

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

Volume 41

Number 2

Summer 2011

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Cover Illustration: Railway Crash at Friezland 1909
(Saddleworth Museum Collection M/P/W/1.)

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SADDLEWORTH'S CRIMEAN PEACE DEMONSTRATION 1856

Peter Fox

1. Introduction

It is not the intention of this article to focus on the history of the Crimean War itself as this is well written in other sources. Suffice to say the Crimean War developed in 1854 because of an argument between the French and Russian religious fraternities over who should have access and right to holy areas in the Middle East, namely Nazareth and Jerusalem, though tensions in Europe had been high over this area with the threat of Russia expanding its borders. Inevitably discussions turned to arguments, which turned to violence, which resulted in death on both sides. The resultant war was to last two years of horror for all sides, for the British it led to the infamous 'Charge of the Light Brigade' and the similarly disastrous Battle of Balaclava. It was with great relief that some resemblance of peace came with the end of the war with the capture of Sebastopol being the last significant fight. Peace terms were agreed in February 1856 in Vienna and the final peace agreed at the Congress of Paris (28th February to 13th March 1856) which resulted in the Treaty of Paris.

The end of the war was of course a great relief to the country and a celebration for all that peace had come. In most places celebrations were held and Saddleworth was no exception to this but the inhabitants were not in fear of criticizing the war:

*"The inhabitants of the district were among the first to call a public meeting to discuss and condemn the official bungling which caused the loss of one half of our brave army in the Crimea; and now, when the blessings of peace are about to be publicly proclaimed, it is to be hoped will, in like manner, send forth their heartfelt gratitude to Divine Providence, for having removed the direful scourge of war."*¹

During the first week of May 1856 there appeared around Saddleworth a number of placards respectively inviting those inhabitants of Saddleworth to attend a public meeting at the Commercial Inn, Uppermill on Saturday the 10th May to take into consideration the best mode of having a public demonstration throughout the whole of the district in view of the end of the war. It was proposed that a Committee was to be appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

The minutes of the first meeting at the Commercial on the 10th are duly recorded:²

"At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Saddleworth convened by placard and held at the Commercial Inn on Saturday the 10th May at 5 o'clock in the evening. Mr W.K. Schofield in the chair."

"Resolved that the proclamation of peace in Saddleworth be accompanied by a public demonstration."

"That the demonstration be on the 29th inst. [May] and that Mr Thornton the Sheriff's officer be requested to postpone the proclamation till that day."

¹ *Huddersfield Chronicle & West Yorkshire Advertiser*, 10 May 1856.

² Saddleworth Museum Archives M/CPC/1.

“That the following Gentlemen be, and they are hereby appointed a Committee (with power to add to their numbers) to carry out the arrangements of the said demonstration.”

“That the said Committee hold their first meeting at the house of Mr Thomas Lawton, Swan Inn, Dobcross on Thursday the 15th instant at seven o’ clock in the evening.”

“That circulars be forthwith – printed and sent to members of the said Committee, informing them of their appointment, and the day, hour, and place of their meeting.”

“That Mr R.J.R. Bradbury of Kinders be, and he is hereby appointed, back as Secretary to the said Committee.”

“That the Committee consist of the following Gentlemen three of who are to constitute a Quorum.”

The meeting held on the 10th left just over two weeks until the day decided for the proclamation which was Thursday the 29th May and there was to be vigorous work carried out by the committee to fulfil the event. A letter was duly sent to the High Sheriff inviting him to the proceeding to make his formal announcement on the declaration of peace. The invitation was duly accepted though according to the letter the date had originally been planned for Whit Friday but he accepted the new arrangements providing that he only attended for the morning as he had a prior engagement for the afternoon.

The committee, once established, launched into the event with great efficiency and enthusiasm covering all aspects of the event. It was at an early stage decided to invite the whole of the secret orders including the Oddfellows, Royal Foresters, Ancient Druids and Modern Druids. It was decided by the Committee that each would wear an appropriate piece of regalia presumably celebrating the Saddleworth Peace Demonstration: 221 were worn at a cost to the Committee of £12-8s-3d.

The Committee for the event sent letters out to all the Saddleworth Sunday schools inviting them to attend and asking how many children were expected. The accounts give us the figures that in actual fact an astounding number of 1,957 children attended the procession with 317 teachers at a cost of the committee of £60-13s-11d as each pupil was presented with the sum 4d and each teacher 1shilling.

The Committee decided that for those Saddleworthians of over sixty years each would be treated to a lunch and this task was designated an appropriate sub-committee to undertake the arrangement which was to subsequently involve fifteen of our local pubs and inns with 449 dinners being served on the day of the peace demonstration at a total cost to the Committee £28-1s-3d.

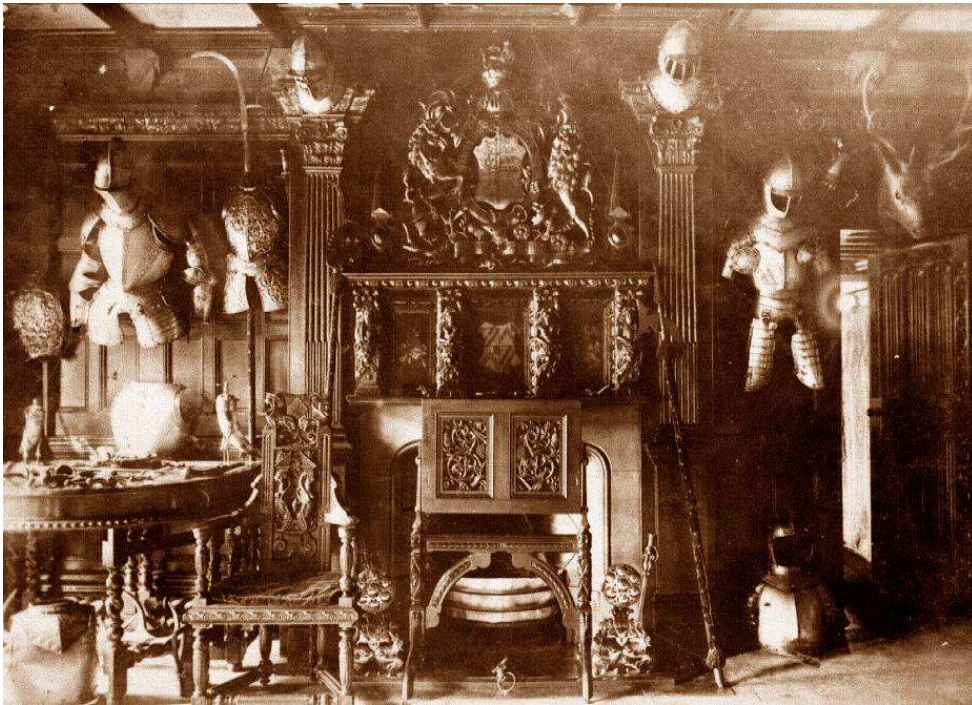
In regard to those employed the date of the event was a working day so letters were dispatched to the local mill owners though many of these were well represented on the Committee:

“That a circular be forwarded to the merchants, mill owners and manufacturers in the District of Saddleworth respectfully requesting them to close their works on the 29th inst. for the purpose of giving the workpeople and children an opportunity of joining in the procession to be formed on the occasion of peace being proclaimed in the Township.”³

Though the majority of mills supported the event there were a couple that declined to let the workforce out for the event. A letter from Spring Head Mills, Lees on the

³ Committee Meeting, 22 May 1856, Saddleworth Museum Archives M/CPC/1.

immediate border of Saddleworth pointed out that the majority of mills in that area were continuing to work.



