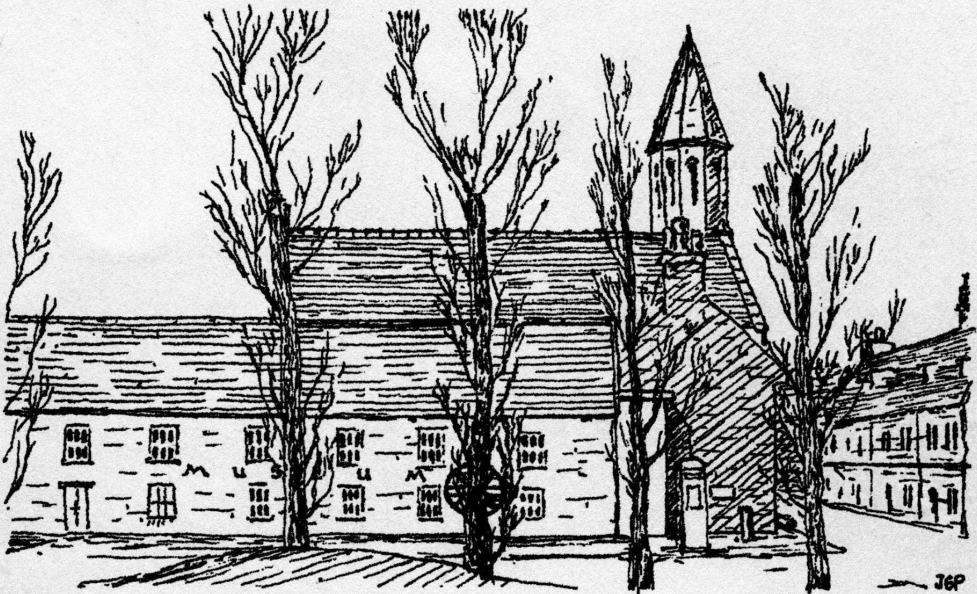


SADDLEWORTH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE MUSEUM - UPPERMILL.

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OF

THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
SADDLEWORTH

There have been Co-operative Societies in this country since the middle of the eighteenth century, though most of the early ones were organisations for production rather than for retailing. In fact, the first Co-op shop in England was the Oldham Co-op Supply Company of 1795. Most of these Societies were short-lived but they survived long enough for the idea to take root elsewhere.

Nowadays, Co-operation means to most people a shop or a movement for the benefit of the consumers, but in the early days of the movement Co-operation was a way of life and especially at the beginning concentrated on co-operative production. The Co-op as we know it to-day started in Rochdale in 1844 and was one of a number of working class movements in the nineteenth century. These began in the early 1820's with Robert Owen, an idealistic philanthropist, and his followers who wanted to establish Co-op communities. Several of these were in fact started, but they all foundered after a short time. After this in 1834 came the temporary collapse of the Trade Union movement, and the Grand National Consolidated Trades Union and then Chartism came to the fore to attract working class support. But this came to an end after 1842. Of these, Owenism was a direct inspiration for the Co-op movement. Most of the members of the first Rochdale Co-op were Owenites, and so the Toad Lane Store to some extent expressed their disillusion with their original ideals.

The Co-op movement succeeded partly because of the timing of the first shops. They were set up in the Hungry Forties when there was much unemployment and great poverty. The Fifties was a much better period economically, the Corn Laws had been rejected, and the standard of living rose enabling people to buy more. It also succeeded because it was not primarily a political movement and not therefore such a threat to the middle classes. Indeed, they often welcomed it as encouraging thrift among the lower orders.

Thus the first Co-op shop is generally acknowledged to be the one on Toad Lane in Rochdale. The first Committee rented the ground floor of an old warehouse in Toad Lane for £10 per annum, and this opened on 21st December, 1844. During the first full year there were 74 members and total takings amounted to £710. The turning point was 1849 when the Savings Bank failed and investors turned to the Co-op. What was new about the Rochdale Pioneers was the particular combination of ideas that it was based on and which subsequent Co-ops, including those in Saddleworth, mainly followed. The 1850's and 1860's saw an enormous increase in the number of Co-ops including, perhaps strangely, some Conservative Co-ops. 1863 also saw the beginning of the C.W.S. with the establishment of the North of England Co-op Wholesale Agency and Depot Society Ltd. The first Board was drawn from a very narrow circle from which we can see how near Saddleworth was to the centre of Co-op activity. The members of the Board comprised three from Rochdale, one from each of Heywood, Middleton and Manchester and one from Oldham later replaced by a James Nield of Mossley.

By this time, the first Co-op in Saddleworth - that in Greenfield - was well established with its own shop. It was probably in the summer of 1856 that the idea of a Co-op first began to take shape in the minds of some of the workers at Greenfield Mills. They had the example of the two Oldham Societies before them (The Equitable and the Industrial). The former was now paying 1/- in the £ dividend and the Industrial not much less. At the same time wages were low, well under £1 for both weavers and fullers, and

hours were long. Food was dear, and often adulterated, and because workers were paid monthly at Greenfield Mills many of them were grossly in debt to their shopkeepers.

In view of this, after a meeting at the house of Mr. Joseph Wood at Hey Top, an experiment was decided upon. With members each contributing a little capital, a consignment of sugar, treacle, candles and soap was obtained, and with the permission of the owner of the Mills the Press Shop rooms were used as a depot for the goods. This proved a successful experiment, so it was decided to start a Society.

