

The Cestrefeld

Journal



CHESTERFIELD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ISSUE N° 3 – APRIL 2014

Dear Members

Welcome to another year. It is twenty-five years in September since the Society was formed but more of that later from Maeve. I am sorry to say we are "limping" into this year as meeting attendances are slowly reducing and we are now running at a loss. Unfortunately the Society cannot continue to function much longer unless we can create more interest, so we could do with your help and suggestions. We would also like to hear from you if you have any suggestions for speakers.

Thank you to the members who have supplied us with articles for this *Journal* - we always welcome articles, it doesn't matter how big or small so please bear in mind that your research might be of interest to others!

The second-hand books do create a small income and I have been regularly changing the books, so please make sure that you have a look at them. We also have a few publications for sale, older members will probably have bought one but if you are a new member, have a look as they are all reduced in price.

Maeve and I have been regularly visiting Anne Hodson as she is no longer able to get to the meetings and we keep her up to date on the Society. She always sends her best wishes to the Society.

As you know we now meet in the downstairs room which is much better than having to climb the stairs and I am sure much better for Marion who looks after the refreshments. Which leads me on to my next task – thank you to all the committee who have helped during the past year and also to Audrey as caretaker. As a Society we don't actively do research these days but the meetings continue every month and they do need to be organized.

Peter has taken over as Chairman and is doing a great job (a good P.A. behind him). Marion, ably assisted by Doug, is still taking care of the refreshments and Maeve is taking care of the money. Brian Dick deals with membership and of course is now ready to deal with the 2014 renewals!

Please give us your support this year and of course if any of you have any ideas (as long as you can help with them) we would love to hear from you.

Jo Gott

Secretary / Editor

In this issue:

Twenty-Five Years of the Local History Society in Chesterfield, 1989-2014 ● The Victoria ● Plaques in Chesterfield ● The Markham Pit Disaster 1938 ● The Chesterfield Benefit Building Society ● Old Brampton's Well-Kept Secret – Edmund Cartwright (1743-1823) ● History of Spital Cemetery ● Trinity Church in Chesterfield ● The First World War ● Society Publications

The *Cestrefeld Journal* is published by the Chesterfield & District Local History Society.

Volume Three, 2014.

The material presented in this publication is © the authors, 2014.

Comments on articles should be addressed to the Secretary/Editor. The comments expressed herein are those of the individual contributors. They are not necessarily those of the Chesterfield & District Local History Society. We welcome contributions to this publication, which should be with us before the end of October in each year. For details contact the Secretary/Editor.

Twenty-Five Years of the Local History Society in Chesterfield, 1989-2014

Maeve Hawkins

In September 1989 the first meeting of the Society was held at Chesterfield Library. The decision to hold such a meeting was made by a group of regular users of the Local Studies collections. At the time there was only one local history society in the area. This was the Brampton Living History Group which still meets at St Thomas' Church in Brampton but there was no society covering the history of the Chesterfield area in general.

The group had first met informally in the Local Studies Library for some while and this was where the new Society continued to have its meetings. As the numbers attending increased a move was made to the Lecture Theatre but this being rather large was not the ideal venue. The next move was to the Urban Studies Centre in the Market Hall and at the beginning of 1993 the Society settled into its permanent home at Rose Hill United Reformed Church. This was much more suitable accommodation and for the first time there was a cup of tea afterwards and a chance to socialise.

Alan Gibson was the first Chairman but he died suddenly at an early age at the beginning of 1991. His place was taken by David Jenkins and in November 1992 by Anne Hodson who remained our Chairman until she had to retire, very reluctantly, due to advancing age and mobility problems in February 2013 – a wonderful 20-years of service. Peter Hawkins is the present Chairman and Peter along with John Lilley, the Vice-Chairman for many years, and Sandra Struggles were all founder members of the Society and have been committee members for the whole of the 25 years.

In the early days a Research group met at the Library on Monday evenings which for various reasons could not continue but members have always researched their own interests. As a result many talks have been given by them at the Meetings and to other societies and

articles have been contributed to our Newsletters. We have also published 38 History Papers, all the work of our members, and this article appears in our third annual Journal

Mounting displays at exhibitions is another area in which the Society has been active. They have been a means of interesting others in local history and we always gained new members at such events. Two were held at the Winding Wheel in 1992 and 1993 with large numbers of visitors. Others were at the Peacock Centre Gallery (now a much missed exhibition space for local groups). We have also contributed to a number of local exhibitions organised by the Derbyshire Victoria County History Trust and one by the BBC Local History Unit.

The Society can be proud of its achievements. There have been very many enthusiastic members over the years who have given much. The list of authors of the History Papers provides us with the names of some. At our September meeting there will be a celebration of the 25th Anniversary as well as hearing our speaker for the evening.

In a changing world let us hope that the work will continue and those who follow us enable it to do so.

BELOW: CDLHS 5th Birthday Celebrations 1994 – Anne Hodson (Chairman) and John Lilley (Vice-Chairman) cutting the cake.



Twenty-Five Years of the Local History Society in Chesterfield, 1989-2014

Maeve Hawkins

In September 1989 the first meeting of the Society was held at Chesterfield Library. The decision to hold such a meeting was made by a group of regular users of the Local Studies collections. At the time there was only one local history society in the area. This was the Brampton Living History Group which still meets at St Thomas' Church in Brampton but there was no society covering the history of the Chesterfield area in general.

The group had first met informally in the Local Studies Library for some while and this was where the new Society continued to have its meetings. As the numbers attending increased a move was made to the Lecture Theatre but this being rather large was not the ideal venue. The next move was to the Urban Studies Centre in the Market Hall and at the beginning of 1993 the Society settled into its permanent home at Rose Hill United Reformed Church. This was much more suitable accommodation and for the first time there was a cup of tea afterwards and a chance to socialise.

Alan Gibson was the first Chairman but he died suddenly at an early age at the beginning of 1991. His place was taken by David Jenkins and in November 1992 by Anne Hodson who remained our Chairman until she had to retire, very reluctantly, due to advancing age and mobility problems in February 2013 – a wonderful 20-years of service. Peter Hawkins is the present Chairman and Peter along with John Lilley, the Vice-Chairman for many years, and Sandra Struggles were all founder members of the Society and have been committee members for the whole of the 25 years.

In the early days a Research group met at the Library on Monday evenings which for various reasons could not continue but members have always researched their own interests. As a result many talks have been given by them at the Meetings and to other societies and

articles have been contributed to our Newsletters. We have also published 38 History Papers, all the work of our members, and this article appears in our third annual Journal

Mounting displays at exhibitions is another area in which the Society has been active. They have been a means of interesting others in local history and we always gained new members at such events. Two were held at the Winding Wheel in 1992 and 1993 with large numbers of visitors. Others were at the Peacock Centre Gallery (now a much missed exhibition space for local groups). We have also contributed to a number of local exhibitions organised by the Derbyshire Victoria County History Trust and one by the BBC Local History Unit.

The Society can be proud of its achievements. There have been very many enthusiastic members over the years who have given much. The list of authors of the History Papers provides us with the names of some. At our September meeting there will be a celebration of the 25th Anniversary as well as hearing our speaker for the evening.

In a changing world let us hope that the work will continue and those who follow us enable it to do so.

BELOW: CDLHS 5th Birthday Celebrations 1994 – Anne Hodson (Chairman) and John Lilley (Vice-Chairman) cutting the cake.




The Victoria

Janet Murphy

On October 27th 1911 an exhibition match was played between E. Rudge, the champion of South Yorkshire, and P. W. Hughes, a leading Yorkshire professional from Leeds, to mark the opening of a billiard hall to the rear of 11 Knifsmithgate. After the match the tables were open to the public.

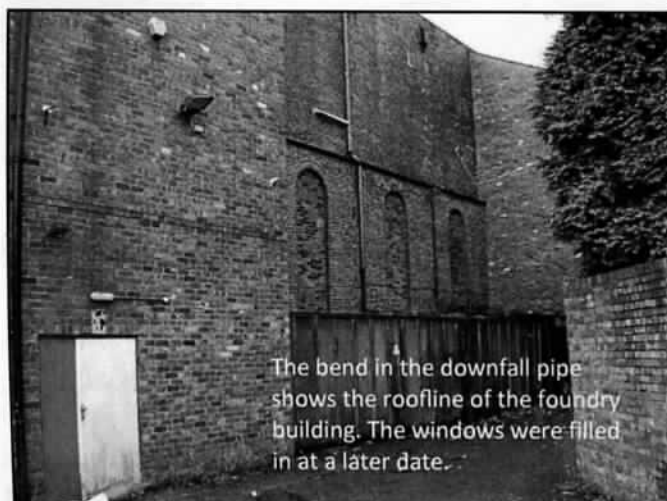
— CALL AT THE —



Victoria Temperance
BILLIARD HALL
FOR A PLEASANT
GAME OF BILLIARDS.
Proprietor:
E. RUDGE, Professional.
LESSONS AT PRIVATE RESIDENCE.
— TERMS ON APPLICATION. —

Ernest Rudge was soon recognised as the best billiard player in the area and a promising young player, Joe Davis, was taken by his father to see if Rudge would give him lessons. The rest is history! In 1913, aged 12 years, he scored his first 100 break. At 13 he won the Chesterfield and District amateur billiards championship. He turned professional when 18-years-old and became World Billiards Champion in 1928.

