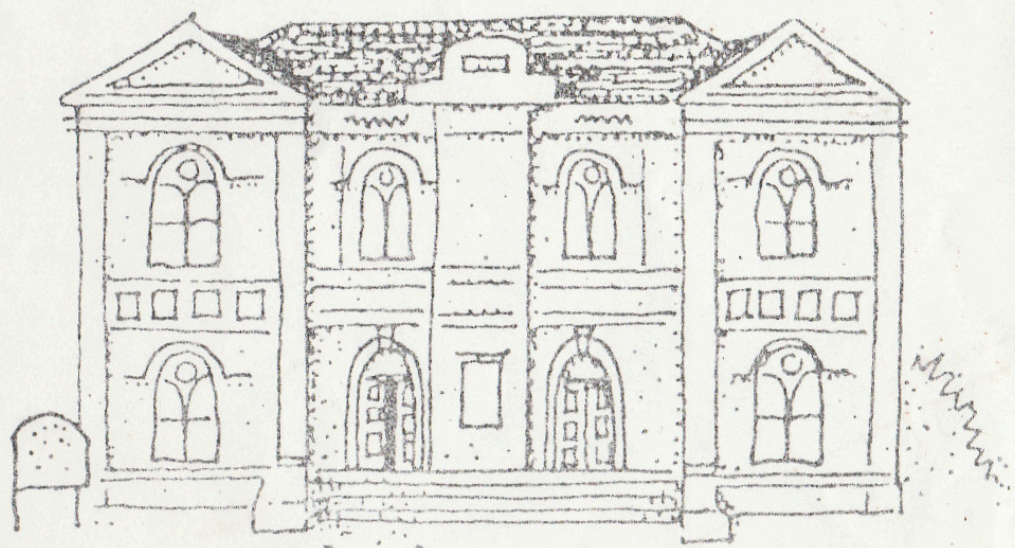


No 6

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NEWS MAGAZINE

# NATWEST IS DELIGHTED TO TAKE A SUPPORTING ROLE ON THIS OCCASION

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**RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
*THE HERITAGE CENTRE*  
**CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM**  
**Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM 821603**

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*FRONT COVER*-Christ Church, Market Place, Ramsbottom by John B TAYLOR (from *Stories in Stone*)

**Welcome to our sixth News Magazine.**

Once again our contributors have produced articles on a variety of topics, although a number of them share the common theme of recreation. There are items on Ramsbottom Cricket Club, childhood recollections of visits to the swimming baths, and even one about the Rev Dowsett and his views on dancing. The item on the link between Stubbins and Barcelona has surely been inspired by the 1092 Olympic Games.

The Magazine is beginning to establish itself as a forum for people who are interested in Ramsbottom and aspects of its history. Many comments and suggestions for future articles have been received from readers and these are most welcome. There are even some who, having seen an article in the Magazine, are inspired to write something themselves, and this is even more welcome. In fact more contributions have been received for this issue than ever before, indeed it has been necessary to hold some of them over for the next issue which is very reassuring to an editor who has had to resort to all kinds of 'bribery and corruption' (not to mention nagging and bullying!) in order to fill the pages of some past issues. I look forward to the continuation of this happy state of affairs and take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all who have contributed to the Magazine - past, present and future.

Sales of the Magazine are also going well. Back numbers of all issues are now available, the ones which were sold out having been reprinted. These are on sale at the Heritage Centre, along with other publications of local interest, diaries, tea-towels etc.

Once again we express our thanks to the National Westminster Bank who have sponsored this issue of the Magazine. The Society much appreciates their continuing support.

**Barbara Park, Editor**

## **SOCIETY NEWS**

**CHARITABLE STATUS:** The most important piece of Society news is that we have now been awarded charitable status. This is in recognition of the Society's aims of recording the history of Ramsbottom and preserving it for the benefit of future generations.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS:** Our regular meetings in the Civic Hall continue to be well supported and the programme as varied and interesting as ever. Recent subjects have included the History of Edenfield, a guided walk through the Ashworth Valley, Dr McDouall the Ramsbottom Chartist, a Fight with Bureaucracy, and Clogs to Clogs in three Generations. The Programme for the next few months is listed on page 16. Visitors and new members are welcome at all our meetings.

**ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION:** The last date for handing in entries is the monthly meeting on 18 November. Prizes will be presented at the Christmas meeting on the 9 December, when the photographs will be displayed. They will then be on view in the Heritage Centre.

**THE HERITAGE CENTRE: The 'LOCAL SCHOOLS - Past History and Present Projects'** exhibition continues to attract appreciative visitors, among them many who appear in some of the photographs on display. Indeed quite a number have made return visits accompanied by incredulous children and grandchildren! In fact one of the surprising things about this particular exhibition has been the genuine interest shown by many young visitors in the way schools were many years ago. The Society is greatly indebted to the Bury Art Gallery & Museum Service, local schools and members and friends of the Society who have so kindly loaned many of the items on view. If you have not yet visited the exhibition there is still time to do so before the end of the year. Even if you have already been a second visit might be a good idea as it could be combined with some Christmas shopping! The sales counter has many items suitable for gifts or souvenirs with a Ramsbottom connotation, including diaries, pens, books etc. As in previous years, the Centre will be decorated in festive style over the Christmas period. Do please come along - as well as solving some of your 'present' problems you will be helping to ensure the Centre's future! On 20th December the centre will close until Easter 1993 when it will reopen with a new display.

