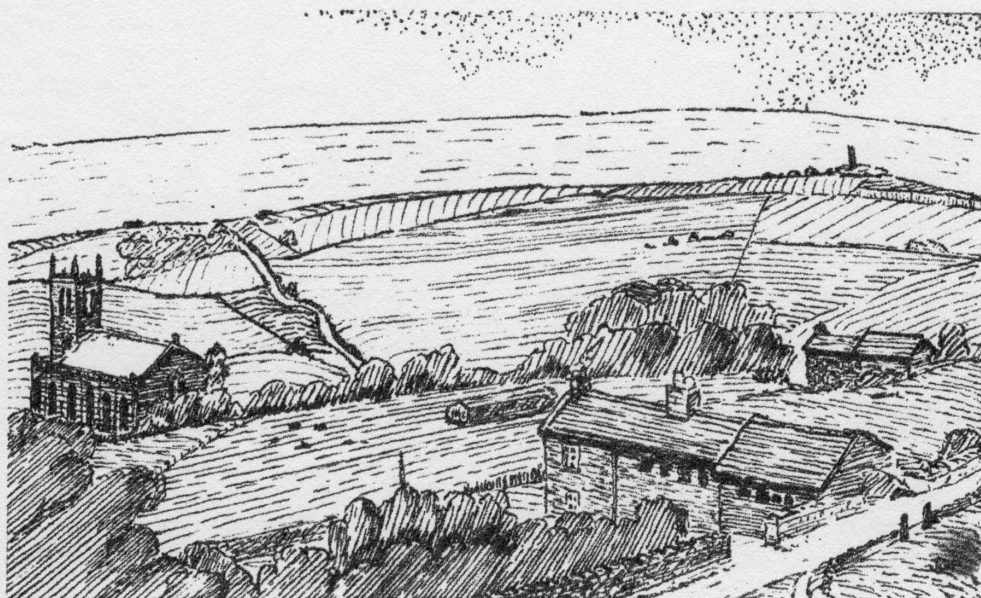


Saddleworth

Historical Society



SADDLEWORTH CHURCH

Bulletin

Spring 1974

Volume 4 No. 1

BULLETIN

OF

THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 4 Number 1

Spring 1974

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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1973

Extracts from Chairman's Report

The Society has now been in existence for seven years and in this time we have established ourselves, to quote Mr. Carter, as the most active society in L2G, or, as Mr. Hirst described us in the Chronicle, "that lively and prolific society".

Compliments have come from other quarters too. The Festival Committee has invited us to play an important role in connection with the 1975 Festival. We are frequently asked to provide speakers for other societies and we have had other evidence of the esteem in which the Society is held. These compliments have been well earned: this has been another year of considerable achievement.

Our publications, for instance, have a wide and appreciative circulation. The new look of the Museum since it was administered by the Society, and the success of the Roman Evening we put on early this year are also worthy of notice. The five programmes which Mrs. Booth has issued during the year show the wide range of our activities. Very shortly, the findings of our Roman Road Group will be announced. I am sure this will add to the prestige of the Society and of Mr. Haigh of the W.E.A. who leads this project. A considerable amount of fieldwork and study of the Mesolithic Period has also been accomplished this year by Dr. Stonehouse. He has worked in collaboration with Mr. Roger Jacobi from the University of Cambridge, and has also co-operated with the Milnrow Society on excavations. Perhaps next year we might have something in print. Coming from the pen of Dr. Stonehouse it will be impressive.

The Committee must take much of the credit for these achievements. May I first thank Mrs. Booth, our secretary, for the very capable way in which she has organised the Society's programme, dealt with enquiries, liaised with outside bodies and generally looked after our interests. She has been our mainstay during the year.

My thanks too to our vice-chairman Mr. Chadderton who has carried much of the load which should have fallen on me. He has chaired the Social Committee, taken a leading role in the Roman Road Group, and organised outdoor excursions, and this is the sort of contribution he makes year after year. Mr. Booth's work as treasurer speaks for itself. He has husbanded the Society's finances with creditable zeal. Before any expenditure is made on the Society's behalf we have to convince him that it is necessary and believe me that can be quite difficult! What can I say about Mr. Barnes's contribution to our success? Not only does he edit all our publications, he also contributes some of the content. I do not know how he finds so much time for the Society's affairs: I am just very relieved and grateful that he does.

Mr. Bradley is another stalwart. What a transformation he and his small band of helpers have made in the Museum. We owe him our gratitude for doing this difficult job so well. We must also thank our archivist, Mr. Airne, who has custody of photographs, documents and books. He has done a lot of work on the collection. This material is available to members for study and research. There would not be much point in storing it if it is not used. The other committee members have also worked hard in their various fields.

The Social Committee deserves a special word of thanks. The Roman Evening was the climax of a period of several weeks intense activity by this committee when they created sets and decorations which transformed the Civic Hall

into the garden of a Roman villa. Then we had a "weighvur's neet": this also needed organising, and was a very enjoyable evening.

We have to thank the W.E.A. and the Further Education Centre for the help they have given us, Mr. Howarth for providing transport, and Anne Chadderton for the number of times she has allowed the committees to meet at her home.

There are a few more thank you's before passing on to the next item: to Lord Rhodes for the help he has given the Society in our negotiations with Mr. Carter to keep collections of Saddleworth books in Saddleworth; to the Oldham Chronicle for the publicity they have given to our publications; and to our Patron, Mr. Roger Tanner, who made a donation of £40 this summer to the Society's funds.

We lost our good friend Mr. Battye early this year. He was a valuable member of our Society whom we remember with affection. His daughter has kindly given the Society some books, photographs and documents which he wanted us to have.

