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NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY
THE HERITAGE CENTRE
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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 Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 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

2003

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 th October | Mr C Mintz – <i>Tales from the Bench</i> |
| 19 th November | Members night – Crow Lane Project Team |
| 10 th December | Mr A Gill - <i>Lantern Magic</i> , an illustrated talk |

2004

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 21 st January | Mrs M Clarke – <i>The true history of chocolate</i> |
| 18 th February | Mr C Formby – <i>Conservation and restoration of bookbindings</i> , an illustrated talk |
| 17 th March | Photographic Competition
Judge - Mr L Norris - <i>A peep behind the scenes</i> |
| 21 st April | Mrs M M Gilbertson – <i>Votes for women</i> , an illustrated talk |
| 19 th May | Annual General Meeting and Members Night |

**Please note that all indoor meetings are held
on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place,
Ramsbottom, at 7.30 for 7.45pm**

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FRONT COVER - 18, Bolton Street, home of Peter Murray McDouALL, according to the 1842 tithe map and schedule. Drawn By John B TAYLOR of Stacksteads

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

At the 2004 AGM I will step down as your Chairman after serving the Society since its foundation in 1987, first as Secretary and then as Chairman. It has been a big part of my life and I have gained much pleasure and satisfaction since the day in 1987 when as part of a small band of Local History enthusiasts we were encouraged to form a Group to record the past and present history of the area for posterity.

The time has now come for a successor to take over the position of Chairman and I hope you will give this due consideration and put forward your nomination, suitably seconded, on the nomination forms which will be available at the monthly meetings at the Civic Hall, or from the Secretary c/o the Heritage Centre, as from the 1st January 2004.

Dorothy Moss, Chairman

MRS EVELYN WAITE, HONORARY LIFE MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY.

Tuesday 10th June 2003 was a memorable date for the Society and for Mrs Evelyn WAITE when she was invited to the Ramsbottom Heritage Centre (with her daughter Ann) to receive Honorary Life membership of the Society in recognition of her dedicated work for the people of Ramsbottom and Edenfield.

Our President, Andrew TODD presented a scroll (hand scribed by John B TAYLOR, on handmade paper from our twin town Angouleme) and in a short speech of welcome he touched on several aspects of Mrs WAITE's life of service to others.

She was born in Middlesex, left home to become a student nurse and quickly became one of the youngest Nursing Sisters. She was in London during the heaviest of the bombing in the War and worked with the ambulance crews helping soldiers rescued from Dunkirk. She was posted to Brighton where she met a soldier, Harold WAITE,

and they were married by Special Licence - the only way he could get her to come to his home in Lancashire. They came to Edenfield in 1946, the cottage was a great shock to her, no electricity, no flush toilet and it flooded in heavy rain.

Drawing from her mother's example she spoke out for those in need and campaigned for a baby clinic in Edenfield. Because of the acute shortage of nurses she was persuaded to return to nursing and worked at Bury General Hospital, Aitkin Sanatorium (now Darul Uloom College) and Robinson Kay Hospital (now Highbank). She was well known and loved as the District Nurse and persuaded the local Council to establish care for the elderly and young people, was involved with the W R V S and was instrumental in getting the Meals on Wheels service operating in Ramsbottom, She was also a Guide Captain, helped to found Shuttleworth Women's Institute, helped set up the Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital League of Friends and was the first female Youth Leader, working with Rhodes BOYSON.

In 1973 Mrs WAITE was elected as one of the Councillors representing Ramsbottom, became Chairman of Leisure Services Committee, chaired the Personnel Committee, was on the Libraries Board and served as Mayor of Bury during the Municipal Year 1986-1987. Throughout her Council career, Mrs WAITE was known as a formidable opponent who always knew her subject and could never be fobbed off. She was probably one of the most respected Councillors in the borough, irrespective of political colour. Everything she has done has been of the best and she has served her community well in every way.

In response Mrs WAITE modestly insisted that all the improvements she had been able to make for the local community had been achieved with the help of many other people; some, alas, no longer with us and some now very elderly. Mrs WAITE was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the Society's assistant secretary, Joan MURPHY and with a selection of the Society's publications by Tony MURPHY. Refreshments were then served and Mrs WAITE and her daughter and friends made a short tour of the Heritage Centre exhibition. So ended a very happy occasion honouring a most remarkable, much loved and respected lady who has given much of her life to the betterment of her fellow men and women.

Dorothy Moss, Chairman

Obituaries

Sadly, since issue 24 of the News Magazine three of our members have passed away.

Mrs June Brierley died in June 2003. Although fairly new to the Society she enjoyed the monthly meetings and also helped in the Heritage Centre. She is sadly missed by the many friends she made in the Society.

Mr Eric Quinn died in July 2003. Eric came to Ramsbottom as an evacuee during World War II and grew to love the town. When the time came for him to return home at the age of 14 he was devastated. At the earliest opportunity he returned and has lived here ever since. Eric was one of our early members and was a great help when the Heritage Centre mounted an exhibition about World War II. He wrote for the Magazine and also made a tape recording describing his experiences as an evacuee providing us with invaluable first hand information concerning life as a child in war time Ramsbottom.

Mrs Hilda French died in August 2003. Hilda was one of our earliest members and helped the Society in many ways. She contributed to our first News Magazine and was a great source of information on life in Nuttall Village where she spent her childhood. Until ill health prevented her, she was also a regular helper at the Heritage Centre where her kindness and good nature and wealth of local knowledge will be remembered by helpers and visitors alike.

We send our sincere condolences to all their families.

Barbara Park

PETER MURRAY McDOUALL, CHARLES DICKENS AND THE GRANT MYTH

In issue no 23 of this magazine, I concluded an article on George GOODRICK and the *Grant Arms* with a hint that the well known association of Charles DICKENS' Cheeryble Brothers with the GRANTS, William (1769-1842) and Daniel (1783-1855), may have been contrived to boost the reputation of Ramsbottom's most famous family. I have always been surprised at the extent to which this entrepreneurial family has, even down to recent times, commanded so much respect in the neighbourhood. Contemporary evidence from their greatest critic, Peter Murray McDOUALL, strongly suggests that they were unscrupulous employers who exploited their workers to an extent that was probably not unusual in the first half of the 19th Century, but which seems completely at odds with their reputation of benevolence. McDOUALL had used his access as a medical practitioner amongst the GRANTS' workforce in

Ramsbottom and Nuttall to assemble a damning case against them. In 1838 he had delivered a paper to the Royal Statistical Society based on a survey of 309 cottages, alleging that they were operating a tied cottage system in Nuttall, where overcrowding was severe¹; and in 1842, he personally alleged in evidence to a parliamentary select committee that the GRANT Brothers were illegally practising a sophisticated version of the truck system amongst their workforce. If these accusations were indicative of local and regional opinion of the GRANTS, then they and their industrialist friends must in the winter of 1838/9 have had a strong motive for cultivating the publishing phenomenon of the decade, one Charles John Huffam DICKENS, a novelist known to model from real life the distinctive characters that populated his prodigious and highly influential literary output. Local respect for the GRANTS' extraordinary humanitarianism seems to have emanated from their subsequent portrayal by DICKENS as the wildly generous Cheeryble Brothers, a reputation resurrected and boosted 45 years later in a remarkably bold attempt to convince local opinion that one of their relatives should be elected to the House of Commons.

