

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 66 Spring / Summer 2024

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Ramsbottom Heritage Society

News Magazine No 66

Spring / Summer 2024

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Front Cover

Photo by Ian Smith taken on a visit in 2008 by a group of RHS members to Scout Moor Quarry to choose the Nuttall Park Stone. (It carries the replica plaque which commemorates Lt Col Porritt's gift of the park to the people of Ramsbottom.)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the last report, the committee have agreed to fund an interpretation board detailing the history of the New Jerusalem Church, which was on the corner of Ramsbottom Lane and Factory Street. This was first proposed by the Heritage Society in 2008, but has been waiting for the site to be renovated by Bury Council. Ramsbottom Civic Pride are now involved in restoring this and have plans to use the full site as a woodland path, possibly using some of the flagstones discovered in Nuttall as mentioned in the update of United Utilities.

The Heritage committee is also involved with The Weavers Uprising Bicentennial Committee, which is a group of people working towards the remembrance of the handloom weavers uprising across Lancashire, 24th-27th April 1826. Meetings have been held with Edenfield Local History Society to discuss how we can remember the Chatterton Riots, and at this stage the group is applying for funding.

A reminder that the Annual General Meeting is held on the 9th May and also that membership renewal forms are enclosed with this News Magazine.

The committee appreciates your support of the Society through your membership, your attendance at meetings, and the research that members contribute, either through articles for the magazine, or comments on Facebook

John Leyland

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

If you have been paying your membership fee either by cash, cheque or bank transfer (BACS) your annual membership fee is now due and a renewal form (printed on coloured paper) will have been included with the News Magazine for Spring/Summer.

You may continue paying as you have been, or you can set up a Standing Order. Whichever way you decide to renew please complete the form and send it as requested.

Update on United Utilities' work in Nuttall Village

United Utilities uncovered the floor of the old weaving shed in Nuttall Village whilst excavating the area for the underground storage tank. They invited the Heritage Society to examine the work and arrange for the relocation of some of the stones for local projects. Ramsbottom Civic Pride have taken 10 flagstones, with a plan to use them on the New Jerusalem site.

Whilst the flagstones were exposed, James Leyland took a video using a drone of the area. This can be viewed on Flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jamesleyland/albums> where there is an album called Nuttall with the video and photos



James Leyland

United Utilities produced a newsletter in February 2024 outlining the progress so far and what happens next

- We started in September and are progressing well. The compound is finished; we are moving on with the Nuttall Lane/Nuttall Road carriageway widening & strengthening works.

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- This work will involve the installation of a new temporary haul road for all construction traffic, the main site set up for the new build and re-use of the existing stone on site.
- In the coming weeks, as archaeological surveys and checks are developing, we will move down into the lower area of the site (area of the old mill)
- Once all permissions have been granted, we hope to start work on the underground storage tank and associated pipework works in April.
- As well as building the new tanks, screen and chambers, we will also be installing mechanical pumps and electrical equipment so that everything works automatically once the work is completed.
- At the end of our works we will landscape the areas we have worked in and recreate the old mill wall as part of the overall finishing works.

At the end of the project in 2026 the Heritage Society have been invited to produce an interpretation board, which will be installed at the site. The initial design is near the Gollinrod bridge, but we would like it near the road, for maximum visibility.



Artist's Impression of the Nuttall site on completion

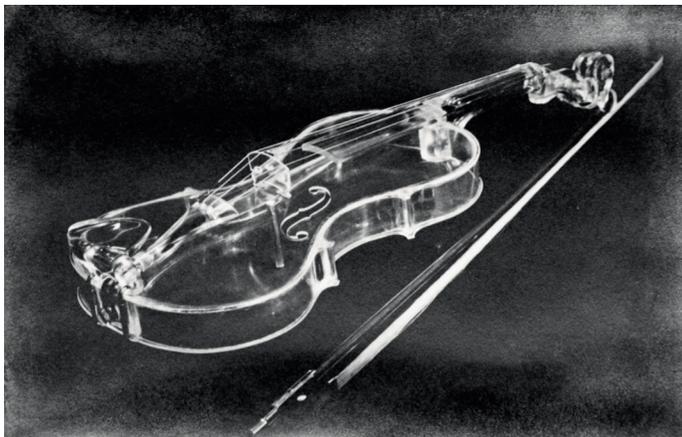
REFLECTIONS ON A WARTIME PERSPEX VIOLIN

I was surprised to recently come across an article* in the magazine of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society the content of which had been tape recorded by Mr. Harry Hoyle in 1999. A small section of the article highlighted his friendship with a Mr. Roland Whittaker at the somewhat secretive ICI plastics factory in Townsendfold during the Second World War. It concerned the carving of a Perspex violin by Roland Whittaker. Harry Hoyle, as a violinist himself, became interested in the quality of the resulting instrument.

