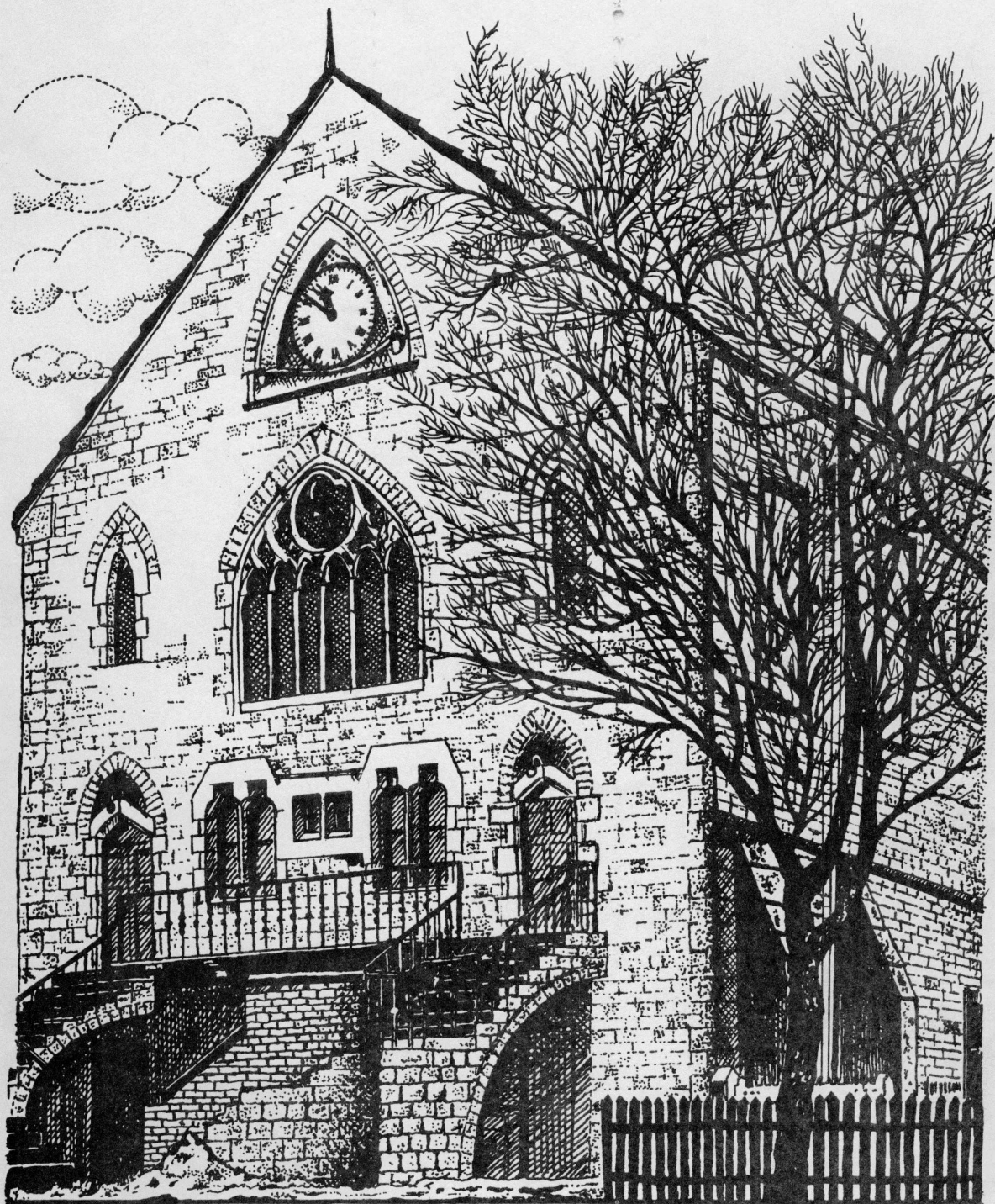


Saddleshworth Historical Society Bulletin



BULLETIN
OF THE
SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE EARLY YEARS OF THE SADDLEWORTH MECHANICS' AND LITERARY INSTITUTION
AND THE EXHIBITION OF 1853

Part 1

In this paper an attempt is made to examine the exhibition which was held in Uppermill during 1853 and which proved to be an important event in the history of Victorian Saddleworth. The exhibition was organised by the Saddleworth Mechanics' Institution and, as a necessary prelude, the work of this association in providing education for the working classes of the district is explored. Against this background it is then possible to understand more fully the "Great Saddleworth Exhibition", as it was dubbed, of 1853.

The Saddleworth Mechanics' and Literary Institution was formally established in January 1846 at the start of a period which witnessed an increase in the founding of such institutions in Yorkshire (1). Almost from their inception over twenty years before, Yorkshire, and in particular the textile towns of the West Riding, had played a prominent part in the mechanics' institute movement. By 1840 most of the major towns in the county possessed a mechanics' institute, and the following years saw their foundation in smaller towns and villages. Although information on the number of institutes and their membership is partial, Mabel Tylecote has estimated that by 1851, in England, a quarter of all the institutes and over a fifth of their total membership were located in Yorkshire (2). Between 1846 and 1850 the number of institutes affiliated to the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes and their total membership more than doubled, and this growth continued almost unchecked, if at a slower rate, during the following five years (3).

The founding of the Saddleworth Institution in Uppermill was thus part of a wider movement which, by the mid-Victorian period, had made the mechanics' institute a common feature in most of the towns and larger villages of the West Riding. This tradition was important for Saddleworth as the new Institute did not remain immune from those forces which shaped the overall growth of the movement. The Saddleworth Institute could, and did, assimilate the experiences of other institutes. Indeed, affiliated as it was to the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes, one of whose purposes was to act as a clearing house for ideas and information, the Saddleworth Institute had ready access to the knowledge which helped to determine its aims and operations.

As with many other mechanics' institutes it would appear that the chief impetus for its opening came largely from the local lower middle and middle classes. It was these groups, and their conception of the educational role of the institution, who determined the overall aims and practices of the new institution. Although the working classes did form their own organisations, such as mutual improvement societies, pursuing similar objectives to the mechanics' institutes, there were few mechanics' institutes in which the working classes could be regarded as having effective control. The Slaithwaite Mechanics' Institution was a local notable exception which confirmed the general rule of middle class domination (4).

In Saddleworth, local employers, professional people and the Church were important supporters of the new Institute. Patronage came from families such as the Wrigleys, Whiteheads, Schofields and Buckleys who had extensive local economic interests ranging from textile manufacturing to banking. Support also came from the professions. William Blackburn, Samuel H. Hegginbottom and Hugh Henshall Broughton, all local surgeons, were amongst the first supporters. The Shaw family of St. Chad's, notably John and George Shaw, who worked as architects and church restorers, also gave their support. Teachers, such as Thomas Shackleton, the master at Boarshurst School, also took an interest in the new Institute. James Platt of Prospecton, a former master at Boarshurst School, with his three sons Owen, Lawrence and Sidney, played an important part of the affairs of the Institute. In their infancy mechanics' institutes had experienced opposition from the Church, but by the 1840s the latter had become generally more sympathetic to the movement. This was certainly the case in Saddleworth where both Anglican and non-conformist clergy actively encouraged the new venture. The Rev. Richard Whitelock, vicar of Saddleworth, was one of the first vice-presidents whilst the Rev. Jonah Reeve, minister at the Ebenezer Chapel, was a major figure in the founding and running of the Institute. The Rev. Simeon Dyson, minister of the Uppermill Independent Church, proved to be another active supporter in the early history of the Institute.

These individuals were, in fact, part of the local elite who decided the public affairs of Saddleworth at this time. Projects which lacked their patronage and involvement were likely to be seriously hindered. Supporters of the Institute such as James H. Whitehead, James Lees and the Rev. Richard Whitelock were, for example, local magistrates. James Platt was the local guardian of the poor. William Kenworthy Schofield, like other officers of the Institute, played a part in local political issues. Significantly, its supporters were also to be found assisting other local societies such as the Saddleworth Bible Society and temperance organisations.

