

The Bulletin of the
Saddleworth
Historical
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Summer 1972

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BULLETIN
OF
THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 2 Number 2
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THE ATTEMPTS TO FORM A WOOLLEN WEAVERS' UNION IN SADDLEWORTH:
1827 AND 1894

Part 1. General Background.

There is some evidence that a Union existed in Saddleworth in 1824, but the first successful recorded attempt came in 1827, when the Saddleworth Weavers' and Spinners' Union was formed. This Union gained considerable support from its members, and the master manufacturers were worried by its strength. They, in turn, formed an association under the name of the Saddleworth Clothiers' Society in an attempt to combat the activities of their employees. The Clothiers' Society tried to prosecute George Rhodes, the secretary of the Weavers' Union, on the grounds of conspiracy, but no case could be found against him. The Union flourished for two years but then faded out, presumably because of its very heavy financial commitments with bankrupted it. George Shaw, in his diary, suspected embezzlement of the funds, but the income and expenditure accounts of the Union appear to tally, so any mishandling is not now obvious.

Up to the middle of the eighteenth century the Guilds and the State had had the responsibility of regulating wages and working conditions. With the increase of industrialisation, specialisation, the introduction of machinery, and the improvement of communications, the separation of masters and men became more and more pronounced. Legal regulation of wages tended to be an embarrassment to the masters as they were often the Justices of the Peace who had to enforce these laws. So, they were apt to ignore them. Journeymen were now deprived of protection and so they tended to combine separately from their employers, ostensibly to petition Parliament for the redress of any grievances, but they also often combined with the purpose of enforcing wage-demands by go-slows and turn-outs.

The Government adopted a policy of 'laissez-faire' and simultaneously endeavoured to prevent combinations of either masters or men. Legislation was enacted to make combinations in particular industries illegal.

Friendly Societies had existed since the seventeenth century whereby journeymen had combined for mutual assistance in times of illness and for insurance against old-age and death. A small portion of their wages was set aside and at first their employers looked after their funds, but this proved to be unsatisfactory so that, later, collections were made at 'Box Meetings'. There are references to 'The Box' in the Saddleworth Union's accounts. In the eighteenth century the idea of the Friendly Society was widespread, and in 1793 the Friendly Societies Act gave legal status and protection for their funds. The division between these Societies, which were legal, and Combinations, which were not, was often ill-defined. A Friendly Society was sometimes used as a cover for the activities of a combination of workers.

By the end of the eighteenth century, the success of some of the Combinations had provoked the hostility of Parliament. Many were illegal, and as the House of Commons was becoming increasingly filled with the manufacturer-M.P's, Parliament was conscious of the employers'

interests. It was also concerned for domestic public order after 1780, because of the revolutions abroad. It felt that Combinations could stir up unrest and could provide a cover for rebellious conspiracies. At the very end of the century, Parliament was particularly worried by the activities of an Association of Weavers which was active in Lancashire. The then Home Secretary believed that such associations "contained within themselves the means of being converted at any time into a most dangerous instrument to disturb public tranquility". (1) The result was that in 1799 a law was passed which forbade Combinations and which, although amended in 1800, remained in force until its repeal in 1824. The new law provided for summary trial with a maximum sentence of three months' imprisonment or two months' hard labour. The seven years' transportation of the Tolpuddle Martyrs was imposed under the jurisdiction of the 1797 Act against unlawful oaths. The 1800 Act also forbade combinations of employers and provided for arbitration in disputes.

In the first quarter of the nineteenth century there was fresh concern over public order because of the distress of the post-war period. In 1819 Peterloo was followed by legislation restricting public meetings and demonstrations, and several years had to elapse before the Government was sufficiently satisfied to relax some of the restrictions. In 1824, the Combination Law repealed all statutes concerning combinations from the time of Edward I, and declared that mere combination should not be grounds for prosecution. Summary jurisdiction was authorised for personal violence, damage to property, and threats or intimidation which might be used to impose the rules of a combination. Now it was practicable for combinations to exist openly and legally, and so was formed the basis of the modern Trades Union.

On this model of an organisation which had only been legal for three years, the first Saddleworth Union was established.

- (1) Pelling H. "The History of British Trade Unionism".
Pelican, 1963, p.25.

To be continued.

A.C. Chadderton.

ERRATUM

On Page 10 of Bulletin Vol.2 No.1, "there being no pail for milk" should read "there being no call for milk".

