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BULLETIN
OF
THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 2 Number 4
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THE ESTATES OF THE HIRST FAMILY OF DOBCROSS

Three prominent monuments of pink marble in Saddleworth Churchyard honour three members of the Hirst family of Dobcross: two of them commemorate Ben and Joshua Hirst; the third, which has carvings representing the different processes in the woollen industry around it, belongs to John Hirst, J.P. The Hirst family were extensive landowners in Dobcross and were woollen manufacturers who occupied Bankfield Mill up to the end of the last century. The family had three residences: Ladcastle, Tamewater House and Woods House.

After selling Bankfield Mill to Messrs. Sykes and Campinot, they apparently left the district, for it is recorded on the graves that their deaths occurred at Bridlington and Southport. I give details of two sales of their properties taken from catalogues which were issued at the time. The first sale took place in 1907 and the second in 1918.

The former was entitled: "Sale of Residences, Cottages, Building Land, Farms and Chief Rents, by Messrs. T.J. Wild & Son, Wednesday 8th day of May 1907, at the Brownhill Vale Sale Rooms, Uppermill". This was the property of the late Ben Hirst, member of the family which had built Bankfield Mill in 1869. As mentioned above, this mill later became the property of Sykes and Campinot who moved here from Lumb Mill, Delph, and I acknowledge my gratitude to a member of the Sykes family for the details of the sales notice.

The details from the catalogues of the lots for sale will include places familiar to those who know Dobcross. As the notice indicates, not only were many chief rents being offered for auction, but freehold farms and cottages, and plots of unattached land were also available. The tenants of the respective lots are listed in detail together with the amounts payable each year. Included in the sale were Tamewater House, thirteen cottages, three freehold farms, numerous plots of land, and over thirty chief rents on land elsewhere. The annual income from chief rents was £135 to which can be added the rents from the cottages, farms and other various plots. A map outlines each plot of land and identifies it by a number.

Lot One was Tamewater House, with its outbuildings and cottage. The total area was 2420 square yards.

Lot Two was two cottages and outbuildings at Tamewater - presumably including the one with the datestone 1745.

Lot Three included three cottages and outbuildings at Wallhill - These will be the ones by the roadside on the right of Wallhill Road.

Lot Four was the adjacent block of two cottages.

Lot Five consisted of four cottages, being the houses on the left of Wallhill hamlet.

Lot Six was Heights Field containing two cottages sited next to Upperhouse Farm, and recently they have been extensively renovated

Lot Seven was Mount Sorrel Farm, farm house and outbuildings. The area of the land amounted to over ten acres.

Lot Eight was called Wallhill Farm, but from the map would appear to be land attached to Manor House Farm, lying on the western side of the main A.62 road. The area of the land was 20 acres and it was scattered, including the built-up area on Wallhill Road and down the Husteads Valley.

Lot Nine was another extensive plot of almost twelve acres including land immediately behind Bankfield Cottages, and land along Delph New Road where the Measurements factory is built and extending on both sides of the road as far as Tamewater Mill. This mill, formerly J. Allott & Co., then the C.W.S. Mill, and now Compoflex Ltd., also comes into this Lot. A £70 ground rent was paid on the Tamewater Mill plot.

The above nine lots included cottages, farms and land, and we now turn to another part of the sale dealing with the chief rents.

Lot Ten included land along Dobcross New Road which was occupied apparently by a James Schofield who paid £2. 7. 3d. per annum chief rent for an area of 252 square yards. Incidentally, this is the plot on which my own residence stands.

Lot Eleven, owned by the Mallalieu family, contained five houses.

Lot Twelve was a single plot occupied by Turners.

Lot Thirteen was in the possession of a Mr. Rowland.

Lot Fourteen included the garage and rear cottage next to the garden formerly in my occupation for 25 years.

Lot Fifteen was the next block of houses.

Lot Sixteen was Brookdale, occupied by Samuel Kenworthy who ran John Kenworthy & Son, the building now used as a warehouse by J.T. Sykes & Sons and known as Tamebridge Mill.

Lot Seventeen was the plot where the Brownhill Bridge Saw Mills were, opposite the bottom of Nicker Brow. A bungalow has now been built on this site. The Mills family ran this mill and made wrapping boards for use in the woollen industry.

Lot Eighteen is interesting because it was tenanted by the Saddleworth Baths Committee. I well remember heaps of stone tipped on this site which is by the Spiritualist Church opposite the bottom of Ryefields Drive.

Lots Nineteen to Twenty-four were the houses known as Ash Grove in Sugar Lane together with those known as Woodlands.

Lot Twenty-five was Tamebank House next to the Woolpack Inn.

Lot Twenty-six was a composite group of plots. In addition to including Tamewater Mill, occupied by Mr. James Allott, there was the mill pond, the house now occupied by a Mr. Dixon where Mr. Flint Allott resided, and a small plot through which the goit from the River Tame runs to feed the mill pond just past Bankside Cottages.

Thus one can visualise the extensive properties owned by the Hirst family in Dobcross, part of which were sold after the death of Ben Hirst of Tamewater House in November 1906. A further sale took place on 25th July 1918 when another member of the family died, and this will be dealt with in the next issue of the Bulletin.

