

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



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Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

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David JW Harrison

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SECRETARY'S ADDRESS TO THE AGM 2018

David J. W. Harrison

We are most saddened to have to report that one of your committee, Tony Wheeldon, died suddenly last week (3 Oct.). This was obviously a great loss to his family, and also to his many friends, all to whom we extend our heart-felt condolences. Tony has been of great help to the Society during his all too short a tenure as committee member, taking on all sorts of tasks, particularly those of a physical nature now becoming beyond the reach of some of us. The Society is in a poorer state for his passing.

Your committee is still struggling to operate as well as we would wish through lack of committee members. There just aren't enough to carry on the business of the Society properly. Recent fall outs from the committee include our hard working publicity officer, Charles Baumann, who has resigned due to family and other commitments however he has intimated that he would be available to help out on occasion subject to his availability from his other extensive interests. Another who has left the committee is Victor Khadem to whom we are indebted for much enthusiastic support over many years and who has recently been instrumental in providing us with a splendid array of lecturers. Mike Buckley too has resigned from the committee though as he heads up a selection of sub-committees, as may anyone who has an interest in supporting a particular cause, subject to the committee's acceptance that such projects are worthy of the Society, attends the committee to report on those projects he has responsibility for. Such attendees are however non-voting advisers only.

As you will note from the obverse of the published agenda we have received two new applications for membership of the committee, Brian Gibson and Lily Hopkinson. We would thank them for putting their names forward and encourage the membership to vote them and the returning members to the committee later during these procedures. Even so this will still leave us with fewer officers to manage the Society than was the case for most of the last year. In other words we still need more committee members, particularly any who are prepared to take office.

The sad fact is that of the present members no-one is prepared to undertake the duties of the three officers without which, I understand, the Charity Commission may require that we disband the Society as a charity. This is a serious problem that your committee is bound to address at its first meeting of the new season. Whether a successful conclusion can be reached or not that might then entail us to call an Extraordinary General Meeting in the new year to consider dissolution of the Society, remains to be seen.

At this point I must thank Charles Baumann for fronting the Society as chairman at our public meetings and for his impressive publicity talents when conjuring up attendances for our series of lectures. His sterling efforts with raising funds via the raffles has not gone unnoticed, either.

Thanks too to Lesley Brown for taking on the mantle of treasurer assisted by Neil Barrow who has prepared the financial report. Unfortunately Lesley is standing down from this position at the AGM leaving a rather important hole in the management of the Society as we need to have a committee member, all of whom are trustees, with the responsibility of reporting on the finances to the ultimate, legally accountable body, your committee, on an ongoing basis.

My stint as secretary must come to an end also as medical and age related problems inexorably come to the fore.

Mike Buckley has served the Society in many positions over the years and currently acts as temporary membership secretary, publications officer - including Bulletin editor - programme secretary, Society archivist and runs the project being undertaken with the Saddleworth Civic trust clearing the overgrowth at the unkempt cemetery at the Church Road, Gellfield Lane junction.

Meg Langton attends to our book sales and is editor of the Newsletter. Many thanks Meg for that and also for allowing the committee to use your home for their meetings.

ADDRESS TO THE AGM

Christine Barrow has taken responsibility for dealing with the refreshments provided at each meeting assisted by Tony Wheeldon who also assisted Duncan Anderson, our redoubtable gatekeeper, on the door.

Raffle tickets were distributed throughout the year by various people but mainly Charles and the gatekeepers. That said, there is no raffle tonight, the remaining trustees are busy enough!

Not a committee member at present but very active on our behalf was Ivan Foster who runs the website and feeds information from that medium back to the membership secretary and book sales officer as appropriate for their further attention. Many thanks due therefore to Ivan for his ongoing valuable service. It must be noted that the website has contributed significantly to attracting new members during the year.

Further, I would thank our redoubtable band of distributors who, together with some of the committee, turn out to deliver Society material as and when required thus saving us much in the way of postal costs. I don't think however that we can be held responsible for the drastic reduction in value of the Royal Mail shares this last week. Hurts me though!

Finally, thanks must be offered too to the Saddleworth Museum and the staff. The Trustees, curator Peter Fox, and Janet on reception who helps with the distribution of our books to visitors to the museum. The Friends of the Museum too have been most helpful with there always being someone available to assist on lecture nights. Thank you Oliver, who is on duty tonight, Charlie and Steve.

Indeed, thank you all whose efforts keep the Society going and viable.

Our programme of talks continued throughout the year with many splendid presentations with however a couple of hitches. The February talk '*Traditional Farmhouses in and around the Lancashire and Yorkshire Pennines*' had to be postponed due to inclement weather and its programmed repeat in August was subsequently cancelled at an embarrassingly short notice, the audience had gathered but not the lecturer! This talk is being re-programmed yet again for early in the new year, fingers crossed, as it seems to be of interest to quite a few members. The '*250 Years of Heights Chapel*' had also to be cancelled due to unforeseen problems with access to the Chapel itself, its proposed and we felt, its most appropriate venue.

Production of the Bulletin has taken place less smoothly this year than last as the second issue of the year was delayed due to the late withdrawal by a contributor of permission to use his, the lead article, already laid out, proof read and embedded in the Bulletin. This imposed upon the editor a need to urgently write an entirely new article with the accompanying requirement to firstly research the content, a complicated and time consuming process. Inevitably delays in publication accrued. However material is to hand for the next issue when we hope to catch up with our production dates.

The publication of '*William Pownall's Uppermill: Memories of a Saddleworth village in the late 1800s*' by The Saddleworth Local History Group was launched in January and has sold well. Otherwise publications in the series of Monumental Inscriptions and '*The Process of Enclosures in Saddleworth*' updated reprint mentioned last year have been postponed. You will all understand why so I won't bang on about it!

The Society's website is still in a transient situation but has been reinstated after its temporary closure last year. We are mindful that work is needed to implement all we wish for with this outlet.

I would conclude with a big thank you to you the members whose support, by your presence where possible and finance, helps with the promotion of the Society and its achievements. Your committee looks forward to members bringing forward ideas and suggestions to the trustees to expand our collective knowledge of Saddleworth, in particular, in the future.

Here's hoping we have a future.

David JW Harrison
10th October 2018

MANOR HOUSE, CHURCHFIELDS, DOBCROSS - A Reappraisal

Mike Buckley

In his Gazetteer article published in the Bulletin in 1985, Julian Hunt outlined the history of this Grade II listed building in Dobcross.¹ Its grandeur and its name points to its origins as the home of a well-to-do Saddleworth merchant of the eighteenth or early nineteenth century. Particularly impressive is the pedimented facade and architecturally embellished Venetian window on the southern elevation - a stark and genteel contrast with the otherwise rudimentary simplicity of most Saddleworth buildings of this period. John Smith in his book *Saddleworth Buildings* describes the window as 'a most remarkable architectural feature in Saddleworth - or elsewhere in the region' and describes its purpose as two fold 'first to give light for a staircase and secondly to present an imposing architectural feature to travellers and visitors ascending Woods Lane'. He adds that the segmented surround of the window is typical of the classical pattern-book designs of the early eighteenth century architect, James Gibbs.² Other features of the building - its centrally placed doorway, moulded cornice and paired sash windows on either side of the main entrance - are indicative of the growth of classicism in Saddleworth during this period.



Mike Buckley

Figure 1 South Elevation of the Manor House

Description of the Building

The architecture points to an early nineteenth century date for the building, particularly the centrally placed door and the paired sash windows on the elevation facing Churchfields. The east and west gables however, are architecturally less harmonious and it is clear from the change in masonry that the building has been altered at a later period on the south east and

¹ J.M. Hunt, *SHS Bulletin*, vol. 15, no. 3 (1985), p. 54.

² W.J. Smith, *Saddleworth Buildings*, (SHS, 1987), p.135.

south west corners. The listing description states it was ‘Originally a T-shaped 2-storey plan but both the angles to the rear have been filled-in in the C19’. This assertion is supported by the survival of quoin stones on the east and west gables indicating the original extent of the building. Large sash windows on the west gable at ground, first floor, and attic level support an early nineteenth century date however the paired arched attic windows on the east gable and the single arched attic window on the west gable could be earlier features and the awkwardly positioned sash window at attic level on the west gable perhaps indicates that this was a later addition. A row of chamfered mullioned windows at cellar level on the east gable is also an earlier feature, and in a style associated with the mid-eighteenth century in Saddleworth.



