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NEWS MAGAZINE

**RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY**

**THE HERITAGE CENTRE**

**CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM**  
**Telephone: Ramsbottom (0706) 82 1603**

**Open**

**Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays**

**1.00 pm - 4.30 pm**

**and Tuesdays**

**2.00 pm - 4.00 pm**

**Special arrangements can be made for group visits**  
**Please contact the Secretary - tel: 0706 82 2620**

## **WINTER 1993 PROGRAMME**

**Jan 19** Mr Andrew Todd - Peckways and Turnpikes  
**Feb 16** Mr Tom Wighton - The Growth and Demise of Ocean Chemicals  
**Mar 16** Mr. Ron Verry - Wildlife and N W Water Ltd - illustrated

**All indoor meetings are held in the Civic Hall, Ramsbottom at 7.45 pm**

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**FRONT COVER** - Park Congregational Church drawn by John B Taylor

**Welcome to the eighth Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine.**

Since the Summer 1993 issue was published events have occurred which could have far reaching effects on the Society and particularly on the future of the Heritage Centre.

In September local newspapers published an application for, and later the approval of, planning permission for the redevelopment of premises on Prince Street as a shopping and leisure complex, complete with mill shops, craft centres, restaurants

and HERITAGE CENTRE.

This announcement caused much concern and many questions were asked. Was this to be an additional heritage centre? If so how would it be run? Was ours to be closed down? What would happen to the archives? Would we be expected to move into the new building? If so how would it work? What about our status as a registered charity?

At the October meeting our Chairman, Andrew Todd, announced that prior to the application being submitted, the owners of the building had contacted him by telephone and suggested that accommodation in the new complex could be made available to the Heritage Society. They promised to contact him later with more details and at the time of going to press he is still awaiting further information from them.

Members will be kept informed of the latest developments at the monthly meetings.

In the meantime life goes on as usual for the Society. The monthly meetings continue to provide interesting speakers and appreciative audiences and the Centre attracts many visitors. A number of members continue to pursue various research projects, often consulting the Society's ever growing archives and quite frequently adding to them.

The Centre is becoming known as a source of information about Ramsbottom and its history. Thanks to a combination of our helpers' fund of local knowledge and amazing memories, and Brenda Decent's organisation of the archives, we are quite often able to find the answers - prat

least (as the TV advertisement says) we know someone who can!

Items this time include a family history with a macabre twist, more information about the owners of Spencer's Engraving Works, an article on the fate of the Barwood Lea stables, two different views of the 1935 Jubilee celebrations, some reminiscences and, of course, all the latest news from the Society including the results of the 1993 Photographic Competition.

Our book review is of Bill Turner's *Riot* which includes the story of the 'Chatterton Fight'. The excellent talk and slide show which Bill Turner gave some time ago whetted many appetites for his eagerly awaited book.

Many thanks to all who have contributed in any way to this issue and once again may I appeal for contributions for future issues.

Barbara Park, Editor

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#### **SOCIETY AND HERITAGE CENTRE NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY**

The new exhibition at the Heritage Centre, *Ramsbottom - its Trades, Traditions and Treasures* has attracted many visitors from distant parts of the world as well as many past and present residents of Ramsbottom. All seem to find something of particular interest and many are able to provide us with additional information, often from their own personal recollections.

A very pleasing development has been the increase in the number of family groups with children visiting the Centre. We also get individual young people and small groups, often from local schools and colleges, who are working on local history projects. A good sign surely for the future - after all, the children and young people of today are our future heritage.

Among the larger groups to visit us during the summer have been parties of school children and university students, visitors from other Societies, and people on walks with the Blue Badge Guides.

In the autumn some of the displays were changed and now include a collection of

paintings and photographs by the well known local artist, David Swithenbank and a display which illustrates the changes to our landscape caused by the rise and decline of local industries. The Stubbins Lane area forms the basis of another new display. In lighter vein there is also a display containing the suit worn by Mr H Greenhalgh at his wedding in 1921 and which he was also able to wear on his 100th birthday. The display also contains a copy of the *Times* newspaper for the date of his birth and letters from the Queen on the occasions of his 90th and 100th birthdays.

