

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

Section News

So far there have been three meetings of the Section this year. On March 8th, through the kindness of Mr. G. R. Micklewright, we met once again in the Library Lecture Room at Chesterfield and in spite of extremely severe weather 28 members gathered to hear Mr. F. Nixon talk about "Early Steam Engines in Derbyshire". A most animated and instructive discussion followed the talk. At a Committee meeting later Mr. F. Fisher suggested that the Miscellany should have a more decorative cover which he volunteered to print. It was decided to have an illustration of the Bridge Chapel in Derby — the Headquarters of the Society — and Mr. Clarence Daniel has agreed to make the drawing. The proposed Local History Exhibition was discussed and information about this will be circulated to all members later.

Twenty three members met in the Bridge Chapel Library on April 16 to hear Mr. L. A. Officer give a most interesting talk on monumental brasses. He showed and described many rubbings from Derbyshire churches and an account of these will be given in the October bulletin. After receiving permission from the Rector of Morley, Mr. Officer has kindly arranged to assist a party to make brass rubbings at Morley Church on Saturday, 6th September. The size of the party will have to be limited and immediate application should be made by members wishing to join the group.

On May 17 Mr. J. M. Bestall led a party of 28 members to explore the Hathersage district. This was a most enjoyable and instructive meeting an account of which will also appear in Bulletin No. 10.

We are now looking forward to the next outdoor meeting on Saturday, June 21st, when Mr. R. Johnson will conduct a tour of Wingfield Manor and other places of historical interest around Alfreton.

The Secretary of the Architectural Section has made an appeal for old photographs or illustrations of Derbyshire. A record of these is being made for the Society and if any member should have, or know of the existence of, illustrations of any buildings or sites as they used to be, or of any building likely to deteriorate or be demolished in the near future, the Section would be glad to have news of it. Please write to Miss A. M. Rowland at 49 Leacroft Road, Derby.

Mr. F. T. Harrison states that the foundations of the thirteenth century Hunting Lodge of Beaurepaire can still be traced on the ground that slopes towards the Coppice Brook to the North of Belper Park. He suggests that excavation of this site might produce valuable information.

Articles and queries for the October Bulletin should be sent in without delay. Please enclose a stamped envelope with any letter requiring a personal reply.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY STEAM ENGINES IN DERBYSHIRE LEAD
MINES

The talk which was given by Mr.F.Nixon on March 8th in Chesterfield was based on a lecture "The Early Steam Engine in Derbyshire" which was presented before the Newcomen Society for the Study of the History of Engineering and Technology, at the Science Museum, London, on October 9th 1957.

Over 50 years before James Watt patented his external condenser, the simple "atmospheric engine" of Thomas Newcomen was used extensively for pumping water from mines. The early history of the Newcomen engine had been the subject of intensive study, and it was gratifying to find that Derbyshire, and in particular the district around Chesterfield, had occupied a prominent place in its story.

The first reference was in 1729 and mentioned the earliest type of brass-cylindrical engine, at Measham in the Southern part of the county. Burdett's 1762 map shows a "fire-engine" located near Measham.

Then came the Reverend Clegg's mention of "3 Curious Engines" near Winster, in 1730. These were almost certainly at the Yatestoop Mine, Birchover.

The Quaker London Lead Company, which exploited the famous Millclose Mine next became active in the importation of steam engines into the county, and one engine, erected at Millclose in 1748, was sold to the Gregory Mine Partners at Ashover, in 1768, and it worked there until 1807.

This engine provided early experience to Francis Thompson, of Ashover, who became well known as a builder of steam engines. He was assisted by Ebenezer Smith, of the Griffin Foundry, Chesterfield, whose work has recently been the subject of a book by Mr.Philip Robinson.

The fortunes of Francis Thompson were followed in some detail, and in the published paper appears a list of references to 38 engines which were erected in Derbyshire prior to 1798. Mr.G.G.Hopkinson had helped considerably in the compilation of this list.

In the discussion which followed, Mr.Stirland referred to the drawing by Francis Thompson, which is now in his care at Ashover School. Mr.Hopkinson amplified details of the location of some of Thompson's engines. Mr.Roy Buckley spoke at length about his expeditions into old lead mine workings, and Mr.Heathcote mentioned that local miners had gone down Yatestoop Mine in 1921.

THE EARLY TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN NORTH WEST DERBYSHIRE

by

Owen Ashmore

It is the North West corner of Derbyshire which is really the typical textile area of the County. Important developments in the industry took place elsewhere - at Cromford, Belper and Derby for example - but only in the North West does one see the characteristic landscape similar to many parts of Lancashire: the rows of terraced cottages interspersed with the tall storied mills, the industrial hamlets and villages, the ruins of the earlier water powered mills high up on the Pennine streams. Standing on the jetties at the canal basin in Bugsworth where the Peak Forest tramway comes down from the lime-stone quarries; walking through Samuel Oldknow's estate at Mellor by his mill dams - now Marple Lakes - and the old Apprentice House at Bottoms Hall; looking down from Union Road or Hyde Bank Road at New Mills on to the deserted sites of the early mills on the banks of the Sett or at Dinting Vale where the Calico Print works of Edmund Potter is dominated by the railway viaduct carrying the line to Sheffield, which in the middle of the last century made Glossop "an adjunct of Manchester" - in these places one can get the real flavour of the industrial revolution.

