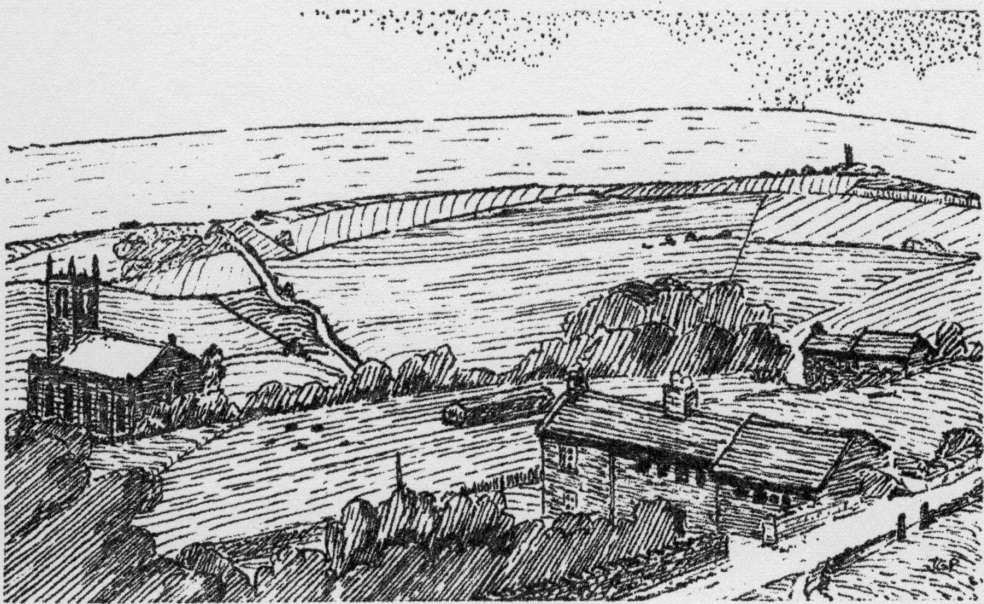


Saddleworth

Historical Society



SADDLEWORTH CHURCH

Bulletin

Summer 1974

Volume 4 No. 2

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OF

THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM

Saddleworth is indebted to Mr. Roger Tanner for establishing the Saddleworth Museum. The inspiration came from a visit he paid to Bodo, just inside the Arctic Circle in Norway. A place with a population of about 10,000 with little history to record, it nevertheless had a substantial museum which displayed with great ingenuity how they earned their living 100 to 150 years ago.

Some of us on Saddleworth Council during the war had recognised the need to preserve some record of our past: documents, furnishings, etc. We tried to influence the West Riding C.C., but apart from their setting aside a room for the purpose of displaying objects of local interest nothing very tangible came of it.

Saddleworth Council had not the authority, or finance, to start a Museum. The County Council in Wakefield was approached again, but with no success.

Saddleworth Council did however express willingness to assist in any way possible and to hand over existing collections in its care. The West Riding Librarian offered what help he could so it was decided to go ahead and find premises centrally situated in Saddleworth.

At this time an old mill was being demolished in the centre of Uppermill and the owners were willing to sell off separately the original gassing room. A local architect, Mr. Doherty, designed the new front. Mr. Nicholson, a local solicitor, gave legal help and also advised on administration. Four Trustees were named: Mr. Tanner; Col. G.B. Howcroft; a representative of the local council, Mr. J. Whitehead; and myself. Several local members of the public undertook to set up separate departments.

The Museum was officially opened by the Earl of Scarborough in May, 1962, and in 1972 the Saddleworth Historical Society undertook the running of the Museum, which had become too complex for a caretaker, for which we are deeply appreciative.

Recent boundary changes have joined Saddleworth to Oldham. This may present an opportunity for the Oldham Authority to shoulder financial responsibility for the Museum. If it does I am sure the Museum will go from strength to strength.

Roger Tanner has done a fine holding job for Saddleworth, and Saddleworth citizens are grateful to him for doing it.

Hervey Rhodes

The Lord Rhodes, K.G., P.C., D.F.C., D.L.

SADDLEWORTH RECORDS

Of Industrial and Economic History

In finding out about the history of the textile industries in Saddleworth one has to consider, firstly, the domestic phase, both before and during the Industrial Revolution when many of the processes in the manufacture of woollen cloth were carried on in the home, and, secondly, the growth of a factory industry in both the woollen and cotton branches. Here it is intended to give a brief outline of the sources available, and to quote as examples the Whiteheads of the Royal George Mills, Greenfield, and the growth of the Slackcote Mills, Delph.

So far as the domestic industry is concerned, the records are comparatively few and far between. The church registers are most useful, and Saddleworth is very fortunate in having the most informative set of eighteenth century West Riding records. Occupations were given in entries of baptisms, marriages and burials from 1722 almost up to 1800. It is possible to locate the dwelling place of each person recorded, as village, hamlet and even single farmhouse names were also added. Thus it is possible to trace the growth and distribution of domestic weaving and the importance of associated activities such as fulling, cloth dressing and, later, scribbling. The term 'clothier' is almost universally used in the Saddleworth Registers indicating an industrial worker with at least some part-time interest in farming. The terms 'yeoman' or 'husbandman' probably refer to men who had a stronger interest in the land, but who were also involved in the production of cloth in most cases. So, for example, we have the christening recorded on 4th July, 1784, of William Whitehead, the son of Ralph Whitehead clothier and Betty his wife of Shaw Hall. William was the father of R.R. Whitehead and his brothers who later operated the Royal George Mills.

A very useful reference on the interpretation of the church registers is M.T. Wild's "Documents and Sources IV: the Saddleworth Parish Registers" in Textile History, V.1, No.2., 1969, pp.214-232. Another article giving general information about the various registers in Saddleworth is H.S. Broadbent's "Saddleworth Records for Genealogists and Family Historians" in the Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society, V.3, 1973, pp.58-60.

Other sources of information about the domestic industry are wills and inventories, which occasionally reveal in the testator's goods how agriculture and industry formed a dual occupation. The will of Joseph Scholefield of Arthurs, for example, which was made in 1712, mentions his "messuage and tenement at Arthurs" together with his "Dying vats lead and Tenter for dying wool and Tenterring Cloth". But the inventory of his goods is much more explicit, and lists his farming utensils, animals and his textile implements and stock in trade. (See Ammon Wrigley's "Songs of a Moorland Parish", pp.19-21). For the availability of these wills see H.S. Broadbent's article mentioned above. Unfortunately, full and informative inventories are rather scarce for Saddleworth. The Trade Directories of the early nineteenth century give the names of merchants and manufacturers, their trades and dwelling places, and, although not all the inhabitants are listed, a good impression can be obtained of the importance of the various branches of industry and their distribution. More will be said below about the different Directories.

Domestic weaving and spinning, particularly in the woollen industry, lingered longer in Saddleworth than in many other textile parishes, and an

indication of this can be gained from the Census Enumeration Books of 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871, which give a complete occupational survey of the area's population. Unfortunately, the enumerators did not all use the same classification: some specifically mention 'hand loom weaver' or 'hand spinner', while others merely list the occupations as 'weaver' or 'spinner' or 'woollen manufacturer' and this could indicate either factory work or a domestic occupation. These Census Returns are mentioned again below.

When considering the growth of the factory industry and the location and names of the mills, a good starting point is the first Six-Inch Ordnance Survey Map. These beautifully produced maps are invaluable sources of reference and show the mills as they existed just before 1850, the names of most of them, and generally indicate the type of industry carried on there. So we find the Royal George Mills (woollen) shown, with a gasometer nearby, and Slack Cote Mills (woollen). But not all the mills are named on these maps, particularly in the more built-up areas such as Uppermill and Delph; Shore Mill, Delph, is one of those omitted. The sheets covering Saddleworth are Yorkshire Numbers 258 and 270. It is possible to have these photocopied by the British Museum at a very reasonable cost. Comparison between these maps and the later Six-Inch maps will reveal the subsequent changes that occurred.

Many mills, of course, existed before the mid-nineteenth century, particularly the fulling and corn mills which were the first mills to be built. Earlier maps which show the water-powered mills in Saddleworth are Jeffrey's Map of Yorkshire (1767-70), and Greenwood's Map of Yorkshire (1818). The mills are not named, however, nor are their uses indicated on these maps. Other maps which might be consulted, though they do not give a complete coverage of the area, and which can be found in the County Records Office, Wakefield, are listed below:

- The Huddersfield Canal Plan, 1793
- The Ridghill and Lanes and Holehouse Turnpike Road, 1825
- The Standedge and Oldham Turnpike Road (proposed changes), 1826
- The Holehouse and Shepley Lane Head Turnpike Road, 1821

Saddleworth is also very fortunate in having an early survey (1820-21) on the scale of twelve inches to the mile, but at the time of writing this is not available.

Lists of the West Riding fulling mills for each year between 1740 and 1819 also exist at Wakefield in the Quarter Sessions Order Books, but these are by no means comprehensive in their coverage.

Directories, as mentioned above, are invaluable sources of reference, listing the manufacturers, their mills, and the industries carried on there. Here again, however, they are not always complete. Saddleworth is doubly fortunate in that this district is included in both the West Riding and the Lancashire Directories. Two of the earliest and most useful of these are the Baines' Directories of these two counties, published in 1822 and 1825 respectively. In the Yorkshire Directory, 1822, we have Hague and Bestwick, woollen manufacturers at Slackcote Mill, but they are not mentioned in the Lancashire directory. The occupiers of the Royal George Mills are not listed in either directory. Earlier directories do exist, and some of these for Saddleworth can be found in the Hewkin Collection in Uppermill Library, but they are not as complete nor as comprehensive. Of the later directories those published by Pigot and later by Slater are the most informative. These are usually of the Manchester area, but Saddleworth is included. For example, Pigot & Son's 1838 Directory of Manchester and

Salford lists Ralph Radcliffe Whitehead and Brothers, manufacturers of linen, woollen and cotton cloths for machinery, Royal George Mills. Slackcote Mill is not mentioned by name in this directory, but we have Joseph Broadbent, woollen manufacturer of New Barn, who in fact did operate the mill. The 'Leeds and the Clothing Districts' directories published by William White are not as precise regarding the names of mills or the places of abode of the tradesmen listed. Thus in the 1853 Directory Robert Byrom, woollen manufacturer, is recorded under New Tame whereas he was in fact operating Slackcote Mill. On the other hand, R.R. Whitehead & Bros., woollen manufacturers, are listed under the Royal George Mills. Later still, there are Worrall's Directories of the Textile Industry (and also of various districts in the Oldham area). The former are the most comprehensive so far as the woollen and cotton industries are concerned, giving details of the mills, their owners and the types of goods manufactured there, and usually the number of spindles and looms, but the earliest is 1884. Kelly's Directories are also very useful for this period. We learn that in 1910 Slackcote Mill was occupied by Robert Byrom and that this firm also owned Linfitts Mills, operating 10,000 spindles and 175 looms in total: while R.R. Whitehead & Bros. owned both the Royal George Mills and High Grove Mill, the latter being used for cotton.

Difficulties arise in the use of directories when specific mills or factories are not mentioned. This does not necessarily mean that they did not exist at the time: they may simply have been excluded, or where a manufacturer owned several mills often only the main one was listed.

As mentioned above, the Census Returns for Saddleworth for the period 1841-71 can now be consulted, either at the Public Records Office, London, or, much more conveniently, on microfilm at Rochdale Library. These again do not indicate the names of the mills owned or operated by specific manufacturers (one has to use the directories for this), but one can read, for example, that Whitehead's employed 129 men, 76 women, 16 boys and 11 girls in 1851, and that Robert Byrom of New Barn employed 25 men in 1861.

Newspaper advertisements may give invaluable details about mills for sale, often listing the machinery, the motive power, and the size and nature of the buildings. Oak View Mill, Greenfield, was advertised to let by the Whitehead Brothers in the Manchester Guardian of 15 Nov. 1837, just after their purchase of the Royal George Mills. Again, in the Manchester Mercury of 9 July 1785, Isaac Platt's one-sixth share in Slackcote Mill was advertised for sale. These are just two of the items one can come across, but much laborious work is required. The Manchester Mercury (from 1752), and the Manchester Guardian (from 1821) are available on microfilm at the Central Reference Library, Manchester, while the Oldham Local Interest Centre has the Oldham Chronicle similarly available. Obituaries of local mill owners in the Chronicle and Reporter can be useful for they often reveal information about the growth of individual mills and industries.

Parliamentary Reports can often be extremely useful, and these again can be consulted in most central libraries. Among the most valuable are those listed below:

- Report of the Factories Commissioners, 1834
- Returns of the Inspectors of Factories, 1833-47
- Report of the Committee enquiring into the Pollution of Rivers, 1868

Here again, however, only a selection of the mills are mentioned. Very

useful summary statistics for Saddleworth concerning the motive power of the mills often occur in the appendices to these reports, especially the second in the above list.

Books and manuscripts do of course give details about the growth of industry in Saddleworth. The list is very comprehensive and it is impossible to mention them all here. Ammon Wrigley described aspects of both the domestic and factory industries in several of his books. The W.E.A. publication, "The Saddleworth Story", also has an outline of the industrial history of the area. Articles, such as those by Hartley Bateson in the Oldham Chronicle, often include details about industry and mills. Useful books giving more general background, but including information about Saddleworth, are: "The History of the Huddersfield Woollen Industry" by W.B. Crump and G. Ghorbal (Tolson Memorial Museum Publication), and M.T. Wild's "The Yorkshire Wool Textile Industry", which can be found in "The Wool Textile Industry in Great Britain" edited by J.G. Jenkins (London, 1972, pp.185-234). Industrial companies have sometimes published their histories to mark centenaries, such as the Whiteheads of Royal George Mills and Fletchers of Greenfield Mills. Manuscript sources, such as those in the Hewkin Collection and in the Oldham Local Interest Centre, can repay the effort of ploughing through them. Records and wage books, etc. of individual mills are most valuable, but these are very rare in Saddleworth. Deeds, too, are most informative. Just one is mentioned here. James Harrop of Grasscroft, clothier, John Smith of Dobcross, drysalter, and James Scholefield of Gibbs, clothier, were granted a lease by James Farrer, the Lord of the Manor, on 28th October 1785 "to build one Mill for the fulling of cloth and one scribbling Mill" near Gibbs Farm. These mills were later called the Royal George Mills.

Pictorial evidence should not be ignored. Old bill or letter headings often incorporated likenesses (sometimes rather idealised) of mill buildings. Old photographs of mills, such as those in the 'Dobcross Book' of E.L. Edwards (which is now in the care of the Saddleworth Historical Society) are extremely interesting and informative.

In the above, perhaps confusing but certainly very abbreviated outline, I have attempted to describe the vast range of sources available. These are often incomplete or frustratingly vague. Like a jigsaw puzzle fanatic, one has to put together pieces from far and wide to build up a picture of the industrial history of the area.

B. Barnes

SADDLEWORTH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES

Part 13: 1912

- Jan. Inauguration of New Rail Motor Service between Oldham and Delph.
New railway stations opened.
Boarshurst Trust. Suggestion that £1,200 which was invested should be apportioned for upkeep of the building and establishing a scholarship.
- Feb. Demolition of Old Wesleyan Chapel at Uppermill. Services to be held in the school.
Death of a Horse in accident at Frenches Canal Bridge. Leading horse broke loose, the other two collided with the wall, one jumped over the wall into the canal and the other was suspended over the bridge and was strangled by the harness.
Delph Mechanics' Institute Bazaar. £480 raised for repairs and redecoration.
Half Time Working. W.R.C.C. Education Committee passed new regulations preventing half time working by children unless they had passed the seventh standard.
Scholars on Strike at Kilngreen School, Diggle. Protest against new half time bye-laws.
Housing Scheme. Council's scheme to build 55 houses at a cost of £14,350.
Sites for Two New Schools Chosen: one near Friezland Vicarage, and the other at Sam Road, Diggle.
- Mar. Agitation against Half Time Bye-Laws. W.R.C.C. introduced a proviso that children could be granted certificates of exemption when 13 or 14 years of age.
Tar Spraying of some roads with gradients of less than 1 in 20.
Coal Strike. Railway service cut. Short time worked in factories. Statement that many families would benefit by distribution of Co-operative Societies' dividends. £4,500 to be distributed.
Christ Church School, Denshaw, closed for a day.
Coal Pit at Col's Quarry, Delph, reopened. Seam of 2 feet 9 inches being worked.
- May Songs of a Moorland Parish by Ammon Wrigley to be published by public subscription.
- July Royal Visit to Wentworth Hall, Yorkshire. Saddleworth section of Duke of Wellington's Territorials on parade. Many Saddleworth people including Kilngreen schoolchildren went to Marsden to line the Royal route.
Socialist Institute opened at Greenfield - formerly used by Boarshurst Band.
New Council School at Greenfield to be open for public inspection on first Sunday afternoon in August.
Government Insurance Act discussed by Friendly Societies.
Housing Scheme. Much opposition by ratepayers.
- Aug. Enteric Fever reported at Greenfield. Medical Officer advised closure of a well at Spring Grove.
- Sept. Refusal of Oldham Watch Committee to Supply Fire Service to Saddleworth. Statement that Saddleworth should arrange with Mossley to provide this service.
- Oct. Shops Act. Delph shopkeepers failed in application to get exemption from operations of the Act.

- Nov. Epidemic of Scarlet Fever. 12 cases of scarlet fever, 2 of
 diphtheria as well as chicken pox and measles.
Dec. Fine Arrow Head Flint found at Hind Hill, Delph.

Compiled by Mrs. H. Wood.

Part 14: 1913, will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

EARLY HISTORY SECTION: REPORT 1973 - 1974

24th September 1972

Members of the Section met at Hartsop in the Lake District and after climbing to the summit of Thornthwaite Crag (2,569 ft.) walked along a stretch of the Roman Road known as High Street. At The Knot the party descended to Hartsop. The walk was led by Mr. D. Chadderton.

3rd April 1973. General Meeting

The main topic discussed was the possibility of excavating a Bronze Age Round Barrow known locally as 'Jackson's Barrow'. It was agreed to seek permission from the landowner and to start planning the excavation which would probably commence early 1974.

8th May 1973. Evening Visit to Melandra Castle, Glossop

Once again George Taylor took us on a very interesting visit, this time to the Roman fort at Glossop. We inspected the recent conservation work carried out at Melandra and examined the re-excavated Bath House. Leaving the fort we crossed the river and examined various stretches of Roman Road.

18th, 19th and 20th May 1973. Spring Meet at Hadrian's Wall

29 adults, 5 juniors and 14 children made the journey to Haltwhistle. During the weekend, visits were made to Brunton Turret, Corbridge, Chesters Bridge Abutment, Chesters Fort, Carrawburgh, Housesteads and Vindolanda.

5th June 1973. Evening Visit to Glossop Area

George Taylor was again our guide when we visited the newly discovered Roman road from Melandra Roman Fort to the Fort at Brough-on-Noe. We followed the line of the road on to the moors as far as time would allow. This is the road that offers a serious challenge to the Doctor's Gate line.

16th June 1973. Visit of the Hunter Archaeological Society, Sheffield

Members of the Early History Section conducted the visitors around the Museum and also acted as guides at Castleshaw Roman Forts. Dr. Hamilton, Chairman of the Hunter Arch. Soc. extended a welcome to the society to visit the Sheffield area where they would entertain us. A trip for the future.

30th September 1973

A party under the leadership of David Chadderton visited the Stone Axe Factory at Langdale in the Lake District.

22nd April 1974. General Meeting

A meeting of the Section was held to discuss the forthcoming excavation of the Barrow.

10th, 11th and 12th May 1974. Spring Meet at Eskdale, Cumbria

28 adults, 5 juniors and 12 children assembled at Boot village. Visits were made during the weekend to the Roman Tile Kiln at Muncaster, the Roman Bath House at Ravenglass, Hardknott Fort and Roman Road, and the Bronze Age Burial Mounds and Stone Circles on Eskdale Moor.

General Notes

The main projects for the year have been the quest for the Roman Road and the Barrow excavation.

1. The Roman Road

As members of the W.E.A. class led by Donald Haigh, many members of the Early Section have spent a great deal of time during the year excavating on the line of the Roman Road from Manchester to York. Three successful sections were made: at New Inn Farm, Thurston Clough; at Old Gate Clough; and at Outlane. At the moment an excavation is in its closing stages on Millstone Edge. Great credit must be given to Mr. Haigh for his devotion to this project.

2. The Barrow Excavation

Arrangements are now advanced for the forthcoming excavation. The site hut is ready for use, the initial survey carried out, and the first quadrant pegged. It is hoped to cut a proving trench shortly. Due to insurance problems, all helpers must be paid-up members of the Society. Interim reports will appear in future issues of the Bulletin.

K. Booth
(Leader, Early History Section)

THE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOR
SADDLEWORTH

Part 2

At a meeting of the Ratepayers' Association in the Co-operative Hall in Greenfield on 3rd May 1900, there was only a moderate attendance. John Mallalieu introduced the matter of the proposed institute and spoke strongly against it. Mr. G.F. Buckley, J.P., of Linfitts, Delph, also spoke against the proposals of the Saddleworth Education Committee, mainly on the grounds of cost.

In answer to a letter from Rev. Edwin Powell calling for co-ordination and centralisation of efforts in technical instruction in one school, Joseph Brierley asked where would be considered central: would it be New Delph, Dobcross or Uppermill? Each of these had in the past been officially considered central. Would Uppermill and Greenfield like to have to maintain a technical institute in Denshaw? What would happen to the equipment in mechanics' institutes and other schools? His main theme was to use the schools and institutes already in existence.

The Rev. E. Powell was not against using an existing building if one could be found within easy reach of Saddleworth Station or Greenfield Station. "But if not, we ought to go ahead and build so that adequate laboratory facilities and weaving equipment would be available".