The subject which perhaps has given us most concern this year is the impending merger of Saddleworth with Oldham. This is due to take effect in May. There are of course arguments for and against this reorganisation, but, whatever our personal views may be, this centralisation will take place and this is the attitude your committee has adopted. Their aim has been to ensure that Saddleworth's identity is not submerged in this larger grouping. They were particularly concerned about the Irad Hewkin collection of books in Saddleworth - concerned lest these be taken and housed in Oldham after the merger. Your committee felt that the library in Uppermill should be the repository for them. Our secretary, who took upon herself the task of liaising with the Council, the Oldham and West Riding libraries, Lord Rhodes and other interested parties, will report on this and on the successful outcome.

As you know, it was announced yesterday that Saddleworth has been accorded parish council status. With such local representation we should have a better chance of achieving our aims.

J. Murray.

Extracts from Secretary's Report

The membership this year totalled 140 paid-up members, plus 6 juniors. In addition there are a few who have forgotten to renew their subscriptions. This is an increase of 45% over last year's total of 97 full members, and 62 the previous year.

Nine evening meetings were attended by 334 people, an average of 37 per meeting. Two evening excursions attracted 30 members, and our three day outings and one weekend outing totalled 128. The two social events were attended by over 200 members and friends.

There have been six Full Committee meetings during the year, again with almost 100% attendance, and the Social Committee has met regularly to plan the social events. 109 letters have been written and over 450 programmes sent out.

Our lecture programme covered a wide range of subjects and included an evening of members' slides. Mr. D.S. Newton spoke on Medieval Arms and Armour and later this was followed by Dr. E.M. Stoddart's beautifully illustrated lecture on Durham Priory. Mr. P.G. Wroe then told us of the

recently discovered Buxton to Melandra Roman Road, and Dr. Chaloner of Manchester University gave us the life of Samuel Bamford, the poet and politician. The winter session finished with our Roman Road tutor, Mr. Donald Haigh, speaking on the work of the "Rescue" organisation for Archaeology.

The 1973-74 session began with Mr. G. Binns from Halifax giving us a slide lecture on some Calder Valley water mills, followed by Mr. Norman Tyson describing his work on barrow excavations in Lancashire.

Our final lecture of the year was given by our most distinguished member, Lord Rhodes, who told us of his life in both Houses of Parliament and as Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire.

Two summer evening outings were again led by Mr. George Taylor. The first, a tour of Melandra Roman Fort, was followed by a visit to points on the Melandra to Brough-on-Noe Roman Road. Our summer outings took us to the Bugsworth Canal Complex in June, followed in July by a cruise on the Leeds-Liverpool Canal taking in the Bingley Five Rise Locks. This excursion which was considerably overbooked was made all the more enjoyable by the journey to Shipley in Mike Howarth's bus.

For the first time a weekend outing was arranged - to Hadrian's Wall. 48 members and children made the journey to Haltwistle for a three-day tour of stations on the Wall, the last day being cut short by heavy rain.

Mr. Chadderton once again led a party on a Lake District walk, the historical aspect being a visit to the Langdale stone axe factory. On 16th June the Society were hosts to the Hunter Archaeological Society of Sheffield on a visit to Castleshaw, and members of the Early Section acted as guides round the Fort following a tour of the Museum.

This year, for the second time, we had a stall at Road End Fair on Maunday Thursday. We were once more well supported in the sale of our publications and other items.

This year we have begun a system of micro-filming old deeds and documents. A number of 18th and 19th century deeds were loaned by the Kenworthy family of Uppermill, and we now have a micro-film record of these for our archives.

At the last A.G.M. it was agreed that we should write to the Council and also arrange a meeting with their representatives with regard to the Hewkin Collection. At this meeting, the Clerk promised to get in touch with Mr. Carter, the Director designate of Libraries and Museums. With the exception of Mr. Cleverley, who has been active as one of our representatives, only two Councillors acknowledged our letters: both these were candidates at the last elections. At the general meeting on 30th May last, the report given to members indicated that we were still waiting for arrangements to be made by the Council for discussions to take place with Mr. Carter. One of our members, so upset that nothing definite regarding the future of the Collection was forthcoming, went home that night and sat until 3 a.m. composing a letter to Lord Rhodes on the subject.

The outcome, briefly, was that Lord Rhodes invited a deputation from the Society to Cribbstones for discussions. Following this, a further meeting was arranged, to which Mr. Carter was invited. At this meeting, Mr. Carter stated that his policy was to leave local material locally if this was the wish of the community, and if this was the wish of the people of Saddleworth he would be happy for the Hewkin Collection to remain in the Library at Uppermill.

Continued use of the room made available by the West Riding was granted, together with the use of other rooms if required.

Two other collections of books have been entrusted to the Society. Mr. E.L. Edwards, now of Evesham, but formerly of Dobcross, has withdrawn his interesting and detailed scrapbooks on that district from the West Riding Library and has put them into the care of the Society so that they will remain in Saddleworth. Similarly, a large collection of Account Books, letters and other documents has recently been handed over to the Society by the Saddleworth Weavers' Union. It is to be hoped that members and other interested people will make full use of these valuable records.

We are still receiving requests from people tracing family histories, the Buckley family in particular, and our publications are in great demand from students who all appear to be writing theses on Saddleworth.

This year, in addition to our affiliations to the C.B.A., the W.E.A., the Further Education Centre, the Medlock and Tame Valley Conservation Committee, and the Crossley Bus Society, we have joined the Federation of Local History Societies in the County Palatine of Lancaster. I do not think it was realised when we were invited that Saddleworth was in Yorkshire, but no doubt it was known that we are to become a part of Greater Manchester.

Barbara Booth.

SADDLEWORTH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES.