Mr. Joseph Wood was chosen as Secretary, and his son was sent to Mossley for a copy of their rules. These were signed prior to registration by Abraham Whitworth, James Rushworth, James Bottomley and Joseph Wood. The name then was the Greenfield Industrial Benevolent Co-operative Society, showing that like other contemporary Societies the founders were not only thinking of selling pure, cheap food. In 1873 the name was shortened to the Greenfield Co-operative Society.

The people who became the first shareholders were, as might be expected, those who had managed to climb a little above the poverty line, such as foremen, farmers and the like. Indeed, in the beginning most members of the movement throughout the country were of necessity artisans earning a regular wage and also thrifty, as one of the principles of Co-operation was that there was to be no trading for credit.

At a special meeting on 9th February, 1857, it was decided to try to rent a house for three months, to buy weights and to order ten bags of best flour from F.H. Frost. The first 39 shareholders subscribed £147-19-6. Apart from flour the first purchases were made from Rochdale which at this time had a wholesale department. The 21st and 25th February, 1857, were devoted to fixing the prices of the foods to be sold. Some examples are quoted below:

Frosts Flour	2/4 per peck	Ladies' Twist	4d. per oz.
Oatmeal	1/9 per peck	Sago	4d. per lb.
Hops	1d. per oz.	Preserves	8d. per lb.
Butter	1/1 per lb.	Currants	8½d. per lb.
Lump Sugar	8d. per lb.	Ground Ginger	1½d. per oz.
Candles	7d. per bunch	Pork	6½d. per lb.
Best tobacco	6d. per 2 ozs.	Ham	7d. per lb.

At this time, of course, trading was at night only, but in March a resolution was passed by the Committee that the shop be opened every night except Sunday. The hours would be from 7.30 to 10 or 10.30. At the quarterly meeting it was decided to have a full-time salesman instead of the two committee men who had been doing the work, but no appointment was in fact made till July. In the meantime it was resolved "those men who have worked in the shop have 5s. each if they will". In October a first dividend of 10d. in the £ was agreed on. Some drapery goods were now being sold, including best twilled sheets at 3/6 per couple.

There were some difficulties during the next year and sales were less. However, in 1859 the shop moved to Spring Grove, and then in 1860 it was decided that land should be bought and a shop and two cottages be erected on the present site. Early in 1860 the Committee were paid 4d. per night for their services, and there were four dividends averaging 1/6¾ in the £. In October 1862 Committee members were to be paid 3d. per night, if in time. There was much unrest and changes of staff in 1870. On the 23rd April, 1872, Mr. Dan Holden was appointed Salesman and later Manager.

The story goes that the Committee decided to get the Society back on its feet and in order to do this it must appoint Mr. Dan Holden, who had left Greenfield and gone to be Manager at Bradshaw near Bolton, as Manager of their Society. The Committee asked Mr. James Bottomley, one of the old members, to go up to Greenfield House and ask Mr. Dan Holden's father who worked in the garden there to go straight away to Bradshaw and fetch Dan back. Mr. Holden Senior was very much taken aback, and told Mr. Bottomley rather shortly that he had no brass for the journey, and he wasn't dressed up for travelling. Undeterred, Mr. Bottomley persuaded him to go back to the Press Shop for some money and to get on the first train to Bolton. Dan who was rather cautious did not come back that day, but thought about it for a few days. He finally came over to see the Secretary, Mr. Winterbottom, and asked if the stock and other matters were right. "Aye lad, right as a clock", replied Mr. Winterbottom, and with the assurance Holden decided to return. But what a state of affairs he found at the stock-taking in June. The stocks were over-rated and everything was in a most unsatisfactory state. When he challenged this situation with what he had been told earlier, the reply was that they knew he wouldn't have come if he had known the proper state of affairs, but they felt that he could put everything right. This reassured the young Manager, and he put everything he had into making the Greenfield Co-op pay, and he certainly succeeded in making it into a very prosperous concern.

Consolidation and the beginning of cottage building now took place, and the story takes a leap forward to the turn of the century, the 20 years from 1896 which the Centenary Booklet calls the Golden Age, 20 years when the dividend only twice fell below 3/- in the £. Was this wise? In other ways too one could say it was the golden age for the Greenfield Co-op because it must have played a very large part in the life of the village. One must also remember that lack of communications made it imperative for people to find their pleasures near home. Thus the Annual Tea Party always seems to have been well attended - often by about 500 people - when for 9d. they enjoyed a meat tea and concert. There were outings too, usually by train to a C.W.S. factory. For instance, in August, 1898, 236 went to see the Crumpsall biscuit factory. Other outings were to the Soap Works and Jam Factory and to a Co-op exhibition in Bradford.

Two officials who served during this period were Mr. Dan Holden, who was Manager from 1872 to 1910 (38 years) and Mr. David Lawton, the first full-time Secretary/Cashier from 1887 to 1913 (31 years). Mr. Holden seems to have been a vigorous individual who piloted the Society through a difficult period to make it very successful. He was also outspoken as reports of the quarterly meetings show, and on the visit to the Biscuit Factory he gave the vote of thanks but could not forbear to add that Crumpsall cakes were not very popular with the people of Greenfield, being too thodden. Mr. Lawton, besides being Secretary of the local Society was for a number of years Secretary of the Oldham District Co-op Association, and was appointed a J.P. He wrote various articles and papers on Co-op subjects and appears to have been a man of strong religious conviction. There is a poem written by him in the 'Band of Hope Reciter' (page 151) on 'Drink - the Spoiler'. On more than one occasion the meetings of the District Association were held in Greenfield, and in 1896 after the meeting and tea a "numerous company" went for a ramble to Ashway Gap and assembled on top of the tower there to sing "Come Let us Join our Cheerful Songs".