The entrance to the hall was via a passageway, still there today, between the Tool and Mallet public house and 11 Knifsmithgate. The hall itself was one of the buildings that originally



formed part of the Victoria Foundry of Oliver & Co., so that is how the Victoria got its name. The company then developed new works on the Broad Oaks site and the Victoria Foundry was sold in 1877.

At some stage a warehouse was erected over the building which formed the hall, possibly by Todd's Furnishers who occupied 11 Knifsmithgate in the late 1890s. The remains of the side wall can be seen today.

Planning permission was given for the warehouse to be converted into a Cinematographic Theatre for Mr Brier of Leeds in December 1911. It was reopened in April 1913 under new management.

In 1920 a new company, Victoria Enterprises, was formed to

acquire the Victoria Picture Palace, and the undertaking and assets of E. Rudge & Company Limited, the well known billiard Hall proprietors, and owners of the Victoria Billiard Hall ... the Company will acquire ... the freehold of the building in which are erected the Victoria Picture Palace and the Victoria Billiard Hall, and other land abutting on Knifsmith Gate, Chesterfield. Knifsmith Gate is shortly to be widened, and will eventually be the finest street in Chesterfield.

Included in the prospectus was an artist's impression of the new building.



The architect was W. Cecil Jackson* and this was his description.

The handsome block of buildings will stand upon 1,940 square yards, and will comprise

Cinema House to seat 2,000 persons, large Billiard Saloon for 35 tables with private and exhibition rooms, large Café, Restaurant, Smoke Room, Tea Room and Ball or Assembly Room. The whole throughout will be fitted and decorated in the latest and most up-to-date manner. In addition to the above, there will be nine double fronted shops, with spacious cellars, the rent of which will bring in adequate return.

The plans of the building have been approved by the Corporation.

At the same time work began on the demolition of properties to make way for the widening and extension of Knifessmithgate. A committee from the Council visited Chester about 1922 to inspect streets where the first floor of the buildings extend over the pavement thus providing shelter for shoppers in wet weather. This may be where the idea came from that Chesterfield has so many black and white buildings because the Borough Engineer at the time, Vincent Smith, admired Chester. It was the colonnades that the committee was interested in not the black and white design. All the new buildings erected on Knifessmithgate had colonnades on their front elevation but not on their side elevations. However Swallows did not have a colonnade on Knifessmithgate as the rest of the buildings on that side were not rebuilt.



(Commercial Chesterfield. CBC 1931)

According to Jackson :

The present Victoria Picture Hall and Victoria Billiard Saloon will be able to continue business nearly all the time the new building operations are proceeding.

This was essential: billiards was probably at the height of its popularity due to the success of Joe Davis and, also about the same time, plans were being submitted for another cinema, the Picture

House (which is now the Winding Wheel). The design of this competitor may also have influenced the new design for the Victoria, which could not afford to close for very long. The prospectus also said :

Picture Theatres are now part of the daily life of the people. They can no longer be regarded as mere speculative enterprises, but form one of the most certain income producing businesses of the day.

The cinema and billiard hall closed in July 1924 for reconstruction and re-opened in December 1924. On the ground floor the large billiard hall had 20 tables said to be 'possibly the largest single room devoted to billiards in the country' On the upper floor there was a smaller room with five tables, another with two tables for match play and a private room with one table.

The rest of the complex was rebuilt as Knifessmithgate was widened. Finally in 1930 the rest of the building, housing shops and Barclays Bank, was completed. Accommodation included a café on the first floor, with a ballroom for 500 on the floor above.

In 1956 Victoria Enterprises was sold to the J Arthur Rank organisation. The site comprised cinema, ballroom, café, billiard hall, snack bar, sweet shops, including a furniture store and Elder Way property and, shortly afterwards in December 1957, the Victoria Billiard Hall, where Joe Davis took the early steps which took him to his world-famous professional career in billiards and snooker, closed after nearly 50 years to be converted into a bingo hall. In January 1965 the Gaumont closed as a cinema and the bingo club was moved upstairs until it too closed and much of the interior was gutted.

In 1903 Pendleton and Jaques wrote 'Modern Chesterfield' in which it was said that Chesterfield needed a modern Town Hall. It was suggested that the design should be either Elizabethan like the original Market Hall or Gothic like the Parish Church. What would they have thought of the Victoria?

*Although the architect was given as William Cecil Jackson, he was suffering increasing ill health and before his death in 1926 he made William Fryer his partner and it was Fryer who oversaw the construction of the buildings from the Victoria to the Gas Board Showrooms.

Plaques in Chesterfield

Rodney Ward

On a cold January afternoon I walked around the centre of Chesterfield looking for plaques. My definition of a plaque is of a plate or tablet which gives some information about a person or a historic event. If it is on a building it may say something about the history of the building or of people who have lived there.

My starting point was the corner of The Winding Wheel building adjacent to Parker's Yard. The plaque was erected by Chesterfield Borough Council and it says,

"To mark the birthplace of Emma Miller (nee Holmes) 'Activist for women's rights and founder member of the Queensland (Australia) Labour Movement' 26th June 1839 Parker's Yard (to the rear of this building)".

Few people seem to have heard of Emma Miller, though it is easy to find out about her on the internet. Here she is with her be-feathered hat and armed with umbrella and handbag.



Her family held Unitarian beliefs and were active in the Chartist Movement. She was born to Daniel Holmes, a Unitarian cordwainer and Martha, née Hollingworth. She would walk ten miles to political meetings with her Chartist father. She eloped with her first husband, Jabez Mycroft Silcock, a bookkeeper, to whom she was married at Chesterfield Register Office on 15 September 1857, so she was 18 at the time. Having four children they lived in Manchester and she supported them as a seamstress, which meant a twelve hour day, six days a week. Having been widowed she married William Calderwood, stonemason at Salford in 1874 and they emigrated with the children to Brisbane in 1879. Her third husband was Andrew Miller, whom she married at Brisbane Registry Office in 1886. It would appear that she didn't share her family's Unitarian beliefs, being a staunch secularist, hence her marriages at Registry Offices. However this might be, she certainly inherited her father's radicalism. Working as a shirt maker in Brisbane she helped form a female workers' union, in 1890. Known as "Mother Miller" she was the most dominant female figure in the Queensland Labour Movement. Among her achievements she became President of the Women Workers' Political Organisation. She died at Toowoomba in 1917, the flag on Brisbane Trades Hall being flown at half-mast. You can find out more about her in the article "Emma Miller" by Pam Young, in *"Australian Dictionary of Biography"* and in the Wikipedia article, both on the internet, from which I have gleaned this information.

From The Winding Wheel I walked to the Museum where there is a large plaque to the Sherwood Foresters. Along St Mary's Gate I passed the building now inhabited by the nightclub "S41". A Chesterfield Civic Society plaque tells us it is a *"Late 15th century building Heathcote family house 17th century"*.

Roy Cooper in *"The Book of Chesterfield"* tells us a lot about the Heathcote family, connecting Chesterfield to the West Indies and to America. Interestingly one of the clan married James Fenimore Cooper famous as the author of *"The Last of the Mohicans"*. One of his stories is called

"The Heathcotes". But our immediate concern is Gilbert Heathcote who was one of the founders of the Bank of England in 1694, of which he was governor in 1709. In 1711 he was Lord Mayor of London, and his brother Caleb was Mayor of New York. Roy Cooper's book includes a nice drawing of this house in a rural setting. Here he is as Lord Mayor of London.



Further along St Mary's Gate we have at number 42 "Mid 18th century house former offices of the Scarsdale Brewery Co." erected by Chesterfield Civic Society and crafted by Chesterfield College students.

From here I walked to the other end of town to see the plaque at 87 New Square, the "Site of boyhood home of Thomas Secker MD DCL Doctor & Priest Archbishop of Canterbury 1758-1785".