The Society is delighted with the response to our latest publication *Ramsbottom Reminiscences*. The first printing was a complete sell out and the second one seems well set to follow suit. The book makes an ideal gift for anyone with an interest in Ramsbottom and has been especially popular as a gift for friends and relatives who no longer live here. At £2.50 it is excellent value.

Two innovations this year have been Society stalls at Local History Fairs in Accrington and Manchester and the outing for members and their friends which our Vice Chairman, Mavis Homewood organised. The stalls generated much goodwill and provided us with many new contacts for speakers and ideas for future activities and the first outing, to Port Sunlight, was a great success. (report on Page 5)

Dorothy Moss

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#### **RAMSBOTTOM REMINISCENCES: VOL 2**

As well as reprinting our first volume of reminiscences, we have begun collecting for a second. Any contribution, on any period of the town's history, and of whatever length, is gratefully accepted. Please bear in mind that it is always the most basic day to day routines and trivia which are virtually never recorded - but of greatest interest to later generations!

Contributions can be left at the Centre.

Andrew Todd

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

We have ordered microfilmed copies of the first two years (1892-3) of the run of *Ramsbottom Observers* in store with the *Rossendale Free Press* at Rawtenstall, and these are now available for public use at Bury Library. 1894-6 will be available shortly. The cost per year is around £40. Financial help, however small, will be welcome.

Future progress with the project relies on it. We are especially grateful to Bury's Archivist, Kevin Mulley, for all his help.

Andrew Todd

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### **SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP - RENEWING THROUGH A DEED OF COVENANT**

A sign of a healthy, active society is a healthy, active membership which renews its subscriptions every year without reminder. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society achieved the status of being a registered charity in 1992 and this now enables us to offer **members who are tax payers** the opportunity to renew through a Deed of Covenant in conjunction with a standing order authority.

### **WHAT IS A DEED OF COVENANT?**

A Deed of Covenant is a legal document by which a person promises to pay a fixed sum of money every year. For tax purposes, a covenant to a charity should be capable of lasting for a period of more than three years; this is why most charitable covenants are written for four years.

### **WHY USE A DEED OF COVENANT?**

A Deed of Covenant is a useful way to give money to charity because:

\* Covenants give charities, such as this Society, a regular source of income. \*

Covenanted donations to charities qualify for tax relief.

### **HOW DOES A COVENANT WORK?**

Covenanted payments to a charity are treated in a special way for tax purposes. Covenanters who are **TAX PAYERS** can get tax relief for the payments they make, so they can effectively give more to the charity for the same cost to themselves.

Covenanters get relief by reducing the amount they pay to the charity by the equivalent of basic rate tax. The reduced amount is known as the net payment. The result is that basic rate tax payers do not, in practice, have to pay the full cost of the payments which the charity will ultimately receive. As the charity is exempt from tax the tax which it has suffered can be recovered from the Inland Revenue, so while covenanters have to pay only the NET amount due, the charity can recover the full amount. This is why a covenanted gift is worth more than one which does not qualify for tax relief.

### **STANDING ORDERS**

In line with our covenanting proposals we will also offer ALL members **(Including those who are not taxpayers)** the facility to pay their annual subscriptions by Bank Standing Order for the sake of convenience.

### **THE WAY FORWARD**

The Society proposes to offer these facilities to its members as of 1st April but

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remember - covenanting is suitable only for **TAX PAYERS**. This will be available to both new members joining and existing members rejoining.

The relevant forms are included with this issue.

Derek Rowley, Treasurer

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### **VISIT TO PORT SUNLIGHT**

In the past Society members have made the occasional group visit to a Museum or other place of interest on an informal, car sharing basis, there never seeming to be enough people to fill a bus.

In 1993, however, all that was to change. It was decided that a proper coach trip should be organised for members and their friends. The destination was to be Port Sunlight, the village built by soap manufacturer William Hesketh Lever (of Bolton) for his employees. The day Tuesday, 13th July.

After a pleasant coach journey we were taken on a guided tour of the village; an excellent meal; free time to look around, visit the Art Gallery, and of course the Heritage Centre. The weather was less than perfect but everyone enjoyed the day - for many of them their first visit to Port Sunlight. That was the first coach trip for Ramsbottom Heritage Society members, but all being well it won't be the last. Where will the next trip take us? Ah, you'll just have to wait and see, but I promise there will be another one next year and who knows - there might even be two.

