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THE NAVVYMEN AND NAVVY MISSION AT CASTLESHAW

The two reservoirs in the Castleshaw Valley, built by Oldham Corporation in the 1880s, were some of the last civil engineering works in the area on which the true 'navvymen' was to work.

Although the task of constructing these large works involved many skills and trades from digger and carpenter to stonemason and engineer, it was the navvy that was synonymous with them. He was the person who would move great amounts of earth, largely by pick and shovel, continuing a tradition of labour that had started in the canal age of the late eighteenth century and had extended to the great civil engineering works of the Victorian era. By the time the Castleshaw Reservoirs were constructed mechanical means were rapidly taking over the work of the traditional navvy. But despite the use of at least one large steam excavator at Castleshaw much of the work there was done by the brute force of navvy muscle.

This article while taking a general look at the Castleshaw Reservoir scheme will focus on the Navvy Mission established at Castleshaw during the building of the reservoirs and will examine its role in meeting the spiritual and social needs of these navvymen.

The building of the reservoirs in the Castleshaw Valley by Oldham Corporation produced considerable local opposition, with the rate payers of Friarmere appointing a surveyor to present their case against the Oldham Corporation Waterworks Bill, while many no doubt heated meeting was held at the 'Royal Oak' Heights. Their main concern was that Castleshaw was a very fertile valley as well as containing a number of mills; although some of these were disused at this time there was concern over the water supply to lower down the valley in Delph. Opposition was also forthcoming from some of the local gentry in view of the fact that the shooting rights over some of the area were

'..... held in great esteem by a number of good people in Saddleworth' as the 'Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter' put in February 1886.

There would be a great deal of initial preparation required for the new works and no time was lost by Oldham Corporation, as only two months after the passing of the bill work commenced in September 1886.

'A number of navvies are already at work near to Wood Mill and others are expected to start in a short time. For a time at any rate the trade at Delph will be improved and the probability is that for the next two or three years there will not be so many men out of work as there has been for some time past Last winter many of the mill hands had not half work and this coupled with the severity of the season caused a good deal of suffering. (Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter 4/9/1886).

The fact that local trade and employment would improve for a period during the construction work no doubt helped to calm those that had been in opposition, while in November the possible final hurdle to construction was overcome. This was the purchase of land for the,

.....new tram line which is to be made from Delph Station to the site of the new waterworks. This will be welcome news to the outdoor workers and the tradespeople of the district as well. A number of men have already commenced work

and others are soon expected to follow. It is anticipated that when the new works get in full swing they will employ over 400 hands, (Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter 13/11/1886).

Over the coming months the area began to fill with this new workforce and with such an influx there was concern amongst the community for both the spiritual and physical welfare of these workers. The first mention of any form of assistance for the welfare of the navvies came from the local parishioners:

MISSION TO NAVVIES AT CASTLESHAW' - The Non-Conformists at Delph and Wrigley Mill have recently started a mission to the large number of navvies who are employed on the Corporation Waterworks at Castleshaw Reservoir. The service which is held on Sunday afternoon at Causeway Sett is of a non-sectarian character and on Sunday was attended by a congregation numbering close upon fifty. (Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter 10/7/1887).

As the reservoirs were going to take five years for construction to be completed it was soon found that more suitable permanent premises were needed. An unsuccessful attempt was made by the navvies to secure premises at Johnny Mill for the mission:

'The place at present belongs to Oldham Corporation and is unoccupied. It is whispered that the use of the room has been refused because the authorities at Oldham were under the impression that the mission was to be of a denominational character. If this be there is a misapprehension somewhere and the sooner it is removed the better. When the mission commenced every denomination in the district was cordially invited to co-operate, and with the exception of some of the church friends they at once agreed. The services are conducted on the broadest possible basis and not calculated to give offence to the most rigid sectarian, no matter what sect he may belong to. The large room at Johnny Mill would be central for this work and it is not improbable that another effort will be made to secure it. Maybe with proper explanation the Oldham Corporation Waterworks Committee will be more pliable the second time of asking. In the meantime the services will be conducted at Causeway Sett as usual. Up to the present they have been well attended and the need of a larger room is already felt. (Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter 23/7/1887).

The mission had been set up by the various religious bodies in the area. In order to publicise itself in the hope of gaining the co-operation of not only the navvies but also their wives and children, the mission invited them to a free tea which was held in the Wesleyan School, Delph:

'Tickets had been distributed beforehand by a number of ladies and so well had they done their work that the response was most hearty indeed. Over 400 persons responded to the invitations given, and the gathering was a most interesting one. Physically speaking it would hardly be possible to find a finer lot of men, and in this respect they were equalled, if not excelled by the women'

The tea was followed by a meeting presided over by Mr. William Watts the engineer of the scheme and among those on the platform were the Rev. James Campbell, Mr. Henry Mallalieu, J.P. and Mr. Charles Shaw. Mr. Watts offered his thanks on behalf of the workmen for the generosity of the Delph people on the occasion and commented that:

'the Delph people had great considerations both for the temporal and spiritual wants of the navvies. He hoped and believed that this feeling would be reciprocated, and that during their stay in the district would be as sober and well behaved as any other class of people (hear, hear).'

He commented on the fact that the Corporation was paying about £600 per week to the men at work and said this would benefit the local tradespeople as about half the money was being spent on food.

We are fortunate that Mr. Watts had recently ascertained the details of his workers on the job:

Total number of men employed on 20/7/1886	441
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Number of married	237
Number of unmarried	204
Average age of married	35 years
Average age of Unmarried	29.8 years
General average ages	32-5 years

Under 15 years	11	15 - 20 years	25	20 - 25 years	48
25 - 30 years	56	30 - 35 years	62	35 - 40 years	75
40 - 45 years	62	45 - 50 years	56	50 - 55 years	20
55 - 60 years	16	60 - 65 years	6	65 - 70 years	3
Over 70 years	1				

(Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter 27/7/1887)

Perhaps the tea party had proved the worth of the local mission as by September 1887 although they had been temporarily evicted from Causeway Sett, during which period no services had been held, it was ascertained by the Oldham Corporation that they had decided to fit up and furnish two rooms, one in Waters Mill and the other in Johnny Mill,

....'for the use of those engaged in this good work'.

There had also a few days prior to this announcement appeared in the area Mr. Pearse, a missionary who had been sent into the district by the Navy Mission Society under the superintendence of Mrs. Garnett 'the navvies' friend'. Mr. Pearse had already laboured in a similar capacity in Essex and was well received by the men and the local committee;

'....he has met the local Mission Committee in most friendly terms and by a combination of forces no doubt a good work will be affected'.

(Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter 8/9/1887)

Although there had been various national organisations working to alleviate the plight of the navvy, it was the Navy Mission Society which was to achieve the most influence and was the first established specifically for men on public works. Formed in November 1877 it was to assist the navvy for the next forty years. With the exception of the formidable Elizabeth Garnett

no woman ever served on this body and at no time did it include a missionary or a navvy. It did not finance the missions at work, it being incumbent upon the local committee established at each works to find the majority of finance required for the maintenance of its missionary and his activities and thus members devoted much time to fund raising projects or donations. On Sunday afternoon the 2nd October 1887 services for the Mission commenced at Johnny Mill.

'.... there was a crowded congregation and the service was conducted by the Rev. J. Campbell, Independent Minister; Mr. Pearse the Missionary and Mr. Halstead also took part in the service.'

