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Ramsbottom Local History Newsletter
(RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY)

FOREWORD: THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, 1987-90

ORIGINS

We owe our beginnings to a public meeting convened by Mrs Dorothy MOSS, held at St Paul's School on 25th February 1987, and attended by about 70 people. It was the prospect of the East Lancashire Railway's re-opening, planned for the summer of that year, which had led to a growing consciousness of the town's identity amongst many townspeople. As well as our society (interested in the town's history and heritage), the Ramsbottom Chamber of Trade revived that year and, for a time in 1987, a small group calling itself the Ramsbottom Trust toyed with ambitious plans to develop the old Co-op stores building (with theatre) and, when this scheme stalled, the Model Lodging House, on Paradise Street, as a possible heritage Centre

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society has some roots in the town's Local History Society, which had become moribund about 1980. The Rev Roy CARMYLLIE, who unfortunately died last year, was that society's chairman, and so it was fitting that he should have been speaker at our inaugural public meeting in April 1987. Any local history society, unless blessed with a very active membership, risks exhausting the supply of local speakers quite quickly. We were concerned, from the outset, that we should not suffer such a fate, and so we very deliberately sought a wider role than that pursued by the old local history society, and a broader constituency of members. Indeed, very varied interests were expressed at our first meeting in February 1987 - exhibitions, guided walks, museum visits, local fieldwork, civic issues and conservation, cultural issues, local buildings, photography and historical research - as well as simply listening to speakers!

At the earliest meetings, we split up, after the public business, into four groups - historical research; walks, buildings and footpaths; photography as a record; and 'town activities'. Although this structure was initially geared towards the coming of the railway (set for 25th July 1987), we generally envisaged the RHS as being an umbrella, a forum for varied activities, and not simply as a monthly lecture venue.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Personally, I was disappointed by the way in which this early vision of small-group activity faded away so quickly. Perhaps we expected a lot. Most of our members do see us as a monthly source of passive entertainment. Activity has been the preserve of 'The Few'. Yet, in three years, the activists have achieved a great deal. Our oral history project has placed on cassette tape memories of older residents, some of whom can no longer be interviewed. Our regular appeals for memorabilia (artefacts and documents) have brought a staggering wealth of material - many photographs; old bills; the minute book of St Andrew's Presbyterian church; a complete stock-take of every Co-op branch in the Ramsbottom area, taken in the early 1950s; a 19th Century wages list from Ramsbottom Mill; photographs of a Ramsbottom War Weapons Week..... From the earliest days, we have had an archives officer who has catalogued material as it has come in and ensured its preservation. We guarantee survival of such items for the ultimate benefit of future

historians of Ramsbottom. If you are concerned that material in your possession- family papers, leases, letters, diaries, school reports, business ledgers and bills - may be thrown out at your death, our society offers a safe haven.

Considerable changes have been seen in the town since our inauguration in April 1987 - a revived railway, a brand new station, many changes of use in local shops, the demolition of property on Prince and Square Street, the infilling of new houses between existing houses in various locations, and the complete internal refurbishment of two public houses. Our annual photographic competition has been a mechanism by which these developments have been recorded.

Much of our early activity was given wide coverage in the Bury Times, but we have also generally maintained a high public profile, not least because of the ever-changing displays which the Royal Bank of Scotland allowed us to stage in the former Rainbow Gallery on Bridge Street. A small but dedicated team has also put together some remarkably impressive displays in the library annex on Carr Street (which should, by time of publication, have officially become the Ramsbottom Heritage Centre). To coincide with the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, many townspeople loaned us memorabilia which were put together with such skill and imagination that Bury Museum requested the whole thing to spend some weeks on display there.

From the outset, we decided that we could not be a fully flown civic trust, and have left it to individual members to pursue conservation or preservation issues which especially concerned them. We have, however, sought to protect or preserve some elements of our district's heritage which might otherwise have been lost - we successfully campaigned, in 1987, for the retention of an old-style GPO telephone kiosk in Market Place. In 1989, we retrieved (with council permission) the Strang Street nameplate from the condemned gable end of the terrace on Square Street; we urged Bury and Bolton metropolitan authorities not to destroy the 200 year old parish boundary stone during road improvements on the A676 at Hawkshaw/Walves. This stone, the only such boundary stone in the Bury area of which we are aware, is still in its original position, though buried for a time under newly laid drainage stones behind the kerbs. Bolton MBC re-exposed the stone in May 1990. We have also had contacts with the Rossendale Groundwork Trust, and welcome their proposal to extend their operations into Bury Metropolitan Borough.

THE FUTURE

One of our earliest ambitions was to open a heritage in Ramsbottom, so we were especially pleased, after only two years of life, to be offered by the local authority the use of the library annex to stage our displays. We now have the use of this refurbished building as a fully fledged heritage centre - it seems a remarkable, challenging step forward. Filling the display units, and manning the at weekends throughout the summer will place heavy strains on the relatively small proportion of our membership that has helped in the past. Yet the rewards will be great - we will gain credit as a society; we will attract visits (and revisits) to the town; but, perhaps most important, our centre will be a community meeting place, a place where local people can talk and learn about their town's history.... or just chat

My own hope is that all this heritage publicity will prompt some historical research amongst our members; the Society wants to encourage this, and offers opportunities of putting findings into print, in small booklet form. Only one member, Barbara PALMER, has brought a piece of research to such a conclusion - on local medical care from the 18th to the 20th Centuries.

This newsletter, however, is another possible medium for publishing the fruits of local historical enquiry. We hope that it will appear twice-yearly, so your historical anecdotes and memories, recollections of shops, trades, businesses and important events in the town 's past will be just as welcome as the history of your family, your house or your street.

Contacts with other societies have convinced us that publication of a newsletter is a key to growth - we can publicise ourselves, and appeal to 'out of town' members to whom we can otherwise offer so little.

Finally, I thank those members who have contributed (some with prodigious efforts) over the last three years, and appeal to those who haven't: please get involved!

Andrew TODD (Chairman)

MAY 1990 - SOCIETY UP-DATE FROM THE SECRETARY

We have only just had our third birthday, yet here we are looking forward to the opening of the Heritage Centre, in Carr Street over the bank holiday (on 27th & 28th May). We expect to be open each Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 4.00 pm - refreshments will be available - admission by donation. The local authority with whom we have been negotiating for many months has just refurbished the building (opposite the Library) and handed it over to us, to be responsible for the day-to- day running. This is a considerable burden for a voluntary society such as ours to undertake and we should like to ask local people to help by giving a couple of hours of their time either at weekends or perhaps during the week, to help sell Society items or to serve refreshments. Actually, this is a super way to meet people and to make new friends, not to mention learning a little more about the Ramsbottom area, so if you feel you can help, please phone me on 0706 82 2620.

Our Display Team has been working flat out to mount the exhibition RAMSBOTTOM THROUGH NINE REIGNS - THE PAST 200 YEARS. Do come along to appreciate their efforts and admire the Centre (centrally heated and carpeted). If any of you have a flair for display or perhaps just a feeling for it, please contact our Archivist, Mrs Brenda DECENT on 0706 82 8979. She will be delighted to hear from you, as the displays must be a changing, on-going thing.

Among the many interesting things happening in our Town this year is the 21st birthday of the 'new' Library in Carr St (opposite the Centre) and there will be a week long commemoration from Monday 11th June. The staff are to dress in Victorian costume and refreshments will be available. There will be an exhibition relating to the past 21 years, and on Wednesday 13th a party from the Dickensian Fellowship will arrive by steam train to explore the town, and they will visit the Library and the Heritage Centre, so roll up for a good day out in famous Ramsbottom. If you fancy - wear Victorian style dress - who knows, the TV cameras may be there.

Our programme for the rest of 1990 is as follows:

June 20th	Mr F CRONIN - The Locomotive and Rolling Stock of the ELR - illustrated
July 18th	Mr P WARING - A Guided Walk Around Summerseat
Aug 15th	Members' Evening
Sept 19th	Mr S CHADWICK - An Evening' s Entertainment on Dialect
Oct 17th	Mr N ECCLES - Nuttall and Ramsbottom - illustrated
Nov 21st	4th A G M & Finals of the Photographic Competition Motions for the A G M must be submitted to the Secretary by Oct 31st
Dec 12th	Christmas Meeting - The Golden Valley - presented by Bury Cine Society

It surely has something to please most of you. We are also trying to arrange a guided walk in August along the Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal, starting from Radcliffe. Very importantly I must mention that subscriptions are due from 1st May, no change from last year £4.50 (£2.00 retired/unwaged/student); please see our Treasurer, Mr Derek ROWLEY, at the next Society meeting, or post your cheque to me at 1 Carr Bank Cottage, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancs BLO 9DQ.

