

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



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Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

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Cover illustration: Grave of Private J Weigh, Coxyde Military Cemetery, Belgium

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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.

Saddleworth Historical Society
Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting
Thursday 7th December 2006

This year marked the 40th anniversary of the Society. Our anniversary celebrations in October provided us with an opportunity to reflect on the progress and achievements of the Society over the last four decades. From a small group of enthusiasts who met together in 1966 to pursue their interest in Saddleworth we have now grown to one of the largest Societies in Saddleworth with an international membership of nearly 500. This year has been another very active and successful year for us.

At our AGM last year we agreed to expand membership of the committee and several new members joined. We have benefited a lot this year from their enthusiasm, ideas and hard work. This has also lessened the load on the existing officers, particularly our Secretary, Neil Barrow who is now also acting as editor of the Bulletin. Keith Taylor has taken on the role of Programme Secretary and David Harrison Minutes Secretary. Alan Schofield and Michael Fox have also provided much help and support on organisational matters. I would like to thank the new and existing members of the committee for all their hard work and support throughout what has been a very busy year for us.

Once again this year we have enjoyed an interesting and varied series of lectures. Neil Barrow and Keith Taylor have assembled an excellent programme. The Bernard Barnes memorial lecture was given in February by Michael Bush, his topic The Women of Peterloo. In March Michael Fox gave a fascinating insight into local government in nineteenth century Saddleworth. Times change but some things remain the same; we learned that holes in the road and road safety problems occupied the mind of our ancestors as much as they do today. In May Robert Broadbent unveiled for us the mystery of his Broadbent ancestry. Old manuscripts passed down through the family hint at a long history of literacy in the family dating back to the middle ages. Robert gave us a fascinating account of his attempts to verify the family sources and traditions.

In June we once again held a day school aimed at taking an in-depth look at the history of one particular area of Saddleworth. This year we chose Springhead and the Congregational Church there allowed us to use their premises for the day and provided refreshments. I would like to thank them for their kind hospitality. As last year, a series of lectures by Alan Petford, Neil Barrow, Mike Fox and I, explored various aspects of the history of an area often neglected, but no less interesting than other parts of Saddleworth.

Our Summer Trip to Shrewsbury was organised by Mike Fox and led by Alan Petford. I would like to thank Mike and Alan for what was an excellent day, enjoyed by all who took part.

As part of our 40th anniversary celebrations in October, the launch of the James Butterworth Book was marked by a talk on the life and works of James Butterworth by Dr Robert Poole. This excellent lecture gave us a vivid insight into the life of a

local literary figure in the early years of the nineteenth century, the society in which he moved, his privations and successes.

The 40th Anniversary Weekend was a great success enjoyed by all. The anniversary dinner at the White Hart, Lydgate was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Oldham MBC and the Chairman and her consort of the Saddleworth Parish Council. I was pleased to relate the growth of our Society from such small beginnings forty years ago and to pay tribute to the founder members, many of whom attended; also to our patron Roger Tanner who has been such a strong supporter of the Society over the years. Amusing anecdotes by Ken Booth from past times were much appreciated. The weather was kind to us for the guided walk on the Sunday morning and this and the unexpected tea and coffee at Roger Tanner's rounded off the weekend well.

In the last month we have had lectures on Victorian Christmas Cards and other Seasonal Items by Sheila Sturrock and England's Last Hope: The Local Territorial Force 1908-1919 by Dr Bill Mitchison. Sheila Sturrock's lecture was beautifully illustrated by Valentines and Christmas Cards from the mid nineteenth century onwards showing how fashions and sentiments have changed throughout the years. Bill Mitchison's talk traced the history of the local Saddleworth territorial force and the part it played during the Great War. We are grateful to Bill for presenting to us the results of his own meticulous research in this field.

The Society also took part in a number of local events over the summer. Once again during Heritage Open Week Jim Carr conducted guided tours round the Fortlet at Castleshaw. We also participated in well attended Family History Fares held at Tameside and at Gallery Oldham.

As always our Publications programme has exercised much of the time and effort of the Committee. Saddleworth Villages, the last Festival Publication, is now completely out of stock; the sales of this book having reached a record 2000. There is clearly an on-going demand for this popular work and we plan to reprint it at a future date. The major event for us this year, however, was the launch of the Butterworth History of Saddleworth. This reprint is a proud addition to our portfolio of publications. Beautifully produced, it is available in cloth binding with a period dustcover or in a special leather bound limited addition. Sales are going well and have been helped significantly by drawing up a list of subscribers prior to publication. Work on the next major publication, a lavish full colour book of Saddleworth maps planned for the Saddleworth Festival next year is progressing well. Consideration is also being given to the idea of a companion book to Saddleworth Villages based on the Society's local history trails.

Improvements to the archive continue and new shelving is imminent. Valuable donations of material continue to be received and our grateful thanks are due to the donors.

We have made two major purchases of equipment during the year; the first a scanner for copying large maps and documents – this was a necessity for producing material for the planned map book. The second a digital projector. The days of 35mm slides are now numbered and an increasing number of our lectures are now based on

computer stored images. The Society has invested in a top of the range, state of the art, projector for this purpose. The machine will also project digital TV or DVD video material. It is planned to mount it permanently to the ceiling of the Gallery.

This year has also been a very active year for the Family History Section. Membership of the Group continues around 80. In July we held a family history weekend which was well attended by local visitors, as well as members from the USA and Canada who had travelled to England especially for the event. A series of lectures on the Saturday was followed by a very enjoyable social event in the evening at which members had an opportunity to get to know each other and chat about their common interests. The evening ended with an impromptu musical performance by Victor Khadem on the Virginals and rendition of traditional Saddleworth songs by some of those present. On the Sunday morning members were given the choice of a guided walk by Alan Petford around Uppermill and the Saddleworth Church hillside or a drive around historical Saddleworth sites. Both groups joined up again later in the morning at Saddleworth Church where, after a look round the church, the weekend was rounded off by lunch in the Cross Keys. We plan to hold another get together of this kind probably the year after next as next year we will be hosting a Local History Weekend.

The Family History Group Internet mailing list continues to be very active with in the order of 1200 messages exchanged between members over the last twelve months. Project work is also going very well. Much is happening. The baptisms at Saddleworth Church from 1800-1837 have now been transcribed by two of our members Ivan Foster and Vicki Rebneris in Canada. This work will form the basis of a complete record of all Saddleworth baptisms prior to 1837 which Victor Khadem and I are putting together. Transcription of the Old Churchyard at Saddleworth is now complete and indexed and Ivan Foster is working on a plan and transcriptions of the Lower Churchyard. Shelby Shrigley is carrying out a similar exercise at Heights Churchyard.

Following the Society's concern at the number of footpath diversion orders taking place in Saddleworth as reported at the last AGM, the Society has now been acknowledged as a consultee on any future proposals by Oldham MBC.

Membership of the Society for the present year is 470 paid-up members. During the year 33 new members joined. To our list of overseas members are now added Mrs Jo Buckley in New Zealand, Mr John Shelton from Massachusetts, Mr David Heginbottom from Singapore. Mr K. Holden from Colorado and Mr Stuart Smith from Canada.

We were very sorry to hear of the deaths of the following members during the year: Mr John Brierley, Huddersfield; Mr Harry Meadowcroft, Loughborough; Mrs Iris Snowdon, Cheadle, late of Poulton-le-Fylde; Mr Stanley Bradbury, Haworth; Mrs Lena Shuttleworth, Maryland, USA and Mrs Joan Blower, Grasscroft. We will miss them and very much appreciate their contributions to the Society.