Part 12: 1911

- Feb. Attack on the Royal Mail at Grasscroft by two men, foiled by the driver with the steel butt of his whip. Statement that the mail to Saddleworth mills, being valuable, had prompted the attack.
Delph Agricultural Show to be discontinued after being in existence for 26 years.
Half-Time Scholars. 98 in Saddleworth (one out of every 18 on the register, compared with one out of every 158 in the Colne Valley).
Friezland Day School. Substantial repairs and improvements needed. Matter left with County Authority. Statement that new school at Greenfield could accommodate the children.
Saddleworth Literary and Philosophical Society reformed. The previous one was formed in 1872 and lasted 15-20 years.
- Mar. Inadequate Housing in Saddleworth. Question left to be decided by new Council.
- Apr. Fatality at Woolroad - 11 year old boy drowned when he tried to cross a lock gate and fell into the water of the canal.
The Old Saddleworth Volunteers - complimentary Dinner and Presentation to their old Commander, Capt. G.A. Schofield.
Procession to Mechanics' Hall headed by Royal George Band.
- May Frontage of New Wesleyan Chapel. Council accepted offer of trustees to purchase land for the frontage of the new building to bring it into line with the Commercial Hotel, Uppermill.
Explosion at Delph. Explosive material taken from quarryman's hut. Two boys injured.
- June Death of Mr. J. Radcliffe, compiler of Saddleworth Registers.
Lydgate Church - re-opened after extensive alterations.
Castleshaw School ceased to be recognised by the Board of Education,

so no grant was forthcoming. The parents paid 3d. for each child per week and there were 15 scholars. Statement that Education Committee could provide a conveyance to take them to Delph schools. Coronation of George V and Queen Mary. Detachment of 7th Battalion West Riding Territorials under Major Tanner on duty at Coronation. Civic Procession to Saddleworth Church in the morning. Royal George procession with tableaux - one being a miniature king and queen in a satin coach - joined with Greenfield processions for a joint "sing". Processions at Uppermill, Dobcross, Diggle, Delph and Denshaw. Sports, teas and souvenirs for the children. Decorations and bunting throughout the district. Old Folks parties. Bonfire on Pots and Pans.

- Friezland Day School to be closed and a new school provided.
- July Naming of Roads throughout the district to be considered by the Council. Proposal to build a Covered Market at Delph on the site of the Mechanics' Arms ("Owd Mop") negatived.
- Aug. New Horse Ambulance used to carry injured Territorial from the station to his home after an accident at Ripon Camp. Saddleworth Agricultural Show a success. 6,000 attended.
- Sept. Uppermill Council School opened. Saddleworth Literary and Philosophical Society visited new waterworks at Chew Wells travelling by the light railway from Roaches along the Greenfield hillside. Geology lecture in the billiard room at Ashway Gap after tea at Kinder Intake Farm. Bleak Hey Nook Wakes celebrated. Sports and dance on Saturday. Sacred Concert by Saddleworth Reed Band on Sunday. Dance on Monday.
- Oct. Saddleworth Housing. Land to be purchased. Need for housing not solved by private enterprise. 11 acres to be bought at Dobcross, 6 at Uppermill, 9 at Delph and 32 at Diggle. It was stated that Greenfield Co-operative Society was catering for the needs of Greenfield by building the Garden Suburb Estate.
- Nov. Wesleyan Bazaar at Uppermill held in Mechanics' Hall to raise money for new church and reconstruction of school premises. £600 raised.
- Dec. Colour Photography Lecture given in Oddfellows Hall, Uppermill, by Mr. Buckley Bent of Evesham in aid of NSPCC. Gas Lighting used for first time at Saddleworth Workhouse. New Railway Stations at Grasscroft, Moorgate and Dobcross to be in operation on 1st Jan. 1912, together with an improved train service.

Compiled by Mrs. H. Wood.

Part 13: 1912, will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

REGISTERS OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAPEL, DELPH

The microfilming of these Registers, which was mentioned in Mr. H.S. Broadbent's article in the last issue of the Bulletin, has now been completed. The microfilms can be consulted at both the Rochdale and Manchester Reference Libraries.

THE SADDLEWORTH BANKING COMPANY

Extracts from the three Minute Books of the Saddleworth Banking Company made by Arthur Kershaw, the youngest son of James Hervey Kershaw, and kindly made available by Mr. H. Ogden of Grasscroft.

Part 3: The Third Minute Book

26 Sept. 1859 at Dobcross. That John Edward Hilton, son of James Hilton of Quick Edge, be engaged as Junior Clerk at Oldham Office for four years, the first two to be gratis, the third year at £40, the fourth at £50, with a gratuity of £10 if his conduct has been satisfactory at the close of his engagement.

31 Oct. 1859 at Dobcross. That a contribution of £2-2-0 be given to the Testimonial Fund of the late Postmaster, Eli Hollingworth.

19 Mar. 1860 at Dobcross. That Mr. Owen Platt, Accountant, be appointed a Public Office to sue and be sued on behalf of the Bank, in place of the late Mr. Francis Shaw Buckley.

That Mr. James H. Kershaw be appointed sub-manager at the Dobcross Office at a salary of £170 per annum from 1st Apr. next.

That Mr. C.J. Buckley's salary shall be £800 per annum from 1st Apr. next.

That Mr. J.H. Kershaw may accept the appointment of Treasurer of the Township of Saddleworth offered to him by the Board of Poor Law Guardians, and that John Buckley and James Lees Esqs. be his sureties

23 Apr. 1860 at Dobcross. That from May next Mr. Thomas Mattinson's salary be increased to £450 per annum.

21 May 1860 at Dobcross. That in place of the late John Buckley Esq. of Carrhill deceased who with James Lees Esq. of Delph Lodge was joint surety for James H. Kershaw of Dobcross as Treasurer of the Township of Saddleworth, C.J. Buckley Esq. of Hollyville be proposed to the Board of Poor Law Guardians

18 June 1860 at Dobcross. That Mr. Thomas Lister Charlesworth be engaged as sub-Manager of the Ashton Branch for three years from the 30th Sept. next at £300 for each of the first two years and £320 for the third year.

23 July 1860 at Dobcross. That the sum of £1500 be offered as the purchase money of the Bank premises at Oldham to Joshua Jones Esq.

30 July 1860 at Commercial Inn, Uppermill. Annual Meeting. Profit £7,055-8-11. Dividend 10%.

27 Aug. 1860 at Commercial Inn, Uppermill. That to enable the Managers and Clerks to take their summer excursions the next meeting of the Board be held on Mon. 1st Oct. at Dobcross.

19 Nov. 1860 at Dobcross. That from the 31st Dec. next Mr. James H. Kershaw's salary as sub-manager at Dobcross be advanced to £200 per annum.

29 July 1861 at Commercial Inn, Uppermill. That from and after the 30th June last Mr. C.J. Buckley's salary be fixed at £1000 per annum. Annual Meeting. Profit £10,747-1-10. Dividend 10%.

18 Nov. 1861 at Dobcross. That from the 31st Dec. next Mr. Thomas Mattinson's salary be advanced to £500 per annum.

20 Jan. 1862 at Dobcross. That the purchase of the Bank premises at Oldham from Joshua Jones Esq. for the sum of £1700 be confirmed at the purchase completed on 1st of May next.

28 July 1862 at Commercial Inn, Uppermill. Annual Meeting. Profit £7,396-12-10. Dividend 10%.

27 July 1863 at Commercial Inn, Uppermill. Annual Meeting. Profit £6,655-16-9. Dividend 10%.

Suitable offices for the business of the Bank have been erected in connection with the old premises at Oldham Branch where a satisfactory increase has been steadily progressing bearing in mind the general distress of the entire neighbourhood, the fact that the present Report is not discoloured by the disasters which at one time were so menacing an aspect must be equally gratifying to the Shareholders and Directors.

24 Aug. 1863 at Dobcross. That it is desirable to effect an amalgamation with the "Consolidated Bank" provided satisfactory terms can be arranged.

28 Sept. 1863 at Dobcross. That Mr. Owen Platt be allowed to accept the appointment of Clerk to the Board of Guardians requiring his attendance at the Board of Guardians for half a day or a little more each fortnight.

That Mr. Thomas L. Charlesworth's engagement as Sub-Manager at the Ashton Branch be renewed for one year from the 1st Oct. at £340 and for two years afterwards at £350 per annum.

25 Jan. 1864. That in lieu of former allowance Mr. Mattinson be authorised to charge 15/- weekly for cleaning the Bank and the necessary coals consequent on the engagement of the premises at the Oldham office.

25 July 1864 at Commercial Inn, Uppermill. Annual Meeting. Profit £9,535-14-2. Dividend 10%.

That Major Blackbourne and C.J. Buckley Esq. be deputed and authorised to conduct negotiations for an amalgamation with the Manchester and County Bank.

22 May 1865 at Dobcross. That Major Blackbourn is hereby appointed to the vacant office of Director occasioned by the death of C.J. Buckley Esq. J.P. Managing Director.

31 July 1865 at Commercial Inn, Uppermill. That the salaries of the three Managers, Messrs. Mattinson, Charlesworth and Kershaw be increased to the extent respectively of £100 per annum, and that Mr. Charlesworth be allowed an additional £50 per annum in lieu of a house.

That Mr. Mattinson be considered as the Senior Manager of this Bank
.....

Annual Meeting. Profit £11,682-16-8. Dividend 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.

18 Sept. 1865 at Dobcross. That Mr. James Whitehead be appointed Sub-Manager of the Oldham Bank.

23 Oct. 1865 at Dobcross. That Mr. James Lees and Major Blackburne be appointed a deputation for the purpose of meeting the deputation appointed by the Manchester and County Bank. That Mr. Mattinson cause an Inventory to be prepared of the Property of the Bank at the various Branches, including the Plate and stock of Wines and Spirits etc. at Dobcross.

11 Nov. 1865 at Mitre Tavern, Manchester. Special Meeting of Directors. The deputation appointed to meet the Directors of the Manchester and County Bank Ltd. reported

20 Nov. 1865 at Dobcross. The deputation reported that they had had several further interviews with the Directors and Manager of the Manchester and County Bank which had ultimately resulted in the acceptance by them of the proposal authorised at the last meeting. (Manchester and County Bank shares worth £19 and Saddleworth Bank shares at £16 and that the dissentient shareholders should be bought off at £15 per share).

The amalgamation to take place on 1st Jan. 1866.

14 Dec. 1865 at Commercial Inn, Uppermill. Special General Meeting of Directors and Shareholders. Directors present, George Shaw, James Lees, Richard Buckley, J.G. Blackburne, and Thomas Broadbent. Resolved: That the proposed arrangement with the Manchester and County Bank Ltd. for the

amalgamation of the business and interests of the two companies by and the same is hereby approved.

That it is desirable that not less than three Directors shall represent the Shareholders of the late Saddleworth Banking Co. on the Manchester and County Bank Board.

14 Feb. 1866 at Commercial Inn, Uppermill. General Meeting. Report of the Directors. The Directors in presenting their 33rd Report to the Shareholders of the Saddleworth Banking Co. consider it appropriate to allude retrospectively to the period that has elapsed since the establishment of the Company. The history of the Bank dates from its commencement from about the beginning of the present century, being then a Private Bank under the title of Buckley, Roberts & Co. and subsequently continued with success under the firm of Buckley, Shaw & Co., until in the year 1833 it was changed into a Joint Stock Bank under its present designation. Previous therefore to the decease of the late Managing Director Charles James Buckley Esq. the chief management of the business of the Bank has been virtually continued in the same hands from its earliest date

The want of an establishment in Manchester having often been forced on the attention of the Directors and the growing requirements of the business having now rendered it absolutely necessary it became imperative that they should either make an opening there or adopt the only alternative course of amalgamation with some Bank having such an establishment. It was the earnest wish of Mr. Charles Buckley to effect an amalgamation with some strong influential and commercial Bank to whom we could offer the advantages of the Business of the district in which this Bank was established as well as derive for ourselves the advantages which a central Bank alone could give and the known character of which would give perfect confidence in the proposed union. These reasons met with the concurrence of the Bank and they became convinced that the alternative course of amalgamation was the one alike most economical and unobjectionable. It is therefore a further satisfaction to them to find such a general concurrence among the shareholders with the course they adopted in arranging for an amalgamation with the Manchester and County Bank because in accomplishing it they are convinced that they have not only consulted the interest of the shareholders but also the increased convenience of the customers by extending the connections of the Bank not only of Manchester as the great centre of business but also with the towns of Preston, Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Bacup and Darwen

Signed: Geo. Shaw, Chairman.

14 Feb. 1866 at Commercial Inn, Uppermill. Special General Meeting. Resolved that the Saddleworth Banking Company be dissolved etc. etc.

That the agreement between the Directors and the Manchester and County Bank Ltd. be ratified etc. etc.

That the best thanks of the Shareholders are due to the Directors for their long and faithful services and for carrying out the arrangements for the amalgamation of this Company with the Manchester and County Bank Ltd.

Signed: Geo. Shaw, Chairman.

Directors in office at the amalgamation were:

George Shaw
James Lees
Richard Buckley
John George Blackburne
Thomas Broadbent

A NOTE ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF BANKING

Dobcross has a long tradition of banking dating back to the late years of the 1790's, and in 1823 there were two private banks there: Buckley, Roberts & Co. (the Saddleworth Bank) drawing on Jones, Loyd & Co. of London, and Harrop, Lees, Brown & Co. (the Saddleworth Union Bank) drawing on Barclay & Co., London. But to understand why these grew up and why the Saddleworth Banking Company was established in 1833 at the instigation of Buckley, Shaw & Co. and the Huddersfield Banking Co., one has to look back at the history of banking in England.

The Bank of England was formed in 1694, and after three years a monopoly of joint stock banking in England was granted to it. The same period saw the development of the first private banks, but their greatest growth in the provinces coincided with and arose from the Industrial Revolution in the second half of the eighteenth century. Most of them were backed by local merchants, industrialists and other tradesmen, and they were generally small and local. They issued their own notes which circulated freely in the nearby areas, but many failed within a very short time; for example 71 stopped payment in 1793 alone, and between 1808 and 1830 316 country banks had to close, one of these being the Saddleworth Union Bank in February, 1826.

By the early nineteenth century, the demand for banking facilities outside London and particularly in the industrial areas had increased tremendously, and the failure of so many private banks aggravated the problem. The Bank of England did not provide the solution by establishing branches throughout the country, thus leaving a vacuum. Eventually, in 1826, despite Bank of England resistance, an Act was passed providing for the establishment of joint stock banks with note issuing powers in the provinces. There followed a rapid growth of joint stock banking, and one of the first banks to be established under this Act was the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Co. (later the District Bank) in 1829. Four years later, as has been outlined in this series of extracts from the Minute Books of the Saddleworth Banking Co., a joint stock bank was formed at Dobcross with the merger of the Huddersfield Banking Co. and the Saddleworth Bank.

B. Barnes.

THE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A TECHNICAL COLLEGE
FOR SADDLEWORTH

On the afternoon of Saturday, 10th September, 1898, at the invitation of William Buckley J.P., County Councillor, representatives from day schools and members of evening class committees and Co-operative Societies' Educational Committees met at the Clarence Hotel to hear Mr. Cook, the County Council Inspector for Education, who spoke of the need to develop technical education. It was decided at this meeting that a determined effort should be made to secure better facilities for technical education in Saddleworth. A committee called the Saddleworth Education Committee was formed, and its original members were Henry Mallalieu J.P., A. Mallalieu J.P., James Butterworth, all the school headmasters, and Charles Priest as Secretary. It was felt that if the local councils - Saddleworth Rural District, Springhead and Saddleworth Urban District councils - and committee members of the several Co-operative Societies worked together then more could be done than by the haphazard planning of each organisation working by itself.

In February, 1899, the Saddleworth Education Committee met to discuss a proposed Secondary School for Saddleworth. It was hoped that such a school could be equipped to cater for evening continuation classes, but Mr. Cook, on hearing this proposal, felt it hardly practicable, for experience showed that only 4 boys and 2 girls per thousand attended such classes. Mr. William Buckley offered to contribute £50 if such a scheme could be carried out, and it was suggested that the Council should levy a penny rate in support of the scheme. (It was to be 12 years before a central secondary school was built in Uppermill).

A circular issued in 1900 by the Saddleworth Education Committee shows that they favoured the establishment of a Technical Institute and that the idea of a secondary school had been shelved. The circular asked for financial support, and the following complete quotation comes from the local section of "The Wheatsheaf" for May 1900:

"The members of the Saddleworth Educational Committee desire to bring to your notice the urgent need that exists for a Technical Institute in Saddleworth.

If Great Britain is to hold her own with foreign competition, and if Saddleworth is not to fall behind other manufacturing communities in the Kingdom, skilled and intelligent workpeople are a necessity, and such skill and intelligence can best be fostered and maintained by a system of sound commercial, technical and scientific education. A considerable number of Saddleworth students are every year attending the Lyceum at Oldham, the Mossley Mechanics' Institute, the Huddersfield Technical School and other outside institutions, for those facilities which Saddleworth itself should provide. And there are doubtless many others also who would make use of such educational facilities if they were obtainable at some convenient centre in the district. Several holders of exhibitions too, are obliged annually to relinquish these advantages owing to the expenses of railway fares to those outside places where the exhibitions are tenable. A Technical Institute within the district would obviate these hardships. It would we think, be possible with the united co-operation of manufacturers and other persons of means in the district, to build a suitable technical institute, and to equip it with the necessary appliances to a sum, say, of £4,000. Such an institute, like the one at Holmfirth (on which our estimate is based) would comprise chemical laboratory, rooms for instruction in cotton spinning, cloth weaving and designing, dyeing, bleaching, etc.; lecture rooms for the teaching of Art and Science subjects, languages and commercial subjects, dressmaking, millinery, laundry work, cookery, etc. Secondary education is also becoming increasingly important

and the institute might well be utilised if found necessary for the purpose of a good secondary school.

Assuming that the cost of the building itself to be £3,000 and the apparatus and furnishing £1,000, it is proposed to meet it as follows:

1.	The West Riding will grant (if the work be carried out to its satisfaction):-		
	10% on the cost of building	say	£ 300
	50% on the cost of furnishing	say	500
2.	The Worshipful Company of Clothworkers and the Worshipful Company of Dyers or other outside agencies may be expected to contribute	say	250
3.	The Saddleworth District Council has powers to levy 1d. in the £ rate p.a. producing in three or four years	say	1,000
4.	By local effort in donations	say	1,950
			£4,000

Already subscriptions have been promised amounting to some hundreds of pounds, and the Saddleworth Education Committee now venture to appeal to you for such pecuniary assistance as you are able to give to the movement, so that the matter may be put into more practical shape, and an appeal issued to the general public for help. Any suggestion for the furtherance of the scheme will also be gratefully received and considered by the Committee.

Awaiting the favour of a reply at your early convenience (which may be sent to any of the undersigned), and trusting you will be able to accord to the subject your generous sympathy and substantial support,

We are, on behalf of the Committee,

Yours faithfully,

Edwin Powell, M.A., Greenfield Vicarage. Chairman.
T.S. Platt, J.P., Railway View, Uppermill. Vice-chairman.
H.P. Edwards, Dobcross Vicarage.
William Buckley, J.P., C.C., Gatehead House, Delph.
James Hilton, Prospecton, Greenfield.
Henry Mallalieu, J.P., Delph Lodge, Delph.
Harold Mallalieu, Grove House, Delph.
Harry Whitehead, Junior, Dobcross.
Charles Priest, Birch Bank, Greenfield. Secretary. "

In April, 1900, the same month as the Saddleworth Education Committee's circular asking for support for their scheme, a newly-formed Saddleworth Ratepayers' Association distributed a circular criticising the attempts to establish a Technical College for Saddleworth. There were 50 people at the inaugural meeting of this Association, and the Rev. J.S. Schofield was elected President with Joseph Brierley (Secretary of the Delph Mechanics' Institute) to serve as Secretary. The circular made the following points:-

"There are projects in the air that ratepayers should watch; notably the proposal to open the purse of the ratepayer in support of building a new Technical School.

No disclosure had been made of the way in which any deficiencies would be met.

Many people favourable to Technical Education considered a better

way was to raise funds voluntarily to assist students to attend well-equipped technical colleges in neighbouring towns.

Saddleworth could not hope to equal other colleges in staff or efficiency. "

This circular brought a reply from the Rev. Edwin Powell, a strong supporter of the proposed institute, in the form of a letter to the Saddleworth Reporter. He pointed out that the Ratepayers' Association would be welcome to keep a close watch on the finances of any scheme to provide technical education in Saddleworth. He wanted the proposal to be discussed fully and felt that manufacturers, travelling students, and students prevented from studying by travelling difficulties should all have a voice in in the discussions.

Judging by Joseph Brierley's reply in the Reporter of 28th April, 1900, it is evident that he had a large share of the responsibility in drafting the ratepayers' circular. He pointed out that the district already had two Mechanics' Institutes, and that classes in them were badly supported by Saddleworth's young people. He said that at the Delph Mechanics' Institute the committee had tried to establish courses beyond the scope of evening continuation classes without success.

"A Technical Institute. Why, what use would it be? It might be an ornament if built in first class architectural style in one of our villages".

He suggested that some of the day schools could be used for such instruction. "We are blessed with equipment and privileges but we make little or no use of them. If the facilities we have were used and found to be inadequate then there would be a case for a technical institute".

J.G. Parry.

To be concluded.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Re the article in the Bulletin, Vol.3, No.3, about the Saddleworth Banking Company. In my collection of pre-stamp covers, I have one from the Manager of the Bank to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Petch, London, and enclosed is the typescript translation of the entire. I have not attempted to copy it by hand, partly because it would be rather difficult to reproduce clearly in the Bulletin, and also because quite a lot of the word endings are in scrolled finish.

Saddleworth 3 Oct. 1835.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch

Gents,

We wrote on the 16th ult. and requested that you would send us some Specimens of notes and cheques but as we have not received any reply to our letter we presume that you have mislaid it. In order to save time we will thank you to make in accordance with the following instructions a sketch of a note, and forward it to us with as little delay as possible.

"Saddleworth Bank" in the same kind of letters as Huddersfield Bank in the note plate you have lately engraved for the H.B. Coy.

"I promise to pay the Bearer on demand the sum of Five Pounds here or at Messrs. Glyn, Hallipe, (this could be Hallifax, difficult to read rear part) Mills, London", (same as the Bank of Manchester's notes)

"183 183"

For the directors and Proprietors of
the Saddleworth Banking Compy

..... Manager

X same as the five on the Bank of Manchester's notes.

At the left side you will please introduce one of the figures representing Britannia on the Back plate you engraved for us with the addition of a wreath round it or any other kind of ornament that you think will look better.

You will oblige us by ordering immediately paper similar to what is enclosed herein with the watermark "Saddleworth Banking Company established in 1833" for 10,000 notes.

We remain
Yours respectfully
for the Saddleworth Banking Coy

F.S. Buckley, Manager.

Engravers
London.

57, Huddersfield Road,
Delph.

J. Howard.

OLD SADDLEWORTH

This is part of the work being carried out on a Gazetteer of Saddleworth by the Historical Society. As more of this work is completed details will be published in future editions of the Bulletin. The information given below has been extracted from Record Cards which are held by the Society, and which are available for reference.

HOLLY VILLE

Grid Reference: SE 003042

Location: Off Holmfirth Road between Park Lane and Tunstead Lane, Greenfield.

Description: A large Georgian house, perhaps the best of its kind in Saddleworth, set in its own grounds with a lodge on Holmfirth Road. Altered in 1930's and extended in 1967.

History:

1832 Built 1820's for James Buckley. Baines' 1825 Directory records James Buckley, banker, of Holly Ville.

1838 Pigot's Directory lists Charles James Buckley, banker, and James Buckley, magistrate, of Holly Ville.

1841 In Pigot's Directory James Buckley, magistrate, is listed under Holly Ville.

1843 The Census recorded James Buckley aged 75, independent, and Mary his wife with their three daughters and two female servants.

1852 James Buckley, magistrate, was still living here (Pigot's Directory). He was the founder of the Saddleworth Bank, and died in 1851.

1853 Slater's Directory lists Mrs. Mary Buckley under Holly Ville.

1875 White's Directory records Mr. Charles James Buckley as living here. He had become the Managing Director of the Saddleworth Bank in 1852.

1875 St. Mary's Church, Greenfield, was consecrated on Ascension Day, 6th May. It was built by Richard Buckley of Holly Ville and George Shaw was the architect.

SPRING GROVE

Grid Reference: SD 999042

Location: Chew Valley Road, Greenfield, between Road End and Central Avenue.

Description: Three storey house. Front symmetrical with door in centre and sash windows. Rest has watershot stonework and flat, slightly recessed mullion windows. East side has steps to door on first floor. Second floor workroom undivided: under the floor boards part of the space was recently found to be packed with grain husks or chaff and part also had some cops. Part of a hoist still existed in this workroom in 1973. The two cottages adjacent are said to have been stables and coachman's house originally.

History:

1822 The deeds refer to Spring Grove as being a "parcel of the Foulrakes Estate". On 17 Aug. John Andrew leased the house to Dan Whitehead.

1825 Baines' Directory lists Robert Whitehead, gentleman, of Spring Grove.

1832 In Pigot's Directory Dan and Samuel Whitehead of Spring Grove were woollen manufacturers and merchants.

1834 Robert Whitehead of Spring Grove, clothier, died. In 1777

- the Registers recorded that Robert Whitehead (of Spring Grove?) married Mary Buckley.
- 1838 Dan Whitehead of Spring Grove was a woollen manufacturer, merchant and grocer. (Pigot's Directory).
- 1841 The Census recorded under Spring Grove: Daniel Whitehead, grocer, his wife Mary and four children; and James Hall, woollen weaver, his wife Betty and five children.
- 1846-7 Dan Whitehead of Spring Grove contributed £5 to the building of the tower of Saddleworth Church (plaque in Church).
- 1859 Co-op. Store opened at Spring Grove. James Schofield lived in the house adjoining the shop.
- 1862 Notice to quit Spring Grove given to the Co-operative Society by Thomas and Sarah Ann Bradbury, executors of the late Mary Bradbury.
- 1878 Lease between 1) John Scholes Hague, 2) Elizabeth Brideoak, 3) Thomas Bradbury. (Deeds).
- 1900 In the early years of this century Spring Grove was in the possession of Misses Ann and Lavina Bradbury.

SUNFIELD

Grid Reference: SE 001079

Location: Sunfield Lane, off Standedge Road, Diggle. 720 feet above sea level.

Description: Now demolished (new estate). Had a datestone 1690.
1848 Map shows two buildings called Sunfield plus Sunfield Toll Bar on the road above. Two short seams of tenters also existed in the field above the houses.

- History:
- 1719 George Broadbent of Sunfield buried. (Registers).
- 1720 19 July, John, son of Thomas Rhodes, clothier of Sunfield buried. 25 Aug. 1723 Sarah, daughter of Thomas Rhodes, clothier, and Catherine his wife of Sunfield was christened. On 3 Nov. 1724 their son John was buried, and on the same day their son William was christened - he was buried on 21 Nov. 1726. On 30 June 1725 a child of Thomas Rhodes of Sunfield was buried. On 26 Dec. 1726 their son Jonathan was christened. Their daughter Rachel was christened on 5 Nov. 1728, and their son William on 8 Aug. 1731. Sarah, their daughter, was buried on 21 Nov. 1736 aged 4. (Thomas Rhodes was described as a yeoman). On 24 Oct. 1737 their son Abel was buried aged 20. (Thomas Rhodes described as a clothier). Thomas Rhodes, clothier, of Sunfield was buried in 1751. (Registers).
- 1722 9 Sept. George, son of John Shaw, clothier, and Martha his wife of Sunfield christened. (Registers).
- 1729 5 Apr. Jonathan Broadbent of Sunfield, clothier, buried. (Registers).
- 1734 25 Apr. Benjamin Holden clothier of Dob Cross married Ann Broadbent of Sunfield. He died at Stonebreaks on 16 Aug. 1760 aged 54, and Ann died 2 Apr. 1786 aged 76.
- 1737 15 May Mary, daughter of Jonah Broadbent clothier and Elizabeth his wife of Sunfield christened. They had another daughter, Sarah, christened 3 June 1739. (Registers).
- 1739 28 Dec. George, son of George Broadbent, clothier, and Sarah his wife of Sunfield christened. Their daughter Sarah was christened 1 Feb. 1741 and was buried 23 May 1741. (Registers).
- 1740 30 Dec. Thomas Rhodes clothier of Sunfield married Elizabeth Buckley of Roe-buck-low. (Registers).
- 1741 11 July. John Holden of Holden's clothier married Sarah