The GRANTS had been textile highfliers, successful players in the growth industry of the day, and must have enjoyed a measure of reputation amongst the respectable commercial classes in and around Manchester, the textile capital. Despite his strong bias in favour of the family, Thomas H HAYHURST, writing nearly half a century

later, can be relied upon for the basic facts of their respectability. The Brothers supported the great free trade issue of the day. opposition to the Corn Laws; they supported dispensaries, hospitals and mechanics' institutes; and William himself subscribed to, and famously laid the foundation stone of Thomas HENSHAW's Blind Asylum in Manchester in 1836, not least because he personally had lost an eye in childhood.² All this was noblesse oblige for anyone aspiring to social advance - after all. the family had begun life in the Lancashire textile industry as unskilled labourers in calico printing and dyeing only half a century before.³ Given these lowly origins, the GRANTS would have welcomed good publicity. It is in this context, as well as the criticisms of McDouALL, that we must look at their reputation for exceptional altruism, which dates from the serialised publication of DICKENS' *Nicholas Nickleby*, starting in 1838.⁴

In that year, Charles DICKENS, just 27, at the threshold of his literary career, and himself of modest origins, was touring the country in search of material and inspiration for future instalments of *Nicholas Nickleby*, particularly those 'topical allusions' which were making his second serialised novel, *Oliver Twist*, such a success. We should remember that the first episodes of these serials appeared long before the content of the final portions was known to DICKENS, let alone his readership. It may have been this that made DICKENS so fascinating a guest, and one whose visits spawned so much written commentary'. One has a sense that those who met him felt in the presence not simply of a novelist but of the novel-writing process itself, a dynamic. One curious result was that people tried to turn themselves into Dickensian characters, imagining psychotically that it was they by whom the author had been inspired!

DICKENS' latest biographer, Peter ACKROYD, suggests he wished to seem 'accurate' and 'truthful' when dealing with the polemics of the day. Having collected key data at Bowes on the contemporary evil of the 'Yorkshire Schools', DICKENS sought to 'work up' other *Nickleby* scenes, by visiting northern cotton mills, topical because of the agitation of the Ten Hours Movement. He was in Manchester for a total of eight days in the space of two visits in November 1838 and January 1839.⁵ It seems that in the process of these short stays he hit upon the idea of creating out of the GRANT Brothers an idealised role model for other industrialists. It was important for his purposes that the 'Cheerybles' existed in the real world, prospered and their 'liberal charity, their singleness of heart, their noble nature, and their unbounded benevolence' led them daily to perform 'some munificent and generous deed in that town of which they are the pride and honour.'⁶ In short, their example could be sold to the economically powerful of the day. DICKENS, the 'romantic radical', dealt in such archetypes, and perhaps it was this wish to 'work up' idealised heroes as counterpoises to the villains of his plots that made him, in the course of his Manchester visits, more interested in eccentric characters for his novel than in all too familiarly adverse social conditions. These, in the depths of the economic depression

of 1837-42, must have been grim indeed. DICKENS wanted to peddle hope, not despair.

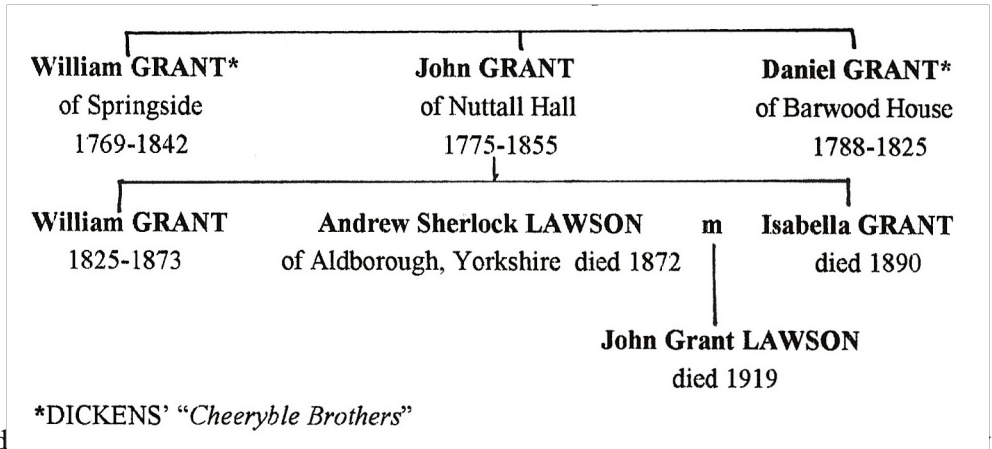
According to one contemporary source, which ACKROYD suspects may be apocryphal, DICKENS was much 'tickled' by the GRANT Brothers. During breakfast with one, DICKENS:-

... did not utter one word, but soon after retired to a corner of the room, pondered for a few moments, turned his head to the wall, put his hands before his face, and burst out into an uncontrollable fit of laughter.⁷

I suspect that the textile industrialists in Manchester must have been on their best behaviour with their literary guest. His populist writings had a habit of stirring up opinion in London, and they had no wish to be portrayed as an evil, against which restrictive legislation alone was the solution. No doubt DICKENS welcomed the attention and colluded happily. This was a wealthy, and influential interest, and the young author enjoyed social ascent.

Even if we do concede that the GRANTS were the prototypes for the Cheeryble Brothers, we should beware of assuming that DICKENS was in any sense faithful to his originals in *Nicholas Nickleby*. DICKENS famously claimed in his preface that 'the Brothers Cheeryble live'; predictably, DICKENS received hundreds of begging letters addressed to the Cheerybles.⁸ Presumably, if he believed his own assessment of the GRANTS, he would have passed them on.