Finally, once again I would like to thank the committee for their hard work and support during the year, also all those who have helped organise events or who have provided refreshment at meetings. As we discussed at the last AGM, after many years

excellent service as Treasurer, Dorothy Latimer has decided to stand down from this post. Always superbly organised, with a meticulous eye for detail, Dorothy has been a first class treasurer and officer of the committee. She will be hard to replace. I would like to extend the thanks of the society to Dorothy for all her hard work over the years and for leaving the Society in such a healthy financial position.

I wish the Society another successful year in 2007 and you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mike Buckley
7th December 2006



Saddleworth Church

The Suffragettes in Oldham and District, 1905-1910

Paul Fryer

In part 2 we saw that the activity of the Suffragettes in Oldham and its surrounding districts increased. They played an important part in Victor Grayshon's historic by-election victory in the Colne Valley in 1907, and they were able to disrupt a speech by Cabinet Minister John Burns at the Theatre Royal in 1908. However, as we shall see the Suffragettes did not always have their own way.

During June 1908 the Suffragettes held a number of public meetings in Oldham. On 6 June Mary Gawthorpe and Annot Robinson addressed a meeting which attracted a large audience, many there hoping to see some disturbance or sensation. The Oldham Chronicle reported that to the credit of the town the two women were given a fair hearing. There was no disorder and nothing was thrown, unlike at Preston and Stockport a few days later when Mary Gawthorpe was pelted with oranges. Mary Gawthorpe said she was proud of her actions in the 'flies' of the Theatre Royal, and she had borne no malice to John Burns personally, or else she would have rained objects onto him. Rather than shouting 'Votes for Women'. However, the Oldham Standard reported the same meeting in a different way. It reported that the crowd was 'slightly boisterous'. Many in the crowd were women and these, it was reputed, were the most difficult to keep in order, with the observations heard from them showing that Miss Gawthorpe and her fellow workers would have as much trouble convincing those amongst their own sex of the importance of 'Votes for Women' as amongst the cabinet

There was another meeting on Friday 19 June, and again the Chronicle of the next day reported no disturbance. However, a report in the Chronicle of 27 June contradicted this when it reported on a youth names James Barry who appeared before the magistrates on Thursday 25 June charged with throwing an orange and several potatoes at the speakers, the orange hitting one of the,. The Bench told Barry not to do it again and ordered him to pay costs.

Meetings of a much more rowdy nature occurred in July.

By chalking on the pavements a Suffragette meeting was advertised for the Market Place, Middleton, on 14 July. A large crowd gave the speakers a warm reception, and it was reported as a good humoured gathering, with may there for a bit if fun, especially the younger members of the audience. Things changed when Miss Woodcock, who had been imprisoned three times began to speak. She was forced to abandon her speech after a few minutes due to continued interruptions,. The meeting had to close and Miss Woodcock needed the protection of four policemen to leave the Market Place.

SUFFRAGISTS AT MIDDLETON.

By chalking on the pavements a meeting had been announced for Tuesday night in the Market Place, Middleton, in connection with the "votes for women" movement. The largest crowd that had been seen there for a considerable time gave the speakers a warm reception when they arrived shortly after eight o'clock. On the whole it was a good-humoured gathering, evidently there for a bit of fun. Whilst there was a large number of adults who would have liked to have listened quietly, their object was defeated by the younger element. Mrs. Morris, of Manchester, occupied the chair, and she was supported by Dr. Freshfield and Miss B. Woodcock, of Liverpool.—Mrs. Morris said that in her ordinary work as a health visitor she saw things and conditions that women would be eminently suited for. There was an old Liberal saying that representation should govern taxation, but women paid rates and taxes and yet were denied the rights of voting for Parliament. Whilst members of Parliament were wrangling and jangling about the souls of the children they thought that the children should be fed not only spiritually but bodily. She dwelt also on the status of female workers, contending that they were almost slaves, that they were underpaid for the work they did and that until they had the vote they would have no proper remedy. Mrs. Morris introduced Miss B. Woodcock to the meeting as one who had undergone three terms of imprisonment for the women's cause. (Laughter.)

Miss Woodcock at the outset pleaded for fair play and a hearing, after which they might have their turn. The Prime Minister had said that when the suffragists had the women and the people of the country behind them they would listen to their demands. The meeting before her showed that the people were awakening to the cause, and yet Mr. Asquith was not satisfied. They were of no political party on that platform, yet their members were drawn from all parties, Conservatives, Liberals, and Socialists. They asked for the Parliamentary vote on the same terms as granted to men. She hoped that the Liberal party would take their demand seriously.

After the first few minutes of Miss Woodcock's address the majority of those present could not hear, owing to the many interruptions and noise. After vainly trying to get order Miss Woodcock descended from the platform and went round for a collection. Efforts were made to again obtain a hearing, but without much result, and the meeting closed. The speakers had to obtain the protection of four stalwart policemen, who escorted them down Corporation-street and Old Hall-street.

Oldham Chronicle, 18 July 1908

On 21 July there was a meeting outside The Bowling Green Inn, Hollinwood, with again a large crowd gathering hoping to witness some entertainment. A few youths tried to disrupt the meeting, and one even threw a rotten egg. The very same Miss Woodcock gave a speech, and according to the Chronicle the promoters were happy with the way the evening went. However, the Standard reported that it was more than one egg thrown, with one hitting a man near the platform full in the face — nevertheless, even the Standard confirmed the general good humour of the crowd.

While the Suffragette meetings gained all the publicity there were other, more peaceful, advocates of female suffrage. On 14 October a meeting was organised by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies during the dinner hour at Werneth

Park. Unfortunately, even this more sedate meeting was disrupted by some anti-social youths, when it was re-convened at the Alexandra Park Gates in the evening. This meeting attracted a crowd of over 4000. One of the speakers, Miss Cooper of Clitheroe, clearly recognised the audience, as she began her speech by saying that she had worked in a cotton mill for 18 years. She said that the NUWSS wanted women to have the vote on the same basis as men, which would greatly benefit working women. Some rowdy youths tried to cause problems at this and other meetings around Oldham, including outside Messrs Platt Bros, however the older members of the crowd gave the speakers a fair hearing. A man in one of the crowds expressed concern that the speakers would go away from Oldham with a bad impression of the town. In fact Miss Cooper and her colleagues said that they had found Oldham audiences very orderly, with a few exceptions amongst the young, which was understandable!

The peaceful advocacy of women's suffrage continued into 1909. On 23 February Mrs Howarth MA of Bowden called for female suffrage on the same basis as men at a well attended meeting of the Oldham Presbyterian Literary Society. Amongst those present was Alfred Butterworth JP, who declared himself in favour of women who paid rates having the Parliamentary vote. A resolution supporting the extension of the franchise was passed, and it was decided to send it to John Bright, one of Oldham's MPs. In June there was a demonstration promoted by the Women's Co-operative Guild in favour of the women's franchise at Greenacres Co-op Hall. The proceedings began with the singing of 'Of Whole Heart Cometh Hope'. Geoffrey Howard MP was given a standing ovation as he moved the resolution 'The this mass meeting of Co-operators demand that women's enfranchisement should be included in the Government's promised Reform Bill'. Howard said that he knew a majority of MPs supported votes for women. Someone in the crowd shouted 'Then why don't we get it?' Howard responded by saying that they were fighting against great odds and now that had an opportunity they could not effuse to take it as there might not be a better one. Afterwards the suffrage play 'Man and Woman' was performed by the Actresses' Franchise League.

The Suffragettes, of course, continued along their own path.

On 18 June the Co-operative Hall in Middleton hosted Reginald McKenna, the First Lord of the Admiralty. Admission was by ticket, but this did not stop 20 suffragettes from getting in. Unfortunately for McKenna his problems began outside when some women managed to climb onto his car as he pulled up at the Hall. The suffragettes made a rush for the door of the Hall to follow McKenna in, but the police managed to beat them back. According to the usual practice the Standard reported that the 'henpeckers' continued their attack for almost an hour before leaving.

Incidents such as those at Middleton and at Caxton Hall in London, where 120 suffragettes were arrested after smashing Government Office windows and attacking the police, provoked the editorial of the Chronicle into a further criticism of suffragette tactics. It believed that 'this supreme silliness can have no good effect either on the Government or on public opinion. They are not to be counted as martyrs but just so many wild women.' The Chronicle did not deny that women deserved the vote, unfortunately the indefensible attitude of men who deny women the vote was only confirmed by the activities of the suffragettes. The Chronicle recommended that

a short Bill conferring the Parliamentary franchise on all occupiers [note not ALL adults] on the register whether men or women. The Chronicle was convinced that this was right not just in principle but in policy, and it should not be denied just because some women chose to behave foolishly.

The kind of campaigning the Chronicle would have preferred was shown in the same edition as the editorial above. The paper reported that a letter had been sent to the Prime Minister, Herbert Asquith, in favour of granting the vote to women on the same basis as men. It had been signed by over 2000 headmistresses of girls' public secondary schools, including Miss Clark of Hulme Grammar School for Girls. The headmistresses were particularly offended that they were expected to carry out the same tasks and have the same responsibilities as headmasters, but when it came to the Parliamentary vote, they were classed with convicts and lunatics.

The General Election of January 1910 passed off peacefully in Oldham. A clue to why it was so calm may be revealed in a letter from one of the Liberal candidates in Oldham, William Barton, to the Chronicle, in which he referred to the exclusion of women from a meeting at the Empire Theatre, when the main speaker was Winston Churchill. He said he regretted the exclusion of women from the audience. He believed that this was because of the treat of militant methods employed by some extremist women, who had now become a real danger to human life. He felt it was a shame that these extremists were actually holding back the cause that they, and he, supported.

The calmer atmosphere in Oldham was confirmed with a meeting on 25 January of the Political Reform League. It was reported that there was an excellent attendance, mainly of women. The League's aim was votes for women on the same basis as men. It had only been founded in the New Year. While the League accepted the need for militant tactics it was an organisation open to those who felt that the Suffragettes had sometimes gone too far.

Miss Broadhurst, President of the League, said that its aim was not just the vote, but that it represented a worldwide uprising of women. She praised the Suffragettes for being prepared to suffer for their cause, which was about simple justice – that women should have a say in the laws passed that they have to obey. The audience greeted the speech with great enthusiasm and a collection was taken at the end.

During, and for several weeks after, the January election, Oldhamers were asked to sign a petition supporting the female franchise organised by the non-militant National Union of Women's Suffrage Associations. Thousands of names were gathered in Manchester and its surrounding towns, though with only 726 Oldham was one of the areas with the shortest lists. However, the NUWS was keen to point out that around 600 of these names were gathered by just five people – if they had had more collectors more signatures would have been taken. It was found that working men signed most readily, and only around one in ten refused.

In March Miss M M Farquharson of the Women's Political League spoke at a meeting of the Oldham Liberal Association. She emphasised the need for the vote to help improve the position of women. She supported reform of the House of Lords and reminded her audience that for many years women had been in the same position as

liberal MPs, frustrated and fighting against an unfair power. The Chairman of the meeting said that it would be much better of other women who sought the vote adopted the tactics of Miss Farquharson, reflecting Liberal anger with the disruption of the Suffragettes. William Barton, one of the Liberal MPs for Oldham said he believed that progress in the world would be greatly helped once women had the vote.

During the summer there was another attempt to bring in a Women's Suffrage Bill, this time by Labour MP David Shackleton. An editorial in the Chronicle in July criticised the debate in the Commons for ignoring the main issues and concentrating on side issues. It criticised the view amongst some of the supporters of women's suffrage, like Winston Churchill and David Lloyd George, who actually opposed the Bill because it did not give all women the vote. This, opponents argued, was undemocratic. The editorial pointed out that on that basis all previous Reform Bills were undemocratic and should have been opposed for only allowing a limited increase in the franchise. On that reasoning no advances would ever have been made until Britain was ready for universal suffrage. It continued with the not unreasonable point that allowing one million women onto the voting list must, logically be democratic. The Chronicle did not believe that bringing in a Bill for universal suffrage on the basis simply of age all at once would be possible. The editorial supported Shackleton's Bill as progress down the road that eventually would lead to universal suffrage. Instead of all women being kept waiting the Chronicle preferred that some women should be allowed to start voting.

The newly-elected Saddleworth MP, Charles Leach, took part in the Commons debate on 12 July. He supported the Bill, not merely because it had been an election pledge, but because it would bring a measure of justice to women. He said that women had proved worthy of the vote in the way they had behaved in local council elections. He, like the Chronicle editorial, could not understand the objections to the Bill because it did not go far enough, any extension was a good thing, even if he also wanted to go further.

The debate on the Bill continued into the Autumn, and the non-militant campaigners were to the fore in Oldham. For example, on 8 September there was an open-air meeting organised by the North of England Society for Women's Suffrage at the Alexandra Park gates, a familiar Oldham meeting place. It was reported that there was a large crowd who gave the speakers a patient hearing. A Miss Ward moved a resolution supporting the Bill and requested the Prime Minister to get it passed in the next Parliamentary session. Mrs Fletcher seconded the resolution by saying that she could see no difference between a woman being a councillor and being an MP. Women were already involved in politics, canvassing and fund-raising. Now they wanted to do it for themselves. In New Zealand and Australia female suffrage had had only good consequences. In support Miss Robertson said that out of 43 Lancashire and Cheshire MPs, 32 had voted for the Bill. Marjory Lees, soon to be Oldham's first female Mayor, hoped that the audience would think about the issues and if they did they would have no trouble at all coming to the conclusion that votes for women was right.

They unfortunately made only slow progress. On 6 October Oldham MP William Barton spoke at the annual party of the town's Women's Liberal Association about the difficulties that stood in the way of the Bill. In particular that the Prime Minister

was dead against it. Asquith took the view that women should be above mixing in politics, it was not that he thought that they were inferior or unfit. Lloyd George opposed the Bill because he did not think it was sufficiently democratic – he feared that it would only enfranchise wealthy property owning women (ie Conservatives) rather than wage-earning ones, who were more likely to vote Liberal. However, Barton disagreed with this argument – in Oldham where there were 6500 female municipal voters, and he believed that at least 94% of them were wage-earners. He also rejected the fear amongst Liberals that the majority of the enfranchised women would be Tories. However, even if this was so, common justice dictated that women should gain the Parliamentary vote and have a voice in the running the country, whatever advantage it may give to a particular political party.

A few weeks later Margaret Robertson addressed the same Association. A resolution was passed supporting the Bill. She attacked the argument that married women should stay at home and look after their children, how could women look after their children if they had no say in the social and economic conditions with which their children were being brought up? Getting the Parliamentary vote was the most important cause, because other reforms that were needed could come as a result.

Margaret Robertson spoke in Oldham again a few days later, on 8 November, at a meeting of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. She was joined by the famous Mrs Fawcett herself. The chairman, Mrs C E Lees, pointed out that women had just recently voted in the municipal elections, yet society had not collapsed, no child was now in rags, and no harm had come to Oldham. Mrs Fawcett began by welcoming the forthcoming election of Mrs Lees as Mayor. She believed that this marked a step in the development of the municipal position of women. The Bill would enfranchise one million women, and she was working towards this, along non-party and non-militant lines. She urged women to think about whether they should continue to work for political parties while they did not have the vote. Ten vote would make MPS more aware of issues such as the care of children and conditions in the 'sweating' industries. Robertson reported that the Oldham branch already had officers, in the form of Mrs Bridge and Mrs Siddall as Secretaries, and Miss Rountree as Treasurer. During the meeting 140 women enrolled as members of the NUWSS.

The branch met again at the Music Room, Werneth Park, on 21 November, presided over by Mrs Lees, the new Mayor. She said that the NUWSS was non-militant and no-one would be expected to go to prison on account of the principles of the Society.

By late November Oldham was preparing for a second General Election in a year. At a meeting of the Women's Liberal Association in Oldham, the two Liberal candidates, Alfred Emmott and William Barton, both re-affirmed their support for women's suffrage. They both hoped that a new Bill would be introduced after the election to give the franchise to women. However, other pressures, from Ireland, strikes, and the international situation, soon dominated the minds of the minority Liberal Government, and, despite the best efforts of the Suffragettes and Suffragists, it went onto the 'back-burner'.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

AN OLDHAM MEETING.

A meeting was held in the Unity Hall, Oldham, on Tuesday night, called at the instance of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Mrs. C. E. Lees presided, and the principal speakers were Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., and Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., organiser of the North of England Society. There was an excellent attendance, chiefly of women, but with a fair sprinkling of men. Letters of apology for not being able to attend were read from Mrs. Emmott, Mrs. Higge, the Rev. G. Perry-Gore, the Rev. J. H. Humphrey (Rural Dean), Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., and Mr. J. Middleton, J.P. Among those who were present were Mrs. Claydon, Mrs. Perry-Gore, Mrs. J. G. Griffiths, Mrs. Simister, Miss Dornan, Miss Lees, the Rev. J. B. Stopford, Rev. G. Shillito, Rev. A. E. Watson Taggart, and Mr. G. S. Claydon.

A resolution was passed that "in view of the large majority in favour of the second reading of the Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Bill, this meeting strongly urges the Prime Minister to grant the necessary time for the passage of the bill through its remaining stages."

Mrs. LEES began her introductory address by saying that the date of the meeting was fixed some time ago, when they knew nothing about coming events. (Applause.) They had met to speak about the Conciliation Bill. They all knew what the Bill was, she believed. Some people thought that the Bill went too far. Others thought that it did not go far enough. Therefore the Bill must be the happy medium. She asked them to support it. (Hear, hear.) There were a great many different opinions about various things, but she never met an argument against women's suffrage. Certain statements were made, more or less incorrect, and these were repeated again and again, but that was not argument. (Applause.) There was an anti-suffrage meeting of men in Manchester the other day. There were there only a few women who, somehow or other, had left their homes and had got on to the platform. The wives and sisters and daughters of the men who were speaking were, she supposed, in their proper places at the fireside. (Laughter.) She wondered if they were? (Renewed laughter.) For women to sit at the fireside when there was so much to do for their own sex was a pity. They were told that the

Oldham Chronicle, 12 November 1910

This was greeted by a further up-surge of violence from the Suffragettes – stone-throwing, arson attacks, smashing windows and of course Emily Davidson's sacrifice. Annie Kenney remained in the thick of the struggle, although in the North of England

At the outbreak of war in 1914 campaigning by militants and non-militants came to an end. By 1918 the Representation of the People Act was passed giving a limited Parliamentary franchise to women, with the first female MP being elected in the General Election of that year (Countess Constance Markowitz for Sinn Fein). Neither Oldham or Saddleworth has had a woman MP.

Oldham

Oldham Central and Royton

1992 Trish Morris (Conservative)

1992 Sheila Dalling (NLP)

2005 Anita Corbett (BNP)

2005 Valeria Nield (UKIP)

1951 Lady Violet Bonham Carter (Liberal)

2001 Kate Fletcher (Liberal Democrat)

Oldham Chronicle: 6/6/08, 13/6/08, 18/7/08, 25/7/08, 17/10/08, 27/2/09, 26/6/09, 3/7/09, 18/12/09, 29/1/10, 12/3/10, 19/3/10, 16/7/10, 17/9/10, 8/10/10, 5/11/10, 12/11/10, 26/11/10, 3/12/10

12

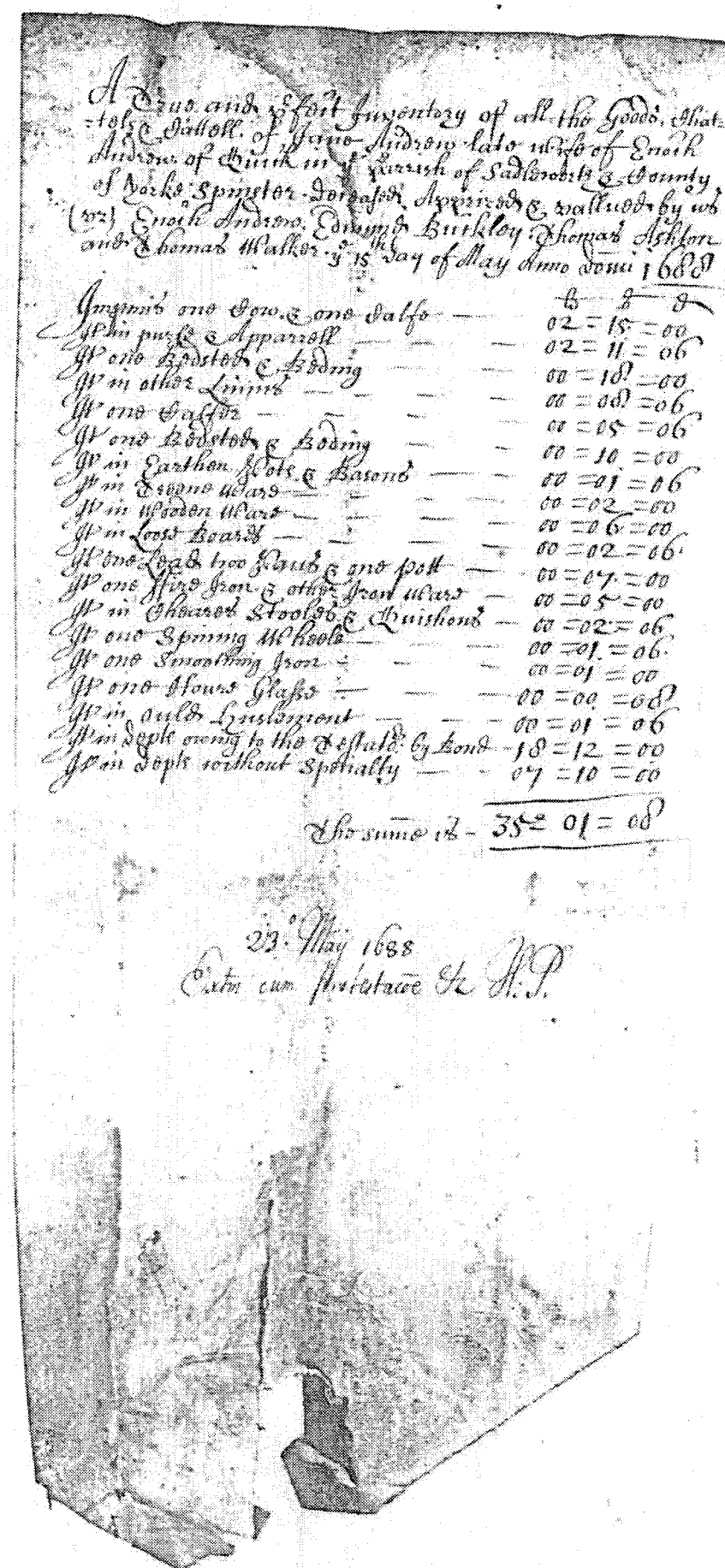
Below are two inventories, with transcripts, which would have accompanied both these wills.



A True and perfect Inventory of all and Singul[ar]
 Ye goods Credits and Chattells of James Brearly Late of dig
 =Lee in Saddleworth in ye County of York & diocese of Chest[er] Cloth
 =ier dec[ease]d valued and appraised the 29th day of June anno Domini 1730
 by us Whose Names are hereund[er] Written as follow[eth]

	l	s	d
Imprimis purs and apparel valued at			
It[em] in purse & Apparrell	7	0	0
It[em] one Cow vall[ue]d at	2	10	0
It[em] woollen yarn Cloath, Loombs, Combs and Comb stock	8	5	0
It[em] Beds and beding and one Chest vall[ue]d at	2	6	6
It[em] one Chest in ye house and pewter and pewter Case at	0	13	0
It[em] two potts and Two pans at	0	9	0
It[em] Fireiron Chafeing dish toasting Iron Racontree tongues guard & smoothing Iron at	0	11	0
It[em] one Fall Table and Tyhree trests at	0	4	0
It[em] Cowper ware 11d – potts, bottles, & tinware at 8d	0	19	0
It[em] in Chairs, Stools, Cussions, bakeing Stone Salt Pye shears and hour glass	0	9	0
It[em] Wheels, Cards, Swinging Steak wheelbarrow & hakes	0	10	0
It[em] syths, sickles, shovels Spades & axe vall[ue]d at	0	6	0
It[em] bakeing board and other boards & bread steak	0	5	0
It[em] in Turffs and other fuell	0	6	0
It[em] weighes, visketts and Basketts and other odd Huslem[en]t	0	6	0
	24	19	6
Debts oweing to ye dec[ease]d by Severall persons			
to ye Sum[m]e of	2	5	1
Totall Sum[m]	27	4	7

Vallued and Appraised by us (vizt)
 Edmund Broadbent
 James Broadbent
 James Kenworthy
 Thomas Breadbury
 Appris[or]s



A True and p[er]fect Inventory of all the Goods, Chat=
 =tels & Cattell of Jane Andrew late wife of Enoch
 Andrew of Quick in ye parrish of Sadleworth & County
 of Yorke spinster deceased Apprised & valued by us
 (v[i]z) Enoch Andrew Edmund Buckley Thomas Ashton
 and Thomas Walker ye 15th day of May Anno dom[in]i 1688

	l	s	d
Imprimis one Cow & one Calfe	02=	15=	00
It[em] in purse & Apparrell	02=	11=	06
It[em] one Bedsted & Beding	00=	18=	00
It[em] in other Linnins	00=	08=	06
It[em] one Calfer	00=	05=	06
It[em] one Bedsted & Beding	00=	10=	00
It[em] in Earthen Pots & Basons	00=	01=	06
It[em] in Treene Ware	00=	02=	00
It[em] in Wooden Ware	00=	06=	00
It[em] in Loose Boards	00=	02=	06
It[em] one Lead two Pans & one pott	00=	07=	00
It[em] one Fire Iron & other Iron ware	00=	05=	00
It[em] in Cheares Stooles & Quishons	00=	02=	06
It[em] one Spinning Wheele	00=	01=	06
It[em] one smoothing iron	00=	01=	00
It[em] one House Glasse	00=	00=	08
It[em] in ould huslement	00=	01=	06
It[em] in depts owing to the Testato[r] by Bond	18=	12=	00
It[em] in depts without spetialty	07=	10=	00
The sum[m]e is	35=	01=	08

Saddleworth Men Killed During the Battle of Passchendaele

Susan Smith

2007 marks the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele or as it is officially known, the Third Battle of Ypres. To commemorate this event Oldham Local Studies and Archives undertook to locate all those men from Oldham and District who were killed during the battle.

The Battle of Passchendaele was one of the major battles of the First World War and was fought for control of the village of Passchendaele near the town of Ypres in Belgium. The preliminary artillery bombardment for the offensive began on 18 July firing over four and a quarter million shells onto the German lines. Thus forewarned the German army was able to hold off the main British advance under Sir Hubert Gough around the Menin Road.

Attempts to renew the offensive were hampered by the onset of rain, the heaviest in 30 years. As a consequence no renewed major offensive could be attempted until 16 August, with the Battle of Langemarck.

Dissatisfied with progress the British Commander-in-Chief, Haig, replaced Sir Hubert Gough with Herbert Plumer. Whereas Gough favoured an all-out breakthrough, Plumer planned a series of small gains. Thus the offensive resumed on 20 September with the Battle of the Menin Road Bridge. This was followed by the Battle of Polygon Wood on 26 September and the Battle of Broodseinde on 4 October.

Encouraged by Plumer's small gains Haig decided to continue the offensive towards Passchendaele Ridge believing the German army was approaching collapse. However little progress was made at the Battle of Poelcappelle, 9 October and the First Battle of Passchendaele, 12 October.

Unwilling to concede failure Haig pressed on with a further three assaults on the ridge in late October. The eventual capture of Passchendaele village by British and Canadian forces on 6 November finally gave Haig an excuse to call off the offensive claiming success.

Between 31st July and 10 November 1917 photographs of many of those killed, together with short obituaries, appeared in the Oldham Chronicle and Oldham Standard newspapers, and these have been used as a basis for this article.

The following is a list of those men with a Saddleworth connection who were killed during the Battle of Passchendaele.

George Randolph Allott



A private in the 1st/9th King's (Liverpool) Regiment, he was killed in action on the 22nd September 1917, aged 29. He was born in Uppermill but enlisted at Liverpool in the Lancashire Hussars Yeomanry. Prior to enlisting he worked in the Oldham branch of the London, City and Midland Bank. His parents, Charles and Betsy Allott, lived at Lindum House, Dobcross. He is commemorated in St Chad's Uppermill and on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

Charles Baker



A private in the 59th Field Ambulance RAMC, he was killed in action on the 22nd October 1917, aged 25. Although he was born in Cardiff, his parents lived at Spring Grove, Greenfield. He is commemorated at St Mary's Greenfield and at Greenfield Conservative Club, and is buried at Klein-Vierstraat British Cemetery, Belgium.

John Buckley

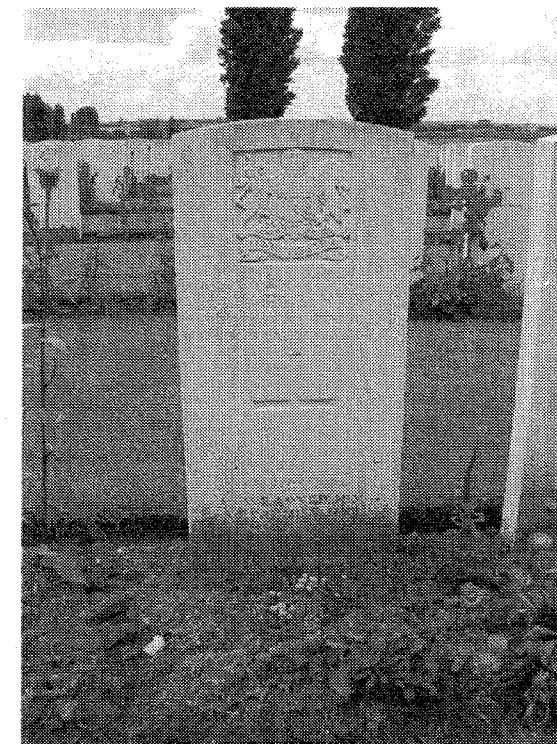
He was a private with the 10th Battalion, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He was killed in action on the 20th September 1917, aged 21. He lived at Junction House, Denshaw, the only son of Jesse and Sarah Hannah Buckley of Junction House, Denshaw. Prior to enlisting he worked at the Denshaw Vale Print Works. He is commemorated on the Denshaw Churchyard Memorial at the family plot and on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

Alfred Spencer Butterworth



A private in the 1st/5th Battalion, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, he died on the 20th November 1917, aged 19. He was the son of John and Mary Spencer Butterworth and lived at 30 North Avenue, Greenfield. Prior to enlistment he was a linotype operator at the Oldham Evening Chronicle. Private Butterworth commemorated on his grandparent's grave in Christ Church graveyard, Greenfield. He is buried in the Perth (China Wall) Cemetery, Belgium.

Lewis Charlesworth



Lewis Charlesworth, of Grains Road, Delph, was a Lance Corporal with 'A' Company 20th Battalion, the Manchester Regiment, who died of wounds on 8th October 1917 aged 29. He was in the Manchester Regiment when war broke out, having served for twelve years, and was one of the first Saddleworth men to be wounded in October 1914. He is buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery.

George Edward Farr

A private in the 12th Battalion the Royal Scots, he was killed in action on the 12th October 1917, aged 26. He was the son of Joseph and Beatrice Farr of 5 Bankfield Terrace, Dobcross. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

William Firth

A private in the 2nd Battalion the Lincolnshire Regiment, he was killed in action of the 31st July 1917. He was born in Saddleworth and enlisted in Huddersfield. His residence was in Elland, Yorkshire. He is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

Clifford Garnett



He was a sergeant in 'B' Company 9th Battalion the King's Royal Rifle Corps and was a holder of the Military Medal. He was killed in action on the 18th August 1917 aged 21 and was the son of Joseph and Mary Emma Garnett of 'Greenbank' Greenfield. He is buried in the Perth (China Wall) Cemetery, Belgium.

John Buckley Gartside



He was a private in the 13th Battalion the Durham Light Infantry and was reported missing since 20th September 1917. He was born in Saddleworth but had moved to Ince near Wigan and had enlisted at Hindley. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

William Hague



A private in the 2nd/5th Battalion the Lancashire Fusiliers he was missing, presumed killed in action on 20th September 1917. He was born in Springhead and enlisted in Oldham from 5 Bowden Street, Oldham. Previous to enlisting he was a carter for Messrs B Taylor & Sons, Lowermoor Wharf. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

John Hopkinson



A private in the 1st/5th Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, he was killed in action on the 3rd or 8th October 1917 aged 34. His home address was 22 Quickedge, Springhead. Before joining the army he was employed at Greenfield Mill. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

Albert Hirst Jagger

A private in the 8th Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, he was by a sniper on the 9th October 1917 aged 35. He was employed at Buckley & Procter's, Mumps, Oldham, as a salesman in the fancy department and lived on the premises, but had formerly lived at Delph New Road, Delph. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

Alfred Kenworthy



A private in the 60th Company Machine Gun Corps, he died on the 18th August 1917 aged 25. He enlisted in the early part of 1916 and was under-gardener for Mr Rothwell JP of Delph. He was a member of the Delph Reform Club and the old Primitive Methodist Sunday School. He lived with his married sister, Olive Schofield, of Knott Hill Lane. Private Kenworthy is buried in the Dozinghem Military Cemetery.

Herbert Mallalieu

A private in the 11th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment Herbert Mallalieu died of wounds on 8 August 1917. He was the son of Matthew and Mary Mallalieu of Shady Grove, Huddersfield Road, Delph. He is buried in Roclincourt Military Cemetery.

J H Rhodes



A private in the 9th Battalion the Lancashire Fusiliers, he was reported missing, believed to have been killed by a shell about 20th August 1917. He lived at Church Road, Uppermill and is buried in the New Irish Farm Cemetery.

Harold Ripley

A private in the 22nd Battalion Manchester Regiment, he was killed on 26 October 1917 aged 26. He was the son of J S Ripley of 176 Oldham Road, Springhead and is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

Stanley Roseblade

A Lance-Sergeant in the 2nd Battalion Canadian Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment), he was killed in action on the 6th November 1917. The son of Mrs Roseblade of Council house, Dobcross, he worked at Gatehead Mill, Delph, before emigrating to Canada in 1914. He enlisted at the beginning of the war and had been in the battle line for two years. He was 31 years of age and is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

Harold Shaw

A private in the 10th Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He was killed in action on the 20th September 1917, aged 26. He was the son of Robert Shaw of Delph and before the war he worked at Slackcote Mills, Delph. He is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

Herbert Shaw

A private in the 10th Battalion the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry he was killed on 23 October 1917 aged 24. He was the son of William and Sarah Shaw of Scouthead. He is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

Wilfred Washington



A private in the 2nd Battalion the York and Lancaster Regiment. He died on 30th September 1917 aged 24 and was the son of Albert Homena Washington of Ingleside Uppermill. He is buried in Loos British Cemetery.

John Weigh



A private in the 15th Battalion the Highland Light Infantry. He was killed in action on 5th September 1917 aged 23. He was the son of Hannah Weigh of 7 Thornlee Fold Grotton. He enlisted on 5 April 1915 when his family resided near Barnsley where he was employed as a collier. Later they came to reside at Brickyard Cottages. He is buried in the Coxyde Military Cemetery.

Fred Womersley



A private with the 1st/8th Battalion the Lancashire Fusiliers, he was killed in action on the 2nd September 1917 aged 19. He was the son of William and Selina Womersley of 11 Barracks, Denshaw. He joined the army when 18, going on service in Egypt before being sent to France. He worked at Slackcote Mill before the war and is buried in the Aeroplane Cemetery.

James Wrigley



He was a Second-Lieutenant in the 289th Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery, he was the son of William and Emma Wrigley of 25 Den Lane, Springhead. He was killed in action on 29th September 1917. He attended St John the Baptist School, Hey, and won a scholarship to Hulme Grammar School, from where he went to a teacher's training college at Sheffield. He then secured an appointment at a London school. He joined the army in April 1915 and is buried in the Kleib-Vierstraat British Cemetery.

Memorial to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment at Tyne Cot



Sources:

Saddleworth: 1914-1919 by K W Mitchinson; Oldham Chronicle and Evening Chronicle; Oldham Standard; Soldiers Killed in the Great War CD; Commonwealth War Graves Commission website

Book Review: *Cotton and Confederates: All Our Tomorrows* by Joyce Cynthia

Reviewed by Chris Foley

Cynthia's novel was written in 1966 but set 100 years before. She writes in her prefatory note, introducing Saddleworth as the setting for her novel: *This district bred hardy people, some of whom were relatives of mine*'. It is set in Duxbridge, a thinly disguised Mossley, from where residents in turmoil frequently head out onto Duxbridge – Saddleworth – Moor to think things through. And it is the time of the cotton famine, when the American Civil War meant the sudden disappearance of vital supplies to the thriving Lancashire cotton industry. The working families of Duxbridge are hit hard.

This episode in the relationship between the UK and the US was recently covered in the fascinating Radio 4 series *Spinning Yarns*, Paul Mason's history of the rise and fall of Lancashire's most famous product. In it he details the appalling effects on Lancashire's cotton workers of the Union blockade of the Confederacy in 1861.

Astonishingly though, these same self-starved workers refused to support the South. In their 'Address from the Working People of Manchester to His Excellency Abraham Lincoln', delivered at the Free Trade Hall in December 1862, they hope for 'the erasure of that foul blot on civilisation and Christianity, chattel slavery, during your presidency'. Lincoln's moving reply deplores 'the sufferings which the working people of Manchester and all Europe are called to endure in this crisis'. He calls their support 'an instance of sublime Christian heroism'.

There were two long-term and important consequences of this exchange. It forged new bonds between Britain and the emerging United States. In addition, the selflessness of the Lancashire workers impressed itself strongly of Gladstone, for whom it was decisive evidence that working people were capable of social responsibility and deserved the vote. By 1864 he was advocating a widening of the franchise and, as a leading member of Russell's government, promote the unsuccessful Reform Bill, in 1866.

But there is a striking difference between this established version of the cotton-spinners' reaction to the civil war and Cynthia's account of reactions in Duxbridge.

Maggie Shawcross is the feisty servant girl at High Top, working for the Barcliffe's, the local mill-owning family. Maggie's man-trouble is the theme of the whole book (and would perhaps have made a more relevant title). She is walking out with Bernie Flattery, local Irish tough guy, but here mother will not countenance their getting-together: He's too good for the like of thee! Even for an ordinary cotton-spinners' family, the Irish – part of the mass exodus after the potato famine – are below the salt, Then George Barcliffe, son of the house, also lusts after Maggie: 'Come here, you flower of the crags!' She virtuously resists, even after some quite literal bodice-ripping, but doesn't altogether reject his advances.

But all caution is cast away when an attractive and exotic American visitor arrives at High Top, Mr Shelley Van Dyke, a friend brought home by Mr George from Liverpool. He owns a cotton plantation, is rich, handsome but ailing and he singles out Maggie for attention: *'I've lost a button of my vest'*. In a surprisingly short time she is his trusted confidante. He is an agent for the Confederates, over here with serious money in order to commission a ship-of-war to help lift the Union blockade that is stopping cotton from going out: *'The world wants our products, we can't deliver them. Ironical isn't it?'* Although Maggie is exceptionally well-informed for a mid-Victorian Lancashire servant girl – *'But Mr Lincoln hates slavery'* – she is quickly won over by Van Dyck's arguments: *'I never thrashed a slave in my life. Our blacks are beholden to us for much.'* Maggie was glad. Convinced that Van Dyck is as attractive morally as he is physically, she then does as much as she can to help him.

The rest of the novel sees Maggie turning down the faithful Bernie and agreeing to marry George Barcliffe (who really loves her) in order to protect Van Dyck from an accusation of murder. Van Dyck goes back to the war in the States, mission accomplished, and Maggie distracts herself from missing him and worrying about he's getting on by driving around feeding the starving cotton workers in her new position as lady of the manor. She is quite incapable of understanding the inconsistency of her position. Neither Maggie – nor apparently her creator – ever seem to make the connection between the slavery that brings her own family to its knees and the slavery that Van Dyck fights to uphold.

Eventually, when the South has lost the war, the cotton returns: *The wagons rolled along the Manchester Road again, the bales towering to the sky. Children ran after them....And there it was again, the clicktety-clack, the black smoke like a heavenly cloud....soup kitchens became a memory.*

Van Dyck makes his way back across the Atlantic and reappears in Duxbridge, sick and half-starved. Maggie has remained his one true love, as he is hers. *'The old South's gone'* he tells her, and dies in her arms.

Of course there really was a ship, the *CSS Alabama*, built at Birkenhead by William & John Laird and Company, in 1862 and paid for partly by Lancashire mill-owners desperate for cotton and partly by Confederate money. The *Alabama* was a highly successful ship-of-war, attacking Union merchant and naval ships for the next two years. And there really was a Shelley Van Dyck, real name James Dunwoody Bulloch. Bulloch was a wealthy scion of the South who came over to Liverpool in 1861 to arrange two ships the *CSS Alabama* and the *CSS Florida* to prey on the Union's shipping. Whether he was ensnared while here by a flighty, red-cheeked Lancashire servant girl is unrecorded.

Although there is no reference either to Bulloch or to the *Alabama* in Cynthia's book, it seems unlikely that she didn't know about them. And there's no doubt it's their side she was on.

Letter to the Editor

Edgar Wright

I was especially interested in the articles about Oldham and District Suffragettes, because when I first came to London in the early 1950s I lodged in a house in Hampstead where one of the other residents was Rowland Kenney, Annie Kenney's brother. He was elderly, and distinguished looking with, I remember, a cloak and a broad-brimmed felt hat. We had some conversations together about Saddleworth, but I didn't then realise how closely connected to the area he and Annie were – not what a distinguished Socialist intellectual he was [he had been the first editor of the *Daily Herald* in 1912 and had written for Orage's *New Age*]. According to David Clark's biography of Victor Grayson [*Labour's Lost Leader*], Annie Rowland, and their brother Reginald were all members of the Colne Valley Labour League and campaigned actively for Grayson in his victorious by-election campaign of July 1907.

As I have just celebrated my 80th birthday, may I take this opportunity of thanking all the Society's members who have done so much in recent years to piece together the history of my grandmother's family, the Gartsides of Woodbrow – especially Mike Buckley, Alison Wild, and my fifth cousin Patrick Kaye. Between us we have assembled a great deal of material which I hope will some day be written up and published.

Finally, I recently saw a review of a newly-published murder mystery located around Saddleworth – *Savage Moon* by Chris Simms, I've not read it yet, but it sounds as if it might provide a refreshingly welcome diversion from the wearisomely familiar real-life Moors murders.

Saddleworth Historical Society Publications

Books

"Mapping Saddleworth"

Edited by Mike Buckley, David Harrison and Alan Petford.

Volume I, Printed Maps of the Parish 1771-1894.

£19.95

"A History and Description of the Parochial Chapelry of Saddleworth"

by James Butterworth, with introduction by Robert Poole.

A facsimile reprint of the original edition of 1828.

£13.95

"Saddleworth 1914-1919"

by K. W. Mitchinson.

The Experience of a Pennine Community during the Great War.

£10.00

"Cherry Valley Chronicles"

Edited by Maurice Dennett.

Letters from Thomas Buckley of Millbury, Massachusetts, USA to Ralph Buckley, his son of Dobcross, Saddleworth 1845-1875.

£10.00

"Passage through Time"

by Bernard Barnes.

Saddleworth Roads and Trackways - A History.

£6.95

"With Ammon Wrigley in Saddleworth"

by Sam Seville, edited by Bernard Barnes.

£5.95

"Saddleworth from the Air"

edited by Barri Jones.

£5.00

"The Saddleworth-America Connection"

by Anne Parry.

Reprint of the original 1979 Saddleworth Festival Publication.

£5.00

"The Huddersfield Narrow Canal"

A compilation of essays on the construction and history of the canal.

£5.95

"Street Guide to Saddleworth"

£2.00

Saddleworth Local Interest Trails

Ten walks around Saddleworth illustrated with sketches and notes on local history and landscape.

Uppermill, Greenfield, Huddersfield Narrow Canal,
Grasscroft, Denshaw, Delph, Lydgate & Grotton,
Dobcross, Diggle, Castleshaw

each £1.20

Maps & Plans

Churchyard Plan: St Chad's Church, the old graveyard

£1.20

Churchyard Plan: St Chad's Church, the lower graveyard

£3.00

Ordnance Survey 25" Godfrey reprint - Lydgate

£1.95

Orders: Graham Griffiths, 6 Slackcote, Delph, Saddleworth OL3 5TW. Cheques should be made payable to Saddleworth Historical Society. Please add 20% for post & packing in the UK.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2007

The winter sun is o'er the Chew,
The snow flecked moors adorning
The frosty air and cloudless sky,
Proclaim a hunting morning.
Then let's away by Shepherd's Green,
And leave the dales behind us;
If dull old Care seeks us today,
He'll have a job to find us.

A Hunting Morn. Ammon Wrigley.

FORTHCOMING LECTURES: 7.30 pm. at the Museum, Uppermill.

Wednesday
16th January, 2007

The Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture
Recent Archaeological Research in
Greater Manchester.
Norman Redhead.
Greater Manchester County Archivist.

Thursday
7th February, 2007

Methodism in Delph. 1779-2000
Alan Rose.

Wednesday
5th March, 2007

George Shaw:
Antiquarian, Collector & Architect.

Wednesday
2nd April, 2007

The Changing Face of Lees.
Freda Millett.

Thursday
5th June, 2007

Ancient Saddleworth.
Highways & Byways.
Mike Buckley.

PAST LECTURES

History of the Public House in Yorkshire. Paul Jennings. 4th October, 2006

This excellent discourse on the subject of Yorkshire Public Houses dealt with the hostleries of North Yorkshire where the beer is brewed strong to suit Northern tastes such as Marston's Brewery.

PAST LECTURES

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His area of interest seemed to lie from Pickering across the North Yorkshire Moors towards Whitby, Robin Hood's Bay and Scarborough. The audience appreciated this verbal journey through some of the Yorkshire Hills and Dales which they indicated at the end of the lecture with a rousing round of applause.

Workhouses in Oldham and Surrounding Areas. Roger Ivens. 31st October, 2006

This lecture was most revealing regarding the welfare of the homeless in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the numbers were staggering in region of three figures and the whole of Boundary Park Hospital as we know it was occupied as the Workhouse through the Archway that still exists and enhances the entrance to the hospital.

Royton Hall Revisited. Douglas Ashmore. 14th November, 2006

The Royton Hall lecture was most interesting and we were taken back in history when the titled families of the day had wealth to entertain their guests lavishly and with style and, no doubt, visited adjacent halls such as Hopwood Hall and Chadderton Park Hall. The archaeology and its discoveries were enthralling and all involved are to be congratulated.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM Tel. 01457 874093
High Street, Uppermill.

2nd Sunday of each month 8.00 am. to 2.00 pm
2nd Wednesday of each month 10.0 am - 1.0 pm

Farmers Market
Friends Coffee Mornings.

Tuesdays 9.30 am-12.30 pm

Canalside Quilting Group
Free to new members in the morning.
Annual £10.00 or £2.50 per week.

Boredom Busters & Boom Ting.

Ring the Museum for details on
01457 87 4093

ART GALLERY EXHIBITION.

Jeff Beaumont.
Jeff has exhibited a number of times
at the Gallery and his paintings are
very popular.

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST SOCIETY

A Flea Market will be held at the Civic Hall, Uppermill, on Sunday the 3rd February, 2008
10.00 a.m. until 4.

Members' help would be appreciated. Contact David Harrison 01457 87 5855
or Charles Baumann 01457 87 6858

SADDLEWORTH WEA ASSOCIATION.

Beginners' Genealogy with Computers.
Ways of tracing your Family Tree.
Saddleworth School. 7.00 pm. - 9.00 pm
Starting Tuesday 8th January, 2008

Computer skills not necessary.
Improving searching the Internet.

Anne Buckley & Jean Sanders.

Contact Anne Buckley on 01457 87 2881

ENROL IF NECESSARY ON THE NIGHT.

SHS MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

New members who have joined the Society since the publication of the last Bulletin are:-

Mr. & Mrs. T. Blackshaw & Family. Delph.

Mr. Ian G. Lawton, York.
(Late Edge End)

Mr. & Mrs. R.P. Ratcliffe, Delph.
Mrs. T.W.J.. Mack, Droylsden.

Mrs. Lynn Bowker, Delph.
Mr. K. Dures & Mrs. D. Kearney,
of Moorland Books, Uppermill.

We were able to provide Mrs. Mack with information and a photograph of uncle Robert Winterbottom who died of wounds in 1917 age 20 years and was buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, which was taken from K.W. Mitchinson's Book Saddleworth 1914-1919 and of course named on the Pots and Pans Memorial. He was the son of Robert & Winifred Winterbottom, Abbeyhills Road, Oldham, and later Heathfields, Uppermill. Worked at Ferrantis offices and attended St. Bede's College, Manchester.

Mrs. Mack is researching her family tree and if anyone has any knowledge of Robert Winterbottom born 1813 in Oldham and Sarah Lees born 1812, they were married St. Mary's Church, Preswiche in 1833. Robert was a butcher and then cattle dealer, she would be very pleased to hear from them.
Her telephone number is 0161 370 6905.

Regretfully we have to report the following deaths of valued members of the Society and condolences have been extended to the families.

Mr. Norman Wisenden, Heights, Delph,
Mr. J.F. Holroyd, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Mr. Alan Bradbury, Uppermill,
Mr. Robert Allen Durkee, Southbury,
Connecticut, USA.

Mr. Michael Howarth, Friezland, Greenfield.

A sad note is struck with the passing of one of the last war flyers, Bob Durkee, husband of our American Member Mrs. Lillian Gartside Durkee, who flew 30 missions over Germany from East Yorkshire during his service with the 3rd Air Division, 490th Bomb Group of the USAF in England and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross as well as Three Air Medals. Very active in Community Affairs and was President of the Redding Historical Society in the USA. Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Durkee at this very sorrowful time.

The distressing news that our old friend and long standing member of the Society Michael Howarth died in Royal Oldham Hospital on the 3rd December, 2007 came as a real shock. He had served as a Committee Member and will be remembered for his summer outings some years ago aboard 'Mike's Bus'. Transport as well as Jazz was one of his enthusiasms and he used to garage his bus on Greenbridge Lane, Greenfield, Crossleys of Manchester being his great pride. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Edith at this so sad time.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2008

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May we take this opportunity of reminding you that the Membership Subscriptions for 2008 are now due and we would be pleased if you could complete the attached form at your earliest convenience in order to assist the Membership Section in the manner in which you have done so promptly in previous years. Your support to the Society is very much appreciated.

It was decided at the Annual General Meeting on the 5th December, 2007 that the 2008 subscriptions should remain unchanged for the benefit of the Membership, the rates, therefore, are as follows:-

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

Cheques made payable to Saddleworth Historical Society and forwarded to:-

Mrs. E. Broadbent,
Pastures Farm Flat,
Back o'th' Low Road,
Strinesdale,
Saddleworth,
Yorks.
OL4 3SG

0161 785 8268