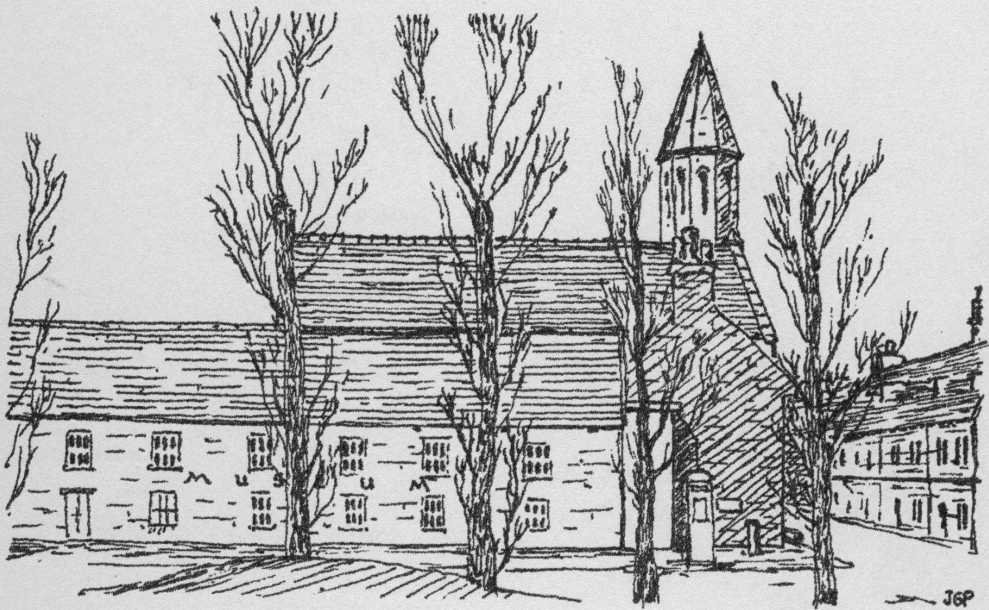


SADDLEWORTH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE MUSEUM - UPPERMILL.

BULLETIN

WINTER 1975

VOLUME 5 No. 4

BULLETIN

OF

THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 5

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SADDLEWORTH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES

Part 19: 1918

- Jan. Great Success of West Riding Regiment at Grainscourt celebrated by a general school holiday for one day throughout the West Riding. Victory celebrated in a poem by Ammon Wrigley. Rationing of butter, sugar, margarine, tea, syrup, bacon, lard, jam and cheese.
Cattle Grading Market held at Uppermill.
- Feb. Milk Strike. Farmers ceased delivery of milk owing to refusal of Food Committee to allow increase of milk price to more than $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a quart. It could be collected from farms on payment of 6d. a quart.
"Limelight" Lectures. First of a series on potato growing and kindred subjects held at Delph.
Workhouse Farm - part of land to be ploughed.
- Mar. Meat Rationing Scheme. Help of volunteers asked for.
- June Further Housing Scheme planned on Diggle and Delph plots.
Volunteer Corps for Saddleworth. Saddleworth Tribunal for Military Service told by letter that the need for more men for the forces was so great that exemptions should not be granted except to those on war work. Those granted exemption would automatically go into the Volunteer Corps.
- July Saddleworth War Weapons Week. Public Meetings throughout district. Savings Certificates and Bonds on sale at banks and at Delph and Uppermill Mechanics' Institutes. £252,000 raised.
Kinders Mill, Greenfield, destroyed by fire. The firm had been working on Government orders for flannel.
- Aug. Gala for Wounded Soldiers at Ashway Gap. Races and competitions between patients at Ashway Gap and Wharnton Tower Military Hospitals. £55 raised.
- Nov. Milk Strike settled. District Food Commissioner blamed strike on Food Committee for not paying the same price as that allowed in Oldham. Price fixed at 9d. a quart, and strike settled.
Armistice. Great rejoicing. Mills closed for the day. Children paraded through streets. Flags hoisted and streamers hung across streets. Bells ringing at churches. Parades of bands round villages. Service at Road End, Greenfield.
Imitation rush cart prepared at short notice. 100 men, some of them soldiers on leave, volunteered to take places in "stangs". Tea and entertainment in Co-op Hall, Greenfield for patients of Greenfield Military Hospitals, discharged soldiers and men on leave.
Influenza Epidemic - many deaths in Saddleworth.

Compiled by Mrs. H. Wood.

This series is now concluded.

THE COTTON FAMINE ROAD

The so-called "cotton famine" road runs from the ruined shooting lodge near the Runninghill or Denman Quarries (Diggle), at first south-eastwards but then east-south-eastwards across Broadstone Moss and South Clough Moss before petering out in the wastes of Featherbed Moss, one third of a mile short of the Holmfirth Road at an altitude of 1,600 feet. Almost the only man-made feature connected with the road is the ditch which runs along most of its length on the southern side and which is in places over eight feet deep. There is a complementary ditch on the northern side which, however, is much more fragmentary and shallower. There are also a few nicely arched culverts beneath the westernmost section of the road.

The "road" itself has a peat (or vegetated peat) surface, and where streams have cut gullies through it the sections show no evidence of any road construction. It is possible that the next stage in the building of the road would have been to strip the peat from the surface between the ditches and to have laid stones on it. Measurement has shown the area between the ditches on South Clough Moss to be 25 feet wide.

The road is first shown on the Enclosure Map of 1810, as a "public carriage road 12 yards wide", but this of course merely indicates that its construction was proposed, not that it existed at the time. Indeed, the 1820-1 Map of Saddleworth has no indication that any work had gone ahead. The moorland to the north of the road at this time was owned by James Lees, and that to the south by John Wrigley and others.

In 1827 the Trustees of the Standedge and Oldham Turnpike Road obtained an Act for making and maintaining two new branches from their road. One of these was described as

"commencing from Uppermill, extending in a north easterly direction in one part and in an easterly direction in another part towards and ending at into or near a certain common called Sail Bark Moss and there communicating with the Holehouse and Shepley Lane Head Turnpike Road" (i.e. the present road to Holmfirth).

