

NEWS MAGAZINE

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Parish Church of Ramsbottom
St. Paul.

Gary Taylor

**RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY,
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The objects of the Society shall be:-

- a) To advance education of the public, by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Rainshottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-] 974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council).
 - b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate as an information centre.
 - c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.
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PROGRAMME 2005-6

- June 15th Mr A. Todd - *"The Grants of Ramsbottom: Altruism or Avarice"*
- July 20th Mr J. B. Taylor - Guided walk - Bury New Road and Tanners Conservation Areas, Ramsbottom. Meet 6.30pm at Ramsbottom Railway Station.
- August 17th M/s A. Green - Visit to Bury Art Gallery and Museum - *"The Changing Museum"*. Meet 6.30pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park.
- September 21 " Mrs D. Hughes - *"A History of Hand-Spinning"*
- October 19th Mr W. Hargreaves - *"The Manchester Guardian 1821-2005"*
- November 16th M/s D. Winterbotham - *"A View of the Irwell Valley; Radcliffe to Agecroft"*
- December 14th *Members' night*- Christmas Festivities

All indoor meetings except December are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

Entry by donation, please.

The Editors welcome articles for inclusion in the News Magazine. These may be hand-written, typed or on disc (in *"Word"*) and sent to the Heritage Society. Please include your full address and a contact telephone number.

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Front cover :- *St Paul's Church, Ramsbottom* drawn by Gary TAYLOR.

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Since my last report, the Society has vacated the Heritage Centre, a small team of members having undergone the trauma of sorting artifacts, photographs and documents to be retained for display in our new home, and packing the remainder for long-term storage. My sincere thanks to all who helped. The Library Service is now installed in the building whilst our presence there is maintained by a photograph and document display and the sale of Society publications.

The search for a new home for the Heritage Centre began well before our leaving the old one, with all possibilities (and the owners of empty office and commercial properties) being pursued, all to no avail. However help came from an unexpected source - the Church! Divine intervention, perhaps. Through the good offices of Reverend Ian (Canon ROGERSON) of St Andrew's Church, and Rev Jeff ARCUS of St Paul's Church accommodation in St Paul's Church was offered, sufficient to allow the Society to maintain a presence in our town. The offer was gratefully accepted and as the majority of helpers from the former Heritage Centre agreed to continue their support, arrangements were made for the opening on Easter Sunday with a display (in acknowledgement of the kind offer) linking the Church with the surrounding community and its activities. My sincere thanks to all members of the display team for their endeavours. It is expected that last year's level of opening (every second and fourth Saturday and every Sunday) will be continued, subject to there being no conflict with Church services. As I write, Easter is past and the public attendance so far augurs well. Mention of Easter reminds me that we had hoped our film would now be ready; sadly it isn't - but I can say that its completion is not far off. All filming is done and the editing is well underway. I hope that very soon a trailer to entice would-be buyers will be ready for showing and that a short sequence from the film will be on our web-site. All those involved in producing the film are sure it's going to be *a bestseller*.

Earlier this year we said goodbye to Kevin MULLEY, Bury MBC Archivist at Edwin Street, who has left Bury to take up a post at Kew. Kevin has always

been unstinting in the advice, support and encouragement he has given to the Society, particularly with respect to the maintenance of our archive, and more recently in sourcing materials for the film project. We are sad at his departure but wish him every success in his new post.

Tony Murphy

OBITUARIES

In November we heard of the death of former member Gordon WHITE who had left the area some years ago to live with his family in Surrey.

Also in November we learned with sadness of the death of Edith DUCKWORTH who had been a member of the Society from its earliest years, a helper in the Heritage Centre and a regular attender at meetings until overtaken by ill-health. Edith was born in Ramsbottom, was a pupil at St Paul's School and worked as a felter at Porritt's Stubbins Vale Mill before marrying and bringing up her family. Continuing to live in or around Ramsbottom, she became a member of the congregation at Park Chapel until its closure. Her reminiscences were recorded by the Society's Taping Team in 1997; ironically just a week before her death, extracts from them were played at the Society's November meeting as an illustration of the Team's work. Edith had a fine sense of humour with a ready laugh and was well liked by all who knew her. She is much missed.

In February we learned of the death of Tom WIGHTMAN another member from the earliest days of the Society. Tom was born in Erith, Kent but spent his early years in Summerseat attending Rowland Road Methodist School. Then followed a short interlude in Bury before his move to Ramsbottom. The bulk of his working life was divided almost equally between Ocean Chemicals at Nuttall and Porritt's Stubbins Vale Mill. Members will recall him, some years ago, leading a walk around the site of Ocean Chemicals, briefly bringing to life an area that had become one of overgrown dereliction. Tom's reminiscences are on record also; he too had a great sense of humour, was liked by all and will be much missed.

For the Society a sad end to 2004 and a sad beginning to 2005.

