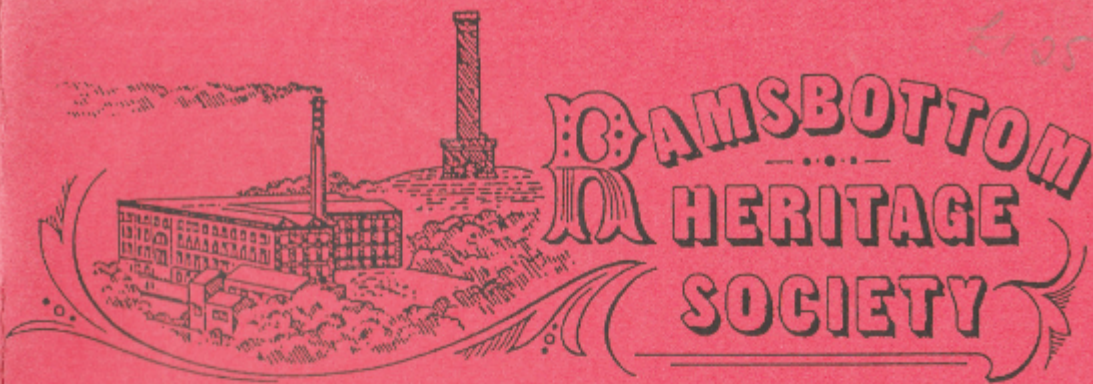


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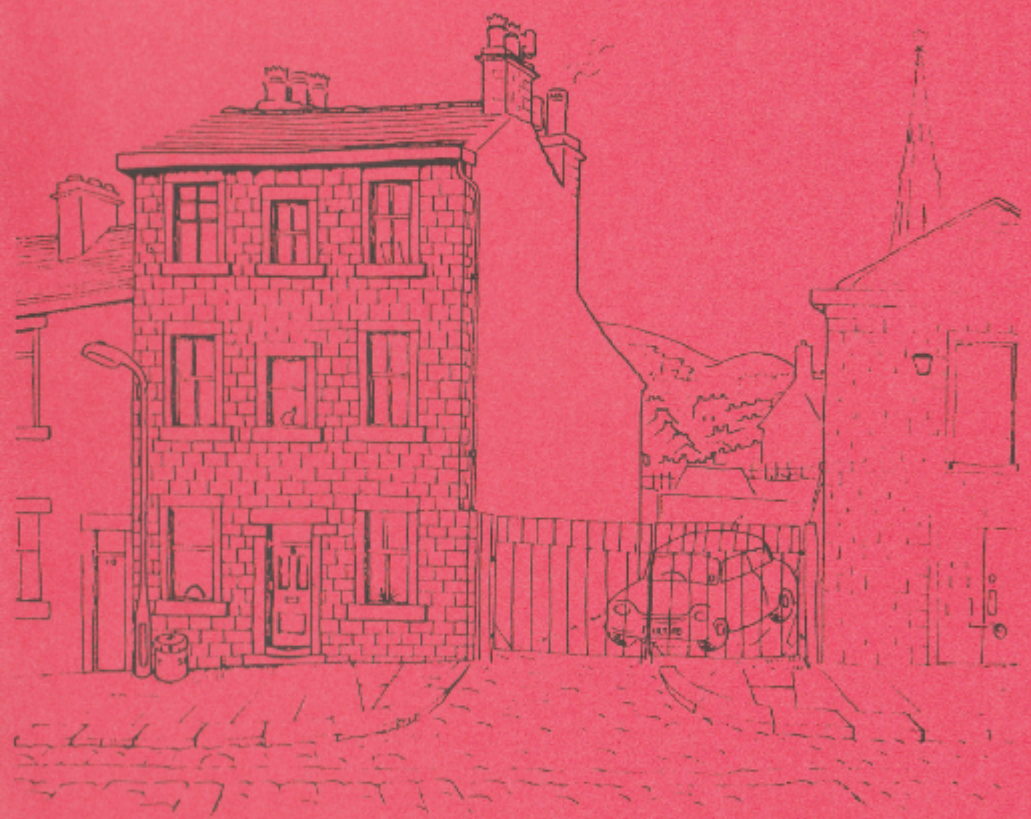


BAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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SPECIAL MILLENNIUM EDITION**

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.
-

2000 PROGRAMME

13th Dec Christmas Meeting - Tony Foster, *The Girl Without a Name*

2001 PROGRAMME

17th Jan Ralph Hart, *Styal Mill*
21st Feb Dr Alan Crosby, *The 13th Earl of Derby*
21st March Photographic Competitions + Richard Catlow, *The Ribble to the Sea*
18th April Birthday Meeting - Dr Mike Cresswell, *Lace Bonnets and Urine Pits*
May AGM and Members' Night

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

Entry by donation, please.

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FRONT COVER - Ramsbottom's Model Lodging House, 8, Paradise Street, 2000.
 Drawn by John Taylor of Stacksteads

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

The **Autumn** Floods - the last few weeks of the century will surely be remembered for rainfall of biblical persistence. The Ouse at York exceeded by one inch on the night of 3rd/4th November its previous record high of 17 feet and 7 inches, reached in 1625. Fortunately, the Pennine rainfall seems to have concentrated its worst excesses on the Yorkshire side, and apart from some flooding in Stubbins the Ramsbottom area was largely spared. This brought back memories for many locals of the great Irwell inundation of September 1947, when 6.28 inches of rain were recorded in Bury between the 1st and 20th of that month. In the 12 hours after 9pm on Thursday 18th September 1947, 2.24 inches fell:-

First news of the flooding came from Ramsbottom when the Irwell, overflowing into Stubbins Lane and Kenyon-street, turned the Ramsbottom Cricket Field and Nuttall Park into a huge lake. The rapidly rising water, travelling at 15 miles an hour, wakened the householders in Stubbins at 4a.m. Three hours later water a foot deep was swirling along Stubbins Lane — At 9 o'clock water at Stubbins Lane was three feet deep, and all traffic had to be diverted through Shuttlew'orth.

Householders . . . watched helplessly as the water continued to rise. In Strongstry, residents took shelter in their bedrooms, while their furniture floated round their kitchens.

Bury Times, 20th September 1947

Kenyon Street was especially badly affected, five mills having to stop work, employees at Pemberton Mill being stranded on the *second* floor. A four foot high wall in River Street collapsed at noon, and this had the effect of releasing the water in Kenyon Street. Residents could now escape from their refuges in their bedrooms. Workers at Stubbins Mill going home for their lunches in Ramsbottom had to avoid the floodwater by walking along the railway line from Stubbins Station as far as the bus depot. Further down the Irwell, German PoWs used sandbags and cinders to try to stop flooding at Warth.

Flooding at Ramsbottom was reckoned to be the worst for 65 years, the rainfall was calculated at Bury to have been the worst since 1918. Records at the Bury Sewage Works indicated that the Irwell had risen by nearly nine feet, breaking all previous records there, including the eight feet plus of 4th November 1931, and December 1936.

Of that same Friday, the *Ramsbottom Observer* reported how on Stubbins Lane:-

Mr SANDERSON and his family were completely marooned and at 5-30 in the evening their kitchen was still under water, the family Finding refuge on the table.

At 93, Kenyon-street, the home of Mr. HITCHCOCK and family, the 'Observer' found order being restored out of chaos, although a Mr. E. HOWE, a son-in-law said, "Conditions in normal times are far from pleasant with eight of us living in the house."

Ramsbottom Observer, 26th September 1947

The floods of December 1936 were recalled by my 82 year old neighbour in November. He remembered saving the weavers at PEMBERTON's Mill on a flat cart, letting them out of the first floor on a ladder. A woman in labour was similarly rescued from a house in Kenyon Street, and taken on the cart to the ambulance waiting at the higher end of the street!

It was as well, perhaps, for the current residents of Stead Street, Harrison Street, and other inhabited houses around Kenyon Street, that Ramsbottom's flood defence scheme, started in the summer, finished on time in October, days before the heavy rain began. A large rubble bank had been built up along the eastern side of the Irwell to give access to the elderly stone walling which had to date protected this low-lying area. Substantial blocks were placed by the curve in the river immediately to the north of Peel Bridge, and these were then faced with sympathetic stonework. Flood work has also been underway by the railway bridge over the Irwell at the northern end of Nuttall Park, and the resultant closure of the footway which tunnels under the line at this point could not have come at a worse time, the grand opening event of the Heritage Society's Millennium Week on Sunday 18th June taking place in the park! Pedestrians were directed to the only other route into the park, a full mile along Railway Street, Peel Bridge and Nuttall Hall Road.

The great debate is now on as to why we had such dramatic rainfall in 2000, and global warming, caused by carbon emissions resulting largely from car use, has emerged as a possible culprit. So it was a wry coincidence that the Fuel Protest of 8th- 15th September occurred just six weeks before the rains set in. The queue at Stubbins Lane garage reached back to the Edenfield by-pass; one motorist there was seen passing an NHS jacket to a relative in order to jump the queue; and there were a number of fights observed on the forecourt by nearby residents. Then on 19th September some local radio hoax, spread with frightening speed over mobiles, had a huge queue back at Stubbins Lane within minutes! Nothing illustrated better our over-dependence on the motor car. In the same period, on 30th October, the new M60 link opened from Heaton Park to Denton, after some delay owing to carriageway floods, bringing workplaces in Tameside within 25 minutes drive of Ramsbottom, and likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions! At last, we are beginning to see some connections between cars, fuel use and weather, and it was reassuring to see that the infamous 60 Day deadline of the Fuel Protest (which had been actively supported by some hauliers in this area) passed without any more fights and queues at Esso.

Andrew Todd

THE RAMSBOTTOM MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL, 17th TO 24th JUNE 2000

The great Ramsbottom Millennium Festival has come and gone, leaving many happy memories of a truly wonderful week. Townspeople and visitors were welcomed to an event which had taken 12 months of planning and organising, culminating in a highly enjoyable week of fun and interest, aimed to please all ages and interests.

Sincere thanks are due to members and friends for their considerable help to the project and also to local companies and traders for their assistance. It has been most gratifying to find that the Society's work is well recognised and supported by such a spectrum of local business, organisations, churches and schools. We feel that the profile of the town and the Society has been raised (we welcome new members. If you wish to join, contact Brian on 01706 828705). The friendship and kindness shown to us during the long planning period has been overwhelming and was much welcomed by co-ordinator Linda de RUIJTER. No praise is too high for all her hard work and dedication.

A valued grant from 'Millennium Festival Awards for All' gave us the financial base for the project and extra funding from the Ramsbottom Area Board enabled us to take plans a stage further.

Subsequent enthusiasm from all concerned has helped to turn a dream into a reality.

