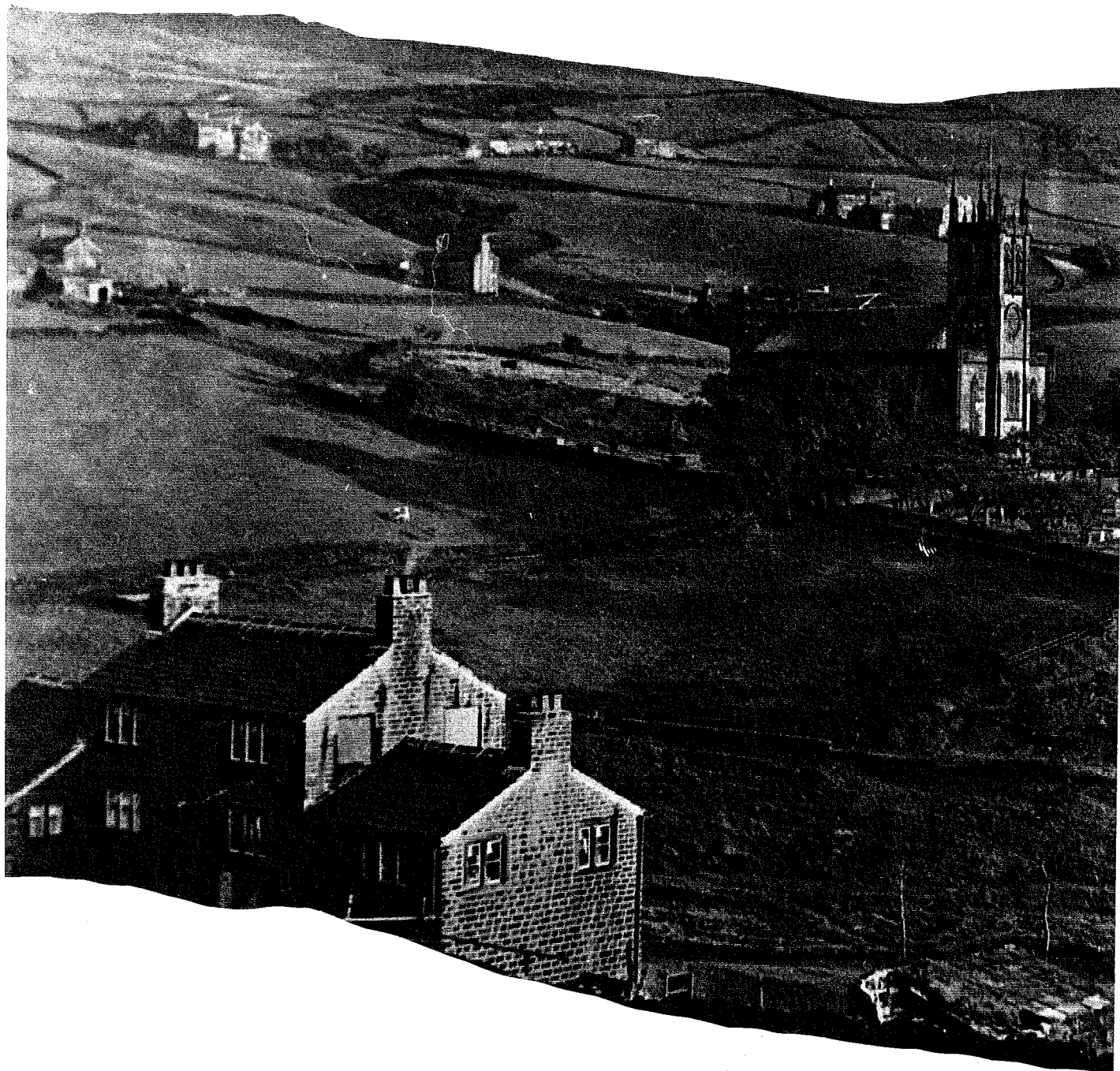


SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN



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BULLETIN OF THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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	PAGE
Reports of the Charity Commissioners for 1828 and 1896: Wharmton School	
The Reverend Henry Hunt	6
Out with the Old – The policy of the Saddleworth Urban District Council towards housing, 1900 – 1939	7
Uppermill – A Wartime Memory	15
Poverty and the application of the Poor Law in Saddleworth, 1780 – 1900	16
Gone, but not forgotten: Nab End	19
Greenfield advertisements in 1949	20

COVER: In the foreground of this photograph taken about 1920 of the environs of Saddleworth Church, is the house called High Stile. On 25th October 1937 the Saddleworth Council sealed its fate by making it subject to a Clearance Area Order. The article “Out with the Old” details the fate of many such buildings in Saddleworth during the 1930s (Peter Fox Collection).

Reports of the Charity Commissioners for 1828 and 1896:

Wharmton School

The Charity Commissioners were established as a permanent body by virtue of the Charitable Trusts Act 1853. The major and innovative piece of charity legislation before then was the Statute of Charitable Uses 1601, which sought to set out a framework by which charities might be regulated. The Act was passed in conjunction with the Elizabethan Poor Law, and it was clearly intended that the two Acts would operate hand in hand, the one to preserve charitable endowments generally, (these included endowments for the relief of poverty) and the other to set up an administrative framework for poor relief through the parish system.

The chief innovation of the Statute of Charitable Uses was the machinery to establish a system to prevent abuses and the misapplication of charitable funds by way of special commissioners empowered to "make Enquiry by the Oaths of twelve Men or more", and to take the necessary steps to return the charity to the intentions of the donor. From 1643 to 1746 some 961 special commissions had been created under the terms of the Statute, but between 1746 and 1760, only 3 commissions were issued and only 6 between 1760 and 1818, none of which in the latter 20 years. Perhaps one reason for this is that the last commission, issued in 1787, was not fully executed until 1803, and in the following year, Chancery was petitioned to confirm the commissioners' decree. After argument, it took another 4 years before the case was ready for decision, and then a further 10 years awaiting the decision of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Eldon.

The indications are that the system of commissions had become unworkable, and the alternative, to take proceedings in Chancery, equally unattractive and very expensive. Evidence of the laxity in the administration of educational endowments had been provided by way of a survey carried out by Thomas Gilbert undertaken in the 1780's. This survey had been designed to assess the state of education at the time; its results, comprising two large volumes, later provided a weapon in the armoury of the charity law reformers whose efforts resulted in the establishment of a Commission in 1818 to compile a "Domesday Book" of charities throughout the land.

The Gilbert census had discovered the potential loss of charity money, land and endowments, and the failure of trusts to carry out their business; one example will suffice; Pocklington School in Yorkshire, an ancient foundation which had visitors from St John's College, Cambridge, had begun with a substantial endowment: by the nineteenth century this supported only one pupil and the school had been converted into a sawpit. Originally, 14 Commissioners were appointed, of whom only 8 were to be paid. A quorum of 3 Commissioners was required to conduct an examination. The number of Commissioners was later changed to 20, (10 paid) and the quorum reduced to 2.

And so it was that the Charity Commissioners visited Saddleworth in July 1827. The Commissioners were appointed from the ranks of barristers of 12 years' standing, and they continued their calling whilst carrying out their review of charities. The review was somewhat haphazard; it took some 25 years and cost £250,000 (against a budget of £4,000!), and the Reports were not systematically carried out. During their visit, the Commissioners would record what charities were in existence, the assets of them, and would receive a report from the trustees and from others. The fact of the visitation of the Commissioners was advertised widely; the indications are

that they took evidence only from the trustees of the Saddleworth charities, and during their visit, Wharmton School, Lydgate School, Walker's Charity, Buckley's Charity, Schofield's Charity and John Walker's Charity were considered. This account refers only to Wharmton School.

The Foundation of the Charity:

Ralph Hawkyard's Will was dated 11th June 1729; it recited that there had lately been discourse among the parishioners of Saddleworth concerning the erection of a free school within the parish by public subscription, but that nothing had come of it. Bearing in mind "the great want of learning in the said parish, especially among the poorer sort of people, who not being of ability to board their children at remote schools were in a great degree void of learning, and not capable of reading the Divine Scriptures and for the encouraging of the said parishioners and others in so pious a design", he bequeathed to his executor, James Harrop, £200 to be employed by him in the erecting and setting up a schoolhouse, and the remainder of the sum towards the maintenance of a discreet and learned schoolmaster, who should be able to teach English, Latin and Greek.