SADDLEWORTH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES

Part 6: 1905

- Jan. Five Smallpox Cases from Saddleworth in Oldham Isolation Hospital cost ratepayers £61, including hospital charges, cabs for transport, food for isolated families, and Inspectors' expenses.
- Severe Gale. Furniture van blown over on Isle of Skye road. The horses were unharnessed as they could not draw the van forward in the gale. It had the brake applied and the wheels wedged with stones before being left, but afterwards it was found overturned, 13 feet from the road.
- Gale at Standedge. Roof of Belle Vue farm blown off. Bill boards at Wool Road and Greenfield dashed to pieces.
- Feb. Two Boys drowned at Delph when they fell through the ice on Rasping Mill dam. Comment about the lack of public baths where children could be taught to swim.
- Tramways Scheme to lay rails from Springhead to Mossley to be sanctioned by Saddleworth, provided that the Company paid all the costs that had been and would be incurred.
- Vandalism at Cottage at Bleak Hey Nook by group of young men. Fined at Uppermill Court.
- Mar. Uppermill Wesleyan Day School to be handed over to County by Managers.
- Registration of Midwives Act. Comment on slackness of midwives in registering.
- Erection of Fire Escape at Workhouse.
- Public Presentation of Royal Humane Society's Certificates to P.C. Mellor and Mr. A. Settle for their efforts in the Delph ice fatalities.
- Water Supply. Report by Medical Officer that water from Greenfield Reservoir had peaty matter in suspension and was acid, having a powerful action in dissolving lead in pipes. Necessity for filtering and neutralising apparatus.
- Apr. Insufficient Water Supply at Workhouse. Pumped supply inadequate. Agreement to obtain water from Messrs. Brooke's estate in return for right to shoot over Workhouse land.
- Earthquake Tremors felt at Delph.
- June. Saddleworth's Infectious Cases: Oldham Corporation agreed to take Saddleworth's cases, with the exception of typhoid, at two guineas a week; Saddleworth to provide transport.
- Cycle Parade raised £26 for Saddleworth Ambulance Association.
- Fire on Standedge Moors raged for a week, killing many birds.
- Aug. Oldham and Saddleworth Tramways Bill gained Royal assent.
- Oldham Waterworks Committee asked to supply water to districts not covered by Ashton Waterworks Committee.
- Ashway Gap Estate bought by Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Waterworks Committee for £12,000. Decision to make Chew Reservoir.
- Sept. Three Boys Birched and Fined for putting stones on railway at Dobcross.
- Rushcart made at Uppermill.

- Nov. Jubilee Celebrations at Delph Mechanics' and Literary Institute. Tea and reunion.
Dec. Sunday Trading. Shopkeepers told by police that this was illegal.
Oldham and Saddleworth Tramways Scheme abandoned after negotiations lasting three years.

Compiled by Mrs. H. Wood.

Part 7: 1907 will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

"SOCIETY SCRAPBOOK"

This section of the Bulletin is to record items of general interest, discoveries, sources of reference, etc., which, although of no direct connection to any project being undertaken by the Society at the present time, may be relevant in the future. The section may provide the only record of the item or incident for posterity, and could prevent them from being completely forgotten.

Saddleworth Sales, etc. advertised in the Manchester Mercury.

26th October, 1784. To be sold by auction.

At the Place and Time hereinafter mentioned. The Fee-Simple and Inheritance of, and in certain of the Estates of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Sams, late of Wardleworth, within the Parish of Rochdale, in the county of Lancashire, Spinster, deceased.

At the House of Mr. William Bell, at the Sign of the Bell, at Delph, in Saddleworth, in the County of York on Friday the 26th Day of November, the Sale to begin precisely at 2 o'clock in the Afternoon.

Lot 1st. Consisting of all that Shippon or Edifice, called the PARK-COAT, and all those several Closes or parcels of Land or Ground, commonly called or known by the several Names of the Park Meadow, the Boot Meadow, the Deep Clough, the Ridding, the Lower One Furrow, the One Furrow Top, containing by Admeasurement 9 Acres 3 Roods and 33 Perches of Land, of Statute Measure or thereabouts, be the same more or less, being part of a Tenement called WOODMANS, situated in Saddleworth, and near to Delph aforesaid, and now in the several possessions of the said William Bell, and of Matthew Bentley, and Thomas Rhodes, as Under-tenants to Charles Scanlon.

Lot 2nd. Consisting of all that new erected Messuage or Dwelling-House, called WOODMANS aforesaid (lately converted into and now occupied as two Dwellings), and the Shippon thereto adjoining; also an ancient Cottage, or other Edifice standing near thereto, and the several Closes or Parcels of Land, commonly called or known by the several Names of the Limed, the Croft, the Bank, the Woodman's Meadow, and the Little One Furrow, containing by Admeasurement 9 Acres 3 Roods and 12 Perches of Land, of Statute Measure or thereabouts, be the same

more or less, and now in the several Possessions of the said Matthew Bentley and Thomas Rhodes as Under-tenants to the said Charles Scanlon.

The respective tenants will shew the Premises, (which are very capable of great Improvements) and further particulars may be had by applying to Mr. James Holland, of Rochdale aforesaid, Mr. James Lees, of Knothill, in Saddleworth, or to Mr. John Hamer, Attorney at Law, in Rochdale.

19th April, 1791. Notice is hereby given.

That there is intended to be FAIRS held at MOSLEY, in Parish of Ashton-under-Line, and County of Lancaster, for the Benefit and Convenience of the said Neighbourhood, and Parts adjacent, for buying and selling Horned Cattle, Horses, Swine, and other Wares and Merchandize, on the following Days, namely 28th April, November the 20th (which happening this year on a Sunday, will be held the next Day before) and March the 22nd.

N.B. As an Encouragement to the said Establishment there will be a Reward of half a Guinea given to that Person who shall shew the finest Calving Cow, and 7s. 6d. for the finest barren Cow, at the first Fair as above-mentioned.

Mosley, 18th April, 1791.

11th February, 1794. Farms to be Let.

The Land to be Entered on immediately, and the Houses, and Out-buildings on the 12th May next.

Lot 1st. A Messuage and Tenement, situate at GROTTEN HEAD, in Saddleworth, in the West Riding of the County of York, together with $32\frac{1}{2}$ statute Acres of arable, meadow, and pasture land, now in the possession of Richard Dronsfield, as tenant thereof.

Lot 2nd. A Messuage and Tenement called LOADHILL PLATTING, situate in Saddleworth aforesaid, together with $15\frac{3}{4}$ statute Acres of arable, meadow and pasture land, now or late in the possession of John Whitaker, as tenant thereof.

Lot 3rd. A Messuage and Tenement called THORNLEE situate in Saddleworth aforesaid, together with $11\frac{1}{2}$ statute Acres of arable, meadow and pasture land, now in the possession of John Shaw, as tenant thereof.

Lot 4th. A Messuage or Tenement, called PIT BANK, situate in Oldham, in the county of Lancaster, together with about $21\frac{1}{2}$ Acres of arable, meadow and pasture, now in the possession of Joseph Hilton, as tenant thereof.

N.B. The above Tenements are situated in a populous country, upon good turnpike roads, and are very desirable situations for clothiers.

The respective tenants will shew the premises, and further particulars may be had by applying to Hugh Shaw, the Elder, of Grottenhead.

Saddleworth Reporter, 30th June, 1888.

Interesting Laddering Scene at Greenfield.

A lively scene took place at Road-End, Greenfield, on Monday night, when a somewhat youthful benedict had to go through what is known as the "laddering ceremonies". It seems that "Grim" had been caressing his wife with too heavy a hand, and the neighbours, determined to administer to him a salutary caution, a ladder, "stout and strong", was brought forth, and the offending husband was caught by surprise, and tied upon it. The ladder was then hoisted on the shoulders of several stalwart Greenfielders, and a parade was made through the neighbourhood. There was an immense crowd, and "Grim" had to endure the taunts and jeers of the whole company. A halt was made by the "brook" at Road-End, and the hero of the event, had to undergo certain ablutions in the pure liquid stream that ripples merrily along at that place. "Grim" took the sousing like a martyr, but vowed he would be revenged himself on his persecutors. The high priest of the party went through the "ceremony" with great dignity, and the crowd were hushed and uncovered whilst the warning words were read out. Said the presiding official, "We do this not for our benefit, but thine, O "Grim", in order that thou mayst forsake thy combative ways, and cease to disturb the peace of thy neighbours. We thus chastise, tan, and baptise thee, in the hope that thou wilt forsake thy wayward course, and become a wiser and better man". After this admonition, "Grim" was liberated, and to relieve his hardened mind, he went and broke several windows. He afterwards left the neighbourhood, and it is reported that he has gone away on a pilgrimage to a far country, where he can meditate at a respectful distance upon the sad doings of the Greenfield natives.

B. Barnes.

THE BUCKLEY FAMILY OF SADDLEWORTH.

Early records are necessarily incomplete, but the family originated in Rochdale, and there are records of Buckleys in that area in the twelfth century and from 1332 to the late sixteenth century, when the name of Francis first appeared. Subsequent records are inconclusive, but the frequent recurrence of the names of Francis, Philip, Nathaniel and James make it most likely that a William Buckley - whose forbears came from Rochdale, but who lived in Derby and inherited half of the Manor of Quick in 1585 - is the connecting link between the first mentioned Buckleys and the late Captain Francis Buckley of Tunstead. Captain Buckley was a Barrister-at-Law, and a well-known archaeologist.

The Manor of Quick included both Grotton and Grasscroft at the time of William Buckley's inheritance. From 1585 the Buckley family proliferated in Grasscroft as yeomen cloth makers. By inheritance and purchase they came to own much of the land in the area, and a number of wills contain bequests of houses, furniture and land. For example, Philip Buckley, who died in 1699, left one third of his houses and land to his wife for life, and "the great table in the great house" (Manor House) to his son Henry. John Buckley inherited Tunstead from an uncle (Francis Whewall) under a will of 1658. He conveyed it to his son James in 1691, but bequeathed his Grasscroft property to his son John. This John left to his wife for life "the little house at the top of the fould, to live there". His other houses and his land were left to his daughter Mary, with the proviso that his table and couch-chair were to stand in the house as heirlooms until she was twenty-one.

Many of the Buckleys had numerous children. For example, James, born at Tunstead in 1721, had one son and eight daughters - three of whom, born in 1760, 1761 and 1775, were christened Alice. The Tunstead branch of the family prospered greatly. One daughter married Sir James Watt, of Abney in Cheadle, and her daughter married a cousin, Nathaniel Buckley. Another daughter married Charles E. Lees of Oldham and became the well-known Dame Sarah Lees.

Gilbert, a relative of William referred to above, settled in Grotton about the year 1600. His descendants prospered, but one, named John, although a wealthy woollen manufacturer, failed to install steam-powered machinery when this was introduced, and became bankrupt. His son, Edmund, left school and started as a mill hand at 7/- a week. He later joined a firm of canal carriers between Manchester and Huddersfield, branched out in various directions, and became a millionaire. He renovated the old family house - Grotton Hall - and his son, another Edmund, became a baronet, though the title expired in the next generation.

The original family home of the Buckleys, Buckley Hall, Rochdale, is now a Borstal, though a part of it was demolished in the last century for the purpose of building another Buckley Hall in the grounds of the Watts family at Cheadle.

Several descendants joined the armed forces, including Geoffrey de Buckley, who fought at the Battle of Evesham, 1265, and who has a memorial window in Worcester Cathedral; Lt. Col. Buckley,

who fought for the Parliamentarians at the Siege of Lathom House during the Civil War; Nathaniel Buckley, who commanded the ship "Phoenix" in 1744; Col. Buckley, who raised a regiment in 1745; Brigadier William Percy Buckley, D.S.O., Belgian Croix de Guerre, D.L., who died in 1968; and the late Lt. J.C. Buckley of Tunstead and his brother Lt. A.G.B. Buckley who was awarded the Military Cross for mine clearance on D-Day, 6th June, 1944.

H. Jagger.

DELPH MECHANICS' AND LITERARY INSTITUTE

1855 - 1954

Part 5: The Final Chapter

The final chapter in the story of the Delph Mechanics' Institute can be told with reasonable accuracy by reference to the minute book for 1950 to 1954. The minutes of the Institute for this period are extremely brief and deal mainly with accounts, lettings, loan of equipment, repairs, etc. In 1950 the upper hall was still being used as a roller skating rink, and in 1951 someone hired the hall at a weekly rent of £6 to show films on two evenings per week.

As a result of a class in Dramatic Art which was held at the Institute under the direction of J.R. Gregson, the playwright, a dramatic society known as the Saddleworth Players was formed. This society rehearsed and gave performances in the lower hall, and in 1950 paid a rent of £26 per annum for the privilege. Thus the building was used wholly as a community centre for recreation, acting, on different occasions as a theatre, as a skating rink, and as a cinema.

With very high expenditure on maintenance and very little revenue, the committee had a difficult task to make ends meet. The bill for fuel in 1950 was £66; and in five months of the winter of 1952/3 the coke bill was £154! In the face of these costs it is no wonder that the committee was looking for some other organisation to accept the responsibility of maintaining the building.

In January 1952 four new members were elected to serve on the committee. They were all members of the Saddleworth Players, and one assumes that the Players had already recognised the possibility of having the building as their theatre. After much discussion about the terms of the Players' tenancy in 1952 it was decided to charge 15/- per week.

1953 was the year of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, and a promising suggestion was made by the Coronation Committee of Delph to take over the Institute and to use it as a Village Hall or a Community Centre. The trustees of the Institute were told by the Committee that they were prepared to hand over the building to the

Coronation Committee for use as a village hall. When the Trustees and the Committee met the Coronation Committee there was a conflict of opinion and intentions, and the latter decided to let the matter "lie on the table".

In December 1952 the Treasurer resigned. The rising fuel costs had left a balance of only £30. Letting to the Saddleworth Council for ration book distribution, to the Weights and Measures Department, to the Gas and Electricity Boards, to the Welfare Services and Churches were no longer sufficient to allow the Institute to remain independent. At the Annual General Meeting in January 1953 it was resolved that the Officials and the Committee should continue for a further three months.

In February 1953 a letter was sent to the Saddleworth Players telling them that the Institute would have to close, and asking for suggestions to be given at a joint meeting to be held in the following week. At this meeting it was agreed that the Players should take over the Institute when the legal position was clarified. Under the Chairmanship of Mr. G. Howard, the Trustees passed a resolution:-

"That the necessary notice be published in the Oldham Chronicle calling for an extraordinary meeting of the members to sanction or otherwise the suggested transfer of the Institute to the Saddleworth Players".

The Committee was very anxious that the whole business of transfer should conform to the rules of the Institute. Twelve members signed a notice convening an extraordinary meeting to be held on 11th May, 1953. At this meeting the following proposition was put to the members:-

"That the members of the Delph Mechanics' and Literary Institute attending this meeting do agree to the said Institution being handed over to the Saddleworth Players".

Twelve voted in favour with one abstention.

In November 1953, G. Wrigley and the Chairman of the Saddleworth Players, Mr. Alec Holland, went to the Oldham County Court where Mr. Batt, the Presiding Judge, ratified the transfer. It was made with one condition, and this was that the Saddleworth Players should continue to provide newspapers in the reading room for the present members of the Institute.

The Little Theatre, as the building is now called, has had many alterations since that date in 1953. The theatre, which seats about two hundred people, is in the lower hall, and there is now an attractive foyer and lounge. The Players produce four or five plays each year, each being presented for five evenings.

The West Riding County Library has a branch on the ground floor, and this provides a useful income helping the Players to maintain the building. The upper hall, which was the skating rink and dance floor, is derelict, with relics of the past strewn over

the stage together with some of the theatre's props. Lack of funds for the maintenance of the upper half of the building has resulted in so much decay that the building is becoming unsafe. The Players are to move across the road to renovated premises in the Co-operative Society's building, and the old Mechanics' Institute is to be demolished before the end of 1972 to make way for a car park for Delph village.

Conclusion

The lifetime of the Institute was just one hundred years: starting in 1853 and ending in 1953. The building was the centre of its activities for seventy years. Although it may be said that the Institute deviated from its course and became merely a social and recreational centre, there is no doubt that there was tremendous value in its existence and in its independent efforts to meet the needs of the community. There was value too, in the work of the members of the organising committees. They were men who worked sincerely for the youth of Delph, doing their utmost to ensure that they had every opportunity to study after leaving school. They worked hard and long to see that the people of the village had an Institution which could be an enriching influence in their lives, and by their efforts they were themselves enriched.

J.G. Parry.

THE IRAD G. HEWKIN COLLECTION

This is owned by Saddleworth Urban District Council and is in the care of Saddleworth Central Library, High Street, Uppermill.

As stated in the First Number of the Bulletin, details of the collection are being published under its various sectional headings. A list of the books in the Literary section is therefore given below.

- L 1 The Mysteries of Saddleworth by A. Harcourt Burrage.
- L 2 Q.6.A, and other places: recollections of the Great War, by Francis Buckley, 1920.
- L 3 Tales of Cartford by Rev. Leeming Hartley of Prune Hill, Greenfield.
- L 4 Tales of a Pennine People by A.J. Howcroft, 1923.
- L 5 Webs from Fancy's Loom by David Lawton, 1918. (He was known as "Th'Owd Weighvur, Saddleworth").
- L 6 Very Ordinary Seaman by J.P.W. Mallalieu, 1943-4.
- L 7 Passed to You, Please by J.P.W. Mallalieu, 1942.
- L 8 Second copy of the above.
- L 9 Miscellaneous Writings of James Platt of Prospecton, Saddleworth, 1865.
- L 10 The Itinerant by S.W. Ryley, 1808 (he was in Saddleworth for a time). Vol. 1.
- L 11 Vol. 2 of the above.
- L 12 Vol. 3 of the above.
- L 13 Fanny Fitz-York, Heiress of Tremorne by Ann Ryley (wife of the above). Vol. 1.
- L 14 Vol. 2 of the above.
- L 15 Vol. 3 of the above.
- L 16 Lancashire Lustre by T. Thompson, 1939. (Frontispiece is of old houses in "The Hollow, Dobcross").
- L 17 Hills and Heather, a small booklet of Stalybridge and Saddleworth.
- L 18 Bygone Marsden, Whitehead, 1942.
- L 19 Slaithwaite Notes, Sugden, 1905.
- L 20 West Riding Sketches by James Burnley ("Saunterer"), 1875.
- L 21 Odds and Ends, selections from a magazine, 1876 (includes Bill's o' Jack's murder).
- L 22 Literary Reminiscences and Gleanings, Procter, 1860.
Chapter on Ryley the Itinerant who died in 1837.
- L 23 Household Words edited by Charles Dickens, V.8, 1854: contains notes on Great Saddleworth Exhibition of September, 1853, P.111.
- L 24 Proceedings of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, 1949-50. (Includes Herbert Ramsden Memorial Lecture).
- L 25 Manchester Quarterly, 1929, containing "Ammon Wrigley and the Moorland Folk".
- L 26 Papers of the Manchester Literary Club, 1929, V.55, also contains notes on Ammon Wrigley.
- L 27 Manchester Magazine, 1815 (containing letter by "Jone o' Grenfild" and also Wellington's despatch from Waterloo, June 1815).
- L 28 MSS minutes of Saddleworth Literary Society, 1873.
- L 29 Transactions of the Saddleworth Literary and Philosophical

- Society, 1911-12.
- L 30 "Jone o' Grenfild" and "Oldham Rushbearing" pamphlet by Charles E. Higson, 1926.
 - L 31 The Hunting Wars of Saddleworth, anon.
 - L 32 Miscellaneous Works, Tim Bobbin, 1818.
 - L 33 Poetical Works of Tim Bobbin (booklet), also prose and glossary of Lancashire dialect.
 - L 34 Greenfield - A Poem, Bottomley.
 - L 35 Second copy of the above.
 - L 36 Third copy of the above.
 - L 37 Miscellaneous Poems, W. Broadbent, 1841.
 - L 38 Memorial Verses, J. Burges, 1875.
 - L 39 Collins' "Wild Floweret", 1875.
 - L 40 Poems and Songs, Samuel Collins, 1859.
 - L 41 Ballads and Songs of Lancashire, Harland & Wilkinson, 1882.
 - L 42 Warty Rhymes for Warty Foaks, Th' Owd Weighvur (David Lawton), 1894.
 - L 43 The Rustic Wreath, poems by Lister (including "Greenfield Hills"), 1834.
 - L 44 Poems, James Pickup, about 1871.
 - L 45 Poems, Thomas Shaw, apiarian, 1824 (native of Saddleworth).
 - L 46 Second copy of the above.
 - L 47 Miscellaneous Poems, B. Stanley (including "Greenfield Hills"), 1864.
 - L 48 Second copy of the above.
 - L 49 MSS booklet, Bards of Britain, Edwin Thornton.
 - L 50 Life of Henry Atherton (born at Delph), Charles Shaw.
 - L 51 Morgan Brierley: A Memoir, Helen Brierley (his sister).
 - L 52 Nine Fortunes, an autobiography, 1872.
 - L 53 John Shaw's 1738-1938 (Manchester Club), F.S. Stancliffe.
 - L 54 The Surtees Society, 1875: Yorkshire Diaries (Saddleworth references).
 - L 55 Great Yorkshiremen, G.C. Heseltine, 1932. Mentions Blind Jack Metcalfe.
- George Shaw's diary, 1830 (MSS))
George Shaw's diary, 1833-4 (MSS)) See Librarian.

SOCIETY ARCHIVES

The following documents, etc. have recently been added to the archives of the Historical Society:

- Assignment of lease: from Executors of Edmund Buckley of Stonebreaks to John Robinson of Woodbrook, 18th July, 1781.
 - Buckley, Francis, "A Microlithic Industry: Marsden, Yorkshire", London, undated. Pamphlet, 15 pages.
 - "Biography of a Saddleworth Worthy: the Late Mr. John Byrom". Photostat copy of typewritten MS. Undated.
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OLD SADDLEWORTH

This is part of the work being carried out on a Gazetteer of Saddleworth by the Historical Society. As more of this work is completed, details will be published in future editions of the Bulletin. The information given below has been extracted from Record Cards which are held by the Society, and which are available for reference.

BOWKHOUSE

Grid Reference: SD 977109

Location: Off Ripponden Road, north east of Denshaw (1000 feet above sea level.

Description: Two storey, two window stone cottage with old flag roof, built 1784 by Robert Gartside. Later additions and alterations. Mullion windows, some chamfered; former weaving room at first floor level now has several lights filled in. Adjoining to the east is altered shippon and farmhouse.

History: 1725 James Gartside, clothier, of Bowk House buried. (Registers).
1729 Samuel Platt, clothier, referred to in Registers.
1732 Samuel Stott, clothier, lived here (Registers).
1735 Edmund Buckley, clothier, referred to in the Registers. (And 1737).
1755 Mary, daughter of John Scholefield, clothier, and Mary his wife, of Bowk-house, christened. In the same year Martha, wife of Josiah Buckley of Bowk-house, clothier, buried. (Registers).
1756 Mary, wife of Abram Milnes, clothier, Bowkhouse, buried. (Registers).
1759 John Mills or Milnes of Bowk-house, clothier, married Alice Wrigley of Old Thame. In the same year Abraham Milnes, clothier, of Bowkhouse, buried (Registers).
1760 Thomas, son of John Winterbottom, clothier, and Mary his wife, of Bowk-house, buried. (Registers).
1766 Matty, daughter of John Gartside, clothier, and Alice his wife, of Boukehouse, christened. In the same year their daughter, Mary, was buried. (Registers).
1784 Robert Gartside built cottage.
1787 Henry Whitehead of Bouckhouse married Mary Kershaw of Heyhouse.
1789 Betty, daughter of Thomas and Jane Whitehead of Boukhouse, clothier, buried. In the same year, Mary, wife of Robert Gartside of Bouckhouse, clothier, buried. (Registers).
1798 Joshua Radcliffe of Bowkhouse was one of the five Overseers of the Parish. (Howcroft).
1812 Joshua Radcliffe of Bowkhouse was a member of the Committee reporting into the building of a new Workhouse at Runninghill. (Howcroft).
1818 Robert Gartside of Bowkhouse died aged 86. (Registers).
1821 Joshua Radcliffe of Bowkhouse died aged 61. He was a clothier (Registers).
1837 The West Riding Poll Book lists Joshua Radcliffe of Bowkhouse.

- 1848 Joshua Radcliffe still lived here (West Riding Poll List).
 1875 & 1880 William Buckley, farmer, mentioned in Worrall's Directories.

DOCTOR HOUSE (Meerstone Height)

Grid Reference: SD 972062

Location: On Doctor Lane, just below Doctor Lane Head, near Scouthead.

Description: Stone-built farmhouse with outbuildings, with old flag roofs and flat mullioned windows, some of which have been filled in. Present structure largely late eighteenth century. Radcliffe records datestone:

W
K I 1721

- History: 1639 This estate when forming part of the inheritance of Henry Legh of High Legh, Esquire, was described as "34 acres of land or waste ground as yet not enclosed being part of the common or moor called Quick Moor, as the same is now marked or meered out, and commonly known as Meerstone Height". (C.E. Higson, "An Old Saddleworth Document"). Its present name was acquired from a later owner and occupier, Rev. George Byrom, D.D., Rector of Thornton in Cheshire (see below).
 1639 Dr. George Byrom bought the area of moorland called Quick Moor, or High Moor, for £218, and reclaimed about 1000 acres of it for the cultivation of oats and hay. During the Civil War he was an ardent Royalist, and in 1643 was taken to Nantwich by Sir William Brereton and imprisoned. Contrary to custom, his Saddleworth estates were not sequestered, and on his release he retired to his house at Meerstone Height. He devised unusual names for parts of his property, such as Jericho, Shiloh, Nebo, Limbo, Moscow, Blunder Ho, and Mount Pisgah, some of which are still in existence as farms to-day.
 1656 Dr. George Byrom died and relatives disposed of his estates, which were sold for £617-9-0 to Robert Benison of Quick and --- Robertson of Shelderslow. Benison moved into Doctor House.
 1679 The house was sold to Enoch Andrew of Quickwood who died the following year. He willed his freehold farm at Doctor House to his sons John and Ottiwell, though the latter never returned from abroad to assert his claim. Soon after 1680, John Andrew disposed of the farm to the Executors of Henry Dickanson of Manchester, gentleman. (C.E. Higson, op cit).
 1690 12th March, John Andrew again entered possession of Doctor House, having taken it on lease for 1000 years, a clause in the lease specifying that £5 be paid annually to the charity Dickanson had established for the poor of Manchester. This clause is still operative at the present day.
 1696 The lease was sold to Thomas Wrigley for £66.
 1718 Thomas Wrigley of Docktorhouse died (Registers). The estate was left in three parts to his sons.
 1723 James Andrew, clothier, lived here (Registers).

- 1726 Elias Wrigley of Doctor House married Mary Scholefield of Shelderslow (Registers).
 1746 John Wrigley of Doctor House, wheel maker, married Anne Dronsfield of Poundstone, widow. (Registers).
 1807 Joseph Wrigley of Doctorhouse was a Warden of Saddleworth Church (Howcroft).
 1822 According to Baines' Directory, George Collins, grocer, flour dealer and stone merchant lived at Doctor's Houses.
 1825 George Collins of Doctor House, stone merchant, listed in Baines' Directory.
 1838 George Collinge, stone dealer, listed in Pigot's Directory under High Moor.
 1848 John Lees lived at Doctor House (Poll Book).
 1852 Slater's Directory lists Garforth Collinge, stone mason, of Doctor House.
 1880 Ben Collins, farmer, Doctor House Farm (Worrall).
 1889 Saddleworth Reporter (1st June) records sale of Doctor House Farm: 5 closes (4 meadow, 1 pasture) area 11 acres 1 rood 17 perches, plus two yearly chief rents of £1/3/- and 10/- arising out of premises at Doctor House and created by 2 indentures of lease dated 5.3.1783 and 6.4.1777 for two terms of 800 and 796 years respectively. The premises are leasehold for the residue of a term of 1000 years, created by indenture of lease dated 12.3.1690, and rent £1/13/4. The farm was sold for £530.

WHARMTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Grid Reference: SD 986063

Location: Mount Lane, Tamewater, on the Dobcross side of Wharmton.

Description: Converted into five stone cottages, with following datestone:

Wharmton School
 Founded by Ralph Hawkyard
 1729
 Converted into cottages by
 Henry Scholes
 1888

- History: 1729 Ralph Hawkyard bequeathed £200 for building a Grammar School at Wharmton and for maintaining a master to teach English and Classics. (Hartley Bateson).
 1825 Lawrence Fox, Warmton Academy, listed in Baines' Directory.
 1829 School had declined and was closed. Later it opened and closed intermittently.
 1838 Ebenezer Wells, Warmton Academy, listed in Pigot's Directory.
 1854 School was repaired. £500 left to school by William Whitehead.
 1867 36 boys were attending, but only nine were learning Latin.
 1875 Worrall's Directory lists Wharmton Grammar School (and boarding): George Kirkland, headmaster.
 1883 School closed.
 1886 Scheme submitted to the Committee of Council on Education by the Charity Commission, entitled "In the Matter of the

- Foundation known as the Wharmton School in the parochial chapelry of Saddleworth in the county of York; In the Matter of the Endowment attached to the above-named School under the Will of William Whitehead: and In the Matter of the Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts". (Copy in Saddleworth Museum Archives). This scheme laid down regulations for the administration of the Hawkyard and Whitehead Foundations. A Governing Body was to be elected, consisting of (a) four members elected by the vestry of Saddleworth; (b) one by the School Attendance Committee for the Saddleworth Union; (c) one by the Governors of the Grammar School at Manchester; (d) and three "Cooptative Governors, viz. George Newton Wrigley of Fernhill, Greenfield, Manufacturer; Buckley Bent of Dobcross, Cotton Spinner; and Owen Platt of Prospecton, Esquire.
- 1888 Saddleworth Reporter for 11th January records that the old Wharmton Grammar School was being sold by auction. It was bought by Mr. C.F. Roberts of Linfitts, Delph.
- 1894 Wharmton Grammar School, now five dwelling houses, sold for £505 to Mr. Henry Wood of Uppermill. (Saddleworth Reporter, 26th May).

WOODMANS

Grid Reference: SD 981077

- Location: Northern slopes of Knott Hill, Delph, above Grains Road.
- Description: Ancient cottage, with house erected around 1780. Now demolished.
- History:
- 1723 Sarah, daughter of James Rhodes, clothier, and Mary his wife, of Woodmans, christened. This is the first reference in the Registers.
- 1725 James, son of James Rhodes, clothier, and Ann his wife, of Woodmans, buried. In the same year Ann also died. (Registers).
- 1727 Joseph, son of James Scholefield, clothier, and Mary his wife of Woodmans, christened. In the same year their son John was buried. In 1728 they had a daughter, Mary. (Registers).
- 1737 Ann, daughter of Abraham Kay, clothier, and Ann his wife, of Woodmans, christened. She died at the age of 5. Abraham Kay and his wife had 5 other children: Abraham, born in 1735; Mary, born in 1737 - she died the same year; Jane born in 1739; John born 1742; and Hannah, born 1748. (Registers).
- 1746 Mary, daughter of Joseph Wrigley, clothier, and Sarah his wife, of Woodmans, christened.
- 1747 William Marsland of Woodmans, clothier, married Sarah Whitaker of Stonebreaks. (Registers).
- 1784 Property advertised for sale in Manchester Mercury: tenants Matthew Bentley and Thomas Rhodes. (See page 22 of this Bulletin).
- 1848 James Shaw lived here (West Riding Poll Book).
- 1887 Woodmans Farm, Delph auctioned (Saddleworth Reporter, 23rd July). Belonged to Mr. Charles Shaw of London (who also owned Hull Mill and Old Tame Mill). There were 10 acres of land; rent £18. It was withdrawn from the sale at £385.

1909 Saddleworth Reporter, 13th March: Woodmans Farmhouse, cottage, outbuildings and land for sale. Bought by J. Lees for £250. The fields were known by the names of the Limed, the Croft, the Bank, the Woodmans Meadow, and the Little One Furrow, and contained 9 acres 3 roods and 12 perches.

GREEN ASH (see Page 16 of Vol.2, Number 1 of the Bulletin)

Additional Information:

1888 Saddleworth Reporter, 1st September: "New branch store at Green Ash, belonging to the Junction Co-operative Society opened last Saturday, and on Wednesday business was begun in real earnest. This building is very nearly fitted up, the whole of the wood work having been done by Messrs. Mann Bros. of Newhey. This new place will prove a great convenience to members in the Slackcote district".

1907 Saddleworth Reporter, 27th July: "Green Ash Co-op Store has done reasonably well since its commencement, the turnover at the end of the last quarter being £95, especially when the membership of only about 70 is taken into consideration.

The Society would welcome any further information on the houses and hamlets mentioned here, and on any other property of possible interest in Saddleworth. The Gazetteer will also encompass turnpike roads, canals, railways, bridges, mills, etc. Information can be given to any member of the Society, or sent to the Editor of the Bulletin:-

Mr. B. Barnes,
7, Elsted Road,
Greenfield, Nr. Oldham.

Back copies of the Bulletin can also be obtained by writing to the above address. Enquiries about membership of the Society should be sent to:-

Mrs. B. Booth,
Secretary of the Historical Society,
"Ceann",
Friezland Lane,
Greenfield, Nr. Oldham.