A plan of this proposed turnpike road can be found in the Record Office at Wakefield, and this shows that the Trustees intended that it should be built along the line of the road depicted on the 1810 Map.

The 1832 Commissioner's Award listed a road to be enclosed "thirty feet wide where the old inclosures will permit, leading from the north corner of the poor's allotment at Running-hill in a southerly direction to the west corner thereof, and thence leading in an easterly direction past Runninghill-head to the New Road leading to Uppermill and continuing from thence of the width of 36 feet in an easterly direction to the Greenfield Turnpike Road on or near Sail Bark Moss". The "new road from Uppermill" mentioned here would have been the final section of what is now called Runninghill Gate, from above Wickens to the quarries, and the description of the road as a whole shows that, although nothing had yet been done about the road across the moors, there was still the intention of going ahead with its construction.

A very significant fact is that the road (or at least the ditches) are shown on the First Edition (1845) of the Six Inch Ordnance

Survey Maps. This implies that it existed, if only in outline, since it was surveyed by the Ordnance Survey.

Thus the tradition that the "road" was built by workless cotton operatives in the 1860's appears to be contradicted by the evidence. There is certainly no justification for the statement that the Denman Quarries were opened for the supply of stone in the construction of the road: the road is more likely to have been intended to provide an outlet for the quarries. Nor is it justified to state categorically that the construction of the road provided relief work for the unemployed in the 1860's (1), because as demonstrated above this appears to be a local oral tradition and as yet no documentary evidence has been found to support it.

Reference:

- (1) Harris H. "Industrial Archaeology of the Peak District", Newton Abbot, 1971, p.235.

B. Barnes.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

With reference to the article entitled "War in Saddleworth a Thousand Years Ago", published in Number 3 of the current series of the Bulletin, the author on Page 43 makes the following statements when referring to the Roman Forts at Castleshaw:

"My father even suggested that the outer or larger fort might not have been repaired but newly constructed by the Northumbrian garrison. So far the excavations seem to have produced no evidence against this, rather evidence in favour since the techniques of construction of the two ramparts show a considerable difference. The idea of considerable repairs is certainly plausible and the idea of a new Northumbrian fort, built to accommodate a larger garrison than the small Roman Fort is by no means impossible".

The suggestion is made to the reader that the small fort was built first by the Romans, and then at a later date the larger fort was built, possibly by the Northumbrians.

I would submit that both forts are Roman and the sequence is the reverse of that suggested above. The larger one was built first and at a later date the small fort was constructed.

To quote all the evidence to support the above statement would run to many pages, but I will deal with the evidence briefly, starting with the larger fort:

- a) the Roman Road from Chester to York passes the fort and is aligned on to the south west corner. At this point it changes direction and climbs on to Standedge (1).

- b) during the 1907-11 excavations (2) proof was obtained that the rampart of the smaller fort overlay the rampart of the larger fort. Other forts follow this pattern, e.g. Raeburnfoot, Dumfriesshire, Camp Hill, Caermot, Chew Green in the Cheviots, and Pen Llystyn.
- c) pottery found in the foundations of the watch tower in the western corner of the fort gave it an Agricolan date (3).
- d) during the 1957-1964 excavations (4) evidence of timber granaries and barracks of a Roman pattern came to light in the north west section of the fort together with finds of coins, pottery and glass, all Roman.

Now coming to the smaller fort:

- a) the ramparts are built over those of the larger fort, and are of similar construction to the Antonine Wall in Scotland.
- b) evidence has been found in the coin finds which gives this fort a later date than the larger fort. Much Roman material has been yielded during excavations.

To summarise the history of the Forts, it would appear that Castleshaw I was built as one of a series by Agricola about AD.80 to guard the newly built road across the Pennines. Unlike its neighbour at Outlane, it was abandoned soon after construction (AD.90), as was for example the Agricolan fort at Ambleside. All available strength was evidently being thrown into Scotland.

Soon after the arrival in England of a new Governor early in the second century, there was a fresh occupation of Castleshaw (AD.104), coinciding with rebuilding at Outlane. These are just two of the many signs that the Flavian frontier was being strengthened before the overwhelming rebellion burst out between AD.112 and AD.117. Castleshaw like Outlane passed through the troubled times unscathed, and neither fort has indicated any signs of destruction.

Yours sincerely,

K. Booth.

Ceann,
Friezland Lane,
Greenfield.

References:

- (1) Yorkshire Arch. Register, Yorks, Arch. Soc. Journal, 1973
- (2) The Roman Forts at Castleshaw, 1st Interim Report, 1908, and 2nd Interim Report, 1911.
- (3) The Sequence and Purpose of the Roman Forts at Castleshaw, by I.A. Richmond, Trans. Lancs. & Ches. Antiq. Soc. V.XL, 1922.
- (4) The Roman Forts at Castleshaw, by F.H. Thompson, Trans. Lancs. & Ches. Antiq. Soc. V.77, 1974.

Editor's Note:

Part of the Roman Exhibition is still on show at the Museum, including model of small fort, plans and photographs. Copies of F.H. Thompson's report can be obtained from the Museum, 75p each. Fort plans are also on sale (5p each).

JOSHUA HOBSON

A Huddersfield Radical Leader

Part 3

After Hobson had been sentenced to six months imprisonment at Wakefield Jail, he was escorted to the prison with a procession and bands. Cobbett brought his case before the House, and Hobson was then permitted a room to himself, a servant, meals from outside, newspapers and books.

From 31st August, 1833, and throughout his imprisonment a note at the foot of the last page of the "Voice" stated that the paper was printed by Joshua Hobson, High St., (residence Wakefield Bastille).

In a leader on 3rd August, 1833, headed "Persecution of the Voice of the West Riding", Hobson wrote:

"Our readers will be surprised to learn from the document annexed that we have been singled out by the "Commissioners of Stamps" and Joseph Walker and Joseph Armitage "Esquires" with Joseph Brook of Tontine Celebrity as their tool for prosecution on account of publishing our 1d. Voice without giving them FOURPENCE each copy for doing so".

After appearing for a year, the Voice of the West Riding ceased publication in June, 1834. The last edition but one called for a meeting of shareholders the following week, but in the last edition no mention was made of its going out of existence.

After the failure of the "Voice" Hobson moved to Leeds where he set up as a printer and bookseller in Briggate. The writer of his obituary says that when in Leeds Hobson took a prominent part in promoting the Factory regulations after Peel had passed the Bill. He was often one of the deputations to Ministers and influential M.P's on this and other public questions, and so came into contact with the leading statesmen of his day.

In February, 1835, Hobson was again convicted of selling unstamped newspapers. The Leeds Mercury for 14th February says:

"..... the paper sold was the Weekly Police Gazette and the buyer was Thomas Clark, a police constable, who went into Hobson's shop and 'asked for the paper, it was given to me and I paid 2d. for it'.

Mr. Hobson was convicted in the penalty of £5, being the lowest allowed by law. Mr. Hobson, having enquired what should happen if he neither paid the fine nor appealed was informed that he would be committed to Wakefield House of Correction for six weeks.

A second Charge, that of selling an unstamped 2d. Weekly Dispatch, was dismissed, but Hobson was convicted on three more charges and fined a further £15 or six weeks imprisonment for each offence.

Hobson objected to going to Wakefield and it was agreed that he should go to York Castle if he did not pay. He

declined to do this and was placed in the dock for final sentence and will probably be removed (if he has not already gone) in a few days".

He was released in August, but in January, 1836, he was again convicted of selling unstamped newspapers, this time along with Alice Mann. They were both sentenced to six months imprisonment at York Castle. The charge was again brought by William Willcock, the distributor of stamps, who accused them of selling the 2d. Weekly Dispatch and the Police Gazette. According to the Leeds Mercury for 16th January, 1836:

"Mrs. Mann was a widow with a large family. Mr. Willcock had done everything he could to induce Mrs. Mann to abandon her illegal dealings and Hobson had also received ample caution, but they both set his warnings at defiance. The spirit of resistance to the law has been carried on with such determination and to such an extent that he felt any longer to have refrained from proceedings would have been a cowardly compromise to an openly perpetrated wrong. We shall always be glad to see prevailing among the working class a desire for the attainment of sound political knowledge but we hope in the acquisition of it their taste for reading will ever be elevated above that of such publications as have now been made the subject of prosecution".

In 1837 the Radicals of Leeds had been planning to publish an independent newspaper with a popular appeal. Two of the promoters were William Hill, a Swedenborgian Minister and a strong opponent of the Poor Law, and Joshua Hobson. They had got as far as forming a committee and issuing a few shares when Feargus O'Connor came to Leeds, bought out the enterprise and used it as the organ of the Chartists. This newspaper was the "Northern Star", the editor was William Hill and the management was the responsibility of Joshua Hobson. The newspaper was an instant success, its circulation only limited by the impossibility of printing more copies. Hobson was appointed editor on Hill's retirement in 1843 and the paper's earlier outspokenness which had put many Chartist speakers in jail was modified and the agitation to a more practical shape.

Hobson was an ardent opponent of O'Connor's Land Scheme and he prevented many poor people from losing their money, but he incurred the wrath of the more fanatical Chartists and followers of O'Connor.

The "Northern Star" bore advertisements for "Pinder's Chartist Blacking" on which Thomas Hanson, 24, Currant Street, Nottingham, would allow 1d. in the shilling for the profits to the executive. Robert Lundy of Mytongate, Hull, allowed 3d. in the shilling. Parr's Pills, a general cure-all, were advertised as "Chartist Pills" and Joshua Hobson accepted the retail and wholesale agency in Leeds. He was authorised to give 2d. from the sale of each 1/1¹/₂d. box to be divided between the executive and the families of imprisoned Chartists. The Births and Baptisms column was headed "More Young Patriots". Hobson also advertised a 3d. Weekly, "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" by Mary Woolstoncraft.

In 1838 he brought out a booklet, "Socialism as it is! Lectures in reply to the fallacies and misrepresentations of the Rev. John Eustace Giles, Baptist Minister, Leeds". In these lectures, Hobson professed himself "a Socialist, not by education and hereditary prejudice, not by

profession only, stimulated by interested or avaricious motives, but by rational conviction, the consequence of deep thought, deliberate enquiry and painful investigation".

In 1840, George White attempted to get Hobson elected as one of the town's Improvement Commissioners, so securing Chartist representation in the group of 19 parishioners elected at the annual vestry meeting. Hobson was unsuccessful, but another Chartist, John Jackson, was elected. In 1842 the Chartist's list of nineteen was accepted but in July of that year the old Improvement Act was replaced by one which empowered the Town Council to appoint committees to carry out improvements. The Chartists then began to elect Town Councillors. This idea had been propounded in the "Northern Star" in January 1842: "Are the Chartists of Leeds generally aware that the qualification for a Town Councillor is lower than that for an Improvement Commissioner? And have they asked themselves the question whether those who have power to carry the election of Commissioners may not be able to carry the election of Councillors if they try? The idea is worth thinking of". The qualification for an Improvement Commissioner was the occupation of property valued at £40 p.a.

Hobson, who was one of the Chartists' nineteen was then appointed Chairman of the Chartists' Municipal Election Committee. He contested three wards but was unsuccessful in each.

In August 1842 the Chartist cause in Leeds received a set-back because of their suspected collusion with the Plug Riots. The Rev. William Hill was arrested and accused of uttering seditious language at a Chartist meeting in Manchester on 16th August. In spite of all this, Joshua Hobson was elected Councillor for the Holbeck Ward in the November election. Asa Briggs says that Hobson was by nature an awkward man and the Council proceedings were soon enlivened by charges, counter-charges, bickerings and recriminations. He objected to serving on committees unless elected in open council, since he refused to be party to "arrangements" whereby committees were selected on a party basis beforehand. He demanded that a select committee of enquiry should be set up to investigate whether or not Alderman Bateson of the Watch Committee had encouraged William Smith, a machine maker, to turn his men out during the Plug Riots because they would know how to draw plugs and could, if necessary, blow up the boilers in a masterly way.