He further provided that after the death of his sister, Esther Broadbent, a further £20 and all other sums which by virtue of his will should thereafter fall to the school should be used to educate the inhabitants of Saddleworth, free, in English, Latin and Greek. Further bequests were made in the event that Esther Broadbent should die without issue, and the same in the case that his half-brother, Thomas Hawkyard, should die before he attained the age of 21 without issue.

The Report of 1828:

At the time of the Commissioners' visit, there had been no trustees formally appointed, and the heirs of James Harrop appear to have taken on the duties in an hereditary capacity. The current trustee was James Harrop, who had taken over the position of trustee from his father about the year 1809.

Nevertheless, the school and a dwelling house for the master were built, and a sum of £280 had been appropriated for the endowment of the school. Several parcels of land had also been enclosed from the waste with the consent of the freeholders, and by the time of the visitation, these amounted to about 3 acres of land adjoining the school and which had been fenced out from the common. The premises occupied by the schoolmaster were occupied rent free; their value was thought to be £8 or £10 per annum. The sum of £280 was let out at interest at various times to several people. It was afterwards called in and lent to James Harrop at 5%, but he had died about 18 years previously, having appointed his son as executor, and the same interest was paid to the schoolmaster by his son, until April 1826, when he became bankrupt. No dividend had been paid at the time of the Commissioners' Inquiry in July 1827.

The schoolmaster had been appointed some 40 years previously by the grandfather of the present James Harrop; the schoolmaster had shut the school and though he had ceased to perform his duties, he claimed the right to occupy the premises for life by virtue of an agreement to that effect which, he said, had been made with him in consideration of his having incurred expenses in fencing the lands which formed part of the school premises. The Commissioners felt that they could not investigate the matter further, since this would require calling the schoolmaster to give

evidence before them, at a considerable distance from his residence, which at his age (80 years old), they were reluctant to do.

When he was teaching, he had taught reading, writing, accounts and Latin if required, and he had admitted as free scholars up to 24 children whose parents were unable to pay the fees of the school.

The conclusion to the Report is set out as follows:-

"It appears to us that the present state of the school peremptorily requires the intervention of trustees, the person who has lately had the sole management thereof having, under the circumstances already detailed, become incapacitated from acting, and we have therefore suggested, as the more easy and the least expensive course of proceeding, that he should transfer his interest in the trust... to some proper persons, in order that they may take the proper steps for recovering from Mr Harrop's assignees the amount of the debt due to the charity from his estate, and may also interfere in re-establishing the school".

The Report of 1896

When the Commissioners' re-visited the charity in connection with the preparation of the 1896 Report, the trustees of the charity were Messrs Buckley Bent and James Hilton, and they were accompanied at the Inquiry by Mr E Rowbotham, of Oldham, a solicitor and honorary clerk to the trustees.

The Inquiry discovered that shortly after the 1827 visitation, an attempt seems to have been made to carry out the recommendations of the Commissioners and to put the administration of the school on a proper footing. There had continued to be some confusion concerning the appointment of trustees, since John Harrop, the personal representative of James Harrop, had executed an indenture on 6th October 1830 appointing Rev Thomas Sturges Mills, curate of Holy Trinity Dobcross, (and thereafter his successors in the office of curate at that church) to be a trustee of the charity. On 21st September 1831, he executed a second Indenture which appointed Thomas Sturges Mill and three other persons to be trustees for the purposes of the will.

By 1854, when the trustees submitted an application to the Commissioners, the school had been re-opened at intervals, but had been closed for some years, and the buildings were in a very dilapidated state. The sum of £242/3s/0d had been raised in 1854 by voluntary subscriptions for the repair of the premises, and the surviving trustees under the 1831 Indenture had resigned and had been replaced by 10 trustees by order of the County Court of Yorkshire sitting at Saddleworth on 24th February 1855.

In 1866, the charity had received an endowment under the Will of Mr William Whitehead. He bequeathed £500 in order to found five free scholarships to be called "Whitehead's Scholarships", the income from the endowment fund so created to be paid to the schoolmaster for the time being of the school on condition that he taught, without charge, five poor children, chosen by the trustees, from children resident in the township of Saddleworth, giving them a sound English and commercial education, including, if desired, book-keeping, mensuration, Latin, Greek and any other subject taught at the school.

Shortly after this bequest was received, the school was visited under the Schools Inquiry Commission; the Inspector described the schoolroom as

convenient and fairly furnished, but that the schoolmaster's house was little better than a labourer's cottage, and the schoolmaster at the time had rented a private house where he took boarders (5 at the time of the Inspector's visit). The school had 36 boys at the time, of whom 9 were learning Latin and 5 Euclid and algebra. The fees were 15/- per quarter for children under 11 years of age, and a guinea for those above, French and drawing being charged extra. The Inspector recommended that the scale of fees should be increased and the free scholarships be abandoned since they served "only to give the trustees a useless piece of patronage".

The school closed completely in 1883, when the master resigned, the competition from other schools and having become more keen, and competition for free places having become less keen. A further inspection by an Assistant Commissioner under the Endowed Schools Act reported in favour of the sale of the buildings and the endowment to be used for the purpose of exhibitions. This recommendation was adopted by the trustees and approved by the Charity Commissioners, and by the sealing of a Scheme of 10th November 1886, the new charity known as the Hawkyard's and Whitehead's Educational Foundation came into being.

The New Foundation:

There were to be 9 governors of the Foundation, six were to be representative and three to be co-opted by them. The income of the Foundation was to be applied in maintaining exhibitions each of an annual value not exceeding £15, each tenable for a period of three years, at any place of education higher than elementary, or of technical training approved by the governors and to be awarded by examination to boys and girls who had attended any of the public elementary schools in Saddleworth for a period of not less than three years

The governors at the date of the Inquiry were :-

Ben Hirst, of Dobcross, woollen manufacturer;
 Buckley Bent, of Dobcross, cotton spinner, JP;
 James Hilton, of Greenfield, cotton spinner;
 John Taylor Bradbury, of Upper Mill, woollen manufacturer;
 James Allott, of Dobcross, woollen manufacturer;
 Joseph Buckley, of Delph, woollen manufacturer;
 The Rev Hugh Doig, Vicar of St. Chad's Saddleworth;
 George Frederick Buckley, of Delph, JP, CC;
 John Frederick Cheetham, of Stalybridge, JP, CC.

The Beneficiaries:

The Report ends with a list of the beneficiaries since 1887, and the table below shows the year of the award, sex of the exhibitor, the place at which the exhibition was tenable, and the subsequent career of the holder:-

1887: boy: Manchester Grammar School:	Railway clerk.
1888: girl: Manchester High School for Girls:	Pupil teacher taking a course for a degree at Owens College;
1889: girl: Ashton High School for Girls:	Draper's assistant;
1890: boy: Manchester Technical School:	Assisting father (builder);
1891: Boy: Huddersfield Technical School:	Railway clerk;
1892: boy: Huddersfield Technical School:	Student draughtsman;
1893: girl: Ashton High School for Girls:	At school;
1894: girl: Ashton High School for Girls:	At school;

1895: girl: Manchester Technical School: At school.

The exhibitions were to last three years, hence why the exhibitors for the years 1893 -1895 are still at school.

Comment:

The standard of stewardship of the charity was no higher than to be expected for the age. The 1828 Report shows a sorry state whereby the sole trustee was bankrupt (and thus disqualified from acting); he had lost the charity's endowment which had clearly become entangled with his own affairs; the school had been closed, its premises in disrepair, and the schoolmaster continued to enjoy the use of the premises despite being unable on the grounds of his age to carry on his position. This is by no means the worst example to be culled from the Reports of the Charity Commissioners; as a further mark of the age, there are no records of complaints by the public at large regarding the state of the school and its closure. It may be that the efforts of the 80 year old schoolmaster had for some time become inadequate and that the number of pupils fell steadily as his age incapacitated him. Equally, there were no complaints from the worthies of Saddleworth as the sole trustee continued to neglect his trust and to appropriate its money to his own purposes. A sad reflection on the times, and perhaps a comment about social juxtaposition!

Allan Hargreaves:
Charity, Advisory & Taxation Services.

THE REVEREND HENRY HUNT

Henry Hunt was born in Dublin in about 1725. Almost nothing is known of his early life other than that he was ordained in his native city. By 1770, he was the pastor of the High Street Independent meeting-house in Lancaster, moving to Delph Independent Chapel three years later where he succeeded the Rev. William Armitage. During Rev. Hunt's residency, Methodism was established in Delph. April 1780 was especially memorable owing to the visit of John Wesley who had been invited to preach at Heights. When permission was later withdrawn by the incumbent, Rev. Bellas, the trustees of the independent chapel allowed Wesley to preach at Delph.

In 1786, a disagreement arose and Rev. Hunt left the district, spending the next fourteen years ministering first at Ellesmere and then Stourbridge. At the age of seventy-five, he accepted the position of senior pastor at the Independent Church at Horsleydown in Southwark. He retired at the age of 88, having served over sixty years in the ministry. On the 26th of June 1815 he died at Southwark, aged 90, and was buried in the independent burial ground at Long Lane, Bermondsey. In his will, he left the bulk of his estate, valued at £300, to his son Ebenezer Hunt, then residing in Upper Canada; his wife was probably named Hannah, having predeceased him.

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HOWARD LAMBERT



OUT WITH THE OLD – THE POLICY OF SADDLEWORTH COUNCIL TOWARDS HOUSING, 1900 – 1939

A large number of buildings have disappeared from Saddleworth over the decades, the victims of economic and social change, or simple decrepitude. Usually this process has been one of gradual attrition but, on occasion, the factors mentioned have been complemented by others, to produce a temporary quickening in the rate of demolition. Around 1890, for example, the need of Oldham Corporation for land for reservoirs led to the destruction of much property in the Castleshaw Valley, whilst a few years later a number of houses in the centre of Delph were swept away in a brief rash of commercial development.

In the first half of the twentieth century a new influence of the type described came to bear on the district. At this period the Saddleworth Urban District Council (SUDC), flush with recently-acquired powers, adopted an active policy of demolishing old housing. The result was the removal in a relatively short time of dozens of properties. This article, by focussing on the years from 1936 to 1939 in particular – when the enthusiasm of the Council for such measures was at its greatest – will look at what led SUDC to act in this way, examine the methods it employed to implement the policy, and assess the impact on the appearance of the district that these measures produced.

* * * * *

At the beginning of the twentieth century Saddleworth's housing was in a poor state. A correspondent to the "Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter" (MSR) of 29th September 1906 was voicing a general opinion:

"Many Saddleworth houses were built before sanitary science was born or thought of, on no proper foundation. (They) now stand on sodden or pestilential bases. Many of them are dark, damp, confined and ill-ventilated..."

A reporter for the same newspaper later amplified these points:

"Let it be borne in mind that many houses inhabited at the present time are utterly inadequate to the needs of sanitation and accommodation, and, respecting the latter, constitute a grave danger to the moral welfare of the district. It is no uncommon thing...to find families of eight or ten children, fast approaching maturity, resident with their parents in houses containing at the most three bedrooms and in many cases two bedrooms only..."

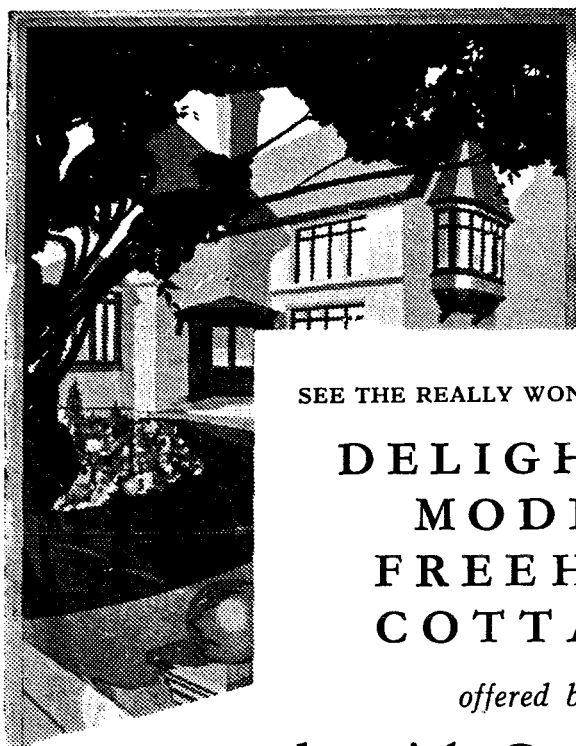
The item ended with a plea: "Surely, then, it is high time the representatives of the people took seriously their responsibilities in the direction of supplying adequate housing?" (MSR, 16th May 1908).

The SUDC were not merely aware of these matters, they were already trying to resolve them. On 1st June of the same year the first meeting was held of a new sub-committee "to inquire into the housing question." Its members were soon to uncover the scale of the problem. At the meeting of the Council on 20th July each had a dour account to give, faithfully recorded in the minutes:

"Mr Moorhouse reported that he had made enquiries in Delph...and estimated that there were at least seventy houses which could not be said to be in satisfactory sanitary condition;

"Mr Brierley reported that from enquiries he had made in Dobcross there were about forty houses not in a fit sanitary condition for habitation but the people were obliged to occupy them as there were no others;

"Mr Bailey reported that at Diggle there were some old houses not fit for habitation. The people wanted to leave them but they also could not find other houses to go to;



A HOUSE
OF YOUR
OWN !

WHY
NOT ?

SEE THE REALLY WONDERFUL VALUE in

**DELIGHTFUL
MODERN
FREEHOLD
COTTAGES**

offered by the

Delph Industrial Co-operative

Society, Limited

on the

**"AINLEY WOOD"
ESTATE**

SITUATED IN THE HEART of the COUNTRY
SUNSHINE & FRESH AIR AT YOUR DOOR

WEEKLY REPAYMENTS *that are no higher than*
renting a home — **LOW DEPOSIT** *only*

ENQUIRE
AT OUR
REGISTERED
OFFICES :-

**CHAPEL HILL,
DELPH, Nr. OLDHAM**
FOR EASY REPAYMENT TERMS

An undated advertisement from the Peter Fox Collection. The seven cooperative societies in Saddleworth were in advance of the Urban District Council in building houses, The Greenfield society, for example, built its first houses in 1876 and had completed a total of 87 by 1901 (Hudson, W.G., "One Hundred Years of Village Corporation", Greenfield Cooperative Society, 1956), whilst in the district as a whole the cooperative movement had invested over £18,000 in housing by 1906 (Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter", 27th June 1907). Ultimately, however, the Council assumed the lion's share of new housing for rent and the importance of the cooperative societies in this regard faded.

"Mr Hawkyard was of opinion that there was some need for better housing in Uppermill."

These findings were discussed when the Council met on 29th September. The observation was made that many houses in the district were "more or less insanitary and a danger to the health of those who lived in them." The sub-committee suggested that the best remedy would be for the SUDC to itself provide new housing. (MSR, 3rd October 1908).

The council were already toying with what was still a novel idea. Government had recently paved the way and was beginning to encourage local authorities to build houses for rent, financed, if necessary, by loans from the Local Government Board. After some apparent dithering – were a proportion of the ratepayers upset at the prospect of new and potentially large liabilities? – by 1912 firm decisions were being taken. During November the SUDC applied to borrow £16,000 "for the purpose of building 55 working-class houses," the first of an eventual 302 (MSR, 16th November 1912). World War One intervened, as a result of which only 56 had been completed by 1919, but the policy was resumed in May that year when 200 more were ordered to be started (MSR, 10th May 1919).

By the late 1930s the SUDC had become seasoned and enthusiastic providers of housing for rent. The Council minutes record a steady progress. On 12th April 1937, for example, tenders were accepted for the construction of 45 houses at Delph and 32 at Diggle, whilst it was decided that £475 should be sought from the Public Works Loan Board for the purchase of land at Denshaw for further dwellings. In January of the following year tenders were finalised for several more schemes: 30 houses were to be built at Heathfields in Uppermill, another 30 at Shaws nearby, 20 at "Horsforth" (off Manchester Road?), Greenfield and 36 in the area of Cooper Street in Springhead (SUDC minutes, 31st January 1938).

Compared with a few decades before, by the late 1930s the Saddleworth Council were clearly in a far better position to tackle the problem of bad housing. Not only had they gained the means to provide new houses of good quality themselves, but, as a result of an accumulation of legislation, including a series of Housing Acts passed in the early and mid-1930s, they had also been enabled to deal effectively with old and sub-standard dwellings. Of help in this last mentioned respect was the fact that the main impediment to ordering the demolition of such buildings, the lack of alternative places to live for their inhabitants, had at last been removed by the new availability of Council housing to absorb those displaced.

