

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 16 Number 4 Winter 1986

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER WINTER 1986

Since the last Newsletter there have been several events on our calendar. As I write this, in January, some of the events seem a long time ago. At the November meeting Dr. D.A. Farnie of Manchester University gave a fascinating talk on the Post War Boom in the Cotton Industry from 1919 to 1920. Using an amazing variety of statistics, he painted a picture of Lancashire throbbing with energy and industry. Cotton made a large contribution to the national wealth. There was a world wide demand for cotton goods after the War, there was full employment and the industry was highly unionised. Prosperity radiated from Manchester to Liverpool and banks experienced their greatest business. Although the prosperity was regarded as permanent it lasted only about eighteen months. William Haslam Mills, in his book 'Grey Pastures', wrote 'Lancashire calls itself a county but has the airs of a continent.' Stanley's jazz chairs were used for the first time at this lecture. Very comfortable too!

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting in December was well attended. John Murray was re-elected Chairman and his annual report appears elsewhere in this Bulletin. Stanley Broadbent was re-elected Vice Chairman. The other officers and committee members were re-elected en bloc. After considerable discussion the subscriptions were raised to £6.00 for family membership, £4.50 for single membership and £3.50 for retired members and students. Elsie Broadbent, our membership secretary, would be pleased to receive your subscriptions.

Slide Evening

The Slide Evening was an enjoyable affair with wine and mince pies and slides of Thailand by Neil Barrow, Florida and space exhibitions by Jim Carr, Beverley by George Taylor and Lydgate by Canon Airne. A fairly wide range!

The January meeting had to be cancelled because of the extremely rough weather and heavy snow. Alan Petford will now be giving his talk entitled 'The Architecture of Dissent' on Wednesday April the 8th in place of Julian Hunt who is busy completely revising his theories of the origin of Diggle. Julian will give us his talk next season.

There are often unfortunate occasions when our meetings clash with those of other societies to which our members belong. It is particularly unfortunate this year as the March and April ones coincide with those of the Chamber Concerts Society. Last year it was the Natural History Society members who were unfortunate. Your committee would welcome suggestions of how to avoid these clashes.

Future Programme

Wednesday February 11th	'Winston Spencer Churchill'
Museum, Uppermill	Antony Thornton Hodge
Wednesday March 11th	'Walking in and around Saddleworth'
Museum, Uppermill	Bob Tait
Wednesday April 8th	'The Architecture of Dissent'
Museum, Uppermill	Alan Petford

Dates for your diary

Saturday June 14th	Coach trip to Wigan
Saturday July 4th	A The Dansant at the Museum
Wednesday July 15th	An evening walk around Quick, starting at the White Hart
Saturday August 1st	A coach trip to Hull and Beverley
Saturday August 8th	A longer walk around Shawmere
Saturday November 7th	A Buffet Dance at the Civic Hall

Festival Week May 23rd - 30th

The Society is planning to hold one day seminars on agriculture and the domestic woollen industry and on the Romans in Saddleworth on Saturday 23rd and 30th respectively. More about this in the next Newsletter.

Archaeology Group

The Group meets at the Cross Keys, Uppermill, 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. All members are welcome.

Wednesday February 18th	'Roman Bath and Cirencester'
	Jim Carr
Wednesday March 18th	'Animal, Vegetable or Mineral'
	Alec Schofield
Wednesday April 15th	'Hadrian's Wall'
	Ken Booth

After Easter the Group will meet on Sunday afternoons for visits to sites etc. A note for your diary - the A.G.M. of the Council for British Archaeology Group 5 will be held on Saturday March 14th (venue to be arranged).

Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society

The Society is affiliated to the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society and members can attend their meetings. These are held in the Reception Room at the Central Library, Manchester, at 6.45 p.m.

March 13th	'The Railways of New Mills'
	Derek Brumhead
April 10th	'Foreign minorities in Manchester, 1750 - 1825'
	A. G. Rose
May 8th	'Marshall Stevens 1852-1936, the Ship Canal and Trafford Park'
	Dr. D. A. Farnie

Saddleworth W.E.A.

Friday May 8th
Common Room, Saddleworth
School, 7.30 p.m.

The Kenworthy Lecture
'Victorian Saddleworth'
Michael Fox

Saturday May 9th
Lee Street Centre,
Uppermill, 9.45 a.m.

A Day School
'Transport in Saddleworth'
Michael Fox

Lunch followed by a walk around
transport sites.

Fee for day including lunch £3.00
£2.00 for pensioners etc.

Music at the Gallery

The fifth event in the 'Music at the Gallery' series is to be held at the Museum on Saturday 21st February, 8.00 p.m. - 12.00 p.m., where will be appearing 'The Wonderful Waduku', with a mixture of Hi-life, Latin, Afro-Funk and Jazz for your entertainment and to help Museum funds. There will be a licenced bar and admission is £2.00. Tickets from Stanley Broadbent, Sadd. 2870, or pay at the door.

New Books

On Saturday December 20th at the Museum there was a most successful launch of Colonel G.B. Howcroft's new book 'The First World War 1914-1918, Remembered by a Yorkshire Territorial'. If you missed your autographed copy on that occasion the book is now on sale in the local bookshops and in the Museum at a cost of £4.95.

Another recent publication by a Society member, Mr. Wilfred Ashton, is entitled 'A Saddleworth Miscellany'. The book has a forward by Lord Rhodes of Saddleworth, who, having known most of the characters described in the book, which draws on the rich heritage of Saddleworth, confesses to having revelled in nostalgia. Lord Rhodes has no hesitation in commending this book, which is why we draw your attention to it in our Newsletter. It is in the shops now at a price of £2.75.

New Trails

The new Dobcross Trail and the revised edition of the Grasscroft Trail will be out soon. Jim Carr is also preparing a trail featuring the bridges of Saddleworth. Should be very interesting.