Mr. G.F. Buckley, J.P., now entered the fray. He was, as already mentioned, a member of the Ratepayers' Association. He pointed out that the Saddleworth Education Committee had based their estimates on the Technical Institute recently built at Holmfirth:

<u>Expenditure</u>	£	<u>Income</u>	£
For site	291	Local subscription	3125
Contracts to builder	2554	Grants:	
Furniture	899	W.R.C.C. 10% of subs.	300
Architect and plans	288	50% on furniture	500
Apparatus	158	Clothmakers Company	250
Solicitors, silver trowel, etc.	132	Science & Art Dept.	281
Painting and decoration	135		
	<u>4457</u>		<u>4457</u>

1899 Statement of account: Holmfirth Technical Institute

<u>Expenditure</u>	£	<u>Income</u>	£
Fees & deposits returned	14	Receipts from fees	75
Teachers' Salaries 97/8	112	Grants earned:	
Teachers' Salaries 98/9	236	W.R.C.C. 97/8	149
Chemicals & Apparatus	40	98/9	128
Secretary, Caretaker, Rates	121	Exhibition fees	29
Newspapers, etc.	78	Ed. Dept. Holmfirth & Hinchliffe Mill	69
		Local Subscription	55
		Science & Art Dept.	51
		Clothworkers	20
		Donations & papers sold	24
		Sundries	14
	<u>601</u>		<u>612</u>

Mr. Buckley posed the question, would the West Riding and the Clothmakers subscribe to the same extent in Saddleworth as they had in Holmfirth? He said that the Education Committee reckoned on receiving about £1950 from local subscriptions and £1000 from the raising of a penny rate. He also asked whether there would be sufficient students to warrant the building of a new institute. Holmfirth had 274 students in the fifth year. Would Saddleworth have a third or a quarter of that figure? He gave details of classes and attendances at Holmfirth for 1899 and showed that there were 372 subject enrolments from 274 students in 17 subjects. All but three of these subjects, he said, could be taken in existing schools and institutions in Saddleworth.

Details of classes and attendances at Holmfirth Technical Institute, 1899

Art	39	French	17
Geometry	3	Book Keeping	11
Maths.	11	Business Methods	16
Maths. & Physics	28	Shorthand	42
*Chemistry	11	Commercial Arithmetic	8
Botany	18	Commercial Geography	8
*Wool Dyeing	9	Singing	28
*Weaving & Design	19	Continuation School	95
Dressmaking	12		

* Subjects which could not be offered efficiently in Saddleworth.

Mr. G.F. Buckley also brought to the notice of the Saddleworth Education Committee that there were 40 to 50 students taking up studies in Huddersfield Colleges because of the lack of facilities or specialist teachers at the Holmfirth Institute.

This thorough investigation and report published by Mr. Buckley in the Reporter ended the correspondence and controversy in the press for several months. Unfortunately, Mr. Buckley died in November 1900, after an operation, and the Ratepayers Association lost a valuable supporter. (In 1898 he had leased the Roman Camp Site at Castleshaw, and tried to enlist the help of other Saddleworth gentlemen to explore the fort. He received little support and so employed workmen to make excavations, but the work was later abandoned because of poor weather conditions).

In December 1900, Sir Swire Smith, K.B., gave a lecture at Uppermill Mechanics' Institute. Sir Swire was the President of the National Association of Technical Institutes, and the lecture was held under the auspices of the Saddleworth Education Committee. Its title was "Industrial Warfare - How are we to hold our own?". Sir James Kitson, Member of Parliament for the Colne Valley, presided, but both the Rev. Powell and W. Buckley, J.P., C.C., were absent. After the lecture, F.W. Mallalieu proposed the motion, which was carried:

"That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable in the best interests of the working classes of this district that technical education should receive a greater measure of support than it has hitherto done".

Nine months later in the Saddleworth Reporter of 14 September 1901 there is an account of a Council meeting where the members were asked to

consider the provision of technical education in Saddleworth. The secretary of the Saddleworth Education Committee, Charles Priest, proposed the motion and quoted instances of young people attending classes in Oldham and Huddersfield after finishing work at 6 o'clock and of others deterred from attending more advanced classes because of many travelling difficulties. The debate showed, however, that many councillors were in favour of the Mechanics' Institutes being responsible for the provision of technical education. 7 voted for the motion and 6 against. It was suggested that a survey be made and a report be presented to the council.

It would appear that because of the balance of argument for and against the establishment of a technical college the matter was dropped. Certainly, at a time when the provision of amenities by public subscription was normal it would have been difficult to convince councillors and ratepayers that expenditure on the provision and maintenance of a technical college was necessary.

In the light of later events it is probable that the more urgent need for better school buildings at Uppermill and Greenfield, which could help in the provision of preliminary technical education, was a factor which added weight to the arguments against the proposed technical college.

J.G. Parry

Concluded.

ROMAN ROAD 712

Moments from the excavation at New Inn Farm, 1973

"You remember last winter you said that you'd found
The Roman road line crossing over my ground?
Well, I've dug a few holes here and there, just to test,
But if group want to dig it, yes, that would be best".

Group arrived, and gazed down into holes, half a dozen,
(And an opencast mine being dug out by some cousin),
Selected a stretch on the probable line,
Conversed for an hour, and then sat down to dine.
An afternoon's work with pick, cutter and spade
And they gazed with some pride at the trench they had made.
"Brush over the surfaces, clean up the place!
Trowel round the stones neatly, and smooth down the face!
It's ready - now take all the photos you like
(But they can't be developed, for Kodak's on strike)".

"As you know, I'm not one to provoke useless wrangles,
But - d'you think that our trench is quite at right angles?"
"Well, measure it up! Check the angle! - Oh dear!
Now just shift that spoil heap six feet to the rear!".

Then two weekends more of digging and scraping
And brushing and trowelling and measuring and taping.
Those who turned up at lunchtime would see, all alone
One digger uncomfortably parked on a stone.
"I'm enjoying the quiet and eating my grub.
If you're wanting the others, they're down at the pub".
But through turf, clay and gravel and iron pan and cobbles
A beautiful section was cut, with no wobbles.
On the very last evening the 'Chronicle' came
In the twilight, the time when all cats look the same,
Got his pictures and story, and went on his way,
And left us to clear, in the dark of the day.
"This torch has gone out - someone lend me a candle!
I can't find my brush with the little red handle;
I had it this morning - now where did I chuck it?
Who's pinched it? - Oh, sorry, it's tucked in this bucket".
"We came to this site with only three picks -
They must have been breeding - now we've got six".
"One cutter extra, one spade too few!"
"This isn't my trowel - Oh, well, it'll do".
"We've counted the pegs and we've wound up the string;
We've all got sore backs, and we can't see a thing.
We've packed up the cars, and we're ready to go".
"Goodbye!" "See you Monday!" "Ta-ra!" "Cheerio!"

Beneath the steely moonlight all was calm and still
When the shadows of the legion came slogging up the hill,
Muttering and swearing at everything they saw -
The garrison replacement for the fort at Castleshaw.
Then suddenly the sergeant seemed to bellow at his men
"Cavete, lads! Look out ahead! Brigantians again!
More sabotage! They never learn, they've never had enough!
They've cut the road again the way they did at Oldgate Clough!
We've fought them, we've fought them down, we've shown them
who was best!
Won't the b-- b-- ever take a rest?".

Adeline Clark

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.

BRADBURY'S

Grid Reference: SE 003036

- Location: South side of Bradburys Lane near Fernlee, Greenfield. 750 feet above sea level.
- Description: Now demolished.
- History:
- 1768 25 Dec. Betty, daughter of John Boyer clothier and Ann his wife of Bradbury's christened. (Registers).
- 1775 22 Jan. Hannah, daughter of Isaac Bradbury clothier and Ann his wife of Bradburys christened. Their daughter Ann was buried 13 Mar. 1776. (Registers).
- 1776 17 Apr. Mary, wife of Arthur Scholefield clothier of Bradburys buried.
- 1777 10 Apr. Thomas Scholefield clothier married Betty Whitworth sojourner. Thomas was the son of Isaac and Ann Scholefield of Bradburys, and he died on 31 Aug. 1812 aged 56. Betty died 16 Nov. 1814 aged 63. Their son William was christened on 23 Jan. 1787. (Registers).
- 1788 8 Dec. Isaac, son of James and Alice Scholefield of Bradburys christened. On the same day their son James was buried. (Registers).
- 1789 15 Mar. James, son of James Scholefield clothier and Mary his wife of Bradburys christened. He was buried on 19 Mar. Their son James was christened 17 Aug. 1790. (Registers).
- 1792 10 Sept. Betty, daughter of Isaac and Mally Scholefield of Bradburys christened. On 29 Mar. 1795 their daughter Ann was christened. (Registers).
- 1794 28 Oct. Ann, daughter of John and Hannah Radcliffe of Bradburys christened. Their son John was christened on 24 Apr. 1796, their daughter Mary on 14 Aug. 1797, and their daughter Sarah on 3 Nov. 1799. (Registers).
- 1798 27 May. John, son of Robert and Mary Bottomley of Bradburys christened. (Registers).
- 1800 28 Oct. Betty Scholefield of Bradburys buried. (Registers).
- 1806 13 June. Isaac Scholefield of Bradburys (formerly of Hollins) died aged 80.
- 1825 There is a reference to Joseph Platt of Bradburys, clothier, in the Registers. Baines Directory of the same year lists George Buckley, woollen manufacturer, of Bradburys.
- 1838 Pigot's Directory mentions James Scholefield, woollen manufacturer, of Bradburys.
- 1851 The Census lists five families under Bradburys. Benjamin Bradbury, cotton spinner, with one male and one female; Joseph Booth, cotton carder, with two males and three females, one of whom was a cotton piecer; Abraham Wood, cotton spinner, with one male and two females; James Swallow, woollen spinner, and his wife who was a woollen weaver; and Joseph Platt, woollen weaver, with one male and three females, one of whom was a cotton worker.

- 1857 William Platt of Bradburys was one of the first shareholders in the Greenfield Co-operative Society.
- 1871 Henry S. Smith, cotton spinner; James Bardsley, cotton spinner; and Joseph Hirst, factory worker, lived at Bradburys. (Census).

BROADHEAD

Grid Reference: SD 995102

Location: North-western corner of Castleshaw Upper Reservoir, below Broadhead Noddle and 875 feet above sea level. Before the construction of the reservoir there were two small mills located in the valley below the house - Broadhead Mill and Castleshaw Mill, sometimes called the Broadhead Lower and Upper Mills.

Description: All that remains are three stone cottages, two storeys high, with flag roofs. One of them is attached to the rear of the others at the southern end. All have flat, slightly recessed mullioned windows and watershot stonework, but the two cottages to the north-east are probably earlier buildings later rebuilt. There is a well at the south-western end. Tenters are marked on the 1845 map in a field to the north-east.

- History: 1717 James Wrigley of Broadhead was a Warden of Saddleworth Church. (Registers).
- 1722 8 July. Mary, daughter of John Wrigley yeoman and Sarah his wife of Broadhead christened. Their son Benjamin was christened 2 Feb. 1724 when John was described as a clothier. They had eight more children: John, christened 13 Feb. 1726; Alice christened 20 Oct. 1728; Sarah christened 2 Mar. 1731; Hannah christened 18 June 1733; Ann christened 26 Feb. 1737; James christened 8 Apr. 1739 and buried 15 Oct. 1742; Betty christened 19 Jan. 1744; and James christened 7 Mar. 1748. (Registers).
- 1726 22 May. Mary, daughter of James Platt clothier and Ann his wife of Broadhead christened. (Registers).
- 1728 1 Oct. Sarah, daughter of Benjamin Wrigley clothier and Mary his wife of Broadhead christened. They had six more children: Mary christened 15 Oct. 1732; Isaac christened 11 Oct. 1734; Joseph christened 17 Oct. 1736; John christened 2 Aug. 1741; Benjamin christened 9 May 1744 (Benjamin Wrigley of Castleshaw died 17 Mar. 1803 and Mary his wife died 25 Apr. 1824); and Timothy christened 25 Dec. 1746. Benjamin Wrigley of Ridge died 8 Mar. 1818 aged 87, and Mary his wife died 26 Nov. 1811. (Registers).
- 1730 20 Nov. William Buckley junior of Stones married Elizabeth Wrigley of Broadhead. (Registers).
- 1749 4 Jan. Isaac Bradbury of Castleshaw clothier married Alice Wrigley of Broadhead. (Registers).
- 1752 31 Aug. Alice, daughter of Mary Broadbent of Summerhill spinster by Benjamin Wrigley clothier of Broadhead christened. On 28 Dec. 1752 Benjamin Wrigley married Mary Broadbent of Summer-hill. (Registers).
- 1753 25 Dec. James, son of Mary Buckley of Knoll spinster by John Wrigley clothier of Broadhead christened. On 2 Oct. 1757 John Wrigley, junior, of Broadhead denounced excommunicate. (Registers).
- 1759 8 July. Sarah, daughter of John Scholefield clothier and Betty his wife of Broadhead christened. On 19 Apr. 1761 their son

- Benjamin was christened. Betty, wife of John Scholefield was buried 3 Nov. 1763. (Registers).
- 1760 31 Jan. Joseph, son of Benjamin Wrigley clothier of Broadhead buried aged 23, and on 3 Mar. of the same year his daughter Sarah died aged 31. (Registers).
- 1760 7 Feb. James Wrigley clothier of Broadhead married Mary Buckley of Strines, widow. On 5 Apr. 1760 their son Joseph was christened. Their daughter Sarah was christened 20 June 1762, and their son Benjamin on 7 Oct. 1764. (Benjamin Wrigley of Ridge died 8 Mar. 1856 aged 91 and Ruth his wife died 2 May 1831 aged 60). (Registers).
- 1760 13 Nov. Isaac Wrigley shoemaker of Broadhead married Anne Earnshaw of Dobcross. (Registers).
- 1772 22 Oct. John Broadbent of Broadhead clothier married Matty Heginbottom of Slack. (Registers).
- 1774 19 Aug. James Platt of Broadhead clothier married Ellen Leach of Knarr Barn. (Registers).
- 1775 3 Oct. James Brierley of Denshaw clothier married Sarah Broadbent of Broadhead. (Registers).
- 1781 10 May. John Platt of Broadhead clothier married Sarah Gartside of Castleshaw. (Registers).
- 1782 17 July. Ann Wood widow of Broadhead buried aged 76. She was formerly the wife of Abraham Wood of Castleshaw. (Registers).
- 1790 James Wrigley of Broadhead referred to in an indenture.
- 1790 23 Apr. Benjamin Wrigley yeoman of Broadhead died aged 89. He was the son of James Wrigley and was christened Feb. 1701. Mary his wife was buried 30 July 1791 aged 85. (Registers).
- 1791 Robert, son of Robert shaw engineer and Mally his wife of Broadhead christened. (Registers).
- 1796 John Platt and John Buckley, both of Broadhead, sent wool to John Mellor at Rasping Mill, Delph, for scribbling. (Ammon Wrigley).
- 1801 John Buckley of Broadhead, clothier, was an executor of the will of Robert Buckley of Causeway Sett. (Museum Archives).
- 1809 16 Apr. Alice wife of John Buckley of Broadhead buried aged 55. (Registers).
- 1816-17 John Buckley of Broadhead was a churchwarden of Saddleworth Church. (Registers).
- 1822 27 Mar. John Gartside of Broadhead died aged 82 and Hannah his wife died 13 Dec. 1813 aged 74. He was the son of James and Ann Gartside of Castleshaw and was christened 26 Aug. 1739.
- 1822 Baines Directory records John Buckley and Son, merchants and manufacturers of Broadhead.
- 1825 Baines Directory lists Sarah Buckley, grocer, and John Buckley and Sons merchants and manufacturers, under Broadhead. On 20 Feb. of the same year John Buckley of Broadhead died aged 71. He was christened 5 Jan. 1754, the son of Mary Buckley of New, widow, and John Buckley, yeoman deceased, of Swainscroft. (Registers).
- 1832 Pigot's Directory records Hugh Buckley woollen manufacturer and merchant of Broadhead.
- 1838 & 1843 Pigot's Directory lists John Buckley and Sons, merchants and manufacturers, under Broadhead.
- 1851 The Census records three families at Broadhead. James Broadbent a woollen power weaver lived there alone; S. Buckley, clothier, with one male and five females; and H. Buckley, woollen manufacturer and farmer of 84 acres, with four males and four females.

1871 The Census lists two families under Broadhead. John F. Kenworthy, farmer and woollen manufacturer aged 42, his wife Grace aged 38, and his mother Betty aged 73, plus one servant. Charles Kenworthy aged 34, woollen manufacturer, Euphema his wife aged 34, plus three children, Charles Edward (aged 5), Harry (aged 2), and Mary Adelaide (aged one month).

HEATHFIELDS

Grid Reference: SE 001058

Location: South of Church Road, Uppermill, 625 feet above sea level. On the 1845 map there are two mills marked, just above the houses on the hillside - Heathfields Woollen Mill (now gone, though remains can be seen) and Heathfields Dye House. Tenters existed below garden on Uppermill side of Heathfields House.

Description: Heathfields House: Regency style, c1820. Watershot stonework. Tradition of mullioned windows still apparent, though house nicely proportioned in style, with central tall doorway with architrave on western side. Alternate long and short quoins; cornice. Large cellars entered at ground level on south side of house, behind cottages. Three older, now derelict, cottages to south, with barn on southern end, its large entrance filled in. Early eighteenth century cottage next to barn, with coved mullion windows recessed on ground floor. Inside, beams are tree trunks, three of which (on ground and first floor) divide at one end. Dividing walls on ground floor are wattle and daub - apparently a vegetable mixture with little mineral content such as small stones, etc.; this was usual in this part of the world. Salt and spice cupboard (niche) in wall by fireplace. Later cast iron fireplace (marked 'Yew Tree Ironworks, Hollinwood') and brick flues. Later cottage to north has flat mullions. First floor has door connecting with a one up one down cottage adjoining main house. In the wall are number of 'wuzzing holes'. (These notes date from a visit by Historical Society on 15 Oct. 1972).

History:

1722	28 Apr. Samuel, son of John Gartside, clothier and Esther his wife of Heathfields buried. On 28 July
1723	their daughter Mary was christened. Esther wife of John Gartside of Heathfields buried 19 Apr. 1762. John Gartside clothier buried 13 July 1768. (Registers).
1725	1 Apr. John Gartside junior of Heathfields married Mary Bottomley of Tunstead. Their daughter Esther was christened 24 Oct. 1725. John Gartside junior clothier of Heathfields was buried 23 Aug. 1753. (Registers).
1728	11 Aug. John, son of Robert Gartside clothier and Mary his wife of Heathfields christened. Robert Gartside clothier was buried 21 May 1730. (Registers).
1738	14 Sept. Edmund Wood of Philips clothier married Jane Gartside of Heathfields. Their son John was christened 29 Apr. 1739. In 1766 Edmund Wood of Heathfields was a churchwarden. Jane, wife of Edmund Wood clothier of Heathfields was buried 21 Jan. 1771. Their son Joseph was buried 10 Feb. 1771. Edmund Wood was buried 21 Nov. 1790.
1739	13 Aug. James Gartside of Heathfields clothier married Mary Broadbent of Hollingreave. Their daughter Hannah was christened 6 Jan. 1740. They had three more daughters: Martha christened 1 Nov. 1741; Sarah christened 22 Jan. 1744; and

- Mary christened 11 May 1746. (Registers).
- 1744 12 Feb. Edmund Platt of Platt-lane clothier married Mary Gartside of Heathfields. (Registers).
- 1748 30. Oct. William Broadbent of Heathfields married Sarah Gartside of Cross. (Registers).
- 1761 24 Aug. Robert Wood of Heathfields shoemaker married Jane Radcliffe of Cross. They had eight children: John christened 15 Aug. 1762; Mary christened 5 Feb. 1764 and buried 15 Mar. 1769; Joseph christened 10 Jan. 1766; Radcliffe christened 17 Jan. 1768 and buried 1 Apr. 1769; Radcliffe christened 21 Jan. 1770; Robert christened 7 June 1772 (his father was by this time a cordwainer); Abel christened 7 May 1775 and buried 5 Mar. 1778; and James christened 6 July 1777. (Registers).
- 1767 25 Nov. Mary wife of Edmund Buckley of Heathfields buried. (Registers).
- 1772 16 Jan. Joseph, son of John Wood clothier and Mary his wife of Heathfields christened and buried 19 Jan. 1772. (Registers).
- 1773 7 Jan. Abel Wood clothier married Betty Gartside, both of Heathfields. (Registers).
- 1774 13 Mar. John, son of James Wood clothier and Ann his wife of Heathfields christened.
- 1777 In the Farrer Estate List, John Gartside was tenant of Heathfields, 8 acres 3 roods 26 perches, rent £5-10-6.
- 1777 27 Apr. John, son of Jonathan Gartside clothier and Alice his wife of Heathfields christened. (Registers).
- 1779 4 Jan. Isaac Gartside clothier of Heathfields married Betty Field of Lane. Their son John was christened 22 July 1781, and their daughter Sarah 24 July 1783. (Registers).
- 1779 18 Nov. Elias Wrigley clothier of Heathfields married Martha Bottomley of Hawkyard. (Registers).
- 1785 6 Feb. Joseph Gartside of Heathfields clothier married Ann Buckley of Wharmton-bank. Their son James was christened 22 May 1785. (Registers).
- 1786 21 Sept. Nathaniel Bottomley of Nook married Sally Wood of Heathfields. (Registers).
- 1791 13 Mar. Mary, daughter of Joseph Shaw clothier and Sarah his wife of Heathfields christened. (Registers).
- 1810 The Saddleworth Enclosure Records list John Platt of Heathfields, 8 acres 3 roods 26 perches.
- 1822 Baines Directory mentions F. & S. Platt, merchants and manufacturers, and John Platt and Co., woollen manufacturers, of Heathfields.
- 1832 The Poll List includes Ammon and John Platt of Heathfields.
- 1834 John Platt, senior of Heathfields, referred to in the Commissioners Award of Enclosures in Saddleworth.
- 1837 The West Riding Poll List included Ammon Platt and James Wood under Heathfields.
- 1838 Pigot's Directory lists James Wood, woollen manufacturer, and Mr. John Platt.
- 1839 29 Aug. John Platt the elder of Heathfields died aged 88. Mary his first wife died 7 May 1795 aged 46. On 7 May 1798 John Platt married Sarah Bottomley and she died 22 Dec. 1812 aged 57. Betty his third wife died 3 June 1832 aged 66. (Registers).
- 1846-7 G.T. Bradbury of Heathfields contributed £5 and W.K. Schofield of Heathfields £10 to building the tower of Saddleworth Church. (Plaque in Church).

- 1848 William Kenworthy Schofield listed in West Riding Poll Book.
Between 1851 and 1867 he was a Warden of Saddleworth Church.
- 1853 W.K. Schofield of Heathfields, merchant, was elected to the
First Board of Guardians of the Poor for the Township.
White's Directory for the same year also listed Joshua Roberts,
cart owner, under Heathfields.
- 1865 21 Apr. Thomas Bradbury of Heathfields died aged 73 and Ann
his wife died 10 Jan. 1881 aged 84. He was the son of James
and Ann Bradbury of Boarshurst. (Registers).
- 1889-90 Thomas Ireland of Heathfields was a Warden of Saddleworth
Church. (Registers).
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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:

Mr. B. Barnes,
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.
