

LUDDENDEN – THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PENNINE VILLAGE

Luddenden is partly in the old Midgley township, and partly in the Warley township, the river being the dividing line. The history of Luddenden, therefore, is a combination of the history of these two townships.

1. Title Slide

At the start of the Mesolithic Period or middle stone age, round about 7000BC, the ice which had covered Britain during the Ice Ages melted, and small groups of people lived on the hilltops. They found their food by hunting, fishing or gathering berries. They used spears with stone arrowheads made of flint or chert, and flint knives or scrapers

2. The location of finds in the Luddenden Valley from the Mesolithic Period.
3. High Brown Knoll, on Midgley moor beyond the top end of the Luddenden Valley. An area where Mesolithic man lived and where flints have been found.
4. Fly Flatt reservoir, beyond Wainstalls.
5. Nab Water – an area where Mesolithic man camped in the summer, and where about 2000 flints have been found. The exact spot where the flints were found is level with the tip of Fly Flatt reservoir, and about one quarter of the way from the right edge of the slide.

The Neolithic period lasted from about 4700BC to 2000BC. Humans cleared the forests for residents and summer visitors. They now needed axes, ploughs and sickles

6. Flint tools of the type found in the Neolithic Period.
7. Flint spears and arrows

About 2000BC, bronze ornaments and tools began to be produced. From about 1800BC, these were carried along trade routes, one of which probably came along the Calder Valley through Luddenden. Metal tools allowed larger clearings to be made so people could grow more crops, keep more cattle and have possessions. Important figures were buried in round *barrows*.

8. Enclosure of the type found in the Bronze Age
9. The location of finds in the Luddenden Valley from the Bronze Age.
10. Greave House (the white house in the centre of the slide), where two burial urns were discovered with herring bone decoration containing burned bones.
11. At High Rough, above the Hebden Bridge golf course at Mount Skip is an earthwork or barrow which contained human bones.
12. Barrows discovered when the dams were being dug at Castle Carr in 1842.
13. Another barrow on the Midgley moors
14. Close-up view of barrow from south side
15. At Tower Hill, on the eastern side of the Luddenden valley, a number of urns and bones have been found.
16. About 500BC, Celtic people came to this country from the continent, bringing iron tools and implements with them. Some of these people were from Austria, and are called La Tene Celts. At the beginning of the 20th century, two La Tene beads were discovered at Church Hill in the centre of Luddenden.

17. Iron Age people built banked enclosures inside which they kept animals and built houses. Nearby, stone circles are often found where they buried their dead.
18. An iron age enclosure was found at Tower Hill on the eastern side of the Luddenden Valley.

In Scotland, at Loch Tay, settlements built on piles at the edge of the loch have been discovered. Much has been found in the mud at the bottom of the Loch. It is probable that the interior of the huts in the settlement at Tower Hill would have been similar.

19. A reconstruction of one of the Scottish 'Crannogs' or iron age settlements.
20. The roof timbers were lashed together with rope made from nettle stems and similar plants.
21. The crannogs had separate rooms inside.
22. There was a fire in the middle for cooking, with iron pans.
23. Looms similar to this were used for weaving materials of a very fine quality.

Later, from about AD43, the Romans invaded and began to colonise Britain. In AD78, additional fortresses to subdue the Britons were built, with roads linking them together. The road linking a fort at Manchester (Mancunium) with another at Ilkley (Olicana) came over Blackstone Edge to Sowerby. From there, it went down to Tenterfields Industrial Estate, crossed the river Calder by a ford, up past Butts Green, along the top of the valley to Wainstalls, through Ogden and northwards to Ilkley.

24. The route from Sowerby down to Tenterfields.
25. The ford at Tenterfields (Longbottom)
26. The route up the eastern side of the valley and along the top.

Following the Roman withdrawal in AD 410, Britain was invaded by the Anglo-Saxons from across the North Sea, and later by the Vikings. Local place names reflect this. There are many Anglo-Saxon names in the Luddenden valley, but no Viking names, suggesting an extensive Anglo-Saxon settlement. The suffix *-ley* meant *a clearing*, as did *-ing*, which meant *a more extensive clearing*. A valley was shown by *dene*, so Luddingdene (the old name for Luddenden) means *the clearing (ing) in the valley(dene) of the loud river(Ludd)*.

