



No 55 Autumn/Winter 2018

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# NEWS MAGAZINE





# Ramsbottom Heritage Society

## News Magazine No 55

### Autumn/Winter 2018

The objects of the society shall be:-

- a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council).
- b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.
- c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom

## CONTENTS

Meetings programme		inside front cover
Secretary's Report	<i>John Leyland</i>	Page 2
Latest News		Page 3
The names on the Porritt and Spencer World War 1 memorial plaque	<i>William Davenport</i>	Page 4
Ramsbottom Connects with an overseas visitor	<i>Barry Aldous</i>	Page 6
The survival of a Heritage Lampost circa 1920		Page 8
Joseph Strang		Page 11
Ramsbottom Market Place by Monarch	<i>Kate Slingsby</i>	Page 13
Signs of the Times - 1908		Page 14
Ramsbottom Lane in 1851	<i>John Tomlinson</i>	Page 15
Brooksbottom (Kay Street) Bridge, Summerseat		Page 18

## Front Cover

The restored Porritt and Spencer World War 1 memorial plaque at the Royal British Legion

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

In the last magazine, I was appealing for a new programme secretary. I am pleased to report that Kate Howarth, who was elected as a new committee member at the AGM, has taken on this role, and has produced a varied and interesting programme for 2019. In April, we received the restored Porritt and Spencer War Memorial plaque from Eric Smith and it was installed on the ground floor of the Royal British Legion on Central Street. However, due to extended holidays by both members of the British Legion and the Heritage Society during the summer, we delayed the formal handover of the plaque until Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October. This was attended by over 30 members of both groups, with Colin Grundy, the branch chairman of the Royal British Legion, accepting the handover from Kate Slingsby. After Martin Wiggam of the Royal British Legion had given a short speech, a buffet was served.



Martin Wiggam and Colin Grundy from the Royal British Legion, Kate Slingsby and Ian Smith from the Heritage Society and Eric Smith



Before restoration



Colin and Kate

## **LATEST NEWS**

### **Church Fields - Tree Preservation Order obtained**

Local people may remember the Heritage Society's attempt in 2014 to obtain Commons status for the area known as Church Fields. This went to public enquiry but was rejected.

Since then, one of our members, Sheena Crombie, came up with the idea of suggesting the whole of Church Fields, as a natural extension of Crow Lumb Wood, for a single **Tree Preservation Order**. Bury Council has formally accepted this and further details will appear in our next issue.

### **Ramsbottom Heroes**

RAMSBOTTOM HEROES Volumes 1 and 2 by Elizabeth Duxbury has recently been made available for the rest of 2018 at Ramsbottom Library. It is a compilation of names of men and women of Ramsbottom and the surrounding area who served their country or died as a result of enemy action.

### **Grant Arms Hotel Planning Applications 2018**

On 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Bury Council received two planning applications for the Grant Arms Hotel:

Change of use from hotel/public house (Class A4) to financial and professional services (Class A2); External alterations and formation of dedicated car park at rear (Application number 63308)

Listed Building Consent for change of use from hotel/public house (Class A4) to financial and professional services (Class A2); Internal and external alterations and formation of dedicated car park at rear (Application number 63309).

Earlier this year the Council received two different applications which have already been decided.

Outline application for erection of gated access and garage parking (secure) for 13 garages and a bin store. (Application number 62929, received 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 was refused).

Outline application for proposed demolition of part of building and erection of sheltered housing including change of use of public house to sheltered

housing (Application 61827, received 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018 was refused but an appeal has been lodged)

On the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, the Council received a notice of intention to make a relevant disposal of the Asset of Community Value of the Grant Arms. Any eligible community interest group had until the 12<sup>th</sup> November to express an interest in being treated as a potential bidder for the asset. If a bid is received, the owner may not enter into a disposal of the asset before the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. The owner is not required to accept any bid and may dispose of the asset after the 1<sup>st</sup> April

## **THE NAMES ON THE PORRITT & SPENCER WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL PLAQUE**

Unfortunately, only the men's initials and surnames are listed on the plaque but I was born in 1923 and brought up at 2, South Terrace, which was one of the Porritt houses. Although the whole of my own working life was spent at Ramsbottom Paper Mill, seven of my nine sisters worked at Porritt's. My connections with any Porritt employees who served in World War I was through their children but I remember some of the men and their Christian names:

- Fred Bentley and Billy Starkie were two of the bosses at Porritt & Spencer.
- Tom Crawshaw lived in Stubbins then Pin Meadow. He was the brother of Dr Crawshaw who practised in Ramsbottom before 1939.
- Sam Savage's sons were John, who became spin bowler for Leicestershire, and Billy, who became timekeeper for Porritt's.
- Tom Savage's sons were called Tom and Norman.
- Harold Scott was our neighbour in Strongstry. His daughter and son were Joan and Arnold.
- Other names included Harold Haworth, Fred Westwell and Jim Facit.

William Davenport 2018

## *Porritt and Spencer World War 1 Memorial Plaque 5*

Ramsbottom Heritage Society are very grateful to the War Memorials Trust for the generous grant which enabled the Society to fund the plaque's restoration and to the Ramsbottom Royal British Legion for providing space for it to be displayed at their club in Central Street, Ramsbottom.

THE SOCIETY WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE PORRITT & SPENCER EMPLOYEES WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THE PLAQUE

### HORACE SMITH

At the unveiling of the plaque event on 26<sup>th</sup> October, we were reminded of the Ramsbottom War Memorial Project website which features the Ramsbottom and District Roll of Honour. It has information about a fourth Porritt employee, Horace Smith, a single man aged thirty who was killed in action in Italy on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1918 serving in 223 Employment Company Labour Corps. Formerly he had served in the 23rd Battalion Kings (Liverpool) Regiment. His grave is in Padua main cemetery and his name is on three local memorials, one of which stands in front of Stubbins Vale Mill, shown below. (The others are at Edenfield Parish Church and St Philip's, Chatterton.)



The 1911 census has Horace Smith as a twenty three year old woollen spinner. He was a single man, the son of Henry and Sarah Elizabeth Smith. There were two brothers Henry Haworth Smith aged twenty eight and nineteen year old Allan and also a sister, Thamar Smith, aged twenty five. The family lived at 6 Stubbins Street.

In RHS mag 52 pages 18 -20 there was information about three men, listed on the plaque, who also died in World War 1: R S Quinlan, B Wild and A Duckworth. Our research is

still incomplete but we are confident that only four of the people on the Porritt & Spencer Roll of Honour died in the war. We continue to research the names on the plaque, including those of men who survived. In particular, we would like to find out more about Ellen Hartley whose name seems to have been a late addition. It is possible that her married name was Hawkins but this has not been confirmed.

## **RAMSBOTTOM CONNECTS WITH AN OVERSEAS VISITOR**

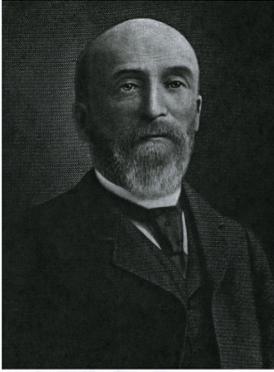
On the Friday 16th of August at Ramsbottom library, members of the Society welcomed an overseas visitor to our town, Susan Monahan, Vice President of the Kirkman House Museum situated in the town of Walla Walla, Washington, U.S.A. The significance of this visit is that the Kirkman House Museum was originally the home of Ramsbottom born William Kirkman, who built the house in 1880.

William Kirkman was born in 1831, the eldest son of James and Ann. The family lived in Nuttall village, working for the Grant Brothers. William emigrated to



the U.S.A. in 1851 at the age of 19. Here he made good in the textile industry, gold mining and ranching, before settling down with his family in Walla Walla. The purpose of Susan's visit was to research the places where the Kirkman family and friends lived and worked prior to his emigrating.

During her stay, Susan, an avid follower of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society's online presence, made her own discoveries around the town; she was also accompanied by Society members to the ruins of the Kirkman family home and workplaces in the Nuttall district.



Susan also visited the Helmshore Textile Museum, a fruitful visit that included a working demonstration of the looms. Searches for physical evidence of William Kirkman's friend referred to in his correspondence as 'Haslem' of 'Chapel Row', Tottington Lower End, were not as fruitful!

Following her visit to Ramsbottom, Susan was off to Ballybay, Ireland to visit the home of Isabella Kirkman, wife to William. The Kirkman House Museum staff and friends are to visit Ireland on a 'Grand Tour' during 2019. A similar tour is also being considered for the UK at a future date; we look forward to that!

