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After this year I do not expect to be spending as much time in Derbyshire as previously. I greatly regret, therefore, that it will not be possible for me to continue as Editor of the Miscellany. This brings to an end fourteen years of active association with the local history section of the Society. Fortunately, subject to confirmation, Miss Joan Sinar, the County Archivist, has volunteered to take my place so that from now on she will join Mr. Victor Smith as co-editor.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking all those who through the years have contributed to Miscellany, those who have supported the venture by their subscriptions and those who made that venture possible in its early days by their anonymous donations and help in many ways.

The first issue of Miscellany appeared in February 1956, and five volumes are completed with this number. In addition there have been eleven supplementary publications on a wide range of subjects. The flow of contributions has been steadily maintained, and the articles have made a most valuable addition to the history of the County.

Thank you all for your help and encouragement.

Amy A. Nixon

LEAD SMELTING BOLES IN DERBYSHIRE

by

Nellie Kirkham

In Derbyshire and elsewhere from Roman times lead smelting took place in boles situated on hilltops. These were circular hollows about 5 ft. in diameter, surrounded by a stone wall about 2 ft. high, with a hole for the draught facing the prevailing wind, west or south-west in this county. For the fire, only wood, called great wood, and brushwood, were used. Wood and ore were placed in alternate layers. The lead flowed out through a hole at the bottom, along a short channel into a bowl-shaped hollow. Before the end of the sixteenth century sometimes a foot-blast, working two bellows, was used. Two men stood with one foot on each of the bellows, treading them down alternately.

Boles were used throughout the mediaeval period, and still persisted in Derbyshire up to the seventeenth century, years after the introduction of the smelting hearth.(1)

This roasting of the ore was only partially efficient in extracting the metal, the resulting lead was soft and impure but this was not considered to be detrimental. 'Peak Lead' was specially praised, and was much in demand in mediaeval times. Rich slag, called blackwork, was left.

In 1515 the Court Rolls of the manor of Holmesfield mentioned that Roger Eyre and his brother John were intending to erect two boles, with 'Smeltyng Ovenz', upon a hill. The Victoria County History accepts that these ovens refer to the re-smelting of slag from the boles. An illustration in Agricola in 1556 shows the ore being burnt with wood in open troughs, and also in a round, walled, small enclosure with a domed top, which he called an oven-shaped furnace. It can be accepted, as most authorities do, that boles were open at the top, in which case one can suggest that these oven-shaped ones may be the 'Smeltyng Ovenz' for re-smelting the blackwork. Charcoal was used in Derbyshire for iron smelting by the fourteenth century, so probably charcoal was used in the early slag-smelting ovens, just as it was in the later slag hearths. The open topped bole, using wood, would produce less heat, while smelting in the oven develops greater heat, resulting in a harder lead, which they said was inferior, and which was called slag-lead.(2)

It could be suggested that the word Bollsteads (Boolstids, boolis) perhaps refers to the slag smelting ovens. In 1518 Thomas Babbington of Dethick left all his boolis as well as his boles at Riber, Ashover and other places, stating there was blackwork to be smelted, and much of his standing and growing woods were to be used, with charcoal already made

'to burn the said bolles ore...and to smelt the blackwork and slag'.(3)

Most of the sites of boles are outside the areas in which I can do fieldwork, the only ones which I have seen are patches of rather bare ground, on which grass was hardly, if at all, growing. The site would not be acceptable unless slag could be picked up, some with small bits of lead in it, but mostly a lightish grey and light in weight. Many sites will have the advantage to the walker of being open lonely hilltops. As with all else they are probably disappearing, but if a number of people, each living near one or more boles, investigated the sites, we could collect a record of boles in Derbyshire.

A document of 1581 when mentioning some boles on a hilltop, refers to 'old Sinder heapes in a Valley adioying there unto w'ch have remayned of the old Boolinge'. It was new to me that one could look for remains of bole smelting, not just round the bole but in a valley nearby. This seemed a point to hand on to anybody who becomes interested in hunting for boles.

ABNEY Burton Bole a point on northern boundary of Abney, 1317. (SK/193.809).

ALDERWASLEY (SK/316.536) In 1555 in his will Anthony Lowe left his 'bool bolestad and smelting'. Unlocated.

ALPORT-BY-YOULGREAVE (SK/221.645) Bole 1330's, William de Birchover, and Robert Holland. Unlocated.

ASHFORD AND SHELDON BOUNDARY (1) Bole (approximately SK/149.681). Unlocated. (2) Slag mill (approximately SK/155.679). I found pieces of slag. It must have been a foot-blast mill. Both on Senior map 1617.

ASHLEYHEY (an area) Alport Hill, (SK/304.516). Archaeological investigations revealed pieces of sandstone which had been exposed to great heat. There is no further evidence that there was a bole here, but there is an as yet unproved possible site about half a mile west of the hill. There is Bolehill on Greenwood map 1830, to north of Alport Hill (approximately SK/308.524). Doubtful position, on a northern slope. Cinder Hillock (Cameron) unlocated.

ASHOVER. Sites of boles known 1722. (1) Amber Lane Head at Amber Hill, (approximately SK/329.625). (2) Hilltop, (approximately SK/347.640). (3) Top of the Hay (SK/356.608). (4) Windmill Hill, near Cold Harbour. Slag Hills (SK/346.596). Thomas Babbington had a bole in 1518.

AULT HUCKNALL ((SK/385.705) Bolehill (C), unlocated.

BAMFORD (SK/208.836) Bole Low, unlocated.

BARLBOROUGH (SK/495.773) Sinderhill (C), unlocated.

BARLOW Bolehill (SK/334.746).

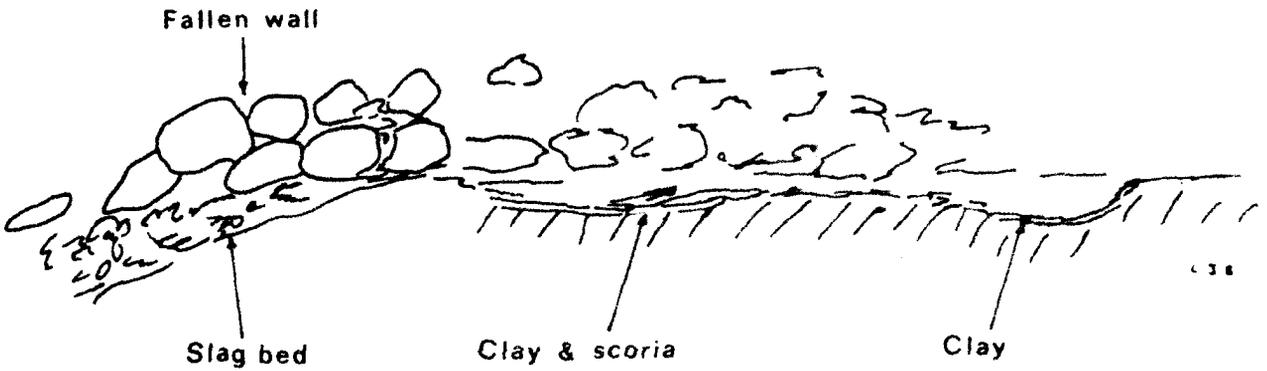
Stone of 3 courses fallen

Stone of 3 courses

Gap

Gap

? Pig bed



638

BOLE DISCOVERED AT WINTERINGS, SWALEDALE.

Reproduced by the kind permission of Dr. Arthur Raistrick.

BASLOW (1) Birchen Edge Bole, I found slag. (SK/281.725). (2) Baslow Edge Bole (SK/260.743). (3) Three boles below Raven's Rock (SK/281.723). (4) Bole (SK/259.728). Bole Low, unlocated. Bowles Hill Piece (C), unlocated. (see Calver). The Lord de Vernon had $\frac{1}{3}$ rd part of boles on the Common mid 14th century. Thurstan del Boure of Tideswell had boles in 1392. William del Huklow burnt lead ore on the Common for del Boure without licence. In 1392 Henry and Ralph del Litton, and Roger del Wormhill had a licence for boles.

BELPER (SK/349.476) Cinderhill (C), unlocated.

BIRCHOVER (SK/238.622) Booleflatt (C), unlocated.

BOLSOVER (SK/474.704) Bole, Appleton Close (C), unlocated.

BRAMPTON (1) Bole on Puddingpie Hill (SK/311.714). (2) Bolehill (SK/315.702). Sinderhill 13th century (C). In 1581 mention of Ralph Heathcote's old boles on Brampton Hill.

CALVER (or Baslow) on boundary, above Bank Wood. In 1432 and 1598 'bole on bole edge toppe'. (Very approximately SK/234.732). Unlocated.

CARSINGTON, Owslow. Pig of lead, query Roman, no usual inscription, warped shape, impure lead at bottom, purer on top. Roman pottery etc. found. (SK/238.534). At 100 ft. higher contour suitable for bole, none located.

CHADDESDEN (SK/370.370). Sinderlands or Sinder Low (C) unlocated. Signs of smelting have been found on the west side, at Derby Race Course.

CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH (SK/060.808) Bolehill Clough (C), unlocated.

CHATSWORTH Bole, Old Park Plantation, ~~SK/264.698~~ Baslow. Unlocated. In 1431, Philip Leche of Chatsworth was selling lead 'bool weight', undertaking to 'block and brend' it.

CHESTERFIELD (See Brampton, and Holymoore Top).

CHINLEY Bolehill. (SK/051.839).

COXBENCH (SK/372.436). Le bolle 1395 (C), unlocated.

CROMFORD In 1766 a Roman pig of lead was dug up in a bole on Cromford Moor. Unlocated. In 1505 there were two boles, north and south, on Barrel Edge (SK/294.554), this was included in Cromford Moor in the 17th century.

CURBAR Bole on White Edge (SK/262.765), unlocated.

DERWENT (a large area) Bole. Probably at Lead Hill, smelted lead found in two places, on the summit, and lower down. (SK/197.872).

DORE (SK/308.810) Cinderhills (C), unlocated. (see Ringinglow)

DRONFIELD WOODHOUSES (SK/330.785) Sinderlands 1561 (C), unlocated.

ECKINGTON (1) Bole on south edge of approximately SK/430.789. (2) Bolehill (SK/410.787).

EYAM (1) Bolehill Eyam Moor (SK/217.793). (2) Bole near Wet Withins (stone circle) (SK/225.790), unlocated. (3) Eyam Woodlands (an area SK/230.798). (4) Bole near Riley House (SK/226.766), unlocated. (5) Ladywash Bole. I found slag (SK/217.775). Roman urn and coins found there. Bole Hill Field (C) unlocated. There was a bole at Eyam c.1300.

HATHERSAGE Outseats, Bolehill (SK/222.840). Smelted lead found.

HAYFIELD (SK/036.870) Bolehill (C), unlocated.

HIGHLOW Bolehill (SK/221.802).

HOLBROOK (SK/364.448) Le Bolle 1395 (C), unlocated. Holbrook is on the Portway, and 1½ miles from Rykneld Street. (see Coxbench).

HOLMESFIELD (1) Farey says a bole at Bank, ½ mile S.W. of Holmesfield, (?) Bank Green 1 mile S.W. This may be the bole at Unthank (SK/304.760). (2) Bolehill, Fox Lane, just E. of Ramsley Moor. The late Mr. G. H. B. Ward picked up slag. (SK/295.748). (3) Le Bolehill 1364, Huet (Hewitt) Bolehill (C). Mr. Ward states that on Hewitt Bank (the long hill on E. side of Ramsley Moor) he believed there had been a bole near the highest point (996 ft. O.D.). The S. to N. stream on the W. of this is Bolehill Sitch. The Eyre's had two boles on Hewod Hill, also a washing place near. Also, Bole Doles (C), unlocated. (see Owler Bar and Unthank).

HOLYMOOR TOP Bolehill, N.E. Harwood Cupola (SK/312,688), unlocated.

KILBURN Cinderhill (SK/375.467). Less than 1 mile from Rykneld Street.

KIRKHALLAM (7 miles N.E. Derby) Cinderhulfreue 14th century, unlocated.

KIRKIRETON (SK/266.50L) Bolefield (C), unlocated.

KNIVETON Cinderhill (SK/207.502). Le Bolegate 13th century (C), unlocated.

LADYCLIFF Bole, Robert de Holland. Wood for Ladycliff bole bought from Alderwasley (SK/336.577), unlocated.

LEA (SK/328.577). Farey says bole at Cold Harbour, but this is 2 miles N.E. of Lea and is in Ashover (see).

LONGHOW Boles of William de Birchover, smelter. In 1321 he was deputy

for Roger Beler, at Wirksworth and Hartington mines, and at the waterwash of Bromyegg (unlocated). In the 1330's he held lands in Stanton-in-the-Peak, Birchover, and Winster. Unlocated.

MATLOCK (1) Roman pig of lead found on Matlock Moor (large area, N.E. of Matlock) close to a bole with a hearth of flat stones. (2) Roman pig on ground of Portland Grange (Hurdley Grange SK/320.617) on Tansley Moor, surface nearby with small hollows, showing action of fire. Both unlocated, but said to be not far from each other. (3) Slag Piece (C), unlocated. (see Ribber).

MELLOR (1) Bolehill (SK/453.078). (2) Bolehill, 1 mile N.W. New Mills (SK/010.860).

NORTON (1) Bolehill SK/352.828. (2) Bolehill approximately SK/365.812.

OWLER BAR (SK/294.780). Bole unlocated.

OFFERTON MOOR Bole on Smelting Hill. I found slag and crudely smelted lead. (SK/207.802).

OKER HILL (SK/271.613). (1) Pig of lead, Roman coins, found. Rough ground on summit, could be site of bole. (2) Over Bole Close lies on very low ground.

PADLEY Bolehill (SK/249.794).

PILSLEY (SK/393.634) Cinderhill (C), unlocated.

RIBBER Bole, probably either Ribber Hill (SK/306.589) or Bilberry Knoll (SK/309.579). In 1518 Thomas Babbington left a bole in his will, unlocated.

RINGINGLOW (1) Bole, unlocated. There is a Smelting House Farm (SK/295.838). (2) Bolehill, (approximately SK/310.835).

ROWSLEY MOOR Large area E. of Rowsley (SK/256.658). Reference to slag found on moor, unlocated.

SHELDON (1) Bolehill. (SK/182.676). When opencast fluorspar working was done in 1950's, lead slag found about 8 ft. underground, heavier in lead than slag found on Ladywash Bole or Offerton bole. (2) Bole Piece (SK/169.686). (See Ashford).

SHOTTLE AND POSTERN (an area SK/310.485) The Bolles (C), unlocated.

SPONDON (SK/400.360) Cinderlands (C), unlocated.

STANTON-IN-THE-PEAK (SK/400.360) Stanton Moor Bole, unlocated. A bole in 1521.

STAVELEY Slag Lane, going over high contoured hilltop, query bole, unlocated. (SK/403.762). Cinderhill Meadow, or Close (C), unlocated.

SUTTON-IN-SCARSDALE (3½ miles S.E. Chesterfield) Cinderhill (C), unlocated.

TOTLEY Bolehill (SK/290.800). Reported that slag picked up.

UNTHANK Bole, (approximately SK/304.760). (see Holmesfield.)

WALTON-ON-TRENT (SK/215.180) Bole Furlong (C) very low ground, unlikely bole unlocated.

WHITTINGTON (SK/384.752) (Large area N. of Chesterfield). Cinder Hill (C), unlocated.

WHITWELL Burnhill Wood (SK/513.762). No mention of bole.

WINDLEY (SK/304.450). Synderhill (C) unlocated.

WINGERWORTH (SK/380.675) Bolehill (C), unlocated. Farey says S.W. of Wingerworth.

WIRKSWORTH Bolehill (SK/292.550). Local information, a bole uncovered on S. end of the hill. 1563 inventory of Ralph Gell 'Lead redye made...lying on the Bole Hyll'.

In 1505 Richard Blackwell of Wirksworth, besides his two boles on Barrel Edge, had a bole 'beyond the Darren', (River Derwent). Unlocated. In 1554 Sir Raph Sacheverel left his 'gretter booll', his blackwork, and woods which he had bought specially, also his 'lesse Boolle' and blackwork. Unlocated. In 1514 Sir Henry Vernon left his bole and blackwork. Unlocated. There is local information that last century, someone born c.1826 used to fetch slag from boles in Eyam and Grindleford to be re-smelted at the Cupola, Middleton Dale.

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DENBY

The Church Warden's accounts for the year 1746 contain the following items:-

paid for 2 papers for ye vast days	2. 6
paid for a book for ye day of Thanksgiving	1. 6
paid for 2 books about ye distempered Cattel(Rinderpest?)	2. 0
paid for Court fee	5. 10
paid for Irons for the fast Bell stripping the irons of it	1. 0
paid for repairing the bell wheel	1. 0
allowed for the old iron	1. 3

In 1748 0.6d. was paid 'for a prayer book about ye Cattle'.

A Riotous Assembly in 1831 caused some expense to the County and a receipt dated 21 June 1833 was given by R. W. Birch, High Constable of Derbyshire, in respect of money, being the proportion of the Damages, and Costs, awarded to Francis Mundy and others for damage for felonious demolition in part of new Dwelling houses, by certain riotous assemblies in the month of October 1831.

Ordered to be raised upon the Inhabitants of the Hundred of Morleston and Litchurch.

F. S. Ogden

TURNPIKE ROADS

by

Robert Thornhill

The general conception of a Turnpike Road is probably of one on which Toll Bars were erected, and where tolls had to be paid for horses and vehicles passing through, and that these tolls paid for maintaining the road.

This is true so far as it goes, but is only part of the story as I discovered when dealing with the records of a local Turnpike Trust which was responsible for making 18½ miles of road, one half of which, the Ashford to Buxton section, is now part of the trunk road A6.

Although the length of this road was short, three Acts of Parliament 1810, 1811 and 1831-2 were necessary, and as these contained nearly a hundred pages of printed matter one can have some sympathy for the clerk who had to advise the Trustees.

There had been acts for Derbyshire roads from 1725 but these notes are about what may be described as General Turnpike Acts - those applying to roads generally, and in particular to one of 3 Geo 4 (Aug 1822) entitled:

An Act to amend the General Laws now in being for regulating Turnpike Roads in that Part of Great Britain called England.

It was of considerable length with 153 clauses and 24 Forms of Proceedings, and, as marginal notes showed that no less than 16 previous Acts (13 Geo 3 to 51 Geo 3) were repealed, it was thought that this one would simplify matters and make the position perfectly clear so far as Turnpike Roads were concerned.

This was not so, as eleven months later there was another Act 4 Geo 4 (July 1823) entitled:

An Act to explain and amend an Act, passed the Third Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, to Amend the general Laws now being for regulating Turnpike Roads in that Part of Great Britain called England.

There were 94 clauses this time which seemed to be a large number to "explain and amend" an act issued less than a year previously, someone else must have had a similar idea as an extensive hand-written index was attached to the copies of the acts.

In order to understand something of the complexity of the position, it

is necessary to remember that new roads were being made where none had existed before, existing ones were being improved and revenue had to be obtained by way of tolls, from those who used the roads, in order to maintain them.

As roads were surfaced with a mixture of broken stone, soil and water, they were relatively soft particularly in winter, or at other times during a spell of wet weather. When in that condition a waggon fitted with wide wheels would be less liable to cut them up than a vehicle of similar weight with narrow wheels.

After 1st January 1823 every Waggon, Wain, Cart or other such Carriage having the Bottom or Sole of the Fellies of the Wheels, of the breadth of six inches or over paid the lowest toll, those with wheels $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide and under 6 in. had to pay one-fourth more, and those below $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. one half more. A dictionary definition of "felly" (fel-le) is "one of the curved pieces of wood which are joined together to form the rim of a wheel; the rim of a wheel".

Later it was ordered that the "Tire or Tires" of wheels should not deviate more than a given limit and that the "Nails of the Tire" should be countersunk in order that they did not project more than one quarter of an inch above any part of the surface of the Tire.

By the 1822 Act it was enacted that from the first of January 1826 "no Waggon or other such Carriage shall be allowed to travel or be used on any Road, with the Fellies of the Wheels thereof of a less breadth than Three Inches", but in the next act, only a year later, this was repealed.

There were, as now, regulations regarding weights which could be carried but no longer have these to be varied according to the season of the year, a laden waggon with nine inch wheels was limited to 6 tons 10 cwt. in the summer but only 6 tons in the winter, which was defined as from 1st November to 30th April, both days inclusive, if the wheels were three inch the permitted weights were 3 tons 15 cwt. in summer and 3 tons 5 cwt. in winter. For a cart with three inch wheels the weights were 1 ton 15 cwt. and 1 ton 10 cwt.

At the end of the 1822 Act was a Table of Weights allowed in summer and winter for eight classes of vehicles, but the 1823 Act stated that it "has been found faulty" so it was repealed and a new schedule annexed - the only difference was that the permitted summer and winter weights for both waggons and carts with 6 in. wheels was increased 5 cwt.

Weighing Engines or Weighing Machines could be erected near a Toll Gate or Bar and any Waggon or Carriage conveying Goods or Merchandise coming within 100 yards could be weighed, and if a Toll Keeper allowed a Waggon, Cart or other Carriage to pass through a toll gate with greater weight than allowed, without weighing it, and receiving additional tolls, he was liable

to a penalty of £5.

If a Trustee, Commissioner or Surveyor had cause to suspect any connivance or neglect, and the waggon had not passed above 300 yards beyond the Toll Gate he could cause it to return to the Weighing Engine, paying or tendering to the driver one shilling for so doing, and which was to be refunded if the loading was found to be over the weight allowed.

As roads were usually not very wide, and to enable a waggon to be sent back to be weighed, surveyors were authorised "to make convenient Places for turning such Carriages upon ever such Turnpike Road where any Weighing Engine shall be erected, within Three hundred Yards of such Toll Gate, on each Side thereof, if the ground will admit of the same". If any readers are aware of sites of Weighing Engines and Turning Places in Derbyshire, and which can still be identified, perhaps they will advise the Editors.

Toll charges were not actually on a vehicle but "for the Horse or Horses or other Cattle drawing the same", in some instances the reference is to Horses or Beasts of Draught drawing Waggons, Wains, Carts or Carriages.

Carriages in this instance does not refer to a passenger carrying vehicle as a following clause states that nothing in the act "relating to the Breadth of the Wheels of Carriages, or to the Regulations of Weight, or the Tolls payable in respect of the Wheels, or of the Weight of Carriages shall extend or be construed to extend to any Chaise, Marine, Coach, Landau, Berlin, Barouche, Sociable, Chariot, Calash, Hearse, Break, Chaise, Curricule, Gig, Chair or Taxed Cart, or any Cart not drawn by more than One Horse or Two Oxen". The position regarding Oxen is made quite clear in another clause: "And be it further enacted, That in all Carriages wherein Oxen or Neat Cattle shall be used, Two Oxen or Neat Cattle shall be considered as One Horse, for all the purposes mentioned in this Act, or any particular Turnpike Act with respect to Tolls or other Things".

The Regulations of Weight did not extend to any waggon etc. "carrying only One Block, Plate, Roll or Vessel of Iron or other Metal, or compounded of any Two or more Metals cast, wrought, or united in One Piece".

When there is a report in the press, most probably early in the month of November, that fireworks must not be let off on the highway, how many realise that the regulation dates from the days of horse drawn vehicles, and the danger which could result from horses drawing say a Stage Coach being stampeded, it was then an offence to "make or assist in making any Fire or Fires commonly called Bonfires, or set fire to or wantonly let off or throw any Squib, Rocket, Serpent, or other Firework whatsoever, within Eighty Feet of the Centre of such Road".

There was a long list of things which were not permitted, some may seem a little strange for example persons were not allowed to "bait or run for the Purpose of baiting any Bull, or play at Football, Tennis, Fives, Cricket,

or any other Game or Games upon such Road, or on the Side or Sides thereof, or in any exposed Situation near thereto, to the Annoyance of any Passenger or Passengers".

When driving Pigs or Swine upon a road they must not be allowed to root up or damage the Fences, Hedges, Banks or Copse on either side. This is quite reasonable, but it is rather difficult to understand why anyone "occupying a Blacksmith's Shop situate near any Turnpike Road, and having a Window or Windows fronting the said Road, shall not, by good and close Shutters every Evening after it becomes Twilight, bar and prevent the Light from such Shop shining into or upon the said Road".

If one were thinking of putting up a windmill it was necessary to remember "That no Person shall hereafter erect or cause any Windmill to be erected within the distance of Two hundred Yards from any Part of any Turnpike Road, under the Penalty of Five Pounds for each and every Day such Windmill shall continue".

Those who remember the early days of motor cars and the great clouds of dust which arose when a car passed along a road on a dry summer day may be interested to know that trouble was experienced in the days of horse drawn coaches. Dust was not mentioned but why else should it have been necessary "to water the Roads during certain Months in the Year".

The Act of 1822 deals at length with "Extending Time for watering Roads", power was given to trustees to water roads during certain months in the year and to take additional tolls, but "the Time specified in such Acts has been found in many Instances too limited to afford the Public all the Advantages which might be derived from watering the said Roads". The reason for watering was not stated, but if it were not to reduce the trouble with dust during dry weather it is strange that the law was altered to permit watering any time between the "First Day of March in every Year and the First Day of November following" as one would not expect trouble with dust during the remainder of the year. Anyway the trustees were "authorised to exercise and enforce all the Powers, Authorities, Remedies and Penalties, for collecting the additional Tolls for watering the Roads". Watering the roads would be difficult when water had to be carried a long distance and this would frequently be the case.

It was not permitted to unload Goods, Wares or Merchandise at or before reaching a Turnpike Gate or Weighing Engine, or to "load or lay upon such Carriage after the same shall have passed any such Turnpike or Weighing Engine any Goods, Wares or Merchandise, taken or unladen from any Horse, Cart, or other Carriage belonging to or hired or borrowed by the same Waggoner or Carrier in order to avoid the Payment for Overweight".

Farmers received consideration as there was exemption from Toll "in respect of any Horse, Mule, Ass, Ox, Waggon, Cart or other Carriage, drawing or carrying any Dung, Mould, Marl or Compost, of any Nature or Kind soever,

for improving or manuring the land, or Hay, Straw, or any other Fodder for Cattle". There was also exemption for a vehicle going empty or loaded only with implements but "for the preventing of Frauds on Toll Collectors by Waggons, Carts, or other Carriages passing empty, or loaded only with Implements.....under Pretence of going for such Manure or Materials the Owner or Driver" had to pay the Toll and receive a ticket marked "Manure Exemption", and on presenting this on the return journey the sum paid would be repaid. There was also exemption for Horses or other Beasts employed in Husbandry going to or returning from Plough or Harrow, or to or from Pasture or Watering Place, or being shod or farried if they did not go more than two miles on the Turnpike Road.

Exemption could be claimed when going or returning from Church or Chapel on Sundays "or on Day on which Divine Service is by Authority ordered to be celebrated" or attending a funeral. A Rector, Vicar or Curate was at liberty to visit sick Parishioners or attend other Parochial Duty within his Parish, and Horses, Carts or Waggons carrying a Vagrant sent by a legal Pass, or a Prisoner sent by a legal Warrant were exempt from Toll.

Under the 1822 Act any Horse, Ass, Sheep, Swine or other Beast or Cattle found wandering, straying or lying about any Turnpike Road could be placed in the common Pound of the Parish or such other place provided by the Trustees until the Owner paid "the Sum of Five Shillings to the Person impounding the same, together with the reasonable Charges of impounding and keeping the same". The following year the "said Provision" was repealed as it had been found inconvenient. Instead of paying five shillings to the person who impounded the animals, the sum of two shillings had to be paid for each animal, together with reasonable Charges and Expences of impounding and keeping the same, and this was applied "to the Use of, and in Aid of the Tolls of such Road".

A carrier "conveying Goods for Hire or Reward, or for Sale, on any Turnpike Road" was obliged to "chain or fasten any Dog that was attending him.....to such Waggon, Wain, Cart or Carriage" or forfeit a sum not exceeding twenty shillings.

To release or attempt to release animals which had been seized for the purpose of being impounded, or to damage the Pound was a serious offence, and on conviction a person could be committed to the Common Gaol or House of Correction "there to remain without Bail or Mainprize for any Time not exceeding Three Calendar Months". A more serious offence was to "pull down, pluck up, throw down, level or otherwise destroy or damage any Turnpike Gate, or any Chain, Rail, Post or Bar", every Person so offending and found guilty "shall be transported to One of His Majesty's Plantations Abroad for Seven Years, or in Mitigation thereof shall suffer other Punishment as the Court may direct, as in Cases of Petit Larceny".

It was lawful for "one Person to act as the Driver of two Carts on any Turnpike Road" provided they were not "drawn by more than One Horse each,

and the Horse of the hinder Cart shall be attached by a Rein or Reins to the Back of the Cart which shall be foremost".

But it was not lawful for one, or frequently more, carts or waggons to be "intrusted to the Care of Children, who are unable to guide the Horses drawing the same" so in future "no Cart or Waggon travelling on any Turnpike Road, shall be driven by any Person or Persons who shall not be of the full Age of Thirteen Years".

Trustees could order one or more lamps to be erected in front of every Toll House, and to order "at what Times of the Year and during what Hours such Lamp or Lamps, or any of them, shall be kept lighted".

Following due notice having been given, Trustees could have built "where they shall judge necessary, such and so many Toll Gates, Turnpikes, Side Bars, and Chains, with Toll Houses, Outhouses, and other Conveniences thereto, and also to take in and inclose on the Sides of such Road, or any Part thereof, suitable Garden Spots for each of such Toll Houses, not exceeding One Eighth of a Statute Acre". They could also have Toll Houses taken down and discontinued, or to be removed and placed elsewhere.

The last two notes are from Acts passed in 1827 and 1828, between then and 1855 a further sixteen General Turnpike Road Acts were issued but with an odd exception, they were quite short and contained nothing of special interest.

"An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Highways in that Part of Great Britain called England. 5 & 6 Will 4 Aug. 1835".

This Act was similar to the two already dealt with, and contained 120 clauses and 25 schedules, eleven earlier acts were repealed in whole or part, the first being that of 6 Geo.1 (1719-20).

From 1835 no Tree, Bush or Shrub was to be planted with fifteen feet of the centre of a road, and if the surveyor "shall think that any Carriageway or Cartway is prejudiced by the Shade of any Hedges, or by any Trees (except those Trees planted for Ornament or for Shelter to any Hop Ground, House, Building or Court Yard of the Owner thereof) growing in or near such Hedges or other Fences, and that the Sun and Wind are excluded from such Highway, to the Damage thereof, or if any Obstruction is caused..." he could apply to the court to have them cut.

It was not lawful "for any Person to sink any Pit or Shaft, or erect any Steam Engine, Gin or other like Machine, or any Machinery attached thereto" within 25 yards, nor any Windmill within 50 yards from any part of the road unless the first items were in a building or behind a wall which would conceal or screen them from the "Carriageway or Cartway, so that the same may not be dangerous to Passengers, Horses or Cattle". Previously a Windmill had to be 200 yards away.

Baiting a bull on the road was still prohibited but when animals strayed on the highway the fine was only one shilling each. The penalty for Pound-breach was reduced somewhat, to a fine not exceeding £20 or to be committed to the House of Correction "there to be kept to Hard Labour for any Time, not exceeding Three Calendar Months".

Such were some of the many regulations introduced during the early days of our Turnpike Roads.

SOME NOTES ON TOLLBARS AND TURNPIKE ROADS

by

W. H. Brighthouse

Roads became a subject of national concern in 1555 when a famous statute of that date provided for an organisation specially for road maintenance. This act created for every village a "Surveyor of Highways" who was responsible for all existing highways within the parish boundary. All the labour involved in road repairs and also the tools, horses, carts and materials used had to be supplied by the villagers free of charge. Villagers were called upon for this work by being notified in church that they were required on four specified days annually to work eight hours per day without payment, at which time every able bodied villager had to turn out.

By 1563 it was found that roads were still not reaching the necessary standards and so the period of free labour required was increased to six consecutive days. This was called "Statute Labour" or "Team Duty" and was strictly enforced. The method proved to be sadly ineffective and from this period, indeed until about 1800, the whole of England had practically nothing but soft dirt roads and at the best they were only mended with weak sand and gravel. It was not, in fact, until 1596 that the word road made its first appearance in the English language.

After the Civil War, Cromwell's Commonwealth Government introduced a highway rate which was not to exceed 1/-d. in the pound, so that labourers and teams could be hired and the roads repaired on a systematic basis, but even with the vigour of this new government the "know-how" of road making was still absent and little improvement, other than scraping soil back into the ruts made by waggons, was forthcoming. After the Reformation there was a strong reluctance to raise this highway rate and so statute labour again became the basis of road repair.

The first intimation of toll charging occurred in 1663 when this method of raising money for road repairs was placed before Parliament and the system

developed with some success to the end of that century, placing the responsibility for highway maintenance upon the County Justices. However, in 1706 the first of well over 1,000 Turnpike Trusts was created by Act of Parliament and these trustees were then charged with the responsibility of maintenance and improvement upon a specified stretch of road. They were empowered to borrow money in order to improve and repair their stipulated length of road and to levy tolls on certain kinds of traffic using them. In the first instance pikes or bars were erected at specified points along the road at which tolls were exacted. By 1716, that is ten years later, a further act gave the trustees the power to erect "toll houses, toll bars, turnpikes, crates or gates" and to charge a fixed sum for definite types of transport.

During the next fifty years the turnpike authorities continued to gain new powers. They could purchase land compulsorily to widen narrow ways or improve gradients, they could erect bars against access to their road from byways, they could close ancient highways, divert others at their pleasure, and compel everyone to travel by the new road which they had constructed, and of course pay the necessary toll. In this way many ancient hamlets were deprived of a public road, and this naturally caused many objections and indeed disturbances. Some turnpike gates and houses were pulled down, cut down or burned down in protest and this type of action became so wide-spread that the sentence for this offence was raised from three months hard labour and whipping to death without the benefit of clergy.

The road surfaces still showed little signs of improvement and caused grave public concern, particularly so as wheeled traffic was on the increase and damaging the soft surfaces by ruts faster than it could be repaired. Certain restrictions were therefore imposed, and heavier tolls demanded of the more disastrous type of vehicle. The heavier narrow wheeled vehicles which caused most damage were in fact prohibited entirely. This was so enforced at some toll bars that a most complicated timber structure was erected to check the weights of waggons before they were allowed to pass. This method proved most unsuccessful and cumbersome that it was not developed, moreover it led to corruption whereby the toll keeper closed his eyes to certain heavy vehicles providing he too received a toll for himself.

In the latter half of the eighteenth century the trusts became bogged down by administrative failures in both workmanship and control. Firstly, the "Statute Labourers" avoided as much work as possible during the period of enforced team duty, and to overcome this difficulty a local farmer would be paid a lump sum to undertake the duty of maintaining a given stretch of road under repair. This led to a new phrase "farming-out" of duties, and proved quite ruinous to the roads. Secondly the tolls which were the main source of income led to endless evasions, inequalities, favouritisms, arbitrary exactions and petty embezzlements, as well as the avoidance of payment by dashing through the gates (see "John Gilpin") or fraudulently pretending to be exempt. Some exemptions were legitimate in favour of agriculture, such items as ploughs, farm implements, manure carts, harvest

waggons and cattle being moved to pasture, all passed without charge, but whilst this protected an important industry, it nevertheless robbed the trusts of some of their essential receipts. Thirdly, the gatekeepers sometimes known as "pikemen" were uneducated and unable to keep records, sometimes allowing evasions, and almost always retaining some part of each days takings for themselves. This unsatisfactory system of gatekeeping led to the "farming-out" of gates, that is the leasing of each gate with its power of exacting tolls to a private individual in exchange for a fixed sum per annum. The letting of the toll gates was done by public auction, the highest bidder becoming the lessee for a fixed period of time.

At the turn of the nineteenth century "Blind Jack" Metcalfe, Thomas Telford and John L. Macadam brought such revolutions to road surfacing that the turnpikes soon started to make a name for themselves and everyone wanted their stretch of road to become turnpike, until in 1837 the Turnpike Revenue collected through tolls reached its highest peak, exceeding for the year £1½ million. From this date onwards the advent of the railways started the downfall of the turnpike trusts until by 1890 only two of them remained, and in 1895 the last toll was levied on the Anglesey portion of the Shrewsbury and Holyhead road, at which time the new county councils had been formed and were charged with the responsibility to maintain entirely the main roads within their respective county boundaries.

Road widening soon led to demolition of toll houses whose tell-tale bay windows and porches encroached upon the road itself. Gates were taken down and gate posts removed until few are left to-day to tell the story. However, in the case of toll houses there still remain sufficient in Derbyshire to indicate the type of buildings used and the position in which they stood. Many clues still remain to indicate which they are and a certain pattern of building is one of the first of such clues. Another is the presence of a square protrusion looking rather like a blocked-in window which housed a board displaying the list of tolls payable. Many Inns named "The Gate" were built in the vicinity of the toll gates, and in fact some inns developed from the toll bar itself. Several toll bars have been modernised and the old use of the building is perpetuated in the house name such as "Turn Pike Cottage", "Old Toll House" etc. Street names such as Three-gates, Brackley Gate, Bangate Road, are sure indications that a toll bar exists or did exist there during the last century. Perhaps one of the surest indications is the bay window or protruding porch of a really old cottage, for these were rarely installed in those days unless they served an effective service. Sometimes new bricks or stone can be seen on these buildings where they have replaced the porch or bay to allow road widening, but in all cases the toll house reaches right up to the roadside.

YOUNG STEPHEN BELLOT

by

M. A. Bellhouse

When I wrote about the "Bellots of Brocfield" some time ago (Derbyshire Miscellany Vol.III No.1 p.473) I was most disappointed that so much detail about young Stephen Bellot's life was missing.

I had no thought then for the Stockport newspapers, having concentrated on those of Derbyshire, and so missed the long account in the Stockport Advertiser (August 6th 1830) of the sad drowning accident of Stephen in the Comb Reservoir.

The Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Church Burial Register of 1830 gives only a brief note in the margin stating "drowned when bathing in the Combs Reservoir". Even W. B. Bunting only gave him a bare mention in his book on Chapel-en-le-Frith.

The Rector of St. Mary's Parish Church, Stockport, advised me to consult the Cheshire Record Office where the Parish Registers are deposited, and from them I received a copy of the licence for marriage of Stephen Bellot and his fiancée signed by Rob. Dallas, Suffogate. From all this new material I have been able to draw a clearer picture of the young man.

Stephen Bellot, son of Stephen Bellot of Brook House, Combs, Chapel-en-le-Frith, in the County of Derby and Mary Ollerenshaw, was baptised on February 5th 1809 at Chapel Parish Church. Living all his short life at Brook House, where his family had resided since 1688, when the property was bought from one Nicholas Bradshaw of Haylee, he must have known both the Brewery and the Mill in their hey-day.

Stephen was an only child, but had many young relations, both Ollerenshaw cousins in Glossop and second cousins in Manchester and Stockport, being the children of Anthony Bellot, his father's cousin. Where he was educated is not known, but I imagine that he may have been sent to boarding school in Chester, where some of the Bradbury boys of Rye Flatt went. They mention in several letters home that Mr. Bellot (senior) often came to see them.

Stephen's father made a will in 1816 leaving certain money in trust for his son's education....."Pay my son Stephen towards placing him in life before the age of 21, sums of money for his education, not exceeding the sum of £500"., etc. and....."pay over to him at the age of 21, all the residue of my estate"....."In the event of my son dying under the age of 21.....A share in trust for my cousin Anthony of Moss side near Manchester (gent.) and his eight sons, share and share alike".

Father Stephen died September 27th 1824.

Young Stephen did live to the age of 21, and so inherited the property, but only lived a further six months to enjoy it. He was drowned on July 29th 1830, leaving no will.

Stockport Advertiser February 12th 1830. "The coming of age of Stephen Bellot Esq. of Brook House, particularly on account of extensive preparations made for its celebration, diffused considerable joy throughout the neighbourhood of his residence on Friday last.

In the morning of that day, the bells of the Parish Church gave early token of the event and the merry peal was sustained with little intermission until the evening.

The invitation extended to his tenantry and their friends to the number of 150, with about 60 or more distinguished guests, and from such an assemblage some estimate may be formed of the extent of the preparation necessary for the occasion.

The company were divided into two parties, and at 9 o'clock, the one which consisted of his more intimate friends commenced dancing, an amusement which they continued with great spirit until about four the next morning, when they separated highly delighted with their host and his unbounded hospitality".

The question comes to my mind - where was this grand party held? The house would be too small, but the Reading Room, where the school was held, could have been used, or perhaps the old Bee Hive Inn had a large enough room, failing that, there was the Royal Oak Inn at Chapel.

Stephen's mother, Mary, lived to be 83, and died on December 17th 1848, being buried at Chapel Church in her son's vault. After his death she lived at Brook House, which had been left to her for her lifetime by her husband.

It is not known if young Stephen farmed the land, but his mother kept a cow for her own use. In the census for 1841 she had a young girl of 15, Isobella Bennett, living with her, the daughter of her friends from Dow (on Dove) Lane, Combs, to whom she left money in her will.

Two years before his death, Stephen completed a deep stone sough for water from the Mill Field, through the orchard to the new stone trough in the yard, dated 1828. This was quite an achievement, and thanks to being well laid is still in use to-day, the sough varying in depth from 3-5 ft. and picking up five springs on the way.

An account of the drowning of Stephen was found in the Derby Mercury of August 4th 1830.

"Stephen Bellot Esq. of Combs near Chapel-en-le-Frith, in this County, we lament to state, was drowned in the Reservoir there on Thursday afternoon, by the upsetting of a boat in which he was fishing.

He had only a few months ago attained his majority and was on the point of marriage with an amiable young lady of Stockport".

Stockport Advertiser August 6th 1830

"On Thursday last, in his 22nd year, Stephen Bellot Esq. of Brook House, Chapel.

It is only a tribute justly due to his memory to say that his virtues and amiable qualities were such as will long be remembered, and the melancholy circumstances attending his death will throw a gloom over the recollection of him in the minds of all those acquaintances who had a knowledge of his friendship.

The death of one who but in the morning was blooming in health and youth and in the evening a sad corpse, must strike every reflecting mind with horror and more particularly so, as on that day se'nnight he was to have been united to a lovely and amiable young lady.

He had gone out in the morning with three friends for the purpose of fishing in the Reservoir, but they unfortunately afterwards changed their intention to bathing.

He was the first to leave the boat for the water, and in his first plunge he sank to rise no more, being as it was supposed, seized with a fit.

Every effort was used by his friends to save him, and though two of them plunged in immediately and succeeded in raising him to the surface, yet so powerfully did he grapple with them, that they all three sank again, and with great difficulty could they ultimately extricate themselves from their perilous situation.

Had they been nearer the shore it might have been possible to have saved him, but at the distance of 40 yards from it, and the boat having drifted away from them, left the individuals no alternative but to seek their own preservation.

His remains were deposited in the yard of Chapel Church on Tuesday last and the same horses which had been engaged to convey him and his affianced bride to the hymeneal altar, formed part of the mournful procession which had to convey him to his last earthly abode".

Stephen had inherited much property from his father, and the following list is taken from "The Valuation of the Parish of Chapel (P.R. 1837) under the name "Exors. of Anthony Bellot", for under Father Stephen's will, Anthony was to inherit it if young Stephen died. Anthony inherited,

but died within two years, leaving his second daughter Mary as his heiress. Mary married Samuel Jackson, the Brewer of Brook House, (see "The Story of Combs, My Village").

Valuation List

BRADSHAW EDGE

10 Houses at Burrfield
 15 Acres Land in Chapel
 7 Houses at Lower Crossings

COMBS EDGE

Collin Acre House and 4 acres.
 Pritchard Farm House 32 "
 Land Holmes 3A OR 24P
 " Underfield 3 1 30
 Greave House Farm
 " " Land 13 1 36
 Brook Houses and Garden
 Brook " Land 44 3 28
 Land Adjoining Reservoir (Lee Field)
 Smithy
 6 Houses in Combs.

BOWDEN EDGE

4 Houses in Blackbrook
 50 Acres Land "
 17 " " Peaslows
 House & 21 acres Bagshaw
 2 Houses in the Wash
 Intake Plantation

COPY SCHEDULE OF THE TITLE DEEDS RELATING TO THE LATE STEPHEN BELLOT'S ESTATE (Lent by Mrs. T.A.D. Lawton nee Jackson)

Brookhouses	Greaves House Estate	Land in Blackbrook
Pityard Estate	Collins Acre	" " Peaslows
Heighleigh	Pyegreave	" " Combs
Corn Mill	Hitch House	" " Wash
Blackbrooke Estate	Bagshaw Estate	
Houses at Lower Crossings	House near the Workhouse	

On July 20th 1830, Stephen (in person) applied for a licence to marry Eliza Heaward of Stockport, but who gave a Manchester address to conform with the marriage regulations, as they were to be married at St. John's Church, Manchester in August. She was a minor, and may only have been 17 or 18 at the time.

I always had the belief that Stephen was to have married Ellen Bradbury of Rye Flatt, Combs, who was his own age, and who later married Anthony Bellot Jackson of New Brook House, twelve years her junior.

It is still common knowledge amongst older inhabitants (who must often have heard the story from their parents) that even at the time when Stephen was fishing in the Reservoir, his furniture was being moved to Rye Flatt. This could not have been Rye Flatt House, but might have been the farm, or Hitch House which he owned, and which belonged to the Mill.

A further account of his death and funeral was sent to me by Mr. Philip Robinson of Chesterfield, and was taken from the diary of J. B. Robinson.

July 1830. "Mr. Stephen Bellot, drowned in the Reservoir near Chapel whilst bathing with two other gentlemen, he attended my Cousin's funeral the day before and was to have been married the next Wednesday, for which occasion, vast preparations were making.

He was 21 last February, died without a Will, a Mr. Anthony Bellot heir to the estate. I and my brother (who served the funeral) attended.

The funeral was large, 4 mourning coaches with 4 grey horses in each, the hearse with 4 ditto, 2 chaises, 2 other carriages, 2 gigs and 21 gentlemen on horseback formed the procession.

He was interred in the new Burial Ground at Chapel on Tuesday, by Mr. Grundy.

Mr. Bellot, in the presence of my Uncle Bradbury, promised to leave me all the Birds which were Stephen's".

The birds referred to would be cases of stuffed birds, which were housed at Old Brook House, in the Hall, dining room and one bedroom known as the "Bird Room", as the walls were stencilled with coloured birds.

In the three rooms mentioned are still wall plugs high up near the ceilings, where the cases were displayed. For many years when the Jacksons lived at New Brook House these cases were in the hall, but now they belong to William Bellot Jackson, a descendent, living in Combs.

An elaborate tomb was built for Stephen in Chapel Church Yard, and a flowery epitaph composed by his grief-stricken fiancée (see the "Story of Combs") - who remained true to his memory until 1832.

From the Stockport Parish Register

"John Collier Vaudrey, bachelor of this Parish and this Town, and Eliza Heaward (Spinster) of the Parish of Manchester, a minor, was married in this church by licence, with consent of the lawful Guardians of the said Eliza Heaward, on 28th March 1832".

Eliza was not baptised in the Stockport Parish, but may have been baptised at St. John's Church, Manchester, where she was to have married Stephen.

The only two baptismal entries in the Stockport Parish Church Register of that period are:-

Jane daughter of Joseph and Jane Heaward of Heaton, born 19th May 1810, Baptised 10 August 1810.

Mary daughter of Thomas and Hannah Heaward of Stockport, was born on 3 July 1811, Baptised 2 August 1811.

It is interesting to note that in the 1969 Manchester Telephone Directory there are several Heawords in the Stockport area only. It appears to be an uncommon name.

A JOURNEYMAN CORDWAINER FALLS ON EVIL DAYS

by F. S. Ogden

The following document is interesting as an example of the information required from an applicant for 'parish relief' in order to establish the applicant's settlement in the particular parish which then had to accept responsibility for providing the appropriate relief. It is not a complicated case but throws an interesting sidelight on apprenticeship arrangements.

County of Derby THE EXAMINATION OF Henry Vallance of the Parish of Kirkireton in the said County Cordwainer taken on oath before us two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said County the twenty-sixth day of April in the year 1799 touching his last legal settlement.

Who saith that he is upwards of thirty-two years was born at Kirkireton aforesaid of parents who then resided there with a certificate from the Parish of Wirksworth in the County aforesaid, as he had been informed and believed that about the age of 14 years he bound himself apprentice to Thomas Mather of Wirksworth aforesaid Cordwainer for seven years that when he had served as an apprentice about 4 years his master became unable to employ or maintain him and his Parents agreed with his said master to permit him this examinant to serve the remainder of the term with another master that the said Thos Mather his Master named two persons of the same trade with himself for the Parents this examinant to chuse one for him this examinant to serve That they (his parents) chose one of them which was Thos. Winson of Brailsford in the said County That Winson paid examinant One pound to pay the said Mather for the remainder of the term which was paid to Mather accordingly and said Mather gave up the Indenture to his parents of him this examinant that his said Parents then became bound to the said Winson for the performance of the service of him this examinant for the remainder of the term that he served the said Winson for the remainder of the said term and considered himself as his apprentice and at the expiration thereof served the said Winson as a journeyman about 1 year afterwards then he intermarried with Elizabeth Thornhill his present wife in the Parish Church of Kirkireton aforesaid by whom he hath six children viz. Hellin aged about 12 years, Elizth aged 9 years, Samuel aged 6 years, Ann aged 4 years, Hannah and Mary (Twins) aged 1 year.

Taken and Sworn before us
F.N.C. Mundy
R. Bateman

his
Henry Vallance
mark

A BOOM COLLIERY IN THE BOER WAR PERIOD

by

A. R. Griffin

In the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries, there were still many small and medium sized mining enterprises which were owned either by individuals or by small private companies. Few of these family concerns have left records; and only in isolated cases are essential documents like Account Books available for research.

However, a bundle of papers relating to one such local firm, formed in the 1890's, came to light recently. This was the South Normanton Colliery Company which sank a small mine close to the Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire border in 1892-3. These papers show how profitable coal mining investment could be during a boom period. Unfortunately, the author has not yet had time to work through all the papers. The present short article is based on the Company's final accounts which are almost complete for the period 1893-1903.

South Normanton is an old coal mining area on the borders of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The colliery whose affairs we are about to examine is on the Derbyshire side of the border, but it has always been regarded as part of the Nottinghamshire coalfield because its men were organised by the Nottinghamshire Miners' Association.

Old South Normanton Colliery (often called "Winterbank" or "Wincobank") closed in March 1889,(1) following the bankruptcy of the lessees, T. H. and G. Small in 1885.(2) Judging by the Winding Engine House and headstocks, which still stand, this was an incredibly small mine. Indeed, even the new, and much larger, colliery which replaced it was still small by modern standards. In the financial year 1896-7, for example, its output was 81,600 tons, indicating a capacity of no more than 400 tons a day. Half a century later, it was still only producing 500 tons a day.

This new colliery was sunk by a syndicate from the Durham area. The founder, Mr. A. Mein of Bishop Auckland, began work on the floating of the Company in October 1891, and when the Company was incorporated in the following year, he became the Chairman and Managing Director. His fellow directors were: S. Fielden, M.D., I.W. Laverick and T. Young.(3)

The Mein family were firmly in control of the firm. The Company Secretary was Henry Johnson Mein (of Houden-le-Weir); the Manager was James Mein; the cashier was Andrew Mein and the clerk was William Hartford Mein.(4)

The Company took a lease from Hugh Browne for working coal under his Pinxton Range, Berristow and Winterbank farms for 21 years from the 25th March 1892 with an option of extension for 14 or 7 years. There was a rent certain (i.e. a fixed rent to be paid irrespective of the amount of coal won) of £200 per year, merging into a Royalty Rent of £100 per acre of coal worked. The Company had power to make up any shortworkings during the whole period of the lease; that is, if in any year the coal worked attracted a royalty rent of less than £200, this minimum sum would have to be paid but the balance of the coal to make up the Royalty of £200 would be carried forward to future years.(5)

In February 1898, the directors reported that they were about to work coal outside the boundaries of the original lease, and that they were negotiating a new lease from Hugh Browne.(6) By 1901, coal was also being worked on lease from Col. Coke (of the neighbouring Pinxton Coal Co.) Miss Peach, Miss Wright and others.(7)

It appears that the Company purchased from Hugh Browne certain items of equipment from the defunct "Winterbank" mine. In the 1894 Accounts appears the item:

"Engines, Boilers, Rails, Pipes, etc. purchased from the lessor £260".

The Directors' Report for 28th February 1893 also refers to expenditure on "Plant and Machinery at the Old South Normanton Colliery", whilst, earlier still, a rough list of accounts passed for payment at the Board Meeting on 18th June 1892 contains the item:

"Mar. 25 Hugh Browne 'Plant' £300 Os. Od."

The Accounts for half-year ending 28th February 1894 show that the sum of £199 13s. Od was spent on "remodelling No.2 Engine etc.". It seems likely that this was the old Winterbank winding engine.

Making use of second-hand equipment enabled the Company to commence operations with a very small issued capital. The Share Capital was as follows:

- 700 £10 Ordinary Shares fully paid before half-year ended 28th February 1894.
- 358 £10 Cumulative Preference Shares fully paid before half-year ended 28th February 1894.
- 70 £10 Cumulative Preference Shares fully paid during half-year ending 28th February 1894.

The issued capital therefore totalled £11,280, and this remained unchanged until at least 1903.(8)

The Chairman, Mr. A. Mein, lent the Company £500 in its early days and he received interest on this at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum. In addition, he met any cash deficiencies on general account and took interest at 5 per cent. on this. In their report for the half-year ending 28th August 1894, the Auditors commented that they had "seen no minute as to this", but since the payment of interest continued it would appear that a subsequent Board Meeting approved the arrangement. The Directors guaranteed overdraft facilities at the National Provincial Bank in the sum of £3,500, but these facilities were little used.

The directors' fees were remarkably low. In the year ended 28th February 1894 they were as follows:

A Mein, Chairman and Managing Director	£100
S. Fielden, M.D.	£25
J. W. Laverick	£25
T. Young	£25

By 1900 they had risen to £275, and they rose again to £325 in 1902.

The amount spent on opening out the colliery (Capital Account) up to 31st August 1894 was £12,749 16s. 9d. A new screening plant was added during half-year ended 28th February 1895 at a cost of £302 16s. 5d., and a further £9 3s. 0d. was spent on Capital Account in the following half-year. Deducting sums transferred to Current Account, the total cost of sinking and opening the colliery works out at £12,893 12s. 4d.

By contrast, the nearby New Hucknall Colliery sunk in 1876-1879 had capital assets reckoned to be worth £69,881 when production commenced, and this was no more than a medium-sized colliery.(9)

The Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company built a branch line to serve the colliery at a cost of £1,516. By an Agreement dated 23rd June 1893, the South Normanton Company undertook to repay this sum over five years and to pay interest at 4 per cent. in the meantime.(10) Later additions to the line brought the total cost to £2,047.

During the sinking of the colliery, a small amount of coal totalling 646 tons was raised and this was credited to Capital Account which had borne the cost.

The commencement of coal production proper was delayed somewhat by the mining dispute of 1893 as is evidenced by the following entry in the Profit and Loss Account for half-year ended 28th February 1894:

"Cost of re-opening workings after strike - £182 0s. 9d."

Consequently, regular coal production commenced at the beginning of October 1893 when most Nottinghamshire colliers went back to work.

In the first five months working, (to 28th February 1894) output totalled 8,114 tons. In the next half-year it was 18,736 tons and in the two succeeding half-years it rose to 22,113 and 21,018 tons respectively. Unfortunately, the Report and Accounts for 1896 are missing, but the output (and also the cost information) for the half-year ending 31st August 1896 can be derived from the following half-year's report. The output was substantially higher than in any previous period - 32,763 tons, and further increases (to 36,466, 40,100 and 41,418 tons) followed in the succeeding three half-years.

This sharp increase in output was no doubt due in the main to an increased demand from 1896. The trade cycle reached its peak in 1900-01, but South Normanton's output did not respond although, as one would expect, its average proceeds rose. One may safely infer from this that the Colliery's output was up to capacity, without knowing what the limiting factor was.(11) The figures are as follows:

<u>Half-Year ended</u>	<u>Output</u> (tons)	<u>Avg. Proceeds (per ton)</u>	<u>Profit for Half Year</u>
31.2.1898	41,418	6/5.65	£2,815
28.2.1901	Not given	11/8.66	£7,135
31.8.1901	40,306	8/5.93	£ 831
28.2.1902	48,319	8/0.08	£1,408
31.8.1902	45,375	7/5.68	£ 169 (Loss)

The loss for the half-year ended 31st August 1902 is attributed largely to high labour costs. Wages Costs amounted to £13,452 and Salaries took a further £355 making £13,807 altogether. This is equivalent to 6/1.04 per ton. By contrast, the labour cost per ton in the period 1895 to 1898 had fallen from 4/11.75 to 3/11.13.

The present writer's view is that the increase in average wages cost resulted from trade union activity. During the Boer War boom, the Nottinghamshire Miners' Association forced up the basis rates both for piece workers and also for day-wage men working away from the coal face and on the surface.(12) The percentage additions to basis wages, which were negotiated nationally, also rose very substantially. In 1894 the percentage was fixed at 30 per cent. by the Conciliation Board for the Federated District (i.e. virtually all the inland coal fields). An increase of 2½ per cent. on basis was agreed in 1898, 7½ per cent. in 1899, ten per cent. in 1900 and a further 10 per cent. in the first two months of 1901 so that the rates paid were then 60 per cent. above the basis rates.(13) This level was maintained until July 1902, but in the meantime proceeds were falling quite fast, and companies like South Normanton ran into trouble.

Occasional losses should not, however, be allowed to obscure the very high rate of return on capital employed in the good periods. The profit for the six months ended 28th February 1902, for example, gives a rate of return of more than 50 per cent. for the half year.

It is interesting to compare the wages cost per ton of South Normanton, which was clearly under-capitalised (using a great deal of second-hand equipment, for example) with its near neighbour, New Hucknall, which was always regarded as a highly efficient colliery. For roughly equivalent half-years the comparative figures are:

	<u>1894</u>	<u>1895</u>	<u>1896</u>	<u>1897</u>	<u>1902</u>
New Hucknall	3/8	3/6	3/6	3/8	4/10
South Normanton	4/4	4/7	4/1	3/9	6/-

The principal reason why the New Hucknall Company was able to hold its wages cost per ton down was its flexibility. In contrast with the very small increase in output at South Normanton which we noted above, the New Hucknall Company expanded its output from 545,674 tons in 1897 to 718,503 tons in 1902.(14) The increase in the productivity of day wage labour (employed away from the coal face) of the New Hucknall Company would undoubtedly be sufficient to cover the increase in day-wage rates, several times over,(15) thus offsetting to some extent the increase in face wages cost consequent on higher tonnage prices.

A fairer test of the South Normanton Company's efficiency as a user of labour would be to compare its performance with that of a similar sized colliery in the area. Sutton would be a good example, but the figures for one year only - 1896 - are available and operations were interrupted by a strike in that year. The Sutton wages cost per ton for the year was 3/1 compared with South Normanton's 4/1(16).

The South Normanton accounts display an interesting feature regarding wage payments, and recorded tonnages, which is rarely appreciated. This is the tendency for the quantity of coal sold to exceed the tonnage recorded at the pit top weigh machine on which the piece-workers wages were calculated. "Gains in weight" were achieved either by physically adjusting the pit top weigh bridge or by adopting a convention for the deduction of excessive weights (on the assumption that the excess was caused by stone in the coal) which was favourable to the owners. The Company did suffer a "loss in weight" in one half year, and this was sufficiently unusual to warrant a special note in the Auditors' Report.

Another local company, Blackwell, made no secret of the usual practice. In a notice to workmen issued in 1882, the manager said:

"I wish to remind you that we only take the draught up to the $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. At an immediately adjoining colliery, they take the draught under the cwt.(17) At another colliery, the colliery consumption and colliers' coals are deducted from the men's weights. As far as these matters are concerned, you are more favourably situated than any other colliery in the neighbourhood".(18)

At least one company in the district aimed to gain sufficient weight to cover its colliery consumption right up to 1947. In the meantime, false tonnage figures had been produced for a rather different reason. The selling schemes introduced with statutory backing in the 1930's limited the outputs which collieries were permitted to produce. There was therefore an incentive for companies to deduct from the gross weights an abnormally high "dirt allowance" with the result that the amount of coal sold frequently exceeded by a wide margin the amount officially produced. The Regional Services Director of the North Midland Regional Coal Board (established by Government during the Second World War) stated that "he had been approached by a member of the personnel of a Department of Weights and Measures, who had raised the question of colliery weights. He had stated that the weights entered into the books were often 25 per cent. lower than the actual weights shown on the colliery weighbridges".

The present writer's view is that 25 per cent. is an exaggeration. It is doubtful whether any colliery could regularly have exceeded its quota by such a margin without being detected. But whatever the margin may have been, output figures were widely falsified.(19)

South Normanton closed as a coal producing unit in 1952, but the shafts remained open for pumping, ventilation and as an emergency means of egress for Brookhill Colliery until 1969. The surface buildings have been put to a variety of uses.

A physical examination of the shafts, buildings and plant reinforces the impression conveyed by the early financial accounts of the Company that South Normanton colliery was built "on the cheap". The two shafts were of a very small diameter - about 10 ft. In the upcast shaft, which was used for winding materials, there was only a single cage. The steam winding engines in use at Vesting Day were antiquated, and so too were the mechanical fan and the electrical generating equipment. The main winding engine, installed second-hand in 1937, was made in 1902, whilst the other (upcast) winder was used for surface haulage too. Some of the buildings show evidence of unsound construction, besides being generally inadequate and, at Vesting Day, dingy and ill-maintained.

The purpose of the Company's promoters was to obtain a quick return on their capital. No great amount of money was ploughed back into the business in the period covered by this article.

Several of the early auditors' reports remind the Company of the need to allow for depreciation. Instead of making regular provision for depreciation, however, the Company (like many other colliery owners) wrote down the capital spasmodically, depending on the financial outturn of its year's transactions. For example, in the half-year ended 28th February 1901, at the height of the boom, £3,500 was written off. This unusually generous provision was clearly made only because of the exceptionally favourable trading conditions which had enabled the Company to pay 50 per cent.

on its ordinary shares in October 1900 and a further 10 per cent. on 28th February 1901.(20)

Of course, some material investment took place during the period 1894-1903; but had the Company been set on expanding the scale of its operations much more would have been done. The Balance Sheet for 28th February 1903 shows the following position:

<u>Material Assets at 28th February 1903 (21)</u>	
Original cost of opening out the colliery, (including buildings, but not plant or equipment) up to 28th February 1902	£9,829
Less depreciation from profits to 28th February 1902	£6,829
	<hr/>
	£3,000
Investment in fixed plant and machinery to 28th February 1902	£6,990
Add Expenditure during year to 28th February 1903	£2,712
	<hr/>
	£9,702
Less depreciation from profits to 28th February 1901	£1,961
	<hr/>
	£7,741
Branch line: Expenditure to 28th February 1902	£2,047
Less depreciation from profits to 28th February 1901	£619
	<hr/>
	£1,428
House Property: Expenditure during year ending 28th February 1902	£604
Add Expenditure during year ending 28th February 1903	£193
	<hr/>
	£797

It will be seen from this that additional material investment, over and above that entailed in commencing operations, was minimal.

Another indication of the attitude of mind of those who ran the

Company is that, alone of the local colliery proprietors, they did not introduce safety lamps in this period. Instead, candles, provided by the workmen themselves, were in use until the 1930's. Electric lighting on the surface was, it is true, provided by a 100 h.p. generator installed in 1904 (22) but in most other respects South Normanton remained technologically backward.

The Company was fortunate in that the Boer War boom occurred whilst it was still working good coal at no great distance from the Pit Bottom. Had its directors been wise they would have ploughed back a greater share of the gross profits then made. Future efficiency was sacrificed to present profit, but this was not uncommon among small coalowners working on short leases.

In the event, the undertaking was ill-fitted to face the difficult trading conditions of the inter-war period. Whilst still little more than a quarter-century old, South Normanton was regarded locally as decrepit. Indeed, it is surprising that it lasted as long as it did.

Information compiled in January 1939 shows that alone of the Nottinghamshire and district colliery companies, South Normanton made losses in 1937 and 1938. Its output at 120,581 tons in 1937 and 131,219 tons in 1938 was lower than that of any other colliery company (and probably of any individual colliery (23) in the district.

When a measure of Government control was imposed on the industry in 1942, two colliery companies in Nottinghamshire (Clifton and South Normanton) came under special surveillance. In the case of Clifton, a control order was made by the Minister of Fuel and Power in November 1942 under which a new General Manager, and subsequently a new chairman, were appointed.

In 1942 also, South Normanton was receiving help under the "necessitous undertakings" scheme. It was reported that the Managing Director of the Company was almost 80 years of age, the electrician in charge was over 70, and that one in seven of the 350 men employed underground was incapable of a full week's work. The output in October/November 1942 was around 500 tons a day, slightly better than it had been previously (though little more than in the early years of the Century). Output per man shift, (23.36 cwts. overall) was poor by Nottinghamshire standards and the Company was running at a considerable loss.

It was also alleged that some of the men whose names appeared on the books were dead, and that payments were being made to their relatives. Further, it was considered that mechanical breakdowns were over-frequent and that the general management of the company was inadequate. Accordingly, the Regional Control installed a Technical Supervisor and a Financial Adviser. (24) Later, the Manager, Mr. Gordon Mein, was dismissed and an outsider, Mr. Peter Harley, appointed by the Ministry.

It is not surprising that South Normanton should have been the first colliery in the district to be closed by the National Coal Board. There were many small mines in the district older than South Normanton, some of them working difficult seams. In these other cases, technical improvements were made to maintain viability, but South Normanton was not worth spending money on - the reserves of coal in the area could best be worked from other pits which had been more sensibly planned.(25)

Note on Sources

Except where otherwise stated, the information in this article is derived from Manuscript Accounts for the years 1893-1903. For some years there are complete Auditors' Reports to which are annexed Balance Sheets, Profit & Loss Accounts, Lists of Creditors and Debtors, Journal Entries, etc. For other years there are final accounts only and for other years again there are trial balances.

These are in the author's possession.

References

- (1) Catalogue of Abandoned Mines, London, (H.M.S.O.) 1929.
- (2) J. E. Williams, The Derbyshire Miners', London, 1962, p.204.
F. S. Ogden, "Stanley Kilburn Colliery", Derbyshire Miscellany, Vol.V No.1, p.37. Denby (Drury Lowe) Correspondence Book for 1885.
- (3) Directors Reports 1893-1903.
- (4) Bulmers' Directory of Derbyshire, 1895.
- (5) Auditors' Report 28th February 1894.
- (6) Auditors' Report, 28th February 1898.
- (7) Directors' Report & Accounts, 28.2.1901.
- (8) Balance Sheets, 28.2.1894 and 28.2.1903.
- (9) A. R. Griffin "The Nottinghamshire Coalfield 1550-1947" (typescript 1963, II p.14 (subsequently Cited as The Notts. Coalfield)).
- (10) Auditors' Report, 31st August 1894.
- (11) Shaft capacity was around 600 to 700 tons a shift from 1937 when a larger (second hand) winding engine was installed. It is not unsafe to infer, therefore, that shaft capacity in 1901 was considerably below this.

- (12) A. R. Griffin "The Miners of Nottinghamshire" Nottingham 1956 I pp.132-139.
- (13) *ibid*, pp.130-1 "Basis rates" theoretically were the rates actually paid in 1888 but in practice were subject to revision at pit level. The Notts. Miners' Association successfully forced up almost all basis rates. See J.W.F. Rowe, *Wages in the Coal Industry*, London 1922, *passim*.
- (14) The Notts Coalfield II pp.120-122. The Company opened a new colliery, Bentinck, in 1896.
The figures have been rounded off, and they relate to wages only (i.e. salaries excluded).
- (15) The reason for this is that the same numbers of men are needed to man the haulage roads, pit bottom and pit top for a small tonnage as for a large one (unless the number of coal faces worked is reduced in which case savings can be made in haulage labour costs). In the case of the New Hucknall Company, the development of the new Bentinck Colliery, which opened in 1896, enabled the Company to increase its output substantially over this period (1897-1902) without increasing the size of its labour force.
- (16) The Notts. Coalfield II, p.114.
- (17) E.g. Supposing a tub of coal weighed $12\frac{3}{4}$ cwt., the Blackwell Company would credit the men with $12\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. whereas some other companies would only credit 12 cwt.
- (18) Blackwell Notice Book (Ms.).
- (19) Minutes of North Midland Regional Coal Board, Nov. 1st 1943 and 8th May 1944, cited Griffin, "The Notts. Coalfield", III, 106-7.
At the earlier meeting the Chairman of the Board said that the false weight figures probably derived from the pre-war Quota scheme.
- (20) The holders of the equity benefited greatly in this period from the high gearing of the Company's capital structure.
- (21) Printed Balance Sheet, year ending 28th February 1903. This also shows the following Assets:
- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Moveable items, Sundries (Tools, loose plant etc) | £2,828 |
| Wagons | £925 |
- in addition to debts due to the Company, Cash and Short Rents totalling £6,491.
- (22) J. E. Williams, *op.cit.*, p.209. The Company were also among the first in the district to use electric coal cutters. This was no doubt due to the need to reduce the comparatively high face labour cost. Another high cost pit, Sutton, introduced a cutting machine as early as 1896.

- (23) This cannot be stated categorically because some companies had several collieries whose outputs were aggregated. See Griffin, The Notts. Coalfield, III, p.113. It is unfortunate that information for the intervening period (i.e. 1903 to 1930's) is not available. The Company probably remained profitable until the mid-1920's.
- (24) *ibid*, pp.123-124. Despite the losses being sustained, the Meins were reluctant to relinquish control. They claim that they were about to develop 400 acres of High Hazel coal which still remains unworked. They also proudly claim that they never had a local strike.
- (25) In fairness to the South Normanton Company, it should be remembered that the original lease was for only 21 years with a possible extension of 7 or 14 years. Such short leases were not conducive to sensible forward planning.
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TOLL BARS

It is now approaching 100 years since three Toll Bars near Buxton ceased to exist, these were at Cowdale and Brushfield on the road to Ashford, and at Miln House Dale later called Millers Dale. I am anxious to trace photographs or other illustrations of the Toll Houses which might be included in a history of the Ashford and Buxton, Tideswell and Blackwell, and Edensor and Ashford Turnpike Roads. The Toll Bars were abolished on the 31st October 1878 when two of the Toll Houses, which belonged to the Trustees, were sold - Cowdale for £85 and Millers Dale for £100. The Cowdale Bar consisted of a small Toll House with a garden at the end remote to Buxton, some time after the sale four two storey cottages were built on the site and these in turn were taken down in 1961. I have been given photographs of these, but would like, if possible, to obtain one of the actual Toll House. The Millers Dale Toll Bar was by the bridge with a gate and also a chain, some alterations were made here in February 1865 in view of altered traffic in connection with the construction of the railway. Incidentally, consideration was given in February 1866 to taking down the Cowdale Bar and rebuilding it 200 or 300 yards further from Buxton because of danger from the railway work.

Those passing through these two Bars were given a ticket which permitted them to pass through the second one at a lower charge, and I would like the opportunity of seeing some of these tickets if any should still be in existence. There was a similar arrangement at the two Bars on the Edensor and Ashford section of road, the tickets were small ones about 3in. square, blue for Rowdale and yellow for Birchill. A photograph of Rowdale Toll Bar in its original condition is available, and it is hoped that photographs of some of the others may be located.

My grandfather, Robert Thornhill, was the last surveyor of the roads from 1865 until the close of the Turnpike Trust towards the end of 1878, and many of his records came into my possession.

Robert Thornhill

MRS DELANY, AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY VISITOR TO DERBYSHIRE

by

Nell Thomas

In September 1756, Mrs. Delany, accompanied by her husband, Dean Delany, stayed with the second Duchess of Portland at Welbeck Abbey. Whilst there she wrote to her sister Ann, Mrs. Dewes of Wellesbourne in Warwickshire on September 7th, 14th and 19th, of her journey to Welbeck and her excursions into Derbyshire.

Mrs. Dewes' great-grand-daughter, Lady Llanover, edited "The Autobiography and Correspondence of Mrs. Delany" in 1861-2. The Autobiography is not finished. It was started to please the Duchess of Portland. She and Mrs. Delany were great friends from 1734 until she died in 1785. Mrs. Delany lived from 1700 to 1788.

This was a wonderful friendship and after the Dean's death in 1768 they spent more time together than apart. They were welcomed everywhere, but when other company was absent were more than happy following their common interests.

Lady Llanover collected letters to and from Mrs. Delany, and others relevant to the period. There are six volumes altogether, and they make fascinating reading for anyone interested in the social life of the eighteenth century. It was an age of letter writing and the witty and lively letters of Mrs. Delany confirm the eighteenth century opinion of her, as a remarkable woman of admirable taste, a skilled artist, an embroideress, a musician and a botanist, as well as a woman of great social distinction.

The letter dated September 7th informs Mrs. Dewes of the safe arrival of the Delanys at Welbeck. They had come by coach from Wellesbourne, and had visited Papplewick, the seat of Mr. Montague, before arriving at Welbeck. She tells how they had lost their way, and had diverted to Wollaton "to get intelligence"-----"Lord Middleton's (Wollerton Hall), where we stopped to get intelligence for our way to Papplewick, is one of the finest buildings I ever saw, about as old as Queen Elizabeth. It stands upon an eminence; the gardens seem to be laid out in the old-fashioned way of mince-pies, arbours, and sugarloaf yews: the park is very fine, and stocked with beautiful deer. -----Papplewick is much improved since I saw it, but they have no garden, only a fine field (which was divided into ten); they have now taken the hedges and only left the best of the trees here and there that did not too much intercept their view, which is a very fine one. The ground rises in two hills to the right and to the left, the house stands facing the valley between, and the verdure is as fine as can be. Mr. Montague keeps the walks pared and rolled quite round the field, at the bottom of which runs the river

Lean, a very pretty brook that runs briskly and forms two or three cascades as it winds. There are spots planted by the side of it of flowers and flowering shrubs, and seats placed; and in the most retired part, and in view of two of the cascades, is a temple or covered seat, which I gave them a plan for 14 years ago! The prettiness of the place is its being perfectly rural and made with such little expense, as may be done in any place though the ground may not lie quite so advantageously; the walk round their improvement is just one measured mile.-----This place (Welbeck) is really magnificent, though the outward appearance of the house is by no means answerable to its goodness within. There is a fine lawn before the house, encompassed with woods of the finest oak I ever saw; the park is fine and capable of great improvements, which will soon be set about. There is a valley of many acres that runs through that part of the park which is visible from the house that is to be floated, and will make a noble piece of water; a small river runs through it now, and they can command as much water as they please.-----I don't know how to give you such a description of the house as will make it plain to you; the rooms are numerous, large, and thoroughly well furnished;-----and the Gothic Hall, which for workmanship in the true Gothic taste exceeds everything I have seen of the kind. The chapel is to be new built in the same taste; the alterations Lady Oxford made in this place cost above forty thousand pounds".

Lady Oxford was the Duchess's mother.

Mrs. Delany also mentions their visiting Norwood Park, Thoresby and Worksop-----"Much magnificence I have seen in this country; lawns, vast woods, palaces of houses, but nothing so pretty as Calwich".

Calwich Abbey in Staffordshire had been purchased by Mrs. Delany's unmarried brother Bernard Granville in 1738. She and Ann had given him much advice, as to the laying out of the garden and the furnishing of the house. Bernard had inherited the fortune of Lord Lansdowne, their uncle and their father's brother.

The second letter written on September 14th is very short. "I have undertaken to set the Duchess of Portland's miniatures in order, as she does not like to trust them to anybody else, and for want of proper airing they are in danger of being spoilt. Such Petitots! such Olivers! and such Coopers! You may believe the employment is not unpleasant: this, with going to see places and assisting the Duchess to sort her papers in an evening after our walks, employs almost every hour of the day"-----

This gives us a delightful picture of the two friends together. The third letter written on September 19th tells of their expeditions into Derbyshire.

-----"Last Wednesday we took a walk to a place called Creswell Crags, with the Duchess, her fair flock, D.D., Mr. Smallwall, Lord Titchfield's

tutor, and one of the Duke's stewards to show us the way, and two pioneers to level all before us. At least a dozen stiles were laid flat, paths cut through thickets of brambles and briars, and bridges made in swampy places; the length of the way computed at about two miles and a half. A resolution was taken on setting out not to delay the walk by simpling, so we only snatched at any curious grass or flower in our way, and stuffed it in our black apron pockets to observe upon at our return round the tea table.

The place we went to was well worth our pains. It is a little Matlock; two ranges of rocks, towering as it were in rivalry of one another, feathered with wood, embossed with ivy, diversified with caves and cliffs. Between the ranges runs a clear brook bubbling along. Cottages here and there, patches of verdure with sheep feeding, and some climbing and standing on the pinnacles of the rocks like goats. There are a few cottages, and near the end of the range, which I believe is about a quarter of a mile or better, there is a mill, and a cascade falls from the mill-pool into the brook, and there the prospect opens to a fine and extensive view of Derbyshire--- --I was too much entertained with the scene to lose sight of it one moment, and whilst the young people scampered about and beautified it, I took an imperfect sketch of one part. It was quite dark when we got home, but though much tired none of us got any cold".

How should we describe Creswell Crags to-day?

-----"Yesterday the Duke of Portland, the two young ladies, and D.D., went in the coach, the Duchess and I in the post-chaise, to Bolsover Castle. Excessively bad road, but ways were opened through fields and places patched up for us that made it possible. It is a most delightful spot, one of the most pleasing views without water I ever saw, and there is a singularity and prettiness in the castle that I don't know how to do justice to. It is small, but a most complete and compact house: it is a square building, with turrets on each side of the gate, to the court, to which you ascend by a flight of steps, there are two square towers with battlements, which serve as porter's lodges. The court is not large, but surrounded with walls and battlements: to the porch of the castle there is another flight of steps. The porch is arched, the workmanship plain and neat: you enter a passage; on the left a pretty little parlour, on the right a large hall supported by two pillars, from which spring arches and meet with other arches from the sides of the hall that form a very pretty ceiling. Out of this hall you go into a large parlour, which seems about 20 ft. square, supported by a single Gothic pillar; the wainscoating brown, edged with gold, with arches round the room of fine stone, the ceilings of all this floor arched in the same manner: the carving neat, all Gothic, and so are the chimney-pieces. To describe it minutely would take up too much time, but from the cellar to the leads it is a most complete, convenient and pretty dwelling. On the second floor, a fine dining-room and three good bed-chambers; the third floor is lighted by an octagon sky-light, with four arches and four niches that lead you to four bedchambers, and as many dressing-rooms.

It has been a neglected place for many years, was built by a son of Bess of Hardwicke, at the latter end of Queen Elizabeth or beginning of King James the First. William Cavendish, the first Duke of Newcastle, added to this little castle a range of buildings on purpose to entertain King Charles the First, consisting of a guardroom, bed-chamber, dressing-room drawing-room, and a most sumptuous gallery, and a riding-house adjoining, but nothing now remains but the walls of that building. That Duke of Newcastle also entertained King Charles the First in Welbeck Park, under magnificent tents, erected for him and his nobles".

Mrs. Delany seems to have had great affection for Matlock. We do not hear of her visiting it, although Matlock was one of the many Spas of the eighteenth century. Ann's daughter, Mary, received a letter from Whitehall, from her aunt, (Mrs. Delany) dated August 25th 1768 -----

-----"I hope you will have fair weather for your Matlock jaunt; I shall in my imagination enjoy some of its romantic scenes with you. The Duchess has shown me a sea-caterpillar she has in spirits, which was found at Buxton, that is beautiful; it is one of the hairy ones, but all the hairs, or bristles, look like a rainbow".

Mrs. Delany does not have the same affection for Buxton. The 4th of September 1766, she writes to Viscountess Andover, "I rejoice that our amiable friend (Duchess of Portland) has found so much benefit from Buxton, and hope no perplexities will undo what she has gained so dearly, for by all accounts Buxton is a shocking place; but the blessing of health is worth a state of trial".

Whilst at Buxton the Duchess writes to Bernard Granville, at Calwich. He had introduced her to Rousseau, who had accompanied her into the Peak in search of plants. Rousseau lived for a time at Wootton, the house being lent to him by Mr. Davenport.

"The Duchess of Portland presents her best compliments-----She has sent a few plants to Mr. Rousseau.-----She found the great tufted wood vetch growing upon a high sandy hill going from Oakover to Bradley Ash Park".

Another friend interested in flowers is Miss Hamilton, and in 1763 and again in 1766 she made lists of the flowers in the Peak of Derbyshire. These are included by Lady Llanover.

1763

Giant-throat Wort
Shining Downfoot Cranesbill
Great yellow Heartease
Climbing Fumitory
Horn Moss
Myrtle-leaved Cranberry
Apple Rose
Scarlet Cup Moss

1766

Knotted Parsley
Purple and Yellow Heartsease.
Great tufted Wood Vetch
Brittle Fern
Lancashire Ashphodel
Mountain Avena
Cloud Berries
Marsh Saxifrage
Bloody Cranesbill

Landscaping of gardens and parks was of great interest in the eighteenth century. Mrs. Dewes writes to Bernard Granville from Wellesbourne on June 14th 1756-----

"Your garden-----it is said to outdo any of the wonders of the Peak. -----Mrs. Hayes, who is just returned from Mrs. Fitzherbert's says, Calwich is reputed by everybody to be much the prettiest place in the two counties of Stafford and Derbyshire"-----

In July 1774 Mary Dewes married John Port of Ilam. Mrs. Delany answering a letter from Mary describing a visit to Matlock makes these remarks-----"I am glad you met with sociable people in your miscellaneous assembly to make amends for the crowd. A crowd in such a scene as Matlock seems most unnatural, rather calculated for solitude and contemplation, but as it tends rather to melancholy in some of its gloomy parts, a cheerful beam is necessary now and then to give a fillip to the spirits, like the sun darting thru' a wood which enlivens without robbing you of the shade".

What would she think of Matlock to-day?

BOOKS ABOUT MAPS

Maps and Map Makers by R. V. Tooley, B. T. Batsford Limited, price £5 1970.

This standard work on cartography was originally published in 1949. This fourth edition (1970) has a new bibliography and revised list of authorities at the end of each chapter. There have also been some additions to the text so that the new edition is completely up-to-date.

Antique Maps and their Cartographers by Raymond Lister. G. Bell & Sons Ltd. 1970, price £2 15s. 0d.

Blaen's Atlas of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland reproduced with 115 facsimile maps (5 in colour) and Blaen's title pages in colour £60. Detailed illustrated prospectus from W. Heffer & Sons Limited, 20 Trinity Street, Cambridge CB2 3NG.

JOHN WIGLEY OF WIGWELL

by

Derek A. Wigley

(continued from D.M. Vol V No.3)

Part II The Troubled Years

Inevitably Wirksworth and John Wigley himself had to become involved in the quarrel between Charles I and his Parliament. A number of Derbyshire gentlemen had drawn up a petition praying His Majesty to "return to Parliament and redress grievances". Among the signatures were John Gell, John Spateman and John Wigley.

During the next few months tension began to mount. John Wigley would have been kept informed of events through John Gell and John Curzon (M.P. at that time) John Gell's step-brother.

By June 1642 King Charles determined to take action and ordered "Commissions of Array". Henry Hastings called his men into service and many miners were called away. Some of these went into Leicestershire and John's cousins at Scraftoft complied.

Apart from those who had already committed themselves, most of the Derbyshire families apparently hoped that they would be able to remain uncommitted. The King, however, was moving across the country calling his loyal subjects to attend him. He came to Nottingham and his standard was raised. The news was brought to Derby - but how it was received may be deduced from a note in All Hallows register: "The 22 of this August erectum fuit Nottinghamiae Vexillum Regale. Matt XII 25". (Every Kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation).

When the King came to Derby a few days later the Trained Bands were called to attend him - but having done this they were disarmed. Shortly after the King's departure towards Worcester two "alleged Papists" went to Wirksworth and having recruited some men for the King's service they began pillaging.

Nothing could have been better calculated to arouse the people of Wirksworth against the King's cause. By some means John Gell was advised that he should go to Sir John Hotham at Hull where "loyal" forces were to be supplied to him, so at the end of September he rode there taking his brother Thomas with him.

A few days later Sir Francis Wortley came into Wirksworth with some men whom he put into winter quarters. This may have caused some disquiet

to John Wigley and his family, particularly since Bridget was with child and her time was near. On October 14th she gave birth to a son. For a few, probably very trying, days they awaited the return of Sir John Gell. (For a more complete account of Sir John Gell's activities see the Gell and Gresley accounts in Glover Vol.1) On October 26th, after receiving a rebuke from the Sheriff and others, Sir John approached Wirksworth. At this Sir Francis Wortley departed. Reports suggest that there was no desire for a trial of strength - rather a desire to avoid ~~one~~. Sir John Gell recruited more men including John Molanus, who was agent for Cornelius Vermuyden, and whose home was in Middleton where his first son was born in 1632. Molanus showed no small amount of military talent during the next few years. For the next two weeks Colonel Gell was fully occupied securing Derby and recruiting, he then returned to Wirksworth for his grandson's christening. This took place on November 8th. The occasion was strained when it should have been joyous. Mr. Topham, the Vicar, must have been disturbed - for the name he wrote in the Register was John - but the entry book states the name Henry. John was born on March 7th 1644, but there is no record of his baptism in the Register. Henry's memorial in Wirksworth church shows his age as 42 years in 1684. For several years the entries in the registers are very sparse. Almost immediately Sir John was called away and routed Sir Francis Wortley at Dale. For several months there was little military activity in Derbyshire, but in January of 1643 (7th) Parliament ordered a declaration to be read in churches urging the necessity of a subscription in money or plate. Needless to say everyone was expected to pay; except those with less than £100 in property. A number of those of Royalist conviction seemed to have felt uncomfortable in their own homes and moved into the King's garrisons - among these were kinsfolk of Sir John Gell and John Wigley.

It seemed that the struggle was to be prolonged and Parliament needed to raise money to pay and feed its forces. Having determined the amount that each county should pay, County Committees were set up to raise it. Among the seventeen members of the first Derbyshire committee were Sir George Gresley, Sir John Curzon, Sir John Gell and John Wigley. The onus of collecting the money devolved on the parish constables. (See Civil War Papers of the Constable of Hope. F. Fisher, D.A.J.) The remainder of the year was very active with minor skirmishes and raids disrupting markets and normal business. By December much of the county was held by Royalist forces. Colonel Gell's numbers had been depleted when he gave assistance to Fairfax and Pym's death (December 8th) gave hope to the King that the end might not be far off. Meanwhile, Parliament, with Scots support and advice, took the unfortunate step of declaring Christmas to be a normal working day.

After a depressing Christmas and a week of snow when the roads were impassable, King Charles prepared to open his own Parliament at Oxford. In the meantime the Scots army was on the move and Parliament was determining an action against Newark, where most of the Derbyshire forces were sent towards the end of February.

Early in March 1644 Bridget Wigley gave birth to her second son. He

was baptised John on March 7th. This time Sir John Gell was the Godfather. In normal time he would have been very happy to have celebrated the occasion with two Godsons, father and son, but the situation was far from peaceful. Due to Scottish influence the Common Prayer Book was abolished (by order of Parliament on March 13th 1644) and a new manual was issued, (The Directory of Worship). Presbyterianism was established as the official religion of the whole country. There was one difference from the Scottish practice, and that was the sermon. Many "Independants" including Cromwell had worked hard for its retention. This would have given much satisfaction to John Wigley and his kinsfolk.

Military sorties and engagements continued in the county until Wingfield fell in August after which the civil administration was easier. In the meantime the religious life of the country was organised under the Westminster Assembly of Divines. The local assembly was called a 'Classis'. John Wigley was not himself active in the Wirksworth Classis but three of his brothers-in-law were. Thomas Shelmerdine, Vicar of Crich since 1629, was one. He had married Faith Wigley in 1633. They had three children, Ephraim, (who died in infancy in 1637) Mary and Daniel. Daniel was to be ordained by the Classis in 1657. Of Thomas Shelmerdine, Calamy later wrote "He was a loving husband to an holy but very melancholy wife". In 1652 Thomas Shelmerdine moved to the benefice of Matlock.

Martin Topham, Vicar of Wirksworth, was the second. He was married to John's eldest sister Elizabeth. They had at least one child, Roberta, who died in 1655. Whilst the relationships are not clear, it is of interest to note that Joan Topham, widow, married a Henry Wigley on April 9th 1655. This is even more interesting since a law had been passed in 1653 allowing solemnisation of marriages by a Justice of the Peace only. Many rebelled and marriages were performed by clergy - often sequestered ones, then by J.P.'s. The law was removed from Statute in 1657 although marriage by J.P. remained as an alternative.

The other brother-in-law who served on the Classis was Henry Buxton of Bradbourne who had married Anne. There were two children, both living in 1662. Henry Buxton was one of the most regular lay participants of the Classis. Apart from ordering the "classical fasts" the Classis also carried out ordinations - occasionally rejecting candidates. Francis Lowe submitted himself in 1657 but was not accepted for being "scandalous in life and conversation". One may wonder if this application by Francis was an attempt to reconcile his family with his neighbours after their sympathy for the King's cause had brought belligerent action against them. John Wigley's own attitude was probably one of acquiescence to religious control.

John, and probably all the Derbyshire Wigleys, had taken the part of Parliament. John's cousins in Leicestershire stood for the King, and the Chaworths, in Nottingham, were for the King also. The Halls of Costock may have attempted to remain neutral, and while John Wigley's mother Elizabeth must have supported him, her sister Jane Lowe must equally have

supported her husband Edward. Edward Lowe was later to claim that he was too old to have been active for either side and that Colonel Gell's forces had plundered his house twenty six times.

By the beginning of October 1644 John Wigley's activities on the County Committee were mainly financial. One of the documents bearing his signature orders payment to Thomas Needham of Castleton for "a fatt cow taken from him and employed in the service of Parliament". Most of the memoranda were signed by Receiver Bretland. One or two concerned the raising of forces, mainly for use in the county, but one dated May 31st (1645) may have been part of a broader plan; it called for all "well affected persons to come with their arms speedily...". Two weeks later the King's army faced the Parliamentary forces at Naseby. After twelve hours of bitter fighting the Royal Forces finally gave way.

Early in September King Charles passed through Derbyshire again. This time he stayed at Mrs. Cockayne's house in Ashbourne. She was a niece of Sir John Gell. There was no major skirmish at this time and Parliament's hold on Derbyshire was very secure.

The story of the next few years can be told in part from the memoranda of the various committees. Parliament was feeling more confident of victory and on July 13th 1645 a note was written by the Committee of Compounding to the County Committee..."the inhabitants of Derby have expressed great fidelity to Parliament by assistance and contributions to the defence of religion, laws and liberty, invaded and endangered by a Popish and malignant party and as the labours of the ministers there have been the chief means of upholding the peoples affections any, yet their maintenance is very small - the rents of the lands of the Dean and Chapter of Leicester now in lease to John Bullock, delinquent, in St. Alkmunds and Allhallows parishes exceeding £100 to be settled on the corporation of Derby for the maintenance of the ministers".

King Charles surrendered to the Scots the following May and gave orders for the surrender of his remaining garrisons. Tutbury was one of these. Parliament felt that it could function safely although it began to fear its own large army

On August 28th an order was made by Commons on the petition of the Commissioners for the County of Derby and of the Derbyshire regiments of horse and foot, that the forces of Derbyshire should be disbanded "as they now be quartered, and paid their proportions in their quarters and without being drawn to any rendezvous, and that the officers should give a speedy account. Also that £5,000 be allowed to the County of Derby out of the compositions of its delinquents, the £1200 taken up out of those of Sir John Harpur and Sir Henry Hunlock to be part thereof. The remainder to be paid to the said forces on their disbanding and the arrears of the officers audited, the said sums to be paid by the Committee at Goldsmiths' Hall to Sir John Curzon and to Sir John Coke". "...the County committee (to) return to the Committee at Goldsmiths' Hall a certificate of all delinquents of their county sequestered since the beginning of these unhappy wars; this to be done before the said money is paid".

The list was made and despatched but on September 4th Sir George Gresley, John Wigley and William Wigfall, Commissioners, wrote to Goldsmiths' Hall "we refused to join in a certificate by others of the committee because they omit the names of Sir Edward Coke, Sir Sam Sleight, Thomas Munday, Rowland Morewood and Edward Pegge as being sequestered but discharged. We think their discharge was unlawfully contrived and it was without approbation".

On October 8th a further order for disbandment was made, this time apparently with more success. Sir John Gell was not satisfied that all the delinquents had been named for on October 20th he laid information that Henry Vernon son of Sir Edward Vernon had borne arms against Parliament.

Information had been laid against some of Sir John's kin also, and the case of the Cockaynes is of interest. On December 17th Ann Cockayne and her son, Sir Aston, were assessed at £1500. On March 8th 1648 an order was made to sequester the estate for non payment. On June 27th 1649 the Assessment was discharged on payment of £20 - "it appearing that she is no delinquent or compounds at Goldsmiths' Hall".

All appeared well, but on January 10th 1651 one Richard Thompson laid information that "she furnished her son with horse and arms to serve against Parliament: sent her goods to Tutbury a King's garrison for safety, visited the King while he was there, went voluntarily to Tutbury Castle and Newark when they were King's garrisons and compounded with the said garrisons". Richard Thompson persisted - and in this petition of 21st March we see why - He starts by saying that in 1645 he prosecuted Mrs. Cockayne for delinquency, but was obstructed because she was related to Sir John Gell who was potent in these parts. Having given bond now to prosecute her he begs an order for examination of witnesses and a fifth for himself as discoverer! The same day the county commissioners were instructed to take examinations. On July 18th an order to pay £30 was made, and this was followed by an assessment on August 13th at £1500. Sir Aston requested that having paid his £30 as ordered he may have protection from arrest that he may appear before them and be heard about his debts which were very heavy (7039). His appeal was partially successful for the committee ordered that the £30 be repaid.

At the beginning of February 1646 John and Bridget Wigley baptised their last child. Lt. Col. Thomas Gell was the godfather. Unfortunately, none of their children lived until fifty years of age, whereas most of the earlier Wigleys had achieved seventy years with little difficulty.

The smelting and marketing of lead was John Wigley's main business. It was actually carried on by his son John, and cousin Henry, who eventually made his home in Cromford. The Wigwell estate was primarily concerned with pasturage of animals, sheep, cattle, pigs, horses, oxen and deer. About £30 worth of corn and barley was grown each year, together with £30 worth of oats and rye. To cultivate this at Wigwell John had four ploughs, three

wains, seven yokes and two pairs of horse harness, a dozen horses and a similar number of oxen. The household made its own butter and cheese and brewed its own ale.

In some respects John's character is an enigma. He was the third generation to be involved in public service and during the Civil War he was very active. The entry book (Add.6704) gives few clues except that he was devoted to his family. There is nothing to suggest that he engaged actively in the county administration after 1647.

Shortly after Cromwell's departure for Ireland an insurrection broke out which required the re-mustering of some of the county forces. There was much suspicion and several documents suggest that Parliament, by this time, had little confidence in Derbyshire. There were plots against the Government and Sir John Gell was accused of being involved in one; in 1651 he appeared before the Committee of Sequestrations. The Committee's notes show two facts - the first was that in 1644 (a different document suggests 1647) Sir John had conveyed his estate to his son (John), and the second fact was that Sir John had been found guilty and that his estate was in chancery. On April 17th the Council of State directed the committee not to proceed against Sir John.

In 1649 Parliament, in sore need of funds, decided to reassess all rentals, sending Commissioners to all parts of the country. Needless to say the new valuation was much higher than the original. (Survey of the Soke and Manor of Wirksworth DAJ Vol.III) For example John Wigley's four acres at the "Rydinge Head" (Rider Point) were re-assessed from 6d. to 30/-d.! Other Wigleys mentioned were John's brother Edward, Ralph of Millers Green (a second cousin), William (a first cousin) and a namesake John who was an Innholder.

John's mother, Elizabeth, died in 1650 and was buried on November 18th. From that time John and his family were associating much more with the Lowes and the Spatemans. In May 1649 Edward Lowe (who had married Jane Hall, Elizabeth Wigley's sister) and John and Arthur his sons, compounded "for delinquency in adhering to the King's party tho' the father was never in arms against Parliament". On July 9th they were fined £221.

New customs were becoming evident, presumably out of Presbyterianism, and a different view of death. Lionel Tylney who was a lead merchant of Holmesfield and a cousin of Sir John Gell left in his Will (dated November 19th 1653) 10/-d. each to Mrs. Bridgett Wigley, Mrs. Elizabeth Wigfall (Henry Wigfall had served on the county committee with John Wigley) and Mrs. Hellen Alsoppe - all of them sisters - "to buy them gloves", also 2/6d. to each of their children - also to buy gloves. (In the first decades after the Restoration money was bequeathed to buy "mourning rings". Two examples occur in the Wills of Thomas Wigley, Grocer, of 1676 and Henry of Wigwell of 1684).

In December 1653 Cromwell became Lord Protector, but written into the constitution was greater freedom of religion than there had been for some time. Reasonable tolerance was to be granted provided "Papacy and Prelacy" were not practiced. John and Bridget Wigley brought their children up as Presbyterians and they seem to have associated most with Presbyterians in business and socially. Their main associations were through the lead industry and with the Gells and the Spatemans.

When the Lord Protector died on September 3rd 1658 the question of his successor was disputed. Richard Cromwell succeeded but many believed that John Lambert should have done so. Derby itself was for Lambert and during the next few months there were several active attempts to revolt. In 1660 Charles II was invited to return to England and the Monarchy was restored.

Part III New Ideas

The Wirksworth of the Restoration was rather different from the town of eleven years earlier. Some new businesses had been established. John Wigley's cousin Thomas had a grocery business which was prospering. He married Edith Kaye in 1660 and the first of their children's (John) baptism was one of the first entries in the second of the Wirksworth registers (commenced in 1662). Of Thomas's children, one became an apothecary, two became mercers - one of them in Derby, another became a Fellow of Christs College and a D.D. Cousins were tanners and innkeepers.

More furniture was appearing in houses - there was a looking glass in at least one room. New houses were being built of three stories and additional floors were added to older houses. The use of brick was increasing.

As John's son Henry approached his twenty-third birthday he was affianced to Mary Spateman of Roadnook Hall (Wessington) a daughter of John Spateman. This marriage is not recorded in a church register so was probably performed by a Justice of the Peace. The baptism of their first daughter Anne is, however, recorded on October 19th 1667. The godmother was Anne Spateman (nee Mellor). A son John was baptised on November 22nd 1668. There were six children altogether, but only three daughters were to survive childhood. Grandfather John knew three of them only.

John and Bridget were certainly not old, but the tensions of the earlier years had taken their toll. Bridget's father, Sir John Gell, was living in London, but her brother (John) was a good companion and was very capable in managing the Gell estate. For many years John Wigley had been guided by his kinsman, and had little taste for managing his own affairs. It is not clear if this was due to lack of earlier experience or simply the desire to live the life of a country gentleman. However, in consideration of the marriage settlement between Joan Spateman and Henry, John decided to put his estate in Trust.

On June 14th 1670 a tripartite indenture was drawn up between John Wigley, John Gell and John Spateman, and Henry Wigley son and heir apparent and Mary his wife. The deed stated that the marriage of John and Mary had taken place and in consideration of £1000 paid as Mary's marriage settlement and other items the following estate was conveyed in trust for 500 years. The capital messuage called Wigwell Hall and all houses and appurtenances belonging and divers messuages and lands in Wigwell, Wirksworth and Matlock - particularly mentioned were Holmesford, Flaxlands Meadow, Holbrookes farm, the Breaches, the Penplates Solme Closes and Shaw Close. The trustees were to be John Gell and John Spateman and their heirs to the use of John Wigley for life then to Henry and his assigns then to the heirs of Henry and Mary. After the death of Henry each of the daughters was to receive £10 a year until they were 21 or married "for their maintenance. And in case such person to whom the reversion of the sd premises should belong do not pay unto the sd daughters £1500 to be equally divided amongst them when they shall attain their respective ages of 21 years or be married. Then they the sd Gell and Spateman shall by demise or sale of the sd premises so limited for 500 yrs, levy and pay each of the sd daughters their respective shares of sd £1500 with interest at 6 p.cent till paid". (This deed is part of the abstract of title in 1701 when the estate - apart from an area known as Wigley Moors - was partitioned).

The association of the Spatemans and Wigleys for the next thirty years was as strong as the earlier association with the Gells had been. About the time of the above indenture Joshua Wigley of Senior Field married Anna daughter of Samuel and Jemima Spateman; they went to live in Tansley. Shortly after the birth of a daughter, Millicent, Anna died and was buried in Ashover Church. (Cox - Derbyshire Churches records the gravestone and the inscription as "child of Emmanuel Bourne". She was, in fact, his granddaughter.)

Twenty years later Millicent married her second cousin, Samuel Spateman. Joshua died in 1684; he too was a Presbyterian but there was nothing sombre about him. His will mentions pistols, a tobacco box, a fowling piece, a best sword and green velvet saddle, a clock and a watch. The estate of the Cromford Bridge branch was very substantial although not as large as Wigwell. The estates were later broken up and misappropriated - but that is another story.

Presumably because the estates had already been settled John did not make a Will. He was the only one of four generations not to do so. Most of his life had been lived through long periods of strife - even since the Restoration there had been foreign wars. It seems that his death was somewhat premature at 55, but he had no doubt worked very hard to preserve the peace locally. He was laid to rest on March 31st 1673, in a grave without inscription or memorial stone.

Bridget did not die until 1680 and within four years of her death Henry, the eldest son and heir, also died, probably of pneumonia. Within seven

years the estate which four generations had striven to hold together was to be broken up. (see Wigwell Grange, D.M. Vol.III No.8 p.637).

It is interesting to note that as the Wirksworth Wigleys were retiring from public life, albeit local, the Scraftoft Wigleys were just emerging. A year before Henry Wigley's death his cousin Edward of Scraftoft was created a Knight, and Edward's son was to become a Member of Parliament.

Appendix

In 1635 Inquisitions Post Mortem were held on both Thomas and Richard Wigley (Ref.PRO Documents C/42/531/179 and 183). They are similar in content so an abbreviated form only is necessary to determine the actual estate John Wigley inherited. Richard's IPM was held on September 24th and Thomas's on October 2nd. The hearing was before Stephen Wilkinson, Escheator of King Charles, by virtue of the Writ of Mandamus. With one addition the same "honourable and lawful men of the county" were Jurors. These were Richard Vickass, Robert Walker, William Botham, Thomas Sheppard, John Sheppard, Willi Twigg, Gabriel Hopkins, Robert Campion, John Steare, Hugo Roome, Willi Wilder, George Porter, Robert Jackson - and in Thomas's IPM - John Agard.

The main differences between the two were Thomas's possession and Release of the Gatehouse and Richard's possession of Wigwell.

Concerning the Gatehouse, Thomas had bequeathed this "with thirty acres of land, twenty acres of meadow, twenty acres of pasture and all other lands and tenements to a certain Henry Chaworth, Gent and Marie his wife..... for ninety and nine years (and together heirs for five pounds)..... and on the second day of March Henry Chaworth.....entered and was hereof seized". In Middleton Thomas held ten cottages, fifty acres of land, forty acres of meadow, forty acres of pasture and one other house with 20 acres of land, ten acres of meadow and ten acres of pasture. Also a cottage near Whitehouse (beyond Carsington) and certain closes in Wirksworth called Limepits, Limepits head, the Breaches and Ellis Wigley's Close, (Ellis Wigley was an ale house keeper in 1577), also a close called Henry Edge. He also held in Matlock a messuage and three other cottages near Cromford Bridge End with 10 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow and ten acres of pasture, "of which a parcel of them is called Senior Field". Finally, there was another house in Wirksworth with fifty acres of pasture and meadow formerly the perquisite of William Kniveton, Bart. All these were held of the aforesaid Lord King as of his Honour of Tutbury, part of the Duchy of Lancaster".

In Richard's IPM it was stated that Wigwell and its appurtenances were held of the King in Chief for the 40th part of one Knight's fee" (and a total of 40/-d. rent per ann.). In Middleton Richard had seven houses in addition to Thomas's holdings. To take possession of the holdings an heir paid the sum of one year's rent and the possession was granted.

Bibliography

An excellent background to the central period of this story is given in Miss C. V. Wedgwood's "The King's Peace" and "The King's War".

Further reading: "The Royalists and the Puritan Revolution", Hardacre D.A.J. Vols 2, 3 and 37. The Wirksworth Classis Minute Book. Survey of the Soake and Manor of Wirksworth 1649. The Spatemans of Roadnooke. Glover Vol.1 The Gell and Gresley Mss. "The use of Canon in the Civil War". R. Hayhurst.

Mss Sources

Transcribed notes of the Committee of Compounding and Sequestration (PRO) by courtesy of Mr. F. N. Fisher, British Museum Add. Mss. 6686 and 6704.

The Parish Registers of St. Mary's, Wirksworth.
The Wills of Henry Wigley of Middleton 1610; Thomas of Wirksworth 1633, Richard of Wigwell 1635, Joshua of Tansley.

Derbyshire Miscellany: Wigwell Grange Vol.III No.8 p.637.
Faith Wigley's Will Vol.IV No.1 p.37.
Old Henry Wigley Vol.IV No.3 p.138.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Brassington's First Exhibition of Local Treasures

This Exhibition has created considerable interest, both amongst the visitors and amongst those who staged it, and it has become a talking point in the village, and perhaps far beyond the boundaries of the parish.

It came into being after a small number of people had spent a winter at an art class. General comment led them to believe that the rest of the village really wanted to see what the class had accomplished. Then again a small effort at showing Old Brassington to the parishioners had met with favourable report when, during a Wakes Week, Parish Records and Old Maps had been displayed by the Parish Council and over two hundred signatures had been subscribed to the Visitors Book. The idea of an exhibition began to take shape when the suggestion for a Festival of Flowers in the Church was turned down as being not quite in keeping with the surroundings. Then came the challenge.

"Let us show to the people, Old Brassington, and let us try to provide evidence of its inhabitants from the earliest to the present day. Let us show our children how their ancestors lived, and worked, the trades that were carried on in the village, the tools, the transport, the homes and contents, and the beautiful hand made clothes".

The Spell was cast! Five ladies were asked to put this plan into action, meeting occasionally to co-ordinate their ideas. It was felt that the Church which had been the centre of village life since Saxon times would be used to a right and proper purpose as the setting for this display of local treasures. From this point no progress could have been made without the co-operation of the local community and when help was sought it was forthcoming to such an extent that it is gratifying to put on record that almost without exception every home became involved in some part of the exhibition. So, the venture became a community effort. Of course it was the greatest fortune that the splendid collection of stone and flint treasures found by Mr. and Mrs. Radford were in the village and were made available. This set the standard for the exhibition.

Thus, the very ancient was linked with the very new, through the archaeological specimens, the Roman pig of lead, costume, photographs, the School model of the local section of the High Peak Railway (now a track for walking or riding) which served the quarries so well and provided employment for a number of Brassington men, old copper, pewter, brass and silver, Victoriana in great variety, dolls in their dress of the day, the maps and records of the parish, the horse brasses and saddlery, the sadler's tools, the horse plough, the bonny rake, the yoke used when carrying water from one of the several wells, the miners' lamps, the domestic oil lamps, the candles; and finally to the display of the paintings from the Art Class and the floral artistry.

It was a right decision to keep open the Exhibition for five days. During the latter days the question uppermost in the minds of the organisers as to whether the aims and purpose of the enterprise had been fulfilled was answered. Many visitors returned not once, but twice and three times. The local children came daily and made interesting comment with such remarks as "We could not remember it all, so we had to come to look again". It was refreshing to note that the youngsters were soon looking with an enquiring gaze and asking useful questions, in the mean time, learning to look and not to handle the exhibits. And it is hoped that every visitor took advantage of this opportunity to use the material of such historical interest and rarity to make for himself his personal panorama of the Limestone Village of Brassington, Derbyshire.

D. H. Chandler

The Columbels of Darley Nether Hall Manor. Ernest Paulson
Derbyshire Miscellany Vol.V Part III. Spring 1970.

Sadly, I see that Derbyshire Miscellany has now come round to the totally inefficient method of references. I pick this very good and interesting article, as recently I had to look into the Columbels. I only required a brief note, my manuscript is finished and the Columbels no longer concern me, but had I been doing real research on the Columbels the references would have been useless.
i.e. page 165 Ref. 'Add. MSS 6687'. This appears as though it may be 'Add. MSS. 6687 f.149' according to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal XXXV (1913) p.173-176. By Cox's calendaring there are 369 folios in 6687.

Facing p.170, Illustration, Old Darley Hall, for this I cannot find any reference except that it is 'from an estate plan in the British Museum'. That is so bad a reference I do not consider it to be a reference at all.

Page 168 Ref. '(Add.Mss 6667 B.M.)', according to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal XXXIII (1911) pp.138-145, Add MSS 6667 has 386 folios.

If anyone not living in London wanted Xerox copies of documents referred to, it would be impossible to obtain them from these references.

I deplore the lack of references in other articles, although I realise that at the moment this is 'the fashion'. I call it 'modern inefficiency', for quite certainly lack of correct references hampers any further research into the subject of articles. Surely one of the aims of an article is the hope that other people will build on it.

Nellie Kirkham

SECTION NEWS

On March 14th 1970 to follow up the publication of his book, Mr. R. Johnson gave a talk to the Local History Section entitled "The Changing Face of Alfreton".

Alfreton dates from about 600 AD when people entered the area between Rykneild Street and the River Trent. They settled on the ridge of land south of the River Grivel - a name of Scandinavian origin - now called Alfreton Brook, where there was a chain of wells, giving ample fresh water, and the area offered agricultural advantages.

Eventually, owing to a population increase, the younger sons moved away, and the hamlet of Riddings arose, then Birchwood and Swanwick.

So far agriculture had been the only industry, but in the late 13th century it was found that the Alfreton area was rich in coal.

In 1174 the Lord of the Manor of Alfreton founded the Abbey of Beauchief and endowed it with land around Alfreton - nearly a third of the manor. When the coal was discovered the Lord of the Manor and the Abbot of Beauchief as two distinct landlords developed the coal mining industry...

The second great influence in the district was the turnpike road era. ~~Joseph~~ Joseph Outram was a man of outstanding worth and his work of building roads radiating from Alfreton to Rykneild Street, Mansfield, Tibshelf and Nottingham made Alfreton the second town in the County in the 18th century.

So far as the iron trade is concerned, Riddings became the centre for this, and to house the increasing population the new township of Somercotes was formed in the late 19th century. Somercotes is devoid of anything picturesque, with a population in excess of Alfreton as a result of the coal
a

and iron industries.

Progress in Alfreton stopped some time ago, and this gives it an advantage at the present time for development as a public amenity area in mid-Derbyshire.

V. M. Beadsmoore

On May 9th 1970 some members of the Local History Section travelled by coach to visit places of interest in the High Peak and over the border into Cheshire.

After travelling through Chatsworth Park, Calver, Stoney Middleton, we left the coach in the yard of Chapel South Station on the Buxton-Manchester line, and walked to Bank Hall.

Near the Lodge were the remains of a corn mill - probably for the use of the estate. The Hall has had a varied history - it was owned in the 18th century by Squire Frith who was a great huntsman and made his wealth by trains of pack-horses. During the first world war it was occupied by German prisoners of war, and during the second war had evacuees from Westcliff. The Hall is empty at present, so we were able to go inside to look at the dining room which is very ornate. The lower half of the walls ~~are~~ oak panelled, and the upper half ~~are~~ covered with frescoes. An elaborate plaster ceiling is dated 1783, and half of the large bay window is of stained glass depicting numerous wild flowers.

Castle Naze, the site of an iron age fort, was next on the itinerary, and climbing upwards we heard the cuckoo, the first time this year for many of us. By this time the hills were shrouded in mist, and only the more adventurous ~~was~~ climbed to the top.

At Chapel Parish Church, dedicated to St. Thomas Becket, the Vicar gave us an interesting account of its history, and Mrs. Bellhouse of Coombs who had taken charge of the party at the station, had arranged an exhibition of the parish records in the chancel.

Tea at Coombs was the next stop - very welcome after an early lunch.

Then on again through Whaley Bridge, past the basin of the Peak Forest Canal, and New Mills, to Strines, and a delightful walk by the turbulent River Goyt, which is crossed by an elegant single arched stone bridge built by Samuel Oldknow. Passing Strawberry Hill we were observed from the house with great suspicion, and very shortly afterwards came to the Goyt Viaduct - a wonderful piece of engineering - which carries the railway line between New Mills and Marple, opened in 1865.

Bottoms Hall, now a farm, is reputedly the Apprentices House to the mill Oldknow built in 1792 with the financial help of Richard Arkwright. This was burnt down in the 1890's. The dams are now called the Roman Lakes,

Arriving at Marple Bridge, we had a quick look at the lime kilns also built by Oldknow in the 1790's, employing Derbyshire lead miners as masons. Owing to recent housing development, it is now very difficult to see the false front of the kilns built to simulate an ancient castle.

V.M.B.

On Saturday, June 20th members of the Local History Section of the Society travelled into the north east of the county, of which many from the south of the county have entirely a wrong impression. It was a perfect summer day and the idea of grimness, slag heaps, etc., was quickly dispelled. The following extract from an article in the June Derbyshire Life and Countryside is of interest:

"This is fertile material and upon the flat lands east of Bolsover one is immediately aware of the great sky above the large fields, aware that this is arable country with more affinity to parts of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire than to much of Derbyshire lying to the west."

Mrs. Webb joined us at Chesterfield and was our guide for the various places we visited. The first stop was at Newbold to look at the Roman Catholic Chapel. Since the building of a new church nearby this is now used as a store room for the Scouts, and the Perpendicular windows blocked up. The doorway has an almost completely defaced Norman tympanum and the pediment with its pinnacles is evidently part of a restoration. Members of the Eyre family are still interred in the chapel.

At Whittington Revolution House the Curator gave us a short account of its history - how the Earl of Devonshire and others met in 1688 to plot the revolution against King James II in order to put William and Mary on the throne. There is now displayed a very interesting collection of Whittington glass, as well as the furnishings of the 17th century.

On the way to Langwith Bassett church we saw on the sky-line the ruins of Sutton Scarsdale Hall which the Ministry of Public Building and Works has recently accepted as a gift from Mr. Reresby Sitwell, and will preserve as an ancient monument. Then passing Bolsover Castle we next visited the Parish Church of Upper Langwith. Dedicated to the Holy Cross, the church dates from about the eleventh century. On the outside wall, within the porch, can be seen the remains of a Scratch Dial or Mass Clock, and still outside, at the East end is a sepulchral slab, coffin shaped and bearing an incised cross, chalice and book, said to be of the thirteenth century. Inside the church on the south wall of the nave, a piscina indicates the original position of the altar.

After tea at the Devonshire Arms, Langwith, on the way to Cuckney through the Meden Valley, we passed a cotton mill built by Arkwright. The houses in this part of the country are built with magnesium limestone, and in the mill complex the Manager's House is now a farm, and along the road were two terraces of cottages originally for the mill workers.

In Cuckney, which was part of the Abbey of Thurgarton, we visited the mill now used as a Church of England primary school for children in the surrounding district. We were able to go inside and among other things saw the trap door in evidently what was the first floor ceiling leading to the roof space where the apprentices would sleep. The mill dam was a beautiful stretch of water with four small boys with rod and line and a cryptic comment - "Yes its very nice, but there's no fish!".

From Cuckney to Sookholme, the last visit of a very enjoyable outing, to look at the church and Hall Farm. The architecture of the outside of the church was mainly perpendicular, but inside it was a wonderful example of the Norman period. In the sanctuary was a rare example of a beautifully carved Derbyshire chair.

V.M.B.

On July 8th 1970, the Local History Section arranged an evening excursion to Sandiacre and Risley.

Sandiacre church, dedicated to St. Giles, stands on a rock in a position overlooking the Erewash Valley more in keeping with a castle than a church.

In the churchyard is a child's coffin of the Saxon period, and it is most probable that there was a Saxon church on the site. The present building is in two most definite styles of architecture - the nave of the Norman period and the added chancel of practically the same length, in the Decorated period. The buttresses of the chancel have very ornate crocketed pinnacles, and the stonework of the windows has recently been well restored. The chancel was added in 1342.

Inside the church various alterations have been carried out recently - the floor of the nave, and the lighting have been renewed, and the font moved to the south-east corner of the nave. In the sanctuary floor are four graves of the Charlton family, who combined farming with their clerical duties.

There is still the Church Farm, with cow sheds cut into the solid rock on which the church stands. The tithe barn nearby is in a very sad state of repair and it is estimated it would cost £16,000 to put it in order, but the timber framework inside was wonderful.

At Risley we visited All Saints church built in 1593 by the Willoughby family, with a north aisle added in 1841.

The Latin House to the east of the church, was built in 1706 as the master's house for the schools. It is of brick with stone quoins and grotesque faces on the keystones of the windows. The house has been empty for four years and has suffered a good deal of vandalism, but it is now being restored and renovated at a cost of £10,000, towards which the Risley Education Foundation now consisting of 16 trustees has received various grants.

We were able to go inside the schools next door, which were founded in 1583.

V.M.B.

BOOK NEWS

The Industrial Archaeology of Derbyshire by Frank Nixon, 295 pp. 33 plates 30 illustrations in the text. David and Charles Ltd. 1969 50/-d.

Although this book has already been widely and enthusiastically reviewed in many journals, it seems fitting that it should be noted in the Miscellany for the author has been closely connected with this publication from its earliest days.

A professional engineer, Mr. Nixon has brought to bear on the history of the industry of Derbyshire an independent view point. He has combined historical studies with the energy to visit the actual sites where events took place. The book provides a refreshing change from the more usual works on industrial history, for the author sees Derbyshire as a balanced entity in which geology, geography and the people have combined to form a pattern which leads from one development to the next.

Throughout this story, the technical details of which are described with a rare and welcome simplicity, there runs a strong tradition of ability. It comes as something of a surprise to learn how many present Derbyshire firms have been in existence for more than one hundred years, and that almost all our major industries have been carried on at one time or another in a county of only 1,000 square miles with a population of around one million people.

The book is an indispensable comparison for all those who are interested in industrial history or who on their trips into the lovely Derbyshire countryside wish to increase their knowledge of the county and so add to their enjoyment.

J.H.

Derbyshire Village Schools in the Nineteenth Century by Marion Johnson, David and Charles Limited, 1970, 50/-d.

Two good reviews of this book have already appeared in local papers. However, the writer wishes to mention passages not previously quoted.

In Chapter 1, entitled "The Charity Schools", the author describes the Scargill School at West Hallam. This was a Charity School begun in 1664 under the will of the Rev. J. Scargill. By his bequest a farm at Eastwood was bought for £540, and the rents of the first two years were used for the Building, and the school opened within two years of his death in 1664.

Charitable Institutions such as this formed the basis of the educational system throughout the country. The benefactors were attempting to meet the needs of their villagers, and thereby provided the first educational system on a large scale. Benefactors were also helped by the SPCK, founded in 1698 with the aims of publishing Bibles, Prayer Books, and religious tracts, and of stimulating the foundation of Charity Schools. The supposed lowering of moral standards at the end of the XVIIc was the prime cause for the founding of the SPCK, and consequently the schools concentrated on the moral redemption of the scholars.

In the year 1800 Derbyshire had 74 Charity Schools in its villages, fairly evenly distributed over the County. The benefactors left their money or their land for the erection and maintenance of the school building and for the payment of the school master or mistress. The buildings traditionally included a schoolroom and a house for the teacher. The quality of the structures can be judged by the fact that many of these buildings were still in use in the late XIXc, and in some cases even later.

Many Charity Schools by the terms of their endowments had to teach a certain number of free scholars - at Barrow £2 14s. for 8 girls and at Melbourne £10 for 12 children. £16 was to be paid quarterly to the master at Quarndon for 20 children; out of this he was instructed to spend £4 on books, paper, pens and ink. The master at Swanwick had to provide coals as well. At Mapperley the master received £6 per annum to teach reading, writing and arithmetic to 'all the poor children of Mapperley whose parents think proper to send them to school.' Not all parents 'thought proper'. At Findern the number of children varied from 20 to 60, reflecting the need for child labour on the farms.

School masters usually took paying pupils as well as the free scholars to supplement their incomes. The charity at Killamarsh consisted of a house given for use as a school house, 'provided that the master or dame should teach two poor children to read the Bible for the rent of it'.

The minimum of curriculum was to Read. It was more usual to find some religious instruction in addition to reading: 'To read English and to learn the Catechism'. Sometimes the above was provided free, but writing and accounts were charged, especially where the master's salary was meagre. Moral and religious instruction took a large share of the curriculum. Indoctrination in the principles of the Church of England was frequently the main object of the endowments. At Mickleover the master should attend to the children's morals. At Norton the children should be told how heinous the vices of swearing and lying are.....and that they should be punished severely if guilty after a second admonition. There was always the fear of educating the lower orders above their station, leading to unrest and anarchy. The writer comments that 'it would be hard to see how so limited a curriculum could give the labouring poor many ambitions for other occupations or any hope of them'. All these Derbyshire schools were conforming to the orders of the SPCK, from which there is a fascinating quotation: 'Briefly,

they had to teach true spelling, to write a fair hand legibly, the grounds of arithmetic, and girls to knit and sew and mend, to fit them for Service and apprenticeships'. But there is much more to it than that. The length of school life is illuminated by this quotation: 'when poor children could readily read the Bible, they should be taken away, and others younger and more ignorant should supply their places'. Another quotation tells us that 'the master should be a member of the Church of England, of a sober life, that he be of meek temper and humble behaviour, that he have a genius for teaching, and be approved by the Minister of the parish!'.³

Before 1800 Charity Schools had been supplemented by factory and denominational schools. When schools from all sources still proved inadequate to meet demands, the Government gave help in the form of annual grants. Even so a Bill to aid schools was defeated in 1820, but in 1833 (note the year) Parliament approved a sum not exceeding £20,000 to be granted in aid of Private Subscriptions. When (later) the amount was increased a Committee was set up to superintend expenditure. The effect of the grant was to prove a great stimulus to local endeavour, for no grant was paid until half the estimated cost of building a school had been raised by voluntary subscription. Two voluntary societies began work to provide a nation-wide system, the British and Foreign Schools Society (the Lancastrian Society) set up many schools of nonconformist character. The National Society was the Conformist answer. Both societies laid great stress on local effort. They differed slightly in teaching methods - the National Society followed Andrew Bell's Madras System, and the British and Foreign Society took up Joseph Lancaster's Monitorial System. We have here the basis of the pattern for the next 70 years leading up almost to within living memory. It is interesting to note that Joseph Lancaster boasted that under his Monitorial System it was possible for one master to teach 1,000 pupils, while Andrew Bell claimed that one master could supervise ten schools of 1,000 pupils each if they were in close proximity. With the aid of these societies many parishes built completely new schools. It may be that the history of Melbourne is the most interesting in this respect, but perhaps one should leave the reader to pursue this for himself in the book.

Some schools, especially those of Wesleyan foundation, had a fee system which put them beyond the capacity of most people to pay. It may be interesting to note that at Ashbourne in 1869, if one paid 2s. a week the children wrote on slates, but for 3d. they progressed to copy-books.

Duties of parents were often listed, including the need to co-operate with the teacher. School rules on punctuality, attendance and cleanliness were to be respected.

The first Education Act of 1870 and the establishment of Board Schools is dealt with, and there are chapters on the duties of teachers. Some thought is given to Working Children and of their day - work and school together. No aspect of school life in the nineteenth century would appear to have been missed, and Miss Johnson is to be congratulated on an excellent piece of work.

The Twelve Parts of Derbyshire Volume 1 by Edward Boaden Thomas, published by Hub Publications Limited 1970 price 9/-d. limp cover, 25/-d. hard cover, post free. Obtainable from Hub Publications Limited, Youlgreave, Bakewell, Derbyshire.

For many years Mr. Thomas had in mind the idea of a philosophical poem relating man's life and experience to the land in which he lives. It is our good fortune that he has chosen to base his poem on Derbyshire.

Taking the theme of "An English Shire under the Sky; A Microcosm in the mind's eye" Mansfield is decided upon as the authentic starting point, and a description of the Derbyshire circuit is given.

"From Manfield to Bolsover
Where coal-pits scar Scarsdale
From Bolsover to Beeley Moor
And lean against the gale;

From Beeley Moor to Kinderscout
That cumulus of peat;
From Kinderscout to Peak Forest
And limestone under feet;

From Peak Forest to Lathkill Dale
Where clear the waters run;
From Lathkill Dale to Tissington
All quiet under the sun;

From Tissington to Longford
and every field is green;
From Longford to Repton's
Long cultivated scene.

From Repton to Derby
All Saints and sinners go;
From Derby to Shardlow
Where the broad waters flow;

From Shardlow to Smalley
And coal-pits once again;
From Smalley to Alfreton
And pits possess the plain;

From Alfreton to Alport Stone:
The trail shall there be ended
With everybody exercised
And none I hope offended."

Volume 1 deals with the four most northerly regions of the County in

103 pages, mostly in blank verse. The county border is crossed where:

"The border stream is the River Meden,
So the map says, but surely no river
When last I saw it, coming from Skegby,
But a still brook in a shallow valley
Just out of sight of the colliery tips
And so by a small margin pastoral."

In the first part the journey is through Pleasley, Nether Langwith and Cresswell to Streatley and so by Stretton and Tibshelf back to the Meden river boundary. There is a description of Sutton Scarsdale, so lately in the news:

"The roofless mansion waits in solitude
Dishonoured by gipsy elder bushes
That make a casual rude encampment
Under that proud Corinthian facade".

At Shuttlewood -

"A great colliery left us as relict
The pink mountain to startle travellers".

but so rapidly are changes taking place all over the county that already this pink tip has been entirely removed.

So on to Barlborough which "like a swan floats on a green plain of her own".

The second part covers the area west from Stretton through Wooley, Tansley, Matlock and Darley Dale to Beeley and Chatsworth, Baslow, Calver and Grindleford to "arrive in the end at Hathersage town".

There is a charming description of a part of the North Derbyshire countryside:

"The way we take goes down by a pine wood
To where a wandering child of a stream
Dances and sings among sand and heather:
It is Hipper Sick, and the first we meet
Among many such these uplands over.
I remember many a year ago
We came here once on a day in summer.
It was warm but the grey clouds were leaning
Out of the sky and were hanging over
A copse of pines that winter had ravaged
The wind was away and the trees stood still.
A scatter of rain settled in the dust.

We who were travellers out of the south
Had eager eyes for that boulder-bounded
And sandy-bottomed stream of the moorland,
Heather-surrounded and pipit-haunted,
Its scurrying waters speckled with rain.
Our eyes had never before encountered
That lonely place yet it seemed familiar,
Its liberty ours, and we no strangers."

The third part of Derbyshire is a mountain mass and the story continues to tell of Dovestone Tor and Howden Reservoir and the high land through Bleaklow Moor and Longdendale down towards Charlesworth and New Mills and to Castleton and Hope.

"First of the mountains you set your eyes on
In the long succession is Stanage Edge,
Itself a wall between levels of moor
Shoring the upper above the lower,
A mountain wall with a smile on its face
When praised by light from the westering sun
Yet suddenly grey when the sun goes down."

And so by Bamford Edge to the Derwent:

"This Derwent, just escaped from reservoirs,
For ever ready to burst into flood,
Is the one river above all others
Indispensably part of Derbyshire.
It joins by a thread the poles of the shire
And unites like a seam the east and west.
Nothing proper to the lore of rivers
Lacks a place in the scenic serial
Of Derwent's rapid descent from the hills:
Moorlands of Bleaklow on which it tumbles,
Reservoirs deep in a woodland setting,
The cultured arena of Chatsworth Park,
Popular Matlock, and the horseshoe weir
At Belper cotton mill, Darley Abbey,
St. Mary's Bridge, and then the acquaintance
With industrial life, power and chemicals,
Finally the destined apocalypse,
Merging with Trent in the zone of canals."

In describing the hills of this region -

"There is Win Hill with its comb on its head
And across the valley there is Lose Hill
The tapering point that begins the ridge
That makes the divide that everyone strides
Sometime or other if ever they walk."

And -

"Upon Mam Tor the wonderful matter
Is less the mountain than the northward view
Where Kinderscout of the ramparts edges
That wears the drenching clouds on its forehead
Will bar and defy you across Edale."

Of Bleaklow Mr. Thomas writes -

"Bleaklow, more a monster than a mountain,
Has triple heads and a shaggy body.
I shall climb no more on its moorland flanks
Through bog and tussock to the rocky heights,
Not for the sake of a gloomy vision
Of Longdendale and the endless Pennines
Stretching away to the obstinate north.
There is always the hill you might have climbed
Had the time allowed and your will be firm.
Discretion perhaps discounted your chance;
Or accident blighted the hopeful start;
Or anything, everything, blocked the path
That led to the mountain that reared its head.
There are men who stroll in the dales at dusk
Who shun the shade unforgivingly cast
By mountains unconquered in shire or mind."

So comes the fourth and last part in this volume. Earlier Hobbes has been considered in his relations with the north of the County and William Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire. ("This lucky lad of the Restoration was born to serve and adorn the nation:-----if his noon was dark with cloudy weather by sunset the old accustomed glory, suffused a sky that had cleared altogether. William Cavendish is bound to impress all for whom nothing succeeds like success"). Also, Philip Kinder and his connection with Derbyshire about which Mr. Thomas has written in a previous Miscellany is referred to in some detail. The fourth part also has its roll of notable men:

"Mystics, mechanics, mill-owners, miners,
Men open-hearted and men taciturn,
Spendthrifts, misanthropes, saints and charlatans.
From among them all I choose Mompesson,
He who confined the pestilence to Eyam
As if to lock himself inside a cell
With a mad murderous beast at elbow.
A gloom of enormous affliction fell
And the cause was darkly seen if at all
But the plague that nothing he did could stay
Was yet by his hardihood kept contained."

There is a description of the limestone county which predominates here:

"Limestone is a rock various as life,
Sharply interrupted by deep gorges,
Riddled with caverns and underground streams
That enter or leave from courses unknown,
And containing unpredictable veins
Of minerals fit for strange artifice.
These are the vagaries of its own nature
But then like life it suffers invasions:
Roads and railways appear out of nowhere,
Engineers' tunnels and shafts for miners;
Quarries expose its bareness of being."

This poem is delightful to read and full of interest, and the reader will want to follow in Mr. Thomas's footsteps and try to see the countryside through his eyes.

A.A.N.

Unfinished Thoughts by Avus, published July 1970.

In his introduction "Avus" who is a member of the D.A.S., states that the book has been written expressly for the young people leaving our schools and colleges to-day. The thoughts, those which came to him as he woke from sleep, are of man and his purpose and duty to God. "I believe now as I did in my teens, that it is part of my task in life to help to make the world a better place than I found it. This is the dream of youth of all ages and because it is still alive and active in my life I feel that after a lifetime's experience of thinking some of the same kind of thoughts, that you are now thinking and having consistently tried to put them into practice I may have something helpful to say to my youthful colleagues of to-day". Copies may be obtained from Mr. Philip M. Robinson, Rye Flatt, Chesterfield.

Church Buildings in North Derbyshire and South Yorkshire by B. Bunber, published September 1970 at 30/-d. per copy by B. Bunber, Cartledge Lane, Holmesfield, near Sheffield.

A Select Booklist on the Centenary of the 1870 Education Act published by the Derby Borough Library pub. August 1970. Free.

A useful list but of limited range.

East Midlands Bibliography Vol.8 No.2 1970.

This issue is especially useful as listing the publications of the County Record Office.

Derby, Its Rise and Progress by A. W. Davison, first published 1906. Reprint by S. R. Publishers Ltd. price 55/-d. available from Clulows Limited, Cathedral Bookshop, Derby.

Note: S. R. Publishers Limited have also reprinted, price £3 3s. Od. A. Plan for the Conduct of Female Education by Erasmus Darwin published J. Johnson, Derby 1797. This book (pp.137) was quoted by Mr. R. C. Smith in his interesting article on Erasmus Darwin's School at Ashbourne, Derbyshire Miscellany Vol.V No.1 1969.

HOW TO MAKE A QUILL PEN
(Instructions in an Eighteenth Century Manual)

Those quills, called "Seconds" being long and round in the barrel are best. First scrape off the superfluous scurf with the back of the pen-knife, most on the back of the quill that the slit may be the finer and without the "ganders's teeth", as the roughness in the slit is called. Now, cut the quill at the end half way through on the back part, and then, trimming up the belly cut the other half or part quite through viz. about $\frac{1}{4}$ " or almost $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the end of the quill which will then appear forked. Then enter the pen knife a little in the back notch and then, putting the peg of the pen knife haft, or the end of another quill, into the back notch, and holding the thumb pretty hard on the back of the quill, as high as the slot is to be, with a sudden quick switch force up the slit. It must be sudden and smart that the slit may be cleaner. Next, shape the quill to a fine point, place the inside of the nib on the thumb nail and enter the knife at the extremity of the nib and cut it through a little sloping. Then with an almost downright cut of the knife cut off the nib and by other proper cuts of the knife finish the pen, bringing it into a handsome shape and proper form. Do not meddle now with the cut by trimming or fine cuts as this will cause a roughness. The breadth of the nib must be proportional to the breadth of the body or downright black strokes of the letters in whatever hand written, small or

Little wonder that the steel pen nib was described as a "boon and a blessing to men". Made to suit any style of hand writing, ready for fitting into a holder, easily cleaned after use with a "pen wiper", it was durable and cheaply replaced.

Reginald C. Smith
