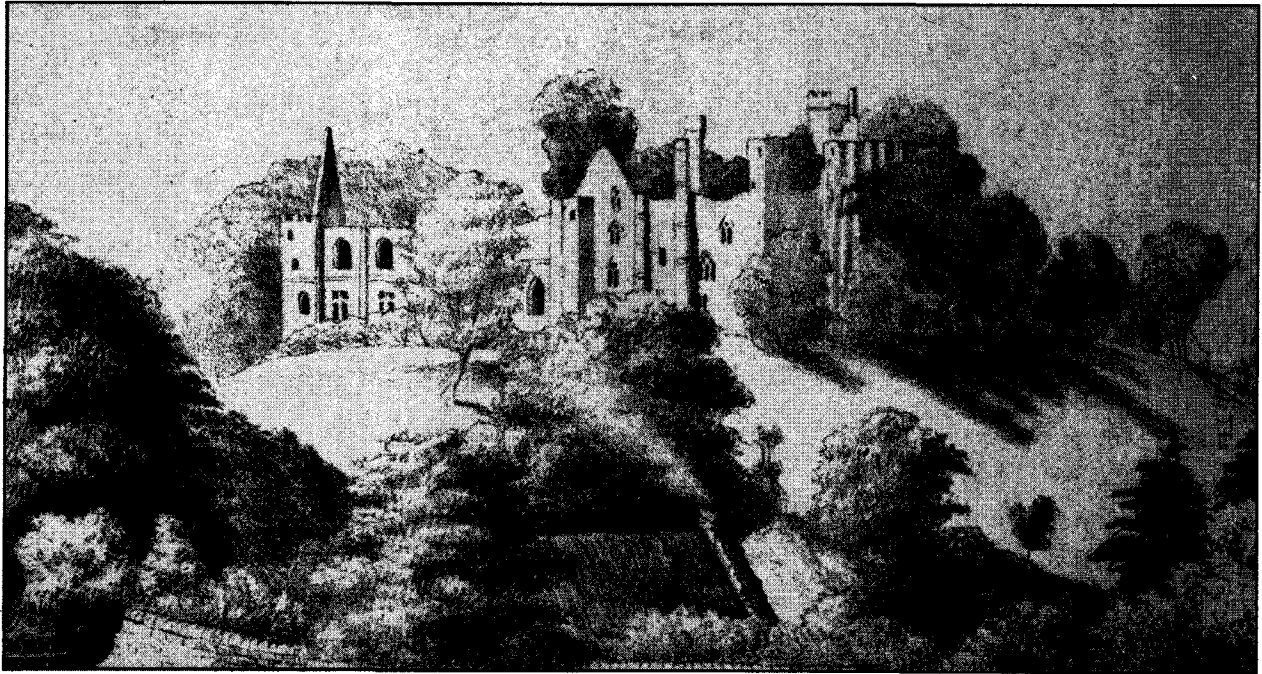


# DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY



VIEW OF SOUTH WINFIELD MANOR HOUSE  
FROM THE VILLAGE.

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## COAL MINING NEAR BUXTON

(by John Leach, 5 Heath Park Road, Buxton SK17 6NY)

In the north west of Derbyshire there lies a little known but, at one time, extensive coalfield. The history of this coalfield is poorly documented and that may be so because it lies in four counties. Its bounds very roughly are Mossley in the north and The Roaches in the south, Buxton to the east and Macclesfield to the west.

Within the county, coal has been extracted from mines at Chisworth and Ludworth, New Mills and Rowarth, Ollersett and Chinley, Buxworth and Beard and from Whaley Bridge. Towards the end of the last century 'The Shallcross Colliery Company' was a large concern in the Whaley Bridge area.

Under consideration in this article are the mines within the county immediately to the west of Buxton. That some reference is made to neighbouring mines in Staffordshire and Cheshire is unavoidable due to their close proximity.

Buxton lies on the western arm of the great anticline that forms the 'Derbyshire Dome'. Eastward from its axis at Woodale the full succession of Carboniferous limestones and succeeding rocks are evident. Westward however, there is an abrupt change at Buxton with the Namurian (sometimes called 'Millstone Grit') series of rock lying unconformably on the 'Millers Dale' beds of Carboniferous limestone. Further west there is a series of subsidiary folds in the Namurian series and it is within the 'Goyt' syncline that the mines involved are situated. It must be noted that the angle of dip of the eastern arm of the syncline is greater than that of the western arm and by virtue of the fact that the coal seams lie within a syncline they will outcrop on opposite sides of same.

The coal, however is of a very poor quality and the mines difficult to work with faulting and much flooding.

Short in 1734 described the mines as follows:- " ----- below shales, beds of ironstone, then a seam of coal about five feet thick, with much sulphur and brazil-iron pyrites - dipping about one yard in five. The upper coal was soft and flaky, fit only for burning limestone, the lower was harder but of indifferent quality. At about 150 feet depth there was a thick bed of blue clay, part of it ochreish, containing black lumps like rusty iron, with green copper in it. Occasionally a vein of lead ore crossed the seam of coal. The water in the pits was so extremely cold that miners who worked long there were in danger of loosing their limbs."

The coal seams involved are the 'Ringinglow' and 'Yard' coal seams. Farey in his 'Survey of Derbyshire' (1815) called them 'First' and 'Second' coals and locally they were known as the 'Mountain' and 'Goyt' seams respectively.

The 'Ringinglow' coal, which lies above the 'Chatsworth' sandstone, is the better quality of the two and reached a thickness of 1.37 metres in the 'Axe Edge' mines. The cleanest and best quality coal mined in the district came from this seam in the 'Danebower Colliery', Cheshire, where it reached a metre thick.

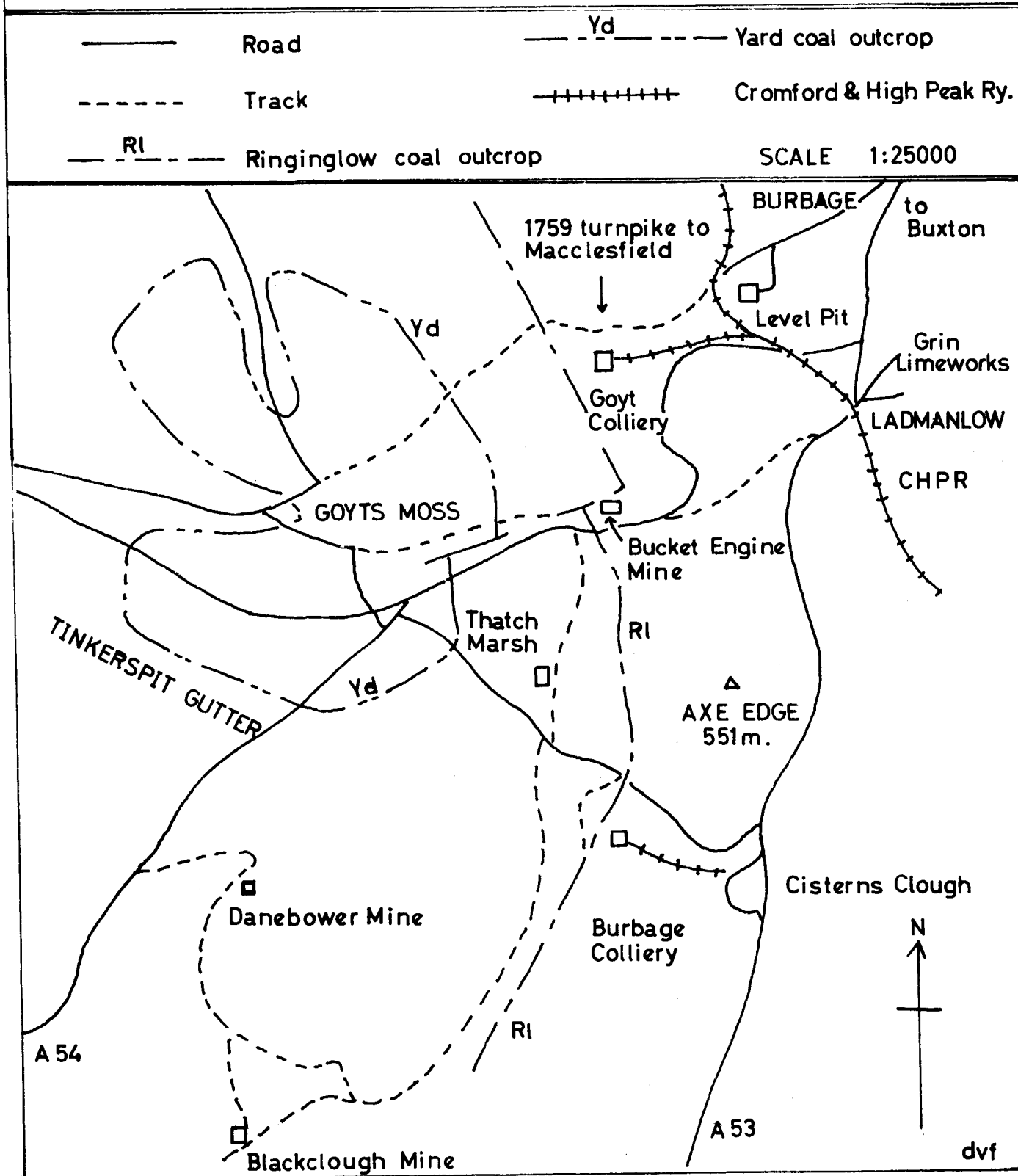
The 'Yard' coal which lies above the 'Woodhead Hill' rock is thin and usually shaly or sulphurous.