In 1845 Hobson was dismissed as editor of the "Northern Star" and O'Connor took the paper to London. In 1846 he returned to Huddersfield, where he had previously bought a small farm. He began to take an active part in the government of the town but he still retained his links with the Chartist movement in Leeds. The revolution in France in 1848 and the distress in Ireland inspired the Leeds Chartists again, and there were mass meetings in favour of "Republic for France, Repeal for Ireland and the People's Charter for England". There was a fear that the elements among the Chartists who favoured physical force would succeed, but Hobson stood strongly in favour of moral force, and in the end this won the day.

At Huddersfield, meanwhile, Hobson had been appointed Surveyor of Highways for the hamlet of Fartown and he initiated several improvements at Hillhouse by widening the roads and making new footpaths. In 1847 he set out to amend the local government of Huddersfield which was under divided authority. The Board of Surveyors were in charge of paving and drainage, while the Watching and Lighting Commissioners were responsible for street lighting and for the employment of twelve watchmen to patrol

the streets from 10 p.m. to 5.30 a.m., calling the time and weather half hourly. The Parochial Constables were the Peace Officers.

Hobson's experience in the municipal affairs of Leeds was an advantage in organising a new system and with other influential men he petitioned Parliament for an Improvement Act. This was granted in 1848 and Hobson was appointed Clerk to the Board of Works. He made two main improvements. The old parish churchyard was becoming choked and a new graveyard was necessary. The Vestry refused to pay for a new burial ground out of the Parish Rates, and the Nonconformists insisted on the need for an independent graveyard where services could be held by their own ministers. The cemetery was opened in 1855 and Hobson insisted on two chapels, one for the Anglicans and one for the Nonconformists.

In 1853 he suggested a scheme for Model Lodging Houses to the Commissioners as the town's common lodging houses were "overcrowded places, unfit for habitation, where immorality was rife and fever abounded" (1). Hobson acquired an old warehouse and converted it into a lodging house at a cost of nearly £6,000, which could accommodate 200 people and "one of the best institutions in the country became the property of the town".

In 1854 Hobson resigned from his position as Clerk to the Board of Works and did nothing for a year. In 1855 he became editor of the "Huddersfield Weekly Chronicle" in which he steadfastly opposed Sir John Ramsden on the Tenant Right question.

Sir John Ramsden had inherited his estate on the death of his grandfather in 1832 but he did not come of age until 1852. In the intervening years much of the land in Huddersfield had been held by informal tenancy. During the growth of Huddersfield £250,000 had been spent on erecting public buildings on what now appeared to be little security of tenure, and the tenants and the builders were losing confidence. Leases of 99 years were considered insufficient, and in the end Sir John granted leases of 999 years.

Hobson held the post of editor of the "Weekly Chronicle" until 1871 when he transferred to the "Huddersfield Weekly News", where he remained until his death in 1876.

The "Huddersfield Weekly News" for 20th May, 1876, contained a memorial tribute by N. Learoyd who said, "He could be a 'good liker' and a 'good hater'. He could dip his pen in wormwood and gall and lay it down to engage in the acts of tenderest kindness. He never knew when to stop in the one thing or the other".

Reference:

(1) Obituary, Huddersfield Weekly News, 13th May, 1876.

Bibliography:

Chartist Portraits, G.D.H. Cole
The Common People, Cole and Postgate
Chartist Studies, Asa Briggs
The Chartist Movement, Mark Hovell
History of Huddersfield and District, Taylor Dyson
The Story of Huddersfield, Roy Brook
History of Huddersfield and its Vicinity, D.F.E. Sykes

Hobson Folder, Huddersfield Library, Local History Section
The Political Activities of the Dissenters in the East and West Ridings
of Yorkshire, R.W. Ram (thesis microfilm)
Richard Oastler, Tory Radical, Cecil Driver
Socialism as it is, Joshua Hobson
Newspapers: Leeds Mercury, Leeds Times, Northern Star, Voice of the West
Riding, Huddersfield Weekly News.

Anne Chadderton.

LOCAL INTEREST TRAILS

Two more Interest Trails were published by the Historical Society
in time for the Saddleworth Festival in May:

- No.4. The Saddleworth Section of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal
- No.5. The Grasscroft Area

Copies of these can be obtained from the Museum, together with Numbers
1 - 3, and all are now priced 15p each (25p including postage, etc. from
the Editor).

The Oldham Chronicle of 13th September, 1975, reviewed the two
latest Interest Trails, and extracts are quoted below:

"The latest additions are in every way worthy of the series"

The Canal Trail is "full of fascinating information industrial
archaeology and the history of commerce"

The Grasscroft Trail "apart from the history of the Royal George Mills,
is concerned much more with the domestic and rural scene"

"..... impeccably high standard of the historical work and competent
writing"

"Perhaps in future the trails will be printed and published in the
manner they deserve. Maybe financial assistance from some
interested body in Saddleworth could be canvassed"

"Saddleworth is particularly well served by its Historical Society, which
makes the past seem very much a thing of the present with its
Local Interest Trails"

MANOR RECORDS

Part 3: 1793

18th May, 1793

At a Meeting of the Proprietors of the Manor of Quick or Saddleworth in the West Riding of the County of York called together by a Circular Letter, held at the Dwellinghouse of Ralph Whitehead of Shaw-hall within Saddleworth aforesaid the 18th day of May 1793 to consider about the propriety of selling and disposing of the said Manor and the Commons Wastes within the said Manor. John Radcliffe in the Chair.

RESOLVED that the said Manor and the whole of the Commons Moors and Waste Land belonging thereto be sold as conveniently may be and the Money arising thereby to be divided amongst the several proprietors thereof and the Freeholders having good Right thereto, in proportion to their several and respective rights.

RESOLVED that the whole of the said Manor Commons Moors and Waste Lands be immediately Conveyed to three Persons IN TRUST to sell for the purposes aforesaid (by public Auction) in Lots according to the several Plans to be produced at such time and in such manner as the major part of the Proprietors of the said Manor shall appoint.

RESOLVED that Mr. Joseph Mellor, John Mallalieu of Haybottom and Mr. William Shaw of Furlane be appointed Trustees for the purposes aforesaid and that Mr. Joseph Mellor be requested to prepare a Draft of a Trust Deed to answer the purpose, And that the same be laid before Mr. Lloyd for his Approbation.