Mike Buckley

Figure 2 The Gibbsian Venetian Window

The Kiln Ditch

In his outline of the history of the house Julian Hunt identifies that the land on which the building stands was once part of an unusual feature called the Kiln Ditch. This strip of land ran parallel to the eastern side of Woods Lane, from the Square to the Woolpack Inn. It is shown on the 1770 map of James Farrer’s estates as a manorial property sandwiched between two freeholds indicated on the map as blank space.³ The fact that it was called ditch implies it was sunken below the level of the adjoining land and its position alongside Woods Lane suggests it was once the earlier course of this ancient route through Saddleworth and as it is shown as manorial property that the land had been subsequently claimed by the lord of the manor as waste. Two fields adjoining Sugar Lane, both called Intack, point to a similar late manorial enclosure.⁴ Such regularisation of the route of roads and the additions of small amounts of waste to the manorial estate are characteristic of William Ramsden’s management of the manor in the early seventeenth century.

³ M. Buckley et al. (eds), *Mapping Saddleworth II*, (SHS, 2010), p. 46.

⁴ They are numbered 138k and 74m on the 1770 map.

Tracing the history of this strip of waste land through the manor records and deeds registered at Wakefield is far from straightforward. Throughout most of the eighteenth century it was held in at least three separate tenancies, some of these combined with other former waste land, particularly the two Intakes on Sugar Lane, and another with a large farm at Halls. They were held on leases, and frequently sub-let, also some of the leases were assigned to others during their life time. The records at Wakefield, being abstracts of the original deeds, are often far from clear on the exact nature of the tenure and to add confusion the various plots were held by different people with the same name. The most southerly part of the Kiln Ditch was associated with the Woolpack Inn and contained 1r 11p of land.⁵ Another portion in 1770 was linked to the tenancy of Walk Mill, and contained 1r 16p of land. It was numbered 138i on the 1770 map and held together with an Intake on Sugar Lane numbered 138k. It ultimately passed to John Harrop of Woods House and became amalgamated with his adjoining freehold holding. The part of Holy Trinity churchyard adjoining Woods Lane was once part of this portion of the Kiln Ditch.

The most northerly, which abutted on to the Square, contained 1r 6p and was associated with the Intake on Sugar Lane, numbered 73m on the 1770 map. It was on this portion, referred to in deeds as the Upper Part of the Kiln Ditch, that the Manor House and other property in Church Fields was later built.

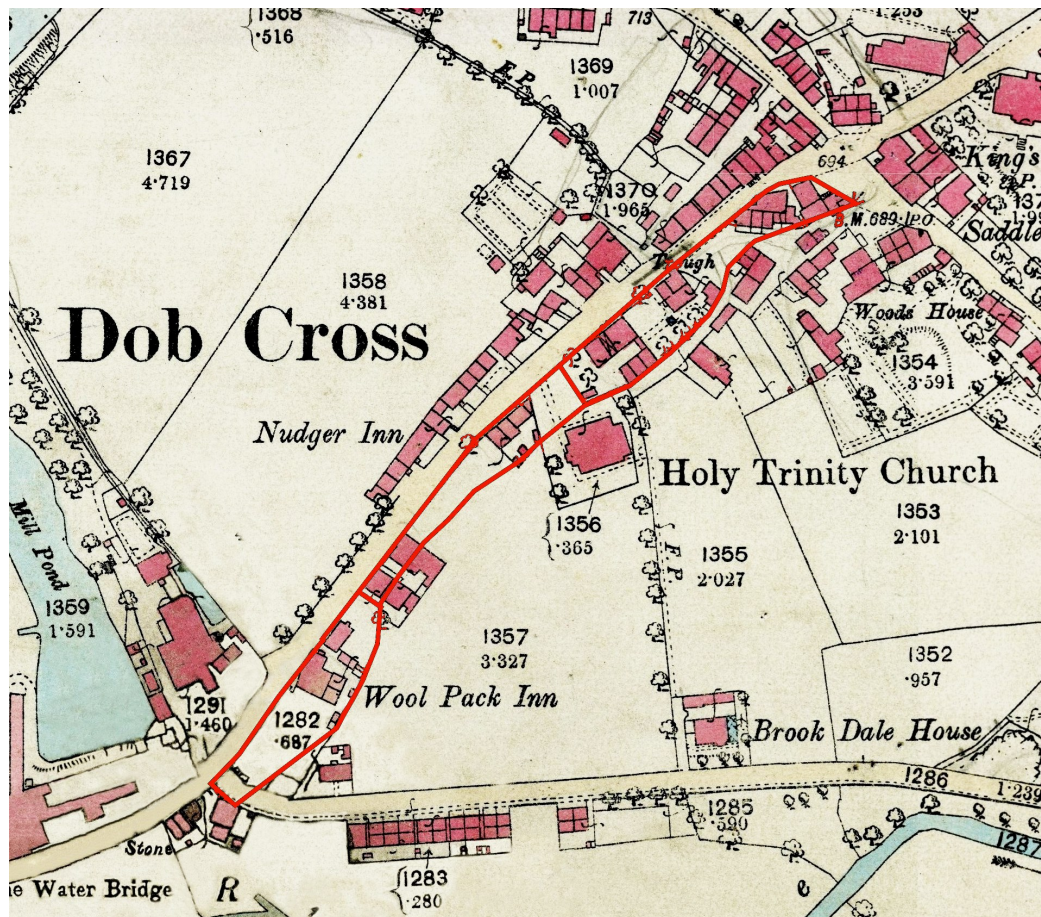


Figure 3 Extent of the Kiln Ditch superimposed on the 1890 25in OS Map

⁵ It is important to note the areas of the three component parts of the Kiln Ditch as this is sometimes the only unambiguous way of determining which part is being referred to.

The history of the part on which the Manor House stands is less than clear cut. The earliest reference is a note in the 1719 manor rental:-

1722, 31 July, Agreed further with Josiah Lawton for 2 encroachments called Kiln Ditch and the Intack near Dobcross, his lease to take Effect from Candlemass next, he to pay a guinea fine at the signing of the lease. Yearly Rent 7s.⁶

This lease must have either been very short term, or have been terminated by mutual agreement, for three years later the Kiln Ditch and Intack (with a dye house), 'hereto in the occupation of Josiah Lawton, late of Dobcross', was leased to 'John Buckley, of [place missing] the County of Lancashire, yeoman' for 21 years.⁷ In 1728, John Buckley, then of Brownhill, paid a yearly rent of £1 for 'encroachments at Dobcross' and continued to pay this until 1743 when the manor rental of that year records that Joseph Lawton had taken over the tenancy at a rent of 1 guinea. The next year Lawton paid £1 4s 0d and in 1745, it was included in a 99 year lease to Lawton of Halls tenement near Uppermill.⁸ The lease read:

'Also all those two closes or parcels of land commonly called or known by the name of the Kilne ditch and the Intack lying and being at Dobcross aforesaid now likewise in the tenure holding or occupation of the said Joseph Lawton his Assigns or Under-tenants containing by estimation Thirty Six perches or thereabouts of statute measure.'

It is unfortunate that the clerk at Wakefield made an error in the acreage and omitted the words '2 roods'. The area was in fact 2 roods 36 perches as recited in later deeds. Shortly afterwards Benjamin Lawton, Joseph's brother, built the Swan Inn on the part of this land adjoining the Square.⁹

Joseph Lawton acquired considerable wealth during his lifetime and at the time of his death was described as a gentleman. He lived at the large house in Churchfields, now gone, which once stood where the green now is and which adjoined the Kiln Ditch. His decorated table tomb in the old churchyard at Saddleworth, bespeaks his importance and is itself Grade II listed.¹⁰

Unfortunately, the rentals after 1744 have not survived and it is not until 1770 that the manor survey records further details of the tenancy:-

73. Halls, Mr Joseph Lawton
[inter alia:-]
2 Little Fields at Dobcross to wit
M. Intake 1r 20p
N. Upper part of Kiln Ditch or Garden 1r 6p¹¹

⁶ Leeds University Brotherton Library, Special Collections (LUSC), Wentworth Woolley papers, 8/5/1.

