

Saddleshworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume7 Number2

Summer 1977

BULLETIN

OF

THE SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 7

Number 2

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CONTENTS

The Rev. John Heginbottom, Curate of Saddleworth, 1721-1771.	22
Letter to the Editor.	25
The Buckley House at Lydgate - the Architectural Evidence.	28
Royal George in 1907.	31
Manor Records: Part 9, 1799.	32
Arthurs, Greenfield.	35
Castleshaw Waterworks Tramway.	39
Old Saddleworth.	40

THE REVEREND JOHN HEGINBOTTOM, M.A. (Oxon), (1695-1771) CURATE OF SADDLEWORTH
1721-1771

(The following is reprinted from "The Higginbottom Family Bulletin" Nos. 12-14, 1973, by kind permission of the Editor, Frank Higenbottam, B.A., F.L.A., 17 Glenside Avenue, Canterbury, Kent).

Lt-Col. J. R. H. Greeves of Belfast, whose mother was a Heginbottom (descended from the family of that name of Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs.), has kindly sent the Editor a copy of an extract from the "Oldham Chronicle" of 6th Feb. 1926:

"Walked into Greenfield. At Mr. Heggibottom's the surgeon, the great grandson of the Rev. J. Heggibottom, M.A. of Brasenose Coll. Oxford. 50 years incumbent of this church. Mr. H. shewed me several relics and books of his great progenitor. Good abilities improved by an education unusual in those days, and yet notorious for his peculiar habits and adorations to the festal god. He was born 1694, entered at Oxford 1714, came to Saddleworth 1721, obt. 1771; buried near the church door." (This is an extract from the manuscript diary of the Rev. Canon F. R. Raines, M.A., F.S.A., 1805-1878, dated 19 Sept. 1828, whilst he was assistant curate at Saddleworth).

This aroused the present writer's curiosity as to the origins of the Reverend John. The present paper is an attempt to record what he had been able to find out about this remarkable parson...

The Rev. John Heginbottom's grandfather, John Heginbotham, was a farmer in Hyde, just over the border from Saddleworth in north-east Cheshire. We do not know when he was born, but in his Will, dated 16 Sept. 1686 and proved at Chester 26 May 1687, John mentions two sons, Ralph and William, and two daughters, Mary and Jane, all under 21 when he drew up his Will. He also mentions his wife (unnamed), a third daughter Alice, his son-in-law, Reynald Tetlawe, his brother-in-law, John Shepley, and a grandchild, named (-) Beard.

Ralph, the elder son, on 5 Feb. 1694/5 married Susannah Lees at Manchester Collegiate Church (now the Cathedral). In his Will, dated 16 Aug. 1729 and proved at Chester 22 Nov. 1729, he is described as of Hyde, parish of Stockport, Cheshire, Yeoman. He bequeathed to his elder son "John Heginbottom in Saddleworth Minister...housing and land...in Cheshire paying to my executors. £300 within Six Months after my decease and then to enter and have possession of the sd. housing and land which sd. sum of £300 shall be for the use of my son Joseph Higginbotham and my daughter Margret Higginbotham equally to be divided betwixt them; my daughter Margret Higginbotham to have £150 paid unto her within seven Months after my death and my son Joseph Higginbotham to have his £150 paid to him when he arrives att the age of twenty one years".

The printed parish registers of St. Chad's, Saddleworth (V 2, pp. 534-539) contain a full account of the Reverend John Heginbottom, mostly from Canon Baines's manuscripts:

"1721. MR. JOHN HEGINBOTTOM

Born at, or near Mottram, in Longdendale (Cheshire), June 4, 1695. Was educated at Manchester Grammar School, from whence he proceeded to Brasenose College, Oxford. B.A. 15 Oct. 1716; M.A. 1721. He was nominated to the living by the Rev. Henry Pigott, Vicar of Rochdale, and licensed by Francis Gastrill, Bishop of Chester, 1721. He lived at the old Parsonage House, which he either enlarged or adapted it for the use of his family. He had a numerous family of sons and daughters, and their descendants still survive. When Mr. Pigott

gave him the Living, he observed to him..."Mr. Heginbottom, the Saddleworth people are a very turbulent and unmannerly set; what will you do with them?" He replied..."Preach the Gospel, and if that will not do"...clenching his fists and throwing himself into a Boxing attitude..."this will!" On one occasion a sturdy Farmer insulted him, and he observed in reply to some remark of Mr. Heginbottom's..."It is only your Gown that protects you;" on which Mr. Heginbottom said, throwing it off..."Indeed! that shall be no protection; I am your man!"...

"On one occasion, it is reported that, being at an Episcopal Visitation, held in Manchester, Mr. Heginbottom had tarried longer than was convenient, even for his robust frame, over the sparkling wine, or the still more favourite punch. The Bishop had long heard strange reports and obscure allusions to the favourite amusements of this celebrated Divine, but 'he was not hackneyed in the ways of (such) men' as Mr. Heginbottom, and hardly received the testimony borne against him. However, his Lordship was now assured that this mountain Pastor was quite overcome with 'strong drink', and was the subject of considerable merriment in Manchester. The good Prelate (most likely Dr. Peploe)...sent two or three Clergymen to inform Mr. Heginbottom that his Lordship requested he would preach the following morning at ten o'clock in the Collegiate Church, before himself and his Clergy. This announcement greatly discomposed our Reformed Pastor, who had no alternative, but felt convinced that he must either preach to the confusion of his enemies, or otherwise come under ecclesiastical censure. He retired to rest for a few hours, and afterward arose and wrote the chief part of a sermon, which occupied him a considerable portion of the night. At the appointed time Mr. Heginbottom appeared robed and ready in the pulpit. In a composed manner he surveyed his audience, and fixing his piercing eye on the Clergy who had waited on him the preceding day, and knowing them to be the Bishop's spies, he gave out his text in a firm, sonorous voice, the 42nd chap. Genesis, 16v - 'By the life of Pharaoh, surely ye are spies' - to the no small inconvenience of the Reverend informants, who received a castigation which they never afterwards forgot..."

"Mr. Heginbottom was frequently the companion and guest of old Collier (Tim Bobbin), the author of the "Lancashire Dialect"; and on one occasion, after a riotous and tumultuous evening spent at Milnrow, in which blows, broken glasses, and indecently opprobrious words were eminently conspicuous, Mr. Heginbottom preached for his friend, Mr. Haigh, at Milnrow Chapel, and Collier and others of the 'festive board' were present, desirous of hearing what the Saddleworth Parson would say in the pulpit. He selected Nehemiah xiii. 25v as his text - 'And I contended with them, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves'. The sermon is stated to have been as pungent as the text.

"One Sunday, Mr. Heginbottom, after having spent a portion of the preceding week at the Cross Keys Inn, with his clerk as boon companion, preached an eloquent sermon, condemning the vice of intemperance and the dangers of strong drink, to the great astonishment of his hearers, and none more so than his clerk, who, when Mr. Heginbottom retired to the vestry to take off his surplice, reminded him of the past week. 'True', was the reply of the divine, 'but then you see, John, the landlord of the Cross Keys has a very capital tap of beer just now, and if we don't say something to keep the people from drinking so much it will be consumed too soon, and we shall get a poor share of it'..."

"Mr. Heginbottom was much esteemed by the opulent family of Farrer, of Bamborough Grange, the Lord of the Manor of Saddleworth, and had many

valuable presents of books sent from old Mr. John Farrer. His grandson and successor, when a young man, visited his estates in Saddleworth, and on the Sunday attended Divine worship at the Church. Mr. Heginbottom ascended the pulpit, looked inquiringly round his congregation, then at Mr. Farrer's pew in the west gallery, then gave out chapter and verse, and waited a moment or two, casting a fierce look at the young Squire, and at length said, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours!'...

"Notwithstanding his irregularities, he was not indifferent to the duties of his Parish, but was always ready, when in his better moments, to visit the sick, and to baptize infants, and in these (visits) deeds of mercy were often done. He was accompanied in these pastoral visits by a venerable white pony and a large dog. He was much beloved by his flock, and during his time there was not a Dissenter in Saddleworth. He generally farmed the glebe himself, and it is reported that on a Sunday evening in the harvest his congregation would accompany him from the Church and assist him gratuitously to bear home on sledges his hay, carts and waggons then being unknown in Saddleworth. He always had a good cask of beer before this period arrived, and the more grave part of the labourers indulged themselves with copious potations. After the toils of harvest, 'the owd Parson' assembled his children and young neighbours, who amused themselves by dancing upon the Parsonage Green, whilst he animated their evolutions by gay and cheerful airs upon his well-worn fiddle...