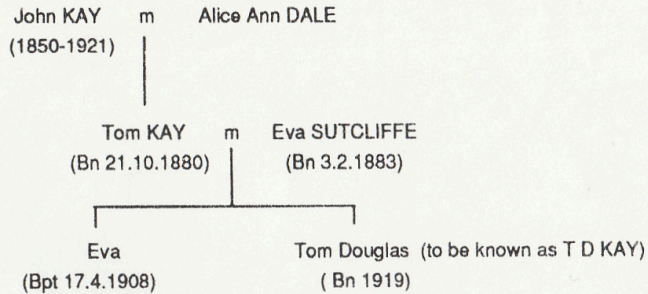
Dorothy Moss

### ***SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW? New light on an old photograph.***

In our first News Magazine of June 1990 I described, as Archivist, items connected with a Kay family of Ramsbottom. They were given to the Society by Mrs Margaret Bailey, of Yew Tree Grove, Balladen, Rawtenstall and were the possessions of her late husband. For clarity, they will be known in this article as The Bailey Collection. In 1990 I wrote of this collection 'It is unusual to get such a rounded-off family history'. This could possibly go on record as the most thoughtless remark from an archivist. Archivists should always be aware of the possibility of records never being closed; as was proved to me this year when the Society was given much more information 'out of the blue' about this Kay family. My ignorance will be revealed in the following story, which I hope will be of interest and enjoyment.

To recap on the Bailey Collection:

Baptism records and birth certificates revealed the following family tree:



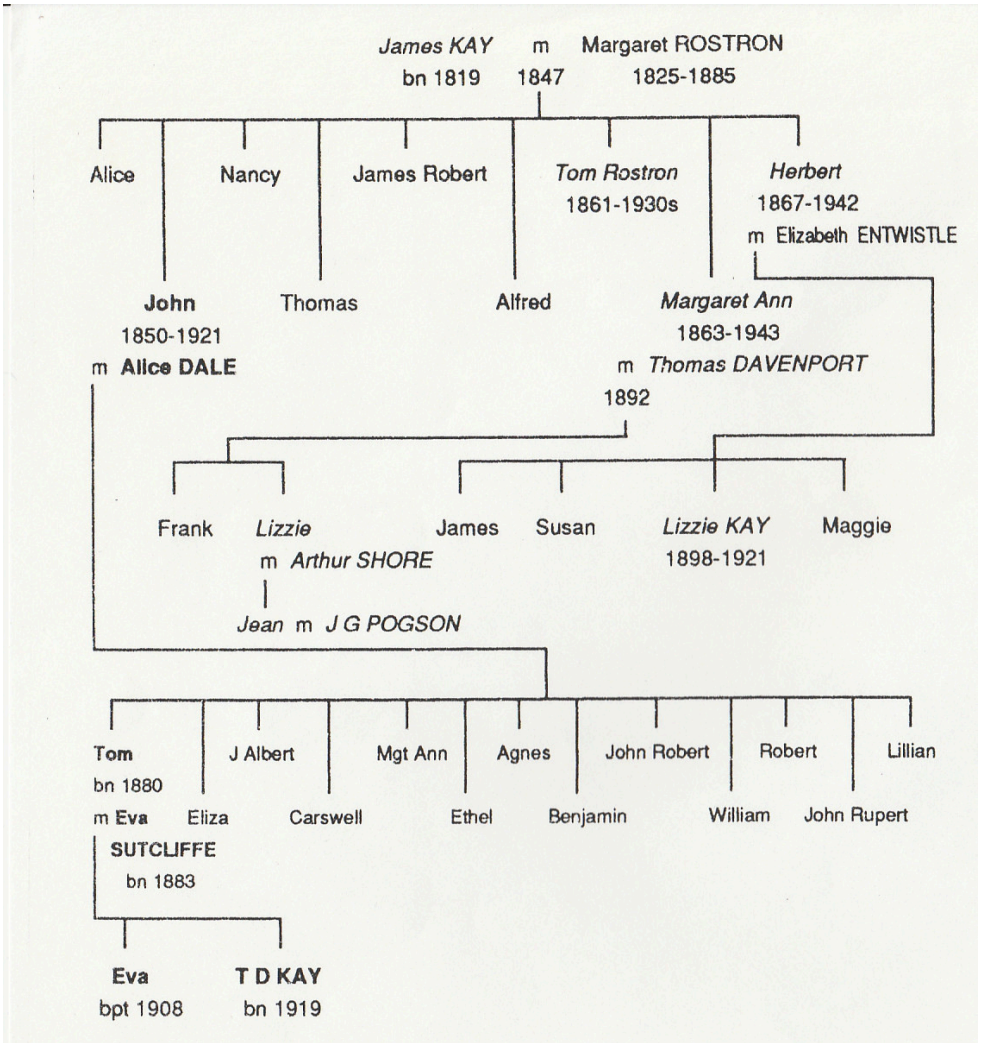
John Kay is described as a warehouseman. He and Alice lived at 2 Rose Hill (confirmed in Barrett's 1883 Trade Directory). Mrs Bailey remembered that Eva Kay, born 1908, died in her youth and T D Kay never married and died in Yorkshire, c late 1970's. Bailey Collection newscuttings revealed that T D Kay, when Fusilier Kay, was reported POW in North Africa to his mother Eva of 1 Stanley Street in 1942. He was a noted Ramsbottom cricketer. There is also a 1939 cutting with a picture of the Ramsbottom cricket team after winning the Worsley Cup for the first time. TD Kay is on the back row. He is remembered in local cricket folklore for always putting his cap on first before the rest of his cricketer's kit. He worked at Rosebank Printworks where he met and made the friend to whom he gave his family records.

### The Bailey Collection also contains two photographs:

1. Of a shop with sign 'T Kay Electrician. Lighting. Power. Bells. Repairs', situated at 22 Bolton Street c 1920's; more about the shop window contents later. This T Kay was Tom, born 1880.

2 A 7" x 11 " wedding photograph. From Margaret Bailey: 'The wedding photograph is again the Kay family and the location I suspect is behind the present British Legion, under (?) the row of houses behind the Ramsbottom Library.' That is all I knew or could ever know about this photo in 1990 and it was so recorded.

