

Saddleworth

Historical Society



THE SQUARE, DOBCROSS.
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Bulletin

Spring 1973

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BULLETIN

OF

THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 3 Number 1

Spring 1973

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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1972

Extracts from Chairman's Report

Before I wrote this report I was looking at the Balance Sheet produced at the end of the Society's first year, 1967. It is a delightful document. There are only two items on the income side, totalling £13.14.11, whilst on the expenditure side we have eight items, totalling £5. 1. 9, giving us a revenue of £8.11. 9. in the bank and one shilling and fivepence in hand. It was prepared with meticulous care by Harry Day and duly audited by Dorothy Day and David Chadderton. And then I looked at the draft of to-day's annual accounts, running to four pages and involving several hundred pounds. A formidable document prepared with the same meticulous care, but involving how much of our Treasurer's free time? This is a considerable contribution for any single individual to make to the running of a Society, but as most of us know it is only part of Mr. Booth's involvement. He has a hand in most of the Society's activities and in many of them he plays a major role. We are doubly fortunate in having also Mrs. Booth in the Secretarial chair. Her value to the Society must be obvious to all of us - Secretary par excellence.

This year, too, we were fortunate in having the services of Mr. Bradley who, as Museum Liaison Officer, has organised the manning of the Museum each weekend, and, with a small band of helpers, has taken on various other tasks in the Museum itself. This involvement is another step towards establishing the Society's role in our community.

Mr. Barnes' function as Publications Editor has expanded this year with the "George Shaw" printing. He continues to bear sole responsibility for the compilation, editing, distribution and the financial side of our publications.

I also want to thank Mr. Chadderton, our Vice-Chairman, who, as in the past, has shouldered much of the responsibility that should have fallen on myself.

We are indebted once again to the Further Education Centre, and specifically to Mr. Parry, for ready help and co-operation, and to the W.E.A. who continue to support the Society with their curriculum and who this year accepted the Society's choice of speaker for the Kenworthy Lecture, Mr. Thompson.

Our thanks are also due to Mr. Howarth. The buses of the Crossley Bus Society are becoming a feature of our local trips.

The Bulletin has a wide circulation and has increased the prestige of the Society both within and outside the district. The publication of Colonel Howcroft's book will, I am sure, be another feather in our cap.

Little progress has been made on the flint site excavation. Mr. Edwards and his party were unable to come this year but have promised to come in the Spring of next year. I hope that we will also be able to prepare our report for the C.B.A. in the coming year.

The Roman Road project progresses under the tutelage of Mr. Haigh and with a strong backing from the Society. I understand that Mr.

Haigh is hoping to publish his findings soon.

During the year Lord Rhodes was awarded the coveted Order of the Garter. We are honoured indeed to have him on our list of members and to know that, although he has many commitments, he maintains a real interest in the affairs of the Society.

The Medieval Evening held last February was a success, both socially and financially, and arrangements are well advanced for a Roman Evening early next year.

Although the various activity sections in the Society - Industrial Archaeology, Early Section, Records and Sources - may not have operated as organised groups, much work has nevertheless been done in these areas. We have recently, for instance, accepted invitations to examine and record some old cottages in Saddleworth. Mr. Booth is collating and plotting prehistoric finds in the area, and much record material has turned up in the Museum storeroom.

We had a very pleasant surprise recently when we received from a relative of Mr. Schofield, Mrs. Shaw Lawn of the U.S.A., a gift of 100 dollars for continued research in memory of her grandparents, William and Sarah Kenworthy Shaw born in 1842 near Delph.

I think we can be satisfied with our progress this year, and this progress is a direct result of the spirit pervading the Society. I think we have a happy blend of studious application and relaxed enjoyment.

John Murray

Extracts from Secretary's Report

On reviewing the year's activities perhaps I could start with a few facts and figures. Membership this year stands at 97 paid-up members plus six juniors, compared with 62 plus five juniors last year. This is an increase of 56%.

Seven evening meetings were attended by 196 people, an average of 28, plus the joint Castleshaw lecture which attracted an audience of over 160.

We have taken part in a weekend school at Grantley Hall and a one-day school, both of which were well attended. The Roman History school, in particular, was very popular, 33 being present for the morning lecture and more in the afternoon for the visit to Castleshaw.

Our lecture programme covered a variety of subjects, including two evenings of members' slides. Two of our members, Miss Chadderton and Mr. Battye gave us the history of the Saddleworth Weavers' Union. It is interesting to recall that this lecture was given in anticipation of power cuts, everyone arriving with candles.

Mr. Smith of Glossop told us of the efforts of other Societies in collecting and putting together local histories. Mr. F.H. Thompson's lecture on Castleshaw was outstanding, and the response to the appeal for a good turn-out was most gratifying. Another of our members, Mrs. Jackson, gave us a fascinating insight into London Life in the nineteenth century with readings from her great great grandmother's diary. Miss Pauline Beswick's lecture on Sheffield Manor showed us some of the work of

a professional archaeologist engaged on excavation.

We have had five summer outings, all of which were well attended. Mr. George Taylor once again led us to see various sections of the Melandra to Buxton Roman Road. The coach outing to York was supported by 51 members and friends on a beautiful summer's day. The weather was not so kind on the visit to the Roman Excavations at Manchester; nevertheless twenty members spent a very interesting afternoon on a tour of the "dig". The evening visit to the Colne Valley Museum attracted 34 members. Adding to the enjoyment was the journey to Golcar in Mr. Howarth's bus. The visit to Helmsshore was thoroughly appreciated by the 19 members and friends taking part. Higher Mill is a superb example of a working textile museum.

Our walks have attracted some interest, and all have had an historical bias. The hill forts on the Three Peaks, the Canal, the Packhorse Track, and the Roman Road over High Street in the Lake District were all explored.

For the first time, the Society was represented this year at the Road End Fair, Greenfield, and it is fitting that we should take part in this historic fair which has recently been in danger of dying out due to lack of support.

We have received numerous items of correspondence this year, amongst them requests for help from students and people tracing family histories, including three researching into the Buckley families. Two of these have since become members of the Society, and one, Mrs. Duncan of Nash in Buckinghamshire, is now corresponding with no fewer than six other members on the subject of the Buckley family.

We have had requests for speakers from various organisations, and members have responded by lecturing to other Societies and to hospital patients.

I should like to thank Mr. Parry and Mrs. Butterworth of the F.E. Centre, without whose help the production of the Society programme would be almost an impossibility. The ability of Mrs. Butterworth to read my writing is in itself no mean achievement.

Barbara Booth

SADDLEWORTH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES

Part 9: 1908

- Jan. Site for New Uppermill School chosen. Two sites considered:
A) $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres in Church Road
B) 2 acres behind the Drill Hall
The latter was chosen.
- Waterworks: public meeting to consider applying for an Act to enable Saddleworth to be partners in the Ashton and District Waterworks. Proposal rejected by large majority.
- District Council decided to hold poll in all the wards on the above.
- Feb. Result of Poll: 5/6 for the Bill; 700 against.
- April Health. Medical Officer A) stressed the need for clean milk at farms and in homes; B) reported that water supply was inadequate and plumbo-solvent; C) reported on necessity of medical inspection in schools. Concern was expressed at the outbreak of diphtheria - 21 cases.
- Tramway Scheme: New Prospectus to be issued. Proposals to lay A) $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of tramways from Mossley boundary at Royal George, passing through Friezland, Waterside, Greenfield, Uppermill, Dobcross to main street at Delph; B) second length of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to go from Greenfield to Springhead; C) third to couple up Springhead and Mossley.
- May Baths. Statement that about £300 had been raised by public subscription, and land and building materials bought. Council urged to take action.
- June Children at Workhouse taken to Blackpool for day at expense of Guardians.
- Parade of Territorials at Lydgate: a good muster of men.
- July Strange Sight in Delph. Handsome motor car drawn through village by a horse. The chauffeur was seated at the wheel of the broken down car.
- Tree Planting Scheme at Denshaw. Denshaw Botanical and Field Naturalist Society voted £2 from funds to start a tree planting scheme.
- Aug. Water Supply: inquiry by W.R.C.C. about what was being done by waterworks to prevent plumbo-solvency in water supply. Council decided to write again to Waterworks Committee.
- Street Lighting - many applications for more gas street lamps throughout the district.
- Saddleworth Wakes - 1,200 extra railway tickets sold in one day.
- Swimming Gala at Tunstead Clough dam in aid of swimming bath fund. 3,000 attended.
- New Footbridge over Chew Brook near Andrew Mill replacing the one erected by public subscription.
- Old Age Pensions Act passed.

- Sept. Bleak Hey Nook Wakes: foot race from Horse and Jockey to Floating Light and back again (two miles) followed by Social Evening at former. Saddleworth Reed Band played selections.
- Oct. Local Pensions Committee set up according to provisions of Act. Registration of Dairies required. Water Supply: W.R.C.C. Medical Officer to inspect apparatus for filtering and treating water.
- Nov. Drill Hall at Uppermill opened by Lieut. Gen. Baden-Powell.
- Dec. Report of Much Unemployment in district. Statement to council that a number of children in schools were underfed in consequence. Matter deferred.

Compiled by Mrs. H. Wood.

Part 10: 1909, will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

COUNCILLOR F.G. BATTYE, J.P.

It was with the profoundest sorrow that the Society learned of the death of Mr. Fred Battye, one of our founder members. He died on New Year's Eve, 1972, aged 66.

Mr. Battye was Chairman of the inaugural meeting of the Society on 4th November, 1966, and had been an active member ever since, having been leader of the Industrial Archaeology Section and currently holding the office of Auditor. On the point of retirement from the secretaryship of the Saddleworth Weavers' and Woollen Textile Workers' Association, a post which he had held for 25 years, he was looking forward to taking a more active part in the Society's affairs. Indeed, he had begun a series of articles for the Bulletin on Dobcross, the second one of which appears in this issue.

He will be greatly missed by the Society.

IRAD GARTSIDE HEWKIN

(In each of the previous numbers of the Bulletin details have been given of the items in the Hewkin Collection of Local History books, etc., which is housed in the Uppermill Library. Below is the first part of a short biography of this Saddleworth-born bookseller and collector of material on Local History).

1. The Hewkin Family and early influences.

Irad was the youngest son of Edward who was the eldest child of Isaac Hewkin. The last-named was born in 1807 and had four brothers and two sisters. With one of his brothers, Abraham, he came to live in Saddleworth in 1826 from Derbyshire and settled at Wool Road, establishing a building and contracting business there. (1) Abraham lived later in Chesterfield, but when he died at the age of 97 his body was brought back to Saddleworth for burial. Isaac Hewkin married Hannah Winterbottom, also of Wool Road, in about 1828, and they had five sons and four daughters. (2) Hannah died in 1847 at the age of 40, but Isaac continued in good health until 1894 when he died at the age of 87. (3)

The Hewkins were a remarkable family for longevity. Isaac had another brother, William, who reached the age of 88, and a sister, Hannah, who was 86 when she died. Abraham Hewkin had four sons, Walter, John, William and George, who attained the ages of 92, 92, 82 and 75 respectively. The first of these brothers, Walter, was born in Grasscroft and later moved to Summershades Farm. Until his death he lived at Shaw Hall Bank and was a joiner and builder of the firm of John Hewkin & Brothers.

Edward Hewkin was born in 1831. Subsequently he followed the family trade and became a joiner, and around 1860 he married Mary Anne Gartside. The 1871 Census recorded Edward Hewkin, aged 40, carpenter and joiner, living at Wool Road with his wife, Mary Anne, aged 37, and their four children, George N. aged nine, Albert G. aged seven, Lydia aged five, and Alice aged one. (4) Their fifth child was Irad, who was born on 9th January, 1875. His father died in 1879, but Mary Anne, his mother, lived until 1927 when she died at the age of 94. The "Oldham Chronicle" of 24th December, 1927, contained her obituary. She was the oldest resident of Saddleworth and had lived over 70 years at Wool Road. She had been "born at Nickers at the top of Nickers Brow on 23rd September, 1833, and was educated at Nickers School". At the age of ten she went to live with her uncle James Noble in his small shop at Hey Top, Greenfield. She was always proud of the fact that her great great grandfather had been Robert Platt, grocer of Dobcross, and that through him she was directly related to the great textile machinery manufacturing family. With her husband, Edward, she was one of the earliest members of the Wesleyan Society in Uppermill (being admitted in 1860) and they were very active church members. This was reflected in the upbringing of their children. Irad was a regular churchgoer and attender at Sunday School, and he signed the pledge at the age of 14. During his teens and early twenties he wrote many essays on theological topics, usually in notebooks and old exercise books which he then stored away.

He was an avid reader, especially of Carlyle, Shakespeare and Milton, and became engrossed in social problems and politics. Another important influence in his life was John Avison, and to the end of his life

he recalled with pride that he had been a pupil of this former Chartist.

John Avison, who was born in 1817, was a native of Stalybridge, but he had lived in Saddleworth for almost 40 years. In his early life he was a piecer in Lees' cotton mill in Stalybridge, and was a keen activist in the agitation for the Ten Hour Bill and the Minimum Wage Bill. A keen admirer of Richard Oastler, the Yorkshire Tory-Radical leader, the Rev. Joseph Raynor Stephens, the Methodist minister who made insurrectionist speeches on behalf of the Chartist movement in the Ashton area (5), and Mr. Holding, another local Radical, Avison himself took a very active part in the movements for the improvement of the textile workers' conditions, and against the Poor Law Amendment Bill in the late 1830's. He was dismissed from his work at Lees' Mill for taking part in the Ten Hours Bill agitation. As General Secretary of the Fielden Association for the Promotion of the Ten Hours Bill, which had its offices in Bloom Street, Manchester, he carried on much correspondence with the Earl of Shaftesbury. In 1842 he took part in the Plug Drawing activities in the Stalybridge district. On losing his job in the mill he prepared himself by hard work and night classes to become a teacher, and subsequently conducted the day and evening classes in the People's School, Brierley St., later known as the Holy Trinity Mission Room, Stalybridge. He was a pacifist, a life-long teetotaler and non-smoker, besides being a prominent Trade Union and Co-operative pioneer. Fond of literature, he had a good scientific knowledge and was a noted 'cello player. In the early 1850's he moved to Saddleworth, and for more than 30 years he was principal of the Wesleyan Day School in Uppermill, and for a considerable period took evening classes at the Mechanics' Institute. In the early 1870's, when the Education Department insisted on higher qualifications for teachers, Avison, then over 50 years of age, worked for and obtained the required certificate of merit. He remained a local preacher in Stalybridge and also travelled the district as a Wesleyan preacher. For over 12 years he was president of the Saddleworth Literary and Philosophical Society, but in his later years took no active part in politics. He died on 4th August 1893, and was buried at St. Paul's Church, Stalybridge. (6) Hewkin was a pall-bearer at his funeral such was his respect for the man, and his ideological development must have been closely affected by his former schoolmaster's influence.

On leaving school, he worked as a spinner in Stonebottom Mill where others of his family were employed, but in May 1906 being out of work he applied for the post of School Attendance Officer at Chadderton. His application form stated that he was Vice-President of the P.S.A., Secretary of the local Socialist Party, a Director of the Mechanics' Institute and Chairman of the Library Committee, and he was supported by testimonials from T.E. Moorhouse of the "Reporter" office in Delph, a leading and well-known Saddleworth Socialist, A.E. Taylor the Congregational Minister in Uppermill, and Councillor E. Hudson the headmaster of the Wesleyan School in Delph. His application must have been unsuccessful for in July 1906 he was applying for a post with the Ashton-under-Lyne Reporter, again without success.

On 1st January, 1907, he became a partner of C.E. Smith of 14a Cannon Street, Manchester, bookseller, newsagent and dealer in prints and curios. The capital of the firm was £90, one third of which was brought in by Hewkin, and the rest being represented by the stock of books, etc. This proved to be a most significant venture, one that was to occupy the remainder of his working days, and obviously one eminently suited to his interests and capabilities.

1. It would appear that a branch of the Hewkin family was already at Wool Road. The "Reporter" of 18th August 1894 recorded that Henry Hewkin, who died in 1892 at Wool Road, had been born there 68 years before. A joiner by trade, he went to Oldham in 1845, and later played an important part in establishing a Co-operative Society there, serving on the Committee of Management for 12 years. He was the first Chairman of the Sun Mill Company, and presided over the ceremony when the corner stone of the mill was laid by Dr. Watts of Manchester on 4th May, 1861. He built a model of this mill (nearly 2,000 pieces) which took him ten months, and it was displayed at the International Exhibition at South Kensington in 1862. He was an earnest advocate of workers owning their houses, and during the later part of his life he was a member of the Co-operative Society's Building Committee which built houses for members.
2. White's Directory for 1838 records Isaac Ukin (sic), joiner of Wool Road.
3. The 1863 Polling List for Dobcross included Isaac Hewkin of Platt Lane, Dobcross, as owner of freehold houses and land at Wool Road. By 1885, Isaac Hewkin was again living at Wool Road, for the Poll List included him as an owner and occupier there.
4. The 1871 Census also included another Hewkin family living at Wool Road: William Hewkin who was a carpenter aged 39, his wife Elizabeth aged 36, and their three children, Mary H. aged eleven, William aged nine, and Jessie aged three.
5. An outline of the life of Rev. Joseph Raynor Stephens can be found in "England in Ashton-under-Lyne" by W.M. Bowman, Ashton, 1960, pp. 496-500.
6. Much of the information about John Avison is taken from his obituary in "The Mossley and Saddleworth Herald" of 12th August, 1893. For general background to the agitation for the Ten Hours Bill see "The Making of the English Working Class" by E.P. Thompson, London, 1965, pp. 269-313.

B. Barnes.

To be continued.

THE ESTATES OF THE HIRST FAMILY OF DOBCROSS

Part Two

There was another member of the Hirst family, Joshua, who had resided at Woods House, Dobcross, until late in the nineteenth century when he retired to Southport. Woods House was later occupied by James Hollingworth, father of Edward Hollingworth of Moordale, then by the Chambley family who owned Stonebottom Mill, and subsequently by the Tanner family. It is now owned by Mr. Philip Tanner, but up to 1953 it was rented property.

As will be noted from the lots available in this sale, Joshua Hirst had portions of land scattered around the Dobcross area, extending from Bankfield to Woolroad and Mytholme. In the conditions of sale many safeguards were inserted to secure water rights and to retain tail goits taking water from the River Tame and Diggle Brook. These were so essential to the mills, which, although no longer requiring them for water power, needed the water for many processes in the woollen industry. It is interesting to note the conditions attached to the sale of Lot Seven. These safeguard the right of the owners of Buckley Mill to enter the land and maintain a goit which feeds the mill lodge behind what is now "Finlandia", Buckley Mill standing on what is now used as a car park by J.F. & C. Kenworthy & Co. A similar condition regarding the maintenance of a tail goit, weir, and rights appertaining thereto, is mentioned in Lot Nine, this applying to land at Woolroad.

This second sale catalogue was dated Thursday, 25th July, 1918, and followed upon the death of Joshua Hirst. Access to Woods House, his former residence, was off Sugar Lane. In the catalogue are given details of the accommodation amongst which were three entertaining rooms, seven bedrooms, billiard room, and such other rooms that go with houses of this size. There were three cottages adjoining: one might assume that these were the three which are situated just below the Woods House entrance gate. In addition there was a further dwelling house and one cottage leased to Mrs. Tanner as tenant for a period of five years.

Lot Two was the house known as Oak Lea which was occupied by W.H. Schofield, whose family I well recall residing there.

Lot Three, Woods Lane Cottages, of which there were four, calls for some definition. A possibility is that they were situated just below the shops.

Lot Four was Ash Grove Cottages, the ones in Woods Lane near the entrance to Woods House.

Lot Five was Woods Farm with barn, shippon, etc. and 14 acres of land. Charles Walton and S. Bentley were tenants, and many will remember Mrs. Walton on this farm.

Lot Six was Mytholme Mill with four acres of land and a rent payable by Andrew Carter for the water right of a goit passing through the land. The ruins of this mill are still evident, and it is known that the Hutchinson who joined James Hollingworth to form Hutchinson and Hollingworth used it as a saw mill and joiners' shop at one time.

Lot Seven was a plot of land situated around the junction of the A.670 and Dobcross New Road, but only one acre in area and occupied by Robert Rhodes.

Lot Eight was land situated at Dunge Booth Lock, two acres in area. This is the land below the viaduct, apparently along each side of the canal.

Lot Nine, apparently 1 acre 2 roods and 28 perches in area, was held with regard to maintaining a weir and was let to A. Christopher. This is apparently the plot of the former Ivy House, opposite the Woolroad Working Men's Club.

Lot Ten was an acre plot near Nab End and Long Lane, Dobcross.

Lot Eleven was called "Hursteads" but is better known as Husteads which was a twelve-acre farm with outbuildings and three cottages.

Lot Twelve was a portion of land descending from Wall Hill Road to the bottom of what I have always known as Shutt Lane but which was called Knarr Lane in the catalogue. Here there are ruined buildings, once a shippon. Mr. S. Piggot was the tenant.

Lot Thirteen was a small plot of 34 perches opposite the first brick houses built on Wall Hill.

The catalogue contains many references to rights and terms of tenancy agreements, continuance of water rights, and certain rights retained by the vendor until the expiry of the variously dated leases. All of these point to the great importance of water rights, as mentioned above.

F.G. Battye.

"GEORGE SHAW OF ST. CHAD'S, SADDLEWORTH"

The first book in the Local History Series to be published by the Saddleworth Historical Society appeared in December, 1972. A biography of George Shaw of St. Chad's, Uppermill, it was written by Colonel G.B. Howcroft, and was well received by the local press. Below are extracts from the reviews:

"Mr. Howcroft has painstakingly (if that is the right word for what was almost certainly a labour of love) visited and assessed the churches and other buildings attributed to Shaw ... " (Oldham Chronicle, 1st Jan. 1973)

"It is an urbane and thorough biography, some 7,500 words long, well produced, and illustrated by Shaw's own sketches". (ibid)

"Saddleworth Historical Society intends to produce more booklets in this series. They should go well if they maintain this standard ... " (Manchester Evening News, 9th Feb. 1973).

The book was printed by Basil Rhodes of Road End, Greenfield, and can be obtained from the Saddleworth Museum, Uppermill, or from the Editor of the Bulletin, price 25p (30p postage included).

THE ATTEMPTS TO FORM A WOOLLEN WEAVERS' UNION IN
SADDLEWORTH - 1827 and 1894.

Part 4: The Formation of a Union, 1894

A second attempt to form a Union came in 1894, the era of great Trade Union activity, after Thomas Mann had visited Delph and suggested such an undertaking. In the beginning the Saddleworth Weavers' Union was mostly active in the Delph area, but in the twentieth century its activities spread to the rest of Saddleworth and the adjoining woollen district of Lancashire.

There were three big strikes in the first four years of the Union's existence, but from that date until the lock-out in 1925 the area was fairly trouble free. The accounts of the activities are taken from "The Saddleworth Reporter" at various times during 1894, 1895 and 1896.

On 24th February, 1894, "The Saddleworth Reporter" recorded a dispute at Lumb Mill, Delph, where "over thirty weavers are affected and they seem very determined to hold out for what they deem to be their just rights". Their "just rights" were the standard wages of the district, as the Masters were paying wages below the standard wage list and had attempted to make another reduction. The workers concerned were those who wove on the reversible shawl looms. They had refused to accept a reduction in wages and had left their looms. The following week there was a walkout of the rest of the weavers with the exception of about five, in sympathy with the original strikers. The paper reported that "they are meeting with very practical sympathy from the people of the district and though at present they have no union they are not likely to suffer through lack of funds. The mill is picketed and there is little likelihood of fresh hands taking the place of those who are out. Several demonstrations have taken place against the four or five weavers who are working and especially at the time when the factories have been loosing affairs have assumed a very lively aspect".

The dispute stimulated a meeting held in Delph on the following Sunday at which Tom Mann spoke. Nine hundred people gathered at the Mechanics' Institute to hear his address on "Labour Politics", in which he said that the Labour Party was working under the most lamentable conditions - conditions which operated against their moral and physical well-being. He added that it should be possible for every family to get the common necessities of life and that the Independent Labour Party believed in fair work and a fair reward. He went on to expound the virtues of Unions, and suggested that they should "unite in forming a good Trade Union and take firm and solid action together". Laughter and applause greeted his statement that "with ordinary sense and united action the dispute going on ought to be the beginning of better times for all of them. Men who took seriously the scoffs and scowls of their superiors were nothing less than clod-hopping numbskulls who deserve to be ridden over".

By 17th March the hand-loom weavers were striking in sympathy with the power-loom weavers and the number of hands affected was now about sixty. The strikers were still receiving support, and money had been received from the Oldham district.

On 14th April, "The Saddleworth Reporter" stated that "matters

are looking a little more favourable in connection with the weavers' dispute at the Lumb Mill". But in the same edition there was an account of "lively scenes", in which "some six weavers have never left work and a fight ensued between one of these 'knobsticks' and a striker. The son of the master held the coat of the mill champion, while the representative of the weavers was loudly encouraged by the bulk of those present. In the end the weavers' man gave the other a good beating". The firm then arranged for the 'knobsticks' to leave work a quarter of an hour sooner than usual to avoid the trouble which otherwise they would have been bound to face.

It was decided to form a Weavers' Union in Saddleworth at a meeting which was held in the Assembly Room at Delph Mechanics' Institute on 9th June, 1894. Trade Union officials from Rochdale were present at the meeting in addition to local leaders. The attitude of the workers at Lumb Mill was vindicated, and they were urged to stand firm until the Masters were willing to pay the prices current in the district. Weavers from other mills gave assurances of financial support.

A report in the edition for 30th June stated that after nineteen weeks there was still no sign of settlement at the Lumb Mill. By this time over two hundred members had enrolled in the new Union, offices had been opened, and rules of the Association duly arranged.

The strike was settled after twenty-four weeks and "The Saddleworth Reporter" stated that "the hands have practically got what they asked for".

A Balance Sheet of the Strike Committee was published in the paper on 15th September, 1894, which stated that the total subscriptions received during the period of the strike amounted to £390.17. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Out of this amount a weekly allowance was made to each weaver and donations were made to other workpeople who were affected. The total amount absorbed in this way was over £365, and the balance in hand at the end of the dispute was over £25.

By the middle of October, 1894, the Union had a membership of over three hundred. In April, 1895, the Saddleworth Weavers' Association held its first Annual General Meeting, at which it was reported that there had been a steady increase in membership. Over the ensuing quarter there was a further increase, and in June, 1895, the Saddleworth Weavers' Association was registered under the Friendly and Trades' Societies Act.

A.C. Chadderton.

To be continued.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I have recently obtained a copy of the interesting and well-produced publication, "Bygone Saddleworth". I was particularly interested to read (on the "Yew Tree, Diggle" page) of the blind man, William Broadbent, who owned and worked the mill at Diggle.

If I have done my genealogy correctly, this William Broadbent was a cousin of my great grandfather, Mahlon Broadbent, who was born at Bruncclough in 1798 and died at Harrop Green in 1877. William's father, Thomas, and Mahlon's father, James, were brothers and sons of John and Annis Broadbent.

William Broadbent was born at Harrop Green in 1802. He married Betty Johnson at the Rochdale Parish Church on 23rd November, 1826. There were two children, Thomas who died on the 29th December, 1852, aged 25, and who was buried in the Greenwood Cemetery, Long Island, New York. He was described as a Merchant and possibly went to America to open up trade for his father.

The second son, William Johnson Broadbent, married Mary Lees. Their only child, Estelle Lilla, died on 16th July, 1858, aged one year twenty-two days, and the child's father died the month following, on 11th August. His widow, Mary, married Thomas Wood of Ryefields, a widower, on 31st October, 1860. This Thomas Wood was a nephew of Hannah Wood who married my great grandfather Mahlon Broadbent in 1830. Incidentally, Thomas and Mary Wood were the parents of Albert Edward Wood - whom I believe had something to do with a foundry at Saddleworth - and Mary Ann Wood who was a schoolteacher.

William Broadbent first (after marriage) lived at Diglee and later at Harrop Green. He is noted as being blind in the 1851, 1861 and 1871 Census Returns. In 1851 he is described as a Woollen Merchant; in 1861 as a Woollen Manufacturer; and in 1871 as a Mill Owner. Now, thanks to the publication "Bygone Saddleworth", I know which mill he owned.

He died on 27th November, 1871, aged 69, and was buried in the new graveyard at Saddleworth, where a well-inscribed stone commemorates his family.

I am wondering if any of your members has any further information about William - as to when he bought the mill, and to whom it was sold after his death, etc. I am engaged on research into my family, whom, I have seen it stated, were located in Harrop Dale ever since 1609. Any information about William and/or his predecessors would be most welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Harold S. Broadbent.

101 Turf Hill Road,
Rochdale.

P.S. Incidentally, the same article on Yew Tree gives the date 1726 as the first mention of this place in the Parish Church Registers. You may be interested to know that a James Broadbent of Yew Tree is mentioned in the will of George Broadbent of Harrop dated 3rd August, 1629.

Sir,

The Autumn Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society has been kindly forwarded to me by Mr. W.G.T. Bradbury at the, also kind, suggestion of Mr. Kenneth Watson. I have been studying it at intervals since.

Re Fairbanks (pages 50-52), the account, so far as my family is concerned, is rather confusing owing to the cottagers' names being jumbled together with theirs.

I assume you start the history at the time of - or after - the building of the 'new house' complete with two cottages. The Bradbury family had a previous dwelling house. It was in what later became the Top Barn. The chimney pieces could be seen on the east wall. The 'Long Chamber' belonging to this house is there to this day. It is now used as a storage place and for sheep clipping. I expect my brother and his two sons still do so. This house faced south and must have been very pleasant.

I suppose the present large edifice was erected to deal with the expanding woollen business.

I see you state that in 1770 Thomas Bradbury was the tenant, paying an annual rent of 13 Guineas to the Farrar estates (Shaw Hall). I have here a paper which states that Thomas Bradbury of Fairbanks voted as a freeholder in 1742. At that time, there were about 80 freeholders in Saddleworth. Thomas Bradbury voted for the Tory candidate, Mr. Fox. I conclude, therefore, that he was tenant in part of the Shaw Hall Estate.

In the year 1300 the Bradburys' name was in the Roll of Heraldry at Lancaster Castle. I have a copy of the crest here.

My grandfather at Fairbanks was an only son with two sisters, who went to school at Wrexham, in North Wales. They travelled by Stage Coach, leaving Saddleworth from the Bell Inn at Delph.

Fairbanks is supplied by water from the wonderful White Wall Spring. There used to be a water wheel which drove the chopping machine, to make chop for the horses. It fell into disrepair and rusted, and the machine then had to be worked by hand.

The paper workers in Betty Wrigley's cottage (top of page 52) would be employed at the paper mill down at Diggle (now a chemical works). I have heard it said that it was brown paper that was manufactured.

Yours sincerely,

A.M. Crossley
(formerly Audrey Bradbury of Fairbanks)

Lower Bradshaw,
Slaithwaite,
Huddersfield.

OLD SADDLEWORTH

This is part of the work being carried out on a Gazetteer of Saddleworth by the Historical Society. As more of this work is completed, details will be published in future editions of the Bulletin. The information given below has been extracted from Record Cards which are held by the Society, and which are available for reference.

BANK TOP (Boots Cottage)

Grid Reference: SE 007062

- Location: Runninghill Gate, Uppermill, below the Cross Keys Inn.
- Description: Former two-storey, two-window stone farmhouse with shippon adjoining on northern side. Now used as a garage. Old flag roof. Stonework has dressed angles. Entrance door has massive lintel inscribed 1633. Larger, nineteenth century house stands nearby.
- History:
- 1715 Earliest reference in Registers. John, son of Edward Lees of Bank-top christened.
- 1747 On 17th May John Lees of Bank-top, fustian weaver, married Mary Bradbury of Hill-top. At the same time their daughter Mary was christened. She died just over a month later. In December 1748 they had another daughter whom they also christened Mary but she died aged 5 months. In 1750 they had a son, Edward, who died aged 22 in 1772. Three more daughters were born: Sarah in 1752, Mary in 1756, and Hannah in 1758. In 1762 a son, John, was born but he died when a few weeks old. (Registers).
- 1748 Mary, wife of Edward Lees, yeoman, of Bank-top, buried. (Registers).
- 1753 Old Edward Lees of Bank Top died aged 75. (Registers).
- 1777 John Lees was tenant of Bank Top - 4 acres 3 roods and 14 perches, rent £2. 2. 6d. (Farrer Estate Records, Museum Archives).
- 1778 John Lees of Bank Top was a Warden of Saddleworth Church.
- 1781 John Bradbury, labourer of Bank Top, married Ann Buckley of Peters. (Registers).
- 1787 Mary, wife of John Lees, yeoman, of Bank Top died in her 67th year. (Registers).
- 1789 Sarah, daughter of John Lees, widow of Bank Top, died in her 37th year. (Registers).
- 1791 John Lees of Bank Top, yeoman, died in his 76th year. (Registers).
- 1793 Henry, son of John and Hannah Buckley of Bank Top, christened. (Registers).
- 1810 John Buckley owned Bank Top, 4 acres 3 roods 14 perches. (List of Freehold Estates, Saddleworth Enclosure Records, Museum Archives).
- 1822 Baines' Directory lists Holden Buckley, woollen cloth manufacturer, of Bank Top.

- 1851 According to the Census three families lived here: Samuel Mallalieu, with three males and three females - he was a woollen manufacturer and one of his sons was a woollen weaver; James Mallalieu with his wife and one son - he was a retired woollen cloth manufacturer; John Brierley with three males and two females - he was a sexton and stone engraver and one of his sons was a waggoner.
- 1852 Slater's Directory records James and Samuel Mallalieu of Bank Top, woollen manufacturers and merchants.
- 1853 Samuel Mallalieu was elected to the First Board of Guardians of the Poor for the Township.
- 1863 James Mallalieu of Bank Top died aged 75. (Registers).
- 1871 The Census records three families living at Bank Top: Edwin Wood, stone dealer, with two males and two females - one of his sons was a stone cutter; Samuel Mallalieu, farmer, with one male and three females - two of the females were dressmakers; and Samuel B. Brierley, grave maker, with three males and one female - one of his sons was a shoe maker, the other two were labourers in an iron works.

GREAVES (Greave)

Grid Reference: SD 978067

Location: Above Oldham Road, Thurston Clough, Delph.

Description: 18th century, two-storey, six-window farmhouse, including gabled wing on the east and shippon adjoining on the north. Old flag roof. Stonework includes narrow courses. Mullioned windows including some with coved mullions.

History: 1778 John, son of James Beswick, clothier, and Sally his wife of Greaves christened. Their son Robert died in 1779. (Registers).

1779 (Jan.) Dan, son of Joshua Scholefield and Betty his wife of Greaves christened. (Registers).

1779 (Feb.) Henry Wood, widower, and Mary Kenworthy, widow, both of Greaves, married. (Registers).

1779 (Feb.) Alice, daughter of John Lees, clothier, and Hannah his wife of Greaves (sic) christened. In 1781 they had another daughter, Esther, and in 1783 a third, Ann, who died when only a few days old. In 1785 a further daughter Sally was born, and in 1787 Betty was christened. She died in her second year. In 1790 their last child, Hannah, was born. (Registers).

1784 Betty, daughter of Thomas Buckley, clothier, and Alice his wife of Greaves born. In 1786 they had another daughter, Hannah. (Registers).

1785 Hannah, daughter of William Bamford and Hannah his wife of Greaves, born. She died aged 8 months. (Registers).

1788 (May) Joseph, son of George and Mary Mallalieu of Greaves, clothier, christened. (Registers).

1788 (Sept.) Sally, daughter of James and Hannah Lawton of Greaves, clothier, christened. In 1790 they had a son, John. (Registers).

- 1791 John, son of James and Hannah Platt of Greaves, born. (Registers).
- 1794 Abraham, son of James Buckley of Greaves, buried. (Registers).
- 1795 John Lawton of Greaves mentioned in the Minutes of Committee Meetings of Manor of Saddleworth and Quick (Museum Archives). In the same year George, son of John and Nancy Buckley of Greaves, was born. In 1800 they had a daughter, Alice. (Registers).
- 1797 (Feb.) Thomas, son of Joseph Lawton of Greaves, buried. (Registers).
- 1797 (July) John Lawton of Greaves was buried. (Registers).
- 1800 Betty Lees of Greaves was buried. (Registers).
- 1802 John Lawton of Greaves died in his 72nd year. (Registers).
- 1808 Samuel, son of James and Betty Scholefield of Greaves, died in his 9th year. (Registers).
- 1810 The owner of Greaves was George Wright; the occupier was Gamaliel Buckley, 12 acres. (Saddleworth Enclosure Records, Museum Archives).
- 1848 Thomas Greaves lived here. (West Riding Poll List).
- 1851 The Census lists Jonathan Bradbury of Greaves, with a family of ten (seven males and three females). He was a woollen manufacturer, and of his sons two were woollen workers, one a cloth finisher and one a labourer.
- 1852 Whellan's Directory lists Jonathan Bradbury of Greaves, woollen manufacturer.
- 1871 The Census records Jonathan Bradbury still occupying Greaves, with a family of six (four males, two females). He was a farmer of 52 acres and two of his sons were agricultural labourers.
- 1875 Worrall's Directory lists Jonathan Bradbury, farmer, of Greaves.
- 1885 Jonathan Bradbury still lived here. (Poll List).
- 1899 The Saddleworth Reporter for 4th November includes details of the sale of Greaves Farm + 20 acres 3 roods and 36 perches, now in the occupation of Samuel Platt as yearly tenant, rent £40.

CAUSEWAY SETT (see Page 15 of Vol.2, No.1 of the Bulletin).

Additional information:

- 1752 James, son of James Milnes, clothier, and Martha his wife of Causeway-set christened. (Registers). Thomas their son was born in 1755 and Matty in 1758.
- 1757 Edward Ford, tailor, of Causeway-set, buried. (Registers).
- 1762 Edmund, son of Edmund Buckley, clothier, and Anna his wife of Causeway-set, born. (Registers).

- 1765 Betty, daughter of Jonathan Kenworthy, clothier, and Sarah his wife of Causeset (sic) christened. She died in 1770. (Registers).
- 1769 John Bradbury, clothier, of Causeway-set buried. (Registers).
- 1801 In the Museum Archives is the will of Robert Buckley of Causeway Sett, dated 10th January. Probate granted 23rd April, 1802. Executors: his daughter, Betty; John Buckley of Broadhead, clothier; Giles Wood of Woodbarn.
- 1810 According to the Saddleworth Enclosure Records there were two occupiers of Causeway Sett: Jonathan Carter (2 acres) owners John and James Milns, and Robert Buckley (10 acres) owner James Schofield.
- 1885 Robert Wood lived here. (Poll List).

The Society would welcome any further information on the houses and hamlets mentioned here, and on any other property of possible interest in Saddleworth. The Gazetteer will also encompass turnpike roads, canals, railways, bridges, mills, etc. Information should be sent to the Editor of the Bulletin -

Mr. B. Barnes,
7, Elsted Road,
Greenfield,
Oldham.

Enquiries about membership of the Society should be sent to the Secretary -

Mrs. B. Booth,
"Ceann",
Friezland Lane,
Greenfield,
Oldham.

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