Examination of the number of members makes it clear that the Saddleworth Institute only directly involved a relatively small proportion of the local population. In the initial enthusiasm generated by its opening, the Institute claimed some 285 members but by the following year this had fallen to 190. This decline continued so that by 1851 there were only 140 recorded members (5). Compared to the population of the township at the 1851 census (17,799) this represented only 0.79% or 1 in every 127 persons. This is, of course, a crude proportion, including, as it does, children as well as adults. If the population of the Uppermill registration district is taken as a more realistic measure from which the Institute would draw its membership, the proportion of members to population reaches 1.67% or 1 in every 60 persons. Such figures suggest that the Institute did not gain widespread support in Saddleworth and that in its early years at least, in terms of numbers, it was a minority movement. In this respect the Saddleworth Institute was typical of other mechanics' institutes in Yorkshire. At this time the majority of them had a membership of less than 150, and whilst the larger institutions in towns like Leeds, Bradford and Huddersfield attracted more public attention, it was institutes of a size similar to Saddleworth which formed the backbone of the movement (6).

More importantly, of those who did join the Institute it appears that only a surprisingly small proportion were members of the working class, no matter how elastic the definition applied. The middle classes not only controlled the Institute's affairs but also provided a substantial part of the membership. Complaints about the failure of institutes to recruit members from within the working classes, particularly below the level of the skilled artisan, were a commonplace in the contemporary discussions about mechanics' institutes. Although in Saddleworth no detailed lists of members have survived, other evidence tends to suggest that the local pattern of membership did not deviate seriously from the general experience. The extent of middle and working class support may be indirectly gauged from the annual subscriptions paid. The rates levied varied from 2ls. 10s. 6d. and 6s. for adult males and 8s. and 5s. for women. It would be the 6s. subscribers, usually paying 1s. 6d. per quarter, who would be likely to represent the extent of working class support in the Institution. The strong element of middle class support, however, can be realised when, out of the 123 paying members in 1852, some 44 "gentlemen" (35.8%) subscribed 10s. 6d. or more and 14 "ladies" (11.4%) paid the annual subscription of 8s. (7). Thus it is probable that almost one half of the Institute's paying members could be loosely classified as belonging to the middle classes. Of the remaining members, following the pattern found in other institutes, it is likely that the 6s. subscribers would be drawn not from the general labouring and factory population, but from members of the labour aristocracy, such as craftsmen, skilled workers, small tradesmen and independent workers in the domestic system. Thus the working classes, for whose education the Institute was formed, did not generally partake of the opportunities it offered.

This absence of substantial working class involvement in mechanics' institutes is not capable of simple explanation. It may have been the case that the educational opportunities offered were not recognised or regarded as such by the majority of the local working classes. Neither the domestic weaver nor the factory worker may have considered the Institute's activities as sufficiently interesting or stimulating enough to attract them away from the traditional ways of spending their free time. As many Victorian educational and moral reformers discovered the pot was mightier than the pen and the attractions of the bottle greater than the book. The cost of membership was also likely to be a prohibitory factor. Given the level and fluctuations in working class wages at that time, a quarterly payment of 1s. 6d. was invariably a deterrent to some potential members.

Whilst the committee lamented over the indifference of the working classes to appreciate the advantages of the Institute, there were, no doubt, working men whose lack of eagerness to join was grounded in more positive reasons. Some working men would have regarded the Institute, with its middle class patronage of masters, clergy and local officials, as an instrument of social control rather than as a means of obtaining education. For such individuals, the mechanics' institute would have been regarded as providing yet another pulpit from which the middle class values could be extolled. They rejected such preaching, preferring to seek their education in what they considered the more sympathetic environment of working men's associations and mutual improvement societies. Such people distrusted mechanics' institutes and would have concurred with the view of Friedrich Engels, who interpreted the education offered in such places as indoctrination.

Mechanics' institutes were, he wrote in 1845,

"...organs of the middle classes and their purpose is to encourage the study of those branches of 'useful knowledge' which it is to the advantage of the bourgeoisie that the workers should possess...In the Mechanics' Institutes the teaching is uninspired and flabby. The students are taught to be subservient to the existing political and social order. All that the worker hears in these schools is one long sermon on respectful and passive obedience in the station in life to which he has been called." (8)

Passing references to working class educational organisations in Saddleworth in the first half of the nineteenth century, perhaps point to an element of the working class culture which by its very nature is unlikely to be well documented. Improvement societies and debating clubs did operate, if transiently, in Saddleworth among the working classes. The formation of a mutual improvement society in Dobcross in 1848 by "young working men" suggests that some members of the working class, desirous of education, preferred their own organisations to those provided by the local middle classes. (9).

Whatever the variety of motives, whether explicit or implicit, underlying the running of the Institution, it is clear that the forms of education offered were not neutral, but reflected the ethos of the controlling members. Indeed, the very act of providing education, through which self-improvement could be attained, revealed the influence of middle class values. The doctrine of self-improvement was not simply restricted to acquiring knowledge and skills in specific subject, but celebrated the familiar litany of middle class values such as hard work, thrift, sobriety, cleanliness, duty, honesty and obedience. In the Saddleworth Institute this process of education focused around the library, the lectures and formal classes.

At a time when the provision of libraries for the working classes in both urban and rural communities was invariably deficient, the library of a mechanics' institution was one of its principal attractions. As the evidence collected by the Select Committee on Public Libraries (1849) indicated, the mechanics' institute provided an important channel of access to books for those of the working class who were members. Although the working class also had access to other forms of libraries which were associated with a wide variety of institutions such as Sunday schools, friendly societies, factories and even public houses, the provision was generally inadequate. In Saddleworth small book clubs, organised by or for the working classes, existed, such as the one founded at Kilngreen by the teacher, Joseph Thornton. (10). A commercial subscription library run by John Brooks was opened in Delph in 1816 and possessed over 500 books some twenty years later. (11). Such libraries, however, were usually too expensive for the working man. Buying books, rather than borrowing them, was equally outside the pocket of many working people. Morgan Brierley's recollection that, as a youth, he had had to save for almost a year in order to buy a secondhand copy of the "Life of Benjamin Franklin" costing 7d., was not apocryphal. (12).

By an amalgam of donations and selective buying, the Saddleworth Institute's library contained some 1,200 volumes by 1852, and at that time it was probably the largest library accessible to the working classes in the district. Books could be borrowed or consulted in the reading room of the Institute. Although its size did not match the large collections held in the Leeds, Bradford, Halifax or Wakefield institutions, the library was, nevertheless, slightly larger than the average size of mechanics' institute libraries.

Size, however, was no guarantee of success and in its early years the use made of the library revealed, initially, a period of high involvement followed by a reduction in use. This pattern, as will be seen, was repeated in other areas of the Institute's educational activities. Evaluating the effectiveness of the library by the number of books borrowed, in the years from 1847 to 1849 the annual average total was 4,917 whilst in the following three-year period the average had fallen by a third to 3,625 books. As membership also declined over these years, it is significant that the annual number of books borrowed per member also declined, from 35.7 in 1848 to 19.9 in 1852. (13). Such a decline might be partly accounted for by the types of books in the library and by the fact that the library stock did not include sufficient fresh additions to interest members. Samuel Smiles, for instance, giving evidence to the Select Committee on Public Libraries complained about the "dull and heavy books" which, he asserted, formed a large part of the libraries of mechanics' institutes.

Unfortunately, there is no catalogue of the Saddleworth library nor records of those who actually borrowed from it. If the experience of other institutions was repeated, then it seems likely that the fiction section would have been the most in demand, and that more radical books, dealing with controversial economic, political or religious questions, would not have been permitted. Certainly, the periodicals subscribed to by the Saddleworth Institute, including such respectable and edifying publications as The Family Herald, Hogg's Instructor, Chamber's Journal, The Workingman's Friend and The Temperance Advocate support the inference that only morally improving literature would have been allowed into the library (14). The library, however, if possessing limitations, was by no means a failure. Its exact educational benefit is difficult to estimate but it did provide the members with the opportunity of access to a range of books which they would not otherwise have been able to enjoy.

