

The Bulletin of the
Saddleworth
Historical
Society

December 1971

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BULLETIN
OF
THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 1 Number 4
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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY: ONE-DAY SCHOOL

On Saturday, 23rd October, the Further Education Centre provided a one-day school, and we were most fortunate to have Mr. B.J.N. Edwards, the County Archaeologist of Lancashire, to talk to us on "Discoveries in Lancashire". Much of the morning session was devoted to a description of the excavation last year of an elk at Carlton near Blackpool. The account of the find, the method of excavation, the contribution of the palaeobotanist, zoologist and other experts, and the scientifically-based conclusions made an absorbing story. The finding of two bone barbs, the remarkable good fortune attending the discovery (three disturbances of recent times in the immediate vicinity - a field drain, a fence post, an animal burial - had not impinged on the find) and the readiness of local experts to co-operate were happy features of this exercise. Mr. Edwards illustrated his talk with slides.

Later, he showed us some puzzling ground features encountered in the Lancashire area, and invited us to suggest an explanation for them.

In the afternoon we took Mr. Edwards to Buckton Castle and subsequently to the Roman fort at Castleshaw.

The weather was fine throughout, and the school was very successful.

John Murray.

THE WHITEHEAD FAMILY

(We are most grateful to Mr. J.E. Wood of Dobcross for this history of a prominent Saddleworth family).

Part 2

John Whitehead, second son of John Whitehead of Lydgate, stapler, was a lawyer, and appears to have acted as the local representative of the Farrars, Lords of the Manor of Saddleworth. He married into a family which claimed descent from the knightly owners of Ordsall, his wife being Anne, daughter of Edmund Radcliffe, of Shaw Hall, gentleman.

On his marriage he went to reside at Shaw Hall, where he rebuilt some of the outbuildings which are still standing. One of them bears the date 1701, together with J.W., A.W. - the initials of himself and his wife. On 20th May, 1713, he obtained a lease from James Farrar of Ewood, Co. York, of the messuage called Shaw Hall, then already in his occupation, together with its barns, stables and dove houses, and the closes called the Shoo, the Orchard, the Barn field, the Owler croft, the Great Shaw field, the Marled Earth Head, the Bent, the Row Greave, the Low meadow, the Calf croft, the New croft, the Browedge meadow, the Hallstead, the Milk pasture, the Lower flatt, the Bank, the Round meadow, the Further Shaw field, the Nearer Shaw field, and the Marled earth.

There was also the right of turbary on all the commons or wastes of Saddleworth belonging to the Manor so long as the same remained open, unrented and unenclosed. The estate was to be held during the lives of the said John Whitehead; Anne, his wife; and Radcliffe Whitehead, their

son, and during the life of the longest liver of them who survived until June 1752, when the lease was apparently renewed.

There is preserved in the register of St. Chad's a list of the children of John Whitehead of Shaw Hall, and Anne, his wife, and also the dates when they were born and baptised. The names are as follows: Radcliffe, Sarah, John, Mary, Patience, Anne, John James, and Jane.

Of these, Patience, who was born in 1701, was married at Saddleworth Church on 17th October, 1733, to the Rev. Jonathan Leatherbarrow of Almondbury, afterwards of Stockport. Jonathan, their eldest son, was interred at Saddleworth on 8th November, 1737, in his third year.

The end of this lady was very pathetic. She was a frequent visitor at the old hall in Ashton, then the residence of her cousin, William Whitehead, attorney at law. On one occasion she journeyed thither to condole with him on the loss of his two daughters, Mary and Dorothy, who had died in childhood. Whilst strolling in the orchard she was seized with an apoplectic fit and, on being discovered and carried towards the house, exclaimed, "I came to comfort you in your trouble, but I am afraid I shall augment it". She died when near the entrance to the hall, and was buried in Saddleworth on 7th March, 1750.

Not long afterwards, John Whitehead of Shaw Hall, yeoman, passed away in June 1752, aged 84.

Anne (Radcliffe) his wife, who pre-deceased him, died in November 1737, in her 70th year. The name Radcliffe has ever since been a great favourite in the Whitehead family, having been proudly borne by successive generations down to the present time.

Radcliffe Whitehead, eldest son of the above John and Anne, was born in 1690. Early in December 1726 when he contemplated marriage, his father, in consideration of the natural love and affection which he had and bore for him, and in order to secure him "a provision and competency", agreed to share with him the estate at Shaw Hall.

On the 29th of the same month, the marriage took place at the Collegiate Church in Manchester, when he was united with Mary, daughter of George Corbishley of Hunts Bank, Manchester, solicitor. This lady died in December 1740, leaving an only son, while her husband died in February 1744. Radcliffe Whitehead, their son, also of Shaw Hall, was born in 1728. He was married at Saddleworth Church on 5th April, 1750, to Anne Kenworthy of Castle Hall, and died in 1774, leaving at least three children - Ralph, John and Anne, surviving. Ralph, the eldest son, took to wife Betty Taylor of Ashton-under-Lyne, and had a family of three sons and an equal number of daughters, to wit, William, Sarah, John Dicken, Edward, Mary Anne, and Anna Maria.

On 15th August, 1796, Ralph Whitehead, of Shaw Hall, then in his 38th year, was out on the moors with a shooting party when a person named Harrop, aiming his gun at a bird, suddenly fired. At that moment Mr. Whitehead inadvertently crossed the line of fire, and received the full charge in his body. The shot entered his right shoulder and lodged in his left breast and he expired immediately. His loss was deeply deplored by a large circle of friends.

His widow later married a Mr. Wood of Ashton-under-Lyne, and died on 23rd December, 1839, in her 80th year.

Anna Maria, the youngest daughter, also had a very sad end. She died on 6th September, 1813, aged 18 years, at her brother's cottage at Shaw Hall. Her death was occasioned by the bursting of a small cannon fired by herself on the 30th ultimo, which had been procured as an appendage to a patriotic display intended to be given in the neighbourhood to celebrate the recent success of our countrymen in Spain under the Marquess of Wellington.

The young lady was taken up speechless, in which state she remained, yet perfectly sensible to the last, manifesting the most entire resignation.

The cannon had been frequently fired immediately before the catastrophe, and although there were present many young persons of both sexes, she was the only sufferer by the accident.

It may be truly said, on recording this unhappy event "that she was beloved by all who knew her, and that her premature death is the cause of most unfeigned sorrow and regret to all her relatives and friends".