The Jubilee Celebrations were on 21st July, 1906, when both Mr. Holden and Mr. Lawton were still in office. Fortunately the day was bright and there was a large procession led by the Boarshurst Brass Band and followed by the surviving Pioneers, officials and employees, members' delegates, the Greenfield Reed Band, Penny Bank depositors, and finishing with a fine team of

horses drawing decorated lorries on one of which was a large jam pot from the C.W.S. Jam Works. At the field there were speeches, tea served to about 1,600 people and entertainment in the evening.

Two activities of the Society, other than that of selling consumer goods should be mentioned, especially at this time. Educational work began in 1892 and soon there were classes on quite a variety of subjects - shorthand, book-keeping, science, and cookery and sick-nursing for the ladies for example. Apart from these evening classes, the Co-op Hall was also used for such events as a grand cinematograph and dissolving views entertainment, for concerts and for series of lectures.

The other activity was that of housing. This, like education, was in accordance with Co-op principles and based on the idea of a Co-op community. There were four separate places of building. In 1876, 13 houses were built at Spring Grove, back-to-back. In 1888 there were 13 houses built at Spring Grove Terrace. These were all sold. 1899-1901 saw 16 houses erected at Berry Street, and in 1912 46 houses were completed at Garden Suburbs. These last were the least successful as they had not all been sold and were at the time a great strain on the Society.

Although by the end of World War I the Golden Age of the Greenfield Society was over, there are two developments which should be mentioned, especially considering that it was only a small Society. Firstly, a bakery was opened in the mid-1920's, and, secondly, a chemist's shop was opened in 1948.

Another event to note was the amalgamation with Grasscroft. The first meeting of the Grasscroft Society was on 17th August, 1858, when it was agreed to form a Society to be governed by laws and rules similar to those of Lees. An initial capital of £9/2/- was held, and the first dividend in December, 1858, was 2/-. By 1866 the Society owned a new Co-op Hall, and the number of members was 200. A branch at Lydgate was considered in 1887 but not decided upon. By 1880 the question of a shop at Shaw Hall Bank Road was being considered but it was not until 1898 that a decision was made, and the resulting shop proved to be too big. In 1933 the Grasscroft Society amalgamated with Greenfield, though this had been first mooted in 1918. In 1919 the Grasscroft Society had bought land at Lydgate, but the Mossley Co-op opened a shop across the road.

In the second fifty years of the Greenfield Society the membership doubled from 940 to 1,856, and sales rose from £30,679 to £119,298. The annual dividend was 1/- as against 3/-.

In the Centenary Booklet the author obviously foresees the day when small Societies would come to an end, and in 1969 Greenfield amalgamated with Oldham. As all the other Societies in the area have amalgamated with Uppermill, this meant that in the early 1970's there were two Societies operating in the district as against 7 in 1903. At that time, according to an article in the 'Wheatsheaf', out of 12,000 inhabitants 3,100 belonged to the Co-op Societies, and there was an annual turnover of £109,000. The writer estimated that these figures meant that every adult had an average of £20 invested in Co-op Societies and spent 15/- per week there. The three biggest were Greenfield, Delph and Uppermill.

Margaret K. Bagley.

SADDLEWORTH DATESTONES

Many Saddleworth houses retain their original datestones, though in a great number of cases the buildings themselves have undergone considerable modification since their initial construction. The list given below includes most - though possibly not all - of the pre-1800 datestones, and has been culled partly from fieldwork but largely from two manuscript sources. One, a small notebook in the Hewkin Collection in Uppermill Library entitled "Doorheads", was compiled by John Radcliffe, the editor of the published Saddleworth Church Registers. The other can be found amongst the Higson Mss. in the Oldham Local History Library's archives, a volume entitled "Datestones". Not all the datestones exist now. Some are internal, a good number exist on out-houses or barns, but most are above the doorways or in the walls of the houses. Usually when three initials are given the middle letter indicates the surname, e.g. 1728 ISM (Grange) = John and Mary Scholefield, though there are exceptions to this rule.

<u>Datestone</u>						<u>Locality</u>	<u>Grid Reference</u>
1612	RB	GB	IF	IB	TK	Grasscroft (Clough Lane)	SD 979046
1616						Heys, Delph	SD 977080
1633						Bank Top, Uppermill	SE 007062
1633	LW					Tunstead, Greenfield	SE 005044
1639	IW	EW				Old Tame, Denshaw	SD 969097
1642						Packhorse, Delph	SD 996088
1642						High Kinders, Greenfield	SE 000046
1648	HS					Lane, near Grotton	SD 968041
1656	IB	MB				Grotton Head, near Lydgate	SD 972048
1659	IC	AC				Shelderslow, Springhead	SD 961051
1659	IS	MS				Grange, Delph	SD 987090
1663	PB	MB				Peters, Uppermill	SE 008062
1666	JEG					Denshaw	SD 977105
1673	IP	EB	SP			Carr House, Springhead	SD 958051
1677	ILA					Lawton Fold, near Grotton	SD 968050
1678	IBM					Grotton Head, near Lydgate	SD 972048
1680	IPE					Lower White Lee (or Cowards), Friezland	SD 992035
1685	JB	AB				Linfitts, Delph	SD 978083
1686	IBM					Grotton Hall, near Lydgate	SD 972049
1687	IWI					Stonebreaks, Springhead	SD 965051
1689	GS	AS				Hawkyard, Greenfield	SE 008043
1689	TB	IB				Fairbanks, Diggle	SE 008075
1690						Sunfield, Diggle	SE 001079
1690	IB	AB				Wall Hill Barn, near Dobcross	SD 977060
1691	XSF					Cloughbottom, Uppermill	SE 008065
1692	IBA					Higher Tunstead, Greenfield	SE 005046
1696	IS	AS				Top o' th' Field (or Field Top), Uppermill	SE 004067
1699	IRM					Saddleworth Fold, Uppermill	SE 003061
1701	TM					Grange, Delph	SD 987090
1706	IB	AB				Upper House, Wall Hill, near Dobcross	SD 979062
1710	EKE					Lower Tunstead, Greenfield	SE 004044
1710	GP					Primrose, Uppermill	SE 010061
1713	PS	ES				Higher Castleshaw, Delph	SE 002095
1713	ES	FS				Castleshaw, Delph	SE 001097
1715	FS	LS				Castlehill, Delph	SE 000097