Dorothy MOSS

THE IRWELL VALLEY FORUM

This grand-sounding group is the result of the launch of the Irwell Valley Adventure - a joint initiative involving Bury & Rossendale Councils and the private sector, interested in the regeneration and steady development of the Upper Irwell Valley as a tourist centre, and attractive environment to which new investment and people could be attracted.

A challenge to change this former cradle of the Industrial Revolution into an attractive and desirable location was thrown down and the gauntlet picked up by approximately 100 representatives at a breakfast launch in February 1989, also attended by our MPs for Bury North and Rossendale, and local dignitaries.

May Day Bank Holiday 1989 saw the first successful publicity event, blessed by superb weather conditions, the one possible blight on any plans for outdoor activities. Irwell the Cat was introduced.

Recently Dorothy MOSS and A were shown around Bury Technical College by Jane ALLANSON, co-ordinator for Travel and Tourism studies there - no, we had not been aware of such a department either! We were introduced to some of the second-year students who had been involved with this image-promotion, i.e. going round in the cat costume to various local events. A lot of people are not impressed with this moggy as our image and, I believe, plans are afoot to change this. (It is possible that these students could help at the Heritage Centre.)

In February 1990 the Irwell Valley Forum was formed. 180 people from the Bury, Ramsbottom and Rossendale areas - business people, community group representatives (both professional and voluntary) received an update on how the local authorities are striving to improve the Valley's facilities and environment Graham SHAW, Tourism Marketing Director for Southampton City, whose own council has spearheaded one such successful partnership, gave us some useful guidelines.

We then split into groups for a short time, which proved very interesting as, being members of such diverse organisations as the Ramblers Association, Bury Canal Group, Wild Bird Sanctuary, our paths only cross if talks are given to or by each other.

The next Forum meeting was scheduled for Wednesday February 28th at the Waterside Inn, Summerseat, at which I represented RHS. This was attended by 60 people (Southampton's first follow-up meeting had produced only 8 we were told). We each introduced ourselves and named our group/society/business, and gave brief details of how we felt we could contribute to this new venture.

We again split into groups - business and industry, retail, tourism, voluntary and educational, from which three representatives were to be chosen to sit on the Executive Committee - RHS is represented. The groups will meet at their discretion - ours will initially meet on a monthly basis. I will keep you informed of developments.

Judith APPLEBY (Vice-chairman)

April 1990 - NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVE

There have been some exciting acquisitions lately. I'm sorry there isn't space to mention them all, but our thanks to all donors, whether their items have been selected for this Newsletter or not.

1. John JACKSON. We have been given a copy of Hunting songs and other memorabilia compiled by John JACKSON, Huntsman, Holcombe Harriers, 1867-1899, published in Bury by FLETCHER & SPEIGHT, 1 Fleet street, 1902; with many illustrations. There is a signature on the flyleaf J W OLDFIELD, 77 Peel Brow, Ramsbottom. He was John JACKSON's grandson through his mother who was a JACKSON married to an OLDFIELD.

Also the donor of this book gave us a photograph I haven't seen before of John JACKSON and his wife outside their cottage in Holcombe Village, probably after his retirement from the Hunt.

But most exciting is that the same donor has John JACKSON's silver hunting horn, given to him in 1893 by Derby, and next time she visits Ramsbottom she will bring it with her as she wants our Society to have it as it will be a wonderful addition to the archive: I believe she is happy that we are to have our own Heritage Centre - she feels it will be safe there.

2. DOCUMENTS ABOUT A KAY FAMILY. All the following came from the same donor, but not at the same time.

First, an original baptismal card certifying that Eva, daughter of Tom and Eva KAY, was baptised in Dundee Independent Chapel (believed to be the breakaway Presbyterian Church

on Dundee Lane) on 17th April 1908 by Wm Jackson GELDEARD, minister.

Then we were given the certificates of birth of her mother and father! Father Tom was born on 21st October 1880, son of John and Alice KAY of 2 Rose Hill, Ramsbottom. Mother Eva SUTCLIFFE was born on February 3rd 1883. Both were registered in the sub-district of Holcombe by Registrar James SPENCER.