Roland Whittaker was my father and although I was born in 1939 and was therefore a young child during the war, I can clearly remember the violin being brought home to the village of Water where I lived. Eventually I came to learn to play a violin myself and became even more interested in the ghostly instrument which I understood (probably incorrectly) to be the first ever carved as distinct from moulded from the new plastic. I just recall visiting Townsendfold and Darwen factories myself and later discovered that they were developing secretive new materials particularly for items such as gun turrets and cockpit covers for war planes.

My father was trained initially as a carpenter and craftsman in one of the local woodworking companies in the Rossendale valley. Before the war he sought further education at City and Guilds level by travelling to Bury and Manchester and he was then trained in teaching which he pursued for the rest of his working life in the wood and metalworking craft areas. I think it was probably this background which resulted in him being seconded to ICI as a reserved occupation during the war. Someone at ICI wanted the wartime and future uses of Perspex (Methyl Methacrylate) to be investigated and thought that the carving of a musical instrument might demonstrate its widely applicable usage.

As my father had no previous experience in violin making he sought the advice of a well established violin maker in Manchester – Paul Voigt. His family have been in the trade for seven generations and I believe that he was finally quite



pleased with the violin my father made, particularly with the bow which had to be specially strengthened to prevent change of shape whilst tightening the hairs.

Eventually the violin was accepted by ICI and it disappeared from my post-war-time upbringing. Many years later (I think the late 1980s) I found myself outside the then headquarters of ICI on Millbank, London. I presented myself to the receptionist in the main entrance hall and explained my interest in my father's role in this story. The librarian was consulted and to my amazement, a number of internal reports and news flashes were located showing photographs of the violin, its history and its final presentation to the then Chairman of ICI. Its subsequent whereabouts were not recorded. I was able to present the reports to my father not long before he died in 1991 and I know that it brought back many memories of his time in Townsendfold. I am, of course, very grateful to your magazine and particularly Mr Hoyle for bringing back many memories to myself and perhaps others whose family members were associated with those wartime events.

Professor David Whittaker 2024

**The article that Prof David Whittaker mentions reading online, is in issue 29 of our news magazine (available on the Society's website). It was based on a tape recording made by an RHS member of Harry Hoyle in 1999, who was 81 at the time. The actual recording is also on our website T28a, starting around 30 minutes in.*

BURNLEY & EDENFIELD TURNPIKE ROAD - TABLE OF TOLLS

The staff at the Whitaker Museum, Rawtenstall kindly found for us in their collection this small board, which we were able to photograph and produce a transcription, part of which is below. The full details can be viewed on the Heritage Society website in the Photographic Database

It was with the Burnley & Edenfield Turnpike trustees that Whittakers, hauliers based at Crow Woods, Edenfield had an agreement starting in 1850 that any future tolls on their carts and waggons would be paid twelve monthly in advance, at no more than half their current rate. The turnpike era ended in 1890.

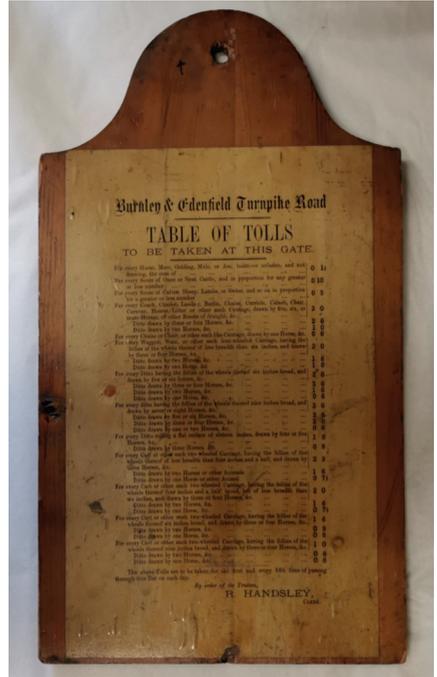


TABLE OF TOLLS

TO BE TAKEN AT THIS GATE.

For every Horse, Mare, Gelding, Male, or Ass, laden-or unladen, and not drawing, the sum of	0 1 1/2
For every Score of Oxen or Neat Cattle, and in proportion for any greater or less number	0 10
For every Score of Calves, Sheep, Lambs, or Swine, and so on in proportion for a greater or less number ...	0 5
For every Coach, Chariot, Landau, Berlin, Chaise, Curricle, Calash, Chair, Caravan, Hearse, Litter or other such Carriage, drawn by five, six, or more Horses, or other Beasts of draught, &c.	3 0

Ditto drawn by three or four Horses, &c.	2 0
Ditto drawn by two Horses &c.	1 0
For every Chaise or Chair, or other such like Carriage, drawn by one Horse, &c.	0 6
For every Waggon, Wain, or other such four-wheeled Carriage, having the fellies of the wheels thereof of less breadth than six inches, and drawn 30 by three or four Horses, &c.	3 0

.....

