

# DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY



*Derby Market Place*

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Derbyshire Archaeological Society

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DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
William Cavendish, first Duke of Newcastle 1593 - 1676 by L. S. Harrison	3
The other happenings of 1745 by Jeremy Black	7
On foot through Derbyshire in 1755 by S. L. Garlic	8
Recollections of Old Winster through Mrs. M. Rodger	11
How history is made by Keith Reedman	21
Handysides and the G.P.O. by John Heath	22

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EDITORIAL

Regular readers of Miscellany will note from the top of this page that, for the time being at least, I am now the sole editor of this publication. In other words, Miss Joan Sinar, the editor and latterly co-editor of Miscellany, has resigned from this position. Joan has been directly involved with Miscellany for some thirteen years, building on the foundations laid by Mrs. Amy Nixon. Miscellany has flourished over this period and on behalf of the Local History Section I am pleased to record our grateful thanks for all Joan's hard work over the years.

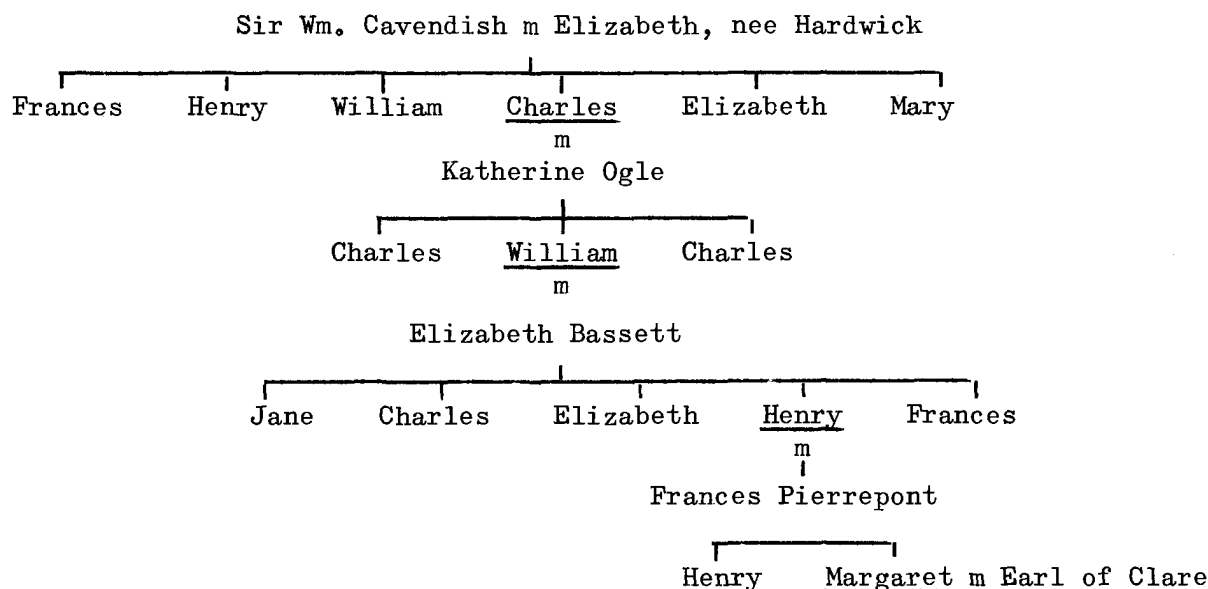
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WILLIAM CAVENDISH, FIRST DUKE OF NEWCASTLE

1593 - 1676

(by L. S. Harrison)



As a builder of stately homes in these parts, Bess of Hardwick is usually given pride of place, and few can question the genius which gave us Hardwick and Chatsworth among others. But what of Bolsover, Welbeck and Nottingham Castle? For these, as we know them today, we are indebted to her youngest son, Sir Charles Cavendish, and even more so to his son, Sir William Cavendish, later to become the Duke of Newcastle. Besides being an innate architect and builder, the latter was a man of great versatility - an outstanding horseman, a poet and playwright, a connoisseur of music and painting, an inspiring leader of men in the service of his sovereign, and a valued Counsellor of State in very troubled times.

In 1597 Gilbert Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, had granted to Sir Charles Cavendish, his brother-in-law and William's father, the lease of a piece of land at Kirkby-in-Ashfield, to which Bess added £400 for her son to build a house there. The house was never completed, chiefly because Sir Charles was attacked and severely wounded there, after which he abandoned the project, and concentrated on Welbeck Abbey, where he did some re-building. Shrewsbury also gave Sir Charles the option on the ruinous Bolsover Castle, but he could not build there during his mother's lifetime - she would have been too domineering a neighbour, in any case.

Such was the situation when William was growing up. His education began at the hands of Bess's chaplain and continued under Thomas Hobbes, the philosopher. In 1608 he went up to St. John's College, Cambridge, but left before graduating, to go to the Royal Mews, in what is now Horse Guards Parade. During this period he devoted himself to the arts of dressage and tilting, frequently with Prince Henry, reading all the available books on the subject. When Henry was created Prince of Wales, William attended him, and was made Knight of the Bath.

An opportunity then occurred for foreign travel, and Sir William was appointed to accompany Sir Henry Wotton on a diplomatic mission to Savoy. Its object was to arrange a match between the Prince of Wales and the daughter of the Duke of Savoy. Sir Henry was an accomplished scholar and from him Sir William learned a lot about music, science, poetry and architecture. The mission failed to achieve its immediate object, however. On his return Sir William found that his father now had the lease of Bolsover for 1000 years and planned to transform it. It was the potential of the site which attracted him, for the building was little more than a crumbling ruin. He had the services of Robert Smythson, who had worked at Longleat, Worksop Manor, Hardwick and Wollaton. The first part to be undertaken was "The Little Castle". Smythson, then an old man, was helped by his son, John, and local materials - stone and timber - were used.

Sir William was elected as M.P. for East Retford, but did not put in much service, as James I ruled for the most part without Parliament. The new M.P. spent more time at the Palace of Whitehall where there was bowls, tennis, cock-fighting and bear-baiting. The world of literature, and particularly that of Ben Jonson were much to his liking, and had an influence on his own poetry and play-writing. But family concerns made their demands, for he was a conscientious executor to his uncle, the Earl of Shrewsbury, and then to his own father. He became the inheritor of Bolsover and Welbeck, and wisely sent Smythson to London to study the work of Inigo Jones, evidence of which became apparent in Bolsover and Welbeck. In 1618 he married Elizabeth Bassett of Blore, so that the Cavendish serpent and the Bassett boar were featured over the fire-place in the parlour at Bolsover.

The king created Sir William, Lord Mansfield, in which title he attended the House of Lords. James I, always fond of hunting, was entertained for this purpose at Welbeck in 1624, the year before his death. Lord Mansfield found the Court of Charles I and Henrietta Maria much more formal and strict than that of James I. He was now more frequently back at home, for he was made Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, in charge of public order and the raising and training of the militia, duties in which he was assiduous. On his mother's death, as her heir, he was created Baron Ogle of Northumberland. In 1626 he was created Earl of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Baron Cavendish of Bolsover, and also acted as Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, until the young Duke of Devonshire came of age. The Little Castle was completed in 1630. It was a family house, lacking accommodation for the large number of guests which Stuart hospitality demanded. So the southward range of new buildings was begun, The old Inner Bailey was restored, and enclosed a pleasure garden flanked by "garden rooms", with an elevated walk as a striking vantage point overlooking the whole concept. The central feature was a statue of Venus.

