

VOLUME 1

DERBYSHIRE

MISCELLANY



The Bulletin of the
Local History Section
of the
Derbyshire Archaeological & Natural History Society.

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The Bulletin

of

The Local History Section

of the

Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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DIARY OF MEETINGS

1957

March 23rd - At the Library Lecture Room, Chapel Way,
Chesterfield, on Saturday, March 23rd,
at 3.00 pm., MISS NELLIE KIRKHAM will
talk on "INVESTIGATING LEAD MINES AND
SOUGHS".

SECTION NEWS

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Section was held in Derby on November 24th. The March bulletin will carry a report of this meeting and an article by Mr. Owen-Ashmore on the subject of his interesting talk on "The Early Cotton Industry in the Derwent Valley".

In September Mr. Minslow suggested that the Society's Burdett map should be reproduced for those members of the section who were interested. Nearly one hundred applications have been received and the work has now been put in hand. The cost of copies, well reproduced in three sections, will be about 6/- for each set, postage extra. They should be available very shortly.

Mr. John M. Worthy has written an article about the "Old Roads of Belper". He has made a special study of these and his story will be in the March issue.

The Section Treasurer wishes to make a special appeal for prompt renewal of the Annual Subscription. The Miscellany is sent free to all members, and copies can be supplied to non-members or extra copies ordered at an annual charge of 5/- post free.

Contributions and suggestions are always welcomed and information about anything which has a bearing on the Local History of the County will be followed up and recorded. The Editor is greatly indebted to those who have generously given so much time and work to help in establishing the Section and its Bulletin during the first year of their existence.

THE BRETBY MEETING

On July 7th members met at Repton Cross and led by Mr. Wain proceeded to Bretby, stopping on the way to inspect the site of an ancient mill dating from 1209, and the original approach to Bretby Castle from the Repton-Hartshorne Road. The mill, replaced in 1610 and again in 1819, has not been working for more than 50 years.

At Bretby Church, the Vicar, the Rev. G. T. Josling, pointed out features of interest including a memorial to Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, erected by the Countess of Chesterfield. The Countess built the church in memory of her husband and son, replacing a Norman building which had become unsafe.

From Bretby Mount, a hill close to the church, a fine view extends from Cannock Chase to the Weaver Hills, Dovedale and Crich Stand. Around this hill there was a British Settlement and when the Danes came to the district in 874 they named it Brit-by.

At the Domesday Survey in 1086 Bretby was an agricultural settlement. In 1209 the Manor was granted to Stephen de Seagrave who built a house surrounded by a moat on the hillside, and a church and mill. John de Seagrave, who had been the King's Lieutenant in Scotland, was given, in 1291, permission to castellate the house. Members inspected the site of this "castle" and moat, the course of which could be plainly seen.

The estate passed by marriage into the families of Mowbray and then Berkeley. Lord Berkeley married a grand-daughter of Michael Stanhope of Nottinghamshire and in 1585 she sold the whole Bretby estate to her brother Thomas for £2,500.

It was the grandson of this Thomas, Sir Philip Stanhope, created Baron Stanhope and Earl of Chesterfield, who made Bretby the family residence. He had great wealth and was a friend of James I, from whom he obtained in 1610 permission to enclose a park of 600 acres at Bretby. The old house was pulled down and the stones were used to build a magnificent mansion in the new park.

During the Civil War Stanhope supported Charles I, and Colonel Gell in command of Parliamentary troops entered and plundered Bretby Hall. Later the Earl was captured and he died in the Tower of London.

The title passed to a grandson who constructed magnificent gardens only equalled at Versailles. There were orange trees, water works and statues. A cedar tree planted in 1676, said to be the oldest in England, still had one limb alive in 1947, but was cut down in 1954.

In 1790 the 5th Earl of Chesterfield demolished the Hall and built the present one. He died before the work was completed and one wing is unfinished. He also rebuilt the mill in 1819, and many farms and cottages. The school on the village green was built in 1805.

The 7th Earl died unmarried and it was his mother who rebuilt the church. On her death the estate passed to a daughter who married the Earl of Caernarvon.

The estate is now owned by Thomas Wragg and Son Limited and the Hall has been taken over by the Derbyshire County Council as an orthopaedic hospital. The matron, Miss E.A.Calow, very kindly entertained the party to tea and later conducted a tour of the hospital showing how its rooms had been converted.

Mr. Wain has spent many years studying the history of the parish and has filled seven books with information. No written history exists and it is hoped that he will find time to write one. It would be a most valuable addition to the Local History of the County.

The party expressed its thanks to Mr. Wain for a most interesting and instructive excursion.

PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURES IN DERBYSHIRE

This article is the first of a series intended to help people wishing "to do something" about recovering the history of their own locality or of the county more generally. It deals with a subject that demands further investigation in all parts of Derbyshire and that invites a study of historical records without requiring a knowledge of palaeography. Parliamentary Enclosures have much to offer the local historian and the main aim here is to suggest some of the questions he can pose.

With a general knowledge of the "Enclosure Movement" that may be obtained from the books later recommended, a start can conveniently be made with two articles in the Society's Journal. For the county's agricultural history "Four Centuries of Farming Systems in Derbyshire" by G. E. Fussell (D.A.J. 1951) should be consulted, whilst W. E. Tate's "Enclosure Acts and Awards relating to Derbyshire" (D.A.J. 1944-45) is an indispensable introduction to more detailed local studies. This latter article, for instance, has a classified summary of the Derbyshire Acts and Awards with notes on their location.

Visits to the appropriate Libraries and probably to the County Council Offices will usually be necessary in order to make a summary of a particular Act and Award and to obtain a photographic or other copy of the accompanying Enclosure Map, which will be needed for future reference. Also copies of the 6" Ordnance Survey map are even more necessary for Enclosures than for other topics in local history. Enclosure maps are of the greatest local historical interest and value but their full interpretation involves careful study of the Award, which as a legal document may seem less immediately rewarding.

The article by W.E. Tate will have warned the student not to expect to find in every Derbyshire parish Parliamentary Enclosure conforming to what may be called the text-book account of the transformation of the medieval village with its elaborate and extensive open field system. Local history offers many variations from the traditional theme and one or two preliminary illustrations may be given especially from North and West Derbyshire. Firstly the area of surviving open fields is relatively small whilst the areas of commons and wastes may be very large. In the Hartington Act the estimated area is 12,000 acres and in that for Hathersage 10,000 acres; even though the areas actually enclosed tend to be smaller they are still significantly large. Secondly the time taken to complete the complicated process of enclosure might be unusually long - at Hathersage the exceptional period of 22 years after the passing of the Act in 1808. Thirdly there may be little evidence of rural depopulation and a serious worsening of the standard of life in Derbyshire village communities after Enclosure.

One of the first questions to be asked is how and why a particular Enclosure Act was passed. The general process has been described by Mr. Tate and it is the task of local historians to identify the promoting landlords as well as to look for any signs of opposition. From the Act and Award the character of the land involved, its area and situation, have to be recorded as well as its relationship to those lands called "Ancient Enclosures". In Derbyshire these older enclosures often have a significant place on the map. They offer a clear reminder that fields were being enclosed long before the passing of the first Act and their position in relation to villages and smaller settlements helps to suggest the outward spread of fields through the centuries. With the aid of his maps and possibly of air photographs the local historian finds much of interest both indoors and outdoors in studying the lines of enclosing hedges or stone walls. From the relatively long and narrow fields or those of irregular shape resulting from

piecemeal enclosure to the new rectangular fields of the Enclosure Award the general development of the modern field-system may be detected. Here the discovery, recording and interpretation of field-names will contribute to knowledge of this process of expansion. Finally on this aspect of the subject the changes recorded on the modern map that have occurred since the Enclosure Award in field-boundaries suggest question about the more recent use of land in the locality.

It must be admitted that a study of Enclosure Acts and Awards by themselves as Mr. Tate has pointed out leaves many questions unanswered about how enclosure was actually carried out. Supplementary material such as the surveys, field-books and correspondence found for a number of North Derbyshire parishes in the Fairbank Collection in the Sheffield City Library is of the greatest value in giving a fuller picture. The Enclosure Commissioners' Minute Book for Hathersage for instance records their meetings from 1808 to 1830 at inns in Sheffield, Chesterfield, Baslow, Edensor, Ashford, Stoney Middleton and Dore as well as in Hathersage. Some light is thrown on the various stages of their work such as perambulation of the boundaries, receipt of claims, sale of lands towards the cost of enclosure, survey and valuation, the provisional allotment of land and the final execution of the Award for which information is normally lacking. The life and work of the Commissioners themselves, their background, number of enclosures they dealt with, their remuneration, merits attention in Derbyshire as it has recently had in some other counties.

For local economic history the often lengthy list of allotments of land made in the Award merits serious attention, for it gives much information about the local pattern of landholding and legal rights based on the land. Some knowledge of manorial and common rights is necessary for an understanding of how the newly enclosed land was to be allotted to the proprietors entitled to a share. The large allotments made to the Lord of the Manor or other substantial landowners, often forming a very large proportion of the enclosed area, can then be more correctly considered in relation to the other smaller allotments. It is desirable to note how many other proprietors were involved and how the remaining lands were distributed among them. How many for instance received a total of less than 1, 5, 10 or 25 acres and how did the quality and situation of their lands vary? To a local historian the names of these people will be familiar and his knowledge of their family background, occupations and homes will enliven the Award's list of allotments. In some cases sales and exchanges of the lands provisionally allotted to individuals are recorded and these may throw further light on economic trends. Other themes in local history find their place in the records of Parliamentary Enclosure by the various allotments for tithe to clerical and lay owners, for public quarries or watering-places or for local charities.

One other theme - rights of communication - appears more prominently in the Award with a list of public and private ways in the area of enclosure. It is well known that modern disputes about rights of way often lead to references to the Enclosure Award and Map. The enclosing of fields meant at the same time the enclosing and defining of many miles of road. Straight stretches of road, like straight walls, clearly distinguish many areas, especially in the uplands, enclosed about 150 years ago. Not only the line but also the overall width of many roads today are those defined in the Enclosure Award.

From a study of such points the local historian comes to face the major question how his particular parish was affected by Parliamentary Enclosures. Did it have a profound influence on local life or at the other extreme did it merely tidy up the local field-system? Was it followed by any marked improvements in the quality of local farming? Is there evidence of new farm building in the years after?

Does the local population decline after Enclosure? How were the ways of life of the poorer classes affected? These questions will not be adequately answered from the records of Enclosure alone but they can provide a good starting-point for people interested in the still neglected local history of 19th Century Derbyshire. A systematic study of Parliamentary Enclosures throughout the county could prove very interesting and valuable for Derbyshire History members of this Section could contribute in various ways. Firstly a list of those Enclosures which have been analysed by various individuals could be compiled and recorded in this Bulletin. Secondly members could make detailed studies of Enclosures in their own districts. Thirdly meetings of members interested in this subject could be held to deal with specific problems and to make comparisons of what Enclosure meant in different places. It is hoped to include in the next number of the Bulletin a summary of the response to these suggestions for a co-operative study of Parliamentary Enclosures in Derbyshire.

Suggested Books

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| Hoskins, W.G. | The Making of the English Landscape (1955) (Especially Chapter VI) |
| Curtler, W.H.R. | The Enclosure & Redistribution of Our Land (1920) |
| Gonner, E.C.K. | Common Land and Enclosure (1912) |
| Orwin, C.S. & C.S. | The Open Fields (2nd Ed. 1954) |
| Farey, J. | General View of the Agriculture of Derbyshire (1811-17)
(Especially Volume II) |

J.M. BESTALL

SOME NOTES ON THE EARLY IRON INDUSTRY

AND BELPER NAILERS

Belper from early times seems to have been a centre for iron work as its central position in Duffield Frith was very convenient for the surrounding district. This Royal Forest was thinly populated and it seems to have contained no industrial place except Belper, where from remote times a number of old charcoal forges existed for the making of primitive ironwork, nails, hinges for gates, horse shoes, wheel rims and such like requirements of farm and forest life, in the western parts of the Frith.

Further away from the coal and iron area the forges seem to have been scarcer and it is probable that the neighbourhood of Belper served as a supply for the whole area. The early Rolls of the Duchy of Lancaster seem to corroborate this. Thus for the years 1313 A.D. - 1314 - 1315 the largest receipts were for the Belper forges which even then had a large sale for nails. £7. 8s. 11d was paid as royalty for one forge working for 11 weeks following Michaelmas. £63. 6s. 8d for two forges working 24 weeks up to Michaelmas. A forge also existed just beyond Ambergate and one at Blackbrook. The latter appears to have been for the smelting of lead ore. Other items mentioned in the records are iron bars for Chapel Windows, "Bord" nails and spikes. One writer speaks as follows of nail making in Belper:- "Belper owes its first trade of nail making to the meet of the Cavalcades from Duffield and Codnor Castles and from Nottingham and Heanor. These met for the Chase at the junction of the road from Crich Lane and sent their horses down into Belper to be shod".

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This suggests a date about 1250 A.D. for the introduction of nail making or rather 1260 A.D. After this we are without any further reference to the trade in Derbyshire until after 1600 A.D. In All Saints Church, Derby, now the Cathedral, is a monument to Sir Richard Crowshaw, who died in 1631. He was the son of a poor nailer of Derby, who went to London to seek his fortune. The monument shows him holding a nail hammer in his hand. Old deeds from 1700 A.D. give the names of nail makers whose descendants were still living a few years ago. The horse shoe figures on the crest of the Ferrers, of Duffield Castle. Belper horse nails claimed justly a superiority over all others and this was attributed to the peculiar qualities of the iron and coal found in the neighbourhood. Some of the iron for nail making was charcoal rods from Sweden. These came from the firm of Mold, situate where the wire works now stand near Ambergate. It would seem that previous to 1800 A.D. the Belper nail industry was fitful and unorganised, and it was not until the cotton industry was introduced and the place grew rapidly, after 1779, that the longheaded men in the nail trade seized the opportunity and became nail masters. In Glovers Directory 1829 A.D. we get the names of some 20 nail masters in Belper. The population of Belper grew from 571 to over 5,500 in the first ten years after the introduction of the cotton trade, and in another ten years to over 10,000.

F.T. HARRISON

THE DERBYSHIRE ARCHIVES

Radburne Hall - Major J.W. Chandos-Pole

At Radburne we were confronted with a very large accumulation of unsorted miscellaneous papers, which with the limited amount of time at our disposal took almost three years to sort, examine and list. Without the kindly co-operation and generous help of the owner, Major J.W. Chandos-Pole, many of the documents examined would not have been found. Fortunately the late R.W. Chandos-Pole obtained the assistance of I.H. Jeayes of the British Museum, who catalogued the parchments of the Chandos-Pole family in 1896. These were privately printed under the title of "Descriptive catalogue of charters and muniments in the possession of Reginald Walkelyne Chandos-Pole, Esq., at Radburne Hall, 1896". These muniments cover the period from about 1170 to 1550 and are well preserved in seven large cases. Amongst the mass of papers examined for listing under the National Register of Archives scheme there are many items of considerable local interest, of which only a few can be mentioned in this report. There are for instance many bundles of domestic and estate accounts which provide a remarkable picture of 17th and 18th century daily life in a typical country house of the period. It would be possible to construct a detailed "cost of living" scale for almost any year from about 1665 to 1739, bills for everything used in a moderately sized household having been preserved.

Some of the papers relating to parochial affairs will no doubt prove a valuable source of research to local historians. There are also a considerable number of personal letters of the 17th century, which throw a vivid sidelight on the times. In another category are the documents and letters relating to the dispute between the Pole and Every families c 1712 - 1730, over the right of presentation to Eggington Church. There is also a number of detailed assessments for the rebuilding of Ashbourne Church during the years 1708 - 1711. Finally the Radburne Overseer's accounts for the years 1718 - 1724 contain many items of interest that may justify future publication.

*R. Johnson
 The Ancient Swannick
 Coal Mine
 D.A.J. 73 1953*

Alfreton Park - Mr. W. Palmer-Morewood

The most important papers relating to the Alfreton portion of the estate consists of a considerable quantity of transcripts of early documents relating to coal-getting rights in the Manoar of Alfreton from about 1300. An article based on these papers relating to early coal mining appears in the 1953 volume of the journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. The major portion of the Alfreton Park collection consists of records of the Palmers of Ladbroke, Warwickshire - a calendar of these has not been attempted, but the archivist to the Warwickshire County Council has been informed of their existence.

EDGAR OSBORNE

SOME NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF

WHATSTANDWELL

The Village

Whatstandwell has no legal nor administrative existence. It was never a lordship nor a manor, neither is it a civil or ecclesiastical parish. A very apposite description of the place was written by a local school child competing in a competition organised by "The Children's Newspaper". This is quoted in full in Arthur Mee's book on Derbyshire in the "King's England" series and is entirely suitable to the rather indefinite character of Whatstandwell. In the Registrar General's census returns Whatstandwell is described as a 'locality' and no population figures are given. The census of population is included with Crich Carr and for all other purposes Whatstandwell is included with Crich.

The place name

Walker, writing in 1914, suggested that the name Whatstandwell might possibly mean 'the well of Hwaetstan', although he admits that he has not come across the name elsewhere. It has been pointed out that this explanation is unlikely since the earliest reference Walker found was in a charter dated 1485, and the name Hwaetstan has a definite Saxon flavour. Various ingenious and far-fetched explanations have been offered to account for the name. One such tells how a visitor asked the builder of the bridge if it would stand well; to this the builder replied in contemptuous tones "What! Stand well?". The name has remained remarkably unchanged through nearly 600 years. In 1390 it was called Wattestanwell ford and it appears again in documents dated 1485, 1510 and 1528 as Watstanwell. In Leland's Itinerary (1535-43) it is spelled Watstondewell. Speed, in his map of 1610, spelled it Watstanwell (Bridge). The only corruptions occur in the nineteenth century when it was variously spelled Hotstandwell and Hottstonnell. These last two variations were evidently attempts at a phonetic spelling based on the local pronunciation. It is now accepted by authorities on the subject that the name of the bridge and hence the locality is derived from one Walter Stonewell who was living at the spot in the late 14th century. Amongst the Rutland manuscripts at Belvoir is a document dated 1390 which is an agreement between Thomas, Abbott of Darley and John de Stepul, reciting that John intends to build a bridge at his own cost over the river Derwent next to the house which Walter Stonewell had held of the convent, where no bridge had ever been constructed, the bridge to take the place of a ford commonly called "Wattestanwell ford". John was doing this for the sake of his soul.

The bridge

The land in the vicinity of Whatstandwell bridge was held by the Abbey of Darley whose Abbott would doubtless have welcomed John de Stepul's pious act of bridge building because of the frequent traffic by the monks between the Abbey and Wigwail Grange. The present bridge replaces an older one, perhaps the original one, which was washed away by floods about 1795 or 1796. It is aligned on the old road from Alfretton through Crich Carr to Wirksworth. When the turnpike road from Derby was built in the nineteenth century the engineers followed the line of the valley so that, now, the bridge is almost at right angles to the line of the main road. This is not an uncommon occurrence in hilly districts such as Derbyshire where the old packhorse trails tended to keep to the high ground and cross straight over the valleys rather than travel along them. In a list of bridges in the county which the people of the county are bound to repair, printed in 1844, "Hottstonnell Bridge" at Alderwasley is described as 'an old bridge'. In another list, printed in 1862 by order of the justices, it is stated that it was first ordered to be repaired by the county at Michaelmas, 1705.

In the Public Record Office is the record of a sale of land at Whatstandwell dated 20th Feb., 1 Hen.VIII (1540): Sale by John, Abbott of Darley, and the Convent of the same, to James Beresforth and Laurence Beresforth his brother, of all their wood growing in Watstanwell, between the bridge and William Wyld's tenement on the south, the lordship of Wackbrydge (Wakebridge) on the north, the water of Derwent on the west, and the moor on the east, except the wood growing in the 'Calft Croft', etc., of the said tenement, with twelve years' 'free outre and out gapt' of the said woods; also grant of other wood near the Abbott's wall and the way to Crich, except Crabtre and Holyn, and except the trees adjoining the 'gape next benethe the lytyll Barne', the said James and Laurence granting also that the Abbott's tenant shall have 'Tynsell' to repair the hedges; grant also to the said James and Laurence of twenty years to sell and carry away the said woods, etc.

Population

Population figures for the present day are not available for Whatstandwell by itself but are included with those for Crich Carr. Judging from purely superficial evidence, however, the population seems to have been growing slowly since the seventeenth century at least. In a list dated 1633 there were two freeholders, Anthonius Wyld and Jacobus Oates. In a directory of 1881 there appear to have been eight households and by 1931 this had risen to twenty. These figures are not reliable, however, since the boundary, if any exists, between Whatstandwell and Crich Carr is not defined and the compilers of the directories may well have strayed into Crich Carr when listing the inhabitants of Whatstandwell Bridge as it is invariably called.

Social Life

The Whatstandwell Coffee and Reading Rooms were established in 1882. The location is not certain but they may have been in the building beside the railway bridge which has a notice at the back announcing "Billiards". Members paid sixpence per quarter towards the reading room, and ninepence per quarter towards the billiard room. There was also a library of about one thousand volumes, many of which are said to have been presented by Miss Florence Nightingale.

The Derwent Hotel next to the bridge at the foot of the hill from Crich Carr was formerly called the Bull's Head. At least after the building of the new

road it was a posting house and coach stage. The name was changed sometime between 1888 and 1895. There is also a public house higher up the hill standing at the corner of the road to Holloway known as the Wheatsheaf.

Industry

In the nineteenth century stone quarrying was extensively carried out at Whatstandwell. The type of stone quarried was suitable for building, coping, and grind stones. In 1895 grindstones were exported in large numbers, both dressed and in the rough state, to Norway; stone was exported to India and America. There were ten quarries known as 'Duke's Quarries' and, at the end of the nineteenth century, they had been worked by the Sims family for about a hundred years.

The following advertisement appeared in 1881 when the quarrying business was in its heyday:-

DUKE'S QUARRIES, (Anthony Sims, Proprietor), WHATSTANDWELL,
(Midland Railway), near Derby
Is still in a position to supply the undermentioned at moderate prices -
ASHLAR, for engine beds, girder beds, etc.
STONE required in railway construction
KERB PAVING SINKS SILLS
Rubble and wallstone, suitable for building.

Estimates given for working stone ready for fixing.
(The above quarries are well known in most parts of England,
having been in work upwards of a century)
The Penitentiary at Millbank having been built of this stone, also
the filling-in part of Waterloo Bridge and Euston Station, London.

The manufacture of millstones does not seem to have been a part of the activities of Duke's Quarries at this time.

At least one of these quarries is still worked and unfinished grindstones lie in some of the abandoned ones. Down on the river bank there was a saw mill and a moulding mill. There is still a small foundry working there. Crich Hill is honeycombed with old lead workings chiefly from the Wakebridge Mine. Further evidence of lead mining in the area is the mouth of Meerbrook sough about three-quarters of a mile above the bridge on the other side of the river. This sough, begun in 1773, was driven with great labour in an attempt to keep the water level in the lead mines down to a reasonable level.

Communications

It is said that, at Whatstandwell, the four main means of transport are in closer association than anywhere else in the kingdom. The river Derwent, the main road from London to Carlisle via Derby and Matlock (A.6), the Cromford Canal, and the main railway line from London to Manchester are all squeezed into a space only a few yards wide at this point. It is noticeable that the early railway company chose to call their station Whatstandwell Bridge in preference to Crich or Alderwasley. Whether this shows that the railway company still treated road competition with a healthy respect or whether it was to show that the railway was most convenient in having stations at river crossings is a matter for conjecture. It is certain, however, that many railway stations were further from the places after which they were named than Whatstandwell Bridge is from the nearest village

which is Crich Carr. The railway engineers showed considerable ingenuity in order to get through. The result of their work was an almost simultaneous crossing of the canal and the road to Crich. So small was the space available that one house is directly above the track. It stands at the entrance to the tunnel and its wall is incorporated in the structure of the tunnel. There must be few houses which have main line expresses running so closely underneath their foundations.

The Cromford Canal was begun in 1793 and at first it was a major trade artery between the new cotton mills at Cromford and elsewhere and Derby, Nottingham, and the rest of England. Although it is now unused except by fishermen, it enjoyed considerable traffic until quite late in the railway era under the ownership of the Midland Railway Company. Some fifty or sixty years ago the railway embankment below Crich Hill was found to be subsiding owing to the collapse of old lead mine workings and the canal was drained temporarily so that repairs could be carried out to the line. This was the occasion for a great outcry from local traders who complained that it would cause them hardship because they were not able to transport their goods. Eventually, it was agreed that the work would be carried out as fast as possible so that the canal could be refilled. The railway shored up the embankment and the tunnel with old rails and, by working twenty-fours a day, they completed the job in a few days.

The new road was built in the early nineteenth century and it quickly became a busy highway. Road traffic generally declined with the advent of the railways but on this road the Royal Mail coach was still running as late as 1855. It used to travel from Derby to Manchester by way of Matlock and Bakewell and its continued operation after most of the mail traffic was carried by rail may be due to the dispute between the railway companies as to who should open the line between Ambergate and Matlock and beyond. In the decade or so from 1828-1840 many famous long-distance coaches called at the Bull's Head. In 1828 the Lord Nelson called at 10.30 a.m. on its way to Manchester and at 12.30 p.m. on the return journey to Nottingham. The two crack coaches from London to Manchester, the Royal Bruce and the Peveril of the Peak both called there some years later. By 1842 the Nelson was only running on week-days and arrived two hours later than in 1828 on its return journey to Nottingham. The Royal Mail ran at much the same hour in the morning. By 1846, the railways had robbed the roads of much of their traffic and the Royal Mail only operated from Derby to Manchester. At this time it called at the Bull's Head on its way north at 10.00 a.m., closely followed at 10.30 a.m. by the Champion from Nottingham. The Peak Guide arrived from Burton on its way to Ambergate to meet the trains at noon and returned at 4.30 p.m., the same time as the Champion was due from Manchester. The Mail called at 5.00 on the way to Derby from the north. These were some of the last regular coach services in the country before they were run off the roads by the railways. The Royal Mail continued to run from Derby to Manchester (the well-known Derby Dilly) until 1858 and was one of the last surviving Mail coaches in England. Later, until motor vehicles became generally used, the mails were taken to and from Ambergate Station by mail cart to meet the trains.

Modern motor traffic over the bridge is very heavy and almost continuous at holiday times. A by-product of this seems to have been the appropriation of a meadow on the far side of the Derwent by caravan dwellers whose converted 'buses and other vehicles look as though they just reached Whatstandwell before finally expiring. This rather spoils the view up the river from the bridge but, from a little higher up the hill, at the Wheatsheaf, they are out of sight and the view of Shining Cliff woods is almost unimpaired.

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 Vol.37, 1915 (containing: The Place names of Derbyshire by B. Walker, Pt. 2)

R.A.H. O'NEAL

THE BUXTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

The historic town of Buxton has a much greater volume of recorded history than many of the newer cities. In Roman times it was a settlement on the way to the important Roman Camp at Brough. In Tudor days it attained great celebrity not only as a place of captivity of Mary Queen of Scots, but as a resort of rich and poor who came to take the waters. "The Treasury of the Bath" dates from this period. It was a charity for the benefit of poor people who came to Buxton for treatment and has now developed into the Devonshire Royal Hospital. Buxton for the last two hundred years is admirably represented in the collection of old prints and paintings in the Local History Collection at the Buxton Public Library and Museum. This Collection consists of both literary records and exhibition material of a museum character. Everything with a fundamental local interest or association is collected.

The printed material contains topographical and historical works written exclusively on Buxton or the High Peak district, directories, guide books and electoral registers, and books written by local authors.

Naturally, in Buxton, which owes its reputation to its healing waters, many works relate to medicinal history, written by doctors who visited the town, who worked in Buxton for a short period or who were actually resident physicians.

"The Benefit of the ancient Bathes of Buckstones, which cureth most grievous sicknesses, never before published. Compiled by Iohn Iones, Phisition, at the

Kings Mede nigh Darby. Anno Salutis 1572. Seene and allowed accordinge to the order appointed. Ienvarii XVIII. Imprinted at London by Tho. East, and Henry Myddleton: for William Iones. And are to be sold at his long shop at the West dore of Paules Church" is one of the earliest and most interesting books on the subject. Dr. George Pearson's important work in two volumes, entitled "Observations and experiments for investigating the chymical history of the Tepid Springs at Buxton", dated 1784, is also in the collection.

The Library is fortunate in possessing the original researches into Buxton's early history, as far back as 1108 A.D., made by Earnest Axon, F.S.A., F.L.A., and entitled "Historical notes on Buxton and its inhabitants and visitors, Papers 1-22". These papers, reprinted from the "Buxton Advertiser" from 1934 - 1947, were the substance of lectures to the Buxton Archaeological and Natural History Society and form a unique monument of patient and individual research, invaluable for future historians.

A complete file of the Local newspaper from its inception in 1855 is an invaluable record. In addition there is an extensive collection of Buxton prints, drawings, theatre bills and race cards.

Sir William Boyd Dawkins interest in Buxton was very strong, as this town was the centre that he visited frequently when he was engaged in cave exploration. On his death his valuable reference library of archaeological, geological and anthropological works was presented to the town.

Important archaeological finds are housed in the Museum. These consist of prehistoric and animal remains from local cave deposits namely Dove Holes, Deepdale, Hoe Grange, Longcliffe, Elder Bush, Thor's Fissure, Taddington Dale, Raven Cliff and Frank i'-th-Rocks, Beresford Dale. The mammalian remains consist of bones and teeth of extinct animals in a great variety and completeness and include bones of the mastodon, the sabre toothed tiger, the horse, the deer, and others. Archaeology of the Peak District is richly represented in objects in stone and flint and interesting skulls are shown from Grin Low, Five Wells and Stoop High Edge.

A number of the vestiges of Roman occupation of Buxton and district have been brought to life. A very important Roman milestone discovered on the Silverlands, Buxton, and exhibited in the Museum gives the number of miles (12) to Anavio (Brough). Brough near Castleton, the site of Roman station, is represented in the Museum by an interesting inscribed slab, Roman alters and a number of quern stones. Quantities of decorated Samian Ware, some fragments of Roman Glass besides objects of bronze and iron from finds at Holker Road, Buxton and Melandra Castle, Glossop, are also exhibited.

The Museum can show a complete exhibition of cave formation of the various types peculiar to Derbyshire. The form and colour of the stalactites and stalagmites is bewildering. It also contains many interesting fossils of the Derbyshire limestone together with samples of lead and zinc ores, barytes, calcite and the Blue John spar and Ashford Marble.

Buxton was the centre of the Blue John ornament manufacture and Ashford Marble inlaying industry in the 19th Century and many fine examples of these extinct crafts are to be seen in the Museum.

The Local History Collection also includes a comprehensive collection of Derbyshire County Maps dating from 1579.

Several very fine examples of Chesterfield brown stone ware of the early nineteenth century have recently been acquired.

Buxton is fortunate in having a library and museum housed in the same building, the one complementary to the other, an ideal arrangement for the collector of local material. Enquirers are welcome between 9 am and 7 pm., 9 am to 5 pm. Saturdays. The Library and Museum are closed Sundays.

I E BURTON
Borough Librarian

NOTES AND QUERIES

Information regarding any query appearing below should be sent to the Section Secretary who will also be glad to have notes about the Local History of the County.

NQ 26 - COACH TIMETABLE 1805 - In a small notebook at Tissington Hall is the following note, apparently made as a reminder by Sir Henry FitzHerbert in 1805.

Cornwallis coach leaves Ashbourn every morning between 10 & 12 o'clock and arrives at the Swan with two necks Lad Lane London next morning at 10 o'clock.

Defiance coach leaves Ashbourn every night 12 o'clock and arrives at the same place next night at 10 o'clock.

Mail coach leaves Ashbourn every morning at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 o'clock and arrives at the same place at 6 o'clock the next morning.

Dart coach leaves Ashbourn on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 11 o'clock in the morning and arrives at the Castle and Falcon Aldergate Street London at 12 o'clock the following day.

<u>Fares</u>	Cornwallis Coach	£1 15 0
	Defiance	2 12 6
	Mail	2 12 6
	Dart	1 15 0

R HAYHURST

NQ 27 - THE CODNOR CASTLE DOVECOTE - Some years ago, a writer rightly described the dovecote at Codnor Castle as one of the most picturesque of its kind. It must date back to the 15th or 16th century.

The outer wall, which was built with limestone and mortar, is of better material than much of the castle, and the S.E. portion is still in excellent condition, but the N.W. portion was not so well built, the stones being more uneven in size and some of them rather small. The building, which is round, is wide at the base, but narrow towards the top, the lower walls being four feet thick.

The interior is very interesting. The inner wall is built with local flat sandstone, like most of the castle, but without mortar, the stones being filled in with soil. There are about 400 holes or resting places for the birds at intervals of about 15 inches from top to bottom, with flat stone at the entrance of each one.

The interior of the building is open from top to bottom and as far as can be seen from outside it has always been so. There does not appear to have been a loft at any time and it was never well lighted but there was one small window on the side opposite the doorway, and an iron ladder reaches to the top, inside.

About 5 years ago the dovecote was badly damaged, half of the front having fallen down and blocked the doorway. It is difficult to account for this, but it was reported at the time that it had been damaged by a bulldozer. Some masonry has also fallen out at the back over what was the window.

The building is now deteriorating rather fast. The woodwork at the top, where the birds entered, is much worse than it was in 1955 when I photographed it, and it seems to be too badly damaged to be repaired.

When the castle was scheduled as an ancient monument the dovecote, which is some 100 yards away, does not seem to have been included.

There is a very good photograph reproduced in Dr. H. H. Bemrose's Derbyshire, published in 1910 by the Cambridge University Press.

To one who has been acquainted with the dovecotes for 60 years, it is rather sad to see it in its present condition. G. H. Large.

NQ 28 - "Derbyshire Lead and Lead Mining," a bibliography recently published by the Derbyshire County Library, is an excellent publication, and to indicate which items are available in the Derbyshire County Library, the Derby Public Library and the Barmaster's Library, Darley Dale, is quite useful, but how much more useful it would have been if the Chesterfield Borough Librarian had been asked to indicate which items were available in the Chesterfield Library's Local History Collection.

The very complete and well catalogued collection in Chesterfield is much more accessible to residents in the northern half of the County and I do hope that future bibliographies on local history will indicate Chesterfield's resources.

Charles C. Handford.

2. Notes. Dethick (from Old English *dēap āc* meaning death oak). It was a Manor in the Parish of Ashover in 1228. The chapel dedicated to St. John the Baptist erected c. 1230 as a private chapel of the de Dethick Manor and so it remained until 1903. When Robert Dethick and his son Thomas were killed in the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403 the main male line became extinct and the heiress married
 1. Thomas Babington. He fought at Agincourt and restored Ashover Church to commemorate his safe return to Dethick. Heir killed at Bosworth Field in 1485
 3. and grandson Thomas succeeded. His son Sir Anthony Babington (d. 1544) built the tower of the Church dated 1532 and restored the whole structure. An old roof
 14. line can still be seen in the East wall.
 5. The pension roll of 1555 shows that the priest at Dethick, dispossessed in 1547, received a pension of £2.
- The great grandson of Sir Anthony was the Anthony Babington executed for high
 6. treason in 1586. He had been page to Mary Queen of Scots in captivity at Sheffield and later initiated the Catholic plot for her release and the assassination of Elizabeth. The Crown confiscated all Babington's large estates after his execution but the Dethick estate was allowed to pass to his brother George. Some land and almost all the personal property was granted to Sir Walter Raleigh. Elizabeth herself took a valuable clock.
 4. George Babington disposed of the Manor to Wendesley Blackwall whose grandson Sir Thomas Blackwall, a loyalist, became impoverished in the Civil War. For many years the old manor stood empty and its stones were carried away to build other houses in the district.
- About 1680 the manor was the property of Samuel Hallowes and it remained in the possession of this family until bought by Mr. J. B. Marsden-Smedley of Lea Green the present Lord of the Manor. The hamlet covers little more than one acre with three farms, Church farm, Babington farm and the Manor itself now Manor farm and completely altered in Victorian times except for the kitchen where a huge fireplace has a curious clockwork turn-spit. There is a fine old barn with corner buttresses
 14. which is at least Elizabethan. In a genealogy of the Dethick family, in the possession of Mr. John Dethick the singer, the word Dethick Hall is used.
- Near the gate of the Manor there is said to be an underground passage leading to Wingfield Manor where Mary Queen of Scots was confined at the time of the conspiracy. This is a distance of four miles and no passage is known now. It
 14. was supposed to have run from an underground room and Mr. Rollinson has been told that some passage was walled up because it was unsafe and one old lady recalls going down this for about 100 yards, as a girl.
- In 1903 the joint parish of Dethick, Lea, and Holloway was created with a new church at Holloway and the Dethick Chapel is now only used for service on the first-Sunday of each month.

Lea The Rollestons and Babingtons had intermarried and at the time of the conspiracy the elderly Francis Rolleston of Lea Manor is said to have advised Babington to make the tunnel. The Babingtons worked lead mines and smelted their own ores and it was said that Anthony employed skilled miners to make the passage.

- George Rolleston, son of Francis and a Pensioner to Queen Elizabeth was supposed to have disclosed the secret to Walsingham. Francis arrested at Lea and sent to the Tower but released a year later and soon died. George was the last of Rollestons at Lea and the manor passed to the Pershalls. In 1707 it was owned by the Spateman family and sold by them to Peter Nightingale. The stone from the
14. chapel window is now in the garden at Lea Hurst rather weathered but with the lettering still visible. The inhabitants of Lea and Holloway used the Dethick Chapel and in 1663 Francis Allyn, by will, gave a yearly sum out of his messuage in Lea towards maintaining a minster at Dethick. This Allyn charity still provides a small part of the income of the benefice.
28. Peter Nightingale who had amassed a large fortune from lead mining built in 1754 Lea Hall a stone building of five bays. At the East end of the house there is a two storey stone building of much earlier date, originally a shelter for packhorses and their drivers. A few yards west standing back from the road is an old stone cottage known as the Manor House which is probably a remnant of the original Manor House.
- In 1771 the Nightingale family became connected with Lea Hurst also. Peter Nightingale's son, another Peter, a High Sheriff of the County built a mill at Lea for cotton spinning at the time when Arkwright and the Strutts were rising to fame. He died unmarried in 1803 and the estate passed to William Edward Shore, his sister's grandson.
35. Thomas Smedley who had been lead mining at Wirksworth took over the cotton mill in 1807.
- Peter Nightingale had sold the Manor of Cromford to Arkwright in 1789 and according to Pilkington had built his cotton mill in about 1784. Cromford Canal, built by Jessop and Outram, was opened in 1793 with a branch ending near the mill. This supplied easy transport for coal and lead to the district.
- John Smedley, whose father took over the mill, was born in Wirksworth in 1803, the year that Peter Nightingale died. After his father's death in 1840 he installed new machinery and new processes. In middle age he became interested in
24. Hydropathy and started a free hospital for his work people at the mill in 1851.
14. This was in a row of cottages now known as Post Office Row.
- In 1853 he founded a small private hospital at Matlock which became Smedley's Hydro where by 1867 2000 patients had been treated. Now the headquarters of the Derbyshire C.C.
28. John Smedley prospered and built Riber Castle in 1862. This embattled land-
12. mark built to his own design became the family residence. 1895 after being unoccupied for a long time was converted into a school. Now the property of the Matlock U.D.C. It is known locally as Smedley's Folly. When he died in 1874 Smedley was buried at Holloway cemetery and a memorial was erected in the cemetery by his employees in remembrance of his unceasing kindness, liberality and care for their welfare. The present owner of the mills, Mr. J. B. Marsden-Smedley, has put up extensive new mills.
12. In 1895 the manufacture of hosiery at Lea Mills was the staple industry of the district and 1000 hands were employed. There was also a works manufacturing hats
14. and military caps owned by William Walker. Head gear for the Crimean War was made here. The works was later used as a Mineral Water Manufactory. The buildings are disused.
28. William Walker built Leawood Hall in 1870, an unusual house made of many materials

29. William Edward Shore changed his name to Nightingale in 1815 when he inherited his great uncle's estate. In 1818 he married Francis Smith and their daughter Florence was born in 1820. The Nightingales had lived abroad since their marriage, but in 1821 they returned to England and needed a home. Lea Hall, half manor half farm, was inadequate and W.E.N. decided to rebuild the Lea Hurst property. He planned the house himself with gables and low mullioned windows and it was completed by 1823. The family spent the summer here and the rest of the year at Embley Park in Hampshire.
12. In 1895 Lea Hurst was occupied by Sir Joseph Cocksey Lea. In 1946 it was sold to the executors of the estate of the late Lieut. Col. E. S. Halford (200 acres and the mansion) to be a nursing home in memory of Florence Nightingale (d. 1910). But the plan fell through. In July, 1951, the estate was sold to Mr. William Bowmer of the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Whatstandwell, for £7000, and it is now one of the two Homes for the Aged run by the Royal Surgical Aid Society. The old stables having been converted into bedrooms in 1956. It now provides accommodation for about 30 elderly people.
14. The Babingtons of Dethick were mine owners and lead merchants in the XV Century. There are no mines within the township but the Wakebridge mines begin only $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the boundary and the district, just above is the richest field for lead ore in the kingdom. The Babingtons held shares in many lead mining areas in Derbyshire and they smelted their own lead and that from other miners. In the XVIII Century Peter Nightingale also owned mines and smelting works and was a lead merchant. In 1760's he was buying and smelting lead from Hillcarr sough miners. The early smelting was probably by hole and later by slag-mill, the firestones for which were quarried locally. After the supola reverberating furnace was introduced into Derbyshire by the Quaker Company about 1747, it was used at Lea at least as early as the end of the century. Fairey lists a cupola and a slagmill owned by Shore and Co. 1811 and in 1829 Glover states that the Lea cupola and slag-mill were then worked by John Alsop and Co. Shortly after this the works was in the hands of Joseph Wass. His son Edward M. Wass, introduced many improvements. The old system of dressing ore by hand was superseded by machinery by which 2% more lead could be obtained from the ore. He is also reputed to have spent £75,000 "in unremunerative adventures and trials"! In 1839 Joseph Wass built Lea Green now the home of Mr. J. B. Marsden-Smedley. He also built the Wesleyan Chapel. This chapel building is now an empty shell. The adjacent Old Chapel House is however occupied.
18. In 1895 Anthony M. Alsop was the manager of Wass and Co. and also owned the mill Close Mine at Wensley. By 1907 practically all the Derbyshire lead was smelted at Lea. The pigs were made of a uniform size weighing 1 cwt.
19. A description in 1917 is given by L. C. Stuckey who writes, "The Lea Lead Works has four Scotch hearths and two reverberatories. A large brick condensing chamber arrests the major part of the fumes and there are 600 yards of spiral flues and a short stack. Raw ore smelted on the Scotch hearths is mixed with burnt fume from the first condensing chambers. A Spanish slag cupola was used at one time to run the slags down but now the quantity is not sufficient and the slags are sold".
12. In the 1930's when the mill Close Mine was so rich before it closed down the ore was all smelted at Lea.
14. Now there is no more lead being worked in Derbyshire and the smelting works is empty and derelict.

4. There was also at Lea Bridge a mill for sawing and polishing marble. Lea School was built in 1808. There had been no school there before
12. this but it is described in 1895 as a good school where in addition to the usual
14. subjects geology is taught. Mr. B. G. Felton the present Headmaster has the log books dating back to 1808 (with some gaps however).
- The old school building is now a private house, the Beeches, occupied by Mr. Brookes.
8. At the top of Lea Lane a footpath leads past Shuckstone Farm to the site of the base stone of Shuckstone Cross. This is a dark grit stone block, 3 feet square and 18 inches high, with a square socket of the missing shaft. Along the edges of the cavity, criptic letters have been cut.
- There is a Protestant Dissenting Chapel in Lea which is a XVIII century foundation.
14. The Florence Nightingale Memorial Hall was built by public subscription and its foundation stone was laid by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in 1932.
22. In Mr. Bentley's house at Lea there is a secret place where recusants are said to have been hidden.
35. John Allen the Derbyshire poet was born at Lea in very humble circumstances in the year 1794.
26. Mrs Alison Uttley who was born at the end of the last century at Castle Top Farm Cromford, on the border of the parish, went to Lea School as a small child and has written many books about the district as it was then and also "A Traveller in Time" about Dethick (Thackers) and Anthony Babington.
20. Holloway John Smedley built the Wesleyan Reform Chapel between Lea and Holloway
12. in 1853. This replaced the "commodious room for Divine Service which is also used as a school." The chapel was a handsome stone building with a turret and one hall to seat 350. It had a burial ground attached and was also licenced for marriages at which Smedley officiated (in both cases free of charge.) This is now the Trinity Methodist Church. About 60 children attended a mixed day school connected with the chapel and supported by John Smedley.
20. The Zion Methodist Church is the former Primitive Methodist stone chapel built in 1854 (opposite "School Croft" a field now built on).
20. Thomas Smedley had lived at Cromford Bridge House. His widow built in 1844 "a neat house". The Poplars now Lea Holme.
14. The old parish boundary between Ashover and Crich is marked by a stone in Mr. Sellar's garden in The Park.
- Christ Church was built at Holloway in 1903 as the Parish Church for Dethick
14. Lea and Holloway. The tower was added in 1911 as a memorial to Mrs Walker of Leawood. The church is a pleasing example of XX Century architecture and has a fine position. The architect was P.H. Curley. The reredos was erected recently as a monument to Mrs. J. B. Marsden-Smedley. There are also memorials for the dead of both world wars in the church. There is also a memorial garden in the parish.
14. Dethick not having been a parish church marriages and burials were at Ashover but baptisms took place at Dethick.
- The entries from the Ashover registers from 1754 - 1900 relating to Dethick were copied by Rev. E. L. Wigram and the original baptism register for Dethick 1839 - 1900 is now safely housed at Christ Church.

BOOK NEWS

The Sheffield Clarion Ramblers Handbook 1956-7

Mr. G H B Ward formed the Ramblers Association in 1900 and is the Editor of the Handbook now in its fifty-sixth year. It is a delightful little pocket-sized book with 144 pages packed with all kinds of useful information about the countryside, 4 photographs and a detailed map, this year of an area along the Duke of Norfolk's Road to Howden Reservoir and Abbey Grange showing lost place names. Some previous issues of the Handbook are still available for sale and the County Library has a complete set for reference. The booklets contain a great deal of original information upon place names, history of the moorland and valleys of the Peak and South Yorkshire and many chapters of local lore. Price 2/- from Mr. G H B Ward, F.R.G.S., Storth Lodge, Moorwoods Lane, Owlser Bar, Sheffield.

Derbyshire Lead and Lead Mining

A bibliography compiled by R A H O'Neal, B.A. has just been issued by the Derbyshire County Library. This is an excellent record of the published material on the subject and though Mr. O'Neal states that it does not claim to be exhaustive it contains descriptions of 256 publications and a very good index cross referenced under authors and places. The bibliography is well produced with an attractive illustrated cover and is indispensable to anyone studying the subject. Available from the Derbyshire County Library, St. Mary's Gate, Derby.

Book News No. 4 and 5 - issued by the Derbyshire County Library are now in circulation. They contain short articles on the civilisation and literature of Greece and Rome as well as a selection from recent additions to the Library. No. 5 reviews the "New Outline of Modern Knowledge" published by Gollanez at 21/-.

Chesterfield "Gateway to the Peak"

This official guide has been compiled and edited by Mr. G R Micklewright, Borough Librarian. It deals briefly but effectively with the history, industry and present life of the town, with a good section on educational facilities and a brief note on places of interest in North Derbyshire. There are many pleasing photographs and a complete street map (with index). Mr. G W Jackson of the Chesterfield College of Art has designed the cover and a map of the town centre. Price 2/- from the Town Hall, Chesterfield.

Book News continued

Sheffield and its Region

A scientific and historical survey edited by David L. Linton and published for the British Association by the Local Executive Committee, Sheffield 1956. This book has been produced to commemorate the Sheffield Meeting 1956 of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. The survey is wide and comprehensive, covering an area from Huddersfield and Scunthorpe in the North to Wirksworth and Newark in the South. Part I dealing with the Character of the Region has chapters by specialists on every aspect including geology, climate, vegetation, prehistory, history and early industrial development. Part II concentrates on the City of Sheffield. Part III deals with the Region Today. Some sections have very good bibliographies and it is a most readable and instructive book. Price 30/-.

The Feudal History of the County of Derby by J P Yeatman and others. 10 vols. Large paper edition. £21 from Frank Woore (Books) Ltd., Market Hall, Derby.

A Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the Sheffield City Libraries has been published to mark the Centenary of the Sheffield City Libraries. It is obtainable from the City Librarian, Central Library, Surrey Street, Sheffield. Price 5/- (plus postage 7d).