The following Saturday the room was formally opened. The opening ceremony took the form of an entertainment presided over by the manager of the works, Mr. Watts, being supported by Mr. Pearse, the Rev. J.H. Cartwright and Mr. F.W. Mallalieu. The opening was well attended and looking to the future the Chairman said that:

'.... he hoped the men would make the most of the opportunities placed within their reach. By attending the room they would improve their minds and the night school and the services on Sunday were all calculated to do good.'

Similar addresses followed while members of the Delph Independant Chapel Choir sang 'several glees with good effect' with other songs and readings following. Mr. Pearse, the Missionary, in moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman commented:

'.... he would testify to the fact that the men appreciated the efforts that had been put forth for their edification and instruction'

(Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter 20/10/1887)

The Mission amongst its facilities included a reading room stocked with various books, newspapers and periodicals that had been donated after an appeal had gone out to the local people. From this point the Navvy Mission of Castleshaw became properly established and weekly meetings were held, not just for religious purposes but for entertainment and education, with each occasion being well recorded by the local papers. In December 1887 the Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter, for example, noted that;

'.... On Saturday another popular entertainment was given in connection with the Mission at Johnny Mill Mission Room. The place was crowded and the chair was occupied by Mr. Pearse. A long and interesting programme of songs, recitations and dialogues was gone through and many of the performers were loudly applauded because of their successful efforts Mr. Pearse also gave a concertina solo which was much appreciated. The dialogues were well presented and altogether the entertainment was a pleasing success.'

This was typical of the many meetings that were to be held over the next few years while the mission existed.

The year terminated with a Tea Party and Entertainment held in the Independent School, Delph. The New Year brought a visit from Mrs. Garnett from the Navvy Mission Society.

'There was a large attendance and the proceedings were presided over by Mrs. Garnett whose labours on behalf of the navvies throughout England have made her name a household word. Mrs. Garnett had along with her a magic lantern by the aid of which she exhibited a number of London views to an appreciative audience. A number of comic scenes were also exhibited and they caused much merriment. A programme of readings, songs and recitations was gone through by the children attending the mission school and at the close Mrs. Garnett complimented them very highly on their efficiency. She said she had not visited a single station where the children could sing and write so nicely. Mrs. Garnett gave two addresses in the mission room on Sunday and both were largely attended.'

(Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter 14/1/1888)

No doubt Mrs. Garnett would have taken the opportunity to bring the works the latest edition of the 'Quarterly Letter to Navvies' which was edited by herself and promoted the aims of the Navy Mission Society. The letter took the form of an address or sermon leaning towards the spiritual needs of the navy and was mainly written by Mrs. Garnett. However, the quarterly letter also offered a news service to the navy including in its pages items on first aid, and news of deaths and marriages and letters from missing relatives and friends. The Quarterly also listed works that were in progress. Practical aspects were covered in the form of features on first aid and the setting up of ambulance classes and sick clubs.

Missions like that at Castleshaw helped to spread such useful knowledge to the navvies. At Castleshaw a lecture was given, for example on the subject of 'Aid to the Wounded'

'.... In order that the lecture might be made as practical as possible, a number of men went through sham operations, much to the enjoyment as well as the instruction of the audience.

(Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter 26/11/1887)

Such demonstrations would have been useful at Castleshaw where accidents, some of them fatal, were commonplace.

Apart from accidents, on such a large works with the number of men involved and the conditions in which they worked, sickness was also a problem, not only amongst the men but also their relatives. The men did, however, look after their own, as a meeting at the mission room at Johnny Mill on 1/4/1888 demonstrated:

'.... At the close of entertainment Mr. Pearse explained that one of the men had been compelled to remain at home with his children for several weeks owing to his wife being in the small pox hospital. Under the circumstances they could not do less than assist a brother in need. A collection was made and a handsome sum was realised.....'

By the middle of 1888 there were nearly 500 men working at Castleshaw and no doubt the resources of the mission were stretched. Hence much of the work of the missionary centred on fund-raising. On 3rd June a sermon was preached at Leesfield Church:

'.... for the purpose of raising funds towards the support of the mission to the navvies employed in constructing the new Oldham Waterworks'.

Mr. Davies commented in his service on the general work of the Navy Mission Society and described the special work at Castleshaw:

'Since his arrival regular Sunday Services, night schools, Bible classes and temperance entertainments had been carried on and the navvies had well attended such services and etc. The salary of the missionary was £70 per annum. The preacher concluded with an earnest appeal to help forward the good work by contributing liberally towards the local mission..... The collection was £14.14.0d. (14-7

The navy population had now become very much integrated into the local community, to the extent that on 26 June 1888 there was a cricket match held between Castleshaw Waterworks and St. Thomas's Friarmere,

'.... on the ground of the Navvies Club at Castleshaw. Much local interest was shown in the match owing to the even nature of the opposing teams, and consequently a fair number of spectators assembled on the ground to witness the contest. The home team was the boss, and elected to bat on a hard and bumpy wicket. The representatives of the navvies soon settled to work, and gave their audition a genuine exhibition of muscular power, and in the display of their cricketing abilities certainly proved their intelligence is not limited to a dexterous manipulation of a pick or shovel or the wheeling of a barrow.'

Apart from the entertainment offered to the navvies themselves the mission gave help to their families:

'The young folks in connection with the above mission were treated to a trip to Belle Vue on Saturday last. The afternoon was fine, and the party, to the number of about 70, left Delph Station by train shortly after 1 o'clock. The young folks were in charge of Mr. Pearse the missionary, and they landed at their destination all safe. Owing to the brass band contest the gardens were somewhat crowded but notwithstanding this drawback the party had an enjoyable time of it. The trip arrived back at Delph about 11.30.'

(Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter 21/7/1888)

The achievements of the mission culminated in a great exhibition of work by the navvies and their families. This was held at Johnny Mill, where the mission room was transformed:

'The exhibition presented a very pleasing spectacle, and spoke volumes for the busy fingers of the men and women who have laboured so hard to make it a success. The articles exhibited were all the handiwork of the men, women and children connected with the waterworks The room was gaily decorated and the exhibits were very tastefully arranged. Some of the picture frames were models of workmanship, whilst the carving in wood, stone and bone was excellent indeed. We may specially mention an imitation Bible and Prayer Book made out of stone from the Severn Tunnel. A small model engine made by one of the men, was also on view, but the greatest attraction of the show was a wonderful clock,

made in 2,346 pieces, without either nails or glue. The whole of the work had been done by the aid of a common pocket knife, and was valued at the sum of £8. The needle and wood work was both neat and tasteful, and a number of geological specimens of the district were classified and arranged for view. The cunning of the hand had not only been appealed to, but the fertility of the brain and imagination as well, for prizes were offered for the best specimens of rhyme bearing upon the exhibition. For poetic honours there were four competitors and the specimens were very fair indeed.

