

Vol 6

# "DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY"

THE LOCAL HISTORY BULLETIN  
OF THE  
DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

Vol. VI : Part 3.

Spring, 1972.

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The Formation of the Derby Poor Law Union

By students of the Derby W.E.A. and University of Nottingham Extra-Mural Class 1969-1970 "Social and Economic History of Derbyshire." Mrs G.M.Cross, Mr F.L. Collick, Mr E.J.Wheatley, and Mr. G.T. Styles, B.A. (Tutor).

The Working of the Poor Law before 1834:

In 1800 each parish in England was required, as it had been since the time of Elizabeth I, to provide for those in need within its borders, by means of a poor rate levied on property. This aid could either be in the form of money or goods, or in the form of food and shelter provided in a workhouse.

There were five parishes in Derby when the Poor Law Amendment Act became law in 1834. They were St. Michael's, St. Alkmund's, St. Peter's, St. Werburgh's and All Saints'. They each had two unpaid overseers of the poor, elected by the ratepayers at the vestry meeting. Though they were unpaid they could charge expenses. The overseers were responsible to the Justices of the Peace and had power to collect their dues if necessary "by distress and sale of the refusers' goods."

The overseers of the parishes in Derby handled very considerable sums of money. In the year ending Easter 1803 according to "The Parliamentary Abstract of the Returns on the Expenses for the Maintenance of the Poor", £4,766.17s. 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. was obtained in rates; £2,429. 3s. 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. was spent on out-door relief, that is money or benefit paid to people at home; £1,671.17s. 7d. were on workhouse expenses; and £222.13s. 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. on overseers' expenses, lawsuits and removal charges.

It seems that as the population was about 11,000 (10,852 in 1801 and 13,045 in 1811) the cost works out at about 8s.6d. per head. A total of 1,060 people were helped, of whom 308 were under fourteen, 225 were over sixty or disabled, 254 were on occasional relief, and only 71 were not parishioners. This suggests that about half of those getting help were fit for work, but only a quarter of the 1,060 were on regular relief (2 percent of the population). It is likely that these were fit but unable to get work.

The expenditure on the poor in Derby increased from £1,704.17s. 5d. in 1766 to £4,323.12s. 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. in 1803. There is no suggestion that any allowance was made for the changes in the value of money that accompanied the French wars, so it is not possible to say precisely whether this implies a doubling of expenditure, though it does suggest an increase.

Another fact that deserves mention is that there were nine friendly societies in Derby in 1803, with an average of fifty members each; but there is no evidence bearing on their stability or effectiveness, though it is hard to believe that small societies were of much help in combatting poverty.

Stephen Glover in his "History and Directory of Derbyshire" published in 1833, says that each parish had its own workhouse. The one in All Saints' had 32 rooms, the one in St. Werburgh's 19 rooms, the one in St. Alkmund's 19 rooms, the one in St. Peter's 24 rooms, and St. Michael's used four three-roomed tenements which were occupied rent-free by poor families, but where there was neither governor nor matron. The true workhouses were occupied by 171 people who were fairly evenly distributed between the four, the highest total being 50 and the lowest 38. The average costs were 2s.6d. to 2s.8d. per person per week. Only the governor and matron of All Saints'

workhouse were singled out for praise for "their kind attention to the inmates under their care". Glover commented that the houses were ill-adapted for the purposes designed, and some of them in a bad state of repair.

#### The Situation in 1834:

Another source of information is "The Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law" published in 1834. But when considering the evidence for Derby, it must be remembered that the commissioners were looking for ways of making the poor assume more of their own responsibilities, and also ways of easing the burden of the poor rate on the rest of the community. Indeed Mr. Redmond Pilkington who conducted the inquiry, prefaced his evidence thus: "large endowments for the poor are injurious as drawing use to the revenues, rather than revenues to use." When he said that Derby was "by no means in a bad state", he meant that the poor were not being pampered. It must also be borne in mind that the population which had been 10,852 in 1801 had risen to 23,627 by 1831.

Mr. Pilkington praised what he found at St. Alkmund's where the amount required for the poor in 1831 for a population of 6,000 was £2,100, whereas in 1821 £1,741 had been required for a population of 3,500. He considered this to have been the consequence of a proper system of accounting and the appointment of an assistant overseer. This had been due largely to the interest taken from 1814 by a Mr. Strutt, who must have been William Strutt, a son of the industrial pioneer, who resided at St. Helen's House in the parish. Mr. Strutt however had died before the inquiry took place. The rates were 1s.6d. in the pound on 2/3 of the real value, which contrasted favourably with the rate charged in St. Michael's which was 3s.4d. in the pound. Mr. Pilkington considered that there, the undesirable conditions, high rates, pampered paupers and slovenly accounting stemmed from the weakness of the Justices who failed to make the paupers try to help themselves. A case was cited of a "stout-looking fellow" Mr. Pilkington met in the parish of St. Michael who had received 6s. a week for 15 years. Yet this man had a wife, 3 sons and 2 daughters, and a nephew living with him and all working. The man earned £3.3s. as a beadle, the same as a ringer, and £2.12s as a gardener. The total family income was £128.10s. a year, and in addition to the weekly allowance he had his rent of £5.4s. a year paid for him.

The commissioner reported that All Saints' and St. Peter's, with rates of 2s.6d. in the pound, were in a better state than St. Michael's, but the parish which gained his greatest approval was St. Werburgh's. He observed that "nature compels man to labour by the law work or starve... The wisdom of man reverses the process and compels the rich to be charitable and persuades the beggar to work." The credit for the state in St. Werburgh's was attributed to a Mr. Henry Mozley, whose efforts had reduced the assessment which averaged £3,500 a year in the early 1820's for a population of about 5,300, to £1,800 in the early 1830's for a population 1,000 greater. Mr. Mozley had broken the enfeebling grip of the J.Ps who normally were the final authority on poor law enforcement. Mr. Mozley had made use of the Select Vestry Act. This altered the management of the parish so that the final appeal was to the vestry (the meeting of rate-payers) and not to the J.Ps who seemed to have been rather slack. Mr. Mozley had been applying the workhouse test. People who wanted help had to go to the workhouse or get nothing. The assistant overseer of the poor for St. Werburgh's was also overseer of the roads. This put him in a strong position for supervising the paupers' work which often consisted of stone-breaking for roads in the case of men. Only the aged and impotent were willing to stay any

any length of time in St. Werburgh's workhouse. Each half year, the names of those who had been given help were published, together with the names of mothers of bastards who were on relief and the names of fathers in arrears with maintenance. The life of the undeserving poor was truly hard.

The report bears out the judgement that the provisions of the 1834 Act were in many ways a wider application of principles already in operation in some parishes. The main point of the Poor Law Amendment Act was that help for the able-bodied was to be in a workhouse only, and there, life was to be made deliberately less pleasant than that of the lowest paid worker in the district.

#### 1834 - 1837. The Work of the Guardians:

Such a drastic revision could not be applied overnight, and the same overseers continued in office until a new union of the five parishes under an elected Board of Guardians could be established. The correspondence preserved in the Public Record Office (MH 12 1984) and later the minutes of the union preserved in Derby Reference Library, give us some idea of how the process began.

John Moody, the overseer of St. Werburgh's, wrote to Somerset House, the office of the Poor Law Commissioners, in March 1835 to report that the belief that there was plenty of work in the Midlands for whole families of paupers from the south, was quite mistaken. He reported that people stayed at work for less than the parish would have allowed them because that meant working in a warm mill, whereas parish relief would mean working outside on the roads in the cold. Yet in the same year, Thomas Bridgett, a silk manufacturer, replied to a circular from Somerset House that he would be willing to accept labour, mainly children 10 - 14 and women, only a few men and girls rather than boys. The wages would be 8 - 12 years 1s.6d. - 3s. 6d. a week, 12 - 14 3s.6d - 5s. a week, and young and older women 6s. to 8s. a week. He claimed that work was good and steady and that he would need 15 to 20 families, but not all at once. Men could get between 10 and 12 shillings. Relief from the parish might be no more than 2s.6d. The work was described as silk throwing, twisting and weaving ribbons by power, and dyeing. The power was probably water power from Markeaton Brook as the mill was in Bridge Street. He was still asking for labour four months later when he was told that it would arrive shortly.

During the preparatory years, the chief claimants for office, both clerical and medical, wrote to offer their services to the commissioners, and supported their requests with letters of recommendation and even a petition in one case. When the exact name of the body, to which applications for posts should be made, was published, these modest gentlemen did not scruple to ask for their testimonials back.

Unlike the Overseers of the Poor who had previously been responsible for the paupers of the several parishes and who were answerable only to the Vestry, the new Board of Guardians was answerable to a Central Government Body - the Poor Law Commissioners. Almost all the decisions of the Board of Guardians had to be submitted to the Commissioners for their approval. But there was no shortage of directives and orders coming from the central body.

The new Board of Guardians was faced with two main tasks: firstly, the continued maintenance and relief of the poor of the parishes of their Union, and secondly, the provision of one central workhouse for the whole Union, either by converting one of the parish workhouses for the purpose or by building a new one. The task of co-ordinating the work of the old parish workhouses, improving the

standards which obtained there, complying with the flow of directives from the Commissioners, purchasing land and making arrangement for the new building, and phasing out the old workhouses one by one until the new Union Workhouse was ready for occupation, was one which fully occupied the Board over the following eighteen months.

From the Minute Books of the Derby Board of Guardians it is possible to trace the progress of this work week by week. Also in the Minute Books are to be found the case-histories of families, and individuals, of aged and infirm folk and even children applying for out-door relief. Sometimes the relief is given, sometimes it is refused, many times an order is given to go into the workhouse.

#### Indoor Relief:

At a meeting of 18th April, 1837, the Board of Guardians studied reports on the four parish workhouses and suggested that they should be used temporarily as follows :-

- All Saints' Workhouse for Males.
- St. Peter's Workhouse for Females and Vagrants.
- St. Werburgh's Workhouse for Children and to provide rooms for officers of the Union and for meetings.

St. Alkmund's Workhouse was not to be used - so in May, 1837, it was ordered that "all paupers in St. Alkmund's Workhouse be removed to the other workhouses" and (13th June, 1837) that the Mangle was to be sent to All Saints'. In February the following year the building, in Lodge Lane, was advertised for sale and in June was purchased by Mr. John Harrison for £500.

All Saints' Workhouse in Walker Lane, was to be used for the Males. In July 1837 it was ordered that all unmarried men from St. Peter's be sent there. In September the Board ordered "the Governor to attend church with the paupers twice each Sunday" and directed that "paupers are not to be allowed out on Sunday evening". In October the Commissioners were requested to sanction the dismissal of the Governor and his wife for misconduct, and to approve the appointment as Governors of All Saints' of "George Calladine, formerly sergeant in the 19th Regiment of Foot, and his Wife Ann.....at a salary of £30 per annum.....and also that his child aged 6 years be allowed to be an inmate of the House upon the same diet as his parents, the Guardians having reduced the salary by £10 on that account."

In January, 1838, all boys under 14 years were to be sent to St. Werburgh's workhouse, and in November the same year, in preparation for the opening of the New Workhouse it was ordered that "all boys and able-bodied male paupers be removed to the New Workhouse. Men to be kept entirely separate from the Boys".

St. Werburgh's Workhouse in Friar Gate, was under the supervision of W.R. Gawthorne and his wife. In the Report on the workhouses it was stated that "all children who are able to go are sent to the Bells and Infant Schools" and that no children were sent to the mills. As this workhouse was to be used for the children only, the Board was able to economise by moving Mr and Mrs Gawthorne to St. Peter's and appointing (with the consent of the Commissioners) Mrs. Ann Walker as Matron at a salary of "£25 per annum and Rations".

In May 1837 it was decided that "the children be not sent out to work at present" and in June that "the children in St. Werburgh's be taken out once a day". School books were purchased for the children and by a lucky chance for the Board in September an applicant for relief was a young woman named Emma Natt.

It is recorded in the Minutes for September, 1837, that Emma Natt, aged 24 years, residing in Normanton Road, was ill and unable to work. Her father was a carver and Gilder and "a man of Property". She was taken into the workhouse and a maintenance order was to be obtained against her father. Miss Natt evidently recovered sufficiently in health to help with the children and within about three months the Board had decided "that Emma Natt have the same allowance of food as the Governor in consideration of her teaching the children".

In October 1838, thirteen months after her admission as an inmate to the workhouse, the Board recommended Miss Natt's "appointment as Schoolmistress (temporarily)" at a salary of "£10 a year for the present". "Two dozen slates for the Girls" were ordered a week later. Unfortunately, a few months afterwards, the Board had to advertise in the Derby papers for a Schoolmistress ("Miss Natt having resigned from indisposition"). In the "Derby Mercury (13th March 1839) was recorded the death of Emma Natt "for some time Schoolmistress at the Union Workhouse, aged 24 years.....after severe illness.... patiently borne".

However, Miss Natt was not responsible for teaching all the children in the workhouse. The Board had earlier advertised for a Schoolmaster and his Wife at a salary of £30 per annum. Mr. Henry Cummings was appointed, but as he had no wife his salary was £20 a year with maintenance. In March 1839, with the approval of the Commissioners, the Schoolmaster's salary was increased to £30. According to the 1841 Census, Henry Cummings (25 years old) was still a schoolmaster at the Union Workhouse, but by 1857 (White's Directory) he had become Headmaster of St. Werburgh's School in Curzon Street.

