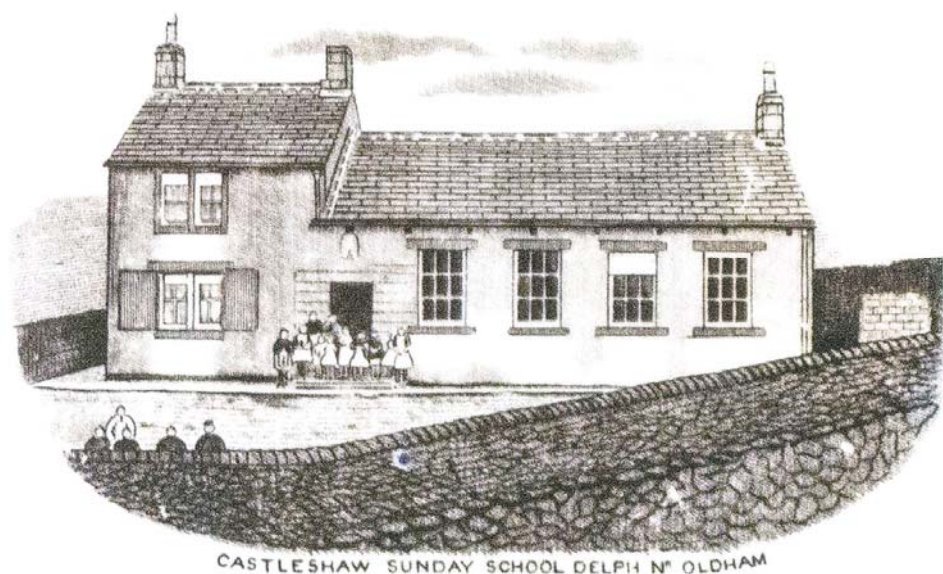


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



CASTLESHAW SUNDAY SCHOOL DELPH N^o OLDHAM

Volume 42

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An Outline History of Saddleworth Schools - 1 <i>Sandra Ratcliffe</i>	97
Eliza Clayton: Last Mistress At Castleshaw School <i>Neil Barrow</i>	107
A Grim Diary of Saddleworth - 5 <i>Paul Fryer</i>	110
Baptisms, Marriages & Burials in 1612 <i>Mike Buckley</i>	117
Letters	119
Index to Volume 42 <i>Alan Schofield</i>	120

Cover Illustration: Sketch of Castleshaw Sunday School on plate centre.
[Saddleworth Museum Archives M/GX/N]

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AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF SADDLEWORTH SCHOOLS

PART 1

Sandra Ratcliff

Introduction

The first schools in Saddleworth, besides those run by local clergy, were established by charitable bequests and public subscription. Both operated similarly through a board of local trustees.

During the early nineteenth century education was promoted at national level by two religious societies. The first was the British and Foreign School Society, which began as a non-denominational body but was largely funded by the dissenting denominations. Soon afterwards, in 1811, a group of influential Anglicans founded The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church. These two societies assisted their denominational day schools by giving grants to help with both building and running costs. They were instrumental in increasing educational provision and Parliamentary reports indicate that the number of day schools in England doubled from 19,230 in 1818 to 38,971 in 1833. From 1833 the government gave annual grants to the two denominational societies which enabled them to extend their activities.¹

The 1833 Factory Act required children employed in the textile industry to receive twelve hours schooling per week and by 1843 four factory schools catering for seventy seven children had been established in Saddleworth.² In 1844 the Factory Act required children working in the textile industry aged between eight and fourteen to attend school for three hours each day. In the period to 1851 the number of schools continued to increase so that the number of children attending day schools had doubled. This was reflected in Saddleworth where five new schools were established and by 1851 992 children were attending the various publicly funded schools in Saddleworth.³

The object of Forster's Elementary Education Act of 1870 was to increase the number of school places in England and Wales so that it might be possible for all children to attend school. Contrary to popular belief it did not make education compulsory nor did it make it free. The act required a survey of educational provision in each township or parish in the country to be made. Where a deficiency in provision was discovered local agencies, almost always the churches and chapels, had six months to present plans to provide the required school places. If they did not do this, the ratepayers of the district were required to proceed to the election of a School Board. The School Board then had to levy a school rate and use it to provide the extra school places needed. This usually meant building a Board School. In Saddleworth the additional school places were provided by existing institutions and so a School Board was not required.⁴ Saddleworth did however benefit from the Education Act of 1870 because it increased government grants to denominational or voluntary schools. The local elementary schools, which were all denominational and often short of funds, benefitted from these increased grants, which were a major factor in helping them to survive until Balfour's Education Act of 1902. Balfour's act put the finances of voluntary schools on a stable footing for the first time by

requiring the newly established local educational authorities which derived their funds from the rates to pay their running costs. This ensured the survival of the voluntary schools in Saddleworth but Balfour's act was not universally popular because many people objected to ratepayers' money being used to support denominational schools. In Saddleworth the minister of Uppermill Congregational Church led a spirited protest against Balfour's act, refusing to pay his rates, and was ultimately taken to court.⁵

The only extended account of education in Saddleworth is Morgan Brierley's, *A Chapter from a MS History of Saddleworth*, published in 1891, which is devoted entirely to schools.⁶ A chapter in *The First Fifty Years 1911-1961*⁷ adds a few more recent details and is repeated in *The Saddleworth Story*⁸. The following lists present brief details of every school in Saddleworth and provide an indication of where further information may be found in local libraries and archives.



Delph Union School
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/Dp]

Delph Day Schools

1. Delph Union School, King Street, Delph,

Also known as Delph Grammar School.

- 1765 Established and governed by six trustees. Provided free places for poor children.⁹
- Mid 19th C. Closed after a dispute among the trustees and building subsequently demolished.¹⁰
- 1871 Sold for £315.¹¹ Proceeds used to fund a new infant school attached to St. Thomas' Mission church.¹²
- 1883 The Manchester and County Bank opened on the site.¹³

Oldham Local Studies and Archives; Saddleworth Museum Archives, M/P/N:
Both have photographs of the school.

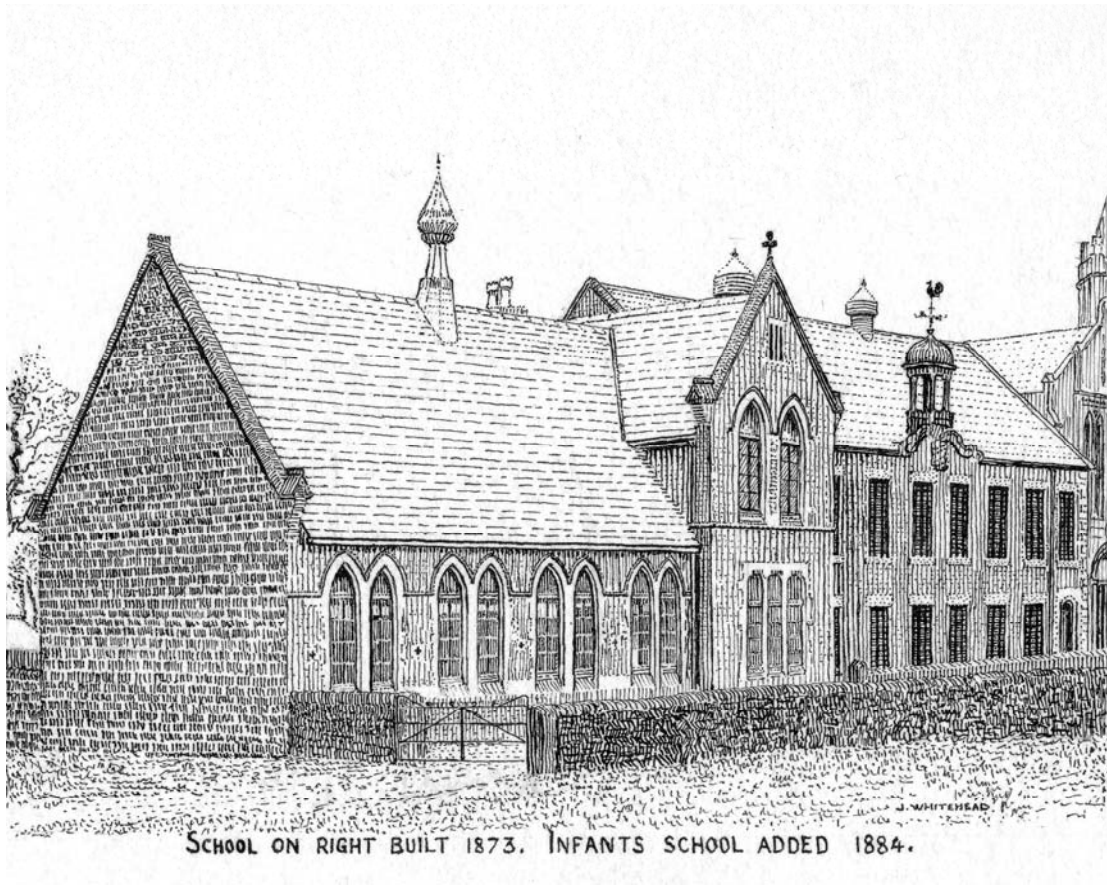
2. Castleshaw School

- 1819 Opened, being built by public subscription.¹⁴
- 1894 Ceased to be recognized by the Board of Education.¹⁵
- 1906 The school was transferred to Mrs. Clayton, the mistress, to run as a private venture school.¹⁶
- 1915 Closed due to declining population after the building of the reservoirs.
- Late 20C Became a private house.¹⁷

Saddleworth Museum Archives, M/GEB/BB/IV: Bill for tuition, 1819; Deed of Conveyance of land for a school at Castleshaw, 1819; List of subscribers, 1819, reprinted in 1903; List of trustees, 1820, 1861 and 1894; Matters regarding Mrs E.C. Clayton (teacher), 1890-1910; Trustees' minute book, 1903-1914; Trustees' papers re possible transfer of school to West Riding Education Authority, 1906-1915; Letter from H. Mallalieu to G.A. Buckley re religious education at the school, 1907; List of subscribers for building a house, with list of trustees, 1820-1903.



Castleshaw School
[Saddleworth Museum M/Dpcas]



Delph Wesleyan School
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/N/Dp]



Delph Hill End School
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/N/Dp]

3. Delph Wesleyan School, Gartside Street, Delph.

- 1835-1840 A day school was held on the Methodist premises.¹⁸
1869 Day school opened and placed under Government inspection.¹⁹
1885 New premises built for infants.²⁰
Early 20C Later the West Riding County Council ran the school known as Delph Council School.²¹
1940 School closed and children transferred to Uppermill Council School.²²
2012 Building now used by Delph Methodist Church.

Saddleworth Museum Archives: Photographs, 1897 (with some names), 1924, 1925, c.1925.

4. Friarmere National School, Hill End Road, Delph.

Also known as Delph National School, Delph Church School and Hill End School.

- 1870 School opened, built by the Buckley family of Linfitts.²³
1884 Delph Infant School opened at St. Thomas' Mission: just the older children attended Hill End then.²⁴
1953 Sept. School closed and children transferred to the new Primary School on Denshaw Road.²⁵
1960 Building to be demolished.²⁶
c.1967 Bungalow built on site.²⁷

Oldham Local Studies and Archives: School prize awarded to W.H. Hall; Emily Hargreaves' Attendance certificate, 1898 and Labour certificates, 1897 and 1898; Plans for bungalow on site, 1966.

5. Delph Infant School, Church Street, Delph.

Also known as 'Toffee Bells'.

- 1884 School opened in a building attached to St. Thomas' Mission Church funded by the proceeds from the sale of Delph Union School.²⁸
1953 School closed and children transferred to the new Delph Primary School, Denshaw Road.²⁹
2012 Building now St Thomas' Church.

6. Delph Primary School, Denshaw Road, Delph

- 1953 Opened to replace Hill End Junior School and St. Thomas' Infant School.³⁰
2013 Still in use.

Oldham Local Studies and Archives: Newspaper cuttings about the school.



Delph Council School 1924
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/N/Dp]



Delph Church School
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/Dp]

Denshaw Day School

7. Denshaw C. of E. Primary School, Delph Road, Denshaw

Formerly Denshaw National School.

From 1812 Day school held in private house and a schoolmaster permanently employed.³¹

1824 Decision to fund a new school by public subscription but a shortfall required an appeal to the National Society.³²

1829 New National School opened, the first in Saddleworth.³³

1895 Enlarged.³⁴

2012 Still in existence as a Church of England school.

Oldham Local Studies and Archives: Admission registers, 1927-1973; Record of corporal punishment, 1909-1967. Saddleworth Museum Archives: Photographs, c1878, 1880 (with names), 1885, c1890, 1896, c1898, c1907, 1910, 1927, 1935 and three undated.

Diggle Day Schools

8. Kilngreen School

1785 Built by public subscription as a non-denominational day school.³⁵

1871 School pulled down and public subscriptions built the present building.³⁶

By 1891 School was under the auspices of the Church of England. The building was in a bad state of repair and became unsuitable.³⁷

1895 Enlarged.³⁸

c.1903 Run as Diggle School by the West Riding Council.³⁹

1914 West Riding Council bought a plot of land on Sam Road.⁴⁰

1927 New School on Sam Road opened.⁴¹

2012 Still exists as a church and community resource and part of St. Chad's Parish.

Saddleworth Museum Archives: Petition for finance, 1870; Minutes of trustees' meetings, 1837-1901; Minutes of managers' meetings 1901-1945; Letter from Board of Education, 1921; Deed of conveyance, land, school and house, 1848; Appointment of new trustees, 1890; Memorandum of loan, 1894; List of parents and children, no date; Appeal to parents for fees, 1901; Correspondence and accounts, 1887-1932; Labour certificate of Joseph Blea, 1895; Bazar programme, 1900.

9. Wrigley Mill School, Huddersfield Road, Diggle.

1864 Day School opened in a cottage attached to Wrigley Mill, which was used as a chapel.⁴²

1869 Wrigley Mill Methodist Chapel opened a new building on Huddersfield Road.⁴³

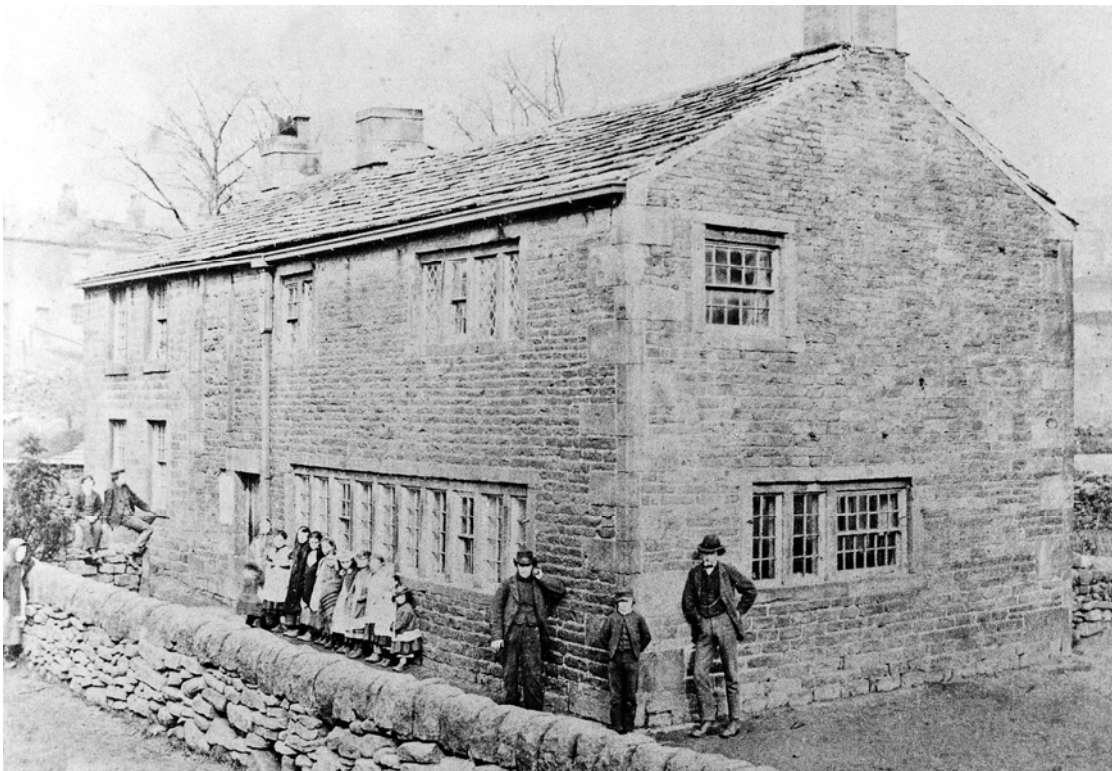
1894 Day school closed.⁴⁴

2011 Wrigley Mill Chapel closed.

2012 Building to be used as a nursery.



Denshaw School c1878
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/Dn]



Kiln Green School pre-1870
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/Dg]

10. Diggle School, Sam Road, Diggle.

- 1914 West Riding Council bought a plot of land on Sam Road.⁴⁵
1927 New school built by the West Riding Council opened to replace Kilngreen School.⁴⁶
2012 Still in use.

Saddleworth Museum Archives: Photographs, classes, undated; cricket team, 1955, 1956/7; football team, 1956/7.



Kiln Green School c1918
[Whitehead family collection]

KILN GREEN SCHOOL, SADDLEWORTH. WANTED
Immediately, for the above school, a MASTER, competent to teach the usual branches of a commercial education. A good dwelling house and garden, rent free, are attached to the school, and the situation is in a popular manufacturing district. A married man whose wife could undertake the duties of a Girls' School would be preferred, and with a little exertion might command a good school.—For further particulars, apply to Mr. Samuel Buckley, Dobcross, Saddleworth; Aaron Schofield, Weakey, Saddleworth; William Hall, Paper Mills, Diggle, Saddleworth.

CHORLTON UNION.—WANTED, by the Guardians of the Poor of this Union, an Unmarried Woman, to fill the situa-

Manchester Times 7 September 1850

References

- ¹ This introduction is based on a number of histories of education including C. Birchenough, *A History of Elementary Education in England and Wales from 1800 to the present day*, London, University Tutorial Press, third edition, 1938.
- ² Brierley, p. 46. See reference 6 below.
- ³ Census of Great Britain, 1851, Education, England & Wales, Report and tables; *British Parliamentary Papers 1852-53*; available online at: <http://www.histpop.org>.
- ⁴ It is often asserted that Saddleworth did have a School Board (e.g. *The First Fifty Years*, p.15 See reference 7 below). In fact Saddleworth only required an Attendance Committee.

- ⁵ Brierley. See reference 6 below.
- ⁶ M. Brierley, *A Chapter from a M.S. History of Saddleworth*, Oldham, Chronicle Printing Works, 1891.
- ⁷ No author, *The First Fifty Years 1911-1961*, Uppermill, Saddleworth Uppermill Secondary Modern School, 1961.
- ⁸ M. Hodge, H. Hollingworth, B. Hopkinson, E. Platt, D. Roberts, F. Singleton, H and R.C.Wood, *The Saddleworth Story*, Saddleworth, W.E.A., 1964.
- ⁹ N. Barrow, M. Buckley, A. Petford and J. Sanders, *Saddleworth Villages*, Saddleworth, Saddleworth Historical Society, 2003, pp. 13-14.
- ¹⁰ *Op.cit.* p. 15.
- ¹¹ M. Hodge, H. Hollingworth, B. Hopkinson, E. Platt, D. Robbins, D. Singleton, H. and R. C. Wood, *The Saddleworth Story*, Saddleworth, Saddleworth W.E.A., 1964, p. 34.
- ¹² *Saddleworth Villages*, p. 15.
- ¹³ *Op.cit.* p. 15.
- ¹⁴ A. Wrigley, *Annals of Saddleworth*, reprinted, Littleborough, Kelsall, 1979, p. 38.
- ¹⁵ S. Seville, *With Ammon Wrigley in Saddleworth*, Saddleworth, Saddleworth Historical Society, 1984, p. 46 says that the school was closed but this is incorrect. *Kelly's Directory of The West Riding of Yorkshire*, 1897 does not list the school at all.
- ¹⁶ Saddleworth Museum Archives, M/GEB/BB/IV8.
- ¹⁷ *Oldham Chronicle*, 9 May 1970, p. 40.
- ¹⁸ *Annals of Saddleworth*, p. 47.
- ¹⁹ A. Bradley, *Delph Methodist Sunday School 1784-1984*, pp. 15-16.
- ²⁰ *Op.cit.* p. 25.
- ²¹ *Op.cit.* p. 10, *The First Fifty Years 1911-1961*, p. 4.
- ²² *The First Fifty Years*, p. 4.
- ²³ *Annals of Saddleworth*, p. 66.
- ²⁴ *Saddleworth Villages*, p. 16.
- ²⁵ *Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter*, 11 September 1953, p. 12.
- ²⁶ *Oldham Chronicle*, 20 February, 1960, p. 1.
- ²⁷ Oldham Local Studies and Archives, Plans for bungalow on the site of Hill End School, 1966.
- ²⁸ *Saddleworth Villages*, p. 16.
- ²⁹ Personal communication from Mrs Mary Rogers.
- ³⁰ Programme of the Opening of Delph Primary School, copy in Oldham Local Studies and Archives.
- ³¹ *Saddleworth Villages*, p. 38.
- ³² *Ibid.*
- ³³ *Ibid.*
- ³⁴ *Kelly's Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire*, 1897.
- ³⁵ *Saddleworth Villages*, p. 54.
- ³⁶ *Ibid.*
- ³⁷ *Ibid.*
- ³⁸ *Kelly's Directory of The West Riding of Yorkshire*, 1897.
- ³⁹ *Saddleworth Villages*, p. 54.
- ⁴⁰ *Ibid.*
- ⁴¹ *Oldham Chronicle*, Saturday 2 July 1927, p. 12 and Monday 4 July 1927.
- ⁴² *Saddleworth Villages*, p. 57.
- ⁴³ *Annals of Saddleworth*, p. 62.
- ⁴⁴ *The Saddleworth Story*, p. 36.
- ⁴⁵ *Saddleworth Villages*, p. 54.
- ⁴⁶ *Oldham Chronicle*, Saturday 2 July 1927, p. 12 and Monday 4 July 1927.

ELIZA CLAYTON: LAST MISTRESS AT CASTLESHAW SCHOOL.

Neil Barrow

Mrs Eliza Clayton was the last teacher at Castleshaw School. She had arrived at the school in the 1870s and would stay there until it closed. She had come from a quite different life. She was born in Salford in 1850 the daughter of a fustian salesman Issac Yates. Although her mother was widowed with three young daughters she succeeded in providing Eliza with a education such that she was able to become a teacher at the National School, Wellington Road, Stockport. Here she met and in 1875 married Titus Clayton two years her senior who was a barman in Liverpool.¹ A daughter, Sarah, was born who would die aged four. It was said that she had come to Castleshaw in the 1870s to escape an unhappy marriage.² Certainly she lived apart from Titus who stayed in Liverpool until he died in 1890.³

Life must have difficult for her even in those early days. The school had been founded in 1819 with £358 generously subscribed by, predominantly, those living in the Castleshaw valley. However there had been no endowment and the area with its small mills and struggling handloom weavers was in decline. Additionally Morgan Brierley implies its reputation had suffered under the previous teacher Martha Ann Heaton. Even if full the school was the smallest in Saddleworth and without an endowment was reliant on the weekly fees reluctantly paid by the parents. Whilst the building of the reservoirs might have, briefly, added a few pupils it lead to the depopulating of the valley.

Eliza Clayton “...a good and conscientious teacher”⁴ carried on, now existing in extreme poverty. Ammon Wrigley talks of her receiving sufficient food only through the kindness of neighbours and parents. By 1891 there were only thirty-four pupils⁵ and in 1900 for six weeks in June-July she was paid £1/17/3⁶ or 6/2½p a week and presumably less during the winter months when attendance fell.

The state of the school required repair and in 1903 the trustees, themselves reduced in number, appealed for funds.⁷ Somehow the school continued. In 1906, after seemingly unsatisfactory discussions with the L.E.A. the decision was taken to transfer the school to Eliza Clayton at a nominal rent of 1/- a year, for her to run it as a private school. The existence of the school was not viable without support from the newly established West Riding Education Authority but this would not be forthcoming, as a series of correspondence shows, without substantial repairs and

¹ Censuses 1851-71.

² A. Wrigley, *Old Saddleworth Days and Other Sketches*, p. 116.

³ *Liverpool Mercury*, 22 April 1890.

⁴ M. Brierley, *A Chapter from a M.S. History of Saddleworth*, p. 30.

⁵ M. Brierley, *A Chapter from a M.S. History of Saddleworth*, p. 93.

⁶ Receipt, Saddleworth Museum Archives M/GEB/BB/IV3. By comparison Edwin Hudson at Delph Wesleyan school was paid £160 or £3/1/6 per week in 1906: *Oldham Chronicle* 16 June 1906 and the new Old Age Pension was established at 5/- per week in 1908.

⁷ The account of the transfer of the school is based on material from Trustees' Minute book, M/GEB/BB/IV5 and Trustees' correspondence, M/GEB/BB/IV8, Saddleworth Museum Archives.

inspection to establish its efficiency. Negotiations now began in July 1906 to secure funding from the L.E.A. which required Mrs Clayton be inspected to establish her "teaching efficiency". After much delay the trustees finally replied "...that whilst not objecting Per se to official inspection, under the special circumstances of this case the majority of the trustees prefer not to grant the permission sought for at present." The real discussions are hidden from us as the trustees are not formally meeting. But it had become clear by May 1907 that the school could only survive if it was transferred to the L.E.A. Admirably the first condition laid down by the trustees was "That the County Council will undertake to retaining the services of the present Schoolmistress Mrs Clayton (who is a certificated teacher) so long as she is able to discharge her duties." Sadly Eliza Clayton became the only obstacle to the L.E.A. Terms were finally agreed by December 1908 except that "...the Board [of Education] cannot regard the school as efficient under the charge of the present Head Mistress...". The trustees did not reply until May 1909 again strongly supporting Eliza Clayton and almost by return were informed that, in that case, negotiations were over.

The Saddleworth Local Education Sub-Committee, in the form of J. P. Hinchcliffe and F. W. Mallalieu now became involved. Eventually in April 1910, with the trustees still committed to Mrs Clayton, it was proposed that she "might be retained as caretaker for which she would be paid about three shillings per week and have the use of the School house rent free." Eliza Clayton replied to the trustees that she would act as caretaker for 5/- per week but this was too much for the L.E.A. who informed the trustees: "This is a great deal more than the Committee usually pay for the services of a caretaker of a school of this size and they consider that they were stretching a point in Mrs Clayton's favour when they suggested a payment of 3/- per week, house rent free". This was passed on to Eliza Clayton who replied

Dear Sir

I received your letter with many thanks and the copy from the Council.
I prefer staying as I am, as I promised long years ago, I would teach the children as long as I lived and promised so since.

I am greatly obliged to you, Sir. Hoping there will soon be peace.

I remain

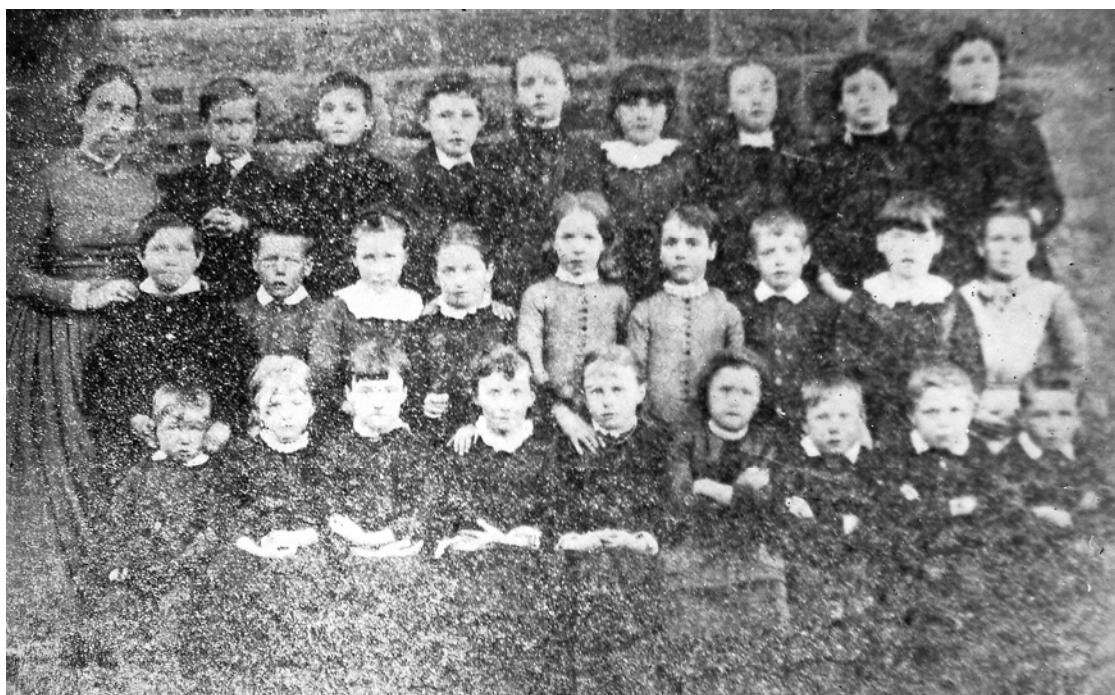
Yours obediently

E.C. Clayton

Negotiations with the L.E.A. finally, it seemed, reached an agreement in October 1911 to transfer the school and retain Eliza Clayton as caretaker at 3/- per week. However matters dragged on with Eliza Clayton remaining as teacher but now the Saddleworth Sub-Committee intervened again. Citing the "educational deficiencies" of the school they threatened, in May 1913, to enforce the attendance of scholars at other schools. Still the transfer did not happen but the Saddleworth Sub-Committee had met with Eliza Clayton and recognised the debt to her. Julian Heap the, chairman said that "[He] did not think there was a woman in the British Isles who had made the sacrifices of Mrs Clayton. She was everything at the school and yet her salary had not amounted to 3/- a week for years past. She had even carried the children to school and sometimes had fetched them when they lived two miles

away.”⁸ It was now agreed by the Committee and accepted by the trustees in January 1914, to pay Eliza Clayton 5/- per week as caretaker. But only one obstacle had been removed and negotiations continued until in November 1915 the trustees finally signed over control to the L.E.A. which promptly closed the school.

Both mentally and physically exhausted Eliza Clayton died in June 1916. No longer would she be seen, as Ammon Wrigley recalls, leading her dwindling group of scholars down Castleshaw valley to the Whit celebrations. She is buried with her mother and daughter in Heights graveyard.



Castleshaw School with Eliza Clayton
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/N/Dp]

⁸ Report of Saddleworth Education Committee, *Oldham Chronicle*, 15 November 1913.

A GRIM DIARY OF SADDLEWORTH - 5

Paul Fryer

September 14 1946 - On a cold, wet, blustery day the ashes of Saddleworth poet and historian Ammon Wrigley were spread on Millstone Edge.

September 15 1879 - James Walton, labourer, of Wool Road, Dobcross, was brought before magistrates at the local police station for being drunk and riotous at Wool Road on the previous Saturday and he was fined 5s and costs, or 14 days' imprisonment. He was further charged with breaking the cell windows, and doing damage to the amount of 5s. For this he was fined 10s, ordered to pay the damage and costs, or go to prison for a month. He went to gaol on both counts.

September 16 1903 - Ellen Dewsbury was summoned for being drunk and disorderly on September 6th. PC Speight said that on the day in question he was called to Stokes in Grotton by Dewsbury's husband and son. He found Ellen on a public footpath, very drunk, and using bad language. Eventually he got her home, where she commenced to break pots and pans, and also smashed a clock and some pictures. The Bench imposed a fine of 7s 6d.

September 17 1916 - Pte Clifford Greenwood, 24, was killed in action. He lived at Hawkyard, Greenfield.

September 18 1895 - Rioting in the streets occurred in Delph, which was caused by a strike at Bailey Mill. At midnight there was a serious clash between the strikers and the police. Several people were injured, and windows were broken.

September 19 1944 - Arthur Rowbotham, who had worked for J.W. Buckley as a deliverer until he was called up to the RASC as an air despatcher, was killed with three colleagues over Arnhem.

September 20 1917 - Pte John Buckley, 21, was killed in action. He lived at Junction House, Denshaw. Also, Pte Harold Shaw, 26, was killed in action. He had worked at Slackcote Mill.

September 21 1891 - While Joshua Bowden, a navvy, was engaged working in the tunnel at Diggle, a portion of the roof fell on him. He sustained serious injuries to the head and face. He was taken to his home in Delph.

September 22 1917 - Pte George Allott, born in Uppermill, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked at the Oldham branch of the London, City and Midland Bank.

September 23 1869 - In the afternoon a portion of the roof of the long building at Lydgate, erected during the formation of the railway tunnel under the hill, fell in. The building was only roughly constructed and had been used for stabling horses. Being situated on the brow of a hill it was exposed to the fury of every storm. The western portion of the roof fell on the Thursday, and a further portion had to be taken down in order to make it safe.

September 24 1879 - At the petty sessions in Uppermill 29 people, mostly from Springhead, County End and Shelderslow, were summoned for non-payment of poor rates. In some cases distress warrants were issued immediately, but in the majority of instances this course was adjourned for 14 days, to enable the parties to make

arrangements with the collector in the meantime. The total amount of the rates owed by the 29 parties was £25 18s 8d.

September 25 1889 - At Saddleworth Police Court Ammon Ripley of High Moor was charged with being drunk. Supt Varley said that on the previous Sunday he was called out of Saddleworth Church during divine service in consequence of Ripley's conduct. He was drunk near the church. The Chairman of the Bench said that in light of the offence being committed on a Sunday Ripley would be fined 10s and costs.

September 26 1889 - An old lady, Fanny Wood, residing at Platt Lane, Dobcross, met with a sad accident. Fanny, who is almost blind, was walking along the footpath when, in consequence of some rails being removed for repairs in front of some houses, she fell into one of the coal cellars, a distance of some 10 feet. She was badly cut and bruised, and was attended by Dr Ramsden.

September 27 1894 - Mr J. Hill, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the Hanging Gate, Diggle, touching on the death of Alfred Hall, 2, son of Charles, a miner, who was drowned Sunday last in a stream near his home. Robert Poll had jumped into the stream to try to save Alfred, but he was already dead. The stream was 3 feet wide and 3 feet deep. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidentally drowned'.

September 28 1859 - At the Saddleworth petty sessions Sarah Marsden charged Henry Brierley with assaulting her, and making use of abusive language. Sarah said that she had been at a club dinner at Calf Hey, and she was returning home with another woman. Brierley was standing at the door of the Junction Inn, Denshaw, and was drunk. He had been turned out of the inn for disorderly conduct. He began to follow Sarah, shouting filthy and disgusting language. He then tried to strike her, but she used her umbrella to defend herself, and he ran his eye against the point. Her story was confirmed by the other woman, Susannah Gartside. However, Brierley contended that the two women were 'fresh' and he never said or did anything to Sarah until she struck him with her umbrella. It transpired that he had tried to get Sarah to withdraw her complaint, on payment of her costs, but he had not kept his word. The Bench fined Brierley 10s and costs or, in default, 1 months' imprisonment in Wakefield house of correction.

September 29 1918 - Pte Frank Burgess, 23, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked at Clare's Dyeworks, Frenches. He was one of five brothers to serve. Two were killed. The other, Walter, died in July 1916.

September 30 1917 - Pte Wilfred Washington, 24, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked for Oldham Cardroom Operatives' Assoc, and had lived in Uppermill.

OCTOBER

October 1 1904 - In the match between Uppermill and Wharmton Villas, Walter Wood of the latter team had the misfortune to have his collar bone broken. The previous week he had received an injury to his foot.

October 2 1864 - By the canalside in Greenfield there is an establishment well known to pigeon fanciers as a 'trucking cote.' It is well frequented on Sundays when the proprietor, 'Deaf Jack', does a roaring trade. It is approached by a single

plank which is at a considerable distance above the ground. The wood is extremely old. But this had never deterred the pigeon fanciers. Then on Sunday last seven of them were standing on the plank together, and the bridge could not sustain the weight, and it gave way. Fortunately none of the men were killed, although some of them lay for some time senseless, and several were severely injured. Two men had their ribs broken whilst the rest suffered from cuts and bruises.

October 3 1866 - At Saddleworth Special Sessions Josiah Hudson, of the Sun Inn, Junction, to whom the magistrates refused to grant a licence at the last Brewster sessions on account of the disreputable manner in which it had been kept and the numerous complaints made to the police respecting the place, appeared before the Bench. Hudson explained that he wished to transfer his licence to George Ridgway of Macclesfield, as he was leaving the Inn. Ridgway was Hudson's brother-in-law and it was suspected that this was some sort of trick. James Hardman, who appeared for the owner of the Inn said he had only heard of this development that very morning. He had wanted Hudson to leave the Inn for some time. The owner had been deceived by Hudson's character when he first applied to take over the house. The Bench decided to transfer the licence back to the Inn's owner, with the object of a suitable tenant being found.

October 4 1916 - Pte George Wade, 30, was killed in action. He lived in Greenfield.

October 5 1903 - A considerable commotion was aroused in Dobross by the news of a serious stabbing affray in which a local butcher and his wife were concerned. It appears that Jonathan Cardwell, in his 60s, returned to his premises at about 5.30 pm and was seen a short time later running out of the back door. He complained of having been stabbed by his wife. He was followed by his spouse who admitted her guilt. Cardwell was bleeding heavily from a wound in his back. The wound was dangerously near his kidneys. The wife, a woman of 'masculine proportions and strength', submitted to being taken to Wool Road police station. She is said to have been drinking hard in the past few days, and to be of a violent disposition when in this state.

October 6 1923 - The Saddleworth War Memorial at Pots and Pans was unveiled by Viscount Laschelles, DSO, the service conducted by the Rev T. Nicholas.

October 7 1907 - At a police court at Wool Road police station Joseph Roberts of no fixed abode was found guilty of being drunk and disorderly in Delph and was sent to prison for 14 days in default at the payment of a fine of 10s 6d.

October 8 1917 - Lance Corporal Lewis Charlesworth, 29, of A Company, 20th Battalion, the Manchester Regiment, died of his wounds at Passchendaele. He lived on Grains Road, Delph, and he had a wife and three children. He had been serving in the Regiment when war had broken out, and was one of the first to be deployed to France, fighting at Mons.

October 9 1917 - Pte Albert Jagger, 35, serving in the 8th Battalion, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, was shot and killed by a sniper. He was employed at Buckley and Proctor's, Mumps, as a salesman. He lived on the premises, but had previously lived in Delph New Road, Delph.

October 10 1910 - At Wool Road police station Thomas Gossom, an Ashton shoemaker, was fined 10s plus 4s costs for being drunk in Dobcross on the previous night. PC Woollands said he had found Gossom in a helpless condition, with over

£7 in his possession.

October 11 1875 - Georgina Carter, 14, daughter of George, a stonemason of Delph, committed suicide by drowning in Bailey Mill lodge. It appears that she had been squandering money, including that stolen from her mother. She had confessed to her father. However, she feared the ridicule from her workmates at the Rasping Mill. The inquest was held at the Bull's Head Inn the next day. John Schofield, an engineer at the Bailey Mill said that on the Monday morning he had passed the boilerhouse and saw a petticoat and shawl on a gate, and a pair of boots on the ground near the mill dam. He got assistance from David Mallalieu, and the dam was dragged. A body was found in 6 feet of water. The verdict was 'Suicide by drowning herself whilst in a state of mental derangement.'

October 12 1906 - Eagle Mill, Delph, was destroyed by fire.



Eagle Mill, Delph
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/DpT]

October 13 1869 - At Saddleworth Petty Sessions Frank Poulton was charged with leaving his horse and cart on the highway longer than was necessary to load and unload at Grasscroft Clough. PC Follis said that at 3.30 pm on September 28th his attention was drawn to Poulton's cart by a man who could not get past in his. The policeman found Poulton in a public house with a glass of ale before him on the table. It took another 20 minutes for Poulton to move his cart. Poulton said that he was in the beerhouse to meet his employer. He had not even taken a sip of his beer before the policeman came in. Poulton was fined 5s and costs, and warned not to repeat the offence.

October 14 1918 - Pte Albert Fuller, was killed in action. He was born in Greenfield. Also Pte Joseph Hall, 20, was killed in action. He had worked at Greenfield Mill.

October 15 1904 - William Carter, labourer, of Delph, was found in Uppermill by PC Haigh in so drunk a condition he was unable to walk, and was accordingly accommodated with a night's lodgings in the cells of Wool Road police station. He was later fined 5s.

October 16 1863 - At Saddleworth courthouse Mary Massey, a tramp on the road from Marsden, was charged with stealing a chemise and some print, the property of Hannah Wild of Scouthead. It appeared that the clothes were hanging on a line in the garden on Wednesday, October 14, and that Massey managed to take them. She was later arrested for stealing some other articles near Waterhead Mill. She was given into the custody of Saddleworth police. She also had a scarlet jacket and other articles with her, probably stolen earlier. She was sent to prison for a calendar month.

October 17 1910 - About 7 am the body of Fred Lee was taken out of the Woodend Mill water lodge, Springhead. He worked at the Mill as a mule stringer and lived in Oldham. Witnesses said they found a pair of blue overalls on the lodge embankment. The grappling hook was taken from the ambulance box on Oldham Road to recover the body. It was placed in an outhouse of the Railway and Commercial Inn. For him to have got to the lodge he would have had to climb a 4 foot high wall. He was married with two children. The coroner believed that sleeplessness had caused some mental disturbance. The inquest returned a verdict of 'Suicide during temporary insanity.'

October 18 1864 - Ammon, known as 'little Yed Platt', of Tamewater, Dobcross, hanged himself.

October 19 1914 - Pte Ephraim Swift, 29, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked at the Diggle railway sidings.

October 20 1918 - Pte Wilfred Noble, 21, was killed in action. He had been wounded twice. He lived at Spring Bank, Uppermill and went to the Ebenezer Church.

October 21 1904 - Mr Hill, the West Riding coroner, held an inquest at the Oddfellows Hall, Uppermill, into the circumstances of the death of Rhoda Rhodes, found drowned in the canal two days earlier. Her husband, Herbert, said that she had been deranged in her mind since her confinement in May and had been under treatment at a private home in Manchester. She had only left the home a few days earlier, and she had been watched since her arrival back in Uppermill. In the first two months since her confinement she had been suicidally inclined, but not recently. Rhoda and Herbert had been visiting friends (the Whiteheads) on the Wednesday evening. Rhoda had gone out of the back door and when Mrs Whitehead went to look for her she could not be found. The house backed onto the canal and Rhoda was found floating in the water. A verdict of 'Suicide whilst of unsound mind' was returned.

October 22 1917 - Pte Charles Baker, 25, of the 59th Field Ambulance, RAMC, was killed in action. Although born in Cardiff his parents lived at Spring Grove, Greenfield. He is commemorated at St Mary's Church, Greenfield and at Greenfield Conservative Club.

October 23 1917 - Pte Herbert Shaw, 24, of the 10th Battalion, the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, was killed. He was the son of William and Sarah Shaw of Scouthead.

October 24 1917 - RFM George Wildsmith, 39, was killed in action. He lived in Grasscroft.

October 25 1916 - Pte Thomas Broadbent, 26, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked at Diggle Junction sidings and had been a reservist.

October 26 1811 - Thackery Mill, Woodend Street, Springhead, was destroyed by fire.

October 27 1787 - William Schofield, 15, of Grotton Head, unfortunately fell into a coal pit in Greenacres. He languished for 6 hours and then died.

October 28 1916 - Pte Gordon Bax, 27, was killed in action. He lived in Wade Row, Uppermill and had worked as a spinner at Buckley Mill.

October 29 1888 - James Wrigley, a much respected native of Delph, died at the house of his sister in Newhey. He was in his 75th year.

October 30 1892 - William Benjamin of no fixed abode was arrested for begging in Dobcross. The next day he was sentenced at Saddleworth Police Court to 7 days in prison.

October 31 1910 - James Balderson, a spinner at Wellington Mills, Greenfield, met with a bad accident. He was carrying a set of cops down a flight of stairs when he slipped and fell to the bottom. He fractured two ribs and hurt his spine. After treatment he was taken to his home at Shaw Hall Bank.

NOVEMBER

November 1 1911 - Before the Saddleworth Bench Emma Wooley summoned Edward Chapman of Greenfield for alleged assault on her 6 year old boy. The boy said he was looking through Chapman's shop window when he came out and struck him on the face several times, making his nose bleed. Emma went round to the shop to ask why Chapman had hit her son, to which he replied that her son had been a nuisance. Emma said that of all her children, Harry, was the best behaved of the lot. Chapman said the boy had been a nuisance all summer. The Chairman of the Bench criticised Chapman for taking the law into his own hands, and fined him 10s with costs.

November 2 1910 - A charge of common assault was preferred against Frank Turner of Denshaw. The complainant, a 16 year old, said that on October 14 he began to fight a boy called Fred Bilcliffe, having got the better of him, he also saw off Fred's younger brother. Soon after Turner, the Bilcliffes' uncle turned up. He grabbed the complainant by the throat and half strangled him. He also hit him on the head. The complainant denied bullying Fred when they had both worked at the Denshaw Vale Printworks. Turner said that he had only given the complainant a shaking, and soon afterwards the complainant was back at work. The Rev J.H. Wagentreiber, Vicar of Denshaw, was called as a character witness and said that Turner had been a Sunday School teacher for many years, and he had the reputation of being a very quiet, even-tempered man. Turner was bound over to keep the peace for 6 months and ordered to pay costs.

November 3 1906 - After closing time a number of men amused themselves by discharging a large cannon some distance away from the main road in Uppermill. Mr J.H. Rhodes, the landlord of the Hare and Hounds, was at supper a little after

11 pm when following a very loud noise he heard the crash of glass. Investigating he found that two of the windows in the bedroom on the middle floor had been blown to splinters. A little boy was fast asleep near the window, but was not harmed. It was only the next day that it was discovered that a cannon had been discharged in Wade Row, and had burst, severely cutting a man's hand.

November 4 1918 - Guardsman Thomas Buckley, 33, was killed in action. He served in the Coldstream Guards. He lived in Millgate, Delph.

November 5 1839 - An inquest was held at the Woodman Inn, Oldham Road, Springhead. Two days earlier, John Bardsley had been murdered by his son, James. John had been at home when James had come in and helped himself to some bread and cheese. John, who had not seen him for some time, asked him to leave. There was an argument and James attacked his father with a knife. Neighbours found John in a pool of blood, with James still holding the knife. On his arrest James seemed quite happy with his work, and his only regret appeared to be that he had not killed more of his family. It was reported that some months earlier he had attacked his mother, and frightened her so much that she left for the US. James was taken to the nearby Woodman Inn. He asked for refreshment, and he ate and drank with complete indifference, even though his hands were still covered with blood. On the day of the inquest the Inn was surrounded with people trying to get a glimpse of the killer. Inevitably a verdict of 'wilful murder' was returned, and James was committed to York Castle for trial.

November 6 1917 - Pte Sam Hirst, 21, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked at Royal George Mills. He died in Palestine. Also L/Sgt Stanley Roseblade, was killed in action. He had worked at Gatehead Mill, New Delph, before emigrating to Canada in 1913.

November 7 1888 - An inquest was held at the Horse and Jockey Inn on the body of William Smithorat, 56, who was found dying on the highway at Standedge, on Sunday, November 4, and soon after died at the Inn. When found his clothes were soaked through. Sam Wood, the landlord, said that when William had been brought in he had given him some brandy and water, and he had taken a few drops, but had died 15 minutes later. William had lived with his wife in Pendleton, Salford. His wife, Martha, said that on the Saturday morning they had had to go to a bank in Hollinwood and that during that time they had got split up. For the past 3 months he had been strange in his manner, but had refused to see a doctor. He had also been in poor health. The jury returned a verdict that, 'the deceased was found in a dying condition on the road, and died shortly afterwards, probably from exposure to the weather through wandering abroad, he at the time not being responsible for his actions.'

November 8 1909 - Ellen Tait, a tramp, was charged before magistrates with stealing a woollen shawl, the property of Mrs Buckley, of Cobblers' Hill, Delph. It appeared that Tait entered Mrs Buckley's shop to make a purchase, and seeing the shawl hanging over the back of a chair, she took advantage of the owner's absence to purloin it. She afterwards enquired the way to Huddersfield, but Buckley recognised the shawl and detained the woman until the police arrived. Tait was sent to prison for 21 days, with hard labour.

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES & BURIALS IN 1612

The earliest Saddleworth registers to have survived

Mike Buckley

In his *Parish Registers of the St Chad, Saddleworth*,¹ John Radcliffe published transcriptions of the baptism, marriage and burial entries from the original Saddleworth parish registers. The registers have been poorly kept and maintained; there are many gaps and some pages are almost unreadable through discolouration. The earliest register book starts in 1632 and is made up of loose parchment sheets later bound together. By the time binding took place, many years after the original records had been compiled, sheets had been lost; indeed for some years they may never even have existed. Fortunately, there was another source that John Radcliffe could draw upon. As well as keeping a local record, ministers were also required to submit an annual return to the diocese. These Bishops' Transcripts, as they have become known, were used by Radcliffe to supplement the records at the church. Significantly, there were entries pre-dating the original registers at Saddleworth; specifically, returns for the years 1613, 1614, 1615, 1617, 1619. Radcliffe included the additional information from the Bishops Transcripts in the published work.

A recent check of the Bishops' Transcripts, now in the Lancashire Archives, Preston, has revealed an additional return,² unknown to Radcliffe; this covers the year 1612 and is therefore the earliest record to have survived. The reason for its omission by Radcliffe is that it was originally mislabelled as relating to Whitworth. The error however has now been corrected and the return filed under Saddleworth. A transcript of it is given below.

A true register of all the mariages christninges and buriales in the church of Sadleworth Anno dom 1612:

Mariages

Ednd harop and his wife married the x of june
john wintherbottom and his wife maryed the 27 of Sep
Raph winterbothom and his wife maryed the 29 of ye same
George Brodbent and his wife marid the 13th of October
Ednd Bredbure and his wife marid the 4 of jan
Anno dom 1612:

Christningres

Robt and John both sones of John Walker bapt the x day of apparill
Edithe daughter of Ellis Wrigley baptised the 13 of the same
John the sone of Richard shaw bapt the x day of May
John the sone of Robt Brodbent bapt the 19 of the same
a child of henry gareside baptised the same time
a child of Raph haukyard baptised the 3 of May
Margret the daughter of Olliver Plat bap the foresayd
a child of George Wintherbottam baptised the
same day. Sara the daughter of Raphe shaw bapt the 10 of May
John the sone of Richard shaw baptised the 29 of May

¹ J. Radcliffe. *The Parish Registers of St Chad, Saddleworth 1613-1751*, Uppermill, 1887.

² Lancashire Archives, DRM 2/297.

Thomas the sone of henry plat and Willm the sone
of John Marsland bapt the 14 of June
John the sone of Thomas Radcliffe bapt the 21 bidm?
mary the doughter of henry linthwit bapt the 5 of July
John the sone of John wood bap the 13 of July
John the sone of Robt plat bapt the 9 day of august
alice the doughter of Ednd buckley bapt the 16 eid
depora the daughter of mark whithead bapt the 30 of august
anthony the sone of Francis heward bapt the 30 Sept
James the sone of James Haukyard bapt the 27 of Sept
a child of henry whithead baptised the 25 of october
a child of James linthwit baptised the same time
Jone the daughter of John garside baptised the x of november
a child of John wood baptised the 15 of the same
Raph the sone of george wintherbottom bapt the 15 of juli
a child of Ednd Thores? baptised the 20 of November
John the sone of John scolefield and john the sone
of John plat and alice the doughter of [Raph]
John Winterbottom baptised the 6 of [sep] decem
a child of joseph wrigley and thomas the sone of
Robt shaw baptised the 13 day of december
Susan the daughter of Robt winterbottom bapt
the 3 of january. Robt. sone of Robt harop baptised iden
a child of Robt whewall and a child of jefrey milns
and a child of david harop and a child of john haukyard
baptised the 13 of januarii
john the sonn of Robt Crompton baptised janiri
Richard the sone of Thomas bredbure john
the sone of Ednd Buckley Ednd the sone of
Robt garside januarii 30.
a child of John Brodbent and a child of John
garsid Bapt the 14 of Februarii
Joseph the sone of James Whithead and a child
of george Brodbent baptised the 28. day of march
Anno dom 1612

Buriales.

alice Brodbent bured the 8 day of aprill.
Francis Whewall Bured the ij day of may
Raph wild burid the 14 day of June
Michaell garside burid the 29 of september
anne harope burid the 5 of the same
a child of John walker buried the 25 of november
the child of Richard kenorley burid the 5 of december
James Brdburie Buried the 28 of december
alexander shawe burd the 4 of januarii
a child of Robt whewall burd the 20 of Januariy
The wife of Raph Whithead burd the i9 day of march
John the sone of willm Farand and a child of Robt
harop burd onne the 20 day of the same
george the sone of burad? shaw burd the last day of march.

[F] Finis

By me Willim parkinsone
minister and Curat of saddle
warth

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

While researching the name of James Brierley, and variations of the surname, I unearthed the following story in the volumes of the Saddleworth Church Registers 1613-1751 and 1751-1800, edited by John Radcliffe.

On 31st May 1724 a man called James Brearley, a clothier, married Martha Bradbury, a spinster. Both were of Dig-lee. They had a daughter, Sarah, baptised on 27th September 1724, who was buried later the same year, on 27th September. They then had a boy, James, baptised on 10th July, 1726 who was also to die early in life, being buried on 29th December 1726. On 26th November 1727 they had another son, who they again christened James, but he was buried some nine years later on 21st September 1736, two years and nine months after his mother had married Richard Lawton. James, Martha's husband, was buried on 23rd June, 1730 and the following day "Joseph, son of widow (Martha) Brearley de Dig-Lee (wife of the late James Brearley de Dig-Lee)" was christened. This sad story continues with the burial of Joseph on 27th October, 1732.

Martha remarried on 31st December 1734 to a man called Richard Lawton, a clothier of Thurstones, and they had a son called John, baptised on 2nd November, 1735. This was also to end in tragedy when he was buried on 15th August the following year and having seen none of her children grow to maturity, Martha had actually lost two of her sons within five weeks of each other. The story does not end there, however, because she and Richard produced yet another child, a daughter called Alice, christened on 1st January, 1749. Almost unbelievably Alice passed away the same year and was buried on 31st October, 1749. Although Martha had given birth to six children by two different husbands, none of them had lived beyond the age of nine.

An entry records the burial on 12th October 1769 of Richard Lawton of Shelderslow, a clothier, and a later entry refers to the burial of Martha Lawton on 10th January 1790. The latter is the only entry between 1749 and 1800 for the burial of someone called Martha Lawton, but it records her as the wife of George Lawton of Stonewood. Although her *second* husband was called Richard Lawton the records show that Banns were called for George Lawton and Martha Lawton on 30th December 1789. Perhaps she had married for a third time although strangely I have not found any record of their marriage.

Is tragic tale unique or are there any other examples and is there perhaps a medical explanation?

Yours

Lewis Cowen

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INDEX TO VOLUME 42

Alan Schofield

Number 1	pages 1 - 36
Number 2	pages 37 - 64
Number 3	pages 65 - 96
Number 4	pages 97 - 119

Illustrations, maps, photographs, graphs etc. indicated by lower case i

A

Abbot of Roche	83	Bishops Transcripts	117
Agricola 66, fort	70	Blakeman, K., cricketer	43
Alfred Baxter 1898 – 1983	55	Board of Education	99, 110
Allot, Pte. George	110	board of local trustees, education	97
Almonbury Court Rolls	20	Boarshurst School	51
Archives of excavations	74	Bolton League, cricket	42
Armitage Bridge, cricket team	38, 41	Bottomley, Edgar	46
Army Service Corp.	46	Bottomley, Jane (née Battye)	45
Arras, battle of	6	Bottomley, Mary	46
Ashton football: Amateur League	49	Bottomley, May	46
Charity Cup	45, 49	Bottomley, W. & Sons, cotton doublers, Roaches	46
National Gas Engine Company A.F.C	49	Bottomley, William, Councillor	46
Ashton, cricket team	38	Bottomley, William, Oldham Athletic	44i, 45, 47i
Ashton War Memorial Fund	50	Bowden, Joshua, navvy	110
attendance officer	97	Bradbury, Thomas	17
Avison, William, cricketer of Cleckheaton	38	Bradbury, Clarence, cricketer	42, 43

B

Bailey Mill	17, 113	Bradbury, Edmund	117
strike	110	Bradbury, Fred, cricketer	39, 41
Baker, Pte. Charles, RAMC, killed in action	114	Bradbury, James	118
Balderson, James, spinner	115	Bradbury, John	17
Balfour's act (1902)	97	Bradbury, Martha	119
Bamburgh, Northumbria	7, 9	Bradbury, Richard	118
Bank Top	16	Bradbury, Thomas	118
Barber, Jane	2	Bradford & Clayton, cricket team	38
Bardsley, James and John	116	Bradford League, cricket	39
Barnsley, football team	45	Bradfordmeduis, Nicholas de	79
Bates, W., cricketer	39	<i>Briansdale</i> , Lower Dacres	46
batting averages	40	Bridfordmeadows	79
Bax, Pte. Gordon, killed in action	115	Bridfordmeadowhirst	78, 79, 84
Baxter, Elisabeth	55	Breareley, James, de Dig-Lee	119
Baxter, Samuel, weightlifting champion	55	Breareley, Joseph	119
Beasts, access to common pasture	77	Brierley, A.G.	38
Beaumont, Chris., cricketer	41	Brierley, Arthur, cricketer	42
Benjamin, William, begging	115	Brierley, Henry	111
Bennett Joe, Greenfield A.F.C.	48	Brierley, James	119
Bennett, F.H., cricketer	52	Brierley, Morgan	97, 109
Bennett, Fearnley, Greenfield A.F.C.	48	Brigantes	70
Bennett, Francis Bradbury	51, 52	British & Foreign School Society	97
Bennett, Joe, publican	48, 51	Broad Oak, cricket team	41
Bennett, Mary Jane (née Bradbury)	51	Broadbent, Alice	118
Bentley, John	19	Broadbent, G., cricketer	37
Bibby, footballer	50	Broadbent, George	117, 118
Bickerton, Henry Neild, managing director	50	Broadbent, George, inventory	15
Bilcliffe, Fred	115	Broadbent, J., cricketer	37
Bill's o'Jacks	51	Broadbent, John	117, 118
Birkby, cricket team	37	Broadbent, Pte. Thomas, killed in action	115
Birkett, Norman	8	Broadbent, Robert	117
Birtles, T., cricketer	52	Broadbent, Robert, will & inventory	13
		Broadbent, Simeon, cricketer	37
		Broadstone	78

Brocklehurst, E., cricketer	52	Friends of	74
Bronze Age: arrow heads	71	interpretation boards	68i, 69i
beaker pottery	71, 73	Castleshaw School	99, 99i, 109i cover IVi
occupation	9	house	108
<i>Brooklyn</i> , Wellington Road	48	trustees	107
Brooks, footballer	50	Castleshaw Valley	57
Brotherton, Commander Ewart	75	Castleshaw Working Party	69
Bruton, Roman Fort excavations	67, 70, 73	Central Library, Manchester	28
Buckley family of Linfitts, school benefactors	101	Centre for Applied Archaeology, Univ. of Salford	66
Buckley Mill	115	Chapman, Edward	115
Buckley & Proctor, Mumps	112	charges at court: abusive language	111
Buckley, Alice	118	assault	111
Buckley, Arthur, solicitor	2	begging	115
Buckley, Ben, 'Pongo', Greenfield A.F.C.	48	blocking road	113
Buckley, Capt. Francis	1-11, 2i, 3i, 4i, 7i	drunk & disorderly	110-113
Buckley, Dorothy Bebb, (née Burman), nurse	7i	riotous behaviour	110
Buckley, Dr. George Bent	3	stabbing	112
Buckley, Edmund	118 (2)	stealing	114
Buckley, Edmund, will	13, 15, 18	charitable bequests for schools	97
Buckley, Florence, VAD nurse	3, 8	Charlesworth, E., cricketer	37
Buckley, G.F., J.P.	38	Charlesworth, L. Cpl. Lewis, killed in action	112
Buckley, Gdm Thomas, killed in action	116	Charters of Robert de Stapleton, 13 th C.	85-96
Buckley, George	10	Cheetham Hill, cricket team	38
Buckley, John	10, 14, 19, 118	Cheetham, P., cricketer	41
Buckley, John Edward, J.P.	37, 38	Cheetham, W.	39
Buckley, John W., cricketer	39	Cheshire County League, football	49-51
Buckley, Kate	3	Chester, football team	50
Buckley, Lt-Col. G. R. B.	8	chief: rental 17; rents	77
Buckley, Margaret Phyllis, Anglican nun	3	child labour ages	97
Buckley, Maud	10	Christ Church, Denshaw record locations	33
Buckley, Maurice, cricketer	41	Christ Church, Friezland:	29
Buckley, Pte. John, killed in action	110	record locations	32
Buckley, Phyllis	8	Church of England School, Denshaw	103
Buckley, Richard, solicitor	3	Church of England, Saddleworth records	28
Buckley, Roman Fort excavations	67	Churchyard-head	16, 17
Buckley, William Leach, solicitor	2	Clare's Dyeworks	111
Bull's Head inquest	113	Clarion Cycling Club	57
Burgess, Pte. Frank, killed in action	111	Clayton, Eliza Christina	107-109
Burgess, Walter, killed in action	111	burial at heights	109
Burgh, Thomas de	77	letter from	108
Burman, Dr. Charles Clark	6	teacher	109i,
Burnedge Lane	82	Clayton, Titus, barman of Liverpool	107
Burrows, Matt, cricketer	38	Clerks	16
Burslem Port Vale football team	53	Clifton, Jonathan	38
Bury Church Register	20	Colincamps Ridge Offensive	6
Bury Grammar School	20	Combesbrook (Chew Brook)	77
Butterworth, E.J.	38	common pasture, beasts access to	77
Butterworth, W.H.	38	compulsory education	97
Byrom, G.W., cricketer	39	Connahs Quay, football team	50
Byrom, J.L., cricketer	38, 39, 40	Copeland, Colin Campbell (1903-2002)	57, 56i
C		Copeland, Eliza (née Stancliffe)	57
Cadiz, taking of	12, 13	Copeland, Harold Campbell	57
Calf Hey	111	Copeland, John (Jack), window cleaner	57
Cardwell, Jonathan, butcher	112	Copeland, Maurice Campbell	57
Carter, George, stonemason	113	corn miller	18
Carter, Georgina, drowned	113	cotton spinner	53
Carter, William, labourer	114	Cottrell, Fred, cricketer	39
Cartwright, Eliza	49	County Archaeologist	69
Cartwright, Jimmy, Greenfield A.F.C.	48-50	County Caps, cricket	40
Cartwright, John	49	County End, non- payment of rates	110
Castleshaw Education Centre	69, 73	court fines	110-112
Castleshaw Reservoirs: building of	109	Court Rolls, Almondbury	20
Upper Reservoir	65	Cowldwell, Mary	20
Castleshaw Roman Forts:	cover i, 65-74	Crichtons Athletic, football team	50
Conservation Management Plan (CMP)	70	Crompton, Adam de, quitclaim	83
		Crompton, cricket team	39

Crompton, John	118	Elliott, Norman, cricketer	42
Crompton, Robert	118	Ellis, Bill, cricketer	41
Crookbottom, Stalybridge	45	<i>Encyclopaedia Britannica</i> , Buckley, Francis, entry in	9
cup tie, cricket	39	English Heritage	69, 70, 72
		Evans, Eric	60
D			
D. & H. Mallalieu Ltd	17	F	
Dalton, cricket team	37, 38	Factory Act (1833), (1844)	97
Davenport, Humphrey, lawyer	76	Factory legislation (1874), (1880), (1893), (1900)	97
day schools	97, 101, 103, 105	factory schools in Saddleworth	97
grants for	97	Farrand, John	118
number of schools	97	Farrand, William	118
Daycroft Field, Castleshaw	65	Farrar, Richard, cricketer of Brighouse	37
de increment, intake, new land	82	Farrars, manorial lords of Saddleworth	76
Deaf Jack proprietor of 'trucking cote'	112	Fartown, cricket team	41
Delph	37	feoffment	76
Delph Chapel	101	Fine Rolls, (1249-50)	83
Delph ford	79	fires at mills	113, 115
Delph Schools: Church	101	<i>Robert de Stapleton to Robert son of</i>	
Council	101	<i>Simon de Staveley charter</i> , Latin	85, 86i
Day	99	translation	86, 87
Grammar	99	flints	8
Hill End	100i 101	Follis, P.C.	113
Junior	103	Football League Division 2 Championship medal	46
Infant, Church St.	101, 102i, 103	football match, Uppermill & Wharnton Villas	111
National School	101	fords: Delph	79
Primary, Denshaw Road	101, 102i,	Tamewater	79
Union (Grammar), King Street	98i, 99	Thursden	82, 83
Wesleyan, Gartside Street	100i, 101	Forster's education act (1870)	97
Delph, cricket team	41	Fox, Peter, photograph collection	71
Dennison, Harry, footballer, Stalybridge	50	Foxdenton, Chadderton	12
Denshaw Day School, Delph Road	103, 104i,	<i>Francis Bradbury Bennett 1904 – 1979</i>	51, 52
Denshaw reservoirs	55	<i>Francis Buckley</i>	1-11
Denshaw Road	37	free places for poor children	99
Derbyshire C.C.C.	41	Frenches Mill:	17, 18i, 19
Devon rugby union	60	estate	76
Dewsbury	110	Friarmere Cricket Club: officials	38
Diggle Junction Sidings	115	pavilion	38
Diggle Day Schools	103, 105	team	37, 40i
Council, Sam Road	103, 105	<i>Friarmere Cricket Club</i> , (poem): H.B. Whitehead	43
Kilngreen	103, 104i, 105, 105i	Friarmere National School, Hill End	100i, 101
Wrigley Mill	103	Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts	74
Diggle, cricket team	37	Fuller, Pte. Albert, killed in action	113
Diggle, tunnel roof fall	110	fullers mill	18
Dirty Lane, Castleshaw	73	fulling miller	18
distress warrants	111	G	
Dobcross, medieval freehold	79	Gartside, Edmund	118
Dodsworth, Roger, antiquarian	76	Gartside, Henry	117
Doghill Open Hill Climb, Shaw	57	Gartside, Joan	118
Dorsetshire Labourers' Centenary	57	Gartside, John	118 (2)
Drinkwater, Jimmy, footballer	50	Gartside, Michael	118
Dry Clough Lane	82	Gartside, Richard, cricketer	37
Duke of Wellington's Regt.	112	Gartside, Robert	118
Dukinfield Crematorium	46	Gartsides of Woodbrow	37
Durham rugby union	60	Gatehead estate	79
dyeworks, Halls	4	Gibbs estate	76
E			
Eadie, Bill, footballer	45	Glothuit, Matthew de	78
Eagle Mill, fire	113	GMAU	70, 72
East Lancs., 42nd Territorial Division	6	Community Programme	68
East Midlands rugby union	60	excavations	71
Edge End, Delph, football team	45	Gnat Bank, Bamford, Middleton	20
elementary education funding	97	Goddard, F. S.	40
Eleven of Moorside, cricket team	37	Goddard, T., cricketer	39
<i>Eliza Clayton, Mistress at Castleshaw School</i>	107-109	Godley grant, 13th C.	78
Ellesmere Port, football team	51	Godley, John, Greenfield A.F.C.	48
		Golbourne Clough	78

Golcar, cricket team	39	Hill End School, Delph	100i, 101
Gossom, Thomas, shoemaker, Ashton	113	Junior	103
government (education) grants	97	Hill, Ben, Greenfield A.F.C.	48
Grange	16	Hill, J. deputy coroner 111: West Riding coroner	114
Grains Road	112	Hill, Nat, cricketer	4, 42
Grasscroft	18, 46	Hinchcliffe, J.P., Local Education Sub-committee	108
Grasscroft Clough	113	Hirst, Pte Sam, killed in action	116
Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service	66	Holford, Tom, footballer	45
Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU)	65	Hollingreave	19
Greater Manchester Historic Landscape		Hollingworth, James, cricket cup	39
Characterisation Project	66	Hollingworth, Thomas de	78
Greenfield A.F.C	48i, 53	Holmes, P., cricketer	52
Greenfield Amateurs, football	49	Holmfirth, cricket team	39
Greenfield Athletic, football team	45	Holy Trinity, Dobcross, record locations	31
Greenfield Conservative club	114	Home Guard	10, 46
Greenfield Council School	51	Honley, cricket team	41
Greenfield Cricket ground	52	Hook Gap	6
Greenfield football team	45	Hopkinson, Archie, Greenfield A.F.C.	48
Greenfield Mill	114	Hopton, F., cricketer	52
Greenfield Wesleyan Day School	51	horse & trap	10
Greenwood, Pte. Clifford, killed in action	110	Horsfall, G., cricketer	37
Grenadier Guards	54	Huddersfield Cricket: Association	39
		League	40, 41
		team	38
H		<i>Huddersfield Examiner</i> , Sykes cup	40
Hadrian's Wall	66	Hudson, F., cricketer	37
Hall, Alfred, drowned	111	Hudson, Harold, cricketer	41
Hall, Charles, miner	111	Hudson, Jack, cricketer	41, 42
Hall, Pte. Joseph, killed in action	114	Hudson, Josiah, Sun Inn, Junction	112
Hall, Sir Edward Marshall	8	Huguenot	12, 14, 20
Hall, Stanley, cricketer	39	Hulme Grammar School, Oldham	59
Halls: estate	76	hunting rights of Stapleton	77
farm	19	Hyde & Hurst, football team	49
Hardacre, Ben, cricketer	39		
Hardman, James	112	I	
Hardy, George, cricketer	39	imprisonment	110, 111, 112, 114, 115
Hargreaves, footballer	50	Infantry brigade 149th, 50th Division	1
Harope, Digel, woods	83	Inns of Court Officer Training Corps	4
Harrington, Sir William de	76	inquest	111, 113, 114
Harrison Cup, football	48	interpretation boards, Castleshaw	68i, 69i
Harrop, Anne	118		
Harrop, David	118	J	
Harrop, Edmund	117, 118	J.W. Buckley	110
Harrop, Robert	118 (3)	Jagger, Pte. Albert, killed in action	112
Haslingden, cricket team	39	Junction: House	110
Haughton Road, football team	48	Inn	111
Haukyard, John	118	Jebson, Walter, cricketer	38, 39
Hawkeyard, Hawkyard, Greenfield	13, 110	<i>Jimmy Cartwright 1892 - 1967</i>	49, 50
Hawkyard, A., cricketer	52	John Barleycorn	39
Hawkyard, James (2)	118	Jones, Prof. Barri	68
Hawkyard, Raph	117		
Hawkyard, Thomas, gravestone	36i	K	
Headeach, Rev. A.W.	37, 38	Kay, Rev. Roger, refounder Bury Grammar School	20
Heap, Julian, Local Education Sub-committee	108	Keighley, E. Cliff, cricketer	39
Hearth Tax Returns (1664)	15, 16, 20	Kenworthy, C., cricketer	37
Heaton, Martha Ann, teacher	107	Kenworthy, James	13
Hegedius, Florence, musician	3	Kenworthy, Richard	118
Heritage Lottery Funding	73	Kenworthy, Richard, inventory	13
Herkingstede	83	Kenworthy, S.	38
Heyward, Anthony	118	Kershaw, Jenit	14
Heyward, Francis	118	Kershaw, Margery	14
Heywood Hall	20	Kilngreen: School	104i, 105 105i
High Stile	16	Church & Sunday School	105
Higher Linfitts Farm, cricket field	37	Master wanted	106i
Higson, Charles, memorial transcriptions	28	Kinder, Frank, cricketer	43
Hill 60, Ypres	5	Kinders Woollen Mill	49
hill climbs, cycling	57	King William IV public house	48, 51

King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, 10th Batt.	115	Malladues & Mawlew, variant spelling	20
Kinler, George, cricketer	39	Mallalew (Mallalieu, Melladu), Francis	19, 20
Kirkburton Church Register	20	Mallalew (Mallalieu), George: husbandman, will	16
Kirkburton, cricket team	41	Old George	19
Kirkheaton, cricket team	39, 41	Mallalew (Mallalieu, Maralew, Marralew),	
Knarr Mill	17	Wrigley	14, 16-18
Knotthill Lane	78	millar	14, 15, 17
L		Mallalieu Family	12-28
Lady Beaverbrook Cup, football	49	family trees	22-27
Lambert, Howard	29	Mallalieu, D. & H. Ltd.	17
Lancashire football: Combination	49, 53	Mallalieu, David	17, 113
Senior Cup	45	Mallalieu, Dorothy	17
Lancashire County Cricket Club	39	Mallalieu, Frederick William: M.P.	17
cap	40	Local Education Sub-committee	108
League	40	Mallalieu, Frank, Provincial Helper	19
Lancashire Regiment, 9th Battalion, band	50	Mallalieu, Henry	17
landscape, enclosure, agricultural practise, 13th C	75	Mallalieu, J.P.W., M.P.	17
Lark Hill	57	Mallalieu, James	15, 17
Lascelles Hall, cricket team	38	Mallalieu, James Montgomery, headteacher	20
<i>Law Dictionary</i> , Burrill's	82	Mallalieu, Jane	17
Lawton Harold 'Chatty', Greenfield A.F.C.	48	Mallalieu, Jonathan, fuller	19
Lawton, Richard, clothier	119	Mallalieu, Joshua	16
Lawton, George	119	Mallalieu (Mallalue), Mary	16, 17
Lay Subsidy of 1297)	79	Mallalieu, Patience	17
League Championship, cricket	41, 42	Mallalieu, Rev. Thomas, Moravian Church, Fairfield	19
leases for lives	84	Mallalieu, Rev. William, Moravian Church, Ockbrook	19
Lee, Fred, drowned	114	Mallalieu, William Francis, Bishop	16
Lees, cricket team	37	Malthouse, Sam, cricketer	39
Lees, Hiram, cricketer	37, 38	Manchester & County Bank, Delph	99
Lees, John	14	Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society	28
Lelay, William de	83	Manchester Amateur (football): Cup	49
Leyland, M., cricketer	52	League	49, 50
Lille, France	59	Manchester City F.C.	45
Lincoln's Inn	3	Manchester Clifford, cricket team	8
Linfitts: House	37, 38	Manchester Diocesan Archives	28
Linfitts Slack	38	Manchester Museum	71
Linthwaite, Henry	118	Manchester Regt. A Co. 20th Battalion	112
Linthwaite, James	118	Manchester Royal Infirmary	3
Linthwaite, Mary	118	Manns	18
Littleborough, cricket team	38	Maralew, Susan	14
Local Education Authority (LEA)	97, 109	Marralow, Agnes	14
Lockwood, cricket team	38	Marsden, Sarah	11
Lohman, George; cricketer	50	Marsden	8
Surrey	38	cricket team	39, 41
Lomas, Elizabeth, teacher	105	Marsland, John	118
London, City & Midland Bank	110	Marsland, William	118
Longley Hall, Almondbury	12	Massey, Mary, tramp	114
Lorne Street, Mossley	45	mast, pannage	77
Lower Castleshaw	70, 71i, 73	Mawlew, Margaret	15
Lower Milne	18	Mayor of Oldham	70
Lydgate, railway building collapse	110	Meal, John A., cricketer	41, 42
		Measurements Ltd.	54
M		Medieval iron smelting	65
Macauley, G.G., cricketer	52	Melladew, Ellis of Kirkburton	20
Macclesfield, football team	50	Mellor, Sykes, Greenfield A.F.C.	48
Malalew (Malladue, Mallalieu, Maralew),		Meltham Mills, cricket team	39
George	14-17, 19, 20	memorial inscriptions	28
Malalew (Malelu, Mallalieu, Maralewe, Marelewe,		Mentioned in Dispatches	5
Mawlew, Melladew), John	14-20	Mesolithic period	8
will	17	tools	71
of Massachusetts	16	Methodist Episcopal Church	17
Malladue, Elizabeth	20	Middleton Church Register	20
Malladue (Mallalieu, Maralewe, Marralew),		Military Cross, award of	5
Thomas	14i, 15, 20	millers	20
alias French	13, 14, 18, 20	Millgate	7
clothier	19	Mills bomb	5
		Mills, Charlie, Greenfield A.F.C.	48

Millstone Edge	73	Olympics Souvenir Programme, Saddleworth	
Ammon Wrigley's ashes	110	(1985)	cover Ili
Milnes, Arthur, cricketer	41	Openshaw, Rev. Thomas, Heights	37
Milnes, Jeffrey	118	Ordnance Survey 6" Map (1851)	82
Milnrow, cricket team	37	Ordsall Hall	12
Mitchell, A., cricketer	52		
moiety (half)	78	P	
Molyneux, Frank, cricketer	43	Paddock, cricket team	41
Monks Hall, football team	50	pannage	77, 83
<i>Monumental Inscriptions at Delph Ind. Chapel</i>	29	Parkin, Jack, Greenfield A.F.C.	48
Moorcroft	16	Parkinson, William, Minister and Curate of	
Moore, Stanley, Greenfield A.F.C.	48	Saddleworth	118
Moorside, cricket team	37, 38	Passchendaele	6
Moravian Church, Fairfield, Ashton	19	Pearce, Thomas	3, 8
Morris, Frank, Greenfield A.F.C.	48	petty sessions: Saddleworth	111, 113
Morris, H. (jnr.), cricketer	43	Uppermill	110
Morris, Harry, cricketer	41, 42	Pennine Prospects Watershed Landscape Project	69
Mossley and Saddleworth League, football	45	Percival, T., Roman Fort discovery	68
Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter, football	45	Pictor, Lt. Commander James, R.N.R	11
Mossley: Britannia, football team	45	Pictor, Maud	11
Football Club	50, 51i	Pictor, Rosemary	11
Mossley Wool Combing & Spinning Co.	59	pigeon fanciers	112
Mount Olivet Chapel, Stalybridge	46	Platt Lane	111
murder, Springhead	106	Platt, Ammon 'little yed', hanged himself	114
		Platt, Henry	118
N		Platt, John (3)	118
Nantwich, football team	51	Platt, Oliver	117
National Archives, Kew, London	28	Platt, Robert	118
National Park, football ground, Ashton	49	Platt, Thomas	118
National School	103	Pobgreen	16
Wellington Road, Stockport	107	police constable, volunteer	4
National Society for Promoting the Education		police courts, Saddleworth	111, 115
of the Poor in the Principles of the Established		Poll, Robert	111
Church	97, 103	Porisse, Julian, rugby player	59
Nevell, Dr. Michael, director CfAA	66	Porisse, Raphael, Mossley Wool Co.	59
New Delph, cricket team	37	Porisse, Robert (Bob), rugby player	58i, 59i, 60
new land (de increment)	79	Port Vale, football team	50
New Zealand All Blacks	60	Post Office Savings Bank	38
Newbould, Harry, football manager	45	Postbury St. Francis, Devon	3
Newton, Cheshire	77	Poulton, Frank	113
charter	77, 78	Priory of St. John of Pontefract, chartulary of	78
Nicholas, Rev. T., unveiling of War Memorial	112	private school Castleshaw	107
Nobbs, footballer, Stoke City	50	professional cricketer	37-39
non-conformist records	28	Protestation Returns (1641-42)	15, 16
non-denominational school	104	public subscriptions for schools	97, 99, 103, 104, 105
Norasio, clerk of Bramley	78	Pudsey Britannia, cricket team	39
Norman Athletic, football team	50	pupil numbers in Saddleworth	97
North Eastern Counties rugby union	60		
Northern Archaeological Associates	70	Q	
Northumberland Fusiliers, 7th	1, 5	<i>Q.6.A and other places</i> , (book) Francis Buckley	
Notts County	45		1, 6, 8, 9
Nowell, Thias, Greenfield A.F.C.	48	Quernedone (Wharmton)	83
		Quick Moor map (1625)	82
O		Quick, Robert de, son of Gilbert	83
<i>Oaklands</i> , Greenfield	59	quitclaim (1247)	83
Odell, Lieut. A.E.	5i		
Oddfellows Hall, Uppermill, inquest	114	R	
Officer Training Corps	4	RAMC 42nd Field Artillery 14th Div.	3
<i>Old English Glass</i> (book) by Francis Buckley	9	Radcliffe, Alexander de & Agnes	76
Oldham, Athletic	45, 53	Radcliffe, Brian	46
cricket team	38	Radcliffe, Capt. Robert	cover Ii
Gentlemen, cricket team	37	Shaw Hall	12, 14
Oldham Cardroom Operatives Assoc., Uppermill	111	Radcliffe, Elizabeth	46
Oldham Local Studies & Archives	28	Radcliffe, Eric	46
Oldham M.B.C.	68-70	Radcliffe, Jack	46
Olympic Games weightlifting 1924, 1928	55	Radcliffe, John	12, 28, 117, 118, 119

Radcliffe, Miles	46	S	
Radcliffe, Philip	46	Saddleworth & District, cricket team	52i
Radcliffe, Roy	46	Saddleworth Archaeological Trust	69
Radcliffe, Sir Alexander of Ordsall	13	Saddleworth Church, see St. Chad's	
Radcliffe, Thomas	118	Saddleworth court house	114
Radcliffe, William: 46; of Ordsall	76	Saddleworth, cricket team	39
Ramsbottom, cricket team	38	Saddleworth Historical Society	69
Ramsden, Sir John	76	Saddleworth hunting privileges	83
Ramsden, William	18	Saddleworth League, cricket	39, 41, 43
Longley Hall	12, 13	Saddleworth Local Education Sub-committee	108
lord of the manor	15, 76	Saddleworth manorial mill	83
Rastrick, cricket team	40	Saddleworth Museum	68, 69
Ratcliffe College, Leicestershire	59	Saddleworth Olympics souvenir programme (1985)	cover Ili
Rawnsley, Fred, cricketer	39	Saddleworth Parish Council	70
Rawtenstall, cricket team	39	Saddleworth police courts	111, 115
Redhead, Norman, AGMA	66	Saddleworth Registers 1612	117
<i>Renewed Interest in the Castleshaw Forts</i>	65-74	Saddleworth Special Sessions	112
Rhodes, Albert, cricketer	39, 41, 42	Saddleworth Union of Sunday Schools	105
Rhodes, Alfred, cricketer	39, 41	Saddleworth War Memorial unveiled	112
Rhodes, D.A., cricketer	43	Sadleworth Fryth	76
Rhodes, Herbert, cricketer	43	St. Anne's, Lydgate record locations	32
Rhodes, Herbert	114	St. Chad's, Saddleworth	53, 54, 111
Rhodes, Rhoda, drowned	114	Parish	105
Rhodes, Thomas	19	new grave yard	29
Rhodes, W., cricketer	41, 42, 52	old yard graves plan	28
Rhodes, Walter, cricketer	39, 41	record locations	30
Ridgeway, George of Macclesfield	112	<i>Registers Vols. 1&2: John Radcliffe 16, 28, 29i, 116</i>	
rights to: common pasture	77	St. George's, Mossley: cricket team	7
to wood	77	record locations	35
ring ditch	78, 83	St. Hilda's, Delph record locations	34
riots at Delph	110	St. James' Church, Ashton	46
Ripley, Ammon of High Moor	111	St. James', Oldham, cricket team	37
Roaches, F.C.	45	St. John's, Hey record locations	34
<i>Robert Porisse 1928-2002: Dai Richards</i>	58i, 59i, 60	St. John's, Roughtown record locations	34
Roberts, Joseph, drunk & disorderly	112	St. Mary's Greenfield, commemoration of	
Robinson, E., cricketer	52	Charles Baker	114
Robinson, Jack, Greenfield A.F.C.	48	St. Mary's, Greenfield, Juniors, football team	45
Rochdale, cricket team	38	St. Paul's, Scouthead record locations	33
Rochdale, tithes of Saddleworth	78	St. Thomas' Church, Heights	37
Rock Ferry, cricket team	39	record locations	31
Roman: barrack blocks	66, 68	St. Thomas' Mission Church	101, 103
bath house	73	Infant School	99, 103
commander's house	67, 68	Sale rugby union F.C.	59, 60
extra-mural settlement (vicus)	65, 66	Salford Dock Police Sports	57
food taxes	67	Sanderson, M., cricketer	39
fort interpretation boards	68i	Sankey, Judith	60
fort, Old Excavation Trench Plan	72i	Scheduled Monument	72
granary	66-68	Schofield, John (2)	118
headquarters	68	Schofield, John, engineer, Bailey Mill	113
Imperial administrator (beneficiarius)	67	Schofield, William, coal pit death	115
legionary Fortresses, Chester, York	66	Scholefield, Mary	16
oven	68	school attendance, hours and ages	97
road	73	School Boards, Saddleworth	97
turf and timber fort	66	school caretaker	110
workshop	67, 68	schools run by clergy	97
Ronaldson, Thomas Martine, portrait artist	4	Seel Park, Mossley football ground	48
Rosebald, L/Sgt Stanley, killed in action	116	seigneurial rights in Saddleworth	75
Ross Links, Bamburgh	9	Shackleton, E., cricketer	43
Rosser, Roman Fort excavations	67, 72, 73	Shadworth Lane	77
Roundhill	82	Sharples, Percy, cricketer	41, 42
Rowbotham, Arthur, RASC air dispatcher, killed in action	110	Shaw Hall Bank	115
Royal Field Artillery, 43rd Reserve Battery	54	Shaw: Hall	12
royd, clearing	82	estate	76, 77
Royton: cricket team	38, 39	Mill	16, 18
Harriers	57	tenements	76
Runninghill	17	Shaw, Alexander	118

Shaw, Bernard	118	Sumner, Graham, artist	69
Shaw, George	118	Sun Inn, Junction	112
Shaw, George, MSS	12	Sutcliffe, Herbert, cricketer	52
Shaw, John (2)	117	Sutstrinde ('south stream' Greenfield)	77
Shaw, Joseph	38	Swanage Garrison Competition, football	54
Shaw, Martha	19	Swann, A., cricketer	43
Shaw, Pte. Harold, killed in action	110	Swann, H., cricketer	42
Shaw, Pte. Herbert, killed in action	114	Swift, Pte. Wilfred, killed in action	114
Shaw, Raph	117	Sydney, Sir Philip	12
Shaw, Richard (2)	117	Sykes Cup, cricket	40-42
Shaw, Robert	15, 118		
Shaw, Sarah	114, 117	T	
Shaw, Thomas	118	Tait, Ellen, thief	116
Shaw, W., cricketer	52	Tame, (river)	77, 78
Shaw, Walter, Greenfield A.F.C.	48	Tamewater	79
Shaw, William	114	ford	79
Shawmere	75-79, 82, 84	Tanner, H.A., cricketer	41
estate	12	Councillor	52
sale of	18	Tanner, J.E., cricketer	52
<i>Subinfeudation of Shawmere</i>	75-96	Taylor, I.A., cricketer	52
sheep farmer	16	Taylor, James	16
Shelderslow non- payment of rates	110	Taylor, Percy, Greenfield A.F.C.	48
shoemaker	37	Taylor, Rose Alice Vinca of Belmont	53
Sholver (Syolver), Andrew de	82, 84, 79	Thackery Mill, Woodend, Springhead, fire	115
Slackcote Mill	110	<i>The Mesolithic Age of Britain</i> (book) Graham Clark	9
Slaithwaite, cricket team	39, 41	<i>The Spanish Ladye's Love</i> (ballad)	13
Slater, A., cricketer	39	thirteenth century charters	75-96
<i>Slices through Time</i> , (books) GMAU	66	Thompson, Roman Fort excavations	67, 70, 72, 73
Smetheton, John de, clerk	84	Thores, Edmund	118
Smith, Reginald	8	Threefoldsayes	79, 82, 83
Smithorat, William, of Pendleton	116	Thursden Royd, Thursdenrode	82
Socialist Workers' Sport International	57	Thurston Brook	78, 82, 83
Society of Antiquarians, Francis Buckley, member	9	tithes: (1669)	18
Somme, battle of	1	of Saddleworth	78
Special Collections, Leeds University Library	75	Tolson Memorial Museum, Huddersfield	8, 9, 74
Speight, P.C.		Tranmere Rovers F.C.	50
Springhead, non- payment of rates	110	Treton, Hugh de	78
Springhead Independents, cricket team	37	Treton, Nicholas de	77, 78
Spring Grove	114	Treton, Robert son of Adam de	77
Stabley Clough	78	Trinity College, Oxford	3
Stabicloh	83	trustees, for schools	99
Stalybridge: Celtic F.C.	50	Tunstead	1, 2, 49
cricket team	39	Turner, Frank	115
District League football	45, 46		
Rovers F.C.	45	U	
Standish, Sir Hugh	76	United Utilities	69
Stapleton, Robert de	77, 78, 84	University of Manchester Archaeological Unit	
lord of the manor	75	(UMAU)	66
Stapleton, William de	78, 84	unveiling of Saddleworth War Memorial	112
Start, Dave (GMAU)	68		
Staveley	6, 77	Upperhouse: Wallhill	82
Staveley, Alexander de	83	Wharmton	82, 83
Staveley, Richard de	78, 83	Uppermill: A.F.C.	49
son of Robert	75, 79	Council School	101
Staveley, Robert de	76, 78, 79	petty sessions	110
son of Simon	75, 77		
Staveley, Robert 'le Brun'	75	V	
Ruffus de	77, 78	Varley, Supt.	111
Staveleys of Shawmere	75, 84	velvet manufacturing, Moorside	20
Stayley, cricket team	38	Vestry meeting, Heights	37
Stoke City F.C.	50	Victoria & Albert Museum, Francis Buckley's	
Stonebreaks	12	glass collection	9
Stott, Robert	38		
strike, Bailey Mill	110	W	
strikers, (batsmen)	37	W. Bottomley & Sons, cotton doublers, Roaches	46
Subinfeudation of Shawmere	75-96	Wade, Pte. George, killed in action	112
subscription from Castleshaw inhabitants	107		

Wade Hill	82	Windy Bank, Ashton-under-Lyne	19
Wade Row, Uppermill	116	Winterbottom, Alice	118
Walders, David, footballer	45	Winterbottom, C.	38
Walk Mill	19	Winterbottom, F., cricketer	39
estate	79	Winterbottom, George	117, 118
walke mille	18	Winterbottom, Gordon, cricketer	42, 43
Walker, John (2)	117, 118	Winterbottom, John	117, 118
Walker, Robert	117	Winterbottom, Raph	117, 118
Walsden, cricket team	38	Winterbottom, Robert	118
Walton, James, labourer	110	Winterbottom, Susan	118
Walton, Milton, Greenfield A.F.C.	48	Winterbottom, Tom, cricketer	39
Washington, Pte. Wilfred, killed in action	111	Wolfenden, Ralph	14
Watershed Landscape Project	70	Wood	16
weekly fees for schools	107	Wood, Ben, cricketer	41
weightlifting, British featherweight champion	55	Wood, Derrick, apprentice toolmaker	53
Wellington College	3	Wood, Fanny, cellar fall	111
Wellington Terrace, Frenches	53	Wood, Gerald	53
Wentworth family	76	Wood, Harry, Greenfield A.F.C.	48
Wentworth-Woolley Collection	75, 76	Wood, John (3)	118
Werneth, cricket team	38	Wood, John, cricketer	37
West Riding County Council	101, 105, 106	Wood, Joyce	53
West Riding Education Authority	107	Wood, Kenneth	3
West View	37	Wood, Mary (née White)	53
West Yorkshire Archive Service	76	Wood, Robert R., cotton spinner	53
West Yorkshire Regiment, legal division	10	Wood, Walter, accident	111
Weston Super Mare	3	Wood, William White, professional footballer	53i, 54i
Wharlow	77	Woodend Mill Springhead	114
Clough	77	Woodhead, Geoffrey, Obituary	61-64
Wharmton Bank (Brow)	19	Woodsome Volunteers, cricket team	37
medieval routes	82	Wool Road police station	110, 112, 113
Whewall, Francis	118	Wooley, Emma	115
Whewell, George	13	Woollands, P.C.	113
Whewell, John	13	Woolley Hall, Wakefield	76
Whewall, Robert (2)	118	Workers' International Olympiad, Prague 1934	57
Whicke (Quick), messuages & land	76	Workers' International Olympiad, Vienna 1931	57
Whickens (Wickins)	16, 18	World War I	1-11
White Cross	82	World War II	10
Whitebrook in Hawkyard	78	Wriglery, Joseph	118
Whitehead A.E., cricketer	42	Wrigley Mill	103
Whitehead, Albert, cricketer	41	cricket team	37
Whitehead, Becket	37	Methodist Chapel	103
Whitehead, Deborah	118	School, Huddersfield Road	103
Whitehead, F., cricketer	41	Wrigley, Ammon, about Eliza Clayton	107
Whitehead, H. B.	43	ashes spread	110
Whitehead, Henry	118	Wrigley, Edith	117
Whitehead, James	38, 118	Wrigley, Ellis	117
Whitehead, Joseph	118	Wrigley, J, cricketer	41
Whitehead, Lees, cricketer	39	Wrigley, J.B.	38
Whitehead, Mark	118	Wrigley, James, death of	115
Whitehead, Raph	118	Wrigley, Jenit, will	14
Whitehead, Sid, cricketer	42	Wrigley, Roman Fort excavations	67
Whitehead, William Herbert, cricketer	39		
Whitley-Beaumont Collection	76	Y	
Wickins (Whickens) see Whickens		Yates, Issac, fustian salesman, Salford	107
farm	17i,	yeoman	13
Wild, Hannah	114	Yorkshire: C.C.C.	39, 52
Wild, Raph	118	Council, cricket	40
Wildsmith, RFM George, killed in action	115	County rugby union	60
William Bottomley 1886-1958		Yorkshire Eyre of 1251-1252	83
Professional Footballer	45-48		
William Street, Ashton under Line	50		
William White Wood 1887- 1935			
Professional Footballer	53-54		
William's Spring	79, 80, 82, 83		
window cleaner	57		
Windsor Great Park	54		

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