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

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 books on History, Dialect, Folk-lore and Place Names is therefore given below:

- H 1 Buckton, by Samuel Andrew 1893, describing Buckton Castle, Melandra Castle, Castleshaw Camp and Roman roads in Saddleworth.
- H 2 Excavation of the Roman Forts at Castleshaw - First interim report, 1908.
- H 3 Ditto - Second interim report, 1913.
- H 4 Angles, Danes and Norse in the District of Huddersfield, by W.G. Collingwood, published by Tolson Memorial Museum, Huddersfield, 1929.
- H 5 Prehistoric Saddleworth, by Joseph Brierley, 1910.
- H 6 Early Man in the District of Huddersfield, by J.A. Petch, Tolson Memorial Museum, Huddersfield, 1924.
- H 7 A Chapter from the History of Saddleworth, by Morgan Brierley, 1891.
- H 8 The Saddleworth Story, by the W.E.A. local history class, 1964, re-printed 1970.
- H 9 The Annals of Saddleworth (MSS), by Henry Brierley, 1892-4: history of Saddleworth from ancient times, and notes from minute books of current and later parochial events and meetings.
- H 10 A History of Rochdale and Saddleworth, by James Butterworth, 1828.
- H 11 Transactions of Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, 1921.
- H 12 Ditto, 1934-5.
- H 13 Ditto, 1939.
- H 14 Local Gleanings: an Archaeological and Historical magazine relating to Lancashire and Cheshire, 1879-80.

- H 15 Jackson's Illustrated Guide to Yorkshire, 1891.
- H 16 History of the Colne Valley, 1906.
- H 17 Yorkshire Domesday Place Names 1086, by James Horsfall Turner.
- H 18 Saddleworth Place Names, by A.J. Howcroft, 1930: includes map of Saxon Saddleworth and cuttings on place names.
- H 19 A second copy of the above.
- H 20 Dialect of the West Riding of Yorkshire, by Samuel Dyer, 1891.
- H 21 Dictionary of Swaledale Words (no date or author).
- H 22 Tales of the Ridings, by F.W. Moorman, 1920.
- H 23 Bibliographical list of works published towards illustrating provincial dialects of England, by John Russell Smith, 1839.
- H 24 Rush Bearing, by Alfred Burton, 1891.

DELPH MECHANICS' AND LITERARY INSTITUTE

1855 -- 1954

Part Three: The Social Activities of the Institute

The social activities of the Institute were organised by a committee which was affectionately known as the "Sub". In 1899, the Secretary, Joseph Brierley, looked into the origins of this sub-committee, and the following extract from his Annual Report of 1899 tells of the beginnings of the "Sub" and of its "raison d'etre". It also tells us something of the man, Joseph Brierley, and of his dedication to the work of the Institute.

"I must come to the work of the sub-committee, and in the first place I wish to refer to the origin and history of this committee. The reason why I am doing this is because during the year the committee have been told that they are illegally elected, and not elected to either the deeds or the rules of the Institution. This being the case, the sub-secretary received several resignations of committee men who refused to serve on an illegal committee. These grievances have been partly reconciled, and the remaining committee have decided to stand for the present year and at all events to do their best for the Institute. Since this statement was made, I have taken time to consider and enquire into this matter and from some of the older members have got the following particulars. The sub-committee came into being when the Institute was situate at the Old Bell Buildings. Mr. James Lees was then the President, and, though the Institute had been in existence for several years, it had at that time become poor in circumstances. There was a reading room and a night school, but nothing beyond the members' subscriptions to keep the place going. At one of the annual general meetings in the early sixties this state of affairs came up for consideration. The Treasurer had an adverse balance, thus making the situation more serious. As this matter was being discussed, Mr. Charles Winterbottom said that at Stalybridge, where he had been living for a short time, the Mechanics' Institute had a sub-committee to get up entertainments to raise funds for the Institute, and he thought that such a scheme would do well in Delph. The meeting approved of the idea and a sub-committee was forthwith elected, and from that day to this the sub-committee have been appointed at the Annual General Meeting, and have carried out their business separately from the General Committee. The sub-committee were the organisers and promoters of the Penny Readings and various successful dramas. Thus the cry that the sub-committee being illegal is not worthy of notice and, when we consider what great benefit the Institute has derived from this source, it is astonishing how anyone with the wellbeing of the Institute at heart can

object to the sub-committee".

There are many accounts in the Saddleworth Reporter testifying to the success of the Saturday evening entertainments, or "Saturday Pops" as they were called. A report in the edition of 3rd April, 1897, shows how the sub-committee not only organised the entertainments - they were the entertainers. One of the popular events of the year for many years was the banquet given by the sub-committee to which the General Committee were invited. A song sung at the 1899 banquet gives some indication of the aims of the "Sub" in providing entertainment and the means of supporting the educational activities of the Institute. Two of the verses of the song are quoted below:

"We're a jolly, jolly club called the Delph Mechanics' Sub.,
We're as happy, just as happy as can be.
We never care a pin, though we never have much tin,
But we like to have amusement and a spree
There's a lot that's called our bosses, who've agreed to
stand our losses,
If we only do the duties that they shirk.

We get all amusements local, both farcical and vocal,
And occasionally have a funny ball.
A debating class we've started and to show we're not half-hearted
We a syllabus have got to tell you all.
Now folks who are outside us seem to jeer us and deride us,
And they look upon the General as the hub.
Let 'em clear their minds of fiction and take notice of this
diction
For there are brains and ingenuity on the Sub."

