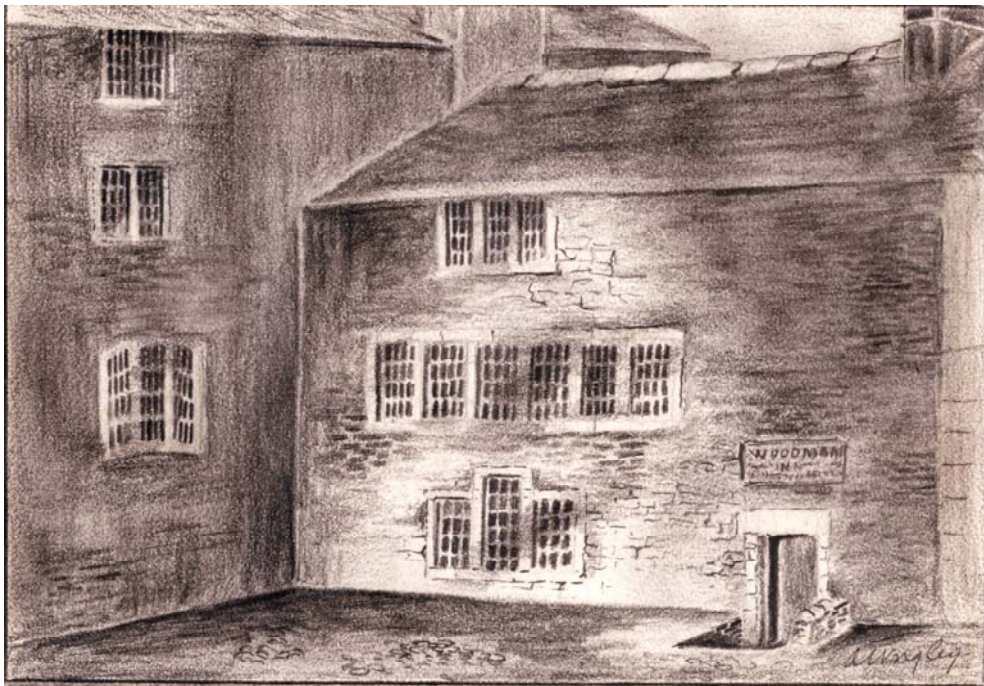


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 41

Number 4

Winter 2011

Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

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Cover Illustration: Sketch by Ammon Wrigley of the Woodman Inn, Delph
(Saddleworth Museum Collection M/AW/6/30.)

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

Mike Buckley

In the last twelve months the big event for us has been the launch of the second volume of *Mapping Saddleworth*. This took place on the 25th September, three days after our Annual General Meeting. The launch was combined with a day school on "Mapping the Past" which was held under the auspices of the South Pennine History Forum, a group of local history societies from across the South Pennines. Much of our efforts since the launch have been directed towards promoting sales of the book and during the year we have held several exhibitions and book-signing events. The production of the book has been a monumental task for the Society and I would like to pay tribute to all the hard work that went into it by the publications committee. But all the effort has been worth it; the book is a wonderful production which enhances our reputation as a local historical society. Positive comments about its content and quality have been received from all directions.

Once again this year we have had a very full, varied and interesting lecture programme and I my thank go to Keith Taylor and Dorothy Latimer for all their hard work in putting this together. I am delighted that Liz Paget is with us tonight, as her scheduled lecture last year had to be cancelled due to snow.

Our summer trip to Beverley was well-subscribed. Alan Petford, aided by Alan Schofield, once again provided us with a most interesting and enjoyable day out. After a trip round a local windmill and folk museum and a guided walk round the city, the high spot was a visit to the wonderful minster. Some of us went on a tour of the roof and central tower, others a tour of the interior and outside of the building by Alan Petford. Once again my thanks go to the two Alan's for all their efforts.

This summer Alan Schofield, once again, organised a programme of heritage walks round Saddleworth. These have been well attended and enjoyed and appreciated by all participants. I am grateful to Alan and all those who led the walks.

Jim Carr, once again, has led a number of guided tours round the Castleshaw Roman Fort and I did a guided walk round the graveyard at St Thomas Church, Heights a few weeks ago. Graveyard guided tours have proved very popular, over fifty people attended the Heights event so this is a type of event we will look to expand in the future.

There has been much activity at the Castleshaw Roman Fort. A working-party, led by County Archaeologist Norman Redhead, has met during the year, members of the Committee representing the Society. Funding has been obtained for new interpretation boards and the production of a Conservation Management Plan. The new boards will be unveiled within the next couple of weeks and the conservation management plan will be published for consultation at the end of the month.

Returning now to our publications, sales of the second volume of *Mapping Saddleworth* have now reached the 500 mark and, on the back of these sales, another hundred or so copies of the first volume have been sold. We are well on our way to covering our print costs but need to make a few more sales to do this.

Earlier in the year we had planned to launch another book *Saddleworth Hillsides and Hamlets*, a companion volume to the popular *Saddleworth Villages* published in

2003. We realised however at the end of last year that with all the effort that had gone into *Mapping Saddleworth I* we would not achieve this. We have therefore decided to delay this until the next Saddleworth Festival in 2015. The book was originally intended to be a compendium of our Local Interest Trails with watercolour illustrations by Geoff Toms. However after a lot of soul searching and discussion we have decided that we need to completely revise and expand the historical information in the trails, some of which was written over thirty years ago. The project is now underway by a small editing team. It is now unlikely that we will now use Geoff's illustrations as the book has taken on a different form from that originally envisaged. I would, here, like to thank Geoff for the enormous amount of effort he has put into the production of the watercolours, they are a fine achievement in themselves.

I need now to apologise for the lateness of the Bulletin, we don't have an editor at the moment and the delays again are a legacy of all the effort that has gone into the mapping book. We hope to catch up within the next few months. I hope the delay has been somewhat compensated by the improved standard of production we have achieved over the last few issues.

I must now address my thanks to all the people that have kept the Society going over the last year. We have seen a number of changes on the committee. Three members of have decided to stand down during the year. We are very sorry to say goodbye to Alan Schofield who has been our Secretary for the last five years. A better secretary no Society could wish for. As well as organising most of the day-to-day activities of the Society and events Alan has organised our annual programme of walks, summer trips and has played a key role on our Publications Committee. He will be sorely missed and I wish to thank him for all the sterling work he has done for the Society. Another loss is our Family History Co-ordinator Jean Sanders. As well as answering local history enquiries Jean has played a key role on our publications committee and our publications have benefited enormously from her knowledge and skills as an artist. Jean has been an enthusiastic committee member for many years and again I would like to extend my thanks to her for all she has done for the Society. Finally Alan Hartley-Smith who organised the popular event last year involving the 'Larks of Dean Quire' has also stood down. My thanks also go to Alan for his contributions to the Society.

We welcome Alison Wild as our new membership secretary, Alison takes on this role as well as the responsibility on the committee for Family History activities. All our family membership records have now been computerised which should simplify enormously the job of communicating with our members.

Another very welcome addition to the committee is Ivan Foster who has taken over responsibility for project activity within the Society. He is presently working on documenting the graveyard monumental inscriptions across Saddleworth.

As always there are many other people I need to thank for their contribution to the Society. Particularly I would like to thank Michael Fox for editing the newsletter, to Cheryl Westlorton for managing our Family History Internet mailing list, to Alan Haigh for maintaining the Society's website, to Oliver Benson for distributing and promoting our publications to local bookshops, and to the Dorothy Latimer, Christine Barrow, Tony Wheeldon and others for arranging refreshments after our meetings.

Thank you everyone for your support.



One of the new interpretation panels at the Castleshaw roman forts. Saddleworth Historical Society has played an active role in their production.
[Photograph: Mike Buckley]

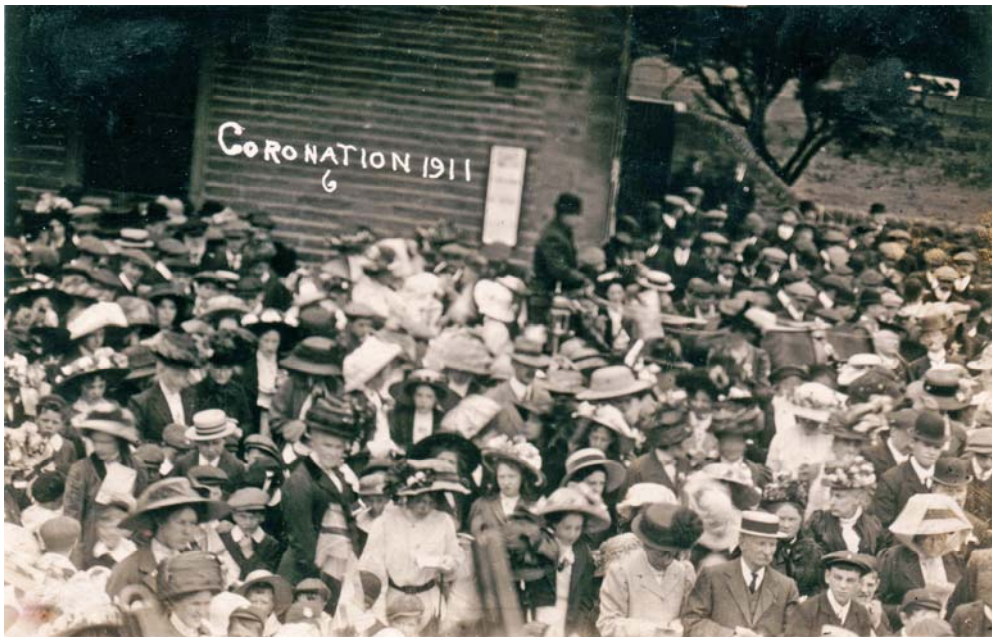
CELEBRATING ROYAL OCCASIONS

Neil Barrow

These and other photographs in the Archives show the events were celebrated and the mass participation they attracted. But the Archives have, given the importance attached to the celebrations, very few photographs particularly of the post-Edwardian years. Any items either as donations or to scan and return would be most welcome.



Greenfield 1911
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/Gf1.]



Unidentified location 1911
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/4.]



Delph 1902
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/Dp1.]



Delph 1937
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/Dp11.]



Delph 1910
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/Dp3.]

SADDLEWORTH'S BEER HOUSES

Researched¹ by Peter Fox

Problems with Drink

Looking in the early trade directories for Saddleworth we find 'beer sellers' listed as well as the public houses and inns that were well known in the area so what were these beer houses and how had their appearance come about and where have they gone?

The early part of the nineteenth century saw immeasurable problems with drunkenness through the consumption of gin which was having a detrimental effect on the working classes. The social problems that this drinking caused gave rise to the Temperance Movement which campaigned for the closure of these 'gin shops' and through the Victorian period was fighting the perils of alcohol consumption in all forms.

The government in the 1820-30s were keen to tackle this problem, the drinking-man's drink, beer, was it itself taxed which meant that it was in some cases prohibitive to the working man, yet in actual fact beer was safer to drink than water in the growing industrialized areas where water was untreated and often a carrier of disease.

The 'Beerhouse Act'

In 1830 the 'Beerhouse Act' was introduced by the Duke of Wellington's Tory Government. The tax on beer was immediately abolished and an extension given to the opening hours of licensed public houses, taverns and alehouses to eighteen hours a day whereas it had previously been only fifteen.

The act also brought about the introduction of the 'beer house'² and these could only specifically sell beer and not spirits. They were allowed to operate between the hours of 4am to 10pm. They could buy in their supplies of beer from other brewers or for a fee of two guineas payable to the local excise officer they would be allowed to brew their own beer on the premises.

These beer houses were monitored by the local excise officer. The licence granted for the beer house would state whether the beer could be consumed on or off the premises. The public houses and inns remained under the jurisdiction of the local magistrates holding regular meetings under the Saddleworth Brewster Sessions.

The popularity and growth of the beer house is marked by the fact that just four years later from the passing of the 'Beerhouse Act' the 1834 Pigot's Trade Directory for Saddleworth lists eighty 'Beer Sellers' and forty-six 'Taverns and Public Houses'.

Against the Law

It is perhaps a little strong to say that these beer houses became the haunt of criminals but with so many of them it was certainly difficult to monitor all of them and check

¹ Research for this article has largely been obtained from local newspapers available on microfilm at Oldham Local Studies & Archives and newspaper scrapbooks at Saddleworth Museum archives [M/M...]

² Wikipedia – for introduction to what was a beerhouse.

whether they were holding up to the licence. In Ammon Wrigley's *Chronological Notes*³ it is recorded in 1852 that Mary Robinson was fined £30 for making whisky in one of the old houses that stood near the mill at Wallhill Bottom. The quarrymen from High Moor who had been the enthusiastic customers of this illicit still on being caught by Inspector Grisdale and the local 'bobbies' threatened to 'pounce' them and send them to 'hell blazers' in an effort to recover the whisky.

The Oldham Chronicle reported on the 9 December 1860 a raid upon the local beer sellers which found the use of pint pots being used that were under measure.

Up for Sale

If the proprietor was moving the business was sold with the new owner no doubt appreciating the extra income.

21 April 1861 - Sale by Auction: Beerhouse, Workshop and Dwelling House at Springhead. The Beerhouse has a frontage to the turnpike road leading from Oldham to Uppermill, is within two or three minutes walk from the Grotton Station.⁴

15 February 1862 - Sale by Auction: all that Plot or Piece of Land being part of a certain close or field called the Great Meadow, which is part of a certain tenement called Walkers, situate at Shelderslow, in the parish of Saddleworth and also, all that Beer House and the large buildings adjoining thereto.⁵

Illegal Hush Shops

There were certainly illegal beer houses set up and these were nicknamed 'Hush shops' for obvious reasons. The Standard newspaper of 29th November 1870 recorded at the Saddleworth Petty Sessions one owner of such an establishment '...charged with selling beer, 'Hush' without a license, and also with having 90 gallons of beer in his house at Brookbottom'. The paper records the following month that the beer seized in the raid had been suitably disposed of '...Sergeant Parker stated to the bench that he had sold the beer seized at Sand Beds, Brookbottom, on November 11th. The liquor realized £2-0s-0½d.'⁶

Navvies

The construction of various large works in the Saddleworth area, including the building of the railway and the construction of various reservoirs brought many navvies to the area. The existing beer houses and public houses would have been to say the least a popular haunt for these hard workers and heavy drinkers. There were certainly a number of beer houses opened in the vicinity of these works, legal or not.

The annual Wakes holiday in Saddleworth prompted at the 'Standedge Tunnel Wakes' meant a large crowd of navvies working in the immediate area with the construction of the second railway tunnel ...All appeared to centre in Uppermill (the usual location for the fair during the holiday week), except a sheep roasting which took place at a beer house at Diggle. That locality is very busy now in consequence

³ Ammon Wrigley *Saddleworth Chronological Notes from 1200 to 1900*, 1905.

⁴ *Oldham Chronicle*, Oldham Local Studies & Archives.

^{5,6} *Oldham Standard*, Oldham Local Studies & Archives.

of the making of the new tunnel under Standedge. The number of navvies is considerable, and a man who is said to migrate with them as their work requires has opened a beer house at Diggle for their especial patronage.⁷

The building of Greenfield Reservoir in 1879 prompted a police raid on the navvy huts by Inspector Stott and twenty policemen.

6 June 1879 – Police raid at the Greenfield Waterworks – John Golver, John O’Dae, James Swailes, Michael Massey, Patrick Bradbey, Edward Wilmore, Thomas Moore and William Merriken, all navvies and hut keepers at the Greenfield waterworks, were charged by Inspector Stott of the Saddleworth police division, with selling ale without licenses in their huts on the 24th, 25th and 26th ult. The defendants, who were represented by Mr W.R. Clark, Oldham, all pleaded guilty, the only extenuating circumstances being that the men did not know they were breaking the law, and that they only sold to each other like gentlemen belonging to clubs. A strong body of police had made a raid on the whole of the huts at 2am on the morning of the 31st ult., and seized a considerable number of barrels of ale, bottles, of liquor, ale and spirit measures, &c. The Bench fined each of the defendants £12-10s-0d each and costs, or a months hard labour, and ordered all the ale, barrels &c. to be confiscated.⁸



The Mechanics’ Arms, Frenches Wharf, Greenfield c1905
[Peter Fox collection.]

The Mechanics’ Arms, Frenches Wharf, Greenfield was originally called the Jolly Carter and opened its doors as a beer house. It was opened in 1846 by James Buckley. The place acquired a local nickname of ‘t’ Seaside Inn’ no doubt due to the association with the Huddersfield Narrow Canal which the building fronted onto.

⁷ *Oldham Chronicle*, 29 August 1868, Oldham Local Studies Library & Archives.

⁸ *Huddersfield Daily Chronicle*, Lancashire Library.

The end of the Beer House

This flaunting of the law with a number of beer houses and the inability to monitor them all was a problem, an increase in the excise fee to hold a license was tried to stamp out problems but wasn't totally successful. In 1869 the licensing law was subsequently changed and the licensing of beer houses was brought back under the control of the local justices and the regular meetings of the Saddleworth Brewster Sessions. It was following this that many of these beer houses shut down or were closed with just a few changing the license to become a full public house.

Even so with this new legislation there were still attempts at establishing illicit drinking places and one in Uppermill took on the nickname of the 'Pickhill Hall Inn'.

23 February 1878 - 'A number of young people belonging to Uppermill have just erected a wooden shed at a short distance from, and at the rear of the Commercial Inn, which they use as a place where they can 'liquor up' at times when public houses are closed. The shed was opened on Sunday week, but it will no doubt be thought at least, by the most respectable portion of the community, that it is an institution that could be very well dispensed with.'⁹

Directories and Names

The local trade directories present a record of these beer houses though sadly none of them record their names, though they do record the names of the public houses and inns. A lot of these beer houses due in some cases to the small size of the establishments however would have simply had the name of the licensee over the door or wherever. We can look to the books of Ammon Wrigley who recorded the names of a number of these beer houses, the other fascinating read on local pubs *Saddleworth Pubs - and their licensees c1674-1998* by Rob Magee and the following is a list of 'named' beer houses with the earliest reference to licensee, some of which did become public houses.¹⁰

The other seemingly obvious source for looking out the name and location of these beer houses is the maps of Saddleworth (now easily accessible in book form via *Mapping Saddleworth Volumes I & II* published by Saddleworth Historical Society) but apart from those named beer houses that later became public houses there are none other marked.

Named Beer Houses

Extracted from *Saddleworth Pubs - and their licensee's c1674-1998* by Rob Magee - (the dates listed are the first reference to these beer houses for a full reference to dates and history of the beer house read the book)

Black Horse Inn	Oldham Road, Denshaw	Joseph Swithinbank	1838
Bouncing Besom	Stoneswood, Delph	Betty Whitehead	1834
Bowling Green Inn	Junction, Denshaw	John Gartside	1860s

⁹ *Oldham Chronicle*, Oldham Local Studies & Archives.

¹⁰ For a full account of these read Rob Magee's excellent book, Rob Magee, *Saddleworth Pubs - and their licensees c1674-1998*, 1988.

Bowers Inn	Fernlea Vale, Greenfield	Ralph Slater	c1837
British Queen ¹¹	High Street, Uppermill	Charles Broadbent	1857
Cotton Tree Inn	Hollinbank, Delph	William Dronsfield Jnr.	1837
Diggle	Diggle (& Shopkeeper)	Ann Broadbent	1843
Farmers Arms	New Tame, Delph	John Hirst	1865 Directory
Friendship Inn ¹²	King Street, Delph	Robert Shaw	1832
Great Toms	Hollins Green, Greenfield	John Slater	1838
Hark to Bounty	Woods Lane, Dobcross	John Bowden	1833
Holly Bush	Harrop Green	Simon Bradbury	1865 Directory
Jolly Carter	Hey Bank, Grains Bar	John Swindells	1837 Directory
Junction (not the inn)	Junction, Denshaw	William Buckley	1852 Directory
Mechanics Arms ¹³	Frenches Wharf, Greenfield	James Buckley	1846
Mountain Ash	Wharmton, Uppermill		1858 Advert
Near Home	Primrose Bank, Ladhill,	Joseph Wood	1861
Packet Boat	Wool Road,	William Holden	1841 Directory
Pear Tree Inn	Wharmton Bank, Uppermill	John Lees	1837 Directory
Queen Victoria Inn	Shepherds Green, Greenfield	Robert Radcliffe	1833
Rising Sun	Low Green, Diggle	Samuel Rhodes	1834 Directory
Rope & Anchor	Binn Green, Greenfield	Hugh Whitehead	1851 Directory
Rose Inn	Cobblers Hill, Delph	Joseph Crowther	1833
Shepherds Rest	Delph	Ralph Mellor	1833
Shepherds	Denshaw	Josiah Swithinbank	1851
Slubbers Arms	Dobcross	John Wood	1851
Stampers Inn	Bentfield, Greenfield	William Buckley	1840
Tickle Wigs	Road End, Greenfield	John Hinchliffe	1833
Tunnel End Tavern	Diggle	John Fisher	1830
White Bear	Dobcross	Hugh Brierley	1833
Woodman Inn ¹⁴	King St., Delph	William Oldfield	1851

¹¹ This later became the Bridge Inn – now ‘Frankie Fine Buys’.

¹² This was located to the left of Bulls Head Inn, Delph.

¹³ Originally called the ‘Jolly Carter’ it had local nickname of ‘t’ Seaside Inn’ no doubt due to proximity of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal.

¹⁴ Illustrated on the front cover and, differently in a wider setting, in Sam Seville, *With Ammon Wrigley in Saddleworth*, 1984 p67.

Beer Retailers listed in 1834 Pigot's Directory: total of eighty listed

Aked, James	Waters, Delph	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Aked, Nathaniel	Bleakhey Nook	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Andrew, William	Scouthead	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Ashton, Joseph	Uppermill	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Bennett, Martin	Lydgate	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Booth, Lydia	Mossley	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Bowden, John	Dobcross	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Bowker, James	Uppermill	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Bradbury, Thomas	Holehouse	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Bradbury, Thomas	New Bailey, Grains Bar	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Brierley, Hugh	Dobcross	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Broadbent, James	Diglee	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Buckley, James	Lydgate	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Buckley, John	Spring View, Mossley	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Buckley, John	Uppermill	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Buckley, Joseph	Thurston Clough	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Carter, James	Heybottoms	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Chapman, James	Mossley	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Collier, Nathan	Willows, Lees	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Crossley, Elijah	Austerlands	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Crowther, Joseph	Delph	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Dixon, David	Austerlands	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Dunkerley, Joseph	Strines	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Farrand, William	Uppermill	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Fisher, John	Tunnel mouth	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Freeman, James	Springhead	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Garlick, John	New Rd, Waterhead Mill	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Gartside, John	Road End, Greenfield	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Hadfield, Joseph	High Grove	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Harrison, George	Den Lane, Hey Chapel	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Hinchcliffe, John	Road End	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Iredale, John	Springhead	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Jones, James	Strines	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's

Kenworthy, Robert	Quick	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Knott, Jonathan	Brookbottom, Mossley	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Lawton, James	Grains Bar	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Lees, John	New Houses, Lees	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Lees, Samuel	Springhead	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Lilly, Ben	Brookbottom, Mossley	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Masters, John	Dobcross	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Mellor, Ralph	Delph	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Moss, Nanny	Brookbottom, Mossley	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Ogden, Thomas	Mossley	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Pilkington, James	Scouthead	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Radcliffe, John	Boarshurst, Greenfield	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Radcliffe, Robert	Brun Moor, Standedge	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Radcliffe, Robert	Near Spring	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Radcliffe, William	Lydgate	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Rhodes, Samuel	Roe Green	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Schofield, George Jnr.	Friezland	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Schofield, Joseph	Thurston Clough,	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Schofield, Tom	Den Lane, Hey Chapel	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Schofield, Tom	Shelderslow	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Shaw, Catherine	Bottoms, Mossley	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Shaw, George	Ambrose	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Shaw, James	Strines	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Shaw, James	Straight Ent, Grains Bar	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Shaw, Jonathan	Delph	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Shaw, Joseph	Saddleworth Fold	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Shaw, Robert	Delph	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Smith, Eli	Thurston Clough, Delph	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Smith, John	Quick Wood	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Stansfield, James	Austerlands	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Stott, Joseph	Strines	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Stott, Saville	Lark Hill, Harrop Edge	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Tarr, Richard	Hurst Field, Lees	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Turner, Ralph	Austerlands	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Walker, James	Roughtown	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's

Wareing, William	Straight Cut, Grains Bar	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Warhurst, Warhurst	Delph	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Webb, Rachel	Mossley	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Winterbottom, Daniel	Quick	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Wood, Abel	Walkers	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Wood, Abraham	Brookbottom, Mossley	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Wood, James	Bill's o' Jack's, Greenfield	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Wood, John	Cherry Clough	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Wood, Robert	Lydgate	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Woolley, John	Uppermill	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Woolley, Joseph	Grasscroft	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's
Wrigley, Betty	Lydgate	1834	beer retailers	Pigot's

Beer Retailers listed in 1871 Slater's Directory: total of thirty-two listed

Bowde, Mrs Mary	Dobcross	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Billing, Mary Ann	Denshaw	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Billinge, Mrs Mary Ann ¹⁵	Junction	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Bottomley, Edward	Road End, Greenfield	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Bowden, Mary	Dobcross	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Bradbury, Simon	Diggle, Dobcross	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Brierley, Samuel	Spring Street, Uppermill	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Broadbent, Charles	Uppermill	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Buckley, Thomas	Roaches, Mossley	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Castle, Amos	Wyre St, Upper Mossley	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Cook, William	Stamford Rd, Mossley	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Fielding, William	Springhead	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Fielding, William	Micklehurst	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Greaves, Ann	Brookbottoms	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Hall, Joseph	Delph	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Hinchcliffe, George	Woodbrook	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Hirst, Armitage	Grains	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Hirst, Edmund	Woodend, Mossley	1871	beer retailers	Slater's

¹⁵ This is clearly the same person: in the 1871 census she is named Billings and in the 1881 census still living at Culvert, Billinge.

Hollingworth, Robert	Uppermill	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Hulley, James	Hartshead Pike	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Kershaw, James	Newhouses	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Kershaw, Squire	High Street, Uppermill	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Lees, Benjamin	Quick View, Mossley	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Lees, James	Grasscroft	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Nield, Mary	Micklehurst, Mossley	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Shaw, Mary	Lees Road, Higher Mossley	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Skelhorn, Thomas	Lower Mossley	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Turner, Sarah Ann	Austerlands	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Wadsworth, Edward	Upper Mossley	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Whitehead, Hugh	Greenfield	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Whittaker, John	Haddens, Mossley	1871	beer retailers	Slater's
Wood, James	Mossley	1871	beer retailers	Slater's

A copy of all research material will be deposited in the Saddleworth Museum Archives.

INTERESTING NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Transcribed by Alison Wild

The Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter - 2nd August 1879

A navy living at Tunstead Mill, Stacksteads, who, it appears, was 'much married,' determined to get rid of his wife by offering her for sale at auction. On Tuesday the sale took place at the husband's house, but the highest offer was only four pence, at which low figure the wife was eventually "knocked down" to another navy who lives next door. The seller wanted to "throw in" three children, but the buyer objected, and they were left on hand. The wife, however, went joyfully to the home of her new owner.

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### **The Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter - Saturday 2nd September 1882**

#### **Saddleworth Wakes**

On the whole the wakes has been quite as successful as on former occasions though the showery weather has somewhat interfered with the comfort of pleasure seekers. We were glad to notice the absence of scenes such as last year, when there were two rush carts, the partisans of which behaved more like lunatics than sane men. The practice of going to the seaside or other places of resort for one or two days is now becoming very common, and it is undoubtedly a congenial recreation to those who are almost continually shut up in the mills, to spend a day or two in this manner. In Uppermill there were the usual shows and stands, and the place was rather busy on Saturday and Tuesday nights. Several incidents which seem inseparable from such occasions happened. The 'Billy Fair Play' man again put in an appearance, and was warned by the police not to carry on his little tricks. Operations ceased for a time, only to be carried on again when the police turned their backs. It is said that one man was foolish enough to lose 18s. by the game, and that a youth was seen crying because he had been fleeced of four and sixpence. 'Billy', however, was finally captured with all his tackle, and had the fun of being fined before the magistrates on Wednesday. The Boarshurst Band ran a trip to Scarborough but we hear that it was anything but a success. There were three other trips besides this from the district, and all of them were well patronised. Liverpool seemed to be the favourite place. The train was densely packed, and many passengers had to make their way by ordinary trains. A goodly number of excursionists also went to Barmouth, where they enjoyed themselves greatly amid the pleasant scenery of that hitherto almost unknown district. The distance is rather too great for a day trip, or it would undoubtedly become popular. The train started at four in the morning, and it was half past three the following morning before it reached Greenfield in return. A large contingent went by the Blackpool trip, and after deducting all who went by rail on Monday morning the adult population left at home must have been very small indeed. On Tuesday the members of the Bentfield Cricket Club held their 'draw' which turned out a great success. Over three thousand tickets were sold, and many of the prizes given were presented by friends of the club. After paying all expenses there will be a balance in favour of the funds of about £50. The committee are evidently grateful for the support their friends have given them. The first prize of the value of £7 was won by James BAMFORTH, of Ladhill; and the 2nd, of £5, by Alfred BRADBURY, of Parkfield.

Most of the mills commenced working on Wednesday morning; but as is the usual custom many of the work people went away in the afternoon to keep up what is called 'Bill's-o'-Jack's Wakes'. The weather turned out very favourable, and the result was that the landlord of the Moor Cock Inn reaped a rich harvest.

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The Reporter - 14th September 1907

At a wedding feast recently the bridegroom was called upon, as usual, to respond to the given toast, in spite of the fact that he had previously pleaded to be excused. Blushing to the roots of his hair, he rose to his feet. He intended to imply that he was unprepared for speech making, but he unfortunately placed his hand upon the bride's shoulder, and looked down at her as he stammered out his opening and concluding words, "This - er - thing has been forced upon me"

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### **The Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter - Saturday, 12th June 1909**

#### **Rescued by the Salvation Army - Death of Mr William Bottomley of Mossley.**

The death of Mr William Bottomley, cotton doubler, the founder and proprietor of a successful business carried on at Bank Mill, Roaches, took place about nine o'clock on Tuesday night, after a somewhat lengthened illness. The deceased was in his 56th year, and was one of the best known men in the district. Mr Bottomley has had a most chequered and romantic career. He has known what it was to be in want, and was, therefore, able to feel for others. He also knew what it was to be in affluence so as to be able to dispense charity with a lavish hand. After leading a reckless life about 35 years ago, through the ministrations of the Salvation Army he turned over a new leaf, and became a changed man. He afterwards threw his energies into the work of the temperance cause, and became a warm supporter of the Blue Ribbon Army and the United Kingdom Alliance. He joined the Mossley Temperance Hall, and took a very active part in its work. Being a very ready and fluent speaker, his services were in frequent demand, and he has often travelled long distances in order to address P.S.A. and other gatherings. Through his influence many eminent public speakers have been brought to Mossley. At the Wakes time he was always to the front in holding temperance meetings on the Sunday upon the Market Ground, very often defraying the whole of the expenses. For many years the deceased was in the employ of Messrs R. H. Buckley and Sons. He gradually rose to be a foreman in the concern. Having, however, brought out a patent in connection with doubling cotton yarn, he eventually set up business for himself, and has continued to prosper up to the present time. Twelve months ago he provided a recreation ground at Roaches, which was opened last Whit Saturday by Mrs Bottomley, who stated that the place had been provided and fitted up with very best intentions through the generosity of her husband and family. She hoped that the residents of Roaches would accept the place in the same spirit as it had been given.

On this occasion Mr Bottomley said that 36 years ago he was walking on tramp from Liverpool to Huddersfield and as he was very hungry he asked a man for a penny. He felt insulted with the reply which he got, and would have liked to have given the man a good thrashing. However better feelings came over him, and he made a resolve that if ever it lay in his power to assist others less fortunate than himself he would do it. He was a great believer in providence, and he endeavoured to take his religion into the affairs of every day life. What he was that day was due to the

Salvation Army, and when the young people were swinging and rantying in that ground he wanted them to remember that it was to the Salvation Army that they were indebted for that recreation ground.

Mr Bottomley left a widow with three sons and five daughters. In politics Mr Bottomley was an ardent Liberal, and during Mr C. D. Schwana's election campaign for the Hyde Division he rendered very able and valuable service. He was the president of the Roaches Lads' Choir, in which he took the deepest interest. The Wesleyan School at Roaches had in him a warm supporter, and a few years ago he inaugurated a scheme by which the debt was cleared off the building.

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The Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter – Saturday 6th January 1912

Fifty years a sexton

Wednesday last, saw the 50th anniversary of the appointment as sexton of St Chad's Church of Mr B. B. Bradshaw. The jubilee year was celebrated by a family gathering at his home, when a party numbering about a score had a thoroughly good time in honour of the event. Having dined well, the guests passed the evening with a whist drive, followed by a musical entertainment, the chief figure in which was Dr Radcliffe, of Grantham, a grandson of Mr Bradshaw, and probably the youngest Doctor of Music in England. A brother of the eminent musician and Mr Leonard Bradshaw, a son of the sexton, also contributed items. During the evening in felicitous terms, by Mr George Radcliffe, his son-in-law, and, needless to say, the toast heartily honoured and the recipient heartily cheered.

Mr. Bradshaw was appointed sexton of the church in January 3rd 1862, by the Rev. Mr Whitelock, the then vicar of St Chad's and has served in that capacity under the successive ministries of the Rev. Dr. Fletcher and the Rev. Hugh Doig lately retired. Along with the duties of sexton. Mr Bradshaw has combined those of acting clerk of the church since 1877, a position previously held by the late Mr James Radcliffe, of Pob Green. The subject of the short sketch was appointed assistant overseer for the Saddleworth parish in 1866 or 46 years ago, his predecessor in office being Mr John E. Radcliffe, of Boarshurst.

In addition to the duties mentioned above Mr Bradshaw has held office as superintendent registrar for Saddleworth, in 1889 succeeding Mr Owen Platt. Mr Bradshaw's name stands number one in the register of the Candour Lodge of Freemasons, Uppermill, he having, too, the distinction of being the eldest Past G.M., while on the register of the Friendship Lodge of Oddfellows, Uppermill, Mr Bradshaw's name occupies the second place.

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## LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Shortly after the end of World War I Saddleworth was one of 245 towns presented with a war-battered tank 'as an acknowledgement of the successful efforts made by their citizens to procure investments in National War Bonds and War Savings Certificates'. It is known that Oldham received a tank and two howitzers which were placed in Alexandra Park and remained there until 1942. Royton also received a tank.

Is there any evidence that the tank actually arrived in Saddleworth?

P. Jennings  
3 Eleanor way  
Lewes  
BN7 1DD

Reply:

It would seem that the tank did not come to Saddleworth. In *Saddleworth 1914-1919*<sup>16</sup> it is stated in March 1919 the local War Savings Committee offered the tank to the Council. The Council initially accepted but later in May changed their mind and accepted a captured German field gun.

However Wilfred Ashton who was born in 1918 recalls 'As a boy of five, living in Uppermill, these artefacts became a great playground for adventurous youngsters. ... They were placed at the side and back of what is now [St Chads] the public library'.<sup>17</sup>

Thus it would seem Saddleworth received both a tank and guns. Does anyone have any information?

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<sup>16</sup> Mitchinson, K.W, *Saddleworth 1914-1919*, Uppermill 1995 p.158.

<sup>17</sup> Wilfred Ashton, *The Story of Methodism in Uppermill*, Uppermill nd[1996?] p.58-9.

Dear Editor,

I am seeking information about an event which took place on 30th August 1941 when I was living at Diggle Edge.

There were several events to raise funds for the war effort such as War Weapons Week, Navy Week, Spitfire Week and so on when the public were asked to assist with donations for the cause and these consisted of Parades with brass bands, fancy dress and so on, and people were allowed to inspect the items provided.

The Event which I am referring was 'War Weapons' Week when large guns and various armoured vehicles were on display. In addition the villages each chose a 'Queen' to take part in the various functions.

A particular War weapons week involved three large Valentine tanks leading the parade. Much to our amazement I and another girl and two boys were allowed to ride on the tank turrets throughout the Parade wearing the 'Royal Heralds' costumes which had been provided by members of Kiln Green Sunday School for the parade for George VI's coronation in 1937.

When the Parade ended the tanks had to go to their next venue: Rochdale and we children were allowed to go with them. The tanks made a terrific racket with their tracks on the open road. We eventually arrived in Rochdale and were cheered by the crowds. We were then escorted back to Uppermill in the Chairman's car.

The Chairman at the time, Mr Charles B. Hopkinson J.P. suggested that we all wrote an essay on the event, and I am pleased to say that I actually won first prize for my effort.

I am just completing my book *Life in Britain During World War II*. I shall be extremely grateful if anyone has any recollections of this Event and I would particularly appreciate any photographs that I could include.

Yours sincerely,

Dorothy Woolley (née Carter)  
9 Fenton Close,  
Scarborough  
YO11 3QS

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