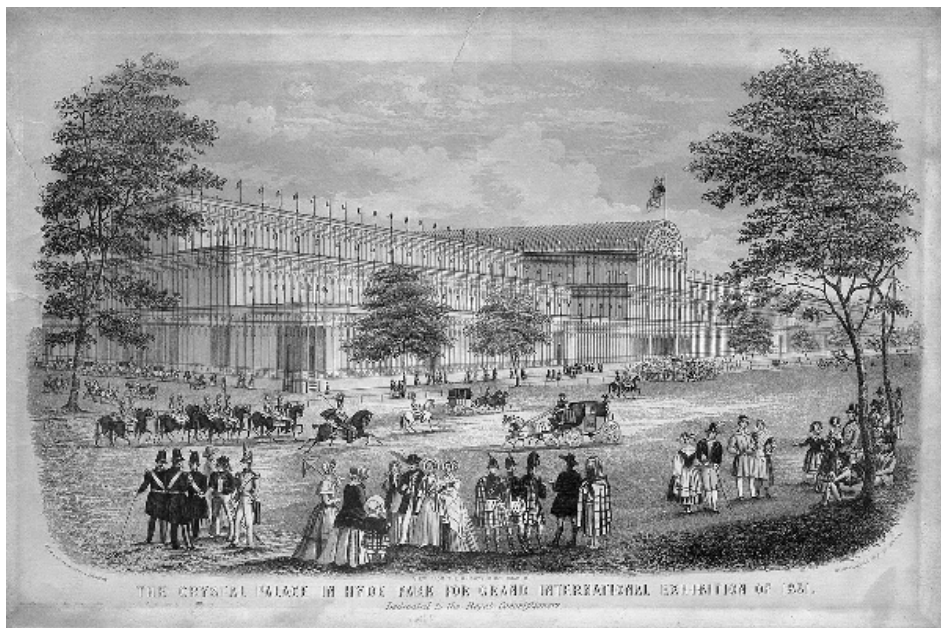


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 51

Number 4

2021

Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

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Cover Illustration:
The Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, 1851

Edited by Mike Buckley
Printed by Taylor & Clifton, Uppermill

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ACTING CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2021

David J. W. Harrison

We must sadly report the death of several members of the Society during this past year. John Widdall of Uppermill, a co-editor of our *Mapping Saddleworth II* book; Marie-Thérèse Porisse of Grasscroft, a member of very long standing; Jean Tennant of Moorside, Oldham; Dr. Banister, Uppermill; Christopher Lees, Wrea Green, Preston; John Marshall, Diss, Norfolk; and John Ogden, Helensburgh, Dumbarton.

We extend our deepest condolences to their families and all their friends.

This has been a year of lost opportunities, there having been none that have come to fruition that I can discern. We had plans, Talks, a Day School and even Walks again. Let us just hope that, as of the time of writing, when Societies are opening up again and people of our broadly advanced-years generation are gradually coming forward to enjoy life and attending events, things continue to improve.

Also, on a promising note, membership of the Society has improved over the year and that, together with the heartening response to our plea for assistance with the funding for Holly Bank, brings hope for the future. I have reported, in short form, the results of the funding initiative and the results from our survey of members in the Newsletter, further information will ensue in time as we get to grips on matters.

It would be remiss of me not to mention, at this juncture, that the committee is pleased to announce that two members have agreed to become life patrons of the Society, they are Mike Buckley and Robert McCracken QC. Also, subsequent to the appeal for funds to assist the Society's development of Holly Bank, the following have been awarded life membership of the Society; Mrs Susheila Cox, Mr Michael Fox, Mr David Harrison, Mr J Trevor Lawton and Prof Roderick Smith. Congratulations to all the above.

One major matter has, of course, been our need to change the Society's status because, as an unincorporated charity we were not permitted to actually own property in our own right which meant that the gifted house, Holly Bank, could only be owned by trustees on behalf of the Society or held on lease from a third party, which has been the case since its acquisition. However, now the Society has been able to arrange registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) we can proceed to become owners of property of this nature. The accomplishment of this new status has been a fraught process, persevered with over more than one year by the trustees led by the redoubtable Lily Hopkinson, our minutes secretary, who has borne the brunt of the workload and our heartfelt thanks must go out to Lily in recognition of her determination to see this through.

The Trustees, as your committee members are now designated according to the Charity Commission's edict, have not been idle during this withdrawal from face to face contact with members as, apart from the aforesaid efforts expended to change our status, the production of the Bulletin and Newsletter will testify. Other work undertaken has also been the pursuit of funds, bidding for grant aid to help develop Holly Bank. Again Lily, accompanied by Keith Lucas, has been at the forefront of this process, and still is in pursuing grant aid.

Of the 'lay' members assisting the trustees, Charles Baumann has continued with his advertising duties keeping the local media apprised of the Society's functions, or rather lack of event activity, as you may have noticed in the local press. Even when there is nothing to advertise, Charles is resolute in advertising it!

Meg Langton, likewise, continues with the editorship and provision of contributions to the Newsletter together with her invaluable work with the sale and distribution of our publications.

Mike Buckley has continued in his invaluable role as a driving force within the Society combining his editorship of the Bulletin and being a major contributor with his many other roles. Amongst these are designing, specifying, sourcing and managing the reconstruction work to the Society's new premises, Holly Bank and even clearing the garden area of its overgrowth; development of the website; attending to the Society's archive and many other aspects of the Society's *raison d'être*. We should be eternally grateful to Mike for all the concern he has and effort he puts into the Society to ensure its ongoing accomplishments.

Regarding Holly Bank, much has been done despite the effects of the pandemic on the builders, suppliers and indeed our finances. After a complete re-wire and layout modifications the building is currently undergoing extensive insulation work prior to re-plastering and the installation of the underfloor heating aspect of the work which will be followed by the double glazing. The recent influx of donations from members has been crucial to this push with its refurbishment and subsequent to a hopefully, successful crowdfunding appeal, we would then be able to install the proposed water-based heat pump to power up the system without recourse to the use of gas. Progress has been slower than hoped for, but progress, despite the effects of the pandemic, is being made.

Another attribute regarding Holly Bank is the room it will afford us for so many things, one being our ever-growing archive. This year we have received many generous new donations, so much so that the existing space in the museum is now becoming greatly overwhelmed. Our new premises will afford a welcome respite from the restrictions imposed on both the museum and the Society by this lack of space at the museum such that the work being done on it is well worth it if only for this aspect alone.

I would turn to those trustees yet to be mentioned;

That stalwart, Ivan Foster, treasurer, who not only having to battle his own demons but also the Society's finances over whose stewardship he presides with great aplomb. The thorough way he presents his accounts, both the general and Holly Bank's, every meeting is a great help in allowing the trustees the ability to monitor the Society's cashflow in the manner they have the duty so to do. In addition, he continues to be active with the management of our website and together with Mike Buckley continues to improve its potential. This has not been easy due to the pandemic limiting contact with our software developer in distant Hebden Bridge.

Mary Rodgers, new to the committee, is now our membership secretary and is learning the ropes under the guidance of Mike. She's a fast learner and also a contributor to the Newsletter.

Keith Lucas continues to be an endless source of innovative ideas of ways and means of fund raising and amongst other proposals his suggestion of producing a short promotional video for the Society has shown him to be an admirable film director. This video, to support our new crowdfunding initiative, will be released soon.

John Curnow organised the lecture programme for the year which, sadly, had to be abandoned. However he has now just picked up the traces and our first talk of the year was held on 25 September, duly advertised, thanks to Charles, in the local press, the second being at the 13 October AGM. The full programme for the forthcoming season is well on to completion. Duncan Anderson, our 'door keeper' at lectures, has been unable to ply his 'Jacobean skills' to ensure no non-member gets by without paying their entry fee for most of the year but is getting back into the swing of things already! Even though he is not standing for election to the committee this year he has none the less assured me he will continue to work the door.

Christine Barrow and Lesley Brown would ordinarily be managing the culinary side of our events but again this has not been necessary until now. They both however continue with the packing and local distribution of the Bulletin and Newsletter as issues are produced.

ACTING CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE AGM 2021

Other newcomers to the committee are Brian Groom and Matt Buckle, we hope to see them shortly take up the reins as they integrate.