Although the Earl was popular at Court with both the King and Queen, and their advisors, Archbishop Laud and the Earl of Wentworth, later Lord Strafford, he was, to his disappointment, offered no post, but determined to be on the spot and establish a home in London. He therefore built Newcastle House at Clerkenwell. Prince Charles was then only four, but his parents wished to establish him in his own household, under the supervision of a Governor. This was a post the Earl hoped for, so when opportunity occurred, he put on a lavish entertainment for the King and Queen at Welbeck, followed by a masque at Bolsover, "Lavish Welcome at Bolsover" by Ben Jonson. It was not, however, till 1638 that the Earl became Governor to the Prince, and he prided himself on the fact that the choice was solely that of the King and Queen without any string-pulling. The Earl expressed his appreciation thus - "This princely employment was beyond a hope of the most partial thoughts I had about me. ----- I have but seldom had the honour to receive letters from you, but such as these

you cannot write often". So Newcastle took charge of his eight year old pupil in the royal Palace of Richmond, where the boy began to acquire, under the Earl's expert guidance, an extremely promising standard of horsemanship.

In 1639, however, a more pressing duty called Newcastle north, for serious trouble was brewing in Scotland, where many objected to the Prayer Book and signed the National Covenant. They were in a fighting mood, so the King planned an invasion but had neither army nor money. So he made a charitable appeal for volunteers, in response to which Newcastle gave £10,000, raised a troop of 120 knights and gentlemen, equipped and led them himself. The King had little appreciation of military matters and with a badly divided command, the scheme failed. Newcastle was soon able to return to his duties at Richmond, where he also resumed the writing of plays. Although made a Privy Counsellor in 1639, he did not feel optimistic about the prospects of peaceful government, since the King was earning growing resentment, having tried ruling without Parliament for ten years. He was now forced to summon what was known as the Short Parliament, soon to be followed by the Long Parliament, which outlasted Charles himself.

Newcastle lost his appointment as Governor of the prince after three years, for there was an ominous drift towards civil war, after the King visited Parliament to proscribe the five members. He tried to conciliate the Scots with little success, so Newcastle was sent to Hull, where the King's arms and ammunition were stored, to act as Governor of the North, on behalf of the King. He had jurisdiction over the four northern counties. This was only in the nick of time, for the fleet declared for Parliament and set up a blockade. Newcastle was very popular in the north because of his maternal connections at Ogle. Volunteers flocked to join his famous Whitecoat Regiment. Meanwhile the King had set up his standard at Nottingham and the Civil War began in earnest. The Scottish army reached Yorkshire, Newcastle went to intercept it, hoping to join forces with Prince Rupert, who had been recalled from the west. When the prince did arrive he failed to take advice from Newcastle and because of his impetuosity was defeated at Marston Moor. York was forced to surrender, Newcastle resigned, and embarked from Scarborough. Both Bolsover and Welbeck fell into the hands of Parliamentary forces. The Queen fled to France and one of her attendants was Margaret Lucas, who became Newcastle's second wife and the authoress of his biography, which was published in 1677 as "The Life of the Thrice Noble and Puissant Prince William Cavendish", by which time he had acquired those dignities and titles. He settled in Antwerp, being lucky enough to rent the fine house of the painter, Rubens. It was a home appropriate to his rank, although he was short of funds, and had to live on credit. Whilst living there, he published two plays, "Country Captain" and "The Variety", which were later to be staged in London. The execution of the King came as a great blow to him, and he himself was sentenced to death in his absence.

The new Charles II had not forgotten his former Governor, however, for he made Newcastle a Knight of the Garter, and Privy Counsellor, so he joined the King and his Council at Breda, where the question of how to deal with the Scots was discussed. A compromise was reached, the King being forced to sign The Solemn League and Covenant. This meant admitting more Scots into his entourage, so that many English royalists, including Newcastle were de trop. The King returned to England, but he and the Scots were defeated at Worcester and Charles was a fugitive.

Newcastle was naturally anxious to rescue as much as possible of his personal fortune and estates. When his case came before The Commission for Compounding, he was fined £5,000, had to sell land to pay this, and so was left with a somewhat reduced estate. The demolition of Bolsover was ordered in

1650, for the value of its materials, and by the time Newcastle could buy it back, the lead had been stripped from the gallery roof, and some of the rooms round the courtyard pulled down.

When Newcastle joined the King in Brussels, he was given royal permission to use the title of prince, a most unusual honour. He was now spending much time at the riding school he had established in Antwerp, which became internationally famous. Fortunately an inheritance from his brother, Sir Charles, had made his financial position easier and enabled him to publish his book on horsemanship, which was very costly. He followed this by giving a magnificent banquet for the King.

The death of Cromwell brought fresh hope and the new parliament of 1660 favoured the restoration of Charles II.

Newcastle submitted a memorandum to the King, full of good ideas of policy, including a plea for the revival of "Merrie England" whereby many of the enjoyable pastimes, abolished by the puritanical Commonwealth could be restored. He hoped to be made Master of the Horse on his return to England, but this post was given to General Monck who, with his army, had made the King's return possible. A bill was passed restoring his titles and estates, and he was made Gentleman of the Bedchamber and re-appointed Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire.

His home-coming brought mixed feelings - joy and relief at being back and sorrow at the poor state in which he found Bolsover and Welbeck and the devastation of Sherwood Forest. First he wished to establish a home for his son, Henry, and so modernised Ogle Castle which he had inherited from his mother. After a long delay he regained Newcastle House, at Clerkenwell. At this time of great expense, Buckingham put up Nottingham Castle for sale. The site had always appealed to Newcastle, so he sold land in Derbyshire to buy it. He set about putting Bolsover into shape, and planting trees on the estate. He began to breed horses and laid out a five mile course at Welbeck for racing. This created great interest, and meetings were frequent and popular. He himself at sixty-seven still rode every day. His wife, Margaret, was busy collecting material for his biography, and he found time to write more plays. She estimated that his losses in the royal cause were almost £1,000,000.

In 1661 he was made Chief Justice in Eyre, north of Trent, a very ancient post. Five years later, the King elevated him from Marquess to Duke and he returned to Court, but for two reasons his stay was short. He did not like the raffish atmosphere and the outbreak of the plague in London decided the Newcastles to return to Welbeck, where the Duke wrote his second book on horsemanship. The King gave him permission to be buried in Westminster Abbey when the time came but it was his much younger wife who died first. She was given a splendid funeral there but as it was the depths of winter, the Duke did not travel to London for it.

Bolsover was now complete, with "tapestries and crimson taffeta and cloth of silver chairs", so he turned to the building of a new castle at Nottingham, for which he was his own architect. The cost was just over £14,000. He hoped the family succession was assured, but his only grandson died at 17, and his only son, Henry, soon after, leaving only a daughter, Margaret, who married the Earl of Clare. It was, therefore, through the female line that many of the Newcastle estates eventually descended to the Dukes of Portland.

"The Loyal Duke" died on Christmas Day, 1676, aged 83, and was buried beside his wife in Westminster Abbey, after a life of great activity and versatility, and with very varying fortunes.

THE OTHER HAPPENINGS OF 1745

(by Jeremy Black, Department of History, University of Durham)

Nov 15 1745 Caledonian Mercury No 3915

We see the following extraordinary Paragraph in the Manchester News Papers. Chapel-le-Frith, Nov. 1. 1745. "If any credit be due to history, especially to the more antient ones, we find, times of publick calamity, + great revolutions, have frequently been preceeded by prodigies, + uncommon appearance in nature; if what follows shall appear to be something of that kind, you may depend upon the Truth of every particula. [sic]

In a Church about three miles distant from us, the indecent custom still prevails, of burying the dead in the place set aside for the devotions of the living; but, as the parish is not exceeding populous, one would scarce imagine the inhabitants of the Grave should be straitned for want of room, yet so it should seem; for, on the last day of last August, several hundreds of bodies arose in the open day, out of the Grave there at once, to the great astonishment and terror of several spectators, of unquestioned veracity, from whose mouths I had the account.

They arose, as I said, out of the Grave, and immediately ascended towards heaven, singing in concert as they mounted along. They had not any winding-sheets about them, yet did not appear quite naked. Their vesture seemed to be streaked with gold, interlaced with sable, and skirted with white, but exceeding light, as was judged by the agility of their motion, and the swiftness of their ascent. They left a most fragrant and delicious odour behind them, but were quickly out of sight; and what is become of them since, + in what distant region of this vast universe they have taken up their abode, no mortal can tell.

We can assure our readers, the above is literally true, and next week we shall publish such testimonies about it, as must convince every one."



## ON FOOT THROUGH DERBYSHIRE IN 1755

by S. L. Garlic

The following is an extract from the little known Journal by John Jackson, an uneducated but enlightened observer of people and events.

In the autumn of 1755 John Jackson took a journey on foot from Woodkirk in the West Riding of Yorkshire to Glastonbury in Somerset. His diary records the adventures and hardships on foot in those days.

The account given here deals with that part of the diary relating to his passing through Derbyshire. The punctuation and the spelling has been copied as in the original.

Each days entry usually reports on the state of the weather.

"Wednesday ye 15th day of November, very pleasant fair frowning smiling sunshine dusky morning and a Western air.

Thursday ye 16th day. A day as ye before it. At morn I left Sheffield and over a wet level common, I went towards little Sheffield. And as I was ordered at Worsbor, I enquired for Mr. Savage but was told yt that he liv'd at Cherry tree Hill, which I found to be about a mile further, so I went on and found him at home. I dined there and he gave me a tester, and came away with me and directed me towards Dranfield, and I came toward Cold Aston but reached it not, but took up my lodging at ye Queen Anns Head, about half a mile short of it. The landlords name is Samual Beatson and his wife is Amy Beatson and both civil people and his trade is a cordwainer. I like them so well yt determined to call at my return home.

Friday ye 17th day. As the day before it for weather. At morn I left Samll. Beatsons and up to Cold Aston and met many people going to ye Fayr yt is holden this day at Sheffield, and I hear yt 2 heifers and 2 pigs are drowned at Stolly Brig near Chesterfield going from Chesterfield Fayr which is holden ye 25th of November after the new style. Also I was told yt at Cold Aston about a month agoe a woman hang'd her self and another was drowned and both in about 2 days time. From Cold Aston I went down to Dranfield tarryd a while eat and drank and went up to Whittington, a straggling town where is a Church like a Chappel and I was told yt the Parsons name is Mr. Peg. And away I went over a level comon to Chesterfield, a Corporation and a market town on Saturday. It has 2 crosses, Alliwel Cross and ye Market Cross, and a large old Church and in ye middle a steeple and a lofty leaden spire yt seems to fall upon spectators. Enquiring for lodgings I was directed to Sarah Statham in Alliwel Street, there I lay and found civil usage and ye landlady a notable woman.

Saturday ye 18th day, as ye day before it. At morn I left Chesterfield and came to Wingerworth, ye seat of Sir Henry Humlock, ye neatest building yt ever I beheld in all my life before, and then up to Tupton and Clay Cross, I went and lay at Tho. Garrets, ye sign of ye George and write something for James Crowther, and hard by I lost a quarter of a quire of paper, or had it stolen rather, and the wind raged.

Sunday ye 19th day of November, just as ye day before it. At morn I left Clay Cross and came to Higham near to Shurland Church where is a fine pleasant peal of 5 bells. I called at Higham Hills at Richard Lees and there I am told of a well near Duffield where it is said yt the cripples are cured and some have left their crutches. From thence I went to Shurland Delves, called and warmed me at Edward Buxtons, and up ye hill I went and lodged and supt at ye Ministers House and rested well.

Monday ye 20th day. I went away from Alfreton, vulgarly Auferton, and as directed to Swanwick and ye weather as ye day before and from Swanwick which is about a mile off, I went to Pentrage a Church town, and then to Hiege which is a Chapel town, and from thence to Bargate and I lay at William Harrisons ye sign of ye black Swan, but in ye way I calld at Mr. Jacob Hawkin's in Marly Park and there I was civilly treated and dined with ye master and there I heard of ye Duke of Devonshires death. And at Bargate I heard of another Hopton besides yt that is in ye parish of Mirfield, it is about 6 miles from Bargate, and it is the seat of Esquire Jell and here I also hear yt 2 years agoe, a boyling copper was stolen from Mr. Bagly's of Holbrook, about a mile off Bargate and that William Harisons copper escaped very narrowly. So thought I ye thieves that stole John Scots copper has its likely been here likewise too. This misty drisling dropping night, methought was the most sinking cold that every I felt this winter, hitherto.

Tuesday ye 21st day. A fine smiling morning and sunshine all ye day, but a cold north or west air. At morn I left Bargate to go toward Darby, and I came and lay at Dorothy Garets on Nungreen and there I found a company of people of evil vain and wicked conversation, ye men cursing and swearing and ye women talking baudery talk, and one I thought spinning worsted I thought ye most ready handed spinner yt ever I saw in all my life and 2 threads at once all along. Old Dorothy was spinning of course line hurds and another was spinning a sort of stuff like old rotten hay. Indeed a weary evening I had and very discontented with both company and lodging and fear'd of mangle bed or scrubby company, but shifted as well as I could and resolved to come there no more.

Wednesday ye 22d day. A day as yt before it. At morn I went away and tarryd but little save only yt I viewed Alhallows Church which is built up of a new fashion since I saw it before. I came away by little Ewer and turnpike way to Burton upon Trent".

#### Notes on persons and place-names

The wet level common on leaving Sheffield would be what is now known as the Moor. Little Sheffield was a piece of common land on the boundary of the old town of Sheffield, which slopes down to the Porter Brook where it passes under the highway to Chesterfield.

A tester - a sixpence.

Dranfield - Dronfield an extensive parish 6 miles S.W. of Sheffield.

Cold Aston - Coal Aston a small village 1 mile N.E. of Dronfield.

Stolly Brig - Norbriggs, a hamlet 1 mile S.E. of Staveley.

Chesterfield Fair was indeed held on the 25th November and was an annual statute fair for the sale of horses and horned cattle.

Whittington a parish  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of Chesterfield. Mr. Peg the parson was the Rev. Samuel Pegge LL.D., Rector of Old Whittington from 1751 to 1796. The level common was Whittington Common.

Aliwel Cross is the Holywell Cross in Chesterfield, and the Old Church is Chesterfield Crooked Spire.

Wingerworth a very large parish  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles S.W. of Chesterfield.

Sir Henry Humlock was Sir Henry Hunloke, Baronet.

Shurland - Shirland a large parish, 2 miles N.W. of Alfreton, Shirland delves were the coal mines.

Pentrage - Pentrich a parish 3 miles S.W. of Alfreton.

Hiege - Heage (or High Edge) a large village  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles N. of Belper.

Bargate a small village on the borders of Belper and Holbrook.

Marly Park - Morley Park  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of Heage.

Nungreen - Nuns Green. Many of the working class of Derby lived down Nuns Green and the Inn there was kept by a notorious character named Dorothy Garet. The crowd who frequented the bar were rough drinking men and vain women. At this time Dorothy was getting on in years, but she was never idle, spending much of her time spinning cotton thread, and the "stuff like rotton hay" spun by her companion was worsted cloth.

Little Ewer - Littleover a small village 2 miles S.W. of Derby on the main road to Burton on Trent.

#### Sources

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## RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD WINSTER

(through Mrs. M. Rodger

To my grand daughter, Irene.

It is now a few years since I promised to write a few lines of my life and history of my early days of childhood. I am the oldest in our family of five boys and three girls. Henrietta, the second girl, died in 1911 from diphtheria, a disease that swept through the village in 1911. About thirty children died from the disease. Ince and myself recovered. Arthur was taken very ill but recovered after a long time.

I remember leaving Winster with my brother Ince to go with my mother to get on the train at Darley Dale Station to go to Bromsgrove in Worcestershire to live with my mother's parents at Wild Moor, three miles from Bromsgrove town. I was then three years old. My father had sold up his farm stock owing to having met with an accident at the Mill Close lead mines. This necessitated him having to undergo an operation in the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary.

When my grandfather Wheeldon died in 1899 (70) my father had been working the farm after working on shift work at the lead mines. It was after my grandfather died that my father, after going at weekends to see his half-sister, Mary, in Derby, met my mother at her uncle and aunt's, Henry Hall, Arundel Street, Derby. They eventually were married in St. Werburghs Church. My mother's other sisters came to live in Derby.

My grandfather, Mitchell, was a blacksmith and nail maker. Two of my uncles, Walter and Charlie, assisted in the shop with three forges. The iron was obtained from Birmingham. I remember quite well taking me on a flat cart with bags of wrought iron nails to Birmingham Market and loading up with more iron bars. He also bought food and other things to take back home again with him, a distance of six miles.

### Events arising from 1910

My grandfather used to make the journey of six miles to Birmingham to sell and deliver the wrought iron nails that they had made, sometimes weekly. He would then return with sufficient iron to make and complete another order. The quantity made would depend on the demand for the manufactured article. Sometimes he would take to the Birmingham Market produce he and others had grown in their gardens, strawberries and other kinds of fruit. The district was in a good fruit growing area of Worcestershire. He would also take back with him a good supply of food, perhaps four or five cwt. The quantity was limited according to the size of his pony and flat cart. This type of vehicle was more convenient for the flat wrought iron. I well remember going with him. He used to say "Get up to the front, John". This helped to balance the load. The lanes were very rough and the wheels ran in deep ruts. There were no roads as you see them today. It was very difficult to walk on them, just wheel tracks.

My grandfather and mother were very religious people. They used to attend a Chapel (Methodist) I believe. They never took me. I think I was too noisy for them. The neighbours lived about 100 yards from each other and about four miles from Bromsgrove.

Xmas was the time of my life I well remember. Two years running my mother took me to the Bromsgrove Fair to see a bullock being roasted in the street, and buy roast beef. I must say it was delicious. 2d. was paid for each sandwich - two thick slices of bread, one slice dipped in gravy - and that sufficed until we got back home again. I was always ready for something to keep me going.

When I reached the age of three I remembered being taken to a school in a village at Bellbroughton about three miles from Bromsgrove. I ran away and back home again. This was the only school I went to before my mother returned to Winster. Evidently she could not settle down with her family at Bromsgrove.

We came to live in a cottage in Hampson Row up East Bank. I was then about four years old and soon made friends with other lads. One in particular was Joseph Heathcote. He was about eight years old. Later on in life he married one of my cousins, Pauline Swindale. Her father was half brother to my father who was several years younger.

Joseph took me to Winster school on attaining the age of four. My teacher was a Miss Wagstaff. She was a good and patient teacher with all the class. I never entertained the idea to run away from school again. After another year my brother, Ince, accompanied me to school. His birthdate was on the 4th of May. Being four years old he was then dressed in trousers. All boys up to that age were dressed in frocks, the cost being much cheaper. After a few years we moved to a two bedroomed cottage in Pump Lane. The rent was 2s. per week. My brother, Arthur, was born near Bromsgrove a short time before we left Worcestershire. We all three brothers found more pleasure in living on the outside of the village with a footpath leading to Birchover. After a few years my parents changed houses next door with a Mr. William Whitely, a joiner by trade, in his seventies. This house had three bedrooms. My sister, Maud, had arrived so we required more bedrooms.

I shall never forget Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Ince and me collected one pot mug each printed and stamped, then we walked to Miss Wagstaff's house (Miss Wagstaff's father was also the father of my grandmother, Wheeldon, Jermine. She had previously married Samuel Swindell) below the Miners Standard to receive a Jubilee penny each. It was a great occasion. All the village sat down to a good meal, served on trestles, one long table stretching from the Market House to Woolleys Yard. We never remembered having such a good meal before. Various people brought out their best china, one woman at each end of the table. There were not many people who did not sit down. The Church bells rang most of the day. The next big sit down was the crowning of King Edward VII. The crowning of King Edward was marred by his sudden illness.

The teas provided by the various religious institutions were always looked forward to. The tables set up in the Burton Institute by different ladies with gleaming sets of pots on nice linen tablecloths, stacked up with ham sandwiches and all kinds of cake made from different recipes. All for 6d. and this was given for the benefit of each party.

Commencing the year was the Parochial Church gathering. After tea the Church provided sometimes a concert, a magic lantern show or a various show of artists. The Reform Chapel, the Buxton family, always had a good tea and in the evening a concert and meeting of members from different districts. The Methodists also provided a good tea and concert. After these convivial gatherings connected with religious gatherings, Whit Monday was always reserved

for the Oddfellows Friendly Society of about 100 members. Mr. Joseph Allen was secretary for a number of years. They met every Saturday night at the Bowling Green. They paid in their monthly contributions. Every Whit Monday the Club celebrated its annual meeting with a parade headed by a Silver Band (Birchover or Youlgreave Bands) to St. John's Church for a service preached by the Reverend W. H. Nixon for many years. They then returned to the Bowling Green for dinner served at one o'clock for 2s. 6d., including as much ale as could be drunk. Whilst dinner was being consumed the band played various items and in between items being played the Vicar and distinguished visitors made political speeches to put the world right. After 6 pm the band and members of the Club toured the village and played at Mrs. Thompson's, Court House, then through the village to Oddo Hall where the Brittlebank family used to live, then up the West Bank and down the East Bank. The band surely earned their fee.

After the Whitsuntide we came to Winster Wakes Sunday which is celebrated as the first Sunday after the 24th June. The Foresters Society was a few more in number than the Oddfellows. Their meetings were held in the Crown Hotel, Main Street, and were carried on exactly the same as the Oddfellows. The Wakes was the chief enjoyment week in the year. Young and old from the villages surrounding Winster came to enjoy themselves at the Fair on the 'Horse Crofts'. The Sunday was a day of delight. The young children used to delight in going out of the village to meet the vans being drawn by teams of horses, to set up the roundabouts, swings and shooting galleries and coconut stalls. These were lit up with a number of hanging paraffin lamps. The roundabouts were driven with a steam engine. Later years when I went to live in Rhyl I was amazed to see the same engine and roundabouts on the Rhyl Pleasure ground (1945).

There were five licensed houses in Winster. A week before the Wakes all these pubs were filled up with Wakes ale. I am sorry to say there was too much. The two Saturdays each end were full of drunks. There were other days of pleasure during the year. Winster was a noted place for football. There was always a good team. Those from Youlgreave, Bakewell and Ashbourne could always command a good crowd to a nearly flat field near to the Moseley Mere.

Winster always had a good cricket club who used to play in the same field, and in the summer the air was delightful from what was experienced in the village 300 and 400 ft. lower in altitude. One thing to remember, many people had not always the time to spare on Saturday afternoons. A lot more interest was taken in cultivating gardens both in flowers and vegetables for food.

Winster always boasted in having a first class flower show, sports and band to give musical items. A large tent was hired for the day on a Saturday in late August that did not clash with Youlgreave. The Newton, Taylor and Allen brothers were keen exhibitors. The sports were held on the west side of Oddo House. Entrants came from a radius of ten miles. A band stand was erected on the side of the hill to face the people on the west side. Most years Lea Mills Silver Prize Band was engaged to play before an audience of three or four hundred. Very rarely, if ever, it rained to prevent people sitting down on the grass to listen to the band over a hollow of 20 to 30 ft. between them and the band. Really an ideal place.

Near to where the band played is a very large bush elm tree where a Mr. Brittlebank escaped to the elm tree after he had shot and killed a Doctor Cuddie who had ..... with his wife. Dr. Cuddie was buried in the churchyard near the old sun dial. A big shock to Winster. Later I had difficulty in obtaining any light on the matter. The end of the Brittlebanks who had some thousands of acres of land from Winster to Newhaven - this was sold and local people were able to buy small plots.

The Brittlebanks formed a silver prize band to play in front of the Hall. They kept a punt and kennels. They brought to Winster various kinds of trees from the Continent and employed several gardeners and brought a great deal of wealth to the village. I was told Mrs. Brittlebank had no children and was of French origin.

So time went on and we made the regular journeys to school. We had to do various jobs in helping to clean the house and to fetch and carry water from a standtap near to the Market House. This was a distance of 200 yards. We carried the water in two buckets made of galvanised iron to hold  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 gallons in each bucket. These were carried on the shoulder with a wood fashioned to fit on the shoulder with two chains, one on the left and one on the right, about 2 feet long with a strong hook to fit the handle on the bucket. These were called yokes and cost 5s.

During dry summer times water was not always to be obtained in these standtaps as the reservoir on the West Bank emptied and these taps soon ran dry: then the only place to obtain water was from a standtap enclosed in a lockup chamber near the West End of the Church. This tap was erected on the 3 in. water main from the spring in a field at the Miers, Birchover, where the local people got their water. The distance to our house from the Church was about 500 yards. It was very hard work to carry sufficient water for us in those times. So for washing and cleaning purposes we bought paraffin barrels, burnt them on the inside to clean them and then placed them under the roof to catch every drop of rainwater we could obtain, this being nice soft water. There were also a few wells in various depths of 20 to 100 ft. sunk in the clay and shale. One such well was controlled by the Parish Council and at the bottom of Pump Lane where we lived. Very near the whole village of 850 people depended on this well for drinking and cooking. When very hard times occurred, people stood in queues awaiting their turn to go to the pump. The Norman family had a daughter who later married a Captain Thompson and were very friendly with Major M. Thornhill of Stanton Hall. Major Thornhill owned some thousands of acres, being a local squire and had a tremendous influence in the life of the people. Somehow I am told that in the 1860's he gave permission for Winster people to obtain a supply of water from the Miers Spring, on a voluntary basis. A 3" pipe was brought and laid by voluntary subscriptions. Local workmen, miners and others gave their spare time and dug the trenches for the pipes. A large stone built reservoir was built on the highest point of West Bank to receive the water. The inlet was about 18" below the outlet at the spring. There were 6 standtaps erected, one on the flat, one top of East Bank, one near the East End, one at the Market House, one in Woolley Yard and one near the Burton Institute.

As I grew older and during the period before the Boer War and the death of Queen Victoria, along with my brother, Ince, we were members of the Winster Church Choir (I stayed in until I was about 16). We attended a bible class conducted by Mrs. Nixon, wife of the Reverend W. H. Nixon. After the meeting which ended about 3 pm along with others, when it was fine, we walked all round the village to look at old lead mines, to Robin Hood's Stride and to climb Cratcliffe Rocks and Hermits Cave. This cave was becoming vandalised with a type of visitor from the towns after the advent of the motor car in the 1900's.

The first motor car I saw in Winster was about 1900 when it called at the Blacksmith's forge in the Main Street to have a steel connection welded. The car was a two seater and a French make, a De Dion, I was told. The village up to Edward VII coming to the throne had 4 joiners and wheelright shops - Josh Wilson, William Whitely, William Smith and Henry Greatorex.

All these were full time businesses and provided a living for their families. There were two Blacksmiths William Wallace in the Main Street and J. Rolley of Elton. They did all the shoeing of horses and farm repairs. Later in 1907 William Vincent in West Bank started as a shoeing smith. In the village were 2 saddlers and leather repairers, Theo. Hawkesworth & Son, and John Rowland, both in the Main Street. Very often travelling saddlers were engaged to work for them during busy times. This type of leather worker slept in rough conditions after receiving their meals at work. Hours of work were from 6 am until 8 pm.

There were two tailor businesses, William Lomas with two assistants who used to pride himself with only selling and using the best of the West of England cloth. He would in 1900 make a good suit, trousers, waistcoat and jacket for £3. Mr. William Ellis in Main Street made and supplied a cheaper suit or a pair of trousers for 6s. Both these tailors employed travelling tailors during the busy season which was Easter and Whitsuntide.

One of the main businesses carried on in the village was William Heathcote & Sons, Chandler, lead, glass, soap in bars (there were no fancy soap as we see today), various oils, whale oil, linseed, turps and meths. They made all kinds of paints, red lead, etc. They sold all kinds of farm seeds, linseed, clover, etc. They travelled with a special cart to carry these goods to farms and hamlets as far as Longnor, Earl Sterndale, Monyash, Over Haddon, Youlgreave, Rowsley and Matlock Bridge. (Matlock was only a small village at that time). A large amount of lead sheeting was used to repair large houses and churches in the area from Hartington and in the villages in that part of Derbyshire. There was also a family of glaziers, Mr. T. Gregory and family. All these goods had to come from the railway station at Longcliffe before the railway came to Darley Dale. There was a wharf at Cromford which was used for bringing coal and goods from East Derbyshire.

Very few houses were built during my early years. A Mr. William Barnsley built and carried out repairs. I worked for him when I left school and on several occasions walked to Longcliffe Station to unload railway wagons with welsh slates and load them into carts belonging to a Mr. James Marshall. For this work from 7 am to 6 pm the pay was 5s. per week and this was only a part time of other work, mixing mortar and assisting the builder.

Winster was the largest village in a district between Wirksworth, Buxton, Ashbourne, Chesterfield and Bakewell with about 850 people. The smaller villages of Birchover, Wensley, Elton, Grange Mill, Bonsall, were partly dependant on the village for food and transport and repairs to property.

Land was intensely cultivated, hedges were cut and laid to be a stockproof fence. 18" on both sides were hoed and kept free from weeds. The land was well drained, sandstone covers being used to cover the larger drains. There are a number of occupation roads and a lot of land with rights of way over it. These required gates to open and shut and they had to be kept in good condition. This provided considerable work for the joiners in making gates and metalwork and wood or stone posts. Cattle were housed in barns or cow houses, one to approx. 10 acres. These have nearly all disappeared and land has been allowed to go into a wild state of cultivation.

Children always found plenty of time for leisure outside of the time taken in school and performing various duties at home, running errands to the shops, fetching and carrying water from the standtaps or wells. One such well was at Black Man's Head about one mile away on the Birchover Lane. In winter time lots of lads, half a dozen or so, used to play at hunting; part of the gang



would be made up to chase one or two lads acting as deer. The village lent itself to this, as the number of jennals added to the difficulty in finding the deer.

Footballing. We were very friendly with several boys aged 8 to 12. Walter Rains, the youngest son of a butcher in the street, supplied us with a cow's bladder for  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a time, dried and blown up. We used to play in a field using three ash trees for goal posts; when one burst Walter was always able to get another one. Very few girls were to be seen playing in the street; they were always enrolled in a sewing party, either something for the church or home use.

When I reached the age of 13 I left Winster School but I did not finish with school altogether. We attended night school four evenings a week. We paid 1s. per week. I kept this up until I was about 16. When I left school I went to work for Mr. Charles Potter in the hopes of being apprenticed to his joinery, wheelcraft and painting business. I stayed 12 months there. My wage was 4s. per week. This wheelright's timber yard and blacksmith smithy was situated at Darley Bridge. 4 joiners, 3 blacksmiths, 2 painters and an extra man or two as the trade required were employed there. There was a large trade in making strong drays with iron tyres of 6" in width. The usual tyre width for farm carts was 4" for traps. They supplied customers within an area of Chesterfield, Ashbourne and Buxton. Vehicles made there lasted over 20 years and more. The timber was all grown in the district and was well seasoned.

A note about the timber mill. A dam was constructed to hold back the water in the brook that comes down the valley from Winster. A large water wheel about 30" in diameter was erected to drive the machinery used for cutting up the wood to make into parts used in the trade. In one shed was the first stage, a cross cutting saw that cut the trees into planks of different sizes. In the main workshop were circular saws, band saws and wood lathes, all driven from pulley wheels and belts. The blacksmith's smithy was under the workshop. A large paint shop had closed windows and doors to keep out the dust and dirt. It was heated from a fire that burned up all the shavings and sawdust. John Harrison was a first class painter and was there for many years after I left.

At that time there were only about 12 houses and 2 pubs. Wensley also had 2 pubs as they were called at that time.

In the years from when I was about ten I began to notice more of what was happening in not only Winster but also in Elton, Birchover and Two Dales. I think the year was about 1899 when I heard my father say to my mother "I am going to a Parish Council meeting". Mr. George Gibson, the schoolmaster, was the Clerk to the Council and the main business was - did Winster require a new sewerage in place of the old one and could the rates be able to pay for it? It was after all a very heated meeting. Mr. Gibson retired as clerk because many people did not agree to it. It turned out to be a wonderful sewage disposal system. At that time the best in Derbyshire. You may say why did the village require such an expensive scheme. It was a wealthy village consisting mostly of lead miners that brought extra wealth to the village.

The old system was constructed of sandstone blocks put in the side of the roads about 2' deep to an outlet below Pump Lane into the Main Street with connections from Woolleys Yard and East Bank. All these drains were connected to the pubs and to a slaughter house near the old Market House owned by the

Caudwell family - Joe Caudwell, Sire Caudwell, the slaughterer, and Jess the son.

The Caudwell family that I knew were Jos Caudwell (sire), Caudwell brother, and Jess Caudwell the son. They were the largest butchers in the town, killing three or four cows and an odd bull every week and a number of sheep. Why I have told you this is to explain that there was a stone drain in the centre of the floor. This took all the blood and water away as one or two fetched the water from barrels that were standing outside in a cart, the water previously obtained from a local well. A strong oak post was built in the wall with a ring to fasten a rope to be able to pull down a strong beast before it could be slaughtered. As children we always became excited to watch the procedure. People were not at all bothered how they carried on their trade so long as we were able to buy plenty of meat.

The sewer drains were not trapped to prevent smells or rats from escaping from the drains; in fact rats were of great service in eating the garbage that was washed down. There were no drains from any houses. The pots and tea pots were usually carried to the nearest road drain to be emptied there. Water was very scarce. Those people who possessed a garden put the dirty water on the garden. After a severe thunderstorm in summer time water used to flow down both Banks (East and West) like a river carrying all the gravel that bound the stone together. After a storm people had to carry the gravel back again to repair the roads. After a heavy thunderstorm I have seen Hawkesworth's saddlers shop with 2' of water in it, the stone drains having become blocked with sludge and gravel. It was not until the new sewer was laid in about 1900 that this system came into being, glazed earthenware pipes with the junction and traps. It then became compulsory to have a fitted drain to every house to carry away all the washing water and the waste from the kitchen. Rainwater had to flow on its natural course to the open drain where the rats lived and then people began to kill them off. Road drains remained as they had been for many years. The opening of these drains in Pump Lane were placed about 20' to 30' apart opposite the cottages. Iron grids were over the openings. On the lower side of the lane, the side of the road was a stone patched part of the lane to carry the flood water away that the stone sough could not cope with. This part was called a rindle. The stones were usually about 4" square and carefully made to fit and was laid 3' wide and consolidated to resist damage by carts going over them. The rindles were only 18" wide on both sides of the street from the old School House (now a garage) to Green Gates at the West End. No alteration of surface drains took place till the County Council took over the repair of the road from Elton Cross Roads to a point of 1780 yards near the Mill Close footpath at the east end of the parish of Winster.

To the beginning of the period just before the internal combustion engine (motor car) round about 1900, Winster was a busy country town. The main street extended from a point opposite Pump Lane to a point surrounding the Market House and East Bank. This portion of the street was private property not repairable by the Council of that time. It was owned by the Norman family who were the wealthy owners of Court House (now called The Manor). It was outside the Market House that George Kenning of Clay Cross used to call with a load of crockery and pots on his way home from Stoke-on-Trent potteries. The pots were laid out on straw. People came from all round the district to buy the pots at always a low price. He would come several times a year. Shoe sales were often held here nearly always when it was the quarterly Mill Close pay day.

After Mr. Joseph Greatorrex gave up the control of the Market Place a few fairs of cattle sales were held. This finished with change in control of the Market Place. During and before the 1880 till about 1910. The male population used to gather in the evenings after work till 9 pm to glean all the information about both local and town news.

I remember that during the Boer War the Post Office exhibited telegrams in the window and news was exchanged several times in the evening especially to see if any relatives were mentioned. This way of spreading the news was the only way. The telegram was charged at  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per word, 6d. minimum. The phone did not arrive in Winster till about 1906, about the time of the last cattle fair held in Winster. After that time sheep and cattle were driven on the roads and paths to Bakewell Market. Bakewell was the centre for sales of cattle either singly or by auction. Very often cattle were driven over a period of several days from Leek, Ashbourne and Buxton districts. Cattle drovers were employed to do this job by cattle dealers. The drover would sleep anywhere either on a haystack or under trees.

It was some time about 1900 that a Mr. Charles Barker, he being an agent for the Arkwright family of Willersie Castle, Cromford, was driving a carriage past the Market House and near the Old Angel Inn: he noticed on every occasion that there were always large numbers of men and boys standing lounging about with nothing to do but to stare and pass remarks to all that passed. He mentioned this unseemly matter to a friend he had known who was an old Winster man, Mr. Joseph Burton of Nottingham. When his attention had been drawn to this, he at once, in his benevolent manner, bought from Mr. Charles Heathcote the Public Hall at Winster, which he let for the various meetings held in the Hall as this was the only room outside a licensed premises in Winster available. The Public Hall became known as the Burton Institute, a charity governed by the resident Vicar as Chairman, one representative from the Parish Council and three other rate payers. The deeds expressly say that the room should be used as a Public Free Reading Room to take over for the purpose of removing the loungers from the street. For several years the room was a great success. Several people supplied newspapers and books for use. When it was first presented to the village it was on an understanding with the Vicar that the Church Sunday School was held in the Institute. Some years later this was discontinued.

The old Market House till Mrs. Thompson had it restored was a dangerous place although we as children used to play climbing and looking for any old relics. Joe Caudwell used to hang the skins of beasts he had killed on hooks on the wall ready to take down and load up on two and three carts to take to Chesterfield Market on the Saturday morning. For many years he carried on a good trade in Chesterfield Market. The road between Sydnop and Stanage was known as a dangerous road, where unless you had company you were likely to be robbed. Caudwells always travelled together. In Derbyshire after dark it was not safe to journey anywhere far from a village. People were strangers in the next village up till about 1900 and the advent of the motor car.

The Market House belonged to the Norman family and was used as a storage place for lead ore and to store tools to sell to miners or exchange for ore etc. There were two more ore houses, one at the junction of Pike Hall Lane and the other at Elton Cross Roads (note this new road now known as the Bakewell Road has only been in operation 150 years or so). Lead ore was often brought in leather bags or pouches and delivered to these ore houses ready for the Bar master operating for the Duchy of Lancaster in connection with the Wapentake at Wirksworth.

The Norman family were a very Royalist family. The school or place where pupils were educated before the present school was built, was upstairs (stone) over the stables and held 20 -30 children. Various charges were made according to your standard or privilege class. Part of the furniture was there till Antonia Fengl bought it. This is old history before the 1914 War. This room was used for sport and a miniature rifle room of 25 yds. This building ceased to provide for teaching when the present school was erected previous to 1890 as a church school. The new teachers were Mr. and Miss Prinsep. They died and were buried near the entrance to Oddo Park on the south side of the footpath. They were a very good family and well liked by the people.

Towards the close of the nineteenth century lead mining was coming to an end. The Placket mine had closed. The Stoop Mine fell in and no further interest was taken in it. A mine was opened near Elton Cross Roads. This fell in about 1900 and a few miners then went to Mill Close lead mine, then on to Warren Carr where this underground mine turned out to be the richest mine in England. It employed upwards of 300 men until all the ore was extracted and closed down just before the Second War.

After the Napoleonic Wars lead mining was in a poor way. Many miners could not find enough work to provide an existence and various charities were set up, one such aid was to drain and construct a sandstone paved path between Winster and Birchover through the fields. A large number of drains were made to drain the fields in between the two villages. My grandfather, John Wheeldon and his brother, Tom, had opened a sandstone quarry at Birchover (this I am informed by a Mrs. Marsden. She owned a licenced carrier vehicle to carry people and goods to Bakewell and she often told me when I went into Birchover on my weekly visits).

My grandfather and his brother were masons and builders. They cut grindstones out of the rock and took these on pack horse to Sheffield - two horses being employed. They went by Stanton, Rowsley Bar and over the moors. There was no road to Picory Corner in that period. Stone slabs and building stone was also cut in the quarry. Years later the Ball family worked this quarry. It was the beginning of the stone trade when the railway was constructed to Rowsley doing away with a ford crossing near the old bridge. For this information I am indebted to Mrs. Marsden. (About 1930).

Life in these times was very hard. Farm labourers and boys used to sign a contract at Christmas to work for a farmer for 12 months. During the period of 1890 to 1910 the rate for a man was about £20 a year, with food and lodging. The times of work were 6 am to 6 pm or more as required. Time off was allowed to attend church on Sundays.

Some of my happiest days when we attended day school up till I was ten years old, was to own a good iron wheel with a hook and with this we raced other boys on the way to school. It was good exercise and kept you fit. When the weather was warm during Lent and after, every boy would have a good supply of marbles of different colours and exchange values. We would play with these all the way home from school. Girls had their shuttle cocks and bats to play with. The roads and street were the open playground till the motor car arrived when it became a danger to play in the street. Other games were played till Tommy Hawkesworth rang the Curfew Bell at the Church every night except Sunday night. It was time then for all to be at home.

Young girls that attended Sunday School used to attend a sewing class at Court House under the hospitality of Mrs. Childers Thompson one day each week. Articles of clothing were made for the Church Missionary Society. These articles of clothing eventually were sent to Africa and India. Girls were on no account allowed to play in the streets. There was always plenty of knitting and sewing to do in repairing and patching old clothes.

Ready made clothing, regarded as cheap, was not obtainable till after the Boer War when journey men travellers appeared in the village. A Mr. Barrett from Bakewell used to come round every three months. Several people had boxes of boots and shoes to sell. There was one shoe shop in Matlock and one in Bakewell. On Fridays there was a cheap railway fare to Derby market for 1s. 6d. This was Market Day when you could take your surplus fowls, eggs and rabbits, etc. to sell in the market. Trade was also done in the shops namely that which you could not obtain at a fair price at home. It was the developing trade in ironmongery that put Joseph Hardy, afterwards Burton Smith, out of business after the 14-18 War. I have not mentioned this trade in my letter before. Mr. Hardy was an engineer and tinsmith.

I don't know when he began his business as Tin Smith. The trade was carried on by him and Mr. Burton Smith and extra one or two travelling smiths when there was plenty of work to do. Most of the work done was the making of 12 gallon milk churns, various sizes of buckets 2 and 3 gallon. These were of best quality tinned steel. They were used by cow keepers in connection with hand milking and, being strongly made, used to carry the milk from the cows to home when the milk was cooled and put into 12 gallon churns and put on rail at Darley Dale railway station at 8.15 am and sent to Manchester. Upwards of 20 farmers took their milk in what were known as milk floats. They held four to six churns.

These 12 gallon churns had to be exceptionally strong. They suffered a lot of knocking about. The shop was kept busy not only with making new churns but by repairing and soldering patches on them. Some churns would last five or six years. Not only were Winster farmers catered for but farmers who put milk on rail at Rowsley and Matlock railway stations.

Nearly every household had several hand lamps that burned candles and paraffin lamps. Lead miners working at Mill Close mines carried a lamp to light their way through the fields to the mine at night. Farmers and others carried lamps from the barns after milking cows at night. Note: most cow keepers milked their cows regularly every twelve hours.

Besides making small hand lamps, Hardy's made small milk cans for people to fetch their milk from the cow keeper's house. The milk was more easily carried in a can than in a jug, also with a measured mark in the can you could easily see if you had got the correct quantity. Some farmers were more generous than others. The shop also made the 28 village paraffin lamps and kept the vessels in sound condition to avoid waste of paraffin. Also a certain amount of work was done in repairs at the cheese factories at Grange Mill and at Gratton Cheese factory. Milk churns were also used to convey milk to the factory and also special churns for farmers to bring their whey home from the factory.

I think it was about 1902 that the Matlock Gas Company brought gas into Winster through the interest of Mr. H. Heathcote. Gas had been supplied to Wensley for several years before. It was a great boon to the people who had previously relied on wax candles (some people could not afford to buy paraffin) or paraffin lamps. The chapels and church burned paraffin lamps and very often the clerk or vergger used to go round the lamps to trim them so as to be able to read. Sometimes one lamp would get on fire. After gas was installed with the mantle lamps in place of the open flare, we seemed to now live in a fairy land. This installation of gas dealt a heavy blow to Hardy's with the loss of paraffin and also the house lamps. There was still plenty of work in the dairy trade but as the years went by I could see that a certain amount of manufactured tin ware was coming into the village from Sheffield and a new type of galvanised bucket was being sold. These could not be repaired with soldering.

A new system of disposing of milk came about when Nestles Milk Ltd. started a factory at Ashbourne in tinning condensed milk. Many farmers took advantage of the new type of milk churn provided by Nestles. This resulted in a loss of trade to Hardy's and this is how things began to happen both in the clothing trade and the saddlery trade which gradually went out with the incoming motor propulsion.

#### HOW HISTORY IS MADE

by Keith Reedman

Town and county directories which became common during the 19th century are a well-used historical source. It should also be well-known that careful use is necessary and the following entries illustrate the point.

First, Bagshaw's directory of 1846 under the heading 'Sawley, Parish and Township,.....', it goes on 'The River Derwent unites its waters with the Trent, in this parish, and is crossed by the Erewash Canal'. This ambiguous sentence is intended to indicate that the Erewash Canal crosses the parish: it does not, but it is on the parish boundary for some distance.

Following Bagshaw, both White in 1857 and Kelly in 1864 repeated the sentence virtually without change. Then in 1876 whoever edited the Kelly directory misinterpreted the sense and, for clarification of what appeared to be obviously needed, changed the line to read 'The River Derwent unites with the Trent in this parish and is crossed by the Erewash Canal on an aqueduct.' (our italics).

This fantastic statement seems to have gone unchallenged because it was printed in every edition of Kelly until at least 1936.

## HANDYSIDES AND THE G.P.O.

by John Heath

The firm of Andrew Handyside and Company of Derby and London which commenced business in Derby in 1848 with the takeover of Weatherhead and Glover, was renowned for its ironwork in road and rail bridges and piers the length and breadth of this country and overseas, in the construction of railway stations like Central Station, Manchester (1880) and Nottingham Midland (1903) as well as in the renewal of station roofs (Charing Cross in 1905). The firm was also noted for its cast-iron windows for houses, barns, warehouses, factories (Rolls Royce) and churches (St. John's, Derby, 1828); for its elaborate iron buildings like the Palm House at Kew Gardens, and for its decorative ironwork such as vases and fountains, and functional ironwork in the form of lamps and cranes.

In this last category can be included pillar boxes. The pillar boxes used by the Surveyor of the Derby District of the Post Office were supplied by Handyside's Britannia Foundry from 1853. The early boxes had lettering, no collection plate and no Royal Cipher. These features were added in March 1856. These lettered octagonal boxes with an upright slit which can still be seen at Framlingham in Suffolk, were priced at eleven shillings, an increase in price over the 1853 boxes.

In early 1857, the firm produced a new design for which they were willing to cut the price if they received the contract for the whole kingdom, but this was not accepted by the Post Office. However, in December 1858, they supplied two similar boxes to Ireland.

The price of pillar boxes increased during the next ten years so that by 1864 they were costing between £7.10.0d. (£7.50) and £9.12.0d. (£9.60).<sup>(1)</sup> By this time the firm was producing models with gas lamps attached. In September 1878, Handyside's tender for the supply of round pillar boxes was accepted and delivery commenced in March 1879, continuing until 1904. Between 1896 and 1933 Handyside's also produced lamp-fixed boxes; between 1889 and 1933 they produced double pillar boxes still in use in London; and between 1930 and 1933 they, or their successors, produced wall boxes for the Post Office. Finally, in November 1930 Handyside's produced a pillar box which incorporated a stamp-selling machine. In 1933 these contracts were taken over by the Carron Company of Falkirk.

From these contracts it is clear that Handyside's continued to operate after 1911 when they went into liquidation.<sup>(2)</sup> It would appear that the Company went into liquidation on one further occasion - in 1931. It was reformed as Derby Castings Limited in that year and continued trading until 1933, but within three years most of the buildings on the Duke Street site had fallen into disrepair and some had been dismantled.

Much of the foregoing information can be gleaned from The Letter Box by Jean Young Farrugia but the post-1930 evidence is to be found in the Post Office Records PpsM.14490/1931 Files III and VIII. Most of the Handyside pillar boxes, etc. have been located, but those manufactured under the imprint of Derby Castings Limited are more elusive. It is to be hoped that 'modernisation' will not see the removal of these articles of street furniture, and perhaps the foregoing might stir the memories of Derby folk who worked for this important local firm in the 1920's and 1930's.

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1. Nixon, F. Industrial Archaeology of Derbyshire.
2. Ibid.