Mention should also be made of a small outcrop of 'Simmondley' coal which was mined at Errwood.

Apart from the very obvious domestic use, the coal was used in the many

Fig.1

COAL MINING NEAR BUXTON - MAIN FEATURES



mills and other installations which sprang up as a result of the industrial revolution. The principal use of the coal mined near Buxton, however, was for lime burning. For agricultural and contractional purposes, limestone has been burnt for centuries and many small lime kilns all over the Peak District bear witness to this fact. Industrially, limestone is now burnt for a whole range of products, most importantly perhaps for the chemical industry.

The value of the coal lay however, in its situation. Before the complex canal and railway systems had been established, local coal was in much demand. Even into this century a few mines continued working, mainly to serve domestic needs, but the import of tonnages of better quality and sometimes cheaper coal, by rail, marked their demise.

A dispute concerning the ownership of a coal mine at Fernilee in 1606 is the earliest local reference known. The matter went before the 'Star Chamber' and is interesting because of an assault on one John Davie 'a collier expert'.

Early maps such as Ogilby (1675) and Burdett (1791) show reference to the 'cole pits' and there are also a number of written accounts. That lime was being burnt at Dove Holes in 1650 and at Grin in the seventeenth century on a large scale, is indicative that large amounts of coal were being produced locally.

The earliest workings were where the coal, by being part of the syncline, outcropped. Bell pits and later horse worked 'gins' soon became established. One of the commonest types of mine in the area was the adit or 'day-eye' as it was known locally. The workings themselves were known as 'wallings' or 'stauls' out of which they mined the coal in blocks. Passages for removing coal and for ventilation were known as 'thurlings'.

Farey, in 1815, lists a considerable number of mines in the district and it is interesting to note that the following mines (not all in Derbyshire) had ceased production at this time - Chest, Combes Moss, Ferneylee, Gap Sitch, Hay Clough, Latche, Mousetrap, Notbury, Quarncroft and Robinsclough.

Amongst the earliest workings were those on Goyts Moss around Derbyshire Bridge and on Ravenslow Flat. Where the 'Yard' seam outcrops, the remains of bell pits can be found and towards the axis of the syncline where the coal is deeper, well constructed 'gin circles'. This is also borne out in Thomas Wylde's colliery accounts for 1790 where several references to 'engine' horses are made. Near the River Goyt 'wallings' can also be seen. What is most interesting however, are the well-defined roadways. That some of these mines and roadways are of great age is indicated by the fact that the 1759 Buxton to Macclesfield turnpike has boundary walls which cross and completely ignore these early roads.

Similar workings can also be found on Axe Edge Moor. Another very early and local workings which Farey made special reference to was, 'Combes Moss nearly north of Buxton, a table mountain of Shale and first Grit, has a small patch or depressed hummock of the first coal, not denudated or stript off ----'.

Other small workings close to Buxton which deserve mention were on Ladder Hill, in Wildmoorstone Clough, below Ladbitch Wood, the 'Wooden Spoon' mine and at Errwood. The mines at Errwood served the Hall, the small community and possibly the gunpowder and barytes mills in the Goyt valley. One of the mines, reputed to be one and a half miles long, is now flooded by the Errwood reservoir. Another in Shooters Clough utilised a narrow gauge railway.

As the demand for coal increased, and the coal seams became deeper, the technology involved in these early mines needed improvement. One of the first

known mines to utilise improved technology was the 'Goits Moss' complex of mines. By the eighteenth century horse-worked 'gins' were being used to extract coal from deeper levels than the traditional 'bell pits'. Water was also a problem as the mines reached down to the water table. Initially the mines were drained by buckets but this method was very limiting. Later, as in the lead mines, 'rag and chain' pumps were introduced.

In 1780 the 'Goyts Moss' coal mine was leased by the Duke of Devonshire to Robert Longden and Richard, Isaac and Edmund Wheeldon. Part of the lease reads:-

"All that and those the coal and mines of coal of what kind or sort soever lying in a place called Hartsedge on Castids common south of the turnpike leading from Buxton to Macclesfield west of a certain boundary staked out of the south side of the turnpike now in possession of Edmund Bailey and continuing the line of fence south to a place called Dane Head or Tinkerspit Gutter."

Full and free liberty given to Messrs Longden and Wheeldon "to Dig sink or make any pit or pits, trench or trenches, Grove or Groves, Sough or Soughs, Drains or Levels as well for the working obtaining getting and selling of the said coal and coal mines as for the working and carrying away the water there from -----."

The payment for this twenty year lease was fourteen thousand horse loads of good and well-burned lime per annum delivered to the Duke of Devonshire or his agents as directed. This payment suggests that Messrs Longden and Wheeldon were also involved in lime burning.

Whether these mines were profitable concerns or not is unknown. The earliest records for 'Goits Moss' and 'Thatch Marsh' are Thomas Wylde's accounts for 1790. Taking the year as a whole the mines appear to have suffered a substantial loss but due to the amount of coal produced there was either a local stockpile or some unknown recipient such as the Grin Limeworks (see The Coal Mines of Buxton, Roberts and Leach, 1985, p.48 et seq.).

These accounts make interesting reading because they show the 'Bucket Engine' mine to be the backbone of the whole operation. Also the decline of the 'Rise Pit' mine and the investment involved in opening the 'New Rise Pit' mine are shown. During the early part of the year 'Goyt' numbers one to five workings are in operation, but through the year these are gradually abandoned, and by the end of the year 'Goyt' numbers six to eight have been opened and are being worked.

Coal from these collieries was sold at 4s.2d.(approximately 21 pence) per ton for 'Ringinglow' coal and 2s.0d.(10 pence) per ton for 'Yard' coal.

Other points of interest from these accounts are the references to 'horse engines', the higher wages paid to miners in the 'Bucket Engine' and 'Rise Pit' mines, occasional references to night work (especially for repairs) and of the 'boating' of coals in the 'Bucket Engine' mine.

The 'boating' of coal along levels and the construction of soughs to drain the mines mark other steps in technological development.

Another Derbyshire mine which boated coals out was the 'Blackclough' (or 'Beat') mine near the Cheshire border. A phenomenon within this mine is that the workings mined directly through a geological fault into a different seam. Also the workings connected with those of the 'Dane' mine.

As the workings deepened, and more water was encountered, technology in the form of longer soughs and stationary steam engines was employed. This form of technology however, demanded large scale investment and so from amongst the numerous small scale mines a few large concerns emerged.

The small mines on Goyts Moss gradually became abandoned and a new mine, the 'Goyt Colliery', Burbage, became established between the old and new turn-pikes, just west of Burbage village. A 'level' known as the 'Dukes Old Tunnel' ran from Level Lane, Burbage, west under the moors into the 'Ringinglow' seam. After passing through a fault in this seam the 'level' went on to drain the 'Thatch Marsh' colliery workings. Another level of the 'Goyt Colliery' known as the 'Goyt' or 'Upper Coal Tunnel' ran into workings in the 'Ringinglow' seam (dated 1862 - 1868) and then beyond to workings in the 'Yard' seam (dated 1862 - 1893). All the workings consisted of a maze of galleries and each level had air shafts at intervals. Coal was boated out along the former level and by rail along the latter.

With the coming of the railways, the colliery was connected to the Cromford and High Peak Railway by a siding. A later lessee of the colliery, John Boothman, also had the lease of the limeworks at Ladmanlow Wharf. Coal was later brought from Whaley Bridge to mix with the 'Level' coal to make it burn more brightly. Coal was sold by the tub and the 'banksmen' at one period were Edward Street and his son John. Farmers came from Monyash, Flagg, Wormhill, Taddington and Ashford, for coal for their lime kilns.

The other large Derbyshire working in this district was the 'Thatch Marsh Colliery' and its later offshoot the 'Burbage Colliery'. This complex was situated on the west shoulder of Axe Edge and features all the same types of early workings in the 'Ringinglow' seam as have already been described. Two of the early mines were known as 'Crashaway' or 'Moss Pit' and 'Black O'th Moss'. The former utilised a shaft and an engine to raise the coal, although the mine was drained by the 'Dukes Old Tunnel'. The latter, along with the 'Thatch Marsh' workings, was connected to the 'Tunnel' and coals were boated out.

Farey in 1845 records 'Thatch Marsh' with workings of two and a quarter miles, that the seam contained 'Brasses' and that the mine was soon to be worked by a railway tunnel. 'Brasses' were iron pyrites, which at certain collieries were extracted and sold to makers of copperas, green vitriol or sulphate of iron.

Between 1865 and 1890 five fatalities at 'Axe Edge'/'Thatch Marsh' are recorded in a mines inspectorate report.

