

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



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Cover Illustration: Cross where Raines visited Mr & Mrs Radcliffe 1829
(Saddleworth Museum Collection M/P/Um/51.)

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**EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF
CANON F.R. RAINES, M.A., F.S.A. ¹
Selected and Annotated by His Grandson
John Beswicke Twycross ²**

Edited by Neil Barrow

CHAPTER V. - 1829

Sad Farewell to Saddleworth - Madame Tussaud's Wax Figures – What the Bishop said – Rochdale Folks Grave and Gay.

Rochdale, July 18, 1829

This evening I left Saddleworth and rode on Mr. Shaw's horse to Rochdale. George Shaw ³ walked more than a mile with me. It was a soft and pleasant evening but oh, how heavy was my heart! A thousand recollections of past days came across my mind, and when I looked at my dear young friend and saw the conflict between nature and feeling I could have burst into tears. I parted with him on the hill just through the Bar at New Delph. He watched me for a great distance. I rode slowly. Oh, how empty did the world appear to me at the time? I met with a cold reception from Miss Milne at my lodgings in Drake Street where I shall remain for a fortnight till I can meet with suitable apartments. It is a very different reception from the one I met with in Saddleworth. If poor Mrs Radcliffe knew how shyly I am received she would hardly credit it and soon tell Miss Milne how a clergyman ought to be treated by his parishioners. A small sitting room, neatly furnished, looking into the street. Very noisy. Very noisy.

July 19

I do not rise this morning with such calm and delighted feelings, as I have been wont to. There is a sort of void around me. I am a stranger and desolate. I wish I had been content with my humble and laborious station at Saddleworth. I had several marriages this morning and read prayers. The Vicar observed in the vestry "You have a commanding voice and will be heard well in the church". As I had a small parcel for Miss Dearden ⁴ from Mrs Mills I went to The Orchard with it in the evening. I was shown upstairs into a neat drawing room and shortly afterwards Miss D. and a younger brother came in. Very civil and I think, kind but reserved. I

¹ The previous sections of the diary appeared in SHS Bulletins No 1,2 & 4 2008 and No 1 2009. They were originally published in the *Oldham Chronicle* January - February 1926 entitled *Saddleworth and Rochdale in Days of Old*.

² John Beswicke Twycross was the son of Raines' daughter Honora Bella who had married George Twycross of Horstead House near Brighton. His comments on the text are in brackets.

³ George Shaw (1810-76) of St Chads, Uppermill, who shared Raines' antiquarian interests and whose own diary, recounts some of their shared experiences.

⁴ Jane Elizabeth daughter of James Dearden (1798-1862) whose father, James, had purchased the Manor of Rochdale from Lord Byron in 1823. James was a barrister and, like Raines, an antiquarian. They lived at The Orchard on the north bank of the river Roche. James Butterworth *A History and Description of the Town and Parish of Rochdale*, 1828, p 104, John Burke *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain ...*, Volume 2, 1835, p 357 and Henry Fishwick *History of the parish of Rochdale*, p 451 available online at <http://www.link4life.org/media/...>

saw Miss Hodgson a very well informed lady. Her father is a clergyman (incumbent of Milnrow). Miss Dearden showed me her sister's scrapbook in which I observed some beautiful original drawings. I stayed till ten o'clock and had coffee. I was pleased upon the whole with my visit. Miss D. played some fine airs on the piano.

July 20

Went to the Church. Very dull and quite melancholy. Not one person to speak to me.



Rochdale Church

(On August 3 Mr. Raines left Rochdale for Chester to receive the Order of Priesthood at the hands of Bishop Sumner who, it will be remembered, in 1848 was elevated to the See of Canterbury. At Manchester Mr Raines had to wait some time for his friend Mr. Pullan,⁵ a fellow deacon, at whose house at Didsbury he stayed two days before going with him to Chester.)

August 3

It was a very wet morning, and I did not know how to spend the time until Pullan came from Didsbury. I went to see Madame Tussaud's wax figures at the Exchange, and was surprised at their correct resemblance to the acknowledged prints, etc. of the originals. The dresses were very splendid. Burke and Hare, the Edinburgh murderers, shocked me. How villainous is their appearance! Bad faces!

August 5

Left Manchester in the mail at 3pm. And got to Chester by half past seven. I immediately waited upon the Bishop, who received me in the most condescending manner. He asked me many questions about Saddleworth. I told him how laborious

⁵ Rev Benjamin William Pullan (d1839) curate at Didsbury, where his uncle John Gatcliffe was vicar.



John Bird Sumner, Bishop of Chester

the duty was, the number of my congregation, how I had frequently to walk three miles to baptise a child, the inadequacy of the church to the population, what services I had on the Sunday, etc. “and said his Lordship, “ your salary was only £75 per annum, I believe?” I bowed assent. He turned to Mr Raikes, his examining Chaplain, and said, “It is well that God raises up servants whose hope of reward is placed beyond this world”. How affectionately he said to me with tears in his eyes “It often happens that those who are to shine as the stars the for ever and ever are specially appointed to bear the heat and burden of the day. You have a good Master to serve and your labours will always be less than His were.” ... I reluctantly left the Palace. A more humble, conciliating and truly Christian man I think it was never my lot to see. Dr. Sumner is tall, remarkably thin, large features, though a benevolent countenance, blue eyes and evidently from his sallow face, a martyr to illness.

August 6

During the morning the Bishop sent for me to his study. “I have here got your sermon,” he said, “on the text, ‘there remaineth therefore a rest for the people of God.’”⁶ I admire the manner in which you have treated your subject.” His lordship asked me if that was the style of preaching I had adopted in Saddleworth. I replied in the affirmative. He asked if it was approved. I said it was, and as a proof of its being approved, I named that the congregation had volunteered to double my salary and to build me a house if I would have remained with them. “And why did you not?”

⁶ Hebrews 4:9.



The Reverend William Robert Hey



The Reverend Thomas Sturgess Mills

I candidly told him that Mr. Hay⁷ was the patron of Saddleworth and having offered me the curacy of Rochdale, I was afraid of offending him by refusing it and thus lose all chance of having the living of Saddleworth. Hence I left a place where I had done some good and where my labours were accepted. "And shall I commend you for this? I commend you not," said he in a mild and very pathetic manner. I felt the rebuke and, from the manner in which it was conveyed, I could scarcely hold from shedding tears. I felt condemned before him and saw that I had done wrong in quitting Saddleworth. "You might have had a chance for the living, if you had remained?" I doubted this. I might have named the very circumstance of Mr. Hay wishing me to be at Rochdale that he had me thought of giving me Saddleworth in consequence of my being a curate. I know Mr. Hay well. I know he would not have given it to a stranger. I have heard Mr. Mills⁸ say so, but I could not unfold these things to the Bishop.

August 8

At 3p.m. we (the candidates for ordination) all met at the Palace. Just as I went in I caught the Bishop's eye, who called me by name into his study; but just at the same moment I saw another gentleman go in, so I stayed behind. I was immediately summoned before his Lordship and I found the young man I had seen go in, with the Bishop, who addressed us both thus. "Comparisons are generally odious and I don't like to make them; however, I must say that your examination, gentleman, has given me infinite pleasure and as a mark of my approbation I beg you will each of you accept a volume of my own writing. (Here he presented us with a handsomely bound volume of his 'Evidences of Christianity: 3rd edition 1826').

⁷ William Robert Hay (1761-1839) had initially practiced law. As the chairman of the Salford magistrates he had ordered the reading of the Riot Act before Peterloo. Within months he was rewarded, it was widely felt, by his appointment as vicar of Rochdale: "...its actual value at present exceeds £2,000 per annum and it has the reputation of being the most valuable Vicarial Benefice in the kingdom" Butterworth p72. "He was a large fat man [who] weighed eighteen stone." Fishwick p 244. He was also, from 1802, rector of Ackworth, Yorkshire.

⁸ Thomas Sturges Mills (1789-1864) curate at Dobcross who became vicar of Littleborough in 1844, Fishwick p 200.

He proceeded, "I am convinced you are both calculated for extensive usefulness in the Church and I hope you employ the talents committed to your care, with fidelity". We each held the volume in our hands when his Lordship said, "You had better put the books in your pockets. I do not wish to excite any improper feelings in the other candidates." We did so. He then said, "I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you both in a short time at your respective churches" - alluding to the confirmation, visitation, etc. which takes place next month.

Sunday August 9

The ordination service was very impressive; the Bishop seemed very much exhausted, and made two or three trivial errors. We dined at the Palace, and had everything in season. We were called to Cathedral prayers before each gentleman had taken a glass of wine, which was a source of great mortification, too many! I, being no wine drinker felt rather a relief otherwise. In the evening about a dozen of the 36 clerks attended service at St. Peter's church and heard Mr. Raikes preach. A real evangelical sermon! Had it been preached in 1729 Mr. R would have shared the fate of the Wesley's? The Bishop and two of his daughters were present – remarked for their very neat and plain dresses. After we left the chapel several of the gentleman at our Inn (The White Lion, opposite the Palace gates) had brandy and water and pipes to regale themselves after the toils of the day - a proceeding at such a time and on such an occasion I deem highly culpable.

August 17

Left Manchester (Where I have been staying with Pullan at Didsbury) this afternoon. Got to Rochdale by 7 o'clock. The town in a perfect commotion, being the Wake. The bands of music, rushcarts, morris dancers, decorated attendants, cracking of whips, etc., had a strange appearance and effect. The bells were ringing.

August 19

Went for the first time to Mr. Clement Royd's⁹ of Green Hill, to give instructions to two of his sons, who are going to Rugby School to Dr. Arnold. The Rev. W. Inchbald named it to me before I went to Chester. I go at 9a.m. and leave at 11. The lads are yet in the elementary department of the classics. A good and pious family.

August 20

I was yesterday at the horticultural meeting. Mrs. Royds gave me a ticket. Not much amused. A stranger amongst strangers. A spectacle to men and women.

August 25

Reading a translation of Massillon's¹⁰ Sermons. Free and independent. Well may the Roman Catholic Church stand, when such able and impartial and good men as Bourdaloue, Fenelon, etc., have graced it?

⁹ Clement Royds (1785-1854), a woolstapler, had purchased the Rochdale banking business of Messrs Rawson & Co in 1827. He was the Chief Magistrate for many years and, in 1850, became the High Sheriff of Lancaster. Two of his brothers and a brother-in-law were clergymen. Fishwick, p 512.

¹⁰ Jean Baptiste Massillon (1663-1742) was bishop of Clermont. His sermons were more moralistic than dogmatic and thus reached a non-catholic readership. Louis Bourdaloue (1642-1704) was a French Jesuit preacher noted for his eloquence. Francois Fenelon (1651-1715) was archbishop of Cambrai author of a large number of treatises, sermons and pastoral letters.

August 26

Invited to tea at 8 o'clock to the Rev. Mr. Hodgson's ¹¹ an old man, who has the Grammar School here, is a Surrogate and the Incumbent of Milnrow. The Deardens were there and two friends, Misses Griffiths and Roberts, who are on a visit to them. Plain and gaudy. Mr. and Mrs. Farrington ¹² - the later a charming looking woman highly accomplished. Had supper about eleven and got away late. I do not like this. Left in a heavy shower of rain, and got nearly wet through. I find it will not suit me to go on as some do here. I am determined I will not.

August 27

Went to a party at The Orchard. More than 30 soldiers, fops, belles, and all sorts. Everything very gay. More than £20 lost at a game called "Blind Hookey"!! Miss S.D. won £9!! Supper at 12, and the party did not leave the supper room until the carriages were announced. I hate this dreadful way of killing time! It is absolutely sinful.

August 28

Harassed with unpleasant reflections of last night's entertainment. I was unhappy all the time I was present.

August 29

Called at Mr Farrington's. Expressed my sentiments freely on card playing. Mr F. agreed with me that gambling was wrong. Invited to take a family dinner in the evening and met Rev. Mr Eyre ¹³ who had some ill-tempered remarks on Low Churchmen, or the "tight lac'd gentlemen" and "saints," as he termed them. I clearly saw that it was all directed at Me and indeed when I said; "We High Churchmen do so-and-so" I was immediately caught at by Mr. E. I begged him to tell me the difference between the High Church and Low Church, Methodists, Calvinists, etc. I gave him a knot, which he could not unloose. We had a great deal of conversation after this and when we left he took me to his rooms and was extremely polite.

September 9

Many of the great folks here have gone to the musical festival at Chester and intend to return by Doncaster Races. "Loves of pleasures!"

September 11

Our Church has been undergoing a thorough painting etc., prior to the coming of the Bishop. The Communion cloth, glory, books, etc., are very superb. Crimson velvet and gold lace after the old pattern. Morocco binding and much gilding which is

¹¹ William Hodgson (1769-1832). His daughter Ellen was to marry Raines's younger brother John: Fishwick p 214 and his elder daughter Emma marries Thomas-Ferrand brother of James Dearden: John Burke *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain vol 1* 1847 p 319 He was master at the grammar school from 1796. The Charity Commissioners reported "there were only sixteen scholars at the school and the master was determined to take no more." Fishwick, p 272.

¹² William James Farrington was the first incumbent of St James' the chapel of ease built in 1821. He had been Gatcliffe's curate and Hay's curate at Ackworth..

¹³ Anthony William Eyre (1783-1848) probably later rector of Hornsea, East Riding: Marquis of Ruvigny and Raineval, *The Plantagenet Roll of the Blood Royal: The Mortimer-Percy Volume* 1911, p 260.

splendid. Many a poor widow's soiled and torn bible is a greater treasure than these elegant books will be to thousands who will see them. May the Word read from them prove itself to be "quick and powerful".

September 12

Mr George Shaw came over from Saddleworth and dined with me. I returned with him to Uppermill and staid the night at their house. They gave me a cordial reception and I found that their former kindness is unabated. I went to Cross ¹⁴ and saw Mr. and Mrs. Radcliffe. Mrs. R. shed tears and prayed for my speedy return.

September 13 Sunday

Preached to a fair congregation at Dobcross. The morning wet and generally not more than 20 hearers. In the evening the chapel was quite crowded, every pew filled and the galleries packed to excess. Many an old face I recognised and many a heart rejoiced to see me once more, I received hundreds of congratulations and prayers. I left as soon as I had taken tea at Mr Harrop's ¹⁵ senior. I had a bad road to ride over and got home by 8o'clock.

May my labours in Saddleworth not have been in vain! Speak the word, Lord! and seed will spring up and bear fruit to perfection.

September 14

I was called up about 12o'clock last night to visit a poor woman whom I have frequently seen lately. I went immediately. She was dying. I prayed for her. She expired as I kneeled beside her and I believe her happy spirit would be before the Throne of her Father before my prayer could ascend. Oh, what a lesson was revived for me. It was a solemn scene. I was deeply affected. I returned home by moonlight, penetrated with seriousness and awe. I retired to rest – but sleep had fled.

September 18

This day the Bishop held a confirmation here. 1000 children were confirmed. Mr. Raikes and his Lordship behaved very courteously to me at the Vicarage where we all dined. I was surprised to find Mr. Hay had invited the military to meet the Bishop. Query, was it in good taste? But it reminds me of what Mr. Hay said to the Rev. Mr Farington at the last confirmation, "Send up your gown and cassock to the Vicarage and you may dress there for the MASQUERADE!" I had this from Mr. Farington.

When the Bishop had left the dining-room and the officers, etc., remained, Mr Hay observed "We have managed very well, I think, considering that both the Bishop and his chaplain are spiritualizers. Let us drink the health of the GIRLS confirmed!"

December 10

I have gone regularly to Green Hill (Mr. Clement Royd's) but for the last three weeks the elder pupil has been labouring under a rheumatic fever, consequently I have not attended to his MIND.

¹⁴ A house between the Shaws, above Uppermill and Gelfield Lane.

¹⁵ Probably John Harrop (1751-1837) the failed banker of Tamewater, Dobcross.

CHAPTER VI – 1830 - 1833

England Under William IV.

Saddleworth Disappointed - Fearful Events at Hand - First Sermon at Milnrow - Farewell!

Christmas Eve, 1830

(Extract from a retrospect of the year)

I feel surprised on looking at my diary that so large a period has elapsed since I noted anything down. I have much time to redeem. May I be enabled to do it so that a good account at last may be given of my stewardship!

My time has been occupied since April with a pupil who has come for two hours in the day. His father is a banker in this town – James Fenton¹⁶ Esquire of Crimble Hall – a serious man who worships God, with his house. I have found their acquaintance an acquisition. In September they lost their daughter, a fine and promising girl. She died of enteritis at Cheltenham, where she was at school. Well may the dear mourners say, “Ye who have lost an angel, weep with me.”

I have left my old lodgings and feel more comfortable where I am. I left in peace.

I have this year purchased for ready money a bookcase, which I have long found a desideratum. It is the first piece of furniture I have bought. The LAST will be bought for me by others!

In consequence of the illness of Mr. Hawkins, our Vicar’s curate (and son-in-law) at Ackworth, Mr. Whitelock¹⁷ has been three months officiating there during the summer. The duty here devolved upon me, as Mr. Hay was a good deal from us. Mr. Whitelock married hastily, and, I think, unadvisedly, the day he left. It was done clandestinely, and excited a great commotion here. I hope I may answer well. “Marriage, is honourable in ALL” – but, the same authority enjoins, “only in the Lord”. POOR curates ought not to marry. I look BEYOND to day.

