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**NEWS MAGAZINE**

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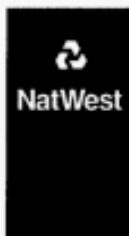
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## RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM

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### CONTENTS

Page		
1	Editorial	Barbara Park
2	Society News .....	Dorothy Moss
3	Train of Thought .....	W.M. Bennion
4	Australian Update .....	Dorothy Moss
4	The Story of the Fusilier .....	Judith Appleby
6	Stockdale Saga .....	Clyde L Tweedale
7	The Spencers of Hazlehurst .....	Barbara Palmer
10	Reviews .....	Trevor Park
12	Peter Nuttall Kay	
12	Decimalisation in 1916 .....	Barbara Park
12	A Ramsbottom Butcher and the Great War .....	Andrew Todd
16	Ramsbottom Reminiscences Competition .....	Andrew Todd

*Front Cover* Drawing of the Old Peel Brow School (1901 - 79). Reproduced by kind permission of Mr G.M Duce, B Ed Headmaster, Peel Brow Primary School.

WELCOME to our fifth News Magazine. In future the Magazine will be produced in spring and autumn, instead of winter and summer as avoid producing one in the run up to Christmas which is always a busy time for everyone concerned.

Demand for the Magazine continues to grow. The earlier issues have now been completely sold out and people still keep asking for them. One reason for this seems to be that people who have not seen the Magazine before buy one and then want the back

numbers. Most encouraging for all concerned!

As usual this issue contains a mixture of news of the Society's activities, the latest information about the Heritage Centre and articles from people who are researching

various aspects of Ramsbottom's past. New this time is our review section which I The Magazine is always in need of articles, drawings, recollections of days gone by and interesting pieces of information. We are steadily building up a team of regular contributors, and more people do seem to be sending in the occasional item. We do appreciate their efforts, but obviously more are needed if the Magazine is to continue and develop as we all hope it will. I think the lack of personal recollections this time is due to the fact that Andrew Todd's competition (see page 16 for details), with its opportunity to win a prize,

has proved a greater attraction than the Magazine. I hope this is only temporary!

I know there are a number of people busily at work on various projects and hope that eventually the fruits of their labours will be published so that we may all share in their discoveries. If you are one of these perhaps you might like to write up "the story so far" interesting to hear how other people are progressing. Also, as well as providing an interesting contribution to the Magazine, it is always possible that someone reading the article may be able to help with additional information, perhaps just the missing piece you need to complete the jigsaw. In this case "what happens next" could be a further article and the "conclusion" could possibly be a Heritage publication, so please do consider this suggestion.

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank the National Westminster Bank who have again sponsored our Magazine. Their continuing support is much appreciated by the Society.

The Society continues to thrive, meetings are as popular as ever, and the Heritage Centre flourishes. Perhaps this is the time to remind people of the annual photographic competition. Although the closing date is still some months away photographs should be

taken throughout the year. More details from John Leyland at the Heritage Centre.

Barbara Park, Editor

## SOCIETY NEWS

MONTHLY MEETINGS continue to be well attended. The calibre of speakers remains high and the subjects wide ranging. Over the past year we have learned more about the Borough Archives as they relate to Ramsbottom, the history of the

Chatterton Riots, the Holcombe Brook Line and many other interesting topics.

As you will see on page 16 the programme for 1992/93 looks as varied and interesting as ever.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** The subscriptions year commenced on 1st April 1992, £4.50p adults / £2 concessionary (retired, unwaged, student). Members receive the News Magazine: free twice yearly thereby saving £1 on their fee. So don't delay, join today!

**THE HERITAGE CENTRE:** Since the closing of the highly successful Transport exhibition the display team has worked very hard to get the new exhibition ready for the Easter opening. 'LOCAL SCHOOLS - Past History and Present Projects' is sure to bring back memories of the 'happiest days of our lives'. Photographs, documents and artefacts generously loaned by local schools, and members and friends of the

Heritage Society have been used to mount an interesting and nostalgic including an old schoolroom tableau which is certain to attract many visitors, both young and old, to the Centre this summer.

We are very pleased to welcome school parties on Tuesday afternoons, but these must be booked in advance by telephoning the Secretary on 0706 822620.

The Centre in Carr Street (opposite the library) is open each Saturday and Sunday and Bank Holidays from 12 noon to 4.00pm and Tuesdays from 2.00 - 4.00pm. There is no charge for admission but donations are very welcome! Refreshments are available, there is a sales counter and there are facilities for the disabled. Parking nearby.

**WHY NOT JOIN US?** Would you like to come and help at the Centre for an hour or two, or even for a whole afternoon? No pay but good company and the chance to learn more about the history of Ramsbottom from our many visitors, even better if you are able to enlighten others about the 'old days'. You may wish to welcome people at the reception desk, make

tea or coffee in the kitchen or help to sell local history books and other items at the counter. With a Committee member on hand to keep an eye on things it really is a Perhaps you would prefer to be in the office helping to catalogue the items for the Archives? Are you able to use a word processor? Do you like filing? All these skills are

needed to keep the Centre running smoothly.