Mavis Homewood

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### **LITTLEBOROUGH HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OPEN DAY.**

Littleborough Historical and Archaeological Society held an Open Day on Saturday 9 October, and those members of our Society who were able to attend thoroughly enjoyed what

turned out to be an interesting, varied, and well organised programme. We were welcomed with refreshments and a chat from the Chairman, followed by two illustrated talks by Keith Parry on *Trans-Pennine Transport*, and Steve Poole on *South Pennine Archaeology*. The slides showing some of the artefacts which had been found were amazing, and were proof that there must be a lot of hidden history in the area.

After coffee Peter Cryer presented an illustrated talk on the *Development of Littleborough Industry*. This included details of the Rochdale Canal as well as the Industries which were (and many still are) in Littleborough.

After lunch we all set off on one of the four outings which had been arranged. I chose the mini bus tour of Littleborough and Roach Valley. We travelled in a beautifully restored single decker Yellowway Coach, and with Peter Cryer as our guide were made

aware of many historical and interesting places.

It was a fascinating tour on a lovely sunny day, and at the end of it we reached Blackstone Edge, and had what may be the old Roman Road pointed out to us. When we returned to Littleborough Community School coffee and minerals were awaiting us, and all those present had enjoyed the day.

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Mavis Homewood

### 1993 ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The seventh year of the Society's photographic competition attracted 73 entries from 12 entrants. The Society now has well over 500 photographs of modern day Ramsbottom, enabling a comprehensive archive to be kept of ever changing Ramsbottom.

This was the third successive year that the competition has had four categories. The first category was EVENTS which attracted 23 entries. One of the major events of the year was the visit of the Flying Scotsman which drew vast crowds of people to Ramsbottom at the beginning of the year. Other events based around the railway were the annual Teddy Bears Picnic on August Bank Holiday Monday, and Thomas the Tank engine who appeared twice during the year.

The TOWN AND COUNTRY category had 30 entries depicting landscape scenes, and pictures of buildings in disrepair as well as new buildings including the new houses on Carr Street.

The OPEN category had 11 entries and included a school visit to the Heritage Centre, a subject which features in the competition every year and represents an important part of the work of the Society.

The INTERIORS category had eight entries, three of displays in the Heritage Centre, and the remainder taken inside Unaform Mill at Stubbins. Many more photographs are required of the insides of buildings, as their function changes quickly, for example the Heritage Centre may have moved location before next year's competition.

This year's competition was judged by Mr Ken Adshead, photographer and artist, who had the very difficult task of choosing an overall winner of the Dickensian Trophy, and the four category winners. Highly Commended Certificates were also awarded. All the entries were displayed in the Heritage Centre during November and December. They were also displayed at the Christmas meeting in the Civic Hall when the winners were announced and prizes and certificates were presented.

John Leyland

Results overleaf.

Overall Winner (Dickensian Trophy);	Colin Wilson
Town & Country:	
First	Colin Wilson
Highly Commended	Dorothy Moss Clyde Tweedale
Interiors	
First	Ian Summers
Highly Commended	Ian Summers

### Events

First	Colin Wilson
Highly Commended	Dorothy Moss
Highly Commended	John Leyland

### Open

First	Barbara Park
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### BAR WOOD MILL (KAY BROW MILL), KAY BROW, RAMSBOTTOM

In August 1993, one of our members, Geoff Hill of Barwood House, on behalf of the Society submitted a request for the listing of this property to the Department of National Heritage. Once listed a building is protected by law and any demolitions, alterations or extensions which would materially affect its character will need Listed Building Consent.

Geoff's submission, which includes photographs and maps, is freely quoted in this article. We have a copy of it in the archive which can be seen at any time.

What is so special about this mill? It was not built as a mill but as a coach-house for Barwood House by the youngest Grant brother Charles in the 1820s. This is recorded on the tithe map of 1842 and is the building now known as the mill. Charles Grant bought Barwood House in 1819 from Henry

Kay, whose family are regarded with the Peels as founders of industrial Ramsbottom. Barwood House itself is a listed stone Georgian property built around 1781 and now regarded as one of the most important historic properties in Ramsbottom. The coachhouse (mill) is an

attractive and substantial stone structure with close physical and historic connections with Barwood House. Many of its original features are retained and particular attention is

drawn to the existence of the coat of arms of the Grant family, over the front door, which is aligned with what were probably stable doors. This does not face Kay Brow but faces south towards Barwood House and the main entrance to the coach-house and into Barwood House

was from the main gate which is now on Grants Lane.

