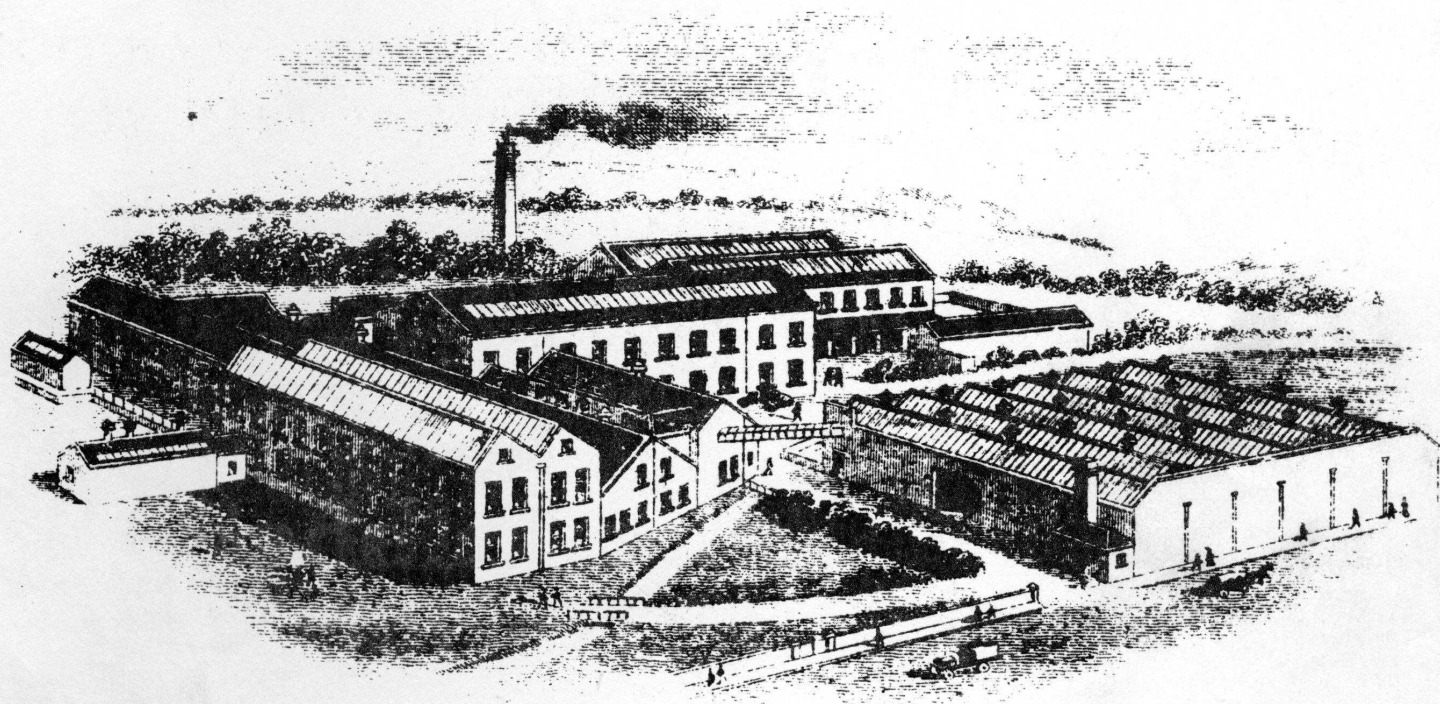


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



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OF THE

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE EARLY COTTON INDUSTRY IN SADDLEWORTH

The origins of the cotton industry in Lancashire and its adjacent areas can be sought in the indigenous woollen and linen industries carried on as the normal subsidiary occupations of the smallholder's household from a very early date (1). The linen cloth made in the Manchester area was a coarse and cheap variety, produced mainly for the home market (2). The later years of the sixteenth century saw new branches of textile manufacturing, in particular the introduction of cotton whose first use in a textile fabric appears to have been in combination with flax in the making of fustians (3). This was evident certainly by the opening years of the seventeenth century, when the fustian industry was expanding rapidly in the Manchester area and further afield in Lancashire (4).

It has been pointed out how the importance of the linen industry has been underestimated in Lancashire (5), and the same certainly applies to Saddleworth. Around Manchester there existed in the sixteenth century a highly developed industry which rivalled woollen manufacturing in importance, and though this does not apply with the same force to Saddleworth, evidence is emerging from the study of seventeenth and early eighteenth century domestic inventories of the existence of a linen industry in the area, albeit small in scale and subsidiary to the woollen industry. Thus it may be rather too simplistic to maintain that there was "in Tudor times the development of a linen industry of the Western side of the area (i.e. the Manchester region) and a woollen industry on the Eastern side" (6). Though the linen industry in the valleys of the western Pennines did not match the importance of that elsewhere in the region, its very existence provided a forerunner to the subsequent growth of the fustian and cotton industries there.

The organisation of the linen industry in Saddleworth (and elsewhere) was similar to that of the woollen industry, the work being carried out mostly by relatively poor but independent workers. There is as yet no definite evidence of the early processes in linen manufacture (7) being carried out in Saddleworth, although flax and hemp do figure in a few inventories, hemp being a coarser fibre than flax and used for the cheapest type of linen cloth. This, however, may well have been raw material which had already been prepared elsewhere for spinning. Of the 300 or so inventories relating to Saddleworth between 1579 (the earliest) and 1699, some 220 have been examined by the author, and some preliminary conclusions can be drawn. Only 34 of these mentioned linen, flax or hemp (i.e. 15.5%), but when one considers that of the total of 220 only 124 specifically indicated an interest in any branch of textiles, then the relative importance of linen rises to 27.4%. A good deal of work still needs to be done on the analysis of local inventories, but some examples relating to the manufacture of linen can be mentioned here.

Richard Taylor of Quick, for example, had a stock of "lynnen yarn and hemp" valued at 14s and wool at 48s. But apparently this was as far as he went with linen manufacture. He did not own a loom and still looked upon himself as a husbandman. When he died in 1592 his animals and husbandry gear made up over three-quarters of his total wealth which amounted to £30-14-0. Similarly, Henry Buckley of Grasscroft in 1608 had a stock of yarn and hemp valued at 32s 6d and wool at 10s. His total wealth was estimated at £52, of which over

£36 was accounted for by his farm stock and agricultural implements. Henry Buckley of Saddleworth regarded himself as a husbandman in 1616, and he too had hemp and yarn amounting to 30s and wool to 18s. He was worth £48 when he died, and over half of this was connected with his farming. Another husbandman was Robert Shaw of Saddleworth who, when he died in 1609, had a small stock of flax valued at 4s. Nearly three-quarters of his total wealth of £51-11-11 was accounted for by his husbandry gear and animals. Jane Whitehead of Saddleworth, a widow when she died in 1688, owned two cows and a stirk valued at £5 out of £8-13-0, the total sum of all her possessions. She also possessed a small quantity of "towe to be linn yarn" which was worth 2s. 'Tow' is the prepared fibres of flax, hemp or jute, especially the separated shorter fibres.

There are many indications in these inventories that linen manufacturing was carried on side by side with the traditional working of wool, though it was obviously subsidiary in most cases. Edward Kenworthy of Saddleworth was worth almost £100 in 1593. He kept "looms and gears for woollen and linnen" worth 32s 6d, and had "wol and cloth" to the value of £11-10-0 and linen yarn worth £3-14-4. However, he also owned "catteyll" to the value of £32, sheep £15, two mares and a colt £6, and corn and hay £7. With all these, together with his husbandry gear, his agricultural capital amounted to over £65. Edmund Taylor of Quick regarded himself as a clothier although his agricultural stock amounted to over £45, more than half his total worth when he died in 1640. He had "tenters and other work tools for his trade", valued at £2-13-4, cloth, wool and yarn at £8, and a quantity of flax worth about 15s. James Buckley of Grasscroft stood higher in the scale of wealth in 1648, his inventory amounting to over £203. Agriculture accounted for well over three-quarters of this, but he also possessed one stone of hemp valued at 5s, together with linen and woollen cloth worth £1 and £3 respectively. He also had a stock of wool to the value of £1-6-8. James Buckley of New Tame was even more prosperous than these. Described as a yeoman when he died in 1681, his total worth was over £314, although £137 of this was money owed to him. Another £137 was accounted for by his agricultural stock, and he also possessed a quantity of wool (£6-10-0) cloth (£3-1-4), and a small amount of hemp yarn (about 8s).

Elizabeth Platt of Woolroad was much poorer, being worth a little over £30 in 1675. Her farming materials amounted to nearly £19 but she also possessed linen yarn valued at 5s 10d, wool at 11s 8d, and yarn at 6s 4d, together with two spinning wheels and a pair of cards worth 2s 8d. Edmund Platt also of Woolroad had a pair of "linen looms and their furniture" worth £1 in 1685, some wool and a spinning wheel, the latter valued at 1s 6d. Francis Scholefield - a yeoman and farmer at Castleshaw - possessed "one Line wheele and one Wooll wheele" valued at 3s in 1698. George Shaw of Hawkyard, who regarded himself as a husbandman, was worth over £359 when he died in 1698 (nearly £200 of this being accounted for by money owed to him), and his agricultural capital amounted to about £107. Besides all this, however, he had a stock of wool valued at £12, "a dyeing lead, looms and gears" at £4, and baskets, linen cloth and linen yarn at 12s 6d.

It is also possible to quote examples of very poor spinners and weavers. Thomas Whitehead who lived at Brookbottom, now part of Mossley, was worth less than £10 when he died in 1674. He had a linen wheel worth 3s, but an unusual point was that he had no agricultural activities at all. Ever poorer was Ralph Holden of Saddleworth who

died in 1696. His total wealth amounted to less than £5, and, likewise, he had no agricultural activities. He did, however, possess 16 lb. of linen yarn worth 12s and two spinning wheels valued at 5s.

Finally, at the other end of the scale was James Clayton junior of Shelderslow who died in 1687. His agricultural capital amounted to £65 yet his total wealth was over £645. His inventory, unfortunately, is partly illegible, but there is enough there to indicate that he was a master clothier of some substance, though he did possess cards and a linen loom himself, valued at 9s, as well as other textile implements. It is very significant that over £265 of his value was in credits, most probably for cloth and other textile materials he had disposed of to merchants. He owned several bundles of yarn warps and a number of ends of cloth, while 276 lbs. of yarn were "in the weavers hands", 288 lbs. of wool "in the spinsters' hands" and 25 bundles of yarn "at the Whiteing" (or bleaching) - the latter possibly being a reference to linen yarn. A most interesting item included in his inventory was 10 lbs of cotton yarn, valued at 11s 8d, one of the earliest indications of cotton in Saddleworth.

Thus there is evidence of a small but widespread linen industry co-existing with the woollen industry in Saddleworth during the later sixteenth century and throughout the seventeenth century. The manufacture of linen may well have alternated with wool in some cases, and this may imply that the designation "clothier" did not always mean that a person worked in wool alone. An analysis has yet to be made of eighteenth century inventories relating to Saddleworth, so it is difficult to estimate whether linen manufacturing maintained its relative importance. Evidence from the Parish Registers (8) suggests that for one or two decades it did. "Linen Weavers" are recorded on a number of occasions in the 1720's, but all the indications are that during this period fustian weaving was in the ascendancy.

While the first volume of the Saddleworth Church Registers, covering the years 1613-1751, contains no entries which mention cotton specifically, fustian weavers are recorded after the beginning of the eighteenth century. This trade must have been carried on in Saddleworth before this time, however, for a reference exists to a James Lees of Scouthead who, at the age of 70, was weaving fustians in 1679 (9). The first mention of the fustian weaver in the Registers occurs in 1722, and after that date they do become more numerous. All the evidence suggests a relatively small intrusion of fustian manufacturing, an activity which formed the forerunner of pure cotton or calico weaving in this area. Most of the fustian weavers who were recorded in the Saddleworth Registers lived in the extreme western part of the parish, in close proximity to the growing fustian villages of Oldham, Lees and Shaw. However, the development of fustian working in Saddleworth appears to have been ephemeral in nature; only a few more recordings were made after the 1750's and it was not until the last decades of the eighteenth century that cotton working began to introde into the parish with new vigour. In this respect, however, the possible dual meaning of the word "clothier" must be borne in mind.

Occupations of fathers of children baptised in Saddleworth Parish (10)

	1722/6	1730/4	1740/4	1750/4	1760/4	1770/4	1780/4	1787/91
Cotton workers	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Fustian workers	12	19	8	16	3	-	1	-
(Woollen) clothiers	262	379	457	487	523	539	623	583

A linc inventorie of al the goodes and ratheles of Robert
Shaw of the parisshe of Sancte Mary in the countie of
York and diocesse of Elyster husbandman & deceased
made and taken the 29. day of November 1609
by severall men. George Shaw willer kinsman
John Hauke and Richard Shaw.

In primis his appereth	336 s. d.
Item in beates and cattell	27 s.
Item in scotes & it Item in Cones and	2 s. 11 d.
Item and swine	23 s. 10 d.
Item in bordes and timber	40 s. 10 d.
Item in subgirdles gear	40 s.
Item in carres scabbies and bedstatter	30 s.
Item and oker aife	66 s. 8 d.
Item in bedding	143 s. d.
Item in brasse and pewder	266 s. 8 d.
Item in fatter and quishons	12 s.
Item out sine	8 s. 6 d.
Item in flaxe	4 s.
Item in meale and malt buter and Cheese	11 s. 6 d.
Item in Supplement of the soules	236 s. 4 d.
Debt in hand	

In primis of James Hauke 40 s. || Debt out hand | |

In primis to the wife of Richard Shaw	27 s.
Item to Marguerite Shaw	46 s.
Item to James Shaw	56 s. 6 d.
Summa totali	1000 s. 10 d.

The earliest references to cotton in the Saddleworth Registers are to a cotton weaver in 1785 and a cotton spinner in 1787. Up to this time, of course, all these textile workers would have been domestic manufacturers, though it must be stressed that this early form of the cotton industry nowhere in Saddleworth compared in importance with the domestic manufacture of wool. This is substantiated further by the later trade directories. Baines' 1822 Directory for example listed 16 cotton spinners and 4 cotton manufacturers as against over 200 woollen manufacturers in Saddleworth, and of the 20 cotton entries only 4 referred to the Tame Valley part of the parish where the great majority of those in wool had their workshops (11).

Another very significant difference between these two branches of the textile industry was in the degree of mechanisation. Nearly all the cotton spinners listed in the 1822 Directory were mill operators, but most of the woollen manufacturers were still working in their own homes, despite the fact that a great number of tiny fulling and scribbling mills existed at this time to serve the domestic clothiers.

