

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



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Cover Illustration: Portrait on satin of Field-Marshal Kitchener sold to raise funds for the National Committee for Relief in Belgium. (Saddleworth Museum Archives M/GX/KB/420)

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SADDLEWORTH'S BELGIAN REFUGEES OF WORLD WAR I

Researched by Peter Fox¹

The beginnings of the World War had started early in 1914 but it wasn't until August 4th 1914 that Britain officially declared war against Germany the day after the Germans had declared war on France and invaded Belgium. The onset of the war was to produce not only military casualties but also civilian casualties and refugees and one of the countries firstly affected by this very soon after the onset of the war was Belgium.

These refugees from Belgium sought to find a home in Britain well away from the conflict in Europe. In September 1914 the British government offered "victims of war the hospitality of the British nation" and accepted the responsibility for the reception, maintenance and registration of these Belgian refugees.

The influx of these Belgian refugees was to total over a quarter of a million people and was to be the largest movement of refugees in British history. There were throughout the country numerous committees set up to support these refugees and the distress of the Belgian people. A National Committee for Relief in Belgium was established and the museum holds a portrait on satin of Field-Marshal Kitchener that was sold to raise funds for relief in Belgium which carried the statistic that their where three and a half million Belgians destitute due to the war.

The first concerns over Belgian refugees and offer of assistance was expressed in the papers in September 1914 with an offer to the Government from Mrs Hyde of Wharmton Towers:

Belgian Child Refugees Offered Home in Saddleworth²

"Mrs Hyde of Wharmton Towers [Greenfield] has written to the Government to find homes for about 50 children of Belgian refugees. Quite a number of ladies in Saddleworth have waited upon Mrs Hyde and volunteered to take some of the children."

The monthly meeting of the Saddleworth Distress Committee in October 1914 recorded that they had received a letter from the West Riding Committee asking if accommodation could be procured in Saddleworth and the committee agreed to open a Belgian fund under the banner of the committee, it was interesting that one councillor expressed concern asking if they could have refugees in Saddleworth as there was no Roman Catholic Church.

By the end of October 1914 there seems to have been a flood of offers with various people offering houses and a suggestion that some of the newly built as yet untenanted Council Houses would be suitable for the purpose. The Saddleworth

¹ A Copy of all the research for this article along with images has been deposited in Saddleworth Museum Archives.

² Oldham Chronicle, 5th September 1914. All references in this article to local papers can be found in Newspaper Cuttings - Oldham Chronicle and Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter, Saddleworth Museum Archives.

Distress Committee was also looking at the provision of housing as well as individual churches.

Our Belgian Guests³

“To the Editor:

Sir, - In connection with the offer of a furnished house in Saddleworth I wish to record thanks to the following gentlemen who have so generously come forward and guaranteed for an indefinite period to provide towards the upkeep of the Belgians. It is certainly a high tribute to their generosity and public spirit in trying times like the present.”

“Thomas Holt. Esq., Runninghill, Dobcross.
W. Broadbent, Esq., Ryefields, Uppermill.
F.W. Mallalieu, Esq., Larkhill House, Delph.
T. Thomson, Esq., Dale House, Delph.”

“There are so many thoughtful people in this country who realise the immense debt we owe to the Belgians, and it is gratifying to think that, in spite of the much that has been done, there is an increasing desire from all classes to share the burden of maintaining these homeless fugitives pending repatriation. There is a natural impulse in all of us to help our fellows in distress, but with the spectacle of practically a whole nation exiled through a sublime defence of heart and home, and of the very principles of which we are so proud, and fighting to uphold, we must at heart feel very strongly that it is up to us at least to give of our bounty to these helpless fugitives and extend a hand to the brave little nation that has suffered so much in the cause of freedom and right. There is surely an immense fund of practical sympathy as yet untapped, and a public appeal by a very energetic committee of well known local people could, without the slightest doubt, quickly raise a sum that would be a credit to the district and materially extend the relief that private initiative has already undertaken.

Yours faithfully,

J.E. PILKINGTON, Leecross House, Diggle, 30th Oct. [1914]”

“To the Editor:⁴

Sir. - It has been suggested that the Council houses that are at present untenanted should be put in order and arrangements made for housing some of the Belgian refugees. After stopping empty so long it is time that they were put to some use. If this were done I don't think any Saddleworth ratepayers would object, not even those merciless critics, “Rumbles Spring” and “Arracks Nook.” Anyway, I throw out the suggestion and hope the ratepayers will exert pressure on their Council representatives to bring it about.

Yours,

SYMPATHY”

³ Oldham Chronicle. 31st October 1914.

⁴ Oldham Chronicle, 24th October 1914.

It is difficult to identify the exact date that the first Belgian refugees arrived though it was certainly sometime during October 1914, nearly three months after the people of Saddleworth had been alerted to the cause. There had been many offers for houses and much preparation in the district with fund raising, houses being identified for use and prepared



Advertisement for a Portrait of Field-Marshal Kitchener (see cover illustration) sold to raise funds for the National Committee for Relief in Belgium. (Saddleworth Museum Archives M/GX/KB/420)

Saddleworth Distress Committee - Belgians at a Premium

“A meeting of the Saddleworth Distress Committee was held in the Council Offices, Uppermill, last evening. Councillor A.W. Knott was voted to the chair.”

“It was reported that a house at Denshaw for the use of Belgian refugees had been offered by Mr Dawson, of Hollinwood; Messrs. D. and H. Mallalieu one at Delph; Mr F. W. Mallalieu two at Delph; Mr Radcliffe, Greenfield, had offered Oak Dene; Mr W. A. Harrison had offered Heathfields, Uppermill; Mr Davenport a cottage at Saddleworth Church, and Mrs Hyde [of Wharmton Towers] that the Greenfield ladies had furnished a cottage and had a family in occupation, and Mr Pikington placed a furnished cottage at Diggle at disposal and said he had a guaranteed income of a £1 a week. The secretary said the Delph Independents had furnished a cottage but not got a family.”

“Mrs Hyde said there were difficulties. In the Manchester district there were thirty more applicants than families and they of Greenfield had had to wait a long time.”

“The Secretary: There are plenty of homes in readiness in London.”

“Mr Heap: If we offer the homes it shows we are willing.”

“Councillor Whitehead: It would be a mistake to spend money in furnishing.”

It was decided to write the County Council (West Riding) offering to find accommodation for between thirty and thirty six.

On the suggestion of the Chairman it was decided to ask the owners of Heathfields and Oakdene to be allowed the house to be used for convalescent wounded soldiers.^{5, 6}

Arrival of Belgians is still being Anxiously Awaited in Saddleworth⁷

“Houses have been cleaned and furnished in the anticipation of an immediate arrival of refugees, and for the last fortnight a wire has been expected every moment announcing that the distressed families were on the way. Members of the Distress Committee have been afraid of leaving home lest the poor folks should arrive without anyone to welcome them. Hope deferred is said to make the heart sick, and certainly those who have worked so hard would have been sick long before this if the cause had so demanded their sympathy and forbearance.”

There appears to have been some conflict over the Saddleworth Distress Committee and the members of the Delph Independents who in themselves were working hard to support the refugees and wished to carry on by themselves rather than merging with the Distress Committee:

Delph Independents and Belgian Refugees⁸

“To the Editor:

Sir, - The Reference of Mr J. E. Gartside, reported in your last week's issue to the failure of the Delph portion of the Saddleworth Distress Committee to induce the Delph Independents to centralise their work for the Belgian refugees would be better understood in we were to give our reason for remaining aloof.

We, as a church, refused to merge our effort in that of the Distress Committee because, before knowing that they intended to do anything for the Belgian refugees, we had launched our scheme; we had secured a cottage, furniture, and promises of subscriptions amounting to 25 shillings weekly for a year; we had asked the Manchester Refugees' Committee to send us a family when possible; and, having gone so far and done so much in preparation, we felt that we could do this little bit of practical Christian work for our Belgian brethren as well as, if not better than, it could be done for us by the committee on which we had not the slightest representation.

I am, yours, etc.,

D.J. EDWARDS, The Manse, Delph.”

The first account of an actual family is recorded in the paper and carries the sad story of how one family was affected by the German invasion:

Belgian Refugees at Delph⁹

“Two families of Belgian refugees have found a welcome home at Bleakhey Nook, Delph. Mr J. Greenwood, while at business at Manchester, ascertained that a home was wanted for a Belgian named Wm. Foreff and his wife and Mrs Foreff's sister and

⁵ Oakdene was later on used as the first Military Hospital in Saddleworth - Heathfields was offered but never used.

⁶ Oldham Chronicle, 7th November 1914.

⁷ Oldham Chronicle, 12th December 1914.

⁸ Oldham Chronicle, 5th December 1914.

⁹ Oldham Chronicle, 31st October 1914.

her child, a pretty little girl of about six, and having a cottage near his house empty he placed it at their disposal. He brought them there the same night and the people in the locality at one did all in their power to make them as comfortable as circumstances would permit. Small sums were also subscribed towards their maintenance.”

“Their story is a sad one. Foreff was a worker on the railway at Malines when the invasion took place. Just before the Germans took possession Foreff and the two women and child left for Antwerp, where work was again obtained on the railway. Mrs Foreff’s brother-in-law was a soldier and he was killed in one of the early engagements, though the knowledge was kept from the wife on account of her delicate state of health. Foreff had only just got settled at Antwerp when the Germans again appeared on the scene, and he and the others went off to Bruges. He again found work on the railway, but his stay was only extended over three weeks when the terrible foe again commenced their depredations. This led to a weary tramp to Calais. For three nights all had to sleep under the bridges. They reached England on the 20th. Nine weeks ago they were happy and contented at Malines, never dreaming of what was in store for them, but they are thankful that their lot has been cast amongst so many friends. Foreff is anxious to get work and has already been found odd jobs by those requiring their gardens trimmed or the like. Mrs Thorn and her daughter, of Diggle, were useful as interpreters to the stricken families.”



Postcard portrait of four of Saddleworth’s Belgian Refugees (author’s collection)

The arrival of one family under the support of the Delph Independents in a taxi is also recorded whilst the collection of a party of sixteen Belgian refugees which had arrived at Huddersfield Station highlights the problems over language with Miss Hudson the daughter of Councillor Hudson providing as interpreter.

Delph Independents' Belgian Refugees¹⁰

"The cottage which was furnished at Stones, Delph by the Delph Independents is now occupied by a Belgian family comprising father mother, and three children (two girls and a boy) aged respectively 6, 4, and 2 years. The refugees arrived on Monday night and were conveyed to their new house in a taxi-cab. It is five months since they left their home in Marlines."

Language was of course an issue and certainly the main language of the Belgians would have been Flemish or French and J.P.W. Mallalieu records in his book 'On Lark Hill' how he had played with a couple of the Belgian children and how his mother had hoped that he might have learned some French though it turned to be more of a case of 'Albert' one of the Belgian children picking up the local Saddleworth dialect (see full quote at the end of the article).

The work of providing for the refugees and supporting the Belgian Relief Fund had already even before their arrival demanded a great deal of fund raising throughout the district, not forgetting that there was a war on and demands for funds to support our soldiers at the front and the war effort in general was strong. The fundraising took many forms from simple donations to fundraising efforts and the musical talents of the area seem to have been put into good effect. There were apart from concerts a number of lectures on the Belgian theme with music and talks on the Belgian people and it is recorded in one lantern slides showing the Belgian country, the popularity of these is recorded when one was held at the Mechanics Hall, Uppermill in December 1914 the paper reported that the "...sale of tickets for the Belgian lecture had been most gratifying".

Relief Concert at Delph¹¹

"In aid of the Belgian Relief Fund a concert promoted by the Delph Co-operative Choir, was held in the Mechanics Hall, Delph on Saturday evening. There was such a numerous audience that a profit of between £12 and £13 was made. The principals were..... Selections were added by the Delph Brass Band prize quartet".

Patriotic Concert at Uppermill - Successful Effort by Vocal Society¹²

"The magnificent sum of £58 was raised on behalf of the Belgian Fund."

There were apart from concerts a number of lectures on the Belgian theme with music and talks on the Belgian people and it is recorded in one lantern slides showing the Belgian country. The popularity of these Belgian lectures is recorded with the papers noting for one at the Mechanics Hall, Uppermill that "demand for tickets for the lecture on Monday evening [12th December 1914] has been most gratifying".¹³

¹⁰ Oldham Chronicle, 19th December 1914.

¹¹ Oldham Chronicle, 14th November 1914.

¹² Oldham Chronicle, 5th December 1914.

¹³ Oldham Chronicle, December 1914.

Saddleworth and the Belgian Relief Fund¹⁴

“The Mechanics’ Hall, Uppermill, was crowded on Monday evening on the occasion of a lantern lecture, given under the auspices of the Saddleworth Literary and Philosophical Society in aid of the Belgian Relief Fund. The lecturer was M. Paul Blaise, of Louvain, whose remarks were interspersed with songs by M. Jan Collignon, of Antwerp, both gentlemen being refugees owing to the ravages of the Germans in the land of their nativity. The lecture was an interesting one, and naturally dealt with Belgium as it was before the war and as it is now after the passage of the German Army. There were numerous illustrative pictures showing the chief buildings of Antwerp, Brussels, Louvain, Amiens, Ghent, Dinant, Leige and other towns, the names of which are now written large in European history, and their present condition after a storm of shot and shell directed at them from sheer wantonness or a desire to show their vengeance.”

It was recorded by the Saddleworth Distress Committee that in January 1915 there were forty five Belgian refugees in the district. The main issue having settled these families in the district was how they were going to fund the costs as there was no Government scheme to directly help the families. There had been initial costs in setting up the houses that they were going to occupy and the issue was how to provide for the ongoing cost of the houses and people. As early as November 1914 the Manager of the Mossley Gasworks operated by Mossley Council and suppliers of gas to the Saddleworth district had agreed to offer cheap gas to the refugees and a letter was duly received by the Saddleworth Distress Committee confirming that they were to be given the nominal price of 6d (though it doesn’t say how much this represented). It is interesting that even within three months of their arrival a few had already found employment in a couple of the local mills and some were doing small jobs around the district.

Money for Belgian Refugees¹⁵

“The Saddleworth Distress Committee has now decided on what it is hoped will prove satisfactory scheme for the treatment of the Belgian refugees. A conference with the refugees was held at the Council Offices, Uppermill, on Wednesday evening, and with the help of Mr Kershaw, school master, who has a complete command of Flemish, the whole question was carefully gone into. It was decided to the satisfaction of all that in future refugee workers shall receive as pocket money three shillings a week, the wives one shilling a week, ten shillings shall be invested for the refugees against the time when they return to their own country and the remainder put to the general funds to assist in their maintenance. The men at work are earning from twenty to twenty-two shillings a week so that the committee will receive from 6 to 8 shillings towards the twenty-five or thirty shillings which it takes to keep each family.”

¹⁴ Oldham Chronicle, 19th December 1914.

¹⁵ Oldham Chronicle, 20th February 1915.

Distress Committee and Payments to Refugees¹⁶

“Mrs Gartside reported that at Delph they had paid £12-5sh-7d as the initial expenses in connection with the settlement of the Belgians had been heavy. The weekly premises now amounted to £2-3sh-0d.”

“Mr Whitehead said in Uppermill they had paid £1-9sh-0d ordinary expenses due chiefly to the fact that men on service had not received their allowances.”

“Mrs Davidson said the Uppermill family was costly. They seemed to eat a very great deal (laughter). She thought it necessary to establish some general scheme.”

“Councillor Knott said the receipts had been £12-6sh-0d and the total expenditure about £16. Boots and underclothing had been provided for the refugees. The weekly contributions amounted to two guineas.”

“Mrs Davidson added that one of the Belgian ladies had gone home (to Belgium) and the committee had found her 30shillings.”

The issue of diet for these Belgians away from their own country was no doubt to some extent an issue at first and they no doubt initially had to adapt to what was available in the local shops. The papers record that the Belgians liked fish which was very popular in their country but the price in Saddleworth was much higher as in Belgium they could get as much for 6d as for 2s shillings in this country. They didn't like the locally baked Saddleworth bread which was recorded as being too light and they were learning how to bake for themselves. What the traditional Belgium diet or dish is unrecorded in the accounts of the time and as to whether the locals were entertained or encouraged to try these dishes.

As to how the Belgians entertained themselves and kept up with each other isn't recorded but certainly the local people must have tried to get them involved in the local community and inevitably at the time support the war effort. There is an interesting account of the Belgian refugees being taken for a tour to what was the recently opened new Chew Reservoir high on the Saddleworth Moor at Greenfield

Belgian Refugees have Tour Chew Reservoir¹⁷

“Alderman M.B. Fare J.P., the chairman of the Mossley Belgians' Committee, on Saturday afternoon conducted the Belgian refugees to the Chew Reservoir, Greenfield, Mr F.G. Dixon, the engineer of the Water Board, accompanied the party, along with Mr Perrin, so that the most lucid descriptions were given to the interested visitors. The filter houses were also inspected, Alderman Fare afterwards entertained the guests at Ashway Gap. On their way home there was a stay at the Mossley Fire Station and after the inspection supper was served.”

After the initial settlement of the refugees in the area they must have integrated into the local community to a degree as six months after their arrival there are very few references to them.

There was probably at the finish of the First World War around fifty Belgian Refugees who had stayed in the district, it is interesting that little appears to have been written about their return to Belgium apart from one account in April of 1915 were

¹⁶ Oldham Chronicle, 10th April 1915

¹⁷ Oldham Chronicle, 6th February 1915.

one lady had returned to Belgian funded by the Saddleworth Distress Committee. The number of Belgians increased with the birth of certainly at least one baby when in November 1914 a Mrs Coupens from Maliacs gave birth to a daughter but there were probably others. It is interesting to speculate, did any of them stay on after the end of the war?

Appendix 1

***On Lark Hill* by J. P. W. Mallalieu**

An interesting couple of paragraphs relating to the Belgian refugees in the Saddleworth area are published in J.P.W. Mallalieu's autobiography *On Lark Hill*.¹⁸

"One of the Belgian refugees who were billeted in Delph came to char in Larkwood, bringing her seven-year-old son, Albert. Mother hoped that whilst we were playing games with him Dick and I might pick up some French. We did not, mainly because Albert immediately picked up some Saddleworth. A few weeks after they had settled in Delph, the Belgians - and Marg - had to register with the police as friendly aliens and Lucy and I went along one icy morning to join the group which mother and Aunt Minnie were marshalling outside Delph Station for the two mile walk to the Wool Road Police station. Suddenly Albert came hurtling towards us down the Sound. 'Sithee, lad,' he shouted, 'O'm slurring on th 'ahce.'"

"The Belgians soon became indistinguishable in Delph, wearing shawls and clogs to go shopping or to work in the mills like everyone else; and the only reminders of war seemed to be the occasional soldier home on leave, a route march complete with horse drawn field kitchen, which a bored battalion of the Manchester Regiment made up the road to Standedge and the sight of shell cases, instead of horse shoes outside the blacksmith's".

Recorded Names of Belgian Refugees/Soldiers in Saddleworth

These are the only records I could find of specific people:

1. Foreff and his wife and Mrs Foreff's sister and her child (10/1914) – Bleakhey Nook, Delph.
2. Mrs Coupens, from Maliacs (Bleakhey Nook, Delph) had daughter whilst here - Bleakhey Nook, Delph.
3. Mdm. Marie Vonstaen and her son, Oscar of Ghent (arrived 12/1914) - Uppermill.
4. M. and Mdm. Edmund Anthierens, their daughter, Jeanne, and Francois (arrived 12/1914) - Uppermill.
5. Yhon Van Olmen, Belgian soldier who stayed at Saddleworth Military Hospital and sent a letter to Councillor Hudson thanking people of Saddleworth for their kindness.¹⁹
6. Belgians working at Hutchinson & Hollingworth, Dobcross Loomworks – listed in the 1915 Wages Book - No. 90 Jan Janssens, No. 128 Ed Van Schug Broech and No. 321 Vrans Janssens.²⁰

¹⁸ On Lark Hill, J.P.W. Mallalieu, 1983.

¹⁹ Oldham Chronicle, 11th September 1916.

²⁰ Saddleworth Museum Archives.

Saddleworth Distress Committee.

*The following Contributions have been made to the Funds
up to May 10th, 1915.*

BELGIAN FUND.

Amount previously advertised ...	£	s	d
Mrs. Wharton ...	245	8	10
		2	6
	£245	11	4
Credit Balance...	£178	16	6

LOCAL FUND.

Amount previously advertised ...	£	s	d
Officials, Saddleworth Union (7th Inst.)	605	4	6
		19	0
	£606	3	6
Credit Balance...	£425	19	4

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously advertised ...	£	s	d
	992	15	0
Credit Balance...	£42	15	0

Subscriptions may be paid in at any of the LOCAL BRANCHES of the M. & C. BANK,
or to the undersigned—

HAROLD A. TANNER, *Chairman.*
WALTER FERNS, *Treasurer.*
EDWIN HUDSON, *Secretary.*

BELGIAN FAMILIES.

Income & Expenditure for 2 months ending 10th May, 1915

	Cottages.	Refugees.	Wage Earners.	Total Income for Maintenance.	Expenditure.
				£ s d	£ s d
Old Tame	1	4	1	2 11 11	8 0 10
Delph	2	6	2	* 22 16 11	18 1 0
Dobcross	1	8	2	† 31 0 5	25 17 6
Uppermill	1	5	3	† 18 2 10	19 12 5
	5	23	8	£74 12 1	£71 11 9

* Balance Banked.

† Collections and previous Balance.

MOORE AND EDWARDS, PRINTERS, UPPERMILL.

Copy of accounts for Saddleworth Distress Committee for May 10th 1915 gives some idea of number of refugees in each district, however to this must be added those taken in by individuals plus those looked after by the Delph Independents. (Saddleworth Historical Society Archives, H/ELE/1)

EARLY SADDLEWORTH RECORDS - 4

Miscellaneous Charters in the Raines MSS

Victor Khadem

Transcription and translation Mike Buckley

Whilst curate at Saddleworth Church, Rev. Francis Raines applied his antiquarian interests to the parish which he served.¹ His main focus, unsurprisingly, centred on the history of the church and those Saddleworth families who had flourished from the seventeenth century onwards. However, where he came across documents relating to the medieval history of the district he either transcribed or noted them.²

The first deed is a grant by Richard Rufus de Staveley to his brother Ralph de Staveley of half of his land at Fernlee. The land was held by freehold tenure and must have therefore been subinfeudated by the lords of the manor of Saddleworth prior to Richard's grant. Because a number of place-names cited in the deed have fallen out of use, it is uncertain as to whether the first boundary described in the deed relates to the whole Fernlee estate, or just the half Ralph was granted. The western boundary of Harelawclough (Warlow Clough) and the southern boundary Cumbesbroke (Chew Brook) can easily be located on Ordnance Survey maps of the nineteenth century. However, the eastern boundary is less clear, being described as following the Haukesyke from Cumbesbroke to 'the head of the stream'.³ Similarly, the exact location of Whitewall, which formed the southern boundary cannot be traced, however it was clearly high on the moor in the vicinity of White Gate. A narrow strip of six perches in breadth was excluded from the grant by Richard. Unfortunately a combination of uncertainty over Raines' Latin and a series of unidentifiable place names means that one cannot locate this land with any certainty.

In addition to the land at Fernlee, Ralph received one and a half acres in Sadulworthirst.⁴ One acre lay at 'lenetherwendyng' next to 'leseclough' and the remaining half was at the '.....sti wendyng nearer Sladewrthsthil'. Raines clearly had difficulty in transcribing this place-name and in his transcription he makes an attempt to replicate the shape of the original letters in the deed (See illustration opposite) With the exception of 'Sladewrthsthil' (Saddleworth Sty, later Shadworth Lane),

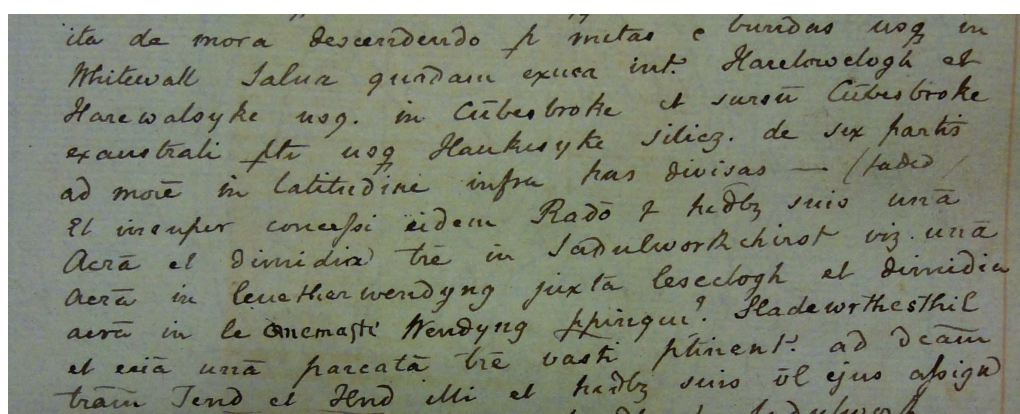
¹ For further information on Raines see *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, article under Francis Robert Raines. For his time in Saddleworth see R. Ivens, 'Extracts from the Diary of Canon F. R. Raines', *Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin (SHSB)*, Vol. 38, No. 1, pp. 15-18.

² Most of these have already been published by the Society in M. Buckley, 'Early Saddleworth Records 3', *SHSB*, Vol. 39, No. 4, pp. 93-98.

³ A 'syke' is a small stream. It is possible that the Haukesyke began at what is shown as Whiterake Spring on the 1851 Ordnance Survey Map. Although only the font of the spring is shown on the map, if one follows the contours its course can be discerned. M. Buckley, D. Harrison and A. Petford (Eds), *Mapping Saddleworth, Volume I*, (Uppermill, 2007), p. 76. The spring runs roughly half-way between Fernlee and Whitelee and broadly coincides with the boundary of the two estates in 1822. M. Buckley, D. Harrison *et al*, *Mapping Saddleworth, Volume II*, (Uppermill, 2010), p. 206.

⁴ 'Hurst' indicates the presence of a copse or wood. It seems Sadulworthirst covered the lower lying land around the River Tame abutting the Saddleworth boundary with Cheshire. The Hurst must have extended some way down the Tame Valley, as the neighbouring place-name, Micklehurst (Great Hurst) indicates. A.H. Smith, *English Place-Name Elements Part 1*, English Place Name Society, Vol. 25 (Cambridge University Press, 1987), pp. 276-277.

these place-names are now lost making identifying the exact location of the one and a half acres difficult. Later records of the Staveleys and their Booth successors, indicate that the only other land they owned close to Fernlee was the Smartroyd. This comprised of fertile fields on the banks of the River Tame, south of the present day Royal George Mills. The suffix 'wendyng' is rather unusual and may be Raines' mistranscription for 'royding', a place-name element which gives its names to fields and farms in the area, most obviously at Ridding Farm. However, one cannot be confident that the land was in the Smartroyd - although it is close to Shadworth Lane, there is no evidence of a clough next to the fields, as described in the deed.



Part of Raines' transcription of the Fernlee Deed. Unable to transcribe the place name on the ninth line he copies the paleography in the original.

By identifying the two parties to the grant and the attesting witnesses, it is possible to arrive at a relatively accurate date for the deed, which, like most thirteenth century deeds, is undated. Although a branch of the de Staveley family had been resident in Saddleworth since at least the beginning of the thirteenth century, the two brothers, party to the transaction, were members of the family living at Staveley (Cheshire) itself.⁵ As early as the mid-thirteenth century, the de Assheton family had granted 'Ralph son of William Ruffus de Staley' lands in their manor of Ashton, some of which had formerly been held by Richard Ruffus.⁶ But the Fernlee deed is likely to date some time after this, for it is stated that Ralph was to hold the land of the 'heirs of Sadulworth' (my italics); it was only after the two daughters of Robert de Stapleton jointly inherited Saddleworth in c.1260 that the manor was held by more than one individual⁷. The grant is unlikely to date much after c.1293 when one of the

⁵ Deeds from c.1240 onwards consistently show that the designation of the Saddleworth branch of the Staveleys was 'le Brun' whilst that of those resident in Staveley was 'le Rufus'. M. Buckley, *Seeing Through a Glass Darkly*, SHSB, Vol. 36, No. 2, p. 36.

⁶ W. Bowman, *England in Ashton-under-Lyne*, (Altrincham, 1960), p. 90.

⁷ C.T. Clay (Ed.), *Three Yorkshire Assize Rolls*, Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series, Vol. 44 (Leeds, 1911), pp.103-5.

witnesses, Robert de Staveley, was making arrangements for the succession of his estates, implying he was at the end of his life.⁸

The effect of the deed was clearly to split Fernlee into two separate ownerships; at an unknown date one half became settled and known as Whitelee.⁹ Despite this, by either purchase (or more likely inheritance), the two halves merged under the one ownership of Robert de Staveley (died c.1409). In a survey of his lands he is recorded as holding 8 acres, ½ rood; 3 perches in 'le Whitlegh' and 36 acres and 3 perches of



Fernlee and Whitelee (Mike Buckley's collection)

arable land, woodland and meadow in 'Fernilegh'; and 4 acres and 6 perches in 'Le Smartrode'.¹⁰ By the sixteenth century, the Booths, who had inherited the Staveleys' estates had lost control of Fernlee to the Schofield family, one of whom, James, paid

⁸ The first time Robert is explicitly stated as being dead is in 1303. KB 27/173 m. 34, TNA. The National Archives (TNA). (All the legal records at TNA prefixed by 'KB', 'JUST' and 'CP' quoted here can be found in the digital archive assembled by R. C. Palmer and E. K. Palmer, *The Anglo-American Legal Tradition*, available at <http://aalt.law.uh.edu/aalt.html>). However, by a deed of 1293, Robert son of Richard le Bronn de Stavelegh entailed his lands in Saddleworth on his sons. OD/WBD/X/63, Beaumont of Whitley Collection, West Yorkshire Archive Service (Kirklees).

⁹ A John Whitelee, Chaplain was party to a Saddleworth court case of 1385, his surname suggesting that there was a settlement there by this date. JUST 1/1139, TNA. The settlement at Fernlee gave its name to a family who were settled across Saddleworth by the fourteenth century.

¹⁰ Regrettably the original is lost, however an attempted transcription was made by Winifred Bowman in the 1950s. DDX 350, Lancashire Record Office.

12d chief rent to William Ramsden in 1591.¹¹ Correspondingly, in 1624 ‘one Scholefeild’ tenant of Whitelee paid 12d.¹² This is the same sum stated as being owed to the lords of Saddleworth for half of Fernlee in the thirteenth century grant, a testament to the remarkably fixed nature of the ancient chief rents.

Unfortunately, Raines failed to record where he transcribed the deed from. It is most likely that he saw the document locally and probably as part of a title to the Fernlee estate. There must have been an original grant from the lord of the manor, subinfeudating the land (though it does remain possible that this was done at such an early date that no written record was made) and from the eighteenth century there were numerous transactions, the majority of which would have been recorded. One can only hope that in the future the deed, along with the many others which must have existed for this ancient freehold, will emerge.

Grant from Richard Ruffus de Staveley to Ralph his brother¹³

Sciant om[n]es p[re]sentes et futor[e] quod ego Ricardus Ruff[u]s de Staveley dedi concessi et hac p[re]sent[i] carta mea confirmavi Rad[olph]o fratri meo de eadem et he[re]d[i]b[us] suis mediatatem cujusdam t[er]re in foresta de Sadilworth que vocatur farnyle cu[m] o[mn]ib[us] p[er]t[ine]nt[ibus] infra has divisas subscriptas silicet a Whitewall descendendo per rivulu[m] usq[ue] in Harelawclogh et ita usque in Cu[m]besbroke et sursum Cu[m]besbroke usq[ue] ad Haukessyke usq[ue] ad caput fontis et de caput fontis p[er] metas et bundas sursum usq[ue] ad moram et iac[ens] p[er] aliu[m] collis morae usq[ue] occidentu[r] usq[ue] ultra le Whitewall et ita de mora descendendo p[er] metas et bundas usq[ue] in Whitewall Salva quadam exuca int[er] Harelowclogh et Harewalsyke usq[ue] in Cu[m]besbroke et sursu[m] Cu[m]besbroke ex australi p[ar]te usq[ue] Haukesyke silic[et] de sex partis ad more[m] in latitudine infra has divisas [faded] Et insuper concessi eidam Rad[olph]o et he[re]d[i]b[us] suis una[m] Acra[m] et dimidia[m] t[er]re in Sadulworthhirst viz. una[m] acra[m] in lenetherwendyng juxta leseclough et dimidia[m] acram in le Quernasti[?] Wendyng p[ro]p[ri]etate Sladewrthesthil et esia[m] una[m] parcata[m] t[er]re vasti p[er]tinent[is] ad d[i]c[t]am t[er]ram Ten[en]d’ et H[abe]nd’ illi et he[re]d[i]b[us] suis v[e]l ejus assign[atis] voluerit ex[cep]t[a] religione[m] de heredi[bus] de Sadulworth sicut ego Ricardus p[ri]us tenui in faedo et hereditatu[m] libere quiete Redd[en]do inde annuat[im] he[re]d[i]b[us] de Sadulworth duodecim denarios viz vj denarios ad Pentecost[um] et vj den[arios] ad f[est]u[m] S[an]c[t]i Martin p[er] omnib[us] servic[e] et exaccione Salvis heredi[bus] de Sadulworth omnib[us] feriae suis et avibus capientib[us] et piscib[us] suis Et salvo om[n]ib[us] dignitat[is] forestae de Sadulworth p[er]tinent[is] In cujus &c Et ego Ricard[us] et heredes mei p[ar]ticillas t[er]rem p[re]no[n]itato Rad[olph]o et he[re]d[i]b[us] suis vel cui cu[m]q[ue] assignare voluerit Salva religione contra om[n]es ho[m]i[n]es warrantizab[imus] imp[er]petuu[m] Hiis tes[ti]b[us] Rob[er]to del chuicke Rob[er]to del Staveley Ada filio Ricardi de Sadulworth Rob[er]to fratre ejusdem Ada de Sutele Rob[er]to Cl[er]ico et aliis.

Know all present and future that I Richard Ruffus de Staveley have given, granted, and, by this my present charter, confirmed to Ralph my brother, of the same, and his heirs, a half part of certain land in the forest of Sadilworth which is called farnyle with all appurtenances, within these divisions below. Namely, from Whitewall descending by the rivulet to Harelawclogh, and thus to Cumbesbroke, and along Cumbesbroke to Haukessyke to the head of the stream, and from the head of the

¹¹ The Large Account of William Ramsden, DD/RA/M/ 4a, f.176 , West Yorkshire Archive Service (Kirklees).

¹² Boothe v. Ramsden, C 3/334/6, TNA.

¹³ Raines MSS, Vol 15, p10, Chetham Library, Manchester.

stream by the metes and bounds up to the moor, and by another hill along the moor westward to the far side of the Whitewall, and from the moor thus descending by the metes and bounds to Whitewall. Saving a certain strip [exuca] between Harelowclogh and Harewalsyke as far as Cumbesbroke and along, from the southerly side of Cumbesbroke, to Haukesyke, that is six perches wide up to the moor, within these divisions [Faded]..... And moreover I grant to the same Ralph and his heirs one acre and a half of land in Sadulworthhirst. That is, one acre in the netherwendyng [netheroyding?] next to leseclough and half an acre in the Quernasti [?] Wendyng [Royding?] nearer Sladewrthesthil also a perch of waste land pertaining to the said land. To have and to hold, freely and quietly, to him and his heirs, or their assigns, as they wish, excepting religious men, from the heirs of Sadulworth, just as I, Richard, presently hold in fee, hereditably. Paying in respect thereof, for all services and demands, twelve pence annually to the heirs of Sadulworth; that is six pence at Pentecost and six pence at the feast of St Martin. Saving to the heirs of Sadulworth all their beasts of the chase, game birds, fish and all the dignities pertaining to the Forest of Sadulworth. And in [witness] whereof &c. I Richard and my heirs will warrant forever, against all men, Ralph and his heirs, or to whomsoever they wish to assign, excepting religious men, the abovenamed parcels of land. These being witnesses, Robert del chuicke, Robert del Staveley, Adam son of Richard de Sadulworth, Robert his brother, Adam de Sutele, Robert, clerk, and others.

Unlike, Fernlee, the estate of Grasscroft was not a freehold on the manor of Saddleworth, but part of the semi-autonomous unit of Quick, which, by the fifteenth century was being described as a manor in its own right. Grasscroft was in the possession of the de Quick family until 1303 when Robert son of Adam de Quick sold the estate to Simon de Bradshaw.¹⁴ By the time of the deed printed below, Bradshaw not only held Grasscroft but also 'le Armetrode', a piece of land adjacent to the Smartroyd.

The grant must date after the sale to Bradshaw in 1303 and probably after c.1308 when the grantor Warin de Scargill had succeeded his father William. However, it is most unusual for a grant, which dates after the Statute of Quia Emptores (1290), to be expressed as a subinfeudation, whereby grantees and their heirs and assigns held land from the grantor for a chief rent in perpetuity. The Statute abolished this practice. It is possible that, because this grant relates to *rights* on Scargill's pasture rather than a grant of a specific piece of land, the language of subinfeudation was not only legally permissible but the most appropriate.

Scargill's grant served to augment the agricultural capacity of the owners or their 'common tenants' of Grasscroft by providing additional grazing land on the common pasture of the manor of Saddleworth¹⁵. However, as more land was subinfeudated to the private use of individuals during the thirteenth century, the common pasture had been contracting in size. This grant is the last extant document defining the pasture

¹⁴ It is unlikely that Simon de Bradshaw ever lived in Saddleworth as his family had long been settled at Bradshaw in the parish of Bolton and he was party to court cases relating to that area. W. Farrer and J. Brownbill (Eds), *A History of the County of Lancaster*, Vol. 5, Victoria County History. 1911. There is fine detailing the 1303 sale from Quick to Bradshaw. M. Roper (Ed.), *Feet of Fines for the County of York from 1300 to 1314*, Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series, 1965 Vol. 127, p. 44-5.

¹⁵ M. Buckley, 'Seeing Through a Glass Darkly', *SHSB*, Vol. 36, No. 2, pp. 31 and 43.

and it shows that its boundary had considerably changed since the mid-thirteenth century.¹⁶ Whereas earlier descriptions of the pasture describe the western boundary as coinciding with that of Quickmere, the grant shows it had been moved significantly further east, following the Tame as far as the 'division of the monks' which lay at the ford at Delph.¹⁷ This must have been as a result of thirteenth century grants of land made in that area to the Staveleys. In compensation for this and the other land lost to enclosures in the common pasture, Scargill extended it to the uplands. In the thirteenth century, the moors to the east had been excluded; by not defining the eastern border of the pasture in his grant to Bradshaw, Scargill seems to have given consent to utilise this vast area.

The later history of the deed highlights the importance of early charters centuries after they were written. In 1624, Sir John Ramsden, lord of the manor of Saddleworth, attempted to claim overlordship of Quickmere, despite a distinct lack of evidence.¹⁸ One of the then owners of Grasscroft, Robert Buckley, served as a witness for Ramsden, using the charter to buttress his argument, claiming that 'warrant scargill sometimes Lord of Saddleworth granted the said tenement called Grescrofte to Symond Bradshawe with common of pasture upon Quick more Strennds & Robucklow upon reservacon of an Iron arrowe.'¹⁹ This interpretation of the deed was clearly flawed - even contemporary seventeenth century evidence explicitly showed that the estate had been purchased from Robert, son of Adam de Quick.²⁰ Furthermore, the deed made no reference whatsoever to rights upon Quick Moor.

As was common in the early fourteenth century, the chief rent owed by Bradshaw and his heirs for the pasture rights, was not paid in money, but in kind - in this instance, an iron arrow. By 1397 the arrow had been commuted to an annual payment of 9d. and in 1624 Robert Buckley observed that he

*& others the owners of the said Grescrofts doe yearly pay & have usually payed for the said tenements to the defendent [Sir John Ramsden] & his predecessors [as lords of Saddleworth] or their Bailiffs the yearly rent of nyne pence which he taketh to be in stead of the said Iron arrowe.*²¹

As with Fernlee, this shows the antiquity and stability of the chief rents paid for land and rights in Saddleworth. It is worth noting however, that by 1591, the 9d was not owed at the feast of St. Oswald as stated in the deed, but at Pentecost and Martinmas by equal portions, in common with the other manorial chief rents.²²

Characteristically, Raines made no record of where the charter was from, nor whether it was part of a larger collection. However, contemporary supporting documents to the Chancery case of 1624 include a lengthy abstract of title of Grasscroft showing the descent of the Bradshaws' estate. It quotes eight medieval deeds starting with the original grant from Quick to Bradshaw and including Scargill's grant of common

¹⁶ M. Buckley, 'Early Saddleworth Records 1', *SHSB*, Vol. 36, No. 2, p. 52-3.

¹⁷ These were the monks of Roche Abbey who held Hilbrighthope.

¹⁸ *Boothe v. Ramsden*, C 3/334/6, TNA.

¹⁹ *ibid.*

²⁰ Cornwall-Legh MSS 1055, John Rylands University Library, Manchester.

²¹ *Boothe v. Ramsden*, C 3/334/6, TNA.

²² The Large Account of William Ramsden, DD/RA/M/ 4a, f.176, West Yorkshire Archive Service (Kirklees).

pasture.²³ Because Robert Buckley stated in evidence that the deeds to Grasscroft were ‘now in the Custodie of Edmond Buckley now in heritor of parte of the said Grescrofte’ one can be sure that in the seventeenth century the documents were held locally.²⁴ This would strongly imply that Raines had seen the deed in Saddleworth, though unfortunately its whereabouts has not been recorded since.²⁵

Grant from Warin de Scargill, Knight to Simon de Bradshaw²⁶

Sciant presentes et futur[i] quod ego Warinus de Scargill miles dedi concessi et hac p[re]senti carta confirmavi Simoni de Bradshawe et hered[ibus] suis et tenent[ibus] como[ni]b[us] super terror’ in Grasscrofte et in le Armeterode in villa del Quicke vocem pastura in villa de Sadleworth usor[us] ad p[ar]tem aque de Tame orientalem et in ascendendo usq[ue] ad divisos monachor[um] Ten[en]d’ et h[ab]end’ de p[re]d[i]c[t]o Warino et hered[ibus] suis p[re]d[i]c[t]o Simoni et hered[ibus] suis et tenent[ibus] comon[ibus] scutib[us] super p[re]d[i]c[t]a terra libe[re] quiete bene et in pace Redd[endo] inde ann[uatim] p[re]d[i]c[t]o Warino et hered[ibus] suis una sagitta ferrea ad fest[um] S[an]c[t]i Oswaldi pro o[mn]ia s[er]vic[i]a seculari et demandis salva michi et hered[ibus] meis feris bestiis meis avib[us] piscib[us] et om[ni]b[us] allis meis dignitat[ibus] forestae mei Et ego vero p[re]d[i]c[t]us Warino et hered[ibus] meis p[re]dict[um] pasturor p[re]d[i]c[t]o Simoni et hered[ibus] suis et tenentib[us] contra o[mn]i[n]es ho[m]i[n]es et fem[in]es warrant[izabimus] et defend[emus] imperpetuum. In cuius rei huic sc[ri]p[t]a sigallu[m] meu[m] apposui hiis testib[us] Ric[ardo] de Staveley Rob[er]to del ferniley Rob[er]to de Grotton Joh[an]e de Staveley Rob[er]to del Quicke et aliis.

Know all present and to come that I Warin de Scargill Knight give grant and by this present charter have confirmed Simon de Bradshawe and his heirs and the common tenants on the land [terror’] in Grasscrofte and le Armeterode in the Vill del Quicke, pasture in the Vill of Sadleworth for their use, on the eastern side of the Water of Tame and ascending to the division of the monks. To have and to hold from the said Warin and his heirs to the aforesaid Simon and his heirs and common tenants who pay for said land, freely, quietly, well and in peace. Rendering thence annually to the said Warin and his heirs an iron arrow at the festival of St Oswald for all secular services and demands. Reserving to me and my heirs, my beasts of the chase, livestock, fishing and all the other dignities of my forest. And I the said Warin and my heirs will truly warrant and defend for ever, the said pasture, to the said Simon and his heirs and tenants, against all men and women. In witness whereof I have attached my seal to this writing, these being witnesses Richard de Staveley, Robert de Ferniley, Robert de Grotton, John de Staveley, Robert de Quicke and others.

Unlike the deeds discussed above which Raines transcribed verbatim, the remaining two documents are very brief abstracts. One is a grant of Grasscroft and the other, a charter relating to the lands of Roche Abbey. They are the second and third

²³ Cornwall-Legh MSS, 1055, John Rylands University Library, Manchester.

²⁴ Boothe v. Ramsden, C3/334/6, TNA.

²⁵ The only significant collection of early deeds for Grasscroft I am aware of begin in 1606 and were held at Royal George Mills. Abstracts can be found at H/JH/CAB/1/26, 27 and 28, Saddleworth Historical Society Archives, Saddleworth Museum. The originals are now in the possession of Wiggett Construction Ltd.

²⁶ Raines MSS, Vol 6, pg 237, Chetham Library, Manchester.

documents of eleven listed by Raines under the heading 'Abstracts'. In a note at the end of the list, Raines recorded that

*The above abstracts are taken from some papers in the possession of the Rev. John Piccope of St. Paul's in Manchester, which belonged formerly to Castleton Hall in this Parish [Rochdale]. 1835.*²⁷

Like Raines, Piccope was an antiquarian whose interests were centred on Lancashire, particularly the important medieval and early modern families of the county. Twenty-two volumes of his pedigrees, abstracts and notes were deposited at Chetham's Library.²⁸ Unfortunately, examination of these volumes has thus far yielded no mention of the documents seen by Raines.²⁹

Because the wording of Raines' note is rather ambiguous, it is not immediately obvious whether it was Raines himself who made the abstracts from original documents in the possession of Piccope, or, whether the 'papers' were themselves only abstracts which Raines transcribed fully. It does seem that the former is more likely, for a schedule of deeds in the Steward's Room at Castleton Hall made by Raines in 1832 illustrates that there were a vast number of original muniments there.³⁰ Furthermore, by the early nineteenth century, the owners of Castleton had left the estate, leaving the hall tenanted, making it possible for an antiquarian like Piccope to take original papers out of the collection housed there.³¹ What happened to any original documents in Piccope's collection is unknown; the Piccope Mss. only include transcriptions in the hands of Rev. John Piccope and his son, Rev. George John Piccope.

That two medieval Saddleworth deeds should be at Castleton Hall is curious as there is no evidence that the successive owners of Castleton had any connection with Saddleworth whatsoever. By contrast, the remaining nine documents Raines abstracted can all be associated with the interests and landholdings of the Holt and Cheetham families who had, at various times, owned the estate.³²

The two abstracts are more enigmatic than they are useful. Sir Gilbert de Quick's grant of Grasscroft to William Scargill is difficult to explain with certainty. It is highly improbable that Gilbert de Quick was a knight. He can't have owned much more than a couple of messuages in Quickmere, because by the end of the thirteenth century it was populated by many members of the de Quick family.³³ Thus, he was

²⁷ Raines MSS, Vol. 8, p. 155, Chetham's Library, Manchester

²⁸ Piccope MSS, C.6.12-33, Chetham's Library, Manchester

²⁹ I have looked through Piccope MSS, C.6.12, 13, 22-25, 27 and 29 in some detail.

³⁰ In this schedule, Raines makes no reference to any one of the eleven deeds he abstracted in 1835, implying Piccope had removed them from Castleton prior to 1832. Raines MSS, Vol. 3, pp. 153-77, Chetham's Library, Manchester

³¹ H. Fishwick, *History of Rochdale*, (Rochdale and London, 1889), pp. 309-10

³² The deeds Raines recorded as being at Castleton Hall can be subdivided into three main categories: firstly, deeds of the Cheetham family largely relating to Clayton and Turton, secondly deeds of the Holts of Stubley and Castleton for land across Rochdale, and thirdly administrative and personal papers relating to individual members of the two families. Aside from the two Saddleworth charters, each of the abstracts made by Raines can be assigned to one of these categories.

³³ A good example of the number of families settled in Quickmere can be found in CP 40/146/36d, TNA. That the de Quicks held the tenements as freeholds and not directly from one owner of

not a considerable landowner and there are no records to show that he was militarily or administratively active on either a county or national basis. On the other hand, William de Scargill, was a knight. He had inherited from his father the manor of Scargill along with half of Robert de Stapleton's extensive holdings in Yorkshire.³⁴ It therefore seems probable that Raines mistakenly ascribed the title to the wrong man.

The content of the charter is largely inconsistent with what is known about Grasscroft in the early medieval period and there is therefore considerable doubt over the reliability of its content. There is no evidence that the lords of the manor of Saddleworth had any direct control over Grasscroft, and therefore a grant by Gilbert de Quick to Scargill is anomalous. Furthermore, there is no reference made to the charter in the seventeenth century abstract of title of Grasscroft which commences with the grant to Simon de Bradshaw in 1303. If the parties named in the charter are correct then the implication is that it pre-dated this.³⁵ Other than John de la Shaw, the named witnesses are not those usually found on Saddleworth deeds of the period. However, one of the witnesses, William de Werbertyn, acted as attorney for Robert son of Adam de Quick in a fine of 1303.³⁶

The second abstract relates to the lands of Roche Abbey and is dated 'from either Quicke or Scargill'. Because the monastery held no land in the manor of Scargill it is reasonable to surmise that the original charter related to the monastery's only holdings in Quick (i.e. Saddleworth) at Hilbrighthope (Friarmere). The fact that Scargill is mentioned might imply a member of that a member of the family was party to deed.³⁷ However, owing to such a paucity of detail it is virtually impossible to glean anything meaningful from this abstract.

Grant from Sir Gilbert de Quicke to Will. Scargill³⁸

A Charter s.d. being a Grant from Sir Gilbert de Quicke to Will. Scargill of Grescrofte in Sadleword County York. Attesting witnesses John de la Shawe William de Tunsted Henry de Quicke Will de Grotton William de Werbertyn clerico et aliis.

Another Charter³⁹

Another Charter s.d. which mentions the Lands of the Monks of Rupa &c either from Quick or Scargill.

Quickmere is implied by several pleas of Mort d'Ancestor, including Gilbert de Quike v. Robert fil Ade del Quik, JUST 1/1113 m. 8, TNA.

³⁴ Plantagenet-Harrison, *The History of Yorkshire*, (London and Aylesbury, 1879), p. 291 and 294.

³⁵ Cornwall-Legh Mss., 1055, John Rylands University Library, Manchester and M. Roper (Ed.), *Feet of Fines for the County of York from 1300 to 1314*, Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series, 1965 Vol. 127, p. 44-5.

³⁶ M. Roper (Ed.), *Feet of Fines for the County of York from 1300 to 1314*, Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series, 1965 Vol. 127, p. 44-5.

³⁷ The only extant evidence of the relationship between the Scargill lords of the manor and Roche Abbey is a dispute over a messuage and eight acres between Warren de Scargill and the monks begun in 1311 and not resolved until 1314. CP 40/189 m. 311 *et passim* and Raines Mss, Vol. 1, p. 221, Chetham's Library, Manchester.

³⁸ Raines MSS, Vol. 8, p. 152, Chetham Library, Manchester.

³⁹ *ibid.*

A GRIM DIARY OF SADDLEWORTH - 3

Paul Fryer

June 8 1931 - Royal George School has been badly hit by measles, with one third of the scholars now being on the absent list, Saddleworth Council was told by Dr H Ramsden. He said the epidemic had got out of hand before anything could be done, many of the sick children having taken part in the Whit Friday processions, spreading the disease.

June 9 1911 - A painful sensation was occasioned when hundreds of Manchester residents climbed Pots and Pans. While going up the steep brow Sarah Ashton, 65, of the Albert Memorial Sunday School, Miles Platting, suddenly collapsed through excessive heat. Dr Ramsden was found and restoratives applied, but to no avail. Within a short time another of the party, a young teacher named Miss Barlow, had a seizure and became unconscious. Great efforts were needed to bring about her restoration. She was able to return home. The body of Sarah was removed home in the Saddleworth horse ambulance, which had only been purchased a fortnight ago, and this was the first time it had been used.

June 10 1898 - At Saddleworth County Court Wright Gartside of Delph sued F Collins of Huddersfield, who did not appear, for the delivery of an oil painting or its value of £2 15s. Gartside stated that in December 1886 he went to Collins' studio to have his portrait painted. He paid a deposit, and later received a postcard stating that the painting was almost ready and asking for the balance. This Gartside sent in March 1897. In all he had been to Huddersfield 10 times but had not been able to get his picture. Judgement for the £2 15s was given for Gartside, the sum to be reduced to 1s if the picture was delivered in good condition.

June 11 1927 - Cycling through Uppermill John Platt of Shaw collided with a motor combination driven by Vernon Crossley of Elland. The motor was overturned and the side car passenger, Miss E Shaw, was pinned under the machine. Luckily, when extricated, she was only suffering from shock. Platt, who was thrown, also escaped with a shaking. Crossley was pitched into the roadway and he had to be treated by Dr Wood for a badly crushed hand.

June 12 1882 - John Shaw, 40, employed as a mechanic at Messrs Broadbent and Sons, Wellington Mills, Greenfield, was taken ill when at work and had to be conveyed to his home at the Wharf. He was attended by Dr Garstang, but from the first he held out no hope. He continued unconscious until 2 am on June 14, when he expired. He left a wife and 6 children, and was a general favourite at the mill, his obliging disposition leading him to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it.

June 13 1910 - With reference to the complaint as to improper songs being sung in some of the licensed houses in the district, particularly on Sunday evenings, a letter was read to the Springhead District Council from Edmund Kershaw, Secretary of the Saddleworth Licensed Victuallers' Assoc. He promised to bring the matter before his committee, and he pointed out that all landlords in the area were not members of the association. He asked to be furnished with the names of the houses where the offence took place, because they had a rule dealing with their members. The Clerk of the

Council suggested that a meeting be arranged of all the landlords in the district, pointing out that all would suffer if the Council was forced to take action.

June 14 1910 - Ellen Thornton, 52, of Rastrick, died at Saddleworth Station. She had come over in the morning to visit her niece, whose husband, Fred Schofield, is manager of the Dobcross Co-operative Store. Ellen left to catch the last train from Saddleworth at about 10 pm, and it is supposed that hurrying up the steep brow to the station brought on a heart seizure. She was able to get onto the train but immediately became so ill that she had to be carried into the waiting room, where she died.

June 15 1929 - The Saddleworth Education Committee discussed the recent outbreak of scarlet fever at Diggle School. Cllr A Thomas said that because the school had not been disinfected parents had refused to send their children, meaning that the school had had to be closed for an extra week. Dr Kaye, the County medical Officer, said it was as important to have open windows and fresh air blowing into the school as to have it disinfected.

June 16 1932 - A verdict of death from natural causes was returned at an inquest on Edward Ingham, 68, of Peter Street, Oldham, who collapsed at Denshaw Vale Printworks on June 14. Bert Tett of Denshaw, a dyehouse labourer, said that at 6.45 am Ingham seemed all right, but a few minutes later sat down and went 'all of a shiver.' Bert went to get help and when he returned found Ingham lying on his stomach, groaning. Ingham was put on a barrow, his face blue, and he just groaned and sighed. Dr John Loftus of Dobcross said that a post-mortem showed that Ingham had disease of the mitral-valve of the heart, and died of heart failure.

June 17 1931 - The body of Thomas Hirst, 56, an engineer's fitter, employed at Dobcross Loomworks, and who lived at Railway View, Uppermill, was recovered by police at 3 am from the Albion mill dam, Uppermill. He had been depressed for some time, especially since the death of his brother, Albert, who had hanged himself a few weeks previously. A jury, under Huddersfield Coroner Mr E W Norris, brought in a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind. His widow, Clara, said that Thomas had told her that when he was told about his brother something snapped in his head and he had been depressed ever since.

June 18 1924 - During the recent spell of fine weather, declared Cllr Hewkin at the Saddleworth Council meeting, there had been a great influx of visitors, and although they were glad to see them, he must say that the rubbish they left in the fields was simply disgraceful. Fruit skins, tins and broken bottles, were littered all over the place. Cllr Hudson proposed that a letter be sent to Oldham Council asking that attention should be called to what was taking place. People come from Oldham to walk the 2 promenades at Grains Bar, and the damage they did, without exaggeration, was tremendous.

June 19 1931 - Jane Lawton of Alpine View, Greenfield, was struck on the head by a flying shuttle at Waterside Mill. She received medical attention and was found to be suffering considerably from shock.

June 20 1928 - Knocked up after he had gone to bed by a constable for allowing his dog to stray in High Street, Delph, Charles Shackleton, a mason, said, 'I will drown it tomorrow.' On this day he was fined 5s at the Saddleworth Police Court.

June 21 1925 - On Sunday afternoon Thomas Tunley of Golcar was riding a motorcycle and sidecar in the direction of Delph from Denshaw, when he crashed into another motorcycle and sidecar driven by Albert Colley of Littleborough. Tunley and his friend were thrown from their machine, and Tunley was badly cut around the head. Dr Thompson of Oldham was passing at the time, and he administered first aid. The Saddleworth ambulance was called, and Tunley was taken to Oldham Infirmary for further treatment. Colley, and his mother and sister, escaped with a shaking. The same day, Edward Atkinson of Huddersfield was driving down the brow near Ragstones near Denshaw when the bursting of a tyre caused the front axle to breach. The car burst into flames. Edward jumped to safety as his car tumbled down a 15 foot embankment, and was completely wrecked. Edward was taken to the Oldham Infirmary but his injuries were not serious.

June 22 1927 - Cigarettes missed from a shop after he had made a purchase led to the appearance at Saddleworth Court of Joseph Buckley, a cotton feeder, of Uppermill, who admitted a charge of theft. Arrested by PC Mittall, Buckley confessed to taking cigarettes from the shop of Mrs Kershaw of Chew Valley Road, Greenfield, when she had gone into the kitchen to boil him some eggs. Buckley also admitted 3 other thefts from the shop. He was bound over, with his father promising to pay the 15s costs.

June 23 1898 - A fire was discovered at the joiners' shop occupied by Edward Sykes at Dobcross. An alarm was raised, and the workmen employed at Mr S Kenworthy's mill were speedily on the spot with a supply of hose and jets, and it is probable that but for their prompt action the whole building as well as adjoining cottages would have been destroyed. The damage is estimated at around £50.

June 24 1925 - 'I had had a drop of beer it is true, but I was fair overdone with the Sun,' explained Arthur Woolley, 66, a Greenfield labourer, who was discovered drunk and incapable by PC Stennett on the Greenfield cricket field. The officer said Woolley was being escorted from the ground but he fell helplessly to the floor. 'It wasn't the beer,' declared Woolley when the summons was dismissed on payment of costs.

June 25 1924 - 'When he saw us the prisoner ran away, jumped a wall, ran up a passage down Oldham Road, and on to the Railway Bridge, I seized him, and he at once threw a packet, containing slips and money, over the bridge.' This was the description by PC White at Saddleworth Police Court of an exciting chase after James Mallalieu of Springhead, who was charged with street betting. PC White said that he and PC Baines had been in plain clothes and had been observing Mallalieu for some time. When asked his business he had said 'Booking,' and later, 'You are always after me. I haven't done a murder.' At the police station 23 slips were found in the packet that he had thrown over the bridge, and these referred to races that day at Ascot and Beverley. The money totalled £5 4s 2d. Supt Ripley said that on May 14 Mallalieu had been fined £3 4s for similar offences. This time he was fined £6.

June 26 1912 - Tom Shaw of Greenfield was summoned before Saddleworth magistrates on the charge of bathing without wearing suitable drawers. PC Williamson said that on June 19 he saw a man bathing in the canal at Shaw Hall Bank. A further charge of using obscene language was also preferred against Shaw. He was stated to have been under the influence of drink at the time. A fine of 10s and costs was imposed.

June 27 1928 - The Saddleworth Guardians declined to support a circular resolution urging compulsory vaccination. Cllr Wrigley said that doctors ought to know best in these matters.

June 28 1933 - For driving a motor car without due care and attention in Greenfield on June 3 Rowland D Battye, a salesman from Cardiff, was fined £2 by Saddleworth magistrates, and was also ordered to pay £1 13s 6d in witnesses' fees.

June 29 1930 - Riding down the Isle of Skye Road toward Greenfield, Wilfred Marshall of Manchester, a motor-cyclist, struck a pothole and was thrown from his machine. He was not seriously injured and after receiving some first aid he was able to go home.

June 30 1917 - Pte Leonard Thornton, 37, was killed in action. Before enlisting he was a partner in a tailoring business and had been a reservist. He had lived in Uppermill.

JULY

July 1 1912 - James Fox of Cattle Yard, Delph, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Dobcross on the previous day, a Sunday, and was fined 7s 6d by the Saddleworth magistrates.

July 2 1888 - At about 7.15 am an accident occurred at New Delph to George Travis, the driver of the mail conveyance running between Oldham and Delph. George had descended Gatehead Hill and was coming into New Delph when his vehicle came into collision with a clip on the line of tram rails that ran from Delph to Castleshaw Waterworks, with the result that he was thrown violently to the ground. He fell on his face and seriously injured himself about the forehead, as well as sustaining a severe case of shock.

July 3 1912 - The workhouse master's journal was read out before the board meeting by Mr Dewhurst, and it reported 2 deaths at the workhouse in the previous 14 days. Annie Cropper, 14, died on June 30, and John Staunton had been removed from Delph to the workhouse on July 1, and had died the same day.

July 4 1910 - Norman, youngest son of Charles Thompson of Oldham Road, Springhead, fell over the fence adjacent to the premises of Messrs Shaw and Baldwin, painters, also of Oldham Road, and rolled down the railway embankment on to the line near the bridge. His head was cut and badly bruised. He was seen on the railway by the driver of the 5.45 pm train to Greenfield, who informed the signalman at Grotton, who then telephoned the signalman at Lees. In the meantime the lad walked

in the direction of Lees Goods Station. He was bleeding freely from the wound on the head, and he was taken into the goods warehouse where a member of the St John's Ambulance Assoc gave him first aid.

July 5 1923 - Four died in a rail accident at Diggle, when a goods train was run into by an express from Leeds. The express was hauled by 2 locomotives, the leading of which was almost completely turned round by the impact, the other coming to rest on the cutting side.

July 6 1885 - On Monday evening a child, 2 years and 9 months old, whose parents reside in the Square, Delph, while at play with other children, toppled over into Shaw's Rasping Mill lodge, but was rescued by a man who saw the accident, and was able to save the little thing from a watery grave.

July 7 1916 - Pte Joah Hinchliffe, 19, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked at Greenfield Co-op Stores.

July 8 1885 - At Saddleworth Police Court Thomas Halliwell was charged with being drunk and disorderly in Uppermill. Sgt Oakley found the man making a great noise at 11.30 pm, and as he refused to give any account of himself the officer took him into custody. On the way Halliwell threw the policeman down, and was very violent. He was fined 5s and costs.

July 9 1916 - Pte Brandon Platt, 24, was killed in action. He lived at the Golden Fleece, Denshaw, and was a Lewis gunner in a Pioneer battalion. Also Pte Jack Wilde, 19, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked at Slack Hall farm, Austerlands. He lived in Scouthead.

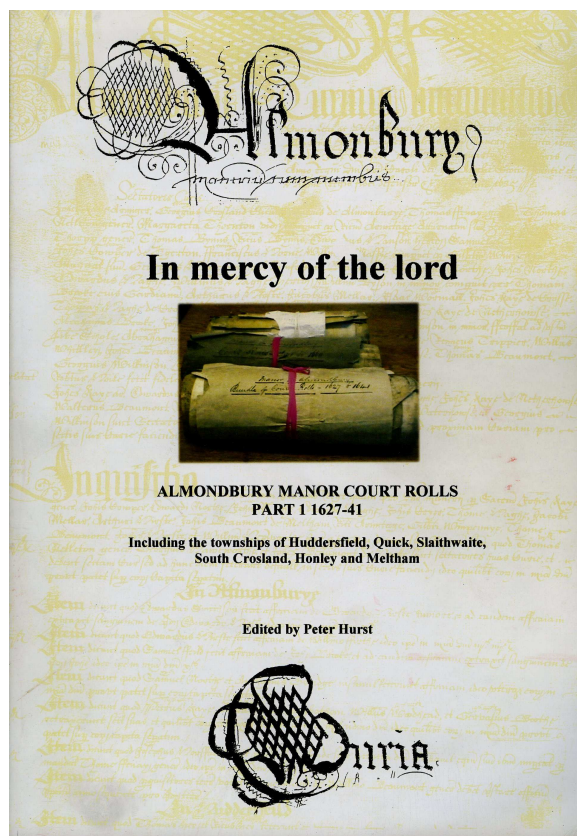
July 10 1867 - A severe thunderstorm occurred in Saddleworth. Two young women who were going home from work were struck by lightning near Grains Bar. They were both under the same shawl. One was killed.

July 11 1910 - At Saddleworth magistrates Phillip Williams, a labourer, of no fixed abode, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Delph on the previous Saturday night. In default of his payment of the fine imposed he was sent to prison for 14 days. A like sentence was meted out to Nellie Boden, a single woman, also of no fixed abode, who was charged with a similar offence at the same time and the same place.

July 12 1916 - Pte Frederick Brooks from Wood Farm, Delph, of the Manchester Regiment, died of wounds received on July 1 on the Somme. He was buried at St Sever Cemetery, Rouen. [His name is on the memorial at St Thomas's Church, Delph, the Pots and Pans memorial, and on that at Wrigley Mill Chapel, Diggle.]

BOOK REVIEW

Almondbury - In Mercy of the Lord Almondbury Manor Court Rolls Part I 1627-41 Edited by Peter Hurst



During the middle ages Saddleworth formed part of the Honor of Pontefract, a large baronial estate established shortly after the Norman Conquest and held successively by the de Lacy family and, after 1399, by the King as part of his Duchy of Lancaster. In the middle ages maintenance of law and order throughout the country fell to the county Sheriffs aided by local constables operating through a system of Frankpledge whereby everyone had a responsibility to report misdemeanors or breaches of the peace. Those accused were brought the Sheriff's Court or Tourn or to a Court Leet, a local manorial court held by the Lord of the Manor, where judgements were made by a panel of jurors made up of local citizens.

In the case of Saddleworth the Court Leet was held at Almondbury near Huddersfield, an arrangement that seems to have existed from an early date. By Elizabeth's reign the Almondbury Court Leet, had jurisdiction over not only the manor of Almondbury but also those of Huddersfield and Quick (Saddleworth) as well as parts of Slaithwaite, Honley and South Crossland. By this date it seems that most minor criminal issues throughout these areas were dealt with here and that the Court had also taken over the role of the Sheriff's Tourn and the administration of Frankpledge;

specifically the appointment of constables in each area and a number of tithingmen, or 'neighbours' as they were known locally, appointed to bring misdemeanors and beaches of the peace to his attention. In Saddleworth it seems that the constables and possibly neighbours were chosen annually by the throwing of dice; those with the lowest score having to take on what must have been an unenviable duty.¹

By 1627 the Ramsdens, Lords of the Manor of Saddleworth, had also acquired the manors of Huddersfield and Almondbury, and with the latter the right to administer the Court Leet.

Peter Hurst is to be commended, firstly for his discovery of the original Almondbury court rolls among the Ramsden papers in the West Yorkshire Archives at Kirklees, but also for his painstaking transcription and translation of them from the original Latin. He has now published these transcripts for the years 1627-41 in the form of "Almondbury, In Mercy of the Lord", the first volume of what is planned to be a series covering the rest of the surviving seventeenth century court rolls.

The book is in A4 format, with 66 pages of Introductory material, 144 pages of transcripts and 54 pages of appendices, indexes and illustrations, many of these in colour. It is bound in stiff card covers.

The comprehensive Introduction starts with the background to the Ramsden's acquisition of the Manor and the provenance of the surviving records. Sections then follow on the descent of the Manor of Almondbury from the time of the Conquest and a survey of relevant surviving medieval and early modern records. Of particular interest among these is a 1341 Extent of the Manor which mentions "the perquisites of the Lord of Scargell in Sadilworth Frith" indicating that from this early date Saddleworth was already connected administratively with Almondbury. The most comprehensive survey mentioned, that of 1584, demonstrates that the arrangements that lasted throughout the seventeenth century were, by then, firmly in place and the role of the Court clearly defined in that "the Townshippes of Huddersfield, Honlaye, Metham, Sowthcrosland, Slaghowayte and Quycke do in respecte of the courte leete belong to the said mannor of Almondburi" also that "affrayes blodes and such other common annoyances as are done and committed within the severall towneshippes" were to be brought to the Court. This part of the introduction concludes with an account of the Ramsden family and their fortunes through the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The text continues with a section entitled "Recording the Proceedings of Almondbury Manor Court: A Guide to the Format of 1627-41 Court Roll Membranes". Following a description of the parchments themselves, an account is then given of the various stages in the court proceedings from the receiving of apologies for absence (essoins), the swearing in of the jurors, to the hearing of offences (presentments) and the issuing of fines (ameracements). A description of the various types of offences are given with instances quoted from the court rolls. As well as breaches of the kings peace offences

¹ "And [he] saieth that the cunnstable aforesaid is yearelie chosen out of one of the said foure meeres & saieth that the same office is served yearelie by tournes by one of the inhabitantns of the said foure meeres. And saieth that the inhabitants dwellinge w'thin such of the said meeres as by tourne is to serve doe yearelie cast dice which which of them shall serve that yeare & then he that throwes least serveth the said office that yeare. And further that when yt is knowne who shall serve the said office he is sworne at the kinges cort leete holden at Almonbuery by the steward of the same Court leete there for the tyme being". Interrogatories relating to Chancery court pleadings between Dame Elizabeth Booth and Sir John Ramsden, C22-740-3 m2, TNA.

against manorial by-laws (pains) are also described and misdemeanors relating to the repair of ways, watercourses and hedges are cited. Next the proceedings of the Court Baron, which was combined with the Court Leet are described; this was a local manorial court concerned only with issues pertaining to the manor of Almondbury itself, issues typically of inheritance and tenure. The final proceedings of the court, the election of constables and neighbours for the various townships is then discussed.

At each stage an explanation is provided of the various activities of the court, their meaning and significance, and parallels drawn with similar proceedings in other districts. A short analysis of names, occupations and gender issues is also included as is a commentary on the usefulness of the records for family history and topographical studies.

The Court Rolls themselves are given in full, translated from the original Latin. They contain much new information about Saddleworth and provide an insight into daily life and customs in the seventeenth century, information that adds to that from other sources such as wills, deeds and parish registers.

The lists of constables and neighbours provide a sample of the names of Saddleworth residents during this period; a selection independent of social class as the process of selection was by the throwing of dice. The identity of neighbours is particularly interesting as it appears that generally one was elected from each mere. Although places of residence are not usually given it is often possible from other sources to identify who they were and where they were from.

The majority of misdemeanors were affrays, sometimes involving the drawing of blood. Usually one or two, but occasionally as many as seven or eight cases from Saddleworth occur at each sitting of the Court. Peter Hurst points out that proportionately the number from Saddleworth seems to be below that of the more local townships of Almondbury and Huddersfield, perhaps pointing to a wider degree of non-reporting of crime in Saddleworth. Some of these affrays may have been family disputes, for example, “they say that John Gartside made an affray on Ralph Gartside and, at length to the affray, drew blood on the aforesaid Ralph, therefore he John is in mercy of the lord (amerced) 10 shillings”². Others were no doubt disputes between neighbours: “Francis Wrigley made an affray on Alexander Broadbent, therefore he is in mercy of the lord - 3s 4d”³. Illegal hunting was another common infringement: “James Lees and George Lawton traced and killed one hare in the snow therefore each of them is in mercy of the lord”, each of them was amerced 10s⁴. Illegal encroachments on the wastes were also fined “they say that Henry Whitehead erected one cottage for dwelling on the waste of the lord there more than twelve months last past”⁵. Also the creation of illegal rights of way were punished “wee laye in paine that noe persons whatsoever do make any waye over the landes of Henry Buckley of Grayscrofte and betwixt the landes of Richard Radcliffe gent and James Kenworthey in paine of every defaulte 3s 4d”⁶. The most serious category of incidents were breaches of the Poor Law and these were severely fined “they say that

² p. 25, Court Roll 21 April 1630 (DD/R/M1-m4)

³ p. 49, Court Roll 23 Oct 1632 (DD/R/M1-m7)

⁴ p. 67, Court Roll 14 May 1633 (DD/R/M1-m10)

⁵ p. 40, Court Roll 26 Apr 1631 (DD/R/M1-m6)

⁶ p. 15, Court Roll 6 Oct 1630 (DD/R/M1-m3)

John Lawton of Quicke, Edmund Whitehead of Lidyate, Henry Linthwaite accepted, and each of them accepted, in their house a pregnant woman, which certain woman was not known to the Constable and four sworn men for the township of Quicke, and which he feared to be at the prejudice of the township of Quicke, therefore each of them is amerced - 39s each”⁷.

The indexing to the court rolls and introduction is comprehensive and in addition to separate indexes for personal names, place names and subjects, lists of suitor, jurors, constables and neighbours are included.

The court rolls provide a fascinating insight into seventeenth century life in Saddleworth and Peter Hurst’s background material is interesting, informative and useful. Almondbury, *In Mercy of the Lord* is a valuable and welcome addition to the body of published seventeenth century source material.

Mike Buckley

⁷ p. 79, Court Roll 22 April 1634 (DD/R/M1-m13)

OBITUARY

John Lindley Hindle, D.F.C.

11th July 1920 -5th October 2010



Jack's early life and education were spent in Middleton, Lancashire. Educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School he attended Long Street Methodist Church. He was assistant Scout Master and footballer for the church. He was called up into the R.A.F. and trained in Canada and the U.S.A. Posted to 4 Group, Bomber Command he served in York, Driffield, Lissett and later Leconfield with 640 squadron, flying 38 bombing missions, mostly in the Halifax. He was navigator/bomb aimer and after two tours was awarded the D.F.C. Jack's Squadron was the "158", a W.W.I unit and proud of their heritage. A sad irony was that by the end of W.W.II they had lost 851 aircrew. Jack bailed out twice and was a member of the "Caterpillar Club" and GQ Parachute Club. He was sent to Sicily as Adjutant to the Air-Sea Rescue Unit before returning to civilian life. Jack joined Connolly Bros., at Blackley, soon to become part of B.I.C.C. In 1954 he became Chief Work Study Engineer at their new factory at Kirkby, near Liverpool, with the family living near Southport for the next thirty years.

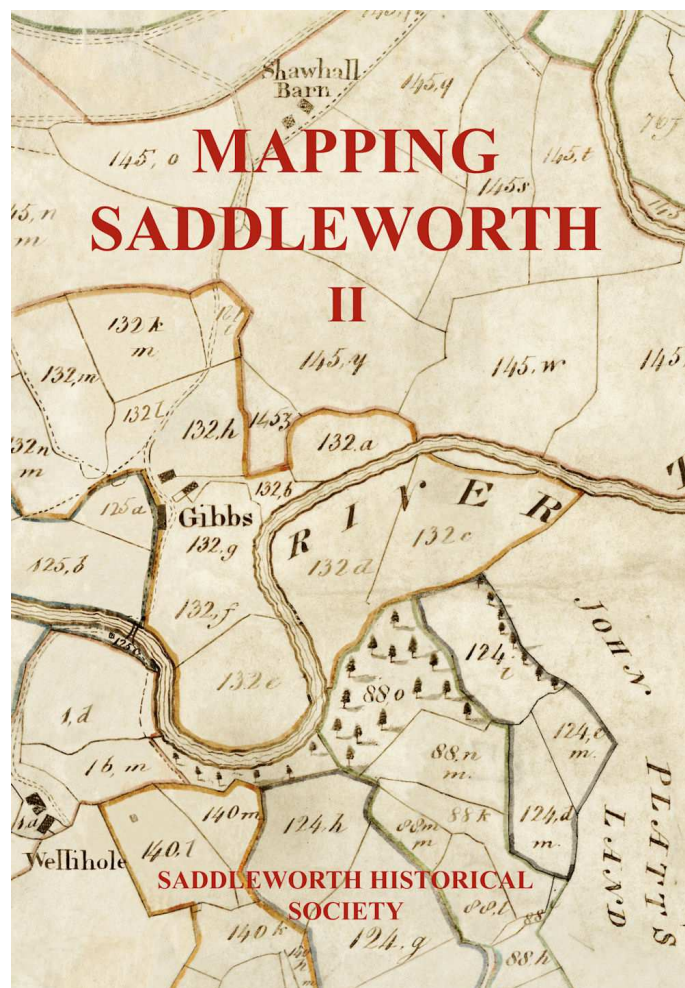
On retirement in 1981 the family returned nearer their roots to settle in Delph. Thora and Jack soon became volunteers at the Museum, she running "Friends" coach trips and Wednesday Coffee Mornings, while he became Chairman of the Friends Committee, which they both did happily for over twenty years. The Historical Society was another interest and Jack served on the Committee, assisting the Vice-Chairman with the compilation of the Bulletin and News Letter. Jack had met Thora Hall at Easter 1938. Both had attended the same Church and School. Badminton was the original attraction. The longest time apart was the war service until both were demobbed in June 1946 and were married in the August. Sixty-four happily married years followed. Jack was the original "Quiet Man" known for his many quips and sharp wit and, of course, his love of jazz, following Duke Ellington Festivals here and abroad over the years. *The Single Petal of a Rose* was played at his funeral service at Delph Methodist Church, on Tuesday, 12th October 2010. Jack leaves his wife Thora and his son Richard.

J.C. Carr.



MAPPING SADDLEWORTH

Volume II



This new publication features a selection of manuscript maps of the Pennine Township of Saddleworth dating from 1625 to 1822. Over twenty maps are reproduced in facsimile, all in full colour and many at full size.

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The Bulletin aims to reflect and encourage interest in all aspects of Saddleworth history. 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). These 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