

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 38

Number 2

Summer 2008

Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

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Cover illustration: Frederick Kelly MBE, DCM, MSM

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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.

The Victoria Cross

Ian McInnes

The following appeared in the Oldham Chronicle of 4 February, 1976:-

BIRTHDAY FOR LAST LOCAL VC HERO

Valour in fight against Turks

SADDLEWORTH'S only holder of the Victoria Cross, Mr. Thomas Steele, celebrated his 87th birthday on Monday.

He is the only one of four local men to receive the VC who is still alive. The Victoria Cross was presented to Lance Sgt. Steele by his Majesty King George V at Buckingham Palace on 10 April 1919.

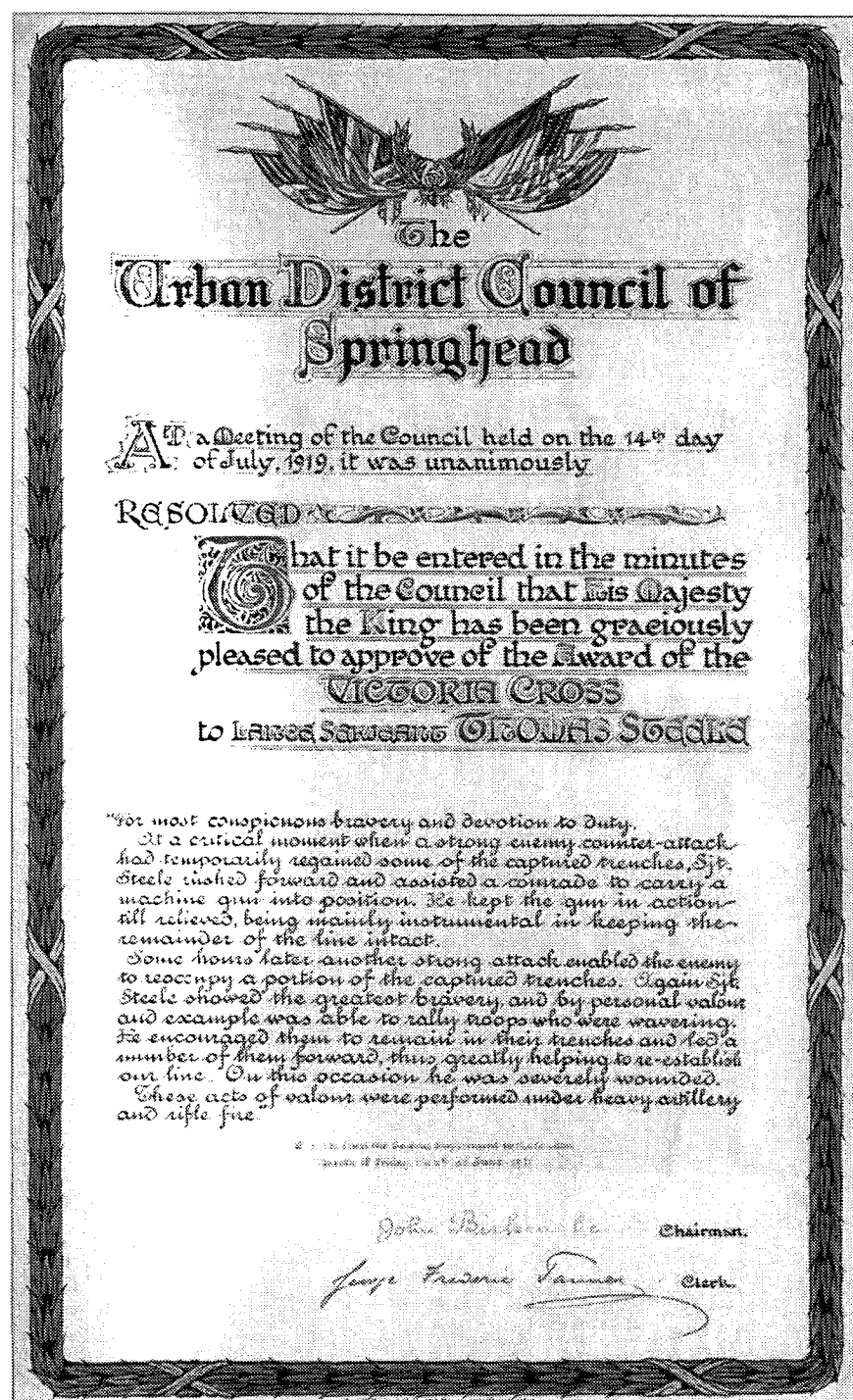
Thomas Steele was born 6 February, 1889.

Mr. Steele, of Walkers, Springhead, was a Lance-Sgt. with the 1st Seaforth Highlanders when he gained the nation's highest award for valour in the field of combat, when fighting the Turks in Mesopotamia, (now Iraq), on February 22, 1917.

The citation in the London Gazette said "At a critical moment, when a strong enemy counter-attack had temporarily regained some of the captured trenches, Sgt. Steele rushed forward to assist a comrade to carry a machine-gun into position. He kept the gun in action until relieved, being mainly instrumental in keeping the remainder of the line intact.

Some hours later another strong attack enabled the enemy to reoccupy a portion of the captured trenches. Again Sgt. Steele showed the greatest bravery and by personal valour and example was able to rally the troops, who were wavering. He encouraged them to remain in their trenches and led a number of them forward, thus greatly helping to re-establish our line. On this occasion he was severely wounded. These acts of valour were performed under heavy artillery and rifle fire. Mr. Steele still has bullets in his knee as a result of that attack but he returned to the front after three or four months in hospital and says that he is not troubled by the injury although he is not in good health these days. Mr. Steele joined the Highlanders as a regular in 1911 and served in India before the division was recalled because of war. The division served only a limited period in the European theatre of the war, which Mr. Steele says was worse because of shell-fire, wet conditions and starvation. "In Palestine it was heat and dysentery" he recalled. "It was all rice and biscuits with chlorinated water."

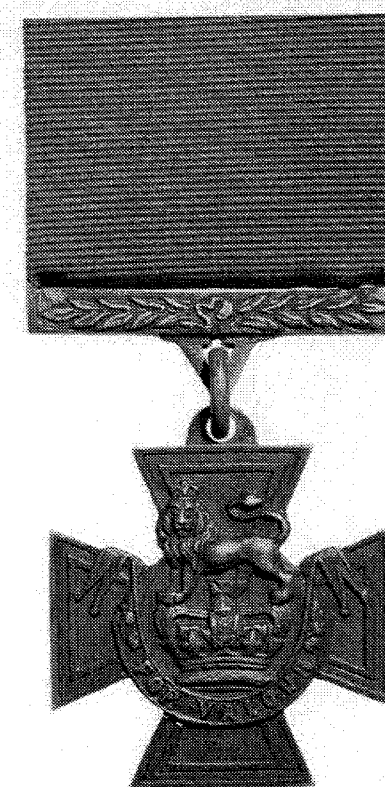
Leaving the army after the war, Mr. Steele returned to his Springhead home. The Urban District Council of Springhead presented him with an illuminated scroll. He moved to Leicester in 1931 after his marriage and only returned to live with his sister-in-law at Walkers, Springhead, in December. During the Second World War he was part of a searchlight battery and was later a captain with the Army Cadet Force. He died 11 July, 1978.



In recognition of L/Sgt Thomas Steele's outstanding bravery in Mesopotamia, Springhead Council presented him with this illuminated scroll. A copy was hung in the council chamber.

The Victoria Cross is by far the world's most coveted medal for bravery. Although instituted more than a hundred and sixty years ago and spanning the four most terrible wars in Britain's history, it has been awarded to only 1,353 men, three of whom have won it twice, plus one more for the American Unknown Warrior, who lies buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington as a symbol for all those who died in the Allied cause. The British Unknown Warrior, who was buried in Westminster Abbey, received the Congressional Medal of Honour from the United States Government. He was not awarded a Victoria Cross.

The deeds for which the VC has been won are as varied as the backgrounds from which the winners have come. It is the most democratic of all medals, open to the private soldier no less than his commanding officer – "every rank and grade of all branches of Her Majesty's forces."



Cast in bronze from the cannons captured at Sevastopol in the Crimean War, of 1854-6 and latterly from cannons captured in the wars in China in 1860, the Victoria Cross retains a mystique that no other decoration has ever achieved. It takes precedence over all others, and the merest glimpse of that distinctive crimson ribbon on the breast of a veteran is sufficient to establish him as a military monarch in the minds of his fellow men, and nothing short of a god in the eyes of schoolboys throughout the world.

The VC has never been won by a woman, although the rules do not preclude that possibility, yet it has been awarded to four civilians, contrary to popular belief. Two Germans have won it, as well as one Russian and five Americans.

ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

In 1854, after almost forty years of peace, Great Britain became involved in a major war against Russia. A considerable deployment of naval and military forces took place whose heroism and suffering quickly caught the imagination of the British public. Within a relatively short time the D.C.M. was instituted, and a campaign medal for the Crimea approved. However the situation remained unsatisfactory, particularly for officers, in that the Order of the Bath was virtually confined to those of field rank (or its equivalent) or above; and, at least in the Army, brevet promotion or a mention in despatches tended to fall to members of the Staff who, in the nature of things, were under the immediate notice of commanders in the field. Nor could it have escaped notice that the junior grades of the Legion of Honour were available to both officers and men of the French forces for gallantry in action and that, by the end of 1854, a number of awards of that decoration had been made for services at the Battle of Alma. Various suggestions were made both in Parliament and in the Press that there should be some special way of rewarding individual instances of gallantry and the matter engaged the attention of the Government, the Queen and the Prince Consort. On 29th January 1855 the Duke of Newcastle – at the time the Secretary of State for War – announced in the House of Lords that the Queen has been advised “to institute a Cross of Merit which would be open to all ranks of the Army in future”, and went on to say that the rules were not “entirely matured, for the subject requires a good deal of consideration.” This, indeed, proved to be the case and exactly one year elapsed before the Royal Warrant instituting the Victoria Cross was signed. The preamble envisaged a single decoration available to officers and men alike of both Services but, curiously enough, while making passing reference to the Order of the Bath, made none at all to the existence of the D.C.M.

Queen Victoria wrote:-

“Now, for the purpose of attaining an end so desirable as that of rewarding individual instances of merit and valour, We have instituted and created, and by these present, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, institute and create a New Naval and Military Decoration, which We are desirous should be highly prized and eagerly sought after by the officers and men of Our Naval and Military Services, and are graciously pleased to make, ordain, and establish the following rules and ordinances for the government of the same, which shall from henceforth be inviolably observed and kept.”

NUMBERS AWARDED

In all, 1354 Crosses and three bars have been awarded. However, difficulty arises when analysing the figures in tabular form. Thus a recipient may have been attached to a different regiment when he won his Cross and the award could be attributed to either regiment. Moreover this difficulty extends beyond the British Army and overlaps into the Honourable East India Company (H.E.I.C.) Forces, the Indian Army and Commonwealth Forces. The figure usually given for posthumous awards is 293 Crosses and one bar, only 14 such awards made before 1914. For all these reasons, therefore, probably no analysis is entirely satisfactory, and what follows is merely my interpretation of the figures.

	1856- 1913	1914- 1919	1920- 1938	1939- 1945	1946- 2008	Total
R.N., R.N.R., R.N.V.R., AND R.N.A.S.	39	46	-	22	-	107
Royal Marines	4	5	-	1	-	10
British Army	348	415	1	61	9	834
R.F.C. and R.A.F.	-	9	-	22	-	31
Australian Forces	5	63	-	19	4	91
Canadian Forces	4	62	-	13	-	79
New Zealand Forces	2	10	-	9	1	22
Newfoundland	-	1	-	-	-	1
South African Forces	21	4	-	3	-	28
Fiji Military Forces	-	-	-	1	-	1
King's African Rifles	-	-	-	1	-	1
H.E.I.C. Forces and Indian Army	95	18	4	30	-	147
Civilians	4	-	-	-	-	4
United States Warrior.	-	-	1	-	-	1
Totals	522	633	6	182	14	1357

Bars The three recipients of bars are as follows:

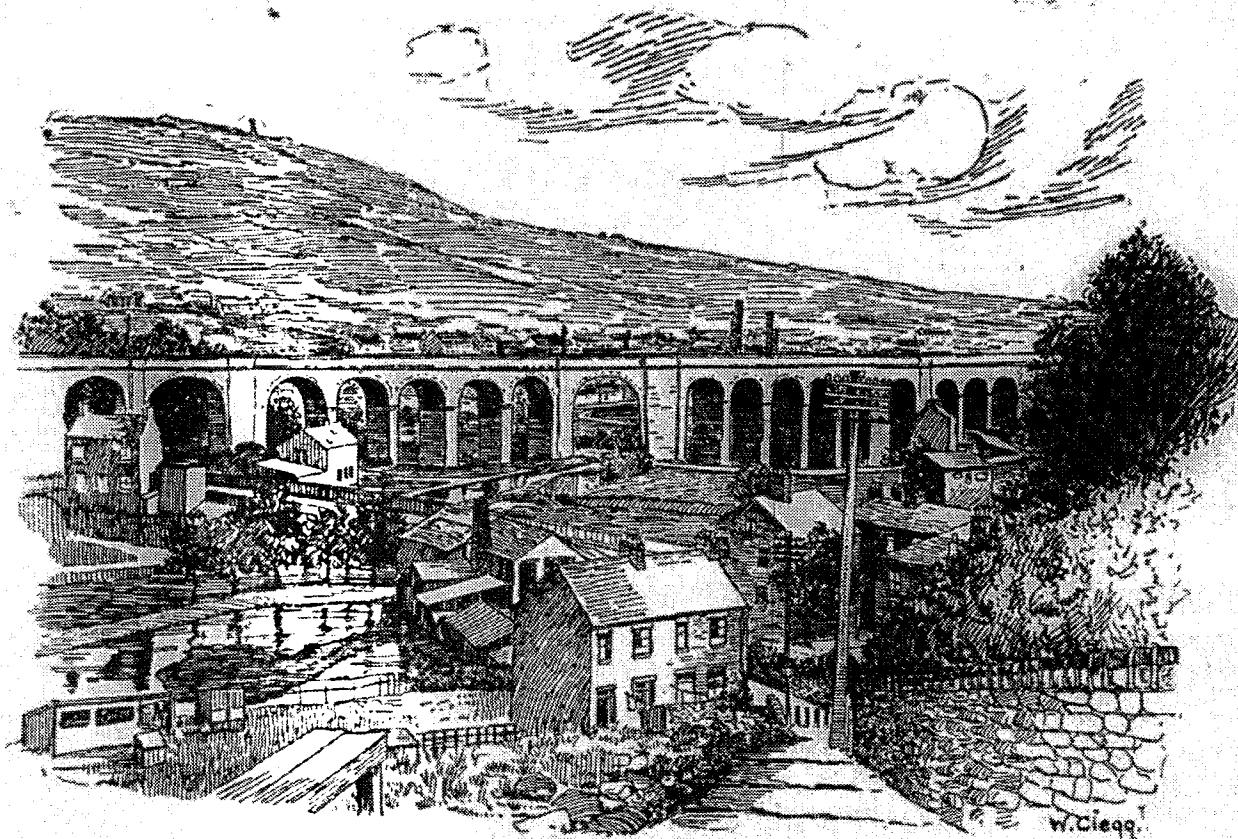
Martin-Leake Cross awarded as Surgeon Captain, South African Constabulary, for the action at Vlaktefontein, South Africa, 8th February 1902, bar awarded as Lieutenant, R.A.M.C., for services near Zonnebeke, Belgium, 29th October-8th November 1914.

N. G. Chavasse Cross awarded as Captain, R.A.M.C., for services at Guillemont, France, 9th August 1916; bar at Wiltje, Belgium, 31st July-2nd August 1917, being a posthumous award.

C. H. Upman Cross awarded as 2nd Lieutenant, 20th Battalion, New Zealand Military Forces, for services at Maleme, Crete, 22nd-30th May 1941, bar at El Ruweisat Ridge, Western Desert, 14th/15th July 1942.

SADDLEWORTH VIADUCT

(A View from Nicker Brow, Dobcross)



MR. WILFRED CLEGG here depicts a scene which is very familiar to users of Nicker Brow, Dobcross, and particularly those who have reached such a period in life that they must perforce stop occasionally, when climbing the heights, "to admire their surroundings." Those coming down the brow have their thoughts too much concerned with "minding their steps" to think much of scenery. The mill to the left at the bottom of the brow is one of the oldest in Saddleworth, and has been devoted to many useful purposes in its day. We believe that before the making of the canal and railway, and when the Diggle Brook was crossed by a ford, the main approach to the mill was by Nicker Brow. Power is still obtained from a waterwheel run by the dam sketched. All the other buildings are modern. The Saddleworth viaduct stands out well, and on Pots and Pans we are given a glimpse of the War Memorial.

Illustration by Wilfred Clegg, Oldham Chronicle, May 1, 1926

Copyright: Oldham Evening Chronicle

Extracts from the Diary of Canon F R Raines: Part 2

Roger Ivens

15 August 1828

Visited the Poor House. Much comfort and great cleanliness. Old John Ratcliffe and his wife are very proper persons for their office of governors.

16 August 1828

Our magistrates sat here to-day. I had to see Mr Mills on some business connected with a register. He was very polite. He introduced me to a brother magistrate, John Entwistle, Esqre., of Foxholes, near Rochdale, lately the High Sheriff for Lancashire. A very plain, though, from what I saw of him, a pompous man.

A Mr Butterworth, who is publishing a history of Saddleworth, called, requesting my patronage. He appears to be self-educated – consequently a man of some genius. I have engaged to furnish him with some account of the Church, etc. Mr B has already compiled small histories of Oldham, Manchester, Ashton-under-Lyne, etc.

18 August 1828

Heard of an old woman (Alice Shaw) in great distress – sent for her and gave her money, shoes, etc, and strictly enjoined her to attend the church, where she has not been (or to any other place of worship) for 20 years! A weak, but industrious old creature. I shall make her a small weekly allowance as long as I find her deserving of it.

21 August 1828

Writing an account of Saddleworth Church for Mr Butterworth's history. The data are so scanty that there is little room for the display of ingenuity. I have done what I could, considering the few hours that I have devoted to my subject.

22 August 1828

Called upon Mr J Dickon Whitehead, half a mile hence. Dined with him. Attached prodigiously to his dog and gun. Much consequence and pride in Mrs J D W.

24 August 1828 'Wake Sunday'

This has certainly been the most arduous day I have yet had. Two marriages during the service, 11 christenings; read His Majesty's (George IV) Proclamation against vice, profaneness and immorality two long sermons, etc. A man of 82 says he never saw so many people in Saddleworth.

I am sorry to find that much profaneness exists here on 'Wake Sunday' was it is called. Booths are out against the church gates and there is buying and selling going on. I reasoned with several about the impropriety of this procedure. I got good words but the evil was unremoved.. I must prune away these excrescences of Satan with prudence. Cranmer proceeded gradually in the work of the Reformation.

25 August 1828

I hear with sorrow, that two of the singers are offended because they were desired yesterday not to sing anthem's of an hour's length, and have said they will not sing at all if they may not be masters.

Well, in the midst of success there must be something to repress worldly feelings. Upon hearing this, I went direct to my good church friends, Mr and Mrs Radcliffe, of Cross – found them in great and real trouble – afraid I shall be disgusted with Saddleworth and tempted to leave, as many garbled accounts have spread respecting the singers, perfectly untrue. Mrs R. made it a matter of prayer and is much hurt. She little knows how anxious I am for good to be done and how anxious to allay all ill feelings which may arise. I have ordered the singers to do as they please.. Sorry should I be for any unnecessary breaches to be caused in the church on my account. I am willing to be a servant so that good may arise and amity be promoted.

28 August 1828

Went to Manchester with Mr Shaw, junior. We passed through Ashton-under-Lyne, a very neat, large town. Here is a handsome Gothic Government Church, lately built. Saw Fairfield, the Moravians' establishment – nothing particular.¹ Went through the Collegiate Church in Manchester. Great preparations and alterations going on for the ensuing musical festival. A fine spacious building – very little stained glass. Went through the 'College,' a very ancient building, built and endowed by Humphrey Chetham, AD 1651. Here 80 boys are educated, fed and clothed until they are 14, when they are apprenticed, etc. The Library is free to every one at stated hours. The Exchange is a good building. The Town Hall in King Street is badly situated but is a very handsome pile. I, by no means, dislike Manchester.

29 August 1828

A little man in black begged my charity towards paying for the building of a Baptist Chapel at Masham in the North Riding. He had to raise £50 in three weeks – the total expense, £300. I told him, 'he that sitteth down to build a tower first counteth the cost'; he pleaded hard in his way and I gave my mite.

¹ The Moravians' establishment was found in 1784 by the United Brethren. In addition to a large number of excellent houses there were a chapel and cotton factory. Its members lived on a communal system which was directed by the elders of the Church. The experiment soon proved a failure and the settlement was ultimately occupied by persons unconnected with the Moravian body.

31 August 1828 Sunday

Good congregations. Mr Buckley, one of our magistrates, and some of his family, though regular attendants at the Calvinistic Chapel, Delph, were at church this evening. Mr Sutcliffe introduced me to Mr B when I first came to Uppermill. I Have not called upon him and he has passed me frequently without noticing me. I hear he is a very rich and a very proud man. The Shaws recommend me not to call upon him, though I have been long inclined to do so.

2 September 2828

Called at the 'Parsonage', an old dilapidated building. The tenant (Giles Broadbent) pays £35 p.a. A fine site for a good house.

5 September 1828

Called at Mr Harrop's and Mr Whitehead's of Grasscroft. Mr H's family were a short time ago the first in Saddleworth, but a melancholy failure during the commercial panic last year has reduced them, with many Saddleworth families, to necessity. Mr W is known here by the name and title of 'Earl of Wharmton' which his egotism has produced him. Took tea at Mr R's of Boarshurst. Cards were introduced and the party being large, I retired very early.

7 September 1828 Sunday

I took tea with my clerk (Buckley Holden) a steady and aged man with 13 children. I promised to use my influence in getting his son appointed organist to my church when there was a vacancy. He plays tolerably well on the pianoforte.

12 September 1828

I saw yesterday at Friezland, Widow Hilton, now in her 93rd year, and possession the perfect use of all her faculties; eyesight amazingly good, hearing unimpaired, good spirits, appetite, etc. She was overjoyed at seeing me, and has frequently thought of coming to hear me preach, a distance of three miles or more.

She has a retentive memory, and well recollects the 'Scotch rebels' and the great fear they excited amongst her neighbours. She was born in 1735, and has been twice married. When 40 years old she had not tasted tea, and did not know what it was. She had lived upon milk and porridge made of oatmeal, and had worked out of doors. After her marriage she spun.

She has the remains of a very pretty face, and may live 10 or 15 years to all human appearance. She seems to have no idea of her latter end, and boasts greatly of her honest life and old age. She calls herself the 'Old Widow', and said 'I hae na' known sae monie ministers that wad talk wi' a poor widow as ye dae. God bless you and make ye like my poor old Saddleworth.' She has received the 'Sacrament Money' from my church for nearly 30 years, and shall do so as long as I stay here.²

² 'Sacrament Money': money offered at Holy Communion. Once believed to have curative powers due to its association with the sacred rite, and used to cure various ailments.

She has lived in the 'olden time' – she is left alone in the world as a withered tree in a turfless desert, but, amidst all her blessings, she still seems to have the greatest pleasure in dwelling upon those happy days when her hair was unsilvered and the night of age had not come on.

15 September 1828

Called at the Parsonage, Dobcross. Mrs Mills fully occupied by anticipating the fancy dress ball at the ensuing festival at Manchester. 'This world is all a fleeting show for _____' as Moore's pretty lines say.³

19 September 1828

Walked into Greenfield. The scenery very beautiful and picturesque. I admire the sweet valley very much. At Mr Hegginbottom's, the surgeon, the great-grandson of the Rev J Hegginbottom, MA, of Brasenose College, Oxford, 50 years incumbent of this church. A pleasant evening. Mr H shewed me several relics and books of his great progenitor, who was a most extraordinary character. Good abilities improved by an education unusual in those days, and yet notorious for his peculiar habits and adorations to the festal god. He was born, 1694, entered at Oxford, 1714, came to Saddleworth, 1721, obt. 1771; buried near the church door.

20 September 1828

My pulpit cushion is finished to-day. It is very neat and rich. Crimson velvet 19s per yard. The weather is extremely fine and nothing is talked of here but the ensuing musical festivals at Manchester and York.

28 September 1828 Sunday

I preached to-day to a union of operatives. The church was crammed and hundreds were without. They conducted themselves with great decorum. They had several bands of music and walked in procession to the church, with various insignia about them. The society is a combination of servants against masters to keep up wages. Many respectable people in Saddleworth patronise them.

5 October 1828 Sunday

I preached at Dobcross to an overflowing, nay, teeming congregation. I am told that the chapel had not been so crowded since 1805, when a sermon was preached on the death of Nelson and the victory of Trafalgar. In the evening I had a funeral which was preceded by a band of music, colours, etc., and several hundred men walked in costume, being arrayed in the gay costume of 'Foresters' by which name the club is known. I had nine christenings!

³ Thomas Moore, Irish poet, 1779-1852

An Anzio DCM Group of Miniatures

Ian McInnes

On 22nd July 1996 Frederick Kelly MBE, DCM, MSM died aged 84. He had served for almost 29 years in the British Army from August 1930 to May 1959, holding the rank of WO 1st Class from 1945 to his discharge.

I first met him in November, 1978 at a British Legion function in Saddleworth and visited him, after which the following article appeared in the local evening paper:-

... "When two young Irishmen from Kildare met for the first time, it was as batmen in the South Lancashire Regt. at Catterick Camp. Their paths didn't cross again for nearly 50 years, until they met once more through the Royal British Legion.

But when they did meet, they discovered a series of remarkable coincidences. Each had reached the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major, completed over 28 years' service, gained the MBE, and finished up living in Saddleworth!

Now Mr James Goss (right), and Mr Fred Kelly have renewed that friendship of long ago, and are pictured at a celebration of the Royal British Legion which brought them back together.

Both men joined the Army in 1930, but a year later their paths separated. Mr Goss retired in 1966 after 21 years as a regimental sergeant major, making him the most senior in the entire Army in that rank in length of service. During his 23 years' service, he fought in Madagascar, Africa and Burma in the Second World War.

Mr Kelly gained the Distinguished Conduct Medal during fighting at Anzio beachhead, in Italy, and the wounds he received at that time finally led to his retirement in 1959.

"To meet again as we did was a really pleasant surprise. The coincidences in our careers are quite amazing", they agree..."

RSM Kelly was born in Newbridge, Kildare in 1912 and first enlisted as 3651274 into the South Lancashire Regt (Prince of Wales's Volunteer), but transferred to the Royal Irish Fusiliers with effect from 1 July, 1937. During his service he served in Egypt and Italy, Ireland, Akaba, Gibraltar and Berlin where he was Garrison Sergeant Major, and for service there he was appointed the Order of the British Empire.



His DCM was gazetted in the London Gazette Supplement 15 June, 1944 page 2853. His citation is as follows:-

... "On 2nd March, 1944, C.S.M. Kelly was Company Sergeant Major of 'D' Company, which was ordered, in the evening, to clear the enemy from a Wadi at the area North West of the FLYOVER bridge in the ANZIO bridgehead. This was partially done but owing to darkness, the thickness of the scrub and casualties from shell fire, it was not possible to finish the job that night. The next day the remnants of the Company went forward to complete the job. Almost immediately the Company Commander received bullet wounds from which he later died and C.S.M. Kelly carried on, saw the task completed and remained to see that the position was held until it was possible to get reinforcements under cover of darkness.

Although wounded and under constant fire, he remained cheerful to the end, and his gallantry and devotion to duty was of the highest order, and ensured that all the enemy were either killed or captured, and the situation completely restored.

C.S.M. Kelly's example of courage and his determination to see the task completed, under the most trying conditions, were beyond praise.

A letter to Mr Kelly, which he retained, reads:-

"To C.S.M. Kelly or the senior N.C.O.

"From: Commanding Officer

"Well done! You are doing a first-class job. That gully must be held at all costs. Sgt. Gladwin with about 25 chaps will come to help you after dark. Meanwhile I have asked the 9 Royal Fusiliers to take you on as part of their Coy. who are near you, so try and get in touch with them. I would like to know (1) How many Ox. & Bucks. are with you. (2) How many Bosche you think are left in the gully - if any. (3) Whether you are in contact with some Commandos or 9 R.F. Part of Sgt. Gladwin's party will stay and bring up rations and amn. about 2030 hrs. They are then to stay with you. 031500.

J. L. Boucher, Lt.-Col."

The answers to questions (1), (2) and (3) above were "Nil", "Nil" and "No".

During this engagement, Mr Kelly had been wounded in the chest. Later, the M.O. told him that his life had been saved by a metal mirror which he carried in his battledress. (The mirror, incidentally, is still in his possession). He was evacuated to Naples as a stretcher case, but the hospital being full, was sent to Pompeii. Three days later Vesuvius erupted (no peace for the wicked!), and he was flown to Syracuse, still on at stretcher.

He rejoined the London Irish Rifles after six weeks in Egypt, in June 1944. His great regret was that he was compelled to spend Barrosa Day, (a Regimental Celebration), on a stretcher, BUT he celebrated St. Patrick's Day in hospital by squaring the nurses for some Guinness!

When discharged his military conduct was described as 'Exemplary' and his testimonial was one of which he must have been very pleased:-

... "RSM Kelly has carried out one of the most difficult tasks in the Army displaying devotion to duty, complete honesty, tact, firmness in handling men, smartness, courage, and complete selflessness. He has, throughout his distinguished military career set the finest example to both his superiors and subordinates. He combined sympathy with firmness and naturally gets the maximum out of everybody. A fine character who will be a great loss to the Army" ...

After the 1939-45 war he initially returned to Ireland, and then served in Akaba, Egypt, Gibraltar and the British Army of the Rhine. A second posting to Gibraltar in 1956 preceded being invalided to London in 1957. The long term effects of wounds received in Italy in 1944 finally forced his retirement from the Service in 1959.

Subsequently he joined the Corps of Commissionaires, retiring in his early sixties.

His retirement years were devoted to travel and his garden, and he and Mrs Kelly left Saddleworth in 1991. The years 1992-1996 were spent in his new home near the Nursing Centre in Stratford-upon-Avon, where he died. He left his wife of 56 years, Elsie Kelly, and one daughter, Patricia.

It was his Meritorious Service Medal which had caught my eye at our first meeting, an award I traced in an Army Order of February, 1956 (AO/25/1956), over three years prior to his discharge. I can remember him telephoning me around 1980 to tell me that he had been advised that his annuity had been approved, it was less than £60 per annum I think! in real terms a good deal less than the original, 1847, annuities of £20 per annum.



Saddleworth Historical Society Publications

Books

"Mapping Saddleworth"

Edited by Mike Buckley, David Harrison and Alan Petford.

£19.95

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

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

by James Butterworth, with introduction by Robert Poole.

£13.95

A facsimile reprint of the original edition of 1828.

"Saddleworth 1914-1919"

by K.W. Mitchinson.

£10.00

The Experience of a Pennine Community during the Great War.

"Cherry Valley Chronicles"

edited by Maurice Dennett.

£10.00

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

"Passage through Time"

by Bernard Barnes.

£6.95

Saddleworth Roads and Trackways - A History.

"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.

£5.00

Reprint of the original 1979 Saddleworth Festival Publication.

"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 SUMMER 2008

On the Pennine moors in summer,
I want no scene more fair,
Nor a joy more sweet then roaming
With the grouse and the hare.
When bees are in the heather
Lip deep in purple wine,
Then the life they live in Eden
On Pennine moors is mine.

The Pennines - Under Pennine Skies.
Ammon Wrigley.

FORTHCOMING LECTURES . 7.30 pm. at the Museum,
High Street, Uppermill.

The new programme for the forthcoming lecture season is enclosed with this bulletin and we hope it will provide encouragement for a good attendance at the Museum Gallery.

Wednesday
24th September, 08

Building the Big Ditch - A Magic Lantern Show.
Glen Atkinson.

Wednesday
1st October, 08

Shifting Boundaries, Changing roles, 60 years of
Nursing in the National Health Service.
Dr. Christine Hallett.

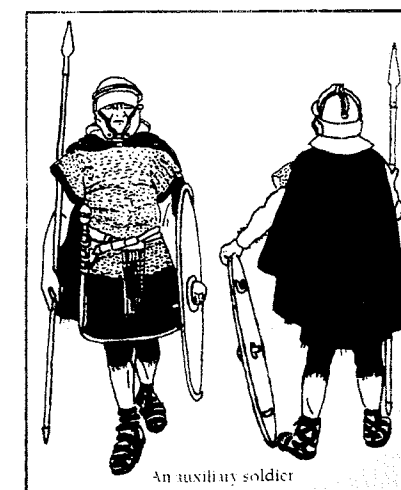
Wednesday
22nd October, 08

Agriculture and Farming in Ancient Egypt.
Victor Blunden.

Wednesday
3rd December, 08

Annual General Meeting.
Talk by Member.
Details later.

Reminder.
HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 13/14th September 2008.
Jim Carr will be guiding walks around Castleshaw
Roman Forts. Saturday and Sunday 2.00 pm.
Meet at Castleshaw Centre. No charge. If wet stout
footwear needed. 01457 87 3612 for further
information.



NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY.....Due to the success of the FAMILY HISTORY WEEKEND held in 2006 we are arranging another event on Saturday 4th and Sunday the 5th July, 2009. Inviting Overseas Members and UK Members who are researching their family trees or the opportunity of a social occasion to meet and become involved with other members of the Society in congenial surroundings conducting Historical investigations into the Society's and the Museum's Archives.

The programme will include a Day School on Family History, Lectures & Workshop Session, Guided Walk and Social Occasion.

Further details and information to be given later.

PAST LECTURE.

Highways & Byways. 5th June, 08. Saddleworth Museum.

Michael Buckley's lecture contained new aerial photographs which finely displayed the route of the Roman Road crossing the Pennine chain at Stanedge, where the notches on the horizon indicate the passes carrying the road and thus allowing the packhorse routes to be established, becoming our modern roadways conveying their motor borne traffic on its commercial missions. Woodbrook at Springhead with its ford and the unpaved incline on the eastern side being a classic example of the problems and difficulties of communications in some of these hilly locations such as the Pennines.

SUMMER COACH TRIP - YORK 12th JULY, 2008

The Society's Annual Coach Trip to the Medieval City of York proved highly successful with nearly 40 members guided throughout by Alan Petford. St. Denys' Church was visited where Alan Petford aptly described the glorious Medieval stained glass windows. The afternoon saw St. Mary's Abbey and then York Minster Library opened specially for us to view the 17th and 18th Century books. Tea was taken at St. William's College and we had the great pleasure of walking the City Wall with its roof top splendour of York revealed. Many thanks to Alan Schofield for his much appreciated organisation.

Visit of the Marple Historical Society 10th May, 2008.

We were visited by 40 members of Marple Historical Society and the day was very well received. Mike Buckley gave an illustrated lecture on Saddleworth and led a guided walk around Uppermill, introducing them to the true nature of Saddleworth, its past with the Museum, our Pennine stone architecture and above all the lovely hillsides which adorn the skyline and give Saddleworth its distinction.

Weekend with Yorkshire Archaeological Society

On Saturday 17th May, 08 Alan Petford & Mike Buckley visited Claremont House, Leeds, where they delivered four excellent lectures. On Sunday a return visit moved to Denshaw Village Hall where Jim Carr led a walk round Castleshaw, Alan Schofield, Diggle and Mike Buckley up to Crompton Moor.

Historic Record Assessment Day 7th June, 08, Saddleworth Museum.

This was deemed a good success. Material received varied from photographs dating from c1890 to many deeds particularly significant was a collection relating to the Court Street area of Uppermill. About 40 photographs were brought in by John Battye, many taken by Clarence Cottrell, the former Delph pharmacist. Freda Millett conducted and recorded four interviews. A selection of digital copies of photos from our collection were bought by a postcard collector and an order for the 1852 map taken.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

Boredom Busters & Boom Ting. Childrens Events.

Ring Museum for details
01457 87 4093

2nd Sunday of each month 8.00 am to 2.00 pm

Farmers Market.

2nd Wednesday of each month 10.30 am to 12 noon.

FRIENDS COFFEE MORNINGS
Admission £1.00

Tuesdays 9.30 am. to 12.30 pm

Canal Quilting Group
Free to new members for the morning. Annual £10.00

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 4 days
11th Sept. to 14th Sept. 08

Free entry to Museum during the 4 days.
Thurs. to Sat. 10.00 am.to 4.00 pm
Sunday 12 noon to 4.00 pm
or £2.50 per week.

ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS.

5th July - 23rd August, 2008

Textile Art Group
Everything in Textiles.

9th August - 7th September, 2008

Lancashire Arts & Crafts Guild.

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS.

All Dressed Up and Nowhere to Go.

Various costumes and dresses which represent an era or decade.

VILLAGES OF SADDLEWORTH

An Exhibition which looks at the villages of Grasscroft, Lydgate and Greenfield. Showing the development and focuses on the lives of people living and working there, with particular emphasis on village centres, shops, centres, schools, leisure, churches and transport. Find out about the Grasscroft Searchlight, romantic, sporting and wartime Greenfield. Learn more about Butterworth & Fletchers and the development of the Co-operative Movement and also how 'watery' Greenfield led to the building of the reservoirs.

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST SOCIETY

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Lectures at the Saddleworth Museum, 7.30 pm

- Thursday 4th Sept. 2008 'All that Messuage or Tenement - 400 years of housing in Saddleworth.'
Mike Buckley.
- Thursday 2nd October, 2008 10.00 am from Uppermill Bus Turning Circle.
Autumn Trip - Gorton Monastery & John Rylands Library.
Fully inclusive day out - details later.
- Thursday 9th October, 2008 Archaeology for All - Work of the Council for British Archaeology.
Illustrated presentation by Dr. Mike Heyworth.
Director of the Council for British Archaeology.
- Thursday 20th November, 2008 7.15 pm
Annual General Meeting followed by 'Buildings Sacred & Secular'
Illustrated presentation.
Canon John Sykes (Retd)
Chaplain to the Queen, Church Synod member and former Minister at Saddleworth & Oldham Parish Churches.
- Sunday 7th December, 2008 Winter Trip - Depart 8.45 am., from Uppermill Square. Ripley Castle & Estate, Nr. Harrogate. Fully inclusive day out - Details later.

LOCAL BOOKS & SOCIETIES

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NORTHERN MILL ENGINE SOCIETY Our Society is a member of the Northern Mill Engine Society and receives its journal The Flywheel. Based at the Bolton Steam Museum they are holding open days when the engines will be in steam.

Monday 25th August, 2008. & Sunday & Monday 13/14th September, 2008

BOB DOBSON is a well known second hand book-seller. He specialises in Lancashire & West of Pennine books. Bob regularly publishes a sales list. Members wishing to receive the (free) list should visit his website at www.forl.co.uk/landy or email their request to landypublishing@yahoo.co.uk Bob can be contacted at his Blackpool home by phoning 01253 895 678

TOWPATH GUIDE - HUDDERSFIELD NARROW CANAL
By Dr. Bob Gough. Published by The Huddersfield Narrow Canal Society £4.99 plus p&p
Obtainable at the Saddleworth Museum, High St. Uppermill. 01457 87 4093

SADDLEWORTH WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

BRITISH ARCHITECTURE FROM WREN TO LUTYENS

Tutor: Alan Petford

Join us as we investigate the development of British architecture through the major buildings produced by great architects from the seventeenth and the early twentieth centuries.

Starting Tuesday 23rd September 2008
10 meetings

Classes will be held at Saddleworth School, Uppermill from 7.00pm. to 9.00pm.

AN INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Tutor: Anne Buckley

This course is intended for beginners to computing. It will cover topics chosen by the class which can include, starting from switching on to use Word for writing, the internet and emailing, making cards and using photos on the computer to using cameras and mobile phones. The sessions will be run so that all can gain confidence and learn to use technology in a way which each will find useful. Everyone is welcome.

Starting Thursday 2nd October 2008

7 meetings

Classes will be held at Saddleworth School, Uppermill from 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Since places are limited please contact Anne on 01457 872881 or Jo on 01457874005 or email on annebuckley@myway.com to book

MORE COMPUTERS & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Tutor: Anne Buckley

This course is intended to follow on from the earlier course but other learners are welcome too.

Starting Thursday 8th January 2008

7 meetings

Classes will be held at Saddleworth School, Uppermill from 7.00p.m. to 9.00p.m.

CREATIVE WRITING

Tutor: Chris Foley

Write for publication, for posterity or just for pleasure.

Starting Thursday 25th September 2008

10 meetings

Classes will be held at Saddleworth School, Uppermill from 7.00pm to 9.00pm

THE KENWORTHY LECTURE & A.G.M.

Saddleworth Museum, Uppermill
Friday 19th September 2008 at 7.30pm.

**HAMLETS, HANDLOOMS AND FARMSTEADS
SADDLEWORTH'S HILLSIDE COMMUNITIES,
1700 - 2008**

Presented by Michael Fox

Admission Free.

Cheese and Wine.

A study day on

HISTORIC PENNINE LANDSCAPES

Saturday 11 October 2008

10.30am to 4.30pm

Methodist Hall, Market Street, Hebden Bridge

Cost: £18

Including lunch and refreshments

Following the successful study day hosted by the Saddleworth Historical Society in 2007, Hebden Bridge Local History Society is very pleased to host the second annual study day in 2008. This day school will explore the impact of some of man's activities in the Central Pennine landscape from the medieval period to the 20th century. A keynote lecture on enclosure by Ian Whyte, Professor of Historical Geography at Lancaster University, will provide the background for contributions from local experts on quarrying, farming and settlement and society. Workshops will explore various aspects of primary source material that can be used to explore the story of the Central Pennine landscape. The full programme is set out overleaf.

Booking in advance is required. If you wish to reserve a place, please send a cheque, payable to Hebden Bridge Local History Society, together with your name, address, telephone number and email address (if available) to Nigel Smith, Bramble Dene, Moss Lane, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX7 7DS.

10.30-10.35

Welcome and opening remarks
Frank Woolrych, President of the Hebden Bridge Local History Society

10.35-11.30

Agricultural Improvement and Landscape Change in the Pennines
c.1760-c.1860

Professor Ian Whyte

Professor of Historical Geography, Lancaster University

11.30-11.45 Coffee

11.45-12.45

Settlement and Society in Medieval and Early Modern Saddleworth
Mike Buckley, Chairman of the Saddleworth Historical Society

12.45-1.30 Lunch

1.30-2.30 Workshops

Probate records: Alan Petford Township records: David Cant
National Farm Survey: Ian Bailey Court Rolls: Nigel Smith

2.30-3.15

Quarrying: fieldwork evidence from the parish of Halifax
George Bowers, M.B.E.

3.15 - 3.30 Tea

3.30 - 4.15

Farming in Luddenden Dean
Clive Lloyd, President of the Halifax Antiquarian Society

4.15 - 4.30

Concluding remarks
Alan Petford

THE ROMANS CAME THIS WAY by C.D. Read. £12.99 plus p&p
Obtainable at the Saddleworth Museum, High St. Uppermill,

HISTORY ALIVE TAMESIDE This journal is now in its third issue. It contains over sixty pages of articles, book reviews and information about the events and activities of the many groups and societies making up the Tameside Local History Forum. Saddleworth has many links with the area and, of course, the present Yorkshire Ward was, historically, part of Saddleworth. This interesting and useful journal is available free of charge from :
HAT, 218 Newmarket Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs. OL7 9JW (please enclose a cheque for £1.50 made out to 'Tameside Local History Forum' to cover p&p.
It can also be downloaded from www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

We have pleasure in welcoming eleven new members to the Society since the Spring Bulletin was published and trust they enjoy their membership.

Mr.&Mrs. Stuart & Gillian Buckley, New Zealand. Mr. & Mrs. D. Orritt, Castleshaw.
Mrs. Jean Hay, Crewe. Mr. Michael J. Spence, London.
Mrs. Gladys Woodhead, Scouthead. Mr. Gary Shea, St. Andrews University.
Mrs. Stella Hardy & Mr. Brian Darwent, Delph. Mr. Donald F. Berry, London.

Family connections of new members include Mrs. Gillian Buckley who is the niece of Geoff Woodhead and the daughter of Hilda & Rex Woodhead the landlords of the White Hart Inn, Lydgate, for many years during the 70's. Stuart, her husband is the son of Ernest Buckley, who was Chairman of Saddleworth Council in the 80's. Incidentally, Stuart's brother who now lives in Edinburgh has recently donated a C.D. of his Churching of the Mayor Ceremony. to the Museum Archive.

Mrs. Jean Hay late of Diggle and sister of Ian McKinnis has been a regular researcher at the Oldham Local Studies Centre, for many years and still continues her valuable work.

One of our new members Mr. John Grice of Lydgate, has been researching the inhabitants of Lydgate during the Victorian Age, and has produced a paper which can be found on the website <http://www.gricetiburn.com/lyd1881.html> Clicking on the surname of the villagers details and family trees can be found for this village perched on the top of Grotton Brow and saddling the Stockport- Austerlands Turnpike, .

Sadly we have to report the death of Mrs. Maureen E. Patriarca of Grasscroft, who had been a member of the Society for over ten years. Condolences have been sent to Ronald her husband and family.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS.

A further reminder is enclosed with this Bulletin for members who have not yet paid their subscription for this year. We shall be very much obliged to receive remittances as soon as possible, the rates are:

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

Stanley Broadbent.

