

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

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The Bulletin

of

The Local History Section

of the

Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Local History Section

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Mr. G. R. Micklewright

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Mr. A. E. Hale.

DIARY OF MEETINGS

1957

March 23 At the Library Lecture Room, Chapelway, Chesterfield, on Saturday  
Saturday March 23rd at 3.00 pm., Miss Nellie Kirkham will talk on "Investigating Lead Mines and Soughs" Train from Derby at 1.50 pm. arrives Chesterfield at 2.21 pm.

April 13 In the Bemrose Library in St. Mary's Gate, Derby, at 2.00 pm. on Saturday  
Saturday April 13, Mr. J. M. Bestall will demonstrate the use of county records in studying local history. Members should bring notebooks, tracing paper and if possible 6" O.S. maps. Please advise Section Secretary if likely to attend. (See note on page 68).

May 19 Meet at Taddington Church at 12.15 pm. (From Derby by train to Millers  
Sunday Dale and walk across fields to Taddington Church. Train leaves Derby at 10.40 am. arrives Millers Dale at 11.52 am. Return from Millers Dale at 7.4 pm. arriving Derby at 7.53 pm. Advise Secretary in good time because of tea arrangement. Bring picnic lunch. For further details see page 68. Leader Mr. J. M. Bestall.

A Note from the Chairman of the Section

A review of the Local History Section's first year shows that a very encouraging start has been made. Membership is now over 100 and contacts between members in different parts of the county are being fostered - the movement of local historians between Derby and Chesterfield, for instance, is probably without precedent. Meetings in these main centres have been generally well attended whilst those in more rural settings, at Bakewell, Tissington, and Brocton during the summer have proved even more widely representative of our scattered membership.

It is, however, the Bulletin, under Mrs. Nixon's editorship, which has attracted most interest and commendation. There has been a widespread readiness to make contributions of many kinds, their diversity well illustrating the range of interests within the field of Local History. The publication of the manuscript sections of Glover's History of Derby has been expanded by the addition of more recent material in such a way that future parish historians may find these notes and references a considerable aid. The collection of this material has made it necessary for arrangements to be made for its storage and filing in the Society's Headquarters. A beginning has also been made with the preparation of occasional "supplements", the first, a photographic copy of Burdett's very valuable 18th Century map of Derbyshire has aroused a strong demand and the second a duplicated transcript of an Elizabethan Survey of the Manor of Chesterfield is being provided by Mr. G. R. Micklewright.

The achievements of the first year can therefore be regarded as promising but they represent only a beginning, as may clearly be seen if we compare the study of Local History in Derbyshire and in many other counties. The use of county and diocesan records for instance has not advanced in recent years to anything like the same extent as it has in some other places, and how few Derbyshire towns and villages have yet had their histories written in modern terms. We may also recall that it is now over 50 years since the second volume of the Victoria County History, now in many ways outmoded, was published. Interest in Local History throughout the county is strong but it is not yet expressed in the most constructive terms. To encourage and assist interested people to take a more active part in the discovery of Derbyshire history must increasingly be the aim of this Section.

J. M. Bestall.

SECTION NEWS

The first ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Section was held in Derby on Saturday, November 23rd 1956, in a room at the Joseph Wright School, which had been loaned to us for the afternoon through the kindness of Mr. C. Middleton, the Director of Education.

Mr. J. M. Bestall presided. Mr. Owen Ashmore came from Manchester to give a most interesting and informative talk on the Cotton Industry of the Derwent Valley. A short article on this appears later in this issue. There was a lively discussion.

This was followed by the General Meeting. All officers and committee members were re-elected and it was decided to invite Mr. C. Daniel of Eyam to replace Mr. W. D. White (now Treasurer) on the committee, and Mr. C. Hargreaves to represent the Ilkeston area. Both Mr. Daniel and Mr. Hargreaves have since consented to serve.

Mr. Bestall then reviewed the work which had been done in the Section during the year. An apology for absence was received from Mr. W. D. White who was on holiday in Madeira. As the balance sheet was not available the statement now appears at the end of this Bulletin. The section was solvent at the end of the year but as there was no substantial reserve to meet the rising cost of stationery and postage it was suggested that the subscription should be raised by one shilling to five shillings annually. This was unanimously agreed.

The Secretary reported on the very satisfactory flow of material for the bulletin and thanked all those who had worked so hard and enthusiastically. The Bulletin was produced during its first year through the generosity of a patron but will in future be wholly the responsibility of the Section.

Special mention was made by members of the pleasing layout and excellent typing of the Bulletins for which Miss B. Royce had been responsible and the Secretary was asked to communicate the Section's appreciation to her.

Mr. Oakley regretted that it was not possible to reproduce more calendars. This is however outside the scope of the Bulletins and it was suggested that there was an opportunity here to form a Section to deal solely with the transcription of archives.

Meanwhile the Section resolved to undertake the publication from time to time as finances allowed, of short supplements dealing with these. Mr. G. R. Micklewright has undertaken to produce the first of these supplements which is to be Mr. Oakley's transcript of an Elizabethan Survey of the Manor of Chesterfield. Copies will be available shortly and will be sent (postage 4d) to members of the Section who make application to the Section Secretary. Mr. C. C. Handford has made a list of those items in "Derbyshire Lead and Lead Mining", (see Derbyshire Miscellany No. 4) which are available in the Chesterfield Library's History Collection. This list will be sent on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope by the Secretary.

It was agreed that the time had arrived to organise the assembly of the Section's records which are already beginning to accumulate. The Bulletin is being indexed by the staff of the County Library but an index will in future be available to members in the Chapel Rooms where the Section's files will also be kept and where a list of members of the Section will be available.

Mr. A. H. Hockley was invited to form a group to assemble the records and he consented to do so. Mr. A. E. Hale and Mr. H. Trasler have since joined him.

## Collection of Records

The work of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments was described at a recent conference of the Council for British Archaeology, to which the honorary secretary of the Society was a delegate. The Chief Inspector appealed for reports on buildings of possible historic or architectural value threatened with demolition. A speaker in the ensuing discussion suggested that each county archaeological society should appoint a working committee to list all buildings of interest, and said that such a survey was already being done in at least one county. Recommending this to the conference, the President (Professor W. F. Grimes) said that even if there was nothing more than a note and a photograph, it would be well worth while.

It would be greatly appreciated if members could undertake the compilation of a list of interesting buildings in their own parishes. No great knowledge of building styles would be necessary - the main requirements being just a note that there were apparently ancient cottages, and an 18th century mill, a village lock-up and so on. Contributions of this nature might form the basis of a more detailed survey at a later date. Any information, however incomplete, would be welcomed for the Section's records, now being assembled by Messrs. Hockey, Trasler, and Hale.

Mr. G. H. Large has already supplied excellent photographs of the Codnor Dovecote (see NQ.27) before and after it met with the accident which seems likely to bring about its complete ruin unless something can be done about it quickly.

Mr. Hockey's group want for filing under parishes, any information whatever of historical interest. This it is hoped will gradually build up into a collection of invaluable information about the county. They are also open to receive now, or when finished with, personal notes, newspaper cuttings, etc. which will be carefully catalogued and preserved.

## Purchase of a Duplicator

The duplicating of our "Derbyshire Miscellany" has, during the first year, been produced free of cost to the Section, through the good offices of a friend of the Section. This generous offer was to do the work for one year until other arrangements could be made. With this issue, the question of future printing becomes a matter of immediate concern.

A yearly income of about £25 does not allow any margin for engaging outside help at its present cost. Estimates have varied between £13 to £24 for one issue.

We now therefore propose to make use of a duplicator which has been purchased by the Section and we calculate that a Bulletin of the present size can be maintained if a few members will volunteer to do the necessary work of duplicating and assembling the Bulletins. Would members living in or near Derby who would help us please notify the Section Secretary. It is proposed to house the Duplicator and to carry out the work in the Bridge Chapel Room.



Reprints of 1956 Bulletins - A limited number of reprints of the 4 Bulletins for 1956 is now available at 5/- each set post free. It will not be possible to reprint any future issues. The Secretary has sent reprints to members who, joining late in the year, could not at first be supplied with back numbers. If anyone still lacks a copy it will be sent on application.

Talk on Enclosures - On January 23rd Mr. R. Johnson gave a talk on "Some Aspects of the Enclosures which will Repay Research" to an informal meeting of members in the Bridge Chapel Room, Derby. He gave a most detailed and fascinating account of land enclosures from Saxon times to the great movement at the end of the Eighteenth Century. Mr. Johnson is himself making a special study of the Alfreton district and had the good fortune to discover the original Alfreton manor award with maps which had been thought to be lost. He brought many interesting maps and documents for us to see and pointed out how names of fields and enclosures could be a guide to the date of the enclosure. For instance, flax growing was introduced during Mary's reign and enclosed lands called Flaxcroft, Flaxholme and Walking Croft would date from not earlier than that time. The County offices can produce most enclosure maps for inspection and lawyers' offices often yield interesting material if permission can be obtained to browse through the dusty collections of old papers.

Courses in Local History - The Historical Association has organised a Derbyshire Tour Tuesday April 9 - Wednesday April 17th - leaders Mr. F.W. Brooks M.A., F.S.A., and Mrs. Brooks. Accommodation will be at the Conference House, Burton, and the programme will cover a wide area with special attention to churches. Further particulars from Hon. Sec. (Tours), 9 Rivercourt Road, London W.6.

At the Historical Association Vacation School at Aberystwyth - July 30th - August 9th Mr. F. W. Brooks will lecture on the Sources (mainly printed) of English Local History. Further particulars from the Secretary, 8 Rhedol Terrace, Aberystwyth, Cards. (See also page 68)

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### The Early Textile Industry in the Derwent Valley

By

Owen Ashmore

The valleys of the Derwent and its tributaries were the scene of important developments in the earlier stages of the Industrial Revolution. The old Silk Mill at Derby, Arkwright's Mill at Cromford, Strutt's mills at Belper and Milford are all landmarks in the history of the textile industry and all the way from Edale in the North to Sawley in the south, mills were started, many of which can still be seen and identified. In the long run, the main centres of the industry were elsewhere; cotton particularly in Lancashire. But from the 1760's until the early years of Victoria, so long as the water wheels continued to turn to provide power for the machines, Derbyshire and the Derwent were in the forefront of development.

Even before the days of factory industry, the Derwent Valley was already associated with textiles and with a domestic industry in the shape of hosiery manufacture. This industry became concentrated in the three Midland counties of Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire in the first half of the 18th Century and by the early years of the 19th there were some 5000 Knitting Frames in the Derbyshire villages. Knitters were at work, usually in their own homes, in Derwent villages from Sawley, Wilne, Draycott, Spondon and Ockbrook in the south to Bakewell, Ashford and Litton in the north. Places like Belper became considerable centres and some of the hosiers who gave out the raw material and rented the frames to the workers, were in quite a big way of business. The Hosiery industry is, moreover, closely connected with the early developments in factory spinning. The making of silk stockings in the Derby area provided a market for the Lombes' thread, and both Hargraves and Arkwright began in Nottingham by supplying thread for the manufacture of cotton stockings. Jedediah Strutt was a hosier before ever he became interested in cotton spinning, and helped to invent the ribbed stocking frame. The industry has a particular interest, too, in that working conditions were often so bad as to compare unfavourably with factories. Earnings were low, the hosiers made extensive deductions for frame rent, needles, oil etc., and it seems clear the trade was overcrowded. Pauper children were put to work at 3 or 4 years old and the saying "as poor as a stockinger" became almost proverbial. Indeed, Mr. Wells in his "History of the British Hosiery Trade" provides plenty of evidence that the introduction of the factory system in the second half of the 19th Century led to a marked improvement - more regular hours, shorter working week and better wages. Hosiery workers, too, were prominent in some of the Luddite riots, for example in the Nottingham area in 1817-18.

The Old Silk Mill in Derby was the first permanent venture in the valley in factory spinning - indeed the first large scale factory in the country with its "26,00 wheels" and 300 workpeople. Its establishment is bound up with the story of John and Thomas Lombe, half brothers, and sons of a worsted weaver from Norwich. Thomas became a London Mercer, an alderman of the city, and finally Sir Thomas. John was apprenticed at Cotchett's mill at Derby, an earlier and unsuccessful attempt at machine throwing. The story of John's visit to Italy to learn "the secrets" of the trade is told with full melodramatic detail by Hutton, the historian of Derby, ending with his death as the result of poisoning by an Italian woman sent over for the purpose. Modern writers have emphasised that the "secrets" were published in Zonca's "Novo teatro di Macchine" in the 17th Century, which was available in the Bodleian Library. Whatever the truth of these incidents, a patent was granted in 1718 and the mill erected at what was estimated as a cost of £30,000. When the patent expired in 1732, the industry spread to other parts of the county - Chesterfield and Glossop for example - as well as to Cheshire and Manchester. Sir Thomas Lombe was awarded £14,000 on condition of exhibiting an exact model of the machinery in the Tower of London. When he died, his widow sold the mill for £3,800, so that the venture seems to have been unprofitable, but at least it had the distinction of helping to provide a gown and petticoat for Queen Caroline.

Hutton has left us a vivid picture of working conditions in the mill, where he was apprenticed as a boy for seven years, years which he describes as "the most unhappy of my life" and which led him to exclaim "I have lamented that while almost every man of the world was born out of Derby, I was born in".

The early developments in the spinning of cotton were, however, to prove more permanent in their influence. From the time when Richard Arkwright went into partnership with Jedediah Strutt and moved from Nottingham to start his first water-power mill at Cromford in 1771 until the advent of steam power, mills were being erected all along the valley. Arkwright himself started mills at Masson, Bakewell and Cromford, while the Strutt end of the partnership developed the sites lower down at Belper and Milford. Others followed once Arkwright's patents were cancelled and by the end of the century there were some twenty to thirty mills alongside the Derwent, Amber, Ewe and Noc. Some, like those at Litton and Cressbrook, in the Monsal Dale, were isolated communities where houses were provided for the work people and a special apprentice house for the children who were often supplied by the Poorlaw Guardians in London and the South. A walk through Monsal Dale today may help more than anything to recapture something of the flavour of this early industrial development and to give a picture very different from that created by "the dark Satanic Mills".

Inevitably the mills had their effect in the towns and villages where they were built. Population figures show some marked increases after 1780. Belper grew from a community of "a few uncivilised weavers" in the mid-18th century to a town of 7200 in 1821 which Glover could describe as "next to the capital in extent, population, wealth and intelligence". Many of the industrialists concerned themselves with community building, and, if there was sometimes an excess of paternalism, the amenities were provided and the discipline may not have come amiss to the unruly masses of Georgian England. The Strutts founded a Lancastrian Day School in connection with their factory at Belper and helped in starting a hospital, Sunday Schools and a Unitarian Chapel. Elizabeth Grant, visiting Belper in 1822-3, talks of "Mrs. Strutt and her young daughters all so busy in these departments assisted by the dear old chaplain who was really the soul of his flock". Arkwright built the church at Cromford and Professor Ashton mentions how he gave "distinguishing dresses" to the most deserving workers and arranged balls at the Greyhound Inn where he could show them off. Many of the millowners were prominent, too, in schemes of road and canal building and their names are usually to be found among the Trustees or more prominent subscribers. There are, of course, other sides to the story. Viscount Torrington, visiting Cromford in 1790, found the vales had lost their beauties; "the rural cot has given place to the lofty red mill, and the grand houses of overseers; the stream perverted from its courses by sluices and aqueducts will no longer ripple and cascade. Every rural sound is sunk in the clamours of cotton works; and the simple peasant is changed into the impudent mechanic". The future, perhaps, lay with the impudent mechanic and at least Torrington had to admit that the mills lighted up at night looked "eminently beautiful".