With these items was a newscutting (paper not known but circa 1942) with heading Cricketer Prisoner of War reporting that Fusilier Tom Douglas KAY of 1 Stanley Street was in North Africa and safe. He was 'one of Ramsbottom's promising batsmen.... in civil life employed at Messrs TURNBULL & STOCKDALE, Rosebank Print Works".

From correspondence with the donor, I have discovered that this Tom Douglas KAY was the son of Tom and Eva KAY and brother of Eva (born 1908). Tom Douglas KAY was born in 1919. It is unusual to get such a rounded-off family history.

BRIEFLY BUT OF GREAT VALUE

1.25 Record Cards giving details of Women members of the Weavers and Winders Union (Ramsbottom branch), the dates of birth of these women being 1875-1905.

2. A tiny photograph of the Square Mill when owned by HEPBURNS, showing its own railway siding.

John LEYLAND has taken over the recording of the competition photographs for the Archive

Many thanks John. All offers of help gratefully received.

Brenda DECENT

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD IN NUTTALL WRITTEN BY HILDA FRENCH AND READ OUT AT OUR FIRST AGM (NOV 1987)

My favourite memory of Ramsbottom is of the delightful village of Nuttall, where I was born (1919). As you came down Nuttall Lane past the Cottage Hospital you would see a world of its own. Nestling in woods, meadows and fields. At the bottom of the lane on the left hand side were four cottages, further down four more, then on the opposite side was the farm and farm houses, also a pond which in winter we used to skate on - just frozen enough and big enough.

Past the farm and round the corner was Starling Street-where I and my sisters were born-some people called it Shepsters Row. Then you could go on over the Brocks Brews to Summerseat In the field in front of Starling Street was a high wall overlooking the railway line. There we could climb to watch the steam train on its way to Bury from Ramsbottom - through Nuttall tunnels and on to Summerseat.

Carrying on down the Lane you came to the village shop owned by Mr & Mrs HEALY, selling bread, sweets, greengrocery-in fact, everything necessary; also bottled beer consumed on the premises by the men on their way home from work at the nearby Chemical Company. I will always remember the white chalk faces of these men through working in all the chemical powder. Across from the shop was another row of cottages about six then down a narrow

path to more houses called The Old Bridge. In the centre of these houses was a water pump. It was very sacred to the people living there – woe betide anyone found near the sacred shrine. Carrying on you went across an old wooden bridge over the River Irwell through beautiful woodland scenery, where in summer you could pick luscious blackberries; in fact it was all fields and meadows for young legs to run wild in. This led to Gollinrod.

The farm was neglected when I was young, but worked again during the last war; it was then the Village went into a decline.

Further down the Lane and across from the shop was a cotton mill - it was working until about 1932; still wooded scenery and flowing by was the river.

The Chemical Works, and over another tin bridge there was lots of stone steps - Jacobs Ladder (on the right hand side of the road) leading you on to Bury New Road. To me, nothing can compare with my childhood days in Nuttall; the mobile greengrocer throwing all his fish bits to the village cats - they came from all over when he rang the bell. The walks to Grants Tower during summer holidays and to Buckhurst armed with our lemonade and jam butties. Wimberrying up Holcombe Hill till our hands were as blue as the wimberries themselves.

Can anyone else remember these days in Nuttall - I hope so.

Hilda FRENCH

MEMORIES OF BOYHOOD c 1912 – 1920

Playing with my brother Arthur and friends in the fields and streams in the wood out Alderbottom (better known as holy bottom). Playing amongst the stones of the ruins of the Mill burnt down in the Chatterton Riots (later to be cleared and swings erected for the children of Chatterton). Playing and roaming up Buckden, then onto the moors to the tower, and onto Pilgrim's Cross (reputed to be the resting place of the Pilgrims going to Whalley Abbey). Happy memories of walking or running up Chatterton Old Lane to the school at the top (then Stubbins School, now used for church services).

Playing football with a tennis ball whilst returning home from school and breaking our clog toes on the rough sets of the road; which warranted a scolding from my mother, and which also meant a journey to the clogger in Stubbins, who then cut another sole to fit the feet (how clever he was with his tools to shape the soles from a piece of rough wood).

Memories of walking in the procession at Whitsuntide, when each child was given a coin or orange from some of the big houses called at, for which we all had to join in the singing of a hymn.

Memories of bath nights with my brother together in the inn bath in the kitchen, then a good rub down by my father.

Memories of trips to Belle Vue and Southport and Blackpool by train, taken by my father. Later memories of trips in the charabancs with folded back covers over the rows of foldback seats, covers to be pulled over if raining.

These memories will last forever of my sisters and brothers, most of them still alive and in good health. But most of all, fond memories of my mother and father, who showed us their love, and clothed and fed us. Their memory will always live on. [A copy of these reminiscences is in our archive collection.]

G CROSTHWAITE,

THE HISTORICAL SEEDS OF THE LOCAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

Ramsbottom Horticultural & Allotment Society is celebrating its 75th Anniversary during 1990. Founded in 1915 it grew out of the East Ward Allotment Association with its first show in 1917 at the Pavilion on Peel Brow. Then there were 183 exhibits from 40 members, but the record total was 940 staged at Peel Brow School.

Since its start there have been only three Presidents - William FENWICK, Ben Johnson SMITH and now Norman GREENWELL. Features of today's society are: the Trading Hut on Peel Brow Allotments which sells a variety of goods, and gives away advice; an annual quiz against Tottington and Grey Mare (of Great Harwood), which fittingly Ramsbottom won last month by one point; the National Rose Champion 1989 (under 1000 bushes) - Tony BRACEGIRDLE; and an exhibitor, Wilf TAYLOR, still winning in his mid-eighties. Seek out their stall at various local venues this year and sample their shows at the Civic Hall on April 21st, August 25th & 26th and November 10th, with up to 132 colourful classes.

Like Ramsbottom, Tottington Horticultural Society is affiliated to various national societies for dahlias, roses, chrysanthemums, vegetables and even daffodils, and relies on local sponsors to fertilise its finances. However, it dates back to only 1935, and held its early meetings in a gaslit Bowling Club, Humorous anecdotes abound such as the tactless judge who selected a bought-in whist pie in preference to the proud ladies' home-made fare. Their programme features talks, dances and plant stalls, but the highlights are their shows - in 1990 at Laurel St School in early April, and on 15th-16th September, with 146 classes, including flowers, vegetables, pot plants, eggs, wine, handicraft, cookery, childrens' and flower arranging.

The local society with the oldest roots is Edenfield and District Horticultural Society, which surfaced in the Pack Horse Hotel (now the Topham's Arms) in 1914. Its archives show an income of £17 14s 10d, a donation in 1916 to Edenfield War Fund of £1 1s 0d, and a debit of 12s 6d for the hire of the Co-op Hall. The Vice Presidents in 1938 included the MP Mr R W PORRITT, W TURNBULL, the Rev E T S OTTLEY and Dr STRUTHERS. The 1958 advertisements recorded a Central Garage, a plumber, a decorator and Horncliffe Nurseries - all now gone! The first female joined the committee in 1946, and the youngest committee member in 1965 was aged 11. Attractions for the 150 members are: free automatic life membership after 25 years (now there are 45 of them); free entry to shows; 30% off a combined seed order; stalls on May Bank Holiday Monday at Ramsbottom Street Market plus Edenfield Fete on June 2nd; and a special historical one for 7th, 8th & 9th September 1990, an exhibit at Edenfield Parish Church's Flower Festival to celebrate its 450 years. A similar past

historical one has been coffee evenings at 15th Century Lumb Hall. Two of our members, Councillor and Mrs P DUNNE, add a note of civic splendour by becoming Mayor and Mayoress for 1990-91. The floral climaxes will be the shows at Stubbins United Reformed Church Schoolroom on Saturdays August 18th and September 22nd. Why not make the effort to come and enjoy all or some of these vibrant shows?

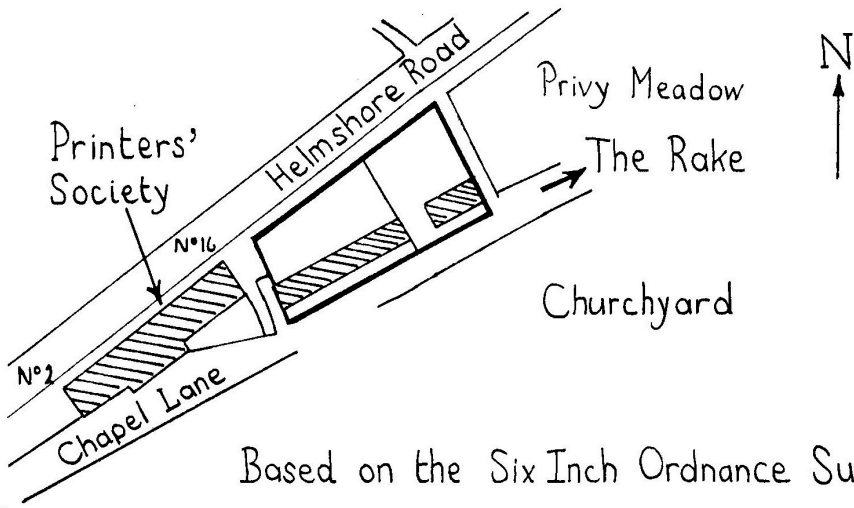
Clyde L TWEEDALE, member of all of these societies.