⁷ LUSC, Wentworth Woolley papers, 8/5/8. The Rent Roll of 1737 is wrapped in a fragment of this lease dated 1725.

⁸ West Riding Registry of Deeds, Wakefield (WRRD), 4 March 1745, Lease for 99 years. James Farrer to Joseph Lawton of Dobcross, yeoman. Hall Tenement, UU 564 769.

⁹ This is not the present day Swan Inn, which until the 20th century was then known as the Kings Head. The old Swan Inn closed its doors and moved across the road to be amalgamated with the Kings Head in 1858. Little of it now remains except a datestone BL 1748 over what was an old doorway in the passage leading to Churchfields.

¹⁰ M. Buckley (ed), St Chad's Church, Monumental Inscriptions in the Old Churchyard, (SHS, 2015), no. 207, p.43.

¹¹ M. Buckley et al. (eds), *Mapping Saddleworth II*, (SHS, 2010), p. 82.

Early References to the Building

A deed of 1767, registered at Wakefield is the first direct reference to the Manor House.¹² It is a lease dated 9 November between Joseph Lawton (then described as gentleman) and James Brown of Dobcross, drysalter, and the description of the property reads as follows:-

‘All that building or summerhouse in the garden at Dobcross now in the possession of the said Joseph Lawton and a new erected messuage or dwellinghouse lately erected and built in the said Garden and at the west end of [thereof?] and adjoining to the said summerhouse.

‘Also all that part of the garden lying on the south side of the said summerhouse from the south west corner of the said dwellinghouse in a straight line to the wall or fence on the south side of the said garden up to a certain building at the east end of the said garden called the schoolhouse as the same is now mered and marked out.

‘Also another part of the said garden from the north east corner of the said summerhouse in a straight line to the wall or fence on the north side of the said summerhouse.

‘Also all that part of the said fold or waste ground from the north east corner of the schoolhouse in a line to the north east corner of the stone platting which leads into the said dwellinghouse and did formerly lead into the summerhouse.

‘Also the said stone platting.’

The deed is very revealing but equally very difficult to interpret, particularly the description of the boundaries; it was probably incompletely and poorly transcribed from the original. What is clear is that the land was then in the possession of Joseph Lawton, and only part of it was leased to Brown. In 1767 the freehold was still held by James Farrer, lord of the manor, and, as Brown is never mentioned as a tenant of Farrer, the lease to Brown would appear to have been a sub-lease. The duration of the lease to Brown and monetary consideration is unfortunately not given.

The deed also introduces a summerhouse and a schoolhouse on the site in addition to the ‘messuage or dwellinghouse lately erected’. It also tells us that the summerhouse adjoined the new house and that the stone platting to the house formerly led to the summerhouse implying that the summerhouse existed before the house itself. Lawton’s own house in Churchfields was surrounded by the fold and had little or no garden attached so the leased garden on the Kiln Ditch would have been an attractive and useful amenity, and a logical place to build a summerhouse. Why he wanted to build a house on the garden and lose part of it and the summerhouse in the process is not clear. Perhaps he originally intended to move into the new house but then had second thoughts and decided to stay put in his house in Churchfields and to sell the new one. An alternative and persuasive argument is that Lawton built the house for his about to be married only daughter, Mary. She married a Manchester merchant, William Hardman of Manchester, himself a drysalter, on 12th May 1768. The couple went to live in Manchester but perhaps the couple had earlier considered living next to Mary’s ageing father in Dobcross.¹³

The existence of a schoolhouse, apparently on the premises, but not included in the lease, is also of interest. It may be no co-incidence that the tenant of the adjoining property was Samuel Heginbottom, then described elsewhere as schoolmaster.¹⁴ It is possible that the schoolhouse was actually on Heginbottom’s land adjoining the garden and not on the garden itself.

Another deed followed shortly afterwards, on the 5th January the next year, in which the property was conveyed from Brown to John Haigh of Golcarhill, in the Parish of Huddersfield,

¹² WRRD, BG 310 426.

¹³ I am grateful to Phil Wild for this suggestion.

¹⁴ St Chad’s baptism registers. At the time of the baptisms of his five children between 1758 and 1769 he is described as Samuel Heginbottom of Dobcross, schoolmaster.

merchant.¹⁵ The description of the property is as before. In the Wakefield transcript, the nature of the deed is not stated (whether a conveyance or an assignment of a lease) nor its purpose; however it was almost certainly a mortgage. A note in the margin of the Wakefield transcript reads:

‘Satisfied as appears by certificate dated the Twelfth Day of March One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy one. Registered 22nd March 1771 & Numbered 3’,

perhaps implying that the mortgage had by then been paid off.

The next reference to the property, and one that sheds more light on the building and summer-house, is an advertisement in the *Manchester Mercury* dated 20th September 1768.

‘A large and commodious Dwelling House, very suitable for a Tradesman in the Woollen Manufactory or a Dry Salter, being four Stories High, with Four Rooms on a Floor, good cellars and Warehousing , a neat garden and Summer House, three Stories High, situate lying and being at Dobcross in Saddleworth, in the County of York.

‘For further Particulars Enquire of Mr John Nield at Dobcross aforesaid, who will shew the Premises, or to James Brown of Little Green near Middleton, the Owner, who will treat for the same.’

The house was clearly ‘large and commodious’ and the summerhouse being three stories in height, itself imposing and not a simple wooden structure but presumably built in stone. One would infer from the advertisement that Brown, having now moved away to Little Green near Middleton, was putting the house up for sale. But no sale apparently took place and in 1779 Brown was still in possession as witnessed by a further mortgage dated 6th October that year to John Pilling of SiscloUGH in the Forest of Rossendale, gent.¹⁶ Brown was then still residing at Little Green and trading as a dryslater. A gravestone in the old churchyard at St Chad’s Church reveals more about Brown’s family:-

Here was Buried the Body of John Pilling Brown Son of James Brown Dry Salter at Dob Cross in Saddleworth YORKSHIRE. Grandson of Ralph Brown of Little-green near Middleton and John Pilling. Jun^r of Siss Clough in the Forrest of Rossendale LANCASHIRE. He was born the 14th of April 1767; and died the 3rd of September following Aged four Months and Nineteen Days. Also Sally wife of James Brown who departed this Life the 7th of October 1780 aged 38.¹⁷

From which we can conclude that Little Green near Middleton was James Brown’s original family home and that his mortgagee, John Pilling, was probably his father-in-law. Although James Brown is described as ‘of Dobcross’ when his son died in September 1767, his wife’s residence in 1780 is not given on the Gravestone and one would expect that she was then living with her husband in Little Green. Surprisingly, however, the burial register states she was then ‘of Dobcross’.

Returning now to the 1779 mortgage, more facts are revealed about the property and summer-house and a new description of the land is given:-

‘Two closes of land called the Kiln Ditch, heretofore converted into a garden and the Intack at Dobcross and heretofore in the tenure or occupation of Joseph Lawton, containing by estimation 2r 36p and also one new Erection or Building called a Summer House standing and being in the said close and garden called the Kiln Ditch containing one cellar, a low Room and a chamber and also one new erected messuage

¹⁵ WRRD, BG 450 617.

¹⁶ WRRD, CH 69 83. This time the mortgage deed is correctly described as an assignment.

¹⁷ M. Buckley (ed), St Chad’s Church, Monumental Inscriptions, no. 6, p.12. James Brown and Mary Pilling of Siss Clough were married by license at Newchurch in Rossendale on 31 May 1766.

or dwellinghouse standing and being at the West End of the said Garden and all and every the hereditaments and appurtenances belonging'

This description of the land is the whole of Lawton's holding, not just the part of the garden on which the house and summerhouse are built but the whole of the Upper Kiln Ditch including the Intake. It is consistent with Joseph Lawton's holding as described in 1770, (although there the area is given there as 2r 26p) but the area of 2r 36p is the same as that stated in the 1745 lease to Lawton (allowing for the presumed Wakefield transcription error). Brown had clearly acquired more land than that leased to him by Lawton in 1767, in fact it appears he held the whole of Lawton's leasehold holding on a sub-tenancy. More details also emerge of the summerhouse; the three stories described in the 1768 advertisement are now described as a cellar, 'a low room' and a chamber.