Overseas Connections

A donation of \$100 has been received from Mr. J.C. Wrigley of Vancouver, British Columbia. Canon Airne informs us that he has also received some papers and documents of great interest in relation to the Wrigley family which are to be put in the Archives and perhaps Canon Airne will have something to say on these matters in due course. We would like to thank Mr. Wrigley very much for his generosity and wish him happiness on that Pacific coastline of North America.

We have a new member, Mr. George P.A. Broadbent, 908 N. Webster Ave., Scranton, Pa. 18510, U.S.A., and it is with great

interest that we learn he is a descendant of Ralph Broadbent the headmaster at Castleshaw School who is much referred to in the works of Amnon Wrigley. Mr. Broadbent was in England last year but was not able to visit Saddleworth. No doubt he will in future and maybe the details of his family will appear in the Bulletin.

We received Christmas greetings from Harold and Elsa Wrigley of North Carolina and Lew and Dorothy Cavalier of Pennsylvania who are always pleased to receive their Bulletin and Newsletter.

A Severed Connection

We have been informed by Miss Helen Hewkin of Oaksey, Wiltshire, of the death last year of Mr. Eric Hewkin of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, which severs one of the remaining links with Irad G. Hewkin whose fine collection of local books is housed in Uppermill Library.

New Members

Mr. A.D. Blackett, Uppermill.	Mr. J. Garside, Greenfield.
Mrs. L. Garside Durkee, Coonecticut, U.S.A.	Mrs. S. Dyson, Uppermill.
Mr. D. Scholes, Lockwood Hey.	Mr. & Mrs. F. Tyler, Greenfield
Mr. & Mrs. J. Birtles, Greenfield	Dr. & Mrs. M.A. Johnson, Delph
Mr. & Mrs. G. Ashworth, Shaw.	Mr. George P.A. Broadbent, Scranton, U.S.A.
Mr. & Mrs. H. Brooks, Grasscroft.	
Mrs. I. Hallas, Grasscroft.	

I hope to see you at the meetings.

J.G. Parry, January 1987.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, A.G.M., 2nd DECEMBER 1986

Twenty years have passed since the Society was formed. A bit of self-congratulation may not be amiss. In fact we and our guests indulged in that at our Anniversary Dinner at the Civic Hall and the following day's walk and evening entertainment at the Museum.

BULLETIN

OF THE

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Stanley serves on the Museum Steering Committee and conceived the idea of "Music at the Gallery". So far he has organised and run three jazz concerts here in the Gallery in aid of the Museum and from the proceeds we now have fifty extra chairs for our lecture meetings. He has also arranged a Christmas Concert on Saturday 20th December with a contingent of the Dobcross Band providing seasonal music. He has established a rapport with the officials of the Huddersfield Canal Society which could be useful and he is arranging a meeting of our own Committee with them to discuss the woolroad Warehouse. A planning proposal from the Brewery for an extension to the White Hart Inn at Lydgate caused some concern to Mr. Broadbent and other villagers for many months. Lydgate is a conservation area and the alterations planned were considered out of proportion to the character of the area. Stanley brought this before our own Committee who agreed with the residents' objections. The planning application was eventually withdrawn but he is maintaining his liaison with the Lydgate Residents Association in case other unsuitable planning applications arise in the future.

Mr. Broadbent makes the posters advertising our meetings as well as those publicising the Museum. You may have seen him looking around Delph village for some places to display his latest poster, probably before the shopkeepers have even opened their doors. You may have spotted him switching furniture from the Civic Hall to the Museum for some function, or tidying up the Museum with Elsie the morning after. All this plus the

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I have always enjoyed the privilege of being able to thank in my report individual members whose contribution to our work during the year has been outstanding. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Broadbent fall easily into this category, Vice Chairman and Membership Secretary respectively. I have re-written their reports because I want to give some indication of the amount of work these two members have done for us and for the Museum. They are both too modest to record it. Mr. Broadbent first. He seems to have had a hand in most of our activities. He excels as Chairman of the Social Committee and the organisation of the very successful 20th Anniversary weekend in October gave full scope for his organising ability. The Social Committee members responded in kind and the whole weekend was a pronounced success. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Gordon Parry "for his excellent graphics", to Mrs. Broadbent "for her tele-sales" and to Mrs. Margaret O'Brien and Mrs. Terry Porrise for "their admirable support work". He thanked all the other Social Committee members for their help. He carried them along with his infectious enthusiasm which culminated in what Mr. David Chadderton called "a right good do".

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many obligations attendant upon his post as Vice Chairman of the Society.

Mrs Elsie Broadbent is doing an excellent job as Membership Secretary. Correspondence has been maintained throughout the year with introductory letters to new members and contact maintained with our overseas members. Total membership for this year is 354. 261 subscriptions have been received and 57 new members enrolled, a record to date. Some subscriptions are still outstanding. There are two new overseas members: Mr. Galand Nield from Wyoming has visited us twice this year, once with his sister and the second time with his wife. The Nield men were Oldhamers who invariably married Saddleworth girls. Mr. Julian Hunt has been able to help him considerably with his family tree. Mrs L. Gartside Durkee is from Connecticut and is interested in the Mayalls, Gartsides and Nobles. She has already visited us once and no doubt Canon Airne and Mr. Hunt will be able to help her trace her ancestry. She has purchased copies of all the past issues of the Bulletin still available. Mrs. Esther Shaw Lawn made a generous donation of \$200 in January and we have bought with this a portable display screen for use at exhibitions and promotions. She sent us a further \$100 in May and we are very grateful for her continuing support. Mrs. Mary Martin of Sugarland, Texas, has also sent us two donations of \$150 this year.

The very successful Ammon Wrigley day in August was organised by Mrs. Broadbent. Mr. Alan Petford acted as our guide on a coach trip around the various hillside homesteads in Denshaw and Delph associated with Ammon's family and gave a splendid talk on the author's life and work in the evening. Canon Airne gave the address at the Dinner Stone memorial and Mr. Harry Walne and Mr. Sam Seville enlivened the evening with recitations from Ammon Wrigley's work. Members of the Wakefield Historical Society and the Lancashire Dialect Society joined us for the occasion. Mrs. Broadbent was very grateful to all who helped. She is one of the ladies to whom we are indebted for organising the tea at our lecture meetings. She also does typing for committee members and maintains a considerable correspondence with members needing help, usually with tracing their ancestry.

