elder of Heathfields, John Roberts the younger of Hill End (son of John Roberts of Linfits) and Robert Shaw of Furlane.

Harrop's bank, or the 'Saddleworth Union Bank' as it was later known, was reconstituted by an agreement of 9 October 1813 (9). Harrop's new partners were his brother Thomas Harrop of Dobcross, his step-son Edward Brown of Dobcross, and three of Oldham's wealthiest cotton spinners and coal owners, Joseph Jones the elder, James Lees of Clarksfield and John Lees of Fairfield his brother. Each partner put up £1,000 of the capital except for James Lees who provided £2,000. With such powerful men behind it, the Saddleworth Union Bank attracted the business of merchants and manufacturers from many of the surrounding towns and helped finance the rapid growth of Oldham's cotton industry. The partners underlined their business relationship with a series of marriage alliances. Thomas Harrop's son Joseph had married

Joseph Jones' daughter Betty in 1807. After Joseph Harrop's death in 1808 she married James Lees of Clarksfield. John Harrop had married in 1799 Mary, widow of James Brown of Ashton, gentleman. A son by this marriage, also called John Harrop, had been taken into partnership in the bank by 1824 (10) and went on to become a well known banker in Manchester.

The Saddleworth Union Bank lent large sums to the Royal George Mills at Grasscroft. During the great depression of 1826 the proprietor, Joseph Harrop, was declared bankrupt, owing amongst other large sums £17,388 to Harrop's bank (11). A rumour circulated that John Harrop was also insolvent, causing a run on the Saddleworth Union Bank which was vividly described some years later by a correspondent of the Oldham Chronicle (12).

'I have a vivid recollection of the run upon the Saddleworth Bank, in 1826, and of being sent on horseback to Dobcross to get gold for four hundred £1 notes of that bank held by our firm. The crowd of people eager to exchange their paper, even on the first day after the rumour had been started, was something to remember; we were admitted into the bank about six at a time, and the cash handed over to us. The wistful look of the people, who questioned us as we emerged as to our success, and the probability of their likewise succeeding, I shall never forget. But it did not prevent me enjoying a good dinner at the inn near, and congratulating myself on the success of my expedition. After staying some hours to watch the proceedings I paid my bill, which amounted to 8s. 6d., saddled my horse, and rode home, where my employer was glad enough to receive me. What arrangement the bank made with its creditors I know not, but it was always understood that the rumours as to the insecurity of the bank had been started by by some ill-disposed person for a purpose. The proprietors fought hard to meet all demands, but a great part of their securities were the cotton mills of Oldham, which could not be realised in a hurry.'

John Harrop's wealthy partners no doubt ensured that he avoided bankruptcy, but his nephews, Charles and Samuel Harrop, sons of his deceased brother Thomas, were not so lucky. With Joseph Jones as one of their assignees in bankruptcy however, their affairs were handled sympathetically.

The surviving partners in the bank closed its doors for good and sold the premises in 1827 to John Kenworthy of Dobcross, surgeon (13). John Harrop's mansion was sold off in 1830 (14) and at his death in 1837 he was living probably with his son in Bramhall.

John Harrop's rise and fall are described in a temperance tract published in Ipswich in 1883. It was written by one John Higginbottom and entitled 'the Honest Banker and his Step-son'.

During a Christmas vacation, when a school-boy, about the year 1802, I visited a relation of my family, Mr. John Harrop, of Dobcross, Saddleworth, at that time a respectable banker. He had a small family, consisting of his wife, a step-son, Edward Brown, who was about my

own age, and an only son of his own; these with Sally Cocks, a worthy old housekeeper of the olden kind, and domestics, made up a very happy family. Mr. Harrop was a man greatly esteemed and loved by all the country round - one of the old aristocracy. It being the time when there was a threatened invasion of England by Bonaparte, he was the Colonel of a Rifle Corps. His known honesty was such that if any of the working class received a Bank of England note, it was sure to find its way to his Bank; they knew that Mr. Harrop's notes were good, but they would not trust the Bank of England. Years of prosperity and happiness passed away; during that time his step-son, Edward Brown, was articled to a celebrated firm of solicitors, the Worthingtons of Altringham; he afterwards married a London lady with property, and was independent as it regarded money; he did not practice as a solicitor, but joined his step-father in the bank.

In the well-known panic of 1825, Mr. Harrop and son became insolvent. The bank failed in consequence of their having advanced large sums of money on factories, machinery, etc.

This circumstance to so highly principled and honest a man as Mr. Harrop, was most distressing; but although in his seventieth year, he began directly to retrench and husband his remaining resources. The first act he did was to lessen his domestic expenses, beginning with himself, - the way every upright honest man ought to proceed. He had been in the habit of taking three glasses of wine, daily, after dinner: - one glass for Church, King, and Constitution, - a second for his friends, and a third for his enemies. He now not only resolved to abstain from wine, but from animal food, and live on vegetable diet, milk, and no doubt the substantial staple food of that locality and of the north country - oatmeal porridge, or what is usually called there, water porridge, denominated as the "King of spoon meats." These, with the pure air of the moors and hills, and for drink the pure crystal water, flowing at the foot of the hills, and buttermilk, a cooling, nutritious fluid, which is much valued by the natives, would be sufficient, with exercise, to produce health and happiness. Mr. Harrop would not allow his wife to discontinue her wine, as he thought it did her good. Very few people ever suffer from self-denial for a good cause, as the result will prove.

Mr. Brown, the step-son of Mr. Harrop, was placed in the same embarrassed state, from being a partner in the bank, but fortunately he could turn to the law, and make use of his early knowledge of that profession. From his character of honesty, and of that of his step-father, a great many friends flocked around him, and he had soon a number of excellent clients, which caused him to succeed well in the law.