After Joseph Lawton's death in 1788, his property, including the 99-year lease on the Upper Part of the Kiln Ditch and Intake, passed to his daughter and son-in-law William Hardman of Manchester, gent. The freehold of the Upper Kiln Ditch and Intake was sold to William Broadbent of Dobcross, clothier at the time of the manor sale in 1791 and then by Broadbent to Joseph Lawton of Banks in Dobcross in 1804.^{18, 19} On both occasions William Hardman is described as occupant and there is no mention of Brown. This supports the conclusion that Brown's lease was in fact a sub-lease. Brown's connection to the property ended in 1796 when James Brown of Oldham, Grocer and Ralph Brown of Rossendale, Innholder, assign the residue of a term of 99 years to James Broadbent of Dobcross, Clothier, concerning:-

'two closes of ground called the Kiln Ditch and the Intack at Dobcross mentioned and comprised in a certain Indenture of lease in the said assignment part recited and by the will of John Pilling, therein also recited, devised to the said Ralph Brown and James Brown with all that building lately erected on the said premises called the Summer House and all that other edifice or building, messuage or dwellinghouse also lately built on the said premises, all now in the holding of the said James Broadbent his assigns or undertenants with all houses, outhouses &c belonging'.²⁰

John Pilling would appear to have acquired the property following Brown's 1779 mortgage. He died a wealthy man, probably in 1791, and his will, proved the next year, left a large amount of property in Rossendale, Stansfield and Saddleworth to his grandchildren.²¹ James and Ralph Brown, sons of James Brown and his daughter, Sally, were two of the beneficiaries. The will read:

'and as to my Leasehold Messuage and Tenement of Land with the appurtenances situate at Dobcross within Saddleworth I give devise or bequeath the same to Ralph Brown and James Brown my said Grandsons To hold to them their Executors, Administrators or Assigns as Tenants in Common for and during all the rest residue and remainder of the Term which shall be therein unexpired and to come at the Time of my Decease.'

There is no mention of James Brown in the will and it appears he was either dead or had been passed over. Brown's father Ralph Brown's will dated 1785 and proved in 1787, is also dismissive of his son, leaving his property to his two daughters.²² James only received £5 a

¹⁸ WRRD, 26 November 1791, James Farrer to James Broadbent of Dobcross, clothier. Abels and Burnedge Bent with Upper Part of Kiln Ditch containing 1r 6p, in the occupation of William Hardman, DG 623 887 .

¹⁹ WRRD, 3 April 1804, James Broadbent of Dobcross, clothier, to Joseph Lawton of Bank, clothier. Abels with Upper Part of Kiln Ditch containing 1r 6p now in occupation of William Hardman, ES 252 352.

²⁰ WRRD, 6 January 1796, DS 598 667.

²¹ Lancashire Archives, Will of John Pilling of Sisclough in the Forest of Rossendale, Gent, proved 20 February 1792, WCW Supra 1792.

²² LA, Will of Ralph Brown of Little Green in Township of Chadderton, Parish of Oldham, Logwood Grinder, proved 17 May 1787, WCW Supra 1787.

year and ‘the bed he now lies in’. It seems that James Brown’s career as a drysalter had ended in poverty.



Mike Buckley

Figure 4 Manor House North Elevation

By the Browns assignment of 1796, James Broadbent, having already purchased the freehold from Farrer, now also acquired the Browns’ sub-lease to the property (together with that to the Intake). But at the time of the Broadbent’s sale to Lawton in 1804 William Hardman still held the lease itself. In order to obtain a complete title Lawton needed to acquire the remainder of the lease from William Hardman. This must have happened by 1810 because in that year he claimed common in respect of ‘Garden Top Kiln Ditch, 1r 26, in his own occupation.’²³ To complete the picture, John Harrop having purchased the freehold of the Intake from Farrer’s trustees in 1791, acquired Hardman’s remaining lease to it in 1805.^{24,25} How he acquired the sub-lease which was then in the hands of Joseph Lawton has not been ascertained; but it must also have happened before 1810 as Harrop was then in occupation.

Early Occupants of the House

What does this labyrinthine set of legal transactions tell us about the occupancy of the house itself during this period? The answer sadly is very little. After his purchase of the newly built house in 1767 Brown initially conducted his trade of drysalter from here but by September of the next year had moved to Oldham and appears to have remained there. Whether they moved back to Dobcross for a short time before his wife’s death in 1780 is a possibility as the

²³ SHS Archives, H/EA/4.

²⁴ WRRD, 26 November 1791, Indenture, Trustees of James Farrer to John Harrop, the younger, of Dobcross, clothier and James Harrop, of Tamewater, drysalter. Inter alia, Parcel of land at Dobcross called the Intake containing 1r 20p also in the occupation of William Hardman, DH 161 202.

²⁵ WRRD, 28 February 1805, Indenture, William Hardman of Manchester, Esq. to John Harrop, the younger of Dobcross, Merchant. Close of land called Intack at Dobcross containing half an acre statute measure, formerly in the occupation of Joseph Lawton, now of the said John Harrop, and all the erections and buildings erected built and made thereon, ET 715 897.

burials register described her as ‘of Dobcross’. If this was the case it must have happened shortly before her death as the Browns had four more children after the death of their first child John Pilling Brown and none of these appear in the Saddleworth baptism registers. Also in 1779, at the time of his mortgage to Pilling, he was still living in Little Green. It seems likely then that for most of the time after 1767 the house was tenanted. This must also have been the case for the next 16 years after Sally’s death as the Browns and Pilling were absentee landlords. Even after the sale to James Broadbent in 1796, Broadbent appears not to have lived in the property but at his farm at Abels in Dobcross. It was probably not until after 1804, following his purchase from Broadbent, that Joseph Lawton moved into the Manor House; Banks was rented out at the time of his death in 1820. So for most of the first forty years or so of its existence the house must have been occupied by a series of probably short term tenants, and possibly even sub-divided into smaller tenements.

Joseph Lawton of Banks was in fact the nephew of the Joseph Lawton, gent., who had built the summerhouse and adjoining house in the 1760s and was therefore cousin of William Hardman who had inherited the original lease. In a sense the property had always been in the family but, in practice, until Joseph Lawton of Banks obtain full ownership, following his purchase from Broadbent, because of the sub-lease, the family’s involvement would have been minimal. It was probably Joseph Lawton who was responsible for the appearance of the house as it is today. He must also have been responsible for naming it Manor House having purchased 10 manor shares with the house from James Broadbent in 1804.

Lawton’s Transformation of the Manor House and its Original Appearance

So if Lawton was responsible for the house’s appearance as it is today what exactly did he do to it? It is asserted in the listing description that the house is of the early nineteenth century and this is certainly supported by its paired sash windows, central doorway, moulded cornice and other classical features. However, historically, it is clear that the house stands on the site of a newly erected house and summerhouse of the 1760s. What is more the 1768 advertisement describes the house as ‘being four stories high, with four rooms on a floor, good cellars ...’ which corresponds exactly to the present structure. But what of the summerhouse? The original lease from Lawton in 1767 describes the summerhouse as adjoining the newly erected house. It had clearly been build first and appears to have been to the south of the new house facing the garden. This is supported by the description of ‘the stone platting which leads into the said dwellinghouse and did formerly lead into the summerhouse’. It is implied, although not specifically stated, that the stone platting or path led into the premises from the fold, i.e. Churchfields. The descriptions in the deed could have been a lot clearer and a map would have helped enormously - but that was not the normal practice in deeds of the 1760s. The best description of the summer house is that in the 1779 mortgage where it is described as ‘one cellar, a low room and a chamber’. So putting the descriptions together we have a house of four stories with a cellar and attic and a summer house attached on the south of three stories with cellar ground floor room and chamber above. The house is clearly shown on the 1822 Township Map as T-shape fitting the description above, and this is also claimed as its original form in the listing description.²⁶ What is apparent is that the position of the summerhouse corresponds to the present pedimented bay on the south elevation containing the Venetian window. A recent survey of the house, and the discovery inside of what was once external masonry with quoin stones matching those on the outside, has in fact revealed that this bay was once a stand-alone structure. It is hard not to conclude that what is now the grand southern elevation of the house was in fact the original 1760s summerhouse; its three storey description matching perfectly the present building.

