

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.8 – SPRING 1992

SPRING PROGRAMME 1992

- Friday 10th January New Mills between 1540-1650. An explanation by various members of the group currently working on the Probate Records.
- Friday 14th February Railways around Stockport & New Mills
Speaker: Greg Fox
- Friday 13th March The Watermill in Village Life
Speaker: Dr. Cyril Boucher
- Friday 10th April Reflections on Hayfield
Speaker: Ken Rangeley
- Friday 8th May A.G.M.
followed by Margaret Bedgood talking about her hobby of collecting fans.

All meetings are held at Sett Valley House and commence at 7.45pm.
'Tea and Biscuits are on sale at the end. Price 20p

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

QUIZ NIGHT - 20th March 1992, - This is not just a local history quiz but will include many topics. Details to follow.

SUMMER EXCURSION - 16th May 1992. Wigan Pier again details to follow.

REVIEWS

BELLE VUE - The Rise and Fall.

Our guest for the October meeting was Robert Nicholls who spoke on the history of Belle Vue, Manchester. Robert has made a study of the development of the site from its early beginnings as Belle Vue Tea Gardens to "The Show-ground of the World" in its heyday, and sadly through to its demise and eventual closure in the early 1980's.

His talk brought back many memories of the anticipation, excitement and joy that a visit used to conjure up amongst our audience. Of Firework Displays, Brass Band Concerts, A breath-taking ride on "The Bobs", the circus, as well as the animals in the Zoological Gardens. Many associated Belle Vue with Speedway, Greyhound Racing, and Exhibitions of every kind; others, family excursions. For me though Belle Vue evokes childhood memories of very sad looking animals housed in crumbling and inadequate conditions, draughty exhibition halls and an amusement park which had fallen behind with the times. Robert Nicholls' book "Looking Back at Belle Vue" contains many photographs to illustrate the chronological development of the site. I note that there is a photograph of "Consul II", a chimpanzee riding a tricycle, in the mid-1890's. Was he an ancestor of the "Consul" that appeared at The Empire Theatre (The Art Theatre) in New Mills in June 1912? (See Newsletter Edition No. 6 Spring 1991)

Margaret Cooper

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY RAINOW, A talk by Jane Laughton

When she visited our recent "New Mills 600" exhibition, Jane Laughton was struck by the similarities that exist between 17th century New Mills and Rainow during that period. She commenced her talk by pointing out these similarities: both were areas of dispersed settlement, set in a landscape of moorland and upland pastures; areas whose Carboniferous rocks of sandstones, grits and shales yielded little to the farmer, but offered resources of powerful streams, building stone and coal by way of compensation. Both lay within the bounds of Royal Forests, New Mills in the High Peak, Rainow in Macclesfield Forest. The chief documentary sources that Jane Laughton used in her study of Rainow are the records of the Earls of Derby, the principal property owners in the township, and in particular a land survey dated 1611, parish records and above all probate records.

Her talk was based on series of slides showing the remnants of the past as observed in the present landscape. The township of Rainow, she explained, consists of three parts, Harrop, Saltersford and Rainow itself. Whilst Harrop and Saltersford were owned by the Earls of Derby who encouraged commercial farming, particularly the raising of cattle, Rainow, by contrast, remained a district of small farmers, more preoccupied with subsistence.

Jane Laughton stressed the value of the very extensive wastes and commons as a vital ingredient to livestock farming. The ancient enclosed lands were devoted mainly to meadows (for the supply of hay) and pasture, with sheep and cattle the mainstay of the farm economy. Some land was ploughed for growing crops for home consumption. No wheat was grown, only rye, barley and oats.

As in 17th century New Mills, in Rainow it was necessary for the population to turn to other economic activities to supplement the meagre returns from farming. Jane Laughton presented the documentary and field evidence for the woollen textile industry, which was not developed to any great extent commercially, despite the existence of a fulling mill, the making of silk-covered buttons, in which the people of Rainow participated as part of the "putting out system" by Macclesfield companies, and coal mining.

Rainow had several people employed as carriers in the 17th century. The famous firm of Pickfords originated in the area at that time.

Jane Laughton finished her talk with an illustrated account of some of the houses in Rainow with features dating back to the 17th century. Unfortunately, no tinter-framed houses of the period have survived, rebinding in stone being the rule; but in some cases, internal evidence, and documentary evidence, of timber framing remains.