This textile area comprises the ancient parish of Glossop and to a lesser extent that of Chapel-en-le-Frith. It is an area of gritstone moorlands and narrow valleys with "a cold, wet and unfruitful soil". In the middle ages it was part of the forest of the High Peak where settlement was light and scattered and the main occupations cattle farming and horse breeding. From the 16th Century there is evidence of encroachments on the forests and wastes and the process of enclosure continued throughout the succeeding periods. In many ways it is an area similar to the forest of Rossendale in Lancashire where in the Tudor and Stuart period the smallholding farmers took up the making first of woollens and later of cottons to supplement the meagre products of the land. What was originally an addition to farming became in the 18th Century the main support of the population.

Evidence of this early domestic industry in the High Peak is not easy to come by though, no doubt, a closer study of such sources as Quarter Session records, Parish records and Household Inventories, would reveal a good deal more. Pilkington in his "View of the Present State of Derbyshire" in 1789 records that the inhabitants of Glossop Parish were supported by the manufacture of cotton and wool, the cotton being made particularly on the South and West side and the wool on the part of the parish which borders on Yorkshire. He refers to "a considerable quantity spun on hand machines and wheels" and also to "looms that had been worked for a long time in the parish of Chapel-en-le-Frith." Glover similarly refers to cloth manufacture on an extensive scale in Glossop Dale in the 18th Century and no doubt Edmund Potter, the calico printer,

was right when he described the people of Glossop at the same period as being employed in "hand loom weaving and other domestic occupations". The most vivid picture of this early domestic industry is given by William Radcliffe in his "Origin of Power Loom Weaving" where he describes how his family at Mellor had resorted to spinning and weaving to supplement their income, and how his mother taught him to card and spin cotton for his father and elder brothers to work on the loom. Later he learnt weaving himself and in time set up in business with his headquarters in Stockport. He records how at the end of the 18th Century there was "not a village within thirty miles of Manchester on the Derbyshire or Cheshire side in which some of us were not putting out cotton warps and taking in goods". He himself claimed to employ over a thousand weavers and he gives us a picture of Mellor in 1770 with some 50-60 farmers who depended very largely on some branch of these textile trades for the payment of their rents. In addition to this the cottagers were entirely employed in spinning and weaving and Radcliffe describes how old barns, cart houses and outbuildings were repaired and fitted out as loom shops and new cottages built with such shops as part of the structure. It may be that conditions at Mellor were exceptional and Radcliffe may have exaggerated the prosperity of the hand loom weavers but one may at least suppose that something like these conditions would obtain elsewhere in the High Peak.

The introduction of machinery driven by water power in the last quarter of the 18th Century provided a special opportunity for the North West with its clear swift running streams and it was along their banks that the early mills were built. The development was quite spectacular: according to Glover and other writers there was before 1784 only one mill in the Parish of Glossop and that was used for grinding corn. Thirty-five years later Farey records 109 cotton spinning mills in the County, fifty-four of which at least are in this North West area. He also records calico weaving at fifteen places and muslin weaving at seven in this same part of the County. By 1846 there were well over sixty cotton mills in Glossop Parish alone and they were still said to be "increasing and enlarging on all sides".

Especially in the water power phase there was wide dispersion of the industry. In the long run it was more concentrated, especially in centres like Glossop and New Mills, but prior to the Victorian period the mills are to be found everywhere in the parish. The banks of the Goyt and Etherow had become "the busy scenes of industrious, enterprising and ingenious men"; the banks too of their tributaries - Black Brook, the Sett, the Kinder, Rowarth Brook, Glossop Brook. Hamlets and villages like Charlesworth, Gamesley, Hadfield, Padfield, Simmondley, Chisworth, Ludworth, Mellor, Chunall and Bugsworth, all had their mills and Glover talks of places "where in the year 1780 there were only a few hovels and here or there a farmstead where there are now establishments for woollen cloth spinning, weaving and dressing... muslin, cambric and fustian weaving, bleaching and dyeing". Rowarth provides one of the

most interesting examples. In this little valley high above New Mills there were, in the early 19th Century, five cotton mills and a bleach works employing most of the population. They were on a small scale and with the coming of steam power and railways Rowarth was doomed by its inaccessibility. In 1846 Bagshaw's Directory records only two mills still working and two not occupied. By the end of the Century the industry was gone but the ruins of the early mills are still to be seen by the banks of the brook and, at the Little Mill Inn, the site of the water wheel. Perhaps nowhere better in the area can one get the impression of the water power phase.

While many of the mills in these hamlets were on a small scale some, especially in the main centres, were more considerable. Samuel Oldknow's mill at Mellor had 10,000 spindles at work in 1804 and employed 432 hands including 60 apprentices, 20 mechanics and 100 pickers. Two of the most prominent of the early mills at Glossop were Wren Nest and Howard Town. Wren Nest was developed by Francis Sumner in the 1820's from a small mill built earlier and parts of the building today date back to the early 19th Century. The Wood brothers started their business at Water Mill but it was after they moved to Howard Town about 1830 that the firm really grew in scale. At New Mills the early mills were sited along the banks of the Sett and Goyt. Later when steam had replaced water power there was fresh building higher up along the side of the Peak Forest Canal, and in this later phase there was a concentration on the secondary process rather than on spinning. These early manufacturers produced mainly for the Manchester market where they regularly attended on Tuesdays and many had warehouses in Manchester, the early directories recording their two addresses. The commercial links of the area indeed are very much with Manchester and Stockport and it is, like the neighbouring part of Cheshire, an extension of the Lancashire textile area.

Another change which was largely contemporary with the growth of the factory cotton industry was the decline of the old woollen manufacture. William Radcliffe mentions that at Mellor at the beginning of the 19th Century cotton was already replacing wool in the domestic industry. Nevertheless, wool like cotton benefited from the new machinery and woollen mills were built in the North West especially on the Yorkshire border in Glossop and Hayfield and the nearby hamlets. Farey records woollen cloth factories at Glossop, Whitfield, Ludworth, Simmondley, Hayfield, Phoside and Whaley Bridge in addition to four fulling mills, no doubt of earlier date. The Rev. D. P. Davies in his "New Historical and Descriptive View of Derbyshire" written in 1811 describes the inhabitants of Hayfield as "chiefly clothiers" and some fifteen years earlier Aikin recorded a similar impression though he mentions "that cotton has of late gained a small footing". By 1846 only two woollen mills remained: those at Gnathole in Chunall and Warp Mill at Hayfield. Hayfield by then had a much more diverse industrial pattern with two paper mills at Bank Vale, a cotton factory at Clough Mill, a cotton card factory and the calico printing works of Taylor & Lucas at Wood Mill.

The development is in many ways paralleled in parts of East Lancashire especially in Rossendale and the area round Colne and Burnley where a similar change over from wool to cotton took place at the same period. Partly it was no doubt that cottons were cheaper and offered a bigger market, partly it may be that the new machinery was more easily applied to cotton than wool. Certainly the adoption of the power loom seems to have been very much slower in the woollen industry generally.

This industrial development of the late 18th and early 19th Centuries in North West Derbyshire was not confined to spinning and weaving. There was also, for example, a very considerable growth of calico printing, an industry which in the early 18th Century had been located mainly in London but in the 1750s had found a new home in Lancashire, especially in the area round Blackburn, where fustians and greys were manufactured for printing. The introduction of the power loom led to much larger supplies of cloth and the settlement of the industry round a new source of supply in the Stockport neighbourhood. From the 1790s the print works began to be built further out in Cheshire and Derbyshire. Farey mentions mills at Glossop, New Mills, Thornsett and Mellor, and Glover records seventy-three calico printers and twenty-four engravers among the inhabitants of New Mills. John Potts of Potts, Oliver and Potts, of St. George's Engraving Works at New Mills was noted for his introduction of new designs. Edmund Potter's Dinting Vale works started in 1825 was one of the biggest in the area and Potter's Prints became very widely known. In the New Mills area the oldest works is probably that at Strines which dates from about 1794 and there were others at Birch Vale (formerly the garrison), Watford Bridge (formerly London Place), and Rock Mill. Later there were works at Furness Vale and Whaley Bridge where the mill is right by the side of the Peak Forest Canal Basin and the terminus of the Cromford and High Peak Railway, and others in the immediately adjoining parts of Cheshire, at Disley, for example, and Compstall Bridge.

Bleaching and dyeing also had their place. Farey records bleach works at Hayfield, Marple Bridge and Thornsett, and dye houses at Chunall, Hadfield and Whitfield, no doubt largely connected with the woollen industry. There was also at one time, a bleach works at Alma Mount in Rowarth and Hadfield's garrison works at New Mills became quite important. Paper manufacture too developed in the area at the same period. There were three mills at Glossop in the middle of the 19th Century of which perhaps Turnlee (Olive & Partington) was the biggest. Robert Slack had a paper mill at Bank Vale in Hayfield and there was another at Whitehough, near Chinley, which produced the largest size of paper in England and specialised in packing papers of these dimensions. Today paper is still an important industry in the area and at New Mills continues in some of the mills that were formerly used for the manufacture of cotton.

The effects of this industrial expansion can be seen in the growth of towns and population. The population of Glossop Parish rose from less

than 9,000 in 1801 to over 30,000 in 1861; in the same period that of Glossop Dale rose from 3,600 to over 21,000. Glossop itself grew almost as a new town and Old Glossop remains some three quarters of a mile away separated from Howard Town by the Manor Park, originally the grounds of Glossop Hall. It still has the air of a 17th or 18th Century town whereas the new Howard Town is characteristic of the Victorian period with its market place and Town Hall opened in 1845. There were similar developments too at the Southern end of the town in Whitfield and Charlestown. The street names themselves often show the connection with the textile industry: Wood Street, Kershaw Street, Sumner Street, are all named after local manufacturers, and Silk Street recalls that after Lombe's Patent had been ended there was at least one silk mill at Glossop. Similarly New Mills grew as a little industrial town out of the four old townships of Thornsett, Ollersett, Beard and Whittle. The earlier houses can still be seen on the sides of the Torrs above the river. Marple was similarly directly affected by the building of Oldknow's cotton mill: its population of 548 in 1754 having increased to 2,031 by 1801. The expansion was not everywhere maintained.

With the replacement of water power by steam there were local decreases to offset the general growth: Mellor with a population of 1,670 in 1801 and over 2,000 in 1831, had declined to 1,733 in 1861 and to little more than a thousand by the end of the Century. Rowarth has almost an air of a deserted village and although some of the "country" factories have continued to work, the long trend, as in Lancashire, has been towards concentration in the main centres.

