

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY



Matlock, Bath from the Old Bath Terrace.

The Local History Bulletin of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

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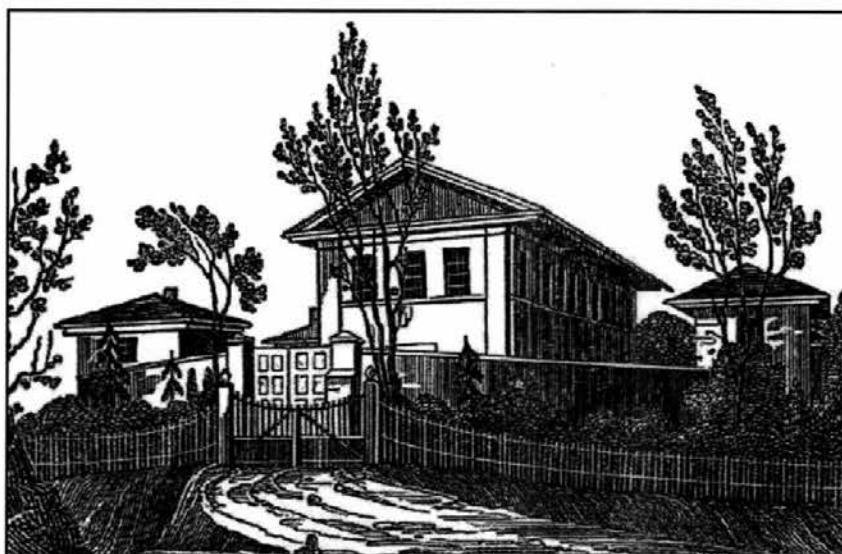


Fig 1: Ordnance Depot, probably 1826

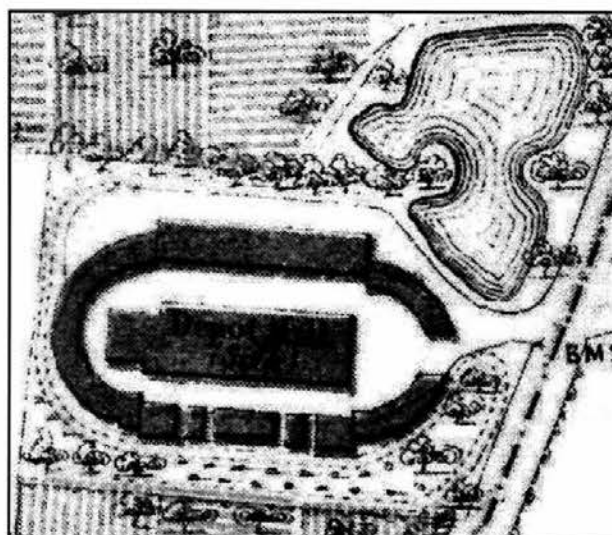


Fig 2: Plan of Depot Mill 1852

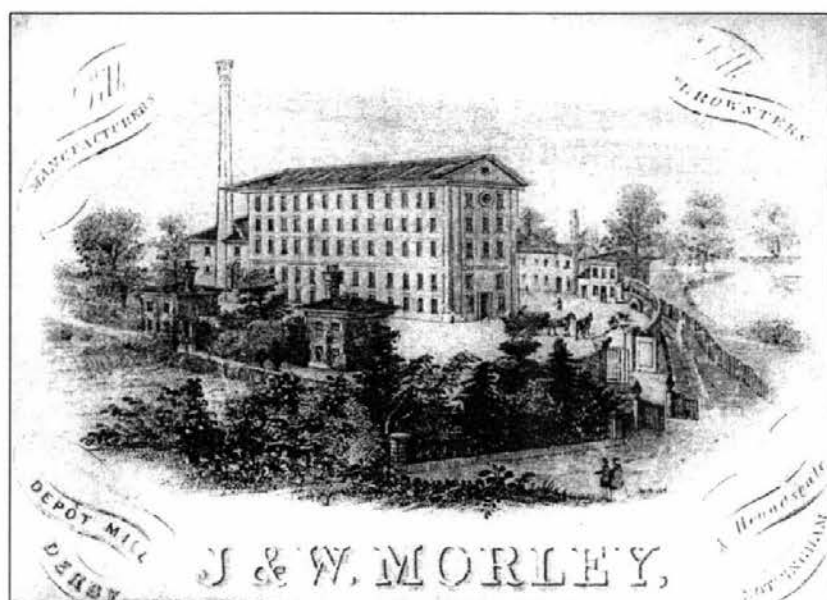


Fig 3: J & W. Morley, Depot Mill, c1849-1853

THE ORDNANCE DEPOT, DERBY AND ITS LATER OWNERS 1805-1966

(by Joan D'Arcy,
and Jane Steer,

Part 1. THE ORDNANCE DEPOT, DERBY, 1805-1822

A recent biography by John M. Robinson on the life and work of architect James Wyatt (1746-1813) sparked an interest in the Derby Ordnance Depot which had a brief existence from 1805 until its sale and adaptation to use as a silk mill in 1823-24. At the time the Depot was built, Britain had been engaged in war with Revolutionary France for over 20 years. Although hostilities were temporarily suspended by the Treaty of Amiens in 1802, war soon recommenced as Napoleon Bonaparte took command and threatened to invade Britain. This prompted the building of a coastal defensive chain of forts, the well known Martello Towers. Less well known is the activity of the Board of Ordnance in strengthening its arsenals, such as Woolwich, and setting up new ordnance depots at inland locations where they would be less vulnerable to attack by invading forces. Three brick Depots were erected in 1805-6, two designed by Wyatt at Derby and Shrewsbury and one at Weedon, Northampton, built by Colonel Pilkington of the Royal Engineers.¹

The Board of Ordnance appointed James Wyatt as its architect in 1782 and from 1796 he was Surveyor General of Works. He produced over 50 designs for the Board, amongst which was a Neoclassical design for the Depot in Derby which was commissioned in 1803. As part of his research into Wyatt's work, Robinson consulted both the Board of Ordnance's limited archives and two contemporary accounts by Derbyshire historians, the Reverends Davies and Simpson. The earlier account is that of the Rev. David P. Davies who published his *View of Derbyshire* in 1811. Davies describes the Depot in great detail, perhaps quoting from an official source. His text is up to date as he refers to the 'Infirmary', that is the Derbyshire General Infirmary which had only been open since 1810 and lay to the south of the town centre:

Not far from the Infirmary, and about the same distance from the town, is the Ordnance Depot. The ground on which this building stands, being an acre and a quarter, was purchased for the purpose by the Board of Ordnance in the year 1803. The respective buildings, erected according to a plan by Mr. Wyatt, the Architect, were completed in 1805. These consist of an Armory in the centre; the room on the ground-floor, being seventy-five feet long by twenty-five broad, is calculated to contain fifteen thousand stand of arms; these are disposed here in the same order as those are in the Tower of London, and present a very pleasing appearance, on the entrance to the room. - Above this is a room of the same proportions, containing accoutrements for the use of the army. On the North and South sides of the armory, are two magazines, capable of containing 1200 barrels of ammunition. These are internally arched with brick, to prevent accidents; and, for the same purpose, conductors have been erected at a little distance from each. Four dwellings are situated in the angles of the exterior wall; two of which are Barracks for a detachment of Royal Artillery, and the other two, are the residence of Officers in the Civil Department of the Ordnance:

Besides these buildings, suitable workshops, &c. have been erected on the inside of the surrounding wall. The establishment is under the superintendence of an Ordnance Storekeeper, who is appointed by the Master-General of the Ordnance.²

This is repeated in full by Rev. Robert Simpson, with an acknowledgement. By the time Simpson was writing in 1825-6, peace had reigned for 10 years, following the Treaty of Versailles in 1815, and the Depot had been taken out of service. He adds in a footnote:

This Establishment is now broken up, and a new Ordnance Depot has been erected in Cherry Street, the old one having been sold to Messrs. Mo[o]re & Co. Silk Merchants of London, who have converted it into a mill for the purpose of manufacturing silk.³

Simpson's accompanying drawing (dated from the publication of his book in 1826 but probably executed before the sale of the Depot) depicts the Armoury from the east; a two-storey building, the ground floor with a central door but without windows, and the first storey with three windows above the entrance and nine along its length. The artist shows its setting within a curved walled enclosure, the main gate flanked to north and south by single



Fig 4: Depot Mill, Ambrose Street, pre 1884. The Star Tea Company's advertisement is on the end of the Mill
M. Craven, Winter's Collection of Derby, Vol II, 1996