THE PRINTERS' SOCIETY, HOLCOMBE

On 9 April 1823, at the Halmot Court of the Manor of Tottington, held at Holcombe, Robert KAY of Holcombe Brook leased a small plot of land in Holcombe Village from John ROSTRON of Barwood Lee, and his wife Mary. KAY (referred to as 'Gent' in the court book) was presumably the corn dealer of that name at Holcombe Brook (in ROGERSON's trades directory of 1818), but in the 1823 transaction was acting in the capacity of for the members of the Friendly Society of Printers. ms little known body was presumably a terminating building society. These were common in Lancashire in the early years of the 19th Century, and responsible for building many single terraces of workers' housing - Club Row (Tottington) and the Female Union Society, Holcombe Brook are local examples. The society, through Robert KAY, paid five shillings to John and Mary ROSTRON for the plot, together with an annual rent of £2 4s 4¹/₂d. The following summary description of the plot, taken originally from the Tottington court book, indicates that the society had started building just before 1823:

All that plot of land situated within Holcombe taken from a certain meadow called Privy Meadow parcel of Higher House Estate containing in length of the North and South sides thereof 34 yards or thereabouts in breadth on the East 21 yards and 8 inches on the West 10 yards and 4 inches containing in the whole 532¹/₂ yards. Bounded on the North side by the Turnpike Road leading from Bury to Blackburn on the East by part of the Privy Meadow and on the South by the Road called the Chapel Lane leading from Holcome to Ramsbottom and on the West by dwelling houses the property of the said John Rostron and those stone built messuages lately erected by the members of a certain Society in Holcome called the Friendly Society of Printers holden at the sign of the house of Ann Buckley known by the sign of the Shoulder of Mutton in Holcome and enjoy in common with John Rostron the well or stream of water known by the name of the Bowling Green Well situate in Holcome. To the use and behoof of Robert Kay in trust for the members for the time being of the said Society and be considered as part of the funds and effects of the Society.

Taking advantage of the record good weather in early May, I paced out the housing on Chapel Lane/Helmshore Road in Holcombe village, and came to the conclusion that the plot outlined in heavier black on the accompanying sketch map is the 532 1/2 square yards leased by the society in 1823.



Based on the Six Inch Ordnance Survey map, published 1850

The houses facing onto Chapel Lane were presumably built on this land either in that year, or soon after. It is unclear from the 1823 court record how much of the terrace facing onto Helmshore Road (i.e. the houses belonging to John and the 'messuages' (houses and ground) of the Printers' Society) had been built by 1823, The terrace of eight houses carries the numbers 2 to 16 and it is significant that between 6 and 8 there is a very pronounced building break - so, I assume that three belonged to ROSTRON, and five to the printers. The Tottington Lower End poor rate books of the early 19th Century are available, on microfilm, at Bury Central Library. This entry for 1827 (which I happened to copy down in another connection) implies that the five (i.e. the easterly group) belonged to the society:

Printers Society Holcome

	Occupier	Rateable Value		Rate
Cottage	William NUTTALL	1-2-6		11-3
do	William BLOMFIELD	do	do	do
do	John SCHOFIELD	do	do	do
do	Mrs INGHAM	do	do	do
do	James PARKS	do	do	do

Terminating building societies, or club houses, are usually associated with handloom weavers in our area (e.g. the colony of several terraces, known still as Club Houses, at ~~12~~ Hw). This

example at Holcombe suggests that other trades might have pooled savings to build houses. Number 16 of the terrace currently sports the fanciful name Caxton End but I suspect that it was not that kind of printing in which the original owner was engaged!. More likely, these owner occupiers were calico printers (or even engravers to calico printers) at a nearby works. I would be interested in any other suggestions, or information, about this obscure little self- help society. I am grateful to Jan BARNES of Boardmans, Hawkshaw Lane, for a copy of the solicitor's transcription of the 1823 court book entry which prompted this article.