<u>Datestone</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Grid Reference</u>
1715 GSM	Furlane, Greenfield	SE 002047
1715 IMF	Frenches Mill, Greenfield	SD 993047
1716 EH SH	Lane Head, Friezland	SD 990033
1718 IS	Grange, Delph	SD 987090
1718 RB	Gatehead, Delph	SD 987072
1719 IPM	Butterhouse, Uppermill	SD 999066
1719 ITK	Stonebreaks, Springhead	SD 965051
1720 HB MB	Grasscroft	SD 979046
1720 IB	Gatehead, Delph	SD 987072
1721 KWI	Doctor House, Scouthead	SD 972063
1721 TM	Grange, Delph	SD 987090
1722 IMI	Earnshaw Head, near Lydgate	SD 970049
1722 IS MS	Wellihole, near Greenfield	SD 985039
1723 IB IB	Wall Hill Barn, near Dobcross	SD 977060
1724 MP	Woolroad, Dobcross	SD 996067
1724 IWA	Peters, Uppermill	SE 008062
1725 IHA	Tamewater, Dobcross	SD 987065
1725 IW AW	Midgreave (Midgrove), Delph	SD 989076
1725 IBK	Grotton Hall, near Lydgate	SD 972049
1725 IAH	Manor Cottage, Brook Lane, Dobcross	SD 987064
1726 GS MS	Carr Barn, Uppermill	SD 998050
1726 JSM	Top o' th' Meadows, Strinsdale	SD 962062
1728 IB MB	Higher Barn, Delph	SD 981087
1728 ISM	Grange, Delph	SD 987090
1729 EK EK	Castleshaw, Delph	SE 002095
1731 IBK	Grotton	SD 968045
1735 HBM	Wall Hill, near Dobcross	SD 980064
1737	Edge Hill, Delph	SD 980087
1737 IWA	Peters, Uppermill	SE 008062
1737 ISS	Castleshaw, Delph	SE 002095
1738 IS ES	Herdslow, Scouthead	SD 967062
1740 RW AW	Delph Slack	SD 979096
1740 MS	Castlehill, Delph	SE 000097
1741 RW IW	Burn Edge, Grasscroft	SD 979050
1742 EB MB	New Tame, near Delph	SD 974092
1742 IW AW	Lower Bridge House, Dobcross	SD 993065
1744 IL EL	Beswicks, Delph	SD 978078
1744 ES	Castlehill Cote, Delph	SD 996094
1744 PB MB	Grasscroft	SD 979045
1744 IG SG	Hollin Heys, Delph	SD 974079
1745 RW AW	Delph Slack	SD 979096
1745 RB	Loadhill Platting, near Lydgate	SD 973053
1745 MB SB	Cross Keys Inn, Uppermill	SE 008062
1746 IL EL	Lower Hill Top, Delph	SD 979077
1746 WR ER	Higher Cross, Uppermill	SE 004054
1746 JA MA	Foulrakes, Greenfield	SD 998044
1747 RB	Grotton	SD 968045
1747 EB MM	Tame Croft, Delph	SD 971083
1747 EPM	Platt Lane, Dobcross	SD 989068
1748 JK MK	Manns, near Greenfield	SD 987042
1748 ASE	Low Brook, Strinesdale	SD 960062
1749 TS MS	Lane, near Grotton	SD 968041
1749 LM HM	Thurstons, Diggle	SE 008088
1750 Giles and Hannah Shaw	Furlane, Greenfield	SE 002047
1750 IH AH	Lower Wade Hill, near Dobcross	SD 981057
1750 IWM	Sandbed, Delph	SD 991083
1753 JL EL	Hill Top, Delph	SD 978075

<u>Datestone</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Grid Reference</u>
1755 IG	Woodhouse Mill house, Delph	SD 983079
1756 ILA	Woods Lane, Dobcross	SD 991065
1760 IG AG	Lower Castleshaw, Delph	SE 001097
1762 IG AG	Lower Castleshaw, Delph	SE 001097
1763 IB	Newhouses, Scouthead	SD 972057
1763 WMW	Lower Bridge House, Dobcross	SD 993065
1764 GSM	Top o' th' Meadows, Strinesdale	SD 962062
1765 BW SW	Swan Inn, Dobcross	SD 992066
1765 WH	Lower Bridge House, Dobcross	SD 993065
1769 JS	King Street, Delph	SD 985079
1770 IAB	Hanson House, near Delph	SD 968087
1770 JM AM	Brimmy Croft, Denshaw	SD 973112
1771 AL	Platt Hill, Dobcross	SD 991071
1771 AL	Knott Hill, Delph	SD 982075
1773 RWM	Burnedge, Grasscroft	SD 979050
1773 RH	Hill End, Stonebreaks, Springhead	SD 965052
1773 IR	Stonebreaks, Springhead	SD 965051
1778 JB EB	Lower Heights, Delph	SD 981081
1780 ISH	The Square, Dobcross	SD 992066
1782 JH	Woods House, Dobcross	SD 992065
1784 EMB	Carr Head, Diggle	SE 003089
1792 TB	Fairbanks, Diggle	SE 008075
1794 IWM	Greenfield Old Mill	SE 009037

Bernard Barnes.

LOCAL INTEREST TRAILS

The Historical Society has recently re-issued the Huddersfield Canal Local Interest Trail in a new format. The following is an extract from a review which appeared in the Oldham Chronicle on 26th October, 1976:

"The fascinating text by David Chadderton, and the pleasant little sketches by Stan Broadbent, make this publication, like others by Saddleworth Historical Society, an embellishment to the district".

The text has been completely revised, the map has been re-drawn, and the Trail is available from the Saddleworth Museum in Uppermill or from the Editor, price 20p (30p postage and packing included).

SPECIAL OFFER

Back copies of the Bulletin can now be purchased at reduced rates. Volumes 3 - 5 (1973 - 1975) are offered at 50p each (four issues), or at 15p per issue, from the Editor.

MANOR RECORDS

Part 7: 1796 - 1797

3rd March 1796

At a Meeting of the Committee of the Proprietors appointed to settle and agree with such Freeholders as have a right of Common upon the Moors or Waste Lands within the Manor of Saddleworth ... held by adjournment in the News Room at Dobcross ... Mr. John Buckley in the Chair (five other members of the committee present).

RESOLVED that Mr. Mellor be and he is hereby requested to obtain one of the General Inclosure Acts, if the same shall pass into a Law, so soon after the same shall have received the Royal Assent as he possibly can.

21st April 1796

At a Meeting of the Proprietors of the Manor of Saddleworth ... at the House of James Andrew of Uppermill ... Mr. John Buckley in the Chair (17 other proprietors present).

RESOLVED that the Action commenced by Mr. Henry Whitehead of Dobcross against Henry Whitehead of Dale be immediately discontinued (the plaintiff not being the occupier of the premises in question) and a fresh action commenced against the said Henry Whitehead of Dale at the suit of John Holden of David's Smithy.

RESOLVED that a Court Baron for the said Manor be held at the House of Widow Bottomley at Saddleworth Church on Thursday the 26th day of May next at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and that Mr. James Buckley of Uppermill do warn a Jury for that purpose.

RESOLVED that Mr. Mellor do write to each Committee Man requesting their particular Attendance at the said Court.

26th May 1796

At a Meeting of the Committee of the Proprietors (as 3rd March) ... at the House of Widow Bottomley at Saddleworth Church. (No names listed).

RESOLVED that the payment of the several promisory notes dated the 14th May 1794 given to Mr. John Radcliffe on Account of the Manor Business by Freeholders after the rate of £3 per Acre be immediately enforced, and that Mr. Mellor do take proper steps for that purpose.

RESOLVED that Mr. Robert Winterbottom of Greenlane be served with a Latitat in Order to complete payment of his particular Money.

RESOLVED that a Declaration be immediately filed against Henry Whitehead of Dale at suit of John Holden.

23rd February 1797

At a Meeting of the Committee appointed to settle and agree etc. (as 3rd March) held at the House of John Wrigley of Dobcross Innkeeper. Present Mr. John Buckley in the Chair (7 other Committee members present).

RESOLVED that the proceedings in the Cause Holden v Whitehead be stayed until the next Meeting.

RESOLVED that as the Defendant Mr. Henry Whitehead and several other Freeholders have come forward in a very handsome manner to this Meeting, a copy of the Proposals on the part of this Committee be delivered to ye aforesaid Henry Whitehead.

THE COMMITTEE of proprietors of the Manor propose to allow every Freeholder having an undoubted right to Common of Pasture upon the Moors and Waste Lands within the Manor, one Acre of Common in the most convenient place or £15 in money for every 5 acres of inclosed land which they are respectively possessed of. And that the Claims of any others which are disputable shall be referred to Arbitration and the said Proprietors choose and appoint Mr. Floyd of Manchester as their Arbitrator. And that the Expences of such Reference shall be paid and borne by the said Proprietors, except that of travelling Expences of such other Arbitrator to be named by the respective freeholders. And if the two Arbitrators to be chosen and named as aforesaid cannot agree they too shall choose a third Arbitrator and any two of these shall have power to make an award. They also propose that if the present Suit be agreed the whole Expences of both Plaintiff and Defendant shall be paid and borne by money to be raised by the Sale of so much of the Commons or Waste Lands within the said Manor as will raise that sum.

13th April 1797

N.B. The Committee met ... but they entered into no Resolutions but adjourned the same to Friday the 21st Instant at 9 o'clock in the Morning. And all agreed to meet Defendant and his party at the same place on Thursday the 11th of May next at 2 o'clock in the Afternoon.

21st April 1797

At a special Meeting of the Proprietors of the Manor of Saddleworth cum Quick ... at the House of Mr. John Wrigley of Dobcross ... Present Mr. John Radcliffe in the Chair (35 other proprietors also present).

RESOLVED that the payment of the several promisory Notes of Hand given to Mr. Radcliffe on Account of the Manor Business which became due on the 14th day of May 1794 be immediately enforced and that Mr. Mellor do take proper steps for that purpose (a like Resolution having been entered into by the Committee in June last but which was afterwards lost or Misaid).

RESOLVED that Mr. Robert Winterbottom of Greenlane be called upon and compelled to pay the Consideration Money for the piece of Common or Waste Land on High-Moor which he lately purchased and has now actually Inclosed.

RESOLVED that the Resolutions and proposal entered into and made by the Committee on the 22nd of February last past be ratified and confirmed. That the Action Holden v Whitehead be discontinued and that the different fences of the new Inclosures upon the Commons within the said Manor which have been prostrated and pulled down be made up again and repaired by and at the Expence of the Proprietors of the said Manor.

RESOLVED that the Bill presented to Mr. Radcliffe by the Executors of James Lees late of Knott Hill deceased amounting to £8-0-6 be paid.

RESOLVED that no more of Harrop Edge or Standedge be inclosed until such of the Freeholders as have a good right of Common of Pasture be agreed with.

RESOLVED that as soon as there shall be sufficient Balance in the Treasurer's Hands another Dividend of 6/8 in the pound shall be made to such of the Proprietors as have only received a first dividend of that amount.

8th September 1797

At a Meeting of the Committee appointed to settle (... as 3rd March) at the House of Mr. William Bromily of Ashton under line ... Present Mr. John Radcliffe in the Chair (eight other members of the Committee present).

RESOLVED that Messrs. Henry Whitehead of Dobcross and John Buckley of Uppermill be appointed to set out a Lot or Lots of Common or Waste Land upon

Harropedge or Standedge to be sold for the purpose of Paying and discharging Mr. Crosland's Bill of Costs for defending an Action Holden against Whitehead lately delivered to Mr. John Harrop, and that Henry Whitehead of Dale the Defendent be requested to appoint two or more Persons of his own party to meet the said Henry Whitehead of Dobcross and John Buckley for the above purpose, and that the said Henry Whitehead of Dobcross and John Buckley be also appointed to set out a Lot or Lots of Common or Waste Land in Lower End of Lord's Mear to be sold for the purpose of paying and discharging ye Plaintiff's Bill of Costs in ye aforesaid Action.

16th November 1797

At a Meeting of the Committee of the Proprietors ... at Mr. John Bottomley's Saddleworth Church ... Mr. John Radcliffe in the Chair (8 other members of the Committee Present).

ORDERED that the Treasurer to pay to Mr. Henry Whitehead the full amount of his Bill including that of Mr. Crosland's.

To be continued.

"SADDLEWORTH HERITAGE"

This book, published jointly by the Historical Society and the Saddleworth Festival Committee, has been exhibited at the Design Centre, Haymarket, London, from 13th October to 20th November, 1976. This exhibition of modern print to celebrate 500 years of printing in Britain and entitled "It all began with Caxton" was organised by The Design Council and the British Printing Industries Federation.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I was very interested to read Mr. G. Matthew's letter in the recent Autumn edition of the Bulletin. His mention of Zenas Pickup, a headmaster at Bacup, reminded me of an investigation I carried out some years ago into the history of Denshaw school. I was at the time attempting to compile a chronological list of headmasters from the school's establishment in 1824 to the present date. Morgan Brierley in his "History of Saddleworth Schools" published in 1891 gives the first headmaster of the school as George Duckworth. He goes on:

"Mr. Duckworth was a master of but mediocre abilities, and the school had never much of a reputation, either under him or any of his successors, who have been three or four in number, but none of them hardly worth mention".

It is a great pity Mr. Brierley deemed them not worthy of mention because the records preserved in the school go back no further than about 1890. In order to establish who these three or four successors to Mr. Duckworth were I therefore had to turn to occasional references to the school in Trade Directories and Census returns. It turned out that the successors were in fact a certain Roger Wildings and the Zenas Pickup referred to in Mr. Matthew's letter.

I was unable to ascertain the exact dates that Zenas Pickup was schoolmaster at Denshaw. In April 1861 in the Census returns he is described as a "Dyer at the Print Works"; however, by 15 October 1867 at the time of his marriage to Emma Law (at Denshaw Church) he is described as schoolmaster. The last reference to him as schoolmaster is in the baptism (also at Denshaw Church) of his son Vernon in April 1871. I suspect he left Denshaw for his post at Bacup soon after this. Perhaps Mr. Matthews or school records in Bacup can supply this date? Further information about Zenas Pickup gleaned from the Census returns indicates that his parents Henry and Ann Pickup were from Bacup and that Zenas himself was born there. The family apparently moved to Saddleworth about 1845. In fact several families moved into Denshaw about this time from the Rossendale area to work at the Denshaw Vale Print Works which was established at this time by Edmund Butterworth, himself a native of Rossendale.

The Law family are also well documented in the Census returns and Friarmere Parish Registers. The baptisms of James and Sarah Law's children as recorded in the Friarmere Registers indicate that the family previously lived at Thurston Clough before moving to Denshaw in about 1838. The information on Mr. Matthew's small scrap of paper concerning the births of James Law and his brothers and sisters at the end of the eighteenth century agrees with the dates of their baptisms at Friarmere. James, son of Benjamin and Sarah Law of Martin Nest, was baptised on 14 December 1797. (Clearly, either this date or the date of his birth as 17 December 1797 as recorded on the scrap of paper is slightly in error: I would suspect the latter). Benjamin Law and Sarah Brierley were married at Saddleworth on 24 May 1790. (John Radcliffe's Register also adds Benjamin Law of Martin Nest died 22 Jan. 1808 in his 46th year; buried at St. Thomas Church, Friarmere).

Martin Nest, interestingly enough, is near Old Tame. Just past Old Tame on the road from Oldham to Denshaw are two small ponds on the right hand side of the road. These were the lodges of a cotton mill which was on the opposite side of the road and which, on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, was referred to as Brewery Mill. Further up the field are Martin Cottages, which are marked on the same map as a public house. The mill has

disappeared now, and a house called Martin Mount stands in its place. The name Martin therefore is still extant although its original form of Martin Nest has now become corrupted.

Several years ago, a very rough wooden model of Denshaw School, as it was before its enlargement in about 1870, was in existence in the school. This had a label attached which stated that it was made by Mr. Law. I am not sure whether this Mr. Law was James Law, carpenter, the father, or Hiram Law, carpenter, the son; certainly, it was one or the other.

Yours sincerely,

P.M. Buckley.

3, Post Mill Orchard,
Grundisburgh,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.

THE SHAW - CLARENDON CONNECTION

The following are some (anonymous) notes in the possession of Mr. K.W. Pressley, Hollins Cottage, Greenfield.

It may be interesting to show here the real if rather attenuated connection of the Shaw family with the Royal House at one period. Thomas Shaw, born 1751 died 1818, married Ann Hyde of Tintwistle Hall; his brother, the third Giles, married Jane Hyde her sister.

Thomas bequeathed Uppermill to his son Giles who was the father of George Shaw and a numerous family. The paternal grandmother of this family therefore was a Hyde.

The Hydes were originally seated at Norbury Hall, Hazel Grove, Cheshire. The Hydes of Tintwistle were a branch of the Norbury Hydes which had also branched out to Dinton in Wiltshire. The third son of the Wiltshire Hydes, Edward, had at first an inclination for the Church, but on the death of his two elder brothers he turned to the law. He entered Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1621, and later studied law at the Middle Temple. He married in 1629 the daughter of Sir George Aycliffe, of Gretenham, Wiltshire, who died in six months, and in 1632 he married his second wife, the daughter of Sir Thomas Aylesbury. He commenced his political career in 1640 by entering Parliament as member for Wootton Bassett in a sea of political strife.

Later he became a member of the Long Parliament. Though attached to the popular or democratic side, their excesses gradually drove him to the support of the King (Charles I). His speeches drew the attention of the Court. He was a man of sound judgement and moderating influence. He saw the fratricidal Civil War the execution of the King. When his son, afterwards Charles II, fled the country and received the protection of Louis XIV, Edward Hyde also found it advisable to remain abroad. While there he wrote a standard work, "The History of the Rebellion 1641-1660".

It is well known that the Royal Court after the Restoration in 1660 was corrupt and licentious. The Duke of York, afterwards James II,

paid a visit to his sister, the Princess of Orange, at Breda, whose maid of honour was Edward Hyde's daughter, Ann. As Solicitor General and later as Lord Chancellor he was often at Court, and there saw much to disgust him. Amongst his anxieties was that the Duke made the acquaintance of his daughter on that visit. His fears were realised and hardly assuaged when a hasty marriage had to be arranged secretly to legitimise the child.

The marriage took place on 3 Sept. 1660 and the advent of their first born occurred on 22 October in the same year. There were two daughters, Mary and Anne, of this marriage. Ann, the daughter of the Earl of Clarendon, their mother, was acknowledged Duchess of York at the Restoration in 1660. Both her daughters, Mary and Anne, became Queens of England. James, Duke of York, became King on the death of his brother, Charles II, of whom a bosom-friend wrote:

"Here lies our mutton eating King
Whose word no man relies on
Who never said a foolish thing
And never did a wise one".

The accession of James did not improve things. He was a Roman Catholic, and soon quarrelled with Parliament, or it with him, and for security he fled to France upon which Parliament declared he had abdicated the Crown, and appointed Mary, his daughter who had married William, Prince of Orange. At the wish of the Queen, they ruled jointly, William and Mary.

The other grand-daughter of Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, married George, Prince of Denmark, and succeeded to the throne as Queen Anne in 1702.

The members of the Shaw family were soberly proved of their somewhat remote connection with Royalty. One member of the Tintwistle Hydcs was named "Clarendon", and the town of Hyde has a Clarendon Street.

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.

BANK GAP

Grid Reference: SE 003084

Location: Carr Lane, Diggle, just below the hamlet of Carr, 710 feet above sea level.

Description: Almost certainly the oldest surviving house at Carr. Essentially a "laithe house" of about 1740 (i.e. house, barn, shippon separate, but under one roof). Later additions at each end make up a long building. No reference to Bank Gap in Registers before 1760's - probably included under Carr (or Harrop?). Another cottage formerly existed to rear of present buildings.

History: 1766 9 Nov. Sarah, daughter of John Broadbent clothier and Sarah his wife of Bank Gap christened. (There is an earlier reference to them at Carr Head in the Registers).

1767 22 March. George, son of George Shaw clothier and Alice his wife of Bank Gap christened and buried 7 April 1776. Their daughter Hannah was christened 13 August 1775 and buried 17 May 1778. Their son John was christened 26 April 1778. Their son George was christened 27 July 1783 and died 6 August 1868 aged 85. George Shaw of Bank Gap died 12 March 1806 aged 74, and Alice his wife died 26 January 1818 aged 82. 30 Dec. 1756 George Shaw of Harrop married Alice Wrigley of Thurstons. (Registers).

1771 4 March. Mary, first wife of Jonathan Shaw clothier of Bank Gap buried aged 40. Matty daughter of Jonathan Shaw buried 8 July 1771. William son of Jonathan Shaw clothier and Mary his second wife christened 27 Dec. 1772. Their daughter Betty was christened 22 Aug. 1774, their daughter Sarah on 13 July 1777, and their daughter Mally on 14 Oct. 1781. 3 Apr. 1789 Jonathan, son of Jonathan and Mary Shaw of Bank Gap buried. Jonathan Shaw of Bank Gap died 18 August 1810 aged 77 and Mary his wife died 4 April. 1805 aged 60. Jonathan Shaw of Harrop clothier married Mary Bamford of Thurstons 3 Nov. 1757. (Registers).