The provision of more formal education, in classes supervised by professional teachers, was one of the prime functions of the Institute. In this area the record was far from satisfactory. In the opening year no fewer than six separate classes were started and over 100 students attended courses in subjects such as geography, chemistry, music, grammar and pronunciation. It was the elementary class of writing and reading, meeting two evenings a week, with a paid teacher, which proved the most popular with over 60 members. (15). The numbers attending this class not only underlines the deficiency of formal education amongst the working classes, but also indicates how misperceived the expectations of the founders of mechanics' institutions had been. There was little point in providing advanced classes, scientific lectures or even a library for those members who had not

adequately acquired the skills of reading and writing. As the ardour associated with the foundation waned, so did the classes. By 1852 only the writing and reading class, with a considerably reduced number of pupils, survived.

No single factor was decisive in accounting for the change. The lack of money to employ professional teachers and the lack of perseverance on the part of the pupils must have been partly responsible. Analysing the problem of declining classes, the Committee wrote in 1852,

"The principal defect is a lack of classes. There are two reasons for this, first we have a scattered population, and second, as the means of self-improvement are multiplied and rendered more available, in like manner does it appear that the indifference of the people to avail themselves of them increases in the same proportion". (16).

There was some truth in this self-diagnosis. It evidently required a special motivation to make a person, at work all day, walk two or three miles in the evening to study, whatever the weather. There were, after all, for many people, more compelling and enjoyable forms of leisure. As already noted, there were also organisations, like mutual improvement societies which provided similar educational opportunities, possibly more convenient geographically for some individuals and also socially more conducive. It may also have been the case that the methods of teaching used in the Saddleworth Institute did not encourage regular attendance. In a critical passage, a historian of adult education, J. W. Hudson, who appears to have been associated with the Saddleworth institution, depicted the inappropriate teaching methods pursued in some mechanics' institutes, mentioning slates and copy-books, and "discipline fitted for children rather than for men". (17).

Attempts to overcome the lack of professional teachers by the members organising their own classes also proved unsatisfactory. A scheme to establish an essay and discussion class in 1849 quickly foundered. Recording its epitaph in the following year, the Committee again revealed the problems which faced the more formal educational work of the Institute.

"It began well, but the want of punctuality, and frequent non-attendance of many of its members soon ruined it. This class ought to have been a model one, as it comprised some of the most active, prominent, and talented officers of the Institution, yet it could not maintain an existence for more than nine months". (18).

The provision of lectures was regarded as another means of fulfilling the educational purposes of mechanics' institutes. For most of them, but especially for the smaller institutes such as Saddleworth, the arrangement of suitable lectures of a sufficiently high standard was a recurrent problem. Considerable efforts were made by the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes to provide information about competent and experienced lecturers and their charges. In its early years, the

lecturers engaged by the Saddleworth Institute for one, or more ambitiously, a course of lectures, were usually not a success, at least when judged by the numbers who attended the lectures. The Institute regretfully noted their failure, describing the numbers who attended with comments such as "unsatisfactory", "miserable" and "failed to attract an audience worthy of the name". (19). As early as 1848, when only four paid lectures were given, the precariousness of lecturing in Saddleworth was explained in the following terms:

"...we think it hazardous to engage good, and therefore costly, ones in a country district like ours, where an unfavourable evening would deter many of our pecuniary friends from attending them". (20).

It was, of course, not just the weather which determined attendances at lectures. The skills and personality of individual lecturers would be important. In these years in Saddleworth the large audiences which went to listen to itinerant lecturers speaking on subjects such as slavery, mesmerism and convict life also suggest that the topics selected at the mechanics' institute, whilst educationally impeccable, might have lacked a more popular appeal. When the additional, but vital, factor of the strain placed on the Institute's finances was taken into account, it was predictable that paid lectures quickly became something of a rarity.

The gap left by professional lecturers was partly offset by borrowing from the Yorkshire Union's bank of manuscript lectures, which were then read by one member to the meeting. More importantly, members began to provide their own lectures. By 1847 three lectures had been given by members. Samuel Heginbottom had spoken on The Rise and Progress of Trade, whilst Lawrence Platt had discoursed about The Character of Napoleon Buonaparte. Edwin Thornton, who was to become a prolific contributor of lectures of the Institution, read a paper entitled On the Study of Chemistry. It was these home-produced lectures which were also to become an integral part of the Institute's social evenings.

In contrast to the setbacks experienced in the classroom and the lecture-room, contemporaries judged the social evenings of the Institute to be a success. In a sense the monthly social evenings with their programme of short lectures, poetry and music were an attempt to meet some of the difficulties which surrounded the running of the Institute. The hope was that once individuals had been introduced to the Institution through the social evenings, they would avail themselves of the more substantial educational opportunities offered. Pioneered by the Huddersfield Mechanics' Institute, an innovator in this and in other fields, the social evening was rapidly adopted by other institutions.

The social evenings proved extremely popular in Saddleworth. Significantly they were not restricted to members, and on occasions attendances of over 400 were recorded, although 200 were more normal. Short talks were provided by members on a miscellany of subjects. Amongst the contributors was Jonathan Hutchinson who spoke on topics such as the growth of timber. In the early 1850s Hutchinson was the local agent for the Huddersfield Canal Company, although he had already

displayed the engineering skills which were to lead him to establish the internationally important firm of textile machinery manufacturers. James H. Whitehead of the Royal George Mills lectured on The History and Progress of the Steam Engine. William Blackburn called upon his professional experience to lecture on various medical topics. George Shaw, whose passion for antiquities was well known, contributed several talks, including one on rushcarts. Edwin Thornton, in a talk entitled The Evil Effects of Carrying out Old Customs which have an Evil Tendency, also spoke on rushcarts but condemned the immoral behaviour which often accompanied such ceremonies. Thornton, on the death of the Duke of Wellington, also read a short essay comparing the Duke's character with that of Napoleon's. (21). Music provided by local bands made its own contribution to these evenings.

By the early 1850s the activities of the Saddleworth Mechanics' and Literary Institution could be evaluated in terms of degrees of success, or more pessimistically, degrees of failure. If some satisfaction could be found in the monthly social evenings and the work of the library, the dwindling programme of classes and lectures was less encouraging. Membership had also fallen, the "fustian jacket" was not predominant amongst the members. Although John Schofield described the financial position as "satisfactory", revenue had fallen, reflecting the decline in members. In the year ending May 1852, revenue had dropped to £74 compared to earlier years when it had been around £100. The decline in funds was serious, for without adequate financial resources the Institution could not be expected to maintain the library, the classes, employ professional teachers and lecturers and generally provide those facilities which might attract a larger membership. It was in this situation that the committee took the bold decision, in the winter of 1852, to organise an exhibition to increase funds so that it could carry out its work more efficiently.

To be concluded.

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Leeds, 1852, p. 79.
8. F. Engels, The Condition of the Working Class in England,
(translated W. O. Henderson and W. H. Chaloner), 1958, p. 271.
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1850, p. 64.
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1852, p. 79.
17. J. W. Hudson, The History of Adult Education, 1851, p. xi.
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1848, p. 76.
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Huddersfield Chronicle, 1850-1853. A manuscript of the essay
on the death of Wellington is in the Hewkin Collection.

Terry Wyke.

"THE SADDLEWORTH-AMERICA CONNECTION"

Although, because of the sub-divisions of this book, one might inadvertently be misled into thinking otherwise, practically all the research involved was undertaken by Anne Parry (under the direction of Professor W. H. Chaloner).

Anne is an active founder member of the Saddleworth Historical Society, and who better could have been chosen for such a task? Academically

qualified and Saddleworth born and bred, she was most able to establish the personal contacts which were necessary in obtaining the type of information included in this book. And the result of her research, and of the foresight of the Festival Committee in promoting and sponsoring it, is very attractively presented in "The Saddleworth-America Connection", published by Saddleworth Festival of the Arts 1979, and priced £2.50.

The Festival Committee combined with the University of Manchester in the production.

It has an eye-catching sepia cover depicting the scene aboard an emigrant ship, and there are other companion scenes (taken from the "Illustrated London News") inside the book. It has an introduction by Lord Rhodes of Saddleworth and a commendatory foreword by Dr. Kingman Brewster, United States Ambassador to the Court of St. James, and the text is set out in 44 easily read double-column pages.

It concerns emigration from Saddleworth to America over the last 300 years and the lives and fortunes of some of those who went and their descendants.

Many of us know the story of Ralph Radcliffe Whitehead of the Royal George Mills which has been outlined previously in the Bulletin, and of the Wrigley family (of spearmint fame), but who knew of the Saddleworth Spec Company which engaged the attention of the American President early in the last century when allegations of duty evasion were levied against it, or of the Scholfields from Delph who introduced broadcloth manufacturing into the U.S.A., broadcloth with which President James Madison was clothed for his inauguration in 1809, or of the Winterbottoms of Nyack who came from Greenfield and "made it" in America?

The book is packed with personal detail and must be a provocation to readers who know more to add to the knowledge of this exodus. As Lord Rhodes says in his introduction "we do not regard this publication as a final document".

The last Festival publication, "Saddleworth Heritage", was a sell-out. This one will probably go quicker; less than half the number have been printed, and many of these will go to America. Copies can be obtained from Mr. J. G. Parry, 78 Oldham Road, Grasscroft, Oldham.

John Murray.

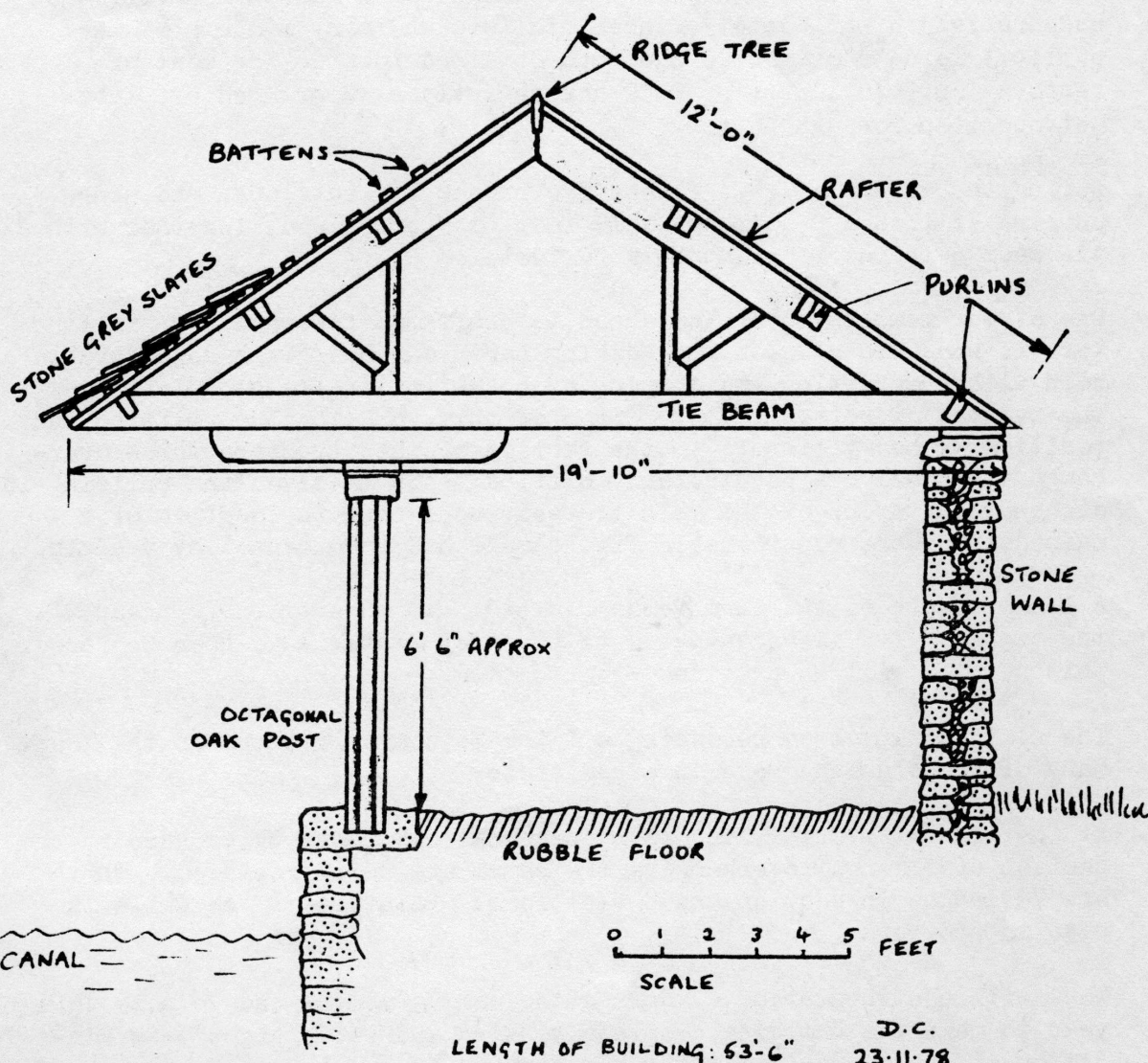
WOOL ROAD TRANSHIPMENT WAREHOUSE, DOBCROSS

The Saddleworth Historical Society has entered into a commitment to restore the building known as the Wool Road Transhipment Warehouse which stands on the side of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal at Dobcross.

In 1977 several members of the Society became concerned about the rapid deterioration of the warehouse. The building is of stone with an unusual stone-slatted roof overhanging part of the canal. This would have provided protection from the weather for narrow boats unloading and loading perishable goods such as wool and corn.

The canal basin at Wool Road was the terminus of the western section of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal between 1799 and 1811. The canal link across the Pennines could not be completed until the huge undertaking of driving the $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles Standedge Tunnel had been finished.

WOOL ROAD TRANSHIPMENT WAREHOUSE:
DIAGRAM OF ROOF TRUSS



This tunnel took 17 years to drive and it is still the longest and highest canal tunnel in the British Isles. The Wool Road Warehouse is the last remaining building of this early period, and it is thus an important building in the heritage of Saddleworth, well worth preserving.

After discussing the possibility of restoring it with the British Waterways Board, the Committee of the Saddleworth Historical Society started negotiations for a 21 year lease on the property.

The Committee appointed four trustees, and work started on the repair and renovation of the building. During the spring and summer of 1978 working parties of Society members stripped the roof of its heavy stone "grey slates" (some as large as 4 feet square), removed rotten purlins, rafters, battens and ridge tree timbers and in addition generally tidied up the land adjacent to the building, cutting the grass and removing some small bushes that were undermining the foundations.

At the same time a fund-raising campaign was started and help was received from several quarters - the Saddleworth Parish Council, the Huddersfield Canal Society, industrialists and many members of the public. To date over £600 has been obtained towards the cost of restoration. In addition, £300 has recently been granted by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Lottery.

During the autumn of 1978 five ridge pieces 13 feet long, and nine purlins $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches x 4 inches x 13 feet were purchased, together with a tie beam 6 inches x $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches x 20 feet.

One of our members, John Whitehead, a craftsman renowned for his fine work in wood, is also on the working party and has given considerable help with the cutting and shaping of beams to fit the gaps left by the removal of rotten timber. Some of this work involved lifting and positioning heavy timbers in the section of the structure which overhangs the canal. A particularly difficult job involved the splicing-in of new wood to one of the main trusses, replacing the section of a main joint where considerable fire damage had been caused by vandals.

A local branch of the firm Peter Cox Ltd. has undertaken to treat all the timbers with preservative once the grey slates have been replaced. This service will be provided free.

The next job involved replacing all the 76 common rafters in the roof. Many of the old ones were in a bad state.

At the time of writing, the four octagonal oak posts which support the section of the roof overhanging the canal are being replaced. They are $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in section and 8 feet long. Pointing of the walls is also in progress.