Andrew TODD,

ONE DAY?

Are you one of the many people who have an interesting document or object connected with Ramsbottom and its past? It may have been tucked away in a safe place for ages or you may only recently have discovered it You would like to more about it and 'one day' you intend to follow it up. Alternatively, you may have memories of events, life and times in the past, or even recent things which could be of interest to people in the future. You may have heard the appeals at Heritage Society meetings for people to record their recollections either in writing or on tape and donate them to the archives. You have probably said to yourself "Yes, I will do it - one day"!

If you are one of these people the Society would be most grateful if you would please declare that today is one day: and make a start now.

The idea behind our new, expanded Newsletter is to provide a vehicle for the publication of items about Ramsbottom and its past. For the purposes of the Newsletter, items need not be very long, nor need they be typed. In fact, if you feel that writing is not your scene, you could even record them on tape. So the task may not be as daunting as you think - indeed many people find it both enjoyable and rewarding. So, please, don't put it off any longer - make a start - today if possible!

If your searches lead you on beyond your original aim, as often happens, please do carry on - you may find yourself with the makings of a booklet which could eventually be published.

On the other hand, if you become bogged down and don't know where to go next, please do not give up. An appeal at the monthly meetings often brings forth the elusive piece of information or, at least, suggestions as to where it may be found. Also, Andrew TODD, local historian and Chairman of our Society, can often give advice. If all else fails you could always 'advertise' in the Newsletter! The essential thing is to record the information you have discovered. Many people have already recorded items for the archive, either in writing or on tape; extracts from some of them appear in this Newsletter. The Society is aware that it takes time and effort to do these things, and is always pleased to receive them. A pleasure which we're will be shared by future generations.

Items for the Newsletter can be handed to myself, or the Secretary, Dorothy MOSS, at any of

the monthly meetings, or handed in at J & B PALMER's Pharmacy in Market Place, Ramsbottom. It is hoped that the Newsletter will be published twice yearly but this, of course, will depend on the response it receives- from both readers and writers!

Barbara PARK

THE LT KERBSTONE MYSTERY

Directly opposite our front door on Albert St is a kerbstone on which has been centrally inscribed the letters LT. Paviour' s graffiti from 1887, when the terrace was built, and the street (presumably) cobbled and kerbed? If it was, then the was prolific, for these letters appear on many other individual kerbstones in Ramsbottom. Can anyone suggest what LT could stand for?

Andrew TODD

PUBLICATIONS BY RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS

Three of our members have published works on aspects of the history of Ramsbottom. We hope that in a later Newsletter it will be possible to publish a detailed review of each. In the meantime, below is a list of their titles. All are on sale at the Heritage Centre.

Trade Directory Reprints 1818-1888: compiled by Andrew TODD: covers Ramsbottom, Edenfield, Holcombe, Tottington, Walmersley and Shuttleworth, and includes contemporary six inch Ordnance Survey Maps. In addition to the Directories themselves, the introduction also contains useful information on the whereabouts of sources for people engaged in local or family history research.

Drink and Drinking in Ramsbottom 1890-91 by 'Andrew TODD is the first in a series on Ramsbottom during the period 1890-1891 based on items in the Ramsbottom Observer.

Crime in Ramsbottom 1890-91 , also by Andrew TODD, is the second in the series.

Stories in Stone by Robert HOWARTH. Stories about some of the buildings and history of Ramsbottom.

Origins of the Health Service in Bury and Ramsbottom (part one) by Barbara PALMER. A description of charitable medical provision in the 18th and 19th Centuries and the and changes it brought about

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Shops in Ramsbottom - does anyone have billheads, advertisements, photographs, memories, anecdotes about shops in Ramsbottom? No specific time period. Please contact Irene TODD at 78 Albert St, Ramsbottom, Bury BLO 9EL (tel: 824511, after 6.00pm).

Ramsbottom deeds - do you have access to the deeds of your house? Deeds are some of the most informative sources of local history, but may be difficult to interpret. If you are willing to allow access to yours, please contact Andrew TODD at 78 Albert St, Ramsbottom, Bury BLO 9EL (tel: 824511, after 6.00pm), who will be pleased to explain their contents to you

Cover picture: Hey House - drawing by Zena MIDDLETON

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