

Saddleshworth Historical Society Bulletin



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Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

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Cover illustration: a sketch by **Geoff Toms** of shop-fronts in Delph, one of the illustrations in the book *Saddleworth Villages* which is available from the Society, please see the Publications List and enclosed order form for details.

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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.

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.

The Memoir of Wilfred Hill

Part One

This is the first extract from the memoir of Wilfred Hill, which has kindly been offered for publication by his son Graham Hill, a member of the Historical Society who is currently engaged in research into his family. Wilfred's father George Hill was the founder of George Hill (Oldham) Timber Merchants, his grandfather, James Hill, as the memoir reveals, was the son of one of the many migrants from Saddleworth to North America in the Nineteenth Century. The first part of the memoir provides an insight into Wilfred Hill's early childhood at Wickens Farm near Saddleworth Church and subsequently at Marshead Farm, Diggle. Further extracts will be published in subsequent numbers of the Bulletin.

The Hill Family in the Nineteenth Century

Grandfather Hill [James Hill] was born at Bent Grange, a house in West Street, Oldham in 1851. His father was a master brick maker in the days when bricks were made on the site, who emigrated to the United States of America sometime after 1851. He is reputed to have introduced brick-built houses in an area where all the houses had previously been timber constructed. Grandfather Hill was married in Pike County, Pennsylvania, to Sarah Ann Smith in 1873. It is not known how Grandmother Hill came to be in America, as she was not born there. She came from Chesterfield in Derbyshire and was born in 1850. Her mother's name was Cheesbrough. It is not known how long Grandfather [James] Hill lived in the United States, but he returned to Oldham with Grandma and their young son George about 1880. Two daughters were born afterwards. Their photographs used to hang in the living room when they lived at Thornlea Fold, Grotton. I remember one was called Sophia. They both died before reaching their teens. Later three more sons were born, John William, Arthur and Roland. John Willie, which was the name he was known by, was the black sheep of the family. He was always getting into trouble, so much so that Grandfather [James] Hill paid his passage to the U. S. A. to get him out of the way. This would be about 1910. I can just remember him. He used to sit me on his knee and play the Phonograph, which was a novelty at that time. It is not known what happened to him, but the last letter received from him said that there was no work to be got where he was and he was going to walk to another part where he had been told there was plenty of work. This would be about 1912. Efforts were made to trace him, but without success.

When our Grandparents returned to England in 1880, they had a bakery in Cheapside. Grandfather Hill was described as a Breadmaker on his marriage lines. They used to supply

the restaurants of Tommyfield with bread and tea cakes. This is the only accurate knowledge I have of them up to my own memories of them when they lived at Thornlea Fold. They owned two semi-detached cottages there and lived in one. Uncle Roland lived in the other, Cousin Alice and Roland were born there. My memories of my Grandmother are that she was a very kind person, a very good cook, and also good at needlework and other handicrafts. This was more common in those days, if you lived out of town. They had to have hobbies to pass the time, especially in winter time. She died in 1914 of a cancer. After Grandmother died, Grandfather continued to live at Thornlea for a time and then came to live with us at the farm at Diggle. He went with us when we left the farm to live in Oldham and he died at 139, Balfour Street in 1918.

Saddleworth in the Early Twentieth Century

Father and Mother were married in the 1890s and sister Elsie was born in 1899. They were living on Brighton Road, Highmoor at the time. This was when horse trams were running from Hollinwood to Waterhead. Father was working at Bamforth's Timber Merchants and Joinery Manufacturers of Cavendish Street, off Union Street West. He had started work there as an apprentice when he was 13. I remember him telling me of one occasion when Trade Unions were becoming a power in the land. Some of the joiners, who were keen to get on in life, used to climb over the gates at 6 am to get to their benches. They were on piece work. The Union said this was wrong because there wasn't enough work for everyone, this may have been the case because there was no unemployment pay then. Piece work had to stop and all the men had to be paid the same.

Wickens Farm

There were times when father was out of work. This was why he had a go at farming and he thought it would be good for his health. I remember he used to say that he had improved his health but made no money. There were no subsidies for farmers in those days. I cannot remember being short of something to eat, but when I look back, they must have been very hard times. It must have been about the early 1900s when my father and mother and baby sister Elsie went to live at Wickens Farm, North East of Saddleworth Church. I was born on February 20th 1906 and my brother Frank in July 1909. We lived at Wickens until early 1914. It was a poor place then, out of the way, difficult to get to, no proper roads, no gas, electricity or tap water, but we had a good supply of water outside from a stream and a well. The buildings must have been about two hundred years old then and in a poor state of repair, part of it was very damp. By present day standards it would have been condemned as unfit for human habitation, but it was not unusual in those days. We were tenants and had to make the best of it. Father started off with rearing pigs, I believe, although it was before my time,

but this was not a success. What I do remember is when we had about six head of cattle, milkers we called them, a horse and cart and probably a few calves etc. The horse and cart was used for doing work like carting stone from the quarries on the wagon road, for road making and repairing. This was before there were tarmac roads. At that time the main road through Uppermill was sandstone and there were plenty of pot holes in it as I can remember. The streets in the towns, of course, were paved with stone setts. The milk that was produced from the cows, was sold to Bradbury's at Fairbanks Farm, Diggle, to be retailed along with their own. During the time father was working in Oldham, he used to carry the milk on his back in a gallon can to Fairbanks Farm, which was three quarters of a mile away, continue his journey to Diggle station and catch the train for Oldham, to do a day's work there. This procedure was reversed in the evening. The only difference was that the walk was uphill instead of down and the can from Fairbanks was empty. He must have done this for a number of years.

Marshead Farm

I was only eight years old at the time but I can remember what a wonderful occasion it was, particularly for my mother and father, when we moved from Wickens Farm to Marshead Farm at Diggle. We were only a quarter of a mile from the station and the shops and Kilngreen School, which my brother Fred and I attended. Instead of my father having to carry the milk from Fairbanks they collected it. My mother became an active member of Kilngreen Church and life in general became much fuller for all the family. I think it was about February or March 1914 when we moved to Diggle. We lived at Marshead Farm for about four years from just before the Great War of 1914-18 to just before it was over. When I look back, they were happy days for me. I was in the Boys Brigade. We assembled once a week and had Church Parades quite often. As the older boys grew to the age of eighteen they were called up for the army. Some were decorated, some were killed or wounded. We used to march up to Saddleworth Church to memorial services, not just for former members of the Boys Brigade, but for the many men of the district, who had been killed in the war. Two of the older boys, named Vernon Brooks and Turnough Bradbury, who later joined the army, used to blow the last post on their bugles, in the gallery of Saddleworth Church. I remember my father, who was thirty seven when the war broke out in 1914, going to Huddersfield to enlist, but he was rejected because he had a hernia. His heart was not a hundred percent in any case and he kept himself going by living a quiet life, nobody ever worked harder. During the war, Bamforth's, where he was the foreman, were kept busy making smoke boxes and various other things for the Admiralty. The staff were mainly women and older men.

The years at Diggle have still very fond memories for me. Unless one had their father or someone very close in the war, it was a very exciting time for a young boy. We had the Rifle Range, where the soldiers came to train. There were occasions when the Boys Brigade went there camping. Wharmton Towers and Ashway Gap House were used during the war as convalescent homes for the wounded and they were invited to visit various Sunday schools in the district to be entertained. I was excused school on a number of occasions to help with getting the hay in or helping Arthur Smedley with ploughing. One thing I didn't like about ploughing was walking in between the two horses when making the first furrow. To make sure that it was straight, sticks about three or four feet long were driven into the ground at about twenty yard intervals, in line with each other. I had to walk between the two horses holding on to a rod that kept them apart, keeping my eyes on the sticks in front. I was always afraid of having my feet trodden on by the horses, so the temptation to look at ones feet was very great. Arthur Smedley used to go all over Saddleworth doing this during the season.

Smedleys themselves grew potatoes, cabbages, swedes etc in both the wars. During the First World War, none of the Smedley family were married and they all lived at home: father and mother, four sons and four daughters. It was a real farm house atmosphere, particularly at meal times. A large table, scrubbed white, table cloths were used on Sundays and special occasions. The mother and daughter used pint pots and the men had basins to drink their tea from. This always seemed rather funny to me, but it must have been the custom at one time. Later on in the war Jack, Ted and Arnold joined the army and Lily became a nurse.

The reason for father giving up farming [in 1918] was that he had come to the conclusion that farming was not for him. He had had no luck and a particularly unfortunate thing happened which made up his mind to pack it in. He had a particularly good cow that was in calf and he had been offered a good price for it, from a cattle dealer and father thought if it's worth that much to him, it must be worth it to me. Unfortunately, after the calf was born, the cow developed milk fever and it died. I remember at Marshead Farm we had direct access to the shippon, through a room where we kept the cattle feed and father came through after the cow had died, and mother asked him: 'What are you going to do'. He said: 'I am going to sell up', which he did. The stock, cattle, hay, mowing machine, and other effects connected with farming were sold by auction.

It was only a matter of a week or so after the sale before we moved to Oldham. I remember I had been to Uppermill to do some shopping for mother and when I arrived home I was told the news which to me, at the time, sounded great. We had Waterhead Conveyance to move us, which was a furniture van and two horses. It was a full day's job. The van arrived about 9.30 and was loaded up by about lunch-time. I was allowed to travel with the van to Oldham

and the route taken was through Uppermill, Grasscroft, on Platting Road to Scouthead and down Austerlands, Huddersfield Road to Balfour Street. The reason for taking this route was that by hiring a chain horse from Smedley's at Diglea, they could use it to help to pull up Grasscroft and on to Platting Road to Scouthead. After that it was all down hill, or on the level. The chain horse was not required after they had reached Scouthead. This was the normal practice when travelling any distance with a full load. I should add, that the horses were rested at two places: The Farrars and The Three Crowns. The following day, which was Saturday, father and I returned to Marshead to tidy up one or two things. It was only then that I realised just what I was leaving. We lived at Diggle while I was aged from eight to twelve years old, and, although I was only young, I have felt since that those four years were the most memorable in my life. After going to live in Oldham I went back to Diggle on many occasions, mainly to Smedley's. I have felt since that, although I did help with the work on the farm, I should have done more, but I am afraid that I was more interested in horses than cows, and we did not have a horse.

Saddleworth Heath Tax Returns

Mike Buckley

Due to a problem with formatting, the version of Mike Buckley's article published in *BSHS* 32 (1) contained a number of errors. The errors were a product of the editorial process and in no way the responsibility of the author. Since attempting to provide written corrections to the previously published version would be confusing for the reader, the article is printed overleaf in its entire correct form.

SADDLEWORTH HEARTH TAX RETURNS PART III

The last two surviving hearth tax returns for Saddleworth are those of Ladyday 1672 and Ladyday 1674. These were the last to be deposited centrally with the Exchequer and therefore the last to be found in the public records. After 1674 the collection of the tax was farmed out to private tax collectors who paid a fixed sum to the government in return for the privilege of collecting the tax. The tax collectors were not required to send details of individuals or payments to the government [1]. The returns in question are probably assessments rather than details of receipts.

Both documents are in excellent condition and the originals are written in a good clear hand on parchment sheets, bound together with other returns from the West Riding Agbrigg and Morley wapentakes.

The 1672 and 1674 returns follow the same logical order as that of 1670 and appear to be successive updates of the earlier list. However the 1674 return contains some breaks in the logical sequence of the 1670 and 1672 lists. The reason for this appears to be due to a copying error introduced by the scribe who prepared the final submission to the Exchequer. It would seem that the assessment from the collector was originally on four sheets of paper but the order of sheets 2 and 3 were inadvertently reversed in the copying progress. Allowing for this mistake the sequence of the two returns is identical. Spelling errors were carried forward in some cases from earlier lists however new errors were introduced at each stage, as well as some corrections made, so care should be exercised in interpreting the returns and they need to be looked at as a series.

The 1672 return is the most comprehensive of all the lists of those paying tax, however it only lists the number of those exempt from paying the tax by reason of poverty rather than recording their names as had been done in 1664. The number exempt by reason of poverty had increased by 1674 so the last list contains fewer names than its predecessor. Exemption from the tax on the grounds of poverty required an exemption certificate from the parish priest, churchwardens and overseers of the poor and signed by two JPs. After 1670 these forms were printed and forwarded to the exchequer with the hearth tax return [1]. It is not presently known whether any of these have survived for Saddleworth and further searches in the public records may yet reveal their existence.

A further surviving hearth tax record which provides additional information for this period is the short variation of assessment return of 1671. This lists the changes to the previous assessment of Michaelmas 1670 and is also reproduced below.

Microfilm copies of both the 1672 and 1674 returns are available from the Public Record Office.

References

1. *The Hearth Tax 1662-1688*. Public Record Office. Domestic Records Information 32.

SADDLEWORTH HEARTH TAX Variation of Assessment 1671 [PRO E 179/210/399]

A PERFECT Acco^t of ye Variances and Alteracions of ye Chimney hearthes and Stoves within ye West Riding of The County of Yorke for ye Yeare 1671.

Wappentake of Agbrigg & Morley, Quick

1	William Broadbent	2	Increased
	James Taylor	1	Omitted
	Widdow Broadbent	1	new built
	Jonathan Shaw	1	new built

SADDLEWORTH HEARTH TAX RETURNS

LADYDAY 1672

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE E 179 210/413

Quick

Thomas Wheele	1	Ellias Wrigley	1
James Scheafeild	1	Thomas Malledew	1
Robert Walker	1	John Foaley	1
Ellexand' Schoafeild	1	Widdow Wrigley	1
James Bradbury	1	Thomas Wild	1
James Buckley	1	Samuell Swift	1
Robert Harropp	1	John Farrand	1
Richard Bradsbury	1	Thomas Bradbury	1
Robert Platts	1	James Wrigley	1
George Shaw	3	James Broadbent	1
Lawrence Wood	1	Thomas Bradbury	1
Robert Thompson	1	John Schoafeild	1
Isaac Bothamley	1	Henry Shawe	1
John Bothamley	1	James Bradbury	1
Willm' Knight	1	Widdow Broadbent	1
Ralph Andrew	1	Jane Broadbent	1
John Lawton	1	James Broadbent	1
John Shaw	1	George Hurst	1
Widdow Schoafeild	1	George Broadbent Senr	1
John Schoafeild	1	George Broadbent Junr	1
Peter Bradbury	1	Edmond Schoafeild	1
Willm' Broadbent	2	Thomas Rhoades	2
John Whitehead	1	Widdow Broadbent	1
Edmond Buckley	1	John Whitehead	1
George Winterbotham	1	James Broadbent	1
James Greave	1	Edmond Platts	1
John Whewell	1	Robert Tompson	1
John Rigley	1	Ambros Schoafeild	1
Willm' Ratcliffe	2	John Marshland	1
John Shaw	1	Widdow Platts	1
Willm' Lees	1	Edmond Platts	1
Giles Shaw	2	John Whitehead	1
James Whitehead Senr	1	Jarvas Walker Executors	1
James Whitehead Junr	1	John Wood	1
John Bradbury Junr	1	John Shaw	1
James Broadbent	2	Thomas Kenworthy	1
Ellias Wrigley	1	Widdow Whitehead	2
Widdow Taylor	1	Richard Lawton	1
Widdow Wild	1	George Lawton	1
Mrs Lees	3	George Schoafe'ld	1
Peter Bradbury	4	Edmond Schoafelde	1
Robert Taylor	1	Francis Schoafeilde	1
James Taylor	1	Widdow Schoafeild	1
Robert Broadbent	4	James Hall	1
George Malledew	1	Edmond Buckley	1
Edmond Ward	2	John Schoafeild	1
Edmond Farrand	1	Edmond Schoafeild	1
John Schoafeild	1	John Schoafeild	1
John Taylor	1	George Garside	1
Edmond Platts, Junr	1	Robert Linthwaite	1
John Whewell	1	James Schoafeild	1

Thomas Milnes	1	John Shaw	1
Thomas Milnes	1	John Buckley	1
Robert Whitehead	3	Jonathan Shawe	1
Daniel Whitehead	1	Widdow Taylor	1
John Whitehead	1	John Lawton	1
John Wrigley	1	Robert Winterbot'am Senr	1
James Linthwaite	1	Robert Winterbot'am Junr	1
John Garside	1	John Winterbotham Senr	1
Robert Schoafeild	1	John Winterbotham Junr	1
Widdow Buckley	1	John Winterbotham	1
Isaac Lee	1	James Clayton	1
John Buckley	1	James Lee Senr	1
Edmond Buckley	1	James Whitacrs	1
Willm' Buckley	1	Joseph Taylor	1
Henry Buckley	3	Willm' Schoafeild	1
John Wood	1	James Buckley	1
John Wrigley	1	Michael Thorpe	3
Widdow Buckley	1	Edmond Buckley	1
John Garside	2	Samuel Heywood	2
Widdow Garside	1	James Lee	1
John Garside	2	Daniell Lee	1
James Garside	1	James Lee Junr	1
John Garside	2	George Thorpe	1
Edmond Buckley	1	Samuell Lee	1
John Garside	1	Edmond Lee	4
Francis Garside	1	Widow Dixon	1
Robert Garside	1	Willm' Garlick	1
Henry Garside	1	Rowland Dixon	1
Edmond Garside	1	John Andrew	1
Henry Buckley Senr	1	Richard Dransfeild	1
Henry Buckley Junr	1	John Tweedall	1
Robert Buckley Junr	1	Edmond Schoafeild	1
John Buckley Senr	1	Abraham Lee	1
Robert Buckley Senr	1	Willm' Hardy	3
John Buckley Junr	1	Edmond Buckley Senr	1
Elizabeth Hill	1	Thomas Buckley	1
Edmond Buckley	1	Edmond Buckley Junr	1
John Whitehead	1	Phill'p Buckley	1
James Kenworthy	1	Richard Ratcliffe	1
Hugh Kenworthy	1	Joseph Whitehead	1
Willm' Kenworthy	1	Ralph Howden	1
John Whitehead	1	Willm Buckley	1
James Kenworthy	3	Willm' Kenworthy	1
John Bennyson	4	John Greaves	1
Enoch Andrew	2	James Heslegrave	1
Salloman Hardy	1	Henry Buckley	1
Thomas Whitehead	3	Edmond Buckley	1
Widdow Heworth	1	Nichollas Booth	1
John Heworth	1	Ralph Hawksyard	1
Thomas Shaw	1	Willm' Lee	1
John Barwick	1	John Kenworthy	1
John Shaw	1	John Malledew	1
John Winterbotham	2	Allexandr Ratcliff	2
Widdow Whitehead	1	James Shawe	1
Henry Shaw	2	Hugh Schoafeild	1
Henry Whitehead	1	James Shaw	2
Willm' Buckley	1	Widdow Shawe	1

Thomas Hawksyard	1	John Schoafeild	1
Isaac Whitehead	2	Thomas Wood	1
Henry Shaw	1	John Whitehead	1
James Schoafeild	1	Thomas Hawksyard	1
Robert Broadbent	1	James Lee	1
John Platts	1	Edmond Bradbury	1
Robert Wheeley	1		
Thomas Buckley	1		281
Edmond Ratcliffe	1		
Willm' Whewell	1	Omitted by reason of poverty	12
Ellexandr Ratcliffe	1		
Abraham Wrigley	1	Rob: Bennit	Coll ^r
Thomas Winterbotham	1	Mich'll Thorpe	Const
Willm' Taylor	1		



THE OLD PARSONAGE

The Old Vicarage, Gellfield Lane; A seventeenth century house with three hearths - Mrs Lees paid the Hearth Tax. (From Raines MSS)

SADDLEWORTH HEARTH TAX RETURNS

LADYDAY 1674

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE E 179 262/13

Quick

Thomas Wheele	1	Thomas Wild	1
James Scholefeild	1	John Farrand	1
Robert Walker	1	Thomas Bradbury	1
Alexand' Scholefeild	1	Jane Wrigley	1
James Bradley	1	James Broadbent	1
James Buckley	1	Thomas Bradbury	1
Robert Harrap	1	James Broadbent	1
Richard Bradbury	1	Widdow Broadbent	1
Robert Platts	1	James Broadbent Sen	1
George Shaw	2	James Broadbent Jun ^r	1
Lawrence Wood	1	George Hurst	1
Robert Thompson	1	George Broadbent	1
Isaac Bothemley	1	Edmond Schoafeild	1
John Bothamley	1	Thomas Rhoades	2
Willm Knight	1	Widdow Broadbent	1
Ralph Andrew	1	Jam Whitehead	1
John Lawton	1	Edmond Platts	1
John Shaw	1	Thomas Winterburne	2
John Platts	1	Widdow Whitehead	1
Widdow Schoalfeild	1	Henry Shaw	2
John Schoalfeild	1	Henry Whitehead	1
Peter Bradbury	1	Willm Buckley	1
John Whitehead	1	John Shawe	1
Edmond Buckley	1	John Buckley	3
George Winterbotham	1	Jonathan Shawe	1
James Greave	1	Widdow Taler	1
John Whewell	1	John Lawton	1
John Rigley	1	Robert Winterbotham	1
Willm Ratcliffe	2	Robert Winterbotham	1
Willm Lee	1	John Winterbotham	1
Giles Shawe	2	John Winterbotham	1
James Whitehead	1	James Clayton	2
James Bradbury	1	James Lee	1
Jane Broadbent	2	James Whitacrs	1
Ellias Wrigley	1	Joseph Taler	1
Widdow Taylor	1	Willm Scholfeild	1
Widdow Wild	1	Michaell Thorpe	3
Mrs Lee	3	Edmond Buckley	1
Peter Bradbury	4	Samuel Heyroyd	2
James Tayler	1	James Lee	1
Robert Broadbent	4	Paull Lee	1
George Malledew	1	James Lee	1
Edmond Ward	2	George Thorpe	1
Edmond Farrand	1	Samuell Lee	1
John Scholfeild	1	Edmond Lee	4
John Taler	1	Widdow Dixon	1
Edmond Platts Jun ^r	1	Edmond Garlick	1
John Whewell	1	Rowland Dixon	1
Thomas Malledew	1	John Andrew	1
John Fearley	1	Richard Dransfeild	1
Widdow Wrigley	1	John Tweedall	1

Edmond Scholfeild	1	Francis Scholfeild	1
Abraham Lee	1	Jane Hall	1
John Benison	2	Edmond Buckley	1
Edmd Buckley Sen	1	John Scholfeild	1
Thomas Buckley	1	Edmond Scholfeild	1
Edmond Buckley Jun	1	John Scholfeild	1
Phillip Buckley	1	George Garside	1
Richard Ratcliffe	1	Robert Linthwaite	1
Joseph Whitehead	1	James Scholfeild	1
Ralph Howden	2	Thomas Milnes	1
Willm Buckley	1	Thomas Milnes	1
Willm Kenworthy	1	Robert Whitehead	3
John Greaves	1	David Whitehead	1
James Heslegreaves	1	John Whitehead	1
Henry Buckley	1	John Wrigley	1
James Wood	1	James Linthwaite	1
Edmond Buckley	1	John Garside	1
Nichollas Booth	1	Robert Schoalfeild	1
Ralph Hawksyard	1	Widdow Buckley	1
Willm Lee	1	Isaac Lees	1
John Kenworthy	1	John Buckley	1
John Malledew	1	Edmond Buckley	1
Allexandr Ratcliffe	2	John Wood	1
James Shawe	1	Willm Buckley	1
Widdow Shawe	1	Edmond Buckley	1
Hugh Scholfeild	1	Francis Buckley	3
James Shawe	1	John Wrigley	1
Thomas Hawksyard	2	Willm Buckley	1
Isaac Whitehead	1	John Garside	2
Henry Shawe	1	Widdow Garside	1
James Scholfeild	1	John Garside	2
Robert Broadbent	1	Jane Garside	1
John Platts	1	John Garside	2
Robert Whealey	1	John Garside	1
Thomas Buckley	1	Francis Garside	1
Edmond Ratcliffe	1	Robert Garside	1
Allexandr Ratcliffe	1	Henry Garside	1
John Ratcliffe	1	Edmond Garside	1
Abraham Wrigley	1	Henry Buckley Sen	1
Ambros Scholfeild	1	Henry Buckley Jun	1
Anne Marshland	1	Robert Buckley Jun	1
Widdow Platts	1	John Buckley Jun	1
Edmond Platts	1	Ellizabeth Hill	1
John Whitehead	1	Edmond Buckley	1
Jarvas Walker	1	John Whitehead	1
John Wood	1	Jane Kenworthy	1
John Shawe	1	Henry Kenworthy	1
John Kenworthy	1	Willm Kenworthy	1
John Wrigley	1	John Whitehead	1
Widdow Whitehead	2	James Kenworthy	3
Richard Lawton	1	John Penyson	4
George Lawton	1	Enoch Andrew	2
George Scholfeild	1	Sallom Hardy	1
Edmond Scholfeild	1	Thomas Whitehead	3

Widdow Heworth	1	John Scholfeild	1
John Heworth	1	John Buckley Sen	1
Thomas Shaw	1	Willm Bradbury	1
John Barwick	1		<u>272</u>
John Shawe	1		
Thomas Winterbotham	1	Empty & no duties to be had	
Willm Taler	1	Mr Farrer	1
John Broadbelt	1		
Thomas Wood	1	Omitted by reason of poverty	20
John Whitehead	1		
Edmond Bradbury	1	Robert Husband	Coll ^r
John Shawe	1	Robert Whitehead	Const
Richard Whitehead	2		

A Portrait of Saddleworth in 1849

Angus Bethune Reach

In 1849, *The Morning Chronicle* of London carried a series of articles comparing the system of domestic and factory manufacture and way of life in several Yorkshire districts. Focusing on Saddleworth, the author, Angus Bethune Reach writes in the style of a pioneer entering uncharted terrain: 'Leaving the straggling streets and abounding tall chimneys of Oldham behind, we enter a bleak, hilly country, high, naked, and sterile... All around rise great lumpish ridges of hill, divided by loosely piled walls into cold looking pasture fields, and clothed here and there with substantial stone-built cottages.' There he found 'a hardy, industrious and primitive race, engaged in the manufacture of flannel and cloth- sometimes in mills, sometimes by their own hearths.' Here is his account, written at a time of transition from a pre-industrial to an industrial age. Reference:

Article in *The Morning Chronicle*, 29th November 1849 entitled, 'The Manufacturing Districts - The Rural Cloth workers of Saddleworth.' In December of that year, Reach wrote extensive articles comparing local manufacture in Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Halifax, Bradford and Leeds.

Howard Lambert

The name of Saddleworth is applied to a range of wild and hilly country, about seven miles long and five broad, lying on the western confines of Yorkshire, and including one spot from which a walk of ten minutes will carry the visitor across the boundaries of four counties, into Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Yorkshire. To all intents and purposes, however, Saddleworth lies in the latter county, its heathery hills and deep valleys dividing the woollen from the cotton cities, and being themselves peopled by a hardy, industrious, and primitive race, engaged in the manufacture of flannel and cloth--sometimes in mills, sometimes by their own hearths; in which latter case the business of a dairy farmer is often added to that of a manufacturer, and the same hands ply the shuttle and milk the cows. Saddleworth is now intersected by the Leeds and Huddersfield Railway, and, as a consequence, is beginning to lose much of those primitive characteristics for which it was long renowned. Until recently there was no regular means of transit from many of its valleys to the more open parts of the country. Goods were conveyed by the Manchester and Huddersfield Canal; and many a small manufacturer and comfortable farmer grew grey amid the hills, without ever having

journeyed further than Oldham and Staleybridge on the one hand, and perhaps Huddersfield, or at furthest Leeds, upon the other. The rail has, however, thrown open the wilds of Saddleworth to the world. Mills, driven by water and steam, are rising on every hand, and the old-fashioned domestic industry, carried on in the field and the loom shop, is gradually dying away...

From this place we proceeded by a steep path up the hill-side to a cluster of old-fashioned houses called Saddleworth-fold, and which were the first, or amongst the first, stone buildings erected in the district. They are occupied by several families, who are at once spinners, weavers, and farmers. The hamlet was a curious irregular clump of old-fashioned houses, looking as if they had been flung accidentally together up and down a little group of knolls. Over the small latticed windows were carved mullions of stone, and in a little garden grew a few boxwood trees, clipped into the quaint shapes which we associated with French and Dutch gardening. The man whose establishment we had come to see was a splendid specimen of humanity - tall, stalwart, with a grip like a vice, and a back as upright as a pump-bolt, although he was between seventy and eighty years of age. We entered the principal room of his house; it was a chamber which a novelist would love to paint - so thoroughly, yet comfortably, old-fashioned, with its nicely sanded floor, its great rough beams hung with goodly flitches of bacon, its quaint latticed windows, its high mantelpiece, reaching almost to the roof over the roaring coal fire; its ancient, yet strong and substantial furniture, the chests of drawers and cupboards of polished oak, and the chairs so low-seated and so high-backed. An old woman, the wife of the proprietor, sat by the chimney-corner with a grandchild in her lap. Her daughter was engaged in some household work beside her. In this room the whole family, journeymen and all, took their meals together. Porridge and milk was the usual breakfast. For dinner they had potatoes and bacon, or sometimes beef, with plenty of oat bread; and for supper, 'butter-cake', or porridge again. The old man had never travelled further than Derby. He had thought of going to London once, but his heart failed him, and he had given up the idea. He did not at all approve of the newfangled mill system, and liked the old-fashioned way of joining weaving and farming much better. He could just remember the building of the newest house in Saddleworth-fold. He thought the seasons had somehow changed in Saddleworth, for snow never lay upon the ground as it used to do, and the scanty crops of oats here and there sown did not ripen so well. The daughter having in the meantime placed oat cake and milk before me, the patriarch observed that until he was twenty he had never tasted wheaten bread, except when his mother lay in. In the room above us were two or three looms, and as many spinning jennies. They produced flannel and doeskin. Weaving and spinning formed the chief occupation of his family; they attended to the cows, of which he had four, and to the dairy, in their leisure time. He paid his sons no regular wages, but

gave them board, lodging, and clothing, and 'anything reasonable', if they wanted to go to a hunt or a fair or 'sooch-like'.

From Upper Mill I proceeded to a village called Delph, where there are only a very few mills, and round which is scattered a thick population of small farmers and hand-loom weavers. The cottages of many of these people are perched far up among the hills, on the very edge of the moors. As a general rule, the houses are inferior, both in construction and cleanliness, to those nearer the mills; and I should say, although the accounts I received were often most puzzlingly contradictory, that the run of wages is decidedly lower. In several of these remote dwellings I found beds of no inviting appearance in the loom room; and broken windows were often patched with old hats and dirty clothes. The hand-jenny spinners, when in employment, earn, as a pretty general rule, about eight shillings a week. The weavers, as I have said, may, and often do, make fifteen and seventeen shillings per week; but, taking the year round and the good webs with the bad ones, ten shillings in many parts of Yorkshire would be too high an average. ...

Another weaver, a very intelligent man - much more so, indeed, than most of his class, for he had travelled much, and had been twice in America - gave me some curious information. He confirmed what the old man at Saddleworth-fold had stated as to the non-ripening of the oats sown now-a-days, and spoke sensibly enough about machinery. 'Machinery,' he said, 'had been a great advantage to the weaver as long as it was pretty simple and cheap, for then he could use it for his own behoof'. His mother had told him that in her young days the distaff was the only drawing implement in Saddleworth. The carding was performed by the women with a rude instrument placed upon their knees, and the old-fashioned wheel, with its single spindle, was the only spinning apparatus known. 'Look, sir,' he continued, 'at that yarn. It was stretched out by the road-side today. In those days it would have taken a dozen of people, with a dozen of wheels, more than a week to spin it. Now my mistress can make it with the hand-jenny in two days and a half, and a power mule could spin it in a forenoon.' He feared that it was but natural that the power mule would supplant the hand mule, just as the hand mule had supplanted the spinning wheel. It was during the time that machinery was in the medium state, when any industrious man could obtain it, that the weavers of Saddleworth flourished most. At one time he had paid a journeyman £35 a year, besides his board, lodging, clothing, and washing, and they did not use in those times to work more than five or six hours a day. They were too often out following the hounds. Now his average wages were not above ten shillings a week, although he could sometimes make nearer twenty shillings. His wife worked the hand-jenny, and could make, when in full work, about fifteen pence a day. Thirty years ago she could have easily earned eighteen shillings a week. He kept a cow,

and paid £7 10s of rent for the requisite land. His family consumed most of the dairy produce, selling very little. The ordinary price of buttermilk was about one penny for three quarts; of blue or skim-milk, one penny for three pints; and of new milk, about twopence a quart. Milk of all kinds was sent down during the summer time, in great quantities, by many of his neighbours, who kept donkeys to carry it to Staleybridge, Oldham, and other cotton towns, where the factory hands consumed it as fast as it could be sent in.

Adverting to the work and food question, I asked him whether the high prices a year and a half ago had exercised much influence in his trade. He answered nearly as follows:

‘Did they not, indeed? Why, when corn is very dear, we have next to no trade at all. It stands to reason. The fabrics we make be mostly for the home market - the best and most nat’ral of all markets, sir; and if the poor people have to spend all they earn to pay for their food and to keep the roofs over them, why, they can’t buy no good warm clothing. Two years ago flour was three shillings and sixpence a stone, and oatmeal was three shillings and twopence, and potatoes were selling as high as two shillings and sixpence a score. Then, sir, there was next to no work. I was better off than many, but even in our house it was hard living, I assure you; and a great lot of the weavers had to go work along with t’ navvies on the railroad.’

I am happy to say that this honest man appeared to be in better case when I saw him. His house was beautifully clean, and his wife was preparing a comfortable stew for dinner. One of his children was recovering from scarlet fever, and two plump fowls were being boiled down to make chicken broth for the invalid. They had had fifteen fowls, of which ten had been thus used up, and they expected every day to get a fresh supply of poultry.

Comfort such as this must, however, by no means be taken as the rule. The weavers in the upland districts who have no farms, and those in the lower grounds who, although they possess no land, have got advantages of a particular class from the vicinity of the country mills - these two classes are generally decently off, and live wholesome and tolerably agreeable lives. But there are districts, principally in the neighbourhood of the large towns, where competition keeps the wages miserably low, and where hard labour brings in but a hard and scanty substance.

Family History Group Newsletter May 2003

Trevor Butterworth

Since the last Newsletter, things have been progressing on several fronts and I think that it is worthwhile providing a summary of the impressive progress achieved.

Saddleworth Church

Clearance of the Old Churchyard

Victor Khadem has stuck to his guns since undertaking the responsibility for organising the clearance of the old yard of its 'Sleeping Beauty' mantle of brambles. He has worked unceasingly to rally support and to bring the graveyard back from its previous forgotten neglect to its present pleasing appearance.

The arrangement, which seems to be working well at the moment, is that available helpers and paid workers meet every Saturday morning, weather permitting, and the work is then organised based on availability of skills and abilities.

The target of the end of May for clearance of the yard has been met and transcription of the inscriptions on the gravestones continues. Bramble roots, tree trimming etc may take a bit longer but the project is making remarkable progress at the moment. Our grateful thanks go to Victor, and his helpers, -and to Victor's parents too!

The following letter from Mike Buckley to the members of the Family History Group is a grand summary of the project which as well as benefiting the interests of the Family History Group, has brought beauty to a tranquil corner of Saddleworth:

*The last few weeks have been remarkably productive ones for the graveyard project.
The end is now very much in sight.*

But despite the continuing grand efforts of the volunteer force, to have got to where we are by now would not have been possible without the generous monetary donations from members of the Family History Group. The availability of paid help has not only speeded up the difficult job of barrowing the soil out of the yard but has

enabled us to reinstate a number of graves that had slipped from their original positions and were obscuring other graves.

All the brambles have also been cut down and burned.

We now move on to the difficult job of grubbing up the bramble roots; so far about 25% of these have been cleared. There is a race against time here as spring is now upon us and with it rapid growth of grass and bramble shoots. We need the paid helpers to accelerate this task and to continue the task of barrowing.

But unfortunately funds have now run out!

An application has been submitted to the Council for a £2000 grant to help us complete the project, but being realistic, this is unlikely to be granted before the summer.

So we are appealing again to the generosity of members for financial help. Every donation, no matter however small, is welcome. It costs about £60 a day for each paid helper; about £300 should see us through to the end of the clearance phase.

It really is most impressive now that row upon row of eighteenth-century stones are visible and you can wander freely among the graves. The churchyard is already proving to be a delightful spot for browsing or just sitting and enjoying the early spring sunshine, and in the autumn we plan to plant bulbs in the churchyard, and perhaps - if funding from the Council is forthcoming -, to supply a seat for visitors or picnickers.

And as it is all a bit like painting the Forth Bridge, we are discussing arrangements for the ongoing maintenance of the yard, after our project is finished.

Thanks again to everyone for their ongoing support and help. Mike

Gravestone Inscriptions

- **Upper Yard:** The late Maurice Dennet and other members of the Group have typed up the Higson transcripts made in the 1920s.

As the graves are cleared the inscriptions are being checked against the transcripts. Digital photography has been a real boon here enabling the checking to be done from a photograph of the gravestone.

Although a very time consuming task, the checking and completion of the transcript has now been achieved, and thanks to the grand response to our appeal for help, a complete index of the gravestone inscriptions produced. A book of transcripts will be available soon.

- **Lower Yard** There are two lots of index cards at the church relating to the lower yard. One set was produced some years ago by the church and is a distillation of information in the burials register which indicated which grave a person was buried in.

The church undertook the exercise of going through the burials register and mapping the entries to the physical grave locations as indicated on the plan of plots. So the resultant cards indicate a list of burials in each grave.

Another set of records is a list of monumental inscriptions compiled again in the 1980s by a group of students on a work creation scheme. Some of these are in manuscript, others have been typed up on to cards.

Last year the family History Group photocopied what was available, and members typed up the photocopies as the first step in producing an indexed book of MIs. A large amount of material has been typed up which will ease the task when we get on to this project.

This project has not progressed further due to the focussing of efforts on the Old Graveyard. Since the first batch of MI transcripts was typed up more have come to light and they yet need to be photocopied and typed up. Later in the year we should be able to pick up on this next phase

Lower Graveyard Plan

The plan on sale is that produced when the yard was opened in the 1820s. It marks plots and the key indicated who bought each plot, although it does not record which plots have gravestones (nor does it record the MIs on them).

Many more graves were created beyond those on the plan, this happened as a result of the exploding Saddleworth population in the nineteenth century and the inadequacy of burial space. Within forty years the lower yard was full up (there must be over 5,000 burials in the lower yard) and the new yard was created.

As a first step in producing a comprehensive book of Monumental Inscriptions the existing plan will be a good base from which to work, and from it a plan of actual gravestone locations will be produced.

To complete the story, it is worth mentioning here that there is a burials book in The Manchester Archives which lists graves in the lower yard and the burials in them. Finally, Higson also copied out many (if not all) of the MIs into his notebooks in the 1920s, these are now in the Oldham local interest centre and will be copied as part of the exercise.

The willingness of the Family History Group members to transcribe material is truly wonderful. There is much more to do, and we invite people on the ground here in Saddleworth to join in with these enthusiasts and help accelerate the various projects.

Church Records

- **A comprehensive List of Saddleworth Churches** and the neighbourhood, showing where known records relevant to local studies are located, has been completed. It has been distributed to all members of the Family History Group with the caveat that it needs to be continually enhanced as new information becomes available.
- **Delph Independent Cong.** Transcriptions of a very large batch of the baptism records for the period from 1780 to 1851 have been completed and have been provided on CD to Mike Buckley. They still need to be checked back to the original registers, but it is possible to search these completed records.

However, along with the need for checking these transcriptions back to the Register, a lot of photocopying or photographing of the untranscribed parts of the Registers remains to be done, so that the transcription can be completed.

Any offers of help?

- **Microfiche**

SHS has the following fiche for sale:

Delph Wesleyan Baptisms 1837-1970
Wrigley Mill Wesleyan Baptisms 1883-1970
Wrigley Mill Sunday School Roll Book 1864-1914

They also have a fiche set of the following two church registers, etc., which were filmed with the intention, of putting fiche sets on sale.

Ebenezer Congregational Uppermill
Baptisms 1832-1997

(The master film of this is held by Mary and Trevor who state that the quality is not the best on the first page, as they were filmed from photocopies, and that they would rather film the original registers).

SHS also holds film master and a fiche set of:

Dobcross Congregational
Baptism 1871-1901,
Marriages 1875-1999,
Burials 1907-2001 (various locations)
Roll of Church Members 1872-2000
Historical Account of the Church and
Church Minutes 1873-1908

Website

The SHS Website is overdue for update and now a complete make-over is contemplated. Ian Douthwaite in New Zealand is turning his thoughts on how it can be re-presented, - this time including a section for the family History Group.

Now is the opportunity for all members of the SHS and the FHG to mention what they would wish to see in an enhanced site.

Wills

- The last issue of the wills list was June 2002. I take the opportunity to inform new members that the list exists and that they can contact Graham Wrigley to have a copy sent to them by email (or by post if they have no computer). gwrigley@lineone.net or 25 The Highlands, Bexhill on Sea East Sussex TN39 5HL.
- Wills transcription: A popular venture organised and run by Mike Buckley and Alan Petford which attracted a good size class, this big undertaking has been a great success. The class will have transcribed the entire series of seventeenth-century Saddleworth wills, together with a detailed index of people, places and objects. The Yorkshire Archaeological Society has now agreed to publish the transcribed documents.

Other projects the members have put effort into

Archives

Members have provided help in typing up the Archive index under the direction of Neil Barrow.

Membership and how we communicate.

The members of the group are able to communicate by e-mail via a busy mailing list, and Cheryl Westlorton, keeps those members who do not have a computer up to date by industriously creating and distributing to them, a Newsletter for them summarising the mailing list activity.

And in case anyone is interested, here is a list of the names being actively researched by our members: Andrew; Aydon; Bailey; Barton; Bentley; Binns; Black; Blythe; Bottomley; Bowker; Bradbury; Bradshaw; Brayshaw; Brierley/Brearley; Bright; Broadbent; Buckley; Butterworth; Byrom/Byram; Castle; Cockhill; Cowper; Dawson; Dunkerley; Dransfield; Dyson; Eastwood; Elson; Ferneley; Firth; French; Gartside; Greenhough; Hall; Hanson; Harrop; Hawkyard; Heginbottom; Heywood/Heawood; Hirst; Holden; Howcroft; Hudson; Kenney; Kenworthy; King; Kitchen; Lawton; Lea; Lees; Linthwaite; Lumb; Mallalieu; Mayall; Metcalfe; Milns; Moore; Murray; Noble; Pattison; Platt; Pollington; Pruddah; Radcliffe; Rhodes; Scanlan; Schofield/Scholefield; Settle; Shaw; Shrigley; Slater; Spicer;

Sykes; Taylor; Titter; Thorpe; Travis; Tweedale; Wareing; Whewell; Whitehead; Whiteley; Windram; Winterbottom; Wood; Wrigley; Wyld(e)/Wild;

New Members

Membership of the Group is open to all members of the Society, and we encourage all – with or without computer to join this section of the society.

If you have a computer and wish to join the group as a ‘computer mailing list’ member, contact Mike Buckley on 01457 877718 or e-mail mikebuckley@saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk

If you do not have a computer, then to be a corresponding (non computer) member contact: Mrs Cheryl Westlotorn, 63Exmouth Road, Welling, Kent DA16 1EB.

For general inquiries about the Group contact: Mrs Jean Sanders, Hollins, Holmfirth Rd, Greenfield OL3 7NJ. Tel 01457 873137.

Apology

In the last number of the Bulletin the article on the Mossley Tram Disaster was wrongly attributed to Trevor Butterworth. It was in fact Trevor Lawton who prepared the piece for publication. Trevor Butterworth forwarded the article to the editor, hence the confusion. The editor would like to apologise to both Trevors for the mistake.

Letters

More county confusion

May I congratulate Christine Barrow for the clear and detailed description of the Saddleworth/Yorkshire situation in 'County Confusion (*BSHS* 33 (1), pp.25-6). As an outsider it has appeared to me anything but clear. The writer left me feeling that there is just a glimmer of hope. All is not lost, not quite. Saddleworth is still in the County of York. Yet power is in the hands of Oldham. None of us are left in any doubt when arriving at the Saddleworth boundary from Holmfirth, with a more than necessary flamboyant sign greeting all who enter from the east via The Moor. I don't think I ever pass that declaration without a measure of ongoing dismay. It seems to stand for a takeover that destroyed something cherished and to be proud of. Yet I can only claim a percentage of Yorkshire blood, my mother was born in Grasscroft in 1903, her father residing in Yorkshire throughout his working life. His forebears lived at Holehouse – a few strides into Cheshire. Well, it was then. Where is it now? Such confusion became the case for many with the changes of 1974.

Was Saddleworth a unique case in keeping its county tie? That being so, why wasn't some mark of respect given to this fact? Signs at important points of entry on the perimeter of Saddleworth to indicate the continuous link: *Saddleworth in the Historic County of York*, or words to that effect. No need for some tasteless decree. It could take some of the sting out of the reality. I am reminded of a simple notice on The Severn Valley Railway indicating the boundary between Shropshire and Worcestershire.

Most certainly the Post Office has only added greatly to the confusion. I appear to live in Morley, but I don't. Morley is in quite a different borough. Yet most residents around here think they do. Then the Post Office required Ilkeston on the address, instead of Derbyshire. I rarely use the required address.

A hectic debate recently on Radio Derby argued that Matlock is now the county town of Derbyshire, the administrative centre, not Derby. Is York still the county town of Yorkshire? Thinking of Matlock as the hub of Derbyshire made me laugh. I've often imagined rail travellers boarding Central Trains for Birmingham at Shrewsbury or Worcester with the indicator showing Matlock and looking at it with some bewilderment: 'Where is Matlock'? It's on a single line dead end. Frequently passengers (if there are any still left) are abandoned

at a village called Ambergate some eight miles short of the destination. Here trains terminate in order to regain lost time. Such is the importance of Matlock.

I'm not sure where all this pursuit of financial convenience got us. Certainly a loss of pride for those who care. No doubt the Oldham regime would never allow signs confirming that Saddleworth is in Yorkshire, this being alien to political control.

What are the views of the minority at this late date? The Saddleworth Parish Council? The Historical Society? Is there a ray of hope in keeping these last faint links with Yorkshire alive? Can we, as a society, do more to get the message across? Could that excellent article by Christine Barrow be the start of some kind of effort by this society to revive a reality? I for one will always remain proud of the little bit of Yorkshire in me.

Geoff Toms

Morley

Derbyshire

Adoption enquiry

Miss Elisa Howe

9 Cartmel Crescent

Chadderton

Oldham

OL9 8DA

Last year at the age of 32 I had a bombshell dropped on me by my parents. It was explained to me that I was now old enough to be told that I was in fact the middle child and not the eldest, as I had always believed. This came as a great shock and since the day I was told I have been trying to track my brother down.

His birth name was **David Charles Faulkner** and he was born on **27th October 1954**. The sad truth is that my grandparents at the time of his birth refused permission for my parents to get married. My mother was sent to a Mother and Baby Home in Gorton. I understand that the adoption was arranged by a Christian organization in Oldham Street in Manchester.

My mother and father were devastated when they were forced to give David up, but as my Mum was not old enough to get married they were not given any other option. My parents did try to get David back, but the authorities in Oldham said that David was well settled and should be left in the care of his new parents. I have been in touch with After Adoption in Manchester, they have confirmed that the records show my parents did try to get him back. I have put numerous notices over the Internet in my desperate search to find him.

After Adoption in Manchester has been allowed to give me very little information and this is why I am writing to you. I have been told that at the time of his adoption his new parents lived in Saddleworth. His new mother worked in a book shop and his new father had a management position at the famous Woolworth's Store in Oldham town centre. I understand that his new mother came from a large family and was unable to have children of her own. David was to be the first child that the couple would adopt. I am really clutching at straws here, can any of your readers remember a couple living in Saddleworth who in 1954 adopted a little boy?

Elisa Howe

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2003

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Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May
And Summer's lease hath all too short a date.

Wm. Shakespeare.

SADDLEWORTH VILLAGES BOOK

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The new 2003 'Saddleworth Villages' book is now available and remains at the reduced price of £12.50 per copy for members of the Society. A further booking slip is enclosed if you wish to take advantage of this offer.

The book's historical text has been produced by our Society members, as also are the excellent pen and ink drawings by Geoff Toms, whose boyhood experiences watching trains passing through the Grasscroft lines were previously recorded in one of the Society Bulletins.

It is hoped that this particular Society venture will be well received by the membership and also the residents of our various attractive Pennine villages.

Recent Lectures.

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The magic of discovering an Iron Age Hill Fort in one's very own back garden was revealed by Anne Hearle in our March lecture upon Mellor Hill Fort covering the Roman occupation of this historic site in full detail.

For the Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture in April, 'Reading the Landscape', by Dr. Richard Muir we were presented with a Pennine vista that caught the spirit of the place, the shades and contours of our high pastures and moorland.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM.

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Coffee Mornings & Boutique.
Farmers' Markets.
Table Top Sale.

2nd Wednesday of each month.
2nd Sunday of each month.
Sunday 29th June, 03

ANNUAL BEER FESTIVAL
Friday 5th September, 03 7.30 pm to 11.00 pm.

Roger Higgins Blues Band -

Saturday 6th September, 03 11.30 am to 5.30 pm.

10 Real Ales on Sale.

Saturday 6th September, 03 7.30 pm to 11.00 pm.

Chris Howe with his Harmony
Hounds playing Chicago & New
York style Jazz.

Events at the Museum - contd-
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Afternoon Tea.
Sunday Lunch.
Donkey Derby.

Sunday 3rd August, 03.
Sunday 19th October, 03
Friday 21st November, 03

Tickets for the above events available at the Museum, 01457 87 4093

Temporary Exhibitions.
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Annie Kenney's Tale runs until the 14th September, 03.

Art Exhibitions.
.....

Saddleworth Group of Artists.
Textile Exhibitions. (T.A.G)
Charles Hickson.

26th May - 22nd June, 03
27th June - 10th August, 03
16th August - 14th September, 03

CIVIC TRUST EVENTS.
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Thursday 3rd July, 03. 7.30 pm. Saddleworth Museum.
The Restoration of Temple Newsam House, Leeds. Anthony Wells-Cole.
Senior Curator of Decorative Arts.

SUMMER OUTING SATURDAY 5th JULY 03 Magna Adventure Centre, Nr. Rotherham,
followed by a visit to The Yorkshire Sculpture Park at Bretton Hall. Contact D. Makin, 01457
872866 for booking details.

Thursday 25th Sept. 03. 7.30 pm Saddleworth Museum.
The regeneration of the People's Park, Halifax. Illustrated talk by Deborah Comyn-Platt.
Technical Officer - Calderdale Council.

Friday 17th October, 03. 7.30 pm Saddleworth Museum.
Members' evening - Meet other Members and the Committee.
And 'Achievements so far', A talk by Stephen Langtree - Chairman of the recently formed
NW.ACTS.

Membership details available from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Lorna Gartside,
Hollingreave Farm, Dobcross, Saddleworth. OL3 5JW. Tel. 01457 873195

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HERITAGE OPEN DAYS.
.....

Castleshaw Roman Forts. 12th Sept. - 15th Sept. 03.
Contact Jim Carr on 01457 873612

MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

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It is good to greet further new members to our Society. These include :-

Mr. Barry Collins, Pennsylvania, USA.
Mr. Tom Valentine, Barnsley.

Mrs. Jane Thompson, Cumbria.

Mr. Barry Collins is researching his branch of the Gartsides and has established contact with the Family History Group.

Mrs. Jane Thompson has informed us that she is indeed the daughter of the late headmaster of Saddleworth School Mr. Eric Smith for whom many of our members will have fond memories. Her brother is Professor Rodney Smith, a long time member of our Society and one of the presenters of the history of Chew Reservoir during an Industrial Archaeological Day School we held at the Museum.

Mr. Tom Valentine provides an interesting address that his father lives at Nebo Farm which rests in that belt of distant farm names Shiloh, Moscow, Jericho and Limbo all on High Moor beneath Badger Edge.

We have received the story of the Broadbents and the Platts, by Tony Pogrel, a very fine family history production which tells of the family of six Broadbent brothers and the commencement of their successful Jessamine Leather Works at the Victoria Mill, Spring St., Lees. The last owner of this business was Hugh Broadbent of Denshaw another stalwart member of our Society. Copies of this well produced family history have been lodged in the Archive of the Society and the Museum.

Acknowledgement of this excellent research has been given to the various parties involved in its progress to the Archive, namely Ron Birch and Albert Broadbent from Cumbria and especially Mr. Pogrel who lives in the USA.

The subscription rates for the Society are :-

Family Membership.....	£14.00	Single Membership.....	£12.00
Retired & Single	£ 9.00	Students	£ 9.00
Overseas.....	USA & Canada	£15.00 Sterling or 40 dollars.	
Overseas	Australia & N.Z.	£15.00 Sterling.	

May we remind you that annual subscriptions became due in January to which we had an excellent response, but there are still a few payments outstanding. A letter has been sent to lapsed members and we look forward to receiving an early response to our request.

Your continued support of the Society is greatly appreciated and we send our best wishes for a good summer.

Membership enquiries to: Mrs. E. Broadbent, Hon. Membership Secretary,
Pastures Farm Flat, Back o'th' Low Road, Strinesdale,
Saddleworth. OL4 3SG

J. HINDLE.

AN APPEAL FOR HELP FROM THE SADDLEWORTH BRANCH OF THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

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The Saddleworth Branch of the WEA has been providing courses in Saddleworth for over 70 years. Groups such as the Delph Players, the Saddleworth Historical Society and the Saddleworth Archaeological Trust grew out of the friendly and co-operative atmospheres of WEA courses and many local residents have over the years enjoyed the evening classes, day schools and outings organised by the WEA.

The branch is now in need of help. Our Branch Secretary has found he is unable to continue in office because of pressures of his full time pastoral duties and Dorothy Latimer, who has been running the Saddleworth Branch for over 25 years in the joint role of Secretary and Treasurer, will be stepping down at the end of this year.

There is a desperate need in the next few months to find two public-spirited individuals who would be willing to take on the honorary duties of Secretary and Treasurer. The fact is that unless we have officers in place, the Saddleworth Branch may have to close down at the end of 2003.

The WEA Branch Committee meets about four times a year. The Secretary's duties include applying to the North West WEA office for the courses, arranging the class dates and venues and writing minutes. The Treasurer takes responsibility for the class fees and the returns to the North West District and also keeps control of the branch finances. Members of the Committee assist in these duties and also help to produce and distribute the publicity that is issued before the classes commence. The branch also organises the speaker and venue for the Annual Kenworthy Lecture.

This appeal is being sent to kindred Societies and local Residents' Associations in the hope that volunteers will come forward to help to keep the Saddleworth WEA Branch in being.

Anyone wishing to find out more about the Saddleworth WEA Branch is welcome to ring the Branch Chairman, Michael Fox on Tel. No. 01457 87 0378 or Dorothy Latimer on Tel. No. 0161 633 3205.

SADDLEWORTH WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

FLOWER WALKS

Tutor: ANN PARRY

Tuesday 8th July 1 to 4 pm Castleshaw Valley. Meet Millgate Car park, Delph
Tuesday 22nd July 1 to 4 pm Dick Clough. Meet at Clarence Hotel, Greenfield

The following courses have been arranged commencing in September 2003

HISTORIC LANDSCAPES OF SADDLEWORTH

Tutor: ALAN PETFORD

Saddleworth is rich in history. Come and discover what the fields and hedges, roads and homesteads have to tell us about the way Saddleworth has evolved through a thousand years.

starting Monday 15th September 2003 11 meetings

SEASIDE PLEASURES - A History of coastal resorts in Northern England and Wales

Tutor: MIKE FOX

Blackpool, Scarborough, Bridlington, Llandudno At one time everyone took their holidays by the sea. Join in this exploration of the history and allure of the northern seaside resort, from the eighteenth century to the twentieth.

starting Tuesday 16th September 2003 11 meetings

EGYPTOLOGY ---DEATH AND THE AFTERLIFE

Tutor: VICTOR BLUNDEN

This course will look in detail at the preparation that the Ancient Egyptians made for the afterlife; mummification, the design and decoration of a tomb, and the methods employed (both physical and magical) to preserve the body and protect the Ka (spirit/soul) from harm will all be covered.

starting Thursday 18th September 2003 11 meetings

CANALS AND RAILWAYS

Tutor: IAN MOSS

Transport was the foundation of the Industrial Revolution, first the canals, then railways, were the arteries of that historic change. Slides taken over forty years will illustrate the story.

starting Thursday 18th September 2003 11 meetings

All courses will be held at Saddleworth School, Uppermill starting at 7.15 p.m.

For further details ring D.Latimer Tel. 0161 633 3205

Current Society Publications

Books

Saddleworth Villages, illustrated with sketches by Geoff Toms, text by Saddleworth Historical Society Members. Price to Society members £12.50. Please order using the form enclosed in this bulletin,

Saddleworth From the Air by Professor Bari Jones. £12.50

Saddleworth 1914-18: The Experience of a Pennine Community During the Great War by K. W. Mitchinson. Soft back £5.00, hard back £10.00

Cherry Valley Chronicles: Letters From Thomas Buckley and Family – Immigrants to Cherry Valley and Milburry, Massachusetts, USA, to His Son Ralph Buckley and Family, of Dobcross and Delph in Saddleworth, transcribed by Maurice Dennet. £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 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 landscape. £1.20 each.

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| 1. Delph, Heights and Grange | 7. Delph |
| 2. Uppermill | 8. Lydgate and Grotton |
| 3. Greenfield | 9. Dobcross |
| 4. Huddersfield Narrow Canal | 10. Diggle |
| 5. Grasscroft | 11. Castleshaw |
| 6. Denshaw | |

Maps and Plans

Ordnance Survey Maps
Lees
Oldham East
Lydgate

Churchyard Plan: The Old Graveyard at Saddleworth Church. £1.80

Churchyard Plan: The Lower Graveyard at Saddleworth Church. £3.00

Street Guide to Saddleworth: An A2 Comprehensive Street Map of the Area. £1.20

Microfiche

Delph Wesleyan Chapel: Baptisms
Wrigley Mill

Pamphlets

An 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 Graham Griffiths, 6 Slackcote, Delph, Saddleworth, Yorkshire OL3 6AT

