

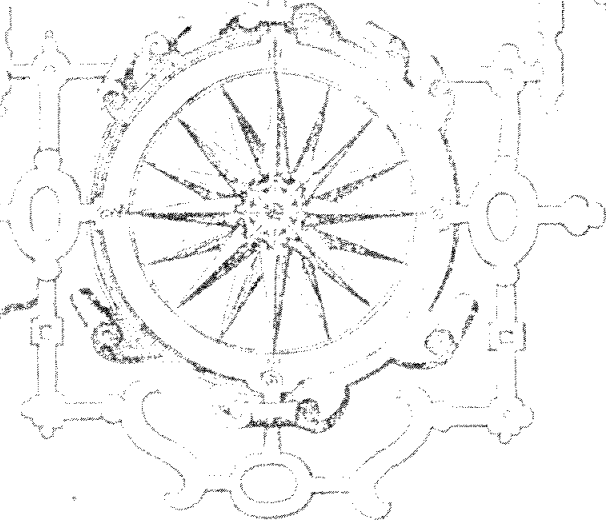
DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

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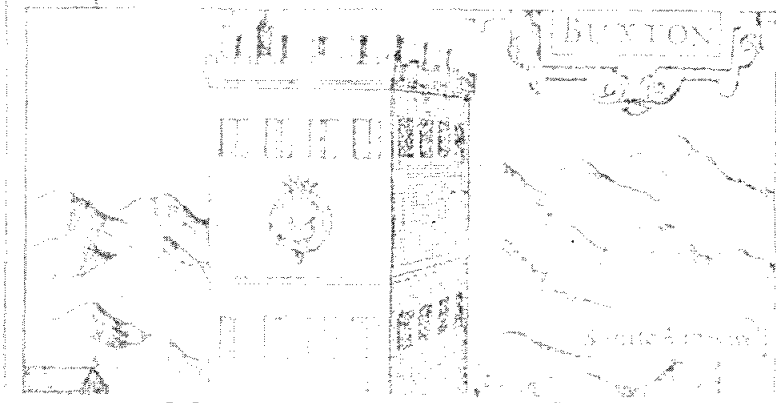
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The Local History Bulletin
of the
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PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

VERNON CHANTRIES AND BENEFACTIONS TO MONASTERIES

(by Antony Cox,

Introduction

Haddon Hall the home of the medieval Vernons is in the parish of Bakewell, so why were no Vernons buried at Haddon or Bakewell before John Vernon, son of Henry Vernon, who died 12 August 1477?¹

The evidence suggests that the answer to this question lies in the principle that the Vernons were concerned for the welfare of their souls and therefore chose to be buried where it could be ensured that they would be prayed for after death. No doubt the chaplain at Haddon would have prayed for them but there was no right of burial there.²

Benefactions to religious houses and the founding of chantries

From the 8th to the 13th century, where a religious house was founded either by the Crown or by wealthy aristocracy or gentry, it was a customary obligation upon the religious to say prayers for the founder. Other less wealthy people also made benefactions and these also secured privileges, including the prayers of the brethren. Laity might also seek to be '*joined with*' the family of the religious house, to become confraters or familiars; they paid in things temporal for spiritual benefits.

Every religious establishment kept a roll of benefactors and offered prayers for their well-being while alive, and for their souls after death. Daughter houses founded by a monastery were also expected to pray for the brethren of the parent house. They also made confederations bound by mutual agreement to pray for each other.³ In parish churches, bede rolls served a similar purpose to the monastic rolls, being a roll of benefactors whose souls were to be prayed for by the parishioners.

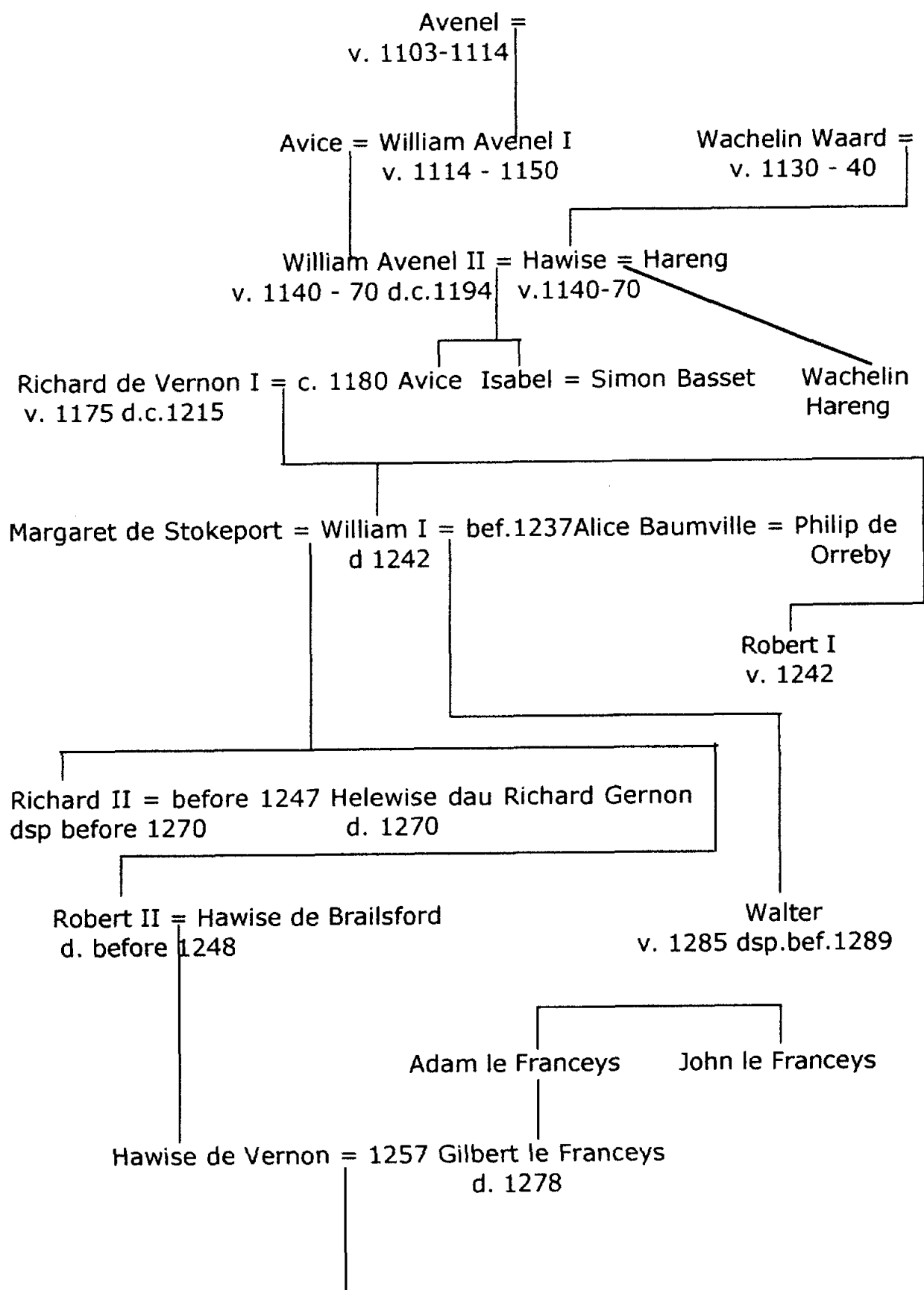
Although they did not found a monastery, the Vernons were benefactors of several houses and became confraters. They and the families from whom they inherited property also set up chantries.

A chantry was an endowment to a monastery, parish church or chapel as a result of which a mass was recited at an altar for the well being and good estate of the founder during his lifetime and for the repose of his soul after death. They started to be established towards the close of the 13th century at a time when most of the major religious houses and many parish churches were already in place. A large expansion took place in the 14th century, with a rapid increase after the Black Death, but at the time of their suppression, the majority then surviving were of 15th century foundation.

The precise nature of the chantry would depend on the resources of the benefactor. The basic element was the stipend of a priest to say masses for the founder at a specific altar in a pre-existing monastic foundation, church or chapel. In the case of nunneries, which were often impoverished, the foundation of a chantry could bring in welcome funds. A chantry chapel in a parish church could sometimes involve a substantial addition to the fabric.

Other forms of endowment included an almshouse or hospital at which the chantry priest might serve as a chaplain. Once again, the housed men – the bedesmen – had a duty to pray for the founder. Sometimes schools were established, with a priest serving as the master. Yet another option was a college of secular clergy where one of them was the incumbent of the associated parish church. All these options increased the possibility that prayers for the benefactor would be maintained in perpetuity.

Another form of chantry was created by less wealthy people combining into a religious gild for works of piety and charity and the celebration of masses for their brethren, living and dead. Whatever the origin of the chantry, the duration of the holding of the stated masses varied. Often they were to be held for a limited period after the death of the benefactor but some were for a longer time span or, indeed, in perpetuity. An obit – a mass on the anniversary of the benefactor's death – was another frequent option, but it was often suppressed when memory of the benefactor faded. A trental was a daily mass for a month, usually after the donor's death.



Pedigree of the Vernon Family 1103-1611, Part 1

Other lesser endowments might be for vestments and books, for the maintenance of a lamp or candles or for the tolling of a bell on specific occasions;⁴ and the Vernons, or the immediate ancestors of the heiresses they married, engaged in many of these activities.

In 1529 an Act forbade any person accept a stipend for singing masses for the dead, and in 1545 another Act transferred the property of all chantry foundations to the royal exchequer '*for good and godly uses*'. Henry VIII died before the latter Act had become effective and actual suppression was not until 1547, in the first year of Edward VI's reign, when a further measure was passed whereby chantries, colleges and free chapels and their possessions were given to the Crown because '*the doctrine and vain opinion of purgatory and masses were upholden by the abuse of trentals and masses*'. At the time of suppression, there were about 2000 chantries, the largest number in the dioceses of York, London and Lincoln. York, for example, had 424, Coventry and Lichfield, 106, and Norwich, 60. The proceeds of suppression were supposed to go the poor, to the foundation of grammar schools and the augmentation of the universities, but much ended up in the royal coffers. There were also supposed to be pensions provided for the displaced chantry priests.⁵

Burial places of Vernons or their immediate ancestors

Lenton Priory

Four successive generations of the medieval owners of Haddon were buried at Lenton Priory; William Avenel I, William Avenel II, Richard de Vernon I and his son, William de Vernon I.