Again it is a Civic Society plaque crafted by Chesterfield College students, in blue with gold trimmings. As the plaque suggests it was in a previous house on the site that Thomas Secker lodged with Richard Milnes who had married Elizabeth, daughter of his father's second wife. Secker was here from about 1699 to 1708. There are memorials to Richard Milnes, Tanner of Chesterfield, died 7.6.1706 and J. A. Milnes, died 24.1.1737 on the west wall of St Mary and All Saints Parish Church but precisely if and how they are related I don't know. As regards the date

of the present house, *The Derbyshire Times* ran an article on Secker in 1937 and put the date at about 1700 but admitted it was guesswork. Bestall in his *"History of Chesterfield"* says that Pevsner attributes it to the late 18th century but that we can trace it from its deeds to 1765. Thomas Secker wrote his own autobiography – obtainable as *"The Autobiography of Thomas Secker Archbishop of Canterbury"* and published by the University of Kansas Libraries in 1988. Surprisingly, Secker is one of only two Archbishops of Canterbury to write his own autobiography, the other also being from the eighteenth century, William Wake, Archbishop from 1716-37. This portrait hangs in Lambeth Palace, with a copy in the National Portrait Gallery.



It was now time for a coffee so I headed for Peacock's Coffee Lounge where a plaque tells us that it was a "Medieval House possible Guildhall 1500 A.D." again erected by the Civic Society.

The word "possible" and "probable" are very useful to the historian!

Having warmed up I went through the Shambles to The Royal Oak. A large white shield with a red Maltese Cross superimposed tells us that "The Royal Oak was built in the 12th century This is the oldest inn in Chesterfield and one of the oldest in England. It was formerly a rest house for 'The Knights

Templar' in the years of 'The Holy Crusader' Then through and after the medieval period it was used as two butchers' shops and Inn accommodation. The earliest discovered records show it already being an inn in 1722".

One I missed on this walk was the plaque at 13 Low Pavement now the Barnsley Building Society again crafted by Chesterfield College students for the Civic Society: *"The Falcon late 16th century coaching inn".*

I knew of three other plaques in town though I didn't go to them on this occasion. One is on North Midland House in Crow Lane, which informs us: *"North Midland House designed by Francis Thompson built 1840 sole surviving building from Chesterfield first Railway Station"* again in blue and gold with the Civic Society emblem.

Another is for Lady Baden-Powell in Shentall Memorial Gardens, Rose Hill, erected by Derbyshire County Council: *"Lady Baden-Powell 1899-1977 World Chief Guide lived as girl at West House in these grounds".*

The final one is at Elder Yard Chapel, where there is a Civic Society plaque on what is now the front of the building: *"Elder Yard Chapel founded 1662, built 1692/94 first non-conformist chapel in the town".*



Lady Olave Baden-Powell in 1916

When I got home I discovered I could have found them all apart from the odd ones (Sherwood Foresters, Old Oak and Baden Powell) by Googling Chesterfield Blue Plaques. It would have been warmer but not so much fun.

The Markham Pit Disaster 1938

Sandra Struggles

The 10th May will always be remembered as life changing and tragic for many local families for it was on that day in 1938 that a terrible accident happened at Markham Pit.

The men on the night shift at Markham No 1 colliery at Duckmanton went to work as usual on Monday not knowing that by the end of the shift more than two thirds of them would be dead or seriously injured.

They were working in the black shale seam, the deepest at some 700 yards below ground and the farthest at one and a half miles away from the pit bottom.

At 5.30am on Tuesday 10th May the shift was coming to an end. Most of the one hundred and sixty men in the pit were preparing to leave and some had already started to make their way back to the pit bottom.

In the pit yard the men on the day shift had begun to arrive ready to start work at 6am. Suddenly, underground, a tremendous draught got up followed by a terrific bang. Thick black dust and smoke filled the pit. There had been an explosion at the coal face. Some coal tubs had run out of control and smashed into a faulty electricity box and the sparks had ignited the coal dust.

The men on their way back to the pit bottom were blown off their feet and had to crawl in the dark, while choking and using the tub rails to guide them. Many collapsed from the fumes, unable to breath.

Mr A. Scott, an electrician who survived the blast, was about one mile away from the pit bottom said, *"there were terrible bullets of wind and then it was impossible to see a thing for huge clouds of*

coal dust filled the air." With the aid of his lamp he managed to get to the pit bottom and turned off the main switch, cutting all the electricity off in that seam.

If the explosion had happened half an hour later the two hundred and fifty men on the day shift would have been in the pit and would have been involved.

Men underground at Ireland Colliery in Staveley felt the blast. My Dad, then aged fourteen, was one of them. He remembered how frightening it was, the ground shook and groaned and the coal dust stung their eyes and choked them.

Within half an hour of the blast a team was ready to go underground to start the rescue operation. Many of those who volunteered had arrived for the start of the day shift but they were still willing to go and risk their own lives. Wearing respirators and oxygen tanks they took with them fire extinguishers and canaries in cages to detect the gas.

By 10:30am, forty-one men had been taken to Chesterfield Royal Hospital. Some were very badly burned and seriously injured. As the morning wore on it became more obvious that fewer men were going to the hospital and more being taken to the mortuary. Nearby garages, sheds and any other buildings that could be used were made into temporary mortuaries. All day long the families waited for news as one by one the men were brought out of the pit. There the burned and mutilated bodies of the men were laid, covered with blankets each bearing a label.

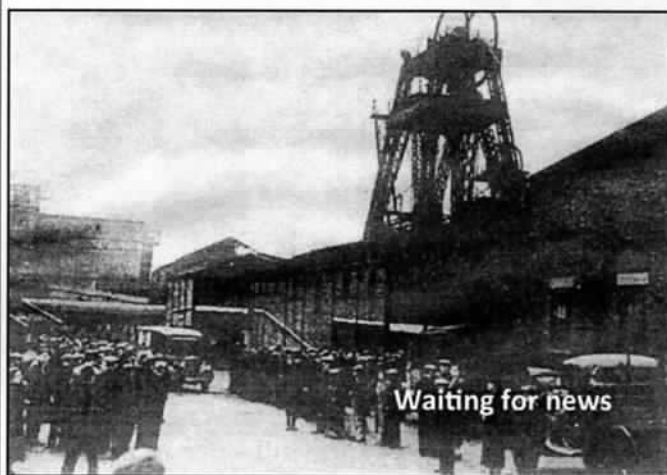
Below ground the rescue party continued their search, battling with debris, fire and the smell of foul gas which filled the pit.

William Hill of 4 Edward Street, Staveley was one of the first to volunteer. He stumbled upon a dead body; it was his brother Clarence. He later told how his brother nearly missed the shift, because his baby was poorly with the whooping cough, but in the end had decided to go as he needed the money.

The news of the blast soon spread around and, within minutes of hearing the dreadful news, relatives and neighbours were up and dressed and ran to the pit head.

At the Grainger house in Clowne, Mrs Elizabeth Grainger was getting the breakfast ready for the return from the night shift of her husband John

and son Robert when her younger son John came in and told her that something was wrong at the pit. They went straight to the pit and joined others waiting for news. *"They just stood there, gripped with fear and dread, praying that their husband, son, brother would come out of the pit alive."*



All that day it went on until about 6.30 in the evening the following statement was made and the worst fears then confirmed. *"The whole of the pit has been examined and all of the men have been accounted for. There was no one still alive in the pit. The death roll is now seventy-two. The remaining bodies will be got out as soon as possible."*

The names and addresses of fourteen of the dead men were announced, who were the only ones who had been identified up until that point.

At 3:00am on Wednesday, when the last man had been recovered, it was officially stated that the death roll was seventy-nine. All the men at the coal face would have been killed instantly from carbon monoxide poisoning before they were burned and hurled about.

Then the relatives had the terrible ordeal of identifying their loved ones. *"They sat in rows, on forms in the pit yard, and were taken in turn into the buildings where the bodies were laid out."*

Some of the men were so badly mutilated that they could only be identified by their personal belongings such as a belt or by their shoes.

When Mrs Grainger eventually returned home she knew that her husband John, her son Robert and her brother-in-law, Ambrose Grainger, were all dead and her other brother-in-law, Thomas Grainger, was seriously ill in hospital.

There was tremendous suffering at the Hargreaves house at 5 North Crescent,

Duckmanton. Mrs Hargreaves lost her husband Herbert and her two sons, Leslie and Herbert junior who was due to be married in only a few days time.



The Hargreaves Family

Those who survived were the ones nearest to the pit bottom and escaped the full force of the blast. Crowds of people stood outside the railings of Chesterfield Royal Hospital waiting for news.