F.G. Battye.

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, etc. in the Miscellaneous section is therefore given below.

- M 1 Saddleworth Deeds, various (bound).
- M 2 James Lees' letterbook, business records, etc. (MSS).
- M 3 James Lees' obituary notice. He was a prominent businessman in Victorian Saddleworth.
- M 4 James Lees' account book, 1819 onwards. (Leather bound).
- M 5 Cottage rental book of James Lees of Delph Lodge.
- M 6 Minute Book of Saddleworth Clothiers' Society, 1828.
- M 7 Posters from Saddleworth Clothiers' minutes.
- M 8 Saddleworth Enclosure Act and Denshaw Moor, 1801.
- M 9 Abstract of Title for Saddleworth and Quick late James Farrer, 1654.
- M 10 Copy of Title to Manors of Saddleworth and Quick.
- M 11 Old Family Deeds and Miscellaneous, printed by William Lees, 1891.
- M 12 Sale of Saddleworth Church Lands, 1812.
- M 13 Envelope of notes and material on Ebenezer Chapel, Uppermill.
- M 14 Manuscripts from "Archaeologia" - notes on Roman Roads in Manchester area.
- M 15 Copies of Acts for Saddleworth Turnpikes and Huddersfield Canal, 1792-1836 (Bound).
- M 16 Edward Hewkin's school books, 1830-40.
- M 17 Further copies of above.
- M 18 John Radcliffe's scrapbook (includes collection of drawings of Saddleworth datestones).
- M 19 Catalogue of sale at St. Chad's, Uppermill, 1920.
- M 20 Five Prominent Oldham Men, by Stubbs.
- M 21 Envelope of biographical notes on Edmund Buckley of Lydgate and Wales.
- M 22 Greenfield - A Poem, by Bottomley (very large edition).
- M 23 A New Map of the Country around Manchester, by Stockdale, C.1850.
- M 24 Catalogue of the John Radcliffe Library.
- M 25 Radcliffe Library Catalogue and Index.
- M 26 Private Account Book of Thomas Wood of Ryefields, Uppermill (with lock).
- M 27 Architectural Plans by George Shaw.

- M 28 Envelope containing:
- 1) Balance Sheet, Huddersfield and Manchester Railway & Canal Co. 1846.
 - 2) Note from Naval pay-office acknowledging receipt of letters of administration granted to George Nelson of Oldham, uncle to John Nelson, late of H.M.S. Minerva, with account of wages and prize money due.
- M 29 Historical Notes made from local press cuttings by Mrs. M.E. Hodge.
- M 30 Old Deeds collected by Irad Hewkin.
- M 31 A Gossipy Guide to Saddleworth by Ammon Wrigley (newspaper cuttings).
- M 32 Old Wills collected by Irad Hewkin.
- M 33 Post Cards of Saddleworth Views.
- M 34 Copy of Act for Turnpike Road from Mumps, Oldham, to Wall Hill, Dobcross.
- M 35 Newspaper cuttings collected by Irad Hewkin, with Ammon Wrigley letters 1925-46 and newscuttings of his works and death.
- M 36 Newspaper cuttings from the library of A.E. Wood, including a history of Hutchinson & Hollingworth of Dobcross Loom Works by the collector.
- M 37 Proceedings of the Saddleworth Reservoir Bill & Ashton Canal Acts (bound together).
- M 38 Volume of photographs of the 34th W.Y.R.V. camp at Saddleworth, 1871.
- M 39 Volunteer Contributions, by Harris (cartoons of the above volunteer camp).
- M 40 Day book used for historical notes by Irad Hewkin.
- M 41 Genealogical Notes of the Buckley Family.

Large material on the top of the bookcase:

Three Scrapbooks, Irad Hewkin.
Crutchley's Map of Yorkshire (says "additions to 1858").
Ordnance Survey 6 Inch Map of Saddleworth, 1895.

This list concludes the details of the Hewkin Collection. In the next Number of the Bulletin will be a short biography of this Saddleworth-born bookseller.

THE ATTEMPTS TO FORM A WOOLLEN WEAVERS' UNION IN

SADDLEWORTH - 1827 and 1894

Part 3: The Early Union (continued).

In spite of their substantial funds, their legal success, and the inability of the Master Clothiers to bring a case against them, by February 1829 the Saddleworth Weavers' Union was practically defunct. George Shaw, writing in his diary on 14th February, says: "Last night (I cannot exactly tell what time) the redoubtable Saddleworth Weavers' Union gave up the ghost. The invincible, the everlasting Society of friendship and honour which was to have lasted for ever, was dissolved. The reason for it being given up at the present time seems to (people say) be the great falling off in their revenue occasioned by the desertion of some of the members and the heavy charge which it had upon its hands in keeping those members who were distressed and out of employment. I was firmly convinced in my own mind that eventually this would be the case but I never expected it so soon. Indeed all the men quite hooted the idea of giving up a short time ago. They pretended that the Rochdale Committee regularly sent them £30 per week and the West of England Committee £39, and that as to some of their members falling off, it was all nothing, they were only a few of the worst description, who because they must not live entirely upon it have left in a passion - I am tempted to believe everything has not gone right, there being a strange waste of money somehow or other in it. It has the appearance of a whirlpool; whatever was put into it was greedily swallowed up in its vortex and never left any trace of itself behind. Its mouth has been as bad to satisfy as the carnivorous jaws of the grave. In my humble opinion the head men or people in office had no bad trade of it. They have laid up much good in store I think, or else, what has become of the money? There has been no expenditure equal to the income. Its members, at least, few of them have been in little or any distress, everything has seemed in a very prosperous condition until the coalition of the masters against it, and to give up in the very first struggle shows plainly that the money has decamped, and who can have taken it? I say, those through whose fingers it has passed".