Jane Laughton is to be greatly commended for her succinct and charming presentation of a topic researched with thoroughness and imaginative insight. She is an able historian who has successfully married the evidence that can be gleaned from the present day landscape with the records of the past, to present a coherent and convincing picture of life in 17th century Rainow.

Ron Weston

"FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS"

WHEN OLLERSETT VIEW HOSPITAL WAS A WORKHOUSE

The controversy over the proposals to privatise Ollersett View Hospital in Low Leighton, New Mills, reminds us that this building was built in 1841 as the Poor Law Union Workhouse.

In 1837, under the Poor Law Amendment of 1834, the Hayfield and New Mills Union was formed out of the four hamlets making up New Mills (Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett and Whitle) together with Hayfield, Mellor and Disley. The work of the Union was administered by the Board of Guardians and the first meeting was held on 7 December 1837. In the Chair was Thomas Stevens, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner. A Clerk was immediately appointed - Moses Hadfield JP at £50 per year - and it was agreed to advertise for a Relieving Officer at £70 per year.

The 1834 Act attempted to standardise practice throughout the land and constituted a virtual revolution in local government. It abolished the allowance system and introduced the workhouse test and the principle of "less eligibility", that is the refusal of all relief to the able-bodied except in a "well-regulated" workhouse where deterrent conditions would ensure that the pauper was not better off than a working person.

Since the provision of a Workhouse was therefore a requirement of the new Act a sub-committee was immediately appointed to look into the matter of providing a workhouse centrally situated within the Union. After several attempts a site was found eventually at Low Leighton, a meadow called Park "with a stone pit in it and adjoining the foot road leading to Low Leighton from New Mills", owned by the Trustees of Priestcliff School. In November 1839 a quotation from Mr. Dennis Rangeley of £1750 for building the Workhouse was accepted and the Board set about obtaining a loan. However, the funds set aside by the Exchequer for this purpose were now exhausted and a mortgage secured on the poor rates had to be negotiated privately. Work commenced in Spring 1840 and by the Autumn equipment and furniture were being ordered, among them being stoves, brewpans, steamers and kitchen ranges for £46-4-0 and iron bedsteads for £32-6-0. A pigsty was ordered to be erected and one pig purchased "for the benefit of the Union". Shortly before the Workhouse took in its first inmates in June 1841 a weekly dietary table was approved by the Board of Guardians.

DIETARY TABLE

Day	Breakfast		Dinner				Supper		
	B	OMP	B	BM	PS	PM	B	C	OMP
	ozs	ozs	ozs	ozs	ozs	ozs	ozs	ozs	ozs
Sun	M6 W5	-	-	M5 W4	-	-	M6 W5	2/1*	-
Mon	-	2	6/5	-	1½	-	-	-	2
Tue	-	2	-	-	-	M2¼/W2	-	-	2
Wed	-	2	-	M5 W4	1½	-	-	-	2
Thu	-	2	6/5	-	-	-	-	-	2
Fri	-	2	-	-	-	M2¼/W2-	-	-	2
Sat	-	2	-	-	-	M2¼/W2-	-	-	2

KEY

B	Bread	*	1oz butter instead of 2ozs
OMP	Oat Meal Porridge		cheese if desired
BM	Butchers Meat (cooked)	M	Men
PS	Pea Soup	W	Women
PM	Potato Mash		
C	Cheese		

Men and Women to have 1 pint of skimmed milk to thin the oat meal porridge in the morning and 1 pint of butter milk to the porridge for their supper. Children a little treacle.

Over 60s - 1oz tea, 5ozs butter, 7ozs sugar, 31/21b bread in lieu of porridge, breakfast and supper. Children under 7 dieted at discretion.

Derek Brumhead

The Picturedrome - Mr. David Taylor.

In the Autumn 1991 edition of the Newsletter, the piece concerning the Picturedrome mentions a Mr. David Taylor as co-applicant for the renewal of its licence with the proprietor, Mr. Stratton Wells. I wonder can it be the same David Taylor who was so well-known around the district between the wars?

One of the chief organisers of social events in the New Mills area, David Taylor was the Chairman of the New Mills Old Prize Band and on the Executive Committee of the New Mills Co-operative Society, too, and his photograph must have appeared in the local press many times in connection with his work for the Co-op Galas and New Mills Carnival as well. I recall a well-circulated one, dated sometime in the 1920's, in which he is seated in the centre of the front row surrounded by the Old Prize Band.

At the beginning of the Second World War, he acted as a temporary agent for the Co-operative Insurance Society, recalled from retirement when the younger men were called-up for active service.

His son, Raymond (Ray) Taylor was for many years the manager of the Regent Cinema in Marple, and his grandson, Walter, was player-manager of High Lea Football Club in the 1950's.

Albert Hudson

Note from the Editor: See New Mills and District, A Look Back by Roger Bryant and John Symonds, Page 10. Is this the said picture? A piece of sheet music by Ray Taylor, "I looked in your eyes Sweetheart" was recently donated to the Heritage Centre by Mr A.Harrop of Whaley Bridge. He says that Ray Taylor also accompanied pictures in the Art Theatre in the 1920's.

MELLOR REGISTERS (TRANSCRIBED BY TOM AND DOREEN OLDHAM)

A comment by the Incumbent in 1810 noted by Derek Brumhead

"The Number of Baptisms here is diminished of late through ye Methodist Preachers taking upon them to baptize & to administer ye Lord's Supper, tho' formerly they professed to be Members of ye Church of England, & tho' Mr Wesley severely rebuked them for attempting to usurp ye Right to administering either of ye Sacraments, being mere Layman. Ever since my coming hither most of ye illegitimate Children have been taken for Baptism to some other of ye Separatists in Order that ye lewd Mothers might escape a serious Admonition, M.O."

THE MAZEREENE CONNECTION

Many of the old deeds and other documents which have survived for this area of New Mills, mention the name Anne Mazereene (sic), sometimes called Lady, Countess, or Dowager Countess.

So, who was Anne Mazereene?

She was Anne, the daughter of Henry Eyre of Rowtor and she inherited all his estate. This included the land granted to Thomas Eyre of Rowtor by Charles II, a very large land holding in Derbyshire.

Debretts' Peerage states that she was married on November 25th 1741 at St. Peter's Derby to Clotworthy Skeffington, Earl of Massereene Clotworthy was killed whilst out "fowling" near Antrim, and he was buried there. Anne was to be a widow for almost 50 years dying in 1805 aged 88 years, and described at the time as "a very beautiful woman who kept her vivacity and accomplishments to the end"

Their son Clotworthy was born January 28th 1742/3 and was styled Lord Loughneagh until his father died and he became the next Earl. He was a very good looking young man but was reputed to have been kicked in the head by a pony in childhood which resulted in his becoming more and more eccentric as the years passed.

He was a lover of fashion and was once described as "the nest superlative coxcomb that Ireland ever bred". He lost a fortune in France speculating in salt and as a result of his debts was there imprisoned in the Chatalet, Paris, where he put his charm and good looks to good use. He seduced the governors daughter Marie Anne Barcier and in May 1789 she helped him to escape to England. In August of that same year they married in St. Peter's Cornhill, London, although they were allegedly married twice in France prior to this date. Marie died in 1800 aged only 38 years and Clotworthy married a second time.

He died just three months before his mother in 1805. His will was contested due to his insanity. Witnesses told how when his dog died he gave instructions for 50 dogs, all wearing white scarves to attend its funeral along with all the other dogs of the parish. "Heirs to the Revolution", written by Charles Darwent with information and photographs supplied by the present Earl Massereene was published in 1989 and should anyone wish to read my copy of this article I am happy to place it in the Heritage Centre for several weeks, or in the library. It's not more than 2 pages but provides very interesting reading.

The seat of the present Earl is Chilham Castle in Kent. When the Sumner Estates sold several holdings in the area during the 1920's one farm still retained the name Mazerene as a field name, "The Heys" in Hayfield.

"Piece" deeds show that land passed from Anne Mazereene to Thomas Waterhouse, a cordwainer of Highgate, Hayfield to the Dewsnap family with whom it remained until the 19th century passing from Miss Mary Dewsnap to her half brother James Brocklehurst.

The land Thomas Waterhouse took was 20 acres 3 roods 13 perches and was then rented by John Carrington for 10/-. It was known as "A Piece of Land on 011ersett Moor" or "The Poor Piece", bounded in the East by thinley Hills and the west by 011ersett Common or 011ersett Moor.

Rowena Clarke

STRINES (Part 2)

Anthony Stafford was living at Strines Hall in 1728. In 1736 John was "of Strands" but in 1738 he was "of London, merchant". Meanwhile his brother the Rev. James Stafford of Penkrige, Staffordshire was looking after John's properties in Derbyshire and Cheshire.

In 1746 John was still the owner of Strands when his brother James transferred his powers to collect rents from the properties to James Ridgeway of Gorsty Low (NMLHS notes number 17).

In 1747 it seems that Strines was inhabited by Matthew Priestnell and sold by the Staffords to SAMUEL EGERTON of TATTON.

Up to this time the only evidence of any interest in textiles was of a purely domestic nature. Nicholas Wombwell's inventory lists three spinning wheels but no looms are mentioned in any of the inventories. It seems necessary now to turn for a moment to background history.

Early printworks in Essex, Surrey and Kent had been closed down and calico printing forbidden by 1820 but the manufacture of cotton goods was spreading wherever a plentiful supply of water was available. The development in 1733 of John Kay's flying shuttle indicates the widening of textile production although the printing of cotton/linen mixtures was subject to a duty of 6d per yard. Hargreave's Spinning Jenny in 1762, Watt's steam engine 1776 and Crompton's mule in 1779 indicated the momentum of the cotton industry and suggested the wish for decorative effect by printing as well as by weaving. Joel Wainwright in his "Memories of Marple" claims that Richard Arkwright and Robert Peel were associated with the Strines as well as with Oldknow's mill at Mellor. He also remembers books which showed shipments of prints in 1792. It does seem that sometime, probably after 1758, the tenement at Strines ceased to be occupied solely as a dwelling and farm and became a printworks whose size and importance rose and fell over the following 150 years.

Communications with Lancashire and Cheshire were developing throughout the 19th century. The plan to build a turnpike from Stockport to Hayfield was in existence in 1796 (NMLHS notes 7). Samuel Oldknow and Wilbraham Egerton were in favour and indeed pressing, although they did not entirely agree on the route. The Act of Parliament in 1801 allowed the building of the Stockport and Marple turnpike and the bridge at Woodend appears by 1804.

WILLIAM WIGHT who became one of the owners of Strines Printworks - the Strines Printing Company - was born in 1766 in Stockport. When his daughter was baptised in 1814 he was a Master Calico Printer.

His memorial inscription in Mellor churchyard in 1835 says he was of Strines Hall.

In 1841 the tithe shows the property at Strines in the ownership of Wilbraham Egerton and occupied by Barton and Co. Two parts of the area were named as part of the printworks, yards, reservoir and sluices. Ten individuals were named as occupying the cottages, yards and gardens. There were still seven meadows, one of which was a bleach croft. There was a house, yard and a garden where Strines Cottage stood later. Joel Dean's house, the present Brookwood, lost some of its yard and garden when the railway embankment was built.

By 1851 Joseph Sidebottom was employing 350 hands at Strines Hall Printworks. He was member of the firm for 28 years.

In 1860 Alfred Barton's name was mentioned as a partner. In 1865 the railway to New Mills Central station was opened. This served the villages upstream of Marple and the Strines printworks grew larger and employed more men. A figure of 300 machines has been mentioned. At the same time a flow of Scotsmen to England began. Some stayed, some returned. Turnbull's "History of the Calico Printing Industry in Great Britain", gives dates of printworks and printfields which had opened in both countries.

The Census returns for 1861, 71 and 81 give a picture of the families living at Strines which from the enumerator's route could only have meant the dwellings in and around the printworks. In each of the census years there were nine families inhabiting the premises. In 1861 there were 54 persons living in Strines. The men were employed as labourers, bleachers, calico printers, a gasmaker, a coachman and Thomas Lee 42 from Marple, a gardener. Most of the families were born in Cheshire or Derbyshire but there was one each from Ireland, Wales, Cumberland and London and two were from Glasgow.

In 1871 there were 48 persons: labourers, dyers, bleachers, a book-keeper and Thomas Lee now widowed and still gardening. The recently opened railway provided work for Thomas Pott 34, station master from Glossop, his wife and three children. The same year the manager of the printworks Joel Wainwright 39, from Stockport, his second wife and two children were living at Whitecroft. He had succeeded Joseph Clayton c. 1864. In his "Memories of Marple" Joel tells the legend of No Mans' Land where the Whitecroft houses stand.

The land according to tradition had been used as a bleach croft. A man was convicted of stealing some of the linen and when his trial was over and the bills presented, both Cheshire and Derbyshire were able to prove from old maps that the land did not belong to them. The expenses were paid by the Crown. Neither Whitle nor Marple felt able to levy any taxes in case a claim could be made on them. After his retirement Joel Wainwright moved to Marple and then to Finchwood,

In 1881 there were 45 occupants of what was sometimes called Strines Yard. Included were a farm bailiff, a machine printer, two block printers, labourers, a colour mixer, a foreman bleacher and Thomas Lee 60, now happily married to an Ashbourne lady and still gardening. There was also William Osbaldiston, a farm labourer, whose eight year old daughter later married and lived in one of the cottages within living memory.

In 1881 Peter Campbell was the manager of the printworks and lived at Whitecroft. His wife was not at home on census night. Perhaps she was at her parents' home in Argyll? Mr. Campbell had succeeded Joel Wainwright in 1878 coming to Strines from Birkacre, Chorley. A man with a most interesting background, he remained manager until his retirement in 1912. During his service he saw the printworks move from the hands of the owners Messrs. Neville, Heape and Norris and become part of the Calico Printers Association. When Peter Campbell retired he was succeeded by his nephew John Campbell Gray.

Other parts of Strines.

The 1881 census for Marple which includes Strines Road counted 14 families round and about Spout House; also mentioned are Grove Cottages, Goyt Cottage, Wood Cottage, Hillyview Terrace, two other houses and finally Ivy Cottage. William Mann lived at Strines Aqueduct and three families at Peers Cottages. The village, or hamlet of Strines as the enumerator called it, continued to grow but eventually the printworks found orders less easy to obtain and trade declined. Fewer inhabitants of the village were employed at the works although the numbers arriving on foot, and by train and later by bus sometimes seemed frighteningly large. By the 1940s the Strines Hall Cottages were falling empty and were not re-let.

Patricia Priddle

THE POPULATION OF NEW MILLS; CENSUS REPORTS 1801 - 1901

YEAR	PLACE												POPULATION		
	BEARD			OLLERSETT			THORNSETT			WHITLE			M	F	T
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
1801	Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett and Whitle (Township)												922	956	1878
1811	Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett and Whitle (Township)												1400	1401	2801
1821	175	157	332	149	144	293	395	363	758	857	839	1696	1576	1503	3379
1831	155	128	283	163	141	304	367	318	685	1149	1117	2266	1834	1704	3538
1841	137	153	290	138	119	257	408	356	764	1137	1147	2284	1820	1775	3595
1851	153	160	313	253	240	493	474	395	869	1350	1341	2691	2230	2136	4366
1861	Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett and Whitle												2444	2403	4847
1871	Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett and Whitle (5044 acres)												2465	2563	5028
1881	Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett and Whitle (Civil Parish) (5078 acres)												2647	2732	5379
	Newtown (part of Disley-Stanley Civil Parish)* (122 acres)												577	596	1173
	<u>New Mills Urban Sanitary Authority (5200 acres)*</u>												3224	3328	6552
1891	New Mills CP (Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett, and Whitle)* (5078 acres)												2758	2740	5498
	Newtown (part of Disley CP) (127 acres)												552	611	1163
	<u>New Mills Urban Sanitary Authority (5205 acres)</u>												3310	3351	6661
1901	New Mills CP (Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett, and Whitle) (5078 acres)												3114	3139	6253
	Newtown CP (125 acres)*												756	764	1520
	<u>New Mills Urban District Council (5204 acres)*</u>												3870	3903	7773

1911	New Mills CP (Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett, and Whittle)	3595	3664	7259
	Newtown CP	834	905	1739
	<u>New Mills Urban District Council</u>	<u>4429</u>	<u>4569</u>	<u>8998</u>
1921	Wards: Beard and Ollersett (1948 acres)	1116	1174	2290
	Central (64 acres)	593	612	1205
	St James' (508 acres)	586	638	1224
	St Mary's (636 acres)	662	712	1374
	Thornsett (1922 acres)	382	402	784
	New Mills CP (Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett and Whittle) (5078 acres)	3339	3538	6877
	Newtown CP 126 acres)	760	853	1613
	<u>New Mills Urban District Council (5204 acres)</u>	<u>4099</u>	<u>4391</u>	<u>8490</u>
1931	Wards: Beard and Ollersett	1367	1414	2781
	Central	601	597	1198
	St James'	548	591	1139
	St Mary's	624	687	1311
	Thornsett	360	341	701
	New Mills CP (Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett, and Whittle)	3500	3630	7130
	Newtown CP	672	749	1421
	<u>New Mills U.D.C. (5204 acres)</u>	<u>4172</u>	<u>4379</u>	<u>8551</u>
1951	Wards: Beard and Ollersett (1610 acres)	1195	1281	2476
	Thornsett (2327 acres)	1001	1101	2102
	Whittle (1017 acres)	881	1014	1895
	Newtown (290 acres)	934	1068	2002
	<u>New Mills U.D.C. (5244 acres)†</u>	<u>4011</u>	<u>4464</u>	<u>8475</u>
1961	Wards: Beard and Ollersett	1250	1338	2588
	Thornsett	1225	1251	2476
	Whittle	800	934	1734
	Newtown	815	901	1716
	<u>New Mills U.D.C.</u>	<u>4090</u>	<u>4424</u>	<u>8514</u>
1971	Wards: Beard and Ollersett	1266	1322	2588
	Thornsett	1269	1299	2568
	Whittle	1104	1209	2313
	Newtown	795	920	1715
	<u>New Mills U.D.C. (2122 hectares)</u>	<u>4434</u>	<u>4750</u>	<u>9184</u>

1981	Electoral Wards: New Mills North	2606	2618	5224
	New Mills South	1905	2090	3995
	<u>Borough of High Peak: New Mills*</u>	4511	4708	9219

NOTES

1, "...Beard,Ollersett,Thornset and Whitle Hamlets form together one Township called New mills..."

"The description 'Civil Parish' is applied to places in which a poor rate is separately levied," The details of the increase in acreage of 34 acres in Beard,Ollersett, Thornsett and Whitle has not yet been ascertained,

3. New Mills Urban Sanitary Authority was formed in 1B75,

4, The name of this civil parish was altered from Beard,Thornsett,Ollersett and Whitle to New Mills by Local Government Order, No 18,462 dated 4th March 1B85,

5, Newtown Civil Parish was created out of the part of Disley Civil Parish in the Administrative County of Derby, LGB Order,32,161, Appointed day,1894).

6. New Mills Urban,District Council was formed in 1894,

7, In 1936, the Newtown part of New Mills U Q was transferred from the geographical county of Cheshire to the geographical county of Derbyshire, In addition, a further 46 acres (together with 75 persons) of the Cheshire part of Newtown were transferred to New Mills Urban District and 6 acres of New Mills U D (with no population) were transferred to Cheshire (Disley R D)•

8, In 1974 New Mills U D was abolished and it became part of the Borough of High Peak,.

Compiled by Derek Brumhead

News Item from High Peak Reporter

"In the first month of 1909, reported the Chronicle, news had been received at New Mills of the tragic death - in a rail accident - of one of Peakland's most famous sons - Mr Joseph Lomas, FGS, a native of New Mills.

Mr Lomas, 48, "was the son of a poor man, who was caretaker of the Methodist Free Church at New Mills."

After being a pupil teacher, he won scholarships which entitled him to a course on instruction at Owen's College, Manchester, following which he continued his education at the Royal College of Science and School of Mines, at South Kensington. Subsequently, he was appointed Science Demonstrator under the Liverpool School Board, a post which he held until his death. For more than 20 years, he was a worker in the research laboratories at the University of Liverpool, his favourite science being geology.

Mr Lomas was a Fellow of the London Geological Society, and, for the last few years, had acted as chief secretary of the geological section of the British Association.

He was one of the most active members of the Liverpool Geological Society, had been a member of the council, was president for the first time in 1896-98, and again for the present session, with a view to the approaching jubilee of the society later that year.

Mr Lomas was the author of many historical reports and papers, continued the Chronicle, and was recognised as "one of the most eminent geologists in the world." He had travelled in many countries to prosecute his studies, and, in 1905, went through the South African Colonies, with the British Association, and intended to go to Canada with them in the summer of 1909.

He was sent out from Liverpool to make some important researches in the Sahara Desert, and had arrived safely in Algiers, wiring Mrs Lomas, in Liverpool to that effect.

Shortly afterwards, another message was received saying he had been killed in a railway accident."

Derek Brumhead

GRANDY LOW BRIDGE

Recently, I was given an interesting snippet of information by Mr. and Mrs. Salisbury, who live in the last bungalow on the right-hand-side of Laneside Road, where the road crosses the stream known as Andrew Brook.

When they first moved into the bungalow, they became friendly with an elderly lady living at Hollinghurst Head. One day she asked the Salisburys if they had chosen a name for their new home. She suggested that they might call their bungalow "Grandy Low", as the former packhorse bridge that once crossed the brook at that point used to be called "Grandy Low Bridge". Happily Mr. and Mrs. Salisbury readily adopted the old lady's suggestion, thus preserving a local name that otherwise would have been lost, for as far as I know, it does not appear on any map.

If members know of any other local place-names which have no written record, it would be a good idea to write a paragraph about it for our Newsletter.

Ron Weston

THE MACKIE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

A recently-published hook "The strange rise of semi-literate England" by W.J. West and published by Duckworth describes the break-up of 292 Institution Libraries by the selling-off of "unwanted" stock. Among these is the Mackie Memorial Library of New Mills, formerly part of New Mills Library.

Alderman John Mackie JP was Chairman of New Mills School Board from its formation in 1875 and President of the New Mills Mechanics' Institute from 1887. He died in 1891 aged 54, and his wife endowed a library for the first science day school in Derbyshire, which became known as the New Mills Technical School. This handsome building (originally built for the New Mills School Board in 1875) is now the present New Mills Lower School on Spring Bank. Extensions were made to house the library and a doorway still has the words 'Mackie Memorial Library' in relief above it.

In 1899, the New Mills Free Library was established in the Technical School and later transferred to the Town Hall (the words 'Reading Room' can still be seen on the door of the Council Chamber). This soon proved too small and with £2000 donated by Mr Andrew Carnegie, himself a cotton man who started his working life in a cotton mill, the present Public Library building was opened in 1910. Into this library were incorporated the books of the Mackie Memorial Library. A book on cotton from this collection is on display at New Mills Heritage Centre. It was purchased by Mr. West from a second hand bookseller in Matlock. Even the British Library does not have a copy of it. Other books have been purchased back from the bookseller by the Derbyshire Library Service and are to be given to the Heritage Centre.

A bound volume with a photograph of Mr. Mackie and a collection of press cuttings, announcing his death and is on display at New Mills Heritage Centre. It was presented to the New Mills Town Council by his wife Mary Mackie (she laid the foundation stone of the Public (later Town) Hall in 1870). (See also the display case on the New Mills Branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society in the Heritage Centre).

A number of memorials were quickly erected to Mr. Mackie. They include: The memorial fountain in front of New Mills Town Hall

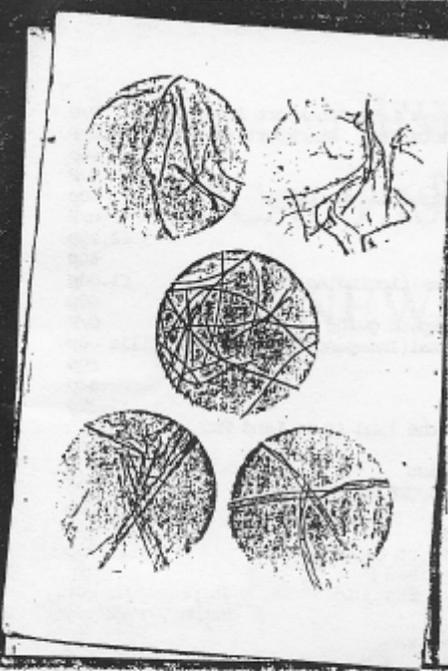
An oak lych-gate at the north east entrance to Disley churchyard where he is buried in the family vault.

A stained glass window in Wakefield cathedral

A stained glass window in St. James Church, Chapelthorpe near Wakefield.

A new church, the St John's Mission Church, Calder Grove, Crigglestone, near Wakefield.

Derek Brumhead



James Memorial
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New Mills Technical School
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