

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

Vol 18



Cromford Canal at Codnor Park c.1955

**The Local History Bulletin
of the
Derbyshire Archaeological Society**

Volume 18

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

Volume 18: Part 1

Spring 2007

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>The Spar Manufactory, Derby, and the Mawe family: Further notes</i> by Jane Steer	2
<i>An account of the lime kilns and associated quarries at Turnditch, Derbyshire</i> by Sue Woore	5
<i>Derbyshire farming c1880 and the Great Agricultural Depression</i> by Roger T. Dalton	17
<i>Roy Christian 1914-2006</i> by Mick Appleby	22

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Jane Steer

EDITOR
Dudley Fowkes

Copyright in each contribution to
Derbyshire Miscellany is reserved
by the author.
ISSN 0417 0687

THE SPAR MANUFACTORY, DERBY, AND THE MAWE FAMILY

FURTHER NOTES

(by Jane Steer,

2-8 St Helen's Street, Derby

In a previous article on 'The Spar Manufactory' it was surmised that 2-8 St Helen's Street, a former showroom for the spar manufactory, was probably built between c1866-69 because Anthony Tissington Tatlow, Sarah Mawe's grandson, was the owner in 1865 and Sarah Ann Brown in 1870.

Anthony Tissington Tatlow was the grandson of Sarah Mawe, the daughter of Richard Brown II, who married John Mawe, the famous geologist, mineralogist and author. Anthony was born in 1821 in France and baptised on 10 June 1823, at St Paul's, Covent Garden, Westminster.² He obtained a BA at Trinity College, Cambridge c1842 and on 24 April 1843 was admitted to the Inner Temple.³ In 1861 he was a landed proprietor living at Belgrave House, Great Union Rd, St Helier, Jersey with his wife, Catherine, and step-daughter Catherine O'Mahoney.⁴ When he died c1865 it was noted in his will that he was of 'Drumrora, Co Cavan, Ireland'.

A synopsis of his will was found on the Jersey Archive Internet site (<http://jerseyheritagetrust.jeron.je/>):

D/Y/A/32/76 Will and Testament of Anthony Tissington Tatlow of Drumrora, Co. Cavan, Ireland, now of Ryde, Isle of Wight, Co. Southampton. Dated 13/12/1862. Bequeaths to William Tatlow all Estate rights and interest in the lot and cope of Crich head Mines, Co. Derby, to Anthony Wellington Irwin, Masson Cottage, Heights of Abraham, Matlock, Bath, Co. Derby. To Sarah Ann Brown for life all his lands in or near St Helens Street, Derby, Co. Derby, reversion to Mary Augusta Hobbs. Desires that his house 149, Strand, City of Westminster, Co Middlesex, be sold and the profits to meet the deficiency in his Personal Estate. To Tissington Tatlow all lands and Estates at Drumrora, Co. Cavan, Ireland. 21/02/1865 - 21/02/1865

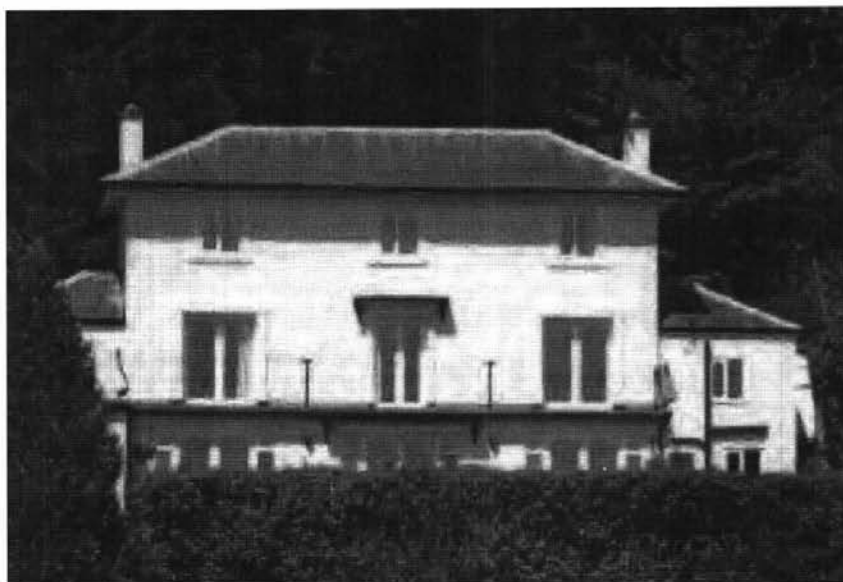
This Will explains how Sarah Ann Brown, daughter of Richard Brown II, came into possession of John Mawe's part of the Marble Works and confirms a building date for 2-8 St Helen's Street of 1866-69. This building, on Derby's Local List, is currently under threat of demolition to make way for the King Street Link Road (part of Phase 3B of Connecting Derby) thus destroying the integrity of the Marble Works complex. The remainder of complex: the workshops and 10-14 St Helen's Street, are to be converted into apartments.

Mary Augusta Hobbs, who was also the executor for Catherine Tatlow's Will, was born in Ireland c1835. In 1881 she lived at 14 Talbot Rd, Stretford, Lancashire with her Irish husband, James Cavendish Hobbs, an insurance agent who was formerly a Army Captain.⁵ Anthony Irwin, another Irishman, was a solicitor of 5 Grays Inn Square London.⁴ The relationship between Mary Hobbs and Anthony Tatlow hasn't been established. In 1850 William Tatlow was a solicitor with property in Dublin and Lismore Lodge, Crossdoney, Co Cavan, Northern Ireland. Tissington Tatlow was farming 616 acres in Crossdoney in 1876 (?his inheritance).⁶

Masson Cottage, Matlock Bath

149 The Strand, London belonged to the Browns before passing to John Mawe and together with the Crich mines and two cottages at Matlock were all mentioned in Sarah Mawe's Will.⁷ One of the cottages is identified as Masson Cottage in Anthony Tatlow's Will. According to William Adam, writing in 1840, Masson Cottage was built by the late Mr. Mawe.⁸ An artist, Edward Bird, who engraved black marble, rented it c1831-61.⁹

By chance a Masson Cottage on Upperwood Road (high up the hill to the west of Museum Parade), Matlock Bath was advertised by Sally Botham Estates in *Peak District Life*, Spring 2006 and further details, including interior photographs, were available on their web site. The house particulars say that it has a date stone of 1771 but John Mawe was only five years old then, so it is more likely that he altered the house rather than built it. There is at least one large ceiling beam in each of the ground floor rooms photographed and the dining room has an original fireplace (presumably by Richard Brown).



Masson Cottage, Upperwood Road, Matlock Bath (Sally Botham Estates)

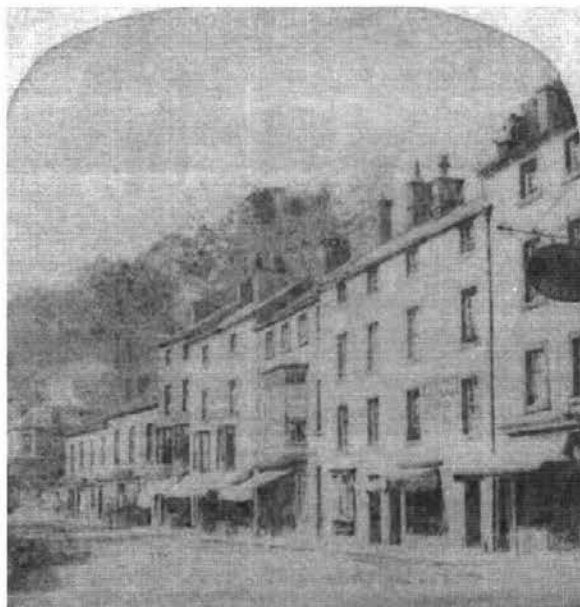
Masson Cottage is the third house from the left halfway up Masson Hill in the engraving below of Matlock Bath in 1840.¹⁰



Sally Botham Estates were also agents for the sale of another Masson Cottage in Matlock Bath. This is off Derby Road, Grade II listed and stone built. Called Mill House in 1881,⁵ it was built for the Manager of Masson Mill.

The building where John and Sarah Mawe's Royal Museum was housed still stands on South Parade in Matlock Bath. Overleaf is part of a late 19th century stereoview of South Parade. It is summer as all the awnings are pulled out over the shop windows. The sign for Hodgkinson's Hotel (built in 1780) is on the right hand side and the building in the centre with the large bay window was originally the Great Hotel and later Mawe's Museum.⁸ Woodfield's Spar and Marble works, whose sign is written on the building next to the hotel, advertised in the local trade directories from 1857 onwards until at least 1891.