A few years ago an article in the *Bury Times* announced that this property had been

scheme for its conversion into a residential seven apartment building, which planned to preserve some of its original character. Their interest in the origins of the mill came in a letter to our Society

asking us for information on the history of the building.

With valuable help from many members, the building's history was researched. After the gentry moved from Barwood House the coach-house is remembered as stables hired out by carriage

companies eg Whitakers in Rawtenstall and other traders who needed horses before motor vehicles became affordable. In the late 1940s the building was taken over by Isherwood's, a saw mill and joinery business and Isherwood bought Barwood House. When Isherwood sold out, two knitting factories took over. The building was abandoned in 1984.

The property was only called a mill after Isherwood and the knitting companies took over. Because of the collapse in the housing market the Dyson Company have disposed of their interest and the property has started to deteriorate. If Geoff Hill's submission for listing is accorded, the opportunities would then exist to obtain grant aid and make the prospect of the original development proceeding much better. *Bury* Development Services support the request for listing. The Conservation Officer of Bury in a letter to me 20.10.93 wrote: 'The continuing

deterioration of the building is a cause for concern and I am anxious that the approved residential conversion scheme be implemented as soon as possible'. The latest news we have is that the Department of National Heritage is taking advice from English Heritage.

There is hope that 'Kay Brow Mill' will be saved. It is in the Ramsbottom Conservation area and together with Barwood House and a line of terraced cottages known as Rose Hill it forms an attractive grouping around a small nature reserve. It is an integral part of the Grant family's architectural legacy to the town. Failure to list could well result in its eventual demolition and infill by modern housing which would be very sad.

I hope readers will visit the property, read the submission and help by any means possible to support it. It is a positive way to preserve our heritage by making it useful and valuable today.

Prepared by Brenda Decent from the work of Geoff Hill, other Ramsbottom Heritage Society members and the Society Archive.

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### THE TAYLORS OF SHUTTLE WORTH

Attempting research into a particular branch of Taylors in Shuttleworth can be both interesting and frustrating, especially when they become involved with the Ramsbottoms.

My Gt Gt Gt Grandfather Joshua, a woollen weaver, was born in Edenfield in 1770 and married Mary Holden of Musbury in 1797 at Bury parish church by licence. His parents were John Taylor and Betty (?) and here at the moment I have come to a halt.

Joshua had several children and I have been particularly interested in three sons,

John born 1798, James born 1800 (my Gt Gt Grandfather) and Jonathan born 1803. The three were baptised at Union Street Chapel, Rochdale.

The family lived at various places in Shuttleworth, Antons, Scout and finally Fecit in the 1830s. James married Margaret Isherwood, a daughter of Bennett a calico printer of Nuttall, formerly of Quarlton (Edgeworth). James took up farming, first at Doffer Fold near Elton Reservoir and then in Princess Street, Bury, where he was a farmer and cow keeper. This would be near the Square on the precinct. He was also a Currier and Leather Dealer in Union Square.

John the eldest brother was a Woollen Manufacturer and remained in Shuttleworth all his life until his death by cholera in 1849. He was married twice. First to Mary Ramsbottom the daughter of George and Alice of Brick House and then to Elizabeth Nightingale, a daughter of the Rev Nightingale of Park Chapel. Elizabeth died at the age of 27 and is reputed to have been buried under the hearth stone of No 72 Whalley Road, before being re-interred at Park after the death of her father. John Taylor left two daughters - Alice by his first marriage and Nancy Nightingale by the second. John's brother James took over the responsibility of guardian. This was done by a Tuition Bond in the sum of £400 which would have been forfeited if he did not carry out his duties as guardian.