Young people from schools, dance and drama groups took part in an open air concert hosted by BBC/TV North West News Presenter, Martin HENFIELD, who rode into town in the silver Morris Minor in his recent 'Out and About' leisure series on BBC2.

He was a great hit with everyone and added lustre to the day, which included a cherished vehicle show and was attended by the Deputy Mayor of Bury, and a Town Crier. Tottington Town Band played in the Memorial Gardens and special events were put on at the station by the East Lancashire Railway. The town was en-fete with bunting, and a flower display in Market Place, whilst one of the local churches held a flower festival.

Details follow of church involvement, and of the 'Cherished Vehicle' event.

A copy of the week's souvenir programme is available to those who were unable to attend the Festival. Please write to the Heritage Society, c/o Heritage Centre, Can-Street, Ramsbottom BLO 9AE.

Dorothy Moss, Chairman

It seemed right that the local churches join in the Festival week; after all our dating system uses the birth of Jesus as its basis and we are celebrating the year 2000AD (Anno Domini meaning in the year of our Lord).

The Festival Week started with Holcombe Brook Methodist Church's Anniversary Service on Sunday 18th June at 10.30am. This was an informal service with the young people taking part.

On Sunday evening there was a 'Songs of Praise' in St Paul's Church at which many people joined in a selection of favourite hymns. The congregation of St Paul's Church was also celebrating the 150th anniversary of their present church building. Rev Jeff ARCUS led the service which included short Bible readings by members of different churches. Coffee and tea were available after the service and many people stayed and enjoyed a chat with those they had met there.

During the week, churches held open mornings/afternoons to which everyone was invited. At Edenfield Parish Church and Edenfield Methodist Church there was the added attraction of seeing both the 'Edenfield Millennium Tapestries' together. Normally each church will have one banner and twice a year will exchange them. The making of these banners was co-ordinated by Mrs Betty GARVEY and blocks were sewn by people of Edenfield, each block shows an aspect of the village; a local club or group, a special view or an event.

The many visitors to Edenfield Parish Church's Open Day included each class from Edenfield C of E School. During the morning, a Wedding Blessing took place and the happy couple left Church through a guard of honour provided by one of the classes. (Congratulations to Clive and Denise).

At Edenfield Methodist Church there was an exhibition of all the activities taking place within the buildings - Sunday School, Women's Institute, Age Concern, Mother and Toddler Group (Pram Club), St Philip's Cubs, Scottish Country Dancing Group,

Keep Fit and Sunday Church Services. There were photographs of the work that has been undertaken during the last five years to eradicate dry-rot and restore the building.

The partly finished 'Stubbins 2000 Tapestry'¹ and the newly refurbished Mothers' Union Banner could be seen at St Philip's Church, Stubbins. Tower Radio interviewed the vicar, who explained the theme behind the tapestry. Barry ALDOUS brought videoing equipment, so we will all be able to see the St Philip's event later in the year, in 'Festival Week Video'. There was a 'Gardening Question Time' at Christ Church. The audience heard a talk by local rose grower Tony BRACEGIRDLE (a national champion) and then the panel answered questions.

Christ Church held a 'Flower Festival', on Saturday and Sunday 24th and 25th June. The rooms were beautifully decorated with flower arrangements, some of which reflected the colours and motifs of the stained-glass windows.

On Saturday 24th June, Festival Finale Day, St Paul's opened its doors again, with light refreshments available all day.

On Sunday 25th June, Holcombe Brook Methodist Church held a special service with the theme 'The Family'.

All the churches taking part in the Festival week were happy to welcome both friends and first-time visitors into their buildings. The churches tried to show all the activities that go on in church buildings week by week. These include cubs, brownies, guides and scouts; keep fit classes; Music Society; Women's Institute and Age Concern meetings; Mother and Toddler and play groups; Mothers' Union; Sunday Services and Sunday School and Bible Study/Fellowship meetings. Each Church will be happy to supply details of dates and times and welcome newcomers to all meetings within their premises. Churches in Ramsbottom at the beginning of the new Millennium are community-centred, offering friendship to all the people of Ramsbottom.

Many local churches have had major repairs or renovations in the past few years. The former Christ Church building opposite the Civic Hall has become *Adderstone Mansions*, retaining the exterior while transforming the interior into apartments. The members of Christ Church Methodist and Baptist Church moved into the new Christ Church, on Great Eaves Road, in December 1999.

St Andrew's Church received internal refurbishment in 1993-4. Pews were removed, a kitchen added and the entrance changed (see our issue no 12). St Paul's Church has had alterations inside, creating a meeting room which can be used for many purposes.

Edenfield Methodist Church has just finished dry-rot repairs, and replacement of many windows. Much redecoration will be needed. I should be pleased to receive any up-to-date news of building changes or general information about any local church.

CHERISHED VEHICLE SHOW

This took place on our Festival Finale Day - Saturday 24th June. We had decided to restrict the show to exhibitors who had links within our local area. When it began, nearly three months before Festival Finale Day, we knew of only a few prospective entrants. Soon, however, Martin HENFIELD had promised to join in our show by arriving in the car which had featured in his 'Out and About' BBC television series, Alan WOLSTENCROFT's silver coloured 1954 Morris Minor - see page 9.

To involve more people, posters were produced and we distributed them for display at local business premises. Amongst people we met there were other car enthusiasts who were keen to take part in our show, notably Neville CORMACK of Cormar Carpets and Chris WHITE of Holcombe Brook Garage. Just as important, poster distribution also yielded valuable information which enabled us to target other vehicle owners with our entry forms. There were also more ideas for the show, such as opening it with a vehicle cavalcade. Nuttall Park and Holme Mill were designated as cavalcade starting points and beautiful classic cars were seen checking the road humps on Nuttall Hall Road.

Just after 10-30am on Festival Finale Day, the two vehicle convoys moved off from their starting points. Ramsbottom station staff kept the railway crossing gates open and a cavalcade was formed along Bridge Street and into Market Place. It was led by the Land Rover fire engine, then Martin HENFIELD in the ballooned Morris Minor



Jeff HINCHCLIFFE's 44LK ERF dropside lorry, made in 1966, and once used London to Scotland runs. Photographed alongside Ramsbottom Civic Hall

NAME	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	REG NO	BRIEF HISTORY
Chris WHITE	AC	3000ME	1985	C81 LWB	One of only 106 made. Restored in the last 3 years by owner, in everyday use. See* above.
Alan WOLSTEN-CROFT	Morris	Minor Convertible	1954	YSY 946	
Alan CLAYTON	Ratline	Friable	1936	MG 5013	Chassis, engine and wheels imported from USA. Body English. Restored by present owner.
Neville CORMACK	MG	VA	1939	HMU 176	Tickford body.
Neville CORMACK	MG	PB	1936	CXO 240	
Neville CORMACK	MG	TC	1949	MVT 444	
Leonard FACITT	Singer	Bantam	1935	AVB 786	
Alan LOMAS	Humber	9/20 Fabric Saloon	1928	YX 8934	Total of 223 built. One of only 12 survivors.
Geoffrey MILLS	Morris	Minor Van	1972	LMX 829K	Purchased in 1999 to promote business after renovation.
Mrs Janet HODGSON	Morris	Minor Van	1971	XKD 313J	Owned by local florist of <i>The Flower Gallery</i> . Nickname 'Jeremy'.
David THOMAS	Morris	Minor 1000	1970	RJH 202H	Owned for 14 years. In daily use until 1995.
Ralph CRAVEN	Morris	Mini	1963	6413 LG	Run from 1965 by present owner and family. Restored 1998.
Graham KIRBY	MGB	Roadster	1972	FRA 262L	Owned for 15 years and rebuilt by the present owner.
Ronald AYRE	MGB	Roadster	1969	WBB 35H	
David SCURRAH	Jensen	C - V8	1963	ONW 399B	
Barry SANSOME	Buick	Limited	1958	RSY 483	Belonged to the brother of 'Untouchable' Eliot NESS.
Barry James SANSOME	Chevrolet	Camaro	1980	YFR 70Y	Exported from Florida in 1996, one owner, 55,000 miles.
Fred BRINDLE	Chevrolet	Corvette	1991	B13 USA	
Ian MORRIS	Pontiac	Fiero GT	1987	A11 SPC	Mid-engine 2 seater, steel space frame, body - composite panels. 0-60 in 7.7 seconds.
Tony ROLLASON	Ford	Model T (Hot Rod)	1998	Q79 JJO	V8 Chevrolet engine modified, supercharged. 0-60 in 3 seconds. 6mpg.

NAME	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	REG NO	BRIEF HISTORY
Peter CORBISHLEY	Vauxhall	Victor VX490	1966	YFM 199D	Owned for 4 years and restored by the present owner.
Gerald S COHEN	Rolls Royce	Comiche	1974	HUI 4492	Only 700 of this model were built, 1969-85.
Peter ROBY	Bond Minicar	MD Family Deluxe	1956	XTV 273	
David C HILL	Land Rover	Series II	1959	XFF 621	Bought in 1990 and rebuilt to original condition by the present owner.
Jeff H HINCHCLIFFE	ERF	44L.K (dropside lorry)	1966	RRT 591	Originally used for goods, London/Scotland. Bought by present owner in 1996.
Ian SMITH	Land Rover	Fire Engine	1955	XFF 633	Ex-Army until 1973. Can pump 350 gallons per minute.
Edward WILKINSON	Singer	Vogue Mk 2	1963	AJN 658A	Acquired by present owner 1996 needing only minor repairs.
Alec BURTON	Bristol	401	1951	NKC 446	Present owner since 1966.
Alec BURTON	Humber	Pullman Limousine	1946	VSJ 913	Present owner since 1977. Only 36,000 miles from new.
Jeff POMFRET	Sunbeam Talbot	Sports Saloon 10	1939	JX 7344	Ex police car from Halifax. Used by ARP wardens during the War.
David FLYNN	Triumph	TR 7	1979	SRE 990W	Acquired by present owner in 1999. Featured in <i>Classics</i> magazine November 1999.
Thomas LOMAX	BSA	250cc C12 Motor bike	1957	DSU 659	Bought 4 years ago.
Michael REID	Matchless	G5 350cc Motor bike	1959	JHG 598	Stored for 15 years as a wreck. Rescued, restored and now in daily use.
Austin STIGWOOD	Jowett	Bradford	1952	HBU 579	Restored by Tameside College 1986-8.
Graham STANSFIELD	Austin	A60 Cambridge	1965	BEN 846C	Locally owned from new. 90% original. Only 100,000+ miles.
Alan JONES	Covin/VW	Porsche 911 (replica)	1992	FKN 653L	Built by owner from Type 3 VW fastback (1972) using Covin Body/Chassis kit.
John KELSEY	Mercedes Benz	190 SL Convertible	1958	YYM 47	Former owners include S LONG (restored 1997-8) and J MARTIN.
Chris EDGE	MG	Roadster	1970		
Chris EDGE	MGB	GT	1971		Once owned by Lord Stokes' wife, chairman of British Leyland.
Gordon BENNETT	Ford	Custom Fairline	1957		Rare vehicle. Thunderbird engine.