Work will continue steadily during the coming months and we hope this year to make the building completely "wind and water tight" - a condition of the lease from British Waterways.

Several ideas have been put forward as to the future use of the building, but initially it will be used as a much needed store for the Society's excavating equipment, and as an overflow store for Saddleworth Museum.

Oldham Metropolitan Borough have started landscaping a large area adjoining the river and canal, and considerable progress has been made. Thus what started off as a simple restoration project may well result in a whole tract of semi-derelict land being turned into an attractive area that could be a credit to the district.

David Chadderton, John Murray.

Working Party Members

John Buckley (Ind. Arch. Section Leader)
A. Lord (Architectural Advisor)
J. Whitehead
J. Murray
D. Chadderton
D. Latimer
A. Dunn
B. Scott
T. Milton Francis (Legal Advisor)

Trustees

John Murray
Barbara Booth
John Buckley
David Chadderton

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I enclose with this letter a plan of the old graveyard at Saddleworth Church, drawn up by myself over the last three years. Although plans of the other two graveyards are in existence, as far as I can ascertain there has been, hitherto, no plan showing the position of gravestones in the old churchyard.

Many references to these graves are contained as footnotes in J. Radcliffe's "Saddleworth Church Registers", and, as far as I can make out, his references are fairly comprehensive for people who were born before 1800. Transcripts of many of the gravestones are contained in the Higson Manuscripts in Oldham Local Interest Centre; I have been unable, however, to check the completeness or accuracy of this set of transcripts.

Many of the gravestones are in excellent condition; this may be partially due to the fact that the greater proportion of them have been covered over by grass for many years. It was the task of clearing much of this that made the job of preparing the plan a very protracted one. It is interesting to note that Joseph Bradbury in "Saddleworth Sketches", published in 1871, complains of the state of the churchyard and of the fact that many of the graves were covered over. Although I have uncovered part of each grave, many of the gravestones are still partially

covered up. It seems sad that this valuable source of local history should be hidden from view and that a complete transcript of the gravestones has not been prepared in easily accessible form. Perhaps some day the Society could organise for the task of clearing the graves to be completed and for a record to be prepared before grass once again covers them over.

I will be pleased to supply further copies of the map to any interested person for a small charge to cover the costs of printing etc.

Yours etc.,

P. M. Buckley.

3 Post Mill Orchard,
Grundisburgh,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.

MANOR RECORDS: SADDLEWORTH INCLOSURE

Part 5

27th October 1810

At a Meeting of the Proprietors of the Manor of Saddleworth...(see Vol. 8 1978, p.8)

A List of Claimants on Frier Mear and Quick Mear

Occupiers

Isaac Worthington & others for Old and New Tame	Thomas Standring & others.
James Wright of Grove for Grasscroft Clough	himself
John and Thomas Whitehead for Lr. Quick Edge	themselves
" " " " " Hr. Quick Edge	"
" " " " " Top of Quick Edge	Edward Lilley
Robert Lawton of Bottoms for Lane	
Charles Panton of Middleton for Crown Point	John Ridgway
John Radcliffe of Stonebreaks for Crawthorn and Shelderslow	himself & others
Earl of Stamford and Warrington for Austerlands, Burnt Edge & Shelderslow	R. Winterbottom & others
Trustees of late John Buckley Esq. for Grotton Head, Crawshaw Bank, Car-hill, Grotton, Loadhill Platting, Claytons & Thorn-lee	
James Kenworthy of Liverpool for Grove	James Wright
John Clegg of Oldham for Thorn-lee	William Harrison
Edward Greaves Esq. of Nettleworth for Quick Edge & Brookbottom	Widow Greaves & Hilton
John Wrigley & others for Quick	William Whitehead & others
William Hardman Esq. for Wood	Binns Dyson & others
Nanny & Roger Worthington for High Moor	Samuel Lees
Joseph Brooke of Huddersfield for Lidyate	James Schofield & others

We whose names are hereunto subscribed being the major part of the Committee appointed by the proprietors of the Manor of Saddleworth in the County of York to attend the Commissioner at any Meeting to be called respecting the inclosing of Lands in the said Manor to watch over the Interest of the said Proprietors, do on behalf of ourselves and the Rest of the said Proprietors object to the whole of the above Claims considering that all the Estates lying upon Frier Mear and Quick Mear can have no claim as they have never enjoyed any pasture upon the Commons now to be inclosed and the Commissioner's Power being debarred from extending to the Commons on Frier Mear and Quick Mear by an Exception in the Act and almost the whole of the Commons situate on Quick Mear have been previously inclosed at which time Allotments were set out for the Estates upon Quick Mear only. As witness our Hands this 18th day of February 1813 Henry Whitehead, John Rooth, Edward Brown, Joseph Lees, Joseph Harrop.

A List of Claims whose Rights have ceased

Joseph Lawton for premises at Abels	Joseph Lawton
John Shaw of Hawkyard for Hawkyard	himself
James Wood of Harrop Green for Hollingreave	B. Schofield & J. Wood
Joseph Platt of Primrose for Primrose	himself & others
James Bradbury of Fairbanks for Fairbanks	himself
Edmund Buckley of Upperhouse for Upperhouse	himself
Robert Bradbury of Castle Hill for Peters	Assignees of J. Buckley
Edward Brown of Dobcross for Halls	Hugh Shaw
" " " " " "	Abraham Besitley
Fanny Worthington the elder & Fanny Worthington the younger for Kinder Intakes	
John Shaw of Furlane for Car Barn	B. Bottomley
Benjamin Winterbottom of Fearnlee for White-lee or Greenmans	
Benjamin Winterbottom of Fearnlee for Kinder Intakes	
Benjamin Winterbottom of Fearnlee for Fearnlee	
James Buckley of Hollingreave for Thorns Clough	Ben. Hague
James Buckley of Hollingreave for Hollingreave	himself and others
James Wrigley of Stone-rake for Harrop Ridge	Ben Wrigley
James Broadbent of Diglee for Diglee	himself
Henry Buckley of Wallhill for Wallhill	himself
Philip Buckley of Shaws for Shaws	himself & son
Thomas Shaw of Shepherds Green for Shepherds Green	himself
" " " " " "	
New Intack Farm	B. Winterbottom
" " " " " "	
Hawkyard	himself
" " " " " "	
Pinfold Hey	himself

John Broadbent, Sarah Buckley & Alice Buckley for Peters claimed for by Jonathan Wrigley the owner	
Zachariah Whitehead of Lee Cross for Diglee claimed for by James and Abraham Bottomley	
George Broadbent of Harrop Cote for Harrop Cote and Diglee	
James Hall of Cloughbottom for Clough- bottom	himself & son
Ann Wood of Yew Tree for Yew Tree	herself
James, Abraham & John Bottomley for Diggle & Diggle Edge	Zachariah Whitehead & others
James, Abraham & John Bottomley for Harrop Ridge	themselves
Robert Broadbent of Intack Head for Intack Head	himself
Giles Broadbent of Diggle Edge for Diggle Edge	himself
Thomas Harrop of Dobcross for Mowhalls, Dobcross & Platt Lane	himself & others
John Shaw of Furlane for Bin Green	Robert Bottomley
" " " " " 2 closes at Car Barn	Buckley Bottomley
Armitage Esq. for Deanhead	Samuel & William Rhodes
" " " " " Brownhill	John Rooth
Joshua Radcliffe of Bowkhouse for Longhouse	James Wilde
Thomas Broadbent of Diggle Edge for Diggle Edge	himself
John & Robert Winterbottom of Knarr for Knarr	Isaac Sevil & others
Thomas Bradbury of Holehouse for Holehouse	himself
John Platt junior of Heathfields for Abels	William Broadbent
John Platt senior of Heathfields for Heathfields	himself
" " " " " "	James Platt
Butterhouse	
William & James Broadbent of Car for Car & Lee	
James & Henry Winterbottom of Roundhill for Roundhill	themselves
Henry Preston Esq. for Sunfield, Upper Barn, Olivers, Bank Gap, Thornes's, Long Lee and Little Lee & some closes	Littlewood, Byrom, Platt & others
Thomas, Giles & Abel Shaw of Furlane for Furlane	themselves
Thomas Shaw of Uppermill for Uppermill	himself
Rhodes Briggs & Buckley of Greenfield House for Greenfield House	themselves

Rhodes Briggs & Buckley for Greenfield End	Isaac Schofield
" " " " " Waterside	themselves & others
" " " " " for 3 estates	
at Hollins	themselves & others
" " " " " for an estate	
at Fearnlee	themselves & others
" " " " " for Ashway Gap	themselves
John Radcliffe of Cross for Cross, Knowl	
Top & Saddleworth Fold	himself & others
J. & J. Milnes of Millcroft for Causeway	
Sett	Jonathan Carter
Thomas & James Rhodes of Warrock Hill for	
Warrock Hill & Foot	themselves & others
Benjamin Schofield of Castleshaw for	
Standedge & Colehill	William Lees & others
Charles Panton Middleton of Heaton	John Kenworthy &
Norris for Sandbedyate	another
James Schofield of Sandbed for Sandbed,	
Causeway Sett & Pack Horse	himself
James Whitehead of Sandbed for Sandbed	himself & others
Linfit Lees of Delph for Delph	
James Radcliffe of Boarshurst for	himself & others
Boarshurst	
James Radcliffe " " "	J. Bradbury
Frosty Lee	
John Harrop of Dobcross for Hollingreave,	
Diglee, Dobcross, Wadehill & Stones	J. & John Whitehead
John Radcliffe of Stonebreaks for	
Saddleworth Fold	himself & others
Bartholomew Dacre of Mossley for	John Wood & others
Lanehead	
Giles Shaw of Uppermill for Ballgreave	Robert Whitehead
W. A. W. Hewett Esq. Bilham House for Mans	
or Barn	John Rhodes & others
James Harrop for the children of George	himself & others
Harrop for Wadehill & Tamewater	himself & others
James Harrop of Tamewater for Tamewater	
& Wadehill	himself & others
Edmund Wrigley of Knowl for Knowl	
Jonathan Wrigley of Hollingreave for	himself & others
Lee Cross, Ward Lane, Back o'th'Lee	
& Green	himself & others
William Radcliffe of Cross for Rye Top,	himself & others
Boarshurst, Cross & Knowl Top	himself
J. Broadbent of Court for Court & Cote	John Wrigley & others
Thomas Platt of Woolroad for Rough &c.	George Hurst & others
James Buckley for John Cropper White Lee	
James Buckley of Greenfield House for	R. Broadbent & another
Saddleworth Fold	
James Mallalieu of Wood Hall for	himself & another
Philip's & Lees's & Dungebooth	himself & others
George Buckley of Tamewater for Tamewater	
& Husteads	
James Whitehead of Shaws for Shaws	

J. & J. Lees of Clarksfield for Burntedge Bent	Hugh Whitaker
Joseph Lawton of Dobcross for 2 estates at or near Dobcross	himself and
Thomas Rhodes of Diglee for Diglee	John Winterbottom
James Holden of Holden Smithy for Holden Smithy	R. Rhodes & others
Henry Whitehead for William Whitehead for Ambroses's, Nunning, Nabend & a share of French Mill	himself
Henry Whitehead for James Whitehead for Warmton Bank & a share of French Mill	John Sykes & others
Samuel Bentley of Kinders for Kinders	John Sykes & others
John Shaw of Hawkyard for Hawkyard	himself
Harrop Lees's & Harrop for Walk Mill & Dobcross	himself
Elias Broadbent of Carrhead for Carrhead	themselves
Thomas Holden of Holden Smithy for Holden Smithy	himself
James Lees, Joseph Lees & others for Brown Edge	himself
Edward Brown of Dobcross for Cars	J. Winterbottom
Robert Shaw of Delph for Delph & Gatehead	John Broadbent
Joseph Shaw of Delph for Hill Top & Delph	himself
Robert Shaw for Betty Shaw of premises at New Delph	himself & John
R. & J. Shaw Executors of James Shaw for Stoneswood	Buckley
Joseph Scholefield of Liverpool for Hill Top	Samuel Kenworthy
John Shaw of Delph for Delph	Gamaliel Buckley
John Broadbent of Tunstead for Pinfold & Ballgreave Intack	James Radcliffe
Nanny Lawton of Cold-house for Cold-house	himself
John Clegg of Oldham for 2 estates at Fearnlee	himself & others
William Hardman Esq. for Platt Lane, Wade Hill Rough & Haybottom	herself & others
John Roberts of Linfitts for Hill End	Nathaniel Bottomley
John Mallalieu of Haybottom for Wickens, Woolleys and part of Lower House	George Buckley & others
John Mellor & John Roberts for Lanehead	Mrs. Roberts & others
John Mellor for Woolleys	himself
Nanny & Roger Worthington for Lanehead, Mowhalls, Pobjgreen & Noonsun	Robert Hadfield
John Buckley of Uppermill for Tunstead Clough, Pophas Bank Cote & Croft & Uppermill	John Radcliffe
Edmund Stringfellow Radcliffe for Lanehead & Bank	George Schofield & others
Joseph Harrop of Grasscroft for Gibbs, Wellyhole & Smart Roads	himself & others

John Rooth of Brownhill for 6 Doles & one half at Back o'th'Lee	Joseph Longden
John Rooth of Brownhill for Thomas Atkinson & others for Diggle Edge & Back o'th'Lee	Joseph Longden & others
John Rooth for Diglee, Harrop Edge & Wool Road	Joseph Longden & Thomas Harker
John Rooth for the Huddersfield Canal Co. for premises at Uppermill, Woolroad, Mill-town, Hollingreave, Ward Lane, Diggle & Back o'th'Lee	
Henry Hyde of Tunstead for Lanehead	R. Beaumont & another
James Lawton of Delph for New Bailey & Delph	himself & R. Blackburn

We whose names are hereunto subscribed being the major part...(as above)...object to the whole of the above Claims as we consider the Titles are derived from Mr. Ramsden or Mr. Farrer whom we believe invariably in the Conveyances from them granted right of Common so long as the same should be open and uninclosed and no longer or words to that effect. As witness our hands this 18th day of February 1813. Henry Whitehead, John Rooth, Edward Brown, Joseph Lees, Joseph Harrop.

A List of Claims for Beast Gates Lands Uninclosed Doles of Hollins, &c.

John Radcliffe of Cross 4 beast gates in
Upperwood

Thomas Rhodes of Diglee one thirtieth part of Back o'th'Lee

John Rhodes of Green one fifteenth part of ditto

James Wood of Harrop Green one twentieth part of ditto

John Broadbent of Harrop Green one fortieth part of ditto

James Broadbent of Diggle one fortieth part of ditto

John Broadbent of Diggle one fortieth part of ditto

Joseph Platt of Primrose from Primrose Hill and Slades

Joshua & Joseph Wrigley of Saddleworth Fold for Longley Hey & Wrigley
Lodge

James Bradbury of Fairbanks for Slades & Back o'th'Lee

Hezekiah Shepherd of Green for one fortieth part of Back o'th'Lee=

Edward Brown of Dobcross for Dole of Hollins at Milner Cote

Isaac Worthington & others for Brun Rindles

" " " " " Walkers Hollins

James Buckley of Hollingreave for a share of Back o'th'Lee

James Whitehead of Saddleworth Fold for Wrigley Hey &
Wrigley Lodge

James, Abraham & John Bottomley for a twelfth part of Back o'th'Lee

Rhodes Briggs & Buckley of Greenfield for Oaken Lee Slack

Rhodes Briggs & Buckley for a sheep walk

Thomas & John Shaw of Hawkyard for a plot of land in Pinfold Hey

John Shaw of Hawkyard for Edmund Hey

Susey & Martha Schofield of Hollingreave for a share of Back o'th'Lee

Exors. of John Schofield of Hollingreave for a share of Back o'th'Lee

John Rooth one thirtieth part of Back o'th'Lee

We whose names are hereunto subscribed being Freeholders of the Manor

of Saddleworth do object to the above Claims considering that the persons making them have no right or Title to the property claimed by them inasmuch as their Titles are derived from persons who had no right to grant or convey the same. As witness our hands this 18th day of February 1813. John Buckley, James Bradbury, Joseph Bradbury, James Broadbent.

5th October 1815

At a Meeting of the Committee appointed to attend the Commissioner and watch over the Interest of the Proprietors of the Manor of Saddleworth in the West Riding of the County of York held at the house of John Wrigley innkeeper at Dobcross. Present Mr. Henry Whitehead in the Chair, Joseph Lees, Joseph Harrop, John Rooth.

RESOLVED that this Committee do meet Mr. Fletcher on Wednesday the 11th instant at this House with evidence as to the usage of Proprietors of Estates on Shaw Mere enjoying Common Rights on Lords Mere and that Mr. Joseph Harrop and Mr. Henry Whitehead be requested to obtain that Evidence.

RESOLVED that this Committee do send a requisition to Mr. John Radcliffe of Stonebreaks desiring him to call a General Meeting of the Proprietors of the Manor of Saddleworth for taking into consideration the claims made by the Devisees of the late Mr. Farrer respecting the Common Right belonging to those Estates which have limited Common Right which said limited Common Right is considered as purchased along with the Manor and also for the purpose of appointing another member of the Committee in the place of Mr. Edward Brown who is desirous of resigning the situation on account of his being appointed Clerk to the Commissioner for Inclosing the Commons in Saddleworth and for other purposes.

(This concludes the Committee Minutes. They reported back to the Proprietors - See V. 8 1978, p. 26).

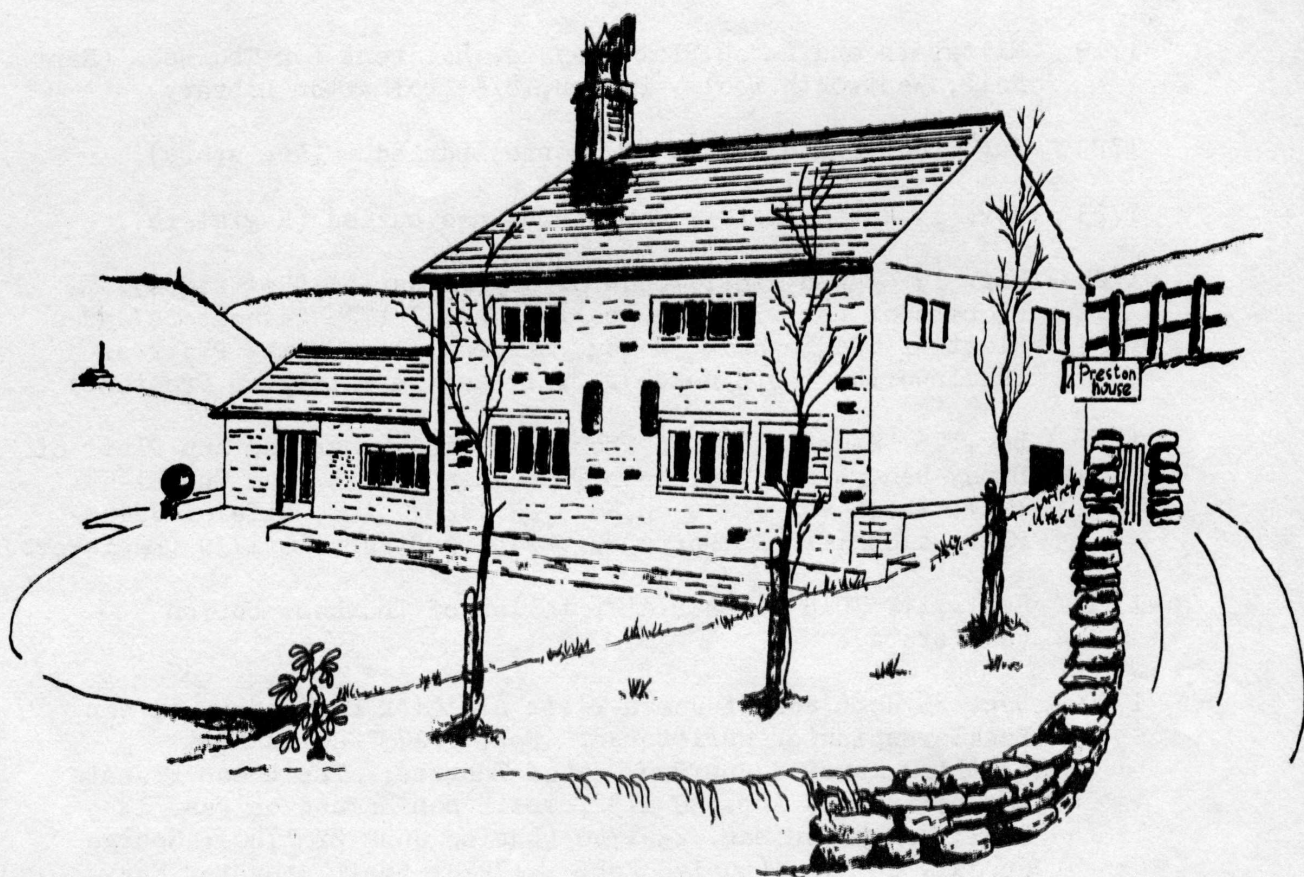
Concluded.

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 held by the Society, which are available for reference.

Grid Reference: SE 002084

PRESTON HOUSE Formerly known as Thorns or Thornsies, and later as the Preston Arms, it formed part of a larger holding at Diggle, leased by the Platt family from the Lord of the Manor. It comprised the land between the modern Standedge Road and Huddersfield Road, Carr Lane and Spiron Lane, which was sub-divided by inheritance and sale into the estates of Thorns, Sunfield (see Bulletin Vol. IV p. 15), Olivers and Bank Gap (see Bulletin Vol. VI p. 62).



Description: See illustration. Originally a farm, the house had become an inn by the 1840s - probably after the construction of the turnpike road (Standedge Road) from Woolroad to Bleak Hey Nook. The 1845 OS Map labels it as "Thorns or the Preston Arms P.H." The settlement site is probably one of the earliest in this part of Saddleworth.

History: 1585 Henry Platt of Thorns was one of the debtors of Ralph Whitehead of Delph (Whitehead's Will, March 1585).

1635 20 Oct. Will of Edmund Platt of Thurnes husbandman. Mentions "tenement and farm under the Right Worshipful Sir John Ramsden", his wife Alies and children Francis, Oliver, Alies and Mary. A quantity of wool is listed in the inventory. (The printed Registers are incorrect in giving the date of burial of Edmund Platt as 1635).

1658 Jan. 1. Francis Platt of Thorns buried (Registers).

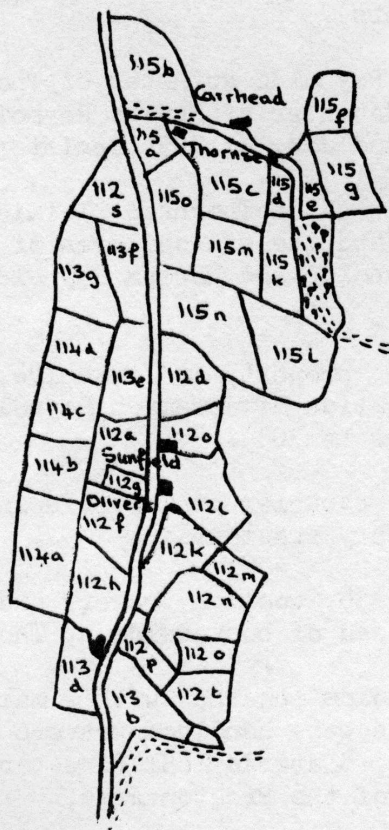
1712 Thomas Platt pays 2d. chief rent for Waters (Chief Rent Roll printed in Registers).

1713 April 5. Will of Thomas Platt of Thorns husbandman. Leaves tenement called Thorns to eldest son Edmund. Mentions wife Elizabeth and children Thomas, Francis, Alice Wrigley, Margaret Platt and Sarah. Thomas inherits freehold land at Castleshaw called Waters purchased from Robert Buckley and

Mary his wife.

- 1719 Elizabeth and Sarah Platt pay 6s. 4d. rent for Thorns. (Rent Roll, Wentworth Wooley Papers, 8/5 Brotherton Library).
- 1723 Aug. 18. Edmund Platt of Thornes buried. (Registers).
- 1723 Nov. 1 Kezia Platt widow of Thornes buried (Registers).
- 1725 Mar. 19 Sarah Platt widow of Thorns buried (Registers). Probate of her will was granted Nov. 7 1725 (executors James Platt of Saddleworth yeoman, her son, and Thomas Platt of Saddleworth, cloth maker). Will and inventory at Preston.
- 1726 Dec. 26 James Platt of Thornes clothier married Ann Platt of Sandy-bed-yate. Their son Thomas was christened Oct. 1 1727, their son James on Nov. 23 1729. Ann, wife of James Platt clothier of Thorns's, was buried Feb. 10 1730 (Registers).
- 1728 Sept. 17. Old James Platt, tailor of Thornes, buried (Registers).
- 1730 Dec. 25 John son of James Platt clothier of Thornes by Ann Buckley spinster christened. Feb. 7 1731 James Platt clothier married Ann Buckley of Thornes. Their son Francis was christened Apr. 30 1732; their son Edmund on Jan. 13 1733; Joseph on Mar. 23 1740 (buried June 22 1740); George on July 26 1741 (buried Feb. 5 1742); their daughter Mary was christened on Feb. 6 1743 (Registers).
- 1731 Dec. 12 Edmund son of Alice Platt spinster of Thornes by John Whitehead clothier of Old Tame christened (Registers).
- 1735 June 2 Josiah Lawton of Thurstons married Sarah Milnes of Thornes (Registers).
- 1744 June 24 Mary daughter of John Kenworthy clothier and Sarah his wife of Thorns christened (Registers).
- 1745 July 28 John son of John Holden clothier and Sarah his wife of Thorns christened (Registers).
- 1746 Nov. 19. Lease of Thorns for 299 years, James Farrer to James Rhodes of Sunfield clothier. (Wakefield Registry of Deeds, UU 779).
- 1748 Mar. 25 Thomas son of James Rhodes clothier and Sarah his wife of Thorns christened. Their son John was christened Dec. 25 1750; their son Abel on May 27 1753 (buried June 17 1754); and their daughter Rachel on Oct. 12 1755 (Registers).
- 1749 Dec. 2 Isaac Lees of Thorns clothier married Mary Wood of Roundhill. Their son Robert was christened June 10 1750 (Registers).

- 1752 Jan. 29 John Nield of Thorns clothier married Mary Andrew of Holdens (Registers).
- 1753 Jan. 28 Mary wife of William Rhodes of Thorns clothier buried (Registers).
- 1756 Feb. 29 Alice daughter of Benjamin Lawton clothier and Esther his wife of Thorns christened (Registers).
- 1757 Nov. 20 John son of Lucy Roberts of Round-hill spinster by Henry Winterbottom of Thorns clothier christened. Jan. 27 1758 John son of Lucy Roberts of Wool-road spinster buried. July 17 1758 Henry Winterbottom of Thorns clothier married Lucy Roberts. Their daughter Sarah christened Mar. 4 1759, their son John June 15 1760. Henry Winterbottom of Thorns denounced excommunicate Oct. 11 1761 (crossed out in Registers). Their son Robert christened Mar. 28 1762, and their daughter Matty Nov. 20 1763 (Registers).
- 1761 Jan. 15 Mark Scholefield of Green clothier married Anne Heawood of Thorns. Their daughter Mary christened Mar. 8 1761. (Registers).
- 1766 Feb. 21 Jane wife of Robert Kenworthy clothier of Thorns buried (Registers).
- 1767 Mar. 8 Thomas son of Mary Whitehead widow of Lee by Robert Robert Kenworthy of Thorns clothier christened (Registers).
- 1767 Nov. 1 William son of John Wood clothier and Sarah his wife of Thorns christened. William Wood of Castleshaw died 7 May 1822 aged 56 (Registers).



Sunfield 112

Olivers 113

Thorns 115

- 1770 Survey of the Estates of James Farrer in the Manor of Saddleworth: 115, James Rhodes, Thorns, L.M. One dwellinghouse barn and shippon. Field above the house, Intake, Croft, Old Laighen, Bank, Cote Meadow, Rough Meadow, Marledearth, Clough, Holm, Holt, Quickrow, Farr Field and Pickhill, 27a 1r 2lp. (MF Oldham Libraries).
- 1774 Nov. 6 Mally daughter of Betty Bradbury spinster of Thorns by James Wood clothier christened (Registers).
- 1777 Conveyance of Sunfield, Olivers and Thorns, James Farrer to Henry Preston of Carlingshaw, parish of Batley, for £680. (Leeds University Library, Wentworth Woolley Collection 8/4a).
- 1780 June 4 Betty daughter of James Wood clothier and Betty his wife of Thorns christened. Their son John was buried July 15 1783 (Registers).
- 1780 Oct. 26 John Bradbury labourer of Thorns buried (Registers).
- 1784 Aug. 16 John Littlewood of Thorns widower married Ann Reynolds of New Barn widow. Their daughter Sarah was christened Aug. 21 1785, their son John Apr. 13 1788 (buried May 13 1788), and their daughter Jane Mar. 1 1789 (Registers).
- 1786 Mar. 19 Hannah daughter of John Bradbury clothier and Hannah his wife of Thorns christened (Registers).
- 1787 Dec. 2 William son of William Shaw clothier and Sarah his wife of Thorns christened (Registers).
- 1789 Mar. 1 Sarah daughter of James and Hannah Broadbent of Thorns christened (Registers).
- 1794 Feb. 2 John son of Martha Reynolds spinster of Thorns christened. Hannah Booth daughter of Martha Reynolds spinster of Thorns christened Jan. 6 1799 (Registers).
- 1809 Feb. 7 Will of John Littlewood of Thorns clothier. Mentions his two daughters and the six children of his wife Hannah, including Jerry Reynolds and Martha Reynolds. Will proved 10 May 1813.
- 1831 Deed listing Henry Preston's property in Yorkshire, gives Thorns, 13a 1r 6p, in occupation of Jeremiah Reynolds. (Wakefield Registry of Deeds LA 303).
- 1835 In the Church Rate Book the occupier of Thorns's is listed as Jerry Reynolds; owner Henry Preston.
- 1841 Census lists John Reynolds, 38, woollen weaver, and Jerry Reynolds, 69, cow doctor, head of households at Thorns.
- 1851 The Census listed John Reynolds together with 2 males and 2 females. 3 of the occupants were handloom weavers and 2 were woollen hand spinners. Slater's 1851 Directory listed John Reynolds as innkeeper of the Preston Arms.

- 1852 Slater's Directory included John Reynolds, woollen manufacturer and innkeeper of the Preston Arms, Carr.
- 1861 Thomas Henry Preston of Moreby Hall, Yorks. disposed of his estates in the Diggle area including Sunfield, Upper Barn, Olivers, Bank Gap and Thorns's. The latter included the following fields: Field above the House, Croft (in two closes), Old Loughton, Quick Row, Far Field (in two closes) and Pickhill, containing 13 acres 1 rood 6 perches. It was described as being "late in the occupation of Jeremiah Reynolds". (Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, 1861, Jan. 18, WA 684).
- 1871 The Census listed George Gartside of the Preston Arms, innkeeper and farmer of 15 acres.
- 1875 Worrall's Directory included William Brooks of the Preston Arms, Thorns.
- 1880 Worrall's Directory listed James William Platt of the Preston Arms, Thorns.

B.B.

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: Mr. B. Barnes, 7 Elsted Road, Greenfield, Oldham. OL3 7LL.

Enquiries about membership of the Society should be sent to the Membership Secretary: Mr. S. Broadbent, 45 Beechfield, Grasscroft, Oldham.
