



No 60 Spring/Summer 2021

ISSN 0960 - 1244

# NEWS MAGAZINE





# Ramsbottom Heritage Society

## News Magazine No 60

### Spring/Summer 2021

#### CONTENTS

Meetings programme		inside front cover
Secretary's Report	<i>John Leyland</i>	Page 2
Nuttall: Ramsbottom's Lost Village		Page 3
Latest News		Page 4
Photographs taken in 2020	<i>John Leyland</i>	Page 8
A young boy's recreation in the 1920s	<i>Ernest Hutchinson</i>	Page 9
The Rose and Crown, Carr Street	<i>RHS Exhibition team and Martin Baggoley</i>	Page 14
Death of Mr William Grant of Nuttall Hall, 30 <sup>th</sup> May 1873		Page 22
Local Research		inside back cover

#### Front Cover

The base of Nuttall's mill chimney, an important reminder of the lost village, comes back into view. - Photograph by Ian Smith

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The committee have decided to not restart the public meetings until September at the earliest. We are looking for a Programme Secretary to help organise the speakers from September 2022. Due to the pandemic, all speakers organised by Kate Howarth, who is standing down, have agreed to move forward a year. Thanks to Kate for organising the speakers for the last few years. Please contact a member of the committee or myself if you feel able to help.

Since the last magazine, Brenda Richards has researched old street names, with a view to having street signs re-instated, possibly with the Ramsbottom Heritage Society logo. Kate Slingsby has been reproducing our old books that are out of print, with a view to selling them to a new audience. These will include Ramsbottom Reminiscences, Ramsbottom in the 1920s, Drink and Drinking in 1890. It is planned to release these over the next year. Keith Burroughs has continued with his research of buildings with his date of build register, and also the history of shops on Bridge Street and Bolton Street, which is constantly being updated as described in the Photographs of 2020 section.

We are grateful for your continued membership of the Heritage Society, and hopefully we will be able to meet again soon.

John Leyland

## **NUTTALL: RAMSBOTTOM'S LOST VILLAGE**

The making of this new book was described in issue 59 of the News Magazine. Since then, the book was initially advertised on Facebook as to whether there would be interest, and over 500 people responded, saying they would buy a copy. As a Society, we couldn't afford the risk of ordering so many on the basis of Facebook comments, so overnight, a Paypal account and website shop were created, asking for advance orders. As a result of this 600 copies were printed at the end of November, which

sold out by mid December, and a further 200 were ordered, which have now been sold, leading to a further reprint of 100, thus 900 in total.

It was also decided to hand deliver locally, as otherwise it would have meant 600 copies would have to be posted, which would have meant paying and printing the labels online, as visits to the Post Office were still discouraged. 450 books were delivered by members of the society in early December, the area being split into 5 sections, with the Whittingham Estate area ordering the most books, well over 100. It would have been far simpler to have been able to hold an event to sell the books on one day. Hearts for Homes and La Petite Patisserie offered to stock the book for us and the book is still available at both these town centre shops.

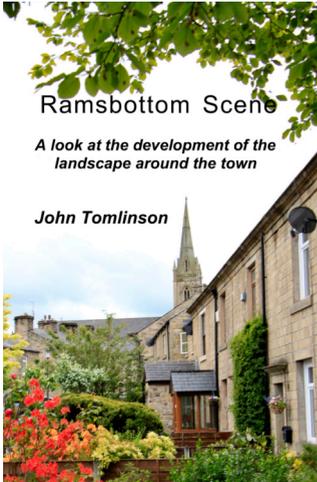
Many local people are fascinated by the mysterious village of Nuttall and are exploring the site, which has now returned to nature. The Society therefore decided that the base of the mill chimney, an important reminder of the lost village, needed to be on view again. The chimney had been erected in the mid-19th century, when William Grant & Bros began to use steam power in their mills down by the River Irwell at Nuttall. By the 1960s its top was in disrepair and was removed in 1967 – leaving the substantial chimney base. Over the years, willow trees grew and virtually hid the chimney. In a plan backed by Bury Council, it was decided to use some of the profits from the book to employ a tree surgeon to remove some of these trees. The work was carried out early this year. Further work is planned. Treatment to prevent regrowth and trees discovered growing inside the chimney will be removed.

The book itself, now into its third reprint, is receiving many expressions of approval, including this comment on Facebook:

**“If you live around the Whittingham Drive area and walk to Nuttall Park down Nuttall Lane and along the river you have to look at this book by the Ramsbottom Heritage Society about the lost village of Nuttall. Absolutely superb read and totally eye-opening about our past. Great photos and maps in the book.”**

## LATEST NEWS

### “Ramsbottom Scene”



We have just read John Tomlinson’s new book, which is now on sale. We think that readers of this magazine will enjoy the 169 page book with its beautifully reproduced illustrations, maps, charts and very useful index. It contains lots of interesting information that we have not found in any other publication, such as the geology of the area, evidence of occupation before the Grants, town and population growth since 1851, development of the road system including turnpikes and toll roads, chapters on coal, stone and water, the history of churches, and significant buildings.

The book is priced at £13.50 including postage and packing and is available now via [airedalepublishing@gmail.com](mailto:airedalepublishing@gmail.com)

The author is a member of the RHS and has generously decided that any profits will be donated to our Society.