1775 12 Feb. James son of William Shaw clothier and Sarah his wife of Bank Gap christened (James Shaw of Lee died 5 March 1819 aged 44). Their son Thomas was christened 26 Oct. 1777. (An earlier reference to William and Sarah Shaw occurs under Carr in the Registers and later references under Carr Head).

1775 21 Aug. Thomas Rhodes of Saddleworth Fold clothier married Mary Shaw of Bank Gap. Their daughter Sarah was christened 3 March 1776. (Registers).

1778 31 Dec. Benjamin Haigh of Carr clothier married Deborah Shaw of Bank Gap. Their son George was christened 10 Oct. 1779. (Registers).

1780 6 Jan. James Wood of Green clothier married Sarah Shaw of Bank Gap. (Registers).

1786 30 Nov. Jonathan Shaw of Bank Gap married Betty Holden of Standedgefoot. Their son James was christened 12 Aug. 1787. Betty died 23 Nov. 1787 aged 22. 1 Nov. 1789 John son of

- Jonathan Shaw clothier and Deborah his wife of Bank Gap christened. Their son Jonathan christened 31 July 1791, and died 16 July 1816 aged 25. Their son Giles christened 28 July 1793 and died 14 June 1859 aged 65. Their son George christened 24 Aug. 1795. Their son William christened 10 Aug. 1797 and buried 13 Aug. 1797. Their daughter Betty christened 25 Nov. 1798. Jonathan Shaw of Bank Gap died 27 Aug. 1849 aged 87 and Deborah his second wife died 5 Aug. 1836 aged 76. (Registers).
- 1789 11 Dec. James Shaw labourer of Bank Gap buried. (Registers).
- 1794 12 Jan. Mary daughter of Betty Shaw of Bank Gap christened (base born), and buried 26 Aug. 1794. (Registers).
- 1795 6 Dec. Martha Shaw of Bank Gap buried. (Registers).
- 1797 24 Nov. William son of Daniel and Sarah Haigh of Bank Gap christened. (Registers).
- 1797 24 Nov. Mary daughter of Joseph and Mary Shaw of Bank Gap christened. Their son James christened 23 Feb. 1800. (Registers).
- 1810 The Saddleworth Enclosure Records list the owner of Bank Gap as Henry Preston, and the occupier Jonathan Shaw, 16 acres 2 roods 13 perches.
- 1822 Isaac Wood of Bank Gap referred to in the James Lees Papers. (Hewkin Collection).
- 1825 John Bradbury clothier and Esther his wife mentioned in the Registers.
- 1827-8 George Shaw and Joseph Kenworthy of Bank Gap were subscribers to the Saddleworth Weavers' Union.
- 1835 The Church Rate Book lists two houses at Bank Gap. One owned by Henry Preston and occupied by Joseph Kenworthy and Samuel Buckley; the other owned by John Roberts and occupied by John Bradbury and Jonathan Shaw.
- 1837 Samuel Buckley of Bank Gap listed in the West Riding Poll Book.
- 1851 The Census included the following under Bank Gap: John Rhodes with one male and five females: one was a woollen hand loom weaver, one a hand spinner and two woollen piecers. James Platt with three males and three females: three were woollen hand loom weavers. James Lawton with two males and two females: one was a woollen slubber. Joseph Kenworthy with four males and three females: two were woollen hand loom weavers, three hand spinners and one a woollen piecer.
- 1852 The Church Rate Book listed the occupiers of Bank Gap as John Rhodes, James Platt, James Crossley and Joseph Kenworthy.
- 1875 Worrall's Directory lists James Buckley of Bank Gap.
- 1885 James Buckley of Bank Gap (Poll List).

PINFOLD (See Vol. 2, No. 1, p.16)

- 1671 John Whitehead of Pinfold, Husbandman. (Will at Chester).
- 1761 5 May. John Buckley clothier married Anna Buckley, both of Pinfold. Their son James buried 3 Feb. 1764. (Registers).
- 1762 10 May. Jane Buckley of Pinfold buried. (Registers).
- 1769 16 April. James son of James Buckley clothier and Ann his wife of Pinfold christened. (Registers).
- 1777 The Shaw Hall Estate list mentioned that the tenant of Pinfold was John Buckley (also tenant of Barn), 41 acres and 29 perches, rent £5-10-6.
- 1779 29 Sept. Hannah Buckley widow of Pinfold buried. (Registers).
- 1781 20 Feb. John Buckley clothier of Pinfold buried. (Registers).
- 1781 14 Nov. Martha daughter of George Shaw clothier and Betty his

- 1784 wife of Pinfold christened. (Registers).
28 Nov. John son of Abraham Howarth clothier and Mary his
wife of Pinfold christened. (Registers).
1785 20 Nov. Mally daughter of Edmund Buckley clothier and Alice
his wife christened. (Registers).
1792 15 Sept. Sarah daughter of Joseph and Hannah Thorp of
Pinfold christened. (Registers).
1798 26 Aug. William Buckley son of Robert and Betty Halkyard of
Pinfold christened. William Buckley Halkyard died 13 Oct.
1868 aged 71 and Maria his wife died 6 April 1839 aged 35.
(Registers).
1827 The Registers referred to Ammon Broadbent of Pinfold,
clothier.
1835 The Church Rate Book listed the owner of Pinfold as Hall and
Executors of G. Mallalieu, and the occupiers as John Wood,
John Lowe and Joseph Lawton.
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The Society would welcome any further information on the houses and hamlets mentioned here, and also on any other property of possible interest in Saddleworth. The Gazetteer will also encompass turnpike roads, canals, railways, bridges, etc. Information should be sent to the Editor of the Bulletin:

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

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