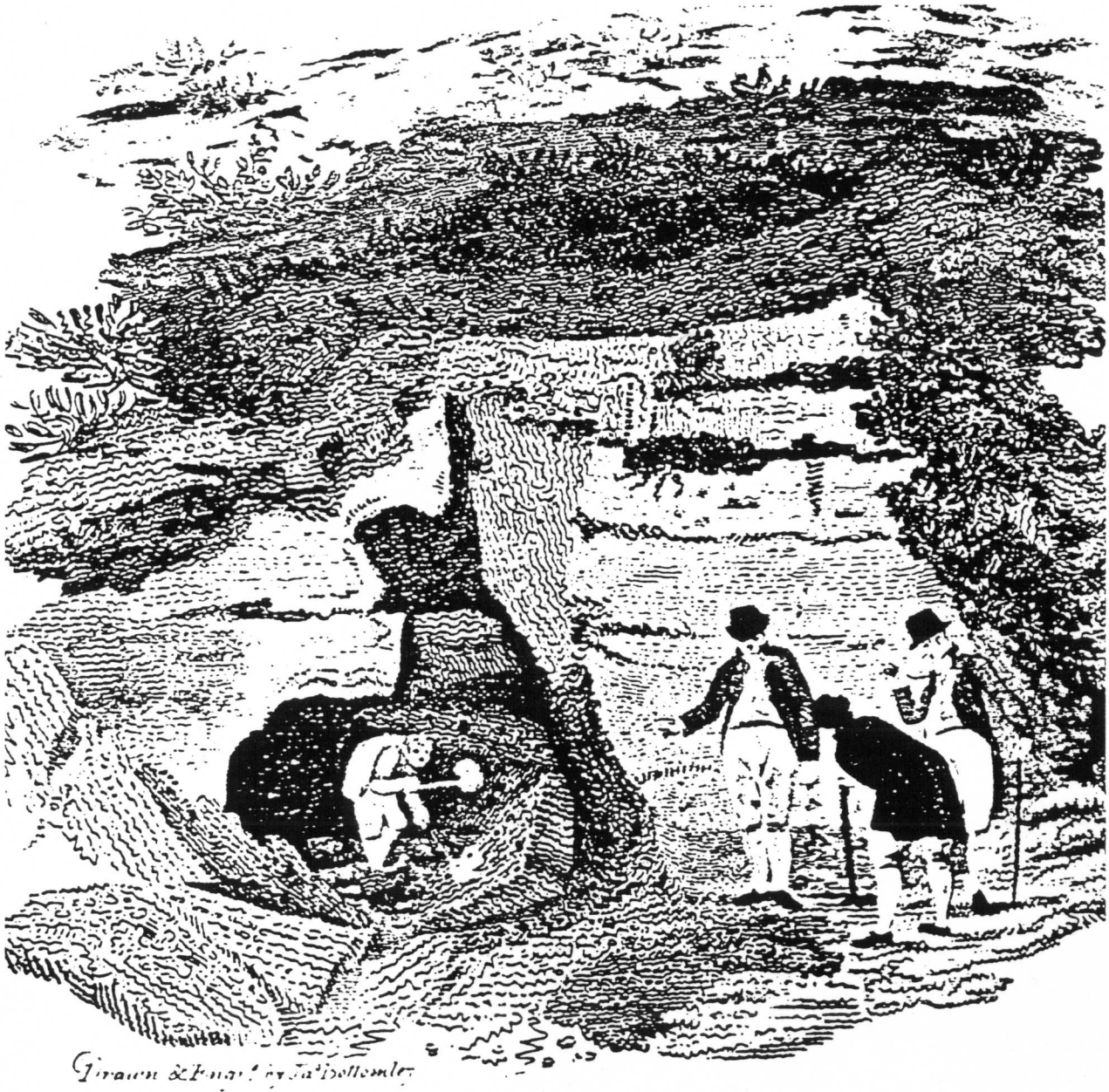
Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



And eager back the winding path he treads,
Heavens! what transition then again to rise,
From realms of death, and view the radient skies!

Volume 24 Number 4 Winter 1994

BULLETIN

OF THE

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 24 **Winter 1994**

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Cover The Fairy Holes beneath Alderman's Hill, Greenfield, as depicted in Samuel Bottomley's "Greenfield - A Poem". (See article above)

Chairman's Report at the Annual General Meeting of the Saddleworth Historical Society on Wednesday, 7th December 1994

This is my fifth report as Chairman and reflects what has been a very busy but rewarding year for all your officers and Committee and I commend to you their endeavour and enthusiasm.

Vice-Chairman Stanley Broadbent continues to be involved in a variety of activities for the Society, the Museum and for the Huddersfield Canal Society. At present he is revising the Saddleworth Street Plan and arranging to have "Blue Plaques" placed to celebrate famous Saddleworth individuals: Tom Steele VC (1891 - 1978), Annie Kenney (Suffragette) and Henry Platt (1793 - 1842), whose textile engineering empire began in humble circumstances at Bridge House, Dobcross.

Stanley was on a committee including John Buckley and your Chairman with Huddersfield Canal Society members, which arranged the "Canal 200 Festival" on 30th April, 1st and 2nd May 1994, to celebrate the Bicentenary of the Act of Parliament enabling the building of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, commencing in 1794. Again on a committee including John Buckley, David Chadderton and your Chairman, Stanley steered the "Huddersfield Narrow Canal" Book through the printing.

This year of Industrial Archaeology culminated on 4th June in a most prestigious "North-West Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference" on the theme of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and organised by the same small committee and attended by over 60 people. The morning started with a lecture on the history of the construction of the Canal and the Standedge Tunnel given by Professor R Schofield, the renowned civil and structural engineer. At the interval Bill Thompson, Regional Organiser, appealed for the use of IRIS - "The Index Record for Industrial Sites" - and the "Monument Protection Programme". Then Alan Turner, of the consultants Ove Arup, spoke about the present restoration of the Canal and Tunnel along with the latter's ventilation problems - a study funded by the "Derelict Land Grant". The afternoon was spent in guided walks led by John Buckley southward along the Canal to the Royal George and Manns Wharf Bridge, and by David Chadderton to the Standedge Tunnel area; also a boat trip and walk between the Museum and Wool Road Warehouse, led by David Latimer. The Society was represented at the official opening of the Manns Wharf Bridge and the launch of the new narrow-boat and also at the Civic Trust Award presentation for the Wool Road Trans-shipment Warehouse.

This really has been a year of centenaries and celebrations, with the Manchester Ship Canal and lately the Centenary of Parish Councils (1894 - 1994), for which our archivist Canon Airne assisted with an exhibition held in the Civic Hall and many members joined in the social activities, including a "Centenary Dinner" on 29th October.

Elsie Broadbent, our Membership Secretaty, reports another successful year for Society membership, with a total of 465, of which 21 are overseas contributors. These figures include Family Membership and Libraries.

During the year there has been another visit from Mr Howard Lambert from Buckinghamshire, who was able to produce a fine article for the "Bulletin" on 'Monumental Inscriptions of Gravestones at Delph Independent Church'. Mr and Mrs Harold Rhodes Brown came over from Canada during May, and were able to elicit further information on the Rhodes family from Mr and Mrs Donald Beattie who they stayed with. Another member who has started making an annual pilgrimage to Saddleworth is Mrs Charlotte Meadowcroft from Aylesbury, who together with her family thoroughly enjoyed the Rushcart Ceremonies which coincide with Whitsuntide. Mrs Esther Shaw Lawn from California made another very generous contribution of 200 dollars to the Society in January, and we can report correspondence being maintained with Mrs Lois Leech in Australia.

Unfortunately we must record some losses to the Membership and the passing of Mr Patrick Morison of Twickenham; Mr Harold Brooks, Grasscroft; Mr Neil Roydes, Royton; Mr Frank Wills, Grasscroft; and Mr J R Carpenter of Lydgate.

On a very happy note, we congratulate Mr Hartley and Mrs Marion Schofield on the Diamond Anniversary of their Wedding on 8th December 1994.

Publications

Since Michael Buckley's temporary removal to New York, Tony Wheeldon has done a fine job as Publications Officer.

Sales to the end of October 1994 were £3026. This compares favourably with previous years, where sales were between £1766 and £3504 excluding Festival years.

As last year, the sales of "Cherry Valley Chronicles" have been disappointing, even though about 100 copies were sent to the United States.

During the year the new publication about the "Huddersfield Narrow Canal" celebrated the Bicentenary of the Parliamentary Act. Since the launch in April 1994, 200 copies have been sold to a value of £720.

Other publications making significant contributions were: "Saddleworth Buildings" (£975), "Saddleworth Story" from the W E A (£328), "Passage through Time" (£381), "With Ammon Wrigley in Saddleworth" (£378), Countryside Guides, North and South (£809) and various Trails (£338).

Again Saddleworth Museum was our most important outlet, but expansion has been made to Hammicks, W H Smith and similar stores.

Canon C C W Airne, our Archivist, reports that two important collections have been presented to the Society and are now available to researchers. These are the David Asquith Collection dealing with Waterworks in Saddleworth, and the Delph Independent Church records. Further material dealing with waterworks is in process of being calendared by Mr Kevin W Lawton, to whom we are most grateful.

Further progress has been made in the calendaring and card indexing of the Bernard Barnes Slide Collection. The Calder Valley section is now completed. There remain over 1,000 slides to be dealt with, and then we can tackle the documentary section.

The biggest problem facing both the Museum Archives and the Society's, is that we are running out of storage space.

Our thanks to Maurice Dennett for his invaluable assistance and to Sue Latimer and her staff for standing-in for the Archivists when they are not on the premises.

Two enjoyable trips were organised during the year - the Summer Visit to Liverpool, the Mersey Ferry and the Wirral, was arranged by Neil Barrow - then Audrey Carr organised an Autumn Visit to Castle Howard of 'Brideshead Revisited' fame and to Scarborough. During the latter trip, suggestions were made for the 1995 trip and Lincoln (and possibly Newark) seemed the popular choice.

The Archaeology Group has continued its regular meetings at the Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill, thanks to the continued generosity of Phil Kay. Our illustrated talks on the first Wednesday in the month have included Sicily, Hadrian's Wall, Castlefield Manchester, the Isle of Wight and an 'Animal, Vegetable or Mineral?' Quiz. Trips included Styal, Norton Priory and Castlefield, including a boat trip to the Bridgewater Canal. Members attended an exhibition of air photographs and a lecture by Professor Bari Jones on "Hadrian's Wall" at Oldham Sixth Form College on 10th June. Meetings of the Council for British Archaeology in the North-West have been held in Bury and in Bolton.

The Society Bulletins have maintained their excellence throughout the year. We must congratulate our Editor, Michael Fox, all his contributors and the dedicated distribution team led by Elsie Broadbent - a stalwart group who deliver 230 Bulletins by hand.

A special mention must be made of our "Poet Laureate", Jack Hindle, who keeps us all up-to-date with his well-researched Newsletter.

Finally, our two very hardworking Officers must be congratulated: Neil Barrow, our Secretary, who has produced another excellent Syllabus of lectures and works hard to service all the Committee's paperwork; Godfrey Adams, whose immaculate accounts and unerring advice earn our gratitude - Godfrey is also to be commended on his ordination as Deacon at St Chad's Church.

I trust you will agree this has been a truly remarkable year.

J C CARR

Chairman

7th December 1994

Income and Expenditure Account

Year Ended 30th October 1994

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
Payments as per Receipts & Payments a/c	6124	Receipts as per Receipts & Payments a/c	8735
		Decrease in creditors	14
Bad Debt provision	16		
Decrease in Debtors	1142		
Add opening stock	11138		
	18420		
Less closing stock	11060		
	7360		
B Barnes notional int	80		
Surplus for year	1309		
	8749		8749

Balance Sheet as at 30th October 1994

ACCUMULATED FUND		ASSETS	
Balance 1/11/93	27651	Equipment at cost	881
Surplus for year	1309	Less provision for depreciation	881
	28960		0
Bernard Barnes Fund	1553	Stock of Publications at cost	11060
Creditors OMB	200	Debtors	723
		Bank:-	
		Cash	21
		Current a/c	1367
		Yorkshire 1 month	5462
		Yorkshire 3 month	12080
	30713		30713

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 30th October 1994

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Membership Fees	2497	Bulletin Cost	755
Bulletin Sales/Subs	90	Post & Telephone	420
Ordinary Publication sale	4254	Affiliation Fees	99
Donations	84	Lecture fees/costs	100
		Stationery	222
		Publications	2685
		Shipping	199
Refreshments	39	Misc	54
Misc	3	Museum	475
Social	801	Social	953
Interest received	393	Photocopying	96
Industrial Arch Conf	574		
		Archive Cost	66
	8735		6124
CASH IN HAND AT 1/11/93		CASH IN HAND 31/10/94	
Cash	21	Cash	21
Current a/c	1146	Current a/c	1367
Deposit a/c	0	Yorkshire 1 month	5468
Business Reserve	15152	Yorkshire 3 month	12080
	25054		25054

THE FAIRY HOLES

The Fairy Holes are a series of small caverns beneath the Saddleworth moor between the two dominant peaks of Pots and Pans and Alphin. They are familiar to Saddleworthians, but certainly to anybody visiting the area they would not be seen as an immediate landmark. They have long inspired the romantic and the curious. Individuals such as Samuel Bottomley, who was moved to verse by them:

> "Within this mountain lies a latent cell,
> (As story says) where fancied fairies dwell;
> Imbowell'd deep in caverns, not a shout
> From those within, is heard by those without.
> A dog and fox once on a Whitsun morn
> Full speed went in, but never did return
>
> The bold invader who adventures here,
> To guide his way a flaming torch must bear,
> No friendly chink for daylight does appear;
> And cautiously explore the steep descent,
> Lest ills unseen his fate return prevent.
> The mountain opens as you downward go,
> In dreary chasms to the realms below;
> Where Erebus, far from the cheerful light,
> Is chain'd in regions of eternal night.
> Brave is the man who here alone dares trace
> By gradual steps the danger of the place.
> With horror seiz'd, some sad mishap he dreads.
> Heavens! what transition then again to rise,
> From realms of death, and view the radiant
> skies."

(Extract from "GREENFIELD - A POEM" by Samuel Bottomley.)

The first recorded account seems to have been that of Mr Robinson around 1812. This was later incorporated in "Saddleworth Sketches" by the local historian Joseph Bradbury, who frankly admitted that he was afraid of exploring the Fairy Holes himself on account of falling stones and noxious gases.....

".....an ardent desire for some time to visit those dreary chasms, generally called the Fairy Holes, and the different opinions of persons who have infrequently visited the place, determined me to have an excursion into these subterraneous passages.- The weather being favourable, 1 set out together with a few friends, towards the latter end of June; being provided with lights and other things necessary for the journey, we ascended the hill called Aldermans's. The situation of the place is a little more than one mile distant from the parochial Chapel of Saddleworth, about 50 yards from the summit of the rock on the top of the hill, rather north, descending a few yards. We lighted our candles, it being quite calm: the entrance for six or seven yards is rather straight with a vaulted roof, until it gives a turn or winding, when it descends almost perpendicular for a considerable length: when

we arrived at the bottom, we came to a broad passage which is called Cupid's Alley, it has two passages, one to the right and the other to the left, the former not extending very far. Proceeding to reconnoitre the other we came to a corner that was rather dangerous.....

A deeper horror seiz'd the mind,
When from this rock you look behind,
Your beating heart its breast repels,
And dreads the danger of these cells.

At this corner there are projecting rocks about twelve feet high, and rather difficult of ascent; arriving at the top, we found the road very good for a considerable way, then descending and turning back to the right under a large heap of rocks, to the same place were we ascended the rocks at the corner, the passage became rather straight for some yards, then opening to a broad deep dreary chasm, which is called the Devil's cellar.....

Should Pluto from his region roam,
Within this cell he'd find a home,
With ugliness it seemed adorned,
And perfect blackness like him formed.

The rocks on both sides are almost perpendicular, and nearly parallel to each other: we proceeded down the cavern until we came to the bottom, and finding the rocks lay upon the shoal, which was a plain indication that we were at the bottom of the subterraneous vault; then returning back we measured the road, and taking the angles, the result was, from the bottom to the top 45 yards, and about 30 yards perpendicular from the surface of the earth, or the first entrance of the cavern."

Subsequent visitors made their own written records. From James Butterworths writings we read of the visit in 1828 by Mr J.H.Platt, schoolmaster of Boarshaw School, and Mr William Nicholson, of Lees in company with others. These gentlemen, in the true spirit of explorers, added their own nomenclature to Robinson's - Nicholson's Gallery, Halliwell Street, Broadbent Passage, Elliots Treasury and by their very nature these having a strong Lees connection by the very nature of the origins of the "explorers". Others bestowed were of a more fairy-like origin; Queen Mab's Bedchamber, Nox's Retreat, and Beelzebub's Pantry, whilst the list was suitably completed by Fox's Kennel, George Street, and Falstaff Corner, Coney Street, St John's Street and Confusion Street.

In April 1860 it was the turn of the members of the Saddleworth Literary and Philosophical Society and the Oldham Microscopical Society, the last mentioned including Mr James Nield to be made famous in later years for his discovery of Oldham's Fossilised Forest on Oldham Edge. The expedition to the Fairy Holes was "to see with their own eyes whether anything of human or scientific interest was to be attributed to them"; as such it was a serious venture. The whole

excursion was recorded in the Manchester City News for 1st May 1860, and the full account is given below as being probably the best and most scientific account we have.

The party ventured forth suitably equipped.....

"By the kindness and foresight of our Saddleworth friends they were provided with most things needful for such an exploration - lamps, candles, ropes, indiarubber tubing for telephonic purposes, a spade, a hammer, a ladder, a pocket compass, and tape for measuring dimensions, articles which proved of valuable service. Our party was made up of men who, though differing widely in age, were agreed in a healthy doubt as to these holes having any human value beyond their grotesque interest, the elder in the "struggle for existence" having allowed all the romance and poetry of their nature to evaporate and become dissipated, the younger not possessing any of that ethereal quality, having been bred and reared in the modern or more matter of fact school of thought. With the knowledge of the nature of the rocks, in which these cavernous openings occur, it was felt to be improbable that the explorers would meet with anything of pre-historic interest in these "Fairy Holes" that could render additional light to that given out by Kent's Hole, near Torquay, the Brixham Cave, or the Victoria Cave near Settle. The results of the exploration proved the soundness of these doubts, and confirmed the truth of their speculations.

I shall leave to others, who are better word painters and who weild more facile pens, to describe the manner of proceeding, the many accidents and "hair breadth" escapes in the imminent deadly breach," merely premising that each of the explorers, candle in hand, after moving backwards along the first passage, which was nearly horizontal, was finally let down to the abyss below. The descent was of no great depth, but of great difficulty, our further progress being comparatively safe and easy, though calling for our utmost caution and vigilance and an occasional vigorous use of the spade. We found ourselves in a long narrow vault, which on subsequent measurement was found to be about 150 feet long, including the perpendicular descent and the first passage. The width of the passage at its greatest rarely exceeds three or four feet from wall to wall, and in some places was so narrow as not to permit of two persons passing each other. The distance from floor to roof, as might be expected, varied considerably. In some places it might measure from ten to fourteen feet, at other points the roof swooped low owing to one or a number of disturbed and overhanging block approaching the floor while in another case masses of rock that had disengaged themselves from above rested on the floor and had to be clambered over. In both these cases there was not too much room for the passage of a single person in a stooping or crawling position.

Above our heads as will be imagined, there was not an unbroken and continuous roof but a succession of blocks of stone, from a few pounds to many tons in weight, all sharp, angular and jammed and locked together, and supporting

themselves by their own weight. The floor was paved by similar blocks, some of them so large as to seriously impede our progress, and at times rendering it necessary for us to use some force to squeeze ourselves through the space left, or to clamber with difficulty over them. Doubtless both the blocks beneath our feet and those above our heads had at one time or other fallen from the top and sides of the chasm in which we stood - those in the roof shutting out the light of day, those beneath our feet closing a crack in the earth of unknown depth. The horizontal length of the fissure, which takes a north-westerly direction following the trend of the hill is likewise uncertain, but the fissure itself is probably somewhere connected, though perhaps indirectly with the great faults which gives rise to the valley of Saddleworth or some of its offshoots. It may not be of contemporary age with that of the larger faults, and 1 am disposed to believe that it is not, seeing that its walls and intruded rock masses have suffered little from the erosive effects of time, but that they still possess their angles in all their pristine sharpness. At the time of its occurrence there seems to have been little or no displacement in a perpendicular direction in the beds of rock, the two sides of the chasm seeming to correspond, though the limited view afforded in the Fairy Holes renders it unsafe to dogmatise. It is but a yawning rent in the strata of secondary geological importance.

But, oh ! what a miserable hole it is to be sure. The breath as it issues from one's lips is chilled into a steam-like cloud about one's head. There is little dripping from the roof, but when an occasional drop unseen, does fall upon the nape of the neck, finding its way down the vertebral column, the blood of one's whole body seems to freeze. The walls are coated with a thin film of greyish-looking matter, which, 1 presume is lime. On the face of the smooth rock, where our further progress was arrested, previous explorers have written their initials, and figures representing dates. At this spot our task ended, save measuring, as we retraced our steps, the distance we had previously traversed, and of necessity that other still more important task of making good our escape from our voluntary imprisonment. No easy job. Laying carefully on a little shelf of rock a small bottle containing a written document setting forth that at the date thereon indicated the Saddleworth Literary and Philosophical Society visited the place the names of the few actual explorers being added - we began our return journey.

In conclusion, 1 hazard the assertion that at no time in the past has this cavern been the permanent abode of man or beast. The difficulty of ingress and egress, and the utter want of comfort and convenience, forbid the belief that it should have been so used. (Philander)"

In August 1902 another party made a serious attempt to explore the holes. They had with them a camera and intended to record the interior for the world to see.....

"Full of enthusiasm aroused by legendary lore a party of twelve, accompanied by Mr Whitehead, gamekeeper for Mr Brook, paid a visit to the historic spot on Saturday afternoon. The

party represented numerous tastes, but all were filled with expectation, and determined to see all that was to be seen, no matter what the risk. Mr Radcliffe Firth, of Mossley was fully equipped with photographic apparatus, hopefully of presenting to the world views of the interior of the wonderful cavern. Mr James Gartside of the same borough, a daring cragsman, had a long rope ladder under his arm. Mr H.Carter, Uppermill, had an equipment including ropes, candles, and a patent appliance for lowering a light into the "abysmal depths" to ascertain the presence of the noxious gases; Mr J. Chatterton's contribution was another rope; Mr S.Hill of Ashton was present to add another "poetical spark to his firewood"; others were armed with hammers to secure fossils, bicycle lamps and other appliances, and naturally there were in the company a couple of journalists with note book and pencil prepared "when found to make a note on't," whether in the darkest depths or on the sun kissed surface.

Residents gazed with astonishment at the spectacle of such a party passing along their roads. Ropes suggested rash acts, but not of the kind really contemplated. The most important personage of the party has, however, been omitted. This was Mr Frank Broadbent, whose previous exploits in the Fairy Holes made him an excellent guide."

This party seems to have been disappointed in their expectations.

"The adventure is certainly an exciting one, but nothing more can be said of it. There is nothing to suggest the home of the fairy, but rather of the elf and the sprite. There are no stalactites, no grottoes, no fossils, no remains, nothing to enrapture the amateur naturalist. In lieu there is an abundance of slimy mud which sticks closer than a brother, corners which have a happy way of skinning the shins and knuckles dripping tallow from candles, and the foul smoke from the oil lamps."

The camera sustained damage and the party were left with no record....."the photographs were a failure. The camera sustained such damage in its descent that when the developing stage was reached it was found that all the plates had been irrevocably spoiled"

"The scramble lasted about an hour, the whole returning to the open-air full of mirth and amused at the dirty spectacle presented by their companions. The casualties consisted of several minor bruises, damage to the camera, and the loss of a rope ladder which was forgotten at the bottom. A bottle was placed at the lowest depth giving the names of the explorers. Other bottles were seen, but it was noticeable that some were placed not very far from the entrance. To those who desire to see the really curious we would give the advice not to go to the Fairy Holes but rather to some of the Derbyshire caves; but for a good afternoons fun, scrambling amid mud and dirt with the enjoyment of children, there can be no better place than the Fairy Holes".

Only a week later the papers recorded another expedition...

"On Tuesday afternoon last nine men and one boy, with desperation in their eyes and determination in their footsteps, were seen in Indian file wending their way up the Greenfield hills to that famous and mysterious cavern talked of and written
about with an extravagance worthy of a superstitious age.....The party did not go in their Sunday clothes; garments long despised were once more fished out for use. Almost every profession was represented, so that any discovery or eventuality would have met its professor had there been any....."

Having arrived the party prepared to descend into the dark depths.

"Ropes were fixed to stout posts, candles were lighted, and singly, at periods of about a minute, the party gradually disappeared into a huge cleft in the living rock..... There was scrambling and slipping and squeezing, intermingled with roguish laughter, at every, trifling misadventure or personal predicament. The walls were grimy and slimy and where the passages were narrow clothes, and in some cases shirt sleeves, were picturesque to behold. When the terminus was reached every man, with a self-satisfied smile on his countenance, like the loyal subject that he was, sang lustily "God Save the King," and the Union Jack would have been hoisted and the cave declared British territory only the party forgot to bring one".

After much scrambling the party worked their way through some of the caves giving us a brief description of some of the interiors

"The whole effect is impressive when well lighted, the iron pyrites giving a brightness to the rocks and hiding their sliminess. Some few remains of previous expeditions were observable, such as bottles containing the names of parties, ropes, the remains of candles, & etc. It is said that the name of the late Mr John Platt is cut in the rock; if so nature has obscured it, and it would take some diligence and patience now to discover it"

The various descriptions deny perhaps our romanticised vision of what should be down there, certainly no pot of gold with the fairies to protect it, but for the true romantic of Saddleworth that won't stop them sitting on the heights of Alderman on warm summers evening with the Fairy Holes below and wondering where that pot of gold really is.

To anybody having read this article the Fairy Holes should in no way be explored as an individual or without appropriate experience.

PETER FOX

Some Descendants of the Platt family of Thorns, Saddleworth (Part Two)

JAMES PLATT (1792-1864)

The son of James Platt and his wife Betty (nee Gartside) of Ogden Edge, James was baptised at Delph Independent Chapel on 4th February 1792.

At an early age he became a pupil of the Rev James Hargreaves, Baptist Minister of Ogden. It has been said of the latter that he was a man of great natural and acquired talents, and of great originality of mind. He was much celebrated both as a schoolmaster, preacher, and was a controversial writer of some repute. This teacher is said to have gratified and encouraged the inquisitiveness of his pupil James Platt, and encouraged free inquiry and independent thought to the degree that he was often puzzled in the maze of metaphysical discussion into which he was drawn by his acute pupil.

James Platt himself has been described as a man having "a large store of general knowledge, and an extraordinary fecundity of thought, which induced a readiness of expression and a command of language that gave an easy fluency of style to his prose" ('Miscellaneous Writings', 1865).

Eventually James Platt, whilst still in his youth, became an assistant master in the school at Ogden, kept by Rev James Hargreaves. Then, according to Mr Morgan Brierley (1891), he taught a day school for a short period, in a private house in the village of Denshaw, and may also have taught for a short time a day school in Uppermill.

At a meeting held on 3rd January 1812, with Mr John Buckley of Upperwood in the chair, it was resolved to go ahead with plans for the building of a school at Boarshurst. A subscription fund was opened and it was decided that every subscriber of £10 should be a trustee of the school. It was also resolved that the major part of the trustees for the time being should have the appointment of the schoolmaster, and also of discharging him for misconduct or misapplication; and also of all other arrangements respecting the school hereafter. The school was to be twelve yards in length and eight yards in breadth, with a boarded floor, and one storey high, and agreeably to the plan produced at the meeting by Mr John Buckley.

The school was accordingly built, and opened in the year 1814, with Mr James Platt as its first headmaster. Under his able management for the next twenty-two years it had a most prosperous career. He finally gave up possession of the school on 31st December 1836.

In 1840 he was appointed Guardian (under Gilbert's Act) of the Poor of Saddleworth, after a sharp contest with a Mr Hesselgreave and two other candidates for the office. This position he retained till the parish was put under the new Poor Law in 1853, when he was elected Clerk to the Board. Ammon Wrigley (1941) states that during the time that James Platt was Guardian of the Poor, it was the custom for Saddleworth women to go to the Workhouse to be confined of an illegitimate child. Mr Platt said it was wrong for children to have a pauper birthplace and refused women who were not in poor circumstances.

He was appointed Superintendent Registrar in 1854, and so remained until the time of his death. By the year 1851 he was being described as a woollen manufacturer and an Agent for the Yorkshire Insurance Co.

During the Corn Law agitation he wrote a poetical petition to Parliament, praying for the repeal of the Corn Laws, which he sent for presentation to Lord Morpeth, late Earl of Carlisle. It was a humorous piece and it is said that loud cries of "read, read" resounded through the House when his lordship announced a message to the House from a "son of the muses". The reading was welcomed with much laughter and applause, and his lordship remitted £10 to Mr Platt for the poor of Saddleworth, as his acknowledgement of the honour done him in making him its vehicle to Parliament.

Closely involved in church matters, he was Secretary of the Saddleworth Branch Bible Society from its establishment in 1819, until the time of his death. In 1831 he was appointed Secretary of the newly established Ebenezer Congregational Chapel in Uppermill. This chapel came into being when John Platt Esq of Heathfields House, and James Buckley Esq, J P, of Greenfield, purchased the former Independent Evangelical Methodist Church at Uppermill from John Schofield Esq of Shaws, for a sum of £290. A plaque in Saddleworth Church reveals that in 1846-47, when the tower of the church was re-erected by voluntary subscriptions, Mr James Platt of Prospecton subscribed £10-0-0.

Along with his sons Owen, Lawrence and Sidney, he played an important part in the affairs of the Saddleworth Mechanics Institute.

An account of James Platt's residence Prospecton (grid reference 003047) which was built west of Bunkers, off Tunstead Lane, Greenfield, is given by the late Bernard Barnes (1971). It is considered by some that the name Prospecton was probably an invention of James Platt, and that the house may have had a different name originally. However, this seems rather unlikely if James was responsible for building the property in the first place. The name appears incorrectly as Prospection on the 1979 'Saddleworth Countryside Guide (South)'.

The account of Mr James Platt given by the late Joseph Thornton (1967) and quoted in the Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin 8:56, 1978, is only partially correct. Mr Thornton states that James Platt was born and brought up at Buckstones, but as stated earlier, he was in fact born at Ogden Edge, Butterworth. The statement that James had but a single daughter is also incorrect as will be seen later. After stating that James Platt came to Prospecton and spent the whole of his married life there, Mr Thornton later states that "it was at his own expense that he built the house in which he lived and died."

James Platt married his first wife BETTY ASHWORTH at Rochdale Parish Church on 23rd April 1815. Betty was the daughter of Laurence Ashworth of Rough Bank, Butterworth, and his wife Jane (nee Wolfenden).

James and Betty had three sons and four daughters, presumably all born at Prospecton, and registered at Ogden Baptist. They were:

OWEN PLATT, born 18th June 1816, registered 31st August 1816. Married his first wife ESTHER RADCLIFFE on 30th May 1844, at Saddleworth. Esther died at Southport, aged 62 years, and was buried at Saddleworth on 28th November 1871. Owen then married SARAH, a native of Rochdale, and she became a member of Ebenezer Church, Saddleworth, in January 1874. Previously she had belonged to the Methodist New Connexion in Rochdale. Owen Platt is described first as a woollen clothier, then as a banker's clerk, accountant (1861), clerk to the Poor Law Guardians andInsurance Agent (1871), Superintendent Registrar B & M (1881). The Church Memoirs of Ebenezer Congregational Church, Uppermill (1923), reveal that he subscribed £100 towards the building of the new Chapel in 1873, and he is also shown as having been a treasurer of the Church at one time, also a Deacon. He and his family resided at Prospecton.

LAWRENCE PLATT, born 2nd February 1818, registered 31st May 1818. He probably married his wife MARY ANN at a nonconformist chapel. She was buried at Saddleworth, from Shaw Hall, on 12th September 1844, aged only 27 years. Lawrence is described as a clothier (1841) and as a Mill Agent (1851), being resident on both occasions at Prospecton. According to the Ebenezer 'Church Book', he joined that church on 5th February 1841, but removed for a time to Bottom of Moor about October 1842. The same book informs us that he

left for Natal, South Africa, in June 1851, and was 'transferred' on September 29th 1853. He died in the latter country.

The following four children were all registered at Ogden Baptist Chapel on 20th April 1826:

SERENA PLATT, born 8TH July 1820. She was admitted a member of Ebenezer Church on 1st May 1840. Married JAMES BOTTOMLEY, a woollen cloth manufacturer, on 5th May 1846 at Saddleworth, and they had a son JAMES ALFRED. Their home was at Hollin-greave, and Serena died here, aged only 31 years. She was buried at Saddleworth on 21st July 1851.

MARY JANE PLATT, born 23rd October 1821 (appears in register as 1820 in error). Described in the 1851 census as a sempstress, and at that time living at Prospecton with her father and other members of the family. She had apparently been long-afflicted and died on 4th September 1853, in her 32nd year. She is buried in the family grave in the lower churchyard at Saddleworth.

ELLEN PLATT, born 3rd September 1823.

SIDNEY PLATT, born 9th September 1825. He was admitted to Ebenezer Church on 2nd January 1846, but emigrated in August 1848 to Natal, South Africa, almost three years before his elder brother Lawrence left for that country. He apparently died there.

The following child was registered at Ogden on 30th (or 31st) December 1827:

ANN PLATT, born 29th July 1827. Married at Saddleworth on 10th April 1857 BENJAMIN BEAUMONT, a salesman of Birkby, near Huddersfield. Her husband was the son of Abraham Beaumont, a cloth dresser.

According to Joseph Thornton (1967), James Platt's daughter also went to South Africa and married the son of the famous missionary Dr Moffat. As pointed out earlier, James Platt had four daughters, two of whom are known to have predeceased their father. Both Ann and Ellen are mentioned in their father's will, but there was no indication that they were married. If Ellen was the daughter who married Dr Robert Moffat's son, the marriage most probably took place in South Africa. Moffat's own daughter, Mary, was the wife of the missionary David Livingstone.

James Platt's first wife Betty died suddenly whilst seated at her dining table, on 14th June 1838, according to the family gravestone. Twenty-four years after her death, James married his second wife ANN RADCLIFFE, spinster (aged 58 years), daughter of John Radcliffe, clothier, of Cross, on 25th July 1862, at the Register Office, Prospecton. Ann survived her husband by over twenty-five years, and died on 19th September 1889, in her 86th year.

James Platt died on 26th March 1864, in his 73rd year, and was buried at Saddleworth Church on 1st April, in the grave which contains also his wife Betty, his widow Ann, daughter Mary Jane, and two of his sisters-in-law, Ann Ashworth and Jane Ashworth.

Numbers from all denominations assembled in Ebenezer Chapel, Uppermill, to pay their respects to the deceased, when a memorial service was held on Sunday 10th April 1864.

It has been said of James Platt that he "possessed a powerful imagination which he generally kept under more powerful control. In some of his pieces, both verse and prose, lofty conception is not unfrequently manifest". Familiar to many will be his epitaph on the Bill o' Jack's gravestone, which he wrote following the brutal murder of William Bradbury and his son Thomas, on the night of April 2nd 1832. One writer says of James Platt that "he deduced his standard of duty from the highest and purest source of morals; to that standard his conscience steadily adhered. His rigid conscientiousness forbade the exercise of mercy at the expense of justice. While Guardian of the Poor, his stringent application of the parish money contrasted with the munificence of his own private charities. To the victims of improvidence and dissipation he was but legally just; while worthy objects and undertakings of rational benevolence were sure of his sympathy and efficient support. Though one of the most cheerful, most kindly-social of men, he was in motive and deed the rigidly 'righteous man'. Though this strict in regard of moral and social obligations, yet as a religionist he possessed a truly catholic spirit, free from bigotry and all sectarian exclusiveness."

An obituary of James Platt appeared in the 'Huddersfield Chronicle' about the time of his death.

Under the terms of his will dated 9th November 1863, he bequeathed to his son Owen the whole of his freehold and leasehold property at Prospecton, provided that he pay £350 for same at the time of taking possession. To his wife he gave £200 and disclaimed all property which his wife possessed before her marriage to him, and of which she had made a will. A legacy of £50 was given to his grandson Edward Ashworth, and the will also mentions his grandson James Alfred Bottomley who was to share equally in the estate with his five children. He mentions also his share in the freehold property situate at Mossley Brow in the parish of Ashton-under-Lyne, which had been leased for a term to John Mayall Esq of that place. In a codicil to the above will, dated 11th March 1864, he gave to his executor Owen Platt, on behalf of the family, all his manuscripts in prose, verse and music, enjoining him to allow the full use of the same to Mr John Schofield of Uppermill, draper, who with a friend "has kindly engaged to publish the said MSS". A sum of not exceeding £300 was set aside to indemnify the said Mr Schofield from loss in their publication.

JOSEPH PLATT (1805-1882)

Joseph, youngest of the three sons of James Platt and his wife Betty (nee Garside), was born at Ogden Edge, Butterworth, on 15th July 1805 and registered at the Baptist Chapel, Ogden, on 31st July.

By the age of nineteen he had become a painter by trade, and on 7th June 1824 he married,at Rochdale Parish Church, JANE WOOD, daughter of James Wood, clothier, of Saddleworth Fold, and his wife Sarah. Where the couple lived immediately after their marriage is not known, but they eventually occupied property at Moorgate, Uppermill. The house in which they lived was one of several built on a plot of land first mentioned in an indenture dated 3rd November 1638, between Sir John Ramsden and his wife Jane Anne, of Byram, Yorkshire; Thomas Shaw, clothier, of Boarshurst, Saddleworth; and John Kaye, Yeoman, of Marsden. An indenture of 27th January 1847, concerning the same land, refers to a transaction between Giles Shaw, Joseph Platt and James Lawton, whereby a yearly rent of £4 was to be paid to Giles Shaw and his heirs.

Joseph and Jane Platt had at least the following eight children:

SARAH PLATT, born c. 1825. She married JAMES LAWTON at St Chad Saddleworth, on 13th March 1846. An architect by profession, James Lawton was responsible for designing the new Ebenezer Chapel, built in 1873. The Lawtons,who lived at Moorgate, Uppermill, near to Sarah's parents, had eight children.

SERENA PLATT, born 2nd September 1827, baptised 22nd November 1827 at Uppermill Wesleyan Chapel. Serena was presumably named after her cousin Serena, daughter of James Platt of Prospecton. She married William Masters, book-keeper, at Rochdale Parish Church, on 9th November 1848. An account of the Masters family is given in the Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin Vol 15 pp 66-70, 1985.

MARY J PLATT, born 24th November 1829, baptised 3rd February 1830 at Uppermill Wesleyan Chapel. According to the 1851 Census, she was a straw worker, and ten years later was living with her parents Joseph and Jane. A GEORGE PLATT, aged 5 years, grandson of the latter couple, who was also living with them in 1861, was presumably the son of Mary J Platt.

EDWIN WOOD PLATT, born 29th April 1832, baptised 24th June 1832 at Uppermill Wesleyan Chapel. A painter by trade, he married LAVINIA, a native of Micklehurst, Cheshire. Of their six children, born 1856 to 1870, one died in infancy, and two, when little more than four and a half years of age. Their daughter MINA LOUISA (born 1st February 1860) married ABRAM LAWTON, woollen manufacturer, of Harrop Court, on 22nd August 1888 at St Chad, Saddleworth. Abram was the son of Alfred William Lawton, of Green Ash. These Lawtons were descendants of the Lawton family of Gatehead. ADA, another

daughter of Edwin Wood Platt and Lavinia, married a member of the LEECH family. Edwin Wood Platt died on 1st February 1899, in his 67th year, predeceased by his wife Lavinia, who had died three months earlier, on 1st November 1898, in her 64th year. Both are buried in the family grave at Saddleworth Church (Lower yard).

JOHN ALFRED PLATT, born September 1834; died 7th March 1835, aged 5 months and 14 days.

ELIZA PLATT, born 3rd July 1836, baptised 7th September 1836 at Uppermill Wesleyan Chapel; died 28th October 1848, in her 13th year. She and her brother John Alfred are buried with their parents.

FRANK PLATT, born 1839/40. Had married MARY ANN, a native of Huddersfield, by the time he was about 21 years of age. However, he died young, leaving two sons, WILFRED and ALFRED. The latter, who became a painter by trade, was reared by his grandparents Joseph and Jane Platt. Alfred Platt married ANNIE SMITH, whose family kept the Hare and Hounds Inn, Uppermill, for at least the period 1880 to 1888.

FRANCIS AMELIA PLATT, born 13th January 1846, baptised 2nd February 1846 at Ebenezer Congregational Chapel, Uppermill; married JOSEPH WOOD, grocer, of Dobcross, on 24th July 1878, at Ebenezer Chapel, Uppermill. Her husband, Joseph, was born about the year 1841. His mother Hannah Wood, who came from Marsden, Yorkshire, was the daughter of Joseph Wood, stonemason, and his wife Hannah (nee Bradley). After the death of her father, which took place at Town, Marsden, in 1827, the family moved to Dobcross. On 14th June 1847 Hannah Wood married HENRY WHITEHEAD, a painter, of Dobcross, and by the year 1851 they were living at Bridge House, Dobcross. The Ebenezer 'Church Book' indicates that Joseph Wood went to America, although it does not give the date of his departure for that country. We do know that he returned to England by the late 1870's before his marriage. By then he was trading as a grocer in High Street, Uppermill. His shop was adjacent to the bridge over the river Tame, and next door to the Post Office. Joseph was re-admitted as a member of Ebenezer Church on 19th October 1879, and was elected a Deacon in December 1891. After retiring from their grocery business in Uppermill, Joseph and Frances Amelia took up residence at Winsdale, Kinders, Greenfield. It was here that Frances Amelia died on 15th March 1919, aged 74 years, and Joseph on 8th December 1920, aged 80 years. Both were buried at Saddleworth Cemetery.

Joseph and Jane Platt were admitted to Ebenezer Church on 31st October 1845, just a few months before the baptism of their daughter Frances Amelia. At the time of the re-opening of Ebenezer in 1873 following its re-building, Joseph Platt was one of the Deacons of the Church. His nephew, Owen Platt of Prospecton, who was also a Deacon, entertained the choir to a dinner at the Hare and Hounds Inn to mark the occasion.

The Boarshurst Brass Band voluntarily gave its services at the re-opening ceremony, those present donating about £15 for the band's funds.

The conveyance of Land and Cottages at Moorgate, from Joseph Platt, retired painter, to his son Edwin Wood Platt, is mentioned in a document dated 20th September 1869, whilst a conveyance dated 25th July 1870 concerns the mortgage of a part of land and messuages at Uppermill, from Joseph Platt to his nephew Owen Platt. This mentions the request by Joseph Platt for a loan of £400 from his nephew. Joseph was declared bankrupt on 24th November 1873 at Oldham. Eventually, Owen Platt sold to Edwin Wood Platt the property at Moorgate which Joseph had mortgaged to him in 1870. The property was turned over to Edwin in 1876.

Joseph Platt died on 31st March 1882, in his 77th year, and his widow Jane died on 4th January 1884, in her 77th year. The family memorial stone can still be seen in the lower yard at Saddleworth Church.

I would like to thank the Rev D G Openshaw for allowing me to consult the records held at Ebenezer Chapel, Uppermill; Mr J M Russell for sending me a list of Platt entries from the registers of Holy Trinity Church, Shaw; and Mrs Kathleen Thornton and Mrs Betty Mills for the opportunity of examining deeds relating to the property at Moorgate, Uppermill.

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Will of Edmund Platt of Thurnes, 20th October 1636
Administration of Sarah Platt, widow, of Thorns, 1725
Will of James Platt of Ogden Edge, 17th March 1815
Will of James Platt of Prospecton, Saddleworth, 9th November 1863

Family Deeds.

L N Kidd, Greenfield

A LIST OF HOLDINGS HELD AT
THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE
of
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
TWEEDALE STREET, ROCHDALE

CIVIL RECORDS

St Catherine' House Index: (England and Wales)	Births	: 1837 - 1930
	Marriages	: 1837 - 1903
	Deaths	: 1837 - 1901
Scottish Index	Births	: 1855 - 1955
	Marriages	: 1855 - 1931
	Deaths	: 1855 - 1949
Irish Index	Births	: 1864 - 1931
	Marriages	: 1845 - 1932
	Deaths	: 1864 - 1921
Boyd's Marriage Index	1st, 2nd and 3rd Series	

1st Series located through Counties
2nd and 3rd Series located through names of Brides and Grooms

Old Parochial Records for Scotland covering Christenings and Marriages and ending at 1855.

The International Genealogical Index (IGI) dated 1992; this covers all the world.

Parish and Vital Records Listings on Microfiche.

The Family Registry on Microfiche.

1851 Census for Lancashire together with name index (Courtesy of the Manchester and Lancashire F H S)

Various Counties for the 1881 Census (added to as counties are completed).

1891 Census for Lancashire

Various Gazeteers, both in book form and Microfiche.

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	Saturday	:	9.30 am - 12.30

Maurice Dennett

Letters

21 Marble Street
Derker
Oldham, Lancashire
OL1 4EY

Dear Mr Fox

I was fascinated by your article in Bulletin no. 24 about the Micklehurst Loop.

I was brought up at 78, Shaw Hall Bank Road, Greenfield, until 1955 and remember as a child hearing the sound of trains across the valley using the Micklehurst loop line, but rarely, if ever, saw any. My father was a goods clerk at Friezland in the late 1940s, but I cannot remember any of that.

With trains so much closer to hand, passing the rear of the house on the 'main line', my attentions were focused on those locomotives that I could see and wave to. It was a splendid house to live in if you liked steam locomotives. Friezland School, too, was conveniently situated for getting the full effect of a Liverpool-Newcastle express blasting uphill behind a pair of 3-cylinder 4-6-0s, and Aunty lived only a few yards further away (on Armit Road). If a train was heard approaching from the direction of Stalybridge, such were the acoustics in that vicinity, that I could leave 25 Armit Road and run up the field to reach the railway fence usually just in time to see the smoke of the engines billowing past in the deep cutting. Of course the amount of forewarning you got and the ability to intercept the train at the cutting depended on the amount of 'racket' that was coming from each chimney and the speed at which the train was travelling.

My experience of the Micklehurst Loop was, however, limited. After leaving the area to move to Shaw, I always enjoyed returning to Saddleworth to see steam in action.

On 4th December 1965, on a murky miserable morning, I positioned myself at the lineside between Moorgate (Delph Juction) and Saddleworth Viaduct to photograph a railtour that was expected to run from Liverpool and Crewe to York. It was running late and was a huge disappointment to me when it finally came. Two "Jubilees"in tandem were spotted in the distance travelling up the Micklehurst Loop with 14 coaches in tow! The front engine could not be identified (but was later discovered to have been no. 45654 HOOD) and the second engine was no. 45596 BAHAMAS, recognisable by her double chimney. Both engines had been cleaned for the occasion. A stove van had been provided to assist with the train-heating in view of the exceptional length of the train. A decent photograph from my position was impossible!

The only time that I travelled along the Micklehurst Loop was on a railtour from Bradford Exchange to Crewe on 5th September 1965. The motive power was Low Moor's highly-prized "Jubilee" no. 45565 VICTORIA and the train ran non-stop from Halifax

to Stockport in each direction. The load was only 6 coaches, but I remember VICTORIA making a ferocious attack on the climb from Huddersfield to Marsden on the outward journey.

In 1966 and the first half of 1967 I made many journeys on the Friday evening Manchester Exchange - York train, which remained steam-hauled throughout the period and I never once got a ride over the Micklehurst Loop with it, despite frequent delays at Diggle, and sometimes before then, when our train had caught up the preceeding Manchester Victoria - Leeds stopping train (a DMU). It would have made sense, in the name of punctuality, to route the steam train sometimes via Micklehurst.

You mentioned 'Crab' 2-6-0 no. 42765 in your article. As you are probably aware, this is the engine that now works regularly on the East Lancashire Railway between Bury and Rawtenstall. At that time it was based at Birkenhead (8H) depot, and I think you were very fortunate to see it on one of those double-headed oil trains, as the class 9F 2-10-0s were the mainstay of those workings, with 'Black Fives' used occasionally and the few remaining 'Crabs', including 42765 and 42942, normally restricted to local work in the Birkenhead area.

No. 42942 was the last one in service and an unsuccessful attempt was made to save this engine for preservation. Fortunately 42765, withdrawn from traffic in December 1966, was despatched to Woodham Brothers scrapyard at Barry in Glamorgan, where she lay for several years before being rescued like so many other locomotives bought by that same scrap merchant. So the disappointment in failing to save 42942 was compensated for later by the salvation of 42765.

If anybody is interested in the fastest ascents from Stalybridge to Diggle by steam locomotives, I can provide some details of journeys that I logged with various types of loco, loads and operating conditions. A keen driver and a willing fireman on a steam locomotive could come a close second to the performances put up by diesel traction.

Yours sincerely

David Bradbury

* * * * * * * * *

9, Greenway Drive
Mossley
Ashton-under-Lyne
OL5 0QE

Dear Michael,

I really enjoyed reading Bulletin no.24 and the saga of the Glen Mill (R James).

Looking through my notes I found some additional information on the same subject, including the enclosed letter which was sent to me some years ago.

Eric Roberts

"Shortly after the Germans were defeated in North Africa, a large number of German prisoners from there were sent to the Glen Mill. To cope with the extra numbers of prisoners, a large barbed wire compound was erected on the Constantine Street end of the mill, with a large number of tents inside. For a short period, the local Home Guard was sent down every evening to guard the perimeter of the fence every night, under the orders of a few regulars. As a member of the platoon of Home Guard based at Greenhill power station, we went down one night to take our turn of guard duty. (I think it was the summer of 1942).

We went into the guard room tent and were detailed off in 2 hour stints and which number guard post. I landed the midnight to 2 am stint at post number 10. (12 posts in all patrolling about 100 yards of the perimeter). I remember looking at the German lads, they all looked very fit and sun tanned.

As was the wont with most of Dad's Army, a number went into the nearest pub on Constantine Street for a few glasses of beer and a game of cards (me included).

Then back to the camp, where we were given 15 rounds of ammunition before going on guard. Now the rifles which the Home Guard polished so lovingly were Canadian 1st World War vintage of .300 calibre. (This ammo must have been in short supply, I only ever fired 15 rounds at Diggle Rifle Range during the whole course of the war). But we were given .303 ammo, the standard for Lee Enfield rifles, and told to put a clip of 5 in the breech and the rest in our ammo pouches, but to be careful not to shove one up the spout as it would get jammed.

I thought to myself 'this could only happen in England'. Then out to post 10 at midnight to patrol 100 yards of the perimeter on the Lees side. Then at one hour intervals the shout would go up 'Number one post and all's well', to be taken up by number two post and so on right on to number twelve post.

I don't know who thought that one up, but it didn't go down very well with the Jerry prisoners, who were trying to get a bit of shut-eye; you could hear them cursing and swearing in German from the tents as the cries rang round the valley all night.

I remember reading in the Oldham Chronicle a couple of days later that a couple of prisoners had escaped under the wire of the compound, and were recaptured wet and hungry a few days later on the Yorkshire moors.

The Chronicle should have a record of this in their papers around that time.

A number of prisoners from the Glen stayed on to work in Oldham after the war; one was a tailor who lodged with Jack Langshaw (now deceased) at 54, Mansfield Rd, Oldham, and I came across another working as a farm labourer at Holroyds Farm at Turf Lane, Strinesdale. "

Hope these reminiscences are of some use.

Yours faithfully

Mr Edward Houseman

* * * * * * * *

THE FAMILY OF JOHN AND MARY SHAW SHRIGLEY OF SADDLEWORTH, ENGLAND AND PUTNEY, VERMONT.

BY

SHELBY W. SHRIGLEY.

The Society's collection of Family History has been enhanced by the gift of this substantial book by its Authoress, who visited Saddleworth early in January.

Mrs. Shrigley has spent thirty years researching the family of her husband, Philip White Shrigley, of Lakewood, Colorado, who was the great-grandson of the Reverend James Shrigley, fifth child of John and Mary Shaw Shrigley of Saddleworth and Putney, Vermont, born in Delph on the 5th April, 1813.

The first three chapters trace the origins of the Shrigley Family in Cheshire, the three generations settled in Saddleworth from 1741 to 1821 and John and Mary Shaw's life in both Saddleworth and Putney, to which they emigrated in 1821.

The rest of the book is concerned with John and Mary Shaw Shrigley's nine children and their descendants to the present day and discusses their lives and the way in which one family, had remained within twenty miles of its place of origin for centuries, settled in Putney and rapidly dispersed through the length and breadth of the United States.

The family historian has a never ending task. There are always i's to dot and t's to cross, gaps to fill and suppositions to prove. In spite of all she has accomplished in compiling this book, Mrs. Shrigley still soldiers on and has undertaken to keep us informed of future discoveries, which the format of this book allows us to insert. We are very grateful for her gift and thank her most warmly.

C.C.W. Airne.

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

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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 Spring "Bulletin" is due for publication on 30th April 1995. All material to the Editor by 15th April please.

Saddleworth Historical Society

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

SADDLEWORTH BUILDINGS
by W. John Smith
A comprehensive illustrated guide to the vernacular architecture of the district £15.00

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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER WINTER 1994

"On the Pennine hills in winter,
With a nip in the wind,
There's a red cheek and a bracing
For body and for mind.
Then away from streeted houses
As far as bird can fly,
To the hills God made for roaming
And health and joy, say I".
Ammon Wrigley.

A successful November lecture was given by John Cleverley on The Oldham Local Militia, whose history was recalled from the Daily Regimental Orders for the years 1809-1812. Napoleon posed a real threat whilst this incipient Territorial Army marched off to their four week training camps in Bolton to the sound of drum and fife and learning to fire their muskets like clockwork thus creating their own part of the Thin Red Line which impressed the General Inspecting Officer from the War Office. Their Commanding Officer was Lt. Col. John Lees and with him we assembled on the Union Ground collected the King's Shilling and relived these military moments of this citizens army.

The first lecture of the New Year will be given on Monday 20th February, 1995, by Society Member, Norman Peart of Grotton, entitled 'Saddleworth to Marsden Packhorse Ways, Trade & Packmen." The programme continues on Wednesday the 15th March, 1995, when John Crossland will speak on "Archaeology at the Oldham Sixth Form College." The Lees Family of Park Bridge Ironworks & The Community of Park Bridge, feature in the lecture of Paul Walker on Thursday the 20th April, 1995.

THE BERNARD BARNES MEMORIAL LECTURE.

This important lecture will be held on Thursday the 25th May, 1995, at the Museum, 7.30 p.m., when Dr. David Jeremy will speak on 'Business Leaders and Company Cultures in Early 20th Century Lancashire,' Dr. Jeremy of Manchester Metropolitan University and formerly the London School of Economics is an authority on business history.

Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill.

Above the entrance to this inn is a carved datestone MB SB 1745 and so this year the landlord Mr. Philip Kay will be conducting the 250th Anniversary Celebrations in which all Societies participating of his hospitality will take part. It is hoped that the Society will be able to produce a Gazetteer for the Cross Keys, mount an exhibition with the help of the Brewery, John W. Lees of Middleton Junction and display the history of this favourite inn, further plans will be published in the next bulletin.

PUBLICATION.

During this year's Saddleworth Festival of the Arts the Society will publish a book entitled "SADDLEWORTH 1914-1919: THE EXPERIENCE OF A PENNINE COMMUNITY DURING THE GREAT WAR."

The author is Bill Mitchenson, Head of History at Saddleworth School and co-author with Ian McInnes of "Cotton Town Comrades." The book covers both the military and home-front experiences of Saddleworth and will include all the names of the men involved in this wartime epoch, their regiments, their exploits and the medals. It will be a true record of Saddleworth's contribution to the war effort and a valuable historical document. A unique opportunity to obtain a signed copy and meet the author will be available on Tuesday the 30th May, 1995, at 2.30 p.m., in the Lower Civic Hall, Uppermill, when Mr. Mitchenson will launch the Society book and give a talk on writing this piece of military history engraved on the hearts of so many. An order form is to be found enclosed with this bulletin.

SUMMER TRIP.

It has now been decided that the Society's Summer Outing will be to Lincoln on Saturday the 8th July, 1995. Full details are to be published in the Spring Newsletter of the next Bulletin.

Obituries.

We are sorry to record the death of Mr. Thomas H. Buckley of Denshaw Road, Delph, who had previously lived in the hills at Friezland Hall Farm, Heights.

The passing of Mrs. Edith Boon is a cause for sorrow as her equestrian exploits had long interested and entertained both members of the Society and readers of many local newspapers. Being a committed horsewoman she knew no boundaries and enjoyed her enthusiasms to the full, she will be fondly remembered living at Crinkle Cottage by the Cross Keys Inn, Delph.

The death of Mrs. Hilda M. Wood of Greenbridge Lane, Greenfield, marks the passing of one of the Societies early stalwarts and her work on 'The Saddleworth Story' for the WEA and her invaluable tabulations for the Gazetteer were definitive. Her knowledge of Saddleworth was supreme and the capability she gave to local history was much appreciated by all who knew her. The visit she paid to Neil Barrow's lecture on the Wirral is remembered and her contribution with a Saddleworth connection of a Friezland uncle's Boys School proved most interesting.

EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM.

Coffee Mornings.	Wednesday 8th March and 12th April, 95.
Textile Working Days.	Sundays, 5th March, 2nd April, 28th May.
Folk Evenings.	Friday 10th March.
Art Exhibitions.	18th February - 12th March. Pupils of Saddleworth School.
	18th March - 2nd April. Jenny Webbe.
	8th April - 30th April. Lesley Tett.

Temporary Exhibitions.	Continuing until Sunday 5th March. Saddleworth Archives. 18th March - 14th May. Costume.
Donkey Derby.	Friday 3rd March, 1995.
Sunday Luncheon.	Sunday 19th March, 1995.
Talk on Ley Lines.	Thursday 30th March, 1995. By David Ellis.

MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

The yearly subscriptions to the Society have now become due and require your personal attention. A separate notification is enclosed showing the various membership rates and a swift response would be most appreciated.

Family Membership	£9.50	Overseas members -
Single Membership	£8.00	please see separate
Retired - Single & Family	£6.00	rates.
Student Membership	£6.00	

Last year there was no increase to the subscription, but this year a small increase is found necessary and we thank you for continuing your support of the Society's work.

New members who have joined the Society since the publication of the last Bulletin are warmly welcomed.

Mrs. Shelby W.Shrigley, Colorado, U.S.A.
Mr. D.E. Ridout, Preston.
Mr. & Mrs. R.O. Bardsley, Uppermill.
Mr. N. Garside & Ms. Berry, Gatley, Ceshire.

This January saw a visit of one of our latest new members Mrs. Shelby W. Shrigley from Colorado whose family history is referred to previously by Canon Airne as having been lodged in the Archives. Mrs. Shrigley wishes it to be known that she has access to the Federal Archives at Denver including the Census Records and Military Records. If anyone requires information relating to the Shrigleys she will be pleased to correspond and her full address is 99 Allison Street, Lakewood, CO 80226, U.S.A.

Now we report a very welcome donation of 200 dollars from our old friend Mrs. Esther Shaw Lawn in San Luis, Obispo, California, who wishes the Society a very Happy New Year and continued good works in 1995. She much appreciates reading the many interesting facts concerning the ancestors in the Bulletins and is to be congratulated for her enthusiasm and encouragement.

We have another request for family information from the Revd. Dennis Ll. Nadin, of The Hermitage, 201 Willowfield, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6RZ, who sends a copy of the latest issue of the journal on the Naden/Nadin Family Society. He has been researching this family for some years, its origin is in the Naden Valley outside Rochdale, moves to Longnor, Staffordshire, but stays in S. Lancs also. There are family registrations in Saddleworth and if any member can provide further information in this direction it would be of value. Information is also requested on Councillor Joseph Nadin who was elected on the 1st November, 1897 for St. Paul's Ward of Oldham.

SADDLEWORTH FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS 1995

The four year cycle returns this year with the 10th Saddleworth Festival. "Wood Magic", with Timothy West and Prunella Scales is to be staged at the Civic Hall on Sunday 28th May, 1995, and includes one of the country's foremost ensembles, the Medici String Quartet playing Elgar together with pianist John Bingham altogether a star spangled evening, but living up to the high standard achieved in Saddleworth Festivals which we believe is also to offer a superfine selection of Purcell's music in this his tercentennial year.

Further Events at the Museum.

Holiday Activities.	13th to the 17th February, 1995
Family Friendly.	8th - 23rd April. Museum and Uppermill Quiz.
Ukrainian Egg Painting.	Sunday 9th April, 1995.
Model Railway Weekend.	Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May, 1995.

J. Hindle. February, 1995.