The summer house would have been 14ft square, accessed at the rear by a door and probably also contained a small fireplace at ground floor level. A building of this kind, with its grand classical pretensions would have been an extraordinary feature in the Saddleworth landscape

²⁶ M. Buckley et al. (eds), *Mapping Saddleworth II*, (SHS, 2010), p. 193.

MANOR HOUSE, DOBCROSS



Mike Buckley

Figure 5 Manor House West Elevation

of the day, one that might have been found on the estate of landed gentry. Lawton has certainly made a strong statement of his importance and wealth.



Mike Buckley

Figure 6 Manor House East Elevation

MANOR HOUSE, DOBCROSS

So given that the present building appears to be of the same dimensions as the original building, that the 1760s summerhouse has been incorporated into the present structure, and that there are mid-eighteenth century features in the form of arched windows and a mullioned



**Figure 7 Arched window on
Swan Inn c. 1765**

Mike Buckley

cellar window on the east and west gables, it seems certain that the house was not entirely rebuilt by Lawton in the early nineteenth century, but more likely just re-fronted to incorporate large sash windows and to give it a more fashionable appearance, and one that better matched the summerhouse in quality.

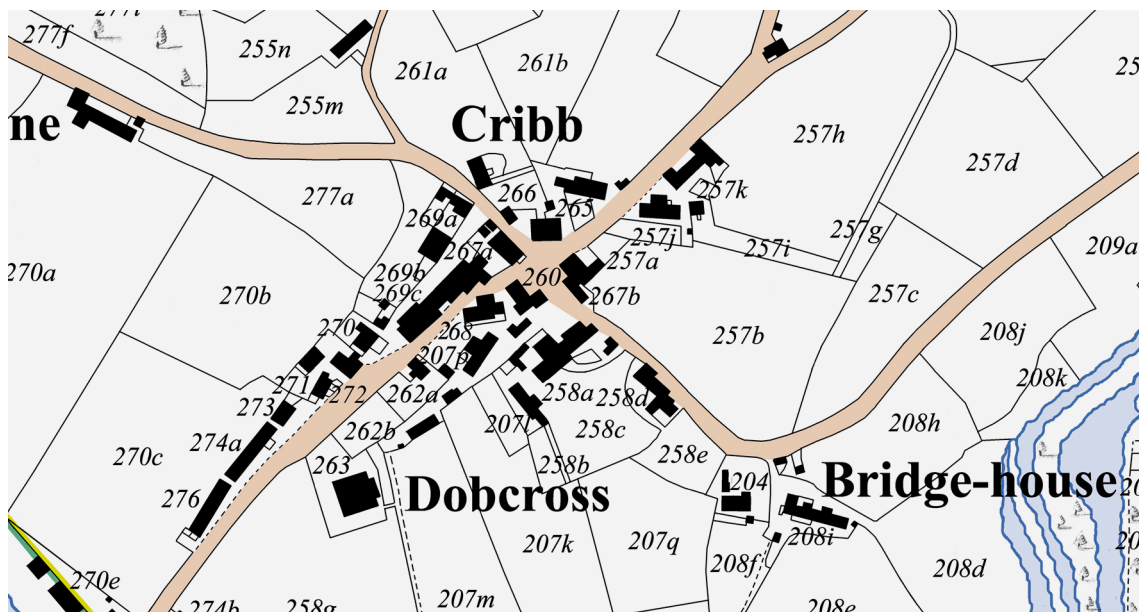


Figure 8 1822 Township Map showing a 'T' shape Manor House (Plot 262a)



Figure 9 1850 6in OS Map showing the south elevation additions present

Lawton died in 1820 and in his will he left the Manor House to his son-in-law Joseph Hasslegreave, husband of his late daughter Betty. In the will he describes it as:-

‘All my messuage, dwellinghouse summerhouse, dyehouse, shippon adjoining the summerhouse, and gardens situate standing and being at Dobcross in Saddleworth aforesaid and then in my possession’.²⁷

The dyehouse can perhaps be associated with what is now the small cottage, No 24 Churchfields, which adjoins the Manor House and was once in the same ownership. The shippon is less easy to explain - it is not shown in the garden as the description implies on either the 1822 Township map or the 1850 Ordnance Survey 6in map. It was most probably in the field opposite.

Nineteenth Century Changes

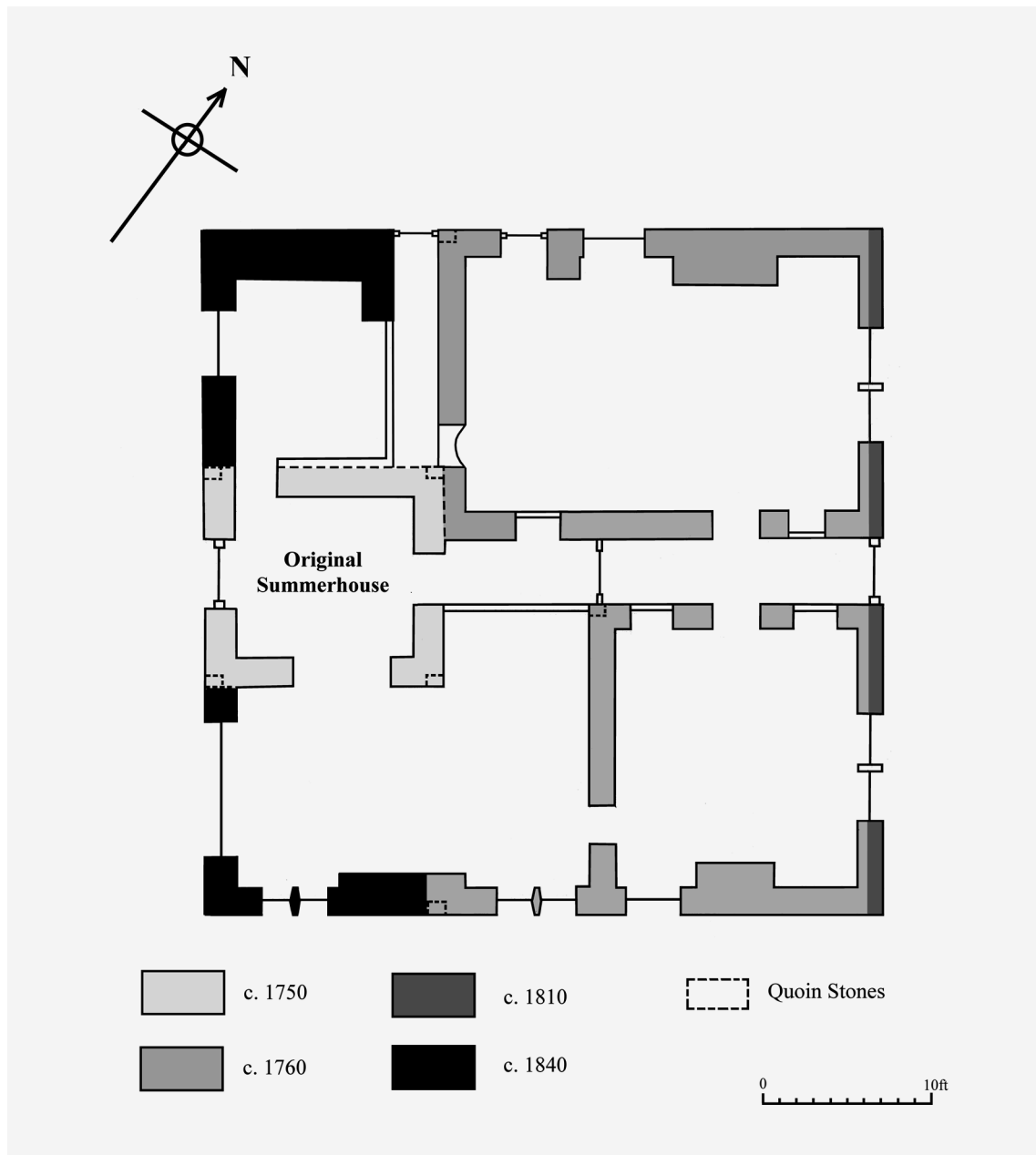
The subsequent history of the house has been described in Julian Hunt’s Bulletin article and Phil Wild’s account of his ancestor Joseph Woodcock.^{28, 29} Julian Hunt proposes that the infill on the east and west gables was carried out by Joseph Hasslegreave who lived in the Manor House for the next forty years with his sister who kept a private day school and that the angles were filled in to provide space for the school. An internal wall, one that would originally have been the southern outside wall, has been taken down on the east side of the house to make a single large room combining an existing room with the new extension. This could well have been the schoolroom. This theory is certainly consistent with the 1822 and 1850 maps which indicate that the extensions took place during Hasslegreave’s ownership.

²⁷ J.M. Hunt, *SHS Bulletin*, vol. 15, no. 3 (1985), p. 55.

²⁸ J.M. Hunt, *SHS Bulletin*, vol. 15, no. 3 (1985), pp. 55-56.

²⁹ P. Wild, *The Life and Times of Joseph Woodcock, Fancy Woollen Cloth Designer, (1830-98) Part 2*, *SHS Bulletin*, vol. 48, no. 2 (2018), pp. 50-62.

MANOR HOUSE, DOBCROSS



Mike Buckley

Figure 10 Ground Plan of the Manor House showing its evolution over time

Acknowledgement:

I would like to thank Gerald Harrison and Fiona Greer for kindly permitting and assisting with the architectural investigations.

SADDLEWORTH NOTICES AND REPORTS FROM THE LEEDS INTELLIGENCER: PART 6, 1798 - 1800

Howard Lambert

20th August 1798

GOULD'S CREDITORS,

WHEREAS JOHN GOULD, late of Quick, in the Parish of Saddleworth, in the County of York, Clothier, hath by Indenture bearing Date the Twenty-first Day of July Inst. assigned over all his Estate and Effects to Benjamin Mellor, of Micklehurst, in the County of Chester, Clothier ; Joseph Brook of Huddersfield, in the said County of York, Banker ; and Nathaniel Gould, of Manchester, in the County of Lancaster, Merchant, IN TRUST for the Benefit of themselves, and all such other the Creditors of the said John Gould as shall come in and execute the said Deed of Assignment within Forty Days from the Date thereof. NOTICE is hereby given, that the said Assignment is left at the office of Mr. Stables, Attorney at Law, in Huddersfield aforesaid, for the Inspection and Execution of such of the said Creditors as chuse to execute the same ; and all such Creditors as refuse to execute the same within the Time aforesaid, will be excluded the Benefit thereof. By Order, HENRY STABLES, Solicitor. Huddersfield, 27th July 1798.

Editorial Note: See 15th April 1799 entry and editorial note.

3rd September 1798

WAKEFIELD AND AUSTERLANDS TURNPIKE-ROAD

NOTICE is hereby given, That an Application will be made to Parliament the next Sessions for an Act to enlarge the Term, and to alter and enlarge the Powers granted by Two Acts of Parliament, the one passed in the Thirty-second Year of the reign of His late Majesty King George the Second; intituled, "An Act to repairing the Road from Wakefield to Austerlands, in the West Riding of the County of York ; and the other passed in the Eighteenth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty King George the Third, for continuing the Term and altering and enlarging the Powers of the said first mentioned Act; and which said Road goes through the several Townships or Hamlets of Wakefield, Thornes, Snapethorp, Horbury, Nether Shittlington, Middle Shittlington, Over Shittlington, Denby, Whitley, Lepton, Almondbury, Dalton, Huddersfield, Marsh, North Crosland, South Crosland, Mag. Lordship, Meltham, Linthwaite, Lingarths, Marsden and Saddleworth, and in the several Parishes of Wakefield, Thornhill, Kirkheaton, Almondbury, Huddersfield, and Saddleworth, all in the said County of York; and also to empower the Trustees of the said Road to alter and divert the same, within or through the several Townships or Hamlets of Snapethorp, Horbury, Nether Shittlington, Middle Shittlington, Thornhill, Denby, Whitley, Kirkheaton, Dalton, Huddersfield, Marsh, Longwood, Golcar, Slaithwaite, and Marsden, within the several Parishes of Wakefield, Thornhill, Kirkheaton and Huddersfield, in the said County of York - By Order, HENRY STABLES, Clerk to the said Trustees. Huddersfield, Aug. 28, 1798.

Editorial Note: Following an earlier act of 1778 there was a clear intention to alter the route of the road through Saddleworth from Thorpe Lane and Thurston Clough Lane to the present easier route through New Delph. This alternative route was apparently formalised by this new act even though the construction had probably been completed by 1798.⁸⁵

3rd September 1798

TURNPIKE-ROAD from Newton-Lane to Austerlands, &c. NOTICE is hereby given, THAT Application is intended to be made to Parliament the next Session, for Leave to bring in a Bill, and to obtain an Act for enlarging the Term, and altering and amending the powers of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the Eleventh Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, intituled, "An Act to enlarge the Term contained in Two several Acts of

⁸⁵ See B. Barnes, *Passage through Time, Saddleworth Roads and Trackways - a History*, (SHS, 1981), p. 38.

Parliament, and to repair, widen and amend the Road from the Guide Post at the Westerley End of Newton-Lane, within the Township of Manchester, in the County Palatine of Lancaster, to Austerlands, in the Parish of Saddleworth, in the County of York ;” And also for altering, amending and keeping in Repair the Road leading from the Town of Oldham in the said County Palatine of Lancaster, to the Town of Ashton-under-lyne, in the same County ; and for altering, amending and keeping in Repair the Road leading from the Town of Oldham aforesaid, to Royton, in the Parish of Oldham-cum-Prestwich in the said County Palatine of Lancaster ; which said Road from the Guide Post at the Westerley End of Newton-Lane aforesaid, to Austerlands aforesaid, is intended to pass through the Township of Manchester, and Newton, Moston, and Failsworth, in the Parish of Manchester aforesaid ; and Oldham and Chadderton, in the Parish of Oldham-cum-Prestwich, in the said County Palatine of Lancaster ; and Quick, in the Parish of Saddleworth, in the West Riding of the County of York ; and Crossbank in the Parish of Ashton-under-lyne aforesaid ; and which said Road leading from the Town of Oldham aforesaid, to the Town of Ashton-under-lyne aforesaid, is intended to pass through Oldham, in the Parish of Oldham-cum-Prestwich aforesaid and the Parish of Ashton-under-lyne aforesaid ; and which said Road leading from the Town of Oldham aforesaid to Royton aforesaid, is intended to pass through Oldham and Royton aforesaid, in the said Parish of Oldham-cum-Prestwich. – Dated this Twenty-ninth Day of August, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Ninety-eight. By Order, ISAAC and GEORGE WORTHINGTON, SOLICITORS.