"He was musical and encouraged psalmody in the Church. The use he made of his fiddle after service on the Lord's Day would have not been distasteful to King James...He was unable to officiate in the Church for some years before his death owing to total blindness; but he regularly attended the pulpit, pronounced the Blessing after his Curate. In his declining years he became more regular in his habits, and was more respected by his parishioners. He died at the house of one of his children, at Platt Lane, near Dobcross, and was buried on the 19th January 1771 in the 76th year of his age, near the chancel door without the Church. (This stone is now enclosed within the new Church, in the south aisle). His wife, Martha, a very kindly-disposed and worthy woman, died at Platt Lane, 21st Dec. 1770, aged 73 years. He had been half a century Incumbant of Saddleworth with an income of little more than £50 per annum, and a small sum subscribed by some of his parishioners...He had an angry Correspondence with the Rev. Dr. Wray, Vicar of Rochdale, regarding the rights of the Mother Church, and seems to have contended for the independence of the Parochial Chapelry of Saddleworth. Some of Dr. Wray's Letters, addressed to Mr. Heginbottom, are copied in Lanc. MSS., vol I, pp. 267-272, at Chetham's Library; and it was currently reported in Saddleworth that, notwithstanding Dr. Wray's opposition to the doughty Incumbant, and his disapproval of much in his life and character, the good Vicar did not neglect him in old age and poverty; but his compassion was moved at 'the hard battle' which the poor servant of God had fought. He did good quietly and by stealth, and Mr. Heginbottom never knew who his benefactor was".

A search has been made of the Stockport and Mottram-in-Longdendale parish registers, round about 1695, the alleged year of the Rev. John Heginbottom's birth, but his baptism has not been found. In his Will, dated 14 Dec. 1770 and proved at Chester 30 May 1771, he mentions his daughters Susanna, Matty and Hannah, his eldest son John (then living at Lane-End, Hyde), his sons Samuel, Thomas and William, and his wife Martha.

Finally, we quote from "Saddleshworth Sketches" by Joseph Bradbury, 1871:

"William Heginbottom, Wellhead (Saddleshworth), son of the Rev. John Heginbottom, late Minister of Saddleshworth Church, died at Ox Hey, Friarmere, on Monday, 8 Dec. 1817, aged 90; and Martha, his wife, died 1 Jan. 1811 in her 81st year. Buried at St. Thomas's Church, Friarmere. He was a great proficient in music, taking part in anthem singing at Saddleshworth Church when he was over 80 years of age. A man of the strictest honour and integrity, and a zealous supporter of the Established Church. He was father to 10 children, father-in-law to 10, grandfather to 131, great grandfather to 153, and great great grandfather to one. He was interred the Friday evening following by torchlight, and followed to his grave by nine of his children (whose united ages were 533), and 59 of his grandchildren, &c.".

Frank Higenbottam

To be concluded.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I was interested in the article concerning your correspondence with Frank Higenbottam in the "Higginbottom Family Bulletin" about the Saddleshworth Heginbottoms. As I have for some time now been collecting information about this branch of my family perhaps I can assist you in your researches, and you in mine.

In an area such as the central Pennines family history must be closely linked with the history of the textile industry. Ours is no exception to this rule. The roots of my particular branch originate in the Rev. John Heginbottom, Curate of Saddleshworth from 1721 to 1771. It was inevitable that some of his twelve children would become involved in the major local industry of the day. Many clothiers during the C18, like the Rev. John's sixth child William, became wealthy as a result of their industry. William settled first at Delph Slack and then at Wellhead bringing up ten children. He died in 1817 aged 90 and was buried at St. Thomas's Friarmere. His obituary, similar to the details given by Joseph Bradbury in his "Saddleshworth Sketches" published in 1871, appeared in the "Wonderful Magazine":-

Mr. William Heginbottom, aged 91 years, died at Oxhey, in Saddleshworth, on Monday the 8th of December 1817. He was son of the late Rev. John Heginbottom, who was many years an eminent, zealous and pious minister of the Parish Church, aforesaid.

He was a great proficient in music, and will be long remembered by an extensive circle of vocal performers, as one of the most eminent of the profession. He was a man of the strictest honour and integrity, and a most zealous supporter of the established Church.

He was what a Father, a Husband and a Friend ought to be. He was Father to 10 children, Father-in-law to 10, Grandfather to 131, Great Grand-

father to 153, and Great Great Grandfather to 1, in all 305:-
The last of whom he walked thirty-two miles to see in his 90th year. He saw his Grandfather, his own Father, his own Sons, his Grandsons, the sons of his Grandsons, and the Daughter of his Grandson's Son, - even seven generations. He was followed to the grave by 9 of his own Children, (whose united ages amounted to 533 years), 59 of his Grandchildren, and a numerous sorrowing assemblage of other relatives, vocal performers, friends and domestics, at St. Thomas's Chapel, Friar-Mear, where, after the solemn Funeral Anthem had been sung, he was interred on the Evening of Friday, the 12th ult. by torch-light, deeply regretted by all who knew him.

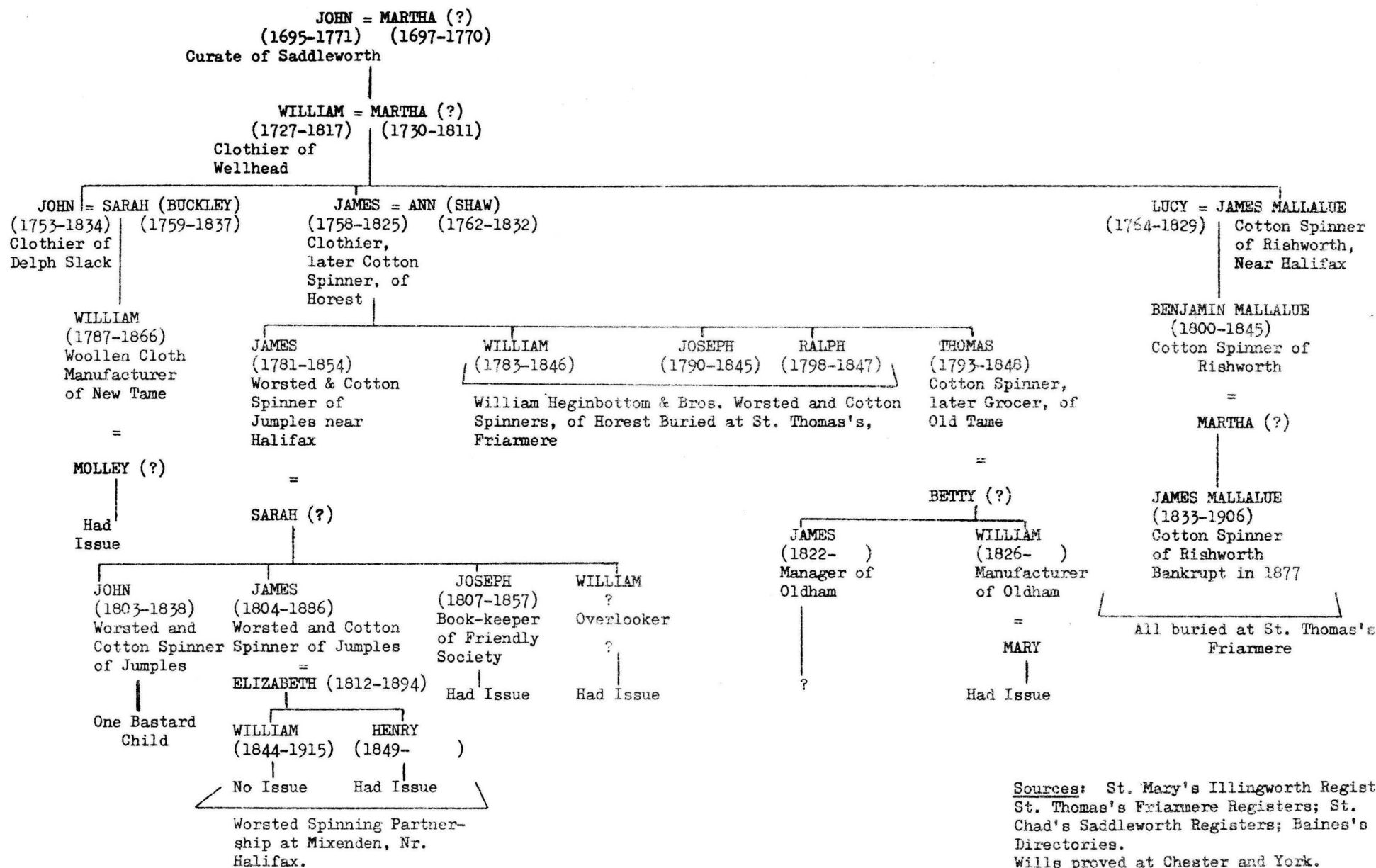
It is interesting to note that his age is given incorrectly as 91. William had four sons only two of which, John and James, are to any extent industrially significant as clothiers, together with a daughter Lucy.