Exhibitions and Vehicles

Ramsbottom's Lodging Houses and Lodgers a Century ago 9

and the Rossendale Search and Rescue vehicles. All blue lights were flashing brightly in the light drizzle and Marlin held up his colourful umbrella until it cleared.

Our main show marshals were members of the Greater Manchester Army Cadet Force and Ramsbottom Library Staff who all did a brilliant job. Also very heart-warming was the kindness, enthusiasm and friendliness shown by the participants in the cavalcade and in the vehicle show itself. This took place from 10-30am to 6pm in the Market Place and behind the *Grant Arms* and was not competitive. Any local 'cherished' vehicle of any age, whether car, motor bike or commercial vehicle, was welcome in the display. Altogether there were 45 exhibitors, including the Search and Rescue and Greater Manchester Fire Service. There was so much to admire about the vehicles, very few of which had travelled more than five miles to the show, about 25 being Ramsbottom 'residents'. We should also be proud to note how many of them were made in Britain.

On our behalf, Martin HENFIELD presented each owner with a Ramsbottom Heritage Society commemorative plaque. Sincere thanks to all the people who helped to make the show a success.

* Alan WOLSTENCROFT has now reluctantly sold the silver-coloured Morris Minor in which he chauffeured our Festival Finale Day celebrity, Martin HENFIELD. (He owned two other Morris Minors which he is also selling.) He has now bought a miniature Field Marshal tractor which is a copy of a 1950s model.

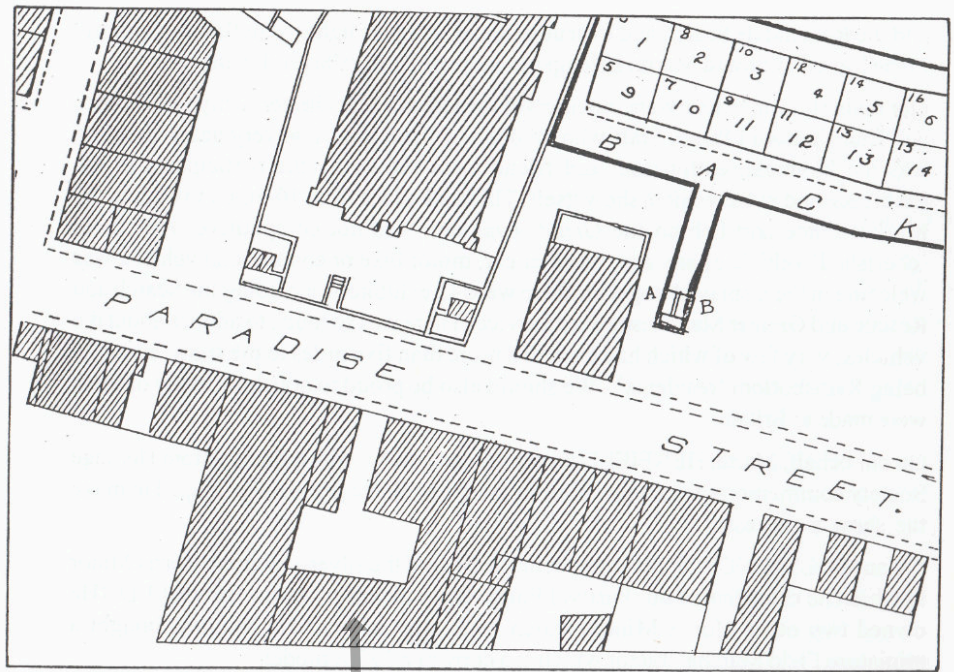
Janet and Ian Smith

'THE MODEL' AND THE 'DOSSER CLASS': RAMSBOTTOM'S LODGING HOUSES AND LODGERS A CENTURY AGO

The end of the 20th Century seems an appropriate point in time from which to survey a social phenomenon very current in the Ramsbottom of 1900 which by 2000 has completely vanished from the town. A little used path drops down from the north end of Market Place, alongside the former Wesleyan Chapel, and emerges by the 1910 electricity supply station on Paradise Street. Located on the opposite side of this incongruously named street, and just visible from the Market Place end of the path, is now one of the least well known public buildings in Ramsbottom, the Model Lodging House. Known as 'The Model' or 'the Doss Mouse', no 8, Paradise Street is a three-storeyed brick building, with pitch stone frontage, boasting lines of three windows on its first and second floors. It has an extension at the rear which must have provided it with rather more internal accommodation than the proportions of its frontage might suggest.

Recollections of The Model

To those older residents who recall The Model from their childhood, it remains a forbidding memory. Perhaps like modern fears about child molesters, there was a mythology, the dangers of which were largely in parental imaginations. Some believed



No 8, 'The Model'

Figure 1: Paradise Street and The Model in 1935, showing the extension to its rear. Christ Church and the electricity station are to the north; alongside the latter, marked A and B on this Ramsbottom Lane Clearance plan, are the two privies which served some of the houses on Back Ramsbottom Lane (Bury Archives)

that men slept hanging on a line of rope. To George Barton KAY, who spent the first 40 years of his life from 1916 in nearby Carlton Place, The Model was the resort of 'tramps, layabouts, odds and sods', located 'behind Wesleyan Row' alongside Christ Church Methodist Chapel. Fred HANSON, who lived in Carr Fold in the 1920s and 1930s, recalls 'the Doss house being situated down Back Bridge Street, down the steps by [WARDLEWORTH's] pork shop. There was no food on and the pork shop bins were always empty'. The Model was 'rough and ready, avoided like the plague'.

Margaret NOLAN lived on Carex Street by Spring Wood, and remembers delivering milk in the 1920s for Lower Dickfield farmer George PICKUP. The Model was always very clean, and she could judge how busy they were depending on whether there was one quart jug outside waiting to be filled, or two. There would be a lace cover to replace. Paradise Street was 'a bit rougher than it is now', and she would go with her sister for safety, but only as far as The Model, since further on was the 'rougher end where we were not allowed to go'. Tramps from as far afield as Rochdale and Rawtenstall would be there. She recalls how 'we always got away

quick if we saw any of the men coming', but admits that nobody had any trouble. There was no local hostility to such transients, and they would often be given whatever could be spared.

Margaret FERGUSON (née SHORE) spent seven years of her childhood in her mother's grocer's shop at the bottom of Carr Street. Yet she too was forbidden from going into nearby Paradise Street on account of The Model, which she thought of as 'a sort of doss house for tramps, down and outs, and old men who had no proper home. In fact all the occupants seemed to be old men.' (RHS, 1996, p36).

George ASHWORTH was born in 1902, and he recalls The Model and a remarkable group of casual workers, the very type likely to be frequenters of the town's lodging houses. It is hard to believe that this roll call, resonant of a distant, almost pre-industrial age, existed even on the margins of the town's social and economic networks within the lifetime of a man who died as recently as 1990:-

I can well remember the days when people were recognised by rather unusual names which connected them closely with their own family, viz Long Toms, Jack o'Molley's, Tom o'Jerry's, Robin o'Bob's, Owd Baa Lamb, Charlie w'it Crutch. Others were Trade Whiskers, Tommy Slap, Sally Slap (they had a toffee stall on the market week by week), John o'th'Greenhill (I have a picture of him stood outside the Co-op shop in Holcombe Village), Bob Worknomore (a very well known person in the town for many years). He had no fixed job, made his living doing errands and odd jobs. Owd Sing Smo (choirmaster at Holcombe Church at one time), Shilling Mangle, Cissy Sixpence, John Willie fro't Turn (he used to walk through Ramsbottom to Tottington for some currant cake, usually saying 'Awn nod so numb, am I?' (He was well-known for knocking the Bobby's hat off.) Tommy Cross was a well-known character in later days. He was the bag carrier for the Ramsbottom Cricket Team. He also acted as the night watchman when outdoor jobs were being carried out, sheltering in a special wooden hut with a roaring coal/coke fire, very attractive to passers by. He was forever cadging cigarettes. Another character was known as Cheadle Bobby - Why? His job was to go round in the dark nights lighting the gas street lights, then turning them off in the morning.

Thinking of all these characters (many of you older folks will remember some of them, I am sure) brings to mind the Lodging House (men only) in Paradise Street, off Bridge Street (behind the Wesleyan Chapel). It was known as 'The Model'. The man in charge lived in a house nearby. At one time most towns had a similar place. These men were mostly called vagrants. So far as my knowledge of them goes they were well behaved people (they did not have enough money to get drunk!) I do not know how much they paid for their accommodation, or just what kind of sleeping accommodation they had. Most of them earned a living by working in the coal yard at Stubbins Lane tilling coal bags. I would say that most of them lived on scraps bought from local shops, ham and bacon bits, cheese, meat, bread etc, the only pan they used was a frying pan. Whenever we had any leftovers - eatables of any sort - it was taken over to them, and they were always very grateful. Some of them would move to other parts of the country (usually in the summer months) visiting smaller places on the way.

'Alice', who knew the town from 1922-34, also recalls 'Work-no-More', a tall man, and a permanent resident of The Model:-

He was always walking around and now and then would earn a few pence or shillings by being a board man, advertising someone's sale or such things - two boards hung over his shoulders. Other people lived at the Model and seemed content. The people who owned the place were very well respected.'

RHS, 1992, p22

'Alice' later refers to one group of temporary residents at The Model which has entirely vanished from Ramsbottom. Before television and radio, various forms of live entertainment were a regular feature of town life:-

Now and then buskers would come through the town and spend a night there [The Model], sometimes going on the Market Place to perform their acts such as lassoing and other acts with whips etc. Then of course about 1926/8 there opened a sort of theatre on the Taproom of the Co-op Hall. It was more of a dancing troupe... the girls seemed to be troupers and moved from town to town.

RHS, 1992, p22

A Contemporary Account

We also have an account of The Model written four years after it was opened, which introduces us to its first owner, William H ENTWISTLE. John Joseph RILEY, proprietor of the town's newspaper, the *Ramsbottom Observer*, may well have personally visited the establishment, for an early edition carried the following description:-

How the Poor live. A Visit to the Ramsbottom Model Lodging House

The building in question is of stone and some idea of its size may be formed when it is stated there are in it, for the use of the lodgers, 72 beds single and double. I was met by the courteous proprietor, Mr ENTWISTLE, and was at once escorted by him to what is known as the kitchen or dining room. This is a large lofty hall and it is in here that the lodgers live. It is fitted with strong, useful tables having zinc tops together with forms and chairs, whilst in the centre is a large stove at which the cooking is done. At the time of our entry, there were about a dozen of the inmates grouped around the fire, one of them being a woman who was discussing with evident relish a short clay pipe filled with bad tobacco. There were several labourers who had been forced to idleness through the snow, but it was by one particular group, that of a young man, his wife and two children that my attention was particularly arrested.