On the back of the card the text is: Matlock Bath and the Heights of Abraham [though the Heights are not in view]. Published by the Manchester Photographic Company Ltd, 84 Market St Manchester.¹¹



The photograph below shows the same view on 26 December 2004. The bay window still exists on the building where the Mawes had their Museum, as does Hodgkinson's Hotel, a scene probably unchanged for c200 years.¹²



References

1. Jane Steer, 'The Spar Manufactory', *Derbyshire Miscellany*, Vol 16, Part 6, Autumn 2003, p168.
2. IGI online: <http://www.familysearch.org/Search/searchigi.asp>.
3. Inner Temple database online: <http://www.innertemple.org.uk/archive/index.html>.
4. 1861 census online.
5. 1881 census.
6. *Shaw's Dublin City Directory 1850*: www.dublin1850.com; *Land Owners in Ireland 1876*, online.
7. Jane Steer, 'The Spar Manufactory', *Derbyshire Miscellany*, Vol 16, part 6, Autumn 2003, p172. Property mentioned in Sarah Mawe's Will included 149 The Strand, London, the establishments at Matlock, Cheltenham and Castleton and other Derbyshire property including soughs and mines at Crich, two cottages in Matlock and other real or copyhold estate in Matlock or elsewhere.
8. William Adam, *Gem of the Peak*, 1840. Extracted from Ann Andrews excellent website on Matlock Bath: <http://dialspace.dial.pipex.com/town/terrace/pd65/matlock/guides/gem1840.htm>.
9. Pigot, *Directory of Derbyshire 1831 and 1835*; Sarah Mawe's Will 1833; 1851 and 1861 census.
10. William Adam, *Gem of the Peak*, 1840, opposite p35.
11. Ann Andrews: http://dialspace.dial.pipex.com/town/terrace/pd65/matlock/pix/i_justbath.htm; no19.
12. Photograph by Katherine Sismore.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE LIME KILNS AND ASSOCIATED QUARRIES AT TURNDITCH, DERBYSHIRE

(by Sue Woore, Ashley,

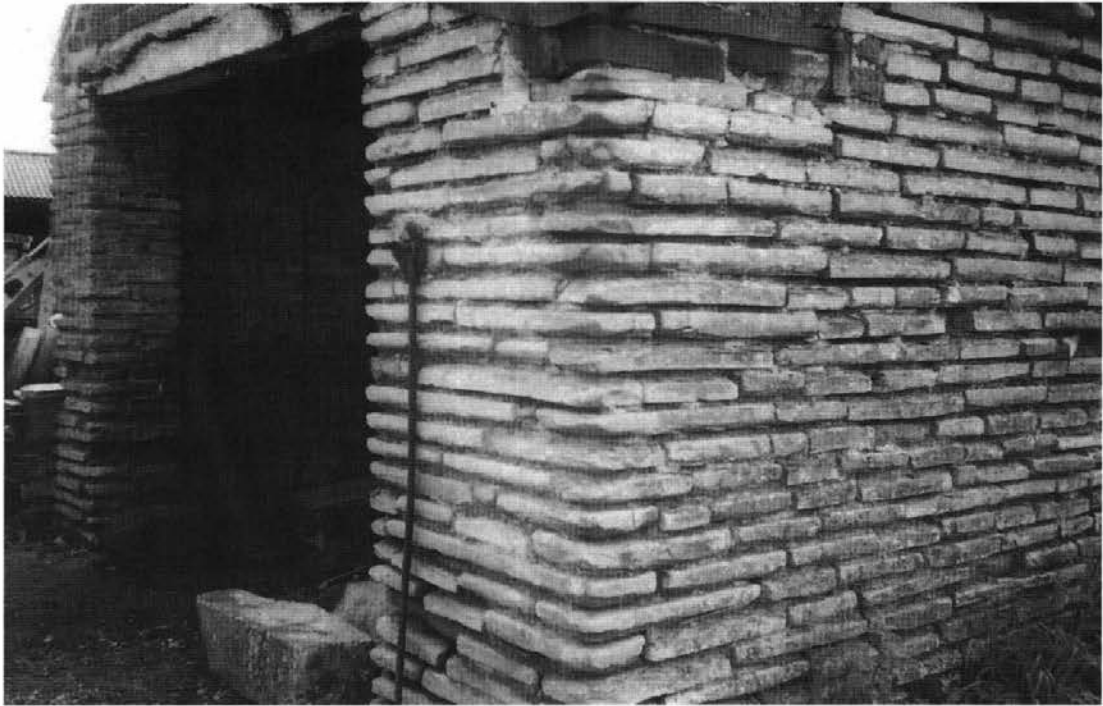
In their article 'Survey & Interpretation of a Limekiln Complex at Peak Forest, Derbyshire; and a Review of Early Limeburning in the North-West Peak', *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, 2005, J. Barnatt and A. Dickson state:

"On the large limestone plateau at the heart of the Peak, lime has been easily obtained by burning limestone in kilns and has been used for a variety of purposes; this resource has been exploited extensively over several centuries. Traditionally lime has been used in mortar and plaster for building and has been applied on fields ... A basic distinction can be made between agricultural kilns built on individual farms to produce lime for their own fields and commercial kilns built to supply good quality lime to customers over a wider area. Commercial kilns are often sited with several in one location and/or are significantly larger constructions ... The early commercial kilns, of 17th and 18th century date are probably better described as 'proto-industrial' rather than industrial kilns ... These, which are termed here 'earthen sale-kilns' are usually found in groups ... placed at the edge of shallow quarries ... normally having waste heaps downslope of the draughting holes ... The distribution of surviving 'earthen sale-kilns' in the Peak District is very restricted compared with farm kilns ... The authors are not aware of examples of groups of 'earthen sale-kilns' outside the Peak District."

The purpose of this paper is to draw attention to what is perhaps such an example. There was a complex of kilns, with associated quarries, well to the south of the Peak District, near to Turnditch (SK 2945) where limestone was extracted and burnt. This area is still today called 'The Limekilns'.

Outside the main limestone area of Derbyshire, it is unusual geologically in that here, Carboniferous Limestone strata, (the Widmerpool Formation), outcrops as an inlier within unconformable, much younger pebble beds of the Triassic period. In early Carboniferous times whilst massive or shelf limestones of the Matlock Limestones were being slowly deposited in relatively shallow seas rich in animal life, greater thicknesses of mudstones, thinly bedded dark grey limestones and thin sandstones were being laid down to the south west around Duffield and Derby in the much deeper muddier waters of a huge basin known as the Widmerpool Gulf. This basin was continually subsiding, and so rapid sedimentation took place - as much as four times the amount of deposits in the gulf compared with the equivalent thickness on the shelf. Taking place at the same time was sporadic volcanic activity, resulting in the extrusion of lavas in the Hopton area and deposition of tuffs in the Widmerpool Formation. In later Carboniferous times, following a period of uplift and erosion, thousands of feet of rock were subsequently removed, and the resulting land surface was subjected to desert weathering. Eventually, rivers deposited pebbly sands over the area forming the Triassic sands and pebbles which now outcrop over 8 square miles between Nottingham and Turnditch, where they are up to 130 feet thick.

The outcrop at Turnditch is the main one in the area, but there are very small similar inliers at Park Nook, (SK3254 4142), Champion Farm, (SK3243 4328), Kirk Langley, (SK2919 3891), and exposures are found in the floors of the valleys such as the Blind Brook (in Weston Underwood), the Cutler Brook (in Mercaston), the Black Brook and Waterlagg Brook (in Turnditch), amongst others. The Turnditch outcrop has a greater proportion of limestone than any other recorded sequence of the Widmerpool Formation. It has about 30 feet of alternating dark grey muddy limestones, grey calcareous siltstones and grey fossiliferous mudstones. The fossils present include crinoids, brachiopods and bivalves. Detailed information about the Turnditch area is afforded by the Duffield borehole near Flaxholme (SK3428 4217), drilled in 1967. This shows the Widmerpool Formation at 1,331 feet, going down to 3,453 feet, a thickness of 2,122 feet. There are fine grained sediments together with igneous rocks and tuffs, and this thickness corresponds to the top 500 feet of limestone deposited at the same time at Wirksworth.¹

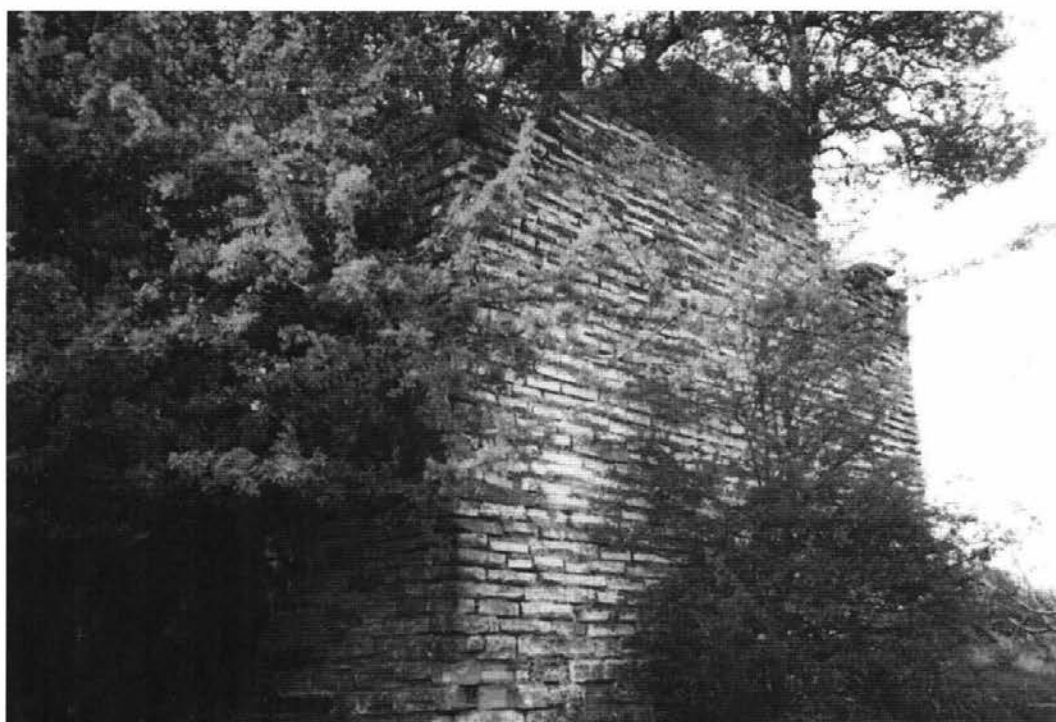


Blue Stoop Barn before renovation





Blue Stoop Barn during renovation, 2001.



