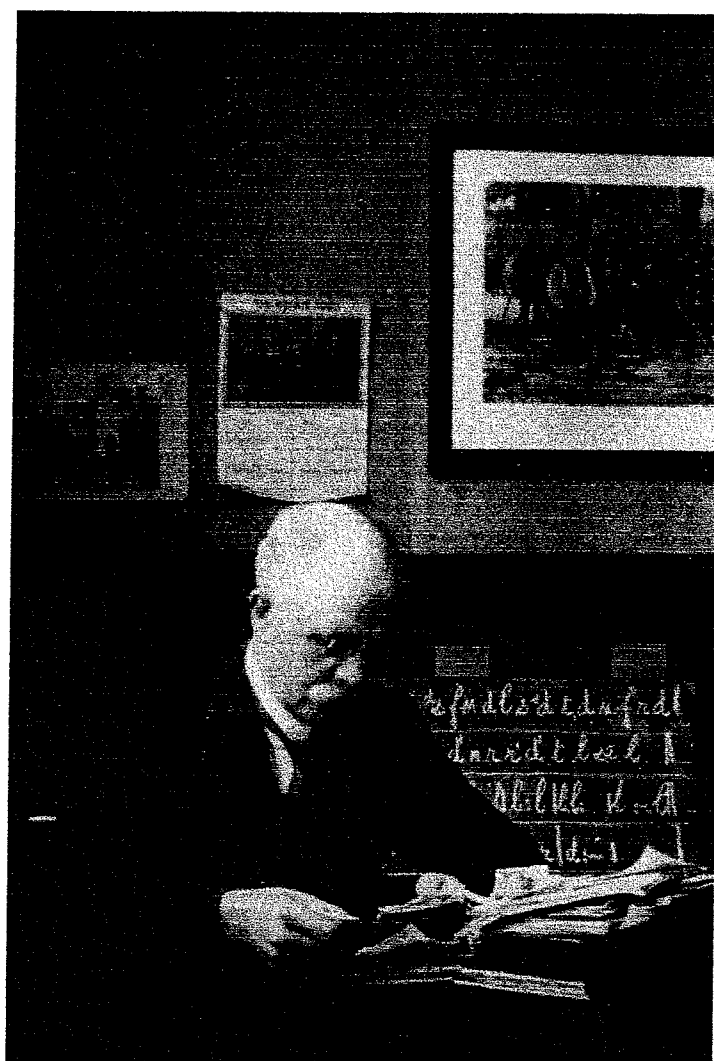


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 31

Number 2

Summer 2001

Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

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Cover illustration: Charles Higson. This photograph was probably taken in Watersheddings school, Oldham before 1920. The collection of local records transcribed by him and housed in Oldham Local Studies and Archives has recently been indexed. See the articles on pages 11- 16. *Oldham Local Studies and Archives*

Saddleworth Historical Society

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The Bulletin aims to reflect and encourage interest in all aspects of the history of Saddleworth. It relies on a regular supply of articles, letters, short reviews, etc. from members and others. Fresh material is required constantly, and should be sent to the Editor, who will be happy to discuss ideas for articles (or shorter contributions) from anyone considering preparing one. Articles need not be confined to subjects within Saddleworth's borders, but should have some connection with the district.

Please send items of historical interest to the Bulletin Editor, John Farrow, and items of current interest (e.g. forthcoming events) to the Newsletter editor, Jack Hindle.

The Society's Web site is at

<http://www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk>

This has full details of the Society's activities, publications, library and archives, and there is an e-mail facility. An index to Saddleworth place names, a reference map of Saddleworth, and a bibliography of Saddleworth publications are included, together with the Newsletter and the current issue of the Bulletin. There are links to other Saddleworth Web sites.

Dobcross 1924: The Papers of Frank Akroyd

A Response by Albert Broadbent.

Born in Uppermill, only a short walk from Dobcross, I suppose I knew the latter almost as well as the former. We - Holden's newsagents at Old Manor House, next door to the Conservative Club - had paper rounds which included parts of Dobcross. In those pre-war days there were three newsagents north of the Tame bridge at St. Chads: Holdens, Myats, Diggle/Dobcross and Lewis Murgatroyd, Delph. I think that there was a mutual arrangement about territory. We had Dobcross New Road up to Duckworth's corner. In those days newsagencies were a closed shop and the suppliers would only supply approved agencies.

As I read The Akroyd Papers I find that there are some people, places and other things I remember. I would like to write this response along those lines. I will identify each particular item by volume, part and page number, e.g. 29 (2) 17 means volume 29, part 2, page 17 of the *Bulletin*.

29 (2) 18

Clog Shop. I didn't know Mr Schofield but I think every village had its "little owd fellies" club; in Uppermill it was Fred Broadbent's saddlers shop in the Square. It stood on the corner of High Street and Tame Street with the door opening to High Street. I was introduced to it about 1920 when my grandad Holden was supposed to be taking me out for the fresh air, in my push chair. First stop, Saddlers, and there they were, the little owd fellies, cowered round the cast iron stove in the centre of the shop; smoking twist and spitting on the stove with resulting sizzles; and there was the saddler

working away at perhaps a horse collar, there were plenty of draught horses still around in those days. The bench looked out through the window southwards across the Square and Buckley's confectioners on the opposite corner of the Square. As Akroyd says, relating to Dobcross, this was where rumour and tales originated - amongst other places of course.

C.W.S. Fred Schofield - "Warper". I remember him well and "Warper" is mentioned again later in the text. I was about ten years old and spent much of my time at the Masonic Hall on Brownhill Vale with my aunt and uncle and cousin Alice. "Warper" often came, in connection with supplies for the regular dinners which were held. I remember a short plump man with moustached lip and bottle-end thick glasses; always in a hurry. Where the nickname came from I don't know, unless it was in some way related to the woollen manufacturing business. He was a member of Lodge 337.

29 (2) 20

Mr and Mrs William Henry Schofield. Another "Warper" Schofield; it is likely that the name originated in previous generations, father, grandfather or perhaps even further back.

Ben Buckley (Shaper). I do not think that it means that Ben himself was, perhaps a "shaper" i.e. the operator in a machine shop e.g. loom works; like "Warper" above, I think the name derives from an older generation for there were other "Shaper" BUCKLEYS. Sam and Frank lived in Uppermill and I knew them well, probably in their sixties when I was about ten. They had a

textile business in Oldham. Some of my elders always referred to them as Sam or Frank Shaper. They were both Wesleyans and Sam was my Sunday School Superintendent, the other one was Oliver Schofield.

Tom Cheetham. A young man when I was a child; he was at one time the organ blower at Uppermill Wesleyans.

Rev. N.A. Thomas. Well, everyone living in Saddleworth I think knew the gentleman at the time. I remember a smart straight figure in clerical street clothes with hat guard which in summer always wore a straw boater. He came in the paper shop and was often in Uppermill, he was for many years an Independent Member of the old Saddleworth U.D.C.

Mr Thomas had the reputation as a popular and hard working Councillor, somewhat eccentric - he was a staunch defender of the St Chad's rookery which suffered periodical (political) attacks by members of the public who had their friends in Council. But the birds won and I believe the rookery remains to this day. I can only remember one other Councillor of the time - Cllr Charlesworth who was brave enough to take on the very learned educated cleric whom he sometimes referred to as "the parson".

C.W.S. Bottom Co-op Manager: Mr Schofield. I think that there should be no confusion with "Warper" Schofield who was also a Co-op Manager. Eric, killed in the war, RAF, leads me to believe that they were father and son and that wife and mother may have been Susie née Dearnley. If this is so, I do remember them at the time, before the war when they lived on Huddersfield road, Delph, on the right hand side past the Bell.

W. Hewkin. Joiners Shop. This would be "Walt" Hewkin, there were several Hewkins, joiners. I think it was the same family which produced the celebrated Irad Gartside Hewkin (1875-1964) the collector of antique books. My father knew him and they were of the same generation although father was about ten years

younger. He told me of Irad's thirst for books and about 1928 took me to Manchester's Withy Grove and Shudehill street markets which included second hand book stalls; this is where Hewkin began his buying and selling of old books I believe.

Walt Hewkin played drums in a local "group" of the day - a small dance ensemble run by Len Sykes.

29 (2) 21

Fred Mitchell. There is another Fred Mitchell in the text but the one I remember was a Wesleyan local preacher in the Saddleworth Circuit. It was usual for the minister to devote a few words during the service to children and Fred could weave a moral in his story on the most simple things like a 'bus ticket.

Joe Dyson. The one I remember was a member of 337 and he was another who used to "drop in" at times. This one was a smallish man with a lovely red nose.

Two more Hewkins. Fred and Edward, the latter another joiner.

Dust Family, Cockle Shell House. I knew Leonard, older than me and he was one of an era of boy sopranos which resulted from the interested devotion of people like Albert Hudson and others when flourishing churches and chapels were an outlet for those who made music their spare time activity - my contemporaries Harry Bradley and Stanley Potter were beautiful singers. At morning assembly at Uppermill Central School C.S. Ibberson the Head Teacher conducted hymns and prayers, and Bradley and Potter, amongst others, were required to sing solo verses as directed. Leah Hudson (Infants) would play the piano, although there were some good pianists sometimes amongst the scholars - Jack Yarwood, Billy Gatenby, I remember.

29 (2) 22

Mr and Mrs Jack Mills. Jenny Mills was a young lady when I was just into my teens; she was very good looking, a striking natural blonde and was the first lady organist, for Uppermill Methodists anyway; she was followed by Kathleen Bradbury and Joyce Hodge. The organist for years in my childhood was John Hawkyard, and often his brother Herbert, the butcher, would deputise. When Jenny started at Uppermill it was about the time (1935?) the chapel acquired a new type of organ - the electronic organ. (To be more precise, it was a mechanical / electronic instrument.) I was involved, in that Walls of Oldham, for whom I worked, installed the supply and I worked on this. Jenny Mills left the district when she married Fred Lloyd a haulage contractor and coal merchant in Oldham.

Dobcross Church of England School. My father went to this school starting about 1890; he left as part timer to start work at the Loom Works. The Headmaster was Mr Eyres, father of Ethel and Katy who both became teachers - Ethel taught me in 1929 at Uppermill Central. By that time there was another headmaster at Dobcross, probably Mr Pownall, one of the four Pownall brothers I think, the others being Billy, Jack and Hornby.

Bob Betty and wife. I should think that the name is Bettley and I am not even sure that I spell it correctly. Bob had stalls at the local fairs and markets - Uppermill, Uppermill Wakes when Bates or Collins came for a week in the "Wakes Field" that is where Hopkinson Close is today. He always wore a white coat and a cap and his main stock in trade was goldfish which he sold in glass bowls. "Road End Fair" Greenfield was an annual event, I have seen Bob there. The Fair I believe was discontinued before the war.

29 (2) 23

John Harrison Wood. He would be Ramsdens' dispenser, known as Doctor John; my cousin in Bradford still refers to him as such. Until fairly recent times I had always imagined that he was a fourth Ramsden brother but cousin Alice put me right on that.

Round Hill Farm. Russell Broadbent was married to Maggie Holden, my Grandad Holden's niece, I was told. As I child I was taken on visits; one, I remember was to see a new baby. Since Grandad Holden had only one brother, James Hadfield, who predeceased him, and only a few hours old, I suspect that Maggie came down another line and was not a true niece. Note that there were two James Hadfield Holdens; it was apparently, a local custom, infant mortality being what it was in those days, where a named baby died soon after, the next child of the same sex would be given the same name.

Schofields. This family left Dobcross about 1924 and came to Uppermill. They were Wesleyans and the younger ones went to Uppermill Council School. Some carried on to Oldham Grammar I think. The children were Janet (eldest) Lucy, Doris, Florrie, Lottie, Esther, Frank, Fred, Herbert (my contemporary) and John, the youngest. Lucy never married and devoted her life to the good of others, not only in helping to bring up the family but in the chapel; with Nora Edwards and my mother they formed a branch of the Wesley Guild Juniors.

John Albert Wood, John Joe Wood and families. I think that they were uncle and nephew. J.A. was a good baritone singer and I remember him, accompanied by J.J. on cousin Alice's piano in the living room at the Masonic Hall; one of his songs was "Floral Dance"

J J. and "aunt Aggie" as my cousin called her lived next door. At some time, I cannot exactly say when, they returned to Dobcross, and Jack Young, schools attendance officer with Mrs,

Janie, Jim and Alice moved in, from Dobcross I believe.

Ernest Brewer and Nanny. As I have said, Dobcross New Road was our paper round and I can remember Nanny, she was the one I had to meet. I vaguely remember Dorothy, she was my cousin's age, a year or two older than I was. But Nanny was, I could say, so outstanding; unforgettable. Like so many others in Saddleworth she was a real character.

Joe Wrigley, wife and daughters. Joe Wrigley, the well known local trombonist, was my uncle, having married my aunt Emily Broadbent. Nora and Nancy were my cousins. Both were taught to play brass, the former played cornet the latter trombone. I was taken to see him when I was a three year old toddler, and to entertain me he produced the instrument and gave us a few notes - perhaps a bit of Wagner. He made me cry! Joe was a first class trombone who did not confine his efforts to brass bands only. He did some orchestral work which included the Hallé. The Conductor at that time would be Hamilton Harty, and I can imagine that on Wagner nights he would want to bring in some "heavies" for extra strength in the brass section, and what better could he do than engage Yorkshire brass-men to do justice to the great Richard Wagner?

(This was the time of the evil of "deputies" in the professional musical business. There is a story told by musicians in Yorkshire of a top northern orchestra waiting to begin a concert. The band was in place and the Sub-principal had taken the Leader's desk since the man had not appeared. At the very last moment he arrived, all-in-a-puff and sweating. "Weersta bin?", asked the Sub. "Afternoon concert i' Yorkshire" was the reply. "Who wert' conductor?". "Ah dunnot know" came the reply, "Ah nerr looked at 'im".)

I have a photograph (1923) of Dobcross Band. I don't see Joe Wrigley but I recognise a few faces; I can identify Hudson (Trom.), one of the Ashton lads who were great Brass-men, the

legendary Jimmy Platt, Bandmaster and cornet is there and Jimmy Brierly, big drum, also one of the Lumb boys from Uppermill.

29 (2) 24

Mr Eyres, Dobcross Schoolmaster and family; I have referred earlier. The house passed to Mr Burnage J.P. whom I do not remember. I do remember the next occupier, Reggie Mallalieu, well known in the district.

John James Hollingworth. It was "John James at Bar House" in common parlance and I was sometimes one of the "little lads" who imbibed, especially during the long hot summers we used to get in those days. The usual drink was either dandelion and burdock or sarsaparella (saperella)! This type of business was popular in those days. Hughes of Ashton, I think, was a supplier. They delivered also to private houses in stone glazed flagon bottles with ears for carrying. My grandad and uncle Albert always had supplies in the kitchen of what was a strict Wesleyan household. It was called herb-beer, non-alcoholic, and my mother, a teacher and Junior Guild, always said starting on N.A. drinks was the first step to alcohol!

29 (3) 13

Saddleworth Rangers club. Reference, "set-pot stew" makes me smile; my father told a tale of a big night at Uppermill Tory Club, next to Holden's paper shop, when some of the "lads" who had been denied entry to the "do" managed to get inside where they doctored the stew. The reference to sheeps eyes reminds me of an oft repeated story about Bob at Brownhill's (Robt. Rhodes) dog, a badly digested pork pie and a pig's eye; quite unsuitable for the *Bulletin*.

The indefatigable **Parson Thomas** again! This time Walk Mill black smoke, one of his hobby

horses. In those days, and right up to post war, the Government Inspectors, and other interested parties, like mill engineers and their stokers used a crude device called a Ringleman Chart. This worked by visual comparisons of the chimney exit smoke against a light to heavy colour card. A lawyer's delight, e.g. a cotton mill might be allowed two minutes "black smoke" at specified times which were subject to operating conditions e.g. up or down loading on the power plant.

29 (3) 14

Behind Duckworth's Shop, the Mallalieu; I knew Beth by name and that she was a nurse who married John Wainwright of Oldham.

Mr Bradbury, Solicitor. Jack Bradbury. These Bradburys bore a nickname as did so many of Saddleworth families; the many branches and sub-branches of the Broadbents had a variety of such sobriquets, mainly of an uncomplimentary nature.

29 (3) 15

Tame Water House. My Grannie Holden was born at Tamewater on 5th August 1858, here at the little fairy cottage where the footbridge carries the path leading from Wall Hill Road, over the brook. I think that Tame Water House is where Captain Bagnall lived before he moved to Hawthorpe Hall, Uppermill with his wife Ellen.

Bagnall Houses. Captain Bagnall was something of a property developer, he built dwelling houses in various locations in Saddleworth thus creating not only rents but "chief rents" which were common in the district.

29 (3) 16

Ladcastle Hall. My earliest recollections of Ladcastle were when Dr Loftus came to Saddleworth to set up his own practice. He was an Irishman, with wife and daughter, who was a great horse rider at the time, about 1928 when few people in Saddleworth rode saddle. There was still plenty of horse and cart traffic about and ponies and traps, especially used by farmer/milkmen - milkwoman Jane Wood, daughter of Joe o' Bob's delivered on foot in Uppermill. I remember a smart man dressed in riding gear used to visit the paper shop on a fine horse which he rode up to the door and secured to the Tory Club railings. I cannot identify him.

29 (3) 17

School. Mrs Pogson is I think the former Alice Broadbent - "Alice o' Chilian's"; she married Ernest who was in business as joiner and undertaker, Dobcross. (See also Akroyd Papers, *Bulletin* 29 (4) 18.) They had Edith and John, my generation. She is shown as a young woman, as is her sister, on a group photograph [reproduced on page 30 of this issue].

29 (3) 18,19,20

School photograph. There are a number of children on this photo I knew, although Frank Akroyd was over six years older than me. Molly Hall was my mother's cousin as were Addy and Frank on my Grannie Holden's side. She was very ill and she died when she was a very young lady. Eric Sykes was killed in the war and was to have married my cousin. Jim Young along with Janie and Alice were children of Jack, schools Attendance Officer and Mrs Young. I remember them coming to the house on Brownhill Vale, next door to the Masonic building. Jim had only to cross the yard to his work at Taylor and Clifton where he had succeeded Albert Farrand as apprentice

printer. In turn when Jim came out of his time the next apprentice was my friend and contemporary Kenneth Lawton.

29 (3) 21

Fitters at Dobcross Loom Works 1926.

There are a number of names here I know some very well, others not so well. Upper mill names and those I well remember tend to be centred around the Wesleyan connection, but not all; day schools also play an important part, and of course my early days spent at 337, not to mention my paper rounds.

- Albert Redman. Foreman. Father of Herbert Redman. Widowed, he married widow Ellen Hudson, mother of Leah (teacher) and went to live with them in Buckley Street. Herbert married Olive Dyson, only child, Maurice, a couple of years younger than me, my mother taught him at Lee Street St. Chads school; he graduated at U.V. Industrial chemist started work with Oldham Corporation Gas Dept. at Higginshaw, moved around the country and crowned his career as Chairman of the Scottish Gas Board. Married local girl Dorothy Appleton, two daughters.
- Wilfred Rawlings. Buckley St. Upper mill. Bell ringer.
- Harry Buckley. Upper mill. Married Dora Shaw. A younger Harry Buckley, my age, was apprentice joiner with Hewkins.
- Alan Hawkguard (Hawkyard). Upper mill. Married Elsie. Children Hilda and Jack. Both became teachers. Alan was a good cricketer and played for Upper mill. Brother to John and Herbert.
- Jack Mettrick. Upper mill. A character, he was a noted bird impersonator and often appeared at concerts. I have heard him "talking" to blackbirds and thrushes up Church Road. I think the birds were fooled by his skill. He was married to

"Mairlizzie" - Mary Elizabeth and son Dennis was my Sunday School teacher.

The picture of Dobcross Loom Works. The main Admin. or Office block is centre right. The photo I think was perhaps taken from the Standedge Road; it shows the backs of the row of houses, bottom right. This row was called "Foundry View" and the address was Marslands. To the right but off the picture was a big house and I forget the name but that is where Ned Hollingworth, Head of H and H lived. I used to visit Foundry View with my aunt. She was a close friend of Emma Marsden, formerly Greenwood, and wife of Hervey Marsden who was manager at the "Foundry". They had one child, George Clifford, a year older than me and everything a little boy would want. A big Hornby train layout and, almost unknown to the average boy, a number seven Meccano, top of the range and not many lads had one of those. So I always looked forward to a visit to Foundry View! It was the Marsdens who accommodated an RAF pilot when he came down on Standedge one night in thick fog. See my letter *Bulletin* 19 (4) 22.

Frank Akroyd's notes refer to the hooter at H and H works. It was more like a marine fog trumpet! We could hear it loud and clear in Upper mill at 9 Church Road where we lived. It was a distinctive horseshoe shape, steam operated I expect, but I cannot find it on the photo.

29 (3) 24

Nicknames. In Saddleworth they can be classified under several headings, e.g. child/parent like Joe o' Bob's or Joe o' Luke's. Some cover more than one generation. Nicknames are often related to place of residence, occupation or to some physical characteristic. Akroyd's list includes examples of all these, and I am familiar with several names on his list, either I have heard them from

others, especially family and friends; and some, like Joe o' Bobs, I commonly used myself. One or two are unrepeatable.

- Fred o' Nappies; I think "Nappy" was Napoleon.
- Billy Poo - my father frequently referred.
- Albert at Waggon. The Uppermill inn on High Street.
- Coffey Bill; as a child I knew him well, Bill Farrand lived near to us, on Pickhill, said to be henpecked. He told the tale - without shame - how his wife got him to whiten the bedroom ceiling (no fancy emulsions - it was probably whitewash); he did it whilst she was in bed and he never splashed a drop! I'm not surprised - he daren't! I have no idea where "Coffey" derives.
- Billie Funion (Funny 'un)
- Ned o' Billymans. I think that he is probably my father's uncle Ned of whom he used to speak when I was a lad. My grandfather was Jud o' Billyman's.
- Smo Benny, my father sometimes spoke of him, but he never mentioned him in connection with a cinema at Delph Mechanics. See *Bulletin* 21/2/25.
- Happy Jack Osbaldeston. See my letter SHS. *Bulletin* 22 (2) 24

A few nicknames from my own experience.

- John at th' Intuck (Intake) Farmer.

- Ned at t' Laceby, farmer, milkman.
- Fred at t' Bridge Inn, self employed carrier, horse and cart. The Bridge Inn was then a private house.
- Yogi, Mr Green and Mrs. Lived Pob Green way. Supposed to practise Yoga; he was certainly a remarkable man physically.
- Fat Alice.
- Suzie Pom Pom.
- Harry (Pump) Pearson. Very well known Uppermill businessman. See *Bulletin* 22 (2) 24.
- Joe t' Barm chap. Travelled around in a pony and trap selling bread yeast to housewives, weighed out in highly polished "Roman" scales.
- Bill's o' Jack's.
- Sticky Billy. Uppermill lamp lighter.
- Fred Fat. Our tenant who lived in "Manor" Yard behind Tory Club Uppermill. Fred Broadbent, no relation; Saddleworth UDC employee, general labourer including grave-digger. Single, lived in old Harness Room, up stone steps on which my father fitted a rail to prevent old Fred from falling into the area when he came home drunk as he always did.

To be continued.

Chew Valley

Recollections of a Childhood in Greenfield in the 1940s

Trevor Butterworth

On hot summer Bank Holidays at the end of the 1940s, the number 10 buses would arrive almost in morning convoy, winding round the corner at the top of Station Brow and tilting suddenly down to whine in protest as the gears held the heavy double decker buses in check down the steep hill and as they swung wide out around Fieldings corner, to almost in relief, clunk up through the gears again and pull purposefully through the valley bottom past the village centre to journey's end at the Clarence Hotel.

Usually a half hourly service, on Bank holidays extra services were laid on especially to move the queues of people breaking out of Manchester for a happy day lazing in the valleys or wandering in the hills around Greenfield.

At the Clarence Hotel where the bus journey terminated they would disgorge their passengers into a happy bunch, adjusting rucksacks or bags of picnic food, and regrouping for the start of a pleasant day.

Few would invade the village; most headed in the other direction. Some parted from the rest to face the immediate pull up Bill's o' Jack's, walking up the pavement of the road as it entered the dark shadow of overhanging trees where it struck purposefully up and out of the valley on its long trek to Holmfirth.

For many of these wanderers the first stop was likely to be Marion's not a third of a mile into their journey. Here just

by the road and perched on the edge of the hillside overlooking the mill Social Club was an establishment which couldn't decide whether it was a working farm or a café, and where Marion Middleton or her dad, both somewhat overweight, would puff up from the farm buildings attached below, and clamber up the steps into the shop, clothing and wellies bespattered with evidence of the farm they ran, to wipe hands on a similarly adorned apron and serve the Ice Cream Soda and other goodies to a forgiving and happy band. An affable and fair-minded lady, Marion Middleton paid the village kids the best rate of any for haymaking, as long as they worked.

For these travellers the next leg offered the choice of the long incline to above Bin Green overlooking Ashway Gap, and the scramble down Jacob's Ladder, or to branch down the gentle incline which my Gran always called Bongs Lane and which I now find is Banks Lane, - strolling in dappled sunshine and tranquil verdure flanked by dry-stone walls and on the lower side by trees, as the lane tracked above the lodge road overlooking the mill and a little further on the model farm, - until at last it reached the level of the brook.



From the Clarence, others crossed the bridge by the Gatekeepers Lodge, and beyond the stream to walk on an almost parallel track to the Lodge Road along the water's edge, until the cinder track veered off to the right and began to mount the gentle

slope towards Forty Row.

These walkers would be heading direct for the strange valley of rocks which had parted at some prehistoric time from the cliff above, and now lie scattered in a frozen cascade down the slope beneath Indian's Head.

Most, however, took the middle way, to stroll up the Lodge Road. During weekdays, whilst pedestrians could still pass, the pristine white painted wooden gate would be kept closed to traffic, until an authorised vehicle needed passage. But today, the gatekeeper would stand, a solitary figure with arms resting along the top bar of the gate now drawn wide open, cap pushed back on his head, a motionless observer of the passing tribe.

The Lodge Road ran nearly straight with ever so gentle a bend, lined by tall poplars filtering the sunlight through rippling leaves, as the constant stream of chattering walkers advanced in bunches towards the glimpse of the rocks of Yeoman Hey ahead of them.



There would be families with children, serious walkers in ones and twos, and young chaps and lasses dawdling and holding hands, and amongst them I remember the men with small dark patches sewn onto their jackets, the Italian prisoners of war.

Onwards the walk would take them, - past the neat houses occupied by the mill management up on the foot of the steeply rising hillside to the left of the road; on past and below the recreation hall of the mill social club where I recall plays and pantomimes of my childhood days and the first yearnings for the principal girls, and where in my youth the village youngsters danced to local bands as an opportunity for nebbing beneath a lazily spinning globe of mirrored particles, which

gently washed the dreamers with sequins of simulated starlight.

Still keeping to the valley bottom, the road went past the wide entrance to the cigarette paper mill and soon passed the beautifully tended gardens of Greenfield House where the boss lived.

Here, once a year, the villagers would assemble to enjoy the garden party. In memory it was always sunny and the band would provide continual music. On this day the normally constant singing of the cableway, as the wheels turned the wire to swoop the overhead buckets around the site as they scooped the greyish slurry from one area to another, draining off an acrid deep brown effluent, - ceased.

And on this day the froth on the river ran off beyond the valley towards the sea, and the river ran clear, and the stained stones awaited the return to normality tomorrow.

The model farm stood with neatly pointed high wall hard against the roadway. The merry clinking of the bottle washing and filling machine rang to the industry within the dairy.

Cement flooring throughout, this was the cleanest of farms, busy people hosing down and industrially going through the cyclic duties of this milk producing factory. There a bottle of pasteurised milk could be purchased. Across from the farm entrance stood the great circular cement walled reservoirs for the storing of decaying silage whose sweet sickly smell permeated this corner of the farm. And near here too, water from Chew Brook, descending from the valley to the right, had been diverted much higher than the junction of the two streams into a goyt whose reinforced canal supplied the farm.

Just by the farm, below where the two streams joined, and near where Banks lane finished, was one of the bathing pools where picnickers would flop on the other side of the stream, and dip, - shaded on warm days by the trees.

A few yards on there was a bridge over a branch of the stream, where its ways parted, one gentle stream gurgling down from the Yeoman Hey Reservoir, and the other brook trickling round from the valley of the Chew which led off and up to the south, and which, when gazing from the Holmfirth Road above Bin Green, I always pretended when a youngster to be the Khyber Pass.

One day I took this way, rounding into the valley of the Chew, and headed past the plantation and the scout hut to make my way to the Sugar Loaf Rock, intending to scramble up to Indian's Head where I used to stand boldly on the high cliff edge leaning braced against the wind, knowing that if it should stop my muscles would catapult me out over the drop.

In this valley, the picnickers would be scattered along the meander of the riverbed, sharing serendipity with the scouts, the rippling brooks serving to keep the bottles of milk and other beverages cool.

As I strode along the rough track near the tumbling stream, way below the Duckstone, I overtook a rounded lady, heavy shopping bag on each hand, walking at a steady pace with a laboured rocking motion as she faced the rising path. It was Mrs Robinson! Wife of the Waterman, she lived up at Chew Reservoir, miles along this broken stone cart track, and had to do her shopping in Greenfield. She had already trudged about a mile and a half of her journey and had about the same still to go. So my walk extended a bit as I carried her bags and chattered on this plod above Chew Brook, up past charnel Clough, and on to the Waterman's house at the lonely reservoir,

from where the cairns marked the path across the wild moorland heath to Laddow Rocks and thence to Tintwistle over the back of beyond.

From back at the farm, the walk up the other valley straight on took walkers in the direction of Yeoman Hey reservoir towards the rugged rocks of Dovestones standing etched dark into the high hillside. Here in this wide valley the river gently peeled away to the left, hugging the foot of the upward surge of the hillside, a long triangle of meadow extended far between it and the road. Few trees graced this stretch apart from one big sentinel standing alone. Here I have stood hearkening the cuckoo, and watched as it swooped across the valley from one singing post to another.

And then at last to the destination of many a youngster, via a clamber through the style and across the field to meet the river at the point where a barrage held back the little water allowed down. The ripples curled lazily over the wash and tumbled into Jabez Bath, a pool which generations of lads had scooped out, piling the rounded stoned like massive pebbles about the sides of the pool. There to play happily for hours at the foot of Jacob's Ladder beneath the haughty face of Alderman, and under the gaze of Dovestone, until the setting sun brought the day to a peaceful close, with a return trek back to the Clarence Hotel where the flow of contented and tired people imitated the river as it swelled at each junction, as more joined the main stream, ending at the great queue.

And there the line of number 10 buses filled and growled off and away, out of the valley, leaving it once more, as twilight fell, to the privileged few who savoured it every day.

Happy memories.

The Higson Papers

Dorothy Bintley

Oldham Local Studies and Archives holds a collection of papers which belonged to two local historians, John Higson and his son Charles, which were given to Oldham Library in 1930 on the death of Charles. An extensive card index of the collection has recently been completed which makes the material far more accessible.

John Higson was born in Droylsden and removed to Lees with his wife and children in 1866 to become a cashier in a local cotton mill. He joined several societies in the Lees area whilst retaining his interest in the history of Droylsden and Gorton. He died in 1871.

Charles Higson lived in Lees, taught at Watersheddings School in Oldham for 32 years and retired in 1920. He kept all his father's papers and added to them with his own vast fund of local information, he visited solicitors' offices and spent many hours copying out deeds, indentures, wills etc. from their archives. He also visited churches and copied extracts from their registers. He published several small books or pamphlets and wrote regular articles for newspapers, he was in correspondence with people from various parts of the world and kept their letters and copies of his replies.

There is quite a lot of repetition of information in the collection, especially in Charles' work, because he kept the rough notebooks he took on his travels, the finished hand written drafts and, if the work was for publication, the printed version too.

Several local families, including Linthwaite, Buckley, Andrew, Bardsley, Beswick, Booth, Lees, Mayall, Cresswell, Rhodes and others were studied in considerable detail. Pedigrees were drawn up which sometimes go back to the sixteenth century which modern

genealogists may want to view with some caution. However the collection includes copies of indentures, sales of properties and wills involving these families and others which may not now be available elsewhere. H158 is entitled "Indentures and wills of Lees people", but there are many other sources in the collection indexed under the family surname.

Charles Higson compiled transcripts of the monumental inscriptions in two local graveyards; Providence Chapel (Springhead Congregational Church) and about 190 graves in the New Ground at St John's, Hey. Both of these have now been typed out and indexed and are available at Oldham Local Studies separately from the Higson collection. The transcript for Providence Chapel is particularly valuable because no burial records exist for this church and only eight gravestones are visible today. The Hey transcript does not cover the whole graveyard, but it records some stones which are no longer legible.

The largest part of the Higson collection is made up of information about Lees and district. H254 lists the inhabitants of Lees in 1855. We learn there were 2272 people living in 572 homes, there are details about the rates some of them paid and the cost of road repairs. There is more information about Lees properties and their inhabitants in H26, including pen and ink drawings of some local buildings. In other places we can read about the Oddfellows Society, the gasworks, Lees Fire Brigade, Chalybeate spa, Lees cum Hey Musical Society, sanitation and ventilation, hunting, fishing, cock fighting and much else. There are records of riots, public meetings, elections, celebrations and much about local churches and schools.

When John Higson was working, paper was a commodity not to be wasted; his writing is beautifully neat but often minute. He wrote on spare pages at the end of exercise books, sometimes removing the used pages first, sometimes leaving them in. In H85 he did a study of the etymology of local place names in the back of a Droylsden Relief Committee Register for 1862 and 1863. The title has been crossed out, but there still remain 23 pages listing the name, age, residence, occupation and place of employment of many Droylsden folk. In H57 he has collected "...nearly-expired, singular-phrases of the broad peculiarities of the dialect..." in another Droylsden Relief Committee Register dated 1863 to 1864. Item H75 is a chronology which looks like an enterprise he started but did not complete; it is in the back of a register for the Droylsden Sewing Class dated 1862 to 1864 containing 720 entries listing name, age, residence, occupation and present earnings. Some items are on the back of old exam papers or in books where complicated long division sums have been worked out.

H335 is an original document collected by one of the Higsons and dated August 29th 1866. It is the estimate and valuation of the stock of a cotton mill. Unfortunately the mill is not named, but we are given an interesting view of the business. All the stock is listed including albion oil, lard, cod oil, neatsfoot oil, tallow, wheel grease, wheat flour, rice, china clay, black lead ore for the boilers and other items, together with all the cotton on the premises. We are told that the carding engines were stopped for a short time and the new cotton carefully weighed. Total outgoings were £8292 of which wages amounted to £3800, rent £600, coal and gas

£650.

The Higson Collection contains transcribed material which is better viewed in its original form, for example extracts from church registers such as St Mary's Oldham or St Chad's Saddleworth, but possibly some of the sources of information used by the Higsons are not available today, so we must be grateful that this collection has survived.

For Saddleworth, the Higson collection is particularly strong on the old Springhead UDC area, that is, High Moor – Doctor Lane - Newhouses – Lydgate and points west. The indexing of the papers was carried out over two years by Dorothy Bintley and Sandra Ratcliff. For the benefit of those who are unable to visit Oldham Local Studies to use the collection (for contact information, see p.15 of this issue of the Bulletin), Mrs Bintley adds that the transcripts of the Providence Chapel and the Hey New Ground monumental inscriptions are on her computer fully indexed. She would be happy to provide information by e-mail or by letter to anyone sending a s.a.e. Her address is 7 Church Street, Delph, Oldham OL3 5DR and the e-mail is bintley@csma-netlink.co.uk

Since this paper was written, notebooks containing further transcripts of monumental inscriptions at both Providence Chapel (91-126 in Higson's numbering) and Hey New Ground (246-327) have come to light in the collection. These have yet to be indexed.

Notes on the Ancestry and Life of Charles E. Higson, Local Historian

Howard Lambert

Charles Ethelbert Higson was born at Church View, Droylsden, on 28th September 1862, the youngest child of John and Elizabeth Charlotte Higson. His ancestry can be traced back to the marriage in 1720 of John Higson, a carrier of Worsley, who owned 80 pack horses and operated a service to London. John and his wife Susanna settled in Gorton, where the next three generations of the family were engaged in farming. Of these, Daniel Higson (1791-1843) was the most successful, his estate being valued at £800. He and his wife Letitia had eight children, all born at Whiteley Farm in Gorton. Two of their sons are worthy of mention: Daniel and John.

Daniel Higson (1830-1914) of Crosby near Liverpool founded Higson's brewery and amassed a considerable fortune. On his death, the business passed to his eldest son, John Hewett Higson.

Daniel's eldest brother was John Higson (1825-1871), the father of Charles Ethelbert. John was a gifted child; to a great extent self-taught, at an early age he had developed a passion for literature, local antiquities and folklore. After his marriage to Elizabeth Charlotte Green in 1848, he lived at Droylsden where he was employed as a book-keeper for the Springhead Cotton Spinning Company. A dedicated antiquarian and topographer, he contributed numerous

articles on the history of south east Lancashire to the *Ashton Reporter*, from its inception. In 1852 he published the material he had amassed on his native place under the title: *Gorton Historical Recorder: a History of the Chapelry, illustrating the Rise of the Mesne Manor*. Seven years later, he was the author of *Historical and Descriptive Notices of Droylsden, past and present*. He provides us with the following view of the Droylsden landscape: "The scenery on the northern side of the township, and especially in the vale of Medlock, is pleasing and attractive. The first impressions of a stranger will not prove unfavourable to the district, if obtained on a clear day, from the summit of a cotton mill, from whence the view is both extensive and diversified, exhibiting a succession of fields and hamlets, farmsteads and manufact-ories, church steeples and tall chimneys."

In 1871 he wrote a charming account of a stroll around the village of Lydgate, including a description of the Manor House, Quick Edge Lane and buildings that have since been demolished. In December of that year he died suddenly at his home, Birch Cottage in Lees, leaving a widow and seven children. He had been working on a glossary of Lancashire idioms. His obituary in the *Ashton Reporter* refers to him as "a quiet, honest, respectable member of society, whose memory



a Photograph by C. A. Jackson (Gibson)

John Higson.

still lives in the hearts and minds of hundreds of friends and acquaintances, both literary and otherwise."

Charles E. Higson lived in West Street, Lees with his sister Jane Letitia and brother William, a book-keeper and Justice of the Peace. A shy, likeable man, Charles was a teacher by profession, and taught at Watersheddings school for 32 years until his early retirement in 1920. Having inherited his father's passion for local history, he spent his spare time and retirement actively engaged in genealogical and archaeological studies. He was a prominent member of the Lancashire and Cheshire Archaeological Society and took great interest in the excavations at the site of the Roman fort at Castleshaw. His knowledge of local families was remarkable; he did for Lees, Oldham and Saddleworth what his father had done for the Manchester district.

Any old documents discovered in solicitors' offices which shed light on the history of Lees and the surrounding district would be seized on and painstakingly copied into his notebooks. Many private family archives were also made available to him; in particular Major William Lees of Heywood, who had financed the Castleshaw excavations, and possessed an important collection of documents pertaining to Saddleworth families. The two men became well acquainted over the years. In this way, Charles was able to amass a vast collection of topographical and genealogical records. These comprised deeds, maps, bible inscriptions, parish register extracts, pedigrees, wills and inventories, monumental inscriptions and local occurrences. His reputation as an expert

genealogist was such that he received enquiries from all over the world. He was always interested and eager to help; if the required information was not in his records, he would personally search for it, but never accepted any payment for his time. Over a period of years, he also contributed numerous articles to the *Oldham Standard*. On 6th November 1930 he died in a Manchester nursing home, aged 68. The following year, his sister Elizabeth Lawton donated his entire collection of over 400 notebooks and manuscripts to Oldham Public Library. The collection, which has been indexed, can be seen at Oldham Local Studies and Archives at 84 Union Street, Oldham OL1 1DN (phone/fax 0161 911 4654; email local.studies@Oldham.gov.uk; Web site www.Oldham.gov.uk/local_studies)

Here is a list of some of the many articles which Charles E. Higson wrote for the *Oldham Standard*, and are listed in the Oldham Local Studies name catalogue. Others may be found through the card catalogue to the Higson collection. A number were also printed in booklet form.

The families of Linthwaite and Lees. 1913
An old Saddleworth document. 1916
Lees Chapel, otherwise Hey Chapel in Lees. 1917
The Mesne Field in Lees. 1918
Corn mills of the Lees district. 1921
Quickmoor. 1923
King's Highway through Oldham. 1924
Springs and wells in and around Lees. 1925
The Meadow Spot in Lees. 1925
Nether Lees. 1925
Lees Chapel sittings and pews. 1926.
Thorpe Hall, Lees.

Sources

- Will of George Higson of Booths, Worsley, proved 1731, at Chester.
- Indexes to wills and administrations, post 1857, at the Principal Probate Registry, High Holborn, London
- Photograph of John Higson in *History of Newton Chapelry*, Chetham Society, Vol.52 (1903-4)
- Census returns, 1841-1891 for Gorton, Droylsden and Lees.
- *International Genealogical Index* on CD-ROM
- *Dictionary of National Biography*, vol. IX
- Lancashire Directories.
- Parish registers for Manchester cathedral, Droylsden and Gorton.
- Civil registration records.
- *Ashton Reporter*, 16 December 1871
- *Oldham Chronicle*, 8 November 1930
- Higson MSS
- Photograph of Charles E. Higson and extracts from the Higson MSS reproduced with kind permission of the Oldham Local Studies Library.
- Entry in Estate Duty register for Daniel Higson, 1843 (IR26/505)

15 Dec. 1772 - Award about Commons on Thurston Blough and Green Leach, - made by John Lees, of Bank Top, Robert Buckley, of Wallhill, and Henry Buckley, of New Farm all in Quicks and Wadsworth, yeomen, in accordance with certain Articles of Agreement, dated 24 June 1772, between Abraham Lees, of Green Leach, yeoman, of the 1st part, James Buckley, of Thurston Blough, yeoman, of the 2nd, John Garside, of Hays, yeoman, of the 3rd, Simon Dearden, of Rochdale, gentleman, of the 4th and William Bradbury, of Hays aforesaid, yeoman, of the 5th part, which provided that the Award should be made in writing and delivered to the aforesaid parties on or before the 29th day of December then next ensuing and now instant.

Extract from the Higson manuscripts (H.26, page 149)

Compiled by H. Lambert, 2001



Sarah Radcliffe

Rob Isherwood

We have in our possession a sampler that had been amongst the belongings of my grandmother Hannah Sutcliffe (née Fogg) who died in 1977. The inscription on the sampler reads as follows

**May spotless innocence and truth
My every action guide
And guard my unexperienced youth
From vanity and pride**

**Sarah Radcliffe
Aged 12 years
1839**

Who Sarah Radcliffe was, was unknown to us. However, following much research I am now able to tell the story.

Sarah was born at Intack (sometimes spelt Intake) on 15th July 1827 to John and Betty (née Broadbent) Radcliffe. She was their eighth child and was baptised at St Chad's on 26th August 1827. Father, John Radcliffe, was a clothier. All the family became involved in manufacture and trade. John and Betty were to have eleven children in all. By the time of the 1851 census, the family had moved to Rye Top, Betty having died the previous year. None of the children were to marry young, presumably they were retained to keep the business active.

The first of the children to marry was James Radcliffe, the eldest child. He married Elizabeth Holden on 30th September 1852 when he was aged 37. James is mentioned in the Parish Registers (Vol.2 p.552) as being "...the last appointed clerk, and wore the black gown, and sat in the lowest seat of the old-fashioned 'three-decker' pulpit." His photograph can be seen in Howcroft's

Chapelry and Church, p.159, alongside three other church officials.

On 11th November 1852 the seventh child of John and Betty was married. This was Mary Radcliffe aged 27. She married John William Radcliffe of Boarshurst at St Chad's. John William was listed as a farmer and his family were evidently relatively wealthy landowners. John William later became a relieving officer for the district and was also an enumerating officer when censuses were taken. Their marriage was however a short and sad union. Within eight and a half months Mary was dead. Most likely she died during childbirth. No child survived to be baptised.

In the 1861 census, John William Radcliffe is living at Boarshurst with his father. He is now listed as a widower. However, by the time of the 1871 census he is now living at Boarshurst with a Sarah Radcliffe who is recorded as his wife. He is listed as being a farmer with 11 acres. In the 1881 census they are still together, listed as being Relieving Officer and wife. I checked through numerous parish records throughout the area and could find no evidence of a marriage. It was at this point that I noticed that the enumerating officer who recorded the census entries was John William Radcliffe. It did cross my mind that in fact they might never have been married. There was no need for a surname change.

Eventually, however, I traced what I had been looking for. On 28th November 1866 John William Radcliffe married his deceased wife's unmarried sister, Sarah Radcliffe, at the Register Office in the Registration District of Saddleworth. The witnesses were listed as Edward Buckley and Sally Radcliffe Buckley. I hadn't been aware of registry office weddings

in Saddleworth at this time. I wonder about the circumstances of their marriage. Were there relatives who frowned upon it? Was a wedding in church for some reason refused?*

Sometime later, whilst walking through the 'third' graveyard at Saddleworth, I came across the following inscription on a fairly elaborate monument:-

**Here lieth the Body of
John William Radcliffe of Boarshurst,
Yeoman seventh in descent from
William Radcliffe of Cross 1609**

**Born 12th Feb. 1827
Died 6th June 1890**

Also of an infant Buried Feb 1st 1869

**Also of Sarah relict of the above
John William Radcliffe
Born July 15th 1827
Died April 25th 1903**

The inscription suggests further sadness. I had been aware that the couple had never had any children but it appears that there was a child who must have died at birth. This time, however, John William didn't lose his wife as well as a child.

The connection to my grandmother comes from the eleventh child of John and Betty Radcliffe. This was Hannah Radcliffe who married Thomas Fogg on 23rd August 1858. They had a child George in November 1859 but within six months Hannah had died leaving Thomas with a young son. It would appear that Sarah helped to bring up the young George. In 1861, Thomas and George Fogg were living at Rye Top with other members of the Radcliffe family including Sarah.

George Fogg was the father of my grandmother Hannah. The 1891 census has an entry for the Fogg family living at Boarshurst. George, now married to Eliza (née Gartside), has three children, Hannah (7), Sarah [Sally] (2) and Mary (9 months). Living with them is Sarah Radcliffe his aunt, now aged 63. The

house is presumably the house that had previously been owned by the family of her husband John William Radcliffe. His death had been noted in the *Standard* of June 14th 1890. It notes that he had resigned from his position of Relieving Officer twelve months earlier and since then had been "...battling with the disease which terminated his life on the 6th inst."

The *Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter* of May 2nd 1903 reports the death of Mrs J.W. Radcliffe of Boarshurst House after a long illness: "... she had been living up to death with her nephew Mr G. Fogg of Spring Grove."

My grandmother Hannah had mentioned that as a child she had walked to Saddleworth Church for services with an elderly relative; this must have been Sarah. She must have been an important figure in the childhood of my grandmother. As well as the sampler that our family has retained, there were also some other small pieces of needlework and a button hook which were passed on to Saddleworth Museum in the late 1970's or early 1980's. At the time, their origin was unknown but now their place of origin can be confirmed.

My research has created many images. Intake, and later Rye Top, with John and Betty and their eleven children working and living together. The young Sarah, sewing in the evening candlelight creating the sampler that is still with us. Of her brother James sitting the lower seat of the old three-decker pulpit at Saddleworth Church. Of the grief at the death of Mary Radcliffe in such tragic (if common for the time) circumstances. Of Sarah caring for the infant George Fogg after the further tragic loss of his mother, Sarah's youngest sister. Of the developing love and marriage of John William and Sarah. Of their desire for a family of their own, which was not to be. And of my grandmother as a child walking hand in hand along the lane to church on a Sunday morning with her loving great-aunt.

The experience of researching family history has been very fulfilling. At first the

excitement comes from making connections and confirming events. The real pleasure, however, comes not from the establishment of real events that took place but from embellishing those events so that the people become alive. It is possible to feel in touch with one's ancestors.

Finally, a request: I would be interested to hear from anyone who has any pictures or stories of my grandfather Jack Sutcliffe. He was the blacksmith and wheelwright in Greenfield up until his death in 1935 aged 52.

If any reader does have this information, please would they contact Rob Isherwood at 7 Knowl Syke St., Wardle, Rochdale, OL12 9PG (isherwood@knowlsyke.fsnet.co.uk). If the pictures or stories would stand publication, the Editor would be most grateful to be informed.

** Readers who know their Iolanthe will be aware that "marriage with deceased wife's sister", which had been made illegal by the 1835 Marriage Act, was a burning issue in the 1860s. A church wedding was clearly out of the question; did the Registrar turn a blind eye?*

Leonard Kidd kindly informs me that there was a Register Office at Prospecton, Greenfield, and it was here that he found the marriage of James Platt of Prospecton to his second wife Ann Radcliffe on 25th July, 1862. James Platt (1792-1864) was the Superintendent Registrar for Saddleworth for some years up to his death. Owen Platt of Prospecton, son of the above James, married Esther Radcliffe (c. 1809-1871) of Boarshurst on 30th May, 1844 at St. Chad. All these Radcliffes are descendants of the Radcliffes of Cross. — Editor.



Chew Valley, Greenfield. Chew House in the background.
The area in the foreground is now under water.
Saddleworth Museum

A Transatlantic Coincidence

Maurice Dennett

There is an Internet auction known as 'E-Bay', in which anyone anywhere in the world can submit a description and photograph of an item which they wish to dispose of, hopefully, at as high a price as possible.

During a recent visit to our daughter Barbara in America, I asked her to see if there was anything with a Saddleworth connection. One among a long list of items was 'Porcelain jug - Souvenir of Saddleworth'. The picture showed a view of the Uppermill viaduct, houses, a mill and the moors behind in minute detail, with a title 'A Present from Saddleworth'. It had been entered by a lady living in Rhode Island, who unfortunately knew nothing of its history.

There is a deadline for bids, which was after my return. I asked Barbara to put in a bid near the

deadline, and to purchase if not too expensive. She rang me to say that there was another bidder interested, but rang again two days later to say that the jug was mine.

She sent it on to me, and it arrived just before a Historical Society Committee meeting, so I took it to the meeting to show it around. To our joint amazement, our Secretary, Neil, exclaimed, 'I was bidding for that!' He had dropped out only because the vendor had been unwilling to send it by overseas mail - otherwise we would have been bidding against each other.

Sorry, Neil - but you may see it any time you like !



Notes on the Masters and Related Families

With Special Reference to the Moorhouse Family of Kirkburton, Yorks., and South Australia

Leonard N. Kidd

It is said that we live in a small world and genealogical studies frequently seem to confirm this. I little thought when investigating my paternal ancestry many years ago that the Moorhouse family I was interested in would surface again when studying the families connected through marriage to my wife's Platt family.

My earliest known maternal ancestors were chiefly yeomen and farmers in the Leek Moorlands area of Staffordshire and in Cheshire, whilst many later ones were potters and cratemakers in the Potteries area of North Staffordshire. My mother's Nixon line was already established in the parish of Leek by the end of the 15th century. My father's earliest ancestors were also associated with the land in Cheshire and Staffordshire, and the later ones like those of my mother were employed in the pottery industry or as cratemakers in North Staffordshire.

Whilst my family roots were mainly in Staffordshire and Cheshire my wife's Wood, Platt, Radcliffe and Gartside families have been associated with the parish of Saddleworth for many centuries. I am still a 'newcomer' having lived here for a mere 42 years.

Previous articles on the Masters family (1,2) have included an account of James Masters (1801-1861), former victualler at the King's Head in Dobcross (now the Swan), who left Saddleworth, England in 1839 for South Australia, where he laid out and named the town of Saddleworth and later the town of Riverton. On some of his journeyings in Australia James was accompanied by his

nephew Charles Swinden and a Dr Matthew Moorhouse.

Charles Swinden was the son of Frances Masters who married John Swinden on 1st November 1825 at Bolton Percy, Yorks. It is interesting to note that Frances' nephew William Masters and his wife Serena née Platt christened one of their children Charles James Swinden Masters. Serena was the sister of my wife's grandmother Frances Amelia Platt who married Joseph Wood in 1878 at Ebenezer Chapel Uppermill.

Some years before I became interested in the Masters family I was involved with research on a Moorhouse family who lived at Scholes, Kirkburton, Yorks. This was during a study of my father's rather complicated ancestry and involved records held at the Borthwick Institute, York, Kirklees Public Library, Huddersfield, Hanley Public Library, Staffs., The Staffordshire County Record Office, Stafford etc.

I have elsewhere (3) mentioned the possible connection between my paternal grandfather William Davis Chesworth (1858-1891) and a Davis family which included a Dr. Joseph Bamard Davis, FRS. (1801-1881) so will not pursue that further in the present article. Suffice to say that my grandfather who was born at Shelton, Hanley, Staffs., was the illegitimate son of Catherine Chesworth (1837-1901) who in 1864 married Alexander Kidd a Scotsman. My father William Chesworth (1886-1964) was left without parents when five years old and was reared by his paternal grandmother and her husband Alexander Kidd whose surname he adopted.

It was Dr. Joseph Barnard Davis, general practitioner, epidemiologist and distinguished anthropologist who as Registrar for the Shelton district issued my grandfather's birth certificate in 1858. Dr. Davis, who had a medical practice in Shelton, Staffs., married his first wife Elizabeth Haslam in 1823 at St. Michael and All Angels parish church, Ashton under Lyne, at which time his bride's father, the Rev. William Haslam (4) was the Methodist New Connexion minister in Ashton. Elizabeth Davis, née Haslam, died at Shelton in June 1857, and by 1861 Dr. Davis was living with Jane, who after considerable research I discovered was the daughter of James Moorhouse of Scholes, Kirkburton, Yorks., and his wife Elizabeth née Tinker.

All attempts at finding a marriage for Dr. Davis and Jane Moorhouse in the St. Catherine's House indexes failed and I assumed therefore that they had probably not married. However, this proved to be incorrect as will be explained later.

Jane Moorhouse was born on the 3rd May, 1809 at Scholes, Kirkburton and baptised on 22nd May, 1809 at Lane Independent Chapel, Holmfirth (5). She was one of seven children born to James Moorhouse, a woollen manufacturer, and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Abel Tinker of Mealhill, Hepworth, Yorks. One of Jane's younger brothers, Matthew Moorhouse (1813-1876) became a surgeon in Wakefield and later at Hanley, Staffordshire.

I am indebted to Mr. Brian Wadsworth (6) also to Mrs. Linda Moorhouse (7) (no connection with the above Moorhouse family) of Lancaster who drew my attention to a letter which appeared in the *Holme Valley Express* (8) newspaper about 1997. This mentioned that Dr. Matthew Moorhouse had commenced practice as a surgeon in Hanley about the year 1836. He had previously been a member of the Independent Church at Wakefield, and on arrival in Hanley joined the Tabernacle Independent Church, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. His sister Jane Moorhouse became a member of this church at the same time as her brother.

In 1839 the Rev. Ridgway William Newland gathered together a party of individuals who sailed with him to Australia where he established a Methodist Church at Victor Harbour, near Adelaide. Matthew Moorhouse and Jane Moorhouse were specifically mentioned as being in the Rev. Newland's party in an article in the *Staffordshire Mercury* dated January 12, 1839.

The publication *Pastoral Pioneers of South Australia* (9) informs us that Matthew Moorhouse arrived at Holdfast Bay in July, 1839 aboard the ship *Sir Charles Forbes*. Dr. Moorhouse came to the colony under appointment from the Imperial Government, and immediately entered upon his duties as Protector of Aborigines, having his office on North Terrace, Adelaide. He is said to have studied the welfare of the blacks with the utmost personal concern, and was instrumental in establishing a successful mission station on the north side of the Torrens, opposite to the Adelaide Gaol.

At Christmas, 1856 Matthew visited England, where for almost two years, he was engaged in lecturing and organising the emigration services to South Australia.

Soon after his return to Australia the doctor retired from the public service and embarked on pastoral pursuits. He joined Charles Swinden, nephew of James Masters, and together they had large interests about Riverton and Saddleworth. Eventually, after selling out his partnership with Charles Swinden, Dr. Moorhouse joined several others and established the firm Hope, Moorhouse & Co. in the purchase of 33 square miles of country west of the Hummocks. The Hummocks was a well established station, carrying about 25,000 sheep when Hope, Moorhouse & Co. took it over. After Dr. Moorhouse disposed of his interests in the Hummocks Station he went north, where he had already worked extensive holdings.

In the second Parliament he was elected a member of the House of Assembly and remained a member from 1860 until his retirement in October 1862. He was the

eight Commissioner of Crown Lands of South Australia in 1861 according to *The Cyclopaedia of South Australia* (10).

Dr. Matthew Moorhouse married Mary Ruth Kilner (1808-1877) on 4th January 1842 at Trinity Church, Adelaide. His bride who had emigrated to Australia on the same vessel as himself, was the daughter of Thomas Kilner Esq., of Carr House, Huddersfield, Yorks. Their second son Washington Moorhouse (1847-1901) married Frances Elizabeth Swinden, daughter of the earlier mentioned Charles Swinden and his wife Mary Nattle Foott. One of the latter's children who died in infancy was given the Christian names Charles Masters.

On discovering that Jane Moorhouse had accompanied her brother Matthew to Australia in 1839, I began to wonder if she might have married in that country. An extensive search was made for me in Australia by my good friend Eric Tetlow of Yarra Glen, and although much information on the Masters, Moorhouse and Swinden families came to light there was no marriage for Jane. Eric even contacted by letter all individuals of the surname Moorhouse in South Australia, and I am extremely grateful to him for all his help. Hopes were raised for a time when I received a letter from a Mrs. Robin Moorhouse of Naracoote whose husband is a great great grandson of Dr. Matthew Moorhouse. However they knew little of the family history and had no information to offer on Jane.

Having almost given up any hope of finding a marriage for Jane to Dr. Joseph Barnard Davis, I decided to try Family Search, the on-line IGI and Ancestral File from the LDS (11). This revealed that Joseph Bernard (sic) Davis had married Jane Moorhouse on 22nd March 1858 at Ardrossan, Ayr, Scotland. An application was made to the General Register Office for Scotland for a copy of the marriage certificate (12). On arrival this revealed that Joseph Barnard Davis, surgeon, of Albion Street, Shelton, Staffordshire had married Jane Orr, widow, by banns, on 22nd March, 1858. The ceremony which was according to the terms of the Presbyterian Church

presumably took place at the bride's home. The witnesses were M. Moorhouse and S. Moorhouse, presumably Jane's brothers Matthew and Samuel. Scottish marriage certificates are much more informative than English ones, and give the exact ages of the parties and the maiden surname of the mother to each party of the marriage. Subsequent research has shown that Jane Moorhouse married her first husband Hugh Orr on 30th September 1849 at Ardrossan, so she had obviously returned to England from Australia by that date.

Jane Davis (née Moorhouse), wife of Dr. Joseph Barnard Davis, died on 22nd November 1877 and was buried at Hanley Cemetery, Staffs. Eight months later, on 31st July 1878, Dr. Davis, then aged 77, married Emma Moorhouse, spinster, of Lichfield Street, Shelton, Staffs., his bride being only 27 years of age (13), some 50 years younger than her husband. This third marriage for Dr. Davis took place at the Unitarian Chapel in Congleton, Cheshire.

One would expect a connection between Jane Moorhouse and Emma Moorhouse, but if there is one it has not surfaced so far. Emma was born on 9th November 1851 at Heaton Norris, Stockport, Cheshire, the daughter of Edwin Moorhouse and his wife Mary née Kearsley who married at Didsbury Parochial Chapel on 25th February 1849. Edwin, who was the son of a James Moorhouse, was according to the 1851 census 22 years old at that time and was born at Stockport. Over the years Edwin had a number of occupations, being a card grinder (1849), cotton stripper (1851), house painter's labourer (1865) and later a bath keeper.

A wide search of the church and chapel records for the area around Stockport undertaken on my behalf by Judith Moore failed to find a baptism for Edwin Moorhouse. A Hannah Moorhouse, widow, aged 64, born in Yorkshire and living with an unmarried daughter Elizabeth at Allen's Yard, Heaton Norris in 1851, may have been the mother of Edwin.

It is interesting to note that an Edwin Moorhouse (born c.1804) in Yorkshire, who arrived in Australia in 1849, died at Adelaide in 1852 (14) but whether or not he had any connection with the Moorhouse family under discussion I am unable to say.

One should mention that two other women named Jane Moorhouse were married at Kirkburton in November 1826 and March 1832 respectively (15), the first to a James Tinker and the second to a Joshua Priest. It is something of a coincidence that one of these James married a man named Tinker and that

she and her husband lived at Mealhill (16). It will be recalled that the mother of the Jane Moorhouse who married Hugh Orr and then Dr. Joseph Barnard Davis, was also a member of the Tinker family and came from Mealhill. This has probably led to the Jane who married James Tinker being confused by some researchers with the Jane we have been considering in this article. There is irrefutable evidence that the Jane who married Dr. Davis was the daughter of James Moorhouse and his wife Elizabeth, née Tinker. The parentage of the Jane who married James Tinker is unknown to me at present.

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Shaw Williamson, 1905-2001

Shaw was born on Shaw Hall Bank Road, Friezland. He attended Friezland School and later Hulme Grammar School for Boys, Oldham. He was subsequently a Life Member of the Old Boys Association. On leaving school, Shaw started work in 1922 at the Manchester and County Bank in Uppermill, later to become the National Westminster Bank. He worked at many branches locally, including Mumps, and ended his career as the Manager at Delph.

During the War, he served as a Signaller in the Royal Navy and was present on D Day. His account of D-Day, originally written for the Hulme Grammar school centenary publication *Hulme ties* (1995), follows this notice.

He always loved sport and played cricket, tennis and bowls (he won the President's Cup for Bowls six times) at Saddleworth Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club, where he met his future wife Bessie. The Club was very dear to his heart and he was made an Honorary Member.

He married Bessie in 1931 at St. Philip's Southport. Bessie worked in the Co-op in Uppermill. She was a good pianist and artist.

When he retired, they decided to leave Saddleworth and came to live in Southport in his

wife's family home, where he had a large garden and grew vegetables.

Shaw lovingly cared for Bessie during her long illness. When she died in 1983, he burst into activity, visiting every racecourse in the country, joining evening classes, and journeying around the world with friends or family: to Peru, the War graves in France, and all over England and Scotland – he went to see the Bridge across to Skye when he was ninety-three years old.

He loved Saddleworth and returned every Whit Friday for the scholar's walk in the morning, followed by hymn singing on the field, cricket in the afternoon and a visit to the village Band Contests in the evening.

He loved to reminisce about times gone by. He had a wonderful memory of the Mill families in Saddleworth, many of whom were his Bank customers, and he was a great raconteur. He was a real "Saddleworthian" but in his old age, he thought the Southport climate was kinder.

He always had a twinkle in his eye. He had many friends and will be remembered with great affection by all who knew him. He was very wise, kind, generous and a truly contented man.

Eye-Witness on D-Day: HMS LCH 269

Shaw Williamson

The last weekend appeared to pass very slowly for all shore leave was stopped owing to the pending operation. Then on Monday afternoon June 5th our little craft was about the last out of Pompey harbour to pick up our convoy which had been waiting for us out in the stream.

We had many more hands on board than there was room for. The Admiral had given us an address beforehand, telling us that we had the honour to be forming the spearhead and that all the other services were specially taking care of us. And so we steamed out very slowly to form up the convoy, passing hundreds and thousands of all shapes and sizes of ships; What a wonderful sight! The weather was not too good, specially selected so the General has advertised afterwards. I wonder?

We sailed into the June night leading the tank landing craft, gunnery craft, secret rock ships, destroyers, corvettes and frigates by the score; also the bigger stuff, cruisers, battleships and land craft carriers. The sweepers were ahead of us, up to a point not far from the shore; one of these had a broken back with stem and stern pointing heavenwards.

So came D-Day to find us approaching the French coast soon after daybreak. Then the fun and games began; as we eased up, the beaching craft, major and minor, went ahead with their loads and at the same time every gun available roared out from astern of us, whilst

the rocketiers belched forth their self-energising missiles. What a racket! As the lads who had to face first the uncertain opposition drew nearer to their task. I bet they have some tales to tell, the papers will have scores of their experiences already in print and I cannot as yet add anything, for I have not yet come in contact either with those who went on or those who are not yet come in contact either with those who went on or those who are now within a few hours back in England. We carried on directing the traffic on this Eastern flank and have now been at it for seven days, always within gun range of the enemy. The landing ships come in on the second day with their huge cargoes.

Some of the sights are magnificent, delightful to look at, others are not so pleasant. Also on the second day the sight overhead almost surpassed that on sea-level as the monster planes come across towing gliders, with hosts of fighters for protection: later to see the paratroops descending beneath their red umbrellas. The sky was black with thousands of aircraft; the work in hand ceased for a while in amazement at the magnitude of it all. Their opposition was to come later on land; but when Gerry planes showed up the reception was like hundreds of Belle Vue firework displays, yet this is only one small part of the landing. All this time the battlewagons, cruisers and destroyers have been firing over us at the invisible enemy, whose heavy batteries still operate not far from Ouistreham.

Lily Brierley, 1908-2001

Lily Mills was born on 21st June 1908, the second daughter of Ruth and John William Mills. Her father being a guard on the railway, the family lived at Railway Cottages, Greenfield. As a young girl she would play with a friend on the railway banking, where one of the train drivers on the Delph Donkey would sing "Two Little Girls in Blue" to them as he stopped to fill the engine from the water tower and occasionally splashing them with water. Their paths would cross much later in life, as Lily's daughter Audrey was to marry the train driver's grandson.

She started school, firstly in the top room of the Band Club on Shaw Hall Bank Road, then moved to a room of the old Friezland Sunday School, and was among the first intake of pupils to the brand new Friezland Council School in 1915. On the school's 75th Anniversary in June 1990, she was asked to describe life at school then, to the current day pupils, and she had them enthralled by her stories.

She left school at 12 years of age to work at Royal George Mill, working one week mornings and attending school in the afternoons and alternately the next week. When she worked mornings her day would start at 6.00 a.m. and when she worked afternoons it wouldn't finish until 6.00 p.m.

At 14 she left school altogether to work full time as a weaver at Highgrove Mill, where a few years later she met Richard Brierley, whom she married in 1932 in Friezland Church.

When Highgrove Mill closed down she and her husband worked at Royal George Mills, and she continued to work there until Audrey was born in 1936. During the early war years she made

ammunition boxes at Jack Buckley's in Greenfield. Her second daughter June was born in 1942, and for a time Lily helped out in Bradbury's Bakery in Clough Lane, then later managed a fish and vegetable shop on Mossley Road, Grasscroft. She returned to the textile industry as a mender at Oddy's Mill, staying there until the Mending Room closed down.

After she was widowed in 1967 she went to work at L.T.E. in Greenbridge Lane, Greenfield, later managing the canteen. She finally retired from there (most reluctantly) at the age of 70.

When she came to live in Springhead, in Hood Square, she joined the Over 60's Club and greatly appreciated and enjoyed the community fellowship and support from the residents and Warden. She was also a member of the Forum at Uppermill and went regularly to the meetings.

Her family was her pride and joy, with her daughters, her two grandsons, and great-grandchildren also.

Throughout her life, her Church family at Christ Church, Friezland, was very dear to her too. She sang in the Church Choir for many years, and took part in the many Sunday School concerts and pantomimes. When well into her 80's, she was thrilled to be asked to crown the Friezland Harvest Queen, and undertook this pleasant task with tremendous confidence.

Lily was well loved and respected by all who knew her. She worked hard in the course of a long and full life, but found many pleasures from it. Lily retained a strong faith and her independence to the last.

Letters

Textile Mills, Albert Wood, and the Slaughter House

From Albert Broadbent, Rimmon, Braystones Road, Beckermest, Cumbria CA21 2XX

There are at least three topics in the Spring 2001 *Bulletin* which could engage me perhaps indefinitely!

1. *Lancashire and Yorkshire Textile Mills.* I read the paper from the anecdotal viewpoint, having known most of the mills named in the paper. I especially remember the Cairo where I worked for a long time before the war and also Maple 1 and 2, where I remember many people, in particular the Marlands, engineers at Cairo and the formidable Dick Batty at Maple 1 and 2. I worked on the refurbishment of Manor, pre-war when it was being converted, I think by Dodds, from mule to rings. I shall not forget that the reigning Cotton Queen was employed there at the time! I think she was a winder.

2. *A Saddleworth Scientist.* W.H. Theakstone's* appreciation of Dr Albert Wood, and plenty of nostalgia here too. I was about ten when I heard of Dorothy and Albert Wood's "uncle" Albert. He was I think their father's cousin. I can remember his visits to Uppermill and of course I remember his father Cllr. Joe Wood who lived near to us, in Pickhill. What has particularly interested me is that my mother may have taught Albert Wood when he was at Uppermill Wesleyan School. Also I believe that his father was one of the school managers. My mother was born in 1887 whilst Albert was born in 1890. In July 1902 she began training as a pupil teacher at the school; she was aged 15 and Albert would be 12. Her contemporaries as student teachers were Alice Dearnley,

Annie Beatrice Platt and I think Elsie Heggibottom; there were others. Very few teachers were UV. trained in those days and even fewer had degrees; one such I remember was a colleague of mother's at St. Mary's Greenfield, Miss Marion Rena Longbottom B.A., who lived at Rush Hill. Also until after the war there were C.A.s-certificated assistants (qualified) and U.A.s (unqualified assistants) in the ratio in England and Wales (not Scotland) of about 50:50. This matter was addressed by postwar legislation.

3. *The Slaughter House.* This reminds me that we had a slaughter house in Spring Street just off High Street. I think it probably belonged to the Co-op, and the butcher shop was around the corner in Court Street, Uppermill.

His reference to walking sticks and animal parts might well be dismissed as a little owd fellies club tale but it is true enough! Before the war I was working with a journeyman in Uppermill, who told me same the tale, and I found it unbelievable. To me, studying engineering subjects at the time, including Strength of Materials, at Oldham Tech.(Ascroft Street), to accomplish what was claimed by the stick-makers was like trying to build a hencote using tripe instead of wood. Yet my mentor assured me it was all true, and he had seen and tested the walking stick. What he did do was to give me the lucky collector's name and I knew the man well; he was very well known in Uppermill!!

* Editor's note: This was in fact researched and largely written by John Buckley. I apologise for not having shown this.



Also from Albert Broadbent comes this photograph taken at around the turn of the century, which he refers to in his Dobcross notes on page 5 of this issue. Location unknown. He can identify the following faces; can anyone add to them?

Back row: 6: Gertrude Elizabeth Grimshaw (née Holden; Albert Broadbent's mother); 7 Ann Mary Bradbury (née Shaw; mother of Alan Bradbury, Lee Street); 8 Annie Beatrice Clifton (née Platt; married Ferdinand Clifton-Taylor of Clifton printers; their daughter Nancy married Alan Bradbury).

Second row: 8 Littlewood (?); 9 Sarah Alice Holden; 10 Lily Wright (née Roberts).

Third row: 1 Mrs Heap (née Broadbent?); 7 ? Broadbent; 8 Alice Pogson (née Broadbent).

Front row: 1 (Isa) Bella Farrand (née Littlewood); 2 Harriet Buckley (?); 3 Annie Bradbury; 4 Lillian Buckley.

The Family History Group

Trevor Butterworth

About 8 months ago the Family History Group was formed, and got off to a fine start. It grew from a germ of an idea into a thriving group of like-minded people in no time.

With Mike Buckley at the helm to provide the technical direction, a computer mailing list was set up to provide the focal point for all the growing Group membership. A means of 'talking' to each other 'in the open' it was the trigger for a surge forward, as ideas on the direction of the Group intermingled with inquiries about specific families, and with requests for guidance on how to go about aspects of Family Research. More often than not somebody out there knew the answer, - or another part of it!

Present membership

There are presently 36 people (husband and wife counting as one!), forming membership of the Group; and it's growing! They are researching 50 family names, some which have occupied the valleys for less than a couple of centuries and others which have dwelt here for hundreds of years.

At present a dozen of the Group live locally, but for the rest work and marriage has scattered them widely through out the UK, and as far afield as New Zealand, Canada and America. And for those no longer in the valleys, e-mailing the Group's computer Mailing List has brought a new impetus to their interest.

Each member has a different level of expertise, from novice to old hand, and each is in hot pursuit of his/her own objectives. But because this is a keen interest shared, the flurry of activity as one member's searching coincides with another's is exciting to

observe. Then the picture grows before your eyes as pieces of the jigsaw are offered from one member with common interest after another.

Family trees

Some of the families being researched are the really old Saddleworth names, like Buckley, Scholefield, Mallalue, Wrigley and Kenworthy. A selection of those old families, which Mike Buckley has researched, from records from the 17th and 18th century, is viewable on the Website.

New discoveries

From time to time really interesting things are turned up. Richard Lyne sent information about the Midgreave Wrigleys and the move of a branch of this family to Netherton, near Almondbury in the eighteenth century. This family grew in importance and Prime Minister Asquith turns out to be a direct descendent (his grandmother was a Wrigley). And then some things surprise in a different way as skeletons in the cupboard are discovered.

Wills database

Wills and letters of administration are a useful aid to research; in fact they can be of particular value in Saddleworth during the seventeenth and early eighteenth century as they are one of the main sources of genealogical information during a period when the Church registers are very incomplete and poorly kept.

Some of the members have acquired collections of photocopies of Wills, during the course of their researches and a database of all these is being created so that at least members know where to go for help. This will also avoid wear and tear due to constant photocopying of the originals.

An index of the 17th and 18th century Saddleworth wills held at Preston, York and the PRO, compiled by Mike Buckley is also well on the way to conversion into computer format.

Both of the above databases will be placed on the Society's website in due course.

We would like to hear from members holding collections of photocopies of wills so that we can add to the database.

Emigration Database

Another project under way is a list of names and dates of departure of all the Saddleworth people who emigrated before the 20th century. The initial source of this information base is The Saddleworth American Connection which was researched by Ann Parry some years ago. Much new information has now come to light and new entries will be added. But what we know now may only be the tip of the iceberg.

We hope to enlist the help that of our American and Australian members; - Ellis Island would be a valuable source of information. This is another project needing volunteers.

Parish Register Transcription Project

Church and Chapel records of Baptisms, Births, Marriages and Deaths and Burials are a vital source for researching family history. Unfortunately there has been a real danger of loss in the past, and although many have now been microfilmed and indexed, transcription of the information onto a computer database is the best way forward in making information available - and of ensuring that it

survives. But transcription brings more than that; it enables people unable to travel to where the records are, to view them at home through computer access. And even more than that; once captured on a computer database, the data can be sorted and indexed, speeding up the task of searching.

The Registers of the various Saddleworth Parish Churches have already been tackled by other groups, to varying degrees, so the Society has decided to focus initially on Nonconformist Registers where coverage is less complete. Delph Independent Congregational Church records have recently been photocopied, and the daunting task of transcribing every entry is presently well under way, although it is expected to take some time to complete. And now the hunt is on to locate the rest of the Nonconformist church records and to obtain permission to photocopy them so that transcriptions can be made.

The Future of the Website

Ian Douthwaite in New Zealand is presently undertaking a complete redesign of the Saddleworth Historical Society Website, and a new section for the Family History Group is being developed. The new section will include links to tables of Church records, Deeds, Family Trees, Trade Directories, Emigrants and Wills, and in order to help members new to Family History, it will also have a link to tables of Local Study Centres and other relevant Websites.

Come and join us

There is much work to do, but also much rewarding involvement and the Group is seeking active members who can help to expand the knowledge base. Whilst new members are sought wherever they might live, the Group is particularly keen to recruit members from the local community.

Who knows: great oaks from little acorns.....?

List of Members' Interests

RESEARCHER	RESEARCH INTERESTS
BARDSLEY, Roy	BRIERLEY (Denshaw); HOLDEN (Brown Hill Naze)
BARTON, Mavis	
BARROW, Neil	ALL
BEATTIE, Enid	RHODES, SCHOLEFIELD, BRIERLEY
BETTERTON, Mary & Trevor	WRIGLEY, RHODES, HUDSON (Delph), BROADBENT, HEGINBOTTOM
BLAIR, Tim	BUCKLEY
BRIERLEY, John	BRIERLEY
BROADBENT, Elsie	ALL
BUCKLEY, Bruce	BUCKLEY
BUCKLEY, Mike	ALL
BUTTERWORTH, Trevor	BUTTERWORTH (Ogden, Micklehurst, Greenfield); BRADBURY (Uppermill, Greenfield); GREENHOUGH (Greenfield); SCHOFIELD
CONCHA, Jane	RHODES; KENWORTHY
COOP, Jane	
DOUTHWAITE, Ian	KENWORTHY
DURKEE, Lilyan	GARTSIDE (Bridge House); WOOD; NOBLE; LAWTON, TRAVIS
FRANCIS, Susan	LEES; LINTHWAITE
FRITH, Janice	
GARTSIDE, David	GARTSIDE; WRIGLEY; PATTISON, BLACK (Denshaw)
GOULD, Jeff	PLATT (Mounsorrell, Clough Bottom)
HAKEN, Anne	RADCLIFFE; MAYALL
HARRISON, David	
KIDD, Leonard	WOOD; GARTSIDE; PLATT, RADCLIFFE (Cross)
LYNE, Richard	BUCKLEY, KENWORTHY, THORPE, WRIGLEY, BRADSHAW, COCKHILL, FERNELEY
MALLALIEU, Tim	MALLALIEU
PRUDDAH, Roy	BRADBURY; LEA (canal & boatman); KING
QUADE, Anne	SCHOLEFIELD; BUCKLEY; RHODES
RIDOUT, David	PLATT
SANDERS, Jean	WHITEHEAD, (Shaw Hall)
SCHOLTZ, Pam	BENTLEY; BOTTOMLEY
SHUTTLEWORTH, Allen	BROADBENT
SYKES, Elaine	ANDREW (1600's); BRIERLEY/BREARLEY (1700's); BUCKLEY; DRANSFIELD; HALL (1700's); HEYWOOD (1700's); KENWORTHY (1700's); LEES; MELLOR (1800's); MURRAY (1800's); PLATT (1600's); SCHOFIELD (1600-1750); SHAW 1(700's) WHITEHEAD; WRIGLEY; SYKES; WILD,(1700)
WESTLOTOM, Cheryl	SCHOFIELD; WINTERBOTTOM; HEATON, SYKES, MILLNS; CARTER
WHITEHEAD, Richard	WHITEHEAD (Saddleworth Fold); WRIGLEY (Saddleworth Fold)
WRIGHT, Dannie	BRADBURY
WRIGLEY, Graham	WRIGLEY; BUCKLEY; KENWORTHY

CURRENT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Books

SADDLEWORTH FROM THE AIR. By Professor Barri Jones. £12.75

SADDLEWORTH 1914 -1919: The experience of a Pennine community during the Great War. By K. W. Mitchinson. Soft backed £5.00 Hard backed £10.00

CHERRY VALLEY CHRONICLES: Letters from Thomas Buckley and family - immigrants to Cherry Valley and Milbury, Massachusetts, USA, to his son Ralph Buckley and family, of Dobcross and Delph, Saddleworth. Transcribed by Maurice Dennett. £5.00

PASSAGE THROUGH TIME: A history of Saddleworth roads and track-ways. By Bernard Barnes. £5.95

WITH AMMON WRIGLEY IN SADDLEWORTH. By Sam Seville, Son-in-law and companion of the Saddleworth writer and poet. £2.95

THE SADDLEWORTH STORY: A collection of historical essays. (WEA Publication.) £2.00

HUDDERSFIELD NARROW CANAL: A compendium of articles from the Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin on the construction of the Canal. £3.60

Local Interest Trails.

Walks around Saddleworth: Illustrated with notes on local history and landscapes. £1.20 each

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. DELPH, HEIGHTS AND GRANGE | 7. DELPH |
| 2. UPPERMILL | 8. LYDGATE AND GROTON |
| 3. GREENFIELD | 9. DOBCROSS |
| 4. HUDDERSFIELD NARROW CANAL | 10. DIGGLE (<i>new</i>) |
| 5. GRASSCROFT | 11. CASTLESHAW |
| 6. DENSHAW | |

Maps

STREET GUIDE TO SADDLEWORTH: An A2 comprehensive Street Map of the area. £1.20

COUNTRYSIDE GUIDES: Large scale maps of the district showing public footpaths, amenities and features of special interest: with notes on the local and natural history of Saddleworth.
Saddleworth North £2.40. Saddleworth South *Out of print*

CHURCHYARD PLAN: A plan of the Old Graveyard at Saddleworth Church. £1.80

LOWER GRAVEYARD PLAN, Saddleworth Church. £3.00

Pamphlets

ADDRESS TO THE VARIOUS CLASSES OF MEN IN SADDLEWORTH: Shewing the necessity of supporting the Plan laid down for augmenting the Price of Labour in the Woollen Manufactory: Describing the Distressed Situation of the Parish in 1795. By Daniel Nield. £0.75

Items are available at the Saddleworth Museum and at local bookshops, or by post from the Society's Publications Officer, Mr B.E. Jackson, 7 Slackcote, Delph, Oldham OL3 5TW (Tel: 01457 874530). Please make cheques payable to Saddleworth Historical Society and add 20% postage and packing for delivery outside Saddleworth.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2001

"When the bees are in the heather
Lip deep in purple wine,
Then the life they live in Eden
On Pennine moors is mine."
Ammon Wrigley

The final lecture of the season was on Thursday 17th May, 01, by Alan Petford on 'Medieval Stained Glass', being vividly illustrated by his slides and in one part concerned the glass from a stately home which now adorns Morley Parish Church, Derbyshire, where our member Geoff Toms of 'Up Yonder' fame attends. This lecture was in place of 'Meres, Merestones and Markers: 1000 years of Saddleworth Boundary', by Michael Buckley, which will now take place in next year's programme.

In October our member Mrs. Mollie Jenkins from Barnard Castle will speak on the history of the Kenworthy family, which will no doubt deal with the interesting area of Quick. The exact date will be given in the enclosed Syllabus.

Summer Trip 2001

On Saturday, 14th July, 2001, a hardy crew of Saddleworthians set off for North Wales to prove the weather forecasts wrong and to enjoy a fine day.

Caernarfon offered a cruise along the Menai Straits, a visit to Edward 1's Castle with Prince of Wales memories, the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum, the Saturday market or a walk uphill to the Roman fort of Segontium.

The next view was of the Menai Straits and the historic bridges to Anglesey (Ynys Mon) or Mona as the Romans named it when it was a Druid stronghold. Passing through Holyhead on Holy Island we saw another Roman fort of Caer Cybi at the church. Then we moved to South Stack to enjoy the view of the lighthouse and south to Snowdonia or walk down to Ellin's Tower for the R.S.P.B. seabird centre to watch the cliff-nesting birds through binoculars or telescopes. Across the road were the ancient hut circles on the lower slopes of Holyhead Mountain.

Sadly spending only a short time in Holyhead we then came straight back to Saddleworth still enjoying the beautiful sea views along the North Wales coast.

Last month we were pleased to welcome Mr. James Meadowcroft from Bristol, who brought news of a celebration for the 100th birthday of Charlotte, his mother who you will remember visited Saddleworth in 1996 for the Whit Friday walks in Greenfield, having tea with Mrs. Eunice Bingley at Hey Top. She also provided an article 'A Saddleworth Childhood', recalling her days in 40 Row and the scholars Whitsuntide Walks at St. Mary's Church, Greenfield. Happy memories of yesteryear and we trust it will be a very special 100th Birthday for Charlotte on Thursday the 27th December, 2001, at the Forte Post House, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks.

The headlines on Monday 2nd July, 2001, in the Oldham Chronicle, told of David Cook, the Delph Undertaker being bitten by an adder as he searched for an 18th century grave in the Delph Independent Churchyard, commendations are therefore in order for our member, Howard Lambert who contributes articles on Monumental Inscriptions at Delph Independent Chapel for our Bulletin. Unbeknowing of the serpentine threat that was lurking amongst the debris and twigs on his many visitations.

Forthcoming Events at the Museum to the end of the year.

Coffee Mornings & Boutique.
Farmers' Markets.
Annual Beer Festival.
7.30 - 11.0 p.m.

7.30 - 11.0 p.m.

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month.
Every 2nd Sunday of the month.
Friday 31st August, 2001
Roger Higgins Blues Band
Saturday 1st September, 2001
Clive Yeadon's Jazz Trio.

Friends Sunday Lunch.

Sunday 30th September, 2001

Mikron Theatre.
Afternoon Tea.
Table Top & Plant Sale.
Xmas Shopping Trip to Harrogate &
Leeds.
Friends A.G.M.

Sunday 7th October, 2001
Date to be announced.
Date to be announced.
Monday 19th November, 2001
Tuesday 18th December, 2001

Exhibitions.

Saddleworth Volunteers in World War 1
The Home Front in World War 11

Current Exhibition.
Current Exhibition.

Spring Bloomers.

This most popular exhibition will run to
16th Sept. 01 - a display of intimate
apparel presented in the best possible
taste.

Art Exhibitions.

Sue Platt - Preview night.

Friday 10th August, 2001

Charles Hickson - Preview night.
Open Art Competition. - Preview night.
Helen Wild - Preview night

Friday 14th September, 2001
Friday 19th October, 2001
Friday 23rd November, 2001

Childrens Activity Days.

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Tuesday, 14th August, Wednesday 15th August, Tuesday 28th August,
and Wednesday 29th August, 2001

Textile Working Days

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Sunday 26th August, Sunday 23rd September, and Sunday 21st October, 2001

Craft Workshops

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Rag rugs.

Saturday 18th August, 2001

Bondini or Weaving.

Saturday 8th September, 2001

SADDLEWORTH W.E.A.

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Autumn 2001 Courses.

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Courses starting in week commencing 10th September, 2001 at Saddleworth School,
Uppermill. 7.15 to 9.15 p.m.

Monday evenings:	Tutor: Mike Fox; Saddleworth Reminiscence Workshops. 11 weeks
Tuesday "	Tutors; Alan Petford & Mike Buckley: Saddleworth Wills & Inventories of the 17th cent. 22 weeks.
Tuesday "	Tutor: Victor Blunden: Egyptian Art & Society. 11 weeks.
Thursday "	Tutor: Heather Pearce: Cane & Rush Seating. 6 weeks.

Places on Alan Petford's course are limited to 30. This will be a practical research class transcribing and analysing this important documentary evidence. All records will be put on computer with the hope of publishing at a later date. Fees will be £72.60 full or £57.20 concessionary for the 22 weeks (payable in two instalments). Anyone wishing to enrol contact Dorothy Latimer on 0161 633 3205

Enrolment for all other classes is on the first evening of the class

We have been unsuccessful in our search for tutors for Music Appreciation & Embroidery; we will continue to enquire and hope to put on these classes at a later date.

A W.E.A. brochure is enclosed with all locally delivered bulletins; this gives further details of our courses. Copies are also available at local libraries.

Saddleworth W.E.A. -contd-

Second-hand projector and screen
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Mr. & Mrs. R. Kenworthy from Kent came to our area for a short break in June and very kindly brought a projector with them. We now have two projectors and two screens. Our thanks go to Mr. Kenworthy and Mr. Hodges who have made this generous donation.

Kenworthy Lecture and Annual General Meeting.
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This will be held on Friday 31st August, 2001 at the Masonic Hall, High Street, Uppermill, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Our speaker will be the Rev. Dr. John Atherton who will give a talk on 'From Saxon Fortress to Postmodern City - the development of Manchester Cathedral'.

This meeting is open to anyone. Wine and cheese will be served. Entrance is free, but donations will be welcome.

Our new W.E.A. branch secretary, Mr. Ian Stubbs will officially take over from Mrs. Dorothy Latimer at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee wish to express their thanks to Ian for volunteering to take on this job.

NEWS FLASH
.....

The books "The Prehistory of Saddleworth and Adjacent Areas", by the late Dr. W.P.B. Stonehouse and "Roman Saddleworth", by Ken Booth, which are being published by the Saddleworth Archaeological Trust with the assistance from The Heritage Lottery Fund, are now at their second and third proofing stages.

The subsidised cost to members of the Historical Society will be in the region of £5.00 a copy, plus postage and packing. Printing will hopefully take place late September.

A flyer with an advanced order form, with descriptions of the two books, will be issued when final details become available from the printer.

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST
.....

Saddleworth Conservation Area
Phil Sweet, Senior Planning Officer, OMBC

Thursday 6th September, 2001
Saddleworth Museum 7.30 p.m.

Members' Evening 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 3 November, 7.30 p.m.
2 New Barn, Delph.

AGM followed by 'Moorland Conservation', by
Rhodri Thomas, Peak District National Park.

Saddleworth Museum, 7.15 p.m.
Thursday 29th November, 01

MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

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We wish a summertime welcome to the following new members who have now joined the Society.

Mrs. Jane Coop, Greenfield.
Mr. Michael R. Radcliff, Eagleville, PA, U.S.A.

Mr. Arthur R. Wood, New Bedford, U.S.A.
Mr. Nick Mallalieu, Worthing, Sussex.

It is interesting to learn that Michael Radcliff's ancestor, John Radcliff, was a soldier serving with the Duke of York (later James II) and manning the garrison at Albany, U.S.A., during the 17th century. Fortunately he has traced his family tree back thus far and it will be exciting to know of his Saddleworth connection.

Regarding subscriptions for this year it is sad to note that there are still many outstanding payments yet to be made to the Society and your personal attention would oblige.

Family Membership.....	£12.00	Single Membership.....	£10.00
Retired Family & Single.....	£8.00		
Overseas	U.S.A. £15.00	Sterling or 40 dollars.	
	Australia & New Zealand.....	£15.00 Sterling.	

During this year we have been concerned with the Byrom family tree. We had an enquiry from Mr. Louis Noble from Wrexham whose music teacher possessed an oboe with an inscription :-

'Played by Benjamin Byrom, Age 10 years at Delph Independent Chapel
1812'

Considering Mr. Noble works in Royton he was able to inform his music teacher of the location of Delph. The idea was floated that they would visit Saddleworth to produce a repeat performance, but unfortunately due to the condition of Delph Independent Chapel this was not feasible. Perhaps someday they may pay us a visit because of this historical connection.

We discovered during our research that Benjamin born 1801 was the son of Benjamin b.1773 and Alice who lived at Bankfield, Delph. Benjamin's brother was Robert b.1815 the dynamic force of the family creating a successful Textile business by building two mills at Slackcote, Delph, upon the River Tame. In fact due to his success he was able to purchase much of the land in the valley and became a benefactor to the community creating Friarmere Cricket Club and the workers cottages built adjacent to New Barn. As a young man Robert moved to Green Ash, which is now a restaurant.

J.Hindle.