They had an air of respectability about them which was altogether out of touch with their surroundings. The place was heated throughout by steam. Each of the lodgers had a cupboard in which to store their food.

We next passed into the washhouse, which is very well fitted up and then my conductor took me through the bedrooms, whose cleanliness and cheerful appearance struck me, to use common parlance, 'all of a heap'. I had never imagined that in so large a place cleanliness could be observed to such a degree as I found here. All the beds have spring mattresses and not only is each bed provided with an adequate amount of clothes, but they are superbly clean and fit for anybody of whatever station to sleep upon. The rooms are well heated and ventilated and nothing is lacking to ensure the comfort of the guests. The majority of the lodgers were of a respectable type. 'Of course,' he said, 'there are exceptions and many times we have a row. But we soon fetch the police and if they do not be quiet they are turned out and then locked up. Taken as a whole they are very orderly, and especially so when you consider the class of people we have to deal with.'

Ramsbottom Observer, 19th February 1892

There was an extension/outbuildings in the rear yard, and it is not clear whether the 72 beds 'single and double' that were mentioned in this 1892 report were all contained in the building that is there today.

Origins of The Model

The nickname derives from the adoptive nature of much local government legislation in the 19 Century, central government preparing a set of Model Bye-Laws which could be adopted by local authorities. William ENTWISTLE's establishment in Paradise Street, opened in 1888, was the first lodging house in the town to comply fully with them, hence the nickname. John TAYLOR, who drew the cover illustration for this issue earlier this year, tells me that the Bacup Naturalists Society premises in Yorkshire Street was a model lodging house, and had the same nickname. In 1987, a small group of local people toyed with the idea of using the old Model as a visitor centre for the tourists that the newly reopening railway was expected to bring. Consequently, I had the opportunity to examine photocopies of Paradise Street's deeds. These indicated that this portion of Ramsbottom had been known as Calf Croft. Part of the Ramsbottom estate which the GRANTs had bought in 1808, the strip of land now covered by the assorted buildings on Paradise Street was in the 1870s and 1880s gradually leased off plot by plot, to local businessmen, development moving northwards along the street's eastern side. Thus builder James GARNETT erected no 8, formally leasing its plot on 13th October 1879, by which time work had probably finished. GARNETT belonged to the Lancaster family of architect-builders responsible for the erection of most of the major buildings in the town. This could have been a speculative construction, sold on immediately - the early uses to which no 8 were put are not known. One George HOLDING, Householder, is listed at no 8 in BARRETT's 1888 Directory. On 3rd December of that year, the Ramsbottom Local Board of Health, the late 19th Century precursor of the Urban District Council, had granted Mr William H ENTWISTLE a licence for 'his New Lodging House in Paradise Street'.

By 1888, lodging houses had come a long way from the days earlier in the century when a row of itinerants could, for a penny each, get what sleep they could hanging 'on the line' of rope which was strung across the room of some doss house, or lie on straw for 2d. By the late 1800s, you could expect a bed for the night for around 6d, though you would usually be sharing it with strangers! Before 1905, there was in English law no agreed definition of a 'common lodging house'. The Public Health Act of 1875, which attempted to regulate such establishments, was interpreted as excluding lodgings let to the middle classes or in inns, and applying to houses in which persons 'of the poorer classes' (the 'dosser class', as contemporary legalese quaintly termed them) who were strangers to one another, were put up for one to six nights, sleeping in shared rooms either in shared beds or (in the up-market institutions) in separate cubicles, and having the use of other shared rooms. At a time when food could only be cooked in a normal kitchen, and long before the appearance of the modern flat, it was common in 19th Century towns and cities for households to take in lodgers, this being the easiest way for short stay workers to be housed. Census returns reveal how common this was in Ramsbottom, but at what point did a housewife taking in lodgers from her husband's workplace become a common lodging house keeper, needing the same degree of official control as the proprietor of a house with tens of beds? This problem of definition made it difficult for the State to control a social phenomenon about which it had very real concerns. Lodging houses experienced cyclical overcrowding with seasonal workers like haymakers, fairground and show people, and those marginal workers who were forced out of rented housing by spells of unemployment. It had long been recognised that overcrowded populations were susceptible to disease; there was also the ease with which a lodging house could evolve into a 'house of bad repute' - i.e. a brothel; more generally Victorian sensitivities about the sexual intemperance encouraged by unregulated and overcrowded sleeping arrangements were increased by the more material fact that it was the very poorest who in consequence were most likely to overbreed, with implications for the level of the poor rate; and there were the law and order issues which historically have always attached to poor, transient populations.

The Invisible Lodging Houses of Ramsbottom

Despite the rich social history that a study of such lodging houses seems to offer, any modern local historian will share the frustrations of 19th Century local officials when trying to identify these places. The absence of a clear definition made it difficult to insist on registration, even though the 1875 Public Health Act required all local councils and health boards (a) to keep a register, and (b) to insist that each establishment had an external notice carrying the words 'Registered Common Lodging-house'. Of Ramsbottom's lodging houses, all but The Model have long been demolished. The only reference to such short stay accommodation that I have found in the town's trade directory entries is Miss Elizabeth WOLSINGHOLME (WOLSTENHOLME)'s house at 32, Crow Lane, which appeared in BARRETT'S 1883 Directory followed by the word 'lodgings' (TODD, 1986, p90). This late 19th

Century property, however, would have been a world away from the rougher, dilapidated semi-slums to which the 'dossier class' resorted.

Such haunts were never listed in trade directories, because the respectable and commercial classes who bought these 19th Century equivalents of our yellow pages never stayed at them. Judging from census returns, the common lodging houses were away from the immediate town centre, usually at the north end of the town, in some of the earliest purpose built industrial housing which accompanied the construction of the ASHTON Brothers' Ramsbottom Mill in 1802. Some were in 'Irish Row', the back-to-back terrace which, prior to demolition in 1935, occupied what is now the wooded area on the eastern side of Ramsbottom Lane, opposite Carlton Terrace and the alpinely gradiented Ox Hey Close. The compilers of SLATER's 1888 Directory politely omitted 'Irish Row' from their pages as well as the adjacent 'Eight Row', which I believe was also called 'Wesleyan Row', the back-to-back terrace of 16 houses which occupied what is now the grassed area by the Market Place bus bay. There is a 1930s pre-demolition photograph of these houses in (RHS, 1995, p 11). The front line of single dwellings in 'Irish Row' were two storeyed, but as the terrace had been built on sloping ground, the rear dwellings on Back Ramsbottom Lane had three storeys, making them ideal for taking lodgers. This was the area, 'Factory Bottom', that Margaret NOLAN was forbidden to enter, and whose houses Margaret KAY, recalled from her childhood as 'horrible'.

The Local Board of Health and Ramsbottom's Lodging Houses The minute books of Ramsbottom Local Board of Health, available at Bury Archives, are one of the few sources of evidence about these lodging houses. Ramsbottom's first foray into modern local government dates from its rather belated formation of a local board of health in April 1864. Within a year, the new board had acquired legal powers over insanitary nuisances and building quality by adopting Bacup's byelaws 'off the shelf. On 3rd June 1867 the Board's Inspector of Nuisances was asked to look into state of the town's common lodging houses and report. It may be that the register of common lodging houses, required by the 1875 Public Health Act and mentioned elsewhere in the minutes, began at this time, but it does not appear to have survived. Nor does the Inspector's report. The Board's actions with regard to lodging houses are, at this early stage, therefore not easy to pursue. There are occasional references to the register in the board minutes, as on 8th February 1872, when Michael DEVET applied to have 34, Ramsbottom Lane, in 'Irish Row', registered as a common lodging house. This was refused on the grounds that the house only afforded enough room for DEVET's own family. No doubt DEVET continued to take lodgers as before - the census returns of 1881 and 1891 reveal that many of these Ramsbottom Lane houses had one or two lodgers or boarders. On the following 6th January, Job RILEY's request for registration of 38, Ramsbottom Lane was approved.

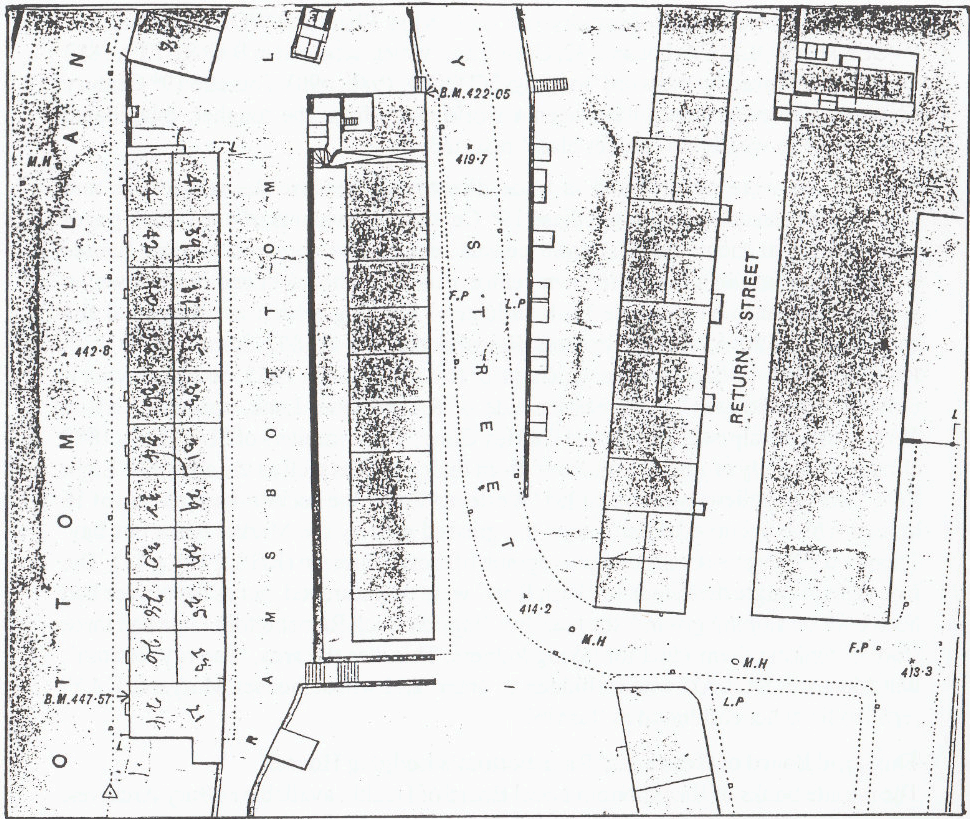


Figure 2: Nos 21-44, Ramsbottom Lane ('Irish Row'), Factory Street and Return Street in 1891, as shown in a 66% reduction of the 10.56 feet to the mile OS map (Bury Library)

The 1891 10 foot Ordnance Survey map indicates that 38, also in 'Irish Row', was identically proportioned to 34, so presumably RILEY's family was rather smaller.

Rather belatedly, a Medical Officer of Health to the Board was appointed in December 1873, James SMITH being the first postholder. For a few years, we have a little more detail of the town's lodging houses, for his early reports were copied into the Board's minute books. From the outset, Dr SMITH was expressing concern about lodging houses, his very first report dated 5th January 1874 citing their overcrowding as 'a fruitful source of evil, and . . . not, I am sorry to say, confined to lodging houses' - overcrowding was a norm in the town. Amidst such a universal problem of inadequate housing, crowded lodging houses were a low priority, remaining so until finally tackled by the Board in the 1890s.

Dr SMITH'S report of 4th January 1875 related how 'a placard' had been issued insisting on immediate registration, 'but so little notice has been taken of it, that we have only been able to inspect one such house.' It was a Catch 22 situation which, as we shall see, was to be lamented in the *Ramsbottom Observer* 16 years later - that enforcement of standards could occur only if a house were registered with the Board yet the Board had no powers to compel registration. Powers did exist, however, to close temporarily or permanently any house which its Medical Officer of Health deemed unfit for human habitation, and this was how the Board proceeded. Thus on 10th January 1881 the Board minuted that Mrs WALSH's house in Return Street should be closed 'for a time'. But there was little use of such powers before 1891.

Return Street: 'a low neighbourhood'

No living person will be familiar with Return Street, and perhaps that is just as well. A few yards behind 'Irish Row', this terrace of 16 dwellings, ten of which were back-to-back, included some of the town's worst lodging houses. Occupying a site later used for the telephone exchange at the corner of Factory Street, these properties were some of the poorest and most rudimentary in the town, with street utilities to match. A report in the *Ramsbottom Observer* of 16th January 1891 related

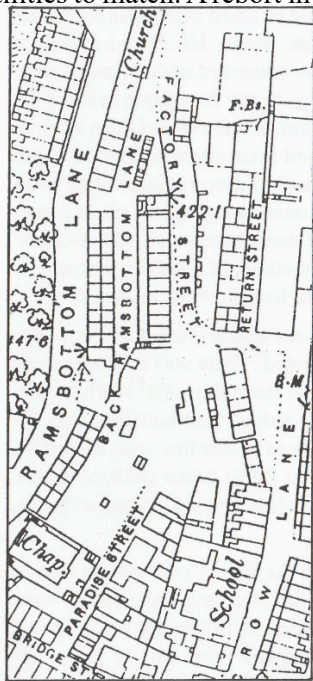


Figure 3: Ramsbottom's Lodging House Land, 1893, as shown on the 25 inch OS map

how a burst in an old water tank at Factory Bottom Mill (then occupied by cotton spinner William RUMNEY) flooded houses in Return Street to a depth of one to two feet, all the sewers being blocked with a covering of ice. There were no cellars to take the worst of the flood water, which inundated the kitchens 'where the families lived and in some cases slept'. This could have been because the bedrooms were occupied by lodgers.

Return Street is a little known part of our town. It was sufficiently awful to be cleared long before the late 1930s assault on sub-standard town centre housing. Oddly, I have found no mention of it in any trade directory, nor in any account of Ramsbottom's past, even though its houses must have been some of the earliest in the town. An embarrassment to the respectable, Return Street has been airbrushed out of the town's recorded history. Its inhabitants do not appear in electoral registers, and I have never seen or heard of a photograph. It was subsumed under under the name 'Factory Bottom' in the earlier censuses, and only identified by name in 1871, 1881 and 1891. The houses carried the odd numbers from 1 to 31 in the 1881 returns,

but only one, no 31, was described by the enumerator as a lodging house. This had 11 boarders on census night (3rd April). Unregistered houses were evidently not classified as lodging houses. But there is a wealth of very telling evidence about this disreputable spot in the columns of the *Ramsbottom Observer*, in its reports of drunken disturbances, and worse, which came before Bury's Police Court. I suspect that some of its female inhabitants were prostitutes. Return Street must have had an appalling reputation around the turn of the 20th Century, and the town's great and good must have longed to see it razed to the ground.

In 1987, I combed the earliest issues of the *Ramsbottom Observer* from April 1890 to March 1892, and was much impressed by the number of references to Return Street, none complimentary. In particular, the names of one internecine couple, James and Catherine MARSDEN, appeared so frequently as to invite profound sympathy for any genealogist unlucky enough find them on their own family tree. By October 1890 a magistrate could claim that they had together clocked up some 30 court appearances for drunkenness, foul language, brawling, and attacking the unfortunate police constables who had to patrol this area in pairs. One officer, Constable BROOKS, opined of the couple in court that 'the life of one would be taken as in these rows they used such dangerous instruments', whilst a magistrate, Henry HEYS, who lived in James Terrace, Ramsbottom Lane, and may well have witnessed or heard personally some of this anti-social behaviour, offered at one stage to pay the couple to leave the town. MARSDEN served several short prison sentences, and the two of them seemed to have a standing arrangement for someone to mind their establishments in case they were in custody simultaneously. Nos 3, 5, and 11 Return Street had been registered in the Board's committee minutes as common lodging houses in James MARSDEN's name on 6th September 1888, whilst *Observer* reports also connected no 7 with him. MARSDEN appears to have been something of a lodging house 'Mr Big' in the town, and not one likely to be supine if his livelihood were attacked.

It may be that the Local Board found it difficult to act against such lodging house keepers because the beds they provided were in demand. There was a serious trade slump in the mid-1880s, and this would have forced some marginal workers into lodging houses either to search for work, or simply to reduce their housing costs. By 1890, trade had eased, and the Board could perhaps take a harder line - nos 21 and 23, Return Street were closed that year (UDRA 1/5, 8th Sept 1890). Since 1888, of course, the town had had an alternative resort for its 'dosser class' at no 8, Paradise Street.

Hardship in the Winter of 1890-1 : the 'Great Frost'

The harsh winter of 1890/1 may have slowed down the Board's assault on Return Street. There was a good deal of snow. In January 1891, the Bury magistrates were fining Ramsbottom youths 2s 6d and costs or a week in prison for snowballing young women in Bridge Street, the chairman stating that 'this sort of thing was becoming an intolerable nuisance'. There had been snow on the ground since November, and a frost was to clasp the area for ten weeks, so hard that there was skating on mill lodges in the town (RO, 9th and 30th January 1891). Weather of this

severity had a direct and immediate impact on the 'dosser class', but could also generate significant hardship for classes of worker who normally had no call to stay in lodging houses. By 16th January, soup kitchens were appearing in the Rossendale Valley, the *Observer* describing the distress amongst quarrymen and the free dinners on offer at Stacksteads Liberal Club. The 'Great Frost' had by then lasted eight weeks, and a public meeting of influential gentlemen discussed how the plight of the unemployed might be relieved by the Local Board extending its main sewage scheme from Hazel Street to Holcombe Brook. The Rev William Henry CORBOULD, whose parish of St Paul's covered Central Ward, the poorest in the town, suggested that there was very little town centre distress - outdoor workers (the most likely to be laid off in the frost) were commonest in Holcombe, Shuttleworth and Edenfield. But there was, then as now, no consensus about the issue of the unemployed - someone opined that there was not one case of genuine distress in any of those places.

A fortnight later, an impassioned letter from one Frank LOMAX angrily refuted, in Dickensian tones, such a generalisation. There were, he wrote, cases of families resorting to the pawn shop and the workhouse. Indeed, one man had been taken to the workhouse 'bereft of reason', but:-

the stomach was more ailing than the mind and this man was helped by Mr Henry HEYS on the Monday before Christmas Day and I am told that he relished the potato pie which was bought for him at Mr COOPER'S restaurant No poor indeed! Ask the shopkeepers. Note the changes there have been over the last few years in the names of the shopkeepers and you will find that many shopkeepers are very poor, simply from the fact that they help the poor.

LOMAX was of course drawing attention to what we now term the 'multiplier effect' which, in this context, meant that any tradesman who numbered the poor amongst his customers would also be hit by ten weeks of frost. A woman millworker, he related, was summonsed for non-payment of her cemetery rate. This was settled by a shopkeeper, for whom she was now working one evening a week to pay off the debt (RO, 30th January 1891).

In the same week's issue, however, the Local and District News reported, in memorable prose, how the thaw had set in earlier that week:-

the River Irwell into whose rapids the sizer, dyer, papermaker and local board cart cast their refuse with as much enthusiasm as the Hindoo mother casts her offspring into the Ganges was flooded to a greater extent than has been known for nearly a quarter of a century. However the snow has entirely disappeared, the Great Frost is a thing of the past, and best of all the outdoor worker has a chance to earn bread and fire for himself and children. For those who in the best of times live on the edge of Want, this has so far been a memorable winter.

It could be that the bad winter had led to overcrowding in the town's worst lodging houses, thus raising Return Street's insalubrious profile to the local establishment; and perhaps with the worst of the winter over, the Board could now deal more robustly with this festering issue. It instigated a series of midnight raids on some of the street's worst unregistered lodging establishments, having warned them that they risked prosecution if they continued to trade.

The Local Board's Tough Line

One cannot envy the work of Sanitary Inspector William JACKSON, who had the unenviable task of fronting this operation. He visited 15, Return Street at 12-40am on 7th Feb 1891, finding four lodgers there - two for one night, and two 'weekly lodgers who had been with them a couple of months'. (The latter would not be covered by the 1875 Public Health Act which applied only to lodgers who were staying for less than a week.) William WILD, Clerk to the Local Board, told Bury County Police Court the following Monday how this house, run by Edward RAFTIES, was 'the lowest in Ramsbottom ... in a low neighbourhood and quite unfit to be registered'. Indeed, the proprietor had never applied to the Local Board for registration, so he had been summoned for using his house as an unlicensed common lodging house, contrary to the 1875 Act. RAFTIES was fined 5s with costs (RO, 20th February 1891).

Knowing the MARSDENs' reputation for drunken violence, one can only marvel at JACKSON's courage in visiting their lodging houses the same night. Accompanied by a policeman ('it was scarcely safe to go alone') JACKSON had in the early hours of 7th February found lodgers at 5 and 7, Return Street, Catherine MARSDEN being summoned as proprietress at the same sessions. There was, claimed WILD, only one registered lodging house in the town [viz 8, Paradise Street] and the MARSDENs had had notice as of 6th February that they could take no more lodgers. James MARSDEN, appearing for his wife, claimed that his property had been on the register for two years and four months, that at registration the inspector had informed him he could take 39 lodgers in his seven rooms, and that he had been issued with a copy of the relevant regulations. WILD insisted that the house was 'not fit ... in such a filthy state'. MARSDEN had applied several times and the Board had resolved in January not to allow him a licence. The Board was on weak ground legally, for one of the summonsed addresses had indeed been registered in 1888. The Bench dismissed the summons, but stressed to MARSDEN that his houses were not now registered and threatened him with more serious treatment if he continued taking in lodgers. MARSDEN, his livelihood under threat, now got into a heated argument with the court, in which he vainly tried to establish that the registration had taken place:-

MARSDEN: 'What am I to do with my beds?'

Police Superintendent HENDERSON: 'Bring them under the hammer.'

MARSDEN: 'I shall not I will have the books searched through. I am registered and I shall find it.'

Mr HALL: 'You can't read.'

MARSDEN: 'No, but I'll get someone that can'. Laughter.

MARSDEN then stepped down from the box, raftily asserting his "rights".

Ramsbottom Observer, 20th February 1891

Within a fortnight, the Board heard that 'the owners of a well known lodging house in Return Street' were not complying with the police court's judgement. Hearsay suggested that the MARSDENs had seven, nine or 11 lodgers at a time. Unfortunately, because the house was now unregistered, the Board's officers had no powers to enter the property to gain the necessary evidence (RO, 6th March 1891).

A further prosecution occurred later that month. Sanitary Inspector William JACKSON had again taken life in hands and entered one the MARSDENs' houses. On 14th March he had found five 'show' people and six others, weekly lodgers, in four bedrooms of dimensions 15 feet by 11 feet, and 8 feet 6 inches high, 'dirty . . . and insanitary', though the buildings could be adapted as lodging houses after certain alterations. MARSDEN undertook to keep them clean (RO, 27th March 1891). The Board must have seethed. Thwarted, it now seems to have rediscovered its power to close any house which the Medical Officer of Health declared unfit for human habitation.

Just three weeks later, the census, taken on the night of 5th April 1891, sheds interesting light on the final weeks of Return Street's lodging houses. The Local Board was evidently having some success in its campaign to close them down. There were now just seven addresses on the street, of which no 3 was 'uninhabited' and just one was a lodging house - nos 5 and 7, a double address, were enumerated as a single 'Lodging House', with nine lodgers. Catherine MARSDEN, who we know was the proprietress, was recorded as a cotton weaver, at no 2, Factory Street. It seems to have been common for the owners of these places to have additional occupations and to live elsewhere - Edward RAFTIES, whose no 15, Return Street was missing from the census enumeration, closed following his prosecution in February, appears as a gas stoker at no 16, Factory Street, where he had two lodgers. James MARSDEN himself, whom I suspect from the 1883 directory doubled as a chimney sweep, was also 'off site' on census night, but for a different reason - he was in police custody.

This time, it was for a rather more serious offence than brawling with his wife, or keeping an unregistered lodging house - a charge almost certainly involving sexual abuse had brought MARSDEN before the courts in the spring of 1891, when he was convicted of a 'criminal assault' on 10 year old Charlotte JONES, also of Return Street. The girl's mother, Sarah Ann JONES, was judged unfit to be in charge of the child - MARSDEN claimed that he and Mrs JONES had settled the issue over 'a pint of ale'. The committing magistrate, Dr FLETCHER, commented on the unsuitable nature of the little girl's environment, placing her into the Victorian version of local authority care, ie Bury Workhouse, with a view to her

being sent to an industrial school. ‘If she were to be brought up for another year or two, he opined, she would be as bad as some of those were whose cases were brought up there.’ (RO, 3rd April, 1st May 1891). I suspect that the *Ramsbottom Observer* did not report sex cases - there are no charges of prostitution, for example, in the issues I searched. The veiled report of the MARSDEN case, and the above hints from FLETCHER about the sorts of offences that he routinely encountered, may be the nearest we get to discovering the true character of some of those houses on Return Street.

MARSDEN’s absence may have allowed the Board to finish off Return Street with a minimum of opposition. Just six days after he was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment at Manchester Assizes, nos 1 to 19 were declared unfit for human habitation and closed at the same time as the adjacent 2 to 18, Factory Street (UDRA 1/5,4th May 1891). Presumably the whole terrace was demolished later that decade.

Inmates of The Model: the Census Evidence

In fact, market forces had probably finished off these original lodging houses, their custom base having deserted to The Model. The returns for the census of 5th April 1891 reveal the name, marital status, age, occupation and birthplace of every person resident in Britain. Thus we have detailed data on each person who spent that night at no 8, Paradise Street. As well as William ENTWISTLE, his wife and two daughters, there were 43 lodgers viz four married couples and 35 individuals (ie unaccompanied by anyone of the same surname) - 34 men and an unmarried 69 year old female hawkers. Of the 34 men, 25 were unmarried, seven married, and two widowed. Ages ranged from 19 to 80. Only two, the 80 year old man and one of the four wives, claimed to have no occupation, though we cannot know whether the other 41 were actually in work. Of the remaining wives, two worked in cotton card rooms, and one was a servant. The three commonest male occupations were stone labourer and coal labourer (confirming George ASHWORTH’s statement that The Model often housed casual labourers from the railway yards on Stubbins Lane) and workers in textiles, six apiece. There were four other labourers, including one farm labourer. Apart from two tailors and two cloggers, all the other inmates had unique occupations which reflected the economic diversity of the town - quarryman, mason, blacksmith, cooper, carter, ironworker, servant, groom/ostler, machine breaker-up, road labourer for the local board and a mineral water maker.

Only one in three had moved more than 40 miles from their claimed birthplace:-

Bury-Edenfield valley corridor	11	Liverpool	3
Elsewhere in Lancashire	12	Yorkshire	2
Ireland	8		
Cheshire, Cumberland, Durham, London, Staffordshire, Scotland, and Unknown	1 each		

This is the nearest we are likely ever to get to a profile of Ramsbottom’s ‘dossier class’ in the late 19th Century.

By the time of living memory, The Model seems to have become more of a hostel for unskilled male workers without family, rather than the common lodging house as envisaged in 1875, accommodating casual workers for less than a week. The number of non-casual trades represented in the 1891 returns suggests that this was a trend already evident towards the end of the 19th Century.

'The Mansion of the Aching Hearts'

Whilst Return Street may figure in the columns of the *Ramsbottom Observer*, there were certainly other lodging houses in the town which did not. Fred HANSON, who lived in Carr Fold and worked Ramsbottom Station Signalbox in the 1930s, remembers how third class travellers arriving at the station, or enquirers at the *Railway Hotel*, would be sent to a lodging house in the Union Street/King Street area. First class passengers would be directed to the *Grant Arms*.

Fred also recalls playing as a boy in the 1920s at the 'top of Tory Town', where his friends the BRENNANs lived in the end house of the famous stilted terrace of six, at the south end of Albert Street. 'Tory Town' was 'upper crust, apart from that end', Fred says. Adjacent to the BRENNANs were two large semi-detached three-storey houses. Nothing now remains of the huge building which, until demolition sometime

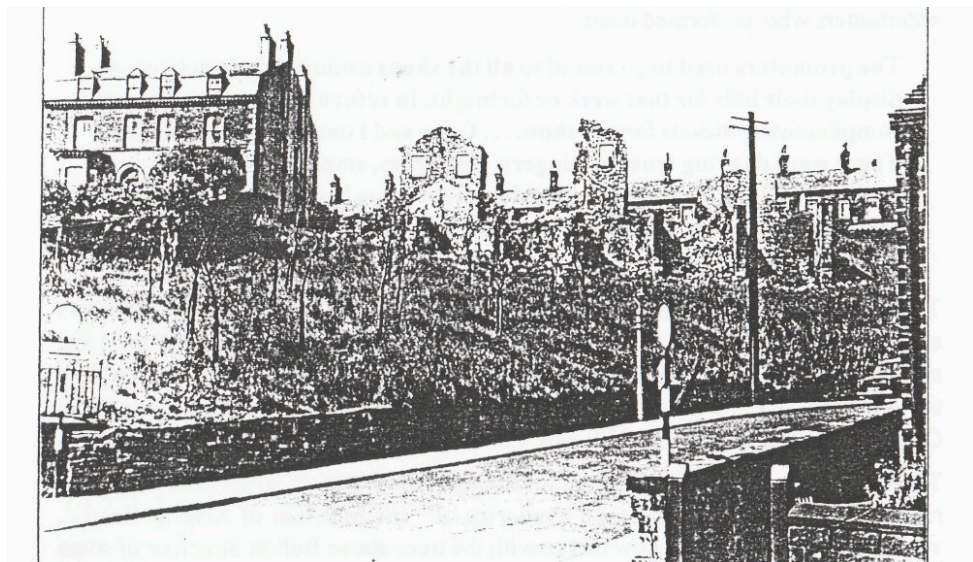


Figure 4: 'The Mansion of the Aching Hearts' in its final years, the theatrical lodging house which stood to the left of nos 91-101, Albert Street (Bury Archives)

in the 1960s or 70s, dominated the ground leading down to Bolton Street. Its site has since 1980 been occupied by a bungalow which fronts onto Albert Street. It was clearly visible from the stretch of Bolton Street around the junction with Cross Street and Callender Street (see *Figure 4* also RHS, 1995, p 18). Known as *Mount Villas*, this grand pair of houses had probably been built in the 1870s by James ANDERTON, Ramsbottom's 19th Century equivalent of our Barrett Houses. Stone mason, builder and contractor, and later surveyor to the Local Board, he erected much of the housing around St Paul's Church. Numbered 100 and 102, Bolton Street, *Mount Villas*, overlooked their own extensive, sloping gardens, the steps up to which can still be seen, often littered and beleafed, in the retaining wall opposite Lodge Terrace. Beyond, nearly lost in the trees, is a corner of brickwork with neatly dressed stone quoins, all that survives of the garden wall. ANDERTON himself lived in no 100. By the time of living memory, *Mount Villas* had fallen on poorer times, a genteel skid row, having become lodging houses. No 102, or possibly both, had the universally used epithet of 'the Mansion of Aching Hearts'. Fred HANSON recalls that by the 1920s it was 'scruffy, a lot of real down and outs ... a place to be avoided'. He had been told by an elderly local that amongst the Mansion's residents were war widows (hence the name) who held seances. An alternative origin of this odd nickname may be the building's association with transients, especially of the thespian persuasion. Margaret FERGUSON remembers the Co-op theatre, its shows, and some of the bizarre travelling entertainers who performed there:-

The promoters used to go round to all the shops asking the proprietors to display their bills for that week or fortnight. In return they were given two complimentary tickets for any show.... Gran and I took advantage of them, There were dancing troupes, singers, conjurors, small plays — and .. a hypnotist. He came on with what I presume was his stooge. Supposedly hypnotised the poor man and then stuck a large needle through the man's tongue (RHS, 1996, p51).