In the Minutes it is recorded, and later it was advertised in the "Derby Mercury", that the children of people receiving out-door relief could attend the workhouse school free of charge. How many took advantage of this we cannot tell - perhaps it was easier or more advantageous to send a child out to work at the mills than to send it to school. Little Fanny Swindell, aged ten, "having only just commenced work" was earning 7d. per week; her brother Charles, eleven years, was earning 2s.3d., and sister Elizabeth, also eleven, was able to take home 3s.

Is it a touch of paternal care we see when, in February, 1838 Jane Shipley, aged 12 years, an inmate in the workhouse, obtains a situation at Mr. Boden's, the hairdresser, "and is in want of a few necessaries of clothing". Her application is refused, "the situation being considered an improper one for a young girl". The 1841 Census records three child inmates of the name of Shipley still in the workhouse. Williams (12 years), Eliza (11 years) and Georgina (9 years); but no adult of that surname.

St. Peter's Workhouse in St. Peter's Churchyard, was rented for £22.10s.0d. per year from the Trustees of the Liversage Charity. It was used solely for women inmates and had a separate section for vagrants. When the Governor required the assistance of male paupers in this house, they were sent from All Saints, but it was stipulated that they must return there for meals. We do not know whether the Governor was generous or not in the supply of food to the inmates, but in July 1837 he was "instructed to adhere strictly to the directives contained in the diet table".

The preparation of the diet table was one of the first tasks of the Board of Guardians. It was compiled by the Diet Committee and had to be submitted to the Poor Law Commissioners in London for their approval. The first menu suggested by the Committee provided for three meals a day: breakfast, dinner and supper, and consisted mainly of starchy foods.



Breakfast, the same for every day of the week, was set out in the Diet Table as "Milk Porridge made of  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of new milk mixed with water and thickened with flour and oatmeal. 8 oz. Bread cut up and put into a quart can and filled up with porridge for a man. 6 ozs. of Bread in a quart can for a woman. 4 ozs. of Bread in a pint can for a child under nine years of age."

Supper, on five days of the week, was the same as for Breakfast but on Sundays and Thursdays inmates were given a change. On those days supper consisted of 6 oz. of Bread and 2 oz. of Cheese for a man, 5 oz. of Bread and 2 oz. of Cheese for a woman.

Dinner, in the middle of the day, offered a little more variety. It consisted mainly of soups, broth, stew, rice pudding and suet dumpling.

This, as mentioned earlier, was the original menu submitted to the Board, but the Diet Committee was then instructed to reconsider its proposals and almost three months elapsed before the new Diet Table received the approval of the Poor Law Commissioners. In the Minute Book there is no indication of what alterations had to be made in the Table to obtain its acceptance. There can be little doubt, however, that the Commissioners in London would be less generous in its provisions than would the local Board of Guardians; their aim being to provide accommodation for paupers at a level certainly no higher than that of the lowest paid labourer.

#### Outdoor Relief:

Much of the work of the Board was the provision of out-door relief. It appears that the Relieving Officer, Mr. John Collumbell, would visit the aged or infirm applicants, examine their case, and would or would not assist them there and then by the provision of bread, or meat, or money or possibly by all three. The amount of money given to an applicant varied from 6d. to about 2s.6d. per week. The usual amounts seem to have been 1s. and 1s.6d. Many old people with no income and no-one to support them, seem to have been granted 4 lbs. of bread, 1 lb. of meat and 1s.6d. in money. All relief allowed by the Relieving Officer had to be confirmed by the Board at its next meeting.

The meetings of the Board were held every Tuesday evening, the first part of which was devoted to examining applicants for relief and deciding on what help, if any, should be given.

During the year ending 31st March 1838, the Board issued to the Relieving Officer cheques to the value of £1,390. This money was distributed in out-door relief as cash payments averaging in total about £26 per week.

Many applications were heard from people who had been bereaved; a husband, a wife or a child had died. Very often a coffin was supplied and the burial fees granted. Because of the number of coffins needed, the Guardians decided to seek tenders for coffins which were to be of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wood for children up to 12 and  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wood for the rest. They were to cost 6s. and 9s. respectively. From the records it is clear that many of these were for paupers not resident in the workhouse. The frequency of deaths of inmates was not especially high. For example in 1840 according to returns published in the "Mercury", there were 19 deaths when the population of the workhouse varied between 146 and 216.

The place of settlement of an applicant was still very important - it being noted in the margin of the Minute Book against many of the cases. Many applicants were given a suspended order of removal and sent into the workhouse until such time as they could be

returned to their own town or village. We are reminded that the railway had not yet reached Derby when, in July 1837, we read that "Thomas Axam, aged 13 years, belonging to Marston, Bedfordshire, had been sent off by Boat by the Relieving Officer at the expense of 9s.1d."

Cheques also had to be sent for the maintenance of people out of town whose place of settlement was Derby. A quarterly payment of £2.14s. was paid for the maintenance of William Holmes aged 14 years, a deaf and dumb boy who was an in-patient at the Blind Asylum, Edgbaston. Unfortunately he had misbehaved himself (escaped for a week) and the Asylum "wished him to be fetched home immediately" .. inquiries were to be made "if the carriers could fetch him from the School (sic) and if not that Mr. Hazledine fetch him."

A considerable number of framework-knitters were asking for relief. Their trade had been steadily declining for twenty years in the face of competition from the bigger and more powerful hosiers. Light is thrown on their living conditions by an entry for 7th August 1838, which reads, "Joseph Day, 66 years old, framework-knitter applied for relief. He has been in the workhouse some time ago; he states that his earnings are from 3s. to 5s. per week, out of which he has to pay Frame Rent, Lodging and Maintenance; he has no relations that could do anything for him." The Board ordered him into the workhouse, where he was still living in June 1841 when the census was taken. One wonders whether he was put to the same work as other able-bodied paupers - breaking Quorn Blue stone into gravel, from six in the morning till seven in the evening.

The planning and construction of the first Union Workhouse in Derby, and of the early period of its occupation:  
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The resolution to build a new workhouse, made on the 18th April, 1837, was quickly followed by an attempt by at least one member to dissuade the Board from the idea of building a single workhouse for all the paupers. This move made little headway, and by the 25th May the sub-committee set up for the purpose had found a suitable site of more than two acres in Osmaston Road, in Litchurch township, the property of a Miss Sandars; the Board had approved this site, and a purchase price of £370 per acre had been agreed. It was decided that the new Workhouse should be built to accommodate five hundred paupers, and advertisements were inserted in the "Derby Mercury" and "Reporter" Newspapers in the following week, for architect's plans for the new Workhouse.

Two plans were submitted, and at a special meeting of the Board held on the 7th July, a second sub-committee, having examined the plans, reported that "each....though of a totally different character, contain excellencies peculiar to themselves, but....one of the plans is not drawn in accordance with the proposed site". The satisfactory plan was adopted, an amendment suggesting a fresh advertisement being negatived. At the next week's meeting, a further sub-committee was set up, to superintend the building of the new Workhouse. When in July 1837, the plans were submitted to the Poor Law Commissioners, they were criticised for being too luxurious according to the correspondence in the Public Record Office. Special rooms for the governor and matron and their servants were condemned, and seven stair-cases were deleted. The Derby Union were anxious to get on with the job and partly pay for it by selling the old workhouses. This produced endless correspondence with Somerset House, despite the fact that Mr. Stevens, the assistant commissioner, urged his superiors to expedite their decisions so that work could commence.

During the late summer and early autumn of 1837, the building sub-committee superintended the purchase of bricks, and put the building

of the Workhouse to tender. Tenders did not flow in, however, and it was not until the 13th February, 1838, that the tender of Messrs. Sisons and Robinsons for the sum of £5,635 was accepted by the Board. Only three weeks later, the builders were allowed to increase their tender by  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ .

On April 3rd, 1838, a new sub-committee of seven was set up, 'to be called the Building and Workhouse Committee, and to superintend the erection of the new Workhouse, the fitting up of the same and all other matters relating to the furnishing and repairs thereof and the borrowing loans on the same and report when necessary to this Board.' The number of sub-committees involved at various stages of the operation, and the frequency and evident length of the meetings of the whole Board, suggest considerable devotion to public business on the part of those involved.

The building work seems to have gone forward swiftly, and at the end of August the Building Committee were recommending to the Board that the contracts for the supply of furniture and fittings should be put to tender. A tender for heating the Workhouse at a cost of £220 had already been accepted in June, and at the end of July insurance of £1,000 was approved - a surprisingly low figure in view of the construction costs already incurred.

Throughout September and October, 1838, the Board was concerned with the appointment of a Governor and Matron, 'a man and wife without incumbrance', whose joint salary was to be £80 per annum and rations. Mr and Mrs Gawthorne were appointed rather hastily, apparently without notice of this item of business being given to all the members of the committee. Protests must have been made, as the decision was soon rescinded, though the original choice was eventually confirmed, without any advertisement of the post.

While the final work was proceeding, the Building Committee met at the new Workhouse for the first time on 23rd October, 1838; the new Governor and Matron were present, and various resolutions involving modifications and additions to the building were passed. A month later, the new Workhouse came into use, when the boys and able-bodied men were moved there. From this time, the minute-book begins to give some indication of the problems which arose in the early months.

Although another sub-committee was appointed to regulate the running of the Workhouse, matters of detail were often brought to the notice of the Board. On the 2nd April, 1839, a resolution was passed 'that the bearers at funerals from the Workhouse be allowed a pint of ale each,' but in January 1840, a request from the Governor that mourning gowns and scarfs should be provided for funerals of paupers' children was turned down, paupers should 'attend in the dress of the House'. A number of more general decisions and discussions are recorded, and from these a picture of life in the Workhouse quickly emerges.

The official list of rules gives us some idea of how the institution was conducted. The regulations were approved by the Board on 11th June, 1839:

1. That no person be allowed to smoke in the workhouse except under the order of the Medical Officer and any person found smoking to be treated as a disorderly person.  
The diet of a disorderly man to be 16 oz. Bread, 16 oz. Potatoes and salt. Women and children 12 oz. bread, 12 oz. potatoes and salt.
2. That no clothes be allowed to lay about the house but be collected up and placed in the old clothes store.
3. That no knives, forks or spoons be allowed to be seen in any of the bedrooms, or in any day except at meals and

after each meal to be counted up and carried away and placed under the superintendence of the Governor or Matron.

4. That all Iron Bedsteads not in use and all boxes and other articles in the paupers' bedrooms be removed forthwith.
5. That the beds be made by each class of paupers the first thing in the morning and the rooms cleared out, then the beds double folded open and remain so until bedtime, the windows being always open when the weather permits.
6. That Governor and Matron select from among the class called aged and infirm, all the women able to work and that they go and reside with the able-bodied women.
7. That 2 wicker-work cradles to contain 6 children each be ordered for the use of the workhouse women.
8. That a pump be fixed in the Guild Yard for soft water for the use of the vagrant offices, and that the hard water tap in the same yard be repaired.
9. That the boys attend school from 9 to 11 o'clock in the forenoon, learn shoemaking and tailoring from 11 to 12 afternoon, attend school from 2 to 4, then do outdoor work from 4 to 5 in the garden in front of the house.

That it be recommended that poles and swings be fixed in the Boys' and Girls' Yards and Hoops be purchased for the amusement and recreation of Children after school hours.

The discipline imposed on the inmates was strict: they were not allowed out of the Workhouse except in exceptional circumstances; they were kept in separate groups according to their age and sex, and were separated from their families, though children were allowed to sleep with their mothers until the age of four. A punishment room was set aside, and a punishment diet was laid down with the agreement of the Poor Law Commissioners. Not surprisingly, the problem of keeping the paupers safely inside the House arose more than once; five boys absconded together in June 1839, adult paupers used excuses to obtain a few hours' freedom, and at a Board meeting early in February 1840 a member remarked caustically that 'it would be desirable if possible to prevent the escape of the able-bodied paupers from the yard'. The regulation of daily life inside the Workhouse was the concern of the Education and Regulation committee - another sub-committee of the Board - whose orders were executed by the Governor, not always entirely to the satisfaction of the Board, as the records show.

Careful consideration was given to educational provision; a schoolmaster and schoolmistress were appointed, and the expenditure of more than ten pounds on books for a library was approved soon after the Workhouse opened. The first report of the Education Committee on the progress of the pauper children's education is a little startling to the modern ear - the boys were said to be proceeding 'highly satisfactorily' and the girls 'satisfactorily with the exception of their not being able to write' ! The schoolmistress was evidently not very well qualified, for the master was henceforth given charge of the girls' writing lessons, and of assisting 'in putting them under a regular system of education'. Even the spiritual and moral state of the inmates was carefully supervised, the chaplain being required 'to examine the children weekly and after such examination to record the same and state the progress of the children and the moral and religious state of the inmates in a book to be laid before the next Board.' Perhaps more than any other entry, this illustrates the light in which the Guardians saw their relationship to those in need of material help.

The difficult problem of the care of pauper lunatics took up much of the Board's time in the early months after the Workhouse opened. A solution to the handling of the most violent cases was found in the transfer to a lunatic asylum at Lichfield of several inmates of the new Derby Workhouse. The Guardians showed their usual care in choosing the asylum. Their clerk was sent to Lichfield, and reported satisfactorily on the manner in which the asylum was run, and on the views of its manager, who considered that lunatics 'ought to be treated as though they were quite sane, with the greatest kindness yet with firmness'. This question of the care of the insane highlights the fact that, under the Workhouse roof, a number of very different social problems - the aged, the handicapped, the deserted child, the unsupported mother - had to be dealt with together before the modern network of social agencies had developed.

#### Financial Aspects of Relief:

During the period May 1839 to May 1840 the expenditure on outdoor relief amounted to £1,322 of which £765 was given in cash and £557 given in kind. The proportion of cash to kind is somewhat of a surprise but perhaps a considerable amount of cash went on rents which it would be essential to pay if families were not to be taken into the workhouse. That relief in cash referred to fixed charges seems to be borne out by the fact that in the week before Christmas 1839 the amount given in kind doubled on that usually given, without any increase in the amount of cash given. It would seem that the poor law was affected by the Christmas spirit as the extra distribution one assumes would be extra food and fuel. Outdoor relief was given throughout the whole period with peaks in the number of cases of 275, 278, 276, 278 and 286 in May 1839, July 1839, early and late February 1840 respectively.

The amount given in relief by the Poor Law Board must have been affected considerably by other types of relief that were available; for instance during the period 5th January 1840 to the 11th April 1840, £795 was spent on the relief of the unemployed poor from a fund raised by public subscription organised by the Mayor of Derby. This relief was given mainly in food, bread, rice and soup. Some cash was given and some employment was found, the fund paying for work done. During the period the fund lasted 9,087 persons were relieved, comprising 4,750 children, 2,128 women and 2,209 men. These are of course global figures as the persons helped were mainly the same repeated.

The highest number relieved during one week from this fund was during the week ending 11th January 1840 when 1,217 persons were helped, comprising 306 men, 263 women and 648 children.

A breakdown of the relief given for that week is interesting. It was as follows :-

		£.	s.	d.	
4,896 pounds of bread	..	40	16	0	
342 pounds of rice	..	3	17	11	
1,442 quarts of soup	..	15	0	5	
Cash .. .. .	..	20	17	6	<u>£80.11s.10d.</u>

The amount given by the Poor Law Board on outdoor relief for the same week was £25.11s.9d. on 236 cases of which £14.8s.6d. was in cash and £11.3s.3d. in kind.

Another source of relief was the Derby Benevolent Society which in 1839 helped 2,950 cases for an expenditure of £218.6s.7d.

The average weekly number of inmates for the same period was 151 ranging from a low of 108 in the week ending 21st September 1839 to a peak of 182 for the week ending 7th March 1840. There was a steady rise in the number of inmates all through the winter from a low in September to the high in March. A look at the graph shows the

relationship one would expect between the numbers on indoor and outdoor relief. It also shows that it was not possible to reduce the numbers very dramatically.

It is interesting to note that during the period under study, only 20 deaths of inmates were recorded. This is surprising as one would have expected a high death rate amongst the many elderly and weakly people who must have been resident.

There was a fair amount of traffic in admissions and discharges each week, the highest number of admissions being 24 in the week ending 7th December with only 4 discharges. There were altogether during the period under study 412 admissions and 417 discharges.

Some idea of how Derby compared with other places is given in the "Mercury" of 11th December. This reports that the Nottingham Union had 526 inmates in the workhouse, employed outdoor 160 men having families at 9s. per week and in addition gave outdoor relief to more than 700 families.

The graph, Fig.1., illustrates the efforts made by the Derby Union to get control over the extent of out-door relief. It is plain that the number of cases on this kind of relief followed the same trends as the number on indoor relief, but whereas there were nearly twice as many on outdoor relief as on indoor relief in May 1839, by May 1841 the difference was only one fifth as many.

#### The Union in Action:

An occasional sidelight is thrown by the records on the political controversies of the day and of the way in which the Derby Poor Law Union became involved. In 1840 the commissioners were horrified by a letter of complaint signed by "A. Ratepayer", who alleged that the Union was using its funds to promote a petition asking for the repeal of the corn laws. The commissioners forbade such action and the clerk replied that the Guardians had only been considering the "propriety of the petition and had decided against it."

Reading the correspondence frequently causes amazement at the day to day decisions on which Somerset House were asked to adjudicate. For example in 1840 a milk supplier complained that his tender to supply milk at 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d a gallon had been rejected for one at 7d. a gallon. In this case the wisdom of the Derby union was upheld because they believed that the higher priced supplier would supply better milk. Every appointment was scrutinised. In November 1839 a copying clerk was selected. This was challenged by the commissioners as a new post, but it was shown to have been merely a replacement. Sometimes London had to adjudicate on what were clearly squabbles between local factions. In March 1840 the nomination of one group was declared invalid because the man nominated had been more than six months in arrears with his rates. The nomination was defended on the grounds that he had paid in the 25th week, and that unless the term 6 months meant 6 lunar months he had paid within the limit of 6 calendar months. Somerset House ruled that the term meant calendar months so presumably the disqualification was null and void.

Quite soon after the new workhouse on Osmaston Road had been opened, there came in 1840 a serious complaint about its management. It seems that Mr. Senior, a commissioner, proposed to take up the report of the auditor that during the first quarter of the year, 50 stones of bread, 4,730 lbs. potatoes and 64 lbs. cheese had been found to be deficient. Another commissioner, Mr. Mott, had about the same time found that the auditor's written comments in the minute and account books had been erased. He had found the Women's quarters smelly and the windows stuffed with rags. There were old clothes in odd corners, windows and floors were generally dirty, and - most reprehensible of all - a dead child was lying on one bed with a coffin on the next. The Commissioner had visited the wash-house and found

women smoking and a man reading.

Mr. Mott recommended the governor's dismissal, or at least that pressure should be put on him and the matron to resign rather than face disgrace. But these two officials were unwilling to accept such a fate with humility. They produced lengthy evidence in their defence. They quoted extracts from the visitations book for the previous year showing difficulties with the water supply, and difficulties with the coal stored in the yard and therefore bringing dirt into the building on people's feet. They pointed out that when they had reported inmates for idleness, nothing had been done by those in authority. In a later memorandum, they claimed that the complaint about the window stuffed with rags referred to a woman who had been sitting there sewing. She had had a bad throat and had put rags in the crack of the window to keep out the draught. The cleaning of the floors and windows had been made more difficult by the use of chaff beds, which made a lot of dust. Anyway, for cleaning 198 windows the governor was only able to employ one infirm inmate and one imbecile. The dead child, the governor explained, had died on a Sunday, the coffin had been obtained on the Monday and had been delivered at 4 o'clock and Mr. Mott had arrived at 5 o'clock before anything could have been done. As for the complaint about the wash-house, one woman with a swelled face had been given permission to smoke, the others were breaking the rule. Regarding the man reading the governor expostulated, "Is it a crime to read a good book after a hard day's work Dollying and Mangling?" Even this vigorous defence did not save the governor or matron, though the Derby Guardians came to the conclusion that they were inefficient rather than negligent. Therefore they were allowed to continue for a while, and a new appointment was made in July 1840.

Another quite different incident illustrates that some people were not easily browbeaten even though they were poor. In 1843 a letter was sent direct to the Poor Law Commissioners from Derby gaol. A debtor was serving a sentence for a debt of £2.4s.4d. He seems to have been able to make provision for 3 of his 5 children although he was a widower, but 2 were in the workhouse. He suffered from an inflammation of the eyes and feared the loss of his sight. He wrote to the commissioners about being allowed to see these 2 children. He had been allowed one visit but had been refused further visits because the children, who had to be accompanied, had been late returning to the workhouse. The commissioners supported his application though agreeing that the rules about hours had to be kept. What incensed the Derby officials and guardians was the demanding tone of his requests. This reached a peak when the debtor wrote a long sarcastic letter to the guardians claiming his rights, and threatening to expose the mean attitude of the guardians when he came out of prison. All this was in a letter ending "Your respectful and humble servant". Though this letter was reported word for word to the commissioners, they still insisted that a father had the right to see his children, even if the man in question was neither deserving nor grateful.

From many of the cases it appears that the stay of a person or a family in the workhouse was often of short duration; sometimes a week or two, sometimes a little longer. Often, after having been discharged, a family would be applying for relief or admittance again within a month or two. An illness, a death, loss of employment or eviction from lodgings could soon make this application inevitable.

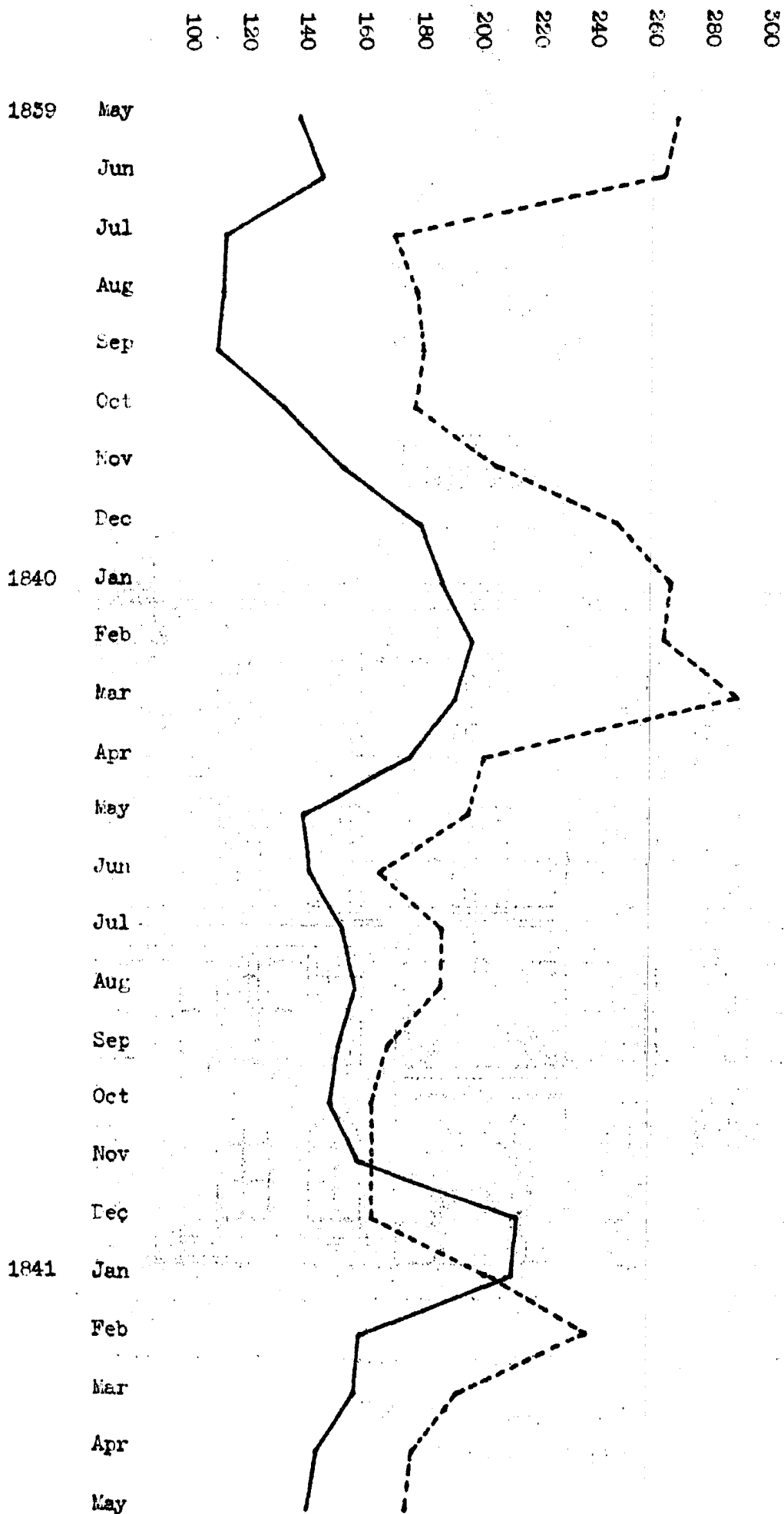
The Board of Guardians were not afraid to take the clergy to task for not attending to the spiritual needs of the inmates. After passing a vote of thanks to "the Clergymen of St. Peter's and All Saints' for their kind gratuitous attendance and attention to the

