

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin

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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Cover Illustration: Cover of the 1880 rule book of the Saddleworth Friendly Family Burial Society.

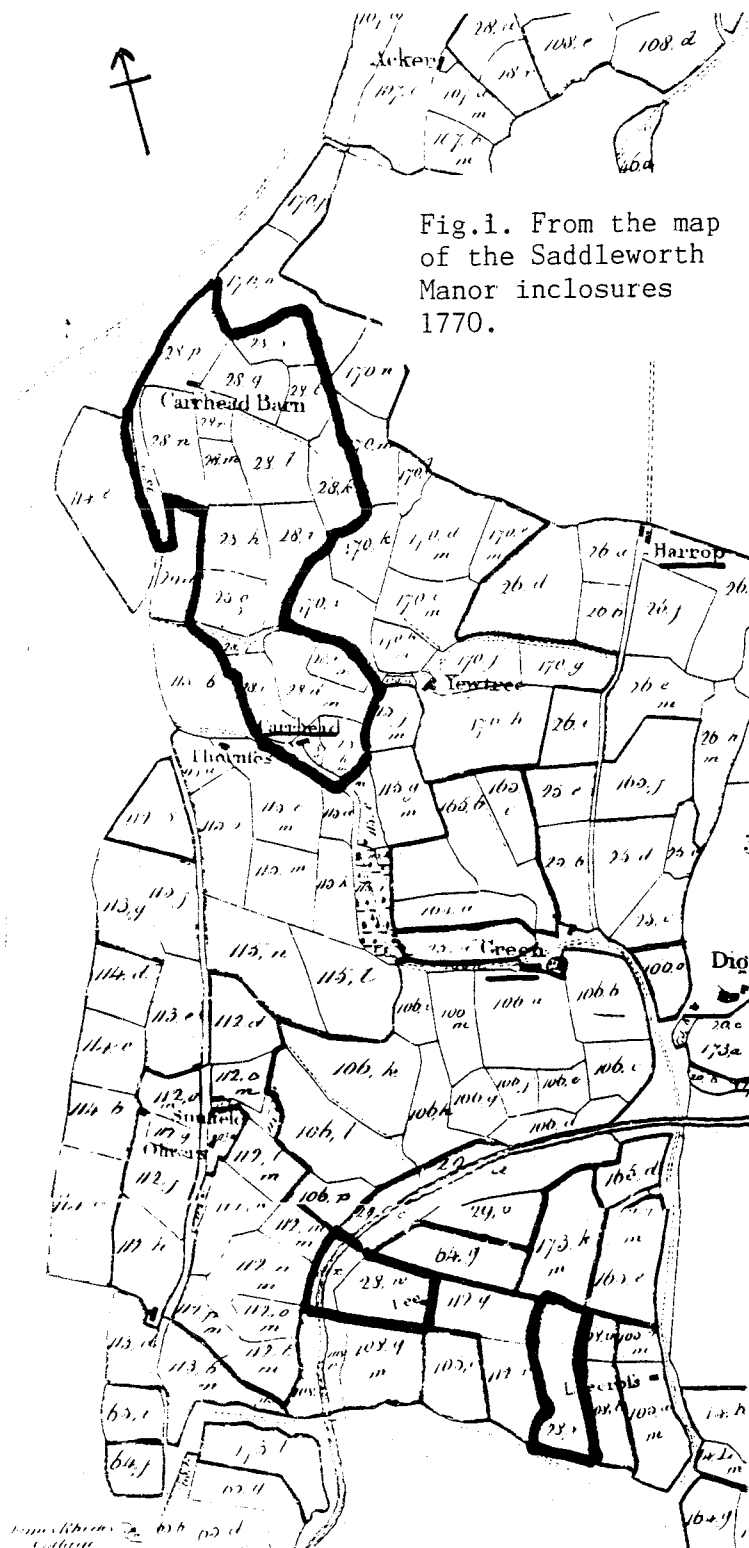


Fig.1. From the map of the Saddleworth Manor inclosures 1770.

CARRHEAD, CARR and LEE FARMS IN PRE-VICTORIAN TIMES

The first reference to Carrhead or Carr (OE for boggy ground or rock - both of which would be applicable here) farm on the western slopes of Harrop Dale, with a subsidiary farm on better land at Lee in the valley bottom by the Diggle Brook, is in the Will of James (2) Broadbent, husbandman, dated 1702; he died in 1711. He was probably the James who married Grace Marsland in May 1678, and at a later date Elizabeth, described as his 'now wife' when he made his Will. He may have been the builder of the original house, for the 1669 tithes list does not mention Carrhead or Carr; in these early days both were alternative names for the same holding. In his Will James divided Carrhead into two (it was a long lease tenancy from the Lord of Saddleworth Manor), half to go to his elder son James (3) and half to be shared by his younger son Elias (2) and daughter Sarah Wrigley, probably the eldest child, for she was already married with children. The numbers in parenthesis after the christian names are intended to help interpretation, because it was customary to name children after their parents, and it is easy to confuse generations. It is very probable that 'James sonne of Ellis Broadbent' baptised on 17.2.1633 and his father were the ancestors of the Carrhead Broadbents and so they have been designated Elias (1) and James (1). Neil Barrow (private communication) has suggested that the 1669 tithe list, being in locational sequence may indicate that the Carrhead holdings had formed part of an earlier larger farm, possibly including Yewtree and Thornes, but based at Harrop Green. There were James Broadbents at Green in 1590 and 1624, and another at Yewtree in 1612.

James (3) husbandman 'of Carre' died intestate in 1710, a year before his father, so an administratrix (his wife Martha nee Hurst) was appointed by the church, and an inventory of his goods and chattels was made by four neighbours. Household goods were valued at £8.14s.1d, cloth gear at 16s.9d, farming gear at £10.1s.8d, the remainder of his Manor tenancy at £17.0s.0d, making a total of £36.12s.6d, so he was primarily a farmer like his father but his successors became primarily clothiers. Elias (2) and his sister now inherited the whole farm. Elias was probably born about 1680 and in January 1703 married Mary Firth who had at least four children before she died in 1722). He was described as 'Clothier de Carrhead' in 1722 but when he died intestate two years later he was 'householder de Karr'; his goods and chattels were valued at £51.7s.4d, his most valuable property being his wool, cloth, yarn, horse, three cows, sheep and lambs. He seems to have been remembered several years after he died, for between 1750 and 1772 there were seven references in the parish registers to Ellis's instead of Carr or Carrhead, six by the Shaw family who probably inhabited the house that had been Elias's. These were James Shaw (1765) who fathered a child on Mary Whitehead, James & Sarah Shaw (1771), Jonathan & Mary Shaw (1771-72), George & Alice Shaw (1769-72. When James (4) Broadbent's first wife, Deborah, died in 1767, she was living at Elis's.

James (4) Broadbent administered the affairs of his father Elias (2) and still held the tenancy when the Manor survey was made in 1770 (see Saddleworth Surveyed, S.H.S. 1983). Carrhead was a large farm for the area, only nine of the 175 farms belonging to the Manor being as big or larger. The 1770 manor map (Fig.1.) and its key give Carrhead (No.28) leased to James (4) Broadbent, totalling 34.58 acres. Separate from the main holding were three fields by and near the Diggle Brook at Lee (OE for low-lying meadow), and a further 9.02 acres adjoining these, called Lee and Warth (No.29) tenanted by James and others, on which there was 'No housing a new mill' i.e. the first Warth Mill. The Manor rentals for the period 1728-44 survive (Brotherton Collection, University of Leeds library). During this period James had paid 6s.4d. per year for the farm and after 1737 6s. for a 'parcell of Comon'. From 1733 Abram Broadbent of Green paid 10s. rent for Lee and Warth, obviously better land in the valley than on the hill; this passed to James Broadbent

of Green when Abram died in 1737, and in 1739 the rent was increased to 12s. By 1743 it had been sub-let to James (4) of Carrhead, and in 1744 the rent was raised again to 15s. Obviously this was a period of inflation.

The 1770 map key states that at Carrhead there were '2 Dwelling Houses being 5 bays with 3 families therein a barn & shippen 2 bays' and also 'a barn adjoining his brother Elias (3) new built house, also 2 bays for a house & 2 bays for the outhousing'. This had been built c. 1759, a deed (BA 408 562 dated 8.6.1758 in the Registry of Deeds, Wakefield) recording an agreement between the Lord of the Manor James Farrer and James (4) Broadbent to transfer to James' younger brother Elias (3) of Harrop Green a piece of ground 18 yards square at the bottom of a close called Roughend, on which to build a house adjoining James' barn (see also No. 176 in the 1770 map key). This Elias (3) married first Sarah Bradbury of Fairbanks in 1741; she died in 1744 and he then married Anne Wrigley of Diggle in 1747, living initially in Diggle, then from 1749 to c. 1758 at Harrop Green, then at Intake for a year or so before occupying their new house at Carrhead Barn. His brother James (4) living in the old homestead, had married Deborah Shaw in February 1730 when he was 27 years old, but there is no record of any children, and none is mentioned in his 1788 Will. He had remarried after Deborah died and was survived by his wife Betty when he died in 1789.

After Elias (3) had settled at Carrhead Barn in 1759/60 this gradually became known as Carrhead (although it is three times referred to as Carr-barn between 1794 and 1797) and the old house occupied by James (4) and others as Carr. The Carr farmhouse probably has usually housed more than one family, and there were other cottages housing clothier families, (see James (4) Will) for the following, in addition to the Shaws mentioned earlier, are recorded in the parish registers before 1770 as being there: Richard & Mary Lawton (1729-33), Thomas & Mary Kenworthy (1733-35), James & Mary Scholefield (1740-49), Benjamin & Esther Lawton (1752-58) and Isaac & Anne Lees (1755-59). The three families living there in 1770 were almost certainly James (4) Broadbent, the main Manor tenant, James & Sarah Shaw, and William & Sarah Wrigley, while Elias (3) & Anne Broadbent occupied the house at Carrhead Barn. The 1841 Census recorded Broadbent, Shaw and Wrigley families still living at Carr and Carrhead.

Other Broadbents living at Carr after 1770 were James (8) & Betty (1776-78), James (7) & Ann (1782-32), Elias (4) & Mary (1782-44), William & Hannah (1788-1812) and James (9) & Alice (1792-95). Other families who resided there during this period were James & Martha Shaw (1771), James & Ann Bentley (1771-73), William & Sarah Shaw (1772-85) and Thomas & Sarah Shaw (1777); also members of the Braishaw, Chadick, Buckley, Haigh, Hellowell, Holden, McAuliffe, Scholefield, Turner, Wood and Wrigley families, some of whom were probably servants or clothier apprentices.

James (4) Broadbent died childless in 1789. In his Will of 1788, after making provision for his wife, he left the Carrhead Barn section of the tenancy to the occupier, his brother Elias (3), and the Carr section jointly to the sons of his younger brother John, i.e. James (8) of Warrockhill-brow and William Broadbent of Carr. Elias was to pay £6 annually into the estate, and James and William £14 to help to finance the many small legacies, amongst which was £15 to James (8) Broadbent of Standedge, who then moved to Carrhead; other sums went to his sister Mary's children (Malladue or Mallalue) and to his Shaw neighbours. James (8) and William continued to farm jointly, and in 1794 were two of the promoters of the Saddleworth Canal Bill.

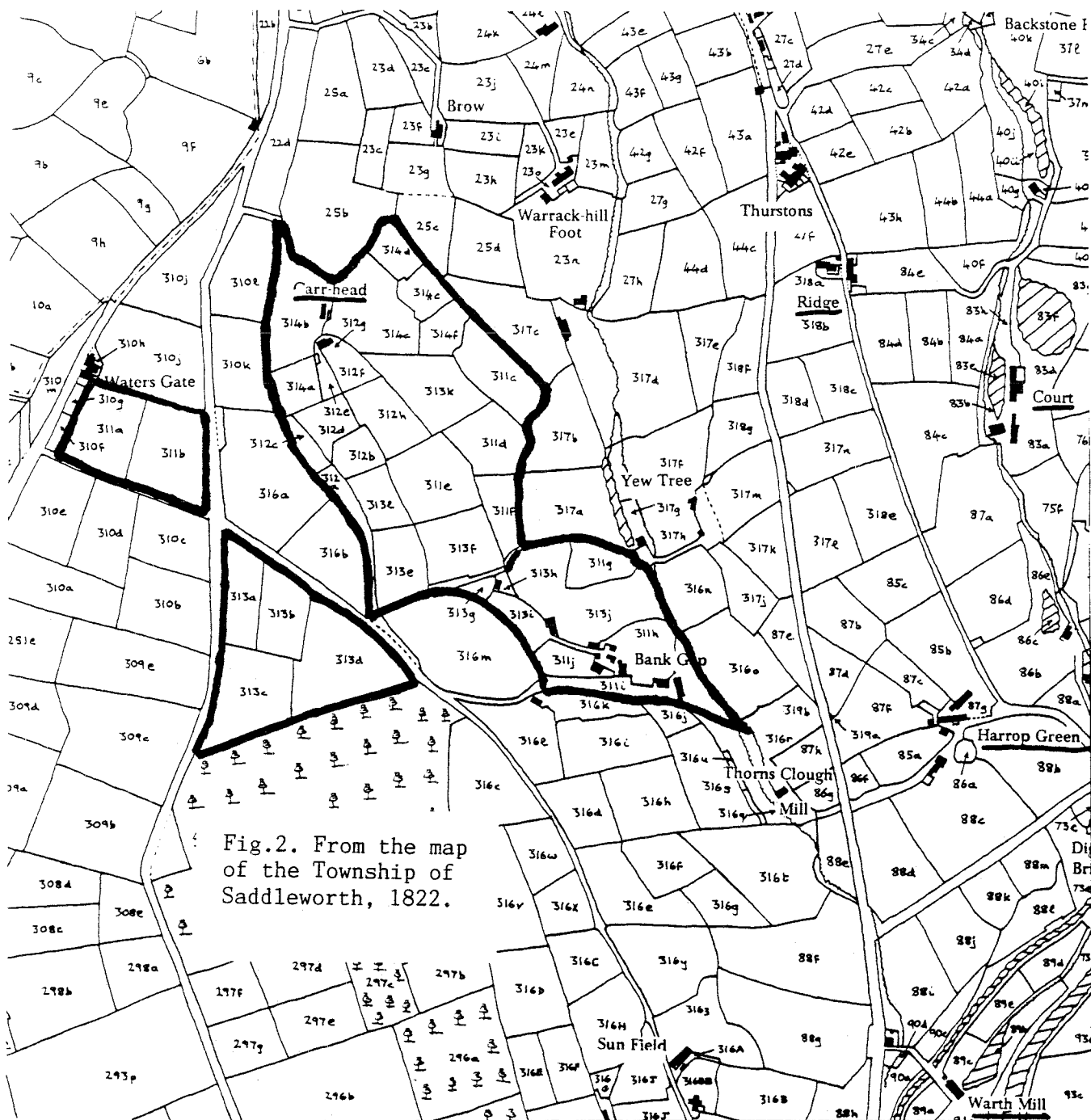
It is not clear from which branch of the Broadbent family James (9) descended: he was probably the son of James (5) of Standedge who died there in 1781, and who may have been the son of Jonah Broadbent de Thurstones who married Ann Wood in 1728. James (9) married in 1770 Alice Broadbent, possibly the daughter of Elias (3) born in 1748; they lived at Thurstones before moving to Standedge-foot sometime during 1778/9. Another problem is the ancestry of James (6) of Lee.

In his Will of 1790 Elias (3) stated: 'And Whereas some Years ago James Farrer of Barnborough Grange in the said County of York Esquire demised unto me a Plot or Parcel of Land where I now live upon which I have Built a Dwelling-house and my sone Elias (4) another'. The son, Elias (4) (1756-1844) built the second house at Carrhead Barn in 1784 when he married Mary Holden of Holden Smithy. A date-stone records this (1784 EMB) and a deed (CO 627 859 of 4.10.1784) recorded an agreement between father and son for an entry passage in the younger's building to allow 'liberty to let the ends of Pans and Principal Timbers of the sd Building which are fastened in the Gable End of the Dwelling-house of sd Elias Broadbent the elder to remain where they are placed and as any of them should happen to decay to put others instead of those which should be so decayed.'

After Elias (3) Broadbent and James Farrer died, deed DH 131 157 recorded indentures of lease and release dated November 1790 between the Farrer trustees and Elias (4) and James (7) Broadbent, showing that they then occupied the Barn cottages and the northern part of the original farm. A second deed of 25.11.1791 (DI 360) concerned the lease of the remainder of the farm: it was between the trustees, James (8) Broadbent of Carr, William Broadbent of Carr and Elias (5) Broadbent the elder of Lee (i.e. the sons of John) and concerned two messuages and a dye-house at Carr occupied by James and William and fields totalling 14.91 acres, viz. Meadow below House, Field above House, Brown Knowl, Lower Field Green, the Red Lane, the Milking Gap, the Limed Field, the Green Hill Meadow, the Rainy Clough, and the Newfield.

This larger part of the old Carrhead farm also still included Lee, defined as '2 closes nr Warth Mill called Harry Lee and Rough', measuring 4.08 acres and '1/3 share in fulling mill called Warth Mill in joint occupation of James and William Broadbent, William, John and Samuel Rhodes'. A deed of 30th July 1785 (CR 237 363) recorded the lease by James Farrer of 9.02 acres comprising pieces of land called the Warth, the Harry Lee, Bridge End and the Clough, tenanted by James (4) of Carrhead, John Smith of Dobcross, drysalter, and John Rhodes of Green, clothier.

Elias (3) in his Will of 1790, having left his house and land to Elias (4) on condition that his widow Ann could continue to occupy the parlour (she died in 1794), the residue of the estate went to his son James (7) and his daughters Mary, Alice and Ann. As mentioned earlier, land at Lee had been rented by Broadbents of Green in the early 1700s and by James (4) by 1743. William Broadbent de Lee married Sarah Lees in 1750 but the only other early references are to John Broadbent de Car who married Sarah Buckley of Saddleworth Fold in 1746 and settled at Lee where their nine children were born between 1747 and 1765. John may have been a son of Elias (2) and Mary (who died in 1722). Certainly he followed the family tradition by christening his sons James and Elias. The following Broadbents were recorded as living, breeding or dying at Lee during the 18th C.: James (6) & Ann (1740-45), John & Sarah (1747-67), William & Sarah (1750), Elias (5) & Sarah (1769-1775), James (8) & Betty (1780) and Henry & Alice (1791-1805) and others living there were Thomas Platt (1752), Betty Seville (1760), Mary Whitehead (1767), John & Abigail Bradbury (1776-77), Thomas & Alice Bradbury (1776-77), John & Mary Shaw (1782), John & Hannah Platt (1785-89) and Ben & Mary Lees (1788).



Elias (4) Broadbent took over the main Carr farm after his father Elias (3) and uncle James (4) died. Ann and Alice Broadbent of Carrhead, spinsters, daughters and administratrixes of the late deceased James (9) mortgaged 'Roughend now or late occupied by Elias and land 20 x 14 yd. to Robert Bowker (Deeds DU 66 77, DU 114 140 and DY 93 113 (1797)). The Carrhead (Barn) farm, mortgaged to Richard Lockwood of Normanton, continued in the 1790s to be occupied by Elias (4) and James (7) but by 1814 it was mortgaged to John Bowker and Ann Ormerod, widow of Henry of Rochdale, and leased by Elias (4) to Abraham and James Bottomley (Deeds DH 215 274, DH 678 867, GA 400 492 and GA 401 493).

The turn of the century was a time of prosperity for the hand weavers and farmers, when land was being enclosed and they were able to claim areas of common, or purchase the areas sold off by the Manor. They did not always get what they wanted, however. The Manor record of 5th May, 1798, states that: 'Resolved that Elias (4) Broadbent of Carrhead have each ye respective deposit money returned to them with Interest as ye respective Lots of Common or Waste Land purchased by them cannot now be Inclosed. James (7) Broadbent of Carrhead have each credit in the respective accounts for the amount of the Lots of Common or Waste Land respectively purchased by them as ye sd Lots cannot now be Inclosed.'

In 1810 many local people submitted claims to the Inclosure Commissioner for the estates they had bought when the Manor was sold to the several persons who thereafter comprised the Proprietors of the Manor, and also for allotments under the Inclosure Act of commons, moors and waste grounds. Elias (4) Broadbent claimed that he owned 11 acres at Carrhead, i.e. about one third of the land rented from the Manor in 1770, and 'Right of Common for Stone Turvery, Herbage for 50 sheep, 3 cows and 1 horse, etc. as enjoyed time immemorial.' This claim was challenged and not allowed. The allotment under the Saddleworth Enclosure Act (1834) included lot 20 (33.46 acres) near the Moss reservoir to James (8) and William Broadbent of Carr. The Manor records for 27.10.1810 (S.H.S. 'Bulletin' Vol. 9. No.1.) show that Elias of Carrhead claimed Manor shares, William Broadbent of Carr shares for Carr and Lee, and James for Carr. On 4.7.1811 Commissioner Ralph Fletcher transferred by deed poll to Elias (4) of Carr Head a parcel of Common or Waste Land on the SE side of Platt Hill or Harrop Edge, area 1r. 2lp. (i.e. 0.38 acre). In the sale of common land at Harrop Edge in November 1810, James (7) Broadbent paid £32 per acre for the area near Waters Gate (311 a. & b. on the 1822 map), and William Broadbent of Carr £22 for the area marked 313 a, b, c & d. This enables us to identify the fields being farmed by James (7) and William at Carrhead and Carr in 1822 (Fig.2.). The 1822 map, although the key is lost, identified the farms by numbers. It is obvious that the old Carrhead farm was by then divided into four holdings, Nos. 312 and 314 based on the Carrhead Barn area, and Nos. 311 and 313 on the original Carrhead, then being referred to as Carr.

In his Will dated 12.8.1828 Elias (4) stated that he held the freehold of Carr Head which was farmed by William and John Wrigley. He recovered from the sickness that led him to make the Will and lived until 1844, although his son Elias (6) had died in January 1828. At death Elias' (4) estate was valued at under £200.

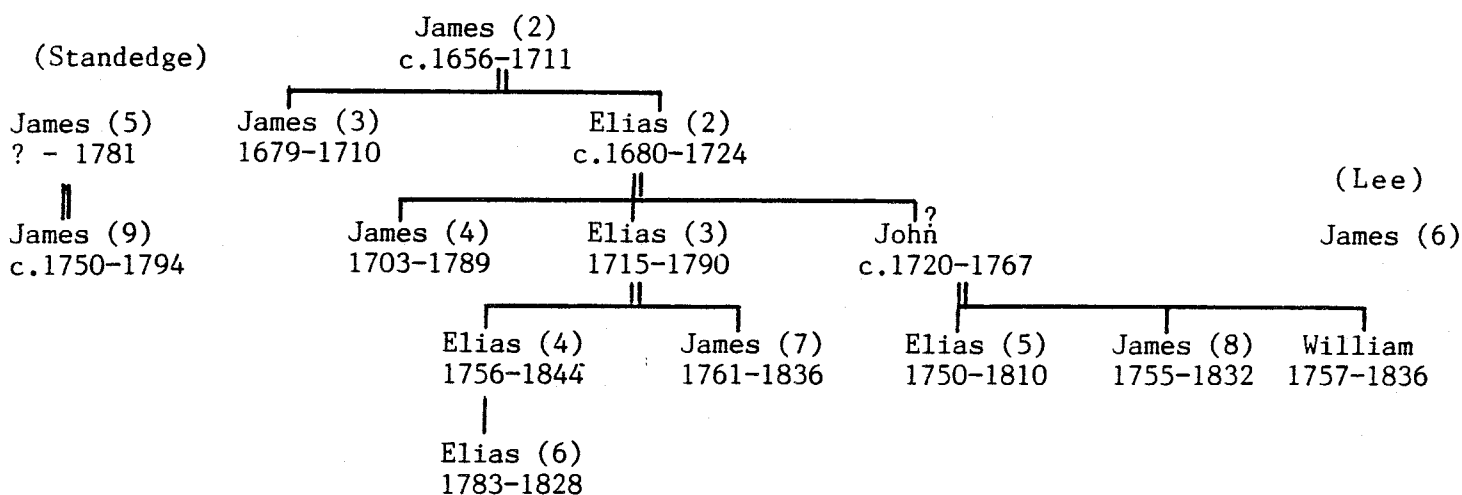
In the 1843 Lordsmere tithes list (based on acreage of oats) Thomas and William Broadbent occupied and owned 10.5 acres at Upper Back o'th Lee, and William Broadbent of Carr owned, but Johnathan Mallalieu farmed, 8.36 acres of Diggle Moss. Johnathan Broadbent of Carr owned and occupied a similar area of Diggle Moss, so the Carr farms had gradually expanded in area.

On the 1822 map Carrhead barn and house are called Carrhead, and a group of buildings near the 1770 Carrhead is called Bank Gap. There is no map mention of Carr until the 1850 O.S. map, when the name is applied twice to buildings a little distance apart, one obviously being the old Carrhead. Upper Carr (Carr House on the 1892 map) was built adjacent to the new road which was constructed soon after 1827, passing through the fields of the Carrhead farm, partly to provide work for the many unemployed. The present day Carr Farm is the old Carrhead; below it are Lower Carr and Bank Gap, and nearby Middle Carr Farm and Red Lane Farm, all shown but not named on the 1822 map, and apparently built after 1770.

The 1841 Census recorded 12 households at Carr and Carrhead, viz.: William Broadbent and family at Upper Carr; John Broadbent and family, John Broadbent and family, William Broadbent and family, Robert Shaw and family and John Winterbottom and family at Carr; James Reynolds and family, Jonathon Shaw and family, John Rhodes and family and Joseph Kenworthy and family at Lower Carr; Elias Broadbent living with William Broadbent and family, John Wrigley and wife and John Anderson and family at Carrhead.

Professor L. Broadbent, O.B.E.
26.7.91.

The Carrhead Broadbents (male)



NEW ACCESSIONS TO THE ARCHIVES - PART TWO *

RECORDS OF THE SADDLEWORTH FRIENDLY FAMILY BURIAL SOCIETY

(* Part one appeared in the Spring 1991 "Bulletin")

Ammon Wrigley tells us of the bill for an Austerlands funeral in 1859 -

"Pottatas 1 shilling, eges 6d. funeral cards 11s. 6d.
new suit 8s. 6d. liquor for women 1s. 3d. ale £1. 1s. 0d.
new coffin £1. 18s. 0d. grave and dues £1. 2s. 0d."

("Saddleworth Chronological Notes" p.59).

Although the total of £5. 3s. 9d. (£5. 19) may have been untypically large, it is clear that funerals then, as now, involved a lot of financial outlay. In Saddleworth during the last century working people earning as little as £1 each week (see Aspin, C. editor, "Manchester and the Textile Districts" Helmshore Local History Society, 1972, p.111) would have found even a significantly smaller bill very difficult to afford from their own meagre resources.

The only practical means at that period of meeting an expense that poverty, large families and relatively high death rates made far more common than in our own time, was adopting the self-help principle. Friendly Societies appear to have sprung up quickly in the district to answer this need. As early as 1821, for example, the teachers of the Delph Independent Sunday School had met and resolved unanimously -

"that an institution be immediately established for the purpose of securing interment to the Teachers and Scholars belonging to the school at the time of their decease."

In return for a mere penny each quarter, "the parents or friends of any member shall receive the sum of £2. 0. 0d. at the time of his or her decease, for the purpose of procuring ... a decent interment".

(Brierley, J. "Annals of Saddleworth" p.46. in unpublished MS, circa 1892, Hewkin Collection, Uppermill Library).

Other funeral societies of this type had appeared in Saddleworth by mid-century, some being very large. By the early 1850s, for example, the Delph Funeral Society had a membership of around 800, many of whom switched in 1858 to a soon-to-be-thriving offshoot, the Austerlands Good Intent Funeral Society, which boasted a membership of 1272 in 1867.

("Oldham Chronicle" 18th January, 1868).

The most substantial of all these organisations seems to have been that formed in Uppermill in the 1830s, and entitled the Saddleworth Friendly Family Burial Society (SFFBS). Some records of this long-defunct body have come to light recently and are in process of being lodged in the Historical Society archives at Saddleworth Museum. This article is a brief analysis of the information they contain, which despite its superficially formal and statistical nature and its macabre subject matter provides an insight into many aspects of Saddleworth life (and death) between the 1850s and the First World War.

A list of the items in the collection appears at the end of the article, but in brief summary they consist largely of details of how the SFFBS was organised, and conducted its grim but necessary business. Of especial interest is a booklet setting out the rules of the Society as they stood

in 1880 (the frontispiece of this is reproduced on the cover of this "Bulletin"). From it can be gleaned the preoccupations of the organisation and something of the philosophy that guided it.

Rule 1, for example, states that the Society "shall consist of an unlimited number of members, male and female." This was to be no elitist or sectional body, catering for a favoured minority, but was designed to meet the need of as many people in the district as possible. The Victorian ideal of "self help" rested on this foundation, for the simple, practical reason that the greater the number of members the more secure and successful such an organisation could be.

Rule 2, "Objects of the Society" is a classic statement of the self-help principle, highlighting how effective, yet how simple it could be:

"The objects of the Society shall be to raise a fund, by entrance fees, subscriptions of the members, fines, donations, and by interest on capital, for insuring a sum of money to be paid on the death of a member, or for the burial expenses of a member's children."

There was no reliance on outside funds, all the necessary money being derived from the members and husbanded carefully on their behalf. The SFFBS was, in effect, run as a business with no guarantee of rescue should falling income, rising expenditure or unwise investment provoke a collapse.

Because of this overriding need for prudence, the eligibility of those applying to become members had to be strictly defined:

"Any person of sound health, over sixteen and under thirty-five years of age may be admitted a member of this Society. Any member may insure his or her child in this Society, but no child shall be insured under the age of three months." (Rule 21).

This is a comment on the high death rates in Saddleworth, relative to the late twentieth century, particularly amongst very young children. The actuarial risks of insuring such individuals were evidently deemed to be great.

Those meeting the criteria stood to benefit substantially, however. After payment of an "initiation fee" calculated by a sliding scale which progressed erratically from 1s. 0d. (5 pence) for a sixteen year old to 28s. 0d. (£1.40) for a new member of 35, a contribution of one penny (0.4 of a new penny) each month would ensure receipt of £4 from the Society on the death of the subscriber or his or her child. Although the contribution was to be doubled in 1892, the benefit was then increased to £6 ("Oldham Chronicle" 9th July, 1892), still an adequate sum.

The putting into practice of these rules required a quite complex system of administration. Officials appointed by annual election comprised a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and a number of collectors. In addition, a body of trustees was necessary, these being drawn from the professional as well as working classes. In 1873, for example, the trustees were James Bradbury, a book-keeper living at Weakey, Diggle, Ammon Schofield,

a spinner of Uppermill, and Nathaniel Booth, who was a weaver and lived at Oak View in Greenfield. The officials were paid for their duties, but few can have become rich from the small sums involved. Details of their remuneration are sketchy, but in 1878 the president was in receipt of £2 per annum, whilst in 1873 the collectors' rate of pay had been increased from 2/6d. (12.5 pence) to 3/6d. (17.5 pence) per month.

The role of the collectors was central to the Society and provides a convenient illustration of how the organisation as a whole worked. The 1880 rulebook sets out their role in great detail:

"It shall be the duty of Collectors to call upon all members of the Society residing within their division once every four weeks to receive their contributions and enter them in a book kept for that purpose"

The "divisions" referred to were the designated collecting districts. These were numerous - in 1868, for example, they comprised the following: Uppermill numbers 1 and 2, Dobcross, Greenfield numbers 1 and 2, Runninghill numbers 1 and 2, Harrop Dale numbers 1 and 2, Royal George numbers 1 and 2, Rough Town (sic) numbers 1 and 2, Delph and Marsden. (The last-mentioned, despite its name, seems to have been confined to Standedge and parts of Diggle as described below). (Source: 1869-1882 Contribution Book for Marsden District).

The collected monies had to be brought once each month to the SFFBS's registered office, the "Hare and Hounds" public house on High Street in Uppermill. The President and Secretary would be in residence to receive the cash on the collecting day.

The position of the collector who neglected to appear at this time, or who abused the financial trust placed in him in any way, was perilous. An elaborate system of Draconian fines was instituted to encourage the punctiliousness and honesty of the collectors. This was obviously necessary as the policing of their activities was impracticable in any other way, whilst their opportunities for fraud were rife. A fine of 1 shilling (5 pence) would be imposed if the month's subscriptions were not lodged with the waiting officials in the "Hare and Hounds" by 7 p.m. In addition -

"(the collector) shall be answerable for all errors appearing on the contribution book, and if any deficiency appear he shall pay the same within one month or be fined a sum not exceeding sixpence". (1880 rule book).

The collectors were also expected to check carefully the eligibility for membership of each applicant, paying particular attention to that person's state of health at the time. Should an unsuitable person be accepted by him, a fine of 2/6d. (12.5 pence) would be levied, with a maximum penalty of 5/0d. (25 pence), or even suspension from his post, for a second infringement. (1880 rule book).

Collectors were also required to behave themselves:

"If any Collector be disorderly whilst on duty he shall be fined one shilling."

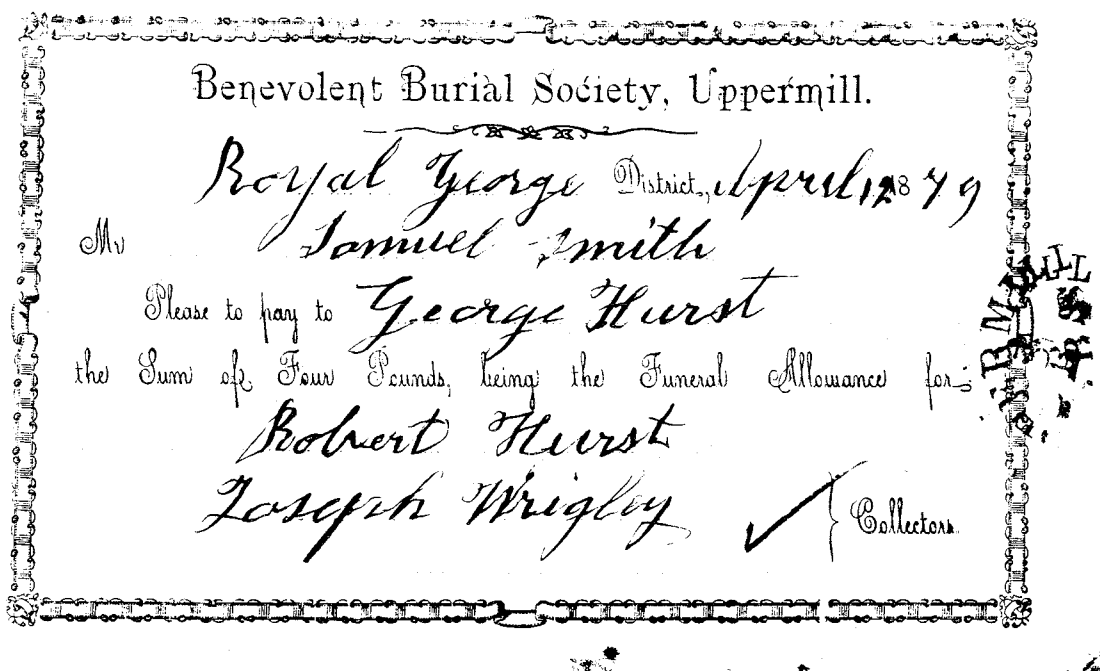
Trying to maintain order and decorum was a constant preoccupation of the Society, especially in its early days. Alcohol was the most regular source of mayhem; in 1852 the drinking of alcohol was outlawed at Society meetings, with the exception of general gatherings or committee sessions. It is

an interesting reflection of the general trend in Victorian society towards greater sobriety in public affairs that until the 1870s the SFFBS's cash books contain regular entries for "half year's ale.", whereas from the 1880s these are absent.

Perhaps the most important administrative task of the Society was the efficient disbursement of funeral money on the death of a subscriber. Rule 14 of 1880 describes what was involved:

"On the death of any member or any child of a member, due notice shall be given to the Steward (i.e. collector) of the District to which such member belongs, who shall write out an order on the Treasurer for £4 and deliver it, on application, to the person entitled to receive the same."

The certificate of authorisation, dated 12th April, 1879, and reproduced here, is a memento of this process.