17th September 1798

SADDLEWORTH, To be SOLD by AUCTION

At the House of Mr. Joseph Lawton, Innkeeper at Delph, in Saddleworth, in the County of York, on Wednesday the Seventeenth Day of October next, between the Hours of Three and Six in the Evening, either together or in such Lots as may be agreed upon on the Day of Sale, and subject to such Conditions as will be then produced, A FREEHOLD ESTATE, situate at Newtame, in Saddleworth aforesaid, consisting of Six Dwelling Houses, and other Outbuildings, belonging thereto, and about Forty-two Acres of Arable, Meadow and Pasture Ground, now in the several Tenures or Occupations of Timothy Wrigley, James Whitehead, Neddey Kenworthy, and Benjamin Brearley, their Assigns or Undertenants. The above Premises are situate in a populous and trading Part of the Country, and capable of very great Improvement, lying within Half a Mile of the Mumps Brook and Ripponden Turnpike Road, by which Lime may be fetched from Hollingwood, at a moderate Expence; also a Branch is intended to be made therefrom at or near Denshaw, which will pass through this Estate, and Delph to Brownhill, (being within Two Miles of the latter Place) where the Huddersfield Canal is nearly navigable, and it is expected considerable Quantities of Lime will be brought from Peak Forest and Buxton. The respective Tenants will shew the Premises; and for further Particulars, apply to Mr. J. Ainley, Attorney at Law, at Delph, in Saddleworth aforesaid. A valuable Bed of Coal lies under most Part of this Estate.

Editorial Note: Although there is insufficient information here to unambiguously identify the estate concerned, it seems probable that it was part of another large estate at New Tame that had been occupied by the Buckley Family from the late sixteenth century. As well as a farm centred at New Tame, and an eighteenth century sub-settlement at New Barn, it also included land at Bichen Bank and Tame Croft across the valley. The last of the Buckleys to own the estate was Henry Buckley who died in 1789. He had no male heirs and after his death the estate was divided between his three daughters Betty, Ann and Sarah. The New Barn portion of the estate passed to Sarah and her husband James Buckley of Linfitts, gent., the land and farms at Tamecroft and Birchen Bank to Ann and her husband John Roberts of Linfitts, gent. and the third portion, the farm at New Tame, to Betty and her husband John Schofield of Sandbed, gent. John Schofield died in 1792 and in his will he specified that his executors should sell his estate at New Tame and apply the money to discharge a mortgage on the property of £1,060.⁸⁶ The sale did not take place immediately and it was six years later that

⁸⁶ LA, Will of John Schofield of Sandbed, yeoman., proved 1793, WCW Supra 1793.

this auction was advertised and another two years before a sale eventually took place.⁸⁷ In 1803 it was sold to Isaac and John Worthington of Altrincham, gents, augmenting the land they already held in New Tame.⁸⁸

19th November 1798

Poundstone, in Saddleworth, To be SOLD

At the House of Mr. J. Wrigley, the Kings-Head, in Dobcross in Saddleworth, in the County of York, on Thursday the Twenty-second of November Instant, at Two o'clock in the Afternoon, pursuant to Conditions, unless disposed of in the mean Time by private Contract, of which Notice will be given, A very Eligible and Improveable FREEHOLD ESTATE, situate at Poundstone, in Saddleworth aforesaid, consisting of a good substantial Messuage, now occupied in Two Dwelling-Houses, with the Barns, Stables, and other suitable and convenient Outbuildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, and Nine Acres of Good Meadow and Pasture Land occupied therewith. Also THREE good substantial DWELLING-HOUSES, situate at Lydgate, in Saddleworth. The Estate is plentifully supplied with good Water, and desirably situated in a populous and trading Country, about Half a Mile from the Turnpike-Road leading from Wakefield to Manchester, and very near to the Line of the Canal from Huddersfield to Ashton-under-Line. Further Particulars may be had of Mr. Thomas Whitehead of Loadhill, the Owner ; Mr. Arthur Scholefield, of Stanidge-Foot, near Delph ; or of Mr. Swainson, Attorney at Law, Halifax.

11th March 1799

Scholefield's Bankruptcy

WHEREAS a Commission of Bankrupt is awarded and issued forth against BENJAMIN SCHOLEFIELD, the Younger, late of Grange, but now of Standedge Foot, in Saddleworth, in the County of York, Clothier, Dealer and Chapman, and he being declared a Bankrupt, is hereby required to surrender himself to the Commissioners in the said Commission named, or the major Part of them, on the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Days of March Inst. by Ten of the clock in the Forenoon on each of the said Days, at the House of William Davenport, the Red Lion Inn, in Marsden, in the said County, and on the Twentieth Day of April next, at the House of Joseph Lawton, Innkeeper, in Delph, within Saddleworth aforesaid, at Ten o'clock in the Forenoon of that Day, and make a full Discovery and Disclosure of his Estate and Effects ; when and where the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their Debts, and at the Second Sitting to chuse Assignees, and at the last Sitting the said Bankrupt is required to finish his Examination, and the Creditors are to assent to, or dissent from the Allowances of his certificate. All Persons indebted to the said Bankrupt, or who have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same, but to whom the Commissioners shall appoint, but give Notice to Mr. Jonas Ainley, Attorney at Law, at Delph, in Saddleworth, near Huddersfield, Yorkshire ; or Mr. Battye, Attorney at Law, Chancery Lane, London. DELPH, 6th March 1799.

Editorial Note: Benjamin Schofield of Grange (1765-1834) was the heir to an estate at Grange but as his father was still alive in 1796 it seems unlikely that he had then entered into his inheritance.

15th April 1799

Quick, in Saddleworth, To be SOLD by AUCTION,

On Thursday the Twenty-fifth Day of April Instant, at the House of Benjamin Wrigley, of Lidgate, in Saddleworth, between the Hours of Four and Six o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to such Conditions as shall be then and there produced,
ALL those BUILDINGS with about THIRTY-EIGHT ACRES of LAND, situated at and near

⁸⁷ WRRD, 24 October 1801, John Schofield's Executors; Mary Schofield, John Schofield's widow; and John Bowker of Bowkerbank, Manchester, gent., to William Frobisher of Halifax, gent., and Joseph Edwards of Northowram Hall, Halifax, Esq. EK 405 542.

⁸⁸ WRRD, 29 January 1803, Joseph Edwards, and William Frobisher to Isaac and George Worthington of Altrincham, gents. EM 409 548. See also note above to the 20th February 1797 auction.

Quick in Saddleworth aforesaid, (late the Property of Mr. JOHN GOULD) in the following LOTS :

Lot 1. A HOUSE and GARDEN, late in the Occupation of Mr. John Kenworthy ; also a Garden, late in the Possession of Mr. Robert Kenworthy; with five Cottage Houses and a Stable, together with Six Closes of Land called the Little How Field, the How Field, the Stove Field, the Calf Hey, the Well Meadow, and the Round Field, containing in the Whole (by Admeasurement) Thirteen Acres and Thirty-three Perches be the same more or less.

Lot 11. A HOUSE and GARDEN, now in the Occupation of Mr. John Gould; with a Barn, Stable, Shippon, and one Cottage House, together with Five Closes of Land, called the Great Hey, the Upper Meadow, the Barn Butt, the Little Meadow, and the New Field, containing in the Whole (by Admeasurement) Eleven Acres, One Rood, and Three Perches, be the same more or less.

Lot 111. A HOUSE, situated near the Right Mill, with Eight Closes of Land, called the Short Ley, the Old Limed, the Old Wood, the Thick Three Lands, the Gib Knowl, the Tenter Field, the Slade Meadow, and the Mill Meadow, containing in the Whole (by Admeasurement) Thirteen Acres and Seventeen Perches, be the same more or less, and now in the Occupation of Joshua Roberts.

Lot IV. The GROUND RENTAL of a HOUSE situated at Quick, leased a few Years since, for the Term of Nine Hundred and Ninety-Nine Years, at the yearly Rent of Fifteen Shillings. The above Premises are well calculated for the Woollen Business, being well supplied with Water; and the Turnpike-Road from Stockport to Huddersfield goes through nearly the Middle of them. For further Particulars apply to Mr. John Gould, of Quick, who will shew the Premises.

Also, at the same Time and Place will be SOLD, THREE COTTAGE HOUSES and TWO SMITHIES, situated at Ashton, and late in the Possession of Amon Ogden. These Premises are in Lease from the Earl of Stamford. For further Particulars apply to Mr. Joseph Mellor of Ashton, who will shew the Premises.

Editorial Note: Following James Kenworthy's bankruptcy in 1795 and the auction of this estate on the 7th December 1795 it was sold to John Gould in 1797.⁸⁹ But Gould himself was heavily indebted and was forced to release all his real estate to four principal creditors as trustees to sell or dispose of to clear Gould's debts. At the auction the estate was sold to William and Robert Kenworthy for £1035.⁹⁰ Benjamin Wrigley was the landlord of the Ram Inn at Lydgate.⁹¹

10th June 1799

Turnpike-Road from Oldham to Ripponden, TOLLS to be LETT.

NOTICE is hereby given, That the adjourned Meeting of the Trustees for putting in Execution an Act of Parliament made and passed in the Thirty-fifth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled " An Act for making and maintaining a Turnpike-Road from Mumps Brook, within Oldham, in the County Palatine of Lancaster, to Ripponden, in the West-Riding of the County of York, and a Branch therefrom at or near Denshaw, to or near Brownhill, and another Branch therefrom at or near Grains to Delph, all within Saddleworth, in the said Riding," will be held at the House of Mr. Joseph Eyres, the Waggon Inn at Calf-Hey, within Saddleworth aforesaid, on Wednesday the Twenty-sixth Day of June next, at Ten o'clock in the Forenoon, at which Time and Place the Tolls arising upon the Toll-Gates of the said Turnpike-Road, and called or known by the several Names of the Slitheroe-Bridge Bar, the Darby-Bar, the Platt-Lane Bar, the Waterheadings-Bar, and the Grains-Bar, together with

⁸⁹ See editorial notes to entries 27 April 1795 and 7 December 1795, *SHS Bulletin*, vol. 47, no. 4 (2017), pp. 119-20, 123-4.

⁹⁰ From an Abstract of Title to Near Quick in possession of the editor.

⁹¹ Rob Magee, *Springhead and Lees Pubs including Alt, with their licensees 1717-1996*, (Neil Richardson, 1996), pp. 33-34.

Grains-side Bar, will be Lett by Auction, to the best Bidder, in Manner directed by an Act passed in the Thirteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, King George the Third, “for regulating the Turnpike-Roads.” Whoever happens to be the best Bidder, must at the same Time give security with sufficient Sureties, to the satisfaction of the said Trustees, for payment of the Rent agreed on, at such Days and Times as they shall direct. HENRY BARLOW, Clerk to the said Trustees, Oldham. May 30th, 1799.

Editorial Note: Before the construction of this turnpike road through Denshaw the route from Delph followed Slack Gate Lane. An inn existed on the lane at Wham during the eighteenth century and appears to have been established in the 1770s by Thomas Platt.⁹² This advertisement reveals that it was known at this time as the Waggon Inn.

26th August 1799

We are sorry to have in our power to detail the melancholy effects of the storm which was felt so generally throughout the West Riding of this County, and in other places, on Saturday the 17th inst. In Saddleworth several mills have been washed away and others materially damaged ; Mr. Horsfall’s mill near Huddersfield, two dwelling houses, and a number of cottages near the rivulets in that neighbourhood have also been destroyed; the brooks in the vallies above Halifax were so swelled with the rain that all the mills from Sowerby Bridge to Rushworth are materially injured, and the occupation bridges destroyed. The river Calder was never known to have been so high in the memory of man. The river Aire was also much out of its boundaries, and has swept away an immense quantity of hay, timber and other effects within its reach. Reports say that several lives have been lost, but of this we have as yet received no authentic information. A similar storm was likewise felt the same day throughout a great part of Lancashire. In and about Manchester, it was particularly tremendous. The waters in some of the rivers rose to a height exceeding any former time, and the devastation, especially upon the Mersey, is immense ; there is scarcely a bridge remaining from the rise of that river to its junction with the Tame. Several mills with the machinery therein have been swept away, and several others so much damaged, that they must be taken down ; many individuals have sustained very great losses, especially one person who has lost near 800 pieces of manufactured goods.

23rd September 1799

OLDHAM ROAD ACT

We the undersigned Trustees named in an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament, entituled, “An Act for more effectually repairing and improving the Roads from Manchester, in the County Palatine of Lancaster, through Oldham to Austerlands, in the Parish of Saddleworth, in the County of York, and from Oldham to Ashton-under-Lyne, and from Oldham to the village of Royton, in the said County Palatine of Lancaster” Do hereby give NOTICE, That Application is intended to be made in the next Session of Parliament for Leave to bring in a Bill, and to obtain an Act, for adding new Trustees to those already named in the said former Act, and for fixing certain Limits within which the Turnpikes and Toll Gates upon the said Roads shall be erected and set up, and for regulating and directing the Application of the Tolls, and for otherwise altering and amending the said former Act ; which said Roads lie within, or are intended to pass through the several Parishes of Manchester, Prestwich cum Oldham, and Ashton-under-Lyne, in the said County of Lancaster, and the Parish of Saddleworth, in the said County of York. Dated this Third Day of September, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-nine. George Lloyd Holland Ackers Joseph Tipping William Hardman James Ackers.

Author’s Note : The term “Turnpike” originated from pikes which were utilised to block the passage of vehicles, until the appropriate fare was paid, and the pike turned at a toll house. A

⁹² Thomas Platt of Whams Inn died September 9th 1789 in the 62nd year of his age. His gravestone is in the Old Yard at St Chad’s Church. See M. Buckley (ed.), *St Chad’s Church, Monumental Inscriptions in the Old Churchyard*, (SHS, 2015), p.54 and map.

SADDLEWORTH NOTICES AND REPORTS

range of tolls were levied depending on the type of coach, wagon or cart, the number of horses, and the type of livestock being conveyed. Trustees could not charge tolls above a maximum schedule, and were not permitted to earn direct profits. Toll exemptions were normally granted for mail coaches, soldiers, farmers transporting manure and other fertilizers, voters on election days, and those visiting the sick or attending funerals. At the peak, in the 1830s, over 1000 Trusts administered around 30,000 miles of turnpike roads in England and Wales.

14th October 1799

GAME DUTY. West-Riding of Yorkshire

Issued in the Riding aforesaid, with respect to the said Duty, between the First Day of July and the Twentieth Day of September 1799, pursuant to the Acts of Parliament granting Duties on such Certificates.

HAIGH, Blackett W, of Saddleworth, Gent

HARROP, Thomas, of Dobcross, Gent

28th October 1799

Jonathan Lawton's Creditors

WHEREAS JONATHAN LAWTON, late of White Lee, in Saddleworth, in the County of York, Clothier, did some Time ago by Indenture of Assignment, assign over to Samuel Scholefield, of Welly Hole, and Robert Hadfield, of White Lee, both in Saddleworth aforesaid, Clothiers, all his Estate and Effects, IN TRUST for the Benefit of, and to be equally divided amongst such of the Creditors of the said Jonathan Lawton, as should sign the Indorsement thereupon made. NOTICE is therefore given, That the said Assignment is left with Mr. Ingham, in Dobcross, in Saddleworth aforesaid, for the Inspection and Execution of the Creditors of the said Jonathan Lawton, and will remain in his Possession for that Purpose until the First Day of November next ; at which Time a Dividend of the Estate and Effects of the said Jonathan Lawton will be made by the said Assignees amongst all the Creditors of the said Jonathan Lawton, who shall have signed the said Indorsement ; and all such of the Creditors of the said Jonathan Lawton, who shall not have signed the said Indorsement on or before the said First Day of November next, will be excluded the Benefit of the said Dividend. All Persons who stand any way indebted to the said Jonathan Lawton, are forthwith to pay their respective Debts to the said Assignees, or one of them, or they must be sued for the Recovery thereof without further Notice. By Order of the Assignees, JAMES INGHAM, Solicitor. Dobcross, 27th September 1799.

30th June 1800

To MERCHANTS

Broad & Plain Woollen Cloth & Kerseymeres. To be SOLD by AUCTION, by W.H. BRAZIER, (By Order of the Assignees of THOMAS MILLS, of Moorcroft Wood, in Saddleworth, a Bankrupt) On Saturday the Fifth Day of July next, in a spacious Room adjoining the Concert-Room, situate in Albion-Street, in Leeds, ABOUT SIXTY PIECES of BROAD and PLAIN WOOLLEN CLOTHS and KERSEYMERES, of the Saddleworth Manufacture. The Sale to begin at Ten o'clock in the Forenoon.

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