The interior of George Shaw's house at St Chad's, Uppermill, showing some of his collection. [Saddleworth Museum M/P/Um]

Preparations included a request for the loan of a couple of pieces of antique armour and weapons from the collection of Mr George Shaw of St Chad's, who duly entered into the event with enthusiasm, no doubt, educating his apprentices in the art of wearing armour and the use of antique weapons with the accounts telling us that two men were paid five shillings each for the wearing of ancient armour and ten of his apprentices one shilling each for the carrying of ancient weapons.

Patriotism wasn't forgotten:

*"That – a sufficient number of flag staffs be provided by purchase or otherwise at the expense of the Committee to be used for the flags kindly left for the occasion by Messrs Whitehead and that the thanks of the Committee be given to Messrs Whitehead for the loan of the flags and to Mr Grisdale for having volunteered to see their proper arrangement and disposal."*⁴

The flags came from the company of Messrs Whitehead that worked from Royal George Mill.

The route of the procession seems to have caused something of a debate with the Committee and it was a probably a little over ambitious in its 'mileage' as the route was Dobcross, Delph, thence by Star Inn, Lydgate, Haddens, Shaw Hall to Uppermill again – the climb up to Lydgate and down to Haddens on the Stockport Road seemed ambitious. It was finally altered:⁵

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ *ibid.*

“That – the previous resolution describing the route and starting place of the procession be rescinded.”

“That – the meeting place be at Delph at 10 o’clock AM and that the procession form and move at 11 o’clock on the 29th inst proceeding from thence by way of Gatehead, Dobcross, Tamewater, Wallhill, Newhouses, Lydgate, Shaw Hall and Uppermill.”

2. The Grand Demonstration

The celebration or as it appears to have been contemporarily referred to the ‘demonstration’ took place on Thursday 29th May, 1856. Without doubt the best account of the event is written in the newspapers of the time. The fact that 4,000 people are said to have attended and been involved in the event gives some impression of the popularity of the event with the local people.

*“PEACE REJOICINGS AT SADDLEWORTH
(ACCOUNT OF THE PROCESSION)”⁶
“GRAND DEMONSTRATION”*

“The proceedings in Saddleworth for the celebration of peace, which were originally intended to be held on Whit Monday, but postponed until Thursday last, were carried out in the township on that day in a manner which far surpassed the highest expectations of the most sanguine. The success of the proceedings was mainly attributable to the energy and zeal of W.K. Schofield, Esq., of Heathfields (Uppermill), chairman of the committee, and the active and efficient secretary and committee appointed to carry out the arrangements. A general invitation was issued inviting all secret orders, Sunday schools, and the inhabitants generally to join in a procession on the occasion, and it was responded to in a manner which must have surprised any stranger visiting the township. The procession which was marshalled by J.H. Whitehead, Esq., of Southside, was formed in Delph, in the following order:-”

*“Marshall and two assistants on horseback.
The Pensioners of the township, in a wagon, with fife and drum.
Knights, in armour of burnished steel.
Sheriffs, Deputy and Chief Constable.
Constables.
Sunday Schools of all denominations.
Band.
Committee of Management.
Magistrates, Clergy, and Churchwardens.
Gentry.
Masonic Body, in carriages.
Band.
Oddfellows.
Band.
Foresters.
Band.
Ancient Druids.
Inhabitants.”*

“The morning was rather dark and gloomy. The low and threatening clouds hung heavily on the hills; but eventually the sun burst out, and the day was all that could be desired.”

⁶ *Huddersfield Chronicle & West Yorkshire Advertiser*, 31 May 1856.

“The days proceedings commenced about eight a.m. by the ringing of the bells of the Parish Church, and Christ’s Church, Friezland; and the various bodies having mustered, at about ten o’clock a.m., Mr Thornton of Huddersfield, the Sheriff’s deputy, in a most clear and distinct voice, read Her Majesty’s proclamation of peace from the steps of the Pack horse Inn, at Old Delph; suitably hymns were then sung, concluding with the National Anthem, Mr David Hirst acting as conductor. The procession then formed into marching order, proceeding by New Delph to Dobcross, where the same ceremony was repeated – we may remark, however, that the singing was much better than at Delph – from thence by Woolroad, the procession went to Uppermill, where peace was again proclaimed, and the hymns sung in a very creditable manner.”

“The procession then proceeded by way of Greenfield Station, Royal George school, Ridding, Nook Steer, Road End, and returned to Uppermill, where the hymns and National Anthem were again sung in splendid style. The Marshal proposed three cheers for the Queen, which were given in a thrilling manner by at least 4,000 persons as assembled, then followed three cheers for Prince Albert and the Royal Family, the Crimean heroes present, the Army and Navy &c., &c., and the assemblage dispersed, the lodges to their respective meeting rooms, and the scholars to their schools, each to partake of good things. A good dinner was provided for the pensioners, and for every inhabitant above the age of 60 years. Some idea may be formed of the extent of the procession, by those acquainted with the locality, when it stated, that as the first part was entering Dobcross, the later part was still in Delph, and when in full marching order they could not have extended less than a mile and a half. The whole were enlivened by six splendid bands of music, and flags innumerable, many of which were kindly furnished by the Messrs. Whitehead, of Southside. The line of (the) march was also profusely decorated with flags of every description, and at the entrance to Uppermill, the procession passed under a splendidly decorated Triumphal Arch, erected by Doctor Blackburn, near to his own house. The proceedings passed off in a highly satisfactory manner, without the slightest accident, and afforded a scene to the thousand of spectators such as had never before been witnessed by the oldest person in the district. In the evening a most social and harmonious meeting was held by the Independent Order of Oddfellows in their lodge-room, the Commercial Inn, Uppermill. Aitken of Ashton-under-Lyne, James Shaw of Knowl, and James Pontefract, of Uppermill, contributed much to the evenings entertainment, by making appropriate remarks in responding to the various toasts given; and Mr Thompson of Mossley was happy in his selection of suitable songs, which he sang in a suitable manner. Mr Aitkin, in responding to the toast of “Oddfellowship”, delivered a most interesting address, which we are very sorry, cannot be noticed at great length. Mr James Shaw of Knowl, responded to the toast of the committee of the peace demonstration, of which he was a most active member, and concluded a lucid and energetic speech by proposing the health of W.K.Schofield, Esq., the chairman of the committee, who had stood through them through evil report and good report, and had succeeded in getting up the grandest demonstration ever seen in that district. The toast was drunk with musical honours, and three cheers for his good lady, Mrs Schofield. The chairman responded to the toast in a manner which excited the most rapturous applause. The evening’s convivial sociality was concluded by the band playing the National Anthem. Uppermill, which may be called the metropolis of Saddleworth, was partially illuminated in the evening. Mr Pontefract, the proprietor of the gas works, had transparencies and devices in front of his house. To sum up the whole it was a grand day of rejoicing in Saddleworth, which every one, enjoyed. There was neither drunkenness nor any other unpleasant thing to mar the grandeur of the movement.”

The popularity of the event, it appears, wasn’t reflected by all in Saddleworth though it would have only been a small minority:

“There is however one remark which we must be excused making. Messrs John Hirst and Sons, of Walk and Fozzards Mill, near Dobcross, did not approve of the peace demonstration, and every one will accord to them the right of thinking as they please. They

Programme of the Procession

TO CELEBRATE THE
PROCLAMATION OF PEACE
BY THE SHERIFF'S DEPUTY,
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLEWORTH,
County of York,
MAY 29TH, 1856.

To muster at Ten o'clock, at Delph, and move, not later than Eleven, in the following order:—

MARSHAL AND TWO ASSISTANTS ON HORSEBACK.
BAND.
CRIMEAN HEROES ON HORSEBACK.
PENSIONERS IN A WAGON.
YEOMEN IN ANCIENT ARMOUR.
SHERIFF'S DEPUTY AND CHIEF CONSTABLE.
CONSTABLES.
SUNDAY SCHOLARS.
BAND.
GENTRY.
COMMITTEE.
CHURCHWARDENS.
CLERGY.
MAGISTRATES.
MASONIC BODY.
ODD FELLOWS.
FORESTERS.
ANCIENT DRUIDS.
MODERN DRUIDS.
SHEPHERDS.
GARDENERS.
BAND.
INHABITANTS.

Peace will be proclaimed at Delph by the Sheriff's Deputy, at 10. 30. and followed immediately by Singing of Hymns and the National Anthem; march, at eleven, by Gatehead to Dobcross, where the same ceremony will again take place; after which, to proceed by Wall Hill to the Star Inn, and down the Turnpike Road to Lydgate, thence by Shaw Hall to Uppermill, where the same ceremony as at Delph and Dobcross will be repeated, and the procession will terminate.

J. H. WHITEHEAD, MARSHAL.

had, however a large black flag hung out at their mill; we suppose to prove the truth of the remark that there is generally one black sheep in a large flock. We think their exhibition was in bad taste, because it was placed where the whole of the procession could see it; and we cannot think that the hostile opinion of one firm to public movement should be displayed in a vexatious way as was done on this occasion. It might have led to bad results. However, the good sense of the public was evinced in their treating the intended insult with the contempt which it deserved. We doubt not the firm will have gained an unenviable designation by their movement."

3. The Accounts

One of the documents that makes a fitting conclusion to this article and a fascinating read is the accounts that were produced by the Saddleworth Peace Demonstration Committee showing that the money that had been collected had been appropriately spent and accounted for. The accounts also give a fascinating insight into aspects of the procession. It is interesting that the accounts note that all the toll bars the procession passed through were paid the appropriate amount which in view of the event being to celebrate the recent peace is surprising.

"The Saddleworth Peace Demonstration Committee in app. – with Mr Blackburn the Treasurer."

To	Mr Taylor Brook, Delph for printing stationery and posting	£5	1s	8d
	John Schofield, Uppermill for 3,000 hymns	£2	7s	3d
	Hutchinson & Backhouse for 800 Dinner tickets		15s	0d
	Grisedale to delivering Circulars	£1	1s	0d
	R.J.R. Bradbury to Paper, Envelopes & Postage		3s	8d
	Total for Stationery &c.	£10	1s	7d
To	Saddleworth Brass Band	£7	0s	0d
	Shepherds Band, Staley Bridge	£8	0s	0d
	expenses attending the event	£5	5s	0d
	Dobcross Band 10 performances @ 5sh	£2	10s	0d
	Castleshaw (Band) 13 performances @ 5sh	£3	5s	0d
	Jerry Schofield Fife & Drum pensioners wagon		14s	0d
	Total for Music	£21	14s	0d
To	Ringers at Saddleworth Church	£1	0s	0d
	Ringers at Friezland Church	£1	0s	0d
	Total for Ringers	£2	0s	0d
To	Mark Broadbent hire of wagon for pensioners	£1	0s	0d
	ribbon for hemming waggon		6s	2d
	rosettes for waggon horses		4s	0d
	Total for Pensioners wagon	£1	10s	2d
To	Tolls at Gatehead Bar (Delph)		4s	5d
	Woolroad Bar (Dobcross)		8s	12d
	Wellyhole Bar (Greenfield)		9s	9d
	Cotemeadow Bar		9s	7d

	<i>Frenches Bar (Greenfield)</i>	10s 11d
	<i>Total for Tolls</i>	£2 2s 10d
To	<i>Hutchinson for flag staff</i>	10s 8d
	<i>J. & J. Hall for tops for flag staff</i>	2s 8d
	<i>Total for Flags</i>	£0 13s 4d
To	<i>Dan Lees for horse for Deputy Sheriff gig</i>	4s 0d
	<i>Joseph Ashton</i>	2s 6d
	<i>Hutchinson & Backhouse for rosettes for horse</i>	1s 1d
	<i>Total expenses of Deputy Sheriff</i>	7s 7d
To	<i>John Degnan⁷ (Crimean Pensioner) 1x days wage & expenses outfit</i>	19s 6d
	<i>Dan Lees, Horse for</i>	4s 0d
	<i>Total for Crimean Pensioner</i>	£1 3s 6d
To	<i>Mr George Shaw 2x men clothed in ancient armour</i>	10s 0d
	<i>11x apprentices carrying ancient weapons of war</i>	10s 0d
	<i>8x Constables allowed 2s each</i>	16s 0d
	<i>David Hirst leader of the singing</i>	5s 0d
	<i>Total</i>	£1 7s 0d
To	<i>Odd Fellows expense of regalia</i>	3s 6d
	<i>allowance to 112 bars at 1sh each</i>	£5 12s 0d
	<i>Royal Foresters 50</i>	£2 10s 0d
	<i>Ancient Druids 28</i>	£1 8s 0d
	<i>Modern Druids 31</i>	£1 11s 0d
	<i>expenses of regalia</i>	£1 4s 0d
	<i>Total expenses of Regalia</i>	£12 8s 6d
To	<i>Diggle Bridge School 222 scholars @ 4d each</i>	£3 14s 0d
	<i>50 teachers @ 1s each</i>	£2 10s 0d
	<i>share of surplus</i>	£1 7s 9d
	<i>Boarshurst School 159 scholars @ 4d</i>	£2 13s 0d
	<i>share of surplus</i>	19s 10d
	<i>Bridge House School 144 scholars @ 4d</i>	£2 8s 0d
	<i>46 teachers @ 1s</i>	£2 6s 0d
	<i>share of surplus</i>	18s 0d
	<i>Wharmton School 110 scholars @ 4d</i>	£1 16s 6d
	<i>20 teachers @ 1s</i>	£1 0s 0d
	<i>share of surplus</i>	13s 9d

⁷ Serving with the 7th Foot (Royal Fusiliers) he was wounded at the Battle at the River Alma, 20th September 1854: [<http://www.britishmedals.us/files/crimdf.htm>]. He was working, as a guard, for LNWR, on the Delph branch line: [Saddleworth Museum Archives, M/CPC/10].

<i>Friezland School</i>	340 children @ 4d	£5 13s 4d
	33 teachers @ 1s	£1 13s 0d
	share of surplus	£2 2s 6d
<i>Friarmere School</i>	178 scholars @ 4d	£2 19s 4d
	21 teachers @ 1s	£1 1s 0d
	share of surplus	£1 2s 0d
<i>Delph Wesleyan School</i>	202 scholars @ 4d	£3 7s 4d
	32 teachers @ 1s	£1 12s 0d
	share of surplus	£1 5s 3d
<i>Uppermill Wesl Sch</i>	202 scholars @ 4d	£3 7s 4d
	56 teachers @ 1s	£2 16s 0d
	share of surplus	£1 5s 3d
<i>Greenfield Wesl Sch</i>	187 scholars @ 4d	£3 2s 4d
	share of surplus	£1 3s 4d
<i>Delph Indep Sch</i>	79 scholars @ 4d	£1 6s 4d
	17 teachers @ 1s	17s 0d
	share of surplus	9s 10d
<i>Uppermill Indep Sch</i>	110 scholars @ 4d	£1 16s 0d
	42 teachers @ 1s	£2 2s 0d
	share of surplus	13s 9d
<i>Poor House School</i>	24 pupils @ 4d	8s 0d
	share of surplus	3s 0d
1957 scholars – 317 teachers at Total expense of		£60 13s 11d
At the Gate Inn, Weakey 57 dinners, old people 1/3 each		
<i>Horse & Jockey, Bleakhey Nk.</i>	43	£2 13s 9d
<i>Church Inn</i>	40	£2 10s 0d
<i>Woolpack Inn, Dobcross</i>	50	£3 6s 3d
<i>Pack Horse Inn, Delph</i>	17	£1 1s 3d
<i>Swan Inn, Delph</i>	16	£1 0s 0d
<i>White Lion Inn, Delph</i>	16	£1 0s 0d
<i>Rose & Crown Inn, Delph</i>	15	18s 9d
<i>Bull's Head Inn, Delph</i>	14	17s 6d
<i>Hare & Hounds Inn, Uppermill</i>	37	£2 6s 3d
<i>Granby Arms, Uppermill</i>	31	£1 18s 9d
<i>Globe Hotel, Uppermill</i>	27	£1 13s 9d
<i>Railway Inn, Frenches</i>	32	£2 0s 0d
<i>King William IV, Road End</i>	26	£1 12s 6d
<i>Cotton Tree Inn, Ridding</i>	31	£1 18s 9d
Total Number of dinners 449 at a Total Cost		£28 1s 3d
Messrs W.K. Schofield & Co. for distribution amongst the poor		
<i>Thos. Garsdale & Co.</i>		£2 19s 0d
<i>Thos. Wood & Co.</i>		£1 16s 6d
<i>R. J. Bradbury & Co.</i>		£1 10s 6d
<i>Charles Harrop & Co.</i>		16s 2d
		£1 1s 9d

<i>J. H. Whitehead & Co.</i>	<i>£1 15s 0d</i>
<i>Joseph Gartside & Co.</i>	<i>£1 5s 0d</i>
<i>Total for distribution amongst the poor</i>	<i>£11 3s 11d</i>

Receipts from

<i>Messrs. W.K. Schofield & Co., Uppermill Division of Lordsmere</i>	<i>£40 1s 0d</i>
<i>Tho. Grisdale & Co., Harrop Dale</i>	<i>£25 3s 6d</i>
<i>Thomas Wood & Co., Dobcross</i>	<i>£21 0s 0d</i>
<i>R.J. Bradbury & Co., Greenfield</i>	<i>£11 2s 6d</i>
<i>Total from</i>	<i>£97 17s 0d</i>

<i>J.H. Whitehead & Co., Lower Div., Shaw</i>	<i>£24 1s 0d</i>
<i>Charles Harrop & Co., Higher Div., Shaw</i>	<i>£15 0s 0d</i>
<i>Total from</i>	<i>£39 1s 0d</i>

<i>Joseph Gartside & co., Delph, Friarmere dis.</i>	<i>£17 5s 6d</i>
<i>Total from</i>	<i>£17 5s 6d</i>

“We the undersigned have examined the foregoing accounts and found them correct.

Chas. Whitehead

Robert Whitehead”⁸

References

This article was originally inspired by the Crimean Peace Celebration collection in Saddleworth Museum Archives: [M/CPC]. The newspaper references were sourced in the on-line collection of newspapers held by Lancashire Library and mostly came from the *Huddersfield Chronicle & West Yorkshire Advertiser*.

⁸ Saddleworth Museum Archives, M/CPC/24

A GRIM DIARY OF SADDLEWORTH – 4

Paul Fryer

July 13 1909 - About 1 pm Mrs Preece, wife of Thomas, navvy, of Lane Head, Greenfield, put her 2 year old son, William, to bed, and about 3.20 pm she went upstairs and fetched the baby, which lay in the same bed downstairs. About 3.30 pm John Hawkins, a neighbour, saw the Preeces' bedroom to be on fire. He at once went there, and found the bedroom full of smoke. The boy was lying dead between the wall and the bed, his body being partially charred. The curtains and bedclothes had practically been all consumed by the flames. At a subsequent inquest a jury returned a verdict of death through accidental burning. It is thought the lad had obtained some matches to play with.

July 14 1916 - Pte Walter Burgess from Shaw Hall Bank Road, Greenfield, of the Manchester Regiment, was killed in action at Bazentin Le Petit. His name appears on the Royal George Memorial and at Pots and Pans. Also killed was Pte James Wild, who was born in Uppermill, and lived at Field House, Scouthead. He has no known grave, but his name is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

July 15 1910 - At the Leeds Assizes Gordon Horsfall, 24, a spinner, pleaded guilty to breaking into the house of Hannah Platt, at Ambrose, and stealing a gentlemen's watch and other articles to the value of £5 8s; stealing a sum of 5d in money from the house of James Platt, also of Ambrose; and the theft of 2 keys, the property of John Schofield, of Carr Lane, Delph, valued at 2s 6d. The thefts were all committed on June 24. They were not Horsfall's first offences. But in mitigation it was noted that there had been no violence. He was sentenced to 9 months' imprisonment with hard labour.

July 16 1906 - The Oldham Chronicle reported on the possible suicide of Eliza Mackay, near the Old Original, Scouthead. An inquest confirmed this. There was some gossip that the death of this young woman may have been more than suicide, but nothing ever came of it. She is now reputed to haunt the Inn, and ghostly screams have been heard in the lanes surrounding it.

July 17 1912 - A painful injury was sustained by Albert Hampson, a weaver at Bankfield Mill, Dobcross. Whilst at his work his arm got caught and was severely torn by a set of cog wheels. He needed 12 stitches in the wound.

July 18 1886 - On Sunday morning, shortly before noon, a female tramp, name not given, staying at Robert's Lodging House, Delph, was seized with a sudden illness, and died within a few minutes. The woman arrived at Robert's house, with her husband, on Friday, and was then, to all appearances, in the enjoyment of good health, and so continued until the time stated. Dr Roberts pronounced that the probable cause of death to be heart disease. The deceased is said to have been a native of Sheffield.

July 19 1887 - Shortly after 5 pm a serious accident happened to a young woman named Polly Lord, who resides in Salem. The young woman is a reeler in the employ of Springhead Spinning Company. It is stated that there is a way from the reeling room by a number of planks to a railway siding, in the milliard, and from the milliard there is a single plank erected to the siding. It was down this plank the young woman was proceeding, carrying with her a skip containing cotton waste. In

doing so she missed her footing, and fell a considerable height to the ground. On being picked up it was found that she had received a serious fracture to her foot, and she was taken by cab to Oldham Infirmary.

July 20 1909 - The body of an unknown man was found in the canal at Greenfield. It had been ascertained that he entered the village on the previous afternoon and found employment with Fred Garlick as a haymaker. He was last seen alive near the canal bridge at 10 pm. He was around 35 years of age.

July 21 1913 - Harry Hodges, a printer at the Denshaw Vale Printworks met with a painful accident. By some means or other he got his hand caught in the rollers of his machine, and but for the coolness and presence of mind in stopping it, he would undoubtedly have suffered even more seriously than the crushed hand he sustained.

July 22 1914 - Robert Cartwright appeared before Saddleworth Magistrates charged with being drunk and disorderly at Diggle on July 16. Supt Daniel said the man was qualifying for the blacklist. It was his third appearance of the year, and another would render him liable to be refused beer at all licensed premises, or also to be sent away to an inebriates' home for 3 years. Cartwright was fined 15s.

July 23 1913 - A charge of using obscene language was upheld against Joel Heywood, 20, of Lees at Saddleworth Police Court. PC Jackson stated that the offence took place in Oldham Road, Springhead, on July 7, Heywood being under the influence of drink. A fine of 10s and cost was imposed.

July 24 1912 - William Hilton, Charles Hunter and Walter Brown were brought before the juvenile court charged with playing football on the highway at Springhead. The cases were dismissed on the payment of 5s costs.

July 25 1889 - An accident happened to a young man named Robert Hoyle of Lees. Whilst following his employment as a piecer at Mr J.F. Booth's Springhead Mill the driving strap of the mule broke, and in its full caught Robert at the back of the neck, knocking him to the floor. His injuries kept him off work for a few days.

July 26 1911 - At Saddleworth Police Court Ada Ashton of Church Road, Uppermill, was the complainant in a charge of common assault preferred against Mary Burke of The Square, Uppermill. Ashton said the assault had taken place in the lobby of the Commercial Inn. She had been leaving the Inn around 10.25 pm when the landlord had put Burke out, Burke saying that she would swing for him. She then pushed Ashton's head into a wall. Under questioning from the defence Ashton admitted that she had not heard from her husband for 25 years, him having gone to America, and that she had been living with Burke's husband, and had had children by him. She had taunted Burke on many occasions. The magistrates dismissed the case saying that both were as bad as each other.

July 27 1908 - An inquest was held at Doctor Lane School, Scouthead, concerning the death of Clara, aged 2 years, the daughter of Wright and Elizabeth France of Upperhouse Farm, High Moor. Elizabeth said that Clara had met with an accident on July 23, and had died at 2.30 am the following day. Mally Askew, Clara's aunt, said that Clara had been playing with her brother, Harry, aged 3 years, at the back of the house. About 3.45 pm Harry had run into the house saying that Clara had 'fallen into the coal.' Mally ran out of the house and found that Clara had fallen 10 feet into the hole where the coal was kept. Clara was taken into the house unconscious. Dr Wakeham was called and said that Clara was suffering from concussion. The jury

returned a verdict, 'That death was caused by an injury to the head of the deceased, who had accidentally fallen into a coal place.'

July 28 1795 - Richard Broom, a baker from Oldham, used to take his loaves by caravan to Delph during the Bread Riots. On this day he was met near the village by a mob of women who emptied his van. They sold the bread at 2d per pound, and gave the money to Broom.

July 29 1916 - Pte Herbert Baldwin, 20, was killed in action. He had lived in Oldham Road, Springhead. Also killed in action was Pte James Widdop, who had worked at Slackcote Mills, who died in 1918.

July 30 1889 - An accident occurred to a boy named Fred Schofield, who resides in Dobcross, and was employed at Messrs Hutchinson, Hollingworth and Co's Dobcross Loomworks. It appeared that Fred was running about the shop when he fell on the saw table and cut his left leg on the shin for about an inch and a half. He was taken to Dr Ramsden, who dressed the wound, and he was taken home.

July 31 1917 - Pte William Firth was in the 2nd Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, and was killed in action. He was born in Saddleworth and enlisted in Huddersfield.

AUGUST

August 1 1906 - At the Saddleworth Police Court Fred Swailes was proved guilty of allowing a dog to remain at large without a muzzle or collar, and was fined 2s 6d.

August 2 1904 - A thrill of horror ran through Greenfield when the sad news went round that Michael Hopkins, the well-known and esteemed traffic inspector at the railway station had been knocked down and seriously injured by the 8.10 Greenfield to Oldham train. For 36 years he had served the L & NW Railway at Greenfield, and now, when nearing the close of his honourable service a terrible accident put an end to his career.

August 3 1908 - At Saddleworth magistrates Margaret Proctor, a tramp, was sent to prison for 14 days' hard labour for begging in Diggle.

August 4 1898 - The fortnightly meeting of the Saddleworth Board of Guardians heard from the Chairman, Mr J.W. Haigh, that the list of pauperism had been issued and he was pleased to see that Saddleworth stood the lowest in the Riding. Mr F.W. Mallalieu said they seemed to get a great deal of vagrants in Saddleworth. He had been looking over the lists and had found that in some districts the numbers of vagrants had been reduced by one-half by enforcing bathing. They did not seem to like bathing.

August 5 1908 - Mr E.H. Hill, coroner, held an enquiry at Friezland School, touching on the death of Samuel Bradbury, 13, son of James, a farm labourer of Shaw Hall Bank. James said his son had been in good health for the past 4 years, but had previously suffered from inflammation of the lung. He became ill in the early morning of August 2, and began vomiting. Brandy was administered, and at noon, Dr Stonehouse was called. The sickness passed, but Samuel continued to suffer from considerably relaxed bowels. He died at 9.45 pm on August 3. He had been conscious for only short periods during his illness. Mary, his mother, said that her son had told a neighbour that he had eaten a pie while at Saddleworth cricket ground. Stonehouse said that death was due to heart collapse. The symptoms were well marked, and pointed to ptomaine poisoning. Such poisoning could occur from eating

fresh meat. He had 3 other cases with similar symptoms, and he knew another doctor who had 4 or 5 such cases. He had found that all the cases originated from the eating of pies sold to shops by Messrs Firth's of Mossley. He believed the high temperatures of the previous week had affected the meat used in the pies. The jury returned a verdict that death was due to ptomaine poisoning, due to the pie eaten by the deceased.

August 6 1879 - At the Petty sessions in Uppermill Charles Buckley of Weakey was charged with wilfully doing damage to certain poles, the property of Ann Holden, of the same place. Ann said that on May 14 she sold some land by auction, and desired that some poles should remain there during her 'natural life.' On July 28 Buckley went to her and said he would pull the poles up. He used bad language to her, pulled them up, and threw them to the ground. He was the tenant of the land, but Ann had told him she reserved the privilege of using the poles. Buckley said the new owner, a Mr Mellor, claimed the poles and had told him to pull them up. The case was dismissed as the bench felt they had no jurisdiction.

August 7 1907 - At 1 am the night workers in the mixing and willowing department at Andrew Mills, Greenfield, found themselves enveloped with smoke and flames from a fire in one of the machines. One worker had to be dragged out of the room. The fireproof doors were closed, isolating the fire. The mills' own appliances were used to control the fire. The Mill was saved.

August 8 1917 - Pte Herbert Mallalieu, serving in the 1st Battalion, the E Yorkshire Regiment, died of his wounds. He was the son of Matthew and Mary Mallalieu of Shady Grove, Delph.

August 9 1878 - At the Wool Road Police Office John Holt, a tramp, was brought before Mr J Hirst, charged with having been found sleeping in a hayloft at Dobcross. He had been discovered just that morning. Holt was sentenced to one months' imprisonment.

August 10 1909 - A passenger train derailed at Friezland. The driver, William Turton and stoker, James Oates were killed, with 7 passengers injured.

August 11 1918 - Pte Raymond Ashton was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked on the family farm at Brown Rough, Diggle. He had been wounded at Cambrai in November 1917.

August 12 1915 - Pte John Buckley was killed in action at Gallipoli. He had lived in Boarshurst.

August 13 1902 - At Saddleworth Police Court William Kaye, landlord of the Globe Inn, Uppermill, summoning Ernest Schofield for common assault, first stood as a witness in another charge preferred against Schofield for being disorderly and refusing to quit the hostelry. Kaye said that on the previous Wednesday evening Schofield came into the house and, though not drunk, kicked up a disturbance and refused to go. Kaye allowed Schofield to go into the front lobby to collect his umbrella and cap. Schofield then threatened to strike Kaye, and a struggle occurred. PC Haigh said he was called to the inn, but Schofield had already gone. Kaye was in great pain, having received a kick to the abdomen from Schofield. Schofield said that the struggle had been started by the landlord. Schofield was fined 20s or one month imprisonment for refusing to leave the inn, and was fined £2 and costs or one month imprisonment for the assault.

August 14 1907 - Thomas Bourne, an overlooker at the Greenfield Mill Co, summoned Titus Leach, another workman, before the Saddleworth bench, on a charge of assault. Mr G.P. Fripp, solicitor, said that on August 8 Bourne, as overlooker, had occasion to speak to Leach about the character of his work, to which Leach reacted violently, and hit Bourne in the eye. It was agreed that given the relative ages and physiques of the 2 men that this was a singularly cowardly act. Leach, in his defence said that he had been wheeling a barrow when Bourne had begun to heap abuse on him. Having had enough Leach threw the barrow down and turned to tell Bourne to do the job himself. Leach admitted that in doing this he may have caught Bourne's eye with his elbow. The Bench considered the offence proved, and fined Leach 10s and costs.

August 15 1906 - At Saddleworth Police Court Alex Collings pleaded guilty to a charge that on July 30 he caused 3 pigs to be removed from Oldham to Delph without getting the necessary provision. He said a licence had been got in Oldham, but he did not get one from Saddleworth, thinking the licence obtained would suffice. He was fined 2s 6d and witnesses' expenses.

August 16 1819 - On this day contingents of 'Radical reformers' from Saddleworth, and other districts marched on St Peter's Field, Manchester. They had gone to hear the radical orator, Henry Hunt. The magistrates decided to arrest Hunt and the other speakers. Eventually the militia were sent in. What followed has become known as Peterloo, with 15 members of the crowd killed. Of those killed, there was Edward and William Dawson from Saddleworth.

August 17 1908 - At a special police court held at Wool Road, Dobcross, George Duckworth, a labourer of no fixed abode, was charged with begging in Scouthead. He was sent to prison for 7 days.

August 18 1917 - Sgt Clifford Garnett, 21, of B Company, 9th Battalion, the King's Royal Rifle Corps, was killed in action at the Battle of Langemarck. He lived at Greenbank, Greenfield, and had worked at the Oak View Mills. He had enlisted in 1915 and from May to August 1917 had been in hospital suffering from septic poisoning. He had been awarded the Military Medal.

August 19 1949 - A Dakota on a scheduled flight from Belfast to Manchester crashed at the head of Chew Valley, killing 22 passengers.

August 20 1917 - Pte John Langstaff, 29, was killed in action. He had lived in Springhead. Pte J.H. Rhodes, of the 9th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, was killed by a shell. He lived in Church Road, Uppermill.

August 21 1907 - Some men deem it acceptable to enjoy themselves by getting drunk. Such was the thought of James McQuillon, who came before Saddleworth magistrates on charges of being drunk and disorderly in Uppermill, on the previous day. He was fined 10s and costs and, 'would surely leave the court a sadder, if not wiser, man.'

August 22 1917 - Pte Harold Kenworthy, 27, of Greenfield, who worked at Whiteley's in Huddersfield, was killed at Passchendaele while serving in the Seaforth Highlanders. He had previously been wounded on the Somme. His name is on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

August 23 1918 - Pte James Clark was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked as a doubler at Victoria Mill, Uppermill. Pte Ephraim May, 43, was killed in

action in 1915. He was a reservist who had worked at Dobcross Loomworks.

August 24 1904 - John Spicer, a carter for Oldham Corporation Waterworks, and residing at Junction, met with a severe accident. He had carted a load of hay to the stables at the Piethorne reservoir, and in the unloading process the binding of a bale broke, and he fell backward from the lorry. He was found to have sustained severe bodily injuries and a bad cut on his head.

August 25 1902 - Before Mr F.W. Mallalieu at Wool Road Police Station, Michael McDonald was charged with being drunk and disorderly in Delph on the previous Sunday evening. PC Wall said that McDonald had had to be conveyed to the police station because of his repeated refusals to stay at his lodging house. A sentence of 14 days' imprisonment was passed.

August 26 1887 - John Schofield, 45, was found dead in the road near Saddleworth Fold. It seems that at about 5.15 pm John Whitehead was coming in the direction of Uppermill when he saw a hat in the road, and a few yards on he found the body of the deceased. He raised the alarm and PC Nightingale was fetched. The body was taken to the Commercial Inn. Schofield had been living at the Church Inn. He was said to have been subject to fits, and when found he was quite cold.

August 27 1918 - Pte William Hall, 33, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked at Diggle Paper Mill.

August 28 1903 - Richard Finnigan was charged at Wool Road Police Station before Mr A Mallalieu with being drunk and disorderly in Delph on the previous Wednesday. PC Mellor proved the case, and in the absence of funds wherewith to pay the 10s fine imposed, Finnigan was sent to prison for 14 days.

August 29 1918 - Gunner Walter Wood, 28, was killed in action. Before enlisting he was a loom turner at Davidson's, of Uppermill. He lived in Greenfield.



Friezland Railway Accident. [Peter Fox collection]

August 30 1899 - At a meeting of Saddleworth Rural District Council a letter was read from Alfred Sykes of Greenfield complaining of the water being supplied by the Ashton Waterworks Committee to the houses in his locality. The Chairman said this was a very important matter, and the Medical Officer had spoken to him about it. It was decided to write to the Waterworks Committee pointing out what residents thought of the water now being supplied.

August 31 1918 - Pte William Farrand was killed in action. He lived in Uppermill, and had worked at Albion Mill. He had enlisted in September 1914. Pte Charles Horne, 25, was killed in action. He lived in Delph.

BOOK REVIEW

The Ebenezer Chronicle

By Barry Whitehead, 2008, pp154

Every church has a unique story but some churches are more unique than others! Ebenezer Congregational Church, Uppermill is particularly unusual. Founded along with Springhead Chapel by two Methodist laymen who turned Calvinist and began open-air preaching around 1800, a small stone chapel was opened on High Street in 1807. Poverty forced the sale of the building in 1831 to some who had attended Delph independent Church and it then became the home of a regular Congregational church pastored by a series of mostly young ministers, from colleges in Yorkshire or Manchester. The Congregation grew steadily, the chapel was extended and a separate Sunday school built across the road in the early 1840s which soon became too small. In 1851 the congregation averaged 200 or more, many more than the Wesleyans up the road - although three minister noted that attendance "is always much better in summer than in Winter". In 1873 the original plain chapel was replaced by a more imposing structure – now the Roman Catholic church – on the same site.

Like so many churches, numbers declined in the twentieth century and in 1967 the chapel was sold to the Catholics and services were transferred to the Sunday School building in School Street. Five years later the brave decision was taken not to join United Reform Church, but to remain a Congregational Church – effectively an independent congregation.

This is a lively and readable history, which tells is more about the ministers than the congregation and more about the twentieth century than the nineteenth. Throughout the narrative is enlivened by glimpses of events in the wider world, ranging from the death of Napoleon, the first Test Match to the Aberfan Disaster.

Ministers' written reminiscences and more recent memories give us vivid pictures which make the story come alive: the absolute peace of an Uppermill Sunday morning in the 1880s, the crowded Sunday School, buying a cabbage at harvest festival, the Saddleworth Eisteddfods and the straitened circumstances of the minister and his wife in the 1950s until the deacons gave them a rise of £1 a week.

The book is fully illustrated in colour and black and white. Particularly striking is the contrast between the old Ebenezer interior c1930 and the present Sacred Heart Roman Catholic arrangement of the same building.

This is an attractive and thought-provoking history.

Alan Rose



Whit walks High Street, Uppermill c.1910
Ebenezer Chapel seen on the right. [Peter Fox collection]



Whit walks High Street, Uppermill c.1950 [Peter Fox collection]



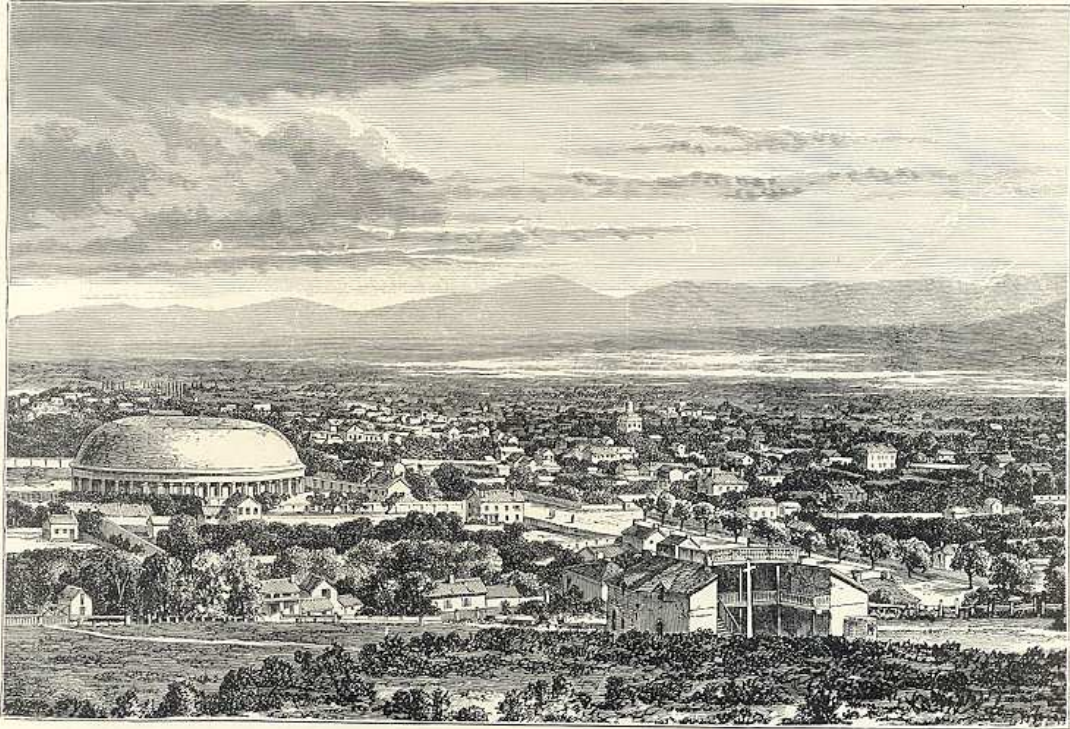
Ebenezer Sunday School 1913 [Saddleworth Museum Archives, M/P/PUm17]



Whit Friday, Uppermill Square 1950. Maurice Redman conducting.
[Saddleworth Museum Archives, M/P/PUm/22]

EXTRACTS FROM AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS

Gillian Taylor Shaw



General View of Salt Lake City, 1893.

The Salt Lake Herald, Utah, December 18, 1901

Thomas BROADBENT's Burial.

Santaquin, Dec. 16, - The remains of Thomas BROADBENT were interred here today. He died Saturday evening, as a very short illness, with pneumonia.

He was born in Saddleworth, England, Dec. 29, 1833, and was nearly 68 years of age. He emigrated to Utah in 1862 and located at Lehi. Since then he lived in Spring City, Sanpete county; Goshen, Santaquin, Elsinore, and again located at Santaquin.

He leaves three wives and seventeen children. He was the father of thirty children, thirteen having died before him.

The Morning Call, San Francisco, Calif., October 10, 1891

Soured on His Name.

Frank William BACKHOUSE, who was born Saddleworth, Yorkshire, England, but is now a resident of this city, has petitioned the Superior Court to change his surname to BACKUS.

New-York Daily Tribune, August 29, 1842

MARRIED.

WAINWRIGHT, James Haigh, of Saddleworth, England, to Sarah Ann, second daughter of James LORD, of this city, formerly of England.

Western Reserve Chronicle, Warren Ohio, USA, January 27, 1858

Extraordinary Circumstances.

A Father Buried in the Coffin in which his Son was Interred - A few days ago a circumstance occurred at Stanlybridge (sic) which created more than common interest. Many persons will remember that about seventeen years ago there used to be a great deal of what was deemed "body-snatching" - that is, stealing dead bodies after their interment. At the above period, a young man, son of Mr. James BRIERLY, formerly of Saddleworth. and for many years residing at Stalybridge, and carrying on the business of fuller or cloth miller, was buried at Motram Church. Some time after his interment, the father of the young man had reason to believe that the corpse was stolen; and under this impression took a number of men with him to the grave, which they opened, despite of the clergyman and the sexton.

On removing the earth they found the coffin and the shroud, but the body was gone. Mr BRIERLY at once took the coffin, and after exhibiting in at Montram Cross (sic) for some time, he said he would have it preserved and be buried in it himself, which vow he has strictly adhered to. After his son's body was stolen, the father caused the following lines to be inscribed upon the gravestone:

"Though once beneath this stone his corpse was laid,
For use of surgeons it was thence conveyed ;
Vain was your scheme to hide the impious theft,
The body taken, the shroud and coffin left.
You wretches who pursue the barbarous trade,
Your carcasses may sometime be conveyed
To some unfeeling surgeon's room.
Nor could you meet a better doom."

Mr BRIERLY died at the age of seventy-four years, and was very much respected . He was interred at the Baptism Chapel, Staleybridge (sic), in the very coffin in which his son had been buried so many years age. - London Paper.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Peter Fox

Greenfield Council School



Greenfield Council School c1915 [Saddleworth Museum Archives, M/P/NGf1]

The headmaster is Henry Hudson. Can anyone provide information identifying the pupils?

The school, which celebrates its centenary in 2012, is collecting information about the school. Anyone with documents, photographs, reminiscences etc. should please contact Peter Fox, Saddleworth Museum, Uppermill, Saddleworth OL3 6HS, curator@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk

OBITUARY

Peter Bradbury
1919 - 2011



Peter Bradbury who was born on 21 January 1919, died in Chester on 27 March, 2011 aged 92. He was one of the founder members of the Saddleworth Historical Society. He was born in *Beech Lawn*, Uppermill, the fourth child of Reuben Bradbury and Alice nee Broadbent. He had two sisters and one brother - Margaret, Anne and George. During his childhood he later lived at Brownhill, Ryefields and Fernthorpe.

He claimed that he was brought up in rather a strict household, where children were seen but not heard! When he was a rebellious eight year old his parents were getting worried about how he could be educated, and his sister Anne, by then about nineteen years old, volunteered to teach him. He and a girl of the same age from another family whom he knew well became "Miss Anne's" first pupils, and she carried on teaching in her small private primary school in Uppermill for the next fifty years first at *Fernthorpe* and later at *Boxhill*, Springmeadow Lane. At the age of nine Peter went to a prep school called Terra Nova, then in Southport, and at the age of thirteen he moved from there to Repton School, near Derby, where he stayed until the age of seventeen. He always looked back with enjoyment on his schooldays but although he was very bright he did not particularly excel academically. He was however adept at making things and as a teenager built a radio from scratch, astonishing his parents.

Anyway there was no question of his going to university, - on leaving school he joined his father in the mill, i.e. in J. Bradbury and Co. Saddleworth Ltd..

His working life was very straightforward. He entered the family business in 1936, and worked there until he retired sixty years later in 1996. His working life was only interrupted by the war. J. Bradbury and Co. Saddleworth Ltd. was and remains (although now in Huddersfield) a woollen manufacturing company, making cloth. The company had its origins in the 1780s in Giles Mill, Uppermill, with the first Bradbury getting directly involved around 1830. That man was Peter's great-grandfather John Winterbottom Bradbury, born in Fernlee in 1804. Bradbury families had lived in Saddleworth already for hundreds of years before 1830, and most worked as clothiers. The Bradbury company became one of the larger employers in Saddleworth, employing hundreds of people, and operating several large mills, including Alexandra, Dam Head and Stonebottom. Having entered the business from school, he learnt about all the basic activities, working in different areas, and soon became very passionate about the work and proud of the firm. Even when he was away for six years during the war, he was still corresponding very frequently with his father about issues confronting the business, how to improve efficiency, how best to organize things. After his father died in 1952, Peter became, at the age of thirty-three, managing director, a role he continued for over 40 years. He loved his work and the company, he was a caring employer, saw the company through good years and bad, and was disappointed that the company had to shrink towards the end of his working life as the business became increasingly uncompetitive against imports from lower cost countries. He worked very hard throughout his sixty year working life, working a five and a half day week until he was sixty, and finally retiring at the age of seventy-seven.

In 1936, on leaving school, he had sensed that Britain might be heading in due course for war. Partly for this reason he joined the Territorial Army with the 10th Battalion Manchester Regiment and he was already a second lieutenant when the war began. On 11th April 1940 he embarked for France, serving with the Royal Army Service Corps, but was quickly caught up in the British evacuation. He claimed that he did not come under much enemy fire but still he lost everything he had with him before he sailed back to England on 1st June, 1940 on a pleasure boat. He said he was relieved to lose his passport during the evacuation from Dunkirk, since he had previously altered his year of birth in his passport in order to get into a casino at Monte Carlo! After a few months in England he embarked on 2nd January, 1941 for India. With his characteristic modesty, he claimed that he never felt under much danger during the war with the Japanese on the Burmese front. Indeed his tales of his time in India were mainly non military. On the boat trip out which went round South Africa he says he became very skilled at various card games, winning lots of money from other officers in games of bridge, poker and pontoon. In India (now Bangladesh) he remembered wonderful early morning horse rides across the beach near Chittagong, and learning Urdu from his servant - he later gained a qualification in Urdu at the Staff College in Quetta (now in Pakistan), which helped to get him promoted. During his years in India - he also spent a short period in Iraq - serving with the 31st Indian Armoured Division, he was promoted first to captain and then to major, and in addition to being awarded the Defence Medal, War Medal, and Burma Star he was mentioned in dispatches (a few years ago he said he could not remember why, and tried to find out what he had been mentioned for, but the military records did not say). In practice he was mainly involved with logistics,

eventually becoming in September 1943 Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General, 404th (East Bengal) Line of Command Area in the Southeast Asian Command in Chittagong from which the Arakan Campaign was directed. He left India in March 1945 but still had to spend a few months in Scotland and Germany before finally settling back in Saddleworth in May 1946.

On 25 January, 1946 he married Iris Tweedale, of Grasscroft, whom he had first met before the war: for his wedding he was allowed a very brief five day break from the army. They had three children, David, Rodney and Vivien and lived for the next fifty years or so in Saddleworth first at *Sherwood* in Greenfield and then in Uppermill where their large house, *The Grange*, originally built for his grandmother in 1896, was a focal point for parties and entertainment and a warm family life. One room contained a full size snooker table – Peter was very good at it - probably something else learnt in the army. Another room had a full size grand piano and he would occasionally organize classical music concerts for special occasions. As he approached retirement he and Iris spent an increasing proportion of their time in their house in Nefyn on the Llyn peninsula. During the 1990s this became their permanent home, and their social life revolved around Nefyn, Pwllheli and Abersoch where they had a large circle of friends both Welsh and English, played a lot of bridge, and enjoyed the beautiful local surroundings. Two years after Iris died in 1998 Peter married Val Hamer, herself widowed and living in Abersoch, and he much enjoyed the last ten years of his life with her in Spurstow, near Tarporley.

Bridge was Peter's main hobby, and he was very passionate about it. He was an extremely good chess player. He loved history, and was a prolific reader of books about history, particularly twentieth century military history. He also liked local history, and was a founder member not only of Saddleworth Historical Society but also of Saddleworth Civic Trust. He liked music, particularly opera and went to many international opera seasons around Europe. He was actively involved with the Saddleworth Arts Festival and he helped set up the Saddleworth Chamber Concerts Society. He was very interested in politics, and was an active Conservative throughout his life. During the 1950s and 1960s he was elected a Conservative councillor in Saddleworth. He enjoyed playing tennis - the Tame Valley Tennis Club to which he and Iris belonged, and of which he was one-time president, was one of the main focal points of their social activity.

Although he had a rich, exciting, varied and long life, he was a remarkably unassuming person. He was characterised by most people as being a person of great modesty, charm and self deprecation, with a rich dry sense of humour. He was always very courteous, never angry or ill-tempered and he had something of the old school about him. He wore a tie and jacket every day of his adult life. He was able to give wonderful accounts of all the different episodes in his life and he was a great raconteur who could talk for a long time about his wonderful array of ancestors, and imitate some of the more curious among them. He enjoyed his life enormously. He is survived by his wife Val, three children, six grand-children and seven great-grand-children.

David Bradbury

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The Bulletin aims to reflect and encourage interest in all aspects of the history of Saddleworth. It relies on a regular supply of articles, letters, short reviews, etc. from members and others. Fresh material is required constantly, and should be sent to the Editor, who will be happy to discuss ideas for articles (or shorter contributions) from anyone considering preparing one. Articles need not be confined to subjects within Saddleworth's borders, but should have some connection with the district.

The Society's Website is at: <http://www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk>
This has full details of the Society's activities, publications, library and archives, and there is an e-mail facility. An index to Saddleworth place names, a reference map of Saddleworth and a bibliography of Saddleworth publications are included. There are links to other Saddleworth Web sites.

