

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 20 Number 3 Autumn 1990

The Cherry Valley Chronicles

In 1844, Thomas and Martha Buckley, with their sons, Charles and Thomas, left their home at Bridge House, Dobcross, in Saddleworth, Yorkshire, to emigrate to America. After crossing the Atlantic to Boston, Massachusetts, they journeyed on to join their son, Frank, daughter, Sally and her family, in the small township of Cherry Valley in the neighbourhood of Worcester, Massachusetts. Two members of the family remained behind in Saddleworth; eldest son, Ralph and another daughter, Esther. For the next thirty years, Thomas Senior wrote to Ralph, who preserved his father's letters. These, in book form, make up a valuable historical and social record, a family saga of life in the new land, lived against a background of national events such as the Civil War, during which five members of the family enlisted in the Northern Army.

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The Saddleworth Historical Society is offering, at a specially reduced rate to those who subscribe early, this important publication which is to appear during the Saddleworth Festival of the Arts in 1991. A list of subscribers will be printed at the end of the book in the following form:-

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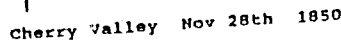
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Cheques made payable to Saddleworth Historical Society.

To - Mr. D. Gartside,
5 The Shaws,
UPPERMILL,
Saddleworth,
Oldham. OL3 6JX



C. Farewell



it a man
they have
Hals.
keep fro.

[illegible]

BULLETIN
OF THE
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volumn 20. Number 3.
Autumn 1990

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Cover Illustration: The Saddleworth Workhouse at
Running Hill.

ON HOW A SADDLEWORTH BLACKSMITH WAS THE SEED FROM WHICH THE
TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION COMPANY GREW

When Henry Platt was the village blacksmith at Bridge House in Dobcross, towards the end of the eighteenth century, he could have had no idea of the strange ways in which his activities would develop. As the local woollen industry grew, Platt added to his usual products of horseshoes and farming tools items such as jennies and card cylinders. As the Lancashire cotton industry expanded, so did Platts business and in 1821 he moved to Oldham where he started by employing six assistants. He was soon helped financially by another Oldham Engineer, Elijah Hibbert, and the firm carried the style of Hibbert and Platt. These first works were situated at a place known as Ferney Bank but the business grew rapidly and new premises were taken at the (old) Hartford Works, in Werneth. Several changes of personnel took place: Joseph and John Platt, sons of Henry, came into the business in 1837, Henry died in 1842, Joseph in 1845, and was replaced by his younger brother, James. Hibbert died in 1846 and by 1854 the business, under the proprietorship of John and James, had grown to such dimensions that three new partners, already in the employ of the firm, were admitted and the title of the company was changed to Platt Brothers and Co. (James Platt was elected Member of Parliament for Oldham, along with John Cobbett, in March, 1857, but was accidentally killed in a shooting party on Saddleworth Moor later that year. A memorial cross marking this incident is still prominent on the moor edge above Dove Stone Reservoir).

The business continued to prosper: (1)

"It is sufficient to say that the firm is still extending its operations month by month, one might almost say day by day".

At the end of the nineteenth century, Platt Brothers were employing 14,000 people and could claim to be the largest engineering company in the world and without doubt by far the largest manufacturer of cotton spinning equipment.

Our story now turns East, to the Far East. Japan, after long years of isolation tentatively opened its ports to international trade in 1859. In 1862, Prince Shimazu Nariakira, of the Satsuma clan, started investigations for the establishment of the first cotton mill in Japan, but before any action could be taken he died. However, his plans were taken up by his successor, Prince Tadayoshi. A team of retainers was despatched to Oldham, (no doubt causing consternation to all parties!), to purchase the latest steam-powered looms and spinning equipment from Platts. Several technicians from Platts went to establish, between 1867 and 1868, 6,000 spindles in a pilot cotton factory situated at Isonohama, near Kagoshima, on Kyushu, the south island of Japan.

It was now the turn of the Japanese cotton industry to grow and, with it, so prospered the relationship between Platts and the Japanese textile industry. For example, in 1892, 220,000 spindles were imported by 22 Japanese textile companies and 81% of these were purchased from Platts. Naturally, the Japanese began to develop their own machinery. In particular, Toyoda Sakichi (Japanese custom puts the family name first) experimented with improvements to looms and by 1906, with financial backing from the house of Mitsui, founded the Toyoda Loom Works, and put into manufacture the first Japanese automatic power loom. By 1920, Platts' share of the Japanese market had reduced to 42% whilst Toyoda's had risen to 34%. Sakichi's son, Kiichiro, continued to improve the designs, culminating in 1924 with an automatic shuttle-changing system which became such a success it was called the 'magic loom' and made a name for Toyoda Looms throughout the world. (The design remained basically unchanged until 1955).

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, Kiichiro Toyoda, of Shirakabecho,
in the City of Nagoya and the Empire of Japan, a
Subject of the Emperor of Japan, having invented
certain new and useful Improvements relating to the
picking and checking of shuttles in looms for weaving,
do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear
and exact description of the same.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name to
this specification, at.....*Tokyo*.....this...*17th*.....
day of.....*April*.....1931.

(Rgd) *Kiichiro Toyoda*.....

Photocopy of extracts of patents held in the Lancashire County Record Office.

Platts were, of course, aware of these events and became increasingly concerned about the competition posed to their products by the Toyoda loom. In 1929 Platt Brothers purchased the patent rights of the Toyoda loom for some £100,000. It is recorded that when Kiichiro visited Platts Hartford Works in Oldham to conclude the agreement, he saw on the wall of the boardroom, a picture of Satsuma retainers who had come to England in 1865. (2). In the event, some difficulties occurred for both sides in the process of this patent transfer, causing negotiations and litigation to drag on for a number of years, and a somewhat reduced sum of £83.5 thousand was eventually paid by Platts (equivalent to about £2.5 million in 1990 prices.) The important point of this story is that the money so obtained was used by Toyoda Kiichiro as the seed money to set up an experimental plant for the construction of automobiles. In true Japanese style, Kiichiro recalled his father's influence:

"When father was alive, he used to say that he wanted to make automobiles some day. I never forgot that."

In 1936, the first car, the AA model for five passengers with a 3,400 cc. 64 h.p. six cylinder engine became a best seller of the time with 1,404 sold. In August, 1937, the Automobile Department at the Toyoda Automatic Loom Works was split off and the separate entity, Toyota Motor Company came into being. (Note the change of name to the now familiar Toyota).

It is not the purpose of this note to trace in detail the subsequent histories of the companies involved. It is sufficient to state that now Toyota Corporation makes a new car every four seconds; one new car out of every ten made in the world is a Toyota: Platts finally went out of business in the late 1960's.

I have recently come across a report of the Japanese Cotton Industry written about the time of the transfer of the Toyoda patent. (3). It contains some perceptive and sobering reading;

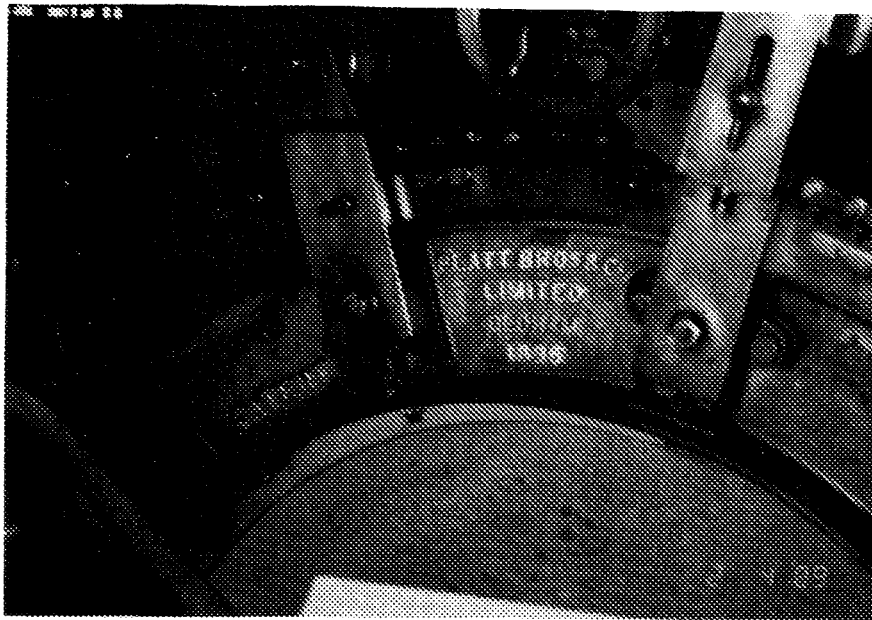
"The quick response to the adoption of comparatively new devices shows that Japan, though steeped in tradition as regards private life, is not as conservative in industry as most European countries. It is too late for some of the Western nations to imagine complacently their superiority over the Japanese in the cotton industry".

It is also curious to ponder that when production starts at the new Toyota plant now being built near Derby, the company will be moving some 10,000 kilometers from Japan back to the vicinity of their roots of 200 years ago.

Roderick A. Smith, October, 1990.

References and Notes

1. Engineering, 27th July, 1894, contains a substantial and well illustrated account of the history and the then current activities of Platts.
2. It is hard to believe that this picture would have been destroyed. Does anyone have information of its whereabouts ?
3. The Cotton Industry of Japan and China, A.S. Pearce, General Secretary of the International Federation of Cotton Spinners, a booklet detailing a visit to the Far East in February-April 1929. A copy is held in the Oldham Local Studies Centre Library.

