

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



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An Uppermill Scene <i>Jean Hay</i>	1
A Grim Diary of Saddleworth Part 1 <i>Paul Fryar</i>	3
Extract from the Diary of Canon F R Raines, Part 4 <i>Roger Ivens</i>	20

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An Uppermill Scene

Jean Hay

A number of years ago I was browsing the Ashton Reporter files at Ashton Local Studies Library and I came across an article under the above headline. I made a note of it because it was local to me as I lived in Diggle at the time. I filed it away (a euphemism for shoved it in a drawer !!).

23rd July 1904

“Virago Armed with a Table Knife

An exciting scene in Uppermill on Monday week was subsequently dwelt upon at Wednesday’s police court. William BUCKLEY, carpet manufacturer, of Uppermill, was the complainant in a charge of assault preferred against Emily SCHOFIELD, a respectably dressed woman, in the condition of life known as middle-aged.

Mr G.F. TANNER, solicitor, appeared on the complainant’s behalf. — The latter, in his evidence, said that in the forenoon of the 11th inst. He was going from his workshop down Moorgate street, when he saw the defendant coming out of her own home in a drunken condition. She jumped down from the house flags and struck him several times in the face. He got out of her way and entered the Granby Inn.

The woman followed him, using insulting language, and the landlady put her out. On his way back to the workshop he stopped to talk to several friends, when the defendant came behind him, her presence being unknown to him until he felt her fists on each side of his head. She again began to insult him, and to avoid her violence he stepped on to some flags, putting out his foot to keep her at a distance.

Her husband, who was on the other side of the street, shouted that if he (complainant) struck her he would give him a good hiding. — Prisoner: And I believe he would have done if you had struck me. — Continuing, BUCKLEY said that at the bottom of Moorgate street she struck him with a door key, and afterwards sent stones at him, which hit him on the head. She was also in possession of a table knife.

At length he got inside a cousin’s house, and immediately fell down on the sofa in a partially unconscious condition, and a doctor was summoned to attend him. He saw the defendant the day before the trial, and she again tried to stop him, but this time he escaped her.

Charles HEYWOOD deposed to what happened when the complainant stopped to talk to witness and several others, this being in accordance with the evidence given. —

Eliza BRATT said that BUCKLEY, on entering her house, fell down on the sofa in a dazed condition. She sent for Dr DRUMMOND, after trying the effect of brandy upon him. The doctor ordered her to foment him over the heart, and witness did so for over an hour.

The woman, Emily SCHOFIELD in reply to the charge, said she smacked his face, but he had struck her and used his dogs on her first. It was the first time she had ever been struck by a man. She further stated her belief that the woman BRATT had said right when she said he had run into her house, adding, “And he would run anywhere.” Addressing the complainant, she asked: “Are you not the man noted as a scandal monger, carrying tales all over the place?” — This was negatived. — The Bench fined her £2 and costs, but refused to bind her over. ”

I do wonder what Mr Buckley could have said about Mrs Emily Schofield to cause her to behave as she did. In 1904 (March qtr) Emily Jobson had married widower William Schofield of Moorgate street at St Chad's church. His wife Sarah Ann having died in 1900

William Buckley was born in Marsden in 1862 and was the son of Wright Buckley and was living on High Street Uppermill in 1901. In the census of that year he is described as a carpet weaver on his "own accord" ie self employed. He was single and living with his father and brothers Frank, Ammon and Wright.

Eliza Bratt nee Schofield was born in Saddleworth c1847. She married James Henry Howarth in 1869 at Friezland Church and was widowed in 1889. In 1890 she married Arthur Bratt at St Peter's Oldham who had been widowed sometime after 1881. In 1901 they lived at Water Gate Uppermill with the children from their previous marriages.

Charles Heywood was born in Stalybridge in 1866. In 1901 he was living at St Mary's Gate , a single man described as a carpet weaver on his own accord. He lived with his brother James his sister Martha , both single and his young nephew Tom.

Dr Drummond has proved to be rather elusive and I have been unable to trace him.

G F Tanner was George Frederick Tanner born Greenfield in 1874 the son of Thomas Hoare Tanner and Annie nee Whitehead who married at Christ Church Friezland December quarter 1873. In 1881 they lived at Prune Hill Friezland and in 1891 the family were at Manns Wharf and George, aged 16 is a scholar and his father Thomas is a Woollen Manufacturer. Annie died in 1899 and Thomas in 1900.

Thomas Hoare Tanner born 1846 in Greenfield was the son of John Tanner of Ringwood Hampshire (born 1812) and Sarah nee Slater who married at Manchester Cathedral on 30th October 1836. John died in June qtr 1868 and in 1871 Sarah was at Royal George Friezland with her son Thomas H aged 24 her other son James W aged 22 .

James William Tanner married Mary Buckley Bradbury at Friezland Church in 1877 and their son Gilbert was born later that year. Gilbert Tanner DSO was Major later Lieutenant Colonel 1st/7th West Riding Regt. during WWI....but that's another story.

A Grim Diary of Saddleworth: Part 1

Paul Fryar

The following is a day by day account of some of the more unpleasant events that have occurred in Saddleworth's history. These include accidents, deaths and crimes, all showing that life was not always as good in the 'good old days.' It is not all sadness and woe, some of the entries display a subtle dark humour. We begin, naturally enough, in January.

JANUARY

New Year's Day 1879 - The police received information about the death of Sarah Allwood, aged 10 weeks, who was the daughter of George, a navvy living in Greenfield. In the early hours she had been fed by her mother, but at 8 am she was found dead. Sarah had been known to suffer from convulsive fits since birth. Insp Stott did not inform the coroner, so no inquest was held.

January 2 1893 - The Saddleworth Medical Officer of Health was notified of more smallpox cases in Diggle. They were in a navvy hut, where the first cases had been seen just before Christmas. The wife of a navvy had fallen ill, along with her 4 year old child, and her newborn baby.

January 3 1938 - A well-known Saddleworth character passed away at Crosland Moor. He was James Hill, 77, better known as 'Jimmy o Pappy's' For many years he lived in a hut off Buckstones Road, Denshaw, and was often seen on the moor with his dog and gun. He had lost his hut in a fire, and then had lost another one at Ben Cut, along with his dog, gun and concertina. This had affected him deeply. He told friends that he could never replace his dog. With age taking its toll Hill was taken to the Deanhouse Institution. He had worked as a miner at the Jubilee Pit, Shaw, for 50 years.

January 4 1877 - At 7 am the body of a man was discovered in the snow in a field on the farm of Joseph Ward at Hollygrove, Diggle. The body was taken to the nearby workhouse. On the previous night 3 men had arrived at Wool Road police station and had applied for tickets for the vagrants' ward at the workhouse, but only one had arrived. That night there had been heavy snow, which drifted up to 3 or 4 feet deep. It appears that the man lost his way and collapsed through exhaustion, falling just 50 yards from a farmhouse.

January 5 1931 - An accident at Wade Lock occurred when Elizabeth Bottomley of Lee Street, Uppermill, was knocked down and killed by a bus. She had just left home to visit her father in Greenfield and was hit as she stepped off the pavement in thick fog.

January 6 1905 - The sudden death of Eliza Schofield of Greenfield was reported to the police. She went into the backyard of her house and fell down. She was carried indoors, but died almost immediately.

January 7 1894 - There was a great fire at the old Delph Wesleyan Chapel. Owing to a combination of circumstances all except the store walls was consumed. One of the circumstances being the lack of a hydrant nearby.

January 8 1883 - Early in the morning James Lees, 66, was found dead in Grove Mill, Diggle. He was employed as a carter and as a night-watchman. Since the recent storms he had been complaining of pains, and on the previous day he had had one of his attacks. He was found already dead, and the coroner decided that an inquest was unnecessary.

January 9 1905 - At the monthly meeting of the Saddleworth Health Committee bills were presented for the recent smallpox outbreaks in Diggle. The Chairman said there were 5 cases, and the bill of the Oldham Corporation, whose hospital had been used, amounted to £50, the charge being at the rate of 12s per day per patient. Cabs had cost £2 2s, food for isolated families £3 1s, sanitary inspector's expenses £2 4s, the total being £61.

January 10 1949 - Allegations of cruelty made at Manchester Divorce Court by Irene Ogden of Walkers Lane, Springhead, were dismissed by Judge F R Batt, when he granted her husband a decree nisi on his allegation that his wife had committed misconduct. Batt dismissed allegations that Harry Ogden, a soldier with the Royal Artillery, had constantly pushed and kicked his wife while she was in bed. Harry Ogden said that Irene was in the habit of rolling herself up in the bedclothes, and he had had to give her a dig to get some of the covers for himself. Irene Ogden also alleged that on one occasion she was rendered unconscious because of her husband's treatment. Harry Ogden had told her that she needed a good shaking, and had given her one. The Judge did not believe this amounted to cruel treatment. The Ogdens had married in October 1939, and had 2 children.

January 11 1928 - An inquest was held at Wool Road Police Station into the death of Cornelius Wright, 77 years old. After partaking of supper on Saturday night, he died in bed in the early hours of the following morning. Though in the carpet trade he had not worked for some months. He had had chest trouble, and during the last fortnight had been short of breath, particularly when going uphill. The coroner, E W Norris, entered a verdict of death from natural causes, senile degeneration of the heart.

January 12 1940 - An old resident of Diggle, Jane Bax of Huddersfield Road, died aged 67. She was associated with Kilngreen Sunday School, and was well respected in the village. The internment was at Saddleworth cemetery, following a service at Saddleworth Church. Floral tributes included those from Kilngreen Mission, Diggle Old Folks Party and Wrigley Mill Methodist Church.

January 13 1949 - A jury at Springhead Council Offices returned a verdict of death from misadventure at the inquest on Fred Farrand, 68, a retired bobbin carrier, of Wroe St, Springhead, who was knocked down by a car, and run over by a bus, on December 30 1948. The car driver was censured by the jury for not remaining at the scene, while the bus driver was exonerated. Harry Farrand, nephew, told the West Riding coroner, G A Billington, that his uncle had good eyesight, but was rather deaf. Harold Fletcher, the bus driver, said that he had been driving his double-decker up the hill from County End in poor visibility. Just after he had got over the railway bridge, at a speed of 10 mph, he was passed by a car, which swerved in front of him. He then saw the body of a man about 5 yards in front of him, but he could not stop in time. PC Crooks arrived soon after and saw a pool of blood behind the rear nearside wheel of the bus. He was later contacted by a man who stated that he had seen a man in the road and had hit him. He had stopped and saw the bus run over the man. Panicking he had driven off to his home in Grotton to tell his parents before contacting the

police. The coroner believed that there had been careless driving on the part of the car driver, but there was no criminal negligence.

January 14 1884 - At Wool Road Police Station, before John Hirst JP, George French, tramp, was charged with begging in Scouthead. He was sent to prison for 14 days. George Entwistle was brought up on a similar charge, and received a similar sentence.

January 15 1940 - The death occurred unexpectedly of Esther Clifton of Grove Terrace, Delph, aged 52. Well known and highly respected in the district she was closely associated with St Thomas's Church. The funeral took place at Heights on January 19.

January 16 1884 - At Wool Road Police Station before Henry Mallalieu JP Elijah Godley was brought up for being drunk and disorderly in Grasscroft. He admitted his guilt and said that if he had followed the example of his cousin who was a magistrate in a nearby town he might have been in the position of Mr Mallalieu rather than that of the prisoner. Mallalieu advised him to make an effort, and sentenced him to 14 days in prison, giving him time to think about the matter.

January 17 1938 - A verdict that he drowned himself while of unsound mind was returned by the West Riding coroner, E W Norris, at an inquest held at Springhead Council Offices on John Collins, 49, a farmer of Doctor House Farm, Scouthead. He was found dead in a well on his property the previous Saturday morning. His wife, Ethel, said that a year ago he had been sent to a mental hospital in Kirkburton. On the fateful day she had last seen John alive at 6 am, and by 7.15 am she was getting worried and started a search. A neighbour, William Birchinall, investigated the farm well and found Collins' body. The depth of the well was 15 feet, with 8 feet of water in it.

January 18 1916 - F W Norris, West Riding deputy coroner, held an inquest at the Dobcross Congregational School examining the death of Rhoda Broadbent, 3 months old, the daughter of Sidney, a woollen dyer, of Chancery Lane, which took place on January 15. Everything had been normal during the previous night, but at 11.15 am Edith Broadbent, Rhoda's mother, found the child blue in the face, hands clenched, and dead. The doctor said that the death had been due to convulsions, caused by a condition not noticeable before.

January 19 1938 - Fines of 5s in each case were imposed at Oldham Police Court on George Firth of Rushill, Uppermill, for leaving a motor car without front lights, and without the index plate illuminated.

January 20 1906 - John Newport, a tramping labourer, was arrested at New Houses by PC Haigh, whilst begging. On the following Monday he appeared before Mr A Mallalieu JP at Wool Road Police Station, and was sent to prison for 7 days.

January 21 1902 - Death of Louisa Brierley, 58, wife of the late Henry, of Tame Bank, Dobcross. The funeral took place at Heights 2 days later, and was of a 'quiet character.'

January 22 1884 - Considerable surprise was manifested around Dobcross when it became known that 'Old Joe Woodcock' had hanged himself. He was well known and for over 60 years had worked for Messrs John Hirst and Sons. He had attained the ripe old age of 75, and owing to growing infirmities he was superseded as carter some time earlier, and sent to work in the mill. His employers said that he needn't do any work at all and could still draw his wages, but Old Joe would have none of it and

up until the day before his death he had regularly attended work. He was found hanging from a nearby shippon, close to his home, Wharmton Cottage. No one could say why he had taken his own life.

January 23 1914 - George Brown of Oldham was working at a quarry above Uppermill when he was crushed to death under a load of stone. His body was taken to the Waggon Inn. He left a wife and a grown up family.

January 24 1883 - At Saddleworth Police Court George Moore was charged with wandering abroad and begging in Uppermill. PC Jackson said he saw Moore going from door to door in the village. When apprehended Moore had in his possession - bread and butter, some biscuits, and a halfpenny. Moore was sent to prison for 14 days.

January 25 1883 - A terrific gale blew up during the night, continuing into the following morning. It was accompanied by showers of sleet and rain. Many trees were blown over, and many buildings damaged. The outer walls of the Long Mill, Delph, which had burned down some years earlier, gave way with a great crash.

January 26 1906 - At 7.30 pm a fire was discovered in the stove of S Grimshaw's dyeworks, High St, Uppermill. The materials in the building burnt with 'great fury' and the interior was quickly demolished. Hydrants were connected with the mains, but there was a great delay in getting the water to 'play on the fire.' The damage was thought to be considerable.

January 27 1906 - J E Hill, the West Riding coroner, held an inquest at the Oddfellows Hotel, Uppermill, touching the death of Arthur Whitehead, aged 44. Albert Hawkin said that Whitehead resided with him at Co-operative Row. He left home for his work on the morning of January 22, he working as a weaver, and came home about 7.30 pm suffering from an injury to his head. He died 3 days later. Ben Singleton said that at about 7.15 pm on January 22 he had been walking along Woods Lane, Dobcross, when he heard a fall. He found Whitehead lying unconscious on the ground. With help he was able to take Whitehead to Dr Burd, who rendered assistance. Dr Herbert Ramsden said he was called out to see Whitehead on the day before he died. He found him to be suffering from kidney disease. This really accounted for his death, though the fall could have accelerated it.

January 28 1949 - Dick Barrowclough went to see his father, Dyson, aged 62, at his home in Woods Lane, Dobcross, but found the door locked and the wireless on. He entered the house through the coal cellar and found his father lying dead on a couch.

January 29 1879 - At Saddleworth Police Court Langham Booth of Delph was charged with committing an indecent assault upon Eliza Hirst of Pack Horse Slack farm. Eliza said that on January 20 she was walking with her sister, Emily, near the Causeway Sett cottages when the defendant approached them and asked for directions to Oldham, and then to Manchester. He then asked Eliza for a copper, but she replied that she had no money. Booth walked on, but returned and asked Eliza to feel how cold his hand was. When she refused he grabbed hold of her hand and made an indelicate suggestion. He then threw her down. Emily was so frightened that she could not act, but she recognised Booth and said his name. At this Booth fled. The sisters returned home and told their parents that 'Old Lang' had attacked them. Booth denied being the man. The court sentenced him to 6 months' imprisonment with hard labour. At this Booth shouted to Eliza that he hoped she would soon drop down dead. He was silenced and the Chairman reminded Booth that not so long ago he had been sentenced to 2 months' imprisonment by the same court for assaulting another female.

January 30 1862 - As the audience were leaving Signor Mario's lecture at Oldham Town hall, a gentleman from Saddleworth was robbed of his watch. The police closed the doors of the Hall in order to them an opportunity to pick out the thief but they could gain no clue.

January 31 1906 - At Saddleworth Police Court Mary Harper, wife of a Delph grocer, was summoned on a charge of using bad language. She failed to appear, and the case was stated by PC Potter. He said that on the night of January 22 he found Harper and her husband at the door of their shop, and she was challenging him to a fight. A fine of 10s was imposed.

FEBRUARY

February 1 1888 - At Saddleworth Police Court Henry Richmond was charged with riding on the London and North Western Railway, between Stalybridge and Saddleworth, without paying his fare. On November 25 1887 Richmond had been found asleep in one of the carriages as it stopped at Saddleworth Station. When challenged by a porter he could not produce a ticket. Richmond was also drunk at the time. He apologised to the Bench for his behaviour. He was fined 5s and costs.

February 2 1912 - An inquest was held at Austerlands School on the body of Elsie, 5, the daughter of George and Mary Hodgson, of Heywood Lane, who was burnt to death the previous day. Mary said that at around 1.45 pm she had gone into the yard, leaving Elsie with 2 other younger children. There was a fire in the room, with a fireguard. However, Mary had moved the fireguard to clean the fireplace. As Mary re-entered her house, she heard a shriek, and she saw Elsie had fallen into the fire. With the help of a neighbour she was able to put the flames out, but Elsie was badly burnt, and died at around 5 pm. Expressions of sympathy were given by the coroner, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental death.

February 3 1896 - The vagaries of some people are not to be accounted for. On Monday night, or early Tuesday morning, someone broke into one of the 2 new houses just erected by John Whitehead at Albert Mount, New Delph. Several drawers were taken from their places and burnt, along with a blind roller, and the panel of one of the cupboard doors broken in. A couple of gas brackets were also wrenched from their settings, and other wanton damage done.

February 4 1918 - Pte Hilton Bradbury, 21, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked at Byrom's Slackcote Mill.

February 5 1878 - The 3 year old daughter of William Stansfield, a knifer in a woollen mill at Tunstead, was seriously burnt. Whilst her mother had gone into a neighbour's house, the child had picked up a stick and commenced to play with the fire, with the result that her clothing was set ablaze. Her screams attracted the neighbours who extinguished the flames, but not before the poor child's face and right arm had been very badly burnt.

February 6 1896 - At Oldham Police Court Mary Buckley from Dobcross was charged with obtaining food to the value of 1s by false and fraudulent pretences. Insp Partington told the court that 2 days earlier Buckley had gone to the house of Elizabeth Hough, 25 Jemmie Lane, saying that she had heard the house provided lodgings. She stated that she was employed at the Britannia Mill, Busk. After having dinner Buckley said she had to return to Dobcross to collect her box from her previous lodgings. Buckley did not return, and on enquiry Hough discovered that

Buckley had played the same trick at another house. In fact Buckley had pulled off the same trick at 7 different houses in Freehold. Buckley had been before the Bench many times, and had served 6 months for pulling the same con in Middleton. Partington said Buckley ignored warnings and had even said to him that she did not care about being sent to prison. She had lost all sense of shame. Buckley admitted the offence, and said she was sorry. She was sent to prison for 1 month.

February 7 1908 - A somewhat peculiar case was heard at Saddleworth county Court. The plaintiff, Dr Herbert Ramsden, sued Emily Chandler for £3 10s, attendance and medicine. When called Emily denied any liability and said her husband would not pay any money. At the time the debt was incurred she was unmarried and 19 years old. She stated that her husband had said when they married that he was marrying her, not her debts. This caused laughter in the court. However, the Register said, 'He took you for better or worse, and this is a bit of the worse.' This provoked more laughter. An order for the payment of 1s 6d per month was made.

February 8 1880 - The remains of Abel Buckley, an old resident of Uppermill, was interred in Saddleworth churchyard. Abel, who was between 60 and 70 years old, and who was better known in Uppermill as, 'the pig butcher', died at his daughter's home in Leeds.

February 9 1888 - A case of smallpox broke out in Den Lane, Springhead, in the district of the Quickmere Local Board. Efforts were made to get the case received into a hospital, but this was not successful, leaving the sufferer still at home. He is a young man, who only married in December. On this day the Board held an emergency meeting to adopt measures to stop the disease spreading.

February 10 1908 - Martha Wroe, 74, wife of Samuel, butcher, of Oldham Road, Springhead, died. She had been suffering from bronchitis during winter for many years, and for the past 3 months she had been confined to the house. But despite medical attention and the care of her family she had grown weaker. She was greatly respected in the village, especially for her help to the sick and needy.

February 11 1892 - The vaccination returns read out to the Saddleworth Board of Guardians proved that very few are now having their children vaccinated. For the half year ending June 1891 there were 271 births in the parish, and of these only 134 were vaccinated. In the half year that followed, when the policy of the Guardians stepped up a gear, there were 306 births but only 59 children were vaccinated. In the light of these figures no one could doubt what the sentiments of the people were on the subject.

February 12 1879 - At Saddleworth Petty Sessions James Heywood was charged with being drunk and disorderly. PC Harper said that on February 6 he had been on duty in Austerlands at around 11.50 pm when he heard a disturbance. He arrived at Heywood's house to find his wife and daughter outside. Heywood's wife complained that she had been turned out of the house by her husband. Heywood then came out of the house, stripped to his shirt, and commenced to use bad language. Harper said that neither Heywood nor his wife were sober. In his absence Heywood was fined 5s and costs.

February 13 1915 - Pte Harry Hill, 34, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked as a farm labourer. He lived in Diggle and had been a Reservist who had fought in the Boer War.

February 14 1877 - At Saddleworth Petty Sessions John Bowden charged Samuel Bowden with assaulting him in Wool Road, Dobcross, on February 5. He stated that his mother had recently been interred, and he had wanted her flock bed, but no sooner had he made his request that his brother struck him a violent blow. It appeared from the evidence of Samuel that John had wanted to take all the furniture, and to send his poor father to the workhouse. In fact, John had said that the furniture all belonged to him. In consequence of this Samuel had struck John. The Bench believed that the assault had been justified and dismissed the case.

February 15 1900 - In the earlier part of the day there was a violent thaw, and a large quantity of snow vanished. Towards the evening quite a gale arose, and in the more exposed parts it was almost impossible for pedestrians to make headway. Damage was done to several buildings. The gale was accompanied by a slight fall of snow, but nothing like as much as has fallen in other parts of Yorkshire.

February 16 1885 - At Saddleworth Police Court, Wool Road, John Kenny, a navvy, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the previous Saturday night in Uppermill. From the evidence given by Sgt Oakley it appeared that another navvy was being taken to the lockup when Kenny, who was drunk, interfered and made a great row in the street. Kenny told the court he was very sorry for what had happened. He was imprisoned for 14 days.

February 17 1917 - Petty Officer Frank Lawton was killed in action. He worked at Haybottom's Mill, and lived in Greenfield.

February 18 1878 - An explosion of gas took place at the residence of David Mallalieu, Shady Grove House, New Delph. A new chandelier had recently been fitted in the front sitting room. Mallalieu detected the gas and evacuated the house. The gas was turned off at the meter. Later in the morning one of his sons, Franklin, believing all the gas had gone from the sitting room, applied a lighted match to the top of the chandelier in an effort to see where the gas was escaping from. There was a loud explosion - considerable damage was done to the sofa, piano, and other furniture in the room, and many windows were blown out, with even the front door blown off its hinges, landing in the garden. However, the chandelier did not suffer any damage. Franklin was much burnt about the hands, neck and face. His mother, who was in the lobby at the time, was also burnt.

February 19 1878 - The son of Mr Buckley of the Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill, met with a serious accident. It appeared that he and other boys were playing with a horse belonging to Mr R Thornton, and whilst one lad was riding the animal young Buckley, who was running by its side, fell. The horse trod on his face and left side, seriously cutting open his cheek and crushing his body.

February 20 1876 - George Norbury, an old man residing with his son in Springhead, was taken by a nephew to visit his brother in Droylsden. His brother was close to death. When the nephew and Norbury arrived at Droylsden Station Mr Norbury was seized with apoplexy and died very shortly after. Norbury was brought back to Springhead in a coffin on the Monday morning, his brother dying on the Wednesday afternoon.

February 21 1900 - The magistrates of the Saddleworth Bench seem to have the sense of the dignity of their office rather too strongly developed. They have begun to issue warrants against persons who do not appear in answer to summons charging them with the awful crime of having had a chimney on fire. Such, at least, was the case when Messrs John Hirst and John Greenwood, of Springhead, were summoned for

that offence and, probably better employed, failed to turn up at the Police Court. The chairman, Mr Mallalieu, strongly condemned the increasing practice of defendants failing to appear, and said that the Bench was determined to put a stop to it. The 2 defendants in question must be made to appear. In serious cases the principle upheld by the Saddleworth Bench is very proper, but to carry it out to such an extent is rather too much of a good thing.

February 22 1908 - At Kent Assizes William Warrior, 50, gamekeeper, was indicted for the manslaughter of his wife by shooting her. About 14 years previously he had been a gamekeeper at the Upperwood Estate, Greenfield, and his wife had a sister in Grotton. The fact that Warrior had killed his wife was not in dispute, what mattered was the circumstances around the killing. It was said that 2 days before the death Warrior had been discharged from his post. He had taken to drink as a result. At their house his gun had accidentally gone off, killing his wife. However, he had taken some time before reporting the incident. The prosecution's case was that Warrior was unfit to handle a gun and his conduct was therefore inexcusable. It was clear from witnesses that at the time warrior went for help, he was completely drunk. His wife had been shot in the back of the neck, smashing the base of her skull and tearing off her right ear. Warrior said that the trigger must have caught one of his buttons. He denied being drunk, though he had taken some whisky that day. He had not known that his gun was at full cock at the time. He was given a good character reference by his former employer. Warrior was found guilty but with a strong recommendation for mercy. Warrior was sentenced to 3 months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

February 23 1876 - At Saddleworth Police Court Mary Malcolm was charged with hawking without having a certificate endorsed for the Saddleworth Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire. She had been witnessed by PC Wearden hawking cans, tins etc, in Roughtown. Malcolm said that she did not realise that she was in Yorkshire otherwise she would have had her certificate endorsed. She was fined 1s and costs.

February 24 1918 - Lt James Radcliffe, 27, was killed in action. He had been invalided home on several occasions. Before enlisting he had worked as an architect and was living in Greenfield.

February 25 1892 - At the fortnightly meeting of the Saddleworth Board of Guardians the Chairman moved that public tips should be procured at Greenfield, Diggle, Dobcross and Delph. He said if these were secured a small charge could be levied for using them.

February 26 1879 - At Saddleworth Petty Sessions Sarah Platt of Uppermill applied for a protection order against her husband who deserted her a year ago. They had married in Saddleworth Church in 1867. When he left her he put her out of doors, and sold all the goods, some of which she had been able to buy back. She had been living with her sister but she was about to move into her own house with her children. Her husband was a ship's carpenter, and it was believed that he had gone abroad. The order was granted.

February 27 1892 - Mark Sanderson, 73, of Broadmeadow, Delph, died. He had been ailing for some time, and his end was not unexpected. He was much respected. He was a former cricketer, who still enjoyed to watch. He was interred at the Wesleyan Chapel on March 3.

February 28 1900 - At the Oldham Official Receivers' Office a meeting was held of the creditors of Joseph Bateson, formerly of the Bull's Head Inn, Delph. The

summary of the debtors' statement shows the gross liabilities to be £725 7s 9d, and the amount expected to rank for dividend £521 15s 10d. The assets were estimated to produce £364 2s 3d, thus leaving a deficit of £157 13s 7d. The debtor alleged that his failure was owing to bad trade and sickness. On being asked what he had done with a gold chain, he replied that he had sold it in Germany about a month ago. He had been ill in that country, and he had had to sell the chain to get back to England.

February 29 1888 - At Saddleworth Police Court William Marshall of Dobcross was charged with neglecting his family. The relieving officer stated that Marshall's wife and 5 children had been chargeable on the parish since February 6. Marshall had been released from prison on January 27 after serving time for assaulting his wife. Marshall said that he had been trying to get work, but owing to the bad weather that had not been possible. He was willing to pay the money he owed, if he was given time to get it. The magistrates decided to adjourn the trial for a month to see if Marshall could live up to his words

MARCH

March 1 1886 - A fatal accident occurred to a man near Diggle. At noon the men engaged in the Diggle cutting of the new railway left off work for dinner, amongst them Edward Kilkenny, 44, who was going home for his dinner. Unfortunately, he was hit by a train shunting, which cut one of his legs clean off. When picked up it was found that his bowels were protruding, and he was taken to Ashton Infirmary, where he died at 5 pm. He left a widow and 4 children. At the time of the accident it was said that there was a strong wind blowing, and snow coming down heavily, which may account for why Kilkenny failed to hear or see the train.

March 2 1887 - At Saddleworth Police Court John Buckley and 3 others, overseers of Saddleworth, were summoned by James Allott, lighting inspector, for non-payment of a call made upon them by the Lighting Committee. Mr Bradshaw, assistant overseer, representing the defendants said that the money had been paid into the bank that morning. Allott said the rate owing amounted to £97, and had been owing for 8 months. Allott said that there was also the cost of issuing the summons, which he also wanted paying. Supt Stott said he had paid the costs to Allott for the summons, and had even paid for Allott to come to court. Allott countered by saying that though he had received money from Stott he had received no explanation with it. It was all a 'dumb show.'

March 3 1886 - At Saddleworth Police Court William Buckley was summoned for committing an aggravated assault on Wright Wrigley, head gamekeeper to John Lees. It was said that on January 11 in the Commercial Inn, Uppermill, Buckley had boasted to Wrigley that he had had many hares and rabbits from the moors the gamekeeper was responsible for. Later that same day Wrigley was walking down Church Road when he was attacked by Buckley, who hit him in the face, knocking out one of his teeth and loosening 3 others. Buckley also took Wrigley's walking stick and beat him about the face, blackening his eyes, before finally kicking him. In his defence Buckley claimed to have been drinking in the Commercial Inn at the time of the assault. The magistrates did not believe him, and he was fined 20s and costs, and was bound over to keep the peace for 6 months.

March 4 1891 - At Saddleworth Police Court James Graham was charged with drunkenness at Old Tame. PC Woodward said that at about 11.10 pm on February 28 he saw Graham drunk near the school at Old Tame - he staggered about the road, and

eventually fell down in the middle of the highway. Woodward let Graham lie there about 5 minutes - at which point the court burst out in laughter - and then assisted him home. Graham was fined 2s 6d and costs.

March 5 1889 - At Wool Road Police Court Thomas Wilson was charged with begging in Lee Street, Uppermill. He was committed to 7 days in prison, with hard labour. Another man, James Hulmes, was charged with a similar offence, this time in Moorgate Street, and received the same sentence.

March 6 1897 - Considerable surprise and regret was shown in Delph by the report of the death of Mrs Hirst of the Square. She was only 21 years old, and had married the previous year. It seemed that she was confined of a son a few days previous to her death and at first appeared to be doing well, but fatal symptoms ultimately intervened. The funeral took place at the Delph Independent Burial ground with a great crowd attending, including many workpeople from Lumb Mill. The Independent Choir sang 'Vital Spark' and other songs in the chapel.

March 7 1903 - Mr Hill, the County Coroner, held an inquest at Delph Mechanics Institute touching the death of William Mallalieu, 57, a millhand at Tame Croft, Delph. Mrs Mallalieu told the inquest that on the night of March 5 she and her husband went to bed at the normal time of 9 pm. She got up at 7 am the next day, with William still fast asleep, snoring in his usual way. At 10.30 am one of William's daughters went up to see if he was getting up, and found him lying on his back, dead. Sarah, the daughter, said that her father's health had been fine of late, though he had suffered from heart disease. The jury returned a verdict of 'Death from natural causes, probably heart disease.'

March 8 1885 - Albert Bradbury, 6, died very suddenly after a few hours' sickness. He had been living with his grandfather at Holden Smithy, Weakey. Albert had begun to feel unwell in the morning, and during the day he was visited by Dr Ramsden, but he died at 11 pm. Albert had eaten some canned salmon the previous day, and a rumour soon spread that this was the cause of death. However, the doctor examined the meat and pronounced it safe. He believed that Albert had died of brain fever.

March 9 1891 - At Oldham Police Court Thomas Wolstencroft was charged with assaulting his wife, Sarah. Sarah, whose eye was fearfully bruised and cut, stated that on the Friday Wolstencroft came home and would not have his tea. He eventually persuaded Sarah to go with him to the Woolpack Inn, Dobcross, but she would not stop as her sister was there. Wolstencroft came home in a temper and turned her, and their child, out. Sarah went to her mother's house to allow him to cool down, but when she returned he attacked her, kicking her all over the face and body. They had been married for only 5 weeks, and she had known him for a little over a year. The Chairman said Wolstencroft was an unfeeling sort of man. He was fined 20s and costs, and also bound over to keep the peace for 6 months.

March 10 1877 - At Saddleworth Police court Joseph Swallow was summoned for being drunk on licensed premises on February 27. PC Barraclough stated that at 10.40 pm he was in the High Street, Uppermill, and saw Swallow who was very drunk and staggering about the road. Swallow was about to enter the Hare and Hounds when Barraclough told him he had had enough, but Swallow insisted in going in. Swallow had never been before the magistrates before. He was fined 6s.

March 11 1888 - Another case of smallpox in the Springhead Local Board district was reported. It was in den Lane, next door to another reported case. Unfortunately it was a married woman, the mother of a family of children.

March 12 1888 - Following another outbreak of smallpox in Springhead the members of the Local Board held a special meeting. The agreeable intelligence was announced that the Oldham authorities had found room for the patient. This was the best place she could be removed to as the hospital at Westhulme was a model one of its kind. The gratifying intelligence that Mrs Scholes was doing well, and that the attack was but of a mild character, was cheerfully received.

March 13 1889 - At Saddleworth Police Court Edmund Spencer was fined 3s and costs for using obscene language at Wrigley's Fold, Austerlands, on February 27.

March 14 1904 - Mr Hill, County Coroner, held an inquest at Friezland School touching on the death of Frederick Bradbury, 38, of Shaw Hall Bank, who died on March 12. He was a carter employed by Mr Hewkin. It was said that he suffered from bronchitis every winter. A week before his death he had got wet through and caught a cold which had gradually got worse. He had worked up until the evening of March 11, taking some gruel before going to bed at 10.30 pm. At 3.30 am Clara Bradbury, Frederick's wife, awoke and found him very cold. Clara shook him, but could get no response. It had been 7 years since he had been attended by a doctor. A post mortem showed that Frederick's lungs were full of bronchitis, and that his heart, bowels and liver were diseased. The cause of death was 'apoplexy', which was the verdict returned by the inquest.

March 15 1888 - A somewhat curious trap accident occurred at Frenches, Greenfield. It seems that a conveyance belonging to Mr Stead of Greenfield Mills was being driven down the incline below Greenfield Station. However, owing to the slippery state of the road the horse stumbled and fell. The result was that the traveller for the firm, Mr Redford, was thrown head-long into the road, injuring his arm, head and face. The driver, Mr Robinson, fell on top of Redford and escaped with a severe shaking. Immediately the horse regained its feet it bolted with the empty conveyance along the road, ultimately colliding with a cart. The conveyance was broken to pieces, and the horse further continued its flight for some distance.

March 16 1887 - Saddleworth magistrates made an order for the muzzling of all dogs in the district during the next 3 months, in consequence of a child having been bitten by a mad dog which roamed about Mossley the previous week.

March 17 1890 - At Oldham Town Hall an inquest was held on the body of Charles Robertson, 50, of Road End, Greenfield. He died on March 15 at Messrs Milner, provision dealers, King St, Oldham, where he worked as a packer. Though in general good health recently he had complained of a pain across his chest.. Between 11 and 12 on the Saturday he and another man had been winding up sugar from the bottom to the third floor. He had appeared to be fine. However, at 3 pm he was found dead. The jury returned a verdict of 'Death from natural causes.'

March 18 1885 - At Uppermill Petty Sessions Edwin Broadbent was summoned for assaulting Ben Tweddle in Diggle on March 7. Tweddle said that he had met Broadbent in the road, they passed each other but almost immediately Broadbent shouted to Tweddle, accusing him of throwing stones. Tweddle denied this but Broadbent struck him in the mouth, making it bleed. Broadbent was fined 50s plus costs, or the alternative of a month in prison with hard labour.

March 19 1891 - A funeral of uncommon character took place at Saddleworth Church when the remains of Sarah Broadbent were interred in the family grave. She was the daughter of Eli, woollen manufacturer of Harrop Green, and had resided in New York for many years. After the service the coffin was opened so that Sarah's body could be viewed. The coffin was of polished oak, with silver plate and silver handles. The body had been embalmed and placed in a copper casket, with a plate-glass top. The shroud was of satin, trimmed with lace and silk. At the grave the receptacle for the coffin was an outer case of wood, and a large floral cross and wreaths were placed on top of the casket.

March 20 1889 - At Saddleworth Police Court Robert Cresswell of Castleshaw was charged with stealing 2 pieces of timber fencing, the property of Samuel Brooks. Benjamin Brooks, Samuel's son, had been at Cresswell's house on March 9 and whilst there he saw the 2 pieces of timber, and in fact he helped Cresswell carry them into the house. Cresswell said that the wood came from Ecclestone's fence on the other side of Castle Hill. However, Samuel identified the wood as coming from his fence. It was worth 6d. Since the affair happened Cresswell had been to see Brooks twice to settle things. Cresswell's explanation was that on March 9 as he was walking along the turnpike towards Bleakhey Nook he found the timber on the road and took it home. The Bench did not think the evidence was sufficient to convict, and Cresswell was discharged.

March 21 1888 - At Saddleworth Police Court Moses Newson, who did not appear, but was represented by a friend who said the defendant would rather pay £10 than appear in court, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at County End. He was fined 5s and costs.

March 22 1885 - At around 9 pm much alarm was created in Delph by a runaway horse, with 2 gig shafts attached to him, dashing through the streets at a terrific speed. At the corner of the Swan Inn he turned, ran through some open space, and came out at the corner near the bridge. It was discovered that 4 men from Oldham, who were out for a drive to Standedge, had come to grief near Wilson's cottages. Fortunately none of the men were injured.

March 23 1908 - At Stalybridge Police Court William Wrigley, boilermaker, residing in Austerlands, was summoned for having deserted his wife, Isabella, whom he left in Stalybridge totally unprovided for. Wrigley had already served a months' imprisonment for a like offence. An order for 5s per week was made.

March 24 1880 - At the Uppermill Petty Sessions James Bradbury, White Hart Inn, Lydgate, was charged with selling gin not of the proper strength. Insp Stott stated that on February 14 he obtained a pint of gin which, according to the certificate, was 46 deg under proof instead of 35 deg, the legal limit. Thomas Kenworthy, Star Inn, Scouthead, pleaded guilty to selling Irish whisky 32 deg under proof, instead of 25. Joseph Brierley, Ram Inn, Lydgate, was charged with selling rum 39 deg under proof. Charles Bray, Hanging Gate Inn, Diggle, pleaded guilty to selling 3 gills of Irish whisky 27 deg under proof, being only 2 deg under the limit. In the first 3 cases penalties of 5s and costs were imposed, while Bray was fined 1s and costs.

March 25 1891 - At Saddleworth Police Court Abel Robinson was summoned for deserting his wife, Mary. The parties resided in Springhead, and had been married for 24 years, but Abel had deserted Mary and the family just 5 days after Mary had been confined with her last child. Abel claimed that Mary had turned him out and said that he was willing to live with his wife. Mary complained that he used bad language, to

which Abel replied, 'Tha knows worse language than aw do! When aw goo home she says 'Here comes drunken John Bull again'' This caused laughter in the court. When accused of hitting Mary he admitted to doing so once or twice, and said maybe he should have done it more often. This caused more laughter. The case was dismissed.

March 26 1890 - At Saddleworth Police Court Jane Sweet summoned John Scholes for assaulting her in Den Lane, Springhead. Sweet said she had met Scholes and his wife in the road, and Scholes had asked her what she had been saying about his daughter. Sweet denied saying anything. Scholes then threw her to the ground, and Sweet was unconscious for some time. James Mayall said he witnessed the assault. Scholes claimed that Sweet was well known for suffering from fainting fits, and after words had been exchanged between them he could see that she was about to have one, and tried to hold her up. This was confirmed by another witness, Joseph Cunningham. The case was dismissed.

March 27 1887 - Booth Mitchell, aged 1 year and 9 months, of Uppermill, died under somewhat extraordinary circumstances. The parents were having their Sunday tea, and the mother had Booth on her knee. Booth wanted something but his mother refused, prompting him to hold his breath. Unfortunately he held it for too long and never recovered. Dr Campbell was called, but he could not restore life.

March 28 1917 - At Saddleworth Police Court Samuel Heywood, shopkeeper, of Springhead, was summoned for not closing his shop at 8 pm. PC Jackson said that he had seen a customer leave the shop at 8.45 pm. He spoke to Heywood who claimed it was an oversight. Heywood was fined 10s.

March 29 1905 - Great disappointment was occasioned in Saddleworth Police Court when it became known that several 'passive resisters' (non-conformists who objected to supporting C of E schools out of the local rates) found that their outstanding rates arrears had been paid. Both the Rev A E Taylor, pastor of Delph Congregational Church, and the Rev G M Jenkins, pastor of Delph Independent Church, attended the court in protest at the Education Act 1902. It then transpired that friends had paid their arrears, to the evident chagrin of the 2 men. However, the Misses Mary and Lousia Schofield of Springbank, Uppermill, were called to court, for withholding 2s 2d of the rate. Taylor spoke on their behalf, and the court made its usual order to pay.

March 30 1890 - The Rev J H Cartwright preached the funeral sermon of the late Martha Shaw in the Wesleyan Chapel, Delph. He selected for his text, 'She hath done what she could,' from which he delivered an impressive discourse. Mr R K Clifton presided at the organ, and at the close of the service played the 'Death March.'

March 31 1887 - At Saddleworth County Court William Hulme, farmer, of Delph, sued Jonathan Sykes to recover £5 for damages he alleged he had sustained through Sykes having trespassed on his land. Hulme and Sykes were neighbours and up until the court action had been good friends. Sykes kept chickens but they had occasionally escaped and strayed onto Hulme's land. Several witnesses were called, all giving contradictory evidence. In the end the Judge awarded just 3s 6d damages, and ordered each party to pay their own costs.

APRIL

April 1 1917 - A special service was held at the Mission Church, Delph, in memory of Lt W Hardman and Ptes Anderson and Shackleton, all of whom had died in their

country's cause. There was a very large congregation. During the service a framed picture representing 'The Great Sacrifice' was unveiled by the Rev T Storey Bates, who afterwards preached a sermon in which he dwelt upon the loss which the church and the village has sustained by the deaths of 3 such promising young men.

April 2 1832 - A father and son, William and Thomas Bradbury, were murdered at the Moorcock Inn, above Yeoman Hey, Greenfield, on the Holmfirth Road.

April 3 1939 - The Clark reported to Saddleworth Health Committee that youths were causing a certain amount of damage at Springhead Sewage Works, and he asked for instructions to approach Lees police to ask them to exercise as much control as possible. The Committee agreed.

April 4 1923 - At Saddleworth Police Court James Sykes, landlord of the Diggle Hotel, was summoned for supplying beer during prohibited hours. His son, Garnett, was similarly summoned, along with Pearson Dilcock and Wilfred Hall, for consuming. PC Smethurst said that on the evening of March 17 he witnessed Garnett drawing beer for Dilcock and Hall at the inn. When he entered, Garnett poured the beer down the sink. James said the beer had been served before 10 pm. Mr Smith, solicitor, said that James Sykes had held the licence at the Hotel for 35 years with no complaints against him. On the day in question the Territorials had been to Diggle Rifle Range, and so the inn was very busy, so busy in fact that Messrs Dilcock and Hall could not get their drink until after 10 pm. In light of the landlord's previous good record the magistrates dismissed the case on payment of costs.

April 5 1926 - On Easter Monday evening Mrs Smith of Oldham Road, Springhead, wife of Cllr Edwin Smith, had a terrible accident. She had recently suffered from a bout of influenza and was out for a short walk with her husband. She was walking down Grotton Brow when she fell and injured her knee. She was assisted home, where it was discovered her kneecap was fractured.

April 6 1938 - Complaints about the smell from an old goyt dating from pre-sewer days was made at Saddleworth Health Committee. It is situated in Grasscroft Clough and runs through a private garden. Officials had visited but nothing satisfactory had been done. On the suggestion of the Chairman the discussion was deferred until the return to duty of Mr Castle, the surveyor, who was ill.

April 7 1832 - The inquest into the Bill O' Jacks murders opened at the King William IV inn, Greenfield.

April 8 1926 - A scratch received in the spinning room of the Wellington Mill, Greenfield, led to the death of Joseph Salt, 18, who lived with his mother at Ryefields. The inquest into his death was held at the Council Offices, Uppermill. Salt had worked at the Mill for 3 years was very healthy and had never been to the doctor. On March 24 he had arrived home complaining of a pain in his foot. He continued to go to work for the rest of the week. On the Sunday he had to stay in bed. His mother thought he was suffering from a cold and went to the doctor. Salt did not improve and despite the application of poultices on his foot he died a week later. Harold Carter, a minder at Wellington Mill, had examined Salt's foot on March 24 but apart from a small scratch he could not see anything wrong. He had dressed the wound with Friar's Balsam, and salt continued to work, albeit with a limp. He said the workers were often bare-footed because of the heat in the mill, and it gave them a better grip. Nails sometimes stuck out of the floor, and these had to be hammered back in. The Mill did have a first aid box and an ambulance man, but such a small scratch was not felt to be important enough to take things further. Dr Loftus said that he had

examined Salt over a week after the injury and found that he had a blister extending from the bottom of his foot to the back of his heel, and the foot smelt very bad. In his view the cause of death was septic pneumonia arising from an organism getting into the scratch. The inquest agreed with the medical evidence, with the addition that the injury was caused by misadventure.

April 9 1926 - The body of Enid Wood, 19, daughter of William, a labourer, of the Floating Light, Stanedge, was found in the canal near the Ward Lane bridge, Diggle, at 6.15 am by a railway signalman. She was face down in the middle of the canal. Enid, a flannel weaver in Greenfield, had been living with her sister, Doris, at Marslands. Enid had had tea on the Thursday evening and was in the best of spirits being, it was said, a girl of a naturally cheerful disposition. She left the house at 8.15 pm, and that was the last time anyone had seen her alive.

April 10 1918 - Pte Frank Barber, 20, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had been a clerk at Greenfield Co-op.

April 11 1917 - At Saddleworth Police Court Esther Lawton, of Uppermill, was summoned for having failed to obtain a signed statement of the nationality of a lodger. She said it was an oversight, and the police did not press for heavy penalty as it was the first case of its kind. She was fined 6s 6d.

April 12 1928 - A motor lorry owned by Mr J R Steer of Manchester, and driven by Mr E Steer, was coming down Standedge Road, Diggle, when a need for water was experienced. Having no empty tin the driver emptied a tin of petrol into the engine tank, intending to fetch water in the newly-emptied vessel. Some of the petrol must have splashed into the warm engine and caught fire. The vehicle, and its load of lard, was completely destroyed.

April 13 1924 - At a meeting of Springhead District Council Cllr Dawson raised the question of the nightsoil tip in Grotton. Many complaints had been raised, and he believed it would be better if the tip was moved to a place away from public footpaths. Mr Bullivant, the Surveyor, said a great difficulty was the amount of surface water which drained into the tip. Cllr Smith did not think there was a better place in Lower Ward for the tip, provided the refuse was not allowed to accumulate.

April 14 1937 - George Taylor, farmer, of Scouthead, was fined 5s by Saddleworth magistrates for failing to keep a record of the movement of 13 pigs. PC Morris said he went to the farm on March 15 and found that a record had not been made of a movement of the some pigs from Huddersfield on February 23. Taylor said he had had a record book for 4 or 5 years, after going to a lot of trouble to obtain it, but it had never been asked for before.

April 15 1936 - For stealing 156lbs of brass from Walk Mill, Dobcross, on April 5, Stanley Brooks, 27, rag-gather, of Oldham, was sent to prison for 3 months by Saddleworth magistrates. He had several previous convictions. Pleading guilty Brooks said that he had had 9s rent to pay that day, and no food in the house. He took the brass on the spur of the moment. The brass was worth around £2 12s. Insp Sneyd said that Brooks had been bound over in November 1930 at Oldham Police Court for warehouse breaking, and in 1935 he had stolen 2 overcoats in Middleton, for which he had also been bound over, and had stolen some lead flashing for which he had been sent to prison for 1 month.

April 16 1938 - At Saddleworth Police Court, before Cllrs E Hudson and J Wood, Arthur Ashworth of no fixed abode, was fined 5s for selling goods in Springhead on

April 14 without a pedlar's licence. Ashworth pleaded guilty and said that he had served in both the South African war and the Great War and was receiving 5s 10d a week army pension. He was a cotton operative, but failing to get any work he had bought a few boot laces which he planned to sell to get him to Huddersfield, where he thought there might be work.

April 17 1940 - Harry Holton, engineer, of Uppermill, was fined 15s by Saddleworth magistrates for using violent and abusive language in the Square, Uppermill, at 10.45 pm on March 24.

April 18 1937 - A well-known Greenfield man, Alfred Peters, 55, of Waterside, collapsed and died at his home. On the previous evening Peters, who enjoyed a reputation locally as a tenor singer, had been performing in Uppermill. He had been in poor health, and had been under medical treatment, though his death was sudden and unexpected. He left a widow and an adopted son. The funeral was at Saddleworth Cemetery, conducted by Rev W Hudson.

April 19 1922 - At Ashton County Court a number of motorcyclists were summoned for not having efficient silencers attached to their machines. George Smith of Springhead pleaded not guilty, but the police officer stated that his silencer was a dummy one. Smith said he had had the motorcycle for 9 months and it was in exactly the same condition as he had bought it. He was fined £1.

April 20 1917 - An accident to a funeral party occurred in Springhead through a runaway horse, with 5 people being injured, though none seriously. The funeral was that of Mrs Greenhalgh, of Oldham Road, Springhead, a carder at Brookside Mills. The cortege consisted of a hearse, 3 two-horse broughams, and a single horse brougham. The internment passed off at St Ann's Church, Lydgate, with no trouble, but on the way down to Grotton the horse pulling the single horse brougham took fright, galloping away with the driver having no control. The driver was thrown off, but the horse continued until it collided with a coal cart near Clegg Street. The coal man, Harry Shaw, was thrown off his cart. The runaway horse, freed from its carriage, did not stop until County End. The 3 ladies in the brougham suffered cuts and bruises, while Shaw hurt his ankle. The horse was unharmed, but the brougham was a wreck.

April 21 1943 - Albert Widdall, 54, of Chew Valley Road, Greenfield, a platelayer, was knocked down and killed near Friezland Goods Station by the 7.45 am express from Bradford to Stockport. Widdall had worked on the railways since 1923, and left a widow and a son.

April 22 1918 - Lance Corporal R C Platt, 30, of Lydgate, died of his wounds in a hospital at Rouen, France. He had enlisted in November 1915. Before enlistment he had worked as an architect, ending up at CWS, Manchester.

April 23 1919 - At Saddleworth Police Court Joseph Broadbent, Springhead, was summoned for not sending his son of 12 regularly to school. His plea was that he needed his son to help on the farm. An order of attendance was made.

April 24 1937 - For allowing his car to be without front lights and without a rear light, Harold Mellor, 36, of Chew valley Road, Greenfield, was fined 10s in each case at Oldham Police Court.

April 25 1906 - Springhead Suffragette Annie Kenny, along with others, disrupted a debate in the House of Commons by shouting and unfurling a banner calling for 'Votes for Women.' They were all arrested.

April 26 1918 - Pte Thomas Bradbury, 23, was killed in action. He came from Uppermill.

April 27 1918 - Pte Thomas Hill of the Northumberland Fusiliers, son of Mr and Mrs Hill of Hanson House, Delph, died in a London hospital of his wounds received in France. His father and mother were with him when he died. His body was taken home to Delph and it was buried at Heights on May 2.

April 28 1918 - Gunner William Harris, 36, died of pneumonia in France. His mother, Mrs Walker, lived at Lower Fold, Uppermill. Gunner Harris had previously been in the Royal Navy and had also served in India. He had joined up in November 1917, and had only been in France for 5 weeks. He had worked at messrs Joseph Clare and Co, at the Greenfield Dyeworks. In a letter to his mother his commanding officer had said that Gunner Harris had been an excellent soldier who would be given a funeral with full military honours.

April 29 1936 - For riding a bicycle furiously down the hill on Oldham Road, Grasscroft, towards the Farrars Arms, Fred Broadbent, millworker, of Uppermill, was summoned to Saddleworth Police Court. PC Winstanley said that Broadbent had come down the hill, past the junction, with his hands behind him, and with no control of his machine. It had taken him 50 yards to pull up after being signalled to do so. Broadbent said that there had been no one else about, and he had only straightened himself up after the long run down the hill. After a warning from the Chairman the case was dismissed on payment of costs.

April 30 1929 - When a small wagon left the rails at the Springhead Stone Quarry, Cooper Street, it ran over the foot of Thomas Hannon, 23, of Wrigley Street, Oldham, lacerating his toe. He was taken to Oldham Infirmary in the motor ambulance.

Extracts from the Diary of Canon F R Raines: Part 4

Roger Ivens

17 March 1829

The Radicals, Whigs and Dissenters have issued to-day a placard headed 'Hole and Corner Meetings!!!' requesting 'all classes of His Majesty's subjects possessing the Christian religion, by whatever style denominated, to withhold their signatures, etc, until a public meeting – signed The Committee. God Save the King!'

This is too good to pass without a remark or two.

'The Christian religion.' Pray what other religion is professed in Saddleworth? None, except it be infidelity – Socianism; and I am inclined to think that the favourers of this petition are, in a great measure, friendly to no religion.

'The Committee.' Who is the committee? 'Thereby hangs a tale.' Names are kept in the background. Why? Because they are unpopular. How sly the foxes are.

19 March 1829

The meeting in favour of Catholic emancipation was only thinly attended. Speeches were made by Elliot, a surgeon, from Lees in Lancashire: and by Nicholson, of Lees, the notorious Radical printer who was examined at Hunt's trial at York in 1819. Saddleworth meeting forsooth! Some others spoke. Holroyd in an ignorant speech condemned John Fox, the Martyrologist, as a Liar! O tempora! O mores!¹ The yellow party are using the most disingenuous modes for obtaining signatures.

23 March 1829

Saw an old woman at Church Bank named Buckley, who was driven mad by the Methodists many years ago. She is a great grand-daughter of the Rev J Lees, incumbent of Saddleworth in the reigns of James II, William and Mary, and George I. She desired to see me in the morning – in the evening refused to speak to me!

24 March 1829

Went to the 'Hermitage', near Oldham, with Mr George Shaw. Saw Butterworth, the hermit, a tall man with good features, a long beard, and 46 years of age. Dressed in a black cloth frock with a girdle and a kind of Spanish velvet cloak over his shoulders, suspended behind. A black turban on his head. His hermitage is partly underground and consists of five small rooms, filled with pictures, oak carving and pieces of vertu.

¹ (O the times! O the manners!)

He has neat gardens around his hut. A camera obscura in a sort of out-cot, etc. He is visited by all classes of people. Has been at the hermitage 14 or 15 years.

I think him a drone in Creation and conclude that a dislike of manual labour induced him to fix upon his present odd mode of life. He obtains numerous presents and it is said (though I do not credit it) that he has saved £2,000.

25 March 1829

A public meeting at the vestry. Constables, Overseers, etc, elected.

Palmer, the MP for Surrey, presented a petition against Catholic emancipation signed by 113,000 inhabitants of London, Westminster, etc, on Thursday last; the Duke of Cumberland one from Ireland signed by 150,000. Surely there is a voice here? I hope that the spirit of true piety will not be lost amid all the spirit of true piety will not be lost amid all the jarrings and contentions of parties. Let us contend earnestly - but charitably – ‘for the Faith.’

30 March 1829

Met the Rev Mr Evans, Curate of Rochdale, and two Miss Deardens, of Rochdale (who came in their carriage), at Mr Mills’s. Very agreeable and evidently persons of distinction.

31 March 1829

At Mrs Lees’s of Delph Lodge. A very good old lady, lately returned from Devonshire, where she has spent the winter with her poor daughter, in a consumption. Saw an oil painting of James, Earl of Derwentwater, in a Roman dress, taken when 13 years of age. He was beheaded in the Scotch Rebellion.

4 April 1829

A dreadful accident at Hyde, near Stockport, by the fall of a public-house when a public meeting was assembled. More than 30 lives lost!

7 April 1829

I have recently had a correspondence with my brother, Joseph, concerning the early origin of our family. Raine in Essex seems to have been the first residence of the stock. There was a Raines (so spelled) there in the time of Edward the Confessor. These things are curious, not edifying. Some persons are very proud of their origin and descent. I am not so. I still wish to know it. ‘I tread on the pride of Plato,’ said Diogenes as he walked over Plato’s silken carpet. ‘And with more pride,’ answered the philosopher.

Easter Monday, 20 April 1829

A vestry meeting. I, having some marriages, stayed a short time. Numerously attended, some hundreds present. All lawyers, or acquainted with law – in their own opinion. I re-appointed my old churchwarden, Mr John Whitehead, of Quick edge.

23 April 1829

Went to Rochdale and dined with the Rev R W Hay, the Vicar. He offered me a curacy at his church to succeed Mr Evans who had been given the living of Lydgate. I shall gain nothing from a pecuniary point of view, but there is the prospect of succeeding to Saddleworth as one of the livings in the Vicar's gift. I am much concerned at the thought of leaving Saddleworth. I have met with so much kindness and attention that the place has become endeared to me.

Sunday 26 April 1829

A very numerous congregation. Many came to know whether I really thought of leaving. Very distressing to see so many people against my going.

5 May 1829

Walked with Mr G Shaw to Castle Clough in Derbyshire. The scenery most fascinating; a beautiful river meanders through a deep and shaded valley. Buckton Castle, a Roman encampment, is a little above, and seems to tower into the very clouds from the vale. The mild breezes sighed through the woods, and the babbling brook 'weaving its maze irregular' raised pleasing visions of the past in our minds. We thought of the daring Roman, his inflexible resolution, his intrepidity in storm and sunshine, his valour, his magnanimity. The very spot where we sat, we imagined that some warrior fired by the genius of Hannibal or animated by the heroic exploits of Ceasar, had trod – one who had encountered danger for the bubble- honour! One who, like the builder of the Pyramids, had sunk into obscurity and whose name was unknown! Let us learn hence, an instructive lesson: the most dauntless chieftain, the most renowned champion, must return to the dust and be forgotten in oblivion. Let us learn humility and strive to have our names recorded where they will remain in unfading characters – even in the Book of Life.

8 May 1829

The weather continues extremely fine. Vegetation proceeds rapidly. My friend Mr Shaw observed this morning 'how the trees have jumped into leaf within these few days!' – a very expressive remark.

10 May 1829

Preached to large congregation. Mrs Mills and Mr Joseph Harrop at church. I walked to the Parsonage after service to tea. Had I a wife I confess I should think she paid me no compliment in attending, even occasionally and from curiosity, the ministry of another. 'They order these things differently in France' (Yorick)

20 May 1829

The smallpox rages with great fury about here. Vaccination has lost much of its repute. Failures have been numerous and they are well attested instances of failure. I still consider it a blessing.

26 May 1829

My brother, Joseph, has been a week at Burton Pidsea and wished me much to visit London. I was to have preached at St George's, Hanover Square, on Sunday next.

30 May 1829

No time fixed for my going to Rochdale but it will probably be about the beginning of July. I feel grieved at leaving Saddleworth.

2 June 1829

Took tea at Mr Whitehead's at Grasscroft. My heart sickens at such visits. I am disgusted with them. I would that I might never be invited again to such. Gossiping, manoeuvring for husbands, cards, scandal and folly fill up the precious hours which ought to be devoted to more serious employments.

3 June 1829

My friend, George Shaw, has long proposed that we should make a pedestrian excursion into Derbyshire. I have partly agreed to go. I shall, at least, avoid some of those showy and trumpery parties which I so much detest. Society I am fond of – seclusion I reprobate. Yet it must be a select society; and though I reprobate seclusion, still retirement I value. Well says Cowper:-

How sweet, how passing sweet is solitude!

Yet, give still a friend in my retreat

Whom I may whisper, 'Solitude is sweet!'

15 June 1829

I daily hear of the acute feeling of sorrow which prevails in consequence of my leaving Saddleworth, and all hope that shall return again. May God hasten the day!

13 July 1829

The hay harvest is now going on here, and Saddleworth looks very beautiful. Yet I have this week to leave it. I receive hundreds of sincere wishes and faithful testimonies of esteem



Heights Chapel copyright Michael Fox

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SHS SUMMER COACH TRIP TO LINCOLN, THURSDAY, 9TH JULY 2009

At the date of publication, places were still available for what promises to be a fascinating outing. For details and bookings, please contact Alan Schofield:

- Tel: 0161 338 6555
 - E-mail: al@harropcourt.freemove.co.uk
 - Address: 26, Ashes Lane, Stalybridge, Cheshire. SK15 2RH
-

FAMILY HISTORY WEEKEND - Saturday and Sunday, 4th and 5th July 2009.

Places may still be available for this major event (full details of which were provided in the 'Newsletter' in the last 'Bulletin'). Contact Brian Kenworthy:

- Tel: 01572 812026
 - E-mail: bandpkenworthy@aol.com
 - Address: 20, Main Street, Greetham, Oakham, Leicestershire. LE15 7NL.
-

Project to identify Saddleworth buildings of architectural or historic importance

Oldham Borough Council has embarked on an ambitious project to identify all the buildings across the borough which are of historic or architectural interest. In practice this probably means most buildings built before 1870. This local list will complement the existing national list of buildings, of gradings I, II, II* etc.

The Society have agreed to produce a list for Saddleworth; it is anticipated that the numbers will be in excess of 1000 buildings, so rich is our heritage.

We are looking for volunteers to help with this enormous task. If you would like to help with this project - in the area in which you live or anywhere in Saddleworth - please contact Mike Buckley on 01457-820015 or Email mikebuckley@saddleworth.net.

A special training event will be held in June to bring volunteers up to speed on how to conduct the survey and to carry out a practical exercise in the field.

HELP SOUGHT TO RECORD MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Ivan Foster is to co-ordinate the recording of gravestones in the New Yard at Saddleworth Church. The first phase of this work will be to photograph and record all visible gravestones, beginning this autumn. The help of volunteers would be greatly appreciated. In the meantime, Mr Foster would also welcome information on any grave within the New Yard. (Any such data would be stored in the Society's archive and would be for the use of members alone. It would not be copied to third parties without written permission.)

Ivan Foster: e-mail foster946@btinternet.com

Tel: 07709081071

Address: 2, Milton Street, Mossley, Lancashire. OL5 0SW

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SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST - FORTHCOMING LECTURES

Thursday, 2nd July *Climate, Oceans and the Hydrogen Imperative.*

Mike Koefman, Secretary of the Campaign for a
Hydrogen Economy

Thursday, 3rd September *The work of assessing, judging and awarding sites,
buildings etc. in the north west of England.*

Lecture by a member of the Civic Trust, NW Region
Awards Scheme.

Venue: Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill, 7.30 p.m.

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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY - GUIDED WALKS

Except where indicated otherwise, the walks follow roads and paths along a circular route two to three miles in length and will last on average 2 ½ hours. Stout footwear is recommended. Children must be accompanied by adults at all times and, in the interests of safety, participants are requested not to bring dogs.

Wednesday, July 1st - *Greenfield and Chew Valley circular*

An exploration of how the area around Dovestone reservoir has been shaped by waterworks, hillside farming and industry.

Guide: Michael Fox.

Start: Dovestone Reservoir car park, 1.45 p.m.

Sunday, July 19th - Strinesdale

See how agriculture developed on this ancient moorland.

Guide: Victor Khadem

Start: Outside the 'Roebuck Inn', Brighton Road, 1.45 p.m.

Wednesday, August 12th - From Corn Mill to Uppermill

Exploring the hamlets of Uppermill and discovering how transport routes influenced the development of the village.

Guide: Alan Schofield

Start: Saddleworth Museum car park, 1.45 p.m.

Sunday, August 30th - Shawmere boundary walk

A 9-mile circular walk along the boundary of Shawmere. The route will include Thurston Clough, Burnedge Bent, Shadworth Lane, Carr Lane, Den, Tamewater and Gatehead. Some stiff climbs are involved. Please bring refreshments for this all-day walk.

Guide: Mike Buckley

Start: The car park, The Sound, Delph, 10.00 a.m.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Alan Schofield (Hon. Secretary), 0161 338 6555.

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SADDLEWORTH W.E.A.

The provisional class programme for the autumn and winter terms, 2009 - 2010, is as follows:

Saddleworth History - an explorer's guide - 10 weekly sessions, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., starting Tuesday, 22nd September. Tutor: Michael Fox

Antiques Appreciation - 7 weekly sessions, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., starting Tuesday, 29th September. Tutor: Carmen Walton

Art Appreciation - 7 weekly sessions, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., starting Tuesday, 12th January. Tutor: Carmen Walton

Write Your Life Story - 10 weekly sessions, starting late September. (Exact dates, times and venue are still to be confirmed). Tutor: Chris Foley.

Banned Books - 10 weekly sessions, starting January 2010. (Exact dates, times and venue are still to be confirmed). Tutor: Chris Foley.

Additional details will be provided in the next 'Bulletin'. In the interim, for information please contact the Branch Secretary, Anne Buckley, on (01457) 872881.

SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM

The following exhibitions will be on display until further notice.

‘Having a Party’ - This exhibition takes the opportunity to use some of the varied costumes in our collection on a party theme. It is interesting that most of the dresses on display represent an era or a decade. Fashion certainly has changed in the past but not at the speed it does nowadays. In another 100 years what fashion statement will mark this decade?

‘In the Mill Pond’ - With the restoration of the millpond at what was Dam Head Mill, now Willowbank, the excavations have revealed a number of interesting objects that over the years have found their way into the mud to be lost and rediscovered. The exhibition includes other curiosities that have been found in similar situations around Saddleworth from ponds and the canal and we already have a Viking ring on display found in Greenfield Brook.

‘Saddleworth’s the Star’ - ‘Yanks’, some of which was filmed in the Saddleworth area, is celebrated in an annual ‘Wartime’ Weekend during August – but what other films have used Saddleworth as a backdrop? Well, ‘Brassed Off’ for one. So... come and have a look to see what other films there are. The display looks at what has been filmed around the Oldham area as well and you will be able to answer the question ‘What connection is there between the film “Brief Encounter” and Oldham?’

Saddleworth in Film: We are organising a ‘Saddleworth in Film’ event – do you have any old film of the area that we could borrow to copy onto DVD. The film would be added to our archive collection. Contact the Curator – details as over.

PLEASE HELP US WITH OUR FUTURE EXHIBITIONS!

Following on from the success with ‘In Your Pram’ we want to do a similar themed exhibition ‘On Your Bike’ so if you have any memories / photographs of owning / riding a bike please write them down and let us borrow a picture (to scan and return).

An exhibition is also planned on the theme ‘What did your ancestors do?’ The basis for this is a joint Saddleworth Historical Society / Saddleworth Museum project. The aim of the exhibition would be to present a photographic historical record of people at work in Saddleworth: in mills, offices, garages, shops, fields - anywhere and everywhere. But neither the Museum nor Saddleworth Historical Society archives have many photographs like this. So, before what would be a fascinating exhibition could take place the Museum would need people in the area to comb through their family albums for photographs of people at work. If *you* have any photographs - and / or - memories of yourself or your relatives at work in Saddleworth we would love to hear from you. (Any photographs, if local, would, if the lender wished, be copied and added to our archives.)

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Museum Opening Hours:

Summer Hours: Mon to Sat, 10.00am – 4.00pm. Sunday, 12 noon – 4.00pm

Admission: Adults: £2. Concessions: £1. Family Groups: £4

Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery, High Street, Uppermill OL3 6HS.

Telephone: 01457 874093. Fax: 01457 870336

E-mail: curator@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk

Website: www.saddleworthmuseum.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECTION

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Seven new members have joined the Society since the publication of the last Bulletin and we welcome them and trust they enjoy their membership:

Ms. C. Hudson, Mossley.

Mr. John Hewitt, Diggle.

Mr. Denis Buckley, Diggle.

Dr. Brian & Mrs. Franklin, Uppermill

Mrs. Sheila Bocking, Lydgate.

Mr. Norman Overend, Todmorden.

We are sorry to announce the passing of W. Donald Kershaw C.Eng., F.I. Struct. E., who lived in Southampton for many years, but was born in Saddleworth and kept his association alive by membership of our Society. He contributed an interesting article to the Bulletin, 'Joining Two Old Saddleworth Families Together in 1881', describing the connections with the Eastwoods and Heginbottoms who emigrated to Norway and of course were descended from our illustrious Curate of St. Chad's Church, Uppermill, the Rev. John Heginbottom M.A. (Oxon) 1721 - 1771, as indeed was Donald Kershaw.

Our thoughts should remain with Joan and the family of Bernard O'Kivlin of Lees, who has recently died. Always a constant supporter of the activities and could be relied upon to swell the members attending lectures at the Museum. Condolences have been sent to the family.

Unfortunately, we have to report a number of members' deaths which have taken place these past few months:

Mr. David Newton Swann, France.

Mr. Victor Stubley, Delph.

Mr. C. Marcus, Shaw.

Mr. M. Leadbeater, Grotton.

Mr. M. J. Seville, Todmorden.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, 2009

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A reminder is enclosed with this Bulletin for members who have not yet paid their subscriptions this year and we should be very pleased to receive remittances as soon as possible. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Family membership..... £14.00

Single membership..... £12.00

Retired single and family..... £ 9.00

Overseas

USA and Canada.....£15.00 or 40 dollars

Australia and New Zealand.....£15.00 sterling.

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

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

Registered Charity No. 505074

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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 &c. from members and others. Fresh material is required constantly, and should be sent to the Acting Editor Neil Barrow, 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 website is at: www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk

This has full details of the Society's activities, publications, library and archives, and there is a facility to contact the Society by EMail. An index to Saddleworth place names, a reference map of Saddleworth, and a bibliography of Saddleworth publications are included. There are links to other relevant websites