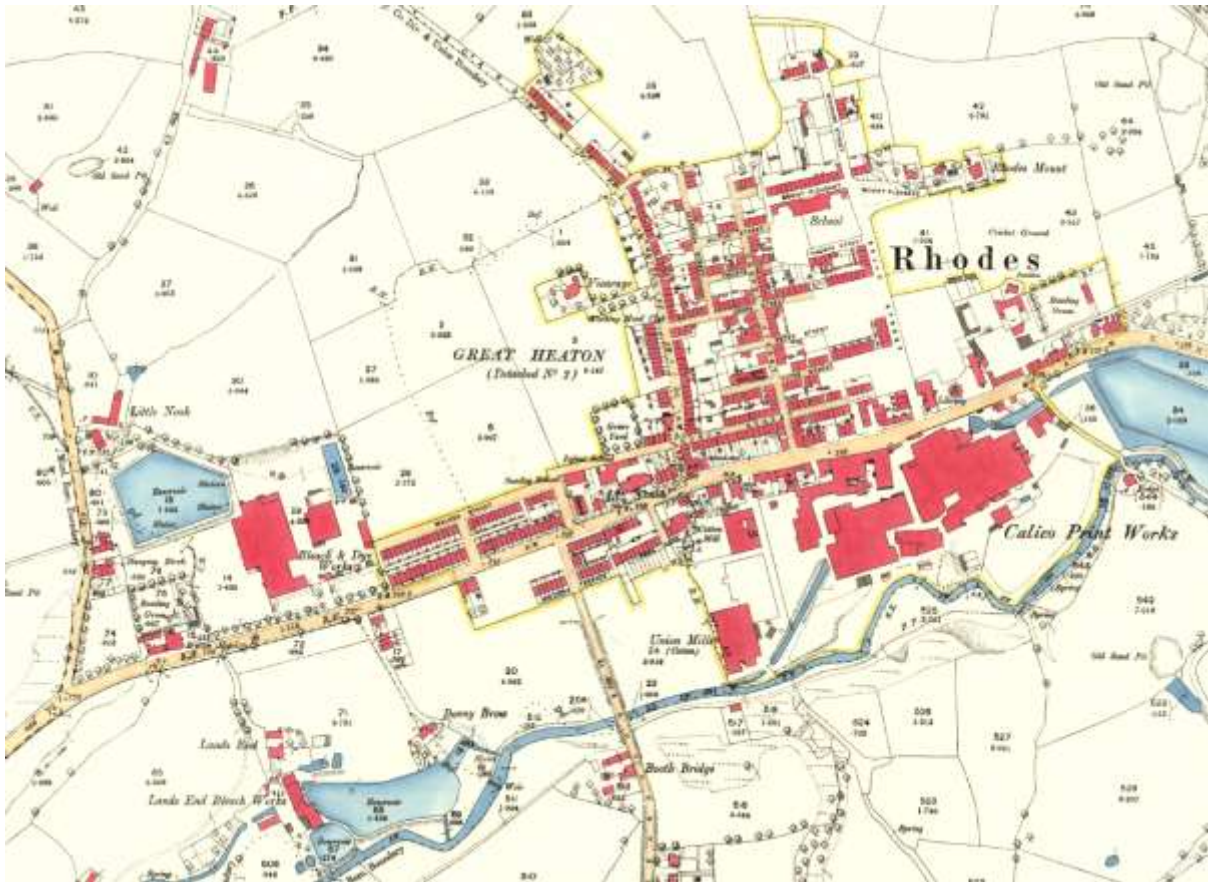


Rhodes Bleachworks Brass Band

Gavin Holman – June 2019



This band was probably formed in the mid-1890s. The first known mention is its appearance at a contest at Middleton in April 1897. It was strongly linked to the Bleach and Dye Works at Rhodes, near Middleton. The band's conductor for most of its life was John H. White. It was disbanded on 9th December 1909.

The Bleach Works was *Obadiah Ashworth and Co. (bleachers, dyers, finishers, embossers, &c.)*, Rhodes Bleach and Dye Works, Middleton. It was one of several similar industries in Rhodes and Middleton, part of the larger fabric, weaving, finishing, and garment manufacturing industrial belt in northern Manchester and across to Yorkshire.

Obadiah Ashworth founded the company and went into partnership with James W. Jones. Upon the death of Ashworth in 1874, James Jones continued the business as sole owner, but retained the Ashworth name. He was later instrumental in establishing and supporting the Bleachworks Band.

In addition to these brief notes, the band's Treasurer's Notebook, covering the years 1898 to 1909, is transcribed below. This is followed by a brief sketch of the conductor John White.

No known photographs of the band survive, although at least four "formal" photos were taken, as recorded in the Treasurer's notebook.

A typical concert of the band, at St Michael's Flags park, in August 1903, with conductor J.H. White, consisted of: Hymn; March: *Silver Trumpets* (Viviani); Overture: *Poet & Peasant* (Suppé); Fantasia: *Joan of Arc* (Round); Trombone solo: *Ora Pro Nobilis* (Piccolomini); Selection: *Idomeneo* (Mozart); Air Varie: *Eventide* (Rimmer); Chorus: *The Heavens are Telling* (Haydn). Many other concerts are described in the notebook.

[note – St Michael's Flags was so named after the flag stones that were laid on the parochial burial ground to prevent people stealing the soil – following an act of parliament in 1855].

The band entered for the July Belle Vue contest in 1902, but was not selected to attend.

The band organised a quartette contest on 24th November 1906, judge John H. White.

The band renewed their subscription to Wright & Round's Journal in January 1908, for 30s., requesting "*Nil Desperandum*" and "*Forest Queen*" in place of dance music to value.

"Obadiah Ashworth" subscribed to *Brass Band News* in 1900 to 1907

The band's contest results are as follows:

- 17th Apr 1897 - Middleton Contest, test piece: *Germania*
- 8th May 1897 - Prestwich Contest, test piece: *Smiles and Tears*
- 15th May 1897 - Shaw Contest, test piece: *Germania*
- 31st Jul 1897 - Whitworth Vale Contest, test piece: *Smiles and Tears*
- 21st Aug 1897 - Tottington Contest, test piece: *Smiles and Tears*, placed 5th
- 11th Sep 1897 - Lees Contest, test piece: *Smiles and Tears*
- 30th Apr 1898 - Miles Platting Contest, placed 4th
- 14th May 1898 - Harpurhey Contest, test piece: *Now or Never*, placed 4th
- 3rd Apr 1899 - Ilkley Contest, test piece: *Rose Queen*, placed 1st, drawn no. 2
- 5th Aug 1899 - New Brighton Contest, test piece: *Lohengrin* [arr. Round], drawn no. 3
- 19th Aug 1899 - Heaton Mersey Contest, test piece: *Sunny Spain*, placed 4th
- 16th Sep 1899 - Altrincham Contest, test piece: *Fallen Leaves*, drawn no. 1
- 11th Aug 1900 - Rochdale Contest, test piece: *Betley*, drawn no. 9
- 13th Oct 1900 - Altrincham Contest, test piece: *Songs of England* [Round], placed 4, drawn no. 10
- 27th Jul 1901 - Clayton Contest, test piece: *Belisario* [arr. Round], drawn no. 5
- 16th Aug 1902 - Lower Broughton Contest, test piece: *Schubert* [arr. Round], drawn no. 10
- 13th Apr 1903 - Kidsgrove Contest, test piece: *Mercadante*, drawn no. 15
- 11th Jul 1903 - Belle Vue July Contest, test piece: *Idomeneo*, placed 17, drawn no. 11

An earlier brass band existed in Rhodes – the Middleton and Rhodes Brass Band was active between 1870 and 1884, with conductor James Schofield. It is not known

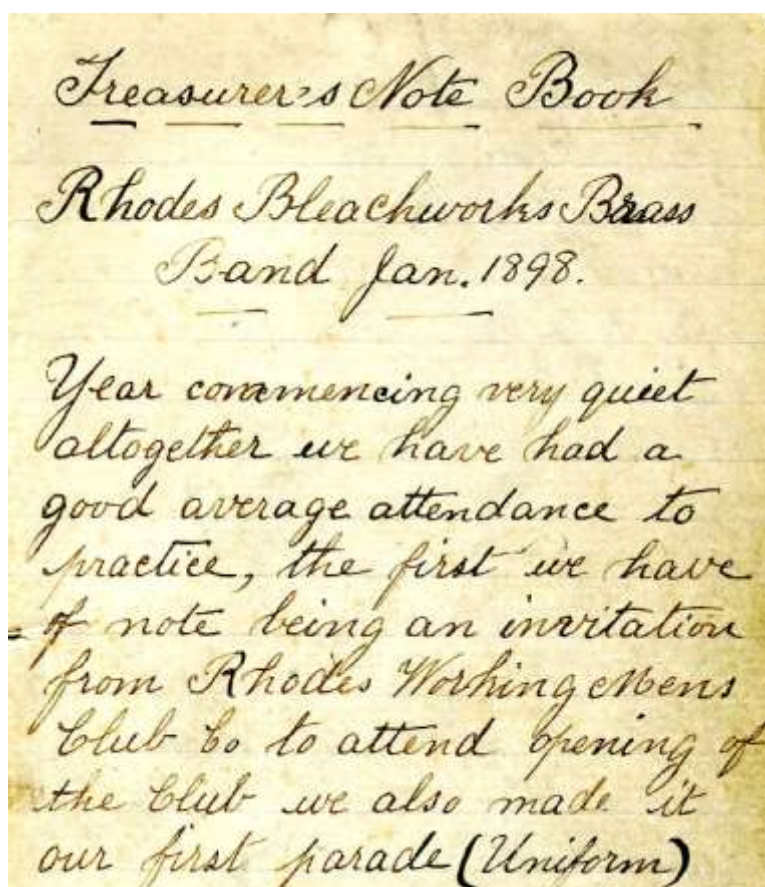
where it was based, but likely to have been in Middleton, being the larger of the two places, also the first named in the band's name.

Another business, at the other end of the village of Rhodes to the Bleachworks, was the calico print works, owned by Salis Schwabe. This was the largest employer in the village of Rhodes. The factory buildings eventually covered 8.5 acres with 14 surrounding reservoirs taking the total acreage of the site up to over 30. There were around 750 employees and 21 printing machines. The number of pieces that could be printed in one year was 600,000, each piece 28 yards in length making a total of 16,800,000 yards. In addition there was a huge chimney at the factory which stood from 1846 until the early 1980s (it was the tallest in Europe for some time, at 358 feet high).

In this picture we see a worker standing at the top of the chimney on two planks – not something that would be allowed today!



Rhodes Bleachworks Brass Band Treasurer's Note Book



January 1898

Year commencing very quiet, altogether we have had a good average attendance to practice, the first we have of note being an invitation from Rhodes Working Mens Club Co. to attend opening of the Club. We also made it our first parade (uniform).

We are already engaged to play at Bury morning and Stoneclough afternoon Whit Friday as last year. Whit Saturday to play at St Michael's, Tonge.

Attended our first contest of the season at Miles Platting on April 30th taking 4th prize. Also Fred Townley winning cornet medal.

Attended church on the Sunday May 1st being Band Sunday for the first time, this also proving a success.

Practice still well attended on the 14th of May we hold a 2nd parade through the village followed by a social evening at which all the members sat down to an excellent supper, afterwards playing selections of Music for the Masters.

Sunday May 15th Sacred Concert on the Rhodes Cricket Ground. This also proved a success in fine weather Between four and five hundred paying for admission. Now practicing for Whit week engagements.

Also engaged to play at Tonge Athletic Sports and Parkfield demonstration. Whit week engagements got over alright excepting an hitch that occurred with the representatives of Tonge on the Saturday after what I considered a very fair offer on our part.



Rhodes Church Whitsuntide procession

On the 11th June played at Tonge Athletic Sports having a very fair day. Redmond engaged to play solo cornet, Townley being unfit. Band photos also being taken same day by Ben Helme before going to engagement.

On the 18th June we journeyed to Bowlee, but owing to the inclemency of the weather was postponed by arrangement with officials. On the 25th we had again the pleasure of parading the Parkfield scholars, another satisfactory result.

On July 2nd we were again engaged to play for amalgamated Sunday Schools Rhodes, this was in addition to our already fair list. On the 9th Saturday we were at liberty for the first time since Whit week. Also having played at New Jerusalem Choir Sermons, June 26th Sunday, afterwards partaking of tea in the schoolroom. On July 16th we were again playing for the Rhodes Church Sunday School, again successful.

The 30th July saw us again fulfilling our postponed engagement at Bowlee, here we had a late start 4 o'clock or this might have seemed better.

August 6th we attended the foundation stone laying of the New Wesleyan Church, Rhodes, here we met with Middleton Borough, and if the weather had permitted we should probably have had a lively time, also a tea being provided for the band in Chimney School after the stonelaying.

Saturday Aug 13th open

Wakes Saturday Aug 20th we had a days outing to Blackpool in grand weather, arriving home in the small hours of Sunday morning.

Next parade Wednesday Aug 31st round the village advertising our Sacred Concert for Townley Benefit Sunday Sept 4th, which also proved a success, weather being fine.

On Thursday Sept 7 1898 bandroom fitted up with electric light for the first time.

Saturday Sept 10th we had a parade to Mr T.R. Jones via Long Street, Moelliam Street, Wood Street and Cross Street, to his residence, playing him several selections of music, also the Lads Brigade paraded with us same time.

Saturday Sept 17th, 6 players engaged to play for a wedding party in the working mens club.

Sunday Sept 18th finds us at Rhodes Church Harvest Thanksgiving giving a musical service in the afternoon, also rendering a hymn after service by request for Mrs Morris.

Saturday Sept 24th ball held by 6 members of the band amongst themselves

Saturday Oct 1st Grand Ball in Working Mens Club Lecture Hall proving successful.

Saturday Oct 8th open

Sunday October 9th engaged to give a sacred concert for the benefit of the Rhodes Cricket Club, but owing to the inclemency of the weather we had to make our programme short, also being a poor attendance.



Rhodes Cricket team

The next thing of importance is a new BBb bass from Messrs Boosey & Co. Friday Nov 11th 1898. Charlie Horrochs being engaged to play it the following year. Also a trombone player being engaged named George Gibson of Manchester.

Saturday December 3rd having a parade round the village of Rhodes also via Ben Boardman's & Crab Lane village.

Thursday Dec 8th found us having a rehearsal in the new making room Mr J.W. Jones being present, also a full band.

The next we have of note is Christmas Eve, playing in 2 lots commencing midnight & finishing about 11 o'clock the following day. Realising 24£

This completes our engagements for the year 1898 and taken on the whole I think it has been a very successful year.

1899

The first thing we have of note is the general meeting held Tuesday January 10th for the election of officers for the following year.

The first engagement is a Refreshment Ball held in Lecture Hall Rhodes Working Mens Club, Feb 4th, only being a moderate attendance.

Saturday March 5th parade to Major Booth and J.J. Orr, also around the village.

Easter Monday April 3rd we have a contest at Ilkley, Yorkshire, to attend – altogether 13 bands put in an appearance. The Rhodes Band carrying off the first prize (playing no. 2) 8£ - Waltz "Rose Queen"

Saturday April 16th finds us having a parade around the village of Rhodes, the weather being fair but rather cold. Also playing 2 hymns for Mrs Taylor – "Greaves" & "Eventide" by request.

Saturday April 30th measured for new uniform by a London firm Mallet, Porter & Dowd.

Thursday May 4th two new instruments from Boosey & Co. – Eb bass and Bb baritone

Sunday May 6th [7th] finds us leading the boys brigade up from chimney school to Church, also playing two selections – "Roseau's Dream" [*Rousseau's Dream*] and "Ora Pro Nobis", and accompanying the hymns in Church, leading the boys brigade back to school after service.

The next thing we have of note is Friday & Saturday May 26th & 27th – Whit week playing for St Paul's, Bell Lane, Bury, in morning. Afternoon at Stand Church, Whitefield. Saturday playing for St Peter's Catholic Chapel, Middleton. Bury = £5 10s od; Stand = £7 10s od, Middleton = £6 10s od.

Saturday June 3rd 1899 we are engaged to play for children's treat given by the Rhodes Industrial Society – procession only, afterwards going on the Cricket field, playing selections of music until dusk.

Sunday June 9th [11th] finds us playing for the opening of the New Wesleyan Church, Rhodes, playing selections & accompanying the hymns at service.

Saturday June 24th finds us fulfilling our engagement at Parkfield Church Sunday Schools procession, the weather being grand. The day following, Sunday June 25th, the band gave a sacred concert on the Rhodes Cricket Ground, upwards of seven hundred people being present. £4 14s 2d.

Saturday July 1st we are engaged to play for the amalgamated Sunday Schools, Rhodes.

Saturday July 15th finds us playing for Rhodes Church Sunday School procession in fine weather.



Manchester Old Road, Rhodes

After this we settle down to practice with Lohengrin for New Brighton contest on August 5th – 15 bands entered & 8 turned up to play.

1st prize – Black Dike

2nd prize – Kingston Mills

3rd prize – Crooke

4th prize – Workington Artillery

The remainder being Rhodes Bleachworks, Nut Grove (Wigan), Gossages Soap Works, Widnes Subscription.

Wednesday August 9th finds us playing for a garden party at Mrs Steffose, Parkfield House.

Saturday August 12th finds us fulfilling an engagement at Tonge Sports in fine weather.

Saturday August 19th we attend Heaton Mersey Contest, coming off with a 2nd prize for March Contest and 4th prize for Waltz. March – “Unique” J. White, Waltz “Fallen Leaves”. 12 bands competing. *[note - the set test piece for this contest was “Sunny Spain”]*

Sunday September 10th we are holding a sacred concert on the Rhodes Cricket Ground – only a moderate attendance of spectators, the day being rather cold.

Saturday September 16th find us competing at the Altrincham Brass Band Contest, but were unsuccessful. 9 bands competed.

1st prize – Garswood Colliery - £7 10s

2nd prize – Warrington Boro - £5

3rd prize – Heaton Mersey - £3

4th prize – Thornsett - £2

5th prize – Linotype

Sunday Sept 17th Sacred Concert on Tonge Ground – a very poor attendance of spectators owing to weather being unsettled.

Saturday September 23rd we are playing for the Rhodes Cricket Club Sports – the weather being very unsettled.

Sunday November 12th being Mayor Sunday we headed up the Boys Brigade & Firemen from Rhodes to the Town Hall, Middleton, joining in the procession from there up to Church.

Saturday Dec 5th – Grand Ball Rhodes Working Mens Lecture Hall.

Tuesday Oct 3rd – engaged by Co-operative Society to give a few selection at first free concert of the season.

The next thing we have is playing for Christmas Eve, Dec 25th 1899 going out in two lots realising about 20£.

1900

Saturday Jan 27th we are engaged to play for Grand Cycle Parade, Middleton, for the war fund uniform (gratis).



Typical cycle parade – this one at Kendal

Thursday night, March 1st Grand torch light parade round the village of Rhodes for the relief of Ladysmith by General Buller.

Saturday March 24th – Grand Cycle Parade held in Rhodes in aid of Indian famine fund, realising 25£ - following bands tendered their services – Rhodes Bleachworks in uniform & Middleton Boro.

The next thing of note is April 7th heading the Rhodes Wesleyan School to Middleton for the stonelaying of New Wesleyan Church, Middleton, also Central Hall Band being present (uniform).

Saturday May 5th Grand May Day demonstration & crowning of May Queen – the band supplying the music afterwards, playing for dancing until dusk.

Sunday May 6th finds us fulfilling our engagement at the Rhodes Church being Band Sunday, accompanying the hymns in church & playing 2 selections “Gloria” & “Roseau’s Dream”.

Saturday May 19th parade round the village of Rhodes afterwards going on the Cricket field (plain clothes).

Sunday May 20th we hold a Grand Sacred Concert on the Rhodes Cricket Ground in grand weather, about 600 paying for admission.

Saturday May 26th engaged for Co-operative children's fete, afterwards going on the cricket field until about 7 o'clock (uniform).

The next comes Whit week engagements for Whit Friday, June 8th we are playing for St Paul's, Bell Lane, Bury, 8 till 11, afterwards coming to Stand Church from 12.30 until dusk – going and returning by one of Hilton & Derbyshire's waggonets.

Saturday June 9th we are engaged to play for St Peter's Catholic school, Middleton, but owing to wet weather had by arrangements with officials, to be reconsidered – the dancing was carried out same day in the schoolroom, processions being held on the Sunday 10th in grand weather.

Saturday June 23rd finds us fulfilling our engagement at Parkfield Sunday School procession in grand weather.

Saturday July 14th engaged for Rhodes Church School annual procession – weather being rather unsettled (White away). *[note - this was the conductor, John H. White]*

The next thing of note is contest at Rochdale Sat August 11th. Test piece being “Betly” *[note - this was Rhode's own choice selection in addition to the set test piece “Oberon”]* altogether 13 bands competing.

Mossley – 1st prize, 12£

Irwell Springs – 2nd prize

Wingates Temp – 3rd prize

Rochdale Old – 4th prize

Norland – 5th prize

Sunday August 12th engaged to play for the Middleton Horticultural Society Show in the Co-operative Hall afternoon & evening, also a tea provided, and 2 engaged players – Wilson Wharton of Heywood and J. Townley of Manchester, 2nd baritone.

Saturday Sept 15th we are engaged for procession with Wesleyan Church, Rhodes on the occasion of the centenary, playing 4 hymns under the conductorship of Mr Thomas Clarkson of Rhodes (uniform).

Sunday Sept 9th grand sacred concert on the Rhodes Cricket Ground about 400 persons being present, weather being fine.

The next thing of note is a contest at Altrincham held Saturday Oct 16th *[13th]* on *Songs of England*, 16 bands competing.

1st prize – Linotype (local band)

2nd prize – Coppull Subscription

3rd prize – Haigh

4th prize – Rhodes (J. Bewley engaged to play cornet)

5th prize – Pendleton Old

Sunday Nov 11th being Mayor's Sunday, we are invited to attend divine service at the Middleton Parish Church – J. Bewley being engaged for the occasion (uniform).

December 24th Christmas Eve we went out playing in two lots, one lot via Crab Lane, Simister Lane & Bowlee, finishing off in Rhodes, and the other lot walked Middleton & also finished up in Rhodes about 12 o'clock noon. Realising 23£.

Year commencing Jan 1st 1901

The first engagement for this year is at the Choral Union concert, Middleton, held Monday Jan 21st in the Co-operative Hall, giving three selections "*Tancredi Overture*", "*Songs of England*" by H. Round, and "*Ash Grove*" variations with an addition of a *Triplet Polka* by J.H. White, Bandmaster.

Saturday Feb 2nd a funeral service was held at All Saints Church, Rhodes, the band being in attendance, also a procession was formed from the Rhodes Working Mens Club through the principal streets of Rhodes to the church, the band playing enroute – Chopin's "*Funeral March*", and the Dead March in "*Saul*". "*Vital Spark*" & "*God Save the King*" was played by the band in the church, also Chopin's "*Funeral March*" as a voluntary (uniform).

Saturday Feb 16th finds us attending a Cycle Parade at Middleton in uniform, also a photo of the band taken same time in marching order.

Saturday May 4th finds us attending the Lifeboat Parade at Middleton in uniform, also J. Bewley & Eastwood (cornet players) being out with us from 2 o'clock till about 7. Fine weather.

Sunday May 5th being Band Sunday we attended divine service at All Saints Church, Rhodes, accompanying the hymns and playing two selections "*We Will Never Bow Down*", "*Air Varie Edwinstone*". Hymn 224 – *O happy band of Pilgrims*, Hymn – *Lilac Grove*, Hymn 498 – *Anthem*.

Saturday May 18th we went to the Jubilee Park, Middleton and played a few selections on the Band Stand, but were very much annoyed by the ringing of Middleton Parish Church bells. Selections being – March "*Reliance*", Overture "*Tancredi*", "*Ash Grove*", "*Songs of England*", "*Songs of Scotland*", "*Ora Pro Nobis*", Fanfare "*God Save the King*".

Next engagement is for May 31st Whit Friday morning at St Paul's Bell Lane, Bury, 8 to 12.

Whit Saturday, June 1st, we were engaged with St Peter's Schools, Middleton, when we had just landed back to school with the scholars it set in for rain & had to play for dancing in the schoolroom.

The next engagement Saturday June 15th is for the Rhodes Industrial Society's Children's fete and field day, 2.15 until dusk- fine (uniform). White away.

Sunday June 16th two sacred concerts were held on the Rhodes Cricket Ground afternoon and evening, only a moderate attendance, weather being rather cold. Both concerts realising £4 19s od.

Saturday June 29th we are engaged for Parkfield Church procession & field day – fine weather, five hymns (White here).

Saturday July 6th we are engaged for the Rhodes United Sunday schools procession & field day – fine weather, six hymns (White away).



Rhodes Church Scholars' Walk

Saturday July 13th we are engaged for the Rhodes Cricket Club Sports, playing selections of music for dancing at intervals (fine weather) (White away).

Saturday July 20th we are engaged for the Rhodes Church Sunday Schools processions & field day – fine weather (White away) (6 hymns).

Saturday July 27th we attend a contest at Beswick, Manchester – 16 bands entered and 12 playing.

1st prize went to Rochdale Public, also soprano medal – W. Rimmer

2nd - New Mills Old – A. Owen

3rd Pendleton Old – W. Rimmer

4th Thornsett – C. Smith

5th Boarshurst – A. Owen

Trombone medal went to Atherton Public, but they were not in the prizes.

Saturday August 3rd (open)

Saturday August 10th we were engaged for Middleton Old Church Sunday School procession, over 1,100 scholars joining in – in fine weather – uniform. White (Forbes away) [note – this was Fred Forbes].

Saturday August 17th engaged for Tonge Sports & Middleton, the weather being rather unsettled on this occasion. The band played selections of music at intervals (White here) Uniform.

Sunday August 18th we are engaged for the Middleton Boro Horticultural Show held in the Co-operative Hall Middleton, playing two programmes of music, afternoon & evening. Conducted by Forbes afternoon & White evening. Afternoon programme – Hymn “Arizona”, March “Viva Pettee”, Selections “Tancredi”, “Heavens are Telling”, “Roseau’s Dream”, Hymn “Greaves”. Evening programme – Hymn “Lilac Grove”, March “North Star”, Air Varie “Austrian Hymn”, Selection “Lohengrin”, Chorus “Comfort Ye” & “And the Glory”, Selection “Belariso”, Hymn “Arizona”.

Sunday Sept 8th a mission service was held on the Rhodes Cricket Ground – the band supplying music for the following hymns – Prestwich “Arizona”, Southport “Greaves”, also “The Heavens Are Telling” selection (White away).

Sunday Oct 16th we attended All Saints Church Harvest Festival undertaking a musical service in the afternoon, also accompanying the hymns – selection Air Varie “Austrian Hymn”, “Flight of Ages” trombone solo, 4 hymns 381, 383, 382, 384 (White away).

Saturday Nov 2nd we are engaged for Card and Blowing Room Hands’ Ball in the Co-operative Hall, Middleton - 400 being in attendance.



Ladies of Middleton at one of the galas that the band will have played for

Saturday Nov 9th 6 players engaged to play for Volunteers dance, Drill Hall, Middleton (3 cornets, 1 trom, 1 euphon, 1 horn).

Sunday Nov 9th [10th] being Mayor Sunday we went to Middleton Church morning and Tonge Church at night.

Saturday Nov 23rd we hold a Ball in the Co-operative Hall, Middleton, when about 160 were in attendance – 6d each.

Monday Dec 30th 1901 – a Benefit Concert was held in the Working Mens Club Lecture Hall for J. Inglesent which realised £6 14s – total amount when all expenses paid left £5 13s 2d. The artists were Miss Edith Partington, George Dawson, Arthur Horridge, Robert Todhill – 3 selections for band.

Wednesday Dec 25th Christmas Day – went out in two lots, one via Middleton & one via Crab Lane – subscriptions realising about £19 5s 2d.

Year commencing 1902

General meeting held Thursday Jan 2nd 1902 in the bandroom. The following were put in office:

Treasurer – James Heywood

Secretary – Adam Pendleton

Committee:

G. Gibson, E. Morris, W. Pendleton, S. Jackson, J. Millard, W. Wrigley, H. Thorpe.

Music steward – W. Yates

Attendance marker – W. Wrigley

Auditors – Peter Yates

Saturday March 1st 1902 – New Jerusalem schoolroom, Rhodes Grand Concert by the Haydn Opera Co. and the band playing two selections “*In Coonland*” – parade in the afternoon.

Saturday March 16th engaged for Bleachers Finishers & Dyers Association, held in the Middleton Co-operative Hall.

Saturday May 3rd – parade at Middleton in aid of war fund – wet day, uniform.



Church parade, Middleton

Sunday May 4th being Band Sunday we attended Rhodes Church accompanying the hymns & playing two selections. Selections were “*Ora Pro Nobis*”, “*Vesper Hymn*”. Hymns no. 173, no. 215.

Whit Friday May 23rd we are engaged to play for St Paul’s Bell Lane, Bury, from 8 o’clock until 6 at night – 2 schools. Fine weather (White absent).

Whit Saturday May 24th we were engaged at Royton United Sunday School from 9 o’clock until 12 o’clock, procession only – 2 hymns “*Old Hundred*”, “*O Gentle Saviour*”, selection “*Air Varie*”, “*Vesper Hymn*”. Whit week 14/9 per head.

Saturday June 14th we were engaged to play for the Rhodes Industrial Co-operative Children’s Treat from 2 o’clock until 8/30 playing selections & dances during the evening.

Sunday June 22nd – Musical Festival at Tonge Football Ground in aid of Poor Children fund – 3 selections being given by the band – “*Roseau’s Dream*”, “*Comfort Ye And the Gloria*”, “*Eventide*” Air Varie. Also United Choirs of Middleton & district under the conductorship of Mr Jas. Steeple (White present).

We had a thunder shower during the latter part of the programme.

Thursday June 26th – Coronation Day. We were engaged by the Manchester Corporation to play in Queens Park from 1 o’clock until 7 p.m., alternately with Culcheth Sunday School Band of Newton Heath. Fine weather. Rhodes Band 1 o’clock to 3, 5 to 7. CSSB hours 3 o’clock to 5, 7 to 9.

Sunday June 8th peace thanksgiving service at Rhodes Church, also a procession from Working Mens Club the route taken was Cross St via Broad St along

Manchester Old Rd to church. 2 selection by the band – “*Roseau’s Dream*”, “*Hallelujah Chorus*” – 3 hymns “*Old Hundred*”, 72, “*Onward Christian Soldiers*”.

Saturday June 28th we were engaged to play for Parkfield Sunday School procession from 2.30 until 9 o’clock. Fine weather. Hymns were “*Lilac Grove*”, “*Prestwich*”, “*National Anthem*”, “*Coalburn*” (J. Williamson eng. to play cornet, White away)

Saturday July 5th engaged to play for Rhodes United Sunday Schools procession in fine weather – 2.30 until 9 o’clock. Hymns – “*Armadale*”, “*Lilac Grove*”, “*St Ann*”, “*National Anthem*”.

Saturday July 12th engaged for the Rhodes Church Sunday School procession in fine weather – cornet player engaged to play from Manchester – 2.30 until dusk. 4 off (White away).

Saturday August 16th – brass band contest on the Broughton Rangers Football Ground, 25 bands competing, test piece own choice.

1st Middleton Borough

2nd Atherton Public, also medal – best solo cornet

3rd Beswick Subscription

4th Helmshore

5th & 6th divided with Bradford Prize & Eccles Borough Band

3 players engaged – Aaron, 2nd Flugel Horn, 3rd Cornet.

[the Rhodes band played “*Schubert*” arranged by H. Round]

Saturday August 30th we attend a Grand Garden party at the house of Mr E.A. Jones in Bramall Park, Cheadle Hulme, nr. Stockport (uniform). R. Inskip engaged to play cornet and Robert Lord solo horn. We arrived home 1 o’clock Sunday morning.

Sunday August 17th engaged to play for Flower Show, Middleton Co-operative Hall, afternoon & evening – wet day.

Sunday Sept 14th – camp meeting on the Rhodes Cricket Ground, the band accompanying & hymns & playing 2 selections “*Roseau’s Dream*” & “*Hallelujah Chorus*” (fine weather).

Sunday Oct 12th we attended the All Saints Church Harvest Festival services in the afternoon. Playing 2 selections & accompanying the hymns in church. Selections – “*Kyrie & Gloria*”, “*Dream of Paradise*”, Hymns 381, 382 “*Come ye thankful*”, 166 “*Old Hundred*”.

Saturday Nov 29th – engaged to play for ball in the Co-operative Hall held by Middleton Horticultural Society. Refreshment & Dance. 7 o’clock p.m. until 11.30 (White here).

Thursday Dec 25th Christmas Day. Turned out to play in two lots, one via Middleton & the other via Crab Lane & district ending up in Boardman Lane about 11 o’clock – collections realising just over 20£.

Collectors: William Yates & Joe Barlow (Crab route), Jas. Inglesent & Henry Smethurst (Middleton)

Year commencing Jan 1903

General meeting Jan 13th Tuesday night in the bandroom. The following were put in office:

Treasurer – James Heywood

Secretary – Adam Pendleton

Committee:

E. Morris, G. Gibson, J. French, P. Yates, F. Townley, C. Hardman, W. Wrigley

Attendance marker – G. Bedford

Auditors – W. Pendleton, J. Millard

Music steward & general worker – W. Yates

Tues Jan 20th 1903 – first rehearsal with Robert Lord of Middleton

Saturday March 14th parade round the village of Rhodes – very cold day but fair.

Saturday April 4th parade to Mr G.W. Jones, Southfield, Crumpsall. Playing selections of music on the lawn from 3.30 until 6.30

Easter Monday April 13th – Clough Hall [*contest*] – 17 bands

Saturday May 2nd – Grand May Day parade at Middleton commencing at 3 o'clock until about 6 o'clock. G. Kenyon engaged cornet player, also J. Murray for drummer – Townley away.

Sunday May 3rd being Band Sunday we attended Rhodes Church accompanying the hymns and playing 2 selections "*Austrian Hymn*", "*Heavens are Telling*". Hymns 391 – "*Onward Christian Soldiers*", 298 "*Alleluja*", 176 "*Lilac Grove*".

Sunday May 17th – St Michael's Flags, Manchester. Programme: *Lead Kindly Light*, *Tannhauser*, *Tancredi*, *Austrian Hymn*, *Mercadante*, *Auber*, *Hallelujah Chorus*. Weather rather unsettled but kept fair while playing – 26 players.

Tuesday night, May 26th – open air rehearsal on the Ground adjoining Dr Findlay's house 7.30 to 9.

Whit Friday morning June 5th we are engaged at St Martin's Church, Castleton, from 9.30 until 8 o'clock, procession & field day – 14£.

Saturday June 6th engaged for St Peter's School, Middleton from 1 o'clock until 8 p.m. – fine for both engagements. £6 10s. 25 members all told – 16s 3d per head.

Saturday Jun 13th we are engaged to play for Tonge Sports 2.30 until 8 o'clock – very cold day.

Sunday June 14th we play at St Michael's Flags – very wet day but played the programme through. Hymn – *Greaves*, March – *Unique*, "*Roseau's Dream*", "*Overture Poet & Peasant*", "*Verdi*", "*Selection - Schubert*", "*Thine Everlasting Seat*", "*Star of Bethlehem*".

Saturday June 20th we are engaged to play for the children's treat of the Rhodes Co-operative Society – fine weather – 2 o'clock until 8.30, allowing 2 hours for tea. The following players being away – Townley, Gibson, Adam & Sam Jackson (uniform).

Saturday June 27th we are engaged with Parkfield Sunday School procession from 2 o'clock until dusk, but owing to weather being unsettled they only just walked round the district and by arrangement with officials & our committee it was decided to postpone field day for July 18th – 3 weeks later. 4 hymns *Abridge, Alleluia, Prestwich, Theme of Love*.

Photo of band taken same day by Haddock of Middleton, having Parkfield Church for a background.

Sunday June 28th Grand Concert in aid of Poor Children Home for Middleton, held on Tonge football ground in fine weather. United Choirs and Orchestral Band, also Middleton Boro Band playing "*Mercadente*" selection. Rhodes Bleachworks playing "*Verdi*" also playing to hymns. "*War March of the Priests*" – combined. Conductor Mr G.H. Briggs.

Saturday July 4th we are engaged to play for Rhodes United Sunday School procession in fine weather – 4 hymns (*Crown Him, Ellacomb, Birmingham, St Gertrude*).

Saturday July 11th Belle Vue Contest – engaged players Bewley & Crossland. Unsuccessful. [note - the band were drawn no. 11 and came joint 17th of 19 bands, with 70 points, playing *Idomeneo* – (Mozart, arr. Charles Godfrey)]

Saturday July 18th engaged for Rhodes Church Sunday School procession – weather being rather boisterous – 2.30 to 9 o'clock.

Sunday Aug 2nd – St Michael's Flags, Manchester – weather rather unsettled – programme March "*Silver Trumpets*", Hymn "*Arizona*", Selections "*Joan of Arc*", "*Ora Pro Nobis*", "*Eventide*", "*Idomeneo*", "*Heavens are Telling*". Bewley & Crossland engaged for cornet players.

Saturday August 9th – Fancy Cycle Parade, Middleton & Rhodes district (White here, R. Lord & Morris & W. Wrigley absent)

Sunday September 6th we attend our last concert of the season at St Michael's Flags in fine weather. The following was the programme – Hymn "*Resignation*", March "*Albion*", Overture "*Caliph of Baghdad*", Selections "*Memories of Balfe*", "*Lohengrin*", "*Homeland*", "*Adeste Fideles*", "*Kyrie & Gloria*", "*Eventide*" – 26 players.



Sunday Sept 13th we attend the camp meeting held by the United Schools Rhodes, accompanying the hymns and playing Air Varie "*Adeste Fideles*", Hymns – "*Greaves*", "*Arizona*", "*Ellingham*". Under the conductorship of Mr G.H. Briggs.

Sunday Sept 20th we attend All Saints Church Harvest Festival. Play 2 selections "*Adeste Fideles*" Air Varie, "*Star of Bethlehem*" Cornet Solo, 4 Hymns – 381, 382, 383, 384.

Saturday Nov 21st – Floral Ball in Co-operative Hall, Middleton – R. Lord conductor (M.O.S.) £1 10s to members.

Resignation of Secretary Adam Pendleton – October 1903.

Friday Dec 25th Christmas Day – went out in 2 lots – one Middleton route & the other via Crab Land & Bowlee & west end of Rhodes – very mild night. £19 13s 8d – 16s 2d per head.

List of engagements for the year 1904

The first of note is our annual meeting held Thurs Jan 7th in the bandroom. The following were put in office:

James Heywood – Treasurer

Peter Yates – Secretary

Committee (5) in number:

G. Gibson, W. Pendleton, J. Millard, J. Stringer, J. Hardman

Attendance marker – G. Bedford

Music Steward – W. Yates

Auditors – Sam Jackson (transfer from Sam Jackson to G. Bedford Thur July 23rd), W. Wrigley

Our first parade was held Saturday March 14th round the village of Rhodes in aid of the Middleton Mayors Distress Fund. Collections en route, 3 boxes, 2£ 14s 3d. Collectors W. Yates, J. Inglesent, H. Cummins.

4 new cases April 1904 – 2 horns, 1 trombone & 1 baritone.

Sunday May 1st – Band Sunday we attend All Saints Church Rhodes, playing 2 selections & to hymns. March "*Silver Trumpets*", Air Varie "*Vesper Hymn*", "*String of Love*", "*Alleluia*", "*Hail to the Lord*", 3 Hymns 219, 298, 197.

Saturday May 14th – May Day Parade at Middleon in aid of Distress Fund. Uniform. White here, also a turnout from the Works Fire Engine & Tender Boad on the lorry and 6 sailor lads & 6 girls collectors. 33£ total.

Whit week engagements. Friday May [27th] we were engaged to play for St Martin's Church School & St Edward's Combined, Castleton, and it started to rain just before we had finished our walking and kept on all day, & we had to divide the band into 2 sections to play for each school – 9 until 8 p.m. (White came 2 p.m.)

Saturday May [28th] – we were engaged to play for St Peter’s School Middleton, which was a fine day. Time 1 o’clock until 8 p.m. (White here) – 4 hymns.

Saturday June 11th – Co-operative Children treat Rhodes, 2.30 until 8 p.m. Fine weather – White here & soprano engaged 7/6d terms (Fred Forbes).

Saturday June 25th Parkfield Church Sunday School Procession commencing 2.15 until dusk – fine weather – 4 hymns “Abridge”, “Alleluia”, “Wiltshire”, “St Gertrude”. Mr J. Marsden conducting the hymns (White here).

Saturday July 2nd – Rhodes United Sunday Schools Procession – fine weather – 4 hymns “Clayton”, “St Agnes”, “Millenium”, “Cranbrook”. Mr G.H. Warren conducting the hymns (Forbes engaged) White here.



Rhodes Chimney

Saturday July 9th – All Saints Church Sunday School Procession in fine weather – 7 hymns “St Gertrude”. “Arizona”. “Old Hundred”. “Areula”. “Lilac Grove”, 230, 517.

Saturday July 23rd we have an outing to Mr F.R. Jones, playing selections of music from 3 till 8.30, also refreshments being provided at intervals during the afternoon.

Sunday July 31st Open Air Concert on Tonge Football Ground – United Choirs assisted by the Rhodes Band and Middleton Boro. Middleton Band selection “Anna Bolena”, Rhodes Band selection “Rossini”. White here, in fine weather.

Saturday Sept 10th – Garden party at Mr J. Schofield, Archer Park – fine weather. Band playing selections of music from 3.15 until dusk, also a tea provided for the band. White here. Uniform.

Sunday Sept 11th – Camp Meeting on the Rhodes Cricket field – band accompanying hymns “*Arizona*”, “*Clayton*”, also grand march “*Silver Trumpets*”. Fine day, Townley away, White here.

Sunday Sept 25th we attend Rhodes Church Harvest Festival playing 2 selections “*Roseau’s Dream*” & “*Behold & Lift Up Your Heads*”, Hymn 281, 382-384 (White here).

Saturday Oct 1st 1904 – Band trip to Belle Vue conveyed by special car from Bowlee Brow to the Gardens via Waterloo Rd and Picadilly, returning same route. 2.45 from Rhodes, returning 9.45 – 22 members, 21 friends – fine day but cold.

October 1904 we advertise for new bandmaster & we selected five for a trial out of about 28 applicants.

- 1st John Bewley, Manchester
- 2nd Joe Jennings, Broughton
- 3rd Hinchliffe, West Didsbury
- 4th Lawton, Oldham
- 5th Howarth, Manchester

No. 2, Joe Jennings was selected to the post of bandmaster, our first practice with him was on Thursday Nov 24th 1904.

Wright & Rounds 1905 Journal came Friday Dec 16th 1904.

The next of note is going out Christmas playing – there were 20 turned out including 4 collectors, also going in 2 lots, one via Middleton & the other via Crab Lane. The boxes realised £15 11s 5½d – 15/5d per head. The following did not turn out – J. Heywood, Fred Townley, J. Hardman, Peter Yates.

Collectors – W. Yates, A. Jacques (Crab route), Duffy, Mr Lord – drummer (Middleton route)

Year commencing Jan 1905

The first of note is our annual meeting Monday Jan 9th, but owing to being a wet night we had only a moderate attendance, 11 in all. The following were put in office:

Treasurer – Jas. Howard

Secretary – E. Morris

Committee:

G. Gibson, J. Millard, Sam Jackson, Jos. Hardman, Peter Yates

Auditors – Bedford & W. Wrigley

Steward – W. Yates

Attendance Marker – H. Tench

Saturday Feb 25th we hold a grand concert in the Church schools, Rhodes. Artistes: Miss Emily Foseley (soprano), Mr Colin Kenyon (tenor), Mr Tom Schofield (bass), Mr Jack Platt (humourist, Crewe). The band – “*Caliph of Baghdad*” - overture, “*Pat in America*” – (tit bit), selection “*Sir Henry Bishop*”, march “*Punchinello*” (Rimmer), “*King*”. Gain on concert 15/4d.

Band Sunday May 7th we attend morning service at All Saints Church, Rhodes, accompanying the hymns and playing 2 selections – “*Hymn of Praise*”, “*Golden Pathway*”, hymns – “*St Gertrude*” 391, “*St Ann*” 165.

Saturday June 3rd we are playing for the Co-operative Society Rhodes Annual Children Walking from 2.30 until 8.30. Townley away, H. Carr engaged to play cornet. J. Cumming here.



Trams at Rhodes

Sat May 27th Mr J.W. Jones and played a programme of music, 3 until 7 p.m.

The next of note are Whit week engagements. Whit Friday morning June 8th, St Martin's Church, Castleton from 9.30 until 8 p.m. Fine weather.

Saturday June 9th were engaged to play for the Middleton Junction Wesleyans, but by arrangement with officials we had to go again Sunday week after owing to the weather being wet & take them round the village. Townley & Wilde absent (Sun).

Whit Sat afternoon we were engaged at St Michael's Church, Tonge, but owing to wet weather there was no procession, and we finished off in the schoolroom.

Saturday June 23rd – engaged to play for Parkfield Church Sunday School processions in fine weather. H. Carr engaged to play cornet. 4 hymns – “*Prestwich*”, “*Lilac Grove*”, “*Miles Lane*”, “*Old Hundred*”.

Saturday July 1st engaged to play for the Rhodes United Sunday Schools procession in fine weather – 4 hymns – “*Lord of Rest*”, “*Arizona*”, “*Lydia*”, “*Praise of Praise*”.

Saturday July 8th engaged for Rhodes Church Sunday School procession from 2.30 until 9 p.m. Weather being fine & hot. 7 hymns. H. Carr cornet player. Photo taken same day of band.

Saturday July 22nd a Grand Cycle Parade was held at Rhodes & Middleton, commencing from Land End Field, round Rhodes village and then on to Middleton, via Oldham Rd, Hilton Fold Lane, Spring Vale, Market Place up Long St to Hollin Lane & back to Wood St via Cross St, Kemp St to Booth's field.

Sunday July 23rd Open Air Concert on the Tonge Athletic Football Ground (Poor Children's aid). 2 selections by band – Air Varie "*Mariner's Hymn*", "*Romeo & Juliet*" – conductor Jas. Hurst (for choir).

Sunday Sept 10th U.S.S. Camp Meeting – it was held in the Wesleyan Church owing to the weather being boisterous, the band playing the hymns and 2 selections "*Hymns of Praise*", Air Varie "*Mariner's Hymn*" – Hymns – "*Lilac Grove*", "*Aurelia*", "*Greaves*" – G.H. Briggs conducting the hymns.

Sunday September 24th we are again playing for the Harvest Festival at the Rhodes Church accompanying the hymns & playing 2 selections – "*2nd part of Elijah*", "*A Song Divine*" as a cornet solo – Hymns 381, 389, 176 "*Lilac Grove*", 178 "*Prestwich*". Engaged H. Carr (gratis).

Saturday Nov 18th Grand Concert held in the Rhodes Wesleyan School, the band playing 4 selections – overture "*Poet & Peasant*", euphonium solo "*Longing for Home*", selection "*Llewellyn*", "*Gemma di Vergi*". Also Joe Harwood's concert party of Bolton (4 artistes).

General meeting Thursday Dec 14th 1905. Election of officers for the next year 1906.

Treasurer – James Heywood

Secretary – Ernest Morris

Committee:

W. Pendleton, G. Gibson, P. Yates, J. Hardman, R. Porter

Auditors H. Tench, W. Bleakley

Music Steward – W. Yates

Attendance marker – Arthur Yates

Sunday Dec 19th 1905 – presentation of four silver medals by Joseph Jennings, Bandmaster, for the best attendees from Feb 2nd to Dec 1905 – James Heywood, George Gibson, Herbert Tench, Robert Porter (81 attendances).

Dec 25th Christmas Day we turn out again in two lots, one lot via Middleton and the other via Crab Lane, commencing at 6 o'clock in the morning, finishing at 12.30 – 22 turned out, including collectors.

p.s. (Joe Jennings Paid up Jan 11th 1906)

Year commencing Jan 1906

First rehearsal Sunday Jan 7th.

Re-engagement of Mr John White, Thursday Jan 25th 1906.

Sunday Feb 4th – visit of Mr Wilks, Police Inspector.

Sunday May 6th being Band Sunday, we attend service at All Saints Church, Rhodes, accompanying the hymns & playing 3 selections – “*But Thou didst not leave*”, “*Better Land*” trombone solo, Air Varie “*Austrian Hymn*”. Hymns – 295 “*Alleluia*”, 165 “*St Anne*”. E. Wede bass player away.

Wednesday May 30th we gave a concert in the jubilee Park, Middleton – a good attendance of spectators. Programme - march “*Enchantress*”, selection “*Lyric Garland*”, polka “*Ida & Dot*”, waltz “*Flowers of Spring*”, “*Better Land*”, “*Earl & the Girl*”.

Whit Week engagements June 6th, 7th, 8th. Thursday we were engaged for Simister Lane & St Margaret’s Sunday School procession. William Pendleton off, BBb player engaged from Heaton Mersey. 1 o’clock to 7 p.m.

Whit Friday St Martin’s Church Sunday School, Castleton from 9.15 to 8 p.m.

Whit Saturday we went to Middleton Junction Wesleyan Sunday School from 9 to 12 noon. Holmes baritone & cornet player engaged. White here all engagement. 25/6d per head. Excellent weather.



Church parade – Middleton. Two cornet players can be seen on extreme left of photo

Thursday June 14th the first engagement with Manchester Corporation Crumpsall Park. Programme – march “*Enchantress*”, “*Lyric Garland*”, polka “*Ida & Dot*”, waltz “*Flowers of Spring*”, fanfare “*Pat in America*”, “*Better Land*”, “*Earl & the Girl*”, “*Bohemian Girl*”, “*King*”.

Saturday Jun 23rd engaged for Parkfield Church Sunday School from 2.15 to 8.30 for 9 o'clock (last 1/2 hour rain) – 4 hymns “*St Oswald*”, “*Cruger*”, “*St Ethelwald*”, “*Oriel*”.

Thursday June 28th we were invited to play at the Wilton Hotel, Rhodes, on the occasion of an old folks treat over 60 years of age, 7.30 until dusk, a supper was provided for the band at 9.30.

Saturday June 30th engaged to play for Co-operative Society Children's Treat from 2.30 until 8.45 – fine weather.

Tuesday July 3rd – Boggart Hole Clough concert – march “*Enchantress*”, “*Bohemian Girl*”, “*I Dreamed a Dream*”, “*Maritania*”, “*Llewellyn*”, “*Silver Trumpets*”.

4th July, Middleton Park – same programme.

Saturday July 7th engaged for Rhodes United Sunday Schools procession from 2.45 until 9 o'clock – fine weather – 4 hymns “*Regent Square*”, “*St Oswald*”, “*St Gertrude*”, “*Birmingham*” – Mr Briggs conducting. Mr White came about 7 p.m.

Thursday July 12th Crumpsall Park concert. Programme – “*Silver Trumpets*”, “*Overture Tancredi*”, “*Maritania*”, “*I Dreamed a Dream*”, “*Songs of Balfe*”, “*Reign of Beauty*”, “*Jennesse Dolce*”, “*Enchantress*” (in place of *North Star*).

Saturday July 14th engaged for Rhodes Church Sunday School procession in fine weather from 2.30 until 9 o'clock. White came about 8.15 after being at Belle Vue contest. Engaged players – cornet solo player (sent by Harry Carr), W. Eastwood, baritone Stringer. 7 hymns as usual.

Tuesday July 17th – Boggart Hole Clough. H. Carr.

Tuesday July 31st – Boggart Hole Clough. H. Carr.

Saturday Aug 11th – Crumpsall Park. No engaged cornet.

Saturday Aug 25th – Crumpsall Park. J. Kenyon. C. Hollocks away (BBb)

July 28th Saturday we played for the stonelaying at the new Primitive Methodist Chapel, Rhodes – a tea being provided for the bandsmen afterwards (Mr White here).

Aug 8th – Garden Party Parkfield given by Miss Aspell, no expenses allowed! 16/6d out of pocket.

Sunday Sept 8th [9th] – Camp Meeting on the Rhodes Cricket ground. J. Bewley engaged for cornet. Selection “*Eventide*”. 2.30 until 3.30.

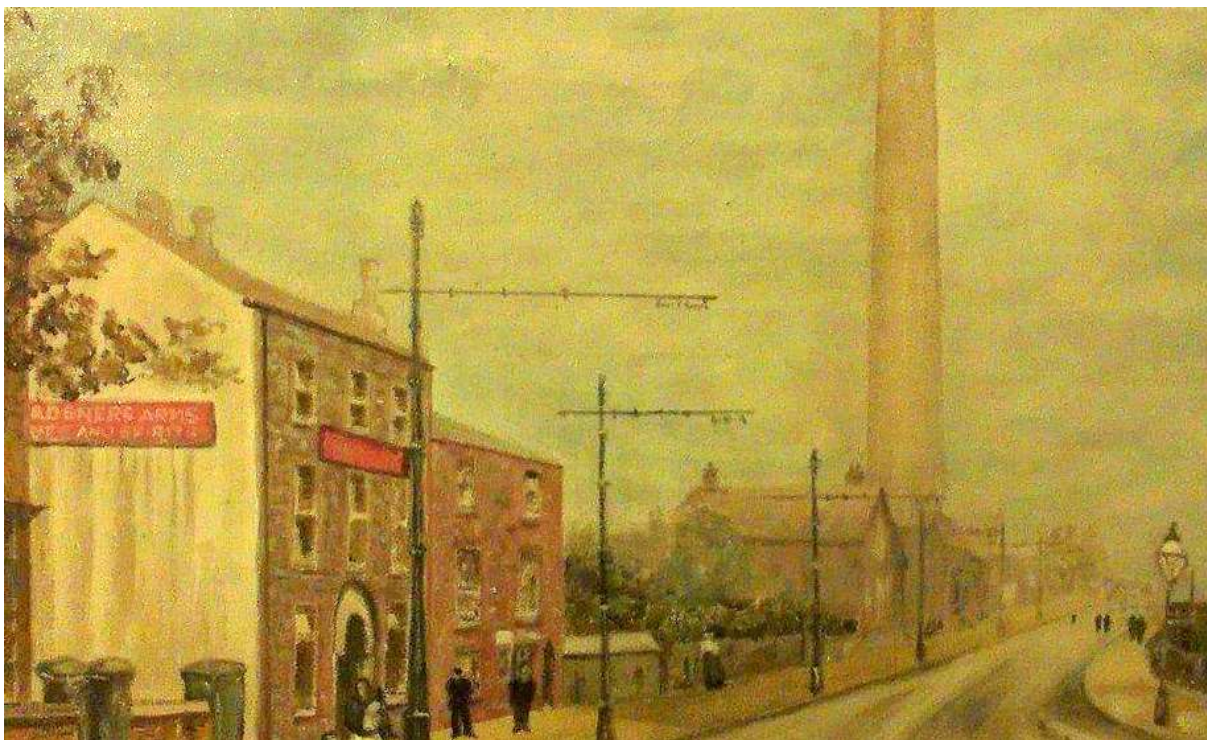
Sunday Sept 23rd – All Saints Church Harvest Festival, band accompanying hymns & 3 selections “*Native Worth*”, “*Day of Rest*”, “*Eventide*”. Hymns 381, 382 and 391 (should have been 384).

2 new lamps for band. 2£ Dec 20th 1906.

Dec 25th Christmas Day we turn out in two lots, one lot via Crab Lane and the other one via Middleton starting at 6 a.m., finishing about noon, collectors realising 14 £.

1907

Saturday Feb 23rd a dinner was held at the Gardeners Arms, Rhodes, for the members, about 20 being present and an enjoyable evening was spent.



Gardener's Arms, Rhodes

7 engagements for the Manchester Parks, March 8th 1907.

2 Crumpsall Park, 2 Cheetham Park, 2 St Michael's Flags, 1 Boggart Hole.

Sunday May 5th Band Sunday we attend All Saints Church, Rhodes accompanying the hymns & playing 2 selections – Cornet Solo “*Wondrous Cross*”, Air Varie “*Hannover*”. Hymns – 215 “*Church in one form*”, 172 “*Praise to the Holy*”, 224 “*O Happy Band*”. (White away).

Whit Week engagements. Thursday May 23rd Simister Lane & St Margaret's Schools from 1 p.m. until 8 o'clock – fair weather but boisterous & very cold. 4 hymns – “*St Theresa*”, “*Ruth*”, “*Prestwich*”, “*Southport*”. “*Summer Suns*” Mr White here.

Whit Friday May 24th St Martin's Church, Castleton, from 9 o'clock until 8 p.m. Parade from 9 until 12, fine up to 4 o'clock and then we had an hours rain afterwards going on the field and finishing it off in fair weather.

Whit Saturday May 25th St Michael's Church, Tonge, procession & field day from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. in fine weather but cold later on, giving satisfaction. 25 players turned out on every engagement, including Mr White. 21/8d per head allowing 7/6d for carriage of stands, 2/6d cleaning BBb.

Saturday June 15th engaged with the Co-operative Society, Rhodes, for the Children's annual gala day, but owing to being very wet it had to be abandoned. We played an hour in two schools – All Saints & New Jerusalem. Tea was provided for the band by Mrs Albesson at 1/- per head.

Saturday June 29th we were engaged with Parkfield Church Sunday Schools procession from 2.30 until 9 p.m. – fine weather. White away. 4 hymns – “Wiltshire”, “Lilac Grove”, “Old Hundred”, “St Gertrude”. J. Kenyon engaged (cornet player).



Rhodes village – bleachworks chimney just visible at bottom – Schwabe's chimney at top

Saturday July 6th engaged with United Sunday Schools, Rhodes, procession & field day. It came on rain about 7 p.m. so we had to leave the field and play an hour each

in 2 schools - Primitive School and the Jerusalem School. 4 hymns – “*Salem’s Plains*”, “*St Anne’s*”, “*Aurelia*”, “*Sovereignty*”. G.H. Warren conducting the singing. New banner P.M.S.

Saturday July 13th engaged for All Saints Church Sunday Schools procession but owing to being wet the walking had to be abandoned, playing in the school for dancing until 9 p.m. (J. Kenyon, cornet, engaged).

Wednesday July 17th 1907. Mr White paid up – last rehearsal with him was Tuesday July 16th.

Saturday Aug 3rd – 2nd engagement with the Rhodes Church Schools from 2.30 to 8 p.m. Fine day. Soprano from Kearsley engaged.

Saturday Aug 10th we pay a visit to Mr J.W. Jones, Southfield, Crumpsall, playing selections of music from 3 until about 5.30. The weather was very unsettled. Cornet player engaged from Eccles Boro.

September 2nd Monday – 6 instruments went to Higham to be silver plated (BBb bass, Bb bass, 2 Eb bass, G trombone, Bb cornet).

Sunday Sept 29th we attend the Harvest Festival services at Rhodes Church evening service playing 2 selections & accompanying the hymns. Selections “*Roseau’s Dream*”, “*Ora Pro Nobis*”. Hymns no. 381, 382, 384, 100.

Christmas playing – turned out in two lots as usual, from 6 a.m. up to about 1 o’clock. £16 12s 4d - (11/8d per head – 26 attended).

January 1st 1908

Turned out on New Years morning with about 22 all told from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. Very poor collection – 2 £ 6s about.

Saturday May 2nd parade around the village via Boardman Land, Cross Street, Broad Street on to Rhodes house and back to bandroom. 4/- subscription R.H.

Sunday May 3rd Band Sunday we attend All Saints Church accompanying the hymns and playing two selections – glee “*Dear is my Native Vale*”, selection “*Song of Handel*” (from larghetto movement) – 3 hymns – 124 “*O Happy Band*”, 298 “*Praise of Praise*”, 165 “*O God Our Help*”.

Concert in Jubilee Park, Middleton, Wednesday May 20th from 7.30 to 9 p.m.

Saturday May 30th concert in Jubilee Park, 6.30 until 8.30, under the conductorship of Joe Holmes.

Whit Thursday June 11th engaged for Simister Lane & St Margaret’s Schools procession from 1 o’clock until 8 – rain came on about 6.30 we had to go and play in

the school – 6 hymns – “*All is Bright and Beautiful Round Us*”, “*All around the gracious seasons*”, “*St Theresa*”, “*Prestwich*”, “*Southport*”, “*Ruth*”.

Whit Friday June 12th engaged for the first time with Primitive Methodist Sunday School, Helmshore, from 9.30 until 5.30 in grand weather, refreshments also. (5 hymns kept) and 12 £.

Whit Saturday June 13th engaged for St Michael’s Church Schools, Tonge, from 1 o’clock until 8 p.m. Here we started the procession up to church and then it commenced to rain so we had to adjourn to the school room & play inside.

Saturday June 20th – open.

June 9th – 2 new tunics, re Jos. Hardman & Fred Townley, also 2 2nd hand caps, same time.

Saturday June 27th engaged to play for Parkfield Sunday Schools procession from 2.30 until 8.45 in fine weather. 4 hymns, viz “*Oriel*”, “*The Thing of Love*”, “*Darwells*”, “*Penticost*”.

Saturday July 4th engaged to play for Rhodes United Sunday Schools procession from 2.45 until 9 p.m. Fair weather. 4 hymns – “*St Oswald*”, “*Diademata*”, “*Rutherford*”, “*Prestwich*”. Townley away, but sent his brother for a deputy but was a complete failure.

Wednesday July 8th concert in Jubilee Park, Middleton, weather being rather unsettled. J. Kenyon engaged for cornet..

p.s. G.H. Warren conducted the hymns re July 4th.

Saturday July 11th engaged to play for All Saints Church Sunday School procession from 2.30 until 9 p.m. The weather being wet, the procession was abandoned the band playing for dancing after tea in the school room. Cornet players from Middleton Junction eng. 4/-.

6 hymns – “*Old Hundred*”, “*Austria*”, “*Aurelia*”, “*Heavenly Father*”, “*Lilac Grove*”, “*Arizona*”.

Saturday July 18th – open.

Saturday July 27th [25th] engaged to play for Children’s Gala Co-op from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., but owing to it being a wet day they did not turn out until 4.30 with only a short walk round & no field, finishing at 5 p.m. by order of committee.

Wednesday July 29th concert in Jubilee Park, Middleton, before a large audience. Engaged Joe Kenyon & W. Wrigley, also soprano player from Heywood Old, which improved the band considerably. Programme – march “*Battle & Breeze*” (in place of “*On Tour*”), overture “*Caliph of Baghdad*”, “*Maritana*”, “*Ora Pro Nobis*”, “*Crown of British Songs*”, “*King*”. Conductor Joseph Holmes, in fine weather.

Saturday Aug 8th engaged for Garden Party Tonge Vicarage from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. Soprano (Birch) & cornet (J. Kenyon) engaged. Fine weather, refreshments provided. 4 £.

Wednesday Aug 12th Garden Party at Mr Schofield, Archer Park, from 1 p.m. until dusk, 8.30 – refreshments provided, soprano engaged.

Saturday Aug 29th gave a programme at Southfield, Mr J.W. Jones, from 3 p.m. until about 5.30 – very showery day. Soprano (A. Holt) 7/6d, & Joe Kenyon 4/- engaged.

Sunday Oct 4th Harvest Festival All Saints Church, Rhodes. The band accompanying the hymns and playing 2 selections – “*Sicilian Mariner*”, “*Hymn of Praise*”. Harvest hymns no. 381, 383, 384 (evening service). Bandmaster Joseph Holmes.

The next of note comes as Christmas playing, going out in two lots as usual, J. Heywood & Fred Townley not going, also one of the collectors was away owing to an accident (C. Harr). 26 all including collectors, they were as follows

Crab Lane – W. Yates, G. Beet

Middleton – J. Nut, W. Goodwin

Income £15 1s 2d

Expenditure – Xmas cards 12s 10d; 24 members (11/8d) - £14 0s 0d; 1 member 6s 4d – balance 2s.

Year 1909

Band Sunday May 2nd we attend All Saints Church as usual, playing two selections and accompanying the hymns in singing. 3 hymns – 219 “*Thy Hand*”, 260 “*St Bees*”, 282 “*Abridge*”. Selections “*Abide with Me*”, sacred song “*Absent*”. J. Heywood sick (bass trombone).

Saturday May 8th parade round the village. Bass trombone away, also W.B. (BBb).

Whit Week engagements

Thursday June 3rd engaged to play for Simister Lane & St Margaret’s combined from 1 p.m. until 8. Hymns - “*Prestwich*”, “*Gracious Seasons*”, “*Bright & Cheerful*”, “*Ruth*”, “*Southport*”. Weather fine.

Saturday June 5th engaged to play for St Michael’s Church Schools procession Middleton from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. We had a parade round but it set in rain and had to finish off in schoolroom. Charlie Horrocks, William Wrigley (engaged players). 2 hymns were sung on the vicarage lawn – “*Old Hundred*”, “*Arizona*”. 24 players all in.

Saturday June 12th engaged for Co-operative Children’s Treat from 2.15 until 8.45 – fine weather. Engaged players – Wrigley 5/-, Horrocks. Partington (night only).

Saturday June 19th engaged for the Bowlee Primitive Methodist Church from 2.30 until 8.30, giving great satisfaction, also a tea being provided in the Barn at Parkside Farm. It was rather threatening the weather at first, but cleared off later in the afternoon. Eb bass engaged from Heywood Old. Hymns – “*Southport*”,

“Arizona”, “Cranbrook”, “Diadem”, “Salem’s Plains”, under the conductorship of Mr Ernest Hilton, their choir master.

Saturday June 26th engaged for Parkfield Sunday Schools procession from 2.30 until 8.45, weather fair but we finished alright. 5 hymns – “Pentecost”, “King of Love”, “Old Hundred”, “Prestwich”, “Lilac Grove”. Engaged players J. Kenyon cornet, 1st Eb bass from Prestwich, no baritone. Field behind Harvey Heywood’s.

Saturday July 3rd engaged for the United Sunday Schools procession from 2.30 until 9. We had to give over about 7.30 owing to heavy rains coming on, but it kept fair for the procession in the afternoon. 4 hymns – “Pentecost”, “Simeon”, “Hannover”, “Dearhurst”. Under the conductorship of Mr Clay. Engaged J. Kenyon, cornet, E. Stringer, baritone.

Saturday July 10th – open.

Saturday July 17th engaged for the Rhodes Church Sunday School procession & field from 2.30 until 9 p.m. in fine weather. Sloan engaged to play cornet, Peter Yates for baritone. 7 hymns – “Lilac Grove”, “Aurelia”, “Hollinside”, “St Anne”, “Arizona”, “Austria”, “St Gertrude”.

Saturday July 24th – 7 players engaged for Simister Lane Schools Gala Day, but had to play in the schoolroom owing to it being so wet & unsettled.

Saturday July 31st – Garden Party Park field postponed owing to being wet to some future date.

Saturday Aug 7th concert in Middleton Park from 7 p.m. to 9. Fine. Joe Kenyon engaged cornet player & Arthur Holt soprano, also Peter Yates baritone.

George Bedford & Harry Bertwistle left Aug 1909.

Besson cornet valves set and overhauled by Highams Sept 1st 1909, also soprano repaired same time.

Sunday Sept 26th – Rhodes Church Harvest Festival accompanying the hymns and played one selection “Flight of Ages”. Should have played “Roseau’s Dream” but did not owing to them not having a proper programme drawn up. 3 hymns – 381, 382, 384. Under the conductorship of Joe Holmes.

The last engagement with the band was at Rhodes Church Harvest Festival, Sunday Sep 26/09.

Band broken up Thur Dec 9th 1909, by order of J.W. Jones Esq.



Rhodes from the west – showing the Bleach Works in the foreground

Sketch of John H. White

[from Brass Band News, December 1, 1902]

John White first saw the light in Manchester 35 years ago, commencing his career as a bandsman with a Temperance Band in that city at the age of 16, first making his debut as a baritone player. He was, however, induced to try the cornet, on which instrument he made rapid progress, being early promoted to solo. Further promotion was in store for so enthusiastic a player, and, the committee having noticed this, invited him to accept the position of bandmaster on that post becoming vacant. It was in this capacity that he soon by energetic work made a name for himself and began to carry his work further afield.

He accepted the position of conductor for North East Manchester Band, and it was with this band that his untiring energies first



John H. White

met their reward, Advising the band to do some contesting, they took his advice and fourth prize. At their next attempt, a march contest, they took first, with one of Mr. White's own compositions, also medals for cornet and euphonium, he playing cornet himself.

About this time he took over the conductorship of Rhodes Bleachworks. Success very quickly followed his efforts in connection with this band. Heaton Mersey next approached him, having made several fruitless attempts on the contest field. Here again progress was his watchword, and at the second attempt tunder Johnny's baton divided first and second. About twelve months ago he took over Mossley Prize Band, and even among these musical veterans he quickly earned the reputation of being a good lad; he has Chorlton-cum-Hardy and Didsbury and Manchester Co-operative Societies Bands tunder his able tuition.

He is the recipient of several mementoes, one of which a splendid ivory baton, mounted and inscribed, he prizes very highly. As a trainer, he is no surface man, but digs deep into the soil; encourages the spirit of inquisitiveness in his pupils, and is always pleased when their curiosity is sufficiently aroused to ask questions.

As a composer, his marches are much above the average, and are played on the contest stage by several noted bands, in addition to those under his charge. including Batley Old, Spencer's Steel Works, Royal George, etc., and have brought forth pleasing remarks from such competent judges as Messrs. Swift, Valentine, Smith, Fletcher, Leader, Brady, Reynolds, etc. He has also several concert compositions, played by the bands under his charge. He is well versed in theory, having sat for examination, and gained his certificate. His present position is the result of continuous and arduous study, being a self-made man. May your star keep in the ascendant for many years, Johnny, and good luck to you.