Ten years of industry, retrenchment, and self-denial passed away, when Mr. Harrop arrived at the age of eighty years; when one morning his step-son came and informed him that he owed no man a shilling. "Thank God," said the old man, "I can now die happy, and in peace." (15).

References

1. S.H.S. Bulletin Vol. 14, No. 2, 1984, p. 29.
2. Will of John Wrigley of Dobcross, banker, proved at York, 7 November 1831, valued under £8,000.
3. Giles Shaw, Annals of Oldham, Vol. 3, p. 14.
4. West Riding Registry of Deeds CI 412 597.
5. CT 300 387.
6. FW 343 344.
7. FX 453 525. Joseph Harrop reconveyed the bank premises to the new partners in 1814 by deed GC 475 563.
8. GA 215 257.
9. Agreement held by Messrs. Gledhill, Pingle Mill, Delph.
10. John Harrop the younger of Dobcross, Banker, is a party to a mortgage of the Swan Inn, Dobcross, 9 July 1824 (IA 253)
11. Public Record Office. Proceedings in bankruptcy of Joseph Harrop of Grasscroft, 1826. Ref. 2414-5. I am indebted to Mr. Neil Barrow for notes on this file.
12. Oldham Chronicle 6 December 1879.
13. IZ 471 470.
14. LA 427 374.
15. Ipswich Temperance Tract No. 345. (Copy in Hewkin Collection, Uppermill Library)

J.M.H.

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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 1986

We had something of a surprise at the last Committee meeting to find that Julian, our Editor, had shaved off his beard. Nobody in this part of the country remembers him without it so it's quite an event. He looks a different person.

Julian has also taken another big step and has bought an up-to-date typewriter. He and his wife Mary will be typing the Bulletin in future, starting with this edition.

Our Editor needs more interesting material for inclusion in the Bulletin and would welcome the results of other members' research. We all enjoy reading other people's findings - so how about it?

Summer Trip

The Summer Trip on Saturday 12th July was a very successful affair. There were only 34 people on the coach and this was rather disappointing, but everyone thoroughly enjoyed the visits so ably arranged by Jim Carr. He is already talking about Hull and Beverley for next year.

Archaeology Group Programme

There will be no meeting during August.

Wednesday 10th September, 7.00 p.m., Museum Car Park, for an evening trip to Rock Hall, Moses Gate Country Park, near Bolton.

Wednesday 8th October, 7.30 for 8.00 p.m., Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill, meeting to plan the Winter programme and to study archaeology from air-photography.

Other meetings this year will be on 12th November and 10th December at the Cross Keys. The Archaeology Group is certainly an active group. Anyone can go along to their meetings. You'd be most welcome.

Saddleworth at War Exhibition

This splendid exhibition is now on view in the Museum Gallery. It is open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. each week day and from 2.00 to 5.00 p.m. until the 3rd August.

Ammon Wrigley Anniversary, Sunday 31 August 1986

A reminder that the Society is commemorating the 40th anniversary of the death of our much-loved poet and historian with an event which will take the following format:

- 2.30 p.m. Assemble at Museum Car Park for visit to Ammon Wrigley's birthplace and to the Dinner Stone.
- 4.00 p.m. Address by Canon C.C.W. Airne at Dinner Stone.
- 6.00 p.m. Supper at Museum followed by a talk on Ammon Wrigley by Alan Petford.
- 7.30 p.m. Recitations from the works of Ammon Wrigley by Society members and friends.

Members of the Lancashire Dialect Society and the Federation of West Riding Historical Societies will be joining us on this occasion which should add interest to the event. Contact Mrs. Elsie Broadbent (Saddleworth 2870) if you intend to be present either in the afternoon or the evening.

20th Anniversary Dinner, Friday 10th October 1986

A booking slip for tickets is enclosed and should be returned as soon as possible to Mrs. Elsie Broadbent. This will be a memorable event for the Society, about the Society and presented by Society personalities. It will be illustrated by many, many photographs of the passage of 20 years of Historical Society activities, costume balls, Society trips and outings and some of our achievements, altogether a truly comprehensive trip down memory lane. This will be followed by one of our usual Society walks and an informal Social Evening with slides in the Museum Gallery on Saturday 11th October, 1986. We should like to see old friends from far and wide join in the celebrations. If you would like accomodation, contact John Murray (Saddleworth 4493) 134, Oldham Road, Denshaw.

Rotary Charitable Society Fair on Ashton Market, Sunday 29th June, 1986

Our thanks are due to Peter and Dorothy Holme who ran a double-stall at the above event selling literature, pictures and jams on behalf of the Society and the Museum. Proceeds from their effort totalled £20 and they are to be congratulated for their sterling work.

Membership 1986

May I remind those who have neglected to pay their 1986 subscription to the Society that this is the second Bulletin of the year and that non-payment may result in further issues not being delivered. Membership rates are as follows:

Family membership	£5.00
Single membership	£4.00
Retired membership (per family)	£3.00
Student membership	£3.00

Your cheque should be made out to the Saddleworth Historical Society and forwarded to Mrs. E. Broadbent, 45 Beechfield, Grasscroft, Oldham OL4 4EL.

I was talking to one of our members, who should have known better, who thought that because my name was always the last to appear in the Bulletin, that I was responsible for its production. So - to put the record straight - I only write the Newsletter which appears at the end of the Bulletin. All the hard work - researching, checking, collating material, and editing is done by our very capable Editor, Julian Hunt.

J. G. Parry.

16 July 1986