On a sunny Saturday in April 1992 Mr and Mrs Pogson visited the Centre. Jean Pogson (nee Shore) was born in Ramsbottom and is researching her Ramsbottom family's history. She herself left Ramsbottom in 1952 but has always kept in touch. She came to give the Society memorial silks of three of her ancestors, one of whom was Lizzie Kay, who died 14th September 1921 aged 22 years and was interred in the Ramsbottom Cemetery. This name reminded me of the Kays in the Bailey Collection which I showed to Jean with dramatic results. Her father was Arthur Shore who with Frank Keown took over Tom Kay's electrician's shop in the 1930's, renaming it Electrical and Mechanical Services Co. Her father married Lizzie Davenport, daughter of Margaret-Ann Kay, who was sister of John Kay, Tom's father, so Jean's mother was cousin to Tom Kay. Lizzie Kay of the memorial silk, daughter of Herbert Kay, John and Margaret-Ann's brother, was another cousin of Tom's. It is advisable now, before your eyes start to cross, to review the following extract from the family tree given by Jean Pogson:



Names set in bold » the BAILEY collection  
 Names set in *italics* are referred to in the text

Jean identified the Kay wedding photograph as being that of Tom Kay and Eva Sutcliffe which took place at Dundee Independent Sabbath School on 30 March 1907. (Their daughter Eva was baptised at Dundee Independent Church in 1908). Tom was in the Royal Navy and the groom's jacket could be a uniform. She sent us a photograph of John and Alice Kay with nine of their thirteen children. So Tom Kay had twelve brothers and sisters and was not the 'only one' he appeared to be from the Bailey Collection. Also Jean identified at least six of Tom's brothers and sisters in the wedding photograph.

The Pogson Collection is a fascinating family history which I cannot detail here. Jean is particularly interested in the origin of Kay's Soap Works. She was told that James Kay, born 1819, and three of his children Tom Roston Kay, Margaret Ann Kay and Herbert Kay were the ones who 'got it on its feet' but despite her research cannot be sure and would be very interested if anything came to light to help with this. Finally, back to the photograph of T Kay's electrician's shop window. By using a very strong magnifying glass, Hoover, Mazda Electric Lamps, Radiola Wireless Sets, White lamps 'for light without glare', Flash lights can be seen. But the most mind boggling is an advert, facing inside the shop for 'Daniel Thwaites & Co. Celebrated Blackburn Beers!' How could beers be sold in an electrician's shop? It couldn't happen. Could T Kay have been advertising his ability to make illuminated advertising signs? Thwaites at Blackburn, September 1992, think this a strong possibility. So I hope readers understand that conversation, chat and the spoken word are valued as sources of information about Ramsbottom as well as the printed word, photographs and artefacts. They can be recorded and one day could or will be backed by secondary sources. As stated above no file can ever be regarded as the whole story. Any further additions or corrections to this article will be welcomed by me at the Heritage Centre.

Brenda M Decent

## **ARCHIVE UPDATE**

All archive holdings of the Society have now been entered on computer databases and refiled. In the Centre are printouts of these databases. Please look at these for your own interest and to answer questions from visitors. Many thanks to all the members who have contributed to this achievement.

## **FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH**

The Heritage Society regrets that queries from people wishing to trace their family history cannot be researched by the Society. We accept gladly family trees donated to us and will share these when possible. A helpful contact is Christopher Platt, Secretary, Lancashire Family History Society, 151 Spendmore Lane, Copull, Lancashire PR7 5BY. This Society cannot undertake research either but will show those interested how to go about their research, list publications which would help, and put them into contact with fellow researchers.

## **BARCELONA AND STUBBINS**

In April 1861 the census recorded that at Stubbins House, Tottington Higher End, there was living David Greenhalgh, aged 52, his wife Mary aged 47, their sons Joseph, David W, John, Charles, Robert, aged 25, 19, 16, 12 and 9 respectively and their daughter Mary aged 6, together with Sarah Fairbrother aged 35, a house servant and Elizabeth Smith aged 31 a servant.

David Greenhalgh, the head of this family, was described as a calico printer, born in Manchester, employing 274 men and boys, his wife Mary was said also to have been born in Manchester.

The four oldest children (boys) are listed as having been born in Spain, the youngest son Robert and the only daughter, Mary, being born in Bury. The two servants are described as being born in St Helens. So much for the information to be gained from the census record. We can now record information gathered from other sources to justify the Barcelona part of the heading of this note. In the *Manchester Courier* of 16 April 1836 can be read "On the 12th Mr David

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Greenhalgh of Barcelona, Spain, to Miss Mary Ogden, only daughter of Mr Joseph Ogden of this town". A similar notice was printed in the *Manchester Mercury* where David was described as a calico printer of Barcelona, living in Prestwich, the marriage being celebrated at Prestwich Parish Church. The only other pieces of information that come to the surface regarding David Greenhalgh's marriage are from the Prestwich marriage register where it is recorded that the marriage was by licence, the bridegroom is described as a superintendent, the witnesses were James Cunliffe and (maybe) Jno Greenhalgh; and from the marriage allegation dated 12 April 1836, that David, a gentleman, was a bachelor, twenty one years and upwards and had been living in the parish of Prestwich for the space of fifteen days then immediately preceding. It should be noted now that this series of investigations was set in hand in an attempt to establish the date of birth and parentage of David Greenhalgh, two of whose sons were, as recounted later, to marry two of the sisters of my mother's mother, Judging by the age given in the 1861 census return with which this account started, David Greenhalgh was born 1808/9 but very strenuous efforts, too lengthy to record here, have not sufficed to reveal either the date of birth or the parentage of this man. It is known without question that David Greenhalgh was a calico printer working in Barcelona before his marriage in Prestwich in 1836 and between the dates of 1837 to 1848 when his first four sons were born. It can be calculated that by 1850/1, when his fifth child, Robert was born, that David was back in England - in Stubbins probably - and certainly by 1854 was a printer in partnership with William Rumney in Stubbins. Some years ago I was told by a great granddaughter of David Greenhalgh, who had been told by her father, whom unfortunately I never met, that the calico printing firm of Greenhalgh and Rumney in Stubbins was not a happy concern and that the culminating situation of Rumney buying inferior goods to their own elsewhere and shipping them abroad as their own led to the partnership being dissolved. Be that as it may, in an 1861 Directory Greenhalgh was listed as a calico printer with works at Blackford Bridge. As will be seen shortly, David was living in Blackford New Road in February 1871. To add to this Blackford Bridge mention, in 1848 there is a Directory entry of "Peter Cowsil, calico printers, Blackford Bridge" and to the Stubbins story "1870, William Rumney with a warehouse at 58 George Street Manchester". This account started with information from the 1861 census recorded in the Tottington Higher End District for the Greenhalgh family at Stubbins House and one slight unmentioned fact from that account was that David's eldest son, Joseph, was described as "Manager of a Print Works", presumably for his father's partnership with William Rumney.

To conclude the life of David Greenhalgh it needs only to record that he died on 15 February 1871. According to Letters of Administration with the Will attached it is of some surprise that he is therein described as a Bleacher. Also on his Death Certificate his occupation is given as "Bleaching (Master)" and his address as Blackford New Road, Pilkington and yet this is the same David Greenhalgh we have been dealing with all along. When his wife Mary died on 11 July 1877 her death certificate described her as "Widow of David Greenhalgh, a calico printer". At the time of her death she was living in Yarborough Street, Pendleton.

It is sufficient now to record that David Greenhalgh and his wife Mary were buried in separate graves in Unsworth Methodist Churchyard; none of their children were buried there as far as I know.

So ends the Stubbins-Barcelona story as far as it is known to me though there are many gaps I would like to fill. There is another, undoubtedly connected, Greenhalgh/Barcelona story for



although Greenhalgh is a common enough name, and there were many calico printers, the 1992 interest in Barcelona gives me the impetus to write further. In the British Consular register of births and deaths in Barcelona, opened in 1853, is the record of the birth on 1 January 1854 of Junius Hilton Greenhalgh to John Greenhalgh and Elizabeth nee Hilton at Sans, Barcelona. This I am told is the only entry in the register of anyone of the name Greenhalgh. In St Catherine's House in London can be found the marriage certificate relating to a John Greenhalgh and an Elizabeth Hilton, married on 7 April 1853 at St James' Church, Oldham. The bridegroom was 26, a cotton manufacturer and the bride aged 24; both were residing in Lees Road, Glodwick. No mention of calico printing nor of Barcelona but one of the witnesses was called Domingo Ramis, undoubtedly I think a Spaniard. Had John Greenhalgh come back from Spain to marry Elizabeth bringing with him a Spanish friend or colleague to act as one of his witnesses? The other significant witness being John's father William, a Manager. And so we leave the Greenhalgh-Barcelona story hanging in the air, To continue the Greenhalgh story very briefly, for it is after all why I know what I have written above, is to record that, two of David Greenhalgh's sons (both born in Barcelona) married two of my mother's mother's sisters. My maternal grandmother, Alice Walker nee Whowell was the twelfth child (sixth girl) of Charles Whowell and his wife, Sarah nee Butterworth. Alice was born 4 July 1858 at Higher Brooks Bottom, Two Brooks, Hawkshaw when her father Charles Whowell was running Two Brooks Bleach works.

Her eldest sister, Esther Martha, born 10 August 1840 in Bradshaw, married on 2 April 1869, Joseph Greenhalgh, a woollen printer, of Hunslet, Leeds, son of a printer, David Greenhalgh. This man was the eldest child, born in Barcelona, of the David Greenhalgh we first described as living in Stubbins House at the time of the 1861 census.

Charles Whowell's third child Elizabeth, born 13 August 1843, in Bradshaw had on 2 June 1868 married David William Greenhalgh the year before her sister had married his brother. He had been living in Stubbins House in 1861, as seen above. On the marriage certificate David William Greenhalgh is described as a calico printer of Bury, his father David having the profession of Bleacher. Both the above marriages were at the Parish Church of Holcombe. Much more could be written about these personalities but I have fulfilled my intention to link Stubbins with Barcelona 1992. Many thanks must be extended to Marjorie Pollard of Altrincham and Mary Clayton of Sidmouth without whose help the bones of this story to which I have added flesh could not have been disinterred as well as to Rita Hirst, Reference Librarian, Bury, who always does so much to help.

**J W Barber-Lomax**

## **RAMSBOTTOM CRICKET CLUB - ONE HUNDRED NOT OUT**

*- an historic year at Acre Bottom*

Ramsbottom were founder members of the Lancashire League in 1892, which evolved from the North East Lancashire Cricket League formed in 1890. The League comprised 13 clubs, later 14 with the inclusion of Rishton. Ramsbottom Cricket Club has had its ups and downs during the last 100 years, mostly downs if you took at the League championship table. Until this season Ramsbottom have been League champions only three times since their foundation, in 1921, 1925 and 1974 and runners up seven times in 1911, 1915, 1920, 1935, 1960, 1973 and 1978.

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Looking at the list of professionals at Ramsbottom since the Second World War it features many names of international repute including Australians Peter Philpot, Ian Chappell, Keith Stackpole, and Ray Bright who was the professional in 1974 when Ramsbottom last won the League Championship. South Africans Eddy Fuller, Clive Rice, Neil Radford and Brian McMillan who holds the batting record for Ramsbottom. There have been only two West Indian professionals, Seymour Nurse in 1961, 1962 and 1964 and Keith Arthurton the present professional and one of our best, whose batting and bowling played such a major part in enabling Ramsbottom to win its fourth League Championship in 1992, its Centenary year. **Fred Entwistle**

### GRANT / KAY BOUNDARY STONES AT SUMMERSEAT

Just to the north of The Spinnings' at Summerseat, a wiggly 200 yards of numbered stones mark a disputed ownership line on the lip of the precipice.

Fifteen boundary stones were put down in 1858 (see old map) between William Grant's land to the north and John Robinson Kay's land to the south. Nine of the fifteen stones have been identified among the trees. Some may not have been noticed. Some may have been moved or trundled and buried.

Why so many stones in a short distance ?

Was Kay stealing or quarrying Grant land for extensions to Brooksbottom Mill ?

Was the mason innumerate ?

What is the story behind the stones ?

Do you know anything ? If so please contact John B Taylor (the *Stories in Stone* man) via the Heritage Centre or telephone 0706 874119.