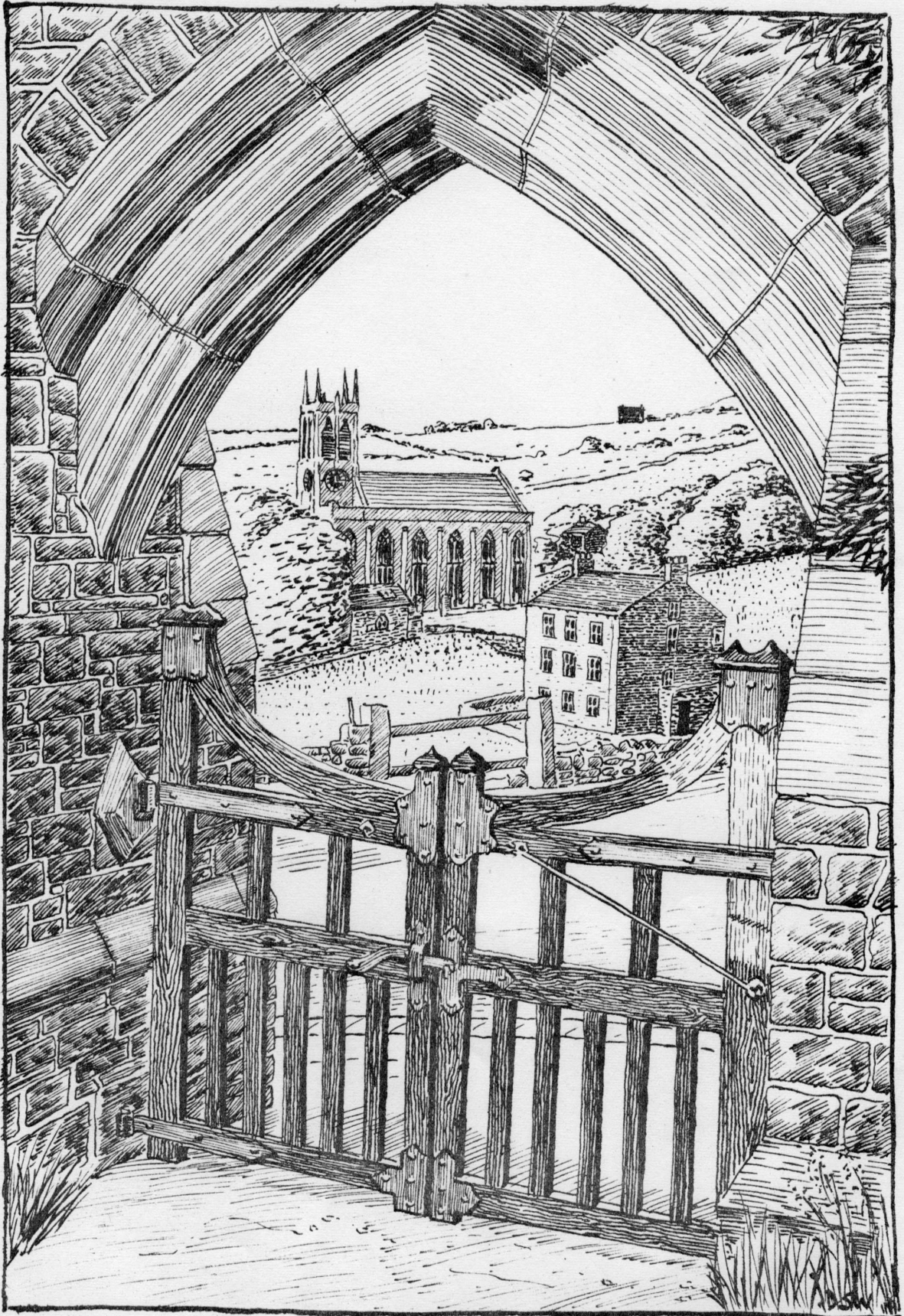
There is a report of a "Saturday Pop" in the Reporter of 4th November, 1899:

"On Saturday evening last, the members of the Delph Mechanics' sub-committee gave one of their Saturday Pops in the large Hall of the Institute. When opening time arrived, a large number clamoured for admission, each in anticipation of an evening's genuine amusement. Nor were they disappointed. The programme, got up with an elaborate view to meet the favour of all classes and all moods, was an excellent one, and was composed of songs, duets, quartettes, tableaux, etc....."

The sub-committee worked continuously to raise funds for the maintenance of the building and for the provision of classes for the youngsters. Although it was a problem that was never resolved, and indeed one which seemed to get greater as the years went by, the work must have had great satisfaction to the members of the Sub. As the verse from the song says, they were a jolly club, and no doubt it was a great honour to serve on the committee. It is interesting to note that the Annual General Meeting was always held in Christmas week, sometimes on Christmas Eve or Boxing Day. It is also interesting to note that there were seldom any nominations for official posts, and the serving officers were almost always re-elected.

The General Committee had often to take strong action to combat irresponsible behaviour and bad language. One notice in the reading room and billiard room read:

"The Committee regret to learn that language of a profane nature is frequently used in this Institute. Being firmly determined to suppress such, the Committee have decided that in future any member so offending shall be expelled from membership".



Saddleworth Church

On other occasions they had to take strong measures to stop gambling by removing the dominoes. In spite of these and other problems which required strict disciplinary measures, the General Committee was well respected, and older inhabitants of Delph to-day speak of the good influence of the Institute on the young people of those days.

An ambitious attempt to provide a constant source of revenue was made in 1909. Faced with the prospect of a large adverse balance, the Committee resolved to speculate and to convert the upper hall into a skating rink. So confident were the members of the Committee of the success of the venture that they agreed to guarantee to make good any deficit incurred in the first year. The President offered to bear half the deficit and left the Committee responsible for the other half. The Secretary said in his Annual Report for 1909, "By all reports this venturesome committee will soon be clear of all liability". This was not to be the case, for in the next year's report he said, "Whatever people may say we have to look at those things which may pay best until we are better off. Even if it is a barrel organ which brings grain to the mill, we cannot entirely despise it so long as we are short of money". For an organisation to remain independent and at the same time maintain a large building, a source of revenue is required which keeps pace with rising costs and is not dependent upon members' subscriptions. Without such an income, the Committee was constantly bedevilled with the need to arrange functions for money raising. In 1912 a Grand Bazaar was held, which raised £480, but by the end of the following year the money had all been spent on repair and renovation. The social side of the Institute's activities was severely curtailed during the war. In the 1915 Annual Report, the Reading Room is amusingly referred to as the "Mechanics' War Office". The report for this year also shows that the account at the bank was again overdrawn, and that the Committee had discussed the possibility of having a bowling green. No suitable site was available however. Towards the end of the war, the hall was let for efforts in aid of the Red Cross, and after the war for peace celebrations. The Report for 1919 shows that the Government's tax on entertainments led to a dancing craze. It was more profitable to organise a dance than a concert and no permit was required.

It is probable that Church organisations played a larger part in the social life of the village in the 1920's and 1930's. There are no records or minutes dealing with the affairs of the Institute for this period. From what the older inhabitants of Delph say, the Mechanics' Institute Hall continued to be used for roller skating, dancing and for the presentation of plays, musicals and occasional lectures. The Reading Room and the Billiard Room were well patronised, and W.E.A. classes were held there from 1926 to 1941.

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.

Saddleworth Sales etc. advertised in the Manchester Mercury.

15th February, 1780. Notice to Creditors.

Whereas Daniel Thackeray of Carr Hill within Saddleworth in the County of York, woollen manufacturer, hath assigned over his estate and effects unto Mr. James Buckley of Tunstead, within Saddleworth aforesaid, woollen manufacturer, for the equal benefit of such of his creditors as shall come and execute the said deed of assignment on or before the 21st day of March, 1780, and verify the Truth of their respective Debts by Oath (or Affirmation being Quakers) to lie sworn or made before a Master in Chancery if required.

29th February, 1780. Notice.

Whereas James Buckley of Wall Hill within Saddleworth, in the County of York, woollen clothier, did by Indenture bearing Date the 26th day of February instant, assign over all his estate and effects unto Robert Buckley of Highmoor within Saddleworth, Innkeeper, and Joseph Sevill of Strines, within Saddleworth aforesaid, cotton manufacturer, in Trust for the equal benefit of all his the said James Buckley's Creditors who shall execute the Deed of Assignment on or before the 26th Day of April next.

30th May, 1780. To be Lett to the Best Bidder.

At the house of Mr. Joseph Lawton, known by the Sign of the Blue Bell, at Delph, in Saddleworth, in the County of York, on Wednesday the 14th Day of June next, between the hours of two and six in the afternoon, subject to the Conditions then to be produced:

That well accustomed Inn, known by the Name of the Blue Bell aforesaid; together with the Brewhouse, Stables, Coachhouse, and farm thereto belonging and therewith occupied, in the Occupation of Joseph Lawton as aforesaid.

N.B. The above Inn is situate on a great Turnpike Road the Midway between Manchester and Huddersfield, Oldham and Marsden, very proper for lodging Gentlemen, Tradesmen and others.

The term 15 years; the Tenant to enter the 1st of July next; In the mean Time apply to Joseph Lawton, the Tenant, who will shew the premises. The Brewing Vessels, Household Goods, and Furniture, will be disposed of on reasonable Terms.

8th August, 1780. To be Sold by Private Contract.

The Fee-Simple and Inheritance of and in two messuages or Dwelling Houses, with a Shippon and Barn, and the several Closes of land thereto belonging, called the Back Meadow, the Marl Jur (sic), the Intake at Green, the Great Field, the Great Field Brow, the Clough Brow, the Great Haugh Brow, the Great Haugh, the Little Haugh Brow, and the Patch, containing upwards of 13 acres of Land of the Statute Measure, which said premises are situate

at a Place called Lane within Quick in the Parish of Saddleworth and County of York, and in the Several Occupations of James Hulley, Jane Lees, John Lees, and Nathan Collier, as Tenants at Will.

The above Premises are suitably situated for carrying on the Woollen or Cotton Manufactories and there is a fine stream of Water therein.

Saddleworth Sale advertised in the Manchester Guardian.

5th June, 1847. To be sold by Auction.

By Mr. Lancaster at the house of Mr. Thomas Lawton, the White Swan Inn, Dobcross in Saddleworth in the County of York, on Wednesday, 18th day of June, 1847, at six o'clock in the evening precisely

The following valuable freehold and beneficial Leasehold estates; that is to say:-

Lot 1.

A close of freehold land called the Bank, situate at Ackers near Laceby in Saddleworth aforesaid, to the west of and adjoining upon the Turnpike Road to Uppermill at the point of junction of the said road with the Huddersfield and Manchester Turnpike Road, containing by measurement 3r. 20p. or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of John Lister.

Lot 2.

A Freehold Estate situate at Ackers aforesaid, consisting of a dwelling house and farm buildings, two cottages, and several closes of enclosed land, and now in the occupation of the said John Lister and others. The land is in a high state of cultivation, and has been in the hands of the present tenant above twenty years. There are several springs of excellent water in the estate, and as it adjoins on the principal Turnpike Roads and is near the Huddersfield and Manchester Railway, it is well equipped for manufacturing purposes.

Lot 3.

A Beneficial Leasehold and Freehold Estate situate at Old Hey near Delph in Saddleworth aforesaid, consisting of a messuage or dwelling house, warehouse, dyehouse and farm buildings, a large building used for dwelling houses and workshops, and 19 acres or thereabouts of excellent land adjoining thereupon or near thereto; as the same are now in the occupation of Mr. James Rhodes, or his undertenants, and the said land is divided into the following closes, namely:

	<u>a</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>p</u>
The Lower Marled Close	2	3	10
The Higher Marled Close	4	1	8
The New Limed Close	3	3	20
The Dyehouse Close	2	3	22
The Barn Close	2	3	30
The Harrop Edge Close	1	3	22
	18	2	32

About half of the land in this estate is freehold of inheritance, and the other half and the buildings are leasehold for a term of 999 years from the year 1790 at a yearly rent of £8. The land is nearly all enclosed grassland in a high state of cultivation, and the buildings are of considerable extent, in a good state of repair, and well adapted for an extensive manufacturer.

Lot 4.

A Beneficial Leasehold Woollen Mill worked by water power, situate at or near Delph, in Saddleworth aforesaid, called Pingle Mill, otherwise Farrand's Mill, with the lands, goits, reservoir, water privileges, water wheel (first motion power) and mill gearing belonging therein; and also the Cottage and Garden near the mill, as the same are now or late were in the occupation of Messrs. James Rhodes & Sons. The mill has at present a fall of 17 feet 2 inches (capable of being increased to 18 feet 8 inches) and the privilege of drawing water from the River Tame. It is held under lease, of which more than 860 years are yet unexpired, at the rent of £18 a year; and the machinery in the mill, consisting of 4 scribblers, 4 carders, 4 billies, and 2 willies, are to be taken by the purchaser of this lot at a valuation, to be made in the usual way.

B. Barnes.

Footnote:

Further details of Ackers are given in Volume 1, Number 3, of the Bulletin, page 15, and also in the Gazetteer Section, "Old Saddleworth", in this number; and of Old Hey in Volume 1, Number 1, pages 11 - 12.

SADDLEWORTH CHURCH REGISTERS.

The Irad G. Hewkin Collection housed in Uppermill Library does not include Volume 2 of the Saddleworth Registers. The Historical Society would like to purchase a copy to add to the Collection, and would welcome any offers from readers of the Bulletin or any information of the whereabouts of a copy for sale.

SADDLEWORTH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES

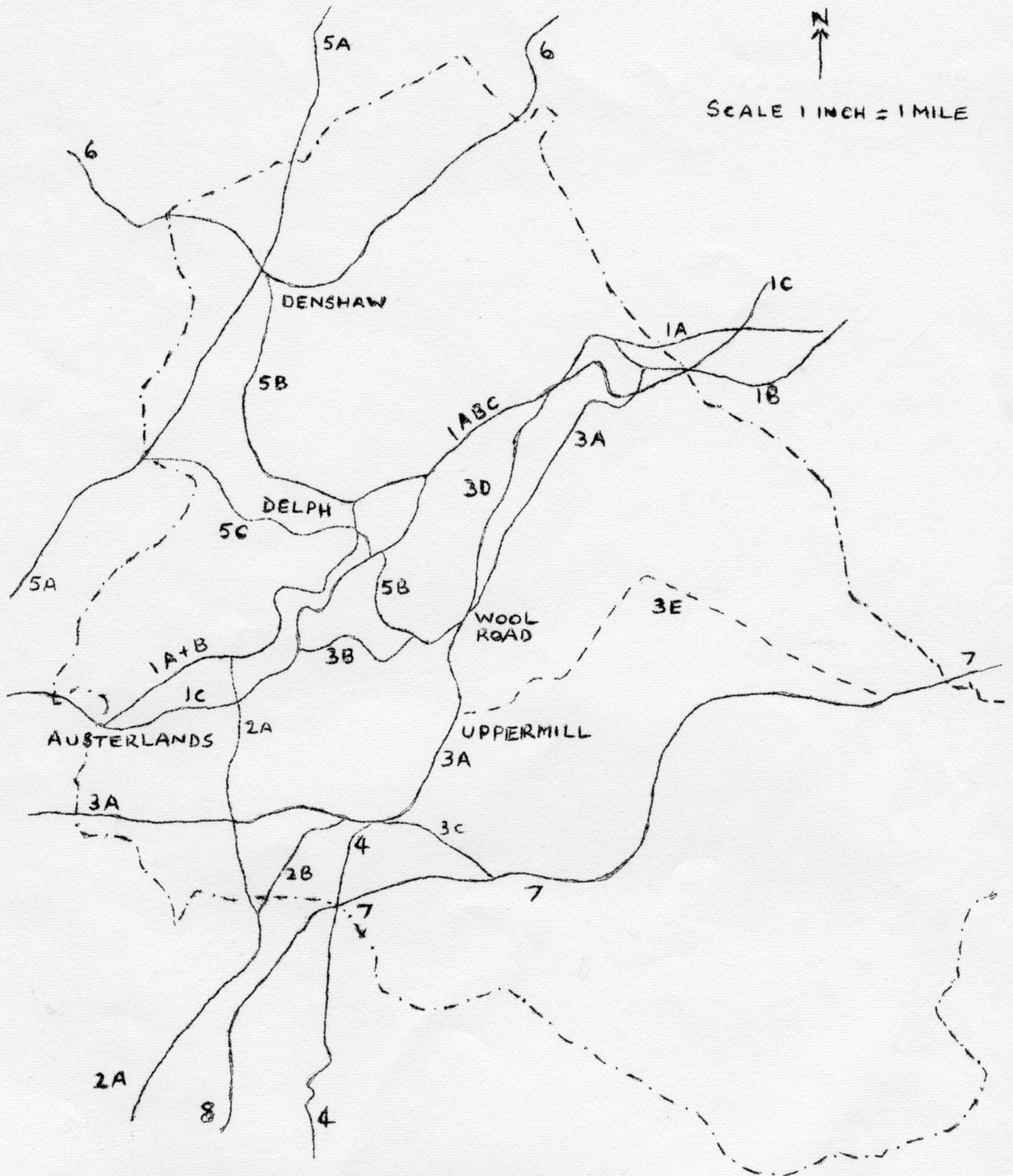
Part 4: 1903

- Jan. Case of Smallpox at Uppermill. Removed to Runninghill Hospital.
Epidemic in other parts of the country.
- Feb. Proposal to plant trees in Uppermill Square.
Fire at Fern Lee Vale Mill (locally called Sam's o' Ben's).
Cottagers in nearby houses moved furniture into empty schoolhouse of old St. John's School (site of electricity sub-station, Manchester Road). Waterside, Andrew and Royal George Mills sent their fire engines, but the mill was a total wreck. Need for a public fire service emphasised.
- March Infant Mortality 1 in 10 in Saddleworth - report from Medical Officer of Health.
- April Feeding of Workhouse Inmates criticised by auditor of accounts.
No action taken.
Curious case of an egg having three yolks being laid in Delph.
Then it was reported that an egg was laid at Greenfield measuring 10 inches by $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches and weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, and containing two yolks and one ordinary egg.
Relief Returns for one week in March:
- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Inmates of workhouse | 55 |
| Outdoor relief | 126 |
| Lunatics in Asylum | 23 |
| Vagrants | 84 |
- May Vaccination of children, and re-vaccination at a later date decided upon by West Riding County Council.
May Day - many horses decorated.
May Festival arranged by Boarshurst Band and Greenfield Wesleyan Day School.
Alexandra Park Lake, Oldham, opened to public.
Fire at Ashway Gap damaged bedrooms and roof. Workers from water-works and Greenfield Mill put out the fire.
- June 50th Anniversary of Board of Guardians. No celebrations as the prices quoted were too high.
Saddleworth Cycle Parade headed by Boarshurst Band. Afterwards tea and dance in Mechanics' Hall, Uppermill. Music by Delph String Band.
Dusty Roads. The Surveyor reported that three water carts were inadequate to spray the roads in order to keep down dust in dry weather.
- July Walking Contests at Greenfield, Delph, Mossley and Waterhead.
Drill Hall at Uppermill proposed. Scheme for building it inaugurated.
- Aug. Three Smallpox Cases taken to Oldham Smallpox Hospital.
Wakes Rushcart six yards in height, drawn by 5 stangs of men.
Fife and Drum Band. Morris Dances.
Farm Fire: between 30 and 40 tons of hay burnt at Swainscroft Farm, Delph.
- Sept. New Workhouse Windmill to be built. Previous one badly damaged by weather.
Buckley Mill, Uppermill, Fire - first mill for hat finishing in Saddleworth.
- Oct. Short Time in many mills. Notice that shawl weavers were to have 5% reduction in wages.
Fairy Holes, Greenfield - youth rescued.

Compiled by Mrs. H. Wood.

Part 5: 1904, will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

SADDLEWORTH TURNPIKE ROADS



FOR KEY TO NUMBERS SEE TEXT

THE TURNPIKE ROADS OF SADDLEWORTH.

By the 1840's, when all the turnpike roads in this area had been completed, there were eight turnpike trusts which had sections of road running through Saddleworth. The earliest of these had been the Wakefield and Austerlands road (Parliamentary Act dated 1759) across Standedge (shown as 1A on the map), which connected with the earlier Manchester - Austerlands road (Act passed 1734). A detailed history of this trans-Pennine road is given in W.B. Crump's "Huddersfield Highways", and suffice it to note here that its course in the Saddleworth area was changed in 1777 (1B) and in the late 1820's (1C) to cope with the growing volume of traffic across the Pennines. This trust enjoyed the largest income from tolls of any of the Yorkshire turnpikes, in part a reflection, no doubt, of the importance of Huddersfield as a market centre. It is interesting to note in this respect that the Manchester - Austerlands road had the largest income of the Lancashire turnpikes, a large proportion of which came from the traffic in coal between Oldham and Manchester. On the Yorkshire road there were toll posts at Austerlands and Stoneswood, Delph, in its Saddleworth section.

In 1765 "An Act for repairing and widening the Road from Stockport to Saxon's Lane End and from Ashton under Line (sic) to Doctors' Lane Head" in Saddleworth was passed. This road came via Mossley and passed through Lydgate to join the first Wakefield - Austerlands road (2A). There was a toll bar at Newhouses. In 1825 a further Act was passed "for more effectually repairing and improving the Road from Stockport to near New Houses (Yorks.); and for making and maintaining several new Branches to communicate therewith". Thus it would appear that this road now joined the second Wakefield - Austerlands road at the Star Inn, Scouthead, and that the section from there to Doctor Lane Head was no longer regarded as forming part of the Stockport and Ashton Turnpike Trust. One of the new branches referred to above could well have been the Haddens and Shaw Hall Branch (2B) which was built to join the Standedge - Oldham road at the present day Farrar's Arms.

A further reflection of the importance of the Standedge route across the Pennines was the fact that the third turnpike road across Saddleworth was built by the Standedge and Oldham Trust (3A). Its Act, passed in 1792, was "for making and maintaining a road from, or nearly from, Stand Edge, within Saddleworth, to or near Mumps Bridge, in the township of Oldham in the Parish of Prestwich, and also a road leading out of the said intended road, through or near Dobcross, to or near a place called Wall Hill in Saddleworth aforesaid; and also another road, leading out of the first-mentioned road, at or near a place called Shaw Hall, to or near a place called Hollins, all in Saddleworth aforesaid". This road left the second Wakefield - Austerlands road behind the present day Floating Light Inn and proceeded via Thurstons and Wrigley Chapel to Woolroad, and thence through Uppermill and over Lydgate to Lees and Mumps Bridge. There were toll bars at Thurstons, Woolroad, Brownhill, Shaw Hall, and later at County End and Wade Lock. The two branches referred to above were the Wool Road and Wall Hill Branch (3B), which went via Sugar Lane and Woods Lane, Dobcross, to join the Austerlands road at Wall Hill, with a toll bar at Tamewater (near Tame Bridge); and the Frenches and Hollins Branch (3C) through present day Greenfield, with a toll bar at Frenches - the toll house is still in existence. In 1814 was passed "an Act for continuing and enlarging the Terms and Powers of an Act (32 Geo. III) for making a Road from Stand Edge within Saddleworth to or near Mumps Brook in the Township of Oldham in the Parish of Prestwich". A further Act in 1827 "for more effectually repairing and improving the

Road from Standedge in Saddleworth to Oldham ... and for making and maintaining Two new Branches to communicate therewith", resulted in the re-alignment of the part of the route between Standedge and Woolroad (coinciding probably with the changing of the Wakefield - Austerlands route mentioned above), leaving the latter at the present day junction near the Horse and Jockey (3D). A new toll bar at Sunfield was established to augment the Thurstons Bar. The plan of this new branch of the Standedge - Oldham road, dated 1826, can be found in the Public Record Office in Wakefield. Another plan, dated the same year, outlined the other proposed branch road (3E) to run from Uppermill via Saddleworth Fold, the Cross Keys Inn, and Running Hill Head over Featherbed Moss to join the Holmfirth Road. It is possible that this was intended to tap the trade in stone from the extensive Running Hill Quarries, but the plans did not bear fruit. An advertisement in the Manchester Guardian of 10th July, 1847, for the letting of tolls on the Standedge - Oldham road to the highest bidder, mentioned the Lees, Shaw Hall, Frenches, Woolroad, Thurstons, Sunfield and Tamewater gates.

In 1793 the Act was passed for the Staley Trust with a toll bar at Wellihole. This road (4) began near Shaw Hall, where it connected with the Standedge - Oldham road, followed the course of present day Oaklands Road and went via Holehouse and the Dysart's Arms to join the Stalybridge - Mottram road.

Two years later in 1795 another Act was passed "for making and maintaining a Turnpike Road from Mumps Brook within Oldham to Ripponden (5A), and a Branch therefrom, at Denshaw, to Brownhill (5B), and another Branch therefrom at Grains, to Delph (5C), all within Saddleworth". This road extended from the Manchester - Austerlands road in Oldham via Moorside and Denshaw across the moors to join the Blackstone Edge road at Ripponden. In Saddleworth it had a toll post at Grains Bar. The first of the two branches referred to in the preamble to the Act was the Denshaw and Dobcross Branch with a toll bar at Platt Lane, Dobcross (part of which is preserved in the Saddleworth Museum), but this road did not extend as far as Brownhill. Another toll bar was later established at Delph, near Spring Bridge. In 1812 an Act was passed "for amending the Roads from Oldham to Ripponden, and from Denshaw to Brownhill, and from Grains to Delph, all within Saddleworth". Again, despite the wording above, the branch from Denshaw terminated in Dobcross village where it joined the Woolroad and Wall Hill Branch of the Standedge and Oldham Trust. Dobcross New Road, which does terminate at Brownhill, was not built until 1863, as was Delph New Road. The Manchester Guardian of 25th July, 1846, advertised the auction sale of the tolls on the Oldham - Ripponden road, to be let for three years. This mentioned that the Watersheddings Gate had collected £320 in revenue during the previous year; the Grains Gate £306; the Darby Gate (Rishworth) £103; the Slithero Bridge Gate (Ripponden) £134; and Delph Gate £75, and the Platt Lane Gate £85.

The Huddersfield and New Hey Trust received Parliamentary assent in 1806. The preamble was worded "An Act for making and maintaining a Road from the Town of Huddersfield to a place called New Hey in the Parish of Rochdale". This road ran from New Hey via Denshaw and then crossed the moors past the present day Nont Sarah's Inn to Huddersfield (6). It had two toll bars in Saddleworth: the Denshaw toll post (on the Huddersfield side of the junction with the Oldham - Ripponden road), and the Junction toll post (on the Rochdale side). In 1825 a second

Act was passed "for repairing and maintaining the Road from Huddersfield (Yorks.) to New Hey, in the Parish of Rochdale"

In 1824 the Act was passed for the Greenfield and Shepley Lane Head Trust, running from Holehouse across the moors to Holmfirth and beyond (7). This had toll bars at Cote Meadow and Hollins in Saddleworth. The plan for this road, dated 1821, is also preserved at Wakefield.

The last Turnpike Trust entering Saddleworth had its Act passed in 1827, "for making and maintaining a Road from Ridghill and Lanes in the Parish of Ashton-under-Lyne to Holehouse in Saddleworth (Yorks.)" (8). This road completed the cross-roads below the Dysart's Arms, and ran through Lower Mossley. Again, the plan of this road, dated 1825, can be found at Wakefield. It had no toll bar within Saddleworth, but one, just across the former Saddleworth Boundary at Roughtown, still exists.

Some statistics and other information regarding these roads culled from various Parliamentary Papers are given below:

The "Report of the Commissioners for Inquiry into the State of the Roads in England and Wales", (Parl. Papers, 1840, V.27, Appendix), gives some interesting facts about the surfaces and the administration of the roads:

Wakefield - Austerlands Trust: road 27 miles 598 yards long. 11 gates. In good repair. Repaired by the Trustees.

Stockport - Ashton Trust: road 18 miles 4 furlongs 7 chains in length. 6 gates and 2 side bars. Surface moderate. $\frac{2}{3}$ repaired by the Trustees, $\frac{1}{3}$ by the townships through which it passes.

Standedge - Oldham Trust: road 10 miles 1658 yards long. 7 gates. Fair repair. Repaired by the Trustees.

Staley Trust: road 4 miles long. 2 gates and 1 side bar. Present surface indifferent. Wholly repaired by the townships through which it passes.

