

**The Bulletin of the
Saddleworth
Historical
Society**

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BULLETIN

OF

THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 1 Number 3

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DELPH MECHANICS' AND LITERARY INSTITUTE
1855 - 1954

Part Two: Night School Classes from 1884 to 1911

In the constitution of the Institute printed in 1876, the first item reads: "This Institute shall be called the Delph Mechanics' and Literary Institute and its object shall be to advance the intellectual and moral improvement of its members by means of classes, lectures, a library and a reading room, etc".

On the completion of the new building in 1884, the committee were able to offer classes in Chemistry. These were enthusiastically supported for two years, but there is no reference to any further provision after that time. A shorthand class was established in 1887 which attracted 30 members, but it was discontinued after one year. For seven years, between 1888 and 1894, there were no classes of any kind.

In his lecture entitled "13 to 21" given at the Institute in 1889, Mr. Frank Curzon of Leeds said that he had been surprised to find no classes there. He supposed that "the young men of Delph were growing into wallflowers, propping up the buildings at street corners each night of the week. When a lad left school he ought to be drafted to a night school at the Mechanics' Institute. Night school should be a place of pleasure as well as of improvement". He suggested a restart of classes and the improvement of the library.

The cost of the building, its decoration and the provision of furniture may have been some of the reasons for the lack of classes. It must be remembered that the entire cost of upkeep and class provision had to be borne out of public and members' subscriptions. There may have been other reasons too: perhaps the committee members were not enthusiastic enough; perhaps the 1870 Education Act lessened the need for elementary education, for there was a falling off on a national scale in the attendance at evening schools at this time; perhaps the half-time system of attendance at schools was antagonising the young worker against study and schools. The establishment of classes depends upon the attendance of students, and so often this is determined by fashion. A plea by Henry Mallalieu, the President of the Institute, shows that the committee were trying to interest young men to attend the classes.

"The more education men got, the more they respected themselves and were respected by others. The Delph Mechanics' Institute had assisted many into good positions in the past, and if the young men now connected with it would only utilise their opportunities, it would prove a blessing to them in later life".

The committee approached Mr. Frank Curzon with a view to obtaining grants from the West Riding County Council for the provision of classes in 1891.

In May 1894 representatives of the Mechanics' Institute and of the Delph Co-operative Society met to discuss the possibility of presenting classes on a joint basis. As a result, a public meeting was held and Mr. Henry Mallalieu of the Institute and Mr. T.E. Moorhouse of the Co-operative Society explained the proposals. Following from this, an evening continuation class was established in September of that year, and a report in the Saddleworth Reporter says that it was a great success

"Students that have joined the various classes number a long way into the second hundred". At the end of the classes 70 prizes were presented. In sanctioning a second year of these classes, the Institute committee asked for a subscription of £30 from the Co-operative Society.

September 1895 was a turning point in the affairs of the Institute. The minutes of a special meeting held on Monday, 9th September are extremely brief. The meeting was adjourned until the Wednesday of the same week. Two resolutions appear in the minutes of this meeting, both of them dealing with mundane maintenance matters. The following Monday, the Committee accepted the resignation of Mr. Fred Hinchliffe, a weaver at Gatehead Mill, from his post of secretary, and appointed Joseph Brierley as his successor. Ten days later, another special meeting was held, and resolutions were made in a determined effort to establish classes. It was proposed that Mr. Dawson should take classes in Shorthand and Bookkeeping, that Mr. Davies should take the evening continuation class, and that Mr. Hiram Newton should take a class in singing.

Joseph Brierley must have influenced the committee to show a greater interest in the provision of classes and lectures. He must have been ready to accept the responsibility of organising classes and other educational events. It appears that through him the work of the Institute expanded, as reference to the list of classes and events shows.

It was about this time that efforts were being made to establish a Technical Institute in Saddleworth. The Delph Mechanics' Institute was approached by Mr. William Buckley, owner of Gatehead Mill and one of the originators of the scheme, in the hope that the committee would offer assistance by subscription or moral support, but on 5th February 1897 the secretary replied that "the committee think that they should not commit this Institute to any scheme regarding a Technical Institute for Saddleworth". It would appear that the officers of the Institute were jealous of their efforts to promote further education, and they had no wish for other organisations to take their place. Perhaps it was this movement for a Technical Institute which promoted the Delph Mechanics' Institute to start thinking in terms of more technical education. With donations from local millowners totalling 10 guineas, the committee established a class in Weaving and Designing, for which there were 30 enrolments. Designing refers to the art of calculating the arrangement of the tuning chains on a weaving machine so that the coloured yarns pass through the warp in the correct sequence to form the pattern. It is regarded as a specialised and highly skilled craft, and this class was probably the nearest that the Institute came to fulfilling the original ideals of the Mechanics' Institute movement in providing instruction for the working man.

The affairs of the Institute's classes were in the hands of Mr. Ernest Cottrell, the night school headmaster. He was an ardent worker for young people, but he died at an early age.

It is difficult to assess whether the grants received from the County Council were adequate, as detailed records of financial transactions are not shown in the minutes of the Institute. In 1898 grants from the County Council and the Education Department totalled £28. Members' subscriptions and school fees amounted to £41 in 1901. The headmaster received a fee of 7/6d. per evening in 1908, so that attendance on three evenings per week of 24 weeks would mean a bill of £27. Other teachers' fees would probably bring the bill to about £35 or £40, so that a considerable part of the members' subscriptions would have to be used to maintain the service. Indeed, in 1905 the committee felt that if the classes were not financed better than previously, they would have to be discontinued.

It is surprising that the classes continued at all when one reads the secretary's report of 1907. "Very often the street at Delph is filled with rowdy youths, and the night school is nearly deserted. This state of affairs indicates that there is something wrong somewhere. Either the parents don't care much about the welfare of their children, or the children are the masters of their parents whom they leave at home while they go playing and making rows in the street".

The secretary's report for 1910 states that "the Institution, though trying to accomplish more useful and educational work now than in the past, is for some causes or other not getting the support that it ought to have. Various schemes have been devised for keeping up the revenue of the Institute, but all the same we are poor and during the year we have gone poorer still. I don't contemplate that we are always going to remain so. We have a sturdy committee and a lively sub-committee who have too much enterprise, pride and spirit in them to allow the Institute to drift very long in the downward grade".

In 1912 the responsibility for the provision of evening classes was taken over by the County Council. Classes continued to be held on the premises until the winter of 1915, when there were too few enrolments to justify further provision. The Council School at Uppermill was used from 1911 for Industrial, Commercial and Domestic classes in the evening, and these were obviously sufficient to satisfy the demand at that time.

Classes at Delph Mechanics' Institute

- 1884 New building finished.
- 1885 Chemistry. Going well.
- 1886 Chemistry. Successful.
- 1887 Shorthand. 30 members. No reference to Chemistry.
- 1888 No reference to classes.
- 1889 Mr. Frank Curzon of Leeds criticises lack of classes.
- 1890 No reference to classes.
- 1891 do.
- 1892 do.
- 1893 do.
- 1894 President and secretary approach Co-op. Society to discuss classes. October: evening continuation class a great success: over 150 students.
- 1895 Joseph Brierley elected secretary. Shorthand and Bookkeeping elementary classes. 70 prizes, 150 students.
- 1896 Shorthand, elementary and intermediate; Science of Common Things; Geometry and French; English and Commercial Arithmetic.
- 1897 Commercial Arithmetic; Bookkeeping; Electricity; Mechanics.
- 1898 47 students in evening continuation classes. Movement for Technical Institute started. Bookkeeping and Commercial Arithmetic. President suggested further classes in Chemistry. Mutual Improvement Society formed.
- 1899 Science; Bookkeeping; Arithmetic. E. Cottrell, Headmaster.
- 1900 Inspector's report: Elementary and scientific classes efficiently taught, but badly attended. Handbills to publicise.
- 1901 Designing class. 30 enrolled, 10 finished.
- 1907 Reference to numbers in classes: Elementary 5; Commercial Practice 10; Advanced Bookkeeping 4; Horticulture 26.

J.G. Parry.

ILLCIT BEER-SELLING IN OLDHAM, 1851

The following notes may be of interest, although they do not refer to Saddleworth. They are taken from the diary of Frederick Henry Chadderton who lived in Cock's Yard, the site of which is now covered, I believe, by the Empire Theatre. The notes were compiled for a lecture on "Intemperance" which was delivered either to the Band of Hope or the Men's Class of the Queen Street Sunday School.

The notes are quoted in full, because their language helps to convey the character both of the writer and of the age in which they were written.

"No doubt the institution of Public houses at the first was a Public necessity or at least a public convenience - but few will now deny that one tithe of them now meet the purpose of their first intention, or deny that they are now a public evil - being detrimental to the best interests of people, but bad as their influence is we do not think it as bad as the great prevalence of unlicensed beer-houses - we are not aware of how many there are in the Town of Oldham but we are sure that there must be a very great number - during the last fortnight we have been making some enquiries on this head and we are astonished at the result. Some of these statements we have received from the Tract distributors - but most from parties who personally frequent these places.

In Lords Street and on Lords Hill there are thirty-three besides regularly licensed houses. On North Moor thirty. In Gravel Walks - there is one row of buildings containing eighteen dwellings, nine of which are hush-shops - taking the whole there are above thirty. In Bow Street there are nearly twenty - in Rhodes Field the distributor says there are seven - but we maintained that to a party we knew attended this district and he said there was a great deal more, he was sure there was one almost every other door - in Horsedge Street commencing above the Working Men's Hall there are nine in the main street. At Old Horsedge, the ancient seat of the Radcliffes in six dwellings there are four hush-shops. In Sheepwashes in twelve dwellings there are five of these places. In Cherry Valley the distributor knows of seven and sometimes you will find as many as four or five of these in a row door by door. Their characters are various some are a sort of political club in which several nights per week and generally all the Sunday would-be wise politicians meet for pot and pipe discussion, others are nothing but gambling-houses, others sink still lower in the scale (sic) of vice where young men and maidens gather together and spend the night in drinking and evil. Not only is beer consumed in these places but various sorts of illicit spirits especially Whiskey - and proceedings tolerated which would be universally condemned in any Public house. The time is spent in telling the most ludicrous tales and in singing the most obscene and immoral songs".

Obviously, even our great-grandfathers were worried about the permissive society.

A.C. Chadderton

THE IRAD G. HEWKIN COLLECTION

This is owned by Saddleworth Urban District Council, and is in the care of Saddleworth Central Library, High Street, Uppermill.

As stated in the First Number of the Bulletin, it is intended that details of the collection should be published under its various sectional headings. A list of the Directories, Almanacks, etc. is therefore given below:

- D 1 Commercial Directory 1814-15. North-west area, including Saddleworth.
- D 2 Commercial Directory 1816-17. " " " " "
- D 3 Commercial Directory 1814-16. Leeds - Huddersfield area, including Saddleworth.
- D 4 Pigot & Dean's Manchester and Salford Directory, 1817. Includes Saddleworth.
- D 5 Directories of Saddleworth for 1821, 1822, 1824, 1828, 1838, 1841, 1851, 1852, 1875 and 1880 bound in one volume.
- D 6 White's Leeds and District Directory, 1830. Includes Saddleworth.
- D 7 Historical Gazetteer and Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire, 1837, Vol. 1. Published by Baines & Newsome, Leeds.
- D 8 Mossley and Saddleworth Almanack & Annual, 1896.
- D 9 Mossley and Saddleworth Almanack & Annual, 1897.

Political & Constitutional

- P 1 Poll book for Yorkshire, 1741
- P 2 " " " 1807
- P 3 " " " 1837
- P 4 " " " 1848, also contains returns for 1832.
- P 5 Paper read at meeting of Saddleworth Operative Conservative Association by Edwin Thornton: "What are the Elements of National Greatness?".
- P 6 A second copy of the above.
- P 7 Souvenir Gems of Thought, by members of the Greenfield Socialist Society.
- P 8 Free Trade - report of speeches at a dinner of freeholders of Saddleworth, 25th September, 1830.
- P 9 A second copy of the above (unbound).

THE WHITEHEAD FAMILY

(Note from the Chairman of the Society: We are most grateful to Mr. J.E. Wood of Dobcross for this history of a prominent Saddleworth family).

Part One

John Whitehead, mentioned in Lord Byrom's licence, belonged to a family long seated at Lydgate, and was most likely the John, son of Thomas Whitehead, who was baptised at St. Chad's Church, Saddleworth, on 12th February, 1636.

The estate, which the Whiteheads held under lease from the Lords of

the Manor of Saddleworth, was in after years described as consisting of the dwelling house, cottages, barn, stable, swinecote, shops, dyehouse and warehouses, together with the garden, the Nearer field, the Further field, the Higher field, the Bent, the Kenworthy meadow, and the two Lower meadows containing altogether 18 acres 3 rods 15 perches of land.

Here for several generations were successfully carried on certain branches of the woollen trade, by which the fortunes of the family were greatly enhanced. Not only the above John Whitehead, but a son and grandson also are described as staplers. This word, now never heard in our district, is still in common use in the clothing towns of Yorkshire, with the meaning of trader, dealer or merchant.

A stone tablet is affixed to the South Eastern wall of Saddleworth Church which informs the reader:-

1715

UNDER HERE LY'S INTER'D
THE BODY OF
JOHN WHITEHEAD
LATE OF LIDYATE, STAPLER.
WHO DIED THE 13th OF DECEMBER, 1715,
AGED 78 YEARS & 10 MONTHS.
HE WAS FATHER TO 14, GRANDFATHER TO 51,
GREAT GRANDFATHER TO 8, IN ALL 73.

On 3rd September, 1715, the said John Whitehead made his will. By it he directed that his leasehold estate at Lydgate, except one close called the Coat Hill, should be given to his grandson John, eldest son of Thomas Whitehead of Ashton-under-Lyne, but that his wife Catherine should enjoy one half of it for the rest of her natural life.

Certain lands and buildings in Rochdale, then lately purchased from the Farrars, were to be divided between his elder sons, the aforesaid Thomas of Ashton, and John of Shaw Hall.

To his son-in-law, Edward Kenworthy, and Martha, his wife, were given a house and garden at Lane-end, a close called the New field at Quickedge, and the before mentioned Coat Hill.

To Mary, his daughter, and her husband, Robert Lees, he bequeathed one fourth of the interest arising from a farmhouse called Carrhouse, which he held on lease for 1,000 years from Edmund Buckley, of Carrhouse aforesaid.

To Catherine, his wife, he gave one bed and one chest.

To his grandson, the said John Whitehead, "one bedstead now standing in the parlour, and one ark in the chamber over my dwelling house as heirlooms", and one shilling each to all his grandchildren, and all his great-grandchildren.

The rest of his estate was to be equally divided amongst his three sons, Thomas, John and James.

Finally, John Whitehead and Radcliffe Whitehead, his grandsons, were appointed executors of his will.

The testator was interred at Saddleworth Church on 16th December, 1715.

Though his memorial states that he was the father of fourteen children, it may be that many of these died in childhood. At any rate, the following are all those whose names have so far been recovered: Thomas, John, James, Martha, Mary and Timothy.

Thomas, the eldest son, settled in Ashton-under-Lyne, where he became possessed of an estate called "Turners". Though he described himself as a yeoman, it is asserted that at one period of his life he was Vice-Consul at Oporto in the kingdom of Portugal. Besides "Turners" already mentioned, he also had a lease of the Glebe Land in the town of Ashton, and was joint owner of certain dwelling houses in Hundersfield and Spotland, both in the parish of Rochdale. At his death in 1735, his freehold land called "Turners" was entailed on his only son, John, and his eldest grandson, John Whitehead.

Sarah, his wife, received an annuity in lieu of the dower which she might otherwise have claimed.

In 1803, there died at Oporto John Whitehead, aged 75 years, who, for 47 years, had held the position of British Consul in that city. From the similarity of name and position, it is most probable that this gentleman was the grandson of Thomas of Ashton-under-Lyne.

Part Two will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

SADDLEWORTH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES

Part 3: 1902

- Jan. Windmill at Workhouse erected. Pumping 300 gallons per hour.
- Feb. Grand Coronation Stew and Concert at Heights. Preliminary celebrations.
- Mar. Police Raid on Gamblers at Badgers Hill.
- Severe Frost. Many outdoor workers out of work for about five weeks. Soup kitchens at Uppermill Working Men's Club opened.
- Jun. Boer War Peace Signed. Impromptu processions in various parts of Saddleworth headed by local bands. Thanksgiving services in places of worship.
- Postponement of Coronation of Edward VII. Celebrations went forward in spite of postponement of coronation due to King's illness. Processions; teas; sports; fireworks; firing of shells. Race from top of Little Knot Hill into the valley: fifty took part. First prize of 5/-; second price 2/6.
- Education Act. All state aided education placed under control of local authorities - county and borough councils. Public protest meetings held. W.R.C.C. signified disapproval. It was stated that it would cost Saddleworth rate-payers £1,650 per annum.
- Jul. One Wakes Holiday for the District fixed by the Council after much enquiry and discussion. To be the second Saturday after the August Bank Holiday. Much opposition at public meeting at Delph. Determination to hold their own Wakes.

- Jul. Pleasure Centre at Yarns Hill, Greenfield, in use. Teas, swings, see-saws, etc.
- Aug. Coronation of Edward VII celebrated in a half-hearted manner by the Sunday Schools.
- Public Access to Pots and Pans. Abandonment of public rights to path leading from Rough Hole to Primrose, known as Slippery Gate, in exchange for public access to Pots and Pans. Agreement between Major Brookes and Saddleworth Urban District Council.
- Sep. Medals presented to Saddleworth Volunteers who had served in Africa.
- Bleak Hey Nook and Castleshaw Wakes celebrated as usual. Race from Horse and Jockey to Floating Light and back. Ball at Castleshaw School with music by Castleshaw Band.
- Nov. Saddleworth Vocal Society. First Subscription Concert.

Compiled by Mrs. H. Wood.

Part 4: 1903, will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

THE MAGPIE MINE, SHELDON

Lead has probably been mined in Derbyshire for around two thousand years. Crude ingots of metallic lead with abbreviated Latin inscriptions have been found, and these were certainly of Roman origin.

The lead ore that is mined is the common mineral galena, lead sulphide, and it is usually found in association with a variety of other minerals.

These minerals were formed by crystallisation from solutions of hot fluids from within the earth, flowing through joints, fractures or cave systems long after the formation of the limestone. As they flowed, these mineralising fluids cooled, and the minerals were deposited to form the veins.

At the Magpie Mine, half a mile south of Sheldon village, three of these veins intersect: the Magpie Vein, Butts Vein and the Bole Vein. In the immediate vicinity of the Magpie Mine are over twenty open shafts, together with a number of ruined buildings. The whereabouts of the original or "Founder" shaft is not now known, but is thought to have been near the old blacksmith's shop.

When this mine was first worked is also unknown, but its history can be followed for over 170 years, and local tradition says that the mine has been worked for over 300 years.

As the mine was developed and the shafts deepened, the seepage of water into the workings became a problem. In 1824 a Newcomen-type pumping engine was installed which lasted about 16 years, when it was replaced by another constructed on the Cornish engine principle.

To remove the water from the site, a drain was constructed on the surface which continued past Sheldon village, emptying down the hillside about three quarters of a mile away.

In spite of increasing the steam supply to the Cornish engine, and later replacing it with an even larger one, water continued to be an

embarrassment to the miners, and in 1872 all work stopped. For the eight years, between 1873 and 1881, no work at all was carried out at the Magpie Mine. During this time an underground drainage culvert or "sough" was constructed to enable the water to be carried away, almost to the River Wye, over a mile away.

The sough was completed in August 1881 at a cost quoted variously from £14,000 to £35,000, but shortly before the mine was re-opened a fire destroyed the engine house. By the following year, the main shaft (the one over the Magpie vein) had been deepened, and there were optimistic reports, including one of "a seam of blende 5 feet wide".

However, in spite of the optimism, mining operations ceased in 1883 and the mining company was liquidated. The pumping engine was removed to Manvers Colliery, Stanton Gate. The buildings remained much as they are to-day.

Limited mining was later re-started and continued for 20 years up to 1906. During this period two companies worked the mine, possibly working different shafts, and local tradition has it that one of the companies floated the ore in a boat through the sough.

In 1907, the Magpie Mining Company was re-formed and work started on a larger scale. During the next five years the mine produced over 5 tons of lead ore per year and a small amount of zinc, employing no more than twelve men at a time.

In 1913 the company was again re-formed, combining the interests of the Magpie Mining Company and the True Blue Mine (situated about a mile away). During this period two Lancashire boilers were installed, one on the surface supplying the winding engine, and one underground supplying the water pumps.

During the First World War the mine remained active, but was forced to close again soon afterwards, due partly to a shortage of coal because of a coal miners' strike. From this time on, the mine was operated only for short periods, and became of more interest to geologists, mining engineers and speleologists than to lead miners.

In 1951 a London firm brought electric pumps and winding gear and succeeded in reducing the water level. However, the yield was disappointing, and with water an ever-present problem and lead prices falling, by 1958 the mine had ceased to operate.

In 1969 the Peak District Mines Historical Society took over the tenancy of the mine cottage as a field centre and a base for their study of mining antiquities.

G.G. Barrett.

BEATING THE SADDLEWORTH BOUNDS

Preliminary considerations.

I think it was David Chadderton's brain child that the Society should beat the bounds of Saddleworth. Why? Well, he felt that this was something we ought to do. And so it was agreed, David to be in charge.

There were misgivings later, but once committed ... well, one could always drop out - in the middle of Saddleworth Moor, say!

"It's between 25 and 30 miles", said David. That shook us. And later, "We'll have to set off at about 5.00 a.m.". You could positively hear the company's mental equipage working frantically to conceive some escape from their hasty agreement to this hair-brained scheme. But "in for a penny ..." David proceeded with the preliminaries.

Early on it was realised that there would have to be some elasticity about these bounds. I mean, how will the occupants of that house in Springhead feel about ten dishevelled members of the Historical Society tramping through their lounge, and what are the natives of Waterhead going to think of those hill-billies swimming across the Strinesdale reservoirs? We would have to be broad-minded about this exercise. "So long as we walked on the outside of these bounds", said one of our younger, more impulsive, members. And so it was decided: we would not break through any warehouses or interrupt anyone's Sunday afternoon siesta, or injure ourselves trying to scale unscalable fences. It must be mentioned that in the case of one particular impenetrable fence, a serious suggestion was made that we burrow underneath, or alternatively carry a light-weight portable stile. It can be seen that some very resourceful minds were exercising themselves on this project!

But twenty-five miles. And 5 a.m. Sunday morning. And "We will go no matter what the weather".

Human nature is a funny thing. After these conditions had been publicised we got three more volunteers.

"We'll set off from the Red Sign Garage", said David. This was the part of the Saddleworth boundary nearest to his home. "We'll get the worst part of the walk over whilst we're fresh", said David, for the benefit of the more naive ones who might wonder why he had selected this starting point.

J. Murray.

Sixteen-hour Walk.

Seven members of the Historical Society and two members of the Saddleworth Pedestrians' Club started from the Red Sign Garage on Mossley Road at 5.30 a.m. on Sunday, 22nd August to walk the boundary of Saddleworth. This expedition had been planned over several weeks, permission obtained from the authorities, farmers and house-holders through whose land the boundary passes, and the difficult sections had been scouted out.

The party was soon enveloped in low cloud as it made the very steep ascent of Noonsun and crossed White Gate Moor to Alphin Pike through heather and grass wet from overnight rain.

The boundary changes direction many times and, although it is marked at intervals on the moor by mounds, without skilful navigation it would have been impossible to follow. The members' confidence in their leader grew with every mound or trig point which loomed up out of the mist. To help to follow the changes in direction, members took turns to pace out the distances.

From Alphin Pike, the boundary crosses Whimberry Moss and Wilderness, where three counties meet, and over Featherbed Moss to meet the path familiar to rock climbers which runs from Chew Reservoir to Laddow Rocks.

Here, at nine o'clock, breakfast was taken, $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours and $4\frac{1}{2}$ map miles from the start, but with the most arduous part of the journey over.

Still enshrouded in mist, the party followed the many changes in direction across the moor to Round Hill where the Saddleworth boundary leaves the County boundary and goes over Wessenden Head Moor across Holme Clough to the Holmfirth road. Here members stopped for a second sock-wringing session and elevenses.

The border follows the Pennine Way over White Moss and Black Moss, where the more solid patches of grassy ground float on lakes of mire making walking hazardous and slow, towards the Standedge Cutting. From here it goes over Foul Moss, crossing three of the early turnpike roads, following the Pennine Way to Millstone Edge, where it strikes out across Close Moss towards March Hill. Here there is a curious detour which follows three sides of a rectangle and adds almost a mile to the route, but which could not be ignored by the walkers who were determined to cover the whole of the boundary.

After tea and a rest, which was enlivened by a chat with Dr. Stonehouse who had been out "flinting" and had seen the party crossing the moor, the walkers set off at 3.30 for the next stage of the walk to Bishop's Park. Leaving the Pennine Way, they struck out south-westwards along the north side of Readycon Dean Reservoir, then along the river and up to the pump house below the "Old Tup" on to the Denshaw-Halifax road. A difficult section followed through marshes and rushes along the south side of Rooden Reservoir to the Moorcock Inn on the Milnrow road.

The boundary continues over the moor opposite the Moorcock and up one of Saddleworth's oldest roads over Boothstead Edge. Here the route is easy, with good views of the Slackcote Valley, before it descends to Grains Bar, where a cup of tea at the Cafe fortified the walkers for the next and final stage of their long walk.

The route lies along Ship Lane for a short distance and then strikes up past the obelisk at Bishop's Park and down past Strinesdale Reservoir to Waterhead. From here it follows the line of the "witch's nose" on the plan of Saddleworth as it protrudes into Lees and Oldham: over the A62, down Millbottom, up by the side of the Gardners' Arms, across the main road again and up by the side of the Temple and Bowling Green. It was here that, when scouting out the route, some of the walkers had found a reference to a visit made by another party who walked the boundary in 1857. The way then goes up the hill to the trig point, and then down again to Austerlands, crosses the main road for a third time at the Chimney and descends into Hey alongside the Vicarage wall. From here it crosses the old railway line and the site of the engine shed at Lees and goes uphill to turn left along the brook. It was surprising to see the pace of the walkers quicken as they passed through a field of lively, young, inquisitive steers to Knolls Lane.

It was quite dark as the remaining seven of the party walked past the brickworks up Coverhill Road and over Quickedge. Stockport Road, Mossley Road, the railway line and the River Tame were crossed in quick succession, and the walk finished at the Red Sign Garage at ten minutes to ten.

In spite of the rigours of the walk, the walkers, including the stalwart lady of the Pedestrians' Club, completed the $27\frac{1}{2}$ "map" miles in good fettle, though very tired. All agreed that it had been a satisfying experience, though it is doubtful whether it will become an annual event! Thanks are due to those who gave permission to cross their land, and to the leader and organiser for his excellent navigation.

J.G. Parry.

"SOCIETY SCRAPBOOK"

This section of the Bulletin is to record items of general interest, discoveries, sources of reference, etc., which, although of no direct connection to any project being undertaken by the Society at the present time, may be relevant in the future. The section may provide the only record of the item or incident for posterity, and could prevent them from being completely forgotten.

Extracts from a Notebook of Becket Whitehead.

Many of the notes in the book are obviously taken from various authors' works, but the following extracts are presumed to be original pieces of work by Mr. Whitehead:

Rent and Rateable Values of Inns about 1870

	Rent	Rateable Value
Swan Inn, Delph	£33. 0. 0.	£26. 8. 0.
Bull's Head	£16.10. 0.	£13. 4. 0.
White Lion	£14.15. 0.	£11.18. 0.
Pack Horse	£19.15. 0.	£15. 3. 0.
Mechanics Arms	£19.10. 0.	£15.16. 0.
Junction Inn	£16. 0. 0.	£12.16. 0.
Golden Fleece	£11. 5. 0.	£ 9. 0. 0.
Printers Arms	£12. 8. 0.	£ 9.19. 0.
Royal Oak, Heights	£ 9.10. 0.	£ 7.12. 0.
Rose and Crown	£14.10. 0.	£11.12. 0.

There were quite a number of Inns on Friarmere besides those mentioned here just previous to 1870, but whether they were licensed or not I am unable to say. There was the Bell Inn at New Delph, the Bird in Hand, the Robin Hood and Little John, the Horse and Jockey, the Globe Inn and the Victoria. The Standedge Foot was at one time a wayside inn. By the way, it was built in 1680. Nobody seems to know when the first Floating Light was built. It is said to have been built by Johnny Wrigley. A Johnny Wrigley is said to have built Johnny Mill in the Castleshaw Valley. There is a grave of a Johnny Wrigley in the Independent Chapel yard immediately opposite the Chapel door. Whether these three persons are one and the same I do not know.

The Johnny Mill that I remember was evidently not the first to have been built on the site. The mill that I remember was a fairly modern building with large windows and, I believe, blue slate. The main building was set at right angles to the brook and was four storeys high, five or six windows in length, and three or four in width. There was a waterwheel inside the mill in working order, and an engine house just behind the main building. There was a long building built along the river side and running parallel with it that had been a tenter stove and a store room for finished goods. This also was of modern type and was roofed with blue slate. The front of the mill was facing the west, and there was a footpath in front of the mill that led to Little Mill, two small farms, named Moorcroft Wood, and up the hill to Banks, Top o' th' Wood, Low Bank and Low Gate. There was a house at the top end of the main building, but the mill seemed to have been built up to this house rather than the house to the mill. In the early and middle eighties of the last century, Johnny Mill was probably the best and most modern building in the Castleshaw Valley. The last person to run it as a manufactory was Mr. Joseph Buckley who left it and removed to Linfitts Mill in April 1879. When I remember it some years later there was a board on the main building of the south west corner which said "This mill to be let or sold. Apply to Mr. Elsbey", giving an address in Manchester.

There is an old map at the Council Offices in Uppermill which shows a mill on this site. It was a long building running parallel with the brook. This would probably be the original Moorcroft Mill. There was no building shown where the main building that Johnny Wrigley erected stood. He may have built his tenter stove on the site of the old Moorcroft Mill. If my memory serves me right, the dam is shown on the old map. In the late eighties and early nineties the Johnny Mill tenter stove became the Navy Mission and general clubroom of the men employed on the waterworks.

Little Mill was burned down in 1863. It was only a small affair. There was and still is a fairly large lodge of good spring water. I expect the water power would be used principally for carding. Nearly all of these began as carding mills. To get the wool into a fit state for spinning seemed to be the big problem facing these early manufacturers.

The two Broadhead Mills were once in the possession of Hugh Buckley before he moved to Linfitts Mill. Each had separate dam motive power. I have an idea that one of them, probably the uppermost, was once known as Castleshaw Mill. In 1870 they were probably in the occupation of the Kenworthy's.

Rents and Rates of Mills in 1870

	Rent	Rateable Value
Eagle Mill, Delph	£297	£231
Hull Mill	£110	£ 75
Nield Mill	£ 40	£ 32
Wood Mill	£ 75	£ 50
Johnny Mill	£ 64	£ 52
Broadhead Mill	£114	£ 85
Woodhouse Mill		
Carrcote Mill	£ 80	£ 69
Pingle Mill	£ 57	£ 43
Linfitts Mill	£312	£236
Slackcote Mill	£291	£224
Denshaw Mill	£ 59	£ 47
Longroyd Mill	£ 59	£ 45
Old Tame Mill	£127	£ 95
Denshaw Printworks	£337	£283
New Years Bridge Mill	£ 94	£ 74
Shore Mill	£ 23	£ 17

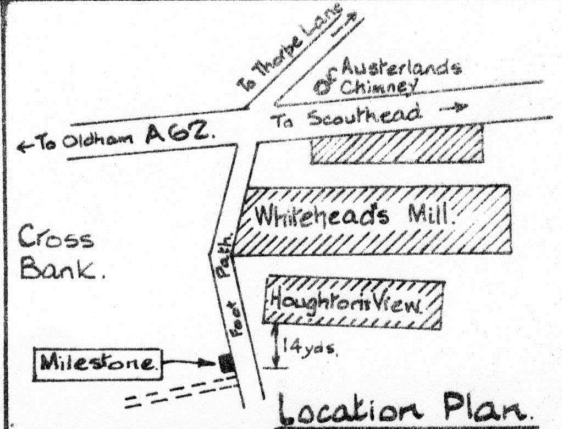
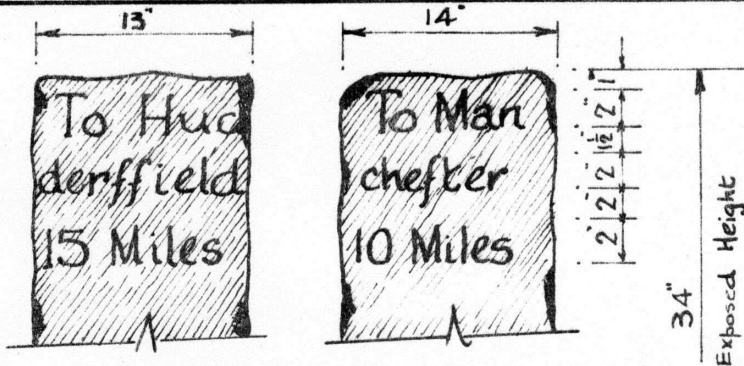
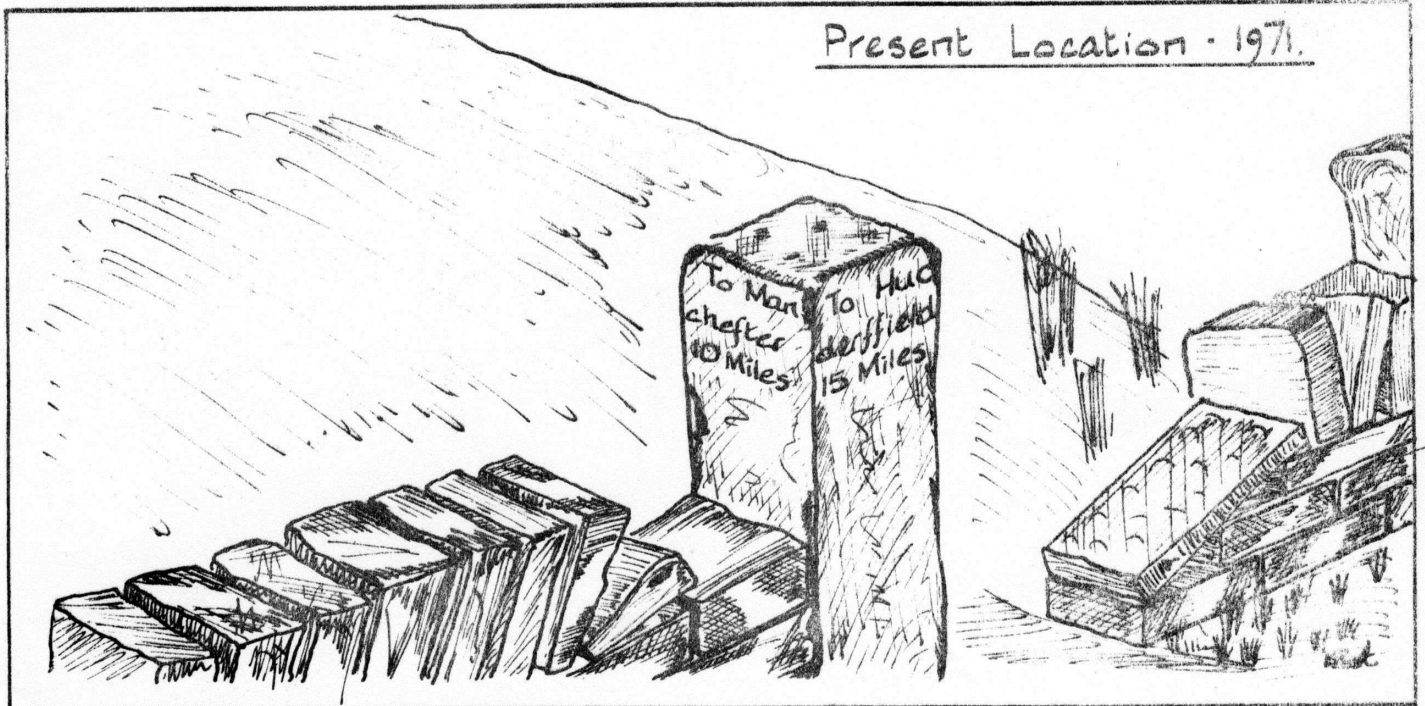
Other mills - no details: Lumb Mill, Delph; Moorcroft Wood Little Mill; Rasping Mill; Horest Mill, Denshaw; Lumb Hole Mill, Denshaw; Marshbottom Mill; Old Hey Mill.

Lumb Mill, Delph, was a woollen mill, perhaps unoccupied in 1870; Horest Mill was a cotton mill; Little Mill in the Castleshaw Valley was burned down in 1863; Marshbottom - formerly a rasping mill - made flannel and felt hat bodies; Old Hey - felt hats; Martin Mill - cotton lace curtains.

Miss E.R. Pressley.

Milestone on the Austerlands - Wakefield Turnpike.

Two previously unrecorded milestones on this turnpike road have been located recently. A sketch of one of them was included in the last issue of the Bulletin; the second is illustrated on the next page

Present Location - 1971.**FIRST TURNPIKE MILESTONE - CROSS BANK.**

Location - South West of A62, adjacent to Houghton's View Cottages. Used as gate post in wall following the County Boundary.

Description - The milestone, roughly square in section, weathered and damaged, at present stands 34 inches high. The inscribed faces are adjacent, the other two faces are plain. In its present location it is approx. 70 yards south of the accepted line of the first turnpike, which follows the modern A62 road from Stamford Road to Thorpe Lane. It was probably displaced when the second turnpike was built and used by a farmer for a gate post. Bracket holes can be seen in one of the plain faces and whilst the gate way is partially walled up, the other gate post is still in position. When in use, the mile stone must have been located on the north side of the road and mounted at 45 degrees.

Comments From the location and epigraphical evidence, this mile stone is from the first turnpike, Circa 1759.

OLD SADDLEWORTH

This is part of the work being carried out on a Gazetteer of Saddleworth by the Historical Society. As more of this work is completed, details will be published in future editions of the Bulletin. The information given below has been extracted from Record Cards which are held by the Society, and which are available for reference.

ACKERS (Also called Acre or Acre Barn) Grid Reference: 006093

Location: Hillside below Horse and Jockey Inn, Deanhead.

Description: Two stone-built, mullion-windowed cottages, three storeys high and built into the hillside.

History: 1743 Thomas Kenworthy, clothier, lived here. The house was then called Acre Barn.

1746 Thomas Kenworthy, clothier.

1750 Abraham Bentley, clothier.

1777 Listed in the Shaw Hall Estate Book. Tenant - Jeremiah Rhodes, farming nine acres.

1791 James Schofield, clothier.

ASHES Grid Reference: 959048

Location: Ashes Lane, Springhead (behind Rome Mill).

History: 1722 First mentioned in Saddleworth Church Registers (Vol.1).
1725 Enoch Heywood, mason.

1735 Edmund Whitaker and Alexander Radcliffe, both clothiers, lived here.

1743 Richard Dronsfield, carpenter.

BALL GROVE (Also called Bow Greave) Grid Reference: 000052

Location: South east of Uppermill: approach via Rush Hill.

Description: Two adjacent three-storey houses and barn.

History: Two large houses of 1790 or thereabouts with weaving chamber. The windows are all mullioned. Apparently the earliest houses are not traceable now.

1822 Alexander Radcliffe, woollen cloth manufacturer, lived here (Baines Directory). The spelling of the house was given as 'Balgreave'. The spellings 'Ballgreave' and 'Bowgreave' - with variations, also run together throughout the Registers. According to A.J. Howcroft, the derivation of the name 'Bowgreave' is the bow and greave or grove from the Anglo-Saxon 'graefa'. It is said that the late Mr. Owen Platt was the first to officially enter the name 'Ballgrove' under the impression that 'Bow' was a corruption of 'Ball'. Another possible interpretation is from the old Norse 'bol' meaning a farm, and 'greave'.

FURLANE Grid Reference: 002047

Location: 300 yards above High Kinders, Greenfield.

Description: A large farmhouse with barn and cottages, and a separate house and barn.

History: Apparently an old house much altered and extended in the late 1700's. The separate house of 1750 (extended in 1773) was the home of Giles and Hannah Shaw.

- 1814 According to the Commercial Directory, Giles Shaw & Sons (woollen manufacturers) lived here.
- 1822 Thomas Shaw, woollen cloth manufacturer, lived here (Baines).
- 1825 Mrs. Jenny Shaw, and Thomas and Abel Shaw (merchants, etc.) lived here (Baines).
- 1828 Thomas and Abel Shaw still lived here.
- 1841 In Pigot's Directory, Abel Shaw (merchant), Thomas Shaw (woollen manufacturer and merchant), and Robert Shaw (manager of the Saddleworth Banking Co.) occupied the premises.
- 1851 According to the Census, 10 families lived at Fur Lane (42 people in total). Five were still employed in woollen hand loom weaving, while eleven worked in one or other of the woollen mills in the area. Included in these families were: Abel Shaw (retired woollen merchant), A. Shaw (solicitor), Charles Shaw (woollen manufacturer), and B. Hawkyard (farmer of 23 acres).
- 1852 In Whellan's Directory are listed Charles F. Shaw (of Shaw & Bradbury, woollen manufacturers of Uppermill), and Ralph Hawkyard (farmer and woollen shawl manufacturer).
- 1853 James Platt (clerk to the Guardians), Owen Platt (relieving officer and woollen manufacturer), and Mr. & Mrs. Abel Shaw (attorney) were mentioned in White's Directory.
- 1875 Mr. John Radcliffe and Mr. Charles F. Shaw lived here (Worrall's Directory).
- 1880 Worrall's Directory lists William J.H. Hanchett (farmer and agent for the Westminster Insurance Co., Uppermill Office), and Mr. John Radcliffe.

HOLLY HOUSE

Grid Reference: 007041

Location:

Hollins Lane, off Holmfirth Road, Greenfield.

Description:

Three-storey house and barn.

History:

Built in 1820 by --. Platt as a house for two married brothers. A barn and coach house were added in 1843. The top floor and the back part of the first floor were workrooms. The former was later divided into six rooms to provide lodgings for men employed in the construction of one of the reservoirs (Greenfield or Chew). Now two houses. Extended 1959.

MOUNT PLEASANT (Also called Misery)

Grid Reference: 993034

Location:

850 feet above sea level near the upper part of Warlow Brook above Brow Top, Greenfield.

Description:

Small moor-edge farm now in ruins. Described by a man who lived there as "Mount Pleasant in summer and Misery in winter".

History:

1769 Sarah, daughter of William Radcliffe, clothier, baptised.

1794

Mentioned in Saddleworth Church Registers.

THE NOOK

Grid Reference: 001038

Location:

South of Manchester Road near Waterside Mill, Greenfield.

Description:

Large house.

History: Originally a cottage, built about 1750.

1814 In the Commercial Directory, Abraham Schofield (woollen manufacturer and merchant) and James and John Schofield (woollen manufacturers) lived here.

1821 In Pigot's Directory James and John Schofield are listed as still residing here.
Altered and extended (apparently by George Shaw) about 1850 and 1870 and again later, until the old cottage was hardly recognisable.

1852 Richard Buckley (of F. & R. Buckley, cotton spinners, Waterside Mill) lived here (Slater's Directory).

1880 The house was occupied by J.F. Buckley, Esq. (Worrall's Directory). Subsequently, the house was used as a convalescent hospital until 1968.
First entry in Registers 1797.

20 OAK VIEW

Grid Reference: 995041

Location: 20 Oak View Road, Greenfield.

Description: Larger house with adjoining cottages.

History: 1814 Built by Mr. J. Whitehead, then living at Critchley Cottage (now demolished) just above the Farrar's Arms.

1828 Mentioned in Butterworth's book.

1838 J. Whitehead was manufacturing at Oak View Mill prior to moving to the Royal George Mills along with his brothers.

1870 Mentioned in Bradbury's Book.

HAWKYARD (see Page 16 of Vol. 1. No.2 of the Bulletin).

Additional information: There is a datestone on the end of the house facing Dick Clough which has the following legend:
GS AS 1689.

The Society would welcome any further information on the houses and hamlets mentioned here, and on any other property of possible interest in Saddleworth. The Gazetteer will also encompass turnpike roads, canals, railways, bridges, mills, etc. Information can be given to any member of the Society, or sent to the Editor of the Bulletin:

Mr. B. Barnes,
7, Elsted Road,
Greenfield,
Nr. Oldham.