The above Tolls are to be taken for the first and every fifth time of passing through this Bar on each day.

By order of the Trustees, R. HANDSLEY, CLERK

General Booth in the Valley.

THROUGH PEEL BROW, EDENFIELD AND
RAWTENSTALL.

The man of the moment last Tuesday was General Booth, of the Salvation Army, who is on tour from Cornwall to Aberdeen, his mission, which he accomplishes on the motor car, being to touch those country byways which hitherto he has been unable to embrace.

AT PEEL BROW.

The General was expected here at close upon ten o'clock in the morning, he having left Bury at 9.30. There was a goodly number of people out of doors but scarcely as many as was expected. The members of the Ramsbottom Corps, including Captain Gray, were present. Two cars preceded the glass-covered one in which the General was recognised. The heavy rains of the previous night had rendered the roads anything but pleasant, and the half-dozen cars simply ploughed the mud up as they darted along. Not at Peel Brow or Edenfield did the motors give evidence of having slackened their speed, and their annihilation of the distance right up to Rawtenstall left the villagers profound in speculation and wonderment. The General rose from his seat at intervals and waved both hands to the knots of bystanders who lined the route.

Turnpikes had been an improvement on the old highways but they usually consisted of laying a compacted surface of small stones and gravel so they were not a complete success. Trusts had to borrow money to finance the road building and maintenance and often found that their income did not cover costs. Poor road surfaces led to demands for the abolition of Turnpike trusts and the turnpike era finally ended in 1890, the Blackburn, Bury, Haslingden and Whalley Trust having lapsed in 1875.

Ramsbottom Urban District Council borrowed money in 1902 and 1906 to finance its road repairs and by the end of 1907 considerable lengths of the highway through Edenfield and in Bolton Road North had been macadamised or paved with setts.

J & J WHITTAKER LOCAL HAULIERS (Part 2)

THE EARLY 1900s

The first sixty two RHS news magazines have been converted to pdf files and can be viewed on the Society's website. A request for a copy of Part 1 (in RHS News Magazine number 64), which focusses on Whittakers' business in its earlier days, would be dealt with sympathetically.



The road leading to Fletcher Bank Quarry, 1898.
Ramsbottom Volume 2 by Kenneth Beetson

As far as haulage was concerned, the motor age had not yet begun in 1900, so most goods and materials continued to be carried by horse drawn vehicles. (Only from 1896 was there a Leyland steam driven van with a capacity of 1.5 tonnes and their first petrol-engined vehicle appeared in 1904, the “Leyland Pig”.)

Local hauliers, J & J Whittaker, whose company was founded in 1825 and based at Crow Woods, Edenfield, had introduced traction engines into Rossendale in 1877 but continued to use horses for some of their work until the early 1950s.

Entries in their ledger covering the early 1900s seem to show that most of their business was carried out up the Rossendale Valley, i.e. to the north of Ramsbottom. Around Ramsbottom itself they were moving raw materials and finished goods for their customers who included millowners, builders, farmers, coal merchants and engineering businesses.



Workmen with horse drawn carts, Hazelhurst Engraving Works
Taken in Works yard, [date ? early c20] -

By 1860 they had exclusive rights to carry goods from all the railway stations from Ramsbottom up to Bacup. A substantial part of the Whittaker business at that time involved work for local quarries.

STONE FROM LOCAL QUARRIES

Between Bury and Rawtenstall by the 1840s there were thirty stone quarries, which were still relatively small-scale affairs and much of Ramsbottom was built of the stone including St Paul's Church, Market Street Methodist Chapel (now converted into Adderstone Mansions) and the former Coop buildings on Bolton Street. In 1901 Peel Brow Board School, later Ramsbottom County Secondary School (the M66 was driven through the site in the late 1970s) was opened, followed by Hazlehurst School in 1903.