A little to the south was perhaps the largest Derbyshire undertaking in the district. 'Burbage Colliery', known locally as 'Top Pit', utilised a stationary steam engine with an endless rope along a drift, the incline of which was one in six. This mine was commenced in 1859 and the various gallery workings date from 1862 to 1918. The workings joined the older 'Thatch Marsh' workings and ultimately the 'Dukes Old Tunnel'. On the surface a small tramway ran from the mine to the Buxton to Leek road at Cisterns Clough where it was carted away.

Personnel at the mine in its final years were 'getters' - Mo Bagshaw, Ned Goodwin and Joseph Shufflebotham; 'banksman' - Joe Findlow and 'engineman' - Will Heathcote.

From the mine abandonment certificate dated 12th August 1919, it is interesting to quote part of the 'Remarks':-

"The water level to the dip of the workings has been surveyed to the point where it is shown on the plan. The level continues beyond this point but there are no records to shew how far this level goes. It is an older working and the present owner has no records of its working. The level delivers its water into a long adit tunnel known as the 'Dukes Tunnel'."

No research into this subject, however partisan, can ignore the extensive workings in the district in Cheshire and Staffordshire. These would provide in themselves the substance of an extensive article and are far too numerous to



mention here. Mention should be made, however, of the 'Danebower Colliery', Cheshire, which produced the best quality coal in the district out of the 'Ringinglow' seam. A chimney from this colliery still stands.

In the absence of a long run of records it is impossible to assess the profitability of these coal mines or the working conditions of the miners. On the whole they were small undertakings, employing only a handful of men. Perhaps one pointer to the economic situation was the issue of trader tokens under the name of 'High Peak Coal Mines' at Shallcross a little to the north of Buxton.

Buxton Lime Firms took over the 'Goyt' and 'Burbage' collieries to supply their local lime kilns. The mine abandonment certificates dated 31st December 1893 and 7th June 1919 respectively, both record that the coal had been worked out down to the water level. To produce more coal, which has been previously said was of poor quality, required massive investment. With the advent of the railways, cheap, good quality coal was available and so the mines declined. A few small concerns, particularly in the more remote areas, lingered on to serve the domestic need. The mines experienced small revivals during the various miners national strikes and during the 'General Strike' 'Thatch Marsh' supplied coal to the 'Magpie' lead mine.

Considerable remains exist on the moors in the form of old shafts (some lined), ash and waste tips, soughs and foundations. Occasionally a piece of iron work or firebrick may be discovered but these are rare as usually the engine houses were pushed down their respective shafts. The abandoned shafts require great respect as very few are fenced off. Well to the north of Buxton, at Ludworth, a one-man mine still operates.

In preparing this work I would like to thank the following:-

John Rylands University Library, Manchester.  
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Derbyshire County Record Office.  
Buxton Public Library.  
Leek Public Library.  
Mr. A. Poulson,  
Mrs. A. Phillips.

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#### THE BURKITTS OF CHESTERFIELD AND THE LANGWITH MALTINGS

(by John Heath)

An unusual group of buildings to be found in the north east Derbyshire landscape is the maltings at Langwith. These 'working' floor maltings are an example of a fast-disappearing industrial building as a result of the industry becoming increasingly automated with the building of large capacity pneumatic 'drum' maltings.

The 210 quarter capacity maltings at Langwith were erected in 1874 on land

purchased from the Chatsworth Estates by the brothers, William and Samuel Burkitt. Why they should select Langwith as a site for the maltings is difficult to ascertain except that the Burkitts worked the nearby Aspley Farm, and the site was alongside the Midland Railway station at Langwith. Also the magnesian limestone and bunter sandstone of the area produces good cereal growing land.

William and Samuel Burkitt were sons of William Burkitt (senior) who was born on 17 September 1799. In 1820 William Burkitt (senior) commenced malting at the Soresby Street malthouse in Chesterfield. Eight years later he was described as maltster and innkeeper at the 'Old Feathers' in Lord's Mill Street, and soon was to use (acquire?) small maltings in Hollis Lane and Vicar Lane. In the 1830's he controlled nearly all the malting activity in the Chesterfield area, and was also working maltings in Mansfield, and at Stockwith-on-Trent. The barley was carried on the Trent Navigation and along the Chesterfield canal, but he also dealt with local millers including Higham Mill, and he supplied the Edensor Estate (see Derbyshire County Library, Chesterfield Branch Local Studies Section - Special Collection L657 acc. 1741).

William, his son, was born in May 1825, and it was originally intended that when he left school in 1841, he should join the engineering firm of Messrs. Stephenson and Company at Newcastle-on-Tyne. Instead he began work in the malting offices of his father, being responsible for the malting activities at Brampton and in Chesterfield. In 1846 he was sent to Kings Lynn to manage his father's grain shipping business. This involved six vessels - the 'Ann', 'Superior', 'Gypsy Lass', 'Chesterfield', 'Vivid' and 'Oddfellow' which traded with Mediterranean, Baltic and Black Sea ports. In 1850 trade was started with a Hamburg merchant, and by 1851 Burkitt had become the largest importer of oil cake from Marseilles. The North American market was opened up in 1855, Burkitt being one of the first shippers to introduce American maize into the Eastern Countries. It was William Burkitt (junior) who pressed for the improvement of the channel leading to the port of Kings Lynn which could only accommodate vessels of up to 200 tons. Following the improvements after 1861, the channel could be navigated by boats of up to 800 tons. William Burkitt was also instrumental, with Sir Lewis Jervis, in promoting a Dock Bill which resulted in the Alexandra Dock being opened in 1869 and the Bentinck Dock in 1883.

Samuel Burkitt, William's second son, born on 8 October 1830, with his brother William, attended to the family's interests in the Chesterfield area and took over the responsibility when his brother left for Kings Lynn, though William frequently returned to the family home. It was Samuel Burkitt who acquired Stubbing Court, and it was his ambition to own all the land he could see from his bedroom window at Stubbing. By the time of his death in June 1898, he had pretty well achieved this objective the 'scheme' being completed by his son - also named William. Samuel Burkitt's town house, where his son later lived, was St. Helen's House in Newbold Road. Samuel Burkitt was particularly interested in breeding animals, and it was said that his stables 'always boasted the best horse flesh, both in saddle and harness horses'. He could frequently be heard appraising the merits of horse flesh in Newbold Road.

Apart from farming the land in the vicinity of Stubbing Court, the Burkitts had tenanted farms at Wingerworth and at Langwith. Men employed on the Aspley Farm at Langwith, worked in the Langwith maltings during the winter months, malting usually starting in October and continuing until April. One of the farm jobs was to clean out the lakes and the mill dam, the source of water for the maltings. The fish were temporarily transferred into the cisterns at the maltings.

The fires in the three malting kilns and the barley-drying kiln were fired with South-Wales anthracite (arsenic free), delivered in wagons shunted on to the maltings' siding. (N.B. although the station has been demolished, the engine shed/unloading shed still stands along with the modified Station House).

Today the kilns are oil-fired. It was proposed in 1927 that the machinery which was driven by a gas engine should be converted to electrical power, but the Sheepbridge Coal Company was unable to meet the request to supply the power. It was not until 1946 that the electrification of the maltings was carried out, the supplier being the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Company.

Behind the maltings is a terrace of cottages built at the same time as the maltings were erected, to accommodate the work-force, with a larger house for the Manager. Unfortunately half of the original sixteen cottages have been demolished, but it is worth noting that this isolated group of houses have their own letter box.

### SOME ASPECTS OF TITHES IN CHELLASTON

(by John Young, 30, Chapel Lane, Chellaston, Derby.)

Documentary evidence of Chellaston tithes has come to light adding some information about local practice in the mid-sixteenth and late-eighteenth centuries. In the Harpur-Crewe estate records, there are leases and conveyances for the sale of Chellaston tithes over the period 1538 to 1560. (1) Among the terriers of the Melbourne Estate for June and October 1796 there is a detailed account of tithes belonging to Lord Melbourne in Chellaston. (2)

The first is an interesting record of transactions beginning with what may have been the first after the reformation by a Bishop of Carlisle. Tithes, sometimes in part, were leased to lay people. These were the 'great' or rectorial tithes and the 'small' or vicarial tithes and by definition, they appear to cover "produce of the land" including a plaster pit "to get plaster in". Part of the tithes were sold to Richard Harpur in 1560 and this may have been the first time that the Harpur family became involved with Chellaston gypsum, an association which continued to the turn of the twentieth century.

It is one of the earliest mentions of plaster rather than alabaster and may indicate that Plaster of Paris was, at that time, produced locally as well as the solid stone used for sculpture. 'Plaster' from the pit would only become plaster after crushing and burning. That it was titheable is suggested by its inclusion in a legal document about tithes defined as "coming, growing, happening and renewing within the Town lordship and fields of Chellaston".

The tithe system had been in use long before the Norman Conquest and may have been imposed upon tenants of the founding manorial lord when he erected a chapel for their and his use. Contributions in kind would serve to support the church, its clergy and the poor. Rectorial and vicarial tithes developed later into "great" and "small", sometimes paid in cash rather than in kind. Every European country had established a system whereby the church had a claim to a tenth part of its produce to support its clergy, the origin going back to the Old Testament or tribute of a tenth levied upon the estates of the Roman Empire. As resentment to the system grew over the centuries, critics of the church establishment pointed out that Christianity contains less authority for tithes than Judaism. Resentment from owners of tithes grew because they doubted, with justifiable suspicion, that they ever received anything like their full entitlement. The story of clashes about tithes and the historical background may be found in "The Contentious Tithe" (1976) by Eric J. Evans. "The Parish Chest" (1969) by W.E. Tate also contains much information on tithes.

### The Lease and Sale of Tithes, 16th Century

The indentures in the Harpur-Crewe records were written in old English which has been deciphered by Howard Usher and "translated" by Mr. R. Patterson, LL. B. From them it is possible to trace, step by step, how the Bishop of

Carlisle, the rector of Melbourne with Chellaston, began the first in a line of "business deals" involving Chellaston tithes.

- 1538/9 The Bishop "did demyse graunt and to ferme lett unto one Hughe Whalley of london gentelman amongst othe things all that the Tythe Barne of Chelaston and all & singular the Tythes of Cornes & Graynes hey Wolle & Lambs and Quycke pryncypallis Gaining growing happenyng or renewyng wythyn the lordship of Chelaston.... and also one playster pytt to gett playster in".
- 1546/7 Before the end of the 40 years of the Bishop's lease Hughe Walley had assigned them to Robert Aldrytche, gent. (no other details).
- 1554 Robert Aldrytche, with the exception of the tithes of one place called Watergall and the home hades, assigned them to John Bancroft. (a Chellaston name).
- 1555/6 John Bancroft (lawfully possessed) was paid £10 by Thomas Stone for one moytie or half of the Chellaston tithe barn, half of all the tithes of corn and grains, etc., half the plaster pit to get plaster in, except parcel of hay "boundyng to the Northern ende of Stanton medowe and also the sayd place called Watergall & the home hades".

All the transactions covered the balance of the term remaining of the bishop's 40 year lease. Bancroft also negotiated a yearly rent of £8 payable in equal portions at Christmas and the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25th). If it was in arrears, in part or in whole, "if it be lawfully asked" within 18 days, the tithes etc. would revert to Bancroft. The tithe barn was to be repaired and maintained by Stone, "great timber onely excepted". There was a final condition that the indenture "should not be prejudicial nor hurtfull to priest or priests that shall serve the parish nor that Thomas in any wise meddle with nominating the priest or priests."

- 1560 Thomas Stone of Chellaston assigned his half of the tithe barn, tithes and plaster pit to Richard Harpur (Sarjeant) for £17 (see transcript). It was apparently an arrangement made free from any encumbrances of a business nature that Stone may have been responsible for. "The said John & Jane" must refer to another document not found. Also not found is reference to the balance of the bishop's forty year term due to expire in 1578/9.

Assignment of Chellaston tithes, 1560

Derbyshire Record Office,  
Harpur-Crewe Archives D 2375 53/5/4

be yt knoen to all men by these presents that I Thms Stone of chelaston yn the countey of derby yeiman yn consyderacyon of the Sume of Sevynteene ponds of gud & Leyfull (lawful) mooney of England by Rychird harpur Seriant (Serjeant) at the lawe to me before saide well & truely contentyd & paede I have gyvyn & grantyd & by these presents I gyve & grante unto the sayd Rychard all that my estate ynterest & terme wych I have of yn & unto the haulffe (half) of the Tyeth berne (barn) of chelaston & of yn & unto the moyte of all & syngular the Tythes of Corne hae (hay) woole lambe qwique pncypals (quick principals) hereafter cumying groying happenyng & renuyng wythyn the Towne lordeshyppe & fyelds of chelaston aforesayd/ & the haulffe of y<sup>e</sup> plaster pytte ther/ & the wrytyng of the demyse therof to me made by John bancrofte of chelaston aforesayd dysseyssyd (deceased) To said John & Jayne the said haulffe of the berne aforesaid & of the Tyeths aforesayd & ooder (other) they pmysses (premises) tyt<sup>e</sup>l or wyth the sayd wrytyng to y<sup>e</sup> sayd Ryc harpur hys exec' & asygn<sup>e</sup>s to hys & ther onely use for ev(er) And I the sayd Thomas stone for the consydereycon afresaydd convaie (convey) p(ro)mise & grant to & wyth the sayd Rychard hys exec' admynystrators & asygn<sup>e</sup>s that the seyde premysses & the interest estate & terme theryn now are & hensforth shalbe & contynue clerely dystright (distrained?) acqytyd or so myd harmeles of & from all frm' (?) bergens (bargains) sales

surrenders forfeitures charges (charges) & ooder yncumbrances whatsoev' had made or sufferyd by me my heyres or p(ro)curers.  
In wytnes where to thes presents I have putt my Seale datyd the xix<sup>th</sup> dae of September yn the secu(n)de yere of the reygne of quene Elyzabeth &c.

Seal

On reverse:

Sealed and delyv'ed by the within named Thomas the day and yere within wrytten in the p(re)sens of John harver Will(ia)m Stone and roger more

Note: For some of the less obvious words, modern spelling has been inserted in parentheses.

Lord Melbourne's Chellaston Tithe in 1796

By the end of the eighteenth century there was mounting condemnation of the old tithe system. Its critics about the 1770's challenged it on the basis of a tithe-free industrial expansion and increased concern for improvements in agriculture to feed an ever-growing population of which there was an increasing proportion no longer food-producers. The church and rectorial tithe owners were, of course, anxious to maintain their sources of income.

From the Melbourne estate record, taken from a book in the Muniment Room, it is possible to obtain some idea of what was the church's income from Chellaston tithes. The terrier refers to the 'vicar' i.e. the vicar of Melbourne since Chellaston relied upon Melbourne to supply visiting ministers, having no resident minister of its own. The vicar's glebe was estimated at 30 ecres and land "said to be tithable by the vicar, the Hades, Leys and Balks" contained 73 acres. The total quantity of land in the Common Fields, by survey, was 605 acres. From 502 acres, Lord Melbourne, as will be shown, took £152, so the vicar's tithes from 103 acres would have had a cash value of about £30. This probably went towards the curate's stipend and he, although non-resident, would probably be "vastly more strict and oppressive, than that most useful and respectable part of the beneficed Clergy, the resident and officiating ministers". (3)

Farey, in the same passage, believed it to be generally true that 'Lay Impropriators (who can certainly plead no divine right to protect them from a commutation) are considerably more severe in exacting their tithes than the clergy, collectively.' The Lay Impropriator owning Chellaston's tithes (Lord Melbourne) details the customary rectorial tithes "Corn (subject to be taken in kind) and of several Modus's (a modus was a traditional and unvaried payment, deemed to represent the equivalent of a full tithe at the time, before the limit of legal memory ) payable for Hay, Wool and Lambs. Note that payment in kind was still specified in case cash values were derisorily low compared with current market prices. In 1796 the Napoleonic Wars had caused a rise in the price of corn and a quartern loaf cost double what it was in the previous year. 1796 to 1813 were boom years. The terrier spells out that the net arable land from which corn tithes arise is 502 acres, which with crop rotation, would mean a third fallow, a third under wheat and a third cultivating beans. The third, 167a. 2r. 21p. was estimated to produce wheat at an average of 3½ quarters per acre at an average price of £2. 10s. .... £ 628. 12s. 3d.  
The other third was put down to beans, which being the second crop, is estimated to produce an average of 2½ quarters per acre as they are a precarious crop" The average price was fixed at £1.10. per quarter ..... £ 628. 12s. 3d.

Total, gross      £2095. 7s. 6d.

From this was deducted allowances "for gathering

the tithes, threshing, dressing & carrying out  
(over and above the straw, chaff &c the value  
of which particularly wheat straw, so near Derby  
is considerable)

4 £ per cent on the above sum .....

£ 83. 16. 3.

For the tenants trouble, profit and hazard

10 £ per cent .....

£209. 10. 9.

Deduct .... £ 293. 7. 0.

Total neat proceed £1802. 0. 6.

"One eleventh of this sum (being the proportion taken)  
amounts to

£ 162. 16. 6.

The reduced proportion taken may have been typical of lay impropiators of that time. Many were taking less than the true value of their tithes as encouragement to improve agricultural methods. But Melbourne was also generous in allowing a further 10% reduction to allow for parish rates, although he may have been under the threat of increased rate assessment at a time when poor rates were increasing. This shifting part of the increased burden of relief to local Poor Law claimants on to tithe owners was not uncommon at this time. In any case, tithe once collected was liable to a variety of taxes e.g. land tax, property tax, income tax (after 1799) and, most important of all, poor rates. The Melbourne document explains how an allowance against local rates was calculated:

"The Parochial Rates of all kinds including the Church Rate is  $\frac{3}{6}$  on the pound on two thirds of the rent, which is equal to 2s. 4d. on the Rack Rent; but as Tithes are not subject to a Church rate and as the Poor Rates are only chargeable upon the rent paid by the tenant, we deduct 2s. 0d. on the pound which amounts to

£16. 7. 7.

Value of the Tithes, the Tenant paying Parochial Rates £147. 8. 10.

To this there were additions for tithes on wool, lambs and hay.

"The Modus's are for a fleece of Wool 1d, for every lamb  
under ten 1d. and for every ten lambs 1s. 0d. .. average.. £ 2. 10. 0.

Modus for Hay ..... £ 2. 14. 0.

Estimated an. val. tithes & modus's which is contained  
with the sum of £210 fixed upon what is held by

William Soar

£152. 12. 10.

This last comment is thought to refer to land held by William Soar for which he paid a fixed rent of £210 irrespective of what were tithes and yield of his crop. Before the Chellaston Enclosure Award was made in 1804, Lord Melbourne was the largest landowner and William Soar his main tenant, paying £11. 14. 7d. in Land Tax for the year 1799. Soar held about one sixth of all arable land in Chellaston and would probably have had the job of getting the Melbourne tenants together (there were four in 1799) and sharing out their respective proportions of the total tithe due.

After several attempts to tackle the problem of tithes by getting a Bill through both Commons and Lords, The Tithe Commutation Act was eventually passed in 1836. Its acceptance had been considerably helped by the parliamentary enclosure movement where awards often included the commutation of tithe by allotments of land or cash payments. "Of 55 enclosure enactments between 1772 and 1832, 39 exonerated tithe", (4) in Derbyshire. The Chellaston Enclosure Award allocated to the perpetual curate land in lieu of tithe which made the church third in rank in terms of area of land owned in the village, after Sir H. Harpur and William Soar. Lord Melbourne had by this time sold most of his Chellaston land and was 27th in rank order of acreage.

#### References

1. Derbyshire Record Office, Harpur-Crewe Archives D2375 53/5/21, D2375 53/5/4

2. Melbourne Hall Muniment Room, Box B2, Terrier folder.
3. J. Farey, View of Agriculture and Minerals in Derbyshire, Vol III, p. 639 1817.
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### LAND TENURE IN A LEAD MINING VILLAGE: BRASSINGTON, 1835

(by Ronald Slack, 26, Glenthorne Close, Brampton, Chesterfield)

One hundred and fifty years ago Brassington was surveyed in order to assess its householders, landowners and tenants for land tax and poor rate. Brassington is a limestone village on the southern edge of the Peak, sixteen miles from Derby, between Wirksworth and Ashbourne. In 1835 it depended, as it had done for many centuries, on farming and lead mining. The largest farm listed in the survey report was the 353 acres rented by Thomas Brown from the Reverend Phillip Storey and the large farm with its absentee owner was typical of over half the village's total acreage of 4023 acres. 64 per cent was owned by outsiders and 68 per cent was farmed in units of over fifty acres. Lead ore production had been declining and, apart from a short-lived upturn in the late 1840s, was to continue to fall, but in 1835 there were still a significant number of villagers maintaining their independence by prospecting, and there were still many small landowners.

The surviving copy of the 'Survey Valuation and Rate of the Township of Brassington' has the inscription "Isaac Rains his book Brassington 1835" on the inside front cover, and internal evidence confirms the date. The report lists 166 proprietors of houses and land, and gives the name of each piece of property, and a description, which is often a field name. The frequency of the description "Common land" is a reminder that the final enclosure in Brassington had been carried out as recently as the early years of the century, the award being dated 1808. The other information given in the survey includes the number of each piece on the parish map (Derbyshire Record Office 129A/P1), its annual value and the poor rate and land tax assessments.

Of the 160 personal proprietors (there were six institutions), 84 owned up to five acres in all and 22 owned between five and ten acres. A further 36 owned between ten and fifty acres. This very wide spread of ownership included 81 proprietors who according to the survey were not living in the village. Three of these were listed in the 1841 census, and were probably living with other householders in 1835, making a maximum of 78 absentees. These 78 absentee proprietors owned 2592 acres, or 64 per cent of the total acreage of 4023 acres. 70 of the 79 proprietors listed as occupying houses in the village were living in houses they owned themselves, one of the other nine living in a house rented from "Brassington Township". Of the 70 owner-occupiers, 26 owned only the house. There were 51 village proprietors owning up to five acres, seven with five to ten acres and fourteen with ten to fifteen acres. Seven local men had holdings of over fifty acres - Edward Toplis (66 acres), William Charlton (90 acres), William Allsop (147 acres), Joseph Watson (156 acres), Benjamin Gregory (165 acres), John Gould (185 acres) and Robert Spencer (192 acres). These holdings may be compared with some of the larger absentees - Lord Scarsdale (130 acres), Robert Dale of Ashbourne (229 acres), Philip Gell of Hopton Hall (346 acres), the Reverend Philip Storey of Derby (354 acres) and William Pole Thornhill of Hathersage (414 acres).

The holdings of villagers and absentee proprietors expressed as percentages are:

|                   | <u>Village Proprietors</u> | <u>Absentee Proprietors</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 acres and under | 64                         | 41                          |
| 5 - 10 acres      | 9                          | 18                          |
| 10 - 50 acres     | 18                         | 27                          |
| Over 50 acres     | 9                          | 14                          |

There were 86 men and women listed in the survey in 1835 as living in rented houses. Only ten of these were listed as owning any other property, a small amount in each case, though three of these proprietors, including John Potts, the tenant of the Thorn Tree pub, owned other houses which they were renting out. Among the purely tenant-held units were some sizeable holdings, including Henry Seal (51 acres), John Alsop of "Hiperlow" (70 acres) and five who were large-scale farmers by the standards of the day. These were Isaac Rains (130 acres), John Banks (184 acres), Thomas Whysall (210 acres), John Ford (229 acres) and Thomas Brown (353 acres). Farms of over fifty acres formed of a combination of owned and rented land were held by five village residents - Thomas Fern (51 acres), Thomas Smith (53 acres), Moses Fern (81 acres), Thomas Slack, landlord of the Miners Arms (100 acres) and William Toplis (102 acres). The 34 people, not householders in the village, who were listed as renting land included two with large holdings - William Alder (94 acres) and William Whysall (171 acres).

The six institutional proprietors in the 1835 survey were Brassington Township, Elton Sick Club, the Cromford and High Peak Railway and the trustees respectively of the Haddon and Bentley Road, the Nottingham Road and Brassington School. The Overseers in Brassington seem to have made a considerable effort to house the village poor as the township owned eleven houses, one being the 'House of Industry', bought in 1820, and almost three acres of land. One of the houses was unoccupied at the time of the survey. The Elton Sick Club owned almost two acres. The recently-opened Cromford and High Peak Railway owned one house, one 'counter house and cole yard', half an acre of land and two and a half miles of track on eleven and a half acres, with an annual value of £81. 9. 8d. The trustees of the two roads owned a toll house each and those of the school, built in 1832, owned the Schoolhouse, rented by the Schoolmaster, Daniel Slack, who also rented almost four acres from the trustees. Presumably he needed the small holding to supplement the Schoolmaster's pay, which in 1846, a year after his death, was £29. 17. 0d. per annum.

In 1835, therefore, 27 years after the last enclosure in the village, almost half of the village householders owned their own houses and 44 of these owned land as well. In addition ten of the 86 householders living in rented houses were small proprietors, so that about a third of the village householders owned land there. The characteristic holding was one of a few acres of land. However, 2,800 acres (68 per cent) was worked by twenty men farming units of fifty acres or more of owned or rented land or a combination of the two - one (Thomas Brown) farming over 350 acres, three (John Ford, Joseph Watson and Thomas Whysall) with over 200 acres, eight (William Whysall, John Banks, Thomas Slack, William Toplis, William Allsop, Benjamin Gregory, John Gould and Isaac Rains) between 100 and 200 acres, and a further eight farming 100 acres (William Alder, Thomas Fern, William Smith, Moses Fern, Edward Toplis, Henry Seal, Cornelius Slater and John Allsop).

It was these men and others with smaller acreages who employed the landless labourers and miners, and some small-holders, on permanent or temporary bases. The 1841 census has examples of labourers living in with village farmers - the fifteen years old Thomas Allsop with Cornelius Slater, John Prestwidge, also fifteen, with Edmund Buxton, farming 29 acres in 1835, Thomas Twigge and John Johnson with Thomas Slack, Robert Taylor, fifteen, with John Allsop (22 acres) and George Allsop with William Allsop. The village's biggest farm, Thomas Brown's, had three resident labourers, John Lomas, John Redfern and Samuel Ball; fifteen years old Joseph Scattergood was living at Isaac Rains' farm and John Watson, farming 48 acres had another fifteen year old, Thomas Johnson and an even younger boy, Robert Sherwin. William Whysall had four



labourers living on his farm, Thomas Whysall three and Benjamin Gregory two. Clearly, working class families in Brassington followed the normal practices in pre-industrial communities of boarding out their young sons (and daughters) with the larger farmers. One of the Brassington farmers, Thomas Slack, landlord of the Miners Arms and in 1835 nearing the end of a long period as Barmaster for the Brassington lead mining liberty, kept account of sums paid for seasonal labour, discounting them against debts incurred at the pub. The debts were for a great variety of goods and services in addition to ale and spirits. Examples of payment for work occur in the accounts held by Joseph Fearn - "1819 Apl 19 Recd Work etc up to this time 0-16-0; April 20 one day work 0-1-0", George Taylor - "1830 The late Geo Taylor for work done at corn 0-4-6", Stephen Wright - "4½ days at hay 0-9-0" and others. One account reveals that Slack kept a separate account of work done and paid for - "1818 Feby 4 Brought out of work book 0-2-0". A later workbook has survived in the Barmasters Collection at Chatsworth listing names and amounts during harvest time. During the earlier period the normal rate for a day's work seems to have been 1s. Stephen Wright's 9s. for 4½ days was unusual.

A comparison of names in the 1835 Survey with those in a surviving Barmaster's Measuring Book covering the years 1820-1826 shows that of the proprietors living in the village in 1835 nineteen, or 24 per cent, were miners. Four of the miners in the 1820-1826 lists were renting small plots in 1835, and others would certainly have been young men still living in their parents' houses - there are 31 whose surnames are those of men listed as proprietors in 1835. Of the 60 village proprietors who are not in the 1820-1826 Measuring Book, 46 have 'mining' surnames and there is no doubt that many of them either had relatives among the miners or were themselves miners at other times than 1820-1826. Lead mining was a major factor in the lives of the independent smallholders. The Measuring Book, giving the amounts and prices of lead ore mined, reveals some correlation between success in mining and ownership of cottage or land. Among the more successful miners during the 1820s were Francis, Richard and William Fearn and Daniel and Christopher Slack. All were house-owners in 1835 and Francis Fearn owned twelve acres of land in addition. Joseph Fearn and Stephen Wright were unsuccessful and are listed in the 1835 survey as living in rented houses, with no land. Lead mining was a highly precarious source of income and success was often intermittent and short-lived. - Joseph Greatorex and two partners sold twenty-one and a half tons of lead ore for £279. 9. 10d., but by 1839 Greatorex was earning 14s. in Thomas Slack's hayfield, and is shown in the 1835 survey as the tenant of a cottage with an annual value of £2 and owning no land of his own. On the other hand there were miners in 1835 who were house-owners and smallholders but whose relative prosperity rested on success achieved in earlier years - Thomas Slack, namesake and cousin of the Barmaster, lived in the cottage and cultivated the four acres owned by his father and grandfather and could thank their success in mining as he seems to have had little himself. His son, also Thomas, was landless and was to appear later in his namesake's hay-making book.

The main beneficiaries of the lead mining industry were the buyers and smelters and, in Brassington, and to a much smaller extent, the Barmaster. Apart from his, the only mining family to have an income consistently well above subsistence level were the Fearn, owners over several generations of the very productive Balldmeer Mine. Most Brassington mines were small and, while crucial to many families' independence, made no fortunes for the villagers. The evidence of the 1835 survey and of other sources including the Manor Court Rolls and wills is that the prosperous villagers were the farmers, shopkeepers and innkeepers. William Allsop died in 1848 and the Manor Court Roll for 17th October 1849 records the disposition of his copy-hold property - nine houses, including the 'Great House', two shops and a long list of fields. His father had been a butcher and a farmer and his uncle had owned the Miners Arms. He came from a long line of traders and property holders in the village. By 1835 he had acquired the designation 'Esq'. A similar figure was Robert Spencer, owner in 1835 of 192 acres (annual value £313. 13. Od.), which included two houses. At his death, recorded in the Manor Roll on 17th April 1851,

he was described as a farmer in Brassington and butcher in Douglas, Isle of Man. Another example of a villager whose property came from generations of trade and gradual acquisition of land from the profits was George Toplis, described in Pigot's Directory of 1835 as 'gent'. Toplis had died on January 11th 1835 and is therefore not listed in the survey. The Manor Roll however records the two houses, with buildings, yards and gardens inherited by his two daughters, along with a list of fields for each of them. Among the properties was, significantly, a butcher's shop, with stable and 'bacon house'. All of the seven local men holding over fifty acres belonged to families which had been prominent village landowners and office-holders for many generations. The success of the mining Fearn family was reflected in Thomas Fearn's purchase of the parish workhouse - the 'House of Industry' - for £100 in 1850. This is the large, probably seventeenth century house on the Town Street of the village, now known as the Tudor House.

In broad terms then, while 64 per cent of the land in the village was owned by outside proprietors, and while 68 per cent was farmed in units of fifty acres or more, Brassington in 1835 was still a village characterised by independent small-holders. This was due in large part to the very extensive deposits of lead, occurring in a form which made it uneconomic for any large company to move in. The villagers mined the lead themselves and while it lasted it enabled a pattern of independent small farming to persist. This pattern was to change by the middle of the century. The lead was nearing exhaustion in 1835 and the Manor Court Rolls during the rest of the century show a pattern of increasing concentration of land in fewer hands. An example is provided by Alexander Dean James. In 1835 he was a 'druggist' in Wirksworth. By the time of the 1841 census he had married George Toplis's elder daughter, and until his death in 1880 he added to his wife's inheritance many of the small pieces held by miners and others. By 1849 he was described in the Manor Court Roll as 'gentleman'. He left an annuity of £36 and a cottage to his widow and about ninety acres and another cottage to his four grand-children. His personal effects were valued at "less than £300".

Brassington in 1835 was a village in transition. Its centuries-old pattern was one in which farmers co-existed with independent miners, the miners' precarious income from lead buttressed by a holding of three or four acres and supplemented by seasonal work on the farms. This pattern was changing rapidly to one in which the farms were larger, and were worked by wage labourers, former miners and the sons of miners, whose independence had gone with the exhaustion of the lead. The 1835 survey captured a traditional landholding pattern just before it disappeared.

#### Archive Sources

Derbyshire Record Office -

Brassington Manor Court Rolls (D166)

Brassington Measuring Book, 1792-1802/Miners Arms Accounts 1808-1839  
(D2629/Z1/1, photocopy)

Brassington Measuring Book 1820-1826 (photocopy)

Survey Valuation & Rate of the Township of Brassington 1835  
(D2629/Z1/2, photocopy)

Will, Alexander Dean James, 1880 (microfilm)

Local Studies Library, Matlock -

Brassington census 1841 (microfilm)

Report of the Commissioners ... concerning charities and education of  
the poor in England and Wales, 1815-1839

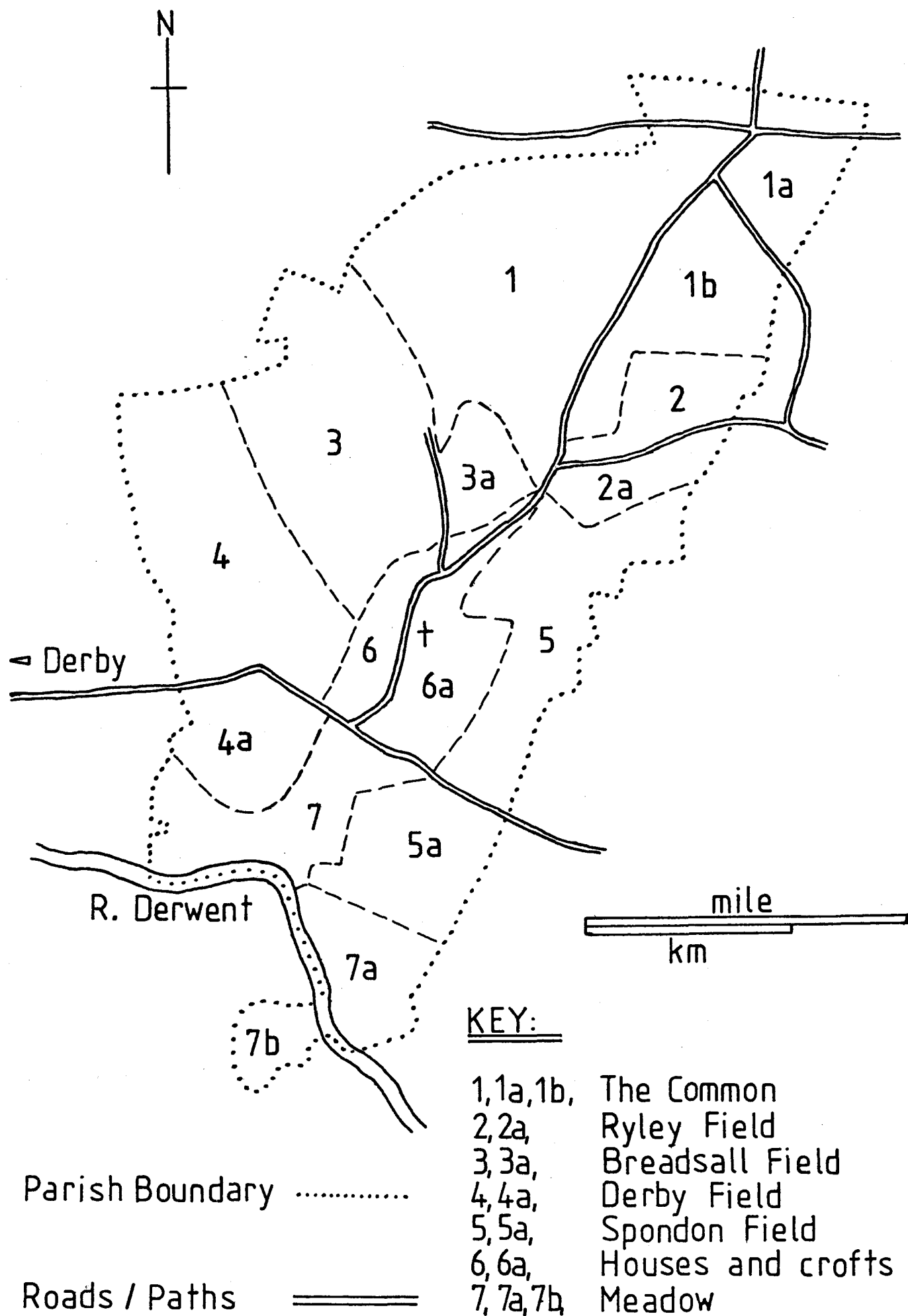
Chatsworth House

Barmaster's Collection, No. 25 (transcript and unpublished calendar by  
Roger Flindall)

#### Printed Source

Pigot, J. & Co. National commercial directory for Derbyshire. 1835

FIG.1 CHADDESSEN – FIELD NAMES



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## FIELD AND PLACE NAMES OF CHADDESSEN

(by Peter F. Cholerton, 19, Wilsthorpe Road, Chaddesden, Derby. DE2 4QR)

The study of field and place names for a particular locality often proves to be an absorbing interest for the local historian and we are indeed fortunate to have K. Cameron's Place Names of Derbyshire (1) as a major source of information for the county as a whole. Much work however could still be done at grass-roots level to provide more detail in certain areas.

As an example, many of the field names given in this paper are worthy of note either because they do not appear in Place Names of Derbyshire or because they ante-date its entries, yet these names were taken from just three sources, namely Deed 10483 and Deed TSM 414 both in the Derby Local Studies Library and from references contained in the wills and inventories of Chaddesden people (2). The two deeds are quadripartite indentures and describe at some length the locations of various 'lands' (3) (i.e. strips or selions) within the open-field network of Chaddesden in the early to mid eighteenth century.

The accompanying plan shows in simplified form the layout of the open fields as they would probably have appeared about the time the deeds were executed; the actual names of the great fields were Derby Field; Breadsall Field (or Littlewood Field); Spondon Field and Ryley Field, though it would seem perhaps Ryley Field once formed part of Spondon Field or represented a late extension of it; certainly by the time of the Chaddesden Inclosure in 1791-1793 all four fields were separate entities.

The hundred plus field and place names listed below are recorded alphabetically, each entry giving the location of the field name in the network of open field (where this is given in the original document), the date and source of the information, including in the case of a will the name of the testator, and finally the plan references - this has only been completed where it is certain (or reasonably so) as to the actual location of the field or place name in question.

| Name:                                | Location (where stated) i.e. | Date & Source i.e.                         | Plan Ref: |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------|
|                                      | BF = Breadsall Field         | A = Deed TSM 414                           |           |
|                                      | DF = Derby Field             | B = Deed 10483                             |           |
|                                      | RF = Ryley Field             | C = Will - name of testator in parentheses |           |
|                                      | SF = Spondon Field           |  |           |
| Allestrie Peece<br>(lately inclosed) |                              | 1593-C(Newton)                             | 7a (?)    |
| Alpert or Aufer Close                |                              | 1735-C(Parker)                             | 4         |
| Aputt Close Stile                    | DF                           | 1720-A                                     | 4         |
| Beaumont Acre                        |                              | 1638-C(Wilmot)                             | 7b        |
| Bellacre Balke                       | DF                           | 1720-A                                     | 4         |
| Black Wast                           |                              | 1728-C(Stables)                            | Not Known |
| Breadsall Balke                      | BF                           | 1720-A                                     | Not Known |

|                              |        |                    |            |
|------------------------------|--------|--------------------|------------|
| Breadsall Close              |        | 1593-C(Newton)     | 3          |
| Breadsall Field              | BF     | 1698-C(Holmes)     | 3 & 3a     |
|                              |        | 1705-C(Walker)     |            |
|                              |        | 1730-C(Smith)      |            |
| Broad Meare Sick             | DF     | 1720-A             | Not Known  |
| Butt Yard                    |        | 1766-C(Holland)    | 6a         |
|                              |        | 1820-C(Holland)    |            |
| Chaddesden Common            |        | 1718-C(Atkin)      | 1, 1a & 1b |
| Chaddesden Meadow            |        | 1839-C(Millington) | 7, 7a & 7b |
|                              |        | 1848-C(Waterfield) |            |
|                              |        | 1849-C(White)      |            |
| Chaddesden Mill              |        | 1844-C(Parker)     | 7          |
| Chaddesden Moor              |        | 1719-C(Salisbury)  | 1, 1a & 1b |
|                              |        | 1842-C(Salisbury)  |            |
| Cherry Tree Close            |        | 1705-C(Walker)     | 7          |
|                              |        | 1739-C(Goodwin)    |            |
| Chester Cliffe               | DF     | 1720-A             | 4 (?)      |
| Chester Highgreave Field (4) |        | 1705-C(Walker)     | 4 (?)      |
| Clarke Lane End              | SF     | 1720-A             | Not Known  |
| Common Piece                 |        | 1849-C(White)      | Not Known  |
| Cowsley Hedge                | DF     | 1720-A             | 4          |
| Cow Sydalls                  |        | 1593-C(Newton)     | 7 (?)      |
| Crabtree Flat                | BF     | 1720-A             | 3          |
| Cunery Hedge                 | BF     | 1720-A             | Not Known  |
| Darwent Lane                 |        | 1638-C(Wilmot)     | 7a         |
| Derby Field                  | DF     | 1705-C(Walker)     | 4 & 4a     |
|                              |        | 1730-C(Smith)      |            |
| Derby Hill Field             |        | 1820-C(Holland)    | Not Known  |
| Fillinge Holme               |        | 1623-C(Cockayne)   | 7a         |
| Flouers                      | Meadow | 1728-C(Stables)    | 7          |
| Goodidge Hill                | SF     | 1720-A             | 5          |
| Granom, The, alias           |        | 1839-C(Goodwin)    | 5          |
| Granom Nook Close            |        |                    |            |
| Granom Close                 |        | 1827-C(Goodwin)    | 5          |
| Grannum Nooke                | SF     | 1720-A             | 5          |
| Great Meadow                 |        | 1638-C(Wilmot)     | 7a         |
| Great Orchard                |        | 1748-B             | Not Known  |
| Greatorex's Close Hedge      | DF     | 1720-A             | Not Known  |
| Highgreave Field Hedge (4)   | DF     | 1720-A             | 4 (?)      |
| Hill's Half Acre             |        | 1760-C(Hill)       | Not Known  |
| Holes, The                   | BF     | 1720-A             | 3a (?)     |
| Holme Sick                   | DF     | 1720-A             | 4          |
| Humber Holme (6)             |        | 1613-C(Outram)     | Not Known  |
| John Morley's Pingle         | SF     | 1720-A             | Not Known  |
| Kings Yard                   | BF     | 1720-A             | 3          |
| Kings Yard Gate              | BF     | 1720-A             | 3          |
| Kings Yard Side              | BF     | 1720-A             | 3          |
| Legit Sick                   | SF     | 1720-A             | 2a         |
| Lidgett Sick                 | RF     | 1730-C(Smith)      | 2a         |
| Littlewood Field             | BF     | 1698-C(Holmes)     | 3 & 3a     |
| Littlewood Hill              | BF     | 1748-B             | 3          |

|                       |    |                    |           |
|-----------------------|----|--------------------|-----------|
| Meddow, The           |    | 1720-A             | 7,7a & 7b |
| Moore Acre            |    | 1640-C(Clarke)     | Not Known |
| Moore End             |    | 1627-C(Hibbert)    | 1 & 1b    |
|                       |    | 1627-C(Cowap)      |           |
|                       |    | 1698-C(Holmes)     |           |
|                       |    | 1725-C(Millington) |           |
|                       |    | 1728-C(Cholerton)  |           |
| Moore End Lane        | SF | 1720-A             | 5         |
| Moseley Nooke         | SF | 1720-A             | Not Known |
| Mossey Close          |    | 1748-B             | 6a (?)    |
| Neather Lee           | DF | 1720-A             | 4 (?)     |
| Neather Lee Hedge     | DF | 1748-B             | 4 (?)     |
| Neather Sick          | BF | 1720-A             | 3 (?)     |
| Northall Sitch        | BF | 1698-C(Holmes)     | Not Known |
| North Sick            | BF | 1720-A             | 3 (?)     |
| Over Lee              | DF | 1720-A             | 4 (?)     |
| Paddock Nook          | BF | 1730-C(Smith)      | 3a        |
| Paddock Style         | BF | 1748-B             | 3a (?)    |
| Paddocks, The         |    | 1849-C(White)      | 3a (?)    |
| Pauthole (?)          | SF | 1720-A             | Not Known |
| Pease Way             | BF | 1720-A             | Not Known |
| Pike Acre             | BF | 1720-A             | Not Known |
| Poole Meadow          |    | 1547-C(Newham)     | Not Known |
| Quicksets             | BF | 1720-A             | 3 (?)     |
| Riley Field Allotment |    | 1849-C(White)      | Not Known |
| Ryley Field           | RF | 1698-C(Holmes)     | 2 & 2a    |
|                       |    | 1730-C(Smith)      |           |
| Ryley Hill            | SF | 1720-A             | Not Known |
|                       |    | 1730-C(Smith)      |           |
| Schoole Close         | BF | 1720-A             | 3 (?)     |
| Share Flatt Nook      |    | 1748-B             | 7         |
| Sharoflatt End        |    | 1616-C(Cheatleton) | 7 (?)     |
| Siddoles (?)          |    | 1683-C(Cheadle)    | 7 (?)     |
| Slade                 | BF | 1640-C(Clarke)     | Not Known |
| Sparrow Ford          | SF | 1720-A             | Not Known |
| Spondon Field         | SF | 1691-C(Goodwin)    | 5 & 5a    |
|                       |    | 1730-C(Smith)      |           |
| Spondon Sick          | SF | 1748-B             | Not Known |
| Stake Close           |    | 1623-C(Cockayne)   | Not Known |
| Stayl                 |    | 1748-B             | 5a (?)    |
| Stephens Acre         |    | 1748-B             | 7 (?)     |
| Stone Flatt Gate      | BF | 1720-A             | 3         |
| Stone Flatt Pingle    |    | 1705-C(Walker)     | 3         |
| Stonill               |    | 1640-C(Clarke)     | Not Known |
|                       |    | 1704-C(Rowland)    |           |
| Thickthorns           | DF | 1720-A             | 4         |
|                       |    | 1748-B             |           |
| Towne End             |    | 1613-C(Outram)     | 5         |
| Towne End Close       | SF | 1616-C(Cheatleton) | 5         |
|                       |    | 1720-A             |           |
| Twindle Sick          | SF | 1720-A             | 5         |
|                       |    | 1748-B             |           |
| Tyth Barne Yard       |    | 1704-C(Rowland)    | Not Known |
| Warfin (8)            | DF | 1730-C(Smith)      | 4a        |

|                    |    |                |    |
|--------------------|----|----------------|----|
| Warfin Bank        | DF | 1720-A         | 4a |
| Warfing Close      | DF | 1748-B         | 4a |
| Warfyn             | DF | 1720-A         | 4a |
| Wast Gate Pingles  |    | 1705-C(Walker) | 1b |
| Willowtree Close   |    | 1640-C(Clarke) | 2a |
| Willridding Hedge  | BF | 1720-A         | 3  |
| Willridding Nook   | BF | 1698-C(Holmes) | 3  |
|                    |    | 1729-C(Doman)  |    |
| Willridding Pingle |    | 1748-B         | 3  |
| Windmill Hill      | SF | 1720-A         | 5  |
|                    |    | 1730-C(Smith)  |    |
| Woodclose          |    | 1748-B         | 1  |
| Woodnook           | RF | 1698-C(Holmes) | 2  |

#### NOTES:

1. The Place Names of Derbyshire by K. Cameron (English Place-Name Society vols XXVII, XXVIII & XXIX), Cambridge University Press 1959
2. 'Chaddesden Wills & Inventories 1533-1868' by P.F. Cholerton (unpublished ms)
3. Deed 10483 actually specifies the area of some of the Chaddesden open-field 'lands' as follows:

|           | a | r | p  | area of one land |
|-----------|---|---|----|------------------|
| 6 lands = | 1 | 2 | 00 | 0.250 acres      |
| 2 lands = | 0 | 2 | 18 | 0.306 acres      |
| 3 lands = | 1 | 1 | 05 | 0.427 acres      |
| 1 land =  | 0 | 1 | 31 | 0.444 acres      |
| 2 lands = | 1 | 0 | 28 | 0.588 acres      |

|           |   |   |    |             |
|-----------|---|---|----|-------------|
| 1 pike =  | 0 | 1 | 00 | 0.250 acres |
| 3 pikes = | 1 | 0 | 14 | 0.363 acres |

(A pike was a pointed land used to fill up spaces left by the normal rectangular strips in the common fields)

By way of comparison, the widths of some strips still surviving today in Chaddesden were measured recently and produced figures of 16'10"; 19'00" and 19'6" - if the length of a land were assumed to be 220 yards (one furlong), then the area of these extant lands would be in the range 0.255 acres to 0.295 acres i.e. considerably less than the size of some of the eighteenth century lands quoted above. One possible explanation for this apparent discrepancy might well be that certain lands mentioned in the documents were perhaps aggregated lands consisting of originally two adjacent but separate strips brought together into common ownership and thereafter referred to as a single land; alternatively, considerable fluctuation in the areas of the common field lands may have been the norm.

4. cf. Highgreave Field, Derby (Cameron p. 455)
5. cf. Cowsley, Derby (Cameron 451)
6. cf. Humber Holme, Osmaston by Derby (Cameron p. 490); Chaddesden and Osmaston are separated only by the River Derwent.
7. cf. Siddalls, Derby (Cameron p. 453)
8. cf. 'Checkers Closes otherwise Wharfen Closes,' Derby (Cameron p. 453)

## COAL MINING AT BELPER

(by John Heath, 16, Paddock Close, Castle Donington, Derby)

The following information is extracted from a short article in a copy of the 1871 Nottingham Journal.

'Some two hundred years ago Belper could boast of a colliery on Bridge Hill' although it was 'never prosperous and it was not long in existence'. Activity on the site was confirmed by the death in the pit on 11 December 1686 of Mathew Harrison. Over a century later - about 1816 - another colliery - 'The Dally Pit' - was started at a short distance from Bridge Hill, alongside the road to Dally. This mining operation ceased some fifteen years later when the mine was filled in.

In 1860 colliery operations were commenced at Belper Laund(e) on the estate of Colonel C.R. Colville of Lullington. A four foot seam of coal at a depth of 50-70 feet was worked for three years, but the operations ceased through lack of cash.

The mine was reopened in 1876 by 'The Belper Laund Colliery Company' who drove a drift of 290 yards to the 4'2" seam. Winding gear was installed twelve months later when output was increased under the managership of a Mr. Banks. Best hand-picked coal was retailed at the pit-head at 10/6d. a ton; cobbles at 8/4d. and rough slack at 5/0d. (The delivery charge to Belper was 2/0d. a ton). This mine also produced fire-clay.

The 'Dally (or Dalhay) Pit' was recorded by George Sanderson in his 1831-1834 Survey and would appear to correspond with the one Farey names Belper Lane-end. Farey also records earlier coal-pits at Belper-gutter and Belper Town (to the NW of the Church). Sanderson recorded an earlier mining operation at the Lawns. In general, however, references to mining in the Belper area record coal as 'being worked to advantage one mile from Belper'.

### BOOK NOTES by Dudley Fowkes

CALKE ABBEY DERBYSHIRE: A HIDDEN HOUSE REVEALED by Howard Colvin (National Trust 1985), 128pp, 88 illustrations.

This is a beautifully produced book, illustrated in glorious technicolour, somewhat incongruously printed in Hong Kong. Can't we produce books like this in Britain? I am sure however, that most people will find the book something of a disappointment. The combination of a subject that has fired the public imagination to the extent it has plus as distinguished an author as Howard Colvin ought to have produced something rather more stimulating and exciting. In the event a very straightforward narrative account of the family history takes up over half of the book, relegating the subjects for which most people would purchase it - the architecture of the house and an account of its contents - to second features. All in all it seems a great shame that is probably explained by the National Trust's natural desire to get something published on this most publicised acquisition. One would not expect typographical errors in a book of this standard (and price) but the accepted spelling of Swarkestone is Swarkestone, not Swarkeston.

THE COAL MINES OF BUXTON by A.F. Roberts and J.R. Leach (Scarthin Books, Cromford, 1985), 96pp, 22 illustrations.

It is true to say that associating coal mining with Buxton is to most people like associating back-to-back terrace housing with Bath, and in recent



times it is due almost entirely to the efforts of Alan Roberts and John Leach that this part of the now usually forgotten north-west Derbyshire coalfield has been brought to our attention. Having said that I must point out that there never has been any coal mining in Buxton itself and the shorter work that appears elsewhere in this publication is more honestly titled even allowing for the rather peculiar parochial structure of what most of us think of as Buxton.

This book is **very** well researched and the standard of production is way ahead of previous efforts from Scarthin Books. Anyone reading it will, I am sure, be surprised at the amount of information that the authors have succeeded in assembling. The only general criticism is with the style of writing rather than with the content. In many parts of the book, large sections consist of short staccato paragraphs, often of no more than one sentence, which do nothing to encourage continuity of thought or ease of reading. Generally, however, a very worthwhile effort, of great interest to both local and industrial historians.