Hollinhurst Barn.



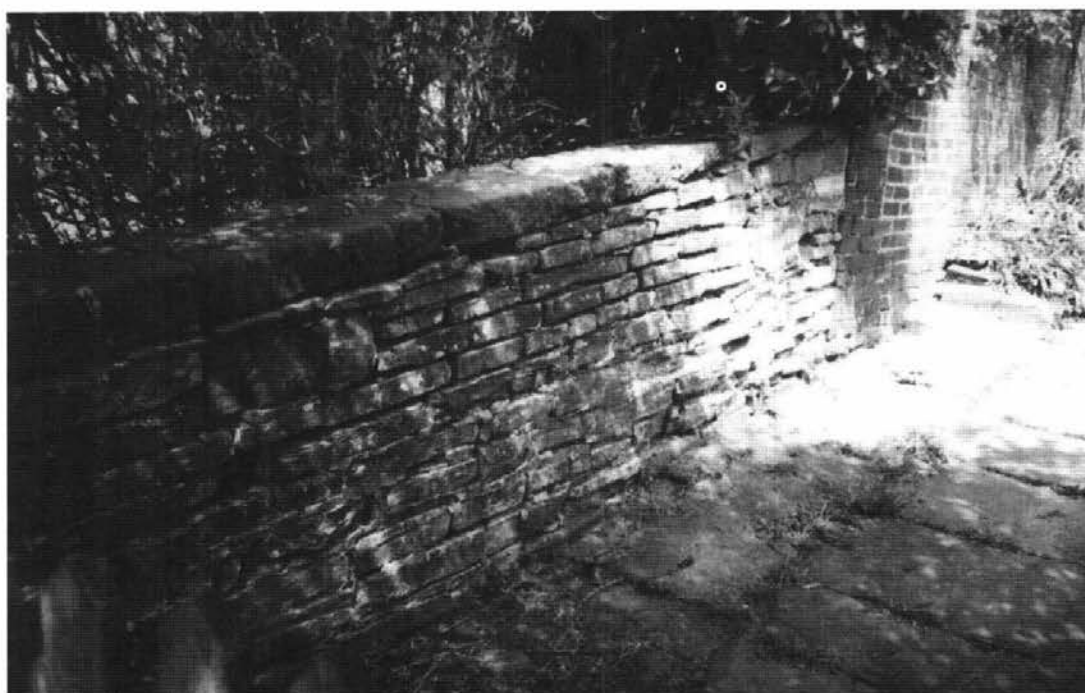
Hollinhurst Barn showing use of brick in gable.



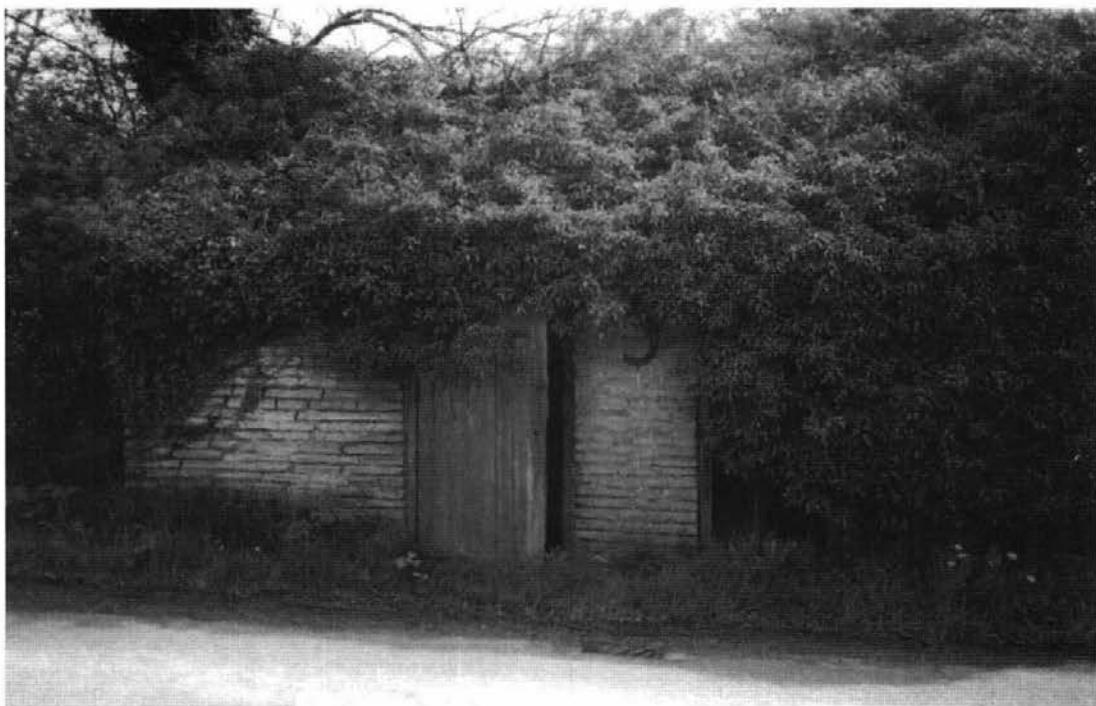
The Cruck Barn at The Hollies during renovation c.2000.



Cross o'th'Hands Chapel.



Walling at The Old Post Office, Weston Underwood.



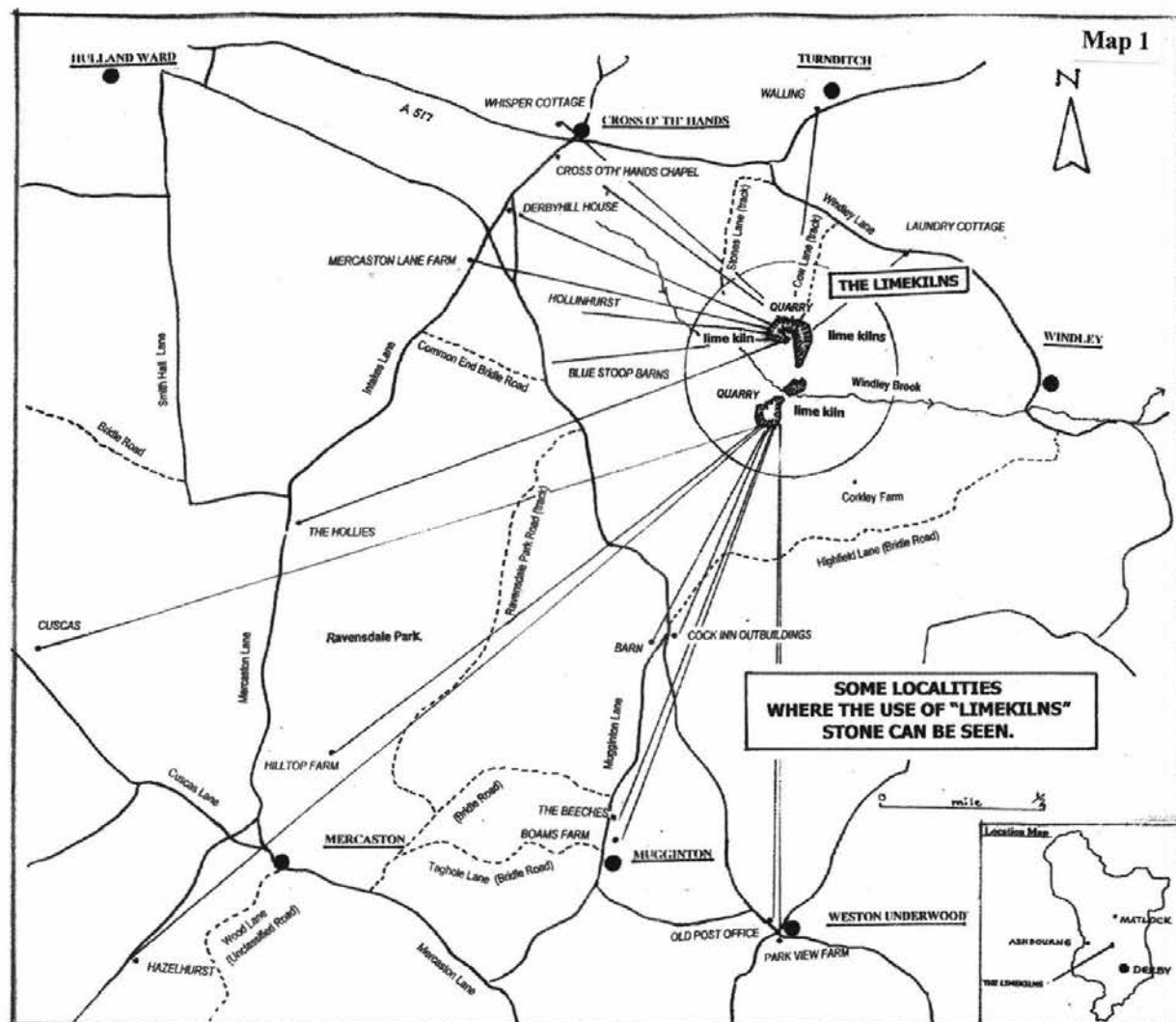
The Old Toilets at The Cock Inn Mugginton.
(latterly used as a potato store).



Barn on Mugginton Lane opposite The Cock Inn.



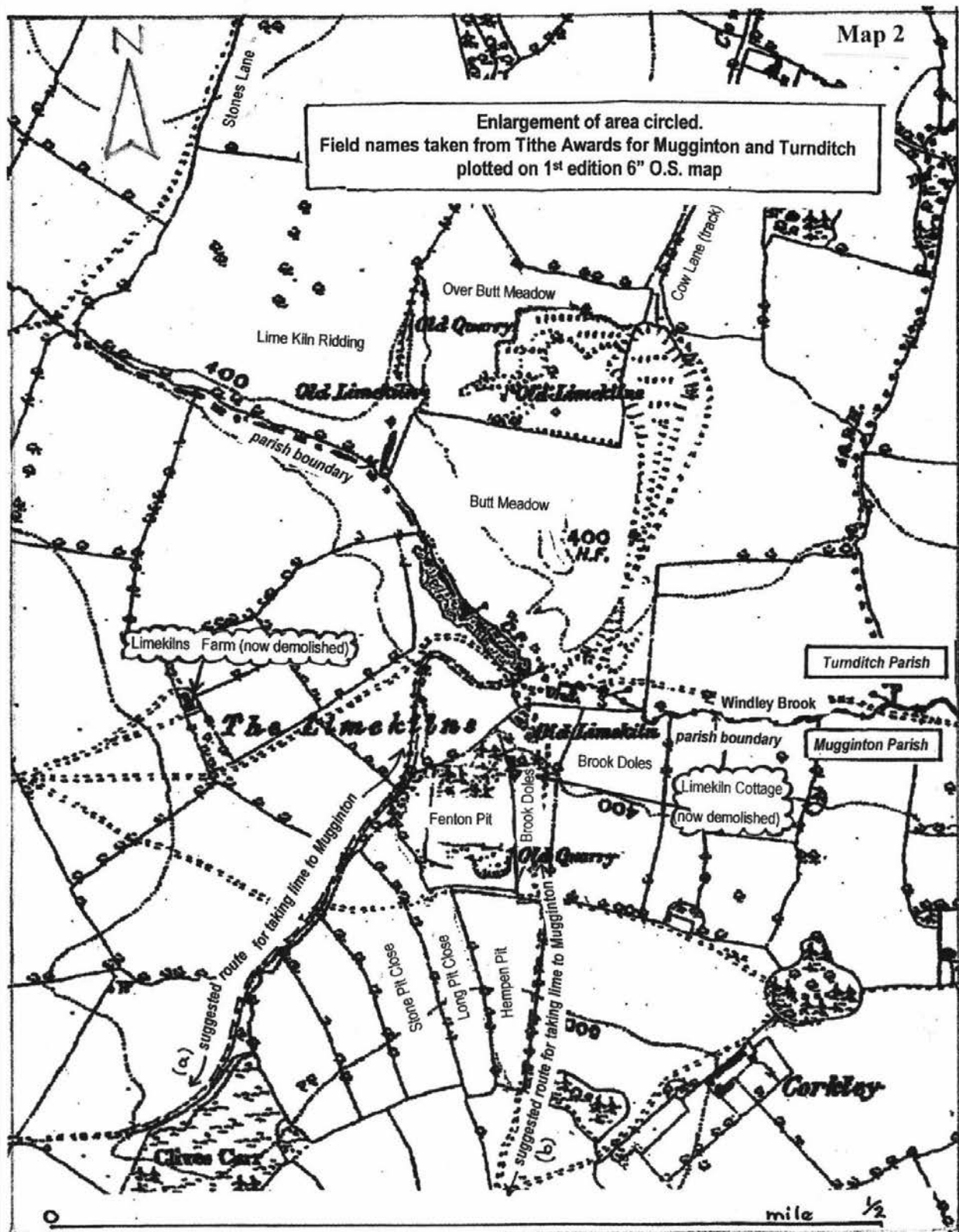
Infilling at Hazelhurst, Mercaston. (Now being renovated but retaining these features).



The author has long been fascinated by 'The Limekilns', having spent many holidays as a child in the 1950s staying at Limekilns Cottage. This remote cottage, with no mains water or electricity and with no vehicular access, was eventually pulled down, together with the adjacent Limekiln Farm in or about 1960. Up to that time, the lime kiln in Brook Dole (see map 2) just below the cottage, was still partly standing, although rather ruinous. Other limekilns which are marked on the original 6 inch map had all but disappeared even then. On Sanderson's map of 1835 there is an "iron pit" shown down here in the location of the most westerly limekiln shown. Frank Nixon, in his *Industrial Archaeology of Derbyshire*, says 'Ironworking: This area was mined for ironstone at an early date and would repay further study'.² There are certainly several seepages of ochre running along the course of Windley Brook, particularly in the field called Limekiln Riddings which suggests the presence of iron here, but nothing further has been found to substantiate this. However, it is known from the Duchy of Lancaster accounts for 1313 to 1314 that coal, most probably from *Denebyhyrne* near Smithy Houses, (SK386472) was being transported at that time on a road between Shottle and Postern Parks to the 'Lord's Forge'.³

The location of this forge or furnace is still unknown, and it is unclear exactly what was being smelted. It seems rather strange to have transported coal so far from across the Derwent when a ready supply of iron ore was available almost at source, in the Morley Park area.⁴

Perhaps the coal was transported to fire the limekilns at Turnditch? However, later references in Lancastrian records point to an early iron forge somewhere west of the Ecclesbourne.⁵ Perhaps furnaces for both iron and lime were in use at that time and it is tempting to consider 'The Limekilns' as a likely location. Could lime burnt here have been used as lime mortar at Duffield Castle in the 12th century? Well documented building works and repairs to the Hunting Lodge at nearby Ravensdale Park,⁶ could also have made convenient use of this lime, with the 'Ravensdale Park Road' (see map 1) directly linking the two places. Certainly these limekilns seem to be well located geographically; the nearest other limekilns known to the author (where the same formation of Carboniferous Limestone occurs and where there is a group of kilns plus an adjacent quarry) are at Atlow, (SK222477).



The earliest documented evidence so far found comes from a map of 1707, held at the Derbyshire Record Office.⁷ Entitled *'Lands at Turnditch belonging to the School at Duffield and surveyed by Thos. Hand October 23 1707'*, it shows field names indicative of industry, such as Kiln Closes and the Fenton Pits. Windley Lane and Cow Lane are plotted exactly as today, the latter being called *'the road from Mugginton to Turnditch'*. This road is shown going through a field called Brook Doles adjacent to the old Limekiln Cottage and heading towards the bridle road Highfield Lane (see map 1) which leads to Mugginton. The names Fenton Pit and Brook Doles appear to be in exactly the same position as on the Tithe Award map for Mugginton.

The *'road from Mugginton to Turnditch'* shown on this 1707 map leads nicely to the next bit of evidence supporting the existence of the lime workings. A note appears in the front of the Parish Register for Mugginton 1727-1791:⁸

'In 1738 Thomas Dakeyne set a parcel of stone supposed to be Lime stone, to Mr. John Lowe of Park Hall, being in a Close within the Parish of Mugginton called by the name of the Brook Doles, for the fetching off of such lime when Burnt. I have been Informed that Mr John Lowe Thomas Dakeyne one or both of them did agree and bargain with Humphrey Beeson a Tenant of Thomas Hallowses esq for the Sum of One Guinea each year for that Lime should be burnt at ye Brook Doles aforesaid for a Road to carry of ye Said Lime But notwithstanding the Rector of Mugginton hath always claimed & enjoyed & made use of a Road to it and other Closes lying and being within ye Cortleys in the Parish of Mugginton unmolested, & without asking leave of any body and Insists upon it that he hath a Road to ye said Grounds, & makes this Memorandum that his viz the Rectors right may not be hereafter called in question with regard to ye said Road by any Agreement that hath been made by ye parties aforesaid Wittness my Hand Samuel Pole Recr.'

Two alternative routes are suggested on map 2 which may be the road referred to by Samuel Pole. Both ways are fairly hilly, but (a), winding south westwards which eventually emerges through the field called Gate Piece just above the Cock Inn, has a slightly less steep gradient. The route (b) follows the *'road from Mugginton to Turnditch'* shown on the 1707 map. The above reference to *'Cortleys'* is to the lost manor of Corkley,⁹ now represented by Corkley Farm (see map 1).

It would seem therefore that digging and burning here had been going on for some time. Brook Doles is where the last identifiable limekiln was located, presumably the others in Butt Meadow were also in use at this time. The Mugginton Constables' Accounts for 1762¹⁰ mention that 10s was paid for lime and stone to mend the Church Bridge. It seems probable that this was from the Limekilns and was transported via the Rector's Road. The bridge on Church Lane Mugginton (SK281425) has a substantial central sandstone pier, but there are certainly several pieces of limestone in the banking.

White's Directory of 1857 describes a charity in Mugginton. This appears to be using income from 'The Limekilns' in much the same way as it was used for the school in Duffield one hundred and fifty years earlier. Indeed, some of the Mugginton charity land was actually in Turnditch. Upper Butt Meadow in Turnditch was conveyed in trust to pay for the schooling of eight or more persons. The Butt Meadow was said to contain 5 acres 0 roods 3 perches of grassland and a limestone quarry of 2 acres 3 roods and 5 perches. The close was let for £11 per annum, but the directory states that the limestone pit had not been worked for the last 25 years: *'the money received for the lime which has been gotten has been invested in the funds and there is now £967. 7s. 2d. stock standing in the name of the Trustees, E.S.C. Pole of Radbourne Hall and the Revd. H.R.C. Pole, rector of Mugginton, producing an annual dividend of £38. 13s. 10d.'* The Directory suggests that the funds were thought to have been considerably bigger than stated, but says it had not been possible to get a satisfactory statement. At the time of the Directory the schoolmasters of Radbourne and Mugginton were paid to teach 36 poor children; 13 from Mugginton, 3 from Mercaston and 20 from Weston - some money for this also came from rents in Clifton.

In the Mugginton Parish magazine of February 1888, the Samuel Pole Charity is quoted as being devoted to teachers' salaries and to re-payment of school wage to those children who attended most regularly. Eighteen children benefited that year. Up to the present day this charity is still benefiting young people in Mugginton and is now known as the *'Hallowses and Hope Educational Foundation'*.

In the Geological Survey Memoir of 1908, giving an explanation of sheet 125, it says that there was an old limestone quarry at Turnditch with fairly abundant fossils. This was quarried largely for wall stone and for burning into lime. It also says that *'the head of shales is getting too thick to allow of the stone being any longer raised in open work and the quarries are struggling on by following the better beds in underground galleries driven on the dip. The underground workings have long since ceased'*. From a description by Bemrose¹¹ it seems that there was at that time some activity in the area. He describes the limestones as being unusually numerous, thick and close together and says that they were still largely quarried for wall stones and burning into lime. He talks about galleries following the better beds underground along the dip of the rocks, but says that *'owing to the absence of every one connected with the works at the time of our visits we did not learn whether the stone possessed the qualities valuable enough to make this method of working profitable'*.

Nixon describes old lime works with ruins of kilns which were between 27 and 33' high¹² in 1808. Farey¹³ likewise writes of *'considerable lime works established south of Turnditch in a deep excavation of Windley Brook'*. He says the Upper Beds were selected and burnt to a dun-coloured lime sold at 9s 6d per score of 22 heapt bushels and that it was in considerable repute for agricultural purposes. He goes on to say that the Lower Beds were pozolanic and made very good water setting lime, but that this could cause explosions when first heated in the kiln. The waste stone was *'stackt and sold for soughing or underdraining at 2s per cubic yard and a half'*. He says the kilns were of the *'running sort; - 27' to 33' deep, 7 and a half to 9' diameter at the top, 12' in the belly and 5' at the bottom'*.

In conclusion, it appears that there is much to discover yet about activities down at 'The Limekilns'. The amount of worked-over ground there extends to some thirty acres with vast heaps of spoil whose contents range from sizable pieces of thin bedded limestone, some showing fossils, down to black crumbly shale. Some traces of the old limekilns can be seen and there are distinct hollow ways leading down towards the brook. There is a flat track along the floor of the large stone quarry in Butt Meadow which looks as if it may have had some sort of tramway for taking out the stone. The large quarry in Butt Meadow is still impressive, with exposures of horizontal beds in situ as well as a great deal of scattered stone. The Fenton Pit is covered with vegetation and the neighbouring closes called Long Pit and Stone Pit Closes seem to have been reclaimed to agriculture. A lot of activity has obviously taken place here, and more investigation needs to be done.

Having long lived in the area, the author has always been interested in noticing how the stone from 'The Limekilns' has been exploited. It has been used as a building material locally and it has been interesting to make a photographic record of where it occurs. Map 1 shows a plot of buildings and other structures where this distinctive stone can be easily recognised. It is not easy to work but appears to have been used because it was accessible and available. There was a re-building of the two barns at Blue Stoop, Mugginton Lane End (SK283454) in 2001. The builder working there described the recycled stone as extremely sharp, hard and difficult to cut, with a bedding plane fracture. It was very water resistant and consequently the mortar took ages to 'go off'. This factor, plus the weight of the stone, caused particular difficulties. It was not feasible to build more than four courses per day otherwise the mortar squashed out and the walls became distorted.

Pieces of this stone found in the bed of the Blackbrook near to the Hollies in Ravensdale Park (SK273444) were so fine grained and smooth that they were used as slate by children years ago, being pulled out in thin slabs from the stream sides. Hardly anywhere does it seem to have been used as the dominant material in domestic buildings, but mainly to patch and fill old window openings and doorways. It also seems to have been mainly used for agricultural rather than domestic buildings mainly being seen in barns, sheds and walling. It is noticeable that the gables of any stone buildings are generally in-filled with brick; cutting and shaping of the stone would have been difficult. Perhaps there were more buildings in the area originally made of the Widmerpool Limestone, but with the development of brick making the latter were later used as an easier and cheaper option. The limestone is fine grained, impure and compact. It is very resistant to weathering. In the oldest unrepaired buildings the stone sticks out prominently whilst the mortar has all but disappeared; this is conveniently visible at the old toilet buildings opposite the Cock Inn Mugginton (SK287439) and in the adjacent barn on Mugginton Lane (SK286439).

The distribution of use in this area (Map 1) shows that it was used as a locally available material for agricultural buildings. Some of these are 19th century, but in the case of the cruck barn at The Hollies this building seems to be earlier, perhaps 17th century. Much patching and filling has taken place in walls, barns and houses and the tradition of local use was carried on with the extension at Derbyhill House in 1975 (SK281462). There must be

many more examples of this stone in local buildings which people will no doubt be able to add to those already recorded.

References

1. *Geology of the country north of Derby: memoirs for sheet 125*. Institute of Geological Sciences, 1919.
2. F. Nixon, *Industrial Archaeology of Derbyshire*, 1969.
3. M. Wiltshire, S. Woore, B. Crisp and B. Rich, *Duffield Frith, history and evolution of the landscape of a medieval Derbyshire forest*, 2005.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Derbyshire Record Office, D3152/1.
8. Derbyshire Record Office, D2149.
9. Duffield Frith, *op. cit.*
10. Derbyshire Record Office, D2149.
11. H. Bemrose, *Lower Carboniferous rocks of Derbyshire*, 1899.
12. Nixon, *op. cit.*
13. J. Farey, *General view of the agriculture of Derbyshire*, 1813.

Acknowledgments

The author is indebted for invaluable advice from Mr A. Horton, late of British Geological survey, Keyworth, Notts. Grateful thanks are also due to the following for oral testimony: the late Mr Gordon Leslie of Hulland Ward, Eric Spencer of Turnditch, Frank and Mary Wright of Flower Lilies, Turnditch, Ann Cowley of Cross o' th' Hands and Reg Chadwick of Hollinhurst, Mugginton. Thanks are also extended to Dr Blissett of Corkley Farm, Windley, for giving permission to investigate Fenton Pit.

A SLAVE IN DERBYSHIRE

From Bradley Parish Registers 1724

"Philip, a servant to Mr Meynell, a person of ripe years, was baptised April 16th 1724. He was born (as he saith) at Culumbi on ye River Niger in Africa and was sold for a slave into Barbadoes and brought from thence to England by ye Lady Booth. A blackamoor man."

This serendipitous finding, 200 years after the abolition of slavery in 1807 (and a few days before Miscellany goes to the printers) is most intriguing. I hope I can find out at least a little bit more him and the background of his life before the next issue. In the meantime it is fitting that he is remembered in this anniversary year.

Note: Culumbi is possibly Calabar (although it lies in the deltas of the Calabar, Qua and Cross rivers to the east of the Niger).

Barbara Foster, 2 The Watermeadows, Swarkestone, Derby, DE73 7FX

DERBYSHIRE FARMING c1888

AND THE GREAT AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION

(by Roger T. Dalton, University of Derby, Kedleston Road, Derby)

During the nineteenth century Britain's population all but quadrupled which in combination with rising living standards brought about a proportionately greater increase in the demand for foodstuffs. On the face of it such a situation ought to have led to sustained profitability for the farming community and indeed once the difficult years following the Napoleonic Wars had been weathered farming experienced something of a golden age. However after 1870 and until the outbreak of the First World War the majority of commodity prices fell and British agriculture entered what has been styled 'The Great Depression'.¹ In its early years two factors combined to alert the landed interest and Government to the potential severity of the situation. Firstly the concept of free trade as expressed by repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846 finally impacted on home farming as the pioneers on the Great Plains of North America, the Argentine Pampas and the Australian outback gained access to railheads and trans-shipment points which allowed grain, wool and later chilled beef and butter to be exported unimpeded into the British market. Secondly Britain experienced an extended period of exceptionally wet weather.² During each of the nine years from 1875 to 1883 rainfall across England was between 10% and 25% above average while notoriously in 1879, the year without a summer, all months had temperatures below average. As a consequence field work was much impeded and harvests were poor, most especially on heavier lands, leading to the conversion of arable into grass. However pastoral farming also suffered from waterlogged and poached grazings, the widespread occurrence of liver fluke amongst sheep and in 1877 of pleuropneumonia in cattle. These circumstances were linked by Chambers and Mingay³ who stated that '*the bad harvests of the middle and later 1870s produced the first clear sign that the degree of natural protection of British farming provided by distance was passing away*'.

Importantly the 'Depression' did not impact uniformly across British farming. The commodities most profoundly affected by price decline were wheat and wool, wheat falling by 50% between the early '70s and the mid '90s. The mixed farmers of eastern England consequently suffered to a much greater extent than those in the pastoral west and north of the country. In these areas farmers specialising in perishable commodities like liquid milk and market garden produce were not exposed to foreign competition and found themselves in a relatively secure position. This was the case with respect to much of Derbyshire farming and it is the aim of this paper to explore agricultural developments in the county in the early depression period around 1880 by reviewing a report compiled by S.B.L. Druce.⁴ This was submitted to the Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1881 and was published together with a transcript of the answers he gave to questions directly put to him by the Commissioners.

The establishment of a Royal Commission in 1879 was a clear indicator of deepening Government concern with respect to farming during the 1870s. In the words of the decree setting up the Commission: '*we have deemed it expedient that a Commission should issue to enquire into the depressed condition of the agricultural interest and the causes to which it is owing; whether these causes are of a permanent character, and how far they have been created or remedied by legislation*'. The Commission proceeded by appointing men such as Druce to report on a number of counties. In his case he covered much of the East Midlands and East Anglia so that of fifteen counties surveyed only Leicestershire and Derbyshire were pastoral while the remainder comprised the core of the arable belt of the east. An important feature of his conclusions was that Derbyshire differed sharply from the rest of his area of concern in that the depression had not bitten so severely as in other counties and in some parts not at all. In this he was supported by the judges of the Derby Prize Farm Competition which also took place in 1881.⁵ In the district around Derby they failed to detect the intensity of depression as observed elsewhere in England and stated that the salvation of agriculture in Derbyshire had been '*Milk*' which had produced a solid profit as opposed to arable crops which yielded a '*beggarly percentage*'.

Druce began his report by summarising the character of the main agricultural regions of Derbyshire. In south Derbyshire soils were heavy strong clay with further heavy working land on the coal measures but the dark loams cultivated by the market gardeners of Melbourne were '*the very best in the county*'. In the north-east the magnesian limestones were barley land while the coal measures against Nottinghamshire gave heavy working but with some arable. In north Derbyshire and the Peak arable was notably limited making up only 10% of the

Chatsworth Estate farms. Here good grass was to be found on valley floors but grazing was poor on valley sides and most especially the 'heath and mountain land' or high moors which accounted for 19% of the county area.

Druce used the county level statistics from the 1881 annual agricultural census to set out the basic features of the differing land uses and livestock numbers. These have been incorporated into Table 1 together with comparable figures for 1905 to bring out significant trends.⁶ Both years show the predominance of permanent grassland and it is evident that its acreage increased over time as the modest area under crops in 1881 had become further reduced by 1905. Among the cereals the acreage of oats had held up while that of barley and also wheat had gone down considerably. Druce reported that cattle numbers were in decline but they had picked up by 1905 with the expansion of milk selling. In that year just over half the cattle in Derbyshire were cows in milk or in calf signalling the key position of dairy stock fed on grass in the farm economy. Numbers of agricultural horses also increased but the sharpest change related to sheep. A downward trend had been evident to Druce in 1881 who considered it to have been caused by the prevalence of liver rot attributable to the succession of wet seasons. Pigs were a traditional element of dairying systems but the reduction in numbers is attributable to competition from Danish imports.

Table 1: Agricultural Statistics: Derbyshire 1881 and 1905
(note: acreages of rough grazing are estimated)

Land Use	Area 1881	Area 1906
Wheat	22,537	14,198
Barley	12,833	4,534
Oats	26,927	22,404
Rye	100	n/a
Beans	994	95
Peas	548	311
Green Crops	20,964	14,017
Ley Grass etc	27,622	18,373
Permanent Pastures	391,776	401,685
Fallow	8,026	n/a
Total cultivated	512,334	489,020
Rough Grazings	118,000	140,000
Woodland	24,624	25,852
Fruit	797	1,088
Market Garden	457	n/a
Area of County (acres)	656,243	656,243

Livestock	Nos 1881	Nos 1905
Horses	21,680	28,216
Cattle	133,481	141,786
Sheep	191,243	132,981
Pigs	30,522	28,745

The greater part of Druce's report concerned inter-related aspects of farming key to the understanding of dairying which had long been the defining specialism of the county. In arguing that '*the development of the milk trade has simply saved the Derbyshire men*' Druce noted that many of these '*Derbyshire men*' were tenants whose holdings were limited in extent. Their move away from traditional cheese making on the farm,⁷ which had been widely practised since the eighteenth century, towards the sale of liquid milk involved new contractual arrangements either as part of the cheese factory movement or more commonly with milk retailers and wholesalers in major towns and cities with the railways providing the essential transport link.

In commenting on size of estates Druce referred to the 1876 '*Summary of the Return of Owners of Land*'⁸ pointing out that just three estates occupied 20% of the area of Derbyshire, the largest being Chatsworth at 83,829 acres accounting for 13.5% of the county. These apart it was the large number of moderate estates of 2,000 to 5,000 acres or holdings of yeoman farmers of 100 to 500 acres which defined land ownership. Druce considered that tenant farms which made up these estates were notably small especially in the north of the county. Almost 90% of Derbyshire was farmed in units of less than 300 acres with half of the county in units of

less than 100 acres. Such a situation is consistent with Leigh Shaw Taylor's⁹ investigation of data on farm size derived from the 1851 census of population which places Derbyshire firmly with the north of England as characterised by small farms employing labourers and servants at an average of two per farm. Druce also recognised that few workers were employed which resulted in low wage bills although actual wages were relatively high due to competition from the wide range of alternative employment in mining and manufacturing. Major seasonal activities which were labour intensive like the hay harvest or turnip hoeing were managed by hiring Irish itinerant gangs who were paid 10/- a week per person. As was also shown in the report of the 1867 *Commission on the Employment of Women and Children in Agriculture*¹⁰ a high proportion of labourers lived in on farms and received an annual wage of no more than £20 to £25 a year. He cited a south Derbyshire farm with 36 acres of arable which employed three men and a boy where two of the men lived in and received 7/- a week while the other man lived out but took his meals at the farm. The numbers of workers who lived in was reflected in a lack of farm cottages except on larger estates where, in addition to sound quality accommodation, workers often had allotments and the means to keep cows and pigs to supplement their income. Generally the hours worked were long, from 5 am to 6 pm, in order to cover twice daily milking.

The implication is that in the carrying out and the management of modest dairy operations the farmer and family were of key import and that in 1881, provided the carting distances were feasible, the options lay between supplying milk to cheese factories or selling to the cities via the railways. Druce discussed these at some length but gave little space to the continuation of cheese or butter making on the farm or the selling of fresh milk into nearby towns and villages which also occurred widely. In a review of the origins of cheese factories,¹¹ Druce noted the setting up of the first two in 1869, at Derby and Longford, using the expertise of Americans who had been involved in the early days of the original factory system in the north-east United States. By 1881 12 factories were operating in Derbyshire but their nature and function varied in important ways. Some served as collection points for milk for the railways and only made cheese in the summer from any surplus of supply while others made cheese during the summer season of between five and six months but were otherwise closed. Factories like that at Longford had been built in the context of the development of the estate while some were true farmers' cooperatives. Druce visited such a factory at Ivonbrook Grange where farmers had shares in proportion to their involvement. In 1880 the factory had made 42 cwt of cheese selling at 77/- to 80/- per cwt using milk from 300 cows which contrasted with the low cheese price of 1879 of less than 60/- following large scale imports from the United States. The return to farmers had been 9d¹² a gallon and additionally they could dispose of whey and whey butter. Not all factories had succeeded and here Druce appears to refer to that at Etwall set up by Leper Newton of Mickleover and which had failed after a brief period of '*poor management*'. In 1881 it was in the hands of the Brettle family from Leicestershire who made Stilton cheese from milk supplied by local farmers.¹³

Druce reflected on the way the new factory system had broken up the traditional marketing of farmhouse cheese which had been controlled by factors or merchants. In buying in advance factors had effectively fixed the price farmers might receive. Druce also reported that those who supplied the Ivonbrook Grange factory believed they received a better return as compared with selling liquid milk via the railway. They had no need to rush milk to the station to catch the train or suffer damage or loss of cans or the return of milk which was sour at its point of destination. Additionally the factory would take all the milk that they produced. However for many farmers the railway trade was salvation despite the potential drawbacks thus indicated.¹⁴ They had already gained a reputation for the quality of their milk which was important as railway milk was suspect as being watered down and/or adulterated with additives to improve colour and delay souring.¹⁵ Druce asserted in evidence to the Commissioners that '*Derbyshire milk ... is said to be superior to the milk produced in any other county in England, in consequence I believe, of the beautiful clear mountain streams of Derbyshire. This enables the milk to travel better than it does from other districts*'.

The configuration and density of the rail network was fundamental to the new trade especially in the early days when the condition of country roads limited the distances over which milk could be speedily carted. Each station developed its own sphere of influence for milk collection¹⁶ but some parts of the county such as that west of Derby were less well served by railways and farmers were effectively excluded from the railway trade. Of the companies operating in Derbyshire the Midland carried most of the milk consigned to longer haul destinations including Manchester, Hull, Newcastle, Birmingham and most importantly London. Druce interviewed the traffic manager of the Midland and lists the key conditions of carriage of milk which would have been the most perishable commodity they would have conveyed and which required a sound level of organisation to keep trains on schedule especially when milk wagons were attached to passenger services. Carriage rates were variable with

distance up to a maximum of 1.5d for over 150 miles but for London traffic there was a fixed rate of 1d per mile so that Wirksworth at 140 miles was the most distant source of London milk. Can size was standardised at a maximum permissible content of 16 gallons.¹⁷ The consignment of one can was charged on the basis that it was full but that of two or more on combined content. Empty cans were returned free of charge but farmers were required to assist with the loading and unloading of cans at stations. Farmers were also responsible for seeing that can lids were secured and that cans were properly addressed and stamped with station of dispatch and can capacity.

Druce demonstrated the rapid expansion of the railway milk trade quoting estimates of 940,000 gallons carried from Derbyshire on the Midland in 1872 as compared with 5.5 million gallons in 1880 when London received about two thirds of the milk dispatched. Of the other companies carrying Derbyshire milk the Great Northern had completed its route west of Derby towards Burton and Uttoxeter in 1878 and also supplied London.¹⁸ The Great Northern had negotiated running rights on the North Staffordshire Railway based on the Potteries which was much criticised for not collecting milk on Sundays. The potential for further substantial growth of the milk trade is well conveyed by Druce through an unnamed source: 'I cannot help feeling that we have yet to see a great expansion in the consumption of milk. Thousands have yet to learn to drink milk with their tea and coffee and this means an ocean of milk in the future'. The London milk wholesalers were also anticipating the need for more supply and according to Druce were trying to buy up cheese factories as potential collection points although a number were distant from railway stations. Clearly their perceived function was to be better served by the large track side creameries soon to be built at Egginton, Sudbury and Rowsley.¹⁹ Such facilities became necessary as wholesalers needed to control milk supply as demand was highly variable, in particular hot summer days, weekends and holidays all produced sharp rises in demand.

Predictions of further expansion in milk selling proved to be correct. Tomson²⁰ has shown that Derbyshire farmers were producing 30 million gallons by 1895. Of this just over half was consigned by rail with the greater proportion going to Birmingham and the northern cities with London taking 40% as the largest single market. A further 14% was processed in factories and creameries and as much as one third was made into cheese and butter on the farm. This reflected a continuing problem of access to railway stations but also decline in milk price in the latter years of the century as the liquid market became oversupplied. Druce, reporting in 1881, was therefore commenting on what was to be the formative stage of the railway milk trade but when uncertainties regarding the future of cheese factories were already in evidence. The exploitation of an established dairy tradition through the development of milk selling clearly enabled Derbyshire farmers to survive the 'Depression' years as almost uniquely they were protected by distance from foreign competition.

References

1. For a wide ranging discussion of the depression years see P.J. Perry, *British Farming in the Great Depression 1870-1914*, 1984.
2. Gordon Manley, *Climate and the British Scene*, ch 1.3, 1953.
3. J.D. Chambers and G.M. Mingay, *The Agricultural Revolution 1750-1880*, 1966.
4. S.B.L. Druce, 'Derbyshire, Report to the Commissioners Royal Commission on the Depressed Condition of the Agricultural Interest 1881', *British Parliamentary Papers XVIII*, pp21-26. Also 'Minutes of Evidence', *British Parliamentary Papers XV*, pp35-39. These are the major sources used in the preparation of this paper and from which quotations have been taken.
5. 'Report of the Derby Prize Farm Competition 1881', *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England*, 18, 1882, p457.
6. *Victoria County History of Derbyshire*, Agriculture, Vol 2, 1905, pp305-320.
7. A. Henstock, 'Cheese Manufacture and Marketing in Derbyshire and North Staffordshire 1670-1870', *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol 89, 1969, pp32-45.
8. J. Bateman, *The Great Landowners of Great Britain and Ireland*, reprinted 1971.
9. Leigh Shaw-Taylor, 'Family Farms and Capitalist Farms in Mid-Nineteenth Century England', *Agricultural History Review*, Vol 53, 2005, pp158-191.
10. Roger Dalton, 'The Derbyshire Farm Labourer in the 1860s', *Derbyshire Miscellany*, Vol 16, Spring 2003, pp135-141.
11. Cheese factories attracted much comment in the agricultural press from the 1870s. They were seen as innovative cooperative enterprises.
12. 'd' indicates old pennies of which there were 240 in £1.

13. G. Gibbons, 'Report on Cheese Making in Derbyshire', *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England*, Vol 17, 1881, pp540-542.
14. Roger Dalton, 'The Railway Milk Trade and Farming in the North Midlands c1860-1914', *Midland History*, Vol XXVIII, 2003, pp100-119.
15. For a disturbing analysis of the early milk trade see P.J. Atkins, 'Sophistication Detected: or the Adulteration of Milk Supply 1850-1914', *Social History*, 1991, pp317-339.
16. Roger Dalton, 'Railway Milk from Etwall Station, South Derbyshire during the Autumn of 1883', *Derbyshire Miscellany*, Vol 17, Autumn 2004, pp38-46.
17. In the early 1880s cans were standardised at 17 imperial gallons.
18. Dalton, op. cit 2004.
19. J. Arthur, *Say Cheese: Stories of the Cheese and Milk Trade in Derbyshire 1870-1970*, 1994.
20. G.A. Tomson, *Dairying in South West Derbyshire in the Late Nineteenth Century*, Loughborough University of Technology M. Phil Thesis, 1986.

RADBORNE RECTORY

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY MR. W. SMITH

On the premises of RADBORNE RECTORY, in the county of Derby, on Monday, the 8th of March, 1824, and following day.

LATE THE PROPERTY OF THE REV. EDWARD POLE, DECEASED.

This Sale comprises of two fat Scotch bullocks, three fat cows, one new milch cow, two barren cows, one fat pig, three aze cart horses, black hackney mare, pair of dark bay carriage horses, a very elegant modern built double bodied phaeton (nearly new,) an excellent chariot in good condition, set of chariot harnesses, saddles and bridles, tackling for seven horses, one large rick of hay, part of a rick of old hay, two large wheat ricks, two ricks of beans, rick frame, rick poles and tarpawling, narrow wheeled waggon, two broad and one narrow wheeled carts, one covered market cart, ploughs, harrows, drills, gates, fleaks, winnowing machine, straw cutters, bean mill, forks, rakes, garden tools, etc, etc. Also part of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, consisting of bedsteads and hangings, feather beds, mattresses and blankets, capital mahogany side board, sofa with two covers, mahogany chairs, etc, a complete set of five large maps on rollers and varnished, a large quantity of books, guns, pistols, brewing vessels, dairy vessels, kitchen requisites, etc.

Descriptive Catalogues will be published in due time, and may be had on the Premises, and of the Auctioneers, St Alkmunds, Derby.

Derby Reporter, 19 February 1824, p1

SERIOUS EXPLOSION AT A DERBYSHIRE VICARAGE

On Friday afternoon Mr George Smith, son of the late Rev. Urban Smith, was experimenting with some chemicals in the kitchen of the Vicarage, Stoney Middleton, when an explosion took place, and he narrowly escaped being killed. The fire range was completely destroyed, both oven and boiler, and the bars from the fire grate going through the door and window, and were found yards away outside. The window was blown out, and the door was split into matchwood, the tables and drawers being broken. An iron flask he was using flew upwards and went through the ceiling into a bedroom above, taking the carpet of that room with it, and disarranging the furniture. A boy about 11 years of age was found among the ruins of the table unhurt, with the exception of his hair being singed and his clothes burned with the chemicals. A servant who was present had her bonnet blown off her head, and her hair was singed, but she was otherwise unhurt. Mr Smith was blown on to the top of the sink stone, He was conveyed to Dr. Fenton's surgery at Eyam, and examined by that gentleman, who found that he had no bones broken, and was not seriously injured. The damage to the house and furniture is estimated at about 50l. [£50]

Derby Mercury, 28 March 1888, p2, c3.

ROY CHRISTIAN 1914-2006

(by Mick Appleby,

Roy Christian used to claim that he could instantly spot a keen local historian. All you need do is to look for a battered, bruised face, probably an arm in a sling and tattered clothes, from a lifetime of permanently walking into lampposts, falling over street furniture and stumbling into enraged pedestrians. These, he said, are the consequences of spending your days looking at the tops of buildings rather than boring shop fronts and pavements.

Roy was born in Riddings in 1914, one of four children of the Riddings vicar. The Christians were descended from a Manx family, many of whom joined the navy. He was distantly related to Fletcher Christian of H.M.S. Bounty fame and more directly to Admiral Sir Hugh Cloberry Christian who fought with Nelson at Cape St. Vincent and Admiral Hugh Hanway Christian who became an aide-de-camp to William IV.

As a boy in Riddings, Roy played with children of the rather grand Oakes family, but also with the sons of miners, labourers and farmers. He was always the most sociable of men and was ever a good mixer. The family were strongly academic and he was encouraged to read widely. This stood him in good stead when he contracted T.B. and was forced to leave school for one and a half years. Much of this time was spent reading so he kept up well with his English, History and Geography but fell behind in Maths and Science. One by-product of his confinement was that his parents knocked out the window of his room, making him immune to cold for the rest of his life.

Roy attended Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School at Mansfield, but when his father was made Vicar of St. John's in Derby in 1932, he moved to Derby School, for which he retained a great affection and pride. At Derby School he was a good sportsman, playing football, cricket and hockey on Parker's piece and he loved table-tennis. Academically he was good, but he suffered from bad spelling and awful handwriting. His father commented that Roy's handwriting was the second worst he knew - only his own was worse.

He left Derby School with absolutely no qualifications and tried to get into journalism. Whilst at Riddings he wrote a column in the local newspaper, often about the activities of the local hunt. In fact he never attended a single meet; all his information was gleaned from the landlord of the local pub.

Eventually, he was given £60 by his father, with which he acquired a three-wheeler van and a small stock of books. After two driving lessons, he confidently hit the road as a mobile library service, travelling largely in the Swadlincote and Coalville area but also to farms around Coxbench.

He married Mary, a member of the St John's congregation and an art student, in 1940. They were to have a daughter Sue, who later taught in Derby and became the Museum's Education Officer and a Magistrate.

In 1940 he received the call-up, but managed to defer it for six months to wind up his business. Naturally, with his ancestry, he opted for the navy, and received his training at Butlins in Skegness and later at H.M.S. Collingwood. Here he was told that half of the ordinary seamen could expect to be stewards, the rest cooks and he was down for a cook. Immediately he went to an officer and told him that with his standard of cooking he'd do more killing of matelots than Hitler. Upon being told that the only way out was to do six months active service followed by officer training, Roy spent six months on an ancient destroyer, H.M.S. Witherington, on Atlantic convoy duty. He was almost permanently seasick, but he didn't complain, remarking that the rough seas simply didn't compare with the thirteen mile tram ride from Langley Mill to Nottingham.

In 1941, he went before the Navy Commission Board. An interviewer remarked, '*Christian, Christian, now that rings a bell*'. 'Yes', said Roy, '*but if you will make me an officer, I promise I won't start a mutiny!*' From 1942 he was commissioned into minesweeping. His first command, M.S.91, a new ship, went down the slipway on launch and sank. Re-launched with Roy as her Commanding Officer, M.S.91 was based at Portsmouth sweeping the Channel approaches. On D-Day she acted as a decoy vessel but eventually saw service off the D-Day beaches. On a rare day off from minesweeping, Roy, full of curiosity as ever, set off to Bayeux to see the tapestry. They were stopped by a soldier who told them in no uncertain terms that they couldn't go on as the town was '*full of bloody Germans!*'

After the war, as acting Lieutenant Commander, and before discharge, he spent some time clearing the harbour at Zeebrugge of mines. On one memorable day they almost hit a Destroyer which hove to and asked for the name of the skipper. Upon being told, the Destroyer's Commanding Officer yelled back, '*Christian - we've had quite enough of your bloody lot in the navy!*'

Post-war, Roy taught briefly at Pear Tree Junior School, enjoyed the experience and enrolled at Daneshill College, Retford for the one year emergency teacher-training programme. Various secondary school English teaching jobs in Derby followed: at Abbey St. School for Girls, Rosehill and Allenton schools. At the latter school, a group of boys took pity on him and offered to teach him a real job, shoplifting in Derby on Saturday! Roy always claimed that this was the greatest compliment a class ever paid to him. A move followed to Derwent Secondary School and then to Derby Technical College where he taught English and General Studies to, amongst others, plumbers and plasterers, nurses and secretaries.

He will be mostly remembered in his role as the course tutor, with Cyril Sprenger, on the Mature Students' Course at Derby College of Further Education, first at St. Mary's Gate, then Normanton Rd and Wilmorton. It was a role that required great understanding, sympathy and tact as much as academic excellence. Roy was quite simply brilliant in this role, teaching English literature in his own inimitable, humorous way and persuading so many students that they really could prosper at university. He retired in 1976, the same year that he was awarded the M.B.E. for services to education, which he received from the Queen at Buckingham Palace. It was most richly deserved.

Roy will of course be remembered by most people in Derby and Derbyshire for his broadcasting and journalism. He was told by a seaman when passing instructions during a storm, that he had a good voice and should be on radio. Whilst school-teaching in the late 1940s, he submitted a script to Midlands' radio. Shortly afterwards he received a phone call from the B.B.C. Responding to this, he was told: '*Really I should get you over for a voice-test, but I can tell from the phone that your voice is absolutely right for radio.*'

From then on Roy was on the radio virtually every week. He specialised in local topics - pub signs, country customs, local characters and of course his village histories. Often, Roy and his producer would spend a weekend in a Midlands' village, research on Saturday, write on Sunday morning and then broadcast live on Sunday afternoon.

When Radio Derby started in 1971, Roy was a godsend to the station and a string of programmes and interviews followed. He will perhaps best be remembered for his *Derby Street by Street*, *The Story of Derby* and *The Derby County Story*. He had the perfect radio voice - warm, friendly, clear, rich, authoritative and with just a touch of a local accent.

In the late 1940s, with Bertie Mee, later the Arsenal Manager, Roy made the first hospital broadcast from the Baseball Ground and from then on for the next 48 years, patients in Derby hospitals were treated to his rich tones and opinions on Derby County's progress.

His great love in life, though, was cricket. Having played for Derby Congregationalists at Brayfield Road, Littleover, before the war, he really did know his cricket and he also broadcast from the County Ground for the hospital service. Indeed, his last broadcast came at the age of 91 when Radio Derby interviewed him at Brookfields Nursing Home as the oldest active member of Derbyshire Cricket Club.

Roy was a prolific writer. For many years he was a regular contributor to *Derbyshire Life and Countryside* magazine, writing articles on just about every significant village in Derbyshire. Usually his practice was to start out in the local post office and then retire to the local pub along with the local founts of knowledge. He wrote regularly for the *Derby Evening Telegraph* and *Derbyshire Advertiser* and nationally for *Country Life*.

His first book on *Ships and Sea* was written for children in 1962. *Factories, Foundries and Forges*, also for children, shortly followed. Derbyshire readers will recall his superbly researched *Butterley Brick* commissioned by the company. *Derbyshire* and *Nottinghamshire* were written for the Batsford County series; *The Peak District* for David & Charles. As a writer Roy wrote simply, elegantly and with real style. His comparison of Nottingham and Derby bears repeating:

'As if in deliberate defiance of its bigger, grander, neighbour, Nottingham... which is essentially romantic, lively and slightly feminine in character, Derby is prosaic, stolid

and ruggedly masculine. As the county town of a most exciting county, it is outwardly a surprisingly unexciting place.

So many people attended his W.E.A. lectures which he gave from the early 1950s, through to 1996. At a time when local history was in its infancy, Roy enthused, inspired and entertained hundreds of people in his evening and later day classes. People who had been bored rigid by history at school were exposed to a 'new' form of history about their parish, their ancestors, churches, bye-ways and farms. There were few parts of Derbyshire that Roy didn't know or about which he could at least point people in the right direction. To be a member of Roy's class was a privilege and there were usually long waiting lists for them.

Members of the Derby Civic Society, of which he was a founder member and later chairman and vice-President, will remember him for his fierce condemnation of the '*destruction of Derby*' and his intimate knowledge of every worthwhile building in the city.

Roy never 'retired' in the accepted sense. In his 80s he became the president of the newly formed Normanton-by-Derby Local History Society and he never lost his enthusiasm and curiosity.

Roy Christian will be fondly remembered as a member of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society. He was very touched when the DAS made him an honorary life member in 2006. The term 'Renaissance Man' is often misplaced, but in Roy's case the appellation is perfectly proper. He was a most kindly man, full of mischievous humour, tolerance and charm. Derby owes a great deal to this great champion and advocate of the city.

Derbyshire Archaeological Society Publications

The *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* is published annually and contains articles on all aspects of the county's archaeology, history and architecture. It is free to members. *Derbyshire Miscellany* is published twice yearly and provides a slightly less formal forum for local history articles and notes.

Subscriptions:	One or more members of a household at the same address (includes <i>Journal</i>)	£18.00
	<i>Derbyshire Miscellany</i>	£6.00
	Student membership - persons under 25 years in full time education (includes <i>Journal</i>)	£13.00

Application forms are available from:

The Membership Secretary, Mr K. Reedman, 107 Curzon St, Long Eaton, Derbyshire NG10 4FH
Tel: 01159 732150

Back copies of *Derbyshire Miscellany* and list of available issues (send sae) are available from:
Mr D. Fowkes, 18 Helpston Close, Westhouses, Alfreton, Derbyshire, DE55 5AX

Registered charity no 225031