### CHILDHOOD IN SUMMERSEAT - *Aquatic Memories*

Coming from a long-lived family and therefore needing to keep all my creaking bits and pieces in good order, I go swimming as often as I can. This morning I was given a towel with red stripes along each end - and immediately I could hear my mother say, 'Don't you dare use it - stand on it and use our towel to dry yourself. This was always a mystery to me as the Baths' towels had thick rather stiff pile and were warm, smelling slightly of singeing. I liked them but in the swimming bath, and possibly everywhere else, my mother had to be obeyed. Mum was a keen swimmer. Our family snaps featured many large expanses of water with a black dot in the distance - my mother swimming in Olive's lodge or other mill lodges at Nangreaves or Birtle And, of course, my brother Walter and I were introduced to these aquatic delights very early on.

Mum used to meet us at Summerseat station on her way home from the mill once a week. Part of the excitement was the train journey and reading the advertisements on large enamelled sheets attached to the station railings.

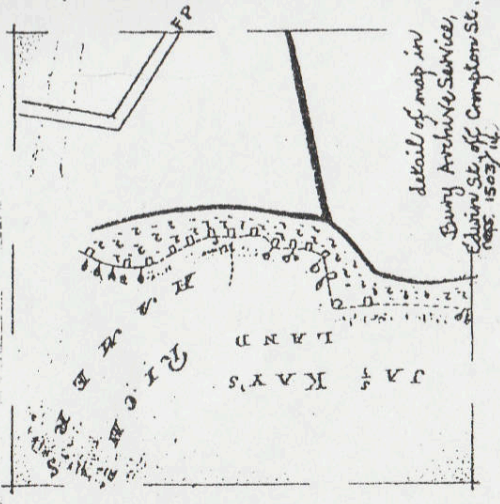
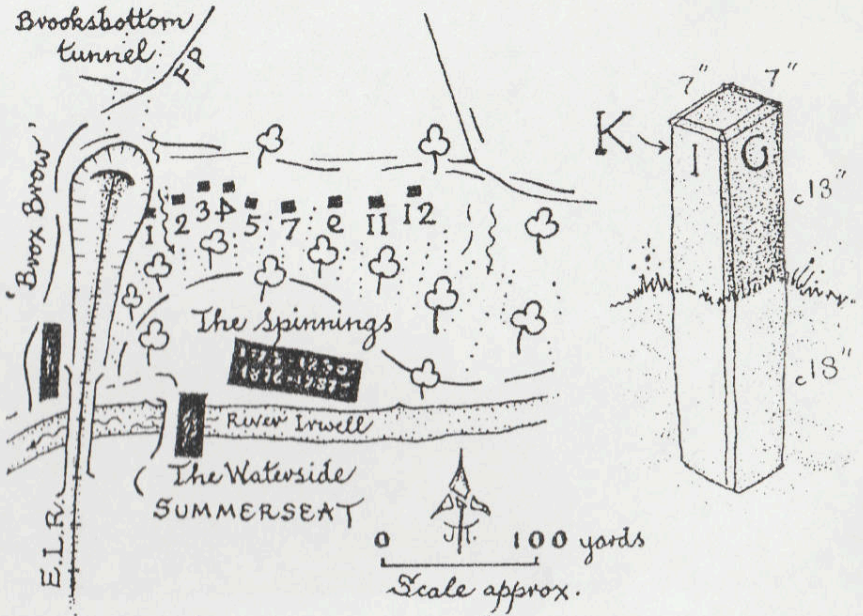
Why do I remember so clearly:-

*Take Iron Jelloids now and then*

*The tonic for women, the tonic for men?*

Then on to Bury and into the big mixed bath in Bank Street. You could hear the shouting and screaming as you walked along between the slipper bath cubicles to the big doors with the polished brass handles. The individual changing cubicles had slatted duck-boards on the floor to allow the water to drain away and short curtains to draw across the top of the half door for privacy. Change quickly and out into the noise and dampness and down onto the wide sandstone steps and into the shallow end. Now came the great decision-sit on the steps, slowly moving down into the water, or hold the rail and bob up and down vigorously. My mother didn't encourage

# Grant/Kay Boundary Stone at Summerseat



lingering but I was a disappointment in this as in everything to do with swimming. She didn't take kindly when, after all her weekly abortive efforts in the self same venue, I swam a breadth in the first swimming lesson I had at Bury Grammar School I still think of her as I swim now, sitting up in Heaven on a cloud still trying to fathom why she had so little success. Waller made up for it, taking to swimming like a fish. When I began to turn blue, we got dried and dressed (why was it so difficult to get dry enough to be able to put on my black woolly school stockings and liberty bodice without them sticking?). Then down the flights of steps into the deep cutting and onto the station platform. A bar of Fry's chocolate from the slot machine made up for everything. I liked better swimming in the smaller and shallower womens' bath and, once only, was initiated into the delights of a session in the Turkish bath, it was a bit off putting to see so many ladies clad only in towels. After a time in the heat, a pummelling massage was finished off with a breath stopping bucketful of cold water. Then a quiet rest in a deckchair with a cup of tea and a plain biscuit. Definitely different, even foreign! As we did not live in a house with a bathroom until I was twenty, I used to use the slipper baths on my way home from school. The attendant turned a small wheel outside the cubicle, a measured amount of steaming hot water poured into the bath and I had to add enough cold water to make it right for me. And, yes, I did use the lovely warm scratchy bath towel! Towards the end of my education at the Grammar School we had collected enough money to have a swimming bath in the school grounds. As World War II was in progress, Sixth Formers were deputed to take care of the children in the Kindergarten and Preparatory Department, seeing them safely onto the bus or train to go home and looking after them during air raid warnings. I did think it was a bit odd that, accompanied by wailing sirens, the assorted small angels, shepherds and kings that I escorted from the hall just before Christmas were safely tucked away under the newly built swimming pool.

Jean Price

## THE REVEREND HENRY DOWSETT AND THE TERPSICHOREAN ART

Today, the Rev Henry Dowsett, vicar of Holcombe from 1875 to 1905, is chiefly remembered for his two books, *Notes on Holcombe* and *Holcombe Long Ago* published at the turn of the century. These collections of short historical articles are liberally laced with poetic quotations and flights of fancy and perhaps tell us as much about the author's character as they do about the history of Holcombe. A few years before his books were published, Dowsett was involved in an amusing incident which throws even more light on the character of this Victorian clergyman. In the 1890s, there was a hut on Holcombe Hill known as 'Uncle Tom's Cabin', which, in the words of the *Ramsbottom Observer* was 'principally used by lovers of the terpsichorean art.' On Whit Friday 1892, a dancing class was being taught there, while at the same time the field day following Holcombe Church Sunday School's Whitsuntide procession took place in an adjoining field. Refreshments were provided and games were played, but dancing was strictly forbidden, 'this form of recreation by no means finding favour in the eyes of the Vicar.' Many of the older scholars felt that this was unfair and when evening came they made their way to Uncle Tom's Cabin 'All thoughts of the Sunday School and the Rev H Dowsett's declarations against the evils of dancing were forgotten for the nonce, and the truants were just beginning to enjoy themselves when they were awe-stricken by the appearance on the scene of the Vicar himself.' Mr Dowsett burst into the Cabin, told the musician to stop, denounced the dancers for their sinful folly and ordered his scholars to leave immediately, 'all the time wildly flourishing his umbrella.' Some of the scholars

prepared to leave, but others stood their ground and even had the temerity to ask whether the Vicar had paid to enter the hut. Naturally Mr Dowsett hadn't and was asked by Mr Booth, the proprietor, either to leave or to pay up. Mr Dowsett refused on both accounts, so Mr Sooth threatened to carry him out. The 'Observer' reported that 'The parson dared him to lay hands on him, but Mr Booth apparently does not stand in awe of the Church, as finding persuasion was useless, he caught hold of the intruder and bodily carried him outside.' Threats of a summons for assault were made, but in fact Dowsett appears to have taken no action, perhaps realising that he was as much in the wrong as those who had 'enjoyed themselves to the giddy strains of a concertina.'

**John Simpson**

## REVIEWS

*MANUFACTORY, METHODISM AND THE MAKING OF A VILLAGE, Summerseat 1700-1988*

Jean Price

Neil Richardson 1989 £2.00

Jean Price tells us that Summerseat, originally known as Somerset existed as a place name as early as 1610 but the development of the village did not really begin until the arrival of the Peel family towards the end of the 18th century. By 1795 Peel had three mills operating in the village and by 1803 there were five. The transformation of the scattered and sleepy hamlets into the 19th century industrial mill village was already under way. Jean Price carefully charts the steps along this path. The growth of the factory population by means of the importation of pauper children from London and Birmingham to provide the much needed labour force in the new mills and the roles of the Hamers, the Kays and later the Hoyle family as successors to the Peels as industrial entrepreneurs are meticulously described. The author lays considerable emphasis on the connections between these families and the growth of Methodism in the village. Thanks to the Hamers and the Kays in particular Wesleyan Methodism became the predominant creed of the area and as Jean Price writes "the only village organisations not directly Methodist inspired were the Mechanics Institute and the Co-operative Societies and the officials of these were very often Methodists". As late as the end of the 19th century neither the Anglicans nor the Roman Catholics had established a base in Summerseat. The present century has produced a new transformation no less fundamental than that described here. Hoyle's Brooksbottom Mill which as late as 1947 was employing nearly 700 workers had by 1978 become derelict only to rise again in the form of a luxury flat development in more recent years. The link with Methodism was broken after the first world war when family ownership gave way to the modern limited company. As for leisure activities, even the Summerseat Players have now moved to Ramsbottom,

If Jean Price should be thinking of writing a sequel it would be a very different story.

*EDEN FIELD : Life in a Lancashire Village 1500 -1770*

John Simpson     Edenfield Local History Society 1990 £2.95

John Simpson, whose talk to the Society last June aroused much interest is the author of this carefully researched and lavishly illustrated account of the development of Edenfield in the period before the industrial revolution.

Beginning with early references to "Aytounfeld" in 14th century records, through the building of the first Edenfield Chapel over two hundred years later, on to the opening of the first pub, the Pack Horse, in the early 1600s and concluding with the construction of Edenfield's first water powered mill around 1767, here indeed is a fascinating story. John Simpson has adopted a thematic approach to his subject which enables his readers easily to find their way around. The history of local land owning families in one chapter is balanced by the account of how the working people earn their living in another. Details of poverty and poor relief in the village can be contrasted with the amusing chapter on the villagers' leisure activities three or four hundred years ago. One of the most interesting chapters is that which deals with the history of the church for here we find the local versions of the great theological disputes of past years. Thus John Warbuton, Curate at both Holcombe and Edenfield in the latter part of the 17th century, who served each chapel by turns, complains bitterly that when he is preaching at one chapel, those who disagreed with his views "have several times broken into the other chapel and put up some non conformist or other to preach". One of his predecessors Robert Hill was accused by his enemies in 1647 of being so drunk "that he fell down in ye street and could not rise up without the help of others". John Simpson is to be congratulated not only for his narrative but also for the excellent index and impressive bibliography which accompanies it. Now that he has led the way on behalf of Edenfield, perhaps we could have a volunteer to take up the challenge in the name of

**Trevor Park**

## **HOLCOMBE SCHOOL LOG BOOK**

One of the many interesting items on view in the "Local Schools - Past History and Present Projects" exhibition at the Heritage Centre is a Log Book from Holcombe School. Covering the period from 1865, when the school first opened, until 1905, it gives a fascinating insight into the day to day running of the school and the lives of the pupils and teachers of those days. The Log Book provides information about the numbers of pupils, teachers, pupil teachers and paid monitors, the financing of the school, reports of the inspectors, and details of the subjects taught, it also tells us quite a lot about life in and around Holcombe village in those days. The first entry in the Log, dated 9 January 1865 reads simply "School opened, Present AM 26 PM 26", and is written in beautiful copperplate by Mr. Henry Hunt, the first Master of the school. As may be expected attendance figures seem to have been much affected by the weather and sickness. In the winter heavy snowfalls, frost and fog resulted in very low attendances as many of the children were unable to make the journey from outlying farms, or up the Rake, and often the children were sent home early so that they might get home in the light. Heavy rain and violent storms are also described and on some occasions resulted in the children being kept back until the weather eased. In 1891 the entry for 24 November records that "snow fell for the first time this winter". On the 25 November "Another heavy fall of snow today. The gas has had to be lighted all day. On account of the snow storm, the school closed at 3.35 to allow the long distance children to reach home before dark". December 7 "Very wet day", on December 15 "Closed early today on account of the darkness and fog", whilst the 17 December was a "fine frosty morning". When the school reopened after the Christmas holidays on the 11 January 1892 the entry reads "Many scholars away thro' sickness. Heavy fall of snow". On the 2 of February there was "another heavy fall of snow, preventing many from attending school" and on the 10 and 11 March "no school on account of

the great fall of snow". The entry for 12 April "very cold today, after a spell of fine weather" indicates some relief from the adverse weather conditions, even if only temporary. In the summer months descriptions of "extra play and "lessons outside in the playground" when the heat of the classroom became unbearable sound idyllic and are interspersed with reports of tow attendances because the children and their families were busy with hay making or the harvest. On 23 June "School broke up for the summer holidays". On 11 July however the entry reads "Re-opened school with a small attendance owing to farmers being busy with the hay," also "The school has been thoroughly cleaned, whitewashed and painted and the closets repaired". At times sickness had dramatic effects on the attendance numbers and on occasions the school was actually closed for a period during outbreaks of illnesses such as measles - surely a sensible precaution when the only preventative measure mentioned in the Log was "sprinkling the floor with disinfectant". Outbreaks of croup and colds are also mentioned, as are diphtheria and mumps. There is a sad description of the death of a five year old pupil from brain fever, and in February 1883 a six year old girl is recorded as having been "accidentally burned by fire during school play time", On the 6 March 1892 "Scarlet fever made its appearance among the scholars." Nor do the staff escape, they seem to have quite frequent periods of absence on sick leave which is not surprising when they were cooped up in the same room and often made the same journeys to and from the school, in the same weather conditions, as the children they taught. Details of teaching methods and subjects taught are also recorded. As befits a Church school religious knowledge was an important subject, frequently taught by the Rector. Examinations in this subject were held regularly and details of the results were posted up both inside and outside the school. Arithmetic, reading, writing and grammar, geography and history lessons are described. Slates were used by the pupils, although there are also references to "work on paper". There is much emphasis on learning by rote and pupils were frequently tested by the Master. Object lessons are also referred to with fists of the various objects to be studied by each class. Music was an important part of the curriculum, perhaps a reflection of the interests of the Master? Whatever the reason an enormous number of songs were taught, ail carefully listed in the Log. Special songs were learned for occasions such as Church Bazaars and other social functions at which the children were expected to perform. Visitors to the school were also entertained by songs from the children. On one occasion the inspector commented "singing unusually harmonious and pleasing". One teacher even taught the children to sing times tables! Inspectors visited the school twice yearly and summaries of their reports are recorded together with any actions being taken as a result. Those entries often began "Holiday given by Inspector" which the children probably thought to be only fair after all their extra work preparing for the visit! Typical of the favourable reports is the one for June 1868 "Summary of Inspector's Report. This school continues in a highly satisfactory state and reflects great credit upon the Master who has worked in it alone. Discipline is excellent and the behaviour of the children is pleasing. Elementary knowledge is sound and good. The paper work is particularly neat and correct and a good proportion presented above the third standard. The examination in Religious Knowledge and Geography is creditable".

Almost the last entry in the book, dated 25 May 1905 reads "The Rector (H Dowsett) visited the school to bid farewell to the teachers". On the next page is the final entry "31 May 1905 This closes the present Log Book".

Lack of space prevents a lengthier look at this fascinating book. Much more could have been included - about the financing of the school, the training of the staff, the school building. I hope however that this brief glimpse of school life long ago will remind us all of the importance of preserving documents such as the Holcombe School Log Book. The information to be gleaned from them often goes far beyond their original, often mundane, purposes. We are indebted to Holcombe School for their care in preserving it and their generosity in lending it to the Society for the "Local Schools - Past History and Present Projects" display.

**Barbara Park**

### ***RAMSBOTTOM OBSERVER MICROFILMING PROJECT***

Our town's only newspaper ran for 75 years, from 1890 until its digestion into the *Rossendale Free Press* in 1965. Back copies are not readily available to researchers, and because of this, the committee has launched a long term project of getting the complete run on microfilm. The first six years have been copied onto microfilm masters, through the good offices of Mr Kevin Mulley, Bury's archivist, and the Greater Manchester Record Office. The latter have charged us for the microfilming at cost (£20 per year). Microfilm copies can now be printed off from this master set as our funds allow, and as each year is done we will place it in Bury Central Library for the use of our members and of the general public.

We have set up a microfilming fund to help finance the project, and donations will be most welcome. Already, the Bury branch of the Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society has given £20, for which we are most grateful. We must also extend thanks to the *Rossendale Free Press* for allowing us to have their copies microfilmed.

**Andrew Todd**

### ***RAMSBOTTOM REMINISCENCES COMPETITION***

This competition closed earlier this year, having attracted around a dozen entries. The committee found it difficult to select three clear winners, the calibre of the field being so high.

Using the criterion 'How well does the entry add to our awareness of Ramsbottom (including our outlying districts) as it was in the past?' we offer these three as the prizewinners:

1st prize (£20) Mr James SPENCER, *Ramsbottom Life in the 1910s*

2nd prize (£10) Mr Norman KAY, *In at the Deep End*

3rd prize (a year's RHS subscription) Mr Norman NUTTALL, *Holidays in Shuttleworth*

Members will have the opportunity to savour the fine quality of the complete entry soon - we intend to publish all the submissions in one booklet, to be entitled *Ramsbottom Reminiscences*. If they inspire you, why not let us have **your** reminiscences? They can go in this magazine ... or even in a follow-up volume.

**Andrew Todd**



***A RAMSBOTTOM BUTCHER AND THE GREAT WAR: THE BILLS AND RECEIPTS OF E H GREENWOOD, 1913 -18: PART 2***

*Following my piece on the paperwork of the Bridge Street butcher Edward Hill GREENWOOD in the Summer News Magazine, I placed a file of photocopies of the bills in the Heritage Centre. I hoped to prompt a stream of reminiscences about Ramsbottom businesses but to date this has yet to spring. I have, however, been lucky enough to be contacted by Mr Jack PRESTON of Holcombe Brook, grandson of Mr GREENWOOD. His own memories of Ramsbottom date from the 1930s, but he has pieced together recollections of two senior cousins (also grandchildren) and of his parents' (now deceased) to flesh out my Summer article in a most interesting manner.*

[Andrew Todd]

None of us, the remaining family of Mr GREENWOOD, is old enough to remember the early years of the Great War of 1914-18. However we do have some vivid childhood recollections together with information which has been passed down the family, from which we are able to add a few points of interest to those already made by Andrew Todd.

In setting the scene, it is worth pointing out that generally people did not travel far afield for day today needs. Railways had been in existence for many years but the private motor car was only in its infancy. The horse and trap was a frequent sight. Gas was the main means of illumination. The telephone service was still something of a luxury in most homes although was perhaps in more general use in business. In consequence it was quite usual for townships to have a wide range of tradesmen. They would expect reciprocal business arrangements; for example the grocer buying meat from the butcher would expect the butcher to buy his groceries. Ramsbottom was apparently no different for the records show Mr GREENWOOD's transactions with a multitude of other businesses in the town; butchers, ironmongers, tailors and outfitters, grocers, plumbers, blacksmiths, joiners, shoe factors, coal merchants, printers, wheelwrights, saddle and harness makers, slaters, sausage and pie manufacturers, ham and bacon curers, agricultural engineers, manufacturing chemists, auctioneers and valuers, stock, share and insurance brokers. No doubt there were a few more as it was unlikely Mr GREENWOOD was able to buy from everyone. The premises in Bridge Street were used not only as a shop but also as living accommodation. Access was available to the rear of the three shops 31 to 35 by means of an entry at the side of no 35. however, even then there were neighbourly difficulties and the entry gate would be found locked, particularly when deliveries needed to be made. Mr GREENWOOD had a large wooden cabinet in the back yard which was used to hang the sides of beef and sheep. This was kept cool by using large blocks of ice. We can imagine the mess made in the shop and the living room if the entry door was locked when a delivery of ice was made. How hygiene regulations have changed in 75 years! We cannot be certain of Mr GREENWOOD'S cattle market activities until the early 1920s when we know he frequently attended markets in Salford, Haslingden, Clitheroe, Gisburn and Skipton and others from time to time. It is likely he would have used these markets throughout his business life. The Auctioneer's bank would open a branch in a small office on cattle market day for the purpose of receiving payment from buyers. It is interesting to note that the dockets are pre-printed with the name of the bank and its manager. These dockets were made out in pencil, no doubt it was 'copying ink' which turned purple when wet or if attempts were made to rub it out. Also can be seen on many of these dockers in the bottom left corner another cash figure known as 'luck', accepted market practice, and indeed private deals as well, *were* sealed with a handshake and 'sixpence for luck'. This item of 'luck' was not always recorded and made the job of the bank

in reconciling its books very difficult indeed. From memory we think that in connection with the telephone service a Junction Fee was charged if you were connected to another local exchange, say Bury or Tottington. A Trunk Fee was charged for a call connected to a more distant exchange. To infer that Mr GREENWOOD was an infrequent user of the telephone is misleading. Monthly bills for Trunk, Telegram and Junction Fees" were as low as 1d or 2d but also ranged up to 5/4d. It is also worth noting that the annual account dated September 1914 was for £6 of which £4 was for service until the end of August 1915 and £2 entitling Mr GREENWOOD to 500 calls. One thing is for certain, the telephone was taken out about 1917. At that time Mr GREENWOOD had three sons serving in the Army, having been unsuccessful in an appeal to have his third son's recruitment annulled. In consequence, he had to withdraw his fourth son from school to assist in the business. His daughter was expected to help with deliveries of meat after school and his daughter-in-law was also involved both during the day and in the evenings. After these deliveries had been made, Mr GREENWOOD found that he was receiving telephone calls from some of the 'big houses' asking for further items. Class distinction was a feature then and a tradesman would fulfil his customer's wishes to the letter. Accordingly, a second visit would be made which Mr GREENWOOD came to see as an abuse of his services during what was a difficult time for alt businesses and for this reason the telephone was removed. It was heavy enough work for a girl of 10 to carry the wicker baskets full of meat orders around the town, up to Holcombe, and out to Stubbins and Edenfield. It didn't matter if it had gone dark, or was snowing, the deliveries were made and any school work was done afterwards. The family was also required to help when cattle and sheep were delivered by rail to Ramsbottom station. From there they had to be taken on the hoof along Kay Brow, Bolton Street and Bolton Road West to Hazlehurst. (Such herding was barred from Bridge Street, on account of its shops.) On winter evenings, an oil lamp would be carried displaying a white light at the front and a red one to the rear. One does not have to be particularly tong in the tooth to remember that the present car park on Railway Street, which runs by the side of the platform was the site of a siding and cattle pens. The animals were taken to the land by Edgar Street. This was a large field, stretching from Hazlehurst down towards the Cottage Hospital on Nuttall Lane. Part of it is now the recreation ground above Broad Hey. We hope these few family reminiscences will add a little realistic atmosphere and bring to life those dusty pieces of paper.

**Jack Preston**

### **Programme**

- Nov 18 Mr Tom Fish - *The Changing Face of Bury* - illustrated  
Dec 9 Christmas Cheer & Photo Competition - with readings from the three winning entries in the Ramsbottom Reminiscences competition

### **1993**

- Jan 20 Mr Barry Worthington - *Up-date on the E LR*  
Feb 17 Mr Ken Craven - *A Walk around Tottington* - illustrated  
Mar 17 Mrs Mavis Homewood - *Filming in Ramsbottom - Its Ups and Downs* - illustrated



