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WILLIAM PEVEREL AND FAMILY

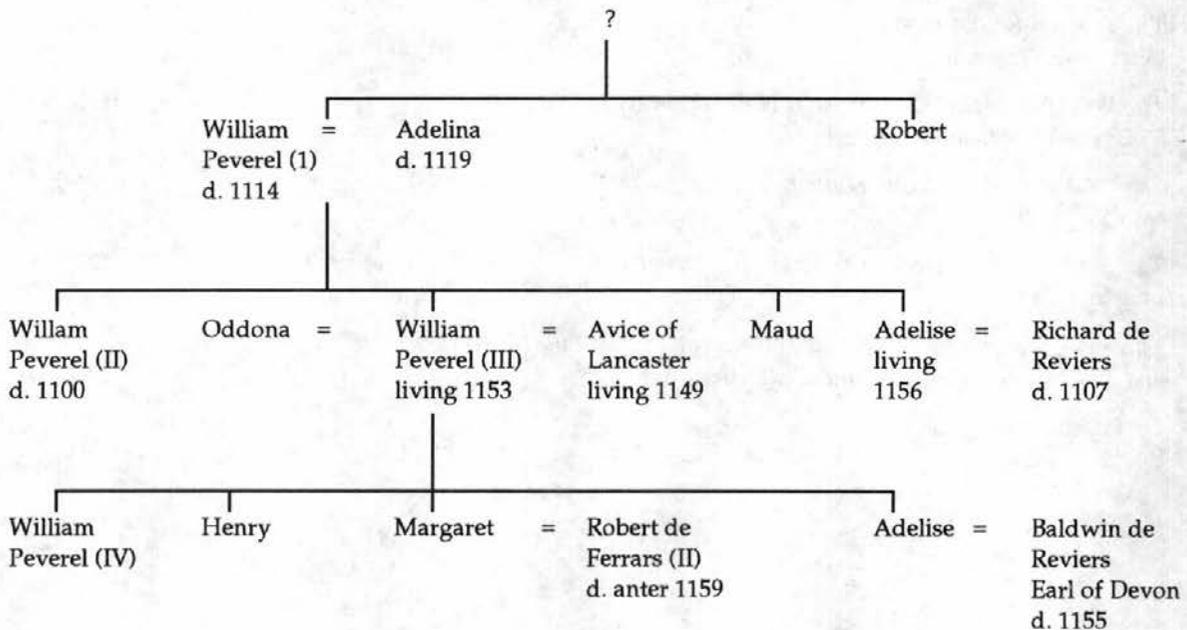
(by Barry Crisp, 5 Lark Hill, Swanwick, DE55 1DD)

In Part 3 of Volume II of *Derbyshire Miscellany* for Spring 1987 J.T. Leach related some of the limited information available about William Peverel sometime holder of the Honour of Peverel of Nottingham.

Since then the following additional details have been gleaned from other publications. Whilst these do not solve the basic question as to the origin of this first-noted Peverel they do suggest the probable relationships within the family in the years between the Conquest and the end of King Stephen's reign. Needless to say documentary sources of this period are relatively scarce and not infrequently contradictory. Nevertheless taken together they do reveal a likely pattern for the family structure in the first century after the Conquest.

The picture which emerges is shown in the 'family tree' drawn below. The notes which follow deal, in succession, with the members of this eminent but elusive clan.

HONOUR OF PEVEREL OF NOTTINGHAM



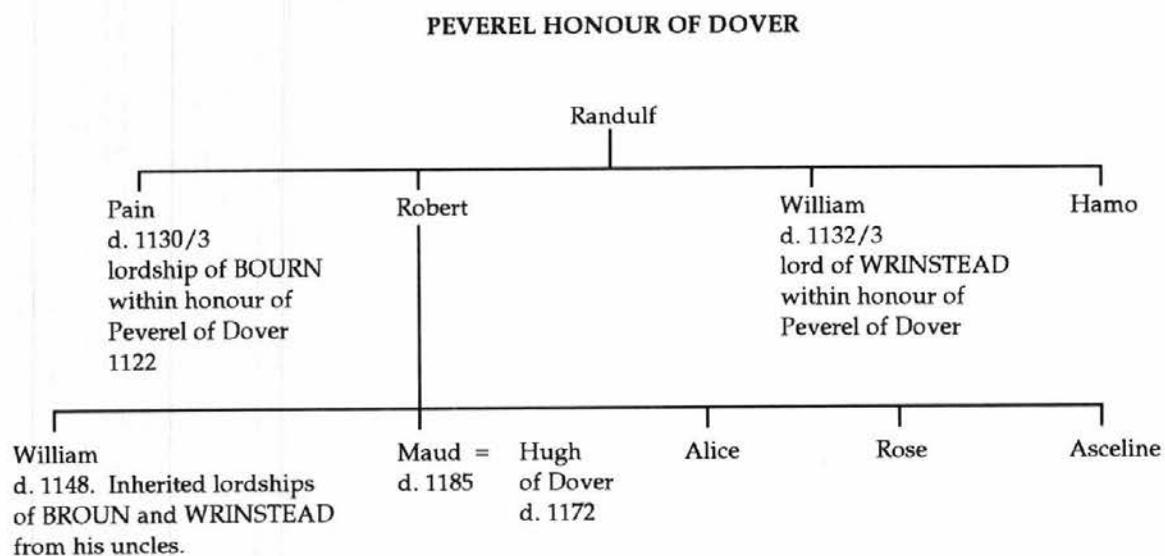
The possibility that the first Peverel known for certain by name - William Peverel I - was an illegitimate son of William the Conqueror has been repeated since the 17th century. The idea was seemingly originally voiced by Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, (1544-1588) and was endorsed by William Camden, Clarenceux King of Arms (1551-1623). In the 19th century J.R. Planché, a later Somerset Herald, defended the case at length¹ but a majority of modern historians have, in the absence of factual detail discounted the claim. Planché's views were based on three principal points:

- (a) The Peverel family name cannot be traced to any known location or pre-Conquest dynasty in Normandy as 'can almost all their peers. He believed the name was taken from Randulf Peverel - previously unknown to history - who supposedly married Ingelric. She, he says, had an association with William the Conqueror and William Peverel was born of this. The question of whether the child was fathered before or after the reputed Randulf/Ingelric marriage he cannot determine. The story is not entirely incredible but wants any serious proof.
- (b) The extensive material awards to William Peverel I were the consequence of royal nepotism as was frequently the practice throughout the feudal period and
- (c) In the Foundation Charter of Lenton Priory, Nottingham, pleas are offered for the souls of King William, William Rufus, Henry I and their respective consorts along with William Peverel I's wife and children but not for his parents as would have been normal. Planché argues that this was because King William was Peverel's father.²

Whatever weight is attached to these or other opinions the fact remains that proof of the position awaits some yet-to-be-discovered evidence.