### Ramsbottom War Memorial Project

On Christmas Eve 2020, the Ramsbottom War Memorial Project Team received the most welcome news that planning permission had been granted for their project: to create, for posterity, a permanent visible and tangible record of the names of those Armed Service and Merchant Service personnel from Ramsbottom, who have given their lives for their country since the start of World War 1 through to future conflicts. In addition, Bury Council allocated funding to upgrade the Memorial Gardens, surrounding walls and pathways.

Research since August 2011 revealed over five hundred names for which there was insufficient room on the town's existing war memorial in St Paul's Memorial Gardens. It is now a Grade II listed monument and there are no plans to carry out any work on it, although new surfacing and edging will be laid around it. To bear all the names, fourteen sawn sandstone plinths will be created with the lettering carved into the face of the stone. The plinths will be cut on a radius and installed in two sections

on either side of the existing path and by the outside edge of the new surfacing around the original memorial.

The work on the installation and engraving on the memorial plinths is scheduled to commence, on site, in July when it is hoped that good weather and long days will enable the stone mason to carry out his work without interruption from inclement weather. The memorial will provide the only comprehensive listing of the war dead of Ramsbottom and form an integral part of Remembrance events.



War Memorial and gardens before the work started - November 2020

Update - Ramsbottom Co-operative Hall, 51-53 Bolton Street,  
Ramsbottom (Ramsbottom Music Hall)

There is now another new Grade II listed building in Ramsbottom! Historic England, in their statement of 17th February 2021 explain:

**Following the Building Preservation Notice (BPN) served on the above building by Bury Council and the subsequent application to add it to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, we have taken into account all the representations made and completed our assessment of the building. Having considered our recommendation, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has decided to add Ramsbottom Co-operative Hall to the List. The building is now listed at Grade II.**

The List entry for the above building, together with a map, has now been published on the National Heritage List for England, and will be available for public access. This List can be accessed through the Historic England website. List Entry Number: 1473516.

A planning application to convert the first and second floors of the building into apartments has been withdrawn.



Photograph taken November 2020 - John Leyland

## The Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital Weathervane

We are very pleased to report (belatedly) that the weathervane is now a prominent feature on the roof of Cobden Mill, Square Street, Ramsbottom. Some of the details about how members of our Society and Bury Council's planning department were working with Greenmount Developments to "save" this important artefact appeared in News Magazine No 56 Spring/Summer 2019.



Photograph taken by Ian Chapman in February 2020, and available for viewing on the website as part of the Photographic Database as reference HPC-20BU-006

## Photographs taken in 2020

There wasn't a photographic competition this year, but Alan Seymour, Ian Chapman and myself submitted photographs to illustrate the year. Some of these are shown throughout the magazine. I took the opportunity of the shops being closed and the streets being empty to photograph every building on Bolton Street, which caused one owner to ask what I was doing. He seemed satisfied when I said I was taking a snapshot of the street for the Heritage Society.

Alan and Ian also included shops or buildings on Bridge Street and Bolton Street that have changed in 2020, and a selection are shown below, with the reference of the Photographic Database on the website.



HPC-20BU-058 - Alan Seymour  
Big Butts bakery closed in 2017



HPC-20BU-055 - Alan Seymour  
For many years was Denise Smith lighting



HPC-20BU-086  
John Leyland  
Ex-Eclectic Deli

HPC-20BU-038  
Ian Chapman

RBS being  
converted to a  
restaurant





Ex -Topping Butchers



Ex Dream Doors - now Baby Gaga

## **A YOUNG BOY'S RECREATION IN THE 1920s**

From Albert Street, my parents moved to 69 Callender Street and then to 51 Callender Street. I was born there on 17th Oct 1918. Behind 51, Callender Street there is a retaining wall about 6ft high and there is a steep slope up to Albert St. At the bottom of this wall is a little gutter which takes away the water that drips down from weep holes in the wall. Callender Street, having a slope in its length, at times after heavy rain, the water rushed down it in a torrent, and when I was very young I spent hours sailing little bits of wood, with a matchstick for a mast and a piece of paper for a sail, careering down the torrent. On part of the land above this wall (presumably the grass bank between Albert Street and Callender Street, now landscaped - Editor) my father had a garden and a large greenhouse, where he grew lots of tomatoes. He also grew vegetables and flowers, and when he retired, he became a specialist in growing carnations and won many prizes at local shows.

Callender Street was a long, cobbled street stretching from Bolton Street to Carr Street and consisted of four distinct rows of houses on the west side of the street with only five houses on the east side near the junction with Bolton Street. The entire street was an elevated terrace along the



*Albert Street, c1910, probably taken by John Wallis Hutchinson, who was enumerated in the 1911 Census with his wife Mary Alice and sons at no 6, third from the end. Carr Fold is visible to the right, middle distance; and Springwood Mill beyond the wall of the Rose and Crown bowling green*

slope of the hill, rising up from the River Irwell to Holcombe. It had a wonderful view of the moors across the valley – Top o’th’ Hoof (Grants Tower), Whittle Pike, Windy Harbour and the Quarry at Shuttleworth. At intervals on the east side of the street, there were mature, single trees rising from the footpath and gas lampposts. As boys we used to climb the trees and also swing on the gas lamp ladder arms.

Outside our house, on hot summer days, the tar between the cobbles in the street softened, and as boys we picked it out and rolled it into little balls. When the tar cooled and hardened we would use them to play marbles. The trees on the footpath running along Callender Street were about 25-

30ft high and we climbed these to swing from the branches and hide in the upper branches to drop tar balls on other children passing below.

As a boy, my main recreation was walking the Moors and Valleys around Ramsbottom; Stubbins; Helmsshore; Holcombe; Grants Tower and Buckhurst and playing games: 'rally ho', hide & seek, hoop, piggy, top & whip, marbles, swimming, cricket, football, gymnastics and sledging in winter. When I was about six, I would wander about Ramsbottom and on some Sundays, I would go down to the Newmarket Pub, a beer house kept by Mrs Hall, my Aunt Lucy's mother-in-law, to swill out the spittoons or cuspidors to give them their posh name, with a hose pipe in the back yard. I would also chop firewood for the weeks kindling for lighting the fires. All this used to earn me a tanner (6d) or so.

In those days, I hated school – it tied me down and I'd rather have been out and about doing something practical, or roaming the countryside, woods and moors. I loved the winter when in those days it always snowed hard and we had severe frosts, when we could sledge. My sledge was a 'hand me down' from my brother, and it was the best 'skeleton sledge' in Ramsbottom. (At least I thought so!). It was made by Dad from a stout board with foundrymade ½ inch diameter iron runners, slightly flattened where they made contact with the snow or ice. We would spend all night sledging down The Rake from Holcombe, down to Rostrons Road and sometimes getting down to the Market Place via the little ginnel and steps that go into Carr Street. Then we would walk all the way back to Holcombe to do it again.

At weekends we went up on to Holcombe Moor to sledge on the Long Pits – two flashes of frozen water amongst the reeds on the flat land between Holcombe Hill and Harcles Hill. The small flashes were probably made by people digging for peat in the olden days, but now in 2005, they have disappeared, probably silted up and overgrown. We used to take a short run with the sledge held up to our chest, then dive onto the

ice and go hurtling along being pulled up by the reeds on the other side. My sledge with the iron runners used to fly like the wind.

During the winter, there was always the Empire Cinema to go to if it was raining on a Saturday. The cinema was on Railway Street, but was demolished after a fire there. They put on a children's matinee showing films like Tom Mix in cowboys and Indians and serial films. One serial called *The Green Archer* went on for weeks. There used to be long queues waiting for the doors to open and when they did, there was a mad rush to get the best seat. Before the films began, a chap came round with a very long pole to close the wooden shutters over the high windows in the sides of the building. He also shouted for the children to keep quiet and settle



Opposite the station on Railway Street stood the Empire Picture Palace, built in 1910. This maypole dance may even have been celebrated its opening. Owned by Blakeboroughs, the theatre closed in 1962 and burned down in 1978

Photo and text taken from *Around Ramsbottom* , page 27

down. The films were silent films, but a pianist belted out appropriate music to the action going on in the film. At these matinees, no-one was allowed in the balcony upstairs, in case someone fell over the balcony rail when jumping up and down in the exciting bits of the film.

In summer, we went swimming in Springwood Lodge and in a small lodge behind a derelict mill with a water wheel which was between Proctor's slaughter house at Kibboth Crew and the farm towards Oxhey. The water in this small lodge was so cold we could just about swim across and then be too cold to swim back.

One of my first ambitions was to be a farmer and I spent some time helping at a farm over Oxhey nearer to Stubbins. The farmer's son, who was older than me and resented me being there, started knocking me about. On one memorable day, he went too far, and I pelted him with hen eggs and in the ensuing fight I managed to burst his nose, before taking to my heels and running for home. Needless to say, I never visited that farm again. The farmer, who took milk to my Auntie Suzy in Stubbins, asked her why I didn't come to the farm any more, but she didn't know. I learned later that the lad never told his father about the fight, I think his pride had been dented.

When I was about six or seven, I went on a ramble with Arnold Baldwin and some other pals round the back of Nuttall Park up towards the coach road. In a little valley there was a pipe across the valley about 4ft from the ground. Being dared to walk across the pipe, I set off and midway I slipped and sat with one leg either side of the pipe which was wrapped with barbed wire. I was not able to get up as the wire was in my short pants. I raised myself up with my hands and threw myself sideways off the pipe, but my left leg caught on the wire and tore two chunks of flesh from the side of my leg below the knee. The lads tried to find the flesh to put it back into my leg, but couldn't find it, thank goodness! With handkerchiefs they wrapped my leg to stop the flow of blood and helped me back home.

I was scolded by my Grandmother, who sat me on the mangle draining board, put salt into the wounds and bandaged my leg up. A week later, Dr Charles came to visit my mother, who was ill in bed in the front room, and saw me hobbling about. He looked at the wounds and said it should have been stitched and now would take six weeks to heal – which it did and I still have a scar.

Ernest Hutchinson 2005

*We told Mr Hutchinson's daughter, Mrs Sheila Nolan, that we hoped to publish the above extract from her father's memoirs. She replied, "I would like to mention, that in later years, my Dad would tell his grandchildren that the scar on his leg was from when a dinosaur bit him!"*  
(Editor)

## **THE ROSE AND CROWN, Carr Street, Ramsbottom**

*Hopefully, the Heritage Gallery at Ramsbottom Library will reopen to the public soon and it will be possible to visit the RHS exhibition, "Ramsbottom Pubs – The Odious and Loathsome Sin of Drunkenness". Meanwhile, we are very grateful to the members of the exhibition team, who have contributed their research to inform the item below, and to Martin Baggoley for his article, "The Rose and Crown Inquests".*

Situated in the old settlement of Carr, the Rose and Crown was built between 1784 and 1818, when it was listed in Rogerson's General Directory. In its early days it was also known as the Crown Inn and its neighbour was The Rising Sun (a beerhouse built in 1794 and converted into two private homes, numbers 2, Tanners Street and 1, Manor Street many years ago). Previously, the only public houses in the area had been the White Hart (now Higher House) and the Shoulder of Mutton, both at Holcombe, so Ramsbottom's thirsty workers faced the steep climb up The Rake.



Photograph by Heather Ryder

Massey's Burnley Brewery once owned the Rose and Crown and one of its decorative windows with 'MBB' etched on it survives.

In 1966 Massey's shares were acquired by Charrington United Breweries and the pub is now a Thwaites house.



Massey's Burnley Brewery Ltd's original windows in 2018. These two have now been replaced.



The highest corner of the 18ft wall

The bowling green behind the pub lies above impressive stone retaining walls which are eighteen feet tall at the highest corner. The present-day car park was once the site of some of Carr's old back-to-back cottages, long since demolished. (The survey of 1795 Carr includes cottages, houses and mills. The 1842 and 1850 plans show the Rose and Crown, Carr Fold, Gutter Lane, Carr Barn, farms at Top Wood and Kib o' th' Crew and a range of mills and reservoirs referred to as Spring Wood Mill, Carr Mill, Top Wood Mill and Holcombe Mill. References date back to a fulling mill in 1627. The mills were individually fairly modest buildings producing both cotton and woollen goods but together, and with the many reservoirs and man-made watercourses, must have been a key part of the industrial landscape of Ramsbottom.)

The Rose and Crown is reputed to have been a venue for cockfighting<sup>1</sup> and for a short time much more recently for the New Years Day Game Fowl show. Inquests were held there during the 1800s<sup>2</sup>, although it was not the only pub in the Ramsbottom area to hold them during this period.

(Records confirm they also took place at the Grant Arms, The Eagle & Child, The Pack Horse and The Railway Hotel.) As well as business functions and meetings, it was not unusual for auctions of land and property to take place in public houses in the 1800s. Press notices suggest the landlord of the Rose and Crown, Richard Schofield, was involved in making arrangements for a range of activities.

**FAT PIG.—TO BE DRAWN FOR,**  
on MONDAY, February 22nd, 1858, at the house of Mr. Morris, near the Rose and Crown Inn, Carr, Ramsbottom, a FAT PIG, weighing about Forty Score. If less than the above weight, the owner to pay 6d. per lb.; and if more, the winner to pay at the same rate.  
Tickets, One Shilling each, may be had of Mr. Morris, as above, and of Mr. James Heywood, Grey Mare Inn, Bury; Mr. Wolstenholme, Three Tuns Inn, Bury; Mr. Parry, Manchester; Mr. Knowles, Railway Hotel, Ramsbottom; Mr. Goodrick, Grant's Arms Inn, Ramsbottom, and of Mr. Schofield, Rose and Crown Inn, Carr.

Bury Times 30<sup>th</sup> January 1858

This article is under the SALES BY AUCTION section

Rose and Crown Inn, Ramsbottom.  
**MR. S. JACKSON** has received instructions from Mr. Richard Schofield to **SELL BY AUCTION**, at the Rose and Crown Inn, Ramsbottom, on Monday, Nov. 25th, 1861, a Number of Powerful and very Valuable Young **CART HORSES**, rising four years old, about 16 hands high; **SEVEN** Valuable Young Dairy **COWS**, of choice colour and breed, including calvers and cows in milk; **FOUR** Capital Store Pigs; **IMPLEMENTS** of **HUSBANDRY**, **DAIRY UTENSILS**; together with a Portion of **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**, and other Effects. Sale to commence at twelve o'clock at noon.

Bury Times 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1861

The cuttings above, and on pages 18 and 20 have been copied from [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com), which has a selection of Bury Times newspapers.

Images © THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



Rose & Crown jug which was sold at auction as Lot 124 on 16th January 2014 at Barnsley BBR Auctions. Described in the auction catalogue as :

“RAMSBOTTOM PUB NAMED JUG 3.5in tall, blue and white oriental design all around .....black lettering to front.”

## A “REARING” OF A NEW MILL AT THE ROSE AND CROWN

### DINNER TO WORKPEOPLE. — RAMSBOTTOM SPINNING & MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

On Saturday last, the above Company treated all the workpeople employed in the erection of their new mill to a good substantial dinner. The workpeople were 93 in number, and the dinner was served up in a style which reflected great credit on the worthy host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Schofield, of the Rose and Crown Inn, Carr, Ramsbottom. These 93 stout and robust excavators, quarrymen, masons, &c., presented a beautiful sight when all seated together, and showed as much skill and determination in the use of the knife and fork as they had with the pick, hammer, and trowel, for a very short time sufficed to do justice to the good things provided.

Bury Times 26<sup>th</sup> October 1861

After the meal, the Chairman of the company, Mr William Ross, explained that the gathering was what was called “the rearing of the mill”. He wished everybody to bear in mind that the mill had been built without any disturbance among the men, or between the men and the foremen and, as they had managed to work peaceably together for six months, he felt confident that they could eat and drink peaceably together for one night. There were cheers and he then proposed a toast to “The Queen, and long may she reign over a happy, prosperous people”. The toast, which is reported to have been drunk with enthusiasm, was the first of many that evening. Each was followed by loud cheers and interspersed with songs and a recitation.

The diners drank toasts to the health of mill architect Mr Edmund Simpson of Bury, the excavators and labourers, Mr John Crankshaw (foreman quarryman), Mr John Hargreaves (foreman mason), Mr Thomas Wolstenholme (timberwork contractor), James C Kay Esq of Bury, who had contracted for the engines and gearing, and the company directors.

Afterwards there were several more songs and recitations and the meeting “which was in every respect a very pleasant one” broke up at about eleven o’clock.

References:

1. “Ramsons” pictorial map by Zena Middleton
2. Three examples of inquest reports:

*Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser* 8.7.1846

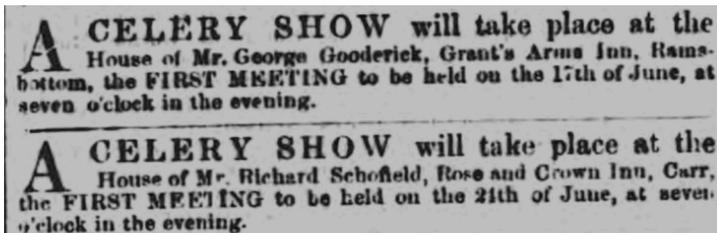
*Bury Times* 2.5.1863, *Burnley Gazette* 25.2.1888

## **THE ROSE & CROWN INQUESTS**

The public house has long been a place to meet friends and to take part in activities which have included darts and bowls and in more recent times pool and quizzes, or celebrate life’s significant occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries. Therefore, when I decided to look back on

the history of my local, the Rose & Crown on Carr Street, it came as no surprise to discover that it had been important in the district's life for many years.

It was also where local groups and societies met and from the mid-nineteenth century onwards, among these were the Welcome Stranger Lodge of the Oddfellows and the Ramsbottom Friendly Burial Society.\*



*Bury Times*

2<sup>nd</sup> June 1860

Events held at the pub included a celery show in June 1860; in January 1862, the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway employees at Ramsbottom station and their families dined there, after which they held a dance to welcome in the New Year; and two years later, there was an auction of six properties on Kenyon Street.

However, one of its most important functions was to provide a venue in which to hold inquests following unexpected deaths in the surrounding area. In the absence at the time of a Coroner's Court, it proved to be suitable as there was sufficient space to accommodate the coroner, his staff, the jury, witnesses and as the deceased had usually lived nearby, his or her family and neighbours.

Contemporary editions of the Bury Times contain accounts of inquests and the first to be reported on in that newspaper was that of forty-six year old labourer John Schofield, whose body was found in the pub's grounds on the night of January 8th 1857. He was very drunk when he left the pub earlier that evening, before apparently seeking shelter in a barn adjoining the pub. At the inquest, held five days later before the coroner Mr Dearden, it was stated that there were no signs of violence and he was not

thought to have been suffering from ill-health. However, he had been drinking heavily in the weeks leading up to his death and it was believed he must have fallen asleep and had probably frozen to death. The jury therefore returned an open verdict of 'Found Dead'.

Mr Dearden was at the Rose & Crown again on May 4th 1860 to consider the death of eight-year old Thomas Duckworth, who had lived on Tanners. On the previous Tuesday, the youngster was playing with friends in a dug-hole, but unfortunately they were unaware of the dangers they faced. The dead boy was standing in the hole when a massive amount of sand fell from its rim on to him and he was buried alive. The alarm was raised and his father James, who was close by, rushed to the spot. With the help of neighbours, he dug frantically in the hope of uncovering the boy, but he was unable to do so. Having heard the statements given by several witnesses, the jury had little hesitation in bringing in a verdict of 'Accidental Death'.

Richard Schofield was landlord of the Rose & Crown for a number of years and sadly, on April 24th 1863, his six-year old son John died. On the previous day, after leaving school, he went bird nesting on Holcombe Hill and fell twelve feet down a steep incline, known as Deep Clough. He banged his head on a large stone, but despite his injuries, he was able to make his way home, where he died the following day. At the inquest on May 2nd, held in the pub with the agreement of John's family, a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was recorded.

Confirmation of the often dangerous working conditions faced by many in the Victorian era emerged at an inquest held on November 13th 1869, before deputy county coroner Mr Molesworth. The deceased was seventeen-year old James Dewhurst, who on the previous day was working at James Ingham's Ramsbottom Paper Mill. At about two-thirty in the morning the young man was operating machinery in which he became entangled. This led to his head being crushed between two rollers, which caused the horrific injuries from which he died. After listening to

evidence provided by James's workmate Joseph Gilpin and Thomas George the manager of the mill, the coroner said it seemed to him that no blame for his death could be attached to anyone other than James himself. The jury agreed, deciding it was an 'Accidental Death'.

Unsurprisingly, a 'Suicide' verdict was the outcome of an inquest that took place on October 4th 1877. Two days earlier, the body of thirty-seven year old local mill worker Thomas Nuttall was discovered hanging from a tree in Carr Bank Wood. Described by witnesses as 'a man of intemperate habits', he had been telling friends he wished to put an end to his life for some time previously.

Martin Baggoley

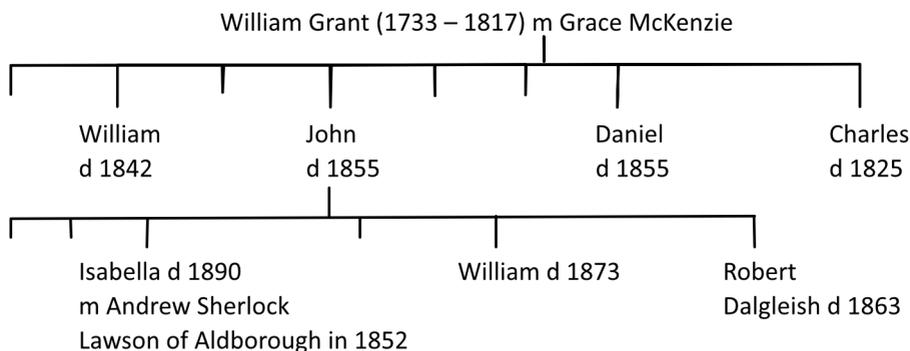
*\*Dues used to be collected at the Rose & Crown for the Ramsbottom Friendly Burial Society (also known as the Carr Club or the Dead List). A guaranteed benefit payment was made to members in the event of a family death.*

## **DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM GRANT, OF NUTTALL HALL, 30TH MAY 1873**

The Grant family, who were important in the development of Ramsbottom and in influencing the lives of its inhabitants, followed the tradition of carrying on family names through the generations<sup>1</sup>. William Grant of Nuttall Hall, who died in 1873, was a member of the third generation of Ramsbottom's Grants. His grandfather William (married to Grace McKenzie) founded the business which was expanded by four of his sons William, Daniel, John and Charles and became known as William Grant & Bros. By 1855 all the brothers had died, and the business was inherited by John's sons, Robert Dalglish Grant and William Grant.

Neither of the men was in good health. Robert Dalglish died in 1863 during the Lancashire Cotton Famine (1861–65), which caused a

depression in the textile industry. William was unable to continue and sold the Grant businesses in 1864. His death in 1873, at Grange in Cartmel, marked the end of an era. The estate passed to his sister Isabella and became the Grant Lawson Estate.



*Below are two transcriptions by Brenda Richards. The first is the report of William's death which appeared in the Bury Times in June 1873. It is followed by the account that the newspaper published a week later about William Grant's funeral.*

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. William Grant, of Nuttall Hall, Ramsbottom, which event took place yesterday morning about eight o'clock, at Grange, near Ulverston. Mr Grant, has for a considerable period been afflicted with rheumatic gout, his sufferings from which has recently been very severe, but so suddenly fatal an issue was not at all anticipated, and the intelligence of his death will prove a surprise to all who knew him, and awaken sorrowful feelings in the breasts of many to whom he had been benefactor and friend.

The deceased, who for many years resided at Carr Bank, was the son of the late John Grant, of the firm of William Grant & Brothers, and was born at Nuttall Hall, which family mansion he had lately occupied. Being the last male survivor, Mr. William Grant inherited much of the wealth accumulated by the well-known 'Cheeryble Brothers', out of which he

generously contributed to the support and establishment of various religious and educational institutions in his immediate neighbourhood, his last act of munificence being the erection of day and Sunday school in connection with St. Andrew's Church, Nuttall Lane and an infant school attached to St. Paul's Church, in Crow Lane. The first-named of these churches was built and endowed by Mr. Grant's predecessors as a Presbyterian Church, in which faith the deceased was brought up; but latterly Mr. Grant attended the services of the Church of England, whose form of worship is now observed at St. Andrew's. At both these places the entire expenses of the respective choirs were defrayed by Mr. Grant and a number of children wearing school uniform attire, received gratuitous education at his hands.

Mr. Grant, we understand, was in his 48th year. A few weeks ago, by the advice of his medical attendants, Dr. Southam of Manchester and Mr. Wilson, surgeon, of Ramsbottom, he went to Grange, with the hope of restoring his health. While there he was constantly attended by Dr. Southam, as well as Mr Wilson, or his assistant, Mr Wells but within the last few days his suffering greatly increased, and he weakened very rapidly, and died yesterday morning as above stated.

Mr. Grant leaves a widow, but no children. The only member of the family now surviving is his sister, Mrs Lawson, of Aldborough. Mrs Grant has lost both her husband and father, the late Mr Clegg, of Prestwich, in little more than one week – the last-named gentleman having been interred on Friday, the 23rd instant.

### The Funeral of Mr. William Grant

On Thursday, at noon, the remains of Mr. William Grant of Nuttall Hall, whose death we briefly noticed last week, are consigned to their last resting place at St. Andrew's Church. The funeral cortege left Nuttall Hall about a quarter past eleven o'clock, in the following order: -

Two mutes<sup>2</sup>

Female Sunday School scholars and teachers

Male Sunday School scholars and teachers

Choristers of St. Paul's and St. Andrew's in surplices and black silk scarfs

A number of out-door workers on the estate

The bearers

First mourning coach, containing Mr. Thos. Schofield, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom; John McRae, W. Oliver, Jos. Strand, Ramsbottom

Second mourning coach: - Messrs T. Howson, Samuel Wilson, William Bramley (Ramsbottom) and James Kay (Pike)

Third mourning coach: - Mrs T. Knowles, Edward Wild, George Goodrick (Ramsbottom) and Richard Howarth (Nuttall Farm)

Fourth mourning coach: - Messrs W. Stead, Thomas Wild, Jamieson Morton (Ramsbottom), Thos. Schofield (Bridge Street, Ramsbottom)

Fifth mourning coach: - Messrs Henry Heys, Lawrence Stead - Heap (Ramsbottom)

Mrs. Grant's Brougham, containing the Rev. W.H. Corbould, vicar of St. Paul's; Rev. J. Cartman, Hazlehurst, Ramsbottom and the Rev. John Henn, Old Trafford, Manchester

Two mutes

Hearse and four horses

First mourning coach, containing Messrs Andrew Lawson and John G. Lawson (nephews of the deceased), Old Borough Manor; Rev. John Clegg (brother in law of deceased), Eccleshall, Staffordshire; Mr. Dowsett; Mr. John S.W. Grant, and Mr. Whittenbury (stewards)

Third Mourning coach: - Rev. Canon Hornby, Bury; Mr. R. E. Ashton, Fallowfield, near Manchester; Mr. James Park, Bury; Mr. Lorraine Wilson, Fallowfield

Fourth mourning carriage: - Mr. Thomas Ashton, Ramsbottom; Rev. H.P. Hughes, Shuttleworth; Rev. J. F. Yeo, Edenfield; and the Rev. J.H. Fletcher, Radcliffe

Fifth mourning coach: - Rev. J.H. Butcher, Audenshaw; Mr. Thos. Woodcock, Haslingden; Dr. Wilson and Mr. Wells surgeons, Ramsbottom

Sixth mourning coach: - Dr. Woodcock, Woodside; Mr. A. Hepburn and Mr. W. Rumney, Ramsbottom

Next followed the undermentioned private carriages (closed): -

Mr. Dalglish's,	Rev. John Clegg's;	Mrs. Jas. Munn's (Prestwich);
Mr. O.O. Walker's (Bury);		Mr Jas. Parks' (Bury);
Mr Rumney's;		Mr. L.W. Fletcher's.

The funeral cortege, which had left Nuttall Hall about a quarter past eleven o'clock and was of considerable length, arrived at the church about half-past twelve; and along the whole line of the route, viz, from the Hall, down Shipperbottom New Road, thence down Peel Brow, crossing the railway into Bridge Street, and along Bolton Street to the church, the blinds of the dwelling-houses were drawn, and all the principal places of business closed. In fact, throughout all the whole of the town there were manifest indications of grief at the loss which the inhabitants have sustained of the last male descendant of an illustrious family who have undoubtedly contributed in no small degree, by a liberal use of immense wealth which they succeeded in amassing, in elevating the town of Ramsbottom to the highly credible position of commercial prosperity which it now occupies. We believe that the name of the deceased will be held in grateful remembrance by future generations, and that as the

descendant of the “Cheeryble Brothers”, who have been immortalised by that eminent and much-lamented novelist, Charles Dickens, his memory will not soon be forgotten.

Upon the arrival of the funeral procession at the church the service was impressively read by the Rev. W. R. Corbould, vicar of St. Paul’s assisted by the Rev. J. Cartman and J. Henn. As the corpse was being borne up the aisle Mr. T. Wolstenholme, organist of St. Paul’s, presided at the organ, playing the Dead March “Saul” after which, a hymn was sung by the choir, and Psalms xxxix and xc. were chanted, the music selected from Dr. Croft and Dr. Blow. The Vicar then read (being evidently deeply affected) the lesson in 1 Cor.xv.,20. The chorale, “Sleepers awake! A voice is calling,” was then sung by the choir; the coffin, upon which was placed two beautiful wreaths of immortelles, was then lowered into the vault, which is situated within the communion, at the east end of the church, near the last resting places of deceased’s relatives. The depth of the vault is 9ft., length inside 7ft. and width 3ft 4 in. It is constructed of ashier stone, and the bottom is covered with ground flags. The reading desk, pulpit, choir stalls, and front of the gallery of the church were draped in black cloth, and the gas brackets were enveloped with black crape. The undertakers were Messrs. Satterfield and Co., of St. Ann’s Square, Manchester, and the hearse, mourning coaches &c, were from the establishment of the Manchester Carriage Company.