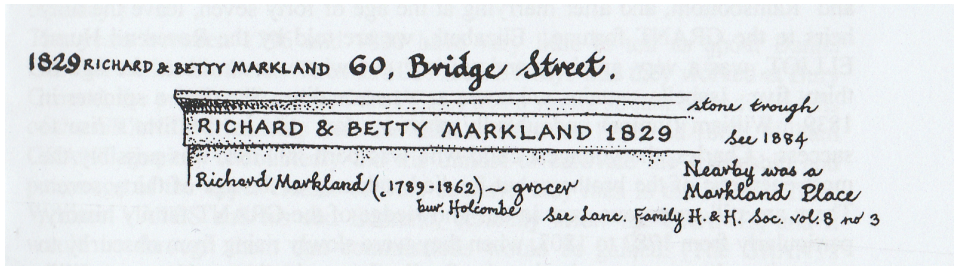
'SHOES HAVE TONGUES': KEN ROSE CLOSSES AFTER 26 YEARS

In 1978, Mr and Mrs Jim BROUGHTON decided to retire. They had run the shoe shop at 64 Bridge Street for a number of years, having taken over from a Mr A

HEWITT who had the business during the thirties. (One end of a shoe box with its label addressed to Mr A HEWITT and dated 31/5/35 was found on the premises. It shows that William GREEN & Son of Rushden, Northamptonshire, who still manufacture the "*finest examples of the art of English shoemakers*", had sent the "*Grenson Comfort Shoes*" via passenger

train, probably an example of their "Grenson in Stock" service. The London, Midland and Scottish railway ticket for the parcel costing 2/3d also survives.)

On August Bank Holiday weekend 1978 we moved in as the new owners and started an association that was to last until Christmas 2004. We lived in Littleborough with our two sons and already ran a shoe shop there so the Ramsbottom shop was an ideal opportunity to expand our business. Between 1 September and our first Christmas we had the shop windows broken twice and the following year a car turning out of Square Street lost control, hit the pavement outside the Royal Oak and ploughed into the shop front. What a welcome! Undeterred, we carried on and took the "Rammy" people to our hearts. I became more and more involved in the town and in 1993-4 became President of the Rotary Club of Ramsbottom, starting a concert for the elderly people at the Theatre Royal which is still held today.



It was a very sad day when we closed the door on a very special part of our lives.
Ken ROSE 2004

(Our thanks go Mr ROSE who has kindly donated to the society a large photograph of Ramsbottom level crossing by Roy FISH WICK.

NB - The row of shops which includes 64, Bridge Street has the date 1829 on the stone trough over number 60 as shown in the above sketch by John B Taylor. A trades directory of 1913 shows W NEOBARD as the boot and shoe retailer at 6 Bridge Street. It seems, however, that the premises have not been in continuous use as a shoe shop since then because we have a 1927 invoice to John WOOD (Engineering) from H SHOLES & Son, printers, stationers and booksellers of Union Street, Ramsbottom stating they were also at 64 Bridge Street at that time - Editor.)

DANIEL GRANT

Daniel GRANT was born at the highland home of William and Grace GRANT, the Haugh of Elchies, near Knockando, in the valley of the Spey, Morayshire, Scotland. His baptism was at the Parish Church of Knockando where the registers give the date of birth as 2nd March 1783 and the name "*Donald*", which was the Scottish nomenclature. He was named after an uncle, Daniel GRANT of Arberlour, whose son, another Daniel, was for a period employed at Square Works,, Ramsbottom as Manager. In 1783, the GRANT family came to Bury. William GRANT, Daniel's father, made the journey from Scotland to Manchester, and, finding no work there he returned northwards, settling near Bury and obtaining work for his children. (The 1780s were years when the Bury area was experiencing a large influx of new families attracted by the mills of Robert PEEL and others like him.) The family consisted of William and Grace (nee McKENZIE) the parents; William, (junior); James, Elizabeth, John, Mary, Isabella, Daniel and Charles. Whilst still young, James returned to Scotland to set up in business and to marry. John was to achieve perhaps the greatest respect and loyalty from the people of Bury and Ramsbottom, and after marrying at the age of forty seven, leave the only heirs to the GRANT fortune. Elizabeth, we are told by the Reverend Hume ELLIOT, was a gracious and spirited girl who was to die at the age of thirty five. Isabella remains unknown as a personality. She died a spinster in 1839. William (junior) undoubtedly played a key role in the firm's rise to success. Charles, the youngest child who was born in 1788, was possibly the most energetic of the brothers, but he died suddenly at the age of thirty seven. There are still enormous gaps in our knowledge of the GRANT family history, particularly from 1783 to 1803, when they were slowly rising from obscurity to prosperity. It seems certain that the family first resided near Hampson Mill, then later moved to Haslam Bank, about a mile and a half south of Bury. Some premises in Bolton Street were also occupied by them. By 1790 business was proving profitable enough to enable William GRANT to transport his cotton goods by packhorse to customers in the area. In the year following, when there was great distress at Birmingham, the GRANTS were supplying clothing to children brought from there by Robert PEEL's firm. From about 1791 Daniel GRANT followed William (junior), James, John and Elizabeth in becoming employed by James DINWIDDIE at Harnpson Mill, a calico printing concern. It is evidence of the friendship between the GRANTS and the DINWIDDIEs that Daniel was taken on, for William had then left the works, having declined a partnership and had assumed the leading role in his own family's commercial enterprise. At the works Daniel became a tear boy, or block-printer's assistant, most of the time to a certain John WARDLE. The block printer's role was that of controlling the printing process carried out by certain machines. The calico material was calendered, then laid over a table, a kind of sieve placed over it, and dyes or mordants were applied before engraved

block or cylinders applied pressure to produce the required pattern. The dyes were brushed on by hand, a process called teering, which gave the name "teer boy" to those who carried it out. This was Daniel's daily occupation for some years at Hampson Mill. It was a happy period of his life, and one when he learned a considerable amount about calico-printing. He also formed a friendship with James DINWIDDIE which was to continue until the latter's death in 1836. It was probably through the GRANTS' connections with DINWIDDIE that they were introduced to the principal merchants of Manchester.

It was most likely in the mid 1790s that the family moved to a shop in the Wylde in the centre of Bury, sometime after 1796, which was the year that James DINWIDDIE's firm became bankrupt' and Hampson Mill was put up for sale. In November 1784 there had occurred the death by drowning of Mary GRANT, aged only seven years. Before the 18th century ended Charles GRANT was placed in the local Grammar School, a privilege accorded only to him, as the means now made it possible. (In contrast, Daniel had enjoyed only a meagre education at a local Dame School, which he left before his ninth birthday.)

The years between 1796 and 1800 have very little to tell us about Daniel GRANT or his brothers. Thomas HAYHURST says that they worked at Bury Ground, the principal factory of the PEELs and a strong stream of tradition tells of the GRANTS' friendship with the PEELs. Between 1790 and 1800, William GRANT (junior) undoubtedly did his utmost to cultivate the friendship and patronage of the upper classes of Bury society. Key men in the PEELs' firm, William YATES and his son Edmund, certainly knew the GRANTS, and it would be through them that commissions would be gained. (The GRANTS supplied goods to PEELs' mill at Burrs at least from 1800 to 1803, very probably until 1806.) The HUTCHINSONs, who lived near the GRANT shop in Bolton Street, also formed a friendship with the family, and it was with Betty HUTCHINSON that Isabella was sent to learn dressmaking. James FISHWICK stood surety for William GRANT when he took the shop in the Wylde³. (Both John HUTCHINSON and James FISHWICK were wool staplers and very probably William GRANT would have bought from them or sold their materials.)

In a record of the principal inhabitants of Bury made for the 1801 Census in April of that year the GRANTS are listed as follows:-

Market Place.

Household of William GRANT, four males, three females

Bolton Street.

Household of William GRANT, one male, one female⁴

The Market Street address would include William (senior), John, Daniel and Charles, and Grace, Elizabeth and Isabella. The Bolton Street address would be William (junior). The female, we presume, would be his servant.

From the time of the partnership of William and Daniel GRANT, Daniel was chosen as the salesman of the firm. He commenced travelling all over the country, but principally to the market towns of northern England and Scotland. His wares were samples of cloth of different patterns, bound together in a pattern book. There is at least one story of him obtaining an order through great persistence, courtesy and patience. By widening their field of sales, the GRANT brothers were to build up capital and also make

business contacts which would support them in years to come. It was their sheer determination, along with their business reputation, which contributed to their commercial success. The history of the GRANT brothers is very much the history of Manchester. The period of their struggle to prosperity and acceptance in society runs parallel with Manchester's growth as an industrial community and its eventual recognition as a centre of culture. Daniel GRANT became, one might venture to say, a Manchester man, and indeed an epitome of all that was understood by that phrase.

In 1806 the family contracted with Sir Robert PEEL for the possession of his mills at Ramsbottom, and from that date took up residence at the house which had previously been occupied by Mr Henry WARREN, one of his partners. It was then known as Top o'th' Brow, but was afterwards called Grant Lodge. After a time of preparation printing commenced on January 1st 1807, when Daniel was in his twenty fourth year. His job as commercial traveller now became one of greater responsibility. The breadth of the firm's operations widened. Trading was carried on through offices in Liverpool as well as Manchester. Within a number of years visits were made to European countries and agents were employed to represent the firm abroad.

Soon after the family's settlement in Ramsbottom they made the acquaintance of John BUCKLEY of Buckley Fold. Mr BUCKLEY came from a long established family who farmed lands near what is now Greenmount. One of his sisters married into the HOLT BROWN family of Hey House, Holcombe, who had a strong involvement with the Holcombe Hunt. Another relative was Benjamin BUCKLEY who also was hunt master for the Holcombe Hunt. John BUCKLEY had a daughter Anne, two years Daniel's senior, of whom the brothers were very fond. Both William and Daniel were attracted sufficiently to consider marriage, but Anne chose Daniel. She must have been a lady of great charm, because there were other admirers. John BUCKLEY was very much in favour of a union between Anne and Daniel, and eventually an engagement was

announced. However, another suitor, William HOLT of Fence near Burnley, appeared on the scene; only weeks before the wedding he rode over to Goodshaw in Rossendale. Anne met him there, and the two eloped, leaving Daniel to nurse his disappointment and John BUCKLEY his anger^s.

