

NEW MILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

the new mill



Detail from a 17th century map showing the location of
Beard Mill or New Mill

EDITION NO. 4 - SPRING 1990

SPRING PROGRAMME 1990

All meetings are held in the Library Lecture Room, Hall Street, New Mills, and commence at 7.45 pm. Members free, non-members welcome, charge 50p.

WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY: "Family History" - Marjorie Jones.

LHS member Mrs Jones will describe the compilation of a family tree using old documents and photographs.

FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY: "Castlefield" - Derek Brumhead.

LHS Chairman Derek Brumhead will describe the history of the Castlefield area of Manchester.

FRIDAY 16 MARCH: "Family Life in Manchester, 1860 - 1910" - David Davies.

Mr Davies will describe the social life of the period, illustrating his talk with some of his large collection of photographs.

WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL: "Hayfield - 19th Century Industrial Village" - Joan Powell.

Mrs Powell will describe changes in Hayfield during the 19th century.

FRIDAY 18 MAY: AGM followed by a short talk by David Pitcher - "A Computerised 1990s View of New Mills over a Century Ago"

FRIDAY 15 JUNE: Evening cruise on the Judith Mary II along the Peak Forest Canal from New Mills to Marple - details to follow.

REVIEWS OF THE AUTUMN 1989 PROGRAMME STOCKPORT HERITAGE TRUST

Copies of the Stockport Heritage Magazine displayed before the September meeting attracted considerable interest. Beautifully produced and illustrated, it is recommended reading for everyone, not only in the Stockport area. That its bimonthly circulation has reached 7,000 during its first year says a good deal about the skills and enthusiasm of Jean and Steve Cliffe, Press Officers of the Heritage Society and editors of the magazine.

It was to be expected that Jean would have much to tell us about the Trust, and we were not disappointed. Starting from the destruction of our town centres by redevelopment and the restoration of Stockport Market Hall with the aid of English Heritage, she went on to a fascinating account of the Staircase Cafe, parts of which date back to 1460. The aim of the Trust is to restore the building, now in imminent danger of collapse, for use as a Heritage Centre. It seemed characteristic of the speaker that she remains undaunted by the size of the undertaking and the funds needed, at present £750,000, which the Trust is trying to raise!

C A Mays

PETERLOO MASSACRE - JOYCE MARLOW

Joyce Marlow, a local author, who has written numerous books including "The Peterloo Massacre" and "The Tolpuddle Martyrs" came to the society on 20 October to talk about the Peterloo Massacre. She captured the audience's imagination with her description of the events leading up to and occurring on that fateful day.

The public meeting that led to the massacre was organised by the Radicals and was intended to be one of the best organised held on England's soil. People started assembling in the outlying areas of Manchester on the morning of 16 August 1819 and then marched in disciplined columns into St Peter's Field. There they were to be addressed by the well-known orator Henry Hunt MP. However, on witnessing this large, well-disciplined crowd, the magistrates decided to arrest Hunt and the other well-known Radicals on the grounds that an immense mob had collected and the town was in danger. The Deputy Constable, Nadin, to whom this order was given, claimed that the avenue of access to effect the arrests was blocked and requested military assistance. This request went not to the regular army who were standing by but to the Manchester Yeoman Cavalry,

a voluntary organisation such as the Territorial Army is today. This relatively undisciplined force, many of whom were by this time drunk, charged through the crowd and the arrests were effected fairly quickly. In the ensuing confusion the order was given to the Hussars of the regular army to clear the field and this was done with such efficiency that within fifteen minutes of the order being given the field was cleared. Although it is described as a massacre it is doubtful whether more than fifteen people were killed but there were hundreds of injuries. Later on four hundred and twenty people applied to the Metropolitan Relief Committee for assistance, many of them maimed for life or doomed to a premature death.

Barry Dent

THE HISTORY OF THE GOYT VALLEY - W SIDEBOTHAM WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 1989

Mr Sidebotham's interests of walking and photography were nicely combined in this pictorial hike through the Goyt Valley from Taxal to the Cat and Fiddle. The clever technique of showing increasingly older views of familiar spots was very effective and well done.

The walk began near Taxal Church and we were shown slides of the Chimes of Taxal, Taxal Lodge (formerly the home of the Jodrell family) and Taxal Bridge. Following the track up to Taxal Moor we reached Fernilee Reservoir, and Mr Sidebotham showed slides made from old photographs depicting the farms which were flooded when the reservoir was constructed in the 1930s. The treatment works at the reservoir, interestingly, had the earliest reinforced concrete buildings in our area.

Further on we reached the site of the former gunpowder factory, called Fernilee Mills, which operated until 1922, producing explosives for the quarries and the military. We saw some lovely slides of the powder men, the coopers and the works fire brigade.

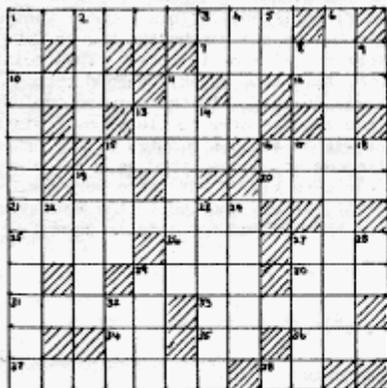
Following Sandy Lane (where there is a shrine constructed and maintained by Buxton churches) we passed a lime kiln near what used to be the Bunsall Incline of the Cromford and High Peak Railway, and reached Errwood Reservoir. This was opened in 1968 by the Duchess of Kent. We were given a guided tour of the upper and lower valve houses and shown pre-flooding views. Errwood Hall was next. Built for the Grimshawe family in 1850, it was occupied until 1933, after which it was acquired by Stockport Corporation and allowed to crumble. The Grimshawes were very self-sufficient, and had their own blacksmith's shop, school, coal pit and burial ground. Their wealth came from cloth and

shipping. A member of the audience remembered that the Grimshaws were a philanthropic family and never turned away a steady stream of homeless people walking from one poor house to the next.

Our walk finished by following a path through a former gritstone quarry, past Derbyshire Bridge and Goyt's Moss to the Cat and Fiddle, which still claims to be the highest fully licensed house in England at 1690 feet above sea level.

The audience was very appreciative and obviously enjoyed Mr Sidebotham's talk greatly.

Alicia Turnock



ARE YOU GOOD AT CROSSWORDS?

Clues Across

- 1 Subject of a recent publication (9)
- 7 Female head of 22 Down? (6)
- 10 A friend who gave his name to a road and a house (4)
- 12 Initially a watchdog of the environment (3)
- 13 Not a watch dog - quite another animal which worked hard to save New Mills (4)
- 15 A small island in the Goyt? (4)
- 16 Holy father ... (4)
- 19 ... and a degree his subordinates may hold (2)
- 20 Part of the eye which grows, perhaps in the garden (4)
- 21 An appropriate name in view of what goes on there, in spite of feline connections (8)
- 33 Was she in evidence 50 years ago? (5)
- 34 In brief, the area around Tyneside (2)
- 35 Taking place, as of an entertainment (2)
- 36 Guardian of our rights of way (3)
- 37 Membrane that vibrates when sound waves strike it (7)
- 38 In brief, New Mills park (2)

- 25 Landing place for Mike Baldwin, maybe (4)
- 26 Some New Mills roads need an application of this (3)
- 27 Cunning and secretive cake? (3)
- 29 One girl ... (4)
- 30 ... and another, possibly both stars (3)
- 31 Street, quarry or estate (5)

Clues Down

- 1 An area of New Mills called after the owner of the property (6 & 6)
- 2 Large flower 'cultivated' by the Andrew family? (4)
- 3 Printing term (2)
- 4 A soft, smooth mineral that is powdered to use as a lubricant (4)
- 5 Term sometimes used to describe silk (2)
- 6 Thoroughfare whose name implied what lay ahead (7 & 4)
- 8 St Mary's, for instance?
- 9 In short, the great divide (2)
- 11 Documents read on Tuesday nights (7)
- 13 A law made by New Mills Town Council, perhaps?
- 14 The head of an animal found at the Chestnut Centre (2)

- 15 A man in a whirl? (4)
 16 Symbol used for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter - did the Greeks think of it first? (2)
 17 Heraldic gold (2)
 18 Extra sensory perception without the power to perceive (2)
 19 Composer of 23 Down (5)
 22 Initially the workhouse for Hayfield (2)
 23 The 'anthem' of New Mills Methodism (6)
 24 Stop-planks are used when it is necessary to the canal (5)
 27 One of the less pleasant features of our rivers? (5)
 28 An evergreen tree which has lost its root (2)
 29 Old railway company which, according to Burton, ran apple-green engines (4)
 32 This is it! (3)

Answers on Page 11

Olive Bowyer

**FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS:-
 GREATER MANCHESTER COUNTY RECORD OFFICE**

On 27 September Barbara Matthews and I spent a very enjoyable and informative morning at the Greater Manchester County Record Office. As Library assistants we are constantly being asked about material that is available for people doing research, so we thought that this would be a good opportunity to find out. We found the staff helpful, friendly and very willing to answer our questions. We had a guided tour of the premises and were shown all aspects of their work.

Some 80% of the material is held on deposit and has restricted access but there is still a lot left for the general public to savour. We were shown the oldest document held; this was an agreement between Roger de Middleton and William de Radcliffe over hunting rights, and was dated 1197. Another document was a letter signed by Charles Dickens.

We were told that the documents have to be kept at an even temperature and that fire is the greatest hazard; of course, a sprinkler system cannot be used. A gas extinguisher system is installed, hence a rather humorous notice telling us that "trespassers will be gassed"! On entering another room almost full of files we were told that they all contained papers pertaining to the Manchester Ship Canal Company. Of local interest were deeds and papers of the Legh family of Lyme Hall. The now defunct GMC records are currently being stored on computer, a nightmare task, according to the analyst. A vast quantity of medical records and coroners' reports is held and is used in statistical research by local hospitals, including Christie's.

• We were finally shown the conservation room, in which a great deal of new technology is used to preserve books and documents. Books damaged by flood water can be freeze dried; steam cleaning is used for delicate subjects and moisture can be added to very dry documents, particularly parchment. Some books are rebound, using old techniques, a very specialised job! All the conservation techniques are reversible; this is in case a superior preservation method is discovered and then the items can be re-preserved. If anyone wishes to know what is held in the collection we now have a Summary Guide in the Library. We would advise you to visit the Records Office where you will receive a warm welcome and a lot of guidance. It was a great morning!

Kath Dent

A FORMER MILL AT LANESIDE

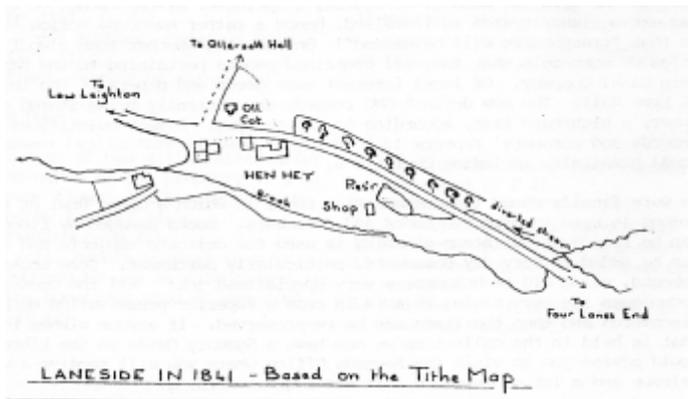
There was once a mill at Laneside (near Low Leighton) that went out of existence at the beginning of the last century.

A document, "An Abstract of the Title of George William Newton Esq to Estates in the Parish of Glossop in the County of Derby", dated 1853, which is in the Society's archives, summarises certain deeds, the earliest of which was drawn up in 1777. The latter recites the properties in the possession of William Gaskell of Laneside, Yeoman, including "all that Leather Fulling Mill with its appurtenances ... situate at Lane Side ... then in the ... occupation of ... Peter Gaskell" (William's brother). This same deed also lists 'skin yards' amongst the properties.

The next item in the Abstract is a deed dated 1783 in which the leather fulling mill is again mentioned, the occupants being Thomas and Philip Ashton, James Ashton and John Whitworth. The owner of the mill was William Gaskell, whose profession was described as 'skinner'. He was the nephew of the William Gaskell mentioned above. 'Skin yards' are again mentioned. By 1800 the owner of the mill was "Thomas Gaskell of Marsh Hall, Chapel-en-le-Frith, cotton manufacturer, the eldest son and heir at law of William Gaskell of Lane Side ... Skinner but afterwards of Marsh Hall ... Cornfactor deceased." The mill was described as "all that cotton Mill or Factory (late a leather fulling Mill) ... in the occupation of ... Philip Ashton." This same deed also lists "all those two cottages ... and shop at Lane Side ... in the occupation of Philip Ashton his assigns and undertenants."

Philip Ashton is described as a "fustian manufacturer" in a further deed dated 1801, though no mill is mentioned in this or any subsequent deed in the Abstract. A property sale notice in 'The Stockport Advertiser', 19 August 1836, includes in the Laneside Estate "A Mill Reservoir &c in the Hen Hey" occupied by John Brown.

The 1841 Tithe Award makes no mention of a mill at Laneside, but one property is described as "shop and reservoir" occupied by Joseph Simpson of Ollersset Cottage (See map.)



Clearly, both mill and shop (presumably a workshop) existed in 1800. By 1841, only the shop and reservoir remained. It seems reasonable to suggest that the mill lay close to the reservoir in the Hen Hey (see map). This might explain the odd position and peculiar alignment of the shop.

Ron Weston

MICROFILMS AT NEW MILLS LIBRARY

Profits from the publication over the last five years of a wide range of moderately priced local history booklets have enabled New Mills Local History Society to provide a microfilm reader (cost shared with the Derbyshire Library Service) in New Mills Library, and a series of microfilms for the use of members of the public. A great deal of interest has been generated and it is now necessary to make a booking to use the microfilm reader (Tel 0663 43603). The list of microfilms now available is as follows:-

Enumerators' Returns for Censuses 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881. These list the names, ages, addresses, places of birth and relationships of every person living in New Mills on the census night for each year.

Tithe Map and Award 1841. The earliest large scale map of New Mills together with the Award listing the plots of land and their owners.

Plans and sections for New Mills railways. These include the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway (1857); the Stockport, Disley and Whaley Bridge Railway (1857); the Disley and Hayfield Railway (1860); the Marple, New Mills and Hayfield Junction Railway (1860 and 1861); the Midland Railway (1862, 1891, 1897 and 1900).

Newspapers:

High Peak Reporter 1887 - 1927

Glossop Record July 1859 - April 1871

Registers:

New Mills Wesleyan Chapel: Baptisms 1794 - 1837

Glossop Wesleyan Chapel: Baptisms 1813 - 1837

New Mills Independent Chapel: Baptisms 1830 - 1837; Burials 1832 - 1837 Hayfield Parish: Baptisms 1622 - 1880; Marriages 1622 - 1759; Banns 1837 - 1872; Burials 1622 - 1854.

Derbyshire Directories; 1808 - 1977 (New Mills entries also available separately).

Derek Brumhead.

DENTS' DENT

The arrival of the microfilm cabinet was quite an occasion.

The cabinet had been purchased by the LHS for storage of the microfilm held in the library. Unfortunately it had been left just inside the front door of the Town Hall. Kath Dent went to inspect it but it was much too heavy for her to carry up to the library so she arranged for Barry and Karl Dent to move it,

which they did with much puffing and panting. Roger Bryant was duly informed and he went to the library to officially unveil it. The brown paper wrappings were carefully removed and the cabinet was inspected.

Unfortunately there was a large DENT on one corner - NO, not one of those 'Dents' but a large depression.

The manufacturers were informed and a replacement arrived bearing the instructions: "Must be handled with kid gloves!" This cabinet proved to be in a perfect condition and is now being used very successfully in the library with only one small 'DENT' in evidence!

Kath Dent

IN MEMORIAM: SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF MR WILFRED BEARD

I was very sad to hear of the death of Mr Wilfred Beard in September. Mr, Beard, who was a Local Preacher in the New Mills Methodist Circuit, was well known in the district and took part in the LHS Oral History Project earlier this year, and allowed Kath Dent and me to record his memories on tape.

Born in 1910, Mr Beard spent his early years at Hague Bar, and attended Hague Bar School. He remembered all the teachers by name, particularly Miss Nunn, who was very artistic and taught a number of pupils to draw and paint well. Hague Bar Road in those days was made of setts and there was very little traffic. The children and adults regularly used the road as a cricket pitch.

The tape contains some interesting facts about transport of the time. As a boy at school Mr Beard remembered the pupils lining up outside one morning to witness the arrival of "the British Bus" which was the first bus from Stockport to New Mills. It was open-topped, with sixteen steps outside, and in bad weather mackintosh capes were available to cover the passengers' shoulders.

On leaving school Mr Beard started work with Mr Broadhurst the wheelwright, who had a shed where he made carts near Waterside Road and a smithy close to the "Jolly Carter" public house. He described how the wheels were constructed and the steel rims shrunk on to the wheels. The local children often helped Mr Broadhurst to operate the bellows.

Sometimes on Saturdays the boys of Hague Bar hitched a lift in a horse drawn wagonette to the "pictures" at New Mills. The driver did not want to stop the horses at the bottom of the hill on Albion Road so the passengers were required to jump out at Jodrell Street.

In later years Mr Beard was employed at Arnfields' Foundry on Hyde Bank Road and he recalled the day of "the flood" and the struggle to get out of the foundry as the water came with such force causing much destruction.

Barbara Matthews

'THE GOOD OLD DAYS', OR 'HOW WE USED TO LIVE'

Interesting sidelights on life a century ago are revealed by a number of fascinating items in the 'Ashton Reporter' of the eighteen-nineties, as, for example,

an account of a fire which broke out at 'Mr Travers Rowbottom's cotton mill adjoining the highway to the London and North Western Railway Station, on the banks of the Peak Forest Canal' (presumably Warksmoor Mill).

The fire, which caused £2,000 worth of damage, was discovered at 9.45 am. A messenger was immediately sent to John Hawthorn & Company's foundry to ask them to sound their buzzer, which was the most powerful one in the district. On hearing it the other mills sounded their buzzers. A second messenger was sent to New Mills Post Office, whence a telegram was dispatched to Birch Vale Print Works asking them to bring their fire engine. The firm's own appliance was brought into action, as was the pumping apparatus from Brunswick Mill across the road. Meanwhile all the adjacent mills had stopped work so that their employees could help to put out the fire. Soon other fire engines began to arrive; first, from Watford Bridge Print Works, then from Slack's at Hayfield, then from Birch Vale Print Works. (The GPO delivery service was evidently more efficient then than it is now!) The appliance from Watford Bridge had been somewhat delayed as it had been frosty during the previous night and hot water had to be used to thaw the fire engine out before it could start its journey. Mill-owners helped the firemen to direct operations, and by 11 am the danger was over.

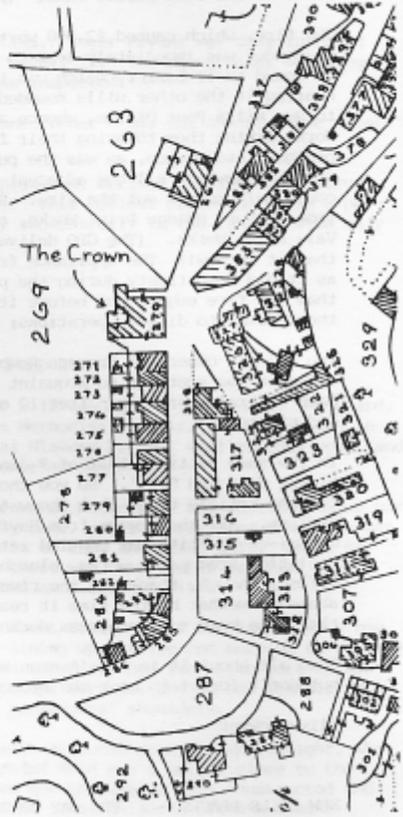
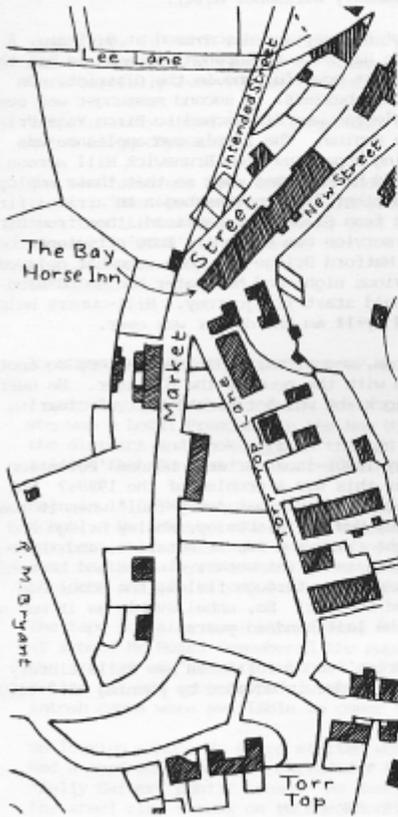
The unlucky owner, Mr Travers Rowbottom, was at market in Manchester, so another telegram was sent off to acquaint him with the news of the disaster. He hurried back by train, arriving after 12 o'clock, by which time the work of clearing up had started. In the same edition (that of 9 January 1890) is an article headed 'Pollution of Rivers Goyt and Sett'. So you thought this was a problem of the 1980s? Not so, for the article tells that the water of the river was 'very foul' when it reached Strines. All the sewage from Hayfield, New Mills, Disley, Whaley Bridge and Chapel-en-le-Frith was emptied into the river and its tributaries, and there was Pollution from paper works, bleach works and print works; cinders and household refuse; though, thanks to the river's passage through fields, the odour had abated somewhat by the time it reached Strines! So, unbelievable as it may seem, there has been some progress during the last hundred years.

Read all about it in the 'Ashton Reporter' on microfilm in New Mills Library -hut don't forget to book the microfilm reader in advance by phoning 0663 43603.

Olive Bowyer

NEW MILLS PLACES - 3 THE BAY HORSE AND THE CROWN

Most of the public houses which existed in New Mills in the early 19th century are still trading, but the "Bay Horse" has served no beer for a very long time. The first mention of this pub which I have discovered so far concerns an auction in December 1822 to be held "At the House of Mr William Ward, the BAY HORSE INN, in New Mills" (Stockport Advertiser, 22 November 1822). William Ward was the landlord throughout the rest of the 1820s and the name of the pub features regularly in the Stockport Advertiser during this period. For example, in December 1828 the pub made the news when three labouring men helped themselves to some bacon hung up in one of the rooms where they were drinking (Stockport Advertiser 25 September 1828) Another mention in the Stockport Advertiser concerns an auction held at the pub in October 1829 (Stockport Advertiser 25 September 1829). Then there is no further mention. But in November 1832 an inn called the "Crown" is mentioned for the first time



Market Street 1830. (A)

Drawing based on part of map NMLHS D427.

Market Street 1841 (B)

Drawing by Ron Weston based on part of the tithe map.

(Stockport Advertiser 16 November 1832, noted by Ron Weston) and William Ward was apparently the first landlord there (Pigot & Co's Directory of Cheshire, 1834). We know the location of the Crown because it still survives, in Market Street, although it was re-named the "Bees' Knees" in 1976.. But where was the Bay Horse? The newspaper evidence suggests that the pub went out of operation about 1830 and the Crown was its successor.

Vital information is given by a map of 1830 drawn up in connection with a proposed Water Act (NMLHS D427): see Illustration A. The Crown is not shown on the map, so this new inn must have been built between 1830 and 1832. But the Bay Horse is marked. Unfortunately the labelling of the original map leaves a slight uncertainty as to the exact building, although it is clear that the Bay Horse was at or near the junction of Market Street and High Street. This uncertainty is resolved by the

"folklore" of the town. I once heard or read somewhere that the Bay Horse was situated across the road from the Crown, and the present occupiers of "Peak Sports 5 Leisure" have been told that their shop was once a pub. So, the Bay Horse was almost certainly situated where I have marked it on illustration A.

At the time of the 1830 map, the upper end of Market Street continued directly into High Street. The 1830 map shows the "Intended Street" which was to form the upper end of Market Street and Spring Bank. This new stretch of road was built by 1836 (see New Mills History Notes No 7) and was well established by 1841 when the tithe map was made; see Illustration B. It is quite remarkable to see how much Market Street was developed in the period 1830 - 1841. The replacement of the Bay Horse by the Crown was one part of this development; an imposing new inn built for an expanding village, situated at an important new road junction.

Roger Bryant

MV "Strathconon"

New York to Marseilles

14 December 1988

New Mills Local History Society

As a footnote to the "Corn Mills of Cheshire" lecture it might be of interest to members to know of an unusual connection between one of the last working Cheshire corn mills and the Merchant Navy.

The water-powered corn mill situated beside the River Goyt in Marple Bridge was still operated by the Flowerdew family until the 1940s. Old Mr Flowerdew dearly wanted his grandson to continue in the business, but the boy chose to pursue a career further down the river where it became the Mersey, and went to sea.

He joined the famous Liverpool shipping company of Elder Dempster and eventually became captain commanding among many other ships the well known passenger liners "Accra" and "Apappa".

Captain Flowerdew, having survived the war in which the Elder Dempster Line lost more than half its ships, sadly died aboard his ship in the Atlantic, and is buried in Takoradi, Ghana.

In his memory, the Flowerdew Memorial Prize is still awarded annually by the Ocean Group to their best achieving Navigation cadet.

It was sad indeed when Flowerdew's mill was eventually demolished to make room for the Midland Hotel car park, as it was such a substantial stone building, and it was interesting to note that the date stone read exactly the same date whilst lying upside-down, "1691".

Ken Owen

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD

Across

1 Ollersett 7 Matron 10 Dale 12 Civic Amenity Society (initials) 13 BROC
15 Eyot 16 Pope 19 BD 20 Iris 21 Shedyard 25 Quay 26 Tar 27 Sly 29 Lena
30 Mae 31 Arden 33 Siren 34 NE 35 On 36 Lee 37 Eardrum 38 High Lea
(initials)

Down

1 Oldham Square 2 Lily 3 Em 4 Talc 5 TT 6 Coalpit Lane 8 RC 9 North/South
(initials) 11 Probate 13 By-(law) 14 Ot(ter) 15 Eddy 16 Pi 17 Or 18 ES(P) 19
Beard 22 Hayfield Union (initials) 23 Ransom 24 Drain 27 Smell 28 Ye(w) 29
LNER 32 End

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Committee Members of the Society are:-

Chairman - Derek Brumhead

Vice-Chairman/Publications Editor - Ron Weston

Secretary - John Humphreys

Treasurer - Olive Bowyer

Archivist - Roger Bryant

Co-editor of Newsletter - Margaret Cooper

Elected Members:

John Symonds, Barbara Matthews, Barry Dent, Kath Dent, David Pitcher

Co-opted Members:

Walter Kelly, Eileen Miller

Their addresses and telephone numbers are given in the Autumn 1989 Newsletter.

STOP PRESS!

Have you paid your 1989-90 subscription? It was due on 1 September and if we have not received it by the end of December we assure that you have decided

not to renew and you will not receive any more circulars. The Treasurer will be glad to give you information about signing a Deed of Covenant if you pay tax.

What about making a contribution to the next Newsletter? It should reach Margaret Cooper or Alicia Turnock by the end of May. You don't have to be the author of a best seller to write us a few lines.

HAVE YOU BOOKED THE DATES OF THE SPRING MEETINGS IN YOUR 1990 DIARY? NO FURTHER REMINDERS WILL BE SENT.