The SFFBS records contain a large amount of statistical information, this giving a detailed insight into how the Society operated and who benefited. Especially illuminating is the Marsden District Contribution Book, mentioned above, and kept in 1881 by Charles Wright Bradbury of Littlemoor in Diggle. His area extended from Weakey up Harropdale to Yew Tree, and on to the hamlets on the flanks of Standedge, around Dean Head and Bleakhey Nook. In total, in 1881, he was collecting regularly from fourteen hamlets and 110 heads of households, the number of individual members on his register being 451. By the end of the year he had taken a total of £20.13.7d. (£20.68) to his masters at the "Hare and Hounds".

It is remarkable when his carefully recorded figures are compared with the Census returns of the same year, how high a proportion of the population

of each settlement were members of the SFFBS. Clearly, making provision for a 'decent' burial was very widely regarded as an essential part of a household's budget.

What types of household were taking advantage of the benefits the Society had to offer? Picking at random one of the hamlets in Mr. Bradbury's collecting area gives some insight into this (although, of course, searching for the "typical" in statistics is often a fruitless activity). In the small settlement of Weakey there were twenty-one households registered, ranging in size from three with one Society member each to one with ten members, the average being just over four.

The 1881 Census reveals that the occupations of the members of these families varied greatly, suggesting that the Society's aim of consisting of "an unlimited number of members" was being fulfilled, regardless of any except the most wide distinction of income and social status. The occupations of householders on the register include waggoner (carrier?), woollen shawl twister, woollen fuller, carpenter, blacksmith and iron moulder, the latter presumably at the nearby ironworks of Hutchinson and Hollingworth, established in 1860.

An example of the smaller household at Weakey having membership of the Society is provided by the Dickson family (spelt "Dixson" in the Contribution Book). The household head was James, who was aged 47, and worked as a blacksmith. His wife, Elizabeth, was 41 and a housewife, whilst their offspring comprised Sandiford (17), a woollen weaver, Janet (15), employed similarly, and Herbert, aged 4 years, and described as a scholar in the Census returns. The Society Contribution Book lists four members in this household, implying that either James or Elizabeth had been too old to join, and their total contribution for 1881 was 4s.4d. (22 p.).

The larger household is exemplified by the Longley family. Laban, the head, was a 54 year old woollen "willyer", his wife, Hannah (50) having no paid occupation. Their children comprised Laban (24), who was a blacksmith, Amanda (19), a woollen feeder, John (17), an iron tester, Emma and Louisa, aged respectively 14 and 11 years and employed as woollen pickers, and finally Elliott, aged one month and described in the Census returns as a grandson. Elliott was ineligible because of his age, but the other seven family members were subscribers to the Society, necessitating an outlay of 6/5d. (32p) over the year.

A chilling feature of the SFFBS records is their matter-of-fact detailing of the dates and causes of death of such individuals. Only a small number of deaths, in the years 1879 and 1880, are listed in this particular batch of records, but they provide a snapshot of aspects of the health of Saddleworth people at this time, and give evidence of a relatively high incidence of infant mortality in the district. For purposes of illustration, listed below are deaths that took place during a period of just under four weeks in early 1879.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Place of residence</u>	<u>Funeral payment</u>
17/3/1879	Esther Broadbent	70	wife of Sam. Broadbent, farmer.	Paralysis	Diggle Edge.	£4
22/3/1879	Eliza Radcliffe	18 months	daughter of Sam. Radcliffe, thread polisher.	Diphtheria	Boarshurst	£4
23/3/1879	Sarah Gartside	20 months	daughter of Alf. Gartside, cotton carder.	Meningitis	Shaw Hall Bank.	£4
31/3/79	Fred Holden	7 months	son of James Bradbury Holden, flannel finisher.	Whooping Cough	Andrew Mill.	£3.1.0d.* (£3.05)
3/4/1879	Arthur Andrew	22	cotton piecer.	Phthisis	Carr Hill.	(unrecorded)
8/4/1879	James Wood	60	woollen slubber.	Phthisis	Dobcross	£4
9/4/1879	John Wm. Farrand	12 months	son of William Farrand, woollen dyer.	Bronchitis	Bentfield.	£4
11/4/1879	Robert Hirst	3	son of George Hirst, self-actor minder.	Bronchitis	Shaw Hall Bank.	£4

(* No explanation is given for this non-standard payment. Was it pro-rata?).

Five deaths of children under five years out of a total mortality of eight (62½ per cent) may have been unremarkable for the period. In 1887, for example, the Medical Officer of Health for the Uppermill Local Board reported that 58.64 per cent of deaths in Uppermill during the previous year had been of children under five years of age. ("Bulletin", Vol.20. No.4. p.19). However, the same source itemises an infant mortality rate in the village that varied wildly from 1.4 per thousand head of population to 6.6 per thousand over the brief period 1878 to 1882, so hasty conclusions about the short life expectancy of young children at this time must not be drawn.

(Uppermill Local Board Minute Book entry for 7th March, 1883, Oldham Local Studies Library, reference UDU 1/1).

One reason why the SFFBS compiled such figures was that it had a duty to submit annual returns of its financial affairs and changes in its membership to the Registrar of Friendly Societies. The returns from 1907 to 1913 inclusive survive and give an accurate idea of the scale of the Society's activities. On the 31st of December, 1907, for example, total membership stood at 7,948. Assuming that the vast majority of these individuals lived

in Saddleworth (the location of the collecting districts, listed earlier, being the chief evidence for this) then approximately two fifths of its population of about 20,000 at this time were members. If this figure and the assumptions on which it is based are accurate, then the true importance of this organisation in the district is apparent. Nor is this figure for 1907 an aberration, as other information suggests that the Society had had a similar relative standing in the previous century. In 1867, for example, the membership was 7,000, or approximately 37 per cent of the population total at that period of about 19,000.

The 1907 returns record that 97 members had died during the year (the corresponding figure in 1867 had been 90 according to the SFFBS Cash Book of that year). Of this total, eight were children under five years (i.e. 8 per cent). The corresponding figure in 1911 was seven (6 per cent) out of a total mortality of 120. Either the figures given above for deaths of children under five in the 1870s and 1880s were unrepresentative or there had been a big improvement in this aspect of Saddleworth's health.

These returns are also of interest in the picture they give of aspects of the social structure of the district. Notable, for example, is the almost exactly equal balance between male and female proportions of the membership. Turning to 1907 again, on the last day of the year the 7,948 members comprised 3,970 males against 3,978 females. This balance echoes the Census returns (see, for example, "Bulletin" Vol.18. No.3. p.16 for the balance between the sexes in Uppermill in 1841 and 1881).

And finally, the annual returns itemise the Society's financial affairs in laborious detail.

Rather than attempt to analyse this data, a precis of the income and expenditure account for 1907 is given below. The amount of money and transactions handled is indicative of what was tantamount to a substantial business, whilst the need for the elaborate system of penalties to deter fraud, mentioned earlier, is evident.

	<u>Income</u>				<u>Expenditure</u>		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Contributions	770.	18.	7	Death Benefits:			
				86 members and children			
Interest on				of members above 10			
investment of				years of age .	622.	0.	0.
benefit funds	230.	18.	7				
				8 children under			
Returned				5 years of age	30.	0.	0.
income tax	23.	14.	2				
				3 children between			
				5 and 10 years of age	18.	0.	0.
TOTAL INCOME	1025.	11.	4	TOTAL BENEFIT EXPENDITURE	670.	0.	0.
AMOUNT OF BENEFIT				AMOUNT OF BENEFIT			
FUNDS 31/12/1906.	6630.	17.	10	FUNDS 31/12/1907	6986.	9.	2.
TOTAL 31/12/1907	7656.	9.	2.	TOTAL 31/12/1907	7656.	9.	2.

The burial, or funeral, society was a major institution in Saddleworth social and economic life from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth century. Hopefully this article has demonstrated something of this, and whetted individuals' appetites to explore such records as those of the Saddleworth Friendly Family Burial Society in that most unjustly underutilised of places, the archives room of the Saddleworth Museum.

MICHAEL FOX.

APPENDIX

LIST OF SADDLEWORTH FRIENDLY FAMILY BURIAL SOCIETY RECORDS

- * Day Book, 1882 - 1917
- * Cash Books, 1856 - 1872
1882 - 1895
- * Contribution Books 1854 - 1868
1869 - 1882
1896 - 1901
- * Rules of SFFBS, 1880
1910
- * Model Rules for a Friendly Society - The Friendly Societies Act, 1896.
- * Annual Returns to the Chief Registrar of the Registry of
Friendly Societies, 1907 - 1913.
- * Valuation of Assets and Liabilities of SFFBS as at 31st December, 1915.
- * Funeral allowance payment invoices, 1879 - 1880.
- * Forms of application for a Certificate of Death of a child
(two categories - under 5 years of age and between 5 & 10 years of age).

THE CINEMA IN SADDLEWORTH - PART TWO

The Palace 1920 - 1959.

(part one appeared in Vol.20 No. 4. pp 5-10)

The age of the silent films was still with us in the 1920s but the 'Talking Pictures' were going to bring another revolution to the cinema, though the "Palace" was still somewhat behind the times in the twenties.

In 1929 the "Palace" changed hands, being taken over by Mr. Bob Plummer, a name that was to be associated with "Saddleworth Palace" until its end. He had started working in music halls at the age of fifteen with his brother-in-law. The popularity of the cinemas had considerably reduced the audiences in music halls and with the coming of sound, for which the first cinemas were being wired up at this time, the days of the music hall were numbered.

The following extracts are from an interview that was held in 1984 with Mr. Bob Plummer by Derek Lewis as part of Saddleworth Musuem's Sound Archive and it is a fascinating record of this village cinema. (Ref. M/T/22 Saddleworth Musuem Sound Archive). Because of restrictions on space, and in order to make the account more readable, the extracts have been extensively edited and should not therefore be taken as a verbatim account.

Bob, what was the cinema like when you first came to Uppermill?

Oh terrible, a dump. It was so bad the West Riding County Council were questioning the people that owned it and those that were renting it. So we moved into Saddleworth to open the show on Wakes Monday in about August 1929 and we started off after we had done the place up and cleaned it, because it needed it badly. We'd still the same projection stuff, which was in bad condition. We opened; the first we were packed, it was holiday Monday, you see. It went through all right and we thought "it's a flash in the pan this is, it must be." We had to go on with silent pictures. We got quite a few of the good ones and just at that time they were making the 'talkie' and the silent version as well. So, we got one or two but they weren't as good as the talkies I'll admit.

How did you come to live in Saddleworth in the first place, because you lived in Bradford didn't you ?

We had a friend in Manchester called Pickering, Joe Pickering, and he was the manager for the Goldwyn films - it wasn't Metro Goldwyn then, it was Goldwyn - and he said there was a little place at Saddleworth if we'd like to have a look at it, so we came over and that's how we found it and started off as I've just told you.

Were there any music halls in Saddleworth do you know ?

No, they had a good amateur dramatic society in Saddleworth. There was a little bit of opposition, but the big opposition was from certain people in Saddleworth who wouldn't go in the Saddleworth Palace at all. They went to Oldham as there were some good cinemas in Oldham at that time. There was the "Grosvenor", the "Palladium" and the "Kings".

How did you manage to compete and survive against all this competition in Oldham ?

I don't know to tell you the truth... we just opened up and when we got sound in May 1931 we put a picture on. We booked for the first week some British pictures because people couldn't understand the American talk in some of the pictures you see. We had Lupino Lane in the "Yellow Mask." There's many of the old people in the village tell me yet that they remember the first picture. The back end of the week we put on Hardy's "Under the Greenwood Tree" (that was a British picture). They both went well and from that we built up and went straight the way through.

Did you have quite a few Laurel and Hardy and Chaplin films ?

All the best but we couldn't get them before Oldham as they had a bar on us; I'd run them about six months after Oldham, something like that. It didn't matter because Metro Goldwyn Meyer pictures went to, I think, the "Palladium" and Fox's went to the "Grosvenor" and they were split that way. Well I could pick the best out of all the lot of them you see, but even the best didn't please the folk sometimes.

What sort of comments did you get from people when they didn't like the best ?

Well, there'd be "eh, Bob, where'd tha pick that up ?" as they were going out, you know. It was quite different being the manager in Oldham to what it was being the manager here.

Why was that ?

Well, the manager in Oldham would simply see somebody going in and buying a ticket, but I knew who was coming in and buying a ticket. When they came out in Oldham they wouldn't go and ask for the manager and play hell about the picture, but they'd come up saying "Bob, that's na' damn good" or something like that.

So they knew you on a personal level ?

They did ... that was it all the time and that was how you had to run the place in the village. Oh yes, it was the only thing to do.

I suppose some people enjoyed the films in Oldham, perhaps other towns, and then when they came heresix months later they'd be glad to see it again ?

There's a lot of people didn't go out (of the district); the older stayed and went to the local cinema, the "Palace" and every Wednesday night we used to keep two rows of seats free - nobody else used them but the old age pensioners.

I had a woman came one night with a double feature programme on and it would have just run over time, you see. I had to keep nearly in time with the buses back to Delph, Greenfield, Diggle, all these places, and she came out after the double feature programme had been on and said "you haven't shown t' newsreel and I like t' newsreel." We got used to all that sort of thing.

Were there advertisements between reels ?

We used to put the adverts on before the show, and then just before the big picture a trailer of a coming attraction. If I could I used to run the big picture and then finish up with a comedy like Laurel and Hardy, "Our Gang" or "The Three Stooges".

So Laurel and Hardy films and other comedies of that kind were as popular then as they would be today ?

Oh yes, they were big things at the start. In 1931 we started Mickey Mouse and everybody thought it was something great like Tom and Jerry are today.

What about the days of the depression, how did that affect attendances ?

Not at all. We went right through the thirties all right because I don't think it was as bad here as it was in town.

What were the typical charges before the war ?

Fourpence, sixpence and tenpence. Children's matinee was a penny or tuppence if they went upstairs, but after a while I shut the balcony because you'd find some of 'em would start pelting people in the stalls below, so we didn't use the balcony then after that.

What about ice cream in the interval, was there such a thing ?

Well, for a long while we didn't sell ice cream and we never sold sweets, because the man who kept the shop opposite was an ex-soldier with one arm. As a matter of fact, he used to do the booking for the pictures during the day. They used to book at this shop, which is Roberts' now. He was called Sam Jackson and lost his arm in the First World War and I said "well we can't be in opposition to him, he's booking the seats all day for us," but eventually we sold ice cream and the sales were quite good.

I've seen the whole generation, the whole family grow up and come to the pictures you know. I've seen the child come to the Saturday matinee, then when they've got a bit older they've come to the night show, and where they used to pay a penny they've started paying fourpence; and then they'd get into the sixpennies. Then a girl and boy would meet and start courting; of course when they started courting they went in the tenpennies, the balcony. Then when they got married they would move downstairs again to the sixpennies. Then I'd see their children coming in and recognise them. The whole circle 'd turn.

When the sound pictures started to come, what impact did that have on the audience ?

It was great. The first sound picture we put on was after a silent newsreel on the first night. After the silent newsreel we had a picture about the Glasgow Orpheus Choir. It was a big choir and a beautiful piece of music. Then the conductor himself spoke to the audience and I could just hear a lot of the audience go "eeeh!" as though they were so surprised at the clearness of the speaking.

When the war came, that must have had some impact upon the cinema here in Saddleworth ?

Well, the first week we were shut up. Soon as war was declared we were shut up, and of course I was in the A.R.P. I was also in the feeding and shelter section of the Civil Defence, so I had plenty to do rushing round when the cinema closed. After the first week of the war they decided that the small cinemas like this one in Saddleworth could open. Well, the first thing I had to do was get the car and get down to Manchester and find something to put on, come back, get the film on, chalk a bit of board outside and open on the Saturday night. We opened up again that night and then carried on all the way through the war. We'd the usual precautions; you couldn't find your way into the cinema until you got right to the door, owing to the blackout.



20 Jan
1934

SADDLEWORTH PALACE

Lessee: A. WILKINSON

TALKING PICTURES

MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY —

IRENE DUNNE in

“The Secret of Madame Blanche”

THURSDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY —

NORMA SHEARER in

“LET US BE GAY”

with MARIE DRESSLER.

Doors open at 7 p.m., commence 7-30 prompt. Saturday: Matinee, 2-30; Evening, 6-30 and 8-45.

M/LAR/ 72

And did you succeed quite well at getting fresh pictures during the war ?

Oh, yes, I managed it. You'd say "it's Christmas Day on the Friday, lets put a special picture on if we can get one." Of course, you had to get the firm whose pictures you were showing and go down and scrape through their books and see what you had, but we used to manage it pretty well.

Did you ever find a film didn't arrive because of wartime conditions ?

Well, I went down to Manchester after the Blitz. I was going to show a British picture for the following three days. My copy had come to Exchange Station, but Exchange Station had disappeared that night. I had to bring back what I could get..

Did people find money to come to a cinema quite easily during the war ?

Well, it wasn't dear. It can't have gone up to above a shilling in the balcony if it was that and about eightpence downstairs. We didn't put the price up much; you could go to Oldham and could have a damn good seat for a bob anywhere.

During the war time were you ever interrupted by aircraft going over ? Did it drown out the sound of a film or something like that ?

Well, there was a law passed when we opened up. "If the air raid warning goes, stop your show and tell the audience that there's an air raid warning." I thought I must get over this somehow. I didn't like stopping the show, folk didn't like the lights going up, so we made a box and cut out some letters on a piece of three-ply spelling 'AIR RAID WARNING' and it lit up from behind. As soon as the warning went I just put the switch on, left it on a bit, and then switched it off. When the all clear came I'd switch on another one showing 'All Clear'. Of course people could hear the air raid siren which was on the Civic Hall.

Did many people leave the cinema when there was an air raid warning ?

No, no. It was an easy life in Saddleworth in every way at this time.

Did you show any propaganda films during the war ?

I can't remember. We showed all the newsreels and "One of Our Planes is Missing" and all that sort of thing. The 49th Parallel was one that was very ant-Nazi. You got a few but nobody worried much about that. They didn't mind seeing the newsreels and the bombing of Germany and all that, but they wanted something different right away from the war business. We put on a picture called 'Smiling Through' it was a right weepy and women came out "eeh it has been nice, eeh it has been lovely"; they were crying their eyes out.

That was interesting you said about the people, the women you saw weeping. When some of the news came through about the war were there many kinds of reactions? Were people expressing horror at what had happened ?

Only after the war. When the war finished we showed the Belsen camps, and I don't think people realised what had gone on with the Jews in Germany, no, especially in a village like this was. After the first showing I said "We're showing that after the big picture tomorrow night, then we can make a speech before that and if the people don't want to see it they can go out.". There were some women made ill; really it was a frightening thing.

How did the attendances vary after the war, did they increase, decrease or remain the same ?

They went steadily on until 1950. We were all right till they opened the television transmitter at Holme Moss. That was about 1953 then gradually it fell off, in 1958 audiences were really down and in 1959 we closed.

How many did the "Palace" seat ?

The front used to be forms. When we got proper seating all the way we had 92 in the balcony, downstairs we could get six hundred in.

What happened to the cinema building after it closed ?

Well, the Central Garage bought it. They pulled it inside out and put a new front on it.

So if people look carefully at the Central Garage they'll be able to pick out where the cinema was ?

Oh yes. It was a damn good building.

You say that the staff worked together as friends and a family but families and friends fall out sometimes ...

No, never much falling out with anybody. Everything seemed to be all right. They just joined in and that was it. I never had any big rows with anybody. I can't remember any at all.

There must be many others who can offer recollections of going to the "Palace". Please find time to write them down and send them to the Editor for the benefit of other readers. I would like to end by thanking all those who contacted me to point out that the Electra Picture Palace, mentioned in part one, was under the Mechanics Institute at Delph. (See the letter on page 25 of the last "Bulletin").

PETER FOX.

A MOSSLEY RELIEF FUND

Jim Carr has unearthed this intriguing document. Can anyone explain and date it?

Mrs. FIELDS RELIEF FUND.

The Committee present to the Subscribers their total

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENT.

in connexion with the above Fund.

£ s d			£ s d			£ s d		
Messrs. G. MAYALL & Co.						Brought forward		
No. 1 Spinners	0	15	6	Old Mill Spinners	0	16	4	41 13 10½
„ „ Reelers	1	3	6	„ Cardroom	0	10	0	
„ „ and 2 Cardroom	2	3	6	„ Weavers	0	16	7	
			4 2 6				2 2 11	
No. 2 Spinners and Reelers	2	3	4	2 3 4				
No. 3 Spinners	1	12	6					
„ „ Spinners and Reelers	2	7	10					
„ „ Cardroom	1	0	6					
Shed Spinners	0	9	0					
„ Cardroom	0	10	3					
			6 0 1					
Brookbottom Mill Spinners	0	10	9					
„ „ Cardroom	0	18	4					
			1 9 1					
Messrs. JOHN MAYALL.								
Firm	1	2	6					
Britania Spinners	2	10	1					
„ „ Reelers, &c	0	16	10					
„ „ Cardroom	2	8	1					
			6 17 6					
South End Spinners	1	5	0					
„ „ Reelers &c	0	13	9					
„ „ Cardroom	1	5	0					
			3 3 9					
Old Mill	2	4	7					
Messrs. R. H. BUCKLEY & SONS.								
No. 1 Spinners	0	18	4					
„ „ Cardroom	0	13	4					
„ „ Weavers	2	19	6½					
			4 11 2½					
No. 2 Spinners	1	0	1					
„ „ Cardroom	1	2	2					
			2 2 3					
No. 3 Spinners	0	19	0					
„ „ Cardroom	1	1	9					
„ „ Reelers	1	11	9					
			3 12 6					
No. 4 Croft Mill	2	3	11					
Messrs. N. BUCKLEY & SONS.								
Cheshire Side Spinners	0	6	5					
„ „ Cardroom	0	13	5					
„ „ Weavers	2	3	2					
			3 3 0					
			£41 13 10½					

Messrs. R. BUCKLEY & SONS			£ s d		
ALBERT MILLS					
The Firm	0	10	0		
Spinners	1	0	9		
Cardroom	1	0	0		
Sundry Workmen	0	8	0		
			2 18 9		
Messrs. CLEMENTSON BROS.					
Old and New Mill	3	1	2½		
Messrs. BUCKLEY & LEES,					
Spring Mill, Roaches	2	10	0		
Messrs. G. LAWTON & SONS	2	6	2½		
J. BUCKLEY, WATERTON.					
Spinners	0	18	9		
Cardroom	0	13	6		
Reelers	0	11	5		
			2 3 8		
Messrs. J. H. SEVIL & Co.			1 2 3		
„ BOTTOMLY & HYDE			1 0 0		
„ J. KERSHAW, VALLEY MILL.					
Spinners	0	6	6		
Cardroom &c	0	13	6		
			1 0 0		
Messrs. HILTON & HOPKINS.					
Firm	0	3	0		
Spinners and Cardroom	0	13	0		
			0 16 0		
			0 10 0		
			0 15 1½		
			0 11 0		
			0 2 6		
Bank Mill, Roaches					
Albion Mill, Mossley					
Jury					
Mr. Wright Lees					
Total Receipts			62 13 4		
DISBURSEMENTS.					
Boys Suits, &c			1 5 0		
Sustenance of Children			1 0 0		
Sundry Expenses			2 18 10		
Printing			0 9 6		
			5 13 4		
Banked in District Bank, Mossley			50 0 0		
In Treasurers hand			7 0 0		
			£62 13 4		

Dr. to J. L. Andrew, Surgeon, &c., for professional attendance £1 10s. settled as a donation to the above Fund.

HENRY BELL, SECRETARY.

JOHN W. BRIGGS, TREASURER.

LETTERS

28 Balmoral Drive,
Denton,
Manchester,
M34 2JU.

Dear Mr. Fox,

Regarding a letter from Mrs. Barbara Morley in the Winter Bulletin requesting information about the Morton Dyeworks, I was brought up in Dobcross from 1923 to 1941, and as a child I remember the dyeworks in the valley beside the River Tame. I cannot find any more information about the dyeworks.

PETERLOO was not so long ago as you might think Mr. Bernard Toohey of Cheetham, who for forty odd years travelled all over Manchester as a gas maintenance fitter, writes:

One day I went to a shop in Ancoats Lane. Going from Oldham Road, it was the first shop on the left over the bridge, just before Mill Street. The old lady in the shop told me that on the day of the Battle of Peterloo, a large number of people ran past the front of the shop, which a relative of hers was using as a butcher's shop.

All at once there was a loud bang and the shop shook; the butcher came out and found the Sunday Soldiers (volunteers) had fired a cannon ball through the side wall of his bedroom. He went back into his shop and got a cleaver and long-bladed knife, then set off at a run for the soldiers.

They pointed muskets at him; he kept on going. When the army found it was a case of firing at him or being knifed by him, they ran. The officer on horseback drew his sword. The butcher said that if he tried to use it he would have him and his horse in his shop window for sale in half an hour.

The old lady didn't know what the outcome was. She only knew the wall was put right free of charge.

Mr. Toohey comments that he doesn't know how true this may or may not be, but he takes his hat off to a good bloke - "I've taken on the Boss, but he took on the army, and won!"

Sent by Maurice Dennett and reprinted from the 'Greater Manchester Courier' September 1991, by kind permission of Miss Maureen Patch, of the Greater Manchester County Record Office.

646 Newchurch Road,
Newchurch,
ROSSENDALE,
Lancs. BB4 9HG.

Telephone: 0706 220126.

The Editor,
Saddleworth Historical Society.

Dear Mr. Fox,

Brief mention was made in the Summer 1991 Bulletin of my links with Saddleworth and a Buckley family and I am writing to elaborate on this, in the hope that it may put me in touch with someone who can add to my research into my ancestors.

I have managed to get back to around 1800, so far. My great great grandfather, Henry Buckley, was born c. 1802, parents and locality unknown, who was living at Frenches on his marriage to Ann Burton (b. Grasscroft c.1802/3), then living at Mans, on 6th June, 1825, at St. Chad's. Their children, Mary b. 1825, Owen b. 1827, Martha 1829 and Bramley c. 1831, were all christened at St. Chad's. Henry jnr. (my great grandfather) was born at Mans, September 1837, and his father died in February 1838, aged 35.

Ann, his widow, was registered in the 1841 Census as 'schoolmistress' at Grove School. By 1851 the family had moved to Haddens where Ann and her daughter Mary were dressmakers/milliners. Henry jnr. married Ann Lawton of Old Brow, Mossley (her father James Lawton) on 5th October, 1863, and they had three children, Emma Lawton, Fred b. 1866 (my grandfather) and Bramley who died in infancy.

I am particularly interested in Ann Buckley during her time as schoolmistress at Grove and wonder if anyone in the Society has any further information on Grove School in the 19th century, or on any of this Buckley family.

Any information would be most welcome.

Yours sincerely,

E. Sheilah Stott (Mrs).

(nee Buckley)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

LEES Lees - born 1834 Stonebreaks, Saddleworth, Bapt. June 1836,
St. John, Hey. Emigrated to Australia as Stonemason.
Arrived Melbourne, Victoria, July 1855. Settled at
Warrnambool, Victoria.
Son of ROBERT LEES & NANNY (nee Slater) LEES Stonemason
and Farmer of Stonebreaks, Saddleworth.

Other children of ROBERT & NANNY LEES recorded in
1851 Census:

ANN: (married Joseph Ousery, Saddleworth); MARY born 1824;
SAMUEL born 1832; JOHN born 1838; JOSEPH born 1840;
THOMAS born 1836.

DALE William -born 8th July, 1828, Strinesdale, Saddleworth, bapt.
April, 1829, St. John, Hey. Emigrated to Australia.
Arrived Melbourne, Victoria, November 1852. Settled
at Warrnambool, Victoria.
Son of WILLIAM DALE & HANNAH (nee Broadbent) DALE Farmer
of Strinesdale, Back of the Low, Saddleworth.

Other children of WILLIAM & HANNAH DALE recorded in
1841 Census:

JONATHAN born 1819; MARTHA born 1826; JOHN born 1831.
Earlier Parish Registers include JOSHUA DALE and
JOSEPH DALE, both recorded as "Yeoman de Strines."

Any information appreciated. Please contact:

Mrs. Betty U. Stone,
40 Kidston Crescent,
CURTIN A.C.T. 2605,
Australia.

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

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

The Editor of the "Bulletin" is:

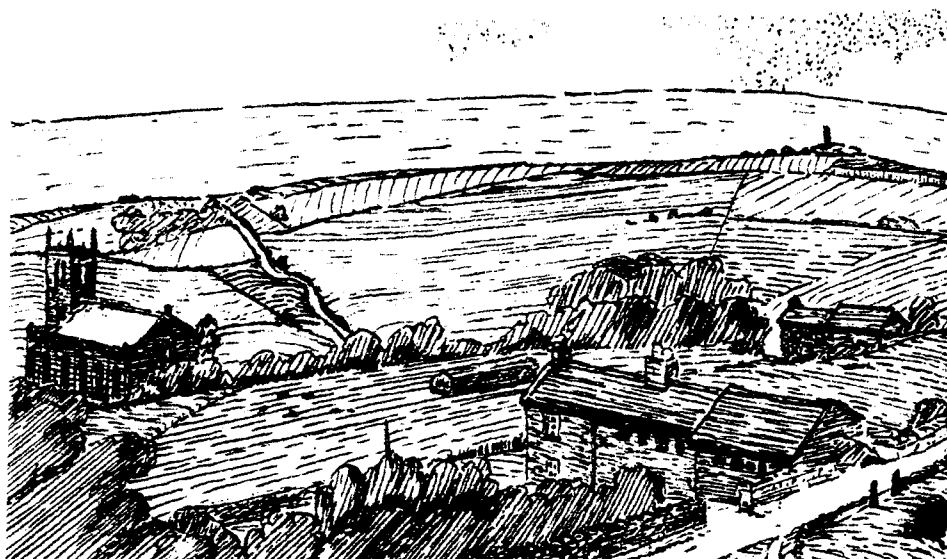
Michael Fox,
4 West Mount,
GREENFIELD,
Oldham,
OL3 7LF.

(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, short reviews, etc. 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 cistrict.

The Winter "Bulletin" is due for publication on 31st January. All copy to the Editor by 31st December, please.



SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 1991

"The Spring is like a young maid
That does not know her mind.
The Summer is a tyrant
Of the most ungracious kind.
The Autumn is an old friend
That pleases all he can,
And brings the bearded barley
To glad the heart of man."

Christina Rossetti.

Already the Society's lecture programme is well underway and two lectures have been delivered. The first 'Images on Glass - A History of the Magic Lantern', by Peter Fox provided some spectacular views of old Saddleworth and Oldham, long forgotten or half remembered, but most appreciated by the audience lucky enough to behold these frozen memories. Indeed this is the subject, nay title of a presentation of lectures by Peter Fox for the Saddleworth WEA, to be given on ten Tuesday evenings commencing the 7th January, 1992, another rare chance to benefit from Peter's extensive collection of old photographs and post cards, please enrol on the night at Saddleworth School.

The second lecture on 'The Textile Mills of Leeds & Manchester' by R.S. Fitzgerald, held a cancellation due to illness, but his colleague the Curator of Armley Mills Industrial Museum, Mr. Peter Kelly stepped in and gave a rivetting and most extensive lecture on the Clothing Industry, which finished discussing Montague Burtons in some depth. John Buckley proposed the vote of thanks based on the premise that all history is Industrial Archaeology.

The lecture programme continues with a talk on Monday 4th November, 91, on 'The Greater Manchester Police Museum', by Duncan Broady the Curator. This is followed by a most important event on Thursday the 12th December, 91, when you will have a chance to nominate the officers serving on the Committee of the Society at the Annual General Meeting, the evening will conclude with wine and mince tarts and a showing of members' slides, volunteers contact Mr. Neil Barrow on 876381. In the new year the first lecture will be on Thursday the 23rd January, 1992, commencing 7.30 p.m., when a Society member Mr. Alan Petford will lecture on 'Reading, Writing and Arithmetic' - The Rise in Elementary Education in Saddleworth'.

On Saturday the 8th of December, 91, members will have the opportunity to view The Bolton Steam Museum for the last time in its premises at Atlas No.3. Mill, Chorley Old Road, Bolton, where six magnificent steam engines (some over 100 years old) lie fully restored and rebuilt. It will be several years before an event of this nature occurs again, this will be when the Northern Mill Engine Society move these machines to new specially built premises. Ellenroad Mill Engine will also be visited at Newhey to make the outing truly comprehensive. This outing will commence at 10.0 a.m., on the Museum Car Park and transport will be by own vehicles, refreshments are available at the Bolton Steam Museum. Contact Jim Carr on 873612 if further details are required.

Archaeology Group.

Wednesday 6 November	A Talk on China by Mrs. B. Lynch.
Wednesday 4 December	Quiz Evening.
Wednesday 8 January	Slides on Malta - Mr. Jim Carr.
	At the Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill. 7.45 p.m.

Society Archives.

Canon Airne has received further publications for the Archives and advises members that the following are available for inspection in the Archive Room, the necessary appointment having been made. 061-626-0787.

1. Author Catalogue of the Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society.
2. The Cheshire Record Office Guide.

Members are also reminded that an extremely useful source for Family History is The Greater Manchester Record Office, 56 Marshall Street, New Cross, M/c.

Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society.

Friday 13 December	Tramways Past and Future in the
Manchester Town Hall.	Manchester Area. Edward Gray.
7.0 p.m.	

Events at the Museum.

9 November-12 January	FRYING TONIGHT. A Touring Exhibition about the History of the Fish & Chip Shop, sponsored by Stigwood & Sons of Oldham.
Sunday 17 November	Textile Working Day.
Friday 22 November	Donkey Derby Race Evening. 7.30 p.m. Tickets £2.50 including refreshments. Obtainable at the Museum.
23 November onwards.	Linda Davidson Exhibition. Photographs of Egypt, Ugandan Wildlife and Scottish Landscapes.
Sunday 24 November	Young Lacemakers Group. 2-4 p.m. Lacemaking Class for young people led by Lotte Wallace. Observers and young lacemakers very welcome.
Wednesday 4 December	Travels with Richard Hotchkis. 7.30 p.m.
Sunday 8 December	Christmas Fair.

Refreshments will be served in the Gallery on Sunday afternoons until 4.30 p.m.

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. (874093)

MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

We have a total of eleven new members who have joined the Society since the publication of the last issue and we extend to them a very cordial welcome.

Mrs. Eunice Bingley, Greenfield.	Mrs. Francis Montague, Gloucester.
Mr. & Mrs. H.E. Meadowcroft, Loughborough.	
Mr. & Mrs. V. Wood, Delph.	Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Wellman, Castleshaw.
Mr. W.D. Kershaw, Southampton.	Mr. E. Eastwood, Norway.
Mr. C. Moorhouse, Delph,	

Mr. & Mrs. H.E. Meadowcroft of Loughborough have joined the Society and lived in Saddleworth some twenty five years ago, they are related to the Tweedales and have researched their family tree back to the 16th century c1586, then Sir John Ramsden made arrangements for John Twedall and his family to move to Strines from Almondbury and farm land on his behalf in 1631. Perhaps some of the members remember Harry and Margaret and may wish to renew acquaintance. Contact Mrs. E. Broadbent 87 2870 for full addresses.

Mrs. Francis Montague of Gloucester is researching the Garsides and would welcome information on the following marriage. William Garside m Lydia Tetlow, Oldham Parish Church - 31 May, 1846.

Mr. W.D. Kershaw of Southampton and his cousin Mr. E. Eastwood of Norway, visited Saddleworth recently and were investigating links with the Reverend John Heginbottom the renowned Vicar of Saddleworth Church from 1721/71. More will be learned of this connection when Mr. Kershaw writes in further bulletins.

Thinking of Christmas presents, how about giving friends or family our latest publication 'The Cherry Valley Chronicles', an engaging correspondence between an emigrant to America in 1844, Thomas Buckley and his son Ralph who remains in Dobcross. Price £16.50. Other books available are 'Saddleworth Buildings' by John W. Smith, £15.00. and that excellent walk up Castleshaw 'With Ammon Wrigley in Saddleworth', by Sam Seville, £2.95 Canon Airne's book, 'St. Anne's Lydgate - The Story of a Pennine Parish' at £5.50. Apply to Mr. David Gartside, 5 The Shaws, Uppermill, Oldham. OL3 6JX.

J. Hindle.
October, 1991

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER, 1991, AT THE MUSEUM 7.30 p.m.

Nominations are invited for the post of -

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

If you wish to nominate anyone to one of these posts, please obtain his/her consent. Forward to Neil Barrow, Carr Farm Cottage, Diggle, before the 9th Dec.91.