For the past few years I have reported at the A.G.M. our intention to recommence work on the restoration of the Woolroad Warehouse. No actual work however has been done on the site for some time. We have had discussions with our joiner who will shortly be inspecting the building and preparing a quotation for the doors. The Industrial Archaeology Group under Mr. John Buckley hope that a start will be made at an early date on the next stage of restoration.

Our Secretary, Mrs. Barbara Booth, again arranged an interesting series of lectures which were well attended. In fact the attendance at some of them highlighted the need for more chairs in the Gallery. She also officiated at our committee meetings and made us aware of matters which required action. The Saddleworth Tourist Association was one such item. We have not yet joined but we receive notes of their meetings and will keep a watching brief on the progress of this organisation.

The Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture at the Millgate Centre in October was very well supported. The lecturer was Mr. David Start, Director of Current Excavations at the Castleshaw Roman Fort. He brought us up to date with all that has been done on the site.

Our Archivist Canon Airne reports a steady flow of material for the Society Archives. The most important deposit this year has been a copy of Bernard Barnes' notes on Saddleworth and Mossley mills which complement those on individual settlements deposited earlier. Canon Airne has paid tribute to the valuable work of Mr. Maurice Dennet, our Deputy Archivist. He rounds off his report by emphasising that no material may be removed from the Archives Room. Facilities are available for photocopying for a modest charge payable to the Museum staff.

Mr. Gordon Parry our Museum Liaison Officer has continued to attend meetings of the Museum Management Committee on behalf of the Society and to organise the rota of weekend curators. He continues to be impressed by the enthusiasm and hard work of the Management Committee who organise the events and exhibitions which make the Museum such a focal point in Saddleworth. He draws our attention to the article written by Mrs. Shiela Greenall in the 1986-87 Yearbook of the British Association of Friends of Museums which tells the story of Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery. He expresses his gratitude to the weekend museum curators for sorting out their difficulties without referring back to him. The number of these volunteers continues to increase each year in spite of a few withdrawals. He is always happy to hear of others willing to help. Just let him have your name, address and telephone number, even if you would only like to be on a reserve list. Without the help of the volunteer curators who keep the doors open at the weekends much of the work of the Museum would be to no avail.

The Society has investigated the possibility of using the Civic Hall for our meetings but it was decided by an overwhelming majority of members at our March meeting that we would continue to use the facilities of the Museum. In his report, Mr. Parry says nothing of the press reports he prepares at all our lecture meetings and submits to the local newspapers for publication. This is not an easy task and he deserves our thanks for doing it so well and without complaint.

The Archaeology Group under Mr. Jim Carr have again had a very full programme of meetings and visits to places of interest. At the first meeting in January, Mr. Carr gave a talk on Cypruss. Mr. Ken Booth followed in February with "The Romans on the Rhine". Ken and David Start gave lectures and mounted an exhibition on the Roman Road and the Castleshaw Project at the Brownhill Centre. The exhibition is now circulating local libraries. Several members attended consecutive Saturday day-schools at Manchester University on "Celts and the Classical World: Communities on the Frontier" and "Discovery 85. New Light on the Roman Army in Britain". At the next ordinary meeting Mr. Mervin Cox gave a most interesting slide show on Crete featuring many classical sites.

Members joined the full Society for Mr. John Walker's lecture on "Roman Manchester" which many visited later in the year, both the reconstructed North Gate and the dig at the Western Defences. After Easter, activities moved outside and in April Mrs Jean Barnes led a walk on the Grasscroft Trail. In May there was a visit to the Roman fort of Navio at Broughton-on-Noe. Later in the Summer a number of the Group traced the Roman Road from Austerlands via Old Nathan's Farm and Thurston Clough to Hull Mill from where the road leads to the right of the Castleshaw Fort. In July the Group visited Bolton Priory and Barden Towers as guests of the Friends of Craven Museum - an excellent day followed by a meal and evening slide show. Indoor activities were resumed in the Autumn with a planning meeting followed by a study of air photography - hill forts, Hadrian's Wall and Saddleworth - with particular reference to the route of the Roman road from Castleshaw towards Pule Hill, Marsden and Slack. In November we were represented at the Reports Meeting of the Council for British Archaeology Regional Group 5 at Manchester University by Dr. Pat Stonehouse who spoke on "Mesolithic Flint Sites in the Saddleworth Area of the Central Pennines. Mr. Phil Mayes included developments at Castleshaw in his outline of the work of the Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit. Dr. Stonehouse repeated his talk at the next meeting at the Cross Keys along with a report on other aspects of the Conference. The Group look forward to an evening with the Huddersfield Society in the near future when developments at Pule Hill and the route of the Roman road will be discussed. Mr. Carr also arranged a very enjoyable Society coach trip in the Summer to Roche Abbey, Cresswell Craggs and Abbeydale.

We have always enjoyed a harmonious relationship with the Saddleworth Branch of the W.E.A. Early in the year Mrs Latimer asked if we could provide guides to lead evening walks along each of our Local Interest Trails. A charge would be made and proceeds go to the W.E.A. branch. We agreed to do this and the walks proved very successful. The W.E.A. also consulted us when arranging their programme of classes and we suggested possible courses which might interest our members.

Our Editor, Mr. Julian Hunt, has prepared four Bulletins again this year. Contributions of a high quality have featured in these issues but he remarks that a wider range of subject matter might give the Bulletin more appeal and that there is always room for the fruits of other members' research. He would welcome constructive criticism of the content and style of the Bulletin and would be happy to incorporate useful suggestions in future issues. During the year Mr. Hunt and Mr. David Gartside have prepared the text of a new trail on Dobcross and they have revised the Grasscroft Trail. Both should be available in the Spring. It is revealing to note that in the last four issues of the Bulletin, fifteen of the major articles have been prepared by either Mr. Hunt or Mr. Alan Petford. Mr. Hunt wishes to thank contributors to the Bulletin and those who regularly distribute copies.

Our thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Holmes for selling our publications at the Ashton Rotary Fair, to Mr. Harvey Griffiths for housing our trailer over the past year, to Mr. Antony Hodge for the excellent exhibition "Saddleworth at War" which he mounted in the Gallery, and to the ladies who help with the tea at our meetings. Looking ahead, dates have been

fixed for four outings next Summer. Your Committee felt that it would be helpful if you knew of these arrangements well in advance. You will find information on them in the Newsletter accompanying the Winter Bulletin, along with an announcement of the part the Society will play in next year's Festival of the Arts.

John Murray

PLAYING'S ONLY PART OF IT

A few brass band stories collected by Alec Greenhalgh

There is no doubt that these brass band stories collected by Alec Greenhalgh are a treasury of brass. The array of bandsmen recounting their classic remembrances reads like a roll of honour and there are twenty six story tellers to relish in this book. They are all champions in their own right and as Alec says, 'provide the interested outsider with more of an insight into what brass banding is than any musicologist could hope to provide.'

Don Lusher in his prelude observes that 'These people are not full time professionals; they're doing a day's work in many different jobs and running families - yet they maintain such a high musical standard. You realise they are a very special kind of people, male and female of all ages. It's a wonderful thing, brass banding, and I'm glad to be allowed to be associated with it.' So speaks a true professional well known to the musical public.

Gordon Higginbottom recounting the playing of 'Resurgam' for Manchester United's memorial service at the Cathedral with the C.W.S. Band in 1958 is a poignant experience. So is Jack Howarth's story of Alex Mortimer's C.W.S. Band playing at the Albert Hall in 1962 to win the British National Championship on 'Force of Destiny', a tense tale well told.

Saddleworth is well represented by the Howarth's of Dobcross, David Morris and Angelo Bearpark. Plus our bands mingled with the best in the country; how else could it be for this land of puff and blow where every child aged over three is taught to blow the Double B. Two photographic exhibitions are available which compliment this slim volume, one at the Dobcross Band Club (which some regard as the centre of the world) and the other at the Navigation Inn, Woolroad, where Ian Gibson, mine host, has a collection of photographs that are truly reflective of the movement.

All these stories are well written because they are a personal experience of men of brass, as good with words as they are with music. This presentation by Alec Greenhalgh is recommended reading for all sympathetic parties and will also fit well into any instrument case. 'Playing's only part of it' is in the shops now and will be worth your time and your brass. Or collect it from Alec Greenhalgh at Prospect House, Clough Lane, Grasscroft. It will cost you £2.00

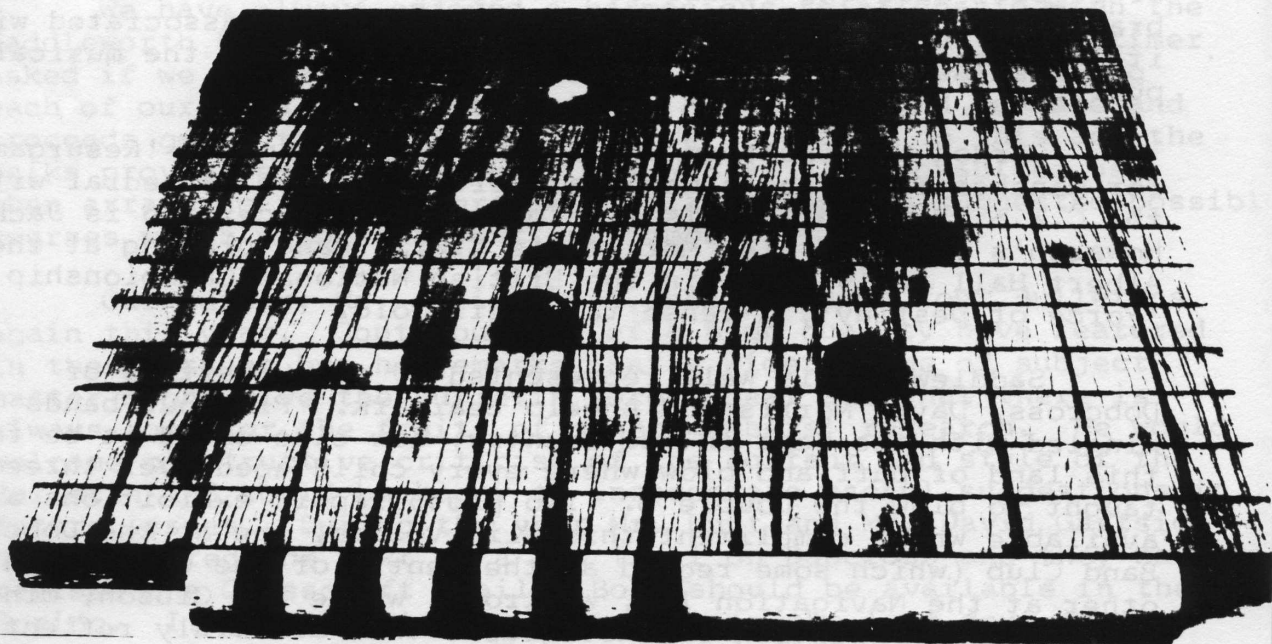
Stanley Broadbent

CASTLESHAW ROMAN GAMING PIECES

(Anyone for Ludo?)

Counters or gaming pieces found in the last couple of seasons at Castleshaw are similar to many found in Roman Britain. The pieces, black and white, compare with modern draughtsmen but are smaller in scale - about the size of a pound coin. Materials are commonly bone, sometimes ivory and even broken sherds of samian or coarse ware pottery have been re-used in cruder, rougher discs. The best examples are lathe-turned, often with the concentric circle patterns as in modern times.

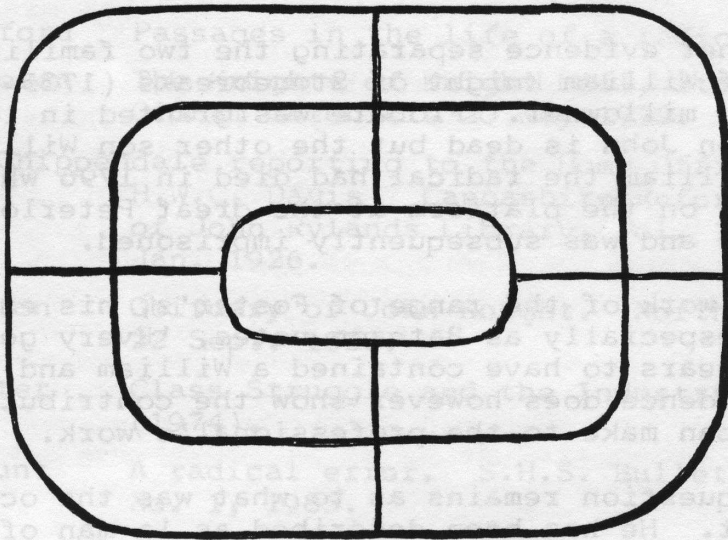
The counters were used in board games, the rules for which are imperfectly understood. We are, however, told that the pieces were called 'Latrones' in a game called 'Ludus Latrunculorum' ... the game of robbers. Apparently the pieces were moved like rooks in chess and an opponent's piece was captured by trapping between two of your own. In some games dice were used to determine moves.



The Castleshaw counters on a reconstructed board

It is uncertain whether pieces always sat inside squares as in modern draughts and chess, sometimes they may have been placed at the interstices. Some 'boards' have been found elsewhere but often the grid pattern was scratched on the pavement in a public place: a baths complex; a forum area or a villa.

A 'board' has been found at Corbridge, supply depot for Hadrian's Wall; at Vindolanda a stone games board was found complete with counters and dice box; at Chedworth Roman Villa one of the stones from the well-head of the Nymphaeum has a grid of lines scratched on it like a draughts board; even in Jerusalem a game like Ludo was played with dice and counters on a specially shaped board and called the 'mill game'.



Gambling with dice was a popular form of recreation and is mentioned in the New Testament where Roman soldiers diced for Christ's garments at the Crucifixion. Dice boxes found at various sites show an internal ridge designed to prevent cheating.

Bibliography

- R. Embleton & F. Graham 'Hadrians Wall in the days of the Romans', pp. 207, 240 and 313.
- P. Connolly 'Living at the time of Jesus of Nazareth', p. 53.
- J. Morris 'Londinium', pp. 253-4.
- L. & R. A. Adkins 'Handbook of British Archaeology', p. 137.
- Chedworth Villa Museum.
- Matthew 27.. 35 Luke 23 . 34
- Mark 15 . 24 John 19 . 23-24

J. C. C.

JOHN KNIGHT - RADICAL: A FOOTNOTE

John Knight receives a mention in the standard works investigating working-class politics in the early 19th century. He is described as a small manufacturer. Foster (5) in his impressive and detailed study of Oldham working-class politics takes Knight to be the John Knight of Stonebreaks Mill. However, Julian Hunt (6) has recently shown that John Knight the radical was in fact the cousin of John Knight the mill-owner. Coincidentally they were born within a year of each other - John the radical in December 1762 and his cousin John in the following year. Amazingly this coincidence is compounded as both had brothers called William who, to add to the confusion, were also born within a year of each other. William the radical was baptised at Mossley in October 1764 (6) and his cousin the millowner at St. John the Baptist Church, Hey three months later (2).

Further evidence separating the two families is found in the will of William Knight of Stonebreaks (1735-1791), father of John the millowner. Probate was granted in 1819 by which time his son John is dead but the other son William is still living. William the radical had died in 1796 whilst John the radical was on the platform at the great Peterloo meeting of August 1819 and was subsequently imprisoned.

In a work of the range of Foster's, his error might be forgiven, especially as Bateson notes, 'Every generation of Knights appears to have contained a William and a John'. The new evidence does however show the contribution the local historian can make to the professional's work.

The question remains as to what was the occupation of John Knight. He has been described as 'a man of no property or character' (3) but this description is exceptional. Fitton, writing John Knight's obituary, states that he was 'in business as a manufacturer and commission agent' (4), although adding that he was not very successful. William Fitton of Royton was a contemporary and long-standing associate of Knight. He is known to have been an active radical from 1816 (1) when Knight was in Manchester.

Another Manchester contemporary, Prentice, describes Knight as 'shrewd old John Knight a manufacturer in a small way' (8). Trade directories list businessmen who, to receive an entry, are presumably of some status and permanence. Baines' Directory for 1825 lists several John Knights, again confronting us with a problem of identification. The entries include (in the Appendix) 'Knight, John: cotton twist commission agent 10 Poolfold; house 77 Hanover St.' Corroborating evidence that this is indeed John Knight the radical comes from Samuel Bamford. Describing Knight in 1816 as a 'cotton manufacturer' (1) he relates a tale that in 1817 whilst he was imprisoned '... my wife went to Manchester she directed her steps to the house of our friend Knight who then lived in Hanover St.' (1). The directories list Knight variously as a warehouseman (1815), a manufacturer (1817) and, as noted, a commission agent (1825).

Knight was clearly in business and, as such, a cut above the common people. How prosperous was he? The Manchester Poor Rate Book reveals that he occupied the whole of 77 Hanover Street (7). Photographs exist of nearby parts of the street showing three storey houses with warehousing occupying the upper storeys, tying in with the descriptions of Knight in the directories. Unfortunately the house no longer exists, having been demolished when Corporation Street was built (10) but it is shown on an earlier map as a building of some size.

This note has attempted to throw a little more light onto our knowledge of John Knight. He has been shown to be a man of some substance in the context of the period. He was in business and was able to rent a sizeable property during the period of his major radical activity, 1815-1825.

References

1. S. Bamford Passages in the life of a radical (1844).
2. H. Bateson The Knights of Knight Mill, Stonebreaks. Oldham Chronicle 20 May 1932.
3. Capt. Chippendale reporting to the Home Office. Quoted in H.W.C. Davis Lancashire Reformers. Bulletin of John Rylands Library, Vol. 10, No. 1, Jan. 1926.
4. W. Fitton Obituary of John Knight. Northern Star, 22 Sept. 1838.
5. J. Foster Class Struggle and the Industrial Revolution. (1974).
6. J.M. Hunt A radical error. S.H.S. Bulletin Vol. 15, No. 1, 1985.
7. Manchester Poor Rate Book, No. 3 District, 1822, p. 222. Manchester Central Library MFRB 13. (The 1811 Book shows that Knight was not then resident)
8. A. Prentice Historical sketches and personal recollections of Manchester (1851).
9. Pigot and Dean's Manchester Directories, 1815 and 1817. Baines Lancashire Directory, 1825.
10. C.E. Goad Insurance Plan of the City of Manchester, Vol. 2, sheet 27. 120" : 1 mile, surveyed 1888.
11. Ordnance Survey Manchester and Salford, sheet 23. 60" : 1 mile, surveyed 1849.

Neil Barrow

CASTLESHAW MOOR - AN EARLY ATTEMPT AT ENCLOSURE IN FRIARMERE

In an article to be published in a forthcoming volume of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society Transactions, Alan Petford has traced the process of enclosure of the common lands of Saddleworth from medieval to modern times. He has been able to draw on a rich variety of source material, particularly when describing the 1625 division of Quick Moor which produced the long straight field walls that remain such a strong feature of the landscape on High Moor. It is apparent from old property deeds that in 1618, a plan was made which, had it been fully implemented, would have created a similar enclosure landscape at the head of the Castleshaw valley.

The common lands belonging to Friarmere are defined in a 1314 confirmation of Robert de Stapleton's earlier grant of land in Saddleworth to Roche Abbey:

... common of pasture from the great way which leadeth from Stanheges unto the Bridgewater of Thame toward the north, to the boundary aforesaid, and from Cnothill to Woodward Hill, as the water departs toward the wood of Thame ... (1)

Here we have the road from Standedge to Delph as the eastern boundary, and the ridge from Knott Hill to Grains Bar as the southern boundary of the commons. No doubt, as in the rest of Saddleworth, there was considerable encroachment on the common during the 300 years that the Abbots of Roche owned the land. The place-name 'Moorcroft', about one mile north east of Delph, probably arises from such an encroachment and suggests that the area we now know as Castleshaw was then open moorland.

A valuation of Friarmere taken at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries states that John, Alexander and Lawrence Scolfeld of Grange held a lease of three quarters of 'the land there called Castilshawe', and that one Edmund Scolfeld held a lease on the remaining quarter (2). The deed by which Henry VIII sold Friarmere to Arthur Asheton of Rochdale in 1543 (3) mentions 'the messuages lands tenements meadows feedings pastures and other hereditaments... known by the name or by the names of Castylshaw'. The wording of the valuation which fails to mention any housing in Castleshaw should be taken as superior evidence to the deed with its conventional catch-all phrases to cover any eventuality. Certainly, no evidence of medieval occupation has been found in the recent excavations at the roman fort at Castleshaw.

Immediately after his purchase of Friarmere, Arthur Asheton conveyed half of the land to another Rochdale speculator, Roger Gartside. In 1553, the two men partitioned Friarmere, Asheton retaining the Castleshaw valley, Grange, Delph, Knott Hill and part of the Tame Heys, and Gartside taking Denshaw, Tame, Swainscroft and the other half of the Tame Heys (4). The boundary between the two allotments ran from the township boundary on the north, down Denshaw Brook to the Middings Bridge, then to the east of Broadmeadow cutting through an area called 'the Slack' (Delph Slack going to Asheton, Linthwaite Slack to Gartside), then

descending to the river Tame just to the west of Delph, going upstream for about half a mile before climbing in a straight line up to Hill Top Lane. This line served as a local administration boundary and is marked on the 1850's Ordnance Survey map as a dotted line. Following the division of 1553, both owners were able to exploit their respective holdings as they wished and both sub-divided the farmsteads and leased them at increased rents as the existing tenancies expired. Both would allow some encroachment on the commons and new enclosures would begin to push back the boundary of the moor edge. That there was still ample common land in Friarmere is suggested by the following extract from the 1605 will of Edmund Buckley of Saddleworth:

Item I give to the two children of John Buckley Elizabeth and Ann Buckley and to Anne Buckley daughter of Robert Buckley and to the four children of Giles Shawe four kays [kine or cows] which are in the keepinge of George Scolefield and xxxv sheep which are in the keepinge of the said George now one of the said kays is in the keepinge of Robert Linthwit and one other cow is in the keepinge of Miles Scolefeld to be equally devided amongst them all (5).

By 1618, when the Asheton family sold out to the tenants, Castleshaw had been transformed from a tract of pasture and moorland into a complex of new farmsteads, most of the farmers living in a fold of houses at the head of the meadows known as the 'Castlehill'. From surviving property deeds, seven of the original purchasers in 1618 can be indentified. Chief amongst them were Francis and Edmund Scholefield who bought the freehold of the farm centred on Broadhead (6). Another large purchaser was Walter Scholefield who gave his name to Waters (formerly 'Walters') but who probably lived in Castleshaw fold (7). Walter's brother Mark Scholefield, and one Myles Scholefield complete the group of purchasers sharing a common surname and possibly a common ancestry (8). Two interlopers complete the list; Edmund Linthwaite who lived at Moorcroft (9), and Edmund Buckley who bought a farmstead based on Castleshaw fold (10).

The Ashetons and their tenants obviously prepared the transfer of ownership well in advance of 1618. Edmund Linthwaite was able to purchase:

All That One Third Part (more or less) of all that and those the messuage and tenement ... now or heretofore in the tenure or occupation of one George Scholefield and of his son Myles Scholefield ... as the same was lately severed and divided to or for the said Edmund Linthwaite ...

His new farm included a portion of the 'Woodclose', parts of which are conveyed in other purchasers' deeds. There are in fact many field names which recur in the deeds of separate farms, suggesting that a great deal of subdivision of earlier enclosures and farmsteads had taken place. Edmund Linthwaite was even given the right of access to a corn drying kiln in Castleshaw which was on another purchaser's land.

The most complex arrangements were, however, in relation to the large tracts of waste land which the tenants had previously used as common pasture. In the absence of a landlord to arbitrate between them, each purchaser needed his common rights clearly

defined. The result was that the 'Woodhead' (at the head of the Castleshaw valley, now known as Castleshaw Moor) and the Oxhey (the ridge of land on the west side of the valley) were surveyed and individual parcels of land were allotted to each purchaser in proportion to the size of their enclosed land. Oxhey was divided into eight parts, Edmund Linthwaite being allotted:

The full eighth part (in eight parts to be divided) of one other close or parcel of land near to the before mentioned Moorcroft and known by the name of Oxhey, lately divided and severed out from the residue of the said Oxhey and lying near to one other close called Oxhey now belonging to Francis Scholefield and Edmund Scholefield.

Some of the 1618 purchasers walled off thier allottments on Oxhey but most continued to use the remainder as an open pasture. It was not until 1790 that the Castleshaw farmers with rights on Oxhey came to an agreement which effectively enclosed the land and prompted the building of rather poor cottages on most allottments about 1800 (11).

The division of Oxhey in 1618 was simplicity itself compared with that of Castleshaw Moor. This was a huge barren waste of some 600 acres, stretching from Castleshaw Fold in the south to Millstone Edge on the north, and from Denshaw Brook on the west to Standedge on the east. The quality of the land varied enormously so a simple division into eight parts would not have pleased anyone. In fact the moor was divided into three areas - the 'Backside' sloping down to Denshaw Brook, the 'Millstone Edge' above Broadhead and Castleshaw Fold, and the 'Moor' on the east of the common abutting the Friarmere boundary. The total area was divided into fourteenths and each purchaser was given one fourteenth or more comprising specific plots of land on the Backside, the Millstone Edge and the Moor. Such is the detail given in the early deeds as to the precise location of these plots that an extensive survey must have been made and a map drawn similar to that produced for Quick Moor in 1625 (12).

Edmund Linthwaite's allotment on Castleshaw Moor was as follows:

And also the fourteenth part (into fourteen parts to be divided) of all that common pasture or parcel of land called The Wood Head lying in or near unto Castle Shawe aforesaid except thirty nine acres sold or agreed to be sold to Francis and Edmund Scholefield and their heirs The which fourteenth part containeth by estimation sixteen acres and a half and twenty seven poles of the large measure used in the County of Chester commonly called Cheshire Measure as the same was lately divided to or for the said Edmund Linthwaite from the residue of the said Woodhead and lyeth in several places thereof as follows Eight acres and fifty-three poles thereof in that part of the said Woodhead called the Back Syde abutting from the side of the thirty nine acres formerly mentioned to be sold to Francis Scholefield and Edmund Scholefield and their heirs between twelve acres and a half there sold or agreed to be sold to one Edmund Buckley and sixteen acres and a half and twenty seven poles there sold or agreed to be sold to one Myles Scholefield in the direction



A reconstruction of the 1618 enclosure of Castleshaw Moor based on the 1822 Township Map

of a place called Marsden so far as the waste or common reacheth. And four acres and fifty four poles lyeth in a place called The Moor about or near Castle Shawe aforesaid abutting from certain closes or parcels of ground called the Baiting Places and on the North side three acres and a rood land there sold to Francis Scholefield and out at the edge top on the moss towards a brook called Red Brook as far as the said waste or common called Woodhead reacheth. And four acres more residue of the said sixteen acres and twenty seven poles lyeth in another part of the said Woodhead commonly called the Millstone Edge abutting from the side of one pasture called the Nearer Pasture and on the North side four acres there sold to Edmund Scholefield and so out at the edge top on the moss to the said Red Brook so far as the Woodhead reacheth.

It is clear from this description that Edmund Linthwaite's allotments ran up the moor from the old enclosed land called the Baiting Places (Castleshaw School was built on a field of this name) and the Nearer Pasture (now Oakenhill Lee) as far as the township boundary at Millstone Edge. His allotment on the Backside would run up the hillside from Denshaw Brook to the ridge.

There is a full description of a larger allotment recited in the division of the lands of William Scholefield in 1688 (13). William Scholefield's ancestor was given one and a half fourteenths of Castleshaw Moor amounting to twenty five acres. His allotment on the Backside is described as follows:

Twelve acres and a halfe thereof or thereabouts lyeth in that part of the said Woodhead which is called the Backside abutting from the side of the said thirty nine acres up by the Ravenstone towards the east or north east, betweene two acres and ffourteen ffalls more thereof sold or agreed to be sold formerly to one Edmund Scholefield and his heirs and twelve acres and a halfe there lying next to the ffoxstones and formerly sold to one Marke Scholefield and his heirs all along the oldyatehead and for farr as the said Common reacheth.

This description is more rich in placenames, all of which have been plotted on the reconstruction of the enclosure on the opposite page.

Although allotments on Castleshaw Moor were usually sold along with farmsteads in the valley, there are occasional transactions involving strips of moorland alone. That sold in 1744 by Thomas Lees of Ashton to James Cocker of Crompton is typical and the conveyance recites another 1618 deed (14): The description of the allotment on Millstone Edge is particularly useful:

Six acres lyeth in that part of Woodhead commonly called the Millstone Edge abutting from some part of the said Woodhead heretofore sold to John Cudworth Gentleman all along the north side six acres heretofore sold to one Edmund Buckley and so out at the edge top on the moss towards Redbrook so far as the said Woodhead reacheth.

Here we have an early reference to Cudworth Pasture, perhaps the best piece of land on Castleshaw Moor, which was given by Theophilus Asheton to his cousin John Cudworth of Werneth in Oldham prior to the allotment of the remainder to the local tenantry.

All these allotments on Castleshaw Moor must have been marked out on the ground, either by ditches or more likely by wooden or stone meres. The surveyor evidently expected the farmers to fence their parcels of land permanently but it appears that none did so and the moor continued to be used for common grazing. One or two individuals did however see the potential of the land and began to add to their holdings by judicious purchase. Edmund Scholefield of Castleshaw, yeoman, who lived at Castlehill and had inherited several strips of land on the moor, purchased the following from John Littlewood of Moorcroft, clothier, in 1740:

...part or share of Woodhead in the occupation of John Littlewood or his father Joshua Littlewood containing by estimation twelve and a half acres (15).

By his will of 29 January 1749, Edmund Scholefield left to his nephew John Savil:

twelve acres of commoning next to the highway on the south side of the common.

John Savil added further to his holding on the moor by purchasing from James Buckley of Walters, 26 February 1759:

one twelfth part of a parcel of common or waste land in one certain dole lying upon Castleshaw Moor extending from the Blackhey field or Nook all along the Cornhill Ditch as far as the Standedge ... the whole dole containing thirteen acres Cheshire Measure with Buckley's share of the cottages and buildings on the said dole erected commonly known by the name of Blakeheynook (16).

It appears that this purchase gave John Savil the freedom to enclose the whole of the thirteen acre dole next to the Friarmere boundary, here called the Cornhill Ditch. Being adjacent to the Great Way or pack horse road which preceeded the turnpike roads over Standedge, the strip was accessible and therefore more worth enclosing. That Savil wasted no time in exploiting his purchase is suggested by the wording of a mortgage of the land in August 1759:

Two messuages at Blakehey Nook with the dole of unimproved land already part enclosed containing thirteen Cheshire acres (17).

The strip of land was eventually enclosed right up to Millstone Edge and the now ruined farm called Brown Rough built near the top.

A glance at the 1822 Saddleworth Township Map shows another small enclosure running up the west side on John Savil's strip. This went with the farmstead bought in 1618 by Edmund Buckley of Castleshaw and owned in 1822 by the Radcliffe's of Stonebreaks. The key to the map of their estate amongst the Howcroft Mss (18) describes this plot as 'New Inclosure,

Castleshaw Moor'. This was not sold to Oldham Corporation in 1886 along with the Radcliffes other land in Castleshaw (19). To the west of this enclosure is a parcel of land just a few yards deep running along the north side of the road from Castleshaw to Bleakheynook. This has no number to denote ownership and is probably an encroachment on the moor. On the 1850 Ordnance Survey map tenters are shown here. By this time, none of the Castleshaw farmers was in a position to dispute an encroachment as they had all lost track of whose strip of land was next to whose and between which landmarks they ran. It is only with the advent of record offices that it is possible to inspect sufficient documentation to unravel the mysteries of Castleshaw Moor.

References

- (1) Radcliffe, J.. The Parish Registers of St. Chad, Saddleworth, Vol. 1, 1887, p. 472.
- (2) Particulars relating to Friarmere as mentioned in the Grant of Friarmere to Arthur Asheton, 35 Henry VIII. Public Record Office E 318 Box 11/468.
- (3) A transcript of the conveyance of Friarmere from Henry VIII to Arthur Asheton was printed in S.H.S. Bulletin Vol. 16, No. 2, 1986, p. 22.
- (4) Several copies of the Division Deed of Friarmere are extant. There is a photocopy of an 18th Century transcript in Oldham Local Studies Library.
- (5) Both George Scholefield and Myles Scholefield are listed amongst Arthur Asheton's tenants in Castleshaw in his will proved at Chester in 1602.
- (6) No 1618 deed for Broadhead has come to light but a 1625 sale of half of the property from Francis Scholefield to Robert Gartside is in the P.R.O. C66/2345 No. 15.
- (7) A deed of 2 February 1704 whereby David Harrop of Bardsley and John Harrop of New Earth in Oldham sell Waters to Edmund Buckley of Sunfield states that it was 'formerly purchased and had amongst other lands by Walter Scholefield late of Saddleworth deceased of and from Theophilus Asheton.' Oldham Local Studies Library CBO 8/4/1/1.
- (8) Mark Scholefield is mentioned in the will of his father James proved at Chester in 1617. A.J. Howcroft made some notes on the 1618 conveyance of land to Myles Scholefield. Howcroft Collection, Saddleworth Historical Society Archives.
- (9) A full transcript of the 1618 sale of Moorcroft to Edmund Linthwaite was made by Beckett Whitehead and printed in the Oldham Chronicle 7 March 1942. There is a cutting in the Hewkin Collection in Uppermill Library.
- (10) Edmund Buckley's purchase of land in 1618 is recited in several later deeds, notably a mortgage of 31 January 1763, John Kenworthy of Castleshaw to John Radcliffe of Saddleworth Fold (West Riding Registry of Deeds AX 442 542).

- (11) West Riding Registry of Deeds. Division deed for Oxhey, 29 May 1790 (DF 46 55).
- (12) 'Saddleworth Surveyed', p. 12.
- (13) Deed, 8 May 1688, Oldham Local Studies Library CBO 8/4/10/1.
- (14) Deed, 15 May 1744, West Riding Registry of Deeds NJ 316 358.
- (15) Ibid. AR 494 665.
- (16) Ibid. AR 495 667.
- (17) Ibid. AQ 695 892
- (18) Saddleworth Historical Society Archives H/HOW/GS 42.
- (19) The small enclosure on the moor was excluded from the sale, 30 October 1886. In 1887 it was bought by John William Wood of Bleakheynook. He sold it in 1894 to Timothy Edmund Pogson whose widow sold it to Oldham Corporation in 1908.

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