At Fletcher Bank the first quarry was dug in 1792 and Joseph Heap is listed as its owner in the 1851 census. Later, Fletcher Bank and Scout Moor quarries became substantial concerns and their gritstone was widely known for its exceptional quality. In a ledger belonging to J & J Whittaker there are sixteen separate entries for regular customer Richard Wild during September 1903: ten loads of setts from his quarry to Rawtenstall and six loads of stone to the stoneyards at Ramsbottom station. There are nine similar entries in the ledger for carrying stone for Richard Wild in November 1903, two more for him in December, four for January 1904 and twelve for "stone to station" during March 1904. From the railway, the stone could be exported to Manchester, Preston, Liverpool, Birmingham, parts of Yorkshire and even London. (In Slater's 1888 Trade Directory, Richard Wild is listed at the Eagle & Child, 3 Whalley Road, Shuttleworth as a farmer and owner of the opencast Fletcher Bank quarry.)

By the end of the 19th century most of Ramsbottom's rows of terraced houses had already been built from the local grit stone. The town's Victorian housebuilders had done a better job than those in many of the larger industrial cities. From the mid-19th century onwards these houses, similar in many ways to the earlier cottages, are larger with higher ceilings and bigger window openings. The terraces, such as those on Tanners, could either be built all in one

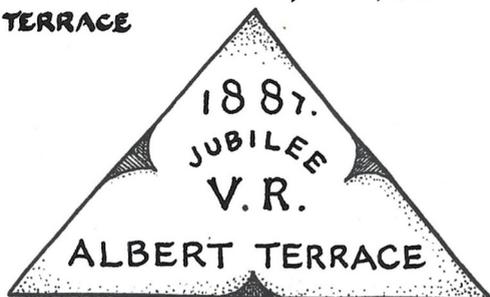
go or piecemeal over a number of years. The datestones and photographs below belong to later additions to streets.

**GLADSTONE
1885 TERRACE** Gladstone Terrace, 20, Garnett Street.



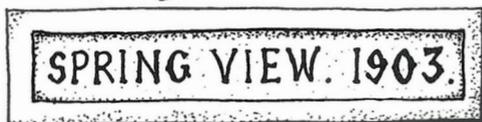
William Ewart Gladstone (1809-1898)
Prime Minister - four times -
1868-1874, 1880-1885, 1886, 1892-1894

**JUBILEE
1887 V R
ALBERT TERRACE** Albert Terrace, 62, Albert Street.

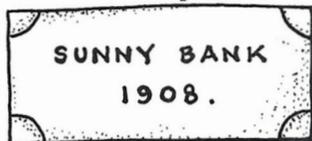


Victoria Regina

1903 SPRING VIEW Spring View, 41-43, Eliza Street.



1908 SUNNY BANK Sunny Bank, 122-124, Albert Street.





Spring View, Eliza Street from a dated postcard 1902, although the datestone between 41 and 43 is 1903 . The photo is on page 86 of *Around Ramsbottom*

After the coming of the railway demand for local stone grew because of the toughness of the rock which meant its uses could include kerbstones, road setts, flagstones and engine beds. By the early years of the 20th century, with most of the terraces completed and reserves of stone near the surface exhausted, high activity at Fletcher Bank was coming to an end although quarrying continues there for aggregate. Scout Moor, after a period of closure when other building materials like brick and concrete had become more popular, is still worked today for the extraction of gritstone and sandstone.

MORE EXAMPLES OF HAULAGE OF BUILDING MATERIALS BY WHITTAKERS FOR LOCAL COMPANIES

For Platt and Castle, listed as stonemasons of Stubbins Lane in 1888

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| September 1903 | stone and bricks from station to Carr Brow and Hazlehurst and cement from station to Hope Mill |
| October 1903 | flags from station to Hazlehurst and stone from station to Hope Mill |

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January 1904 material to Holcombe (1 horse, 3 hours) and mortar from yard to J Waterhouse (2 horses)

October 1904 stone from station to yard

December 1904 bricks and cement to Lumb (3 horses) and 4 loads broken stone from yard to Lumb

For Charles Lomax, stonemason and contractor, Higher Summerseat in 1888

February 1904 material from yard to ?? (2 horses 5½hours) and material from yard to S'seat (2 horses)

March 1904 one chain horse ½ hour

pipes from Rawtenstall station to Pike Saw (sic), bricks from Townsend Fold to Pike Saw. At Pike Saw also, 2 horses ½ day and one horse to Holcombe Brook 2 hours (Pike Farm is near the site of Grants Tower.)

Cement and pipes from Ramsbottom

May and June 1904 over 30 entries each month for hire of up to 4 horses at Pike Saw

For Ramsbottom Urban District Council

October 1904 stone from station to end Eliza Street

November 1904 stone from station to Whalley Road – 3 deliveries

December 1904 1000 bricks from station to Edenfield, 1000 bricks from station to ? Lane and 500 bricks from station to ? Lane

2 entries for stone from station to Patmos

July 1905 5 loads chippings from Ramsbottom to each of Dusty Miller, Park Chapel x 2, Top New Road, Summerseat

August 1905 5 loads stone and 1 load chippings from station to
Park Chapel, Walmersley Road

September 1905 9 loads of stone from station to Fletcher bank, Top
New Road, Park

For J Byron in May 1905 Whittakers took three loads of girders to Rosebank.