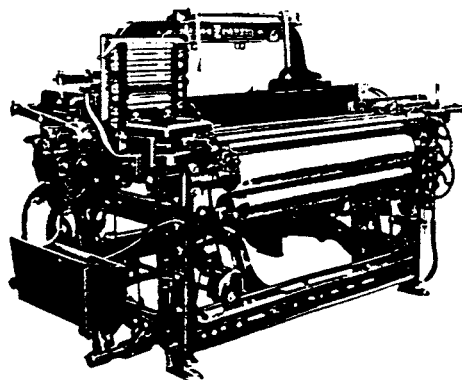


Detail from a revolving flat carding machine, built by Platts in 1896 and now exhibited at the Meiji-Mura Museum, Nagoya, Japan.

TOYODA'S PATENT

High-Speed, Non-stop, Shuttle Change

AUTOMATIC LOOM



PATENTED in Great Britain, British India, U.S.A., Dominion of Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan.

ACTUAL EXPERIENCE: These looms stand up to 250 r.p.m. with the efficiency of 90-95%; one weaver handling 20-30 looms according to the kind of cloth to be woven.

SPECIAL FEATURES: High Speed, Non-Stop, Shuttle Changing, Smooth Running, no undue tension to the warp yarn, &c.

ALL ENQUIRIES TO

MITSUI & CO. LTD., London and New York
S. A. FRANCAISE BUSSAN, Paris
DEUTSCHE BUSSAN, A.G., Berlin
MITSUI BUSSAN KABUSHIKI KAISHA,
Tokio, Osaka, Nagoya and Shanghai

Toyoda Automatic Loom Works, Ltd.
KARIYA, near NAGOYA, JAPAN

An English trade advertisement for Toyoda's 'Magic Loom'
c.1929.

A WORKHOUSE CHRISTMAS - SOME THOUGHTS ON THE
USEFULNESS OF NEWSPAPERS AS HISTORICAL SOURCES

It is difficult on looking back at a period to understand how people of the time felt about their society. Sources which the historian is forced to use often miss this insight by being too remote from the subject or too partial and selective to shed light on it.

Contemporary newspapers can sometimes provide the illumination that these sources lack. This is not just because of their immediacy, but also can arise from their reporting of a range of opinions held by people of the time about particular happenings. This is especially revealing if these opinions vary greatly, allowing us to look at events from very different angles simultaneously.

The two extracts from the "Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter" of 27th December, 1890, that follow seem to give a good example of how useful in trying to grasp the feel of a period such a variety and clash of perspectives can be.

The first section is a straightforward account of the annual Christmas celebration arranged for the inmates of Saddleworth Workhouse by the authorities:

" Christmas Day at Saddleworth Workhouse was very pleasantly spent, and seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by the inmates. An excellent dinner of roast beef and plum pudding was served and heartily partaken of. A goodly number of Guardians were present.

The dining room and the schoolroom were artistically and profusely decorated with coloured pictures and evergreens, the work having been done with great care and earnest zeal by the inmates themselves.

After dinner a meeting was held over which (the Chairman) presided and said it was a pleasure to see such a cheerful and happy company.

There was no prearranged programme for the meeting, but there was no lack of volunteers for singing. Messrs. Wood and Whitehead of Delph, in accordance with their usual custom and kindness, were present with their violins and gave choice selections of music. The Christmas hymn was heartily sung, after which several of the men gave quaint songs which were loudly applauded.

The Chairman intimated that several in the room would like to give Mr. Moorhouse a hearty vote of thanks for the part he had taken in securing the inmates' new clothing. This was duly moved, seconded and supported by inmates. Mr. Moorhouse in reply said.... the board (of guardians) were desirous of making them all as comfortable as possible, and he felt sure that they in return would assist the board and the master in making the house and grounds what they ought to be (applause).

Several neat and sensible little speeches followed. The singing was further kept up and oranges were handed round at intervals. It was announced that a considerable number of presents had been sent during the week. These included articles of clothing, tea, fruit, toys, sweets, pictures, etc. The proceedings were kept up with great glee until nearly eleven o'clock."

Taken on its own, this account can easily convey the impression that the event was a joyous affair for all, with the inmates, in particular, having

a pleasant time, for which they were duly and humbly grateful to the organisers.

It is very difficult to decide whether the patronising and condescension that is evident in the above extract was actually felt by people of the time, in particular the inmates of the workhouse, or is merely something that the reader is imagining though judging the Saddleworth of 1890 by the standards of that of a century later.

The second item greatly assists in answering this. Printed in the same edition of the newspaper is a bitingly satirical piece that leaves the present day reader in no doubt that there was at least one contemporary who was not impressed by the wealthier Saddleworth citizens' feteing of the poor of the locality. The very fact that the piece was published in a newspaper that had to keep a careful eye on its circulation, suggests the view being forthrightly exposed was not a minority one:

" It is Christmas Day in the Workhouse
And the cold bare walls are bright
With garlands of green and holly
And the place is a pleasant sight
For with clean-washed hands and faces
In a long and hungry line,
The paupers sit at the tables
For this is how they dine.

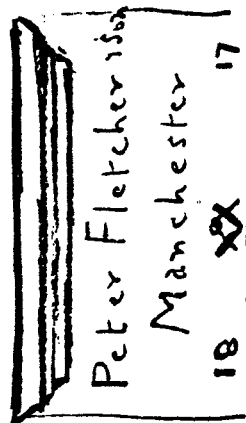
And the Guardians and their Ladies,
Although the wind is east,
Have come in their furs and wrappers
To watch their charges feast;
To smile and be condescending
Put pudding on pauper plates,
To be host at the workhouse banquet,
They've paid for with the rates."

Michael Fox.

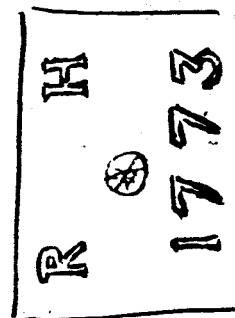
DATE STONES OF SADDLEWORTH AND DISTRICT

From the sketchbook of George Horsfall - Part 2.
(part 1. appeared in Vol. 20. No. 2.)

from Saddleworth Herdston



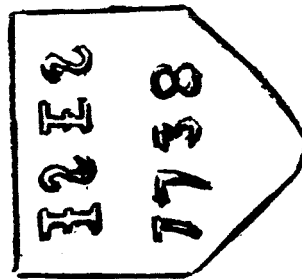
25. Herdslow



Hill End.
Herdston

28 Hill End

James & Elizabeth Stone?



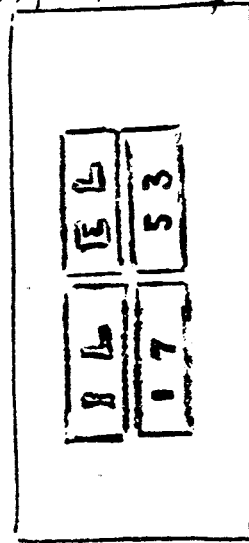
7 Herdston
camp

7 Herdston 1758

26. Herdslow

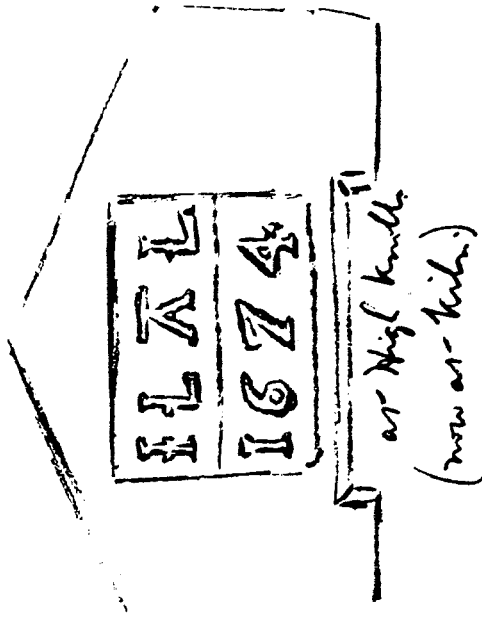
John & Elizabeth 1792

Chil Low House



Hill End
James & Elizabeth

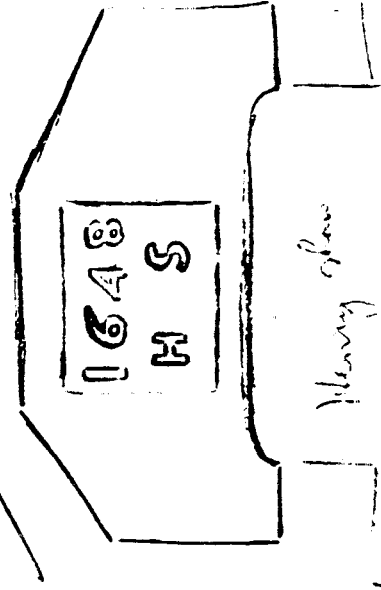
29. Hill Top



as High Knoll
(now as High.)

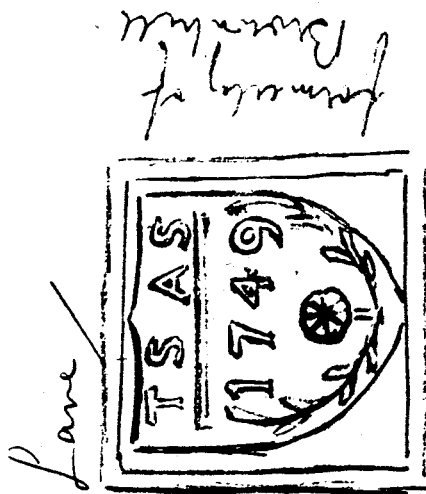
27. High Knolls

Lane



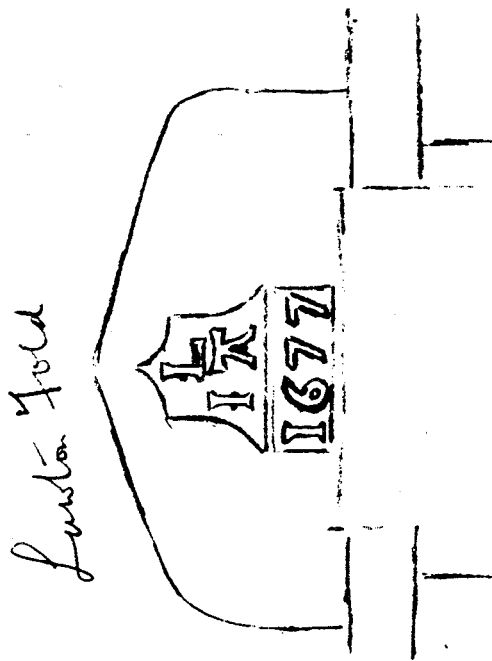
Henry Stone

30. Lane

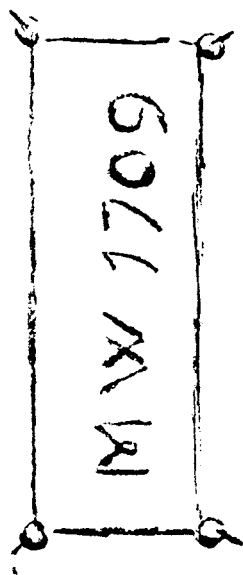


Thomas & Alice Shaw

31. Lane

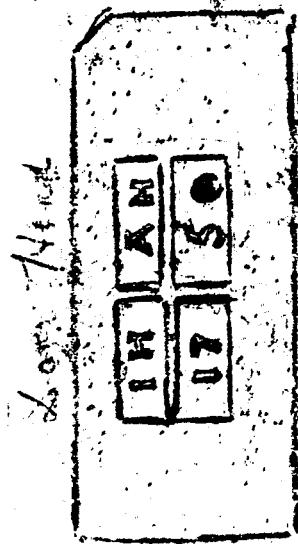


32. Lawton Fold



Mary Lane Lees

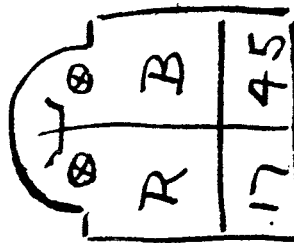
33. (Lees)



Lower Wade Hill

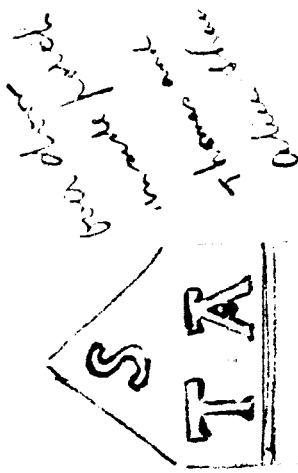
34. Lower Wadehill

Richard
Buckley



Lower Hill Plating

35. Loadhill Plating

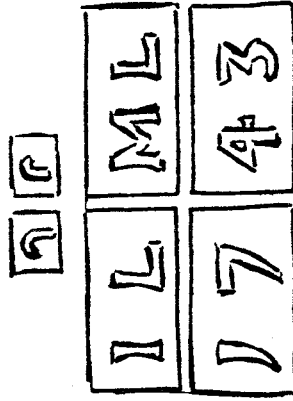


Lower Hill Farm

36. Lower Hill Farm

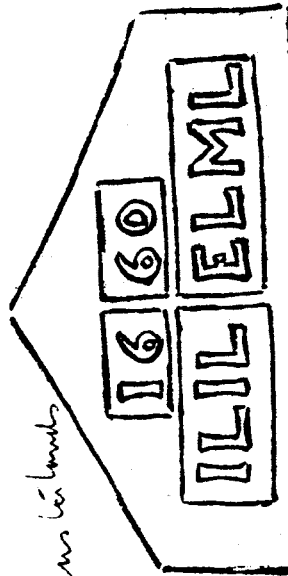
Stone on bar at Newhouses
inscribed IB 1763
now worn off

Packhorse



37. Newhouses

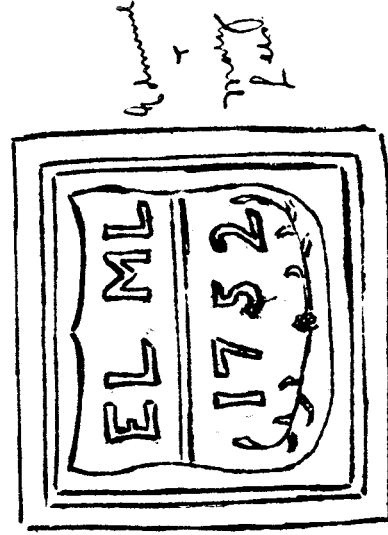
Slack Farm



Games Farm

40. Slack Farm, Austerlands

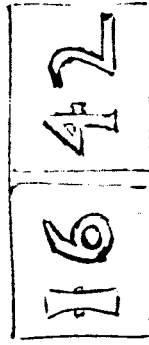
38. Packhorse



Austerlands

41. (Austerlands)

Packhorse

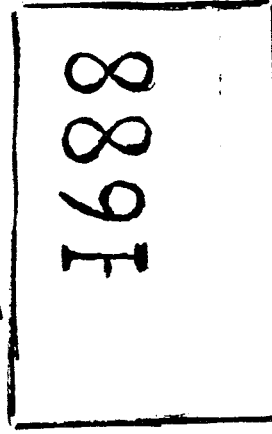


in barn end

39. Packhorse

Stone at farm gate (opposite mill)
has a wall at

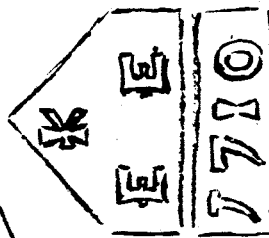
Inscribed



6 or 7 stone in barn at
Slack Farm (Austerlands)

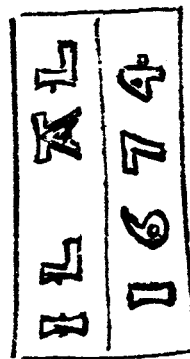
42. Slack Farm

Tunstead



Chas & Elizabeth Knight

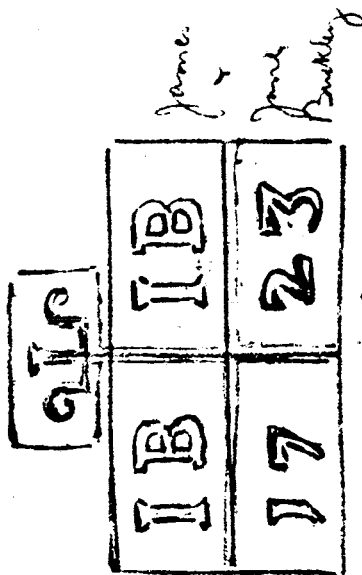
55. Tunstead



In garden would not
Joe Wharfs.

58.

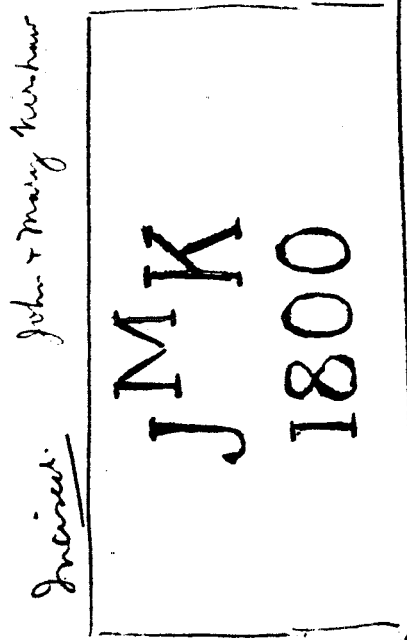
(Joe Wharfs)



James
&
Jane
Buckley

Wall Hill Barn

56. Wallhill

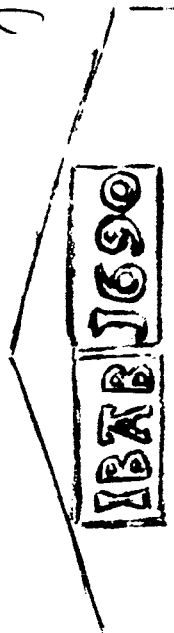


Inscribed: John & Mary Kershaw

Whitburn (over barn
door)

59. Whitebarn

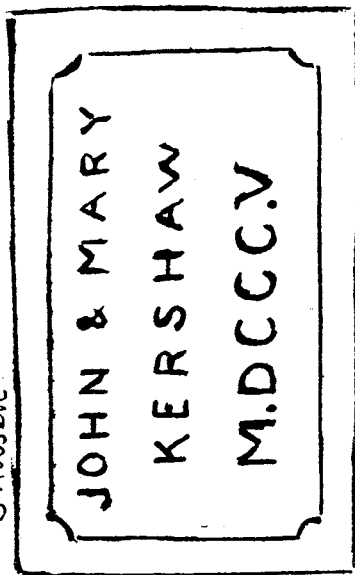
James & Alice
Buckley



Wall Hill Barn

57. Wallhill

Inscribed



Whitebarn (house end)

60. Whitebarn

ASHTON-under-LYNE, STALYBRIDGE AND DUKINFIELD (DISTRICT) WATERWORKS

This is the fourth article describing some of the works undertaken by the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks in the Greenfield and Chew Valleys. This article also includes other items of interest in the more recent past.

The previous articles have been:-

1. 'The Legislation and Works Prior to 1907'
Bulletin Vol. 19. No. 4.
2. 'The Commencement of Chew Reservoir and the Contractor's Tram-road'
Bulletin Vol. 20. No. 1.
3. 'Reservoir Construction 1907 - 1914'
Bulletin Vol. 20. No. 2.

I have enjoyed writing these articles for the Bulletin, including the selection and editing of information from the mass of notes, photocopies, photographs and plans which I have collected over the last six years. There is undoubtedly still much more to discover, and information relating to the most recent past needs detailed research. Two people kindly contacted me as a result of the earlier articles, one local and one from Middlesex, and I hope that there are other readers who have recollections or photographs, etc. that they are willing to share with me. It may result in another article for the Bulletin!

K.W.Lawton,
7 Woodhead Close,
Lees,
Oldham, OL4 3JS.
Tel: 061 624 0010.

THE 75 YEAR PERIOD 1914 - 1989

The previous articles have explained how Chew Reservoir was planned and built. This article describes what has happened since, including personnel, safety works at the reservoirs, buildings which no longer exist, and the construction of Dove Stone Reservoir.

The Reservoir Keepers and Chew House

The appointment of William Wright Robinson (W.W.R.) as the first Reservoir Keeper for Chew, and the construction of Chew House where he lived with his family have already been described. W.W.R. had moved from Ashton to Uppermill in 1908 and later to New Barn, and then to Dove Stone Wood Cottages at Greenfield. He moved to the top of Chew in 1914, when he was 37, his wife Annie was 34, and his two sons, Ernest and William, were 13 and 11. It is not clear what his wages were at that time, but on the 16th August, 1909, he was paid 25 shillings (£1.25) per week, and by the 10th August, 1916, this had been increased to 35 shillings (£1.75).

All the keys for the works were handed over to him on the 29th September, 1914, and thereafter it was his duty to generally maintain the works, read the

rain gauges, record the depth of water in the Reservoir, and open and close the valves at the requisite time. Tradesmen and other workers were sent up to Chew to carry out work as necessary. A telephone to the house was installed about 1938, and after that Annie used to 'phone the reservoir records to the Waterworks Office in Ashton, every Friday.

W.W.R. also spent some of his time carrying out repairs and drainage to the track up to Chew House, and there was obvious difficulty in transporting supplies up the hill. The first bridge across Chew Brook was erected in 1915, widened in 1938, and reconstructed to its present form in the 1960's. Coal was tipped at the Brook, groceries and meat were bought in Greenfield, milk was obtained from Greenfield Farm and post had to be collected from the Post Office in Greenfield. Later, a weekly delivery of mail was made to Chew House.

W.W.R. requested a donkey and panniers to get his supplies up the track, and this was approved on the 10th September, 1914. The donkey cost £7.6.0d. (£7.30). The coal was also carried up in a wheelbarrow, but from the 1940's coal and coke was delivered direct from the Ashton Depot to Chew House by lorry. The donkey was stabled in one of the outhouses behind Chew House, but otherwise was allowed to roam free and in March 1917 it was found dead at the bottom of the ravine alongside the track. It was replaced by a pony costing £26.15.0d. (£26.75) which was strong enough to pull a trap up to the top.

Chew Valley was very popular with walkers and picnickers and many people made their way up to Chew House where a cup of tea was always available. Official visits were made to the reservoir by the Joint Committee and Local Authorities, and Mrs. Robinson did the catering - in the dining room which was always kept immaculate for that purpose. In the appropriate season she catered for the grouse shooting parties. Climbers going to and from Laddow Rocks were allowed to leave their ropes to dry, slung under the roof between the house and outhouses.

The first car to the top of Chew was a small Rover in September, 1924. In it were Col. Broadbent and Mr. Lingard, both of whom had the shooting rights over the surrounding moors. The Robinsons never owned a car, but W.W.R. was able to drive and sometimes used the car which belonged to his younger son, William, to go down the track to the Brook to bring up supplies or relatives. William, known as Will by his family, was also employed by the Joint Committee, firstly in the Ashway Gap filter house, then on distribution mains and finally as Superintendent for Saddleworth.

For the first few years after the Robinsons moved up to Chew House the sons attended St. Mary's School in Greenfield, and they had to walk up and down the track every day. Their pals used to go up to Chew, usually on a Sunday, to play football! Ernest, the elder son went to work for the railways in Manchester, and lived with his grandmother in Ashton. Will continued to live at Chew, except that he lodged in Greenfield whilst 'on call' to deal with bursts, etc. Will met his future wife, Gladys, in Greenfield, and she spent many weekends and Bank Holidays at Chew helping to cater and brew tea for the hikers. Initially she walked up and down the track, but then Will bought a motorcycle, and later a car. The Joint Committee provided a box side-car for the motorcycle so that Will could use it for his work and also to take supplies up to Chew. It was eventually replaced with a van.

During bad winter weather, Chew House was isolated for several weeks and snow sometimes drifted right up to the bedroom windows. In the winter

of 1946/47 it was cut off for 8 weeks. However, in anticipation of these problems, extra provisions, including tinned food, tinned milk, sack of flour, sack of sugar, etc. were taken up at the end of October/beginning of November each year. At other times, Waterworks employees going to work at the reservoir would take up supplies. The Robinsons also kept a few hens.

There must have been many 'characters' amongst the hiking fraternity, but one in particular was a watch maker and jeweller from Oldham, named Leiboldt. He had long grey hair and a beard, he usually wore a Norfolk suit, and he wore sandals, but no socks. He would take his sandals off and walk barefoot up the track to Chew.

The Robinsons obviously adapted to, and enjoyed, their remote existence at Chew, and because nobody else was keen to take over as Reservoir Keeper, they stayed on into their 70's. By 1954, however, W.W.R. was 77 and wanted to retire so they bought a terraced cottage in Ashton. Sadly W.W.R. was never to live in it because he died at Chew House on the 5th May, 1954, after a short illness, and after exactly 40 years up there. Annie moved to the cottage in Ashton in July 1954, and she died on the 8th December, 1963. Both are buried in Saddleworth Cemetery; "to be near the moors which they loved so much."

Will continued to look after the reservoir, and had to drive up and down the track twice a day. The Joint Committee could still not find anybody to do the job permanently, and in order to reduce the number of visits to the reservoir, agreed to leave the valves open all day. In 1957, George Walton was appointed as the new keeper, and he apparently painted all the woodwork in the house blue. He stayed until about 1961/2. The next keeper was Joe Mumford, a keen hiker and master plumber, who fancied the remoteness of Chew. He had a Landrover to get up and down the track, but this was of no use when there was heavy snow. His mother-in-law went up for Christmas in 1962, it snowed heavily, and she could not get down again until the end of February!

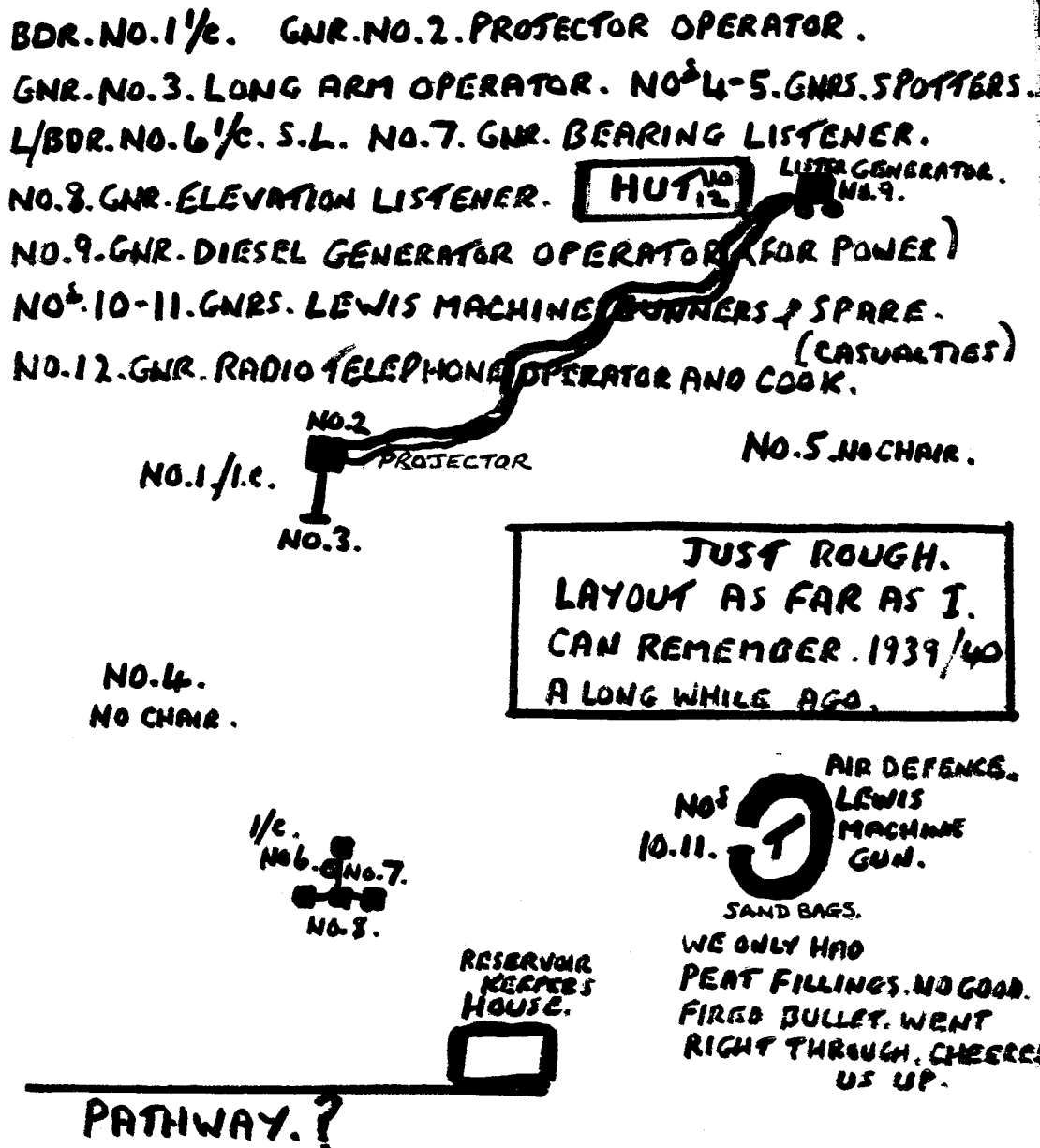
Chew House was modernised for Joe Mumford, with new bathroom and toilet, and the woodwork was restored to its original varnished condition. Unfortunately he did not stay long, and again, no replacement could be found. The construction of Dove Stone Reservoir at this time, however, meant that the regime for discharging water from Chew was to be changed, and it would then not be essential to have a keeper resident at the reservoir.

Water Authority staff now visit the reservoir in a Landrover, and in the 1970's the track was regraded with stone, and in 1982 it was partly surfaced.

The War Years

On the 4th August, 1914, War was declared in Europe and all paths near reservoirs were closed to the public and were guarded by the Police and Waterworks employees. This restriction was withdrawn in February, 1915.

The Joint Committee offered the use of Ashway Gap House as a Military Hospital, and although this offer was accepted in principle by the Ashton Red Cross Society, it had not been taken up by July, 1915. A formal request to use Ashway Gap as a hospital was, however, eventually made to the Joint Committee on the 18th November, 1915, by Mrs. Hyde of Wharmton Towers, on behalf of the Greenfield Red Cross Society, and this was approved.



CHEW MOUNT SEARCHLIGHT POSITION

(Sketch prepared by A.E. Harrison - February, 1989)

FIGURE 1

By December, 1915, the House was being prepared for 25 - 30 beds, and the Joint Committee agreed to contribute £150 to the cost of adaptations. It was officially opened as a hospital by Col. Coates on the 19th January, 1916, and by Christmas, 1916, there were 7 wards in use and 55 patients.

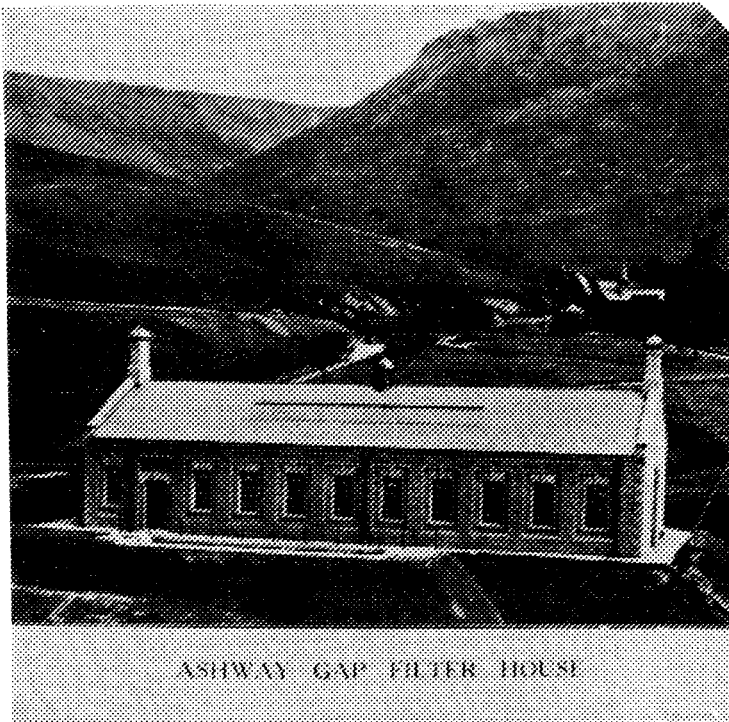
Eddie vividly remembers having to walk up and down the track every 3-4 days to pick up supplies, and has described to me all the operational procedures. (Author's note: There is a square concrete plinth several metres to the North of Chew House. Can any reader confirm whether this was also used for a searchlight?).

During the Second World War, a searchlight position was established near Chew House and this was claimed to be the highest in England. Other local sites were at Moorgate, Uppermill and Grasscroft. The searchlight detachment had a minimum of 10 men, and 12 when at full strength. Figure 1 is a sketch layout of the equipment, positions and personnel, as recollected by Eddie Harrison, who was in charge of the detachment in 1939/40. The hut which they used was obviously Nowell's Cabin.

W.W.R. and Will were members of the Waterworks Detachment Home Guard and W.W.R. used to walk over the moor to the Crowden ranges for rifle training. W.W.R. is shown in his uniform, at Chew, on photograph No. 1.

(Right) Photo No.1.

(Left) Photo No. 2.



Other Reservoir Works

On 18th May, 1908, the Joint Committee appointed Frederick J. Dixon, FGS, AMICE. as their first Engineer and Manager. His starting salary was £450 per annum and his initial task was to find an effective filtration and treatment system for the water, which he did. However, in July, 1909, he resigned because he said he could not work with a system whereby the Waterworks were managed by both the Joint Committee and District Sub-Committees. He had had disagreements with the Ashton Sub-Committee, but then regretted his hasty decision and requested that he be allowed to withdraw his resignation. His request was rejected, but he was eventually reappointed on the 23rd September, 1909. Whilst all this was going on, the experimental filtration plant at Ashway Gap was brought into use.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, STALYBRIDGE AND DUKINFIELD (DISTRICT)

WATERWORKS JOINT COMMITTEE

The first (1912), and the last (1967) Annual Reports of
the Water Engineer

Annual Report of 1912 by Fred J. Dixon, FGS, AMInstCE.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour in submitting my first Annual Report on your various works included in the undertaking for the supply of water to the following districts which comprise the limits of your area of supply:- Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, Dukinfield, Mossley, Hurst, Audenshaw, Saddleworth and Limehurst Districts.

.....

The suggestion of the preparation of an Annual Report was made at a Works Committee Meeting held at the latter part of the year 1911,

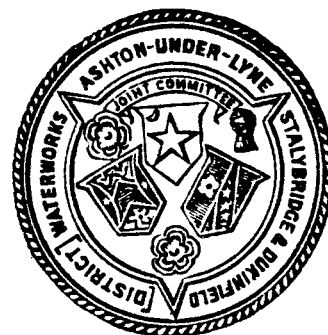
.....

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

FRED J. DIXON,

Engineer and Manager.



Annual Report of 1967 by M.T.B. Whitson, BSc, MICE.

Gentlemen,

At the time of writing this introduction to the Annual Report for the year 1967 I am six weeks advanced in my retirement.

The technical matters contained in the Report can only be of historic interest to you as members of a Committee which became part of the West Pennine Water Board on the 1st of April 1968 and to myself at the end of thirty nine years enjoyable association with that Committee.

.....

The West Pennine Water Board now has the responsibility for water supply in your areas and, although it has been formed reluctantly and in accordance with Government policy, it should be better equipped to meet the growing need for new water resources and to cope with modern advances in technology.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

M.T.B. Whitson

FIGURE 2

Fred Dixon took over the management of Chew Reservoir from the 12th June, 1916, the date when all the works had been proved satisfactory, and when all payments had been made to the contractor. He finally resigned on the 29th September, 1917, to become Engineer in Chief of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co., and was succeeded by G.H. Raddin (1917-1929) and M.T.B. Whitson (1930-1968).

The first full scale filter house at Ashway Gap was opened on the 19th September, 1912, and photograph No. 2. shows it with Ashway Gap House in the background.

The next major construction work was in the Greenfield Valley. New safety requirements for reservoirs were enacted in 1930, and adequate means for dealing with flood water had to be provided. Yeoman Hey Reservoir was found to be sub-standard, and a very severe storm on the 4th September, 1931, emphasised the urgency of carrying out additional works. A bye-wash channel was constructed between 1932 and 1935, and although aggregate was obtained from the nearby Yeoman Hey Quarry (Binn Green), the dressed stone was reused from the Pennington Mills in Mossley, which were being demolished. A light railway was again used to transport materials around the site, but the locomotives were two small petrol driven ones. The scheme cost £23,701 and was officially opened on the 9th May, 1935.

The project which followed next was the extension of the filter house. Rising consumption of water resulted in 10 new filters being added to the original 18, and these were brought into service in May 1950, at a cost of £25,000. It is recorded that the stone for a similar extension to the filter house at Brushes, completed 12 months later, came from damaged buildings in Portland Street, Manchester, - a product of the Manchester Blitz. It is possible that stone for Ashway Gap filter house also came from the same source.

In chronological order, the construction of Dove Stone Reservoir, between 1960 and 1966 was the next, the largest, and the last scheme to be undertaken by the Joint Committee. It is described in more detail later. In 1968, all the functions of the Joint Committee passed to the West Pennine Water Board and Mr. Whitson retired.

The End of an Era

1968 therefore brought to an end the joint arrangements to supply water, which had functioned well for 98 years. Annual reports were prepared by the Engineer and Manager from 1912 onwards, and abstracts from the introduction to the first and last, are reprinted in Figure 2. The Crest of the Joint Committee is also superimposed on Figure 2.

The West Pennine Water Board functioned until 1974, the local Manager being H. Elton, when the North West Water Authority was established. The Manager since then has been I. Watson, but privatisation of the Water Authorities in 1989 resulted in the water supply becoming the responsibility of North West Water Ltd. from the 1st April, 1990.

Further requirements for reservoir safety resulted in extensive works during 1980/2 at both Yeoman Hey and Greenfield Reservoirs to provide new emergency overflow channels. This work was designed by Binnie and Partners, and was constructed by George Dew & Co. of Oldham. It is, in fact, a connection with this contractor which explains the commemorative stone in the embankment wall of Yeoman Hey Reservoir which was laid by His Majesty the King of Tonga. George Dew had recently completed harbour works on the island of Tonga, and invited the King to lay this stone whilst he was in England for the Royal Wedding in July, 1981.

Flood improvement works were also carried out at Chew Reservoir during 1987/8. A roof was constructed over part of the spillway, most of the pipe work and valves were replaced, and the draw-off tower had a new bridge and roof installed. The original pyramidal roof had been replaced with a flat roof, and some of the windows of the tower had been filled in, probably about 20 years ago to reduce vandalism. The work carried out in 1987 was designed by Water Authority staff, and the contractor was Z. & W. Wade Ltd., of Whaley Bridge.

The most recent work to have taken place in the Valleys was the closure of the Ashway Gap filter house on the 17th May, 1989, and the diversion of the flow to the new water treatment plant at Buckton Castle, Mossley. This new treatment plant was partly operational in 1988, but was officially opened by Michael Howard, Q.C., M.P., Minister of State for Water and Planning, on the 15th June, 1989. The original filter house is to be demolished and the stone and slate to be reused for a new treatment plant at Padfield. Perhaps North West Water Ltd. will also preserve the plaque commemorating the opening in 1912. The name of Ald. Farr (Mossley) has obviously been 'altered' on this plaque. The explanation is that, as a member of the Joint Committee in 1912, his name was included, but then he insisted on it being removed, because a few years earlier, when he was not a member of the Committee, the Committee had opposed his suggestion that the water needed treatment to reduce plumbism and lead poisoning. A few years later, however, he agreed to his name being reinstated.

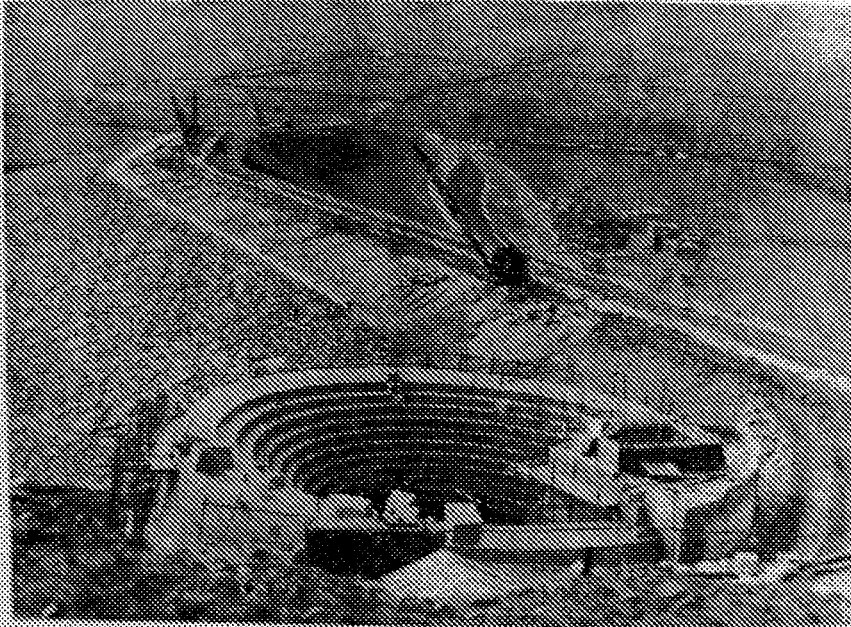
Construction of Dove Stone Reservoir 1960 - 1966

The continuing demand for water led the Joint Committee to look for additional supplies, and even as far back as 1937, the possibility of constructing a reservoir across the confluence of the Greenfield and Chew Brooks was considered. Boreholes were made about 1944, and former Waterworks employees recall the soil samples being stored in long wooden boxes at Ashway Gap House

In 1954 the Joint Committee decided to go ahead with the scheme and commissioned G.H.Hill and Sons to prepare designs. A Bill was presented to Parliament in the 1957/58 Session, and by then there was considerable local opposition, because of the loss of recreational amenity! I still have one of the original petition letters of 1957, which was addressed to the Councillors of Saddleworth U.D.C. Significant objections were also raised by Greenfield Paper Mill because of the loss of clean water supply, necessary to process the pulp.

Agreement was, however, eventually reached to provide alternative supplies to the Paper Mill, and the Joint Committee undertook to landscape the surrounds to the reservoir on completion. Approval to proceed was granted in 1958, and the first sod was ceremonially cut on the 1st September, 1960.

The construction details of the dam were similar to Chew in that it was an earth embankment with a puddle clay core. There was also a cut-off trench down below the dam, but it was entirely filled with concrete. I can well remember a summer vacation job which I had on the site in 1961, when the cut-off trench was under construction. Some labourers lived on the site in caravans, and often worked 11 hour shifts. The machinery and equipment was typical of its day and much more mobile than that available to contractors in the early 1900's. There were excavators, bulldozers, dump trucks, and mobile cranes. Photograph No. 3. was taken in May, 1965, and shows the overflow weir under construction, and mobile cranes placing the pitching. All the 'stones' are concrete blocks which were cast on the site.



PHOTOGRAPH NO. 3

The capacity of Dove Stone is 1,110 million gallons and this is twice the total capacity of the other three reservoirs. The embankment is 1,840 feet (561 m.) long, and has a height of 125 feet (38 m.). The water level is 710 feet (216.5 m.) AOD, and the total cost was £2.1 million.

The official inauguration took place on the 6th October, 1966, by the man who first thought of the idea, nursed it in its infancy and eventually brought it to fruition - the Authority's Engineer and Manager, Mr. M.T.B. Whitson. Mr. Whitson died a few years ago and a tablet was erected on the 15th May, 1987, and trees were planted as a memorial to him in what were the gardens of Ashway Gap House.

Buildings

Several buildings, in and around the Valleys, no longer exist. I do not know which was the first building in the area, but one reference describes the following: "Near Holme Clough is a crystal spring, close by which a Scotch hermit - said to be a refugee from the army of Bonnie Prince Charlie - used to live in a hut". The location of the hut is marked on the map of 1849/51 as 'Scots House' - see Plate IX on page 121 of 'Saddleworth Surveyed', but so also are other houses which had been built by that time. The ruins of a hut about 3 m. x 2.5 m. do still exist at the location on the map, and there is another a few hundred metres to the West, near Rimmon Pit Clough, and this has a stone fireplace. (This ruin is marked on current O.S. maps).

The original shooting lodge at Chew Mount was in a decrepit state when Chew Reservoir was built, and the site of it is now within the reservoir. When the water level is low there is very little evidence of the lodge. Photographs of Chew Mount are printed in 'Victorian Saddleworth' and 'Bygone Saddleworth', both by Michael and Peter Fox. A plan showing the location of Chew Mount in 1869 was included in S.H.S. Bulletin Vol. 19. No. 4, page 7. A plan of Chew Mount in 1906, and plans showing other buildings referred to later, are included in this article.

Ashway Gap House was the most recent to be demolished, but it was not the first house on that site. There was a house there in 1829, occupied by local road contractors. The later house was built about 1850 by John Platt, and was used as a hunting lodge. The house suffered from long periods of disuse, and in 1903 a fire damaged the bedrooms and roof. In 1905, the Joint Committee agreed to buy it, and took possession of it in 1907. In 1927 the stables were demolished and the stone was used to build two labourers'

cottages on the site. The house was used regularly by the Joint Committee for meetings, except during the First World War, when it was a hospital, and during the Second World War, when it was used to detain Italian prisoners of war.

By 1968 Ashway Gap House was falling into disrepair and in 1969 the West Pennine Water Board sought to demolish it. This decision then set in train 12 years of indecision. The house was considered as a children's centre, a Country Club and a Hostel; the costs of restoration went from £50,000 to £750,000; The ownership devolved to North West Water Authority; the various Local Authorities and the Peak Planning Board became involved; a 99 year Lease was granted to the Greater Manchester Youth Association in 1979, but after restoration started the dilapidation became more rapid; Saddleworth U.D.C. wanted the whole building restoring, but then changed to wanting a 'controlled ruin' with the tower retained. All this was, however, to no avail, the costs were too great, and in the interests of public safety, it was demolished in 1981.

The Moor Cock Inn (Bill's O' Jack's) is another famous building, because of the double murder on the 2nd April, 1832, to have disappeared (photograph in 'Bygone Saddleworth'). The Joint Committee decided in April 1936 that it had to be closed because of possible pollution into Yeoman Hey Reservoir, and it was demolished about 12 months later.

Chew House was also left empty from about 1964/5 and although Mr. Whitson tried to make it look occupied by hanging new curtains it was vandalised. It was no longer necessary to have a Reservoir Keeper resident at the reservoir, and in December, 1968, consideration was given to using the house as a children's adventure centre. Evidently this was not feasible and the house was demolished shortly afterwards. Nowell's Cabin had burnt down some years earlier.

Down at the bottom of Chew Valley was the Scout Camp where I spent many happy hours in my younger days. The site, extending over an area of 40 acres alongside Chew Brook, was first leased in November, 1942, but because of delays, due to the war, it was not made ready and officially opened until 20th March, 1948. An ex-Army wooden hut was put on the site first, and this was replaced with a stone building which was officially opened by the Deputy Chief Scout, Sir Bob Lockhart, on Sunday, 16th May, 1954. Unfortunately, the building was subjected to very severe vandalism, and during the construction of Dove Stone Reservoir the access road was churned up. The final straw was when the Water Board would not renew the lease in 1969, unless a sewer and a water main were laid all the way down the track to the Sailing Club. This was clearly not viable, and by then the building had been virtually demolished by vandals, and most of the stone had been stolen. The lease was therefore not renewed and the site was subsequently cleared of remaining debris by the Water Board.

Some buildings at New Barn, and cottages at Dove Stone Wood have also disappeared over the years. Jabez Bath, a popular spot for a dip in the Greenfield Brook in summer, and the nearby Gulliver Moor footpath, are now submerged at the bottom of Dove Stone Reservoir. Jabez Bath was actually at a weir across the Greenfield Brook and there was another weir further up stream and two weirs across the lower part of Chew Brook. These weirs were part of the water intake system to the Greenfield Mill, which processed wool in the mid 1800's, then gun-cotton, and from 1921, cigarette paper. Bank Lane originally crossed the brook at a ford, and then a footbridge, near Jabez Bath, but it was widened and diverted along the embankment as part of the reservoir works.

Artefacts

Although some things have gone for ever, other things remain, slowly rusting or wearing away. The upper part of Chew Valley holds many interesting objects in and amongst the rocks, or half buried in the ground. There are several well worn rollers and pieces of cable - discarded from the cable incline; small piles of ash and coal where the steam winch was; timber or rail spikes; pieces of chain; and pieces of broken cast iron pipes. All these are now over 75 years old.

Near the site of Chew House there are the remains of a rubbish tip and in the Brook are sections of the telegraph poles which once provided the vital link with civilisation.

Afforestation

The lower parts of the Greenfield and Chew Valleys originally had several plantations, as shown on the 1906 map included in this article, and Chew Piece Plantation is probably the only original one remaining. In 1912, there was an experimental afforestation scheme near Ashway Gap, and in 1914, further schemes were formulated to provide work for the unemployed.

Planting of trees around reservoirs was quite common, particularly pines which were quick growing. The advantages of such schemes were: to resist erosion of the soil, reduce evaporation from the soil, and to filter the rainwater. I am not certain when the present pine woods around Binn Green and the West side of Yeoman Hey were planted, but they do not exist on photographs in the mid 1930's and must have been planted later. The pine woods above Hey Top were possibly planted about 1950.

Incidents in the Valleys

Several fatal accidents have occurred in and around the reservoirs. On 27th August, 1857, James Platt, M.P. for Oldham, and younger brother of John Platt who built Ashway Gap, was accidentally shot on the moor. A cross on Ashway Rocks commemorates this accident.

In 1947 a fireman was killed in Chew Reservoir whilst refuelling pumps in the bed of the reservoir. The pumps were being used to get the last drops of water out during a very severe period of drought, but he slipped and spilt petrol on to himself which then ignited. (This was the first time Chew Reservoir was empty since it was built).

In July, 1949, a climber was killed at Dove Stone Rocks, and on the 19th August, 1949, a Douglas Dakota aircraft crashed into Indian's Head. 24 people were killed, but remarkably, 8 survived.

Some deaths have been suicides, and two climbers died in an avalanche. Even in 1989, at least three deaths were recorded. The attraction of the Valleys and Reservoirs will continue, and some of the pursuits will be more dangerous than others. Catering for the increasing numbers of visitors, and their cars, is a problem still to be solved, but improvements have taken place to the path around Dove Stone Reservoir (1987 & 1989) to make it more suitable for use by disabled people. Also in 1987, a small footbridge was provided across Chew Brook, near Charnel Clough, and this is now part of a longer footpath route, 'The Oldham Way' opened in April 1990.

The vast majority of people who visit the area do so to enjoy the scenery and fresh air, but others come, and have come in the past, to act maliciously.

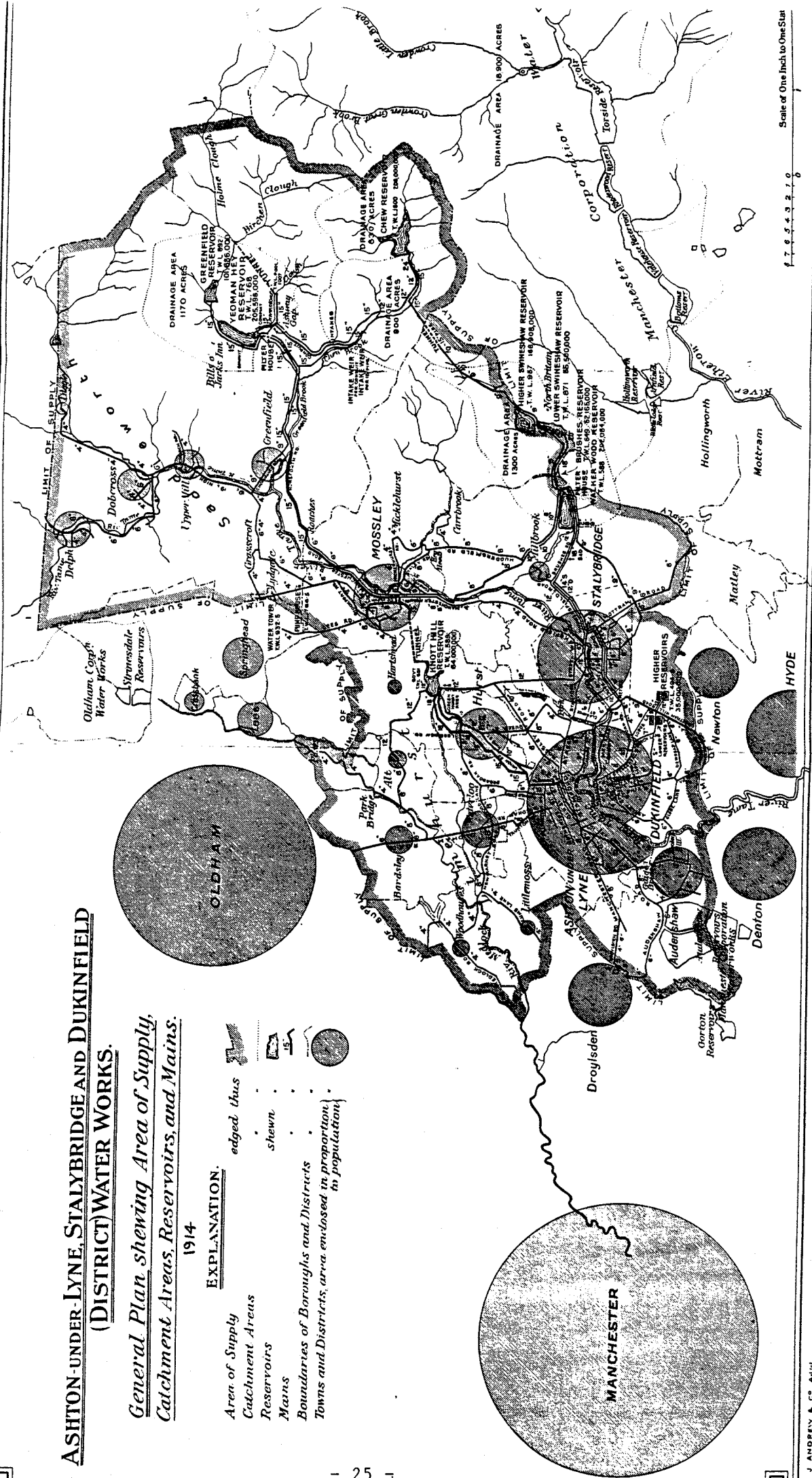
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, STALYBRIDGE AND DUKINFIELD (DISTRICT) WATER WORKS.

General Plan shewing Area of Supply, Catchment Areas, Reservoirs, and Mains.

1914

EXPLANATION.

- Area of Supply edged thus 
- Catchment Areas shown 
- Reservoirs 
- Mains 
- Boundaries of Boroughs and Districts 
- Towns and Districts, area enclosed in proportion to population 



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

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GRASSCROFT,
Oldham,
OL4 4EL.

The Editor of the Bulletin is:

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

(Saddleworth (0457) 870378)

Contributions

The "Bulletin" aims to reflect and encourage interest in all aspects of Saddleworth's history. As such it relies on a regular supply of material in the form of articles, letters and short reviews from members and others interested in the history of the area. Fresh material is constantly required and should be sent to the Editor, who is always pleased to discuss ideas for articles with anyone thinking of contributing. Articles need not be confined to subjects within Saddleworth's borders, but should have some connection with the district.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 1990

"We'll store the fleeting sunshine,
And when days are short and cold
We shall dance to gypsy music,
In a dream of autumn gold."

Margaret Greenhalgh.

The Society was very sorry to learn of the death of one of its most enthusiastic overseas members, Harold Chandler Wrigley, who died, aged 82, on the 12th October last, at his home in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Harold visited Saddleworth in 1982 to trace his ancestors who were Saddleworth people. It was his grandfather, Andrew Wrigley who emigrated to America and founded the Wrigley dynasty there and it was Anne Parry's "The Saddleworth America Connection", which brought him and his wife Elsa, to stay with the Parrys in Grasscroft.

Their outstanding impression of that visit, apart from the warmth of what proved to be a lasting and valued friendship, was of Harold's enthusiasm and dedication to the task of research and his boundless energy in rushing off to visit record offices, museums, libraries and his family's ancestral homes.

His researches resulted in a fascinating compilation, "The Genealogy of the Wrigley Family of Saddleworth, Yorkshire, England some of their Descendents who Emigrated to America", a copy of which now rests in the Society's archives as a memorial to the man and his outstanding efforts. Not content with research into his own line, he also delved into the history of his wife's German family background.

He worked up to the end. His son, Robert J. Wrigley, writes, "He was full of energy right up to the last day of his life. After a busy day, he took a nap before supper and never awakened from it."

Our condolences go out to his wife and family and we sincerely hope that they will continue their association with the Society.

Forthcoming Events.

Lecture Programme at the Museum. 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 6th December.

Away from it all - Mountain Walking in Britain and Europe. Bob Tait.

Wednesday 12th December.

Annual General Meeting.
To be followed by slides and refreshments.

Thursday 17th January. 91.

Knossos:: Myth and Legend.
Rev. Keith Harrison.

Wednesday 6th February, 91.

A Saddleworth Whitsuntide.
Michael Fox.

Tuesday 12th February, 91.

Local Authority Housing in
Saddleworth. Alan Petford.

Tuesday 5th March, 91.

John Wesley: The Man.
E.A. Rose.

Music at the Gallery. 8.30 p.m.

Saturday 15th December.

Brian Carrick's Heritage Hall
Stompers.

Other Events at the Museum.

From Saturday 17th November
until Sunday 6th January, 91.

National Trust Exhibition.
"Marsden Moor".

Christmas Eve.

Museum Open.

Christmas Day.

Museum Closed.

Boxing Day.

Museum Open - 12.00 - 4.00 p.m.
Seasonal refreshments.

A Winter Exhibition - "You and Your Museum" - will open on
Saturday 12th January, 1991 and run until Sunday 26th February, 1991

Graham Hitch is heading a Museum Committee which has commenced work on an Exhibition to be staged during the 1991 Saddleworth Arts Festival. The theme will be Saddleworth and the effect of its people on the environment through the ages. The Committee would very much appreciate any help in the research into this subject such as photographs, old prints, literature and personal experiences. Contact the Museum.

Friends of the Museum.

The Friends of Saddleworth Museum extend a cordial invitation to members of the Society to join them. Full details of membership will be sent on application to the Museum. (Sadd. 874093).

Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society.

Friday 14th December. 6.45 p.m. The origins of Lancashire. (Illus)
Portico Library, Mosley St. M/c. Dr. Denise Kenyon.

Monday 14th January, 6.45 p.m. The History of the Police in
Portico Library, Mosley St. M/c. Manchester. (Illus)
Duncan Brody.

Wednesday 20th February.
City Art Gallery, M/c.

A.G.M. followed by War Artists in
the North West.
Sandra Martin.

W.E.A.

Michael Fox starts a new course on the 7th January, 1991, at Saddleworth School entitled "Edwardian Saddleworth". It will run each Monday at 7.15 - 9.15 p.m., for ten weeks. Enrol at the first lecture.

The Bernard Barnes Essay Competition.

Once again a reminder regarding the above competition. The Society propose to award a prize of £50 for the best essay on any aspect of Saddleworth history submitted by a student who is receiving full-time education and who will be below 19 years of age on the 31st August, 1990. Entries are now being received by Mr. Neil Barrow, Carr Farm Cottage, Diggle. The closing date is the 31st December, 1990.

The Cherry Valley Chronicles.

The Society is to publish during May 1991 a book concerning Thomas and Martha Buckley who with their sons, Charles & Thomas leave their home in Dobcross to emigrate to America. Eventually they settle in Cherry Valley near Worcester, Massachusetts. The year is 1844 and for the next thirty years a correspondence ensues between Thomas and his son Ralph who remains at home. These letters were preserved and now in book form make up this personal historic and social document. The letters were most kindly provided by a lady from Marsden and Maurice Dennett, the Museum Archivist has edited them into a tale of life in New England during the period of the Civil War, whilst five young men of the family fight with the Northern Army and covers other national events.

This book 'The Cherry Valley Chronicles', is offered at a specially reduced rate for early subscribers. A list of subscribers names will be printed at the end of the book and a booking form is enclosed with this Bulletin.

The publication of this exciting story of an emigrant family from Saddleworth is to be the Historical Society's part of The Saddleworth Festival of the Arts, to be held during May 1991.

Social Event.

This year's Winter Blues Party to chase away the gloom of dark nights is to take the form of 'A Mad Hatter's Tea Party', and appropriately in the correct month of March on Friday the 8th, at the Museum, 7.30 p.m. The theme of this party will be 'hats' lots of them the madder the better and, of course, prizes will be awarded for the best female and male creation, so you see it's a kind of head case fancy dress ball, and should, we hope, form some amusement. The admission charge will be quite moderate and tickets will be available from Mrs. E. Broadbent, telephone to reserve on 0457 87 2870.

Membership Section.

Following our usual custom we would like to welcome the following new members to the Society: Mr. & Mrs. P. Calverley, Uppermill, Mr. & Mrs. J. Weber, Oldham, Mrs. M.P. Smith, Stalybridge, Mr. & Mrs. E.M. Sykes, Grasscroft, Mr. & Mrs. J.B. Brierley, Fenay Bridge, Huddersfield, Mrs. E. Booth, Dobcross, Mr. & Mrs. D.A. Taylor, Delph, Mr. & Mrs. F. Allsopp, Greenfield, Mr. I.G. Hearder, Carnforth & Mr. F.J. Tierney of Ingleton. Mr. William Norman Wrigley, Utah, U.S.A.
A grand total of seventeen new members.

Mr. Ian Hearder one of our new members whose Mother was a Buckley from Delph, has written regarding an item in the current Family Tree Magazine. A Mrs. Jane Hall, of Brambles, 4 Oldwick Meadows, Lavant, Nr. Chichester, W. Sussex. PO18 OBE, has a mourning ring inscribed John Broadbent, 31st December, 1821 and wonders if anyone will recognise it.

It is with regret we announce the death earlier this year of Mrs. Ouida Goss of Boarshurst, who will be remembered amongst other things, for her many duties as Curator at the Museum. Also, we report the death of Mrs. A. Partington, aged 93 years, at Offerton, an Aunt of Anne Parry, who used to live on Oldham Road, Grasscroft for many years.

The recent sudden death of Mr. Nelson Platt, M.B.E., on holiday in Conway was a great blow to the Museum and a sad loss to his friends in the Society. He was born in Roundthorn and for many years was the Water Engineer for Oldham. A keen member of the Delph Methodist Church, his great love was for vintage motor cycles and his association with the Bradbury motor cycle of Oldham will always be recalled. As Transport Officer to the Museum he will be hard to replace and will be long remembered for his contagious enthusiasm to achieve success with his Transport Days.

The final item of this newsletter concerns a new overseas member Mr. William N. Wrigley from Utah, U.S.A., who is a descendent of a Samuel Wrigley, born in Saddleworth about 1816. This will obviously be of interest to our Wrigley seekers in the Society and we look forward to some assistance from the membership in this new quest. Samuel Wrigley married 20 December, 1846 in Rochdale Parish, Agnes Banks, daughter of Henry Banks and Ellen Finch, his father, a butcher, was also named Samuel. Our new member's father Norman Wrigley emigrated to the U.S.A. with his parents in 1919 from Oldham.

All that remains now is to wish you and your families a Very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year of 1991.

J. Hindle.