

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 18 Number 4 Winter 1989

BULLETIN
OF THE
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 18 Number 4
Winter 1989

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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT A.G.M. 1st DECEMBER, 1988 at the
MUSEUM, HIGH STREET, UPPERMILL.

It has always given me pleasure to report to you at the A.G.M. on the progress of our Society during the year past and I am glad to acknowledge the assistance that the Committee has given me in compiling this report. I am sure you will agree that there is little point in recording in this speech all the events of which you will already have read in the newsletter.

Our Secretary, Mr. Neil Barrow, whose appointment to the post you ratified at the last A.G.M. has acquitted himself well in his first year.

You will see from your programme that he has organised an interesting programme of lectures for the coming year. He has provided the Committee with Agenda and Minutes for our meetings and although his spare time has been very limited he has kept on top of the demands incumbent upon a Secretary.

Our Membership Secretary, Mrs. Elsie Broadbent, reports that we now have 404 members (including 55 new subscribers). This throws a lot of work on her shoulders, but she has capably handled the queries that come in from our members who live away, particularly those in America, Canada and Australia, descendants of Saddleworthians who emigrated to those countries in the early part of the last century and are keen to trace their ancestors.

Professor Leonard Broadbent, who lives on the Wirral, visited Saddleworth again this year. He has revised and extended his researches into his family tree and has sent Elsie a copy of his work for our archives and he hopes that an edited version might be included in some future bulletin.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Esther Shaw Lawn who has generously sent a further contribution of 100 dollars to our Society and to J.C. Wrigley of Canada, 50 dollars. This week Mrs. Lilyan Gartside Durkee of Connecticut has donated a kind gift of 75 dollars.

Our Vice-Chairman, Mr. Stanley Broadbent, has had another busy year. He has continued his fund raising for the Museum with his Saturday evening Jazz Nights and has made a further donation of £571 to the Museum. He has a small group who prepare the hall for the concerts, who arrange the chairs and who clear up after each performance. They have earned our thanks for their efforts and our congratulations for their achievements.

Stanley has also been responsible for the negotiations to transfer the Wool Road Warehouse to the Huddersfield Canal Society. It was necessary to employ a solicitor and with the Committee's agreement Mr. David Haines, who is also a member of our Society, was appointed. The Deed of Variation has now been signed by the Trustees and Mr. Frank Smith, a full-time Assistant Projects Officer for the Huddersfield Canal Society, has been advised of the work we require to be done before the formal take-over.

Stanley has also taken charge of what will be a garden at Heights fronting on the Bernard Barnes Memorial plaque. He leads a small group "The Mowing Party" which contrives to keep the grass cut regularly during the summer months. They were concerned, however, about the occasional car backing on to this cultivated area and Stanley consulted Mr. Neil Roydes, Principal Assistant Engineer on Highways Maintenance at Oldham, about this problem: as a result, Mr. Roydes, who is a member of our Society, arranged for the whole plot to be

edged with a stone kerb. We are very grateful to him for this work. The next job there will be the reseeded and planting in the Spring in accordance with Mrs. Petford's recommendations and Mrs. Jean Barnes wishes to pay for the plants.

We were very sorry to lose the services of our Editor, Julian Hunt, earlier this year. He had successfully applied for a post of Local Interest Librarian with the Buckinghamshire County Council and moved down to live in Aylesbury with his family in June. We presented him with a briefcase, and wished him every success in his career. Before leaving Julian recommended Mr. Michael Fox to be his replacement Editor. He was able to leave Michael material sufficient for the first two Bulletins. We invited Michael to the following Committee Meeting when he was offered the post subject to the ratification by the members at the A.G.M. I hope you will endorse this important appointment. I know, however, that he would welcome suitable articles for future issues. The Bulletin must be regarded as the most important output of the Society. For sixteen years we have produced it quarterly, a lasting memorial to Bernard Barnes.

In October the Bernard Barnes Essay Competition was launched. The Society proposes to award an Annual Prize of £50 for the best essay on any aspect of the history of Saddleworth submitted by a student who is receiving secondary or tertiary education and who was below 19 years of age on the 31st August 1988. Posters have gone out to Senior Schools and Libraries in the Oldham area.

Canon Airne reports on the Archives of Saddleworth Historical Society 1988. The steady increase of items donated to the archives had continued during the past year and we are grateful to those who have presented them. Of particular note is the Julian Hunt Collection, which consists of all the material which Mr. Hunt gathered together during his researches into Saddleworth history and includes deeds, wills, genealogical tables and other information relating to properties and families in all parts of the area. It also includes a large collection of slides. They are, at present, in the custody of Mr. Alan Petford and application for their use to illustrate talks and lectures should be made to him. Our thanks are due to Mr. Hunt for this valuable acquisition.

Mr. Maurice Dennett, the Museum Archivist, also reports a steady increase of material which includes an original letter by Ammon Wrigley and the collection of letters written by Thomas Buckley of Cherry Valley, Massachusetts, to his son, Ralph, between 1845 and 1875. These letters, presented by Mrs. Jean Roebuck of Marsden, were the subject of a fascinating lecture by Mr. Dennett in October. The Committee has appointed a sub-group to investigate with Maurice the possibility of a publication. We also thank Mr. Dennett for his assistance with the Society Archives.

Canon Airne published a book 'St. Anne's Lydgate: The Story of a Pennine Parish 1788 - 1988' to celebrate the bi-centenary of St. Anne's Church. The Society agreed to support this project and appointed a sub-committee to see it through. The first print of 300 was soon sold and a re-print of 300 is now available. An item of historic interest, not in our archives, but available on loan from the Manchester Polytechnic Film Library, is a video made from an old film depicting soldiers returning from the First World War, marching through Uppermill. Mr. Dannie Wright, who owns the film is kindly showing the video this evening.

Mr. David Gartside, our Publication Officer, reports that in the year ending 31st October, 1988, sales of publications, excluding bulletins, totalled £3504. This compares with sales of £8001 in 1986/7. (Festival Year), £1802 in 1985/6 and £2012 in 1984/5.

During the year Numbers 3 and 4 Local Interest Trails were revised and reprinted.

We continued to buy and distribute 'Saddleshaw 712', Saddleshaw Story' and the Castleshaw Pamphlet for the W.E.A. During next year it will be necessary to re-print 'Countryside Guides of North and South Saddleshaw'. They have continued to be a mainstay of the Society's publication sales. It will also be necessary towards the end of next year to revise No.2. Trail in readiness for re-printing in early 1990.

Mrs. Elsie Broadbent has compiled an 'Index to Saddleshaw Historical Society Bulletins'. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy should contact Mrs. Broadbent.

Altogether it was a satisfactory year, although somewhat quieter than Festival Year when sales were stimulated by the publication of 'Saddleshaw Buildings'.

Mr. Jim Carr makes the following report on the work of the Archaeological Group during 1988. From the beginning of the year the main activity for many members was the preparation for the forthcoming Roman Exhibition at Saddleshaw Museum. Work also continued within the Castleshaw Project which was entering its final year. W.E.A. Classes on 'Roman Britain' were again well supported.

Mr. Jim Carr started the year at the Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill, with a talk 'An Exhibition of Roman Coins'. In February the controversial 'Roman Farmhouse' replica to be built at the rear of the Castleshaw Centre, was discussed by Nick Brown, adviser in Humanities with the Oldham Education Committee. Then in March 'Castles' were the topic for Norman Redhead, Supervisor at the Castleshaw Project.

The weekend pilgrimage to Hadrian's Wall with Colin Harding came after Easter with several members taking part. The Sunday visits during the summer included the Watergrove Trail at Wardle, the Heritage Park at Castleford, Manchester, and the Piece Hall Halifax. Some members also joined the visit to the Antonine Wall in Scotland. On the 4th June, 1988, the Exhibition 'Castleshaw - Outpost of the Roman Empire' opened at the Museum in the presence of a detachment of Ermine Street Guard. It proved a great success and included a reconstruction of a 'contubernium' or barrack-block. Approximately 11,000 people visited this exhibition including many of our members who helped by manning the Gallery and giving whatever help was required during the time it was open.

Evening meetings resumed in the Autumn and included Ron Wardleworth's visit to 'Rome', Dr. Pat Stonehouse's theory on 'The Pre-History of Farming' and a Christmas Quiz.

The Council for British Archaeology, Group 5, held its Annual Reports Meeting at Manchester University in November, when topics included Stonehenge, Chester, Lancaster, Rossendale, Bickerstaff, Little Bollington and Castleshaw within the Greater Manchester Report. We must acknowledge our gratitude to Phil Kay at the Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill, for his kindly hospitality and also a tribute must be paid to Dave Start, who led the Castleshaw Forts Project for four years, made many friends in the area and especially within the Society and who takes our best wishes with him to his new post in the City of Lincoln.

I think you will agree that Jim has organised a very full and interesting programme. He does keep abreast with what is happening in the local archaeological field and missed no opportunities to keep up to date by attending conferences, seminars and meetings.

We have continued to have a representative on the Saddleworth Parish Council Conservation Area Advisory Committee and we have had a mutually helpful relationship with the Planning Authority in Oldham.

Many Society members at the beginning of the year expressed concern about the proposal to build a Roman Villa and roundhouses in the Castleshaw Valley. Their principal objections were the despoilation of the Castleshaw Valley by too many tourists and other visitors and the inappropriateness of siting this complex in an area where there could not have been a Roman Villa. We have made out our case and hope this problem is solved to everyone's satisfaction.

Looking ahead to Volume 1 of what is to be our Saddleworth History, the sub-group working on the preparation for this volume has appointed as consultant Dr. Denise Kenyon who has agreed to help us.

At the Parish Council Chairman's Fair in January we sold publications totalling £30 and we made a donation of £50 to the Museum's Castleshaw Fort Exhibition.

Two of our members died this year, Mr. Norman Platt and Mr. Jim Whitehead. We offered our sympathy to their families.

I will conclude my report with a diary announcement. Any winter blues will be well dispersed by a 20's Evening Supper Dance to be held in the Civic Hall on Friday, 10th March, 1989. Details to be advised, together with a booking form, in the next issue of the Bulletin.

J. Murray.

COOKING AND EATING WITH THE ROMANS AT CASTLESHAW

One oven (furnus) and a likely second in an original series of perhaps four have been excavated at the Roman forts of Castleshaw by members of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit under Dave Start. They were set in the clay of the turf and timber rampart and were the only centralised cooking or eating facility. All preparation was done within the barrack blocks or on the verandah - they ate their meals in the barracks too. So there is neither kitchen nor mess hall to be found in a Roman fort for the use of the ordinary troops.



Fig.1. Oven base excavated at Castleshaw by F.R.Bruton.

One oven was excavated and systematically dismantled by F.R.Bruton in the dig early in the century. (Fig.1.) It would have been used in a method still practised in the Greek, Italian and Spanish world of today to bake pizza bases, pitta or similar bread.

A wide variety of food preparation, storage, cooking and serving pots have also been discovered - some nearly complete, the others only in sherds.

Roman querns or millstones have been found (Fig. 2), the most prized ones being of black lava and used for centuries for flour grinding. Each barrack block or tent party (contubernium) shared one. A gruel made from barley and wheat was a staple diet and each soldier carried his own personal saucepan or skillet. (patera) (Fig. 3.). Bread was made from a similar mixture. It was coarse and rough with chaff and often needed to be dipped in wine to make it palatable. Wine was almost invariably diluted with water.

Originally bread was unleavened - a way of using up or storing the remains of the 'porridge'. A ring or biscuit of bread, we are told, was hung on a thong around the neck of a legionary soldier on the march.

Yeast is found naturally in the air, in soil, or plants, leaves and fruit-skins. It is transferred by insects or birds and via dust. Thus a dish of meal and water, left to stand longer than usual, especially on a warm sunny day, would begin to ferment before being baked.

An important discovery was that a piece of fermented dough, kept from a day's baking, could be used to ferment the next mix of dough. This method became routine. In the Old Testament we read that the Israelites in captivity in Egypt "took their dough before it was leavened." In the New Testament St. Paul also mentions "corruption" taken to mean fermentation.

CW 85
QUERN STONE

SCALE
0 5 cm

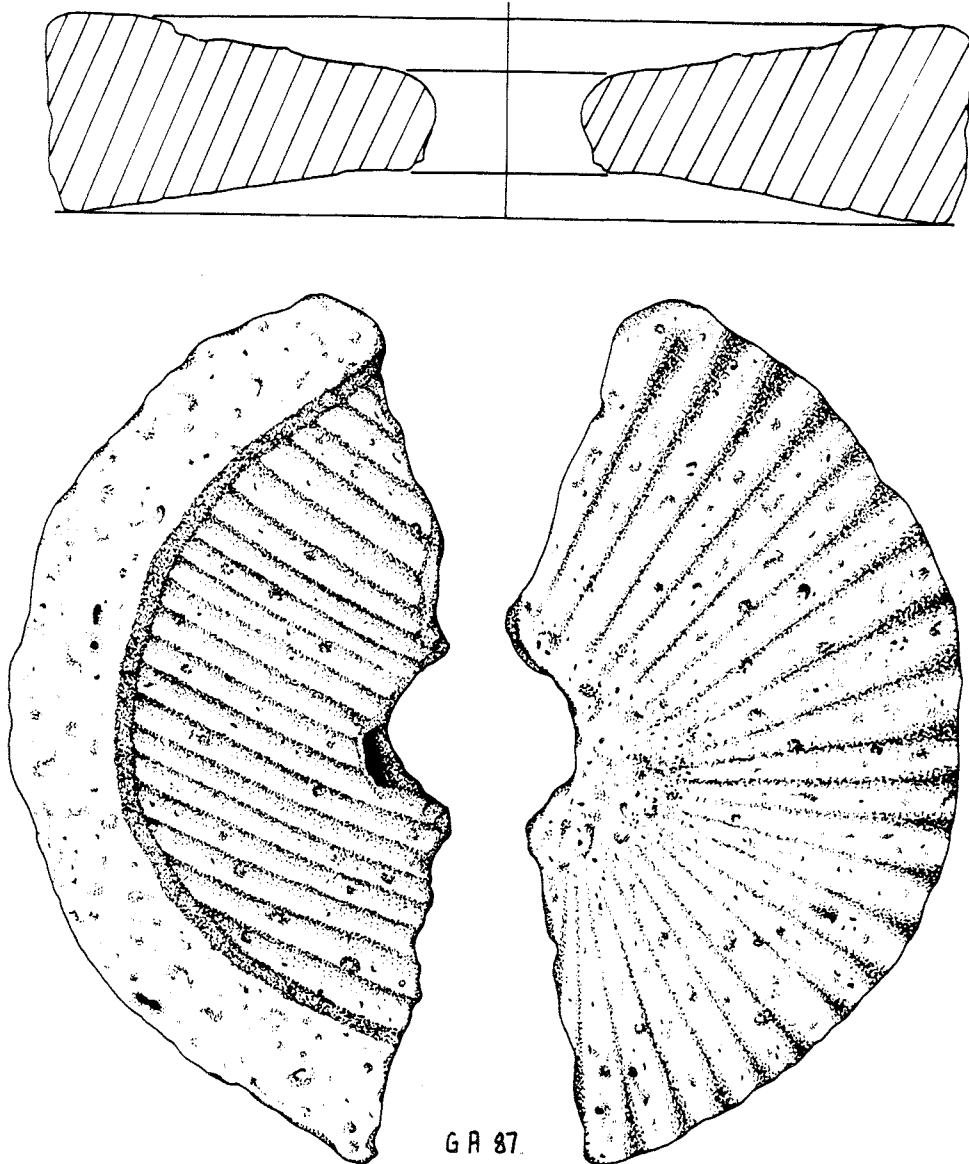


Fig.2. Quern stone discovered in 1985.

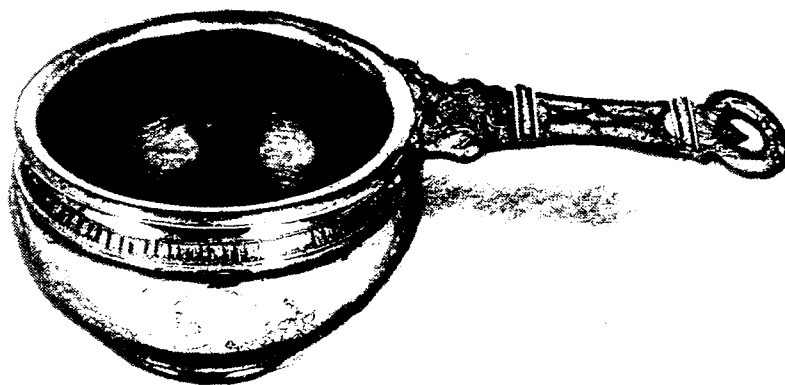


Fig. 3. A patera or skillet.

Egyptians made wine and brewed ale which was used as fermenting liquor. The Britons too may have passed on the technique of adding froth from the top of the ale to the dough as a rising agent.

The beehive oven, as found at Castleshaw, was filled with wood or more likely charcoal, lit and sealed. After it had reached maximum heat it was cleared of ashes and the base wiped with a damp cloth - the steam thus produced assisted rising. After the dough had been placed inside, the door was again sealed with stone and clay. After some hours the baked bread was removed.

A "round" of flat bread, already marked into six portions, has been found along with various nuts and seeds at Herculaneum preserved from A.D.79. under volcanic ash and mud from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

The situation in large legionary fortresses like Caerleon was quite different. Ovens or cookhouses have been discovered set into the fortress rampart as lean-to buildings beneath the turrets - probably to cater for those on guard and on rampart duty more conveniently.

One piece of evidence which leads to a different interpretation of bread supply in a legionary fortress is the centurial bread stamp which designated the century which had produced each loaf in the way of 'Hovis' and 'Turog' stamps. The names of the centurion is thus recorded.

A misinterpretation of a passage from Julius Caesar's 'Gallic Wars' which described legionaries in a famine situation and being forced to eat their draught oxen, originally gave the impression that the legions normally ate little meat. However, writing tablets found at Vindolanda have revealed long and varied lists of meat - brought from stores or hunted locally.

'Garvm', or 'liqvamen' was, it appears, a necessity of life for the troops. It is often called fish sauce, and was based on anchovy flavour. It helped improve the otherwise bland diet and would perhaps have been added to other spices and vegetables which were ground up in the mixer of the day, the mortarium (mortar and pestle). Several of these solid lipped bowls have been found in pieces in varying size at Castleshaw (Fig.4.). They were stamped by the early makers and it is possible to trace the factory source from these names. Honey and fruit were the sweetening agents.

Many coarse-ware sherds have been found which would have been used for preparation and serving. The 'best china' for the Romans was the deep red Samian ware (Fig.5.) which was often decorated with relief patterns of hunting scenes, gladiatorial contests or even erotica. Ammon Wrigley drew an impression of a gladiator from a piece he found at Castleshaw. (Fig.6).

Bulk deliveries came in sacks, barrels or amphorae, large jars which were often stamped with the maker's or company name. Some would hold wine, oil or garum and they came in various sizes: weight and volume were regulated by law. After the contents had been used, the amphorae were then put to a multitude of different uses, not just as storage jars. Their bases were pointed, so they leaned in a corner, as found at Pompeii and Herculaneum, rested in a tripod or were sunk into sand.

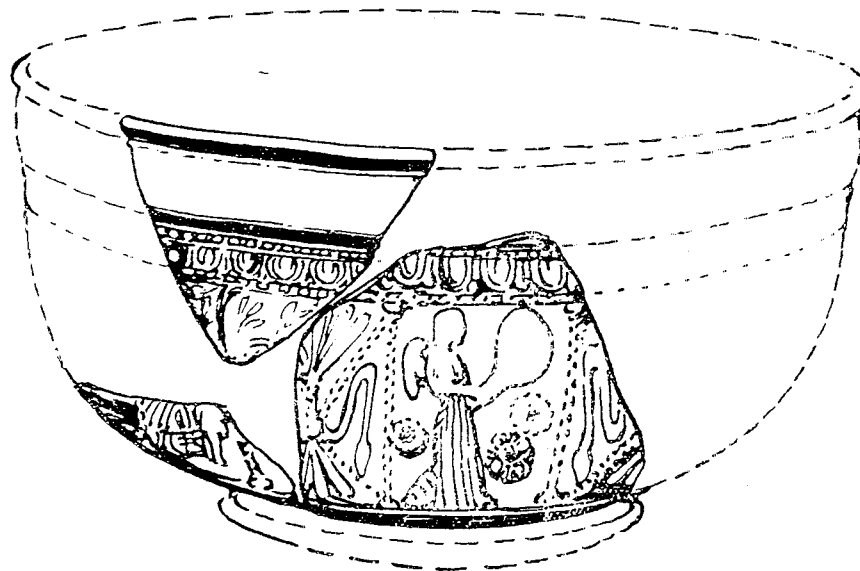
JIM CARR.



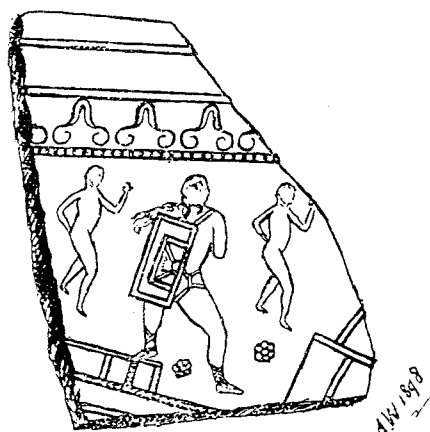
Fig. 4. Mortarium from Castleshaw.



Fig.5. Undecorated Samian bowl
(Dragendorff's shape 40)
found at Castleshaw.



0 1 2 3
SCALE OF INCHES



Fragment of Roman Pottery, Castleshaw, 1898

Drawn by Gordon Forsyth and A. Wiggley

Fig. 6. Decorated Samian Ware
found at Castleshaw.

- References: Exodus XII, 34, 39.
1 Corinthians V, 7.
"English Bread & Yeast Cookery" - Elizabeth David, Penguin.
"Roman Cook Book" publ. Frank Graham,
(based on Apicius's Cookery Book).

AMMON WRIGLEY LEARNS A LESSON

The original of the following letter came into the Museum Archives recently:

111B Stamford Road,
Waterhead, Oldham.

5.9.21.

Dear Sir,

Your p.c. has been knocked about. It was wrongly addressed - I am now living on the outskirts of Oldham.

'The Wind Among the Heather' has been out of print for 3 years. I have only 2 copies for sale at £1 each. This is the price at which I sell them to the booksellers. What they get for them I don't know.

Yours respectfully,

A. Wrigley.

However, in the following article from his book 'Rakings Up' he seems to have found out!

AT THE BOOKSHOPS

One day I went into a second-hand bookshop in Manchester, and as I stood looking round the well-packed shelves a smartly dressed shopman came up to me and said, "Are you looking for some particular book"?

"Yes", I said, "The Wind Among the Heather", have you a copy?"

"We have, but I think it is above your price" he replied.

He had evidently noticed that I was without a collar and that my worn trousers were very baggy at the knees.

"What are you prepared to pay for it"? he asked.

"About six shillings if it is in good condition" I replied.

He laughed, and said, "I want two pounds for it".

"You will want a long time before you get two pounds out of me, it is not worth it" I said.

"Anything else you want" ?

"No, not to-day".

On going into the street I wondered what he would have said if I had told him that I was the author of the book. He might have 'phoned the police station and said, "There's a man in my shop who is not fit to be at large, he claims to be an author, come and look at him".

At Huddersfield, a second-hand bookseller had two copies of "Wind Among the Heather" and I thought this man does not know what they are asking for the book in Manchester, and I'll take two copies if the price is reasonable. I took one out of the shelves and said "What do you want for this".

"Thirty-five shillings" he replied.

"You're joking" I said, "I'll give you five shillings for it".

"Thirty-five, not a penny less" he said emphatically, "It's by a Saddleworth man, and was published in Huddersfield".

"I suppose he would get about five shillings for it, and you're asking thirty-five".

"Take it or leave it" he said.

"I shall leave it, good morning".

One night at a Waterhead inn, a friend said "I've seen one of your books "The Wind Among the Heather" in a shop window marked 7s. 6d. I drank up and caught the first car to Cross Street. As soon as I entered the shop I laid three halfcrowns on the counter. "What is that for" the shopman asked, "It's for "The Wind Among the Heather"" I said. "Yes, but it is thirty-seven and six pence" he said, "It is one of the scarcest books in Lancashire and this is the first copy I have ever seen".

I went to Waterhead and said some rude things to my friend. He said "I must have missed the figure three, - get a bottle of Bass".

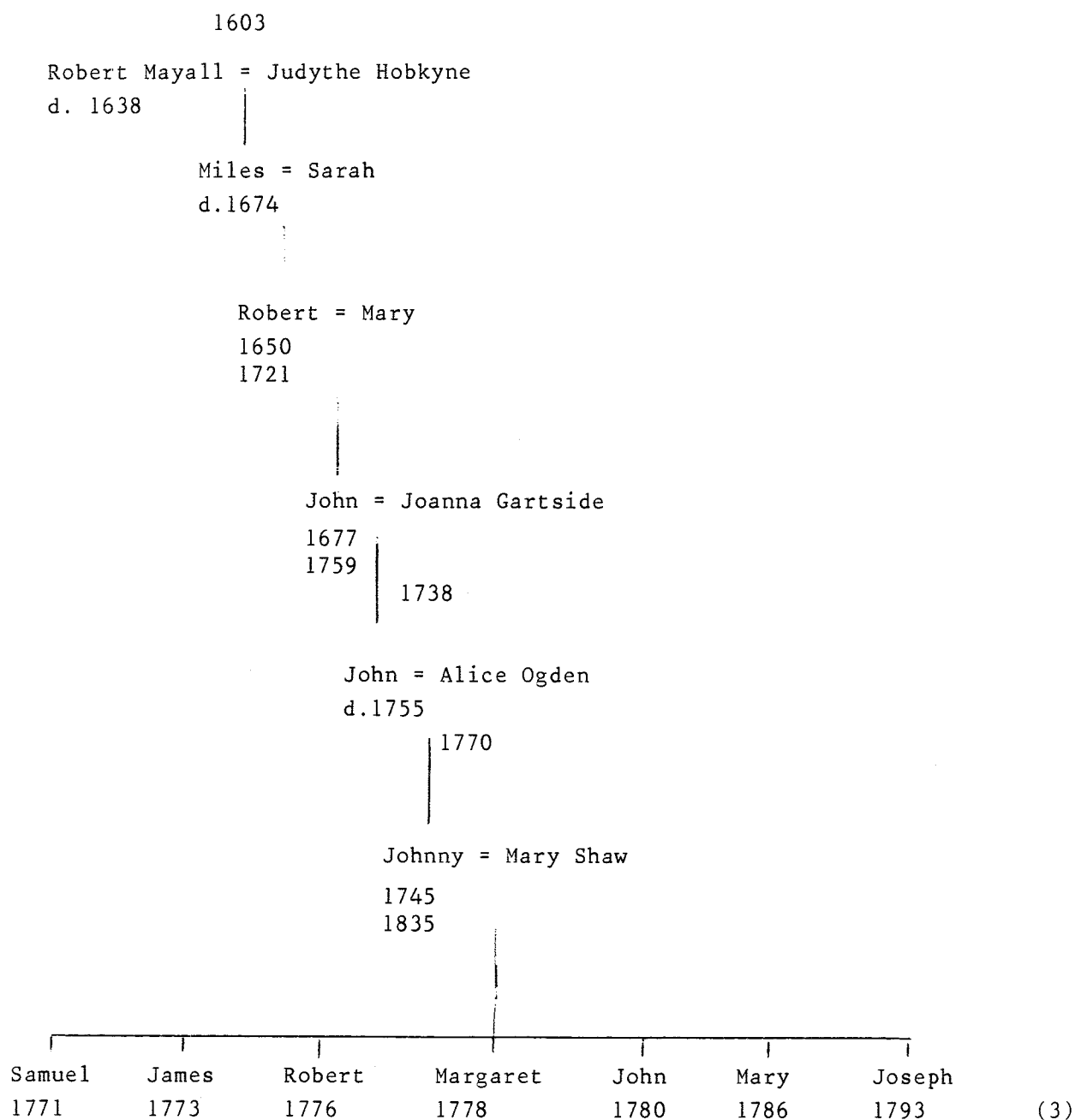
I had similar experiences when trying to buy copies of my other books.

MAURICE DENNETT.

THE FIRST AMERICAN WOOLLEN MILL (PART 2).

The Mayalls in America claim descent from Robert Meiall of Lees, Carrier, who married Judythe Hobkyne (Hopkin) of Nether Lees, on the 8th August, 1603, at St. Michael's Church, Ashton-under-Lyne. According to the American tradition, Robert had a son, Miles, but so far no baptismal date has been found to substantiate this. However, a Miles Mayall of Lees died in 1674 and it is interesting to note that his will was witnessed by Mary Hopkin and Robert Hopkin. By the early 1700's the family was living at Lawton Fold and by 1722 John Mayall (wife Joanna) had built a house at Earnshaw Head. (1).

The story of the emigration of Johnny Mayall and his family appeared in the first Mayall article. (2) The Family Tree shows Johnny's descent from Robert and Judith.



Earlier this year there was a gathering in Gray, Maine, of some of the descendants of Johnny Mayall. Following this, Melba Mayall sent me copies of two transcriptions from the writings of Johnny's son, Robert, the originals of which are obviously in the possession of a member of the family. (One of these is reproduced at the end of the article).

Johnny's daughter, Margaret, took with her to America her two year old illegitimate daughter, Myra. Again no baptismal date can be found, but preserved in America is a sampler worked in cross stitch by Myra, with the following inscription:

MYRA MAYALL
BORN NOV 1 1803
AT 7 O CLOCK AT NIGHT
THURSTONE CLOUGH
SADDLEWORTH
OLD ENGLAND

The story becomes more intriguing when we learn that Margaret and her sister, Mary, married Radcliffe men from Yorkshire. (4).

Major James Radcliffe born May 2, 1786.... Yorkshire, Eng.
died April 6, 1864.. Ohio, U.S.A.

Married

Margaret Mayall Radcliffe born April 3, 1778.
died Dec. 1, 1837.

Their children were: Margaret Radcliff Pottinger.
Mary Radcliff Pottinger Simmons.
James Monroe Radcliff.

The inscriptions from Whitewater Township Cemetery, located on Kilby Road, Whitewater Township, Hamilton County, Ohio:

RADCLIFFE - Samuel: b. Dec. 28, 1781, d. Dec 25, 1827.

RADCLIFFE - Mary, wife of Samuel Radcliffe:
b. May 22, 1786, d. Oct. 9, 1849.

Was James Radcliffe the real father of Myra Mayall ?

Were James and Samuel brothers ?

Did they come from Saddleworth ?

The birth dates given above certainly fit with the baptismal dates of James and Samuel, the sons of John and Mary Radcliffe of Mullock Hill;

James baptised May 29th 1785.
Samuel baptised Jan.27th 1782. (5)

A final point, but probably no connection with Saddleworth. When in 1791 the Mayalls rented the old grist mill, they called it the Lower Mill. The name was transferred to the first mill built by Samuel Mayall. Later, when Samuel built a second mill, he called it the Upper Mill. Interesting !

Notes and References

1. Datestone at Earnshaw Head.
2. Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin Autumn 1986.
THE FIRST AMERICAN WOOLLEN MILL. Anne Haken and Mike Haken.
3. The Family Tree was compiled using information from America,
The C.E. Higson Collection (Oldham Local Studies Library),
Church Registers, Wills and gravestone inscriptions.
It is only intended to give the descent of Johnny Mayall and not
full family details.
4. The information about the sampler and the marriages of Margaret and
Mary comes from Eve Nielson, Utah, U.S.A.
5. The Parish Registers of St. Chad, Saddleworth.

Anne and Mike Haken.

TRANSCRIPTION FROM THE MAYALL BOOK

Ship Bath At Sea July 21th--1803

To Day is the Twentey Sixt day since we seat sale of (Sh/Fr/L/H?) llack six
of the first days was fine weather nearley calm. then sprang up a strong
NoWest Wind wich lasted Eight days bloing most of the time allmost a gale.
after that cam on (mothered?) winds from the South S. West & North N. West
wich carred us on our cours so well that to day July 21 We got soundings
coming on to the Banks of Newfound Land Sixtey Four Fathams deep. The seacond
week we wer out we S(?)ok a great maney Ships from Diffrent parts of
Ameareca after wich time we Sean nothing (month?) (notes?) till to day we saw
Two large Wales The a pered to us as the might be about xxx60 feet Long.
The first Six days Susanna was not aney Sea Sick but in High spearets & much
delighted with the Sea. But wen it began to blow hard with a high Sea and
washing over the ship vearey much Sche began to be vearey Sick wich lasted
four days at the end of wich time Sche got the better of it & ever after Sche
was as (b/c?) ould & as high spearited as aney one on land On the Twelft day
ther came a Sea onto the deack that came in to the room in wich we Slept &
had our stors that washed a (Rarth/Ranth?) bottom in on wich was our Butter
flour Bread & Beer & .. but fortunetley the did not get much dammaged & ther
was a Sea struck our cabbin window & brok one of them wich mad us to have
(our?)? in so we wer in darkness three days the Ship (rouling?) so
hard that

(Some faintly written numbers on page, too)

(At bottom of page and upside down is a signature: John C. Clemons)
(Robert's first daughter, Susanna, married a Clemons.)

ON THE ROAD IN EDWARDIAN SADDLEWORTH

In the late 1980s Saddleworth is overrun by motor vehicles, which govern much of the way of life of its inhabitants. Eighty years ago, however, the motor car and motor cycle were relatively scarce in the district and provided unfamiliar and novel excitements and dangers.

Some extracts from the Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter recall the flavour of this brief period before the internal combustion engine became an established part of the locality.

To the Edwardian Saddleworthian the motor car was still sufficiently rare for its passage along the district's roads to be occasionally worth more than a casual glance. On the 7th July 1906 for example eyes were attracted by an 'agreeable outing' of the Huddersfield branch of the Yorkshire Automobile Club which was giving patients and nurses of the Huddersfield Infirmary a tour of the Pennines.

'... the inhabitants of Delph and Denshaw had the unusual sight of a train of thirtythree motor cars passing through their villages.'

The sense of spectacle was increasingly enhanced by the indulging of the locals in the excitement of speed which motorised transport offered. In 1908 we hear of an instance of an exhilarating new activity:

'Seven members of the Mossley District Motorcycling Club now in course of formation took part in their first hill climbing contest on Sunday morning (i.e. 21st June 1908). The starting point was at the top of Wool Road and the run was made to the "Floating Light Inn", Standedge, a distance of over two miles The winner was Mr. G.F.Bradby, who with a 2.3/4 horse power machine covered the distance in the short time of 4 minutes 26 seconds.'

Speed may have quickened the pulses of the competitors and spectators at such events but increasingly it was arousing the ire of the local constabulary. At Uppermill Magistrates Court in July 1906, for example, we hear that,

'... Sergeant Haigh said that on the 5th inst. he and Constable Blundry had timed the defendant on a quarter mile stretch on Huddersfield Road, Scouthead, when his car covered the distance in 36 seconds, which worked out at about 25 miles per hour.!'

A fine of £2 was imposed for this recklessness. Despite the small number of vehicles on the local roads, accidents were surprisingly frequent, making such police vigilance seem justified. In October 1908, to take one of many instances, a child was knocked down by a car and killed in Uppermill.

However, although the motor age had brough peril to the previously tranquil roads of Saddleworth, the lighter side of the new means of transport made some recompense, as in Delph in July 1908:

'A handsomely equipped motor car, the property of a wealthy gentleman was drawn through the village this week by a horse. The chauffeur seated in the broken down vehicle, moving forward with one-horse power, and manipulating the steering gear with considerable gravity, gave the incident a touch of humour.'

Michael Fox.

ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH WEST 1988

The Council of British Archaeology (5) Reports Meeting held at the University of Manchester, on Saturday, 12th November, 1988.

The keynote speaker was Mr. Christopher Chippindale, editor of 'Antiquity' whose talk was entitled 'Who Owns Stonehenge?'. In an amusing survey he included astronomers, Druids, the Rock and Roll Festival and the Welsh among many others in a general confusion of time. He showed slides of other replica Stonehenges, especially in the U.S.A., even a Chrysler Auto-henge - a wrecked car sculpture.

Mr. John Williams from the Cumbria and Lancaster Unit told of the three phases of Roman Lancaster, with a change of course of the River Lune showing as a mill-race on Speed's oldest map. Mr. Mike Trueman of the same Unit concentrated on the Industrial Archaeology of the Cowpe Valley in Rossendale, which was reminiscent of Saddleworth in its development.

Mrs. Audrey Coney, West Lancashire Society, talked about Bickerstaff and the projected book on the area, including James Scarisbrick, the Stanleys and the Earls of Derby.

Mr. Mike Nevell's theme was Little Bollington with its Fairy Brow Barrow, Harthill enclosures showing circular and sub-rectangular buildings of Bronze Age with underlying flint sites.

Mrs. Mary Higham of the Lancashire Society gave a wide-ranging view of 'Mottes' within the County and linked the survey with place-names and the typical geographical sites. Ben Edwards also of Lancashire gave two short talks on the Whalley Crosses and then on the Shireburne Almshouses. Mr. Eric Higham, again Lancashire, described the results of fieldwork in north east Lancashire with the discovery of two hitherto unrecorded tumuli in Foulridge.

Short talks were given on work at South Trafford with children, work at Prestwich on St. Mary's Church and an outline of the future of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit.

Major contributions were made on excavations at Chester. Tim Strickland outlined the Roman Amphitheatre development with private contractors funding an ambitious scheme which will reveal the full extent of the amphitheatre, provide seating for live performances in it, and provide a museum and Roman Craft Centre. Simon Ward went through current and future excavations in both the legionary fortress and the civil settlement - the High Cross Project, 30 Bridge Street, repair of the City Walls, Minerva's Shrine and the Nicholas Street New Site.

Jim Carr.

REVIEW

"SIGNPOSTS TO THE PAST: PLACE NAMES AND THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND" by
Margaret Gelling.

2nd Edition published by Phillimore, 1988. ISBN 0 85033 649X.

There are nine chapters dealing with: the place-names of Roman Britain; Latin words in English place-names; the Celtic revival; place-names and the archaeologist; boundaries and meeting places; Scandinavian and French place-names; the chronology of English place-names; the links between language and place-names.

The introduction is useful and this edition draws on recent research to update information and ideas. It may be used for general reading or as a valuable reference book.

JIM CARR.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

I am seeking information regarding:

Susannah Watson or Susannah Watson Mellor,
born circa 1826 - 27.
died Paterson, New Jersey, U.S.A. 1875.

Married to the following:

1. Benjamin Garside/Gartside,
born Dobcross 1822.
died 1898, Ohio, U.S.A.
2. James Beaumont,
born Eng. ?
died New York City or Paterson, New Jersey -
one child, Abraham Beaumont, born circa 1851.
3. James Oxley,
born Eng. ?
died 1863.
children - William, James and Lousia.
4. ? Mellor ?

Lilyan Gartside Durkee.
(Mrs. Robert A.)

Bean Hill,
152 Limekiln Road,
West Redding,
Connecticut 06986,
U. S. A.

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

Mrs. E. Broadbent,
30 Beechfield,
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. Short book reviews and readers' letters are also welcome.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER WINTER 1989

"When icicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail."
Wm. Shakespeare.

Miss Clara Shaw reminds us of the need for constant vigilance in order to preserve that priceless yet fragile thing, our heritage. She writes:

"Delph residents are up in arms because they have apparently lost the historic placename 'The Sound'.

This is the name given to that stretch of road which runs from Delph crossroads towards the centre of the village as far as the offices of the Saddleworth Woollen Company. It was built in 1880 to commemorate the naval victory of Copenhagen Sound.

Two road-signs bearing the name 'Millgate' have recently been erected at the bottom of the Sound.

It is pointed out that Millgate is that part of the road which runs from the gates of the Saddleworth Woollen Company up to the end of King Street. There used to be several houses and the Primitive Methodist Chapel on the steep side of Millgate."

As a consequence of the fuss made by the villagers the Highways Department has now agreed to move the signs to their correct positions and "This little bit of history" will be kept safe.

The Bernard Barnes Essay Competition.

The judging of entries is now in progress and the name of the winner will be announced in the next edition.

Lecture Programme. Saddleworth Museum. 7.30 p.m.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 25th January. | Flight to Freedom 1938-46:
Youth & Early Twenties in Occupied Europe.
Gerda Cottam. |
| Monday 13th February. | THE BERNARD BARNES MEMORIAL LECTURE:
The Huddersfield Narrow Canal.
Michael Fox - At Saddleworth Museum. |
| Tuesday 14th March. | Clothes of the 19th Century:
Anthea Jarvis. |
| Wednesday 12th April. | Life in Oldham in the 1830's:
The Diaries of Edwin Butterworth.
Michael Winstanley. |

Monday 15th May.

Aerial Archeaology Along The Pennines:
Nick Higham.

The Archaeology Group.

Colin Harding's W.E.A. classes on 'Roman Britain' continue at Saddleworth School on Wednesdays fortnightly.

Our first meeting in 1989 will be on Thursday 12th January, when Mervyn Cox will give an illustrated talk on "Crete". Further dates will be 9th February, 9th March and the 13th of April, at The Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill, 8.0 p.m.

A 'Castleshaw Trail' is now ready for printing in the Local Interest Trail Series and will be launched by the Society in the Spring.

The Castleshaw Project ended officially in September, but a few cosmetic touches will still be required. It is hoped to have an official opening of the site in late May or June, 1989, to coincide with the publication of the final report.

The A.G.M. of the Council for British Archaeology (Group 5) will be held together with a Spring Seminar on Saturday the 11th of March - the venue to be arranged.

Manchester University will be organising an interesting tour of the Roman Forts of the Saxon Shore from the 15th to the 23rd of July. Further information from Jim Carr tel: Sadd. 3612.

Music at the Gallery.

8.30 p.m. Saddleworth Museum.

28th January, Saturday.
18th February, Saturday.

The French Quartet.
WADUKU - Doing the High Life with
Trevor Nxumalo the South African
Saxophonist.

8th April, Saturday.

Mart Rodgers - Manchester Jazz.

Art Exhibitions at the Gallery.

4th March - 26th March.
1st April - 23rd April.

Peter Sunderland.
Melvyn Firmager, Bruce Chivers,
Sue Goodchild & Michael Moss.

29th April - 21st May.

Constance M. Crossley
Jack Hammill.

Other Events at the Gallery.

15th February - Wednesday.
9th April. - Sunday.
22/23rd April, Saturday/
Sunday.
11th May. - Wednesday.

ARC - Coffee Morning.
Book Fair - Frank Lamb.
Huddersfield Railway Modellers Show.
ARC - Coffee Morning.

The Rhodes Foundation Scholarship Trust. A Concert.

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

Huddersfield Choral Society.
 The Manchester Camerata Orchestra.
 Conductor: Dr. Jane Glover.
 Soloists : Elizabeth Gale (Soprano)
 Sarah Walker (Contralto)
 Anthony Rolf Johnson (Tenor)
 Willard White (Bass)

On Saturday 25th February, 1989.
 At the Manchester Free Trade Hall.

Tickets available from: Bellis (Chemists), Uppermill.
 The Ticket Shop, St. Peter's Square, Manchester.

20's Evening Costume Ball.

The Society's Social Committee are organising a 20's Evening Costume Ball to be held at the Civic Hall, Uppermill, on Friday the 10th March, 1989, 7.30 p.m. until 12 midnight, featuring The Dave Donohoe Orchestra. Price of tickets are £7.50 and will include a buffet supper - a good opportunity to blow away those Winter Blues by filling in the booking form which you will find at the end of this newsletter.

Calling Family Historians.

A future issue of the Bulletin will be featuring Family Histories. The Society is attempting to compile a record of members interests on this subject. Would any members who are researching their Family Histories please contact our Hon. Secretary, Mr. Neil Barrow, and supply him with the following details:-

Family name, earliest records, requests for further information and give state of researches to date.

The people already in correspondence with Mrs. Elsie Broadbent need take no action on this item.

Julian Hunt's Slide Collection.

This has now been transferred to the Society Archives. Members who wish to view these should contact Canon Airne.

Publications.

A complete Index of the Society's Bulletins from Volume 1 1971 to Volume 17 1987 has been printed. This will be a most valuable asset and welcome addition for members carrying out researches and includes a separate section for the Index to Gazetteer of Saddleworth. It comes complete with plastic folder, costing £4.00, please add 50p if resident outside Saddleworth. Cheques made payable to Saddleworth Historical Society and forwarded to Mrs. E. Broadbent, 30 Beechfield, Grasscroft, Oldham. OL4 4EL. Allow three weeks for delivery.

Our editor Michael Fox and his brother Peter have completed a fascinating new book 'Pennine Passage' the story of the 22 - mile long Huddersfield Narrow Canal which runs from Ashton-U-Lyne to Huddersfield. It is priced at £5.95 and is available from the Uppermill Museum. This 60 page book, commissioned by the Huddersfield Canal Society is illustrated and designed by Sue McBride of Marsden.

Membership Section.

We welcome back 'to the fold' Jean and George Barrett after some years living in the Midlands. It is hoped that, perhaps later in the year, members will have the opportunity to see some of their excellent collection of slides.

Our Archivist, Canon Airne is recovering very well in Boundary Park Hospital from the injury of a broken leg and we are most pleased to be able to report his satisfactory progress, although his lecture with Maurice Dennett on the 13th of February is cancelled. It is, however, replaced by The Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture given by Michael Fox on The Huddersfield Narrow Canal.

Your attention is drawn to the 1989 Member's Subscription to the Society becoming due this month and the various rates are detailed below. Will all members please complete the form overleaf and return as soon as possible to the Membership Secretary.

The Annual rates are set out below:

Family Membership	£7.00	Retired per family.....	£4.00
Single Membership	£5.50	Student Membership ...	£4.00

NEW MEMBERS.

New Members who have joined the Society since the publication of the last Bulletin are:

Mrs. P.M. Johnson, Lea, Gainsborough.	Miss L. Bottomley, Diggle.
Mrs. J. Grice, Bedford, Suffolk.	Mr. H. Hall, Fleet, Hants.
Mr. & Mrs. A.C. Watson, Greenfield.	

In closing we would like to take the opportunity of wishing the membership the very best greetings for the New Year.

J. Hindle.

Saddleworth Historical Society

Registered Charity No. 505074

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1989

To: Mrs. E. Broadbent,
30 Beechfield,
GRASSCROFT,
Saddleworth,
Oldham. OL4 4EL

I wish to renew my Membership to the Society for 1989

Family Subscription	£7.00
Single Subscription	£5.50
Retired - Single & Family	£4.00
Student Subscription	£4.00

Name	Address
Date	
Cheques made payable to Saddleworth Historical Society.	 Post Code.

20's EVENING COSTUME BALL.

CIVIC HALL, UPPERMILL, 7.30 p.m. to 12.00

FRIDAY - 10th MARCH, 89

To: Mrs. E. Broadbent,
30 Beechfield,
Grasscroft,
Saddleworth,
Oldham. OL4 4EL

Please forward tickets @ £7.50 each.

Name (s)

Cheques made payable to the
Saddleworth Historical Society.

Address

Please indicate seating preferences if required.