For Etteridge & Clark, as well as some valves and bricks, they carried ten loads of pipes to ?Scout View. Eleven more loads of pipes were moved from the station to places such as M? W Lane (? Michael Wife Lane – Editor), Scout View, and Gin Croft.

In 1905 the Callendar Cable Co had nearly thirty entries in the ledger for carrying mainly cables/pitch from the station to Bolton Road and were hiring two of Whittakers' horses for twenty six days.

HAULAGE FOR RAMSBOTTOM ENGINEERING WORKS AND FOUNDRIES

FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1903

By the end of the 19th century several metal works and foundries had been established near Ramsbottom town centre. (Three examples included in 1888 trade directory lists are John Wood, engineer & iron founder, Railway Street, Joseph Strang, brass & iron founder & machine maker, Princes Foundry and Richard Mason's, iron & tinplate works, Prince Street.)

Whittaker's ledger shows that in the early 1900s they were carrying goods and materials for these manufacturers and for other Ramsbottom engineering works.

For Joseph Strang

Entries show Strang's machinery being carried from their works on two loads to Bury and one to Cheadle on vehicles each pulled by two horses. Loads of pig

iron and scrap were moved to Strang's works from Ramsbottom station and machinery was taken from the works to Crumpsall using three horses. Strang twice hired Whittakers' chain horses, once for six hours and once for the day.

For John Wood

There are three entries for carrying machinery from Wood's works to Bradshaw and entries for iron and scrap going from the station to the works. Woods also hired chain horses from Whittakers.

For Fred Mason

Twenty four ledger entries over this three month period are for carting cylinders to/from Mason's works and various places including Loveclough, Bolton, Accrington, Salford, Bradshaw, Holcombe Brook, Birstall, Holme, Tottington Mill, Whitefield, Radcliffe and Rosebank.

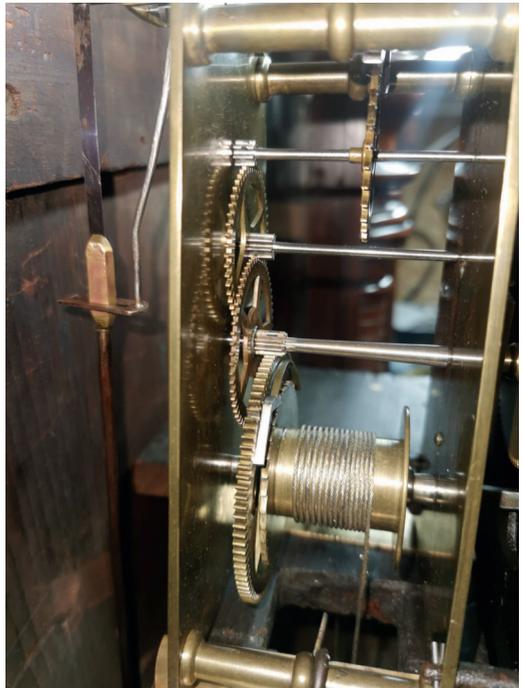
Later on, in 1924, Fred Mason Ltd is listed at Atlas Steam Tin Copper & Iron Works, Kay Brow, Ramsbottom. The company's lavishly illustrated 1927 billhead has Fred Mason as a "Coppersmith, Iron & Tin Plate Worker &c" carrying out work on "Steam Cylinders, Copper Colour Pans Rollers and all kinds of Tin & Copper Work" for "Printers, Bleachers, Engineers, Mill Owners etc". At that time, Masons regularly made items for fitting on to the printing machines manufactured at the works in Garden Street by John Wood, another customer of Whittakers.

References:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| RHS News Magazines | 35, 38 and 42 |
| Trade Directories: | Slater 1888 and Kelly 1924 |
| John Simpson | <i>A History of Edenfield and District</i> (pub 2003 by Edenfield Local History Society) |
| John Tomlinson | <i>Ramsbottom Scene</i> (2021) |
| John Taylor | <i>Stories in Stone – Datestones in Ramsbottom</i> (1991) |
| Kenneth Beetson | <i>Ramsbottom Volume 2</i> (1978) |

THE BRIEF STORY OF A CLOCK....

The Society has recently been contacted by Mr Rupert Battersby with his own memories of his family's antique clock. He has sent us photographs and information and explains how his research has led him to believe that it once belonged to Ramsbottom's Grant family.



All through my childhood I was aware of a large, dark wood wall clock which hung on the wall in my parents' house. As my interest in family history grew into an obsession, I spoke to my father about various matters surrounding the former family business – a hat factory in Stockport which ran for almost exactly a century from 1865, founded by my great grandfather William John Battersby.

I discovered that the clock had been bought by William as his business began to succeed – it must have been quite a personal reward for him as his childhood had been spent in abject poverty and only by hard work and honesty had he dragged himself out of it. The clock was an early sign of success for him I suppose.

The dial bears the name ‘J Bennett, Stockport’, a clock retailer from the mid to late 19th Century in Underbank.

Two things came with the clock – a story and a newspaper cutting.

The story was that the clock had originally belonged to one of the Grant brothers, the believed inspiration for the well-known Dickens characters.

The newspaper cutting from a Stockport newspaper is dated 11th October 1949, and has the clock’s story in it with quotes from my grandfather, William’s son. The reporter wrote:

‘I find that Stockport has a link with (William and Daniel Grant) that is still ticking as cheerfully and accurately as business did in their Manchester office.....

In the office of Battersby and Co Ltd, the well-known Stockport hatters, there has hung for a long lifetime a clock which belonged to the Grant Brothers.

“It keeps excellent time,” says Mr Walter Battersby, who has been going into the history of the Grant Brothers.’

If Walter did find anything further it went unrecorded, and in 1966 the factory closed and the clock came to be hung on the wall at my parents’ home.

More time passed and eventually it came to me in sorry condition, outwardly with only a few signs of age, but inwardly dead. It had neither ticked nor tocked for many years. After some searching I managed to find a reputable and trustworthy clock repairer, who took it away for several months and returned it in full working order.

Meanwhile I did a bit of digging to try to see if there could have been a Grant Brothers link.

The story of its Ramsbottom connection has provenance back to Mr Bennett's shop around 1865 – the story from great grandfather, to grandfather, to my father to me is solid, and the newspaper cutting backs it up further. Given that the clock was about 70 years old when last sold, and advertising being what it is, the changing of the face to advertise Bennett's shop is quite understandable

Thanks to your Society I was then able to get some more information on the Grants. Initially I was disappointed to find that Daniel, the second of the 'Cheeryble' Grant brothers died in 1856. At that time my grandfather was almost penniless and only 17 years old, so would not have bought the clock then. However, Daniel Grant left his possessions to his nephew William Grant, who eventually sold up and moved away from the area in 1864.

This made the connection far more credible. In 1864 William Battersby had been married for a year, and with the backing of his wife Mary was beginning to prosper. He was a manager at Shelmerdine's hat factory in Stockport earning six pounds a week. By 1865 he was in a partnership with his own business, and effectively never looked back. When he died in 1915 his estate was valued at just short of sixty thousand pounds.

The point where William Grant the nephew sold up fits exactly with the point where William was starting to prosper. Was it actually a trophy to reflect success, or a necessity in the office or even visible in the factory to make sure nobody left early?

But the hunt is now for any list or record of the property that William Grant sold off. It was normal then as now to sell off by auction, so is there any list of items to be sold?

Obviously, the key would be if there is by any miracle a list of the property sold by William Grant in 1864 - that would be wonderful if it mentioned anything

that might be this clock, but the chances are going to be very slim indeed. The alternative is that the clock was in the pub that became the Grant Arms, and some sale in the 1860s saw it disposed of, but at the moment the William Grant connection is most promising. I do think it unlikely that my great grandfather would have made up the Grant connection, and the 1949 article is apparently entirely sincere.

Meanwhile, as I type this, the clock ticks and tocks sedately to itself on the wall in my very untidy study. It is strange to think that such a serene noise has overseen so much – from a small initial factory to a large purpose-built one in Offerton in Stockport, which incidentally still stands to this day as it is now being converted into housing.

The clock was in the office when fire swept the factory in 1906, being saved by a number of men breaking the office window to pass it out to safety. It would have been privy to any number of conversations, decisions both good and bad, success and failure. But now, like me, it is retired. I am very proud to be the



Battersby & Co Ltd, Front view of factory August 1907

latest custodian of this heirloom, and find it intriguing to think that it has been in the same family for some 160 years.

The question is, in its first 65 years or so did this clock also bear witness to other industrial ups and down? If anyone can throw this to any Grant enthusiasts and come up with something positive I would be incredibly grateful.

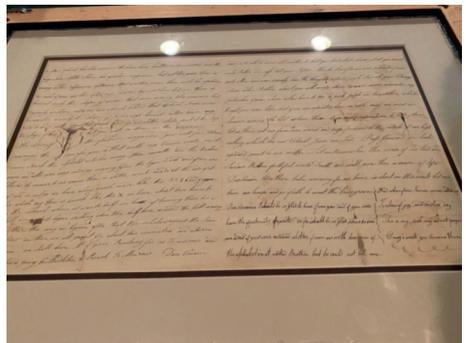
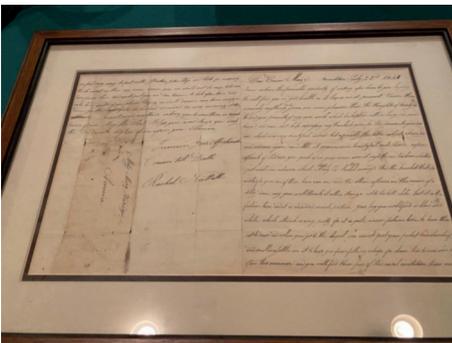
R Battersby 2024

A LETTER FROM AMERICA

In January 2023, John Leyland received this email from Daryl Vogel

Going through some of my mom's things (she passed away in 2013), I came across a framed letter that had been in possession of her father. It's from a Rachel Nuttall of Ramsbottom and is dated 1843. It was written to her cousin, a Mary Horridge, that was living in America. It's wonderfully preserved and mentions random bits of every day life and includes things such as "Mr. Odgen preaching" and "Uncle Charles is going to Middleton to preach tomorrow." I looked up Ramsbottom online and found your site. Thought this might be something the Heritage Society would be interested in having? I can send pictures if you like.

Upon replying, it transpired that Daryl lived in the United States of America and the letter was in a double sided glassed frame, that he sent photos of.



After further correspondence, Daryl extracted the letter from the frame, transcribed it, exactly as it is written, i.e. the use of 'ican' instead of 'I can' and posted it to the Heritage Society for our archives.

Dear Cousin Mary

I now embrace this favourable opportunity of writing a few lines to you hoping they will find you in good health as it leaves me at present. Cousin there is scarcely anything that has given me more pleasure than the thoughts of being able to send you presents of my own work which has kept me rather busy for some time and I can not help expressing my thanks to you for the presents you sent me which was very beautiful indeed but especially the letter which I have read over and over again and still it appears more beautiful each time. I often think of that rose you speak of in your verse where it says the rose has been washed just washed in a shower which Rachel told Mary conveyed. And the bracelets that I have worked for you one of them has a rose on and the other a flower in the name of a dilly. I dare say you will think it rather strange not to be both alike but it is the fashion here and it is considered much prettier. Your bag you will find is blue and white which I think is very pretty for it is quite a new fashion here to have them not to draw and when you go to the chapel you must put your pocket handkerchief and smelling bottle in it to keep you from falling asleep for I have had to use one very often this summer and you will find three pairs of red currant imitation beads one pair for your which is like mine they have been knitted on two needles and the bags I have platted. There is a fashion magazine but not this year. There will be a picture for each of you in the 946 page and the topmost line but one there is a bonnet nearly the shape of mine that I am wearing this summer but it is only a ribbon crossed over and a bunch behind that which I have worn this winter is nearly the shape of John's wife's bonnet rather lesser my dress is made with a pointed front laced up and a little white front at the top the shape of this but



you will see them in the magazine in the inside of the fashion magazine you will find three drawings the one for you is that with my cousins wrote on it Cousin iteach the alphabet scholars every other month and the teachers names are called over every Sunday morning before the begin to read and if we are not there to answer to our names there is a little mark made at the side of it and if we do not go we have along mark made like this RN/. and if we miss the whole day there is a mark like this X we have about two hours to be in the school when it wants half an hours of looseing their is a little bell rung for to begin spelling when the half hour is ended the bell is rung again and then they sing an hymn after that the scholars repeat the Lords prayer aloud and then we all go out for about ten minutes and return again to service We shall have Mr Odgen preaching for us tomorrow and Uncle Charles is going to Middleton to preach tomorrow

Dear Cousin i can not call to mind all i wished to tell you but what i leave short you must make Brother and wife tell you I often think how far we are separated from each other and i can scarcely bear the thoughts i often wish i had all your likeness i have asked Brother about you all many a time as i can never remember my particulars of you i have asked him to try to pick people in Ramsbottom who he thought you were like but if we are separated here on earth o may we meet in heaven among the blest where there is no more separation to take place Let us then set our faces Zionward and press forward to the mark of our high calling which his in Christ Jesus our Lord Press forward and look upward must be our motto. Let us remember the words of our Lord and Saviour Be thou faithful unto death and i will give thee a crown of life

Dear Cousin let us take warning of our time is short in this world let us trim our lamps and go forth to meet the bridegroom