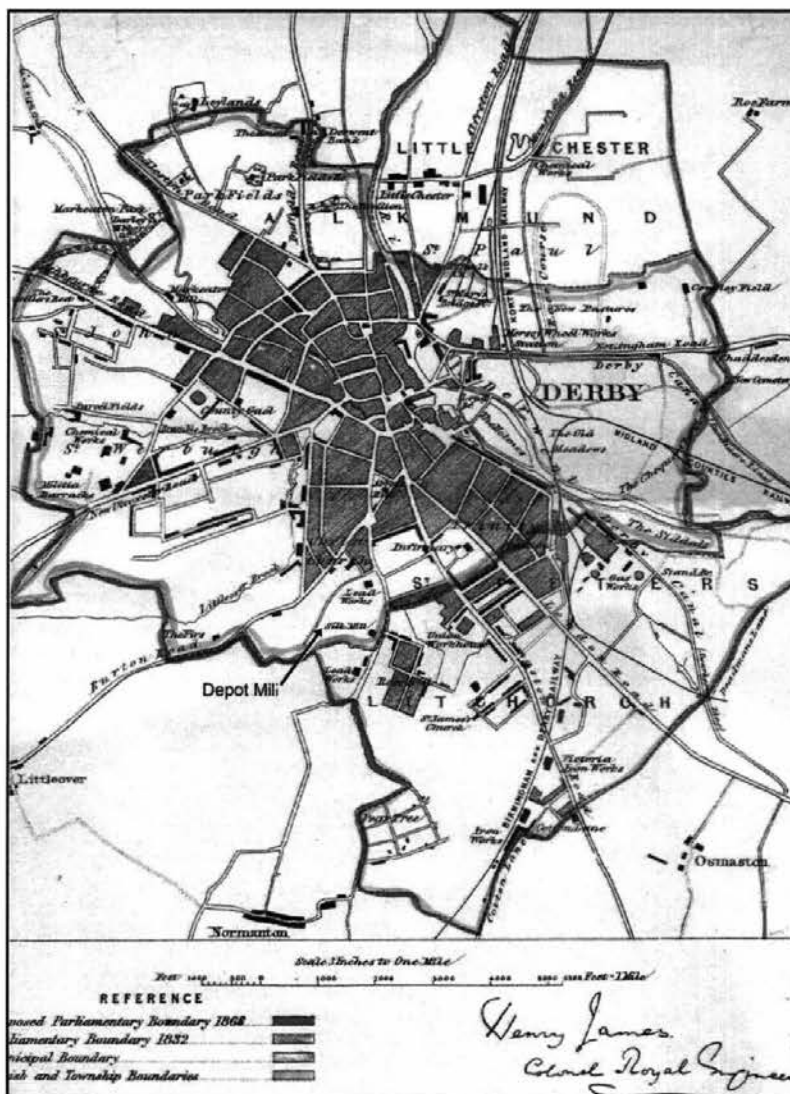


Fig 5: Derby 1868
Proposed Parliamentary
Boundary.
Shows Depot Mill.

storey lodges, which the text identifies as magazines, and further surrounded by a metal palisade (Fig 1). The Depot is readily identified on contemporary maps. As described by Simpson, it lay not far from the Infirmary, to the south of Derby town centre. Figs 2⁴ and 5 show its precise position adjacent to Normanton Road.

It was still in use in 1817 as that year's accounts of Derby Borough expenditure include a sum of 7s paid to the clerk to the Justices 'to conveying Pikes from and to the Depot' along with other sums concerning 'the late Insurrection', this being identified as the Pentrich Revolution. The following year, similar accounts for 1818 include a sum of £30 for 'One year's rent of Depot for Derby Militia' so it would seem that the Board of Ordnance, while still owners, were no longer in occupation.⁵

In 1822, as fears of insurrection lessened, the Depot was declared redundant, being too expensive to maintain in peace time. An estimate of annual cost comes from an entry in a Journal of the House of Commons and the same source gives its complement of guards as 100:

- Estimate of the charge of the Office of Ordnance for 1816 : Appendix No 2, 19th Feb :
Ordinary expenses : Depots for small arms - Shrewsbury, Chelmsford, Bury, Horsham, Derby,
Lincoln, Bristol, Broom £1,400.⁶

A small Depot was still maintained for a few years on Cherry Street but this too closed in 1833.⁷

In April 1822, the *Derby Mercury* carried an advertisement for its sale which gives more detail of the construction of the Armoury and the nature of its ancillary buildings. It confirms that the Armoury was a two-storey building but there is a difference in measurement which cannot readily be accounted for.⁸

Advert for sale of the Ordnance Depot by the Office of Ordnance, 1 April 1822:

TO BE DISPOSED OF

THE DEPOT AND PREMISES *Belonging to this Department, situated within a Quarter of a Mile of the Town of Derby.*

All those substantial well-built Brick Buildings and Premises, known as the ORDNANCE ARMOURY, with trussed Barn Roof, slated and lined the under side of the Rafters; and contains two excellent stories, 97 feet long and 30 feet wide to the clear; the ground story 17 feet high, the upper story 15 feet (a little more or less), with lobbies at each end of both stories, and good light, well adapted for a Manufactory or any other purpose requiring light and roomy Premises.

Together with Four well built Brick DWELLING HOUSES, consisting of ground and one pair stories, and large light closets; goods yards, with privies and sheds; two magazines; guard house with attached offices, sheds, and work shops at each end; a pump with a well of good water, and drains. The whole premises well enclosed with a brick wall, and with a carriage entrance and gates from the Road.

The extent of the Ordnance Land consists of one acre and one rood, the centre of which is covered by the armoury, magazines, and other buildings contiguous; the remainder of the ground is cultivated as gardens.

All the Fittings-up of the Armoury and Accoutrement Room, and other Articles; Fittings-up of the Smith's Shop and Furbishing Room, and other Materials.

Plans of the Premises may be seen by application at the Secretary's Office [Board of Ordnance] in Pall Mall, London.

The *Derby Mercury* of 24 April 1822 contains a letter from 'A.B.' suggesting that it be purchased by the Corporation and converted into a Lunatic Asylum, giving as reasons its likely cheapness, its ease of conversion and its situation:

The Military Depot situated to the south of the town, is now offered by Government for sale, and there is every probability of its being disposed of for a sum less, by more than two thirds, than its original cost. It is a most substantial and well finished building, and so constructed as to convertible at an easy expence to the purpose above alluded to. The situation of it is retired, and in point of salubrity perfectly unobjectionable.

A letter in reply from 'C.D.' rejected the idea, arguing that only an acre and 1 rood of land was being offered with it and the site would therefore be too constricting.⁹

Given this evidence, Robinson's description is surprising. He writes '*The demolished Derby Depot was an especially impressive Neoclassical composition, with a towering five storey armory surrounded by barracks and magazines within an oval curtain wall*'. He provides an illustration of a five-storey building, the 'Depot Mill', a silk mill occupied by J & W. Morley (Fig 3). The site is undoubtedly the same but the Armoury was designed and built as a two-storey building.¹⁰

The discrepancy raises questions. Was J & W Morley's 'Depot Mill' the same building as the Armoury of 1805? If so, at what point in its history had three storeys been added? Or had the Depot been demolished and a new five-storey building set up on the same footprint?

Simpson tells us that the Depot was sold to Messrs. Mo[o]re & Co of London and converted to use as a silk mill. Who was Moore and what brought him from London to Derby? How and when did the site pass to J & W Morley and what was its subsequent use? These questions prompted research into the occupation and use of the Ordnance Depot site from its sale until its demolition in 1966.

Part 2: AMBROSE MOORE AND THE DEPOT MILL c1823-c1884

Ambrose Moore was a prominent silk manufacturer based at 31 Milk Street, Cheapside in Spitalfields who bought the Ordnance Depot and converted it into a mill for manufacturing silk. The sale probably took place in 1823 because Moore, giving evidence in '*Hickson's Marriage Annuling Bill*' stated that '*his residence was in London but that from 1823 he had been in Derby each year for a few months in the Autumn*'.¹¹ By 1824 the mill was in operation as evidenced by a committal for theft reported in the *Derby Mercury* of 2 June 1824: '*Thomas Brown, for stealing on the 21st of April last, from the Depot Manufactory, six metal spindle steps and four metal lever stands, the property of Messrs. Moore and Gisborne*'.¹² Simpson recorded that '*the Ordnance Depot had been sold to Messrs Mo[o]re & Co, Silk Merchants of London*' in his *History of Derby* published in 1826.¹³

By 1827 Messrs Moore also rented a large and newly built silk warehouse in Devonshire Street which had a large garden at the rear.¹⁴ Trade directories for 1829-1833 list Ambrose Moore as a silk throwster and manufacturer at the Depot Mill whilst the premises at 2 Devonshire Street were occupied by Wilson, Moore & Robinson, silk throwsters in 1829, by Wilson, Moore & Co from 1831-33¹⁵ and in 1835 by Ambrose Moore & Co when the premises he rented were described as '*two excellent Weaving Shops, about 42 feet long and 16 feet wide ... with a frontage on Devonshire Street of above 68 feet*'.¹⁶ Moore's mother, Ann Wilson, came from Twyford, a few miles from Derby beside the River Trent (biography of Ambrose Moore - to follow).

a. Brief history of the silk industry

Spitalfields had been the centre of the silk industry in London from the mid-17th century. The industry was protected at times by trade legislation - the import of Indian silk was prohibited in 1699, the use and wear of printed calico in 1721 and the import of foreign woven silks was prohibited in 1766 though smugglers still managed to provide customers with French silk. The first Spitalfields Act concerning rates of pay for journeymen and masters which were agreed by deputations and ratified by magistrates was passed in 1773. Two other Acts followed in 1793 and 1811 which helped ensure industrial peace. However, in 1824, the Acts prohibiting the import of foreign silk goods and the Spitalfields Acts were repealed under Free Trade reform. It came into effect in two parts. In 1824 the high duty on raw silk was repealed and the tax on silk thread was reduced by nearly half. In 1826 foreign silk goods could be imported on payment of an import duty of 30%.¹⁷

The initial effect of the 1824 Act was a sudden expansion in the throwing of silk threads and the building of new mills and new machinery. For instance, in 1828-9 Pigot lists 18 silk throwsters and manufacturers in Derby which had increased by 1831 to 20.¹⁸ Perhaps the Act influenced Ambrose Moore's decision to set up a silk manufactory in Derby.

However, trouble was ahead. Eventually supply outgrew demand and the silk manufacturers responded by increasing the hours and reducing the wages of their workers. In November 1833 this led to industrial unrest in Derby, known as the Silk Trades Lock Out, and the formation of the Grand National Trades Union in 1834. The manufacturer's threat to expel workers who would not leave the Union was carried out and 2000 workers were locked out. The dispute lasted for eight months until 21 April 1834 when the strike collapsed. As a result c600 workers lost their jobs; the rest were re-employed.¹⁹

The silk trade gradually recovered and in 1846 Bagshaw commented in his *History of Derby*:²⁰

In 1833 there were 233 steam ribbon looms (silk) at work here. In 1839 there were 344 looms making broad beam fabrics in Derby and dependants and trade was extending. In 1845 there were 17 silk mills worked by a power equal to 261 horses and giving employment to 5400 persons.