From 1815 a more detailed account of Daniel's personal life begins, for in that year two important events occurred. One of these was the purchase of a residence in Mosley Street where a good selection of Manchester's fashionable elite resided. The house was bought from a common fund and was used mainly by William and Daniel. The house was number four, and in later years was to be renumbered eleven. The intention was to furnish and staff this residence so that it would be a welcome hearth suitable to entertain all and sundry of the city people. The main purpose of the Mosley Street house, however, was as a residence for Daniel and his new wife, Elizabeth. They were married early in the New Year, on 12th January, at St John's Church, Manchester. The marriage bond reads as follows:-

10 Jan 15 George III. Bond for the marriage of Daniel GRANT and Elizabeth WORTHINGTON, in £500 to George Henry, Lord Bishop of Chester, given by Daniel GRANT of the Town and Parish of Manchester Co. Lanes. And Diocese of Chester, merchant and Christopher PARKER of the same, merchant.

For some years the GRANT brothers had known Thomas WORTHINGTON, a smallware manufacturer whose business was in High Street, but who lived in a country mansion near Northenden. Thomas was a man of wide connections who moved among the most prominent of Manchester's businessmen. He had a large family, a total of seven daughters and one son. Elizabeth was born in 1795 and therefore was Daniel's junior by twelve years. When exactly Daniel made her acquaintance is not known, but the link between the two families became strong, for nine years later Charles GRANT married Elizabeth's sister, Mary Ann WORTHINGTON.

Daniel and Elizabeth were happy together, but only for a brief time. In the autumn of the following year Elizabeth died, on the 18th October 1816. What was the cause of death is unknown. The *Manchester Mercury* gave the following report:-

On Saturday week, in the twenty first year of her age, Elizabeth, the wife of Daniel GRANT Esq., Mosley Street, eldest daughter of Thomas WORTHINGTON of Sharston Hall, Cheshire. She was an affectionate wife, a dutiful daughter, a sincere friend, a benefactor to the poor, her disposition was pious and truly amiable, her loss

**irreparable to an indulgent husband and deeply regretted
by all her relatives and all who had the happiness of her
acquaintance.**

Her body was brought to Bury, and she was buried in the graveyard of Bank Street Unitarian Church, next to another Elizabeth GRANT, Daniel's sister^b. We may believe that Daniel had been an indulgent and loving husband, and that he was indeed struck with grief at his loss. A year later old William GRANT also passed away, at the age of eighty four, and was interred at Bank Street, Bury.

Daniel's grief passed, and he immersed himself in work, in entertaining and being entertained by the society of Manchester. His Mosley Street residence was cared for by a small staff, led by his butler, Alfred BOOT who had been engaged when the house was first occupied. He is described as a stocky, thick-set gentleman who "much beseemed his position" in the household, and kept a fatherly eye on Daniel's nephews and nieces. Like the other Manchester property, the Cannon Street offices, the house became a constant thoroughfare for both the members of the GRANT family and for employees of the firm such as Thomas RICHARDSON, the chief clerk; John DOMETT, his future successor; Joshua KNOWLES, and business colleagues like Robert DALGLISH of the firm DALGLISH & FALCONER.

Daniel usually resided in Manchester through the week and would return to Springside, near Bury for the weekend, to share the company of his brother William and other members of the family. He would, however, quite frequently travel to Bury and back three or four times a week. On Sundays he would bring home from Manchester "foreign" merchants who were entertained at Springside, and who attended morning worship with him at Dundee Chapel, Ramsbottom. For returning to the city, a coach was made ready to leave straight after breakfast, and usually reached its destination between ten and eleven o'clock. On market days he would go from there to the Exchange, and following that would go to Mosley Street for lunch. At two o'clock he had "tiffin", which usually meant a round of drinks for any guests, and there were often business colleagues present at this time. The remainder of the working day would be spent either in the Cannon Street offices or at Mosley Street, where eventually offices were built and warehouses taken over. Like many other Manchester merchants Daniel worked hard until evening, but there were many calls to make, both social and business, and he also would frequent the racecourses at Heaton Park and Kersal Moor. (Daniel and William may well have been introduced to horse-racing by Edmund YATES, the son of Robert PEEL's partner. Mr Yates owned a number of horses which ran in the Manchester Cup, or at Kersal Moor. One of them, a grey named "Catfire", he presented as a gift to Dr Ellis CUNLIFFE, from whom John GRANT 'obtained' later the skin to upholster an easy chair.) In 1818 and 1819 Daniel and

William purchased two colts which regularly ran in the races. William's was named "*Cacambo*" and Daniel's "*Little Cymro*".

Daniel kept late nights, and Tuesday evening in particular was a rendezvous for many friends and visitors. From the time that the GRANTS began to prosper, the Mosley Street residence became an open house, especially for local artistic and literary men. Daniel, perhaps because of his own lack of a cultural education, was greatly attracted to the men and women of talent. We know that about 1838 Daniel commissioned John BOSTOCK to paint his portrait and that an Irishman JT THOMPSON painted William. In later years a miniaturist, Thomas CARLYLE painted Daniel on marble and the original is at Bury Art Gallery. He bought several paintings by William ETTY and knew other artists including H W PICKERSGILL, a very popular portrait painter, and George HAYES. Amongst other eminent visitors were John DALTON, John BURNS (author: *English and Scottish Poems and Songs*), the Reverend J HOLME and Charles DICKENS. So it was that Daniel became a prominent and conspicuous figure in Manchester society, together with his brother William. The two other brothers John and Charles were less well known.