After prayer had been offered by Mr. Oakford, Mr. Mallalieu was called upon to open the exhibition. He said he was pleased to perform the duty which devolved upon him It was cheering to find labouring men devoting their leisure time to such arts. It created within them a taste for the fine arts, and developed the talent and ability which nature had bestowed upon them. Self help was the best kind of help, and the more working men depended upon their own resources the better it would be for them. The greatest men in these days were not those with the most money, but those who thought the most. The development of art, science, and manufacture was all due to the enterprise of studious and thoughtful men. He regretted that most of the men were not present owing to having to attend work, but no doubt they would turn up at night. He, along with the other judges, had gone through the poems which had been composed by several of the workmen, and though they could not place them in competition with Tennyson or Shakespeare, yet they betokened a nobility of sentiment worthy of all praise. He felt sure that the success of that exhibition would encourage the men to further effort. Mr. Watts was to be complimented on the excellent class of men he had got together on the Castleshaw Waterworks. They were good neighbours and good citizens, and it would be with feelings of regret that they would part with them after the works were completed. He heartily wished the exhibition success and hoped that next year a similar effort would be repeated - (Applause).

(Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter 23/2/1889)

FIRST PRIZE POEM.

— L I N E S —

Written for the Exhibition held at JOHNNY MILL, in connection with the NAVY Mission,
February 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, 1889.

NOT far from Delph Station, Oldham Corporation,
Some new Waterworks are now making ;
They wish to make sure of water quite pure,
Therefore 'tis a good undertaking.

Castleshaw is its name, it has for its fame,
A stream through it constantly flowing ;
Then let us Him praise who doth lengthen our days,
By such a great blessing bestowing.

There are on it employed, which cannot be denied,
Some men with great muscular power ;
They work very hard, some work by the yard,
And others are paid by the hour.

Another good thing to your notice I bring ;
In connection with our own Navy Mission,—
Which is at Johnny Mill—by the workpeople's skill,
We've got up a grand Exhibition.

Now if you'll leave home for a short time and come,
I am sure you'll never regret it ;
But you'll just go away and to your neighbours will say,
That you'll never in this world forget it.

There are to be shown, some carvings in stone,
And some of the same class in wood ;
It must also be known there will be some in bone,
And I'm sure you'll pronounce them all good.

Another sort yet which I must not forget,
For I am sure it is excellent work ;
In the carvings 'tis classed, whether or not 'tis surpassed,
It is done very neatly in cork.

Your attention I call to fans great and small,
Chairs, money boxes, puzzles, and models ;
'Twill be a delight to anyone's sight,
Whoever to Johnny Mill toddles.

'Tis the best that has been, (of this sort I mean)
'And to you it may seem rather novel
That these things are made by workers with spade,
The crowbar, the pick, and the shovel.

Then, as may be seen, the ladies have been
Persevering and very laborious,
With their woolwork so grand just coming to hand,
All trying to come off victorious.

To give a full list, though some things I have missed,
Was really at first my intention,
But pray don't me blame for doing the same
As the things are too numerous to mention.

Let them be plain or grand, they will not always stand,
For all things in this world are but transient,
So you may depend, all will have an end,
Whether it be modern or ancient.

There's a bright world above, through redeeming love
We may dwell where Christ is now reigning—
In the book we are told it is better than gold,
— And will be for ever remaining.

By God's goodness and grace may we find there a place—
As I finish my Mission-Room story,
May some through it find their Saviour so kind,
And dwell with Him ever in glory.

February 21st, 1889.

Charles Gleadhill.

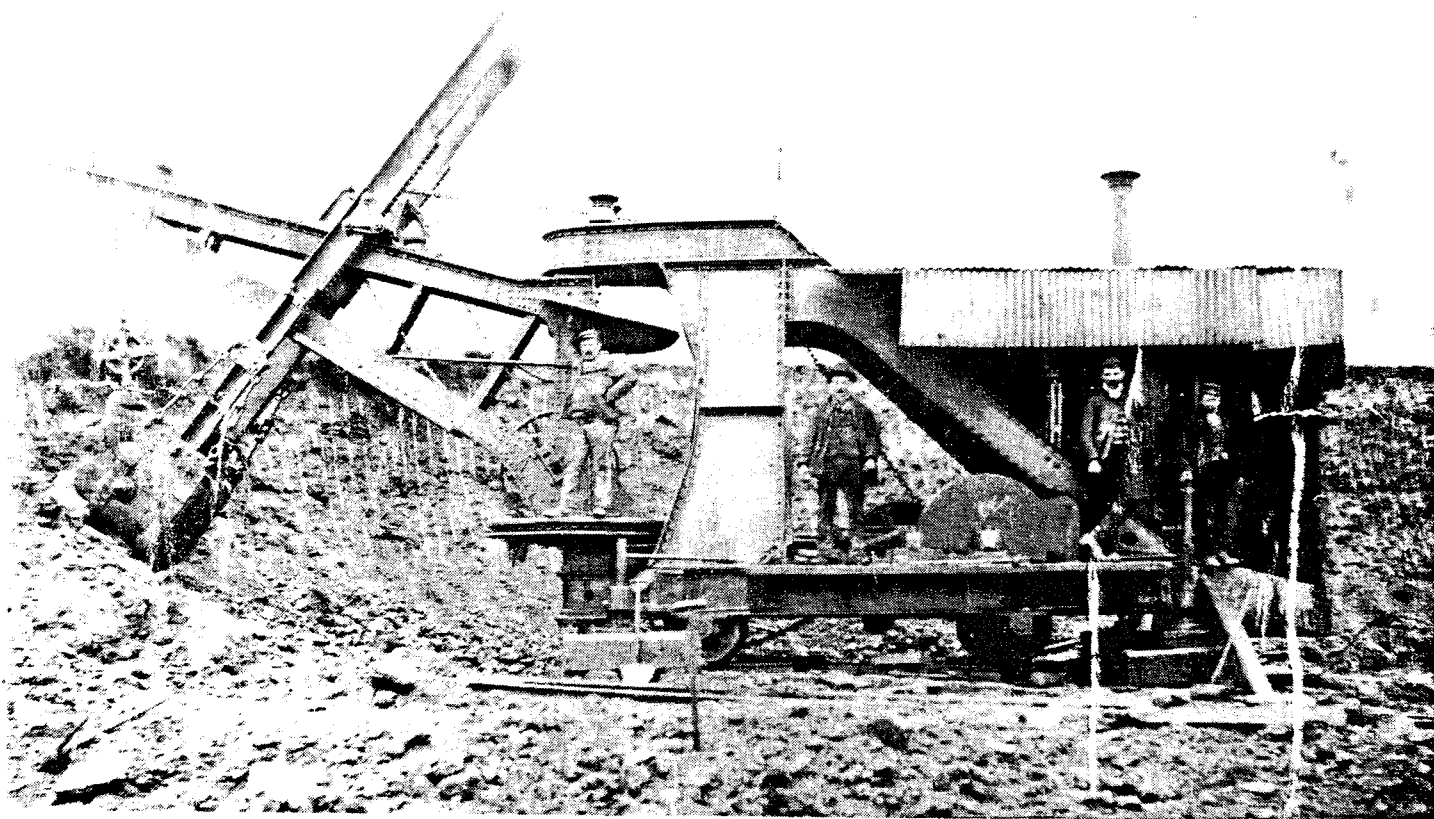
The navvies' labours continued until by August 1891 the lower reservoir was filling and the upper reservoir was nearing completion. 1892 saw the end of the project. The mission was disbanded and the navvies dispersed, some no doubt to 'tramp' to other works.

With their departure Delph and the surrounding area would have returned to normality. One group which would have noticed their going were the landlords of the numerous local pubs. However, despite the navvies legendary ability to consume ale after their physical labours they seem not to have caused any chaos in the area.