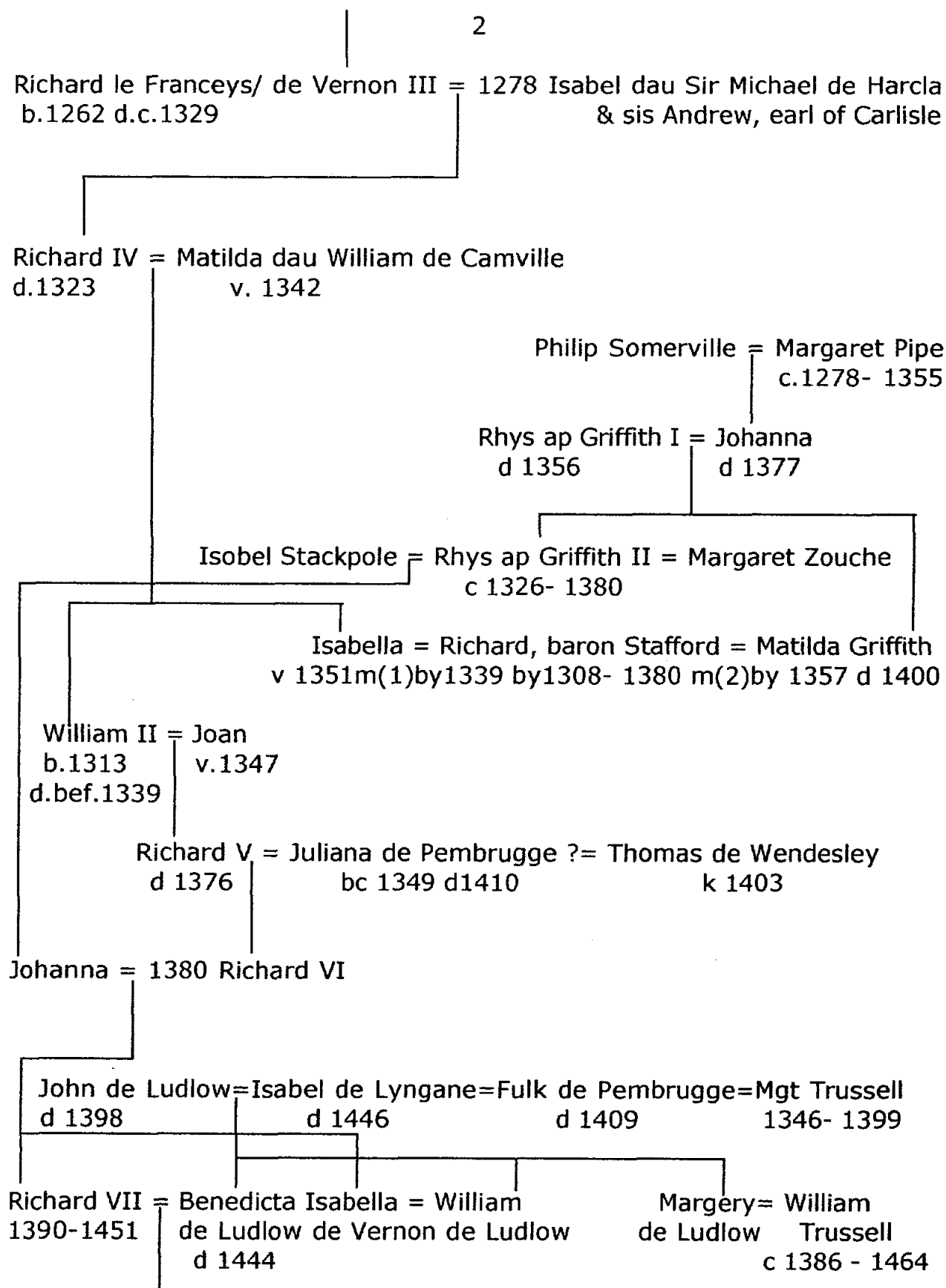
The priory had been founded by William Peverel I between 1103 and 1114. Avenel, one of William's 'men', endowed it with two parts of the tithes of Haddon, Meadowplace and Monyash.⁶ This Avenel was probably the father of William Avenel I.⁷ By a charter dated between 1162 and c.1194, William Avenel II, father-in-law of Richard Vernon I, granted 5s from his mill at Rowsley to the priory of Lenton to provide for a light over the burial place of his parents (William Avenel I and his wife⁸ in the cloister,⁹ a grant confirmed between 1194 and 1205 by his two sons-in-law, Richard de Vernon I, who married Alice Avenel, and Simon Basset, who married Isabel Avenel).¹⁰ In 1237, Hugh, abbot of Cluny, recorded that William de Vernon (son of Richard de Vernon I¹¹), for the weal of his soul and that of his wife Alice, had '*piously*' given all his land at Stanton to the prior and convent of Lenton, on the condition that his body be buried there near his father. The abbot also admitted '*William and Alice to participate in all good [works] of the whole order of Cluny, that is facts, disciplines, watches, prayers, masses, matins and all others, whether in the chief house or in its members*', and he prohibited any alienation of the granted land. 20 shillings were reserved during the lives of William and Alice for providing '*pittances*' on the feast days of St Nicholas and St Mark the Evangelist, when the '*convent*' shall celebrate masses of the Holy Ghost. Half a mark yearly was reserved for the sick in the infirmary. On the death of William and Alice, the same pittances '*shall be provided on the days of their anniversaries [obits] that the convent may more devotedly and cheerfully perform the office*'.¹²

At an unknown date, the same William gave a yearly rent of 5 shillings arising from property in Harlaston [Staffs] to Polesworth Abbey [nunnery] for the maintenance of a '*lampe to burne every night in the Chapter House*'.¹³ This possibly arose from the fact that his first wife, Margaret de Stokeport,¹⁴ went there before her death, or because a daughter had been received into the convent. William's brother, Robert I, was granted Ashmstead and Adstock [Bucks] so may have been buried there.¹⁵

It is not known where William I's sons Richard II, Robert II¹⁶ and Walter I¹⁷ were buried. Richard married Helewise daughter of Richard Gernun but died without issue.¹⁸ In 1257 he was party to the marriage of his niece Helewise, daughter of his brother Robert II, to Gilbert son of Adam, a nephew of John le Franceys¹⁹. Robert II, whose wife was Hawise de Brailsford, was already dead, with no other issue.²⁰ He may have been the Robert de Vernon admitted when a minor as rector of Adstock whose church had been given to Leicester Abbey by William Avenel I.²¹ Like his uncle Robert I, he too may have been buried in Buckinghamshire. One would have expected Richard II to be buried at Lenton but he had been in trouble as a supporter of Simon de Montfort so the monks may not have been enthusiastic.²² Age suggests that Walter I may have been a son of William I's second wife. Certainly he was active in Cheshire where he probably died leaving no issue.²³

Lichfield Cathedral

Gilbert le Franceys, husband of Hawise de Vernon, daughter of Robert II and heiress of her uncle Richard II, died in 1278. His heir was Richard III.²⁴ A light for St Chad's tomb in Lichfield Cathedral was paid for 6d from a burgage of Gilbert la Franceys so perhaps he and his wife were buried there.²⁵ The place of burial of Gilbert



Pedigree of the Vernon Family 1103-1611, Part 2

and Hawise's son Richard le Franceys/de Vernon is unknown. Although he died after his son Richard IV²⁶ there is no evidence that he was interred in the same place. In 1293 he was imprisoned at Appleby [Cumbria].²⁷ His wife Isabel's brother, Andrew de Harcla, earl of Carlisle, was executed for treason in 1323.²⁸

Clifton Campville

Clifton Campville in Staffordshire is another place impinged on by the Vernons. In relation to the parish church, there has been a debate about whether the tomb set into the south wall of what have been the south transept before 1360 is that of Richard Vernon IV. He married Matilda, one of the co-heiresses of William de Camville, and died in 1323^{26, 29}. However, it is evident that the tomb was in place before the foundation of the Hugh de Hopwas chantry in 1361.³⁰ The Staffordshire historian Stebbing Shaw tells us that '*In an arch of the south wall of the church is a large marble stone, which lies about two feet high from the ground. Against the wall, within the arch, has been a great deal of painting; but when the church was whitened [about sixty years ago] this was also washed over 'Here lyeth the founder of this church': and, on a flat stone under it, Arg. A fret Sable, a canton, Gules. On the north side, almost over against this arch, is another, in which is written 'Here lyeth the founder's wife'. The old painting also being washed out*'. Shaw also quoted Wyrley's church notes recording the heraldry in one of the windows, heraldry that included Camville and Vernon elements, with an inscription beneath '*Matildis de Vernon fecit hanc fenestram*'.³¹

When Professor Tristram restored the wall painting within the arch of the southern tomb the Vernon arms became clear on the left hand side. He seems to have been in no doubt that this was the tomb of Richard de Vernon who married Matilda de Camville.²⁹ The north transept is a chapel beneath a priest's room and recent research indicates that this constitutes a chantry of late 13th century date that preceded that of Hugh de Hopwas.³⁰

When Hugh founded the chantry of the Holy Trinity and the glorious Virgin Mary in 1361 he incorporated the south transept in a south aisle and extended it to the east to create a Lady Chapel on the south side of the chancel. This chantry was created for the safety of Sir Richard Stafford, patron of the church, and his wife Matilda and Richard's children, while they were alive, and for their souls after death. Amongst others it was also for the soul of Lady Isabella, '*sometime wife of Sir Richard*'. Isabella nee Vernon, was daughter of Richard IV and Matilda Camville, and Richard's second wife. Matilda. Nee Griffith, was aunt to Johanna wife of Richard de Vernon VI.³²

It should be noted that Matilda widow of Richard de Vernon IV continued to hold the advowson of the church until her death some time after 1342.^{33, 34} In summary, therefore, it is here suggested that the earlier chantry was founded by Richard Vernon IV but was superseded by the Hopwas chantry. Richard's widow Matilda was keen to retain control of the church and the chantry to ensure that prayers were said for her late husband, herself and her and her ancestors and although Matilda was buried in the church opposite her husband, the establishment of the Hugh de Hopwas chantry showed that the Staffords had taken charge. Their chantry survived until suppression.³⁵ Richard IV had a significant of land in Clifton Campville at his death, but ultimately the only gain from the Camville marriage seems to have been the manor of Llanstephan in Carmarthenshire.^{26, 36} This left the Vernons with no place of burial over which they had control and where they could be certain of intercession for their souls. They nevertheless expected that the priests at Haddon and Harlaston would pray for them and their manor house at Harlaston within the manor of Clifton Campville had a chapel which they endowed. In 1553 it was recorded that the chapel of ease had '*1 chalice, 1 cope, 1 bell that has always belonged to the ancestors of Sir George Vernon, Kt.*'.³⁷

During the succeeding years of the 14th century the Vernons extended their land holdings and power base but where the next three generations, William II and Richards V and VI were buried has not been discovered.^{26, 38} William II married Joan, but features little in records and his wife's maiden name is not known. He died before 1339.³⁹ Richard V married Juliana sister of Sir Fulk de Pembrugge, laying the foundation of her grandson's eventual inheritance of Tong Castle and estate,⁴⁰ but there is no evidence that they were buried at Tong. He died in 1376, she in 1410.⁴¹

Richard VI married Johanna daughter of Sir Rhys ap Griffith II in 1380.⁴² Her mother was daughter of Sir Richard the brother and heir of Roger Stackpole, an inheritance celebrated by their son Richard VII in the heraldry of the chapel at Haddon Hall, heraldry that parallels that of Sir Rhys in Wychnor church where the Griffiths had their Staffordshire seat. However Wychnor was only a chapel of ease of Tatenhill, so it was there and at Alrewas and Burton Agnes in Yorkshire that they chose to be buried. These major Griffiths estates in

Staffordshire and Yorkshire came from the marriage of Sir Rhys ap Griffiths I to the daughter and coheir of Sir Philip Somerville, whose tomb is at Burton Agnes.⁴³ It is possible that the Griffiths founded the chantry in the chapel of Our Lady at Alrewas, as it was certified in 1549 that *'an ancient Lord of Alrewas had given a cottage and lands to find a priest to sing mass in Our Lady's chapel for the souls of the ancestors of the said lord and for all Christian souls; that their service had continued until about 1545'*.⁴⁴ Thomas Griffiths was buried in the chapel in 1431.⁴⁵ Despite the family links, there is no indication that Richard VI was interred at either Clifton Campville or Alrewas when he died in 1400.⁴⁶

Tong Church, Shropshire

A new era arrived when Isabella de Pembrugge (d.1446), widow of Sir Fulk de Pembrugge (d.1409), and mother-in-law of Richard Vernon VII, the Speaker, founded a College for secular priests at Tong in Shropshire where she was buried with her husband.⁴⁷ In 1410/11, she had been given a licence by Henry IV to found a College at Tong for five chaplains, one of whom was to be warden. The statutes and ordinances dated 9 March 1410/11 were confirmed by the Bishop of Lichfield on 27 March following. In addition to the five priests or chaplains there were to be thirteen almsmen, of whom seven were too infirm to look after themselves. On every Sunday a mass of the Trinity was to be said for the founders and benefactors. Anniversary masses – obits – were to be said on named Sundays for Lady Isabel's relatives and the two co-founder priests.⁴⁸ The college was further endowed when Richard de Vernon VII was speaker at the parliament at Leicester in 1426 and Henry V, at the request of Lady Isabel, granted to the College the town, church and priory of Lapley [Staffs].⁴⁸ Richard VII and his wife, his son William III and his wife, his grandson Sir Henry I and his wife, and Sir Henry's sons, Richard VIII, Humphrey and Arthur, were all buried at Tong.⁴⁹

In his will dated 1514, Sir Henry bequeathed £100 to build his own chantry chapel there dedicated to the Salutation of Our Lady, and 300 marks to endow it – *'That my tomb and chapel be made within 2 years next after my decease or erst am the better and more honourable for the blood that my wife is come of'*. Scott has argued on the basis of architectural details and Sir Henry's career that the chapel emulated Henry VII's chapel at Westminster. He also gave a bell to be tolled whenever a Vernon visited Tong.⁵⁰

It is clear that the prayers of five priests were considered very efficacious. Richard VII, the speaker, was not however content with prayers just at Tong.

The Chapel at Haddon Hall

Quoting the Chantry Roll of Henry VIII, Cox states that the chantry was at the altar of St Nicholas in the side/south aisle of the chapel.⁵¹ The Chantry Roll states: *'The service of Saint Nicholas esth. In the Chappell att Haddon es ... ytt ... founded nor the foundacyon thereof the incumbent knoes ithe noo butt he esse putt into the said p'mce by the executors of Sir Henry Vernon knight and so therein dothe contynnewse and pray there for the soesle of the sayde Sir Henry Vernon his Ancestors and all Chrytyan people as by the certyficate of of Sr Richard Rawson p'ste there dothe pose' ... 'in par Bakewell a mile distant fr the p'rish ch ... the same is not voyde and itt hathe no mansion place butt a chamber esth in the manorplace of Haddon by the sufferance of George Vernon esquire owner of the sd manor' ... 'There hath been no more lands nor yrlly ppytte belonging to the same sithence the tyme above lymtyed more then is specyfyd' [1529 see above] ... 'There is no goods jewels or ornament but the ... & chalice & other necessities of the sayd George Vernon' ... 'there hath been no service nor other lyke p'formance there ... purchased or by other maene obtained esth in the King's licence sythence the tyme aforesaid'.*⁵²

Either Richard Rawson was covering up or the memory of the original foundation had faded over the course of a hundred years because Sir Henry Vernon states in his will that his grandfather [Richard VII, the speaker] established a chantry in Haddon Chapel – *'That there shall be a priest perpetual singing and there abiding in the chapel in Nether Haddon according to the will of my grandfather, there to serve God, Saint Nycholas and St Anne and to pray for my soul, my grandfather's soul, my wife's soul and for all the souls that came of my grandfather, taking for his wages all those lands and tenements which Sir John Smyth otherwise called Sir John Peneston lately had during his life, that is to say the land now in the holding of Robert Bagshawe and Robert Wodruff, the land in Seckington, Tamworth, Wegynton and Chelmerdon'*.⁵³

Walsall Church

Richard de Vernon VII, the speaker, also established a chantry in 1440/1 in Walsall church at the altar of St John the Baptist. It appears that lands for this purpose had been bequeathed by Sir William Spennore who died in

1410.⁵⁴ Sir William was grandfather of Margaret Swynfen who married Richard VII's son William de Vernon II.⁵⁵ Sir Henry Vernon founded, took over, or re-endowed several chantries in addition to the one he established at Tong. At Walsall it appears he either augmented his grandfather's chantry or created a new one.⁵⁴

Wirksworth Church

In the latter half of the 15th century Sir Henry founded a chantry of the Holy Rood in the south aisle of Wirksworth church endowed with a tenement or hostelry called the Swanne and three other tenements, one in Petergate. Perhaps relevant to this was the burial in the church of Roger de Vernon who died 11 November 1478. It appears that at one time there were inscriptions for Sir Henry and his wife. The east window of the chapel had glass with the arms of Vernon quartering Camville, Stackpole, Pembrugge and Pye. Cox considers that Roger was a son of the Speaker and so uncle of Sir Henry.⁵⁶ Sir Henry himself had a son Roger who was alive in 1502, but evidently predeceased him, since he is not mentioned in his will.⁵⁷

Youlgreave Church

Valor Ecclesiasticus records that Sir Henry founded a chantry at Youlgreave.⁵⁸ The position is very complex.⁵⁹ It seems that a chantry of the Blessed Virgin Mary was established in the church in the 14th century by the Rossingtons. In 1422 Richard VII, the speaker, and other brethren of the chantry of the Blessed Virgin Mary were recorded as being involved in a land transaction. Later, in 1525, John Vernon, son of Sir Henry and effectively guardian of Sir George, leased lands in Alport and Youlgreave to George, his uncles Thomas and Humphrey and others, for the funding of a secular priest in St Mary's chantry. From these records it appears that the Vernons had taken over the chantry by the early 16th century, and that Sir Henry is a likely candidate to have carried this out.⁶⁰

Thomas Cockayne who died in 1488 has a fine small table tomb with effigy at Youlgreave. He was the son of Sir John Cockayne and Anne daughter of Richard Vernon VII, the speaker. A monument to Roger Rooe of Alport and his wife is another commemorating someone with Vernon ancestry. Roger's grandfather John Rooe married Joan daughter of Richard Vernon, son of Richard Vernon so of William Vernon Kt. That is Richard VI, son of Richard V, son of William II.⁶¹ Perhaps these kin were an added reason for Sir Henry to support a chantry there.

Bakewell Church

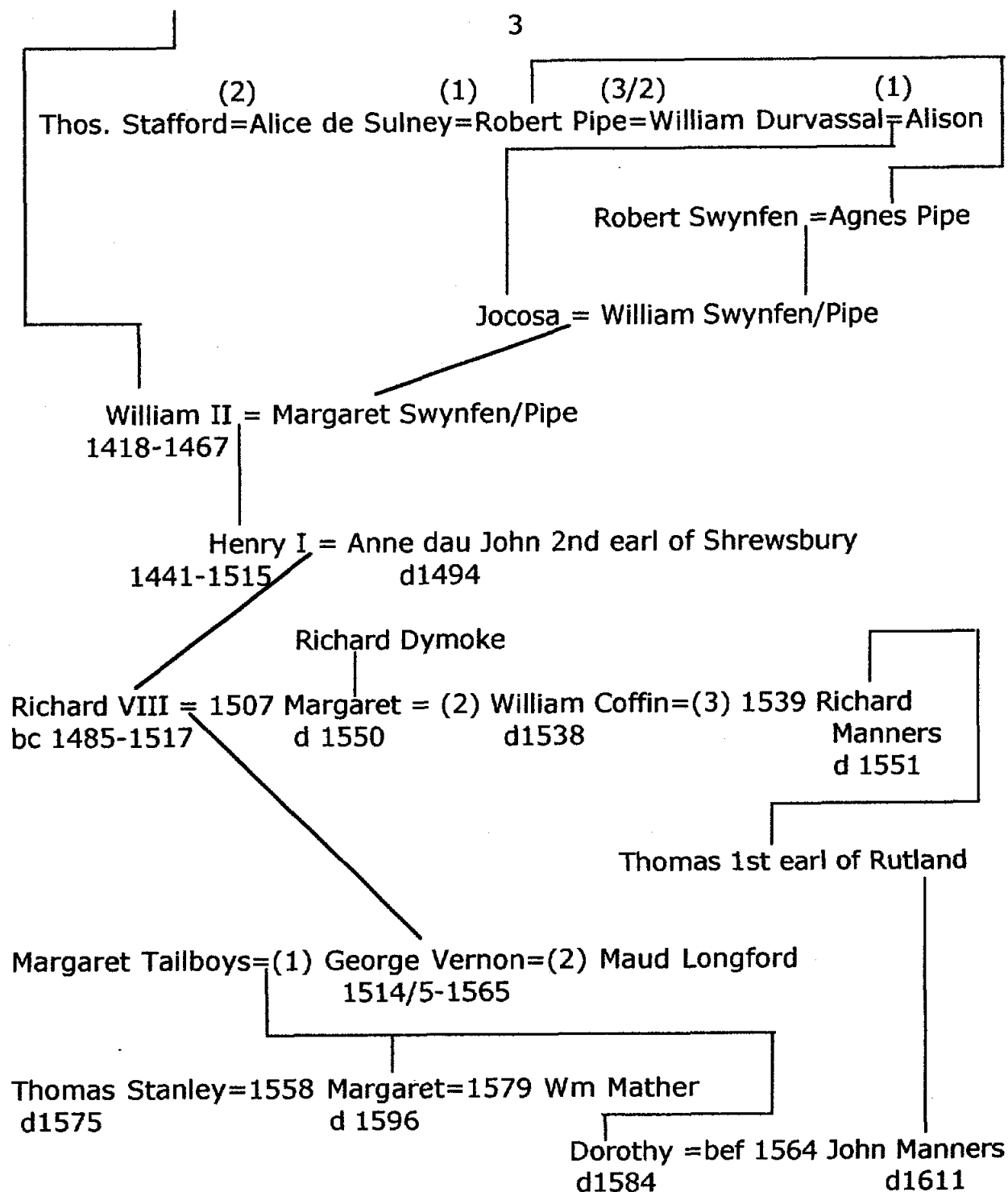
At the suppression there were two chantries in the church at Bakewell, one founded by the Foljambes, demonstrating that in the 14th century the Vernons lacked control over the church there.

By licence dated 8 February 1344, Sir Godfrey Foljambe had permission to found a chantry in Bakewell church. This was the chantry of the Holy Rood. It was endowed with rents from property in Bakewell, Bubnell, Chatsworth and Ashford and an associated guild was formed at the time of its foundation. The Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, rectors of Bakewell, gave consent. The chantry priest was to pray for the *'healthful state of Sir Godfrey and Anne his wife, and their children while they live, and after their decease for their souls and souls of their parents, and the brotherhood of the Gild of the Holy Cross in Baukwell, and all the faithful living and dead, at the altar of the Holy Cross in the nave of the parish church ...'*

The translation of the inscription on their monument in the church reads: *'Sir Godfrey Foljambe, knight, and Avena his wife (who afterwards married Richard de Green, knight), Lord and Lady of the Manors of Hassop, Okebrook, Elton, Stanton, Darley, Over Haddon, Lockowe, founded this chantry in honour of the Holy Cross, in the 39th year of the reign of King Edward III [1365]. Godfrey died on the first Thursday after the Feast of the Ascension, in the 50th year of the aforesaid King [1376], and Avena died on the first Saturday after the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the 6th year of the reign of Richard II [1382]'*.⁶²

Sir Godfrey was a baron of the Exchequer and chief steward of the Duchy of Lancaster. He was undoubtedly the most powerful man in Bakewell at this time. Avena, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Ireland of Hartshorne, was his second wife.⁶³ The gap between the licence for foundation of the chantry and when Sir Godfrey claimed he founded it suggests that his first wife was Anne, but it was with Avena his second wife that he actually established it.

Sir Godfrey had two sons, the older Godfrey predeceasing him by a year, leaving an eight year old son Godfrey who died in 1392 leaving an only daughter and heir, Avise, who married Sir William Plumptre. Sir Godfrey's younger son, Thomas, founded a line of Foljambes at Walton, and his son Thomas, who was feed by Sir Richard



Pedigree of the Vernon Family 1103-1611, Part 3

VII, the speaker, had a notorious and violent feud with Sir Henry Pierrepont. The History of Parliament says *'Even by the standards of the age, the Foljambes vicious attack on Pierrepont and his friends at Chesterfield parish church was outstanding in its brutality.'* Sir Richard Vernon and his friend, Sir John Cockayne, were empanelled on the second of two grand juries concerned with this affair, and used their influence to assist Foljambe and his accomplices. Sir Richard's daughter Anne married Cockayne's heir John, and the younger Thomas Foljambe's son, Henry, married Benedicta, daughter of Sir William Vernon II of Haddon.^{61., 63, 64, 65}

Cox states that the date of the foundation of the other chantry at Bakewell, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, is unknown, but it was probably founded by the Vernons in the 15th century. The Lady Chapel was in the east aisle of the north transept or Newark next to the crossing. The whole aisle is now known as the Vernon chapel.⁶⁶

At the time of the Valor Ecclesiasticus in 1536, the *'cantarist'* Thomas Rawson was resident at Tong – *'manet apud Tong'*. Ten years later the Calendar of Chantry Certificates states that the Chantry *'of our Lady'* at Bakewell was, according to the incumbent, *'founded by the Ancestors of George Vernon esquier to celebrate mass and other dyvyne service there as apperythe by the certificate of Richard Rawson Deputy to Thomas Rawson priest there'*. That the chantry was founded by Sir Henry Vernon is supported by the fact that Sir Thomas Rawson was his chaplain, and executor and witness of his will by which he was bequeathed £20. further, over the chief window of the old chantry house at Bakewell, pulled down about 1820, was the inscription *'Dominus Thomas Rawson AD MCCCCCXV'*. Richard Rawson was chaplain to Sir George Vernon.⁶⁷

Nevertheless, a quitclaim from Ralph son of William Gernon to his burgesses of Bakewell of all his rights in all the lands, tenements, houses and buildings which were given by Ralph Subbeley for the support of a chaplain celebrating the mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the church of Bakewell indicates the establishment of a chantry as early as c.1300. Interestingly, *'Ricardo de Wernun'*, who must be Richard III, was a witness to the deed.⁶⁸ This must be the original foundation of the chantry.

Sir Henry Vernon was very active in extending the family landholdings in Derbyshire and was also energetic in establishing chantries. The suggestion is that he planned to acquire the manor of Bakewell in which his Derbyshire seat, Haddon, was located. This he did not achieve until 1498.⁶⁹ It nevertheless seems that he had already taken control of the chantry of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On 24 April 1472 he granted *'to Dom. Robert Wolstoncraft chaplain for term of his life the chantry of the BV Mary in the church of Bakewell, with all lands belonging thereto on the condition that the said Robert be resident and perform mass and other divine services in the said chapel for the souls of the founders and benefactors of the same and for the good estate of Henry Vernon, his parents and kinsmen, and the said Robert shall not absent himself without the said Henry's permission and shall maintain and keep in good repair all tenements etc. belonging to the same. Haddon, vigil of S Mark [24 April] 12 Edward IV [1472]'*.⁷⁰

This control of the chantry explains why when Sir Henry's eldest son John died on 12 August 1477, he was buried under a table tomb that stood in the chancel when Cox was writing.⁷¹ If the hypothesis of this paper is correct Sir Henry would not have buried his son and heir where he could not ensure that there were prayers for his soul. It might be wondered why Sir Henry did not himself arrange for his own burial at Bakewell. Tong was now a well-established burial place for his family, and he may already have planned the construction of his own chantry chapel there. Three of his children would be buried there after him, but John's presence at Bakewell made a statement about the Vernons' status in the town.

Sir Henry Vernon's provision for his soul in his will

In his will Sir Henry does not mention the chantry at Bakewell, only making a bequest *'To the church of Bakewell and to making of the rood loft £6'*. He could however rely on Thomas Rawson to do what was necessary whether he was at Tong or Bakewell.

Sir Henry's will gives almost as much space to instructions for the benefit of his soul as for other matters. *'And foreasmuch as with good prayers and almsdeeds the soul is delivered from everlasting death and pain, therefore I will that a convenable priest shall sing for my soul, my wife's soul, father and mother and all my children and all Christian souls daily with full office of death in the church of Tonge or in the chapel when it is made (his chantry chapel was not yet complete), taking for his 'sawd' 100s yearly during the space of five years next after my death, that three trentals be said with convenable priests the day of my burying if it may be done, and else to be done before my month's mind, and over this I will that 7 trentals over the three within half a year after my death be said'*.

He goes on to give directions for his burial and tomb, with money in perpetuity that a priest sing in his chantry chapel and pray for his soul. Endowment from land in Rushall is to pay for an obit and requiem yearly for ever. The house and prior of Stone, the dean of Lichfield, vicars and canons being resident, the abbot of Rocester, the prior and convent of Lenton are all provided with funds to pray for him,⁷² so much importance did he attach to the welfare of his soul after death. The shows plainly why those who had the resources would make certain that they were buried where prayers would be said for them.

Such was the change in the religious and political climates over the intervening years that his grandson, Sir George Vernon, was on the Commission that suppressed the chantries at Tong and Bakewell.⁷³ In his will he guardedly states: '*Body to be buried in the parish church of Bakewell. Funeral and exequies at the discretion of my executors according to my worship*'. As we have seen his chaplain was Richard Rawson. He received a gown and 20 shillings and was not an executor.⁷⁴

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THE OLLERSETT WATERWORKS, 1831-1907

(by Derek Brumhead, New Mills Heritage Centre, Rock Mill Lane, New Mills, SK22 3BN)

Introduction

Before the nineteenth century most towns and rural areas depended for their water supply on a combination of informal and haphazard sources - rainwater, wells, pumps, springs, ponds, reservoirs, streams and rivers. Very few towns had a piped supply, and before the 1830s, outside a few large towns, there were no official municipal supplies at all.¹ However, rapid economic growth and urbanisation brought an increase in water demand from domestic and industrial users, while at the same time the traditional sources such as rivers were being polluted by the appearance of such industries as slaughterhouses, tanneries, bleachworks, calico printworks, and the increase in domestic waste and sewage. It became necessary to regularise and improve water supplies either through private arrangements, profit-seeking companies, or, increasingly as the decades passed, through municipalisation.²

In the early part of the nineteenth century, however, local authority districts outside existing boroughs were handicapped not only by an out-of-date system of local government but also by the lack of adequate or explicit powers for long term borrowing to finance municipal schemes. This was particularly the case with small industrial towns at the beginning of their growth such as New Mills, operating under a number of separate administrative jurisdictions rooted in time, which worked across each other - county administration conducted by Justices of the Peace as an offshoot of their judicial function (Quarter Sessions), the old poor law (revised in 1834 when the poor law Unions were created overseen by Boards of Guardians), ecclesiastical parishes with their officers - Constable, Overseer, Surveyor - numerous bodies of commissioners (mainly in urban areas), adhoc bodies such as the turnpike trusts, and various other organisations and arrangements.

This chaos of administration became increasingly more inadequate as industrialisation and urbanisation progressed apace. The time became overdue for new legislation to impose some uniformity and in 1875 the Public Health Act (38 and 39 Vic cap.55) with its 343 sections revised and codified the whole of the English sanitary code and the organisation of the local sanitary authorities. Local government for the first time was provided with a comprehensive system of administration suited to the modern requirements, at the head of which stood a new central Government department, the Local Government Board (established in 1871). Under the Public Health Act of 1875 after much local debate, controversy and a poll, New Mills was formerly constituted an Urban Sanitary Authority.³ A local board was elected and, meeting for the first time on 21 January 1876, it turned its attention to the proper administration of its district, which included the provision of a municipal water supply. This was not achieved, however, until 1907 and this article sets out the background which commenced with the construction of a private scheme, the Ollersett waterworks.

The Ollersett Waterworks

By 1831, New Mills was well into the cycle of economic growth, with new industries and a growing number of streets and houses. The population had increased from 1,878 in 1801 to 3,510 in 1831 and the town became an important centre for cotton spinning, bleaching, dyeing and calico printing. By 1819 there were eight cotton spinning mills, two calico printworks, an engraving works, two bleachworks, and a paper mill. The arrangements for water supply for the growing town had become inadequate. Farms had existed for centuries on local supplies, but houses, workshops and factories in the town needed a piped supply; and there was also the increasing awareness of the dangers to public health of contaminated water and of fire in an urban area.

Without a local council, the town needed an entrepreneur. In 1831, George William Newton a magistrate of Ollersett Hall, Low Leighton, obtained a private Act of Parliament⁴ to supply not only the farms of his extensive estate but also various parts of New Mills (Fig 1). Parliamentary approval was required to lay pipes and construct other works as well as to make charges for supplying water. *'Powerful and constant springs of water'*, said the Act, were present on Ollersett Moor and their height (over 800 feet) provided a sufficient head of water to supply farms and much of New Mills by gravity. Accompanying the Act was a map, the first large scale map of the town which therefore provides information on the layout and growth of New Mills at this crucial time in its early history (Fig 2).⁵



ANNO PRIMO

GULIELMI IV. REGIS.

Cap. xlix.

An Act for better supplying with Water the several
Hamlets of *Beard, Ollerset, Thornset, and Whittle,*
in the Parish of *Glossop* in the County of *Derby.*
[22d April 1831.]

Fig 1: Title page of George William Newton's private Parliamentary Act of 1831.

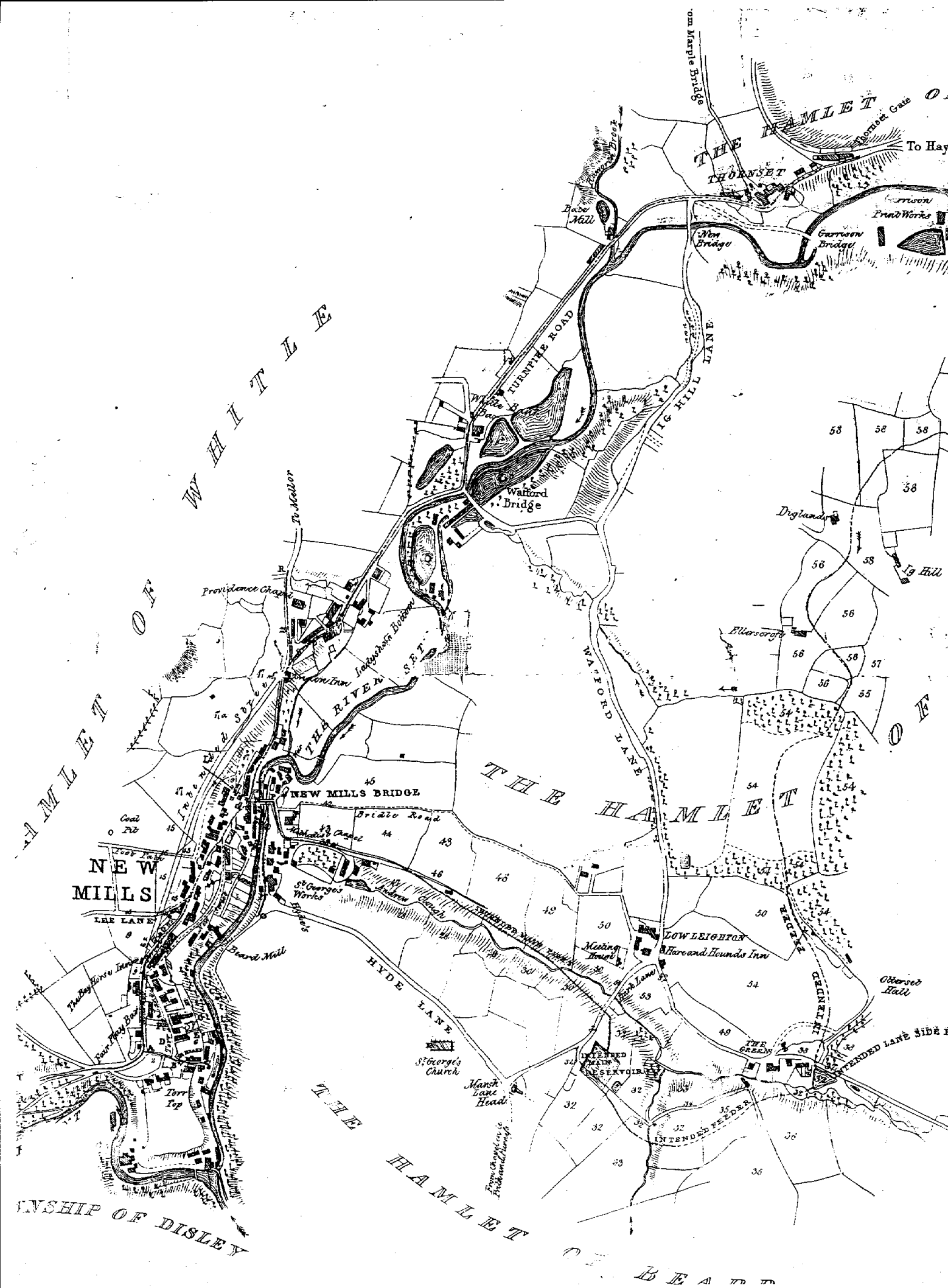
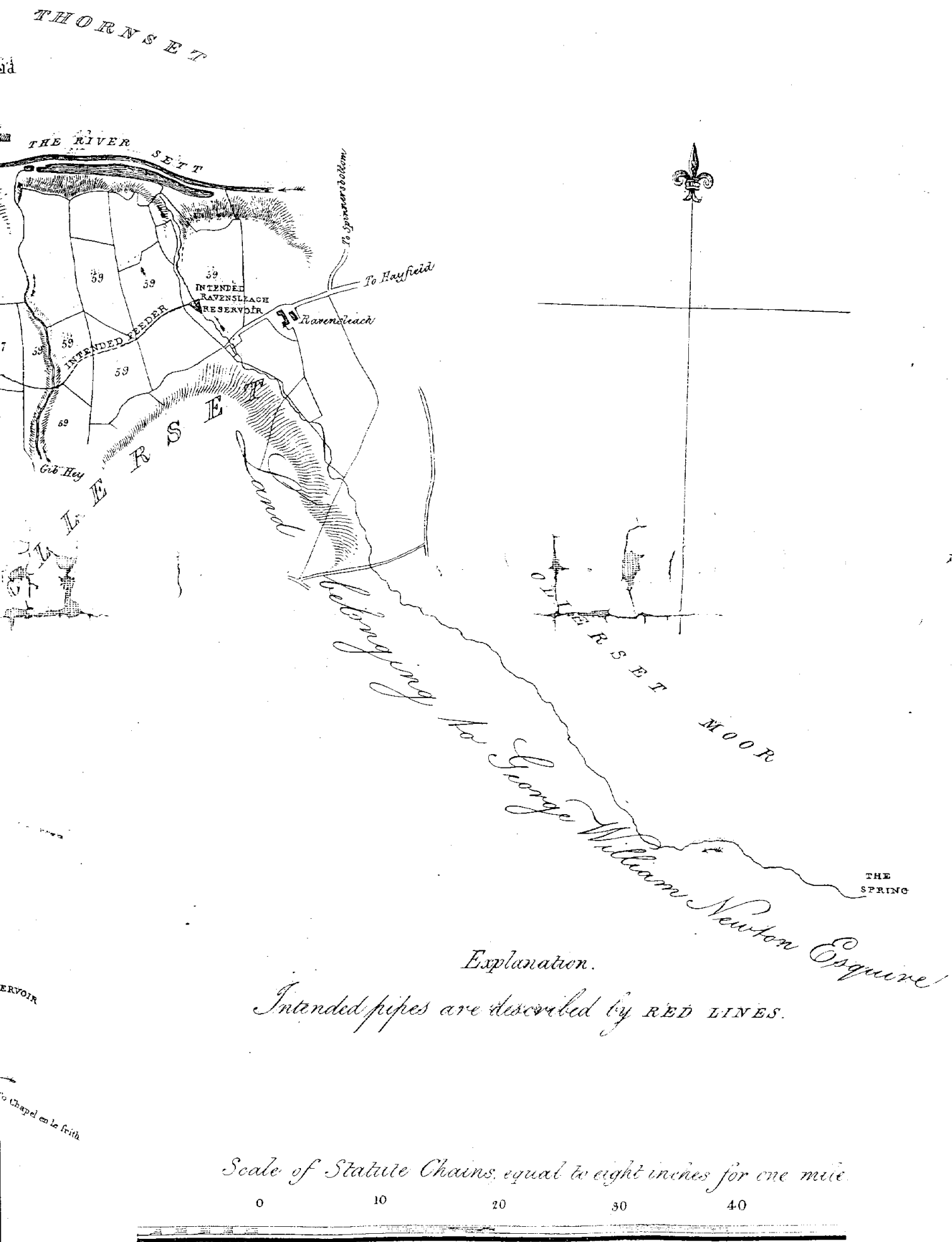


Fig 2: Extract from the map accompanying the Ollersett Waterworks Parliamentary Bill, 1830.



The Preamble to the Act clearly linked the scheme to the growing town.

Whereas the Inhabitants of the several Hamlets of Beard, Ollerset, Thornset, and Whitle in the Parish of Glossop, in the County of Derby, are not at present well or conveniently supplied with Water for domestic and other Purposes and are thereby put to great Inconvenience; and the said several Hamlets have of late Years become very populous and are increasing in Population and in Houses and other buildings and the Property of the said Inhabitants is liable to great Loss in cases of Accident by Fire, which Inconvenience and Loss might be prevented or much lessened and the Lives of the said Inhabitants would be better protected, if a full and constant Supply of water were obtained: And whereas George William Newton of Ollerset Moor, and certain Estates called Ravens-Leach, Gib-Hey, Diglands, and Ollerset-Hall in Ollerset aforesaid, and of certain other Lands in Beard aforesaid called Lane-Side and Hills, in which or some of which are situated powerful and constant Springs of water; and he is thereby enabled and is willing at his own Expence to undertake to supply the Inhabitants of the said several Hamlets with water; but the same cannot be carried fully and completely into execution without the Aid and Authority of Parliament; May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted...

The scheme was based on a spring high up on Ollersett Moor. Today, a large circular silted-up reservoir can be observed here on the site of 'The Spring', as named on the 1830 map (Fig 3). It would have provided a more regular supply of water than the spring, but oddly it does not appear on any known map. Inspection on the ground today shows it had an island where, presumably, in less exposed conditions there might have been a dovecote!

The 1830 map also shows an intended reservoir at Ravensleach fed by a stream from 'The Spring' (Fig 2). From here, a contouring pipe led to another intended reservoir at Laneside, from where the water was to be fed to the main reservoir at Low Leighton. However, changes were made to these plans, for the reservoir at Ravensleach was never built and the one at Laneside was built later a hundred yards to the east on the north side of the lane. It was known as Ollersett reservoir. Instead, evidence from a plan of estates of 1858 show that a contouring pipe from 'The Spring' took water direct to the main reservoir at Low Leighton (Fig 3), adjacent to what is now Quarry Road.⁶ From here, a pipe took unfiltered water down into the Sett valley and up into the town, for distribution along the roads. The Low Leighton reservoir was just below 600 feet and since most of New Mills was also below 600 the reservoir was just high enough to supply those parts of the town by gravity. Ollersett reservoir from map evidence appears to have been built between 1858 and 1879.

For decades, as the nineteenth century progressed, the minutes of the New Mills Urban Sanitary Authority, formed in 1875 (it became an Urban District Council in 1894), recorded complaints made to Francis John Sumner, who succeeded Mr George William Newton as owner of the Ollersett estate, about the inadequate and polluted supply of water from the Ollersett scheme.⁷ However, in the late 1880s, a new spring suddenly appeared fortuitously in the sough (drainage tunnel) of a coal mine, (Lady Pit) when a side drift was being driven, a circumstance that was to play the major role in the supply of water to New Mills for the next seventy years. It was reported on 7 June 1888⁸ that a scheme was being prepared by Mr Sumner to make use of this water, although the agreement of the duchy of Lancaster would be required since the duchy retained the mineral rights of the land affected. An indenture describes a new spring '*believed to have previously been pent up within the rock and not to have flowed in any open or known channel*'. Mr Sumner is described as being '*desirous of appropriating the said Spring of Water and others the Water now rising or flowing or hereafter to rise or flow from the said Tunnel*', and a map accompanied the document (Fig 4).⁹

The sough emptied into the river Goyt between Gowhole and Furness Bridge; this was also the loading place for the coals brought down the tramroad in the sough. Mr Sumner arranged for this water to be piped from the sough exit at Gowhole to Goytside from where it was pumped up by a turbine pump to a new reservoir at Ball Beard at a height of 800 feet (Fig 3).¹⁰ This pump or water ram was housed in a small square stone building which can still be seen by the side of the river at Goytside (Fig 5). A weir was constructed in the river Goyt and a headrace (now filled in) together with a weir to raise the height of the river diverted water to the turbine to drive it. A photograph dated about 1893 shows the tailrace being constructed in a culvert across the fields west of Goytside.¹¹ A continuation of this as an open stone-lined channel can still be seen between the field wall and river until it exits into the river lower downstream.

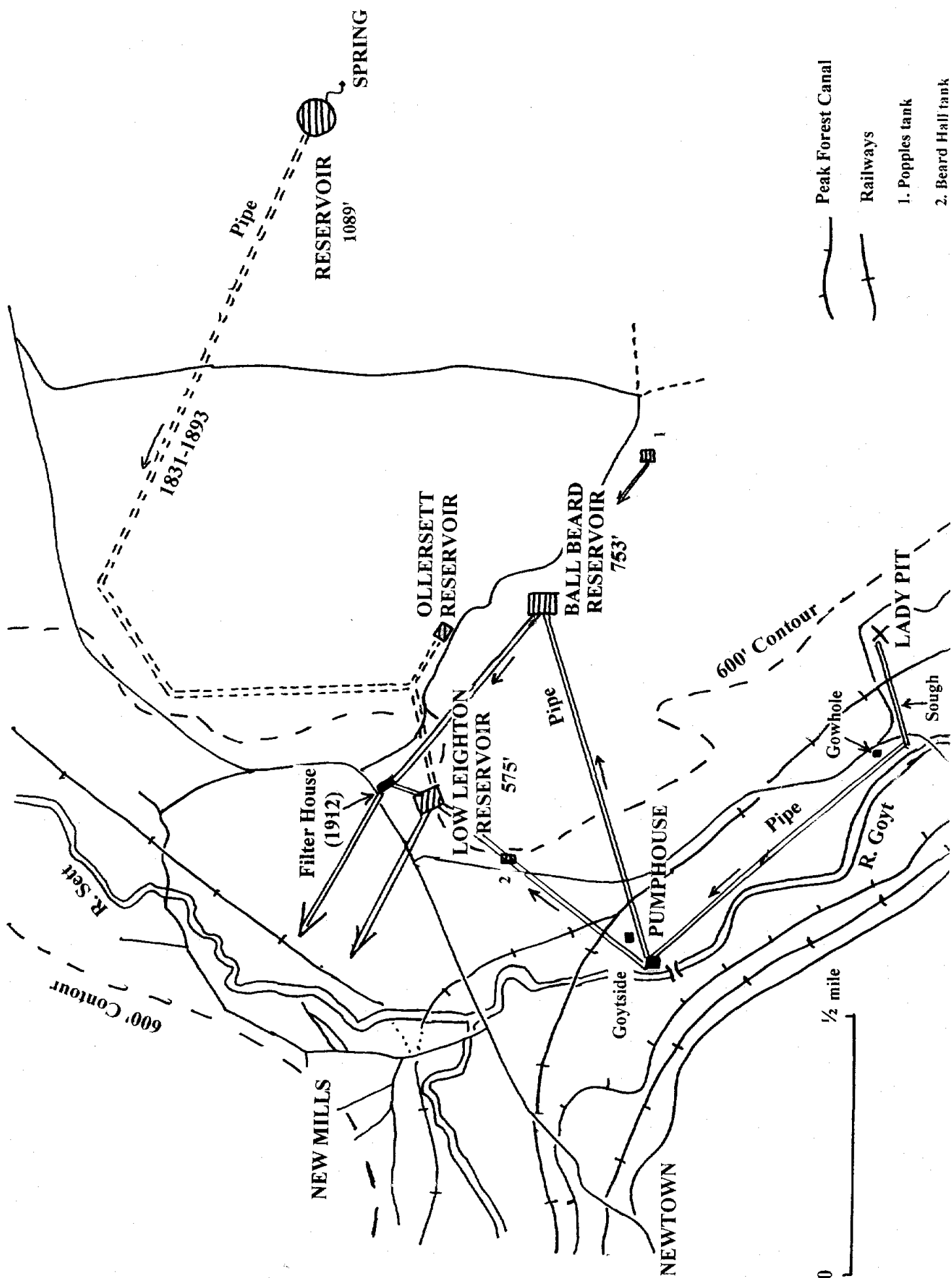


Fig 3: The Ollersett Waterworks

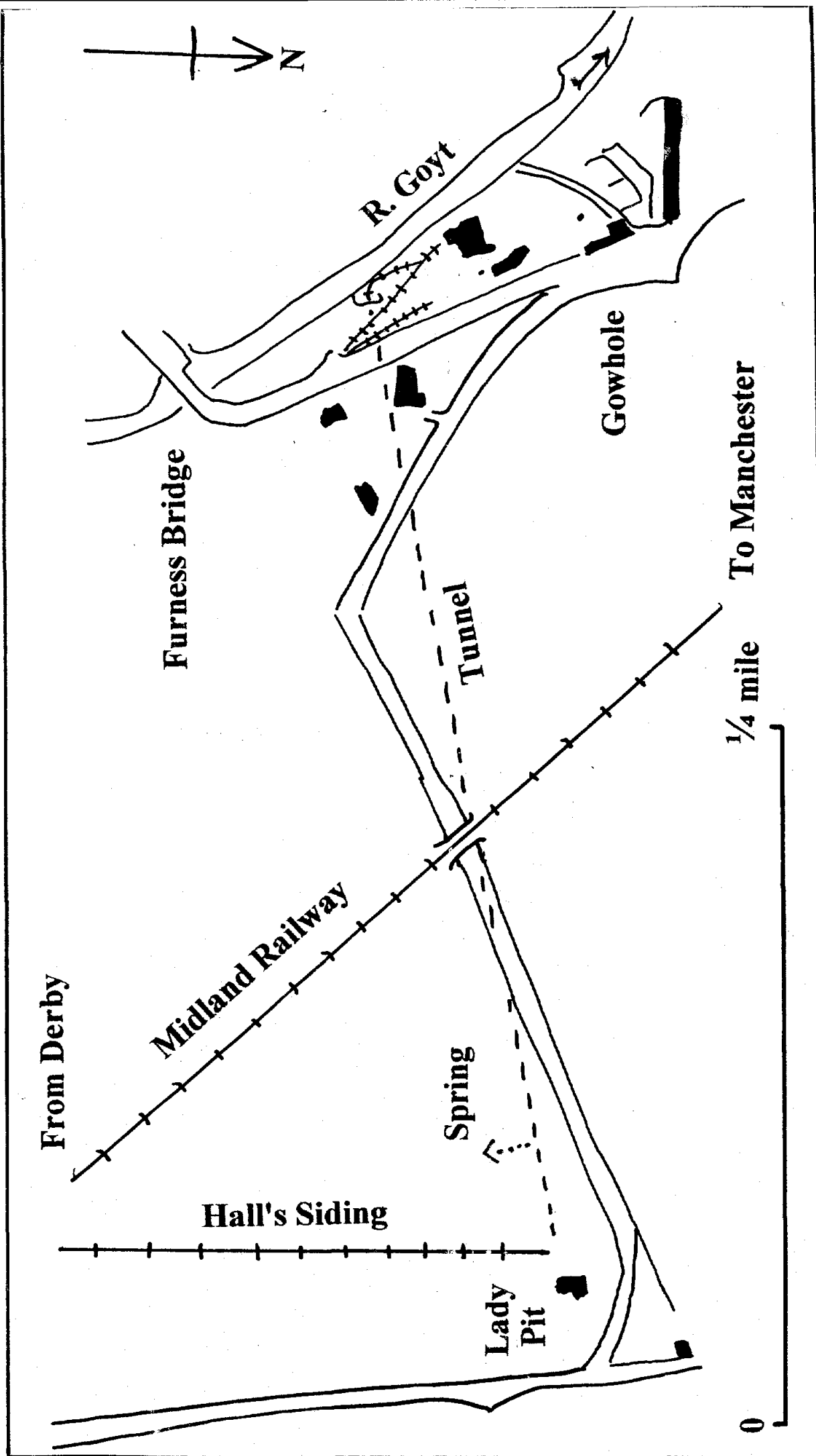


Fig 4: Tracing from an indenture dated June 1888 showing Lady Pit sough with the new spring and the tramroad and wharf at Gowhole. Source: New Mills Local History Society archives.



Fig 5: The pumphouse at Goytside, built c. 1893.

The ram was a Jonval-type turbine, an axial-flow or pressure turbine (Fig 6).¹² After the waterworks were purchased by the town council in 1907, the pump was replaced by a 25hp gas engine-driven ram pump by Phillip Lancashire the water and gas manager who reorganised both undertakings between 1907 and 1912 (Fig 7). Later, a 40hp electric centrifugal pump (Mather and Platt), was installed under Wilfrid Larkum. The installation of this electric pump stopped the 'beat' of the gas engine being heard in the town all through the twenty four hour of each day. An 11,000 volt electricity supply was brought from a substation on Marsh Lane (itself an UDC undertaking) and a transformer installed at Goytside by Mr Larkum. It is uncertain whether the Ball Beard reservoir fed its water to the Low Leighton reservoir, to the Ollersett reservoir, or directly to the town.

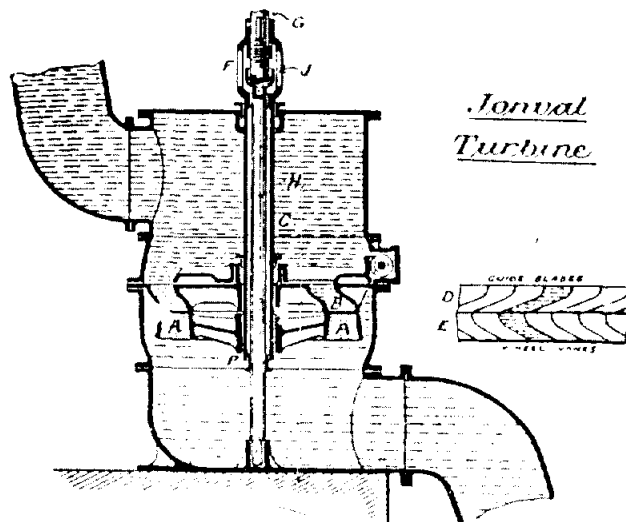


Fig 6: A Jonval turbine of the type installed in the Goytside pumphouse c. 1893.
Source: W J Lineham, *A textbook of mechanical engineering*, London, 1895.



Fig 7: Phillip Lancashire, the respected and hard working gas and water manager of New Mills Urban District Council, who died in 1920 at an early age, 'the subject of regret on all hands'.

On 14 August 1893, Mr J Carter Bell made a Report on the quality of water of Ollersett Waterworks as follows:

On Friday the 11th. August, 1893, in company with Mr Bowden, I visited the gathering ground on Beard and Ollersett Estate, which amounts to between 400 and 500 acres. I found when I arrived at the top of Mr Sumner's boundary various large trial pits had been made, so that some idea could be found of the nature of the ground, and its likelihood of yielding water. The soil in this neighbourhood was literally saturated with water, like a sponge, and on the slightest pressure the water flowed freely into the pits, so that there was great difficulty in keeping these trial holes free from water. So much water being contained in the soil after this long dry season proves that an abundant supply could be obtained in an average season.

The analyses show that the water is of a very high degree of purity. The following are the analyses from the Gowhole and the Turbine Tank.

	Gow Hole	Turbine Tank
Total solids at 212°F	28	33
Mineral matter	19	18
Loss on ignition	0.9	15
Chlorine	1.9	1
Oxygen required for 15 mins	0.008	0.002
Oxygen required for 3 hrs	0.012	0.07
Appearance in two foot tube	clear	clear
Smell when heated to 100°F		nil
Phosphoric acid	nil	nil
Free ammonia in one million parts	nil	nil
Albuminoid	0.01	0.01

These are first class examples of water; in fact I do not know of any town in England which is supplied with better water, as regards the organic matter... I visited the upper reservoir where I found a good supply of water flowing into the reservoir from a large iron pipe; on the north side were two wooden troughs, where water was being conducted along into the reservoir.

In 1899, a letter from Mr Pollitt, the town clerk, gave details of the number of houses supplied with water, dated 28 February 1899.

Estimated population Feb 1899	New Mills	5,850
	Newtown	1,368
Population within the water supply area	New Mills	5,370
	Newtown	1,368
Population supplied by Mr Sumner's waterworks	New Mills	2,854
Houses supplied by Mr Sumner's waterworks	New Mills	665
Houses supplied by other sources	New Mills	614
Population supplied by Col. Jodrell's waterworks	Newtown	1,348
Number of houses within the water supply area	New Mills	
	occupied	1,246
	unoccupied	33
Do	Newtown	
	occupied	304
	unoccupied	19
Number of baths	New Mills	84
	Newtown	37
Number of WCs	New Mills	57
	Newtown	15

So, in 1899 1279 houses (out of a total of 1526) in New Mills were supplied with water, 761 of then inside the house and 518 outside). Only 84 had baths (1 in 15.22 or 6.56%) and there were 57 WCs - 9 houses had two - (48

houses had WCs, ie 1 in 26.64 or 3.75%) Baths were to be charged at 10s per year and second WCs (9 at 5s per year).

Another document gives the following details:

Low Leighton reservoir (1,190,700 galls), number of houses supplied	389
Ollersett reservoir (509,600 galls)	83
Ballbeard reservoir (1,165,000 galls)	106
Beard Hall Farm reservoir	10
Morland reservoir (130,000 galls)	N/A

Purchase of the Ollersett Waterworks

The first meeting of the New Mills Urban Sanitary Authority (also known as the Local Board) was held on 21 January 1876. Between this date and the completion of the purchase of the Ollersett waterworks on 27 May 1907 entries in the minute books involving the water supply question are recorded on over 150 occasions. These not only involved the Ollersett Waterworks, negotiations which dragged on for thirty years, but also the supply for the district of Newtown. This district although in Cheshire was part of the New Mills local board's district.¹³ Its water supply was provided from reservoirs by Col Cotton Jodrell and it becomes clear in the minutes that (like the Ollersett supply) it was inadequate in quantity, purity and regularity, which caused the local board to become involved with protracted negotiations with the colonel. The question of the Newtown supply was further complicated by being involved with Stockport's proposals for taking over the Stockport and District Waterworks, resulting in the New Mills local board opposing Stockport's Bill unsuccessfully in Parliament. In addition, the local board, in exasperation at the lack of progress in dealing with Mr Sumner, set about considering plans for alternative new supplies from Rowarth and Hollingworth Clough (the latter involving Hayfield who had their own plans). There were also long drawn-out deliberations which resulted in a failed parliamentary water Bill of 1899, Stockport's scheme for the supply from Kinder reservoir (the pipes would pass through the New Mills district), the New Mills UDC Act of 1906, and many other day-to-day matters.

On 24 May 1905, after thirty years of negotiation, Council at last was able to approve a draft Heads of Agreement, *"That this Authority hereby agree to purchase from Mr Francis John Sumner the whole of his waterworks which supplies the parish of New Mills with water including his waterworks above Birch Vale for the sum of eleven thousand pounds and that the Council hereby undertake to pay Mr Sumner's reasonable costs incurred by him should the Council be prevented from getting the purchase confirmed either by Parliament or the Local Government Board"*. On 19 July Mr J S Pollitt the Town Clerk) was appointed solicitor to Council to act on their behalf in connection with any parliamentary power the Council proposed to seek in the next session of Parliament.

On 1 November, the Council agreed to pay the duchy of Lancaster £300 for the whole of the rights to the Gowhole water and use of the tunnel.

On 8 November it was agreed to go ahead with the promotion of a Bill in the next Session. *"In accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Corporations (Borough Funds) Act 1872 it was moved... 'that the Council do apply in the next session of Parliament for an Act to enable the Council to purchase the waterworks undertaking belonging to Mr Francis John Sumner and the rights of the duchy of Lancaster to the water in the Gowhole tunnel and also such proportion of the waterworks and plant of the Stockport Corporation as is contained within the New Mills Urban District and to enable the Council to supply water throughout the whole of the Urban District of New Mills, and also to confer on the Council powers in regard to the supply of gas to make further provision in regard to the existing gas undertaking of the Council and for other purposes'*. This Bill was to include provisions for loan powers to extend the gasworks and in January 1906 an estimate of £5000 by Phillip Lancashire, the gas engineer, was approved. It was also agreed to give notice to Stockport Corporation of the Council's intention to purchase the Newtown waterworks and plant of the Corporation, and provision was made in the Bill.

On 4 July, the Clerk reported that the Royal Assent had been given to the Bill on 22 June 1906 just thirty years since the water supply question had first concerned the Council.

There were considerable expenses to be met above the costs of the waterworks and the estimated extensions - parliamentary opposition to Stockport's Bill, surveyors and engineers fees, solicitors fees and parliamentary

NEW MILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ACT 1906.

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ACT

To authorize the Urban District Council of New Mills to purchase the Ollerset Waterworks Undertaking and such portion of the waterworks and plant of the Stockport Corporation as is within the district of the Council and to supply water throughout their district and to make further provision in regard to the Gas Undertaking of the Council and for other purposes.

[ROYAL ASSENT 22ND JUNE 1906].

6 EDW. VII.—SESSION 1906.

J. SUMNER POLLITT.

Fig 8: Title page of New Mills UDC 1906 Act.



Fig 9: The filter house at Low Leighton, installed by Phillip Lancashire c. 1912.



Fig 10: Ball Beard reservoir today.

agents, the purchase of Stockport's mains and pipes etc for the Newtown supply, the duchy of Lancaster's costs, Mr Sumner's costs, and costs of securing the loan and stamp duties. A loan had to be negotiated from the Royal Liver Friendly Society, £13,000 at £3.17.6 per cent for 40 years.

On 21 November 1906, the Scavenging Committee agreed to inform the Local Government Board that '*in the opinion of the Council the question of undertaking the emptying of ashpits and closets should be deferred until a greater portion of the property throughout the district has adopted the water carriage system, and in view of the fact that the Council will have possession of the towns water supply on and after 31 March next it will strengthen the hands of the Council in compelling owners of property to make conversions from ordinary earth privies to water closets*'.¹

In 1907, after 30 years of protracted correspondence, reports, meetings, negotiations with Francis Sumner, 150 references in the council minutes, and a failed parliamentary Bill (1899), the Ollersett Waterworks were finally purchased by the New Mills Urban District Council for £11,000 under an Act of Parliament, 6 Edward VII cap. xxxv, 1906 (Fig 8). The same Act also authorised expenditure on extensions to the gasworks totalling £5,000. Improvements continued to be made to the water and gas supply and by 1934 the expenditure on capital account totalled nearly £25,000 on the waterworks and £58,000 on the gasworks.

Unbelievably, came a final twist to delay the take over of the Ollersett Waterworks - Mr Sumner died on 27 February 1907. The waterworks were finally taken over by the UDC from the trustees on 27 May 1907.

Postscript

With the purchase of the waterworks completed in 1907, Phillip Lancashire set about improving both supplies with the loans approved by the 1906 Act. The chief water improvement was the provision of a filter house at Low Leighton in 1912 through which the water supply from the Ball Beard and Ollersett reservoirs was then passed (Fig 9). A filter house was certainly needed for the reservoirs had remained open since they were built. A small pumping station was built on St Mary's Road in 1936 to supply those western areas of the town above the height of the gravity feed, ie up to altitude 861 feet.¹⁴

The quality of water remained very low by modern standards, chiefly because the reservoirs were uncovered. Beard Hall tank, a collecting tank for Low Leighton reservoir was taken out of service in 1940 after it was reported that it was being used by children for bathing. Popples Tank, which supplied Ball Beard reservoir, also used for bathing, was covered.

In the early 1950s, the town council decided to exercise their rights to be supplied by water from Stockport's Goyt valley and Kinder reservoirs.¹⁵ The Ball Beard reservoir was covered for the purpose and commenced receiving its supply from Kinder (Fig 10). The Gowhole-Goytside supply was disconnected after serving the town for over sixty years. There was still a long way to go, however, in the provision of what most of us today take for granted. In 1949, it was reported that of the 2,630 houses in New Mills, only 959 had baths and 1,344 had WCs.¹⁶

References

1. S.B Dracup, 'Water supply in Great Britain 1690-1950: a brief history in six parts', *British Water Supply*. (Jan-June 1971).
2. Even so, by 1845 only 10 out of 190 local authorities possessed their own waterworks. M Falkus, 'The development of municipal trading in the nineteenth century', *Business History*, XIX, 1977, p 152.
3. D Brumhead, *New Mills 1894-1994*, New Mills 1994, pp. 7-12
4. I Will IV cap. xlix
5. Archives of New Mills Local History Society, D 427.
6. *Plan of estates in the hamlets of Ollersett and Beard, Derbyshire, 1858*. Copy in the archives of New Mills Local History Society.
7. In March 1881 a letter was sent to Mr Sumner '*complaining of the inefficient water supply, also of the impurities therein consisting of frogs, etc*'. All the reservoirs were open. Local Board minutes, New Mills Town Hall.
8. Local Board minutes, New Mills Town Hall.
9. A copy of the indenture, dated 1 June 1888, is held in the archives of New Mills Local History Society. D Brumhead, 'The coal mines of New Mills', *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol 123, 2003, pp. 146-94.

10. In 1949, the minimum recorded yield from the Gowhole spring was stated as 428,192 gallons per 24 hours. A H S Waters, *Review of water supplies*, Derbyshire County Council, 1949, pp.43-4.
11. Archives of New Mills Local History Society.
12. Information by the late Mr Wilfred Larkum, for many years the UDC gas engineer. Volume of memoirs in New Mills Library.
13. New Mills was constituted as a local government district under the Public Health Act 1875 'in pursuance of a Resolution of the Owners and Ratepayers'. It consisted of the four hamlets of Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett and Whitle together with Newtown. Brumhead, 1994, pp. 10-11.
14. Report by water engineer to New Mills UDC, 17 July 1940. New Mills Local History Society archives.
15. Under Sections 27 and 28 of the Stockport Corporation Act, 1930.
16. Waters, 1949.

JOHN MAWE'S MUSEUM AT CHELTENHAM

(by Jane Steer,

Besides his shop at 149 The Strand, London and his Museums at Derby, Matlock Bath and Castleton (see 'The Spar Manufactory', *Derbyshire Miscellany*, Vol 16, Part 6, Autumn 2003, p171), John Mawe also had a Museum under the patronage of HRH the Duke of Gloucester at Montpelier Walk, Cheltenham which went under the name of Mawe & Tatlow's Museum. The Tatlow in this case would be his son-in-law, Anthony Tissington Tatlow, who lived in Bristol and died c1827-28; John Mawe died in 1829. This unbound engraving of his Museum was drawn by E. Jenkins, Architect, and printed and published by S.Y. Griffith & Co of Cheltenham, probably in S.Y. Griffiths, *Description of Cheltenham and its Vicinity* (1826) which contains nearly 100 engravings and maps.