John married Sarah Buckley in 1779 at St. Chad's, Saddleworth. They raised ten children at Delph Slack and New Tame. Their son William is entered in Baines' Directories for 1822 and 1825 as a Woollen Cloth Manufacturer of New Tame.

Lucy married James Mallalieu a member of the prominent Saddleworth family in 1783 at St. Chad's. He started up spinning cotton at Rishworth near Halifax in 1820 with his partner called Lawton. Initially they used premises at Gig Mill or Beestonhirst Mill and then from 1823 at the Corner Factory and Spring Mill. The business eventually passed to his grandson James Mallalieu who became bankrupt in 1877.

James the son of William of Wellhead had six sons all of whom followed in their father's footsteps as clothiers. Along with their father they also made the transition from cottage industry to factory. In fact the first member of the family to make this change was the eldest son James, born in 1781. He decided to set up in business as a worsted and cotton spinner at Jumpsles Mill near Halifax in 1816. It is recorded that the mill housed an old steam engine which was used to power a pump to lift water from the bottom of the water wheel to the top for re-use. This engine is the oldest recorded use of steam power in the Parish of Halifax. Most of James's family became involved in the business which at his death in 1854 was quite extensive. James junior took over the mill until his death in 1886. Eventually his sons formed the firm of William and Henry Heginbottom Bros. at Hays Mill, Mixenden near Halifax and continued until the turn of the century. This is the line to which I personally belong and since childhood many stories have been related to me about this period in our history.

The father of James of Jumpsles, according to Ammon Wrigley the Saddleworth historian, took wool to John Mellor's Rasping Mill at Delph in 1796. He was a clothier until I believe at the age of 64 he made the incredible step of following his son into spinning, and took a mill at Horest. On his death in 1825 his sons William, Joseph and Ralph continued in partnership with a Richard Shiers. Their younger brother Thomas's sons, William and James, were I believe still in the same business as late as 1865.



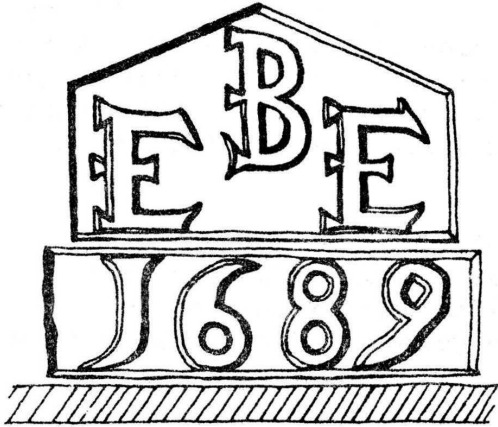
Sources: St. Mary's Illingworth Registers
St. Thomas's Friarnere Registers; St.
Chad's Saddleworth Registers; Baines's
Directories.
Wills proved at Chester and York.

To help you decipher the above information, which I trust is helpful or interesting, I enclose a descent of the families to which I have referred.

Yours sincerely,
J. A. Heginbottom

13 Dene View,
Luddenden Foot,
Halifax, HX2 6 PB.

The Buckley House at Lydgate - the Architectural Evidence



The datestone mentioned by the Rev. C. C. W. Airne in the Spring issue of the Bulletin is in its original position. It is in fact a lintel over the entrance to a house whose remains are to be found in the garden of Moston Cottage. The greater part of the west wall of the house still stands and the presence of well cut corner stones at each end clearly defines the width of the building. The construction of the Mill House in the early 1800's using the two storey front of the older house as a gable end, placed the old doorway within the basement storey of the Mill

House. This use of the walls of adjoining property is a characteristic of many Saddleworth buildings and there can be little doubt that this was the fate met by the house Edmund and Elizabeth Buckley built in 1689. The house measured internally 20 feet 6 inches by 45 feet 6 inches, with walls between 2 feet and 1 foot 9 inches thick, and was divided into two rooms on each floor. These are listed in an inventory made on the death of Edmund Buckley of Lydiate in 1718. On the ground floor were the 'House' and 'Parlour' (the former no doubt containing the 'clositt' of books valued at £1. 0. 0d.) while on the upper floor were the 'Chamber over the House' and the 'Little Chamber', an arrangement typical of Saddleworth buildings of the period c.1680-1740, whatever the status of the builder. An examination of the remains show that the parlour projected 3 feet 4 inches from the line of the north front. There are still signs of a window in the north wall of the parlour and a smaller one in the fragment of the east gable wall. Former window jambs are now serving as steps in the garden of Moston Cottage and one is now balancing precariously by the south corner of the surviving gable on Quickedge Lane. The position of the entrance is not without significance. The house stands gable end on to Quickedge Lane, the former highway to Mossley, in which case an entrance in the gable wall, the more common Saddleworth

practice, would have given access direct on to this road. Instead Edmund Buckley placed his entrance at the extreme west end of the north front so that it would have opened on to a small yard in front of the house. Similar arrangements can be seen at Manor Cottage, Brook Lane, Dobcross, dated 1725, and also at Windy Nook, Gorton, dated 1642. After later alterations and the building of the Mill House, when this entrance was blocked up, a door was cut through the west gable end to give access on to Quickedge Lane.

There are no window openings in the west gable wall, suggesting that this was the reredos wall of the fireplace, which may have been in an angle nook. Internally, near the south corner, is a now blocked cupboard opening in the wall, 3 feet in width. Could this have been the 'clositt' for the books mentioned in Edmund Buckley's Will of 1718? These may well have been business and account books; perhaps the seven years right of access given in the Will is significant.

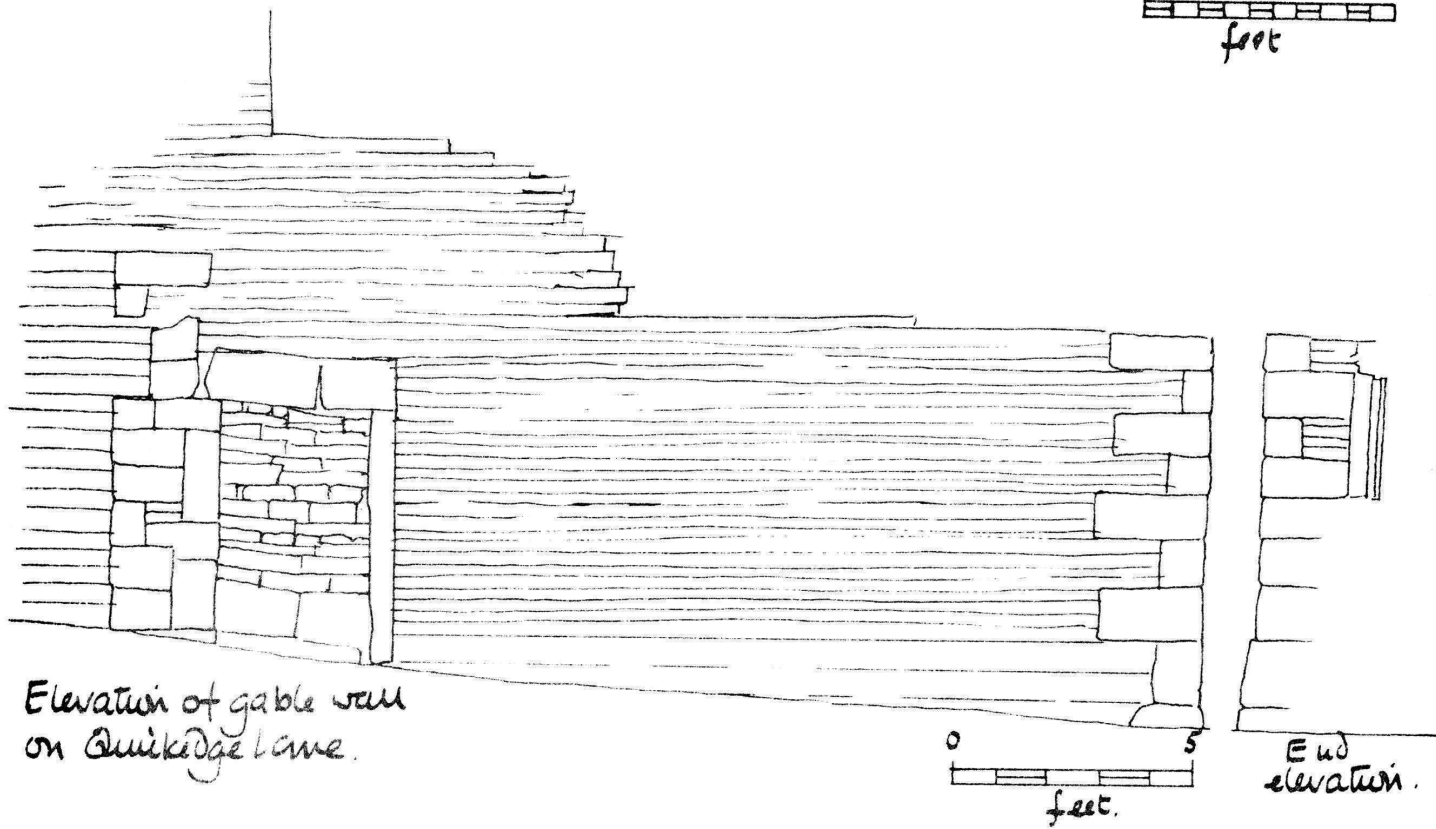
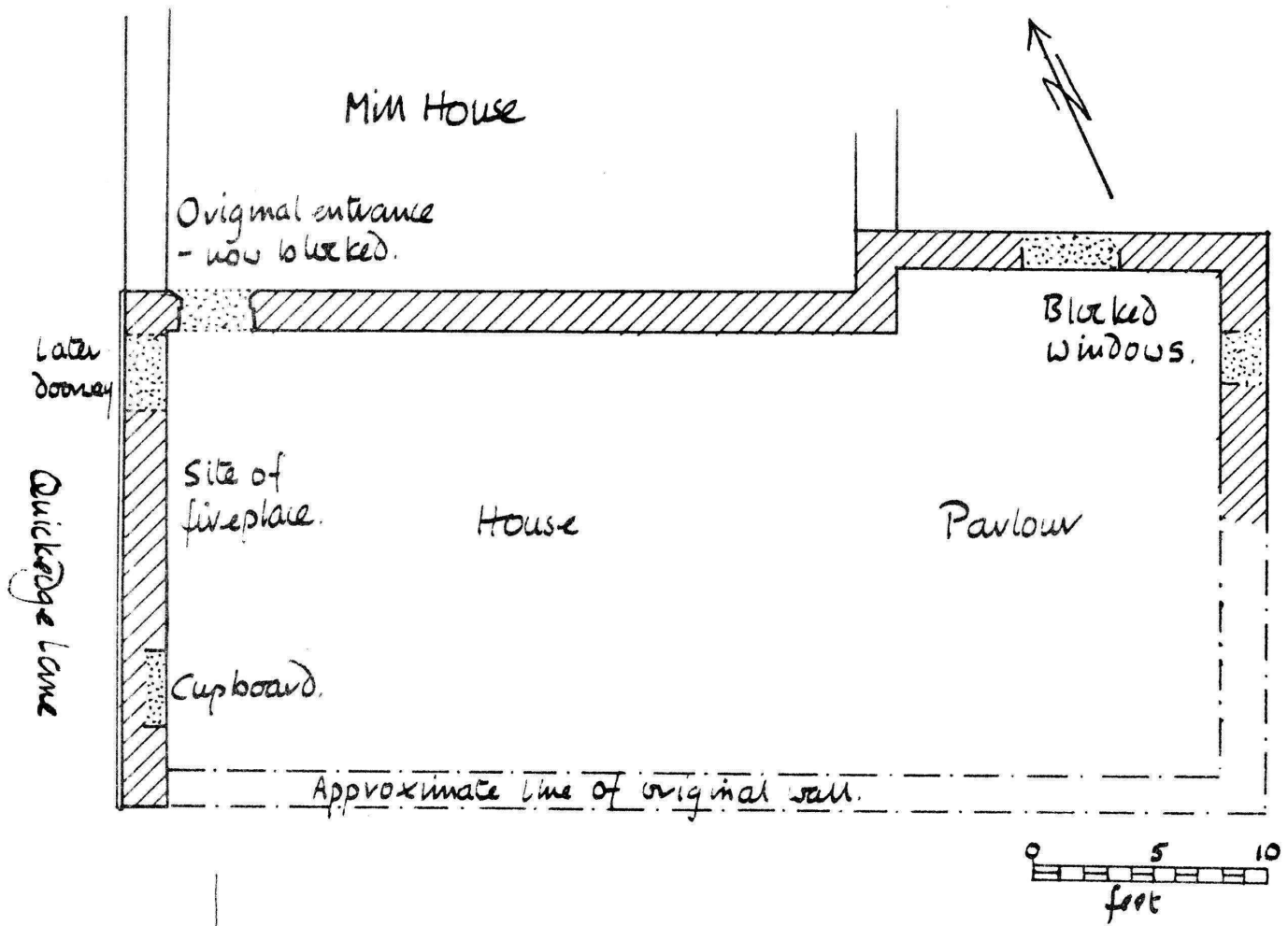
The gable end on Quickedge Lane is the more complete visible part of the building. The wall construction is typical of the region, flagstone for the main walling and gritstone for the quoins, jambs and lintels. The coursing is very regular, averaging $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches per course, and the wall rises from a low plinth which projects 1. - 2 inches from the wall face.

The later history and development of the site of the Buckley house is not yet clear, but it later became subdivided into separate cottages, hence the late 18th Century doorway in Quickedge Lane, and more recently a garden wall has replaced the south wall of the house.

When built, Edmund Buckley's house would have occupied a small strip of land between the Lower Meadow Field and Quickedge Lane. Part of this field became separated when the Turnpike Road to Mossley was made in the 1760's and it was on the northern tip of the croft that was left that Moston Cottage was built in the 1820's or 30's. It does not appear on the 1817-1822 Saddleworth Survey and therefore could not have been the birthplace of Edmund Buckley of Ardwick, who was born in 1780.

NOTE: My thanks to Julian Hunt for a copy of Edmund Buckley's Will of 1718.

W. J. Smith, A.T.D.



Remains of Edmund Buckley's house at Lydgate,
 Saddleworth.

WJ Smith.
 14.5.77.

ROYAL GEORGE IN 1907

Extracts from a letter from Ralph Radcliffe Whitehead Jnr. to his wife in California when he visited his old family home at South Syde, Royal George.

"And there at the corner of the road I saw familiar faces, the names of which I knew not, but they knew me after all these years and wanted to speak, and I went into their cottages and found in each some one who remembered my father, though mostly those who had only been children then.

Six to six with half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner, and £1 or £1-10s. per week for thirty years and some for forty, they have been working in the factory, and you and I have been living in luxury. It makes me ashamed, but who knows how things get evened up in the end. How few of the rich people are as happy or have so much character as they...I have heard it said by very reasonable people that we cannot have as much character, because we have not been through the same hardships. St. Francis and St. Anselm thought thus. And the children as today in Saddleworth so intelligent, so good tempered. I went into the old school which my father built and spent an hour among them, and heard them sing, quite as well as Mrs. Rice's children. I told them where California was, and gave them £100 from Bimbi (his sons) for some improvements which were wanted.

But the sadness of the trees and plants. How the trees groaned and held out black hands to me like miners fresh from a coal pit, stunted and half dead they are, and the wind has changed and the smoke of Stalybridge and Manchester has choked the sun. This visit gives me much to think of. Here are these people with intelligence and character making my living for me, careless of the long hours and black sky. To me the beauty of human character is sometimes of less import than the beauty of trees and sky, and yet we find by bitter experience that the mere contemplation of beauty is not sufficient for a healthy life. I have thought much of what you said about someday returning here with the Bimbi. I have discussed it with Mr. Rowntree and he and I both think it is too late. Some respect and affection there still is for our name, or rather the name of our family here, but as one who has given up his English citizenship and done other things more dreadful in the eyes of the British Philistine, I could not hope to make myself a place in public life here now, and I doubt if without that, which is the ambition of almost every man who has good English qualities, I could be satisfied myself or prepare a satisfactory place for the boys".