'In times past, several large works had been completed within the parish, and whilst these had been in the course of construction the police force had had to be augmented. This was not the case in the Castleshaw Waterworks. Though 400 or 500 men were employed, the neighbourhood was quiet and peaceable, and the policeman who was regularly stationed in the village had little or no extra work. He attributed this satisfactory state of affairs to the fact that the mission had a good influence and that they were a sober and respectable lot of men - Applause.

(Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter 6/10/1888)

PETER FOX



A steam excavator at work on the building of the Castles

UPPERMILL IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY -
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF A SADDLEWORTH VILLAGE

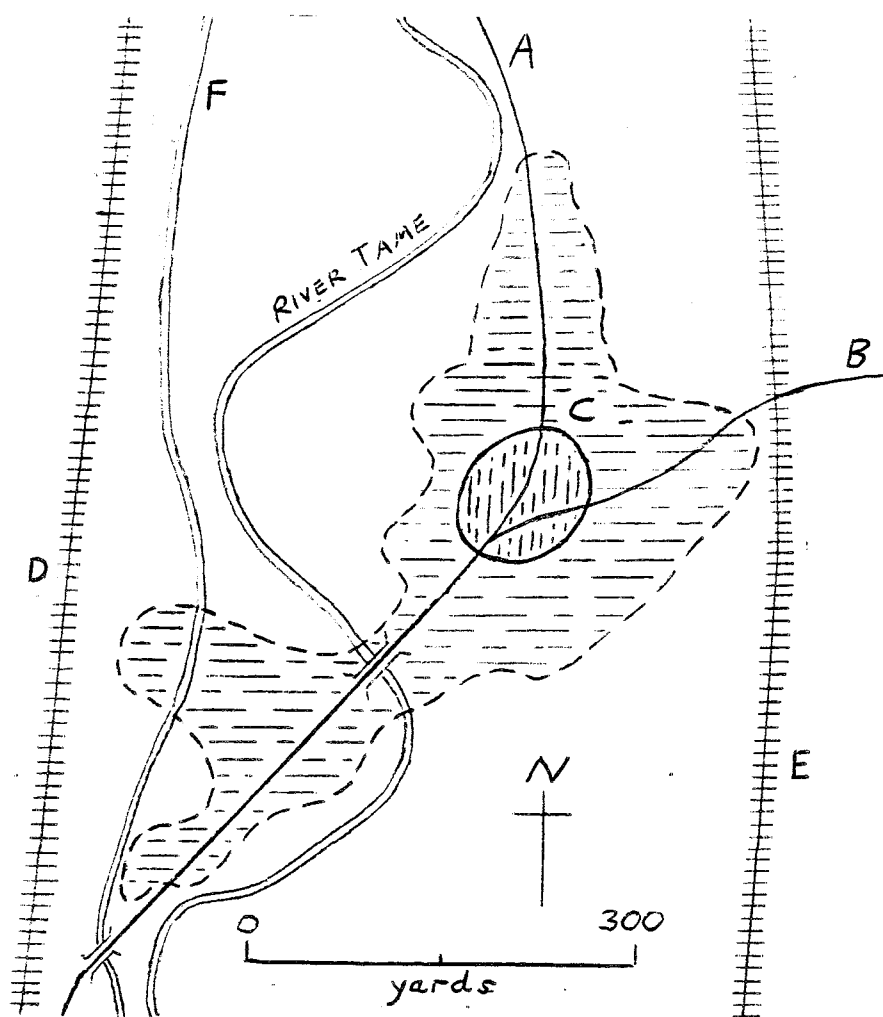


Fig. i. The growth of Uppermill Village



approximate extent of built up area c. 1770.

approximate extent of built up area c. 1900.

A. Oldham and Standedge turnpike road.

B. Church Road (formerly Wharmton - Saddleworth Church trackway).

C. Uppermill Square.

D. Stalybridge - Huddersfield Railway (1849).

E. Stalybridge - Diggle railway (1885).

F. Huddersfield Canal (1799 - Uppermill to Woolroad).

The Industrial Revolution of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries occasioned a rapid growth in the population of Saddleworth. Some of this expansion took place in the valley bottoms where several large villages began to develop, as previously scattered farms, housing and mills were linked together by clusters of new industrial and domestic buildings. This process laid the foundation for continued growth of these villages through to the present day, as their sheer size acted as a centre of gravity for the main social and economic life of the district.

The study of these villages can provide an insight into the ways Saddleworth's economy and society as a whole were structured and changed in the nineteenth century. With this aim in mind, Uppermill, probably the fastest developing settlement of this type, will be looked at.

Uppermill (1) (see figure i) was in 1770 nothing more than a tiny grouping of hamlets and a corn mill adjacent to an old road of merely local importance from Wharmton to the vicinity of Saddleworth Church (2,3). By 1822 numerous other buildings had appeared (4), while thirty years later further growth had transformed Uppermill into the largest village in the district (5).

The opening through Uppermill in the 1790's of the Standedge and Oldham turnpike road and the Huddersfield Canal had been the major initial spurs to this rapid expansion, but technological and organisational forces affecting the woollen industry were also playing a role, as various textile processes in Saddleworth slowly gravitated to the valley bottoms from their traditional location on the hillsides. (6).

The textile industry was to be the key to the development of Uppermill in the nineteenth century. In 1838 a commercial directory (7) listed 170 individuals and firms involved in textiles in Saddleworth. Uppermill accounted for 11 (6%) of this total. An 1891 directory (8) itemised 87 individuals and companies as being in the textile trade in the district; 15 (17%) were in Uppermill. The census returns confirm this expansionary trend. Figure ii records a very significant increase in the numbers employed in the textile industry in the village between 1841 and 1881. In the latter year the total of individuals involved was 157 (69%) greater than in 1841.

Thus Uppermill became absolutely and relatively more important in the textile business during the middle and later nineteenth century, gradually assuming a greater proportion of Saddleworth's activities in this industry.

The pace of mill construction in the village during these years helps to illustrate this. After a rash of building in the last quarter of the eighteenth century, when High Street (cloth finishing), Giles (scribbling), Damhead (scribbling) and Buckley (cloth finishing) woollen mills were erected and the corn mill converted into a scribbling establishment known as the Old Factory, there was a lull until the 1840's. From that decade until the early 1870's four large new mills were constructed, Buckley New, Alexandra, Albert and Victoria, while Damhead was greatly extended. (9).

Victoria and the reconstructed Damhead mills were devoted to cotton spinning. The spread of the cotton industry into Saddleworth from Oldham began during the early nineteenth century but gathered momentum as the century progressed. Uppermill seems to have gained a large proportion of the district's new activity in cotton goods production, helping to foster its position as a leading community in Saddleworth. Although commercial directories provide a somewhat misleading source of information (10), Pigot's of 1838 records that none of the 14 individuals or firms constituting Saddleworth's stake in the cotton industry at that time were located in Uppermill, whereas 2 of the 6 cotton manufacturing concerns in the district in 1891 were to be found in

Fig. ii. Structure of employment in Uppermill

		<u>1841</u>		<u>1881</u>
		% of Workforce		% of Workforce
Textiles ^a	227	58	384	48
Crafts/trades ^b	77	21	161	20
Retail ^b	31	7	71	9
Professional ^b	11	3	25	3
Miscellaneous ^b	44	11	139	20
	<u>390 ^c</u>	<u>(100)</u>	<u>780 ^d</u>	<u>(100)</u>

a. See Fig. iii for proportions of wool and cotton employment.

b. For definitions of these terms see appendices.

c. 381 individuals as 9 people had 2 employments.

d. 745 individuals as 35 people had 2 employments.