If you would like to help in any way at all we'd love to have you as part of the team. You need only commit yourself to an hour or two whenever you can spare the time, although some of our helpers enjoy it so much that we see them most weekends! Please contact me at the Heritage Centre during opening hours, or leave a message on the answering machine (0706 821603). Do please think about joining our team. You will be very welcome!

Dorothy Moss

## TRAIN OF THOUGHT

Those of us who attended the February meeting enjoyed an interesting talk by Mr T Ashworth on the History of the Holcombe Brook Railway Line. The following article, by

Mr W M Bennion provides an interesting sidelight on the same subject.

In 1977 we watched the progress of the M66 Motorway to Ramsbottom and it is interesting to note that, just a hundred years before, there were plans for the

improvement of communications between Bury, Tottington and Holcombe Brook.

In the *Bury Times* for 20th January 1877 there appeared an advertisement announcing the public issue of 5,000 £10 shares in the Bury and Tottington District Railway Company. The necessary Act of Parliament was passed later in that year, but, because of engineering difficulties, the line was not operational until late 1882. The same issue of the newspaper contains a description of the proposed railway, as follows:

"The line is intended to be connected with the East Lancashire station Bolton Street, and, passing on the northerly side of Chamber Hall near the engineering works of Mr James Park, will cross the River Irwell by a viaduct and, leaving the Bury and Heap Company's mill to the left, will pass under Brandlesholme Road and into the valley near Messrs Olive Brothers be sidings. At Woolfold the first passenger station will be reached, and, as the road from Bury to Tottington is fast becoming one continuous line of houses and abutting streets are being laid out, the passenger traffic is likely to be pretty extensive. Leaving Woolfold, the line for some distance traverses the course of Kirklees Brook on the right of the

valley until, passing out of the Messrs Olives land, it approaches the village of Tottington over land in the possession of Mr William Hoyle. The exact position of the passenger and goods stations at Tottington has not yet been fixed, but probably Sandy Lane will best meet the requirements of the majority of those likely to use them. The line forward to Holcombe Brook will cross by a viaduct the filter beds connected with Tottington Mill - a siding to which will be formed on its junction with Millhouse Meadow - and almost from that point will be a

continuous cutting, the depth of which, when passing under Green Mount road will be about 16 1/2 feet. Thence the gradients will be rather steep: first 1 in 40 and at the terminus 1 in 50. The station at Holcombe Brook will be near the end of Longsight, and, doubtless in the summer season it will be lively with visitors in quest of mountain air, while the stone quarries of Holcombe will almost certainly yield more of their treasures for the conveyance of which the intended line will be most accessible and convenient. Another and important feature in the proposed undertaking will be the forming of a Summerseat and all stations beyond without the necessity of running into Bury either going or returning".

W M Bennion

## AUSTRALIAN UPDATE

The correspondence with Mrs Joy Bussem of Australia continues. I have written to her passing on information from readers of the last magazine and she now writes that she has discovered yet more links with this area, a Holcombe Hill and a Holcombe Manor. She is now busily at work [trying to](#) discover their history from the Shire Landrights Book.

Mrs Bussem has also sent me this press cutting about the death of the grandson of the Lawrence Rostron who began the connection.

An unusually close link with the earliest days of the St. Amand district was severed last week with the death of Mr Lawrence Milroe Rostron in Melbourne.

Mr Rostron was the last surviving grandson who came from Tottington in England and took up

### SEPTEMBER 1991 *Tottington pioneer's grandson dies*

Tottington Station in 1844, surviving almost two centuries later is accounted for by his second marriage, was born in 1800 should when he was over 70, by have a grandson which he had two children

Lawrence Milroe Rostron practiced as a solicitor in Melbourne and will be remembered by a number of people whom he has helped with research into their families connections with the early days at Tottington. He was unmarried and had no surviving relatives,

The vastness of Australia and the enormous distances that have to be travelled, even in the course of everyday life, are illustrated when she writes "I must catch the Dorothy Moss Post Office!"

## THE STORY OF THE FUSILIER - (Formerly

*The Cemetery)*

When I first joined the Ramsbottom Heritage Society some years ago everyone was encouraged to investigate some part, no matter how small and specialised, of Ramsbottom's past. I had been interested in the history of *The Fusilier pub* on Bolton Road West since I moved in, and knew that it had formerly been known as *The Cemetery*. I had always intended to investigate its history but, like many others I suspect, had not actually got around to doing anything about it. I decided that the time had come to make a start.4

But where to start? My first point of contact was the Area Manager of Whitbread's brewery. I explained what my intentions were - to compile a history of the pub. He made enquiries and I was put in contact with the brewery archives. I made arrangements and eventually visited a building in the town centre of Blackburn where all the

deeds which Whitbread's had were put at my disposal. The deeds dated back to 4th October, 1854. The early documents were works of art, set out on large sheets of parchment, detailed in copper-plate writing and sealed with red

sealing wax into which had been impressed the official seal. By comparison, today's documents appear to be plain, characterless and unimaginative, although it has to be said that a photocopier was placed at my disposal, and the next stage proved to be a real challenge. Because the early deeds were approximately two and a half times the size of the photocopier's capacity, I had to photocopy each document at least three times in order to get every detail included. Of course, at a later date, this meant cutting, piecing and glueing together each deed like a giant jigsaw puzzle. To date, in order to get started on the early history of the pub, I have put together two of the deeds, for the years 1854 and 1877.

I was then able to start on the task of deciphering and transcribing the wording. Another lengthy, but fascinating project. They did not use punctuation marks, which made it a bit difficult. However, here and there were some underlined letters which did help a little. The outdated phrases were sometimes quite bewildering, for example, "... the said Richard Townsend, Thomas Earnshaw, Betsey Earnshaw and Aaron Thorpe and Jane his wife and of each and every of them of in unto and at of the said hereby surrendered premises." I did this over a period of time, as the fancy took me and time allowed.

As names appeared, I began to wonder who these people were. Thomas Earnshaw, Betsey Earnshaw, Aaron Thorpe and his wife Jane. So, to find out more I contacted Bury Reference Library and made arrangements to view the 1841 census returns for Tottington Lower End and there I found Aaron Thorpe who was a shopkeeper in Holcombe. He had a wife called Jane, they were both aged 41 and had both been born in Lancashire. They had five children - James 18, who was an apprentice mechanic, Ann 15, Robert 13, Leah 9 and John 3, However, the 1851 census showed only Aaron and his wife, then both aged 51, on their own except for a servant, Betsey Howarth, aged 26. What, I wonder, happened to John who would now be 13, and Leah who would now be 19? Maybe the others had fled the nest and married. Yet another mystery to investigate!

In the deeds for 1854 is a reference to the fact that Jane had been "examined by the steward and deputy steward of the Court and had confessed that she was not constrained thereto by her said husband" and reference was made to the marriage settlement. So, it would seem that there is every possibility that Jane's maiden name could have been Earnshaw and that the family mentioned had inherited this estate from their father and were

now dividing it up between them. Quite some time passed before this project again saw the light of day. In September 1991 we left the pub, for reasons which will be included in another part of *The Fusilier* story. However, I managed to re-assemble all the items I had accumulated (bear in mind we had just moved

house) deeds, notebooks, plans, photographs etc.

My first port of call was again to Bury Reference Library as, in order to get a wider

perspective of the period (1854 that is), I wanted to find out what was going on internationally. The Crimean War had started; Florence Nightingale had begun her crusade for better conditions in hospitals at the front; the ill-fated Charge of the Light Brigade had taken place and was immortalized in the same year by Tennyson. I am also

researching contemporary local events. The *Bury Times*, however, did not appear on the streets until 1855.

At the other end of the time scale, I have started to record some of the events occurring during our tenancy of *The Fusilier*.

If anyone has any information or recollections to add to the story I would be very

## **THE STOCKDALE SAGA**

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Local history really comes to life when one talks to inhabitants who have seen the many changes which have affected their locality. Such a person is Mrs Marjorie Alferoff of Edenfield, grand-daughter of William Stockdale, who was the founder of Turnbull and Stockdale Ltd. Early this century she was born in Moorfield, the vicarage of St John's in Shuttleworth, but soon moved to Stubbins Villa (also known as Greystones) which was demolished to make way for the large roundabout over the end of the M66 at Edenfield. In the late 1920's she lived at Rosebank House, (demolished in the late 1980's) opposite the now demolished mill of the same name. After a short spell at Little Holcombe House in the 1930's and a long period at Underbarrow, near Kendal, she lived again at Rosebank from 1956-85. To this day she cherishes an 1844 Manchester Guardian newspaper which was found in the attic of Rosebank after damage was caused by the

landmine explosion in Stubbins in 1941. With pride she recalls her father, Herbert Porritt Cain, who married Florence Stockdale. He was a director of Turnbull and Stockdale's and also acted as a support driver for the record ascent in 1924 of Ben Nevis, Scafell and Snowdon in 22 hours 55 minutes. The Lytham lifeboat from 1951-78 also had a strong local connection, being named Sarah Townsend Porritt after being donated by a member of the family and Mrs Alferoff supported the RNLI. She remembers touring the various mills selling Remembrance Day poppies each year, noting the miming talk of the Chatterton Mill weavers and admiring the quality fabrics produced by the Tommy were also directors. Some local houses and mills survive, linked by the various families. Mrs Alferoff's other grandfather was the Rev. Thomas Cain who was Pastor at Stubbins Congregational Church for 42 years, until 1906 (not the mere 10 years I indicated in the last edition of this Magazine!)

How did Turnbull and Stockdale Ltd emerge as a local giant? Happily they published a Jubilee Brochure in 1931 tracing and celebrating 50 years, from the union of William Turnbull and William Stockdale, both from Bury in the early 1880's. They ran a print works at Stacksteads until 1906, but used "Rosebank" as a trade name after establishing the Stubbins Mill in 1896. The Croft End Bleachworks by the Irwell bridge were added in 1900, and the weaving shed on Chatterton Lane in 1908. Their recipe for success was printing cloth for the Manchester trade and creating their own designs on their own cloth. Edenwood Mill was the other mill in the group although they 6

acquired the agency of the Gainsborough Silk Weaving Co. in 1920, allowing them to sell special lines in brocades, damasks as well as calicos, linens and cretonnes. World War 1 took its toll as 29 died out of 219 employees serving their country. By 1931 there were about 750 employees, of whom 128 were awarded £25 for their 25 years with Turnbull and Stockdale. They enjoyed a local sports club, including a 9 hole golf course, between the Duckworth Arms and Edenwood Mill, a football team and cricket teams for both men and women. Such was the firm in its heyday and hopefully I shall be able to piece together the decades since 1931 to the present day when only the Edenwood Mill and Croft Mill remain under the control of Edward Turnbull & Sons Ltd.

Clyde L Tweedale

## **THE SPENCERS OF HAZLEHURST**

In issue three of this magazine Andrew Todd wrote an article about the group of RHS members who attended an evening class at Woodhey and decided to investigate the

history of Spencer's Engraving Works, Ramsbottom, was an important centre of the engraving industry in the 19th century. The growth of the calico printing industry depended on new developments in this field. We decided to try and find out who these

engravers were and whence they came.

From the 1851 census we discovered that John Spencer, engraver, was living at Hazlehurst next door but one to Jonathan Spencer. John was born at Ringley in 1823. Who was he and why did he come to Ramsbottom?

We had already found that one of the several rows of cottages between Holcombe Brook and Hazlehurst was known as "Spencer's", the three cottages having been built by a Thomas Spencer between 1823 and 1829. From the deeds of the works it was possible to show that these cottages were those adjacent to the engraving shop (albeit that by 1851 there were four houses in the row).

Over the years the cottages have been occupied by Mark, Betty, Richard, Enoch, John and Jonathan Spencer and their families. John lived 1855 alongside Susan Spencer and Richard Yates, who was married to Tamar Spencer.

It seemed safe to assume that the John Spencer whose name the firm bears to this day was a member of that family. Thomas Spencer, who built the cottages which took his name, was buried at Holcombe in 1834, as was Rachel his wife c1828. They were both at Woodhey Gate at the time of their deaths and their marriage was confirmed at Bury St Mary's in 1782. Mark and Jonathan were their sons. In his will Thomas was described as "a

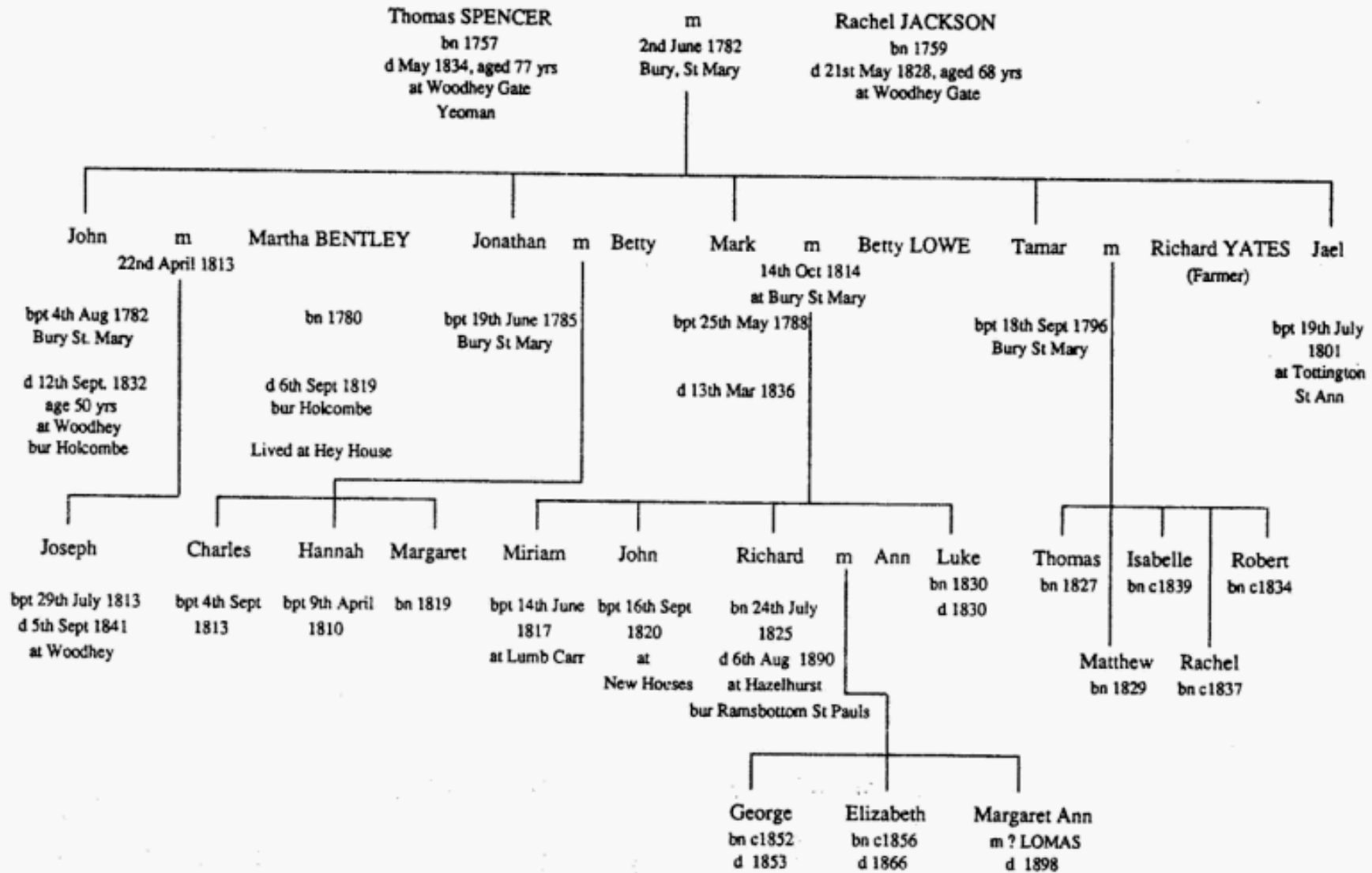
Yeoman of Woodhey Gate" and from this same source we found that he also had two daughters and another son, John. Had we found our engraver?

No. When the will was written in 1833, son John was already dead (Holcombe 1832, aged 50). He left one child, Joseph Spencer. Joseph inherited 280 Bolton Road West, and Jonathan 276, with Joseph and Jonathan paying 10/- per annum to Mark. After Mark's

death in 1836, this rent devolved to his sons Richard and John.

The daughters of Thomas each received one cottage at Woodhey Gate and half of the third cottage which he owned there. The elder daughter, Tamar, was married to Richard Yates, a farmer, and later they lived at Little Holcombe before moving to the engraving

## SPENCERS OF WOODHEY



families were mostly connected with farming and weaving, as was commonplace in this district at that time, they could also have had connections with Tottington Lower End Workhouse at Woodhey, since John Spencer's name occurs signing the accounts in the 1820's and J Spencer's medical expenses were authorised in the overseer's account book of the 1820s.

A Jonathan Spencer is listed as a Surgeon in Rogersons 1818 Directory and as a Druggist at Spencer's cottages in the 1851 census. Jonathan, Elizabeth his wife and Margaret his daughter lived in Ramsbottom in 1841 near Princes Street and Silver Street. Here he was described as a weaver, but there is no reason to believe that it was not the same family.

To confuse things even more there was yet another John Spencer at Holcombe Brook, a partner with James Ashworth, master printer, at Altar Works.

John Spencer m Margaret (Peggy) 1819  
| | |  
Mary Ann 1819 Betsy 1822 John 1827

There were also: John and Ann at Gibbon Green (on Helmsore Road)  
John and Kezia at Bolton Street, Ramsbottom  
John and Alice at Top o'th'Royle  
James and Rachel at Broxbottoms  
Robert and Sarah at Broxbottoms  
~~Rebecca and Leticia at Ramsbottom~~  
and maybe more

Mark and Betty Spencer also had a son named John but he died in 1840 and is buried at Holcombe

In later years Amelia Forshaw, daughter of John Spencer, our engraver, became the sole owner of the engraving works and in 1901 her husband, John Forshaw, had "become fined and siezed" of 280 Bolton Road West, which Joseph Spencer had inherited in 1834. Then in 1906 Amelia herself bought 278 Bolton Road West, previously in the occupation of Richard Spencer, together with the two rents aforementioned.

So +t was not until 1906 that Spencer's cottages became part of the engraving works estate. Perhaps John Spencer was not who he seemed to be? John Spencer was born at Rindalev in 1823 but we can find no record. He also married Alice, but again we can find no record.

Undeterred, we are now off on yet another tack!

## REVIEWS

In future we are hoping to include brief reviews of books and pamphlets on local historical subjects. Many of the publications will not be new but will be included for the benefit of those who are either new to the area, new to local history, or simply have not come across them before. Also by drawing attention to what has already been done we

hope that others will be motivated to search out their neglected files and finally if you would like to suggest a title for inclusion in future issues, or offer to write a review, please contact the Editor at the Heritage Centre or leave a message on the answering

Below Trevor Park reviews three very different publications which illustrate different aspects of local history.

### ***Origins of the Health Service in Bury and Ramsbottom Part 1: Barbara Palmer for Ramsbottom Heritage Society 1989. £1.25***

Barbara Palmer's contribution, subtitled *Faith, Hope and Medicine in the 18th and 19th Centuries* groups together five separate aspects of local medical history.

The earliest records consulted were those contained in the Diary of Dr Robert Kay of Baldingstone written between 1740 and 1780 and the latest those dealing with the foundation of the Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital in 1900.

Certain themes stand out. One such is the question of finance for hospital treatment. Money came from the donations and subscriptions of the wealthy who in return were given the right to recommend free treatment to those whom they nominated from amongst the poor. Whether the primary purpose was the healing of the sick or the use of a method of

social control in order to keep the poor in line was not always very clear. Should attend the monthly meeting of the Board in order to return thanks "for what has been done for them". Such a "manifesting of gratitude, the fitting demonstration of which cannot be withheld without injury to the character" was regarded as essential. Whether the character in danger of injury was that of the patient giving thanks or those of the Board members receiving them could no doubt be a subject for debate!

Another theme of interest relates to what can be called the medical closed shop. Doctors were often less than enthusiastic about charitable medical developments

restricted to those who could not afford to pay but any extension to those a little better off was always fiercely resisted by doctors who saw their fees under threat. "The improper bestowal of alms" appeared to the medical men of the time as almost as great a scourge as the cholera or typhus which were so prevalent.

Barbara Palmer, who is herself a pharmacist, has written a clear and concise account of local medical developments covering a period of more than a century and a half. It is illustrated by many interesting quotations and statistics. We now look forward to the publication of part two of her work.

### ***Basic Record Keeping for Family Historians: Andrew Todd: pub by Allen & Todd, Ramsbottom, Dec 1991. £2.99***

Family history lends itself to a "do it yourself" (DIY) approach much more readily than many other branches of the subject but DIY in any walk of life does not always come

easily as many will know to their cost.

You need to have the right tools and know how to use them and be methodical in carrying out the task in hand. Once the work is completed you need to be able to stand back and assess it in order to ensure that you have not missed out some vital component. Otherwise the entire edifice which you have so painstakingly assembled is liable to collapse around your ears.

Andrew Todd has written an excellent DIY guide for family historians and in particular for the

to be examined be census returns, parish registers, inscriptions on gravestones or probate records certain ways of working will be much more productive. Particular methods of recording information will be much more valuable and the process of assessment can be considerably facilitated by means of a systematic approach. Andrew Todd provides us with signposts and guidelines in all these respects and many more. His use of record sheets will be of particular value to those to whom systems and methods may not come naturally. His

inclusion of hints such as the best way of repairing torn documents or filing information for future use will be of assistance to all.

Andrew Todd tells us that there are some signs that family history is acquiring a little more credibility in the eyes of the historical establishment. If that is so it is in no small measure due

to the quality of publications such as this.

John Taylor has produced a carefully researched and illustrated survey of Ramsbottom datestones from 1414 to the present day. The entries contain both skilful reproductions of

the stones and valuable supplementary information of general interest.

For example, the entry for the Peel Tower not only contains the full text of the 1852 datestone but a brief biography of Sir Robert Peel, notes on the subsequent history of the

Tower, details of walks in the vicinity and even information on what can be seen from the top

on a clear day!

The 1834 entry concerning St Andrew's Parish Church contains drawings of the Grant coat Even the brief entry on Gladstone Terrace dated 1885 tells us that Gladstone was Prime Minister four times and gives the dates of each of his administrations.

The book is arranged in chronological order and this has advantages in enabling us to identify the oldest developments and trace what happened subsequently. Those who wish to use the book as a source for an historical ramble will need to rearrange the entries on the basis of streets and districts if they are to avoid rushing hither and thither from one end

In spite of this *Stories in Stone* really is a mine of fascinating information to be dipped into again and again. It is equally adaptable to a winter's evening by the fireside, or as preparation for a walk on a fine summer's day.

*The above, along with many other local history publications, are available in Ramsbottom from the Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Little Horcliffe Books, Bridge Street and Allen and Todd, Square Street.*

## PETER NUTTALL KAY

Mrs B J Tither of 29 Winchester Road, Radcliffe, M26 OLY is seeking information about one of her ancestors PETER NUTTALL KAY, whom she thinks was born around 1850, possibly in Nuttall Lane, Ramsbottom. He founded a plumber's shop in Radcliffe in 1877. She has contacted the local churches, without success, and would be grateful if anyone able to offer any help in her search would please write to her directly at the above address.

## DECIMALISATION in 1916

On a recent visit to the Borough Archives I was using the Minutes of the Ramsbottom Urban District Council to try and verify a piece of information from another source

**12th October 1916** Moved by Mr Harrison, seconded by Mr Pinkerton and resolved - That in the opinion of this Council it is of supreme National

importance that prompt steps be taken to secure the maximum of trade with Foreign Countries when the War is over. To this end the Council consider it not only desirable, but absolutely essential to adopt the Decimal system of Coinage, Weights and Measures throughout the British Isles and thus enable our Manufacturers and Merchants to compete more easily and successfully with rival nations having that system already in use, and the Council requests the local Chamber of Commerce to take the matter into their serious consideration and do all in their power to help forward this important and necessary reform."

I do not know whether this was part of a national campaign or a purely local initiative, if the latter it seems that what Ramsbottom thinks today the rest of the country thinks over half a century later. I would be interested to hear from anyone who knows anything more about this.

Barbara Park

## A RAMSBOTTOM BUTCHER AND THE GREAT WAR: THE BILLS AND RECEIPTS OF E H GREENWOOD, 1913-1: PART 1

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society was very grateful to receive, in 1990, from Mr Eric WALMSLEY, the well known Bridge St butcher, the donation of a large box, full of dusty receipts. I volunteered to sort and file them, and in the process have learned a good deal about Ramsbottom at the time of the Great War.

31 Bridge St, Mr WALMSLEY's shop, was once owned by one John GREENWOOD, and it

was his father, Edward Hill GREENWOOD, whose receipts, in plastic pockets, now occupy two ring binder files in the Society's archives. Any transaction which involved money generated some bill or receipt, and for the period of roughly 1913 to 1918, it would appear that GREENWOOD threw out

The material records personal expenditure - tailors bills etc, as well as his dealings as a butcher.

Ramsbottom property owners at this time had to bear three rate demands a year - the


Rate from the Urban District Council, the Poor Rate from the Bury General District Guardians, and a Burial Rate for the township (for the upkeep of the

cemetery). The extent of GREENWOOD's property is shown on these assessments, all of which can be found in this collection - his residence, *Springbank* (192, Bolton St); shop premises at 31, 33, and 35 Bridge St; 166, 168 and 170 Bolton Rd West (houses at the corner of Regent St, Hazelhurst); a slaughter house on Zama St, which is in the same area; and a plot of land (rated at £31 1 0s) by Edgar St, on the other side of Bolton Rd West. This was clearly used to accommodate stock purchased for slaughter, though in 1913 it supplied over five tons of meadow hay to the UDC.

31, Bridge Street, RAMSBOTTOM,  
and Exchange Buildings, EDENFIELD,..... 191

Bought of  
**E. H. GREENWOOD,**  
**BUTCHER.**

Corned Beef, Pickled Tongues, &c.  
Telephone 57.



Rent	15/-	Butter	6-4-	Healthy	2-8-0-
Gas	9-0-	Gas	16-5	AYW	3-3-
Monday	13-0-	L	15-0	Gas	5-19-0-
Monday	3-14-0-				4-23-

Not surprisingly, many cattle dealers figure amongst the bills - those of A W BRIERLEY of Fleet St, Bury and W CHADWICK, 'Live Stock and Dead Meat Salesman of the Cattle Market, Rawtenstall', suggest that meat traders were slippery customers, for they carry injunctions to the effect 'odd coppers to be paid in Full'. GREENWOOD paid for his cattle purchases through various banks, including *The Lancashire & Yorkshire* - Ramsbottom's branch was on Bridge St, whilst head office was

at Mosley St, Manchester. Another financial service, debt collection at 20% commission, was provided by SG PARTINGTON, 16, Market St, Bury. The small sums involved, each less than 1 0s, point to townspeople unable to pay their meat bills. GREENWOOD seems, in August 1914, to have ranged far afield to buy heavily intolambs - the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway billed him for the carriage to Ramsbottom of 54 from Gisburn, and for 53 one week later, from Clitheroe. (32 of this latter consignment had cost him £47 17s at Clitheroe Auction Mart.) There is no other evidence of buying from central Lancashire, nor of such bulk purchasing, and one can only assume that this foray was occasioned by the prospect of meat shortages - the War had started earlier that month. In 1917, he was buying up to six cows regularly at Rossendale Farmers' Auction Mart, Bent Gate, Haslingden, paying over £20 or £30 for 'Roan Fat', 'Blue Cow Fat' etc.

Until the 1970s, water was supplied by local authorities - GREENWOOD paid 13

quarterly rent for supplies to his various premises to The Bury & District Joint Water Board, whose offices were at Parsonage Lane, Bury. Some attempt, beyond the current reliance on rateable value, was made to relate charges to usage - 1 s 3d extra was payable for each bath or water closet, an indication, perhaps, of both the relative scarcity of these facilities, and of the appreciable additional consumption that they would incur. For the same reason, the items 'Horse and Cows' increased the bills by several shillings. Animals awaiting slaughter were clearly kept on GREENWOOD's premises - according to a 1917 Haslingden Borough Meat (Sales) Order, signed by him, he undertook to kill two cows bought from Thomas BARLOW of Deardengate within 14 days.

Electric Manufacturing Co, from whom GREENWOOD rented a chopper and bought an Electric Mincing Machine with feed pan and bone grinder. Ramsbottom Technical School, on Stubbins Lane, was supplied with various weights of boiling beef, the time (8-30am) being specified for delivery - no doubt for Miss FENWICK's cookery classes, for these young girl pupils of Peel Brow School. Summerseat Special School, run by Manchester Education Committee, clearly fed its inmates well, judging from the legs of mutton, steak and beef which GREENWOOD delivered,

although the bones and sheep's heads on the orders hint at more modest culinary items. It is a mystery how the school was able to care for the succession of cows which, in return, it sold to GREENWOOD - perhaps animal husbandry was part of the curriculum, the grounds offering pasturing. The quantities of beef required by GREENWOOD were prodigious - as much as half a ton, at 1 s per cwt, was bought off the Corporation of Bury Ice Stores in July 1917, although this could reflect a hot summer, or settlement of an account. The Blackburn Crystal Ice Co, at Brook St, Bolton, was another regular supplier.

Even a small town butcher understood the need to advertise - 2s 6d was twice paid to the Edenfield Horticultural Society (a magazine entry?); and an advertisement on

BLAKEBOROUGH Ltd's *Empire* cinema curtain on Railway St cost 5s quarterly. GREENWOOD was probably one of the few car owners in Ramsbottom, paying small bills for maintenance in 1915 to JS CORDINGLEY's garage at Haslingden, and CARR's Ltd of Knowsley St, Bury. Vehicle Licence Duty was four guineas. In September 1916, GREENWOOD paid five guineas to J E LOYNDS, Automobile Engineer, of Duckworth St, Darwen, for a 'course of tuition in motor engineering & driving'. Evidently, motoring was as yet sufficiently in its infancy for there to be no division of labour in these fields.

'Trunk, Telegram and Junction' monthly bills from the Post Office indicate that GREENWOOD (on Ramsbottom 87) was an infrequent user of the telephone - in some months, he made literally one or two local calls (junction fee 1d each) paying 1d and 2d

Income Tax in the fiscal year 1914-5 was levied in five bands, ranging from 9d to 1 s 3d in the pound. GREENWOOD's profit from his business was assessed at £197; of this,

he was taxed on £77, at the 9d rate, just £3 17s. Other items amongst the bills include £2 16 6s 6d turnover of business in 1913 with the Lancashire Butchers' Hide & Skin Co in Manchester; 7s 6d dog licences; and - a reflection of the impact of the Great War on the domestic economy - quarterly bills from The Lancashire Electric Power Co (head offices Deansgate, Manchester) which increased in January 1917 by 10% for lighting and 20% for heating, on account of 'the continued advance in the price of Coal &c'. These electricity bills reveal that GREENWOOD also owned a shop in Market St, Edenfield.

So far, I have barely touched on the dozens of local businesses whose billheads are in the GREENWOOD collection. A minute sample is illustrated here. I hope to place a file of copies in the Heritage Centre - this may prompt recollections amongst the older visitors and I would welcome any of these to be written in the file. These should help to flesh out the description of the remainder of Mr GREENWOOD's collection which, I hope, will

Andrew TODD

NUTTALL LANE, RAMSBOTTOM, JUN 1917  
 To H. Greenwood  
**BOUGHT OF A. F. ORMROD,**  
 WHEELWRIGHT AND GENERAL BLACKSMITH.  
 Maker of all kinds of Lurries, Carts, Traps, Floats, Vans, &c.  
 Repairs and Re-painting promptly attended to.

To 12 ft Boarding	8 1/2	8 6
1 New Tail board 5 1/2 x 6 x 1	2/-	11 0
2 New side rails 3/4 - 1 Set Tail fasteners 3/4		9 6
2 New ends on Trace hooks		1 0
New ends on tail hangers		2 3
New Pair tail chains 2 New S shackles		3 3
2 New tread plates 1/3 2 3 New bolts 3/6		4 9
Hoopings & riveting whips		14 0
2 New Leathers		2 3
Time to working same H 6 hrs	1/3	2 17 6
Painting Lining & Varnishing		5 0 0
To cart 1 New chest lining		4 0
1 New cart shaft	12/6	12 6
6 New bolts		1 6

To feed stock (no doubt awaiting slaughter) he paid anything up to £6 or £7 a month to R HUTCHINSON & Bros, Hay, Straw and Corn Merchants, of Annie St, Rawtenstall, a firm with a Ramsbottom depot. Cattle were fattened on feeding nuts and oil cake cobs delivered from Liverpool to Holcombe Brook station by the halt ton. Other raw materials for GREENWOOD's products came from various parts of the locality - bread, pastry and white pepper from The Pork Butchers' Supply Co in Manchester; fat, bones, marrows and 'roughs' from PARKER WALKER Ltd on Crostons Rd, Bury; and salt from James KAY & Sons' Britannia Soap and Chemical Works, Kenyon St, Ramsbottom. The technology of early 20th Century butchering is revealed by bills from The Hobart

## RAMSBOTTOM REMINISCENCES COMPETITION

The competition, launched last October, has attracted about 10 entries. As well as thanking these contributors, can I invite further recollections? These need not be of any great length or polish - it is the historical interest of the content which matters. Entries so far have covered Ramsbottom from the earliest years of the century to the 1970s. Many are autobiographical, but it is the incidental detail - shops, businesses, buildings, old trades, transport, habits and customs - which holds the greatest interest. We hope to publish

extracts in time for Christmas of this year. Entries may be left at the Heritage Centre, Carr St, or handed in at the monthly meeting.

Andrew TODD

### ***1992/93 PROGRAMME***

1992

- June 17 Mr John Simpson - *A History of Edenfield* - Illust.  
July 15 Mr Derek Rowley - Guided Walk in Ashworth Valley.  
Aug 19 Mr Trevor Park - *Dr P McDouall - A Ramsbottom Chartist*. Sept 16  
Mrs Jan Barnes - *A Fight with Bureaucracy*.  
Oct 21 Mr T Hurst - *Clogs to Clogs in Three Generations* - Illust.  
Nov 18 Mr Tom Fish - *The Changing Face of Bury* - Illust.  
Dec 9 *Christmas Cheer* + Photo **Comp. 1993**
- Jan 20 Mr Barry Worthington - *Up-date on the E.L.R.*  
**Feb 17 Mr Ken Craven** - *A Walk Around Tottington* - Illust.  
Mar 17. Mrs Mavis Homewood - *Filming in Ramsbottom - It s Ups & Downs* - Illust.

All indoor meetings are held in the Civic Hall, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.45pm. Visitors and new members always welcome. Refreshments available.

The Editor can be contacted at the Heritage Centre, Carr St, Ramsbottom.

**LOCAL SCHOOLS** - Past History and Present Projects  
The Heritage Centre

will be open  
SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS and BANK HOLIDAYS  
From 12 noon to 4.00pm

TUESDAYS 2.00pm to 4.00pm  
School parties welcome by prior arrangement

Please telephone the Secretary, Mrs D Moss on 0706 822620

**Telephone Ramsbottom 821603**