Reform in Church and State is the order of the day. Moderate measures I accede to, but the rash hand of innovation I deprecate. The “working clergy” are inadequately paid. Pluralists “eat up the milk and honey” and leave Nethinims¹⁸ to feed on “husks.” May the Omnipotent Head of the Church order all things for the best.

William IV is a very popular King. He resorts to many tricks to acquire the applauses of the multitude. He walks in the parks and streets of London daily, unattended, which contrasts strikingly with the retired and suspicious habits of the late poor King, who lived though he had no fear of death.

The country is in a very unsettled state. There are many thousands of spinners out of employment about Ashton, Stalybridge, &c., and their conduct is not peaceable.

¹⁶ James Fenton (1793-1857) flannel manufacturer, living at Crimble hall, Bamford: Fishwick, p 372. With his brother John, soon to be the first MP for Rochdale, he established the bank in 1819. He had two sons James and Joseph: JA Green (ed) *Heywood Notes and Queries vol 1*, 1905, p 16.

¹⁷ Richard Whitelock (1803-1879). He had eloped with Mary, the daughter of John Eliot a Rochdale attorney, earlier that year: John Radcliffe *The Parish Registers of St Chad, Saddleworth ... from 1751-1800*, p 543.

¹⁸ Temple servants (implicitly doing the menial work) 1 Chronicles 9:2.

The lowness of wages, caused by the introduction of machinery, power looms, &c., is said to be the cause. In the agricultural districts a diabolical spirit of incendiarism has become prevalent. Stacks of corn and outbuildings are set on fire and burnt to the ground during the night. Machinery here is inveighed against.

The country seems to have suffered by measures adopted by the late misguided and infatuated Ministers. Wellington has ruled the nation with a drawn sword, and it is to be noticed that he has excluded all religion from his public speeches, even when the mention of it seemed to be required. He has ordered soldiers to march on the Lord's Day - a thing without precedent. He has held Cabinet Councils on that day, given dinner parties on that day, and shown every contempt for the public feeling and established ordinances. He was a good soldier, but has proved himself a bad statesman.

January 1, 1831

Heard Rev. Mr. Cowell,¹⁹ incumbent of Todmorden preach this morning in our church, according to the annual custom. Bare of Gospel truth. Yet something may be gathered from every sermon, and we ought not to sit in the critic's chair in God's Temple.

January 12

My dear pupil Master Fenton, leaves me the latter end of the month for the Rev. Mr. Rowson's school at Seaforth, near Liverpool. Master Fenton is a boy of excellent abilities and I think will distinguish himself in the world, provided the knowledge that he will be a man of fortune does not cause him to indulge in indolence. His disposition is generous. My best exertions have been used for his benefit, but I have been too lenient and indulgent.

January 18

The Vicar (of Rochdale) told me this morning that he had just heard of the death of Mr. Zouch²⁰ (incumbent of Saddleworth) and had offered Saddleworth to Mr. Whitelock, the senior curate here. I expected this would be the case, consequently I have experienced no disappointment, but my poor flock at Saddleworth will be very much pained. Whitelock has never been near me to name the circumstance. I have heard him say he would not accept Saddleworth should it be offered. But he is now married and in lodgings and in

(Mr. Whitelock's nomination to the living of Saddleworth was vehemently opposed by the congregation who wanted either Mr. Raines or Mr. Alkin²¹ (curate of Lydgate). But Mr. Whitelock soon won the regard of his parishioners and was incumbent and afterwards first Vicar of Saddleworth until his death in 1879).

¹⁹ Joseph Cowell (1790-1846) had been curate at Ackworth before his appointment to Todmorden in 1821 where he stayed until his death Fishwick p 187, birth found on IGI at <http://www.familysearch.org/>. He was an elder brother of George Cowell (1801-68) the longest serving vicar of Lydgate 1835-68: CCW Airne *St Anne's Lydgate: the Story of a Pennine Parish 1788-1988*, pp 24-36.

²⁰ Charles Zouch (1760-1831) was already showing "eccentricities arising from mental infirmity" when he was appointed to Saddleworth in 1792. He had, although still incumbent, been living in a asylum since 1794: Radcliffe, pp 540-42.

²¹ Herbert Allkin (1801-48). He later became vicar at St George's, Hyde: Airne, pp 18 & 107.

On the 22nd of last month Mr. Hodgson, the incumbent of Milnrow, was knocked down in his school and had a rib fractured, and was otherwise injured by Mr. Knight of Belfield Hall, a manufacturer, in consequence of having granted a license to his (Mr. Knight's) son whom I married. He is said to be 16 years old – but I think more – and he has married a person of 30.²²

I saw Mr. Hodgson today. He is very ill and has never been able to sit up or be much out of bed since the assault. Knight has been served with a writ and it will go to Lancaster Assizes. Mr. Hodgson is said to have granted the license through a love of money - knowing the lad was a minor - this I cannot credit. One thing is certain; the voice of the town is in Knight's favour.

January 21

Read the funeral service at Milnrow to the CLERK by the graveside of a good woman who was interred last night without the funeral obsequies being performed. Mr Hodgson's family had omitted letting me know of the burial - an omission easily pardoned when the distressed state of the house is considered. The same accident (it is said) occurred at Rochdale Church and the same measure was adopted.



Tim Bobbin

January 23, 1831

Preached at Milnrow to a small auditory. A neat chapel but bad attendance. At this place the famous John Collier, alias Tim Bobbin, was resident and kept the village school. He was a free-thinker and some marginal notes which I have seen in some books would have done credit to Hobbes or Tindal or Bolinbroke.²³ He lies buried in our (Rochdale) churchyard with a 'humorous' epitaph on his gravestone to this effect:

"Here lies John and with him Mary

-

Cheek by jowl they never vary.

The reason they so well agree,
John wants no Punch and Moll no
tea"

He composed it a few minutes
before he expired. Lamentable
work!

²² This was the marriage of John Knight, whitester of Belfield to Alice Farrow, spinster of Belfield: 22nd December 1830 at St Chads, Rochdale: <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk>.

²³ Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) the political philosopher, probably Matthew Tindal (1657-1733) an English deist author whose works caused great controversy challenging the Christian consensus of his time and probably Henry St John Lord Bolinbroke (1678-1751) parliamentarian, minister and political essayist, Eight volumes of his works had been published in 1809.

January 25

I saw Mr. Mills of Dobcross, yesterday – of course Whitelock's friend – but he says people of Saddleworth grumble and want me.

March 25

Mr. Hodgson has gained the trial at Lancaster and obtained £250, damages and costs. The voice of the people opposes him.

May 6

Whilst I write this there is a very heavy fall of snow.

The world has been well nigh turned upside down. The King's Ministers have introduced a Bill for "Reform in Parliament." And it savours so much of revolution that most sensible people tremble for the consequences. The Church will apparently be next sacrificed. Her revenues and emoluments have long been objects of cupidity – and there are furtive spirits abroad. The King dissolved Parliament, I think, too hastily. The fearful events are at hand, commotion, contention and menacing, if not bloodshed, are about us. May a wise and holy God preserve

Our beloved country and defend His Church!

June 27, 1832

Died, last night, the Rev. W. Hodgson, Incumbent of Milnrow, aged 63.

His illness was of brief duration, though it is supposed he never recovered from the brutal attack respecting which I have written before. He was a man possessing many excellent qualities; but all these, in the estimation of the world, were effaced by an inordinate love of money and cards! He lived with the greatest economy, and brought up his family in the same saving habits. It is thought that he has left behind him £10,000 to £12,000.

I have been thus minute on more accounts than one. First, because his eldest daughter has been assigned by all the gossips in Rochdale to me as a helpmeet without my having any intentions on the subject, although I cannot quite say this of the lady herself.

However, I pass on to the second head, which is that, "by the good hand of my God upon me". I am Mr. Hodgson's successor at Milnrow.

This morning I received a note from Mr. Hay, the Patron of the Living, to breakfast with him, having, five minutes before, heard of Mr. Hodgson's decease.

In the most gracious and urbane manner, he made me an offer of Milnrow, which I readily accepted.

During the morning a deputation consisting of the most respectable inhabitants of Milnrow waited upon the Vicar and begged of him to present me to the living. Mr. Hay dwelt upon the necessity of there being a Parsonage house, which, I understood, they covenanted to build, provided I became Incumbent. Mr Hay mentioned no name. Until Mr. Hodgson's remains were interred he did not mean to disclose his successor. I am glad these gentlemen called upon the Patron, for it will be satisfactory to him to know that he has not sent them a curate who is obnoxious to them!

June 29

The Episcopal Visitation. The Rev. Mr. Parkinson,²⁴ Incumbent of Whitworth and Lecturer at St. Bees College, preached the sermon, which is to be published. High Church and orthodox. The Bishop's charge was long, though highly interesting. He dwelt much on the necessity of the clergy arousing all their dormant energies and preaching to the poor in cottages, visiting them, etc ... I dined at the Polygon, near Manchester, with Mrs Farington. An elegant house. Mr Parkinson came home in Mrs. Farington's ²⁵ carriage and I accompanied him to the Vicarage, where he is to stay till Wednesday. Mr Hay said he would write out my nomination to Milnrow in the morning, as he was desirous of my having the place, and as his own life was held a frail tenure - for, said he "*may* die of apoplexy any moment". I looked at him, and trembled lest his words should be prophetic. I never saw any person look more likely to die of apoplexy.

July 2

The Bishop held a confirmation here today. I met him at the vicarage at breakfast. He came to me in the hall, shook me by the hand and said he was happy I had got Milnrow. He asked me the value of the living. I told him about £140 per annum. "O, we must have it augmented. Queen Anne's bounty," said he "may be had. I will be your friend." He seemed very anxious that I should reside, which I will readily do as soon as there is a house. Mr. Raikes, his Lordship's Chaplain, also congratulated the people, as he said, on having got me for their minister. I observed I had heard that there were not many Dissenters in Milnrow. Said he "When you have been there some time, there will be none." ... The Chapel at Milnrow has been hitherto deserted - may it now be filled with anxious and enquiring souls, and may I be enabled to speak a word in season.

July 3

This day Mr. Hodgson's remains were interred at Milnrow by the Rev. Mr. Steele,²⁶ Incumbent of Littleborough. A muffled peal was rung at Rochdale, but the funeral was very private. The clergy here have had silk hatbands, etc., sent.

Sunday July 8

I preached this afternoon for the first time (as Incumbent) at Milnrow. The congregation was tolerably good, though composed in some measure of my Rochdale hearers who had gone over. My text was Judges iii, 22. May a blessing follow this and every sermon I may be permitted to preach at Milnrow. A very long anthem; very indifferently performed: would amuse some, annoy others, and satisfy a few.

²⁴ Richard Parkinson (1797-1858) became curate at Whitworth in 1830. He was, from 1826, a lecturer at St Bees' college, Cumberland, where Raines had studied for the Church. He later became Principal. Another antiquarian, he was one of the founders of the Chetham Society: Fishwick, p 175.

²⁵ Mrs Elizabeth Farrington lived in Ardwick, Manchester: Edward Baines *History, Directory and Gazetteer of the County Palatine of Lancaster...* vol II, 1825, p 195. Her husband had been a silk and cotton merchant: Pigot & Dean, *Directory for Manchester and Salford, 1824-5*, p 58.

²⁶ Thomas Steele (1785-1844) was curate and from 1816 vicar at Holy Trinity: Fishwick, p 200.

The first Sunday I preached at Saddleworth, the day was wet - it was the same today at Milnrow. In July I was ordained, in July I took possession of my first curacy; in July I came to Rochdale; in July I have first preached at Milnrow. I find that a house will be built for me without loss of time.

(Milnrow Chapel, or Milnrow Old Church as it is generally called, was erected in 1797. It was replaced in 1869 by the present church, designed by that noted exponent of the Gothic revival, George Edmund Street, RA., and built through the munificence of the Schofield family.

Mr Raines was Incumbent, and first Vicar, of Milnrow for 46 years, viz. from July 1832, until his death at Scarborough on October 17, 1878. A monument, erected by public subscription, marks his grave, close to the south porch, and in the church is a very beautiful memorial window. But it is not these things, alone which keep him in remembrance at Milnrow. The charm of his presence still lingers among the few that are left of his old parishioners, and not until the last of them is laid by his side, will the stately obelisk in the churchyard with its impressive inscription be Milnrow's sole, silent witness to his worth and labours.)

We have now come to the end of Mr. Raines's entertaining chronicle. Would that he had continued it and given us some peeps of Milnrow and the Milnrow people in the days of old! Still more does one wish that he could have spared time from his parish duties and antiquarian studies to ply the pen of a life long diarist. Then, he might have told us, in his delightful way, of his first meeting with his future bride, Miss Beswicke, of Pyke House, Littleborough; of his marriage at Rochdale Parish Church on November 21 1836; of his happy family life at the new parsonage; of the juvenile doings of 'Bella' and 'Flo', his beloved and devoted daughters; of, what must have been, the somewhat disturbing visits to Milnrow (cheerfully endured!) of his grandchildren, 'Georgie', 'Johnnie' and 'Nora'; of "the great surprise for dear father" - a closely guarded secret - planned by his elder daughter, the late Mrs George Twycross, during his stay at Brighton in June, 1874, when 'Mr Harrison Ainsworth' was sonorously announced at the door of her crowded drawing-room, where he was seated, and, to his amazement, he found himself, for the first time face to face with the famous Lancashire novelist; of his intimate friends, 'Johnsonian' James Crossley, of Manchester, Canon Parkinson, Canon Raines of York, the Rev. Thomas Corser of Stand Rectory, Thomas Jones, Chethams Librarian, and others; and more about faithful George Shaw, of Saddleworth, already introduced to the reader.

Although the Diary is incomplete as a record of Canon Raines's interesting career, it does not end abruptly. Indeed the final entry given below has all the pathos of a last farewell.

March 18, 1833

This day I have been at Milnrow, and the site of my proposed Parsonage House has been staked out. In a short time the stone will be got and then the building will be commenced.

May I bear in mind that “except the Lord build the house their labour is but lost that build it,” and may I look forward to the time when I shall inhabit that “house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.”²⁷

THE END

To the Editor of the Chronicle

MRS. COLSTON [referring to the 23rd March 1829 entry]

Sir. – The extracts from Canon Raines’s dairy are exceedingly interesting, as also the notes thereon. Mrs Colston (not Colson) was a Miss Lees, and her husband a Wesleyan Minister. She was born July 6, 1825, and died December 9, 1897, having survived her husband many years. For some years she could only be wheeled about in a bath chair at Burnham, Somerset where she was buried. In addition to the beautiful window (unfortunately in the gallery) at Saddleworth Church to the memory of the truly worthy Rev. John Lees, she gave most liberally to the Mission Church conducted at the Drill Hall in Uppermill; endowed cots, etc., in the Children’s Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne; presented a stain glass window in Red Hall Chapel, Audenshaw, as a memorial to Captain Stopford; an ambulance to Stalybridge; an oak screen in Mottram-in-Longdendale Church on which only her own and my cremated remains were to be placed, though a few years ago I noticed the screen had been so altered that neither is now possible. She had a remarkable memory and knowledge of people and events. – Yours faithfully, JOHN LEES, 47 Monton Street, Moss Side, Manchester.



James Lees

²⁷ Psalms 127:1 and 2 Corinthians 5:1.

A COUNCIL'S WAR: THE RESPONSE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SADDLEWORTH TO WORLD WAR TWO

Michael Fox

An aspect of the home front in Britain between 1939 and 1945 that is easily overlooked is how local government coped with the significant demands created by war. The experience of the Saddleworth Urban District Council (SUDC) provides an illustration of *the types of problem posed and how these were tackled. For the SUDC war meant a struggle to meet continual and sometimes unpredictable demands with limited resources of manpower and time. Adding to this burden was that of being forced to work within the vast, cumbersome and intrusive bureaucracy which had been created by central government to administer Britain for the duration of the war. To shed light on these topics this article has drawn on the minutes of meetings held by the SUDC and its sub-committees during wartime. These minutes are lodged at the Local Studies Library in Oldham, the assistance of the staff at which is gratefully acknowledged.*

Among the first war-related measures taken by the Council was to implement Air Raid Precautions (ARP) regulations. In May 1939 approval was given to a scheme for an ARP Report Centre. It was envisaged that this facility would incorporate both a message room and a map room. The staff of eighteen - most of them unpaid - were to include an Officer in Charge and eight messengers; at the ordinary Council meeting of 24th May, the ARP officer reported that he had *'more than sufficient volunteers to fill the posts required.'* Pending the finding of permanent premises, the decision was taken in August that the Centre would be located in the Council chamber at the Council offices at St Chad's, Uppermill.

An early opportunity for ARP personnel to test their skills and organisation was given in July when a 'black-out' exercise was arranged in the district. Councillors were stung by the criticism which this exercise received in the local press, complaining that *'such criticisms were entirely contrary to the umpires' reports'*. Having concluded that the reporters who attended Council meetings had taken undue advantage of their position, at the ordinary meeting of 24th July it was resolved *'that the editors of the newspapers concerned be asked to make every effort in future to avoid breaches of privilege.'*

A more regular focus of the Council's displeasure was its parent in Wakefield, the West Riding County Council (WRCC). An early instance of the friction between these two bodies that would recur throughout the war is to be found in the minutes of a meeting of the full Council on 18th September. Blame for the slow pace of implementing Air Raid Precautions was laid largely with the WRCC: *'It was resolved that the Council place on record their grave concern with regard to the lack of a sufficient quantity of equipment in connection with the Air Raid Precautions organisation and to the delay of the County Council in the granting of consent to the execution of certain work in connections with the provision of the scheme...'*

Far from being resolved, this matter festered, as will be clear from the following resolutions which were passed at a meeting of the full Council on the 27th November: *'A strong protest be made to the West Riding County Council regarding*

the unsatisfactory condition of the newly erected report centre (sic) adjoining the Mechanics' Institute, Uppermill, which although certified to be completed and was occupied by the (sic) Staff had to be vacated by the Staff due to flooding... The County Council be informed that the Council are of the opinion that the erection of new Report Centres in County Districts has been a waste of public money, having regard to the fact that suitable basements already exist in the district which could have been easily and at less expense adapted for the purpose of report centres... The County Council be informed that the Council view with grave concern the apparent lack of effective co-ordination on the part of the County Council with local Councils in all matters connected with Civil Defence.'

Implementation of Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) provisions proved much easier for the Council as use could be made of the harmonious arrangements that had long been in place with neighbouring Mossley to provide fire cover for Saddleworth. At a meeting with representatives of Mossley Borough Council on 23rd September 1939 agreement was reached in principle to run their AFS and ARP schemes jointly. The Mossley and Saddleworth Joint Auxiliary Fire Services Committee formed shortly afterwards comprised ten members, five from each authority. On 27th November protection against the risk of fire was strengthened further by a decision of the Emergency Committee to create what was described as '*an auxiliary fire station at the Council garage at Rush Bank.*'

The most pressing problems faced by the Council in the late summer of 1939 were posed by children and families evacuated from cities to avoid expected air raids. A large part of Saddleworth's quota of evacuees came from Bradford. At a Special Meeting of the Council held on 4th September, the day after war was declared, a resolution was made to write to the Mayor of Bradford to appeal for more blankets for evacuees from that city and request a meeting to discuss means of ensuring that the children had sufficient clothing.

At the same meeting an Evacuees' Welfare Committee was formed. Four of its members were to be drawn from the community. This was an early application of a policy that the Council would apply periodically for much of the war, namely inviting representatives of the public to take a direct role in the administering of certain temporary but vital wartime functions which councillors had not the time, resources or expertise to carry out unaided. Among other bodies organised on this basis was a Food Control Committee, which the Council created in September 1939 in accordance with an instruction from the Board of Trade and which met in the Mechanics' Hall in Uppermill. From the outset members of the public were invited to sit on this Committee. Married women were preferred, the first six invitations going to these exclusively; two of the recipients were residents of Delph, the remainder living in Grasscroft, Uppermill, Austerlands and Greenfield. Trade representatives were also sought. In September 1940 it was reported that local trades had nominated the following:

*'Retail Grocer or Provision Merchant: Mr F. Sykes, Bank Top House, Uppermill.
Retail butcher: Mr H. Hawkyard, New St. Uppermill.
Officer of a Co-operative Society: Mr A. Helliwell, 'Bidston', Church Road, Uppermill.
Retail Purveyor of Milk: Mr P. Heywood, Whitegate Farm, Dobcross.
Retail Baker and Confectioner: Mr H. Lawton, 79, High Street, Uppermill.'*

In addition, further 'consumer members' were appointed to the committee:

Mrs A. Lees, Delph and a Mr. Burgess of Grotton were additions to the seven already in role.

By 1940 food had become a leading concern of the Council. Measures taken to promote its production locally included the creation of an Allotments Committee and allowing use of the Mechanics' Institute for public lectures - one on potato growing was held there in March. In late October a letter was sent urging tenants of council houses to cultivate 'the land adjoining their houses.'

Encouraging the public to conserve materials was also a priority. Spurred by the Ministry of Supply, in early 1940 the Council's Scavenging Sub-Committee discussed a scheme for salvaging household refuse in Saddleworth. At a meeting of the Health Committee on 11th March it was decided that 'salvage' would be taken to designated tips, at Dobcross and Springhead respectively. Paper was to be baled using machines rented for the purpose. Profits from selling salvaged materials were not to be retained by the Council, going instead to charitable or other useful causes; in August 1940, for example, £100 was donated to the Saddleworth Spitfire Fund. Public support was enlisted by written appeals, as instanced by the following minute from the meeting of 11th March: *'Resolved that a leaflet be printed making an appeal to householders in the district to assist in the saving of waste paper, tins etc. and that such leaflets be distributed by the refuse collectors during the course of their normal duties.'*

As the quotation just given indicates, metal was also recovered. The first task of the sub-committee that was formed for this purpose in August 1940 was to make an inventory of all metal - *'especially iron railings, bollards, lamp posts, tree guards and grating'* - which could be recovered quickly and thus meet, in the phrase of the Ministry of Supply, 'any contingency that may arise.' Attention was also given to the crucial matter of ensuring a sufficient supply of coal for industry and householders. As insurance against increased demand in the forthcoming winter, on 26th August a different sub-committee recommended to the Minister of Mines that stockpiles be established in Greenfield, locations suggested being on fields between Shaw Hall Bank Road and the Huddersfield Canal and the site of a former refuse tip between Chew Valley Road and Greenbridge Lane.

Ensuring the continuing effectiveness of the ARP system was a constant priority for the Council. Vital for the purpose were volunteers from the community and periodically advertisements were placed in the local press to attract them; one such campaign was ordered on 22nd June 1940. Another matter considered at the same meeting was the allocating of stirrup-pumps to Council tenants, a practical self-help measure to guard against the risk of fires from air-raids. The principal means the Council possessed to warn residents against the last-mentioned was the siren which was mounted on the roof of the Mechanics' Institute in Uppermill. Among decisions reached at the busy meeting of 22nd June was to institute a test of this siren each morning. In the event it would never be sounded in earnest.

At this period the Council was taking issue with the West Riding authorities over their apparent reluctance to provide air-raid shelters for schools in Saddleworth. In response to an earlier appeal from the SUDC, in July the Education Officer of the WRCC wrote that while 'special action' was to be taken this would benefit Springhead alone, where two school-shelters were to be provided. The letter concluded that *'the (WRCC Emergency) Committee has decided not to take any*

action to provide all the Schools in the District with Air Raid Shelters.' After a second appeal was rejected similarly, the Council opted for direct action, a delegation travelling to Wakefield to argue the case in person. This approach achieved a partial success, the County Council agreeing in September that school shelters were required, albeit only at Uppermill Council and Delph 'mixed' schools. On 28th October it was reported that construction of the shelter at the former - which was to accommodate 200 pupils - had been authorised and would start at *'the earliest possible date.'* The needs of the public as a whole were not overlooked, the same meeting fixing the Council seal to agreements *'for the erection of communal shelters in the Springhead area of the district.'*

As in the previous year, in 1940 the Council was much exercised by the reception, billeting and general welfare of evacuees. On 18th March a sub-committee was formed to oversee these matters. Illustrative of the range of the problems demanding attention was a decision made at the same meeting: *'Resolved: that a communication be forwarded to the Minister of Health drawing his attention to the steps which had (sic) been taken by this Council to obtain the cooperation of the West Riding County Council and the City of Bradford Corporation with regard to the question of immunisation against Diphtheria of evacuees received in this district, and asking the Minister to bring pressure to bear upon the Bradford authority with a view to immunisation against Diphtheria being provided for evacuees in the district.'*

The large number of evacuees arriving in the district, and the likelihood that others would follow - in February, the Ministry of Health warned that *'in the event of further evacuation taking place after the development (sic) of Air attack'* Saddleworth would be required to accept several hundred more children - caused the Council particular difficulty in identifying suitable accommodation. Although it had the power to compel residents to take evacuees into their households, initially it opted for persuasion instead, publishing appeals in the local press. Indicative of the strength of the Council's reluctance at this stage to use compulsion is the following resolution of the Evacuation Sub-Committee at its meeting on 14th May 1940: *'Should there be difficulty in obtaining voluntary billets at the commencement of evacuation, temporary billets be made in the Mechanics' Institute, Uppermill, and the Mechanics' Institute, Delph, to accommodate the children. (Also) that an immediate further appeal be made to householders for voluntary billets.'*

Events in the autumn of 1940 forced the Council's hand, however. A meeting of the Evacuation Sub-Committee on 18th October considered a letter from the Ministry of Health stating that *'125 women and children would be evacuated to this District on Wednesday the 23rd October, 1940. In addition, the number of women and children provisionally allocated to the District was 500.'* Many of this new wave of evacuees were from London, sent north to escape the Blitz. Faced with what must have seemed an imminent crisis, the committee took the decision to introduce compulsory billeting of evacuees forthwith. The District Billeting Officer was instructed to canvas the whole of the District with the aim of determining *'what accommodation in each house is available for the reception of evacuees.'*

Perhaps a measure of how desperate matters had become is the fact that later in October and during November four houses in Uppermill, two on Den Lane, the others at Heathfields, which were awaiting demolition after being condemned were made available to evacuees. In each case this would seem to have come about at the suggestion of the owners, as witness the following extract from the minutes of the

Ordinary Council meeting of 25th November: *'The Clerk reported that the Housing Sub-Committee had considered the application made by Mr C. E. Kenworthy, Heathfields House, Uppermill, for the issue of a licence authorising the re-occupation of two dwelling-houses at Heathfields which dwelling-houses were included in the Heathfields (Uppermill) Clearance Order, No. 6, 1938, and recommended that a licence be issued in respect of each house for a period of six months from 26th November, 1940 subject to the condition that the houses are re-occupied during the period of the licence by a person or persons who had been evacuated to the district under the Government Evacuation Scheme.'*

At the same meeting the Council discussed a scheme whereby it would itself provide temporary accommodation for evacuees:

'Resd.: that having regard to the difficulties which are continually being experienced in regard to billeting of evacuees upon private householders, the Minister of Health be informed by the Council that it would be advisable in both the interests of the evacuees and also the householders for evacuees to be billeted in buildings to be constructed of wood or other suitable material so (sic) that the evacuees could live on a communal basis.' The Ministry of Health were quick to dismiss the idea, however, in December tersely informing the Council that *'there was not an abundance of materials available'*. While this letter drew attention to the power possessed by the Council to requisition properties to house refugees, the Council was in no need of such a reminder. At the meeting of the Evacuation Su-Committee on 6th November report was made of seventeen properties which had already been acquired in this way. Three weeks later the same body resolved that *'the Clerk make arrangements for the taking over by requisition, if necessary, of the wash house adjoining Oaklands Lodge, Grasscroft.'* Among properties mentioned at this meeting as having already been requisitioned were Glen Royd in Delph, and Moordale and the Liberal Club in Dobcross. Owners could claim compensation under the Compensation (Defence) Act, 1939.

Adding to the already considerable problems the Council faced was the need to make special provision for those evacuated children who, through poor health or disability, could not be accommodated with families. Spurred by a directive from the Ministry of Health to provide 'emergency hostels' for the purpose, in May 1940 the Evacuation Sub-Committee inspected two large houses in the district, Hollyville in Greenfield and The Grange in Uppermill. The latter was selected and a Requisition Notice under the Defence Regulations 1939 issued, with possession being taken on 7th June. The Uppermill firm of Thornton and Higson won the tender to *'make the premises clean and capable of occupation'*. A matron, assistant matron, nurse and cook were appointed during November and December 1940. The establishment was referred to as a 'children's hostel', to which a sick bay was attached.

On 29th April 1941 the Council gained agreement in principle from the Ministry of Health to appoint a welfare officer to oversee the interests of evacuees in the district, on the proviso that the annual salary for the post, which would be on a full-time basis, should not exceed £225. Another letter read at the same meeting conveyed some rare praise: *'The Clerk submitted a copy letter which had been received by the Chairman of the West Riding County Council from the Mayor of Brighton thanking all concerned for the help which they had given in the reception of evacuees from Brighton. Resolved that the Clerk arrange for the letter to be published in the local press.'*

Evacuees were not the only group coming to the district who needed the Council's help in finding accommodation. As instance, at a meeting of the full Council in March 1941 a letter was read from the Ministry of Health stating *'that 135 skilled employees of Messrs Ebonestos Ltd, London, would be transferred in the near future to Dobcross on the dispersal of that Company to requisitioned factory premises [almost certainly these were Bankfield Mill] in the district and asking the Council to put in hand the compilation of lists of lodgings for these persons.'* The result was yet another appeal: *'Resolved that the Clerk prepare a circular to be forwarded to all householders in the Urban District asking if they are prepared to accept war workers as lodgers.'*

A further, if intermittent, problem tackled by the Council was filling the gaps in the provision of essential services created by its skilled employees being called-up into the armed forces. Illustrating how this difficulty was tackled are the following extracts from the minutes of a full meeting of the Council held on 22nd December 1941: *'Resolved that the Surveyor make enquiries among employees in the Highways Department for the purpose of ascertaining whether they are desirous of being trained in the working of the steam road-roller to replace Mr Stewart who will become de-reserved on 1st February, 1942.... Resolved that an immediate effort be made to obtain a substitute, through the Employment Exchange or by advertising, of a person over 50 years of age to act as a Filter Bed Attendant, Sewage Disposal Works, in place of L. Gatenby who will become de-reserved on 1st January, 1942.'* Exemptions could be gained, however. At a meeting of the Emergency Committee on 18th May, *'the Clerk reported on certain officers who, by reason of their civil defence obligations, would be exempt from immediate enrolment (in the Home Guard), these being the surveyor, the property manager and the sewage works manager.'*

Another important matter addressed during 1942 was the maintaining of an uninterrupted and clean supply of water to the district in the event of hostilities. In August a delegation visited one of the two suppliers to Saddleworth, the Ashton Stalybridge and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Joint Committee (ASDDWJC) *'to consider the question of emergency water supplies throughout the area of the Committee in the event of an emergency.'* The matter was discussed further at a meeting of the Emergency Committee on 2nd September. Among decisions taken was to compile a list of wells *'and other potential supplies'*. In addition, the Women's Voluntary Service was to be approached for volunteers to chlorinate water at the *'central point (sic) in Uppermill'* *should the piped water supply cease to function.'*

Another essential resource that drew the Council's attention at this period was fuel. To help ensure a regular supply of petrol for Council vehicles, in September agreement was reached with the proprietor of the Eagle garage in Delph; a weekly payment of six shillings (thirty pence) enabled the Council to store up to 900 gallons of petrol at this location. A further concern for the Council was metal, specifically how directives from central government re the recovery of surplus iron etc. to help the war effort should be implemented. The presumption was that metal identified as surplus or scrap would be taken. Exemptions were allowed, however, in particular where removal of metal fencing or railings would cause animals to stray or pose a threat of harm to people. It was on the last-mentioned basis that in January 1942 a decision was taken not to remove railings from outside the Congregationalist Church

on Sandy Lane in Dobcross.

Despite such administrative preparations the process of reclaiming metal would seem to have been slow to implement, as witness the following extract from a meeting of the Health Committee on 12th October 1942: *'Salvaging of railings: A letter was read from the Ministry of Works and Planning stating that it was proposed to start the work of removal of unnecessary railings and gates in the Urban District of Saddleworth on or after 26th October. The Clerk reported he had arranged for the necessary notice to be published throughout the district by means of the press and Public Notice Boards.'*

The scheme initiated in 1940 to salvage paper was by now in full operation. In June 1941 an agreement had been negotiated with the Holcombe Brook Calico Printing Company to lease a section of their premises at Walk Mill in Dobcross for storing salvaged materials. In May 1942 ten Chief Salvage Stewards - presumably unpaid volunteers - were appointed. To encourage residents to maintain their commitment to the salvage scheme, the Council gave support to various national competitions, such as that run by the Waste Paper Recovery Association during the spring of 1942.

A project to which the Council devoted much time at the same period was the setting up of a British Restaurant. Non-profit making and having the aim of providing hot meals at low prices, such restaurants were being set up across the country. Having decided that one would be appropriate for Saddleworth, a full meeting of the Council held on 25th May 1942 resolved to locate it at the Sunday school at the Methodist Church in Uppermill. Although a sub-Committee was formed *'for the final preparation of the scheme,'* it would not be until the late summer of 1943 that matters reached fruition; on 27th September a meeting of the full Council heard a report from the Clerk on the recent opening of the restaurant, including details of staffing and the prices being charged for meals. In anticipation of high demand, a decision had been made on 28th June to give priority at the restaurant to workers from the main textile manufacturers in the village - Messrs J. F. & C. Kenworthy at Buckley New Mill, J. Bradbury & Co. of Alexandra Mill, and the proprietors of Spring Mill.

Much of the delay in opening the new restaurant was blamed by the Council on the slowness of the Ministry of Health in commissioning a new cooking depot in Saddleworth. Evident in the minutes of numerous meetings over a period of several months is the growing sense of frustration of councillors at the various official bodies involved. Witness the following extract from the record of a meeting of the Health Committee on 10th May 1943: *'Resolved that a strong protest against the delay in the bringing into operation of this depot and a provision of a hot meal service to the various works, be made to the Ministry of Food, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, local Member of Parliament and the West Riding County Council.'* Far from satisfied by the response, two weeks later the same committee resolved *'that a copy of the letter received from the Clerk of the West Riding County Council be forwarded to Mr W. G. Hall, M.P. and Mr Hall be informed that the Council are of opinion that there has been complete lack of co-operation between (the) various Government Departments concerned relative to the supply of materials and equipment required for completion of the Depot.'*

Taking as guide the periodic reports of the relevant department of the Council, by 1943 the collecting of salvage had, by contrast, become a smooth and effective

operation. Typical was the report for September which recorded that eighteen tons of materials had been salvaged during the preceding four weeks. Two-thirds of this total comprised paper - *'mixed and newsprint,'* the remainder being made up of *'scrap, rags, carpets, sacking, string and rubber.'* The great bulk of material collected was sold. *Books were a partial exception: while around three-quarters of the* (substantial) total of 20,860 collected in a 'book recovery drive' during the summer of 1943 were pulped, a little under a quarter were set aside for the forces and the residue - 210 - were sent to local libraries.

Now that the war was entering its final phase the Council was able to begin the process of winding down some of the many activities which hostilities had imposed. As instance, in October 1943 the Emergency Committee ordered a relaxation of the requirement that a fire guard be present on business premises *'for the purpose of manning fire posts and appliances'* for which the Council was the 'appropriate authority'. Henceforth, this stipulation would apply only during the half-hour periods immediately before and after black-out. One measure taken to alleviate the last-mentioned during the winter of 1943 to 1944 was painting of the seats in Uppermill Square white. Little relief from the gloom could be extended to the evacuees still in the district, however; in November 1943 the Evacuation Committee concluded that *'owing to the difficulties of transport and the provision of food'* no Christmas treats could be arranged that year. As a substitute, the local churches were urged to invite evacuees to parties arranged by their Sunday schools.

The Council was, however, able to satisfy some of the more general need for recreation in the district. Saddleworth was an enthusiastic participant in 'Holidays at Home'. Launched in 1941 in Huddersfield, this became a nation-wide initiative to provide substitute entertainments for people prevented by wartime restrictions from spending their annual holiday outside their home district. Overseen by a sub-Committee, the week-long programme of activities arranged in Saddleworth during Wakes week in August included activities as diverse as sheepdog trials on the golf links at Uppermill and Punch and Judy shows. There was also pony-racing and trotting, the arrangements for which were referred to at a meeting of the Holidays at Home committee of the Council on 2nd May 1944: *'Resd.: that the same number of ponies as last year be hired from J. H. Bowman, Hen Carr Farm, Milnrow, on the same terms as last year..... That the charges to be made for pony rides be 3d.'* At the same meeting it was also decided to print 2,500 programmes; a prize of a War Savings Certificate for fifteen shillings (75 pence) was to be given for that carrying the winning number.

Efforts to encourage the public to take a direct role in planning events had little success. In 1944, for example, the several 'District Committees' which had been formed to devise and organise activities away from Uppermill - where the main events were held - struggled to attract support, despite the holding of public meetings to promote them. Indicating this is a minute from the Holidays at Home committee meeting of 30th May: *'..... It appears that little interest had so far been taken in making arrangements for entertainments in the Delph, Dobcross, Diggle and Springhead Lower Wards.'* While the Council was prepared to guarantee any losses arising from 'Holidays at Home' activities up to the amount of a penny rate, it aimed to recoup as much of its outlay as possible by charging for events. Any net profits, however, were donated to charities, among which was the Red Cross.

Much of the Council's efforts during 1944 was devoted to continuing the gradual

process of divesting itself of war-related functions. In September, for example, the Emergency Committee responded to a directive from the Regional Commissioner with a resolution that all temporary staff engaged in the Fire Guard section of the Council be discharged. The Fire Guard Officer was retained on a temporary basis *'to provide for the collection and disposal of Fire Guard equipment in the Urban Area'*. On 9th October a special meeting of the Council decided that the British Restaurant in Uppermill was no longer required and with the sanction of the Ministry of Food, closure was set for Friday, 27th October. Still appearing on the agenda of meetings were evacuees. As instance, on 4th December, the Housing Committee addressed how best to deal with those evacuees still housed in property which had been requisitioned by the Council for this purpose. The decision was taken that, *'wherever possible properties should be de-requisitioned at the earliest possible date.'*

In 1945 the main task remaining for the Council was to make arrangements to celebrate the end of hostilities. On 16th April the last of numerous sub-committees created since 1939 to deal with problems thrown up by the war was brought into being to decide on *'the form of celebration on "V" Day'* (sic). The United Service that was held at Saddleworth Church soon after 'V.E.' day in May was the suggestion of this committee, Dobcross and Boarshurst brass bands being hired for the occasion. Later in the year similar consideration was given to how 'V.J. Day' should be marked; on 29th August a special meeting of the Council resolved that funds up to the amount of a penny rate could be used for this purpose.

Various other practical issues still required attention at this period. A minor example was that dealt with by the Health Committee at its meeting on 18th June. The relevant government department was to be requested *'to take in the interests of public safety immediate steps to remove drums, containing inflammable liquid, which were placed in the vicinity of road blocks during the War Emergency in various parts of the urban area.'* Of greater moment was the need to facilitate the return home of those evacuees still in the district. On 18th June the Health Committee considered a report on *'local arrangements being made for the return of evacuee mothers and children and unaccompanied children to London.'* Warm appreciation of the efforts of the community was shown in a letter received in July from a Town Clerk in north London: *'(Please) bring to the notice of persons on whom evacuees were billeted (our) deep gratitude for the consideration shown to those people of Willesden who have shared their homes during the war.'* The meeting resolved that *'a letter of thanks be sent to all persons in this district with whom Willesden evacuees have been billeted, as suggested by the Town Clerk.'*

One of the last references in Council minutes to the war relates to a meeting of the Housing Regulations Sub-Committee on 19th November 1945. The Clerk reported that the Ministry of Health had directed that *'the sick bay at The Grange, Uppermill'* be closed. It was reported that in anticipation of this the staff had already been given notice and steps taken to de-requisition the premises.

While the activities of the SUDC during the war were unglamorous and often unseen, to read the minutes of the meetings of the main Council and its many sub-committees is to realise how vital its actions were in helping the community weather this period of unprecedented difficulty. The evidence from this documentary source suggests that the Council's war was fought hard and was fought well.



Photograph of the Delph Mechanics Institute which had been opened in 1883, the Star Picture Palace was located in the Tea Room in the basement. The building was demolished in the 1970s and is now the site of car park opposite the Millgate Centre.

SADDLEWORTH'S CINEMAS - 3 THE STAR PICTURE PALACE, DELPH - ONE OF SADDLEWORTH'S EARLY CINEMAS ²⁸

Peter Fox

It might surprise many people but Saddleworth had at one point three cinemas operating in the area. The new 'living' pictures had originally come to Saddleworth at the annual *Wakes holidays as the proprietors of the travelling fairground used the innovation of moving pictures to attract people* and there are certainly accounts of these being shown in the annual Wakes fair that was held in Uppermill.

The demand at the turn of the century to see these moving pictures was such that old buildings were adapted and large numbers of 'new' purpose built cinemas were built throughout the country. Saddleworth was no exception to this demand, in 1913 the Saddleworth Picture Palace had opened in Uppermill which was located next to the bus turning circle, closing in the 1950s, part of the buildings long remained as the showroom of the Central Garage now the site of Warburton Court Flats. There was also a cinema operating at Woolroad, in a building now demolished, that was next to the Navigation Inn and this was the 'Electra Picture Palace'. The history of these two cinemas has been written in previous articles in the bulletin but at that time little could be found about Saddleworth's third cinema, the 'Star Picture Palace', this was located in the basement of the Delph Mechanics Institute in a room which was hired out for the purpose.

In December 1914 the committee of the Delph Mechanics Institute ²⁹ received an application from a Mr Winterbottom who wanted to hire the Tea Room located in the basement of the building for regular use as a picture palace showing moving pictures, the committee agreed in principle at a fee of 15 shillings a week subject to insurance etc.

After various negotiations the committee agreed the terms and in February of 1915 the Star Picture Palace opened its doors.

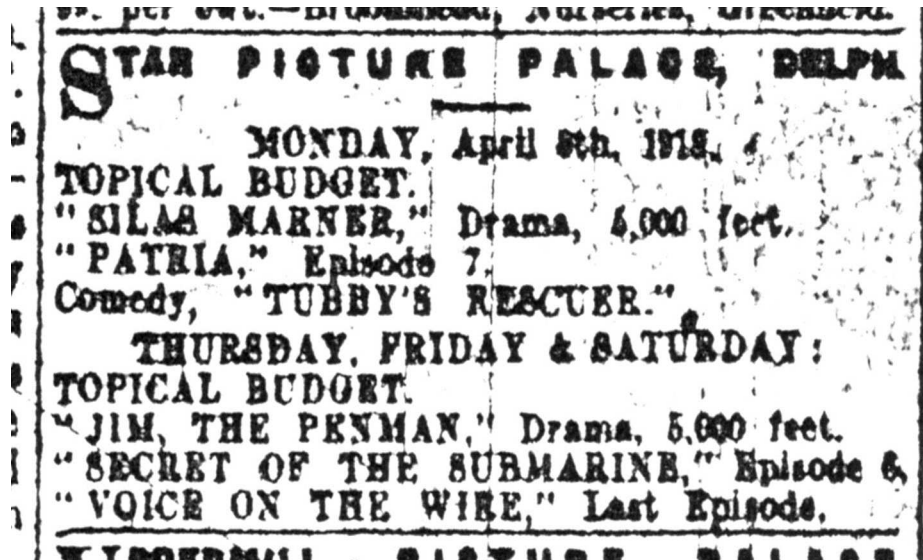
The minute book of the Delph Mechanics Institute records many negotiations and queries over the Picture Palace, not least covering, cleaning, insurance, use of the room for other purposes etc., etc..

In 1915, just a year after opening, Mr Winterbottom was applying to the committee to see if he could get Sunday opening but the committee would not entertain this at all. The Sunday opening was however relaxed for one day on Sunday April 20th 1920 with the showing of an educational film "The End of the Road" which advised on the dangers of contracting venereal disease. This however had to pass the approval of the committee.

²⁸ This article continues the series: Part 1 Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin Vol. 20, No4 and Part 2 in Vol. 21, No3. Sources are Oldham Chronicle - Cuttings Books; Saddleworth Museum Archives and the Mossley & Saddleworth Reporter - Cuttings Books; Saddleworth Museum Archives.

²⁹ Delph Mechanics Institute Committee Book; Saddleworth Historical Society Archives Collection.

The opening hours normally seem to have been Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays. The films shown, mainly 'shorts' in episodes, where the viewer had to come back the following week to see if the heroine had survived the drama such as escaping from the tracks as an express train bore down on them, etc..



Advert for the Star Picture Palace from the Oldham Chronicle of 6th April 1918 shows that it was open during the week Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The films were for the most part 'shorts' with the viewer having to come back next week to see whether the heroine survived the drama.

These early films that were being projected, for the most part used a film that was nitrocellulose film,³⁰ more commonly called nitrate film which chemically was very unstable and if not handled the right way or shown in the right conditions was liable to set on fire or even to explode. In 1909 the Cinematographic Act³¹ was passed which meant that all public showing of film where people paid to view it was required that the film projector must be located in a fireproof room clad with asbestos. In order to enforce this each cinema had to be inspected and licensed by the appropriate local authority which in the case of the Star Picture Palace would have been the West Riding County Council.

The cinema appears to have flouted these regulations for some time and in 1921 the law caught up with it when the local police raided the building.

'JILTED JANET' - High Inflammable Film at Delph - Cinema Proprietor Fined.

On Wednesday at Saddleworth Police Court, Benjamin Winterbottom, proprietor of the Star Picture Palace was summoned for a breach of the Cinematograph Act by using an inflammable film in an unlicensed house. When Sergeant Ingham he found the operator was showing "Jilted Janet". When he spoke to the defendant he said he only showed "non-flam" films, but a piece torn off burned furiously. The defendant said Superintendent Ripley, could not get a license because it was an unsuitable building – a death trap in fact.

³⁰ Nitrate Film – Wikipedia.

³¹ Cinematographic Act – Wikipedia

Police Constable Pape said “Jilted Janet” was highly inflammable. The pictures were shown in the Delph Mechanics Hall.

Mr E. Horsfall, Manchester, for the defence, held that a license was not necessary and, further, that the prosecution had failed to prove that the hall was used on more than six days in the year. (Yet the advert of 1918 shows it was then open 4 days a week)

He was over-ruled on both points, and next said that the police affected an illegal entry because they had no reason to believe that there was something wrong. Furthermore his client had not wilfully broken the law. Pathe Freres formerly made nothing but “non-flam”, and Mr Winterbottom ordered in the usual way. An exhibitor could not be expected to tear a bit of each film for the purpose of testing it. Moreover, he had made six applications for a license and the County Council had refused because they could not take up the (wooden) floor and put in six inches of concrete.

Defendant was fined £1 and costs, the chairman expressing the hope that the defendant would be able to get a licence.³²

It is interesting after reading the above that Mr Winterbottom had already applied to the West Riding County Council six times and not succeeded in getting a licence so it is surprising that the Star Picture Palace wasn't closed earlier. The request by the County Council that the Mechanics Institute have the wooden floor of its tea room ripped up and six inches of concrete put down to make the room fire proof would no doubt have not gone down well with the Committee.

In December 1921 the Mechanics Institute Committee recorded that Mr Winterbottom was called in to report his proceedings, he was still awaiting the discussions of the West Riding County Council respecting his application for a licence. He reported at Christmas to the Mechanics Institute Committee that he wished to run the cinema with non-flammable films for a week or two, ‘... in order to keep his engine (projector) and other things in order besides letting the public know he was still alive. He mentioned about having a gas light burning in readiness to turn up if his light (to the projector) went out suddenly, and also having the use for him and his workmen to wash their hands in the kitchen (presumably from handling the film), to which no objection was made.’

The minute book of the Delph Mechanics Institute contains few other references after 1922 at which point the committee were still in discussion with Mr Winterbottom. It is most likely that after the raid the Star Picture Palace was never re-opened, but it is interesting that the minute book contains one last reference where I think the idea of a cinema in the basement was prompted again though it never succeeded ‘... that Mr Hughes be asked to make plans of the Tea Room, in duplicate, these are to be made to see if the West Riding County Council will sanction for a cinema in that room.’ With the experience that the committee had already had of a cinema in the tea room it was surprising that they were even considering the option.

I think it was a case that the Star Picture Palace had survived, just, not least due to its failing to comply with the Cinematographic Act but its appeal was no doubt reduced with the popularity of the purpose built Saddleworth Palace in Uppermill, which

³² *Oldham Chronicle*, 1921, Saddleworth Museum Archives.

with its regular programme of 'silents' would have been an attraction for many and a walk into Uppermill or a trip on the 'Delph Donkey' would have made a night out.

TWO DENSHAW PHOTOGRAPHS

Phil Wild



Amongst my grandparents effects were two photos of assembled Saddleworth folk which I believe to be from Denshaw around the end of the nineteenth century.

I wondered if any readers had any knowledge on the location of the above photo and /or any of the participants of either photo, particularly as they seem to me to be of general local and social history interest, rather than narrowly relating to my own ancestry. Who knows? Maybe other members have similar treasures from a bygone era and a regular feature within the Bulletins could ensue?



It might be helpful to add the context of my own knowledge and assumptions surrounding the photos.

Third from the left in the back row of the first photo, (of which there were two copies), is believed to be my grandmother's father, George Whiteley. He was a native of Old Tame, born in 1870, and worked as a Copper Roller engraver at the Denshaw Vale Calico Printworks – almost certainly for his entire working life - and I have identified him based on his resemblance to a (known) photo from later life (on the left with unidentified companion).

The seated gentleman with the fez and pipe has been identified as the renowned local historian, Morgan Brierley, and his presence enables us to date the photo no later than 1897, as this is the year he died. It seems a reasonable speculation that the group put their best clothes on, groomed their moustaches, and assembled to coincide with Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

I had wondered whether the chap with the flat cap to the left of the white coat (the significance of which escapes me) was the Saddleworth poet, Ammon Wrigley, perhaps (or just bore a resemblance?)

The hillside in the background might assist someone with placing the venue, but I have been unable to identify the facade or wall against which the photo was taken.



The second group photo is taken at the Printers Arms in Calf Hey, and as Robert Whitehead was my grandmother's maternal grandfather and it was evidently taken whilst he was the landlord, I am presuming he is seated centrally in front of the assembled group (as unfortunately there are no names attached to the original, and I have no other photo as a cross reference aid).

I believe it was reasonably contemporaneous with the first photo, as Rob MacGee's³³ published research into licensed Saddleworth premises indicates Robert Whitehead only had two short stints as landlord (between 1894 and 1897 and from 1899 to 1904), before moving back to Dobcross, some time after 1912. So this gathering might also be associated with the 1897 Jubilee Celebrations or the later Coronation of Edward VII in 1902 perhaps?

³³ Rob Magee, *Saddleworth Pubs and their licensees c1674-1998*, Neil Richardson, Manchester, 1998.

Although the clarity of the second image is inferior and faces are more difficult to make out, I cannot discern any obvious overlaps in the respective attendees of each group. This seems rather odd given that both Robert Whitehead and George Whiteley lived close by, within the relatively small Calf Hey community, and were by now related, as George had married Robert's young daughter, Clara Ann.³⁴ Given the greater prominence of fob watches and chains, perhaps the first group had a strong constitution of management / supervision employees from Butterworths' Calico Printworks, whilst the pub grouping drew their representatives from the 'shop floor'?

Any feedback would be gratefully received, either via the editor, or directly to my email address okl18@yahoo.co.uk

³⁴ Clara Ann, my great grandmother, died in Old Tame in 1900 at the age of only 19, having succumbed to tuberculosis and typhoid fever, presumably because of local sanitation shortcomings.

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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.