George Shaw's informant was partially correct. Rochdale did send money, but this was not a weekly payment: £30 was sent on 10th January, 1829, and £20 on the 12th; there was a further payment of £20 on the 24th, and one of £25 on 9th February. The West of England contributed £80 over the same period. Shaw was certainly right about the falling-off in revenue: the bulk of the income in January and February 1829 came from other Committees. Of the £170. 8. 1d., which was the income for January, £85 was sent from Rochdale, Kidderminster and Gloucester, and of the income of £166. 5. 4½d. for February, £70 was from Rochdale, Kidderminster and Gloucester, £14 had been collected "from the road", and £50 had been withdrawn from the bank. There is no entry for March 1829: April boasted an income of 17s. 10d., of which 11s. 4d. had been collected at the "King's Head Lodge". The income for May was 7s. 0d., for June 3s. 0½d., for July 7s. 0d., for September 2s. 4d., and the last entry for October 1829 gives an income of 1s. 6d.

The expenditure side of the accounts throws some light on the actual activities of the Union. There were frequent payments to "turnouts and workmen" at Springhead, Shaw Hall, Bank Mill, Delph and Dobcross, and Crows in the Wood. There are several references to board

and lodgings for West of England men and to the charge for sending them home. Bona fide members of Unions could be given assistance by other Unions on the production of a ticket of membership when they were on the "Tramp". This meant that they were unemployed, and were journeying through the country in search of work. Peter Morgan, whose "eating and lodging" cost 4s. 4d., was probably one of these men, and so was "the West of England man in distress" who received 5s. 0d.

The bands, behind which the Saddleworth men marched to the Monday sermon, cost £4. 3. 6d. Joseph Wrigley received £6. 19. 1d. funeral money. A payment of £4. 3. 7d. was made to the Trade Union in May 1828, and, in August, two further payments of 500d. were made. The item at the beginning of the accounts, "Repairs to Box - 4s. 6d.", implies that the box had been in use before the formation of the 1827 Union - perhaps for that of 1824.

The last detailed expense account is for the period 7th to 19th February, and after this date the accounts are very badly kept. £50 was repaid to Rochdale in March, and Nicholson, a Manchester attorney, was paid 19s. 0d. later in the month. The final payment accounted for is one of 2d. on Nicholson's letter.

This short account will give some idea of the determination of the Masters to deter the formation of Combinations amongst their workpeople, and of the support given to and received from other Unions. Little is known of the activities of the first Union because so few records have been discovered. A much more detailed account of the 1894 Union is available because of the coverage of their activities in the local press and the existence of more complete records.

A.C. Chadderton.

To be continued.

GREEN ASH

Mrs. I. Howarth of Hollin Bank, Denshaw, lived at the turn of the century at West View, and has the following comment to make on Green Ash following its inclusion in the "Old Saddleworth" section of the Bulletin:

"Continuing on past the stores, down a few steps, was a kind of out-kitchen, which was open twice a week by a butcher named Mills who was employed by the Co-op. Here the local inhabitants used to go for their meat. I can see it now in my mind's eye: great quarters of beef, all home-killed in a slaughter house attached to the main stores up at Denshaw, and carted down to the little shop which was always spotlessly clean".

SADDLEWORTH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES

Part 8: 1907

- Jan. Chew Reservoir: opposition by Council to Ashton Waterworks Bill to get an extension of ten years for completing Chew Reservoir.
- Public meeting supporting action of Council and objecting to:
- 1) Ashton charging 25% for water supplied to Saddleworth.
 - 2) Their taking the public plot of land used for recreation at Chew Wells.
 - 3) Their supplying water causing lead poisoning.
 - 4) Their closing the packhorse track from Greenfield to Crowden.
- Statement that it was $2\frac{1}{2}$ years since the last meeting about the unsatisfactory water supply.
- Feb. West Riding County Council lodged a petition with the object of securing a pure water supply.
- Castleshaw School trustees refused a test examination by West Riding Inspector.
- Mar. Smoke Nuisance at a Delph Mill. Statement that the allowance of black smoke was 10 minutes per hour.
- Passive Resistance at Denshaw. Ratepayers withheld part of district rate as protest against lack of lighting.
- Offer by Mossley Corporation to light Denshaw at special terms. Referred to Denshaw Ratepayers' Committee.
- Education Committee recommended that schools should be thoroughly cleaned once a month.
- Public disinfecter advised for use in infectious cases.
- Protest by farmers about cowshed regulations.
- Passive Resistance to Education Rate. Objection to paying 2s. 10d. which was part of rate for educational purposes. Order for 2s. 10d. + 1s. 0d. costs.
- Austerlands School to close in 1908.
- May Death under anaesthetic while a septic finger was being amputated at home. Verdict of misadventure.
- Delph Agricultural Show at Swainscroft. Delph Band in attendance. Many entries.
- Passive Resistance to new Education Rate threatened at Greenfield.
- Uppermill School: new site to be chosen.
- First Interment of Ashes of Cremated Person at Saddleworth Church after cremation at Manchester.