John did not leave a will in 1849 but an inventory was made of his goods. The most valuable item in his house was 'An Old Set of Mahogany Drawers' valued at £2.2s Od, followed by a Mahogany Corner Cupboard 15s. Other items were: A large Rocking Chair and Cushion 3s 9d, A Small Rocking Chair 2s 6d, A Small Wooden Child's Chair 1 s 3d, Four Pictures 1 s 3d, A Small Looking Glass 1 s Od and a Clock without a case 5s Od. His Wearing Apparel was worth £2 Os Od. The total value of Furniture, Cutlery, Clothes etc. was £8 14s 3d.

A separate inventory was done for the Chamber where his work was carried out. Some items were: 11 1/2 Pairs of Blankets at 8s per Pair (£412s Od), 19 Pairs of Small Blankets at 7s per pair, (£613s Od), 17 Coarse Blankets at 7s per blanket (£519s Od), a Bobbin Wheel 1 s Od, Old Woollen Looms 7s 6d and an Old Jenny 5s Od. The total of Stock in Trade was £42 10s 6d. In addition, Book Debts came to £108 2s 7d.

Jonathan, the remaining brother, was the Mr Taylor mentioned in *Shuttleworth in The Forties* as a farmer and wool merchant or stapler living at Fecit. He married Ann Ramsbottom another daughter of George. In 1841 a soldier and his family were billeted at his farm. Jonathan seems to have been very successful and by 1861 was owning property and land at Bagslate, Spotland. He died in 1868 quite a rich man. His wife Ann died at the age of 90 in 1900. A sister Betty married Nathan Ramsbottom and went to live at Cheesden Pasture.

Joshua, the father, (born 1770) died at Fecit in 1840. He was classified as "A Pauper". From being a successful Woollen Weaver, able to afford to be married by licence and to provide his sons with some sort of education, the end of the Napoleonic Wars and the advent of industrialisation had no doubt brought about his reduced circumstances.

I must thank John Simpson and Andrew Todd for the help and information which they have given me.

If anyone has, or requires, any information on any person mentioned I shall be most interested.  
J. Henaughan

[NB The above is an excellent example of the way in which family history research can tell us so much about life in bygone days. The Inventory of 1849 is particularly interesting. In the Diocese of Chester, inventories of deceased's property usually stop c1750. This is the latest example ever encountered by Andrew Todd.]

### **JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 6 MAY 1935**

On 6 May 1935 celebrations were held throughout the country to mark the Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary. This area was no exception. Below Jean Price outlines the detailed planning of the Summerseat celebrations by local organisations and their officials, whilst Fred Entwistle describes a glorious "day to remember" in Ramsbottom

#### **SUMMERSEAT CELEBRATIONS - AN OFFICIAL REPORT**

Representatives of Rowlands Wesleyan Chapel, Railway Street Primitive Methodist Chapel, The Church of England Mission (St Wilfred's), ex-servicemen's organisations and the Salvation Army met to discuss the Jubilee celebrations to be held on 6 May 1935. It was agreed that denominational services and a united procession would be held and that a midday meal would be provided. 411 meals and 294 refreshment bags were to be ordered and depots for their distribution were to be set up at Railway Street Sunday School, Rowlands Sunday School and the upper room of the Liberal Club. The recreation ground was to be used for sports and games.

The following timetable was agreed:

3.00 pm - Procession arrives at field  
3.15 to 3.30 pm - Tea for the children  
Following tea the race finals

The band was to play selections and for dancing during the afternoon and evening. The Punch and Judy was to be split between the two schools if there was rain on the day. An old folks treat for over 70's would be arranged on Saturday 11 May in Railway Street School and their piano and pianist would be hired. Children from Summerseat House (school for delicate children) would be asked to participate in the celebration. Ex-servicemen would lead the procession, then the band, the children and lastly the older people.

A box of fruit and 6d worth of chocolate would be given to those too ill to attend. After the celebrations this was reported by William Redgrave:

Rowlands (Mr Wright)	173	+ 2 meals sent for sick children
Staff	14	
Railway Street (Mr Walker)	100	
Staff	14	
	301	total meals 303

5 o'clock to 6 o'clock: 294 refreshment bags distributed and coffee served

Railway Street Depot: 26 bandsmen entertained to tea  
The ceremony began at 12.45pm on the spare ground, a square being formed by the band drawn up opposite the children with the ex-servicemen on the band's right and the older people on the left. Then 725 people joined in the procession round the village and back to the recreation ground for sports. The band played for dancing and at 8.30 pm the National Anthem signalled the end of the celebrations.

37 people attended the Old Folks Treat on Saturday 11 May. Mrs Holgate, aged 88 received a cake stand from Mrs Hamer and Councillor Hamer presented a walking stick to Mr Oldham at the Post Office.

This co-operative village effort led to the formation of the Summerseat Village Activities Committee. The first General Committee Meeting was held on 25 September 1935 and the list of activities below was drawn up:

11 October - 7 - 11 Dance at the Liberal Club  
Children's Bulb Growing Competition Whist  
  
Drives at the Mechanics' Institute Concert  
Parties  
Pierrot Troupe  
Regular Discussion Class

References - Bury Archives (ISV)

Jean Price

#### **CELEBRATIONS IN RAMSBOTTOM - AS REMEMBERED BY A PARTICIPANT**

In 1935 we lived in the off licence shop at the top of the steps on Albert Street. I was eleven years old at the time and attended Holcombe School. Before returning to Ramsbottom my parents ran a fish and chip shop in Radcliffe. We came from Ramsbottom originally and I was born in Victoria Street.

The story begins at school where we all received a pottery commemoration mug as a keepsake, paid for by Ramsbottom Council. I still have mine in perfect condition. More important to me at the time was the fact that we had a holiday from school to

celebrate the Jubilee.

Like most of the other streets in the town ours was decorated with red, white and blue bunting and flags and pictures of the King and Queen. In the morning my father and the rest of the neighbours organised games and races in the street for small prizes such as bars of chocolate. We all had a great time although I cannot remember winning a prize myself.

In the afternoon came what we had all been waiting for. All the town's children assembled with their schools to march to Nuttall Park. Although it was early May we had a very hot

day - so hot that the tar melted and stuck to our shoes as we marched up Bury New Road. When we arrived at the park we lined up to listen to a few speeches from some of the Councillors and then we had displays by the Scouts and gymnastics and other sports. A band was playing and it was great fun. We all had tea and every child was given a stick of rock.

It was a wonderful day, one I shall always remember. It ended with a huge bonfire on Holcombe Hill and fireworks. When I finally went to bed exhausted it was with memories never to be forgotten.

Fred Entwistle

#### VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS

When the Heritage Centre opened in 1990 we expected that, in addition to our own Ramsbottom residents, we would also receive visitors from other areas who were attracted by the newly re-opened East Lancashire Railway. What we had not expected was the number of people from overseas who would visit us.

Recently I browsed through our Visitors Books and found signatures of visitors from no less than 19 different countries - Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Gold Coast, Japan,

Jordan, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Malawi, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, USA and West Africa.

We have had visits from schoolchildren on exchange visits, official and unofficial visitors from our twin towns and people who are touring around this country on holiday.

Two recent visitors were a couple from New Zealand who left Ramsbottom in 1949 and noticed many changes in the town. Incidentally, they run a bed and breakfast establishment back home in New Zealand and have left us a business card. So if you are thinking of spending your next week somewhere a bit different

Wherever our visitors come from, and whatever their reasons for being here they can be sure of a warm welcome. If they are former Ramsbottom residents they will quite possibly meet someone they know!

Tom Barrett

#### HAZELHURST ENGRAVING WORKS - c1920s

I was very interested in the latest article about Spencer's Engraving Works, 258 - 264 Bolton Road West, which appeared in the Summer 1993 News Magazine.

I was born at 250 Bolton Road West in 1928, my mother was also born there in 1897. Her mother was widowed in 1905, leaving Grandma with my mother and three stepsons.

My mother, then Annie Smith, was a girlhood friend of Miss Maude and Miss Amelia Forshaw, and in fact, her wedding photographs were taken in the garden behind the works in 1924.

My mother became a dressmaker and Miss 'Millie' was a very good and regular customer. She and her brother, Mr John Forshaw, actually lived at 258. I remember what a lovely home it was with two sitting rooms with bay windows at the front and the dining room with its dresser and willow patterned plates along one wall. There were many sporting prints on the walls and a good piano in one of the front rooms.

Mr John was often in his pigeon loft, wearing a bowler hat and there was a black Labrador, Julie. In the Second World War when the air raids began she would begin to howl before we heard the sirens.

I think we had electricity connected at 250 about 1933 but gas lighting still continued at 258 and I remember the elegant shades in the house, especially on the wall lights.

Although I no longer live in Ramsbottom we are not too far away and my husband and I have visited the Heritage Centre several times. Like many other people I wish I had 'taken more notice' and could remember more details of times past. I never dreamed that what was just everyday life in those days would one day become 'history'.

Barbara E Ford

#### MORE NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

Researching 'local' history is a bit like doing a jig saw puzzle - you never know where the next piece will come from or where it will fit in!

For example regular readers will be aware that for some time now Society Secretary, Dorothy Moss has been in correspondence with **Mrs** Joy Bussem, formerly of Ramsbottom, now resident in Australia. Mrs Bussem originally wrote to ask for help in compiling her family tree but later described how she had discovered neighbouring estates named Ramsbottom, Tottington and Holcombe.

The Society has now been contacted by Mr Bryan Small, the present owner of the Ramsbottom and Tottington stations, now combined and known as Tottington. Mr Small writes: "It is now almost 150 years since Lawrence Rostron set up the two vast sheep stations ..... quite a feat considering the isolated position with no roads, no communications and no neighbours. He was of course assisted by a large staff, including Joel Pennington a Lancashire sheep man and his brother Dan, and later by his cousin Samuel S Rothwell who was his book keeper - all of whom came from

Ramsbottom"

To mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the station Mr Small is writing a book and asked if the Society could help with information about Lawrence Rostron and his family. Our chairman, Andrew Todd contacted local historian John Simpson who was able to link Lawrence with the mill-owning Rostrons of Holcombe, Edenfield and Ramsbottom. If anyone else has any information I am sure Mr Small would be interested to hear from them (as indeed would the Society). He can be contacted at Tottington', St Arnaud, Victoria 3478,

Australia.

Mr Small has become a member of the Society -surely our most distant member? He has promised to send us a copy of his book for the archive when it is published in 1994 and we look forward with interest to its arrival.

Barbara Park

**BOOK REVIEW: Riot -the story of the East Lancashire Loom Breakers 1826** William Turner, Lancashire County Books 1992 £9.50

The story of the Chatterton Riot has become part of Ramsbottom folklore. Different versions have circulated and contradictory rumours about what happened have abounded but

our knowledge of the facts has been sparse and fragmentary.

Now at last Chatterton has found its historian. William Turner has written a carefully researched, lavishly illustrated and eminently readable account of the events on that fateful day in April 1826 when the military fired on rioting workers and six people, four rioters and two bystanders fell dead.

The Chatterton 'fight' as it was known did not arise out of thin air. Its causes were rooted deeply in the social and economic conditions of the time. The desperation of the hand loom weavers forced into destitution by the rise of the cotton factories with their hated power looms, the regressive policies of a Government determined to put down with ferocity all expressions of popular discontent, the prevalence of machine smashing as a method of political protest at a time when workers did not have votes all played their parts.

It is to Bill Turner's credit that he places the Chatterton events in their context in this way before going on to give his carefully detailed account of what happened on the day.

Of equal importance is the way in which he deals with the aftermath of the riot. The authorities sought to cover up what had happened. The press and public were excluded from the inquest into the deaths of the Chatterton victims, no attempts were made to identify the soldiers responsible and the regiment concerned left Lancashire secretly within a week for a posting on the South Coast.

At the trial in August 1826 of some of those who had taken part in the riots the events at Chatterton were not even mentioned. 69 men and women were accused of actions taken either before they arrived at Chatterton or after they had left. 41, including six women, were

imprisoned. The death sentences in most cases were later commuted to terms of imprisonment ranging from three to eighteen months. Ten prisoners, including two women had their death sentences commuted to transportation to the colonies. Not the least of Bill Turner's achievements has been to trace in detail the subsequent life histories of some of these people from their trials and tribulations on board the notorious prison ships to their arrival in Botany Bay, Australia and from their time in the New South Wales convict settlements to their conditional pardons

years later which allowed them to settle in Australia as free men and women. Although thousands of miles away from what happened at Chatterton the Australian connection is an equally absorbing story in its own right.

We must all be indebted to Bill Turner for this definitive account of the Chatterton fight. This book is a bargain at its price. Buy it, read it, and enjoy it. If you want to know what really happened on that April day nearly 170 years ago you will find no better source.

Trevor Park

[The book is on sale at the Heritage Centre as well as at most book shops].

#### STARTING WORK AT SHEPHERD'S - AUGUST 1937

I was fourteen years old and left St Pauls Day School on a Friday. The following Monday morning, at 7.30 am, my working life began at a firm called Shepherd's. The mill was situated along the railway bottom and they wove both towels and 'shoddy' for sheets.

I felt very strange and nervous that first day. I was to work in the towel warehouse where the weavers brought the towels straight from their looms to be weighed. One of the girls hooked the towels to be cut into pairs, whilst others worked on machines. One machine whipped the raw edges of the towels so that they did not fray, whilst others hemmed them. Then they came to me to be folded in pairs - not just folded but folded correctly. After this they were passed on to a workman who parcelled them up with brown paper and string according to the orders ready for dispatch.

About ten o'clock we had a ten minute break, then carried on until dinner time at 12 noon when we had an hours break. At one o'clock it was back to work again folding towels until 3.00 pm, ten minutes for a brew and then back to work again until 5.30 pm when we finished for the day. I was lucky enough to live not far away and was glad to get home for my tea. My first day at work had seemed a very long day.

My weekly wage for working Monday to Friday from 7.30 am till 12 noon and 1 pm to 5.30 pm and Saturday mornings from 7.30 am to 12 noon was ten shillings (10/-) per week. After I had worked there for four weeks I was offered a job at Porritt & Spencer's which I took - but that's another story.

Edith Duckworth ( nee Walley)

## I REMEMBER - RIGHT BACK TO 1900

When first built the Victoria and Albert Street area was known as Torytown. My paternal granny lived in the bottom house - her husband managed the paper mill until he died, aged 45, leaving her a widow with seven sons. My three brothers and myself were born there - although my second brother died after only two weeks.

Father had a collapsed lung and was advised to get out into the country, so we moved to a farmhouse in Redisher Woods - Lower Ridge near Simon's Lodge - a lovely place to be, but when yet another baby was due, we moved to Tanners to be nearer shops and other amenities. It was the top cottage, very dark and damp and had blackjacks in the kitchen so we didn't stay long. I was three whilst living there and can recall going to Holcombe School and being in a concert there.

Then the new school was built at Hazelhurst and our caravan finally came to rest in Butler Street! We always attended St Paul's Church - although I could never understand why we had to pass St Andrew's, Primitive Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic and Baptist churches to do our bit of worship at St Paul's, when Holcombe Brook Methodist would have been handier and easier on our little legs. I had a prize for regular attendance at both day and Sunday schools when I was three! Not that the latter did much good, I had an enquiring mind and still have a very open mind about religion (and politics). All the troubles in this very troubled world seem to me to evolve from them!

I remember the tuppenny tea party at St Paul's School on New Year's Day - the best and noisiest party ever. Every religion was welcome if they could scrape up 2d - and didn't they all come! Lot Walsh's shop opposite the Church sold penny whistles and penny canes which were used to accompany the band (would it be Hanson's or Pycroft's?). Lots of food, probably leftovers from the grown up's party the previous night but I never heard of anyone getting salmonella! Father Christmas came and organised drill and exercises and threw handfuls of biscuits amongst the kids - "Perry Worrying" this was called and we all staggered home with apples and oranges and sweets at the end of a perfect day!

And what about the Rose Queen festivals in aid of the Cottage Hospital with gaily decorated horses, lorries, cycles etc. Othertowns sent entries and I have an old friend who will soon be 98 who attended Bank Street Methodists in Bury - she was a member of the team of dancers who always seemed to carry off first prize - it was quite an event.

Holden's Towel Mill was originally a small building behind the *Hare and Hounds* and I recall the "new one" being built - now that has gone. It would certainly have been a "Sleepy Hollow" in the days when we children were working half time at eleven years of age, starting at six in the morning - not the good old days.

Nowadays I am deaf, my eyes are dim, my legs refuse to do as they are told, but I thank goodness my memory is still working - right back to 1900!

Edna Ashworth

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