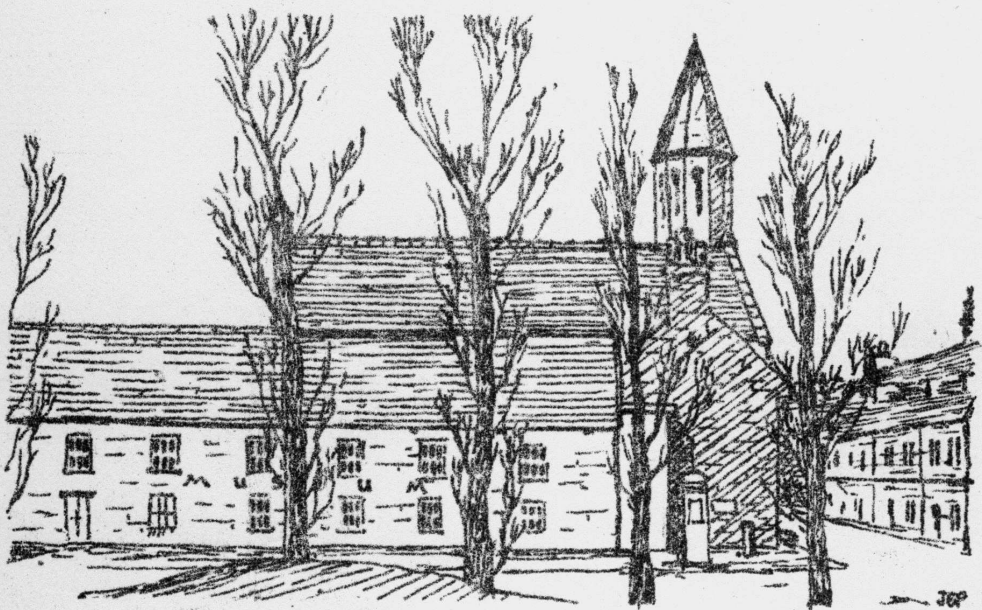


SADDLEWORTH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE MUSEUM - UPPERMILL.

BULLETIN

SUMMER 1975

VOLUME 5 No.2

BULLETIN

OF

THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 5

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1975

C o n t e n t s:

Manor Records: Part 1	17
Society Scrapbook	21
Historical Society Publications	22
Saddleworth at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century	23
Letter to the Editor	24
Joshua Hobson: A Huddersfield Radical Leader - Part 1	25
Rasper's Fowl	30
Old Saddleworth	32
"Saddleworth Heritage"	36

MANOR RECORDS

Introduction

The last Lord of the Manor of Saddleworth was James Farrer of Barnborough Grange. He was the fifth member of the Farrer family to own the estates and he died in 1791. During his lifetime he had disposed of some of his Saddleworth property - just over 523 acres in 1780 - to the value of £10,000, and the rest was sold by his trustees after his death to 31 freeholders for £6,297-15-0, by an Indenture dated 25 June 1791. These freeholders, who subsequently designated themselves as Lords of the Manor, were:

John Radcliffe of Stonebreaks, merchant
James Harrop of Grasscroft, clothier
John Andrew the younger of Foulrakes, clothier
William Shaw of Furlane, clothier
Thomas Harrop of Dobcross, clothier
Thomas Shaw of Uppermill, clothier
John Harrop the younger of Dobcross, merchant
James Broadbent of Dobcross, shopkeeper
John Platt of Heathfields, clothier
James Harrop of Tamewater, drysalter
Robert Buckley of Boarshurst, clothier
James Hobson of Oldham shopkeeper
Giles Shaw the younger of Furlane, clothier
George Harrop of Tamewater, clothier
John Platt of Whitelee, clothier
Samuel Bentley of Kinders, joiner
Ralph Whitehead of Shaw Hall, clothier
James Mallalieu of Manchester, woolstapler
James Buckley the younger of Tunstead, clothier
John Whitehead of Manchester, cotton manufacturer
John Radcliffe of Cross, clothier
John Buckley of Tunstead, clothier
Thomas Bradbury of Furlane, clothier
John Mellor of Micklehurst, clothier
Jonathan Wrigley of Hollingreave, clothier
John Smith of Dobcross, drysalter
James Whitehead of Shawhouses, clothier
Henry Whitehead the younger of Dobcross, clothier
Robert Winterbottom of Bridgehouse, clothier
Abraham Rhodes of Uppermill, clothier
William Radcliffe of Cross, clothier.

They formed themselves into a Committee to administer and convey the various lands, and the whole was then divided into 828 shares which were then re-sold to the freeholders at large (Baines, 1825), many of whom subsequently became members of the Committee. On Farrer's death the rents of the Manor had amounted to £1,133-11-2 per annum, much of it leases for life, and the eventual sale in small parcels to the occupiers and others produced nearly £70,000 (Aikin, 1795).

The resolutions and minutes relating to the meetings of the Committee are in manuscript form in the archives of the Saddleworth Museum, and an edited version of these will appear in the next few issues of the Bulletin. These Manor records are interesting not only for the light they shed on the later administration of the remaining Manor estates but also

for the details of individual enclosures and land holdings mentioned, and the way they led up to the Saddleworth Enclosure Act of 1810. It must be remembered that the whole of Friarmere, because of its rather different history of tenure, and large parts of Quickmere, which had already been sold to the tenants, were not included as parts of the Manor lands at this time. The Holts of Ashworth near Rochdale, for example, who had been the co-purchasers of the Manor with the Farrers in 1654, had sold their share to the tenants soon afterwards, and many individual purchases had been made by tenants from earlier Lords of the Manor.

References: Baines E. (1825) "History and Gazetteer of the County Palatine of Lancashire", Liverpool, p.693
Aikin J. (1795) "A Description of the Country from Thirty to Forty Miles around Manchester", London, p.557.

B. Barnes.

RESOLUTIONS AND MINUTES RELATING TO THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF
THE MANOR OF SADDLEWORTH AND QUICK IN THE COUNTY OF YORK

Part 1: 1791

15th June 1791

At a Meeting held this day at the House of Mr. Benjamin Lawton Innkeeper at Dobcross within the Parish of Saddleworth in the County of York, it is agreed by and between the several persons whose names are hereunto subscribed, as follows, to wit -

1st That in Case the Trustees of the late James Farrer Esq. will accept of the Sum of Three Thousand Guineas for the Common or Waste Land or Ground and other the Manorial Rights of Quick or Saddleworth aforesaid and the Sum of Three Thousand Guineas more for the several farms which remain unsold (provided they do not exceed 30 Years purchase according to the present Rent) - Then and in such case it is Agreed that the same shall be purchased for and on behalf of the 31 persons executing these presents, each of the 31 persons paying towards the said purchase money in proportion to the land they shall respectively enjoy.

2nd That when the same shall be purchased and conveyed to the said 31 persons, that the said Common or Waste Land or Ground and other Manorial Rights, farms and premises or any part or parts thereof shall be sold and disposed of in such manner and for such uses intents and purposes as the said 31 persons or the major part thereof from time to time shall direct limit and appoint.

3rd That any of the Freeholders upon the Lords Mear, Shaw Mear and Quick Mear within Saddleworth aforesaid may by and with the Consent and approbation of the major part of the said 31 persons be admitted a Sharer of the purchase of the Common or Waste Land or Ground and other Manorial Rights aforesaid paying a proportionable part or share of the whole purchase money thereof according to the Measure of the Land which they shall respectively hold and enjoy, and also paying and allowing a proportionable part or share of the Loss (if any) attending the Purchase and selling again of the Farms aforesaid. Provided always that such Freeholders shall come in and execute proper articles of Agreement with the said 31 persons on or before the first day of December next.

(Signed the above listed 31 freeholders)

20th July 1791

At a Meeting held at the House of Widow Bottomley of Saddleworth of the Gentlemen concern'd in the purchase of the Commons of Saddleworth &c. and likewise in the Management of the new intended Turnpike Road it was

RESOLVED that the Conducting of the Selling and disposing of the said Land and likewise the pushing forward the said Road should be referred to a Committee of Five of the Persons concerned in the said Purchase, who should have their Expences paid them, and for their trouble about the same. And if at any time through very great inconvenience any one of them could not attend they were to send a substitute who was to be one of the purchasers. And if at any time there should be a Division amongst them, they were to call a general meeting and decide it by a Majority of the whole purchasers.

RESOLVED that the Committee should consist of the following persons - to wit, Mr. John Harrop, James Harrop of Grasscroft, John Radcliffe, John Buckley and Thomas Shaw.

RESOLVED that Mr. James Buckley shall get 300 hand Bills printed, to inform the Country that the Estates purchased with the Manor should be sold by auction on the 19th August then next.

RESOLVED that Mr. James Buckley should draw up Conditions of Sale and procure an Auctioneer and the time of Sale which was to be at the said Widow Bottomley's.

(Signed by 30 freeholders)

27th October 1791

At a Meeting held at the House of Mr. Benjamin Lawton Innkeeper at Dobcross of the Major Part of the 31 persons who lately agreed to purchase the Manor Commons Wastes and Moors of Saddleworth to consider the best mode of Conveying and to whom the same shall be conveyed - it was

RESOLVED that a Case shall be drawn and laid before Mr. Lloyd for his opinion as to the best and most eligible mode of settling the above Manor Commons Waste Lands and other Manorial Rights so as to be under the Controul and direction of the said 31 persons.

RESOLVED that each of the said 31 persons shall on or before the 3rd day of November next deliver to Mr. James Buckley of Tunstead Senr. a written account of the Number of Acres of Land which they are now respectively possessed of within the Manor aforesaid. And also of the Estate or Estates which they have purchased from the Trustees of the late James Farrer Esquire deceased.

RESOLVED that the Major part of the said 31 persons shall have full power to explain any doubtful or dubious word or words that is or are inserted in the Articles of Agreement made at a Meeting held at this House on the 15th day of June last and executed by the said 31 persons and that the definition or meaning which they shall adopt shall be allowed to be the sense thereof and strictly adhered to.

(Signed by 23 freeholders)

17th November 1791

At a Meeting held at the Swan Inn at Dobcross -

RESOLVED that the last Clause in the first part of certain Articles of Agreement made at this house on the 15th day of June last past amongst 31 persons concerning the purchase then intended to be made by them of the Commons etc. and other Manorial Rights of Quick or Saddleworth aforesaid for the sum of 3,000 Guineas, and the several Farms then remaining unsold for 3,000 Guineas more, to wit "each of the said 31 persons paying towards the said Purchase money in proportion to the Land they shall respectively hold" shall be construed to extend to the quantity of Acres of Land that each Persons shall now have, either in possession or expectancy (as a Purchaser, Heir Apparent or otherwise) upon the Quick Mear, Lords Mear or Shaw Mear.

RESOLVED that each of the said 31 persons shall pay into the Hands of Mr. John Radcliffe the sum of Two pounds Four Shillings and Sixpence per Acre for every Acre of Land which they respectively hold or enjoy either in Possession or expectancy according to the List now delivered to Mr. James Buckley.

RESOLVED that the said Commons Moors and Waste Land or Ground shall be divided into Lots and Sold to the best bidder as soon as conveniently may be.

RESOLVED that the several Shares of the said purchase shall have as many votes in Conducting any business relating thereto, as they shall respectively be possessed of Statute Acres upon the said Mears (Such Number of Acres to be delivered in Writing to Mr. James Buckley of Tunstead Senr. at the time they shall come in and be admitted Sharers as aforesaid).

RESOLVED that any other Owners of Land upon the said three Mears shall be at Liberty to come in and be sharers of the Purchase of the said Manor Commons Moors Waste Land or Ground upon paying towards the same in proportion to the Measure of Land they shall respectively enjoy upon consenting to and subscribing Articles of Agreement to the above purport, when they shall be intituled to the same benefit and advantage in every respect as the said 31 Persons.

(Signed by 15 freeholders)

To be continued.

"SOCIETY SCRAPBOOK"

This section of the Bulletin is to record items of general interest, discoveries, sources of reference, etc., which, although of no direct connection to any project being undertaken by the Society at the present time, may be relevant in the future.

Saddleworth Sales advertised in the 'Manchester Mercury'

15th May 1759 To be Sold

A Freehold Messuage, Barn, Bark-Mill, Tan Yard, and ten Closes or Parcels of good Arable, Meadow and Pasture Ground contiguous thereto, and containing by Estimation fifty Days Work or thereabouts, situate at BRIMMY CROFT, in Saddleworth in the County of York, and now in the Tenure or Occupation of James Gartside and his Assigns.

Further Particulars may be had of the same James Gartside, who will shew the Premises, or of Mr. Thomas Twigg, Attorney at Law, Deswbury, Yorkshire, Trustee for the sale thereof.

21st Dec. 1762 To be Sold

A Freehold Estate, at BRIMECROFT, in Saddleworth, in the County of York, consisting of a good Dwelling House, Barn, Out-housing, Tan Yard, and Pits, together with a large Quantity of good Ground, to wit, Thirty-two Days Work of Plowing Pasture Ground, Fifteen Days Work of good Meadowing, Three Gates in Cold Greave Pasture, One Gate on Ogden Edge, One and a Half on Ruff Heigh, and One Seventeenth Part of Denshaw Moor.

(For further particulars of Brimmy Croft, Denshaw, see the Old Saddleworth section of this Bulletin).

30th Dec. 1800 Capital Inn

To be Let, for a Term of Years

And entered upon immediately

All that well accustomed Inn, known by the sign of the WAGGON AND HORSES, situate and being at CALF HEY, in Saddleworth, in the county of York, consisting of a good double House, brewhouse, and other offices, with coach house and stabling for upwards of 30 horses, together with ten acres of good meadow and pasture land. The present tenant will shew the premises, and further particulars may be had by applying to John Clegg, timber merchant, Oldham.

Calf Hey is capitally situated on the great road from Manchester through Oldham to Halifax, Leeds &c., being 12 miles from Manchester and 13 miles from Halifax.

28th Feb. 1809 Sale by Auction

by Abraham Mills

(By order of the assignees of the estate and effects of William Whitehead, woollen manufacturer, dealer and chapman, a bankrupt).

On Wednesday, the fifteenth day of March, 1809, at five o'clock in the afternoon precisely, at the house of John Buckley, the Bull's Head, in Mossley, in the parish of Ashton-under-line, in the county of Lancaster, together, or in such lots as shall be agreed at the time of sale.

The Fee-simple and Inheritance, or the Equity of Redemption, of and in all that Messuage and Tenement situate and being at SHAW HALL, in Saddleworth, in the county of York; consisting of a Public House, and other Houses and Buildings and 27 acres, 2 roods and 31 perches of meadow and pasture Land, of statute measure, thereto belonging, including that

newly erected messuage or dwelling-house called CRITCHLOW COTTAGE; all which premises are now in the several possessions or occupations of the said William Whitehead, and of Joseph Wood, Michael Horsfall, Cornelius Farrand, and John Taylor; and also of and in all those two inclosures of Moor Land adjoining the said estate, known by the names of the Tarbushes, and New Piece, containing together 26 acres, 1 rood and 25 perches of Land or Ground of statute measure; also three sittings in the front on the west side of a pew situate in the east gallery of the parish church of Saddleworth; also a Chief Rent of three pounds, fourteen shillings and seven-pence, issuing and payable out of a Plot of Land, situate at Shaw Hall aforesaid, and which is well secured, by building thereon; also a number of shares in the Manor of Saddleworth.

NB: The purchase of the Shaw Hall Estate will be easy - a considerable sum of money being invested thereon, which cannot be called in till the death of a young person, and the estate being also charged with another considerable sum not likely to be called in.

A plan of the estate at Shaw Hall may be seen and further particulars had, by applying to Mr. Gibbon of Ashton-under-line aforesaid, Solicitor, or to Mr. John Buckley, of Mossley aforesaid, who will shew the same.

B. Barnes.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Local Interest Trails

(all plus 7p postage each)

No.1.	Delph - Heights - Grange	10p
No.2.	Uppermill - Dobcross	10p
No.3.	Greenfield Area	10p
No.4.	Saddleworth Section of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal	15p
No.5.	Grasscroft Area	15p

Occasional Publications

No.1.	George Shaw of St. Chad's, Saddleworth	30p (+ 7p postage)
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Bulletins

The following back numbers are still available:

Vol.2, No.2. 10p	Vol.3, No.4. 15p	Vol.4, No.3. 15p
Vol.3, No.2. 10p	Vol.4, No.1. 15p	Vol.4, No.4. 20p
Vol.3, No.3. 15p	Vol.4, No.2. 15p	Vol.5, No.1. 20p

(all plus 10p postage each)

Published in association with Saddleworth Festival of the Arts 1975

"Saddleworth Heritage" £2.50 (£2.70 including postage)

The above can be obtained from: The Editor, Saddleworth Historical Society,
7, Elsted Road, Greenfield, Oldham OL3 7LL.
Please make cheques and postal orders payable to the Saddleworth Historical Society, except in the case of the last mentioned item, "Saddleworth Heritage", remittances for which should be made payable to the Saddleworth Festival of the Arts, 1975.

SADDLEWORTH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES

Part 17: 1916

- Jan. Saddleworth Military Hospital. Redecorating and cleaning of Ashway Gap. Removal of equipment from Oak View Hospital by van drawn by two horses. Helped for last quarter mile by Waterworks workmen. Fire Protection Scheme. Saddleworth to pay Mossley 1 penny in the £ rate for 10 years. First Meeting of Saddleworth Appeals Tribunal. Many appeals for exemption from military service made by woollen manufacturers. Claims for exemption to be lodged at Council Offices within 10 days of calling up.
- Feb. Zeppelin Scare. Street lamps to be turned off at 11 p.m. Mills in Saddleworth altering working hours instead of providing blinds.
- Mar. Appeal for more beds and bedding for Military Hospital. Great Snowstorm. Moorland roads closed for days. Drifts 16 feet deep. Nurses and cooks stranded at Military Hospital. Difficulties at a funeral at Heights: a trap used instead of a hearse and then bearers had to carry coffin for the last part of the journey.
- Apr. Fines for breaches of lighting restrictions. First boat for 2½ years passed through Standedge Canal Tunnel, carrying cargo of vitriol substitute to Messrs. Radcliffe, woollen manufacturers, Mossley.
- May Introduction of Summer Time.
- June Whitsuntide Processions held on Whit Saturday. It was thought that the mills would work until the Friday night. No bands played, except Diggle Band and Boys' Brigade Band. United Service at Uppermill.
- July "The Wind among the Heather" by Ammon Wrigley published. One of Belgian Refugees living in Saddleworth, and working at Dobcross Loomworks, called up for service with Belgian Army.
- Aug. Illness of Dr. Charles Leech, Liberal M.P. for Colne Valley. Seat vacated. F.W. Mallalieu of Delph adopted as prospective Liberal candidate at next election. Serious Accident at fairground at Uppermill Wakes when a guard gave way on a roundabout. Boat Lane, Diggle. Railway Company denied liability to repair it, stating that it was a highway prior to the passing of the Highways Act, so that it was repairable by the inhabitants of the district.
- Sept. Death from Anthrax at Mossley - caused by a new shaving brush.
- Oct. Ashway Gap Estate - offer to buy it by a London firm turned down by Waterworks Board. Fire Protection - further meeting with Mossley Councillors. Saddleworth to pay a penny rate for 8 years, and Mossley to provide an extra engine. Military Hospital - Stricter Regulations. Patients to be in hospital by 5.30; not to be entertained later by local hospitable people. War Office Regulations.
- Dec. Saddleworth Baths. Plot at Uppermill handed over to Council by only surviving trustee, Mr. Hervey Carter. Christmas Parcels sent to sailors and soldiers (Delph 217, Uppermill 99, Greenfield 281, Diggle and Dobcross 191). Great Christmas Party at Military Hospital. Ashway Gap decorated. Festive tea served. Crackers and cigarettes. Evening entertainment

Closure of Saddleworth Stations. Statement by Railway Company that Friezland and Uppermill stations are to be closed from 1st Jan. 1917.

Compiled by Mrs. H. Wood.

Part 18: 1917, will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Your readers, will, I hope, be interested to know of the following additions to the collection of microfilm copies of Saddleworth Registers at the Rochdale Reference Library. They are, of course, available for research to any member of the public, but it is advisable to reserve time and date in advance.

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | St. Chad's | Baptisms | 1801 - 1824 |
| | | Burials | 1801 - 1827 |
| | | These have not been hitherto filmed. | |
| | | Baptisms | 1825 - 1844 |
| | | Banns | 1778 - 1788 |
| | | Marriages | 1792 - 1837 |
| | | Burials | 1827 - 1838 |
| 2. | St. Thomas, Friarmere | | |
| | | Baptisms and Burials | 1769 - 1850 |
| 3. | Holy Trinity, Dobcross | | |
| | | Baptisms and Burials | 1788 - 1837 |

In addition the following Raines Mss. have been available at Rochdale for some time:

Volumes 1 - 4, 5 - 9, 14, 15, 21, 31, 34, Index. Volume 15 is concerned with Saddleworth.

Yours sincerely,

H. S. Broadbent.

101, Turf Hill Road,
Rochdale,
OL16 4XA.

JOSHUA HOBSON

A Huddersfield Radical Leader

Joshua Hobson was born in November, 1810, at Th'Green Side, Huddersfield, the youngest of four children. Whilst he was still young his mother was left a widow, and, as education was an expensive luxury, he received little schooling apart from a few weeks in a dame school and a short attendance at Seedhill School.

In his early teens he moved into the Oldham neighbourhood, where he became a handloom weaver and gained a useful technical knowledge of the trade. During this period he contributed radical articles to Lancashire newspapers under the pseudonym "Whistler at the Loom".

On his return to Huddersfield he was apprenticed to Thomas Flockton, a joiner. During this time, according to his obituary in the "Huddersfield Weekly News" (13th May, 1876), "the political elements of the country were in a ferment". Class was ranged against class and a "spirit of resistance to established authority was gaining ground in almost every part of the country", and Huddersfield was no exception. Hobson was active in local politics from this time until 1854, when he resigned his position as Clerk to the Board for the Huddersfield Improvement Act.

At the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 the economic distress of the working classes gave rise to a fear of their possible revolt. Consequently, the government's policies supported the landed gentry as a means of preventing revolution. As trade improved, however, and distress lessened, the threat of revolution abated and the middle classes and merchants, particularly in the north, complained that the government's policy of heavy taxation on imports prevented the expansion of trade; they felt that the only way to change these policies was by reforming Parliament, and they supported the working classes and the Radicals who had been agitating for Reform and who had been demanding a truly representative Parliament, with manhood suffrage and a reform of the financial and tax systems, since the end of the war.

The Tories, who were in power, were divided on this issue. Some were totally against it, but others believed that drastic reforms could be prevented by a change of policy with regard to trade, so silencing the demands of the industrialists.

The Whigs, on the other hand, were in favour of some reforms. They, too, were divided, one group hoping to achieve some measure of reform by a redistribution of voting rights which would abolish the most glaring examples of the rotten boroughs but which would keep the vote in the hands of a selected electorate. The second group hoped for a wider franchise, though still excluding the working class. Their idea, like that of the Tories, was to keep the role of the aristocracy but to support it by enfranchising the new rich among the industrialists.

From 1822 until 1830 the Tories attempted to deal with the discontent by removing its causes. In 1824 the Combination Acts were repealed, and this meant that workmen could form Trade Unions. Between 1824 and 1826 Huskisson, President of the Board of Trade, modified the Navigation Acts, thus allowing ships of any nation to carry goods to England. He lowered the duties on many of the imports and consequently

prices fell. The Corn Laws remained but duty on Colonial Corn was reduced. Between 1823 and 1827 Peel, the Home Secretary, introduced reforms of the Penal Code, reducing the 200 death penalties to one only. In 1828 the Test and Corporation Acts were repealed and Dissenters could now hold any offices, and 1829 the Catholic Relief Act allowed Roman Catholics to hold any office. Canning opened up South America to the British traders by recognising the Spanish colonies' claim to independence when they revolted against Spain in 1824.

In spite of these reforms, agitation for more drastic reform continued. The Radical element among the Whigs, led by Joseph Hume, had the support of the industrialists and the professional classes. They advocated Bentham's policy of Household Suffrage, and were determined to go as far as possible. The bulk of the working class wanted Manhood Suffrage and nothing less; they supported Cobbett and Hunt. A smaller section of the workers who supported reform were the members of Trade Unions and Political Unions who hoped to gain the reform of Parliament by less peaceful means.

Agitation for reform was increasing, and in 1830 Thomas Attwood formed the Birmingham Political Union which was the forerunner of many which were established in the principal towns and cities. In 1831 all these Unions were united into the National Political Union, which was the chief mouthpiece for the Reform movement.

In March 1831 the Whigs presented their Reform Bill. They proposed to abolish the rotten and pocket boroughs; boroughs with a population of 2 - 4,000 lost one M.P.; and new seats were created. Nine new towns and four London districts were to be given two members; 18 other towns and groups of towns were to return one member each; 26 counties with increased populations were to have an increase of two members each, making four in all; and Yorkshire was to have six members where it had had four previously. The franchise for boroughs and counties was to be extended to include the £10 leaseholders, whilst the £2 freeholders were to retain their vote. By these proposals the Whigs hoped to gain the support of the lease-holding farmers and the middle-classes in the towns. The labouring classes were to remain voteless and the demand for a secret ballot and annual parliaments was ignored. The Bill was passed in Parliament by a majority of one. The proposals were far wider than the Radicals had hoped and consequently a large majority of their middle-class supporters were satisfied. Many of the working-class, too, were inclined to accept the Bill in the principle that any reform was better than none. The National Union of the Working Classes and many of the Reform Clubs in the north were dissatisfied and wanted Manhood Suffrage.

The Bill was eventually abandoned in the face of opposition from the Tories, and the dissident Whigs, and this was followed by a General Election by which the Whigs were returned with an increased majority. The Bill was then passed through the House of Commons, but the House of Lords rejected it. The Political Unions now became the centres for the support of the Bill and the Government feared that the previously satisfied middle classes would join the moderate working classes in a possible revolution, and the King had to prorogue Parliament to prevent rioting. It was evident that the Bill must be passed, and the middle classes and the moderates in the Political Unions used all their power to support the Whigs. The more radical members of the National Union of Working Classes and the Reform Clubs were still very much against the Bill and their position was being made much more desperate by a deterioration in the economy. Wide-

spread rioting occurred in Bristol, Nottingham and Derby which made the passage of the Bill even more essential. In June 1832, after resignations by the Whigs and their return to office, the Reform Bill was passed.

In 1812 in the area surrounding Huddersfield there was considerable disturbance caused by the Luddites. Mills at Leeds, Horbury and Rawdon were all attacked and machinery destroyed. Two local mill-owners, William Horsfall of Cleckheaton and William Cartwright of Ottiwells near Marsden, were determined to run the new machines. Horsfall, who was openly anti-Luddite, was murdered on his way home from Huddersfield Market by William Thorpe, a prominent Luddite. One of his companions, Benjamin Walker, turned King's evidence and the other three accomplices and 15 other Luddites were tried at York Castle in January 1813. The three were executed and six others were transported for life, and Luddism as a force ended in west Yorkshire. The general unrest remained and was exacerbated by Major Cartwright who visited Huddersfield on 22nd January, 1813, a week after the Luddites' execution. He was demanding parliamentary reform but the meeting was broken up by the military, and the petitions for reform were confiscated. Cartwright was arrested but was later released.

A Hampden Club was formed in Huddersfield in 1816, and it was in this club that radicalism took its root. In 1817 there was another Luddite uprising in the Holme Valley. The military were again called in and what was known as the "Folly Hall Fight" came to nothing. Ten of the rebels were tried at York in May but all were acquitted.

In 1819 there were threats of reprisals for the Peterloo massacre, and a meeting was held in Huddersfield which was attended by a group from Halifax who marched with a band and banners. The leaders were jailed and radicalism tended to subside in Huddersfield. Meetings were prohibited by the Six Acts and radical literature was gagged by the stamp duty which raised the price of periodicals to sixpence. One final rebellion, which ended in failure, was to have taken place on 31st March, 1831, when preparations were made by rebels to attack Huddersfield again. The military were warned but the attack did not materialise. On 11th April, 200 men met at Grange Moor, purporting to march to London, and early that morning Huddersfield was warned that it was about to be attacked. A detachment of soldiers went to the moor but nothing happened. Later 22 men were arrested and tried at York and they were all sentenced to seven years transportation. One, Joseph Tyas, had a letter in his pocket addressed to "Our brethren in Lankaster Shire": "Our musick in Yorkshire as played twise where yours in Lankashire has never struck at all, is your Musicians sick?"

In the mid-1820's agitation for parliamentary reform was associated with the local Whig gentry, but by 1830 and the formation of the Political Unions the towns-people themselves were involved, particularly the Dissenters. The Almondbury Bank Political Union was established in 1830, and later that year one was formed in Huddersfield. Many Methodists were associated with the Unions, particularly those of the New Connexion. Abraham Hanson, a Methodist, was expelled from the church for participating in a radical meeting at Peep Green, Liversedge. Benjamin Rushton of Ovenden, a future Chartist leader, was a local preacher in the Methodist New Connexion.

In Yorkshire, running parallel with the agitation for reform of Parliament and paramount in many people's minds, was the agitation for the reform of conditions of factory labour, and the implementation of the Ten

Hours Bill. The factory system was spreading in Yorkshire by 1830. The handloom weavers were becoming unemployed as a result and there was distress amongst them. The mills which were being built had no restrictions as to the hours of work or of the ages at which children were allowed to work. There was agitation on behalf of factory reform and the Huddersfield Short Time Committee was formed, one of the members being Joshua Hobson. The Liberals, led by Cobden and Bright, were against the reform as they prophesied that it would be the ruination of the country. According to a letter from "Observer" to the Huddersfield Weekly News for 20th May, 1876, "Hobson laboured incessantly with Oastler for several years and their efforts resulted in the great national triumph of shortening the hours of labour of the factory operatives".

Richard Oastler was steward to Squire Thomas Thornhill of Fixby Park. In 1830 he called on John Wood of Horton Hall, Bradford, and they discussed the evils of child labour and the long hours of work in the factories. Oastler then wrote to the "Leeds Mercury" comparing colonial slavery and factory slavery, and the outcome of this article was the Huddersfield Short Time Committee, Joshua Hobson, weaver, being one of its 17 members (1). They decided to set aside party, political and religious differences and to work for the good of the children.

Fixby Hall became the centre for meetings of the Committee. Ten Huddersfield Millowners petitioned Parliament against the Ten Hours Bill and Oastler in reply took examples of slavery from their mills and published the details in the Tory "Leeds Intelligencer". On Boxing Day, 1831, a mass meeting was held in Huddersfield in support of the Bill, and committees in Leeds and London gave money for the campaign. Oastler put all his savings into the fund, and Wood of Horton Hall subscribed £4,000. At a mass meeting at York Castle in April 1832 Oastler was nicknamed the "Factory King".

The Factory Bill brought by Lord Ashley in 1833 was defeated and Lord Althorp's Bill became law. This stated that no child under the age of nine was to be employed; those between nine and thirteen were to work 48 hours per week with two hours per week schooling; those between 13 and 18 could be employed for 60 hours but with no night work. Oastler was not satisfied. He still looked forward to a return to domestic industry, but his demands now covered a wider area. Besides factory reform he demanded the abolition of the taxes on the press, no indirect taxation, a direct levy on land and property, waste land to be reclaimed and settled by the poor and unemployed. All this was to be brought about by a return to Toryism: the Whigs were responsible for the present unbearable conditions.

In 1834 the Poor Law was reformed. The new Act set up Workhouses, and abolished out-door relief. The Act was to be organised by a central authority. Three Commissioners were appointed by the Prime Minister and under them were Assistant Commissioners who were responsible for reorganising parishes into reasonably-sized Unions. A Board of Guardians was to be elected to supervise the Unions. The Act was imposed in the southern counties of England, but there was great opposition in the North. The Commissioners attempted to introduce the new law into the North in the midst of a severe economic depression. Many were forced to apply for relief, and thought of having to undergo the "Workhouse Test", rigid discipline, segregation of the family, and a poor diet caused riots among the working classes.

In Huddersfield Oastler and Hobson were the leaders of the opposition against the Poor Law. The parishes of Huddersfield, Almondbury and Kirkheaton were amalgamated into one large Poor Law Union. It was rumoured that large forces of unemployed workmen were to be moved into the North to reduce wages and break the Trades Unions. Oastler and Hobson organised the Huddersfield Short Time Committee to frustrate the Poor Law.

On 10th January, 1837, the Poor Law Commissioners had come to Huddersfield and had been heckled by the crowds. In April they returned and were met by a restless crowd, and only the threat of the Riot Act's being read dispersed them. The parishioners of Fixby refused to elect a Poor Law Guardian. On Whit Monday there was a mass meeting against the Poor Law at Hartshead and an effigy of Edward Baines, the editor of the Whig paper the "Leeds Mercury" was burned in Huddersfield Market Place. Another effigy of Baines was burned in Heckmondwike outside the house of a Whig Chapel-deacon.

Another meeting of Guardians was called for 5th June, and the magistrates were asked to have the military in readiness. They refused for fear of aggravating the people. 10,000 turned out for the meeting and a deputation demanded to see the Assistant Commissioner, Alfred Power. Permission was refused and the mob attacked the building and Power had to seek refuge in the Albion Hotel while the rioters paraded outside. A Clerk to the Board was not appointed and the Commissioners adjourned the meeting for three months. Oastler was blamed for the failure to appoint the Guardians and the Clerk, and Hobson was accused of encouraging the magistrates to withhold their support for law and order. By January 1838 no progress had been made and ultimately the Central Board realised that the North could not be dealt with in the same manner as the South, and the Lancashire and West Riding Guardians were empowered to continue the old forms of relief.

The forces which had been organised against the Poor Law and in favour of the Ten Hours Bill and the Reform Bill now turned their attention to Chartism.

Anne Chadderton.

To be concluded.

(1) D.F.E. Sykes, "The History of Huddersfield".

RASPER'S FOWD

At No.1 theer's Owd Betsy Ann,
An that's wheer hoo were born,
Hoo's allus at windo - hoo misses nowt.
Tha con see wheer't curtins are worn.

Hoo 'as 'er pension an a bit beside,
Owd Betsy's never bowt.
Hoo 'as 'er dinners from t'Meals on Wheels
An 'as 'er feet done fer nowt.

Now No.2 'as just bin sowd
An thur pooin t'place apart.
They'n gotten a grant from't Council
An thur mekkin it look reight smart.

They'n gotten a door o' made o' glass
An windows as oppen owt,
Aw've just sin a new bath bein carried in,
An th' owd set pot bein carried out.

Thi gan two thousand fer yon cot
Ee landlord's gotten a cheek.
Aw remember - an it's not long sin
It were 'ave a crown a week.

At No.3 theer's Union chap, from t'Foundry
An thur on strike.
Ee's gotten chaps out wi' a wave of his 'ond
'Cos theer's summat as 'ee doesn't like.

'Ee rants an raves about downtrodden poor
Wi wealth 'ee doesn't owd,
But 'ee's gotten a car as big as a buz
'Ee con nobber just get it in't Fowd.

An road as 'ee talks is o' furrin to me.
'Ee sez, "Solidarity's essential",
'Is executive'll negotiate, some board'll arbitrate,
An that road they'll maintain thur differential.

At No.4 lives widdo Dodds.
Hoo lives wi' 'er son Jack.
'Ee weers medallions hung round 'is neck,
An 'is 'ur hung down 'is back.

'Ee allus looks as 'ee's just gotten up.
Reet dateless. 'Ee 'as no spark.
'Ee dun't spake, dun't even let on.
What's more 'ee dun't wark.

'Ee goes wi' a lass, such another as hissels.
Long 'ur, tight pants an o'
From't back tha conna tell t'other from which
It's at front as differences show.

No.5's wheer 'Enry lived,
Reet thin an' week an' pale,
Lizzie's 'is wife's as big as a house-end
Hoo looks like a ship in full sail.

Hoo nagged at yon chap day in an' day out,
Couldn't abide t'see 'im sat still,
Till one day last week, 'ee'd just 'ad enough,
'Ee did a bunk wi' a widdo from't mill.

Lizzie talks o' nowt else, hoo waint let it drop,
If a see 'er on't road a cross o'er.
Well - if hoo sez owt to me a'll just tell 'er straight,
Lad should a done it afore.

Now No.6's a reet callin shop.
Thur cummin an goin o' day.
Martha Grimes reads tay-leaves an palms
An' hoo charges a tanner fer't tay.

'Er 'ouse smells a bit musty, it's heavy an' dark
Hoo 'as a long curtin behind't door.
There's just enuff leet to see't kettle on't hob
'cos windos are allus steamed o'er.

Aw were behind 'er in't shop - hoo bowt two pounds o' tay.
Now then just thee weigh it up.
No wonder hoo's goint Newquay fer holidays this yur.
Hoo con at a tanner a cup.

And No.7's wheer Dolly lives.
Ee - hoo's a warm un, tha con tell.
Hoo's ne'er bin wed, but hoo's gotten a lad
An' two little lassies as well.

Hoo wur sat in't Swan last Friday neet,
'Er pal wur theer beside.
When Dolly sed hoo were avin another,
Three o' chaps theer rushed outside.

At No.8 thur's Jim Pugh an' 'is wife,
'Ee's gotten t'handyman craze.
Whenever 'ee sez 'ee's bount mek summat new
Hoo goes in't kitchen an' prays.

For whatever 'ee does, never turns out reet,
Shelves 'ee's put up ate on't slant
On 'is cupboard in't kitchen, doors waint keep shut,
Hoo ast tie 'um together wi' bant.

Now last Satday morn, 'ee'd a picture to hang
'Ee furgeet thur wur watter pipes theer,
'Ee gave yon nail such a helluva clout,
Jet lifted cat reet off cheer.

Still these folks are no better nor worse then most,
But, there's one thing as 'ave found
If th'art in trouble an' goin's a bit rough,
Th'll find they'll o' rally round.

So if it's a nice day an' tha feels like a walk
Don't heed what tha's bin tow'd.
The' con meet Dolly an' Lizzie an' Jack an' Jim Pugh,
If tha'll come to Rasper's Fowd

Nell Buckley.

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.

BRIMMY CROFT

Grid Reference: SD 973112

- Location: North of Denshaw, off the Rochdale road. Located on south-facing hillslopes at 965 feet above sea level.
- Description: Two storey farm house, chamfered mullion windows. Parts added on to eastern end. Stone built; old flag roof. Datestone on front JM AM 1770.
- History:
- 1722 2 Apr. Henry son of James Gartside yeoman and Alice his wife of Brimmy-croft buried. Another son Henry was christened 10 Apr. 1723 and buried 5 Mar. 1726. Their son Benjamin was christened 28 Dec. 1725 and buried 3 Aug. 1726. James Gartside yeoman of Brimmy-croft buried 23 Sept. 1748, and Alice was buried 24 Jan 1755. (Registers).
- 1724 5 Apr. James son of John Scholefield clothier and Mary his wife of Brimmy-croft christened. (Registers).
- 1733 28 Dec. Old James Whitehead of Hollinbank clothier married Ann Buckley widow of Brimmycroft. (Registers).
- 1734 7 Dec. John Gartside of Brimmycroft yeoman married Anna Scholefield of Castleshaw. Their daughter Susanna christened 10 Feb. 1735, their daughter Ann 10 Oct. 1737, their son Henry 1 July 1738 (and buried 19 Apr. 1743), their daughter Alice 15 Feb. 1741, their daughter Hannah 12 Mar. 1742, their son Benjamin 2 Jan. 1744 (and buried 29 Mar. 1751), their son Abraham 22 July 1747 (Abraham Gartside of Marlearth-nook died 10 Apr. 1831 aged 83), their daughter Mally 17 Mar. 1750, and their daughter Betty 11 July 1752 (and buried 13 July 1756). (Registers).
- 1741 27 Apr. Abraham Gartside clothier of Brimmy-croft buried. (Registers).
- 1742 3 May. William Buckley fustian-man of Brimmy-croft buried. (Registers).
- 1745 30 June. Alice daughter of Mary Whitehead of Slack spinster by James Gartside of Brimmy-croft tanner christened. 2 Oct. 1746 Abraham son of Mary Whitehead by James Gartside christened.
- 1745 5 Dec. James Lowe of Brimmycroft clothier married Ann Bradbury of Swainscroft. (Registers).
- 1749 16 Mar. Alice daughter of James Gartside tanner and Judith his wife of Brimmycroft christened and buried 7 Feb. 1762. Their son James christened 19 Mar. 1751 (James Gartside of Brimmecroft died 27 Sept. 1830 aged 79 and Betty his wife died 26 Jan. 1840 aged 82). Their daughter Sarah christened 27 Mar. 1754, their daughter Betty 17 Mar. 1757 and their daughter Mally 14 May 1761. (Registers). James Gartside was known as "The Silver Tanner" (Ammon Wrigley, Saddleworth Chronological Notes, p.21).
- 1758 11 Feb. Edmund son of John Butterworth clothier and Anne

- 1759 & 1762 his wife of Brimmy-croft christened. (Registers).
Brimmy Croft advertised for sale (see "Saddleworth Scrapbook" section of this Bulletin).
- 1762 24 Feb. Ruth Platt spinster of Brimmy-croft buried. (Registers).
- 1766 30 Dec. Alice daughter of Benjamin Wrigley clothier and Betty his wife of Brimmy-croft christened. (Registers).
- 1767 Jane daughter of Arthur Hully clothier and Mary his wife of Brimmy-croft christened 6 May. Mary died 27 Aug. 1767. (Registers).
- 1767 16 July. Margaret daughter of John Mills clothier and Alice his wife of Brimmy-croft christened.
16 Jan. 1773 John son of John Milnes of Brimecroft yeoman died aged 22 (he was born at Wood, Mar. 1750). John Milnes of Brimecroft yeoman died 29 Nov. 1798 aged 77 and Alice his wife died 25 Jan. 1773 aged 49. (Registers).
- 1768 22 May. John son of James Mills clothier and Hannah his wife of Brimmy-croft christened. Their twin daughters Ann and Mally christened 21 Mar. 1771 (Ann buried 26 May 1771). 13 Feb. 1774 their daughter Ann christened, and 9 Mar. 1777 their daughter Alice christened. (Registers).
- 1770 4 Nov. Sarah daughter of John Buckley clothier and Mary his wife of Brimmy-croft christened. Their son James christened 29 May 1771. (Registers).
- 1775 10 Dec. John Lawton of Norman Hill, Rochdale Parish, married Sarah Gartside of Brimmy-croft. John Lawton of Denshaw died 26 Apr. 1827 aged 75 and Sarah his wife died 28 Mar. 1827 aged 72. (Registers).
- 1776 24 May. Robert Winterbottom of Roebucklow clothier married Betty Fielding sojourner of Brimmy-croft. (Registers).
- 1780 12 Mar. Orlando son of John Bradbury clothier and Hannah his wife of Brimmy-croft christened. (Registers).
- 1781 26 Feb. Joseph Mills of Brimmy-croft clothier married Mary Mallalieu of Old Tame. (Registers).
- 1793 15 Sept. Joseph Heginbottom of Wellhead married Mally Mills of Brimmy-croft. (Registers).
- 1829 2 Apr. Joseph son of John Milnes yeoman of Brimmy-croft and Alice his wife died aged 74. (Registers).
- 1835 The owner of Brimmy Croft was John Taylor, and the occupiers were Giles Wood and Joseph Coates. John Gartside occupied the land. (Church Rate Book).
- 1841 According to the Census there were three dwellings at Brimmy Croft. One was occupied by Giles Wood, farmer (aged 35), his wife Hannah (aged 35), one son and five daughters. Another was occupied by Joseph Coates, farmer (aged 50), with his two sons and two daughters. The third was empty.
- C1842 "There was a great mowing match in the long meadow at Brimmy-croft between John Lawton (Curly) of Friarmere, and Thomas Winterbottom (Tom o' th' Fernlea) of Greenfield. No definite result". (Ammon Wrigley, "Songs of a Moorland Parish", p.140).
- 1851 The Census listed four houses at Brimmy Croft. One was occupied by Giles Wood, farmer of 24 acres, with five males and three females; one was unoccupied; another was occupied by Silvanus Shaw, farmer of 22 acres, with one male and three females, and the fourth was unoccupied.
- 1852 According to the Saddleworth Church Rate Book Brimmy Croft

(and its land) was still owned by John Taylor; the occupiers were Giles Wood and Thomas Shaw, while John Gartside occupied the land.

1871

The Census listed two families at Brimmy Croft: Moses Shaw (aged 54), his wife Ann, four sons and three daughters (Moses was a farmer of 50 acres, three of the family were cotton workers and one a woollen weaver); the other family was that of David Jones, labourer aged 63, Jane his wife, and one son and three daughters (one of whom was a cotton printer and three mill hands).

CABIN

Grid Reference: SD 959071

Location:

Strinesdale; just north-east of the upper reservoir, at the end of Cabin Lane, 900 feet above sea level. Originally on the south-west facing slopes of a spur running down from Roebucklow.

Description:

Now demolished.

History:

1706 2 Feb. Indenture between James Farrer of Ewood and Peter Seville of Roebucklow, yeoman. The latter was granted "a certain parcel or portion of ground containing 5 acres more or less, heretofore inclosed out of and from the commons and wastes of Saddleworth, part of Roebuckloe and part of Strindes, together with all the housing and buildings thereon erected and built, with such liberty of common and turbary as other like tenants shall have". Peter Seville acquired this land in 1706 on the death of James Lees of Roebucklow, its former tenant. (C.E. Higson, Oldham Standard, 8 Mar. 1911).

1723

11 Oct. Ann wife of John Winterbottom shoemaker of Cabin buried. (Registers).

1724

30 Apr. John Winterbottom shoemaker of Cabin married Ann Buckley of Stone-breaks. (Registers).

1728

20 May. Peter Seville died aged 76 and Alice his wife died 26 Mar. 1758 aged 90. They had 3 sons, James, Abraham and Isaac, and one daughter, Alice. Abraham settled in Strines and in 1725 married Dinah, youngest daughter of Jonathan Andrew of Alt. He died 24 June 1778 aged 74. Isaac succeeded his father as owner of Cabin. (C.E. Higson, loc. cit.).

1728

13 Oct. Mary daughter of Jonathan Wyld fustian weaver and Sarah his wife of Cabin christened. (Registers).

1735

7 Apr. Sarah daughter of Isaac Seville yeoman and Anna his wife of Cabin buried. Their son Isaac christened 20 Feb. 1736 (Isaac Seville of Hopkin Mill buried 30 Oct. 1820 aged 84). Their twin daughters Anna and Sarah christened 5 Nov. 1738 (Sarah buried 11 Nov. 1739). Their son Joseph christened 21 June 1741 (Joseph Seville of Netherlees died 10 Dec. 1786 aged 45). (Registers). 1745 Isaac Seville took his family to live in Lees (Netherlees Estate, 65 acres including Hopkin Fulling Mill). He died 12 June 1783 aged 76 and Anna his wife died 4 Oct. 1787 aged 75. He bequeathed his estates to his four sons, Isaac, Joseph, John and James. Peter, the son of his eldest son Peter (who had died during his lifetime) was bequeathed Cabin. There was another son of Isaac, Abraham, who inherited

- nothing. (C.E. Higson, loc. cit.).
- 1744 3 June. Benjamin son of Joseph Scholefield clothier and Peninnah his wife of Cabin christened. Their son James christened 17 Oct. 1746 (James Scholefield of Strines died 16 Dec. 1794 aged 48). Their daughter Anne christened 8 June 1751. (Registers). Many later 18th century references to Cabin in the Registers must come under Strines.
- 1782 Reference to the Bentley family of Cabin in the Registers.
- 1791 26 Nov. Peter Seville purchased the freehold of Cabin from the trustees of the Farrer Estates on the sale of the Manor, for £36-2-0. Hannah, the widow of Peter Seville the elder, married John Broadbent whose first wife Sarah was the sister of Peter. So "there lived at Cabin a father and mother, a grandfather and grandmother, a stepfather and stepmother, sister and brother, uncle and aunt, man and wife - in all two persons". (C.E. Higson, loc. cit.).
- 1800 20 Aug. Coal and cannel under the Cabin Estate leased to James Lees of Roebucklow in exchange for freehold farm known as Coldhouse. Cabin included Kiln Field, New Field, Acre, Little Acre, Lowmost Field, Meadow and Brow. Coldhouse included Carpet Field and Croft. Peter Seville the younger died unmarried and his possessions passed to his sister Anna who had married Timothy Whitehead of Salford, attorney, 11 Sept. 1783. (C.E. Higson, loc. cit.).
- 1835 The Church Rate Book listed four occupiers of Cabin: Robert Broadbent, Thoms Gledhill, James Broadbent and William Dunkerley.

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, mills, bridges, 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.

"SADDLEWORTH HERITAGE"

Quote: "Imagination, initiative and enthusiasm have combined to produce a remarkable book a production which any national publisher would be happy to own"

Lancashire Life, June, 1975

The Saddleworth Festival Committee made possible the publication of this book. Without their help it would not have been produced.

The story of its publication briefly is that the Festival Committee offered to sponsor a book for the Festival if the Saddleworth Historical Society would provide it. Mr. Bernard Barnes agreed to write it and on completion presented the draft to the Festival Committee. It came back to the Society in the form of this beautiful volume.

Most of the interim work, the liaison with the artist and the printers, was done by the Festival Committee. The Society was hardly troubled at all. We are very grateful to the Festival Committee.

We expected an excellent book from the team of experts responsible.

Mr. Barnes wrote the text. Only he could have done so. All those who take the Bulletin or who have attended his lectures in Uppermill know well the quality of his work, the extent and depth of his knowledge of Saddleworth, the interest that he can arouse and sustain whether in lecturing or writing.

He has done a lot of original research in preparing this book and he has come up with a compact, human history of homes, inns and other features of Saddleworth - a history presented in a very readable, absorbing form.

The Society is indebted to him for this further considerable contribution he has made to the reputation of the Society.

It was fitting that a top-line artist should be selected to illustrate the work and the Festival Committee chose William Geldart who was specially commissioned to produce drawings of fifteen of the properties in the book.

They also took pains that the lay-out and art work should be of the highest order.

The printing was entrusted to Revell and George Ltd.

The result is a unique volume which I am sure will be in demand long after the edition is sold out.

John Murray.