

DERBYSHIRE  
MISCELLANY

Vol 3



TISSINGTON

R.H. 1906.

BULLETIN  
Local History Section  
Derbyshire Archaeological Society.

Local History Section

We greatly regret the delay in producing this issue of the bulletin, actually due at the end of 1964. This was due to a chain of unfortunate circumstances, now happily overcome. The first issue of 1965 will be available shortly.

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

Vol.III No.3

October 1964

EDITORIAL

In this issue there are only two contributions, as these are somewhat longer than usual. Mr. Robert Thornhill's article is particularly interesting at this time when we are about to issue a reprint of the Blincoe Memoir. The children at Tissington seem to have been apprenticed with much greater care than were the London Workhouse children who were sent to Litton Mill.

Mr. George Hickling wrote in 1958 a history of Duffield, which has unfortunately been out of print for some time now. Before his death in May 1963 he had completed a history of Peckwash Mill on the river Derwent near Little Eaton. This manuscript has come into the possession of Lieut. Commander H. Bromby of Duffield and at his suggestion we are delighted to be able to publish it. The old mills of Derbyshire are fast disappearing or are being changed out of recognition and it is desirable to preserve as many records as possible before the mills have all gone from sight and memory. This account of Peckwash Mill makes a valuable addition to our collection. The illustrations come from a book of sketches, plans and photographs made 1918-21 by Mr. John Briggs of Town Street, Duffield. The book now belongs to Commander Bromby, who has kindly allowed us to reproduce some of the drawings.

Winter Programme

Details of the Section's winter programme are given on the back cover.

Subscriptions for 1965

The subscription of 7/6 is due in January and prompt payment will be greatly appreciated.

APPRENTICE INDENTURES

by

Robert Thornhill

The earliest indentures in a small collection relating to apprentices in the Derbyshire Village of Tissington cover the period 1724-1731 and show not only the manner in which children of poor parents were taught a trade but also how the Fitzherbert family gave practical help with this good work.

The four indentures in the first group were written on hand-made paper and the one for 1724 is quite an impressive document with six signatures each with a bright red seal, in addition to three embossed revenue stamps each for "VI pence".

An annuity had been provided by Martha Fitzherbert deceased for "putting out apprentices" and this was mentioned in the 1724 indenture which, slightly abbreviated, with stops added but with the original spelling and some of the capitals retained, reads as follows:-

1724 THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH That Samuell Smith of Tissington in the County of Darby (with the Consent of William Fitzherbert of Tissington, Richard Mills Curate or Minister of Tissington and Edwd Ensor and Henry Hand Church or Chappell Wardens of Tissington and William Mellor, Tissington Taylor (tailor) Grandfather of Samuell Smith) Doth putt himselfe Apprentice to William Hodgkinson of the Burrough of Darby, Taylor, to Learn his sd Trade or Art of a Taylor and with him After the Manner of an Apprentice to serve from the Date hereof unto the full End and Terme of Eight Year's from thence Next Ensuing lawfully to be Complete and Ended dureing which Terme The said Apprentice his said Master faithfully shall and will serve, his secrets keep, his lawfull Commands Every where Gladly Doo. He shall doo no damage to his Master nor to see to be done of Others Butt to his power shall lett or forthwith give notice to his Master of the same. The Goods of his Master hee shall not Wast nor lend them unlawfully to any hurt to his Master. Hee shall not do cause or procure to be done. Hee shall neither Buy nor Sell without his Master's Leave. Taverns, Inns or Alehouses he shall not Haunt, Att Cards, Dice Tables or any other Unlawfull Game he shall not Play dureing the said terme of Eight Years. Nor from the Service of his Master day nor Night shall Absent himselfe Butt in all things as a faithfull & honest apprentice shall & will demean and behave himselfe toward his Master (and all His) dureing All the said Terme. And the said William Hodgkinson in consideration of the sume of Eight pounds of Lawful Money of Great Brittain to him in hand well and truly paid by William Fitzherbert (Being so much money raised and received of the Annuity of Three pounds per Annum left or directed by Mrs. Martha Fitzherbert deceased

for the putting Out Apprentices) the receipt whereof os hereby acknowledged, the apprentice in the Art or Trade of a Taylor which Hee now Useth shall Teach and Instruct or cause to be Taught and Instructed the best way and manner that hee can. Finding and allowing unto his apprentice sufficient Meat, Drink, Cloathes, Washing, Lodging and all other necessaryes dureing the Terme of Eight Yeares and for the true performance of all & every the Covenants and Agreements Samuella Smith and William Hodgkinson bindeth himselfe Each to the Other firmly by these presents IN WITNESSE whereof the parties abovesaid to these Indentures Interchangeably have sett their hands and Seales the Twenty first day of December in the Eleventh Yeare of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord George by the Grace of God of Great Brittain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, Anno Dom One thousand Seven hundred and Twenty Foure.

Signatures of the different parties, and those who witnessed their signatures, followed except Willm Mellor who had to make his mark.

The minister signed his name Rd Milnes (not Mills) and one of the wardens Edward Edensor (not Ensor). Willm Mellor also made his mark to an additional note reading:-

Memd. The above sayd Wm Mellor hereby agrees to find his sd Grandson Shirts for so many of ye sd Eight yeares as ye sd Wm Mellor shall live as Wittness his hand. His mark and the signature of two witnesses followed.

The indentures were written on sheets of hand-made paper with the top edges scalloped, in the margin was printed a crown surmounting a circle containing the price "Eight Pence pr Quire" in the case of three measuring 15" x 12" and "Three Half-pence pr Sheet" for the 1728 one which was a little larger.

The wording on all the apprenticeship indentures is much the same but in the first group the references to the Fitzherbert bequests are of special interest. Brief details of the other three indentures are:-

1728 THOMAS WALKBANKE of Tissington with consent of William Fitzherbert Esquire, Richard Goodwin yeoman, Edward Edensor yeoman, Henry Hand husbandman, John Savage curate or minister, Thomas Allsop and William Smith church or chappell-wardens all of Tissington. Apprentice to Richard Goodwin of Ashbourne shoemaker for eight years in consideration of the sum of £9.4.0 "Being so much Money raised and received of the Money left or directed by Mrs. Frances Fitzherbert Deceased for the putting out poore Children Apprentices". In the Art or Trade of a Shoemaker. The only signature is that of Richard Goodwin.

1731 WILLIAM HAND of Tissington was bound apprentice to Thomas Barnett of Northwood in the parish of Ellaston in the county of Stafford, for seven

years to learn the trade or art of a "Taylor". William Fitzherbert, Richard Goodwil and John Savage, the curate or minister, again gave consent together with Thomas Fletcher and William Mellor church or chapell-wardens, and Robert Hand the father of William. Thomas Barnett the tailor was paid eight guineas "of money left by Mrs. Frances Fitzherbert and Mrs. Martha Fitzherbert for putting out poor children apprentices".

- 1732 EDWARD WALBANK of Tissington "a poor Child of the Age of Seven years, without either Father or Mother" was bound to Thomas Fletcher of Tissington, husbandman, "and sometimes useing the Art of a Butcher, To Learn Husbandry and the Art of a Butcher (So farr as the said Thomas Fletcher Cann or may instruct him".
- Consent was given by William Fitzherbert esquire, John Savage curete and Richard Goodwin gentleman, one church or chappel-warden, John Hardy, Robert Ensor overseer of the poor also Edward Ensor, Henry Hand, and Thomas Goldall yeomen. The apprenticeship was to last until Edward attained the age of 20 years. Thomas Fletcher received £5 from the money left by the late Mrs. Frances, Mrs. Martha Fitzherbert and was to Find and provide "sufficient Meat, Drink, Cloathes, Washing, Lodgeing and all other Apparrell and Necessaryes.....And att the said End thereof Leave or provide his said Apprentice (as to Apparrell) with one Good Suite of Woollen Cloaths (That is) Coat, Wastecoate and Breeches and with a New pair of Shoes and Stockings a Hatt Two Shirts and Two Cravats".

In the second group the three indentures are all on parchment with scalloped edge on the top. The 1790 one measures 11" x 23" wide and the other two 13" x 16".

- 1788 JAMES WIBBERLEY of Tissington with the consent of his father Isaac Wibberley put himself apprentice to John Kendrick of Willslock in the Parish of Uttoreter, Blacksmith, for eight years. The consideration was £9 "being public Charity Money....." paid by the Trustees of the late William Ensor and Mrs. Frances Fitzherbert. James was "to be clothed with Cloaths not costing less than two Pounds at the Commencement of the Apprenticeship by the Trustees". John Kendrick covented to provide "Clothes of the Value of two pounds" at the end of the apprenticeship and if he was "minded and desirous" to assign James to another master or mistress he could do so but if the trade or occupation was other than that of a blacksmith a payment of £10 was to be made to the Churchwarden and Overseer of Tissington.

- 1790 THOMAS SPENCER with the consent of his mother Hannah Carter, the wife of James Carter of Ashbourne, labourer, put himself apprentice to Richard Higton of Biggin for seven years to learn the art of a Webster (a weaver).
- The consideration was £7.7 public Charity Money, the trustees to provide "Clothes not costing less than two pounds" at the commencement and Richard Higton to see that the apprentice was "decently clothed" at the

end of the time. Thomas could be assigned to another master but if the trade was changed £10 was to be paid to the Churchwarden and Overseer.

1795 GEORGE HALL with consent of his mother Elizabeth Hall of Tissington put himself apprentice to George Kiddy of Alderwashey for seven years to learn the art of a Framework-knitter. The consideration was £10 charity money from funds of the late William Ensor. The apprentice was to be "decently clothed" by the trustees at the commencement and by George Kiddy at the end of the apprenticeship. There was the same provision for assigning to a new master and for the payment of £10 to the churchwarden and overseer if the trade was other than that of a framework-knitter. The master spelt his name Kiddey.

Group three consists of the more usual small size parchments, 6" x 8" wide, there were five of this size with the price printed on them "Five Pence Pr Pair", another slightly larger 8" x 8" was priced "Three Pence Each".

1780 FRANCIS SMITH with the consent of his mother Ann Smith of Tissington, widow, put himself apprentice to Joseph Roe of Wingerworth, County of Derby, Joiner - for seven years. Consideration £8 being Public Charity Money by the trustees of the late William Ensor and Frances Fitzherbert. The master to find the apprentice "Sufficient Meat, Drink, Washing & Lodging and all other Necessaries except wearing Apparel - which matter and things he the said Joseph Roe doth hereby for himself..... promise to and with the said Francis Smith.....to do and perform".

1780 JOSEPH BOWLER son of William Bowler belonging to the parish of Tissington - Wheelwright - with the consent of his father, apprentice to Benjamin Tipper of the parish of Saint Werburgh in Derby - Heelmaker Lastmaker and Patten-maker, for seven years, consideration £6 being public Charity Money paid by the Trustees named in the Will of the late William Ensor, the master to provide meat, drink, washing, lodging and all other necessities except wearing apparel.

1783 JAMES TWIGG son of William Twigg belonging to the parish of Tissington - Labourer - with the consent of his father apprentice to William Sanders of Leek in the County of Stafford - Baker - for five years, consideration £6 charity money as above. Meat, drink, wearing apparel, washing, lodgings and all other necessities to be provided.

1800 EDWARD WIBBERLEY with the consent of his mother Elizabeth Wibberley widow of Tissington put himself apprentice to Joseph Taylor - Framework Knitter - of Upper Haddon in the Parish of Bakewell to learn his art, for seven years, consideration £10 charity again from the trustees under the will of William Ensor. The master finding meat, drink, wearing apparel, washing, lodging and all other necessities which said Matters and things Joseph Taylor undertook to do and perform.

1800 ISAAC WIBBERLEY with the consent of his father Isaac Wibberley of

Tissington "Laborer" apprentice to Ralph Brinsley of Ashbourne - Cordwainer (shoemaker) for seven years. Consideration £12, charity money and provision as in the case of Edward.

1805 JOSEPH SPENCER son of Robert Spencer of Tissington - Blacksmith - with the consent of his father put himself apprentice to John Jones of the Borough of Leicester - Clock-maker and Watch-repairer - for seven years from the day of the date hereof. The consideration was £18.18.0 paid by Robert Spencer and in this respect the apprenticeship differs from all the others as the father was arranging for his son to be trained in the art of a Clock-maker and Watch-repairer and the master was only responsible for supplying sufficient meat, drink, washing and lodging. The printed forms read "Sufficient Meat, Drink \_\_\_\_\_ Lodging and all other Necessaries", in this case the word "and" had been scratched out and the form completed to read - "all other Necessaries during the said Term to be found by Robert Spencer. Provided also that if upon or at any time after the seventeenth day of April which will be in the year of our Lord 1810 either of them the said John Jones and Joseph Spencer shall be desirous of putting an end to the apprenticeship and shall thereof give Notice to the other then and from and after such Notice the Apprenticeship and these presents as between them the said John Jones and Joseph Spencer shall cease end and determine".

With the six small size printed indentures, and the three larger ones in the next group, there is a note at the bottom regarding the date and money consideration being "inserted in Words at Length, otherwise the Indenture will be void, the Master or Mistress forfeit Fifty Pounds, and another Penalty, and the Apprentice be disabled to follow his/her Trade or to be made free".

The fine of £50 was very heavy for that period quite apart from the additional penalty which was not specified.

In the fourth group are three printed indentures similar to the above but of larger size, 8" x 14" wide.

1807 JAMES BOWLER son of Marmaduke Bowler belonging to the parish of Tissington in the County of Derby - Cotton Spinner - with the consent of his Father doth put himself Apprentice to John Bayley of Cheadle Buckley in the County of Chester, Cordwainer. Period seven years, Consideration £10 being public Charity Money paid by the trustees named in the will of the late William Ensor. Meat, drink, wearing apparel, washing and lodging to be provided by the master.

1810 WILLIAM REDFEARN son of John Redfearn of Tissington "Laborer", with the consent of his father, apprentice to Thomas Harrison of Bradley in the said County of Derby - Cordwainer - for seven years. Consideration £12 "paid by the public Charity of Tissington founded by the late Mrs. Frances Fitzherbert". Meat, drink, clothes, washing and lodging to be provided.

1821 SAMUEL SMITH son of George Smith of Tissington "Laborer", with his fathers



consent apprentice to William White of Ashborne - Whitesmith, for seven years. Consideration £15 paid by the Trustees of Tissington Charity also of £5 paid by Sir Henry Fitzherbert, Baronet. "Samuel Smith his Apprentice in the Art of a Whitesmith which he useth by the best means that he can teach and instruct or cause to be taught and instructed, finding unto the said Apprentice sufficient Meat, Drink and Lodging during the said Term., and it is further agreed between the said parties that all other necessities for the said apprentice during the said term shall be found and provided by the said George Smith or by the Apprentice himself.

Details have so far been given of 16 apprenticeship indentures relating to Tissington and, with one exception, the consideration money paid to the "master" was provided by trustees of the public Charity Money or Tissington Charity, money having been left by Mrs. Martha Fitzherbert, Mrs. Frances Fitzherbert and William Ensor for putting out apprentices, In one case an additional payment was made by Sir William Fitzherbert.

Four further indentures relate to poor children bound apprentice by the Overseers of the Poor in the years 1834 and 1840 also 1834 and 1837, the reason for dealing with them in this order will become obvious.

A noticeable feature is the care taken to safeguard the child's interests and which, in some cases, necessitated three applications before magistrates.

The full procedure can best be followed in the case of Thomas Yates and will be dealt with in detail, this is one of two 1834 indentures and (with one for 1840) is on large folded sheets 17" x 11" printed on pages one and three, the top of the third sheet is scalloped.

The first page contains the application of the Overseers of the Poor and the consent of the Magistrates to bind a poor child to be an apprentice and as the proposal was to send the child to the "Foreign of Walsall" an additional safeguard was taken. At the bottom of the page is a note "Within forty Miles" and "printed at J. Drewry's Office, Derby".

The third page is in three parts, first a column giving the consent of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Stafford to the proposed apprentice being sent there, secondly a column giving the consent of Derbyshire Justices to the apprentice being placed and finally the Indenture which occupies the remainder of the page and which differs somewhat from those used in the past.

The four sections, abbreviated as far as possible, read as follows:-

County of Derby. To wit

WHEREAS Robert Spencer and William Docksey the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Tissington in the County of Derby have on this Eleventh Day of January in the Fourth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, at Ashbourne in the said County, brought before us, Sir Henry Fitzherbert,

Bart and William Webster, Esquire (Justices assigned to keep the Peace in and for the said County, and also to hear and determine divers Felonies, Trespasses, and other Misdemeanors, in the said County committed,) one THOMAS YATES a poor Male Child, of the Age of Fifteen years, or thereabouts, belonging to and having a Settlement in the said Parish of Tissington.....and whose Parent Joseph Yates is not able to maintain such Child. And the Overseers have proposed to us the Justices to bind such Child to be an Apprentice to Thomas Hill of the township of the Foreign of Walsall in the County of Stafford - Plater - and residing within the distance of forty miles from the Parish and Place to which the Child doth belong, and as an Apprentice with him the said Thomas Hill to dwell and serve, until the said Thomas Yates shall come to the Age of Twenty One Years.

And Whereas we the said Justices having now here enquired into the propriety of binding such Child Apprentice to Thomas Hill.....have now enquired and considered whether such Person doth reside and hath his place of business within a reasonable distance from the Place to which such Child doth so belong, having regard to the means of communication between such Places.....also we have now examined the Father of the Child.....and have enquired of the Overseers of the Poor and otherwise, as to the distance of the Residence and Place of Business of Thomas Hill.....and have also enquired into the circumstances and character of Thomas Hill and on such examination and enquiry.....think it proper that such Child should be bound Apprentice to (him).

NOW THEREFORE We the said Justices do declare that the said Thomas Hill is a fit Person to whom the said Child may be bound an Apprentice and we do therefore hereby ORDER and DIRECT that the Overseers of the Poor of Tissington.....shall be and are at liberty to bind such Child Apprentice.

Dated 11th January 1834

Signed H. Fitzherbert and W. Webster.

We William Greaves and Charles Spengel Greaves, Esquires.....Justices of the Peace for the County of Stafford.....within which County the Township of the Foreign of Walsall is situated, being the place wherein Thomas Yates is intended to serve as in the Indenture mentioned, do consent to the putting forth the said Thomas Yates as an Apprentice..... it having been proved upon oath before us that due Notice in writing has been given by the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Tissington..... to the Overseers of the Poor of the Township of the Foreign of Walsall..... of such binding being intended, and do sign this as our Allowance of such Indenture of Apprenticeship before the same hath been executed by any of the other parties.....

Dated 4th March 1834.

We Sir Henry Fitzherbert, Bart and William Webster, Esquire.....Justices

of the Peace for the County of Derby.....in which Tissington is situated.....do consent to putting forth Thomas Yates as an Apprentice, according to the intent and meaning of this Indenture, and do sign this our Allowance.....

Dated 22nd February 1834.

THIS INDENTURE made the 25th Day of April in the Fourth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord William the Fourth, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and in the Year of our Lord, One thousand eight hundred and thirty four WITNESSETH that John Smith, Church Warden of the Parish of Tissington in the County of Derby And Robert Spencer and William Docksey Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish (by and with the consent of the two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Derby whose Names are in the margin of this Indenture subscribed; and also, by and with the consent of William Greaves and Charles Sprengel Greaves, Esquires, two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Stafford whose names are also in the margin of this Indenture subscribed; and by virtue and in pursuance of an Order in Writing hereunto annexed, made by and under the hands and seals of Sir Henry Fitzherbert, Baronet and William Webster Esquire, Justices of the Peace of the County of Derby.....bearing date the Eleventh day of January 1834) have put and placed, and by these Presents do put and place THOMAS YATES aged Fifteen years or thereabouts, a poor Child.....Apprentice to Thomas Hill of the Township of the Foreign of Walsall - Plater - with him to dwell and serve from the Day of the Date of these Presents, until the Apprentice shall accomplish his full Age of Twenty one Years.....During all which Term, the Apprentice his Master faithfully shall serve in all lawful Businesses, according to his Power, Wit, and Ability; and honestly, orderly, and obediently in all Things demean and behave himself towards his Master.....And Thomas Hill.....doth covenant and grant to and with the Church-Wardens and Overseers.....that in consideration of the Sum of Six Pounds..... paid by the Churchwarden and Overseers.....the said Apprentice in the Art Trade and Mystery of a Plater shall and will teach.....in the best way and manner that he can.....and will find, provide, and allow.....sufficient Meat, Drink, Apparel, Lodging, Washing, and other Things necessary and fit for an Apprentice.....Provided always (that on the part of Thomas Hill.....the covenant should continue no longer than three months after his death) And also the apprentice.....be not any Way a Charge to the Parish of Tissington or Parishioners of the same; but of and from all Charges shall and will save the Parish of Tissington harmless and indemnified.

Signatures. Eight signatures and seals appear on the page.

JOSEPH MARSH. The form used in this case was the same as for Thomas Yates but as the apprentice was not to be sent out of the county the first section on page three was crossed through.

The Tissington Overseers made their application to Sir Henry Fitzherbert and John Harrison on the 21st December 1839.

Joseph Marsh a poor child aged 15 or thereabouts was the son of Richard Marsh, gardener, and the overseers proposed to bind him apprentice to Charles Salt of the parish of Bradley, Co. Derby - Blacksmith.

The Justices gave their approval to the proposal and a week later, on the 28th December they gave their consent to putting forth Joseph Marsh as an apprentice "and do sign our Allowance of such Indenture of Apprenticeship before the same hath been executed by any of the other parties....."

The Indenture was signed on the 4th January 1840 by John Smith churchwarden also William Hand and Samuel Smith overseers and was to operate until the apprentice was 21 years old.

Charles Salt was paid Fifteen Pounds of good and lawful Money of Great Britain by the churchwarden and the overseers and was to teach the apprentice the Trade or Business of a Blacksmith. Apparel was deleted from the list of what should be supplied.

The final two indentures in this collection were "Printed at R. Blore's Office, Ashbourne" on somewhat smaller sheets 15" x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " but the wording was the same.

CHARLES GOODMAN aged nine years or thereabouts was a poor child of Tissington and arrangements were made to apprentice him to John Palmer of the Township of the Borough of Walsall until he was 21 years of age, to learn the Art, Trade or Mystery of a Curb Chain Maker.

The proposal form on the first page has been removed but the three parts on the third page were completed, the Justices for the County of Stafford were Sir Henry Fitzherbert and William Greaves who signified their consent on the 8th July 1834. On the same day Sir William Boothby and William Webster gave their consent as Justices for the County of Derby.

A consideration of six pounds was paid by John Smith churchwarden, and Robert Spencer and William Docksey overseers, of Tissington and the master was to provide meat, drink, apparel, lodging, washing and other things necessary and fit for an apprentice.

On all four forms in this group was a note limiting the apprenticeship for no longer time than three calendar months after the death of the master according to an Act of 32 Geo III "An Act for the further Regulation of PARISH APPRENTICES". In the case of Charles Goodman the following had been written in "and also of another act passed 56 Geo III.....to regulate the binding of Parish Apprentices".

The indenture and two consents of Justices were all signed on the same day whereas proceedings concerning Thomas Yates lasted three and a half months.

JOSEPH BLAKE. This is the last indenture in the collection and is the most complete so far as documents are concerned. The form is the same as that used for Charles Goodman but there is also some additional information, all of which can be listed thus:-

1. 13 May 1837 Overseers application and justices approval.
  2. 15 " Notice to overseers of Walsall.
  3. 22 " Consent of justices for County of Derby.
  4. 24 " Declaration of notice having been served on Walsall overseers.
  5. 24 " Consent of justices for County of Stafford.
  6. 3 June Indenture.
1. Application made by John Spencer and John Edensor, Overseers of the Poor of Tissington to William Webster and John Harrison Esquires, Justices of the Peace for the County of Derby to place a poor child JOSEPH BLAKE of the Age of Nine years or thereabouts, of Tissington, apprentice to John Palmer - of the Township of the Borough of Walsall - Curb Chain Maker - until he shall come to the Age of twenty one Years.
  2. "Notice of intention to bind out Parish Apprentices."  
 "Wilkins and Son, Printers, Derby."  
 To the Overseers of the Poor of the Township of the Borough of Walsall in the County of Stafford.  
 We whose names are hereunder written Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish of Tissington in the County of Derby do hereby give you the Overseers of the Poor of the Township of the Borough of Walsall in the County of Stafford Notice that pursuant to an Order bearing date the thirteenth Day of May in the seventh Year of the Reign of his present Majesty Given under the hands and seals of William Webster and John Harrison Esquires, Justices assigned to keep the Peace in and for the said County of Derby whereby we are ordered and directed to bind one JOSEPH BLAKE a poor male Child, of the Age of Nine Years or thereabouts belonging to and having a Settlement in our said Parish and whose Parent Hannah Blake is not able to support him to be an Apprentice to John Palmer of your said Township.....until the age of twenty one years and we do intend to apply on the Twenty fourth Day of May in this present Year to such of His Majestys Justices.....of Stafford as shall be then assembled in Petty Sessions at The Red Lion Inn Uttoxeter in the said County of Stafford to allow the Indenture or Apprenticeship to bind the said Joseph Blake as aforesaid.  
  
 Dated 15th May 1837.  
 Signed Wm Hand churchwarden.  
 John Edensor and John Spencer - Overseers.
  3. William Webster and John Harrison justices for the County of Derby gave their consent 22 May.

4. Declaration written on back of (2)  
Thomas Gadsby Assistant Overseer of the Poor of the Parish of Snelstone, cometh before us Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard Baronet and Thomas Kirkpatrick Hall Esquire and maketh Oath that he served a copy of the within notice upon one of the Overseers of the Poor of the Township of the Borough of Walsall on Friday the nineteenth day of May Inst.  
Signed Thomas Gadsby.  
Sworn before us at Uttoxeter May 24th 1837  
Signed. Thos C. Sheppard and Thos K. Hall.
5. Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard Bart and Thomas Kilpatrick Hall Esquire gave their consent 24th May.
6. Indenture dated third of June 1837, churchwarden and overseers place the child aged nine apprentice until he shall accomplish his full Age of Twenty one Years. Consideration six pounds.

The note about termination and the act of 32 Geo III were crossed out.

(Note. All the documents from which this information has been taken are in the Thornhill Collection - Finney papers.)

This article on "Apprentice Indentures" relates to the parish of Tissington and as "consideration money" was provided from charitable sources it is advisable to refer to the "Report of the Charity Commissioners" on the subject. The following points are from the report.

Catherine Port of Ilam, spinster, by will dated 1722 and proved at Canterbury in 1728, gave the residue of her lands in Tissington to her cousin Elizabeth Fitzherbert and her heirs on condition that a yearly sum of £5 was provided for teaching ten poor children, inhabitants of Tissington.

Frances Fitzherbert gave £25 a year for charitable uses as recited in an Indenture of 1735.

- £6 a year for putting out a poor boy of Tissington an apprentice.
- £4 a year.....for teaching poor children of Tissington to read, write or work.
- £5 a year for clothing poor widows or housekeepers in Tissington.
- £5 a year for physic or other useful things to recover health for the poor of Tissington.
- £2.10 a year to buy bibles, prayer-books.....in case there should not be occasion to lay out so much to any one of the particular purposes aforesaid, then such surplus to be laid out.....to buy tools, or towards setting up an apprentice that should have served his time, and should have been put out by the trust.  
(£2.10 apparently not accounted for!)

The gift mentioned in the will of Catharine Port was recited and William Fitzherbert agreed with Elizabeth Fitzherbert for securing the payment of £5

a year.

For securing payment of the yearly sums of £25 and £5 two rent charges were granted issuing out of - Shaw About 48 acres  
Town Meadow " 50 "  
Middle Meadow " 9 "

Trustees were the minister or curate of Tissington and "three of the substantial inhabitants of the town", the first being Richard Goodwin, Robert Ensor and Edward Ensor.

In concluding notes the report states "Poor boys of Tissington are occasionally apprenticed from this charity. In 1820 a boy was put out with a premium of £15; but no application has since been made to the trustees on behalf of any boy desirous of being apprenticed."

The boy would be Samuel Smith (the last named in the article), the indenture was signed on the 12th February 1821 but negotiations would be in hand the previous year which would account for 1820 being mentioned in the Commissioners Report.

The first indenture (1724) was also for a Samuel Smith and in this the consideration of £8 was stated as "Being so much money raised and received of the Annuity of Three pounds per Annum left or directed by Mrs. Martha Fitzherbert deceased for the putting Out Apprentices".

Martha Fitzherbert is again mentioned in 1731 but her name does not appear in the Commissioners Report nor is there any mention of the annuity of £3.

The name of William Ensor appears from 1788 onwards, and as payments were made by trustees under his will this gave the impression that he also had left funds to help apprentices, in confirmation of this was the fact that in 1780, 1788 and 1790 both his name and that of Mrs. Frances Fitzherbert were mentioned.

1788 "Being public Charity Money to him in Hand paid by the Trustees named in the Will of the late William Ensor as well as by the Trustees of the late Mrs. Frances Fitzherbert's Charity".

1790 Same wording as above.

1795 Same again but terminates with William Ensor.

There is no mention of William Ensor in the Commissioners Report.

---





# PECKWASH MILL, LITTLE EATON

## An Outline History

by

G. HICKLING

### INTRODUCTION

Peckwash Mill has had a very long history, for it is said to have been founded as a corn-mill in the thirteenth century. There are three fields by the river side bearing the names of Far, Lower and Near Peckwash, the mill being built largely on the Lower Peckwash field.

Peckwash is a compound name composed of two Middle English words, "Pec" a measure or piece of land, and "Wash" a piece of land covered at times by water. This is an apt name, for the Derwent here drops to a lower level and in times of flood the water overflows, spreads and covers many acres of ground.

It was an ideal place for a water-mill and yet he must have been a bold man in those early days who first built a weir there to harness the wild Derwent. Floods are still an occasional nuisance to-day, although they are not so violent as they were up to about sixty years ago, when I remember standing on Duffield Bridge and seeing the water reaching the top of the middle arch, and the whole of the fields below Duffield Church completely under water from the foot-hills of Eaton Bank to the Railway embankment. Since then they have been largely mitigated by the Derwent Valley Water Board, which constructed several large reservoirs at the headwaters of the Derwent, and by the supply therefrom of millions of gallons of water daily for the use of the Derby, Leicester, Nottingham and Sheffield waterworks.

The following outline of the history of this mill is chiefly concerned with its great days as a paper-mill, and owing to the destruction by fire in 1910 of all the private records, it has been a matter of some difficulty to piece together a coherent story of its long existence.

### EARLY DAYS

Although we do not know the actual date of the foundation of the mill, we do know that in 1425 the proprietors of the mill were granted, by charter, the right to take water from the Derwent to drive the millstones.

For the next 200 years the mill continued to grind corn, but a new industry had arrived in the country, and it was during the 17th century

that many mills turned to the making of paper in conjunction with the old trade of corn-grinding.

The first paper mill in England commenced work in 1495, but soon failed and it was many years before a further attempt was made. Eventually several mills commenced work in Kent, and very slowly they spread throughout the country. Skilled labour was scarce, and it took many years to train men and women in the art. To make hand made paper required a team of roughly four men and three women, the process being as follows:- the women sorted and washed the linen and cotton rags and placed them in a tank with water, where they were pounded by wooden stampers driven by water power, to a fibrous mass. One of the men, the labourer, then poured the "stuff" as it was called into a vat in the paper-making room. The paper maker took up a mould-box with low sides and a wired bottom, dipped it in the vats, lifted it when full and shook it until the water had drained away. He then gave it a peculiar twist to release the fibrous mat from the wires, and handed the whole to the "Coucher". He took the fibrous mat from the mould, placed it on a piece of felt, handed it to the "Layer" who placed it upon the press, adding to it as received from the "Coucher" until a pile called a "post" had been built. The three men then threw the whole of their weight on to the press to squeeze out the water. The "Layer" then removed the paper sheet by sheet and returned the felt to the "Coucher". The damp paper was again put into the press to remove as much moisture as possible, and was then handed to the labourer, who carried it into an upstairs room with adjustable shutters to control the amount of ventilation required, and hung the sheets of paper on rope lines to dry.

When the industry reached Derbyshire we do not know, but it was certainly in the 17th century, for the Duffield Church Registers give "Paper Mills" as a place name during that period.

By 1700 a small number of mills was working in the Duffield district, the Top, Middle and Bottom mills on the Ecclesbourne, Peckwash and Darley Abbey on the Derwent. Most mills at this time were dual purpose mills - corn and paper - and it was the practise to use the existing water power to drive the "stampers" when they took up the additional work of paper-making. Some of them were multi-purpose mills, the classic example being the one at Darley Abbey. On the 29th September 1713 this mill was advertised for sale in the London "Post Boy" as consisting of a corn-mill, paper-mill, fulling-mill, hemp-mill and leather-mill.

The three mills on the Ecclesbourne worked on for many years, the Bottom Mill until shortly after 1851. Mill Green, the site of the Middle Mill, used to be known as Paper Mill Green, and the footpath from the Top Mill to Wirksworth Road is shown on the Parish Map of 1787 as Paper Mill Road.

During the whole of this period only one important advance in the process of paper making had taken place. This was the invention by a Dutchman of the Beating Engine. This machine cut up the rags and then beat them into fibres, and was a great improvement on the wooden stampers.

From its origin it was called the "Hollander" machine.

In the second half of the 18th century Peckwash mill was acquired by Thomas Tempest, a man of great drive and ability. He was a member of a well known Duffield family of the time, who were landowners, farmers and millers, and under him Peckwash continued to expand.

In 1793 Parliament passed the Derby Canal Act, which affected the water supply to Peckwash as the following extracts show:-

Cap.XVI - From Little Eaton the canal shall be filled with water from the River Derwent between the hours of 8 of the clock on Saturday afternoon and 8 of the clock on Sunday afternoon in each and every week.

Cap.XVII- No water shall be taken out of the said Derwent except only at such times as before mentioned unless the quantity will be insufficient for the supply of one week in which event it shall and may be lawful in every such week to take further quantities of water out of the said Derwent between the hours of 8 and 12 of the clock on Thursday evening in every such week.

In order to carry out the terms of the Act the Canal Company made a short cut on the Little Eaton side of the river about 100 yards above the weir and built a sluice gate. From this sluice gate they then constructed underground a brick culvert five feet high and two feet six inches wide in a direct line through the fields to the canal head at Little Eaton, about half a mile away.

I do not suppose Mr. Tempest was much worried about the Sunday supply, but it is easy to guess that he was greatly annoyed if the Canal officials came and drew off his water on Thursday evenings to a level which put his water wheels out of action.

#### THE FOURDRINIER MACHINE

In the latter half of the eighteenth century England was technically the most advanced country in the world, and several attempts were made to build a machine which would do the work of paper making, and so replace the age-old sheet-by-sheet of the hand made process. All these attempts failed.

In the last decade of the century Nicholas-Louis Robert was employed as a clerk at a paper mill in France. He became interested in the actual work of paper making and in 1799 produced a model of a machine for which he was granted a patent, together with a monetary award. He sold the patent to Leger Didot for 25,000 francs. Unfortunately, the first trial machine did not work properly, Didot defaulted on his payment and Robert recovered his patent in 1801.

Didot had corresponded in 1800 with his brother-in-law in England, John Gamble, and suggested that the latter should take out an English patent.

In London Gamble was introduced to Henry and Braby Fourdrinier of the leading firm of wholesale stationers Bloxam and Fourdrinier, and they became greatly interested in the invention. Gamble went to France and arranged with Didot and Robert for the original working model to be sent to England. The English patent was taken out by Gamble in 1801.

In 1802 Didot arrived here, met the Fourdriniers, and asked for their help in the task of turning Robert's invention into an efficient piece of industrial machinery. At this stage Didot and Robert disappear from the scene, presumably bought out by the Fourdriniers who sought the help of Bryan Donkin, an eminent engineer of that time.

Financed by the Fourdriniers Donkin set up a workshop in Bermondsey, and for the next five years worked on the machine which he erected there. The Fourdriniers also opened mills at St. Neots, Hunts. and at Frogmore and Two Waters, Herts, where machines built by Donkin were installed so that actual working results could be studied. Various improvements were made, and in 1806 one of these machines started working correctly, giving promise of both technical and economic success. The new invention was then offered to the trade under the terms of the patent which covered it.

The patent ran out in 1807 and by that time thirteen machines had been erected in various parts of the country. Application was made for an extension of the patent, and it was re-granted for a further period of fifteen years, resting the sole right of making and selling the machines jointly in the Fourdriniers and Gamble. In 1808 Gamble assigned his rights to the Fourdriniers.

Much litigation followed, which held up the production of further machines for years. Henry Fourdrinier went bankrupt, having spent £60,000 on the machines with little return for his money. It was not till 1816 that the machines were again available for sale, and between that date and 1822 when the extended patent ran out a further twenty-nine machines had been sold and erected for buyers. One of these machines was erected on the 29th July 1821 for William Tempest of Little Eaton.

#### EXTENSION

Thomas Tempest was a far-seeing man. There is little doubt that he had heard all about the forthcoming Fourdrinier machine, and he decided to make preparations for the time when he would be able to obtain delivery of one of them.

His first concern was his water-rights, and in 1805 he obtained a renewal of the old charter of 1425 with a further clause entitling him to take up to 800 horse power from the Derwent.

Next, in view of the powers of the Canal Company to take water from the river, he came to an agreement on the 11th November 1806 with that company which defined the rights of the two parties as to the use of the feeder owned by the Canal Company.

Having settled this, the work of re-modelling the mill was commenced. Many of the old buildings were torn down and a new up-to-date mill was erected with stone from the quarry at the back of Blue Mountains cottages. At the same time he built Eaton House for his own occupation.

William Tempest carried on the work, and everything was ready for the arrival of the first machine in 1821. This must have been a great day at Peckwash. The new machine was soon at work, and in 1829 Glover's History of Derbyshire noted that sheets of paper of great size were being made at Tempests of Little Eaton.

The arrival of a second machine, with its auxiliary equipment of beating engines etc. necessitated the employment of further workers, and it was decided to build cottages for them on the eastern hillside above the mill, on what was then known as Outwoods Road. Stone from Rigga Lane Quarry was used, and as the work of the mill increased further cottages were built until by 1850 there was a long line of houses on the hillside, the last ones to be built being a larger type than the older ones. Originally, they were known as Tempests Cottages, but are now known by the name of "Blue Mountains". This name arose in a curious way.

Southward from the end of the cottages runs Rigga Lane, and alongside this lane there used to be a small wood which in spring was a mass of bluebells. Everybody knew this famous Bluebell Wood on the hillside, and as time went on the name was applied to the cottages, until by about 1900 when it was officially named Blue Mountains, few knew where Tempests Cottages were, but all knew where Blue Mountains was situated.

As the years passed a third and then a fourth machine were installed, requiring still more beating engines, steam boilers, and incidentally more water power. The number of water wheels was increased to five, and the height of the weir was raised. This caused an uproar among the inhabitants of Duffield. Every time there was a flood Peckwash Weir was blamed for it, and the controversy between the Duffield Vestry, representing the parishioners, and the Tempests, was not to be settled for many years. By 1850 the mill had reached the full maturity of a large-scale organisation, and its products were well-known throughout the Midlands.

#### MATURITY

In 1851 Peckwash was listed as one of the great paper mills with ten or more beating engines, and it was said to be the only mill in the world with four paper making machines running.

All the various equipment required more and yet more power from the

river. Once again the controversy with the Duffield Vestry arose, and resulted in the following correspondence between the parties:- (From the Churchwarden's Accounts and Notices of Vestry Meetings)

"Notice is hereby given that a Vestry Meeting will be held in the Parish Church of Duffield on Tuesday the 16th May to take into Consideration the Proposal of Messrs. Tempest and Sons respecting the alteration of the Weir.

Jas Poyser  
Isaac Johnson  
Churchwardens

May 6th 1854

May 16th 1854  
Vestry, Duffield Church

"At a Vestry Meeting duly call'd and held at the above time and place to Consider the proposal from Messrs. Tempest and Sons respecting the Weir it was agreed that Messrs. Tempest and Sons should be allowed to make trial of the remedy proposed in the way of Flood Gates but at the same time the Parishioners would not pledge themselves to accept the same as a final settlement of the question, but only submitted to it as an experiment, the responsibility of which devolved upon Messrs. Tempest and Sons, and in case the proposed remedial measures failed to give satisfaction to the Parishioners, they are and would be competent to enter upon the subject de novo or afresh, as if nothing had been accomplished and they hereby give ample and friendly warning to Messrs. Tempest and Sons of their liability to offer a satisfactory remedy provided the one Messrs. Tempest and Sons now propose on its execution and after proper Trial prove to be inefficient.

Signed

Richard Barber	Chairman
Jas Poyser )	
Isaac Johnson)	Churchwardens

Wm Turner  
Peter Sowter

Memorandum

Messrs. Tempest and Sons promised at the same meeting to affix to the Pier of Duffield Bridge a Brass Plate, 12 inches square the Bottom of which Plate should show the standard height of the Water."

In accordance with their proposal Messrs. Tempest and Sons lowered half the weir on the Little Eaton side and replaced it with flood-gates which could be wound-up in case of the river being in flood, and so allow a large volume of water to escape. At the same time they placed the suggested brass plate on the south-west buttress of Duffield Bridge bearing the following legend:- The bottom of this plate is the height of the top of the weir.

I well remember this plate, the inscription was deeply cut and easily readable from the footpath which runs to Duffield Churchyard. Unfortunately, an alder seed was caught between the plate and the stonework of the bridge, took root and forced the plate from its fastenings. It was re-fixed in 1931, but a flood shortly afterwards wrenched it away, and it now presumably lies at the bottom of the river.

The mill must have been very busy at this time, for in this same year Messrs. Tempest & Sons founded Brook Mill in Little Eaton, a one-machine paper mill. (This mill was afterwards sold and passed by purchase to Messrs. Cudlipp, then to Dowding & Sons Ltd., and finally to the British Coated Board and Paper Company who closed it down in 1960 and transferred the work to other mills they owned.)

A long period of prosperity followed during which the mill supplied practically the whole of a special kind of paper to the Nottingham Lace Manufacturers for use in the Jacquard type lace machines.

In 1866/7 the weir was largely rebuilt, and Tempests seized this opportunity once more to raise the weir. The flood-gates which had been erected on the weir were actually about twelve inches higher than the sill of the remainder of the weir, and upon this latter half they placed a line of swinging boards which had the effect of raising the water height by about nine inches.

In 1889 a wooden pile bridge was erected across the Derwent and a branch railway line constructed to the Midland main line at Peckwash Siding. The line was equipped with a small steam locomotive which hauled in wagons of coal, rags, etc. and drew out box wagons of paper for despatch to customers.

Floods still came and drained away, and in 1890 the matter was once more taken up by the Duffield Vestry, and the following correspondence appears in the Churchwarden's Accounts and Notices of Vestry Meetings:-

"Copy of letter sent to Messrs. Tempest & Sons of Peckwash Paper Mills on the River Derwent on the raising of their weir.

Duffield, February 1st, 1890

Messrs. Tempest & Son.

Gentlemen,

The heating vault at Duffield Church is flooded with water, apparently from the Derwent, and as on last Sunday we are unable to make a fire though the attendant has been today six hours lading water.

Instead of the Brass plate on Duffield Bridge being above the water it is covered and is kept at that level by the raising of your weir.

The bottom of this plate is 3 ins. below the floor level of Church Heating Vault, the top of it is 9 ins. above the floor.

On the 25th ult. I measured the depth of water in Church Vault, and found it eight inches which apparently shows the flooding is caused by raised level of the river.

I need not remind you that your firm suggested to the Vestry (in a letter) the fixing of brass plate on the bridge, and that the inscription on the plate is "The bottom of this plate is the height of the top of weir. June 1854".

I trust you will at once alter your weir to conform to this plate, or I shall feel it my duty to lay the matter before the proper authority to obtain a remedy.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,  
Richard Waite  
Churchwarden

Messrs. Tempest & Son replied as follows:-

Little Eaton Paper Mills,  
Near Derby.  
February 5th 1890

Dear Sirs,

In reply to your letter respecting the flood getting in the boiler house of the Duffield Church heating apparatus, we are much inclined to think this only occurs when the floods are so high as to be quite beyond the control of anyone, the system of floodgates which we adopted nearly forty years ago, must have been and of course still are a great benefit to you, as the ordinary gates which extend halfway or thereabouts across the river draw the water two feet below the stone sill of the weir and in addition to those, we have our large floodgate with an opening of quite 12 feet wide and which draws the water down to its very bed, thus we prevent any ordinary flood from touching you and we are never slow to use the gates for our own benefit - We have always identified ourselves with your parish in almost everything and wish still to act in the most friendly way possible towards you.

In a conversation which the writer had with Mr. Waite, it appeared that the flooding might be entirely prevented (unless some enormous flood come such as we have only had two or three in the last 40 years) by placing the boiler in a cast iron tank, this Mr. Waite said would cost something like £30 to £40 and being desirous to cause you no loss or expense we hereby offer to pay this cost if you will have the work done.

We are, Yrs. faithfully, Tempest & Son  
To The Churchwardens, Duffield.



Copy reply in Duffield Churchwarden's Accounts.

Duffield, Feb. 22nd 1890.

To Messrs. Tempest & Son, Peckwash Mills.

Gentlemen,

Yours of 5th

Referring to the effect of the Peckwash Mill weir and the flooding of Duffield Church heating vault - The Church Officers have met and considered your kind offer to case the inside of the heating vault with an iron tank. They instruct me to thank you for the spirit as much as for the contents of your letter. I am at the same time to point out that an acceptance of your offer would possibly put us as parishioners in a rather invidious position if it should be decided by the Vestry, or by Ratepayers acting on their own responsibility to take steps to have the weir lowered to the authorised level. We know there is a strong feeling among the inhabitants of Duffield that the raised height of the weir is injurious - this compels us to decline your kind offer.

We feel that the insertion of planks by which the weir was raised above the level of brassplate on Duffield Bridge is so directly opposed to the offer made by your firm when the plate was fixed, and has so materially increased the ill effects of the weir that remedial measures are urgently needed.

Believe me - Yours faithfully,  
Richard Waite - Churchwarden.

Copy letter from Messrs. Tempest & Son.

Little Eaton Paper Mills near Derby  
April 30th 1892  
(Note:- it would appear that this  
date should be 1890)

Messrs. Stewart & Bridges,  
Overseers - Duffield

"Re Weir"

As you are aware we have suffered a severe loss lately and we have had no time to consider the resolution passed at your Vestry Meeting, and as the dry, summer weather is here there can be no fear of any mishaps through floods and every possible care shall be used to prevent annoyance to anyone and this we guarantee you.

Yours very truly,  
Tempest & Son.

What was the cause and amount of the loss referred to by Messrs. Tempest & Son is not now ascertainable, and apparently the Vestry was satisfied by the guarantee given in their letter, for there is no further record of any correspondence on the matter. The boards which had been placed on the sill of the weir on the Duffield half remained there without question for the remaining period during which the water power was used.

In 1894/5 work was begun on the modernisation of the mill. The five great water wheels were taken out and replaced by two large turbines. At the east end of the mill a very tall chimney was built to almost the height of the plateau on the hill top. It was thought that this chimney would give smokeless combustion of the fuel used but unfortunately did not do so, and this result was to be the cause of great trouble in the future. At the same time that these works were in progress a dynamo was installed and the whole of the establishment was lit by electricity, the first appearance in the district of this mode of lighting. In 1899/1900 new steam boilers with mechanical stoking were installed, but still the chimney continued to pour out smoke. The normal staff of the mill was about 180-190 men and 30 women.

#### FALL

In 1902 it was decided that Tempest & Son should be turned into a Limited Liability Company under the Companies Act 1862, and on the 4th of July an application for a certificate of incorporation was made followed by a statement of the nominal capital of the proposed new company on the 5th of the same month as follows:-

Authorised Capital - £37,000, divided into 3,700 shares of £10 each, sub-divided into the following denominations:-

1000 - 5% cumulative first Preference Shares  
1800 - 5% second Preference shares  
900 - Ordinary shares

---

3700

---

The Memorandum and Articles of Association were filed on the 7th July, the first Directors being John Tempest Harvey, Richard Roy Wansbrough and Robert Harvey. Two clauses are of interest - (1) payment to Henry Wansbrough, commercial traveller, of a life annuity of £150 by equal half-yearly payments. (2) the vendor shall out of his own monies pay to Robert Harvey the annuity of £450 charged on the mill for his life bequeathed to him by Selina Tempest hereinafter named or referred to.

The certificate of incorporation was granted on the 9th July 1902. Of the total available capital of 3,700 shares, 3,005 were allotted and issued to the first shareholders:-

	<u>1st Preference</u>	<u>2nd Preference</u>	<u>Ordinary</u>
Gertrude Harvey	1		
Amy F. Wansbrough	1		
Robert Harvey	1		
Henry Wansbrough	300		
Catherine S. Bookey	100		
John Tempest Harvey	400	1800	201
Richard Roy Wansbrough	—	—	201
	<u>803</u>	<u>1800</u>	<u>402</u>

On the 25th July 1902 John Tempest Harvey transferred to the new company by deed the Paper Mills at Little Eaton and Duffield for the sum of £20,000 ratified by the issue to him of 1800 5% second Preference shares of £10 each (18,000) and 200 Ordinary shares of £10 each (2,000).

Schedule of Property transferred appended to the deed:-

Copyholds:- All that middle part of all that piece of land situated at Little Eaton in the Manor of Little Chester in the County of Derby known by the name Lower Peckwash and also all that small piece 15 feet in width occupied as a railway siding of part of that piece of land situated in Little Eaton called the Far Peckwash and also all that the south westwardly part of all that piece of land situate in Little Eaton aforesaid called the Near Peckwash on which piece of land afterwards called the Peckwash Close a paper mill, outbuildings and other erections now in the occupation of the Vendor were sometime since erected to which said hereditaments the Vendor was admitted tenant of the Lord of the Manor on the 10th December, 1892 and which said hereditaments are shewn upon the plan endorsed on the Court Rolls of the said Manor subject to and charged by the Will of Selina Tempest a former owner of the said hereditaments with the payment to Robert Harvey of an annuity of £450 during his life and subject also to the right (if any) of the Canal Company to take water from the River Derwent so far as such rights affect the property sold.

Freeholds:- A piece of land used as the site of a railway and a bridge carrying the same over the River Derwent so far as such right affects the property sold.

So the mill became a limited company, and from this date its history was disastrous. The Accounts for the first year's operations disclosed a loss of £3,793 5s. 3d. and it was decided to write off the amount by a reduction of Capital of £4,000, the balance of £206 14s. 9d. being written off the Plant account, and on the 14th October 1903 the following Special Resolution was passed:-

"Owing to loss sustained the Capital to be reduced by £4,000 by

cancelling 400 £10 Second Preference shares in the name of John Tempest Harvey and the remaining 1400 in his name to be altered to Deferred shares with right to receive a dividend of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. out of the profits of each year after the First Preference and a dividend of 5 per cent. on the Ordinary shares.

This was a bad start, but much more serious trouble was looming ahead. From the eastern side of the mill the ground rises up a steep slope to the Outwoods plateau on the top of the hill. On this plateau there is a large house called the Outwoods which was acquired by a wealthy man, C. W. Catt, at the end of the 19th century. He enlarged this house and took up residence there about 1900, and was disconcerted to find that when the westerly winds blew the smoke and fumes from the tall chimney trailed straight across his house. An acrimonious correspondence ensued for some years, and finally Catt took the matter to Court, and was awarded a permanent injunction restraining Tempest & Son Ltd. from emitting smoke and fumes from the chimney. This was a fatal blow. On the 16th August 1906 the Company mortgaged the undertaking and all its assets whatsoever, both present and future, including the un-called capital for the time being, to the Union of London & Smiths Bank Ltd. for £5,000.

On the 25th August 1906 a special resolution was passed and confirmed on the 10th September 1906, as follows:-

"That the Company be wound-up voluntarily and that David Sibbald, C.A. Derby be and is hereby appointed Liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such winding-up at the usual remuneration for service as Liquidator."

The Liquidator commenced the sale of the assets and on the 8th June 1907 the mortgage was paid off in full, the document bearing the seal of the Company and the signature of the Liquidator.

A General Meeting of the shareholders was called by the Liquidator for the 11th May 1908, showing the manner in which the winding-up had been conducted by Notice in the London Gazette and Notice to each of the shareholders, but a quorum was not present at the Meeting held at the office of David Sibbald, Stones & Co., C.A., Market Place, Derby.

The Company was finally dissolved under clause 242(5) of the Companies (Consolidation) Act 1908 by Notice in the London Gazette dated 10th May 1910.

As if to complete the debacle a serious fire damaged the mill buildings in 1910 and the whole of the private records was destroyed.

#### AFTERMATH

The first tenant of the mill buildings after the close-down of Tempest & Son Ltd. was John Sennett, who started the production of "Duffield" crude oil engines, (The Road and Rail Engineering Co. Ltd.). This did not last long, for after he had sold a few engines an American company discovered

that he had acquired their drawings, and when he realised that they were "after him" he disappeared overnight, leaving his shareholders stranded.

After this the Shepshed Lace Company rented the mill, and were later bought out by the Bleachers Association Ltd., who acquired the property for use as a bleach works. Vast plans for new works were visualised. Surrounding land was purchased with the intention of building a 200 acre factory on the site. Plant had begun to arrive when it was discovered that there was a possibility that iron contents being put into the water higher up the river would ruin the water for bleaching, and the whole scheme was abandoned.

The question of flooding still occupied the attention of the people of Duffield, and on 9th March 1926 a Minute Book of the Parish Council contains the following:-

"Correspondence was read with the Bleachers Association Ltd. with reference to the prevention of floods by the regulation of the water level at Peckwash Mill, and it was decided to await further correspondence with the Association."

In 1928 the matter arose again, when it was discovered that there was a proposal to open an Artificial Silk Plant at Peckwash, and the Parish Council raised the question with the Belper Rural District Council in the following letter, dated 16th August 1928.

Dear Sir,

Peckwash Mill, Duffield

It has been brought to the notice of my Council that there is a proposal for the establishment at Peckwash Mills, Duffield, of an Artificial Silk Plant which it appears is to be worked by a firm called British Breda Silk Ltd. It has been thought advisable that the matter should be brought to the notice of the District Council for the following reasons:-

1. For many years it has been accepted that any alteration to the level of the River Derwent caused by storage or diversion of river water at the Peckwash Mill, has in the winter had a tendency to cause serious flooding throughout the lower parts of the Parish of Duffield.
2. The particular process which it is proposed to carry on has acquired a reputation in other parts of the country of causing public nuisance because of the fumes and chemical waste produced in the course of manufacture. In case the works proposed to be started at Peckwash should be of this kind it is almost certain that Duffield would be seriously affected as the prevailing wind comes from the direction of the works.
3. The present character of the Parish is entirely residential.

My Council has no desire to obstruct the successful carrying on of any industry in the district, but it is considered advisable to bring these points to the notice of the District Council in the event of any necessity arising for action to be taken for the abatement of any nuisance.

Yours faithfully,  
Sd. Donald A. Cash

The Clerk,  
Belper Rural District Council,  
Belper.

The artificial silk project failed to materialise, and in 1929 the site was leased to the Midland Angora Wool Society which set up machines at a cost of £5,000 for the purpose of spinning angora rabbit wool and dyeing it into coloured hanks, for distribution through wholesalers to the retail knitting trade.

In 1930 the brass plate affixed to Duffield Bridge regulating the height of the weir became loose, was detached and handed over to the District Surveyor, who undertook to re-fix it.

The angora company was apparently not aware that the river could still be dangerous. A violent flood in the spring of 1931 caught them badly. They neglected to raise the flood-gates on the weir, and before they realised what was happening over two feet of water was running through the mill. After this a night and day watch was kept on the river. Duffield village was badly affected by this flood. Once more the fast flowing Derwent backed up the waters of the Ecclesbourne until the waters of the latter flowed down Town Street and the Derby road like a river, and dozens of houses were swamped. One result of this flood was the repair of the weir by the Bleachers Association.

On hearing of this the Parish Council wrote to the Bleachers Association drawing their attention to the importance of maintaining the original level of the weir so that undue flooding of the Parish might be avoided. The Association replied that they had no present intention of raising the height of the weir.

It appears that about this time the brass plate was again affixed to Duffield Bridge, and remained there until the late 1930's, when it disappeared, apparently washed away by a further flood.

In 1932 the business was acquired by E. J. M. Knight, a Derby man, who re-named it Peckwash Ltd. Four years later he commenced the manufacture of table-cut mens' gloves, and took over the workpeople of East Mill Glove Company of Belper, which had recently closed down. The outbreak of war in 1939 stopped the production of angora yarn and gloves, and the mill switched to production of anti-gas clothing and web equipment for the armed forces. With two associate firms 31 million articles of such war equipment were produced. During the war it was found that the water turbines required new

LIGNUM VIT bearings. This extremely hard South American wood was essential, as it is not subject to friction under water, but the Ministry of Supply decided that the two blocks of wood could not be supplied for the purpose as it was all required for shipbuilding. This ludicrous decision resulted in the turbines becoming derelict, the water power wasted and mains electricity having to be installed to drive the machines.

During the war production of angora wool had ceased, and when peace came in 1945 it was decided to specialise solely in mens' gloves. The staff was built up to about 100, the majority female, and forty of them being out-workers. Electric sewing machines were issued to the latter, and twice a week the company's van delivered material and collected the finished work. The tenancy by Peckwash Ltd. ceased in 1958, when the company transferred the work elsewhere, and the premises were sold by the Bleachers Association Ltd.

To-day the mill premises are still vacant and the water power runs to waste. It is to be hoped that this fine site will one day be appreciated by a manufacturer, who will bring back some of its departed glories.

St. Albans, 1962.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am greatly indebted to the following for their ready help in assisting me in the compilation of this short history:

Roland M. Harvey Esq. of Leicester for information and proof reading.

Arthur Cross Esq. C.A. of Montreal, Canada for memories of his working days in the office at Peckwash, 1899-1906.

Lt. Commr. A. S. Bromby R.N. (retd.) for copies of minutes from the records of the Vestry of Duffield Church and the Parish Council of Duffield.

The Librarian of the University of London Library for permission to examine the un-published thesis by Dr. A. A. Shorter (1954) - The Historical Geography of the Paper Trade.

The Librarian of the Derby Central Library for permission to take a copy of the Agreement of 1806 between Thomas Tempest and the Derby Canal Company. The Superintendent of the Legal Branch Room of the Public Record Office for permission to take copies of the Company Files relating to the formation and winding up of Tempest & Son Ltd.

---





LOCAL HISTORY SECTION 1964

Chairman

Mr. R. Hayhurst,  
Tussington,  
Ashbourne, Derbys  
Tel.: Parwich 217

Secretary

Rev. D.H. Buckley,  
Thorpe Rectory,  
Ashbourne, Derbys  
Tel.: Thorpe Cloud 271

Treasurer

Mr. H.R. Window,  
12 Elm Grove,  
Chaddesden,  
Derby.

Editor

Mrs. F. Nixon,  
Southlea,  
Hazlewood Road,  
Duffield, Derbys  
Tel.: Duffield 2325

Assistant Editor

Miss B.M. Grieve,  
30 Empress Road,  
Derby.  
Tel.: Derby 44843

Records

Mr. A.E. Hale,  
237 Porter Road,  
Derby.  
Tel.: Derby 21517

Deputy Chairman

Mrs. R. Evans,  
10 Field Crescent,  
Alvaston, Derby.  
Tel.: Derby 71125

Committee

Mr. J.M. Bestall  
Mr. C. Daniel  
Mr. C.C. Handford  
Mr. C.J. Smith  
Mr. L.J. Stead  
Mr. H.J. Wain  
Mr. W.D. White

WINTER PROGRAMME 1964-1965

Saturday 17th October at 3:0 p.m. at the Bridge Chapel

Mr. J.W. Allen "The King's Highway"

Saturday 28th November at 3:0 p.m. at the Bridge Chapel

Mr. Howard Smith (of John Smith and Sons)  
"Turret Clocks"

Saturday 23rd January at 3:0 p.m. at the Adult Education  
Centre, Becket Street, Derby

The Annual General Meeting of the Section. This  
will be followed by short illustrated talks on a  
variety of subjects of general interest, by members  
of the Section.  
Tea will be served.

Saturday 6th March at 3:0 p.m.

Details circulated later

Saturday 10th April

Proposed visit to Leicester Museum