The 1932 Register of Electors shows John and Margaret LEAHY as the householders at no 100, whilst Henry Saville and Ethel FAULDER were at no 102. Each house had six additional adult residents. Margaret NOLAN recalls Mr and Mrs FAULDER putting up 'theatrical types' who performed in concerts in the top floor theatre of the nearby Co-operative Hall. Mr FAULDER was 'flamboyant', and wore a cravat!

There is now no possibility of further information about Return Street from any living resident, but a number may have memories of 'the Mansion of Aching Hearts', whose overgrown gardens now merge with the trees above Bolton Street, or of some other of the town's lodging houses. We would be delighted to hear from them.

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Andrew Todd

THE MYSTERY OF THE BUTCHER'S VANISHING TELEPHONE

Amongst the thousands of items in the Ramsbottom Heritage Society Collection is a horde of old bills, all dated 1914-1918, which were received by Mr Edward Hill GREENWOOD, prosperous butcher, with a shop at 31, Bridge Street and an abattoir and houses on Bolton Road West. They are truly fascinating, throwing light on the way of life at that time. For instance the Government insisted that special insurance be taken out in case of air raids - a wise precaution, since a Zeppelin did indeed bomb Holcombe. The collection was described in issue no 5 of this magazine, and the butcher's grandchildren were able to flesh out the topic in no 6 (Summer and Winter 1992).

Mr GREENWOOD had a pony and trap for deliveries, and bills relating to harness repairs and shoeing, as well as bills from J S CORDINGLEY of Haslingden (a family firm still trading today) for repairs to his recently acquired Arrol-Johnston, no doubt his pride and joy. He was one of the first of the people in Ramsbottom to own a car, Dr DEANS and the LOBLEY family on Bolton Road West being other early owners. One can imagine the thrill it would be just to glimpse this car on the street, let alone the delight of actually riding in it. Mr GREENWOOD'S 1916 car licence survives - it cost £4-4s-0d (four guineas).

A telephone bill shows that in 1915, 500 calls were made to the cost of £2-0s-0d, but in 1916 a letter from the Telephone Office in Bolton confirms that Phone Number 87 (one of the earliest in the town) would be removed on 31st July.

The mystery was - why did a flourishing business want to dispense with the phone? This has puzzled the Society for some time. Certainly the First World War was a difficult time for many small tradesmen. Fortunately Mrs Doris HILLARY, granddaughter of Edward Hill GREENWOOD, recently recalled for us that as a little girl she was looked after by her grandmother while her mother delivered orders, walking with a large basket on her arm, often in atrocious weather, as far

as Holcombe Brook. This became necessary as Mr GREENWOOD'S three sons all went into the army in the Great War, as did his other male staff.

One can imagine what hassle there was with the many war-time restrictions, he would be greatly annoyed when customers rang with a second small order - perhaps for 'two lamb cutlets up for lunch' from the big houses on the Moor Bottom, Holcombe - on the same day, which would mean another long walk for his daughter, with basket on arm. So he finally decided enough was enough, the phone had to go, its usefulness outweighed by its nuisance value.

Mrs HILLARY also recalls how her father, Jack GREENWOOD, supplied meat in the 1930s to Colonel Austin Townsend PORRITT, who by then had left the area to live at Grange-over-Sands. Two special baskets with locks would be taken to Ramsbottom Station in time for the 8-45am train, one on Tuesdays, the other on Fridays. There would be a change of trains, hence no doubt the locks, and a chauffeur would meet the train at Grange, bringing the empty for the return journey. This practice was only ended by the introduction of meat rationing in World War II.

It was Jack GREENWOOD who sold to Harold WALMSLEY in 1946, in which family the shop has remained.

Dorothy Moss

Coincidentally, as this magazine was in preparation, it was reported in the Bury Times of 3rd November 2000 (p 23) that the WALMSLEYS' connection with the Bridge Street shop had just ended, Harold's son Eric having retired after 38 years in the business. Editor

JAMES HORROCKS: SOME INCIDENTS IN THE VICISSITUDES OF HIS LIFE

This autobiographical piece, written nearly a century ago by a local self-made man, was submitted to the Society's Collection some years ago, and was apparently typed at the time of writing. Whilst its subject matter is not exclusively about Ramsbottom, it has sufficient association with the town and insight into patterns of employment, investment and movement to justify inclusion. The punctuation and wording are as in the original text. Editor

I was born at Greenfields Farm, Shuttleworth near Edenfield, Lancashire, on December 2nd 1828. When I was about 5 years old, my parents removed to a place called *Brass Row'* in the vicinity of Edenfield. At that time I went to school for about 18 months, then my father took a farm near to the house in which we were living and at this period my sisters and brothers worked at Mr John ROSTRON'S mill better known as Pinch Dicky's mill, there being three sisters and two brothers, Rachel, Alice and Sarah, and John and Tom, I was then the odd lad about the farm, milking cows etc; this at the age of seven years. My brother John got married and left to work at Charles OPENSHAW'S, Butcher Lane, Bury, as a loom overlooker, at this time a great event happened. The mill where my sisters worked, stopped for

cotton, and never any more came, and that put them all out of work, my father said he would keep them until more cotton came, but they got tired of waiting, so they went and looked for work and managed to get situations at Limefield Mill² near Bury, this would be about the year 1841.

Then my father and I went to work for my eldest brother, George who was managing a length of road from Edenfield Bar to Limefield³, Bury, I should then be 13 years of age and continued working with my father on that road for about three years.

About this time the country was completely upset in consequence of the plug drawing, then, my parents would have me to go into the Mill to learn weaving; my brother John had sent for our Tom who was also working at Limefield to go to him at Bury and he would teach him overlooking⁴. So Tom went while I remained at Limefield Mill for two years, when John came up for me to go and take Tom's place, I was then 18 years of age; after I had served three years apprenticeship with my brother John, I got looms for myself.

I went to London Exhibition for twelve days and to Dublin for a week in the year 1851 ; at that time I was very fond of dancing, and this went on for about four years, then I got married which settled that job. My Father and Mother were then living in Walmersley Road, Bury, so as all their children were married, they went back to my brother George at Shuttleworth, there after a time they died, my mother first at the age of 70 years, and my father at the age of 87.

About 1855 I set up house in Farnhill [sic], Bury, where my daughter Emma was born, in a short time after my wife's father died, at a beer house in Rock Street Bury, and my mother-in-law wished us to go and live with her, but I strongly objected to going unless I took stock and went on my own account, so it was settled that way; my mother-in-law, her youngest daughter and eldest son to live with us, and bonny job I had with them. This went on for about five years, I had kept to my work at the mill all the time but at last I gave notice to leave after being there 12 1/2 years; I was making money at the beerhouse but I did not like the job; we had two sons born at this place, William and Adam.

In six months after leaving the mill, a Mr ANDREWS, from Top of Hebers near Middleton, turned up, and asked me to work for him, so I sold the business out and went to Hebers, May 1st 1860, taking a small house in Plunder Town near Middleton, at which place my daughter Helena was born; I had made close upon £400 up to that time so I lent £300 to Mr ANDREWS at 5%, I received 28/- per week standing wage. I fixed all the looms for this gentleman, and started them working, managing them for a length of time, after which we got a man in my place, and I fitted up a bleaching shed and followed bleaching the remainder of my stay with Mr ANDREWS, about 4 1/4 years, and managed the whole place when Mr ANDREWS was absent.

I went to London exhibition in the year 1862, I was then living at Top of Hebers and in a short time after this my wife died and left me with four children, one a week old.

I did not get on very well for a time but at last I went to see my brother George at Shuttleworth and got his daughter Alice to come and help me, she did very well but in five months my youngest child died, and was interred at the Brunswick Chapel Bury with its mother.

After that, I was very often over at Bury, my friend Hugh BIRCH, was at that time keeping the *Old Boars Head*, Moorside, Bury, with him was Miss BIRCH his sister, who was his housekeeper and barmaid; well ! I wanted a housekeeper too, so one day I asked Miss BIRCH if she did not think of making a home for herself, and she said, "What do you mean?", so I explained to her, and after a considerable length of time (so it looked to me) she consented to become my wife, that was on the 10th March 1863 so all went well and we were married on the 24th of June the same year. After the usual time we had a little girl born which however did not live very long; I was still going on with my bleaching for Mr ANDREWS, but he was going on at such a speed I was afraid of losing my money, so I gave him notice that I wanted it back; when I got it back my services, of course, were no longer required, although I had been my a great friend to him often finding wages for the men. So then I was out of work, and had only been married about twelve months, with three children and a new wife, just a nice job for a young man like me, 34 years old.

Emma and Adam were going to school and Helena, a little dumpy thing, two years old, was very nice company for the new mother, and they liked one another very much. I went about, up and down looking for work, visiting several towns in Yorkshire, and was away six or seven days, but trade was very bad, so after a few weeks and whilst I was waiting for work at PLATTS of Oldham, my wife said, why not look after a business for ourselves?, I said "Well! You have sold beer and so have I, so let us have another round at it, I can see nothing else at present"; so we went looking about, to a great many places for many a week. At last we heard about the *Old Freemason 's Arms* at Heywood being "To-Let", from an old friend of mine at Bury, so my wife and I called to see the place; I liked the old house very well it was £100 goodwill, and take all the stock, about £500 worth.

We arranged to take stock on November 1st 1864; when I received my £300 back from Mr ANDREWS I had lent it to my friend, Hugh BIRCH, so on this occasion he had to hand it back to me, and other friends were very good so we made a start.

Heywood at that time was in a very bad state, I have never known it worse, the mill hands being out of work and trade in general very bad.

The old house brewed its own beer, so I learned to brew, and in the second year trade began to improve, and continued to do so; my first weeks takings amounted to £3 and when we left on account of my wife's health, on June 24* 1874, we were drawing, on an average, £65 per week; at this place we had two girls born, Lila and Minnie.

The Doctor having recommended us to go to either Leamington or Southport, we chose the latter place and I bought four houses in Zetland Street, and we went to live in one of them. We had a pony and trap at this time, so I had to build a Stable

and Coach House, which cost £50, so then we thought we were all right; we had left Adam at Bury, serving his time to Ironmongery business, and staying with my sister Sarah.

My wife improved in health and times were good. All went well for a time, then I began to invest money in Companies, that turned out very bad, particularly that Gathurst Brick and Tile Co. In this I was a Director, and had £200 shares at £5 per share; I had also 200 shares in the Burnley Paper Co, upon which I had paid £325, but could not pay any more on account of the Gathurst Co going down.

I sold the Burnley Paper Shares for £75 and the Hey wood Gas Shares for £900, there were other small lots, too numerous to mention, altogether I parted with close upon £2000; this took place in the years 1875-6-7.

I had then five children, four daughters and one son. In the year 1877 my daughter Emma was married on 1st December to Mr J W LEES of Middleton. In the month of October 1887 my son Adam was married to Miss SMITH of Bury ; In the year 1889 on March 6th my daughter Helena was married to Mr Ezra HOLLINGWORTH of Mossley, and on September 7th 1894 my daughter Lila was married to Mr James LAMB of Southport.

I am pleased to have been able to assist them all in commencing business for themselves, except my daughter Minnie, and I shall be willing to assist her the same should she desire it.

In the year 1875 I bought 20 shares in the Victoria Hotel Co, which were paying 10% and £5 shares were selling at £7. In the same year I bought 50 shares in the Birkdale Park Land Co Ltd., the shares were £3 paid and I gave £6 per share, they were then paying 15%, but for many years afterwards they paid very badly.

In 1882 I was appointed a Director in this Company and in 1891 we discharged our manager, and the board of Directors, appointed Mr SHEPPARD and I as joint Managing Directors, in order to see if we could improve things a little, for the undertaking was making very poor profits. Mr SHEPPARD and I went on very well but in 1899 Mr SHEPPARD died, the management since that time it has been left to me and in 1903 we paid 7 1/2

I should add in conclusion that on January 6th, 1904, my youngest daughter Minnie, was married to Mr W G PICK VANCE, of Bolton. My wife and I are still residing in Zetland Street, Southport, my wife being 73 years old and myself 76 years.

21st December 1904 James Horrocks

References

- 1 *Brass Row* is on the north side of Rochdale Road, near its junction with Bury Old Road, just below Turn Village

- 2 Limefield - on the Bury-Walmersley road at Pigslee
- 3 The Bury, Haslingden, Blackburn and Whalley Turnpike Trust
- 4 Overlooking - supervising the operation of several looms in a weaving shed

TOM WIGHTMAN: WHEN I WERE A LAD

I was born into the wintry' sunshine of a small town named Erith in Kent almost 84 years ago, on January 19th 1915, but within the space of nine months my life's travels had already begun as the family packed up its bags and headed north for Manchester. Three years later in 1918 we were on the move again, to a little two-up-two-down cottage in Hazel Hall Lane, off Newcombe Road Summerseat. Mum, Dad and four children all packed together under the same roof. Wash days became an experience when the ubiquitous tin bath, heated in our case from a gas boiler, took over the entire house. I recall, however we did enjoy one luxury compared to nearby homes - our outside toilet was actually heated in winter! My education began in 1919 at Summerseat Wesleyan School and I still feel nothing but admiration for our teachers of the time. The minimum of equipment but the utmost of standards and the lessons so well taught they remain with me even today. To keep track of our progress we were subjected to two or three examinations each holidays. Top of the class in these was rewarded with a threepenny piece, the second collected twopence and I myself came third in one year. How my face must have glowed when I was presented with a bright shining new penny. Yes, bribery worked even in those days! How well I remember the scratching slate pencils and the voices of my teachers, Miss WALSH, Mrs WALSH, Miss JONES, Mrs NEEDHAM and of course the headmaster Mr PEARSON, a man who not only expected respect but earned it from every child there. I still visit his last resting place alongside the school building, and frequently cast my mind back to those long distant days of my childhood. Over 300 children were educated there at any one time. The school still exists but only a small fraction of this number attend now.

We had to make our own entertainment in those days, cricket, football, rally-ho (an old name for a game which sounds very much like our more modern game of tig). Sledging in winter was one of our favourites, that is until neighbouring housewives scattered fire ashes into our pavement runs to give visiting tradesmen a safe passage through to the houses. But not before sieving the ashes through, for the large pieces which were dutifully returned to the fire. Waste not want not, that's what we were always told.

Summer holidays from school only lasted four weeks, throughout the month of August, but didn't we make the most of them! Walking up to Redisher Woods and paddling barefoot in the stream with our clogs tied around our necks by their laces. Lose a sock, though, and you'd be in for a right 'winger' when you arrived back home. Then up on to Holcombe Hill and back in time for tea, the time being calculated from the rumblings of our stomachs as we didn't have a watch between us. If we took our own

lunches these invariably consisted of 'jam butties' or similar, and a bottle of water flavoured with a small amount of lemonade powder. No plastic then, so if we were

really smart we'd carry our picnics in cardboard shoe boxes tied up with string. Robin Road and the stream up to Woodhey, from Lammy Bank, was one of our preferred haunts, and the woods around would ring with our battle cries as the US cavalry once again routed the entire Apache nation. Just like most children nowadays we considered a camp fire to be well up on the list of things to amuse ourselves. There was always at least one of us who managed to secrete a couple of matches on his person, but what a crime this was, woe-betide any one whose parents caught them with matches. And many a time we would be greeted on our return with the cry 'You've been swealing again!', as the smell of grass smoke crept into the house on our clothes.

Grants Tower, gracing the summit of Top o'th'Hoof on the eastern side of the valley, was another of our destinations, being very well attended in those days. Families picnicked under its shadow, soaking up the fresh air of the hill tops, well away from the dozens of sooty chimneys and the dismal grey stone buildings below. The first landing of the tower contained a fine selection of slot machines. Many a hard earned penny was heard to rattle its way through their mechanisms, but what an immense amount of pleasure it gave to us all. Then upwards to the very top with views on a clear day stretching way across the Lancashire plain to the Welsh hills and beyond, accompanied by the laughing and shrieking of the people having the times of their lives in boat swings 40 feet below us.

In the winter pace egging was a must - anything to earn a few coppers. With our soot blackened faces and our fathers' old clothes, especially his 'billy-cock' or bowler hat, we'd be seen marching around Summerseat and Holcombe Brook, but more especially the 'Stockbrokers' Belt' of Greenmount, collecting our meagre handouts. Hazel Hall Farm was not to be missed. It was owned by the GREEN family and a visit there never failed to leave us feeling like millionaires, clutching in our grubby hands the sum of half a crown. (2s-6d). Such was the attraction of this farm that we could quite often be found there on a hot summer's evening lending willing hands with the hay making, our reward being an unlimited supply of fresh milk to drink.

Whit Friday was always a special day, walking around the village singing hymns, then on to Sunday School for buns and coffee. If we were really lucky our buns had a bit of jam or icing sugar dabbed onto them. A simple but much welcomed little treat. After Sunday school we would gather in a nearby farmer's field to begin our afternoon of running races. Over a course of 80 to 100 yards with a small, but nonetheless greatly appreciated prize, for the winners at the end of it. Something along the lines of a pencil, pencil sharpener or eraser. My own favourite was a small leatherette writing pad with interchangeable pages. I recall once, in 1938, taking my wife Lillian to her sister's in London by train, the fare came to 25 shillings (£1.25 in new money).

I finally left school in 1929 at the tender age of 14. This was a Friday and the following Monday I started work with the Ocean Chemical Company at Lower Nuttall. The rapidly decaying ruins of this once thriving works are still visible across the river from Nuttall Park to the south, along with the sole remaining building, once the foreman's office, but now completely renovated into a private residence.

My first job was assistant store keeper which consisted of issuing stores and booking in new stock, collecting timesheets and answering the telephone. I also issued delivery notes to drivers and checked weights of finished chemicals for the various orders. Stock taking took place twice a year, My starting pay came to 17s-6d a week for the first 12 months.

After two years at this job I received a temporary promotion when the regular store keeper suffered a motorcycle accident but on his return the management decided they could not afford two people in the stores and I was moved outside onto the yard gang. Here it became my role in life to get the orders ready, filling drums and road tankers with caustic soda, weighing the products and loading the orders as required. This was quite hard work at times especially during bad weather.

After the age of 18 I was trained in the operation of all the various processes throughout the factory. This was a form of insurance to cover for other workers who may be off ill or on holiday. Over the years I became quite proficient at running all the processes right from the raw materials to the finished product. Later on, as circumstances demanded, I was also taught oxyacetylene welding and cutting, followed by electrical welding and soldering. I became a Jack-of-all-trades to the extent of pulling down and rebuilding some of the structures on the site using rope blocks, chain blocks, windlass and scaffolding. This stood me in good stead for my next big adventure - six years (minus 11 days) serving as an engineer in the army. Beginning in 1940 I was stationed at Chatham in Kent, from where I was posted for a period of nine months to the wild and woolly islands of Orkney. Back to the mainland for extra training then off to the sunnier climates of North Africa and Italy, eventually landing in the South of France and travelling back north through Belgium.

My home and demob gratuity for the six years came to just £75 which didn't last long, but I was then lucky enough to return to my job at the chemical works until they eventually closed down for good five years later. My final move was to PORRITTs and SPENCERs card room where I was to remain for a further 22 years.

I still keep in contact with several of my old friends and a recent visit to a gala day at Summerseat School found me chatting to several more. It's not many people who can go back to their classrooms from 80 years ago, the sheer thrill of which was doubly rewarding for me due to my meeting some of my old friends from many more years ago than I care to remember. If there are any more of you out there please get in contact - I'd love to hear from you.

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 based 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 visiting on these days. Group visits (minimum six persons) on evenings and weekends are available if booked in advance.

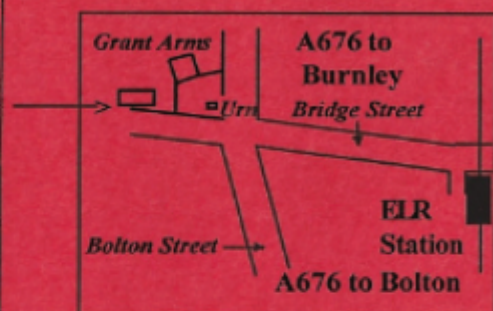
2 Bury Central Library (Reference and Information Services Department) Manchester Road, Bury, BL9 0DG; tel: 0161 253 5871 - has publications on local history, historical printed works of local interest such as trade directories, older Ordnance Survey maps for the whole of BMBC, including Ramsbottom, 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, including many local newscuttings and books eg Hume Elliot.

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



opposite the Library

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