

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 35

Number 3

Autumn 2005

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.

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. There are links to other Saddleworth Web sites.

Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

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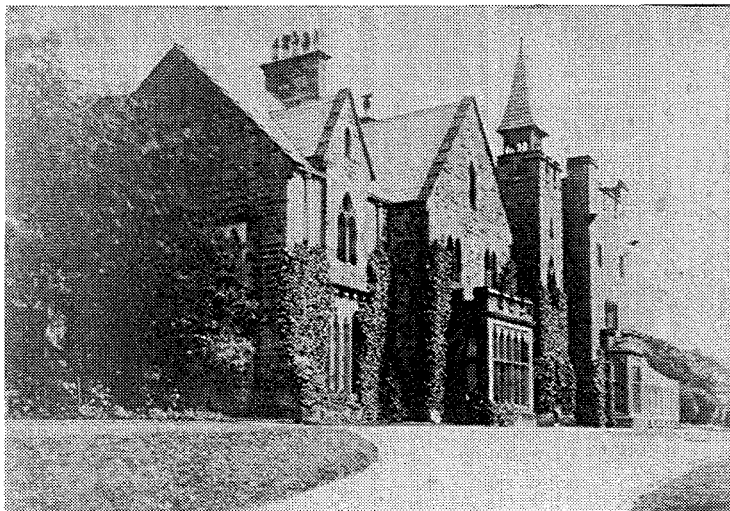
Cover illustration: Medical and nursing staff sit for their portrait at Saddleworth Military Hospital, Ashway Gap, Greenfield c.1917. Saddleworth Museum Collection M/P.
See Peter Fox's article in this number.

SADDLEWORTH'S MILITARY HOSPITALS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Peter Fox

The commencement of the World War I on the 4th August 1914 was an event that was going to affect every individual but these effects at the time were still an unknown. The progression of the war for those on the home front, who had not suffered serving in the trenches, was still something distant and the horrors of war unimaginable. The realities of war were however very soon to strike home as the columns of the local papers began to fill with obituaries of those local men who had been killed whilst serving on active duty, the photographs with these adding to the poignancy realising that most who had lost their lives were in their twenties. There were thousands that were wounded – for those that were at home these wounded were the first reality of war - the numbers soon outgrew the provisions made available by the military authorities. There were, throughout the country, numerous buildings opened up to serve as hospitals and recuperation centre for those wounded and Saddleworth was no exception.

The first hospital to be opened in Saddleworth was in 1915 when Mrs Hyde resident of Wharmton Towers, Greenfield, opened up Oakdene House, Greenfield, a small residence that had been placed at Mrs Hyde's disposal by Mr J. Radcliffe. The house provided facilities for the care of a limited number of wounded and only eighteen beds could be accommodated. The facilities were soon overwhelmed and through the generosity of Mrs Hyde she opened up a number of rooms at her residence of Wharmton Towers to accommodate the endless stream of wounded that were coming back from the front.



Wharmton Towers, Greenfield c1900

In view of the urgent need for further beds in December 1915 the Waterworks Joint Board made an offer to Mrs Hyde of the use of Ashway Gap House, which was owned by

them, Mrs Hyde had whole heartedly taken on the care of wounded soldiers in the district and she readily accepted the generous offer. The adaptation of the hospital into a place to serve the wounded was a prompt affair achieved in just over a month. The removal from Oak Dene being recorded:

There was a somewhat unique removal on Thursday, when the military hospital was transferred from Oak Dene, Greenfield, to the more spacious premises of Ashway Gap, Greenfield. The magnificent hall has been placed at disposal by the Ashton Water Board and is admirably suited for such a purpose, the rooms being numerous, spacious and well ventilated. During the past few weeks the place has been gone over from top to bottom, papering and painting being followed by a thorough scrub down by a host of willing lady workers. At present there are but five soldiers in occupation, but it will be possible when the complete arrangements have been made to find room for close upon 50 patients and in view of the healthy situation it is pretty certain that the beds will be kept well occupied. The 'flitting' was no easy matter, as the load was too heavy for the two horses in the van, and it was only by the assistance of a dozen or so sturdy waterworks men that the last quarter of a mile could be negotiated. The formal opening has not yet been arranged.

Oldham Chronicle 08/01/1915

SADDLEWORTH MILITARY HOSPITAL. **ASHWAY GAP, GREENFIELD.**

The above Hospital will be OPENED TO-DAY (Saturday), January 29th, at 3 p.m., by Colonel W. COATES, the Chairman of the East Lancashire Branch of the British Red Cross Society. Mrs. HYDE, of Wharmton Towers, Greenfield, President of the Hospital, will preside. Admission one shilling, including afternoon tea.

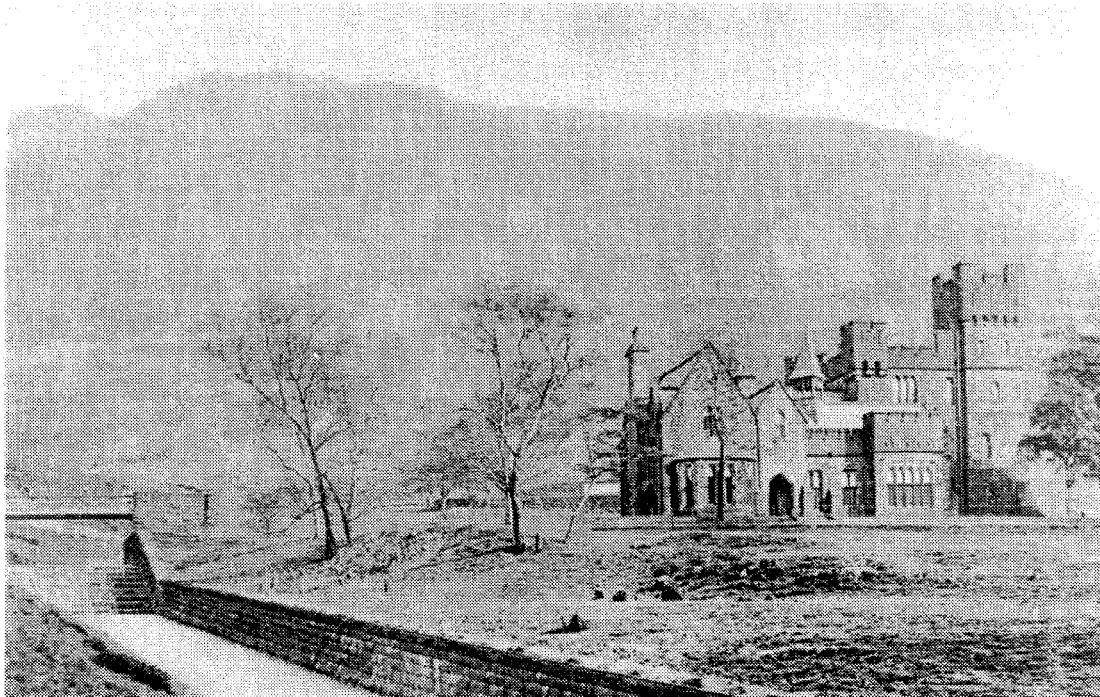
Advert for the opening of the Saddleworth Military Hospital at Ashway Gap, Greenfield.

Oldham Chronicle 29/01/1916

In January 1916 on a glorious winter's day Ashway Gap Military Hospital was officially opened by the chairman of the East Lancashire Red Cross.

Over 500 visitors from all parts of Saddleworth and the neighbouring towns crowded the hospital at the time of the opening by Colonel W. Coates, the chairman of the East Lancashire branch of the British Red Cross Society. All were delighted with the arrangements which had been made and particularly with the tasty afternoon tea which the ladies of the kitchen had provided.

Oldham Chronicle – 05/2/1916



This postcard view showing Ashway Gap that was used as for the Military Hospital gives some of the dramatic landscape that was to be home for the recovering wounded c1915

The hospital boasted accommodation for sixty patients and it was to care for these that a formidable staff was put together under the guide of Mrs Hyde who was made commandant. The capable staff consisted of a matron, 29 nurses, and 32 voluntary cooks. The location of Ashway Gap demanded that the staff were brought up by motor from Greenfield each morning and taken back in the evening and the night duties were undertaken by 12 Red Cross and St John Ambulance orderlies. Dr Price was the senior medical officer and he was assisted by Dr Burd, Dr Ernest and Dr. H. Ramsden (of Dobcross). The Honorary Treasurer was Mr W.E. Hyde and the Hon. Secretary Mr A. Washington. The religious needs and services were held at the hospital by the Reverend J.E. Powell of St Mary's Church, Greenfield.

The hospitals were reliant to a great degree on local fundraising and goodwill which was continually forthcoming, the local papers listing the contributions made by individuals, collections at local mills and events:

Typical of regular contributions by local people reported in the newspapers was this example:

During the week the following gifts have been received : Mrs J. F. Kenworthy, bed linen; Miss Potter, fomentation ringers; Uppermill Red Cross Society, sheets etc.; Miss A. Brown, biscuits; Mrs Brown, eggs; Kathleen Parkin, sugar; Mrs Lamb, tomatoes, etc.; Mrs Bennett, eggs and sugar; Mrs Kenworthy, rice and biscuits; Misses Nuttall and Croke, cigarettes, etc. ; Mrs Gibson, eggs; Mrs Renben Firth, eggs.; Mrs Beardsall,

beef; Mrs G. Lawton, bandages; Miss Broadbent, socks; employees of Royal George Mills and High Grove Mills, £5; employees of Messrs R. Byrom, Slackcote and Linfitts Mills, £1.12sh.5d.

Oldham Chronicle 2/09/1916

Local people were innovative and organised a number of local events which included :

A novel show was held at the King William Hotel, Greenfield on Friday evening of last week. The promoters were a number of local poultry fanciers and the condition attached was that the three eggs which formed a "plate" should be forfeited and sent to the military hospital. As there were 18 entries there were no less than 54 available, and these were taken to the hospital on Sunday by Messrs J. Bennett, C. H. Norbury and T. Mingham. The secretarial duties were discharged by Mr James Heaton, who begs us to ask all readers to support further shows as by so doing they will be doing their "bit" by helping the soldiers who have done so much for this country.

Oldham Chronicle 05/02/1916

In August 1916 a "Forget-me-not-Day" was held under the auspices of the Saddleworth Ambulance Association and the Red Cross Societies:

.....over £65 was realised by the sale of forget-me-nots, an appropriate emblem for such a cause. Practically every house in Saddleworth was visited by the enthusiastic sellers, and pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists were waylaid at every corner.

In the evening a ball was held in the Mechanics Institute, Uppermill. This was arranged chiefly for the benefit of the soldiers and it was a matter of regret to all when it was found impossible to get in a few hours extension of time. Incidentally brought about the failure of the ball, for it was a case of no soldiers, no ladies. At Diggle £2.10.0d had been collected for the provision of a supper for the expected guests, and this had to be changed to the form of a high tea at which most of the soldiers were present.

Oldham Chronicle 12/08/1916

The opportunity for local people to view the facilities and enjoy a tour round Ashway Gap was accorded in September of 1916 when entertainment was made in the form of a Café Chantant:

In a company of sixty patients there is naturally a goodly sprinkling of men with good voices and those who know how to use them to the best advantage, and an unpretentious concert which they gave a few weeks ago for the edification of the staff and a few visitors gave birth to the bigger idea of arranging a gathering in which the general public could participate and by which necessary "ammunition" for the defence of the Well-being of the hospital could be procured. The lady workers and friends undertook to provide the eatables and the wounded soldiers and friends made themselves responsible for the entertainment, and in both departments there was nothing omitted which one could desire. The weather had been the disturbing element, but to the delight of all, it improved as the critical period arrived and glorious sunshine prevailed during the whole of the afternoon leading to an evening which was most delightful to spend on the grassy

slopes around the hospital. Tickets had been disposed of by the hindered, and of those who had purchased close upon six hundred made the somewhat arduous walk to the hospital, feeling well repaid when they arrived there and could breathe in the invigorating air of Ashway Gap and see the magnitude of the work which has been undertaken for the benefit of the wounded and sick soldiers.

The smiling V.A.D. 's of the hospital constituted themselves guides and in relays of a dozen or so the interested visitors were shown through the various wards. The lady cooks were in the meantime working at high pressure preparing the appetising repast for which they new the visitors would be ready after hours in the open. At five o'clock the tea was served to the few seated at the tables. Soldiers forgot their pains in the delight of administering to the needs of their guests, and a cup of tea from the hands of the men who had played such a noble part in keeping the dangerous foe out of this country became enhanced in value.

Oldham Chronicle 09/09/1916

The soldiers, even though they were recovering from serious wounds were still under the disciplines of service and regulations issued by the War Office. In October 1916 the War Office made it impossible for the wounded soldiers at any hospital to enjoy evening hospitality which, to say the least, in the circumstances seems harsh. The rules were to be strictly adhered to and any soldiers who broke the rules had the ten days allowance for visiting relatives withdrawn and the withdrawal of pay for the same period. The local committee were grieved by the rule but concluded that their was no option as one or two soldiers in the district through the temptation of "friends" had already caused trouble. It was concluded to be a case of the mountain and Mohamet: if the soldiers couldn't accept outside hospitality and entertainment kind-hearted residents could visit the hospital, taking with them provisions for tea and talent for entertainment. Those organising events made sure that it didn't prevent the enjoyment given to the soldiers in aiding their recovery.

The V.A.D. 's of the Saddleworth Military Hospital realised £28 by an effort made on Saturday last, in the Greenfield Co-operative Hall, and at the same time afforded a great deal of enjoyment to the soldier patients. Owing to the "early housing" rules a whist drive was organised for 2.30 pm for patients and staff, and this was followed by a dance and substantial tea.

Oldham Chronicle 03/10/1917

The events towards raising funds sometimes involved the patients themselves. In July 1917 the annual cycle parade of the Saddleworth St John's Ambulance Association was held, though on this occasion there was a total lack of cycles.

Saddleshworth Military Hospital.

President:
MRS. HYDE,

WHARFTON TOWERS, GREENFIELD.

ASHWAY GAP,

GREENFIELD,

Near Oldham.

Hon. Treasurer:
W. E. HYDE,
WHARFTON TOWERS,
GREENFIELD.

Hon. Secretary:
ALBERT WASHINGTON,
INSLESIDE,
UPPERMILL.

Dear Mrs Radcliffe

I now take the liberty of
thanking you on Mrs Hollingworth, Lawton, Miss
Radcliffe & Bradbury on behalf of the boys
and all who were present for the kindness
& hospitality in providing us with a never to be
forgotten pleasant afternoon and substantial tea.
I can assure you, every body were deeply grateful
and proud to have been present. It is one
of those acts that help to brighten life, and I
only hope that you ~~derive~~ ^{derive} as much pleasure
from the kind act as the recipients had. The
boys were all loud in their praise of you &
the other ladies, hoping you may at an early
period, have along with us all the pleasures
of seeing this war ended victoriously for the
Allies.

I Remain

Foraternally yours

41 Serot Barrett

A letter sent by Sergeant Barrett, a patient at Ashway Gap to thank Mrs Radcliffe of Fur Lane, Greenfield for providing an afternoon's entertainment for himself and other patients. The letter in the collection of Saddleshworth Museum Archives (M/GX/K) is undated but is probably c1917.

The whole of the proceeds were all towards the running of the military hospital and:

.....it was hoped that a patriotic feeling would act just as strongly as a money prize. The parade was chiefly made up of Boys' Brigades, tableaux or lorries, and collections in fancy or grotesque costumes. The wounded soldiers themselves were the principle attractions of the parade. Those who could walk made splendid collectors; those unable to do so were carried around the district by a lorry kindly placed at disposal by the Greenfield mill Co. But while the parade established a record in the absence of cycles, there was another more pleasing record in the amount of the street collection, which reached the phenomenal sum of £56. – The ambulance ladies played a useful part in collecting for a tea for the wounded guests, and to this full justice was done in the Uppermill Mechanics Institute.

Oldham Chronicle 21/07/1917

The soldiers enjoyed other outings which were not associated with fund raising for the hospital and in April 1916, thirty-two of the wounded soldiers and nurses accompanied by Mrs W.G.S. Hyde and Mr W. Clare, the officer in charge, participated in a pleasurable function on a Saturday afternoon. Miss Ada Reeve, a famous comedienne of the time, had arranged an entertainment at the Palace Theatre in Manchester for the pleasure of the wounded soldiers in the Manchester district. The journey was made in motor cars and charabanc:

A pathetic incident took place during the vote of thanks with characterised foresight Mrs Hyde had provided a sheaf of the most beautiful flowers as an acknowledgement of such kindly thought, and this was presented to Miss Reeve by Corporal Foster, of the Saddleworth Hospital, who has lost a leg in the war. It was touching to see him hobbling upon the stage with the aid of his crutches. But there was scarcely a dry eye when the talented entertainer accepted the gift with marked pleasure and concluded a touching tribute to the heroism of the men at the front by rewarding the soldier with a kiss.

Oldham Chronicle 15/04/1916

The recovering soldiers on a number of occasions took the opportunity to thank those that had helped them; a good example being in December 1917 when the men at Wharmton Towers Military Hospital presented Mrs Hyde with a solid silver vase at Christmas as a little return for the kindness she had shown to them.

There must have been many postcards and letters sent as a thank you to the staff at Ashway Gap for the care they had given and this is just one of a number that were published in the local papers:

Quartermaster-sergeant J. Stokoe, who passed a considerable time in the hospital and has now been sent to his home, Leigh Road, Hale, Cheshire, has sent the following appreciative letter: – "I cannot help feeling that I wish I could do such a lot to help on the work there now I have got home and have time to think quietly of how much the staff are doing 'their bit.' I should like to send them all something to remind them that one at least recognises their efforts; this, however, is impossible. May I therefore ask you to accept this small donation (£1) to the funds of the hospital in token of my appreciation of

the kindness of all. I intended to motor up before this, but unfortunately find that I cannot work the car with my right foot only, and then it is very difficult to obtain petrol for purely joy rides. I hope you and all on the committee are quite well. I should be obliged if you would kindly remember me to those forming the latter, I think of you all many times.

Oldham Chronicle 9/09/1916



A postcard of soldiers in their 'hospital blues' and nurses at the entrance to Ashway Gap Military Hospital. c1916

The good work carried out at the military hospitals was also recognised on many occasions from outside of the area. In 1917 Colonel Coates sent the following flattering report

I am writing to offer you my sincere congratulations on the third anniversary of the opening of your hospital. I would ask you to take the first opportunity to express my grateful thanks to all your devoted workers, and especially to those who have served at the hospital since the commencement.

Oldham Chronicle 19/01/1918

Those recovering at Ashway Gap, on occasion, were called to remember their fallen comrades in May 1917. Private Stephen Rupert Buckley who had served with the Northumberland Fusiliers and originated from Saddleworth Fold, Uppermill. He had been recovering in Govan Hospital, Glasgow from serious wounds but regrettably he died on May 12th at the age of twenty-three having served in the army for under a year. His body was returned home and over twenty patients, under the charge of Sergeant G. Mahon, from Ashway Gap attended the funeral with some acting as bearers to the deceased.

The *Yorkshire Post* newspaper commissioned a reporter to visit hospitals that were serving in helping the war effort and Saddleworth was no exception:

"WHAT A BLOOMING WILDERNESS;" was the hasty comment of a wounded Tommy on finding himself an inmate of Saddleworth Military Hospital, Ashway Gap, Greenfield. To the nursing sister, accustomed to the moor land solitude, this criticism may have appeared a little harsh, but the patient's point of view was, perhaps, excusable for his eye rested on great hills and wide stretches of moor land with scarcely a dwelling in sight. Fresh from a strenuous existence at the front his mind was not attuned to the health-giving quietness which he now experienced, and born and bred in some great industrial centre he was, for the time being as much out of place at Ashway Gap as a live grouse would be say, in Market Street, Manchester. But as his convalescence progressed he found himself responding to the silent forces of Nature, and there grew up within him a great reluctance to bid farewell to his temporary home. He by no means looked forward to the day of his discharge and when the time comes for him to pass out off the hospital, restored to sound and vigorous heath, he left the place with feelings of regret and a sincere regard for all who had helped to make his stay so pleasant. This, in brief, is the common experience of inmates of Ashway Gap, Hospital.

Although situated in the extreme south-west corner of Yorkshire the hospital comes within the purview of the East Lancashire branch of the British Red Cross Society. Occupying a commanding position at the head of the wild and romantic Greenfield Valley Ashway Gap Castle is on the fringe of the famous grouse moors of Ashway Gap. Elizabethan in design its battlemented towers frown upon the traveller as he approaches up the valley from Greenfield, and one is compelled to pause a moment fully to appreciate the beauty of the setting. Chew Mount rears high its craggy head behind the Castle, while in front is the great hump of Alderman Hill. On the north-western flank Ashway Moss rises in tier upon tier to the horizon, and towards the south-west the narrow valley runs down between wooded slopes towards Greenfield and the Lancashire border.

Oldham Chronicle 10/03/1917

The number of wounded held in Saddleworth averaged over seventy for the last two years of the war and with the carnage at the front there was a continual demand for beds as the wounded recovered. In May of 1917 it was recorded that there were forty-six patients at Ashway Gap and thirty patients at Wharnton Towers.



A postcard produced showing some of the patients and a few of the staff enjoying the summer sun of 20th July 1916 following a walk. The card would have probably been sold to raise funds.

The end of the War on the 11th November 1918 was to bring the early closing of both Wharmton Towers and Ashway Gap:

The early closing of the military hospitals at Ashway Gap and Wharmton is anticipated. At the meeting of the general committee on Monday afternoon, Mrs W. F. Hyde the Commandant, presiding, correspondence on the subject of demobilisation was presented, and it was decided to close at the end of February [1919] unless there was such an urgent need as would assure the committee of at least 30 patients per hospital. At present there a 107 soldier patients, but the majority of these are anticipating early demobilisation. In regard to the assets, which are in a measure under the control of the Charity Commission, it was decided to recommend that any cash balance should be devoted to local ambulance and sick nursing works; the local hospital requisites, bed rests and the like being divided out amongst the villages of Greenfield, Uppermill, Dobcross, and Delph for lending in cases of sickness. Oldham Chronicle 25/01/1919

It is in a way surprising that as a hospital had been established that this wasn't taken up to serve the local needs of the area.

The recognition of the contribution made by the military hospitals in the care of wounded from the war and the contribution to the war effort is best summed up in a letter from Colonel William Coates, ADMS, Western Command, and Chairman of the British Red Cross Society:

It has been my intention to write to you regarding the closure of the hospitals, but great pressure of work has presented me.

I now take this opportunity of thanking you, and all who have been associated with you, most sincerely, to the great work which you have carried out, often under very difficult circumstances. It's impossible to appraise the excellent work which you have accomplished on behalf of the sick and wounded soldiers, or to forget the splendid manner in which all Voluntary Aid Red Cross and St John workers volunteered their services, and the cordial co-operation of the Voluntary Aid organisations considerably relieved their anxieties. I hope you will convey the high appreciation of the military authorities to all those concerned in the working of your hospitals, not only to the medical officers, and the nurses, and those who have been responsible for the financial arrangements, but also those who have occupied the humbler positions, such as cooks, housemaids and general workers. There are many, I am sure, who must feel that their services are worthy of higher recognition than can be given in the words of this letter, but I think the greatest satisfaction.

Mrs Hyde in recognition of her efforts had been awarded an O.B.E. The closure of the hospital brought forth further recognition of her efforts and at the same time the opportunity was made to present a war honour to one of the incumbents of the hospital

An interesting gathering arranged by the Saddleworth Centre St John Ambulance Association was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, Uppermill, on Friday evening of last week there being presented to Mrs W. E. Hyde, O.B.E., the Vellum Vote of Thanks of the Order of St John, and the Military Medal to Sergeant John Godley, of Greenfield, an old member of the Ambulance Association, who has been on active service in France ever since the opening of hostilities.....

Mr Henry Carter, the treasurer of the centre in presenting the Vellum Vote of Thanks to Mrs Hyde, said it was in recognition of her services during the war. No one, he said, could have done more, and the honour, great as it was, did not equal her sacrifices. She had been working for the wounded and sick soldiers ever since war broke out, and had even placed her own home (Wharmton Towers) at their disposal, making them as comfortable and happy as it was possible to do. She could have no adequate reward in this life, but was sure of one in the life to come....

Mrs Hyde in her reply statedshe wished to thank all the V.A.D.'s for the services they had rendered. They had done splendidly from beginning to end, and they had been such willing workers both in nursing and cooking. They were glad the war was over, but were all sorry that they could not continue their work on behalf of the soldiers. The Ashway Gap patients had left that day and had assured her how very much they appreciated what had been done for them during their stay in Saddleworth; they would remember the district and their kindly treatment the patients had received. Many patients had come there after a long course of treatment at other hospitals; and had at once begun to show marked signs of improvement.

Oldham Chronicle 05/04/1919

Another event marking the closure of the hospital was held when the Red Cross Flag which had hung in the hospital throughout was presented to Saddleworth Church:

A most interesting service will be held at Saddleworth Church on Sunday afternoon, April 27 when the Red Cross Flag which has so long floated over the Military Hospital, will be presented to the vocal of Saddleworth, the Rev. Canon Drury, and the Churchwardens, to commemorate Saddleworth work in the Great War. It is expected that the flag will be hung in a prominent position in the Church, and will be the only trophy of the kind at present there.

A procession has been arranged to start from the Square, at Uppermill, at 2.30 for the service at three o'clock. Mrs Hyde extends a cordial invitation to all the staff and friends.

Oldham Chronicle 12/04/1919

As a thank you to the staff who had worked at Ashway Gap an outing was arranged:

Wednesday will be a day long remembered by the committee and staff of the Saddleworth Military Hospital. To mark the close of four years work of the institution it was decided to have an outing to Buxton by way of some of the most picturesque spots in Derbyshire. Close upon 50 participated, being accommodated in two splendid cars provided by Messrs. Buckley, Greenfield.

Whilst on the outing the opportunity was made to present a rose bowl which bore the following inscription: "Presented to Mrs. Hyde O.B.E., by the committee and detachment of the Saddleworth Red Cross Hospitals at Ashway Gap and Wharmton Towers in recognition of her valuable services as commandant, 1914-1919."

Oldham Chronicle 12/07/1919

A week later the staff were all assembled at Wharmton Towers for another thank you in recognition of the services they had given:

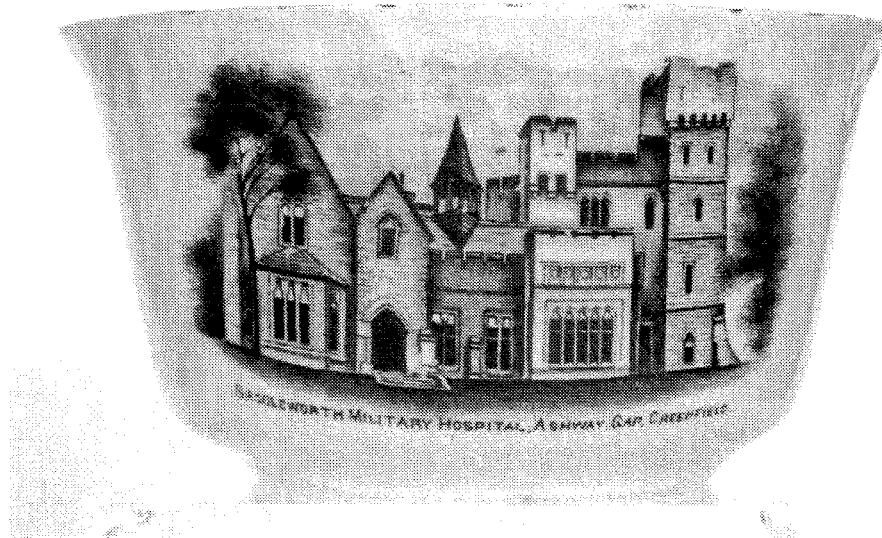
On Saturday evening the V.A.D. staff assembled at Wharmton Towers to receive the souvenir brooch – badges which had been ordered by the committee in recognition of their voluntary services to the Ashway Gap and Wharmton Hospitals. The badges were of gold, with disc bearing the words. "For Service", 1914-19." In the centre was a red cross, and in the four angles were the letters "S.A.M.H." Mrs Hyde C.B.T., received hers from Miss Gertrude Wrigley, then distributed the others, first pinning on the breast of a baby the memento which had been so well earned by his late mother Mrs Wilson. The V.A.D. staff comprised Mesdames G. Lawton, Mayall, Ratcliffe, Sedgwick, Greenhalgh, Price, Milne, Winterbottom, Lawton (Wellington Terrace), Bradbury, Hill, Lees, Mallandain, Hollingworth, Bottomley, Fielding, Shaw, Firth, Burd, Jeffries, Lomax, Howcroft, Taylor, Byrom, Misses Wrigley, Gertrude Wrigley, Redman, Kenworthy, Jackson, Potter, G. Redcliffe, E. Radcliffe (Kinders), Bent, Bradbury, Rhodes, Caven, Firth, Wolstencroft, Newton, Marsden, Wroe S. Radcliffe (Uppermill) and Nightingale. A cigarette case was presented to Mr W.W. Clare (officer in charge), and to Mr. A. Washington (hon. secretary).

Oldham Chronicle 26/07/1919

The closure of Ashway Gap as a military hospital was to leave the building without much of a purpose; it was still owned by the district waterworks and with a degree of formality was returned to its owners:

At the monthly meeting of the Ashton District Joint Waterworks Committee on Thursday the sub-committee appointed to inspect Ashway Gap House, now being used as a Red Cross Hospital, reported that they found the hospital in good condition. The sub-committee's recommendation that the Joint Committee pay £100 towards the expenses incurred by the Hospital Committee provided they leave the linoleum, the electric cooker and made good the bed linen was approved.

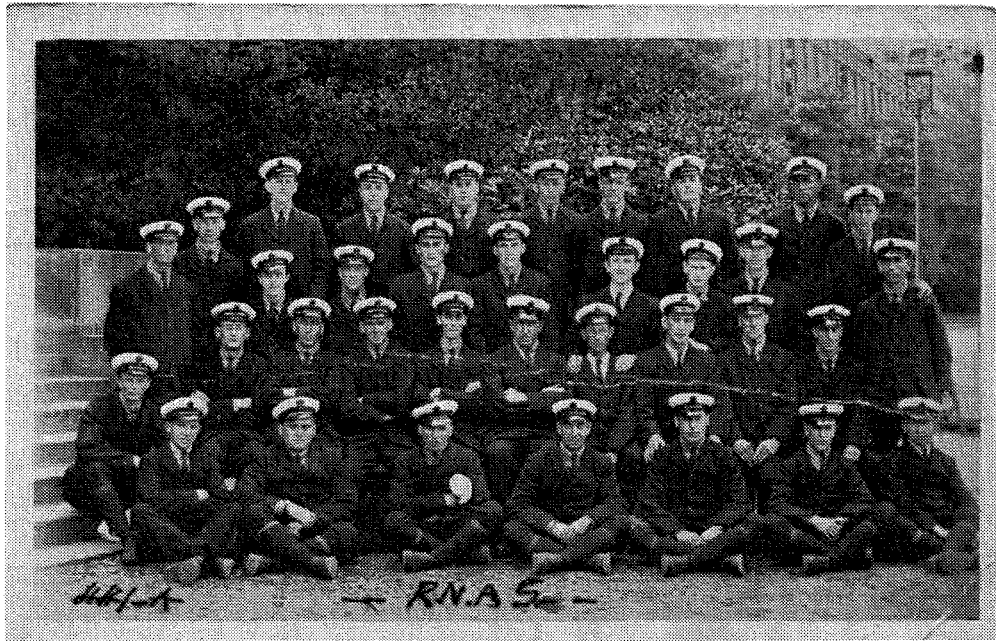
Oldham Chronicle 12/04/1919



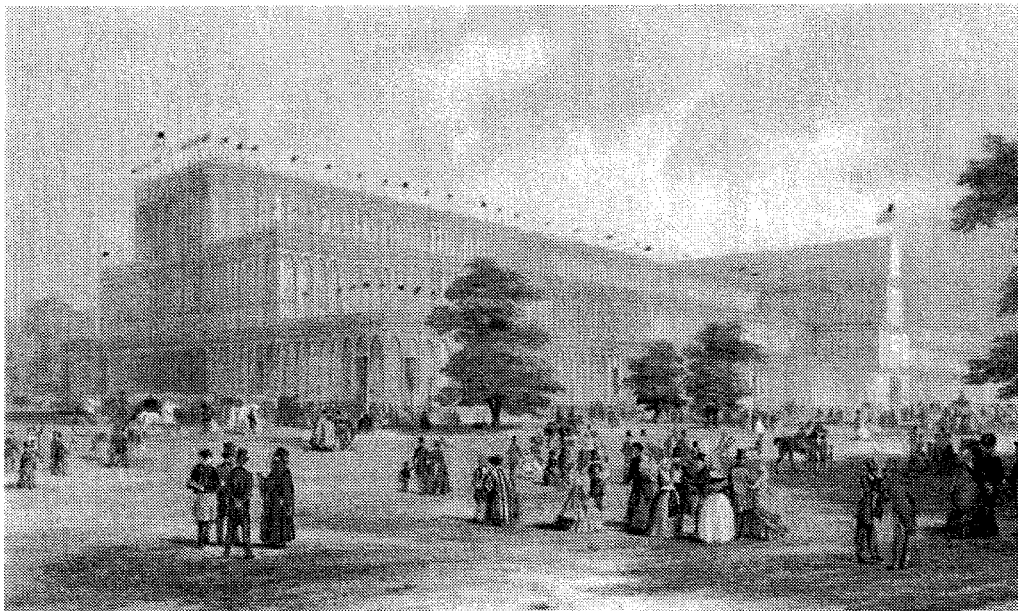
A piece of pottery that is in the collection of Saddleworth Museum, which was probably sold to raise funds towards the hospital –

Saddleworth Museum 1986.6.1

The inspiration behind this article was prompted by the above sugar bowl in the collection of Saddleworth Museum. This article is certainly not intended as the definitive history being based mostly on newspaper sources as there are very few documents remaining, if you feel you can add anything I would love to hear from you.



Fred Holden training with the RNAS: second row up second from the right.



Crystal Palace where Fred Holden trained is just visible in the top right portion of the photograph above.

Fred Holden of the Royal Naval Air Service

Elsie Broadbent

In war victory came to those occupying the higher ground and Winston Churchill, whilst the First Lord of the Admiralty began arguing for the development of military aircraft. In 1912 the government formed the Royal Flying Corps. The British Navy was given airships owned by the British Army. It was also given twelve aircraft to be used in conjunction with its ships. The first flight from a moving ship took place in May 1912. The following year, the first seaplane carrier, *Hermes*, was commissioned. The Navy also began to build a chain of coastal air stations.

During 1914 the government established the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) and within a few months the RNAS had 217 pilots and 95 aircraft (55 of them seaplanes). One of the most successful seaplanes purchased by the RNAS was the Curtiss H-16, produced by Glen Hammond Curtiss in the USA. By the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, the RNAS had more aircraft under its control than the Royal Flying Corps. The main role of the RNAS was fleet reconnaissance, patrolling coasts for enemy ships and submarines, attacking enemy coastal territory and defending Britain from enemy air-raids.

Another branch of the RNAS was comprised of Sea Rescue Vessels - these were fast launches capable of speedily rescuing pilots who had the misfortune to come down in the sea. It was in this branch of the RNAS that my father Fred Holden, had served, born in 1888 he lived in Grasscroft, Saddleworth for fifteen years before his death in 1985.

During 1916 he volunteered for wartime service, his occupation then was a policeman stationed in Rochdale. After enrolling he was sent to the Crystal Palace in London, which at that time was a training depot for the forces. This massive building built for the Great Exhibition in 1851 was the product of a committee on which sat both Brunel and Robert Stephenson, but caught the attention of Joseph Paxton, estate manager for the Duke of Devonshire, consequently scale drawings of plans and elevations were drawn up for him by his clerks in the Estate Office at Chatsworth, and it was built in only eighteen weeks by Fox & Henderson of Smethwick.

Subsequently my father was sent to Plymouth to finish his training and then a posting to Dundee in the North of Scotland entailing an extra long train journey. This must have been something of an epic journey in those days taking many hours. Then on to Lossiemouth on the Moray Firth to board a sea rescue vessel mastered by Captain Sycamore, who after the war became famous as the skipper of tea millionaire, Sir Thomas Lipton's yacht *Shamrock*, which competed and won the Americas Cup in the race across the Atlantic in the Roaring Twenties.

Whilst at Lossiemouth an unusual circumstance occurred. Fred was summoned to report to the Captain who told him very seriously that there was some sad news from home. "Holden, says the Captain, I am afraid to inform you that your Father has died." Fred

was completely taken aback and for a moment was speechless, trying to work out how his father had only just died and who was the person buried 20 years before.

However, the Captain continued with his bad news and extended his heartfelt sympathy and when he offered 14 days compassionate leave to return home in order to sort things out Fred decided to accept the offer without any further comment. Another long train journey ensued from Lossiemouth to Oldham where the family had returned to live from Rochdale and he discovered it was his father-in-law who had passed away. Returning to the north of Scotland, the rescue boat was now operating from Dundee, sailing out when required to recover any aircraft and crew which were reported missing over the North Sea. Covering the coast from Dundee, Firth of Tay, Broughty Ferry, Arbroath, Montrose, Aberdeen, and to Lossiemouth on the Moray Firth.

On the 1st April, 1918 the RNAS, which at the time had 67,000 officers and men 2,949 aircraft, 103 airships and 126 coastal stations, was merged with the RFC (Royal Flying Corps) to form the Royal Air Force.

The Royal Navy regained its own air service in 1937 when the Royal Naval Air Service was returned to Admiralty control. It was renamed the Fleet Air Arm.



Hervey Rhodes at the Battle of the Somme 1916

Bill Mitchenson

Hervey Rhodes took the King's shilling when he volunteered to enlist in the 7th Battalion, Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment soon after the outbreak of war. The battalion became part of the 56 Brigade in the 19th (Western) Division. This formation, as one of the six divisions in Kitchener's Second New Army crossed to France in July 1915.

The 19th Division was in support on 16th July 1916 and was assigned the task of exploiting any success gained by III Corps' two assaulting divisions, the 8th and 34th. These divisions were to attack the twin villages of Ovillers and La Boisselle, which lie either side of the Albert-Bapaume road. At 07.28 on 1st July mines, which had been laid under the German front line were exploded and the infantry attacked two minutes later. The Tyneside Irish and Tyneside Scottish Brigades of the 34th Division were almost annihilated by German machine-gun fire, hundreds of their men being mown down before they had even crossed their own lines. The 8th Division also had little success. Two brigades of Rhodes' division were ordered to make a night attack on La Boisselle at 22.30 on 1st July but the congestion of dead and wounded men in the communication trenches leading to the front positions prevented the assaulting battalions from getting forward. However, over the next four days the 19th Division gradually inched its way through the ruins and maze of German trenches within the village.

On 4th July Rhodes' battalion led an assault, which finally cleared the village and on 7th July his battalion attacked towards the German second line. The troops ran into their own side's barrage but after some necessary reorganisation, 56 Brigade rushed the enemy positions and captured 400 prisoners. The division was relieved on the night of 8th/9th July but would return to the line four days later.

Many years later Hervey, now Lord Rhodes recounted his experiences (1):

I was through the Somme: that's a long story, the Somme. We were in reserve, on the hill above Albert, looking down into the valley below where there was village called L'Arboissel¹. The sappers – our sappers - had dug underneath No Man's land and planted a mine, which was supposed to go off before our troops tried to take L'Arboissel, and I remember the day before, on the 1st June we'd been in the reserve trenches and the happening is always printed on my mind. We were proceeding along a communications trench when, through the parapet above, came an enormous shell: I was so frightened and scared of this, as it was revealed in all its shape – a fifteen-inch shell. It took down two men into a hole – they'd been next to me – my friends - and it never went off!

...On the morning [of 2nd June] we were on top of this hill outside Albert and the

¹ ie La Boisselle

guns which had been assembled by that time were in their hundreds. As far as you could see, every ten yards or so there were field guns and they seemed to have plenty of ammunition. However the mine wasn't under L'Arboisel: it was under No Man's Land and when our people went over they were absolute prime targets for the Germans, who were able to mow them down – and they mowed them in serried ranks as they were going.

We had a replacement - we had a little private came that morning. One of these extraordinary things - he joined the battalion and he'd never seen any fighting before, this lad. He said he came from Manchester and he lived in Every Street² – that was one of the toughest streets. I was amused because he wished he was back in Every Street – he thought Every Street was a very nice street rather than this. He said "What are all those?" – and they were dead men. You could see them – in the chalk – and I said they were stakes and that we had to pick them up and take them on this next advance. That was a terrible experience.

You don't know yourself properly when you are in that position and you are told to go and there's a minute or two when you are on your way over No Man's Land, getting round the shell-holes and there seems to be a typical sort of thud of a bullet going into a target, a man – and it was a sort of a deep thud and a man would go over – it was a terrible experience. You didn't know whether you were on your head or your heels: it just went on and you didn't know what you were going to with your bayonet at the other end anyway.

In 1917 Rhodes was recommended for a commission and on passing out he was gazetted into the Yorkshire Regiment. But, not wishing to return to the trenches he applied and was accepted into the Royal Flying Corps. There, as an observer flying a R.E.8 with Lt Coyne Pithey he had a distinguished career achieving, during 1918, the greatest number of air victories for this type of aircraft. Both men were awarded the DFC and bar.

Reference

1 Lord Rhodes' Memoirs. Saddleworth Museum archives M/LrD.

The author would like to thank the Hon Helen Sutcliffe for allowing him to quote from these papers.

² in Ancoats

A Childhood Memory

Neil Barrow

The whole of society was affected by the War:

Late one afternoon, in the autumn of 1916, Lucy and I were trailing behind Aunt Minnie after a brisk walk to Heights Church, when Lilian Nield came hesitatingly out of the Post Office holding a telegram towards Aunt Minnie. Aunt Minnie took it firmly in her gloved fingers, looked at it only for a moment, then as firmly opened it.

The message inside said that her third son Laurie, had arrived safely back at school at Bedford. Aunt Minnie held the message so that we could see it; but her hand was shaking so much that we could not read it.

The writer, JPW Mallalieu, was, then, a young boy of seven and this vivid and poignant memory stayed with him to be recalled some sixty-seven years later in his autobiography, *On Larkhill*.

His aunt, Minnie Hardman, had reason to be apprehensive:

Another telegram reached her four months later. It said that her eldest son, Wallace, aged nineteen had been killed in Mesopotamia.

The Hardmans were a wealthy family living at Grove View, New Delph. With his brother George, James owned Bangor cotton mill in Waterhead. Their sister Anne had married into the Mallalieu family, owners of Bailey mill, Delph. James had been educated at Winchester public school and Oxford. He had died in 1914 at the early age of forty-eight, leaving Minnie his share of the mill. Wallace, the eldest of three sons had attended Malvern College and was at Manchester Technical College, (now UMIST)¹ presumably preparing for a career in the mill, when he had joined the Manchester regiment.

His death was reported in the Oldham Chronicle under the weary headline "The Week's Local Casualties". Hardman was commissioned in 1915 in the Manchester Regiment and trained to become a machine-gun officer. He died, shot in the head, leading an attack on the Turkish trenches near Kut in Mesopotamia on the morning of January 9th 1916 and for his bravery was mentioned in despatches.

A Memorial Service was held at St Thomas, Delph in April and Mrs Hardman presented an inscribed religious picture (1). After the War Mrs Hardman presented the war memorial to the church. It was designed and made by the vicar, the Rev Thomas Storey

¹ Wallace G Hardman is inscribed on the War Memorial of the Manchester Technical College, Whitworth St., Manchester.

Bates, dedicated to her son and inscribed with the names of the other fifty-eight church members who had died (2). Mrs Hardman was active in the war effort. She was a member of the Military Hospital Committee and, as secretary of the Delph Red Cross, was untiring in sending parcels and letters to the troops. In 1923 Mrs Hardman left Delph to move to Oxford where her sisters already lived (3).

References

- 1 Oldham Chronicle 7/4/1917
- 2 Oldham Chronicle 18/7/1919
- 3 Oldham Chronicle 16/6/1923

CAPTAIN JOEL BUCKLEY M.C.

Mike Buckley

In the First World War Joel Buckley was the only person from Denshaw to serve as an officer.

He was born on 23rd October 1889, the second son of Bennet and Betty Buckley of Denshaw. Bennet Buckley was a cloth printer at the Denshaw Vale Print Works and spent a lifetime in their employ, as also did his eldest son Cecil. Joel and his younger brother Edgar, however, demonstrated early academic prowess and were encouraged by their parents to further their education. Edgar, after leaving school,



Denshaw School 1896 - Joel Buckley bottom right in sailor suit

went on to train as a pharmacist, and Joel became, first, pupil teacher at Denshaw, then a pupil at the newly opened Hulme Grammar School, Oldham. On leaving school he entered the teacher training college at Carmarthen. Joel was a keen sportsman and the family still possess a silver cup he won for running while at Hulme.

At the outbreak of war Joel began training as a military cadet and was soon to enter the Duke of Wellingtons (West Riding) Regiment as a Lieutenant and later Captain. He served on the Somme and throughout the war, escaping death and serious injury, unlike so many of his Denshaw contemporaries. Twenty-three men from the village had died in battle or from injury by the end of hostilities in 1918.

At some point in 1918 - unusually, the date does not appear to be recorded in the *London Gazette* - Joel Buckley was decorated for an act of bravery. For this he received the Military Cross. The citation reads:

When in charge of a party taking part in a raid on the enemy trenches he skillfully led his men to the second objective, bombed a dugout, captured a prisoner and held up a strong counter attack which the enemy were attempting down a communication trench. He afforded his men a fine example of resource and initiative.



Joel Buckley as a military cadet

In 1915 he married Florence Hodges at Denshaw Church and they had one daughter, Betty in 1926. After the war, on returning to civilian life, he held teaching positions in Chadderton and at Boothstown in Lancashire.

On 30th October 1920 he was invited to officiate at the unveiling of the new War Memorial in Denshaw Churchyard and its dedication by the Rev Thomas Storey Bates,

Vicar of Friarmere. Apart from his own experiences in the trenches, uppermost in his own mind must have been one of the twenty-three names on the monument, that of his own younger brother Percy Buckley, who had been killed in action, aged 19, only three months before the end of hostilities.

In 1926 Joel returned to Denshaw to become headmaster of the village school, a position he held until his retirement in 1954. By the end of his career as village schoolmaster he had taught two generations of Denshaw children.

He was active throughout his life in local affairs. A churchwarden of Christ Church, Denshaw from 1941 to 1951 and a sidesman for many years, he was also an independent Councillor on Saddleworth Urban District Council and for nearly thirty years a J.P. for the West Riding of Yorkshire. During the Second World War he also played a leading role in the Saddleworth Home Guard as second in command to the commanding officer Hervey Rhodes, later Lord Rhodes.



Joel Buckley and Denshaw School Group c1926

He died on 12th March 1981, aged 91 years. A well known figure in Denshaw, who had played a leading role in village life for much of the twentieth century, he was commemorated in the 1990s by the naming of a street in his memory in Denshaw Vale, just a short distance away from the school where he had taught for so many years.

H/CL/20



AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS.

London Gazette dated 2nd April 1919.

Lieutenant (A/Capt.) Cuthbert LAWTON,
1/7th Battalion, West Riding Regt (T.F.)

During the attack at TAULRAIN on 1st and 2nd November 1918, by conspicuous gallantry and good leadership of his company he reached his final objective. By personal reconnaissance he maintained touch with the neighbouring unit and sent back reports to battalion headquarters.

(The above statement of services was announced in the London Gazette dated 10th December 1919.)

Notification of Lt Cuthbert Lawton's MC

H/GL&CL

Saddleworth Archives

World War I

Neil Barrow

The Archives main collection of World War I documents are listed under M/GX/KB and comprise of almost 150 items. There is also a collection of the papers of Lt TP Bradbury of Uppermill in the Tanner collection M/TAN/2 and the papers of Capt Cuthbert Lawton of Lees and his Military Medal are in H/CL/GL.

Soldiers were issued with various official documents and there are examples of registration cards, passes and discharge papers, which summarise their military careers. More personal items are the souvenirs of the places their tours of duty took them and there are collections both of postcards of places visited and also of the patriotic kind generated by the War. The Archive includes photographs soldiers took of their colleagues and the war zone and a series of sketches and paintings by Tommy Bradbury. There are also the more formal studio portraits, usually intended for the loved ones at home.

Gallantry is recorded both in papers relating to the award of a DCM and a Mention in Despatches and the Military Medals awarded to L/Cpl John Read and Sgt W Crow along with his MM and other campaign medals.

Over one thousand Saddleworth men served and there are lists of both the surviving men and the more than three hundred killed. These are the results of research carried out for a Museum exhibition on the War in 1986 and there is a set of photographs of the exhibition. There are few accounts of the men's experiences. The only published accounts are Gilbert Howcroft's *The First World War 1914-1918* published in 1986 and Francis Buckley's of Tunstead (2) but there are short accounts of the activities of WG Bagnall of Uppermill, in the Church Army (1), Harvey Rhodes of Greenfield (3) and Albert Wood of Uppermill (5). The Archives hold the dairies of Lt TP Bradbury, a collection of short memoirs and Harvey Rhodes, then Lord Rhodes, recorded his reminiscences many years later, which are held in the Lord Rhodes collection M/LdR.

From the Home Front there are photographs of Ashway Gap in use as a military hospital and of munitions being manufactured at Dobcross Loom Works. Edward, Hollingworth, the managing director received a CBE for his work as president of the Colne Valley Munitions Committee. Many others helped the war effort and there are national savings certificates and a certificate presented on Empire Day 1916 to a schoolgirl, Ada Hall, by the Overseas Club, which sent parcels to serving men.

When the war finally ended those at home joined with the returned men to commemorate the dead. There are photographs of the temporary War Memorial in Uppermill square, now in St Chads new graveyard. It was filmed, along with the returning troops and the following sports by the Saddleworth Picture Palace. Rescued by Dannie Wright and restored by the North West Film Archive, the Archives have a copy on video. A

prominent feature of the Saddleworth landscape is the war memorial on Pots and Pans. The Archives has the programme of the unveiling ceremony along with photographs and correspondence. Denshaw has its own war memorial and the subscription list is held in the collection.

Other sections of the Archives contain World War I material. There are collections of cuttings from several local newspapers M/MN covering the period, there are programmes for memorial services amongst the church collections and the histories of churches, sports clubs and other organisations usually contain lists of members who were soldiers. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has extensive records of soldiers who died and these can be found by searching their website: www.cwgc.org. The Archive has copies of many of these webpages.

Matthew Richardson has published his researches on L/Sgt Thomas Steele, who was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1917 (4) and the illuminated scroll presented to him by Springhead UDC is in the collection. It, along with other items from the Archives, is illustrated in Bill Mitchenson's *Saddleworth 1914-1919* published by the Society in 1995. This is the most complete account of Saddleworth at war both in the field and on the Home Front and it makes extensive use of the material in the Archives.

The M/KB listing is available on disk or as a hard copy: please contact the author if you would like a copy.

References

- 1..Bagnall, W.G. *Seventy Years of my Life*. 1937
- 2..Buckley, F *Q.6.A. and Other Places: Recollections of 1916, 1917 1918*. 1920
- 3 Frank, N. *Pithey and Rhodes – RE8 Team*. Cross and Cockade International vol 4 no 2 1973
- 4 Richardson, M. *Thomas Steele VC*. Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin vol 30 no 2&3, 2000
- 5 Various authors *Albert Beaumont Wood, OBE, DSc.: Memorial Number*. Journal of the Royal Naval Scientific Service vol.20 July 1965



Lt Cuthbert Lawton MC

H/GL&CL

to VUGA.

I am digging in
100 yds in rear of
intermediate objective.
Front line of Div on
our right only 300 yds
from intermediate objective.
6th Co mixed with them
D. Coy 1120s H. H. Central
Lawton Coy.
D. Coy

Extract from Lawton's report 1/11/1918 H/GL&CL

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2005

.....

It's good to be in Saddleworth,
Just to wander up and down,
When the home-fed hams are salted
And the hunting ale is brown;
When the fields are Autumn dappled
And the haigs red on the thorn
And the wild hare sits and listens
For the winding of the horn.

At the Sign of the Three Bonnie Lasses.
Ammon Wrigley.

A Syllabus containing the new season's lectures is enclosed with this bulletin and provides an attractive programme prepared by our Secretary, Neil Barrow, who is to be congratulated on maintaining an excellent range of varied talks. Please take note that the first lecture will be held on a SATURDAY, the 15th October, 2005, 7.30 pm., at FRIEZLAND CHURCH, Greenfield, details are furnished below.

FORTHCOMING LECTURES.

.....

Saturday
15th October, 05
7.30 pm.

VENUE: FRIEZLAND CHURCH, GREENFIELD.
(FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND)

GEORGE SHAW & FRIEZLAND CHURCH
ALAN PETFORD.

Thursday
20th October, 05
7.30 pm.

SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM, UPPERMILL.
Manchester Cathedral Archives. 1421 - 2005
Cath Hunwick.

Wednesday
9th November, 05
7.30 pm.

SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM.
The Tameside Museums.
Emma Varnam.

Thursday
8th December, 05
7.30 pm.

SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM, UPPERMILL.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
SLIDE SHOW.

PUBLICATIONS.

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Reprint of James Butterworth's HISTORY OF SADDLEWORTH.

If anyone wishes to order a copy of the above book which is due for publication shortly and to ensure your name is in the subscribers list will you please note that the last date to order is the 15th October, 2005. Contact Neil Barrow on 01457 876381, or forward your order form which was enclosed with the last Bulletin.

SADDLEWORTH VILLAGES BOOK.

The above book has proved extremely popular and the last 100 copies are in stock if you wish to place an order please contact our Publications Officer, Graham Griffiths - see Publications List for address and price.

Members who wish to add to their collection of James Butterworth books may be interested to know that his 'History & Description of the Town & Parish of Ashton-U-Lyne & the Village of Dukinfield', is being republished by Chethams Library at a cost £22.50 inc. packing and postage. Cheque and order to Chethams Library, Long Mill Gate, Manchester. M3 1SB

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

.....

As a major part of the Heritage Open Days on Saturday & Sunday 10th&11th September, 05 Jim Carr organised a most informative walk around the Castleshaw Roman Forts explaining their history and the periods of occupation to maintain order amongst the Brigantes tribes of these Northern Pennines. The Fort & Fortlet were only short lived, the site was closed about A.D.120 when the Romans moved off to build Hadrian's Wall.

SOCIETY COACH TRIP

.....

The Annual Coach Trip held on the 16th July, 2005, to The City of Lancaster was a success with an excellent conducted tour of this historic city by Alan Petford whose personal experience enabled him to provide a greater interest for the members. Many thanks to Elsie Broadbent and Dorothy Latimer for their organisation.

CBA North West Industrial Archaeology Panel. 2005 Conference.
Dukinfield Town Hall, Tameside.

.....

LIVING IN THE INDUSTRIAL TOWN. The Archaeology of the Workers' House in North West England. Saturday 19th November, 9-30 am -4-30 pm

Venue: Dukinfield Town Hall, Tameside.

Chairman - Michael Nevell. Talks by Lynn Walker, Geoff Timmins, Sandra Hayton, David George, Simon Askew, Michael Nevell.

Extended lunch hour including a tour of workers' housing around Dukinfield.

Contact Jim Carr on 01457 87 3612 for further information.

Closing date for booking 14th October, 05. The cost will be £15.00

Greater Manchester Archaeology Day at The University of Manchester.

.....

Saturday 29th October, 2005. 9.00 am. - 4.15 pm.

Opening address: Robina McNeil (GMAU) Introduction: Norman Redhead (GMUA)
Iron Age Fort at Mellor, Stockport : John Roberts (UMAU)
Roman Manchester: Richard Gregory (UMAU)
Roman Bath House at Wigan: John Zant (OAN)
Medieval & Early post-medieval settlement at Gadbury Fold, Atherton.
Pete Connelly (UMAU)
Dig Manchester: Moston Hall & Northenden Mill: Simon Askew (UMAU)
Cellar Dwellings in Piccadilly, Manchester : Chris Wild (OAN)
Excavations in Ancoats: Mills & Glass Works: Ian Miller (OAN)
Textile Finishing and Mill Investigations: Mike Nevell (UMAU)

Price of Conference... £18.00 Contact Jim Carr on 01457 87 3612 for further details.

ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH, HEIGHTS, DELPH

.....

To celebrate the Church's Festival at St. Thomas's, Heights, Delph, on the 16th July, 05, a goodly crowd, indeed a godly one, enjoyed a tour of the churchyard conducted by Michael Buckley who indicated the gravestones of various Saddleworth notables. In the evening Victor Khadem played excellent piano music to a highly appreciative audience.

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST.

.....

Friday 14th October, 05 7.30 pm.	Saddleworth Museum, Uppermill. Members Evening - meet other Members and the Committee ALSO 'Planning Issues, both Nationally & Locally' A presentation by Geoff Willerton, Director of Planning at OMBC. Questions invited.
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Thursday 24th November, 05 7.15 pm	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Followed by an illustrated talk by Michael Buckley. 'Our Saddleworth Heritage'.
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Sunday 18th December, 05	Times to be finalised. Winter Trip to Merseyside. Possibly a morning visit to The Lever Museum followed by the Holly Bough Service 3.0 pm. at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral and tea at the Adelphi Hotel.
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To join the Saddleworth Civic Trust contact: Mrs. Lorna Gartside on 01457 87 3195

FRIENDS OF SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP ?

Mrs. Janet Benson and Mrs. Delia O'Kane have occupied the situations of Treasurer and Membership Secretary to the Friends of Saddleworth Museum for 15 years and now they have decided to resign. We are urgently in need of two public-spirited people who would be willing to take on the Honorary duties of these two positions. If anyone wishes to help in running and administering the organisation of the Friends will they please contact J. Hindle on 01457 87 4200 or Peter Fox at the Museum on 01457 87 4093. Tuesday night is the main period for volunteer activity in these vital and important positions. Congratulations are due to Janet and Delia for 15 years of sterling service in maintaining the successful operation of a viable Museum.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM.

Coffee Mornings & Boutique.	2nd Wednesday each month.
Farmers' Market.	2nd Sunday each month.
Sunday Lunch at the Museum.	13th November, 05
Coach Trip to Chatsworth House.	Wednesday 23rd November, 05
Model Railway Show.	Saturday & Sunday 26/27th November, 05

ART EXHIBITIONS

Toni Rigby	13th October, until the end of the year.
Temporary Exhibitions.	
Delph Donkey, Granny & Grandpa, Saddleworth Civic Trust.	Continue to run.

MUSEUM OPENING TIMES.

Summer. Mon. to Saturday 10.00a.m. to 5.00 pm. WINTER: Everyday 1.00 pm. to 4.00
Sunday..... 12 noon - 5.00 pm

MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

.....
This quarter we can report seven new members and are pleased to welcome them into the Society. They are as follows:-

Mrs. Linda Baylis, New Zealand.	Mrs. C. Seddon, Lees.
Mr. & Mrs. Colin Higgins, Newhouses.	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Killan, Uppermill.
Mr. Mark Street, Chingford, London.	

Our new member Mark Street brings into the Society a family from the most interesting districts of Alt, Quick, Hey, Flash and mainly Saddleworth, his family tree extending into a document 9 feet wide by 4 feet deep, so that is a large contribution to the Family History Section and most welcome. We are able to make a good contribution to his researches with a Royal connection from 1547 Page 527 from the Parish Registers of St.Chads, Uppermill, 1613-1745 as follows:-

Thos. a479 Circa 1547 20 December.

The lease of the Tithes of the Chapel of Saddleworth, &c., granted in 1538 to Henry Packer, by the special desire of Edwd.V1., Abp.Cranmer devised the reversion of this lease to Thomas Streete, a groom of His Highness' Chamber, for 21 years, it was charged with the payment of £7 to the curate of Saddleworth, £9 is paid still to the Vicar of Rochdale -(Y.A. & T.J., vol.viii,p.16 note)

If any member has connections with the Street family Mr. Street would welcome their interest. His address is 49 Endlebury Road, Chingford, London. E4 6QB.
Tel. 020 8529 8049 email kim-mo@justdial.it

Mr. Larry Sharp of Rose Cottage, 49 The High Street, Greenfield, Bedfordshire. MK45 5DD. is having difficulty tracing his Great Grandfather John Sharpe born Saddleworth, 1800's, d.1851 Marle Street, Oldham, Son Thomas married Sebro Wrigley, connection with 65 Moorhey Road, Oldham. Originally the family came from Wakefield and Barnsley area. His telephone number is 01525 714563 - please ring if you can help.

Mr. Stephen R. Carr of 46 Baldock Road, Letchworth Garden City, Herts. SG6 2EE is wishing to obtain Ammon Wrigley books with the following titles

Those Were The Days.	Old Saddleworth Days.
Saddleworth Chronological Days.	Roman Forts at Castleshaw.
Old Lancashire Words and Folk Sayings.	

Mr. Carr's telephone number is 01462 683186

The Membership rates for the Society are as follows and may we request members who have not renewed this year please help by forwarding their cheque with the enclosed reminder. Your membership is greatly appreciated.

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

OBITUARY

.....

Unfortunately, we have to record the death of a long standing member of our Society, Ronald Jackson Asquith of Brownhill, who was well known in Saddleworth as the Carpentry/Woodcraft teacher at Saddleworth School and will be remembered by many pupils. Condolences have been extended to his brother and family Mr. & Mrs. David Asquith and Family of Uppermill.

Another Obituary is now required to be recorded in our newsletter and a sad moment to reflect on the passing of Leonard Kidd's dear wife, Dorothy, who was a member of the Saddleworth Wood family chronicled in Leonard's notable articles published in previous Bulletins. Our sympathy has been offered to the family in their bereavement.

J. Hindle. Oct.05

Current Society Publications

Books

Saddleworth Villages, illustrated with sketches by Geoff Toms, text by Saddleworth Historical Society Members. Price to Society members £14.95 to Society Members.

Saddleworth From the Air by Professor Barri 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 Milbury, Massachusetts, USA, to His Son Ralph Buckley and Family, of Dobcross and Delph in 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 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. <i>Delph, Heights and Grange</i> | 7. <i>Delph</i> |
| 2. <i>Uppermill</i> | 8. <i>Lydgate and Grotton</i> |
| 3. <i>Greenfield</i> | 9. <i>Dobcross</i> |
| 4. <i>Huddersfield Narrow Canal</i> | 10. <i>Diggle</i> |
| 5. <i>Grasscroft</i> | 11. <i>Castleshaw</i> |
| 6. <i>Denshaw</i> | |

Maps and Plans

Ordnance Survey Maps £14.95 each

Lees
Oldham East
Lydgate

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

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