Dear Cousin i should be so glad to hear from you and if you ever have the opportunity to write do for i shall be so glad please to send me word if you ever received a letter from us with two copies of the alphabet in it i asked Brother but he could not tell me

And when from hence we are called away

To realms of joy and endless day

This is my wish my ardent prayer

O may I meet you Cousins there

We feel very sorry to part with Brother John Wife and child for I scarcely think I must see them any more I assure you we will not be easy till we hear from him and will just you in Dear Cousin to look after him and make him write if you please I daresay we will dream over him many a time for the night before he landed I dreamed he was coming at the next run I must now conclude wishing you to wear them in remembrance of me May the Lord Bless you and keep you may the Lord make his face shine upon you

Amen

I remain your affectionate Cousin till Death

Rachel Nuttall

After receiving the letter, I tried to research the names, but the evidence was not conclusive, as I cannot find a Rachel Nuttall living in Ramsbottom in the census of 1841. I found a Rachel Nuttall living in Carr Street in 1851, aged 26 and a dress maker. Rachel had been baptised at Holcombe Chapel in 1824, and was the daughter of John, aged 67, and Alice Nuttall, aged 63, and sister of Peter, aged 24 in 1851

The only Mr Ogden I can find around this time was John Henry Ogden - professor of music at Bolton Street

I'm sure Daryl would be interested if anyone is able to find Rachel Nuttall and cousin Mary Horridge in 1843

Daryl Vogel and John Leyland

LOCAL RESEARCH UPDATE SPRING 2024

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection is on permanent loan to Bury Archives. The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service.

Free access to the Ancestry database is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Ramsbottom Library's family history help sessions have restarted – every 3rd Thursday of the month 1pm – 4.30pm.

Bury Archives and Local Studies, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG

Access is BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact us in advance to arrange a visit on 0161 253 6782 or email us via archives@bury.gov.uk

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Closed

Tuesday-Friday – 10.00am-1pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm

Every Saturday – 10.00am-1.00pm

Catalogues of collections and the extensive range of records, (including Ramsbottom's) held at Bury Archives are at www.bury.gov.uk/10620. Local history items can be searched by using the Library Catalogue available on the same webpage.

The Bury Archives blog is at www.buryculture.wordpress.com

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society

Society information is at www.lfhhs.org.uk. Email contact for the local branch is via bury@lfhhs.org.uk.

Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BL0 9AE

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS AND ACCESS – now back to normal:

Tuesdays from 10am to 4.30pm Wednesdays from 10am to 4.30pm

Thursdays from 12.30pm to 7pm Fridays from 10am to 4.30pm

Saturdays from 9.30am to 1pm

Computer access may be booked by calling 0161 253 5352 but booking is not essential. Back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film for use on a microfiche reader.

Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets.

The IT suite boasts a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation.

On Mondays from 11am to 1pm there are Ancestry drop-in sessions at Tottington Library

Local Heritage Trails Volume 2 £2.00

Local Heritage Trails

Volume 2

1 Ramsbottom Circular Trail



Ramsbottom Paper Mill.



Carr Street, Ramsbottom.

2 Ramsbottom to Stubbins & Strongstry Trail



Ramsbottom Railway Station.



Stubbins Railway Bridge.

3 Stubbins and Chatterton Circular Trail



Bolton Road North, Stubbins.



Weaving Shed, Chatterton



It has 3 guided walks and includes 40 pages of photographs old and new, 4 maps, descriptions of buildings that you will pass and 25 QR codes that link to videos on some of the buildings or places.

Walk 1 is from Ramsbottom Station, Bridge Street Gardens, Hearth of the Rams, back up Bridge Street, Wesleyan Chapel Market Place, Bolton Street, Dundee Lane, Tanners Street, Carr Street, Grant Arms Market Place and back to Ramsbottom Station.

Walk 2 is from Ramsbottom Railways Station, Railway Street, Irwell Street, Scotland Place,

Morrisons Car Park, Draba Brow, Silver Street, Crow Lane, Factory Street, Stubbins Lane, Stubbins Street, Strongstry and then back along Stubbins Street, Stubbins Lane, Factory Street, Paradise Street, Bridge Street and Ramsbottom Station.

Walk 3 is Stubbins Railway Station, Bolton Road North, Croft End Mill, Chatterton Road, St. Philips Church, Peace Playing Fields, Old Chatterton Old Road, Edenwood Mill, Bolton Road North and back to the start.

This book and others are available from Hearts for Homes and Memories on Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, The Hub Tea Rooms, 13 Brandlesholme Road, Greenmount, Bury Tourist Information Centre, inside the Fusilier Museum and our website

www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk