

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



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Volume 25

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Cover: The "Cross Keys Inn", Uppermill. This drawing appeared in the "Oldham Chronicle" of 7th March 1925.

250th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROSS KEYS INN, UPPERMILL 1745 - 1995

The 250th Anniversary indicated by the datestone MB SB 1745 over the main door of the Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill, is to be celebrated by the Historical Society in three forms. A Gazeteer 1745 - 1995 on the Cross Keys Inn has been produced by Canon C C W Airne, the Society Archivist, and is reproduced on the following pages. Society display boards are to be mounted at the Inn showing several photographs, the indenture documents obtained from J W Lees Ltd, the Brewers, and news cuttings from the "Oldham Chronicle" of historical interest. Finally, during October, a playlet is to be staged by Anne and Gordon Parry telling of the strange and tragic happenings at the Cross Keys during 1794 when the Reverend Charles Zouch thrust a heated walking stick into the eye of the landlady with dire consequences.



THE CROSS KEYS INN - GAZETTEER 1745 to 1995

Grid: SE 008063

DESCRIPTION

- * Deed of May 29, 1745 Cottage called Gravemakers plus two
Closes containing 3a 1p. Lease for
299 years.
(Deeds: J W Lees & Co (Brewers) Ltd)
- * Manor of Saddleworth Nine Bays of Housing & a Turf Cote
Inclosures Map 1770 all new building except one bay.

A R P

A Croft with the
Housing therein as
the same is divided
into Gardens &c. 0 3 14

B Intake ..
(Next to Peters) M. 1 3 11

C The Dial Field 1 0 13

3 2 38

(Taken from "Saddleworth Surveyed" edited by B Barnes, P M
Buckley, J M Hunt, A J Petford, Saddleworth Historical Society
in association with Saddleworth Festival of Arts, 1983).

- * Extract from "Saddleworth Buildings" by W John Smith.
Published by Saddleworth Historical Society in association
with Saddleworth Festival of Arts, 1987. Page 66.

"Another 'Dual House' is the 'Cross Keys', above Saddleworth
Fold and on the line of an old packhorse track. The Cross
Keys may always have been an inn since it was built in 1745
and if this is the case it may explain its unique arrangement
of rooms. (Originally known as Gravemakers, the Courts
Baron were held there from 1745). The main front is to the
south east and the arrangement of doors and windows clearly
shows two houses. The main door has the inscribed lintel
MB SB 1745 and is decorated by a half-roll moulding
running under the lintel and down each door jamb to within
eight inches of the ground. This degree of decoration is
unusual in Saddleworth and here at the Cross Keys there are
two more similar doorways but without initials or dates.
The second doorway is further along the front to the north
and is now a window but the jambs of the doorway can be
clearly seen with the half-roll moulding. What is now a
door at the end of the building was originally a two light

window similar to that remaining to the right of the door. This end of the building may well have been a house or cottage independent of the inn.

At the rear the ground falls away sharply and this has enabled a basement storey to be built beneath the inn. Here is another door with the same detail as the other two and again partially blocked to make a window. The internal arrangements have changed in recent times and an additional bay of building has been added to the rear, but the building must always have been imposing as befitted an important hostelry on the main north-south route through Saddleworth."

HISTORY

Land Tax:		f	s	d
1719	Josiah Lawton & James Kenworthy Cottages at Wood Jos for Grave Mak: Cottage.	0	2	6
		0	4	0
1731	Jno. Lawton's Exors for a cottage house at Dobcross Item for Kenworthy Cottage Item for Compton Cottage Item for Gravemakers	0	1	0)
		0	2	6)
		0	1	0)
		0	1	0)
				0 8 6
1735	Danl Marsden for Gravemakers.	0	4	0
1740	Michael Bottomley for Gravemakers	0	12	6
1744	" " " "	1	1	0

1745, May 29th Deed between 1) Jas. Farrer, Lord of the Manor of Saddleworth.
2) Michael Bottomley, Clothier of Peters.
concerning cottage called Gravemakers now in the tenure of said Michael Bottomley plus two closes containing 3a. 1p. Term for 299 years Also one fat chicken at Christmas yearly or sixpence in lieu thereof at the election and choice of the said Lessor his heirs and assigns and also shall and will grind all corn grain and malt which by the said Lessor his Executors Administrators and Assigns Shall be yearly spent or be used on the said premises during the said term ...

1745 -46 Premises enlarged. Datestone: MB SB 1745.
(Michael Bottomley married Sarah Andrew of (Pob)Green at Saddleworth Church 26 June 1734)

1746, July 8 Sarah Bottomley wife of Michael Bottomley of Doddlecroft buried at Saddleworth.

1746 - 1750 Manor Courts held "at house of Michael Bottomley Innholder".

1747, July 24 Michael Bottomley, Clothier of Doddlecroft married Ann Jackson, Spinster of Osterlands at Saddleworth.

1734 - 1828 For family of Michael Bottomley see accompanying Genealogical Table.

1755 Manor Court held "at house of Michael Bottomley Inn holder".

1759 - 1762 Manor Courts held "at house of Michael Bottomley Innholder".

1764 - 1783 Manor Courts held "at house of Michael Bottomley Innholder".

1782 Land Tax. Propr: James Buckley. Occr: John Bottomley. £0.0.7.

1782 Samuel Bottomley. Innkeeper.

1783, Aug 19 Burial: Michael Bottomley, Innkeeper, Saddleworth (At Gravemakers aged 94 yrs.)

The above note in the printed Register conflicts with age of 74 years on his gravestone. Probably a misreading of a 7 for a 9.

1783, Dec 4 Will of Michael Bottomley proved.

1784 Manor Court held "at house of Ann Bottomley, Widow".

1790 Land Tax. Propr: Mr Buckley Esqr. Occr: Jno and Widow Bottomley. £0.4.0.

1790 Land Tax. Proprietor John Bottomley. Occupier: himself. £0.0.10.

1791 Sale of the Manor of Saddleworth. Purchased by a consortium of 31 local businessmen who were thenceforth joint Lords of the Manor, each of whom called his home The Manor House.

1792 - 1794 The Revd. Charles Zouche, Incumbent of Saddleworth Church, took up residence at the Cross Keys owing to the dilapidated state of the Parsonage House.

1794, Jan 16 Burial. Mary Bottomley dau of Michael and Ann Bottomley of Gravemakers aged 46 years.

1794, Summer Ann Bottomley blinded by the Revd. Charles Zouche, who was subsequently confined to an Asylum until his death on 13 Jan. 1831

aged about 70. His kinsman, the Earl of Lonsdale, on behalf of his family provided Mrs Bottomley with a pension and generously contributed to the building of a new Parsonage House.

- 1796 Benny Broadbent Innkeeper.
- 1797, April 10 Burial. Ann Bottomley, Widow aged 81 years. GrMakers.
- 1797, Dec 21 Will of Samuel Bottomley, Innkeeper and Poet proved.
- 1800 Land Tax.
Owner: Jno. Buckley Esqr. Occr: Wdw Btmly £0.7.9
Joseph Bottomley John " £0.3.0
- 1801, May 21 Deed - Mary wife of Wm. Fisher of Hollingworth mill, Glossop, sole Administertrix of her Father, Joseph Bottomley of Minorca, Hollingworth, with her husband, sells her Father's share of Gravemakers to John Bottomley, his step-brother. Viz: The Kitchen, the Dining Room, the Little Parlour, Milk House or Buttery, with the chambers over the same, The Passage, The Farm, Stable, Shippon &c.
- 1801, May 22 Deed - John Bottomley transfers mortgage on the whole of Gravemakers from John Bradon of Horbury to John Barker of Mousey within Glossop.
- 1809 Mary Dransfield Innkeeper.
- 1816 William Haigh Innkeeper
- 1818 Pigot & Dean Directory - Cross Keys. Hannah Dransfield, Saddleworth Church. (By the time of publication the Commercial Directories are sometimes out of date. Hannah Dransfield may have followed Mary Dransfield, Wm Haigh taking over in 1816).
- 1822 Baines Directory - Haigh, Wm. Vict. Cross Keys, Saddleworth Chapel.
- 1824-25 Pigot & Dean - Haigh, Wm. Vict. Cross Keys, Saddleworth Church.
- 1828 Pigot & Dean - John Bottomley Cross Keys Saddleworth Church.
- 1828, May 1 Indre of Assignment between 1) John Bottomley of Saddleworth, Innkeeper and 2) Betty Bottomley of Saddleworth, Spinster, Grand-daughter of the said John Bottomley.