Oldham - Ripponden Trust: 16 miles 1546 yards long. 7 gates. Fair repair, except 2700 yards in the hamlet of Blayate cum Roughbank in the Parish of Rochdale which is under indictment. Repaired by the different hamlets and parishes, and the Trustees pay $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ costs. It is calculated that when the Manchester - Leeds Railway opens (i.e. through Rochdale, Todmorden, Sowerby Bridge and Wakefield) tolls which are now let for £1870 will be reduced to £1100 per annum.

Huddersfield - New Hey Trust: 9 miles 756 yards long. 8 gates, but if going along whole line only pay at some. Parts in bad repair. Rest tolerable. Whole repaired by townships.

Greenfield - Shepley Lane Head Trust: 14 miles 1474 yards long. 8 gates, but if passing along whole line only pay at 4. Three miles in very bad condition, rest tolerable. 6 miles 1150 yards in Shawmere, Lordsmere and Austonley repaired by Trustees; rest by townships.

Ridghill, Lanes and Holehouse Trust: 4 miles long. 2 gates. Townships repair own roads: $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in Saddleworth, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in Micklehurst, 1 mile in Mossley, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in Luzley, rest in Ashton. (N.B. Township boundaries were different in 1840 to what they are to-day). In bad condition.

Below are listed some figures illustrative of part of the income of the various Turnpike Trusts. It should be remembered that these are for the whole length of each of the roads, and not for Saddleworth only.

	Average Income 1818 -	Total (£) 1821	Income from Tolls (£)			
			1835	1838	1840	1850
Wakefield - Austerlands Trust	2911		9484	9924	10486	6654
Stockport - Ashton Trust	747		1928	2339	2600	2733
Staley Trust	160		215	216	177	176
Standedge - Oldham Trust	759		1383	1810	1374	1208
Oldham - Ripponden Trust	1588		1838	2100	1770	885
Huddersfield - New Hey Trust	954		1008	710	713	814
Greenfield - Shepley L.H. Trust	-		504	710	588	465
Ridghill, Lanes & Holehouse Trust	-		209	267	280	316

The above figures are taken from the following Parliamentary Papers:

"Report from the Select Committee appointed to consider the Acts now in force regarding Turnpike Roads and Highways in England and Wales".
Parl. Papers, 1821, V.4, Appendix 2, "Abstract of Returns from Turnpike Road Trusts".

"Abstract of the General Statements of the Income and Expenditure of the several Turnpike Trusts in England and Wales", 1st January 1835 - 31st December, 1835 - Parl. Papers, 1837, V.51.

"Ditto, from 1st January 1838 to 31st December 1838 inclusive", Parl. Papers, 1840, V.45.

"Ditto, from 1st January 1840 to 31st December 1840 inclusive", Parl. Papers, 1842, V.37.

"Ditto, from 1st January 1850 to 31st December 1850 inclusive", Parl. Papers, 1852-3, V.97.

From the Wakefield and Austerlands, and the Oldham and Ripponden Trusts' figures it would appear that the Manchester and Leeds Railway construction (begun 1837, completed 1841) did indeed affect the volume of traffic using the roads. All the other turnpikes were, of course, soon to feel the effects of similar competition as more railways were built, and were to decline radically.

An interesting footnote to this brief outline of the early history of the turnpike roads in Saddleworth is provided by two short items from the Saddleworth Reporter. Both of them refer to the abandonment of tolls on the Standedge - Oldham road in 1885. The first, dated 31st October, stated that "toll bars in Saddleworth were all open for the last time yesterday, much to the satisfaction of many. The old gates and the other property belonging to the Trustees were sold by auction by Messrs. Wild & Holden. The bars closed are those at Tame Water, Brownhill, Wade Lock, Frenches, Shaw Hall, County End and Wool Road". The 'satisfaction of many' is illustrated by another report dated 14th November. "On Saturday evening a convivial party was held at the King William Inn, Greenfield, to celebrate the abolition of the local toll bars. The gathering was presided over by Mr. Evans, and was enlivened by songs, etc. from Mr. J.E. Butterworth and other friends". This was but one of the many celebrations on this theme that took place at the time.

THE MEDLOCK AND TAME VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

There have been a number of incidents of a conservation or preservation nature this year which have caused concern to some Historical Society members. We were, therefore, pleased to be invited to send representatives to the inaugural meeting of the Medlock and Tame Valley Conservation Committee on 14th August.

At this meeting an executive body was elected and a constitution adopted. The following extract from the constitution explains the purpose of the group:

"The Committee shall have as its object the conservation of the environment in the Medlock and Tame valleys and the surrounding districts, both urban and rural, including the protection of flora and fauna, the preservation of rivers and their tributaries, the preservation of structures of architectural or archaeological interest, and the prevention of litter, pollution and damage to amenities".

A number of items have already been tackled with success, and the Committee is gaining considerable influence in local conservation and preservation issues.

Historical Society members are already taking part in the work of the committee, but other Society members who are interested may apply for personal membership by writing to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. R.J. Stanton, c/o Werneth Study Centre, Frederick Street, Oldham, enclosing 50p subscription.

David Chadderton.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Applications for full membership of the Saddleworth Historical Society should be made to the Secretary, Mrs. K. Booth, "Ceann", Friezland Lane, Greenfield. The annual subscription for full membership is £1.00, which includes 50p subscription to the Bulletin.

Bulletin.

Non-members of the Society may make sure of receiving regular copies of the Bulletin by completing the form below and sending it with 50p (four quarterly issues, post free) to Mr. B. Barnes, 7, Elsted Road, Greenfield, who also has a limited number of earlier editions.

To: Mr. B. Barnes,
7, Elsted Road,
Greenfield, Oldham.

I enclose 50p cheque/postal order; please forward copies of the Bulletin to:

Name Address

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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.

BUNKERS

Grid Reference: 004046

Location: Tunstead Lane, Greenfield.

Description: Three-storey house and adjoining cottages; two farm houses.

History: Occupied by a Broadbent family from 1790 (Registers).

1838 Joseph Garlick lived here (West Riding Poll Book).

Three storey house built apparently just before 1790 with first floor entrance at back.

Three two-storey cottages then built to west side, almost immediately raised to give continuous workroom over all the building.

Diamond lead lights remaining in workroom over large house; square lead lights in workroom over cottages.

DOLEFIELD

Grid Reference: 003050

Location: Uppermost of three houses in Golburn Clough near Uppermill, approached from Fur Lane.

Description: Typical three-storey house of 1800.

History: A rather more pretentious house than most. Large, with four ground floor rooms and a single weaving room; a neat arched front door, projecting corner stones, a corbelled stone cornice and remains of a walled garden.

Now derelict - owing to poor approach.

1851 According to the Census, two families lived here, in all 18 people. J. Bradbury and his family (3 males and 2 females), and William Bradbury and family (7 males and 4 females). Among these two families, 7 were employed as woollen hand loom weavers, 1 as a hand-jenny spinner, and three as wool finishers.

1864 T. Broadbent, flannel manufacturer, lived here (Jones's Directory).

LYDGATE VICARAGE

Grid Reference: 975040

Location: Off Stockport Road, Lydgate, between the Grange and Higher Quick Farm.

Description: Stone-built, double fronted house facing across the Tame Valley.

History: Land owned by Ralph Radcliffe Whitehead and brothers (of Royal George Mills) was exchanged for land at Mamns, Friezland, belonging to the Incumbent of Lydgate, for the purpose of building a Parsonage. This was made necessary when Lydgate became a parish in 1844. The Vicarage was

built on one corner of the land acquired, which measured 3 roods 33 perches, Little Prune Hill 1 rood 16 perches, Purch Mouth 1 rood 7 perches. It has been the residence of the Vicars of Lydgate ever since. In 1958 the old kitchen was demolished, and a new back porch built. (Reference to building of the Vicarage: A Memorandum of the transaction contained in documents at Lydgate. The Deeds of the house are in the possession of the Church Commissioners).

PROSPECTON

Grid Reference: 003047

Location: Just below (west of) Bunkers, off Tunstead Lane, Greenfield.

Description: Three-storey house and adjoining two-storey cottages.

History: The three-storey house with workroom is typical of 1800. The additions are 1860 or 1870. The name does not occur in the Registers. It was probably an invention of James Platt who lived here, and the house may have had a different name originally. The Ordnance Survey map spells it wrongly as "Prospection".

1825 J. Platt lived here (Baines) - he ran a boarding school at Boarshurst.

1838 James Platt (West Riding Poll Book).

1851 James Platt - woollen manufacturer and agent for the Yorkshire Insurance Co. (Slater's Directory). In 1852 he is recorded as being a Poor Law Guardian as well (Whellan's Directory).

1875 Mr. Owen Platt - agent for the Yorkshire Insurance Co. (Worrall's Directory).

1880 Mr. Owen Platt still lived here (Worrall).

SHEPHERDS GREEN

Grid Reference: 006042

Location: Hollins Lane, off Holmfirth Road, Greenfield.

Description: House of 1780. Five cottages of later date.

History: Three-storey house (probably two houses and workroom) built by Thomas Shaw 1780 (?).

1782 First occupants Bradburys and Platts (Registers).

1784 Shaws lived here for a period from before this date (Registers).

1824 Thomas Shaw, woollen manufacturer and merchant, lived here (Pigot's Directory).

1828 Thomas Shaw, woollen manufacturer (Pigot's Directory).

1834 Factory of four bays built on by Thomas Shaw (top room connected to workroom) and three cottages about the same date - now two. (Date on arch). 1845 six-inch map shows tenters in field above.

1838 Thomas and Robert Shaw - woollen manufacturers - and Thomas Shaw, woollen manufacturer and merchant, recorded in Pigot's Directory.

1841 Ralph and Thomas Shaw, woollen manufacturers (Pigot's Directory).

1851 John Marsden, stone mason, and Ralph Shaw, woollen manufacturer, lived here (Slater's Directory).

Factory later converted to three cottages.

1875 - 1900 House used as St. Mary's Vicarage.

WELLIHOLE

Grid Reference: 985039

Location: Built by the side of the (later) Staley turnpike road, now Wellihole Road, Friezland.

Description: Large farmhouse and three cottages.

History: The row of cottages once consisted of four dwellings, and there is a datestone: IS MS 1722.

The large farmhouse has unusual features. The front and rear show the shapes of large ecclesiastical-type windows which have been bricked up, and replaced by other windows. One gable end also shows the shape of a large window. It is said that it was built in 1840 by the Whitehead family, and was used as a church before Christ Church was built. The window from the gable end was taken to the new church. There is a datestone in the lintel over the doorway which led into the church.

The top floor of the house was a weaving room. Holes in the beams for shafts to go through can be seen, and there is a large roller in position for hauling up skips or bales of wool. The handle of the roller is on the wall of a shed below.

The shippon was once a farmhouse. It has an elaborate tiled roof similar to the one on Christ Church Vicarage. Inside, part of the chimney is visible. Soot was found in part that was taken down. Now one side of the roof is of the original stone slate and the other is of blue slate. Slots or air vents in the walls are for drying the hay.

1673 John Shaw of Welleyhole died. (First reference in the Registers).

1685 John Gartside of Welleyhole died (Registers).

1724 20th April, William Heap, clothier, of Wellihole married Mary Winterbottom of Knar (Registers).

1727 23rd April, John, son of John Andrew, joiner, and Mary, his wife of Wellihole, christened (Registers).

1728 21st May, Samuel Shaw, husbandman, of Wellihole, married Alice Ogden of Oldham (Registers).

1729 James Shaw of Wellyhole died (Registers).

1777 Listed as part of the Shaw Hall Estate: Alexander Schofield was the tenant of 26 acres.

1813 Gervas Lawton of Wellihole died in his 85th year (Registers).

1822 John Schofield, grocer and flour dealer, lived here (Baines).

1838 John Rowbottom, shoe maker, and John Schofield, shopkeeper, lived here (Pigot).

1852 John Schofield, shopkeeper, listed in Whellan's Directory.

1875 & 1880 Joseph Schofield, grocer and corn dealer, mentioned in

Worrall's Directories.

Before the building of the reservoirs in the Greenfield and Tame valleys the flat fields of the farm were often flooded. Holes at ground level were made in the walls of the buildings to allow drainage. There are at least nine wells near the farm, and when the river is in flood some of these overflow.

Bricks were made on the "Flats" from clay dug there by a man called Buckley for the railway viaduct and warehouse.

Wellihole Bar:

This toll bar stood between the farm and the bridge over the river. The Staley Turnpike Act was passed in 1793.

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1798 | James Wild, toll keeper (Registers). |
| 1798 | Joseph Brooks, toll keeper (Registers). |
| 1822 | Anice Pearson, toll keeper (Baines Directory). |

ACKERS (see Page 15 of Vol.1, No.2 of the Bulletin).

Additional Information:

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|------|---|
| 1743 | 5th June, John, son of Thomas Kenworthy, of Acre Barn, clothier, and Mary his wife, christened (Registers). |
| 1747 | 4th January, Thomas, son of Thomas Kenworthy of Acre, clothier, and Mary, his wife, christened (Registers). |
| 1750 | 5th June, Mary, daughter of Abraham Bentley of Acre, clothier, and Mary, his wife, christened (Registers). |
| 1847 | John Lister and others lived here (estate advertised for sale in the Manchester Guardian, 5th June). |

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,
Near Oldham.

For permission to re-print any of the material in this Bulletin, apply to the Saddleworth Historical Society.