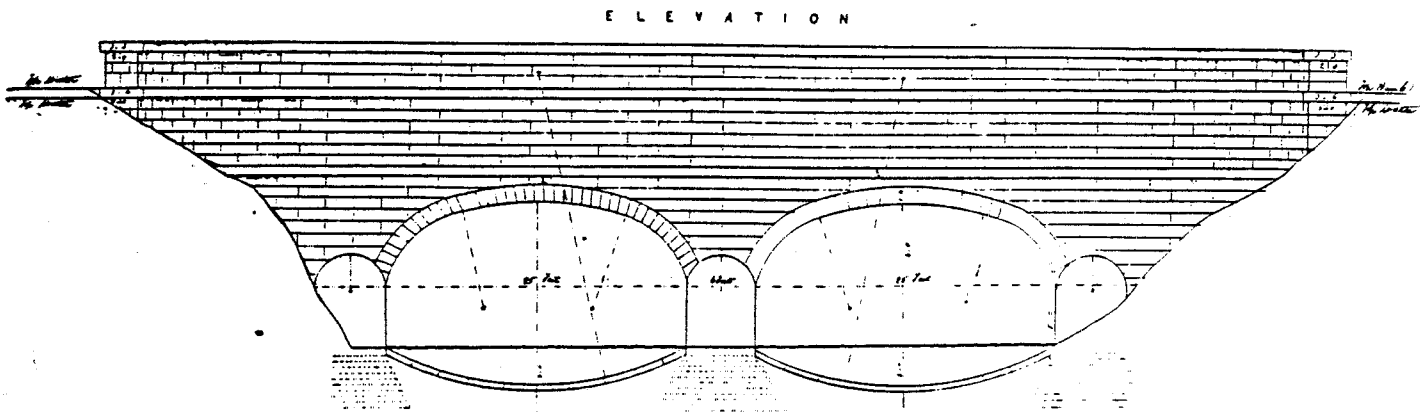
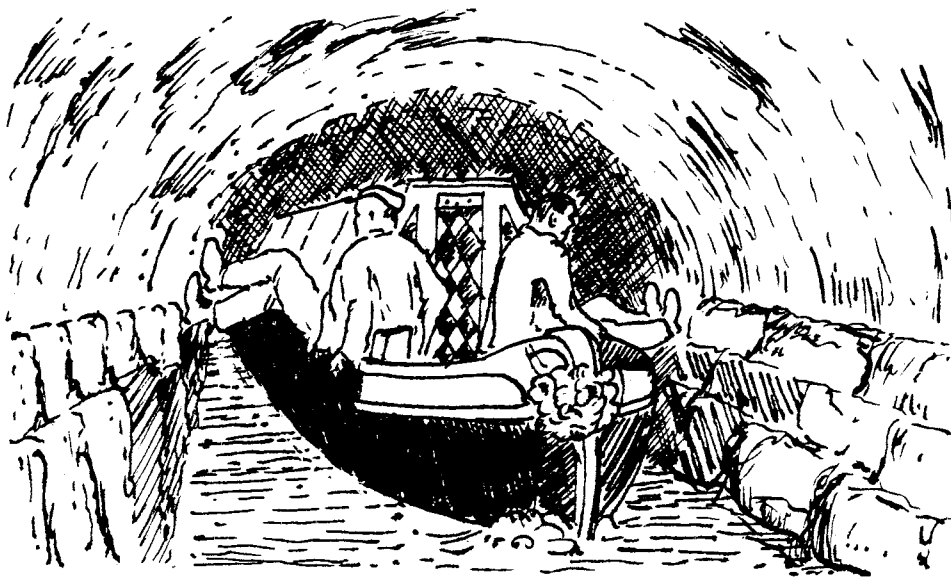


# Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



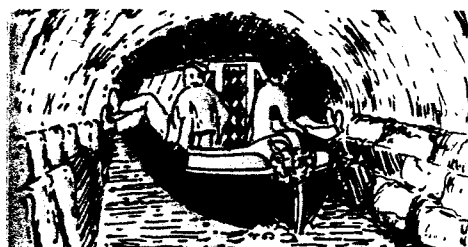
BULLETIN OF THE  
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 24 Number 1

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Cover Illustrations: This Spring is the two hundredth anniversary of the passing of the Act of the Huddersfield Canal Company (an event celebrated by a new Saddleworth Historical Society publication, which brings together the many articles on this waterway that have appeared in the "Bulletin"). These drawings recall two aspects of the significant engineering work that the canal's construction entailed. At top is Stanley Broadbent's depiction of the interior of the three mile Standedge Tunnel, the longest in the United Kingdom. Because of the lack of a towing-path narrow boats had to be "legged" through, in a fashion approximating to that shown. This task was arduous, as Sutcliffe's description of 1816 graphically details: "... the slavery of working vessels through the tunnel is much greater than working upon the hulks, as the men have generally to lie on their backs, and paw with their feet, against the top or sides of the tunnel for three hours and upwards, till they have pushed the vessels through."

The several aqueducts on the canal are well represented by the lower illustration, which was drawn about 1840 (see "Bulletin", Volume 16, Number 1, page 8) and shows the two-arched structure across the River Tame near Royal George, Greenfield. This massive affair of stone was designed by the canal's engineer, Benjamin Outram, and was opened in 1797. It is little changed today.





## MEMORIES OF A SADDLEWORTH CHILDHOOD

All my life I have lived either in the old village of Dobcross or on the Saddleworth hillsides.

I was born at Crompton Knowl, Crib Lane, Dobcross, a large three-storey building attached to the old "slaughter house" (now long since demolished). The house, still standing today, was then divided into a large part, known to the family as the Big House, and a small cottage known as the Little House, entered from the second storey by a door from Crib Lane. In this cottage, newly married members of my mother's family resided until they found their own premises. My grandmother in her later years lived alone in this small cottage.

My grandparents, Reuben Langfield and Annie Langfield (nee Mellor) had eleven children. My mother was the ninth. She was almost four years old when my grandfather died. At that time he was the caretaker at Dobcross School, previously having been variously a tripe-dresser, iron-turner, mechanic, vergier of Dobcross Church, and the local postman.

Reuben Langfield as a boy lived in Lee Street, Uppermill. Annie Mellor lived at Husteads, Dobcross. She was a weaver at the Husteads Mill (the ruins and mill dam are still there and so is the row of cottages where the family lived). My grandmother was married from Husteads when she was nineteen and grandfather twenty-five, and they continued to live at Husteads afterwards.

My mother was born at Street House, Dobcross, and to this day, aged 93 years, still remembers the very steep hill on which the house stands.

Due to the fact that the census does not go beyond 1891, I have not found out when the family moved to Crib Lane, but in 1900, on my mother's birth certificate, they were then living at Street House.

My grandmother did eventually own this property. It was a fascinating house, with long weavers' windows, and you went down a path to the door of the Big House. The outside door in the middle of the property opened into the entrance hall. An inside door with glass panels covered by lace curtains opened on the right into the front room, and a door opposite to the entrance led into the kitchen which was one of the happiest places I have ever known, and I returned to my grandmother's house many times after we had moved.

My grandmother was very clever with her hands. After my grandfather died she brought up her family by twisting-in fringes for shawls, and by making rag rugs out of old clothes. She also made "list" rugs; these were produced out of lists of samples of woollen materials that the woollen mills sent out to show customers the quality of their materials. These rugs were special and my grandmother made many to raffle for funds for Dobcross Church.

I remember my mother telling me how many fringes she had to do before she went to school, and when she came home, before she could go out to play. Also she had to cut the materials into measured lengths for weaving into the rugs through the rough sacking. Afterwards the rugs were lined with canvas to stop them slipping. My grandmother made wonderful freehand patterns in the rugs; diamonds, oblongs etc interwoven into a picture of lovely colours.

The bottom floor of Crompton Knowl was fascinating and, to me as a young child, very large. I remember it well - the kitchen especially, which was, as I realise now, very Victorian. It had a stone sink under the row of long windows on the outside wall, with huge taps high up from the sink with only cold water, and when you turned them on the water splashed all over. In the corner at the back of the room was a huge fire with an inglenook, with stools to sit on. During many winter afternoons my cousins and I would toast muffins and stretch out on the rug in front of the fire with the cats - grandma always had cats.

On the back wall was a big bookcase with documents in one part which we had not to touch, and many old photographs which I wish I had now, with all the names of who they were. A long form was against the partition of the entrance, with an old kitchen table in front and chairs round (some I have in my kitchen today). The stone flagged floor was covered with rugs, and oil lamps and candles were used. It was always a warm, welcoming room with a fire and soft light. My grandmother was a wonderful cook and always had a "sweety" jar. There was also a tin bath, and when I stayed the night it was such a thrill to sit in it half-full, in front of the fire.

My father was Fred Bingley. He and my mother were married at Saddleworth Church and after living at Crompton Knowl for a short time, moved to Rye Top, Uppermill. Here a farmstead with a cottage was attached to the farm house where we lived. Across the yard was a large barn and the farm was run by the Coldwell family. The old lady who lived at the farm was not well, so we used to sit on the form outside together, and my mother in later years swore the whole family had spoiled me.

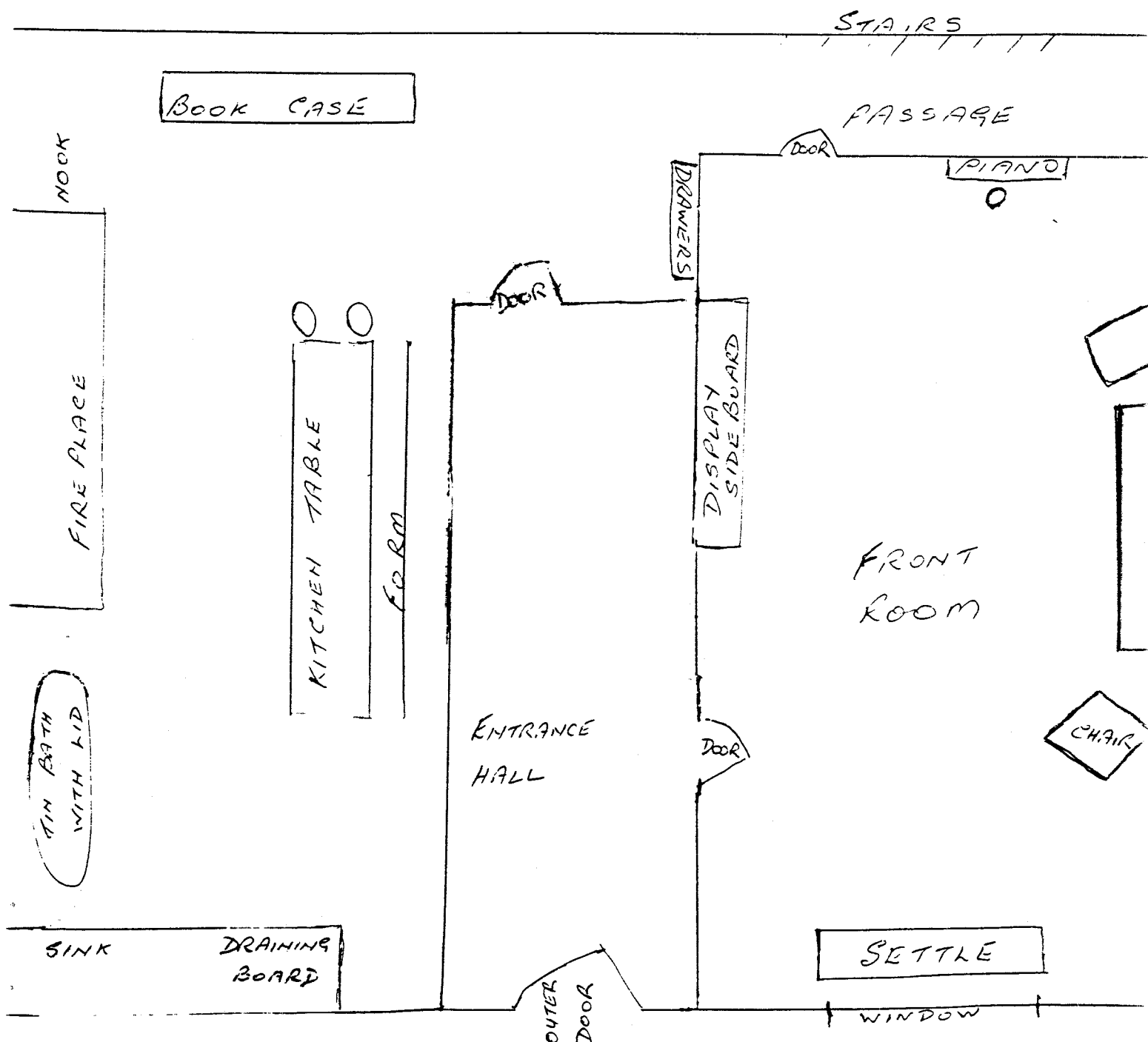
My earliest memories were of planting carrot tops in the edge of the path leading to the cottage, and going down the field in front to meet the co-operative society's horse and cart, driven by Mr Bradley, for the weekly order. Sometimes he let me ride the horse to the next lane so we could go straight up the path to the cottage. He could not get up to the farm with the cart.

When I was four we went to live in one of the cottages at Hawkyard. As father worked at Greenfield Mill it was much nearer and he did not have so far to walk. I went to school at St Mary's from there - happy days. Days full of hay-making, running wild by Dick Clough, Pots and Pans, Long Lane etc and, as I went to school with eight boys, learning to fight. As I wore clogs I was the best hill fighter in the valley.

When I was seventeen, we moved into Central Avenue, Greenfield. The thing I remember most was the electric light.

My great grandfather, Richard Bingley, came from Honley to work at Greenfield Mill and in 1881 was living at No 10, Hey Top, with his family. Later my grandfather, Lewis Bingley, when he married lived at No 4, Hey Top, from where my father, Fred Bingley, went to St Mary's School; afterwards the family moved to Kinder Intake Farm. So I am the fourth generation to live at Hey Top.

Eunice Bingley



The layout of Compton Knowl, bottom storey, circa 1930

## MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS AT DELPH INDEPENDENT CHAPEL

Inscriptions on gravestones can be of great use to the family historian as well as providing a source of interest in their own right. In this article Mr Howard Lambert presents the painstaking work undertaken by the erstwhile historian Charles E Higson, who at the turn of the century transcribed many of the monumental inscriptions at the Independent Chapel in Delph (see Volume 105 of the Higson MSS, Oldham Local Studies Library). Mr Lambert has added some of his own transcription work at this location to provide an even more complete picture. The memorials dating from before 1781 are of particular value as they help to compensate for the fact that the earliest Delph Chapel Register is missing, presumed lost.

- 1) Here was buried the Body of Edmund Scholefield, of Castleshaw, who died February the 10th 1749, In the 50th Year of his Age.

Some Years before he came to end his Race, He gave the greatest Sum to build this Place. A Preached Gospel lay his Heart so near That he did much t'advance its Interest here.

-----

- 2) Here was buried the Body of John Buckley, of Tunstead, who died the 31st of Octobr. 1758, In the 69th Year of his Age.

Also Sarah, his Wife, who departed this Life August 2nd 1766, in the 75th Year of her Age. Also James Buckley, their Son, who departed this Life July 17th 1804, in the 84th Year of his Age. Also Mary, his Widow, who departed this Life April 30th 1810, in the 76th Year of her Age.

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- 3) Likewise here was buried the Body of John Leach, of Hey, who died the 3rd of May 1752, Aged about 65. Also Mary, his Wife, who departed this Life May 26th 1775, in the 73rd Year of her Age.
- 

- 4) Here was buried the Body of James Bottomley, of Tunstead, who departed this life April 16th 1763, Aged 73 Years.
- 

- 5) Here resteth the Body of Moses Bottomley, of Tunstead, who departed this Life the 20th of Octr. 1775, in the 53rd Year of his Age. Also Sarah, Wife of James Bottomley, who departed this Life May 26th 1802, in the 40th Year of her Age. Also the aforesaid James Bottomley, who departed this Life July 8th 1814, in the 67th Year of his Age. Also Moses Bottomley, Son of the aforesaid James and Sarah Bottomley, who departed this life at Woolroad, February 8th 1858, in the 56th Year of his Age.
-

- 6) In Memory of Esther Wrigley, Daughter of Jonathan and Sarah Wrigley, of Hollingrove, who died May the 21st 1823, aged 38 Years. Also Ann and Edmund Wrigley, Daughter and Son of the above named Jonathan and Sarah Wrigley, who died in infancy. Also Ann Platt Wrigley, Daughter of the above named Esther Wrigley, who departed this Life January 14th 1833, in the 23rd Year of her Age.
- 

- 7) Here was buried the Body of John Wrigley, of Hollingreave, Yeoman, who departed this Life October 21st 1776, in the 65th Year of his Age. Also Sarah, wife of Elias Broadbent, of Lee, who departed this Life May 19th 1775, in the 30th Year of her Age. Also Martha Wrigley, Wife of the above John Wrigley, who departed this Life Jan 18th 1790, about 71 Years of Age. Also James Wrigley, their Son, who departed this Life Feb 15th 1808, in the 65th Year of his Age.
- 

- 8) Here was interred the Body of William Buckley, of Hanson-house, he died June 15. 1797, in the 48 Year of his Age.
- 

- 9) Here Resteth the Body of Mary, the Wife of James Buckley, of Manchester, who departed this Life May 19th 1802, in the Year of her Age.

Also the aforesaid James Buckley, who departed this Life June 12. 18..

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- 10) Here was buried the Body of Aaron, Son of Moses Bottomley, who departed this Life May 31st 1763, In the 1st Year of his Age.

Also Sally, his Daughter, who died May 5. 1781, in the 21 Year of her Age.

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- 11) In Memory of Henry Buckley, of Wellfield, who died March 5th 1820, in the 75th Year of his Age. Also Sarah, his Wife, who died June 18th 1789, in the 43rd Year of her Age.
- 

- 12) June 6th 1753, was buried here Aged 83, Mary the Wife of John Whitehead, of Delf, by whom she had 5 children, 4 of whom were buried before her and 1 Since. June 15th 1762, was Buried John Whitehead, Senr. Aged near 85. Also Anne, his Daughter, was Buried April 1st 1761, Aged 44. April 26th 1769, was Buried Sarah, the Daughter of John and Patience Whitehead, In the 6th Year of her Age.

Interr'd Janry 18th 1772 Mary their Daughter in the 15th Year of her Age. Also the above named John Whitehead, of Delf, Yeoman, who departed this Life March 31st 1776, in the 66th Year of his Age. Also Hannah, his Daughter, was buried July 2nd 1777, in the 5th Year of her Age. Also



Ralph, his Son, who died Decr. 8th 1782, in the 24 Year of his Age. Also Patience, late his Wife, who died March 10th 1797, in the 67th Year of her Age. Also John, his Grandson, who died March 10th 1813, in the 38th Year of his Age.

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13) Also John, their Son, who died ...

Also Ann, his Wife, who died January 1794, aged 38 Years. Also Henry, Son of the last named John and Ann Whitehead, who died Jany 11th 1859, aged 68 Years.

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14) Here was Interred the Body of Alice Wrigley, Daughter of John Wrigley, of Hollingreave, who departed this life August 14th 1769, In the 18th Year of her Age. Also John, Son of the above named John Wrigley, who departed this Life March 6th 1773 in the 24th Year of his Age.

---

15) Sacred to the Memory  
of  
the Children of Thomas and Mary Winterbottom, of Roebuckloe,

|        | Died                      | Aged   |      |
|--------|---------------------------|--------|------|
|        |                           | Months | Days |
| Joshua | Oct. 3 <sup>d</sup> 1778. | 11     | 21   |
| Ann    | Aug. 11th 1780.           | 4      | 4    |
| James  | Dec. 19th 1790.           | 3      | 3    |
| John   | Dec. 8th 1792.            | 9      | 1    |

Also a second Ann, who died April 2<sup>d</sup> 1798, in the 16th Year of her Age. Likewise Betty, who died Dec 9th 1800, in the 23rd Year of her Age.

Also the above said Mary, Wife of Thomas Winterbottom, who died May 31st 1826, Aged 78 Years. Also the aforesaid Thomas Winterbottom, who died April 17th 1829, in the 79th Year of his Age.

---

16) Here  
resteth the Body of James Gartside of Cherryclough, Yeom<sup>on</sup>, who departed this life on the 14th day of .... in the 63 Year of his age. Also of John Gartside, the Son of the above named James Gartside, of Cherryclough, who died on the 3rd December 1811, in the 86 Year of his age. Also of Sarah, his Wife, who departed this Life on the 13th of March 1818, in the 80 Year of her Age. Also of John, their Son, who died on Sep. 28 1784, aged 16 Years. Also of Sarah, their Daughter, who died March 25th 1789, aged 20 Years. Also of Susannah, Daughter of Isaac Gartside, who departed this Life Jany. 23rd 1835, in her 2<sup>d</sup> Year. Also Betty, his Daughter, who died March 15th 1835, in her 20th Year. Also Isaac, his Son, who died March 9th 1841, in the 21st Year of his Age.

---

17)

Here

was interred the Body of John, the Son of Jonathon and Mary Clafton, of Delph, who departed this Life March 8th 1799, in the 2nd Year of his Age. Also Ann, their Daughter, who departed this Life Nov<sup>r</sup> 28th 1799, in the 1st Year of her Age. Also Joseph, their Son, who departed this Life June 21st 1801, in the 2nd Year of his Age. Also Sarah, their Daughter, she departed this Life Nov<sup>r</sup> 8th 1810, in the first Year of her Age.

Also of Sarah, their Daughter, who died Aug<sup>st</sup> 20th 1817, aged 6 weeks. Also of Elizabeth, their Daughter, who died Oct<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1818, aged 2 Days. Also of the above-named Jonathan Clafton, who departed this Life April 8th 1844, in the 72nd Year of his Age. Also of the aforesaid Mary Clafton, his Wife, who departed this Life Decr. 1st 1836, in the 59th Year of her Age.

---

18)

Here

was interred the Body of Mary, the Wife of John Platt, of Heathfields, she departed this life May 7th 1795, in the 47th Year of her Age. Also Sarah, his second Wife, she departed this Life December 22nd 1812, in the 58th Year of her Age.

---

19) Here was interred the Body of Isaac Gartside, of Cherry-clough, who departed this Life March 29th 1796, in the .. Year of his Age. Also John, his Son, who departed this Life October 31st 1806, in the 25th Year of his Age. Also Peggy, his Daughter, who departed this Life Jan 9th 1809, in the 18th Year of his Age. Also Benjamin, his Son, who departed this Life June 14th 1809, in the 13th Year of his Age. Also Mary, his Wife, who departed this Life April 7th 1825, in the 71st Year of her Age.

Also James, his Son, who died May 20th 1845, aged 63 Years.

---

20) Here was interred the Body of Ann, the Wife of John Shaw, of Dumfries, who departed this Life June 11th 1803, in the 64th Year of her Age. Also Betty, his Wife, who departed this Life Nov<sup>r</sup> 9th 1819, in the 69th Year of her Age. Also the above named John Shaw, who departed this Life March 15th 1820.

---

21) Here was interred the Body of James, Son of James & Betty Kenworthy, of Ship, who departed this Life Dec<sup>r</sup> 25th 1783, in the 3rd Year of his Age. Also Betty, their Daughter, who departed this Life May 20th 1784, in the 6th Year of her Age. Also John, their Son, who departed this Life April 28th 1800 in the 24th Year of his Age. Also the above named Betty Kenworthy, who departed this Life Feby. 5th 1837, in the 85th Year of her Age. Also the said James Kenworthy, who departed this Life Feby. 3rd 1838, in the 82nd Year of his Age.

---

22)

Here resteth

the Body of Sally, the Wife of Joseph Gartside, of Cherry-clough, who departed this Life the 15th day of May 1770, in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Year of her Age. Also the aforesaid Joseph Gartside, who departed this Life August 16th 1806, in the 69th Year of his Age.

Also Susan, his second Wife, who departed this Life Decr. 27th 1808, in the 74th Year of her Age.

---

23)

Here Resteth the Body of Mary, the Wife of Henry Buckley, of Wallhill, who Died May 8th 1778, in the 74th Year of her Age. Also the above Henry Buckley, Died May 5th 1782, Aged 84. Also Mary Lees, their Daughter, who departed this Life Jan 20 1817, in the 79th Year of her Age. Nanny, Widow of the late Jas. Lees, of Leeds, who died Feb 6th 1839, in the 79th Year of her Age.

---

24)

Here was interred the Body of Mary, Wife of Joseph Shaw, of Delph Greaves, who departed this life December 17th 1777 in the 56th Year of her Age. Also the aforesaid Joseph Shaw, who departed this Life May 30th 1807, in the 81st Year of his Age.

---

25)

In

Memory

of Mally, Wife of  
Jonathan Gartside,  
of Cold Greave,

who departed this Life March  
26th 1851, in the 69th Year of her Age.

Also of the above-named

Jonathan Gartside,  
who departed this Life October

16th 1853, in the 71st Year of his Age.

Also of Edward Gartside, their Son, who departed this Life at Preston, Sept<sup>r</sup> 19th 1855, in the 37th Year of his Age. Also of William Gartside, thier Son, who departed this Life June 6th 1858, in the 29th Year of his Age. Also of Margaret Gartside, Wife of John Gartside, of Greenlane, and Daughter-in-law of the above named Jonathan and Mally Gartside, who departed this Life March 21st 1866, in the 33rd Year of her Age. Also of the aforesaid John Gartside, of Greenlane, who departed this Life February 19th 1878, in the 56th Year of his Age.

---

26)

Here was interred the body of Elizabeth, the Wife of William Booth, of Greenacres, she died December 21st 1799, Aged 54 Years.

She was a good Woman and one that feared God above many. Also Lueh, their Daughter, she died Nov<sup>r</sup> 3 1785, in the 2nd Year of her Age. Also the above William Booth, who died July 31st 1810, in the 52nd Year of his Age.

---

- 27) Here resteth the Body of Hannah, the Daughter of James Gartside, of Standage, she departed this Life Sept. 11th 1796, in the 4th Year of her Age.
- 

- 28) Here resteth the Body of Mary, the Wife of John Wrigley, of Castleshaw, who departed this Life April 20th 1777, in the 21st Year of her Age.

Also James, his Son, who departed this Life August 22nd 1777, in the 1st Year of his Age. Also the aforesaid John Wrigley, who departed this Life October 28th 1806, in his 63 Year. Also Anna, Wife of the said John Wrigley, who departed this Life on the .. Day of ... in the .. Year of her Age. Also Johnny Wrigley, of Standage, Son of the aforesaid John & Anna Wrigley, who departed this Life on the 12th Day of March 1848, in the 63rd Year of his Age.

---

- 29) Here lies the Body of Susan Hamer, Daughter of John Hamer, of Bottom in Huddersfield, in the Parish of Rochdale, who departed this Life Aug. 2<sup>3</sup> 1761 In the 17th Year of her Age.
- 

- 30) In Memory of  
Joseph Schofield, of Hill End,  
who died at Cadiz, in Spain, Nov<sup>r</sup>  
13th 1819, aged 55 Years.

Also Mary, his Wife, who died  
July 6th 1835, aged 80 Years.

Also Mally their Daughr, Wife of Jesse Jones, late of Banks, who died May 30th 1838, aged 58 Yrs. Also the aforesaid Jesse Jones, who died Octr. 6th 1854, aged 76 Yrs. Also Squire Jones, their Son, who Died Sepr. 22nd 1802, AE 15 Yrs. Also David Jones, their Son, who died at Aberdeen, in Scotland May 18th 1842, aged 27 Years.

---

- 31) Here was Interr'd the Body of Martha, the Wife of Isaac Bothomley, of Hollingreave, who departed this Life December 15th 1768, Aged 52. Also the aforesaid Isaac Bottomley, who departed this Life Feby. 21st 1800, in the 84th Year of his Age.
- 

- 32) Here was interred James Bottomley, of Hollygreave Oct. 31 1786, in the 37 Year of his Age. Also John, his Son, June 23 1783, in the 2 Year of his Age. Also James, his Son, July 6 1787, in the 2 Year of his Age. Also Alice, his Wife, who departed this Life January 29th 1824, in the 81st Year of her Age. Also Sarah, his Daut. who departed this Life February 17th 1829, in the 49th Year of her Age.
-

33)

Sacred  
to the Memory of  
Alice Hall Kenworthy,  
Daughter of Joseph and Ann Kenworthy,  
of Heys, who died on the 19th July 1851,  
in the 18th Year of her Age.

Also the aforesaid Joseph Kenworthy,  
who died February 16th 1864, in the 64th  
Year of his Age.

Also the aforesaid Ann Kenworthy,  
His Relict, who died 7th of J 1875,  
in the 83rd Year of her Age.

---

- 34) Here was interred the Body of Benjamin Hellewell, of Delph,  
who departed this Life January 15th 1802, in the 30th Year  
of his Age, who was the Son of Joseph Hellewel of Greenside  
in the Parish of Kerkburton, Yorkshire.
- 

35)

Here  
was interred the Body of Ben, the Son of James Wrigley, of  
Slackgate, who departed this Life April 28th 1783, in the  
4th Year of his Age. Also James, his Son, who departed  
this Life Nov<sup>r</sup> 16th 1800, in the 28th Year of his Age.  
Also John, his Son, who departed this Life March 15th 1801,  
in the 31st Year of his Age.

Also the aforesaid James Wrigley, who departed this Life  
March 31st 1810, in the 75th Year of his Age. Also Mary  
Wrigley, his Wife, who departed this Life April 4th 1828, in  
the 84th Year of her Age.

---

36)

to the  
Sacred Memory  
of

John, Son of John and Sally Buckley, of Highmore, who  
departed this Life January 8th 1824, in the 28th Year of  
his Age. Also Hannah, their Daughter, who departed this  
Life Octr. 19th 1830, in the 21st Year of her Age.

Also the aforesaid Sally Buckley, who departed this Life  
Jany 25th 1841, aged 72 Years.

---

- 37) Here Resteth the Body of Joseph Greave, of Woodhouse, Yeoman,  
who departed this Life the 10 day of August 1780, in the 81  
Year of his Age.

Also Mary, widow of the said Joseph Greave, who departed this  
Life April 11 1782, Aged 77 Years.

---

- 38) In Memory of  
Platt Shaw,  
Son of James and Betty Shaw,  
of Shaw Hall, Greenfield, who died Nov 8th 1842,  
Aged 4 Years.  
Also of Hannah, their Daughter,  
who died May 25th 1859 Aged 1 Year.  
Also of Elizabeth Shaw,  
their Daughter,  
who died March 31st 1867,  
in the 19th Year of her Age.
- 

- 39) Here resteth the Body of Mary, the Wife of Abraham Lees of Greenleach, who departed this Life Jan. 9 1784, in the 62 Year of her Age. Also Alice, his 3<sup>d</sup> Wife who departed this Life Feb. 9th 1787, in the 59th Year of her Age. Also Susan, his 4th Wife, who departed this Life April 6th 1794, in the 72 Year of her Age. Also the aforesaid Abraham Lees, who departed this Life December 30th 1812, in the 84th Year of his Age.
- 

- 40) Ann the wife of Joseph LEES of Knothill died Sepr 6th 1790 in the 19th Year of her Age. Also Sarah his daughter died Sepr 11th 1794 in the first Year of her Age. Also James his Son died April 14th 1805 in the 7th Year of his Age. Also John his Son died June 18th 1809 in the 18th Year of his Age. Also Robert his son died June 22nd 1809 in the 9th Year of his Age.
- 

- 41) Abram WHITEHEAD of Shiloh, Yeoman, died January 24th 1825 aged 41 Years. Mary his Daughter died April 29th 1825 aged 4 Years. Betty his Daughter died May 21st 1826 and was interred at Holmfirth in her 21st Year. Sarah his Daughter died February 16th 1830 in the 14th Year of her Age. Alice his Daughter died September 1 1831 in her 14th Year. Sarah Wife of the above named Abram WHITEHEAD died April 4th 1843 in her 59th Year.
- 

- 42) Lucy Daughter of Abraham and Esther WHITEHEAD of New Tame died February 12th 1806 in the 10th Year of her Age. Esther his Wife died May 31st 1811 in the 55th Year of her Age. Abraham WHITEHEAD died March 1st 1837 in his 80th Year. George BROADBENT their Grandson died January 26th 1844 in his 23rd Year.
- 

- 43) Annis WHITEHEAD Daughter of James and Sally WHITEHEAD of Oldfield died May 2nd 1821 in the first Year of her Life. Lucy their Daughter died April 18th 1826 in her 26th Year. Abram their Son died June 30th 1827 in his 27th Year. Sally Wife of the above James died July 13th 1831 in her 55th Year. Jesse their Son died February 10th 1855 in his 47th Year. Also above named James WHITEHEAD died February 3rd

1858 in his 79th Year. Martha their Daughter died 24th January 1859 in her 53rd Year. Ruth their Daughter and wife of James WILKINSON of Royton died 4th September 1878 in her 60th Year.

- 44) Abraham LEES of Knothill, Yeoman, died 22nd August 1772 in his 77th year. Sarah his wife died 2nd September 1777 in her 78th year.  
James their Son, Yeoman, died 25th June 1796 in the 70th Year of his Age.

\* \* \* \* \*

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| WILKINSON                 | 43                  |
| WINTERBOTTOM              | 15                  |
| WRIGLEY                   | 6, 7, 14, 28, 35    |

\* \* \* \* \*

Reference: Higson MSS Volume 105

Howard Lambert

## A SADDLEWORTH SUFFRAGETTE

A little-known aside in the history of Saddleworth has been researched by Neil Barrow in response to the following letter:

Tyddyn Llan  
Llanfrothen  
PENRHYNDEUDRAETH  
Gwynedd  
LL48 6DU

Dear Sir,

I would like to know as much as possible about Annie Kenney, the suffragette, who was born on September 13, 1879 at Springhead, the fifth child of Horatio Nelson Kenney and his wife Ann (nee Wood). Her brother Rowland, sometime editor of the "Daily Herald" was born on 28 December 1882, their seventh child. About 1913 he married in Norway a Norwegian girl called Asta and they had a son, Kit, born before 1917.

Of the Kenney's twelve children, the youngest, a girl, died a few months old. A sister, Mollie, probably emigrated to the USA about 1905. Another brother, Reginald, lived at Lytham. The youngest surviving daughter, Jessie, died in London at an advanced age about twenty years ago, and had also been a suffragette. Other sisters Jennie, Kitty and Nellie were also interested in the suffragette movement, as was probably another sister, Alice. The two missing members of the family are almost certainly brothers.

Annie Kennedy apparently married a Mr J M Taylor and died at 1, Campers Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire in 1949. There was a son, Warwick, but he could have been the child of a previous marriage of Mr Taylor's. I would be very grateful if any relative or connection of the Kenney family who has any relevant information that they are willing to disclose would contact me at the above address.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Hilary J Davies

\* \* \* \* \*

Although the suffragette activities of Annie Kenney are well documented in the various histories of the movement they make only scanty references to her family. Both Annie and Rowland wrote their autobiographies, each of which contains quite lengthy accounts of their Saddleworth childhoods, although very little about the various brothers and sisters. Annie says that the family moved to Shelderslow and lived in the "cottage



next to Manor House". This is confirmed by the 1891 census return:

|                      | Age | Occupation                | Birth Place        |
|----------------------|-----|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 8, Walkers           |     |                           |                    |
| Horatiah Kenny (sic) | 41  | Cotton spinner/<br>minder | Ashton-under-Lyne  |
| Ann                  | "   | 39 (Not employed)         | Bingley, Yorks     |
| Reginald             | "   | 17 Cotton Piecer          | Saddleworth, Yorks |
| Mary C               | "   | 16 Cotton frame<br>tenter | "                  |
| Sarah E              | "   | 14 "                      | Lees, Lancs        |
| Alice E              | "   | 12 "                      | Saddleworth, Yorks |
| Ann                  | "   | 11 "                      | "                  |
| Caroline             | "   | 11 "                      | "                  |
| Rowland              | "   | 8 "                       | "                  |
| Jane                 | "   | 6 "                       | "                  |
| Herbert              | "   | 2 "                       | "                  |
| Harold H             | "   | 6m                        | "                  |
| Agnes, mother        | 73  |                           | Burnley, Lancs     |

Two further children, both girls, were to be born, the younger of whom did not survive (3). The family seems to have moved house within the area more than once. Rowland says he was born at Walkers, lived at Claytons around 1886 and, also, that the family had rented rooms at the Manor House. Certainly the family had left 8, Walkers by 1895 (5).

The father, Horatio Kenny, worked at the Grotton Hollow spinning mill and at the age of 10 years Annie started work at the Woodend Mill of Henry Atherton & Sons. Annie was 25 years old when her mother died early in 1905 (1)

Reginald was still living in Saddleworth in 1907 when he campaigned for Victor Grayson (3). He had moved to Lytham by 1915 when he returned to Oldham to give a lecture on Ammon Wrigley (2).

Mollie (Mary), with another sister, unsuccessfully kept a shop in Accrington and then a market stall. By 1909 she had emigrated to North America, living both in Canada and the USA (3). Three of Annie's younger sisters also joined the Pankhurst's Women's Social and Political Union, including Jessica the youngest surviving daughter who was, according to Sylvia Pankhurst "then only sixteen" in 1905 (4). Clearly this statement is inconsistent with the census evidence.

The two autobiographies make only passing references to their eminent siblings. Was there a rift between Annie and Rowland? He believed that the suffragette movement was a diversion deflecting efforts away from the achieving of Socialism. By 1939

when he was writing his autobiography Annie had long ceased being politically active but had devoted herself to the then popular cult of theosophy.

Neil Barrow

#### References

- 1 Kenney, A     Memories of a Militant, Ed. Arnold & Co, 1924.
- 2 Kenney, R     Ammon Wrigley, Poet and Writer, Lecture to the Lancashire Authors' Association, Oldham Chronicle, 2nd April 1924.
- 3 Kenney, R     Westering, J M Dent & Sons, 1939.
- 4 Pankhurst, E S     The Suffrage Movement, 1931.
- 5 Slater's Directory of Oldham, 1895.

## MINING IN OLDHAM

Eric Roberts provides a sketch of the history of coal extraction in Oldham, once a major industry in the town.

Oldham was once a mining centre of importance - early records show that as early as 1524 Richard Wild was paying rent on a mine in Crompton. In 1642 there were "cole-mynes" in Chadderton and Hunt Clough. John Newton of Oldham in his Will of 1620 declared that he, along with Haulkerd "did get coles at a certain myne on Oldham Edge ewithin the bounds of the said Crosses."

Coal pits at one time or another existed in almost every part of the town and so great is the honeycomb of waterlogged workings beneath our streets that in some cases only a few yards separate the different shafts. Nineteenth century maps show coalpits at, amongst other places, Roebuck Low, Heyside, Edge Lane, Blackridings, Hollinwood, Hunt Lane, Parkbridge, Waterhead and Hartshead Pike. (This latter, also known as Broadcar, had the slowest burning coal in the area. The story goes that when a local family prepared to go on holiday Ma said "Throw a piece of Broadcar on t' fire un it'll be in when we come back.") There was even a pit in the centre of the town; its pit head workings had to be removed to make way for the construction of the Coliseum. Looking at old copies of newspapers it can be clearly seen that these pits had a very poor record of safety - in fact they were a positive menace to the local inhabitants who daily lost their lives by falling down the unfenced shafts.

According to H Bateson, two poor Welsh labourers, John Evans and William Jones, arrived in the town in 1770 and a few years later they controlled the whole of the coal supply of the district. Evans established a colliery at Oldham Edge in 1770 and the same year William Jones sunk his shaft at Bankside. He later dug a tunnel from Bankside to Stockbrook, near where the Sun Mill stood, to drain off the water from his mine.

During the early history of coal mining in Oldham, transport became a major problem. Canals were impractical due to the steep gradients in the town; the nearest was at Hollinwood. Tramlines had to be laid to convey the coal to the canal by means of horse-drawn wagons. The longest of these tramways was from Hathershaw Hall to Copsterhill, across Frederick Street to Collier Hill and onto the wharf at Hollinwood. Another long tramway ran from Hunt Clough Colliery, Chadderton through Nordens and Springbrook and onto the canal at Middleton Junction, whilst one from Rocher coal pit ran through tunnels at Parkbridge straight to the canal basin.

Conditions were generally appalling - it is known that in coal mines of this period, in dark gloomy galleries children of six and seven pulled coal carts by means of chains strapped around their waists. It is not surprising that some grew up starved, poisoned and crippled. It was not until 1833 that

boys under 10 years were forbidden to work underground. One accident which happened at L Jones' colliery called for the disapprobation of the County Coroner. Three miners had been killed due to the failure of a machine. It was said in evidence that the engine tender was eleven years old. Later enquiries by the Chief of Police proved that the child was only nine, and that the accident was as a result of his attention being diverted by a mouse. Still more heartrending is the tale of a fatal accident at Robin Hill Pit belonging to Evans; the boy of eleven had only been engaged the previous day - he was without parents or friends and had been forced to sleep the night in the coal-pit; he was later found dead at the bottom of a steep shaft.

Apart from vertical shaft mines, there were a number of out-crop mines - conditions were very dangerous as the roof was never properly shored up. One such (in)famous one was known as the "Jacky"pit - its busiest period was in 1921 during the national coal strike.

Surely this is an 'era' that we are glad to see the back of.

## COCK-FIGHTING

For cocks to fight each other is a natural instinct to attain dominance to 'Rule the Roost'.

'Cocking' is a very ancient sport. It is recorded that in Sumatra an annexe of a temple was reserved for the keeping of fighting cocks; it was also practised in Asia over 3,000 years ago. In some countries the cock was, and still is, regarded as a sacred bird; the placing of a weather cock on top of church steeples can be traced (like the ringing of bells) to the belief that it would frighten away evil spirits. The 'sport' was declared illegal in this country in 1849, although even today it is popular in Spain, Latin America and parts of the Orient. The Greeks introduced it to the Romans who in turn brought it to this country sometime in the twelfth century, where it quickly gained popularity - particularly with the upper classes.

Cock-pits were built at the old Roman encampments at Castleshaw and Slack, and there can still be seen a 'natural' pit at the rear of the "Colliers Arms" by Hartshead Pike. Young Romans used to be encouraged to attend the 'Mains' because it was thought that seeing the cocks fight to the death filled them with spirit and courage to do likewise. Early English monarchs made cock-fighting a 'royal sport'. Henry VIII favoured it so much that he added a cock-pit to his palace at Westminster. It was promoted by Kings James I and Charles II and naturally the royal example was copied by the kings' subjects across the board.

In 1795, on the 28th December, there was a 'Match' at Chadderton, referred to in local papers as a 'Great Main of Cocks' between Sir Watts Horton and William Bamford. Bamford later emerged as a clear winner. Regular fights took place at Bill's o' Jack's, Highmoor, and the Isle of Skye. There was also a natural arena at Denshaw, known locally as the Boxing Ring, where, not only did cock-fighting take place, but bouts of bare knuckle boxing also. Ammon Wrigley in his "Old Saddleworth Days" spoke not unfavourably of cock-fighting - calling it 'a natural sport'.

Pedigree birds became prized possessions. Sometimes for fifty days before the 'Main' the bird would be trained and conditioned. To toughen its body it was given daily baths and massaged with a mixture of alcohol and ammonia, and, to increase its fighting capacity, it was fed a special diet. Breast feathers were plucked - combs and wattles had already been cut off when the bird was young. Then, to make its attack more deadly, it would be fitted with metal spurs known as 'gaffles', which were secured to the leg by a narrow leather gaiter. Beak and claws were filed and sharpened. Birds were normally kept hooded to keep them docile until it was their turn to fight. Any bird appearing lethargic was goaded by allowing its rival to peck at it until it became enraged.

Several birds from a district would form a 'Main'. Betting was nearly always heavy. A fight to the death was known as

a 'Battle Royal'. Rules stipulated that all gaffles should be of equal length. The cockpit should be not less than nine feet square and all fighting birds must have their wings clipped.

Cock-fighting is no longer a favoured sport, banned in most parts of the world. Such legislation as the Cock-Fighting Act 1952, and Cruelty to Animals Acts made it unlawful to possess instruments for the pursuit of cock-fighting. Yet the legacy of its past popularity lives on as an integral part of our everyday speech. We talk of opponents being 'pitted' against each other, whilst the lowest part of a theatre auditorium is called 'the pit'. Who has not heard of the expressions 'cock of the north', 'cocksure' etc? Terms relating to cowardice are still in evidence. 'Crestfallen' is derived from when the bird gave up the fight and stood listlessly with its crest drooping as it awaited the death blow.

A favourite day to go cock-fighting in the past was Shrove Tuesday - before the fast of Lent, when huge quantities of fallen feathered fighters were enjoyed. But any day would do, as witness this account of a victory of Saddleworth birds over those of the Holme Valley (taken from the "Huddersfield Chronicle" of 6th April 1850):

**"The People's Pastime** - Tuesday was a great day at Round Close, situated a mile from Holmfirth, the occasion being a grand cocking match for Twenty Five Pounds a side, betwixt Saddleworth and that part of Yorkshire comprising Holmfirth, Honley and Lockwood. Old Ben Berry, of Holmfirth, the great patron of the "Old English Game", trained for Yorkshire, whilst Joe o'Nancy's undertook the same responsible position on behalf of his Saddleworth friends. Victory was to be decided by a Main of 11 battles. Great was the concourse of people, and high the hopes entertained by each contending faction. The supporters of Old Berry were particularly sanguine, his previous success as a trainer of birds being notorious. Liberal sums of money were risked upon the venture, considerable odds being wagered on the event. But alas, the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. And so indeed the event proved. Saddleworth came off eminently the winners, Berry only gaining 4 battles out of the whole Main. Joe o'Nancy's added another laurel to his wreath, and the Berryites have learned practically that "Fools and their money are soon parted".

Eric Roberts

FURTHER NOTES ON THE BUCKLEYS OF BRIDGE HOUSE, SADDLEWORTH,  
AND CHERRY VALLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

In compiling the family histories of all the Saddleworth Buckleys, Mike Buckley came across the birth entry of Thomas, who was born at Doctor Lane, Scouthead, on the 2nd February 1794, son of Joseph and Sally, and baptised at Dobcross Church. Thomas was soon to become an orphan, however, as Joseph died in 1797, when he was an innkeeper living in Woods Lane, Dobcross (which inn?) and Sally in 1798, leaving Mally aged 13 years, Sarah aged 11, Fanny aged 6, Thomas aged 4 and another son. Who, one wonders, brought them up?

Mike also found that Martha, born in 1793, who became the wife of Thomas, was the eighth child of Ralph Whitehead, Clothier of Lee Cross, and Mary (nee Bradbury). Her siblings were Jerry, Hannah, Sally, Ann, Mary, Betty and James.

Thomas refers in his letters to several of these, on both sides.

Recently a young man named Miles Clegg came to work in Saddleworth Museum, and he happened to mention one day that he lives at Bridge House, and also that his family have several deeds and documents referring to the buildings and land. These his father, Mr Derek Clegg, kindly allowed me to examine, and in the collection were two deeds relating to transactions in which Martha and Thomas figured prominently.

The first referred to the inheritance by Martha of three dwellings 'on the South East Gable End' and one third of the land comprising the Croft and Garden, on the death of her father, Ralph (after whom, presumably, the recipient of the letters was named). Her sister, Betty, wife of James Wrigley of Runninghill, inherited three dwellings, being 'those whose doors are fronting the road from Woolroad to Dobcross', and one third of the land. Sister Alice, wife of Robert Buckley of Hill Barn, received four dwellings 'one formerly a smithy' and the remaining third of the land. This deed was dated 1837.

The second one was signed by both Martha and Thomas six weeks before they landed in New York - so they must have had quite a speedy crossing for that time, arriving on the 1st June 1844. This deed records the sale of the inheritance to Martha's brother, Jerry, for £200, which money obviously financed the move to the New World. Was this the cause of the quarrel between Thomas and his son, Ralph, which was ended only when Ralph wrote to his father thirteen months later, and to which Thomas refers so sorrowfully in his letters?

There recently arrived from the Liverpool Maritime Museum details of the vessel, the 'Montezuma' on which the family sailed. Lloyd's Register for 1845 shows her as belonging to an owner-skipper named Selkirk; the gross tonnage was 200

tons, her builders in 1834 the Dumbarton Shipyard and her  
port of registration Liverpool.

Maurice Dennett  
Archivist, Saddleworth Museum



Bridge House.

\* \* \* \* \*



## THE "GREAT FLOOD" OF 1857

Dannie Wright has unearthed the following account of a cloudburst on 14th August 1857 from a contemporary "Oldham Chronicle". There have been many significant floods since but this one appears to have been of particular severity.

"The flood has carried away Millcroft Bridge and a few other small bridges. At Wood Mill the water did little damage except sweeping away the coals in the Mill yard. At Hull Mill there is a bridge about a yard wide which has stood many floods, but the water on Friday night was too strong for it and the bridge was carried away. The Mill itself was flooded in the lower storey and some wool was damaged. The dam at Eagle Mill belonging to Mr R Hastings was filled and overflowed and, had the rain lasted much longer, it must have given way. As it was, part of the embankment was washed away, and the engine boiler, a very large one, was lifted up by the water and moved about a yard. A very great crowd assembled at this point, and seemed very anxious for the Mill.

The water got into Mr Byram's Slack Cote Mill and damaged a quantity of warps in the low rooms of the Mill and several skips of bobbins were wrecked. A great quantity of pieces were damaged; the damage is estimated at £60. On Saturday many of the mill hands were employed in clearing out the mud left by the water and otherwise assisting in getting the mill in working order again. Mr John Haigh, an overlooker who sleeps in the Mill, was woken by the noise of the storm about one o'clock and vainly tried to open the Mill door and go outside. It was well he could not get out for at that time he would have been carried down the stream. The flood left a good deal of mud in the yard and on the goods. Lower down the stream Hey Bridge was carried away and swept to Delph. The Mill occupied by Mr George Broadbent, Farrand Mill, was flooded in the lower rooms, and the bridge close by was broken down and carried away.

On King Street, Delph, the "Rose and Crown Inn" was flooded to such an extent that fires were extinguished. The cellars being full, the beer barrels were flooded and disturbed. At this point the water overflowed the street and was several feet deep. The bridge crossing the river, the arch of which is between three and four yards at ordinary times, was quite under water when the flood was at its height. The water got into many houses. The stables of Mr Tetlow were flooded, as also were Mr Hastings' stables. Mr Hastings after some trouble got his horse out and into a safe place, the water having got up to its middle before it was secured; several pigs belonging to Mr Buckley in the same place were swimming about, and they were after considerable difficulty got out safely.

Then the flood passes Shore Mill, also belonging to Mr Hastings, and covered the lower floor. The occupant of a cottage there

had to carry his wife out of the house on his shoulders, she being in the last stage of pregnancy, and then he carried his children out. After leaving Shore Mill the flood reached Salterhebble and flooded nine or ten houses. The fires were blacked out by it, and in some of the houses the beds were sent swimming. There is a wooden bridge at this place, and it was going away, but an alarm was raised, and the people got to it in time and lashed it with ropes to the trees.

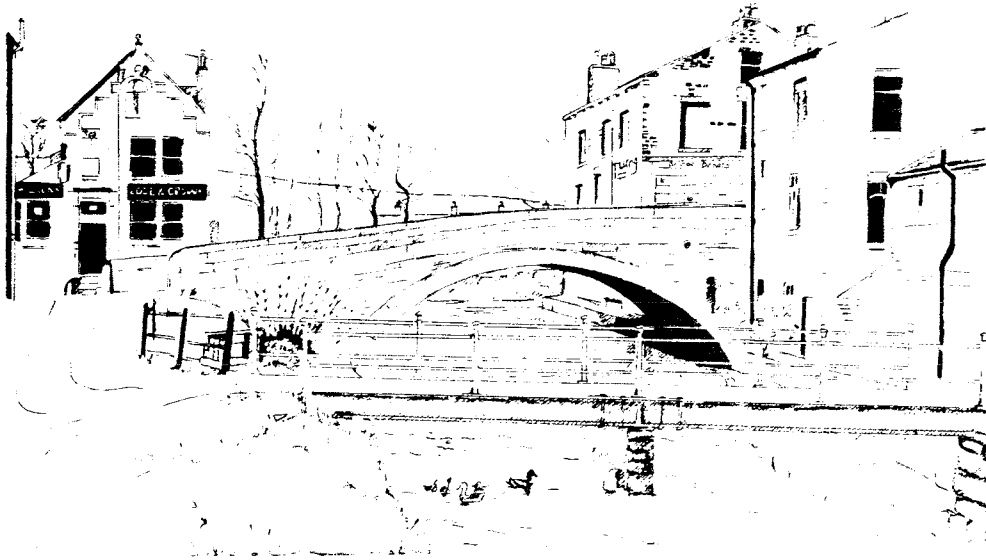
The next Mill down the stream is Mr Hastings' Rasping Mill, and here the alarm being given in time the dam was let off and much damage prevented from being done. Below the Rasping Mill the land belonging to Mr James Lees was flooded a yard at least by the water. They had forgotten that a horse was left on the land and a great number of men went out to save it from being washed away by the flood. They were up to their middles in mud and water, and had great difficulty in securing the animal, but after a deal of exertion, and knocking part of a wall down, they succeeded in getting the horse into a safe place. Mr Lees' footman was at one time in great danger of losing his life when engaged in saving the horse. All the houses in Bell Yard, New Delph, were flooded.

At the Tamewater Mill, lower down the stream, the water went in at the back windows and out at the front, and at Mr Hirst's Fulling Mill damage was also done. At Brownhill Bridge Mill, occupied by Messrs J and E Mellor, the dam stakes were swept away. It washed down the weir of Mr W Broadbent, but did not get into the Mill. The damage done at this point is about £20. The lands on each side of the brook were flooded.

All the cottages in the lower part of Uppermill were flooded to a considerable depth. In many of them the beds were wet and the women and children had to be carried out on the backs of their husbands and fathers. At the New Mill of Messrs Shaw and Lee the water got into the rooms a yard deep, and though the cotton bobbins were got out before they were damaged, yet the machinery was sadly wet, and there will be considerable loss.

Up the Greenfield stream towards Bills o' Jacks there is a bridge near where the Upper Wood Brook and Chew Stream join. It forms a portion of the approach to Ashway Gap, belonging to James Platt Esq MP. \* Although a stone bridge, it has been washed down, and the stream also tore up and washed away a portion of the carriage road. At "Bottomley's Mill" (ie Greenfield), the weir which was washed down last year is again washed down. The wooden bridge at this part of the stream was also carried away. The damage done at this Mill will be something approaching £1,000. The weir is a very expensive one, being composed of very large blocks of stone fastened together with iron cramps. Last year when the weir was down, men were engaged for a great number of weeks carting away the refuse, and many of the stones of the weir have been washed on to the adjoining land. At this point the water was thirteen inches higher than it was before."

\* Note: James Platt was to be killed in a shooting accident on the nearby moors only days after this account was written, the cross commemorating the fact still standing today.



DELPH BRIDGE

5 Broadbent

\* \* \* \* \*

## LETTERS

Junipers  
Manorial Road  
Parkgate  
South Wirral  
L64 6QW

21.2.94

Dear Mr Fox

Mr E W Felton of Greenfield has pointed out two errors in my paper on "The Broadbents of Diglee" (SHS Bulletin Volume 23, Number 4, pp 7-19), for which I am very grateful.

William (1) Broadbent was baptised in 1737, not in 1717, a date I queried in Table 1. This makes him the youngest, not the oldest, child of James (3) and Sarah. I have noticed also that in the text on p 13 I gave the date of his death as 1795; it should be 1808.

In the penultimate paragraph, the two women Ann and Louisa who worked at the hotel, were daughters of Edward and Mally Broadbent, but Ann was 24, not 19 years old.

Yours sincerely

Leonard Broadbent.

\* \* \* \* \*

Eric Roberts  
9 Greenway Drive  
Mossley

0457 832066

Does any reader have articles by the Rev W W Stamp (Wesleyan Minister for Delph) 150 years ago? I made some notes from his letter "From a Stranger in Saddleworth to His Friend Elsewhere" - part of it is as follows:-

"Some of my rambles in Saddleworth would amuse you - we could start at "Friezland" where the sun never shines, and in ten minutes time we could be at "Noon Sun". From there we could ascend the "Heights" or plunge into "Delph" - wing our way to "Paradise" or wander through the mouth of "Hell". We could dwell amongst "Grains" or relax in "Cherry Clough" after resting at "Green Field".

You may take residence at "Pots and Pans" or stride to "The Saddle" - dwell in "Stone Wood" and fish in "Tame Water". You could hide in "New Barn" or in the "Mouse Hole". You may fix your address at "Rose Hill" where "Spring" perpetually reigns.

We have a "Jericho" whose walls await your reception, a "Robin Hood's" bed or a "Foulrakes" coupled with a "Queen Mab's" chamber in a high state of preservation. We have a "Hawk Yard", a "Running Hill" and a "Sand Bed" - we can even find you a road composed entirely of Wool - yet so firmly compacted that it bears the weight of heavily loaded carriages.

Here also is the "Devil's Cellar" unstocked with either wine or vittals - then onto "Beelzebub's Pantry" open to all visitors but scantily provided.

On the surrounding mountains stands an "Alderman" grey and cold - he may be awaiting the opening of the "Three Crowns", "The Court" or the "Grand Shiloh"; no one can tell, for he speaks not.

The inhabitants of the region are a singular race; on retiring they "doff" and on awakening they "don". "Thickuns" is a favourite dish and they have odd names like "Ben o' Tims" and "Bill's o' Jack's" but they are kind and hospitable in disposition and it is indeed a pleasure to be in their company.

Yours etc

W W Stamp"

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

Mrs E Broadbent  
30, Beechfield  
Grasscroft  
Oldham  
OL4 4EL

The editor of the "Bulletin" is:

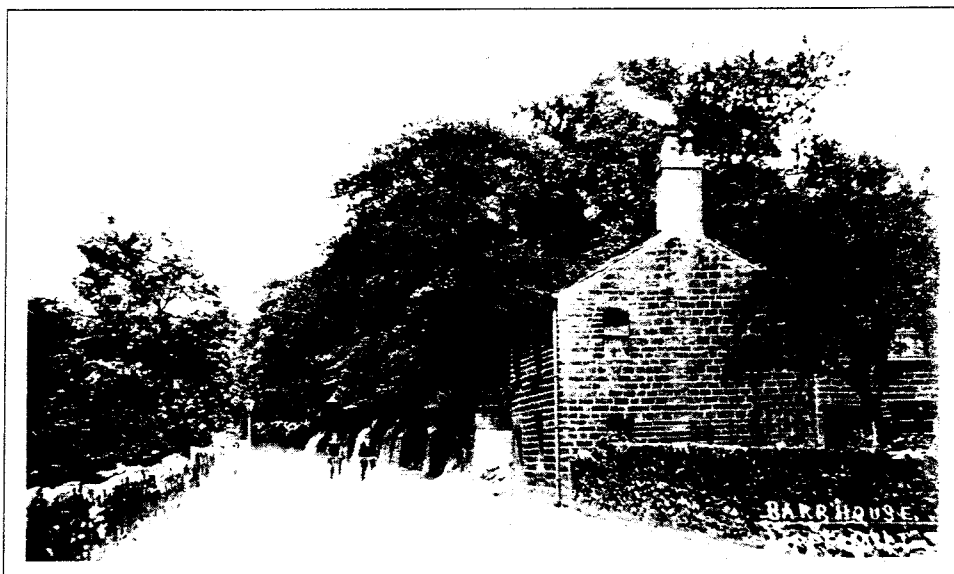
Michael Fox  
4, West Mount  
Shaw Hall Bank Road  
Greenfield  
Oldham  
OL3 7LF

### Contributions

The "Bulletin's" aim is to reflect and encourage interest in all aspects of the history of Saddleworth. It relies on a regular supply of articles, letters, short reviews etc from members and others. Fresh material is required constantly and should be sent to the Editor, who is prepared to discuss ideas for articles with anyone considering preparing one. Articles need not be confined to subjects within Saddleworth's borders, but preferably should have some connection with the district.

The Summer "Bulletin" is due for publication on 31st July 1994. All material to the editor by 15th July please.

Note: Because of pressure on space, the Index to Volume 23 has been deferred to the next issue.





SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER SPRING 1994

"When Robert was a young man he worked on the canal,  
And legged the boats from Diggle, right through the moor.  
It was the age of progress when the long boats went  
Under lonely Standedge, as they never had before."

The February lecture "The Men Behind The Medals", was given by Ian McInnes and unfolded a collection of life stories behind some of the 8500 Meritorious Service Medals first issued by Queen Victoria. We marched with William McGowan through Portugal to the 1809 Peninsular War as a 12 year old drummer boy with his father. He earned four medals in his long years of service, one being from William IV. Alexander McKerrow earned some of his five medals in the Crimea at the Siege of Sevastopol and in the Indian Mutiny at the Relief of Lucknow. James Aloysius Bute, a marine, had two medals to his credit and accomplishments which earned him a place on the Beagle with Darwin on his Voyage of Discoveries. And Severin Stephen Grognet who drove mules and earned his Meritorious Service Medal as a Transport Sergeant, served in both World Wars and lived in Copsterhill Road, Oldham. We admired these named pieces of silver and the Yeomen of the Guard whom Ian McInnes introduced us to in his vivid talk.

One of the Society's major responsibilities of the year will be to host the North West Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference on Saturday, the 4th June, 1994 at the Museum.

There will be two morning lectures:

- (1) The Construction of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal & Standedge Tunnel given by Professor R.B. Schofield.
- (2) Standedge Tunnel: Structural & Ventilation Surveys, by Alan Turner (Ove Arup & Partners).

In the afternoon there is a choice of Four Guilded Walks in the Area. Conference Fee £7.50 including Morning Coffee and tea mid afternoon. Lunch will be by own provision. Further details and Booking Form from, John Buckley, 4 The Shaws, Uppermill, Oldham. OL3 6JX. (tel. 0457 872896)

Summer Coach Trip.

This year's coach outing will be to the Wirral on Saturday, 9th July, 1994. A possible trip on the Mersey Ferry, a visit to Birkenhead's 12th C. Benedictine Priory with views of Cammel Lairds shipyard and in the afternoon a visit to Port Sunlight, Lord Leverhulme's Garden Village.

Booking Forms and full details are to be found on the last page.

The North West Film Archive.

Four short films from this excellent archive are now available for loan to members upon written application to the Archivist, Canon Airne or Maurice Dennett, at the Museum. These may be shown on video and they include that famous railway journey from Victoria up the Werneth incline to Oldham Mumps Station.



### Events at the Museum.

|                                            |                           |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Textile Working Day.                       | 5th June, 1994            |
| 200 Years of the Huddersfield Canal.       | Until the 9th July, 1994. |
| An Exhibition on the history of the Canal. |                           |
| Fedor Bagenz Art Exhibition.               | 7th - 30th May, 1994.     |
| Folk at the Gallery - Ceilidh.             | Friday 13th May, 1994.    |
| Clitheroe band "Shake a Leg".              |                           |
| Steve Bentley Art Exhibition.              | 4th - 26th June, 1994.    |
| Vintage Vehicle Gala.                      | Sunday 12th June, 1994.   |

To celebrate the Bi-centenary 1794-1994 the Society are publishing a book on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal which will comprise a compilation of previous Canal articles published in a shiny presentation with coloured cover retailing at £4.50 plus 20% postage, or delivered by hand Saddleworth. This will first be available at the Canal Festival and subsequently at the North West Regional Conference on Saturday 4th June, 1994. Or ordered by post from Mr. A. Wheeldon, 84 Wall Hill Road, Dobcross, Oldham. OL3 5BH. Or obtainable at the Museum.

### Membership Section.

Since the last date of publication four new members have joined the Society, and their names are detailed below.

|                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mrs. Anne E. Clark, Batley.      | Mr. R.J. Lyne, Hemel Hempstead. |
| Mr. & Mrs. A. Platt, Greenfield. |                                 |

We have been reaching into the genealogical chest of George A. Broadbent, Scranton, Pennsylvania, with Michael Buckley and established a connection with the Rev. John Heginbottom which prompted George to say 'It was a delight to read about him. Poor fellow managed on £16 a year. I laughed out loud at some of his antics.' We aim to please and it's good to meet with some success.

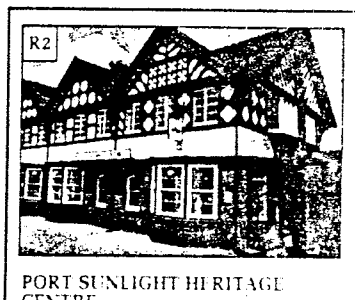
A reminder will be enclosed to members who wish to renew their membership to the Society for this year 1994.

Late News - The Friends of the Museum are organising another special fund raising event on Friday the 24th June, 1994 at 7.30 p.m. 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', with musical entertainment, dancing and a splendid buffet supper. Tickets £12.00 obtainable at the Museum.

J. Hindle.

# Saddleworth Historical Society

Registered Charity No. 505074



PORT SUNLIGHT HERITAGE  
CENTRE

S.H.S. SUMMER COACH TRIP

SATURDAY 9th JULY, 1994

A DAY ON THE WIRRAL

We arrive on board the Mersey Ferry or via the Kingsway Tunnel and Birkenhead docks if preferred.  
A visit to Birkenhead's Twelfth Century Benedictine Priory also provides views of Cammell Lairds Shipbuilding Yard. In the afternoon there will be a visit to Port Sunlight Lord Leverhulme's Garden Village and the Lady Lever Art Gallery housing his magnificent collections.  
Finally we cross to Deeside via Thornton Hough, Leverhulme's estate village.  
Parkgate was a seaport in the 18th Century. It is now renowned for shrimps and prizewinning icecream.

Leave Saddleworth..... 9.0 a.m. at the Museum.  
Leave Parkgate ..... 6.0 p.m.  
Cost ..... £7.00 Adults. £5.00 Children.  
Includes admission/fares. No arrangements have been made for lunches and teas, so it is recommended to take sandwiches or make ones own provision.

Please complete tear off strip and forward to Mr. Neil Barrow,  
Carr Farm Cottage, Diggle, Oldham. OL3 5ND. Tel. No. 876381.  
Cheques to be made payable to Saddleworth Historical Society.

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S.H.S. SUMMER COACH TRIP SATURDAY 9th JULY, 94.

A DAY ON THE WIRRAL.

To - Mr. N. Barrow,  
Carr Farm Cottage,  
Diggle,  
Oldham. OL3 5ND  
0457 87 6381

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places Adults.  
\_\_\_\_\_ places Children.

Names of all persons. \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative pick up point request - \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Time to be notified later. \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed..... \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