27. The Anglo-Saxon roots of Warley, Midgley and Luddenden.
28. Other Anglo-Saxon names in the Luddenden valley
29. Viking names, which are not present in the Luddenden valley, but are present in Sowerby and Cragg Vale.

Britain was invaded by the Normans from France in 1066, and in 1086, a survey was done showing what was present in England. This was called the *Domesday Book*.

30. The local entry in the Domesday Book, which gives the first mention of Midgley and Warley.

Only part of the upper Calder Valley was held directly by the Lord of the Manor of Wakefield. Part, including the Manor of Midgley, was sub-let. This meant that Midgley had its own court. The Forest of Sowerbyshire was a hunting area. It could

be developed by enclosing parts as parks to provide pasture and shelter, or by establishing *vaccaries* or dairy cattle stations. By 1300, there were *vaccaries* at Upper Saltonstall and Fernside (which may have been Ferney Lee on the opposite side of the Luddenden valley to Upper Saltonstall).

31. Upper Saltonstall, at the top end of the Luddenden valley on the eastern side.
32. Lower Saltonstall, where there was a peasant settlement. The *vaccaries* were let off to tenants living here.

At times, the tenants applied to the Lord to clear meadowland and pasture land from the *vaccaries* for arable crops to be grown. This was called *assarting* land. By 1400, cultivation had extended from Lower Saltonstall as far as Upper Heys. The population of the whole Luddenden valley in 1379 was about 370. The first grants to assart land were made to a family called the Saltonstalls. They became very rich and powerful, and by 1597, one had become Lord Mayor of London (Luddenden's own Dick Whittington, or Dick Saltonstall, to be more accurate)

33. The Saltonstall family tree
34. Sir Richard Saltonstall – Lord Mayor of London.

The increase in cultivation of crops led to a need for the corn to be ground. This was done at a central mill owned by the Lord of the Manor who owned the *grist soke* or compulsory and exclusive rights to the grinding of all corn grown in the manor. The miller then kept a proportion of that ground (the *multure*). The Warley Corn Mill is possibly the oldest in the old Parish of Halifax, and is mentioned in the first Wakefield Manor Court Roll (or written record) of 1274. It is not known where it was exactly, but in 1379, it could not cope, so a new mill was built on the Luddenden Brook in the centre of Luddenden. An old map of Luddenden in 1599, drawn by Christopher Saxton (one of the most famous map-makers) shows the site of the mill, and a possible site of the first mill, as it says *here stood the old milne*.

35. The map drawn by Christopher Saxton in 1599
36. The old corn mill in Luddenden in 1972, just before its demolition.
37. The Midgley corn mill at Brearley, on the Midgley side of the river Calder.

From about 1450, the woollen industry, which had previously been located around York and Beverley, moved to the West Riding, as it was cheaper and had a good supply of running water for water wheels, washing and dyeing. This was helped by the Lord of the Manor of Wakefield allowing fulling mills to pay lower rents than in other areas. Dean Mill was built in 1440, a mill at Holme House Bridge, Booth about 1495, and two others at Luddenden and Luddendenfoot between 1530 and 1550. The main material produced was a course cloth called *Kersey*. Weaving and shearing were done in the clothiers workshop, carding (separating the fibres) and spinning done by women and children at home. The yarn was stretched on a frame by means of hooks fixed to posts in a *stretchergate*. After weaving, the cloth would also be stretched or *tentered* in *tenterfields*. Finally, the cloth would be *fulled*, where the fibres were beaten together either by treading or beating with a hammer to give a felt finish.

38. Holme House Bridge mill at Booth, old mill on the site of a fulling mill
39. Stretchergate by Breck Top at the top of Stocks Lane

40. Close-up of stones in stretchgate. Poles were placed between wall and stone (depression can be seen in stone where pole was placed). Yarn was then put on the poles and stretched.
41. Tenterfield below Oats Royd. The hillside had flat, narrow strips dug out along it, and the yarn was placed on frames along these to stretch.

Both cottagers and more well-to-do people combined the textile business with farming. At the bottom of the economic pyramid were cottagers with a bit of land, where the man worked as weaver or wool carder, and whose wife and children also carded or spun. At the top were a small number of gentry, but just below them were the *yeomen clothiers* - people with large numbers of animals employing large numbers of outworkers producing textiles. The money they made was often put into the fine houses which still exist.

42. Houses on the Warley side of the Luddenden Valley in 1642. Most of these still exist
43. Simplified plan of the type of houses built.
44. Great House in Midgley
45. Peel House up Stocks Lane in Luddenden (Warley township).

From about 1725, the area began to move from woollen kersey production to worsted manufacture. This required long-combed wool, rather than carded wool. It was combed by two combs each containing about a hundred prongs. One comb was always kept warm on a charcoal-fired pot.

46. Handcombing wool

The population of the Luddenden valley by 1764 was about 2700 (today, it is about 3000). Many of the early cottages were single room buildings without chimney.

47. Hutton, beyond the Cat I'th Well, at the top of Luddenden Dean (now disappeared, but lived in until the early 1900s).
48. A two-room house at Riding Head in Luddenden.

Massive growth of the Lancashire cotton industry around 1780 brought its expansion into surrounding areas. Mills were built for sale or lease in the Luddenden valley, often for cotton spinning and incorporating the new technologies, such as Hargreaves' 'Spinning Jenny'. By 1800, there were 11 mills using the Luddenden brook for power supply, and this became inadequate, particularly in dry weather. In 1827, the Cold Edge Dam Company was set up jointly by all the mills, to ensure a constant water supply. Three dams on the moor at Wainstalls supplied the water, which filled dams at each of the mills in turn.

49. The Cold Edge Dams system (from Yorkshire Textile Mills, 1770 – 1930. HMSO)
50. Cold Edge Dams
51. Site of Spring Mill, below Spring Dam
52. Hole Bottom Mill
53. Lumb Mill
54. Water wheel, inside Lumb Mill

- 55. Wainstalls Mill (showing original site of water wheel)
- 56. Wainstalls Mill
- 57. Wainstalls Clough, showing path of watercourse
- 58. Jowler Mill
- 59. Remains of dam at Holme House Bridge Mill
- 60. Holme House Bridge Mill waterwheel
- 61. Dean Mills
- 62. Peel House Mills

In the early part of the 19th century, John Murgatroyd of Green Edge, Luddenden Dean, who had been manufacturing hand looms, started power loom weaving. In 1842, he bought the Oats Royd estate, and in 1847 built his first mill there. This used steam power, which he realized was much more efficient than water power. The mills were gradually extended, until on completion by his son, also John, in 1887, Murgatroyd's was one of the largest, integrated worsted manufacturers in the West Riding. The mills finally closed in 1982, were listed, and damaged by fire in 1989.

- 63. Diagram showing the expansion of the Oats Royd Mills (from Yorkshire Textile Mills, 1770 – 1930, HMSO).
- 64. Oats Royd Mill
- 65. The fire at Oats Royd

From the 14th century through until the middle of the 19th, the system of local government remained much unchanged. The main officers of the Township were Grave, Constable, Surveyor of Highways, Overseer of the Poor and Churchwardens. The grave was the local steward for the Lord of the Manor, collecting rents and fines, taking people to the Manor court and organizing township work. The constable maintained law and order. Offenders might be put in the village *stocks* where they would be laughed and jeered at, or later in cells which were built underneath the school in 1825. Stray animals, or those seized for non-payment of fines or debts, were put in the township *pinfold*.

- 66. Midgley Township stocks, along Towngate
- 67. Warley Township stocks were at the bottom of Stocks Lane.
- 68. Cells for offenders built below the village school. People from Midgley or Warley Townships were put in the appropriate cell.
- 69. Midgley Township Pinfold, up Chapel Lane.
- 70. Warley Township Pinfold at the top of Stocks Lane.
- 71. Sometimes, punishments for minor crimes could be very harsh.

Various boundary disputes took place between the Midgley and Wadsworth Lords. Part of the boundary was marked by boundary stones like Churn Milk Joan, above Foster Clough, but the northern end was disputed. In 1594, the Wadsworth Lord alleged the Midgley Lord has taken over some of his land. A map was drawn for the court case by Christopher Saxton, and another in 1602 to show the settled boundary. The first map showed that there had earlier been a pinfold around Foster Clough, probably on the site of what later became a small quarry behind the wall at the roadside.

- 72. Churn Milk Joan boundary stone.

73. Site of quarry (and probably the earlier pinfold) behind wall on right.
74. Possible site of pinfold in quarry.

Luddenden was the position of an important ford on the main packhorse routes from Halifax and Bradford through to Lancashire. By about 1500, the ford had long been replaced by a wooden bridge which was in a poor state, so money was left by a Halifax man to build a stone bridge. In 1752, "Luddingden " bridge is shown on the West Riding list as being repairable by "Luddingden Town", and the narrow packhorse bridge at Lane House was repairable by Luddingden and Midgley. The purpose of this bridge is not totally clear – it may be evidence to show that the first corn mill was in that area.

75. Milestone at Newlands on the route from Halifax to Luddenden
76. Part of Richard Stanclyffe's will.
77. "Luddyngden brige" built of stone.
78. The narrow stone packhorse bridge at Lane House

Local people were responsible for the repair of the road where it bordered their land, and this was organized by the Surveyor. Stone was obtained from local 'delphs' or small quarries. In 1867, land was bought by Midgley Local Board for a Township quarry, this was recently filled in. In 1781, a turnpike road was completed along the bottom of the Calder Valley, and this signalled the beginning of the end of traffic using the route through Luddenden.

79. Site of Midgley Local Board delph

The fourth township official was the Overseer of the Poor, who levied a rate on land and buildings for poor law administration. From 1700 to 1750 or so, the rate was quite low, but between 1750 and 1800 it rose greatly, due to the growth of industry and population, frequent wars and the setting up of workhouses. Able-bodied men were found work, so in this area, they were often supplied with textile equipment. From about 1770, Midgley township rented New Earth Head farmhouse, above the pinfold, as workhouse, although it never had more than 13 inhabitants plus a 'master' or 'dame'. The Warley workhouse was at South Clough Head, near Newlands, but in 1837, this only had 6 inhabitants. After the wars against Napoleon, from 1812 – 1815, there was much distress and unemployment. Between 1823 and 1825, New Road in Luddenden was cut out by unemployed men to avoid the climb up Old Lane, which was difficult in wet and icy weather. A local millowner, Jonathan Bracken of Dean Mills, also helped, by suggesting that part of Midgley moor could be cultivated to provide badly needed food. It was not very successful because of the poor soil and bleak weather conditions, and quickly became known as 'Bracken's Folly'.

80. New Earth Head – Midgley workhouse (now renovated)
81. South Clough Head – Warley workhouse
82. New Road and Old Lane from eastern side of valley
83. Old Lane today, showing gradient
84. 'Bracken's Folly'.

The last Township Official was the Churchwarden, whose main responsibility was the upkeep of the Church buildings, furnishings and Churchyard. Richard, Duke of York,

first gave permission for a Chapel of Ease to be built in 1460. When and where the Church was built is not known, but in 1496, a licence was granted for a priest to say mass. It may have been at or near Kershaw House; originally, Kirkshaw – the house in or by the Church wood. The exact date of building the first Church on the present site is also not known, but in 1535, a dispensation was granted by Archbishop Cranmer for St. Mary's Chapel to be built. Henry the eighth granted a licence for the Archbishop of York to consecrate it, but he died before doing so. It was shown on the map of 1599, and in 1624 the people again petitioned the King to grant a licence for its consecration, which was then duly performed. This allowed both marriages and funerals to be carried out.

85. Part of petition to King in 1624 to allow consecration of St. Mary's.

During the Civil War in 1643/44, the font and churchyard cross were broken. James Murgatroyd of The Hollins allowed arms and ammunition to be stored there. In a raid by the Parliamentary army on The Hollins, the attackers, despite being bombarded by slates from the roof, captured the arms and ammunition. Later, the Royalists from Halifax attacked a Parliamentary force in Heptonstall, but were roundly defeated and chased back to Halifax (via Luddenden). The pursuers broke the Luddenden Church font and cross, which were thought to be representative of Popery and Roman Catholicism, which they hated. These were removed to Ellen Royd house by the Churchwarden of the time, but were found and recognized in 1902. The font had become known as the 'Boggard's Chair' (Boggard being dialect for goblin). The Church was demolished in 1814, as it was falling down, and the present one built two years later in 1816. There are four fonts. The second replaced that destroyed by the soldiers, and is dated 1662. The third was made for the new Church in 1823, and the fourth was given by the Appleyard family in 1866.

86. Attack on The Hollins by the Parliamentary force

87. Old Church, just before demolition in 1810 (from print by J Horner)

88. Three fonts (the third is in store in Huddersfield)

The Luddenden valley, after the Toleration Act of 1689 removed all penalties against Non-Conformist religions, became a strong centre of Non-Conformity. The first Chapel was built at Booth in 1761, and enlarged and extended in 1828, 1851. The third church on the site was built in 1869. It was finally demolished in 1980, but was described as "the dominant feature in the village – like some miniature Gothic Cathedral". Until the early 1960s, there were five Methodist Churches in the valley – Luddenden was second only to Heptonstall in the Calder Valley, and John Wesley often came to preach at Ewood in Midgley. The Churches were Luddendenfoot, Luddenden Ebenezer, Luddenden Free Methodist Church (later St. James'), Midgley and Luddenden Dean. There was also a tiny Baptist Church at Butts Green, the graveyard of which is still there.

89. Booth Congregational Church

90. Luddenden Ebenezer Methodist Church (at bottom of Halifax Lane – gates can still be seen) closed down 1961

91. Men of St. James' Church digging foundations in 1902 for the present Church

92. Luddenden Dean Chapel, burned down 1952

93. Chapel Anniversary in the 1930s and present site.

- 94. Midgley Methodist Church, closed 1995
- 95. Butts Green Baptist Church, closed 1959

The rapid expansion of the textile industry in the 1780s led to a demand for more houses in Luddenden. Many had rows of windows upstairs for people working in the textile industry at home. Many were of poor quality, with often just one room and scullery downstairs and one room upstairs, like those along Brook Street. Between 1850 and 1900, many workers' houses of a much better quality were built and a number of houses for the gentry such as Thorn Bank, Broadfold and Laurel Bank.

- 96. Church Hill – a fine row of weaver's cottages
- 97. Houses at the bottom of Halifax Lane
- 98. Brook Street
- 99. House containing separate 'cellar' dwelling
- 100. Back-to-back house with gallery to reach houses at back, and under-dwellings
- 101. Providence Place, built by Murgatroyd's next to Oats Royd mill
- 102. Thorn Bank, New Road.
- 103. Broadfold Hall, Booth – home of the Murgatroyds.

The schools in Luddenden were Church of England schools, founded by the National Society. The first school was built in 1825, and the second in 1874 after there became a much greater demand for school places due to the 1844 Factory Act making half-time education compulsory for children working in mills. The second school became the infant's school, and the first took pupils until they left school, until Calder High School opened. Midgley School was opened in 1877 after the 1870 Education Act allowed the setting up of School Boards.

- 104. The first Luddenden school (later, the 'Junior' School)
- 105. The second Luddenden school (later, the 'Infants' School)
- 106. Midgley Board School

The maximum population of the Luddenden Valley was during the 1860s. After that, there was a slow and steady decline. There was a proposal to build a railway up the valley in 1863 to the Wainstalls quarries, but this fell through because of the difficulty of a level crossing along the main road at Luddendenfoot. For much of the last century, however, the village was a lively and active place in which to live. The coming of the railway and buses enlarged people's horizons, although one could still buy all one's needs in the village. By the 1960s, it was very run-down, but in 1973, the village was designated a Conservation Area. Since that time, many environmental improvements have taken place which have made it the desirable village in which to live that it is today.

- 107. Luddenden Valley railway prospectus of 1863
- 108. Oats Royd Brass Band
- 109. St. James' Methodist Free Church Concertina Band
- 110. The first Midgley bus
- 111. Wormald's general store in Luddenden
- 112. New uses for old mills and mill sites