

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



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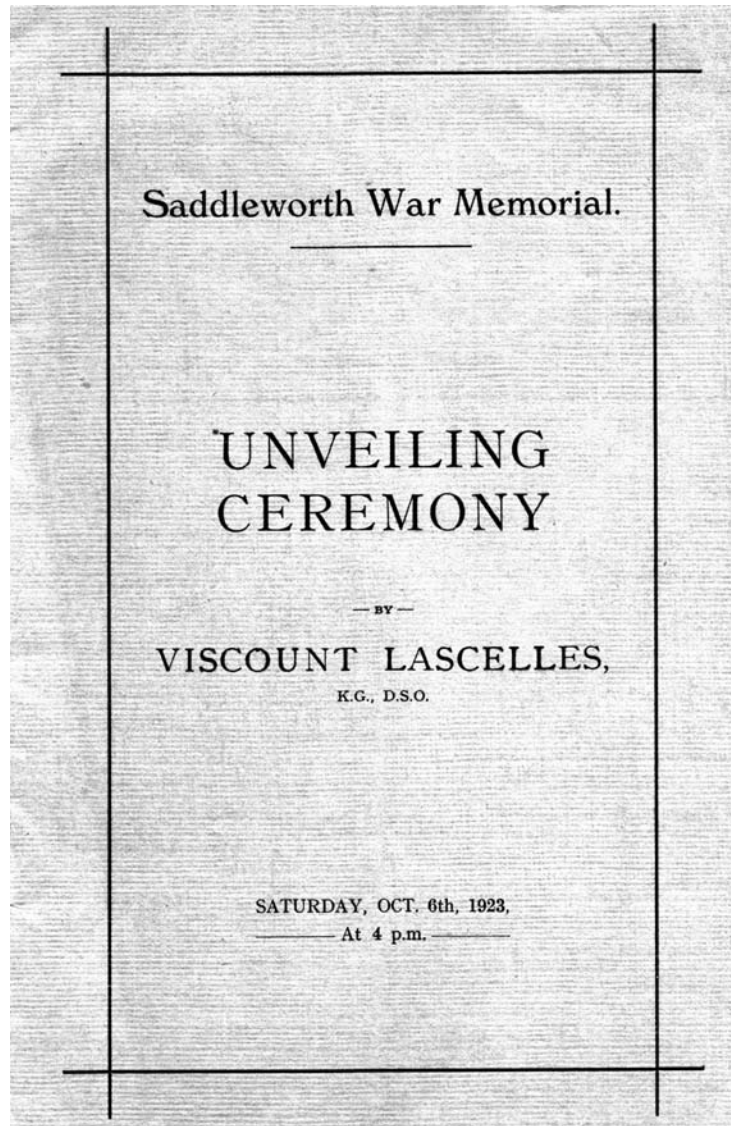
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Cover Illustration: Saddleworth war memorial at Pots and Pans
sketched by G.B. Howcroft the architect.
[Saddleworth Museum M/GX/KB/17].

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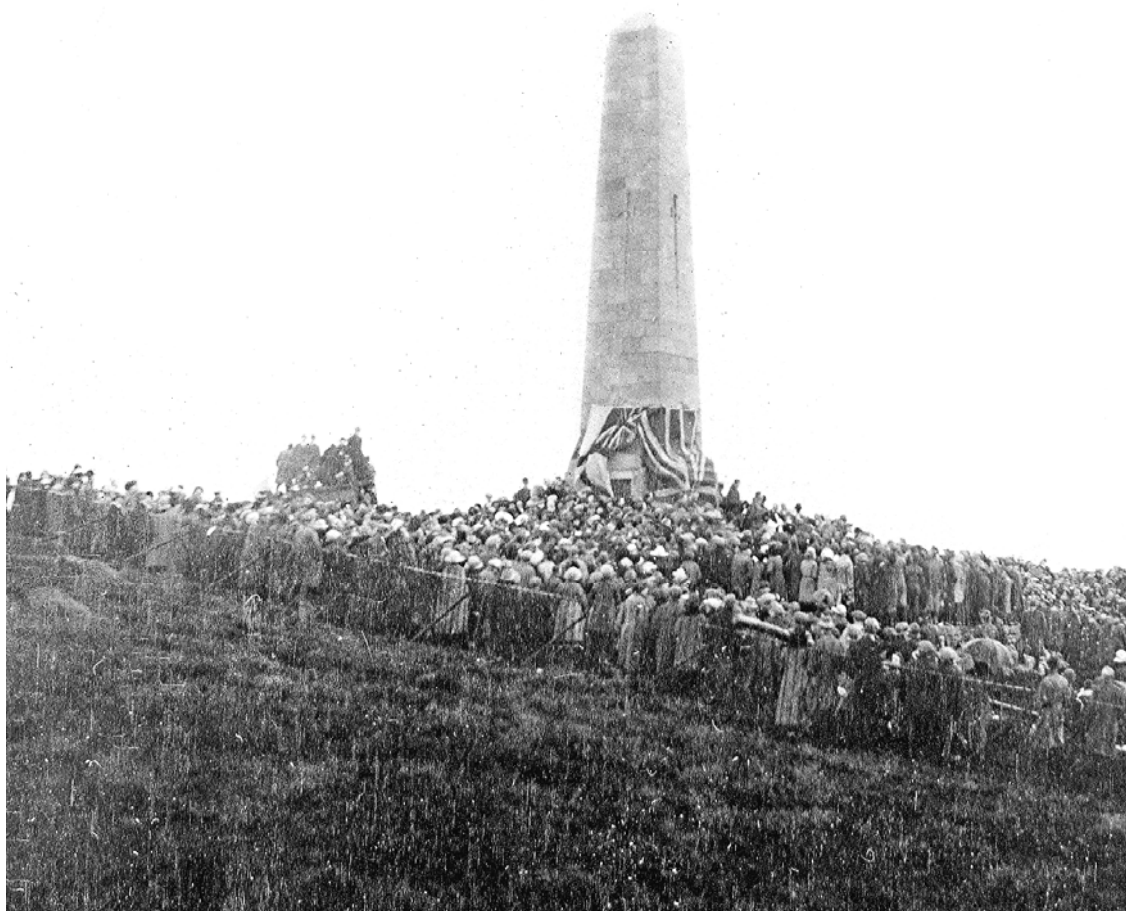
POTS AND PANS REMEMBRANCE SERVICES¹



Programme Cover
[Saddleworth Museum M/GXKB/17]

On Saturday October 6 1923, Viscount Lascelles KG DSO unveiled the new war memorial at Pots and Pans, in front of a crowd of over 5000. Despite heavy rain in the afternoon, by 4.15, when the ceremony began, it was dry though bitterly cold. A special enclosure was taken set up for the relatives of those who had fallen, and the West side of the monument was taken up with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. After a speech, the Viscount released the Union Flag to reveal the memorial. Canon Drury, Vicar of Saddleworth dedicated the memorial. Also helping with the service was Rev. J. Nicholas.

¹ The author of this article is not known. If they could contact the Editor we will record it in a future Bulletin.



The Unveiling Ceremony
[Saddleworth Museum M/P/K17]

November 1923

Saturday, November 14th 1925

Weather - sunny but frosty

Attendance - 'numerous company'

Conducted by Rev. S.R. Potts.

R. Mallalieu JP, Chairman of Saddleworth Council, laid the legion wreath. The ceremony had been scheduled for 3pm on Saturday, November 7th, with processions starting at The Square, Uppermill, and Road End, with the wreath being laid by Mrs R. Mallalieu. However, it was postponed due to bad weather.

Thursday, November 11th 1926

Weather - gale force winds

Attendance - 'very numerous'

Conducted by Rev. S.R. Potts.

A 'good muster' of girl guides turned out. As the closing line of the hymn, *O God our Help*, which runs, 'Be thou our guard while time shall last', was being sung, there was a break in the cloud, and a brilliant ray of sunshine came through.

Friday, November 11th 1927

Weather - sunny but cold

Conducted by Rev. S.R. Potts.

Sunday, November 11th 1928

Weather - 'forbidding sky'

Attendance - 'large crowd'

Cllr Joseph Wood, Chairman of Saddleworth Council, announced that the war memorial was now free from debt. The crowd sang, *Praise God, from whom all Blessings Flow*. Mrs Bradley of Diggle placed the Legion wreath. She had lost 2 sons in the War. At the end Boarshurst Band rendered *Abide with me*.