Though the Scottish engineer James NASMYTH did not need to accept from William an offer of financial backing, he did accept an invitation to join a gathering of the brothers' friends at Ramsbottom when their church, St Andrew's was opened. From his autobiography the following extract has been culled:

As it was a very fine day at the end of May, I walked out to Ramsbottom, and enjoyed the scenery of the district. Here was the scene of the Grant Brothers' industry and prosperity. I met many enterprising and intelligent men, to whom William Grant introduced me. I was greatly pleased with the opening of the church.

Very regular guests at Mosley Street included James DINWIDDIE, Thomas WORTHINGTON, and a man who was to become one of Daniel's constant companions in society, Gilbert WINTER. Some of the most eminent of Manchester families, the BIRLEYS, POTTERS and ASHTONS came to meet Mr GRANT, who to them was only a novice in the realms of wealth and society manners. Daniel's invitations were extended to many officers of the city's Sunday and day schools and teachers of private academies. From Bury came members of Samuel ASHTON's family and the HUTCHINSONS and many other prominent Bury men. A lady friend of Daniel's lived nearby in Mosley Street. She was Miss Mary WHITEHEAD, whose brothers' warehouse faced the Grants in Cannon Street. There was for a time common gossip which paired her off with Daniel⁹.

William and Daniel GRANT sometimes attended worship at Cross Street Unitarian Chapel, the principal centre of nonconformity in Manchester. One Sunday morning, whilst the whole company from Daniel's house were at worship, there was a robbery. Some hopeful thief had broken into number four. There was a hue and cry, but we are not told whether he was caught.

In public life Daniel supported many organisations, including the Commercial Clerks Society, the Manchester Philanthropic Society, Stockport Sunday School, the Humane Society for the Recovery of Persons, the General Dispensary for Children and the Southport Strangers Charity, and was often called upon to officiate in some capacity on their behalf. In 1811 William GRANT had been elected as a juror to the Manchester Court Leet, the body of men who by tradition were responsible for running the affairs of the town. In practice the court leet was ineffective and a survival of a feudal past. Daniel's turn to be elected was in 1815 and he served in six other years. He also took a beneficial interest in charitable groups in Bury and Ramsbottom, subscribing in particular to bodies belonging to local churches. William and Daniel materially assisted the foundation of the Roman Catholic Church in Bury and the Unitarian Chapel led by the Reverend Franklin HOWARTH as well as the church they built, St Andrew's, Ramsbottom. At Christmas time the St Andrew's Sunday School teachers and scholars were invited to Springside. It is appropriate to mention here that Daniel gave a gift of some books to Ramsbottom's first library which opened in 1838. It is significant that he did not associate himself with any political party. That is not to say that he did not hold political opinions. In later years Daniel patronised the Manchester Royal Brass Band. He and a small circle of his business intimates were also important members of the Manchester Billiards Club and the Broughton Archers. The same men patronised the Liverpool and Manchester Theatrical Fund.

Of the brothers' famed benevolence there are also stories which survived into the Twentieth Century, remembered by the children to whom the GRANTS tossed coins as they passed in their coach from Walmersley to Manchester. We are told that Daniel parried money so often that he was on more than one occasion restrained by William and reminded of how much toil and effort had been made to earn it. During these journeys regular gifts of money were also made to poor people such as John BROOKS (who many years previously had helped to rescue the body of their sister Mary) and Sarah SCHOFIELD who ran a small school at Blackford Brow. Henry PARKER, another inhabitant of Blackford Brow, remembered chasing the GRANT carriage, drawn by two greys, when he was a young boy. In June 1838, on the occasion of the coronation of Queen Victoria, Daniel arranged celebrations at Ramsbottom, beginning at the Grant Arns, and instructed that shovelfuls of coins be tossed amongst the awaiting crowds, much to their delight. He made the game more difficult, by having the blacksmith heat up the coins first.

Among the Manchester merchant classes it seems that Daniel and his brothers, particularly William, had become men held in very high esteem. They had, from 1807 to the 1830s reaped great financial rewards and built a calico printing works reputed to be the best in Europe. In the journal of Lord John MANNERS, who had occasion to visit the GRANTS in 1841 whilst on a tour of the industrial counties we read:

The children by the roadside as we passed called, "Hurrah for the Grants." They have some miles of the Irwell, and a very pretty place it is ... they spin, bleach and print; anything more perfect I never saw, and the girls and men all looked healthy and clean too ... Brother John, who had ridden over from Nuttall, showed us round the grounds and when we returned there was the old gentleman lie *William- Editor*] sitting in the porch with his feet on a mat, dispensing his charity to half a dozen men ... then turning to me to explain, "It's the mill up yonder, Sir, has stopped; no they mustn't starve, and if we who can afford it don't feed them they will get fed somehow else, and that perhaps wouldn't be so well ...

William was not in the best of health and was to die within six months of this occasion. Since about 1838 Daniel had ceased residing permanently at Mosley Street and travelled home every day in order to sleep in the room next to William. The relationship between them was very close and it is evident that Daniel regarded William with a certain degree of awe. Also, nearly all the policy decisions of the firm had been made jointly by William and Daniel who worked closely together in Manchester. When William died on 28 February 1842, Daniel was suffering an attack of gout which, aggravated by the shock, so affected his health that he was unable to attend the funeral and for several days, we are told, "his life was despaired of".

Daniel did survive, to live another eventful thirteen years.

Alan Hitch, 181, Burnley Road, Rawtenstall

References

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- 2 COLLIER, F *The family economy of the working classes in the cotton industry 1784-1833*, p34 (1965)
- 3 HAYHURST, T H *An appreciative estimate of the Grant Brothers* (1884)
- 4 HAYHURST, T H *The Conquest of Gentlemen*, p3 (1910)
- 5 HEAP, Martha - her diary (in private hands)
- 6 Bank Street Chapel registers
- 7 BARTON, F *History of Bury p110-11* (1873)

8 *Manchester Mercury*, 21 April 1818, 13 May 1818 and 12 Jan 1819
9 SLUGG J T *Reminiscences of Manchester fifty years ago* (1881)
10 HEWITSON, W *Newscuttings*
11 ELLIOT, Reverend William Hume *The Story of the Cheeryble Grants*
(1894)

RECOLLECTIONS

In the 1880s, my mother's family, the TAYLORS, had a foundry works at Top Wood, just below Dickfield. Among the four sons came a 'falling out' or dispute, in the course of which the machinery was wrecked, so thereafter, you could say they came down from the hills. In the passage of time, they went to pastures new, with the exception of my mother, who lived at Ramsbottom for most of her long life. These are my recollections of tales she told me, and my own memories of the town as it was.

I was born Honora GALPIN and I was aged two when we came to live in Douglas Terrace; I had an older sister and twelve months later, a brother. Eventually there were six of us, (Kath, myself, Cornelius, Francis (Frank), Margaret (Peggy) and Brian but that was much later. Without a doubt, people today would consider the accommodation and amenities, such as they were then, most primitive. We had a cold water tap, and when hot water was needed, it was heated in a brick built boiler in the kitchen, where a small fire was built underneath. The baking was done in the living room oven at one side of the range. I remember my mother baking a 'score' of flour into loaves, muffins and teacakes, and much besides in that oven. Still never dreaming of wonders to come - bathrooms, central heating and labour-saving devices, we were content. Our house was one in a row of five, high up on the west side of town, a house of uniformity with all the others, each with a small front garden and a communal yard at the back. Of course, houses at that time were almost always rented; this applied also to the middle classes and, in some cases to the upper echelons of society. The owners of our particular terrace lived quite near, and the lady used to collect the rents on Friday nights, which was bath night for all us children using the zinc bath in front of the fire. (When not in use the bath hung outside the back door.) My mother would produce the rent book, and the lady, who wore a leather contraption round her waist which contained an inkwell, would take her pen, dip it in the ink and sign the rent book. Oh! How I coveted that inkwell.

I can remember looking through the bedroom window from which we had a bird's eye view of the town and its environs. Tall factory chimneys were to be seen everywhere, thrusting up into the sky. On every day except Sunday, they emitted forth black columns of smoke. Looking across Carr Bank in those days, however, there was this lovely field, and standing in the middle, the most

beautifully shaped oak tree. I used to wish I could have a house right there someday. Well, there are plenty there now!

Apart from all the chimneys, you could see the railway lines and sidings, when, in readiness for welcome getaway that was the annual holiday time, the excursion trains would arrive with numbered tickets on their engines to denote their destination. You can imagine the 'bonhomie' and good spirits that prevailed, with everyone looking forward to trips to the most favoured seaside towns, no less so than the present time when holidays are taken in far flung exotic countries, which in the 1920s would have seemed only possible by magic carpet!

Starting from my home in Douglas Street and continuing down Tanners Street, the building on the left facing down the hill, was a public house called the *Rising Sun*, and a little further down was a second one, the *Rose and Crown* which has changed little, but at the top side of it you could go round the end to find three cottages, which are now no more. An aunt of mine lived in one of them for a time, but then decided to move to Square Street. When I was about ten years old, I remember quite vividly, along with a brother and sister, carrying some of her goods and chattels, such as they were, down Carr Street, and coming to rest on the steps of the building which was then the *Ramsbottom Observer* (now a chemist - PALMERS). Among my aunt's possessions were two rather large framed pictures, one of my father and the other of the current Pope. Alas, when moving on, by some mischance, we omitted to take up the Pope's likeness! We never saw it again so, as you can imagine, Auntie was rather cross!

The row of houses past the *Rose and Crown* is still there and the end one was, for many years, a grocer's shop. Then you come to the opening where you can turn left into Springwood Street or right into Callender Street. This, incidentally, was known as Springfield. Long before industry and urbanisation came it was mostly rural, and so would surely merit the prettier place name. Callender refers, of course, to part of the work process in a bleaching factory. My father, Francis GALPIN was the callender at the Square bleach works.

Continuing down Carr Street, where the Pentecostal Church and car parks now stand, there were dwelling houses on both sides, and on the left, a small shop where there was an entry to the rear, leading to numerous allotments. I recollect going there on a summer Sunday afternoon for tomatoes and lettuce, and let me say, we girls wore pretty dresses and hats, with not a cotton top or a pair of jeans in sight! The right side of the street was very similar with the entry coming down from Rostron Road, which is still there by the side of the library. Two houses further on was a chip shop and more houses until you came to the corner, which was a sweet and general store. Standing on this site now, but much further back, is the Medical Centre.

We have now arrived at the Market Place. Imagine, if you can, a rather cold, windy Saturday night in the early 1920s, the smell of flaring naphtha lights on

the night air, the excitement of people milling about, looking for bargains at the usual market stalls: drapery, haberdashery, pots and pans, fruit and vegetables. One of the vendors of the latter, Messrs BOYSON, had occupied the same site for many years; surprising now to remember that greengrocers did a very good trade in rabbits! The piece de resistance for us children, most certainly, was the penny stall, and HOWARTHS' home-made toffee stall. The sheer delight in anticipating what could be bought with our Saturday pennies, not to mention the agonising decision regarding the merits of caramels, pear drops or aniseed rock, until everything was resolved, and we plumped for a quarter mixed!

Whilst all this was happening on the market, the two 'picture palaces' as they were then called, were entertaining other town inhabitants to the first and second house showing of that night's film. Those coming out after the first performance passed others waiting for the second and, as most people in those days knew everyone else, there was plenty of friendly verbal exchange, not least as to the verdict on the film. At this time of the evening there was a great convergence of people in the main street with little or no traffic; news vendors would do a brisk trade calling, 'Last sports', and the shops were still open. You could buy the weekend joint at 9 o'clock on Friday and Saturday nights. For many years it was customary for men of the town to congregate at the corner of Bolton Street, looking down Bridge Street, talking to friends and acquaintances and watching the world go by.

Continuing down Bridge Street a little way and turning left, you arrive in Paradise Street, where at this time was situated what was euphemistically called the Model, a rooming house for persons mostly homeless. Also on this street were the premises where HOWARTHS' made their famous sweets, and further on, a cooper plied his trade. It was interesting to watch him making barrels and casks.

Back in Bridge Street, and on the right is Square Street where the post office stood for many years. Beyond that, at that time, there were houses on both sides. Walking along the street to the end you reached the pawnbroker's. His name was John FRANCIS and he was very well known, as pawning was a way of life for many in those days. It is now a solicitor's office. On the opposite corner was the billiard hall. Clarence Brow divides Square Street and crossing the road brought you to the *Royal* cinema. Across from this was an Irish club called the 'Nash', which most of the Irish populace used to frequent. Sometimes my father did a spell of stewardship there, and I remember, on a cold wintry day, calling on my way home from school for a hot peppermint drink. This was the time before home rule for Ireland, and on that subject there was much debating in the club.

At this particular time also, there was depression in England after the First World War. Quite a few of my parents' friends decided to emigrate to America, looking perhaps for their El Dorado. They were always given a warm send off, the valedictory song on these occasions being *I'm off to Philadelphia in the*

morning. In 1921, there was a coal strike and consequently fewer fires burning. I can recall going with my aunt and cousins to wooded plantations on Holcombe and Helmshore Road to gather firewood. Sometimes, on our way home, we managed to get a lift by pony and trap; few cars in those days!

Leaving Square Street, climbing up from town beyond Callender Street are the two long streets of stone houses, Albert and Victoria Streets. The location used to be known as 'Tory Town', maybe because of the royal connection. Leading on from Victoria Street was the 'Croft', an uneven path with stone walling on each side, separating two large fields. These belonged to Mr Shaw TAYLOR of Tanners Farm. Douglas Terrace (where we lived) is just off Tanners Street. I can't recall the farmer delivering milk, perhaps he did, but we used to collect ours from the farm dairy.

I have many treasured memories from a happy childhood, when life seemed to be lived at a more leisurely pace, and you really had time to stand and stare. A particular delight for me was when haymaking time came around; we would stand at the barn doors and wait until each cartful of hay was unloaded before climbing aboard to ride down to the hayfields. What games we then enjoyed in the sweet mown hay. At the other end of the spectrum, when snow lay deep on the ground, out came the sledges. The thrills we had, tobogganing down the steep incline of Rostron Road!

We had been very young when the First World War started, and so my memory is rather hazy, but I faintly recall the night the Zeppelins came. We were all awakened and dressed and told to say our prayers, to which we protested have already said them earlier. Our small brother then asked if he could fly his newly acquired kite from the back field, but we were quickly ushered, along with other families, to a large cellar nearby where all the children were given bread and jam, and behaved very well! A bomb was dropped in a field at Tanners Farm, making a large crater; this was not very far away and most windows were smashed. The next one fell in Holcombe village, opposite what was, at that time, the post office. Here, again windows were blown out and the outer walls badly pitted. (These remained a source of interest for many years.) Thankfully, there were no casualties and the Zeppelins then headed off towards Bolton. Rationing of food was almost universal, and many had to forgo even necessities; even the thought of a jar of raspberry jam seemed well worth running all the way home from school for! In 1916, when we got a baby brother he was designated a 'war baby' and I thought it was wonderful, fondly believing that he came with the rations!

Many years later, my father, speaking of the war, told me that the summer of 1914 was absolutely beautiful, the last two weeks before the declaration of war especially so. 'There was,' he said, 'a feeling_ of portent and unreality, and all life seemed held in suspense.'

Of course, like all children down the ages, most of the awful, shattering events were hardly noticed in our small world. My school days were some of the

happiest in my life and I never wanted them to end. Apart from enjoying (most) lessons, there was the warm feeling one gets from best friends. I remember, at this time, I developed an eye complaint and was told I would have to wear spectacles. Calamity! This was in the early twenties when silent pictures were in vogue, and just then, at the local picture house the serial of the *Perils of Pauline*, featuring Pearl WHITE was been shown. A coterie of girls in my class had decided to enact some of these 'perils', though not to go so far as to lie down in front of an oncoming train as she did! It was my turn to be an actress but whoever heard of a screen goddess wearing spectacles, and what is more, a plait with bows top and bottom! However, with a little ingenuity, I conveniently forgot the glasses, took off the ribbon bows, undid the plait and my kinky hair flowed free. We then concocted a few escapades, there was much chasing and it was all great fun.

Despite, or perhaps because of all the miseries of the 1920s (unemployment had risen to two million) it was heaven to go and listen to the brass bands at the recreation ground. Attired in our Sunday best, we would promenade to the lilt of the enchanting tunes that beguiled us. It was wonderful to be young in those time-stopped summers, all such a distant memory now, but still, with the rebirth of the East Lancashire Railway and the enterprise and efforts of enthusiastic people, my home town has come alive once more and new generations are enjoying a kind of renaissance.

Honora SCHOFIELD (nee GALPIN) 1910-2003

REVEREND R R CARMYLLIE, *THE KIRK AT RAMSBOTTOM*

The interesting information in this new booklet, *The Kirk at Ramsbottom*, was published originally in 1983-84 in the parish magazine of St Andrew's Church, Ramsbottom as a series of articles by the then vicar, the Rev CARMYLLIE. He had written the articles to mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of the church in June 1834.

The nineteen page booklet, published by the Parochial Church Council, has some amendments to the original articles (which have been necessitated by the passing of time) and additional explanatory notes. There are fascinating details about the Church, important events which took place there and the people. The booklet is available for £1.00 from St Andrew's Church and also from our Heritage Society.

WAR MEMORIALS

I am still collecting inscriptions from War Memorials to produce an index to the men and women of Ramsbottom and the surrounding area who fought in the World Wars. At present I am concentrating on World War One and would welcome information about memorials, in Churches or other buildings, and also about individual men and women who died for their King and Country.

Elizabeth Duxbury

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society has no staff, and cannot offer a research or query service. The following institutions could be approached:

Bury Archive Service

NB. THEIR PUBLIC READING ROOM ON EDWIN STREET, BURY HAS NOW CLOSED. It is expected that the reopening of the entire archive service and museum at **Moss Street** will be around the **middle of May 2005**.

Details of new opening hours will appear in our next newsletter.

Briefly, the archive comprises over 30 tons of documents, maps, plans photographs with historical records from the 1650s to the present day of a wide range of organisations and private individuals from all parts of the Metropolitan Borough. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan there.

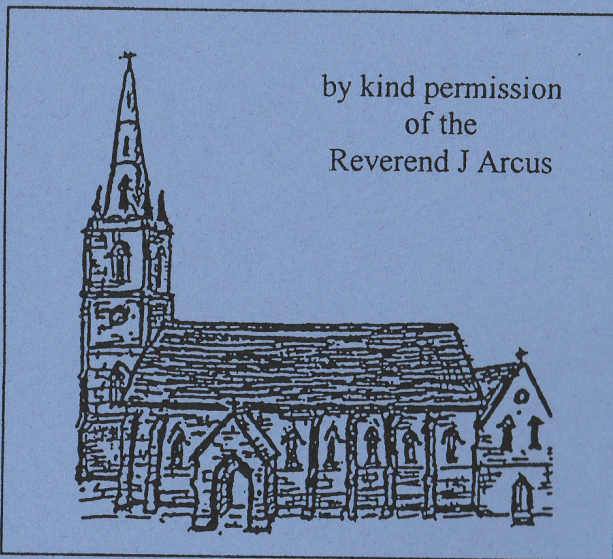
Bury Central Library (Reference and Information Services),

Manchester Road, Bury, BL9 ODG - lei 0161 253 5871 has publication on local history, historical printed works of local interest such as trade directories, older OS maps for the whole of Bury MBC, including Ramsbottom, copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of newscuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers on microfilm.

Ramsbottom Library, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, will be in the Heritage Centre building for the foreseeable future. Ramsbottom library staff will be holding family history surgeries at Tottington Library. Please contact Ramsbottom Library for dates and details and with any other local history enquiries **lei 0161 253 5352**

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Pip Cowling, 33, Windhill Old Road, Bradford, BD10 OSF tel 01274 611087, email membership@lfhhs.org.uk, Ordinary membership is.£ 12 per year (concessions £9.50) and this entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and 14 meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall. More information available on www.lfhs.org.uk.

Visit us at our new 'home' for 2005
ST PAUL'S CHURCH
(on Bridge Street in the centre of Ramsbottom)



by kind permission
of the
Reverend J Arcus

New display
**ST PAUL'S CHURCH AND ITS ENVIRONS,
INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL**

Open Easter Sunday until mid-December 2005
in the Palmerston Aisle (north side) of the church
Sundays + 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm

Free Admission

Refreshments

Disabled Facilities

NOTE OUR WEBSITE:-
www.ramsbottom-heritage.fsnet.co.uk