RESOLVED that a Court Baron for the Manor aforesaid be holden as usual at the House of Widow Bottomley of Saddleworth Church on the 13th day of June next, and that a Jury be warned for that purpose by Mr. Joseph Mellor of Ashton under line, Attorney at Law, who shall act as Steward of the said Court.

(Signed by 22 proprietors)

10th July, 1793

At a Meeting of the Proprietors of the Manor of Saddleworth in pursuance to Notice given at the House of Mr. Ralph Whitehead of Shawhall, it was resolved as follows (viz)

RESOLVED that the Deed produced in Consequence of Instructions given to Mr. Joseph Mellor and now signed by 17 out of the 31 Proprietors is notwithstanding these Circumstances not proper to be carried into effect on account of Objections stated to it by Messrs. John Andrew, Giles Shaw Junr., William Radcliffe and Thomas Bradbury.

RESOLVED that it be requested by this Meeting that the said John Andrew, Giles Shaw, William Radcliffe and Thomas Bradbury do give Instructions to Mr. James Buckley of Tunstead to draw a Draft of one Deed or Deeds not exceeding 14 in Number, agreeable to their Wish and the Wish of these Proprietors who object to the Deed already made on the same Grounds.

RESOLVED that the said Draft shall be drawn ready to be laid before a Meeting at this place of the Proprietors for their Approbation on the 10th August instant.

(Signed by 9 proprietors)

14th November, 1793

At a Meeting of the Proprietors of the Manor of Saddleworth cum Quick in the West Riding of the County of York held at the House of Benjamin Lawton of Dobcross within Saddleworth aforesaid the 14th Day of November, 1793.

RESOLVED that all purchasers of Lands from the said Proprietors, who are or shall be ready to pay their respective purchase money before this day month shall be requested to pay the same into the Hands of Mr. John Radcliffe as soon as possible in order that he may be prepared to make a Dividend at the next Meeting.

RESOLVED that a Dividend of $1\frac{3}{4}$ in the Pound shall be made amongst such of the Proprietors as have already Advanced the Purchase money for the said Manor. And that such Purchasers of Estates and Common or Waste Land and also such of the Land Owners as have not already paid up their respective quotas towards the same shall give their respective promisory Notes (for the same) payable at a future day which notes shall be paid in part of the Dividend aforesaid.

RESOLVED that such promisory Notes shall be drawn payable to Mr. John Radcliffe at such times as are mentioned in the List thereunto annexed (to wit six months).

RESOLVED that every person or persons receiving such Notes from the said Mr. Radcliffe shall at the same time sign an undertaking to the said Mr. Radcliffe not to call upon him for Payment thereof upon Nonpayment by the Drawers unless the said Mr. Radcliffe shall actually have a sufficient Stock of Cash in his Hands as Treasurer to the said Proprietors to take up the whole of such promisory Notes.

John Radcliffe, Chairman.

12th December, 1793

At a Meeting of the Proprietors of the Manor of Saddleworth cum Quick, held by Adjournment at the House of James Andrew of Upper Mill

RESOLVED that instead of a Dividend of $1\frac{3}{4}$ in the pound as Resolved at the last Meeting, there be a Dividend now made of $\frac{6}{8}$ in the Pound.

RESOLVED that payment of the purchase for Ladcastle (which was bought by Mr. John Buckley of Tunstead) stand over to the next Meeting.

RESOLVED that all the Waste Lands which were purchased along with the Manor from the Trustees of the late James Farrer, Esq. deceased, and which were surveyed by Mr. James Lees be sold and the most effectual steps be forthwith taken to put the same in Effect. And that the same be done within Twelve Months from this date.

RESOLVED that James Lees of Knot-hill, John Milnes of Miln-Croft and Joseph Mellor of Ashton under line be appointed to wait upon the several

Freeholders who claim Common of Pasture upon the said Waste Lands in order to investigate such Claims and settle and ascertain the same.

RESOLVED that the said Waste Lands be sold in Lots of not more than Six Acres in each Lot.

RESOLVED that Twenty Pounds be paid to Timothy Winterbottom of Grasscroft for a surrender of his Lease of two Closes at Brunedge, provided he shall agree to accept the same.

RESOLVED that Messrs. John Mallalieu, John Whitehead and Joseph Mellor be appointed to treat with John Holden for a surrender of his lease of Sykes's Cottage, and to purchase the same if they think proper to do so.

RESOLVED that Brigg's Cottage and several small slips of Land be sold at the next Meeting. And also the 2 Closes and Sykes's Cottage above mentioned, provided the Leases thereof shall be surrendered. And that Hand-Bills be published for that purpose.

John Harrop Junr., Chairman.

To be continued.

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.

<u>HILL TOP</u>	Grid Reference: SD 978075
<u>KNOTT HILL</u>	SD 982075
<u>LOWER HILL TOP</u>	SD 978077

In the various early records it is very difficult - if not impossible - to differentiate between Hill Top, Knott Hill and Lower Hill Top, particularly since all were owned (together with Beswicks, see Bulletin Vol.3, No.4, 1973, pp.71-72) by the Lees family. It is probable that Hill Top was the original settlement, and as the land became divided between the heirs the other farms or messuages came into being. Here they are dealt with together, but are differentiated where possible. A valuable reference for the history of the Lees family is "Memorials of the Families of Linthwaite and Lees of Saddleworth", privately printed, 1889, William Lees, which is to be found in the Hewkin Collection. This book is referred to as WL 1889 below.

Location: All are near Delph. Hill Top is on top of the ridge between Thurston Clough to the south and the Tame Valley to the north, on a slight saddle, just over 1,000 feet above sea level. Knott Hill is 975 feet above sea level, just south of the summit of the hill of that name, in a superb situation with fine views down the Tame Valley. Lower Hill Top is near Grains Road, below Hill Top at an

altitude of 860 feet. Facing north, it is sheltered by Knott Hill to the south east.

Description:

In the late eighteenth century there were about six houses at Hill Top, each a combined home and workshop (Ammon Wrigley, "Those were the Days", p.165). Some of these have now gone, and the buildings that remain exhibit much evidence of changes and additions. The three storey farmhouse with a two storey building behind (house with workshop?) has a mixture of styles and ages, but there are some old chamfered, recessed mullions. A taken-in door (now filled in) formerly led into the second floor on the west side. On the other side of the road are outbuildings with a pair of two storey stone cottages with recessed, chamfered mullions. Knott Hill is a two storey, stone, former farmhouse, with barn and cowshed adjoining (now converted into a garage). Five and six light mullion windows on first floor. Lower Hill Top is a two storey stone house, with a cottage and barn adjoining. The house, much altered, presents its 'best' side to the road, while the rear has more traditional architecture, with a variety of mullioned windows, a taken-in door (filled in) and a datestone over the door (1746 IL EL). There is a small pond nearby and formerly a small water wheel adjoined the house - used to churn butter it is said.

History:

1543 5th June. Deed of sale of Friarmere to Arthur Assheton mentioned Robert Lynthwayte of Knott-hill (C.E. Higson, Oldham Standard, 6th Dec. 1913).

1618

1st Apr. John Linthwaite, son of Robert, purchased from Theophilus Assheton of London (grandson of Arthur) half of Knott Hill Tenement, and thereby became a yeoman. His wife was Jane. His son James succeeded him and married Ann, daughter of John Haigh of Marsden, yeoman. They had three children, John, James and Jane. James senior died in 1683. His son James died in his father's lifetime. On his marriage he had settled at Knarr, and died 1675. His only child was Ann. John Linthwaite, the eldest son, inherited the Knott-hill estate and died in 1701 without issue. Ann Linthwaite inherited both the Knott-hill and Knarr estates. She married Abraham Lees, son of Isaac Lees of Swainscroft. See below, 1717. (Higson, loc. cit.).

1635

9th Sept. Deed Poll: mentions messuage and tenement in Knothill in the occupation of James Linthwaite, and theretofore in the occupation of James Linthwaite his late father deceased, and Theophilus Assheton then late of Grays Inn deceased, by Indenture dated 1st Apr. in 16th Year of James 1st. (WL 1889).

C1694

John Lees, eldest son of Abraham Lees born. He died in July 1729 and Elizabeth his widow married a second time. Betty, his daughter, married Robert Whitehead of Delph Slack and of Gibraltar in Lees. Another daughter, Mary, married William Booth of Ashes, Springhead, in 1748. His only son was James who married Esther Harrop (see below, 9th June 1743). (Higson, loc. cit.).

- 1696 Abraham, second son of Abraham Lees of Hill-top born. 21st June 1722 he married Sarah Gartside of Denshaw. James their eldest son died at Knott-hill 1796 aged 69. Abraham their second son, of Greenleach, died 1812, aged 83 - he owned several farms in the High Moor area. Their youngest son Joseph married Alice Bottomley in 1771. She was the sister of Samuel Bottomley, author of "Greenfield, a poem". They lived at Holts, and their son Samuel became an iron-founder and later developed the Soho Ironworks, Oldham. He died 1845, aged 71. (Higson, loc. cit.).
- 1713 11th June. Indenture between Abraham Lees of Knotty Lane Head yeoman and Ann his wife, and Thomas Lees of Linfitts, yeoman. Mentions messuage at Knothill in possession of Abraham Lees plus one barn, and the following fields: Great Meadow, New Meadow, Call Meadow, Deanish Meadow, Tolish Meadow, Roads Field, Bounk, Owlery's Bounk, Owlery's, New Field, Little Bents, Bent, Over Fearnley Hill, Corner Fearnley Hill, Cote Field, Rough Cote Field, Hollins, and the Rushes. (WL 1889).
- 1717 1st May. Abraham Lees of Hilltop buried. By his will, dated 20th Apr. 1717, he left his eldest son, John, his freehold tenement called Knothill at Hilltop. His second son, Abraham, was left land, etc. at Roebucklow. His third son inherited lands, etc. at Roebucklow, as did his fourth son James who died in 1718. His sons Thomas, Jonathan and Samuel, and daughters Ann, Jane and Martha were left money. (WL 1889).
- 1720 Feb. Jane daughter of John Lees yeoman and Elizabeth his wife of Hilltop christened. Their daughter Mary christened 2nd Sept. 1723, and their daughter Betty 29th Apr. 1727. (Registers).
- 1723 18th June. Sarah daughter of Richard Lawton clothier and Mary his wife of Hilltop christened. Their daughters Mary and Martha were christened 18th May 1725 and 11th June 1727 respectively. (Registers).
- 1724 12th Feb. Anna daughter of Abraham Scholefield clothier and Anna his wife of Hilltop christened. (Registers).
- 1725 11th July. Ann daughter of John Lawton clothier and Ann his wife of Hilltop christened. Their daughters Sarah and Mary were christened 24th Dec. 1727 and 21st Sept. 1735 respectively. (Registers).
- 1729 Isaac Lees, third son of Abraham Lees, married Ann Whitehead of Linthwaite. In 1755 he lived at Roebucklow. (Higson, loc. cit.).
21st Sept. James son of James Kenworthy clothier and Elizabeth his wife of Hilltop christened. Their daughter Betty was buried 29th Mar. 1731. (Registers).
- 1730 23rd Feb. Joseph Buckley clothier of Hilltop buried.
5th Mar. Joseph, son of Joseph Buckley and Elizabeth his wife of Hilltop buried. (Registers).

- 1730 26th Apr. Henry son of Henry Broadbent clothier and Sarah his wife of Hilltop christened. Their daughter Ann was christened 4th June 1732. (Registers).
8th June. Jane daughter of Widow Lees of Hilltop buried. (Registers).
6th Dec. Hugh son of John Kenworthy clothier and Mary his wife of Hilltop christened. (Registers).
- 1731 4th July. Sarah daughter of Timothy Broadbent clothier and Anna his wife of Hilltop christened, and buried 17th Sept. 1731. Their son Samuel was christened 23rd July, 1732. (Registers).
- 1733 Jonathan, sixth son of Abraham Lees of Hilltop, of Thurston Clough, married Mary Mallalieu of Warrock Hill. He died 15th Nov. 1791 aged 79. Three sons survived him: John, Abraham and James. Of these, Abraham was of Knarr Barn. (Higson, loc. cit.). Also see below, 1735.
6th May. Cornelius, son of John Farrand clothier and Isabel his wife of Hilltop christened. (Registers).
8th July. Nicholas Buckley clothier married Ann Lees of Hilltop. 28th April 1734 their daughter Mary christened. Their son Joseph christened 23rd Jan. 1737 and buried 11th Nov. 1742. Their daughter Hannah christened 29th Apr. 1739. Their son John christened 14th Mar. 1742. (Registers).
- 1734 17th Nov. Mary daughter of David Wood clothier and Ann his wife of Hilltop christened. Their daughter Sarah christened 1st May 1737 and their son David 7th May 1739. They later lived at Hill Barn. (Registers).
- 1735 5th Oct. John son of Jonathan Lees clothier and Mary his wife of Hilltop christened. Their son Abraham christened 1st May 1737. Their son Isaac christened 7th Jan. 1739 and buried 15th May 1739. Their son Isaac christened 18th May 1740 and buried 28th Jan. 1741. Their daughter Mary christened 25th Dec. 1742. Their son James christened 28th Mar. 1744 and buried 19th Dec. 1745. Their son James christened 22nd Oct. 1746. Their son Jonathan christened 19th June 1748 and buried 14th Sept. 1748. Their daughter Jane christened 6th Jan. 1750 and buried 30th Apr. 1751. (Registers).
- 1736 19th Aug. John Buckley of Wall Hill clothier married Alice Scholefield of Hilltop. (Registers).
- 1738 26th Feb. John son of Hugh Kenworthy clothier and Sarah his wife of Hilltop christened. Their twin daughters Anna and Ann christened 22nd Feb. 1740. Their son James christened 11th July 1742. Their son James christened 29th July 1744. Their son Joseph christened 7th Jan. 1747, and buried 25th Jan. 1748. Their daughter Sarah christened 30th Sept. 1749. Their son Joseph christened 1st Feb. 1752 and buried 18th Apr. 1752. Sarah wife of Hugh Kenworthy buried 16th Mar. 1757 and Hugh buried 12.7.61.
19th June. James Lees of Hilltop clothier married Jane Leache of High Moor. Their son William christened 30th

- Mar. 1740. (Registers).
- 1739 18th Sept. John Wood of Garners married Mary Buckley of Hilltop. (Registers).
30th Sept. John son of Henry Whitehead clothier and Mary his wife of Hilltop christened. Their son Henry christened 20th Dec. 1741. (Registers).
- 1741 10th Aug. James Lees of Hilltop yeoman married Elizabeth Harrop of Tame Water. (Registers).
- 1742 31st Oct. James son of John Lees clothier and Mary his wife of Hilltop christened. Their daughter Anne christened 27th Jan. 1745. (Registers).
- 1743 9th June. John son of James Lees yeoman and Esther his wife of Hilltop christened, and buried 9th May 1749. Their daughter Jane christened 22nd Oct. 1746. Their son John christened 10th July 1749. Their son John christened 6th Jan. 1750. Their son James christened 1st Feb. 1752 (James Lees late of Beswicks died 21st Jan. 1827 aged 74 and Ann his wife died 9th Apr. 1832 aged 76). Their son Thomas christened 7th Nov. 1754 and buried 21st Jan. 1761. Their daughter Anne christened 11th Aug. 1757. Their son Joseph christened 15th Sept. 1760. Their son Thomas christened 13th Nov. 1761 and buried 10th May 1763. Their son Ben christened 28th Nov. 1765. (Registers). James Lees yeoman of Hilltop buried 19th May 1783. He divided Hilltop between his sons John and Ben. To his second son James he devised the remaining part of Knott Hill which was called Beswicks. Anne his daughter when she was aged 15 married Rev. Miles Wrigley (aged 25). She died aged 21 at Ashton. (Higson, loc. cit.).
- 1744 9th May. Sarah wife of Daniel Lees of Hilltop buried. (Registers).
12th July. Joseph Lees of Hilltop clothier married Martha Bradbury of Fairbanks. Their daughter Mary christened 9th Dec. 1744. Their son Samuel christened 17th May 1747. Their son John christened 7th Jan. 1753. Their son James christened 14th Feb. 1756. Their daughter Anne christened 21st Apr. 1759. Their daughter Alice christened 13th Nov. 1761. (Registers).
- 1745 Robert Whitehead of Delph-slack tanner married Betty Lees of Hilltop 4th Apr. Robert Whitehead of Moorcroft died 28th May 1811 aged 90 and Betty died 9th Aug. 1802 aged 75. (Registers).
- 1747 17th May. John Lees of Bank-top fustian weaver married Mary Bradbury of Hilltop. (Registers).
- 1754 14th Feb. John Cocker clothier married Anne Lees of Hilltop. Their son James was christened 22nd Sept. 1754 and buried 20th July 1762. Anne wife of John Cocker buried 31st Mar. 1757. (Registers).
- 1759 5th July. Richard Kenworthy clothier of Hilltop married

- Mary Whitehead of Delph. (Registers).
- 1760 20th June. William Kenworthy clothier married Anne Lees both of Hilltop. Their daughter Sarah christened 21st Oct. 1760. Their daughter Esther christened 2nd Jan. 1763. Anne wife of William Kenworthy of Hilltop buried 4th Feb. 1763, aged 29. William Kenworthy of Hilltop died 1st May 1795 aged 62. (Registers).
- 1761 23rd Nov. Henry Broadbent of Knotty-lane clothier married Alice Bradbury of Hilltop. (Registers).
- 1765 12th Jan. James Lees of Hilltop clothier one of the trustees for building school at Delph. (WL 1889).
11th May. Anne daughter of Abraham Lees clothier and Sarah his wife of Hilltop christened. (Registers).
10th Oct. Mally and Sally twin daughter of Joseph Buckley clothier and Anna his wife of Hilltop christened. Sally was buried 23rd Jan. 1766. Their son James christened 28th Feb. 1768. (Registers).
- 1767 10th May. Ann daughter of James Buckley clothier and Sarah his wife of Hilltop christened. (Registers).
- 1769 Jonathan son of John and Elizabeth Lees of Hilltop christened 9th Aug. Their son John christened 29th Sept. 1771. (Registers).
- 1771 15th May. Mortgage by James Lees of Knothill otherwise Hilltop together with fields called The Woodman Meadow, the Masters Meadow, the Ferney Hill, the Tenter Field, the Hillins, the Dennis Meadow, the Bent Bottom, the Coal Field, all in the occupation of James Lees. And also that other house at Knothill otherwise Hilltop with its fields, Lower Meadow, Higher Meadow, Great Bent, New Field, Little Owlars, Rough Coat Field, Little Bents, Coal Pit Field, and a cottage at Knothill otherwise Hilltop in the occupation of Grace Mallalieu. (WL.1889).
- 1772 22nd July. Thomas Buckley of Hilltop clothier married Alice Platt of Knarr-lane. Thomas Buckley of High Moor died 5th May 1828 aged 77 and Alice died 2nd July 1826 aged 69. (Registers).
22nd Aug. Abraham Lees of Knott Hill yeoman died aged 76. Sarah his wife died 2nd Sept. 1777 aged 77. Abraham Lees of Strines yeoman married Sarah Gartside of Denshaw 21st June 1722. (Registers).
- 1776 1st Jan. Isaac Gartside of Cherry Clough clothier married Mary Harrison of Knott-hill. He died at Cherry Clough 29th Mar. 1796 aged 54 and Mary died 7th Apr. 1825 aged 70. (Registers).
1st Jan. Abraham Whitehead of Cherry Clough clothier married Esther Lees of Knott Hill. (Registers).
5th Jan. Betty daughter of John Lees yeoman and Ann his wife of Hilltop christened. (Registers).
18th Feb. Mary daughter of Samuel Lees clothier and Mary his wife of Hilltop christened. (Registers).

- 14th July. John Shaw of Hilltop clothier married Ann Kenworthy of Delph. John Shaw of Dumfries died 15th Mar. 1820 aged 75. Ann his first wife died 11th June 1803 aged 53 and Betty his second wife died 9th Nov. 1819 aged 68. (Registers).
- 1780 21st Jan. Will of James Lees of Hilltop yeoman (see above 1743).
John Wrigley of Hilltop clothier mentioned in deed of conveyance of land for building of Gatehead Mill.
- 1784 1st Jan. James Buckley of Sunfield married Mary Broadbent of Knott-hill. James Buckley of Sunfield died 3rd Sept. 1823 aged 67 and Mary died 6th Jan. 1845 aged 83. (Registers).
24th Feb. Joseph Wrigley of Brownhill married Ann Buckley of Hilltop. (Registers).
- 1785 15th May. John son of Benjamin Lees clothier and Ann his wife christened (John, son of Benjamin and Ann Lees of Pingle Mill died 5th Nov. 1831 aged 44). Their son James christened 20th Aug. 1787. (Registers).
- 1786 7th May. William son of Joseph Shaw shopkeeper and Esther his wife of Hilltop christened. (Registers).
- 1787 Indenture between Ben Lees of Hilltop clothier and James Lees of Beswicks clothier.
- 1788 15th June. Betty daughter of Jonathan Lawton cropper and Ann his wife of Hilltop christened. (Registers).
- 1789 29th Apr. Joseph Lees married Ann Holden. Ann wife of Joseph Lees of Knott-hill died 6th Sept. 1790 aged 18. (Registers).
- 1790 23rd Sept. Indenture between Joshua Horton of Howroyd (only surviving executor and devisee named in the last will of Sir William Horton late of Chadderton, Lancs., baronet), Rev. Thomas Horton, Rector of Whittington, Lancs. (second son of Sir William Horton), James Lees of Mossley, corn chandler (younger son of James Lees of Knott-hill otherwise Hilltop deceased), and James Wrigley of Broadhead, clothier.
- 1795 28th Nov. John Mallalieu of Hilltop buried aged 66. (Registers).
- 1796 Joseph Lees of Knott Hill, and James Lees, John Buckley, James Mallalieu, William Haigh, James Radcliffe and Tim Wrigley all of Hilltop sent wool to John Mellor at Rasping Mill, Delph, for scribbling. (Ammon Wrigley).
- 1825 Registers refer to Henry Lees clothier and Mary his wife of Hilltop.
- 1827-8 Edmund Platt of Knott Hill, and John Lees of Hilltop were subscribers to Saddleworth Weavers' Union.

- 1835 Church Rate Book: Knott Hill: occupier James Scholefield, owner Hollinwood Chapel. Hilltop (Friarmere): occupiers Henry Buckley, John Lees junior, late Betty Whitehead, John Lees, John Buckley, Joseph Kenworthy and James Buckley; owner John Lees. Also occupier John Buckley, owner John Seville. Also occupier and owner John Lawton. Hilltop (Shawmere) occupier Giles Broadbent, owner Joseph Shaw.
- 1843 Pigot's Directory referred to Giles Broadbent, woollen manufacturer of Hilltop.
- 1848 The West Riding Poll Book listed John Lees of Lower Hill Top.
- 1852 Church Rate Book: Knott Hill: occupier Daniel Scholefield, owner John Holme. Lower Hill Top: owner and occupier John Lees. Hill Top: occupier and owner Robert Brideoake; occupier Henry Buckley, owner John Lees; occupier and owner John Lees.
- 1871 Under Hill Top the Census listed: Thomas Bradbury, farmer of 32 acres; John Moorhouse, woollen weaver; John Lees, woollen weaver. At Lower Hill Top the Census listed William Lees, farmer of 22 acres.
- 1885 The Poll List included William Lees and William Lees junior of Lower Hill Top, and Simeon Kershaw of Hill Top.
- 1893 William Lees of Lower Hill Top worked seams of coal (between 2 feet and 2 feet 6 inches thick) on his land during the coal strike. (Reporter, 4th Nov.).

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:

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