Duty on foreign goods was reduced to 15% in 1846 and removed from nearly all goods imported from France in 1860. However, the French duty on English imports was only reduced to 30% leading to an almost terminal decline in the English silk industry.²¹

b. Ambrose Moore, silk throwster and manufacturer at the Depot Mill

Silk throwsters twist or spin silk and prepare it for weaving, a process first carried out on an industrial scale in England by John Lombe at his silk mill on the banks of the River Derwent (now home to Derby's Industrial Museum) where the end product was fine organzine silk.²² The weaving of the finished silk thread was carried out by silk manufacturers. According to an article on the silk industry in Derby in the 1820s, published in the *Textile Mercury* in 1890, Ambrose Moore was a well known silk manufacturer at that time:

*The weaving of silk piece goods was introduced [in Derby] about 1822 by Mr Wm. Taylor, whose factory was situated in Bag Lane. His example was followed by Messrs Bridgett and Son and by Messrs. Ambrose Moore and Company a few years afterwards. In a short time these firms - none of which are now in existence - were producing sarcenets, gros de Naples and other rich silks in a style equal to the best of the Spitalfields makes, employment being thus afforded for 300 hands and 220 looms. ... An old manufacturer in Derby told me that of all the firms in Derby when I entered the trade scarcely one remains. Lombes, Bridgetts, Moore, J & C Peet have all gone.*²³

In the early 1830s growing concerns about the employment of children in factories resulted in the setting up of a Factory Inquiry Commission to examine the conditions under which they worked and their medical health. The Commission's Report covered six mills visited in Derbyshire in June 1833: Mark Booth (Silk Throwster), Mr Johnson (Lace Mills), Ambrose Moore & Co (Silk Mill) Depot Mill, Mr William Taylor (Old Silk Mills) and Messrs Bridgett & Trueman (Silk Mill) Morledge, all in Derby, and Messrs Arkwright (Cotton Mills) at Matlock. Questions were asked about the temperature of the mill, ventilation, cleanliness, working hours, time allowed for meals, the supply of gratuitous hot water, holidays per annum, medical assistance, the number of people employed of all ages, the numbers below 18 years of age and the general appearance and situation of the mills. Those under 18 underwent medical examinations and the results summarised in tables for each mill.²⁴

The Report gives an insight into the working conditions in these mills - see Table 1 for the Derby mills. The Depot Mill was the second largest mill employing 280 workers of whom 200 (the highest number) were under 18. The largest employer was William Taylor at the Old Silk Mill who employed 327 workers with 128 under 18. The workers at the Depot Mill worked in a mill which was 'Particularly well situated, cheerful and spacious' but they had the shortest time for meals (1 hour 40 minutes in a 13 hour working day) and fewer holidays than the other mills - only 3½ days a year compared with 12 days at the Old Silk Mill.

Of the 200 workers under 18 at the Depot Mill who were medically examined, 58 were males, 38 of whom were in good health, 12 in middling health, 8 in poor health and 1 with deformities. The figures for the 80 females were: good 45, middling 26, bad 9 and deformities 1. The tables showed that 2 males who were only 9 had worked at the mill for 2 years and that a male aged 11 and a female aged 10 had worked there for 3 years.

In a note at the end of the report on the Depot Mill, Mr Turner, presumably the manager, affirmed that:

It has been an established rule of this mill ever since its existence, to refuse any children below nine years of age. The instances which occur in this mill of children working below nine years of age are introduced by the parents, who sometimes deceive him in stating the child to be older than is the truth. No register is kept of the age of the hands. He was ready to declare upon oath that during the last six months not a single accident had occurred on his premises, The twenty minutes allowed nominally for tea is not used, but is thrown in to make a little relaxation for the Saturdays, when the mill closes at 5 o'clock; the tea is brought to them if they please, and it is taken standing.

TABLE 1: MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF THE HEALTH OF FACTORIES 1834 - reports on Derby mills

	Mark Booth, Derby Silk Throwster	Mr Johnson, Derby Lace Mills	Ambrose Moore & Co, Depot, Derby, Silk Mill	William Taylor, Old Silk Mills, Derby	Bridgett & Trueman, Morledge, Silk Mill
Temperature	Highest, 80	Moderate	Highest of the throwing room, 65	Highest, 71.	Highest, 66, (Steam).
Ventilation	Indifferent	Good	Moderately attended to.	Indifferent	Indifferent.
Cleanliness	Indifferent	Considerable	Indifferent.	Little apparent attention paid to it.	No apparent attention paid to it.
Work	Begins at 6.15 o'clock, and ends at 7 o'clock.	Begins at 5 o'clock, and ends at 7 o'clock.	Begins at 6 o'clock and ends at 7 o'clock.	Begins at 6.15 o'clock and ends at 7 o'clock. No holiday on Saturday.	Begins at 6 o'clock and ends at 7 o'clock. No night work.
Relaxation for meals	1 ¼ hours for dinner, 20 minutes for breakfast and tea.	½ hour for breakfast, 1 hour for dinner and tea, with no fixed time for lace-makers; for mechanics the hours are from 6 to 7, with 2 hours for meals.	20 minutes for breakfast, one hour for dinner, 20 minutes for tea.	½ hour breakfast, 1½ hour at dinner, ½ hour at tea.	½ hour breakfast, 1 hour dinner, ½ hour tea.
Hot water supplied gratuitously or not	Not.	Not.	Gratuitously.	Not.	Formerly, but not at present gratis.
Holidays in the year	2 days at Christmas, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday ½ day, 2½ days at Whitsuntide, a day at the races.	Christmas Day, ½ day Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, 1½ days Easter, 2½ days Whitsuntide, 2 half days at races.	Christmas Day, 1½ days at Easter and Whitsuntide, 2 half days at the races.	Christmas Day, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, 3 days Easter, 2 days Whitsuntide, 1 day at fair, 2 days at races, 1 day at Cheese Fair.	2½ days at Christmas, ½ day Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, 2½ days Easter and Whitsuntide.
Medical assistance	None provided.	Pays for accidents. Subscribes to the Infirmary.	Subscribes to the Infirmary.	Accidents are paid for.	Pays for accidents.
Total number of persons employed of all ages	About 118	51	280	327	153
Total number of persons employed below 18 years.	About 43	28	About 200.	128	49
General appearance and situation	Old	Neat and cheerful.	Particularly well situated, cheerful and spacious.	Old and decaying.	Old and decaying.

In 1839 Moore still employed hand loom weavers and out-weavers of broad silks as well as those in the mill as did J.T. Robinson of Sacherevell Street. Moore had 20 in-house weavers and Robinson 35 but in total they employed 344 weavers. 80 weavers lived in Derby but others were up to 13-14 miles away.²⁵

Two years later, in March 1841, an advertisement in the *Derby Mercury* implies that Moore had decided to cease production and to let the Depot Mill.²⁶

To let: Depot Silk Mill completely fitted with machinery and well calculated for carrying on a very extensive throwing business. Also cottages and gardens attached. Apply Mr. Rickard, Savings Bank, Derby.

In 1843 Ambrose Moore & Co, Silk throwsters & manufacturers, and Wilson, Moore & Co, (silks, velvets, etc), were both listed in Devonshire Street in *Glover's Trade Directory*.²⁷ However no tenant had been found for the Depot Mill in 1841 and the machinery, which included apparatus for making gas and gas pipes, was advertised for sale on 29 and 30 August 1843 in the *Derby Mercury*.

*THE EXCELLENT AND VALUABLE SILK MACHINERY
in the Depot Silk Mill, Normanton Road, Derby.*

This Sale comprises Iron and Wooden Spinning and Throwing Mills, containing upwards of 10,000 Spindles; excellent Doubling Frames 800 ditto; New Drawing Frames with Strait Eyes for cleaning 1,600 ditto; Winding Engines with new Swifts 1,500 ditto. A large quantity of tramming wheels and jacks, 800 gross of bobbins of various sizes, 300 skips, 2 new reeling frames, wash yard presses, tubs and leaden cisterns, staff-room presses, iron steaming box, large shafting, gas piping, parting runners, large scales and weights, five small ditto, smiths' bellows, anvils and sundry other tools belonging to the smiths' shop; joiners ditto; counting-house desks and fittings, gas-making apparatus with retorts, holder, etc. lathe, grinding-stone, clock, watchman's ditto, large garden roller, and a great variety of other articles.

The mill itself was let out by Moore to a variety of tenants from 1843 until his death in 1873, and then by his executors until it was sold to Offiler's Brewery c1884.

c. William Unsworth - tenant

The first tenant was William Unsworth. In 1831 he was a silk manufacturer producing laces, sewing silks, cords, etc, in Siddals Lane, Derby²⁸ who was later declared a bankrupt but apparently cleared his debts with payment of a final dividend in 1837.²⁹ He also appears to have had an inventive streak, taking out a patent for an improved tag for laces on 16 April 1840.³⁰ In 1846 he traded at both the Depot Mills and at Siddals Lane as Unsworth & Williamson, producing doubles, galloons, small wares, ribbons, trimmings & twist.³¹ The business, however, did not appear to have been successful because on 3 February 1849 the partnership of Unsworth & Co was dissolved³² and the contents of the Depot Mill were advertised for sale on 28 February and 14 and 28 March; the Mill was advertised to let with immediate possession.³³

*DEPOT SILK FACTORY, DERBY,
IMPORTANT SALE OF SILK THROWING MACHINERY, BOBBIN BRAID, LACE
MACHINES, IRON AND WOOD LATHES, SHAFTING
PATENT CIRCULAR BELLOWS, LARGE ANVILS, VICES, PAN AND CUPILLO TOOLS,
PATTERNS, IRON, STEEL, WOOD &c, &c, &c.
PRINCIPALLY OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF MR WILLIAM UNSWORTH*

The Property in the different Rooms, comprising 1 doubling machine, cast iron frame, 42ft 6in; 166 spindles; 2 do, 36ft 6in, 142 spindles each; 2 drawing frames, bobbins, swifts, &c; 12 new silk winding engines, on metal frames, 28ft long, 2ft 10in wide, 114 swifts in each; 1 do 18ft 9in, with shafting and wheels for driving, &c; 12 silk winding engines, with straight eyes, wood frames; 1 do, 16ft 10in, 60 swifts; 1 do, 19ft, shafts, gearing, &c; 10 silk doubling machines, 26ft 9in, by 3ft 10in, 96 spindles, each; 1 do, 66 spindles; 3 silk winding engines, new single strand machines, cast iron frame 25ft 3in long, 4ft 6in wide, 166 spindles, leaver friction cylinder, &c; 1 do 9ft long, 20 spindles; 2 gimp machines, 166 spindles, iron frame; 1 do, 80 spindles; new cotton twisting machine, 120 spindles, 25ft 3in long, iron frame; 3 cotton

winding machines complete, 14, 8 and 4 spindles each, iron frames; silk winding machine, 2 sets swifts, large and small, 1 doubling frame, 15ft 9in; union cord machine, iron frame; 10 bobbin braid machines, iron frames, from 33 to 17 spindles in each; 2 new irons, 2 heightened spinning mills, cone pulleys, about 235 spindles in each; 1 do, 124 do, to a round; 1 do, 108 do, 1 do 72 do; wood spinning mill, 3 heightened, 360 spindles; wood throwing mill, 384 spindles; small blast fan, 828 new iron spindles, 348 new cones and pulleys for gimp machines; 7 silk reels, 7ft 8in each, iron frames; 3 do, do, 6ft, 2 do, do, 5ft; 1 double reel 11ft 3in., do, do, 7ft 4in long.

In Ware and Press-rooms, metal silk press, 4 large tubs, Jacquard reeding machine for card cutting, large and small patent scales, silk bins, counters, cupboards, desks, and a multiplicity of articles which will be described in the Catalogues.

There was also a long list of tools for sale in the Turning and Smiths' Shops.

Note: Gimp is either twisted silk or cotton with cord or wire running through it used chiefly for upholstery, or a narrow flat braid or round cord used for trimming.

In 1851 William, a silk manufacturer aged 48, was living at 4 Arboretum Square with his family and one servant.³⁴ Note: there were other silk manufacturers called Unsworth who also worked in Derby. In 1827 Green Lane Silk Mill (later Greenhill Furniture on the junction of Green Lane and St Peter's churchyard) was taken over by G.B. Unsworth whose family owned it for about 100 years³⁵ and Unsworth & Thacker, Silk Fringe & Ribbon Manufacturers, traded from Wright Street and Devonshire Street in 1857.³⁶

d. J & W Morley - tenants

Six months after Unsworth's sale, on 28 September 1849, a new seven year lease for the parcels of land with a silk mill called the Depot Mills, together with dwelling houses and buildings in the occupation of the tenants Unsworth & Co and the use of the steam engine, boilers, steam pipes, implements, fixtures and fittings belonging to the premises described in the Schedule, was signed between Ambrose Moore of Endsleigh Street, London and John Paterson Morley and William Paterson Morley of Bold Lane, Derby, silk throwsters and co-partners in trade.³⁷ A detailed room by room schedule of fixture and fittings was attached to the lease (see Appendix 1). The lease also stated that at the time the Mill was only partly used for the manufacturer of silk articles.

The Morley's yearly rent was £300 paid in quarterly payments, the first payment being due on 25 December 1850. They also had to pay taxes, tithes, rent charges and other payments in lieu of tithes charges, etc. They had to repair and keep in good and substantial and tenantable repair and condition all the dwelling houses, buildings, party and other walls, all roofs and foundations as well as all the steam engines, pipes, apparatus, implements and fixings mentioned in the Schedule and the gates, tiles, hedges, ditches, banks, bridges, sewers, drains, sluices, watercourses and fences. The steam engines and fixtures had to be preserved or if necessary to be renewed so that they were always in good working and serviceable condition. Twice during the seven years all the outside wood and ironwork and all other parts usually painted had to be painted in a workmanlike manner in a good oil paint of suitable colour and all the parts which were usually papered had to be papered. All improvements and additions to the Mill had to be left at the end of the term.

The Mill had to be insured with Sun Insurance Offices or such other and, if a claim was made, the insurance repairs were to be supervised by Moore and his heirs. The Morleys were not allowed to sublet without consent or to carry out any noisy or offensive trade or business. Nor could they do anything which could cause annoyance, damage, nuisance or disturbance of the premises or of Ambrose Moore or of the inhabitants of any house in the neighbourhood or to do any waste spoil or destruction of the premises. The rent had to be paid within 21 days of the due date. If not, or if the partners became bankrupt, Moore could repossess the building.

In 1848, William Parker Morley lived in Bold Lane³⁸ but at the time of the 1851 census, William, a silk throwster aged 30 employing 24 men, 150 women and 80 children, lived together with his wife, baby, brother Henry, aged 22, listed as 'Assistant' and two servants at Depot Cottage (presumably one of the four houses on the site). John P. Morley, also aged 30 and William's co-Partner, silk throwster, together with his wife, 2 children and 2 servants lived at the Depot Mill, as did Jeremiah Bacon, a ?Cl[erk] at the Silk Manufactory.

One of the Morleys' advertisements for the Depot Mill has survived.⁴ The two-storey Ordnance Depot is now depicted as a five-storey silk mill (Fig 3), the ground plan of which is clearly shown on the Board of Health Map

of Derby, 1852 (Fig 2). The advertisement also stated that they had a business at Houndsgate, Nottingham but it has not been possible to find records to confirm this.

Unfortunately this business too did not thrive. On 26 January 1853 the *Derby Mercury* advertised the sale of valuable silk throwing machinery, most of which was 'nearly new' followed by two different advertisements for the sale by Mr Pool of 5 St Peter's Street on 9 and 16 February:

9 February: *For Sale VALUABLE SILK THROWING MACHINERY, Crape and other Looms, Shafting and Gearing, Patent Hydro-Extractor, and other effects contained in Six Rooms, 95 feet by 30 feet at DEPOT MILL DERBY on Tuesday 22 February 1853 and following days at eleven o'clock precisely.*

16 February: *VALUABLE SILK THROWING MACHINERY Winding Engines, Doubling and Drawing Frames, Spinning and Throwley Mills, Racking Frames, Plaiting and Gimp Machines, Fancy Trimming and other Looms, Patent Hydro-Extractor, Bright shafting with Pullies Drums and gearing. Iron and Lead Gas Piping with Fittings, Warehouse and Counting-House Fixtures, Scales, Weights, etc. on 22, 23 and 24 February at Ten o'clock.*

When the Morley's lease expired, Moore advertised the mill for sale or to let in the *Derby Mercury* on 9 July 1856.

To be Sold or Let, the DEPOT SILK MILL, situate on the Normanton Road in this Borough. To the Mill is attached a large Beam Engine, Two Boilers, excellent Main Shafting, &c; also Workshops and other outbuildings, the whole well calculated to do a large amount of business, and there is land enough to admit of extensive additions.

The above highly eligible Property, including Four DWELLING HOUSES, all now occupied, will be Sold or Let ...

This too failed to either secure a tenant for the Mill or a sale, so Moore advertised 'either the whole [Mill] or in separate floors, with or without steam power' to let in the *Derby Mercury* on 25 August 1858.

e. Tenants of the Depot Mill 1860-c1884

The history of the mill is difficult to trace for the next few years. It appears to have been in multi-occupancy in the 1860s even though it was still identified as a silk mill on a map drawn c1868 (Fig 5). For instance, the 1861 census shows that William Bancroft, aged 60 and a silk manufacturer, together with his wife and 3 grown-up children, were living in a house in the Depot Mill grounds and Benjamin Dew, the manager at the mill, his wife, 4 young children and his father were living in another house. Bancroft, still there in 1871, was listed as a trimming manufacturer in *Harrods Directory 1870*.³⁹

During the same period, notices in the *Derby Mercury* of 25 July and 29 August 1866 refer to Jesse Heath of the Depot Mill (presumably another tenant), a bankrupt dyer who was in co-partnership with George Mellor. Heath had liabilities of £288 6s 3d and about £50 in assets. He was discharged from bankruptcy on 26 September 1866 and a dividend meeting was held in December 1867.⁴⁰ His co-partner, George Mellor appeared in court in November 1867 with private debts of £75 12s 7d and partnership debts of £25 10s 10d.⁴¹

Rose Hill Wesleyan Methodist church was another tenant. In 1868 it rented the basement of the Mill and was probably still there in April 1882 when the memorial stones were laid for the new church on Normanton Road nearly opposite the Depot Mill. The church opened on 8 November 1882.⁴² In 1874 a Bazaar & Christmas Tree event was held in the Wesleyan Preaching Room at Depot Mill on Thursday, 17 December at 11am. Admission was 6d before 4pm and 3d after 4pm with the proceeds going to the Building Fund of the proposed new Wesleyan Chapel.⁴³ On Sunday, 16 May (Whitsun) 1875 at 2pm the annual address was given in Rosehill School schoolroom in the Depot Mill and on the following Tuesday at 1.30pm 200 scholars processed round Rosehill singing hymns at intervals with tea at 4.30pm followed by a visit to a field lent by Mr Winson where they were given nuts and sweets before going home at 7.30pm.⁴⁴

Ambrose Moore died on 10 February 1873. A year earlier the sale of 240 sq yds of land on the north side of Ambrose Street, next to the Depot Mill, was advertised in the *Derby Mercury* on 21 Feb 1872. This was followed, six months after Moore's death by the sale of silk machinery at the Mills on 16 October 1873.⁴⁵ A

short list of contents was given in the advertisement, maybe the property of William Bancroft. If this is a full inventory it is notable for being much shorter than those given for earlier sales.

Valuable Canton, Novi and Bengal Winding Engines, 4 sets of Twisters' Wheels, and 65 spare reels, Doubling Frame, Bobbins, Trams, Skips, Scales and Weights, Silk Press, Parting Runners, 5 Chenille Machines, Shafting, &c. To be sold at Depot Mills, A and B rooms on 16 Oct 1873.

Moore probably still had premises in Devonshire Street when he died which were rented by the Boot Lace and Gimp Manufactory because, when they became vacant in November 1873, applicants had to apply to Brown & Green at the Depot Mill.⁴⁶ Possibly the tenant was Robert Stokes of 100 Leonard St and the Depot Mill, a Gimp Trimming and Boot Lace manufacturer, whose bankruptcy case due to take place on 7 December 1876 was adjourned because Stokes had returned from New York the previous night.⁴⁷ Either his goods or those of Brown & Green may have been those auctioned on 11 December 1876: 'new Soft and Hard Silk Machines, Boot lace and Tagging machines, Hampers, Stock of Cotton, Silk, Bobbins, Clock, Waste etc.'⁴⁸ Stokes, now referred to as 'R. Stokes, Gimp Trimming Manufacturers', must have managed to keep on trading for a few more years because it was not until 7 April 1879 that the whole of his machinery finally came up for auction.⁴⁹

One soft silk winding machine with 35 spindles, 1 hard silk ditto with 72 spindles, 1 doubling machine (18 spindles); 6 tagging machines with fittings complete, 1 silk winding wheel with caps, 4 wheel heads, 4 pair of gimping wheels with stool and benches complete, 8 wheel heads to ditto, wire runners and stands, silk wheels with reels, gimp and lace reels, large baskets, skeps, scales and weights, stove and piping, time-piece, office fittings, large quantity of bobbins (mostly new). Sale 7 April.

The Depot Mill had still not been sold in 1878 when it was put up for sale on 21 June at the Bell Hotel in Sadler Gate by order of the Chancery Division of the High Court in the case of Moore v Rickard (John Rickard was one of Moore's executors):⁵⁰

17 Lots: certain Freehold plots of Building Land and Depot Mill now in occupation of Star Tea Company and others with the site of the yard, buildings and premises, 2 cottages adjoining - 1172 sq yds in total.

Note: Star Tea Co had premises in St Peter's Street (*Derby Mercury* 10 August 1878 (lately vacated), 22 March 1882 & others), Sadler Gate (*Derby Mercury* 26 December 1877) and Haarlem Street Mills (*Derby Daily Telegraph*, 9 August 1887). The Company also bought 13 Normanton Road, 'one of the best business thoroughfares in Derby', which it already rented on 9 June 1886.⁵¹

Again, no buyer was found and in late 1882 and early 1883, the Star Tea Co Central Depot, which occupied the three lower floors of the Depot Mill, Ambrose Street, was to let.⁵² In 1882 the Wesleyan Methodist Church probably also vacated the Mill with the opening of their new church. Offilers bought the building in c1884 and the future of the Mill was assured until it was demolished in 1966.

Ambrose Moore and his executors owned the Depot Mill for c60 years. When the Ordnance Depot was built it stood in semi-rural surroundings in Normanton on the outskirts of Derby. By 1884 Normanton had been transformed with the building of mainly terraced housing for families who worked for the railways and the many other industries which had sprung up in the intervening years. Two new streets adjacent to the Depot Mill, Ambrose and Moore Streets, were laid in 1877 and 1874 respectively,⁵³ named after the late owner.

Part 3: OFFILERS' BREWERY LTD, c1884-1966

George Offiler started his own business in 1876 as licensee of The Vine Inn on Whitaker Street, Derby where he began brewing his own beer, selling any that was not sold on the premises to local householders. He extended his business in c1884 when he opened a new Vine Brewery in the former Depot Mill, demolishing most of Wyatt's buildings and replacing them with new ones designed by William Bradford of London.⁵⁴

Building Regulation files at Derby Local Studies Library show that additions and alterations to the Brewery were carried out throughout the 1880s and 1890s. These included a Stabling and a Dray shed in 1884, a Bottling Store in 1893, an imposing new elevation on the Ambrose Street frontage which incorporated the company's name and

the date on the parapet in 1897 and an addition to the stores in 1899. George Yates Mills of Irongate was the architect for the 1890s alterations.⁵⁵

Offilers' Brewery Ltd was first registered as a Limited Liability Co in November 1890 in order to acquire the Vine Brewery. At this time, Offilers' were producing 509,000 gallons of ale per year and owned 14 Derby pubs and another 26 in Belper, South Derbyshire and Leicestershire.^{56,57} Offilers' remained a family firm until it was taken over by Charrington Brewery in 1965 who demolished the buildings in 1966. Shortly afterwards Charrington Brewery was merged with Bass Brewery to form Bass Charrington, later Bass plc.⁵⁸

Conclusions

There are only a few pointers indicating the architectural history of the actual building. The original Ordnance Depot was two-storeys high with 9 windows on the side elevation (Fig 1), the same number as shown in a photograph of the Depot Mill taken pre-1884 (Fig 4). At the far end of the side elevation is a tenth row of taller windows which probably lit the staircase). The Morleys' advertisement (Fig 3) for their business shows a five-storey high building with a chimney and an engine house at the west end but with 13 windows per storey on the side elevation. This suggests that some artistic licence had been taken with the advertisement.

The advertisement in the *Derby Mercury* on 1 April 1822 stated that the Ordnance Depot was 97 ft by 30 ft wide whilst one on 7 February 1853 stated that a sale was being held in 6 rooms 95 ft by 30 ft. In addition, whilst the Ordnance Depot only had two storeys, the photograph of the Mill pre-1884 shows 5 storeys. As the Methodist church was occupying the basement, this adds up to the 6 rooms (one per storey) in the 1853 advertisement. It would appear that the Mill had been rebuilt at some time on the same foundations as the Ordnance Depot. In addition the roof and the round window of the Ordnance Depot may have been reused on the Mill because they look very similar. The Schedule below shows that the engine house had been built before 1849. As it is unlikely that William Unsworth, as a tenant, would have re-built the Mill, the conclusion must be that Ambrose Moore carried out the building work and added the engine house shortly after purchasing the Ordnance Depot.

APPENDIX 1: SCHEDULE attached to the lease between Ambrose Moore and the Morleys

Entrance gate: Large lamp and gas pipe, 3 other ditto in yard with piping and pull pulley and weights watch box

Stable: Gas pipes and burner 2 racks and mangers, lead weight window sound.

Wash house: Large leaden cistern, 4 shelves and box, iron boiler, furnace pipe and tap.

H Room: Steam pipe, 25 cracked squares, 8 window fasteners, 3 cracked squares in **Stairs**, large gas pipe and tap at foot

Staff Room: wooden inside shutters, 6 cracked squares, Gas main supplying **upper room**.

G Room: Steam pipe, 18 cracked squares, Gas main for **upper room**, **Turning shop**, leaden drip pipe, steam ditto, old weighing machine in bad order.

Smiths Shop: 9 cracked squares, Smith's hearth

Gas House: no door, 8 cracked ditto, Large wooden ventilator in roof

Joiners Shop: fire grate, 4 cracked squares, 4 hickory planks

Old Turning Shop: 21 cracked squares, 6 wooden bearers gas pipe supplying house, etc

Magazine: large silk binns, gas pipe and burner and 2 cracked squares

Bobbin House: bins rails and pegs, 6 cracked squares

A Room: steam pipe pisdale and pipe from cistern, 5 cracked squares, circular window sound

B Room: large steam pipe, small piece to conduct below, 44 cracked squares

C Room: steam pipe, pay table, 33 cracked squares

Bloors Room: large counter with drawers, small counter, steam pipes, 7 cracked squares

J Room: no gas pipe, 20 cracked squares

D Room: steam pipe, gas main, 63 cracked squares

Staircase: 20 cracked squares

Winfields Room: large counter and bobbin bins, steam pipe, 3 cracked squares

E Room: steam pipe, 111 [maybe 141] cracked squares

Packing Room: steam pipe, partition glass all round, 6 cracked squares

F Room: steam pipes, large gas main and steam drip pipes, large counter and bobbin holer.

Engine Room: Capital steam engine of eighteen horse power with boilers and apparatus complete, 2 large 5 small cracked squares, 2 brass D valves chest and Mill board, two new spring rings for cylinder, three iron bars, large pulley blocks and rope, small ditto, 2 single hooks and chains, 2 double ditto ditto, 2 ropes box and thermometer, 7 wrenches, 5 box ditto, 7 grappling irons, crow bar, 2 spare governor wheels for the Engine and 5

brass bearings hammer, 4 large pins and screws, 5 burners and gas piping, quicksilver tube and case, large bell etc.

Boiler house: gas burner tube and pipe, 2 boiler picks, step ladder, poker and rake, 15 new metal furnace bars.

Engineers house: gas main and tap supplying lamp in yard.

Kitchen: &c Iron and boiler and under works shelves, 3 cracked squares and 1 ditto up stairs.

Counting House: mahogany top counter, peg and shelf, mahogany rail and hooks, 2 pendant burners and piping.

Pattern Room: 5 shelves, 2 cracked squares

Room over: 2 cracked squares, window, shelf

Large chamber: 1 broken square

Wine cellar: 8 sound squares

Back house on south side: 6 cracked squares, Large cupboard for bedstead, dresser and shelves cupboard and large table in Kitchen, Copper and under works. Water butt.

Front house: Yard water butt and brass tap. Old safe. Fowl pens, iron scraper.

Parlour: 2 setts Venetian sun blinds, ashes pan, iron smoke blower, bell pull.

Small room: large cupboard including bedstead, 2 cracked squares, 5 rollers and blinds.

Pantry: shelves, large iron scraper, rat trap, 1 cracked square in water closet, 2 ditto in Passage and small room, 1 broken square in pantry.

Best rooms: 3 curtain rails, 2 bell pulls, chimney board. Small cupboard, 2 shelves, Towel horse rails and pegs, brass stair eyes, 3 brass hat pins.

Kitchen &c: 1 coal box and roasting gibbet, dresser with 2 drawers, shelf and brass hooks, large fall table, cupboard, sink, stone water pipe and tap.

Pantry: 3 cracked squares, shelves, thravls, meat hooks, plate shelves at stair foot, towel roller.

Garden: wooden step for Gib door, wire flower guard, large Clock in front of the Mill.

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8. *Derby Mercury*, 10, 17 April 1822. N.B. Robinson states that it was sold by 1820 but this is not the case.
9. *Derby Mercury*, 24 April, 1 May 1822.
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14. *Derby Mercury*, 10 September 1827. Advert for the sale of land belonging to a bankrupt, George Coulson.
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37. Derbyshire Record Office, Chandos-Pole deposit, DRO D483/5. Lease of silk mill called Depot Mills.
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44. *Derby Mercury*, 19 May 1875.
45. *Derby Mercury*, 15 October 1873.
46. *Derby Mercury*, 5 November 1873.
47. *Derby Mercury*, 1 November and 13 December 1876.
48. *Derby Mercury*, 6 December 1876.
49. *Derby Mercury*, 2 April 1879.
50. *London Gazette*, 24 May 1878; *Derby Mercury*, 29 May, 5 June 1878.
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53. Maxwell Craven, *Derby Street by Street*, 2005, pp24, 106.
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55. Derby Local Studies Library, Building Regulation files nos 3353, 4499, 6459 and 7336.
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THE TOLL COLLECTORS OF ROWDALE BAR

(by Ann Hall,

INTRODUCTION

In 2012 the '*Decoding The Bakewell Crosses*' Project aimed to see if the Great Cross from Bakewell Churchyard had originally stood at a long lost road junction in a field near old Hassop Station¹ (Fig. 1). Desk based assessment prior to excavation within the field resulted in a wealth of information about roads in the area. The present day A6020 between Ashford and Hassop roundabout was part of the Edensor to Ashford Turnpike and the Rowdale Bar was one of two toll collection points on its length (the other being Birchill Bar, from 1863).

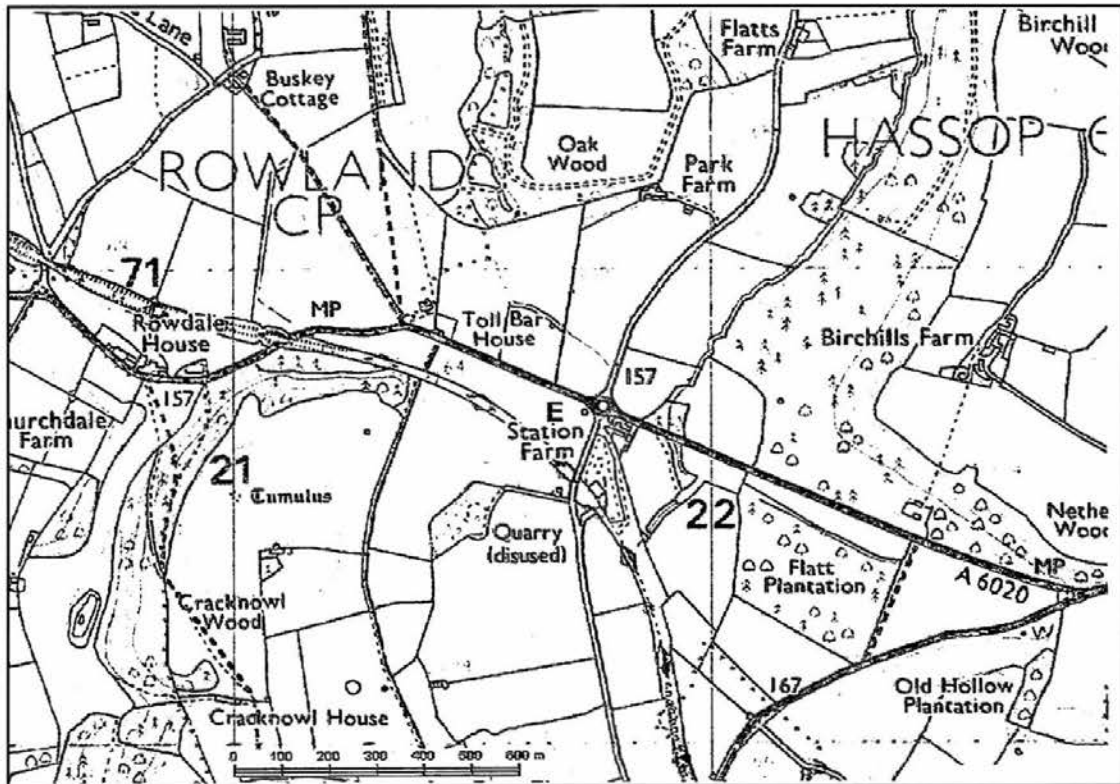


Figure 1 showing the location of Toll Bar House (Rowdale Bar) and the site of the excavation associated with the '*Decoding The Bakewell Crosses*' Project (E).

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Much information was gathered from Edensor to Ashford Turnpike Trust minutes² but there were only a few references to the families who lived and worked at the Toll Bar. The occupation of toll collector was an important part of the economy of a turnpike road; the tolls being used to finance both the everyday road repairs and to pay the interest on the loan which paid for the original road construction. In this case the payments were to the Duke of Devonshire, who had provided the initial finance.

Further research into the families who were toll collectors at Rowdale Bar was carried out in the census records and in the local registers of births, marriages and deaths as well as other documents in the Derbyshire Record Office and the Railway Employment Records.

It is uncertain when the Toll House was built. According to www.turnpikes.org.uk, it was built in 1824. Alan Rosevear who manages the website found that there was evidence of toll collections from 1824. Alan Roberts

records the 'known date' of 1824 to 1868 for its existence in Turnpike Roads around Buxton³ using similar toll collection returns.

Of course the collection of tolls does not necessarily mean that there was a toll house at the gate. However it is likely that a shelter of some type would have to be in place in order to unlock the gate and collect tolls throughout the day and night in such an isolated spot and personal communication with Alan Roberts supports this view. Taking all the evidence into consideration Rowdale Bar is likely to have been built around 1817 when the first toll collector was appointed but it could have been any time until 1827 when the Bar is recorded as an address for the first time. It was built and owned by the Duke of Devonshire rather than the Turnpike Trust and was not sold when the Trust was realising its assets when the Turnpike Trust was wound up in 1878.² Unfortunately the Chatsworth Archive has as yet failed to produce evidence for the building of the house.

Some parts of the building were changed in 1831. A 'specification ... for the alteration' was sent to the road surveyor Mr Matthew Frost which itemised changes to the windows and door which were to be the same as the Robin Hood Toll Bar (which once stood on the present day A619 Chesterfield to Baslow Road). Furthermore the building was to be rough cast and the fireplaces were to be moved and a new chimney stack built in the centre of the roof.⁴ The fireplace alterations did not take place although ornate chimneys at either end of the building were constructed. This suggests that originally it had been a vernacular building made of limestone with a chimney on each gable end and that the gothic features in sandstone and the render were added at this time. A record of the payment for the alterations is to be found in the 1831 Turnpike Trust accounts.⁵

THE TOLL COLLECTORS OF ROWDALE BAR

The earliest records are less detailed so that it is only possible to recognise which people were collecting tolls during occasional periods between 1817 and 1841. Therefore there are likely to be some omissions from the following record.

George Heathcote 1817

The Edensor to Ashford turnpike road opened around 1812² but there is no mention of toll collection at Rowdale Bar in the early accounts of the Trust.² In 1817 the Surveyor of Road was ordered 'to appoint a fit person to collect the Tolls to be paid at the Turnpike Gate now erected at Rowdale Lane'.² Two months later the Surveyor reported that George Heathcote, who lived in Ashford and who was paid 2/- per week to mend the road, was 'in receipt of the Tolls at Rheudale [Rowdale] Bar'. How long he carried out this duty and if there were other toll collectors appointed after him in this early period is not recorded. He continued to mend the road until his death in 1865. The Surveyor's accounts of road mending from 1850 always itemised George Heathcote's payments first suggesting that he had a senior role.⁶

Heathcote Close was the name given to the field south of the present Toll Bar House and the site of the 2012 excavation.^{1,7,8} When the Turnpike Road was proposed in 1812, the schedule gave the occupier of the field as 'Heathcote widow'.⁷ It might be that George was part of the same family who owned the field and may have used the small quarry on the land as a source of road stone. This is supported by the census of 1851 when he was described both as a labourer and as a farmer of 11 acres living in Fennel Street, Ashford. Further evidence that the family was a little bit more prosperous than those of some labourers is suggested by the four rather ornate monuments in Ashford churchyard to George and several family members.

Samuel and Hannah Frith 1827

In 1827 Samuel and Hannah Frith had a daughter, also called Hannah, who was born in Rowdale Toll Bar (Roadhill Bar, Longstone) and the address is recorded in both the Eyam and Bakewell baptism registers. Samuel Frith is described as a tollkeeper in the Eyam record.⁹ All the other records for the family births and from census returns between 1825 and 1883 indicate that the family stayed in Eyam suggesting that their period of toll collection may have been a short one.

Joseph and Elizabeth Raby 1835

It is not clear when the Raby family came to live in the Toll House. There is evidence from the baptismal and burial records that the family were living in Ashford between 1822 and 1838, the burial record showing that one of their children, Ann, died at Rowdale Toll Bar in 1836.¹⁰ Ann had been born in Brushfield Toll Bar in 1835¹¹ and the parish records of Joseph's second marriage give his occupation as keeper¹² suggesting that the family were occupied with toll collecting in the district. The records also say that Joseph was a framework knitter so the

family may have been carrying on both toll collecting and knitting at the Rowdale Toll House. In the context of the size of the cottage with only two rooms and a scullery and the amount of space the knitting frame would occupy it would have been quite congested with up to six children to accommodate as well.

John and Mary Jones 1841-1852

This is the next family to appear in the records with links to the Rowdale Bar. The 1841 census did not record addresses but the entry for the Jones family is the last record in the Great Longstone schedule. The occupiers of the Toll House were often recorded last in future censuses so this evidence suggests that they were in residence by this date. By the 1851 census the family address was Rowdale Toll Bar and John's occupation was given as agricultural labourer and toll bar keeper. They had had three more children since the last census called John, Samuel and Jane. They were recorded as being born at Rowdale (Barr) in the Ashford baptismal records.¹⁰

In 1852 the minutes of the Turnpike Trust report that the Surveyor of the Road was asked to discharge John Jones and for a new toll collector to be appointed. Surveyor's accounts show that this change took place over the course of a month because James Stone, one of the road menders, collected tolls and may have lived at the Toll Bar for a short time.⁶

The record is silent about the reason for the termination of John Jones's employment. It is clear from reading about other trusts that there were problems with dishonest or unreliable toll collectors and that inspectors were appointed to check that they carried out their duties correctly. The reason for his discharge is only speculation and there may have been others reasons for the John Jones's new life, recorded in the 1861 census, when he was a gamekeeper, living in Greaves Lane, Ashford. His association with the Turnpike continued as the Surveyor's accounts from 1850 show that he was occasionally paid for road mending.⁶ One of Jones's sons, (Moses) Peat Jones who had lived at Rowdale Toll Bar later joined the Midland Railway and rose to become an engine driver. He had to leave living in the district when he was caught poaching on the estate where his father worked.¹³

Abraham, Ann and Selina Goodwin 1852-1892?

The Trust minutes record that in 1852 Abraham Goodwin was appointed the toll collector at Rowdale Bar.² Prior to this, Abraham (b. 1824) and his wife Ann (b. 1810) lived in Longstone and even though they appear to be members of the Wesleyan Church they were married in Bakewell Parish Church in 1847. This was because Non Conformist chapels were often only registered for baptisms. In fact all the future children's baptisms are recorded in the Bakewell Wesleyan registers. In the 1851 census the family were living in Little Longstone where Selina had been born in 1848¹⁴ but in the 1861 census they were recorded as living at the Toll Bar by which time they had a second daughter Agnes, born there in 1852.¹⁴ Abraham's occupation was given as both an agricultural labourer and toll collector. In 1865 Ann Goodwin, who was 14 years older than her husband, died and was buried in Great Longstone churchyard.

Agnes their daughter was described in the 1871 census as an '*imbecile*'. It might be speculated that she was suffering from Derbyshire Neck, a condition caused by lack of iodine in the diet.^{15,16} This deficiency was particularly prevalent in the White Peak and leads to a swollen thyroid gland which makes the neck swell greatly and can also cause cretinism. It has been shown that many inmates of Derby Asylum were suffering from this condition¹⁶ so this idea is not without foundation. Also the Toll Bar is built in a limestone area and the water used by the Toll Bar families during this period came from two wells near by. Within a few days of this census being taken, Agnes had died of scarlet fever. She was buried in Great Longstone churchyard on 206 April 1871¹⁷ and shares a headstone with her mother Ann.

Selina was named as the Toll Collector with her father in the Trust minutes from 1866 until 1878 when the turnpike road stopped taking tolls.² (It was likely that the wife of a Toll Collector and other family members always contributed to manning the bar as it was a 24 hour, 7 day a week commitment. It is only in 1864 when the Trust minutes started to record the toll collectors by name that the responsibility of other family members was recognised.) They were together paid 4/- per week for carrying out their tasks.

The years after Agnes died were eventful ones for the residents of the Rowdale Bar. In 1872 Selina gave birth to a child at the house. Baptism records¹⁴ state that he was the '*natural*' son of Thomas Fidler and Selina Ann Goodwin. This, and the fact that Selina never used the Fidler surname, is evidence that he was illegitimate. The 1871 census shows that Thomas Fidler was living with his family in Hassop. He was 16 years older than Selina

and in a position of authority being the Clerk to the Board of Guardians (associated with managing the relief for the poor of the district). Selina lived with her child, Charles, and her father Abraham at Rowdale Bar.

Two years later in 1874 Selina married Thomas Bagshaw from Baslow¹⁸ and they had a daughter, Agnes Hannah, in 1875.¹⁹ For a few years Selina and Thomas and the children Charles and Agnes were likely to have lived with Abraham at Rowdale Bar while Selina continued to help Abraham with the toll collecting duties. There is evidence in the Trust records⁶ that Thomas helped with road mending during this time. This came to an end in 1878 when the tolls were lifted and the Turnpike Trust was wound up. As the property was owned by the Duke of Devonshire it is likely that the family were allowed to stay as it would be more difficult to find a tenant for a house in such an isolated position.

In February 1881 Selina died of pleurisy at Rowdale. It is interesting to note that the 'Bar' usually included in their address had been dropped from the death certificate reflecting that the house was no longer a toll bar. She was buried in Great Longstone Churchyard¹⁷ but there is no memorial stone. The next record of the family was made three months later in the 1881 census. This shows that after Selina's death Joseph and his young daughter Agnes Hannah moved into Bubnell Hall, Baslow where Joseph was employed as an indoor servant and agricultural labourer. This left Abraham, now out of business, and Charles, the illegitimate grandson, living at the Rowdale Bar.

In 1886, when Charles reached age of 14, he started work as a machine youth at Hassop Station helping with the goods trucks on the weighing 'machine'.¹⁹ He rose to become a goods clerk and the grandfather and grandson were living in the house when the 1891 census was taken. By then Abraham was running a grocery business from the Toll Bar providing '*refreshments of a non-intoxicating character*' to the thousands of tourists who visited the area using the railway.²⁰ There are two photographs believed to be taken in 1888 which show Abraham then aged 65 with a long white beard outside the now redundant Toll Bar with John Holmes from Edensor. One of these came to light in the Derbyshire Record Office²¹ and a copy of the other one is in the private possession of Terry and Sheila Bettney. A little seat can be seen below one of the windows which would be well used by the weary travellers of this period.

It is difficult to find out when the Goodwins finally left the Toll Bar but it is likely to be the case that they moved to Sheffield when Charles took the job of counter clerk at the Midland Railway Station in the city in 1892.¹⁹ They were recorded as living together in Sheffield by 1901. In this census Charles was married and had a son and daughter, whose name it was touchingly recorded as Selina, the name of his unmarried mother. Abraham Goodwin died in Meersbrook, Sheffield in 1903 aged 80 and was buried in Great Longstone churchyard in an unmarked grave²²

Around the turn of century the cottage at Rowdale became unoccupied and there is a photograph of the forlorn semi derelict building from this period in the Derbyshire Record Office²³ albeit printed back to front. In the 1911 census the house is unoccupied.

The house deeds, made available for research from the current owners Bruce and Kim Edmonds, show that the Duke of Devonshire sold the Hassop Old Toll Bar to Francis and Wheatley Cox Wilson in 1919 for £40 and the next phase in the occupation of the Rowdale Toll Bar had begun.

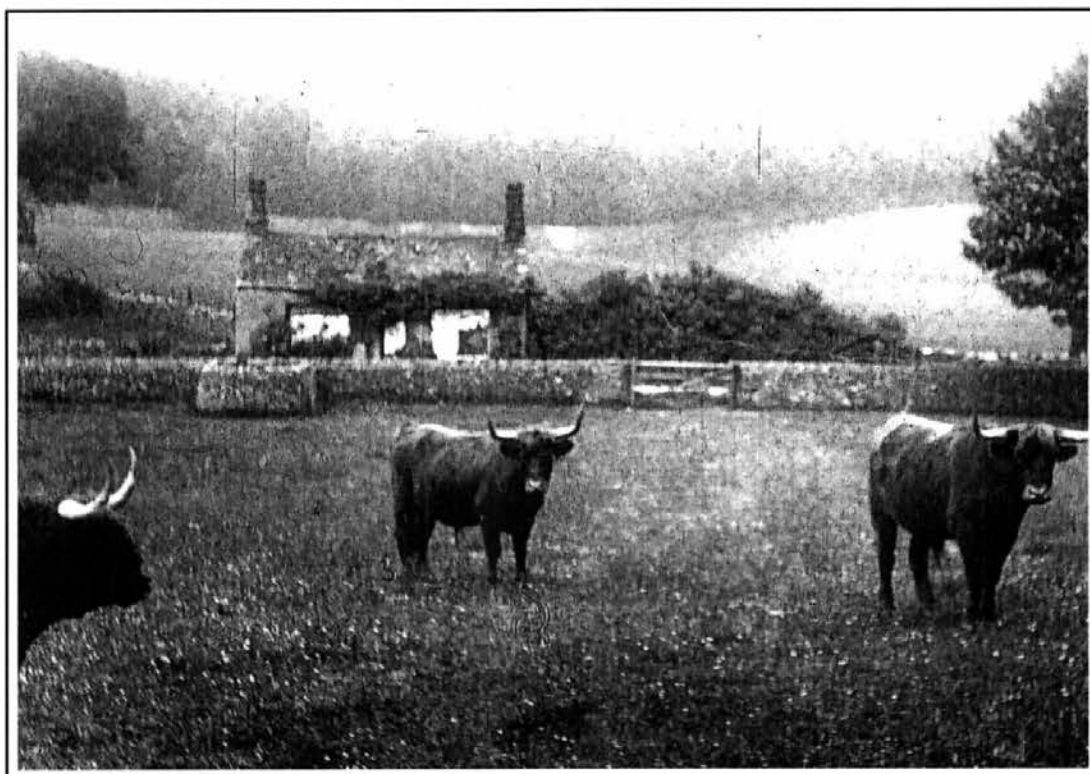
Acknowledgments

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If readers have any more information about the toll collectors of Rowdale Bar the author would be glad to include this information in the record and acknowledge the contribution. Please get in touch with Ann Hall annhall4@hotmail.com



Rowdale Bar Toll Cottage, c1888



Cattle grazing with cottage - possibly Toll Bar Cottage - in the background: mid 20th century.

Notes and References

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22. DRO, D2373/A/PI,1-7. Great Longstone Burial Register and DRO, D307/U/1. Parish of Great Longstone, *Parish Magazine*, February 1903.
23. DRO, D307/1/9/8. Photograph of cottage and cattle grazing, possibly Rowdale Toll Bar cottage, mid 20th-cent, (shown after flipping the archive image from left to right). Plate 2

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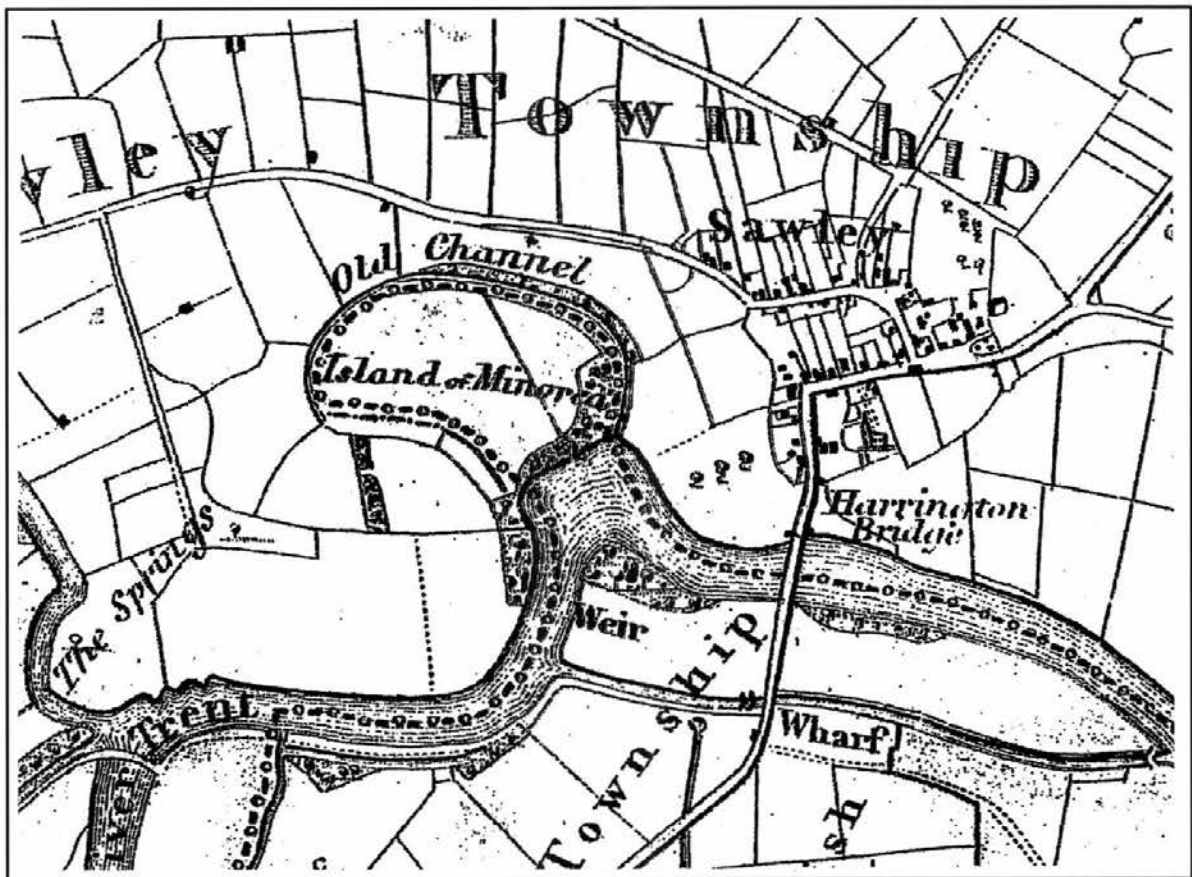
THE 'ISLAND OF MINORCA' - A SAWLEY CURIOSITY

(by Adrian Henstock,

Travellers on Skylink buses from Derby or Nottingham to East Midlands Airport en route for a holiday on the Island of Menorca may like to know that they could save themselves a great deal of time and expense by alighting at Sawley. Just a few yards away from Old Sawley village and Harrington Bridge over the River Trent is a group of fields named on George Sanderson's map of *Twenty Miles around Mansfield* of 1835 as the 'Island of Minorca'. They formed a peninsular within an abandoned meander of the river marked as 'Old Channel'. As the Trent formed the county boundary the 'island' was still regarded as part of Hemington parish in Leicestershire despite being only accessible from Sawley parish in Derbyshire. Today it has been transferred into Derbyshire and is now sliced in half by the M1 motorway.

The reason for this unusual name may be an ironic reference to land which changed sides from one administrative area to another. Minorca (now Menorca) with its deep-water harbour of Port Mahon occupied a strategic position as a naval base in the western Mediterranean during the 18th century and frequently changed hands between Spain, Britain and France. The British held it for at least three periods during the century, the latest from 1763 to 1783 and again from 1798 to 1802, and so it is possible that the field name dates from this time when the island name had become a by-word for changing sides?

A similar ironic name - the 'Isle of Man' - was used for a tiny island formed by parallel courses of the River Dove which formed the Derbyshire/Staffordshire boundary near Ludwell farm to the north of Hartington. Several references to it are found in the diary of William Gould of Pilsbury in the 1780s (published in *Thoroton Society Record Series*, Vol 44, 2006). In this instance it was probably an analogy both to its small size and the fact that it did not obviously belong to any of its landward neighbours.



DIARY OF A SHIPLEY FARMER 1867: PART 2: MARCH 11-16 APRIL

(by Malcolm Burrows,

Introduction

In the late 1960s and early 1970s I was tracing and interviewing former servants and gardeners who had been employed at Shipley Hall. On a number of occasions I was referred to people who had worked on the estate. One such occasion involved a visit to Sutton on Sea where I met John Fletcher who, together with several generations of his family, had been a tenant farmer on the Shipley estate. He it was who loaned me the original diary of his grandfather (another John Fletcher). NB: The original spelling and punctuation has been retained.

THE DIARY

Monday March 11th

Had 1 qr of Beans from Fathers
Father having 3 shife of Peas for seed.

Tuesday 12th

Cleaning ditch scrapings off the coach road put in a heap in Woodnook to rot down.

Wednesday 13th

Frost and Snow.
Snelston and Attenborough calved.

Thursday 14th

Bought 2 Pigs of I Foster at 30s each for stores

Friday 15th

Been to John Richardsons sale Bilborough but did not buy any stock
Twas a long good sale every thing making a deal of Money particularly the Horses
Fetched Grains today

Saturday 16th

Fetches a load of Coals from Nutbrook Hill.

Monday 18th

Very severe weather have had.
5 cwt of Oil cake L.Lowe 11/6 per cwt.
2 cwt of Bran Bag of Sharps.

Tuesday 19th

Taken a Batch to Mill 3 strikes
3 strike of Peas to be ground down for Pigs.

Wednesday 20th

Snow and Frost.

Friday 22nd

Fetches a Brewing of Grains.

Saturday 23rd

Bought a red cow calf W.Sherwin 25s.

Monday 25th

Sent a team leading Coals to Shipley Hall.

Wednesday 27th

Fetches a load of Coals from Nutbrook pit Hill.

Thursday 28th

Fencing down against Firey close putting some strops and rails down
Spreading mole hillocks and straightening up
Had a Boy came today by the weeks name James French 1s 2d per day.

Friday 29th

Began Harrowing with 3 horses a breast for Drilling Beans and Peas
Rhuben slack came to work here at 10d a week and Victuals
Brewing of Grains today.

Monday April 1st

Sowing Oats Harrowing with 2 Horses a breast nag mare in light harrows.
Going in well.

Tuesday 2nd

Ploughing Addlands in Broad Meadows and sowing them.
Been to Stanton Barlows sale Stanton Grove bought 2 criks boarded bottoms for £1 9s 0d.

Wednesday 3rd

Sowing the Openhole with Oats.
Harrowing across the next day made a good job.

Thursday 4th

Began of Roolling Oats and Beans and Peas down
Sold a Fat calf 5 wks old for 67d.

Friday 5th

Gilt Pigned 9 pigs doing well
Brewing of Grains from Ilkeston
Sold some potatoes 11/6 per sack Mark Beardsley
5 pecks of Potatoes
½ peck 5s 10d

Saturday 6th

Roolling suty Close Wheat sown in Feb coming up well.
Sown Oats 11 Marlers and 1 strike of seed
1 Marler of Beans 11 strike of Peas.

Monday 8th

Ploughing on Shipley wood for Potatoes
Gardening set a flat in garden with early potatoes and one with 2 earlys Unions and small seeds.

Tuesday 9th

Gathering stones on Firey close seeds
Had a letter from Miss Beardsley beging for Assistance sent 10d worth postage stamps.

Wednesday 10th

2 Men gathering Stones on Seeds fetching them of in a Cart putting in the ruts.
Lost a Cow calf very suddin
Dead in place in the Morning Stopage causing Inflammation.

Thursday 11th

Ploughing on Shipley wood across 3 horses single
rough showerey Weather
Rhuban set 2 rows of Peas in Garden

Friday 12th

Been to Derby see Lawyer Sale about the Heworthy Bank Interest and Bessy has been with me.
Brewing of Grains today

Saturday 13th

Whet again could not get to do anything on the land.

Monday 15th

Cleaning Ditches out through the Wood mending the foot road taken 2 loads of Ashes.

Tuesday 16th

Blundstones sale of Stock and Implements at Stanton drove over with Bessy and the children
E. Severn Little Hallam field taken the Farm