May New System of Lighting at Denshaw. Interest in lighting
(cont'd) outside Junction Hotel. New system described as
"Carmien Gas".

Path to Crowden to be diverted. $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of public land to
be sold to Waterworks Board for £70.

St. John's Ambulance Association Cycle Parade spoiled by rain,
snow and hail.

Penny Collection in mills to provide ambulance boxes in
districts where none previously existed.

July Parliamentary Election through elevation to the peerage of the
member, Sir James Kitson. Motor cars used to take
voters to the poll. Victor Grayson won the seat
for Labour. Mrs. Pankhurst and other suffragettes
addressed meetings.

Aug. Andrew Mill Fire put out by workers and fire appliances from
neighbouring mill. Fire appliances of Greenfield
Co-op Society standardised so that they could be of
use in future.

Telephones. Report that there were 28 people with telephones
in Saddleworth, and that the remaining 22 phones
would soon be taken up.

Sept. Fatal Accident to driver of a waggonette coming down Church
Road, Uppermill.

Nov. Centenary Celebrations at Ebenezer Congregational Church.

Dec. Disastrous Fire at Clare's Finishing Mill, Greenfield.
Clare's and Wellington Mill's fire appliances used
to put out fire. Royal George Fire Engine also
attended.

Compiled by Mrs. H. Wood.

Part 9: 1908, will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

THE CENTRAL PENNINES IN PREHISTORIC TIMES

In attempting to reconstruct the physical environment of the Central Pennine region when early man inhabited the moorland areas, it is necessary to go back to the end of the last Ice Age, about 10,000 years ago in this area. The summit plateau had been ice-free during the last glacial advance, the glaciers having come from the west and north-west into the Manchester lowlands and having ascended the slopes of the Pennines to between 1000 and 1200 feet on the western side. On the eastern side of the Pennines the ice sheets only reached as far as Escrick, just south of York. The thawing of the snow on the summits resulted in meltwaters deepening many of the small valleys draining directly downhill. The discharge carried by these streams in the past was much greater than at the present, and it is probable that many of the valleys formed "meltwater chutes" when the lower slopes were ice-covered, the water escaping in channels beneath the stagnating ice on the western side of the Pennines (1). On the eastern side, the meltwaters flowed down the existing cloughs, probably deepening them considerably, as they escaped towards the Humber Estuary. At the same time, intense freeze-thaw action must have resulted in the rotting and breaking up of the bare rock surfaces on the moors, and the action of solifluction (2) must have moulded many of the present-day landscape features. "While the plateaux of grit would stand almost untouched, the long shale slopes, already bared by pre-Glacial rivers, may well have suffered enormous denudation (by solifluction), being shorn summer by summer of successive thick layers, which slumped into the valleys as mud-flows and were carried away by the snow-swollen torrents. Such action would accentuate the step-like topography of the moors and the irregular profiles of the immature rivers. It would in particular sharpen valley features by oversteepening the shale slopes, and leave behind the necessary conditions for the formation of extensive landslips, the ancient debris of which cumber the sides of so many valleys". (3)

Date	Climatic Phase	Climatic Conditions	Prehistoric Period
↑ 500 BC	sub-Atlantic	cool and much wetter	Iron Age
	sub-Boreal	cool and dry becoming warmer	Bronze Age 1800 BC
3000 BC			Neolithic
5300 BC	Atlantic	warm and wetter	Mesolithic
7600 BC	Boreal	warm and dry	
8300 BC	pre-Boreal	Cool and dry, becoming warmer	

Pollen analysis of peat and other deposits has enabled the reconstruction of the main vegetation changes, and thereby the changing

climatic influences, since the Ice Age. With the amelioration of the climate to Boreal times, moorland vegetation gradually extended, and forest trees and shrubs, e.g. Birch in particular, Pine, Oak and Hazel, advanced. It seems that upper Palaeolithic man did not venture as far north as this area, except possibly on occasional hunting expeditions, and his most northerly accepted habitation is at Cresswell Crags in Derbyshire.

The climatic optimum was reached during the Boreal period, which was warmer and drier than the present. Hazel became more dominant than Birch on the hills, and then Pine with Hazel (4), though the lower slopes and valleys would still be marshy or more thickly forested, and Birch may still have predominated on the high plateaux. It was towards the end of this period, about 6000 BC, that the more open moorlands of the Central Pennines proved most attractive to Mesolithic man. Hunting by now was adapted to smaller and more varied game, as the larger animals of the tundra had retreated north, and weapons with a variety of specialised flint points, and flaked stone axes for wood cutting were now used (5).

After about 5300 BC a change in climate brought wetter, but still warm conditions (Atlantic climatic period), as is indicated by the relative decline of the Pine, and the dominance of Alder, with Oak and some Hazel. The grit uplands may have continued to be attractive for Mesolithic man because they were more open, but gradually the deterioration in climate resulted in the gradual accumulation of peat and the decay of the upland forests, so that by Neolithic times the drier limestone areas of the Peak District proved more attractive to settlement. Finds of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age pottery during the excavation of the Castleshaw Roman Forts may indicate, however, that the Central Pennine uplands were not entirely without habitation at this time.

Peat is formed when partly decomposed plant remains accumulate in localities where relief and high rainfall cause a soil low in base minerals to become waterlogged. The subsequent low soil temperatures and the lack of oxygen mean that strong bacterial activity does not occur, and hence the organic material is not mixed with the soil but forms a markedly acid layer above it. The peat mosses are generally above 1200 feet, but in some places extend down to 1000 feet or even lower; they are often up to 9 or 10 feet thick, and in some hollows on high ground greater depths have been noted. In this part of the Pennines peat largely composed of sphagnum remains has been accumulating since about 5000 BC, and it has been proved by pollen analysis (6) that the rate of formation has depended upon the nature of the relief and the changes in climate since Boreal times. However, the principal period of peat accumulation, as mentioned above, occurred towards the end of the wetter Atlantic phase (about 3500 BC) and later, even though the climate became colder and drier after about 3000 BC (sub-Boreal phase). The growth of blanket bog round the bases of the trees eventually led to their decay, and to-day the entombed remains of birch forest form obvious evidence for a higher tree limit in the past. Such relics are common on Oldgate Moss above Denshaw, and on Wicken Clough Moss above the Diggle Valley, to mention only two examples. Then followed a period of little accumulation (from about 1100 - 500 BC) after which the peat again formed more rapidly, with the onset of the warmer, wetter conditions of the sub-Atlantic period. During the last 150 years sphagnum bog moss has been replaced by cotton grass as the dominant plant in the moorland association, probably the result of better drainage, the practice of

"swayling", and the increase in smoke pollution to which cotton grass is more resistant (7).

Peat bog appears to be cyclic in character (8), and following the phase of accumulation, the effects of peat "bursts" and stream action result in the erosion of the mosses into mounds or "haggs" separated by "groughs" (9), and in many parts this, accompanied by the removal of wasting peat by wind action, has revealed a layer of sand and disintegrated grit in which worked flints and chippings of the Mesolithic period have been found. These artifacts, showing Tardenoisian influence, have been obtained from several places on the grit moorlands (10), mainly between 1250 and 1500 feet, being rarer on the higher ground to the south. The flints are quite different from the southern chalk flints, and it is thought that they must therefore have been brought from the Wolds of Lincolnshire or Yorkshire (11).

Thus it is the accurate dating of these moorland vegetation changes that is helping to place with some accuracy in their respective archaeological contexts the various discoveries that have been made in the Central Pennine area.

References:

1. Johnson, R.H. "Glacial Geomorphology in the Pennines", in "Essays in Geography for Austin Miller", ed. J.B. Whittow and P.D. Wood, Reading, 1965, pp. 86-87.
2. Solifluction is a process that occurs in regions on the fringes of an ice sheet. During the summer months the top few inches of the soil thaw out and become saturated by water from melting snow, the meltwater being unable to penetrate into the ground because of the still frozen sub-soil. Gradual downhill slumping of the saturated surface layers then occurs.
3. Geological Survey Memoir, "The Country around Holmfirth and Glossop" London, 1933, p.140.
4. Raistrick, A. & Holmes, P.F. "Archaeology of Malham Moor", Field Studies, V.1, No.4., 1962, p.97.
5. Cornwall, I. "Ice Ages: their Nature and Effects", London, 1970, p.137.
6. Conway, V.M. "Stratigraphy and Pollen Analysis of the South Pennine Blanket Peats", Journal of Ecology, V.42, 1954, p.117.
7. Johnson, R.H. "Observations on the Stream Patterns of some Peat Moorlands in the Southern Pennines", Memoirs and Proceedings of the Manchester Lit. & Phil. Soc., V.99, 1957-8.
8. Moss, C.E. "Vegetation of the Peak District", Cambridge, 1913; Woodhead, T.W. "The History of the Vegetation of the Southern Pennines", Journal of Ecology, V.17, 1929, p.1; and Hall, B.R. & Folland, C.J. "Soils of Lancashire", Soil Survey of Great Britain, Harpenden, 1970, p.43.
9. Johnson, R.H. loc.cit., and Pennington, W. "The History of British Vegetation", London, 1969, p.123.
10. Watson, G.G. "Early Man in the Halifax District", Halifax, 1952, p.26; and Stonehouse, W.P.B. "Rocher Moss South", Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society, V.2, 1972, pp.36-40.

11. Geological Survey Memoir, op. cit. pp. 136-7.

B. Barnes.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY: EARLY SECTION

Report 1972

27th April. General Meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the projects to be carried out. The "flinting season" was now open and, weather permitting, visits would be made each Sunday to the site under the supervision of Mr. J. Murray or his deputy.

New projects were discussed, but members felt that present commitments would keep us busy during the year.

11th May. Melandra to Buxton Roman Road.

Once again Mr. George Taylor took us on a very interesting visit to various locations to examine the Roman Road that ran between the fort at Melandra (Glossop) and Buxton. We examined a possible terraceway at Charlesworth, a possible bridge site at Little Hayfield, and various lengths of road at Rowarth, Hayfield and a very impressive stretch at Doveholes.

22nd July. Manchester Excavations.

On a wet afternoon we visited the excavations being carried out by Manchester University adjacent to the Roman fort at Manchester, in the vicus area outside the N.E. gate. We examined a very impressive section of road which had been resurfaced so many times by the Romans that the metalling had acquired a depth of nearly four feet. Work shop areas had been uncovered and many hearths were visible. Finds included much pottery, nails and one coin.

Several Society members had been actively engaged with the excavations.

September. Castleshaw Roman Fort.

A small party examined the area outside the S.E. gate in the hope of finding traces of the vicus. The search was unrewarding and no traces were found.

The opposite hillside (Cudworth Pasture) was explored and traces of an old bloomery (iron furnace) were found. Samples of iron slag were collected.

General Notes.

The two main projects of the year have been the flint site and the quest for the Roman road.

1. The Flint Site: despite bad weather, parties have visited the site and carried on with the excavation. Various implements and many chippings have been recovered and carefully plotted. We hope in due course to publish our reports on this work, but much has yet to be done.

2. The Roman Road: led by Mr. Donald Haigh (W.E.A. Tutor) many members of the Society have spent the last two years locating and recording the Roman road from Manchester to York where it passes through Saddleworth. New stretches have been located at Austerlands, Doctor Lane Head and between Delph and Castleshaw, together with a section climbing on to Millstone Edge. Much more work in the shape of mapping and documentation has yet to be done, but an interim report has been sent to both the Ordnance Survey Office and the C.B.A.

K. Booth.

"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.

Old Saddleworth Recipes and Cures

(Contributed by a member of the Society from a family notebook over 100 years old).

Lotion to remove freckles from the face.

Mix 2 ounces of rectified spirits of wine and 2 teaspoonsful of muriatic acid with one quart and a half of distilled water; in the country they boil the herb tansy in buttermilk and wash the face with it for the same purpose.

Everlasting Cake.

$1\frac{1}{4}$ of Flour
 $1\frac{1}{4}$ of Currants
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of Butter
1 Teaspoonful of Soda
1 (?) of Essence of Lemon
1 Gill of Milk.

Mix together and bake for an hour and a half.

Lotion for the Hair.

To prevent baldness and greyness:

$\frac{1}{2}$ drachm oil of nutmegs
 $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm tincture of Cautharides
2 ounces of Eau de Cologne
10 drops of Lavender

Brush the head until quite warm. Then apply lotion with a softish nail brush.

To make hair grow and curl:

2 ounces Eau de Cologne
2 ounces tincture of Cautarides
10 drops Rosemary
10 drops Lavender

Softening and Cleansing Hair:

Beat up an egg in a basin, rub it well into the hair for a few minutes then wash the head with tepid waters; if the hair is very greasy, add the juice of half a lemon.

Cure for toothache.

A correspondent of the Prespon Chronicle (sic) says:

"For a length of time two of my daughters have been much afflicted with toothache. Having been advised to steam them with the seed of Tumbane (?) the consequence was that from one of my daughter's teeth came 33 grubs or worms at three different times, and from the other eight of the same description. Some of my neighbours have tried the same experiment with like success. The grubs are about 1/8th of an inch long with a black head. After extracting the grubs they got immediate relief".

Recipe for Rheumatism.

1/2 lb. figs
2 oz. Carroway seeds
2 oz. Mustard seeds
2 oz. Hops
5 pints cold water

Stew until 3 pints. Take 2 tablespoonsful 3 times a day.

Pop.

Take 6 quarts of water, 3 lemons, 2 oz. cream of tartar, 1 1/2 lb. lump sugar. Boil one half of the water with one ounce of ginger. Set it to work with one tablespoonful of barm. When worked, bottle it and it will be fit for use in a few days.

Cure for Warts.

Take a stem of the elderberry and press the juice out of it on to the wart, gently rubbing it after. Repeat this three times a day. About the second day it will begin to itch; and in about a week it will have disappeared without any knowledge when or how.

Good for a bad stomach.

Nettles, Camomile, Gentian, Dandelion, Coltsfoot, Horseradish.
Boil all together; while hot, put in some treacle and ginger; when quite cold put a little barm on and when it has worked a night put it in a bottle.

Inscription on Silver Spade.

The following is inscribed on a silver spade in the possession of J. Bradbury & Co. (Saddleworth) Ltd., at Alexandra Mill, Uppermill.

Engineer
T.S. McCallum, A.M.Inst.C.E.
Manchester

Contractors
H. Fotherby and Son
Burnley

Presented to
J. Taylor Bradbury, Esq.,
on the occasion of his
Cutting the First Sod of the Sewerage Works
For the
Urban District of Uppermill

31st January, 1895

On the reverse side is inscribed:

Members of the Council

Chairman
T.J. Wild, J.P.

Vice-Chairman
T.S. Platt, J.P.

J. Taylor Bradbury

A.W. Knott

E. Buckley

J. Lawton

Hervey Carter

Frank Newton

J.W. Haigh, J.P.

F.S. Redman

J.F. Kenworthy

Jabez Sykes

E. Rowbotham, Clerk to the Council.

H. Jagger.

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.

ABELS

Grid Reference: SE.004058

- Location: Abels Lane, Uppermill. Hillside above Heathfields woollen mill.
- Description: Long, two-storey stone building, divided into three or four cottages. Old part has deep-set, chamfered mullion windows.
- History:
- 1758 1736 First reference in Saddleworth Church Registers John Buckley of Abel's, clothier, married Anne Platt of Platt Lane (Registers).
- 1764 John, son of Philip Buckley, clothier, and Anne his wife of Abels christened (Registers).
- 1765 Mary, daughter of John Shaw, clothier, and Alice his wife of Abels christened (Registers). Their son James was christened in March 1767 but died in November of the same year (Registers).
- 1769 John, son of James Buckley, clothier and Margaret his wife of Abels christened (Registers).
- 1777 The Farrar Estate records list John Smith of Abels, 3 acres 2 roods 4 perches, rent £3. 0. 6d.
- 1779 In February, Sarah, daughter of John Buckley, clothier, and Mary his wife of Abels died in her 30th year. In March, Sarah, daughter of Henry Buckley, clothier, and Sarah his wife was christened (Registers).
- 1780 James, son of Benny Buckley, clothier, and Ann his wife of Abels was christened in January (Registers). The child must have died while young for in January 1791 they had another son who was christened James. Their daughter Nelly, born in August 1793, was buried the following month. Another son, Harry, was born in August 1794, but died a few months later. In January 1796 they christened another son Harry, but the child only survived a few days. In March 1797 their son William was christened (Registers).
- 1788 Mary, wife of John Buckley of Abels, yeoman, died in her 77th year. In the same year, John, son of Joseph and Mary Wood of Abels was christened. He died at Upper Wood, Greenfield, in 1866, aged 79 (Registers).
- 1791 Alice, daughter of Ben and Mary Hurst of Abels, clothier, christened (Registers).
- 1792 Jenny, daughter of Abraham and Sarah Bentley of Abels christened (Registers).
- 1795 John Buckley of Abels died aged 91. He and his wife Mary, who had died in 1788, were grandparents to 64 children (Registers).
- 1800 Reference to Joseph Hurst of Abels in Registers.
- 1810 List of Freehold Estates in Saddleworth Enclosure Records (Saddleworth Museum Archives) includes: Owner of 8 acres 3 roods 38 perches at Abels John Platt; occupier William

- Broadbent. Owner and occupier of 3 acres 2 roods 4 perches at Abels Joseph Lawton.
- 1825 Baines's Directory records William Robinson, dyer, of Abels.
- 1832 William Robinson mentioned in Poll List.
- 1838 Samuel Mallalieu lived here (West Riding Poll List).
- 1843 Advertisement in Manchester Guardian, 27th May: "to be let: dyehouse, farmhouse, barn, stable and cottage with 10 acres of grassland at Abels near Uppermill. The dyehouse contains 7 indigo vats, 3 pans, cistern, water wheel and 2 indigo pots. Apply W.K. Schofield at Heathfields". It is probable that the dyehouse referred to was the later woollen mill at Heathfields.
- 1851 The Census records 2 families living at Abels: Edwin Thornton, with 4 males and 3 females, woollen dyer; John Schofield, with 1 male and 2 females, of whom 3 were woollen weavers.
- 1871 The Census includes the following under the heading of Abels: Edwin Thornton + 5 males and 2 females: he was the manager of a woollen dyeworks, and four of the family were workers in the dyeworks; James Bradbury + 1 male and 3 females: he was a dyer, his son was a joiner's apprentice and one of the women was an annuitant.
- 1880 Mr. Edwin Thornton lived here (Worrall's Directory).

DAVIDS SMITHY (David's, Davy Smithy) Grid Reference: SD.999073

Location: Hillside below Ambrose, off Huddersfield Road, Diggle.

Description: Now derelict and about to be demolished. Long stone building with flagged roof, divided into two cottages with large barn on the end. The older of the cottages is in the centre and has a 12-light mullioned window on the second floor. Later, smaller cottage on north-east end has larger, flat-mullioned windows. Barn also has windows (workshop?) and large, arched entrance.

- History: 1722 John, son of John Holden, clothier, and Alice his wife of David's Smithy christened. An un-named child of theirs died in 1724. In 1725 they had another son, Joseph, who died in 1731. They had 5 further children: Ellen, born 1727; Robert, born 1730, died 1731; Daniel, born 1732; Robert, born 1733; Nathan, born 1736 (Registers).
- 1723 Robert, son of Robert Parkinson, clothier, and Mary his wife of Davy Smithy christened (Registers).
- 1724 Jane, wife of Nathaniel Holden, blacksmith, of Davy Smithy buried (Registers).
- 1737 James Buckley of David Smithy, clothier, buried (Registers).
- 1739 James Holden, clothier, of Davy Smithy married Mary Bradbury of Gate Head. In 1744 their son Paul was christened, and in 1755 they had a daughter, Alice (Registers).
- 1747 Mary, daughter of Joseph Hall, clothier, and Sarah his wife of David's christened (Registers).
- 1752 John Holden of Davy Smithy, clothier, buried (Registers).
- 1772 Anna, daughter of John Holden, clothier, and Mary his wife of David Smithy christened. In 1780 Nathan was born, but died soon afterwards. In 1789 they had another son whom

- they christened Nathan (Registers).
- 1777 In the Shaw Hall Estate List there are two entries under David's Smithy: both are under the name of James Holden, who was tenant of 9 acres 1 rood 24 perches, rent £5. 5. 6d., and of 9 acres 3 roods 22 perches, rent £5. 0. 6d. respectively. In the same year Paul and Mary Holden of Davids Smithy had a daughter Sarah. In 1784 they had a son John who died aged 3 months (Registers).
- 1785 James Holden married Alice Broadbent, both of David Smithy (Registers).
- 1795 In the Minutes of the Committee Meetings of the Manor of Saddleworth and Quick (Museum Archives) is the following entry for 24th September: "Resolved that Mr. Mellors do write to George Platt of Weakey informing him that if he does not immediately make satisfaction to John Holden of Davids Smithy for taking and carrying away a quantity of stone out of a parcel of common or waste land on Harrop Edge which the said John Holden lately purchased from the proprietors, an action will be commenced against him".
- 1806 John Holden of Davids Smithy died, aged 67 (Registers).
- 1851 According to the Census two families lived here: Abram Marsden and 3 males and 5 females, of whom 3 were stone masons and 1 a labourer; Thomas Bradbury and 3 males and 3 females, of whom 1 was a woollen hand loom weaver, 1 a woollen hand spinner, 1 a cloth dresser, 1 a woollen feeder, and 1 a labourer.
- 1871 In the Census two families are listed under Davids Smithy: William Attersall, with 6 males and 6 females, of whom 1 was a joiner and carpenter, 3 were carpenters, and 2 were iron works employees; Thomas Bradbury with 2 females, of whom 1 was an unemployed woollen weaver, 1 was a woollen weaver and 1 a woollen spinner. The latter family also had three lodgers who were machine fitters at the loom works.
- PETERS Grid Reference: SE.008062
- Location: Between Gellfield Lane and Pobgreen, Uppermill.
- Description: Long, two-storey building divided into two or three cottages. Oldest part dated PB MB 1663. Radcliffe records another datestone on cottage door IAW 1724. Gable copings with corbels; arched windows eastern end. Workroom on first floor. Rebuilt outbuilding has re-fixed datestone IAW 1737.
- History: 1663 Peter and Mary Bradbury lived here (Datestone).
- 1750 The Registers record John Bradbury, yeoman, of Peters. In 1753 his son, Robert, was christened. John Bradbury died in 1770 (Registers).
- 1751 John Gledhill, clothier, of Peters, mentioned in Registers. In 1753 his wife Sarah, was buried.
- 1769 Mary, daughter of William and Martha Buckley of Peters christened. They had three further children: John, born 1772; William, born 1774; and Samuel, born 1779.
- 1776 Ann, daughter of James Scholefield, clothier, and Mary his wife of Peters christened (Registers).
- 1777 The Shaw Hall Estate List (Saddleworth Museum Archives) lists as tenant of Peters and Slades John Bradbury

- 1779 (deceased) - 109 acres 3 roods 19 perches, rent £10. 0. 6d.
John, son of William Hulley and Sarah his wife of Peters
christened (Registers).
- 1782 James Buckley of Peters was Warden of Saddleworth Church
(Registers). He died in 1807, aged 73.
- 1810 The Saddleworth Enclosure Records (Museum Archives) list
Robert Bradbury as owner of Peters which was the exors of
J. Buckley, 5 acres 3 roods 19 perches.
- 1813 Robert Bradbury of Castle Hill (near Delph) claimed liberty
of getting stone and turf for Peters from the commons of
the Manor of Saddleworth (Manor Records, Museum Archives).
- 1832 John Buckley and Joseph Bradbury named under Peters in the
Poll List.
- 1837 John Buckley still lived here (Poll List).
- 1848 James Buckley lived here (Poll List).
- 1851 The Census lists two families living at Peters: Mary
Carter and her son: she was a woollen spinner; and James
Buckley with three males and three females, of whom two
were woollen cloth weavers, one a woollen spinner, and one
an engine tenter.
- 1871 According to the Census, James Buckley with two males and
six females lived here. Among these, five were employed
as woollen cloth 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 roads, canals,
railways, bridges, mills, etc. Information can be sent to the editor
of the Bulletin:

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

Back copies of the Bulletin can also be obtained by writing to
the above address.

Enquiries about membership of the Society should be addressed
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