

Ammon Wrigley – Poet/Writer

Ammon Wrigley, 1861–1946 was a poet/writer who was recognised in his lifetime as a vivid interpreter of moorland and village life in and around Saddleworth in the local dialect and in plain English. A self-taught artist of some competence he was also an amateur antiquary with particular interests in Roman remains and prehistoric microliths. Most of his long working life was spent in woollen mills.

See also M/AFW

M/RG

Summary of Contents

1. Manuscripts
2. Fellowship
3. Correspondence
4. Printed works
5. Miscellaneous
6. Paintings, etc.

1. Manuscripts

1. Alphin and Alderman
2. A Winter's Neet
3. Tunstead
4. On Seeing a Moorland Lad in the Town
5. Friezland and Friarmere
6. The Call of the Country
7. Whitebrook Head
8. Parting
9. The Shelf Road
10. The Shelfside and Butts Lane
11. The Fairy Archer
12. A Rainy Evening on the Stanedge Moors
13. A December Night and Molly's Kiss
14. Pages 8 and 9 of a manuscript, which mentions James Farrer, last Lord of the Manor of Saddleworth, and the 31 freeholders who bought the manor.
15. Nan o' Ceaw Ben's
16. On a Yorkshire Moor
17. Inscriptions (dedicated to A.W. to his parents)
Note: items 16 and 17 were presented to the A.W. Fellowship by Mr. W. Monteith of Edinburgh. His father was a friend of A.W.
18. Heights Chapel
19. On Doldrum Hill in June (2)
20. Delph Feight
21. Bonnie Grenfilt (unsigned), the original was by J. Lees
22. The Millstones on Millstone Edge

23. John Andrew the Huntsman					
24. Handwritten notes on the Dinnerstone & instructions for disposal of his ashes					
25. The Royal Tiger Song – words A.W., music B. Windsor (2)					u/d
26. A Merry Thrush	“	“	“	“ (2)	1938
27. Thou Goes Bonnier Every Day	“	“	“	“	u/d
28. O’er The Hills Far Away	“	“	“	“ (2)	u/d
29. The Road to Ripponden	“	“	“	“	u/d
30. Good-neet	“	“	“	“	u/d
31. The Hounds are out at Lingards	“	“	“	“	u/d
32. The Hounds are out at Lingards/Thou goes Bonnier/The Pennines					u/d
33. I’m a Lover of the Hills					u/d
34. In an Old N. Riding Town	“	“	“	“	u/d
35. Come, Go Wi’ Me/Friezland Ale/The Call of the Country, A.W. & B.W.					

2. Fellowship

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The Ammon Wrigley Fellowship Society was formed on August 27th, 1931 at a function held at the Royal Tiger Inn, Austerlands. His admirers proposed that regular meetings should be held, when Mr. Wrigley’s works would be read and discussed. It was felt that the Society would ensure that the poet/writer was honoured in his lifetime.

1. First minute book of the Fellowship Society
2. Oldham Evening Chronicle 23.1.1933 – the first annual dinner
3. Programme for the first annual dinner, 23.1.1933 (3)
4. Fellowship member’s cards (5)
5. Fellowship booklet (5) – Personal and Appreciation
6. Fellowship booklet – Dean Clough and A Chew Stream
7. Fellowship booklet (2) – Poems by A.W. (for members only)
8. Fellowship joint meeting with Lancs. Author’s Association – circular 26.6.1937
9. Poster: “A Gradely Neet” – meeting with Oldham & District (Southport) Society
10. The annual Fellowship Service at Saddleworth Church Order of service – 7.7.1951 & 12.7.1952
11. Member’s badge

3. Correspondence	PAGE 161
1. 'Thank you' letter on being given a pipe for his birthday by James Monteith	1918
2. Arranging a tramp over the moors with J. Monteith	1918
3. Letter by J. W. Taylor praising A.W. 's work – copy	1932
4. Letter to Harry Clegg	1932
5. Letter from Anthony Crossley, M.P., concerning corrections for an intended publication	1933
6. Letter to a friend about 'The Three Bonnie Lasses'	1938
7. From J.R. Clynes, M.P., acknowledging receipt of books	1938
7. From Clr. E. Marklew, J.P., M.P., enclosing payment for copies of <i>Those Were the Days</i>	1938
9. From Phyllis Bentley, urging attendance at Yorks. Authors' Dinner	1938
10. From Phyllis Bentley, reference a 1777 Indenture of Apprenticeship	1938
11. To Mr. Hewkin, reference Chronological booklet	1940
12. To Mr. Hewkin, reference "Chronology of Saddleworth"	1940
13. From B.B.C., reference holding of story "Bill"	1945
14. From B.B.C., reference holding of story "Bill"	1946
15. From B.B.C., Invitation to send "Bill" story again	1946
16. To Harry Walne – location for scattering of A.W. 's ashes	1946
17. To Mr. Arthur Radcliffe, eight envelopes addressed	
18. To Arthur (Radcliffe) arranging a meeting	1931
19. To Arthur (Radcliffe) enclosing photo of a flood	
20. To Arthur (Radcliffe) meeting in Oldham	1937
21. To Arthur (Radcliffe) a missed appointment	1938
22. To Arthur (Radcliffe) stopping drinking and smoking	1938
23. To Arthur (Radcliffe) a missed meeting	1938
24. To Arthur (Radcliffe) invitation to visit	1939
25. To Arthur (Radcliffe) about A.W. 's publications	1940
26. To Arthur (Radcliffe) problems of publicity	1940
27. To Arthur (Radcliffe) account of a funeral	1941
28. From Arthur to A.W. – alteration to a song and A.W. 's health	
29. Letter – A.W. to 'Mr. Stewart' complaining about the poor production of his 'Old Saddleworth Days' 1920 photocopy	1921
30. Ditto – accompanying a copy of Sam Fitton's 'Gradely Lancashire', to	

- which A.W. had written the introduction 1930
31. Letter from Sam Fitton to A.W., written on the back of an advertising sheet for performances by S.F. u/d
32. Letter from A.W. to (?) re enquiry about 'Wind Among the Heather' 1921
- 33 Letter from A.W. to G T Ayngel including verse 1937

4 Printed Works

1. Annals of Saddleworth – Chronological History 1901
2. The Coronation of King Edward VII – poem 1902
3. Saddleworth Church – a poem (5). 2 are 1950 reprints Delph 1908
4. Saddleworth superstitions and folk customs (3) 1909
5. Song – The Moorland Men (9) 1911
6. Songs of a Moorland Parish (1912) (2) and Reprint 1980
7. The West Ridings at Graincourt – patriotic poem (6) 1917
8. At the Sign of the King’s Head.
Story of old folks festival at Dobcross in 1845 (2) 1925
9. Poem – Castleshaw (6) revised edition (3)
10. Booklet – A reply to “Prehistoric Saddleworth” (2)
11. Song – Th’ Delph Coronation Do (2)
12. Songs – The Hill of Sleep and the Saddleworth Hills
13. Song – The Song Thrush Near a Town; music by A Radcliffe
14. Song – Old Friezland and Old Friarmere; music by A. Radcliffe
15. Song – The Hill of Sleep. Revised words
16. Jone o’Grenfilt by J. Lees in 1805 – A.W. version (2)
17. Song – Bill’s o’ Jack’s
18. The Home Brewed Ale of Friezland, song (2 one signed AW)
19. Advert – circular for O’er the Hills and Far Away
20. The Delph Feight – a poem/story (4 copies + 1)
21. Book – Old Lancashire Words and sayings
22. Songs – Saddleworth and the Moorland Men
23. A visitor to Ash’oth, with Mss. note to Arthur (Radcliffe)
24. Booklet – Yorkshire or Lancashire (2)

25. Annals of Saddleworth 1200–1900. Enlarged Edition 1979
26. ‘With Ammon Wrigley in Saddleworth’ by Sam Seville 1984
27. Ammon Wrigley – a bibliography
28. ‘At the Sign of the Three Bonnie Lasses’ (2) u/d
29. ‘Those Were the Days’ 1937
30. ‘Old Saddleworth Days’ (2) 1920
31. ‘Wind Among the Heather’ (2) 1916
32. Four Friezland Songs – words A.W., music A. Radcliffe (2) 1923
33. => 5/7
[Saddleworth: Its Prehistoric Remains (x 3)]1911
34. Songs of the Pennine Hills 1938
35. O’er the Hills and Far Away 1931
36. Rakings Up (x2) 1949
37. Article – Moor Murder and Poaching 1925
38. Saddleworth For Roaming 1946
39. Saddleworth Chronological Notes 1941
40. Lancashire Idylls 1942
41. Poem – ‘All on a Wild September Day’ – on the murders of Bob Kenyon and William Uttley on Saddleworth Moor. 1903
42. Pamphlet – ‘Castleshaw’ (x6)
43. Song – ‘Saddleworth’ – words by Ammon Wrigley, music Dicken Whitehead. u/d
44. Song – ‘The Homestead’ - words by Ammon Wrigley, music A. Radcliffe. u/d
45. Song – ‘On Doldrum Hill in June’ - words by Ammon Wrigley, music A. Radcliffe. u/d
46. Song – ‘Like the Wind Among the Heather’ - words by Ammon Wrigley, music A. Radcliffe. u/d
47. Song – ‘Songs of the Saddleworth Dales’

48. Copies of : ‘The Delph Show’, ‘The Call of the Country’ and ‘Friezland Ale’
50. Memories & an Old Song article OC 9/4/1932 1932
51. An Ancient Fireplace article OC 27/10/1934 1934
52. Annals of Saddleworth – Enlarged edition
- 53 A Demolition Order article OC 7/10/1939 1939
- 54 The West Ridings at Graincourt – patriotic poem OC 19/1/1918 1918
- 55 *The Delph Show*, poem, broadside 1910

5. MISCELLANEOUS

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1. Standedge Tunnel Sick Society. First Report of the 1847
2. Appointment of Robert Byrom, Delph, a trustee responsible for executing a new Act related to the Standedge and Oldham Turnpike roads. 1863
3. Friarmere Relief Fund Book. Loose papers give list of subscriptions and minutes of the relief fund committee meetings. 1862-1863
4. Miscellaneous cuttings from Oldham Chronicle; includes picture of Broadhead Mill, near Castleshaw, picture of A.W. with Lancashire Authors, and several stories and poems. 1911-1937
5. A Gossipy Guide to Saddleworth, from the Oldham Chronicle. Includes picture (09/10/1926) of a workroom at Deanhead in 1911, with spinning Jenny. 1926
6. *Ammon Wrigley and the Moorland Folk*. by John H. Swan, booklet
7. Booklet by Joseph Brierley, 'Pre-historic Saddleworth'.
8. Letter from H. Clegg to Saddleworth Urban District Council, enclosing a copy of the 500th payment of rent on land at High Moor. 1946
9. Ammon Wrigley's book of drawings of microliths collected in the Marsden and Saddleworth areas.
10. B.B.C. Script on Ammon Wrigley for broadcast on N. England Home Service 15/09/1946
11. "All I ask" and "Old Tales to Tell" – Music by A. Radcliffe. Record disc
12. "The Call of the Country" by Ammon Wrigley, with music by A. Radcliffe. Record disc
13. Record disc – "Friezland Ale" and "The Homestead"., composed by A. Radcliffe.
14. Book of newsclip articles by "Philander" (Mr Samuel Andrew).
15. Altitudes above sea level – Saddleworth Locations. M.S.S.
16. Typed list of buildings in Saddleworth, with dates and comments. The reference is St Chad's Chapel, 'Wind among the Heather'.
17. Facsimile of a pure gold ring of the Viking period found at Nutbottom, Greenfield, 1914. postcard
18. Cutting from magazine (literary) – details of Ammon Wrigley.
19. Extracts from 'Songs of a Moorland Parish about John Andrew, huntsman.

20. Photo of old Lydgate School.
21. Photo of Greenfield Rushcart 1888 – hand drawn.
22. Photo of Rushcart – horse drawn.
23. Photo of Rushcart – horse drawn, with names of people on back
24. Copy of print of John Andrew, with horn and whip.
25. Photo of cheese press at Ashes Farm, Springhead.
26. Memorial stone with carved violin – photo.
27. Photos (x2) of flood at Ashway Gap – 1939.
28. Photos (x2) of excavations of Roman Camp, Castleshaw.
29. Postcard – panoramic view of Diggle.
30. Pen sketch of Ammon Wrigley by W. Clegg.
31. Photocopy of portrait shot o A.W. (x2)
32. Small black and white reproduction of A.W. painting by Harry Rutherford (in Gallery Oldham collection) (x2)
33. Photo of Ammon Wrigley in raincoat.
34. Photo of A.W. in raincoat with two friends
35. Photo of Castleshaw school group. (x2)
36. Photo of Rush Bearing 1777.
37. ‘The Moorland Men’ – words by Ammon Wrigley, music by A. Whitehead –
‘Coronation of King George V’ 1911.
38. Essay on Ammon Wrigley by Geoff Brown.
39. Newspaper cutting on Ammon Wrigley’s funeral. 1946
40. Newspaper cutting on the publication of ‘Those Were the Days’. u/d
41. Observations and Appreciation. u/d
- 41a Two poems by Sam Fitton re the Royal Tiger. 1918
- 41b Marriage certificate of A.W. and Emily Hudson. (photocopy) 1890

42. Photographs : People

- (a) A.W. with Frank Milnes at the Royal Oak Inn, Heights.
- (b) A.W. with P. Winterbottom
- (c) A.W. seated , reading in armchair
- (d) A.W. with Tommy Thompson and Joseph Kenworthy.
- (e) A.W. with Tommy Thompson
- (f) A.W. at Red brook Reservoir 1936
- (g) .A.W. in 1912
- (h) A.W. with his only grandson, John Ammon Seville
- (i) A.W. with Frank Hilnes, Charles Turner & Frank Platt at Ashway Gap
- (j) A.W. with Thomas Thompson at a fellowship Meeting at the Flying Horse Hotel, Rochdale 1936
- (k) A.W. by Sam Fitton, water colour cartoon
- (l) Thomas Wrigley, A.W's father
- (m) Mary Wrigley (nee Waddington), A.W's mother
- (n) congregation at A.W. Fellowship service at Saddleworth Church (x2)
- (o) Mrs. Clayton and scholars at Castleshaw School
- (p) Messrs. Walne and Whitworth at A.W. plaque.
- (q) Ammon Wrigley & Joe O' Luke's (J. Whitehead) at Rimmon cot on Moors (2)
u/d
- (r) “ “ “ in raincoat, rocks in background. u/d
- (s) Photocopy of sketch of A. W. by Tom Griffiths
- (t) Photograph of Ammon Wrigley in garden at 717 Huddersfield Rd, O/M u/d
- (u) Photographs of Ammon Wrigley statue 1999

43. Photographs : Places & Misc.

- (a) (i) Royal Tiger Inn (Miss Turner in doorway) (ii) Tap- room (iii) Bar-room & Exterior.
- (b) Castleshaw school (3)
- (c) A.W's birthplace
- (d) Rams Head Inn, Denshaw.
- (e) Shore Mill, Delph.
- (f) Floating Light Inn, Saddleworth. (x2)
- (g) Old Cottages, King Street, Delph (faint figure of A.W's mother in doorway).
- (h) Main Street, Delph.
- (i) Shop in Delph where A.W's mother could not pay for groceries
- (j) Delph Bridge.
- (k) Millgate, Delph.
- (l) Bankfield Mill, Dobcross
- (m) shop which became Co-op, then the local library.
- (n) Castleshaw
- (o) Great Western Inn, Diggle.
- (p) View from Knott Hill Lane.
- (q) Saddleworth Church
- (r) Old Smithy & Pack Horse Inn, Delph.
- (s) View of Delph

- (t) Dinnerstone and photocopy of inscription.
 - (u) Millcroft, Castleshaw Valley. (x3)
 - (v) Heights Chapel, Delph.
 - (w) Friar Lodge, Lodge Lane, Delph.
 - (x) Hill Top. (x2)
 - (y) Beswicks, Delph.
 - (z) Huddersfield Road, Delph, nos. 643 and 717
 - (aa) 111b Stamford Road
 - (bb) Marled Earth.
 - (cc) Song Mill, Delph. (x2)
 - (dd) Photograph – Canon Airne at Dinnerstone Service c1993.
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- 44. Photograph of items connected with Bills o' Jacks murder
 - 45. Lines to A.W. from David Lawton, on receiving a copy of 'Songs of a Moorland Parish' 1912
 - 46. Pamphlet – appreciation of Ammon Wrigley's work
 - 47. Summary of a lecture given by Mr R. S. Humphrey's to the Quiet Club Literary Society of Liverpool, on A.W's work, with notes by A.W.
 - 48. Introduction of A.W. and his work by Rev. Henry Bett, Methodist President
 - 49. 2x boxes of copper and metal printing blocks – plates from his books etc.
 - 50. Newscutting re new edition of 'Wind Among the Heather' 1991
 - 51. Photocopy of invoice by A.W. to H.V. Pegler for a copy of 'Those were the Days' 1930s
 - 52. Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter item on 'Songs of a Moorland Parish' 23/05/191 ???
 - 53. “ “ “ “ “ item on a dinner in honour of A.W. 05/04/1913
 - 54. “ “ “ “ “ item on a verse to A.W. by D. Lawton 14/12/191 ????
 - 55. Oldham Chronicle article on A.W. 1997
 - 56. Tape recording of talks on Ammon Wrigley and Ben Brierley.
 - 57. Friezland Ale
 - 58. Owd Cronies
 - 59. Lets go Tramping
 - 60. A Neet with Ammon
 - 61 Haslam, J *Homely Poet of the Hills* article OEC 1/8/1932 1932
 - 62 Brierley, Joseph, Saddleworth: Its Prehistoric Remains (x 3) 1911
 - 63 Shy Lover of the Moorlands article OEC 9/1/1951 1951

6. Paintings, etc.

1. Framed pen sketch – A Moorland Hamlet, Fernlee
2. Framed pen sketch – The Waystone, Waystone Edge Moor.
3. Framed pen sketch – An old corner in Dobcross
(Donor : Mr Colin Lunn, Carrs Road, Marsden, nr Huddersfield)
4. Framed pencil drawing of Ammon Wrigley by A.G. Butterworth (permanent loan from A.G. Butterworth, 19 Chew Valley Road, Greenfield)
5. Framed painting by Ammon Wrigley – An old fireplace in Castleshaw and on reverse side a painting of cottages in unidentified location.
6. Framed pen sketch by Ammon Wrigley – ‘Castleshaw’
7. Framed cartoon of Ammon Wrigley
8. Pen sketch of cottages, by Ammon Wrigley – location not identified
9. Sketch of Ammon Wrigley by Tom Griffiths
10. Print of Ammon Wrigley
11. Framed portrait of A.W., with poem ‘Winds of the Pennines’
12. Painting by Ammon Wrigley of a cottage and trees
13. Photograph (framed) of a Tap-Room in the Royal Tiger Inn, Austerlands. Donor: A.W. Fellowship
14. Framed Seascape, signed A. Wrigley '97
15. Framed seascape, signed A. Wrigley '97
16. Exhibition material (x8 sheets), manuscripts, photographs, newsclips, printed material
17. Painting of Ammon Wrigley by Harry Rutherford
(On Loan from Oldham Library – NOW Gallery Oldham)
18. Painting by Ammon Wrigley of Shaw Church 1897
19. Painting by Ammon Wrigley of Wood Mill, Castleshaw 1897
20. Sketch by Ammon Wrigley of the Dishstone, Chew Valley, Greenfield
21. Print by Ammon Wrigley ‘Night in the Chew Valley’ u/d
22. ‘The Rising Moon’, Standedge Moors’ by Ammon Wrigley u/d

23. Painting by Ammon Wrigley 'Millstones' 1896
24. Sketches by Ammon Wrigley 'Horse Block' and 'Sketches of Tunstead' 1897
25. Painting by Ammon Wrigley 'House at Denshaw' 1897
26. Painting by Ammon Wrigley 'Denshaw Church' 1897
27. Painting by Ammon Wrigley 'Newhey Church' 1897

(Items 18-27 presented by Mrs A. Green, 7 Old Mill House, Springhead: painting given to Mrs Green and late husband by H.B. Whitehead, Ammon Wrigley's friend, to whom they were given by Ammon Wrigley)

28. Photocopy of sketch of the White House, Blackstone Edge by A.W. Wrigley 1897
29. Watercolour sketch – building unidentified
30. Pencil sketch – the Woodman Inn