For myself, I am still operating as acting chairman, occasional secretary and general dogsbody for the Society, roles which do not really suit my character nor age profile. The aforementioned two officers' positions are readily available to members and need to be filled as a matter of some urgency. Please give this some serious thought, particularly if you are only 80 or younger!

I would also thank our happy band of postal distributors who, together with some of the trustees as mentioned already, turn out to deliver Society material as and when required thus saving us much in the way of postal costs. For instance I only need to post around 110 copies of the Bulletin each time as the deliverers cope with a similar quantity themselves and 35 or so of you have elected to receive these by eMail.

Finally, thanks must be offered too to the Saddleworth Museum staff, curator Peter Fox, and Janet on reception who is always ready to assist us as necessary. The trustees and Friends of the Museum too have been most helpful as they always ensure that someone is available to assist on lecture nights, opening up and often placing out chairs. Thanks to you all, Charlie, Oliver and Steve.

Indeed, thank you all whose support keeps the Society going and viable.

Our programme of talks this year commenced only in September, the Bernard Barnes Lecture, and that was it. We start the new season with the talk following this year's AGM and all being well will continue on a monthly basis with the usual high-quality presentations.

September's lecture by Professor Angus Winchester, entitled 'History of the Common Land' proved to be a most interesting discourse on the distribution, use and regulation of common land. I had not realized that common land had had such oversight with regulatory control this having been developed, like most regulation, over many centuries by not only the owners but parliament and the users too. It was quite an eye-opener, to me at least, that such land was heavily controlled from quite an early period.

The lack of learned talks throughout the year, such as this last, had instigated in me withdrawal symptoms, now starting to subside!

As for the Society's main publication, the Bulletin, we trust that members have found the content to be of interest throughout the year and that the mix of academic and lighter articles appeals to all persuasions.

I would conclude again with a big thank you to you, the members, whose support, by your participation and financial contributions, help us with the advancement of the Society. Your committee would also ask that members encourage their friends and acquaintances to join the Society and that members bring forward ideas and suggestions to promote our activities and facilities and appeal to all who are interested in Saddleworth's past. This would greatly help the trustees to improve the Society's impact on the population at large, extend our membership and expand our collective knowledge of Saddleworth and its environs.

David JW Harrison 4th October 2021

Roger Tanner, the Society's Patron, celebrates his 100th Birthday in January. We pay tribute to Roger and celebrate his life long interest in vintage and classic cars by reprinting an article written in 2015 by his friend, the late John Warburton.

A CONNOISSEUR'S CARS ¹

John Warburton

John Warburton describes the outstanding selection of cars owned by enthusiast Roger Tanner over a period of more than 60 years.

A lean and fit man now in his early 90s, Roger Tanner can look back over a long life in which his intuitive good taste has had a constant and prominent influence. His interests are cultured and intellectual - good music, opera and drama, travel, antiques and fine houses and gardens. Having always lived in Saddleworth, a collection of smallish villages huddled in the valleys of the western approaches to the Pennines, he founded and then subsequently has presided over Saddleworth Museum - and then did likewise with the quadrennial Saddleworth Festival of the Arts. Those are but two of Roger's numerous public-spirited endeavours. But any attempt at public or private commendation is airily dismissed, Roger turning aside with a gesture which implies that his achievements fail to merit such comment.

His wit is ready, his lively mind belying his age, but Roger regrets that his recall is no longer total. He has always been a man who got things done, and has been in a position to pursue his interests with energy and without financial constraint.

It is predictable that ordinary, everyday motor cars would have fallen short of his vision of ideal motoring. A chance meeting with Sam Clutton when both were undergoing RAF training in India during the war led to a life-long friendship. Roger describes his wartime service as 'blundering about'. It was their shared enthusiasm for music that led to their rapport. Clutton's parallel passion for Vintage sports cars proved highly infectious. Later, at the end of the war, Roger asked Sam what type of car he ought to buy. 'Start at the top, just in case you never get there,' came the reply, words that Roger took to heart. Sam must have been impressed by not only the quality but also the quantity of fine old motor cars that thereafter joined the Tanner stable. There were several occasions when Roger and Sam enjoyed motoring on the Continent in one or other of the Vintage cars. These were expeditions Roger explains by saying, 'Oh, we just went for the fun of it.'

Jack Dransfield of Dean Garage in Greenfield always took care of the mechanical side of things. A lack of a competitive streak is another Tanner characteristic, but if you own an open Hispano-Suiza, you really do have to drive it down to the south of France once in a while and motor along the coast through Antibes, Nice and Menton. The London to Peking Motoring Challenge of 1990 caught Roger's interest. He first planned to take part in his 4½ litre Bentley but, for once, discretion overtook valour. With a friend from childhood, Harold Brooks, co-driving their Land Rover, he not only completed the 12,000-mile trip but continued to Hong Kong by way of Macao.

In the small hours of 1st January, 1948, Roger made and won a bet. At stake was the other man's 1929 Talbot-Darracq drophead coupé, but it was with some surprise that Roger saw the car driven up to his home much later that same morning (Figure 1). He protested that the bet had been merely in jest, and that in any case he did not want the car. But the owner insisted, and so the first of the Tanner collection had arrived. Roger used it regularly in the following 10 years, then laid it up until it was sold in 2007. The Talbot-Darracq (just 'Darracq' in France, where the chassis and in this case most likely the body were made) was a model K74 and had a six-cylinder overhead valve engine of 2.5 litres. The gearbox had four forward speeds and a right-hand change. An upmarket car, it had been first registered in Surrey in February of 1930: its heavy bumpers suggest they were accessories fitted prior to UK import. Work on the engine was never completed, and the car was eventually sold.

¹ This article first appeared in *The Automobile* (www.theautomobile.co.uk) in March 2015 and is reproduced with permission.

A CONNOISSEUR'S CARS



Stewart Skilbeck

Figure 1. Won in a wager, then used for 10 years - a Talbot-Darracq Type K74 of 1930.



Roger Tanner Collection

Figure 2. Roger's mother approved of this Rippon-bodied 20/25hp Rolls-Royce.

A CONNOISSEUR'S CARS



Roger Tanner Collection

Figure 3. Roger's 1908 15hp Talbot two-seater provided fine Edwardian motoring.



Roger Tanner Collection

Figure 4. Roger poses with his Bentley; taken in the 1990s.

An equally intriguing circumstance surrounded Roger's acquisition in 1955 of his 1923 H6B Hispano-Suiza. Its lady owner lived in London, and was a friend who shared Roger's musical interests. She yearned for a new harpsichord, which she could not afford. As Roger says, 'It would have been churlish not to have facilitated her musical career.' With a truly elegant open touring body by Carrosserie Kellner of Paris, this dashing car had been first registered in the UK on 23rd April, 1923. One of the all-time great motor cars, the H6B had a 6597cc single overhead camshaft six-cylinder engine, so flexible that a three-speed gearbox more than sufficed. Hispano-Suiza were pioneers of really efficient braking, which was on all four wheels and servo-assisted. He always found the Hispano to be reliable and comfortable - ideal for fast touring abroad. The body featured nautically-inspired styling with a dual cowl layout and storage lockers built into the partition. The dashboard was a work of art in itself, very fully instrumented, and twin spare wheels were carried, one on either side. The headlamps were by Blériot, dipped by the Barker mechanical lever system. The black leather upholstery was largely that originally fitted and, when sold in 2007, the Hispano ran nicely, although it had not been taxed for the previous couple of years.

Meanwhile, other cars came and went. There was an 'immaculate' 1923 3-litre Bentley registered MF 5937 which had a non-standard body and a radiator from a 4½-litre, but which 'couldn't stop'. Then there was a 1930 15.7 hp Crossley Sportsman's Coupé, a rare two-door body style with luxurious interior and complemented by wire wheels. And there were two (at least) Rolls-Royces, one a 1934 20/25 hp landaulet enhanced by polished aluminium wheel discs and body by Rippon of Huddersfield (chassis GWE51; registered AWT 578) (Figure 2). The other was a drophead coupé by Barker, a pretty, quite wide body on a rear-only braked 1924 chassis (GMK76; registered XU 5999). The Rippon landaulet was the only one of Roger's many old cars in which his mother would deign to be seen riding. From an earlier era was a 15 hp type 4DB Talbot with its attractive and original two-seater coachwork (Figure 3). Dating from March of 1908, it was another car with local connections, carrying the Bradford CBC registration AK 3021.