Many aspects of the story of these mills merit further examination. We know much of Arkwright and Strutt but there are many other families whose fortunes would make an interesting and revealing story; the Evans at Darley Abbey, the Nightingales at Lea, and many others who are not much more than names. It would be interesting, too, to know something of their activities outside business - the development of their estates, social connections, and their part in 19th century politics. Edward Strutt, in the third generation, was already Lord Belper, educated at Cambridge and married to a bishop's daughter. At what stage in some of these families did land and estate interests come to predominate over their earlier concerns? Here is a rich potential field for the local student: another lies in working out the history of each individual mill, the successive changes of ownership and functions and the final fate. Much, too, could be done in respect of labour conditions. A certain amount has been gathered from Government Blue Books and from reports of factory inspectors and we have an interesting picture in "A Memoir of Robert Blincoe Orphan Boy" published in Manchester in 1832. Blincoe went first to a mill at Nottingham and then successively to mills at Litton, Mellor, Bollington, Staybridge and Manchester and gives a vivid, not to say lurid, picture of conditions at some of these, especially at Litton. At least, he lived to a good old age and became a manufacturer on his own account. It is interesting to note that, when Litton Mill was inspected in 1811, two of the apprentices complained of being in the mill from 6 in the morning until 9 at night and had a very poor opinion of a diet which included water-porridge, oatcake and poor broth. Traditions at Mellor and Marple, on the other hand, give a very different picture of the way Samuel Oldknow treated his apprentices: porridge and bacon for breakfast, meat every day for dinner, fruit from the orchard, and meat pies full of pork". One worthy summed it up "There was never owt to complain of at Mellor;" but one employee at least complained about the company shop and asked for permission to shop at Marple Bridge where he could get things much cheaper.

There is a real opportunity here for some of our amateur local historians to collect information in their own areas about local mills and families. It is a field of research which has the advantage that the sources are easily read and there are none of the difficulties of paleography etc. which are often obstacles to the study of earlier periods. One obvious source, not very much tapped as yet, is the local newspapers and without travelling outside the county even, our knowledge of this important phase of County history could be greatly enriched. A list of the sites of mills known to the writer is appended as a guide to anyone who would like to follow up some of these suggestions: I would be very glad to hear from anyone who is interested in doing some work of this kind.

#### LIST OF COTTON MILLS IN VALLEYS OF DERWENT AND TRIBUTARIES

ASHOVER Mentioned in Bulmer's Directory of 1896: "There was a cotton doubling factory where several hands were employed. Now abandoned".

BAKEWELL Described by Pilkington (View of Present State of Derbyshire 1789): erected a few years ago by Arkwright and given to his son who lived in house adjoining works. Employed 300 hands-mostly women and children. Mentioned by Farey (1812-17). Described by Glover (1829) as employing 3-400 hands and mechanics and owned by Peter and Robert Arkwright (grandsons of Sir Richard). Burned down in 1868 and afterwards rebuilt. Mentioned in Bulmer's Directory of 1896 as a cotton doubling mill owned by Thomas Somerset.

BAMFORD - Mentioned by Pilkington as "erected and worked several years", also "construction very different from Cromford". Mentioned by Farey. In Directories of 1846 and 1857: Samuel Moore and Sons not mentioned in Bulmer's Directory of 1896.

BELPER - The Strutt Mills. Described by Pilkington as 2 large cotton mills employing 600 hands, mostly women and children. Farey mentions 4 mills. Glover also talks of 4 (does this include the Milford mills?), first erected in 1776, and mentions the fireproof construction and 11 water wheels. Also describes the effect on the population of Belper and the activities of the Strutts in community building. One Mill was burned down in 1803. The Mills are described by Elizabeth Grant in her "Memoirs of a Highland Lady 1797-1830". A Directory of 1846 mentions a Gas Works erected by the Strutts and the manufacture of hose and gloves, as well as cotton-spinning. Much of the early buildings survives, the earliest being of 1797.

BORROWASH - Mentioned by Glover: "Messrs. Towle have built a cotton mill on the Derwent and employ many of the inhabitants".

BROUGH - Listed by Farey. Described by Glover as 2 cotton mills employing 93 people and owned by Pearson & Co. Included in Return of Apprentices 1816: B. Pearson & Company. In 1846 cotton factory for doubling lace thread. In 1896, owned by Thomas Somerset cotton doubler (see above, Bakewell).

CALVER - Mentioned by Pilkington as employing "several inhabitants". Listed by Farey. Glover: 57 families employed in cotton mills and lime quarries: Mason & Co. Return of Apprentices 1816: Calver Mill Co., no apprentices. 1846: Heygate and Bentley, 2 water wheels. 1857: Calver Mill Co. Greg and Fletcher. Gas works and school mentioned. 1896: cotton doubling mill, Tolson and Gibb. Original 6-storey block of 1785 still to be seen.

CRESSBROOK - Listed by Farey. Reported on by Factory Inspector for High Peak Hundred 1811 (See Cox : 3 Centuries of Derbyshire Annals Vol. II) : Newton owner, favourable report-1816 (Return of Apprentices): McConnell & Bros. 66 apprentices. Still McConnells 1846. 1896: Cressbrook Mills Co. Ltd.: 570 looms, school, "swiss-like" cottages for workers. Main building and Apprentice House of early 19th Century survive.

CROMFORD - Arkwright's Mill dating from 1771. Described by Pilkington and listed by Farey (2 mills). Described by John Byng in Torrington Diaries (1790). 360 employed in 1846. Brewery in 1896. Now used mainly as colour works.

DARLEY ABBEY - Evans family. Erection described by Pilkington "according to the model of that invented by Sir R. Arkwright". Destroyed by fire about 1789 and rebuilt. Listed by Farey. 750 employed in 1846. In 1860, Walter Evans living in elegant mansion at Darley Abbey, cotton, paper and lead mills. (Robinson : Founders of Cotton Manufacture in Derbyshire 1860). Building of about 1800 survives.

DERBY - Pilkington mentions "2 Arkwright machines, not employed at present". Farey lists mill in St. Peter's parish. Richardson, in "Citizen's Derby", refers to special factory erected by Strutt in Tenant Street to weave calicoes.

DRAYCOT - Listed by Farey. Apparently belonged to Mr. Towle (see Borrowash) and was rebuilt in 1814 and enlarged in 1818. Lace Factory in 1842.

EDALE - Farey lists mills at Edale Chapel and Nether Booth. Edale Mill appears in Return of Apprentices for 1816 : Lorenzo Christie owner; 31 apprentices. In 1846, John C. Christie, lace thread manufacture. 1857, Lorenzo Christie. 1896, cotton doubling factory owned by Thomas Somerset. (See Bakewell and Brough).

LEA - Described by Pilkington as erected five years ago i.e. 1784 by Peter Nightingale. Listed by Farey. Return of Apprentices 1816 : John Smedley-1846: John Smedley, merino spinner and hosiery manufacture. 1896 John Smedley Ltd., hosiery, 1000 hands. Mentioned in Torrington diaries (1790). Arkwright purchased Maner of Cromford from Peter Nightingale. (NB: There is a collection of Nightingale papers in the Borough Library at Derby).

LITTON - Mentioned by Pilkington under "Millhouse Dale". Listed by Farey as 2 mills. Return of Apprentices 1816: Wm. Newton. Reported on by Inspector for High Peak Hundred in 1811: Ellis Needham owner. Report includes complaints from Apprentices. Conditions in the Mill described in detail in Robert Blincoe's Memoir (published in Manchester in 1832. 1846 Wm. and Henry Newton; 400 employees, water and steam power. 1896: cotton doubling mill.

MASSON - Mentioned by Pilkington under Matlock as mill erected by Arkwright in Matlock Dale; complains about spoiling scenery. Listed by Farey as Matlock Bath. 320 employed in 1846. Still working under English Sewing Cotton Co. Original six-storey block in middle of present buildings.

MATLOCK - Pilkington mentions another mill besides Masson. Farey mentions 2 at Matlock, beside one at Matlock Bath.

MILFORD - Pilkington describes mill erected by Strutts at Makeney. Farey lists Milford. Milford Mill and Forge Mill appear on Cox's list of mills registered in 1803. Parts of old mills still to be seen, dates uncertain.

SOUTHWINGFIELD - Listed by Farey. Return of Apprentices 1816 : Messrs. Wilson

TANSLEY - Pilkington mentions cotton mill erected "a few years ago". Arkwright model. Farey lists 4 mills at Tansley. Return of Apprentices 1816 records 2 mills: John Hackett & Sons & Radford & Sons. Directory of 1846 records small-ware manufacture by Hackett & Sons. Bulmer's Directory of 1896 mentions Lowe & Scholes, tape manufacturers. Remains of Tansleywood Mill (1799) still to be seen.

WILNE - Listed by Farey (Little Wilne). 1846 Directory : Thomas Draper, Cotton Spinner.

WIRKSWORTH - Pilkington records "mill lately erected by Arkwright" : 200 hands. Listed by Farey. Return of Apprentices 1816 : 2 mills; Willow Bath, owned by Jeremiah Tatlow and Millhouse owned by John Hackett & Co. (cf. Tansley). Directory of 1846 records 3 factories for manufacture of smallwares and mentions Jeremiah Tatlow and Jabez Wheatcroft as owners.

This list of about 30 mills does not pretend to be complete and further information would be welcome either about other mills not included or adding to the ones that are listed. There were, of course, mills outside the area discussed, e.g. at Ashbourne, Penny Bentley, Pleasley, Appleby, Measham, and details about these would also be very useful. No attempt has been made to deal with the North West of the county where mills were much thicker on the ground and which would require a separate article to itself.

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### OUR ROADS, by John M. Worthy

To visualise where the old roads and tracks were we have to look at many things for clues including the names of villages and hamlets, field and farm names and sometimes the name of a wood and stream and also study depressions and sunken roads and slight ridges across fields. Much evidence can be gathered by noting the boundaries of parishes or a continued line of fences in old fields.

When the commons were enclosed many roads and tracks were cut off and lost or they were altered to go by the side of an enclosure to enable the land to be ploughed more easily. This is very evident in some places where the ends of a path show where the diversions are.

The roads were not anything like our ideas of roads nowadays. Many would probably be shown by stones or by a line between two prominent features which would be guides in a wild and wooded county. The ways were very often on the ridge of a hill, a ridgeway, which would follow the top of the hill, but if it had to cross a valley it would go in a straight line between the two hills. We have to take a big view of the land to trace them. A lot can be done by examining the Ordnance Maps, the 6" map is very good for this as it shows the fields' shapes.

We see some of the evidence almost as a dotted line, with gaps here and there and sometimes a short path which leads to nowhere and seems in appearance to be unnecessary. These seem to have survived for some reason or other, and the people who live on these bits of track do not realise the antiquity of the road, and those who see them, and probably use them, never give them a thought, or wonder why they are there, and where they lead to.

If we try to follow some of these ways, it is best to start where the evidence is good. In the neighbourhood of Holbrook there is a stretch of road which is called Port Way. The word Port or Porth is said to be a Celtic or old British word and of course Port Way is really Way Way. This word is found in several places as Alport, which is an old way or road. This way can be traced from Stapleford where it crosses the river, by Dale Abbey, Stanley, Moxley, Horsley Castle, Corbench and on to Port Way at Holbrook. The way would be in existence when Dale Abbey was built and the fact that Horsley Castle was built near it, shows that it must have been important. A good deal of it is only paths and lanes which are not used very much, but still remain as evidence of what was there. The road enters Duffield Frith near Corbench which has had several names, and many authorities seem to think that the Herdebi of Domesday was situated near here. It cannot be identified



at present but the finding of some small piece of evidence may make it known. The way goes by the church, through the village and on to Moorside Lane. These were described as ancient ways when the Turnpike near there was made. It goes as far as Black Bird Row where it has been abruptly turned to the Turnpike. But if we look at the map, or at the fences and the boundaries of the land to the houses we can see where it went. This and some of the footpaths hereabout appear a bit erratic, but show the upset of the original road. It appears as a path behind the factory and some houses and by the back of the White Hart and at Bargate. The word Bargate means a road over the top. Barr being a Celtic word for the top of a hill. This shows it was an old way. In the Elizabethan census of the woods of Duffield Frith a wood is said to be at the Bargate. This wood like a lot more in the neighbourhood has gone. The path then leads on the East side of the Turnpike, which was made from Derby by Duffield Bank and Makeney to Chesterfield. The old track is here a Parish Boundary and would also be a forest boundary as well. Denby on the East not being in Duffield Frith. The path carries on until it gets to Toothill Cottage. Toothill is a very old word for a lookout. The road here has been altered until it joins Sandbed Lane, but the boundary carries on in a more likely and direct way. The making of the Turnpikes upset and sometimes closed these old tracks. The path appears as a boundary past Open Wood Gate and carries on, on the East side of Over Lane and goes on to Heage, Pentrich Common and Chesterfield.

Coming back to Bargate we find another road leading from there. The building of the houses has covered up some of the evidence, but we find a footpath coming up to the fence on the West side of Sandbed Lane. This has been a diversion from a small piece of road which runs in a direct line from Bargate, the road from Bargate being closed when the land was enclosed. This small piece of path is unexplainable otherwise. This points to the top of Mill Lane, but has been diverted to Pincham Hill to save a path going through the fields, a procedure we find here and there in the enclosures. There appear to be many paths running from the top of Mill Lane like the spokes of a wheel. The road we now follow is down Mill Lane to the bottom where we come to the old Flour Mill Dam. The path passes along the dam and then goes round an excavation which was made at the time the mill was built. It passes a little to the right and then to the left and passes on a bank path until it comes to a steep road which is in a direct line with Mill Lane. This road goes straight up the hill to the top. There were some very old houses on this road and the top house nearest to the present Nottingham Road would be 16 ft. below, which shows that the road was there before Nottingham Road was made. The existence of this road (Jacob's Ladder as it is called) can only be explained as a piece of the old track.

The road then goes up on the top side of the Nottingham Road, by the Town Quarry and this is Town property. How the Park Mount came to be built there would be interesting. The track could be seen down the Quarry before the present building was done. The track now proceeds up Windmill Lane. This is an old road and before it was called Windmill Lane (Windmill built 1796) it was known as the Heage and Alfreton Turnpike. (The road from the Market Place by the St. Peters Church was not in existence until about 1820).



We next go on to Lawn Nook which was the site of the Bradelei of Doomaday, which shows that the road was there before then. There was evidently an open space of grassland in the forest from which the name Lawn or Laund derives. It was called Bradley Leynes at the time of the census of woods in Queen Elizabeth's reign. The brook in the fields is called Bradley Brook in old deeds and there are entries of Bradley Laund in the Duffield Registers. This hamlet would be there before Beaurepaire was so called. At this time nearly all the land from Top Common to Heage was Common. It was not enclosed until the end of the 18th century. If we look at the field enclosures about here, we can see the irregular ones where Bradelei was and we can see the straight and formal ones of the late enclosures. If we look again at the road on Windmill Lane, and follow the course from Bargate, we shall see that it leads to the path where it goes by Stonehill, so called because of a Stone which was set there before the enclosures. (By the way this stone seems to have been moved nearer Lawn Nook on the path and makes two large gate posts, one thinner than the other as if the Stone had been broken in two). The present path to Windy Gap has been run by the dividing wall partly one side and then the other to make the cultivation of the land easier; the path from the gate posts to Lawn Nook has been obliterated when the land was enclosed. The road or path now continues in a straight direction to Nether Heage, Bullbridge, by the boundary between Crich and Wingfield to Crich.

Now let us go back to the bottom of Mill Lane near the old mill dam. We shall find there some evidence of the road that went up to, and by, St. John's Chapel, and from there in a direct line to the bottom of High Street, near the Infants' School.

Some years ago, a wall on High Street bulged and when it was pulled down it could be seen where the sunken road was the part of the wall. Each side of the sunken road where the land had not been disturbed was intact and did not bulge. Houses and nail shops were built on this road and were to be seen a few years ago. When this road was closed, a road was made from the buildings down to Lander Lane. This road runs at the back of the Butts houses.

From the bottom of High Street the road went by St. Peter's Churchyard along the top of Field Row, the Unitarian Church (which has a right of way to the top of Pingle Lane) down to the River where it is very probable that there was a ford before the weirs were made. There was an old public house on the Pingle Lane Road which was closed some years ago; a Public House would not have been built on a road down to some fields as it now appears to do. The weirs on the river have been considerably altered, the old weir was higher up the river than the present one. The building of the present weir and the widening of the river above the weir have made a very big difference. The line of the road here would cross the river and meet the bottom of Bridge Hill and Belper Lane. The road went up Belper Lane End by Narrow Lane to Knaves Cross and on to Alport (which means Old Road) then on to Wirksworth by Sandy Ford and Broadgates.

Now let us go back to Bargate again and we find a road (a later one very probably) which comes down to Belper Park and runs by its fences down to the old Manor House which would be near to where the Coppice now is. This was once a hunting lodge which had royal visitors according to the evidence of grants signed here. Here also the deer were salted down for the winter. This was the beginning of Belper or Beaureper. The road would go by St. John's Chapel; the shapes of the fields below the Butts showed this before the present houses were built. There would be cross roads at the Chapel, the road continued by the old Cotton Mill known as Paddle Wall Yard and across the High Street and on to the bottom end of the lower road on Penn Street where there were once some farm houses (the present road on Penn Street-the higher one-is comparatively new). The road then went along Penn Street by Gorsey Hundred to Crich Lane.

Another road from the Manor House ran across the top of Queen Street where the Memorial Gardens are now. This must have been altered when Jedediah Strutt III built the Green Hall and added to his grounds there; the road goes on Green Lane to Fingle Lane.

Now if we go to the top of Belper Lane, where we left the road to Alport, we come to the road which carries on by Holly House Lane known as a Roman Road. It would be better to call it a Romanised Road as it must have been there before the Romans came, the word Chevin showing a British origin. The Romans must have taken it from Wirksworth for the lead traffic, and this road must have come along the top of Chevin and by Courthouse Farm then on by Duffield Castle to Darley Fields. A Portway is mentioned here in the Darley Abbey Charters. The road went by Darley Abbey which was built beside it and to Darley where a British village is said to have existed.

Later the Romans seem to have left this road and used instead the Sunny Hill Road which leads down to Moleford and on to the Roman paved road on the East side of the river by Duffield Bank, which was excavated a few years ago.

Going back to the Alport Road we come to Sandiford Lane, where another road seems to have gone East down to the Derwent where there was a ford by Dunge Wood. The name Sandiford must have been used for this ford as there is no need for a ford or anything so Ford on the hills there. In some old grants there is mention of Wyv Street Moor near Wirksworth and this must have applied either to this road or the one which it leaves at Sandiford Lane. This road proceeds by Streets Rough and is the boundary between Belper and Alderwasley. The road goes by Dunge Wood and the top of Broadholme Lane, across Crich Lane, over the Hedge and Belper Common to the Bent. It appears to have led to Moleley Park and Rykeld Street and was probably used for both lead and coal for Wirksworth for smelting purposes. This track here is the boundary between Belper and Hedge. The road from the top of Broadholme Lane would be to an alternative crossing at Belper if the other ford was difficult.

The road called Jackson's Lane at Milford appears to have connected the Chevin Portway to the one at Holbrook Moor.

The road now known as Mill Street ran from the Fingle Lane Road up to Bradley. It must be old as it was left when the quarries were made.

There are many newer roads, some of which have superseded others. Nottingham Road was formerly called Common Side Road. It ran lower down the hill side than the present road, and can be traced by looking at the hillside from Mill Lane.

New Road was made when the Railway came, to allow the bridge over it. The road formerly went by Brookside and the Old Kings Head was a coaching house.

The bottom Chevin Road was made by Strutt and Arkwright to connect the Dalley Lane Road with Milford Mills.

Cemetery Road was made from Swinney Well to the Matlock Road about 1858.

The road from the Market going East of St. Peter's Church to Fern Street and then from Windy Gap to Lawn Nook, with a length of road from the Bent Road, known at Heape as the New Road, was made in 1820 or thereabouts.

Wyver Lane is not a very old road. It was made to get an easy way from Belper to Alderwasley Hall via the Range and White Wells Lane (the old road to Wyver Farm was from Belper Lane).

The Bridge Hill road is a fairly old road by the Cowhouse Lane which is mentioned in the Forest accounts. This road was remodelled as a Turnpike to Ashbourne.

High Street and the Top Common Road seems to have gone in olden times by Over Lane and down the Parish boundary across Street Lane by Salterwood. This may have been one of the Salter's tracks.

King Street, Field Lane, Joseph Street and Field Row seem to have been roads down the "Belper Field" (which gave the name Field Head).

The Fleet Road which leaves the Bargate Lane Road must have been made to suit wheeled traffic as the Parkside road was rather awkward.

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#### NOTES AND QUERIES

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Information regarding any query appearing below should be sent to the Section Secretary who will also be glad to have notes about the Local History of the County :

NQ.22 - FAMILY OF BURNASTON - Dealing with Mickleover in Vo. IV of his "Churches of Derbyshire", Dr. Cox says (p. 307) "when Bassano was here in 1710, he noted on one of the beams of the roof 'gules a cross floure or'". It seems probable that this was intended for the arms of the old family of Burnaston of Burnaston".

### PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURES MEETING

At the end of an article in the last Bulletin on the study of Parliamentary Enclosures, some suggestions were made about ways in which interested members could contribute to our knowledge of this important topic in Derbyshire History. At the informal meeting in Derby at which Mr. R. Johnson spoke of his own investigation of Enclosures interest in this subject was stimulated and as a number of members in other places would like to examine their own Enclosure Awards, arrangements have been made for a special Saturday afternoon meeting on 13th April.

Most Enclosure Awards are to be found in the County Records, where they may normally be consulted during office hours. By permission of the Clerk of the Peace, Mr. D. G. Gilman, and with the ready co-operation of the County Records Clerk, Mr. J. R. Wild, we shall be able to meet in the County Offices, St. Mary's Gate, Derby to examine a selection of Enclosure records. This arrangement is of special value to members unable to visit the County Records Department at other times and will provide an exceptional opportunity to study the Awards.

It is essential that members wishing to attend this meeting should inform the Secretary as soon as possible and state which Enclosure Award they wish to examine. The list published by W. E. Tate in the Journal for 1944-45 should be consulted where there are any doubts about which Award is desired. Further information about this meeting will be sent to all members who indicate in this way that they wish to attend.

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### THE TADDINGTON MEETING

The purpose of this walk is primarily to observe the effects of enclosures on the landscape although incidentally we shall take in a number of other places of historical and archaeological interest, especially those less well known off the main roads.

The walk will be round the Taddington fields then over to Chelmorton and back to Miller's Dale (about 7 miles).

# STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR YEAR 1956

<u>INCOME</u>	£	s	d	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£	s	d
101 members (some arrears still !)	19	12	0	Stationery	3	17	1
Sundry extras: )	1	16	9	Bulletin costs	4	19	5
Sale of extra bulletins )				Postage	8	4	0
Tea collections )				Meetings : tea, porters etc.	2	0	6
	21	8	9		19	1	0
				BALANCE ON HAND.....	£2	7	9

## PREHISTORY & ROMAN SECTION

An examination of the Bateman Collection in the Sheffield City Museum or a glance at an Ordnance Survey map reveals the wealth of archaeological material in the county. But when we sit down and think on the problems of Derbyshire's past we are soon impressed by the lack of modern excavation or even proper plans of sites.

It is the duty of local archaeological organisations actively to investigate the region. A few lectures and one or two excursions do nothing to prevent barrows being ploughed out, or to avoid loss of valuable evidence revealed during commercial digging. There are complaints of the work of a non-Derbyshire society in our region. It is foolish to do this as they are advancing into a territorial vacuum which we are not filling. The only real answer is to embark on a similar programme of field research.

I would be glad to hear of anybody interested in helping in an active programme of field survey and excavation. If a body of keen workers can be formed there is no reason why many of the problems that trouble us in Derbyshire archaeology today could not be solved. An invitation is also extended to those interested in Dark Age and Medieval Archaeology to take part in the field work of the section.

I would always be glad to hear of any archaeological finds old or new in private hands so that they may be recorded.

Any member of the Society anticipating being able to join in field surveys or excavations would be welcome at a Policy meeting of the Section on Saturday 30th March 1957 at 2.30 pm. in the Bridge Chapel House, Bridge Gate, Derby.

T.G.Manby,  
Hon.Secretary,  
5 Kedleston Road,  
DERBY



## BOOK NEWS

### Reading Medieval Local Records by K.C.Newton

This is a useful introduction to the subject for anyone starting work on medieval records. The article indicates some of the chief characteristics of medieval handwriting and there are nine illustrations taken from documents in the Collection of the Essex Record Office. Published with the Amateur Historian Vol.3, No.2. Offprints may be obtained from the publishers, C.E.Fisher & Co.Ltd., 20-21 Tooks Court, London EC.4 at 2/- each copy.

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### Finding History Around Us by Islay Doncaster.

Although written primarily for teachers this excellent book deals in a succinct yet most readable fashion with all branches of archaeology particularly as applying to Britain. Starting with prehistory it goes on to deal with the Roman Occupation, castles and country houses, churches and church furnishings, the village and the town.

At the end of each chapter is given a list of objects to be sought for in museums, locations of sites, a chronological summary, and a bibliography. An appendix gives useful suggestions for starting a collection of historical material, with special reference to the information usually to be found in local libraries, the County Record Office, and old newspapers. Another appendix gives ideas on the conducting of parties of children around museums and historic sites and buildings.

The beginner will find this book invaluable. The more advanced worker will enjoy reading it, and will certainly find its summaries useful as ready references. Published by Blackwell at 17/6d.

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