The bulk of the monthly meetings held by the SUDC in the late 1930s had housing matters on the agenda; the issue was clearly at the forefront of its concerns. The wide range of measures the Council had available to implement its policies in this regard, and the eagerness with which these instruments were used, will be evident from a glance at the Appendix to this article.

One power used avidly was the designating of a "clearance area". This was applicable if, to quote the Council's interpretation of the legislation, "the houses in the area (concerned) are, by reason of disrepair or sanitary defects, unfit for human habitation...and that the other buildings, if any, in the area are for a like reason dangerous or injurious to the inhabitants" (SUDC minutes, 31st May 1937). Between July 1936 and January 1939 inclusive, the substantial total of 47 Clearance Areas were declared at 45 separate locations (see Appendix). Although some of these may well have been small in extent, it seems reasonable to assume that, in aggregate, a significant number of buildings were demolished as a result of their making, more especially as blocks of properties could be involved. The stipulation of the relevant parts of the legislation involved – section 25 of the Housing Act of 1936 being the main authority – that "suitable accommodation for persons of the working-classes who will be displaced by clearance of areas" must be provided if not already available, could be met by the new housing



The "Old Factory", originally a corn mill, then, from about 1790, a wool-scribbling concern, stood at the corner of Smithy Lane and High Street in Uppermill on a site now occupied by the car park of the "Hare and Hounds". This "Oldham Chronicle" photograph shows it in July 1932 when out-buildings were being demolished. The rest of the mill was made the subject of a Clearance Area Order on 27th June 1938.



The house adjoining the eighteenth century Mitchell Mill at Diggle was made the subject of a Demolition Order in March 1938. These buildings stood on a site now occupied in part by a row of houses called Ainsbrook Terrace. The mill's water wheel can just be made out in the left centre of the picture.

the Council was providing, as mentioned above.

Complementary to, but a more precise instrument than, the Clearance Area was the Demolition Order. This would be selected when single, as opposed to groups of, buildings were the target. An example will best illustrate this point. At the meeting of the SUDC on 21st December 1936, the Council's Medical Officer of Health, Dr E. Ramsden, reported that "...a building used as a dwelling (at) Back Shudehill, Delph (is) unfit for human habitation." The owner was invited to attend the next Council meeting, to be held on 18th January following, in order to propose remedies for the problem. As he failed to appear then a Demolition Order was made under the provisions of the Housing Act of 1930.

Fifteen such Orders were made between April 1936 and June 1938 inclusive. Owners who proved reluctant to comply were swiftly dealt with. On 26th July 1937, for example, it was resolved that tenders be advertised for the pulling-down of several buildings which were still standing in defiance of the SUDC; the intention was evidently to send the bill to the owners.

Demolition, whichever Order authorising it was selected, was not dogmatically pursued by the Council, however. In several dozen instances during the period covered by this article the intention to make a Demolition Order was rescinded as a result of realistic proposals for repairs to the property in question having been received from the owners. Nonetheless it was rare for continued use of such buildings as dwellings to be allowed.

Exemplifying what tended to happen is the instance of Hill Barn, an old farmhouse near the workhouse at Runninghill. Dr Ramsden, having told the Council in late September 1937 that in his opinion it was unfit as a dwelling, the owner, Arthur Platt, was asked to attend on 25th October. On that date Mr Platt "offered to enter into an undertaking that the property would not be used for habitation in the future and that its use would be restricted to agricultural purposes." Agreeing to this the Council made a Closing Order under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, this stipulating that henceforth the building could not be used other than as an adjunct to a farm.

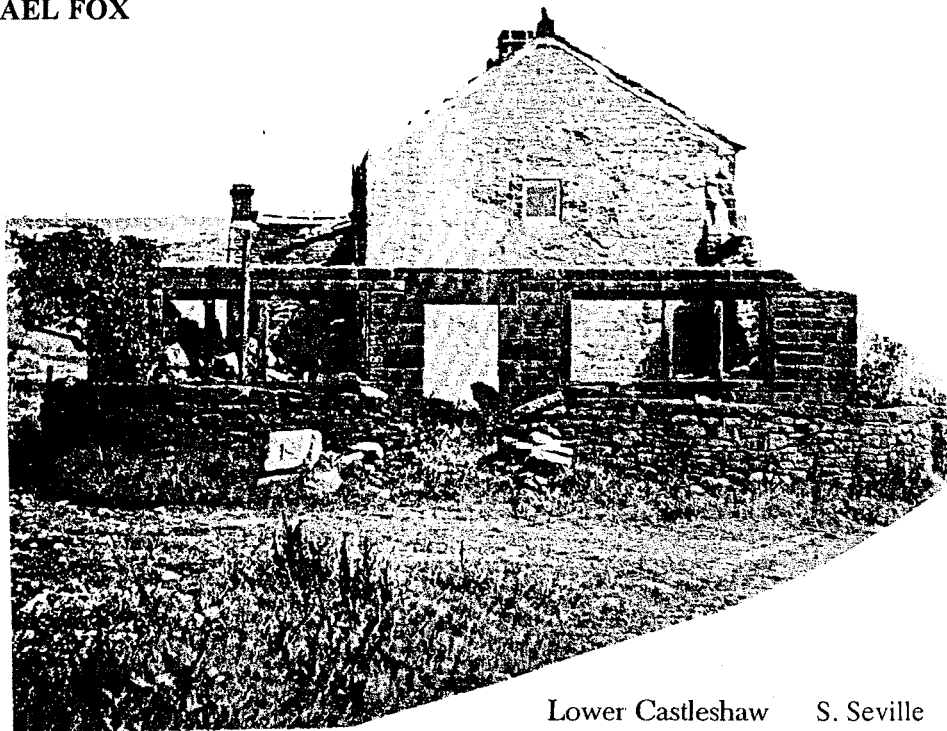
Such Closing Orders were regularly employed, 22 being made between December 1937 and February 1939. As in the case above, they would often amount to a stipulation of change of use, first condemning a property as unfit to be lived in, then designating a new role for it. Making barns or basic shelters for livestock was the most common outcome; many buildings were consigned to a lingering demise by this means. Also common was the condition that, in order to avoid demolition, a dwelling must be turned over to some domestic use; several buildings, or part of buildings, became wash-houses as a result. More rarely, some commercial function might be agreed upon to stave off demolition. One instance is that of the "two houses off High Street, Uppermill" which were (somewhat vaguely) mentioned at the SUDC meeting of 23rd February 1939. Faced with a probable demand to knock the buildings in question down, the owner had written with a proposal to turn them into stores for his (grocery?) business; a Closing Order was made on this basis.

* * * * *

The physical impact on the landscape of Saddleworth of such a large amount of change to its buildings must have been considerable. Much of what was old was consigned to oblivion or terminal decay, whilst, in replacement, large estates of uniform council houses sprang up, their new and brash styles of architecture contrasting with the traditional buildings that made up the villages they adjoined. Faced with a large number of old and often rambling houses, many insanitary and few having owners with the considerable resources needed to bring them to mid-

twentieth century standards, the Council must, understandably, have felt its policy of demolishing the old and building anew was the right one. From the viewpoint of the late 1990s it would be all too easy to condemn the Council's zeal, which resulted in the wilful destruction of many buildings that nowadays might be seen as being of historic or architectural interest, but such concepts were in their infancy in the 1930s, whilst the legislative impediment to indiscriminate demolition that the "listing" of property represents at the present day, was still decades in the future. For better or for worse, the ways in which the Saddleworth Urban District Council felt impelled to act on the issue of housing in the years leading up to the Second World War were to have a significant and lasting effect on the face of the district.

MICHAEL FOX



Lower Castleshaw S. Seville

**APPENDIX – DECISIONS BY THE SADDLEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ON THE
TREATMENT OF OLD DWELLINGS, 1936 – 1939**

All dates refer to the relevant SUDC meetings. For definitions of the categories refer to the text.

HAMLET/ BUILDING	GRID REF.	CLEARANCE AREA	DEMOLITION ORDER	CLOSING ORDER *				REPAIRS ALLOWED
				Agric. use	Domestic use	Other use	Use unknown	
AMBROSE	998 074	31/5/37						
AMBROSE	998 074							29/6/38
AMBROSE	998 074							29/6/38
AMBROSE	998 074			29/6/38				
BACK SHUDEHILL	?		18/1/37					
BANK GAP	003 083		20/4/36					
BELL ARCH	988 075						24/3/38	
BELL YARD	988 075	18/1/37						
BIRCHEN BANK	969 086	20/7/36						
BOOTHSTEAD EDGE	967 105			21/12/38				
BOWKHOUSE	977 109		23/5/38					
"BRIDGE STREET AND LEES YARD"	995 055	27/6/38						
BUNKERS	003 046	25/7/38						
CALF HEY	972 103	20/7/36						
CARRHEAD	002 089	20/7/36						
CASTLESHAW	001 097	2/11/36						
CASTLESHAW	001 097	2/11/36						
CASTLESHAW	001 097	2/11/36						
CASTLESHAW	001 097	2/11/36						
COB(B) LERS HILL	985 081	2/11/36						
COB(B) LERS HILL	985 081	2/11/36						
COB(B) LERS HILL	985 081	2/11/36						
COB(B) LERS HILL	985 081	2/11/36						
COB(B) LERS HILL	985 081	2/11/36				27/9/37		
CRIB LANE	992 068	26/7/37						
CRIPPLE COTE	?			29/6/38				
DEANHEAD	009 095						24/1/38	
DEN LANE	994 058	25/10/37						
DENSHAW	977 105	20/7/36						
DIGGLE EDGE COTTAGE	013 087		25/10/37					
DIGLEE	009 081	009 081			25/10/37			
DIGLEE	009 081	009 081			24/3/38			
FAR DIGGLE EDGE	?		20/4/36					
GRANGE	986 091	2/11/36						
GRANGE	986 091	2/11/36						
GRANGE	986 091	2/11/36						
GRANGE	986 091	2/11/36						
GRANGE	986 091	2/11/36						
GRANGE COTTAGE	986 091			24/3/38				
HARROP GREEN	006 082							24/3/38
HEATHFIELDS	002 058	27/6/38						
HEY SLACK	?							
HEY WOOD	004 087		20/4/36					
HIGH STILE	007 066	25/10/37						
HIGH STREET (DELPH)	984 078				24/3/38			
(OFF) HIGH ST. (UPPERMILL)	997 058					23/2/39		
(OFF) HIGH ST. (UPPERMILL)	997 058					23/2/39		
HIGHER SHIP	964 084		24/3/38					
HIGHER THURSTONS	008 089		20/4/36					
HILL BARN	008 071			25/10/37				
HILL END	988 077	18/1/37						
HILL END	988 077	18/1/37						
HILL END	988 077	28/2/38						
HILL END	988 077	28/2/38						
HOLLIN BANK	966092			28/11/38				
HOLLY GROVE	002 068		20/4/36					
HOLLY GROVE	002 068		20/4/36					

HAMLET/ BUILDING	GRID REF.	CLEARANCE AREA	DEMOLITION ORDER	CLOSING ORDER *				REPAIRS ALLOWED
				Agric. use	Domestic use	Other use	Use unknown	
HOLLY GROVE	002 068						21/12/38	
KNOTTHILL LANE	985 076							29/6/38
LANE HEAD	989 033	25/7/38						
LAWTON SQUARE	985 078							27/9/36
LEE CROSS	007 075	31/5/37						
LITTLEMOOR	001 077		20/4/36					
LOWER CROSS	003 054	27/6/38						
LOWER SHIP	964 084	20/7/36						
MARSHBOTTOM	971 111	25/10/37						
MARSH HEAD	011 081						21/12/38	
MIDGROVE	989 075	18/1/37						
MIDGROVE	989 075	18/1/37						
MIDGROVE	989 075	18/1/37						
MIDGROVE	989 075	18/1/37						
MILLCROFT	989 090	2/11/36						
MILLCROFT	989 090	2/11/36						
MILLCROFT	989 090	2/11/36						
MILLGATE	986 077	18/1/37						
MILLGATE	986 077	18/1/37						
MILLGATE	986 077	18/1/37						
MILLGATE	986 077	18/1/37						
MILLGATE	986 077							20/12/37
MILLGATE	986 077							20/12/37
MITCHELL MILL HOUSE	007 082		24/3/38					
MOORGATE	993 055	28/2/38						
NEAR GLOBE FARM	012 096		29/6/38					
NEW HOUSES	973 057	30/1/39						
NEW HOUSES	973 057	30/1/39						
OAKHOUSE	?							21/12/38
OLD HEY	994 089	2/11/36						
OLD HEY	994 089	2/11/36						
OLD HEY	994 089	2/11/36						
OLD HEY	994 089	2/11/36						
PLATT HILL	991 071	25/10/37						
PLATTS YARD	995 055	25/10/37						
POTTERY HILL	?	20/7/36						
RHODES YARD	?							24/3/38
ROUGH HEY	975 115	20/7/36						
ROUND HILL	992 071	26/7/37						
ST. MARY'S GATE	996 056	28/2/38						
SADDLEWORTH FOLD	004 961	28/2/38						
SHAW HALL	987 045	25/7/38						
SHEPHERDS GREEN	005 042	25/7/38						
"SMITHY LANE AND OFF HIGH STREET" (SIC)	996 056	27/6/38						
SPRING HILL	001 079			25/10/37				
SPURN LANE	001 075	25/10/37						
SUMMERHILL (DELPH)	974 095	30/1/39						
SUNFIELD	002 081	31/5/37						
TAME VIEW	983 074	28/2/38						
TENTER STOVE	?	20/7/36						
THORNLEY FOLD	965 040	30/1/39						
WALL HILL	980 064			21/11/38				
WALL HILL	980 064							21/12/38
WATERSIDE	005 038	25/7/38						
WILBUR	?		24/1/38					
WOODBROW	970 101						21/12/38	
WOODMANS	981 076		18/1/37					
WOODS LANE	991 064	26/7/37						
WOOL ROAD	998 068	31/5/37						
WOOL ROAD	998 068	31/5/37						

UPPERMILL – A WARTIME MEMORY

I well recall the dull thud of bombs and the acrid smell of smouldering wool. When the “Green” went after a German raid, we all came out of the cellar of our house at Central Fire Station, Nelson Street, Bradford, where my father served twenty-two years as a fire officer serving in the Royal Artillery in France in the Great War. It was about 1941. The decision was taken to send me to ‘Aunt Flo’s’ (a friend of my mother) at Saddleworth away from the bombs. As an eight-year-old, I had no idea what Saddleworth or Lancashire was, but it promised to be something of an adventure.

I have no recollection of the train journey via Huddersfield alone with my sandwiches and gas mask, but Aunt Flo’s house at Uppermill turned out to be second on the left over the canal bridge on the road to Greenfield. (I returned there recently and was able to recognise it after some 56 years!) The garden behind the house dropped steeply to the canal; and across the road up the bank towards the railway we collected bilberries. No bilberries in Bradford! Aunt Flo was a tall kind lady who spoke (to me) in a strange accent promising that on Friday she would give me “something that tasted like banana”. Wartime rationing meant that butter, eggs, etc were scarce and tropical fruits unobtainable. I grew up not knowing what a banana was. Friday couldn’t come soon enough. The treat turned out to be a concoction of mashed apple and condensed milk. I found it delicious!

My second treat was a visit to the cinema at Uppermill; that had been opened in May 1913 by the Milnsbridge Picture Palace Company. I had never been to a cinema before. Curiously, I have no memory of the event. What I do remember is walking down Uppermill main street to the cinema and buying our own reserved seats for the performance. I don’t remember the performance. I don’t remember the film but I do recall the tickets and being impressed by the (excise?) stamp on them. That excise stamp was to an eight year old as much a wonder as the imposing Saddleworth viaduct.

With the receding bomb threat, I returned to Bradford to eventual 11-plus, grammar school, university and National Service. Uppermill and Aunt Flo always remained a pleasant childhood memory.

Fifty years on, imagining Binn Green to be a street, I came to Saddleworth and was surprised to find myself looking out over the beautiful Yeoman Hey reservoir. The 1881 census had revealed that my maternal grandfather Hughie Burns (“engine driver”, aged twenty-three) had lived at 18 Binn Green with his wife Isabella (née Carton, aged twenty) and their three sons Hugh (aged three), Nicholas (aged two) and John (aged three months). There were nine other people in the household and a female servant. Binn Green had been a camp where the Irish navvies lived and the reservoir a monument to Hughie’s labour. He was born in Dudley in Staffordshire, settled in Bradford, and travelled the country on construction work (including the Settle-Carlisle railway). His son John Burns, born in Greenfield, died at Salonika on the last day of the Great War, 1914 to 1918. Bernard Burns became a member of the Black Dyke Mills Band as a cornet player and possibly conductor.

JIM MURRAY

POVERTY AND THE APPLICATION OF THE POOR LAW IN SADDLEWORTH, 1780 – 1900

Relieving the destitute was far from being a new task for the authorities in Saddleworth during the first half of the nineteenth century, but it was rapidly becoming a more difficult one. A system for distributing relief to the needy had long been in place in the district. Rooted in legislation that dated from the sixteenth century, it was administered by the body with responsibility for Parish affairs, the Vestry, with the aid of the overseers and guardians the last-mentioned nominated.

This structure would seem to have been adequate when the demand for it was limited. From the mid-eighteenth century, however, the population of Saddleworth had begun to rise at an unprecedented rate. Fuelling this growth was a relentless expansion in the principal means of gaining a livelihood there, the textile industry. Whilst this created much employment those within the industry became increasingly vulnerable to the frequent and sometimes catastrophic, slumps in demand that afflicted the woollen and cotton trades; hundreds, sometimes thousands, could find themselves suddenly deprived of work for long periods. The net effect of these related trends was for greater absolute numbers to fall into destitution and thus put strain on the limited resources the authorities possessed to relieve them.

The Vestry was not indifferent to this upsurge in demand. The main weapon it used to combat it after 1782 was Gilbert's Act, passed in that year as a means of enabling parishes to build and run workhouses for the poor, funded by a local rate. A small preliminary venture at Lucan Castle, Grange, was quickly superseded by more commodious premises at Daisy Hill, Thurston Clough, in 1798.

Even these soon proved inadequate, however:

"Resolved that in consequence of the increased population of this Parish and the Fluctuation of Trade, the present building... now used for the poor (commonly called a workhouse) is considerably too small for their accommodation, and that it is highly requisite that a Building upon a large and more convenient site should be forthwith erected upon Runninghill as a Workhouse or House of Industry for the Reception of the Poor of this parish" (Vestry Minutes, March 1812, quoted in Howcroft, A.J., "Chapelry and Church of Saddleworth," (1915), p.122).

The new workhouse was completed 1816 and was to remain the focal point for the relief of the poor in the district until well in to the twentieth century.

How the system coped over the next few decades, especially from the viewpoint of those who were obliged by circumstances to depend on it, is hinted at by a variety of sources. The Census returns are one of the richest and most revealing of these, providing detail on the individual destitute that is rarely available elsewhere.

The 1841 returns from Runninghill Workhouse provide a good example; they paint a picture of an institution that was large, well-established and, although no doubt limited in what it provided for its inmates, able to cater for at least the basic needs of a variety of individuals.

Delineating the inmates by age, it is clear that a large proportion were children: of the 156 individuals in residence on Census night, 30 were aged between 6 and 10 years, with an additional 31 aged 5 years or less, in total a substantial 42% of those in the workhouse.

Why so many very young people were at Runninghill becomes clear when individual entries are studied. That covering the Bottomley family, for example. Mary, aged 35 and described as a

woollen spinner by occupation, is listed with her five children, John (10), Jane (8), William (5), James (4) and Andrew (2). Similar was Betty Seville, recorded as being a charwoman and the mother of five – Cecil (8), John (6), Sarah Ann (4), Joseph (3) and Mary (2) – all of whom lived with her in the institution. In total, 43 inmates are listed who were aged 10 years or younger and were resident in the workhouse with a parent or guardian. The obvious conclusion to be drawn is that the last-mentioned was unable to provide for the family because of illness, the death of a spouse or other incapacity, had had no other to turn to for help and had thus been forced to throw both themselves and their dependants on the Parish.

The residue of eighteen children aged under eleven years were in an even worse position. Eight year old Mary Rhodes, for example and her sister, Sarah, aged four years; also the sisters Betty and Esther Wood, respectively seven and five years old. Evidently they and their fourteen companions were orphans and were being cared for in the workhouse as there was nowhere else for them.

The old were also to be found at Runninghill. In 1841 the Census recorded a total of fifteen (10% of all inmates) – nine men and six women – who were aged 70 or above. Six of these (four men, two women) were between 70 and 74, four (two men, two women) between 75 and 79, and five (three men, two women) 80 or upwards; the eldest was 86 year old Robert Ogden, a former woollen weaver.

Beyond a bland indication that each inmate was a “patient”, the 1841 Census fails to make plain that the bulk of the adults at Runninghill were unable to work because of infirmity or sickness, physical or mental. Later Censuses are more informative. That of 1891, for example, specifically identifies individuals who were totally incapacitated by mental or physical illness. Forty year old Margaret Seville, for example, is described as an “imbecile”, Susan Ripley (53) as “epileptic – imbecile”, and Robert Heap, a 43 year old cotton weaver from Greenfield, as “paraletic”. The more serious mental cases, whilst the ultimate responsibility of the workhouse, were dealt with by outside agencies. In 1850 for example, the workhouse returns record that twelve individuals “(are) now maintained in the Asylum, Wakefield” (Saddleworth Museum Archives; MD/DX/85).

Superficial though it might be, the impression given by data such as this is of a system that, though spartan, could at least cope with the basic demands placed upon it. Given the great fluctuation in the numbers experiencing poverty in the district throughout the nineteenth century, this is at first sight surprising. The Poor Law did, however, incorporate a means of meeting sudden increases in demand.

Outdoor relief was payment in cash or kind to those who, whilst destitute, were also “able-bodied” – in other words sufficiently healthy to work when this was available. It would appear likely that throughout the nineteenth century, able-bodied applicants for relief in Saddleworth outnumbered those receiving this in the workhouse, often by a substantial margin. Taking a year at random, in 1854 there were 78 adults in the workhouse, as opposed to 258 being given relief outside the institution. A few years later, in 1862, the respective figures were almost identical, 78 and 246.

Such comparisons are remarkable as they demonstrate that the authorities in Saddleworth were running deliberately counter to the Government philosophy of the age. In 1834 the notion that had been growing in Britain for several decades, that poverty was the product of fecklessness, not misfortune, found legislative expression in the Poor Law Amendment Act. A main provision of this was that destitute individuals who were deemed to be able-bodied would only be eligible for relief from the Parish if they agreed to enter a workhouse; aiding them otherwise,

it was held, would remove their incentive to find new work.

The attitude of the Saddleworth authorities to this measure can best be described as quietly hostile. In this it was far from unique, the north of England as a whole rising up – sometimes literally, in the form of rioting – against what was widely perceived as meddling in local affairs by the remote and ignorant. So successful was the district's passive resistance that it was not until 1853, after a thinly-veiled threat of compulsion from the Poor Law Board, that the 1834 Act was implemented there. Even then this acceptance was more nominal than otherwise, the "workhouse test", as it was known, never being applied.

Quite apart from the dictates of local pride, there was a good, practical reason why Saddleworth chose to continue in the old ways: it would have been both physically difficult and extremely costly to provide workhouse space for those rendered temporarily out of work by slumps in trade. On occasion a large portion of the employed population could fall victim to these. In March 1842, for example, the Factory Inspector, Leonard Horner, commented:

"My report of the Saddleworth district is of a most gloomy nature. On former visits I found the state of operatives to be bad; it is now wretched, and the misery and distress that prevail are beyond precedent. I have heard that Mr B. (this would have been Mr Bottomley, proprietor of the Greenfield Mill), the most extensive of the mill-owners there, is working short-time, discharging numbers of workers, and that eighty weavers have had notice that there will be no more work for them." ("Reports of the inspectors of factories," 1842, Vol. XXII, p.6).

In 1863 the "Cotton Famine" induced by the American Civil War, had an especially harsh effect, plunging many into poverty. The suddenness and severity of this event, which whilst unique in its origins mirrored other more conventional slumps in its form and effects, is evident from the following statistics. In the week ending 11th March 1862, 246 were claiming outdoor relief in Saddleworth, but over ten times that number – 2508 – during the equivalent week a year later. ("Oldham Standard," 21/3/1863). Had the workhouse test been applied in 1863, the financial cost would have been substantial: taking a very crude average of a number of sets of figures throughout the century, it would seem that to provide outdoor relief in the form of food, material for clothing, blankets or cash, was perhaps ten to fifteen times less expensive than housing the same person in the workhouse. Would – or could – the corresponding high poor rate have been tolerated in the parish had the workhouse been the sole means of relief?

The authorities were aided in their enthusiasm for outdoor relief by the availability of work in Saddleworth for those applying for it. Railway, reservoir and sewage construction projects, all commonplace and often large scale in the second half of the century, gave regular employment to numbers of parish-aided workers. In 1895, to take one instance, Oldham Corporation's new Rooden Reservoir near Denshaw, was using many outdoor workers at a time when the textile trade was depressed. ("Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter," 5/10/1895).

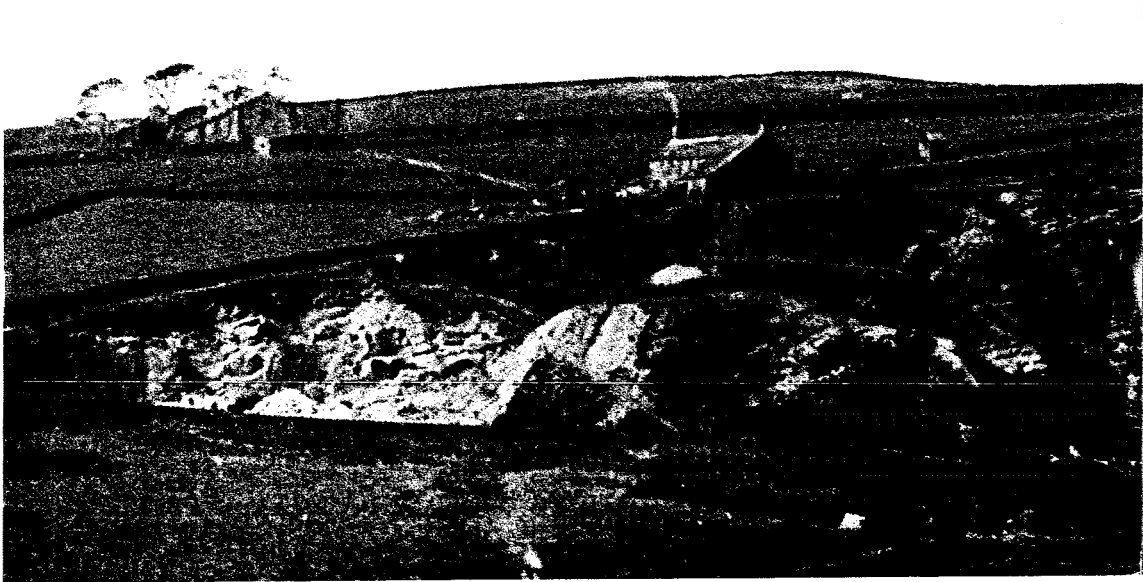
By means such as this the spirit, if not the letter, of the 1834 Act could be upheld. This is emblematic of the whole approach of the Saddleworth authorities to the problem of poverty during the nineteenth century. For all its failures the system for relieving the destitute functioned here largely because it was adapted by local men to meet particular local needs. This gave an essential flexibility that the slavish application of Government edicts would have denied it. With hindsight the, at first sight, pig-headed and dogmatic refusal of the Vestry to implement the legislative changes of 1834 until forced to do so, seems both sensible and far-sighted.

MICHAEL FOX

(The author gives his acknowledgements to Dannie Wright for making available his research on the 1841 census).

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN – NAB END

This is the first of a new regular feature, using photographs from the Peter Fox Collection that depict buildings and scenes in Saddleworth which no longer exist. Nab End is our first subject, an old house that stood half a mile to the north-east of Dobcross (GR 997 071). The photograph shows it in about 1900, about fifty years before it was demolished; it is perched on the edge of the sandstone quarry of the same name, (the viewpoint is near the hamlet of Holly Grove).



Like its near neighbour, Edge End, which can be seen in the top left-hand corner, Nab End was once inhabited by people involved in the domestic woollen industry. The 1841 Census gives a snapshot of this. The enumerator recorded five as living here; John Roberts (30) – a woollen weaver – Sarah, his wife, (25), described as a woollen spinner, and their three children, Sarah (4), Jane (2) and James (7 months).



The modern photograph, taken by Peter Fox in 1996 shows what little is left today. The camera is looking from the east side of the site along the footpath to Edge End that can be picked out on the first photograph

THE THIRD ANNUAL
"HERBERT SCOTT"
Brass Band Festival

(Sponsored by the Greenfield Contest Committee)

President: H A TANNER, Esq



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15th, 1949, at 2-30 p.m.

Held in the Greenfield Mill Social Club
(by kind invitation of Greenfield Mill Club Committee)

ADJUDICATOR - DAVID ASPINALL, Esq.
(Ransome & Marle Works Band)

Secretary: J. Harrison, 141, Chew Valley Rd., Greenfield, Nr. Oldham

PROGRAMME : SIXPENCE

Programme of Entries

TEST PIECE:

OWN CHOICE SELECTION

(Published by Wright & Round's, Liverpool)

No.	Name of Band	Conductor	Draw Rite
1	Boarshurst Silver Prize Band	R. A. Buckley	
2	Kings Cross British Legion Band (Halifax)	Lieut. John Fletcher	
3	Hale Edge Silver Band	A. Robinson	
4	Stretford Old Band	J. Henshaw	
5	Brodsworth Main Colliery Club & Inst. Band	J. Boddice	
6	Markham Main Colliery Band	E. Griffiths (Senior)	
7	Slaithwaite Band	J. Harrison	
8	Rothwell Temperance Band	J. W. Newton	
9	Dobcross Prize Band	J. H. Platt	
10	North Manchester Silver Band	K. Lingard	
11	Pemberton Old Band	J. H. Fairhurst	
12	Marsden M. I. Band	J. W. Kaye	
13	Prescot Cable Works Band	J. Capper	
14	Hickleton Main Band	A. Barnett	

LIST OF PRIZES:

- 1st £20 Cash and V. & N. Hartley Challenge Shield
2nd £12 " " "Herbert Scott" Challenge Cup
3rd £8 " £1/1- of Music (Boosey & Hawkes)
4th £5 " and 10/6 of Music (Bessons)

SPECIAL PRIZES:

- £3 to be given to the Best "Solo Euphonium"
£3 " " "Solo Cornetist"

Village life has changed profoundly since the third annual Herbert Scott Brass Band Festival was staged in Greenfield almost fifty years ago. The advertisements included in the programme for this event give a glimpse into a community that was still largely self-sufficient. Nowadays, although many small businesses are to be found in the village, their nature is subtly different, fewer providing necessities than formerly. Will anything be left to record in another fifty years?

HERBERT BRADBURY ROAD END Newsagent Sweets : Tobacco : Cigarettes Birthday and Greeting Cards		Phone: Saddleworth 508 A. W. Baum Radio & Electrical Dealer Reg. Electrical Contractor 91, Chew Valley Road, GREENFIELD Agent—Mullard & Ferranti Radio Accredited Hoover Dealer
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RHODES (CHEMISTS) LTD. Dispensing Chemists and Opticians Victoria Pharmacy Chew Valley Road, Greenfield and 71, High Street, Uppermill Qualified Optician in Attendance at Uppermill Telephone: SADD. 313	HEROD & WATSON High Class Fruiterers and Greengrocers Orders promptly attended to Horsforth Road Greenfield SADD. 39	

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GREENFIELD and MOSSLEY
 Telephone: Mossley 46

C. R. WOOD Upholsterer and Furniture Repairer Carlton Place Greenfield	J. T. SYKES & SONS, LTD. Grocers Corn Merchants
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F. Ashworth Station Brow Shoeing Forge GREENFIELD Welding and Smiths Phone: SADD 512	BOARSHURST SILVER PRIZE BAND (Formed 100 years ago) CENTENARY FUND Appeal for New Uniforms Support Your Own Band
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Enquiries about membership of the Saddleworth Historical Society should be sent to:

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30 Beechfield
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Oldham
OL4 4EL

The Editor of the "Bulletin" is:

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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 happy 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 winter "Bulletin" is due for Publication on the 31st January 1998. All material to the editor by the 15th January please.



Saddleworth Historical Society

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By Daniel Nield

Shewing the necessity of supporting the Plan laid down for augmenting the Price of Labour in the Woollen Manufactory:

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£0.75

Cheques made payable to the Saddleworth Historical Society and forwarded to Mr B.E. Jackson, 7 Slackcote, Delph, Oldham, OL3 5TW. Tel. No. 01457 874530. Add 20% postage and packing for delivery outside Saddleworth.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 1997

"It's good to be in Saddleworth
When the road beneath you spins,
And the fresh air makes you relish
Bread and cheese at moorland inns."

Ammon Wrigley.

The Autumn Trip in late September to York was well attended. Although it was a dull day the cream cakes, Yorkshire tea, the Snickelways and the splendid museums did much to keep up Saddleworthian spirits. Many thanks to Wendy Murray for the efficient organisational skills.

The Museum of the Manchesters at Ashton Town Hall was the November lecture given by the Curator, Ronan Brindley aided by Rupert Jaze. A large audience learned The Manchesters were founded in 1881 from the 63rd and 96th Regiments of Foot. Campaigns from the Peninsular War of 1800, the American War of Independence, the Crimea, the Boer War, the 1st and 2nd World Wars and the Malayan Emergency are exhibited. Between the two world wars 15,000 of the Manchester Regiment died, 14,000 of those in the 1st World War alone. One V.C. won at Gallipoli by Lieutenant Forshaw is amongst the finest collections of military awards and medals in the North West including five original Victoria Crosses. Women in Wartime is also an exhibition of those who served in the forces. John Cleverley, a member of the Oldham Tank Regiments gave a proud vote of thanks, mentioning that they were formed from the 10th Manchesters in 1938/9.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 7.30 p.m., at the Museum, on Thursday 4th December, 1997, followed by a presentation in remembrance of our late Chairman, John Murray, of a handsomely framed North & South Countryside Map which will hang in the Transport Gallery as his memorial. After the AGM a collection of original Ammon Wrigley slides, kindly donated to the Society by Mrs. Ruth Greenwood will be shown for the first time.

Archaeology.

Dates for the group meetings in the New Year are available from Jim Carr on 87 3612. Topics will include Egypt, Isreal, Jordon, Crete and sites in Southern Britain - Stonehenge, Avebury, Silbury etc.

We can recommend two museums for you to visit: "The Museum of the Manchesters", in the Town Hall, Ashton-U-Lyne, open Monday to Saturday between 10.0 a.m. and 4.00 p.m., admission free; "Treasures from the Dead Sea", The Copper Scroll after 2000 years, A Dead Sea Scrolls Jubilee Exhibition, in the Manchester Museum, at the University of Manchester, Oxford Road, which will run until 10th January, 1998. There is a Christmas Treasure Trail activity for all the family from 1st December to 4th January, 1998. There are free lectures

on Saturdays, 6th and 13th December, 1997, in the Roscoe Building, Lecture Theatre A and on Monday 5th January, 1998, there will be guided tours of the exhibition in the Manchester Museum on the hour from 11.00 a.m., until 3.00 p.m., again admission is free.

MUSEUM EVENTS.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Coffee Mornings | - the second Wednesday of each month. |
| Folk Evenings | - Friday, 5th December, 1997,
Strawhead and Buzz. |
| Art Exhibition | - 15th November to 4th January, 1998.
Lees Art Group. |
| Changing Exhibitions | - until January, 1998.
The Villages of Saddleworth. Greenfield. |
| Trip to Lincoln Xmas Market | - Friday, 5th December, 1997.
(a few tickets are still available) |
| Victorian Christmas Weekend | - Saturday, Sunday, 6th and 7th December, 1997. |

Saddleworth W.E.A.

- Saddleworth Quiz Night. - Thursday 11th December, 1997, 7.30 p.m.
Saddleworth School (Rosla Unit), Uppermill.
Free entry. Collection to defray expenses.
Wine and mine pies. All welcome.

- January 98 Courses. Armchair Walks through Saddleworth.
Guided with slides through the countryside.
MIKE FOX 6 weeks.
from Monday 5th January, 1998 7.15.- 9.15 p.m.
Saddleworth School, Uppermill.

MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

A hearty welcome is given to the following new members joining the Society:-

Mrs. S. Armitage, Wakefield.	Mr. Bernard Akin, Grotton.
Mr. & Mrs. S. Gowans, Dobcross.	Mr. & Mrs. P. Ingham, Garden Suburbs.
Mrs. S. Hadfield, Canada.	Mr. A.R. Wheeler, South Wales.
Mr. C. Holgate, Arizona, U.S.A.	

Mrs. S. Armitage of 25 Woodkirk Ave., Tingley, Wakefield, WF3 1JL, is researching her Watson family tree and would be pleased to correspond with any member having the same interest.

John & Anne Halliwell of 34 Derwent Drive, Littleborough, Lancs. OL15 0BT, have determined that Ann Broadbent married William Byrom in 1846 and that Ann's father was thought to be an Abraham Broadbent, Butcher. Has any member a connection here which would be of assistance ?

Our new member from Canada, Mrs. S. Hadfield, intends visiting Saddleworth during the Christmas period and is researching her family history progressing down the Broadbent line and has recorded a James Broadbent b. 1815, Saddleworth, and his father William Broadbent, an innkeeper. Another family record is of William Fletcher Broadbent b.1840, Saddleworth. Your contact here is Elsie Broadbent, 87 2870.

Our newest member, Mr. Clifford Holgate, from Mesa, Arizona, is gathering information on the Winterbottoms of Quick and Mossley. Edward Winterbottom emigrated in 1885 to Pennsylvania, he was born on 1850. His father Elijah of Quick Edge and Quick Wood of Mossley was listed in the 1861 Census. Please contact Elsie Broadbent on 87 2870.

We have to report the death of a public figure, Mrs. Freda Crowther, who was twice Chairman of the Saddleworth Parish Council and a good member and supporter of the Society following in her mother's footsteps.

Another very sad loss is the wartime mariner our stalwart member, Hartley Schofield. His knowledge and experience of the automobile industry was ever present for the Society and the Museum and witnessed in his contributions on the Rothwell Car, manufactured in Oldham and his talks on the Le Mans Car Rally. He was ever present at lectures and Society functions and his kindly presence will be missed.

The death of Mr. Owen Bishop is also the leaving of a good Society friend his regular attendance at our lectures in the Museum was most appreciated. He worked as a Manager at G.E.C., Shaw before his retirement and was very well respected by all who had contact with him.

LECTURE PROGRAMME. 7.30 p.m. Museum, Uppermill.

Annual General Meeting.

Thursday, 4th December, 1997

Churches of the Oldham Area.
John Beever.

Monday, 2nd February, 1998

Correct Likeness:

The Victorian Photographic Portrait
Studio. Audrey Linkman.

Thursday 12th March, 1998

Christmas Greetings are extended to all our members and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year.

J. Hindle.



MEET THE ANCESTORS

A new five part archaeology series presented by Julian Richards beginning January 8th 1998 on BBC-2.

What Is The Series About?

MEET THE ANCESTORS uses archaeological investigation and exploits new technology to recreate the lives and the looks of the ancient dead. In each of the five half hour programmes, history is brought to life as a site is excavated and the burial and its surroundings are analysed. Science and archaeology join forces to reveal the secrets of how each individual lived and died. An artist shows us how each ancestor saw the world, while a team of medical artists use skulls and computer technology to reveal how the world saw them. Archaeologist, Julian Richards follows the progress of each excavation and traces the personal story behind each of the graves.

Many of you were involved in helping to make the series and we would like to thank all those who contacted us about potential sites and who contributed to the programmes.

Good News

We have just heard that **MEET THE ANCESTORS** is to get a second series to transmit Autumn 1998.

How You Can Help

We are now looking for more sites which include excavations of human burials involving either inhumations or cremations, from any period and located anywhere in the British Isles. Ideally we would like to film from the planning of the excavation right through to the final analysis but we realise that some discoveries are completely unexpected so we are prepared to respond very quickly if necessary.

If you are concerned about filming disrupting your work, may we assure you that our filming unit is small and is sensitive to the requirements of filming on site. The potential benefits of us filming your excavation are access to ancillary scientific analysis, the production of reconstruction graphics and of course some good publicity.

If you think you can help us then please contact:

Julian Richards, Foyle Hill House, Foyle Hill, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 OPT
tel/fax 01747 851531

Tania Lindon, BBC White City, 5572, 201 Wood Lane, W12 7TS
tel 0181 752 6127 fax 0181 752 5077 e mail Tania.Lindon@bbc.co.uk