

Saddleshworth Historical Society Bulletin



HENRY PLATT
1793–1842

born at Bridge House, first built
Carding Engines on this site.
Founder of Platt Bros. Oldham.
The World's largest Textile
Machine Manufacturers.

BULLETIN
OF THE
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 25

Winter 1995

	<u>Page</u>
John Murray	1
Chairman's Report for 1995	3
The Shaw Family of Boarshurst, Part Two	8
At the Whyt Harte Inn	14
A Saddleworth Diary	16
Saddleworth Auctions	18
Letters	20

Cover: The design produced by Leander Architectural, Buxton,
for the plaque that was attached to Bridge House, Dobcross,
in November 1995. (See the Chairman's Report).

John Murray 1918 - 1995

John Murray was a victim of a devastating disease for so long that it is easy to forget the man he was. Parkinson's disease became evident in the early eighties and we watched him fight a losing battle against it.

To many people John was synonymous with Saddleworth Historical Society. It was his great interest and the success of its ventures was his major concern. He had the quiet and determined dignity necessary for his post of Chairman of the Society, a position he held for twenty-one years. He had his finger on the pulse, involved in all the work of the several interest groups within the society and was always ready to spread the word to the outside world.

Conservation issues, the listing of buildings, social history, social events, archaeology, the Roman camp, the preservation of Wool Road Warehouse, Megalithic sites, the Museum, bulletin production and society publications all engaged his attentions.

His persistence in seeing the production of two countryside maps of Saddleworth come to fruition showed his determination to see a difficult project through to completion. It must not be easy to obtain the permission necessary to alter Ordnance Survey maps and to organise other people's skills to make the alterations and additions to update existing maps. It was a job that took several years to accomplish and looking at it now it seems to be a memorial to a dedicated chairman. To a large extent it was John's project.

Although not the main instigator of the work on the Wool Road warehouse he was eager to help in any way and could often be found on the roof and the adjoining walls enjoying the slow but satisfying work of demolition or building.

John loved walking and in those vigorously active days of the Society he enjoyed many of the organised hikes such as the Saddleworth boundary walks of 28 miles, the pack horse trail, the three peaks of Ingleborough, Penyghent and Whernside, Roman roads, Boxing Day walks, the Lake District and many others.

Concern for elderly members who could no longer attend meetings moved him to visit those in hospital or ill at home with the good wishes of the Society. I remember the occasion when he and Wendy went to visit Anne in hospital. They were on their way to one of the Society's colourful costume events, a Merrie England dinner and ball at the Civic Hall. They were dressed in the costume of eighteenth century aristocracy and walked through the ward completely unembarrassed and in the event completely ignored by other patients and visitors.

John was the perfect ambassador for the Society - a gentleman, calm, attentive and always interested in other people's work and ideas. As chairman of the committee he was prepared to listen to all points of view and to ensure that a reasoned decision was taken. Because of the Society's concern for the

preservation of aspects of Saddleworth's past he served on the Parish Council's Conservation Committee, a duty he fulfilled assiduously for many years.

John was born during the closing stages of the First World War into a large family in Watersheddings. He attended St Annes Primary School at Greenacres, where he gained a scholarship to Xaverian College in Manchester. It was here his interest and love of poetry was developed.

After school he joined ICI at Blackley but the Second World War meant service in the Royal Engineers. He saw action in North Africa and Italy. It was in Italy that he met an Italian who was his interpreter, who helped him to find labour and materials for the job of repairing and building bridges. It was a friendship that lasted, at a distance, for many years and inspired John's love of the Italian language.

In his later years with ICI he was responsible for Market Intelligence and for the analysis of the terms of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) in relation to ICI's business.

Married to Wendy Lockwood in his later years they formed a vital team in the running of some of the events in the Society's programme, particularly the summer excursions. It was Wendy, of course, who supported him through those difficult years when memory and actions were failing.

He bore his illness with great fortitude. We shall never know his inner thoughts about it all but he never complained either about his condition or his treatment. In all the years I knew him I never heard him speak ill of anyone.

We shall always remember him for his solid work for the Society and for his great regard for all of us.

Gordon Parry.

Chairman's Report at the Annual General Meeting of the
Saddleworth Historical Society on Thursday 7th December 1995

This is my sixth report as Chairman for a year of considerable achievement but also sad loss and change. I replaced John Murray on Saddleworth Conservation Areas Advisory Committee when he retired.

Vice-Chairman Stanley Broadbent, as reported last year, has pursued a "blue plaque" for Henry Platt, founder of the Oldham textile giant, in contact with Oldham Planning Department. Michael Buckley had verified that Henry's father, John Platt, registered his trade as blacksmith in the church register of Holy Trinity, Dobcross, after five generations of Platts had worked as joiners at Butterhouses.

The Platt "plaque" was unveiled on Wednesday, 15th November 1995, on the gable of the smithy at Bridge House, Dobcross, by the Mayor of Oldham, Councillor Joe Farquhar.

This leaves two other famous Saddleworth individuals to be commemorated in similar fashion in future: Thomas Steele VC (1891-1978) and Annie Kenney, the Suffragette.

Stanley was also instrumental in the reprint of the "Street Guide to Saddleworth" in May. The copyright had been purchased from Alan Fletcher, formerly of the New Book Shop, Uppermill, but it required 164 modifications and a full survey. The sale of advertising space to local businesses subsidised the printing costs at Taylor & Clifton, making it a totally Saddleworth production.

On 30th March, Stanley accompanied Canon Airne to the J W Lees Brewery at Middleton Junction to view their archives with the Managing Director, Mr Christopher Lees Jones. This provided the material for Pat's gazetteer on the Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill, to commemorate its 250th Anniversary. Stanley also prepared a display with articles and photographs from the "Oldham Chronicle" and the "Huddersfield Examiner", which was mounted in the hall at the Inn.

On Wednesday 4th October, with Stanley again as "whipper-in", the playlet "The Tragedy of Charles Zouch" was produced and its authors, Anne and Gordon Parry, received many deserved plaudits. We also congratulate the cast of seven local actors for a most successful evening.

Stanley acts as reporting correspondent for the "Oldham Chronicle", for our monthly lectures, giving a full outline of our speakers and their subjects.

Our Membership Secretary, Elsie Broadbent, reports that 1995 has maintained a level of 450 members and during the year we have been pleased to welcome 23 new members to join in the Society's activities.

To date we have nineteen overseas members. Mr Mark Willcox of Glen Mills, Pennsylvania joined us in July, being descended from Ralph Radcliffe Whitehead of the Royal George Mills, who emigrated to America and founded with his wife Woodstock, an arts and crafts colony in the Catskill Mountains, New York State. His task is to complete a video documentary on the founding of the Byrdcliffe Colony of Arts in Woodstock, and we wish him well on this venture, meanwhile standing in support as required.

One of the longest family trees to appear this year was from Dr W R Fleming of Fairfield, Victoria, Australia, who was residing in Cambridgeshire during the summer months and furthering his Mallalieu researches to some purpose. During August he returned to attend a grand reunion of the Australian Mallalieux and we have no doubt there will be further fruits from the work of Bill Fleming.

Our friend Mrs Esther Shaw Lawn of California made another 200 dollar donation to the Society and continued her generosity, for which she is to be thanked.

The team of main agents and sub-agents carried out their distribution of the Society Bulletin during the year and are to be congratulated for their dedicated work.

As the year passed we again lost some of our members amongst whom was Mr Thomas H Buckley of Delph, Mrs Edith Boon of Crinkle Cottage, Delph, and Mrs Hilda Wood of Greenbridge Lane, Greenfield. Our saddest loss was our long serving Archivist and colleague Canon Airne; his passing has indeed been a tragic moment in the Society and he will not be forgotten.

The Archaeology Group has met at the refurbished Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill, and enjoys the kind hospitality of Philip Kay, the landlord. Our small but loyal gathering would welcome new members. During the year we have had illustrated talks by John Clarke, Beryl Lynch and your Chairman, on sites in Rome and Ostia, Peru, Turkey, Paphos and Barcelona. Trips have been taken to the Cliffe Castle Museum in Keighley, to the Castleshaw Forts during the "Young Archaeologists' Weekend", to Smithills Hall, Bolton, for the Reports Meeting of the Council for British Archaeology North-West, and to Manchester University for the Conference organised by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit. A survey of cobbles, setts and flag walls will follow. We have joined the "Defence of Britain Project" organised by the Imperial War Museum, which will record all local sites of pill boxes, gun-emplacements, searchlights etc.

Two excavations have taken place in Saddleworth during the year and reports will be published in future Bulletins: the Roman road dig at Doctor Lane Head, High Moor, led by Jim Irvine and excavations by Norman Redhead and his team on extra-mural evidence at the Castleshaw forts.

Our Secretary, Neil Barrow, has maintained a high standard in organising lectures for our syllabus and in dealing with monthly committee meetings. We have enjoyed a varied programme at the Museum, with topics ranging from Pack Horse Ways through VI Form Archaeology and Saddleworth photographs to the Lees family of Park Bridge. A most apposite and timely lecture on the Platts was given by Mr Reginald Eastham on the day the Platt plaque was unveiled in his presence at Dobcross.

For our next lecture we hope to have a new Kodak Ektalite Projector in use.

The Saddleworth Festival of the Arts was a busy time again and the Society's publication was "Saddleworth 1914-1919, The Experience of a Pennine Community during the Great War", by Mr K W Mitchinson of Saddleworth School. We continue to have a wide range of books, maps and trails on sale and Tony Wheeldon earns our gratitude for all his work on this front. He would like to give up this post as soon as a volunteer replacement steps forward.

Dr P B W Stonehouse' widely recognised reputation in Prehistoric Archaeology and his activities in Mesolithic excavation particularly have led to the preparation for publication of the first part of a Saddleworth History next year.

There was worry that the Hewkin Collection had been removed from Uppermill Library to Oldham, but enquiries showed that only the manuscripts had gone.

As previously mentioned, the loss of Canon Airne means that our archives need attention and colleagues for Maurice Dennett, and Pat himself had foreseen this. Margaret informs me that all his personal archives have, in his will, been donated to the Society. Among this legacy are to be found four chapters of a new book on Lydgate, the village and its people, to follow Pat's earlier book on the history of St Anne's Church. Margery Hamnett donated her late husband Ted's hand-coloured photograph of the first modern Rush Cart and Canon Airne arranged its framing.

This year's excursion to Lincoln was enjoyed by the whole party and our congratulations for a well-organised day and a most appreciated trip are passed to Wendy Murray. We were unable to add an Autumn trip because the Bulletin publication was brought forward and members could not be informed. In 1996 we intend to advertise both excursions early.

Michael Fox deserves our praise for his quiet, behind-the-scenes work on producing a Bulletin that regularly interests, entertains and educates the membership. Contributions are always welcome and Society news along with Museum activities are dealt with admirably by Jack Hindle, who writes the Newsletter and the poetic introduction.

John Buckley continues to represent the Society on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal Committee which has decided to keep its Canal Festival annually over the May Bank Holiday weekend. In 1996 we hope to have an Industrial Archaeology Conference in the autumn to match last year's successful effort to celebrate the bicentenary of the canal.

Your officers have worked hard throughout the year and now changes are forced upon us - Canon Airne will be hard to replace and we have been fortunate for some years now to appreciate the demanding efforts of our Honorary Treasurer, Rev Godfrey Adams. He has now indicated his wish to retire from his post and we wish him well in both his jobs and his future which we hope will still keep him in contact with the Society (as an auditor!). A small presentation of a Saddleworth Picture was made on behalf of his colleagues on the committee.

J C CARR
(Chairman)

7th December 1995

We regret to report the death of our President, John Murray, early on the Saturday after the Society's A G M. We send our sincere condolences to Wendy in her sad loss.

Election of Officers

Chairman: Jim Carr
Vice-Chairman: Stanley Broadbent
Hon Secretary: Neil Barrow
Hon Treasurer: Dorothy Latimer
Hon Editor: Michael Fox
Hon Archivists: Wilfred and Jennifer Theakstone
Hon Membership Secretary: Elsie Broadbent
Leader, Industrial Archaeology Group: John Buckley
Newsletter Editor: Jack Hindle
Publications Officer: Vacant
(Nominations to the Hon Secretary as a matter of urgency)

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1995

RECEIPTS

	£
Membership Fees	2550
Bulletin Sales / Subs	90
Ordinary Publication Sale	4414
Donations	119
Refreshments	14
Miscellaneous	70
Social	317
Interest Received	748
	8322

CASH IN HAND 1.11.94

Cash	21
Current a/c	1367
Yorkshire 1 month	5462
Yorkshire 3 month	12080
	27252

PAYMENTS

	£
Bulletin Cost	806
Post and Telephone	424
Affiliation Fees	73
Lecture Fees / Costs	86
Stationary	222
Publications	8777
Miscellaneous	122
Museum	500
Social	281
Photocopying	97
Contribution to Museum's new copier	
	300
	11688

CASH IN HAND 31.10.95

Cash	
Current a/c	1399
Yorkshire 1 month	5328
Yorkshire 3 month	8837
	27252

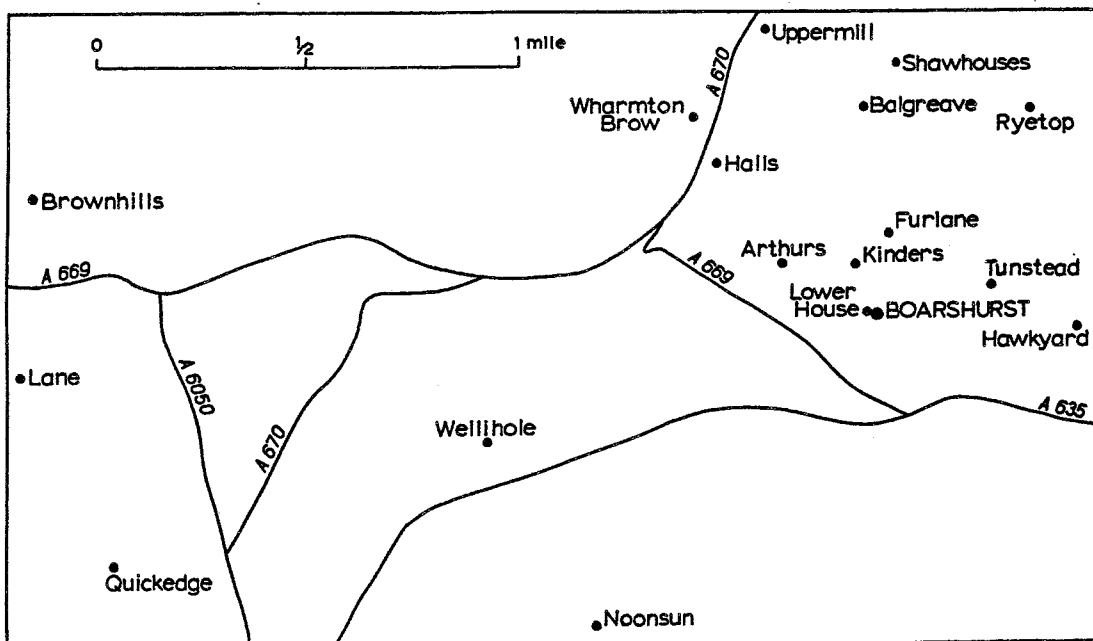
THE SHAW FAMILY OF BOARSHURST - PART TWO

(Part One appeared in Volume 25, Number 3)

I now turn to some later Shaws of Boarshurst.

The will of a John Shaw of Boarshurst, dated 1692 but proved in 1697, mentions the names of fields that went with Lower House. So this John was the John of Lower House, son of Robert, named in the above-mentioned 1658 will of his aunt Mary Whewall. He could not sign his name and his probate inventory suggests that he was a husbandman: his goods were valued at £28, including £12 for 'corne and hay and catell', but there is no mention of looms or cloth. In 1679, John of Boarshurst is described as a husbandman aged 65 (Raines MSS Vol 6, page 232). He names no children in his will, although they had been mentioned (unnamed!) in the wills of both Francis and Mary Whewall; presumably they had died by 1692. He does name his wife, Margaret (Kenworthy), whom he had married in 1677, the same year as his first wife, Ann, had died. Margaret died in 1703.

In 1674, John Shaw of Lower House was described as the uncle of a John Shaw of Boarshurst in the latter's indenture of apprenticeship (SM: M/HOW/1) as a clothier to Joseph Schofield (listed at Boarshurst among the 1669 tithe payers). This John, and his elder brother William, were the sons of Thomas Shaw, deceased, named in the 1658 will of Mary Whewall, and they are named again (but without stating kinship) in the above-mentioned 1692 will of John of (Lower House) Boarshurst, along with their respective children. Thomas had died in 1657 but he left no will. His son John had been baptised in 1655 and his elder son, William, was presumably born about 1653, when there was a gap (1650-54) in the register of baptisms. These would be consistent with a marriage of Thomas about 1652 and a birth after 1627 (the year of his grandmother Katherine's will). His wife may have been the Sarah, widow, of another legatee of Mary Whewall in 1658, but it is not known if she died young, leaving the two young boys as orphans. They may have lived with another relative in Boarshurst rather than with their uncle John at Lower House.



These connections with Boarshurst suggest that Thomas Shaw had lived there too, but whether at Lower House is not known.

At the time of John's will in 1692, of his nephews William and John the latter was of Furlane. His brother was the William Shaw of Lower House in Boarshurst, husbandman, according to his will, dated 1701 and proved 1702. (This suggests that he had succeeded to Lower House when his uncle John died). He had married Mary, daughter of William Kenworthy of Quickedge, in 1678. John may have been at Furlane because of the Kenworthy connection: a Thomas Shaw living there seems to have married a Kenworthy, judged by the will of Richard Kenworthy, dated 1694.

About this time there was a Henry Shaw of Boarshurst. Daniel the son of Henry of Boarshurst was buried in 1680, having been baptised in 1678. There are no earlier records of baptisms of children of a Henry back to at least 1674 so perhaps he had married about then. Indeed, a Henry was married in 1673 to Mary Hobson, and a Mary, wife of Henry, was buried in 1686, the same year as the last of the recorded baptisms of children of Henry. There were two fathers named Henry at this time but it seems possible to distinguish the children of Henry of Boarshurst: baptisms in 1678, 1679, 1682 and 1686. The last was the John Shaw of Saddleworth, clothmaker, that was bound in 1712 to administer the goods of his father Henry Shaw of Saddleworth. From Henry's inventory it seems he was a husbandman. One of the appraisers was Joseph Scholefield (of Boarshurst). Bound with John was John Bentley, also of Boarshurst (so described in 1703, when he was made an executor of the will of Michael Shaw of Ryetop). In the hearth tax returns for 1674 there are two Henrys: one is clearly the Henry of Lane (son of Giles), but hamlets are not named in the returns so the other cannot be located with certainty, only by comparison of adjacent names among the tithepayers listed by hamlet in 1669. Henry of Boarshurst would have been born about 1650 but his father cannot be deduced. Perhaps he was a son of Henry, one of Robert's sons.

We return to William Shaw of Lower House. He signs his will, and one of the witnesses was a John Shaw, who also signs, and was presumably his brother, John of Furlane (not the above-mentioned John, son of Henry, who could not sign the administration bond on his father's goods). William describes himself as a husbandman but his goods (valued at £59 1s 8d) include 'wooll combes and combestock, weighbeames and scales, and some other husbandry work loubmes'. He also had 'one meere and three coves' valued at £13 10s, but the bulk of his goods were for the household and farm. Four rooms are named in his probate inventory: 'parlor, chamber, neerer parlor and further parlor'.

William named three sons in his will: Thomas, William and Hugh. Only a baptism of the eldest son is recorded, in 1682. This Thomas, a clothier, was bequeathed the Lower House tenement by his father 'dureing the terme of the lease thereof' on condition that his executors received ('for the use and behoofe of my younger children') the £6 yearly rent for that part of the tenement sublet to John Whitehead of Kinders, and

afterwards £7 10s yearly until the expiry of the lease. The latter was confirmed by James Farrer in 1713 (John Owen MSS 44: 229). The marriage of Thomas is not known: it was presumably about 1703, to an Ann who died in 1736. He is listed as Thomas Shaw of Lower House in rentals of 1719-1743, and he was overseer of the poor in the vestry minutes for 1735. He died in 1748 but no will is known.

Of William's other two sons, William, another clothier, moved to Shawhouses (about half a mile north of Boarshurst) by 1728, where he is listed in rentals until 1735. He became the forebear of a Shaw line there through his eldest son, John, who married Mary Buckley in 1731, although he himself moved to New Tame in 1736 (on his second marriage, to Martha, widow of Thomas Hawkyard of New Tame), and died there in the following year. William's youngest son, Hugh, also a clothier, moved to Halls (about half a mile northwest of Boarshurst and part of the lands of John Buckley of Grotton Head, according to his will dated 1737), where there were Kenworthy relations. He became the forbear of a Shaw line there, through his eldest son, another John, who married Mary Shaw (!) of Tunsted in 1740. So again the younger brothers moved away whilst the eldest one stayed at home.

Thomas's son William Shaw is named as the tenant of Lower House in a Saddleworth court roll of 1750 (WW: box 8/4b), and he was still living there at the time of the 1770 survey of the manor, but he died in 1772. He was a clothier of Wharmton Brow at his marriage to Esther Bottomley, in 1724, but they and their children moved to Wellihole by 1738 (where he is listed in a rental of 1743, but also at Lower House), to be replaced at Boarshurst by a younger brother, Thomas junior, a clothier, who had married Jane Buckley of Stones, in 1730. Thomas junior and Jane moved, in turn, to Uppermill by 1737, where Jane died in the following year, by which year his cousin Thomas Shaw (son of William of Shawhouses) had come to Boarshurst after marrying Mary Bradbury, in 1737. This move was probably to live near his uncle, Thomas, following the above-mentioned death of his father, William, in the same year. Another of William's sons, James Shaw, also lived briefly in Uppermill (when his illegitimate daughter Martha was born in 1739), before marrying in 1741 Mary, a daughter of Edmund Hawkyard of Noonsun, and then moving to the hamlet of Lusley, in the adjacent parish of Ashton-under-Lyne. Thomas junior returned from Uppermill to Boarshurst by 1747 (the year before Thomas senior died), after marrying again, in 1741, to Martha Shaw (!) of Wellihole (where Thomas's brother William had been living). The Shaws had by then been ramifying considerably in several hamlets!

A John Shaw of Boarshurst (not Lower House) is listed in the rentals 1719-1743. He is the John who married Elizabeth Kay, in 1714, was listed as an overseer of the poor in the vestry minutes for 1741, and who died in 1744. He was probably the son of Henry already mentioned. His widow was still at Boarshurst (not Lower House) at the time of the 1770 survey, living in a house 'about 4 or 5 bays of very old thatched

housing in length about 23 yards'. She is also listed there in a rental of 1777 (SM: H/JH/CAB/1/28c), where it is stated that the lease was given in 1746. John's son James Shaw lived at Boarshurst after he married Betty Broadbent in 1758.

This analysis has demonstrated that Shaws lived continuously at Boarshurst from the mid 16th to at least the mid 18th centuries. When they came there has not been established. According to the Giles Shaw MSS, Uppermill was the focus of Shaw family settlement, but no supporting evidence was given. In the 17th century, the Shaws of Boarshurst were yeomen or husbandmen, ie farmers, but by the 18th century they had become clothiers. A move away from farming is known to be associated with the limited availability of land and a need to develop alternative livings as the population grew. This was accompanied by house building, as demonstrated by Shawhouses in the early 17th century. At Boarshurst, Lower House seems to have been built in the mid 17th century, for the earliest reference found so far is 1658. Perhaps it was built around the 1640s by John because his father, Robert, and perhaps his younger brothers, were living in the old houses that had long been used by the Shaws. Further building can be estimated by the growing numbers of families in a hamlet, represented by the number of baptisms. For example, at Boarshurst there seem to have been about four houses in the 1720s, with perhaps another two built by about 1730. Similarly, at both Shawhouses and Uppermill, two became four by 1740.

Comparison of results presented here with notes on the Shaws in the Raines MSS (CL: vol 8, pages 268-271, also BSHS, 3 (3): 45-46) has revealed errors in the latter. Raines states that Thomas, whose will was dated 1650, and John, aged 65 in 1654, were sons of Edmund of Overmilne, but no evidence was given. Here it has been demonstrated that these two were sons of Giles of Boarshurst. Raines may have assumed a kinship because Thomas had bought land at Overmilne in 1637. We do not know the names of Edmund's children, if any. The Giles Shaw MSS (SM: M/HOW/GS/6 page 4) state that Edmund was killed in the Civil War, but no supporting evidence is given.

Raines also states that John had a son George of Boarshurst, who married Helen Kinder in 1652 and was still living in 1688. However, John's only child surviving to adulthood was his daughter Sarah, who married Ralph Andrew (so the Boarshurst tenancy passed to him). There was a George of Boarshurst, who died about 1665, but he was a son of Giles. There is no record in the church registers of George's alleged marriage because in the period 1642-1672 most of the marriages are missing. The George living in 1688 was of Hawkyard (will dated 1698).

If readers notice errors in this account I would be pleased to have the evidence; and if there are further records I have not used concerning these Shaws of Boarshurst I would be grateful for references.

David Pedgley

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References:

McKinley, R. "The Surnames of Lancashire", 1981. Leopard's Head Press.

BI University of York, Borthwick Institute of Historical Research

BSHS Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

LRO Lancashire Record Office

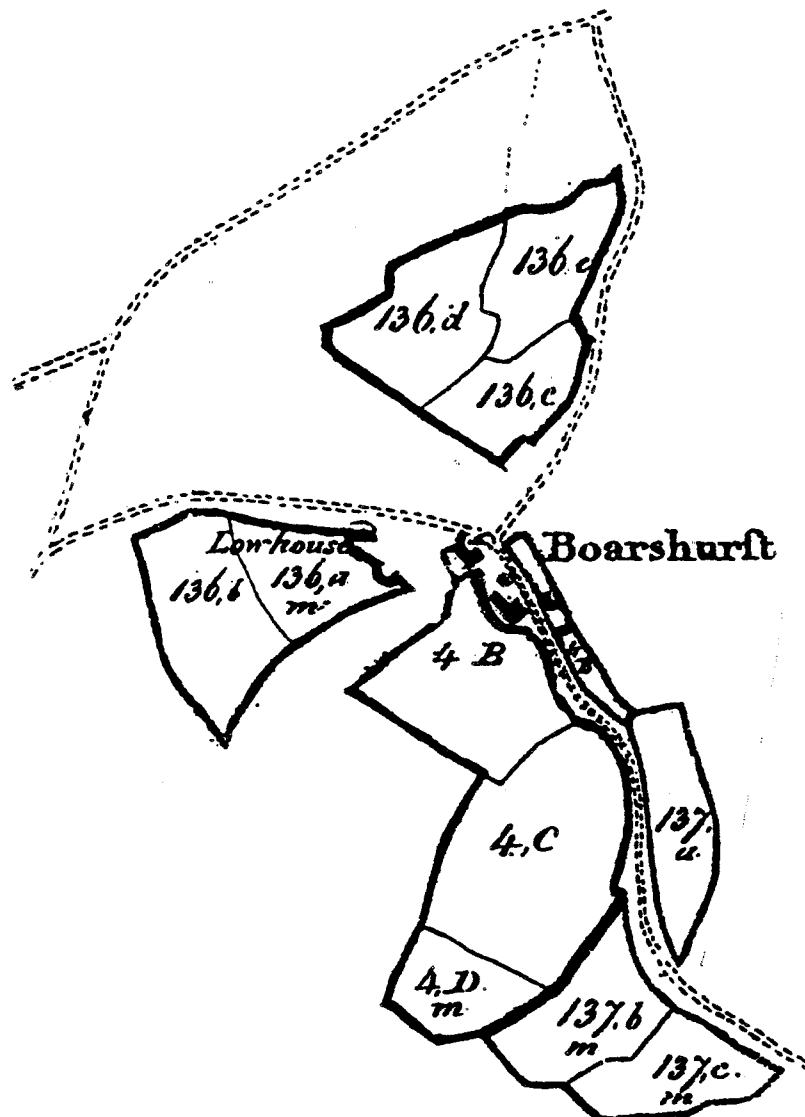
MCL Manchester Central Library, Local Studies Unit

PRO Public Record Office

SM Saddleworth Museum Archives

WW University of Leeds, Brotherton Library, Wentworth-Woolley Hall Papers

WYA West Yorkshire Archives Service, Kirklees



AT THE WHYT HARTE INN

When built in 1789, The White Hart must have been one of the largest houses in Lydgate, consisting of three storeys with large rooms either side of a central passage and stairway and made of local brick with smart double windows front and rear. It was built directly opposite Lydgate Church by John Buckley; first probably with a relative in mind, later to serve the needs of travellers on a busy turnpike road which soon became the focal point for the whole community. Among its regulars was a group of 'Scotchmen', or pedlars as we now know them.

These men would tramp from cottage to cottage and to lonely farmsteads selling their cottons and pins, retiring to the Inn at night for refreshments and a comfortable bed.

A favourite pastime was quoiting, which was played in a meadow at the side of the hostelry. Bull-baiting and cock-fightings were also regular features. For a long time an old oil painting hung in the Tap-Room, entitled "An old Saddleworth Cock-Fight", in which one could see how the fighting birds had had their breast feathers plucked out and their combs and wattles cut off in preparation for battle. Bull-baiting was banned by law in 1849; even then the law was not strictly enforced, until the Lydgate Village Constable, known to all as 'Billy Potbow' called a halt to the barbaric proceedings after an enraged bull broke free of its tether and rushed into the nearby Inn and down the cellar steps sustaining horrific injuries from which the animal died.

Following the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act and the Combination Acts of 1799 and 1800 all workers were prevented from joining Trade Unions; Sick Clubs, and even Friendly Societies, all were suppressed by the Authorities. A semi-political Union was formed and met regularly at the White Hart, and in 1819 many of its members marched into Manchester under the Black Flag of Saddleworth - depicting Equal Representation or Death - to gather at Peterloo on that fateful day.

The Inn was run by John Newton until 1818 when it changed its name to the Stag Inn, by which time William Wood was the tenant. However, by 1822 the pub had reverted to its proper name, the White Hart - a much favoured sign. It was the badge of Richard II and his popularity undoubtedly led to its frequent adoption. (There is a White Hart to be found in most major towns). Another school of thought believes that the name is due to a legend in which Alexander the Great captured a white hart, and placed a collar of gold around its neck.

Subsequent licensees include Abraham Wood (1838-69), George Travis (1869-71), James Hill (1871-5), James Bradbury (1880-84) and John Hallas (1884-1891).

The Inn was the rendezvous for the Church Hand-Bell Ringers, local farmers and shopkeepers who gathered in the 'Snug', which could comfortably hold two dozen. Sometimes three times that number would cram themselves in to discuss politics and talk

over the day's business. Newspapers cost 10d each and those who could read them aloud were in heavy demand. Saddleworth Subscription Hunt met at the White Hart, and many a trail hound meet started from an adjoining field.

There are many strange tales to tell of the Inn; perhaps one of the strangest was the arrest of local murderer James Bardsley. His father John was born in 1777, when George III was on the throne. In 1804, with his wife Mary and family, he took up residence in Springhead, John finding work as a labourer at Peter Seville's Cotton Mill, Milking Green, Lees. At the age of 62, and a widower, he lived in a small cottage in Betty's Meadow, County End - later to be known as Railway Street - with his second son John, and his adopted son Thomas Heywood. His first-born James was scarcely seen, having chosen to live the life of a vagrant, and three other children had long since died.

On Sunday 3rd November 1839 John Bardsley was at home with his son and Thomas. It was dusk and the lamps had not yet been lit. The door burst open and James, who had not been seen for many months, walked in and sat down without speaking. The silence was broken by a neighbour, Mrs Miles Jackson, calling to ask John (Junior) to stay with her ailing husband whilst she went on an errand. After John left the house Thomas was so affected by the charged atmosphere that he ran next door to tell John that he was afraid that something was going to happen. On returning raised voices were heard - James shouting at his father "I will have something to eat" and his father refusing. Opening the door they found both men struggling on the floor. Thomas lit the lamp and found his father severely wounded about the head and neck. Doctor Jeremiah Walker and the Constable were sent for, but twenty minutes later John Bardsley died.

P C John Stansfield arrested James Bardsley and took him to the White Hart Inn, where he was secured to an iron ring set in the upstairs chimney jamb. He was later tried for murder at York Assizes - found 'Guilty' and sentenced to death. On the Thursday following the execution John Bardsley was laid to rest in the churchyard of the Independent Chapel, Delph. The headstone reads "In Memory of John Bardsley of Lees who was brutally and horribly murdered by James Bardsley his son. November 3. 1839, in the 62nd year of his age". Later the local Constable was provided with sufficient funds to establish a lock-up for the incarceration of offenders.

A local character connected with the White Hart was Daniel Whitehead, a young farmer of Loadhill Farm, Lydgate, known locally as 'Brass Dan'. In 1868 he inherited the sum of £3,000, a huge fortune in those days, and immediately went on a spending spree. His two favourite venues were the Tap Rooms of the Red Lion and the White Hart. He would take pleasure from throwing handfuls of coins over the Tap-Room floor and watching the mad scramble to collect them. Dan died in Running Hill Workhouse in 1880, absolutely penniless.

Eric A Roberts

A SADDLEWORTH DIARY

Of great value to historians, and much interest to the casual browser, are diaries kept by contemporaries. By kind permission of Clara Shaw, some of the notes made a century ago by her grandmother, Hannah Shaw, are reproduced below. They provide a brief but special insight into events of the period, both major and minor.

The Editor would be very pleased to receive similar contributions from other members of the Society.

January 16th 1892

Mr Sam Wood of Bleakheynook, who was landlord of the Horse and Jockey, died after a short illness on Sunday night the 10th day of January 1892, and was buried on Thursday January 4th at St Thomas Church Heights. The Saddleworth Reed Band played the Dead March at his funeral.

April 3rd 1900

The War in 1900: South Africa.
Send off from Delph on Wednesday Evening at 8 o'clock, April 3rd. There will be a Public Meeting in the Mechanics Hall, Delph, to bid farewell to Surgeon-Captain Harry Ramsden, who sails from Southampton on Friday next. Chairman: Councillor F. W. Mallalieu. Band and Torchlight Procession.

1901

Thorns Clough Mill burned down August 14th 1901. Belonging to M Buckley, Shaw Manufacturer, Diggle, N. Oldham.

Moor Tragedy

Two gamekeepers, named Robert Kenyon and William Utley, were murdered on Friarmere moors on Wednesday September 9th 1903, while going their rounds as is their daily duty. Caused great sensation. Utley was buried on Sept 14th and Kenyon was buried on Sept 15th 1903.

Great Fire at Eagle Mill, best known as Delph Mill

Was burned down on Friday October 12th 1906. The fire was first seen at 5 to one o'clock at Noon, and at 20 mins past it was fallen down.
Flames coming out of slate at 10 mins past one o'clock.
Slackcote fire engine was on the work at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 o'clock, and at 3 o'clock the Oldham Fire Brigade came through Delph. Great excitement prevailed.

1907

1907 was the wettest year ever remembered. It rained 70 days in succession and only cleared up on July 13th 1907, and that day was very hot!
Only fine 2 weeks at Easter in seven months.



SADDLEWORTH AUCTIONS

Dannie Wright continues his search through the newspapers of a hundred and forty years ago.

Valuable Farms and Housing near Dobcross, Saddleworth Oldham Chronicle July 31st 1858

To be sold by auction by Mr Henry Blackburn at the Swan Hotel Dobcross, Saddleworth, on Wednesday the 11th of August 1858 at six o'clock in the evening.

Lot 1 All that farm consisting of two messuages or dwelling houses, with a barn, stable, shippon and outbuildings situated at, and called, Roundhill, near Dobcross, Saddleworth, in the occupation of Mr James Winterbottom and Mr Abraham Wood. And also those closes of land adjoining thereto called the Pit Field, the New Meadow, the Rush Meadow, the Acker, the Slackfield, the Upper Intake, the Middlemost Field, the Upper Bank, the Hill Field (in two closes), the Three Nook and the Long Meadow, containing (including the site of the buildings) 16a 1r 13p statute measure or thereabouts.

Lot 2 All that farm house and cottage, with garden and out-building thereto, situated at and called Lark Hill, on Harrop Edge, near Dobcross. With the five closes of meadow and pasture land belonging thereto and occupied, consisting of about 11a 2r 0p of land, in the occupations of John Acked and Tim Wrigley. These compact and eligible farms are freehold of inheritance, both situated on a slight elevation above the village of Dobcross, and within a short distance of the Saddleworth Railway Station, and are surrounded by good roads. The buildings are substantial and commodious, and each farm lies within a ring fence, is in a good state of cultivation, and is well supplied with water.

Lot 3 All those cottages occupied as six dwellings, situated in Platt Lane near Dobcross, occupied by Edward Dransfield, William Kenerley, George Swan and others. Also a chief rent of £1 15s issuing from a plot of land adjoining the cottages. For further particulars apply to Auctioneer, Delph, or as to Lot 1, to William Whitehead Esq, Dobcross, or to Radcliff & Murray Solicitors, and to Lots 2/3, to Mr Redfern, Solicitor, Oldham.

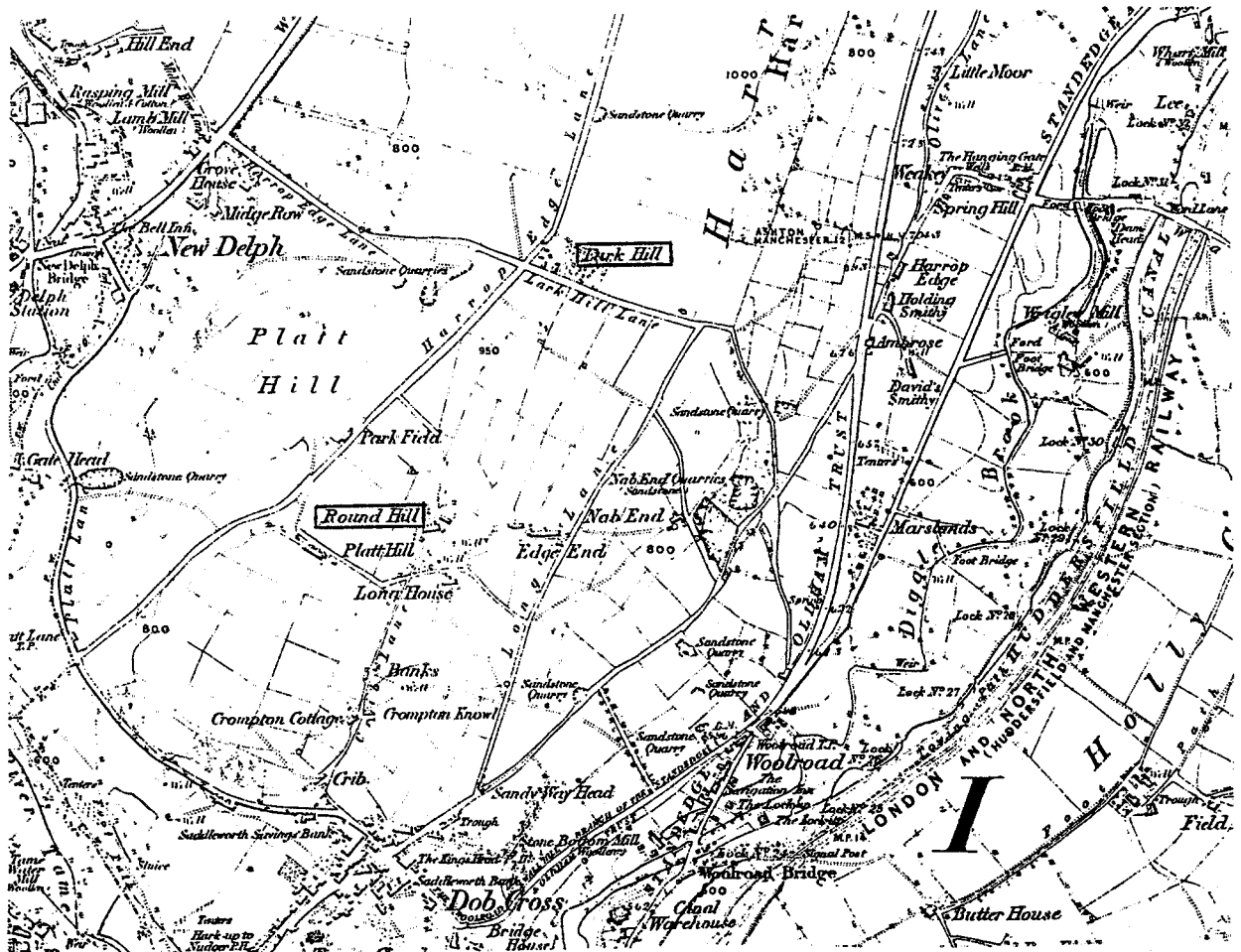
Valuable Farms in Saddleworth to be sold by Auction Oldham Chronicle June 5th 1858

To be sold by Mr Henry Blackburn at the Commercial Inn in Uppermill, Saddleworth, on Wednesday the 13th of June 1858 at six o'clock in the evening.

Lot 1 All that farm consisting of a messuage or dwelling house, barn, stable, shippon and out buildings, situated at Cross, near Uppermill in Saddleworth, in the occupation of

Mrs Radcliff, and a cottage adjoining thereto. And also all those closes of land adjoining or there called the Croft Meadow, the Larkon, the Intake Pasture, the Cote Green Pasture, the Wet Earth Meadow, the Bottom Road Meadow and the Slide Meadow, containing altogether (including the site of the buildings) 11a 0r 8p or thereabouts. And also all those five closes of land situated near Cross, called the Roughs pasture, containing 4a 2r 23p or thereabouts. The estate is freehold of inheritance; it is situated to the east of the village of Uppermill. The meadow and pasture land is of excellent quality and a fine stream of pure spring water, amply sufficient for both domestic and manufacturing purposes, runs past the dwelling houses and through the estate. The dwelling house is substantial; built in a delightful situation commanding a fine view of the surrounding scenery, and being within a convenient distance of the Greenfield and Saddleworth Railway Stations, it is a very desirable residence.

Apply to the Auctioneer, Delph, or to Messrs Radcliffe & Murray, Solicitors, Oldham.



Lark Hill and Round Hill as depicted on the 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1854 ("Saddleworth Surveyed", SHS, 1983, p 112)

Letters

Dear Editor,

1. "Fairbottom Bobs"

I saw the engine, on walks, as a child up to the age of about 15, before it was moved to America. We lived in Uppermill but I had relatives in Oldham. My aunt Ethel Holden had a picture of the engine hanging in her home. It came from her father who lived at Friarmere where she was born Ethel Sidall - her father was an engineer who worked either at the Denshaw Vale Print Works or Slackcote, I'm not sure which, and he was very ingenious and an inventor.

2. Micklehurst Loop"

I never heard it called that: it was always "T' new line" up to 1932 when we moved to Oldham, and after that.

Here are a few of my memories:

- a) Footpath, Church Road to Shaws Lane: Uppermill Station: gates at each end, not a public footpath and gates were locked one day in the year to preserve Railway Company ownership.
- b) Line mainly mineral traffic; quite busy as I remember. Our coal came to the goods yard. Merchants, Co-op, Ratcliffe & Rowland (main business builders), Rourke etc.
- c) Various 'goods' engines including 0-8-0, which I was informed by a friend - his father was a driver - were "super D's". The main line across the valley was busy with passenger traffic and 'Mogul' 2-6-0s (I think) with monstrous L.P. external cylinders were in constant use. You could tell a Mogul by a rather noisy clanking of the external rods and valve gear. Very characteristic.
- d) I well remember the not infrequent use of tandem engines on this line.
- e) I remember going to Uppermill Station at Wakes time when specials for Blackpool, Morecambe, North Wales etc used the new line to relieve holiday traffic.
- f) Naughty boys used to walk through Butterhouse Tunnel. Once one slipped and suffered a nasty deep gash on his leg - worn rails had very sharp edges.
- g) Pickhill Brook came under the railway near Butterhouse Tunnel; I have seen kingfishers there. When the brook left the tunnel under the railway it passed near a brick structure built just above the south bank. We always understood that it had been built as a gunpowder store when Butterhouse was being blasted in the 1880s.
- h) Another 'Pickhill brook' came westward under the railway 200 yards nearer Uppermill than the first Pickhill brook. It was open to water cattle about six feet and then culverted to Joe o'Bob's (Wood) shippon, where again it was open and Joe cooled his milk in it. A further brook came down parallel with Church Road with a water

hole in the middle of 'Well Meadow'. It passed through a culvert to continue to Albion Mill (Dam Head) Mill lodge.

- i) Railway house in Church Road, on the left going up, just below the railway bridge. A contemporary Alex Hayes in No. 13 - father was a guard, elder brother a signalman.

Yours

A Broadbent
Rimmon
Braystones Road
Beckmeet
Cumbria CA21 2XX

(My apologies for having not published this letter until now. It relates to articles in the 1994 editions of the "Bulletin" - Editor.)

* * * * *

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

Dear Editor

Reader Stephen Travers poses several questions in a recent "Bulletin".

On 27th August 1857, Mr James Platt, MP for Oldham, a Saddleworth man, was accidentally wounded by a gun whilst out grouse shooting on Ashway Gap Moor, Greenfield. Shortly afterwards a large stone cross monument was erected on the spot where the accident happened. It is a copy of the cross of Iona. The stone was brought from the Mull of Galloway and inscribed "Here, by accidental discharge of a gun, James Platt MP for the Borough of Oldham, lost his life, on August 27th 1857."

When the late Mr Abel Buckley of Ryecroft Hall, Audenshaw, bought Ashway Gap estate he was superstitious and had the monument dismantled. It lay on the ground for many years until 1912 when, by permission of Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Water Board, the cross was re-erected by the firm Platt Brothers at the instigation of the late Mr Frank W Chadderton of Greenfield, a Director of that firm.

During the First World War the house was converted into a Military Hospital, opening as such in 1915.

It was rumoured that Platt's ghost haunted the house.

The brothers John and James Platt, who both became MPs for Oldham,

were born in Dobcross. Their father, Henry, was a mill wright. Henry began business in a small way in 1821 and had a small works where the Waggon Inn, Uppermill, now stands; nearby is still what is known as Platts Yard.

John Platt was elected Mayor of Oldham in November 1854. He was also Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire and Caernarvon.

Oldham is indebted to John Platt for its water supply, for he promoted both Piethorne and Denshaw schemes. Amongst other things he was a benefactor to Oldham Lyceum and was responsible for building Werneth Mechanics Institute. Apart from this he also donated £500 to Oldham Royal Infirmary.

Sincerely

Eric Roberts

* * * * *

33 Huddersfield Road
Denshaw
Oldham OL3 5SB

Dear Editor

My parents and family moved from Shaw in 1928 to Denshaw, my parents having lived previously in Delph. We took over Old Tame Farm which was originally two houses but is now one, and is numbered 155 Oldham Road.

There were at that time farm buildings on the opposite side of Oldham Road, consisting of a shippon with twelve stalls, pig sty, stable for two horses and a large barn. This was partly burned down after the war and consequently pulled down a few years later.

The land for the farm was about 7-8 acres towards Grains Bar and adjoining Horest Lane on the other side. There was an old mineshaft within twenty yards of the bottom of the path which leads from Oldham Road to Horest Lane. This mineshaft was full of water and was covered by flags, and we were warned about playing anywhere in the vicinity of this. It was said that this small shaft supplied coal to Horest Mill, which if so seems very logical because transport from Oldham was a long and costly job.

The path mentioned above is very steep and was used by workers coming from the Grains Bar, Mantley and Cotton Tree area. This was always known as Cat Steps because that was about the length of your stride before reaching the top.

Further down Horest Lane, included in the land of the farm, was an old quarry and one must assume that this was probably working

at the time that Horest Mill was built.

It seems rather a twist of fate that after the last war my father was approached by a couple of miners to investigate the possibility of looking for coal. A small seam was found in this quarry and for a short period coal was produced on a small scale. The coincidence to this is that my father sold quite a few loads of coal to Wilsons Brewery, Manchester. However, the quality was what was known at the time as 'Nuttty Slack' and they found a supplier of old car tyres.

Alan Wood

* * * * *

"Rimmon"
Braystones Road
Beckermest
Cumbria
CA21 2XX

Dear Editor,

I understand there is locally a debate on the origins of the Saddleworth West Riding Mallalieu, and that there is a suggestion that they may have come from Wales.

It is true that there is some evidence which may help to support this, but I believe that any such movement between Saddleworth and Wales would have been East to West rather than West to East.

A J Howcroft was high church, high Tory and highly respected in Saddleworth when I was a lad; comparatively young himself he had access to many sources of information from older generations. He published "Chapelry and Church" in 1915 and "Tales of a Pennine People" in 1923. In the latter he refers to London, Canterbury and Norwich as settlements for Huguenots, which is logical since those fleeing from the Continent, over the centuries and in our time from Dunkirk, take the shortest sea route. His tale "The Stranger" is, I believe, based on fact and the somewhat cloying presentation of the romantic content can be excused.

J P Mallalieu's autobiography "On Larkhill" refers frequently to Wales, visits, holidays etc. but there is no positive indication that his roots were there.

However, he was sent to Prep. School at "Dragon" in Oxford. Was (is?) Dragon a Huguenot foundation I wonder?

College of Arms. I am attaching a copy of correspondence between the College of Arms and myself. It is a remarkable coincidence that my informant was Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, created by Henry VII to commemorate his paternal Welsh origin, and who has recently been appointed Chester Herald.

Reference is made to Wales for eg "Two Dragons' Wings Gules", and "probably a reference to Wales", which appear on the armorial bearings of Albert Henry Mallalieu of Llandudno, but he is described as a JP for the West Riding. Arrows or spear heads pointing down occur both on his arms as they do on those of his brother Frederick William of Larkwood, Delph, and "which are borne by many Welsh families".

But spear and arrow heads, sometimes with broken shaft, also occur on English armorials. Professor Leonard Broadbent referred me to such cases where both Warrington and Nottinghamshire Broadbent arms show them as crests, ie broken shafted, blooded, and piercing the crown of the helmet.

You will note that the Mallalieu motto "Mal a lui qui mal en dit" is a pun on the surname. Is it possible that these dragons are a subtle pun on something too? What about "Dragonade"?

Dragonade. I quote:

"The term given to the series of persecutions of Huguenots in France in the reign of Louis XIV just before and after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, dragoons being chiefly used in reference to any onslaught on the people by soldiers."

This is interesting and perhaps ironic since (ref. "On Larkhill" page 5) in 1885 cavalry with drawn sabres were used at Bailey Mill to disperse strikers; fortunately nobody was injured.

In conclusion, and in connection with another aspect of Saddleworth and the Mallalieus, I wonder how many Saddleworth folk realise just how close they are to great national prominence. If there is a change of governing Party after the next General Election, there is a fair chance that the new Lord (Lady?) Chancellor, the second highest commoner in the Land, after the Archbishop of Canterbury, will be one whose roots are firmly embedded in Delph. Ann Mallalieu is at present shadowing the Home Secretary from the front opposition benches in the House of Lords.

Yours sincerely

A Broadbent

Letter from Timothy H S Duke, Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, to
Mr A Broadbent

College of Arms
Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4BT

Dear Mr Broadbent

Searches have been carried out in the official registers of Arms and pedigrees to determine what is recorded for the family of Baroness Mallalieu, and I now write to report the results.

By Patent of the Kings of Arms dated 25 March 1920, Armorial Bearings were granted to Frederick William Mallalieu of Larkwood, Delph, in the parish of Saddleworth, West Riding of Yorkshire, MP for Colne Valley (Coll Arm Grants 87 192). His Arms were AZURE ON A CHEVRON ERMINE BETWEEN THREE FLEURS DE LIS ARGENT FOUR BEZANTS ON A CHIEF ERMINES A ROSE OF THE THIRD BARBED AND SEEDED PROPER and his Crest A CLOSED HELMET IN PROFILE PROPER BETWEEN TWO ARROWS POINTS DOWNWARD OR. The reasons behind a particular design are not normally retained in the official registers of the College, and would only be found in any surviving correspondence between the client and the Officer who acted as agent. In this case the Officer was Gordon Ambrose de Lisle Lee, York Herald, and I do not know whether his private papers exist. The white rose in the Arms is clearly a reference to Yorkshire. Bezants are often an allusion to money, representing the gold coins of Byzantium, and may stand for financial interests in the grantee's career. The fleur de lis have their origin in the forename du Lys, borne by his eldest son, Francis Bernard du Lys Mallalieu. I cannot explain the helmet and arrows in the Crest.

In an earlier letter you expressed surprise that an untitled person is entitled to Arms, but as a Member of Parliament Frederick William Mallalieu would have been a suitable applicant. His motto 'Mal a lui qui mal en dit' puns on the surname and may be translated 'Misfortune be to he who speaks ill of it'.

Under the usual terms of the Patent, these Armorial Bearings may be borne by all descendants of the grantee, subject to the Laws of Arms. Edward Lancelot Mallalieu, MP for Colne Valley and second son of Frederick William Mallalieu, recorded a pedigree here in 1936 to secure his entitlement (Coll Arm Surrey 14 224). It includes his elder brother Francis Bernard du Lys Mallalieu, and his younger brothers Joseph Percival William Mallalieu and Richard Louis Mallalieu.

As a daughter of Sir Joseph Percival William Mallalieu, Ann Mallalieu was born with a right to Arms, and recorded a continuation pedigree here to establish her entitlement (Coll Arm Peers 10 203). She was created a Peer for life as Baroness Mallalieu in 1991, and was granted Supporters to her Arms by Patent of Garter King of Arms dated 5 June 1992 (Coll Arm Grants 158 79). They are DEXTER A HORSE ARGENT AND SINISTER A FOX-HOUND PROPER BOTH GORGED WITH A TORSE ARGENT AND AZURE AND EACH STATANT ERECT ON A FIELD OF STUBBLE WITH A HEDGEROW THAT ON THE DEXTER HAVING A STILE AND PALINGS AND THAT ON THE SINISTER A GATE WITH PALINGS ALL IN PERSPECTIVE PROPER. They refer to her interest in hunting. The torsos are otherwise known as Crest wreaths, and are conventional symbols shown below a Crest. In this instance they have been taken from their usual position, and placed around the necks of horse and hound. Of course, as a woman, Lady Mallalieu may not have a Crest, and bears her Arms not on a shield, but on a lozenge, a diamond shaped background.

I happened to notice that Albert Henry Mallalieu of Tan-y-Marian, Llandudno, County Caernarvon, JP for the West Riding, was granted Armorial Bearings by Patent of the Kings of Arms dated 10 June 1924 (Coll Arm Grants 92 20). He was a brother of Lady Mallalieu's grandfather Frederick William Mallalieu,

and their Armorial have some similarities. His Arms were ARGENT ON A CHEVRON AZURE THREE FLEURS DE LIS OF THE FIRST A CHIEF SABLE THEREON A ROSE OF THE FIELD BARBED AND SEEDED PROPER BETWEEN TWO SPEAR HEADS ALSO OF THE FIELD and his Crest AN ESQUIRE'S HELMET OR BETWEEN TWO DRAGONS' WINGS GULES. The dragons' wings are probably a reference to Wales, as may be the spear heads, which are borne by many Welsh families. His motto was 'Mal n'y a lieu', which puns on his surname and may be translated 'There is no place for misfortune'.

Yours sincerely

Timothy Duke
Rouge Dragon Pursuivant

* * * * *

The following extracts from Issue 50 of the Newsletter of the Greater Manchester Record Office, "The Courier" may be of interest to readers.

The North West Sound Archive have asked for help in locating people with memories of the Land Army who would be willing to help with an oral history project. Contact NWSA in Clitheroe 01200 27897

The Lancashire Record Office has published "Finding Folk", a completely revised Handlist of Genealogical Sources. Cheques for £11.50 (including UK post and packing) and payable to Lancashire County Council, should be sent to the Lancashire Record Office, Bow Lane, Preston PR1 2RE.

* * * * *

The NW Group of Family History Societies' Spring Conference is entitled "In Dire Straits", In Chorley on 30 March 1996. The three lectures are entitled "Back-to-back and up the yard", "Life in a Victorian Workhouse" and "Lesser known records of the poor". Application forms from Terry Walsh, 57 Bury New Road, Ramsbottom BLO 0BZ.

* * * * *

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

Mrs E Broadbent
30, Beechfield
Grasscroft
Oldham
OL4 4EL

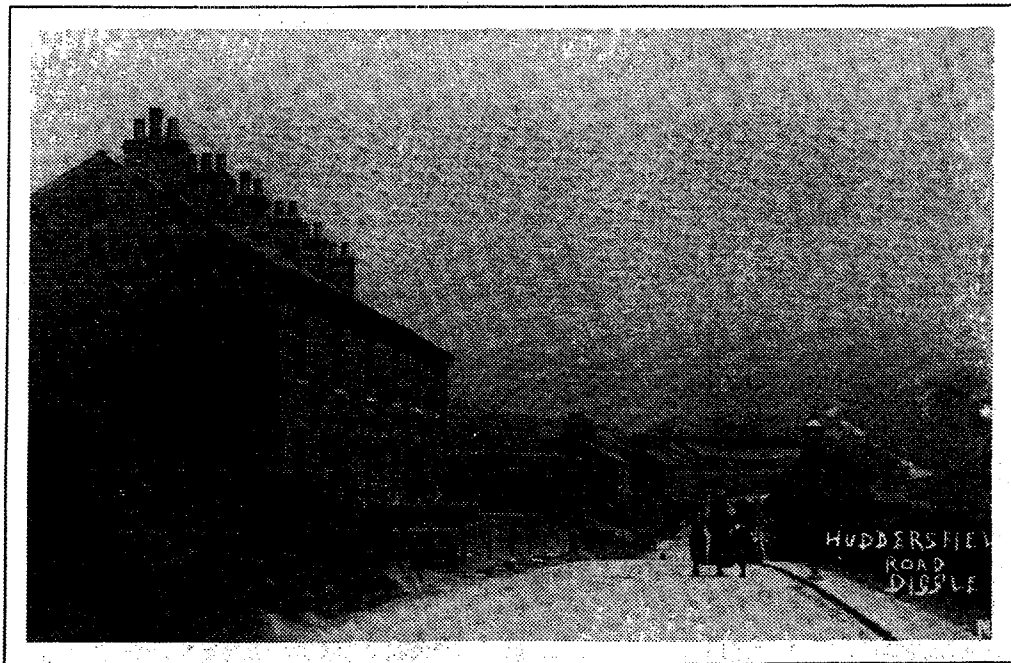
The editor of the "Bulletin" is:

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

Contributions

The "Bulletin's" aim is to reflect and encourage interest in all aspects of the history of Saddleworth. It relies on a regular supply of articles, letters, short reviews etc from members and others. Fresh material is required constantly and should be sent to the Editor, who will be pleased 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. All material to the Editor by April 15th 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 in Saddleworth

CHERRY VALLEY CHRONICLES

transcribed by Maurice Dennett
Letters from Thomas Buckley and Family
Immigrants to Cherry Valley and Milbury, Massachusetts, USA
to his son Ralph Buckley and family, of Dobcross and Delph,
Saddleworth.

£16.50

PASSAGE THROUGH TIME

A History of Saddleworth Roads and Trackways
by Bernard Barnes

£5.95

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The story of a Pennine Parish
by Canon C C W Airne

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by Sam Seville
son-in-law and companion of the Saddleworth writer and poet

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

£3.60

LOCAL INTEREST TRAILS

Walks around Saddleworth: illustrated with notes on local history and landscape.

1. DELPH, HEIGHTS AND GRANGE
2. UPPERMILL
3. GREENFIELD
4. HUDDERSFIELD NARROW CANAL
5. GRASSCROFT
6. DENSHAW
7. DELPH
8. LYDGATE AND GROTTON
9. DOBCROSS

MAPS

STREET GUIDE TO SADDLEWORTH

An A2 comprehensive Street Map of the area
Published by the Society, May 1995

£1.20

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

* * * * *

Cheques made payable to the Saddleworth Historical Society and forwarded to Mrs E Broadbent, 30 Beechfield, Grasscroft, Oldham OL4 4E1 Tel: 01457 872870. Please add 20% postal charges for deliveries outside Saddleworth.

HEWKIN AND BUCKLEY MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

at

UPPERMILL LIBRARY

The Hewkin and Buckley manuscript collections at Uppermill Library have now been microfilmed. Microfilms are available for public use at Uppermill Library and Oldham Local Studies Library. To ensure the long-term preservation of these collections, it is intended that the microfilms should now be the normal means of reference to them.

To this end, new descriptive lists have been prepared, which, for the first time, properly reflect the contents of the collections. We are sure that this will open up new areas of interest for the collections' varied users. Subject only to any copyright restrictions, it will also now be possible for the Local Studies Library to supply copies of any item in the collections, from microfilm, without damaging the originals.

The original manuscripts have been withdrawn to more suitable storage in the Local Studies Library. Access will still be possible in those exceptional instances where the microfilm reproductions prove inadequate. The Hewkin Book Collection remains available for use at Uppermill Library.

We trust that these new arrangements will be seen as positive measures to increase long-term public accessibility to these collections, while essentially preserving the original items, which were suffering both handling damage and environmental deterioration. For further information, please contact:

Paul Sillitoe, Archives Officer: 0161 911 4655



Greater Manchester County Record Office

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A Reprographic Service is also available.

Interested? Then contact:- GMCRO

56 Marshall Street

New Cross

Manchester

M4 5FU

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER WINTER 1995

"Auld Nature swears, the lovely dears
Her noblest work, she classes, O;
Her prentice han' she tried on man,
And then she made the lasses, O !

Robert Burns.

(Whose death 200 years ago was commemorated by
thousands of Scots on Burns night.)

The passing of John Murray, our President and our Chairman for 21 years is another sad blow for the Society to bear. John will be remembered for his care of the Society and his gentle manner in progressing the Society's lectures, committees and publications through his years of office. A true friend to all our membership, irreplaceable in our esteem.

The full sympathy of the Society is given to Wendy in this time of sorrow and we trust our thoughts provide comfort in her loss.

A rivetting lecture was delivered by Reg Eastham to a capacity audience at the Museum during November based on his book 'Platts Textile Machinery Makers'. It told the family history from Bridge House, Dobcross, the founding of Platt Bros., in 1854 at Werneth, Oldham, their new Bryn-y-Neuadd estate in Wales. This being when the business was expanding and the company provided every type of machine the cotton industry needed for spinning and weaving. They benefitted Oldham with the Lyceum and its first Technical College and its first Public Park. At their peak when they were the world's largest textile machine manufacturers they employed 15,000 people. Mr. Eastham related this convincing history having been the estate manager's son in Wales and subsequently employed by Platt Bros., in various technical and administrative capacities all his working life, until the group came to a sad end in 1982.

ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

We have joined the "Defence of Britain Project", sponsored by the Imperial War Museum. This involves recording all sites in our area which fall into this category: pill-boxes, A.A. Batteries, public air-raid shelters, barrage balloon sites. Many such sites are already mentioned in past Bulletins, but need National Grid References and Sites & Monuments Record Sheets completed. Any help members can give will be much appreciated. Similarly, but on a smaller scale, we are to record any extant cobbles, setts and flag walls. Many have been hidden under tarmac and the Council for British Archaeology Northwest would like to make a record before they all disappear.

Again - any help ? - Contact Jim Carr on 87 3612.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL Meetings are held at the Cross Keys Hotel, Uppermill, 7.45 p.m., and continue on the 6th March and the 3rd April, 1996.

LECTURE PROGRAMME.

At the Museum, 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, 15th February, 96.

BUSES IN SADDLEWORTH.
David Bielby.

Wednesday, 24th April, 96.

Treasures of the JOHN RYLANDS' LIBRARY AND ITS COLLECTIONS.
John Tuck.

Wednesday, 15th May, 96.

THE BERNARD BARNES MEMORIAL LECTURE
Sam Fitton: A Gradely Lancashire Mon.
Alan Fowler & Terry Wyke.

EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM.

ART EXHIBITIONS.

Profiles by Saddleworth Schools.
10th February - 17th March, 96.

23rd March, - 21st April, 96.

Felt Exciting - International Feltmaker.

4th May, - 2nd June, 96.

Liz Hilton.

CHANGING EXHIBITIONS.

23rd March, - 1st September, 96.

Living Yarns & Weaving History.
The Story of Textiles in Saddleworth.

13th January - 17th March, 96.

An Objective Look at the Museum.
Objects and archives donated to the Museum since 1990.

COFFEE MORNINGS.

FOLK AT THE GALLERY.

TEXTILE WORKING DAYS.

The second Wednesday of each month.
Monthly.

31st March, 21st April and 19th May, 96.

Tuesday 27th February, 96.

Friends of Friends Evening.

Saturday 9th March, 96.

Another Gradely Do.
An Evening of Dialect Poetry & Songs)

Thursday 14th March, 96.

Mike Donough Slide Show.
The American West.

A French Evening.

(Catering by French Fields Restaurant.)

Thursday 28th March, 96.

Sunday 19th May, 96.

Behind the Scenes Day.

MEMBERSHIP SECTION

In this new year we would like to welcome the following new members who have just joined the Society.

Mrs. R. Eliz. Foster of Hebden Bridge & Mrs. Carolyn Blain of Ashton-U-Lyne.
Mr. & Mrs. H. Wild of Grotton & Mr. Allen Shuttleworth, Maryland, U.S.A.

In November Mrs. Esther Shaw Lawn our friend from Obispo, California, kindly donated 200 dollars to Society funds for which we are extremely grateful. At Christmas we were able to send the Saddleworth Video to her which became the highlight of her Christmas gifts. No doubt she will be able to continue enjoying the annual events it contains, the rush cart and the Whit Friday brass bands as we do ourselves every year.

Mr. Allen Shuttleworth of Severna Park, Maryland, U.S.A., writes to tell us he has enjoyed reading The Cherry Valley Chronicles. His Gt. Grandfather, Albert E. Broadbent and his wife Elizabeth Crossley Broadbent were married in Saddleworth 1850 and emigrated to Utica, New York, by 1872 with Alfred's Mother, Mary. Mr. Shuttleworth was in England last summer when he purchased The Cherry Valley Chronicles and would be most appreciative of any assistance if any member recognises an Alfred E. Broadbent, who was born in Saddleworth, 1st February, 1828. Please ring Elsie Broadbent, 01457 87 2870 for full address.

Lecture News.

A new Kodak Ektalite 3000 Slide Projector has been purchased by the Society and being a top professional model it should truly enhance the quality of our lecture programme. As you will have noted from the halting progress of our slide shows the old projector was wearing out and required replacing.

Obituries.

Unfortunately we have three deaths to report in this issue of the Bulletin. Firstly Mrs. Lois Leech, who went to live in Australia with her daughter and family a few years ago. Originally she and her husband lived at Woolleys on Friezland Lane, Greenfield and were stalwart members of the Archaeological Section and will always be kindly remembered.

Mr. W. Schofield of Newlands Road, Halifax, who was researching his family tree and was most interested in Saddleworth and his family connections has passed away.

Finally, the recent death of Mr. Hanson Buckley of Grasscroft is to be regretted he and his wife, Gladys were most supportive of the Society in its functions and he will be missed.

We wish to express our condolences and sympathy to the families of these three good Society members.

Publications Officer.

The post of Publications Officer to the Society has not yet been filled. This is a most important job concerning the selling of the Society's many publications to local bookshops and outlets. It requires transport and the storage of a small quantity of books available for delivery to meet the orders received. General supervision and stock control of the various storage points at members houses would be necessary for annual stocktaking. One volunteer is worth two pressed men ! Contact Jim Carr on 87 3612.

Subscription Rates for 1996

The Annual Subscriptions to the Society are now due and a personal notification of the rates will accompany this Bulletin and we trust will receive your attention.

Family Membership	£10. 00
Single Membership	£8. 50
Retired - Family & Single	£6. 50
Student Membership	£6. 50
Overseas Members - please see separate rates.	

Grateful thanks are extended for your continued support to the Society which enables its historical tasks to be pursued.

SADDLEWORTH W.E.A.

April - August 1996

LEE STREET CENTRE, UPPERMILL.

Embroidery

Wednesdays 1 - 3 p.m.
Tutor: Tina Ullman.

Travellers' France Part 2
New students welcome!

Tuesdays 1 - 3 p.m.
Tutor: Alison Stevens.

Botany Walks.

1 walk per month on Mondays in
May, June and July.
Leader Anne Parry.
This will be followed by a 10 week
course at Uppermill School in Autumn/Winter 96/7

History Trails.

2 walks per month on Mondays in
May and June.
Lead by Saddleworth Historical Society members.
Contact Dorothy Latimer for further information
on 0161 633 3205.