The growth can be seen similarly in the Ecclesiastical History of the area. Glossop in the 18th Century was a vast parish with Chapels of Ease at Mellor, Hayfield and Charlesworth, Mellor Church now being significantly situated high on the hillside away from the modern centres of population. In the 19th Century it was broken up into six separate parishes, four within the later Borough Boundary. New Mills Church was built as a Chapel of Ease in 1827 and later became a parish on its own. Often manufacturers themselves contributed to the building; Marple Church was rebuilt by Samuel Oldknow using his own workmen. Similarly too, one sees the building of Methodist and Nonconformist Chapels. At New Mills for example, a Methodist Chapel in 1810, Primitive Methodist in 1827 and an Association Methodist in 1838.

Many of the people who contributed to this increasing population must have immigrated from neighbouring Counties and some from further afield. We know that Robert Blincoe worked at Mellor Mill after his stay at Litton and went on to mills at Bollington and Stalybridge on the Cheshire side. Some of the migration was arranged as elsewhere with the poor law authorities. Samuel Oldknow arranged with the Clerkenwell authorities in 1795 and 1796 for thirty-five boys and thirty-five girls to be conducted to Mellor by the Parish Beadle and a doctor was engaged to examine them. The number of apprentices

reached its maximum at Mellor in 1798 when there were about 100 and from then on tended to decline. All the evidence suggests that his apprentices were exceptionally well treated. Even Blincoe found nothing to complain about and one girl from Chelsea Orphanage whose memories were recalled by her descendants, talked of "porridge and bacon for breakfast, meat every day for dinner, puddings and pies on alternate days and all the fruit in the orchard eaten by the children". In the area generally, parish apprentices were much less common. The Factory inspector's report in 1811 includes ten mills at Glossop, Hayfield and New Mills, at none of which apprentices were taken and a return of apprentices in 1816 showed them employed only at Mellor Mill. By the early part of the 19th Century contract labour had normally replaced the older apprentice system.

It seems, at least probable that the development of the textile industry produced a considerable improvement in the local standard of living especially in an area where the land offered so little. Farey considered that the "earnings of the operative manufacturers considerably exceed those of agricultural labourers" and Edmund Potter in his lecture to the Little Moor and Howard Town Mechanics Institute in 1856 drew a picture of a district which industry had enabled "to increase, feed, clothe and educate its population far better than any agricultural district"; he was of course a manufacturer and saw further proof of the virtues of the factory system in "improving habits and regularities, in physical strength, self reliance and independence". There is another side to the story: Farey pointed to some of the many weaknesses of the industry at the time, its excessive dependence on the labour of women and children for example, and the tendency for employment to fall when they grew up. This he considered would result in a growing burden on the poor rates and he asserts that the rates in Glossop had risen from 1/6d. in the pound in 1784 to 6/-d. in 1807. In some places calico printing with its greater demand for adult male labour helped to avoid some of these consequences and Oldknow at Mellor set out to employ people on a basis of family groups. Three groups out of four had no adult male worker in the factory but were employed in Oldknow's other activities, coal-mining, lime burning, building, farming, road making. Sam Barton, for example, was employed on outside work at 12/-d. a week, his wife at cotton picking at 2/-d. a week, two girls as spinners at 2/6d. and 3/-d. respectively, two boys at making up at 3/6d. and 4/-d., a total of 27/-d. a week for the family when in full work. Less, however, we should think of Mellor Mill as too much of an early industrial paradise it is perhaps as well to mention that Oldknow used the truck system in the form of shop notes which he issued especially when business was difficult in 1793-4, and there is evidence of complaints about high prices at the firm's shop. Some of the employers too did something to cater for the education of their workpeople. Oldknow paid a teacher for instructing the boys on Sundays and Edmund Potter at Dinting Vale established a school in about 1840 which was attended by some sixty children. A reading room for workmen opened at mid-day and every evening.

In the North West as elsewhere in the County much work could still usefully be done by local historians on the history of the Textile Industry. In particular, it would be useful to know more about the history of individual firms and mills and about some of the manufacturers and their part in the general social life of the Victorian period. It would be useful too to have a record of old cotton mills now abandoned and perhaps used for other purposes. It is an area in many ways ideal for the study of the early stage of the industrial revolution in textiles.

APPENDIX I

List of mills and places of textile manufacture in the North West recorded by Farey in "General View of the Agriculture and Minerals of Derbyshire" 1811-17.

Cotton Spinning Mills

Bugsworth	Chapel 2	Charlesworth 2	Chisworth 6	Chunall
Dinting	Gamesley 2	Glossop 7	Hadfield 2	Hayfield 2
Ludworth 3	Mellor 5	New Mills 7	Ollersset	Padfield 5
Pilchard Green 2		Rowarth 3	Whaley Bridge	Whitfield

Calico Weaving

Beard	Chapel-en-le-Frith	Charlesworth	Chisworth	Glossop
Hadfield	Hayfield	Ludworth	Mellor	New Mills
Padfield	Simmondley	Whaley	Whittle	Ollersset

Muslin Weaving

Glossop Hadfield Hayfield Marple Bridge Mellor New Mills Rowarth

Woollen Cloth Factories (Yarn Spinning, Weaving - Cloth Dressing)

Chunall Glossop Hayfield Ludworth Phoside Simmondley
Whaley Bridge Whitfield

Fulling Mills

Glossop Hayfield Simmondley Whitfield

Calico Printing Mills

Glossop New Mills Thornsett Mellor

Bleaching Houses and Grounds

Hayfield Marple Bridge Thornsett 2

Dye Houses

Chunall Hadfield Whitfield

Cotton Machinery Makers

Glossop Hadfield

APPENDIX II

Main Sources

- J. Pilkington A View of the present state of Derbyshire 1789
- J. Farey General view of the agriculture and minerals of Derbyshire 1811-1817 3 Volumes
- S. Glover The history, gazetteer and directory of the County of Derby 1829-33 2 Volumes
- D. & S. Lysons Magna Britannia: being a concise topographical account of the several counties of Great Britain 1817. Derbyshire, Volume 5
- S. Bagshaw History, gazetteer and directory of Derbyshire 1846
- J. Aiken A description of the country from thirty to forty miles round Manchester 1795
- Wm. Radcliffe Origin of the New System of Manufacture commonly called Power Loom Weaving. Stockport 1828
- J. Hutchinson Hutchinson's tour through the High Peak of Derbyshire 1809
- D. P. Davies A new historical and descriptive view of Derbyshire 1811
- Edmund Potter A picture of a manufacturing district 1856
- Papers relating to Health, Morals of Apprentices Act, 1802, in County Records at Derby
- R. B. Robinson Longdendale: historical and descriptive sketches of the two parishes of Mottram and Glossop 1863
- J. C. Cox Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals 1890
- W. Page ed. Victoria County History of Derbyshire Volume 2
- G. Unwin, A. Hulme, G. Taylor Samuel Oldknow and the Arkwrights 1924
- Geoffrey Turnbull History of Calico Printing in Great Britain 1951
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- G. W. Daniels The Early English Cotton Industry 1920

FIRE INSURANCE MARKS

by

John Lomas

Nowadays we take many things for granted. Milk arrives in bottles, water in pipes and if we have the most insignificant outbreak of fire a fire fighting force will be on the scene in a matter of minutes. It is perhaps hard to realise the importance that once attached to the fire Insurance mark of which we see a few here and there on old buildings.

It is generally accepted that fire insurance in any form comparable with that existing today did not exist before the Great Fire of London. No mention has ever been found of any of the properties which were destroyed having been insured against the risk of fire.

Before the Great Fire the only relief from distress caused by the loss due to fire came from "briefs". These were really licenses for the collection of money for charitable ends. They were read in church and followed by a collection (There is still a reference to the reading of "briefs" in the Book of Common Prayer). The method was much subject to abuse and the amounts collected in this way frequently bore little relationship to either the worthiness of the cause or the amount of cash needed. Pepys in his diary under date 30th June 1661 says "to church, where we observe the trade in briefs is come now to be so constant a course every Sunday that we resolve to give no more to them". Some relief was also given by certain of the trade guilds where the fire had not been caused by negligence of the member concerned.

De Laune in "The Present State of London" tells us that out of 15,000 houses in London 13,200 were destroyed in the Great Fire and that actual damage amounted to nine or ten million pounds. Such appalling damage created a state of mind among the citizens of London which was conducive to a ready acceptance of almost any scheme which promised to minimise the danger of future losses.

Several abortive schemes had been from time to time put forward, but none was actually set up until 1680, when Nicholas Barbon started The Fire Office, later to be known as the Phoenix. Followed in 1683 by the Friendly Society and in 1696 by The Amicable Contributors for insuring from loss by Fire (better known as the Hand in Hand).

Most early fire insurance businesses were run on Mutual lines, there being no guarantors other than the members. On joining, members paid a deposit and entered into an undertaking to subscribe if called upon, up to a specified sum for each £100 insured towards any claim arising under any one fire, and also to pay an annual subscription per £100 insured. Deposit being returnable at the end of the insurance, usually after a period of 7 years. Double rates were payable for timber built property.

In 1708 the regulations for Poveys Salvage corps scheme were published. He started earlier in Life Assurance and his first Fire Insurance was in 1706. "Whereas it has been sadly experienced that in the time of any conflagration more movable goods merchandizes and wares have been lost by thieves and from want of present help to remove them than have been either burnt or damaged by the fire itself; and since no expedient has hitherto been made use of to prevent so publick a calamity that has undone many flourishing families, the following method is now thought of which will effectually relieve all sufferers in this case for the time to come. Viz. that every person who already has or at any time hereafter shall subscribe to Mr. Povey's Proposals for insuring movable goods merchandizes and wares from Loss or Damage by Fire shall have a mark representing the Sun nailed up against their houses; which mark is to be numbered with the number of the subscribers policy, and these to remain so long as the subscribers continue to pay their quarteridges. But if any of the said subscribers fail to pay their quarteridges when due then by order of Mr. Povey the said mark shall be taken down from the house of the person so omitting to pay his or her quarteridges as aforesaid.