The research files of the Kirkman legacy, documented by Barry and Isobel Aldous, are available at Bury Archives; a DVD of the Kirkman story "Those Who Will, May Win" produced by Barry Aldous, is available from the Society and more information about the Kirkman House Museum can be found online at [www.kirkmanhousemuseum.org](http://www.kirkmanhousemuseum.org).



Susan with members of the Heritage Society at the Gallery

From left to right  
Alan and Kate Slingsby  
Brenda Richards  
Susan Monahan  
Tony Mosedale

## **THE SURVIVAL OF A HERITAGE LAMPOST**

**circa 1920**

This original Joseph Strang cast iron lamppost stood in Castle Grove, Holcombe Brook, Ramsbottom ever since the houses were built in 1928. Cast into the twelve flute column are the words “J. STRANG . MAKER . RAMSBOTTOM”.



As far as we are aware, the old lamppost is the only known complete “swan’s neck” lamp left in the borough catchment area and even has its ladder arm. Manufactured at Strang’s Prince’s Foundry, on Prince St, Ramsbottom over 90 years ago, the lamppost has recently been relocated in the grounds of Morrisons supermarket, Ramsbottom, the original site of the foundry. The lamppost had been scheduled for removal under plans for LED conversion. Paul Kinsey, a Society member and resident of Castle Grove, had already been trying to ensure its preservation and he

was able to enlist the necessary support for it to be moved to an appropriate site. Due to the efforts of Bury MBC, Morrisons supermarket PLC, and Ramsbottom Heritage Society, it has been renovated in its original green livery. It now stands proudly incorporated into Morrisons Store refurbishment; hopefully for at least another 90 years!

In the later 19th century, several engineering works were established near the centre of Ramsbottom to be close to the railway, particularly in the area between Square Street and Railway Street. The metal workers and the town’s many mill hands often lived in cramped conditions on or near the present Saturday market site. Joseph Strang, whose company manufactured the lamppost, was born in Nuttall in 1853. He served his apprenticeship as a mechanic with a Mr. Lund at his foundry, the Palatine Iron Works on Railway Street/Irwell Street. He started his own business together with John Wood c1878 and later branched out on his

## *The survival of a Heritage lampost circa 1920 9*

own at the Princes Foundry. He appears in Barrett's Trade Directory of 1883 as a millwright and ironfounder at Prince's Foundry, Ramsbottom living at 116, Albert Street. Slater's 1888 directory lists him as a brass and ironfounder and machine maker living in Scotland Place. In retirement he lived in Lytham c1917 where he died in August 1928 aged 75. His business continued as a Limited Company by his sons.

A completion statement dated 27th November 1941 has the heading "William Strang & Others to Metcalfe Bros (Ramsbottom) Limited" and lists the rents of C R Metcalfe, Joseph Winterburn, and G B Fenton & Co Ltd, the wholesale greengrocers. Cuthbertson Tripe Purveyors had also had a base there. The central room was forty two feet square and the position of the jib crane, which had been used by Strang's to move their iron mouldings, could still be discerned in the middle of the roof structure."

On 25<sup>th</sup> November 1994, the old Strang foundry, which had most recently been Ableaim, successors to Metcalfe Bros, (manufacturers of wooden products: sawmilling, packing cases, wooden boxes, firewood from 1937-1991) was opened by Ponden Mills Ltd as a retail outlet for textile goods and named Peel Mill.

By January 1999 the building had been cleared along with Metcalf Brothers' unsightly corrugated brown shed which stood at the corner of Prince St and King St. Luckily the Society had been reminded of the lintel over the foundry's internal doorway which featured the words "JOSEPH STRANG ENGINEER RAMSBOTTOM 1882" and it was saved. The demolition was carried out to prepare for the build of the North West Coop supermarket. The lintel was installed on a plinth near the Irwell Street access at the south end of the supermarket car park.



In April 2009 Morrisons took over the Coop store, thus becoming the occupants of the site where the Strang premises once stood. Morrisons present neighbour, the Irwell Works Brewery was originally part of the Strang Foundry and the old STRANG STREET sign, rescued by Bob Howarth from the corner house of the terrace on Silver Street upon demolition c1987, is fastened to the outside of the brewery building. The Society is delighted



that the heritage lamp has been relocated to the foundry site and near the brewery. We are looking at the possibility of installing an interpretation board nearby. It would include information about all three Strang artefacts: the lamppost, the lintel and the street sign.

#### References

RHS Mag No18 Spring 1999 – page 1 - Andrew Todd

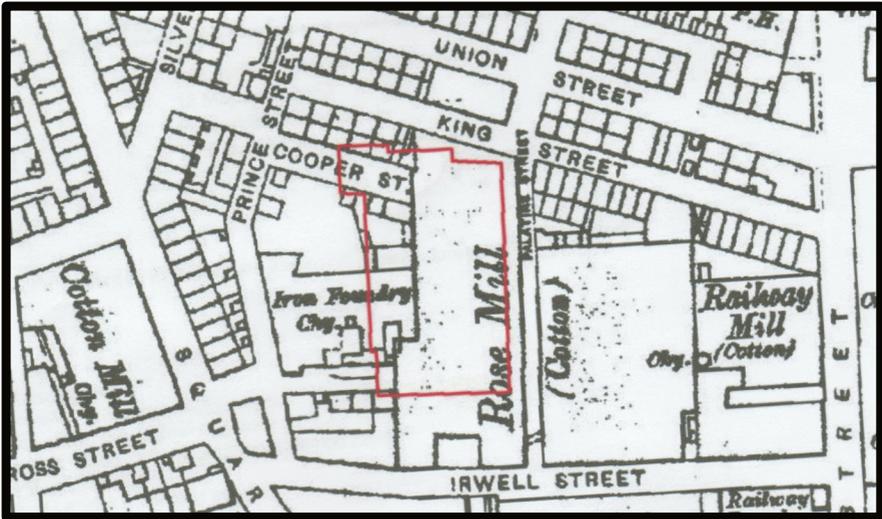
RHS Mag No 36 Spring 2009 A Brief History of Metcalf Brothers (Ramsbottom) Ltd by J Barrett

Around Ramsbottom – Ramsbottom Heritage Society 1995, reprinted 2002 and 2010



Photo: June 1987 – looking north along Prince Street. Strang's Iron Foundry, by then Metcalfe Bros Ltd, pallet makers, on right.

Morrison's outlined in red on the 1910 map



## JOSEPH STRANG

### Death of Mr. J. Strang

Founder of Ramsbottom Engineering Firm

The death occurred on Monday at his residence 'Newlands' Lytham of Mr. Joseph Strang, founder of the firm J. Strang, Ltd., engineers, of Princes Foundry, Ramsbottom.

The deceased gentleman, who was 75 years of age, had been in indifferent health for some time. Born in Nuttall, Mr Strang, we understand, served his apprenticeship as a mechanic at a foundry then run by Mr Lund and situate in the locality where the Empire Picture House now stands. Later he started in business as an engineer in partnership with Mr. John Wood, under the style of Wood and Strang. That was about fifty years ago. A few years later the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Strang starting in business on his own account at Princes Foundry, and the concern which is now in charge of his sons, became a limited company a few years ago.

During his residence in Ramsbottom – he went to live in Lytham about eleven years ago - Mr. Strang was associated with the Presbyterian Church. He was the senior member of the Starkie Lodge 1634 of Freemasons, Ramsbottom. Some five years ago he celebrated his golden wedding, but his wife died soon afterwards. He leaves three sons and five daughters, all married.

The funeral took place yesterday in the family grave at Stubbins Congregational Church when the last rites were performed by the Rev. W. Robinson, of Cleveleys, formerly of the Fairhaven Congregational Church, and who also conducted a short service at the late home of the deceased prior to the cortege leaving for Ramsbottom. Requiem music was played on the organ by Mr. T. Wolstenholme.

## MOURNERS

The private mourners were Messrs William, Gordon, and Norman Strang, sons; Capt. C.W. Whittaker (Edinburgh), W. Bevan, J.H. Downes (Withington), and Percy Ashworth, sons-in-law; and Mr. Valentine (Lytham).

W Bro James Kay, W.M and other brethren of Starkie Lodge attended the funeral and the Masonic rites at the graveside were performed by the Rev. D. Lewtas.

Mr. J Gill represented the employees at Messrs J. Strang, and Mr. W. Walker represented Mr. J. Wood, Garden Engineering Works.

Floral tributes of remembrance were sent by Will, Martha, Jean and Joseph; Gordon Janie and Kathleen; Norman and Florence; Lizzie, Dick and Kenneth; Florrie and Bill; Maude and Jim; Paddy and Percy; Agnes and children; Elsie and Cecil; Mary and Lily; William Bevan, senr (Town Green); Mag (Lytham); Ada; Gertie (Trent Street); Val; Mr and Mrs Wm Almond (Ansdell); Frank (Chauffeur); Nurse; Mr Napp (Manchester); Brethren, Starkie Lodge of Freemasons; John Wood, Garden Engineering Works.

## Ramsbottom Market Place by Monarch

How Market Place developed from 1760 during the reign of various monarchs



### George III 1760 - 1820

	Back part of Grant Arms, formerly Top o' the Brow then Grant Lodge
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### George IV 1820 - 1830

	1825 Altham's, Charles Louis - Mortgage Advisor, Chocolate Cafe
	1828 Front part of the Grant Arms
	1830 Treciccio restaurant - Pink Rhino

### Queen Victoria 1837 - 1901

	1840 7 & 9 Market Place (Chemist, Mrs P's Ice Cream Parlour
	1850 Dentist - Batisserie, Market Chambers, Cool Delight
	1874 Adderstone Mansions
	1896 Civic Hall

### Queen Elizabeth II 1952

	c.1953 Market Place, re-landscaped
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## Signs of the Times 1908:

### RAMSBOTTOM'S OLDEST INHABITANT - FUNERAL

The funeral took place yesterday at Holcombe Churchyard (the Rev. G. L. Merchant officiating) of Mrs. Mary Lord of Peel Street, Ramsbottom, who died on Thursday night last aged 94 years.

Without doubt she was the oldest inhabitant in Ramsbottom and district. She was born on February 14<sup>th</sup> 1815, and thus saw the light prior to the final crushing of the power of Napoleon, and when fears of a Napoleonic invasion were still rife in England.

She could recall the times when Ramsbottom was the merest village; when cornfields and grassland flourished where now evidences of industry are supreme. Crow Lane, for instance, she remembered first as a cornfield and later as land devoted to the cultivation of vegetables and flowers. And she could recollect the time when the site of the Parish Church of St. Paul was occupied by an old farmstead.

The late Mrs. Lord was born and reared in times when child labour was exploited without much thought of the hardship it involved to youngsters, and so at the early age of seven, she had to leave her home in the Strongstry district and engage in labour associated with the textile industry, then just developing in the direction of the factory system. She had a vivid recollection of the often-described plug-drawing riots, and the scenes at Chatterton during that memorable period.

Almost the whole of her life she had resided in Ramsbottom, and though as a result of an accident she had been bedridden about eleven years, she retained her faculties to a remarkable degree. Death resulted from an attack of influenza.

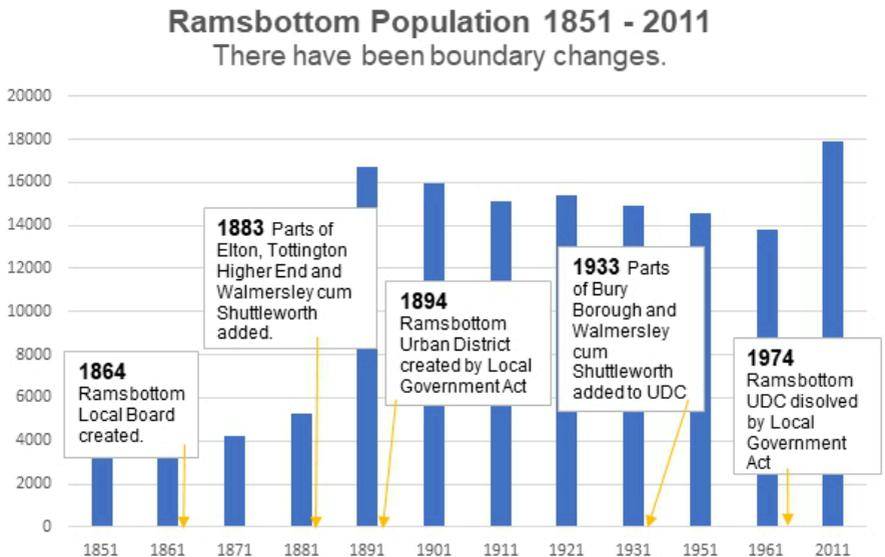
*Bury Times*, 8<sup>th</sup> December 1908



Peel Street occupied part of the present Grant Arms car park. It can be seen in the distance in this photograph

## RAMSBOTTOM LANE IN 1851

The early 1800s must have been an exciting time in the development of Ramsbottom. Buildings were being knocked down and others built. Across the River Irwell a new bridge had been built opening up the eastern side of the valley. As a result of all this development a new church, St. Paul's was consecrated in 1850. Mills were being built, new houses built, roads improved and people moving into the area. Local government was rudimentary. The area was part of the Bury Poor Law Union that had been established in 1837 and in 1864 the Ramsbottom Local Board of Health was created. It was not until 1894 Local government Act that Ramsbottom Urban District Council came into existence.



In 1841 the first census had been carried out and provided some limited information about the area. In 1851 a much fuller census was taken and provides a base line for the subsequent rapid growth of the town. In order to gain some idea about the area the 1851 Census was used to look at Ramsbottom Lane.

On the first edition OS map of the area Ramsbottom Lane was not named as such although it does appear in the 1851 Census. In fact, it was named Stubbins Street on the map. The road runs from Market Place



at night (from 8.30 pm to 5.30 am). Children aged 9 to 13 were to be given 2 hours education a day.

The Census shows many children were working in the textile mills; a boy of 9 years was described as a cotton piecer, an 11-year-old boy was employed as a dyer's assistant and a 14-year old girl as a cotton weaver.

The Census makes clear that Ramsbottom was becoming established as a textile town. Over 45% of the male workers on Ramsbottom Lane were employed in textile and textile related industries. The development of calico printing earlier by the Peels and the Grants was being extended by the increase in the number of cotton spinning and weaving mills. Along Ramsbottom Lane the largest proportion of workers were described as power loom weavers cotton (7%) or calico printers (6.5%)

There is also evidence of the mining industry that was centred on Scout Moor and Hawkshaw with some of the coal miners living on Ramsbottom Lane.

The railway had arrived in Ramsbottom in 1846 and there were a number of men employed by the railways living on Ramsbottom Lane. They would have had a short walk to their work.

Almost 2% of the men described themselves as crofters. This may not relate to farming practices as bleaching crofts were set up to deal with bleaching the cotton cloth. In which case crofters here were still employed in the textile industry. Interestingly part of Shuttleworth was known as the Croft. John Greenhalgh wrote a book called 'Up the Croft'. This valley was significant in developing the bleaching trade.

However, if these occupations relate to the more traditional meaning of crofting this was the way that most people would have earned their living in the past. They would have had a small plot of land, kept a few cattle and added to their wages by weaving woollen cloth in their farm house. The very early origins of the textile industry in Lancashire started in this way. Interestingly there were also still some workers who described their occupation as woollen spinners and weavers although compared to the cotton workers these were already a small minority.

Reflecting the growth of the town and the rapid expansion of the industrial and residential areas 4.2 % of the men were stone masons. This must have been a good trade given the rows of terraced houses and the size of some of the mills that were being built. The quarries in the area provided a good supply of stone and the majority of buildings were stone built.

What is interesting is the mix of workers that the Census shows living side by side in this central area of the town. There were textile workers, miners, and engineers but also tailors, shoe makers, butchers, beer sellers and a tea dealer. One person described himself as a lawyer. The segregation of workers had

started in some parts of the town with the building of large villas along Bolton Road but here there was a good mixture of occupations living cheek by jowl.

As a reflection of the growing population there was considerable movement of people into the area. Only 24% of the occupants of Ramsbottom Lane were born in Ramsbottom. Another 25% came from other parts of Lancashire and there were even immigrants from Yorkshire with almost 6% being born in that area. My own maternal great grandfather hailed from South Wales and moved to Ramsbottom to work as a stone mason and my paternal grandmother moved from Suffolk with her family as her father worked in a Ramsbottom paper mill.

This article is a snapshot of the establishment of the town looking at only one street and in one year. The next forty years saw the town grow dramatically from just over 3,000 in 1851 to over 16,000 in 1891. The ten-year censuses add further to our knowledge of the town during this important period.

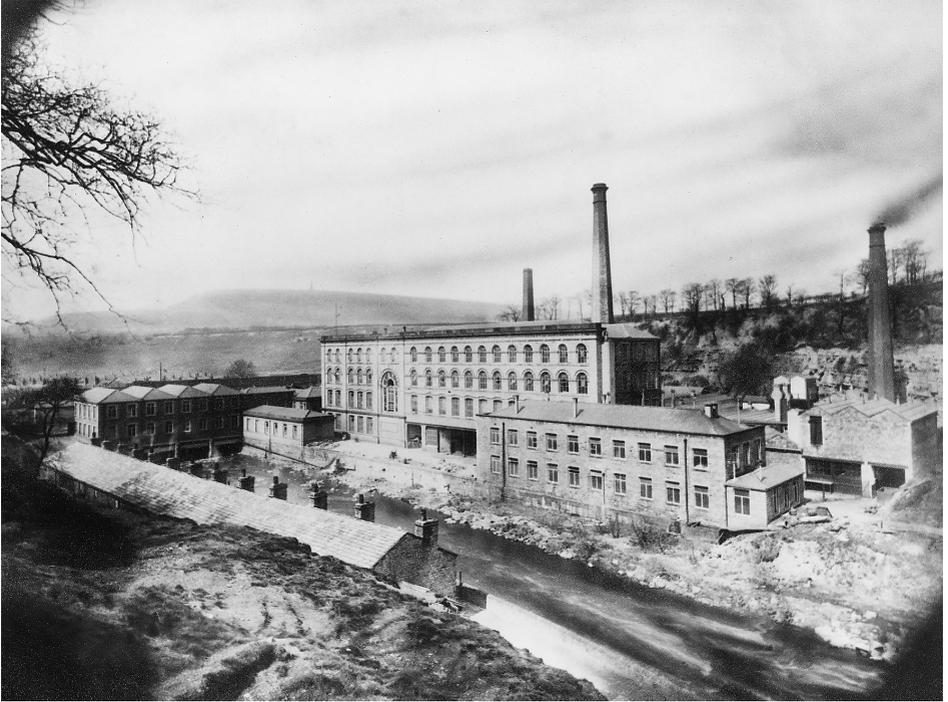
J. Tomlinson February 2018

## **Brooksbottoms (Kay Street) Bridge, Summerseat**

In the winter of 2015 the River Irwell flooded at Brooksbottoms in Summerseat. It swept away part of the Waterside Restaurant that was positioned across the river abutting Kay Street bridge. (Originally the restaurant was a mill canteen for workers of Brooksbottom Mill. The mill closed in 1978 and was partly demolished with the riverside portion saved as The Spinnings, a conversion of studio apartments and flats which was completed in 1985.) After the flood the canteen/restaurant had to be demolished for safety reasons, leaving the bridge and its abutments in need of repair and restoration.

Industrial development in this part of the Irwell Valley began in the late eighteenth century with the arrival of the cotton industry and the first mill was built in around 1773, though records do not show by whom. The River Irwell and its tributaries provided a source of water and power and there were flat sites for building in the valley bottom. Steam began to replace water power in the 1840s, although some of the mills retained water power until the early twentieth century and Hoyles Mill at Brooksbottoms later used hydroelectricity as a supplement to steam. In 1787 Robert Peel and William Yates bought the lower part of the estate and an existing three-bay mill at Brooksbottoms. They were already successful calico printers and owners of spinning mills at Bury and Ramsbottom and employed hundreds of handloom weavers in surrounding villages and hamlets. Richard Hamer was employed as the factory supervisor.

*Brooksbottoms (Kay Street) Bridge, Summerseat 19*



Peel, Yates & Company began to develop Summerseat and Brooksbottoms and by 1803 they had five spinning mills: Brooksbottoms, Robin Road, Upper Mill, Lower Mill and Wood Road. The company built rows of terraced cottages for their workers, such as those on Robin Road and Hall Street.

Transport was a key factor in support of the Peel and Yates developments. At Bridge Street, Ramsbottom they supported the building of the existing two arched stone bridge across the Irwell. It is anticipated that they took similar action in Brooksbottom/Summerseat building/rebuilding the bridges at Brooksbottoms Mill and the bridge by Twist Mill/Wood Road, close by the current Summerseat ELR station. The first map found to show bridges in these positions was in 1818, later confirmed by the first OS map in 1850. The Ramsbottom bridge is dated 1789 and all three are broadly of the same design and appearance. It could be concluded that they are of broadly the same date.

Peel and Yates sold their mills in 1812 to a consortium of Edward Hamer, Richard Hamer, Thomas Norris and William Hardman and Hamer added to the site at Brooksbottoms. Norris and Hardman had been employed by Peel & Yates as supervisors of the other two Irwell Valley mills. The introduction of power looms to the Robin Road mill led to riots and the destruction of 38 looms. In

1824 Hamer bought out his partner's interests in the estate and became sole owner. The final phase of 19th century mill development was the building of the current Hoyles Mill (now partly remaining as The Spinnings) and its former canteen built over the river adjacent to the bridge.

The mill is a grade II listed building. The listing description is as follows:

'1876. On site of mills built by Peel and Yates in 1773, by Richard Hamer in 1812, and by Thomas Kay of Rawtenstall in 1825. Built from stone from Wilds Delph in Edenfield by Edward Hoyle. Rubble and coursed stone. Four storeys. Lshaped plan with two-storey extension spanning river. Round-arched windows with sill and impost bands. Corbelled dentilled cornice under hipped slate roof. Hexagonal mill chimney.'

Brooksbottoms bridge, which carried a single carriageway highway has remained closed to vehicles since the 2015 flood. Its owners, Bury Council, propose to repair the damaged bridge to include a parapet and also to widen it to include a separate footway but their plans involve a Compulsory purchase order (CPO) for land around the bridge.

## KNOCKER UP

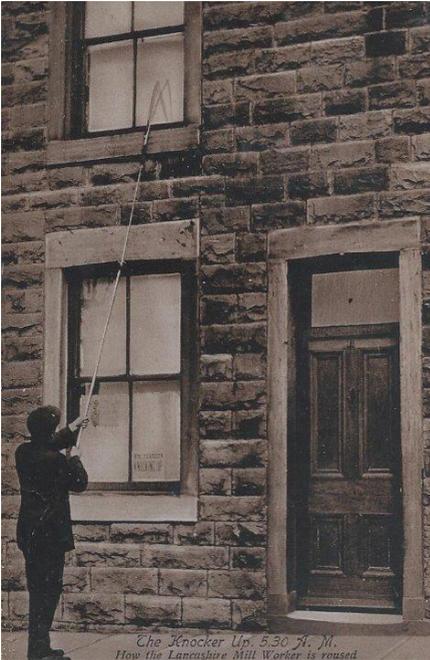


Photo on our website no. RHSBA-1403 - description under the photo

"The Knocker up 5.30 A.M. How the Lancashire Mill Worker is roused from his Slumbers"

And his name given on our website as J.M. Pearson

Found on the back of a duplicate photo

"Why he was late! Our knocker-up has a knocker-up to knock him up, and our knocker-up's knocker-up didn't knock our knocker-up up, so our knocker-up didn't come to knock us up"

## LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

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

email contact: [archives@bury.gov.uk](mailto:archives@bury.gov.uk) or tel: 0161 253 6782

**IMPORTANT: To avoid disappointment you are advised to check before your visit. An appointment is now essential if you wish to view any items that are stored in the archive.**

### OPENING HOURS.

Monday Closed; Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.; Sat 10 - 1 p.m

Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Catalogues are online at <http://archives.bury.gov.uk> as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The enquiry service offers 15 minutes staff time free. For longer enquiries we charge £15.00 hour. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives. The local studies section has publications on local history, historical printed works of local interest such as trade directories, older OS maps for the whole of Bury MBC (including Ramsbottom), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at <http://library.bury.gov.uk> – follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'. Free access to the Ancestry database is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services. The Wordpress Blog (<https://buryculture.wordpress.com/>) offers lots of news, information, events and articles on all aspects of our service.

**Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society Bury** branch meetings date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at The Kay Room, Church House, The Wylde, Bury BL0 0LA (behind St Mary's Church). Branch contact via email at [bury@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:bury@lfhhs.org.uk) . Visit [www.lfhhs.org.uk](http://www.lfhhs.org.uk) for details about branch resources and events.

**Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BL0 9AE** tel 0161 253 5352 (IT - tel 0161 253 5354) email: [Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk](mailto:Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk)

### LIBRARY OPENING HOURS:

Monday	Closed	Thursday	12.30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Friday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Saturday	9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The library boasts an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film and 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 and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 12.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

**Current Exhibition**

**July 2018 -**

**Ramsbottom Pubs**

**& “the Odious and Loathsome**

**Sin of Drunkenness”**

The exhibition focuses on pubs that existed in 1890 and what they look like now. There are panels of the history of 4 local pubs that still exist, Edenfield Brewery and the story of the Marsdens who were arrested over 30 times for drunkenness. The exhibition also has many examples of pub memorabilia, as well as a stag’s head from the Shoulder Of Mutton

**The exhibition is open during library hours  
and on the second Sunday  
of each month from 12 - 3 p.m.**