One of the saddest stories was that of the Brown family. John Brown of 56 Poolsbrook Road, Duckmanton was taken to hospital with serious injuries. In the next bed to him was a colleague who was unconscious and so very badly burned it was impossible to recognise him. *"All day long several women were allowed in to see him in the hope that he might belong to them."*

It was not until the middle of the night, the man came round and whispered his name *"Arthur Brown"* and then he died. John Brown had no idea that it was his own son lying next to him. The house surgeon told how Arthur Brown had

b e e n admitted to the hospital at 9:25am on Tuesday, 10th May. He said "Arthur was unconscious and suffering from intensive burns. In the evening he spoke his name and died at 2:00am on



Arthur Brown

Wednesday 11th. He died from shock following intensive burns."

Arthur Brown was a pony driver and might have survived had he not gone back for his pony which was found dead at his side. Arthur was just eighteen-years-old. John Brown then had to bear some more tragic news. His other son, John Thomas Brown was also dead.

Most of the men were married with young families. Alfred Lamb of 16 Pipe Lane Staveley left a young widow. She was only nineteen-years-old and was due to go into hospital on the Wednesday to have a baby. She stayed at the pit until the very last minute waiting for news but in the end she had to go and left her brother to do the sad task. She had a baby girl the following day but was too ill to go to Alfred's funeral.

All seventy-nine funerals took place on Saturday 14th May in thirteen cemeteries paid for by the Staveley Company who owned the pit.

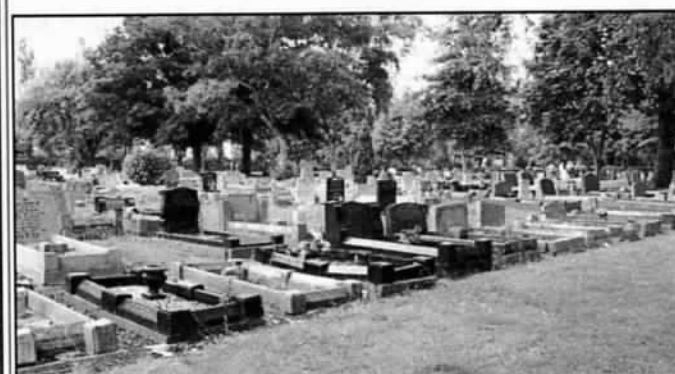
At Duckmanton sixteen of the twenty-three men from the village were buried in the churchyard, twelve of them in a mass grave and at Staveley twenty-five men were buried in the cemetery twelve of them side by side.

The grief and sadness was overwhelming. Some



ABOVE: The Mass Grave at Duckmanton

BELOW: Twelve men were laid side by side at Staveley



relatives collapsed at the graveside. "They were seeing death in a big way for not only had they lost their own loved ones but relatives, neighbours and friends and part of their community."

The accident left seventy bereaved families, sixty-two widows and eighty-three children without a father.

On the 10th May 2013 it was the 75th anniversary of the disaster and a special service was held in Staveley Church. Children from schools local to the thirteen cemeteries, placed a

red rose on each grave. This was organised by Staveley Town Council.

A metal figure for each of the miners who died in the 1937, 1938, and 1973 disasters at Markham will be placed at intervals in the ground between Markham Vale and Duckmanton and called Walking Together. The first of these figures is already in place outside the Markham Vale Environment Centre and is dedicated to Arthur Brown.

The Chesterfield Benefit Building Society

Janet Murphy

Freehold Land Societies were popular between 1840 and 1870. They had a political basis in that they were established to enable more people to become entitled to vote by becoming freeholders. Chesterfield Benefit Building Society was one such society. An advertisement in the *Derbyshire Courier* of 9th June 1855 announced the establishment of the society the objects of which were to enable the Members

1. To invest their savings safely and profitably
2. To borrow Money for the purchase or erection of Dwelling-houses or other real Estate.
3. To obtain allotments of freehold land.

The first monthly subscription meeting was held on 12th June. The subscription was 6s and the entrance fee 1s per share.

Elsewhere in the paper an editorial enumerated the benefits of joining the society.

CHESTERFIELD FREEHOLD LAND AND BUILDING SOCIETY

Our readers will notice from an advertisement in another column the establishment of the above society, the object of which is to enable its members to purchase land and erect dwelling-houses, by advancing sums of money not exceeding £5 on each share; also to enable them to obtain small allotments of freehold land out of estates bought by the society at the cost price of the whole, and to afford a safe and profitable investment for money. We should think this society will recommend itself to the working classes from the facilities it will afford them for investing small sums of money, and the opportunities it will give them of obtaining land and enabling the shareholders to have a

freehold house of their own and vote on the election of members of this division of the county. We believe the duration of each share is computed about ten years, and the subscription payable is 6s per month, to be increased after an advance to such a rate as will balance the increased expenditure of the society. The rapid extension and increase of the iron works and collieries in this neighbourhood will, as is apparent already at Clay Cross, Whittington, Staveley and other districts, require many houses to be built, and consequently enhance the value of the land, especially when sold as building land, so that it would appear to us this society has been established at a favourable opportunity for effecting the object contemplated. Land we understand will be purchased and allotted in the different districts where the subscribers resides so that every man may obtain, as nearly as possible, the situation most suitable to himself.

On 18th February 1859, the property of the late Thomas Clarke was offered for sale including

All that newly-erected FREEHOLD MESSUAGE, situate in Newbold Road in Chesterfield aforesaid, lately occupied by T. Clarke, Esq., deceased with the Greenhouse, Outhouses, Yards, Gardens and Appurtenances thereto belonging, and all that Close of GRASS LAND adjoining thereto.

The House is substantially built with good Materials, and the Gardens are stocked with Fruit and other Trees, and the Close of Land with Frontage to the Newbold Road is well adapted for Building purposes, and will in consequence of the increasing state of the town of Chesterfield, be a very advantageous investment for any purchaser.



This extract from the tithe map shows the plot of land and Clarke's house and garden.

The property was bought by the Society for £1,700. A road was constructed up the centre of the plot; the existing house and garden was sold for £850, and the remaining land divided into 33 plots. Normally reports of the annual meetings of the society consisted of financial details only, but in 1859 the proceedings were said to be *rendered more interesting than usual* by a ballot to allocate the plots.

The Mayor, who is solicitor to the society, said there were 33 allotments and 60 applications. Some shareholders, who had a number of shares, had applied for more than one allotment, and in the event of getting more than one it would be desirable that their allotments should be together to save the expense of fencing. It struck him that the best plan would be to ballot by figures, and to reduce the 60 applicants to 33, the number entitled to allotments. The names of the persons could then be written on a card and put in the hat, and drawn out one by one, the first name drawn to have the first choice of the ground to be allotted, and so on until the whole of the ground had been chosen.

The plots were not identical – the cheapest was valued at £27 and the most valuable was £82. Development of the road was rapid.

At a later date the land, on which Gladstone Road, Compton Street and the beginnings of Cross Street were laid out, was purchased from the Duke of Devonshire. Cobden Road however was purchased from the trustees of Dronfield School. It was possibly named after Richard Cobden who was one of the original members of the National Parliamentary and Financial Reform Association, which campaigned to increase the number of people entitled to vote.



Extract from the 1876 OS map (as ever the bit you want is right on the edge of the map!) Newbold Road is at the bottom of the map and the pathway from the top of Queen Street to Cobden Road is Brickyard Walk which was replaced by the extended Cross Street in 1921. The rectangular plot of land at the top of the map was the Recreation Ground – at that time the home of both the Chesterfield Cricket and Football Clubs.

The Representation of the People Act in 1867 extended the franchise, and Freehold Land Societies became less popular. However in March 1877 Messrs G. A. Rooth, Edward Eastwood and A. Payton, trustees of the Society at that time, purchased the Spital Lodge Estate for £5,500. New roads were laid out and the estate offered for sale to members of the Society in 157 lots in July 1877. (see *Cestrefeld Journal* number 2)

In 1896 the Society was in trouble losing members and making few advances. One faction of the Society blamed the solicitors saying that, unlike Mr Busby, they were putting less business the way of the Society as they were often absent from the town being involved elsewhere. The solicitors however blamed the Society which was charging 5% for their loans whereas the Yorkshire Penny Bank was only charging 3½%. The solicitors were changed and the rate reduced to 4%. The Society continued in business until November 1975 when its engagements were transferred to the Leek, Westbourne and Eastern Counties, which in turn became the Britannia Building Society the following month.

C. H. Nadin probably took photographs of all the streets on the two estates and most of them can be found on the Picture the Past website.

Old Brampton's Well-Kept Secret Edmund Cartwright (1743-1823)

Peter Hawkins

Most people know of Richard Arkwright, James Hargreaves and Samuel Crompton, all pioneers in the development of machinery which speeded up the process of spinning yarn. However few are familiar with the name of Edmund Cartwright who was the first person to develop a power loom for weaving. His first efforts were very basic but he had created a machine on which he and others would improve. Cartwright has a connection with our area as for a few years he lived at Old Brampton during the time he was the Vicar at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul.



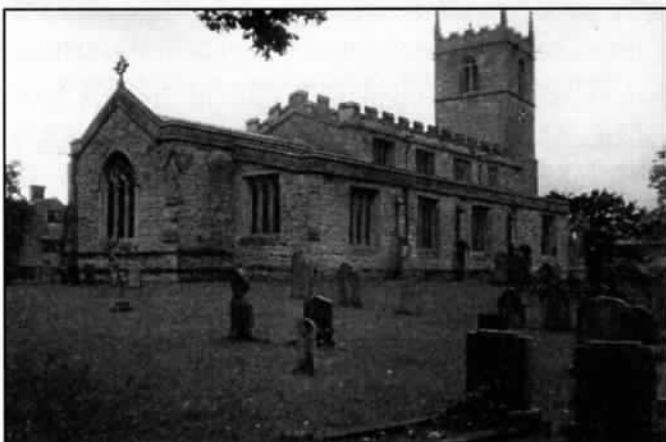
Edmund Cartwright is listed amongst the Vicars of St Peter and Paul Old Brampton displayed in the church

A couple of years ago, on the way back from holiday, we stayed at Banbury – well worth a visit. We also found a well-organised second-hand book shop owned by a very enthusiastic young lady. We selected a number of books and one was a real discovery; *A Memoir of Edmund Cartwright* – which a glance at the fly leaf told me, was about textile machinery. I knew of Major John Cartwright (1740-1824) of Retford who had a textile mill there and thought the book could be very interesting. Major John proved to be an older brother of Edmund.

The book is a reprint of one first published in 1843 some twenty years after his death. The preface is signed "M. S." and this was Margaret Strickland, a relation of Cartwright.

Edmund Cartwright was born on the 24th April

1743. He was the fourth son of William Cartwright, Esquire, and his wife Ann of Marnham in Nottinghamshire. Ann was the daughter of George Cartwright Esquire of Ossington, in the same county and this family was related to the Cartwrights of Marnham.



The Parish Church of St Wilfred Low Marnham Nottinghamshire now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust

Edmund was first educated under a Dr Clarke at the grammar school at Wakefield where he was very early distinguished for his proficiency in his studies. His preference for a career would have been to enter the Royal Navy but as two of his brothers were already in the Services a future was planned for him in a different sphere. When he was only fourteen-years-old his family decided he should enter Holy Orders and study at University College in Oxford under the private tuition of the Rev Dr Langhorne, a name well known in the literary world. At that period the chief object of a university education was classical learning with the study of poetry and literature adding to the student's proficiency as a scholar. A technical education was not available in Britain at that time although it was in France and Germany. It would not be until the 1840s that this came about in Britain. Had it been available in this country in the 18th century then Cartwright's inventive abilities may have shown themselves much earlier.

In 1772 he married Alice, the youngest daughter and co-heiress of Richard Whitaker, Esquire of Doncaster. After the marriage the couple lived



The unusual font at Low Marnham Parish Church featuring a font cover on chains. Cartwright was almost certainly baptised here

first at Marnham and later at Brampton in Derbyshire from 1775-1779 where he held the perpetual curacy presented by the Dean of Lincoln, Dr Cust. During his residency at Brampton, which then included New Brampton, a putrid fever broke out in the area. Many were too poor to afford medical assistance so Cartwright undertook to try and help by reading medical books in his possession and prescribe for them. He attended a boy of about fourteen-years-of-age who was affected by the fever and administered bark, wine, and other medicines which his books directed. His efforts were of no use and the boy's illness grew worse every day. Cartwright called to see him before going away for a short time on a visit. He expected this would be for the last time and it was also to prepare the boy's parents for his death. While he was in conversation with his mother he observed in a corner of the room a small tub of wort fermenting. The sight reminded him of an experiment he had seen with a piece putrid meat being "made sweet" by being suspended over a tub of wort in the act of fermenting. The idea came to his mind to try it on the boy. He gave him two spoonfuls and instructed his mother, if she found him better, to repeat the dose every two hours. He set out on his journey and on his return a few days later he called at first at the boy's house which was about three miles away from Brampton on a wild part of the moors. To his surprise the boy opened the door himself. He told Cartwright that he had felt better as soon as he had taken the yeast. Cartwright is known to have used this remedy on at least a couple more occasions while living in Leicestershire when a doctor had failed to help a patient. The treatment soon became known to the local medical

profession. The discovery might be called an accidental one but was one of those accidents where a man with a quick and intelligent mind seized upon a course of action and put it to very useful effect.

When Cartwright left Brampton he was given the living of Goadby Marwood in Leicestershire and moved there with his family. Here he employed part of his leisure time in very enthusiastically cultivating the glebe land and wrote several horticultural papers. In the summer of 1784 Cartwright went to stay in Matlock and happened, while he was there, to fall into the company of a group of men from Manchester. The conversation turned to the subject of the still new and ingenious inventions of Richard Arkwright for spinning cotton by powered machinery. It was observed by some of the company that the handloom weavers could not use all the yarn that was being produced. This meant the surplus would have to be exported to the continent where it might be woven into cloth so cheaply it could injure the trade in England. Cartwright remarked that a powered weaving machine was needed to which the men replied that this was impractical. Cartwright listened to their arguments as to why this was so. He knew nothing of weaving but, as a machine which could play chess had been demonstrated, he felt that the building of a weaving machine must be perfectly possible. On his return home he began to produce his ideas for such a machine. Soon with the help of a carpenter and a smith he was able to construct a very basic power loom. A few months later, in April 1785, he took out a patent for a machine but it needed two men to operate it! Further patents were taken out in 1786, 1787, and 1790 as improvements were made to secure for himself the expected advantages of the invention.

In 1785 he had moved his family to a property near Doncaster having inherited land from his father-in-law. He visited Manchester in 1786 with a view to engaging some of the superior workmen there to assist him in making a more perfect model of his machine and found he had to stay in Manchester to get them to do what he wanted. In 1787 he started to build factory in Doncaster for spinning and weaving thread. Having engaged the most skilful workmen he was able to carry out many further mechanical experiments. He continued to make alterations to his loom and also improved his spinning machines. A description given of the mill by a

person employed there at the beginning of the Doncaster enterprise states that twenty looms were soon set to – ten for muslin, eight for cotton, one for sail cloth and one for coloured check. The machinery was at first worked by a bull but in 1788 or 1789 Cartwright set up a Newcomen engine to power a second mill. At the time Francis Thompson was making rotating Newcomen engines at Brampton and Cartwright could well have purchased a Brampton-made engine. His factory was producing good quality muslins for the time and a piece was presented to the wife of Dr Thurlow, Bishop of Durham, who was very pleased with the result.

During his time at Doncaster Cartwright developed a powered combing machine which removed the short fibres from woollen yarn. The machine was called "Big Ben" after a local prize fighter, and it did the work of twenty men using teazles to comb. It was yet another machine which was not popular with the workers who saw their livelihoods and those of their families suffering. It was the belief that these inventions would cause loss of work that brought about the formation of groups such as the Luddites intent on destroying the new machines. In 1791 Cartwright had contracted with Messrs Grimshaw of Manchester to provide power looms for Knott Mill in the city. After 24 looms had been installed in a new building it was burnt to the ground. Although not proved to be result of Luddite activity this was more likely to have been through a lack of will to discover the perpetrators. The Grimshaws did not proceed with installing further machines while other manufacturers also decided against doing so. The effect on Cartwright's finances was disastrous. He had to pass his two mills at Doncaster to his two brothers to repay his loans. The "Big Ben" machine was fully developed by Davison and Hawksley at Arnold in Nottinghamshire for a quarter of the royalties and in 1794 this company made six sets of combers and had an annual profit of £6,600 for the next seven years from the machines. The combing machine was actually a boon to the worsted spinners whose yarn is a mixture of cotton and wool. This was because it produced "a continuous flux of yarn" rather than the shorter lengths of the hand combers which had then to be joined, often with imperfections. The firm resisted the pressure from those who feared the introduction of power machines and suffered little in the way of protest. This may be due to the fact that there is evidence to suggest

that Davison & Hawksley went to considerable lengths to gain a good reputation as employers.

In the summer of 1796 Cartwright and his family moved to London and rented a small house in Marylebone Fields. This was owned by James Wyatt, a celebrated architect, who had encouraged Cartwright in the inventing a new type of brick. Cartwright now took out a patent for an incombustible substitute for certain building materials. He also took out many other patents, too many to discuss in this article, as the main interest here is that of textiles and the role Cartwright's time in Brampton may have played in his work.

The Arkwright mill had opened just before he came to Brampton and surely with his wide interests and inventive mind he would make a visit to see the wonderful new factory and the spinners at work in Cromford. Possibly there was early concern about the amount of yarn being produced and the need for a power loom would be obvious to him even then. Brampton is only about 12 miles from Cromford and Matlock but Goadby Marwood as much as 60 miles. So perhaps his first thoughts of a power loom did begin at Brampton in the 1770s. The automatic chess-playing machine previously mentioned was first demonstrated in 1770 and no doubt he would have heard of it by the time he came to Brampton. This incidentally proved to be a hoax although it was displayed in Europe and America until it was destroyed by fire in the mid-1800s. The Memoir of 1843 states that his visit to Matlock was in 1784 but this, as with the case of other details in this story, are recalled some years after the events by others.

So was it while Cartwright was the incumbent at Old Brampton near Chesterfield that the first seeds of building a powered weaving machine were sown? We shall never know but it would be good to think so.

For Further Reading:

A Memoir of Edmund Cartwright Pub. 1971 for Social Documents Ltd Adams & Dart; First Pub. 1843

The Early Factory Masters Stanley D. Chapman; Pub. 1967 David & Charles

The Great Human Exploit - Historic Industries of the North West Ed. J. H. Smith; Pub. 1973 Phillimore & Co

History of Spital Cemetery

Janet Murphy

In the 19th century the country's population was increasing rapidly. Consequently there was also an increase in the number of people dying. Existing burial grounds were full to overflowing and were often a health hazard.



Chesterfield Parish Church showing how much the ground was raised as the result of burials

At the same time the number of nonconformists (Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists etc.) was increasing – they did not want to be buried in consecrated ground according to the rites of the Established Church. The earliest cemeteries were operated by commercial companies. Rosary Priory in Norwich was the first non-denominational cemetery opened in 1821 (i.e. anyone could be buried there whatever their religion); Sheffield General Cemetery was established in 1836; and Derby General Cemetery, on Uttoxeter Road in 1843.

Between 1832 and 1857 a series of acts relating to burial were enacted; these allowed the closure of burial grounds and the establishment of public cemeteries administered by Burial Boards appointed by the Parish Vestry. The cemetery in Derby was taken over by the new Burial Board there in 1855 at the same time as land was purchased for the new Nottingham Road Cemetery. The ratepayers of Chesterfield were summoned to a meeting on 19th July 1855 to consider the problem of a new burial ground.

New Burial Ground, Chesterfield

The Old Churchyard in Chesterfield being now in such

a crowded state as to render it imperatively necessary to provide a New Burial Ground or cemetery as well for the Town as the Hamlets within the Parish of Chesterfield not already provided with Burial Grounds NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Meeting of the Proprietors and Ratepayers within the Town and the several Hamlets comprising the Parish of Chesterfield, not having exclusive Burial Grounds in (in pursuance of a requisition numerously signed and proposed to me for that purpose) hereby convened to be held at the Municipal Hall in Chesterfield, on Thursday, the 19th July inst., at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon, to consider the mode in which a New Burial Ground and its locality can be provided, and the Terms and Conditions on which the same might be obtained; and to appoint a Constitution, or make such other resolutions as may be thought best to calculated efficiently to carry out the above object at which meeting an Inspector appointed by the Government is expected to attend.

W. DRABBLE

Mayor

Chesterfield, 13th July 1855

At the meeting it was "Resolved, that the parish churchyard is over-crowded; that a new burial ground is required and that a committee should be appointed to consult how a new burial ground can be provided." The committee consisted of the Mayor, the Vicar, and twelve other gentlemen.

A Burial Board was formed for the ecclesiastical Parish of Chesterfield and the Township of Tupton with the intention of purchasing and laying out a new burial ground. However in March 1856 the board had to be reconstituted because the it had been appointed for the Parish of Chesterfield, (the population in 1851 was 13,421) but it should have been convened for the Township only (population 7,101), which was a much smaller area, and the constitution was illegal.

It was decide to establish a cemetery at Spital. At first sight a steep hillside seems a strange choice for a cemetery but early cemeteries were laid out as garden cemeteries which were attractive places to visit. However these were wasteful of space as ground was taken up by trees and pathways.

It was estimated that the total cost of buying the land, erection of buildings and layout of the site

would be £6,272 17s 6d. In May 1856 a competition was held for the design of the Plans, Elevations and Sections for the erection of Lodge with Board Room, Entrance Gates, Reception House, and two Cemetery Chapels (the Chapels to be under one roof) to be accompanied with Estimates for the execution of the whole, including enclosing the ground with walls and fences, Chapel fittings, &c. The cost for the buildings was not to exceed £2,200. A second competition was held for a design for the layout of the grounds. Thirty-six designs were submitted for the chapels and fifteen for laying out the grounds. Messrs Bidlake and Lovatt of Wolverhampton submitted the winning plans for the chapels and F. C. Gillett the design for the grounds. Gillett had been born at Spital Lodge.

Land for the burial ground was purchased from the executors of the late Mr Lowndes for £3,596 and a mortgage £6,992 on the poor rate of the Chesterfield and Tapton townships arranged, of which Tapton's share was be £720.

However not everybody was happy. Mr Busby complained decisions were being taken without proper consultation with the ratepayers; indeed the meeting which had sanctioned the application for the mortgage had been held at the same time as the Peace Celebrations (for the end of the Crimean War) and reporters were excluded from the meetings.

It was suggested that a General Purposes Committee be appointed to transact business requiring immediate attention between board meetings. Mr Dutton complained that the previous such committee consisted of four Churchmen and one Dissenter which he thought was disproportionate. He also objected to the allocation of the four acres, fifteen roods and thirty-four perches available for burials of members of the Established Church, which reserved one acre, one rood and thirteen perches for Dissenters – almost one third of that allowed for the Established Church – when the rateable property of the Dissenters in the parish was about four-ninths, and there was no provision for Roman Catholics.

There was much discussion about the charges for burials! The Cemetery was outside the Township of Chesterfield and the cost of burials for people from outside Chesterfield and Tapton were higher. This penalised nonconformists from outside Chesterfield and Tapton who wanted to be buried in un-consecrated ground. A complex

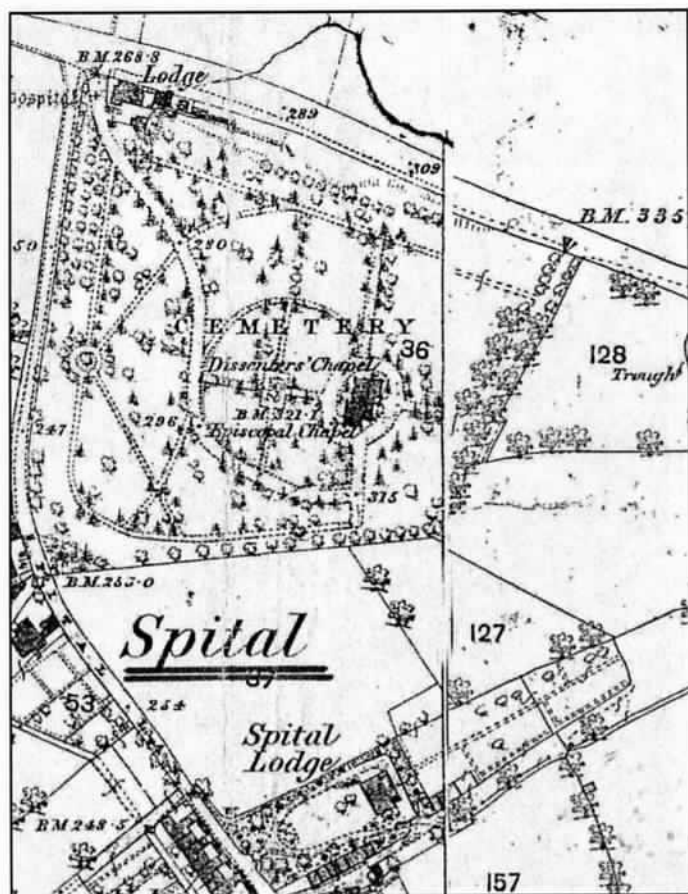


The chapels from the First Class consecrated ground showing the problems caused by such a sloping site

scale of charges was eventually agreed with specified times of funerals and fines if the funeral late. Complaints about the cost of burials continued for many years and it was said that the cost deterred people from being buried at Spital.

Finally everything was ready and the Bishop of Lichfield visited Chesterfield on August 19th 1857 in order to consecrate the new church at Newbold before proceeding to the consecration of the Chesterfield and Tapton Cemetery. Spital Cemetery was the first public cemetery in the county outside Derby.

