

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. 5 - AUTUMN 1990

THE AGM OF THE SOCIETY - 18 MAY 1990

The minutes of the previous AGM and this year's officers' reports were submitted and approved by the members. Olive Bowyer, who has been treasurer for a number of years, had decided not to stand for re-election to this position. The committee and members of the society expressed their grateful thanks to Olive for all her hard work which has enabled the society's financial affairs to run smoothly.

The Members of the Elected Committed are:-

Chairman	Derek Brumhead
Vice-Chairman	
& Publications Editor	Ron Weston
Secretary	John Humphreys
Treasurer	Barry Dent
Archivist	Roger Bryant
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Cooper
Programme Secretary	Barbara Matthews
Membership Secretary	Kath Dent
	Olive Bowyer
	David Pitcher
	John Symonds
Co-opted Members	Walter Kelly
	Eileen Miller

The business affairs concluded, we were given an insight into the great value of computers to the modern historian by society member David Pitcher. (Please see article in resume of talks.)

AUTUMN PROGRAMME 1990

All meetings are held in the Library Lecture Room on Hall Street at 7.45 pm.

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER: "The Aircraft Industry in Stockport" David George

FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER: "The History of Limestone Quarrying in Derbyshire" (a personalised view) Derek Burton

WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER: "Conservation Areas - Reality or Myth?" Bob Hawkins - DCC and Richard Tuffney - Borough of High Peak

They will relate what is happening, or about to happen, in New Mills to the wider context of Derbyshire Conservation areas and the national picture in so far as the law is concerned.

FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER: Quiz Night Roger Bryant Details to follow

NB PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW, AS NO FURTHER NOTICES WILL BE SENT OUT.

COFFEE MORNING & SALE OF PHOTOGRAPHS SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER LIBRARY LECTURE ROOM

In the summer of 1987 a number of Society Members made a photographic survey of New Mills, organised by John Symonds. Over 500 coloured photographs were taken. Most of the photographs were printed in duplicate and the spares are to be offered for sale at a Society Coffee Morning to be held in the Library Lecture Room on the morning of Saturday 27 October 1990.

REVIEWS

THE ROADS OF NEW MILLS

At a well attended meeting on Friday 8 December Roger Bryant spoke on the roads in New Mills with illustrations of early maps and of turnpikes and toll houses and more recently built roads.

He traced the development from Roman times, from a sparsely populated countryside to one which has seen many new roads to cater for the growth of industry, the increased movement of people and goods and the building of housing estates.

Roman roads are still identifiable today, notably the road from Buxton to Melandra via Chapel-en-le-Frith and Hayfield. Roads shown on 13th century maps are still to be found and were probably in use before that time. Millstones were transported from Kinder to the corn mills and this must have necessitated the use of wheeled vehicles of some kind.

John of Gaunt influenced the building of churches. There is evidence of oak being taken from Thornsett and Hayfield to Tideswell and Taddington in 1386. People in mediæval times began to move around the countryside to attend gatherings and meetings of various courts. It was not unusual to make return journeys of twenty miles or more in a day. From these times there is evidence of the growth of industry, of coal mining and textiles, which meant greater movement of people and vehicles. Pack horses came into use to transport textile goods. Many roads and bridges used by pack horses are still to be seen. Hostelries were built to cater for travellers, eg 'The Ram's Head', 'The Pack Horse'. Greater use of roads created the problems of care and maintenance which were primarily the responsibility of local people. Later the ecclesiastical parishes became responsible and heads of families were expected to give four to six days work on maintenance in a year. The cost of repairs gave rise to the introduction of turnpikes. Tolls were to be paid on entering these roads. Toll houses were built to house the keepers. The year 1751 saw the first Act of Parliament authorising the setting up of toll gates. There were many objections to the payment of toll money. Riots took place in some areas where it was felt that too many toll gates were met with on certain journeys. Charges varied according to the amount of damage a vehicle caused; narrow rimmed wheels caused more damage than wider ones and consequently a higher toll had to be paid. Because of increased traffic and movement of people there arose pressure from industrialists to improve roads.

The road from Marple to New Mills was begun in 1801 by a board of trustees formed by Samuel Oldknow and other industrialists. The road was built from Marple, through Strines and Hague Bar along what is now Market Street and then down High Street to the old bridge and up Dyehouse Lane. The higher road over Spring Bank was not constructed until 1820.

This new road from Marple was of greater advantage to New Mills than the surrounding area - opening up easier access for the products of industry to reach Stockport and other areas beyond.

Linda Ferguson

FAMILY HISTORY

The talk on 17 January 1990 was given by one of our society's own members, Marjorie Jones. She dealt with the topic in two sections.

First she implored us all to leave something of ourselves for future generations, as (hopefully) our forbears have done for us. We should seek out the holder of the family deed box so that we might uncover and preserve the treasured documents. Family photographs, perhaps including several generations, should be placed in plastic folders together with any relevant details, or, as Marjorie said, "a little potted history". Some photographs may need professional restoration, enlarging and the taking of a negative, and her advice was to shop around as prices were extremely variable.

We were all encouraged to buy three exercise books, one to write all about ourselves, another for our parents and the third for memories. These are to be placed in an envelope and addressed to our great-grandchildren, who, she assured us, would be forever grateful.

The second half of the talk was on "Genealogy" - a family tree. Marjorie described how to start compiling the family tree, beginning with ourselves and working backwards, following the male line and later adding the female or distaff line. Various sources of information were suggested the family deed box, parish registers, census returns, the International Genealogy Index compiled by the Mormon Church, St Catherine's House, probate offices and the War Office. Many of these places require you to book ahead and they make a charge for photocopying documents. Details of how to commence untangling your family tree could be found in some helpful books in the local library.

Marjorie concluded her talk by asking if anyone would like to hear "a little scandal" and of course we all pricked up our ears whilst she revealed the murkier side of some of her ancestors.

The evening certainly instilled enthusiasm for me and, I'm sure, many others, to ask my aged relatives to write down their memories and to begin delving into the family past, hoping to uncover a famous connection or at the very least a little indiscretion-

MA Cooper

CASTLEFIELD

In his profusely illustrated talk our Chairman, Derek Drumhead, outlined the history of the Castlefield area of Manchester and described the varied attractions of Britain's first Urban Heritage Park. Here the city could be said to begin its 1,900 year story with the Roman fort built on a sandstone crag commanding the River Medlock crossing, with an adjacent civilian settlement, Almost entirely neglected for some 1,350 years after the departure of the Romans, Castlefield was finally rescued by the vision and enterprise of the third Duke of Bridgewater and James Brindley, who in 1764 constructed the first 'modern' canal in Britain to

bring coal from the Worsley mines to an elaborate terminus on the canalised Wed-lock.

In addition to containerised coal traffic and other produce, this Bridgewater basin quickly attracted a variety of other businesses and became in effect Manchester's first industrial estate. In 1805 the Rochdale Canal was extended through the Castlefield area to join the Bridgewater Canal at Duke's Lock. Although the canal network remained viable into the present century it was progressively overshadowed by the dramatic developments of the Railway Age. In 1830 the Liverpool and Manchester Railway reached Manchester with its terminus on the Liverpool Road and the construction there of the first railway passenger station and first railway warehouse in the world. In 1849 the Manchester, South Junction and Altrincham Railway - the city's first suburban line - crossed the area on two great brick viaducts. Another viaduct carried the Cheshire Lines system across Castlefield in 1877, and this was extended to Central Station in 1890. Eight years later yet another massive viaduct was constructed to carry the Great Northern Railway line . to its new Goods Warehouse on the other side of Deansgate. With the railways came housing, inns, a public library, covered market halls, a church and a goods transfer shed.

Sadly run down in the 1950s and 1960s, the Castlefield complex has now been saved by a combination of civic, individual and commercial enterprise. With archaeological excavations in the Fort area, restoration of the canal basins, refurbishment of the Liverpool Road Station buildings, the opening of the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, the setting up of the Castlefield Information Centre and other welcome developments, there is now a great deal to visit and see. Arm yourself with 'A Walk Round Castlefield' by Derek Brumhead and Terry Wyke and go on a fascinating tour of our Urban Heritage Park!

Grahame Miller

FAMILY LIFE IN MANCHESTER

David Davies gave an entertaining 'Cook's tour' of the pressures and developments which affected family life in Manchester between 1860 and 1900.. An action packed two hours contrasted the lives and relationships of middle and lower middle class families with the experiences of artisans and the unskilled urban poor. Mr Davies depicted the various political, economic and social changes which took place during these years, and in so doing highlighted the extent to which they excluded the unskilled poor. He concluded with the pessimistic view that family life for the poorest amounted to virtually nothing until the 1900s.

The very nature of his lively account whetted the appetite for more information about all manner of issues, but perhaps inevitably, given its picturesque focus, failed to give sufficient emphasis to the role and burdens which sustaining family life placed on women of all classes during this period.

Melanie Tebbutt

HAYFIELD - 19TH CENTURY INDUSTRIAL VILLAGE

In her talk, Joan Powell described the development of Hayfield from its beginning as a small settlement at Kinder on the pack horse routes, to the thriving industrial village it became during the 19th century.

Hayfield was geographically isolated, with just a few sheep farmers and domestic

spinners and weavers until the coming of the turnpike road in 1792, opening up the routes to Marple Bridge and Stockport. Small mills were built at Phoside and Grotto Mill by the river in the centre of the village. Later the advent of steam power and the coming of the branch line railway brought the bigger mills and calico print works to the valley.

Mrs Powell also gave us an insight into the social life of the village which flourished with the ever growing population. There had been a church in Hayfield from the 12th century, but the Methodist movement was very strong in the 1800s, each sect building its own chapel by public subscription. In 1604 the church gave £10 for the setting up of a school. This was housed in various buildings over the years as the number of children increased. In 1831, five Methodist chapels and the church joined together to build the Town Day School which the church could use as a Sunday School. Later there were some rather unchristian tactics to do with money and appointees and the church cored the school. The new Board School opened in 1881.

There was a Hayfield Co-operative Society, formed in 1865, and the number of shopkeepers increased from six in 1824 to twenty-two in 1892. The Manchester and County Bank opened a branch as the village's prosperity grew. There were reading rooms and libraries, a town band, a cricket club and numerous societies. The railway brought tourists and the beginnings of a whole new industry - a far cry from Hayfield's beginnings as a river crossing for pack horses.

Margaret Cooper

A COMPUTERISED 1990s VIEW OF NEW MILLS OVER A CENTURY AGO

On 18 May the AGM was followed by an enlightening talk given by committee member David Pitcher. David has been working for the past four years on a project to computerise the 1881 census. When he embarked on this study he thought it would be a relatively simple task to compile the data into an easily retrievable form. He revealed that had he realised the immensity of the task he might well have had second thoughts:

David explained how the early censuses were taken and statistics collated, from the first regular census in 1801, to the formation of the General Registry Office in London, up to the present day. Inaccuracies were fairly common and can lead to much confusion.

The information and combinations of statistics that could be extracted for analysis and study seemed unlimited and I am sure will provide an invaluable resource for all. It is envisaged that it will be available for use at the Heritage Centre.

Margaret Cooper

"FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS"

THE OLLERSETT WATERWORKS , 1831 - 1907

Before the nineteenth century most towns and rural areas depended for their water supply on a combination of sources - rainwater, wells, pumps, springs, ponds, reservoirs, streams and rivers. Very few towns had a piped supply, and before the 1830s, outside a few large towns, there were no official municipal supplies at all.

However, rapid economic growth and urbanisation at the beginning of the nineteenth century brought an increase in demand from domestic and industrial users. It became necessary to regularise and improve supplies either through private arrangements, profit-seeking companies, or - increasingly as the decades passed - through municipalisation. However, in the first half of the nineteenth century, local authority districts outside existing Boroughs were handicapped not only by an out-of-date system of local government but also by the lack of adequate or explicit powers for long term borrowing to finance municipal schemes. This was particularly the case with small towns at the beginning of their growth such as New Mills which consisted of four rural hamlets of Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett and Whitle, which were administered under various jurisdictions such as the Poor Law (the Hayfield and New Mills Union after 1834), the Parish, the Justices of the Peace and other arrangements and did not have a Local Board (known originally as the Urban District Sanitary Authority) until after. Parliament passed the Public Health Act of 1875.

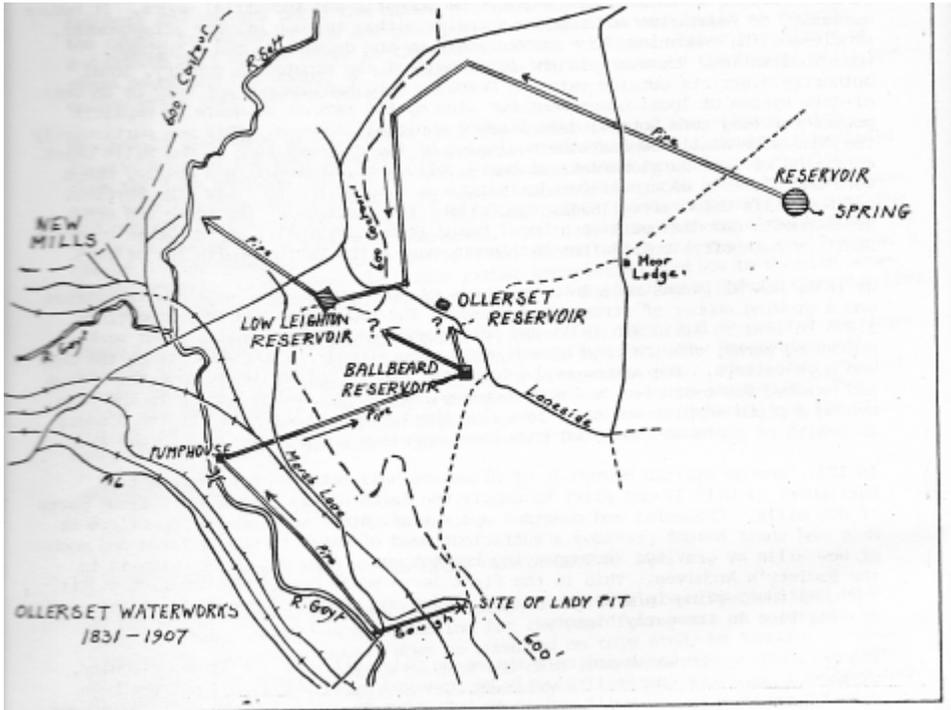
By 1831, New Mills was well into the cycle of economic growth, with new industries' and a growing number of streets and houses. The population had increased from 1,878 in 1801 to 3,510 (in 1831) and cotton and paper mills, calico print works, engraving works, chemical and bleach works were already in operation along the Sett and Goyt valleys. The arrangements for water supply had become inadequate. Farms had existed for centuries on local supplies, but houses and factories in the town needed a piped supply; and there was also the increasing awareness of the dangers to health of contaminated water from local supplies and of fire in an urban area.

In 1831, George William Newton JP of Ollersett Hall obtained a private Act of Parliament (1 Will IV cap xlix) to supply the farms of his estate and various parts of New Mills. "Powerful and constant springs of water" were present on Ollersett Moor and their height provided a sufficient head of water to supply farms and much of New Mills by gravity. Accompanying the Act was a map, a copy of which is in the Society's Archives. This is the first large scale map of the district and it includes interesting information on the layout and growth of New Mills at this crucial time in its early history.

The original scheme was based on a spring on Ollersett Moor. A large, circular, silted-up reservoir can still clearly be observed here, but it has not yet been ascertained when it was built and it is not shown on any known map. Close inspection reveals an island, which in less exposed conditions presumably would have had a dovecote!

Water from here fed a main reservoir at Low Leighton, from where it was distributed unfiltered to the town. The height of Low Leighton Reservoir was just under 600 feet and since most of New Mills was under this height too (the contour line in the town west of the River Sett runs parallel to and just above Spring Bank Road), those parts of the town could be supplied by gravity. The part that Ollersett Reservoir played is at the moment uncertain, but from map evidence it appears to have been built between 1858 and 1879 and later it is known to have fed water to Low Leighton Reservoir. There was also another small reservoir near Morland House in Birch Vale, which served that area.

As the nineteenth century progressed, this supply became inadequate and there were many complaints from the town, including interrupted supplies, filthy water and "impurities therein consisting of frogs, etc" (All the reservoirs were open). In the late 1880s, a new spring of clear water suddenly appeared fortuitously in the sough (drainage tunnel) of Lady Pit, near Gowhole, when a side drift was being driven. The owner of the waterworks, who by then was Francis John Sumner, arranged for this water to be piped from Gowhole to Goytside from where it was pumped by a turbine pump up to a new reservoir at Ballbeard. This pump or water ram was housed in a small square stone building still standing by the side of the river at Goytside.



It was driven by water from the river, hence the weir at this point to provide a steady supply for the pump. It is not certain at the moment whether Ballbeard reservoir, at the end of the nineteenth century, fed water to Low Leighton reservoir, to Ollersett reservoir or directly into the town mains.

The Ollersett Waterworks continued to supply water to New Mills throughout the nineteenth century and remained in private hands until 1907 when, after thirty-one years of protracted correspondence, reports, meetings, negotiations and a failed Parliament Bill (1899), it was purchased by the New Mills Urban District Council for £11,000 under an Act of Parliament (6 Edward VII cap xxxv, 1906). It is intended to publish an account of the history of these waterworks.

Derek Brumhead

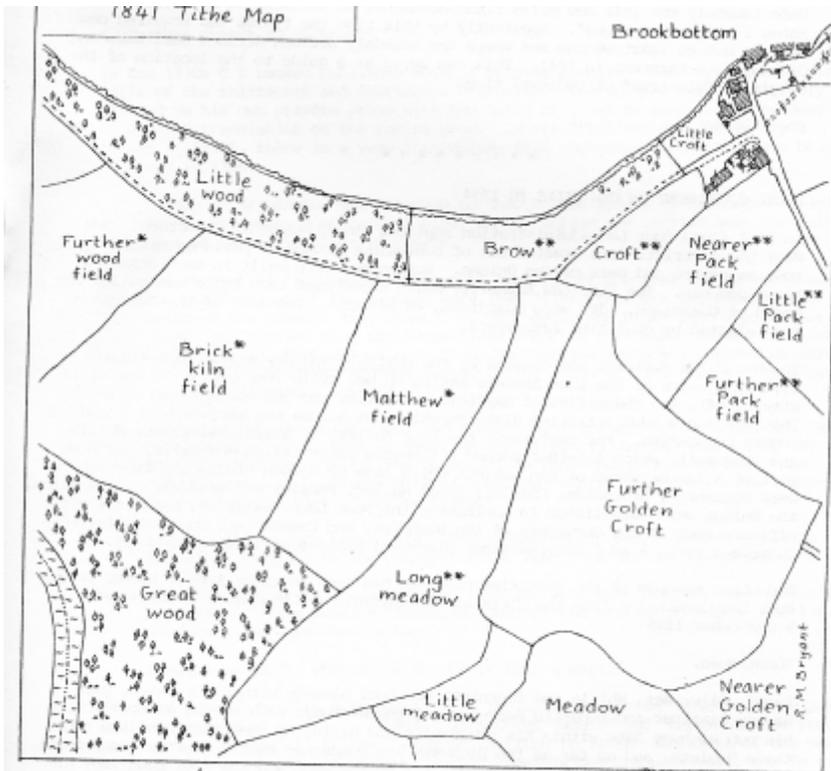
NEW MILLS PLACES - 4 "FALUNTRES" - A LOST NAME,

Historical documents often contain place-names which are no longer in use and cannot be easily located. Such a name is "Faluntres" - the name of a piece of land s-#,cs.tre in the "will of Bowden" which was apparently first taken into use in

1400. Later documents show that this land was in the New Mills district, and its location can be tied down quite closely.

The first reference is in a High Peak bailiff's account (PRO DL 29/22/374) where it is recorded that "William de Clayton" had a piece of land called "Faluntres" in the vill of Bowden for a 40 year lease which started in 1400. He paid an annual rent of 2s-2d to the king, and this was apparently a newly-created rent. It is likely that the land had been taken in from waste land or common land. Judging by the name (which is "fallen trees" in a later form) the land was probably in a wooded area. In another bailiff's account (DL 29/22/375) the same information is repeated with the name variations "William Clayton" and "Fallontres".

William de Clayton was probably the same man as the William de Clayton who stood surety for Robert. Symmesson in 1398 concerning payment of 10 shillings for an oak tree taken by Symmesson from Whitle Wood (DL 30/128/1914). The fact that the boundary between Strines Hall Farm (*) and Gilbody Gate Farm (**) in 1841. "Faluntres" was in this area.



The boundary between Strines Hall Farm (*) and Gilbody Gate Farm (**) in 1841. "Faluntres" was in this area.

'Faluntres' in Whitle is established by a slightly later piece of evidence. This is a list of Crown rents in the High Peak (DL 43/1/25). Although the list is undated and said to be of the reign of Edward IV, the corn mill rents correspond to those operative between 1436 and 1456. This rent list has a William Clayton paying rent for several pieces of land in Whitle including 2s-2d for "Fallentre". It seems likely that he was a member of the Clayton family of Strines who enjoyed gentry status there for several centuries. The most recent reference to "Faluntres" that I have come across is in some eighteenth century deeds concerned with the Strines estate (see New Mills History Nottes No 17, page 40). In 1728 the fields that went with Strines Hall included "the fallen trees" and "the fallen trees wood", while the fields that went with Gilbody Gate Farm (in Brook-bottom) included "the fallen trees meadow" and "the fallen trees meadow wood". Thus it seems that "Faluntres" was located around the boundary area between Strines Hall Farm and Gllbody Gate Farm. •

Unfortunately the 1841 New Mills title documents do not mention any fields with names like "fallen trees". Apparently by this time the fields had acquired new names. But at least we can see where the boundary between Strines Hall Farm and Gilbody Gate Farm was in 1841. This can serve as a guide to the location of the original "Faluntres" of medieval times

Roger Bryant

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW MILLS IN 1834

In 1834 a new Poor Law administration replaced the Elizabethan structure. New Poor Law districts were created out of convenient groups of parishes with a local town as centre and were called Unions. Workhouses were built in each Union to house paupers. The Poor Law Authority which ruled over each Union was called the Board of Guardians. JPs were Guardians, ex officio. The rest of the Guardians were elected by qualified ratepayers.

The New Mills district was covered by the Hayfield and New Mills Union formed in 1834 by a union of the four hamlets making up New Mills (the parish of New Mills after 1844), the chapelries of Hayfield and Mellor and the township of Disley. This was a new administrative division which cut across the ancient hamlet and county boundaries. For centuries, the four hamlets of Beard, Ollersett, Whitle and Thornsett, which together formed a township later called New Mills, had been part of a larger group of ten hamlets which made up Bowden Middlecale (the others were Bugsworth, Brownside, Chinley, Great Hamlet, Phoside and Kinder). In addition, the Unions were established to administer the Poor Laws, while the hamlets - with officers such as the Surveyors of the Highways, and Constables, who often levied their own rates - administered other piecemeal aspects of local government.

One minor example of the resulting problems has come to light from a letter to the Poor Law Commission from the Clerk of the Hayfield and New Mills Union dated 5 September 1845: "Gentlemen, Beard, Ollersett, Whitle and Thornsett are four hamlets within the Union, each having distinct and separate Surveyors of the Highways each making and collecting his own Highway Pate within his own Hamlet and having no connexion with the other tree Hamlets, and so far as the Highways are concerned each Hamlet is independent of the others, but in all matters relating to the Poor and the Poor Laws they are

united as one Township under one set of Overseers who think that under these circumstances they should be considered as the Officers of one Township yet the Magistrates' Clerks frequently charge them Fees for four Townships."

The letter goes on to complain that a person designated separately as the Constable of each of the four hamlets submitted three identical claims of 9/-travelling expenses to the Overseer for attending the Magistrates at the Annual Licensing Day at Buxton, when of course he had made only one journey. There would have been four claims if Beard had had a "licensed victualling house"!

With the recent controversy over the proposed closure of the Ollersett View Hospital, it is interesting to note that this was built in 1841 as the Hayfield and New Mills Union Workhouse.

Derek Brumhead

A MEDIEVAL CHAPEL AT THORNSETT

In the 1930s C E Lugard published several volumes compiled from Derbyshire assize rolls of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The volumes were beautifully printed on his own private press with the Latin original on each left-hand page and an English translation on the facing page. In his "Trailbaston, Derbyshire", Volume 2 (1935), there is a very interesting item contained among the pleas heard at Derby in 1306: "Ralph de Brymington was attached to answer John Pycard of Bolleshovere and Agnes, his wife, concerning a plea, why he seized and carried away the furnishings of their Chapel of Thornsete.

And whereof it is complained, that he came, on Friday next before the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary (Feb 2), in the 31st year(1302-3), of the reign of the present King Edward, to Thornsete, and broke into their manor, and seized and carried away the furnishings found in the Chapel of the said manor, and committed other wrongs upon them, against the Peace &c, whereof he says, that he is the worse, and has damage to the vale of £10. And for this cause, he brings forward a suit &c.

And the aforesaid Ralph came, and denies the force and injury when, &c. And he entirely denies, that he ever, on the aforesaid day and year, made any trespass on them, against the Peace &c, as they charge against him. And concerning this, he places himself upon the country, and the others likewise. On that account, let a Jury be taken.

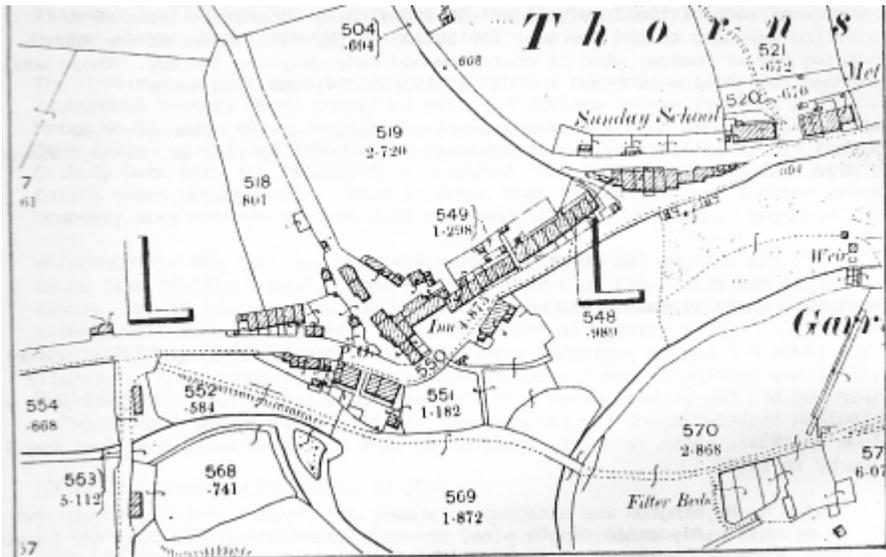
The Jurors say upon their oath, that the aforesaid Ralph is guilty of the aforesaid trespass to the damage, of the same John and Agnes, of one mark.

On that account, it is considered, that the aforesaid John and Agnes, his wife, may recover their damages aforesaid, against the aforesaid Ralph. And let the same Ralph be committed to Gaol.

Damages one mark, whereof to the Clerk half a mark."

The word "manor" here is a translation of the Latin "manerium" which could equally well be translated as "manor-house". (The words "manse" and "mansion" come from the same root as "manor".) If the Thornsett referred to is the Thornsett of the New Mills district then this manor-house would probably be Thornsett Hall, now Thornsett

Hey Farm. I was shown round the farm buildings a few years ago and there are many interesting internal features of early date. It is quite possible that one of the roofs was once used as a chapel.



Thornsett Hall (numbered 550) on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1898.

I would be more confident that the Thornsett referred to is our local Thornsett if I recognised the names of the people. On the face of it Ralph de Brimington and John Pycard of Bolsover do not sound like local people and I have not come across their names elsewhere in connection with the New Hills district.

But there is good corroborative evidence for the chapel in another source.

J P Yeatman, in Volume 3 of his "Feudal History of the County of Derby" (c 1902) published long extracts from the rolls of the Forest of the Peak. In the rolls of the time of Henry III there is repeated mention of a man called Adam, son of the chaplain of Thornsett. The details make it clear that this is the Thornsett of the New Mills district. (Adam is once described as son of the chaplain of Ollersett. On another occasion Rd de Aspenshaw stands bail for him. His name also occurs in connection with an assart made at Glossop, and he is one of those listed as having had a house without warrant in Bowden.)

So it does seem that there was a chaplain at our Thornsett in Henry III's time (1216-1272). A chapel in 1303 is therefore perfectly plausible. I would be delighted to know if anyone could throw any further light on this.

Roger Bryant

This extract is taken from "OPEN HISTORY" (the Quarterly Magazine of the Open University History Society) No 34 Spring 1990.

'The Peak Forest Canal: Its Construction and Later Development' by Olive Bowyer (research paper). New Mills Local History Society, Heritage Centre, Rock Mill Lane, New Mills, Stockport, SK12 3ES. 67 pp, A4, ill. and maps. £1.50

The author and her parent History Society are to be congratulated in taking the final step, so often omitted in local history research projects, and publishing results to the wider readership that papers of this sort reach out to.

As a report rather than a book this work is well presented within the limits imposed by cost and manner of reproduction open to local societies and at £1.50 is good value.

Olive Bowyer's subject is a comparatively short section of canal which is today part of the Cheshire Ring. It was conceived in 1793 and opened as a commercial waterway in 1800. The author explores its history from before work of construction started, through its full-flush as a working waterway in commercial use, to its decline as such in the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to end with a section about its revival and integration into the Cheshire Ring - a leisure canal which provides holiday-makers with a circular route through a picturesque and historically interesting part of central England.

In a detailed and well researched account, Olive Bowyer includes such matters as its origins, construction - including many references to the engineers and business-men involved. She extends the canal material to include associated tramways and later railways and the building of Marple Locks, the large canal basin at Bugsworth and the Peak Forest Canal's linkage with the national network. A chapter is devoted to the working of the canal and others to such matters as the Marple Lime Kilns Railway and long distance routes et al.

The paper is a research project in considerable depth. One of its strong points is the cross-referencing to various canal projects elsewhere which have a bearing and to the men of the canals who advised and assisted in the construction of the Peak Forest so that readers are given a glimpse of how the burgeoning volume of engineering know-how of the time fits together and how the ideas used with success (or otherwise) in other places are wound into the Peak Forest Canal's construction. Following up these cross-references is a fascinating study spanning the whole panorama of the canal-building age.

A matter which has given this reviewer some hours of thought is that the whole paper relies entirely on secondary sources augmented by the author's own field studies. One can, I suppose, view research as resulting in 'Pushing out the frontiers of historical knowledge' and it is difficult to see how this can be achieved unless research into formerly unpublished primary sources is undertaken. My first thoughts were that despite the vast amount of research and the careful synthesis of the material, Olive Bowyer's paper falls short of 'original' content, relying as it does on so much that has already been published. On second thoughts and re-reading the paper through very carefully a couple more times, I have come to the conclusion that this paper, by amalgamating such a diverse range of secondary material, much of which would not formerly have been applied to this particular topic she has indeed 'pushed out the frontiers' and provided her readers with what by any yardstick must be the definitive history of the Peak Forest Canal.

The paper is, therefore, commended, and recommended to other historians as an 'archive paper' well worth space in the toolkit of any who are interested in the topic of canals.

Ron Watts

ANYONE WISH TO RENT OR BUY A GAS COOKER?

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"Porcellanite" Linings
White Enamelled Crown Plate
Patent Smoothing-iron Heater

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No. 130 ... *Price with Gas Meter Reading See Table for Hire Rates.*

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No.	Rate per Quarter
131	6d.
40	6d.
50	6d.
60	6d.
75	9d.
100	9d.

Three Years Hire-purchase.

No.	Price per Quarter
130	11/-
140	13 1
160	18 9

ALL STOVES FIXED FREE OF CHARGE.

For Cash Prices apply to the Gas Manager, Mr. F. Lancashire.

Price of Gas for Cooking, Heating and Motive Power, 2/8 less 5 per cent.

No.	Inside Dimensions of Oven from Front to Back			No. of Flues	Height over all	No. of Burners (on the Stove)	Price (including and exclusive of meter and with White Enamelled Crown Plate)
	Price Back to Front	Width	Height				
60	12 1/2 in.	23 1/2 in.	25 in.	15 1/2 in. by 15 1/2 in.	33 in.	4	£5 2 6
75	15	24	27	22 1/2 in. by 19 1/2 in.	34 1/2 in.	4	5 10 0
100	15	25	28	23 1/2 in. by 21 1/2 in.	35 in.	5	6 13 6
120	16 1/2	27	29 1/2	23 1/2 in. by 21 1/2 in.	36 1/2 in.	6	7 17 6
140	18 1/2	29	29 1/2	27 1/2 in. by 25 1/2 in.	37 1/2 in.	6	9 8 6

NEW MILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL GAS DEPARTMENT

This advertisement, thought to date from around the time of the first world war, was found among the Town Hall records.

EXTRACTS FROM BURIAL RECORDS (1817 - 1836) TAKEN FROM MICROFILM HELD AT NEW MILLS LIBRARY

ELIZA, daughter of EDWARD and MARTHA TURNER of Hayfield, aged 13, killed in a cotton mill.

THOMAS, son of JOHN and ELLEN MARRIOTT of Hill House, Kinder, aged 11 years. He was killed by a large trunk of tree falling upon him.

ROBERT STAFFORD of Birch Hall. A ringer of Hayfield Church who was accidentally killed in an instant by the falling of the Tenor. Bell.

WILLIAM BOOTH of Hayfield, aged 39, supposed to be killed while he was poaching, in an affray with some gamekeepers.

AGNES CHATTERTON of Hayfield. This poor woman cut her throat, being at the time in a state of temporary insanity.

ELIZABETH STANSFIELD, 18 yrs, New Mills.

Accidentally drowned at New Mills on the morning of the 12th, having fallen into the River Goyt on her way to Armstrongs' factory.

GEORGE RANGELEY of Hayfield, age 67. Died awfully sudden at Chapel-en-le-Frith when in act of stooping down to take a bag of flour on his back to carry to his cart.

JAMES GARSIDE This poor man was found dead (on?) Kinder. He is supposed to have missed his way and been lost and, it is feared intoxicated, he laid down, fell asleep and was starved to death. His usual place of abode is unknown, supposed to be a native of Saddleworth, Yorks. When buried - FEB 14th (1836) - supposed about 50 yrs old.

Kath Dent

GENEALOGIST'S APPEAL

RICH - PEARSON - CHATTERTON

Mrs Dianne Loveridge who is tracing her family tree would be grateful for information about MARY ANN RICH (born 10 1 1819 in New Mills) who married HENRY PEARSON (blacksmith, born 11 4 1820).

Mary Ann Rich may have been related to the CHATTERTON family.

If you can help please write to Mrs D Loveridge, 62 Wolfreton Lane, Willerby, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU10 6PT.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that your annual subscription of £1.50 (under 18), £3 (individual) or £6 (family - up to 6 members living at the same address) falls due on 1 September, but may be paid before that date or at our first meeting. If you are a taxpayer, the Treasurer will be glad to supply you with information about paying by Deed of Covenant.

This is simple to do and costs you nothing, and is a legal way of increasing our income, since, under the present tax rates, the Society can recover £1 (tax which you have already paid) on every £3 subscription paid in this way. It's worth considering, surely?

NB Have you made a note in your diary of the dates for the Autumn meetings and our Coffee Morning and Photographic Sale?

We hope you have enjoyed reading this Newsletter.

If so, why not make a contribution towards the next edition? Are you interested in some particular aspect of Local History, perhaps one which has never been mentioned? Why not write a few lines about it? Or perhaps just a letter to the Editor telling

her what you like best about the Newsletter, and if there is anything else you would like her to include in it. You do not have to be a genius to do this, and we would like to see many more items from members other than those who form the committee.

Contributions should reach the Editor (Mrs Margaret Cooper, 33 Parkway, New Mills, STOCKPORT, SK12 4DU) by the end of October for inclusion in the Spring 1991 edition.