One exceptional car that was sold on after a few years was a D8C Delage drophead coupé of the school of Figoni, registered in January of 1933 as JJ 7490 but most likely made rather earlier. The D8 had a four-litre straight-eight engine with pushrod-operated overhead valves and was in production from late 1929 until May, 1933. The 'C' stands for 'court', or the shortest of three chassis length options. The brakes were vacuum servo-assisted (Dewandre system). More recently, this Delage was the subject of a full restoration, then passed through the salerooms in 2011 and currently belongs to a keen enthusiast in Cheltenham. Roger has warm memories of it describing the car as 'a good one.'

Some interesting post-war cars occupied his garage from time to time. These included a 1950 2½-litre Riley roadster in white (NUM 604), a Citroën Light 15 in typical black and, also black, on old Austin FX4 London taxi. For a time there was a DB4 Aston Martin drophead. A brace of Porsches added excitement, a 911 and an earlier 356 with which some stimulating Alpine motoring was enjoyed.

In the 1950s, Roger's solicitor in Manchester owned and used daily an open 4½-litre Bentley. Conversation during one business consultation meandered from matters legal to those pertaining to 'proper' motoring, and Roger walked out of the office the new owner of this Cadogan-bodied car (Figure 4). He was to use it extensively, keeping it for more than 50 years. Regular journeys to Brittany and Normandy are recalled, as is one notable run to Vienna and back. Bearing chassis number DS3570, this car had left the Cricklewood works in August, 1929, for Bishop's Road, Fulham, the address of the coachbuilder. The style they created was advanced for 1929; it seems likely it incorporated the tastes of the car's first owner, one D.B.C. Fairweather, of Angus in Scotland. A fold-flat windscreen and twin aero screens were sporting features, and not only the dashboard but all aspects of the car were very fully equipped with accessories. With four full doors and effective weather equipment, the fabric-covered body was found to be much more commodious and therefore comfortable and practical for longer journeys than the ubiquitous Vanden Plas type.

A CONNOISSEUR'S CARS



Stewart Skilbeck

Figure 5. The 1928 Tipo 8A Isotta Fraschini with coachwork by Morgan of Leighton Buzzard, owned by Roger Tanner from 1954 to 2007.



Roger Tanner Collection

Figure 6. Roger strikes a 'return from Moscow' pose in winter conditions outside his home. The Daimler is the DB18 purchased by his mother in 1949.

A CONNOISSEUR'S CARS

The Tipo 8A Isotta Fraschini was another top echelon chassis of the 1920s, and Roger purchased his in September 1954 (Figure 5). The lightweight four-door fabric-covered saloon bodywork had been built by Morgan & Co of Leighton Buzzard to Weymann patents. A 1928 car registered XV 1785, its chassis number was 1153. As its model designation implies, the Isotta was a straight-eight: the capacity was 7372cc and the engine featured a single overhead camshaft. As with the Hispano, a three-speed gearbox amply sufficed. The coachwork featured an opening windscreen and a sliding roof, as well as the dummy pram-irons on the rear quarters that were so much a styling motif of the later 1920s and on into the 1930s. Blue was the colour of the luxurious interior, which included silk pulls, leather upholstery and vanity trays. Bosch headlamps were augmented by Stephen Grebel sidelamps and a swivelling Marchal spot-lamp.

Quality is not restricted just to the larger cars of the pre-war years, Roger believes. The AC light car was built to high standards and an individual specification, and is still held to be one of the prettiest light cars of the 1920s. Roger bought his AC Royal two-seater and dickey towards the end of the 1950s. It was the Anzani-engined 11.9 hp model, and this particular example had been sold new by Messrs Greers of Northallerton, North Yorkshire. Registered PY 2932 on 24th March 1925, it had never been owned by anyone outside Yorkshire and remained in original condition, complete with its CAV lighting set. It became an exhibit in the Saddleworth Museum from the mid-1980s.

Asked about his favourite of all the fine cars he has owned, Roger's response was, 'Oh - whatever I was driving at the time.' Eventually, the time came to rationalise and at the same time secure the future of Saddleworth Museum by an endowment with funds generated by the sale of his remaining Vintage cars. Accordingly, Bonhams auctioned five of them; the 4½-litre Bentley, the Hispano, the Isotta, the Talbot-Darracq and the 1925 AC, at their Goodwood Festival of Speed sale on 22nd June, 2007. More than £400,000 was raised, with the Hispano bringing slightly more than the Bentley. These two were the top sellers.

All the cars had been in storage for quite a number of years, and so prior to the sale Roger had sought the assistance of two local enthusiasts and capable mechanics to check them over. Jack Dransfield and Brian Greenwood had both been familiar with the Tanner cars in years past, and they spent hours servicing, cleaning and doing minor reassembly as necessary, as well as checking that the engines of some of them would start. The Isotta had a spare engine - its original one, in fact - and its dismantled starter motor needed overhaul, then refitting.

As a record, Roger now has his photograph albums and memories of wonderful motoring in some outstanding vehicles. He does still have one older car, a 1949 Daimler DB18 2½-litre drophead coupé (JDF 138) bought new by his mother (Figure 6). It has been retained in the family ever since.

AUTHOR'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Some details of certain of the cars came from the Bonhams catalogue of their sale, for which many thanks. Stewart Skilbeck, then of Bonhams, kindly provided several photographs he had taken and also some helpful reminiscences. And, of course, to Roger Tanner for his time and trouble, the author records his appreciation.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks go to Julia Dawson for suggesting reprinting this article which first appeared in *The Automobile* magazine in March 2015, also for her help in liaising with various parties involved with the original article. Stewart Skilbeck has once again kindly agreed to the publication of his photographs as have Roger and his family theirs. We are also indebted to John Warburton's family and to Jonathan Rishton of *The Automobile* for giving permission to reprint the article and to Jonathan for supplying copies of the text and photographs.

ROYAL RECOGNITION OF A SADDLEWORTH MANUFACTURER

Rachel Fish¹ and Mike Buckley

‘The Great Exhibition of 1851, the apotheosis of the Industrial Revolution, may well serve as the goal of this voyage down the centuries. It was the fitting climax of a period in which invention and applied science had, with ever increasing impetus, swept the nation along, without vision of the port or guidance at the helm. It marked the triumph of machinery and power; it was the expression of England’s pride in its ability to supply the world with its manufactures in iron and cotton and wool, and of its belief in Free Trade.’²

The Great Exhibition of 1851, the brainchild of Prince Albert, was an international showcase of Britain’s achievements in science, the arts and all branches of industry and manufacture. Britain’s textiles had long dominated world markets in quality and innovation and it comes as no surprise that they formed an important section of the exhibition. The production of high quality woollen cloth, centred on the Leeds and Huddersfield areas, had long been successful in markets both at home and abroad. Saddleworth in particular, played an important role in serving these markets and in 1850 trade directories record twenty businesses in Saddleworth engaged in various aspects of the woollen industry. Saddleworth had long had a reputation for high quality broadcloth, spun and woven on handlooms in the hillside cottages of local families and exported to all parts of the globe. But by the 1850s the days of the handloom weaver were in decline, overtaken by a Victorian market demanding lighter weight clothing and the emerging factory system which brought together, under one roof, all aspects of the manufacturing process. ‘Fancy goods’, decorative and patterned cloths, were now in high demand and the Huddersfield manufacturers were now producing a wide range of such products and in Saddleworth many of the manufacturers were targeting an emerging market for light weight flannels and shawls.

John Smith was one of these. He was in the vanguard of flannel manufacture in Saddleworth, an industry which had been emerging from the 1830s and by the 1851 his company, based at Oak View Mill in Friezland was the local leader in this field.

The 1851 census returns record that John Smith was born in the Parish of Mottram-in-Longdendale in 1780. Nothing is known of his early life but the Mottram registers record his marriage to Sarah Shaw of Mottram in 1800. At the time he was living in Saddleworth, but this appears to have been short lived and the baptisms of his children reveal him living in various places in the Mossley vicinity during the next twenty years. His eldest two children were baptised at Mottram and the registers describe him living in Stayley in 1801, then at Micklehurst in 1802 and 1804, and by 1806 living in Mossley, where the rest of his eleven children were baptised at the Methodist New Connexion Chapel. The Methodist registers, which are particularly informative, describe him as a clothier and his father-in-law, William Shaw, also as a clothier. Family tradition is that he started in business working with his father, reputedly another John, and that he had met his wife through his father’s business dealings with William Shaw.

Micklehurst was an early centre of flannel production and *Pigot’s* trade directory lists three flannel manufacturers in business here in 1834; one of these trading as John Smith.³ He is also listed as a flannel manufacturer here in the later *Pigot’s* directories of 1836 and

¹ Rachel Fish is a direct descendant of John Smith and Sidney Smith and worked for a short time at Oakview Mill after leaving school.

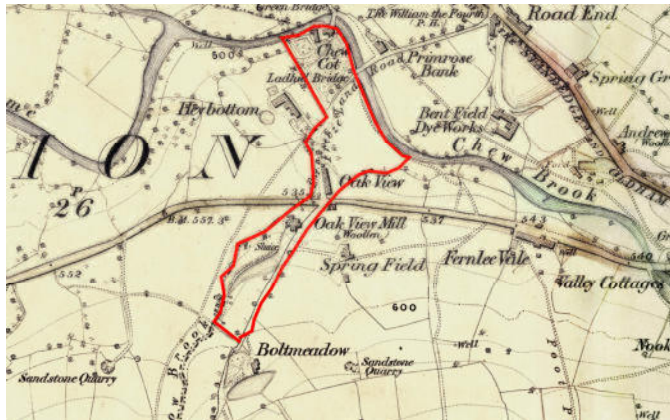
² W.B. Crump & Gertrude Ghorbal, *History of the Huddersfield Woollen Industry*, (Tolson Memorial Museum, 1935, Reprinted Kirklees Leisure Services, 1988), p. 113.

³ *Pigot & Co. National Commercial Directory*, Durham, Northumberland and Yorkshire, 1834.

ROYAL RECOGNITION OF A SADDLEWORTH MANUFACTURER

1838/9. In the earlier 1832 *Pigot's* Manchester and Salford directory there is also an entry for John Smith & Co, woollen &c manufacturers. These references could have been to his father's business but it seems more likely they were to John Smith himself, for by 1841 the same directory shows John Smith and Sons in business at Oak View Mills in Saddleworth and the Micklehurst business in the hands of a John Bottomley. Later directories reveal this was at Squire Mill.

John Smith and his family may have moved into Saddleworth prior to 1830. The 1851 census shows that his son Sydney was living here for a time following his marriage in 1830 before moving back to Mossley. Another son, William, had moved to Saddleworth from Micklehurst. But by 1841 all the family were living at Oak View.



Ordnance Survey 6in to 1 mile, 1851

Figure 1
Oak View and Environs
1851. Land associated with
the Mill is edged in red.

OAK VIEW MILL

Oak View Mill, or Bocking Mill as it is alternatively known, was built in the early 1790s by John Mallalieu of Haybottom.¹ It was one of the many Saddleworth mills that appeared in this decade for scribbling and carding wool, the newly mechanised processes which speeded up the production of woollen yarn. It was built at the bottom of Friezland Lane, and powered by Warlow Brook. In the next two decades John Mallalieu's business interests had expanded beyond running the mill, which had now switched from wool scribbling and carding to cotton spinning. However, in 1812, Mallalieu, then described as cotton spinner, dealer and chapman, and heavily mortgaged, was declared bankrupt.² The mill, then described as Haybottom Mill and unoccupied, was put up for sale:-

To be auctioned at the house of Mr. John Wrigley, the King's Head, at Dobcross, in Saddleworth aforesaid, on Thursday the 14th of January next, at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon.' [Inter alia.] Lot 3. All that water mill, called Hay-Bottom Mill, lately used as a cotton mill, with the dam, water wheel, and going gear attached thereto, together with a cottage and a close of land called the Lee adjoining thereto, containing by admeasurement (including the lane adjoining, in which there is a right of pasturage) two acres, three roods, and ten perches, late in the occupation of William Blackburn, but now unoccupied.³

¹ West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield (WYAS), Register of Deeds (RD), John Mallalieu of Haybottom, clothier, to George Lloyd of Manchester, Esq. and William Brown of York, Surgeon, concerning a messuage at Wickins &c and two closes at Woolleys called the Lee and Waste in Lee Lane in the occupation of John Radcliffe and two closes at Lower House, also the erection or building lately erected on the close called the Lee and used or intended to be used as a mill for scribbling and carding of wool, 3 February 1795, DQ 378.

² *London Gazette*, 2 May 1812, p. 842, 'Whereas a Commission of Bankrupt is awarded and issued forth against John Mallalieu the Elder, of Foulrakes, in the Parish of Saddleworth, in the County, of York, Cotton-Spinner, Dealer and Chapman'

³ *London Gazette*, 18 Dec 1812, pp. 2533-4.

ROYAL RECOGNITION OF A SADDLEWORTH MANUFACTURER

The ownership reverted to the mortgagees, the executors of William Walker of Crow's Nest, Halifax.⁴

Three years later the mill was being worked by John Dicken Whitehead as tenant of the Walkers.⁵ Under the Whitehead's tenancy the mill returned to woollen manufacture and was described as such in the trade directories of 1818-1831; the name Oak View first appears in *Pigot's* directory of 1819. In 1831 following the death of John Dicken Whitehead it was put up for auction again. The auction notice in the *Manchester Guardian* describes a mill that had been completely refitted by Whitehead and was now carrying out all stages of the woollen cloth manufacturing process:

'To be auctioned: the entirely new woollen machinery at Oak View Mills, Saddleworth, in consequence of the death of J.D. Whitehead: willow, 3 fearnoughts, gig mill, doubling machine, 2 twining machines, 1 perpetual and 2 common shear frames, 6 carding engines, 6 scribbling machines 4 spinning jacks, billy 100 sp., 4 jennies, 2 pair Dutch looms (1 16 shuttles, 1 6 shuttles) 3 6-foot looms, 1 8' ditto; 1 9' 6" ditto with healds, reeds and gears; tenters & stretchers, copper and iron boilers &c. Farming stock inc 4 milch cows, 4 stirks etc.'⁶

But the Whitehead's occupancy of the mill did not end with the death of John Dicken Whitehead in 1830; his three nephews continued in business at Oak View trading as R. R. Whitehead and Brothers. In 1833 their report to a Parliamentary Factory Commission shines a light on the activities at the mill and the draconian conditions of employment.⁷ They stated that their activities had started here in 1812, that the mill was powered by a water wheel of 8-10 horse power and that they were engaged in the manufacture of woollen goods of various descriptions. They employed 65 persons: 41 males and 24 females; 12 boys and 17 girls were under 16, of which 6 boys and 9 girls were under 12. The hours of work were 72 hours; half past five in the morning to eight at night with an hour for lunch and two thirty minute breaks for breakfast and tea. On Saturday the hours of work were four hours less. Fines were exacted for bad work. There was no sick pay - they stated 'most of the work people are members of clubs or friendly societies, which support them in sickness.' There were nine holidays in total, at Christmas, Easter, Shrove Tuesday, Whitsun, three at the wakes and a day at the fair. These holidays were unpaid but if people chose they could work during the holidays on repairs and cleaning out the reservoir etc. These harsh and inhuman conditions appear to have been the norm in the newly emerging textile factories, a sharp contrast to the freedoms of domestic manufacture. Following the parliamentary commission which highlighted the abuse of children in this way the Factories Act of 1833 started a slow process of reform but it was not until 1847 that the Ten Hours Act limited the working day for all children under eighteen to ten hours. Such were the conditions prevalent in Saddleworth at this time; conditions that undoubtedly had contributed to the business success of the Whiteheads and John Smith.

Despite the fact that the Whitehead's were employing sixty five people, the mill premises had not increased in size since their creation in the early 1790s and as late as 1851 the Ordnance Survey map shows the mill no larger than a successful merchant or manufacturers' house.⁸ The Whiteheads' business, with 65 employees had clearly outgrown the premises. The modest water wheel and small stream must have been operating at their limit, working 72 hours a week, the year round. It is no surprise that two years after their report to the Parliamentary Commission the Whiteheads purchased the much more extensive Royal

⁴ RD, 2 June 1813, GA 151.