For the purposes of these notes therefore William Peverel I arrives on the scene, orphan-like and with an equally unknown brother Robert as recorded in a charter of Henry I granting the church of Lenton to the monks of Cluny.³ An abstract from the Domesday Survey of 1086, listing the Tenants-in-Chief,⁴ names William Peverel as having holdings in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. It also lists Randulf Peverel with holdings in Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. In addition and separately for the county of Essex Randulf and William Piperellus are featured with cross-referencing between the two sets of entries. J.R. Planché explains the use of 'Piperellus' as a result of the "*detestable practice of latinising proper names*". He goes on to propose that Peverel is the Anglo-Norman form of Peuerellus derived from the Latin for boy or child and used therefore literally to distinguish a son from a father.⁵

The 'southern' Peverels, that is those holding the Honours of Dover and London (the latter sometimes called the Honour of Hatfield Peverel) appear to descend from Randulf Peverel but the evidence shows that there were two characters of the same name and not therefore a single and common progenitor.⁶ An outline of the known relationships is as follows:



PEVEREL HONOUR OF HATFIELD PEVEREL OR LONDON

Randulf
d. after 1091

|
William
d. 1107-30

Whilst William Peverel I is an inconnu in modern times he clearly was not so in the early years of the Norman domination of England and Wales. His manifest rewards from the King may just as well have been for loyal service as for his alleged royal connection. The castle which the Conqueror built at Nottingham in the 'novus burgus' in 1086 was put into the custody of William Peverel I at an early date.⁷ In this period he also became the new King's bailiff for the royal demesne in the Peak District of Derbyshire then called Pechevers. Before 1086 he had a grant of land at 'Peak's Arse' - present day Castleton - and built a castle on this quasi-frontier. The castle, unusually, appears to have been in stone from the outset.⁸ The Domesday Survey records that he held 162 manors throughout the country with 3 churches, 68 houses and a 10 acre orchard in Nottingham and 32 houses in Northampton.⁹ Although not listed in the Survey legend has it that the castle at Bolsover was built soon after the Conquest by William Peverel I.¹⁰ The Reverend Samuel Pegge writing in 1785 referred to "*the Peverel-road*" still then to be seen and running from Bolsover to another Peverel manor at 'Winfield' (South Wingfield).¹¹ Within the grouping of Peverel manors in Northamptonshire another early castle was established at Higham. Later this passed by marriage to the Ferrers family who appended their name to give today's Higham Ferrers; the castle has long since vanished but some residual earthworks are still to be seen.¹²

In more spiritual vein, William Peverel I founded and endowed the priories at Lenton (Holy Trinity) near Nottingham and one dedicated to St James near Northampton. The dating for the former can be set between 1103 and 1108.¹³ The latter was probably instituted in 1105 the year its Foundation Charter was confirmed by Henry I.¹⁴ Despite all this obvious affluence ennoblement eluded William Peverel I as noted by J. Horace Round - "*William Peverel, though a great landowner in the counties of Nottingham and Derby was not an earl in either shire.*"¹⁵ More recently a similar view was expressed by J. Enoch Powell and Keith Wallis ("*as at 1422*) *no Peverel had ever been summoned to parliament*".¹⁶

William Peverel I was married to Adelina. She is identified by J.R. Planché as the daughter of Roger of Poitou, son of Roger of Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury and a large landowner in Lancashire. He claims she was still living in 1140.¹⁷ Both assertions appear to be mistaken. If there was a Poitevin connection it can more reliably be attributed to Avice the second wife of William III of whom more below. Adelina's date of death is given in the Cartulary of her husband's Priory of St James in Northamptonshire as 1119 although in the Pipe Rolls of 31 Henry I and 5 Stephen she is recorded as being pardoned 18 shillings due for Danegeld.¹⁸ It is a matter for speculation as to whether the conflict of dates is a result of clerical error, confusion of different individuals with the same name or whether perhaps Avice Peverel, for some reason unknown, assumed her mother-in-law's christian name after the latter's death.

Little else of substance has emerged over the years about the personal details of William Peverel I or his wife other than that they had at least four children, one of whom, and possibly the first, died in childhood. He too was named William; Planché and one folio from the St James Cartulary give the date of his death as 1100 whilst another folio from the same source lists the date as 1115.¹⁹ If, as seems likely, he died within his father's lifetime then 1115 is the wrong date.

Perhaps in memory of the deceased William, a second son, and later heir, was similarly named William and in respect of him somewhat more detail is available. General histories for the period affirm William III's support for King Stephen against Empress Matilda. He was present at Stephen's Easter Court at Westminster in 1136 and witnessed three charters there, appearing fortieth out of fifty-five between Robert de Ferrers and Ilbert de Lacy in the first; thirty-fifth out of thirty-six between Hebert de Lacy and Geoffrey Talbot in the second and

thirty-second out of thirty-seven between Robert de Ferrers and Simon de Saintliz in the third.²⁰ He assumed the role of commander in the host of the northern barons rallied by Archbishop Thurstan to confront the Scottish King David who was fighting on behalf of Matilda at the Battle of the Standard at Northallerton in 1138.²¹ Stephen's forces were victorious and in reward Robert de Ferrers, later to marry a Peverel heiress, was created Earl of Derby.

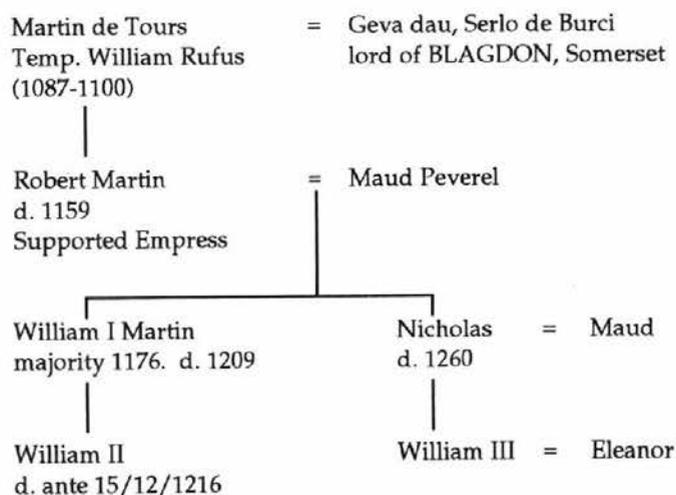
William III's fortunes were reversed at the Battle of Lincoln in 1141 when Robert, Earl of Gloucester and Ranulf, Earl of Chester invested the town and captured the King along with those barons who had not deserted in the early fighting. William III was one of those taken prisoner and in consequence the Peverel estates were forfeited. The Empress also deprived him of the custody of Nottingham Castle which was entrusted to William Paynel.²² The castle was recovered by Peverel in 1143 as the tide of events in the civil war reversed and with it one assumes the estates or parts of them were regained.

For about a decade little more is heard of William Peverel III until in 1155 "*men said*" he had poisoned the Earl of Chester. The newly enthroned Henry II went to seek our Peverel III at Nottingham and to disinherit him for the death of the Earl. This was the reason given but more likely it was to punish him for what had previously been termed his "*wickedness and treason*". On the King's approach, William III retired to one of his religious foundations - perhaps Lenton - where he became a monk and "*the Honour of Peverel remained in the Crown for nearly half a century*".²³

At dates unknown William Peverel III married firstly Oddona, of whom there is no other record nor anything to say whether the marriage ended in death or divorce, and secondly, Avice, who on such evidence as is available is to be preferred to Adelina, the wife of William I, as the probable descendant of Roger de Poitou. Avice is shown in the *Complete Peerage* 'family tree' as being alive in 1149; this cannot be extended on present information to say whether she was alive when her husband took the cloth to avoid royal displeasure and if so what then became of her.

Mention needs to be made next of the two daughters of William Peverel I. Only the name - Maud - is known of the first one. It is tempting to speculate that she may be the Maud Peverel who is known to have married Robert Martin. The latter died in 1159 and his immediate descendents are shown in the following diagram. Like the family into which her sister, Adelise, married, the Martins were from the south-west of England and with interests in South Wales. As with Maud's father they too were supporters of King Stephen during the civil war.²⁴

LORDSHIP OF CEMAIS (KEMES, PEMBROKE)



Adelise, the other daughter of William Peverel I, is recorded as being alive in 1156. There is clear evidence that she married Richard de Reviere who died in 1107. From that union the early Earls of Devon stemmed; the initial creation was in 1141 in favour of Baldwin, son of Richard and Adelise. The first earl died in 1155.²⁵

Documents have not survived to show whether the children of William III were born of Oddona or Avice. It may be that both marriages were fruitful. There was for certainty one daughter named Margaret, the eventual heir of William III and she married Robert de Ferrers who succeeded to the earldom of Derby in 1139 and died before 1159.²⁶ It is noted in the *Handbook of British Chronology* that this earl may have also styled himself Earl of Nottingham because of the duality of administration in the two counties at the time. The opinion is disputed in *The Complete Peerage*.

William Peverel III's male descendants were Henry and William IV. Apart from his name Henry Peverel features no more in history. William IV is however to be deduced from a statement in the Cartulary of Garendon Abbey in Leicestershire that "William Peverel, with the consent of William his son and heir, gave to Garendon Abbey all his lands in Costock".²⁷ The Abbey was founded in 1133 by Robert 'Bossu' second Beaumont Earl of Leicester from 1119 and Justiciar to Henry I.²⁸ By 1133 the William Peverels I and II were both dead. William Peverel III therefore becomes the almost certain donor of the Costock lands and in consequence the father of a son of similar name - William IV.

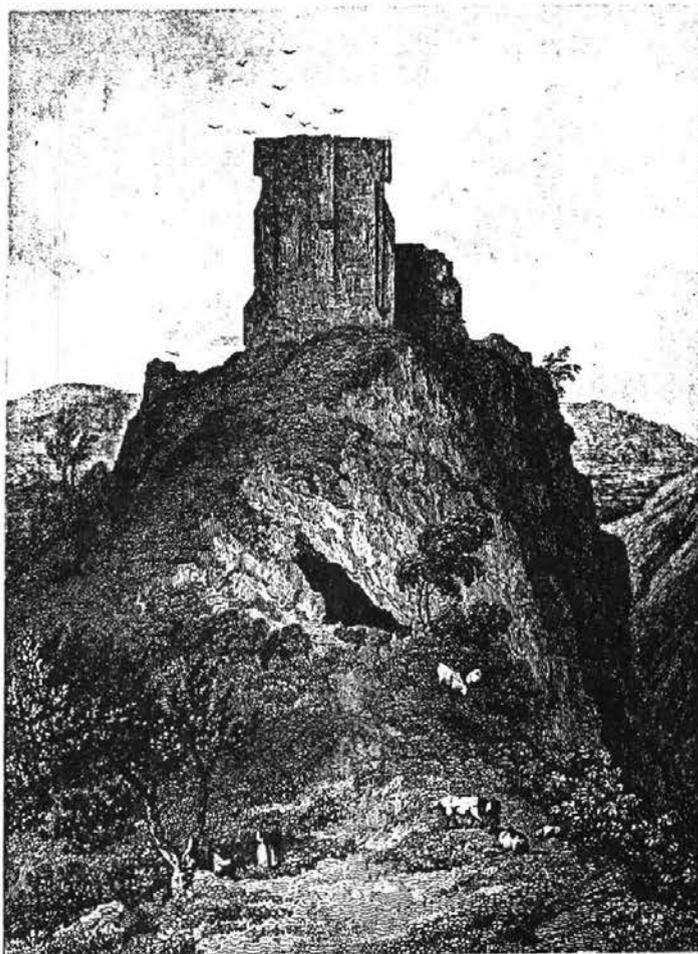
For present purposes the story of the Peverels ends there except for a footnote in Lysons - "*The estates of William Peverel I in Derbyshire passed out of the family at an early date*".²⁹

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These notes are drawn from secondary sources and accordingly depend on the accuracy with which those sources reflect the originals. Certain mistakes - by J.R. Planché for instance - are remarked in the text. There are others, manifestly the Peverel Pedigree constructed by the Editor of the *Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society* for an article in Volume XIV. *The Complete Peerage* is not without some errors too. Notably comprehensive is Farrers *Honors and Knights Fees* with a wealth of detail about land holdings and transactions. The reference numbers in the text relate to the following:

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Drawn by W. Westall, A.R.A.

Engr'd by F. Tuden.

PEVENSEY CASTLE, DEVENTHAM.

BUILDINGS ON SWARKESTONE BRIDGE

(by Joan Baker, 10 Harpur Avenue, Ticknall, Derbyshire, DE73 1JS)

An article in the Derbyshire Archaeological Society's *Journal* for 1909 includes an illustration of the Trent flowing under the arches of Swarkestone Bridge with a house under trees standing by the side of the causeway to the south of the river. The author notes that this shows the Chapel House and Elms in 1867 and later in the article he quotes J.J. Briggs¹: "*some part of this house formed, in ancient times, a chapel in which was a priest to sing masses for the souls of those who passed over the bridge*". Recent research suggests that the building shown was originally an inn, at least from before 1640 up to 1761, and by the mid nineteenth century had been divided into two dwellings, referred to in the censuses as "*cottages near the Trent*", "*at the extreme Bridge End*".³

There is documentary evidence of a bridge chapel at Swarkestone. It was probably built about the middle of the thirteenth century, for in 1249 ten logs were sent from the royal wood at Melbourne for the construction of the chapel on Swarkestone Bridge.⁴ It was served by priests from Repton Priory. An Inquisition taken at Newark on 26th October, 1503 (19 Henry VII) and translated by the Rev. Dr. Cox in his *Churches of Derbyshire* (III.471) states: "*A parcel of meadow land lying between the Bridge of Swarkestone and Ingleby had been given in early days to the Priory of Repton, on the tenure of supplying a priest to sing mass in the chapel on Swarkestone Bridge, but that there was then no such priest nor had one been appointed for the space of twenty years*". The meadow land, shown then as worth six marks a year, must have in some way or other become merged in other property, probably being sold soon after the Dissolution of Repton Priory in 1538.

The neglect noted in the 1503 Inquisition continued for the next fifty years, for in 1552 (5th October 6. Edward VI) the Churchwardens of Stanton reported: "*We have a chapell edified and buylded upon Trent in ye mydst of the grete streme anexed to Swerston bregge the which had certayne stuff belonging to it, ij desks to knele in, a tabell of wode and certayne barres of iron and glasse in the wyndoes, whiche Mr. Edward Beamont of Arleston hath taken away to his owne use, and we saye that if the Chapell dekeye, the brydge will not stande*".⁵ Its contents show that this chapel at Swarkestone was quite small and the words "*buylded upon Trent in ye mydst of the grete streme*" imply a bridge chapel like the one still standing on the bridge over the river at Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire. Reference to an estate map of Stanton-by-Bridge dated 1608⁶ confirms this, as it shows a small building in the middle of an eight arched bridge over the river. Mr Briggs could not have known of the existence of this map. Presumably the chapel continued to deteriorate and eventually disappeared.

The 1608 map also shows an arm of the river forming an island immediately south of the river bridge and on this island on the east side of the causeway is a building of at least three bays. Was this the inn kept by Richard Shepperd in 1640? Extant estate papers show that he had rented land from the Harpurs in the Upper and Nether Meadows⁷ for some years and his will and inventory give further details. Richard Shepperd of Stanton in the County of Derby, Innholder,⁸ died in the summer of 1640. The preamble to the inventory (dated 31st August, 1640) shows him "*late of Stanton iuxta Pontem, yeoman*", the correction implying that the appraisers realised his house was in Stanton parish, though it was nearer Swarkestone. [Here the Trent forms the boundary between the parishes.] The inventory notes the contents of the many rooms in his house: the house, the little parlour, the parlour going into the chamber, the men's chamber, the stairhead chamber, the four bed chamber, the chamber in the new building, the kitchen, buttery, milkhouse and store chamber. So many rooms and the total of twelve bedsteads and the bedding for them showed an establishment far too big for the personal requirements of Richard's family of wife Alice, two sons and a daughter. Equipment in the buttery showed ale was brewed on the premises, but some of the sixty cheeses in the store chamber must have been bought in for the visitors.

By 1662 the inn was occupied by Widow Katharine Sheppard, Richard's daughter-in-law, for in that year and again in 1665 she was paying tax on four hearths.⁹ Whether the inn suffered damage during skirmishes at Swarkestone in the Civil War is not clear, but the inventory drawn up on Katharine's death in January 1676/7¹⁰ indicates rooms which are similar to, if not identical with those in the 1640 inventory of her father-in-law. Details of the contents point to continued use as an inn: seventeen beds in the parlours and chambers, hogheads of ale in the cellar, two fat swine and beef in salt in the dairy and cheese in the cheese room.

For the next fifty years members of the Shepperd family occupied the building to the east of the causeway: Katharine's son, Richard, was there until 1710¹¹ and then her grandson, Richard. That it continued as an inn is confirmed by entries in the Stanton Parish Account Book, such as "*money for ale at Mr. Shepperd's at the setting of the stids in Stanton Meadows*" in 1701, 1702 and 1705. And it is assumed that the family continued to live there as they were paying rent on the same land to the Harpur estate, and the Quarter Sessions Order Book for 1713 states that Mr. Richard Sheperd who lives upon the said bridge should alone grant permission for boats and barges to navigate through Swarkestone Bridge.¹²

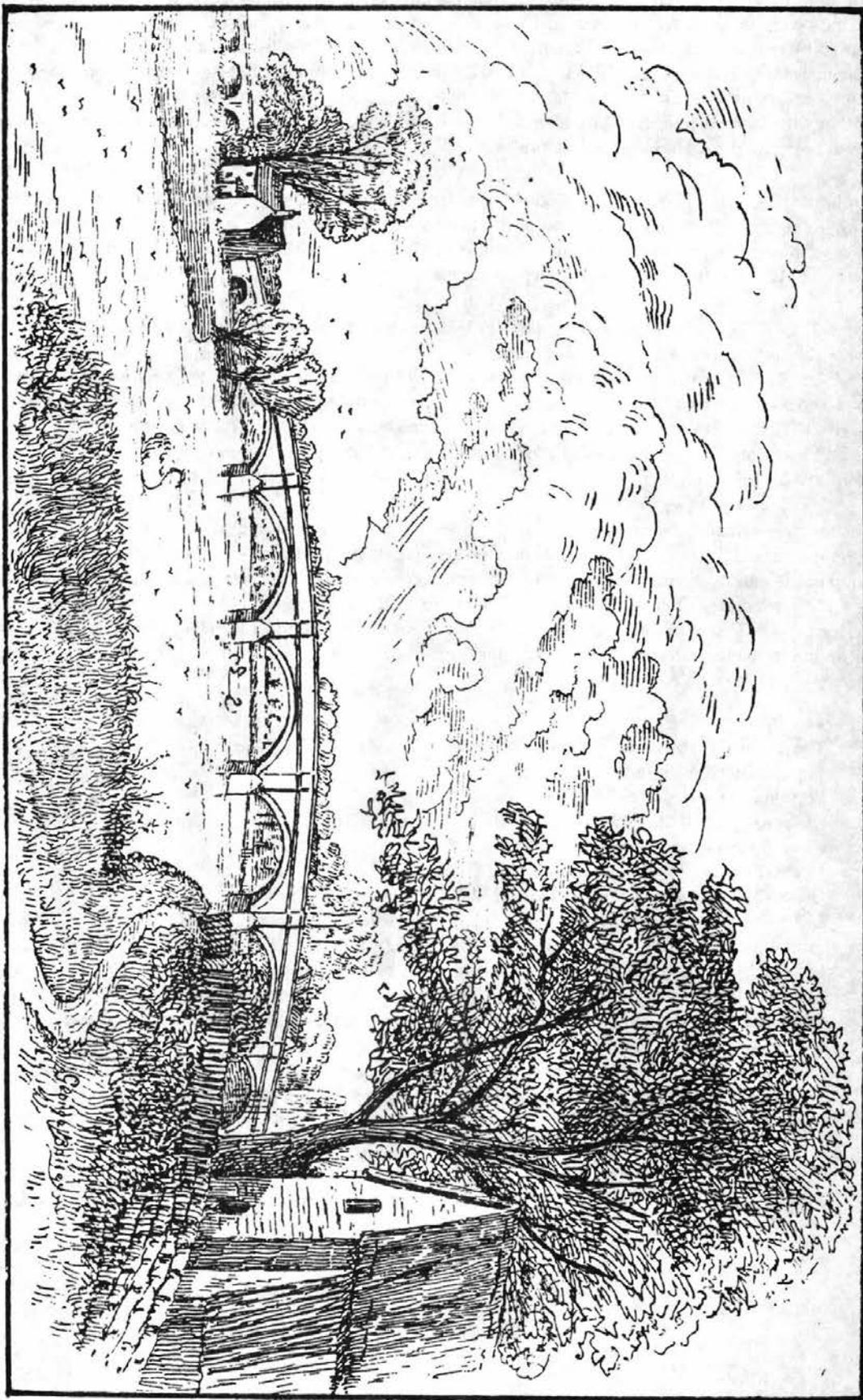
Throughout these fifty years father and son were successfully extending their interests beyond inn keeping and farming in the immediate neighbourhood and it is no surprise to find that the younger Richard moved away to Aston after his marriage to Mistress Jane Harding in 1723/4, though he continued to rent the house upon the bridge and 58½ acres of land from the Harpurs till his death in 1728.¹³

Ten years later Ralph Simms was paying rent for this and had the same allocation of stids in the Meadows.¹⁴ He had probably taken over the business of innkeeping too; he certainly had a licence to run an inn or alehouse from 1753 to 1761.¹⁵ From then on there were only two licensees at Stanton, so presumably the inn near the Trent closed in the next year. Ralph Simms may have continued to live in the house until his death in the 1780s. By 1841 the Census shows it had been divided into two dwellings, accommodating quite large families. It was still occupied by two families in 1881¹⁶, but ten years later there is no mention of any family living near the south bank of the Trent.

Confusion over whether "Swarkestone Bridge" refers to the river bridge and the causeway or only the river bridge must have led to the tradition that the bridge chapel was part of the building east of the causeway, still standing at the end of the nineteenth century. The discovery of the 1608 map among the Harpur Crewe papers at the County Record Office confirms the evidence from the 1552 document and resolves the question of the chapel's true position; wills and inventories, Harpur Crewe Rentals and Licencing Books provide proof of the use as an inn in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries of the building under the trees south of the river.

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SWARKESTONE BRIDGE.
Showing Chapel House and Elms, 1867.

THE TICKNALL ROUND HOUSE

(by Yvonne Crowden, 11 Bretby Lane, Bretby, DE15 00N)

There are over 200 surviving lock ups in existence throughout the country. In addition to Ticknall, four well maintained examples can be seen locally in the nearby villages of Smisby, Worthington, Packington and Breedon-on-the-Hill. Originally the responsibility of the parish constable; each is similar in design, being of round construction, windowless, with a conical roof and a heavily secured door, to prevent escape.

On 12 January 1790, at the General Quarter Sessions held in Derby, a Court Order was passed stating that all parishes in the county should provide a '*place of temporary confinement*' for the reception of vagrants and paupers who had either returned to their own parish, or were en route to their place of settlement. Prior to the erection of such buildings, the usual place of stay would have been a local public house, where the innkeeper would receive them for the County Allowance of 1 shilling per night. When admittance was refused, stables or outhouses were often used. In addition, lock-ups served as a place to detain felons overnight, whilst on their way to Court, and to secure drunken persons while they were being sobered up. When not being used, and as a means of keeping the building aired and cost effective to the parish, it was inhabited by a pauper of the parish.

As a result of the Court Order, such lock-ups were erected in 1790 at Smisby, Lullington and Church Gresley, but only Smisby remains standing today. Ticknall, on the other hand, although typical in design, was not built until 1809, and no apparent reason can be found for the 19 years delay. However, extracts from the Constable's Accounts refer to the existence of village stocks, with repairs made to them in 1805 and they were still in use in 1807. This offers the theory that by having working stocks there was possibly no requirement for a lock-up as well.

The Ticknall Round House was built during October and November 1809, with raw materials coming from the locality. Thomas Cope of Ticknall supplied the bricks, Gilbert Hutchinson supplied the lime for the mortar and the stone came from Mr Dolman who owned Lambert's Quarry in Melbourne. The principal labourer was George Orton, with ironwork undertaken by Henry Minion, the village blacksmith, and carpentry work, which would include the door and any interior seating, by the wheelwright, Mr Dickens. The total cost of building was £25 19s 11d which was received from Mr Rose, the Overseer of the parish. The Ticknall Round House is unusual in that it was built with a fireplace and has an open brick in the roof to act as an air vent. Evidence from the Constable's Accounts shows that the Round House was used by the village 'watch', which is the probable reason for the added comfort.

It is not clear when the Round House ceased to be used for its original purpose. Some reports claim it to be in the early 20th century. However, with the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act the treatment of paupers changed and, with improved transport to take felons to jail, it probably only remained in use for detaining drunks. To date no records have been traced of anyone being locked up in the Round House or, prior to its building in 1809, of any innkeeper receiving the 1 shilling County Allowance for the intake of paupers and vagrants. Nothing is recorded in the Constable's Accounts and similar Accounts for Smisby have been studied with the same negative conclusions. This lack of evidence also strengthens the belief that the most probable use of the Round House was for the confinement of drunks who were usually released the next day, with no record kept of those incarcerated.

After 1839 an organised Police Force was introduced and so it is possible that the Round House became obsolete by the 1850s, particularly as situated across the road in Main Street is the Police House with its own cell. During the Second World War the Round House served as an arms store for the Home Guard and in more recent times it was used to house road sweeping tools. It has since become regarded as being of county historical interest and is designated a Grade II listed building.

Since most of the documentary evidence remains either lost or undiscovered, so too must the stories which the Round House could tell. However, one well-known anecdote is of Eliza Soar, the landlady of the 'Staff of Life' public house, whose back door key fitted the lock-up and who let out drunks after the constable had gone home. On one Ticknall feast day a number of Melbourne men were locked up for riotous behaviour. Their

wives invaded Ticknall in the middle of the night and Mrs Soar was able to release their husbands, thus preventing a worse breach of the peace.

DERBYSHIRE ORDER OF SESSIONS BOOK 1789-1791

Easter Sessions, 12 January 1790. p234-236

It is ordered by this Court that the Clerk of the Peace do cause the following Advertisement to be inserted in the Derby Mercury circulated throughout the County.

Advertisement for extending the time for making the Returns respecting Houses for Reception of Vagrants.

To all Constables and Overseers of the Poor in the County of Derby.

Whereas by an Order made at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace held at Derby in and for the said County the 12th day of January now last past reciting that it appeared in the Court that there was wanting in most Parishes in the said County, a proper place of Reception for Vagrants and Paupers immediately on their Arrival in their own Parish with a Pass or Order of Removal also for Vagrants and Paupers - Passed according to Law in the way of their place of Settlement who were often in ill health and were, by being denied admittance into a public house, sometimes put into damp stables and outhouses whereby their maladies increased, their lives endangered and death often ensued. And reciting that for want of a proper place of confinement in Parishes, riotous drunken persons taken up by the Constable for being disorderly were carried to an Alehouse as the only proper place of Safe Custody, and Persons charged with Bastardy were frequently detained at Public Houses and half the Parish under the pretence of guarding them (the Warrants being frequently served on a Saturday evening) were entertained and intoxicated for several days at his cost nearly to his ruin and totally to the destruction of Industry Peace and good order in the Neighbourhood. And that Vagrants were suffered frequently to escape owing to Publicans refusing to maintain them on the County allowance, till they could be carried before a Magistrate. To remedy these Evils the Court Resolved and Ordered that in every Parish where there was not already any Round House, House of Correction or Gaol, a small cottage should be Assigned expressly for the above purposes with the windows and doors properly Secured with Iron Bars which might occasionally serve as a Temporary place of Confinement, and for the sake of it being well aired to be always Inhabited by a Pauper of the Parish till wanted for the Public Use; So that the said Building would be of little or no additional Expence to the Parish. And it was also Ordered that where no proper place of Reception was provided by the Parish for the said Paupers or Vagrants arriving in their own Parish the Innkeepers were to find a proper and Convenient Lodging at their Joint or Separate expence upon Reasonable Allowance being made to them by the said Parish for the said Paupers or Vagrants. And if the said Paupers and Vagrants were in Custody and in the way to their place of settlement the said Innkeeper were to receive them after the rate of one shilling per night being the County allowance for every such Vagrant. But if they were too ill to be removed and to proceed upon their Journey the Extra expences were upon application by the Overseer of the Poor to a neighbouring Magistrate to be defrayed by the County. And it was further Ordered that a return should be made from every Parish signed by the Overseers of the Poor the Constable and the Principal Inhabitants, specifying that a place of Temporary Confinement was provided the said Return to be directed to Anthony Lax Maynard Esquire, Clerk of the Peace, Chesterfield, before the then next Quarter Sessions to be held here this day otherwise a Presentment would be made of such Parish at the said Sessions according to Law.

EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSTABLE'S BOOK - TICKNALL

Sam Sheavyn, Constable: October 3rd, 1805	
To Martins Bill for repairing stocks	4s
Nat. Bryan, Constable: June 2nd, 1807	
Paid for Assistance to put two men in the stocks	1s
Thos. Sale, Constable: October 10th, 1809	
Paid Jn ^o Illsley 5 days work at Round House	10s
Thos. Sale, Constable: October 21st, 1809	
Gave Geo. Orton for work at the Round House	£1 --
Paid Jn ^o Illsley 2 days work at Round House	4s
Thomas Hutchinson, Constable: January 11th, 1812	
Paid Mr Skinner for Coals for Round House	1s 6d
Thomas Hutchinson, Constable: January 15th, 1812	
Paid Jn ^o Sanderson for attending one night at Round House when the watch was set	2s 6d
Paid Isaac Hill for attending at d[itt]o 2 nights	5s
Thos. Rose, Constable: March 19th 1813	
To Mr. Bott for candles for Round House	11½d
Paid for coals to Round House and wheeling	12s 10d

Source:
Derbyshire County Record Office
Constable Book - Ticknall
1396/A/PP/1/2

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The *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* is published annually and contains articles on all aspects of the county's archaeology, history and architecture. It is free to members. *Derbyshire Miscellany* is published twice yearly and provides a slightly less formal forum for local history articles and notes.

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THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL AT NORMANTON-BY-DERBY

(by Edward J. Wheatley,

The exact site of the early Primitive Methodist Chapel in Normanton-by-Derby has remained unresolved for many years. The local directories and histories have very little to say about it, except that there was a chapel here in the early nineteenth century.

Mr J. Harrison, in his well-researched book *Some Account of the History of Normanton-by-Derby and its Church*, writes 'the site of the chapel is thought to have been in Village Street to the east of the present old Sunday School, a site known as the Chapel Yard the chapel became disused about 1870 and was used for a time by the Church'. But it must be noted that the sources used here were not made available to him when he was researching for his book.

At a recent local history exhibition held at St Giles Church Hall a photograph of the chapel was shown and was captioned 'Primitive Methodist 'Cathedral' housed from an early date in the outbuildings of Normanton House, an early photograph'. It is a true photograph of the building used as a chapel from the early 1820s until 1876, but the outbuildings mentioned were not of Normanton House but of the Old Hall Farm owned by the Edge family. Many people will still remember these buildings in Browning Street (which was originally known as Turner Lane, then as Cabbage Square, later as Vicarage Lane and in our own time as Browning Street).

The 'chapel' stood about twenty five yards up the west side of Browning Street and between the old barn and the first of the Malvern Cottages. It was a two-storeyed building with a centre door, a window on either side and a window for the upper room. The lower or ground floor, which was the part used as a chapel, consisted of one room with the two windows looking onto Turner Lane. The upper floor contained a fireplace and was almost certainly used as a dwelling place, but the only access to it was by a set of stone steps constructed on a stone causeway in the farmyard at the rear. The 'chapel' building and the barn pre-dated the adjoining cottages by more than sixty years.

The proof that this was probably the first Nonconformist chapel in Normanton is contained in a number of documents from the Edge family papers.¹ The first refers to a property sale in which Samuel Crompton was the vendor and William Edge the purchaser:

5th April 1789 'conveys the cowhouse and stables adjoining each other and that piece of land adjoining the said cowhouse and stables being part of the outbuildings of a messuage now in the possession of .. Edge .. bounded on the south side by an orchard [later to be the site of the Malvern Cottages. E.J.W.] on the east by a lane called Turner Lane and on the west by property of Crompton and on the north by a foldyard of Crompton in the possession of the said Edge And also except the causeway adjoining to the North and West sides of the said Cowhouse and Stables including the ground whereon the present steps to the room over the Buildings stand.'

This property was purchased by William Edge and on his death it passed to his wife, Frances. Four years later in 1825, when she died, she made a specific bequest of the 'chapel' buildings:

August, 1825: Will of Frances Edge
'..... I also give and devise all that my building now used as a Meeting House together with the rooms over the same (subject to the use and enjoyment of the same by Thomas Edge the son of my late husband for his life) situate and being near to my dwelling house unto and to the use of my son George Edge for ever'

When George Edge died in 1857 he, also, singled out the 'chapel' as a special bequest:

April, 1857: Will of George Edge
'..... I give and bequeath all that my building now used as a Chapel by the Primitive Methodists to my dear wife Sarah Edge for and during the term of her natural life and after her demise to my son William Edge for ever.'

No doubt from the time he inherited the chapel George had been receiving rents from it, but no record of receipts for that period has been found. However, after the death of her husband in 1857, Sarah Edge started to record many of her receipts and payments. For this purpose she used some spare pages at the back of one of George's school exercise books of 1823! For eighteen years (1858-1876) she continued to record the rent in much the same style:

*'Received for the rent of the Chapel. £2. 1s 0d.
John Page Littleover March 25 1858.'*

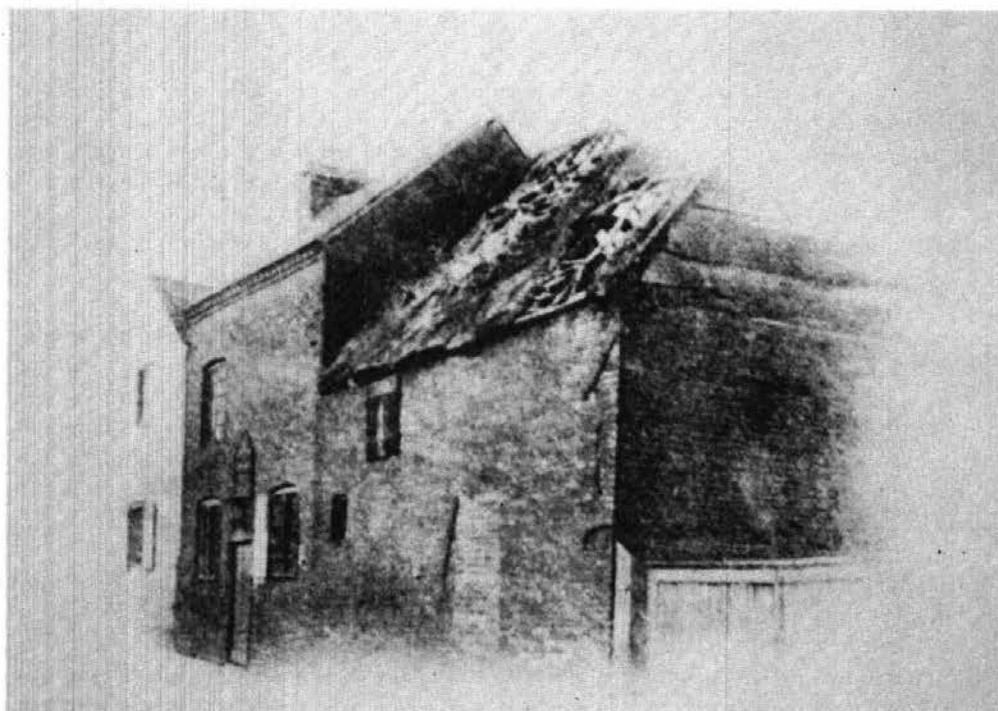
This was the first recorded payment of rent. Thereafter, it seems that Mr John Page passed the responsibility for the payment over to Ellen Tabberer who conscientiously paid the £2 1s 0d (£2.05) each March until 1876. No record of further rent payments has been found.

It is not known at what date the Church decided to rent the building as a Reading Room and Institute, but the tenancy must have continued for a number of years because from the beginning of this century this particular building has always been known in the family as the Reading Room, never as the Chapel.

In January 1899 a printed form of Agreement was drawn up (but not signed) for renting the room to the Vicar and Churchwardens at a yearly rent of three pounds. Once again, in 1923, the building is the subject of a special bequest.

August 1923: from the Will of William Edge
'..... I give all that messuage situate in Vicarage Road, Normanton and now known as the Reading Room to my son Cyril Benjamin Edge

It appears that the room was no longer used as a Reading Room and from that time the lower floor was used as a storeroom and the upper floor as a workshop.



Normanton Primitive Methodist Chapel, Old Hall Farm, Browning Street.

A puzzling piece of writing was found among these family papers. It seems to have been written by Thomas Edge (born c1780, son of William) and bears six signatures, all in the same handwriting and the last of which is Thomas Edge.

'The Expenses of the Chapel £38. 10s. 6d
With Addition to another spout witch is not yet come and so long as this people will come they are to Preach in it undisturbed by aney one Wee are witnesses that William Edge hath put this to his Will the rest is 5 per cent for is money this building is willed to is son Thomas Edge.

*William Edge,
John Radford,*

*William Peach,
Samuel Hunt,*

*William Edge,
Thomas Edge*

Was this a schoolboy joke?

Nothing now remains of these buildings. When Mr William G. Edge died in 1958 they were all sold, to be replaced by houses and bungalows. Unfortunately, only a small detail of an old photograph remains to show what the early Primitive Methodist Chapel in Normanton-by-Derby was like.

References

1. Derby Local Studies Library. Edge family papers

SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES ON WILLIAM BRUNTON May 1777 - October 1851

(by John Heath,

In his book *The Butterley Company, 1790-1830*, Philip Riden gives the background of this interesting character (p73).

As described, Brunton was put to work in the fitting shops of New Lanark Mills in 1790. There he would be working on machinery copied from Sir Richard Arkwright's at Cromford and with carpenters, clocksmiths, etc who were sent to Cromford for 'practical instruction'. Following five years at the New Lanark Mills, Brunton moved to the Soho works of Boulton and Watt (1796) in Birmingham where he worked with Southeron, Murdoch and Creighton. At the age of 21 he was sent to rectify the defects in one of the winding or pumping engines installed in one of the Curwen Collieries at Workington, possibly the winding engine installed at the Hope Pit in 1789.

It was this engineering experience which led the Jessops of the Butterley Company to seek his services. Brunton joined the Butterley Company sometime after April 1808 where he stayed until 1815 [not 1821 as in Riden] when he became a partner and mechanical engineer of the Eagle Foundry in Birmingham. He left the Eagle Foundry in 1825 to practise as a Civil Engineer in London, but found it difficult to make a living, and in 1835 became a partner in the Cwm Avon tin works at Swansea where he erected copper-smelting furnaces and rolling mills. From 1838 he was associated with the Maesteg Works and a brewery at Neath but lost his savings in the venture.

Regarding his 'walking horse' which was built in 1813 at Butterley, and which pulled a load up a gradient of 1 in 36 on the Fritchley line, each propulsion, which resembled a man pushing a weight forward, moved the machine and its load twelve feet onwards. One problem was that the engine had a tendency to rise off the rails and Brunton countered this by '*laying the weight of the first waggon partly on the engine*', attaching it by a chain.

The above details are from an obituary in the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers 1849-50, Vol 1X.

TWO VICTORIAN ENGINEERS WITH DERBYSHIRE ORIGINS

(by John Heath,

Richard Mason Ordish was born at Melbourne on 11 April 1824, the son of a land agent and surveyor. Little is known of his early years, but in 1844 he commenced work in an engineer's office, his job being to add the lettering on the drawings of others, a skill in which he was proficient. At the time there was a competition for the design of an iron bridge to be built over the Thames at Windsor, the final decision to be made by Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. Ordish sketched some ideas and, encouraged by the principal of the firm, submitted his design which was the one selected. His reward was promotion within the office.

There followed an engagement for a Mr Brounger in the construction of a railway in Denmark. From this assignment he moved to Messrs. Fox, Henderson and Company of Smethwick, Renfrew and London.

Charles Fox of Fox, Henderson and Company was born on 11 March 1810, the youngest of four sons of Dr. Francis Fox of the Wardwick, Derby (see M. Craven, *The Derby Townhouse*, 1987, p53). Disenchanted with a developing career in medicine, Charles Fox became articled to Captain John Ericsson of Liverpool. Fox assisted Ericsson and his partner, John Braithwaite, in the construction of the 'Novelty', the "popular" favourite in the Rainhill Trials of October 1829. Fox must have impressed the Stephensons because he was taken on as assistant engineer to Robert on the construction of the London-Birmingham Railway, the first sod of which was cut on 1 June 1834. Fox was responsible for setting out the Watford Tunnel which was to prove troublesome due to the "looseness of the chalk" and later for the construction of the extension from Camden Town/Chalk Farm to Euston Square which between October 1837 and June 1844 was worked by stationary winding-engines. Fox then went into partnership with Bramah forming Bramah, Fox and Company. Upon Bramah's retirement, Fox set up the firm of Fox, Henderson and Company which produced bridges, roofs, turntables, water-cranes and tanks and railway carriages and wagon wheels.

From 1847 Ordish assisted Fox, Henderson and Company in the erection of the 1851 Exhibition Building in Hyde Park which was based on an idea of Paxtons. For their work, Fox along with Cubitt and Paxton received knighthoods. Ordish was primarily responsible for the dismantling of the Exhibition Building and its re-erection at Sydenham as the Crystal Palace. Shortly after completing this, Ordish was appointed chief draughtsman in the Director of Works Department of the Admiralty based in Somerset House. In 1856 he resigned the Admiralty post and set up in practice with Mr. Le Fevre at 18 Great George Street in Westminster. It was in 1858 that Ordish patented the rigid system of bridge suspension, a principle he used in the design of two bridges across the Molden in Prague (1871) and the first straight chain suspension bridge built in England, the Albert Bridge (Act of 1864) the following year. The bridges were built by Andrew Handyside and Company of Derby. Ordish went on to design several bridges on the continent using the same principle, one of the last being over the Neva at St Petersburg for which he won a prize of £300.

In 1862 he was consulted on the construction of the domes of the Exhibition Buildings, the domes being considered unsafe. This was followed by work on the Amsterdam 'Crystal Palace', constructed to a design of the architect Mr Outshorn. The following year (1863) he designed the roof structure for Amsterdam Railway Station, another of Handyside's constructions. About this time there is reference to Ordish designing 'an iron-fronted house' in Derby, which was built by Thomas Hayward and Company. In 1865 he was appointed engineer to the Dublin Exhibition and also provided details for the ironwork of the Albert Palace at Battersea.

In 1870 he was again working with Handyside in the construction of the Drill Hall in Derby, described as a copy on a smaller scale of the roof of St Pancras Station.. W.H. Barlow, the designer of St Pancras (1869) informed the Institution of Civil Engineers of his indebtedness to Ordish's 'practical knowledge and excellent suggestions'. In 1871 he worked on the abutments and iron walls for an unsuccessful tender by Handyside's for a bridge in Buenos Aires. It was at this time that like many other engineers, Ordish attempted to solve the problem of joins in railway track, so eliminating the regular 'clatter'. Although his railway chair worked, it never came into general use.

Ordish's 'Parliamentary Schemes' included a proposal for a high-level suspension bridge, on his rigid principle, over the Thames near the Tower and an underground railway linking Charing Cross and Euston to link up the south-east and north-west railway networks.

He worked with Sir Charles Fox on details of ironwork for bridges being widened on the London, Chatham and Dover Railway Metropolitan extension, in particular the bridge over the Thames at Pimlico. A feature of his work was the octagonal cast-iron columns at Blackfriars Station, similar smaller ones being used on the raised line near Battersea Park. The ones at Blackfriars Station were taken down in the 1885 alterations in connection with the new (then) St Pancras station.

Ordish was also associated with the design of the oval roof of the Albert Hall, London which involved the use of four hundred tons of steel structure. Other roofs included St Enoch's station (1876), the Cape Town station (1876), this being a reproduction of the Derby Drill Hall roof, both being erected by Handyside. He designed the steel structure for Watson's Hotel, Bombay and was associated with the Buxton Sanatorium in Ashford Dale, Faringdon Street bridge and the (now Royal) Holloway College, Egham.

In 1876 he joined Perry F. Nursey in working on a scheme for a double cast-iron tunnel railway to be laid on the bed of the English Channel.

One of Ordish's gifts was his ability to estimate the 'cost of a job' by sight, rarely being far from the eventual costing. Ordish, however, was never in the forefront of his profession. In 1860 he was President of the Society of Engineers and he was a member of the Royal Society of Arts but although invited he never joined other organisations and tended to shun society.

During the last five years of his life he acted as engineer to Messrs. Dennett and Ingle of Whitehall but during the final twelve months he suffered from dropsy and a heart condition for which he had an operation in the August prior to his death at the age of 62 on 12 September 1886. (Fox died 14 June 1874.) He was buried in Highgate Cemetery. Shortly after his death a subscription was opened for his destitute family.

Information for this article can be found in *Engineering* and in the Minutes of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

EDITORIAL NOTE

A COMMENTARY ON RECENT WORK ON THE MORLEY PARK AND ALDERWASLEY IRONWORKS AND COAL MINES by Terry Judge, Vol X111: Part 4, Autumn 1993

Terry Judge has pointed out to me that a number of errors crept into his article in the course of my editing that significantly affected the sense.

To put the record straight, these are:

- p95 In line 2 of the letter, it should have been Old Furnace, not Old Slack Furnace.
- p96 Paragraph 5, line 3: it should have been Belper Lawn Seam, not Belper Town Seam.
- p97 Paragraph 7, line 3 should have read "the deer have now all gone" not "the deer have not all gone".
- p97 In paragraph 9, line 7 and p98 paragraph 1, line 1, Downmeadow Brook has been wrongly described as Townmeadow Brook.

Dudley Fowkes

DERBYSHIRE TOOLMAKERS

(by Brian Read,

Derbyshire is not noted for its hand-tool industry when compared with the great centres like Sheffield or Birmingham, or even the lesser ones like York, Norwich, Bristol or Manchester. The north of the county does have its sickle and scythe makers around Eckington, edge tool makers around Dronfield and saw-handle makers along the Hope Valley but these are all in reality the overspill from Sheffield (or Hallamshire as the Cutlers Company would prefer). There are however a few hand-tool makers (rather than dealers in tools) who set up in business in the southern half of the county in the later 1800s to supply predominantly woodworking tools to the rapidly expanding town of Derby. Luckily most of them stamped the tools they made with their name so it is sometimes possible to identify very directly their products. It is an unfortunate effect of the mode of use that the wooden portions of tools survive much better than the metal bits which are consumed during sharpening. This means that surviving examples are biased towards planes rather than saws, or (even less) chisels.

Numerically speaking, the planes of William Gaskin are the best preserved. I have seen upwards of 50 in total, often in very good condition, at specialist auctions over the past 10 years or so. William seems to have been a local man with brothers who were bricklayers. He first appears as a plane-maker in 1851 and was both plane-maker and innkeeper (of both the Rising Sun public house and the Railway Hotel) at Willington around 1860-61. He was presumably selling both beer and tools to the passing trade on the canal.

The following is a potted biography:

- 1827/8 Born in Willington, eldest son of Thomas (a bricklayer) and Fanny Gaskin.
- 1841/2 Brother born in Birmingham so his parents were apparently living there. He is now about 14 and probably apprenticed to a toolmaker/plane-maker in Birmingham.
- 1848/9 Finishes his apprenticeship and marries Mary, a Birmingham girl. Daughter Elizabeth born May 1849 at latest.
- Census May 1851 Living in Willington with his parents while his eldest son is being born in Birmingham. Working as a toolmaker.
- 1855 Second son born Willington so probably settled there.
- 1857 Listed as a plane-maker in *White's Directory*.
- 1860 Landlord of both the Rising Sun and Railway Hotel. Still listed as a plane-maker in *Harrison's Directory*.
- Census May 1861 Living at Willington at the Rising Sun Inn. Plane-maker and innkeeper.
- 1871 Has either died or moved away. No widow or children visible in the census returns, just his brother.

A lesser light, in so far as surviving tools are known, is one Joseph Mellow or Mellor of 13 Queen Street, Derby. I know of only about a dozen planes by him, nearly all bench planes. The 1891 census gives him as Mellow, Joseph, plane-maker aged 54, living at 13 Queen Street together with his wife Emma (56), his niece Nellie Downing (21, a tailoress) and one John H. Jeffrey, described as a plane-maker's apprentice aged 24. All the Mellows are given as born in Birmingham while the apprentice was born in Bristol. Kelly's directories for 1891 and 1895 give his name as Mellor and his trade as joiner's toolmaker, a term which implies that he made, or at any rate sold, things like spokeshaves, drawknives, screwdrivers, etc rather than planes which are traditionally a different trade. The 1896 Kelly reverts to the Mellow spelling of the census and of his trademark. Just why an elderly plane-maker should choose to move to a trade backwater like Derby (at a time when the trend was very much for the concentration of toolmaking into a few large firms to dominate the market) and still feel secure enough to take on a somewhat over age apprentice is something which requires further research, probably in Birmingham.

The only other plane-maker from Derbyshire is known only from documentary sources. The 1841 census gives James Wilson, unmarried, of Cartledge, Holmesfield as a joiner's toolmaker. 1851 sees him, still unmarried, at Millthorpe, Holmesfield but as a plane-maker. This is repeated in White's directory of 1857 and the census returns of 1861 and 1871. He never married and spent his whole working life in lodgings, although born in Cartledge. Where he trained, and in what trade is a mystery although Sheffield is probable, if only due to its proximity.

Saw-making is the other main trade represented, with six Derby makers plus Thomas Tyzac of Norton (1842-46). The latter is part of the Tyzac tool family of Hallamshire, but the Derby makers are different. My contacts in Sheffield maintain that these were at best saw assemblers, buying in ready made saw-blades and handles and merely cutting the teeth to suit the customer's requirements. There are however a string of firms claiming to be saw-makers right down the banks of the rivers Trent and Soar and their location suggests to me that some processing which required large amounts of water was occurring.

Two saws by Thomas Hobson are in my possession and carry the address Bell Mills, Bold Lane, Derby. Kelly's directory gives that address from 1880 to 1893, with an earlier address of Bell Works, Bag Lane in 1876. I also have a plane marked KENYON, DERBY which is probably from Charles Henry Kenyon, tool dealer, of 12 Curzon Street, Derby who also appears as a saw-maker at 6 Oban Terrace, Normanton in 1895 and at Summerhill, Victoria Street, Derby in 1899.

Apart from this the trade directories give:

F. Addy	of St Peter's Church Walk	1876-87
Edward Chantry	of Bag Lane and Eagle Street	1876-1916
William Elliott	of 11a Victoria Street	1864
Isaac Hill & Son	of St Georges Works, Wood Lane	1899
Joshua Houghton	of Derby	1861

With the possible exception of Addy I know of no surviving examples of their products.

Edge toolmakers are, as I said above, mainly concentrated in the northern fringes of the county, at Dronfield, although there is an edge toolmaker listed in Wirksworth, almost certainly associated with the mining industry, plus a very interesting firm listed by Kelly at Brookside, Belper in 1912 as a sash tool manufacturer. Just what they made I do not know, and they seem to have been short lived since they are not listed in 1916.

Apart from these actual toolmakers there exist a number of tools with stamps not of the maker, but of the seller. The most common of these must be Eagers of Sadlergate (1876-1955?) who, although usually listed in the directories under cutlers, sold an awful lot of tools with their name on. Usually these dealers marks occur on wooden planes, which lend themselves to such simple advertising, but the firm of T(homas) H(oldgate) Smith (1880-84), St Peter's Buildings, Bag Lane, Derby, went to the trouble of having augers and drill bits stamped with their marks.

It is difficult to give a complete list but those I have come across are as follows:

G.G. Pryce-Brown		1895-1912
C.H. Kenyon	Curzon Street	1895-1899?
John Baldwin	5A Queen Street	1904-1922
County Tool Stores	Derby	Dates unknown

If anyone has any more information on this aspect of Derbyshire trade history I would very much like to hear from them.