- Kenworthy of Sunfield. On 17 Apr. 1743 their son Joseph was christened, and on 25 Mar. 1748 their son James - he was buried 4 Jan. 1750. (Registers).
- 1745 17 Jan. John Rhodes of Sunfield clothier married Sarah Winterbottom of Knar. (Registers).
26. Apr. John, son of Alice Seville spinster of Castleshaw by James Rhodes of Sunfield, clothier, christened. (Registers).
- 1746 24 Feb. Mary, daughter of James Rhodes, clothier, and Sarah his wife of Sunfield christened. (Registers).
- 1749 16 July John Shaw of Platt-lane yeoman married Rachel Rhodes of Sunfield. (Registers).
- 1750 1 Feb. Jonathan Rhodes of Sunfield clothier married Martha Bradbury of Diglee. Their son John was christened 1 July 1750 and was buried 27 Dec. 1750. (Registers).
- 1751 1 Jan. John Whitehead of Sunfield clothier married Betty Winterbottom of Delph-greaves. (Registers).
- 1752 William Rhodes of Sunfield clothier married Mary Seville of Highmoor. Their daughter Betty was christened in 1756. (Registers).
- 1755 In March John, son of William Buckley clothier and Mary his wife of Sunfield was christened; he was buried the same month. In December they had a daughter, Betty, who also died soon after birth. (Registers).
- 1755 Thomas, son of Thomas Bradbury clothier and Sarah his wife of Sunfield christened. (Registers).
- 1758 Thomas, son of William Rhodes and Helen his wife of Sunfield christened. (Registers).
- 1760 Samuel Byrom of Sunfield clothier married Betty Seville of Lee. She was buried in 1767. (Registers).
- 1771 In the Manchester Mercury of 9 July there is reference to John Sagar of Sunfield clothier (assignee with John Smith shopkeeper of Dobcross, of John Broadbent also of Dobcross).
- 1774 John Lowe clothier of Sunfield married Ellen Byrom of Sunfield. (Registers).
- 1776 Old John Lowe of Sunfield buried. (Registers).
- 1783 Edmund Buckley clothier of Sunfield buried. (Registers).
- 1789 Robert Byrom clothier of Sunfield married Margaret Hills of Moorcroft. (Registers).
- 1790 Isaac Bottomley of Sunfield found dead near Sandbed. (Registers).
- 1791 James Whitehead of Sunfield clothier buried. (Registers).
- In the same year, in the sale of the Farrer Estate, Sunfield was described as being owned by the exors. of Thomas Rhodes. It contained 29 acres 0 roods 28 perches, and the following fields: Calf Croft, Croft, Backside, New Field, Barn Intake, Lower Bank, Pingot, Great Field, New Meadow, Little Meadow, Marled Earth, Illn Hole, Long Lee, Little Lee, Upper New, and Spirran Lane Meadow.
- 1810 The Saddleworth Enclosure Records listed three occupiers of land owned by Henry Preston at Sunfield: James Buckley 14 acres 2 roods 13 perches; William Byrom 15 acres 3 roods 30 perches; and George Platt 7 acres 2 roods 17 perches.
- 1822 Baines' Directory lists Sarah Buckley woollen manufacturer of Sunfield.
- 1825 James Buckley, clothier, of Sunfield referred to in the Registers.
- 1829 John Byrom, clothier, and Henry Buckley, clothier, lived at Sunfield. (Registers).
- 1832 Pigot's Directory lists Henry Buckley, woollen manufacturer and merchant, and William Byrom stone mason.

- 1841 The Census included the following: Upper Sunfield - 2 families - Oliver Rhodes, woollen weaver, and James Wilkinson, woollen slubber; Sunfield - 2 families - Henry Buckley, woollen manufacturer, his wife Sarah, five children, two male servants and one female servant; Sunfield Bar, Jame Walton toll collector.
- 1843 Pigot's Directory described Henry Buckley as a woollen shawl manufacturer.
- 1851 In the Census 5 families are recorded under Sunfield: Henry Buckley, woollen manufacturer employing two men and two boys; Betty Byrom, widow, and a family of ten, two of whom were woollen weavers; John Turner, quarryman, and his wife who was a woollen hand loom weaver; Joseph Rhodes, mason; and James Wood, a woollen hand loom weaver. John Schofield lived at Sunfield Bar: he was a cloth finisher.
- 1853 Henry Buckley of Sunfield had warp spun for him by Shaw & Bradbury of Uppermill. (Account book).
- 1861 Henry Buckley, woollen manufacturer, still lived here. (Census).
- 1875 Samuel Henshaw, farmer, lived at Sunfield. (Worrall).
- 1880 Worrall's Directory lists William Massey, farmer, of Sunfield.

N.B. In the oldest Register (1613) Sarah, wife of John Broadbent of Sunfield, alias Greave, was an excommunicate person in Nedham Court.

The Society would welcome any further information on the houses and hamlets mentioned here, and on any other property of possible interest in Saddleworth. The Gazetteer will also encompass turnpike roads, canals, railways, bridges, mills, etc. Information should be sent to the Editor of the Bulletin:

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7, Elsted Road,
Greenfield,
Oldham OL3 7LL.

Enquiries about membership of the Society should be sent to the Secretary:

Mrs. B. Booth,
"Ceann",
Friezland Lane,
Greenfield,
Oldham.

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