⁵ WYAS, Land Tax Returns, Quick, 1815. Mr Walker, owner and J.D. Whitehead, occupier.

⁶ Bernard Barnes references this advertisement to the *Manchester Guardian* of 26 November 1831, however no reference to it can be found in this edition of the newspaper.

⁷ Saddleworth Historical Society Archives, Julian Hunt Collection, Mills Miscellaneous.

⁸ Mike Buckley, David Harrison and Alan Petford, *Mapping Saddleworth*, Volume 1, (SHS, 2007), Ordnance Survey, 6 in to 1 mile, p. 76.

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George Mills for £7,000, a large sum for the times, and a clear indication of the Whitehead's success at Oak View.

Despite the Whiteheads' purchase of Royal George in 1835 they appear to have remained in occupation of Oak View Mill for a time. A Walker deed of 1835 describes the premises:

Oak View Mills in the occupation of R.R. Whitehead and Brothers consisting of a house, barn, stable, mill, warehouse, cottage, orchard and closes called the Holme, the New Field, the Dam Field, the Lower Dam Field and several small slips of land containing 7a 3r 10p.⁹

It was not until 1837 that it was advertised to be let again:-

OAK VIEW MILL, SADDLEWORTH.

TO BE SOLD OR LET, OAK VIEW MILL, in Saddleworth, in the County of York, with the Warehouse, Weaving-Shops, Tenter Stove, Cottages, a neat Dwelling. House, called 'Chew Cottage,' together with the Orchard, Gardens, and about 5 Acres of Land, of excellent Quality. The above Premises are situate in the midst of a populous Manufacturing District, are well calculated for a Woollen or other Manufacturer, contain an abundant supply of Spring Water, embracing a fall of upwards of Forty Feet, and a new Iron Water Wheel is now erecting. Immediate Possession can be given; and if Sold, two-thirds of the Purchase Money might remain on security of the Property, if required. Further Particulars may be known on application to Messrs. R. R. WHITEHEAD and BROTHERS, the late Tenants, of the Royal George Mills, Saddleworth; or of Mr. SAMUEL WASHINGTON, Land Agent, Crow Nest, near Halifax - April 20, 1838.

It was presumably in response to this notice that John Smith decided to establish his business here. The mill was apparently an empty property, the machinery and employees having been transferred to Royal George Mills. By 1840 Smith had transferred his activities from Micklehurst to Oak View, and the *Robson's* directory of that year lists John Smith and Sons, flannel manufacturers, in business at Oak View. Throughout his tenancy John Smith rented the premises from the freeholders, the heirs of William Walker.

JOHN SMITH AND SONS

Throughout his time at Oak View John Smith was trading in partnership with his sons William and George; a third son, Sidney, described as a butcher in the 1841 census, subsequently also joined the partnership. The business flourished throughout the next decade and by the time of the Great Exhibition of 1851 had established itself as a leader in the manufacture of flannels and shawls. By 1851 the firm's activities had expanded beyond Oak View and was then also manufacturing at the nearby Tunstead Clough Mill.¹⁰

THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851

John Smith and Sons was at the height of its success in 1851 and it perhaps comes as no surprise that the company decided to display some of its goods at this great international event in London. The exhibition catalogue was organised in classes, Classes 12 and 15 relating to woollen and worsted cloth of various types. There were a large number of both domestic and foreign exhibitors, and among local firms exhibiting flannels were several Rochdale businesses as well as John Smith & Sons of Saddleworth. In this category were also exhibitors from Wales, France, Belgium and America.

John Smith's entry in the catalogue read:

⁹ RD, 25 September 1835, Ann Walker of Cliff Hill. Halifax, heiress of John Walker of Crow Nest Esq. to George Mackay Sutherland of Scotland, a half share in various estates in Saddleworth., MF 400.

¹⁰ *Slater's Manchester and Salford Directory*, 1851, John Smith and Sons, Flannel and Shawl Manufacturers, Oakview; Woollen and Cloth Manufacturers, Tunstead Clough.



Rachel Fish



Rachel Fish

Figure 2. The Prize Medal awarded to John Smith & Sons in 1851

ROYAL RECOGNITION OF A SADDLEWORTH MANUFACTURER

235. J. Smith & Sons, Saddleworth, near Manchester. (Agents, Nield and Collander, London.)
Fine and superfine and silk warp and stout flannels. Fine and superfine and silk warp. Shawls and scarfs for printing.

The agents mentioned may well have been the company's London sales representatives who would no doubt have played a leading role in the decision to exhibit.

Prizes were awarded in each category and international juries of experts were appointed to make the awards. The juries' deliberations and list of awards was published in 1852 and it contains much useful information about the state of each industry at the time and the reason for each award. Reviewing the flannel market the jurors wrote:-

LANCASHIRE, especially Rochdale and its neighbourhood, is the district where flannels are made more extensively than in any other part of the world, and in the greatest variety and widths, finish and substance; that is the thin gauze, the medium and the thick, double raised or swanskin quality: both for home consumption and exportation. Machinery is more generally used here than elsewhere; that is, the mule for spinning, and the power loom for weaving. The greatest number of goods and Exhibitors are also from this district.

SADDLEWORTH and its neighbourhood are remarkable for the manufacture of Saxony flannels, especially those of very fine make which have been very much admired in London and other markets.

In the flannels category eight prize medals in all were awarded; one to an American exhibitor, two to French exhibitors, one to a Belgium exhibitor and three to Rochdale exhibitors. John Smith and Sons, the only Saddleworth exhibitor at the Exhibition (in any category), joined the list of recipients and was praised by the judges 'for merit in very fine well-made flannels.' Two other local flannel manufacturers, Messrs Kelsall and Bartlemore of Rochdale and George Lawton of Micklehurst, were praised for their high quality work and the judges stated would have won prizes had they not been prevented from doing so by the fact that they were part of the judging process. George Lawton of Micklehurst, a leading flannel manufacturer, was one of the Jurors for Class 12 and Henry Kelsall of Rochdale had acted as an expert advisor to this jury. It must have been gratifying to the Smiths to know that two of their competitors had been part of the judging process and had been party to the award of their Prize Medal.

In 1851 John Smith was then in his 72nd year and we might speculate that his children were by this time taking on much of the day to day running of the business. The success at the Great Exhibition appears to triggered a re-organisation of the business enabling John to retire. The partnership was dissolved, apparently while the Exhibition was still in progress; the *London Gazette* of November 1851 carried the notice:

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, John Smith, William Smith, George Smith, and Sidney Smith, lately carrying on business, at Oak View, near Upper Mill, in the parish of Saddleworth, in the West Riding of the county of York, as Woollen Manufacturers, under the style or firm of John Smith and Sons, was dissolved on the 9th day of July last, by mutual consent. All debts due to and owing by the said late partnership firm will be received and paid by the said John Smith. - As witness our hands this 12th day of November 1851. John Smith. George Smith. William Smith. Sidney Smith.¹¹

The operation at Tunstead Clough was taken over by his two elder sons, William and George, who by 1852 were trading in partnership as flannel manufacturers here and also operating at Fernlee Vale.¹² In the same year John Smith drew up his will leaving small monetary

¹¹ *London Gazette*, 25 November 1851, Issue 21267, p. 3281.

¹² *White's Clothing Districts Directories* 1852 & 1853, William & George Smith, Superfine flannels and shawl manufacturers, Tunstead Clough and Fernlee Vale Mills; also *Whelan's Manchester and Salford Directory* 1853.

ROYAL RECOGNITION OF A SADDLEWORTH MANUFACTURER

bequests to William and George and desiring that his son Sidney and daughter Mary should carry on the remaining parts of the business at Oak View as co-partners.¹³

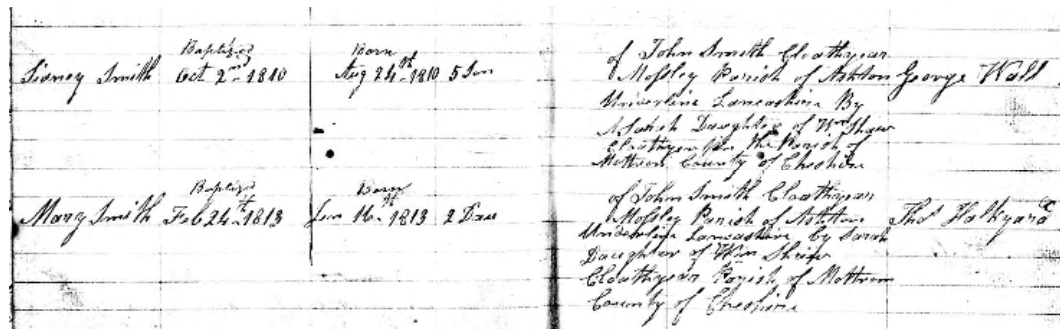


Figure 3. The particularly informative baptism entries for Sidney and Mary Smith in the Methodist New Connexion Chapel Registers, Mossley.¹⁴

THE SMITHS' SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

John Smith had left the business in good shape but his will shows that, despite his success, the business was probably under capitalised, with no real estate and its assets apparently limited to the mill machinery. This was the situation inherited by his children and would have left the newly structured businesses vulnerable to trade fluctuations.

William and George's operations at Tunstead Clough and Fernlee Vale were short lived. On 25th November 1854 a few weeks after the death of their father, the *London Gazette* announced their insolvency:-

COURT FOR RELIEF OF INSOLVENT DEBTORS.

The following PRISONERS, whose Estates and Effects have been vested in the Provisional Assignee by Order of the Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors, and whose Petitions and Schedules, duly filed, have been severally referred and transmitted to the County Courts hereinafter mentioned, pursuant to the Statute in that behalf, are ordered to be brought up before the Judges of the said Courts respectively, as herein set forth, to be dealt with according to Law:

Before the Judge of the County Court of Yorkshire, holden at York, on Monday the 20th day of November, 1854.

George Smith (sued and committed with William Smith), late of Oakview, near Upper Mill, Saddleworth, Yorkshire, in lodgings, out of business, previously of Fern Lee Vale Mills, near Upper Mill aforesaid, carrying on business in co-partnership with the said William Smith, at Tunstead Clough and Fern Lee Vale Mills, both near Upper Mill aforesaid, under the style or firm of William and George Smith, Flannel and Shawl Manufacturers.

William Smith (sued and committed with George Smith), late of Oakview, near Upper Mill, Saddleworth, Yorkshire, in lodgings, out of business, previously of the same place, carrying on business in co-partnership with the said George Smith at Tunstead Clough and Fern Lee Vale Mills, both near Upper Mill aforesaid, under the style or firm of William and George Smith, Flannel and Shawl Manufacturers.¹⁵

The newspapers of the day reported the court proceedings. At the hearing on November 20th, the court heard that:-

The principal ground of opposition was that the insolvents had been accepting very large accommodation bills without having reasonable expectation of paying them. From the

¹³ Lancashire Archives, will of John Smith of Oak View in Saddleworth, woollen manufacturer, dated 26 November 1852, WCW 1855.

¹⁴ The National Archives, RG 4/1979, available on Ancestry.com.

¹⁵ *London Gazette*, 3 November 1854, Issue 21617, p. 3344.

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examination of the insolvents, his Honour was of opinion that they were people without capital, and that they had been lending their names to accommodation papers to a reckless extent. Mr Blanchard [supporting] mentioned two parties who were in debt to the insolvents to the extent of upwards of £1,300, and this had ruined them. His Honour said he would adjourn the insolvents for a month to see if they could make some arrangements.¹⁶

At the adjourned hearing:-

George Smith and William Smith of Oakview, Saddleworth, flannel and shawl manufacturers, whose hearing was adjourned at the last court After some conversation his Honour was about to remand of six months, but was reminded that the arrest in this case was friendly, and that the insolvents would be liberated immediately whereupon he directed remand till April, with view to the insolvents' effecting some arrangements in the meantime with the opposing creditors.¹⁷

Finally, at the court hearing on the following April 23, the brothers were discharged without opposition, presumably having settled with the creditors.¹⁸ Trade directories indicate that William and George continued in business as flannel manufacturers at Fernlee Vale Mill. for a few years until 1858 but by 1861 had vacated the premises.¹⁹ William appears in the 1861 census still living at Oak View, and employed with his son in manufacturing cotton tube. He is never mentioned in subsequent trade directories so this must have been a small scale operation and possibly short-lived. He had left Saddleworth by 1871. George also left Saddleworth and in 1871, then aged 65, was living in Lowestoft with his daughter and son-in-law, a fish merchant.

In accordance with their father's will, Sidney and Mary continued the flannel manufacturing business at Oak View after their father's death, and trade directories show them variously listed as Sidney Smith, Sidney Smith & Co, John Smith and John Smith (executors). Their partnership was dissolved in 1858 when Sidney and Mary decided to go their separate ways.²⁰ Mary continued the business at Oak View, trading as Mary Smith. Sidney, following his brothers' departure from Fernlee Vale, set up own Flannel manufactory there, presumably buying their machinery and what remained of his brothers' business.

Despite nearly twenty years of successful trading Mary went into bankruptcy in 1870. The Walkers had disposed of their ownership of the mill in 1860 by selling to one of the Whitehead brothers, John Heywood Whitehead who lived at Southside, a residence next to the Royal George Mills.²¹ The Whiteheads had advertised the mill for sale in 1869 and following Mary's bankruptcy it was purchased by Thomas Eastwood, who was in business at Wallhill as a woollen finisher. He was operating as a fuller at OakView from 1871 but appears to have let the rest of the mill to William Radcliffe and Sons, flannel manufacturers who also had an operation at Carr Mill in Micklehurst.

The bankruptcy was dated 21 May 1870. Whether the sale of the mill and the bankruptcy were connected is not known. After her bankruptcy *Worrall's* directory of 1875 still lists John Smith as a flannel manufacturer at Oak View (as well as Thomas Eastwood and William Radcliffe). Whether Mary Smith was still involved or whether the purchasers had come to some arrangement to continue using the name of their predecessor is not clear.

¹⁶ *York Herald*, Saturday 25 November 1854.

¹⁷ *Leeds Intelligencer*, Saturday, 23 December 1854.

¹⁸ *Yorkshire Gazette*, 28 March 1855; *York Herald*, 28 April 1855.

¹⁹ *Slater's Yorkshire Directory*, 1854 & 1857 and *Slater's Manchester & Liverpool Directory* 1858.

²⁰ *London Gazette*, 14 May 1858, and *Leeds Times*, 22 May 1858.

²¹ RD, 7 November 1860, Evan Charles Sutherland Walker of Crow Nest Esq. to John Heywood Whitehead of Southside, WM 186.

ROYAL RECOGNITION OF A SADDLEWORTH MANUFACTURER

The Notice of the Oak View sale reveals how significantly the premises had expanded during Mary Smith's tenancy:-

VALUABLE FREEHOLD WOOLLEN AND FULLING MILLS, LANDS,
AND HOUSES TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

by Mr HENRY BLACKBURN, at the Commercial Inn, in Uppermill, Saddleworth, on the 19th day of January, 1870, at Six o'clock in the Evening, in One Lot, and subject to conditions to be then produced.

THE OAK VIEW WOOLLEN MILL, situate at Greenfield. Saddleworth, Yorkshire, built four stories high, entirely of stone, and measuring 48ft. by 45ft 6in., and now in full working condition, with the boiler house, engine-house, scouring place, drying stove, wool-picking room, outbuildings, and conveniences thereunto belonging.

And also a newly-erected and most convenient FULLING MILL, three storey high, and measuring 101ft. by 24ft. 6in, blue-house, stove, horizontal condensing engine 36 horses power, boiler, water wheel 36 horses power and 42 feet diameter, main and upright shafting, gearing, reservoir, weirs, goits, iron pentcough. and other fixtures belonging thereto.

And also THREE CLOSES of LAND adjoining, or near thereto, and containing by estimation, including the sites of the said mill and premises, 2a. 2r. 1p. The foregoing premises may be driven wholly either by water or steam power, being abundantly supplied with water.

Also a capital MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE, called Oak View, situate at Greenfield aforesaid, and four cottages, with warehouse and weaving rooms over, measuring 93ft. by 30ft. 5in., stabling for two horses, cart shed and outbuildings.

Also a newly-erected MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE, situate at Oak View aforesaid, with FOUR COTTAGES recently erected in thorough repair, and well tenanted.

Also TWO CLOSES of LAND adjoining, near thereto, and containing by estimation, Including the site of the same buildings 3a. 3r. 24p.

Also CHEW COTTAGE, situate near Oak View aforesaid, and the two cottages adjoining or near thereto, with the orchard and garden thereunto belonging, containing by estimation, including the site of the same buildings, 1a 2r 20p.

For further information apply to the Auctioneer; Mr John Wild Architect and Surveyor, Clegg Street, Oldham ;or Messieurs LITLER AND HARWAR, Solicitors, Oldham.²²

The Whiteheads had clearly invested heavily in improving the buildings and the Oak View estate following their purchase from the Walkers in 1860; additions included a new fulling mill, a larger iron water wheel and a 36 h.p. steam engine. The deed of sale of the premises to Thomas Eastwood reveals that Mary Smith was benefiting from all the improvements at the time of her bankruptcy.²³ Clearly she had expanded the business significantly during her time as head and it seems possible that it was this rapid expansion, coupled with her lack of capital, that had led to her insolvency.

Sidney Smith continued in business as a flannel and shawl manufacturer at Fernlee Vale until his retirement from business in 1875. Whether he owned the mill is uncertain but for a time he appears to have owned the nearby Bolt Meadow Mill. An advertisement of for the sale of Cowards and Woolleys farms near Oak View in 1858 stated that Mr Sidney Smith of Oak View would show the premises to interested parties; also that a strip of land next to Bolt Meadow Mill was not for sale having previously been sold by private contract. It is possible that Smith had purchased the mill by this date; but what is certain is that he was disposing of it in 1870. In September of that year it was advertised in the *Ashton Reporter*:

TO BE LET or SOLD, with or without Machinery, for Carding and Spinning Wool, turned by water power, BOLT MEADOW MILL, Greenfield. - Apply to SIDNEY SMITH, Greenfield, Saddleworth.²⁴

²² *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer*, 18 December 1869.

²³ RD, R.R Whitehead, F.F. Whitehead and J.D. Whitehead to Thomas Eastwood of Wallhill, woollen finisher, 17 June 1870, 1870 950 33.

²⁴ *The Ashton Weekly Reporter, and Stalybridge and Dukinfield Chronicle*, 17 September 1870.

ROYAL RECOGNITION OF A SADDLEWORTH MANUFACTURER

Sidney Smith died on the 17th March 1891 and was buried at St Chad's, Saddleworth. He does not appear to have died a wealthy man; no gravestone has been found and the administration of his estate the following July was only valued at £127.²⁵

With Sidney's retirement in 1875, nearly forty years of flannel manufacture in Saddleworth by the Smith family had come to an end. In 1851 the Smiths had been internationally recognised by the award of a prestigious prize medal. The medal still exists but it had passed out of the hands of the family during one of the hard financial times they had gone through. Family tradition is that it was sold by one of the Smith sisters, perhaps Mary Smith, or perhaps Sidney's daughters. But its continued existence remains a memorial to the success of a local Saddleworth woollen manufacturer who put Saddleworth on the map in 1851 with his high quality woollen products.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Authors wish to acknowledge the work of the late Bernard Barnes on the history of the many textile mills in Saddleworth. This article has drawn extensively on his research notes in the Bernard Barnes Collection in the Saddleworth Historical Society archives. British Newspapers On-line, www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk, and the London Gazette On-line, www.thegazette.co.uk, have also have also been invaluable sources of information. Thanks are also due to the present owner of the medal for providing the photographs.



Rachel Fish

Figure 4. Inscription on the rim of the 1851 medal identifying it as that presented to John Smith and Sons

²⁵ National Probate Registry Index. 17 July 1891, administration of the personal estate of Sidney Smith, late of Fern Lee Vale, Greenfield in the County of York, farmer, a widower, who died 17 March 1891 at Fern Lee Vale, was granted at Wakefield to Sophia Smith of Fern Lee Vale, spinster, the daughter and one of the next of kin.

ROBERT JACKSON, R.A.M. (1840-1914)

Jeremy Taylor

A Saddleworth Christmas is not complete without a hearty rendition of '*While Shepherds Watch*' to the tune of Bethlehem's Plain, or Jackson as it is better known.¹ But who was Jackson? Few carol singers will probably be aware that he was a local man and that he composed many much loved hymn tunes. His step great-grandson Jeremy Taylor writes:-

Robert Jackson was described at the time of his death in 1914 as 'an institution in Oldham'. Although he was my step great-grandfather, I failed to establish much about him during my grandmother's (his daughter Ethel's) lifetime. However, some contemporary newspaper cuttings have added some substance to this biography.

My grandfather, the late James Taylor, was raised in Oldham and from 1901 until 1908 he was Station Manager of the Hollinwood Gas Works. In 1908, he became Manager of Mossley Gas Department and in 1915 moved to Weston-super-Mare, 'on promotion'. to be Director of the Gas and Light Company there. He married Laura Buckley, a dental surgeon's daughter from Colwyn Bay, with possible Oldham links, shortly before the First World War. Sadly, she died in 1918, aged 32. My grandfather remarried in 1921. Ethel, his new wife, was a very keen member of St Peter's Church where her father was the longstanding organist and choirmaster. Whether my grandparents met there, or through the Oldham Music Society, that was also under Jackson's baton, is not clear. What is known is that my grandfather had a fine baritone voice and almost certainly was a member of one or both groups.

I know that Ethel doted on her father. His musical prowess and service to Oldham's cultural life for over 40 years gained the respect of many; not least, I am sure, my grandfather. Despite the passing of time, his memory is still with us through his fine hymn compositions. One of the family's favourites is his music (Trentham) to '*Breathe on Me, Breath of God.*'

The Jackson family was linked to service with the church for nearly 300 years. These were mostly in the Oldham area. From the time of the Reformation, a Jackson held an official function in Lancastrian churches. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, various Jacksons held the appointment of sexton and, even, 'dogwhipper'. One, Ralph Jackson, was paid 10s per annum by the Oldham Parish churchwardens 'in consideration that he whip the dogges out of the Parish Church'. During the nineteenth century several Jacksons distinguished themselves as outstanding servants of St Peter's Church. Several brought their musical talent to the fore. Thomas, born in 1806, was Robert's father. He was a professor of music and organist at St Peter's for 47 years.

Robert, the eldest of seven children, was born in Oldham in 1840. It was obvious to his father, from a very young age, that he had considerable musical talent. In his twenties, he was selected to study at the Royal Academy of Music. He was awarded a gold medal on completion of the course. From there, he became the organist at the prestigious St Mark's Church, Grosvenor Square in London for a short time. Whilst there, he also played with the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

On his father's death in 1868, he was invited to replace his father as the organist and choirmaster at St Peter's. He accepted this invitation with alacrity. His prodigious talent came to the fore during the following 45 years. In addition to arranging all the musical elements of services, he composed hymn tunes and anthems to further underline his determination to complement the liturgy with fine music. His dedication to the church was such that a day would rarely pass without him visiting it to prepare for services.

¹ For a performance of '*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*' to Robert Jackson's tune of Bethlehem's Plain (or 'Jackson' as it is better known) performed by the Oldham Music Centre Youth Brass Band and choirs conducted by Jonathan Leedale at the Oldham Music Centre Christmas Festival, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham on December 15 2009, see:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uM4OxS_Visw.

ROBERT JACKSON, R.A.M

Over and above his commitment to St Peter's, he was kept busy teaching pupils, composing, putting on major concerts as well as playing with the Halle Orchestra. In 1890, he took over the role of conductor of Werneth Vocal Society. Initially, this was solely for males. Under his watch, however, he encouraged ladies to join. In 1897, this society was subsumed into being the Oldham Music Society. He directed this well-respected organization until 1906. It was during this time that he composed tunes for Lancashire dialect poems. Many of these were written by Edwin Waugh. These proved to be extremely popular when sung in concerts throughout Lancashire.¹

He married Emma, née Jackson, in 1870. They had two children - Mabel and Ethel. Sadly, his wife predeceased him in 1910.

Many of his hymn tunes are still sung today, both in UK and abroad. Some thirteen tunes are listed. Almost certainly, there are many others:

Angelus	
Ashburton	
Bekesbourne	
Bethlehem's Plain	<i>While Shepherds Watched</i>
Columbia	
Cressbrook	
Hathersage	
Lymington	<i>Hail to the Lord's Anointed</i>
Niagara	<i>The Lord is King</i>
St Leonard	
Trentham	<i>Breathe on me, Breath of God</i>
Watermouth	
Waverton	<i>O Light that Knew no Dawn</i>

His time at St Peter's came to a sad, and premature end in 1913. Criticism of the choir by some members of the Church Council and, particularly, the new vicar touched a raw nerve. He, together with everybody in the choir, resigned overnight. His last service as organist was on 4th May 1913. It was a highly charged occasion. The crowded church sang and listened to a number of his compositions. The final act saw him playing The National Anthem. As quoted at the time:

To the surprise of everyone present his rendition was such that no one had heard before, indeed Mr Jackson was so emotionally vexed that he appeared to lose some self-control under the strain of this farewell. Uniquely, several false notes were played, reflecting the struggle he was having to carry on to the last. This touching incident marked the final severance of service to that church that had spanned 92 years between his father and himself.

It is highly likely that the stress caused by this schism was instrumental to the deterioration of his health. Just over a year later he died at his house, Deep Cutting, Royton, on 12th July 1914. He was 74 years old. Despite the circumstances that surrounded his premature departure from worshipping at St Peter's, his funeral was held there. The service was an emotional event; not least because the old choir returned to lead the singing. All the hymns, canticles and anthem had been composed by him. A poignant summary of the respect that so many in Oldham's musical community had for him was made at the time:

'In his church music he had high ideals, and would offer to God nothing but the best music. Thus, his zeal for this, coupled with the personal attractiveness of the man himself, drew an abundance of aspirants for membership of St Peter's choir. Indeed, it was deemed an honour to secure admission.'

His final resting place is in Chadderton cemetery. The gravestone is engraved with both his and his wife's details.

¹ Two of Waugh's songs arranged by Robert Jackson are included on Saddleworth Musical Society's *Sounds of Saddleworth* LP, Vista Records, MAS 16, 1974.



Oldham Art Gallery

Figure 1. This portrait of Robert Jackson by Frederick William Jackson was unveiled in Werneth in 1907 on completion of his tenure with the Society. It is now in Oldham Art Gallery.

SOME SADDLEWORTH COURT ROLLS - PART IX

Mike Buckley

Sadleworth Court 24th June 1762

Adjourned to 28th July

Manor of Sadleworth } The Court Baron of James Farrer Esquire holden for his
or Quick. } Manor aforesaid at the Dwellinghouse of Michael Bothomley
Innholder in Sadleworth aforesaid on the twenty fourth Day of June in the Year of our Lord
One thousand seven hundred & sixty two before the free Suitors of the Court and Samuel
Fenton Gent - Steward of the Courts of the said Manor.

Inquisition there taken the Day & Year abovesaid upon the Oaths of

Mr James Harropp Foreman Sworn

John Andrew	}	Sworn	James Broadbent	}	Sworn
John Wrigley			Edmund Buckley		
William Buckley			John Winterbottom		
Daniel Winterbottom			George Mallalew		

John Radcliffe	}	Sworn
John Platt		
James Scholefield		
John Winterbottom		

Wee Lay a pain that Martha Wheawall of Hollingreave Do on or before the Eleventh day of November repair her Barn at hollingreave aforesaid and put the same in good repair before the time aforesaid or forfeit to the Lord of this Mannor the Sum of five shillings

Wee allso Lay a pain that William Shaw or his occupiers of Lower house in boreshurst Do put their barn in good Repair before the Eleventh day of November Next or forfeit to the Lord of the Mannor ye sum of five shillings

Wee amerce for Non appearance at the aforesaid Court (vizt) Thomas Rhoades John Key, Will^m Kenworthy Junr, Luke Marsden, James Rhoades, Abraham Rhoades, Joseph Platt, Joseph Lawton, James Bradbury, Each the sum of Twelve pence

Wee amerce John Wrigley a Juror in the sum of five shillings payable to the Lord of this Manner for default

James Harropp Jun ^r	}	James Scholefield
John Andrew		John Winterbottom
William Buckley mark		James Broadbent
John Radcliffe		Jn ^o Winterbottom
Daniell Winterbotom		Ed ^{md} Buckley
John Platt		George Malladue

CORRECTION

In Part VIII of this series (SHSB, Vol. 51, No. 3, p. 92) it was stated that the court leet was held at Huddersfield, Sadleworth being regarded as part of Manor of Huddersfield for court leet purposes and that Sir John Ramsden had acquired the Manor from the King in 1627. This was incorrect - the court leet was held at Almondbury, and |Sadleworth as well as Huddersfield, and four other townships, were regarded as part of Almondbury Manor, not Huddersfield, for court leet purposes.¹

¹ P. Hurst (ed), *Sadleworth: Garsomes, Geld Rents and Gould*, (Privately Published, 2011) p. ii.

Sadleworth Court 15th June 1763
Adjourned to 7th December at John Neelds

Manor of Saddleworth } The Court Baron of James Farrer Esquire holden for his
or Quick. } Manor aforesaid at the Dwelling house of James Broadbent
Innholder in Saddleworth aforesaid on the fifteenth Day of June in the Year of our Lord one
thousand seven hundred and sixty three before the free Suitors of the Court and Samuel
Fenton Gent: Steward of the Courts of the said Manor.

Inquisition there taken the Day and Year abovesaid upon the Oaths of

Jos^h Lawton Gent Sworn

John Andrew	} Sworn	James Buckley	} Sworn	Alexander Radcliffe	} Sworn
John Radcliffe		Tho ^s Bradbury		Rob ^t Broadbent	
James Kenworthy		John Winterbottom		Tho ^s Bradbury	
James Buckley		James Rhodes			

Henry Whitehead Sworn in Pinder instead of Benjamin Wrigley discharged

We lay in paine that William Shaw Seanyer of grotten head Repare his Barn at Borsherst
before the first day of June next or forfeit to the Lord of this Manner the sum of one pound

We Lay in paine that Alixsander Scholfield of ~~Welyhole~~ Gibbsedg make up his ware and his
fences betwixt his Clod and James Kenworthy Tenement before the 25 day of March next or
forfeit to the Lord of this Manner the sum of one pound

We Lay a pane that Joshua Radcliffe of Berches do open his Throughs and take the Water
Into the kiln Croft before the first day of January next or forfeit to the Lord of this Manner the
sum of [this paragraph is crossed out]

We Lay a pane on Joseph Greave for turning the Water out of Thurston Clugh Cros the ... in
his ocupation and Bringing it to his house he is to put it Into the Anchent Corse before the
first day of January next or forfeit to the Lord of this Manner the sum of one pound nineteen
shillings [this paragraph is crossed out]

We Lay a pane on Nathaniel Houlden for stoping John Sriks Roade through a new
Incrouchment at Houlden Smithey he is to Lay it open before the first day of January Next or
foerfet to the Lord of this Manner the Sum of one pound

We Lay a pane on James Whitehead at uper Mill for not Hanging a gate at Bottom of Shaw
Lane and Thereby Depriveing Timmothey Wood of the Quiet enjoyment of the Said Lane he
is to heng a gate before the 25 of March next or forfeit to the Lord of this Manner the Sum of
Ten Shillings

We Lay a pane on Thmmothey Wood for neglecting to keep the Road through the Ground he
has in possision in Repare in partiaulor Shaw Lane he is to Make it good before the 25 of
March next or foerfet to the Lord f this Manner the Sum of Ten Shilling

The Jurors aforesaid do lay in Pain that Joshua Radcliffe of Birches do turn the Water out of
the High Road at Knowl Top, into its usual ~~ancient~~ Course through Peter Greave's Ground,
on or before the first of January next, on Pain to forfeit to the Lord of the said Manner the
Sum of 10^s.

Joseph Lawton	Thomas Bradbury
John Andrew	John Winterbottom
John Radcliffe	James Rhodes
James Kenworthy	Alexander R Radcliffe
James Buckley	his mark
James Buckley	Robert R Broadbent
	his mark
	Thomas Bradbury

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