If we are to believe Thomas H HAYHURST, author in 1884 of that most adulatory account of the GRANT family, *An Appreciative Estimate of the Grant Brothers, of Ramsbottom (The Brothers Cheeryble)*, every such request for money or help would have received a prompt and generous response. But HAYHURST's account, normally bubbling in praise of the GRANTS, is silent on how, if at all, these worthies responded! HAYHURST was a Victorian spin-doctor, and made even DICKENS' effusions in the Cheerybles' praise appear grudging. He had one of politics' most difficult tasks - to sell to surly, parochial voters a non-resident candidate. In 1884, John Grant LAWSON, grand nephew of the Cheeryble Brothers, second son of their niece Isabella, and heir apparent to the GRANT property in Ramsbottom, was chosen as prospective Conservative MP for the Bury constituency. In an age when politics and religion went together, the Liberal interest in the constituency could malte hay from the family's recent bad press. LAWSON's uncle, William GRANT, had abandoned the Presbyterianism of his Cheeryble uncles to embrace high Anglicanism. Had the conversion involved only GRANT and his conscience, Liberal tolerance might have excused it. But GRANT acted on his beliefs and the consequent stormy events of 1869, best told by Hume ELLIOT⁹ must have been a defining moment in the religious history of the town. In that year, he ejected the Presbyterian congregation from St Andrew's, the imposing 'Scottish church' built by his uncle William GRANT, the senior Cheeryble, handing it over to the established church. He refused to pass on to the dissenters an endowment of several thousand pounds, and thereby caused the



hundred yards down the street. By these actions he must have surely antagonised the whole of the town's non-conformist/Liberal camp.

Simplified Family Tree of the GRANTs mentioned in the Text

Ramsbottom is a politically divided town, as relatively high modern election turnout and turnover figures in ward councillors indicate. Nineteenth Century Ramsbottom was even more polarised, as its great Liberal and Conservative club buildings and myriad churches testify. Bury constituency was no easier - HAYHURST had the unenviable challenge of endearing to a hostile Lancastrian electorate a Yorkshire-born absentee landlord with such family connections as these! Moreover, politics in Bury was new and tough - the town had only been granted parliamentary representation in 1832; and following the Second Reform Act of 1867, most working men in towns and cities had the vote. HAYHURST had to win over an emerging class of elector to whom his party had no natural appeal. Nationally, Tory leader and ideologist Benjamin DISRAELI had anticipated this problem, and responded with 'One Nation Conservatism', the party's only hope against William GLADSTONE'S Liberal embrace of working class electoral enfranchisement and social reform. DICKENS' Cheeryble Brothers constituted a Tory ideal of how the ruling classes should exercise the charitable responsibilities that wealth and good fortune carried with them.

Despite the size of his challenge, HAYHURST rose to it with gusto, and his *Appreciative Estimate* is truly a propaganda piece of stunning persuasiveness.¹⁰ One can picture him seeking out elderly GRANT tenants and clients who could be persuaded, over a pot in the *Grant Arms* tap room, to gaze into a remote, rose-tinted past and work up, as well as DICKENS might 45 years before, memories of the heroes of their political persuasion. For in a town of Ramsbottom's small size, and given that voting was a public activity until 1872, partisanship would be complete, and workers would have to share the political and religious allegiances of their masters. With such material, and given his own powers of lily-gilding, HAYHURST could apotheosise the GRANT Brothers with apparently first hand evidence of their character, and thus associate the Conservative candidate with a family of philanthropists. But even a tentative knowledge of 19th Century class relations throws the credibility of

HAYHURST's account into question. One hardly needs to be a Marxist to detect more than a hint of fairy tale!

Mr William, HAYHURST wrote of the Cheeryble Brothers, would be driven from his house at *Springside*, (where the poor were 'perpetually feasted') to the family warehouse at Mosley Street, Manchester, and daily distribute money along two lines of poor people who formed an avenue through which his carriage passed:-

On their way to and from town these Brothers would scatter copper and silver among the poor workpeople, nor stay or receive the thanks of overfull hearts . . . The grandfather of the present writer often spoke of how the GRANT Brothers halted at the bottom of Walmersley-road to meet Bury friends, stepped from their handsome equipage to talk and fraternise with people, and quietly slip shining metal in their palms while taking the parting handshake.

One wonders why anyone worked if they knew the Brothers were around. We should bear in mind that these events took place in the early days of the 19th Century, when any reading of contemporary poor law overseers' accounts demonstrates how wretched was the lot of the old, sick and unemployed. It is odd, then, that this district, so bounteously provided for by such altruists, did not share the fate of Bedford. Here, a wealthy 18th Century humanist had left substantial funds for the benefit of the poor, with the effect that deserving and undeserving paupers flocked to the town!

Of course, generous patronage of local good causes was an important component of the paternalistic model of textile mastership which the GRANTS did pursue. Patronage of churches and local charities was *de rigeur*. and no doubt there were many Ramsbottom people who had done well out of the GRANTS. But HAYHURST's dedication of *An Appreciative Estimate* to Isabella LAWSON, the heiress to the GRANT estates, could have been uttered by DICKENS' own Uriah Heap. It was, it claimed, a 'humble effort to estimate the high character of her ever-generous uncles and father.' And John GRANT, her father, was central to HAYHURST's purpose, for he needed to associate him solidly with the Cheerybles' reputed generosity. He was the grandfather of 1884 Tory candidate John Grant LAWSON. Again, there was no shortage of material

The resident poor old people of Ramsbottom were recipients of largess every day. The casual poor were daily assisted from a cottage stored with flour, meal, bread, cheese, and bacon near the entrance to the GRANTS' works. In the winter months load after load of coals would be seen tipped at the Market Place. The poor folks fetched them away in baskets without let or hindrance without the asking, well knowing the purpose for they were sent, nor doubting a moment from which heart the generous impulse sprang. Blankets, warm counterpanes, articles of clothing, found their way frequently and mysteriously to the very places where they chanced to be most needed; and invalids were frequently surprised by the appearance of

comestibles and wines rarely seen on deal tables standing on sanded stone floors.

HAYHURST claimed to have been told by one John ROE, who had died in August 1884, aged 84, how during a strike at the ASHTONS' mill he had, on Mr John's behalf, distributed 'thousands of pounds' to the poor in the district, known to be starving on account of the lack of work. And 'mourned by the entire population of the district', this last member of the Cheeryble generation, was at his death in 1855:-

. . . carried to the grave on the shoulders of eight of his principal workpeople, several of whom, it is pleasing to record, still live [1884]. They are all but one octogenarians, and they all live in Ramsbottom to speak good of the GRANTS. Their names are George GOODRICK, landlord of the *Grant Arms*, who when a young man was butler at Nuttall Hall, aged 81; George CUSSONS, formerly foreman blacksmith, of Bolton-street, now retired, aged over 80; Thomas SCHOFIELD, retired, Bolton-st, aged 82; James KAY, Park, aged 81; and Henry SCHOFIELD, who lives near the *Grants' Arms*, hale and hearty at 74.