Many cotton carding mills were built in Lancashire after 1781 when Arkwright's patent was revoked, and cotton spinning mills after 1785 when his water frame patent was finally cancelled, and a small number of the cotton factories in this area belonged to this period. The earliest reference to a cotton "mill" in Saddleworth is a rather vague one in a 1777 deed concerning land near Woodbrook on the Loadhill estate. This deed mentioned a "mill and buildings erected for the teasing and raising of wool and the working of cotton wool in the occupation of John Houghton the younger ...". We are on more certain ground with references to the next two cotton mills, both near Delph. Gatehead Mill was erected around 1784 and was used for cotton working for only a few years before being turned over to fulling in 1789. Similarly, Hull Mill was built as a cotton factory around 1787, but it too reverted to wool eventually, in this case before 1814. Woodend Mill, near the Lancashire boundary at County End, Springhead, was built between 1784 and 1792. A further mill had been established at Woodbrook, on the western side of the valley there, by 1795, and this continued to operate until around 1900. A small spinning mill existed at Strines in the early years of the nineteenth century, and its sale, advertised in the Manchester Mercury for January 22, 1805, provides details which probably typify the amount of machinery housed in the small contemporary cotton mills. There was one mule of 240 spindles, four of 228 spindles, one of 216 spindles and one of 200 spindles, together with two stretching frames and four double carding engines. A cotton mill was built at Carr Hill (now in Mossley) around 1805 and the site is still in use (though now for wool). Finally, amongst these early cotton mills were a few - all in the Delph area - which had started life as woollen mills and which were to revert to wool after a decade or so of cotton working. These were Lumb Mill, which was spinning cotton by 1804, Shore Mill and Pingle Mill, which were working cotton by 1802 and 1806 respectively. Further details of most of these mills will be given in the second part of this article.

The reasons why only a small number of cotton mills were established in Saddleworth during this period, despite its proximity to the burgeoning cotton towns of south-east Lancashire and its water-power resources, include the fact the the "plum" water-power sites were already occupied by fulling mills - which had begun to increase in numbers during the previous few decades - and by the numerous woollen scribbling mills built from the 1780's onwards. The woollen industry in Saddleworth was experiencing a period of great prosperity during the last decades of the eighteenth century and cotton found

great difficulty in gaining a foothold in the area. Thus many of the cotton mills which were established were very small and were sometimes located in rather remote parts of the parish.

The water wheel was often as powerful as, and much more reliable than, the steam engine of the early nineteenth century. But water power was subject to the vagaries of the weather (12), particularly as more and more mills were competing for the water resources, and so steam engines were progressively installed, first as auxiliaries to the water wheels to combat drought or freezing, and later as the sole source of power when they became more reliable. Cotton was ahead of the woollen industry in this respect, as it was in the introduction of power looms after the 1820's, and the next generation of cotton mills in Saddleworth tended to be larger, steam-powered concerns. As the western part of the area is underlain by rocks of the Lower Coal Measures, it was less expensive to obtain coal here than in the Tame Valley section of Saddleworth, and so most of these later mills were built in the Springhead district.

By 1825 cotton mills existed at Austerlands, Quick Edge, New Royd (Waterhead), Shelderslow, County End, Lydgate, Pastures and Scouthead, together with another two in what is now Mossley, at Brookbottom. Not until the mid-1830's was a large steam-powered cotton mill established in the Tame Valley part of the area, at Waterside, Greenfield.

The thin Upper Meltham (or Holcombe Brook) coal was worked until the early nineteenth century between Delph and Denshaw on the western flanks of the Tame Valley, and was used in small cotton concerns in that area. These were Horest Mill, built in the early 1820's and employing 38 by 1834, and Martin (or Brewery) Mill, founded around 1840.

The Factory Inspectors Returns provide illustrative details of much of the above. In 1838 (13) there were 39 cotton mills in Saddleworth - which at this time included the Roughtown and Brookbottom parts of Mossley - employing 2,201, plus another mill out of work, and 57 woollen mills which employed 1,288, together with another seven which were not working. In the cotton mills there were 23 steam engines with a total horse power of 449, compared with the 15 engines in the woollen mills which had a combined horse power of 248. So far as power looms were concerned, the 1836 returns (14) recorded that 4 cotton mills were using 618 of these recently improved machines while only 2 woollen mills had installed them - with a total of 165 between them.

Nevertheless, even some of these steam-powered cotton mills tended to be small, hillside concerns. The mill at Horest already mentioned afforded a good example, as did others at Pastures and Newhouses (both near Scouthead), Woodbrook, and Shelderslow. None of these was at a great distance from a turnpike road, but despite this there was no easy access to any of them. The difficulties of obtaining coal supplies and the consequent rise in costs where steam power was being used were offset to a certain amount by the construction of the railways. The main line along the Tame Valley was constructed in 1849 and two branch lines (to Delph and through Springhead) by 1856. This resulted in a further expansion of the cotton industry in the area, particularly in the Greenfield and

Uppermill districts where a number of cotton spinning mills were established, though these were still relatively small when compared with the average Lancashire mills of the period. Thus, Albion (or Damhead) Mill and Victoria Mill were built in Uppermill in 1853 and 1861 respectively, while in Greenfield, Wellington Mill was founded around 1852 and a cotton mill at Bentfield by 1868. At the same time, however, the small, hillside mills, whose positions demanded relatively costly haulage from the goods stations, began to decline. The mills at Shelderslow and Newhouses, for example, had ceased by the early 1870's, while those at Pastures and Scouthead closed in the early 1890's and 1900's respectively.

The 1851 Census recorded that in Saddleworth 2,177 were employed in Cotton (29.4% of the working population), and 2,414 in wool (32.6%). Many of the latter, however, were still handloom weavers and hand spinners, working in their own homes. A breakdown of the figures for the Castleshaw area illustrates this: here there were 254 employed in all occupations, and of these 83 were handloom weavers and 25 hand spinners. Only two were employed in cotton, and both these were children (cotton piecers). Again, out of the 188 workers in the village of Dobcross, 97 were employed in the woollen industry and only one in cotton. In the hillside farms and cottages of the Furlane - High Kinders area (Greenfield) there were no cotton employees at all. Most of the employees in the cotton industry were millworkers, and the great majority of these lived in the growing factory villages of the valley bottoms, particularly in the Springhead and Brookbottom districts. W.G. Beaumont employed 130 at Austerlands Mill, John Robinson 121 at Woodbrook, Henry Atherton 140 at Woodend, while 17 men, 28 women, 11 boys and 7 girls were employed by William Wild at Pastures Mill. In Greenfield, Richard Buckley employed 42 men, 40 women, 26 boys and 27 girls at Waterside, while James Butterworth had 46 men, 23 boys and 15 girls in his calico printing works at Denshaw Vale.

The 1861 Census presented a similar picture. The largest mills were in the Springhead area where Charles Andrew, for example, had 450 employees in his two mills, Thomas Wrigley 257 at Lydgate, M. Buckley 200 at Quick Edge, J.H. Lawton 250 at County End, W.G. Beaumont 157 at Austerlands and James Wrigley 101 at Scouthead. In contrast, some of the hillside mills in the Springhead district and many of the cotton mills in the Tame Valley part of Saddleworth were much smaller. James Buckley employed only 20 at Newhouses Mill; a similar number found work at Shelderslow, while at Court Mill (Diggle) H. Hipwell employed 8 men, 5 women and 3 boys. Of course, these figures are very selective, but they are the only ones given in detail in the Census Enumerators' Returns for 1851 and 1861 (15).

Thus the picture afforded by these few statistics of the first half of the nineteenth century is one of a cotton spinning industry largely concentrated in mills located in the valleys of the western part of Saddleworth (.i.e. the former Quickmere division), with a few smaller mills in the main valley and the tributary valleys of the River Tame, scattered amongst the much more numerous woollen fulling, scribbling, spinning and dyeing mills. Another feature - one which will emerge in the second part of this article - is the number of woollen mills which turned over to cotton during the nineteenth century, often only for a short time, before reverting back to wool or closing down altogether. Furthermore, an aspect outside the scope of this article is how the establishment of cotton mills in particular, because of their larger work-forces, had a stimulating effect on settlement growth. They have gone now, but they have left their marks in many of the valley villages.

To be concluded

References:

1. Wadsworth A.P. and J. de L. Mann (1931), The Cotton Trade and Industrial Lancashire, 1600-1780, Manchester 4ff.
2. Ibid, 14½
3. Fustian was a cloth made with a linen warp and cotton weft. Before the technical innovations later in the eighteenth century, cotton was too short in staple to be used as a warp except in the production of small fabrics such as handkerchiefs. See Ashton T.S. (1970), The Industrial Revolution 1760-1830, Revised Ed. Oxford 24.
4. Lowe N. (1972), The Lancashire Textile Industry in the Sixteenth Century, Manchester 99; Wadsworth A.P. and J. de L. Mann, op. cit. 15.
5. Lowe N. op. cit. 43.
6. Smith J.H. (ed.) (1973) The Great Human Exploit: Historic Industries of the North-West, Chichester 2.
7. See Lowe N. op. cit. 43-44, for a description of these.
8. Radcliffe J. (1887 and 1891), The Parish Registers of St. Chad, Saddleworth, Uppermill, 2 volumes.
9. Raines Mss. Vol IX, 232 (Chetham's Library, Manchester).
10. Figures from Wild M.T. (1969) The Saddleworth Parish Registers, Textile History, Vol. 1, No. 2, 221. Figures are given for selected five-year periods to obviate the possibilities of a large margin of error caused by any single "abnormal" year. Care was also taken to exclude duplicated recordings made when the same father was represented more than once during a single five-year period.
11. Baines E. (1822) History, Directory and Gazetteer of the County of York, Leeds, Vol. 1, 266.
12. Barnes B. (1976) "Reservoirs for the Saddleworth Mills", Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin, Vol. 6, 41-45.
13. Parliamentary Papers (1839) A Return of all the Mills and Factories, Vol. XLII, 22.
14. Parliamentary Papers (1836), A Return of the Number of Power Looms used in Factories, Vol. XLV.
15. The Census Enumerators' Returns are housed in the Public Record Office, London, but can be consulted on microfilm at the Local Studies Centre in Oldham or at Rochdale Library.

Bernard Barnes

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

With reference to recent letters in the Bulletin about Tedlock Carts, many of these were made in Diggle during the first decade of this century. They were composed of ragwort, rushes and various flowers arranged in little wooden carts or wheelbarrows. The local pronunciation of the name used for ragwort varied from ketlock, kedlock, tedlock, kecklock to skedlock.

It was common practice for boys to make them at Saddleworth Wakes, and they would wheel the little "ketlock carts" round their villages and hamlets chanting:

"This ketlock cart got up at half past four this mornin'
Un cares for nobody nobbut its mesthur
Un he's not here
So hip pip hurray. "

Alfred Burton, in his book Rushbearing says "Skedlock Carts are yet to be met with in the hill districts of South-East Lancashire, the children going around with an imitation rush cart in a small box or wheelbarrow, and collecting money to spend at the wakes. They were to be seen at Saddleworth this year (1890). "

A skedlock cart was made by boys in Uppermill in 1879. "It was very neatly built of rushes in a hand-cart, had the bolts adorned with flowers, and the sheet in front covered with tinsel and artificial flowers. The larger boys upheld the shafts, whilst a long rope enabled the smaller ones to assist in drawing. There were the green boughs at the top on which a boy rode astride, a fifer and a drummer, a boy with a whip and the inevitable collecting boxes. The whole formed a complete rushbearing in miniature".

Yours etc.

R.C. Wood.

Greenbridge Lane,
Greenfield.

SOCIETY SCRAPBOOK

Advertisements concerning Saddleworth in the Manchester newspapers.

Manchester Mercury October 10, 1815

Freehold Estates - exempt from Duty
To be Sold by Auction
By John Wood

By order of the assignees of the estate and effects of John Tweeddale a bankrupt, at the house of Mr. Woodwiss, the Angel Inn, in Oldham, in the county of Lancaster, on Monday the sixth day of November next at the hour of five in the afternoon

Lot 1st. The Fee-Simple and Inheritance of and in all that capital Farmhouse, situate and being at STRYNES in Saddleworth in the county of York, in the occupation of John Dunkerley, with the barn, shippin and loom shops thereto adjoining and belonging.

And also all those seven Closes or Parcels of excellent land, arable, meadow and pasture, commonly called or known by the several names of the Meadow, the Cow Lee, the Shouting Hill, the Croft and the Three Fair Closes, containing by estimation 12 Acres, 3 Roods, 0 Perches statute measure or thereab outs.

Lot 2nd. The Fee-Simple and Inheritance of and in all that capital Farm-house situate and being at STRYNES aforesaid, in the occupation of Robert Harrop, as tenant from year to year; with the shippin and loom-shop thereto adjoining and belonging, and a cottage or dwellinghouse also adjoining, let to a tenant from year to year.

Also those three Closes or Parcels of excellent land, arable, meadow, and pasture, commonly called or known by the several names of the Meadow, the Higher Shoot and the Lower Shoot, and containing by estimation 8 Acres statute measure or thereabouts.

Immediate possession may be had of this Lot.

Lot 3rd. All the Seats, Sittings, and Pews late belonging to the Bankrupt in Saddleworth Church and St. John's Chapel.

The first two Lots are situated at a distance of about two miles from Oldham, and may be viewed on application to the respective tenants.

Further particulars may be had by applying to the said John Wood, Auction Mart, Manchester; or to Mr. Benjamin Smith of Manchester, merchant (the assignee); or to the office of Mr. Hadfield, Solicitor, Manchester.

Manchester Guardian July 28, 1849

Sale by Auction

By Mr. John Ousey, at the House of Mr. James Kenworthy, the Commercial

Inn, Uppermill, in Saddleworth, in the county of York, on Wednesday the 8th day of August, 1849 at six o'clock in the evening

- Lot 1 The Fee Simple and Inheritance of and in all those Two Messuages or Dwellinghouses, situate and being at FRENCHES within Saddleworth aforesaid with the Gardens, Stable, Shippon, Outbuildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, and in the occupations of James Buckley and John Lister; and also the Canal Wharf, at FRENCHES aforesaid, with the Crane, Machinery and other utensils belonging there, and in the occupation of the said James Buckley; and also all those several Closes or Parcels of Land, situate at or near Frenches aforesaid and known by the several names of the Lower Field, and the western part of the Lower Meadow, and the waste land lying on both sides of the River Tame below the said Lower Field and the western part of the Lower Meadow containing by admeasurement 4 acres of land of statute measure or thereabouts, also in the occupation of James Buckley.
- Lot 2 The Fee Simple and Inheritance of and in all those two several Closes or Parcels of Land situate on Wharmton Bank, in Saddleworth aforesaid, and called the eastern end of the Intakes, and containing by admeasurement 2 acres statute measure or thereabouts, and in the occupation of the said James Buckley.

Lot first is situate close to the Frenches Station, on the Huddersfield and Manchester Railway, and presents many advantages in consequence of its contiguity both to the railway and canal, and is admirably adapted for the erection of a large manufacturing establishment. The wharf has formed a source of considerable profit to the proprietor, and the land and buildings are in excellent condition, and well supplied with water for domestic and agricultural purposes.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, or to Mr. William Buckley, Solicitor, Ashton-under-Lyne.

B.B.

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

Part 2

The decision to organise an exhibition suggests that the members were not complacent about the record of the Institute and that there were a sufficient number of them who were unweilling to see the Institute simply stagnate or, worse, cease to operate. It would have been more usual, and simpler, to arrange a general canvass of the village or a bazaar to boost funds. The idea of an exhibition, however, indicates that the committee's imagination was much wider. In order that the Institute should occupy a more decisive position in the educational and cultural life of the village, the committee were willing to take on the considerable work and risk that such a scheme required.

As the idea of the Saddleworth exhibition was chronologically close to the Great Exhibition of 1851, it would seem natural to suggest that it was influenced by the Crystal Palace. This suggestion required qualification, for whilst the Great Exhibition did in many ways influence subsequent exhibitions, the Saddleworth exhibition was determined more by the smaller local exhibitions which had been organised by mechanics' institutes from the late 1830's. This is, of course, not to argue that the Great Exhibition was without influence. As an event, its impact had been national and international rather than metropolitan, and during 1851 few places in the country failed to display some form of "exhibition fever".

Like numerous other communities, Saddleworth had become chiefly involved in the exhibition through the mechanics' institutes movement. A lecture to generate support for the exhibition had been delivered to the Institute in 1850 and had been warmly, if not unanimously, received. James Lees of Delph Lodge, shortly to be President of the Institute, denounced the idea of the international exhibition as misconceived, regarding it as an opportunity for foreign producers to steal the ideas of English entrepreneurs. As a champion of free trade, Lees did not, evidently, regard free trade as synonymous with the free exchange of commercial and technical knowledge and he boldly castigated supporters of the projects as "asses and fools" (1).

Such opposition did not prevent the Saddleworth Institute and local manufacturers from organising a committee to support the scheme. Support brought with it the opportunity of displaying goods, and high quality textiles were sent from Saddleworth to the Great Exhibition. Alongside the extensive display of woollen cloths sent from other parts of the West Riding, let alone the wonders of the industrial world, it would not have been surprising for such samples of cloth to have been overlooked (2). This proved not to be the case, and one local manufacturer, John Smith & Sons of Oak View, returned with their commercial reputation enhanced having been awarded a prize medal "for merit in very fine well-made flannels" (3). Saddleworthians also made the long journey to visit the exhibition and some returned to lecture to the Institute on their experiences (4). For those who did not go, the events could be followed in the columns of the local press which detailed the triumphs of the exhibition. In short, in Saddleworth as in similar small communities the Great Exhibition succeeded in intruding upon the normal rhythms of local life. In this, it assisted future exhibitions by making the public generally more sympathetic towards, and interested in, exhibitions.

THE SADDLEWORTH EXHIBITION

IN CONNEXION WITH THE

Mechanics' Institution, Uppermill,

WILL REMAIN OPEN DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER,

At the end of which it will *finally close.*

The Articles exhibited are select and striking, arranged in **NINE ROOMS**, of which the following is the order:—

1 Comparative Anatomy

2 Picture Gallery

3 Barometrical Hall

4 Philosophical Apparatus

5 Natural History and Curiosities,

6 Models, and Machines in Motion

7 Geological Specimens, and Miscellaneous Articles

8 Glass Blowing, by a first-rate Artist

9 Dissolving Views exhibited Daily at 4 and 7 o'clock p.m.

The Stocking, Card Making, Sewing, and Electrifying Machines, the Galvanic Batteries, and the Mechanical Singing Birds, afford unfailing delight.

Upwards of 18,000 Persons have visited the Exhibition.

Observe the Reduction in the Terms of Admission!

Four Days in each Week, viz. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the Price of Admission is Reduced to 6d. for Adults, and 3d. for Children under twelve.

Admission on Mondays and Wednesdays, as before, Adults, 1s.; Children, 6d.

Season Tickets already issued will be available to the end of the Exhibition.

Tickets for October, 2s. each, may be had of Mr. JOHN SCHOFIELD, Draper; and Mr. JOSHUA WRIGLEY, Registrar.

DOORS OPEN FROM 12 TO 9 O'CLOCK P.M.

The Object of the Exhibition is to raise Funds to increase the efficiency of the Saddleworth Mechanics' and Literary Institution; to excite mental activity, and to supply the means of rational amusement.

It was the tradition of exhibitions organised by mechanics' institutes, however, which may be regarded as more directly influencing the Saddleworth project. The first such exhibition had been opened by the Manchester Mechanics' Institute in December 1837 and had proved an unexpected success. In the following years its example was imitated by mechanics' institutes' exhibitions in Liverpool, Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Halifax and Sheffield. Judged both in terms of the numbers who attended and the money raised, these exhibitions were usually successful; the first exhibition held at Leeds, for example, recorded some 183,913 visits and a profit of £1,800 (5). For the larger institutions, at least, exhibitions had become by the early 1840's an important part of their activities.

The benefits to be obtained from exhibitions were considered to be wide-ranging. Well-organised exhibitions usually brought a welcome boost to an institute's funds, though this was not the only benefit. Exhibitions became regarded as a means of spreading the idea of the Mechanics' Institute and, hopefully, of recruiting new members. Some supporters saw the exhibition as a counter-attraction to those morally less desirable ways in which the working classes spent their free time. Urging other institutes to follow the example of Manchester, the committee of the West Riding Union of Mechanics' Institutes saw exhibitions as providing "the means of combined recreation and instruction, the influence of which may go far to neutralise or destroy those pestilent amusements (so called) which now fill up the intervals betwixt the hours of toil and sleep, in the economy of the workingman's time" (6). In his prize-winning essay on mechanics' institutes, James Hole, the secretary of the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutions, discerned even further benefits which could be derived from exhibitions. It was not solely the working classes, the potential recruits of the institutes, who would gain.

" To a man of benevolent mind the gratification derived from a beautiful work of art which he may possess, is doubled by participation. And the pleasure must be heightened by the reflection that he is rendering most important aid to the funds of the institution. If the gain to the person who spares a picture from his drawing room, a statue from his hall, or a machine from his shop, is great; if the funds of the institute are increased, and the attention of large classes attracted to the advantages of an institute whose very existence was unknown to them - the gain to the public is no less. At an almost nominal sum the inhabitants of a small town are enabled to view a collection of objects whose cost and extent would not be unworthy of the metropolis itself. " (7)

The exhibitions usually followed a similar pattern. A committee would be formed which would be responsible for obtaining support and the loan of exhibits. Funds would have to be provided to meet the costs of such organisation. Many exhibits would come from local people but in order to extend the range, the committee would seek support from patrons outside the immediate locality. The aristocracy, county families and others, who were known to be sympathetic to such exhibitions, would be contacted. Relying on

such goodwill, mechanics' institutes' exhibitions did not specialise but embraced articles ranging from the artistic to the scientific, from the modern to the historic, from the utilitarian to the curious. To ensure that the maximum educational benefit could be gained, the committee ensured that the exhibits were catalogued and systematically arranged.

In Saddleworth, a committee, which included George Shaw, John Schofield, William Blackburn and James Bottomley, became responsible for arranging the exhibition. During the early part of 1853 they worked at the task of contacting local people and individuals outside the district who were known to them and who were thought likely to support the scheme. In this they were successful, obtaining promises of loans from local families and also from individuals such as the Earl of Carlisle, the Earl of Ellesmere and James Dearden, Lord of the Manor of Rochdale. Edmund Buckley, the recent member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme, and a frequent contributor to the Institute's funds, also supported the project.

It was decided to hold the exhibition in the Institute's rooms in Court Street, Uppermill, but it soon became clear that these would be too small. Additional space was found over the neighbouring Hare and Hounds public house and in premises on the opposite side of Court Street. Imaginatively, a bridge was built across the street linking the two sections of the exhibition. By the beginning of the summer exhibits were arriving and the task of arranging them was under way. It was agreed that the exhibition should be open every day, except Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The cost of admission was set at one shilling for adults and sixpence for children under the age of twelve. A season ticket costing four shillings was also available. During July, posters announcing the exhibition were distributed and the final preparations were made. Expectations of the event continued to grow.

On August 1, 1853, the exhibition was officially opened. It was, unfortunately, a day of heavy rain, and this reduced the anticipated audience and enthusiasm. Disappointing as this baptism might have seemed, it soon became clear that the efforts of the committee had not been wasted. A growing stream of visitors testified to the attractions of the exhibition. As in other mechanics' institutes' exhibitions, care had been taken to arrange the miscellaneous loans in a systematic and pleasing way, and the exhibition was divided into nine main sections.

The fine arts were primarily represented by a small picture gallery which contained some fifty oil and watercolour paintings and engravings. Works by classical and contemporary artists were on display. William Townsend, the Manchester businessman and art collector, lent one work attributed to Guido. He also loaned a portrait of the Lancashire poet, Charles Swain, painted by the Manchester artist, William Bradley. Frederick Jones, a solicitor in Huddersfield, loaned a painting by Teniers. The bulk of the works in fact were the minor works of minor contemporary British artists such as Samuel Bough, Henry Justman and Henry Peronet Briggs. In this category were two of the canvasses lent by the Earl of Carlisle (formerly Lord Morpeth) who was a friend of James Lees and George Shaw. These pictures were Frederick Goodal's "The Love Letter" and Paul Falconer Poole's "The Mountain Toilet". The Huddersfield artist, Samuel Howell, also had two portraits on display. Local amateur artists also found an opportunity to show their work. John Shaw, for example, contributed a number of his works (8).

The central feature of the exhibition was the arrangement of the main room of the Institute as a baronial hall. Here a collection of antiquities, including suits of armour, shields, weapons, flags and tapestries, were displayed. A finely-carved fireplace and ornately carved furniture were also included in the hall. Somewhat anachronistically, an organ was also included and this was played as visitors viewed the scene. The majority of the exhibits had been lent by George Shaw of St. Chad's who had a keen interest in antiquities. He had also been largely responsible for their organisation, and a watercolour painting of the hall provides some indication of the labour and care which must have been involved in achieving the transformation (9). Given the collection of antiquities possessed by George Shaw, the idea of a hall to display them in would have appeared an appropriate choice. The idea, however, was not original, as a similar feature had been arranged at an earlier Manchester Mechanics' Institute's exhibition (10).

Another room of the exhibition was arranged by the surgeon, William Blackburn, and reflected his professional interests with a selection of anatomical specimens. The contemporary enthusiasm for phrenology was also represented by the casts of some distinguished and some infamous persons. Lent by the Manchester Mechanics' Institute, the skulls of the notorious criminals, in particular, were said to "excite melancholy feelings, but yet suggest matter for instructive reflection" (11).

A further section of the exhibition was devoted to specimens of natural history. Here the main exhibits, cases of ornithological and entomological specimens, had been provided by Mr. Platt of Hollins and Mr. Earnshaw of Oldham. Included amongst the stuffed birds and reptiles were some which had been sent from Southern Africa by Sidney Platt, a former secretary of the Institute. In other rooms raw materials and various manufactured goods were also displayed. These included many examples of cut and engraved glass sent by the Manchester firm, Percival Yates. In further sections of the exhibition the work of the geologist and numismatist were on show.

As was usual at mechanics' institutes, exhibitions, industrial progress was celebrated by exhibits of machinery and demonstrations of the methods of manufacturing. In this department, a small steam engine had been installed so that some of the machines could be seen operating. Amongst the machines on display were ones involved in cardmaking, pin-making and stocking making. An improved power loom, obtained by Rev. Simeon Dyson and said to be the first of its type in Saddleworth, was also on display. John Brierley had managed to obtain a sewing machine and, as at the Great Exhibition, this proved a major attraction (12). It was, of course, technological innovations such as these which were having profound consequences upon the lives of the working people who were visiting the exhibition.

Not all the machines exhibited had the far-reaching economic and social implications as those associated with the power loom or sewing machine. One exhibit was an alarm clock which not only rang a bell at the required time but also fired a pistol to ignite a spirit lamp to boil a kettle of water for tea or washing purposes. Such an elaborate, expensive and hazardous contrivance, however good, did not threaten the local "knocker up" with technological unemployment. A working class family could not have afforded such a contrivance whilst the better-off families of the district, with servants, had no need of it.

Possibly a more attractive item on display was a gas stove. Again, the income of most families ensured that such an apparatus remained a curiosity of exhibitions rather than a normal feature of the kitchen. In the mechanical section models of machinery were also displayed, some of which had been constructed by John Hutchinson. Amongst these was an extremely detailed model of the Menai Straits bridge.

As in other exhibitions, the inanimate exhibits were relieved by live demonstrations. The committee managed to obtain the services of the well-known glass blower, Stanistrat, who for a small fee could be observed demonstrating the skills of this art. The inclusion of a diorama machine, which reproduced moving scenes, was another popular attraction. A less conventional live demonstration was also to be found in the department devoted to philosophical apparatus. Here an array of batteries and electrical experiments were supervised by the Rev. Robert Hawksley. For no extra charge, the more courageous of the visitors could be shocked by the Methodist minister, or more accurately, by his galvanic battery!

Such was the popularity of the exhibition that it was agreed to extend it until the end of October. For this last month, the price of admission remained unaltered on Monday and Wednesday, but was reduced to sixpence for adults and threepence for children on the remaining days of the week. A special two shilling season ticket was also available. The hours of opening were also shortened from noon until nine p.m.

The exhibition drew its visitors from Saddleworth and the surrounding districts and coinciding as it did with the local wakes ensured that the attendance was larger than would otherwise have been the case (13). At a reduced price, crocodiles of children from the local day and Sunday schools were brought to see the wonders of the exhibition. Paternalistic employers, like W.K. Schofield the clothier finisher and dyer, took their workforces and their families to view the spectacle. Towards the end of the exhibition, as attendances declined, even the inmates of the Saddleworth workhouse were treated to its marvels. In their predictable calendar such an excursion must indeed have been an event. Describing their visit, one commentator's remarks were particularly revealing about the plight of the poor and the contemporary attitudes towards paupers. About their visit he wrote:

" their astonishment rose to a climax when they were surrounded by currents of electricity and magnetism in the philosophical department (we wish an artist could have been there to record the scene). We think we are speaking in bounds when we say that time will never wear away the impression the Exhibition has produced upon their minds. It will be to them in the future the subject of their conversation and the theme of their praise, and prevent their minds from sinking into despair, by constantly urging to conversation and thought. " (14)

Largely due to the railway, people living outside the Saddleworth district were able to visit the exhibition. Just as

the excursion train had provided the means for considerable numbers to visit the Great Exhibition, so, on a small scale, excursion trains brought crowds, sometimes as many as 500 people, from Stalybridge, Stockport and Huddersfield (15). A decade before, such trips would not have been possible. Not all visitors, however, had to rely on cheap trains and the visits of the Bishop of Manchester, John Cheetham M.P., and Edmund Buckley, would not have been accompanied by the crush of an excursion trip. In a village, usually remote, such crowds created much excitement. For local tradesmen the increased business which the visitors brought was, no doubt, welcomed. To other inhabitants, the visitors who had come to view the exhibition became the objects of local curiosity. Somewhat condescendingly, one observer described the bustling scene in Uppermill:

" It is extremely pleasing to see the groups of old men, women and children as they stand staggered and overwhelmed at the unusual influx of visitors, and could you, Mr. Editor, listen to their peculiar phraseology, exacted as it is, by an extraordinary degree of warmth and vehemence, you would imagine yourself surrounded by the primitive wonderment and unadorned simplicity of ages anterior to the flood. I really do not know whether the people outside the exhibition or the people inside please me most, the former being amazed at the appearance of the strangers, while those inside are overwhelmed with the magnitude and arrangement of the place. " (16)

Not all the visitors proved well behaved. The theft of two of the exhibits, an ancient spectacle case loaned by W.K. Schofield, and a glass ornament containing a likeness of the Duke of Wellington, created much local comment. Such thefts were unusual at mechanics' institutes' exhibitions where the good behaviour of the visitors was the focus of much favourable comment. The local forces of law and order, such as they were, were put into action to discover the thief. As an extra incentive, the Saddleworth Society for the Prosecution of Felons offered a £5 reward. As W.K. Schofield was Chairman of the Society and many other supporters of the exhibition also members, there were no problems in using the Society's funds for this particular purpose. Their efforts, however, appear to have been unsuccessful (17).

Reports of the exhibition were not confined solely to the local press. On the 1 October, 1853, an article on the exhibition appeared in Household Words, the popular weekly magazine edited by Charles Dickens. As contributions to the periodical were unsigned there has been speculation about the author and the names of Mrs. Gaskell and Charles Dickens have been suggested as possibilities. The office book of Household Words reveals that the author was in fact Geraldine Jewsbury and that she was paid £2-15-0 for this contribution (18). Less well remembered to-day, Geraldine Endsor Jewsbury was an important figure in the Victorian literary world. The author of several novels, a contributor to some of the major periodicals and a reader for publishing firms such as Bantleys and Hurst and Blackett, her literary skills were considerable and respected. Her precise literary merit awaits assessment and, at present, she is best remembered for her intense and intimate friendship with Jane Carlyle (19). By 1850, her literary reputation was growing, following the publication of her novel, Zoe: The History of Two Lives, and Dickens wrote asking if she would consider contributing to his new magazine. She obliged and during the magazine's ten-year existence Dickens published some seventeen pieces by her.

Given the scope of the exhibition, the article had the somewhat grandiose title of The Great Saddleworth Exhibition. It seems possible that Dickens himself may have provided this title. Research has revealed that he was a careful and thorough editor and that he took particular care over the titles and introductory paragraphs of articles published in his "twopenny miscellany of instruction and entertainment". In an attempt to capture the reader's attention, Dickens frequently renamed articles with intriguing and eye-catching titles so as to entice the reader to read on (20). The article immediately following the one on the Saddleworth Exhibition, for instance, was titled Dead Reckoning at the Morgue. The title of the Great Saddleworth Exhibition was thus an evident attempt to raise the article from the parochial by recalling memories of the Crystal Palace. It did, however, invite an unfair comparison between the two exhibitions. The theme of the article would, no doubt, have pleased Dickens as he was a sympathetic, if not uncritical, supporter of mechanics' institutes (21).

In clear and plain prose, Geraldine Jewsbury described a visit to the exhibition which must have been typical of many of those who came from a distance. The first part of the article described the journey to the popular picnic spot of Bill's o' Jack's. Inevitably the visit gave the opportunity of re-telling the events which have added notoriety to the area's natural beauty. A notable episode in local history, the murder of the Bradburys had only recently been given renewed interest following the alleged confession to the crime by a condemned man in Australia. Following lunch, the visitors made their way to the exhibition. Miss Jewsbury described the village of Uppermill as consisting of:

" two straggling streets of shops and cottages; the ground so abrupt and irregular that the back door of one house will often be on a level with the top storey of another. It is chiefly inhabited by the work-people of the neighbourhood. A railway station has, within the last few years, brought it into the direct line from Manchester to Leeds" (22)

The exhibition was then visited and its contents described. Given the number of aspiring writers in the district, it would have been surprising had the local parnassians let the occasion by by without some literary gesture. Edwin Thornton duly obliged with a lively poem which began:

" What! See a Saddleworth Exhibition!"
Exclaimed I, with supreme derision
As when a friend proposed the excursion
By way of quizzical diversion.
Said he, "A laugh at such folly
May dissipate your melancholy".
"Agreed", said I, "The expedient
Is worth a trial". So we went
And saw - no sight that could provoke
The pleasant sneer or flippant joke;
By such display of such effects
As filled us with profound respects.

The closing lines brimmed over with those expectations which had

inspired the founders of the Mechanics' Institute. It was hoped that:

" From Saddleworth youth may rise someone
To rival Watt or Stephenson. " (23)

The exhibition finally closed at the end of October, allowing the Institution to re-commence its more traditional activities. After some three months of activity, the rhythm of village life settled back into its more usual pattern. The exhibition had proved a great success. Exact information on the numbers of visitors is unavailable, but there were approximately 18,000 visits made. This figure gave an average daily attendance of about 200 people. Not unexpectedly, the largest attendances coincided with the wakes holidays and the arrival of excursion trips. The highest daily attendance was recorded on 17 September when over 1,400 people visited the exhibition. In round figures the receipts from the exhibition came to £679. This came chiefly from the admission charges but it also included money from the glass-blowing demonstrations and from the sale of articles in the exhibition. Additional revenue also came from the sale of materials used in preparing the exhibition. After deducting the costs of organising and running the exhibition, some £292 - a profit of £387 remained. By February, 1854, with still some outstanding items to sell, the committee felt that the final profit would be close to £400 (24). The committee now had the pleasant and unprecedented task of deciding what to do with the money. As no specific project had been decided upon when organising the exhibition, it was decided after much discussion to invest the bulk of the profits for future needs. In taking this decision, the likelihood of obtaining permanent premises for the Institute was considered. Upon the advice of Francis Shaw Buckley, the banker, £300 of the profits were invested in railway shares. The remainder was used for the immediate needs of the Institute. In particular, the library, the heart of the Institute, benefited with the addition of many new books (25).

Compared with other exhibitions during the nineteenth century, even those organised by mechanics' institutes, the Saddleworth exhibition was a small event, though it was not without significance for the Institute and the local community. In Saddleworth, the exhibition was an episode which soon occupied a prominent place in its history. Exhibitions, it was stated, were rarely mentioned in Saddleworth without a proud reference to that of 1853 and the claim that it was the first one to be held after the Great Exhibition. For the Institute itself the exhibition marked the end of the first chapter of its history. It was a successful ending to its infancy which, as noted above, was often characterised by disappointment. For a small institute, not in a densely populated area, the exhibition had been a bold, yet risky, project. It was a reflection of the determination and energy of its supporters that it did not fail.

The exhibition and the money it produced did not, of course, solve the problems which underlaid the Institute's performance in the classes and the lectures. It did, however, signal the end to its more immediate problems and provided the foundation upon which to start a new period of work. The educational activities and the social evenings continued in the following years, although not without disputes and problems. Garnishing interest, the invested profits provided the Institute with a financial security which would have been the envy of many other small institutes. Unexpectedly in 1858 this capital was added to by the gift of £500 from Samuel Lord, a native of Saddleworth, who had become a successful businessman in the United States, to provide a more

permanent monument to the exhibition of 1853. On Whit Friday, 1859, the Earl of Carlisle, surrounded by many of those who had supported the exhibition, opened the new premises of the Saddleworth Mechanics' Institution at the top of Court Street. In this purpose-built building, not only did the Institute pursue its aims over the following decades, but the building was to become the setting for many of the important economic, political and cultural events in the district.

Concluded

References:

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2. E.M. Sigsworth, "The West Riding Wool Textile Industry and the Great Exhibition", Yorkshire Bulletin of Economic and Social Research, 1952, (4), p.22.
3. W.B. Crump and G. Ghorbal, History of the Huddersfield Woollen Industry, 1935, p.131.
4. Edmund Barlow gave three lectures on his visit to the exhibition. Edwin Thornton also provided a lecture on his experiences.
5. James Hole, An Essay on the History and Management of Literary, Scientific and Mechanics' Institutions ... 1853, p.81.
6. Report of the West Riding Union of Mechanics' Institutes ... Leeds, 1841, p.9.
7. Hole, op. cit. p.78.
8. Huddersfield and Holmfirth Examiner, 23 July, 1853; C.P. Darcy, The Encouragement of the Fine Arts in Lancashire, 1760 - 1860, 1976, p.134.
- Huddersfield Chronicle, 30 July, 1853.
9. The painting is shown in the Oldham Chronicle 4 November, 1933. It may have been painted by Kohn Shaw of St. Chad's. See Joseph Thornton, New Saddleworth Sketches, 1967, p.24.
10. M. Tylecote, The Mechanics' Institutes of Lancashire and Yorkshire before 1851, 1957, p.182.
11. Huddersfield and Holmfirth Examiner, 20 August, 1853.
12. Thornton, op. cit. p.24.
13. Manchester Guardian, 27 August, 1853.
14. Huddersfield and Holmfirth Examiner, 29 October, 1853.
15. For example, see Leeds Mercury, 10 September, 1853; Manchester Examiner and Times, 13 August, 1853, 24 September, 1853.
16. Huddersfield and Holmfirth Examiner, 13 August, 1853.

17. Ibid, 3 September, 1853.
18. Anne Lohrli, Household Words. A Weekly Journal, 1850 - 1859 Conducted by Charles Dickens 1973, p.115.
19. See Susan Howe, Geraldine Jewsbury: Her Life and Errors, 1935
20. Harry Stone, The Uncollected Writings of Charles Dickens. Household Words 1850 - 1859, 1968, Vol. 1, pp.41 - 42.
21. P. Collins, Dickens and Education, 1964, p.93.
22. Household Words, 1 October, 1853, p.111.
23. Huddersfield Chronicle, 13 August, 1853
24. Ibid, 18 February, 1854.
25. Ibid, 11 March, 1854.

Terry Wyke

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.

WOOD (See Vol 4 1974, 49 - 51)

- 1726 Nov. 14. Deed of annuity between Edmund Buckley of the Wood in Castleshaw, yeoman, eldest son and heir of Henry Buckley late of the same place, yeoman, Margaret his wife and Ann Buckley widow of Henry Buckley, all of the first part, and John Buckley of Grotton Head, gentleman, of the second part, concerning an annuity of £8 issuing from the capital messuage wherein Edmund Buckley and Ann Buckley now live, together with the fields - the Great Meadow, the New Meadow, the Marled Earth over the Brook, the Great Wood, the Little Wood, half of the Mean Bank, all the Raw Bank, the Roughbank Hole, the two Rough Noddles, one twelfth part of the Oxhey called Three Gates, one eighth part of Grange Hey being three acres lying near Durry Castle, 4 acres of common in Woodhead and Millstone Edge and of liberty and right of turbary, stone and winter grass in a parcel called Crawshay Hey (Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, X387).
- 1742 June 17. Conveyance between Edmund Buckley of Wood in Castleshaw, yeoman, eldest son and heir of Henry Buckley late of Wood, yeoman, deceased, Anne Buckley of Wood widow of the said Henry Buckley of the first part, and Joseph Milnes of Moorcroft, yeoman, of the second part concerning the messuage in the occupation of Edmund Buckley, together with the fields ... (as above) (R.D. YY.736).
- 1748 Aug. 26. Conveyance between Joseph Milnes of Wood, yeoman, Anne his wife, and James Milnes their son concerning land called the Wood Close with all the buildings thereon (R.D. YY.741).
- 1783 July 28. Mortgage between Joseph Milnes of Wood, clothier, and Benjamin Walker of Bayhall, Huddersfield, gentleman, concerning messuages at Wood now in the tenure or occupation of Joseph Milnes and Hannah Bottomley, widow, (undertenant of Joseph Milnes), together with the fields - the Marled Earth (or Marled Earth over the Brook), the Great Wood, the New Bank, the Four Rough Noddles (formerly in two closes), and the Bank Hole, together with the South side of the Meadow below the House and $1\frac{1}{2}$ gates for $1\frac{1}{2}$ beasts in the Oxhey (R.D. CN.526).
- 1806 June 27. Conveyance between John Gartside of Crompton, yeoman, of the first part and John Seaton of Pontefract Esquire, John Fox Seaton of Pontefract Esquire, Robert Seaton of Pontefract Esquire and others of the second part, concerning a messuage at Wood formerly in the occupation of Joseph Mills and Samuel Bottomley as undertenant of

Joseph Mills and now in the occupation of James Mills, together with the fields - the Marled Earth, the Great Wood, the New Bank, the Five Rough Noddles, and the Bank Hole together with the South side of the close called the Meadow below the House, and nine cottages lately erected by James Mills upon the close called the Great Wood and in the occupation of James Wood, John Settle, Joseph Eastwood, James Howarth, Benjamin Bradbury, John Dronsfield, John Lester, Jonathan Carter and James Bradbury, together with the mill situated in the Marled Earth; also the messuage at Wood near Castleshaw late in the occupation of Joseph Mills, cousin of James Mills, and now of Joseph Longbottom and Joseph Mills as tenants of James Mills and now converted into three dwellings, together with the fields - half of the Great Meadow and the Little Wood containing 6 acres (R.D. EZ.50).

1831 July 8. Conveyance between James Mills of Crowknowle in Crompton, coal merchant, of the first part and Joseph Mills of Wood, clothier, and Thomas Mills of Wood, clothier, of the second part concerning one third share of the messuage etc. at Wood in the occupation of Joseph and Thomas Mills, together with three cottages and the fields - Top of the Nook, Bankfield, the Near Bankfield, the Wheat Field, the Gorsey Hey, the Top Field, the Middle Field (all which 7 fields were formerly one and called the Rough Noddle or the Gorsey Noddle) and divided from the other lands by the lane leading from Wood to Rochdale, the Bank Hole, the New Bank, the Great Wood, the Little Wood, the Garden, the Meadow below the House, the New Meadow, the Marled Earth over the Brook, containing 20 acres 20 perches, and in the occupation of Joseph and Thomas Mills, together with 6 cottages at the north-west end of the Great Wood adjoining the lane leading to Heights Chapel, and also one third share in the mill situated in the Marled Earth and two cottages near the mill, one third share in a mine of coal at Beesom Hill, one fourth share of a mine of coal at Rickford (?) Rough in Crompton and a seam of coal at Rooley Moor (R.D. LD.163).

1852 Sept. 29. Conveyance between Thomas Mills of Wood, coal proprietor and dyer, of the first part, John Gartside Mills of Cherry Clough, coal proprietor and dyer, of the second part and Henry Radcliffe of Oldham, gentleman, of the third part concerning one half share of the said Thomas Mills in the messuage etc. at Wood and 13 cottages and the fields - Marled Earth Meadow, New Meadow, Meadow below the House, Great Wood Meadow, Little Wood Meadow, Low Bank Meadow, Low Clough Field, New Bank Field, Noddle Field, Back Field, Oxhey Field, together with Wood Mill and fields at Grange Hey and Castleshaw Moor containing 45 acres together with one half share in a croft called the Blackstone Croft in Delph with the cottages upon it containing 127 sq. yards near the Delph - Grains turnpike (R.D. 407).

B.B.

The Society would welcome any further information on the houses and hamlets mentioned here, and also 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,
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