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Cover Illustration: Portion of James Farrer's Manorial Map of 1770
[Mapping Saddleworth Vol. II, p. 47].

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THE SCHOFIELDS OF HOLLINGREAVE - 1

Phil Wild

Introduction and Scope

This study examines the Schofield family's occupation of Lower Hollingreave, a small hamlet located on the ridge dividing Diggle Brook from Pickhill Brook (Figure.1). It will bring to life documentary evidence of the family's continued residence in the hamlet over three centuries of enormous social and economic change, whilst also considering the extent to which the family's history and activities exemplify broader trends in the development and prosperity of Saddleworth over this period.



Figure 1., View from Harrop Edge over Diggle Brook valley to Four Heys and Holly Grove in 2013
[Phil Wild]

The origins of both the family and the hamlet can be traced back to the thirteenth century, but the first documentary evidence of Schofield occupation at Hollingreave is from the late sixteenth century.

This first part traces the Schofield family's tenure of two leasehold tenements at Hollingreave, up until the eve of James Farrer's sale of the manor in 1791. Reliance on the Saddleworth church registers to build up a picture of the family's activities at Hollingreave before the eighteenth century is not possible due the many early gaps and deficiencies they contain. A wide range of other sources including deeds, probate documents, and manorial records have therefore been employed in this study. Detailed maps from *Mapping Saddleworth* will be referenced in this early period, as the history and fortune of families were inextricably linked with the land they occupied.¹

¹ M. Buckley, D. Harrison & A. Petford, *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. I, Saddleworth Historical Society, Uppermill, 2007, and M. Buckley, D. Harrison, V. Khadem, A. Petford and J. Widdall, *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. II, Saddleworth Historical Society, Uppermill, 2010.

The second part will follow the family's association with the hamlet in the century after the manorial structure disintegrated and will examine unpublished source material which illuminates their economic activities as the district industrialised during the nineteenth century.

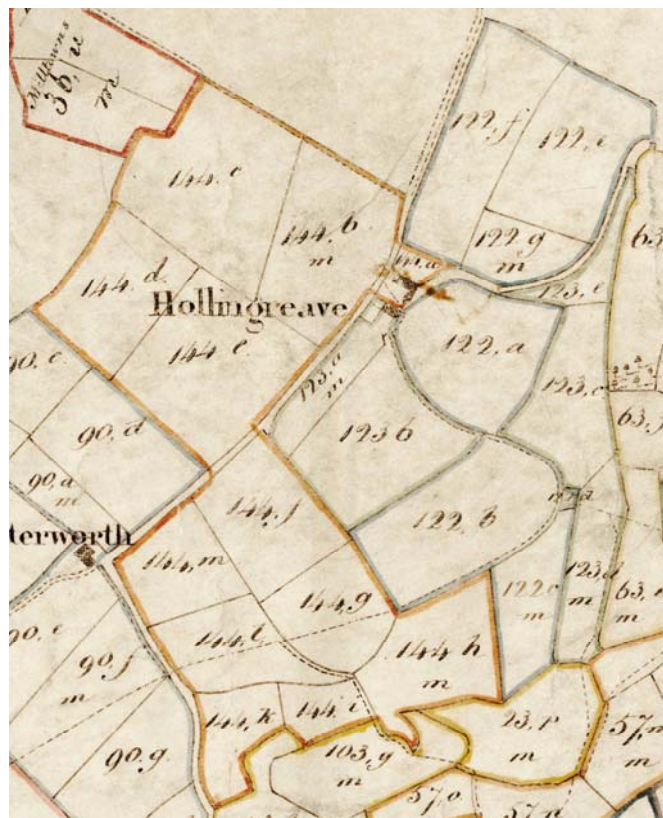


Figure 2. Hollingreave in 1770 as delineated on James Farrer's Map of his manorial estates in Saddleworth. The three farms are numbered 122, 123 and 144. [Mapping Saddleworth II, p.47]

Origins of the Schofield Family

The Schofield name derives from the hamlet of Schofield, within the township of Butterworth in the parish of Rochdale.² The family were clearly settled in Butterworth as early as 1301, when William son of Geoffrey de Turnagh granted John de la Scholefield part of his land in Butterworth called the Leys.³ In Saddleworth, from at least the sixteenth century, the Schofields were concentrated at Grange. As with other tenements in the ancient division of Friarmere, Grange was held by Roche Abbey. Following Henry VIII's dissolution of the abbeys in 1538, Friarmere was sold to Arthur Assheton of Rochdale in 1543. The particulars of grant show that at this date several Schofield families were settled at Grange: Ottiwell Schofield held a

² W. Farrer & J. Brownbill (eds.) *A History of the County of Lancaster, Vol. 5*, Victoria County History, 1911, pp. 213-222. At this time there were no fixed spellings and therefore a myriad of phonetic variants of the surname are recorded in early Rochdale and Saddleworth records, including - Scholefield, Scofeild, Scholfeld, and Schofelde.

³ *ibid.*

half of Grange, whilst John, Alexander and Lawrence Schofield jointly held the other half. In addition, John, Alexander and Lawrence held three-quarters of the land at Castleshaw (a pasture and apparently not yet then settled), and one Edmund Schofield held the remaining quarter.⁴ All of these individuals were no doubt closely related but exactly how remains unclear.

Arthur Assheton's lordship coincided with a period of settlement growth - by the time William Assheton (Arthur's son) left his will in 1584 there were twelve Schofield tenants on his Friarmere holding, presumably all of them occupying Grange and the newly created farms carved out of the pasture of Castleshaw. The most important of his Schofield tenants at this date was Ellis Schofield, who served as bailiff for Arthur Assheton from at least the 1580s, and who in 1582 appeared as a defendant in a dispute with the lessee of the manor of Almondbury concerning the right of tenants to take sheep that had strayed into Friarmere.⁵

At an early date population expansion amongst the Schofields resulted in them moving beyond the boundaries of Friarmere, over the brow of Harrop Edge to Hollingreave. The evidence for the connection between the two families is considered later.

The Origins of Hollingreave

Like other local areas cleared and settled in medieval times, Hollingreave is situated some 800 feet above sea level, where the ground is drier and sheltered, well above marshy areas in the valley below. The name implies that it was a settlement cleared from an area of holly trees.⁶ These trees were significant in the Pennines as their leaves provide fodder for sheep over the winter months.⁷

Water was supplied from a spring above Fairbanks which was channelled to Hollingreave through an ancient watercourse which can be discerned on the Six-Inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1849.⁸ This was vital for both domestic and agricultural use.

Hollingreave was evidently settled by c.1247, when Alexander de Hollingreave witnessed a quitclaim by Robert son of Adam de Crompton to the Abbot of Roche of land in Friarmere.⁹ Being in Lordsmere, Hollingreave would have originally been held directly from the lords of the manor. However, by the fourteenth century, they had granted out the bulk of Hollingreave as freehold estates to absentee landlords. The northernmost tenement at Upper Hollingreave was in the hands of the Staveleys of Staveley;¹⁰ also at Upper Hollingreave was a small portion of manorial land (estate number 95 on the manor map).¹¹ Middle Hollingreave was held by the Marsland

⁴ J.M. Hunt, Henry VIII Grant of Friarmere to Arthur Assheton, *Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin (SHSB)* Vol.16, No. 2, 1986, pp. 22-5.

⁵ DL 1/143/S/9, The National Archives (TNA).

⁶ Hollingreave was later referred to as 'Hollingrove', taking its current name 'Holly Grove' in the nineteenth century; etymology – hollin (OE: holegn): and greave (OE: graf): 'a holly copse'; A.H. Smith, *Place Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Part Two*, London, 1961, p. 311.

⁷ A.J. Petford, 'For Their Sheepe in the Winter Season', *SHSB*, Vol. 12, No. 3, 1982, pp. 54-59.

⁸ Buckley et al., *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. 1, pp. 58-9.

⁹ M. Buckley, 'Early Saddleworth Records - 3', *SHSB*, Vol. 39, No. 4, 2009, p. 97.

¹⁰ Hollingreave is included in a survey of Robert de Staveley's (d.1408) estates. Only a copy of this document survives; DDX 350, Lancashire Archives (LA).

¹¹ Buckley et al., *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. II, p. 40.

Family.¹² and Lower Hollingreave, where the Schofields settled, together with the Heys (or Four Heys) a pasture which abutted its northerly boundary, were held by the Traffords of the Garrett.¹³

The Traffords had held an extensive estate in both Lordsmere and Quickmere from the fourteenth century; however following the death of Ralph Trafford in 1556, this was divided between his five sisters as co-heiresses.¹⁴ Later deeds show that Lower Hollingreave, Butterhouses, and Brownhill were inherited by Ralph's sister, Thomasine, who married Randle Clayton.¹⁵ Her son, John Clayton of Bristol, inherited these tenements and following his death, they passed to his widow, Elizabeth. She married Francis Conrado, 'a stranger born' (an immigrant), and in 1593, the couple sold their Saddleworth possessions to William Stubbs of Congleton. In 1606, Stubbs disposed of the lands to William Ramsden, lord of the manor of Saddleworth and this portion of medieval freehold thereby became reintegrated into the manor.¹⁶ As a result, it is depicted on the manorial map of 1770, commissioned by Ramsden's successor, James Farrer (Figure 2).¹⁷ Lower Hollingreave is shown on the map to be comprised of three holdings, number 144, in the possession of the Whewall family, and numbers 122 and 123, held by the Schofields. It is the history of these last two estates which will be the principal focus of this article.

Francis Schofield, Yeoman - The First Schofield inhabitant of Hollingreave

From deeds and litigation, Mike Buckley has identified the tenants of the heirs of Ralph Trafford during the sixteenth century. In a rental of c.1550 he has identified estates 122 and 123 as being in the occupation of James Shaw, who paid 18s per annum (the same rent paid for the two holdings during the 18th century.)¹⁸ Shaw is last referred to as a tenant in 1579.¹⁹ By an inquisition of 1595, describing which tenements Francis Conrado held in Saddleworth (and therefore certainly relating to 1593 or earlier when he sold his estate to William Stubbs), James Shaw is replaced by Francis Schofield.²⁰ A more accurate date for Schofield's tenure at Hollingreave can be inferred from Renold Lawton's deposition in *Booth v. Ramsden*, a Chancery case of 1623 concerning the enclosure of Quick Moor.²¹ Lawton recalled that Francis Schofield 'gathered profitts of turbarie for Mr Cleyton' (the right to cut peat for fuel, for which John Clayton was entitled to profits on extractions in excess of tenants' personal usage). If Schofield served as an officer for Clayton, it is highly likely he

¹² For an account of this estate see: M. Buckley, Hollingreave: Three Early Deeds Shed Light on an Old Settlement, *SHSB*, Vol. 30, No. 3, 2000, pp. 17-23.

¹³ For a list of the various estates purchased by the Traffords in Saddleworth see WARDS/2/3/13a/10, TNA. Hollingreave is listed among these.

¹⁴ Cornwell-Legh MSS. No 970, John Ryland University Library, Manchester.

¹⁵ Mike Buckley, unpublished work. I am grateful to him for this account of the descent of the Trafford Hollingreave property.

¹⁶ W. Brigg, *Yorkshire Fines of the Stuart Period*, Vol. 1, *Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series*, Vol. 53, 1915, p. 57.

¹⁷ Buckley et al., *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. II, p. 47 & p. 87.

¹⁸ REQ 2/158/206, TNA.

¹⁹ Cornwall-Legh MSS. No 1050, John Ryland University Library, Manchester.

²⁰ E 310/31/47, TNA.

²¹ C 22/740/3, TNA. I am grateful to Victor Khadem for this and the following reference.

was also his tenant. As such, he must have arrived at Hollingreave prior to John Clayton's death, the date of which is unknown, but which occurred prior to November 1587 when his widow, Elizabeth, filed a bill of complaint in Chancery.²²

By his will, dated 19th February 1610, Francis Schofield bequeathed half of his tenement to his eldest son, John, and the other half to his widow, Margaret.²³ As was customary, the widow's portion was to revert to his son following her death. His goods were divided between his wife, and four children, John, Francis, Joshua and Susan,²⁴ and two sheep were bequeathed to Francis, son of John Schofield. Of his modest inventory, valued at £46, the majority of his assets were in agriculture - oxen and horses at £24, sheep at £2-6s-8d and corn, hay and straw at £4-6s-8d - indicating his livelihood came principally through pastoral and arable husbandry.²⁵ If Francis supplemented his income through the ancillary domestic activity of weaving, this is not evidenced by his itemised inventory.

In 1619, Francis' widow Margaret died intestate and administration was granted to her youngest son, Joshua. Her estate was valued at £11-14s-3d, and consisted of a cow and a stirk, some of the furniture described in the inventory of Francis Schofield, such as 'two tables', along with miscellaneous items and a debt owing to her.²⁶

The Separation of Lower Hollingreave Estates 122 and 123

Between the inquisition of 1595 and 1623 it is evident that Francis Schofield's tenement was subdivided. This possibly occurred following his death in 1610. This sub-division is evidenced in the will of Edmund Shaw of Boarshurst in 1623, which refers to two fields, the Little Bank (123c) and the Little Meadow (122g) which were sub-let to him for short terms (Figure 3). The will states that 'The Close Called the Little Banke was sett to me by John Schofield of Hollingreave ... The other called Little Meddowe was sett to mee by Richard Schofield of Graunge'.²⁷ This indicates that estate 123 was leased by a resident Schofield family, whilst estate 122 was leased by the non-resident Schofields of Grange.

Subdivision of leasehold tenements was uncommon at this period, and would have required licence from the landlord, in this instance, either the Ramsdens, as lords of the manor, or William Stubbs, who had held Hollingreave until 1606. This Lower Hollingreave subdivision had evidently occurred between kinsmen. Richard Schofield of Grange was the second son of Ellis Schofield who, it has been noted, was bailiff of the Asshetons. Ellis Schofield's will of March 1603/4 shows that he did not have a son named Francis, and therefore Francis Schofield - the first tenant at Hollingreave - must have either been a brother of Ellis or more distantly related.²⁸

Amongst baptisms surviving in St Chad's fragmentary records are those of 'Francis, son of Francis Scholfield, holingreave' and 'Isack, the son of John Scholfield grang'

²² C 2 Eliz C12/37, TNA.

²³ WCW Supra 1611, LA.

²⁴ Joshua and Susan are distinctive forenames associated with later descendants at Hollingreave.

²⁵ See wealth classification based on inventory value in N. Lowe, *The Lancashire Textile Industry in the 16th Century*, Chetham Society, 3rd series, Vol. 20, 1972, pp. 20-56.

²⁶ Her neighbour James Whewall was one of the prizers of her inventory; WCW Supra 1619, LA.

²⁷ WCW Supra 1624, LA.

²⁸ WCW Supra 1603, LA.

presumably in a shared ceremony on 15th October 1648.²⁹ Places of abode are rarely recorded in the registers at this period so in this instance the extra information provided is fortunate. John Schofield of Grange has been identified as the grandson of Ellis Schofield³⁰, but it has not been possible to identify the exact relationship between this Francis Schofield of Hollingreave and the first Francis Schofield residing there in the sixteenth century. There were still connections between the Hollingreave and Grange Schofields in 1674, when ‘Anna and Marie Schofield daughters of John of Hollingreave late deceased’ were bequeathed 10s by Edmund Schofield (otherwise Jones) of Grange.³¹ The two legatees were probably great-grandchildren of Francis Schofield, and Edmund Schofield was probably an illegitimate grandchild of Ellis Schofield. Thus, a connection between the two families endured for almost a century.

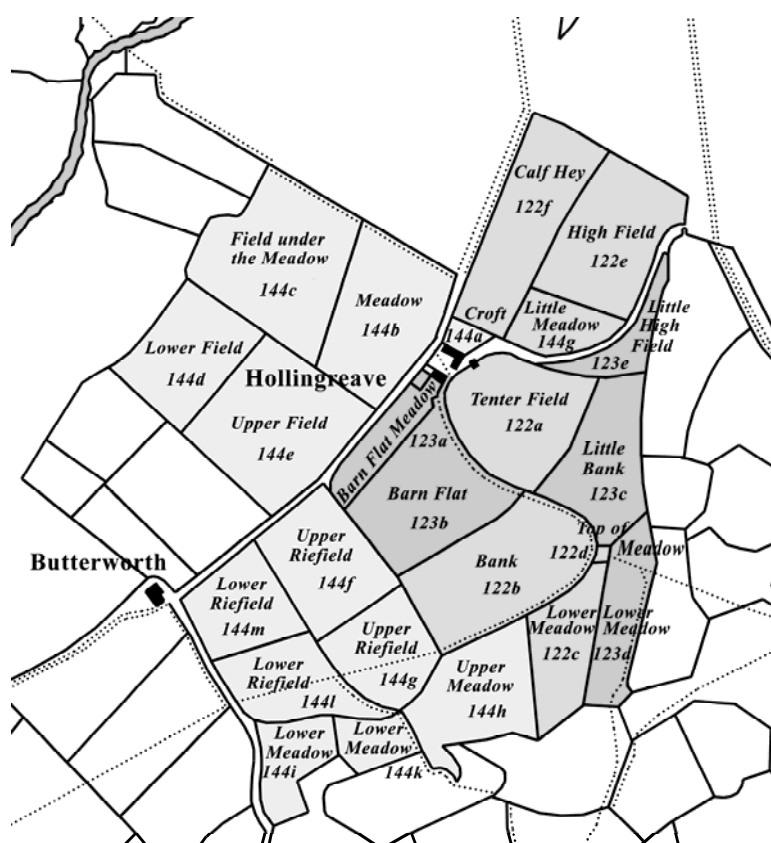


Figure 3. James Farrer's Manorial Estate map of 1770 showing Estates 122 and 123, the Schofield lease-holdings at Hollingreave. Hollingreave Estate 144 was in the holding of the Whewall family.

Lower Hollingreave Estate 122

As evidenced by the will of Edmund Shaw of Boarshurst in 1623, Estate 122 at Hollingreave was then held by Richard Schofield of Grange. He had probably died by 1633 when his wife was a debtor of George Shaw of Shawhouses.³² It is uncertain whether Richard had issue, and to whom his lease passed following his death. Owing

²⁹ J. Radcliffe (ed.), *Parish Registers of St Chad. Saddleworth, 1613 to 1751*, Uppermill, 1887, p. 74.

³⁰ See C 22/290/45, TNA, where in 1689 the ancestry of this John Schofield of Grange and his son are recited in a Court case of 1689. I am grateful to Mike Buckley and Victor Khadem for this reference.

³¹ WCW Supra 1675, LA.

³² WCW Supra 1633, LA.

to the paucity of records it is not until the 1660s that a clearer picture emerges of who held the estate.

The tithe survey of Saddleworth in 1669 appears to show that John Taylor of Hollingreave held estate 122, when he was assessed for 1 acre 1 rood 30 perches of land under arable cultivation.³³ Taylor had not been at Hollingreave long, for in the 1664 Hearth Tax he was not assessed in Lordsmere, and there is no John Taylor referred to in the 1666 list either.³⁴ John Taylor's acquisition of the estate came, in all likelihood, through inheritance rather than purchase. The fact that both he and his wife, Martha, were legatees of Edmund Schofield (alias Jones) in 1675 indicates that his wife was in some way related to the Schofields of Grange. There are two possibilities worth considering which might explain Taylor's acquisition of the estate.

Firstly, it is possible that 'uxor Francis Scofeild', who was assessed for one hearth in Lordsmere in 1664, and 'Widdow Scolfeild' in 1666 was Taylor's predecessor, as she was not assessed in either 1672 or 1674. As such, she may have been the widow of the Francis Schofield of Hollingreave whose son was baptised in 1648. Because there appear to have been a succession of 'John Schofields' occupying estate 123 (see below), Francis is likely to have occupied estate 122. It may, therefore, have been through marriage to his widow or a daughter, that Taylor acquired the lease of the estate.

The second possibility is that Taylor's wife, Martha, may have been the widow of John Schofield of Saddleworth who died intestate in 1664.³⁵ The names of those who prized his inventory suggest that he lived at either Castleshaw or Grange. His inventory records that he held a leasehold estate, of which there were few in Friarmere at this date, and this could relate to estate 122 at Hollingreave, consistent with possible continuous non-residence by the lease holder. Such a contention is supported by a specific debt of 18s-2d owed to 'John Schofield of Hollingreave' recorded in his inventory.

If this estate had been occupied by a junior branch of the Schofield family in the 1660s, it had certainly passed out of the family in the following decades. From the 1670s, the ownership of estate 122 once again falls into obscurity. Any connection between the Schofields of Grange and this estate appears to have come to an end; by the beginning of the next century it was occupied by the lessee. The clearest evidence for this is encountered in the manorial rental of 1719,³⁶ when Matthew Berrey paid an annual rent of 9s for his estate (exactly half of the 18s paid by James Shaw for the combined holding of estates 122 and 123 in c.1550.)³⁷ Since leasehold tenements tended to be inherited rather than purchased, Berry probably acquired the estate through marriage to, or kinship with, the Schofields of Grange. There is no evidence for how this transpired, but the presence of a 'Thomas Burrie' as debtor to Edmund

³³ J.M. Hunt, Saddleworth Tithes in 1669, *SHSB*, Vol. 14, No. 2, 1984, pp. 20-25.

³⁴ M. Buckley, Saddleworth Hearth Tax Returns, Part I, *SHSB*, Vol. 31, No. 3, 2001, pp. 11-15; M. Buckley, Saddleworth Hearth Tax Returns, Part II, *SHSB*, Vol. 32, No. 1, 2002, pp. 17-21; M. Buckley, Saddleworth Hearth Tax Returns, Part III, *SHSB*, Vol. 33, No. 2, 2003, pp. 6-13.

³⁵ WCW Supra 1664, LA.

³⁶ Saddleworth Rental Anno Domini 1719, Box 8/5/1, M/S Deposit 1946/1 and 1949, Wentworth - Woolley Hall Papers, University of Leeds Special Collections (ULSC).

³⁷ REQ 2/158/206, TNA.

Schofield (otherwise Jones) might indicate that there were connections between the families over two generations. Furthermore, the fact that Matthew Berry was a debtor of Edmund Schofield of Moorcroft in 1698,³⁸ and one of the prizers of Edmund Schofield of Thurston Clough in 1713,³⁹ implies that he himself was connected with the Schofields. Berry's will shows that he was not originally from Saddleworth - his 'two kinsmen John and Godphrey Berry, sons of Godphrey Berry of Handley, Yorkshire, deceased', were named as legatees in his will.⁴⁰ 'Handley' can almost certainly be identified as Honley in the parish of Almondbury where a Godfrey Berrey was assessed in the Hearth Tax of 1672.⁴¹ Berrey must have been in possession of estate 122 by 1706, when, along with his neighbour John Schofield of Hollingreave, and other tenants in the vicinity, he jointly leased the common at Back o' th' Lee.⁴² His presence as a debtor of Edmund Schofield of Moorcroft in 1698 is a good indication that he was resident in the district at that date. By his will of 1733, Berry bequeathed his estate to his "faithful servant Mary Broadbent" following the death of his wife Mary. He was sufficiently advanced in years for his burial entry in the parish registers on 2nd January 1733 to describe him as 'Old Matthew Bury, Clothier of Hollingreave'.⁴³

Just eight months after Matthew Berry's death, James Schofield, the witness of his will and prizer of his inventory, married Berry's servant and heiress, Mary Broadbent of Hollingreave.⁴⁴ As a younger son of John Schofield of Hollingreave (d.1707), James Schofield had not expected to inherit any land in his own right. However, by virtue of this marriage, he managed to secure the whole of estate 122, following the death of Mary Berry, Matthew's widow, in 1735.⁴⁵ He took possession of the estate on what appears to have been a new tenancy agreement, paying an annual rack rent of £2-5s.⁴⁶ In addition, he inherited Matthew Berry's interest in the 999 year lease of Back o' th' Lee, the value of which was to increase in value following the enclosure of this open common in 1752.⁴⁷

After his brother John's death in 1737, James Schofield also ran estate 123 on behalf of his infant nephew (see below). Parish records consistently described him as 'Clothier', implying he was engaged in woollen cloth production, and like so many others in Saddleworth at this time he would no doubt be combining this with small scale arable and pastoral farming, a 'dual economy' providing a hedge against economic downturns and fickle woollen fashion markets.

³⁸ WCW Supra 1699, LA.

³⁹ WCW Supra 1713, LA.

⁴⁰ James Schofield appraised Berry's inventory; WCW Infra 1733, LA.

⁴¹ D. Hey, C. Giles, M. Spufford & A. Wareham, (eds.), *Yorkshire West Riding Hearth Tax Assessment Lady Day 1672*, British Academy Hearth Tax Project, BRS Hearth Tax Series V.

⁴² DDX/Shaw Papers/197, Saddleworth Historical Society Archives (SHSA).

⁴³ J. Radcliffe, *Parish Registers, 1613 to 1751*, p. 369.

⁴⁴ *ibid*, p. 30.

⁴⁵ *ibid*, p. 373.

⁴⁶ Saddleworth Rental Anno Domini 1735, Box 8/5/6, ULSC.

⁴⁷ James Schofield of Hollingreave, clothier, was party to a sale of part of Back of the Lee in 1774; BW 509 720, Wakefield Register of Deeds (WRD).

There is evidence that in the latter half of the 18th century there were transfers of land and buildings between James Schofield, his nephew John Schofield, and the Whewalls, his neighbours at Lower Hollingreave. Farrer's survey of 1770 records that James Schofield had transferred the Calf Hey to his nephew, John Schofield, making estates 122 and 123 equal in size (Figure 2).⁴⁸ This probably occurred after the lease was renewed on his nephew's estate in c.1766 (see below).⁴⁹ James Schofield's was also renting a barn from his Whewall neighbours as can be gleaned from the Court Baron of 1756, when James or Martha Whewall⁵⁰ were ordered to 'putt the Barn (now in the possession of James Schofield) in Good and Sufficient repair... or forfeit to the Lord of the Manor by default the sum of 39s.'⁵¹ In the Manor Rental of 1770 the description of the buildings on estate 122 alludes to this repair describing James Schofield as occupying 'an old house, barn and shippen, the roof of which had recently been repaired'.⁵²

James Schofield died intestate in 1778, leaving his wife, Mary and six adult children still resident at Hollingreave (several of whom had started their own families by then). By this time the annual rack rent on estate no.122 had risen to £11-11s-6d.⁵³ It seems unlikely that the family all lived in the same house, and it might be the case that some of them resided with the Whewalls, for his eldest son, James Schofield, had married Sarah Buckley, the bastard daughter of his neighbours, Martha Whewall and Abel Buckley. This contention is supported by the 1770 description of their estate which states there were three houses on their estate with '4 families dwelling therein'.⁵⁴

Lower Hollingreave Estate 123

Estate number 123 on the manor map was continuously held by resident Schofield tenants descended from Francis Schofield who had first settled at Hollingreave in the 1580s. In 1610 he had left his tenement to his eldest son, John who, soon after inheriting, resolutely defended his rights on the extensive commons above Saddleworth Church. In 1616, along with his neighbours, Ottiwell Broadbent (of Brownhill),⁵⁵ and James Whewall (of Hollingreave),⁵⁶ he sent a letter to William Ramsden complaining that Wrigley Mallalieu (of Wickens)⁵⁷ had gone beyond the limit of enclosure sanctioned by the manorial lord and, in doing so, did 'enclose and stop our ancient waies'.⁵⁸ So keen were the three tenants to assert their right to access the commons that they offered to 'help him [Mallalieu] shift the stones which now is our

⁴⁸ Buckley et al., *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. II, p. 87.

⁴⁹ DDX/Shaw Papers/70, Saddleworth Historical Society Archive (SHSA).

⁵⁰ Martha's daughter, Sarah, born in c.1756, later married James Schofield's son, James.

⁵¹ A J Petford, Saddleworth Court Rolls 1756, *SHSB*, Vol. 16, No. 3, 1986, p. 46.

⁵² Buckley et al., *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. II, p. 87.

⁵³ Saddleworth Rental Anno Domini 1777, Box 8/5/6, ULSC.

⁵⁴ Buckley et al., *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. II, p. 89.

⁵⁵ He was described as 'of Brownhill' when he witnessed Edward Marsland's deed of settlement concerning Middle Hollingreave in 1599; M. Buckley, Hollingreave: Three Early Deeds Shed Light on an Old Settlement, *SHSB*, Vol. 30, No. 3, 2000, p. 18.

⁵⁶ He was named in the will of Edmund Whewall as his son and heir in 1610; WCW Supra 1610, LA; and as 'of Hollingreave' in the will of John Whewall in 1619; WCW Supra 1619, LA.

⁵⁷ M. Buckley, Origins of the Saddleworth Mallalieu Family, *SHSB*, Vol.42. No. 1, 2012, pp. 15-16.

⁵⁸ DD/RA/F/19, West Yorkshire Archive Service (Kirklees) (WYASK); published in P. Hurst (ed.), *Sadelworth: Garsomes, geld rents and gould*, Uppermill, 2011, p. B3.

hinderance.’ Their ‘ancient ways’ probably followed the footpath descending Church Bank Clough, through Cloughbottom, and towards the moors through the field at Wickens numbered 85m on the 1770 Manor Map, and known in 1770 as ‘Intake’.⁵⁹ The fact that by the eighteenth century this whole area was enclosed shows that the tenants’ petition was ultimately unsuccessful.

In addition to sub-leasing field 123c, the Little Bank, to Edmund Shaw (see above), in 1627 he also sub-leased 'halfe of one field Called the hight field which is taken of John Schofield of the hollinggreave' to his neighbour, John Farrand of Cloughbottom,⁶⁰ an interest assigned apparently for seven years. Unless Farrand meant the 'Little High Field' (Figure 3) which is on estate 123, then it is problematic that John Schofield was able to lease this field which in 1770 was part of estate 122.⁶¹ It is possible that, originally, the High Field was divided equally between the two estates - this would explain why Farrand only held 'half' of the field. A complication to this, but further evidence of sub-division of a larger unit, is that in Farrand's inventory the lease is further referred to as the 'Reversion of a fourte part of one field of John Scolfield for sixe yeares'.

[illegible]

Figure 4. The Mark of John Schofield (& his Neighbours) on their Letter of 1616 to William Ramsden complaining of the miller Wrigley Maralew.
[DD/RA/F/19/WYAS Kirklees]

⁵⁹ Buckley et al., *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. II, p. 83.

⁶⁰ WCW Supra 1628, LA.

⁶¹ Buckley et al., *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. II, p. 87.

It is probable that the parish register's burial record of 'Johis Scholfield of Hollin' on the 18th November 1638 relates to John, the eldest son of Francis Schofield.⁶²

Who John Schofield's direct successor was is unknown. The will of his father appears to show that he had a son Francis, but certainly by the 1660s, and most probably by the 1650s, estate 123 was occupied by another John Schofield (d. c.1674).⁶³

This John Schofield was married to a daughter of Jeremy Wrigley of Tame.⁶⁴ By Jeremy Wrigley's will of 1664, he was named as Wrigley's son-in-law and was directed to manage the bequests granted to James Wood (Wrigley's grandson) until he reached the age of 21.⁶⁵ It would appear from this, that Jeremy Wrigley's daughter, Jane, had previously been married to a James Wood, deceased, and subsequently married to John Schofield of Hollingreave, who was charged with managing his step-son's affairs.



Figure 6. Map of the Heys, commissioned by John Radcliffe, c. 1810.
[Howcroft Collection, H/How/28, SHSA]

In 1657 John Schofield purchased the freehold of the Heys, four enclosed fields at Hollingreave (Figure 6), for £22.⁶⁶ These fields were held with the leasehold estate

⁶² J. Radcliffe, *Parish Registers, 1613 to 1751*, p. 304.

⁶³ Nine John Schofields signed the Saddleworth Protestation, but without abodes it has not been possible to identify a Hollingreave resident with any certainty; *ibid*, pp. 483-5.

⁶⁴ John Schofield of Hollingreave, was described as the 'nevey', or nephew, of Jeremy Wrigley's son, Jeremy in his will of 1702; WCW *Infra* 1703, LA.

⁶⁵ WCW *Infra* 1664, LA.

⁶⁶ Indenture dated 21st July 1657; H/EA/16 f. 51, SHSA.

until the middle of the following century. In the deed, he was described as ‘Yeoman’, implying he already held freehold land. It is therefore likely that in 1652 he was the John Schofield who joined Richard Buckley of Grottonhead in purchasing part of Middle Hollingreave, an estate to the east of Heys, which had been divided between the co-heiresses of Edward Marsland.⁶⁷ He did not retain an interest of this estate for long because in 1662 it was divided between the Buckleys of Grottonhead and the Buckleys of Grasscroft, suggesting that his role in the transaction was as a trustee.⁶⁸

It is clear that Schofield had enough capital to invest in freehold land in the 1650s, but little is known of his other economic activities. A small insight can be gleaned, however, from the hearth taxes and tithe assessment. Like the vast majority of Saddleworth tenants he was assessed for only one hearth during the 1660s and 1670s.⁶⁹ However, in the tithe assessment of 1669, John Schofield was assessed at 8s-9d for 2 acres 2 roods and 20 perches of oats under cultivation, a large area compared to other farms.⁷⁰

John had died by December 1674, when his daughters, Anna and Mary were legatees of Edmund Schofield (otherwise Jones) of Grange.

The successor to John Schofield was another John Schofield (d.1707), who was probably his son. It is notable that despite his freehold estate John Schofield did not style himself ‘Yeoman’, (which the majority of others in Saddleworth did in order to emphasise their freeholder status), but instead ‘Cloth-maker’.

Contemporary wills help elucidate his economic activities and kinship network during this period. He was the main beneficiary of his uncle, Jeremy Wrigley (the brother of his mother, Jane - see above) and was appointed co-executor with Mary Mallalieu, widow, in 1702.⁷¹ Mary was evidently John’s sister, who had married George Mallalieu of Wickens in 1680.⁷² Emphasising the connections between the two families, Jeremy Wrigley appraised the inventory of George Mallalieu in 1694, recording debts owed by both John Schofield and his neighbour at Hollingreave, James Whewall. Whilst the nature of the debt is not specified it might tentatively be suggested that Mallalieu, a husbandman owning 149 sheep, was supplying wool to his brother-in-law’s cloth-making business.⁷³ A partnership between John Schofield and the Whewalls is evidenced as far back as 1675, when, along with John Whewall, he jointly owed 16s-4d to the clerk of Saddleworth, Robert Broadbent.⁷⁴

A degree of kinship with the Farrands of Cloughbottom is implied by John Schofield’s appointment as executor of Edmund Farrand’s will in 1675⁷⁵ and the fact that he was appointed co-administrator of John Farrand in 1697 along with Farrand’s son and daughter.⁷⁶ He was also appointed executor by Mary Gartside, of

⁶⁷ M. Buckley, Hollingreave: Three Early Deeds, *SHSB*, Vol. 30, No. 3, pp. 17-23.

⁶⁸ Buckley et al., *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. II, pp. 97-8.

⁶⁹ M. Buckley, Saddleworth Hearth Tax Returns, Part I, pp. 11-15.

⁷⁰ J. M. Hunt, Saddleworth Tithes in 1669, pp. 20-25.

⁷¹ WCW *Infra* 1703, LA.

⁷² J. Radcliffe, *Parish Registers, 1613 to 1751*, p. 9.

⁷³ WCW *Supra* 1695, LA.

⁷⁴ WCW *Supra* 1673, LA.

⁷⁵ Edmund had been assigned the benefit of Hight Field’s 7 year sub-lease from Schofield by his father, John, in 1627; WCW *Supra* 1627, LA. His will was proved in 1676; WCW *Infra* 1676, LA.

⁷⁶ WCW *Supra* 1697, LA.

Saddleworth Church, in 1696, who may have been related to the Farrands.⁷⁷

In 1706, along with his neighbour Matthew Berry, and seventeen others he leased Back o' th' Lee, providing hundreds of acres of grazing pasture on lower, rather better, ground than the commons high above the moors.⁷⁸

John Schofield was evidently relatively young when he died, for at least seven of his nine children were under twenty-four. He bequeathed to his eldest son, John (d.1738), both parts of his estate, 'Upper Hollingreave' (i.e. Four Heys) and 'Lower Hollingreave', however, his widow, Anne, was to manage the land until he attained his majority. Whilst they were not given land, John's younger sons, James and Joshua, were given legacies of £10 on reaching the age of twenty-four and three of his five daughters were to be given legacies of £10 also when twenty-four. His sons being under age, John appointed his nephew, Jonathan Mallalieu, as an executor.

The main indication of John Schofield's economic activities is his will of 1707 and inventory of 1708.⁷⁹ The inventory (Appendix A) includes combing and carding equipment, indicating he produced worsted as well as woollen yarn. His agricultural activities were also significant. He had about three dozen sheep, two horses, perhaps half a dozen cows, a few hens, as well as a store of hay and corn valued at £14. His landed estate, comprising his freehold of Heys, estate 123 at Hollingreave, a leasehold interest at Back o' th' Lee and an unidentified cottage, were valued at £69. The inventory gives a slight insight into John Schofield's life in that amongst his household possessions were books, the titles of which are sadly unknown, but which show he must have benefited from a reasonable education. Indeed, this is attested to by the fact he could sign his own name, rather than simply make his mark (Figure 7). Other household goods included a clock, an item relatively unusual at the beginning of the 18th century. An intriguing element of his inventory assets is 'Arrears in Tithes', possibly reflecting the fact that he was one of the many Saddleworth tenants who farmed the tithes.

Figure 7. John Schofield's Signature on his Will of 1707. [WCW Supra, 1708, LA.]

Aside from the inventory, one other insight into John Schofield's circumstances survives in the form of a fine door lintel inscribed with the year 1696 and bearing the initials of him and his wife, Anne (Figure 8). This is now on a nineteenth century shippen at Field Top, but evidently must have come from the old farm at Hollingreave.⁸⁰

⁷⁷ WCW Infra 1697, LA.

⁷⁸ DDX/Shaw Papers /197, SHSA.

⁷⁹ WCW Supra 1708, LA.

⁸⁰ Radcliffe sketched the stone, recording "at Field Top, belonging to the late Mrs Shaw" in his notebook; J. Radcliffe, Doorheads collected by John Radcliffe, Hewkin collection: D-HEW-mf 7, Vol. 42a, p. 23, Oldham Local Studies Archives (OLSA).

Whether the couple rebuilt all or just part of the housing is unknown, however, the quality of the masonry suggests that the building was relatively distinguished compared to others in the vicinity, and perhaps reflects John Schofield's relative affluence and prosperity derived from his cloth-making activities, coupled with traditional husbandry.

The son John Schofield (d.1738) had evidently not reached the age of twenty-four by 1712, when his mother, Anne, paid 5d as chief rent for the Four Heys.⁸¹ However, he must have taken control of this late father's estate by 1719 when he paid the fixed bi-annual rent of 4s-6d on the manorial tenement at Lower Hollingreave under a lease for lives.⁸²



Figure 8. Lintel stone dated 1696 - initials IS/AS - now on a Barn at Field Top, but probably originally on the Schofield tenement at Hollingreave.
[Phil Wild Collection]

The choice of marriage made by the young John Schofield stands out amongst both his predecessors and successors. Other generations married into families who were of a similar social status, most of whom held significant leasehold or freehold estates. John Schofield, however, married Mary Hinchcliffe of Dobcross, whose family were described in the 1720s as 'day labourers'.⁸³ That they were not involved in agriculture or the woollen industry is suggested by the fact that they probably lived at a small cottage with no land on Platt Lane.⁸⁴

There are few records which help elucidate John Schofield's life, but it is known that from 1734, he jointly took over the lease for 'Whickens and Will Cote' with his neighbour at Hollingreave, James Whewall. Wickens had formerly been leased to

⁸¹ J. Radcliffe, *Parish Registers, 1613 to 1751*, pp. 490-1.

⁸² The identity of the nominated lives is unknown but were probably John (d.1707), his wife, Anne, and eldest son, John; Saddleworth Rental Anno Domini 1719, ULSC.

⁸³ See, for example, J. Radcliffe, *Parish Registers, 1613 to 1751*, p. 117.

⁸⁴ Buckley et al., *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. II, p. 46 & 89.

Jonathan Mallalieu, his cousin, and the Will Cote had been in the possession of the Farrands of Cloughbottom.⁸⁵ His joint interest in Wickens was probably purely financial, because the Mallalieux remained resident there throughout the 1730s; however, he may have removed to Will Cote⁸⁶ for a short time because when his son, John, was baptised in 1737, he was described as being ‘of Cloughbottom’.⁸⁷

It is possible that John Schofield did not pursue cloth-making to the same degree as his father because in his will and the parish registers he is consistently styled ‘yeoman’ rather than ‘clothier’. His own sparse inventory sheds little light onto his economic activities as it was drawn up a year after his death, probably as a formality. That he expressed in his will⁸⁸ a desire that his brother, James, eventually put his infant son ‘apprentice to some Lawful trade or Calling’ might imply that he recognised that land alone would not sustain the family. Nonetheless, by not specifying woollen manufacture as a preferred trade, it could be that he himself was not directly involved in the industry, although it might be cautiously inferred that his brothers and ‘spinster’ sisters remained active in textiles on the estate during his life.

By this will of 1738, John Schofield bequeathed the Four Heys, Lower Hollingreave, and his share of the pasture at Back o’ th’ Lee to his only son, John (1737-1802) an infant only months old. Owing to dower rights, he only held two thirds of the land at Heys and Lower Hollingreave because his mother, Anne, was still alive, and a third of the two thirds were to go to his widow Mary. His brother, James, served as his executor and, it would appear, as his son’s guardian.



Figure 9. John Schofield (d.1737) signature and seal from his will
(note the surname spelling ‘mutation’ within 30 years).
[WCW Infra, 1739, LA]

The manorial rental of 1739 shows that by then John Schofield’s uncle, James, had taken over the management of estate 123 at Hollingreave. Between 1739 and 1742 he leased the farm at the customary half year’s rent of 4s-6d along with his widowed mother who retained her dower rights.⁸⁹ However, by 1743 the tenure had been converted to an annual rack rent of £5-5s. Following the death of his mother, Anne,

⁸⁵ Saddleworth Rental Anno Domini 1733, Box 8/5/5, ULSC; Saddleworth Rental Anno Domini 1735, Box 8/5/6, ULSC.

⁸⁶ Will Cote was a cottage probably located on wasteland at Royle Clough, immediately south of field 85b on the manor map; Buckley et al., *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. II, p. 48.

⁸⁷ J. Radcliffe, *Parish Registers, 1613 to 1751*, p. 194.

⁸⁸ WCW Infra 1739, LA.

⁸⁹ Saddleworth Rentals Anno Domini 1739, 1740 & 1742, Box 8/5/10, 11 & 12, ULSC.

in 1745, James Schofield executed a twenty-one year lease 'for the benefit' of his young nephew, John.⁹⁰

Following the intention stated in his father's will, John Schofield (1737-1802) pursued a trade rather than agriculture, becoming a shoemaker. He married Nancy, a daughter of Robert Holden of Cloughbottom, who held estate number 63 on the 1770 Manor Map, which abutted his tenancy. Investing in his freehold land, he erected Heys Farm, which appears to have been leased to Nathaniel Nield by 1765.⁹¹ However, by 1774 he had sold⁹² both the Four Heys and his interest in the recently enclosed Back o' th' Lee to John Radcliffe of Saddleworth Fold. His leasehold estate appears to have been in a relatively poor state of repair at the time of the 1770 survey. It was described as comprising of 'a very ancient House in indifferent repair, a Barn and Shippen whose roof is in bad repair, and an old House, barn and Cowhouse'.⁹³

John Schofield remained at Hollingreave until his death in 1802. It is noteworthy that he was only able to make his mark on his will (Figure 10),⁹⁴ indicating that, unlike both his father and grandfather, he was unable to write, and possibly unable to read, (See Figures 7 and 9).



Figure 10. John Schofield's (d.1802) mark on his Will
[WCW Infra, 1802, LA]

The Hollingreave Schofields reflecting the wider Saddleworth Story

In many ways the history of the Schofield family and their Hollingreave estates epitomise the development of Saddleworth more broadly from the close of the sixteenth century to the sale of the manor in 1791. Nonetheless they do display distinctive elements which are worthy of note. The subdivision of this manorial estate at the beginning of the seventeenth century and its reunification into the hands of the same family by the mid-eighteenth century was uncommon on manorial leasehold tenements. Subdivision of freehold land, especially in Friarmere, was an established practice; however it is a phenomenon that only affected a few leasehold properties on

⁹⁰ In notes made by two solicitors appended to the draft lease it was stated that the lease of 1745 was taken out for the benefit of James Schofield's nephew; DDX/Shaw Papers/70, SHSA.

⁹¹ Nield was described as being of Heys when his son was baptised on 29th September 1765; J. Radcliffe, *Saddleworth Church Registers 1756 to 1799*, Uppermill, 1891, p. 190.

⁹² For the purchase of Heys see DDX/Shaw Papers/70, SHSA. Radcliffe is referred to as having acquired John Schofield's interest at Back o' th' Lee in a deed of 1774; BW 509 720, WRD.

⁹³ Buckley et al., *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. II, p. 87.

⁹⁴ WCW Infra 1802, LA.

the manor. Where it did occur, it appears that it happened mainly in the eighteenth century rather than the early seventeenth century. Why the estate at Hollingreave was subdivided is unknown, however, the experience there suggests Ramsden was amenable to tenants subdividing their estates.

The inventories of Francis Schofield in 1610 and his descendant, John Schofield, in 1708 were both prepared in the winter season and comparison highlights both economic continuity and change. Working capital of £30-13-6 represented two-thirds of Francis Schofield's itemised inventory, whereas John Schofield's equivalent of £62-11-6 (unadjusted for inflation) was only one third of his inventory, with substantial additional capital tied up in his landed estate and debts receivable.⁹⁵ Francis Schofield's working capital comprised 78% in cattle and horses, 8% in sheep and only 14% in corn and hay, whereas his descendant held only 41% in cattle and horses, with 14% in sheep, 22% in corn and hay, 6% in agricultural equipment and 17% in cloth-making inventories. The inference may be that farming activities undertaken by Francis Schofield were predominantly pastoral rather than arable,⁹⁶ whilst John Schofield's investments signify the emerging importance of the woollen industry at the end of the seventeenth century. The latter's lower ratio of cattle perhaps reflects the subdivision of the estate, which may have occurred after Francis' tenure, whilst his higher ratio of sheep, interpreted with evidence of a likely trading debt with brother-in-law George Mallalieu, a husbandman owning 149 sheep, suggests John Schofield relied, partially at least, on local, hardy hillside breeds for his expanding cloth-making activity.

Investment in new land is noteworthy as many manorial tenants had little opportunity to augment their estates. John Schofield's acquisition of the Four Heys largely replaced the lost agricultural capacity of his subdivided estate, which was supplemented by leasing Back o' th' Lee from 1706. However, these acquisitions were sold by John Schofield (1737-1802), and whether the disposals represent a decline in fortunes, or simply a desire to reinvest resources into trade, is unfortunately unknown.

It is notable, however, that John Schofield's (d.1707) eldest son, John (d.1738), and in turn his son, John appear not to have pursued a career in wool manufacture. Unlike his father, in being styled 'yeoman', John Schofield (d.1738) appears to identify himself with the land rather than trade. Nonetheless, his son, John (1737-1802), was evidently trained as a shoemaker, and is consistently described as such until his death.

It would appear the wider Schofield family remained heavily involved in textile, with many 'spinster' females and most males being described as 'clothier' in the parish registers. The gradual transition towards trade within the Schofield family is consistent with broader trends in the district, with evidence that Saddleworth clothiers re-positioned the quality and economic value of their output from rough kerseys to fine broadcloth in the second half of the eighteenth century.⁹⁷

⁹⁵ 37% if the tenement reversion is excluded from 1708 inventory, as it does not appear in 1610.

⁹⁶ A contemporary analysis of Crompton - an adjacent township with mainly pastoral farming - identifies only 63% of working capital in livestock; P. Rathbone, *Lives of the People of Crompton, Lancashire, 1580-1700*, *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, Vol. 96, Otley, 2000, p. 162.

⁹⁷ 'In 1740, only 8640 pieces were made, and these of a very coarse kind.... In 1792, 36637 were manufactured, and the value of each piece, in the unfinished state, had doubled to an average of £7 each many of the superfine broads made here vie with those of the West of England', J. Aikin, *A Description of the Country from thirty to forty miles around Manchester*, London, 1795, p. 558.

Technology advances were ideally suited to upland ‘dual economy’ clothiers, who from the 1760s were able to harness the ‘drop-box’ adaptation of Kay’s ‘Flying Shuttle’ invention in their domestic looms, whilst continuing their smallholding husbandry.⁹⁸ Improved communications and trade networks also enabled enterprising merchants and clothiers to source premium raw wool from other parts of England rather than relying on traditional local husbandry of sheep.⁹⁹

These developments caused rapid population increases locally, much of it accommodated on the valley-sides of Saddleworth, as reflected in eighteenth century baptism registers. Wild’s study of these registers shows that already in c.1722, around 75% of adult males were designated as ‘clothiers’, a figure which by c.1770 had increased to 89%, with corresponding declines in agricultural occupations.¹⁰⁰ Lower Hollingreave was able to sustain larger family groups, since broadcloth weaving reduced dependence on finite acreage of limited productive quality. Prosperous growth is reflected in escalating rents on the estate and the expansion of resident Schofield clothiers, with the opportunity to support their own family units, as the manorial system came to a close.

One of the defining characteristics manifested by the Schofields of Hollingreave over this two hundred year period, which appears to be reflective of the picture across Saddleworth, is the importance of social and economic networks based on ancestry, marriage and neighbourhood. Throughout the seventeenth century, a connection appears to have been maintained with the Schofields of Grange - family members variously appeared as creditors, debtors and legatees in extant wills. Indeed an enduring connection with Friarmere, more generally, is suggested by John Schofield’s marriage to Jane Wrigley, a member of a yeoman family there prior to the 1660s.

The close network of ubiquitous Schofield kinsmen is later illustrated whimsically by Ammon Wrigley’s vernacular anecdote:

‘It was laid down as a truth on Friarmere, that if five men were standing round a cow feeling her bag and ‘sponnin’ her quarters, four were Schofields and the fifth man was a near relative’.¹⁰¹

The co-signed letter of 1616 by Schofield, Whewall and Broadbent highlights co-operation for mutual interest by Saddleworth neighbours, whose commons were shared, and estates closely abutted each other. Indeed, whatever the nature of the dispute over Wrigley Mallalieu’s enclosure activity at Wickens, the importance of neighbours working together meant it was quickly forgotten. This is reflected to the extent that Mary Schofield, the sister of John Schofield (d.1707) married Wrigley Mallalieu’s grandson, George (with whom Schofield and his neighbours evidently traded), and subsequently had a child with George’s brother, John Mallalieu, who appointed her as co-executor and left her half his lands at Wrigleys in Diggle.¹⁰² The closeness between the two families is further illustrated by the fact that George’s

⁹⁸ P. Bentley, *The Pennine Weaver*, Portway, Bath, 1970, p. 40.

⁹⁹ See notes on account books of Joseph Wrigley of Stonebreaks, Clothier (1711-1781) in S. Andrew, *A Manufacturer’s Business 100 Years ago*, Uppermill, 1984.

¹⁰⁰ M.T. Wild, *The Saddleworth Parish Registers*, Newton Abbot, 1971, p. 221 & p. 227.

¹⁰¹ A. Wrigley, *Wind Among the Heather*, Uppermill, 1916, p. 221.

¹⁰² M. Buckley, *Origins of the Mallalieu Family*, SHSB, Vol. 42, p. 17.

grandson shared a rear pew in Saddleworth Church with James Schofield of Hollingreave in the 1760s.¹⁰³

Over several generations the Whewalls worked closely with the Schofields, appearing as debtors together, and jointly taking on additional leases, as a means of augmenting their income. Furthermore, the two families would consolidate their ties through marriage during the eighteenth century. The other neighbouring estate of Cloughbottom was home to the Farrands and Holdens - the former rented land from the Schofields and had their wills witnessed, their goods administered, and inventories prized by the Schofields; the latter married into the family in the mid-eighteenth century. Thus, a complex picture of interconnectedness emerges between the Schofields and their near neighbours, which developed over successive generations.

As the nineteenth century dawned, Saddleworth's agriculture would decline still further, but this would be counteracted by a peak in broadcloth manufacture. The landscape was changed through a flurry of building, and a new international market meant that the horizons of Saddleworth clothiers would expand across the globe. The next part of this study will analyse the economic vicissitudes faced by the Schofields of Hollingreave in this new Saddleworth context.

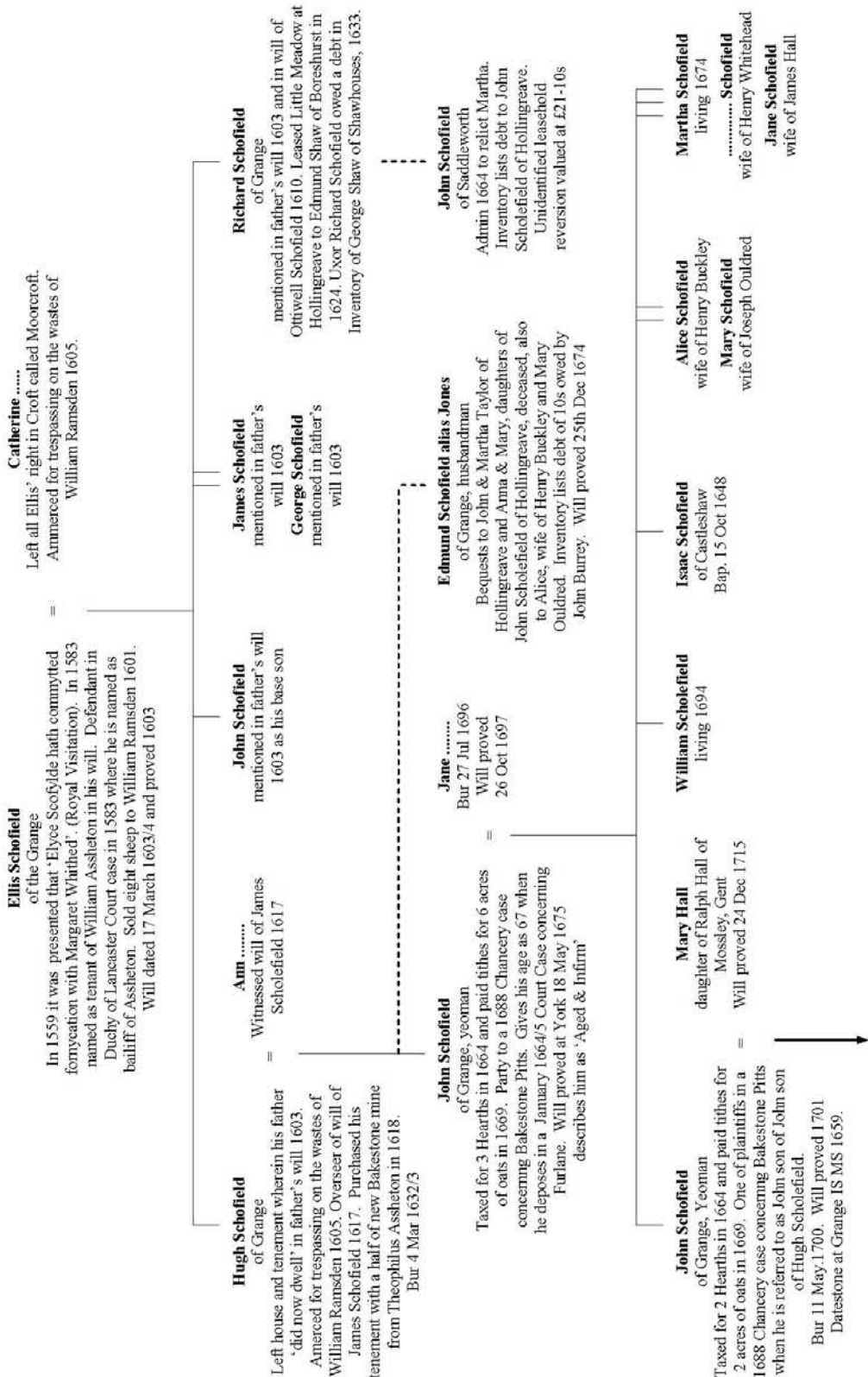
Acknowledgements

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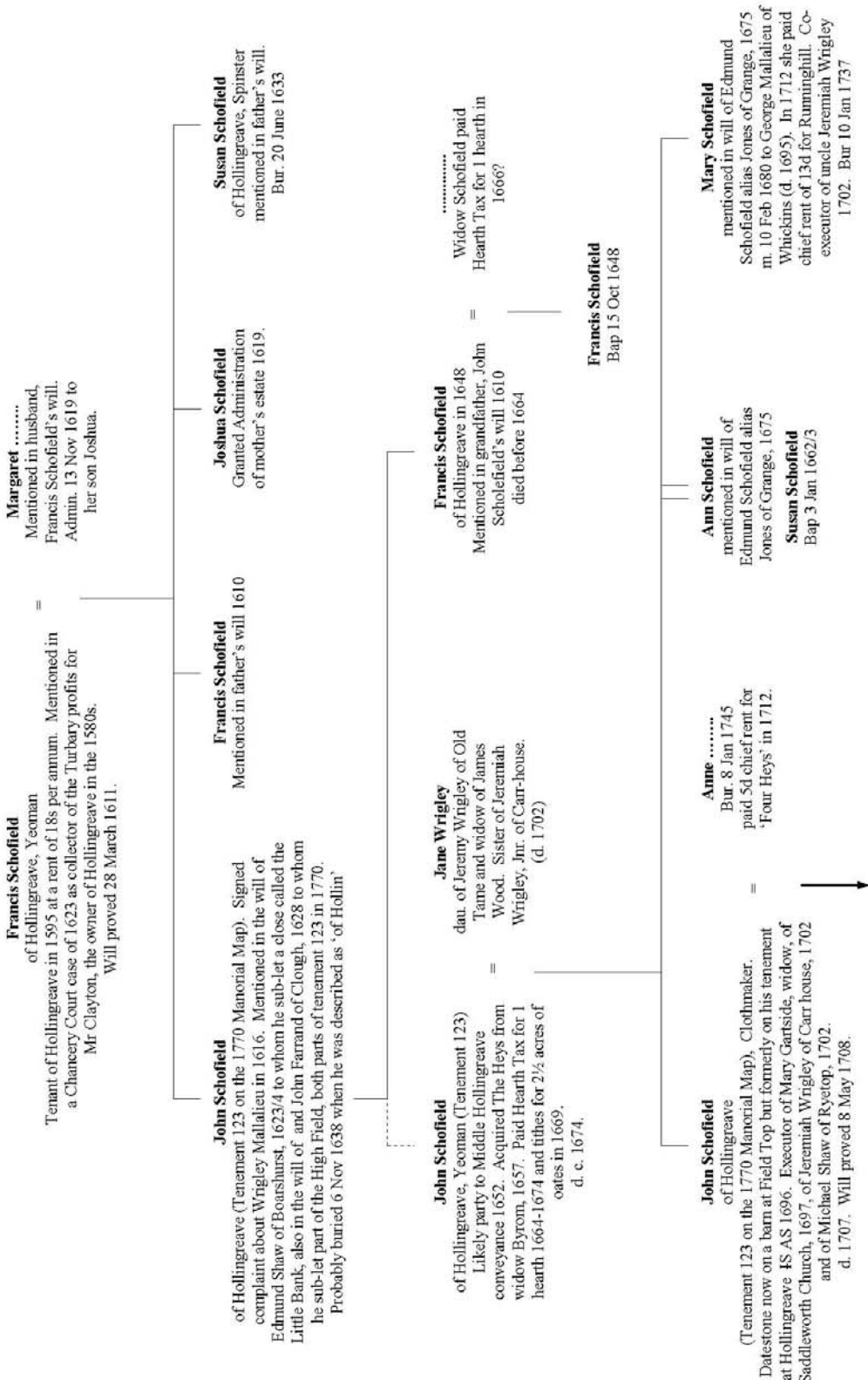
I also appreciate the collaboration and source material supplied by fellow Saddleworth Historical Society members Viv Fry, Julie Stone and Linda Cooper – who all share Hollingreave Schofield ancestry – much of which will appear in Part 2, and Lorna Gartside for her local knowledge as a long-term resident of Hollingreave Farm.

¹⁰³ A.J. Howcroft, *History of the Chapelry and Church of Saddleworth*, p. 84.

THE SCHOFIELD FAMILY OF GRANGE, SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE



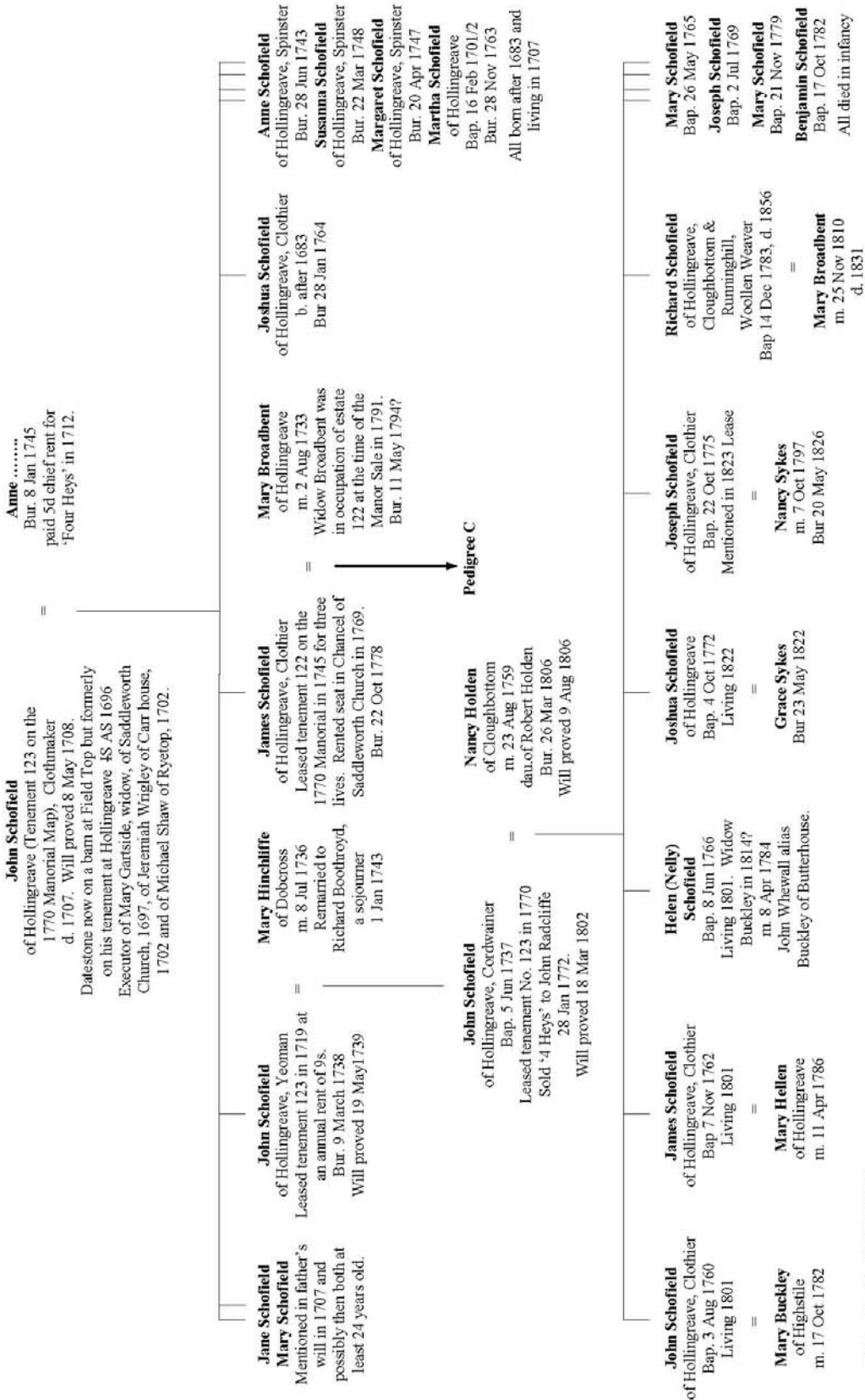
THE SCHOFIELD FAMILY OF HOLLINGREAVE, SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE (A)



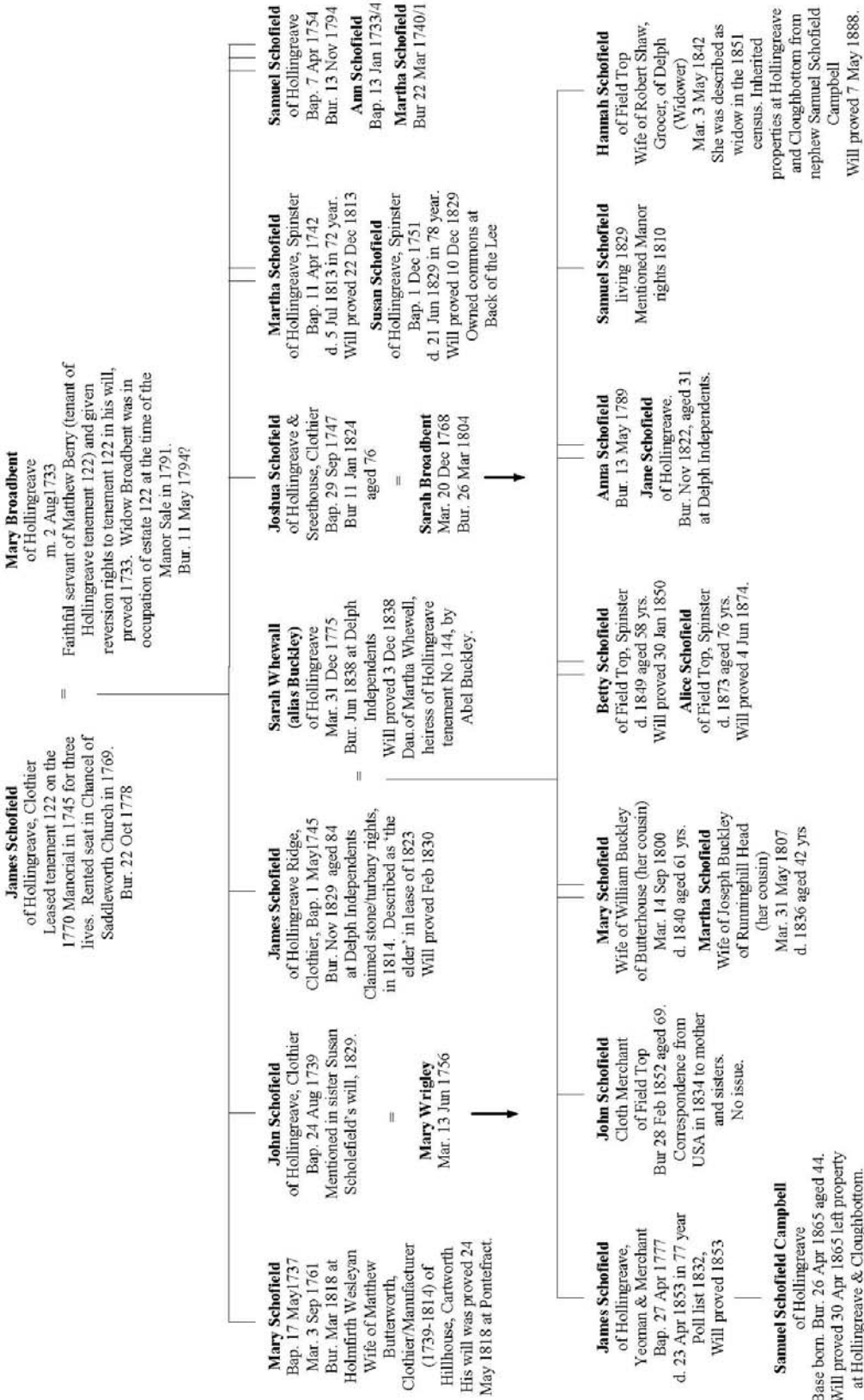
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Pedigree B

THE SCHOFIELD FAMILY OF HOLLINGREAVE, SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE (B)



THE SCHOFIELD FAMILY OF HOLLINGREAVE, SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE (C)



OBITUARY

Wilfred Ashton

24 December 1918 – 7 June 2013



Wilfred Ashton

Wilfred was born on Christmas Eve 1918 to Oliver and Clara Ashton in Uppermill, Saddleworth. He was their sixth child and the doctor is quoted as saying to his mother, 'This one is the runt of the pack, you'll never rear him'. Doctors don't always get it right; Wilfred lived the longest of his siblings: Gladys, Harold, Edith, Leonard and Norman.

He survived his education at the local schools and at 14 joined Greenfield Co-op bakery. He continued his 'education' to become a fully qualified baker, by attending Huddersfield Technical College night school. It was in this period that he began to develop his love of poetry and English Literature.

However life took a dramatic turn in 1939 with the advent of the Second World War, when as a twenty year old, he was called up and joined the Royal Navy as a Cook. After basic training at Butlins Skegness, but not quite the holiday camp, Wilfred was posted to Chatham and then to Scapa Flow to join HMS Woolwich, a submarine depot ship. In 1940 HMS Woolwich was dispatched to the Middle East by way of Cape of Good Hope eventually reaching Alexandria through the Suez Canal.

In 1941, the war at this stage was going badly. At the beginning of the Desert Campaign, the Australian division was holed up in Tobruk. 'Volunteers' were requested to join a fleet of little ships to run supplies to the besieged garrison and Wilfred was one of the volunteers. The ships were at the mercy of enemy air attack but he survived. Meanwhile HMS Woolwich was dive bombed and took a

direct hit on the bakery; many were killed and injured.

He was now a leading cook but was having medical problems with his jaw and was sent home to East Grinstead, via the Cape route again, to see if the trouble could be sorted out. After extensive tests the doctors gave up on Wilfred and he spent months at Chatham Barracks. However during this period, he was promoted to Petty Officer Cook and married his first wife, Elsie Hirst, on 9 May 1942. In October 1943 he was posted to a newly commissioned Dido class anti-aircraft cruiser HMS Bellona with the Home Fleet at Scapa Flow once more.

This ship was on active service every month from January 1944 to June 1945. These included maritime raids along the French and Norwegian coasts, supporting the D Day invasion at OMAHA beach and escort duty on three Russian convoys to Murmansk. The Arctic convoys were the worst experience of Wilfred's life.

With the war over, Wilfred, married with one son, resumed his job as a baker and settled in Hyde, Cheshire in 1949. However the strains of the war had taken their toll and a duodenal ulcer burst and he nearly lost his life. In the operation half his stomach was removed. As a consequence, due to the strenuous nature of the job, he was no longer able to continue his career as a baker.

His next job was as an insurance agent with the Wesleyan & General. For many years until he bought a car, he pedalled his insurance rounds in Stockport and as far out as New Mills in Derbyshire. The house in Hyde had a good size garden and it was during this time that Wilfred developed his love of gardening. He really did have green fingers. However, sadly just as things were getting easier, Elsie died in April 1972.

At this point Wilfred was like a lost soul, but after some time he met Joyce Hodge a friend from his pre-war Saddleworth days. They were married in June 1973 and went to live in Prestwich, Manchester; this was the start of a new beginning. There began a late flowering of his love for English literature and involvement in local affairs: Sedgely Park Methodist Church, Bury Operatic and a growing interest in local history and Lancashire dialect writings. He became Secretary to the Manchester Poetical Society, a member of the Manchester Association of Elocutionists and a member of the Lancashire Authors Association.

After his retirement, Wilfred began to publish his writings in pamphlets and set down his war time memoirs. These reflected his life and experiences as they unfolded to an ordinary man caught up in the conflict and capture more of the humour than the savagery and hardships.

After 20 years of happy marriage, Joyce died in 1993 from cancer. Wilfred returned to Saddleworth where he continued his writings, kept up a prolific correspondence with friends, both near and far, and gave many talks about local history and the Lancashire dialect authors. He also returned to Uppermill Methodist Church, where his story had begun.

However his wanderings were not yet over; in late 1999 he moved to be near his family in Essex. During this time he undertook annual pilgrimages, driving back to Saddleworth for the Whit Friday processions and village band contests. On his visit, in 2007, he lost his way and that marked the end of his driving.

In his last years, Wilfred needed more secure accommodation. He moved into Heathcote House, Brandon, where he was well cared for until he died quietly in

his own room on 7 June 2013. Two weeks later, he received the Arctic Star, for which he had applied, posthumously. This campaign medal had been belatedly awarded to those veterans who took part in the Russian Convoys.

Wilfred's life has been long, very varied and active until the end. He had a strong faith, which was rooted in his early upbringing in Saddleworth. He was nearly always cheerful and took what pain life threw at him with an element of stoicism; a characteristic of his generation and given his experiences, he could not stand injustice. Many will say he was one of life's characters, with a ready smile, a twinkle in his eye and a fund of stories to tell.

The following is a list of Wilfred Ashton's Publications, Writings and Assortments

- 1986. A Saddleworth Miscellany
- 1987. A Saddleworth Miscellany Part 2
- 1989. A Saddleworth Collection
- 1989. H.B. Whitehead: A Biography
- 1989. More About Saddleworth
- 1989. The 1939-45 War - A Saddleworth Sailor Parts 1 & 2
- 1990. Sedgley Park Methodist Church 50th Anniversary
- 1990. Seven Exciting Years
- 1991. Mainly About Saddleworth
- 1992. Mostly About Saddleworth 28 Poems
- 1992. National Reserve, Huddersfield Battalion, Saddleworth Detachment
- 1994. A Short Biography of Frank Buckley
- 1994. A Visit to Paris & Normandy to Honour The D Day Vets.
- 1995. A Tribute to the Rev. Harry Wisbey
- 1995. Saddleworth Characters
- 1996. 25 Poems
- 1996. Saddleworth Remembered
- 1996. The Story of Methodism in Uppermill
- 1997. Reflections and Recollections
- 1998. Local Lore and Suchlike from Saddleworth
- 1998. More Saddleworth Tales
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Contributions for Vol. 44 (1) must be submitted to the Editor by 24 April 2014

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