Thus HAYHURST sought to extend to Isabella's father, John GRANT, the Dickensian 'Cheeryble' makeover of his more famous brothers. And in a short postscript, the author recommended their carpet-bagger descendant to the voters of Bury, without saying anything remotely of any political substance. Earlier that year, Grant LAWSON's delivery was 'philosophical, calm, reasoning, well thought-out, and with a conspicuous absence of invective'. Moreover, HAYHURST continued:

Mr LAWSON is well acquainted with current politics, home, foreign, and colonial, [and] ... the policy he advocates is both broad and comprehensive...¹¹

Unfortunately, HAYHURST had misjudged the mood of the electorate of Bury. They no longer subscribed to the Edmund BURKE model of patrician politics, by which a deferential populace mandated their political fate to a man of superior talents in return for which this representative guaranteed no more than the exercise of good judgment on their behalf. These were the birth years of modern politics, when the concept of a binding manifesto as the basis of electoral support was evolving. Nor did LAWSON's attempt to trade on his ancestral connections with the constituency cut any ice. In keeping with his GRANT ancestral pretensions to Tory respectability, and his wish to seem a local boy, LAWSON utilised his mother's maiden name to create for himself the double-barrelled name of GRANT LAWSON. In the 1885 General Election, Bury rejected the Conservative candidate, ignoring a national swing in the party's favour - they seemed no more impressed by the Cheeryble mythology than McDOWALL had been with the GRANT Brothers' version of millowner paternalism half a century before. LAWSON returned to his native county to secure the seat of Thirsk and

Malton, and never occupied his grandfather's stately home of Nuttall Hall, despite HAYHURST's claim in 1884 that his master believed his future to be in Lancashire. The Ramsbottom estate bought by his great grandfather was administered by a steward . . . and its documentary archive is always known by a name, GRANT LAWSON, largely created in a forlorn attempt to ingratiate the electorate of a parliamentary seat nearly 120 years ago.

It would be interesting to speculate how HAYHURST's *Appreciative Estimate* went down in Ramsbottom. One can only imagine the feelings of William Hume ELLIOT, pastor since 1874 to the displaced St Andrew's Presbyterian congregation, the events of whose ejection had received cursory treatment in HAYHURST's book. It is likely that Hume ELLIOT'S 1893 history, *Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers*, was in part intended to correct some of the imbalance in HAYHURST's fawning work of nine years earlier. If the *Ramsbottom Observer's* reviewer of Hume ELLIOT'S book is to be believed, HAYHURST was a relative of the GRANTS.¹²

Finally, in our search for the truth behind inflated local reputations, we should consider the radical doctor, Peter Murray McDOUALL, arch-debunker of the GRANTS. He is, in anyone's book, a romantic figure, marrying the daughter of his gaoler at Chester, a national leader of a movement that was ahead of its time - its six point Charter of parliamentary reform was gradually and largely achieved, but not until 1918. The late Trevor PARK wrote an excellent summary of his extensive research into the life of this 'strange and extraordinary man,' describing his tragic death at sea, whilst *en route* with wife and children to Australia.¹³ But as with McDOUALL's enemies, the GRANTS, mythology and reality are not so readily disentangled. McDOUALL was by 1842, virtually the national leader of the Chartist Movement, heading on horseback the two mile long procession which delivered on 2nd May the movement's three million name National Petition to the House of Commons. But his critics have depicted him as a hothead whose demagoguery cost other people's lives and freedom. At Hyde in 1839, he had urged a Chartist meeting to resist by armed force if soldiers were called out against them, an action which led to his imprisonment for one year. He had been procuring muskets and bayonets for stockpiling in Ashton-under-Lyne, if credence is to be placed on the deposition of a Birmingham gunmaker obtained by the Home Office's network of intelligence agents.^M It may be that he was behind the trove of assorted weaponry discovered in cottages in Bolton Street (no 72) and Ramsbottom Lane in the late 19th Century.¹⁵

Mark HOVELL, potentially one of Chartism's ablest historians up to his premature death in World War I, concluded of McDOUALL:-

his veracity and good faith [were] more than disputable, and his constant change of policy ... as much due to self-interest as to instability. He was one of the least attractive as well as most violent of the Chartist champions.¹⁶

His critics attacked his quackery, and ‘the doctor’ was a tenu of ironic abuse thrown at him. He may have been a plier of quack medicines. But this would hardly be the professional or social offence that it is today given that the medical profession was unregulated. Working people could expect no contact with surgeons with medical school training, and were as likely to seek the assistance of a bleeder with leeches as that of a physician. McDOUALL never claimed the title ‘doctor’ at the 1842 parliamentary hearing.

But like the GRANTS, those closest to him were his greatest supporters. In Ashton-under-Lyne where he practised in the late 1840s, he was enough of a local hero for a mob to murder a policeman whom it mistakenly thought had given evidence against him; and in times of penury he was supported by Chartist public subscription in the town. Similarly, Nottingham Chartists helped his destitute widow set up a stationery business in the city.¹⁷



One intriguing variant on the ‘Did DICKENS meet the GRANTS?’ debate, which has received so much pointless attention, is infinitely more interesting. What were the links between the Chartists and those architects of 20th Century world communism, Karl MARX and Friedrich ENGELS? The latter, from Barmen in Germany, was in Manchester from 1842-4, on the bidding of his cotton master father. It was from the Manchester Chartist leadership that he learned the more practical techniques of class struggle, as devised in the Plug Riots of 1842¹⁸; his famous book *The Condition of the Working Class in England*, written in the winter of 1844-5, covers much the same ground for which McDOUALL was a living primary source - Chartist proletarian militancy, trade unionism, truck, working conditions, and all primarily in the Manchester area. If Jimi HENDRIX’s London home can sport a blue English Heritage plaque, surely no 18, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom should have one! This appears to have been his surgery from 1835-42 Judging from the 1842 tithe survey.

It takes a great imaginative leap, 160 years on, to imagine just how desperate circumstances were in Lancashire in the ‘Hungry Forties’. By mid-1842, when McDOUALL was in London giving evidence to the Select Committee on Payment of Wages, there were chilling reports from the East Lancashire handloom weaving districts of gangs of beggars, ‘poor hungry, haggard people, wishing for any change, even should it be death’, of the unemployed sleeping on wood shavings because all household furniture had been long sold, and even death through starvation.¹⁹ This, the deepest recession of the century, led to a high water mark of Chartist agitation. When their ‘moral force’ strategy of the National Petition was rejected by Parliament in May, the ‘physical force’ option was adopted. In August 1842, the Chartists involved

themselves in the outbreak of popular unrest known as the Plug-drawing Riots, initially in Lancashire, and over wage reductions. No doubt it was McDOUALL's suspected or actual involvement, added to the GRANTS' hostility, that led to a warrant being issued for his arrest in September, and he disappeared from Ramsbottom forever.²⁰

I can well envisage a 'Did Friedrich ENGELS meet Peter Murray McDOUALL' controversy brewing already in the former taproom of the *Grant Arms*! Unfortunately, McDOUALL was in exile in France for much of those two years, and what could have been a good tourist draw, and as productive of print acreage as the DICKENS/GRANTS question, falls at the first hurdle. But who knows, was Karl MARX ever in Ramsbottom at the same time as McDOUALL? Now that *would* warrant a plaque!

Andrew Todd

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3. HAYHURST, Chapter VIII
4. Roy R CARMYLLIE, *Charles Dickens and the "Cheeryble Grants"* (Ramsbottom, 1981) p9
5. Peter ACKROYD, *Dickens* (London, 1999) pp264, 288, 298
6. DICKENS' preface to his first book edition of *Nicholas Nickleby*, written probably in 1839. Quoted in CARMYLLIE, p10
7. ACKROYD, p289
8. ACKROYD, pp271-5
9. William Hume ELLIOT, *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers* (Selkirk, 1893) Chapter III
10. HAYHURST, Chapters IX-X, pp63-4
11. HAYHURST, pp63-4
12. *Ramsbottom Observer*, 30 Dec 1893, p7
13. Trevor PARK, *The Mysterious Doctor McDouall, in Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine* (no7, Summer 1993) pp9-11
14. Mark HOVELL, *The Chartist Movement* (Manchester, 1918) ppl 38-9,145,154-5
15. Hume ELLIOT, pp134-5
16. HOVELL, pp263-4
17. HOVELL, pp251, 294; PARK, p 10
18. HOVELL, pp285-6

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20. HOVELL, pp259-64; PARK, pp10-11
Wanted Poster for PM McDouall, issued by the Chief Commissioner of the Manchester Police, Town Hall, Manchester, 3rd September 1842 (PRO 45/249C, ff 331-333)

CROW LANE PROJECT

A wealth of unexpected and fascinating facts has been discovered as a result of the Crow Lane Project and information, maps, photographs and diagrams are already available to the public. John LEYLAND who manages our internet website * (www.ramsbottom-heritage.fsnet.co.uk) and Kate SLINGSBY, the project leader, have worked very hard, and a link to an impressive amount of research is already on the site. It is well-structured into different topics and as more Crow Lane material is being added, there is already something for everyone. Also Elizabeth DUXBURY has compiled a *Crow Lane Project* file, copies of which are in the Heritage Centre and in the Local and Family History area at Ramsbottom Library. In response to demand, Kate has produced a leaflet for local people researching their house's history. It contains advice from a number of local sources, especially Bury Archive, and is on sale at the Heritage Centre, price £1.00.

As well as the work of Ramsbottom Heritage Society members and residents of Crow Lane there has been excellent support from local people, especially those who used to have relatives there. We still need to contact one or two people about the information they offered us. The help of the staff of Bury Archive, Art Gallery and Museum and Ramsbottom Library has also been important. A few responses have come from afar, such as the one from Colin ANDERTON in South Africa and two others via the Internet from the USA. We are also grateful to the staff of St Paul's School where we held our May 10th event, when members of the Society and the general public were all invited to view an exhibition of results of the research. Kate's street tours were very popular and copies of recordings that were made by the North West Sound Archive have been passed on to our Oral History' Group. We were delighted with the high attendance and level of interest but it was the friendly "reunion" atmosphere which made this such an enjoyable afternoon.

Crow Lane houses about which research has provided most information up to now:

Numbers 2 and 4 They were built in 1863 as two terraced houses but evidence suggests that in 1932 part of number 4 belonged to number 2 and that at one time they were joined by an upstairs internal door.

Number 27 One of the oldest houses, it is shown on the 1842 Tottington Lower End Tithe Map. It is now a detached stone house, symmetrical with the front door in the middle leading into a stone staircase with two doors adjacent to it. From maps, censuses, rates valuations and one of the reminiscences, it seems that number 27 has been two one-up-one-down houses in the past.

Number 33 We have a detailed description of the inside of this house in **1965** by granddaughters of Annie HAGAN who lived there. It still had no inside toilet or electricity and was lit by gas. The bath was kept in the kitchen and whilst in **1965** a gas stove was used, originally cooking was done in the front room on a cast iron range surmounted by a hood and mantelpiece almost 6 ft high.

Past Crow Lane families which have been studied include:

HEAP - number 11, from 1851

WOLSTENHOLME - numbers 27 (29) 31 and 33 from 1861 until early 1940s **Lots more details are on the website and in the *Crow Lane Project* file. There will also be more in future newsletters. Contributions from readers would be very welcome, including amendments! The following topics will also feature.**

Shops

Several of the houses were once shops and these feature in many of the taped memories. There are also some very detailed descriptions.

Miscellaneous Topics

Tipplers or automatic slop-stone closets

Black lead and bungalow ranges

*** There is free access to the Internet if you book in at local libraries, and help is given. There is no problem getting to our website if you take the exact address with you.**

Janet Smith

CROW LANE REMINISCENCES

Barbara has been part of the Taping Team for many years and ne thank her for "racking her brains" to describe the work and fun of taping the memories of former and present residents of Crow Lane, Ramsbottom.

As well as documentary and architectural information about the history of Crow Lane, the Project also gained some fascinating insights into the way life in the Lane has changed over the years. This was collected from people who remember living or working there, some of whom could go back sixty or more years. Much of this material would have been very difficult, if not impossible to acquire in any other way. These reminiscences, some written, some recorded, tell us how the Lane developed from a quiet street where children could safely "*play out*", to the busy traffic and parked cars of today. In the 1920s and 30s there was so little traffic that marbles could be played in the gutter and football in the road. Another game described was a sophisticated version of "*tip latch*" where, before knocking on the door and running away, the children tied the handles of two adjoining doors together, thus preventing the irate householders from opening the doors in order to chastise the culprits.

At this time, and for several years afterwards, many of the houses were still used as shops including grocers, bakers, greengrocers and even a high class milliner. There were also insurance brokers and other agencies and the Registrar of Births and Deaths. One house was run as a nursing home which, when not fully occupied by patients, would accommodate the performers appearing at local theatres. With St

Paul's School and Church, the Drill Hall, the Chapel of Rest and mills and factories nearby, it seems that almost every need was catered for without leaving the Lane. Perhaps this may explain why some families opted to remain in the Lane instead of moving away as their needs changed over the years? They simply moved across the road or along the Lane to a larger or smaller house.

During World War II the land opposite the Drill Hall (now the front gardens of the houses) was occupied by a Bren Gun Carrier and an Emergency Water Supply tank. There was also a pole on which was mounted a piece of wood coated with a substance that should change colour in the event of a poison gas attack - Ramsbottom's very own early warning system! Another wartime memory' was of sweet rationing when the local children acquired a taste for cough lozenges which were not on ration. Collecting this material was an interesting and enjoyable experience. Everyone we approached responded with good humour and patience. The task did sometimes have its lighter side when an apparently mundane question elicited a completely unexpected answer. For example when Doris HIBBERT was asked about the inner workings of a tippler toilet she was immediately reminded of the time the family cat fell down one and had to be rescued with a mop. Apparently after it was cleaned up the unfortunate animal appeared to be unharmed, but I imagine it steered well clear of that particular tippler for quite a while. Doris also gave us a serious answer to our question and we gained much useful information that day. But we did have to switch off the recorder from time to time to regain our composure and get back to the job in hand! That interview was also the one where there were three people present and only two microphones available so, ever resourceful, two of us shared a microphone by placing it in a bowl of fruit on the table - very James Bond!

Recording reminiscences by whatever means, written or oral, takes a lot of time and effort, but all our contributors agreed that it had also been an enjoyable experience - despite all the racking of brains and hunting for old photographs. It was good to see them all at the Open Day inspecting the exhibits and having good humoured debates about the '*old days*'. And all looking nowhere near the ages I know they are!

The Heritage Society and especially the Crow Lane Team are very grateful to Frank HALL, Doris HIBBERT, Jack HOLDEN, Alice O'DONNELL and Alan RICHARDSON and his sister Barbara, as well as those people who were recorded by the North West Sound Archive at the Open Day in St Paul's School. Eventually we plan to publish extracts from the reminiscences.

Barbara Park

TAPING TEAM ACTIVITIES

Since its inception, the Taping Team has produced a considerable archive of material, comprising approximately 50 hours of wide-ranging reminiscences of inhabitants, (past and present) of Ramsbottom and the surrounding district. The archive is a unique, living window allowing us access to the domestic, industrial and social activities of past decades, giving life to photographs and the written word.

During the last two years, illness has had a serious impact on the Team's endeavours.

New members can help to build on the existing archive. Those with a particular interest in Oral History, or having taping interests or skills, can become involved in this unique area of historical record and supplement the team numbers.

Anyone having an interest, please contact me, via the Heritage Centre. History is being made today; let's not lose it!!!

Tony Murphy, Taping Team Co-ordinator

MEMORIES OF PEBBLE BEACH

In issue 24 of the News Magazine the question was asked "Where is Pebble Beach?" Several people contacted us to explain but Marlene Crowley went further and sent us this fascinating description of playing there as a child in the 1940s.

Pebble Beach was on Stubbins Lane where the Firemen's houses are now built. But when I was born in the 40s it was *Pebble Beach* the place where Grandma and Granddad PILKINGTON lived!

Jack and Florrie PILKINGTON brought up eight children, two boys and six girls, in a two-up-two-down cottage on Pebble Beach, and when two of the girls married they also lived on Pebble Beach.

The houses were set back off the road with the *beach* in front. Unfortunately this was not sand but plain dirt and pebbles but we children had many happy hours playing on it. At the side was spare ground which we knew as the *Twelve Row*. This also proved to be a great playground as a small brick wall from the old houses survived and made a good counter to play shop.

We would display our array of mud pies and pretend cakes and these were easily distinguished by a small dandelion placed on top. Two of my cousins lived on Pebble Beach but at school holidays and weekends we all congregated at Grandma's and played on the beach and spare ground. When it rained my auntie, who was the stewardess of the Stubbins Working Men's Club also on Stubbins Lane, would let us play in there while she cleaned, lit the roaring fire in the tap room, and prepared for opening time when we were promptly evicted.

At the back of Grandma's was a small court yard that housed the customary tin bath and dolly tub, also the outside toilet and coal place at the side of which were steps leading to Granddad's pen where he kept hens and grew vegetables. Over the years I remember different animals lived there - geese, ducks, and at one time a goat. Every year Granddad would get a box delivered by the railway. Inside the box were newborn fluffy yellow chicks and these were put on the peg rug (which Grandma had made out of pieces of old coats) to keep them warm in front of the fire. Granddad



Children playing on Pebble Beach

would let each of us children choose one and give it a name, but because they all looked the same, we soon forgot which our special one was. This proved to be a

blessing really as this was a time of rationing and eventually they all ended up as Sunday dinner. Then we were kept happy by being given a chicken claw to play with, if you pulled on the sinews the claw moved. Somehow we never associated these with real chickens and would play with them for hours. I will never forget what it was like to get up in the morning and come downstairs for breakfast and Grandma saying "*Just nip up to the pen and get yourself an egg*". I like to think I had a special knack of knowing which were the double yolk ones. The trouble was Granddad also had a great big cockerel which took offence at people taking the eggs away, so much so that he was prepared to do battle with anyone who tried. The taste of those eggs is something I will always remember.

In summertime we would pack a picnic and set off through the pen into the field and over to Tub Lodge where Uncle Jack and his friends would be swimming and there was also a small stream for us children to paddle in. All Stubbins seemed to be there. Over the years as Tub Lodge began to dry up I was amazed at what had been under the water. Old prams, bikes and pieces of metal sticking up from the bottom could have proved so dangerous. Gypsies were occasional visitors to Pebble Beach and we would wake up to find them camped on the *Twelve Row* spare ground. They were the real Romany gypsies who, after a few days, would vanish as quietly as they had arrived, having sold a few pegs no doubt. We lost our playground for a few days but found their bright caravans and horses fascinating.

Also on Pebble Beach was the *White Lion*, no longer a Public House but home to Joe NOVAK and his family. It had double wooden doors which opened on to a courtyard. I think he started his tailoring business there. Next to this lived my Auntie, Grandma, and two brothers Tommy and Billy BUTTERWORTH. Then came Arnold BOOTH, who along with his brother owned the hardware shop on Bolton Street. Later he and his family moved further down Stubbins Lane but his sons, Alan and Peter still played on Pebble Beach. Ted GOODFELLOW (who I believe once wrote for the Bury Times and later had the *Hark to Dandler* in Walmersley) moved in. Next to them lived John and Florrie BARNES and son John, and Mrs SMITH and son Ronnie. Two more houses were up some steps on the top. My aunty who was stewardess of Stubbins Working Men's Club lived there. Grandma and Granddad moved to Pebble Beach with three children and a babe in arms about 1912/5. He was a Tackier at the Field Mill on Kenyon Street. During the war he would go across the road fire-watching at the factor's we knew as the *Flock Shop*.

In 1957 Pebble Beach became a sad place for me. Grandma died and children no longer played on the beach. They had all grown up and moved away. I continued to go every week to visit Granddad, and my auntie still lived next door but he never became used to living alone. His eyes would still light up when I called but he went through the motions of living and took very little pleasure in anything. In the late 1950s or early 60s they built some houses and old people's flats on William Street in Stubbins and Granddad and my auntie moved there.

Pebble Beach disappeared when the firemen's houses were built on the site. Children are again playing on Pebble Beach but now on green lawned gardens, and providing pleasure and memories for a new generation.

Marlene Crowley

“A HISTORY OF EDENFIELD AND DISTRICT” BY JOHN SIMPSON

John's previous book *Edenfield: Life in a Lancashire Village* covered the period from 1500 to 1770. This interesting new book continues the story of Edenfield and its neighbours - Turn, Stubbins, Irwell Vale and Ewood Bridge through the Industrial Revolution to the present day. It is a hardback book with over 300 pages and is well illustrated with photographs, maps and contemporary documents, many of which are published for the first time. There are copious notes at the end of each chapter as well as an extensive bibliography listing manuscript sources, printed sources, directories, unpublished dissertations, newspapers and parliamentary papers. Information in the book is made easily accessible by a large fifteen-page index.

John states in his preface that he has had to leave much out and that he does not claim it as a definitive history, however it does contain much interesting information and is a very useful reference book. There are thirteen thematic chapters including; housing, farming, workshops and mills, quarrying and coal mining, shops and inns. Other chapters cover transport, education, churches, sports games and pastimes and wartime.

This book is full of details which will interest local people, for instance, how many residents seeing the three pairs of semi-detached houses at the end of Woodlands Road built by Turnbull and Stockdale in 1913, realise that these were the start of an estate on garden city lines, which was never completed due to the war?

It is also a book which will be enjoyed by anyone interested in the changes in a Lancashire village over the last three hundred years. The long chapter on mills and workshops covers their start in 1765 with a water powered fulling mill in Dearden Clough, their rise with over 23 mills being built and their decline in the twentieth century. The chapter on farming shows how by the end of the eighteenth century there were more than 70 farms in the area with sheep, cattle, pigs, poultry and grass grown to feed them, but by 1941 there were only four working farms!

Many thanks to John for producing a book that is well researched and written and is an excellent companion to the earlier book. It is available for £15.95 from John SIMPSON Tel 01706 216162 or from Roger BARLOW Tel 01706 825157.

Ian Summers, Edenfield Local History Society

The book is also available at the Heritage Centre.

MEMORIES OF HAZLEHURST SCHOOL

I attended Hazlehurst School from the age of three (in 1912) until I was 14 and have many happy memories. My brothers Jack and Charlie and my sister Edna (all older than I am) attended Hazlehurst too but my oldest brother Dick went to Holcombe School, as Hazlehurst wasn't built then.

My first teacher was Miss Edna HOLDEN (of the HOLDEN's Towel Mill family). In the 'baby class' I recall a rocking horse and a hammock, and that if you fell asleep, you were put in the hammock. Some of the classrooms are still as I remember them then. I was there when Mr BRIGGS was the first Headmaster and Tom SCORAH was his Deputy. Mr BRIGGS was very strict and used to give the pupils the 'stick'. Many pupils wore clogs and he insisted on clean clogs. I remember the lads rubbing the front of their clogs against the backs of their legs to clean them. You had to walk tidily into classrooms in a neat line - and clump, clump, clump went the clogs. Anyone with dirty clogs had a taste of 'the stick'. Mr BRIGGS' wife was also a strict teacher. I must have been good at darning because she made me darn his socks and her gloves! School started at 9am with assembly in the big hall. We all went home for dinner, maybe noon until 1 pm and finished at 3.30pm (Infants) and 4pm (Juniors). I can't remember anyone staying for dinner. Mother used to bring me a cup of warm milk during break (we lived in Butler Street) and hand it over the railings. The school nurse (we called her 'Nitty Nora' as hundreds of children must have done) came twice a year to inspect your eyes, your hair for lice and your teeth. If you had any loose teeth she removed them with her thumb nail !!

Of course there were no uniforms, but all the girls wore white frilled aprons over their dresses. *(A photograph on p. 74 of our newly reprinted "Around Ramsbottom" shows Hazlehurst Council School and its pupils c!905. The girls are wearing white frilled aprons over their dresses. Editor.)*

The games we played were Tops and Whips, Hopscotch. Jacks and Dobbers and we had skipping ropes (made out of old clothes lines) balls and hoops. In the winter we made slides out of ice in the yard and were disappointed when they disappeared. As children we thought the caretaker had done this, when really it was a natural thaw. The present playing fields, 'The Long Meadow', belonged to Giles TAYLOR. Once in the winter the heating broke down - but no sending us home in those days! We all sat wearing our coats and had to do 'Drill' in between lessons to keep warm.

During World War I we knitted scarves for the soldiers. I remember walking round the playground at break, knitting as we went. Later I could knit socks, but Mother had to turn the heel. The Zeppelins bombed Tagg Wood and w-e all hoped the school had been a target so we wouldn't have to go. During that night we were all together downstairs in our nightwear with blankets round us. When daylight came we realised we were all covered in soot - the Zeppelins must have *swept* our chimney!

When I was 14 I was ready to leave school and start work, but I have always been interested in Hazlehurst School, and I worked there for thirteen years as a Welfare Assistant. I still attend functions there and I am happy and proud to be associated with this fine school, where my son was also educated.

Alice O'Donnell (nee Hall) September 2003

(Last term, at one of the celebrations to mark its centenary year, a luncheon was held for former and present staff and pupils at Hazlehurst School. Mrs O 'DONNELL and the current deputy head teacher Mr Geoff EASTWOOD cut the specially made centenary cake together . More events are to come in the build up to November, the month of the school's completion in 1903. Editor.)

200 YEARS OF METHODISM IN HAWKSHAW

[Many thanks to Jonathan for kind permission to use extracts from his article printed in the Bury Times, 29th August 2003.]

The first mention of Methodism at Hawkshaw was of a Wesleyan Sunday School in 1803. By 1810 the congregation was meeting in a “*house-church*” at Finney Cote, a farmhouse just off the old Hawkshaw Lane. It was the house of Samuel PILLING, who had previously been Churchwarden at Holcombe Parish Church, before defecting to the new religionIt wasn’t long before the congregation outgrew the house and by the mid-1820s members were looking to build a new chapel next to the newly-built Turnpike Road (now the A676). The building was completed in 1830 and was a simple chapel with one main room and two vestries. During the next 60 years the village of Hawkshaw Lane End grew, with a boom in the textile trade and an influx of workers. The old Georgian chapel soon became too smalland plans were drawn up to build a new church next to the old chapel, which would then be used as a Sunday School. It cost the church nearly £1,400 and took six months to build, opening in December 1891

From the Hawkshaw Lane Wesleyan Church magazine of February 1895

“Our annual Sunday School tea meeting was held on Christmas Day (1894) and about 180 scholars, parents and friends sat down to tea. This was followed by an excellent programme of entertainment with songs, duets, trios, glees, recitations, dialogues and violin solos, to the delight of the audience.”

The old Chapel, now in use as the Sunday School, became inadequate for the needs of the congregation and in 1909 it was decided to take down the old building, and to erect a new school. Tenders were sought the lowest was submitted by Mr BYROM of Bury, for the sum of £997.15shillings. This was accepted and the work put in hand, a farewell service being held in the old School on the evening of April 24th 1910. The preacher was the minister of the Church, the Rev J POLLITT.

Various people subscribed and had their initials put on stones on the front of the building. A memorial tablet was put in the School to the memory of Samuel PILLING and his son William Hawkshaw Wesleyan Methodist Church was at its zenith, it had a new Church, a new Sunday School and a thriving community. But this came to an end on August 4th 1914 with the start of The Great War. The majority of the men from the congregation of service age immediately enlisted. The Roll of Honour, which stills hangs in the Sunday School, list each man’s name chronologically as he left “*to do his duty*”, ... Eight men [of 25 who enlisted] from the Church were to be killed on active service.

In 1932, a resolution was passedto bring about Methodist Union

Shortly afterwards the members of Hawkshaw Lane United Methodist Church decided to close their premises

Beryl RATCLIFFE nee COATES, who grew up in the Church in the 1950s, recalls "Some Saturday nights when I was quite young we had a social - Leslie FIRTH was M C and we played lots of 78 records. We danced to the Barn Dance, St Bernard's Waltz, the Gay Gordons and the Russian Ballet. I remember the Sale of Work. We had an opening with a Chairman and Opener, Mrs LONSDALE the Secretary and a soloist on the stage. The children, including myself took it in turns to present the stage party with a buttonhole each. Just before Christmas we had our Christmas party. Then the tables were cleared and we played games - Farmer wants a Wife; Oranges and Lemons; Musical Chairs and Musical Mat. About 6pm Father Christmas came, announcing his entry with a sharp rap on the door, which silenced us all. We finished the night by standing in a circle and singing Auld Lang Syne. "

Jonathan Ali

WAR MEMORIALS OF RAMSBOTTOM

As the War Memorial in front of St Paul 's Church, Bridge Street does not carry any names, we intend to print, over the next few issues, War Memorials from individual Churches in Ramsbottom area. If you have access to a War Memorial please send us a copy. Editor

Edenfield Methodist Church, Rochdale Road, Edenfield.

Two memorials. Market Place (Wesleyan) and Rochdale Road (Primitive Methodist)
Edenfield Market Place Wesleyan Methodist, War Memorial.

In proud and grateful memory of the following men, from this Church and Sunday school, who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War 1914-1919

Fred HAWORTH	July 1 st 1916	Fred HOYLE	July 12 th 1916
Harold WORSICK	July 31 st 1916	Herbert LORD	Aug 8 th 1916
James FARNELL	May 12 th 1917	Thomas HILL	Aug 11 th 1917
Milton HOYLE	Aug 9 th 1917	William HOYLE	Aug 22 nd 1917
Harry LORD	Aug 28 th 1917	George A HAWORTH	Nov 20 th 1917
Geoffrey LORD	March 28 th 1918		

Edenfield Primitive Methodist Church, War Memorial.

In reverent memory of those from this Church & School who made the supreme sacrifice for their country in the Great War 1914-1919 *Greater love hath no man than this.*

William HALL	William HARTLEY	Henry JEFFERSON
Geoffrey LORD	John E MADDOCKS	Richard MARGISON
John H SENIOR		

Elizabeth Duxbury

The Heritage Centre is open each Saturday and Sunday afternoon, Easter to mid-December, and more helpers are always welcome. Please speak to any of the helpers in the Centre who will be very glad to show you what is involved. You do not need to be Ramsbottom born and bred, just have an interest in the history and life of our great little town.

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

1 Bury Archive Service - Edwin Street (off Crompton Street) Bury BL9 0AS; tel: 0161 797 5897 - preserves the 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. There are over 30 tons of documents, maps, plans and photographs, almost all of which are available for consultation in the public reading room. Holdings include the records of local authorities (eg Ramsbottom Local Board, and UDC, including many building plans) schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, sports clubs, charities, political parties and other social organisations. The Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan there.

The service is in Edwin Street (off Crompton Street, next to Plumb's Hi-Fi shop), and entrance is via the yard at the far end of the street on the right-hand side. The reading room is open from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm every Tuesday, and at the same times on other weekdays Monday to Friday, but please make an appointment in advance by ringing archivist Kevin Mulley before any visit. Group visits (minimum six persons) on evenings and weekends are available if booked in advance.

2 Bury Central Library (Reference and Information Services Department) Manchester Road, Bury, BL9 0DG; tel: 0161 253 5871 - has publications on local history, historical printed works of local interest such as trade directories, older Ordnance Survey maps for the whole of BMBC, including Ramsbottom, copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of newscuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers on microfilm.

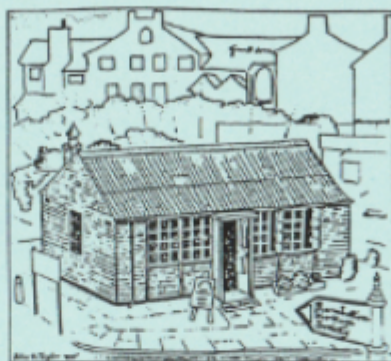
The library is open from 9.30am to 5.30pm each weekday (open until 7.30pm Wednesdays), and from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Saturdays.

3 Ramsbottom Library, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury; tel: 01706 822484 - has much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev RR Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets, as well as Hume Elliot's history.

4 Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Vicky Barlow, Bob's Ley, 6, Mowbreck Lane, Wesham, Preston, Lancs PR4 3HA; tel: 01772 687234 - membership is only £9-00 per year, and this entitles you to four magazine issues, an opportunity to publicise your research queries and findings, and 14 meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall.

Visit us at Ramsbottom Heritage Centre

Exhibition for 2003 –Round and about Ramsbottom



Ramsbottom Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom,
Bury BL0 9AE (opposite the Library)

NOTE OUR WEB SITE:-

www.ramsbottom-heritage.fsnet.co.uk

Telephone 01706 821603 (weekends only). To arrange school or adult party visits outside the following opening times please ring 01706 827602

Open until mid-December 2003, Saturdays and Sundays,
1-00 to 4-00pm

Re-opening Easter 2004 with new displays

Sales counter with good selection of Local History books, details of town and country walks, videos and tourism leaflets, gifts, postcards and local information . . . or just a chat about Old Ramsbottom!

You may also want to offer to have your memories of the area recorded.
We are always extending our oral history archive.

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