MAY 1839 - MAY 1841 NUMBER OF ILLEGALS AND NUMBER OF OUTDOOR RELIEF

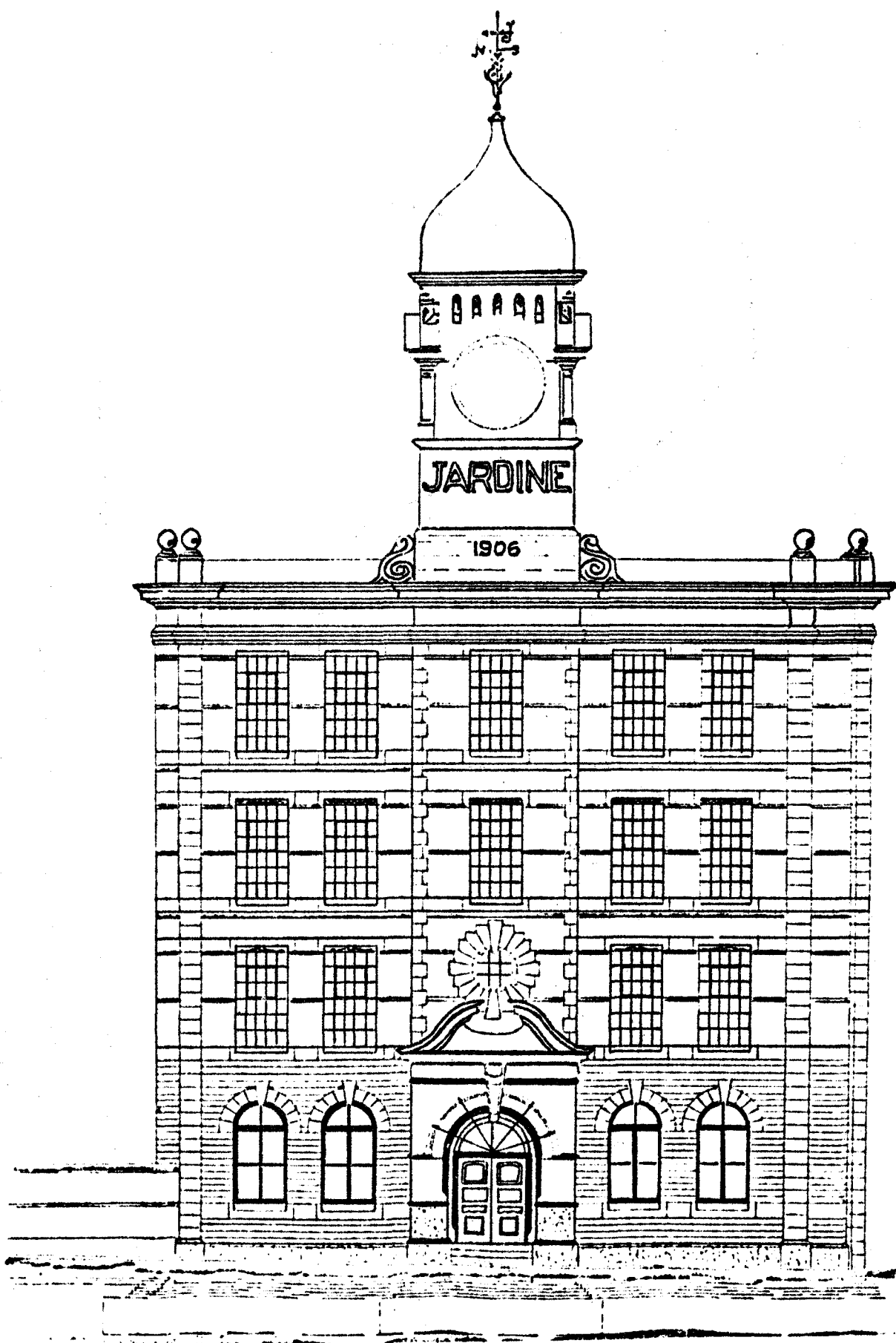
based on figures published weekly in the Derby Mercury

—— ILLEGALS

----- OUTDOOR RELIEF







VICTORIA MILLS  
-front elevation -

spiritual welfare of the Inmates of the Workhouses in those parishes" it was decided (3rd April 1838) "that the Chairman be requested to communicate to the Clergymen of St. Werburgh's Parish the regret of this Board that while the adults in the Workhouses of St. Peter's and All Saints' were receiving such advantages, the children and young paupers in the workhouse of St. Werburgh's should be so entirely neglected by the Clergymen of that Parish."

It was mentioned earlier that in the Minute Books were to be found the case-histories of families, of aged and infirm folk, and even of children applying for out-door relief. Yes, the case-histories are there, but only in the barest details relevant to the Board's task of assessing need. After reading page after page of these minutes, written for the most part in beautiful copy-book script, one develops a kind of insensitivity to words. The same words and phrases occur so frequently that they become commonplace - they become part of the "case" - part of the application for relief.

What, in the eighteen-thirties, did it mean to be "out of work and destitute" or "being ill and unable to work", or to have one's "husband transported"? What did it mean to be "residing in Brook Street"? And what did it mean to the family who found it necessary to "apply to go into the workhouse" or who were given "an order into the workhouse"?

Many of the applicants were described as "destitute" - no income, and perhaps lodging or "residing" in one of the many courts or overcrowded houses of Derby. They would have no home of their own, and no furniture, in fact, hardly any personal possessions at all. Once they had been reduced to this lowest level of society, what were their chances of raising themselves up again? How, after being discharged from the workhouse, could they again set up home? Relatives, both near and distant, often seem ready to help in providing some kind of shelter.

The minute books of the Guardians also present a fragmentary but vivid picture of workhouse life, and an impressive record of the conscientiousness of the Guardians in fulfilling their task. Though reduced to subsistence level, it would seem that the paupers were not subjected to cruelty. Is this impression a true one? Certainly it is surprising that the Board's apparently careful supervision of the Workhouse did not avoid the crisis which came in 1840, when one of the Poor Law Commissioners levelled grave charges of neglect and dishonesty against the Governor, who was eventually dismissed; the Board took his part to some extent, and clearly they must have felt implicated. Furthermore, although there is more than one reference to incidents at the Workhouse leading to the offenders being called before the Board, there is no record of what took place on these occasions or of the punishments which followed. Here, perhaps, are clues to the existence of a darker side to Workhouse life than that presented in the written records of the Board.

Quite apart from such suppositions, however the hopeless situation of many of the inmates is quite apparent. Most of them must have been dependent on help from friends or relatives outside for any hope of a return to normal society, and for the aged or infirm the prospect must have been bleak indeed. Although children were found places as apprentices where possible, there is no evidence of any similar attempt to find work outside for the adult paupers, and the hopelessness of their position, as much as the rigour of Workhouse life and the social stigma it carried, must have made the life a degrading one.

#### Sources:

Abstract of Returns for the Expense and Maintenance of the Poor, 1803.  
Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law, 1834.  
Minutes of the Derby Board of Guardians (in the Derby Borough Reference Library).  
Public Record Office Files M.H. 12, No's 1984, 1985, 1986.

VICTORIA MILLS - DRAYCOTT

by

Dennis Sumpter and John Heath

The recent closure of the textile division of W.J. Parry & Co. (Nottingham) Limited has brought to a close an era in the history of the Victoria Mills at Draycott. Tenement mills were built in many of the villages and towns in the East Midlands at the turn of this century. In the edition of the Derbyshire Advertiser published on 20th September 1907 it was stated: 'Places on the South-East border of Derbyshire not many years ago rejoicing in primitive rusticity are gradually growing in size and population with the spread of commercial enterprise..... Completion of premises belonging to the well-known firm Jardine who now possess in Victoria Mills one of the largest lace factories in one-block in the world....'

The Victoria Mills were built over the period of time between 1888 and 1907 on a "green field" site on the edge of Draycott village alongside the road to the station. This "green field" was Nether Town End Close which adjoined Nether and Middle Town End Close to the East, and was bordered to the South by Station Road and the Midland Railway to the North. A trackway led along the Western boundary over the Railway Bridge to Far Town End Close and Dirt Holes.

In 1848 this land which was then part of a larger area passed from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the Madan family. A number of sales and mortgages occurred between 1848 and 1867 when the land either side of the Midland Railway was sold by the Reverend Spencer Madan to Mr. Joseph Bosworth, who already owned that adjoining it to the East. Bosworth then sold the Town End Closes to the Long Eaton speculator, Ernest Terah Hooley.

On the 8th January 1887, this land except for the site of the Northern part of the mill site was sold to H.W. Cooper, but two days later Hooley re-negotiated the sale to Hooley and Henry William Cooper for £300. This deed was marked with the projected streets, e.g. Town End Road, Elvaston Street and Derwent Street (later renamed Villa Street). At this time a Miss Sandiland owned the land on the West side of Town End Road, which was later to become part of the Mill property.

Hooley sold his share of the land and property to Cooper on 18th April 1889 for £3,500. In the deed both Hooley and Cooper were described as lace manufacturers. As well as the transfer of the land, the sale sent on to say:

"and also of and in all that four storey factory mill, engine house and boiler house, known as the Draycott Mills<sup>1</sup>, with the Counting House Offices and outbuildings thereto adjoining and belonging and recently erected and built upon part of the above described piece of land and now occupied by the said Henry William Cooper and his sub-tenants and also of and in all those two dwelling houses erected upon the other part of the said piece of land at the Northern end thereof, And also of and in the fence wall erected at the Southern end of the said piece of land. And also of and in All and Singular the engines, boilers, shafting, steam, gas and water piping, machinery and fixtures standing and being:- etc., etc."

This description and price difference confirms the building date of the centre section of the mill as 1888. This is confirmed in the newspaper reports on the 1902 fire, which refers to the mill having been 'built about fourteen years ago'. The two cottages referred to stood at the North-west corner of the mill and were

demolished in 1961 to make a car-park. Between the two houses was a small room which was used either for the storage of materials or for use as a mending room.

Just before this sale to Cooper there was reference to an agreement between Hooley and Cooper and the Draycott Mills Company Limited, dated the 8th February 1888. This Company held an Extraordinary Meeting on 27th February 1889 to agree to wind up the Company, and the liquidator agreed to cancel the agreement (of which there is no record) on 16th March. This cleared the way for the sale.

H.W. Cooper was now the sole owner of the mill, and at this date the property was called Cooper's Factory. In December 1893 Cooper sold three portions of land adjoining the mill site including that to the South of the factory to Hooley. Hooley in the following year sold one piece of this land next to Town End Road to R. Cupitt, a Nottingham builder, and the next piece to Andrew Beattie of Dublin. Cupitt at the same time mortgaged his land, which was described as having four houses on it. On 30th September 1896, Cooper sold the factory to Benjamin Horton of Birmingham but within sixty-four days it was once again the property of E.T. Hooley. On 30th September 1896, Cupitt bought another piece of land to the South of the mill, and on the 4th February 1897 when the land was mortgaged it included two houses.

Hooley leased the factory on 10th July 1897 to Edward Cope and Company (1897) Ltd., whose registered office was at New Basford, Nottingham. The signatures of the directors on the lease were H.W. Cooper and Ernest Jardine. The lease was for twenty-seven years and its important clause, from the point of view of the history of the mill, was that referring to the erection of a further 160 standings and the rent to be paid. According to the 1902 fire reports the Northern 68 standings (there were only seven per floor in A block against ten in the other blocks) were erected in 1898. It can be assumed that this block was put up early in the year as Hooley as adjudged bankrupt on 8th June 1898, one assumes that building work would cease as from that date. Duncan Frederick Basden was appointed trustee on 8th July 1898, and on 7th July 1899 Edward Cope and Company Limited surrendered the lease. On this date Ernest Jardine bought the mill (with 148 standings) for £8,774.7s.2d. In the following year he acquired the land and buildings to the South of the factory from Cupitt and Beattie.

On 17th January 1902 a fire which started sometime after work finished at one o'clock on Saturday, destroyed the Southernmost block of the mill (Block D). The fire was reported in some detail in the Nottingham and Derby newspapers. It was stated that the Long Eaton Brigade with their manual engine could not cope with the fire, and a call was sent to the Nottingham Central Fire Station. Foreman Mead with four men and a manual engine covered the intervening ten miles in three-quarters of an hour. The engine had insufficient hose and it was idle. The outbreak became more serious and a telegraphic message was sent to Derby asking for the services of the Borough Fire Brigade. Although it was not the rule to send the engines beyond the municipal boundary, an exception was made. The Chief Constable obtained the permission of the chairman of the Fire Brigade to take the steam engine and sixteen men to the scene. Water had to be drawn from the Derwent, three fields away. It was impossible to save the Block but a fireproof wall protected the rest of the building. The damage was assessed at £30,000. Tenants who lost machinery were Messrs. J.C. Tatham and Settle - three curtain machines; Mr. A. Purdy - one levers lace machine; Mr. Chambers - one

jacquard card puncher. On the first floor Mr. W.H. Willatt & Co. lost twelve levers machines. On the second floor Messrs. Osbourne and Eaton lost four levers machines, and on the third floor Mr. Barrow and Co. lost three levers machines, and Mr. Huson three machines. In all some fifty lace machines were destroyed. The fire also damaged the rope race and it was this that affected production in the remainder of the mill. Some 150 workpeople out of a labour force of approximately 500 were 'thrown out of employment'.

The property was insured and the rebuilding of the fire-damaged Block was undertaken quickly. The plans were dated 26th March 1902 and by June 1904 only the third floor was advertised as vacant, at six shillings per week per standing in Jardines Lace Machinery Register. The same issue stated: "we are prepared to make extensions to these mills or to build separate small factories on spare land, to suit tenants, or to sell spare land to lace manufacturers who would like to build their own factories. In the latter case we would supply, if desired, electric motors and electric light."

In May 1905 Jardines Register advertised that two blocks were to be built, but the detail building plans are dated 16th January 1906 for F Block, and 16th June 1906 for G Block. Access to the new blocks was to be obtained by the same staircase so that a manufacturer who wanted ten standings was in practically the same position as if he had one whole shop. The January 1906 Register showed that Block F was to be ready in May, only four months from the drawing-board to occupation. The July 1906 Register showed that the factory was expected to be completed by February 1907.

The factory which was described as "one of the largest lace factories in one block in the world" was (and is) 616 feet long, had four storeys and 228 windows, each window giving light to a standing for a lace machine.

The official opening of the factory was on September 17th 1907. The Derbyshire Advertiser of 20th September 1907 reported:

"...the completion was signalled on Tuesday by the residents of the place, both young and old participating in a commemoration which will make September 17th a 'red letter day' in the annals of Draycott...."

The report goes on to describe how the whole of the village was entertained by Mr and Mrs Jardine. They were assembled in the Market Place and headed by Jardine's Band under the conductorship of Mr. Pounder marched to the factory. There Mrs Jardine started the clock at one minute to two, and the band played the National Anthem and Rule Britannia. The children then marched in procession to the field lent by Mr. Beresford, where games and sports were held for 300 prizes provided by Mr. Jardine. After the sports 800 persons were entertained to tea at the factory.

Mr. Jardine spoke: "....I shall pass through the world but once; therefore any good thing that I do or any kindness I may show let me do it now; let me not neglect it; I shall not pass this way again."

The day's events were rounded off with Cinematograph entertainment in the ground floor shop of the new extension (G. Block). Mr. Jardine opened a Post Office Banking account for every child in the village with the sum of one shilling.

Victoria Mills was therefore completed in its present form in 1907. The plans for the rebuilding of D and E Blocks, and the building of F and G Blocks were carried out by F.S. Ancliffe and his son Norris Ancliffe of Draycott<sup>3</sup>. The building of the last two blocks was done by George Youngman of Draycott. The cast-iron pillars, etc. were supplied by William Abell Limited of Brook Street, Derby (founded 1834).

It is interesting to speculate what a mill complex this might have been. In November 1906, Ernest Jardine bought the house and land on the opposite side of Town End Road from Norris Ancliffe's uncle, land which until 1900 had belonged to Miss Sandiland. It was Jardine's intention to build another mill on the site. He had two alternative plans drawn up in October 1906 for a tenement mill, to be larger than the Victoria Mill, to be called the Albert Mills. Included in the plans was a street of houses.

There appears to have been some doubt as to the title of the land following the death of Miss Sandiland. Ancliffe claimed that he could supply a barrow load of proof. Jardine's solicitors replied "please send the barrow load".

In the end the mill schemes were shelved, the field being used as a car-park, but the street was built. Sydney Road was developed by Jardine selling off the land, the conveyance including a clause which compelled the buyer to build eight houses every two months. The south-western batch of houses were never built.

The Victoria Mills remained the property of Sir Ernest Jardine until 1946 when it was sold to Midland Machine Trust<sup>3</sup>. In 1954 it passed to the English Lace Company<sup>4</sup>. and Ford Whitehead<sup>4</sup>. At the end of July 1957 the mills became the property of W.J. Parry and Company (Nottingham) Limited.

The building is standard lace mill construction, being built in 'standings'. Each standing in the Victoria Mills ran East to West and accommodated one lace machine. The earliest part has nine feet standings, the Northern blocks have ten feet standings, Block F has ten feet six inch standings and G Block, the last to be built, has ten feet standings. The centre blocks are forty feet wide, and the other blocks are forty-five feet wide.

The purpose of building a tenement mill was to enable "small men" to place rented machines in rented space. It is said that everything down to the pencils in the offices were rented from the owner (note: Jardine's produced lace machines). It is also suggested that an industry which was split into small units was less prone to labour difficulties, especially as this enabled the potential agitators to become 'bosses'. Power was supplied by the owner by means of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " shafting running the whole length of the mill from the centre rope race. In this were drive belts to eight feet driving wheels from a large fly wheel (estimated to have been twelve feet in diameter, and weighing ten tons). This was driven by two Hick Hargrave's engines working at 80 psi. Only one engine was installed at first, the second being added in 1898 when the Northern part of the mill was built. The original boiler stood outside the engine house and was replaced in 1903 by two Lancashire Boilers in a new engine house. Soft water for the boilers was obtained from a large underground cistern in the yard to the North of the boiler house. The steam engine, under the care of the engineer, Mr. Haywood, ceased work in 1959.

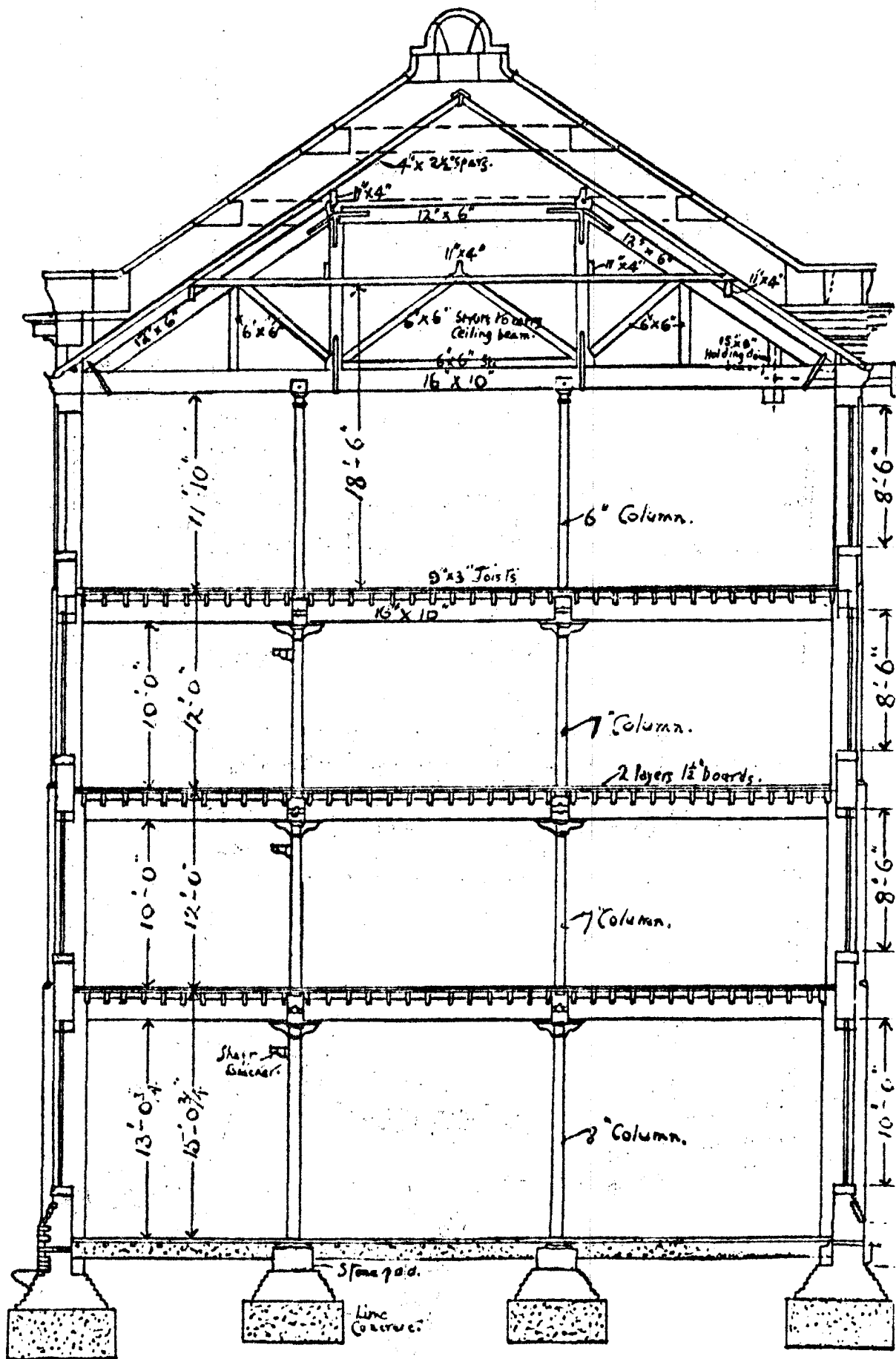
The boiler house chimney (South of the engine house) was originally 120 feet high. It was struck by lightning in 1921 when the top four feet fell. The chimney was re-built two feet shorter. Exhaust steam from the engines was fed into steel pipes which led to every room in the mill. In case of an emergency in connection with the belt-drive, a bell-push alarm system was installed to call the engine house to stop the engines.

All the toilets were outside the building, and this remained the case until 1952 when some of the tenants installed inside toilets to combat the wasted time in getting workpeople up and down four flights of stairs. The last outside toilet was demolished in 1968. The yards were originally surfaced with either limestone or 'Mountsorrel' cobbles, four-and-half inch square set in bitumastic.

Little is known of the tenants as no records were kept, agreements being completed with a shake of hands. In 1916 there were fourteen tenants in the Victoria Mills (it is difficult to separate the activities at the Victoria Mills from those of the other mills in Draycott). The decline in the fortunes of the lace trade is reflected in the fact that standings were vacant from the 1920's onwards. It was after the First World War that other trades first came into the mill. As well as lace manufacturers there have been Hosiery manufacturers, manufacturers of Knitted Outerwear, an Upholstery Jacquard puncher, Dyers and Electrical Engineers.

The present owners of the property, W.J. Parry and Sons Limited, took over the ownership of the mill on 31st July 1957, when the Jardine Company became Parry's tenants. Since that date Parry's have gradually taken over the whole mill. The last lace manufacturer, Robert Norman and Company, left the mill in February 1970. After 82 years Victoria Mills ceased to be connected with the lace trade. The last remaining textile manufacturer, Talisman Knitwear, which had been a tenant at the mill since the Second World War and which was acquired by Parry's in 1968, has finished its activities. Today the Victoria Mills are solely concerned with electrical products.

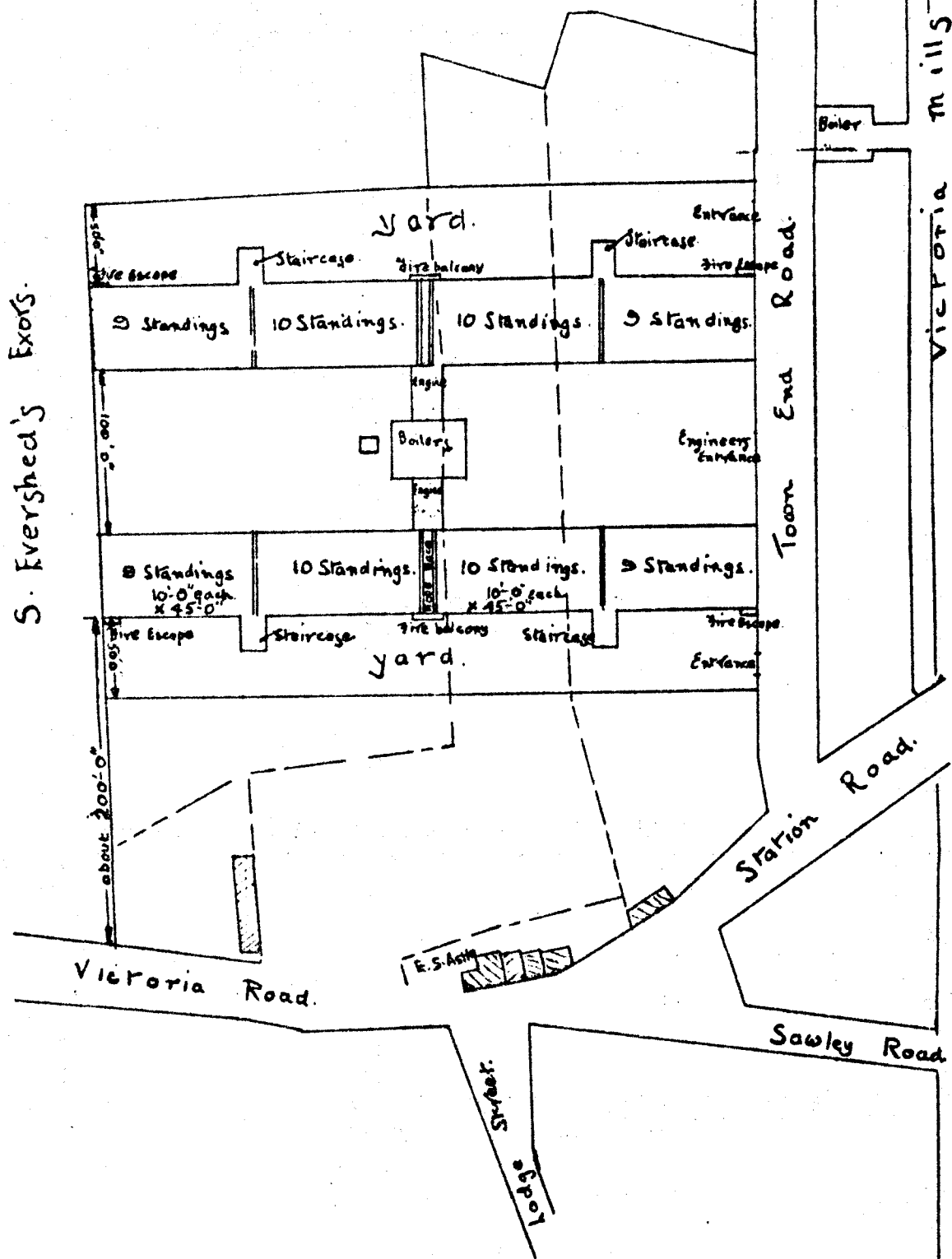
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1. Not to be confused with the other cotton mills in Draycott which date from the early 1800's.
  2. The clock was made by Messrs.J.Smith & Sons of Derby and was illuminated at night by the Draycott Gas Company by three incandescent gas burners which were turned on and off automatically. In the bell tower were four bells made by Messrs. Taylor and Company of Loughborough.
  3. Architect for the Watchorn Memorial Chapel at Alfreton.
  4. Jardine Group Companies.



VICTORIA MILLS  
- A Block -



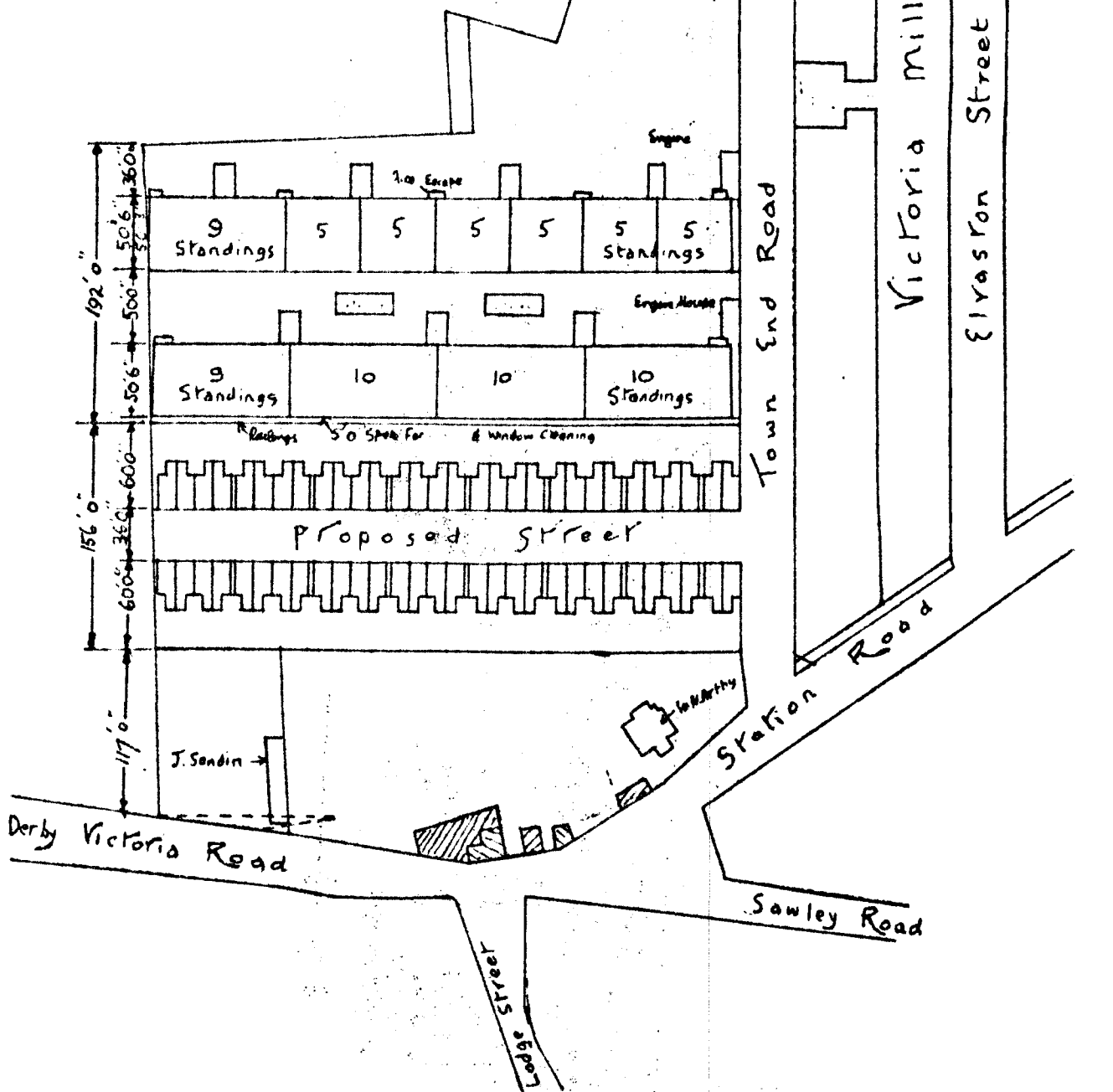
Sketch Plan of Proposed  
New Factories - Draycott.



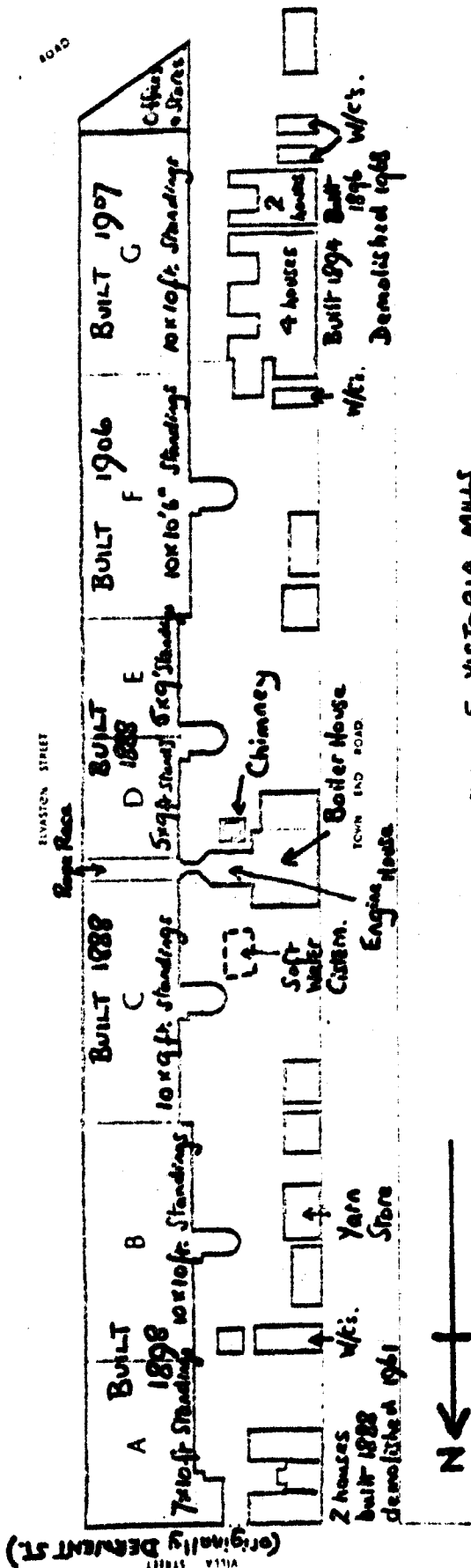
ARCHITECTS SKETCH PLAN  
FOR 'ALBERT' MILLS  
DRAYCOTT.

# Proposed Mills & Cottages, or Draycott

Scale of Feet  
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ARCHITECTS PLAN FOR  
'ALBERT MILLS AND HOUSES.  
DRAYCOTT



PLAN OF VICTORIA MILLS

AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY IN COMBS  
IN THE PARISH OF CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH

by

M.A. Bellhouse

"Near this place lieth the body of Anthony Bealott Yeoman, who married Susannah the daughter of Stephen Staly, gentleman, by whom he had five sons and two daughters.

She died November ye eight 1661 aged 42 years and he died May ye twentyth 1702, aged 74 years."

"Given by Joseph Bealott the third son, living in Leverpoole."

The above inscription, on a brass plate 7 ins. x 5½ ins., in Chapel Church, was formerly (according to Llewellyn Jewett, the Editor of the old antiquarian journal called the "Reliquary") ..... "on the North wall, near the West end. Now vanished." (Vol. VII). W.B. Bunting in his book on "Chapel Parish Church" page 28 stated that when Reynolds visited the Church in 1760, he noted this small brass affixed to the North wall, near the West end. We do not know when the plaque was taken down and lost but as The Reliquary was written towards the end of the last century, this plaque must have been lost for at least 100 years.

It was discovered on August 19th 1971 in the garden of the Post Office, near Brook House, Combs, under only 6 inches of soil, with concrete on top of it, by Mr. Smith, husband of Mrs (Hilary) Smith, nee Jackson, who was born at New Brook House.

It has been suggested that Anthony Bellot Jackson of Brook House, who was Churchwarden between 1853/69 may have had it in his charge during some church alterations. The church was "in a ruinous condition" at this time. He died in 1885, and it could have been thrown out with rubbish after his death.

The garden where it was found was then a field, and, what is more, the only field belonging to New Brook House, as the rest of the land still belonged to Old Brook House, where the Bellots had lived until 1830, when Stephen (aged 21), the last male of the direct line, was drowned in the Combs Reservoir. At his death the farm, Old Brook House, reverted to another member of the family, Stephen's father's cousin, Anthony Bellot of Moss-side, Manchester, who at his death in 1835, left it to his second daughter, Mary.

Mary Bellot married Samuel Jackson (the last of the brewers at Brook House) and their son, Anthony Bellot Jackson, inherited both properties. He also eventually acquired Rye Flatt through his marriage to Ellen Bradbury of Rye Flatt, one of the Bradbury/Robinson family. Their son, William Anthony Bellot Jackson, "Old Ant Jackson" as he was usually called, gave the Reading Room to the Village, which fell into disuse during the 1914/18 war, and is now a farmhouse.

As early as 1266, the Bellots or Bealots lived at Castle Naze, a small farmstead beneath the pre-Roman fort on the Naze. Always there have been Stephens, Anthonys and Williams in each

succeeding generation of the family, so that it is most confusing when working out their family tree.

Anthony Bealott (of the brass plate) was born in the year 1628, the son of Anthony Bellot and Elizabeth (nee Thornhill) of Castle Naze. He in turn was the father of the first Stephen to live at (Old) Brook House Farm. He was Church Warden in 1640. His children were :-

Anthony (died 1711) who married Dorothy Shard of Prestbury (died 1724); Stephen; Joseph of Leverpoole (died 1718); Abraham of Oxford; George; Mary (died 1740) who married Richard Lowe of Ouldgreave Combs; and Anne (died 1705) who married John (?) Higgenboltam.

The Vicar of Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Church, the Rev. G. Griffiths, has promised to have this plaque re-placed on the North wall, near to the site of the Castle Naze Vault, pinpointed in the old burial plan of 1701.

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References: Parish Registers of Chapel Church.  
Family Tree of Prof. H. Hale Bellot (now deceased).  
W.B.Bunting, Chapel Parish Church.  
M.A.Bellhouse, The Story of Combs, My Village.

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ASHBOURNE : THE HISTORICAL SETTING by Adrian Henstock. pp.20.

Ashbourne Urban District Council, 1971. no price.

Ashbourne is the first of Derbyshire's conservation areas to produce a booklet tracing its historical background. It is to be hoped that the other conservation areas in the county will follow this example. Ashbourne has certainly set a high standard. It would be difficult to find a better author for the text of the booklet than Adrian Henstock, the Nottinghamshire County Archivist, who was raised in Ashbourne and has tutored a local history class there for many years. Mr. Henstock traces the development of the town from its pre-Conquest origins and attributes its importance as a market town to its position between the Peak to the north and the Midland Plain to the south. Following the grant of a market charter in the early thirteenth century, the town grew steadily in size and importance, a trend which was reinforced when Ashbourne became a turnpike route centre in the eighteenth century. In the nineteenth century, however, the main lines of communication tended to bypass the town and it is perhaps to this that we owe the survival of so many unspoilt buildings. The author describes the history of most of the many interesting buildings in the town. These buildings are also illustrated by 5 photographs and 7 sketches by Roger Evans and Anthony Short. Roger Evans also designed the striking cover which displays a panoramic drawing of both sides of Church Street. Ashbourne Church must be one of the most frequently photographed buildings in the county and it is a pity that a clearer photograph could not be found to illustrate it. The centre pages are taken up with a map which enables the buildings described to be quickly located.

While many copies of this booklet will obviously be bought by the increasing number of visitors who visit the town every year, the serious local historian too will find much to interest him.

Anthony P. Munford.

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A WINDOW TAX ACCOUNT FOR OFFCOTE AND UNDERWOODwith notes compiled by S.L.GARLIC

The Window Tax Act was passed in 1695, and the tax first imposed in 1696 during the reign of William III .. The payment of the new tax was due from the occupant of every dwelling-house, except those not paying church or poor rates. Those with less than ten windows paid 2 shillings; those with ten to twenty 6 shillings, and those with twenty or more 10 shillings. The commissioners of the land-tax were responsible for supervising its collection, and the collectors were selected from the more substantial inhabitants of each district.

The tax was amended in 1709, when houses with more than 20 windows paid 20 shillings, those with 30 or more 30 shillings. Various other changes in the Act were passed during later reigns in which the charges on windows were re-assessed.

The assessors' task was much easier than that of fixing the amount due to the earlier Hearth Tax, as the number of windows could be counted from the outside of the buildings.

Attempts were made to evade payment by blocking up windows in passages, staircases, skylights, cellars, laundries and out-houses, but a further act was passed aimed at controlling this form of evasion.

Some of these blocked up windows can still be seen in a few of our old country houses. Where they exist the building may be known as a blind house or even "Blind Hall".

The window tax charged on a large house such as Hardwick Hall was enormous. By 1808 the charge on a house with 180 windows was over £93, with an additional three shillings for every window over that number.

Cases were often brought before the Quarter Sessions, appealing against the window tax charge. Such an appeal was made in 1698 on behalf of the school-master of Repton who claimed that the school-house was not obliged to pay window tax. Payment was suspended until the court received instructions on how to deal with such cases.

The Derby County Treasurer's Accounts for the Easter Sessions dated 1782 - 1783 records the payment of £3.10s.6d. for the Window Tax of the County Gaol at Derby.

An easement in the tax was made to farmers in 1817 who were allowed one glazed window free of duty in the dairy or the cheese room. This is stated to be the reason why rooms in some old farms are called the Dairy or Cheese Room.

The tax was abolished in 1851. Very few of the assessments survive for Derbyshire, and even individual assessments for single years are therefore important records.

The original Window Tax Account was hand-written in an early 18th century style, but has been copied in a more present day standard. It will be noticed that the first name in the account has the honour to have Esq. attached, three others have Mr. before their names, whilst the rest, except a widow, are listed only by their names, surely denoting the persons of importance at that period.

Offcote and Underwood Account

An assessment of Tax upon the Inhabitants of the said Hamlet for their windows payable to the King's Magistrate for the year 1714.

	Sep. 1714
Brooke Boothby Esq. about 30 windows - -	1.10.0.
Mr John Haynes about 20 but under 30 windows -	1. 0.0.
Hugh Cowper the like - - -	1. 0.0.
Christopher Tomlinson about 10 but under 20 windows	0. 6.0.
John Smith the like - - -	0. 6.0.
William Bembrigg the like - - -	0. 6.0.
George Dakeyne the like - - -	0. 6.0.
Samuel Milles the like - - -	0. 6.0.
Widow Eaton under 10 windows - - -	0. 2.0.
Thomas Wibberley the like - - -	0. 2.0.
Richard Francis the like - - -	0. 2.0.
Mr. George Taylor the like - - -	0. 2.0.
Rowland Plant the like - - -	0. 2.0.
Robert Hurd the like - - -	0. 2.0.
George Ruddyard the like - - -	0. 2.0.
Samuel Grainger the like - - -	0. 2.0.
George Tomlinson ye like - - -	0. 2.0.
Thomas Bembrigge ye like - - -	0. 2.0.
Thomas Sowter the like - - -	0. 2.0.
Joseph Greensmith the like - - -	0. 2.0.
Mr.Samuel Milles the like for two malt houses -	0. 2.0.
	<hr/>
	6. 6.0.

Mathew Platts was taxed 6s for a house last year which now stands empty.

John Spalton has two houses that was empty last year. Again empty this year.

By George Ruddyard collector for ye year 1713  
 Samuel Milles to be collector for ye year 1714

15 Sept. 1713  
 Allowed by us  
 Jo. Beresford  
 Brooke Boothby.

NOTES ON MORTON

(being further extracts from his history of the village)

by

E.C. CLAYTON.

Part 2.

The name 'MORTON' - Moortown, clearly denotes a lone and desolate region in Saxon/Norman times. Practically the only means of access to it would be by the nearby Roman road at Stretton, and this would form a convenient route for wayfarers and those energetic preachers who penetrated this part of the wild country. The village would consist of a few farms near the Church probably surrounded by a mud earthwork; we understand that traces of such an earthwork existed in the 19th century.

An old thatched cottage, demolished in 1969, was situated at the boundary of the Moor and bore the name of "Morton Moorgate". In Morton Church Register we read of Richard Wood of Morton Moorgate being buried in 1739.

Domesday Book, A.D. 1086 stated that "there is one Mill in MORTON with the keeper of the Mill, a priest and a church, Walter Deincourt holds it." There is no trace of any Mill in the village today, but a map of Derbyshire compiled by P.D. Burdett in 1767 shows a windmill situated on land between Morton and Higham. Whether this was the ancient mill we know not, whilst the opinion has been expressed that as Higham and Brackenfield were originally part of Morton parish, the mill might have been a water mill at Higham Dairy.

The Curfew Bell was introduced in England by William the Conqueror and continued to be rung until the 18th century; the custom still continues in some parishes. The old Morton Church Warden's accounts show that in 1634 payment was made for ringing the Curfew. In 1622 - "Paid to Richard Turner 1/- for whipping ye dogs out of church." The dog whipper in one parish was even provided with a special dress for his office. In 1618 at Morton - "Paid for a jerkin for Edward Johnson for whipping ye dogs." His name also appears in 1619 - "Item for Edward Johnson's coat and a surpliss, to whip rouges, 10/-."

In my previous article I referred to the use of churches on the occasion of parish feasts or 'church ales'. The Church in the Middle Ages became the very focus of the social life of the community. Fairs and markets were held in the Church and records exist up and down the country of church income received from cheese sellers who stood at the church wall, also rent for standing in the church porch at the fair. One town complained that corn, flour, flesh and fish were sold in church on Sundays, 'whereby our market loseth much business'.

A record exists at Morton of the names of 37 Rectors who held office between the year 1252 A.D. and 1972. One of the Morton Church Registers commences in 1575 continuing until 1648. Amongst entries we note one Arthur Milner signing as Churchwarden in 1587, the first of many members of this family connected with our church; a descendant of his still resides in the village today.

In the Churchwardens' book of Births, Marriages and Deaths many curious names occur:

Baptisms - 1576 - Ulysses Goodwyn.  
1583 - Gartred Plumtree. 1593 - Heline Haberiambe.  
1601 - Ganaliel Haberiambe.

/cont'd..



- 1625 - Philalethes Ffitch-Randulphe, gentleman buried. No record exists at Morton regarding him, but about that time a family of this name resided at Whiteboro, near Mansfield.
- 1636 - Lucie Cochet baptised - apparently a French name.
- 1648 - Rebecca Brunegley baptised. 1666 - Cadwallader Watkin married.
- 1700 - Gideon Darthenay and Hannah Painton married.
- 1761 - Abednego, a boy from Brackenfield baptised.
- 1761 - Aquilla, " " " " " "
- 1799 - Tullielmis, a girl baptised.

It would appear that over the years life in the quiet country village continued much as usual.

In 1600 the parish register records the burial of William Yorkshire "who died in John Wasses coal pit" and in 1604, the burial of Margaret Wass, the wife of John Wass 'who died in the coal pit'. The word 'died' seems to imply that they fell victims to foul air. Had they been killed or burnt, I think the register would have been more explicit. There was little or no ventilation of coal mines and no safety lamps. The danger and misery of mining at that time cannot be properly estimated today. From the fact that women were employed in Wasses coal pit it is probable that there was no shaft, but like the former pit at Stretton, it would be a 'footrill' or drift. Wasses pit must have been abandoned for there is no reference to it in an economic survey of the parish in 1653 and 1657.

Morton Church has a copy of this Survey covering the hundred of Scarsdale made, probably, in response to the heavy taxation, "the Monthly Assessment", raised to pay for Cromwell's army. Two other versions of this apparently unique survey are known, one for 1652 and one for 1662. In the Survey of 1657, details of local parishes are recorded; the acreage of land in the parishes is given, and it appears that for approximately every 1,000 acres of a parish, one soldier had to be supplied for Cromwell's army.

The Rector and Churchwardens of Morton and several of the chief parishioners would have the thankless task of selecting these men, four in number. MORTON entry in the Survey reads ; "The Township of Morton consisteth of the hamlets of Morton, Pilsley, North Wingfield and Williamthorpe, around 4,000 acres of meadow, arable and pasture land, woodland 206 acres. The total acres of Brampton within Morton is 600. Soldiers to be provided from Morton is four and one quarter." Each man was provided with a sword, a dagger and a good cassock (or long coat) well lined.

The graveyard is another source of parish history provided by the church. In 1913 the South part of the churchyard was levelled, the gravestones reset and many rescued from oblivion. It may not be known generally, but near the church are to be found nineteen of the very earliest form of village gravestones called 'initial and date stones'.

During the 17th and 18th centuries many of the stones were often no more than 2 feet high with a round top and inscribed only with the person's initials and year of death. Similar stones are to be found at Shirland, Blackwell, Alfreton, Pentrich and Wingerworth, though not as numerous as at Morton, where they date from 1673 to 1734.

The yew tree near the stones at Morton was planted by six children representing the oldest families of the parish on the occasion of the festivities celebrating the coronation of King George V. The writer was one of the six, his Mother's family being mentioned in the Church Register in 1684. The writer can recall six yew trees within a quarter mile radius of the Church, three of them on land he owned of which only one remains, but the other three still exist.

Mention of yew trees brings to mind the fact that Yew Tree Farm was formerly the residence of a Dr. Oldham and the old mounting steps used to mount his horse could be seen until recent years. He was killed by lightning when driving down Higham Lane in his pony and gig.

An unusual plant grown in Morton was camomile. It was the custom years ago to drink tea made from this when persons were not well. My own Mother gave me this tea to drink on many occasions when I was a small boy, from Camomile grown in our own garden. In the parishes of Morton, Ashover, Shirland, North and South Wingfield about the year 1740, Camomile was cultivated in considerable quantities for medicinal purposes. In these five parishes about 80 acres were planted producing from 3 to 6 cwts. per acre and varying in price from £4 to £8.8s per cwt. Such cultivation gave employment to many women and children; the women earned from 10d. to 1s.0d. per day for weeding and hoeing and from 1s.0d. to 1s.3d. per day for gathering flowers at 1½d. per peck.

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Review of D.G. Edwards'  
The Hunlokes of Wingerworth Hall  
 (Privately published)

A most worthwhile addition to the published work on the local history of North East Derbyshire is David G. Edwards' excellent 'The Hunlokes of Wingerworth Hall'. The study of the Hunlokes and their estate presents special difficulties in that the bulk of the family papers have long been destroyed and fragmentary evidence from a vast number of printed and manuscript sources has had to be sought out and pieced together. It is extremely creditable therefore that Dr. Edwards has managed to produce such a comprehensive account of the family and their estates as well as biographical notes and a pedigree, although, by his own admission, there are several sources which remain to be examined.

The booklet is very well presented and produced and the text is generally lucid with useful explanatory notes for the general reader. The least convincing part of the work is the summary in which the author attempts to put the Hunlokes in the context of Derbyshire landowners as a whole where several of the conclusions reached are of dubious validity.

- D.V.F.

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STATUTORY PROTECTION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

by

R.W. EVANS

This is an attempt to describe as briefly as possible, the powers and responsibilities given by law to Local Planning Authorities so that they can effectively assist in preserving historic buildings in their area.

Many people have heard some of the jargon of statutory preservation - phrases like 'Building Preservation Order', Listed Buildings, Grade I, II and III, Ancient Monument, Scheduled Building, etc. Those who have been involved in a battle for preserving an old building may know the significance of these but many find the subject confusing. It is hoped that what follows will help to make it clearer.

There are two main categories of sites and structures of historic interest which are given protection by the law: "Scheduled" Ancient Monuments and "Listed" historic buildings. Ancient Monuments are 'scheduled' by the Government under legislation initiated as long ago as 1882 with the first Act of Parliament designed to protect sites of antiquarian interest. There are now nearly 10,000 scheduled ancient monuments; all of them are by legal definition useless in the sense that nobody can enjoy beneficial use of them. They include such things as prehistoric sites, ruined castles and abbeys, bridges, etc. The schedules of Ancient Monuments could thus never become an inventory of the national architectural heritage, nor was it possible for any protection to be given to inhabited buildings under the Ancient Monuments Acts.

Legal protection for inhabited or "useful" buildings of historic value came with the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947. This introduced the system of "listing" buildings. The Government undertook to compile lists of buildings, defined as having "special architectural or historic interest", for the whole country. This task was not completed until 1968, although by this time some areas were already re-surveyed. In order to give the Local Planning Authorities and the Government guidance on the relative importance of different buildings, the investigators who drew up the lists were instructed to place each building in one of three grades. Grade I is defined (in a recent Government booklet) as "buildings of outstanding interest" (about 4% of listed buildings are in this grade). Grade II - "buildings of special interest, which warrant every effort being made to preserve them (some particularly important buildings in Grade II are classified as II\*)". Grade III buildings were those felt by the investigators to be worth noting and drawing to the attention of the Authorities, but were not of the quality necessary for inclusion in Grade II.

All this is not as simple as it sounds because while the buildings in all three grades are set down in documents called 'provisional lists' together with brief architectural descriptions, only the buildings in Grade I and II are included in the all important 'statutory' lists. Buildings listed in Grade III, therefore, have often been the subject of misunderstanding and complaint. They are listed, but have no statutory protection and can be pulled down without any notification or consent. The Department of the Environment recently announced the gradual elimination of Grade III, by a process of upgrading the better buildings as lists are revised, and noting the remainder on a new document to be called the 'Local List'. Local Lists are similar to the old Grade III - the buildings on them will have no legal protection but their interest will be drawn to the attention of Local Authorities who may themselves add items.

What form does statutory protection take? Up to the end of 1968 it was possible for any building in the country to be demolished without the need for express consent for demolition under Planning legislation. If the owner of a building on the statutory list (that is Grade I & II) wanted to demolish it or to carry out alterations affecting its character, he was required to give notice to the Local Planning Authority whose only ultimate means of preventing demolition or mutilation was the laborious process of making a Building Preservation Order. Once the Order was confirmed by the Minister (usually after a public inquiry) the owner could carry out works only with the express consent of the Local Planning Authority. Only a tiny proportion of listed buildings was ever protected by Orders and the system was generally unsatisfactory and unsuccessful in preventing demolitions.

The 1968 Planning Act abolished Building Preservation Orders and extended the protection they gave to all buildings on the statutory lists. So today the owner of any Grade I or II building must obtain consent from the Local Planning Authority for any demolition, extension or alteration, external and internal, which would affect the character of the building as one of special architectural or historic interest. The need to obtain this new consent, called Listed Building Consent, is perhaps the basic innovation of Part V of the 1968 Act. It also increased the penalties for an offence - that is carrying out unauthorised work to a listed building. Under the old Act a £100 fine was the maximum penalty. There is now provision for a prison sentence and an unlimited fine which may take into account any profit which could accrue to the convicted person as a result of the offence.

Ancient Monuments are excepted from the controls of the Planning Acts as they are covered by existing legislation. Listed church buildings in ecclesiastical use are also excepted as the churches are regarded as being in a special position. When a Local Planning Authority wishes to carry out works to a listed building in its ownership, it must seek permission from the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Before describing the process of obtaining Listed Building Consent it is worth emphasising that the 1968 Act clearly states that works requiring consent are those which would affect the character of the building as one of special interest. It is not true to say therefore that a listed building "cannot be touched". Nor is it safe to assume that an interior can be altered without permission, as long as the exterior is left unchanged, because internal features can be of great importance. Structural alterations can also affect the character of a building. The important thing is the preservation of that special character which has caused the building to be listed. Each case must be judged on its own merits and the job of advising owners on how best to make a building suit their needs while respecting its character and ensuring long term preservation through suitable use is one requiring some degree of special skill. The Government has urged local Planning Authorities to employ specialist staff or consultants to advise on these matters and a growing number of authorities are doing this - including Derbyshire County Council.

Anyone proposing works to a listed building is well advised to talk to the officers of his Local Planning Authority before making a formal application. A great deal of time and trouble may be saved by this.

When an application to demolish, alter or extend a listed building is received the first thing the Authority must do under the 1968 Act is to advertise the application and, in the case of demolition, to notify local and national preservation groups.

Any representations received as a result must be taken into account by the Planning Authority in determining the application. The Department of the Environment must then be notified if the Authority decides to approve an application, and its agreement must be signified before a decision is issued. This gives the Secretary of State an opportunity to call in the application and determine it himself if he is not satisfied that the Local Planning Authority is proposing the correct course of action.

If the application is refused, the applicant has the right of appeal to the Secretary of State and may at that stage call into question, if he wishes to do so, the special architectural or historic interest of the building. A public enquiry under these circumstances resembles the Old Building Preservation Order inquiries. It is important that groups and individuals interested in securing preservation should submit written evidence and attend the inquiry to give their evidence or answer questions.

An alternative course open to an applicant refused Listed Building Consent is that if the building is rendered incapable of reasonably beneficial use by the decision, he can serve a Purchase Notice on the Local Authority requiring it to buy the property.

There are, of course, matters covered by Part V of the Act other than the procedures connected with Listed Building Consent. There is a system, now working quite happily, for Building Preservation Notices, made by local Planning Authorities on the owners of buildings not listed but which appear to be of special interest and subject to a threat of demolition or alteration. A Building Preservation Notice (not to be confused with the now obsolete Building Preservation Order) secures statutory protection for six months, during which time the Secretary of State must decide whether or not to include the building in the statutory list.

Another important provision is one allowing a Local Planning Authority to serve a 'Repairs Notice' on the owner of a listed building which is being neglected. The notice may specify repairs considered necessary for proper preservation, and if it is not complied with a compulsory purchase order may follow. In cases where the owner can be shown to be deliberately neglecting the building in order to gain financially, the Secretary of State may permit a specially low level of compensation to be paid.

The new system of listed building control while not perfect has in the first two years of its operation already succeeded in reducing the numbers of historic buildings demolished. It is more difficult to know what success it has had in restraining owners and others from spoiling fine old buildings by inept or ignorant alterations. Where there are specialist staff to advise and negotiate, unnecessary alterations can be prevented and the effects of changes on the special character of buildings kept to a minimum.

One important new factor in the system is the part allotted to the interested public, both individuals and organisations. Their views of applications must now be taken into account. Their co-operation in other aspects is also useful - for example in notifying the Local Planning Authority in plenty of time of possible threats to unlisted buildings so that action can be taken if the Authority deems it appropriate.

Their presence at appeal inquiries to support Local Planning Authorities is vital both in helping to save individual buildings and to encourage Authorities to pursue preservation policies where possible.

This article is not intended to cover the whole field of statutory preservation of historic buildings in every detail but to give a general picture of the subject. There is, however, one important factor which has not been mentioned. Local Planning Authorities can only act effectively in preserving historic buildings if they have financial resources to back up their policies. Funds are necessary for the acquisition of neglected buildings to ensure their proper preservation and under the Local Authorities (Historic Buildings) Act 1962 financial assistance can be given in the form of grants or loans towards the repair and maintenance of buildings of architectural or historic interest.

Derbyshire County Council operates such a scheme of grants and loans, and assistance is available to owners of all Listed Buildings and older unlisted buildings in Conservation Areas.

#### A BOOM COLLIERY IN THE BOER WAR PERIOD

by

A.R. GRIFFIN

In volume V, part 4, there was an article on the South Normanton Colliery Company bearing the above title.

The tables which follow are appendices to this article.

Appendix 1. is a summary of costs per ton, proceeds per ton, and output analysed in considerable detail covering the period from 1894 - 1898.

Appendix 2. is a summary of the profit and loss position for the same period.

Appendix 3. shows the company's profits during the period 1901 - 1903.

This data supports the argument in the article.

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## SOUTH NORMANTON COLLY. CO. LTD.

COSTS PER TON, OUTPUT. ETC. 1894 - 1898.

	5 months to 28/2/94	6 months to 31/8/94	6 months to 28/2/95	6 months to 31/8/95	6 months to 31/8/96	6 months to 28/2/97	6 months to 31/8/97	6 months to 31/2/98
Rail Sale (Tons)	3,561	14,977	16,779	16,639	(2)	31,304	35,854	35,641
Land Sale (Tons)	3,039	2,339	3,371	2,933		4,150	3,406	4,269
Colly.								
Consumption (Tons)	800	960	1,030	1,070		1,379	1,162	1,272
Total (Tons)	7,400	18,276	21,180	20,641		36,832	40,422	41,182
Raised (Tons)	8,114	18,736	22,113	21,018	32,763	36,466	40,100	41,418
Output Shown on Pay Bills	Not Given	18,501	22,104	21,070		35,804	38,529	41,019
(3) Gain or Loss in Weight		+ 235	+ 9	- 51		+ 662	+1,571	+ 319
<u>NET PROCEEDS PER TON</u>								
Rail	9/5.39	8/1.69	6/10.57	6/0.98		6/4.73	6/0.69	6/5.60
Road	10/6.04	8/8.31	8/8.70	8/1.91		8/1.35	7/10.02	7/9.83
Consumption	4/-	3/6	3/6	3/6		2/-	2/-	2/-
Average	8/9.16	6/11.15	6/10.46	6/3.05	5/11.42	6/5.73	6/1.33	6/5.65
Total Revenue	£3,555	£6,491	£7,598	£6,573	£9,750	£11,812	£12,253	£13,400
<u>COSTS</u>								
(4) Labour (Wages and Salaries)	5/6.97	4/6.14	4/11.75	4/9.28	4/2.22	4/2.21	3/11.27	3/11.13
Royalty	-/4.44	-/3.20	-/3.36	-/4.03	-/3.73	-/3.98	-/3.81	-/3.81
Total	7/5.99	6/0.71	6/9.27	6/5.54	5/4.54	5/5.92	5/1.30	5/1.35
Profit per ton	1/3.17	-/10.44d.	-/1.19	-/2.49	LOSS	-/11.81	1/0.03	1/4.30
Profit (Sterling)	£513	£815	£110	£218	£940	£1,796	£2,011	£2,815
Less Directors' Fees	£175(1)	£87.10	£87.10	+£87.10	£87.10	£87.10	£87.10	£87.10
Net Profit	£338	£727	£22	£306	£852	£1,708	£1,923	£2,727
Net Profit per ton	-/10d.	-/9.32d.	-/0.24d.	-/3.49	LOSS	-/11.24	-/11.51d.	1/3.80

(1) Directors' Fees for whole year.

(2) Reports for 1896 missing; but some figures for second half year derived from next report (28/2/97).

(3) It will be noted that there was a loss in weight only once. This was ascribed to faulty tares on wagons.

(4) Labour costs include salaries which rise from £165 per half year in 1895 to £271 in 1897.

Appendix 2.SOUTH NORMANTON COLLY.CO. LTD.PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY 1894/98.

	Profit or Loss(L) after Dir.Fees	Less Prelim. Expenses	Less Deprecia- tion	Pref. Divs.	Ordy. Divs.	Bal. at Credit or (Debit)
5 months to 28/2/94	337.18.10	201.4.11	-	136.13.11	-	
Half year to 31/8/94	727. 6. 1	78.17.10	-	123.16.11	-	524.11. 4
Half year to 28/2/95	22. 8. 4		202. 3. 6	144.16. 2		200. 0. 0
Half year to 31/8/95	(305.13.9)L					(105.13.9)D
Half year to 28/2/96	1,017. 7. 3		237. 1. 6	299.12. 0	175. 0. 0	200. 0. 0
Half year to 31/8/96	852. 0. 6			149.16. 0	175. 0. 0	727. 4. 6
Half year to 28/2/97	1,708. 3. 4		890. 4.11	149.16. 0	350. 0. 0	1045. 6.11
Half year to 31/8/97	1,923. 4. 4		372. 4. 5	149.16. 0	350. 0. 0	2096.10.10
Half year to 28/2/98	2,727. 4. 1					

N.B. Half year ending 28/2/98 - £286.17.8. spent on sinking to Waterloo Seam.

Appendix 3.SOUTH NORMANTON COLLY. CO.LTD.Profits 1901 to 1903

Profit accrued and remaining undivided at 31st August, 1900	£12,806. 15. 8.
Profit per half-year thereafter :-	
28th February 1901	£ 7,158. 10. 11.
31st August 1901	£ 831. 5. 6.
28th February 1902	£ 1,407. 17. 9.
31st August, 1902	(Loss) £ 168. 18. 0.
28th February 1903	£ 1,503. 10. 6.

Sources: Profit and Loss Accounts.



WATER BUCKET PUMPING ENGINES

by

G. Downs-Rose

A colleague and I are researching into the history and development of these almost forgotten machines. A preliminary article will appear in Industrial Archaeology later this year, and we hope to make available in due course a comprehensive bibliography. Meanwhile, we would be very grateful for any additional evidence of their use, physical or documentary, especially in Derbyshire.

The origin of these machines can be traced to the simple shaduf, and they have been applied to use in Western Europe since the sixteenth century when their possibilities unduly excited some natural philosophers. Often the machine took the form of a beam engine. Attached to one end of the beam was a large wooden or metal bucket which when filled with water descended, lifting pump rods attached to the other end of the beam. A valve opened in the floor of the bucket at the bottom of its descent, releasing the water and allowing the bucket to rise and the pump rods to fall. By alternately filling and emptying the bucket an amount of water could be pumped from a mine or lifted from a stream to supply a house, or water a piece of land.

Other designs substituted differential pulleys for the beam or used small force pumps in conjunction with a beam and double-bucket arrangement. Such a machine had limited power for mining purposes, but, unlike the water-pressure engine and overshot waterwheel, it worked with low heads and irregular supplies.

We have found examples of the machine in a number of coal and metalliferous mining areas in Wales, Scotland, Westmorland, Northumberland and Staffordshire. In Cornwall they were known as Flop-Jacks and were once in common use. A few machines, used for domestic or agricultural purposes, are still working in various places. One machine has been used on a farm in Derbyshire recently. There may be others working in the county, or previous locations of machines may be known, and we would be very pleased to hear from anyone who can help with information.

Editor's note: Will anyone who can help please write to Mr. Downs-Rose at 36, Burton Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire. Mr. Downs-Rose is Joint Secretary of the Leadhills and Wanlockhead Mines Research Group. He is already in touch with members of the Peak District Mines Historical Society working on these engines in the Ecton mines.

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