Mary Ann Bridgett, aged 2 weeks, was the first person to be buried on 23rd August 1857 in an unmarked grave. The next three burials were of children of one year of age or less. The first tombstone was that of John Holland, surgeon. The first burial in un-consecrated ground was on 23rd September. Many people, who were prominent in Chesterfield in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are buried there as well as some of the lowliest.



LEFT: Spital cemetery in 1876 showing the layout of the original garden cemetery. Plot 128 is the New Ground, first used in 1920, and laid out as a lawn cemetery, without paths and trees, which is the more efficient use of space. The ground to the south of that is the Roman Catholic Ground. The section labelled Spital and the adjoining plot 127 (three acres in all), now occupied by Stanley St, was part of the land originally purchased, but was sold to Hannah Roberts of Spital Lodge on 25th February 1859

Trinity Church in Chesterfield

Maeve Hawkins

During the recent series of his popular programmes "Great British Railway Journeys" Michael Portillo visited Chesterfield and the burial place of George Stephenson. The edition was shown on BBC2 on Friday 10th January 2014. On Saturday 11th January it was the Derbyshire Archaeology Day at the Pomegranate Theatre. At the beginning of the proceedings it was announced that Trinity Church would be open for visitors that day who may well be interested following the screening of the programme. Quite a number of people took advantage to visit despite its being necessary to do so during the not over-long lunch break.

For the same reason it seems opportune to include in this issue of our Journal this very interesting description of Trinity Church and George Stephenson's connection with it which appeared in *Old and New Chesterfield*. This book, edited by "Tatler", was published in 1882 by J. Toplis *Derbyshire Courier* Chesterfield. A copy can be seen in the Chesterfield Local Studies Library.

TRINITY CHURCH – A GREAT MAN'S RESTING-PLACE

The "comfortable Church of Holy Trinity" is hallowed neither by legends, nor the dust of entombed knights. There is no glamour of the mystic past about it; but the neat edifice is closely associated with modern progress-with a more active, useful life than ever mail-clad warrior lived; and it contains the ashes of George Stephenson, the railway pioneer, whose achievements far excel the deeds of the lance-tilters in King Arthur's days. Some forty years since, so many of the inhabitants of Chesterfield believed in the sacred duty of church-going that the old fabric could not accommodate them all, and Trinity Church was built to relieve All Saints' of its surplus worshippers. The site given by the Most Noble William Spencer, Duke of Devonshire, and the first stone was laid on the 17th May, 1837, in the reign of King William IV. The structure was raised chiefly by subscriptions, and on the day of its foundation, there was much ceremony – a public breakfast, a procession, and considerable eloquence. When the Duke tapped

the stone with his mallet, the band played "God save the King," and the people proclaimed their loyalty and delight with "deafening and protracted cheers." That cry of "God save the King" was not an idle one; for His Majesty died before the year was out*, and the request may have been to his advantage in eternity. But his predecessor on the throne, George IV., stood in far greater need of such an appeal, for he was utterly unable to save himself from his own follies and vices – otherwise Thackeray would never have said the First Gentleman of Europe reeled into chapel to get married, hiccupped his vows of fidelity, and thrashed the lady he promised to adore!

The Rev. Alexander Poole, B.A., was the clergyman identified with Trinity Church when it made its religious start in life. He was not distinguished as a pulpit orator, nor was he a "giant in prayer;" but he did his duty faithfully for twenty-nine years, and died, as it were, in illustration of one of his own sermons. On the 7th of April, 1867, he preached from the text, "It is appointed unto all men once to die," and the next day, as Thomas Carlyle has it, he was "congealed in the frost of death." On April 14th, the following Sabbath, the Ven. Archdeacon Hill preached Mr Poole's funeral sermon from the same text, and drew some powerful lessons from the old rector's guileless life. The Rev. Melville Holmes succeeded to the living, but in a few years he exchanged with the Rev. F. C. Morton, of Wadsley, and is still vicar of the little village beyond Sheffield, which has recently been the scene of such serio-comic burial difficulties. Mr Morton only lived a few months after removing to Chesterfield, and died on July 26th 1875, when the Rev T. W. Drury, M.A., accepted the living, which he has held down to the present time. He is very popular, not only among his own people, but with other sects, because he is sincere in his efforts to extend religion and spread education.

The church is young, and has needed neither propping up nor restoration, but a few changes have been made in its internal features. During Dr Melville Holmes' pastorate, Dr Hart (formerly of Holywell Cross) presented the church with an organ, which was placed in the gallery over the west entrance.

*William IV died only a month later on the 20th June 1837

That entrance was afterwards closed, and a stained glass window erected to the memory of the Rev A. Poole. The organ was removed downstairs, where it still remains, and since the Rev T. W. Drury came, a new oak pulpit, and oak reading-desk, and a brass lectern have been provided, as well as new altar rails.

In the vault within the Communion rails lies George Stephenson's remains. The "poor herd-boy, who became the originator of the English railway system," has no grand monument over his grave to tell the story of his greatness, or the resources of his inventive mind, which throbbed through difficulties as unresistingly as one of his own locomotives. A plain inscription, simple as his own life, indicates his resting place:-

GEORGE STEPHENSON,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
Died at Tapton House,
Aug. 12th, 1848,
Aged 68 years.

"The admiration of all classes of society for his natural genius, and the unsullied excellence of his private character," George Stephenson had many mourners. He was buried on August 17, 1848. The shops were closed, the streets were thronged, and amongst those who joined the funeral cortege, were his old pupils, many dear friends, the Mayor and Corporation, and persons of distinction from distant places. Since then his tomb has been visited by pilgrims from many lands, and on the 9th of June, 1881, when the centenary of his birth was celebrated with becoming honour at Chesterfield Trinity Church was again filled with his admirers. The Rev S. C., Sargeant, B.A., (who was acting as locum tenes during Mr Drury's indisposition) delivered a very eloquent address, in the course of which he said, "It is no small distinction of this town that the last days of George Stephenson were spent in it, and adds to the interest of this church that it contains his mortal remains. With little internally to appeal to the eye, or to gratify taste, this church has yet a spell which will draw visitors from every part of the world. Men will come hither from all lands to look with reverence upon the simple resting place of him who was father of the locomotive, and the railway system. And perhaps the naked simplicity which marks that spot is in keeping with a life, the grandeur of which was due solely to the man himself, and not to outward helps and circumstances." At this centenary a white pall was placed upon the great

man's grave which was also covered with wreaths. The pew he occupied in life was adorned with flowers, and it was the only one kept vacant in the crowded church. Citizens of all grades, from the Mayor, in his gold chain, to the Town Crier, with his dazzling mace, worshipped at George Stephenson's shrine, and paid a real tribute to his memory. Only one relative, however, amid this great gathering of strangers, attended the imposing service, and this was Mrs. Ann Rose. A little pamphlet, called "The Stephenson Centenary at Chesterfield" (reprinted from the *Derbyshire Courier* of June 11th), says :-

"Amongst those present was a niece of George Stephenson - Mrs. Rose, who lives at Pye Bridge, and his only surviving relative at present residing in Derbyshire. She was the daughter of John Stephenson (brother of George), who was crushed to death by a locomotive engine at the works at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on January 22nd, 1831. Mrs Rose formerly lived with George Stephenson at Tapton House, and she speaks warmly of his uniform kindness and liberality towards all his relatives. She at one time resided next door to the manufactory at Newcastle, and saw "The Rocket," not only in the course of construction, but witnessed its first start, before it was sent to compete for the prize offered by the promoters of the Manchester and Liverpool Railway. Mrs Rose brought with her to the church the Prayer Book which was used by George Stephenson's second wife. It bears the name inside, "Elizabeth Stephenson, 1828." The "National Anthem" was played in the great Engineer's honour by Mr. E. Slack, and after the

service, at which the Rev T. C. Bradberry assisted, the Mayor planted a holly tree - the gift of Mr W. Beard - near the west end of the church, expressing a hope that it would flourish, and become an enduring reminder of George Stephenson's fame."

Trinity Church, although it lacks traditions, and is not very interesting historically, is the centre of a vigorous religious life, and is doing much useful work. Year by year, it becomes of greater utility, and its pews fill well, not merely with the kid-gloved saints who go to church for fashion's sake, but with those who realise the meaning of Christianity, and endeavour to walk by its light.

The rapid development of the town on the Stonegravels side has opened the Church's eyes, moreover to its own responsibility. Professor Teufelsdröckh, the erudite German philosopher, once said that, "Neither in tailoring nor in legislation, does man proceed by mere accident," and the same remark applies to religious effort. It has some good to do, some noble purpose to achieve, and sooner or later the object is accomplished. Trinity Church has looked beyond the old-fashioned cottages in Prospect Place, and the villas of Abercrombie Street. She found lying between St. Helen's Street and the hill-top at Stonegravels, a growing colony of houses, with a population that needed another place of worship, and now Stonegravels has its little Church, of which the Rev. T. C. Bradberry is Curate-in-charge, and to which very many people go regularly, with more satisfaction than they formerly derived from grumbling in their chimney-corners at home.



Trinity Church in Chesterfield – *What Michael Portillo didn't mention!* Janet Murphy

Holy Trinity Church is open to visitors on the Heritage Open Days each September. I took these photographs in 1996 so I hope the memorials are still on view.



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM POOLE
LIEUT IN H.M.'s 84TH REGIMENT
THE BELOVED SON OF REV^D ALEX^R POOLE, B.A.
FIRST INCUMBENT OF THIS CHURCH, AND
ELIZABETH MARY HIS WIFE.
BORN AT KEGWORTH JAN 4TH 1834.
DIED AT LUCKNOW, SEP 29TH, 1857.
HE WAS A DUTIFUL AND AFFECTIONATE SON
AND A LOVING BROTHER.
HE FIRST SERVED HIS COUNTRY IN BIRMAH
AFTERWARDS ACCOMPANIED
SIR JAMES OUTRAM TO JOIN THE FORCE UNDER
GENERAL HAVELOCK
FOR THE RELIEF OF LUCKNOW AND
THROUGHOUT THE ADVANCE CONDUCTED
HIMSELF MOST GALLANTLY.
DURING THE NIGHT OF THE 28TH SEP, WHEN
COMMANDING AN OUTPOST IN CLOSE
PROXIMITY TO THE ENEMY HE FELL MORTALLY
WOUNDED BY A MUSKET BALL.
HE WAS BELOVED BY HIS COMRADES,
ESTEEMED BY HIS SUPERIOR OFFICERS, AND
MOURNED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM.
HIS REMAINS REST IN THE RESIDENCY
CHURCHYARD AT LUCKNOW.

"IN HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE"

William Poole is commemorated on a memorial to members of the 84th (York and Lancaster Regiment) at the Residency, Lucknow. He died only four days after he arrived at Lucknow.

Photo: www.indian-cemeteries.org



(Continued overleaf)



LEFT:
In Memoriam George Albert
Eastwood
Died 12th November 1934 in
his 75th Year
Trustee and Deacon of this
Church for 37 Years
His Life was spent in service
and for the good of others

RIGHT:
CHARLES SHAW'S
CHARITY
£100. 4 PERCENT
PREFERENCE STOCK
MIDLAND RAILWAY 1881
DIVIDENDS TO BE GIVEN
TO FOUR POOR PEOPLE
OF THIS
CONGREGATION
HALF YEARLY

DRYHOUSE, TAPTON,
1881



THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Maeve Hawkins

We don't usually report on past meetings in the Journal but in March the Society had a very special evening which was appropriate in the year that we are remembering the start of the First World War on August 4th 1914. I am sure that everyone who heard our speaker, James Clark, will agree that it was probably the most outstanding and moving evening of any during our 25 year history when he enabled us to understand more personally the experience of the ordinary soldier in that war.

James arrived wearing the uniform of a private soldier in the First World War and was carrying a rifle and a great deal of kit.

His excellent presentation was a dramatized monologue in the words of a local soldier which lasted for more than an hour. It told the story of "Clifford" who, full of enthusiasm, enrolled with his much younger workmate, certain that he would be helping to win a deserved victory against a "barbarous" enemy in a short war.

The rifle, kit and uniform were used to demonstrate the various aspects of the soldiers' lives. We saw how their everyday necessities were carried about their person. This included personal necessities such as shaving equipment and a sewing kit for repairs etc. When they moved into battle they carried food, water and first aid equipment to last them for some time. They would also have to carry heavy supplies such as barbed wire, telephone cables and much else needed by an advancing army capturing territory held by the enemy.

James's dramatization drew us into the life and death of Clifford in a very powerful way. The story told in a small room had a much greater immediacy than television dramas and documentaries. We felt with him the horrors of living in the trenches, of trying to advance in the often cold and wet countryside with so many men dying around him. It was a memorable evening.

RESEARCHING SOLDIERS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

James displayed medals from the war and one of our members brought along the three medals awarded to her grandfather. Many soldiers would have received just two; the Victory Medal and the British Medal which were given to all who served in the British Armed forces. Those who enlisted in 1914 or 1915 and served in a field of war during those years received a third medal, "The Star" and our member's grandfather had received this telling a little more about his particular story.

As a conclusion James showed the documents he had printed from the internet which traced the life and career of a soldier from Barnsley whose War Medals he had purchased on Chesterfield Flea Market for just £30. All of James's research was carried out at Chesterfield Library using the online facilities provided by Derbyshire County Council. In particular he searched the subscription website, Ancestry.com, which is free to use at the Library. The First World War records on the site are:

British Army World War One Service Records

British Army World War One Pension Records

British Army World War One Medal Rolls Index Cards

The Service Records were securely held until the Second World War when bomb hit the building where they were stored causing a fire. Only some 15-20% of the records survived and those that have usually show signs of damage but are still fairly legible. James was lucky In the case of the soldier whose medals he had bought as his records were amongst the survivals. Another important site and free to use is that of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission which lists all those who died in the First World War and in other wars. Information is given about the place of burial or memorial.

The amount of information given on the Medal cards varies as the two shown below indicate. They are those of two members of Committee member Sandra Struggles' husband's family.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
STRUGGLES	K.O.Y.L.I.	Plt	5216
Charles	do		203317
Service	Unit	Page	Remarks
Victims	0/2/103-B-27-2487		
Service	do	do	
Rank			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry service			

Charles (Charlie) Struggles was a private in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and lost his life on the 3rd May 1917 aged 32yrs. He is buried at the Croisilles British Cemetery in the Pas de Calais France

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
STRUGGLES	Notts & Derby	Plt	26924
F.A.W.			
Service	Unit	Page	Remarks
Victims	F/103-B-27-2487	1912	Dis 2 5/8/17.
Service	do	do	
Rank	15 Star	4/7/33	582
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry service			

Frank (Arthur Webster) Struggles was a private in the Notts and Derbyshire Regiment (The Sherwood Foresters) and received the 15 Star Medal as he had entered France in 1915. He survived the War.

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

All our Books and History Papers are available to Members at Bargain Prices

BOOKS

ROBINSON & SONS 1839-1989 50p

THE GLUMANGATE STORY 75p

WINGERWORTH LANDSCAPE 75p

HASLAND TIMES PAST 50p

CASTINGS AROUND 50p

HISTORY PAPERS

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Zig Zag Railway (Ankerbold) | 10p |
| 2. | Old Chesterfield -1* | 10p |
| 3. | Chesterfield's Monster Cakes* | 10p |
| 4. | The British School Hollis Lane | 20p |
| 5. | St George's Works (T. P. Wood) | 10p |
| 6. | Chesterfield Waterworks | 10p |
| 7. | Old Chesterfield -2* | 10p |
| 8. | Brampton Enclosure Act 1815 | 10p |
| 9. | Henry Priestly Brickworks | 20p |

10.	Who Lived on Low Pavement?	20p
11.	Ironmasters of N.E. Derbyshire	10p
12.	Chesterfield Race Course	20p
13.	Chesterfield Silk Mill	20p
14.	Great Lace Making Machine	10p
15.	Crich Mineral Line	20p
16.	Chesterfield's Last Town Crier*	10p
17.	Chesterfield Motor Omnibuses	20p
18.	Seaman's Photographic Establishment*	10p
19.	The Hunloke Mausoleum	20p
20.	The Whitecotes Colliery	20p
21.	Calow Iron Works, Mines & Brickworks	20p
22.	Random Recollections	20p
23.	History of Bradbury Hall	20p
24.	Turnpikes of Chesterfield -1	20p
25.	Turnpikes of Chesterfield -2	20p
26.	Elephant Stampede	20p
27.	W. G. Grace & United South XI	20p
28.	Father Edmund von Wurtzburg	20p
29.	Derbyshire Boundary Changes	20p
30.	John Ogilby - Map Maker	10p
31.	Monkwood Colliery & Oliver's	20p
32.	Chesterfield Water	20p
33.	The Bentincks	20p
34.	The Old Shambles	10p
35.	The Canal Tavern	20p
36.	Frederick Calder-Headmaster & Rector	20p
37.	Chesterfield Wagon Works	20p
38.	Lady Ottoline Morrell	20p

* These Papers consist of extracts taken from the *Derbyshire Times*

We also have copies of the following articles published in the Newsletter in the past:

The Mansfield and Pinxton Railway	10p
John King's Safety Hook for Mine Cages	10p

COPIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM