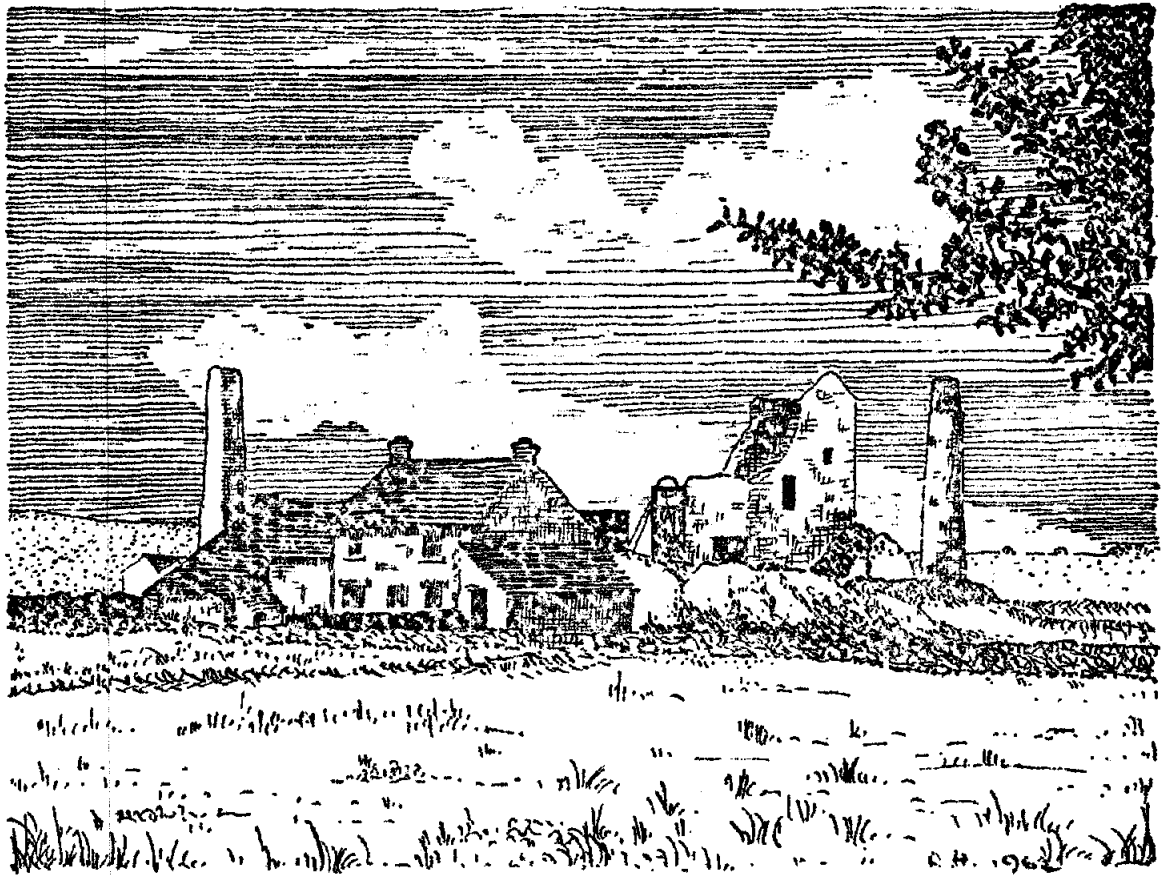


VOLUME 2

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY.



BULLETIN
OF THE
LOCAL HISTORY SECTION
DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

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A LETTER FROM THE SECTION SECRETARY

Dear Members,

In these days when there is an increasing awareness of the importance of recording and preserving historical information, and an upsurge in the general interest in our past, there is, as is to be expected, an increase in the number and type of records that are being maintained on a national scale. I think we may all welcome this movement as it gives all of us, including complete amateurs like myself, a chance to contribute our mite towards recorded history. The most important national survey that affects members is the census of Industrial Archaeology. This is a large project, and will require help from a number of people, and every member is invited to make a contribution. The records should be made on special cards, which can be supplied on application to me.

There are other activities as well as Industrial Archaeology by which we can contribute to national records. I have received two letters from the Standing Conference for Local History of the National Council of Social Service. The first deals with family portraits, many of which are disappearing with the sale of large houses and the break-up of family estates, and some of which are destroyed because the frame is more valuable than the portrait. Some arrangements have been made for storing such portraits safely, and the National Portrait Gallery has agreed to maintain a national register of them. The scheme was started eight years ago, but unfortunately has met with a slow response. I shall be pleased to send any member forms on which details of portraits can be recorded. These will be included in the national register. It will be remembered that a late and unknown portrait of Drindley came to light some time ago, and we should be glad to know of all Derbyshire portraits of pre-photography days.

The second letter is headed "Scrapbooks" and points out that many have been compiled dealing with local affairs and containing newspaper cuttings and matters of local interest. The trouble is that these scrapbooks are nearly always in private hands and their existence known to very few. I may say that I have been lucky lately and come across one that has been invaluable. The proposal is to compile a register of such scrap books, and if necessary to arrange for their safe keeping. The National Federation of Women's Institutes is being approached separately, and their scrapbooks should not be included. Apart from this, I should like to have some particulars of any scrapbook you know of or can seek out. The details required are:-

1. Name of village/town referred to.
2. Period covered.
3. Present location.
4. Brief description of contents.

By the way, what about starting scrap books ourselves? Our grandchildren should find them very interesting.

J. H. Bompas Smith

SARAH AND JAMES

by R. A. H. O'Neal

The destruction of Sarah in a spectacular pillar of fire on 29th January 1963 marks one more milestone in her unfortunate story. The people of Riddings and the surrounding countryside tended to look with affection on the unlucky twin windmills known locally as Sarah and James after members of the Oakes family to whom they belonged.

The two windmills were built in 1877 at a cost of £17,000 and were intended for the grinding of corn, but soon after their erection a new method of grinding with rollers was introduced and the future of the mills became uncertain. Both mills were ninety feet high, and Sarah was never induced to work by wind because she was supposed to be too near James. Locally, it was known all along that they would never pay their way; tradition has it that two mills in the same field will never pay. It is said locally that there was never enough wind to work both mills together. Had they survived as windmills until the day their colleague at Hoage was decapitated by the storm, perhaps they might both have worked at once. During calm weather the grinding machinery was driven by a steam engine and, in 1918, the sails were removed altogether as being superfluous and a 24 h.p. oil engine was installed to do their work. At the same time the interior of one of the mills was dismantled and the building was later used by the Granwood Flooring Company for storing sawdust - 560 tons of it in 1935.

As late as March 1935 the mill remained in working order, and was still grinding corn for the horses at James Oakes and Company's collieries at Somercotes, Pye Hill and Selston. The account of the fire in January says that Sarah's twin was called Thomas and that Sarah was last used for grinding corn in 1923. This bears out the difficulty in tying down exactly what has happened. One mill was certainly gutted in 1918 and one was still grinding corn in 1935; opinions locally vary about which one it was.

However, both mills were solidly constructed with walls two feet thick and the hundreds of internal wooden beams were twelve inches square. Each of the eight storeys had its share of machinery geared to the central shaft. Some of the floors were abandoned early and used as storerooms with the machinery still in situ. The metal arms which carried the sails weighed some three tons each and were mounted on a thirteen-inch spindle. They were removed by the then owners, Deosan Limited, in 1950 by the relatively simple method of detaching them from their mountings. The resulting ninety-foot fall caused them to be buried up to the hub when they struck the ground. The internal timber supports had become unsafe by this time, and the remaining machinery

was dismantled and removed at the same time. Altogether, some forty tons of scrap metal were recovered from the shells of the buildings at a time when this was particularly valuable. The buildings and their attendant outbuildings were then made ready for use by the chemical works.

Derbyshire has very few windmills and the destruction by fire of the remains of one of the Riddings mills and the storm damage to the Heage mill reduces the number further. The Cat and Fiddle Mill at Dale is still intact and in working order, although it is not, in fact, worked. Eyam windmill was pulled down at the end of the last century and Ilkeston mill at the beginning of the present century. Numerous others existed in various parts of the county, but no illustrations appear to remain.

NORTH MIDLAND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mr. R. A. H. O'Neal has undertaken the editorship of a new "North Midland Bibliography" which is to come out quarterly. Its aim is to record everything which is published about any place, person or subject in the counties of Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Lincoln, Rutland, Northampton and the Soke of Peterborough.

Many books are already listed in the British National Bibliography, but the new North Midland Bibliography will make special efforts to list all the many others printed and published locally which are so valuable to local historians who can themselves help to record local history as it is being made by advising Mr. O'Neal of any new local publications.

The subscription is £2 2s. Od. for the year, and copies should be available in the libraries. The first issue gives details of works published in the first three months of 1963. There are about a hundred entries including such local items as the little booklet "Introducing Duffield" which has been produced under the auspices of the Duffield Parish Church for the guidance of newcomers; the sale of agricultural property in Parwich on March 28th, and an account of the osteodontokeratic discoveries in Pin Hole Cave, Derbyshire, published by the Manchester University Press.

GEORGE FURNESS AND HIS TRAVELS

by Robert Thernhill

A century ago George Furness went to America, the date of his departure is not known, but the reason was to avoid his creditors.

He wrote a number of letters to his brother, who subsequently lived at Great Longstone, and from these some extracts have been taken.

A letter written from New York in October 1863 mentioned a previous one written three weeks earlier, and which gives a clue to the date of his arrival. He had left a 5th Avenue Hotel which cost \$25 per week and had taken a room at \$4 and with breakfast etc. "almost anywhere" total expenses were under \$10.

Some information regarding the trouble he had been in followed, "You will be glad to hear I have taken my own name again, what a fool I was ever to assume Hamilton but at one time that old T persuaded me to anything, the day I left London I felt so bad the old villain.....got me to give him an order to wind up the concern.....and an agreement privately for 3 years and said with his knowledge of the stock exchange he would put me all right in 6 months".

Reference was made to a request in the previous letter for £300 which he considered would enable him to clear his debts and "walk in London once more without a stain on my character".

The suggestion evidently was that his brother - James - should obtain £300 from his uncles "on your note against your 21". This would be his 21st birthday as a leaf from a bible or prayer book records:-

George Furness was born at Colesill Warrickshire May 17th 1839
Sarah Ann Furniss at Colesill Warrickshire Oct 19th 1841
James Furniss was born at Sheffield Sep 23 1843

The next letter, also from New York, was dated November 20th 1863 and stated "T was my utter ruin from the first day I was fairly connected with him to the last day of leaving London.....before I knew him I never knew what bill transactions were.....he inveigled me into all sorts of mad speculations.....he persuaded me to leave London & never left me from the Friday night I left the house until I left from Euston Square 8.45 Saturday night and even then he sent his son to Holyhead to make sure I got on board the steamer.....I got one letter, a few lines, to say I had been made bankrupt.....on the day I left London I had £270 of which I gave him £90".

"You will say why I have not written you sooner, a few days after I landed riots commenced, I saw part of it robbing and killing anyone in the street.....I saw two days of it & left for the West nearly to where the fighting is going on nearly 2000 miles from the city, came back to Chicago & thence to Niagara Falls and from there to the interior of Canada, Montreal & Quebec & came back down the St. Lawrence to Buffalo & to Suratoga (not very clearly written) & to a many other places & eventually arrived at New York. I did not stop long here but went to Washington & thence to Vicksburg, there has been some most frightful battles fought here & you are close on the rebel lines and have to be very careful how you move about. "

A note dated 21st Saturday Morning, commenced "I reopen the letter just before the mail closes, news just arrived per Telegraph from the West of a large battle 6000 killed - they are now taking the names for the next draft viz: Jan 5th, I shall call on Lord Lyons next week & get my papers otherwise they will take me for an American but still in the midst of all this war you would be astonished what an immense city this is & the quantity of people & the amt of business done once get a position here in business, no matter what sort, you make money quick. I send you the enclosed as novel & expensive way of advertising on Bank note paper. It is imitation of the National currency here viz: Green Back's. When I can afford I will send you some of the Government currency here, when new it is very pretty. "

Jan 19 1864 from New York - 13 East Houston. A draft for £200 was acknowledged and great caution was going to be taken in starting business with so small an amount as "New York is a different place entirely from London here you meet men from all parts of the world & I am certain in New York you find the smartest & most cute men in creation any one of them would sell their own mother.....if you have any money you come to the ground in no time". In a letter from Longstone he heard that it had been reported that his debts were £17000 but they should not be more than £4000 or £5000 and which he hoped to repay before long.

From the same address, a letter written on Apr 1 1864 reported that he would soon have business enough to warrant an office and "there is no pleasure in this world except being in business..... especially when you are making money and of an evening when you smoke your cigar & think over the events of the day". After reporting that he was doing well, the letter continued "we are beginning to have the hot weather come on, the preparations for the spring fighting is going on at an enormous scale. I think the draft will come on before many days, they estimate to have a million of soldiers in the field. I see by the official returns the North have lost nearly 600,000 men shot & died from sickness & the South is estimated at 400,000, this is since the war commenced, out of the 600,000 lost by the North one third have died from fatigue 'fever' & sun strokes, its awfull hot

here in summer even in New York one day last Aug in a street of New York there was over 120 killed with sun strokes the fighting will be awfull this year".

The next two letters had a printed heading - 44 Pearl Street, New York so evidently an office had been established. The first letter dated June 27 1865 stated "In reference to the marble business (no doubt polished and inlaid Black Marble from Ashford-in-the-Water) accept my thanks for your consideration, I could not spare the time out of my regular business to solicit orders for it but if your friends choose to consign to me I would see it was sold at the best rate". Following an expression of regret regarding the poor health of "your Uncle John" and advice to have nothing to do with some ship building enterprize, the letter concludes with "Enclosed I send you a ten dollar bill of the late confederacy the only one I could get the war is now all over and years hence it will be a very valuable relic of the late southern government of America and the many bloody battles fought in trying to establish the same".

Family affairs occupy a major part of a letter of Jan 9 1866. There was "poor Aunt Smith being so very unwell I have wrote by this steamer & only hope she will be alive to receive it.....if she is spared for the future I will write her regular as she had a great deal of trouble with us when we were young & more especially with myself. I had a letter from Longstone a few days ago.....I was sorry to hear your Uncle George was ill, I hope he has got a good wife, tell me who he married..... you once made the remark of my Aunt George was so & so, what does this mean & who the deuce is she.....I notice the piece you sent me, cut out of the Builder, about the Thames Embankment.....I hope your Uncle will be successful.....about Alfred if he is steady, & his friend, they will do well here.....as regards the officers of the American war vessels you keep clear of them as they will do you no good.....I am doing very well, if my health is spared I shall be in England next year & shall compromise all my debts & the £300 I owe you I shall return in full.....let me know when you leave Italy and answer this letter in detail".

The last two letters were written on plain paper and simply headed "New York", one of April 27 1866 being marked "Per City of Boston". "A gentleman from this City took out to England a statement of my affairs, I am going to try to settle them and if it can be effected satisfactorily I shall be in England next spring for a few weeks only when I trust I shall have the pleasure of seeing you.....about New York it is not so easy to make money here as you think, remain with your Uncle until I am in England.....do not be lead astray into getting married what ever you do until you are older, make a position first and then you will find little difficulty in marrying if you want.....I trust your acquaintances in Italy are respectable be careful not to make too many..... I think I shall have a first rate year for business.....you ask if there is any chance of war with France in reference to Mexico - not the slightest.

I am going thro Canada East & West I leave here on the first of May and shall be away about 14 days". This letter was sent to James Furness, Italy.

The final letter, dated Oct 30 1866 was marked "Per S.S.Scotia" and refers to receiving the last letter from Odessa and the previous one from Spezia...."sure you would be shocked to hear of the very untimely end poor Alfred came to.....glad you enjoyed yourself sight seeing in Rome". This letter was sent to Odessa.

It would be nice to report that George Furness returned to England in 1867 and settled all his depts in full - perhaps he did but unfortunately there is no record. All that is known is in copies of two press cuttings:-

"Los Angeles" George Furness formerly in Commission Butter & Cheese business in London, Ontario, Canada. He left San Francisco, Cal: in Dec 1869 for Los Angeles & was last heard from on his way to Arizona.

"San Francisco News" August 1871. Death in a Stage. George Furness of Wickenburg, Arizona died in the Stage on last weeks trip between Wickenburg & La Pary while on his way to California. His remains were buried at Cullen & Lainleys Station.

Alfred did not have the opportunity of going to America as he was drowned when bathing in Monsal Dale.

James spent some years abroad in connection with Civil Engineering contracts, he married in 1870 and lived at Sheffield but died in 1882 at the early age of 39. His widow returned to her native village of Great Longstone where she lived for a further 50 years.

TRANSPORTATION TO VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

by Robert Thornhill

In 1832 James Fearn of Biggin near Hartington received a letter written by his son Private James Fearn of the Kings Own Regiment, five months previously. The letter was dated Hobarts Town Oct 25 1831 and must have created considerable interest when it reached the small Derbyshire village.

Dear Father,

It is with great pleasure that I embrace this opportunity of informing you that after a long and tedious, though pleasant voyage, I arrived at this place on the 19th instant in the enjoyment of good health and excellent spirits. We put to sea from the Downs on the 18th of June and thus completed the passage in 4 months and a day, one hundred and fifteen of which we have been out of sight of land. We crossed the Equinoctial Line on the first of August and passed the Cape of Good Hope on the 7th of September. The Ship that brought us out is a very fine Sailor for out of 14 vessels in the Harbour we are the latest from England and there are some half dozen arrived here since we have come in. The prisoners that we brought out have been very quiet during the whole voyage and have given us no disturbance whatever. Though I have said that we had a very pleasant voyage we have not been without strong winds and heavy rolling seas, but we had a consolation in all this that we have been driven along very rapidly towards our destination. The country that we have come to is very wild in appearance for nothing meets the eye but hills and dales covered with never ending forests of wood.

Hobarts Town the Capital of Van Dieman Land is situated under the shelter of an high hill which for 9 months out of 12 is covered with snow. It is a very pretty town about a mile in length, the houses and public buildings are generally built of brick and stone and some of them are erected in a very tastefull manner. I expect that in a short time I shall go up the country when I shall have a fair opportunity of seeing the country and its productions. For the present it promises to be a good country to Soldier in but of this in my next. Though I am far, very far, from my native land, yet it is not the less dear to me, nor are those whom I have left behind more removed from my heart than they were when I was enjoying all its comforts in common with them and though they are out of sight they are not out of mind. My dear Father you will be glad to hear that I am very happy and contented in my present situation and I like soldiering very well. I hope you will therefore be under no apprehension on my account. Hoping that you enjoy as great a measure of health and strength as I do at present and that you will remeber me to all inquiring friends, I conclude for the present with subscribing myself,

Your affectionate Son
James Fearn

Direct to Private James Fearn
4 of the Kings Own Regiment
Rossbridge
Van Dieman's Land

This appears to be the only letter from Private James, and as he sent such a nicely worded description, it is unfortunate that subsequent letters were not also saved.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE RIVER BRADFORD

by Brian Melland

In February 1881 the river Bradford suddenly disappeared underground near to its junction with the Lathkill in Alport - many years ago the combined rivers were known locally as the Dakin.

I know of few allusions to what must evidently have been a very alarming occurrence. There is in existence a manuscript account dated March 6th 1881, but without the author's name. This manuscript is in the possession of Mrs. Eleanor Sykes, who has kindly agreed to allow it to be reproduced here.

The Result of a Storm in Derbyshire

Some weeks ago very great excitement arose in consequence of the disappearance of the River Bradford which flows through Middleton Dale and joins the Lathkill at Alport on its way to the Derwent.

This most extraordinary affair happened a little before it got to Alport close by a large rock known as Ravens Tor, or, as the people call it, Renster. It was during the night time that it made up its mind not to go in the usual way any longer, and a bright idea struck it that it would go mining, so (it) rushed across the coach road which separated it from the mine hole and went dashing, plunging and roaring down the hole, and on the following morning the people along the banks of the river were at their wit's end to guess where the water had gone - some saying there had been an earthquake, and others that several old mines had given way beneath the bed of the river, which is a tributary to the River Lathkill. It was soon afterwards accounted for by the fact that the water had entered an old mine near Alport. It was being carried along underneath the ground from that point to the Derwent - a distance of five miles.

The coach road which is the property of the Duke of Rutland sank out of sight for about 20 yards round. A small hole at first presented itself. This was quickly followed by a loud rumbling noise like thunder. Then wider and wider grew the breach in the road and deeper and deeper became the abyss beneath. At the same time some forty yards away on the other side of the stream suddenly also disappeared leaving a deep cavity which hour by hour grew larger as masses of loose stone and earth poured down from the sides into it.

A large number of hands belonging to the neighbouring farmers were busily engaged carting timber and stones to the spot and hurling them into the chasm with the object of turning the waters of the brook into their ordinary course, but for two or three days all efforts were futile. The large stones and trees thrown down appeared to be carried away as soon as they were out of sight. The muddy waters carried them along underground for the distance stated - unobserved - (and) rise again near the residence of Sir Joseph Whitworth and empty themselves into the Derwent, thus discolouring the waters for some distance towards Matlock, and at the mouth of the level which is known as the "Hill Carr Sough" huge pieces of stone and timber came out just in the same state they had been hurled in some hours before five miles higher up the valley.

The Alport miller was in a fearful state of anxiety as day after days hard work made no difference, for although he then had plenty of water for his wheel with the Lathkill, in summer he was more dependent on the Bradford. So he set all his men and horses at liberty to do nothing but help to fill up the hole. At length they were rejoiced to find it was really showing signs of being satisfied with the thousands of tons thrown into it, and once more to all appearance it was a perfect road again. And while they were surveying it with smiles on their faces, lo! and behold it all fell in again with a loud crash, much to their dismay and horror, and to find that not only was there one, but even two or three huge holes made into which roared the water with wilder force than before. And with vexation of spirit (they) began once more filling in.

The men wanted very much to blast part of the splendid big rock, but they could not get permission. It would have helped very considerably in filling up - at the same time (it) would have disfigured the dale. With much determination and perseverance they once more got it filled in and two days after another hole, a little higher up appeared as if in mockery of the efforts the poor people made and yet again and again. At last it was thought best to stop the water higher up in order to have a better chance at the cracks and holes before them.

About half a mile up the dale there was another mine hole very near the river just below the village of Youghroave, so the river was told to make the best of its way down this mine which it did with much rapidity. And it was down this hole that a gentleman lost a very handsome retriever dog by thoughtlessly sending it into the water too near. The gentleman was nearly frantic at the loss of his dog, declaring he would much rather have lost £200. After that they barricaded the hole to prevent further misfortune. The people were not allowed to net the fish, so naturally many were lost. For a week or two the dale was a scene of great excitement, hundreds of people coming from far and near to see the strange occurrence

I think I cannot do better than finish with an extract from the "Derbyshire Times" written by a lady living in Youlgreave:

"Come forth from thy exile, without stain or scar
And leave thy lament in the gloom of Hill Carr
We'll brand the false barriers that risk'd thy good name
As corrupt and unworthy, and we'll 'stablish thy fame
As purest of currents, transparent and sweet,
And hail thy bright presence at Reinstor's grey feet
Have we missed thee, thou askest, what eye could forget
A thing of such beauty, and feel no regret
At its leaving for aye, or what ear would lose
A note of the cadence that in thy stream flows
Not alone that thou keepest the delicate trout,
Though pretty they are, as they dart in and out
All ruby enamel'd they sparkle and glow
Like meteors amid thy dark foliage below,
But a gem from our landscape would surely be gone
If Bradford's fair river should cease to flow on."

March 6th 1881

The lines of poetry quoted above came at the end of a poem dated Youlgreave 26th February 1881 and signed S.S. This was published in the Derbyshire Times for March 5th 1881.

A report of the incident similar in essence to that in the manuscript appeared in the edition of Saturday February 19th 1881, and seems to refer to occurrences of that week.

The incident is recalled again in "Some Accounts of Youlgreave, Middleton and Alport", compiled by members of the Youlgreave Women's Institute in 1931. Mrs. Fanny Thornhill Needham, who was born on April 5th 1847 and whose memory was excellent, gave her version. She was at the time housekeeper to Mr. Gilder in Bakewell, and remembered a man saying all Alport was falling in. It would seem that the owner of the black retriever came from Baslow, and offered a reward of £5 to any man who would save it; but none would venture. The dog's body appeared in Darley three weeks later.

Old Mrs. Needham, Alport's oldest inhabitant some thirty years ago, was quite a character. To us younger ones her home-made "bill's eyes" sweets were an added attraction when staying in these parts.

There is sad irony in the fact that permission to blast part of Raenstor Rock, a fine local feature, was withheld in 1881 because this would have disfigured Bradford Dale, but that the same act was perpetrated, for reasons which I don't think have ever been made quite clear, in 1956.

FURTHER SURVEY OF THE POST OFFICE AT BELPER AND
WIRKSWORTH BEFORE 1838

by Samuel Simpson

Early in December, 1834, J. Turner of the "George Inn", Belper, informed "the inhabitants of Belper that Messrs Hurd Wood & W. W. Wallis will commence running to and from his coach office, the new Derby & Manchester Royal Mail, leaving Belper for Manchester at a quarter past ten in the morning, and for Derby and London at 3 o'clock in the afternoon".

The history of this coach, to be known as the 'Derby Dilly' actually commences early in 1834. Sir Francis Freeling, Secretary to the Postmaster General, the Duke of Richmond, gave serious considerations to complaints from Wirksworth, Buxton, etc., for a speedier Mail.

During the period of transition of office of Postmaster General to The Marquis Conygham, July 1834, the matter was temporarily shelved.

Sir Francis Freeling's report was finally approved, November 14th 1834. In this he states "A measure I have long wished to accomplish".

The plan proposed the Mail coach commencing at Derby to pass through Belper, Cromford, Bakewell, Buxton, Disley and Stockport to Manchester, "as the coach could not go through the town of Wirksworth".

The plan showed Wirksworth "will enjoy all the advantages of the Mail as much as if it went through it". Consequently, "there would be no reasonable ground of complaint that the town had been deserted".

It was proposed that a Mail-cart (or Gig) would leave the George Inn, Belper, immediately after the arrival of the coach from Manchester, returning in time for the arrival from Derby. The cost of this six mile route was £60 per year.

In addition, a foot post would leave Matlock, 3 miles away, at an expense of £27 6s 0d per year.

In this report Belper is described as a "considerable place though since 1811 still being served by a Penny Post from Derby". The report recommended Belper being elevated to a Post Town.

On Dec. 2nd, W. W. Wallis announced the coach would commence Saturday Dec. 6th, leaving the Royal Mail Office, New Inn, Derby, at 9.30 each day, and arriving at Manchester 4.0 p.m. The return coach

leaving Manchester 9.0 a.m. and arriving at Derby at 3.30 p.m.

The 'Derby Dilly' (incidentally, two coaches carried this name and there were also two separate services to Manchester from Derby) had a precarious existence from its inception. The contractors running the coach brooked no interference or change of plan, in defiance of cut-throat competition from other contractors.

A typical incident is shown by the receipt of the P.M.G. of a letter from a Mr. Hardwick at Nottingham, complaining of the receipt on the twenty-eighth of December 1834 of a letter posted in Manchester two days earlier, Dec. 26th. The letter should have reached Nottingham soon after noon the next day. A Mr. Fellows of Risley too complained of 'late' letters from Manchester.

In consequence, a decision was taken to extend the new Coach from Derby to Nottingham. Knowing of the difficulties this entailed, a meeting was arranged with the coach masters concerned, from which the following document was issued:-

Manchester, February 22nd 1835

"A meeting of the Derby and Manchester contractors was held at the Royal Hotel here yesterday and today, and also the proprietors of the other coaches on the Manchester-Nottingham line of the road, and I am sorry to say the result is the Manchester & Derby Mail contractors have declined altogether extending that Mail to Nottingham at present, in consequence of threats held out by the opposition coach masters, that if they do they will immediately lower the fares of the other coaches. But if they will stop the Mail at Derby, and not interfere with their Nottingham trade, they will join with both the other coaches. (and keep up the fares?)

Messrs Lacy, Allen and Simpson say with the other contractors that the trade is in a ruinous state, and that for them to agree that the Mail should go to Nottingham at present, in the face of such opposition, would be ruinous in the extreme. Therefore they are obliged to decline it; but if circumstances should at a future time to place them in a different situation they will not object."

Sir Francis Keeling, on receipt of the above, reported to the Postmaster General:-

"It was hoped that this desirable measure might have been effected by an extension of the Manchester and Derby Mail coach to Nottingham. The attempt has however failed.

"Another instance is afforded, of the numerous cases in the experience of this department, which prove that its not always in our power to obtain a Mail Coach. The only alternative is a fast mail-cart".

Within a few weeks this became the third delivery from Derby to Nottingham, at an extra cost of £128 per annum.

The cost of running the 'Dilly' was £456 6s 8d per annum.

The coach carried letters destined to pass through Derby, forward to areas around Birmingham, Nottingham, some London and other areas serviced through Derby.

The Post Office at Derby has always been, and still is, an important forwarding centre. Little is known of the amount of Mail collected en route, but in the month of November 1835 the value of letters sent to Nottingham (chiefly from Manchester) by the 2nd delivery each day from Derby, totalled £51 9s 1d.

The full story of the 'Derby Dilly' has yet to be revealed.

Though research is continuing, little further information is at hand until approximately 1900; for the following statistics I am indebted to Mr. A. R. Walden, the present postmaster at Belper.

Some Belper Statistics

Delivered Letters

1906	16,025
1910	17,985
1921	16,971
1930	24,506
1934	26,236
1936	28,934

Postmasters

Mr. R. C. Chandler	1893-1896
Miss Kebble	1896-1901
L. H. Roulson	1901-1914
A. Bedford	1914-1921
G. H. Cummington	1921-1925
J. H. Sayle	1925-1932
J. F. Booker	1932-1941
G. Smedley	1941-1945
L. M. Gibbs	1945-1952
F. C. Morris	1952-1961
A. R. Walden	1961-----

Surprisingly little has as yet come to light relative to Wirksworth, but the following letter casts light on another instance showing the problems that beset the Post Office in maintaining satisfactory service. Addressed to Mr. Spencer, Garrick's Head, Bow Street, London, from the rider of the Derby, Wirksworth & Bakewell mail, reads:-

"Sir,

I should take it as a great act of kindness if you would be so good as to mention the 'Belper affair' to Mr. Freeling, Secretary to the General Post Office, and likewise was an advance of pay begun Jan.5, 1800 of one shilling a day, for extra price of Hay and Corn, which I

have never got, the Postmaster of Bakewell has informed me that he has received £4 11s 3d per Quarter. There was another advance of pay of 6d per day on Oct. 11, took place, that I haven't rec'd, and I have an opinion the Postmaster of Wirksworth has rec'd the £4 11s 3d per quarter and keeps it back from me. He informs me he wrote to Mr. Freeling for pay for a mile further for going through Belper, and he informed him that I had a halfpenny for going the extra ground over, which I have not rec'd this of years.

Your Humble Servant
? (undecipherable)

N.B. They receive 10s 6d per week at Bakewell extra pay, and I but 3s 6d per week extra."

Though this letter carries the post mark June 3rd 1801 the documents relative are dated February 1802.

John Spencer is one of the signatories to the Belper resolution, 1793. The 'Belper Affair' shows no identification.

Delay in the mail between Wirksworth and Derby, early December 1800 was attributed to the bad state of the roads and weakness of the horses from bad keep.

In order to remedy this delay, the proposal was that with corn costing £5 10s 0d per ton, and hay 48/- per ton, "it would be advantageous to allow 6d per day extra. I could then expect and enforce exertion....That more corn cannot be afforded at the present high prices; I would observe the riders are only paid 3d per mile" (for each journey).

Towards the end of 1801 the rider complained that the distance between Derby and Wirksworth was in excess of 14 miles, and not 13 miles, for which he received payment. Consequently, the Postmaster General ordered a measurement to be taken. This was the Report of the Surveyor:-

Derbyshire) I, Thomas Swanwick, of the Borough of Derby, Land
to wit) Surveyor, make oath that I have, on the 1st & 2nd of
Jany 1802, measured the road from Derby to Wirksworth
through Belper with a measuring wheel, and that the distance from
the Town Hall steps, Derby, to the Town Hall, Wirksworth, by the
way of Belper, keeping the crown of the road, is, to the best of my
measurement and belief, fourteen miles three furlongs & sixty eight
yards.

And I also make oath that having measured the road from
Wirksworth to Derby, by way of Kedleston, with a wheel the distance

from the Town Hall, Derby, to the Town Hall, Wirksworth, by way of Kedleston, keeping the crown of the road, is, to the best of my measurement, fourteen miles and two hundred and sixteen yards.

Sworn this 5th of February)	
1802 before me,)	Thomas Swanwick
R. Bateman)	

The claim, therefore, for an extra mile's payment was just.

An additional £4 13s 4d per annum was sanctioned, as from the 5th January 1802.

The system for payment from the earliest days was per mile per annum.

In the late 17th century the highest rate was known as "the Derby Rate", 20/- per mile per annum. By 1800 it was £4 13s 4d per mile.

June 1812 a temporary new contractor received an additional 15/- per mile to the current rate of £6 10s 0d to £7 0s 0d per mile.

The entry in the Minute Book of the P.M.G. states:-

"it would be a disadvantage in enquiring for a new contractor..." between April 1st and October 1st.

Twenty-five years later the rate was £10 0s 0d per mile per annum.

Note: In the last issue of the Bulletin, page 404 line 6, gives an erroneous impression; this should read:-

"When the London Mail arrived late into Derby, the letters for Belper, the Peacock Inn, Oakerthorpe and Alferton, were carried by the Wirksworth rider to Belper."

From Belper they would be carried by a young boy to the Peacock Inn, Oakerthorpe; there the Alferton letters awaited collection by a foot post.

The employment of young children was contrary to regulations, though not unknown.

Year 1811: on the establishing of a penny post from Derby, Mr. Haslem, Postmaster at Belper, professed an ignorance of postal regulations, though March 22nd 1837 Thomas Turner, aged 12, was sentenced to seven years transportation for stealing at Duffield a letter containing banknote value £40, whilst employed by the Post Office.

Acknowledgments

The history of the Post Offices at Belper and adjacent areas is actually part of the history of the Derby District postal service, which incidentally is of approximately 30 miles radius.

I would like here to acknowledge my grateful thanks for the generous help and suggestions made by Mr. C. V. Kew, Head Postmaster, Derby, and by the assistant Postmaster, Mr. Dewar, and also for the assistance given by the Archivist of the General Post Office, London and by Mr. A. R. Walden, the Postmaster at Belper, and by the staffs of the British Museum and the Public Record Office.

Further information extracted from Postal Survey 1838

Posted week commencing Jan. 29	General Letters		Penny Letters		Privilege	Total	News papers	Amount of Postage
	Paid	Unpaid	Paid	Unpaid				
Wirksworth	28	177	-	7	9	221	26	£6.15.7
Bakewell	40	558	-	8	98	704	163	£14.3.10½

Delivered between 5-11 March 1838

	General letters	Penny letters	Franks	Total
Wirksworth	234	8	8	250
Bakewell	448	10	52	510

Postage between Derby and London - 10d. per single letter.
Postage between Derby and Nottingham - 5d. per single letter.

Revenue figures are not shown for 1837.
Revenue figures for 1838 are:-

Derby	approximately	£6,500
Belper	approximately	£450
Wirksworth	approximately	£360

Further Analysis of letters delivered week commencing May 14th 1838

	1d	2d	3d	4d	5d	6d	7d	8d	9d	10d
Alfreton	19	2	-	61	1	55	37	36	31	37
Bakewell	12	13	-	17	38	68	82	102	43	139
Belper	2	-	-	43	3	19	55	58	37	66
Derby	667	73	-	262	254	294	354	444	337	663
Wirksworth	2	2	2	29	1	17	26	20	18	28

Further Analysis (continued)

	11d	1/-	1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5	1/6	1/7	1/8
Alfreton	5	15	-	2	-	1	2	1	-	-
Bakewell	12	7	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Belper	9	9	1	3	1	1	-	1	-	2
Derby	143	67	3	16	-	2	-	-	-	-
Wirksworth	2	1	-	3	1	1	-	1	-	2

Statistics for 1837 continue on next page.

Statistics for Year 1837

	Postmaster	Expenses of Post Office	Gross Income	Net Income	Salary Post Master	No. of Boxes	Revenue from Boxes	Late Fee
		£	£	£	£		£	£
Belper	H.Haslem	49.0	37.1.0	31.16.0	36.	-	-	-
Derby	T.P. Bainbrigge	350.2	328.6.5	263.6.5	130	17	17.17	45.12.6
Wrksworth	M.Brace	53.0	41.18.3	28.18.3	25	-	-	5/0
Alfreton	J.Smedley	31.0	30.10.0	25.10.0	20	-	-	14/-
Bakewell	W.Greaves	90.0	45.8.0	33.8.0	34	-	-	-

Statistics for Year 1837 (continued)

	Pence & Other Profits from Delivery	Gratuities & Xmas Boxes	Profits Money Orders	Office Rent	Other Outlays	Clerks Paid by Crown	Clerks Paid by Gratuities
	£	£	£	£	£		
Belper	1.1.0	10.10.0	17.9	10.0.0	8.0.0	2	-
Derby	83.12.11	46.4.0	5.0.0.	25.0.0	40.0.0	3	1
Wrksworth	5/-	2.10.0	-	-	-	-	-
Alfreton	8.4.0	4.0.0	12/0	3.10.	10.0.0	1	-
Bakewell	3.0.0	8.8.6	-	6.0.0	6.0.0	1	-

NOTES AND QUERIES

The Editor is glad to receive notes or queries on any branch of local history.

N.Q.109 During the course of alterations in 1962 at Holehouse Farm, Ashleyhay, a stone was uncovered which was pierced by three narrow openings similar to lancet windows. The measurements were not taken, but it approximated to 3ft long by 2½ft high by 7 ins. thick. The small openings were rebated, possibly to take wooden covers. The stone is not of ecclesiastical origin. Probably it was fashioned for insertion into a cowshed or barn to provide ventilation. A parallel in Derbyshire does not seem to be known, but Canon Hopkins has seen two similar examples in cottages in Wiltshire and Dorset.

There is a belief in Ashleyhay that there was a 'monastery' there in former times. This tradition is probably no older than the last century, when Llewellyn Jewitt published* a series of mediaeval deeds in the possession of his friend William Henry Goodwin, owner of the estate of Wigwell Grange, a hamlet about two miles north of Ashleyhay. Lands in Wigwell were given to the Abbey of Darley by Derby about A.D.1200. Derbyshire sources have no mention of a monastic establishment at or near Ashleyhay, and it is likely that local people, learning of the origin of Wigwell Grange, came to think of all the land around as having pertained to a nearby monastery.

Photographs of the stone have been deposited in the collections of the Local History Section in the Society's library, and a copy sent to the farmer, Mr. J. R. Hope, to whom thanks are due for permission to see the stone.

Francis Fisher

*The Reliquary, vols XVII & XVIII

N.Q.110 Ref. N.Q.108 The Alphabet Stone. The note supplied by S. Turner in the February 1963 issue of "Derbyshire Miscellany" was of great interest to me. May I place on record that there is a well known alphabet stone (in Swithland Slate) at Newtown Linford graveyard, Leicestershire. It is in the form of an ordinary gravestone, but carries no name nor inscription but merely is carved with the alphabet, once in lower case letters and again in capitals. The local traditions are contradictory in this case. It is claimed that the person memorialised had the stone made before his death and said "anyone could read what they like on it as all the letters were there". Alternatively, others claim that it was an apprentice's trial piece to show that he could fashion all the letters. I think the suggestion made in the "Miscellany" that the Derbyshire alphabet stone was used to teach children their letters extremely reasonable, and this one sited right against the Church in Newtown Linford may also relate to the days when such teaching was included in the curricula of Sunday Schools.

Geo. H. Green

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

England, which was the home of the Industrial Revolution, once possessed sites, buildings and machinery which marked the beginnings of many of today's great industries. Unfortunately, the great demand for space in our overcrowded island has meant that many of these have had to be destroyed to make way for newer methods. By the same token, advances have been so rapid that what is quite young in years is already archaic and full of interest to the industrial historian.

Realising the importance of preserving what still remains, the Council for British Archaeology (the C.B.A.), has given a lead by recognising Industrial Archaeology as a subject in its own right. In collaboration with the Ministry of Works, which has obtained the services of Mr. Rex Wailes as Consultant, an effort is being made to collect information on industrial activities, so that action can be taken to preserve and/or record sites or relics of importance.

In his letter in this issue, the Section Secretary has referred to standard cards which can be obtained from him, on which to record available information. Wherever possible, photographs (half-plate glossy prints are preferred) should be attached. The Ministry of Works is prepared to take prints off negatives, which will be carefully returned to the owner.

On May 4th a lecture was given before the Society in Derby by Mr. Wailes, who is well-known as the national authority on windmills. Mr. Wailes described the method of approach which is being adopted. He illustrated his talk with slides illustrating the vast scope of the subject. They included maltings in Essex, windmills and watermills all over the country, old cotton mills in Derbyshire, the ubiquitous canals, and quite unique railway stations. Some of these last are architectural curiosities having an attractiveness all their own.

During his visit Mr. Wailes saw and photographed many local sites - the Milford, Belper and Cromford Mills; Morley Park Furnaces; the Bull Bridge Incline and Canal; and the Magpie Mine at Sheldon, where magnificent work is being done by the Peak District Mines Historical Society.

This venture needs and deserves the active support of every one of us. It is hoped that the contribution which will be made by members of the Local History Section will give a lead to the rest of the country.

F.N.

SECTION NEWS

Those who attended Mr. F. Peel's talk on "Hand Firearms" listened to an enthusiast talking about his subject and he certainly imparted much of his enthusiasm to his audience. The afternoon was made even more interesting by the exhibition of firearms that Mr. Peel brought with him.

Tracing the firearm from the early days of the match lock, Mr. Peel took us through the successive developments up to the present day. It was interesting to see how the social history of the times was reflected in the pattern of firearms. How in the seventeenth century flint lock gave its owner one shot at his attacker so that success was vital. Accordingly the powder charge was of man size proportions. As times grew more tranquil so the powder charge was correspondingly reduced. The blunderbuss, however, carried a heavy charge and Mr. Peel made it clear that the chances of survival if one were at the wrong end would have been remote although it would not have taken long to get out of range.

The demise of the flint lock started when a country person who was addicted to wild fowling was concerned that delay between the pulling of the trigger and the ignition of the charge was enough to let the birds get away. To overcome this problem he evolved the percussion charge and brought about the great advance towards the modern firearm.

We wish to convey our most grateful thanks to Mr. D.J. Porrett and to another member, who wishes to remain anonymous, for gifts of £5. Such gifts are most encouraging and are of considerable help in meeting the continually rising costs of publication.

J.H.B.S.

BOOK LIST

The Pinxton China Factory, by C.L. Exley. Price 22/6 or 25/- postage paid.

Edited by F.A. Barrett and A.L. Thorpe this book illustrates more than a hundred pieces of china and gives a fascinating account of the building and management of the 18th century porcelain works.

The East Midlands and the Peak, by G.H. Drury. Price 50/-.

This is the third volume to be published in the "Regions of the British Isles" Series and it is a most detailed and thorough study of the region from a geographer's viewpoint, dealing with the geology, physical features, soils, climate and settlement.

Bridges. A National Benzole Book edited by Sir Hugh Casson. Price 6/-.

The second book in a series aimed at stimulating and satisfying the curiosity of the motorist.

"Follies", the first book, lists four of those in Derbyshire and a dozen Bridges have been selected for special mention, including Swarkestone and Chatsworth which are illustrated by sketches.

Rev Edward Pole 33 years rector of this parish. He died Jan. 22, 1824 aged 67. Frances Pole died June 10, 1804 aged 15.

Rev John Le Hunt rector above 30 years died 25 Apr 1799 aged 58. Jane his wife died 19 Feb 1813 aged 77. Son died aged 10 years. Tomb erected by Florence Matilda Le Hunt their daughter.

Samuel Eyre of Etwall, died 19 April 1837 aged 76. Thomas Eyre of Etwall died 16 March 1856 aged 65. Sarah wife of Samuel Eyre died Oct 18, 1812 aged 54.

Jacobe Chetham S.T.P. vicini praefecto Ecclesiae hujus vicar of Hanbury co Stafford canon and Chancellor of Lichfield 1740, married Frances daur of Sir Humfrey Briggs of Haughton co Salop Bart. Samuel Chetham of Castleton co Lancaster armiger and Humphrey Chetham of Chetham, mercht of London his sons, born 22 Oct a.d. 1681 died 22 Oct 1740. Arms Or a Griffin rampant Gules impaling Gules six bars Or. It is remarkable that he was born, married and died on the same day of the month.

Laurence Dundas Henry Cockburne LL.B., Domestic chaplain to His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex and nearly 43 years rector of Norton in Shropshire and vicar of this place, born Jan 5, 1761 died April 7, 1830. He was a man of a cultivated mind, beloved by all who knew him, amiable and benevolent, charitable and humane, a firm and steady friend, a faithfull Christian minister. He married Sept 14, 1784 Mary Teresa Cotton second daur and coheirress of William Cotton Esq. of Etwall Hall and of Bellaport Shropshire, by whom in testimony of her affectionate attachment this tablet has been erected. Mary Teresa Cockburne second daur and coheir of the above named William Cotton born April 28, 1745 died 12 June 1832, she was eminently gifted with that mild and gentle spirit which strengthens the natural ties of love and affection and conciliates from all esteem and goodwill. Pious towards God, charitable towards her neighbours. She faithfully discharged all the social duties of life; and humbly trusting with Christian faith on the joyful hopes of a blessed immortality she resigned herself with patience and resignation to the will of the Almighty when it pleased God to call her hence to another and better world.

Rebecca Beer eldest daur and one of the coheirs of the late William Cotton Esq. She died 29 March 1829 aged 90. Also her son Rev W. F. Beer, master of Etwall Hospital, Vicar of Willington and rector of Barton Blount co Derby. He died at Oxford May 14 1821 aged 38. William Beer Esq. died Oct 21, 1831 aged 82.

Joseph Green Esq. of Warwickshire married Elizabeth youngest daur of William Cotton Esq. of Alkinton and Bellaport in Shropshire and Etwall in Derbyshire. He died the 23rd of Jan. 1810. Elizabeth his wife died 25 May 1838 (Aged 33) aged 83 had issue two sons and three daughters and by Royal permission she assumed the name and arms of

Cotton for herself and her said issue 1820. Hatchment for Cotton.

(A portion of an unnamed epitaph followed by) Arms of Porte. Azure a fess engrailed between three Popinjays holding a cross in their beaks Or, impaling Argent a chief Gules, Varie, Or, over all a bend sable.

Sarah wife of Samuel Burslem, Clerk, died Aug.25, 1760 aged 47, buried two sons and two daus, leaving 6 sons and 4 daus surviving. Samuel Burslem Clerk, M.A., Master of the Hospital, Vicar of this parish from 1747 to his death 13 Oct. 1785 aged 85.

William Boulton Sleath D.D., F.S.A., Rural Dean and Vicar of Willington and Master of the Hospital in this village, also one of the visitors of Emmanuel College Camb. He was during 32 years Master of Repton School; and was not less distinguished for the zeal and ability with which he discharged the duties of his station than endeared to his pupils for the uniform kindness which accompanied his efforts for their advancement and welfare. He died at the Lodge on the 21st Oct. 1842 aged 82 years, and his remains in the vault beneath. His friends and former pupils have caused this tablet to be erected.

Major General Edward Rowland Joseph Cotton, eldest son of Joseph Green Esq. of Warwickshire, who married Elizabeth Cotton youngest daur of William Cotton Esq. of Bellaport and Etwall Hall. She took the name of Cotton by Royal permission for herself and children in 1820. He died Oct 3rd 1844 aged 67 yrs. Frances Hester his wife (?2nd) daur of Rev Dctor George Cotton dean of Chester died July 6, 1846 aged 68. Arms azue a chevron between three cotton hanks Argent. Elizabeth relict of William Shaw of Etwall Esq. born Oct.21, 1762 died May 11, 1839, also Mary Anne their daughter died April 3 1833 aged 25 years.

John only son of Henry Mainwaring Vicar of Etwall and Mary Elizabeth his wife, buried April 11, 1716 Infant.

William Heacock died Dec 13, 1792 aged 75. Melicent his wife died 29 May 1823 aged 85.

Joseph West died 9 June 1796 aged 62. Mary his wife died 13 June 1785 aged 41.

Henry Noton gent of an ancient and respectable family in Derby born in March 1685 died 3 July 1762.

John Edwards charity son of John and Mary Edwards of Etwall left £20 to the poor.

William Eaton Mousley Esq. of Derby who departed this life 5 Jan 1853 aged 66 and of Antoinette his wife eldest daur of Mr. John Harcastle of Derby who departed this life 4 Feb 1848 aged 54.

John Hudson and Joseph Haacock churchwardens 1805.

Monuments or Headstones in Churchyard

Crispianus Burrows died Dec 28, 1797 aged 77. John Bosworth d. 10 January 1780 aged 68. Mary his wife died 16 June 1793 aged 82. Nathaniel Simms died Oct 22 1779 aged 62. John Spencer died Dec 25 1841 aged 73, Sarah his wife died April 6 1832 aged 68. John son of Joseph and Sarah Newbold died Jan 10 1852 aged 11 years. John Gilbert of Burnaston died April 26 1846 aged 69. Robert Stone of Burnaston died April 28 1843 aged 73. John Stone of Burnaston died Sept 10 1842 aged 32. Hannah Stone of do. died Jan 17 1841 aged 23. Robert Jerram died June 30 1848 aged 81. Martha his wife died Feb 17 1845 aged 69. Thomas Bestwick of Etwall died Jan 13 1852 aged 56. Thomas Moore of Highfields died May 31 1837 aged 68. Jane his wife died 18 Sept 1847 aged 85. John Walters died April 2 1792 aged 64. Mary his wife died Jan 1797 aged 72. Sarah wife of William Foreman late of Chellaston died Dec 31 1842 aged 62. James Wall died March 8 1845 aged 17. Ellen Wall died April 1 1839 aged 18 years. Maria Harrison died Sept 9 1850 aged 47. Jane Taylor died Dec 22 1842 aged 19. Ann Clay Proctor died Nov 4 1805 aged 23. John William Proctor died Nov 4 1805 aged 23. John William Proctor died May 17 1811 aged 22. Richard Wheeldon died Oct 18 1799 aged 52. Hannah his wife died Nov 15 1803 aged 52. George their son died Inf. Thomas Smith of Burnaston died 18 Oct 1854 aged 77. Joseph Robinson died Oct 6 1838 aged 73. Mary his wife died Feb 9 1847 aged 75. Peggy wife of Thomas Hall of Hilton died Nov 8 1852 aged 66. William Short Clarke died Aug 31 1851 aged 1 yr 3 May. John Redshaw late of Dalbury son of John and Eliz born Jan 31, 1796 died 5 May 1842 aged 46. Elizabeth Snow died May 22 1849 aged 65. Henry Holmes died Aug 17 1845 aged 78. Ann his wife died Nov 4 1847 aged 75. John Matthews died Dec 16 1845 aged 86. Mary his wife Mary widow of William Boulton Sleath D.D. died Jan 29 1855 aged 68.

The Methodist Chapel is a neat building lighted by ten gothic windows, erected in 1838 by Arthur Minton Esq at a cost of £300, and which he sold to the society for £100. It will seat 250 persons.

The Hospital at Etwall was founded by Sir John Porte in the year 1550, for six poor persons. It appears by an inscription that it was rebuilt in 1681, and at the same time the number of almsmen was doubled and the salaries increased in consequence of the improved value of the estates left for this hospital and the school at Repton. The masters of the Hospital and school, the ushers and three senior poor men, are a body corporate by the name of the Repton and Etwall Corporation. There are 338 acres 1 r 30 p of land in this parish; value £606 per annum, belongs to the Corporation besides estates in Willington, Repton, Egginton, Normanton etc. amounting to about £2,700 per annum. According to the Charity return pp 213 the Hospital

and Repton School property consisting of houses and land, in 1851 produced an income of £2,300 per annum. The governors are the Marquess of Hastings, Earl of Chesterfield and Sir John Gerard, Bart. About £1,000 per annum goes to the school at Repton.

The Hospital stands on the north side of the church. It is a substantial building built of brick with stone dressings for sixteen poor men who receive 12s per week; they have each on entering a blue cloak. The Master's salary is £200 per annum. It appeared to the Charity Commissioners in 1826, this charity was excluded from their enquiry. There is a school endowed with £4 per annum by Rowland Cotton or Mary his wife. An annual sum of £4 has for many years been paid by the owners of the estate of Etwall belonging to the Cotton family; but it is not known from whose gift it is made. The money is paid to a schoolmaster appointed by the parish who teaches four children in respect thereof in a schoolroom with a house for the master, has been built at the expense of the Corporation of Etwall Hospital and Repton School.

Rev John Cotton gave £4 per annum for educating poor children of Etwall.

Charities of Sir John Port, Knt. in 1586 devised certain lands for the foundation of an almshouse in Etwall and a grammar school at Etwall or Repton. By charter granted in the 19th year of James I, upon the petition of Henry Earl of Huntingdon, Philip Lord Stanhope and Sir Thomas Gerard, Bart., then the coheirs of the said Sir John Port, the master and the poor men of the hospital at Etwall, and the schoolmaster and ushers of the school at Repton were incorporated by the name of the Master, schoolmaster, ushers, poor men and poor scholars of the hospital and free school of Sir John Port and were thereby empowered to take certain lands from Sir John Harpur Knt. and from Sir Thomas Gerard Knt. or any others who had power to concey the same. And it was thereby ordained the master should receive the rents of the said hospital and school and make the payments in the orders thereto annexed: and that Sir John Harpur should be the first governor, and after his death Henry Earl of Huntingdon, Philip Lord Stanhope and Sir Thomas Gerard and their heirs for ever should be governors and superintendents of the said hospital and schools. The poor have the interest of £20 given by John Edwards, £10 by Alice Cunliffe, £10 by Joyce Harpur, £40 by Dr. Chetham and 20 marks by Ellis Cunliffe. The amount of the above sums with an addition by the parishioners, making £100 was laid out many years ago on a security of the Derby and Uttoxeter road, which now bears interest at 55 percent. This with the incomes of Jennings and Saxton's charities are annually distributed by the churchwardens and overseers - two thirds to the township of Etwall, and, one third to the township of Burnaston. John Jennings in 1657 divided from his land in Willington 20s yearly to the poor of Etwall, and 20s yearly to the poor of Swarkeston, for ever, now paid out of property belonging to William Martin. He was

Vicar of Etwall. John Saxton by will gave 20s yearly out of a piece of land called the Ipcroft in Etwall, now paid in respect of a field of about 15 acres.

Robert Heacock gave 10s yearly (one half to the poor of Etwall, and the other to the poor of Burnaston) which was paid by Mr. Enson of Marston. By a conveyance in 1765 a moiety of a farm at Hilton was to continue liable for ever to the payment of 10s a year to the poor of Etwall and 10s to the poor of the townships of Marston and Hilton. This payment was continued till 1824, when the premises in Hilton were sold by Thomas Ensor, who had for sometime paid the sum from a house and garden at Hilton as part of the property conveyed in 1765; from which to the time of our investigation (1826) the annuity has not been paid, in consequence of a dispute between the parties as to their liabilities to pay it.

Etwall and Repton, Sir John Port's Hospital and Free School. Jeremiah Briggs of Derby, gentleman, and David Wheatcroft of Belper, miller, petitioners. The Earl of Chesterfield, the Earl Howe, Sir John Gerard, Bart., the Rev. W. Mousley, the Rev. Dr. Peile, the Rev. John Shephard and the Rev. W. Messiter; respondents. Solicitor for the petitioners, Mr. W. Barry, 36 Southampton Buildings, 11th June 1851. Petition allowed by the Attorney General, praying for a reference to the Master to settle a scheme for extending the objects of the charity; for a declaration that the whole of the charity income was applicable to charitable purposes and for the repeal of so much of the charter as authorised the governors to dispose of the surplus income, for a declaration that the master, schoolmaster and ushers ought to be resident and ought not to hold ecclesiastical preferments; for the sale of the vicarage of Willington, for an account and for authority to apply to Parliament for an Act to carry into effect such purposes. The property consists of houses and land, the income whereof is £2,300 per annum.

Etwall Hall

This ancient pile of buildings in the Tudor style is situate on an elevation west of the church in the village of Etwall, surrounded by stately trees, and is approached from the road by a lodge entrance. The house contains spacious and great halls, dining room, lower and upper drawing rooms, gallery, breakfast room, servants hall, housekeepers room, butlers pantry, smoke room, kitchens, scullery, larder, dairy, laundry and other necessary offices, eleven best bedrooms, six servants bedrooms, necessary dressing rooms, closets, etc. Stabling for ten horses, double and single coachhouses, cowhouses, barns, piggeries and all other outbuildings and appurtenances.

The gardens and terrace, walks etc. are in a high state of preservation. From 18 to 20 acres of capital grassland surrounds the Hall, through which runs an excellent trout stream. This fine old

county mansion is the property and residence of Rowland Cotton Esq.

NOTES -----

Etwall, Etewelle, Atehalle, Etewell, is a parish comprising the townships of Etwall and Burnaston and Barrowcote, situated in the hundred of Appletree and Deanery of Castillar, and about six miles west of Derby on the Uttoxeter road. "It is a good large village, seated pleasantly and healthful, on a little hill, watered with a good fountain in the middle of the town and a brook a little out of the town on the west side. It's a church town, a square steeple and a pretty good benefice. It's mostly good land." Wolleys MSS. At the time of the compilation of Domesday Book there were five manors in Etwall. "In Eteuvelle, Gamel, Edric, Uliet, Eluric and Elwin had five caracates of land to be taxed. Land to five ploughs; there are now three ploughs in the desmesne and 14 villanes and 8 bordars having 8 ploughs. There is a priest and a church, and 20 acres of meadow - value in King Edwards time and now 100s. Saswald holds it of Henry Ferrieres. In Eteuvelle Dunstan had one caracate of land to be taxed. Land to one plough. There six acres of meadow value in King Edwards time 20s now 4s 4d. Azeline holds it. In the reign of Edw.I Ralph Pipard held a moiety of Egynton cum mebris for one knight's fee in Etewall, and in the soke of Alewaston of Ralph de Freschville, and Ralph de Frescheville of William Bardolf and William Bardolf of the King in capite. Robert son of Nicholas de Pipard died I Edw I and left his son an estate here. 25 Edw.I Ralph Bakepuze held lands here under Richard Ribbeff. 44 Edw III John of Gaunt granted licenses to Sir William Finchinden Knt. and Richd de Ravenser, Archdeacon of Lincoln to give the manor of Etwall to Beauvale Priory to pray for the sould of the said Sir William, whilst he lived and the souls of him and his wife after their deaths. (Pilkington II, 257). 6 Edw IV. Thomas Babington died and left his son John an estate here under the Priory of Beauvale. John Fitzherbert died 18 Hy VII, and left his son Eustace an estate. 24 Hy VIII. Ralph Bonnington died and left his son Francis an estate here who died 4 Edw VI and left it to his son William. 5 & 6 William & Mary. Laurence Rolleston died and left his son William an estate here under Hugh de Etewall. William Bonnington died 11 Eliz and left his son Francis his estate here, etc. King Henry VIII in 1540 granted the manor of Etwall with the impropriate rectory and advowson of the vicarage to Sir John Port one of the Justices of the Kings Bench. Henry Port was a mercer. He had John who was a Judge and died about 5th Philip & Mary and left his son Sir John Port of Etwall, who had a good seat here. He was High Sheriff of the county I Mary; and dying without issue male, his estates came to the Earls of Huntingdon and Chesterfield and Sir William Gerrard who married his three daughters. There is another branch of this family seated at Ilam in Staffordshire. Their arms are Az. a fess engrailed betw 3 pigeons, each having in the beak a cross formee fitchee all or. Crest a pigeon holding a little cross. Their estate at Etwall was afterwards purchased by Sir Samuel Sleigh Knt. son of Gervais Sleigh of Derby and of Ash, who made a very considerable addition to the house. He dying without issue male, it came to Mary his youngest daughter, whom he had posthumous by his third

wife daur of John Harpur Esq. of Littleover, who married Rowland Cotton Esq of Bellaport in Shropshire. The arms of the Sleights were "Gules a chevron between 3 owls argent". Crest, a demi-lion rampant argent crowned or, holding in his dexter paw a cross crosslet fitchee gu. The Cotton arms are "Azure an eagle displayed Argent armed gules." This is the coat of Ridware adopted by the Cottons after the match with the heiress of that family. Their ancient arms were Argent a bend sable between 3 pellets. Crest, an eagle displayed. Another coat which they are represented to have borne is Az. a chevron between three hanks of cotton yarn Argent.

The living is a vicarage value in the Kings books £8 and yearly tenths 16s. The church which is dedicated to St. Helen was in the reign of King Stephen granted to the Abbey of Welbeck by Thomas Cukenev, who was the founder of that religious house.

The church at Etwall received great damage from a violent tempest which happened on 20 June 1545 and is mentioned in Stowes chronicle. The following curious account of this tempest is copied from a letter lately discovered among the records of the tower.

"At Darbie the 25th day of June 1554.

Wellbelovd sonne I recommend me unto you gevyng you Godds blessing and myne. Son this is to certifie you of such straunge newes as that hath of late channged in these p'ties; that is to wytt, upon Saterdag last past being the 20th daye of this moneth, on St. Albons day, we had in thes p'tyes great temprest.....wether about XI of the klok before none; and in the same tempest, the Dev(ill) as we do suppose beganne in Nedewood which is IX myles from Darbie and there he caste down a great substance of wood and pulled up by the rotts, from thens he came to Enwalle (Etwall) wher at one Mr Powret (Porte) doth dwell, and there he pulled down ij great elmes, that there was a dossyn or xvj loode upon a piese of them and went to the churche and pullyd up the leade, and flonge upon a great elme that standyth a payer of butt lengthes from the church, and.....it hangyed upon the bowys lyke stremars; and after tournd.....and the groundsellis upwards and some layd hye apon.....heape andthat was apon viij bayes long he set it a.....gge and theroofs set upwards; and he hathe in the same towne left not past iiij or five houses hole. And from thence he came a myle on this syde and there grewe upon lx or iijxx wyllowes, and upon xij ir xvj he hath broken in the mydds, and they were as great as a mans body; and so he lefte them lyke a yarde and a halfe hye and from thence he went to Langley which is lyke iiij myles from Darbie and there hath pulled down great parte of the churche and rowled up the lead and left it lyeing, and so went to Sir Wylliam Bassetts place in the same towne and also rente it and so pullyd a great parte of it downe with his.....and the woode that growethe about this place, and in his parke he pullyd downe his pale and dryve out his deare and pulled down his woods and some broken in the mydds that xvj xx loode of wood of some one tree. And after that he went into the towne to Awstens housse of Potts and hath slayne his sonne and ayer, and perused all the hole towne. And from thence he went to Wydley lane and there a nourse sat with ij children

uppon her lappe before the fyre, and there he flonge down the sayde house, and the woman fell forwards apou the ycnge chyldren afore the fyre, and a piece of timber fell apou her.....and so killed her but the chyldren were savyd, and no more hurte (and none) of the house left standyng but the chymney, and there as the housse stode, he flange a grete tre that there is viii or x loode of wood upon it. And from thence he went to Belper and there he hath pullyd and rent apou xl housses and from thence he went to Belper wood and he hath pullyd downe a wonderous thyng of wood and kylled many bease and from thens to Brege (Heage) and there hath he pullyd the chappyl and most parts of the towne downe; and from thens to Wynfeld Manor that is the Erle of Shrewsberys, and in the parke he pulled him downe a lytell.....and from thense to Mansfyld in Sherwood and there I am sure he hath done no good and as it is sayd he hath donne moche hurte in Chesshire andshire. And as the noyse goeth of the people ther felle in some places - hayle stones as great as a mans fyste and some of them had prynts upon them lyke faces. This is trewe and no fables, there is moche more hurte done besyds that were to moche to write, by the reporte of them that have sene it and thus fare you well".

In the parish church is the gravestone of Henry Porte Esq. who died A.D.1572 and his wife and 17 children with effigies engraven on brass plates; and the monument of Sir John Porte 1533 being an alter tomb, the sides of which are enriched with gothic tracery, shields of arms, etc. Between two oblong openings in the slab of the monument appear figures of the Judge and his two wives, smaller than life. At the south side of the chancel is an alter tomb emriched with gothic tracery having over it a canopy of Purbeck marble. At the back of the monument are brass plates on which are engraven the effigies of a Knight and his two wives and five children with this inscription: under this tombe lyeth buryed the bodye of Syr John Porte Knyght some and heyre unto Sir John Porte one of the Justyces of ye Kynges bench at Westmynster, Elsebeth and Dorothe, wyves to the same Syr John Porte, the sonne, which sonne dyed the sixt day of June anno dni 1557.

There are monuments also of Jane Cunliffe 1712, James Chetham S.T.P. Master of the Hospital, vicar of Etwall, canon and Chancellor of Lichfield (who was born, married and died on the same day of the month, viz. Oct 22, 1740). Dorothy relect of Sir John Every Bart 1749 and Joseph Green Esq who marr a daur of William Cotton and died 1810.

In the reign of Q. Mary an Hospital was founded at Etwall by Sir John Porte for sixteen poor persons for the support of which and the school at Repton he bequeathed several lands. It appears from an inscription on the front that the Hospital having fallen to decay, it was rebuilt in the year 1681: and at the same time the number of almsmen was doubled, and the salaries increased in consequence of the improvement of the estates left for its support. The affairs of the Hospital and School at Repton are under the direction of their heriditary governors descended from the coheiroesses of the founder.

LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

Summer Programme

Wednesday, July 10th

Evening visit to Weston and Aston-on-Trent,
Leader J.H. Bompas-Smith.

Meet at Weston-on-Trent Church at 7:15 p.m.
(Trent bus service No.40 leaves Derby Bus Station 6:35 p.m.)

Saturday, September 7th

Whole day visit to the "Lost Villages of Leicestershire",
Leader Geo. H. Green.

Start 10:30 a.m. from Bridge Chapel, Derby, in private cars.
Travel by A.6 into Leicestershire.

11:15 a.m. Call at Dishley, near Loughborough.

11:35 a.m. Visit to Cotes, near Loughborough.

12:30 p.m. Town of Hamilton.

1:15 p.m. Ingarsby Lost Village with Monastic remains.
Picnic lunch at Ingarsby. Members to
supply their own food.

2:30 p.m. Arrival in Melton area to view Kirby Bellars;
Eye Kettleby; Sysonby; Welby; Thorpe Arnold;
Brentingby and Wyfordby.

5:00 p.m. Break for Cafe tea at Melton Mowbray.

7:00 p.m. Approx. Arrive in Derby.

Sites are fairly accessible and walking entailed will be a
minimum. Stout footwear is advisable for walking on the
hard clay soils.