We may state that the mourning carriages which went before the hearse were each drawn by two horses, and the coaches which followed it were drawn by four horses. The coffin consisted of an oak shell (which contained the body of the deceased) enclosed in a leaden coffin, on which was a plate which bore the following inscription in raised brass letters “William Grant, born 15th August 1825; died 30th May 1873”. The outside coffin was of oak, covered with a black cloth, with rich brass furniture, and on the lid was a brass plate on which was engraved an inscription similar to the one above. We may also state that whilst on the

way from the Hall to the church the choir – under the leadership of Mr. Nuttall, professor of music, Bury – sang three hymns, the first opposite St. Paul’s, the second in Bolton Street, and the third in Nuttall Lane prior to entering the church. None but those who had invitations to the funeral were allowed to enter the church, in order that overcrowding might be prevented; but after the funeral service was over and the mourners had left the sacred edifice, those who wished to visit the last resting place of the deceased were permitted to do so, the arrangement being that they should enter by the south entrance to the church and leave by the north, and large numbers of people availed themselves of this opportunity of paying a last tribute of respect to the departed.

#### NOTES

*1) Hopefully to dispel any confusion about other local Grants whose name was “William”:*

*William Grant, the manager of Nuttall Mills, was a cousin of William, Daniel and John Grant. He was known as William Grant Wellfield, to distinguish him from the others. His name was chosen as it was the name of the house where he lived which was Wellfield House, subsequently numbered 223, Nuttall Lane.*

*Major John William Sueton Grant worked as an agent for William Grant & Bros. He was a friend of William Grant of Nuttall Hall and trustee of his will. He came from Morayshire, the same area as William and Grace Grant but may not have any family connection to them. In her article in News Magazine 35 Autumn 2008 Brenda Richards said she had been told that Morayshire “was awash with Grants”.*

*2) During the Victorian era, when funerals were an extravagant business, the family of the deceased would often hire a mute for the occasion. A mute was basically a paid mourner, whose job was to keep vigil outside the house then lead the funeral procession. A mute dressed in sombre clothes with a black top hat.*

# LOCAL RESEARCH UPDATE 2021

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service.

The following could be approached:

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

**NB Bury Archives is currently closed but can be contacted with enquiries via [archives@bury.gov.uk](mailto:archives@bury.gov.uk) or 0161 253 6782.**

It is hoped to re-start the visitor appointment service again soon and details can be found on the [www.bury.gov.uk](http://www.bury.gov.uk) website by clicking on “View all libraries and archives” under the “Libraries and Archives” heading. In the meantime, you are invited to check out the Bury Archives Online site and Bury Culture - Archives blog.

**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 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.

**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**

The Trustees of the Society have suspended most activities for the time being in line with government guidance. Visit [www.lfhhs.org.uk](http://www.lfhhs.org.uk) for details. The Society’s research centres at Chorley and Oswaldtwistle remain closed but enquiries can be handled by email sent to [researchcentre@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:researchcentre@lfhhs.org.uk). Bookshop orders may be delayed if volunteers are not available to carry them out.

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

**NEW LIBRARY OPENING HOURS: From April 28<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Books may be returned and left in the box in the foyer between 10 a.m. and noon and between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesday to Friday.

Customers can order books by telephoning the library or by ordering online.

Open for browsing and ‘Click and collect’ service

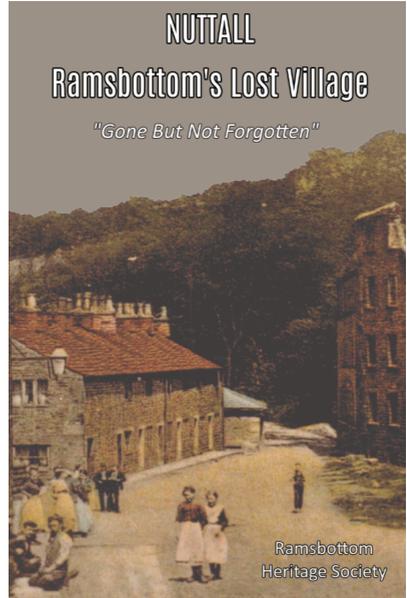
Tuesday to Friday between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Introducing  
**RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY'S  
RECENT PUBLICATION**

150 pages with over 100 illustrations,  
including recently donated photographs

Meticulously researched by Brenda Richards in collaboration with ex-Nuttall residents and Society members, this book is much more than a history of a once-vibrant village, now hidden beneath undergrowth. It brings to life a busy 19th century mill community, the days when a chemical factory caused villagers much concern and Nuttall's dying days in the 1940s and 50s.

Essentially, it is a story about people, with emphasis on the living memories of some of the last people to live there.



**Hearts for Homes**

@heartsforhomesuk · Home Decor



**La Petite Patisserie**

@lapetitepatisserierammy · Cafeteria

**Cost £9.99**

Available from **Hearts for  
Homes, Bridge Street**

**and La Petite Patisserie,  
Market Place**

**Also from the website**

[www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk](http://www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk)