

At other places in this district were workshops for the manufacture of hats. The one at Sandfold was originally a bleachworks, then a fustian-cutting works, before becoming a hatworks. This old place is still standing behind Station Road, and is used by Messrs Furnival and Co. as a storeroom. In 1847 the hatting trade was in a very depressed condition, hatters at that time only earning on an average 1s. 6d. per week.

For some years prior to 1800 Messrs Thorpe and Paul had the calico printing works at Reddish Vale, and appear to have lived there in 1811. Mr. Hannibell Becker carried on the business of block printing here for many years, probably leaving the place about 1844 or 1845. His sister, Miss Lydia Becker, the great advocate for women's rights, made this her home for some time. One of the partners lived at Reddish; the other at Foxdenton Hall. Prior to the works being owned by Mr Becker it was used as a paper mill owned by the Duckworth family.

Mr Bradshaw Hammond came from Levenshulme to Reddish Vale Printworks on September 21st, 1862, to begin machine calico printing, their first delivery of prints in 1863 consisting of 450 pieces silk stripes, two colours, and 500 pieces white grounds, two colours. Messrs Bradshaw Hammond and Co. amalgamated with the Calico Printers' Association, Ltd., in 1899, and they now employ about 330 workpeople. Their chief products are bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing, and export their goods to India, Egypt, and the Levant, East and West Africa, Balkan States, South and Central America, Persia, China, Japan, Rangoon, Java, and the Straits Settlements.

The canal known as the Manchester and Stockport Canal passes through Reddish, and was cut between the years 1793 and 1797. By this means Stockport is connected with the Ashton Canal, and through that with the Peak Forest and other water ways. No doubt the presence of this water communication, and the Manchester and Birmingham Railway, which was opened as far as Stockport in 1840, and the branch railway from Guide Bridge to Stockport, which was opened for traffic on the 8th September, 1849, had something to do with the progress which began in other industries. In 1845 the Albert Mills, Greg Street, which are the oldest cotton mills in Reddish, were built by the Greg family for spinning and doubling. The firm has made great developments since that time. During the war, until the Control Board restricted production, not a spindle was stopped. A speciality is the manufacture of fancy yarns. Mr Henry Phillips Greg is now head of the firm. A characteristic of the firm is the welfare work done by the employers for the employes. The workers have their gymnasium, recreation room, and playing fields.

In the same year the Moor Mill was built by Mr. David Bowlas, who previously had a room at Greg's mill, where he made heald (commonly called "yelds") knitting machinery. The main building was erected for the spinning and doubling of yarns, and the manufacture of heald knitting and varnishing machines was also carried on. For this business his son, Thomas Bowlas, who carried on the works after his father's death, built a new wing in which the pig iron is melted, the moulds are cast, and the machines are erected. Thirty-eight years ago the firm was floated as Bowlas, Ltd., under which name it remained until 1916, when it was acquired by a Mr Byrom. In 1920 it was taken over by the Spur Co. and re-named the Moor Mill, Ltd. About 180 hands are employed in the two