2. That Mr. Povey provide a sufficient number of able bodied men out of different parishes in the cities and suburbs of London and Westminster that they may be ready to hand to give immediate assistance wherever a fire shall break forth, in removing and securing the movable goods merchandizes and wares of all such subscribers who have the aforementioned mark fixed on their houses "upholsterers, packers, winecoopers, carpenters, smiths". (men of various trades so that they could understand nature of goods and handle with skill).... "All these persons shall be called the Exchange House men and allowed a yearly salary paid by Mr. Povey". Such men had to be recommended by 6 householders (respectable) or the vicar and churchwardens where they lived. Each Exchange House man had a certificate to show that he was duly appointed as such. It was his duty to "call together the rest of his company as soon as he hears the cry of Fire in the street and forthwith repair to the place where the said fire is, and the house or houses that are so on fire or in danger of fire on which the Exchange house mark is fixed. Then he and his company are to call at such house or houses and show their certificates and offer assistance. Any subscriber living where a fire shall happen may employ as many Exchange House men as he thinks necessary and pay them each 5/- for labour if necessary up to 12 hours such payment to be included in subsequent claims under the policy

To the end that all subscribers may be certainly assured of receiving immediately this proposed assistance at a fire every Exchange House man is upon his admission to bind himself under a penalty to aid and assist no person or persons whatsoever at any fire but only such as have the Exchange House mark upon their houses". Exchange House men were exempt by law from being pressed.

This scheme was widely copied and most insurance companies established bands of salvage workers and fire fighters.

Defoe wrote of the Fire Office and Friendly Society:- "These two societies have each of them a set of lusty fellows, generally watermen, who being immediately called up wherever they live by watchmen appointed, are it must be confessed very active and diligent in helping to put out the fire".

In 1716 Sun Office, earlier Exchange House, announced that 30 firemen were employed having blue liveries and silver badges with the Sun mark on their arms. At this time the Sun also purchased its first fire engine.

In 1721 the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation stated that they had several fire engines and 56 firemen of whom 14 were watermen to work the engines and 21 other watermen trained and having proper instruments to extinguish fires, also 21 porters having proper materials for removing goods, all clothed in yellow and wearing badges.

In 1767 Sun ordered an additional floating engine, it is not known when the first was acquired. Fire Insurance companies were financially interested in fire engines in many places other than London. It is recorded that in 1787 Sun Office provided a large fire engine for the use of the people of Leeds.

In 1808 about 50 fire engines were maintained in London by the Fire Offices.

In 1825 Sun, Union and Royal Exchange placed their fire fighting forces under one Superintendent. Atlas and Phoenix joined soon after.

In 1833 London Fire Establishment came into being with James Braidwood as Superintendent and in 1866 The Fire Office Brigade was taken over by the Metropolitan Board of Works.

A very fine collection of fire insurance plates is to be found in the Guildhall at Boston, Lincolnshire. They are painted in the original colours. (One still has its original gilding).

Derby would seem to have surprisingly few Insurance marks still in position and visible. I only know of seven. They are:- on a Mill in Agard Street, at No.137 Ashbourne Road (Sun), Bridge Chapel (Guardian), Harts Chemists-Cornmarket, No.32 Friargate, 83 Old Chester Road, the Shakespeare Inn, Sadler Gate - (Sun).

References

Fire Insurance Companies in Great Britain and Ireland-F.B.Felton.
A History of British Insurance. Raynes.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN HOGNASTON

by

Philip T. Meldrum

Most of us must at some time or other have read about the shocking sanitary conditions which existed in the "good old days", but it is difficult to imagine what those conditions were truly like, and the very real dangers they involved. The following extracts - taken from the Court Rolls of the Great Court Baron of Philip Gell, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Hognaston - serve to illustrate most vividly the conditions which obtained in the village of Hognaston during the period 1752-57, and clearly reveal how unsatisfactory were the measures which were taken to counteract them:-

24th October, 1752

Also They (the Jury) do order that every Person who hath any Dunghill or Dunghills in the Town Street of Hognaston shall Remove the same out of the Town Street of Hognaston before Christmas next or Forfeit to the Lord of this Manor Two Shillings and Sixpence apiece

9th May, 1753

Also They do Discharge the several persons who were ordered to Remove their Dunghills out of the Town Street of Hognaston from the Pains laid upon them at the last Court.

Also They do order and say that John Wagstaff shall make a Ditch Sufficient to take away the water from the House in the Possion of Robert Cockin by the side of a Close called the Ballance in the Oldfield Lane before Midsummer next or fforfeit to the Lord of this Manor Two Shillings and Sixpence.

23rd October, 1753

Also They do Discharge John Wagstaff from the pains laid upon (him) at the last Court

Also They do Order and Say that John Dean shall Remove and take away his Dunghill lying at the side of his cowhouse in Hognaston Town Street on or before the Twenty third day of November now next which is an Annoyance to the Water used by certain Familys in Hognaston and not lay any more Dung there for the future to Annoy the water or fforfeit to the Lord of this Manor Twenty shillings.

Also..They do Order and Say that all and every Person or Persons who have land adjoining to the Highway between the Upper end of Tinlow field Lane and the Tinlow field Bridge shall scour up and Open their Ditches sufficient to take away the Water out of the Highway and before the Twentyfifth day of December now next or every one neglecting so to do to fforfeit Two Shillings a piece to the Lord of this Manor.

27th April 1754

Also..They do Discharge John Deane and all the Persons having lands between the Upper end of Tinlow field Lane and Tinlow field Bridge from the Pains laid severally upon them at the last Court.

22nd April 1755

Also..They do Order and say that Thomas Berrisford shall take away his Dunghill lying in the Town Street of Hognaston which is a Common Nuisance on or before the Twentyssecond Day of May next or fforfeit Ten Shillings to the Lord of the Manor.

14th October 1755

Also..They do Amerce Thomas Berrisford for not taking away his Dunghill out the Town Street of Hognaston according to a Pain laid upon him at the last Court the sum of Two Shillings to be paid to the Lord of the Manor which is affeered to the sum of Two shillings and Sixpence.

Affeerors Names: John Nuttall)
 Joshua Wibberley) Sworn

15th October 1756

Also..They do order and Say that Richard Wheeldon shall Remove and take away his Necessary House or House of Office in his Orchard which fouls the water running down to Elizabeth Kirk's House which she uses for Family use within One month now next or fforfeit Twenty Shillings to be paid to the Lord of the manor.

6th May 1757

Also..They do Amerce Richard Wheeldon for not Removing and taking away his Necessary House or House of Office in his Orchard which fouls the Water running down to Elizabeth Kirk's House which She uses for Family use according to a Pain laid at the last Court the sum of Twenty Shillings to be paid to the Lord of the Manor.

* NOTE

Affeerors, says Cowell, are "those that be appointed upon oath to mulct such as have committed faults arbitrarily punishable, and have no express penalty set down by statute". (A Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words - J.O.Halliwell).

THE ACCOUNTS OF A DERBYSHIRE VISITOR TO BATH IN 1661

by

Francis Fisher

To add yet another account of Bath to the already over-burdened literature available may seem to invite an accusation of joining the ranks of Disraeli's bores, who disputed over the authorship of the Letters of Junius. The peculiar fascination of England's classic watering place may however justify some brief notes on a recently discovered manuscript book containing, as the cover displays, an account of "Expences at Bath 1661".

The record of the visit, which ante-dated by two years the well known stay of Charles II and his Queen, was part of the meticulous accounting of Ann, wife of German Pole, lord of the manor of Radbourne, Derbyshire. This family had emerged from the civil war with its lands intact and it was therefore a squire of some substance who with his lady made the long journey from Derby, fairly certainly - as the record shews - for reasons of health.

After an opening memorandum "wee came thither the 24 of May and came from thence the 22 of June", is an entry in another hand "Att the Bathe May the 25 received the sum of forty shillings". This is the record of the senior servant or housekeeper whom they took, and lists day by day every item of expenditure in the four weeks of their stay. In all £10. 1. 2 was spent in housekeeping, some of the food being bought ready prepared.

Following these entries is a page in Madame Pole's handwriting of all her other disbursements, which are of sufficient interest to list in full.

given Dr. Maplett that day wee came to Bathe	10. 0
given him the week after	10. 0
given him when wee came away	2. 0. 0
paide the Apothecary's bill	2. 6. 10
given the Servants of the Bath	1. 0. 0
given Mr. Pole's guide	6. 0
given my guides	1. 5. 0
given the woman that keepe the doore of the Bath	5. 0
given the Chaire Men	1. 10. 0
for a paire of holland drawers for Mr. Pole	4. 6
given the Apothecary's Man	2. 6
paide for our Lodgings for a month	8. 10. 0
given Joane	1. 0. 0
given the Cooke Maide	5. 0
given the Char Woman	1. 6

for the hire of a looking glass for a month			8
for a tart			6
given a poore Woman & laide out for other occasions	2.		4
Laide out in our Journey to Bathe & the Horses			
coming back	10.	4.	0
Laide out for the Horses coming for us, & in			
our Journey home	6.	8.	0

The Totall sum of all is 46. 3. 0 *

The apothecary's bills have not come to light, but in the back of the book is one dated June 28th, 1666, when German and Ann made another visit. The account lacks interest, being mainly a list of purging pills and potions and cordial water.

From the housekeeping account may be gained a good notion of their manner of living. There is of course a prodigious quantity of meat consumed. A quarter of mutton - one presumes 28 lbs. - costing 4/- occurs several times. A breast of mutton for 1/2, a 'legge of lame' 3d and a joint of veal for 1/4 occur frequently. Dressed crabs and lobsters - the charge for one of each was a shilling - lent variety to their diet, as did the 'cuppel of Rappets' for 1/6 prepared.

Butter at 5d a pound does not in comparison seem very cheap, while sugar at 1/- a pound was an expensive item. Peas, beans and 'harticoks' - our common artichokes - appear to have been the usual vegetables. A quart of strawberries was 6d and raspberries also were in season. Two gooseberry tarts cost 1/6, but probably the other tarts which were favoured would have been meat pies. Cheesecakes occur several times. A dish of eggs is an item rarely met with in such accounts, due of course to their negligible value. The old saying 'he got eggs for his money' meaning a worthless purchase survived until comparatively recent times.

Strong beer was the usual drink, but white wine (5d a pint) also figures in the list several times. The beer was also bought in bottles. 'Beare at the Red Lion' would presumably be bought and consumed there.

About twice a week 3d was paid 'for a letter', which would have been the hand-written news-letter of the times, of which a fair number still exist. German Pole also paid a penny a day for reading the "Newes Book", which was probably kept at the Bath or in his favourite hostelry.

It could be wished that in more instances the quantities were stated: bread and milk are entered with only the money paid. We may however suppose that few present day housekeeping books would be much more explicit. Nevertheless we can form a reasonably complete picture of the manner in which the squire and his lady lived, and £46. 3. 0 for

a month's sojourn must have represented a very considerable sum of money.

That the visit was of benefit we may assume from the fact that a similar stay was made five years later, when Bath was enjoying a period of prosperity. The accounts for this second visit are of less interest, and contain no item to justify any further notes.

* NOTE

An incorrect addition, but presumably includes payments made to the housekeeper, in which case the error is only 10/-.

The manuscript from which the forgoing notes have been compiled is in the second collection of miscellaneous papers of Major J. W. Chandos Pole of Radbourne Hall, Derbyshire, to whom the author is indebted for permission to publish. A calendar of the papers prepared for the National Register of Archives is now at the Public Record Office.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Information regarding any query should be sent to the Section Secretary who will also be glad to receive for publication notes or queries on any branch of Local History in Derbyshire.

NQ.59 - Ridge and Furrow (Ref.NQ.58)

There are at least 12 fields showing ridge and furrow in Holmesfield, Derbyshire, sheet XVII N.E. on the 6" map of 1923 and 2 just south on map XVII S.E. There is a lot of information in "The Lost Villages of England" by Maurice Beresford - Basil W. Doncaster, Cartledge Hall, Holmesfield.

NO.60 Ashbourne Coaches In a previous issue of the Bulletin I was able to give a short extract from a notebook of Sir Henry Fitzherbert's, which gave the times of Coaches leaving Ashbourne for the "Swan with Two Necks", Lad Lane, London. The following is complimentary to it:

In 1835 I find Sir Henry staying for several months in London; at St. George's Hotel. He arrives in April, and attached to his first hotel bill is a receipt for £2. 0s. 4d, which has been paid out by the hotel for "carriage £1. 16s. 0d. and portorage 4/4".

The printed receipt form gives the following information:

SWAN WITH TWO NECKS.

Royal Mail Coach Office, Lad Lane.

The following Mails leave the above office every evening, (Sundays excepted at seven) at half past seven.

Bath and Exeter	Holyhead
Birmingham	Kidderminster
Bristol	Liverpool
Carlisle and Edinburgh	Manchester
Chester	Milford Haven
Devonport and Exeter	Norwich
Hull and Lincoln	Plymouth
Falmouth	Stroud and Minchinhampton.

Post coaches to all parts of the United Kingdom. R. H. Hayhurst

NO.61 - Thompsons of Matlock. I am an economic historian, assistant in the university of Amsterdam. Some time ago I found that two Englishmen, names John and Charles Thompson, were in 1776 at Rotterdam, introducing one of the new Arkwright inventions in my country. My knowledge of John is nihil, but his brother Charles died at Utrecht in 1838, a bachelor borne at Matlock, son of William and Sarah Thompson: they were presbyterians. The effort at Rotterdam was not a success so they went to Utrecht, where Charles was the manager of a same kind of cotton mill till 1793. Then he disappears, but in 1818 he is back at Utrecht; from 1818-1838 he is a lecturer in the University of Utrecht. I am writing a short study of the efforts to introduce the new English inventions in my country in the 18th century, and Charles Thompson seems to be one of the most interesting promoters. I wonder what kind of people these Thompsons were. Have there been relations with Arkwright as one of our historians supposed? When Thompson has introduced Arkwright's waterframe in my country in 1776, of which I have no definite evidence, then that would be the first on the continent.

Joh. de Vries, 220 Heerengracht, Amsterdam,
Holland.

NQ.62 - Dr. J. C. Holland's Biography of Richard Furness. is included in the posthumous edition of Furness's Collected poems published in 1858, the year after his death. It was published by subscription and copies are rare. The subscribers included John Bright, the Liberal M.P., Samuel Plimsoll who was later M.P. for Derby, and remembered for his work in preventing the overloading of cargo boats (Plimsoll Line), Sir Joseph Paxton M.P. for Coventry, Horatio Bottonley, and many other outstanding personalities.

Clarence Daniel.

NQ.63 - Ridge and Furrow (Ref.NQ.58)

A great number of fields around Tissington show "ridge and furrow" but nowhere are they so pronounced as in the fields at each side of the Avenue, which leads from the main Buxton-Ashbourne road to the village. Here they are sometimes three feet in depth from peak to hollow.

I have heard local farmers give three reasons for their existence:-

- (1) They are a survival from old methods of ploughing.
- (2) They are for drainage purposes.
- (3) They are formed for the purpose of making MORE land - which is rather ingenious.

Farey evidently thought them worthy of note in 1813, when he wrote "Ridges pretty generally prevail on the Derbyshire ploughed lands, whatever be the nature of the soil, or the declivity of the surface, and they seem about six yards across on the average. In Tissington Park I noticed some very highly ridged pasture lands, which are not very common in the County".

R Hayhurst

ENGLISH FOLKLORE SURVEY

This survey is being made by the English Department of University College, London, and any one interested in this aspect of English life and history is invited to assist voluntarily in the collection of folklore materials. For the purpose of this present survey folklore includes many topics such as folk-tales, anecdotes, beliefs and superstitions, customs associated with a variety of circumstances and occasions in the life of the people, traditional plays, games, pastimes and amusements, and the like. But it is not intended to cover folk-songs, folk music and folk-dances. If you are interested and willing to help please contact Professor A.H.Smith, English Folklore Survey, University College, Gower Street, London WC.1.