John Bottomley "being advanced in years and both very weak and infirm is not able to carry

on the business of a Publican and Alehouse Keeper in consequence thereof and of the love and affection which he hath to and for his said Grand-daughter and for her advancement in the world hath proposed to make the assignment hereinafter contained."

John Bottomley assigns the Cross Keys to Betty but her Aunt Mary Bottomley is to have half the hereditaments during her natural life.

- 1828 Betty Bottomley Innkeeper.
- 1828, Sept 5 Betty Bottomley transfers the mortgage to Samuel Lees of Soho, Roller Manufacturer and Joseph Bradbury of Bottom of Greenacres Moor, Oldham, Innkeeper.
- 1828, Nov 18 Burial - John Bottomley, Publican, Gravemakers, 86th year.
- 1831, April 29 Buried - Betty Bottomley, Staley Bridge. 28 yrs. ?
(Christened - 20 Aug 1802. Betty daughter of Ann Bottomley, Spinster. Gravemakers.)
- 1832 Pigot & Dean - Bowden, John, Vict. Cross Keys. Saddth. Ch.
- 1834 William Broadbent Innkeeper.
- 1835 Church Rate Book - Occr. Wm. Broadbent. Owner Saml Lees.
- 1837 WR Poll Book. William Broadbent Cross Keys.
- 1838 Cross Keys mortgage transferred to Joseph Firth of Hipperholme, Yorks.
- 1841 Census. Cross Keys Inn or Gravemakers.
- | | | | | |
|----------------|----|-----------|------|-------|
| William Knight | 25 | Innkeeper | Born | Yorks |
| Ann | " | 25 | " | " |
| Sarah | " | 1 | " | " |
| John Brierley | 26 | Labourer | " | " |
- 1842 and 47 White's Directory. George Knight Innkeeper.
- 1843 Will Knight Innkeeper.
- 1851 Census - Cross Keys.
- | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----|-------------------|-----------|
| James Wood | Head | Mar | 34 | Innkeeper |
| Ann Wood | Wife | Mar | 39 | |
| Alfred Wood | Son | | 10 | |
| John Wood | Son | | 6 | |
| Beckett Wood | Son | | 3 | |
| Nanny Wood | Daur | | 8 mths | |
| John Hirst | Fr in Widr | 78 | Former Wln Weaver | |
| | Law | | | |

Cross Keys
 Edmund Schofield Head Mar 30 Stone Miner
 Jane Schofield Wife Mar 30
 Mary Wrigley Lodger W 72

1852 Church Rate Book. Occr. Jph Cudworth. Ownr. Mr Radcliffe.

1852 Whell & Co. Diry, Wm Broadbent Cross Keys. Saddth CH

1853 William Broadbent Innkeeper.

1855, June 1 Death of Joseph Firth. His widow Mary Firth Administertrix.

1856, 31 Dec Indre between 1) Mary Firth of Dorchester, Dorset. Widow.
 2) William Pontefract.
 Cross Keys sold to William Pontefract.

1860 Betty Pontefract Innkeeper.

1861, Mar 3 Death of William Pontefract. His widow Mary Administertrix.

1861, May 30 Betty Pontefract's Right of Title to Cross Keys.

1861 Census - Stoney Park. (Its position in the Census shows it to be the Cross Keys).

Betty Pontefract	Head	Wid	41	Innkeeper
William	"	Son	Umar 19	Commercial Clerk
Ann	"	Daur	10	Scholar
Joseph Seely	Visitor	Mar	39	Gardiner (sic)
Mary	"	"	Mar 48	Housekeeper
John W	"	"	Mar 9	Scholar

1861, May 3 Conditions of Sale. Sold to Joseph Lister of Heathfields.

1870 Thomas Buckley Innkeeper.

1871 Census - The Cross Keys Inn.

Thomas Buckley	Head	Mar	42	Innkeeper
Mary A	"	Wife	Mar 36	" Wife
Eliza M	"	Daur	5	
John T	"	Son	1	
Hannah Wrigley	Servant	Umar	47	" Servant

1873, Aug 1 Joseph Lister sells to Thomas Buckley.

1879 Mary Ann Buckley Innkeeper (wife of Thomas).

1881 Census - Cross Keys Inn.

Thomas Buckley	Head	Mar	57	Publican's Inn.
Mary Ann	"	Wife	Mar 46	" Wife.
Eliza Margaret	"	Daur	Unm 15	
John Thomas	Son		11	Scholar.

1883, Dec 24 Will of Thomas Buckley. Wife Mary Ann heiress
and Sole Exx.

1883, Dec 25 Death of Thomas Buckley.

1891 Census - Cross Keys Inn.

Mary Ann Buckley	Head		Wid 56	
John T	"	Son	Single 21	Butcher
Ammon Ashley		S-in Law	Mar 26	Carter
Eliza	"	Wife	Mar 25	

1894 John Thomas Buckley Innkeeper . (Son of
Thomas and Mary A.)

1907, Apr 13 Death of Mary Ann Buckley. Son John Thomas
Admor.

1927, Mar 6 Will of John Thomas Buckley of the Cross Keys
Inn, Licensed Victualler.

1932 Martha Ann Buckley (Wife of John T.)
Innkeeper.

1940 Harry Buckley Innkeeper (Son of J.T. and
M.A.)

1941, Dec Death of John Thomas Buckley. Son Fred
sole Exor.

1942, July 13 Probate granted to Fred Buckley, Foreman
Blender of Lower Meadow Cottage, Church Road,
Uppermill.

1951, Aug 20 Fred Buckley sold the Cross Keys to Arthur and
Nellie Lees.

1951 Arthur Lees Innkeeper.

1961 Cross Keys sold to J W Lees & Co (Brewers) Ltd.

1967 James Cuthbertson Innkeeper.

1972 Harold Nield Innkeeper.

1978 Philip Kay Innkeeper.

SOURCES

- All Deeds, Wills and Administrations, and Betty Pontefract's Right of Title, are held by Messrs J W Lees & Co (Brewers) Ltd. Their co-operation is gratefully acknowledged.
- Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletins for the Manor of Saddleworth Court Records, articles by the late Bernard Barnes and Land Tax Records by Alan Petford.
- "Saddleworth Surveyed" and "Saddleworth Buildings" acknowledged in the description above.
- "Saddleworth Parish Registers" edited by John Radcliffe 1878 for all entries concerning Michael Bottomley's family up to 1800 and references to them in the Editor's notes.
- Saddleworth Parish Registers on microfilm 1800-1837 and the Census returns of microfilm. Saddleworth Museum Archives, Mr M Dennett.
- "History of Old Inn at Saddleworth" Huddersfield Weekly Chronicle Saturday August 27th 1955, and "Mine Host of the Old Cross Keys", John Thomas Buckley, Oldham Weekly Chronicle, Saddleworth Section, December 1941. Both in the Saddleworth Museum Archives M/GX/G/H/127 and M/LAW/10 respectively. Mr M Dennett.
- Saddleworth Historical Society Archives, Julian Hunt Collection, H/JH/CAB. Manor Court and Land Tax records etc.
- "Cross Keys' History". Letter to the Oldham Chronicle from Mr James Cuthbertson, 3 October 1970.
- Verbal information on the Buckley family by Mrs Alice Lawton of Delph and Mr and Mrs Gartside of Marsden.

THE FAMILY OF MICHAEL BOTTOMLEY OF DODDLECROFT / GRAVEMAKERS

S. 26.6.1734

(1) SARAH ANDREW

= MICHAEL BOTTOMLEY

of (POB)GREEN

of PETERS

of DODDLECROFT/

GRAVEMAKERS

b. 1689 or 1709

Clothier/Innkeeper

*Will Pr 4.12.1783

Died 15.8.1783

Buried 19.8.1783 S

74 or 94 yrs OY138

Gravemakers

Buried

8.7.1746 S.

Doddlecroft

S. 4.3.1762 L

S 26.6.1766?

MARY

c19.8.1735 S

Saddleworth

Bur:22.8.1735

Saddleworth

= JOHN

NIELD

of

Dobcross

Exor *

SAMUEL

c17.12.1738 S

Pobgreen

Poet

Innkeeper

Will Pr: 21.12.1797

Died 26.6.1795

Bur. 29.6.1795 S.

57th yr. OY 136

Gravemakers

*E ALICE

=

LEES

Green

*E JOHN

= BETTY

c8.5.1743 S

Doddlecroft

or

Gravemakers

Innkeeper

Exor *

Buried 18.11.1828 S.

86th yr. Gravemakers

BETTY ?

c3.4.1767?

Wallhill

ANN

c26.2.1769?

Wallhill

SALLY?

c8.3.1772 S

Wallhill

MARY

c25.10.1778 S

Aunt Mary

HANNAH

b 1782

Died 31.7.1804

Bur: 3.8.1804 S

23rd yr OY 136

Gravemakers

BETTY?

Bur: 19.7.1785 S

Intake

BETTY?

c17.1.1786 S

Intake

BETTY

c20.8.1802 S

Gravemakers

Innkeeper 1828

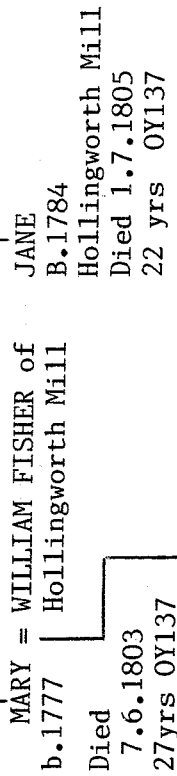
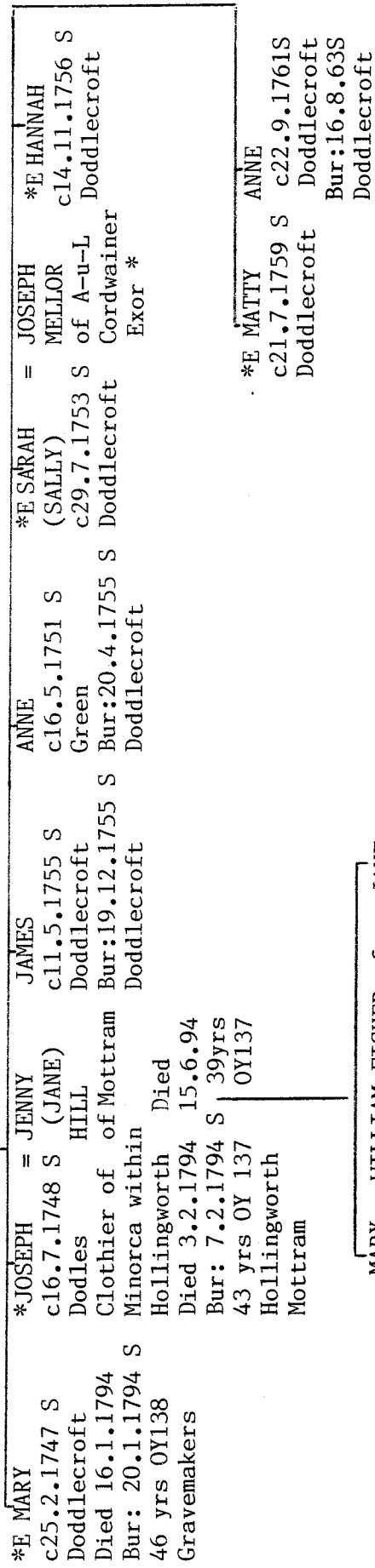
THE FAMILY OF MICHAEL BOTTOMLEY OF DODDLECROFT/GRAVEMAKERS (Part 2)

S. 24.7.1747

MICHAEL BOTTOMLEY = ANN JACKSON (2)
of Osterlands Exor *
Blinded 1794
Buried 10.4.1797 S Gravemakers

S. 11.1.1775

S. 21.7.1774 L



JOHN
B. 1798
Died 27.6.1804
7 yrs OY137
Hollingworth Mill

(See over for Legend)

The Family of Michael Bottomley of Doddlecroft/Gravemakers

Legend

b = Born

c = Christened

S = Saddleworth Church

Bur = Buried

E = Mentioned in Will of Michael Bottomley

* = Mentioned in Will of Samuel Bottomley

OY 136-

138 = Old Yard, Saddleworth Church, and grave numbers
according to Michael Buckley's plan.

WILL OF MICHAEL BOTTOMLEY OF GRAVEMAKERS

Will Proved 4th December 1783.

- To wife Ann Bottomley - The house wherein I now dwell and
Lands.
The bed in the little parlour with
good bedding with the large cupboard,
with six of the best chairs, one round
mahogany table, one set of china ware
with six silver spoons and tea tongs.
- To son Samuel - All that part of the house wherein we
live, also the cellar and barn with
the chamber over the house and closet
chamber with one third part of Barn,
Stables and Shippon, one third part
of outbuildings and one third part of
Land.
- To son John - The Great Parlour, part of the entry
with the Chamber over the same (a
passage into the house excepted) the
going out at the side door, one third
part of Lands, one third part of Barn,
Stable and Shippon.
- To son Joseph - Kitchen, Dining Room, little Parlour,
Milk House or buttery with a door (stead?)
cut and made into the same out of the
kitchen and with the chambers over the
same with one third part of my Barn,
Stable and Shippon and one third
part of Lands.
- To three sons
equally - One bay of housing called the Shop
with Chamber and Garrett over the same
with the passage going into ye Shop.
- To daughters Betty,
Alice, Sally and
Matty - £10 each.
- Mary - £20, she has been ever with us
- Hannah - £5
- when Mortgage is paid and 18 months
after his wife's death.
- Executrix and
Executor - Wife Ann and Son-in-Law Joseph Mellor
of Ashton-under-Lyne.

WILL OF SAMUEL BOTTOMLEY, SON OF MICHAEL AND STEPSON OF ANN

Will Proved 21st December 1797

To brother John - The Cellar, the Bar, the Chamber over the House, one third part of the Barn, Stables and Shippon, one third part of the outbuildings, one third part of Lands, one third part of the bay of the housing called the Shop, one third part of the Chamber and Garrett over the same and one third part of passage going into the same.

Six sisters,
Betty, Alice, Mary,
Sally, Hannah and
Matty,

of these Sister Betty Nield to receive £8 and Sister Alice Lees £8.

One seat in the middle of the half pew in the upmost Gallery in Saddleworth Church where the singers used to be some time ago to brother John Bottomley plus Household goods and furniture after his Stepmother's decease.

Executors brother John Bottomley and brother-in-law John Nield.

(Both these Wills abstracted from the Deeds held by J W Lees and Co (Brewers) Ltd).

GRAVEMAKERS VERSUS DODDLECROFT

Gravemakers does not appear in Saddleworth Parish Registers, edited by John Radcliffe, Vol I, except in the Notes referring to the deaths of Michael Bottomley's family abstracted from his gravestone and to entries in the Weddings and Christenings sections. In Vol II there are five entries; two on pages 438 and 476 dated 1783 and 1794 referring to Michael Bottomley's burial and that of his daughter Mary, two on pages 482 and 489, being the burials of his Son Samuel in 1795 and that of his widow Ann in 1798 and one on page 490, that of Hannah Hilton, all being "of Gravemakers". All christenings and burials of Michael's children from 1747 to 1763, and his marriage to Ann Jackson in 1747 show the domicile to have been Doddlecroft.

The map of "The Inclosures in the Parish of Saddleworth belonging to James Farrer, 1770" copied by Joel Hawkyard in 1823 ("Saddleworth Surveyed" plate IV) places Gravemakers on the site of the Cross Keys, ref: No. 8, which in the key on page 31 is recorded as "Gravemakers, Michael Bottomly". Neither on the maps nor in the key does the name Doddlecroft appear.

Mr W John Smith in "Saddleshworth Buildings", 1987, page 66, says that "This end of the building may well have been a house or cottage independent of the inn" and Mr James Cuthbertson, Innkeeper at The Cross Keys 1967-72, in a letter to the Oldham Chronicle, 3rd October 1970, says "On either side of the inn was built a cottage, one or possibly both built by Michael Bottomley." The Deed of May 29th 1745 states that James Farrer sold "to Michael Bottomley of Peters the lease of a cottage called Gravemakers now in the tenure of the latter, for 299 years". Michael Bottomley had tenanted the cottage since 1740, when he paid a rent of 12/6d.

Between 1746 and 1783 the Manor Courts were frequently held "at the house of Michael Bottomley Innholder".

Mr Cuthbertson also claims in his letter that "The original inn was built in the reign of Charles II in the year 1680 and was known as the Gravemakers Arms." I cannot comment on the accuracy of this statement as I haven't seen the evidence, but in 1719 the Manor Rentals record that Mr Jos. Lawton paid 4/- rent for "Grave mak: cottage", which gives some support to his claim."

Manor records also show that Michael Bottomley was the occupier of Gravemakers from 1740 until his death in 1783. The Church Registers show that he was the occupier of Doddlecroft at least between the birth of his son John in 1743 and the burial of his daughter Anne in 1763. The Bradbury family occupied a cottage at Doddlecroft from at least 1732 to 1744 and thirteen other occupiers had single entries between 1731 and 1792.

Mr Smith in his examination of the present day structure suggests that the house or cottage at the end of the building may have been originally independent of the inn. The inference here is that it was not included as part of the new buildings in 1745, being united with them at a later date. Mr Cuthbertson says "On either side of the inn was built a cottage, one or both built by Michael Bottomley. On the Estate Map of 1770 all the buildings were erected on the Croft, 3r 14p. It is possible, therefore, that the "house or cottage independent of the inn" could have been built by Michael Bottomley about 1743 as a family home and distinguished it from the inn by calling it Doddlecroft. Thus Gravemakers and Doddlecroft were one and the same place.

The family home and the family business being part of the same complex after 1745, what had been little more than a Beerhouse in a cottage became a substantial hostelry suitable as a meeting place for the Manor Courts, the Saddleshworth Hunt and the favourite resort of the Revd John Heginbottom and his Clerk.

GRAVEMAKERS ARMS TO CROSS KEYS INN

Ammon Wrigley in "Songs of a Moorland Parish", page 190, says "There are reasons for supposing that the Cross Keys and the name Gravemakers were loosely applied to designate one and the same house." When the name changed from The Gravemakers Arms is a mystery. It has been said that the catalyst was the death of one of the Innkeeper's children. If the story of the Revd John Heginbottom's sermon on the evils of strong drink, related in "Saddleshworth Parish Registers" ed. John Radcliffe, Vol II, page 536, is not guilty of hindsight, the incident took place at the Cross Keys Inn. Heginbottom was Curate of Saddleshworth from 1721 to 1771, in which case the change must have been made before 1771 during Michael Bottomley's tenure. His son James in his first year and daughter Anne in her fourth year both died in 1755, and another daughter Ann was buried in 1763. Pigot & Dean's Directory for 1818 is the first to mention the Inn by name: "Cross Keys, Hannah Dransfield, Saddleshworth Church".

The Souvenir Brochure issued by the Cross Keys this year states (inside the front cover) that it was "opened as a Tavern 1763." This could well have been the year that the inn was extended and the house or cottage at the end, and the other cottage, incorporated in it. It is also the last year in which the place Doddlecroft is mentioned in the Registers. "Opened as a Tavern 1763" could also signal a change in status due to the extensions. The Souvenir Brochure in its list of Innkeepers starts with Michael Bottomley 1763, yet the Manor Court records refer to him as Innholder as early as 1746. The year 1763 seems to be the most likely date for the change from the Gravemakers Arms to The Cross Keys. Significantly this was also the year of the death of Ann Bottomley in her second year.

C C W Airne

The Compiler's thanks to all who have contributed to the above; to Mr Philip Kay for wandering round facilities; and to Mr Stanley Broadbent for his chivvying and chauffeuring.

NOTES ON THE BYROM FAMILY OF SLACKCOTE AND BROOKLAND LODGE

Allan Bradbury has been researching the history of this well-known family of Saddleworth woollen manufacturers:

The first mention of the Byroms that I have come across is in Baines' Yorkshire Directory (1822), which lists Robert Byrom & Son, Manufacturers at New Years Bridge (Denshaw).

Slackcote Mill began in 1781 with a consortium of owners as a slubbing establishment. Land Tax was paid by Thomas Taylor but the occupiers were Ellison Platt & Co in 1785. First mention of fulling was in 1789. By 1790 the occupiers were Mallalieu & Co. By 1800 J & G Worthington of Altrincham were owners, and the occupiers James Wild & Co. In 1804 the mill was unoccupied. Between 1805 and 1810 the occupiers were Beswick & Haigh. (Saddleworth Historical Society "Bulletin" 1983, 44).

The Census of 1851 shows Robert Byrom as employer of 47 men, 21 women and 8 boys at Slackcote Mill.

The Census of 1861 shows residing at Green Ash:-

Robert Byrom	Head	46	Woollen Manufacturer
Hannah	Wife	37	
John L.	Son	9	Scholar
Benjamin F.	Son	7	Scholar
Edna	Daughter	4	
Hannah M.	Daughter	1	
Caroline Scott		17	Servant

The Census of 1871 shows that by then the Byroms were at the recently-constructed Brookland Lodge near Slackcote:

Robert Byrom	Head	56	Woollen Manufacturer
Hannah	Wife	47	
John L.	Son	19	
Benjamin	Son	17	
Edna	Daughter	14	Scholar
Hannah	Daughter	11	Scholar
Fred	Son	9	Scholar
Jane Gartside		25	Servant

Ammon Wrigley in "Saddleworth Chronological Notes" lists in 1870:

"Slackcote Mill Rent £291, Rateable Value £224".

The diary of William Cheetham, 1877 - 1910, shows the keen interest of the Byroms in Friarmere Cricket Club after the new ground opened in April 1877. Professionals such as R. Wright in 1877 and M. Burrows in 1880 made occasional appearances here. On 30th June 1877 a Saddleworth Twelve

was crushed by Gilderstone, by an innings and 80. J. L. Byrom and R. Wright had a rumpus that night owing to the wicket not being swept. John L. Byrom won the batting prize - Average 17.

The Byroms' enthusiasm for cricket was reflected in the advertisements they placed for workmen at Slackcote Mill. Weavers might need to be left-arm bowlers, for example, or slubbers good batsmen.

Mr Byrom died on the 4th January 1881.

The Census of 1881 - Brookland Lodge:

Hannah Byrom	Head	57	Annuitant (Widow)
John L.	Son	29	Woollen Manufacturer
Benjamin F.	Son	27	Woollen Manufacturer
Edna	Daughter	24	Annuitant
Hannah M.	Daughter	21	Annuitant
Frederick	Son	19	Annuitant
Hannah ---		57	Cook (born North Wales)
Eliza			
Williamson		28	Housemaid
Mary A.			
Eastwood		25	General Servant (born Middlesex)

It would appear that they had already made their fortune with children provided for and more servants acquired.

The Saddleworth Historical Society "Bulletin" 1991 lists:

Slackcote Mill 140 hp Steam Engine. Woollen Manufacturers.
Owners: John Lewis Byrom & Benjamin Franklin Byrom of
Brookland Lodge.

I remember that the contents of Brookland Lodge were sold in the summer of 1965, when I gave a lift to Delph to a lady who had bought the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" in the sale.

Allan Bradbury

WALTER HENRY FOX RAMSDEN - A PIONEER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN

SADDLEWORTH

"The old Doctor is dead" wrote a correspondent of the "Oldham Evening Chronicle" in 1900.

The 'old Doctor' was Dr Walter Henry Fox Ramsden, a well-known figure in the Saddleworth area since about 1864, and the first of a family connection with Public Health and private medical practice in Saddleworth which lasted until the mid-1970's.

Dr W H F Ramsden was born just off Yorkshire Street, Oldham, on the 20th July 1833, the eldest of five children. His father, Thomas Ramsden (1808-1868), had flourishing hairdressing rooms for ladies and gentlemen at 3, Market Place, Oldham. He advertised his cutting skills and his own hair cream in the first edition of the "Oldham Chronicle" in 1854, as well as in the Oldham Almanack and the Year Book.

Thomas seems to have decided that law was the profession for his eldest son and Walter started out as a clerk to a Liverpool solicitor. He soon transferred his allegiance to medicine - the reason is not recorded - and attended Schools of Medicine in London, Liverpool and Manchester. He qualified in 1859 after studying surgery at Manchester Royal Infirmary, leading to his L.R.C.S. (Apparently he had been worried that he had not done well enough to pass his exams and his father wrote to him on the 9th February 1859 reassuring him.)

He started his career by acting as locum to a Dr Chadwick at Royton. There he met his future wife, Catherine Kay (1838-1912), who was the sister-in-law of Dr Chadwick, and after his marriage in 1860 he stayed on in the practice. However in 1864, possibly because of his growing family, he bought the practice of Dr Beckett Bradbury in Dobcross, set up on his own, and so began his long association with Saddleworth.

Here he lived and raised his family, soon making his home at 'Sunnyside' in Dobcross. He and his wife had nine children; five boys and four girls, five of them born in Saddleworth. The boys were educated at Manchester Grammar School and most of the family were active in the area after completing their education.

During the course of the next thirty-six years, Dr Ramsden's influence as a medical practitioner was widespread. He practised in Dobcross and also in Delph. In 1876 he was appointed Medical Officer of Health (M O H) for Saddleworth Rural Sanitary Authority (later Saddleworth Rural District Council) and in 1886 for Uppermill Local Board (later Uppermill Urban District Council), both of which posts Dr Ramsden retained until his death. (By 1895 he was being paid £20 pa for the Uppermill part-time post). He succeeded a Dr Garstang as factory surgeon and was also police doctor. These posts were in addition to his private practice.

Dr Ramsden belonged to a band of M O Hs who were appointed under new legislation in the field of Public Health. Concern about the living conditions of the poor was growing by the mid-19th century, but the need for action had been triggered by the reports of Edwin Chadwick on the poor health of the working classes, and the outbreaks of cholera in 1832 and 1848. The first Public Health Act of that year gave municipalities permission to set up sanitary authorities but it was not until the Acts of 1872 and 1875 that compulsion was introduced so that every area in the country was equipped with a Health Board. One result of this and of advances in medical knowledge about the causes of disease, was a drop in the death rate, especially that of infants. Dr Ramsden, appointed after the 1875 Act, pursued his responsibilities with vigour, like many of his colleagues in the public health field.

Clean water, sanitation and housing were at the forefront of his mind. Exemplifying this were the comments he made towards the end of his life about the condition of housing in Delph, which he felt was very bad and had altered little in the twenty-five years he had known the village. (Under an Act of 1851 the Local Authority had a duty to inspect lodging-houses, and the one at Delph was a particularly insanitary example and was often censured in Dr Ramsden's reports to the Authority).

For instance in May 1888 a dispute arose about the Bull Well, one of the main sources of drinking water, in Delph. It often suffered from flooding from storm water and seems to have been in need of repair. Dr Ramsden and the Local Authority recommended that it should be closed. Local residents were incensed and a meeting held to discuss the matter. A poster advertising the meeting announced in the colourful language of the time:-

"Friends, citizens and patriots come to the rescue.
Your liberty is threatened by pretended sanitary sympathies.
The heritage of God and our fathers is being taken from us. Shall we submit to it?"

After a somewhat heated meeting it was agreed that the well and steps should be repaired and a cover made to exclude dust and dirt. Apparently Dr Ramsden acquiesced in this compromise and himself subscribed to the repair.

One of the duties of the M O H was to investigate nuisances especially with regard to sanitation and the disposal or 'scavenging' of 'night-soil'. His annual reports to the Local Authorities continually asked for a better system of scavenging than the haphazard system then adopted. In 1886 for example he recommended a proper tip for night-soil and that privies and middens should be regularly cleaned, a recommendation the local authority wholly ignored. In 1896, after long delays, both Saddleworth RDC and Upermill UDC eventually initiated sewerage schemes. Aided by the provision of water by the Ashton, Hyde and Dukinfield Water Authority, better sanitation slowly led to an improvement in the health of the area - a fact noted by the "Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter" as early as 1894.

Though cholera does not seem to have reached Saddleworth, Dr Ramsden had many other serious infectious diseases to cope with as part of his responsibilities, principally smallpox. The care of patients suffering from smallpox was undertaken at Running Hill Hospital next to the Workhouse, which was always kept ready even as late as the 1930s. There were many outbreaks of smallpox every few years in the last decades of the century - in 1888, 1892, 1896 and 1900, for example; the outbreak of around six months' duration in 1893-4 was perhaps the worst. The first victim in this case came from 'the huts' at Diggle - presumably one of the 'navvy' community. The fact that a high proportion of those who died from the disease had not been vaccinated endorsed Dr Ramsden's promotion of the Act making vaccination compulsory.

Apart from smallpox, the Medical Officer of Health was concerned with tuberculosis and other lung diseases where bad housing could be a contributory factor, and with limiting outbreaks of measles and scarlet fever. In conjunction with the West Riding Education Department he could order the closure of schools to prevent the spread of epidemics. Sometimes this was for quite lengthy periods, as for example in 1894 when Denshaw school was closed for nearly three weeks because of measles. (In fact the area of the Junction seems to have been prone to these outbreaks as measles and scarlet fever were said to be 'rampant' there in November 1888 and the school was again closed in 1889.) Strangely he and other local doctors were vehemently against Oldham having a smallpox hospital in Saddleworth because of the risk to the local population.

Little seems to be known about his practice as a General Practitioner, but the evidence appears to point to a kind of rather domineering approach to the work. One story tells of him visiting a patient and exclaiming that the room was 'frowsty'. Accordingly he struggled without success to open the window. In frustration he broke the glass with his elbow, but then gave the patient the cost of the repair! He travelled the area in a pony trap or on a grey mare. For these he had two grooms at one stage, but in the 1891 census there was only one servant shown as living at Sunnyside - Martha. Also listed, apart from Dr Ramsden and his wife, were Walter, then 22, and a medical student, Alice (19), Ernest (8) and Harry Settle, Medical Assistant.

Perhaps Dr Ramsden's attitude and beliefs about his work, especially in the field of Public Health, can be summed up by a lecture he gave in 1896 to the Yorkshire Branch of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers. It was entitled "Remediable Evils" and detailed the problems Public Health still had to tackle, especially in a semi-rural area like Saddleworth with few resources. He highlighted the need for a good supply of water, the consequent closure of polluted wells in rural districts and the purification of the water supply. There should be a smoke abatement policy and the reduction of overcrowding in factories. Milk should be boiled and the work of the Royal Commission on vaccination supported. Many of these objectives have been achieved today due in large part to the vigorous efforts of M O Hs like Dr Ramsden.

His interests were by no means confined to his medical practice and occasional articles in "The Lancet" and "The Medical Times". He was a friend of Morgan Brierley of Denshaw House, Denshaw, and with him became an early member of the Manchester Literary Club in 1867. Founding members included Edwin Waugh, another friend, and Ben Brierley, the dialect poet. The club started its days at the 'Mitre Hotel', Manchester, but later transferred to the 'Clarence Hotel', Spring Gardens, at a time when Morgan Brierley described it as 'Bohemian' - not perhaps the sort of venue one would associate with a respectable Victorian Doctor! Dr Ramsden maintained his interest in dialect, took part in Penny Readings at Delph and joined the Saddleworth Literary and Philosophical Society.

Throughout his life he was a staunch Liberal and at various times was president of the Dobcross and Uppermill Liberal Clubs. He often supported Liberal speakers at meetings.

Not surprisingly his other interests included scientific subjects - archaeology and geology - and he had a small museum of exhibits in his garden. His wife was a keen botanist and she and her husband passed on a love of the subject to all their children. According to one of the grandchildren the family used to attend St Chad's Church, Uppermill, in the summer so that they could walk back through Ryefields to examine and argue about the flora.

As might be expected from someone living in the late 19th century and with his scientific background, Dr Ramsden was not a conventional churchgoer, but a Darwinist.

By the end of the century Dr Ramsden's health was beginning to fail somewhat, but he was as busy as ever and assisted by his son, Herbert. The latter compiled the quarterly and annual reports for the local authorities.

On the last Sunday in June 1900, Dr Ramsden took his wife to Saddleworth Church for the annual 'Sing' Festival, while he himself went to visit a patient at the smallpox hospital. In the evening however, about 7 pm, he complained of feeling ill, collapsed and died before medical assistance arrived. None of the family were at home except his wife.

The "Oldham Evening Chronicle" report headlined the news with the sentence "a painful sensation was caused in Saddleworth" by the report of his death. The "Saddleworth and Mossley Reporter" had a similar Victorian tribute, saying "A feeling akin to consternation prevailed in the district."

The funeral was held at Saddleworth Church, the service being conducted by the Rev H Doig who in his address spoke of the Doctor's striking personality and of his skill, care and tenderness for his patients. He also mentioned his commonsense and sense of humour.

On the 4th of July a letter was published in the evening paper from Helen Brierley of Denshaw House, the daughter of his old friend, Morgan Brierley, now deceased, suggesting that a memorial be provided to Dr Ramsden, the cost to be raised by private subscription. The idea found favour and a small committee was formed. The first meeting was held at Platt Lane School, Dobcross, and among its members was the Rev Edwards of Dobcross and Mr Mallalieu, the Council Chairman. Four main suggestions were made for the memorial - a water fountain in Dobcross, a community nurse, a scholarship, or a memorial in St Chad's churchyard.

As with all committees a consensus did not prove easy to achieve, but the water fountain eventually won the votes, especially as it was something which Dr Ramsden himself had once advocated for the well-being of the village. This decision was taken in November 1900 and subscriptions were then raised in the individual villages. By August 1901 the total including interest stood at £190-2s-10d. Local newspapers described the proposed memorial as a fountain of Aberdeen granite with provision for troughs for horses and dogs as well as a drinking spout for humans.

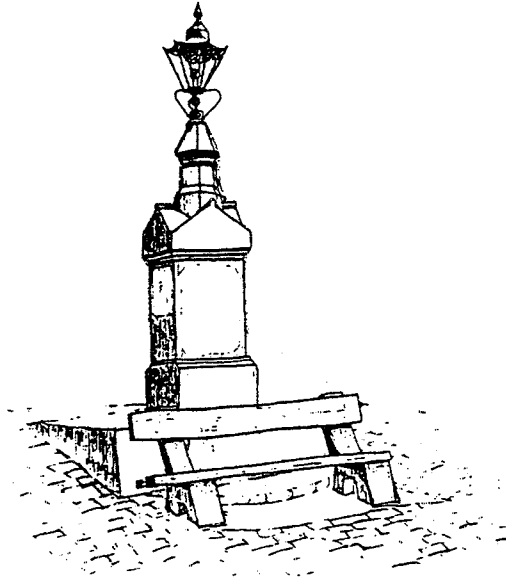
On the 24th August 1901 the memorial - the first public monument in Saddleworth - was unveiled in Dobcross Square. The ceremony was preceded by a procession from Platt Lane School led by Dobcross Band and comprised representatives from many areas of public life. The proceedings began with 'Auld Lang Syne' and were conducted by the Rev Edwards. The individual subscriptions were read out and acknowledgement of the water being given free by the Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Waterworks. Miss Brierley then unveiled the monument and the Chairman, Mr Mallalieu, was asked to receive the letter from the committee conveying the fountain to the care of the Council. After further speeches the proceedings ended with the National Anthem.

This ceremony brought to a close the story of a well-known and loved Saddleworth figure. His family continued the tradition of service, especially in the medical field. He was succeeded as Medical Officer of Health by his son Herbert, and after the latter's retirement in the mid-1930s, Herbert's brother Ernest took over for the next ten years. His daughter Edith married a Dr Stonehouse who helped in the practice, and their son, Dr Pat Stonehouse, a member of this Society who has given me much valuable material for this article, also held office as Medical Officer of Health in the Saddleworth area. Harry, another son, and also medically qualified, served in South Africa during the Boer War. In all, eight members of the extended Ramsden family practised in Saddleworth at some time. Walter became a professor at Liverpool and Charles was ordained and became Rector of Loftus-in-Cleveland. Emily died in childhood and Kate in 1893, probably of TB. All the old Doctor's children inherited a deep love for the Saddleworth area and interest in its flora and fauna, as well as its history.

But perhaps he would best like to be remembered in the words with which he closed the 1896 Lecture to the Society of Medical Officers of Health previously mentioned:-

"Noble as the work of curing disease undoubtedly is, that of preventing it is nobler look to men who combine the clear intellect of science with compassion for suffering."

Margaret Bagley



Sources

Various editions of the "Saddleworth and Mossley Reporter" and the "Oldham Chronicle"

1891 Census for Saddleworth

"Memoirs of Morgan Brierley" by Helen Brierley

Information from Dr W P B Stonehouse

SADDLEWORTH AUCTIONS

Dannie Wright continues his series:

Oldham Chronicle, April 9th 1859:

Valuable Leasehold Property near Diggle Station, Saddleworth

To be sold by auction by Mr E. G. Cowper at the house of Mr Buxton, The Gate Inn, at Weakey, Saddleworth on Wednesday the 13th of April 1859.

All that large and commodious Messuage or Dwelling House lately used as a beerhouse situated at Low Green near Weakey occupied by Mr Anthony Hamer deceased, and known by the name or sign of the "Near House Inn", together with the Brew-House, Stable, Shippon and other Outbuildings, Vacant Land and Premises belonging, and the cottage adjoining thereto. The plot of land including the site of the said buildings contains in the whole 500 square yards. The premises are leasehold, held for the term of 999 years and subject to the yearly chief-rent of 16s 8d and to the covenants and agreements contained in an indenture of lease dated the 1st day of May 1816. The property is eligibly situated adjoining the turnpike road from Uppermill and Dobcross to Huddersfield and within five minutes' walk of the Diggle Station on the London and North-Western Railway. The main building is three storeys high, the rooms spacious and lofty, the whole stone built, and in thorough repair, and its present state is well adapted for a Beerhouse or for a Woollen Manufacturer, or at a trifling outlay the premises might be converted into an appreciable country residence for a gentleman desirous of retiring with his family from the turmoil of a town and business life. There is an ample supply of pure spring water on the premises with pumps and all other conveniences, and the whole offers an opportunity for a small investment of a most desirable nature.

Apply to Mr James Wood, Junior of Harrop Green, Saddleworth, or Auctioneer at Delph or to Messrs Brooks, Marshall & Brooks Solicitors, Ashton-under-Lyne, or at 15, Police Street, Manchester.

* * * * *

Oldham Chronicle, April 16th 1859

Uppermill, Saddleworth

Mr E. G. Cowper will sell by auction on Wednesday April 20th 1859 on the premises known as the "Hare and Hounds Inn", Uppermill, Saddleworth.

The following truly valuable furniture and effects, comprising a superior Eight-days Clock in Mahogany case, two chests of mahogany and one chest of painted Drawers, a set of mahogany chairs with carved backs, and hair-seated mahogany and painted Dining, Card and Snap Tables, Eight-days spring timepiece, in mahogany case, Clock in oak case, German clock, neat dresser with seven drawers and cupboard and moulded front, five Four-post

and Tent Bedsteads with mahogany and stained foot poles, mattresses ec. Washstand and Dressing Tables, sets of stained rush bottomed chairs, with armed chairs, two large glazed cases of Birds and Animals, Bookshelves and a large quantity of valuable Books, long Oak Chest, several Paintings and Engravings framed and glazed, one Half Gallon and one Two-Gallon Copper Spirit Bottles, Brass and Copper Pans and Kettles, Brass mounted and Iron Fenders, steel and other Fireirons, Coffee Mills, a large quantity of useful household requisites in brass, copper, iron, tin and woodware, earthenware, Pot-Shelf and Winterhedges, Tea Trays, Malt Mill, Cop Reel, a quantity of Smiths and Mechanics Tools consisting of Anvil, Bellows, vice hammers, pincers, tongs, punches Ec. Turners, Lathe and Bearers with driving wheel Ec complete, sundry Tools, Office Desk, Gas Piping, Old Iron and other articles too numerous for insertion.

Sale to begin at twelve o'clock at noon prompt.

Dannie Wright

LETTERS

"Rimmon"
Braystones Road
Beckermest
Cumbria
CA21 2XX

Tel: 01946 841 708

Dear Mr Fox

Further to my letter printed in the "Bulletin" of Spring 1995.

I quickly received answers to my question, ie what is a
'cut'?

Firstly, Mr D Wright of Middleton, and secondly Mr Peter
Bradbury of Uppermill, a member of an old established woollen
manufacturing family.

Each of these two gentlemen corrected my belief that the 'cut'
is not a linear measurement for cloth at all. Rather is it
a term for a quantity of cloth cut off the loom for passing
through to the next process. This length varies from case
to case, but an average sort of length would be about 65 feet.

The term 'cut' itself quite simply derives from the operative
making a 'cut' to do the job.

Yours sincerely

A Broadbent

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
GREENFIELD
Oldham
OL3 7LF

Contributions

The "Bulletin" aims 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 interested in the history of the area. Fresh material is required constantly and should be sent to the Editor, who is pleased to discuss ideas for articles with anyone who is considering preparing one. Articles need not be confined to subjects within Saddleworth's borders but should have some connection with the district.

The Autumn "Bulletin" is due for publication on 31st October 1995. All material to the Editor by 15th October please.



Saddleworth Historical Society

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

SADDLEWORTH 1914-1919

The Experience of a Pennine Community during the Great War.

by K.W. MITCHINSON.

Soft Backed £14. 00 Add £2.50 for Postage

Hard Backed £16. 00 Add £3.15 for Postage.

Delivered free Saddleworth.

CHERRY VALLEY CHRONICLES

transcribed by Maurice Dennett

Letters from Thomas Buckley & Family. Immigrants

to Cherry Valley & Millbury, Massachusetts, USA.

to his son Ralph Buckley & Family of Dobcross & Delph.

Saddleworth.

£16.50

PASSAGE THROUGH TIME

A History of Saddleworth Roads & Trackways

by Bernard Barnes

£5.95

ST. ANNE'S, LYDGATE

The Story of a Pennine Parish

by Canon C. C. W. Airne

£5.50

WITH AMMON WRIGLEY IN SADDLEWORTH

by Sam Seville

son-in-law and companion of the Saddleworth writer & poet

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THE PROCESS OF ENCLOSURES IN SADDLEWORTH

1625 - 1834

by Alan J. Petford

£2.40

THE SADDLEWORTH STORY

A WEA Publication

A collection of historical essays

£1.80

LOCAL INTEREST TRAILS

Walks around Saddleworth; illustrated with notes on local history and landscape

1. DELPH, HEIGHTS
& GRANGE

2. UPPERMILL

3. GREENFIELD

4. HUDDERSFIELD NARROW
CANAL

5. GRASSCOFT

6. DENSHAW

7. DELPH

8. LYDGATE & GROTON

9. DOBCROSS

£0.75

MAPS

STREET GUIDE TO SADDLEWORTH.

£1. 20

An A2 Comprehensive Street Map of the area.

Published by the Society May, 1995

MAPS

COUNTRYSIDE GUIDES

Large scale maps of the District showing public footpaths, amenities, and features of special interest: with notes on the local and natural history of Saddleworth.

SADDLEWORTH NORTH

£2.40

SADDLEWORTH SOUTH

£2.40

CHURCHYARD PLAN

A Plan of the Old Graveyard at Saddleworth Church

£1.80

PAMPHLETS

ADDRESS TO THE VARIOUS CLASSES OF MEN IN SADDLEWORTH

by Daniel Nield

Shewing the necessity of supporting the Plan laid down for Augmenting the Price of Labour in the Woollen Manufactory - describing the Distressed situation of the Parish in 1795.

£0.75

BOOKS

HUDDERSFIELD NARROW CANAL

£3.60

A compendium of articles from the Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletins on the construction of the Canal. Published for the Bicentenary 1794-1994.

Cheques made payable to Saddleworth Historical Society and forwarded to Mrs. E. Broadbent, 30 Beechfield, Grasscroft, Oldham. OL4 4EL

Please add 20% postal charges for deliveries outside Saddleworth.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 1995

"Home to dear old Saddleworth, home once more.
How my heart is stirred to its inmost core;
For I've been roaming and it's a joy to go
Up the hillside lane by the fields I know."

Ammon Wrigley.

It is about fifty years since many Saddleworth lads began to return home after several years of "roaming", but then many did not.

The Summer Outing to Lincoln was blessed by perfect weather, but then we were going to a very special place. Undoubtedly, the main attraction of the city is the Cathedral. Started in the year 1072, the original Norman church was damaged by fire and earthquake and the existing Cathedral is largely 12th and 13th Century. Its magnificent stonework and quite beautiful stained glass have made it a centre for pilgrimage and worship over 900 years. Close by William the Conqueror's Castle dates from 1068 and is notable because it houses the finest of the four surviving copies of the Magna Carta sealed by King John at Runnymede in the year 1215. Much of the town is graced by interesting shops and tea-rooms and judging from the conversation of Members on the homeward journey, these were much appreciated. Maurice Dennett expressed our thanks to Wendy & John Murray.

Business Leaders & Company Cultures in early 20th Century Lancashire by Dr. David Jeremy of Manchester University was the 11th Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture held at the Museum during May. It featured Lever Bros. of Port Sunlight the Bleachers' Association and Turner & Newall Limited, of Rochdale. William Hesketh Lever, later Viscount Leverhulme and the other founders of these three large North West manufacturing firms were discussed together with the various problems the firms faced. This included the asbestos hazard which threatened Turners in the 20's resulting in safer operating conditions. Education and religious influences together with the different Board Room cultures were also seriously examined. Thanks for this interesting and detailed lecture were voiced by Mr. Neil Barrow.

A new Lecture Programme is enclosed with this Bulletin and on Wednesday the 25th October, 1995 'Old Saddleworth Photographs & Photographers', by Peter Fox is the first lecture of the season. Another lecture eagerly awaited is 'The Platts, Textile Machine Makers & Their Creations', by Reginald Eastham is on Wednesday 15th November, at the Museum. Both lectures commence at 7.30 p.m.

W.E.A. Annual General Meeting - Thursday 21st September, 1995
at the Parish Centre, Lee Street, Uppermill. 7.30 p.m.
To be followed by a lecture 'Child Labour in the Cotton Mills,'
given by Freda Millett.

Cheese and wine - admission free.

-contd-

W.E.A.

Courses to be held at Saddleworth School 7.15 - 9.15 p.m.

"The Architecture of Dissent," - a look at
Non-Conformist Chapels & Churches.

Alan Petford M.A., on Mondays from 25th September -
14 Meetings including 2 full day trips and 1 half day trip.

"Art Appreciation". Alexander Pheby on Tuesdays from
26th September - 10 Meetings.

"The Architectural Heritage of Britain", W. John Smith, M.A., F.S.A.,
on Thursdays from 28th September - 20 Meetings.

Enrol - week commencing 11th September or first night of course.

Fees - 10 week course full £26.00, concessionary £19.50
unemployed and income support £2.00 enrolment fee only.

For further details and leaflet - phone 0161 633 3205

EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM.

Art Exhibitions.

16th Sept. - 8th October.	David Miller.
14th October - 5th November.	Terry Kirman.
11th November - 3rd December.	Saddleworth Open Exhibition.

Textile Working Day. Sunday 1st October, 1995

Temporary Exhibition - Villages of Saddleworth, Grasscroft
finishes on 18th September, 1995

Folk at the Gallery Monthly.

FESTIVAL OF BEER & BREWING. 8th-10th September, 1995.

This is one of the major fundraising events in aid of the Museum.
A splendid range of real ale and fine wines will be available
together with Folk Music by Yeoman Hey and Martin Stimson
on Friday 8th September, 7.30 p.m. to 11.0 p.m.
Saturday 9th September, Piano Bar with Adrian Read, ex Cafe Royal,
Manchester, playing Honky Tonk, Ragtime and Boogie Woogie from
7.30 p.m. to 11.0 p.m.

COFFEE MORNINGS.

To be held on the second Wednesday of each month.

-contd-

THE 250th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROSS KEYS INN, UPPERMILL.

October is the month chosen for the Historical Society to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the hostelry. In this edition our Archivist, Canon C.C.W. Airne, provides a comprehensive Gazetteer on the Cross Keys to mark the event in a meaningful manner. Display boards are being exhibited of the Inn's Indenture Documents with articles of historical interest culled from the columns of the Oldham Chronicle. The pièce de résistance will be Anne & Gordon Parry's playlet on Wednesday 4th October, 1995, at 7.45 p.m., at the inn, concerning the tragic events relating to the Rev. Charles Zouch, incumbent of the Parish in 1794.

All members are cordially invited to this special occasion which coincides with the first meeting of the Archaeological Group.

Archaeological Group Programme.

The Archaeological Group meet at the Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill, and their first meeting this season is the 4th October, 1995, as mentioned above. Continuing on Wednesday 1st November, Wednesday 6th December, thereafter on the first Wednesday of the month in 1996. 7.45p.m., for 8.0 p.m.

Archaeology.

The Council for British Archaeology are organising a Weekend for young archaeologists on 16/17th September, 1995. The main visits will be to Saddleworth Museum, the Castleshaw Roman Camp site and the Saddleworth length of the Canal. Contact Mr. Jim Carr on 87 3612 for further details.

MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

Cordial greetings are extended to the following new members who have recently joined the Society.

Mr. Mark Willcox, Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
 Mr. & Mrs. G.S. Bottomley, Heywood.
 G. McInnes, Scarborough. Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Bradley, Leamington Spa.
 Mr. W.R. Fleming, Point Lonsdale, Australia.

Mr. Mark Willcox is conducting research into the Whiteheads of the Royal George Mills, Greenfield, and is hoping to produce a video on the subject.

Mr. & Mrs. G.S. Bottomley of Heywood, have family connections with the Bottomleys of the Cross Keys Inn and intend visiting us for the October celebrations with the playlet concerning the Rev. Zouch.

Mrs. W.E. Bradley from Leamington Spa has a grandfather born in Saddleworth named James Thomas Whitehead in 1845 - can any member come forward with helpful information concerning this query. (2 Thorn Stile Close, Cublington, Leamington Spa. CV32 7XD.)

Mr. Bill Fleming has visited Saddleworth and contacted various members of the Mallalieu family in his task of tracing the ancestors of Paul Edwin Mallalieu who emigrated to Australia in 1895. We hope to learn more of his researches in the future if he succeeds as well as his progress to date.

During the 18/19th Century the Nield family were residing in Saddleworth and Mrs. G. McInnes of 9 Redcliffe Gardens, Scarborough, YO12 6SU is interested to learn of anyone who is researching this name and could assist her in any manner.

So more researches continue on the genealogical front and these being the bones of local history it is a worthy task to be able to help our new members with their chosen work and we trust these appeals will be fruitful.

At the present moment Canon Airne has returned home from a number of visits to hospital and we know that you would all wish to join in wishing him well and in hoping that he recovers from his illness.

Present subscriptions to the Society are -

Family Membership.....	£9.50
Single Membership	£8.00
Retired	£6.00
Student	£6.00
Overseas - please contact Mrs. E. Broadbent, 30 Beechfield Grasscroft, Oldham. OL4 4EL	

The 1995 Publication by the Society for the Saddleworth Festival of Arts was 'SADDLEWORTH 1914-1919 - The Experience of a Pennine Community during the Great War, by K.W. Mitchinson.

This excellent production in colour with photographs and names of the men involved in this wartime struggle, their regiments, their battles and medals. It is a history of Saddleworth at war and tells the contribution of these Saddleworth men and women gaining a final victory. If you missed the initial order form see the Publications List and take this opportunity to get your copy of this valuable book.

Street Guide to Saddleworth.

This useful publication is now on sale throughout the Parish. The price is £1.20 for this A2 Street Map and Guide dealing most comprehensively with the whole Saddleworth area. See Publications List.

J. Hindle. August, 1995