Monday, November 11th 1929

Weather - hail, rain and wind

Attendance - 4

The wind was so fierce that one man's tribute, a bunch of flowers, to lie before the Greenfield nameplate, blew away and was scattered across the moors before they could be secured. The weather made a service impossible. Wreathes had to be pinned down with large stones.

Tuesday, November 11th 1930

Weather - sunny

Attendance - 'numerous company'

Conducted by Cllr J.J. Burrige, Pres of the Saddleworth British Legion.

Cllr Burrige thanked all those who had attended, and hoped that by the next Armistice Day, trade in the district would have improved. Mr A. Washington, a founder of the Saddleworth Branch, Laid the Legion wreath.

Wednesday, November 11th 1931

Weather - not recorded

Attendance - 'small party'

Conducted by Cllr J. J. Burrige.

Legion wreath was laid by Mr and Mrs W. Newby of Woolroad.

Friday, November 11th 1933

Weather - sunny and fine

Saturday, November 11th 1934

Weather - Cloudy, Rain

Attendance - around 50

Conducted by Cllr J.J. Burrige.

The legion wreath was laid by Mr Jones of Denshaw, who had lost 2 sons in the War.

Cllr Burrige recited the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday, November 11th 1934

Weather - Sunny

Attendance - 'large crowd'

Conducted by Cllr J.J. Burrige.

Legion wreath laid by Fred Dyson, blind ex-serviceman from Greenfield.

Monday, November 11th 1935

Weather - not recorded

Attendance - around 60

Conducted by Cllr J.J. Burrige.

A wreath was laid by Mrs Thornton, a war widow, whose husband died in the early days of the war. Also there was E.L. Mallalieu, the retiring MP.

Wednesday, November 11th 1936

Weather - fine but not chilly

Thursday, November 11th 1937

Weather - sunny, but cold

Attendance - around 50

Conducted by Rev. Carey-Davis.

Legion wreath laid by Mrs Wilby, wife of the Chairman of Saddleworth Council.

Friday, November 11th 1938

Not reported

Saturday, November 11th 1939

Weather - dry and clear

Attendance - 'a good number'

Conducted by Rev. T.M. Kerrish, Saddleworth Methodist Minister and ex-Forces chaplain.

Monday, November 11th 1940

Weather - not recorded

Attendance - 18

Conducted by Rev. T.M. Kerrish.

Sir Gilbert and Lady Tanner attended.

Tuesday, November 11th 1941

Not reported

Wednesday, November 11th 1942

Weather - not recorded

Attendance - 'a number of Legion veterans.'

Conducted by Capt. F. Buckley.

Mrs Gartside, wife of the Chairman of Saddleworth Council laid the wreath.

Thursday, November 11th 1943

Not reported

Sunday, November 12th 1944

Not reported

Sunday, November 11th 1945

Weather- fine

Attendance - nearly 100

Conducted by Rev. Carey-Davies (Legion Chaplain).

The Song of the Cenotaph by H.B. Whitehead was read by Rev Carey-Davies.

Legion Wreath was laid by Mrs Ankers, who lost her son in the war.

Sunday, November 10th 1946

Weather - not recorded

Attendance - upwards of 100

Conducted by Francis Buckley JP.

Mrs Thornley of Uppermill, who lost 2 sons in the war, laid the Legion wreath.

Sunday, November 9th 1947

Weather - sunshine

Attendance - about 50

Conducted by Rev. Carey-Davies (who was leaving Saddleworth later on in the month) and who laid the Legion wreath.

The Song of the Cenotaph by H.B. Whitehead was read.

Sunday, November 7th 1948

Weather - wind and rain, bitterly cold

Attendance - very few

Conducted by Captain F. Buckley.

Mrs L. Thornton should have laid the wreath but she could not get up the hill, so ex-serviceman, John Harrison, laid it.

Sunday August 6th 1949

Weather - Overcast, rain

Conducted by Mr S. Brierley.

Sunday November 12th 1950

Weather - sunshine

Attendance - about 50

Conducted by Mr S. Brierley.

Mrs L. Thornton placed the wreath on behalf of the Women's Section.

Sunday November 11th 1951

Attendance - 40

Conducted by Councillor W. Kenworthy, Chairman of the Saddleworth Council.

Sunday November 9th 1952

Weather - fine but cold

Attendance - at least 100

Councillor I. Charlesworth JP laid the Legion wreath; Frank Holden and Frank Wood sounded the last post.

Sunday November 8th 1953

Weather - heavy rain

Attendance - 'a good number'

Legion wreath laid by Councillor Charlotte Fitton, Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council.

Sunday November 14th 1954

Weather - clear skies

Attendance - 100

Conducted by Stanley Brierley.

Sunday November 13th 1955

Weather - heavy rain

Attendance - 150

Conducted by Stanley Brierley.

Cllr. J.Hood laid the Legion wreath.

Sunday November 11th 1956

Weather - dull and overcast

Attendance - 200

Conducted by Rev. R.E. Rodgers.

Rev M Myles, Methodist minister, read the lesson. Cllr. C.B Hopkinson laid the Legion wreath.

Sunday November 10th 1957

Weather - fine

Attendance - over 200

Conducted by Rev. R.E. Rodgers.

Mrs F. Woodcock laid the wreath on behalf of the women's section of the legion branch.

Sunday November 9th 1958

Weather - dull, drizzle

Attendance - 180

Conducted by Rev. R.E. Rodgers.

The buglers were from Greenfield St. Mary's Boys Brigade. Cllr. W. Broadbent, Chairman of Saddleworth Council, laid the Legion wreath

Sunday November 8th 1959

Weather - fine

Attendance - 100

Conducted by Rev. R.E. Rodgers.

Sunday November 13th 1960

Weather - cloudy, rain

Attendance - 'one of the largest congregations for years'

A service of dedication at the repaired memorial proceeded the Remembrance Service. A new plaque was unveiled for the men of Springhead.

Sunday November 12th 1961

Weather - windy, rain

Conducted by Rev. H.K. Turner.

Glenvil Hall MP read H.B. Whitehead's poem, *Song of the Cenotaph*

Sunday November 11th 1962

Weather - cloudy, dry

Attendance - 300

Conducted by Rev. H.K. Turner.

The new stone, on the part of the memorial which had been damaged by lightning, still showed against the rest of the stone, and the path the strike took, marked by a whitish line, was still visible down the full length of the memorial.

Sunday November 10th 1963

Weather - wind and rain

Attendance - around 100

Conducted by Rev. H.K. Turner.

Sunday November 8th 1964

Weather - fine but windy

Attendance - around 300

Conducted by Rev. H.K. Turner.

Buglers from the Greenfield Boys Brigade Band.

Sunday November 14th 1965

Weather - fine snow, chilly wind

Attendance - more than 200

Conducted by Rev. H.K. Turner.

The bugler was Peter Watson. Legion wreath was laid by Cllr. J. Hood, Chairman of Saddleworth Council.

Sunday November 13th 1966

Weather - dull, windy

Attendance - about 200

Conducted by Rev. H.K. Turner.

Bugler was Peter Watson.

Sunday November 12th 1967

Weather - cloudy

Attendance - around 200

Conducted by Rev. W.H. Waring.

Bugler was Peter Watson.

Sunday November 10th 1968

Weather - dry but cold

Attendance - 'quite good turnout'

Conducted by Rev. W.H. Waring.

For the first time there was no bugler.

Sunday November 8th 1969

Weather - sleet

Attendance - around 100

Conducted by Rev. W.H. Waring.

Service attended by Richard Wainwright MP.

Sunday November 7th 1970

Weather - biting winds

Attendance - around 200

Conducted by Rev. W.H. Waring.

Sunday November 14th 1971

Weather - fine and dry

Attendance - around 250

Conducted by Rev W.H. Waring.

Sunday November 12th 1972

Weather - dull, light rain

Attendance - nearly 200

Conducted by Rev. W.H. Waring.

Sunday November 11th 1973

Weather - cloudy

Sunday November 10th 1974

Weather - dull

Attendance - around 200

Lord Rhodes attended. John Swann, 72, attended, he had been to every service since 1923, except for 1942-46, when he had been in the forces. He used to walk all the way from Springhead, but now gets the bus to Greenfield.

Sunday November 9th 1975

Weather - fine

Attendance - 300

Conducted by Rev. W.H. Waring.

Sunday November 14th 1976

Weather - fine

Attendance - 300

Conducted by Rev. W.H. Waring.

Lord Rhodes and Cllr Ted Lord attended. The bugler was George Gibson.

Sunday November 13th 1977

Weather - sunny, but snow on the ground.

Attendance - 300

Conducted by Mr J.R. Goode.

Lord Rhodes attended. Buglers were Martin Reeves and John Brough.

Sunday November 12th 1978

Weather - blustery wind

Attendance - around 400

Conducted by Rev. John Sykes.

Silent Tribute said by Legion Branch Secretary, James Burke.

Sunday November 11th 1979

Weather - heavy rain

Attendance - around 200

Conducted by Eric Clark.

Sunday November 9th 1980

Weather - fine and dry

Attendance - more than 500

Conducted by Rev. John Sykes.

Sunday November 8th 1981

Weather - mild and sunny

Attendance - around 500

Conducted by Rev. John Sykes.

Sunday November 14th 1982

Weather - snow on the ground, snow fell in the valley below, yet clear on the hillside

Conducted by Rev. John Sykes.

Attendance - around 400

Sunday November 13th 1983

Weather - fine and bright

Attendance - between 500 & 600

Conducted by Rev. John Sykes.

Lord Rhodes, 88, was flown in by helicopter. Was the 60th anniversary of the memorial.

Sunday November 11th 1984

Weather - fine but windy Attendance - c500
Conducted by Rev. John Sykes.
Members of Dobcross B Band accompanied the service.

Sunday November 10th 1985

Weather - cold, snow on the ground

Sunday November 9th 1986

Weather - strong winds Attendance - around 450
Conducted by Rev. John Sykes.

Sunday November 8th 1987

Weather - foggy Attendance - around 250
Conducted by Rev. Nick Feist.
Keith Allen played the Last Post and Reveille.

Sunday November 13th 1988

Weather - fine and bright Attendance - around 500
Conducted by Rev. Philip Stevens.
Members of St. John's Band, Mossley, accompanied the service.

Sunday November 12th 1989

Weather - sunny Attendance - 250
Conducted by Rev. Philip Stevens.

Sunday November 11th 1990

Weather - misty Attendance - 250
Conducted by Rev. Philip Stevens.
Former Paratrooper Frank Ashworth, 65, died after collapsing near the memorial after walking up the hillside.

Sunday November 10th 1991

Weather - fine Attendance - 250
Conducted by Rev. Philip Stevens.

Sunday November 8th 1992

Weather - mild Attendance - 400
Conducted by Rev. Carole Marsden, Deacon of Saddleworth Church.

Sunday November 14th 1993

Weather - cold and strong winds Attendance - 200
Conducted by Rev. Carole Marsden.

Sunday November 13th 1994

Weather - cloudy and cold Attendance - around 350
Conducted by Rev. Charles Lawrence.

Sunday November 12th 1995

Weather - strong winds Attendance - around 400
Conducted by Rev. Duncan Rhodes.
Service attended by Chris Davies MP.

Sunday November 10th 1996

Weather - cold but fine Attendance - nearly 500
Conducted by Rev. Duncan Rhodes.

Sunday November 9th 1997

Weather - cloudy and dry

Attendance - more than 350

Sunday November 8th 1998

Weather - rain, mist

Attendance - more than 350

Conducted by Rev. Jonathan Tinker.

Sunday November 14th 1999

Weather - dull, dry

Attendance - more than 500

Conducted by Rev. Duncan Rhodes.

Sunday November 12th 2000

Weather - rain, mist

Attendance - up to 400

Conducted by Rev. Jonathan Tinker.

Service attended by Phil Woolas MP.

Sunday November 11th 2001

Weather - rain

Attendance - nearly 500

Conducted by Rev. Duncan Rhodes.

Sunday November 10th 2002

Weather - heavy rain

Attendance - more than 300

Conducted by Rev. Duncan Rhodes.

Sunday November 9th 2003

Weather - fine and dry

Attendance - 500

Jamie Hill of Diggle B Band played the Last Post and Reveille.

Sunday November 14th 2004

Weather - dry but chilly

Attendance - good crowd

Sunday November 13th 2005

Weather - sunny

Attendance - more than 600

Conducted by Rev. Wilhelmina Nesbitt.

Sunday November 12th 2006

Weather - fine and dry

Attendance - almost 1000

Conducted by Rev. Godfrey Adams.

Sunday November 11th 2007

Weather - cloudy, dry

Attendance - around 600

Conducted by Rev. Godfrey Adams.

Sunday November 9th 2008

Weather - cloudy, dry

Attendance - 400-500

Conducted by Rev. Duncan Rhodes.

Uppermill man Barry Orrell, Staff Sergeant in the Grenadier Guards played the Retreat; he had served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sunday November 8th 2009

Weather - dry, cold

Attendance - around 700

Conducted by Rev. Howard Sutcliffe.

Service attended by Phil Woolas MP.

The Song of the Cenotaph.

I REPRESENT the sleeping dead,
Your dauntless sons that fought and died;
On this lone hill I lift my head,
And gaze o'er spaces clean and wide;
From moorland rock they fashioned me,
Where springtime brings the skylark's trill;
And here I watch thro' years to be,
A faithful warden of the hill.

I am the price the mothers paid,
The broken heart, the years of pain;
The vigil kept, the prayers they prayed,
Around the altars of the slain;
I am the stricken home of grief,
The empty chair, the journey done;
Where mothers wept and sought relief,
Their anguished plea, "my son, my son."

I am the glory of their youth,
The emblem of their last brave smile;
And here I stand a deathless truth,
Your all in all, the rank and file.
And oft it seems when night-time falls,
I hear the tramp of marching men;
And crouching near these grey old walls;
They watch with me across the glen.

I am the splendour of their fame,
A mem'ry left to treasure still,
A torch of light, that sheds its flame,
In radiance white around the hill;
And by the flag they loved and knew,
With heads upheld to death they went;
Leaving their Land and Faith to you,
Their everlasting monument.

H. B. WHITEHEAD.

*Saddleworth,
October 6th, 1923.*

Taken from a broadsheet *To the Men of Saddleworth* featuring A.J. Howcroft's sketch.
All receipts from the sale of this Poem will be handed over to the Memorial Fund.

[Saddleworth Museum M/GX/RBA/Whi7]

HOW HENRY MET HANNAH

John Skelton

For most of my life I thought of myself and my family as being deeply rooted in Saddleworth, the region where I was born and raised, and it was only when I started on a serious investigation of my forebears that I realized that this was far from the truth. One of my grandparents, Hannah, my maternal grandmother, was indeed a true Saddleworth native. She was born Hannah Buckley, the BUCKLEYS have lived in Saddleworth for over 400 years, and my own branch of the BUCKLEYS can be traced back to before 1700 with some confidence. My other three grandparents, however, were all outsiders and only arrived in Saddleworth after 1900 as young adults looking to change their lives. It is relatively easy to explore the 'how and when' of these moves, but it is much harder to gain an understanding of the 'why' of them. In the case of Henry Beal I think that I have found enough background information to explain the move and to understand how Henry came to meet and marry Hannah Buckley. The story involves some of the more interesting and unsavoury characters from the family tree and a number of fascinating aspects of the social history of the nineteenth century; this narrative is an attempt to share some of the background to the story.

A good place to begin is with the death, in 1834, of Edward Richings, pig dealer and butcher of Cirencester in Gloucestershire. I have a copy of the will that Edward had made some six years prior to his death which lays out in detail how his quite modest estate should be divided between his two sons, William and Edward, with a trust to care for his wife, Mary, during her lifetime. One of the more interesting features of the will is that the two named executors, David and Michael Bowly, are identified as 'my friends' and a close examination of the extremely fine print shows that the two were indeed members belonging to the sect commonly known as Quakers and as such they did not swear an oath, but made instead a solemn affirmation. It turns out that there was, and is, a strong Quaker tradition in Cirencester, and the Bowly family was instrumental in setting up the first Quaker meeting house there as long ago as 1673. According to the will the Bowly brothers were cheese factors, and may have had some trade associations with Edward, but the choice of these friends as executors makes me wonder if Edward himself flirted with the idea of joining the Society.

The son Edward who is named in the will spent most of his life in Cirencester: he married Sarah Pugh/Pew there in 1817 and raised a large family. However, in the 1841 census he and Sarah are shown as living in Stratton St Margaret, a small town in Wiltshire on the Thames and Severn canal a few miles west of Cirencester. Most of the rest of the family remained in Cirencester in the care of Ann, the eldest daughter, but the eldest son, John, was living with Mary, his widowed grandmother. Edward and Sarah have the dubious distinction of being counted twice in the 1841 census; they appear as residents of the hamlet of Stratton Green and are also shown as living at a Warehouse alongside the canal. The warehouse entry is a compendium of errors; they and their living companions are shown as servants rather than labourers, and Edward's age is wrong, as is the age of one of the other inhabitants and the given name of the other. Also Edward and Sarah are shown as being born in Wiltshire, though they are both undoubtedly born in Gloucestershire. As far as I can tell the Stratton Green entries are correct and I assume that in this case one of the actual inhabitants gave the information to the enumerator while an uninformed and perhaps

uninterested third party was responsible for the warehouse entry. There is no clue as to why Edward and Sarah should be in Stratton at this time, since the evidence of many years of births and an even longer span of years covered by subsequent census returns show that with this single exception they apparently spent their entire lives in Cirencester.

Their second son, Charles, was born on June 6, 1828 and baptised at St John's, Cirencester on August 17th. He seems to have got off to a rocky start in life: on February 15th, 1847 he paid back David Bowly for the administration of his grandmother's trust by stealing three hundredweight of his cheese and sixty pounds of his brother's lead in the company of two companions with a long history of theft. The venture was not a success because the three adventurers were caught less than a week later and tried at the Spring Assize Court. Charles must have had second thoughts about a life of crime since he turned Queen's Evidence against his friends, John Hicks and Thomas Collett, and they were each sentenced to transportation for seven years. As a result of his change of heart, Charles was not prosecuted, but he must have thought it expedient to leave Cirencester after such a self-serving betrayal of his friends. It is interesting that the only description we have of Charles comes from the Court Record: he seems presentable enough in appearance, but an unexplained scissors wound on his chest might have been a sign of early wildness.

Charles did a good job of disappearing since I have so far been unable to locate him in the census of 1851 but he reappeared two years later in 1853 when he married Susannah Elliott, on September 5th, in the parish church in Hadfield, on the outskirts of Sheffield. Charles, at that time, claimed his age as 22 which shaved a few years off the reality of 25; he presumably did this to reduce the discrepancy between his age and that of Susannah, who claimed to be 17 at the time of her marriage, but who may in fact have been only 16 based on the evidence of the 1841 and 1851 census returns. Susannah is a key player in this story, and she lived a long and interesting life. Her forebears, the Elliots and the Foxes, were longtime residents in the Sheffield area, and I have found much of interest in their story. For the present, however, it is enough to say that Susannah was introduced early to the realities of life, since at 14 she was working in the beerhouse owned and run by her great uncle, Henry Bridges, an establishment that catered to the needs of the army of labourers, the navvies, who were at that time engaged in the building of the reservoirs that were needed to supply water to the booming city of Sheffield.

It was the work opportunities that had brought Charles north. His brother John had led the way, first finding work as a labourer on one of the last lines to be built in the railway frenzy of the nineteenth century. This was the Malton and Driffield Railway, a rural line in East Yorkshire that in retrospect had no real chance of success. Work on the line was started in 1847 and the line, much modified from the original plan, was opened in 1853. John not only found work in East Yorkshire, he also found a wife; he was married to Jane Arnott of Settrington, one of the villages on the line, on November 30th 1850, and the 1851 census shows them living together in one of the railway huts provided for the navvies at Wharram Percy. Once the work was done, it was the custom for the navvies to move on to the next large scale civil engineering project which in this case was the reservoir building activity that was currently underway near Sheffield. As it turned out, John and his family did not stay long in the Sheffield area, but their first son, Thomas, was born in Fullwood, near Sheffield in 1854, and it seems very likely that John and Charles would have been together for at least part of the 1853/54 time period.

John lead a long and productive life, moving eventually with his family to the Durham coalfield, but we focus here on the activities of Charles and Susannah.

Their first child, George, was born in 1856 and it is curious that he lived with the Elliott family - Susannah's parents - until he married and moved away. There is no clue to the reason for the distance between the parents and the child, particularly since all of Susannah's subsequent children lived with their parents when they were young. The second child was Annie Elizabeth, born November 13th 1858, and this is the one who would eventually become my great grandmother Annie.

Elizabeth was followed by Joseph Charles in 1861 and Esther Ann in 1863, all with Charles as the father. However, in 1869 the next child, Susan, had John Black as her father and Susannah describes herself on the birth certificate as 'Susannah Black, formally Richings, previously Elliott', and Charles is reduced to a footnote.

At some point between 1863 and 1868 Charles must have decided that he wanted an out. Maybe he decided that he didn't like the northern climate, or perhaps Susannah was hard to live with, or he did not get along with his workmates - it is only guesswork at this point. It happened that there was a major event locally that provided perfect cover for a getaway. This was the collapse, on March 11th 1864, of the Dale Dyke Reservoir embankment above the village of Low Bradfield, near to where the Richings were living. The ensuing flood sent millions of gallons of water down the Loxley valley and resulted in the loss of 240 lives.



Artist's impression of the Dale Dyke Dam collapse of 1864.
[Michael Armitage collection]

Charles was not among the dead, but it is hard to imagine a better cover for someone wanting to fade away from the scene. This is pure speculation, but it is definite that Charles passed totally out of the lives of the Richings/Black family around this time.

If he was not dead, then where did he go? Back to the South of England, not quite to Cirencester, but eventually to the Swindon area in Wiltshire, only about 15 miles from where he grew up. He appears in the 1871 census lodging with a family named Jones in Cricklade, and calling himself a stone mason. He probably had a lot of experience working with stone during the reservoir years, but that is not quite the same as being a mason, and in later years he dropped this occupational label. In the interval between

1864 and 1871 he apparently spent time in and around the village of Cholsey in rural Berkshire. At first sight Cholsey appears to be an unlikely place for a navvy to find work, but it was in fact the site of a railway venture that was even later and even more misguided than the Malton and Driffild line mentioned earlier. The Cholsey and Wallingford branch line was originally planned to wander northward along the base of the Chiltern escarpment to connect Cholsey, a halt on the main Great Western line, to Princes Risborough. Work started at the Cholsey end in 1863 and though the line opened to Watlington in 1866 the anticipated traffic never developed and the planned expansion was formally abandoned in 1868.

This activity obviously provided a suitable environment and the appropriate time interval for the missing Charles to fit into, but it does not provide any proof that he was actually there. There is, however evidence of a more direct and personal nature to make that case. In 1861 a young Martha Jones was living in Cholsey with her parents and siblings. The census return gives her age as 12, but her birth certificate shows that her actual age was 10. Ten years later her father is dead and she, her brother, her widowed mother and her illegitimate son, Charles, are living with her married sister Catherine and her own young family. Charles Junior is shown as being two months old at the time of the census, but his birth certificate shows that he was born in late Spring of 1870. Assuming that Charles Senior was the father, which later census returns make almost certain, then it appears that Charles was enjoying young female companionship in the Cholsey area in the autumn of 1869.

The fact that the Charles' landlord in 1871 was named Jones may be a coincidence but my guess is that further research will reveal a link between the two Jones families. Charles did not stay long as a lodger and in the census of 1881 he and Martha are recorded as living in Swindon as man and wife, with Charles Junior having taken the name Richings, at least informally. There are three additional children by 1881, the first of whom was born in Swindon in 1873, and a further three are recorded in the 1891 census. Charles died in 1901 of - take your choice - 'heart disease, dropsy and exhaustion', having spent the remainder of his working life in Swindon as a railway labourer, probably in the engine works of the Great Western Company. After running out on his 'friends' and parents as a teenager and on his own first family as a young adult, he clearly settled down later in life with the right woman. He and Martha stayed together for more than thirty years and raised seven children. There is, of course, no record of any marriage between Charles and Martha - they stopped just short of bigamy, though they were married for life in everything but name. The abandoned Susannah, however, played a different game, as we will see when we pick up her story.

Sometime between 1863 and 1868 Susannah took in John Black to replace the missing Charles Richings. Like Charles, John was a navvy, and it was the custom among the navvy society that if a man left the woman that he was living with, the woman could keep the accommodation they had shared - usually one of the 'reservoir huts' - provided that she took in another worker. This seems to have happened in the case of John Black, and during his tenure he fathered four children by Susannah, Susan in 1869, Sarah Ann in 1870, who we will meet again later in the story, Herbert in 1872 and Henry in 1874. Apart from his demonstrated fertility, very little is known about John Black. He was born in Lincolnshire in 1845 and was working as a farm labourer in East Yorkshire in 1861. He became a navvy and began to share Susannah's bed sometime in the eighteen sixties, however by the time of the 1881 census he was gone. Gone from Susannah, and gone from all the records that I have been able to search.

The only other information that I have been able to find is from the marriage certificates of his children where he is referred to repeatedly as deceased in 1899, 1900 and 1901, though not in 1884. I have found no satisfactory confirmation of this in the death records, and I hope to spend more effort in this area as time permits. As to the 'why' of the departure I cannot say with certainty but it seems that a pattern might be emerging, I suspect that Susannah may have been hard to live with and subsequent events go some way to support this idea.

By the time of the 1881 census, Susannah was in a new location and had a new partner. The work on the Sheffield reservoirs was more-or-less finished by this time but a major new project was underway in Saddleworth, where several reservoirs were being built for Oldham Corporation. The 1881 census shows a George Wormwell, excavator, as the titular head of a family in Denshaw, Saddleworth that consists of Susannah and five of her children. All members of the family go by the name Wormwell, and when in 1882 a new member, Martha, was added to the family George Wormwell was named as the father and the adaptable Susannah described herself as 'Wormwell, formerly Elliott' - Richings and Black are forgotten. However George's tenure was not to last; in the 1891 census the head of the family is... Susannah Richings and George has been relegated to the status of 'Boarder', a status that he also held at the 1901 census. He died in 1904, but by that time he had moved out of Susannah's orbit and was living with his daughter Martha in a nearby town.

It is hard to believe that Susannah was blameless in the face of three departed and perhaps rejected partners. She may have been very unlucky in her choice of partners - it is worth remembering that they were indeed her choices in at least two of the cases - but she was obviously a strong and perhaps difficult woman, and hard to live with. Susannah/Elliott/Richings/Black/Wormwell Richings, it seems, could not live with any given man for too long, but she certainly demonstrated that she could live for a long time without them. She died in 1930 at the age of 92, at the home of her youngest daughter Martha in Crompton, ironically in the same house in which her final deposed partner, George Wormwell, had died twenty six years earlier.

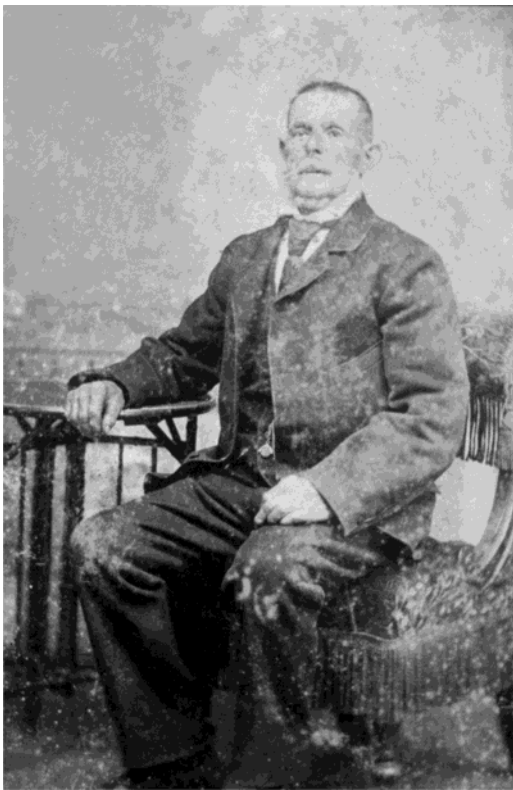
It is time to return to Annie Elizabeth Richings, my great grandmother. In 1878 she married Frederick Beal of Stannington, near Sheffield, a member of a family that combined smallholding farming with a cottage industry based on the manufacture of edge tools for which the area had become well known. The Beal family had been carrying out this type of activity for several generations, but this was a time when the spread of industrialisation was making this way of life increasingly untenable and Frederick's generation was essentially the last to make a living this way. Frederick and Annie Elizabeth raised a total of 10 children, many of whom lived with their parents for what seems like an unusually long time.

The fifth child, William Henry, my maternal grandfather, was born in 1884, and at the time of the 1901 census he and two of his brothers were working as builders' labourers. At this time the city of Sheffield was spreading rapidly over the surrounding countryside and bricklayers and their attendant labourers would have been in great demand. However William Henry must have had aspirations that bricklaying could not satisfy, and it did not occupy him for long, because some time in the early part of the decade he left Sheffield to try a new life.

I do not have any direct evidence for the sequence of events surrounding his move but I believe that the circumstantial evidence is quite strong. His grandmother, Susannah, together with her family, had evidently kept good contact with the Beals back in

Sheffield. We know this to be so because two of William Henry's older brothers were actually baptised at Christ Church, Denshaw, in spite of the fact that the family was living at Stonington, near Sheffield, at the time and this can only have been done at Susannah's request. In light of this ongoing contact it is not hard to imagine that William Henry was invited to join his grandmother and his array of aunts and uncles in Denshaw once it was clear that he was looking for new opportunities which were there in abundance in the textile industries of Saddleworth and the neighbouring towns of Lancashire. All of Susannah's children, and almost all of the people that they subsequently married were employed in the textile industry, either at the Calico Print Works at Denshaw Vale or at Byrom's woollen mill at Slackcote. Looking a little farther afield the cotton industry in nearby Oldham, Shaw and Crompton were enjoying boom times, with new mills springing up everywhere. I do not know exactly when William Henry made the move over the Pennines, or if he spent some time living with Susannah, but at the time of his marriage to Hannah Buckley in 1909 he was living in Crompton and working in the card room of a cotton mill.

This move certainly placed William Henry in the same general area as Hannah and would have made their meeting a possibility, but nothing more. However there was an additional circumstance that I have uncovered that made a meeting almost inevitable. In 1901 one of Susannah's sons, Harry Black as he was then known, married Jane Pattison in Christ Church, Denshaw. Jane was the daughter of George Pattison, a Lincolnshire man like John Black who had been a navvy on the Sheffield reservoirs at the same time as John and Susannah were living and working there, and the Pattison family had evidently followed the navvy migration to Denshaw when the Sheffield work wound down. The two families presumably knew each other in Sheffield, and remained close enough in Denshaw to eventually lead to the marriage of two members of the next generation. The really interesting feature of this



George Pattison, the Denshaw navvy
[David Gartside collection]

Richings/Black and Pattison tie-in is the fact that in 1891 and beyond the Pattisons lived at Calf Hey, a small cluster of houses just outside Denshaw, exactly next door to the home of the Buckley family headed by James and Isabella, which at that time included no less than seven unmarried daughters. Later, after their marriage, Harry and Jane themselves moved into the Calf Hey house so at the time that bachelor William Henry was moving into and around the Denshaw area, his near-contemporary uncle was living next door to several available young women, and Hannah was to be the one he courted and married. The rest, as they say, is history - a history that eventually includes me.

There are many side tracks to this story that I have not explored here, but I would like to return for a moment to Sarah Ann Black, born in 1870. She eventually married a Delph man, James Gartside, in 1900 and is interesting to me in that she was the only



Calf Hey c.1910
[Peter Fox collection]

one of Susannah's children that I knew personally. She was the ancient lady known to me only by the single word 'Auntserann'. In the 1940s she lived in the centre of Delph village when I was a schoolboy living on an outlying farm, and she was the fallback person charged by my parents with my safekeeping in emergencies. There were a few of them - lost money, a fierce thunderstorm, a broken wrist - but we were too far apart in age to have a meaningful relationship. Since her family name was so solidly local I assumed for years that she had lived in Saddleworth forever, and it was only quite recently that I found out the true facts of her origins.

I was born and raised within sight of the Saddleworth reservoirs in Denshaw and in Castleshaw but until I started this research I had no appreciation of the influence that their builders had on the life of the region. The great civil engineering works of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries - the canals, turnpikes, railways and reservoirs - permanently changed the face of the countryside, but the armies of itinerant workers who made them possible also changed the nature of the local populations. The navvies were young and strong, carrying out on a daily basis feats of physical labour that are almost unimaginable today. It has been said that a navvy was either very healthy or he was dead. There was a strong element of Darwinian selection in operation in the navvy ranks and many of the ones who survived proved to be very acceptable mates for the local female population. The navvies energetically stirred up the gene pool and ended centuries of near-isolation for some of the rural communities that they encountered, adding in the process many new names to the parish registers as they settled down and multiplied.

Obviously Susannah and her children were active participants in this movement and I have only touched here on the small part of it that affects me directly. There are separate stories to tell for the Wrigleys, the Blacks (two families), the Quinns, the Gartsides and the Barkers who are all descended from her, and I would be very happy to hear from anyone who has information, either anecdotal or documented, that relates to Susannah and her long and eventful life: she is certainly one of the more colourful characters from my family background, and unravelling the story of her life and the people that she impacted has been an occasionally frustrating but ultimately rewarding experience.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE AGM 2012

Mike Buckley

The last year has been a difficult year for the Society. Financially, we face challenges arising from the state of the economy, low interest rates, rising prices and depressed book sales. Also, decreasing committee numbers have placed an extra burden on the present members of the committee. Nevertheless, there have been many excellent achievements this year and real progress on several fronts.

The lecture programme this year, ably put together by Dorothy Latimer and Keith Taylor, has been as interesting and varied as ever. Back last September society member Dot Gledhill gave a wonderful talk on her family business at Pingle Mill in Delph, tracing the history of the mill from its origins in the late eighteenth century to the thriving textile business it houses today.

This was followed in October by a very interesting talk on domestic linen production in the West Riding by Liz Paget with evidence of local activity here in Saddleworth gleaned from seventeenth century wills. Celebrating the four hundredth anniversary of the Authorised Bible in November, Alan Petford outlined the background to the new version in 1611 and the aims of the new translation. As always it was a first class thought provoking lecture. Lloyd George's Peoples Budget was the title of the December meeting and Alan Fowler's subject was an interesting study of the early twentieth century British economy.

In the dark days of January our very own Jim Carr, ably assisted by his wife Audrey, gave a colourful and well illustrated talk on the archaeology of sunny North Africa. It was quite a tonic and raised the spirits despite the gloomy and wet weather in Saddleworth. The next month, following the launch of their new book on Rothwells of Oldham, Julia Dawson and John Warburton presented us with some splendid Edwardian and early twentieth century pictures of early motor cars, cycles and sewing machines manufactured by this local firm. My talk in March was in the Little Theatre, Delph, the subject being the early development of Delph and reflections on its industry, shops and people. The lecture was the first of what we hope will be a series in which we will hold meetings in different areas of Saddleworth aimed at local people who may not be existing members of the society. Tickets were sold and the lecture was well attended with over a hundred people present. Quite a few new members joined the Society on the day. The subject of the Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture, also in March, was recent archaeological discoveries at Buckton Castle. Brian Grimsditch presented evidence from the recent digs which went some way to confirming that the fortress dated from King Stephen's time early in the twelfth century. The subject of the talk in April by Sean Baggaley was Francis Buckley of Tunstead. Sean's lecture showed just what a remarkable man Francis Buckley was. His intellect led him to become an authority in a variety of specialist areas of archaeology and antiques and his generosity enriched the collections of many museums both locally and nationally. The final two lectures of the season 'The Oldham Lyceum' by Mike Russell and 'The Beefeaters of the Tower of London' by Paul Ward were both interesting, well received and attended.

My thanks go to all the speakers and to Dorothy and Keith for putting together such a varied, and interesting programme. Keith has now decided to step down from the committee, and we will miss his contributions and the skill with which he has put

together the annual lecture programme. We wish him well and extend our grateful thanks for all his efforts over the years.

The Summer trip in June was an outing to North Wales led by Alan Petford and Neil Barrow. Among the venues visited were Holywell and Gladstone's library at Hawarden. Alan and Neil with the assistance of Charles Baumann provided us with a most interesting and enjoyable day.

Perhaps the highlight of the year was the Family History Weekend and the Day School on the application of DNA science to family history studies. Members from all parts of the country, attended the Day School and the events held over the weekend. As in previous years, the Society hosted the Day School on behalf of the South Pennine History Group, a consortium of four South Pennine Local History Societies. The day school was outstanding with nationally famous speakers, experts in their field, outlining the contribution that new DNA discoveries can bring to family history and how they have shed light on the ethnicity of the population in different parts of the United Kingdom. We are very grateful to Dr Turi King, Chris Pomery and Dr George Redmond for agreeing to speak.

On the publications front, hard work continues on the project to publish the Saddleworth Probate Records of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth centuries. The Yorkshire Archaeological Society have agreed to publish what will almost certainly be three hefty volumes as part of their Record Series; this is expected to be in late 2013. The publication of this work has been made possible by a generous contribution from the South Pennine LEADER, a national fund, administered by Pennine Prospects, a grouping of local authorities and other bodies whose aim is to promote the culture and identity of the South Pennines. The money has been made available via the South Pennine History Group and LEADER funding has also been secured in this way for a DNA project aimed at investigating the origins of various Saddleworth families. We hope to start the project very soon.

LEADER money will also enable us to purchase a digital camera and fund work on indexing the Bulletin and conserve items in the archives.

Regrettably, the Bulletin has been behind schedule again this year, but with our Autumn edition out soon I hope members will forgive the delays. In the absence of an editor the work of producing and editing the Bulletin falls on members of the committee and although there is no shortage of material, producing a first class product involves a lot of time and effort. We have achieved a high standard of both content and presentation and we want to maintain it this way. Much of this work has fallen on Neil Barrow, our Treasurer and David Harrison, our Minutes Secretary and I would like to thank them both for their efforts. I would also like to thank Peter Fox for a steady stream of interesting articles.

Partly as a result of the higher production and print standard the cost of producing the Bulletin has increased steadily, combined with the cost of postage, it now costs £2.50 to produce and post each issue. To avoid high postage costs, in the last year we have reverted to distributing the Bulletin locally by hand and the volunteers who give of their time to do this have saved the Society hundreds of pounds by their efforts. Again, I would like to thank them for carrying out this valuable cost saving service.

Neil has produced the newsletter. This is an added burden on top of his work in editing the Bulletin. We would be immensely grateful to anyone who would like to

volunteer to take on this important job.

The increased production and distribution costs of the Bulletin, combined with low interest rates and sluggish publication sales, have put pressure on the Society's financial situation. This has been exacerbated by the slowness in many of members in paying their subscriptions. Alison Wild our membership secretary has spend many hours accounting payments and sending out reminders. Nevertheless over 25% of members have still not paid their subscriptions for this year. I would appeal to members to send in subscriptions promptly to Alison at the beginning of each calendar year without waiting for a reminder. The Society needs the money if we are to avoid making a big rise in membership fees.

On a more positive note I would like to commend and thank Ivan Foster for his excellent work as Projects Officer. Ivan is pulling together all the transcription and indexing work that has been done on Saddleworth Church Registers. Similarly he is assembling photographs of all Saddleworth gravestone memorials and transcriptions with a view to their publication where this has not already taken place and the production of a comprehensive index.

Another success this year, in which the Society has taken a lead role, has been the formation of a Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts. With Jim Carr I have represented the Society on the Castleshaw Working Party which has recently produced new interpretation panels and a conservation management plan for the site. The next step is to plan for a future major dig to explore the site further. Norman Redhead, the County Archaeologist has already gone some way to planning this. Funding is however required and a key role of the new friends group will be to apply for a grant to enable this work to proceed. The Society wishes the new group every success and we look forward to working closely with them.

Finally as always, my thanks to all those who make the running of this Society possible: to the Committee, to the helpers at the meetings, to the Bulletin distributors.

We would like to do more but we do need more helpers. We have vacant posts on the committee so if you could spare some time to help, no matter how little, or in whatever way, it will be a great benefit to the Society.

Mike Buckley

OBITUARY

Leonard Nixon Kidd 1920 - 2013



Leonard Nixon Kidd

These are Leonard's own words, with details of his life, given to me, Alison Wild, in 2003 with a few updates from his son Malcolm.

Leonard Nixon Kidd, born 26th January, 1920 at Crewe, Cheshire, and baptised at Trinity Wesleyan Chapel, Crewe. Our house, which was situated at Chester Bridge, shared a boundary wall with the railway marshalling-yards near to the engine building sheds. The property adjoined a jeweller's shop of which my father was manager. In 1931 the proprietor retired to the South of England and we moved to Manchester. Another move followed in 1934, this time to Oldham, Lancashire, where my father was departmental manager and buyer for the Oldham Industrial Co-operative Society's Jewellery Department. I remained in Oldham until my marriage in 1958 to Dorothy Mary Wood, at Greenfield Methodist Chapel. We made our home in Greenfield, West Yorkshire, the village where Dorothy was born.

Originally intending to follow a commercial career I had the opportunity to 'change horses in midstream' and make my former hobby my livelihood. I had always been fascinated by plants and animals, had studied biology, and was connected with various natural history societies. In 1948 I applied for and was successful in obtaining the post of Assistant-in-charge of Werneth Park Study Centre & Natural History Museum, Oldham. Here I was responsible for organising museum displays, giving lectures to various organisations and schools. My work also entailed the arrangement each winter, of a series of Public Lectures by well-known naturalists and others, such as round-the-world yachtsman Sir Alec Rose, forensic scientist Dr. J.B. Firth, and well-known broadcasters such as animal sounds imitator Percy Edwards

and Brian Johnston the cricket commentator and panel game host. Whilst having an interest in natural history generally, I began to devote more of my research time to a study of insects, especially the true flies or diptera. In 1949 I was elected a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London and in 1951 became a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London. During the course of my research I had the opportunity to describe several species new to science, and following my retirement in 1981, someone named a new species after me.

During my thirty-three years with the museum in 1977 I produced, for the Libraries and Museums Department, a small book *Oldham's Natural History*, the illustrations for which were prepared by David McRae who, in 2002, lost his life very tragically as a result of rabies following a bite he sustained whilst handling a bat. In 1971 I was joint editor of *Holden Clough: The Natural History of a Small Lancashire Valley*, for which I also wrote several chapters. The year 1981 saw the appearance of a Royal Entomological Society Handbook in their series for the identification of British Insects. This was prepared in collaboration with two other entomologists one of whom worked in the entomology department of the British Museum (Natural History).

Always interested in conservation I helped found the Medlock and Tame Valley Conservation Association in 1971, and served as Chairman and President over the years.

I have been greatly thrilled to meet so many friends and previously unknown relatives since becoming involved with family history in 1980. With several of them I share a great love of music although sadly I do not play an instrument myself.

Apart from keeping aquaria, an aviary, and several hives of bees including an observation hive during my museum days, I am passionately fond of all animals.

His family bought him his first computer for his 80th birthday after which he spent many hours searching the internet in his family history quest and for many other facts and information.

Leonard is survived by his two sons Malcolm and Jonathan, daughter-in-law Martine and four grandchildren, also his two cats Gracie and Luna. His wife Dorothy died in September 2005.

Leonard Kidd, Malcolm Kidd and Alison Wild



The following is a list of Leonard Nixon Kidd's papers, notes and other publications, some done in collaboration with the individuals indicated.

- 1952 The Albert E. Wright Collection of Syrphidae (Dipt.) *Ent. Mon. Mag.* 88: 153.
- 1953 Some Records of Northern Tipulidae with special reference to those occurring in the Oldham District *Ann. Reports of the Manch. Ento. Soc.* 1941-1051, pp. 26-32.
- 1953 Notes on some Winter Diptera from Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire *J. Soc. Brit. Ent.* 4: 136-137.
- 1953 Some West Cheshire Diptera, with an appendix on a new species of *Clusiaria* (Diptera, Clusiidae) by J. E. Collin *J. Soc. Brit. Ent.* 4: 137-139.
- 1954 *Aeshna grandis* (L.) Preying upon *Apis mellifera* L. *Entomologist* 87: 148.

- 1954 *Scoliocentra villosa* (Meigen) (Dipt., Helomyzidae) and *Trichocera maculipennis* Meigen (Dipt., Trichoceridae) taken in Derbyshire caves *J. Soc. Brit. Ent.* 5: 87-88.
- 1954 *Capsus wagneri* Remane (Hem., Miridae) at Askham Bog, Yorkshire *Ent. Mon. Mag.* 90: 172.
- 1954 *Geomyza apicalis* (Meigen) (Dipt., Opomyzidae) in Derbyshire *Ent. Mon. Mag.* 90: 240.
- 1954 Notes on some Derbyshire Craneflies *J. Soc. Brit. Ent.* 5: 86-87.
- 1955 A Reinstatement of *Rhagio strigosa* (Meigen) (Dipt., Rhagionidae) as a British species *Ent. Mon. Mag.* 91: 137.
- 1955 A new species of *Mycomyia* (Dipt., Mycetophilidae) taken in Cumberland *Ent. Mon. Mag.* 91: 258.
- 1956 Notes on some Alien Plants of the Oldham area *The Naturalist* 1956, p. 132.
- 1956 *Craspedacusta sowerbyi* Lankester and its Hydroid *Microhydra ryderi* Potts in Lancashire *The Naturalist* 1956, pp. 139-140.
- 1957 Some Craneflies (Dipt., Tipulidae) of a Lancashire clough, including several new County records *The Naturalist* 1957, pp. 101-102.
- 1959 The Diptera of Lancashire and Cheshire, Part 1 (in collaboration with A. Brindle) *Nematocera* by L. N. Kidd, pp. 15-107 *Lancs. and Chesh. Fauna Committee*.
- 1961 A Short History of the Society and Some of its Early Members (published anonymously) *Athene* 1: 3-6.
- 1961 Some Notes on the Occurrence of the Crayfish (in collaboration with S. Charlson) *Athene* 1: 10-14.
- 1962 Notes on British Fungus-Gnats (Dipt., Mycetophilidae) *Entomologist* 95: 119-125.
- 1963 A Note on the Distribution of *Limnephilus xanthodes* McLach. (Trichoptera) *Entomologist* 96: 246-247.
- 1964 The Diptera of Lancashire and Cheshire, Part 1 (Supplement) *Lancs. and Chesh. Fauna Comm.* Pubn. No. 46, pp. 1-6.
- 1966 The Harvest-Spider *Nelima silvatica* (Simon) (Arachnida, Opiliones) taken in Yorkshire *The Naturalist* 1966, p. 4.
- 1966 *Leptomorphus walkeri* Curtis (Dipt., Mycetophilidae) in Lancashire and Oxfordshire *Ent. Record* 78: 81.
- 1967 A Note on *Limnia paludicola* Elberg (Dipt., Sciomyzidae) with a comment by Mr. J. E. Collin *Ent. Record* 79: 22.
- 1967 *Ostearius melanopygius* (O.P.-C.) as a household Pest *Bull. No. 36 Brit Spider Study Group* p. 4.
- 1968 Holden Clough Nature Reserve *Strix* No. 1 *Quarterly Bull. Of the Oldham Public Libraries, Art Gallery and Museum*.
- 1969 Some Corrections to the British List and other Notes on British Fungus Gnats (Diptera, Mycetophilidae) (in collaboration with D. M. Ackland) *Entomologist* 102: 22-24.
- 1969 A Stroll in Holden Clough *Strix* No. 2, *Quarterly Bull. Of the Oldham Public Libraries, Art Gallery and Museum*.
- 1969 A further Note on *Limnia paludicola* Elberg (Dipt., Sciomyzidae) *Ent. Record* 81: 176-177.

- 1969 A new species of *Allodiopsis* Tuom. (Dipt., Mycetophilidae) taken in Berkshire *Entomologist* 102: 201-202.
- 1970 *Mycetophila bohémica* Lastovka and *Dynatosoma nigromaculatum* Lundstroem New to Britain, and Notes on other little known Fungus Gnats (Dipt., Mycetophilidae) (in collaboration with D. M. Ackland) *Entomologist* 103: 10-17.
- 1970 Some New Synonymy in the Genera *Leia* Meigen and *Boletina* Staeger (Dipt., Mycetophilidae) *Entomologist* 103: 265-267.
- 1971 'Just Passing Through' in *Greenfield Notes, The Archer* 11: 396
(a note on the waxwing, illustrated by David C. McRae).
- 1971 The Diptera of Lancashire and Cheshire, Part 1 (2nd Supplement) *Lancs. and Chesh. Fauna Soc. Pubn. No. 59*, pp. 18-23.
- 1971 Holden Clough: The Natural History of a Small Lancashire Valley. 199 pp.
(Edited by L. N. Kidd and M. G. Fitton) Contains the following parts by L. N. Kidd: Butterflies and Moths (Lepidoptera) pp. 111-125; True Flies (Diptera) pp. 126-153; Fleas (Siphonaptera) p. 154; Bees, wasps, sawflies, and their allies (Hymenoptera) pp. 164-170; Woodlice (Crustacea: Isopoda) 181-182. The following parts in collaboration with M. G. Fitton: Mayflies (Ephemeroptera) p. 97; Stoneflies (Plecoptera) p. 100; Land and Water Bugs (Hemiptera-Heteroptera) pp. 103-105.
- 1971 Notes on British Bolitophilinae including Three Species New to Britain (Dipt., Mycetophilidae) (in collaboration with A. M. Hutson) *Entomologist* 104: 219-226).
- 1973 On the occurrence of *Sphaerophoria philanthus* Meigen (Diptera, Syrphidae) in Britain *Entomologist* 106: 223-224.
- 1974 Medlock Valley Nature Trail (Edited anonymously from notes supplied by D. Hallett, H. Hodson, and L. N. Kidd) *Medlock & Tame Valley Conservation Committee* 20 pp.
- 1974 The Plants and Animals of the Medlock Valley (Edited anonymously. Notes on birds contributed by H. Hodson) *Medlock & Tame Valley Conservation Committee* 12 pp.
- 1974 Foreword to Birds of Saddleworth (Compiled by Bert Hodson, Frances Jackson and Barry Jones) *Medlock and Tame Valley Conservation Committee and the Saddleworth Civic Trust*.
- 1974 Notes on British *Bolitophila*, *Diadocidia* and *Macrocera* (Diptera, Mycetophilidae) (in collaboration with A. M. Hutson) *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 110: 27-39.
- 1975 *Ponera punctatissima* Roger (Hym., Formicidae) and *Neobisnius proceratus* (Grav.) (Col., Staphylinidae) in Lancashire *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 110 (1974): 96.
- 1975 Review of the British and notes on other species of the *Mycetophila ruficollis*-group, with the description of a new species (Dipt., Mycetophilidae) (in collaboration with P. Laštovka) *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 110 (1974): 203-214.
- 1975 Two Mycetophilidae (Dipt.) new to Britain (in collaboration with A. M. Hutson) *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 110 (1974): 236.
- 1977 Oldham's Natural History (Illustrated and designed by David McRae) *Oldham Libraries, Art Gallery and Museums*, 41 pp.
- 1977 Tokens (A broadsheet dealing with Tradesmen's Tokens. Photos by L.N.K. and Design by D. C. McRae. *Oldham Libraries, Art Gallery and Museums*.
- 1980 Mycetophilidae (Bolitophilinae, Ditomyiinae, Diadocidiinae, Keroplatinae, Sciophilinae and Manotinae) Diptera, Nematocera (By A. M. Hutson, D. M. Ackland & L. N. Kidd) *Handbk. Ident. Br. Insects, Vol. IX, Pt. 3 Royal Entomological Soc. of London*, 111 pp.

- 1980 Miles Schofield of Oldham *Saddleworth Hist. Soc. Bull.* 10: 66-67.
- 1981 Crocuses and Colchicums *Athene* 2: 8-12.
- 1982 Crocuses and Colchicums (reprinted in a slightly abbreviated form with kind permission of Editor of *Athene*, *The North Western Naturalist* 1982: 15-17.
- 1984 The Rev. William Haslam (1768-1839) *The Manchester Genealogist* 20: 79-80.
- 1985 The Wood family of Saddleworth Fold, Heathfields and Spring Gardens *Saddleworth Hist. Soc. Bull.* 15: 27-30.
- 1985 The Masters Family *Saddleworth Hist. Soc. Bull.* 15: 66-70.
- 1986 Red Lion Inn, Goldenhill (S. Nixon) *Bull. of The Pub Check Study Group* No. 8, pp. 2-3.
- 1988 More Proverbs and Some Notes on the Jenkins and Wassell Families *The Midland Ancestor* 8: 250-253.
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LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Delph Independent Chapel

I am a recently retired Fire Officer and published a book earlier this year about the history of Oldham Fire Brigade.

During my research I came across a reference about a bell that was used at the old Fire Engine house by Lees Fire Brigade.

It was sold off c1890 to the Delph Independent Chapel but was still there I believe some years later.

I have attached the information I have on the bell which is a handwritten note from Superintendent James Penketh who was Chief of the Fire Brigade from 1916-1931.

There isn't a date on the note but I would suspect in the mid 1920s.

I would be grateful if any of your members know of the bell or its likely history or whereabouts?

Thanks

Mark Beswick

markbeswick@hotmail.co.uk

~~On Sept - 20 - 1887 moved & see that the~~
~~Brigade be voluntarily wound up~~
~~now 11th Engine House was sold for £90~~
~~the men &~~

June 26 - 1890 Brigade was wound up
 May - 1889 Engine House sold for £90 (Keta Ormsod)
 Same month Mr George Thoms bought one of
 the engines for £35 the other was disposed
 of to James Holt for £12

medlock & ganges

Engine House called bell house and
 it still stands just off High Street in Heywood
 Lane (8' John Street and in the east wall
 is a large stone bearing the inscription
 Subscription Fire Engine House 1821
 though now it is covered by bill posters

The Old Fire Bell which at the sale
 of effects was bought for £2-10-0
 by Mr Samuel Broadbent and was
 eventually found a place at the Delph
 Independent Chapel and is stated
 to be still in use

~~These two~~
 The fire at Old Grot Mill which was
 situated on the ground near the present
 Lees Pavilion picture theatre was of the
 finest character the whole structure being
 burnt down in 25 minutes the brigade
 was called out & they placed the ^{Engine} medlock
~~near to the mill which got badly burnt~~
~~it cost £5 to repair it~~

Dear Editor,

My name is Simon Young and I'm presently writing a piece on Saddleworth folklore. In the course of these studies several problems have come up and I wonder if I might ask some questions of your readers?

First, my studies have centred on Thomas Shaw's fairy poem *Shantooe Jest* in his *Recent Poems* (1824). Ammon Wrigley wrote in *The Wind Among the Heather* that Shaw had left a second manuscript and continues on page 69 'At one time it was in the possession of one of my Oldham friends. At his death it passed into the hands of a Saddleworthian where it now remains.' Wrigley had clearly read it, as he writes 'The poem shows no advance on his earlier work.' Does anyone know whether this manuscript still survives?

Second, in Shaw's *Shantooe Jest* Shaw describes the local story teller Robert Dillrume. I have not been able to track this surname down and have come to the conclusion that it is a pseudonym. Am I wrong?

Third, I have also looked extensively at fairy place-names in the Saddleworth area and have so far come up with Alphin (possibly Elf Stone), Boggart Stones (on the moors above Alderman), Brownhill (claimed almost certainly wrongly in the nineteenth century to be named for brownies), Dobcross (claimed almost certainly wrongly in the nineteenth century to be named for a dobbie), Fairy Holes (possibly an eighteenth century name); and Hob Hole (a medieval or early modern name probably for a local goblin). Can anyone add to these? No placename is too small...

Fourth, I have looked for supernatural Saddleworth creatures (including boggarts, giants, spirit dogs...) and have come up with the following list: Alder, Alphin (aka Alphan), Annabell, Baker, Black Dog of Grange, Blater of Old Tame, Brownhill Fairies, Brun Chapel Devil, Castleshaw Drummer, Clough Spout Clogger, Charnel Rock Fairies, Cheetham i'th' Chew, Chew Fairies, Dobcross Dobby, Dowry Castle Fairies, Dovestone Dean Fairies, Grange Bump, Greenfield Mill Boggart, Griffin Fact'ry Marr, Husteads Fairies, Knott Hill Hob, Matt and Pack, Moss the Fairy Queen, Narr Hob, New Tame Fiend, Old Red Cap of Upper Mill, Raura Peena and the Fairies of Pots and Pans, Rimmon, Tang Fairies, Thrasher of Slack Cote, Todmore the Giant, Waters Cote Whistler, Waterside boggarts and Will of Delph. If anyone has any knowledge of these or, better still, knows of the names of other Saddleworth bogies, I'd be extremely grateful!

Yours

Simon Young

sildags@yahoo.com

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

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

