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Historical
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BULLETIN
OF
THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 2 Number 3
Autumn 1972

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ROCHER MOSS SOUTH

Report on a recently excavated Mesolithic flint site
in Saddleworth.

The site lies just within the Saddleworth boundary at a height of 1325 feet O.D. on the moors between Saddleworth and Marsden, and on the gentle slope of a small spur which runs southwards from Rocher Moss (Map Reference SE.02850865).

The underlying rock is Kinderscout Grit and contains many quartz pebbles. The slope is from north to south, and the depth of the overlying peat cover varies from one or two inches in the south to four feet in the north of the site.

The site was recognised in 1967, denudation having revealed a number of surface flints, and excavation started that year. Since that date, 44 square yards have been excavated and 584 flints found (Table I). No trace of any structure has been revealed, but a scatter of charcoal near a six feet long arc of heaped stones suggested the possibility of these having been a hearth (Fig. I).

Flint Material

The material was mainly white flint, some of it badly patinated, but good quality grey/brown flint and a curious bluish flint which contained white spots (here called "speckled" flint) were also present. In addition there were a few pieces of grey and black chert. Seven pieces of flint were firecracked, including one microlith.

Table I

White flint	400 pieces
Grey/brown flint	133 "
"Speckled" flint	43 "
Grey chert	5 "
Black chert	3 "

The distribution of the white flints and that of the grey/brown and "speckled" flints appeared to be somewhat different, and is shown in Fig. 2. Most of the grey/brown and "speckled" pieces were found in the north-west of the site, whilst the white pieces were more to the east.

Flint Industry

The presence of many small spalls of scatter indicates that this was indeed a flint knapping site, a conclusion confirmed by the finding of a residual core (Fig. 3 - 40) and core trimming flakes (Fig. 3 - 41, 42).

Table II

Rod microliths	27	Total flakes and spalls	539
Crescents	3	Cores (residual)	1
Points	1	Core trimming flakes	3
Obliquely blunted point	1		543
Unrecognised types	4		
Unfinished microlith	1		
Blades with secondary working	2		
Flakes with secondary working	2		
	41		

Microliths

Thirty six microliths were found, of which twenty seven appeared to be "rods" with very steeply backed sides. One of these (Fig. 3 - 14) had a somewhat unusual squared end.

Many of these rods were broken, and many of them retained their bulbs of percussion, indicating that the microburin technique of manufacture cannot have been the only method used on the site. Indeed, it was noticeable that no microburins were found, but one flint (Fig. 3 - 36) which is notched down its left side, appears to represent a failed attempt to make a microlith by the microburin technique.

The remaining microliths included three well-made "crescents" (Fig. 3 - 33, 34, 35), one point (Fig. 3 - 24), and four microliths of unrecognised types. There appeared to be one obliquely blunted point (Fig. 3 - 7) made of brown flint.

The majority of the microliths were made of good quality grey/brown flint, but white and "speckled" flint were also used.

Two blades and two flakes with secondary working were found (Fig. 3 - 37, 38, 39), together with a number of utilised blades and flakes. No gravers or scrapers were present.

Summary

The position of the site on a south-facing spur some distance from the highest point is fairly typical of many Mesolithic sites in the Central Pennines.

The microliths, mainly "rods", appear to belong to the "narrow blade" industry as described by Francis Buckley.

The possibility that more than one industry was present on the site may be worth consideration. Such an idea would be supported by the rather wide scatter of flints and would provide an explanation for the different distribution of white flints as against grey/brown and "speckled" flints. Moreover, some of the blades, mainly of brown flint, seem rather large for the "narrow blade" industry. However, the absence of any implements typical of any other industry, apart from one doubtful obliquely blunted point, seem to make the suggestion unlikely.

W.P.B. Stonehouse.

The author would like to thank Mr. John Hallam for his advice in planning the excavation, and Miss Pauline Beswick of Sheffield Museum for her help in identifying the implements.

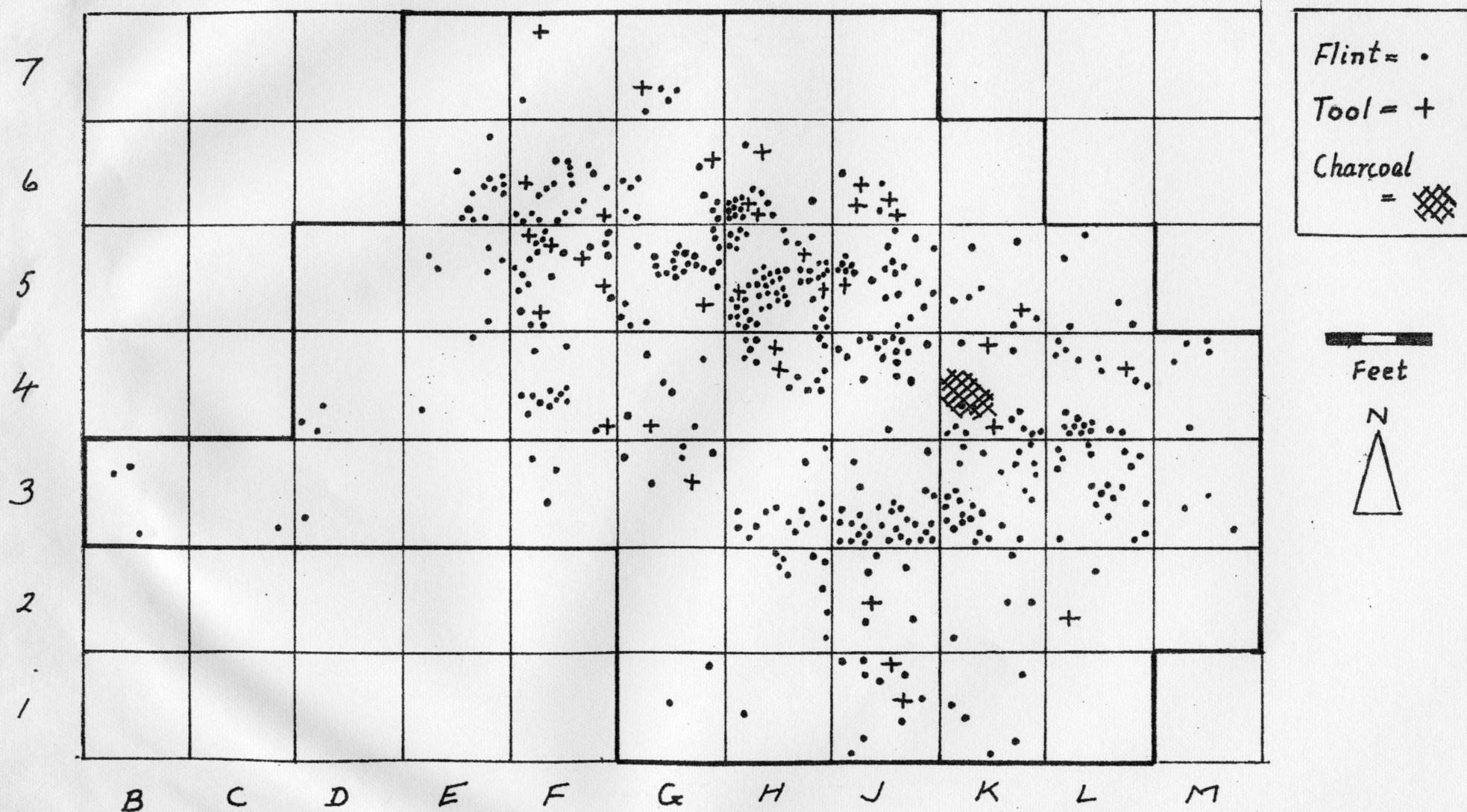
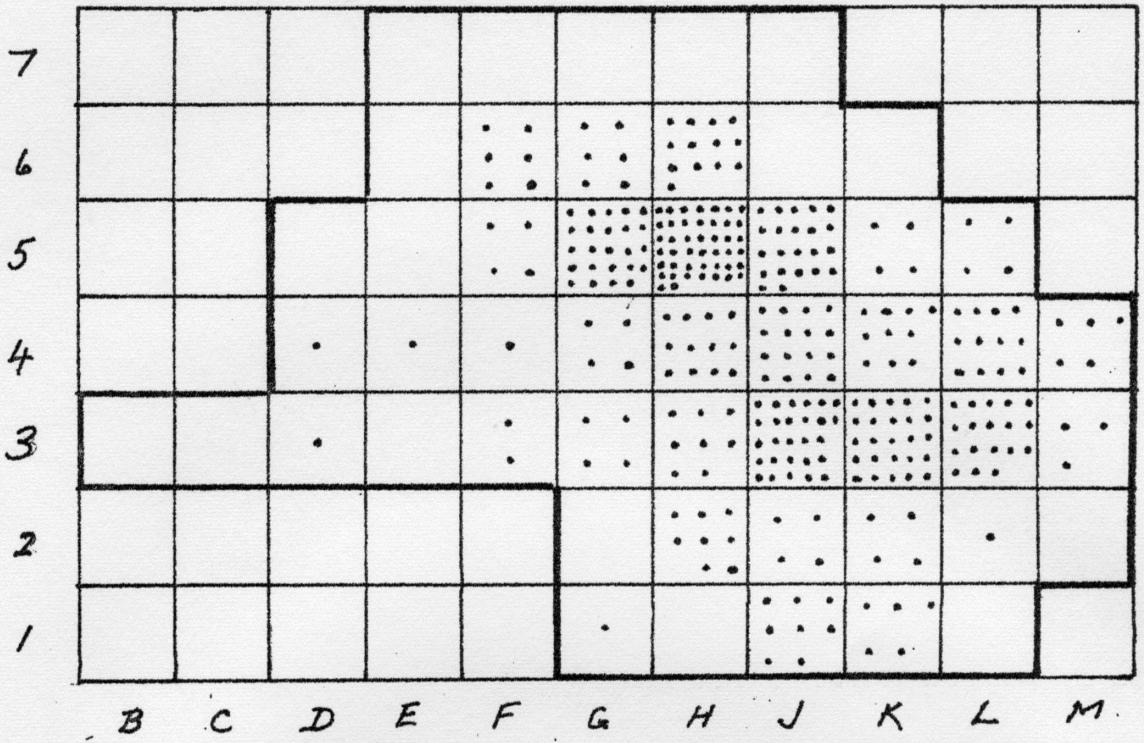
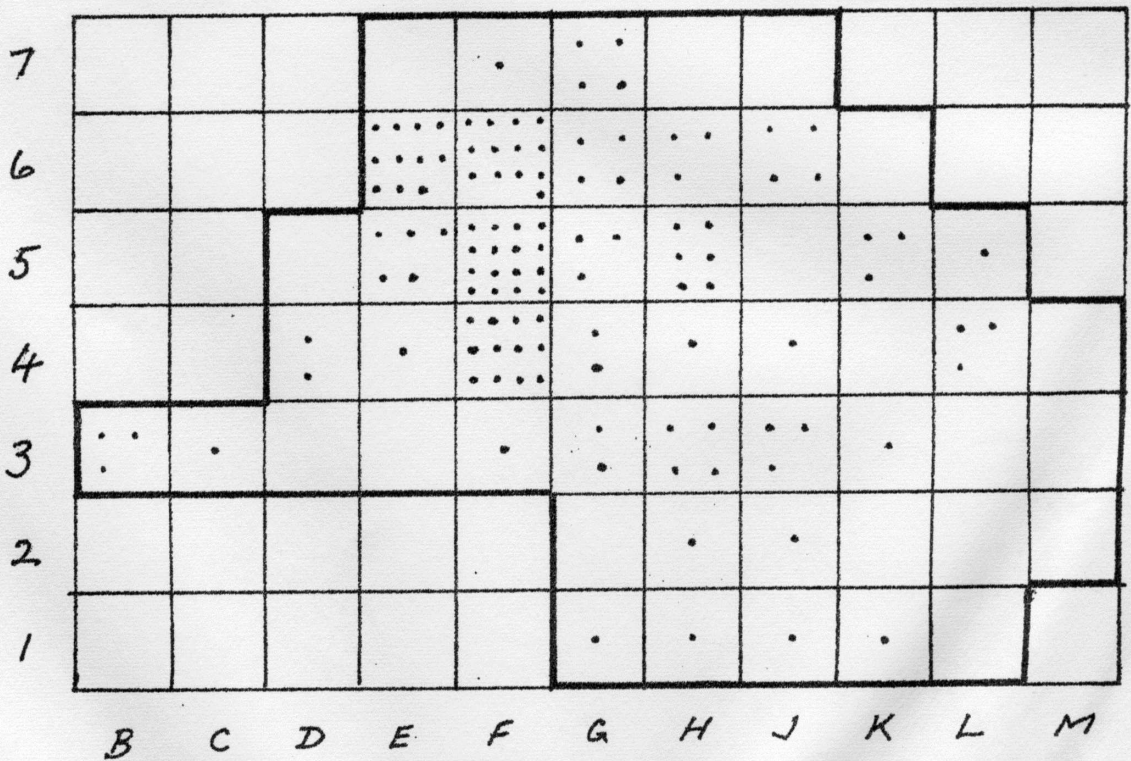


Fig 1. Rocher Moss South - Plan, showing distribution of flints and tools.



Distribution of white flints - microliths excluded.



Distribution of grey/brown and "speckled" flints - microliths excluded.

Fig 2.

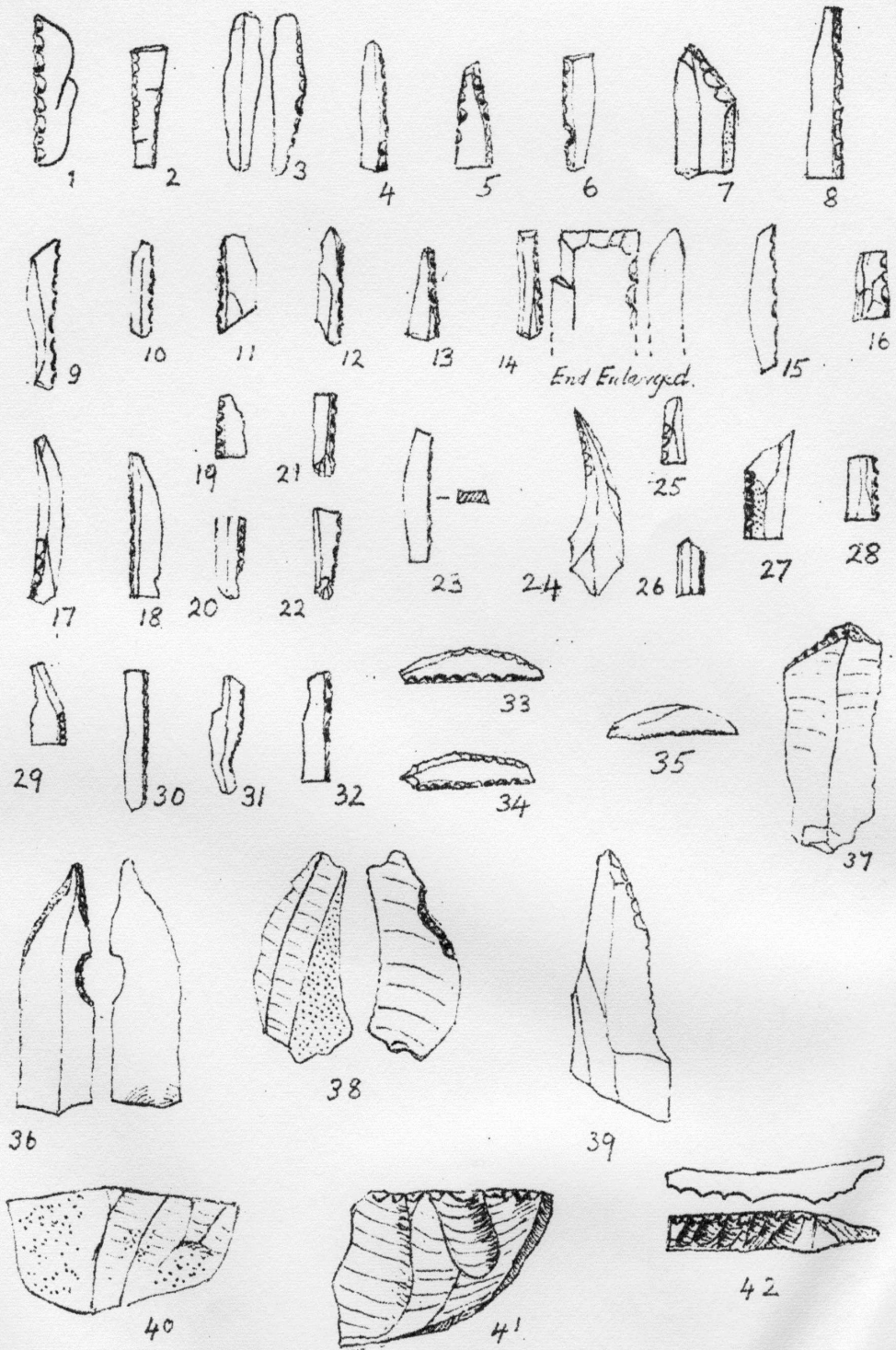


Fig 3. Flint material from Rocher Moss South.

"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.

Indenture of Apprenticeship: 1674

This indenture made the first day of March Anno Domini 1674 and in the six and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the Second by the Grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Witnesseth that John Shaw of Boarshurst within Saddleworth in the County of York as well of his own free voluntary will, as likewise by, and with, the consent of his uncle John Shaw of Lower House in Boarshurst aforesaid, hath put himself apprentice with Joseph Scolefield of Saddleworth aforesaid, in the said County of York, cloth worker after the manner of apprentice with him to serve. Immediately from the day of the date of these presents unto the full end and term of seven years thence next ensuing and fairly to be completed and ended. By all which said terms the said John Shaw apprentice to the said Joseph Scolefield his said master well and faithfully shall serve. His secrets he shall keep and counsel his commands lawful and honest everywhere he shall obey. Hurt unto his said Master he shall not do, nor consent to be done to the value of twelve pence by the year or above but the same to his person shall hinder or immediately admonish his Master thereof. Taverns nor alehouses of infamy he shall not frequent except it be about his Masters business there to be done. At the cards or dice or any other unlawful game or games, he shall not play whereby his Master may incur any hurt. The goods of his said Master inordinately he shall not waste nor them to any one lend without his Masters consent. Fornication he shall not commit. Matrimony within the said term he shall not contract, nor from his said Masters service by day or by night he shall not absent or prolong himself, but as a true and faithful servant ought, he shall behave himself as well in words as in deeds during the said term. And the said Joseph Scolefield for and in consideration of the before mentioned service doth hereby covenant in the craft, trade, science or occupation of a cloth maker after the best manner he can, to teach, instruct and inform or cause to be informed, instructed and taught, the said John Shaw his apprentice as much as to the said craft belongeth, or in anywise appertayneth as dyeing of wool, mixing of colours, warping, looming, and weaving of cloth and in due measure to chastise him, and to pay unto his said servant or apprentice the sum of four pence upon every first day of the Nativity of our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ yearly during the before mentioned term of seven years being his wages.

IN WITNESS whereof the parties before mentioned have unto these present indentures interchangeably set their hands and the day and year first above written

Sealed and Delivered
in the presence of

Nathan Tompson
John Whitehead

John Shaw
His Mark.

Saddleworth Sales advertised in the Manchester Mercury

2nd Dec., 1783. To be sold by Auction

Together, or in Lots, as most agreeable to Purchasors. On Wednesday, the 17th Day of December 1783 at the Bull's Head Inn, in Mossley, in the County of Lancaster, between the Hours of three and six o'clock in the Afternoon

All those fourteen Messuages, Tenements, or Dwelling-Houses, with the Appurtenances, situate in ROUGHTOWN within the Parish of Saddleworth, in the County of York, and one Close of Piece of Land near adjoining to the said Messuages, called the Scotchman's Croft, containing by Estimation about 2 Acres, all which Premises are Freehold of Inheritance, and in very good Repair, and are now let at several yearly Rents, amounting together to £38-15-0, and are in the several Tenures of James Nield, James Robinson, James Scholefield, William Broadbent, Jarvis Lawton, James Buckley, Robert Buckley, Benjamin Lilly, John Whittaker, John Newton, John Halkyard, James Kinder, and John Wrigley.

Mr. William Kenworthy, Dyer, at Quick Wood, within Saddleworth aforesaid, will shew the Premises

22nd Mar., 1785. To be sold by Auction

At the House of Mr. Bell, the Sign of the Blue Bell, at Delph, in Saddleworth, in the county of York, on Thursday the 31st Day of March Inst. betwixt the Hours of 2 and 4 in the Afternoon of the same day

The Fee Simple and Inheritance of and in all that Messuage or Dwelling House, with the Barn, Stable, Shippon, Outhousing, and about 10 Acres (large Measure) be the same more or less, of Arable, Meadow, and Pasture Land therunto belonging, commonly called the MARLED EARTH NOOK, situate, lying and being near Castle Shaw, in Saddleworth aforesaid, now in the possession of John Broadbent, as tenant at will.

There is a very fine Stream of Water runs through the Premises, with sufficient Fall for a Cotton Mill, Scribbling Engine or any other sort of machinery.

The Premises are subject to an Annuity of £10 a Year during the life of a Widow Lady, Aged upwards of 50, and will be sold subject thereto.

The Tenant John Broadbent, will shew the Premises

9th Jan., 1787. To be Sold by Auction

At the House of James Buckley, the Sign of the Bull's Head, in Mossley, near Ashton-under-lyne, in the County of Lancaster, on Thursday the 18th Day of January 1787, exactly at 3 o'clock in the Afternoon

The Inheritance in Fee Simple, of and in all Two Messuages or Dwelling Houses, with the Warehouse, Outbuildings and 6 Acres 3 Quarters 30 Perches of Land, and other Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate, lying and being at LANE, within Quick in Saddleworth, in the County of York, now in the Tenure or Occupation of Benjamin Holden, the Owner.

B. Barnes.

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 General section is therefore given below

- G 1 Antique Fonts, by George Shaw.
 - G 2 Churches, by George Shaw.
 - G 3 Ardwick Cemetery 1906, printed by William Lees.
 - G 4 Doorheads in Saddleworth, collected by John Radcliffe.
 - G 5 Commissioner's Award Enclosure, Saddleworth, 1840,
 Hesselgrave.
 - G 6 A second copy of the above.
 - G 7 Pedigree of Piers Bradbury's family.
 - G 8 Delph Funeral Society 1842.
 - G 9 The Health of Saddleworth 1936, by Ernest A. Ramsden.
 - G 10 The First Fifty Years (History of Saddleworth
 Secondary Modern School 1911-61).
 - G 11 News-sheet, "Flying Post", Feb. 28 - Mar. 1, 1715-16.
 - G 12 Catalogue of the Library of G. Hirst of Ladcastle
 1887.
 - G 13 Catalogue of the Library of Henry Entwistle of
 Foxholes, 1791.
 - G 14 Manchester and Saddleworth Geological Map, 1863, on
 Ordnance Survey of 1843.
 - G 15 Newspaper Cuttings, collected by I.G. Hewkin.
 - G 16 Rambles in Old England, Vol. I, by R. Dobson
 (Frontispiece Saddleworth Church in 1829;
 lot of local material, e.g. Pots & Pans,
 Bill's o' Jack's etc.).
 - G 17 An Old Saddleworth Document, by Charles E. Higson,
 1916.
 - G 18 John Radcliffe collection of indices of Saddleworth
 wills registered at Somerset House
 1649-60 (Commonwealth Period); also
 contains copies of Saddleworth Church
 Registers in MSS.
 - G 19 Index from Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society
 1892 re Turnpike Roads in Lancashire and
 Cheshire. Saddleworth references.
 - G 20 Act of Parliament re Turnpike Road Manchester to
 Austerlands, 1806.
 - G 21 Country Notes 1882 (contains items on natural history
 by Morgan Brierley).
 - G 22 Memorials of Bygone Manchester, by Procter, 1880
 (reference to Ryley the Itinerant).
-

THE ATTEMPTS TO FORM A WOOLLEN WEAVERS' UNION IN
SADDLEWORTH - 1827 and 1894

Part 2: The Early Union.

The only indication that a union might have existed before the formation of the Saddleworth Weavers' and Spinners' Union on 11th August, 1827, is a brief mention in their Account Book of a man attending a quarterly meeting at Dewsbury three years earlier. The succeeding pages had been torn out of the book, presumably to make it useable for the newly formed Union, and this account for 1824 was all that remained:

Incidental Expenses

10th August	Brt fwd	£2	4	2
	Letter to Dewsbury			8
	Expenses to Dewsbury		15	0
		£2	19	0
25th September				
	To a man going to a			
	quarterly meeting at			
	Dewsbury		15	0
7th October	New Book		7	0
18th October	To Book	£1	4	0
		£2	6	5

The first we hear of the objectives and activities of the newly formed Union as they appeared to the Masters, is in a letter dated 1828 from the Saddleworth Clothiers' Society, the employers' association, to John Hardy, a lawyer, a copy of which is in the Clothiers' Society Minute Book.

" CASE

In the extensive Manufacturing district of Saddleworth, on the western borders of Yorkshire, an immense number of Persons have formed into a Society or Union, and designating themselves by the name of "Saddleworth Weavers' and Spinners' Union". It has been in existence for upwards of 12 months, and is principally composed not only of such workmen but of all Shopkeepers, Publicans and others whom they can induce to belong to them or contribute to their common Fund. The main objects are, to control the rate of Wages, to prevent Workmen hiring to, or working for, any of the Merchants and Manufacturers whom the Union deem obnoxious and who may not submit to pay their Workmen what the Union shall fix upon and consider ample. The ultimate and avowed object of the Union is to support all such of its Members and their Families as may be turned away by the Masters. They hold secret Lodges weekly, at almost every Public House in the Parish, and have a Secretary and other Officers and a Committee; and they collect weekly sums from each Member in aid of their Common Fund, which fund is to be applied for any purpose which the Society may direct. On the admission of each Member an oath is administered to him, being blindfold, and he is made

to support the Society, to keep its Proceedings secret, and to obey its orders, under some horrid penalty. Such of its rules as they choose to make known are printed and distributed, but they are not allowed by any Magistrates or inrolled as the Law requires in Friendly Societies.

In the month of September last, this Union considering itself quite formidable by an increase of its numbers, and with a large Fund to the amount of nearly £1,000 at its disposal, for any purpose it might direct, prevailed upon the Clergyman of the Parish Church to preach a Sermon to the Members on Monday the 29th of September last; and they assembled accordingly that Morning at the different Lodges, and headed by Music they marched together in Military Order to the Parish Church to the number of about 1,500.

On the following morning, Mr. James Bottomley, of Greenfield, who is a large Manufacturer and Mill Owner, remonstrated with a number of his Workmen (who had left his Mill, and their Employment therein, the day before, without his consent and much to his injury and loss), for having marched in that Procession; and because the Workmen declared their intention to stick by the Union, and obey its Orders, he instantly discharged about a dozen of them; and the consequence was that the rest of his Workmen, about 30 in number, immediately struck and refused to work any longer for him, unless the whole were allowed to resume their work. They all finally left their Work and next Morning Printed Handbills were stuck up and circulated in the neighbourhood cautioning all Raisers and Gig Men not to engage to work for Mr. Bottomley in the place of his Men who had so struck. "

One of the handbills which had been signed by George Rhodes, the Weavers' Union Secretary, was sent with the letter which continues:

" and which from its (the handbill) threatening and intimidating nature has been the cause of much serious inconvenience, injury and loss to Mr. Bottomley, whose Workmen as well as other Workmen in their place have thereby been deterred and obstructed, and obstructed or forced or endeavoured to be forced, from hiring to, or from accepting Work or Employment from Mr. Bottomley in direct opposition to the Act of the 6th Geo. 4.c. 129 s.3. the 7th and 8th sections of which give the remedy. "

The letter then enquired whether Rhodes could be prosecuted under the aforementioned Act, or any other Act, since Mr. Bottomley has sustained injury in consequence of his men having left their work and other being deterred from seeking his employment. The Masters also enquired if Criminal Proceedings could be sustained against Rhodes, as Secretary, or against any other Union Committeeman or Member. Apparently the above Act gave the remedy to Mr. Bottomley against those of his workmen who took part in the procession, but the Masters were anxious to learn whether action could be taken against Rhodes or any Officer of the Union for a conspiracy ("which was doubtless the Case upon that occasion").

Any hope of indicting George Rhodes or other members of the Union Committee, which the Master Clothiers might have entertained, was dashed by Hardy's reply. He could find no reason to take criminal proceedings against Rhodes for the activities outlined in the letter.

The Master Clothiers then resolved not to employ Union members, but "the Men sooner than renounce the Union have given up their employment and nearly the whole of the Manufacture of the Place is in a complete State of Stagnation". The Master Clothiers then asked Adolphus for advice on what would be "the proper and most effectual steps to get rid of this combination which it is presumed is most illegal".

Adolphus, in his reply dated 6th December 1828 agreed that "the Combination here described is certainly of a very dangerous description, but I see no way of proceeding against the members, unless the taking or administering of oaths not authorised or required by law can be proved What sort of ill-usage has been committed is not explained but if it does not amount to an assault, it will not be indictable".

The other side of the picture is given in a letter to the Manchester Guardian of 6th December 1828, from "A Leeds Patriot" who stated: "The Union still continues firm, although the wants of the workmen press them more severely each week that they remain out of employment. One scheme they have fixed upon is to collect subscriptions to enable them to form an establishment for the manufacture of woollen cloth for sale. This resolution was formed at a meeting held in Wool Road some time since and canvassers for subscriptions are now in active operation. The masters, on their part, endeavour to protect themselves, and seem determined to continue the suspension of their works until the Union be compelled to yield, from an exhaustion of its funds. It is almost unnecessary to observe that the trade of Saddleworth is at a stand and that much distress is experienced. It is one of those districts, we are informed, in which the system of paying wages in goods instead of money has prevailed to some extent, notwithstanding the legislative enactment against such conduct. It is difficult to recount the evils ensuing from this mode of payment. If profits are low, it must tend to keep them so, for every workman so paid becomes a competitor in the market with his employer, until a general ruin overtakes both. If the Saddleworth Union has been formed to check this abominable and grinding system, its success will diffuse general satisfaction".

The same paper also carried an account of the case brought by James Whitehead, of Oak View, against his workmen for belonging to the Union and for leaving his employment improperly. "Mr. Edward Foulkes, Jun., of Manchester was specially brought over on account of the workmen, it was supposed also on account of the Union, and he succeeded in quashing most of the summonses through informalities in drawing them up, deficiency of evidence, or showing the trivial and unimportant nature of the cases themselves". The Manchester Guardian was right in supposing that the Union had engaged Foulkes. In their accounts for 16th November to 13th January 1829, the entry "Foulkes - Attorney £6-6-0 and £15-0-0" appears.

A.C. Chadderton.

To be continued.

SADDLEWORTH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES

Part 7: 1906

- Jan. Fire at Grimshaw's Dyeworks, High St., Uppermill.
Considerable damage.
- Feb. Report on Fire Hoses and Couplings to be sent to mill
owners. Statement that there were no less
than seven different sizes in operation in
Saddleworth.
- Mar. Saddleworth Labour Party. Meeting held in Assembly
Rooms, Wool Road. Decision to hold meetings
during summer months.
Report of improvement in water supply. Statement that
water for 1904 had contained lead-dissolving
properties, and had been supplied from upper
reservoir at Bill's o' Jack's.
Controversy about Education Act of 1902. Some passive
resistance to payment of Education Rate.
- Apl. Lych Gate at Delph Independent Chapel formally opened.
Fatality at Denshaw. Man killed by explosion of
acetylene street lamp. Difficulty of getting
gas supply.
- May 1300 Entries at Delph Show. A record number. Affected
by snow, sleet and cold: loss estimated at
£60. Appeal for funds to defray loss.
- Jul. Jubilee Celebrations of Greenfield Co-operative Society.
Castleshaw. Report that Archaeological Society members
were to begin excavations at Roman Fort.
- Aug. Uproar at Delph caused by Irishmen celebrating end of
hay harvest.
- Sep. Successful Agricultural Show held in field near Church
Road, Uppermill.
- Oct. Eagle Mill, Delph, destroyed by fire. Relief fund
opened for workpeople.
- Nov. National Telephone Co. to bring telephone service to
Saddleworth.
Proposed Fire Service for Saddleworth. Abortive
meeting. Left to manufacturers to make own
arrangements.
- Dec. Suggestion for Saddleworth Agricultural Show combining
with Delph and having shows annually in
different parts of the district - angrily
depudiated at Delph.
Greenfield Wesleyan Day School offered to County at rent
of £70 a year inclusive of heating, lighting
and repairs. To be called Greenfield
Provided School.
Outbreaks of diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles and
influenza in spite of improved sewage schemes.
Paupers. Report that one fifth of men and women over
60 years of age were paupers. Suggestion
that old age pensions should be provided by
the state.

Compiled by Mrs. H. Wood.

Part 8: 1907, will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

THE ROMAN FORTS AT CASTLESHAW

The Forts lie on a narrow tongue of land in the shadow of Standedge (Grid Ref. SD.999096), one mile inside the Saddleworth boundary. They were built in a commanding position alongside the road from Manchester to York. There is evidence in the form of pottery and stone that the site was in use during the early Bronze Age, another example of Roman re-occupation of an earlier settlement.

The large earlier fort covers approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres and was built by Agricola in AD 79-80. It was a sister fort to Slack at Outlane, but little evidence has so far come to light regarding its layout. The rampart was of turf surmounted by a timber palisade. The four gateways, one on each side, would have been of timber, and, from the evidence of post-holes, were probably double. From the lack of stone found, it must be assumed that the internal buildings were of timber, following a similar arrangement to that at Slack. Recent excavations have in fact brought to light traces of a timber barrack-block, a timber-built granary in the north-west quarter, and a water tank hewn out of the solid rock.

After approximately 10 years, the fort was deserted - a change associated with the advance into Scotland. In the year AD 104 the Romans returned to Castleshaw and built the smaller fort which utilises a section of the south-east rampart of the earlier fort as its own south-east rampart. These were again built of turf, but this time were constructed on a rubble foundation drained by small culverts and bounded by stone kerbs. The ramparts were complete with timber palisades but only two gateways were made, in the north-west and south-east ramparts respectively. There is post-hole evidence to suggest that the gates were single timber structures without guard chambers, but probably with a rampart walk above them. At each corner of the fort were found the remains of rough stone towers, possibly for artillery. Running through the fort between the gates was a well-made street paved with irregular stones which were carefully fitted together. In the south-east corner were found the bottom eight courses of a Bee-hive oven, and adjacent to the street, on its eastern side, a stone building with a hypocaust was discovered. No other stone buildings have been found, but an abundance of post-holes suggests that the other buildings were of timber construction. A well or pit in the south-west corner yielded a number of interesting objects, including items of timber, stone, leather, a leaden lamp, and coins. Near the hypocaust building was found part of a tile with the stamp COH IIII BRE. It had been made at the Grimsar tile-kiln, as were the tiles found at Slack.

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Tolson Memorial Museum Publications, Huddersfield, 1925. |

K. Booth.

THE KENWORTHY BEQUEST LECTURE
1972

The 1972 W.E.A. Kenworthy Bequest Lecture will be a joint function with the Saddleworth Historical Society. It will take place on Friday, 20th October, when Mr. F.H. Thompson, Assistant Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries of London will make a special visit to Saddleworth to speak on the Castleshaw Roman Forts.

Mr. Thompson directed the last "digs" at Castleshaw between 1957 and 1964 and his reports are as yet unpublished.

The Lecture will be held in the Secondary School, Uppermill, to commence at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Thompson will also lecture at a one-day school at Saddleworth F.E. Centre on Saturday, 21st October, 1972. Details from Mr. J.G. Parry, F.E. Centre, Secondary School, Uppermill.

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.

FAIRBANKS

Grid Reference: SE.008075

Location: Near Ward Lane, Diggle, on the hillside below Running Hill Pits.

Description: 17th century with alterations and additions. Three storey, three window, stone farmhouse with wings to the east. Old flag roof. Stonework has dressed angles. Cove, chamfered, mullion windows. 17th century stone shippon to the south includes barn, and has old flag roof, massive lintels to doorways, arched waggon entrance, now partly filled in. Ammon Wrigley noted datestone inside barn:

TB IB 1689

Radcliffe recorded datestone over barn door:

TB 1792

History: 1720 John Brebury of Fairbanks buried (Registers).
1723 John Bradbury, clothier, of Fairbanks married Patience Mallaloe of Running-hill-head.
1724 James Bradbury of Fairbanks mentioned in the Registers. He died in 1737.
1747 James Broadbent, clothier, lived here (Registers).
1750 John Byrom, clothier, of Fairbanks mentioned in the Registers (and 1757).
1753 Zachariah Whitehead of Fairbanks, clothier, mentioned in the Registers.
1759 Thomas Bradbury, clothier, married Sarah Platt, both of Fairbanks in January. In April James, their son, was christened (Registers). They had seven more children: Thomas, born 1760; John, born 1762, died March 1766; Sarah, born 1764, died March 1766; Ann, born 1765, died 1772; Sarah, born 1768, died 1778; John, born 1769, died 1792; and Mary, born 1771. Sarah Bradbury, their mother, was buried in 1785 (Registers).
1763 George Platt of Fairbanks, clothier, married Ann Wrigley of Shelderslow (Registers).
1764 Thomas Platt of Fairbanks, clothier, married Mary Broadbent of Green. In 1766 their daughter Sarah was born, but died soon afterwards. In 1774 they had another daughter, Sarah, and in 1777 a second daughter, Ann (Registers).
1767 Reference to Benjamin Brierley, carpenter, in the Registers (and 1770), and to Phineas Bottomley, clothier.
1771 John Broadbent, clothier, Luke Leese, clothier, and John Wrigley, clothier, all of Fairbanks, mentioned in the Registers.
1772 William Bradbury lived here (Registers).

- 1777 The tenant of Fairbanks was Thomas Bradbury (Shaw Hall Estate List, Saddleworth Museum). The area of the farm was 18 acres 1 rood 11 perches, and the rent £13-13-0.
- 1778 James Turner of Fairbanks referred to in the Registers.
- 1779 Reference to Thomas Wrigley in the Registers. In the same year Mary, wife of James Schofield, clothier, of Fairbanks was buried.
- 1780 Mary, daughter of James Schofield and Margaret his wife, of Fairbanks, christened.
- 1781 James Bradbury, clothier, of Fairbanks married Sarah Bradbury of Running-hill. In 1786 their son John was born; in 1789, James; in 1792, Randle (died aged 10 months); in 1793, Charles; in 1795 Sarah; in 1797, Randle; and in 1799, Ralph. (Registers).
- 1784 Joseph Schofield, clothier, of Fairbanks, married Matty Bradbury of Running-hill (Registers).
- 1787 Thomas Bradbury of Fairbanks married Anna Wood of Harrop Green. They had four daughters, Sarah born in 1789, Mary born in 1790, Lea born in 1792, and Ann born in 1794, and two sons, Dan born in 1796 and Levi born in 1798.
- 1792 Thomas Bradbury rebuilt shippon (Datestone).
- 1793 Joseph Bottomley of Fairbanks killed by a horse (Registers).
- 1810 Saddleworth Enclosure Records (Museum) include the following entry under Fairbanks:
 Owners: Exors of Thomas Bradbury; Occupier James Bradbury; area 18 acres 1 rood 11 perches.
- 1814 James Bradbury, woollen manufacturer, lived here (Wardle & Bentham's Directory).
- 1822 Baines Directory mentions James Bradbury, senior, woollen manufacturer, of Fairbanks.
- 1832 James Bradbury lived at Fairbanks (Poll List).
- 1838 Pigot's Directory includes James Bradbury, woollen manufacturer, and Thomas Bradbury, cheese factor.
- 1848 The West Riding Poll Book lists Thomas Bradbury, senior and junior, of Fairbanks.
- 1849 Thomas Bradbury senior died in his 68th year. (Registers).
- 1851 The Census includes the following under Fairbanks:
 Thomas Bradbury with a family of 5 (3 males, 2 females): he was a farmer of 90 acres and his three sons were farm labourers.
 James Horsfall with a family of 5 (2 males, 3 females): he was a labourer, and two others of the family were employed, one as a woollen power loom weaver and one as a woollen carder.
 One house was unoccupied.
- 1853 White's Directory lists Thomas Bradbury as a cattle dealer. In the same year he was nominated for election to the First Board of Guardians of the Poor for the township of Saddleworth, but was not elected.
- 1871 The Census lists three families living at Fairbanks:
 Ann Wrigley with one male and one female (2 being employed as woollen weavers).

Betty Wrigley with four males and three females (2 being employed as stone cutters, 2 as paper makers, and 2 as paper finishers). Three of the men living in this household were boarders. Thomas Bradbury with four males and seven females (he was a farmer of 80 acres with one servant).

HOLDEN SMITHY (or Holden's Smithy) Grid Reference: SD.999074

Location: Top of Spurn Lane, Diggle, just below Standedge Road.

Description: Eighteenth century with alterations, including raised roof. A long, stone building, two storeys high, divided into 2/3 cottages with the oldest part being "The Smithy" at the eastern end having stonework in graduated courses. Old flagged roof. Upper floor has 12-light, deep-set, chamfered mullion windows facing south; on the Spurn Lane side is a filled-in doorway at the same level. The western end of the building has later, flat-mullion windows.

History:

1727 Esther, daughter of Robert Parkinson and Mary his wife of Holden's christened (Registers).
1732 Reference in the Registers to James, son of Nathaniel Holden, blacksmith of Dobcross.
1739 Joseph, son of Joseph Lees, clothier, and Mary his wife of Holden's christened (Registers).
1740 Daniel, son of John Holden, clothier, and Alice his wife of Holden's christened. In the same year John, son of James Holden, clothier, and Mary his wife of Holden's, and Mary, daughter of John Kenworthy, clothier, and Anna his wife of Holden's were also christened (Registers).
1742 James and Mary Holden had another son, James. In the same year John Holden, clothier, married Sarah Kenworthy of Sunfield. In 1750 James their son was christened (Registers).
1748 John Whitehead of Holden's, clothier, married Esther Parkinson. In 1749 their daughter Betty died, aged only three days.
1750 Mary, daughter of Zechariah Whitehead, clothier, and Mary his wife of Holden's christened. She died in 1751, and in the same year their son Zechariah was born. In 1750 Old Abigail Holden of Holden's, widow, was buried (Registers).
1752 Midgley Wright, blacksmith, sojourner in Saddleworth, married Esther Whitehead of Holden's. In 1755 their daughter Betty was christened (Registers).
1756 Joseph, son of John Kenworthy and Mary his wife of Holden's christened (Registers).
1758 Mary, wife of Robert Parkinson, buried. Robert Parkinson, clothier, of Holden's was buried in 1761.
1761 Paul Holden, clothier, of Holden's referred to in the Registers.
1762 Mary, daughter of James and Mary Holden of Holden-smithy, christened (Registers).

- 1768 Mary, daughter of John Holden, clothier, and Mary his wife of Holden's christened. They had another daughter, Sarah, in 1770; a son, Thomas, in 1774; a daughter, Ruth, in 1776; and a daughter, Betty, in 1778, who died only a few days old. In 1784 their son Ben was christened, and in 1787 their sons Nathan and Dan were buried (Registers).
- 1773 James, son of Paul Holden, clothier, and Mary his wife of Holden Smithy christened. In 1781 they had a daughter, Alice (Registers).
- 1787 Mary, wife of James Holden of Holden Smithy, buried (Registers).
- 1810 The owners of part of the Holden Smithy lands were Mrs. Worthington and the Canal Company, and the occupant was James Holden, having 9 acres 1 rood 24 perches. The rest was owned and occupied by the representatives of John Holden (9 acres 3 roods 22 perches). (Saddleworth Enclosure Records: Museum Archives).
- 1837 According to the West Riding Poll List, Henry Winterbottom and R. Whitehead lived here.
- 1838 & 1841 Pigot's Directory lists Abraham, John and William Marsden, stone masons, and Radcliffe Whitehead, joiner, under Holden Smithy.
- 1851 The Census includes the following under Holden Smithy:
 William Bradbury, labourer, his wife and daughter;
 James Whitehead, joiner and carpenter, his wife, three sons and one daughter; and
 Radcliffe Whitehead, joiner and carpenter, his wife and daughter.
- 1852 Whellan's Directory lists Abraham Marsden, stone mason, of Holden Smithy.
- 1871 According to the Census, six families lived at Holden Smithy:
 Samuel Hall, agricultural labourer, with two males and two females (one of whom was a bookkeeper at the iron works);
 John Broadbent, flannel finisher, with one male and six females (two of whom were shawl twisters);
 Jeremiah Wilkinson and his wife, both of whom were woollen weavers;
 John Schofield, woollen weaver, with four males and five females (three of whom were iron workers, one a woollen finisher, and one a woollen knotter);
 John Lowe, woollen warper, and his wife who was a woollen weaver; and
 David Shaw, iron worker, and his wife who was a shawl twister.

MARLED EARTH NOOK

Grid Reference: SD.996096

- Location: Cote Lane/Dirty Lane, Castleshaw.
- Description: Derelict stone building used as a barn.
- History:
- 1759 John Broadbent of Marled Earth Nook married Betty Buckley of Castleshaw. In 1765 their daughter, Betty, was christened and at the age of 18 she married John Whitehead of Denshaw. In 1787 John, the son of John and Betty Whitehead of Marled Earth Nook was buried, and later in the same year their son William was christened.
- 1760 Jane Broadbent, widow, of Marled Earth Nook was buried (Registers).
- 1775 John Broadbent was Warden of Saddleworth Church for Marled-earth Nook (Registers).
- 1785 Marled Earth Nook was advertised to be let by auction in the Manchester Mercury (for details see Page 42 of this Bulletin). John Broadbent was tenant at will.
- 1812 Abraham Gartside of Marled Earth Nook was a Warden of Saddleworth Church (Registers).
- 1814 Wardle & Bentham's Directory lists Abraham Gartside as a woollen manufacturer.
- 1824 & 1828 Pigot's Directory lists the following under Marled Earth Nook:
Frederick Barnes, woollen manufacturer and merchant; and
Abraham Gartside, woollen manufacturer.
- 1831 Abraham Gartside of Marleearth Nook died aged 84 (Registers).
- 1851 The Census lists the following:
B. Stott, with one male and two females, farmer of 15 acres; and
Frederick Barnes, woollen manufacturer.
- 1871 Two families were listed in the Census:
Abram Gartside, with five males and three females, farmer of 15 acres and woollen manufacturer, and two servants; and
Frederick Barnes and his wife, both woollen hand-loom weavers.

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, Oldham OL3 7LL.

Back copies of the Bulletin can also be obtained from 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, Oldham.