* Breakdown of above figures by sex

	<u>1841</u>		<u>1881</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Textiles	148	79	216	168
Retail	8	23	37	34
Professional	9	2	24	1
Crafts/trades	61	16	147	14
Miscellaneous	27	17	80	59
	<u>253</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>504</u>	<u>276</u>
	65%	35%	65%	35%

Source: Census enumerators' returns.

the village (Worall's Directory). The census returns provide a more accurate indication of this trend; of the 227 individuals working in textiles in 1841 only 13 (6%) were employed in the cotton industry, while forty years later, 186, or very nearly half (48%) of the 384 individuals engaged in textiles derived their income from the cotton business.

During the nineteenth century the structure of Saddleworth's woollen industry changed, possibly as a ploy to more effectively compete, although more research is needed to resolve this. Uppermill's involvement in the woollen business reflected this general trend. The 1841 census returns, for example, do not record any individual as being engaged in the various processes involved in the manufacture of woollen shawls, whereas in 1881 a significant minority of those working in the woollen industry, 40 individuals (circa 20% of the total), were so employed. This might indicate that part of Uppermill's success in becoming the prime community in Saddleworth by the late nineteenth century lay in the enterprise of its textile manufacturers and their willingness to invest and diversify in order to maintain a strong, competitive position.

The census returns also provide an insight into the people who gained their living from the textile industry. Their average age was relatively young, 28 years (30.25 - male; female - 23.5) in 1841 and 27.5 years (21.5 - male; female 23.75) forty years later. A small factor in producing this low average age was the employment of children aged between 10 and 13 years in the industry. In 1841, 18 individuals in this age group (8 males, 10 females) worked in textiles, 15 in the woollen industry and 3 in cotton. This represents 90% of the total of 20 10 - 13 year olds in employment. Forty years later 22 10 - 13 year olds (11 males, 11 females) worked in textiles, 9 in wool, 13 in cotton-related activities, this total accounting for 88% of the 25 people in this age range who had employment.

An interesting aspect of the 1881 position is that by that date children between 10 and 13 could only work if they had attained a specified educational standard, as stipulated by the 1876 Education Act. Such children might divide their time between work and school (11) and two of these 'half timers' are recorded in the 1881 census.

The complete absence of children under 10 years in the textile industry (or in any other employment in the village) in both the 1841 and 1881 censuses is interesting. Although various Factory Acts from 1819 onwards had forbade their employment in textile mills, evasion was proverbially widespread in Saddleworth. Perhaps in 1841 at least, many heads of households maintained a discreet silence when the enumerator asked questions about their young children.

Figure iii. shows how employment in the woollen and cotton industries in Uppermill was distributed between the sexes. (Source: census returns).

	<u>1841</u>			<u>1881</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>totals</u>
Wool	147	68	215	120	79	199
Cotton	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>185</u>
	148	79	227	216	168	384
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The statistics suggest that the role of women in these industries expanded during the last century. In 1841 they accounted for 35% of all those working in wool and cotton activities, whereas in 1881 the figure was 44%. This is despite the majority of the new jobs that were created in the cotton business during these forty years going to men.

Closely paralleling this expansion in importance of the textiles industry in nineteenth century Uppermill were other types of economic activity and employment. Crafts and trades were one sector whose rapidity of growth in the village shadowed that of textiles. In 1838, 16 (14%) out of the total of 113 such occupations in Saddleworth as a whole were located in Uppermill; by 1891, of the total of 109 for the district, Uppermill accounted for 37 (34%) (12). Census data confirms this growth; in 1841, 77 (20%) of the total of 390 occupations of all types in the village fell into the crafts or trades category as against respective figures of 161 (21%) and 780 in 1881.

The diversity of these types of occupation increased in step, the 19 categories of crafts and trades itemised by the census enumerators in 1841. having multiplied to 41 forty years later. (See appendices). The many demands of an increasing population were undoubtedly a major factor in this trend, while the progressive mechanisation of the textile industry in the village added its influence. It might be significant in this latter respect that those directly involved in the making and maintenance of machines and in the working of metal (other than blacksmiths) numbered 25 in 1881, in contrast to a mere 6 in 1841. (13).

The growing numbers of people in Uppermill also required the services of more shopkeepers, retailers, wholesalers and merchants to meet their increasing needs. The precision with which this expanding requirement was met by several generations of such individuals in nineteenth century Uppermill is remarkable. Commercial directories record for example, that in 1838 26% (i.e. 27) of the 104 occupations under these headings were located in Uppermill; in 1891 the number had increased substantially (64 in Uppermill out of 216 in Saddleworth) but the proportion, 30%, had changed only marginally. Similarly, 7% of the occupations listed in the 1841 census returns (i.e. 31 out of 390) were of these types, as against the only slightly larger figure of 9% (71 out of 780) forty years later. A good example of market forces producing the correct response to changing demand ?

Also stable as a proportion of the employed population of Uppermill were those whose occupation was in the professions. The village had a small elite of such individuals, totalling 11 in 1841 (3% of the 390 occupations in the settlement) and 25 in 1881 (3% of 780 occupations). These figures seem so low as to imply the relative insignificance of this group in the community, but data from commercial directories suggests that Uppermill may have been peculiarly well endowed with such individuals during the last century. Pigot's 1838 directory, for example, records that 18% (i.e. 5) of the professional occupations in Saddleworth as a whole were conducted from Uppermill; in that year Worrall's Directory's figure for 1891 of 28 professionals in Uppermill out of a total of 38 in Saddleworth (i.e. 74%) is remarkable. Even allowing for the probably misleading nature of information derived from directories, already alluded to, it would seem that Uppermill's growing administrative and economic importance in nineteenth century Saddleworth is borne out by these figures which show the tendency for many of the district's most talented individuals to settle in the village.

Fig. iv. - Population Structure of Uppermill

(Source: Census enumerators' returns)

	<u>ages</u>	<u>males</u>	<u>% of males</u>	<u>females</u>	<u>% of females</u>	<u>males + females</u>	<u>% of males + females</u>
1841	0 - 9	95	23	106	27	201	25
	10 - 19	101	24	80	21	181	23
	20 - 29	75	18	76	20	151	19
	30 - 39	48	12	40	10	88	11
	40 - 49	40	10	33	9	73	9
	50 - 59	31	8	25	7	56	7
	60 - 69	10	2	15	4	25	3
	70 +	13	3	6	2	19	3
		413	(100)	381	(100)	794	(100)
1881	0 - 9	183	25	172	24	355	25
	10 - 19	139	20	161	22	300	21
	20 - 29	126	18	128	17	254	18
	30 - 39	94	13	98	13	192	13
	40 - 49	68	10	72	10	140	10
	50 - 59	46	7	62	8	108	7
	60 - 69	39	6	35	5	74	5
	70 +	8	1	8	1	16	1
		703	(100)	736	(100)	1439	(100)

* Changes 1841 - 1881

<u>SEX</u>		<u>%</u>
Males	+ 290	(+ 70)
Females	+ 355	(+ 93)
Males and Females	+ 645	(+ 81)

<u>AGE</u>		<u>%</u>
0 - 9	+ 154	(+ 77)
10 - 19	+ 119	(+ 66)
20 - 29	+ 103	(+ 68)
30 - 39	+ 104	(+118)
40 - 49	+ 67	(+ 92)
50 - 59	+ 52	(+ 93)
60 - 69	+ 49	(+196)
70 +	- 3	(- 16)
	+ 645	

A large number of people identified by the censuses had such diverse occupations as to defy easy categorisation (see miscellaneous sections of appendices A & B). This very variety, however, is a further indication of the growth and increasing complexity of the economic life of Uppermill last century. The wide range of occupations listed in the 1881 census returns is particularly illuminating in this respect. The substantial number of servants (the majority employed in households other than those in which the enumerators listed them) may well be a pointer to growing local affluence, while the presence of several railway workers is one sign that technological advance was helping to swell employment in the area.

Fig iv. provides snapshots of how the population of Uppermill was constituted at two points during the last century. The rapid rate of growth of the population is striking, although probably not greatly exceeding that pertaining elsewhere in Saddleworth at this period. The relatively young nature of the population is evident, 67% being below 30 in 1841 and 64% in 1881 while, conversely, inhabitants of 70 or above were very scarce in both years. The national situation is broadly reflected by these proportions.

The statistics also reveal that the proportions of the sexes were remarkably balanced. In 1841, 52% of the 794 inhabitants were male, while 49% of the population of 1439 in 1881 were of this sex. Whether this numerical equivalence was mirrored in the respective roles men and women played in nineteenth century Uppermill's society and economy is difficult to determine.

Fig ii. suggests that the position of men was certainly stronger in terms of employment, men outnumbering women in most categories of work in the village, but the description of a total of 177 women in the 1881 census as 'housewives' is a reminder that the importance of women in a community of this period is easily hidden.

The typical family in Uppermill at this period was relatively small. In 1841 the average number of members in each household in the village was 4.36, this having risen slightly to 4.73 forty years later. This belies the traditional image of large family as being the Victorian norm in Saddleworth.

How far the experiences of Uppermill were typical of other Saddleworth villages in the nineteenth century requires more research to uncover. The statistics presented in this article suggest, however, that whatever its comparison with other local settlements, Uppermill was characterised by constant and rapid growth in this period. By 1900 the tiny group of cottages of which it had been comprised at the end of the eighteenth century had long been swallowed in an extensive settlement, exerting much influence in the economy and administration of the district. Partly because of this transformation in Uppermill, the old Saddleworth of small villages and scattered hamlets and the fragmented nature of the local society and economy this structure implied, were moribund.

MICHAEL FOX.

References:

1. 'Uppermill' is taken as the area bounded by Wade Lock, Rush Hill Bridge, the Stalybridge - Diggle railway line from that point north to Pickhill Brook, Pickhill Brook itself and that part of the Stalybridge - Huddersfield railway running south between a point adjacent to Dungebooth canal lock and Wade Lock. This approximately corresponds to the area of Uppermill Local Board established in 1868.
2. Barnes, B. 'Passage Through Time', Saddleworth Historical Society, 1981, p.17.
3. See James Farrer's Inclosures Map, reproduced in B. Barnes, et al, 'Saddleworth Surveyed' (Saddleworth Historical Society, 1983) p. 24.
4. See 1822 Vestry Map reproduced in 'Saddleworth Surveyed' op. cit. p. 91.
5. See circa 1851 Ordnance Survey Map reproduced in 'Saddleworth Surveyed' op. cit. p. 118.
6. Barnes, B. 'The Upper Tame Valley', unpublished BA dissertation (1957) in Hewkin Collection, Uppermill Library.
7. Pigot's Directory.
8. Worrall's Directory.
9. 'Uppermill and its Environs', Local Interest Trail No. 2. Saddleworth Historical Society, 1985.
10. Their inadequacies include a tendency to selective recording, probably caused by the differing responses of individuals and businesses canvassed to contribute, and the use of different categories in many editions, making comparisons over time uncertain.
11. Fox, M. and P. 'Victorian Saddleworth' (Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery, 1987), p. 28.
12. Pigot's Directory, 1838 and Worrall's Directory, 1891.
13. 1841 census - engineers, 1; machine makers, 4; tinplate workers, 1;
1881 census - 'iron turners' 5; mechanics, 8; machine makers, 2;
machine fitters, 5; iron moulders, 4; iron founders, 1.

APPENDIX A.

Breakdown of employed population of Uppermill, 1841.

(Source: Census Enumerators' Returns)

TEXTILES

Wool

bobbin turners	1	piecers	11
burlers	33	s lubbers	11
carders	4	sorters	1
cloth drawers	3	spinners	16
cloth drawers' apprentices	1	weavers	38
cloth dressers	24	(indecipherable)	1
cloth finishers	33		
cloth fullers	3	<u>Cotton</u>	214
cloth manufacturers	6		
clothiers	9	piecers	1
croppers	2	reelers	2
dyers	12	tenters	9
feeders	4	(indecipherable)	1
merchants	1		
			13

CRAFTS/TRADES

blacksmiths	4	shoemakers	5
cabinet makers	1	shoemakers' apprentices	1
carpenters	3	stone cutters	4
dressmakers	9	stone getters	3
engineers	1	stone masons	5
farriers	1	stone masons' labourers	1
joiners	8	stone merchants	1
machine makers	4	tailors	20
painters	1	tinplate makers	1
sawyers	4		
			77

RETAIL

bakers	2	grocers	6
beersellers	1	inn keepers	4
butchers	4	linen drapers	1
coal dealers	1	merchants	1
corn dealers	1	milliners	1
drapers	1	pot dealers	1
druggists	1	shoe dealers	1
drysalters	1	'shopkeepers'	4
			31

PROFESSIONAL

attorney's clerks	1	registrars of births	1
auctioneers	1	school master	1
bankers' clerks	1	school mistresses	2
bookkeepers	2	surgeons	2
			11

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

carriers	3	'home businesses'	2
carters	5	labourers	15
charwomen	4	road labourers	1
engine cleaners	1	servants	11
grooms	1	(indecipherable)	1
			44
			390*

TOTAL OF OCCUPATIONS

(* 381 individuals as 9 people had 2 sources of employment)

APPENDIX B.Breakdown of employed population of Uppermill, 1881.

(Source: Census Enumerators' Returns)

TEXTILESWool

carders	10	warpers	7
carding engine feeders	2	woollen warp twistors	1
comb minders	1	washers	1
comb tenters	1	waste dealers	1
drawers	1	weavers	55
dressers	1		
dyers	4		198
'engine drivers'	6	<u>Cotton</u>	
engineers	2	blower feeders	1
feeders	1	box tenters	5
finishers	9	carders	3
flannel finishers	2	carding engine feeders	1
flannel weavers	1	comb feeders	1
frame tenters	1	comb tenters	1
handloom weavers	1	dyers	5
labourers	3	'engine drivers'	1
loom operators	1	engineers	1
managers	1	grinders	6
manufacturers	6	lap tenters	1
mechanics	1	managers	1
piecers	23	mechanics	2
scourers	2	apprentice mechanics	1
self actor minders	2	minders	7
shawl burlers	1	(self actor) minders	11
shawl finishers	11	piecers	39
shawl fringe twistors	2	reelers	33
shawl manufacturers	1	speed frame tenters	44
shawl sewers	2	spinners	13
shawl warpers	1	warehouse packers	3
shawl weavers	22	weavers	1
speed frame tenters' asst.	1	'labourers'	4
spinners	9	(indecipherable)	1
warehousemen	1		

186

CRAFTS/TRADES

barbers	1	landscape gardeners	2
blacksmiths	6	leather cutters	2
builders	1	machine fitters	5
cabinet makers	1	machine makers	2
carpenters	4	painters	4
cloggers	2	plasterers	3
decorators	2	plumbers	6
dressmakers	17	plumbers' apprentices	1
dressmakers' apprentices	1	printers' compositors	1
gardeners	1	sawyers	2
gas mechanics	2	shoemakers	5

CRAFTS/TRADES (Cont'd)

glass manufacturers	1	slaterers	1
glaziers	3	'masons' stone dealers'	1
hairdressers	1	stone masons	14
house painters	1	master stone masons	1
iron founders	1	stone masons' labourers	13
iron moulders	4	stone quarrymen	8
'iron turners/mechanics'	5	stone quarry labourers	2
mechanics	8	tailors	8
joiners	16	tinplate workers	1
		watchmakers	1
			161

RETAIL

bakers	2	grocers	10
boot and shoe dealers	2	grocers' assistants	3
butchers	5	inn keepers	2
butchers' apprentices	1	inn keepers' assistants	6
butchers' assistants	1	beerhouse keepers	2
coal dealers	2	licenced victuallers	2
confectioners	3	ironmongery	1
co-operative store		'merchants'	2
General Manager	1	news vendors	1
corn dealers	1	milliners	6
'dealers'	1	post masters	1
drapers	3	'shopmen'	2
linen drapers	3	shop assistants	1
earthenware dealers	1	stationers	1
fruit and potato dealers	1	tea and coffee hawkers	1
furniture dealers	1	timber dealers	1
			71

PROFESSIONAL

accountants	1	police constables	1
architects	1	registrars of births	1
architects' clerks	1	assistant school masters	2
auctioneers' agents	1	assistant school mistresses	2
county court clerks	1	school mistresses	1
doctors' assistants	1	teachers	2
general practitioners	1	solicitors	3
'Inland Revenue Officers'	1	surgeons	1
insurance agents	2	(rural) sanitary inspectors	1
			25

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

'agents'	1	navvies	4
artists	1	night watchmen	1
carriers	2	pupil teachers	4
carters	10	railway goods porters	1
charwomen	4	railway plate layers	2
errand boys	1	railway porters	1
farm labourers	3	railway shunters	1
farmers	5	railway signalmen	1

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS (Cont'd)

firemen	1	servants	43
general labourers	16	sewing machinists	1
ironworks labourers	2	sextons	1
laundresses	1	shipwrights	1
'mill hands'	1	toll collectors	1
ministers (Independent)	1	unemployed	14
ministers (Wesleyan)	1	(indecipherable)	13
			139

TOTAL OF OCCUPATIONS

780*

(* 745 individuals as 35 people had 2 sources of employment)

A note on category headings

These are the author's own and have been selected to make some sense of the data from the census by grouping individuals into broadly similar types of employment. For convenience the 'professional' occupation categories encompass individuals, such as clerical staff, whose employer was in a professional capacity. Additionally, some jobs listed under this heading, such as teachers, did not achieve full professional status until this century and again are included here for convenience.

A DELPH MYSTERY - THE DELPH TO HOLLINBANK COAL RAILWAY

Coal-getting was once a regular activity on the hillsides lying to the south and west of the River Tame above the village of Delph, but does the following account from the last century give an accurate indication of one of the ways used to convey the coal ?

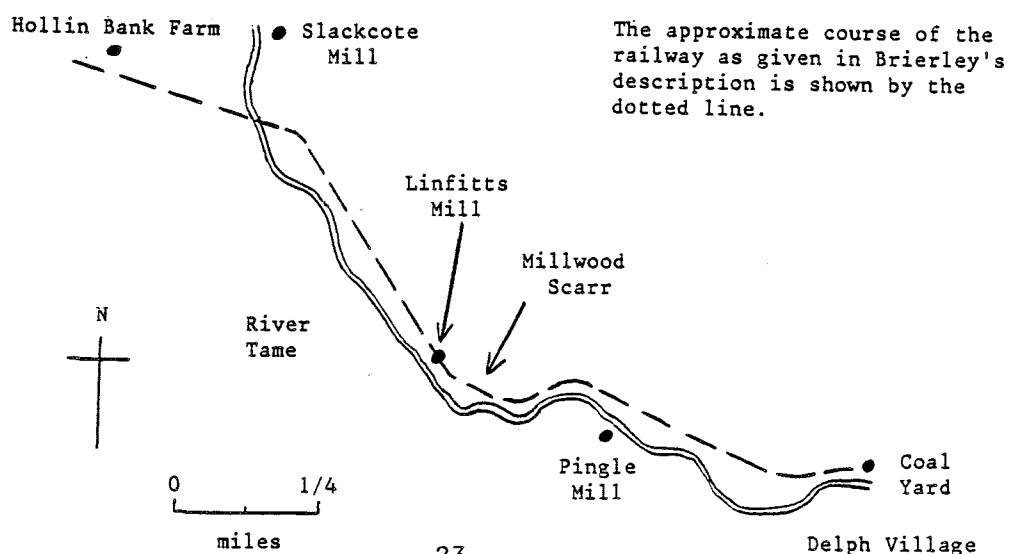
'..... With respect to the course of the coal railway, it came down Hollinbank fields and crossing the river at the bottom of the valley it ran along where Linfit Mill is now and right along in a line to Millwood Scarr (sic). It will clearly be seen that the course of the railway passed through Linfit Mill. But it should be remembered that the old part, or the top part nearest Mill barn was not built at the time the railway was made. This part of the mill was built across the course of the railway after it had come into disuse Millwood Scarr has since been planted with trees and (it) does not appear to have been as if any railway had been there. From Millwood Scarr the railway proceeded on the Linfit side of the brow past Pingle Mill on to the flat now known as Clifton (indecipherable word follows) and along the bottom part of Barn Meadow to Coal Yard. After the turnpike road from Grains to Delph was made Coal Yard gradually became disused as a coal station but still retains its name to the present time.'

(Brierley J., handwritten MS entitled 'Annals of Saddleworth' (entry dated 2nd April 1892) in Hewkin Collection, Uppermill Library).

Did this railway (or tramway) exist? This account was apparently based on the reminiscence of the author's father and is therefore vulnerable to distortion. The reference to the Grains - Delph turnpike road, built between 1798 and 1801, is one indication that the author assumed the railway was in operation in the late eighteenth century, but a study of the admittedly rather inadequate contemporary maps has failed to uncover any signs of it.

A look at the area today can be equally puzzling. 'Coal Yard' still exists near the centre of Delph by the site of the old ford and there is a level, gently curving track running for a few hundred yards north-westwards from the site of Linfitts Mill which it does not require much imagination to visualise as the trackbed of a railway. However, there is little else to suggest a railway once ran here, perhaps the most significant factor being the absence of any remains of the inclined plane which must have ascended Hollinbank fields near Slackcote Mill if the account is correct.

Perhaps some reader can shed light on the mystery ?



Enquiries about membership of the Saddleworth Historical Society should be sent to:

Mrs. E. Broadbent,
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GRASSCROFT,
Oldham,
OL4 4EL.

The Editor of the Bulletin is:

Michael Fox,
4 West Mount,
Shaw Hall Bank Road,
GREENFIELD,
Oldham,
OL3 7LF.

Contributions

The Bulletin aims to reflect and encourage interest in all aspects of Saddleworth's history. As such it relies on a regular supply of articles by members and others interested in recording the history of the area. Fresh material is always required and should be sent to the Editor, who is always pleased to discuss ideas for articles with anyone thinking of contributing.

Addendum

In the article on Linsgreave Clough (Vol. 18. No. 2) the sub-heading 'Lincolnshire' on page 14 was entered in error. In addition the following should have been inserted at the bottom of page 16 'Fig. 5. Flint work, Scale 1/1'.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 1988.

"It's good to be in Saddleworth,
Just to wander up and down,
When the home-fed hams are salted
And the hunting ale is brown;
When the fields are Autumn dappled
And the haigs red on the thorn
And the brown hare sits and listens
For the winding of the horn."
Ammon Wrigley.

Plans to enlarge and improve the garden area of the Bernard Barnes Memorial at Heights are progressing. The small sub-group, which has the work in hand has been in contact with Groundwork Trust and O.M.B.C. They are planning to build a low kerb round the site so as to discourage cars parking on the grass and they are hoping to do the planting in March. We continue to have Mrs. Petford's advice and are most grateful to her for all she has contributed to the scheme.

It was planned to hold the Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture at the Delph Theatre in September with a lecture by Julian Hunt. Unfortunately, Julian has had to withdraw because of the pressure of work in his new post at Aylesbury. Happily Michael Fox has agreed to speak in his place and we have been able to book the theatre for 9th December, his subject will be "The Huddersfield Narrow Canal."

This year our programme of lectures will start later than usual, the first being given by Maurice Dennett on the subject of the book he is preparing for us. A small sub-committee has been formed to pilot this fascinating project forward to publication for Christmas 1989.

It is with the deepest regret we have to report the death of Mr. Norman Platt who has been a member of the Society for some years.

The North Yorkshire Dales trip was well up to the standard which we have grown to expect from the Murray Travel Company. Impeccably planned, immaculately executed in perfect weather - or, as they would say in Grasscroft - "A reet gradely do."

The Bernard Barnes Essay Competition.

The Society proposes to award an Annual Prize of £50 for the best essay on any aspect of Saddleworth history submitted by a student who is receiving full-time education and who will be below 19 years of age on the 31st August, 1988. The closing date for entries will be 31st December, 1988. Further details will be sent round to schools in the near future or may be obtained from the Secretary of the Society.

Whether you spent those hot lazy days of the Summer in Sowerby Bridge or Stalybridge for most of us the holidays are over. However, that needn't be quite such a bad thing when one considers the delights of the season to come.

Lecture Programme.

Wednesday 19th October.

The Cherry Valley Chronicles:
Letters from Thomas Buckley, Emigrant,
of Massachusetts to Ralph Buckley, his
son, of Dobcross. 1845-75.
Maurice Dennett.

Thursday 1st December.

Annual General Meeting.

Friday 9th December.

The Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture:
The Huddersfield Narrow Canal.
Michael Fox. (The Millgate Centre, Delph)

Thursday 15th December.

Members' Slide Evening.
This latter evening is something of a
social evening with sherry and mince pies
and an opportunity for members to show
slides, so if you would like five or ten
minutes, let me know - Sadd. 4200.

The Archaeology Group, may now need to meet on the second Thursday of each
month (Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill, 8.0 p.m.)
Topics will include:

Hadrian's Wall.
The Antonine Wall.
The Romans in Wales.

On Saturday, 12th November 1988, from 9.45 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. - the
Reports Meeting for the Council of British Archaeology (Group 5) will be held
at Manchester University.

Music at the Gallery.

Saturday, 22nd October.
Saturday 19th November.
Saturday 17th December.

The Jazz Sextet.
The Dave Donohoe Jazz Band.
The Uppermill Brass Band Xmas Concert.

Art Exhibitions at the Gallery.

1st October - 23rd October.
29th October - 20th November.

Water-colours. George F. Ainscow.
Photography & Paintings. Peter Fox.

Other Events at the Gallery.

8th November.
23rd November.
8th January.

"Fakes" Jewellery Sale.
A.R.C. Christmas Coffee Morning.
Book Fair.

Friends of the Museum.

6th November.

Book Fair at the Civic Hall.

W.E.A. Christmas Lecture.

2nd December, Friday.
7.30 p.m.
Saddleworth School.

A lecture by Mr. Eric Watson of Uppermill,
entitled : CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS to
CAPTAIN BLIGH - A Dark and Stormy Night.
Wine, Mince Tarts and Coffee.
Admission Free.

The Rhodes Foundation Scholarship Trust.
(within the Probation Service)

A Performance of Handel's Messiah will be given by the :

Huddersfield Choral Society,
 The Manchester Camerata Orchestra and four well-known principals.
 Conductor: Dr. Jane Glover.
 on Saturday, 25th February, 1989, at the :
 Manchester Free Trade Hall.

Membership Section.

We welcome five new members to the Society:-

Mr. & Mrs. G. Levy from Calgary, Canada, who originally lived in Saddleworth and whose parents have resided in Grasscroft for over 50 years.

Mr. B.J. Swallow and Mrs. A. Barton of Delph.

Mr. G.S. Broadbent of Sefton Village, Merseyside, who together with Mrs. D.M. Breeden from Colchester is researching the Broadbent family, particularly Benjamin Broadbent born in 1822, New Barn, married Caroline Cartside 1843. If any member has information which may help in this research, please contact Mrs. E. Broadbent, 2870.

Another family tree enquiry has been received from Mrs. P. Slater, 15 Chantry Close, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. CM23 25N whose Great Grandfather, Samuel Buckley Bradbury was born in Saddleworth 1826. The 1841 Census gives his father as a woollen weaver Jim Bradbury, living in Ward Lane, married to Betty with five children, Samuel, Edna, James, John and William. Another query here is, "Are these Bradburys related to the Bills O'Jacks Bradburys ?".

Unfortunately, there are still around thirty subscriptions awaited for this year's membership, your remission would be most welcome. Cheques to Mrs. E. Broadbent, 30 Beechfield, Grasscroft, Oldham. OL4 4EL.

Family	£6.50	Student & Retired
Single	£5.00	per family £3.50

A reminder will be enclosed with this bulletin, many thanks for your support.

We are glad to learn that Mr. W. Elford and Mr. J.G. Parry are now both on the road to recovery and we extend our best wishes to them.

The Social Committee are hoping to organise a Winter Blues Party at the Museum during February next year, and look forward to your support, booking details to be published in the next bulletin.

J. Hindle.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY

1st DECEMBER, 1988 at the Museum, 7.30 p.m.

Nominations are invited for the post of :-

Chairman	_____
Vice Chairman	_____
Secretary	_____
Treasurer	_____
Committee Members	_____ _____

If you wish to nominate anyone to one of these posts, please obtain his/her consent beforehand. Forward your nominations to the Secretary, Mr. Neil Barrow, Carr Farm Cottage, Diggle, Oldham. OL3 5ND to reach him before the 29th November, 1988.