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THE LIMESTONE ROUTE AT PLEASLEY:  
AN INTERIM REPORT.

by

Peter Fullelove and Simon Hornshaw.

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The writers wish to thank the following, without whose help this work could not have been completed: Mr. R. Keys, for permission to excavate on his land. Sheffield University, for providing much appreciated finance. Drs. P. Phillips and P. Mellars, for examining some of the finds. Prof. D. Mosely, our ever-helpful mentor. The local people of Pleasley, whose helpful interest was of more than material benefit.

INTRODUCTION.

The basis of our research has been to establish the line of a Roman Road from Templeborough Fort, near Rotherham, SK 413917, to Broxtowe Roman Station, near Nottingham, SK 525429, with possible extensions to the North and South-East. Much of this route follows the magnesian limestone ridge, running North-South, which would have provided a natural line of communication North of the Trent, rising above the indigenous forest. The historical and documentary evidence for this route has been dealt with elsewhere by H. Lane (1) and S. R. Penny (2). The present report is only concerned with the results of one of our excavations, since, although a considerable amount of research has been completed, it would be premature to deal here with the evidence for the route as a whole.

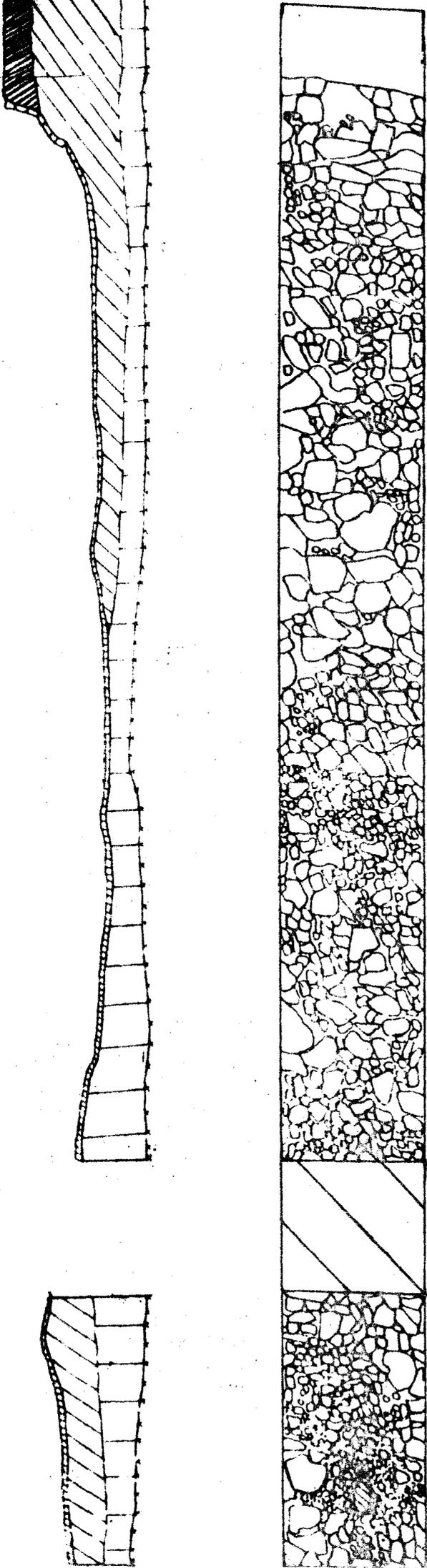
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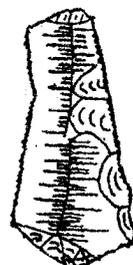
The site is in the parish of Pleasley and within the borough of Mansfield at SK495637, lying beneath a pasture field adjoining Longhedge Lane. Longhedge Lane itself would represent the course of the Road, until at its Northernmost end the line of the Bridle Path has been altered to the East in order to accommodate the colliery bridge. The positioning of the excavation was, therefore, based on the assumption that Longhedge Lane would have originally been connected in a direct North-South line, following the course of the present parish boundary.

Other sites of importance in the area are the Roman Villa at Mansfield Woodhouse (3) and the Pleasley Chapel site (4), which lies only  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the East of the Road. The latter is significant since the fourteenth century chapel was preceded by a Romano-British settlement, although its precise location and character is, as yet, uncertain.

LONGHEDGE LANE : 1

Plan North wall





LONGHEDGE LANE

Flint assemblage

The significance of the Road in a Mediaeval context is well known locally, the route being known as the 'Great Way'. One ancient document, for example, gives reference of an inquisition on 8 May 1285, as to whether Thomas Bek should be granted permission to construct a roadway linking his Manor with the 'Great Way', which crosses the Meden at Newboundmill Bridge.(5) It is our intention to demonstrate that this Road had its origins in the Roman Period and possibly even earlier as a Prehistoric route.

#### THE EXCAVATION.

The trench excavated, traversing the Road, was of the dimensions 1m x 12ms, although a baulk of 1m. had to be left to accommodate a fence.

The major limitation in the excavation was the fact that the magnesian limestone bedrock is very close to the surface at this point, being at a maximum depth of 40cms., beneath brown soil and humus. Consequently, the only detail of the Road's construction that can be assessed is the way in which the bedrock has been fashioned to the Road's design. As figure I demonstrates, this has been done to quite a considerable extent. The nature of the bedrock itself provides evidence of its exposure, for the limestone is heavily weathered and fragmented. A distinct camber has been manufactured on the Road, which has an effective width of c.16ft. and this leads to the suggestion that the natural fissure on the West side has been utilised for drainage. On the East side of the Road a ditch has been cut into the bedrock, where a hedgerow has subsequently grown up. The loose limestone rubble to the East of this probably represents the material excavated from the ditch. Within this limestone rubble 3 post-holes were uncovered,

Post-holes 1 and 2 are the least clearly defined and, being humus-filled, probably relate to a relatively recent fence, which is known to have existed here. Post-hole 3, however, has been cut c.20cms. into the bedrock, with a maximum width of c.10cms. It is filled with brown soil and, therefore, predates post-holes 1 and 2. Equally, since it has been cut into the excavated ditch material, it must post-date the period of the Road's construction.

The finds uncovered during the excavation are of interest but of little dating value, owing to the simplicity of the stratigraphy and the proximity of the bedrock to the surface. A number of flints were found in level 2, on the Road surface. (See figure) Drs. P. Phillips and P. Mellars examined these flints and agreed that a Neolithic date 'would not be out of context', although no diagnostic piece was found. The occurrence of these flints, however, does lend support to the view that the Road originated as a Prehistoric route, dating back at least as far as the Neolithic.

CONCLUSIONS.

- 1) A Road structure, of 16ft. width, has been manufactured on to the natural magnesian limestone bedrock. It is envisaged that this would originally have had a metalled surface, although no trace of this was found. The bedrock itself, however, would have provided adequate drainage.
- 2) The only dating evidence obtained was a number of unstratified flints from the Road surface. These can be tentatively assigned to the Neolithic.
- 3) A combination of archaeological and documentary evidence suggests that the Road has a complex history, being used as a Prehistoric trackway, a Roman Road, and a Mediaeval Road. It is hoped that future excavations will provide more precise evidence concerning the different periods of the Road's use.

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1. H. Lane, D.A.S., Research Report I, 1973, 9-11.
2. S. R. Penny, D.A.J., LXXXVI, 1966, 83-5.
3. Archaeologia VIII, 1787, 363-376, and T.T.S., 1953, 1-14.
4. D. March, S.A.S., Report, 1975.
5. M. Gavaghan, 'History of Pleasley'.

Abbreviations:

- D.A.S. = Derwent Archaeological Society.  
D.A.J. = Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.  
S.A.S. = Sherwood Archaeological Society.  
T.T.S. = Transactions of the Thoroton Society.

THE CLARKES OF SOMERSALL,  
NEAR CHESTERFIELD, CO. DERBY.

by

Rosemary Milward

Based on three 17th century Inventories. (1)

The Inventories of Godfrey Clarke, his son Gilbert, and grandson Godfrey span a mere 35 years - from 1635 to 1670 - but the value of Goods, Chattels, and Cattle increased during this period, from £500 to more than £5000. The Clarkes at this time, as gentry, were certainly rising, and it may be of interest to look, briefly, into the reasons for this increase in wealth.

From the 13th to mid-16th centuries the Shawes and Somersalls held the estate later enjoyed by the Clarkes. It would seem that these two surnames were interchangeable, for they appear in a variety of early documents as Hugone de Somersale, 1250, (2) John Shawe of Somersal, 1448, (3), John Shawe alias Somersall, 1535, (4) and John Somersall throughout the period. The Wills and Inventories of John Garat, 1556, (5) and Richard Abel, 1559, (5) both of Somersall, indicate that by this time the Somersall family had ceased to live there and this is supported by a deed of 1578 (6) which records the sale by Godfrey Shawe, alias Somersall, of Barnebey, co. Notts., gentleman, to Nicholas Clarke of Somersall, of houses and shops in Chesterfield, and an estate of some 700 acres of meadow, pasture, heath and furze, and moor in Morton (Cutthorpe) and Walton. Somersall is not included, but as Nicholas was living there at this time, as also were Ralph and Godfrey Clarke (7) the Clarkes had presumably purchased it some years before. Ralph disappears from the Somersall scene and it was Nicholas who remained there, probably building the Elizabethan house of the inventories during the 1570s and 1580s. In 1590 his Will refers to "my now Mancyon House of Somersall", (8) and here he founded a line of Godfreys and Gilberts which continued for 250 years, until Anna Marie Catherine Price Clarke, Marchioness of Ormonde, died without issue in 1817.

Nicholas Clarke was an Alderman of Chesterfield, and an astute and ambitious attorney with a Chamber in Clement's Inn, for which he paid £18 a year, (9) and left for the use of his sons, Robert and Godfrey. He was, at one time, Bailiff to the Earl of Shrewsbury, and acted for him in matters of business. Later, his eagerness to better himself and three sons led to a dispute, in 1586, between the Earl and the four Clarkes concerning a lease of the former Guild lands in Chesterfield. Originally Nicholas had obtained this for the Earl from the Burgesses, but later, by a series of questionable manoeuvres, he and his

lawyer son, Robert, procured a new lease in favour of the Clarkes.(10) At his death in 1590 he owned property at Somersall, in Brampton and in Chesterfield, which he left in trust for his three sons. Of these, Thomas died without issue in 1595, and Robert, the attorney, moved to Kent. Thus Godfrey (of the first inventory) became sole owner. He, too, took part in local affairs, for he was High Constable of Scarsdale, and Church Warden of Brampton.

The Clarkes showed in each generation a determination to increase their financial and social position and this they did by the manipulation of property, transactions in land, coal, iron, possibly quarrying, and the corn trade but above all by the marriages they arranged for their children.

Gilbert, son of Godfrey I, married Helen Clarke of Codnor, sole heiress of her father, and Godfrey II's first wife was Elizabeth Milward of Eaton Dovedale, who brought Chilcote and other Staffordshire property to the Clarkes. After her early death he married Elizabeth Bierly, a widow of 18, and co-heiress to her father, Nicholas Frevile of co. Durham. Although these northern estates were settled on Elizabeth's daughter, Jane Bierly, a marriage was arranged between Godfrey's son, Gilbert II and his step-sister Jane, to keep them in the family. Sadly, she died in her 17th year, giving birth to their daughter, Elizabeth Clarke.(11)

To turn to the Inventories -

The appraisers for the two Godfreys list the contents of each room, so that we can picture in some degree the size and plan of Elizabethan Somersall. The second inventory is made in a different way, the plate, linen, furniture etc. being valued categorically, and no rooms are mentioned. The third is much the most interesting and detailed.

In 1634 the house consisted of Hall, Parlour, Study, Nursery, Kitchen and Larder, Buttery, Dairy, Wash house, Boulting and Brew houses. Upstairs there were the Great Chamber, Middle Chamber over the Parlour, and chambers over the Buttery, Nursery, Brewhouse, Kitchen, Larder, and a closet and chamber at the stairhead. In the 1670 inventory five of the latter chambers are called the Blue, Green, White, Seeled, Willimot's, and there is a New chamber. Considerable attics are mentioned then used partly as stores, and partly for junk, and called, with ecclesiastic flavour, the Rood Lofts.

Somersall, in 1634, was simply furnished, as indeed were most houses at that time. In the Hall we find only 3 tables, 2 forms, 1 landiron, 1 fire shovel and a pair of tongs. The Parlour was more comfortable with 2 tables,

a livery cupboard, 3 forms, 5 buffet stools, 1 seeled chair, 1 landiron, 12 cushions, 3 green carpet cloths, and green curtains for the window. In the chambers, other than the Great Chamber, there are beds valued at £5 and £6 each, but little else, 4 chests, 3 chairs, 2 old presses and a trunk, spread over the six rooms. The Great Chamber would have been used as a second parlour for it contained 7 buffet stools and 2 chairs, tables, carpet cloths and cushions, as well as the seeled bed with clothes and furniture (hangings, mattresses, featherbeds and pillows), belonging to it, worth a total of £16.

In the domestic offices were an adequate number of utensils for cooking, brewing and the making of cheese.

To judge from Gilbert Clarke's inventory in 1650 not very much seems to have been done to improve the house after it became Gilbert's. The linen was worth £28 instead of £20; plate had increased in value by £2. "Bowles, salts, spoones and other thinges" could well represent Godfrey the first's more spectacular "One Guilt salte of silver with a cover, one duple silver salte with a cover, three silver boules, sixteene silver spoones, one litle silver sault, one litle silver potte with a Cover on it". Purse, watch and apparel had increased from £150 to £215. Practically the only new and interesting item is a pair of virginals, though in the next generation they have disappeared.

The apparent lack of change in the house is perhaps accounted for by the uncertainty of life during the Civil War, and the austerity of the Commonwealth. Few householders would consider the times to be suitable for laying out money on household goods, and in any case little furniture was being made. It is possible, too, that after his marriage Gilbert and his wife preferred to live at Codnor, for in the 1650 inventory goods are listed there to the value of £100 "bought since the death of the said Mr John Clarke" (his father-in-law).

The third inventory, of Godfrey II, 1670, ten years after the Restoration, suggests that he and his wife, Elizabeth Milward, found Somersall old fashioned and in need of modernisation. Perhaps they re-modelled it in some degree on her old home at Eaton Dovedale, for a long inventory of that house, made in 1666, shows many similarities.<sup>(12)</sup> The Parlour at Somersall has become the "Dyning room", nine of the rooms now have ranges instead of landirons. Comfort and luxury are much in evidence and reflect the relaxed ways of the Restoration period. Eight rooms are provided with looking glasses, some have stands for wigs, close stools appear in the Great, Seeled and Green chambers, and there is no lack of chamber pots, 13 in the store chambers, with 6 close pans and a bed pan. Seven pewter basins and two of white plate for personal washing.

Stocks of linen are surprisingly large: 95 pairs of sheets, 385 napkins, 44 table cloths, cupboard and stool cloths, towels and pillow beers, of damask, diaper, linen, huckaback, holland and calico. Hundreds of yards of new linen, wool and hemp material, new blankets and coverlets. New matting for a floor, new "rubbing brushes" and 7 new flag besoms. It was a well stocked house in every way, £5 worth of hanging beef and bacon, and in the dairy chamber 120 cheeses, a remarkable number and a satisfactory product of 13 cows. Ten rooms are devoted to the production of food and drink, and contain an almost unreasonable amount of equipment - piggins, kitts, skellets, posnets, kimmels, bottles of glass and stone, patty pans, knives, ladles, 10 spits, water dishes, 8 custard pots of white plate, an alabaster mortar, a drudging box, a grater, a cream strainer, 30 earthen pancheons, a salt pitch, chests for beef, bacon and candles, and many other implements and containers of iron, brass, earthenware and wood.

The Buttery, perhaps, merits more detailed study for the variety of its contents. Two tables, 1 trestle, 1 form and 5 joint stools indicate that some of the servants ate there. Otherwise there were a cupboard and a glass case, presumably to contain the 5 large pewter candlesticks and sockets, 4 of brass, 6 flagons and 2 pewter stands.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  dozen white salts suggests that each diner had his own. Seven forks are here for the first time, only spoons and knives being listed in the previous two inventories. Two leather jacks and 3 drinking horns sound somewhat antiquated, and perhaps were only used by the servants, and there would be many in such a household. There were 3 dozen of drinking glasses for use in the dining room. Ten dozen trenchers in the little house adjoining the buttery, and another 13 dozen in the Rood Loft suggest that these were in process of being superseded by pewter, though quantities of this were stored away in the loft, larder and nursesey closet - 46 pewter dishes, 11 porringers, 12 saucers, 10 plates, 2 pasty plates, 30 dishes, 5 pie plates, 67 meat plates, 6 large saucers, 18 pewter spoons, 12 fruit dishes etc.

Then there was the silver, this too in the nursery closet, perhaps for safety, 27 spoons, 2 tankards, 2 porringers, 1 sugar box and spoon, 1 caudle cup and cover, 1 little tumbler, 1 bowl, 1 bottle for cordial water, 1 great salt, 6 little salts, all worth £61.13s.4d. One wax candle 10s. must then have been a fashionable luxury and an improvement on the home-made tallow candles used up till 1650. For shaving the master of the house and his guests we find 2 barber's cases, 1 brass basin and a pot, worth £2. These were kept in the Buttery, as were linens for use in the dining room, in a chest, 10 table cloths, 8 dozen napkins and 2 sideboard cloths. There was also a napkin press. Eight-cornered table cloths are puzzling, until one remembers that at this time

a side table was popular, which had a triangular frame with a gate-leg at the back; the top was hinged and when open the table was octagonal.

A fairly recent invention, the couch-chair, had been bought for three of the rooms, and upholstered chairs and stools have ousted forms and seeled chairs, or else they have been relegated to the less important chambers, or the attics. In this place are 10 chairs without covers, old chests, doors and ranges, an old Kittermuster, an old press, with other out-moded objects. A pair of french tables in the passage into the garden reminds us that foreign furniture was sought after in affluent Derbyshire houses.

One has the impression that now the house must have been somewhat crowded with furniture. The dining room, for instance, contained 3 tables, 16 russia leather chairs, both high and low, a couch chair, an upholstered chair and stool, and two screens. Gone are the forms, the livery cupboard and the seeled chair, and it certainly sounds more comfortable. On the walls are a map and 4 pictures, (and in the Great Chamber are 5 more) there are window curtains and 10 sett work cushions. Only in one room is the colour of the fabric mentioned, and that is the Green Chamber "Green say hangings, window curtains and rod, £5". The Blue Chamber may have had blue curtains but the inventory does not say so, though it was one of the more important rooms, with both a stand bed and a canopy bed, and 10 cloth chairs and stools, 3 cupboards and other things. Rather oddly a case of pistols and holsters was kept there.

One thing which all the Clarkes possessed was books. Godfrey I had "a Roomth called the Studie" where there were books worth about £6, some left to him by his father, Nicholas. In Gilbert's time "his bookes in several places about the house, £10 - 11 - 0", and Godfrey II kept "certain old Law bookes and other bookes in the closet in the Dyning room", £3. 5s. 8d., but his library was still in the Study, where it was valued at £30. Here, too, were a desk, a screw-press "for cutting books in", parchment and tools for book-binding, writing paper, leather cases in which to carry papers, boxes with partitions. These belonged to Francis Baker, styled in his Will "servant to Godfrey Clarke of Somersall". He lived in the house, and carried out the duties of secretary/librarian, and perhaps bailiff. Living with a family more sophisticated than most of their neighbours, and being a bachelor, certain of his possessions reflect his more cultured tastes - a gilt silver hat band, shoe buckles, a pair of gold weights, silver and brass seals, a little barber's case with razors and "sithers", fish hooks, bowls and a jack. He was a man of some means, lending money on bond to the tune of £180. He had the lease of a good working farm elsewhere in Brampton, from

the Clarkes, and willed the rent for the remaining years of his lease to maintain a schoolmaster to teach Brampton children, "if other parishioners will add to it". His other bequests included his walking staff "the head artificially cutt and tipped with silver" to young Gilbert Clark, and to his wife, Jane, his book of Sir Richard Baker's Works upon the Lord's Prayer, and the Two Psalms. Specified legal and religious books he left to other friends and relations, and methodically he declares that his own name or initials, F.B. are written in all his own books, and any others are not his, and neither does he remember whose some of them are! The outer world sharply intrudes into this well-favoured Derbyshire household with his final legacy - the residue of his estate to his late brother's sons and daughters "such as it hath pleased God to spare in the late visitation at London". The year of his death is 1665.

By 1670 there were no longer children in the nursery. Gilbert II, the eldest son, was 25, his step sister, and later wife, who came to Somersall at the age of 5, had been dead three years, and his half-brother, Nicholas, had died nine years before, when he was 3. The room seems to have become an adjunct to the Wash house and Buttery. Five hollow smoothing irons, 2 little smoothing irons, 8 heaters (for the irons), 4 baskets for clothes, a catering basket, 9 temses and sieves. It would have been a comfortable place when the children were small, with a bedstead and its furniture worth £6, 2 tables, stools, a twigg chair and a screen to keep the draughts away. In winter a fire in the range, light from 5 little brass candlesticks and one of tin, the children amusing themselves with apple roasters before the fire, something cooking in the two brass skellets, and a warming pan handy for the beds ... One might wonder at the presence of "one pinte pott", though "a Limbecke to still strong waters in", which appears in the nursery of their cousins at Eaton Dovedale seems even more out of place.

Arms and armour have a small place in all three inventories.

In 1634 there was an "Armerie house" in which there were 2 corselettes, 1 dragon, 1 buff coat, 1 musket, 1 gauntlet, 2 old callivers and a fowling piece. Fifteen years later the "Dragoone" is still there, and the "old Buffecoate" and birding pieces. Cross-bows, long-bows, quivers, and 2 cases of old pistols have been added. After the Restoration we find 2 old cross-bows in the Rood Loft, but everything else has been disposed of. Instead, 4 cases of snap-lock pistols, 2 cases and a half of wheel-lock pistols, and 2 carbines are kept in the kitchen. Four suits of armour adorn the Hall, which, compared with the rest of the house, is oddly simple and has hardly changed from 1634. No curtains, cushions, table carpets or chairs are listed, just the tables, forms and stools of former years.

The Summer House would have been a pleasant place with its view on every side over the gardens, fields, woods and stream. Possibly built by Godfrey and Elizabeth Clarke in Charles II's time, it was furnished with a table, a couch-chair, 4 stools, 1 carpet, 4 cushions, a bed and 2 pillows for the couch-chair, all wrought with needlework - the only time such decoration is recorded in any of the inventories. The garden tools of that day were very much as now - a pruning ladder, a stone "roaler", watering pot, spades, hoes and rakes, and they were kept in the lower part of this small tower-like building, known as the Garden house.

The Clarke family, with several houses, and numerous relations and friends, travelled frequently. Godfrey II had a coach drawn by 4 horses, protected when not in use by a canvas cover. There was a chariot as well, a sumpter saddle with a cover for carrying small furniture, hangings etc., and in the White Chamber, 2 sumpter trunks and one other trunk. In the stables were a portmantue saddle, 2 saddles and holsters for the great horse, a plush saddle, one to carry a child on, and 5 hunting saddles. There were 9 horses to carry this equipment, apart from the coach horses. It is only surprising that the earlier inventories of 1635 with one "Ryding gelden", and 1650 with "one Gelding and one mare" show such inadequate means of transport.

Oxen, of course, were used for all farm work. In 1635 there were 10, which drew "2 cornewaynes, 2 cort-waynes", and an assortment of ploughs, harrows, and other implements, valued at £106, with 10 cows and sheep of all kinds. Gilbert's farm stock was worth much the same, and grain, both on the ground and in the barns, comes to £66 for both the earlier inventories. But Godfrey II had 28 oxen, 13 cows, 1 heffer and a bull, valued at £210, his corn, £184, and the farm now carried 6 corn and cart wains, 4 sledges, ploughs, standhecks, teams, yokes, scythes, sickles, pease hooks, and other husbandry gears. It would seem that he farmed a good deal more land than his forebears.

Although one of the second Godfrey's relations, John Milward of Snitterton, left all his hawks and spaniels, and his "setting" dog, Lusty, to his good friend Anthony Fitzherbert, dogs are never mentioned in inventories, and so one can only assume that there were hounds and farm dogs. The Hipper, and other Derbyshire streams, at that time contained otters as well as fish. Gilbert had a "fishnette", perhaps used in the fishpond beside the Somersall brook as well as in the brook itself. Ten otter staves were kept in the Hall in 1670 for reducing the otter population, and hares and foxes would be hunted too. The dog kennel housed 6 pairs of dog-couples and a dog hook, for linking hounds together and better controlling them. It was a small building where their food was

prepared in a lead boiler, and was fed to them in a dog trough - an improvement on "one Iron pan to make dog meat" of 20 years before.

Timber always seems to have been plentiful on the estate, for there were many woods in the district. In 1608 Godfrey I had leased property near Holywell Cross to George Mower, a webster, for 12 years at 16s8dsa year, on a repairing lease, except where great timber was concerned, and this was to be provided by Godfrey Clarke in rough trees, if the request was reasonable. In 1670 93 pieces of timber lay in the Cunningrey worth £190.

The Clarkes had long worked coal. William Senior's Survey of Chesterfield of 1633-7 shows Mr Clarke's colepit on Brampton Moor, though only 13s4d worth of "coles for the fyer" lay at Somersall when Godfrey I died. There was also an Iron house with "some litle parcellls of Iron with some Cowper ware, 13s.4d.", but this may only have been a blacksmith's shop for repairs about the estate. It is referred to again in 1670, though then it contained still less - "a Kinnell and 4 tubbs". In the coal yard, on the other hand, were 50 wain loads of coals for £7. 10s. 6d. A coal pit on much the same site was listed in the Ormonde Sale Catalogue of 1824 (13) together with beds of ironstone and a quarry. The family also owned a water corn mill on Howley Moor (Holymoor) from about 1599.(14) This was situated on the Loads Brook, and is possibly the oldest of many mill sites in and around Holymoorside.

Probably their most profitable mineral interest was lead. After the Civil War, and the Fire of London, lead prices were particularly high, and Derbyshire lead was exported to London and elsewhere. One would expect the Clarkes to avail themselves of such a source of income, but positive information is, however, scarce. The year his father died, 1635, Gilbert Clarke purchased the Manor House of Lea, and other lands at Ashover, Tansley and Crich, which included a lead mill and smelting house in Lea and Ashover, with dams and watercourses.(15) There was also Long Chimney smelting mill, adjacent to Howley Mill, which, in the 1650's and '60's had caused considerable strife between the tenants, Paul Fletcher of Walton, and his nephew, Richard Kenkinson, and the local farmers, who complained that the smoke and fumes damaged their cattle and crops. By the time of Godfrey II's death in 1670 it had changed hands, Godfrey Watkinson and George Birds of Stanton being in possession.(15) The contents were valued at £10, consisting of various tools, lead in the pan, weigh beam and stirrups. The elaborate marriage settlement of Gilbert II of 1671 mentions 2 smelting mills "for the meltinge of Leade oare and makeings of Leade".(16) Charcoal was made on Clarke land in "the woods, underwoods and woodground" at Ladywood, by Chander Hill, and no doubt this supplied the lead mills. (17)

It seems likely that after the death of Godfrey II in 1670 the Clarkes ceased to live at Somersall. Gilbert II, his son, had been knighted at Whitehall in 1670, (18) he became High Sheriff of Derbyshire in 1675, (19) and in 1671 he had married for the second time. He was much occupied with county and national affairs, and so perhaps found Chilcote ("a very large old mansion" according to Glover) more suitable to his needs than Somersall. He did not, however, lose touch with Brampton, and it was he who erected the monument in Old Brampton church commemorating nine of his ancestors: Nicholas (the first Clarke at Somersall) and his wife, Margaret Dand; Godfrey I and his wife, Jane Grundy; Gilbert and his two wives, Helen Clarke and Grace Columbell; Godfrey II and his first wife, Elizabeth Milward; Nicholas, infant son of Godfrey II and his second wife, Elizabeth Bierley, and Jane, first wife of Gilbert II.

The house of the inventories disappeared as mysteriously as it arrived, and all that now remains from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries is a collection of outbuildings - the Summer House, Brewhouse, Barn and Stable. The chamber over the Stable must be almost the same as it was 300 years ago when some of the farm workers lived there, for there are initials and dates in raddle and candle soot on the beams and walls from the 17th and 19th centuries. Formerly it was furnished with 7 beds, 3 of them with feather beds, 2 tables, 2 chairs, a form and a stool. A smaller room at one end has a fireplace, and on the outside of the gable are pigeon holes.

After the Clarkes settled at Chilcote, and later bought Sutton Scarsdale, Somersall was let to various tenants. A relation of theirs, George Milward, lived in the old house till 1716. In the 1760's the present house was built, and probably some of the stone and the window mullions were used in its construction. Tenant farmers occupied it until the Ormonde estates were sold in 1824, which ended the Clarke association with Somersall, and, indeed, with Derbyshire,

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#### Glossary

- Appraisers, praisers - Neighbours, relations, business colleagues or beneficiaries, usually four, who viewed and valued the goods of the deceased person.
- Bed hilling - Bed covering.
- Bed pan - usually a warming pan.
- Buff coat - Military coat of stout leather dressed with oil, of a dull whitish-yellow colour.
- Buffet stool - stool for use at a table.
- Calico - Plain cotton cloth, originally imported from the East.
- Calliver - Light type of portable gun.
- Canopy bed - Four-poster with canopy, usually of material.
- Carbine - Firearm, shorter than musket, used by mounted soldiers.
- Carpet cloth - }
- Cupboard cloth } - Decorated covering of various materials.
- Candle cup - For serving a warm drink made of gruel flavoured with wine and spices.
- Chariot - Light 4-wheeled carriage with only back seats.
- Corselette - Piece of defensive armour covering the body.
- Couch chair - Couch or day bed.
- Cowper, cooper ware - wooden vessels formed of staves and hoops, such as casks, buckets and tubs.
- Cross-bow - missile weapon consisting of a bow fixed across a wooden stock, with a mechanism for holding and releasing the string.
- Cunningrey, -conegry - Rabbit warren.

- Damask - Patterned linen cloth, originally from Damascus.
- Diaper - Linen woven in a diamond pattern.
- Dragon, dragoone - A kind of Carbine, so called from its "breathing fire".
- Drinking horn - Used for drinking out of.
- Drudging box - Dredging box; for flour etc.
- Flag besoms - Bundle of birch twigs with long handle, for sweeping.
- Flagon - Jug-like vessel with handle and spout, used for drink at table.
- Fowling piece - A light gun for shooting wild fowl.
- Glass case - Cupboard with glazed doors.
- Holland - Linen fabric originally imported from Holland.
- Holsters - Leather cases for pistols worn on a belt.
- Huckaback - Stout linen fabric with rough surface.
- Joint stool - Stool made by a joiner.
- Kimnell - Any kind of tub for household purposes.
- Kitt - Wooden vessel made of hooped staves used for many household purposes.
- Kittermuster - Thin carpet, originally made at Kidderminster, of several colours, much used in 17th century for bed hangings etc.
- Landiron - Horizontal bar, with upright column in front, on short feet, to support burning wood on the hearth.
- Leather jack - Large leather can or jug, usually coated with tar, and used for drink.
- Limebeck - A Still for making Aqua-vitae etc.
- Livery cupboard - One with perforated doors in which food and drink were kept.
- Long bow - Bow drawn by hand, discharging a long feathered arrow.
- Pancheon - Large shallow earthenware bowl, wider at the top, and used for setting milk and other purposes.
- Piggin - Small wooden vessel having one stave longer than the rest, for a handle.
- Pillow beers - Pillow cases or Slips.
- Porringer - Small bowl with two handles, for soup, porridge etc.
- Portmantue, portmantle & Case for carrying clothes etc. when travelling.
- Posnet - Small metal cooking pot with handle and three feet.
- Press - Large standing cupboard for holding clothes, linen, books etc.
- Range - Fire grate, not necessarily used for cooking at this time.
- Rubbing brushes - Scrubbing brushes.
- Russia leather - Very durable leather made of skins impregnated with oil distilled from birch bark.

- Salt pytch - Salt box, but sometimes made of pottery.
- Saucer - Container for sauce; not then used under cups.
- Say - A fine serge, much used for curtains and hangings.
- Seeled - Panelled.
- Sett cushions - Stitched; covered with a type of embroidery.
- Sithers - Scissors.
- Skellet - Small saucepan with three feet and long handle to stand over the fire.
- Spit - Slender pointed rod of metal or wood, used for thrusting through meat to be roasted before the fire.
- Stand bed - Four-poster with fixed top of wood or material, curtains and valences.
- Stand heck - Rack for fodder standing on four posts, for use in field or farm yard.
- Sumpter saddle - Used on a horse for carrying small furniture, trunks etc.
- Sumpter trunk - One carried by a sumpter horse.
- Tallow - Hard animal fat used for candles, soap and dressing of leather.
- Temse - Sieve.
- Trenchers - Flat wooden platters, both round and square, the latter usually having a small recess in one corner for salt. Sometimes painted with mottoes and patterns. Originally they were thick slices of bread.
- Tumbler - Drinking cup having a rounded or pointed bottom, so that it could not be set down until emptied.
- Valences - Frills of material round the top and bottom of a four-poster bed.
- Virginals - Keyed musical instrument, set in a box, without legs. Possibly named from Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen.
- Wain - Wagon.

THE EXECUTION OF LAWRENCE SHIRLEY,  
FOURTH EARL FERRERS, 5 MAY 1760,

by

F. N. Fisher

Some few years ago I received a book from an antique bookseller which was wrapped in three sheets of paper measuring  $17\frac{1}{2}$ " by 11" which had been torn from another book. The first five pages are headed "Appendix" and divided into two columns each, numbered 207-216, the last page being blank. Near the front of page 207-8 is the heading:- "Number XXIV In the Case of Earl Ferrers April 17 1760." Then follows a description of the trial and a detailed account of the execution which is the basis of this paper. At the foot of page 215-6 is "The End of the Tenth Volume." I have tried unsuccessfully to identify from which book these pages were torn but it is evident that it was printed fairly soon after the hanging of Earl Ferrers.

Lawrence Shirley, fourth Earl Ferrers has his niche in English history as being the last peer of the realm to be hanged for murder. The ancient family of Shirley were settled in Derbyshire by the 12th C. and took their name from the village. About 1400 the manor of Staunton Harold, just a few miles over the Derbyshire border into Leicestershire, passed to them by marriage and remained their seat until a few years ago. It is now a Cheshire Home.

Lawrence, our subject, was born 18 August 1720, and succeeded to the titles of Earl Ferrers and Viscount Tamworth on the death of his uncle, Henry 3rd earl in 1745. He married 16 Sept. 1754, Mary, daughter of Amos and sister of Sir William Meredith Bart. The marriage was evidently not a happy one for on 20 June 1758 she obtained an act of separation on the grounds of cruelty and her husband's estates were vested in trustees. His steward, John Johnson, was appointed as receiver of rents. This greatly embittered the Earl and after unsuccessfully trying to get him out of a farm let to him by the Trustees, he deliberately shot him with a pistol on 18 Jan. 1760. Johnson died the next day and Ferrers was arrested, and after spending one night in an inn at Ashby-de-la-Zouch was confined in Leicester gaol on a charge of murder.

As was custom he was tried by his peers in the House of Lords, the trial beginning on 16 April 1760. He was found guilty and sentenced to death. He was duly committed to the Tower of London to await his public execution at Tyburn on 5 May. On Friday 2 May the following writ, under the Great Seal of Great Britain, was issued to the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex:-

"George the Second, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, To the Sheriff of London and Sheriff of Middlesex, greeting. Whereas Lawrence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth, hath been indicted of Felony and Murder by him done and committed; which said Indictment hath been certified before us in our present Parliament, and the said Lawrence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth, hath been therefore arraigned, and upon such Arraignment hath pleaded Not Guilty: And the said Lawrence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth hath before us in our said Parliament. That the said Lawrence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth, shall be hanged by the Neck till he be dead, and that his Body be dissected and anatomized, the Execution of which Judgment yet remains to be done. We require, and by these presents strictly command you, that upon Monday the fifth Day Instant, between the Hours of Nine in the Morning and One in the afternoon of the same Day, him the said Lawrence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth, without the Gate of our Tower of London, (to you then and there to be delivered, as by another Writ to the Lieutenant of our Tower of London, or to his Deputy directed, we have commanded) into your Custody you then and there receive; and him in your Custody so being, you forthwith convey to the accustomed Place of Execution at Tyburn, and that you do cause Execution be done upon the said Lawrence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth, in your Custody so being, in all Things according to the said Judgment. And this you are by no Means to omit at your Peril, Witness Ourselves at Westminster the second Day of May, in the thirty-third Year of our Reign

Yorke and Yorke:"

On receiving this writ the sheriffs set in motion the preparations for the procedure bearing in mind the exalted rank of the prisoner. The same day a writ was sent to the Lieutenant of the Tower ordering him to deliver Ferrers to the sheriffs on the 5th of May. It was worded as follows:-

"George the Second, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, To the Lieutenant of our Tower of London or his Deputy, greeting. Whereas Lawrence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth, hath been Indicted of Felony and Murder by him done and committed, which said Indictment hath been certified

before us in our present Parliament; and the said Lawrence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth, hath been therefore assaigned, and upon such assiagnment hath pleaded Not Guilty; and therefore the said Lawrence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth, hath before us in our said Parliament been tried, and in due form of Law convicted thereof, and for the same is adjudged to suffer Death, the Execution of which Judgment yet remains to be done; We require, and by these Presents strictly command you, That upon Monday the fifth Day of May Instant, between the Hours of Nine in the Morning and One in the Afternoon of the same Day, him the said Lawrence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth, unto the usual Place without the Gate of the said Tower you bring, and him to the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex then and there deliver; which said Sheriffs, by another Writ to them directed, we have commanded then and there to receive the said Lawrence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth, that Execution of the aforesaid Judgment may be done in Manner and Form is to the said Sheriffs of London and Middlesex we by our said other Writ have commanded; and this you are by no Means to omit at your Peril. Witness Ourselves at Westminster the second Day of May, in the thirty-third Year of our Reign.

Yorke and Yorke."

On the morning of 5 May 1760 the sheriffs accompanied by their under-sheriffs and other customary officials duly presented themselves at 9'o'clock at the Outward Gate of the Tower and sent notice to the Lieutenant of the Tower that they were ready to receive the earl into their custody. When his lordship heard of their arrival he sent a message to them requesting the favour of going in his own landau instead of the mourning coach provided by friends. His request granted, he entered the landau drawn by six horses accompanied by the Rev. Mr Humphries, the chaplain of the Tower. When the Outward Gate was reached he passed into the charge of the sheriffs who gave the following receipt to the Deputy Lieutenant of the Tower:-

"Tower Hill 5th May 1760

Received then of Charles Rainsford, Esq.  
Deputy-Lieutenant of the Tower of London, the  
Body of the within-names Lawrence Earl Ferrers,  
Viscount Tamworth, delivered to us in Obedience  
of the King's Writ, of which the within is a  
true Copy.

Geo. Errington Sheriffs of London  
Paul Vaillant and Sheriff of  
Middlesex."

The Sheriff of Middlesex accompanied the prisoner expressing his concern at being with him on this melancholy occasion and hoped his lordship realised he only had his duty to do. His lordship replied "Sir, I am very much obliged to you - I take it very kindly that you are pleased to accompany me." Ferrers was dressed in a suit of light clothes embroidered with silver and he remarked to the sheriff that he had his own particular reason for being so dressed.

The procession to Tyburn then moved off, and a very impressive one it must have been. Its composition was as follows:-

1. A very large body of constables from the County of Middlesex, probably the largest ever before seen, headed by one of the High-Constables.
2. A party of Horse Grenadiers and a party of Foot.
3. Sheriff Errington in his chariot accompanied by under-sheriff Jackson.
4. The landau with the earl, escorted by two parties of Horse-Grenadiers and Foot.
5. Sheriff Vaillant's chariot in which was his under-sheriff Nicols.
6. A mourning coach and six.
7. And finally a hearse and six for the conveyance of the corpse from Tyburn to Surgeons Hall.

The crowds lining the route were enormous, in fact Sheriff Vaillant told his lordship that he had never before seen so many people at any event. The procession moved with great solemnity and very slowly, in fact Tyburn was not reached until a quarter to twelve, ie. the journey took two hours and three quarters. The spectators were greatly impressed by Ferrer's composure and behaved with great dignity, in fact many people "saluted him with their Prayers for his Salvation." He often stated that the slow progress made him think that passing through such crowds "were ten times worse than Death itself." At one point, near Drury Lane, Ferrers expressed a desire for a drink of wine and water but as the sheriff pointed that it would draw large crowds round him he didn't press the matter.

With the chaplain he discussed religion and his beliefs and stressed that he had not borne the least malice towards his late steward. He said he had met with so many crosses and vexations that he scarcely knew what he did to Johnson. Incidentally, as a slight token of his atonement, he bequeathed £1,300 to the daughter of Johnson.

As they neared Tyburn Ferrers told the sheriff that a person for whom he had a great regard would be waiting in a coach to take his leave of him. He would greatly like to say good-bye to this friend. The sheriff

replied that if he insisted he would allow it but suggested that to do so might cause him great distress and "disarm him of his fortitude." The earl submitted to the sheriff's view and asked him if he would deliver to this friend a pocket book, in which was a banknote, a ring and a purse containing some guineas. This the sheriff undertook to do.

When Tyburn was reached Ferrers alighted from his landau and ascended the scaffold which was draped in black baize. He declined the chaplain's offer to say prayers for him but readily agreed to repeat the Lord's Prayer after which he ejaculated "to God forgive me for all my Errors - pardon all my Sins." Then he arose and thanked the sheriff and chaplain for all their civilities. He then presented his watch to Sheriff Vaillant and expressed a desire that his body should be buried at either Breedon on-the-Hill or Staunton Harold. The executioner then came forward and asked him forgiveness whereon Ferrers said "I freely forgive you, as I do all Mankind, and hope myself to be forgiven." He then intended to give the executioner five guineas but by mistake handed it to his assistant. Whereupon "an unreasonable Dispute ensued between those unthinking Wretches, which the Sheriff Vaillant instantly silenced."

The executioner then made his final preparations. His lordship's neckcloth was removed and a white cap taken from his lordship's pocket placed upon his head, his arms secured by a black sash and the cord placed round his neck. Local hearsay has always maintained that a silk rope was used but had that been so it surely would have received mention here. Ferrers then ascended three steps to an elevated platform about 18" high and stood under the central beam. His cap was now pulled down over his face, and at a signal given by Sheriff Vaillant, Ferrers himself having declined to do it, the platform sank down but not so much as expected and it was pressed down level with the floor. For a few seconds the victim struggled but pressure from the executioner soon removed all signs of life. About eight minutes elapsed from the time of mounting the platform until his death and during this time Ferrers kept his calm and dignity and the crowd responded by maintaining an awesome silence.

After the accustomed one hour has passed the body was released and placed in a coffin which was transferred to the waiting hearse. The procession was reformed and proceeded to Surgeon's Hall for the body to be dissected. When this had been done it was handed over to Ferrer's friends on Thursday evening the 8th of May and taken by them to the church of St. Pancras where it was buried under the belfry in a grave twelve to fourteen feet deep. There it remained until 3 June 1782 when it was removed and re-interred at Staunton Harold.

His marriage was childless and he was succeeded by his younger brother, Washington. His wife re-married, to Lord Frederick Campbell, brother of the 5th Duke of Argyll. She too had an unhappy end for she was burned to death 25 July 1807.

Although the public were not again to see a peer of the realm hanged for murder they were to see public execution of commoners for over one hundred years longer, in fact the last public execution in Derby was on 10 April 1862.

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GATHOKEWELL.

by

R.W.P. Cockerton.

In the Society's Record Series Volume 3 for 1967 The Duchy of Lancaster's Estates in Derbyshire 1485-1540 (published in 1971) on page 59 there is a reference, in respect of land in the Parish of Over Haddon as follows:-  
"-----with an acre of land pertaining to the same furlong which lies between Newfallow and the road leading from ALPORT to GATHOKEWELL -----".

The identity of the latter place was puzzling until it was realised that the letter G is either a scribal error, or a misreading, for the letter B.

When we read BATHOKEWELL, and find that in Part 1 page 30, of Cameron's Place Names of Derbyshire, that is another variant of the name applied to the place, which we now call BAKEWELL, we are able to fix the identity of the road referred to.

It was once known as the PORT WAY, and is so referred to in a perambulation of the boundaries of the Manor of Bakewell made on the 13th November, 1562 in the words "-----and so following the crest of Ditch Cliffe to the South End of Burton flath and so following the Portway to Nether Haddon field gate -----". (See Derbyshire Countryside Vol. II No.6 page 25).

This length of the Port Way is still in use for traffic, but at the place known as Two Trees (where only one ancient tree now survives), the route southward to Alport is only now a green track across the fields.

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY DAIRY FARMSTEADS  
OF APPLETREE HUNDRED.

by

J.B. Henderson.

We are apt to take for granted any building which has been there for as long as we can remember, but it comes as a shock to find a blank space or a modern construction in its place.

European Architectural Heritage Year 1975 was a good time to remember the accelerating rate of change in Derbyshire farmsteads. This is especially noticeable in the dairying belt of Keuper Marl which covers most of the old Appletree Hundred, roughly a triangle formed by Derby, Ashbourne and Doveridge.

In the 17th century this area was largely devoted to subsistence farming with open fields and commons surrounding the villages. Each man's arable land was in scattered narrow strips in the various open fields and he had rights to graze so many animals on the common. Most of the houses were crowded along the village street and had a barn and stock shed attached, the latter were often of temporary materials and have vanished. The use of locally made bricks was increasing and a number of timber framed houses and barns were infilled or encased in brick which still stand.

By the end of the century however a major agricultural revolution had started - the enclosures - first of the open arable fields and then of the commons. Whatever hardships may have been involved for the village smallholders the enclosures made commercial agriculture possible.

Compact blocks of land were put together to form holdings for the yeoman farmer, or more often for tenants of the larger landowners. The process of enclosure reached its zenith during the reign of George III. Instead of crowding in the villages it became practicable to build new farmsteads conveniently sited to serve the revised blocks of land.

The effect that the enclosures had on dairy farming is remarked upon by Farey in his reports to the Board of Agriculture at the close of the 18th century. Out of 19 places subject to enclosure awards in this part of the county 15 showed increases in the numbers of cattle. Butter and cheese production had increased by about a third whereas corn acreages had fallen. Etwall for example grew 85 acres less wheat compared with pre-enclosure times. He particularly noted the importance of cheese making on the Red Marl which he describes as the "Dairy Grounds."

Liquid milk sales also became important around Derby and other towns. Milk was sent twice a day in small conical tubs or barrels slung onto the sides of asses or ponies to supply the regular milk sellers or hawkers and the inhabitants. Messrs. Strutts of Belper, to ensure a constant supply of milk to their employees, encouraged cow-keepers by offering 1½d, 2d, 2½d and even 3d per quart at different period of the year. There were weekly deductions from the wages for this milk. Farey remarks "It were well that the system were more universally spread."

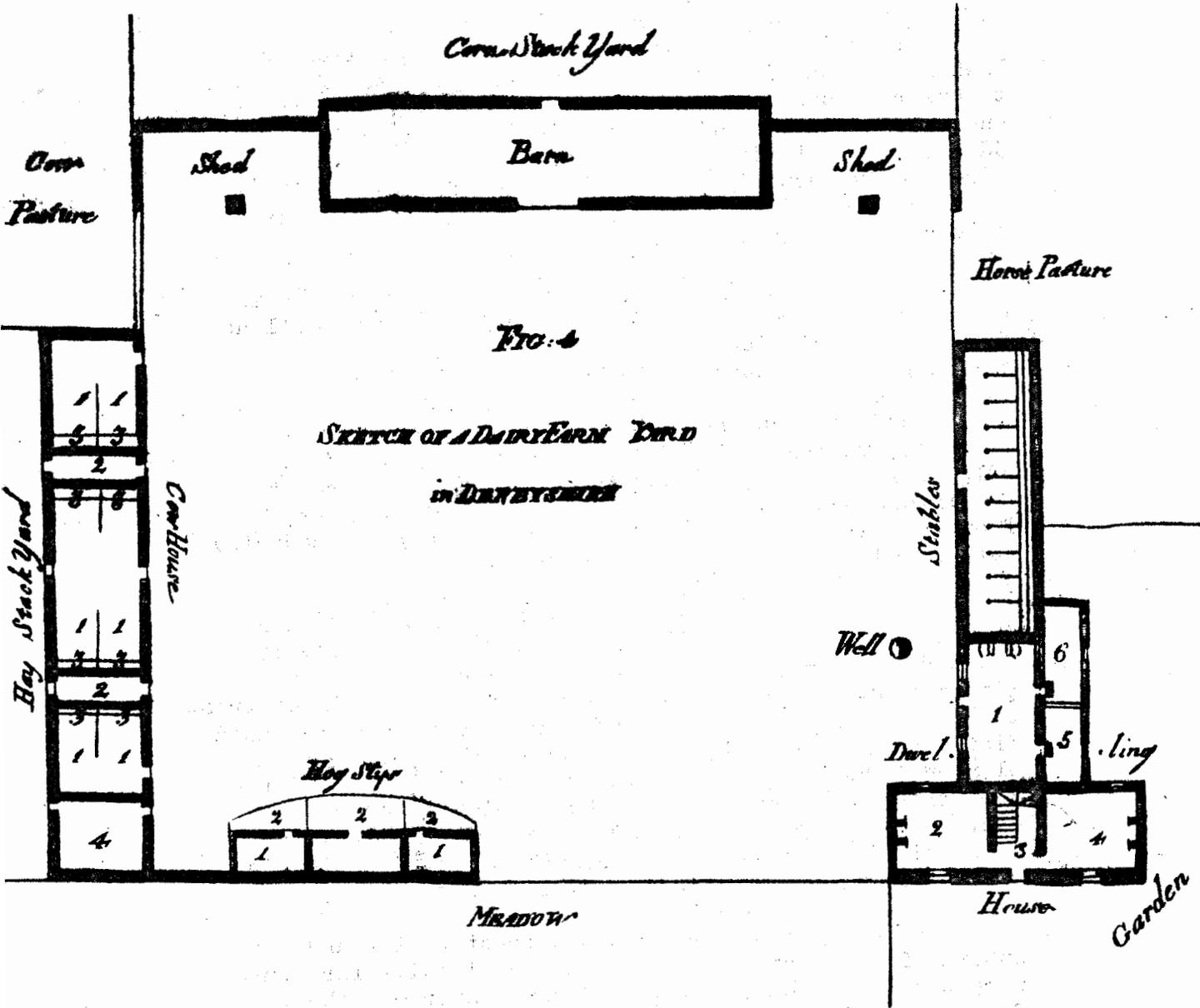
The scrub cattle of the common grazings were being replaced by improved breeds. Mr William Cox of Culland from 1795 specialised in dairy Longhorns and quoted one cow as giving 24 quarts of milk a day. Mr Richard Harrison of Ash usually milked 50 Longhorn cows in the season and made cheese from mid April to the end of November, making up to eight cheeses a day of 18 to 20lbs weight. Philip Burton of Churchfields Farm at Brailsford made £20 per head from the cows he kept, from the sale of calves, pigs (fed on dairy by-products), butter and cheese - the latter at 70/- per cwt.

The farmsteads built to meet these new conditions between say, 1750 and 1850 were much more consciously planned and were built to last. The ground plan was either a quadrangle or three sides of a square in contrast to the old village layouts which were linear or L-shaped dictated by the frontage space available. The new planned farmstead layout was not of course confined to Appletree Hundred or even to Derbyshire but it does contain some excellent examples. Brick had become the main building material and many of the earlier steadings were built from bricks dug and baked on the site.

Landlords found they could attract better and more substantial tenants if a large and well built farmhouse were provided. Many houses had three storeys, the top floor providing a cheese store and rooms for farm and domestic servants.

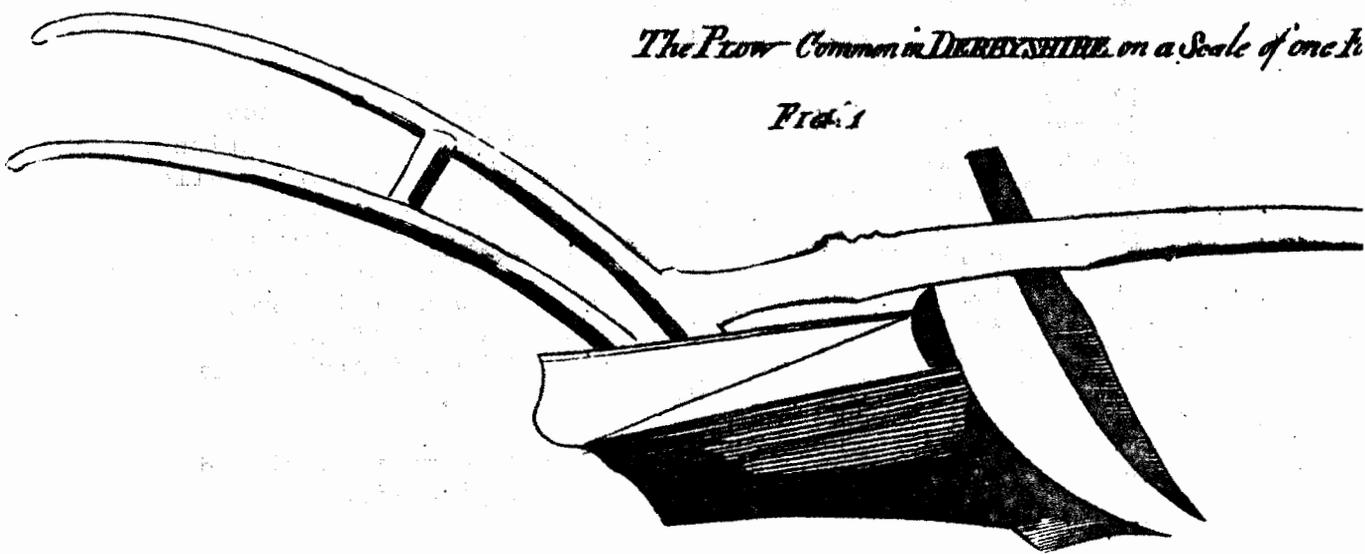
The ground floor and first floor rooms were well proportioned and not surprisingly Georgian to Regency in type with some very practical agricultural adaptations. Brick or tile were used for the flooring downstairs while the bedroom and cheeseroom floors were of lime-ash, a gypsum-based mortar laid on rushes which Bess used for the upper floors in Hardwick Hall. This material was still being employed in the 1850's. I wonder if this was one use that Mrs Alexander was thinking of when she wrote the Hymn "All things bright and beautiful" - "The rushes by the water We gather every day."

On the ground floor a common arrangement consisted of a large kitchen-living room with a wide fireplace.



The Plow Common in DERBYSHIRE on a Scale of one ft.

FIG. 1



On one side of it was the status symbol parlour, reserved for entertaining and for quiet Sunday afternoon! On the other side very frequently was a combined brewhouse-bakehouse-cheese making room containing the vats and presses and also having a wide chimney. If butter was made there was a milk settling room with slate thrawls on which the shallow bowls stood. These milk rooms were usually on the north side and were half basements designed for coolness. A cellar under the parlour housed the barrels of home brew. A small cupboard built into a chimney breast was intended to store salt, a warm dry place.

The basic buildings for a dairy farm included the barn, stables and cowsheds. A small range of pigstyes was built near the back door, convenient for dairymaids to carry pails of whey and swill from dairy to trough. A small hen-cote above helped to keep the pigs warm and a hen-ladder gave the fowls access to the farm yard, for this was the age of the cock o' the midden and the free range egg!

The typical barn didn't change its design from the mediaeval model nor if the main use was for corn or hay. It was a three-bay building, the centre bay having large double doors on both sides. At harvest the two outer bays were stacked with corn in the sheaf, and through the winter one or two men would be employed threshing with flails on the brick or stone floor of the centre bay. The great doors being open gave a through draught winnowing the chaff from the grain. Ventilation was of course most important and this was assisted by regular slits or quite elaborate designs in the walls made by omitting bricks. Many old barns converted to other uses have had the holes filled but the design is still apparent. A round hole about two feet in diameter and set high in the gables or elsewhere was known as a pitching hole or picken hole and was useful for loading or unloading the topmost layers as well as ventilation. There were no windows. These barns are now serving the farm in many different roles as dwelling houses, implement sheds, milking parlours, corn stores and stock yards, and not infrequently as hay barns.

The stable was designed to house the most valuable animals on the farm. For dairy farms of 100 to 200 acres with a high proportion of grass to arable, stalls seem to have been provided for three or four work horses and often a box for a brood mare. A separate stable for the farmer's riding and carriage nags with carriage house and tack room was quite often provided too. Stable floors were of stone, brick or cobble and had to be substantial. Each horse had a stall about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  ft. wide with high wooden partitions. The manger was at breast height with a tethering ring bolted through it. The hay rack was set above it. Each horse's harness hung on a large wooden peg high on the back wall. Usually there was a chamber

above the stable used as a granary, a hay loft or as accommodation for a horseman.

Nearly all these stables have been converted to other uses, the majority as cattle housing, but there is sometimes a horse-shoe nailed to the lintel above the door to keep the luck in!

As in cattle sheds the stable door always opened outwards in case the weighty inmate should lie - or die against it. Doors were of the half-heck type, the upper half could be kept open or shut according to the weather. The popular door and window openings were topped with semicircular or segmental brick arches. The favourite window for livestock buildings was the "hit-and-miss", being two frames of spaced wooden slats, the outer one fixed and the inner sliding to regulate ventilation. A rather extravagant extra was a single row of glass panes above the hit-and-miss!

Cowsheds were of two main types. One was a single row of stalls up the length of the building with a continuous passage-way behind the cows, and sometimes in front as well, as a feeding passage. The second type was the cross-tie where the stalls were set in rows of five across the width of the building with access and feeding passages between each row. Two rows thus tied ten cows, the normal milking stint per milk-maid. The typical floor was of stone flag or brick with an open gutter behind the cows. Cows lie down knees first, so to avoid bruising them soil replaced the hard paving in the front of the stall. Unlike the stable the manger was set at floor level. Cows were tied in pairs between the wooden stall divisions or boskins. The early stalls varied between 6 and 7½ ft. in width. Perhaps this depended on whether the farmer favoured the Longhorn for which Derbyshire was famed, or its successor the Short-horn! Many of the cowsheds had lofts above for hay storage with convenient slots in the floor for hay to be dropped to the hay-racks below. The lofts were good insulation and to some degree prevented condensation.

There are very few cross-tie sheds left, having been converted to single row, more suited to a milking machine. Both types of shed have been converted into collecting yards and milking parlours where they were wide enough.

Open fronted sheds with wood or brick columns were usually provided and served as cart sheds or stock accommodation.

A relic of mediaeval farming - the dovecote was sometimes included in gables and over arches.

Brown's "Agriculture in Derbyshire" published in 1794 includes a plan of the quadrangle type of farm yard

"Common in Derbyshire", and describes the uses of the various rooms in the house. One is impressed by the large families and resident staff for whom provision was made. There are still some good examples of this type of layout in Appletree Hundred. One is Highfields Farm, Etwall which has the advantage of dated buildings - the barn 1749, the mansard roofed house of 1752 and a cowshed of 1760. The yard contains a sunken dungstead surrounded by a stone causeway. The stable block loft covers the date on the barn gable so was probably built a little later.

A vital feature of the large dairy farm was its pond, unless it was fortunate enough to have a stream. On the Keupar Marl it was possible to dig and make the bricks on the site and to use the hole as the farm reservoir, collecting water from field drains and ditches and roof water from the buildings. Ponds were liable to pollution and when government grants were offered for mains water supplies the pond was all too often described as a "foul pit" to be drained and filled. Very sad after 200 years of service, like the farmsteads of this classic period let's hope that a few will be kept to remind us that we owe a lot to the ingenuity and hard work of landowners and farmers of the past.

THE BUXTON CRESCENT.

by

I.E. Burton.

'I never saw anything so magnificent as the Crescent .....tho' it must half ruin one, my spirit makes me delight in the Duke's doing it.' Thus wrote Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire during building operations in 1783. Well might she be excited; her husband, the fifth Duke, was literally laying the foundation for the modern spa of Buxton, though this does not mean that until then the thermal and medicinal springs were unknown.

The Duke of Devonshire, to whom the wells had eventually descended by way of Bess of Hardwick, Countess of Shrewsbury, was said to be lacking in initiative. Nevertheless, about 1780 he embarked on a scheme of buildings in the tiny Peakland village, so large in extent that it would not have shamed London itself. The final cost was said to have been £120,000.

Not only did he build and rebuild lodgings, but he commissioned the erection of the Crescent - described by a much quoted eighteenth century writer as 'a pile that will ever claim the admiration of all amateurs of Grecian architecture.' This was obviously intended for praise, but the architecture was not Grecian, and why confine the admiration only to amateurs.

The Fifth Duke is deemed the creator of modern Buxton. Devoid of ambition, a classical scholar, he married at the age of twenty-five, Georgiana, the seventeen year old daughter of the first Earl Spencer. In the first year of their marriage they visited Lord Rockingham at Wentworth Woodhouse where the architect John Carr of York was engaged on alterations. John Carr was one of Lord Burlington's master stonemasons, and lived to become twice Lord Mayor of York and the greatest architect of his time in the North.

The Duke commissioned John Carr as his architect. They encountered considerable difficulties in erecting the Crescent. One owner proved so obdurate over the sale of land near the wells that the nobleman, determined not to pay the exorbitant price demanded, altered the position of the proposed building.

Thus, a grove of trees had to be removed, the river turned into a tunnel under the building, the spring diverted and piles driven for the foundations as the ground was so weak. If that were not enough, authority had also to be obtained for moving the turnpike road;

otherwise the Crescent would have been separate from the Hall and the baths.

The result was that the Crescent faced a hillside. (Is it too much to hope that St. Ann's Cliff might yet be scooped out to provide the great forecourt the building so richly deserves?). Yet all was not difficulty; stone for general work was found nearby under Curbar Hill and suitable facing ashlar from the Duke's quarry only about a mile away.

Through the 'Fog, Noise and Confusion' of building activity, reported by Lady Newdigate in 1781, the semi-circular shape of the Crescent, over three hundred feet in outer diameter, gradually emerged.

Three storeys in height, the building is topped by a great cornice and balustrade. At the ground floor level there is a rusticated arcade - reminiscent of that designed by the genius Inigo Jones, for Covent Garden - providing a covered promenade for use during inclement weather or as one wit put it, 'as a shelter from the sun and heat'.

The two upper storeys are united by giant fluted pilasters of the Doric Order. Above the centre window of the third floor are the arms of the Cavendish family.

No one is quite certain exactly what the Crescent was supposed to contain. One who visited it during building operations afterwards stated that he understood that there was to be accommodation for two hundred guests with their servants.

Certainly there was at least one private house, sometimes occupied by the Duke and his menage; there was apparently, two or three hotels - a few years after completion there was the Great Hotel on the east, St. Ann's on the West, and in the middle the Centre Hotel - on the ground floor there were shops and a post office.

There were also rooms for coffee and gambling, but the finest provision of all was the Assembly Room. On the first floor and approached by a dignified, curving staircase, it was, and still is, the epitome of elegance. The room, 76 feet long, 30 ft. wide and 30 ft. high, occupies the east end of the building and rises through two full storeys, although one would not be aware of the fact from studying the outside. It has apsidal ends, is adorned with lofty, fluted Corinthian columns, and pilasters, and has a coved and finely decorated ceiling.

The detailing is so delicate that the Assembly Room has frequently been attributed to Robert Adam; indeed, the Scots celebrity would not have been ashamed of it. Distinctive features are the Adam style fireplaces made

of Derbyshire marble from the Duke's quarry at Ricklow, near Monyash; the chandeliers and wall lights brought from Chatsworth, and the mahogany doors with handles inlaid in mother-of-pearl. When society, in satins and lace, attended the balls, the background it provided must have been perfect.

The Crescent was partly occupied in 1784, but not completed until 1786.

The Balls in the Assembly rooms were run by subscription, and it appears that unlike most Georgian assemblies, there were no rules as to dress or class. The subscription was a guinea for the season, while entry to non-subscribers was five shillings for the Ball, three shillings on a Card night. The Balls were from seven to eleven o'clock, and on Sundays the Card room was locked and tea was forbidden in the Great room.

The first thirty years after the Crescent was completed was over-shadowed by intermittent wars. 1781 had seen the surrender of Cornwallis to Washington at Yorktown which brought the war in America to an end. The French Revolution was a threat met by war with France in 1793, and a fatal expedition to the French West Indies which cost in three years the lives of 40,000 British soldiers, hampered the war in Europe. By 1797 England stood alone before the power of Napoleon. The peace of Amiens proved but a truce and in 1803 England again faced Bonaparte across the Channel. Trafalgar was still to be won eight years later and the battle of Waterloo was eighteen years off.

Up to the turn of the century, the outside world hardly touched the society life in Buxton, but in England's hour of need, the young men rallied to the colours and the effect on the Buxton Assemblies is indicated in a drop from four hundred subscribers in 1792 to two hundred and forty-eight in 1800.

A sad little sidelight is revealed in the letters of a Miss Seward who attended the Assemblies. In 1798 she wrote, 'the crowd is immense, though I never remember so few families of rank, and there is a tristful lack of elegant beaux. The male youth and middle life of England are, as you know, all soldierized and gone to camps and coasts; and so a few prim parsons and a few dancing doctors are the forlorn hope of the belles.'

The Rev. Richard Warner, in June, 1801, describes the ballroom in the Great Hotel as 'one of the best proportioned and most elegant apartments in the kingdom. Lighted curiously by small semi-circular windows just above the large projecting cornice, which prevents them from being seen, and gives the effect without an apparent cause.' He says that from June to November

there are three assemblies every week; Monday and Friday undress, and Wednesday dress ball; these conclude at eleven o'clock.

The assemblies may, at times, have been disappointing. A young lady, writing in 1810, says: 'At eight o'clock the whole party went to the assembly. We found it better attended by ladies than gentlemen.' This not unusual circumstance at dances was explained on this occasion. Being 'the day of opening the moors, as it is called, all the younger part of the male visitors had been out grouse-shooting, and were in general too fatigued to engage in a dance.'

The 1816 Buxton season 'commenced with unparalleled gaiety, the assembly and card room opened as usual on the 4th of June, with a degree of brilliancy never exceeded or more numerous attended.' Later in the year, when the traders were moaning over a bad season, Miss Lister and her party did not go to the ball, as they did not 'think it worth the trouble of going - the fuss of dressing at nine, to break up, according to rule, precisely as the clock strikes eleven.'

The assemblies continued three times a week as late as about 1830, but soon they were reduced in number. A notice printed by J. Taylor, Chapel-en-le-Frith undated, but probably shortly after 1828, is inserted in the Subscription Book. It gives the 'Rules and Regulations for the Balls' which were to commence as soon as required by ten subscribers for the season or twenty subscribers for four weeks. As to the Master of Ceremonies it 'proposed that the presidents at one of the principal hotels, namely the Great Hotel, St. Ann's Hotel and the Hall, be earnestly solicited to take the trouble of acting in that capacity.' The subscription had come down from a guinea to a pound for the season, half price for other members of a family, ten shillings for four weeks, three shillings for a night. The Ballroom was to be open every Wednesday, and the Balls were to last from 8 to 12. A handbill with a written date, 1840, gives the time 9 to 12.

After the building at the back of the Crescent was put to other uses, the Assembly Room became the Promenade Room. For part of the nineteenth century beginning in about 1825, the 6th Duke maintained and clothed what in 1830, was described as 'an excellent band of musicians' which performed in public. The number and place of the performances differed from time to time, but usually there were performances in the open air as well as in the Promenade Rooms. According to Rhodes, 1837, 'an excellent band' played in the Promenade Rooms, admission one shilling, and also played in the evenings in the Crescent. In 1841 the Duke's Band played in the Promenade Room on Alternate nights during the summer. The music was said to be

provided by the 6th Duke for the rich and poor 'without any payment'.

In 1835 Sir George Head stayed at the Great Hotel. He says he was never in a better hotel, 'the whole establishment is conducted altogether in a manner indicating that the superintending authorities are well versed in 'savoir vivre'. The coffee-room was like a private library. The charges were low. It was still under the same proprietor in 1839 when Dr. Granville praised the house and its lady manageress enthusiastically. Being 'intended to receive the higher class of visitors ... the prices will hardly be deemed extravagant' he says, but does not give the prices. He approved of the practice of placing the prices of the rooms over their doors, but he thought 'the department of the men-servants who wait at table' could be improved, and there ought to be 'a larger and gayer morning or breakfast-room'. By 1854 the Great Hotel had vanished, and in its place at 1, 2 and 3 The Crescent, were three 'Great Hotel Boarding Houses' tenanted by Hickling, Smilter and Gregory respectively. What happened to the licence is not clear, but as Buxton licences are immortal it probably survived in one of the boarding houses. John Smilter had Nos. 1 and 2 as a boarding house in 1862 and in 1866 was landlord of the Great Hotel at the same address. Having added No. 3 in about 1868 he changed the name to the Crescent Hotel. His son and successor was Charles John Smilter, who continued landlord to his death in 1934. After an empty interval this part of the Crescent became the Buxton Clinic. In 1966 the Buxton Clinic moved to the Cavendish Hospital, Buxton, and the vacated premises were purchased by the Derbyshire County Council for restoration and use by County Council departments, in particular the North West Divisional Library and the North West Divisional Education Offices. The Assembly Room is now the Study Library of the High Peak/West Area Library and admirably retains all the original features in meticulous manner.

The St. Ann's Hotel is the only part of the Crescent that has had a continuous history as a licensed house. Originally it occupied one quarter of the Crescent, at the western end, but gradually extended until it occupied half the building. The St. Ann's had not quite the reputation of the Great Hotel, but Miss Lister in 1816 thought it the best place for invalids as it was near the Baths. She says 'it is sometimes skittishly called the Manchester warehouse' a nickname which suggests that Manchester manufacturers patronised it in preference to its more aristocratic neighbour. Philip Moore occurs as landlord in directories from 1824 to 1846, and in the latter year he was also landlord of the Great Hotel, thus having both the Crescent hotels under his management.

The Centre Hotel, the smallest and the shortest lived of the Crescent hotels, was in the middle of the building, and commenced apparently about 1808. About 1823 the tariff at this hotel was 18s. a week for a sitting-room, 2s. a night for bedroom, and 6s. a day for board, all meals. This part of the Crescent became, before 1834, Shaw's Boarding House, an annexe of the Great Hotel.

Grundy Heape in 'Buxton under the Dukes of Devonshire' remarks 'In that building there still lingers the spirit of that age of pomp and unstudied elegance, when powder and patch were fashionable, and when Her Grace of Devonshire bought votes from a butcher with a kiss'.

E. & A. WEST LTD. : A COMPANY HISTORY

by

S. Hilton

E. & A. West Ltd. is an old established Company that has been concerned with the manufacture of ferric sulphate for nearly a century and a half.

It was the thriving silk industry during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries that brought into being the commercial manufacture of ferric sulphate liquor for use as a mordant for silk dyeing in the North West Midlands.

Silk yarn is dyed an intense black by logwood and fustic dyes using a soluble iron salt as a mordant. Logwood is a reddish purple dye (Haematoxylin) obtained by extracting with water the heart-wood of Haematoxylon Campechianum, a tree native to Mexico. Fustic is a yellow dye obtained from various species of shrub of the genus Rhus, known as Sumach, grown in the West Indies and South America. Iron salts are used as a mordant for the logwood and fustic dyes to colour natural silk yarn a variety of shades of black ranging from a brownish bronze-black through purple and blue-blacks to an intense jet-black.

During the early years of the Industrial Revolution, textile manufacturers required supplies of bleaches, dyes, soaps and scouring chemicals - commodities handled by traders known as Drysalter who became important factors as suppliers of chemicals to the growing industry. In the latter part of the eighteenth century Henry West, who was in business as a Drysalter and Ironmonger in the Staffordshire town of Leek, must have found an increasing trade with the silk mills of Leek, Macclesfield and Derby.

Henry West was a member of a Staffordshire Quaker family and at the turn of the eighteenth century he married a Miss Bowman of One Ash Grange, an old Derbyshire farmstead dating back to the twelfth century when it was used as a granary and farmhouse by the Cistercian order of monks. The Bowmans were also a Quaker family and occupied One Ash Grange (which still stands at the head of Lathkill Dale near Monyash in Derbyshire) until 1930. Henry West had four children, Henry, Eli, Eliza and Ann, and it was they who ultimately set up the commercial manufacture of ferric sulphate in Derby which has continued until the present day.

In the course of his business as a Drysalter, Henry West was supplying ferric sulphate solution, then known as 'Red Iron Liquor', to the silk dyers of Leek as this

was the soluble iron salt preferred by the dyers for their black silk yarn. Red Iron Liquor was prepared by oxidizing ferrous sulphate with nitric and sulphuric acids to produce a strong solution of ferric sulphate. In the early nineteenth century ferrous sulphate was still commonly known by the old alchemical name of 'Green Vitriol'; indeed Alchemy had only started to wane in the second half of the eighteenth century when the discovery of the ancient 'elements' air and water, together with the true nature of combustion, demolished the Phlogiston Theory and ushered in the era of modern chemistry. In the production of Red Iron Liquor, Green Vitriol was first prepared by dissolving scrap iron in diluted sulphuric acid or rather a mixture of 'Brown Oil of Vitriol' and water. The crystals of Green Vitriol were separated from the mother-liquor and oxidized with a mixture of nitric acid and brown oil of vitriol to produce a Red Iron Liquor suitable for use as a mordant in the dyeing of silk yarn.

The silk industry in Leek and the North West Midlands increased considerably during the twenty years from 1830 to 1850 and the demand for Red Iron Liquor increased proportionately. It is likely that Henry West had been producing Red Iron Liquor in the manner of a 'back yard' industry supplementary to his Drysaltery and Ironmongery business, but increasing demand for this chemical warranted production on a larger scale. It was no doubt this rising demand for Red Iron Liquor that encouraged Henry West's son, Henry West Junior, together with his brother Eli and their sisters Eliza and Ann, to set up a works in Derby for the manufacture of Red Iron Liquor. There were silk mills in Derby; and Leek, Macclesfield and Nottingham were all within easy reach of Derby for deliveries by horse and dray, taking two days for the journey to Macclesfield and Leek.

It was about 1835 that the Wests set up their original works in William Street to the north of the Ashbourne Road leading out of Derby town. Red Iron Liquor appears to have been the only product manufactured at the William Street works although it is likely that merchanting was also carried out in other chemicals used in the textile industry.

Some years after coming to Derby, Henry West Junior emigrated to Canada and his brother Eli continued to manufacture Red Iron Liquor at the William Street works with Eliza and Ann as partners in the business. Eli West died in middle age leaving two sons, Eli Junior and Thomas. On the death of Eli, control of the William Street works passed to his two sisters, Eliza and Ann West, who continued the business and later brought into the works their two nephews, Eli Junior and Thomas West. Eliza and Ann West retained financial control of the business.

The main raw materials for the production of Red Iron Liquor, iron and sulphuric acid, were readily available in Derby. A sulphuric acid works producing Brown oil of vitriol had been set up in Parcel Close in the parish of St. Werburgh's not long before the Wests came to William Street. Parcel Close, also known as the Pingle, lay on the south side of the Ashbourne Road just over a mile away from the West's works in William Street. There was already a brick works, a maltings and a nail and rivet works (T.D. Robinsons founded in 1811) operating in Parcel Close when the sulphuric acid works was built on land adjacent to Robinsons nail and rivet works. Parcel brook, also known as Bramble brook, ran close behind both the sulphuric acid works and the rivet works and was an essential source of water for the sulphuric acid works. At that time Pierre Francois Alexander Butel, a Frenchman financed by a small group of Bankers, was in control of the sulphuric acid works and it was from this works that the Wests in William Street drew their supplies of Brown oil of vitriol (B.O.V.) with which to prepare the Green Vitriol for the manufacture of Red Iron Liquor.

In 1871 Eli West, acting as agent for Eliza and Ann West, negotiated the purchase of the Parcel Terrace sulphuric acid works from Butel and his financial associates. On the 23rd August 1871 the deeds of the Parcel Terrace works were transferred to Eliza and Ann West and the manufacture of Red Iron Liquor was taken from William Street to Parcel Terrace. Eliza and Ann continued in financial control of the new works which was run by Eli and Thomas West. In addition to the manufacture of Red Iron Liquor, sulphuric acid production was continued at the Parcel Terrace works. Manufacture of sulphuric acid was by the conventional lead chamber process producing 77% B.O.V. from iron pyrites. The residual red iron oxide was ground and sold as red pigment to the paint manufacturers.

The Green Vitriol (ferrous sulphate) required in the manufacture of Red Iron Liquor was still made by dissolving scrap iron in dilute sulphuric acid contained in brick pits. Strips of lead were hung in the solution from wooden frames and the heavy clusters of crystals forming on the lead strips were shaken off and used for the production of Red Iron Liquor.

In 1875 Eliza, Ann, Eli and Thomas West, trading under the name of E. & A. West, purchased from Henry Chance of Chance Bros., Glass and Alkali Works, Oldbury, a licence agreement relating to a patent granted to Henry Chance for a process for the concentration of sulphuric acid and saline solutions. Mention is made in the agreement of glass retorts manufactured by Chance Bros. for the concentration process which were to be bought only from Chance Bros. during the period of the

licence agreement. Using this concentration process E. & A. West were able to produce a 93-95% sulphuric acid known in the Midland textile industry as Double Oil of Vitriol (D.O.V.).

In 1879 the Great Northern Railway Company constructed the railway line from Derby Friargate to Burton-on-Trent. The line was built through Parcel Close, running behind T.D. Robinson's and E. & A. West's works. Both these companies were provided with rail sidings and the new railway provided a more convenient delivery system for coal and pyrites but much of the outgoing deliveries to customers of acid and iron liquor, packed in barrels and carboys, continued to be sent out from the works by horse and dray. The construction of the railway line made it necessary to culvert the Bramble brook and Eliza and Ann West negotiated a hard bargain with the Great Northern Railway Company to safeguard a continued supply of water to the works in Parcel Terrace.

The death of Queen Victoria in 1901 must have temporarily increased the demand for black silk and consequently for Red Iron Liquor. Rumour has it that it had been predicted that Wests would make a family fortune on the death of the old Queen! But this was not to be, if there was a temporary increase in the sales of Red Iron Liquor it was to be short lived for the decline in the silk industry generally had already begun and other markets were to be found for ferric sulphate.

Eli and Thomas West continued the business of the Company after the death of Eliza and Ann and on the 10th November 1904 the West family formed the business into a Limited Company to continue trading under the title of E. & A. West Ltd. Eli West retired from the business and the subscribers to the new Limited Company were Thomas West, his wife Anna Maria, their two sons Leonard and Fred West and married daughter Eleanor Mary Harris and Edward Harpur Fryer, an architect and nephew of Thomas West. Leonard West was already in the business and became Company Secretary of the Limited Company. The West family continued to control the Company until 1974.

At the time E. & A. West was made into a Limited Company ferric sulphate liquor was also being produced in relatively small quantities by other manufacturers in the North of England, chiefly in Lancashire and Yorkshire. It was sold under the misnomer "Nitrate of Iron" to the cotton dyers as a mineral khaki dye. The demand for khaki dyes increased considerably during and after the 1914-18 War and E. & A. West Ltd. as the main producers of ferric sulphate liquor found increasing sales in this market as sales of Red Iron Liquor to the silk industry declined.

A special grade of ferric sulphate liquor was developed by E. & A. West Ltd. to meet the requirements

of the dyers of cotton material for a mineral khaki dye which would produce a wide range of shades without tenderising the cloth. The ferric sulphate liquor made for this purpose enabled the cotton dyers to produce twenty-two shades, from rust red through a range of browns and khakies to pale cream colour. From the mid twenties until 1950 cotton dyeing became the major market for E. & A. West's ferric sulphate liquor. Other uses were also found for ferric sulphate. The paper mills in Scotland and the North of England used ferric sulphate ('nitrate of iron') as a substitute for ochre for staining low grade paper used for newsprint and, although the quantities used were relatively insignificant at that time, small quantities of ferric sulphate liquor were being used for water treatment.

Between 1920 and 1940 E. & A. West Ltd. were manufacturing nitric acid from sodium nitrate and in 1930 hydrofluoric acid from flourspar mined locally in Derbyshire. Most of the hydrofluoric acid that Wests produced was used in the cut-glass industry at Tutbury and Stourbridge. Turkey red oil production was started in 1928 and 'Aqua fortis' dipping acid and zinc chloride (known as 'Killed Spirits of Salt') were among the chemicals produced for local industries.

The manufacture of sulphuric acid by the lead chamber process at Parcel Terrace became uneconomical as larger plants using the contact process came into being and E. & A. West Ltd. ceased the manufacture of sulphuric acid in 1946. Ferrous sulphate (copperas) became available as a by-product from the steel industry and copperas then became the main source of iron sulphate from which E. & A. West Ltd. manufactured their ferric sulphate. Purified ferrous sulphate crystal and dried 'exsiccated' ferrous sulphate powder were also manufactured at Parcel Terrace for the pharmaceutical industry for use in preparations for iron deficiency.

During the 1939-45 War the use of chemicals in the treatment of metals became more sophisticated. Following a paper by Perival, Dyer and Taylor on 'Metal Pickling with Ferric Sulphate' published in America in 'Industrial Engineering Chemistry' in December 1941, Rolls-Royce aero-engine division in Derby approached E. & A. West Ltd. for supplies of ferric sulphate for use in a process for descaling stainless steel alloys. Although only small quantities of ferric sulphate were used for this purpose at the time it was this new use for ferric sulphate that led E. & A. West Ltd. to investigate the possible market for ferric sulphate in this field.

The introduction of man-made fibres into the textile industry had resulted in a decline in the use of cotton and consequently a similar decline in the use of ferric sulphate as a khaki dye. In 1951, turning from their declining market in the textile industry, E. & A West Ltd.

developed a larger market for ferric sulphate in the field of metal descaling. Production of ferric sulphate had to be increased threefold to supply the demand of this new market.

In 1959 T.D. Robinson closed down the rivet works in Parcel Terrace after nearly one hundred and fifty years of manufacture and sold their land and buildings to E. & A. West Ltd. This effectively doubled the site occupied by E. & A. West, providing room for future expansion.

In 1967 E. & A. West Ltd. developed a grade of ferric sulphate liquor specifically for water treatment. The demand for this product which has become an important chemical in the field of water purification resulted in a dramatic twelvefold increase in ferric sulphate production by 1974.

It had long been known that soluble iron salts were effective chemicals as coagulants for water purification, but it was not until ferrous sulphate (copperas) became widely used for this purpose in Germany and America that iron salts became acceptable to the Water Boards for the treatment of potable water in the United Kingdom. It was due to improved filtration techniques and an abundant supply of low priced ferrous sulphate from the steel works and from the production of titanium dioxide that soluble iron salts became commercially attractive to the Water Boards. For technical reasons ferric sulphate is generally more effective for water purification than ferrous sulphate so that once iron salts had become commercially acceptable to water undertaking E. & A. West Ltd. were able to develop a substantial market for ferric sulphate liquor as a water treatment chemical.

Ferric sulphate liquor has been the main product of E. & A. West for one hundred and forty years. During that period there have been four major changes in market emphasis but the use of ferric sulphate in these different fields has been maintained, although the relative extent of each market may have altered very considerably.

It is a long time since Eliza and Ann West, those two Victorian ladies with exceptional strength of character, controlled the family business of manufacturing ferric sulphate in Derby, and longer still since their father Henry West was supplying Red Iron Liquor to the silk dyers from his Drysaltery business in Leek. Only one of the original silk dyeing companies in Leek continue to process a relatively small quantity of black natural silk yarn; but this silk is still dyed with logwood dye, fustic crystal and E. & A. West's Red Iron Liquor.

SANDIACRE TOWN FOLK.

by

John Ball

Tis not of far off scenes nor of Fairy Lands I sing  
I've nought to say of stocks and shares, no news of War I bring  
But of our dear old Village, and the people who are in it  
Of Gentry we can claim but few, but if you will attend  
I'll mention all of them to you, and hope not to offend.  
A gentle Lady it is right to mention first of all  
So kind, so good as we all know, Miss Stevens at the Hall  
Next to the Hall "The Beeches" come and if I guess aright  
Residing there at ease we find good Mr. Alderman White  
Now up the hill to where the church doth stand, we'll go  
further

And at the parsonage we'll greet the Reverend Daniel Smith  
Now rising up a little higher in a house of stone  
We'll find another Mr. Smith, I am told he lives alone.  
Now Mrs. Marshall of Church Farm whom we must not pass by  
I hope this year at harvest time the weather will be dry.  
And now a pleasant place we see where Mr. Smedley lives  
Quite near it stands the factory where he employment gives  
To many hands that make the lace that ladies love to wear  
See, there he is, Good morning Sir, he sees us, I declare  
Now Mr. Abraham Doar comes next, and just across the way  
Is Mrs. Perkins little cot, you've seen it I dare say.  
At Mrs. Smith who lives with Lance, we next will take a peep  
And if my memory serves me well, he keeps both cow and sheep.  
There's Mr. Lawrence Smedley, a very useful man  
And Mr. Smith who lives close by "The Blue Bell" Publican.  
Now up Kitts Lane we'll wend our way, we're getting on quite  
fast

We'll mention Mr. Coxem first, who once did use the Last.  
And now he's very old you know and can't work at his trade  
So he's done making boots and shoes, and sells them ready  
made.

A little further up the lane we now will take our flight  
And on the Elms which grow so tall we gently will alight  
And looking round we'll see the house where Mr. Hopkins lives  
The Manager at Stanton works, who satisfaction gives.  
Not many folk live hereabout, I'll mention one or two.  
Mr. Tomlinson the Railway man and Mr. Tucker too,  
Who keeps a horse and cart I think and carries coals a few  
And as I think of it my friends, to say the very least  
I would much rather be the cart than I would be the beast.  
A little further down the lane on Mr. Snow we'll call  
He is the well known gardener at Sandiacre Hall  
And now we pass, and soon before the Board School make our  
stand

Theres Mr. Large the Headmaster, no better in the land.  
The school boys quickly leave their play, so do the guests  
as well

And trooping up to school they go at the telling of the ball.

Mr. Eldershaw the Builder lives close upon the hill  
And Mrs. Taylor of malting fame, there she is living still.  
The business is carried on by Jasper her son, tis true  
In politics I think they say her colour is dark blue.  
Just opposite the maltroom steps lives Mr. William Doar  
His brother John, the batchelor, lives just a little lower  
Now up Taft's yard and a little way to Blacksmiths Towles  
we'll go  
You can hear him swing his heavy sledge with measured beat  
and slow.

And if you want some good strong tea imported from Siam  
Just call on Mr. Winrow, the "Italian warehouseman".  
Theres Mr. Stevens lives across, near to the meadow green  
And Mrs. Smedley at "White House", not far away is seen.  
Mrs. Grabener we'll mention next, she used to keep a school  
How well she made her pupils submit to every rule.  
A few yards further down the road is Mr. Beardsley's store  
He sells fresh eggs and butter, sweets and toffee by the  
score.

Miss Lakin keeps the Post Office, just let us enter that  
And if the lady is at home we'll have a little chat  
Then we'll go across the road, we've gone by several shops.  
Mr. Stevens, Pork Butchers, sells bacon, ham and chops.  
And then there are Building Firms that stand so tall and  
grand

Call after our Gracious Lady, the Queen of all the Land.  
Three shops there are I do declare, where you can be supplied  
With Beef, Mutton, Hats and Caps and Boots and Shoes besides.  
Mr. Field the Linen Draper, he is a worthy Sire  
And if I am informed aright, a singer in the choir.  
Mr. Breedon is the Butcher man and if you so do choose  
I doubt not Mr. Waller will be pleased to mend your shoes.  
The Co-operative Stores for where a deal of money spend  
And people trading there receive a Div. of ten per cent.  
The Manager is Mr. Heard and if you go inside the shop  
Will sell you anything you want, from a mangle to a mop.  
About a stone's throw further down, still looking to the right  
Another Grocer's shop is found, Proprietor, Mrs. Wright.  
I think its true, what people say, he is disgusted quite  
With something that I will not name, but when you go for honey  
Or anything you may require, you must take ready money.  
Now we'll shake hands with Mr. Dale, Landlord at "The Plough"  
Times getting on, our works not done, we cannot stay out now.  
Two well known names we've missed I see, in our hurried  
curious talking

Both work in wood with plane and saw, Mr. Cooley, Mr. Lakin.  
Mr. Rossall is the Vetinary, and if your horse is sick  
Just take it to the surgery, he'll cure it for you quick.  
Mr. Hawkes the Farmer, he comes next, he leads a jolly life  
I think he has a Dairy, which is managed by his wife.  
Now we are in Derby Road, a very pleasant spot  
I think our favour will begin somewhere at the top.  
There's Mr. Foster, Shoemaker, a very well known name  
Bradley and Atkin, Nurserymen, also of local fame  
Mr. Bailey the Builder next, he's quite a public man  
I have heard the Methodist Preacher say his name is on  
the plan.

And next the Reverend Harry Field upon the scene appears,  
He is the Wesleyan Minister, he's going to stay three years.  
Here's Mr. Froggat meeting us, come now I say, be ready  
To lift our hat and show respect, and then we'll go on steady.  
A little further down the road where Mr. Creswell lives  
A kindly hearted gentleman who timely aid doth give  
To those in trouble and distress, who round about him lives.  
And now my friend just let us keep a sharp look out  
It won't do for us to go to sleep, two lions are about  
They're white and red, let us go first, come on a little  
smarter

I think the white one's called Jesman, the Red one Carter.  
Lets go to Marshall's Blacksmith shop a stout and sturdy man  
His brow is wet with honest sweat, he earns what best he can.  
Across the road lives Mr. Gough, best baker in the street  
and Here's Mr. Peak! where you can buy your Sunday meat.  
Next door to him is Mr. Dale the Grocer and late baker  
Who keep of hay, corn and chaff, the best in Sandiacre.  
Now we'll step across the bridge and go a little faster.  
Yonder we see the Railway line, Mr. Orchard, Station Master.  
There's Eastwood's Wagon shop close by and Marshall's works  
we see

Near by resides a famous man, I mean E. Bland, M.D.  
If you want a suit of clothes to fit you neat and true  
Step into Mr. Johnsons shop, he'll quickly measure you.  
Cartwrights Wheelwright shop comes next, and if you don't  
refuse

We go across to Mr. Cook's and buy a Weekly News.  
Embarking on this little boat I think we'll take no harm  
We'll sail along the smooth canal, right up to Cockayne's  
Farm

So quiet it is, now lost the feeling and let us turn her  
round.

Retrace our track and so get back to where we left the  
ground

And yonder there, upon our West, say half a mile or more  
In Springfield House Mr. Sankey lives, Mr. Moody lives next  
door.

So let us stop at Mr. Wright's we're neither of us dry  
But to head home before its dark we both of us must try.  
And now be careful through this lock, how nice our vessel  
floats

Just by Mr. Fletcher's locks he has quite a fleet of boats.  
So leaving Corbet's on the left and Fletcher's on the right,  
We sail along quite pleasantly with very great delight.  
There's Mr. Hockings and Mr. Streets who live close side  
by side

And Mr. Oldfield's pretty place we slowly pass and glide  
So here we are, this is the bridge, pull gently boys to land  
At Beresford's we will alight, among the stone and sand.  
So now my friends I've took you round

I trust that in the least degree I have not caused offence  
I think I kept within the bounds of sound and common sense.  
And in conclusion I would wish that as in days gone by  
Our pretty village may be blest with great prosperity.  
Long life to all, both great and small who with kind hearts  
and true

Make it their aim to raise her fame and deeds of kindness do.  
And while the sun doth rise and set at the bidding of his  
Maker

May Peace and plenty be vouchsafed to dear old Sandiacre.

MATLOCK, 1924.

by

E. Paulson.

Davis' Tor Houde Hydro, terms from 7/6d per day; Oldham House & Prospect Place Hydropathic Establishment, terms from 9/6d per day; Wrigley's, Confectioner & Caterer, Crown Square; Rockside Hydro run by Mr & Miss Goodwin, Sycamore House Hydro, new motor garage & inspection pit, board residence and attendance £3.3.0 per week, motors garaged for 2/- per week; Moore's Dining & Tea Rooms; a two page advertisement for the High Tor Grounds with the Fern & Roman Caves - Heywood's 3d Guide to Matlock Bath & Matlock brings back many memories.

After a lengthy description of Matlock Bath it goes on 'by way of the recently purchased pleasure grounds at Artists' Corner' to Matlock, a flourishing town of 7,000 inhabitants lying partly in the valley where the main road runs across an ancient three arched bridge and partly on the rather steep slope of the left hand bank of the river. The hillside part of the town is known as Matlock Bank, the lower part of it as Matlock Bridge, and the more ancient part of the town, lying under the shadow of the old church, as Matlock Green.

"The main street running from Crown Square at the Bridge straight up the face of the Bank is traversed by a tramway.

'The railway station, Town Hall, Head Post Office, Public Park, Banks and chief shops are all in the valley near the Bridge, the Hydros, Boarding Houses & Private residences are on the hillside, looking out on a very beautiful and extensive panorama of hills.

"The southern side of the river, which is the steeper, is not much built on, being of hard limestone."

That was Matlock in 1924.

We used to go there from Darley Dale in either a silver & blue Silver Service bus or an orange one belonging to Slack's Omnibus Service, fare 2d single or 3d return from the Grouse to the Tramway shelter in Causeway Lane over white, dusty roads. Somehow we never seemed to go in winter. How those buses jolted and jumped, especially over the stretch leading to the Gasworks' weighbridge which was always badly cut up by the wheels of the coal carts bringing fuel from the station yard! How we used to hold tight to the wooden slatted seat when we smelled the sulphur! Then Crown Square with the Tram shelter topped by the clock which now stands at the Parkhead,

slowing to avoid the tram which was always arriving at or leaving the terminus, Burgon's & Orme's shops, shops on both sides of the road leading to the bridge - Dakin's barber and tobacconist on the Hall Leys side, Kirkham's saddlery & bootshop on the other. Wrigley's tea room just round the corner opposite Hand's, where bath shaped charabancs were replacing broughams, landaus and the old four wheelers, the Crown Hotel with its big yard and stables, a few small shops, the Railway Hotel and that was all. Somewhere over the bridge past Davis' Chemist's shop with its huge red, blue, green and yellow phials of coloured water gleaming in the sunshine and Marsden's High Class Drapery & Outfitters (we never went there until I went to the Ernest Bailey School and then with many misgivings about prices) and past the delicious smell of Moore's Cafe was the Aladdin's cave of Evans the jeweller on the way to Harvey Dale Quarry, where my Aunt lived. I liked to go down there under the railway bridge - I once found 4½d on the pavement and always hoped the miracle would repeat itself, but it never did.

We sometimes went into Orme's. It always fascinated me to watch the assistants cut pieces out of huge tubs of butter, shape them neatly with one or two flicks of the butter pats and leave a beautiful criss cross pattern with marigolds inset in the top that it was agony to spoil, or flit along the line of black and gold tea bins, taking a little from several to make up Haddon Tips, then pour the lot on to a square of white paper over a pink one with a picture of Haddon Hall on it and make it into a packet of tea with the same economy of movement that the butter man used - and all for 4d, 6d, or 8d a quarter.

After Orme's came Marriott's wooden salerooms with old furniture stacked outside it and then nothing except a rushgrown field with a dirty pool of rubbish-filled water at the foot of the bank. Somewhere there was the football field, but I never found that until I went to Bailey's and learned the taste of its mud whilst learning to scrummage.

Often I was left outside a shop. There was always plenty to watch. The landau from Smedley's, complete with cockaded coachman, coming from the station with guests who were always elderly in black with parasols or grey suited, spatted and bearded; Bailey's steam wagon on its way to the mill; coal carts, farm carts, a farmer in a trap, an occasional Tin Lizzie, a red, blue or orange bus and people. People every where, on the pavement or on the road as the fancy took them, in long skirts, high necked blouses, hats huge as cartwheels and covered in feathers, artificial flowers or even wax fruits or stiff collars, dark suits, silver watch chains, sensible boots and flat caps or trilbies. Even a top hat and spats came along occasionally, usually supported by a gold topped Malacca cane, but occasionally in a bath

chair pushed by a confirmed pessimist from one of the Hydros. These were rare birds, with high 'Towny' voices and we gave them a wide berth.

Then a tram would come rattling down the hill to disgorge a few real foreigners, even if they did live on Smedley Street. How I wanted to travel in that tram! But I never did until just before it closed down when I had to go to the dentist with raging toothache. It was Heaven! I would willingly have had all my teeth out to do it again, but when the next one came loose, Mother tied one end of a piece of cotton to it, fastened the other end to the door knob and slammed the door. No more wasted half crowns for her!

Always it was time to go home before I'd seen half of it, but there were four miles to walk. With less than 30/- a week coming in, bussing it one way was luxury, both ways, shocking extravagance.

BOOK NOTES

Pigot and Co's Commercial Directory for Derbyshire 1835, facsimile reprint by Derbyshire County Library, price £1.50, available at major County Library branches. This reprint of Derbyshire section of Pigot's 1835 Directory will be of great interest to local historians throughout the county and is an invaluable quick reference for the early 19th century history of the county. The Directory consists of potted histories and topographies, lists of principal inhabitants and classified trades in the style of the later county directories and is preceded by short introduction on early county directories.

Sheffield Steel by K.C. Barraclough, in the Historical Industrial Scenes series by Moorland Publishing Co., price £3.95. Very attractively produced illustrated history of steel making in Sheffield by the acknowledged expert on crucible steel making in the city which will be of interest to industrial archaeologists and historians everywhere. 160 illustrations preceded by short introductory text.

Short History of Early Victorian Barlborough, Barlborough Historical Society, available from Mrs. S. Linacre, Craigendoran, Clowne Road, Barlborough, Chesterfield. This booklet arises from a course on the local history of Barlborough held in 1975-6 and it concentrates on three main themes, newspaper comment on life in the village, the population history centred on the 1851 census and farming in Early Victorian Barlborough.

A History of Ogston by Gladwyn Turbutt, published by the Ogston Estates, Higham. A meticulously compiled and well-illustrated history of Ogston Hall, the Ogston estate and the families who owned them from Domesday to the break-up of the estate in 1973 written by a member of the last family to own the estate. The book is based principally on many years painstaking research on the family papers of the Turbutt family and their predecessors as owners of the Ogston estate, the Revell family. It was intended as a personal contribution by the author to European Architectural Heritage Year 1975 and not of least interest to Derbyshire readers are the reminiscences and illustrations of those parts of the estate flooded by Ogston reservoir.

Nottingham, Nobles and the North - Aspects of the Revolution of 1688 by David H. Hosford, Vol. IV in Studies in British History and Culture, Archon Books. A new look at the events of 1688 making extensive use of local archive material and challenging the role of the fear of Catholicism in precipitating the Revolution.

A Merry Family Omnibus by D.T. Merry, limited edition of 300 copies privately printed. A painstaking family history tracing the fortunes of the family from 1546 when John Merry purchased the Barton Blount estate through to teaching in a London comprehensive school and other contemporary activities, via a devious route taking in the Birmingham hardware trade, the nickel industry in the U.S.A., Canada, Norway and South Wales and a remarkable shaving machine invented in 1804.