H. Jagger.

MANOR RECORDSPart 9: 179921st Feb. 1799

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...at the House of James Andrew of Uppermill...called by Mr. John Radcliffe the Treasurer. Mr. John Buckley in the Chair (5 other Committee members present).

RESOLVED that Mr. John Platt of Whitelee be charged after the rate of £4 per Acre for what Common or Waste Land he had inclosed (except the Stone Pit which is to be left out) being one Acre and three Roods more than he before purchased, situate near Whitelee afsd. which Mr. Platt has consented and agreed to (he being present).

RESOLVED that Mr. Mellor do write and he is hereby directed and ordered to write to the several and respective Persons who have purchased Common or Waste Land from the Proprietors of the sd. Manor to pay their respective purchase money to Mr. John Radcliffe the Treasurer on Thursday the 21st of March next at Widow Whitehead's of Shaw Hall at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and that if any of the sd. purchasors have not their Deeds already prepared to get them prepared by that time.

RESOLVED that Mr. Radcliffe the Treasurer do pay and he is hereby ordered to pay to Mr. James Whitehead of Shaws the sum of £25 (being the amount of a Bill of Exchange drawn by Mr. John Harrop upon Mr. John Smith of Dobcross and which has been accepted by the said John Smith but not returned) so soon as the sd. Mr. Radcliffe has Cash in his Hands. And also the sum of £10 to Mr. James Buckley of Uppermill (being a Dividend owing to him since 7th May 1798) so soon as he shall execute the several Deeds now in the Hands of his father.

21st March 1799

At an adjourned Meeting of the Committee...at Mrs. Whitehead's Shawhall ...Mr. John Harrop in the Chair (6 other Committee members present).

RESOLVED that Robert Winterbottom of Bridge-House be allowed £9 in lieu of his Common Right, which he claims by his Ancient Deeds for Bridge-House Estate.

6th July 1799

At a Meeting of the Committee...at Josiah Lawton's the Swan Inn Dobcross ...Mr. John Harrop in the Chair (6 other Committee members present).

RESOLVED that Mr. Mellor be directed by the Treasurer to write to such Persons as owe money to the Concern directing them to pay the same forthwith into the Hands of the Treasurer - namely John Lawton of Dobcross, Exors. of Robert Barber, John Bottomley at Packhorse Harrop Edge, Joseph Platt Junior Primrose.

RESOLVED that Mr. John Harrop, Mr. Henry Whitehead, and the rest of the Persons present here shall wait upon Mr. Whitehead of Greenfield on Saturday the 13th Inst. at 4 o'clock in the Afternoon to confer with

him respecting his paying the Money which he owes to ye Manor Concern.

13th July 1799

At a Meeting of the Committee...at the House of James Andrew of Uppermill...Mr. John Radcliffe in the Chair (5 other members present).

RESOLVED that a Report shall be prepared to lay before a General Meeting stating the situation which the Business stands in, and every thing that has been done by the Committee, in Consequence of the powers they are invested with, and in Particular the state of every Persons Account - who has paid up - what they owe - and who has not - And also a general Statement of the Accounts. And that Mr. Harrop and Mr. Radcliffe be desired to prepare such Report, at such time as suits them previous to the next Meeting of the Committee.

3rd August 1799

At a Meeting of the Committee...at Mrs. Whitehead's of Shawhall...Mr. John Harrop in the Chair (7 other Committee members present).

RESOLVED that the Report produced by Mr. Radcliffe be approved.

RESOLVED that Mr. Giles Shaw shall be at liberty to pay his brother William Shaw $\frac{3}{4}$ in the pound further than the 2/- dividend he has already received, and shall have Credit in his Account to that amount.

RESOLVED that Messrs. Henry Whitehead and John Radcliffe be requested to wait upon Mr. James Buckley of Dobcross, Mr. Mellor of Ashton and any other person they may judge likely to have any writings or plans in their Hands belonging the Manor Concern, to demand the same, that they may be kept all together in the Hands of the Treasurer agreeably to a Resolution of a General Meeting.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to ye Proprietors of ye Manor at their next General Meeting to let Mr. Ralph Bradbury of Tunstead have liberty to convey ye water running from Boarshurst to Foulrakes to his Reservoir in Kinder Meadow to his best advantage. And also liberty to Inclose a Shread of Waste Land lying between ye Road from Ralph Bradbury's Mill to Rough Gate, Kinder Meadow, but not to obstruct ye Road, in consequence of his paying £30 for ye same.

RESOLVED that Mr. Mellor be instructed to make a Draft of a Trust Deed for the purpose of conveying all the unsold and uninclosed Commons or Waste Lands with the privilege and Appurts. thereunto belonging to one or more Trustees, for them to Reconvey to every individual Proprietor of the Manor in their respective and due proportion according to their Interest therein, which Draft shall be laid before the next Meeting of the Committee for their Approbation, previous to the next General Meeting before whom it shall be laid.

RESOLVED that if Joseph Platt of Primrose, John Bottomley of Packhorse, Joseph Newton of Forset and Buckley Bradbury do not pay the Money they owe to the Manor Concern on or before the 21st Instant, Mr. Mellor shall be directed to serve them each a copy Cerit. (-) without further delay.

RESOLVED that this Meeting be adjourned to the House of John Wrigley of

Dobcross on Thursday the 22nd of August Instant at 10 o'clock in the Morning, and that the Treasurer be requested to call a General Meeting to be held at the same place on the same Day at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

22nd August 1799

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 Mr. John Wrigley of Dobcross within Saddleworth aforesaid Innkeeper this day, by order of and at the call of the Committee. Present, Mr. John Radcliffe, Chairman (33 other freeholders present).

WHEREAS the Committee of the said Proprietors having produced and read to this Meeting a report of the state of the Finances of and belonging to the said Manor concern, which report has been duly examined and considered by this Meeting, RESOLVED that the said report and also the Treasurer's Accounts which are as presented to this Meeting and signed by the said Committee be received and approved of.

RESOLVED that a Dividend be paid to the said Proprietors and other Freeholders concerned in the said Manor of three Shillings and four pence in the pound upon the principal sums of money which they severally and respectively advanced for and towards the purchase of the said Manor. And the Treasurer is hereby ordered and directed to pay the same as soon as he shall have Money sufficient in his Hands for that purpose.

RESOLVED that so soon as the Dividend before mentioned shall be fully satisfied and paid the said Manor or Lordship with its Appurtenances shall be conveyed by the said Proprietors to Messrs. Joseph Mellor of Ashton under line and James Ingham of Dobcross, Attornies at Law, IN TRUST to convey the same to the said Proprietors again and also to the other Freeholders interested in the same Manor in such shares and Porportions as the said Proprietors and other Freeholders shall severally and respectively be out of Pocket respecting ye purchase of ye Manor, and that ye sd. Jos. Mellor prepare a Draft of such Deed for Mr. Ingham's perusal.

WHEREAS several of the said Proprietors and other Persons interested in the said Manor will be out of Pocket certain fractional parts of a pound and it being conceived that it will be better and more clearly understood for there to be no such fractional parts of a pound remaining when the said Trust Deed shall be prepared and executed IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that all such fractional parts of a pound shall be severally and respectively paid off and discharged before the said Dividend be paid and the Treasurer is hereby ordered and directed to pay the said proprietors the said fractional parts accordingly.

RESOLVED that the Money which the Treasurer some time ago vested in the Publick Funds remain unsold until such time as the Dividend before mentioned shall be about to be paid.

RESOLVED that the said Committee be requested to continue their Endeavours to bring the said Manor business to a final close and particularly to inspect the Draft of the Trust Deed before mentioned when the same shall be prepared, and to meet for that purpose at this House at 2 in the afternoon on the 30th day of October next agt. which day Mr. Mellor promises to prepare the same for their Inspection.

RESOLVED that Ralph Bradbury have the privilege of the Water and also a small plot of Waste Land at the bottom of Kinder's meadow and near Foulrakes at and for the price of £30.

RESOLVED that Hezekiah Sheppard have a small slip of Waste Land opposite his own field near Lee-cross at and for the price of three Guineas and a half.

RESOLVED that this Meeting be adjourned Sine Die subject to the Call of the Committee.

10th October 1799

At a Meeting of the Proprietors...at the House of John Wrigley...Mr. John Harrop in the Chair (12 other freeholders present).

RESOLVED that the Draft of the Trust Deed now produced by Mr. Mellor be approved of and be Engrossed ready for Execution as soon as conveniently may be.

RESOLVED that a Draft of a Release or Conveyance from Messrs. Mellor and Ingham the Trustees to the respective proprietors be prepared by the said Trustees and sent to Mr. Radcliffe for his perusal and Approbation, after which 76 Copies of the same shall be printed upon Parchment and 31 of them Stamped.

RESOLVED that this Meeting be adjourned Sine Die subject to the call of the Treasurer.

To be continued.

ARTHURS, GREENFIELD

In 1975 members of the Historical Society conducted a survey of Lower Arthurs, Greenfield, and the following account is a summary of their findings.

The Arthurs Estate included 13 acres 3 roods and $31\frac{1}{4}$ perches, and extended down the western side of Greenbridge Lane to Chew Brook and along the western side of Carr Lane. At present there are two old houses on the estate, Higher and Lower Arthurs, but neither of these can be the original house mentioned in deeds as early as 1671.

In all probability, the original house was on the site of the present Higher Arthurs. The 1820-21 Map of Saddleworth shows only this (calling it Arthurs), and Lower Arthurs had not been built then. Indeed, both the 1852 Church Rate Book and the 1871 Census called the lower house "New Arthurs", and Higher Arthurs was referred to as Arthurs and Old Arthurs respectively. In the deeds belonging to Lower Arthurs the oldest reference is an indenture dated May 3 1792, by which the Arthurs Estate was mortgaged by Joseph Scholefield. He died in 1818, intestate, leaving his only child Mary, who was married to James Shaw. She died in 1847 leaving four children, Hugh, William, James and Betty. James Shaw continued in possession as "tenant by courtesy of England" until his death in 1855. Hugh Shaw was then heir at law.

It would appear from this and other records (see "Old Saddleworth", pp. 40, 41 of this issue of the Bulletin) that Lower Arthurs was built around 1830 by James Shaw for his younger sons James and William, alongside the new turnpike road which cut through his estate and which was built shortly after 1799.

The house fronts upon Chew Valley Road which was originally the Frenches and Hollins Branch of the Standedge and Oldham Turnpike Trust, the Act for which was passed in 1792 - about a decade before the completion of the branch. The ground floor of the house is now below the level of the road, though apparently there were steps up to the entrance originally. The water supply came from a well in the garden.

The house has dressed stone at the front where it faced upon the main road, giving this side the appearance of having been rebuilt at some time. On closer examination this is seen not to be the case, and in common with many other houses of this period Lower Arthurs presents its "best face" to passers-by. All the original stonework is watershot, and this, together with other features such as style of windows, etc. dates the building to the early nineteenth century.

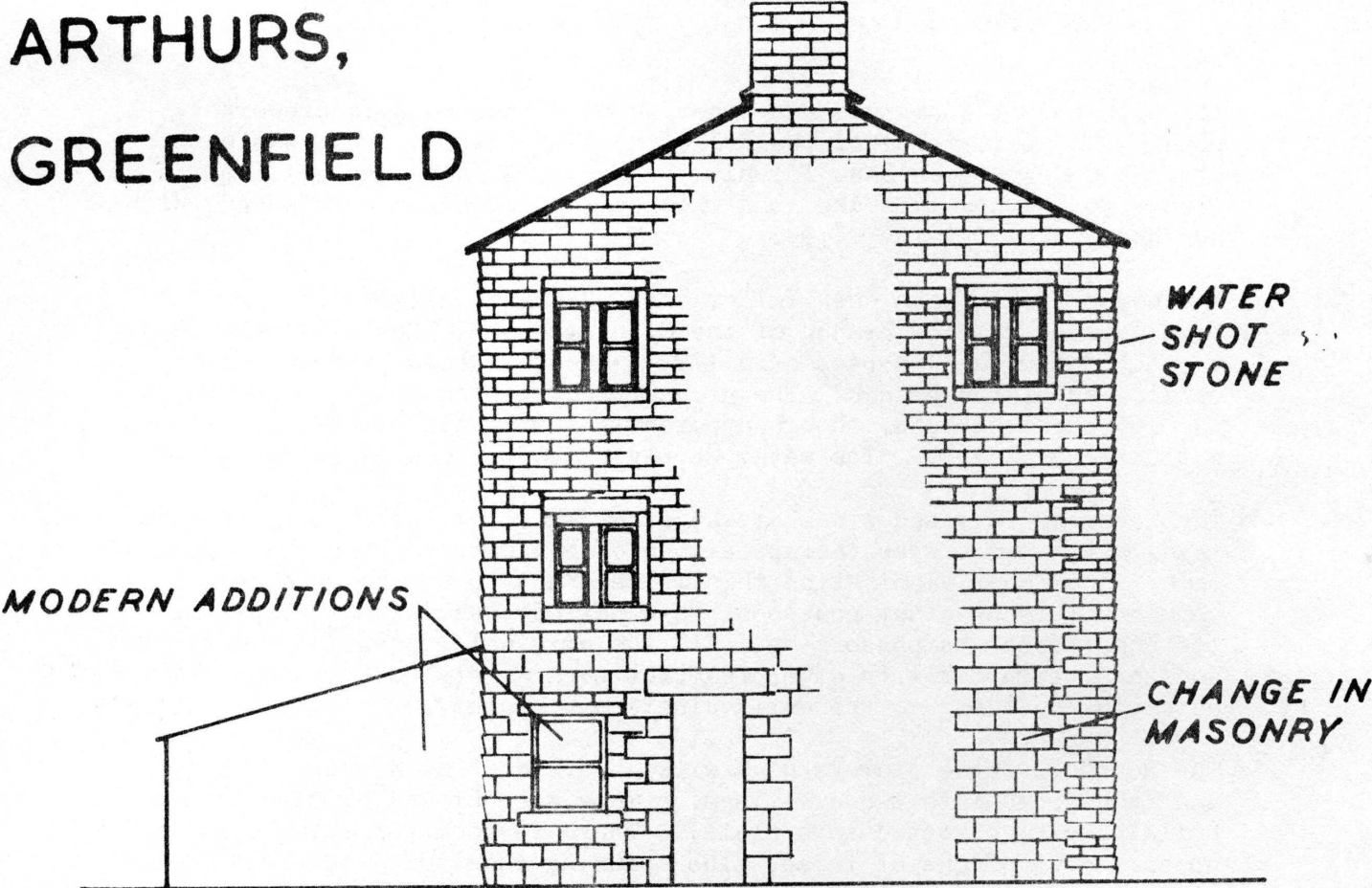
The house is three storeys high with a workroom in the upper storey, and is divided into two dwellings. (This account was written before the building was converted into flats). There is room for five looms in the upper storey of one of these, plus spinning wheel or jenny, and charcoal stove etc., and these upper rooms are open to the roof, although subdivided by later wooden screens. Now there is no connection between the two parts of the house at this level (or at any other) though there may well have been at one time. There is no takin-in door, nor is there evidence of there ever having been one. Neither is there a cock-loft, the absence of which may suggest a rapid turn-over of stock, as these were used as storage places.

The upper rooms of both dwellings have stone mullioned windows of five lights, back and front, and two windows of two lights along the sides. Each of the main windows has a king mullion to support the weight of the wall above and one sash window: the other four windows of each did not open. There had to be strict control of temperature and humidity when the domestic woollen industry was carried on, hence the thick walls and low windows on the wall (restricting the amount of sunlight in summer but taking advantage of the lower angle of the sun in winter). However, the base of the window sill had to be about 36 or 37 inches above floor level (37 inches in this case) so that if the shuttle broke loose from the loom it would hit the wall and not the window.

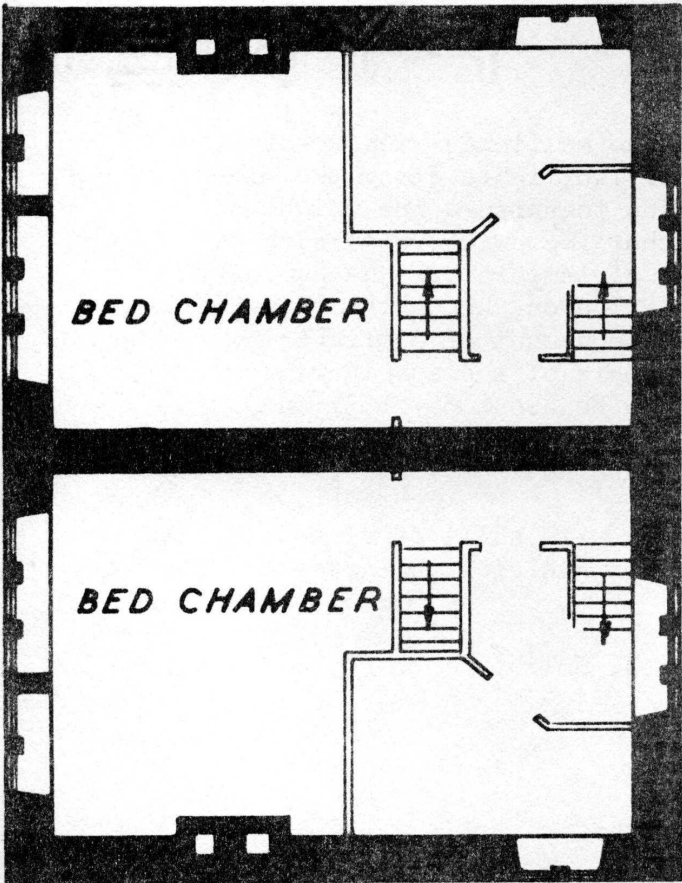
Downstairs there is evidence that the walls were built of flagstone, and the timbers appear to have been re-used - emphasising the great expence of timber in this area.

Survey conducted under the guidance of W. J. Smith.
Account compiled by Bernard Barnes.
Illustrations by Ken Booth.

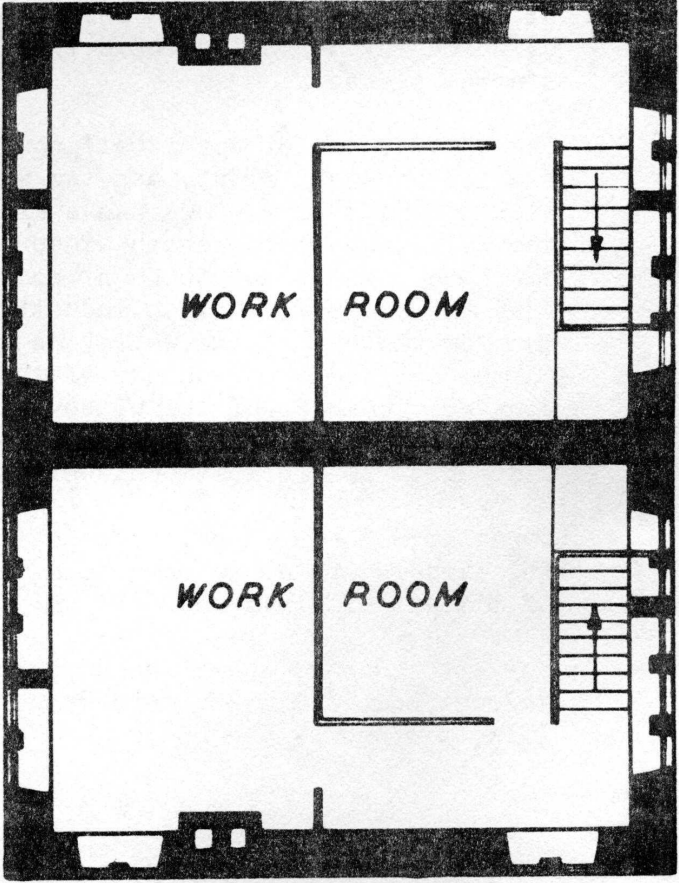
ARTHURS,
GREENFIELD



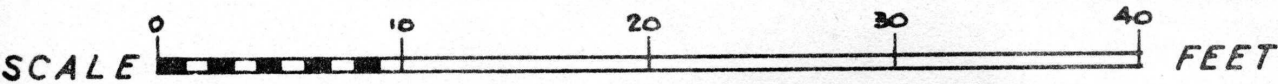
END ELEVATION

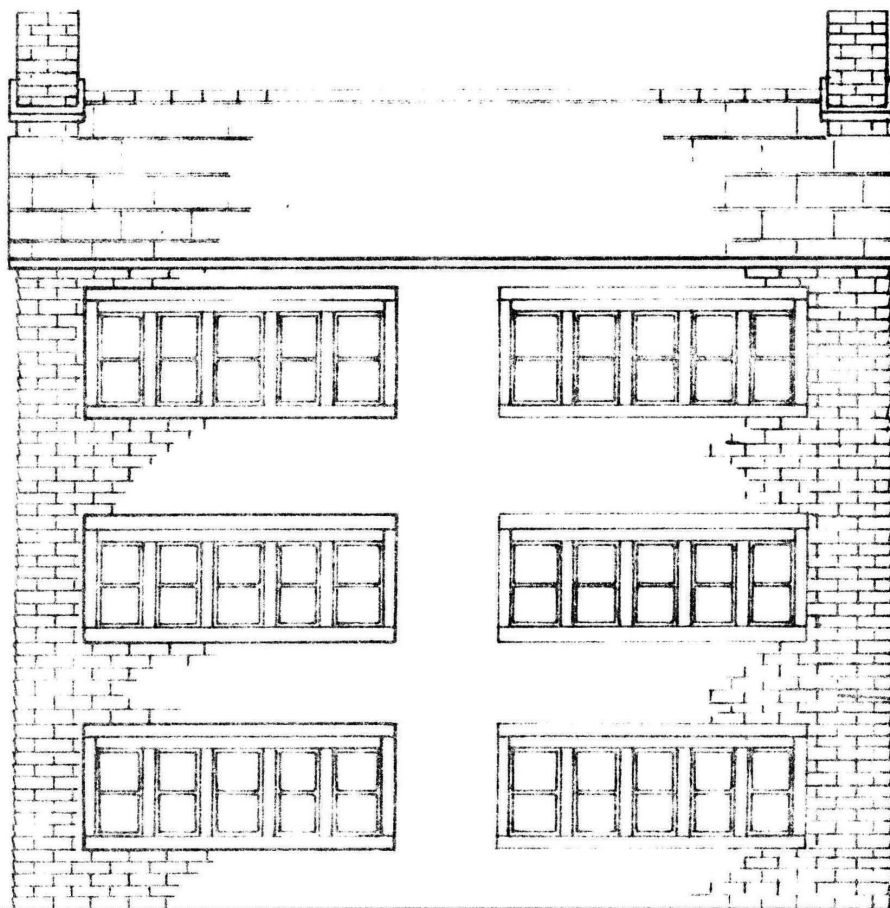


PLAN ON FIRST FLOOR



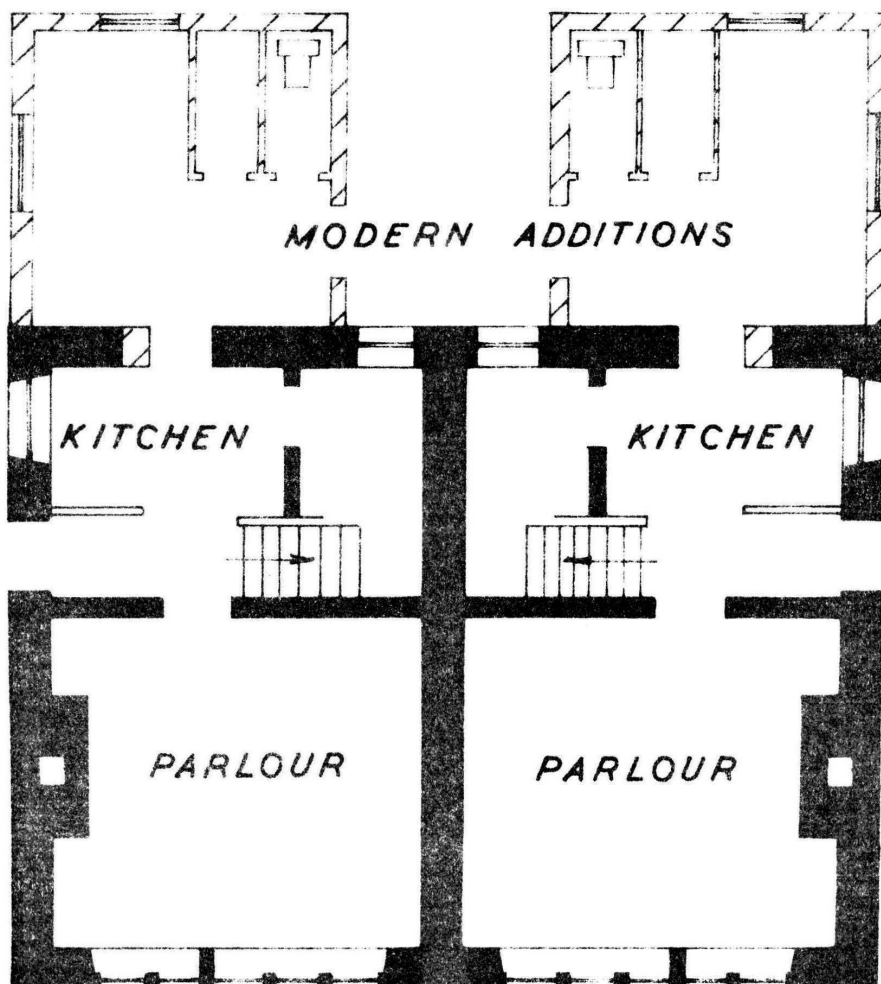
PLAN ON SECOND FLOOR





**DRESSED
STONE**

FRONT ELEVATION



PLAN ON GROUND FLOOR

CASTLESHAW WATERWORKS TRAMWAY

Further information has come to light about the tramway used during the construction of the Castleshaw Reservoirs in the late 1880's (see Bulletin V 6 1976 p 37). The "Oldham Chronicle" of March 30th, 1957 included some reminiscences of Becket Whitehead on this theme.

He remarked that "one of the first things to be done was to make a railway to link up with Delph Station...The big shed (at Waters) was intended to house the engines, the smithy and the joiners' shop".

Then he went on, "the three locomotives were named respectively Castleshaw, Denshaw and Piethorn. The two latter were just plain Janes, narrow gauge and built on utility lines. There was nothing pretentious about them. But the engine named Castleshaw was of full gauge, and was resplendent in shining brass and green paint. It ran several times daily from the shed at Waters to Delph Station and back again.

"It would be a queer sight in these days to see a locomotive puffing up Huddersfield Road through New Delph with several railway trucks behind it. But this was the usual thing in the late 80's and 90's.

"The driver of this train was a man called Darby Joe. He was a dwarf - no bigger than a lad of 12 or 13 - and bowlegged. To see him climb up to drive the engine seemed an impertinence, but Joe took a huge pride in his engine. I don't think there was a lad in the district but thought of becoming a driver and envied Darby Joe of that engine.

"Joe had a conceit of himself and his job that was out of all proportion to his inches. One day when Joe was going down Huddersfield Road to the station, Jimmy Carter's donkey appeased his "ancient crooked will" to Joe's claim to right of way. Joe ended the dispute by running over him. This tragedy happened at a point between the top of Sandbed Lane and Green Oak Farm.

"Old Billy (Mr. William Watts F.G.S., engineer in charge of the waterworks project) ringed the Castleshaw valley with steel. His three locomotives might be seen anywhere between Delph Station, Broadhead and the top of Derby Hill...".

Editor

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.

ARTHURS (see also Bulletin V.1, No. 1, p.9)

A full description of Lower Arthurs is also given on pp. 35, 36 of this issue of the Bulletin.

- 1712 Nov. 22 Joseph Scholefield of Arthurs buried
(Registers)
- 1720 Isaac Schofield of Arthurs was a Warden of
Saddleworth Church (Registers)
- 1726 Dec. 6 Mary Scholefield widow of Arthurs buried.
(Registers)
- 1729 Apr. 15 Isaac Scholefield clothier married
Elizabeth Firth both of Arthurs. Feb. 1 1730 their
son Joseph Christened. Their son Isaac Christened
June 18 1732, their son James Feb. 3 1734 and their
son John May 23 1736. May 4 1740 their daughter
Betty Christened. Sept. 18 1743 their son Jeremy
Christened. (Registers)
- 1734 Mar. 11 Grace Firth spinster of Arthurs buried
(Registers)
- 1741 Jan. 29 William Kenworthy of Arthurs clothier
married Mary Lees of Car-barn (Registers)
- 1748 Mar. 2 Claudius son of James Kirk Patrick cloth
dresser and Hannah his wife of Arthurs Christened
(Registers)
- 1759 Aug. 23 John Bradbury of Arthurs clothier married
Mary Shaw of Slack-head (Registers)
- 1759 Sept. 13 Isaac Scholefield of Arthurs clothier
married Sarah Farrand of Snaw-hall (Registers)
- 1760 Dec. 9 Joseph Scholefield of Arthurs clothier
married Anna Farrand of Snaw-hall. Feb. 1 1762
their son Isaac Christened. Their son John was
Christened Apr. 18 1763 and buried May 3 1764. May 1
1763 Anna wife of Joseph Scholefield of Arthurs
buried. Mar. 5 1764 Joseph Scholefield of Arthurs
clothier married Sarah Platt of High-house. Their
daughter Mary Christened Mar. 26 1765. Sarah wife of
Joseph Scholefield buried Mar. 26 1765. Nov. 15 1795
Mary wife of Joseph Scholefield of Arthurs buried.
(Registers)
- 1761 Aug. 24 James son of John Scholefield clothier and
Alice his wife of Arthurs Christened (Registers)
- 1763 Oct. 24 Isaac Scholefield of Arthurs buried (Registers)
- 1769 Mar. 12 Ann daughter of Isaac Scholefield and Ann
his wife of Arthurs Christened (Registers)
- 1773 Dec. 20 John Brierley of Arthurs clothier married
Mary Scholefield of Tinkers (Registers)

- 1775 Apr. 16 Jeremy Scholefield of Foulrakes clothier married Ann Bradbury of Arthurs (Registers)
- 1776 Feb. 20 Ann daughter of Mary Worth spinster by Jonathan Bradbury of Arthurs Christened (Registers)
- 1777 According to the Shaw Hall Estate records the tenant of Arthurs was Joseph Scholefield, 14 acres 3 roods 3 perches, rent £14/15/-
- 1779 Oct. 24 John and James sons of Mary Slater of Tang by William Bradbury of Arthurs Christened. John Slater of Oldham died 16 Mar. 1835 aged 55 and Mary his wife died 17 Sept. 1846 aged 65 (Registers)
- 1786 Jan. 8 William son of James Wood clothier and Mary his wife of Arthurs Christened. Feb. 4 1787 their son Thomas Christened, and buried Jan. 17 1788. (Registers)
- 1790 Sarah daughter of James Scholefield clothier and Mally his wife of Arthurs Christened (Registers)
- 1810 In the list of Freehold Estate included in the Saddleworth Enclosure Records the owner of the Arthurs estate is given as the Representatives of Joseph Scholefield. The occupiers were James Shaw and others; 14 acres 3 roods 3 perches
- 1832 The Poll List included James Shaw of Arthurs
- 1835 In the Church Rate Book listed under Arthurs were James Shaw the owner, and occupiers James Shaw and James and William Shaw
- 1838 White's Directory included William Shaw, woollen manufacturer of Arthurs
- 1841 The Census listed 3 families under Arthurs:
James Shaw aged 75, a farmer, and Mary his wife, also 75, with four daughters and one son.
Sarah Shaw aged 30, woollen spinner, with two children and one servant.
James Shaw, woollen weaver, aged 35, with Sarah his wife and four children
- 1852 The Church Rate Book mentioned New Arthurs (i.e. Lower Arthurs), owners and occupiers James and William Shaw; and Arthurs (i.e. Upper Arthurs) owner and occupier James Shaw. Slater's Directory of the same year included James Shaw, woollen manufacturer, of Arthurs
- 1853 June 20 Mary daughter of James and Mary Shaw of Arthurs died aged 58 and her twin sister Sarah died 11 Jan. 1855 aged 59. They were born at Halls and were Christened Feb. 19 1794. Hugh son of James and Mary Shaw of Arthurs died Sept. 25 1876 aged 80. He too was born at Halls and was Christened Feb. 19 1796. James Shaw of Arthurs died Dec. 24 1855 aged 90 and Mary his wife died 16 Aug. 1847 aged 82. (Registers)
- 1872 William Shaw of Arthurs died Dec. 2 aged 73. Mary his first wife died 25 Jan. 1828 aged 33 and Sarah his second wife died 14 Dec. 1883 aged 76 (Registers)
- 1885 The Poll List included James Shaw of Lower Arthurs and Samuel Hinchliffe Mowbray of Arthurs.

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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Greenfield,
Oldham. OL3 7LL.

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

Mr. S. Broadbent,
45 Beechfield,
Grasscroft,
Oldham.
