

NEW MILLS
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

the new millne



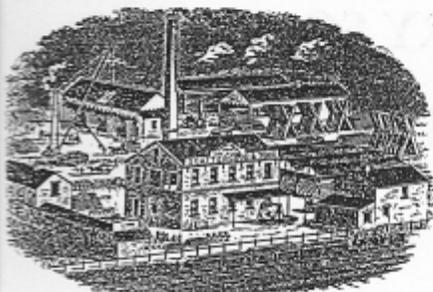
Detail from a 17th century map showing the location of
Beard Mill or New Mill.

EDITION NO.9 - AUTUMN 1992

Courtesy of Tom Oldham

Gen. Telephone: No. 3, New Mills.

Hurst Field Steam Saw Mills,



New Mills, June 30th 19012

Mr. Jowett Manor House, Mellor
The D. Shaffords Farm, Littlehulton, Lancs.
To J. T. SCATTERGOOD & SONS, Dr.

(Late SCATTERGOOD & WARRINGTON).

JOINERS, BUILDERS,
CONTRACTORS,

And Dealers in all kinds of BUILDING MATERIALS.

D. Shaffords order Whitehead Bank Farm, New Mills

8 th	To 1.36 Earthenware Slabstone	f	150	
1	beam of 1 Galvanized Lumber & lengthening out piece 1 Week			} no charge
10 th	1 st 4" Earthenware Bend		9	
	1 st 4" Iron Rain Water Bend		16	
10 th	16 straight 4" Earthenware pipes	6	80	
	1 st A Junction Ditto		13	
	1 Hook top for trap 4" x 10" x 10"	f	16	
	1 st 5" Iron Grid for trap		4 ¹ / ₂	
	1 Stone Slabstone 4'-0" x 2'-0" x 6"		176	

£ 20 10

AUTUMN PROGRAMME 1992

Friday 11th September	Stockport Town Trail Speaker: Collette Curry (Education Officer)
Friday 9th October	Cathedrals of England Speaker: Tom Horvat
Friday 13th November	Castleton - Its Caves & Blue John Speaker: Peter Harrison
Friday 11th December	Social & Video Evening for members only Wine & Refreshments (Mince Pies)

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

ARCHIVE EVENINGS (AN OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVE)

A most successful archive evening was held in May when members of the Society and the public were able to consult some of the large collection of documents and maps held in the Society's archive. There was great interest from people engaged in investigating family history, the history of their houses, and other aspects of local history. Such was the success of the evening that the Committee of the Society has decided that similar evenings should be held regularly, for a trial period starting in the autumn, to give people the opportunity to continue to make use of the Society's collection of historical material. The Committee is anxious to encourage members to use the archives by making particular studies which would contribute something to our knowledge of the History of New Mills. There would be plenty of help from members if required. Examples of such topics might be:

1. The life and times of certain well-known people in the history of the town.
2. History and architecture of our buildings.
3. Accounts of important events in the town's history:
4. Housing in the town and the slum clearances of the 1930s and 1950s.
5. The history of industrial firms and their buildings.
6. A footpath survey.
7. The growth and development of some of the streets and roads, ea. Union Road.
8. History of New Mills public houses.
9. History of entertainment in New Mills.

These are just a few ideas which come to mind. There will be many others. Please contact any member of the committee if you would like to help or have any ideas.

You can Just turn up on the evening and use the lists provided to locate what you are interested in seeing. but it would be very helpful if you could give advance notice so that the material you want can be ready for you. So, if possible, please consult the Local History Society lists in the New Mills Library (ask at the counter for the green folder) and give the Society's Archivist, Roger Bryant, the reference number(s) of the material you want (tel. 744227).

The archive evenings will be held in New Mills Library and, because we have to pay the for the Library to be opened in the evenings, there will be a charge of 50p for each session. Both members and non-members are very welcome to attend: so please spread the word around. The dates are 10th September, 29th October and 3rd December (all Thursdays), from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.

NEW MILLS AND HAYFIELD W.E.A.

Members may be interested in an evening class on BOWDEN MIDDLECALE AND THE ROYAL FOREST OF THE PEAK. The tutors are Roger Bryant and Derek Brumhead.

The Royal Forest, which comprised most of the High Peak, was originally set up as a royal hunting preserve with laws designed to protect the deer. These laws continued to affect local people's use of the land until "disafforestation" in the seventeenth century, when over 30,000 acres of commons and wastes passed into private ownership. This course will explore fascinating new information about the history of the Forest and its people, concentrating on the "Bowden Middlecale" area - New Mills, Hayfield and Chinley.

10 meetings THURSDAY 7.30 - 9.30 pm at New Mills Lower School, Spring Bank, starting 17th September 1992. Enrolment at the first meeting.

REVIEWS

INNSIGNIA - Dennis Snape

Our pre-Christmas meeting was full of good cheer. As well as wine and mince pies, we were entertained with a very enjoyable talk, illustrated with slides, by Dennis Snape on the history of Inn Signs. About seven years ago Mr. Snape's curiosity was aroused by the lack of Inn signs in and around his village of Lymm in Cheshire. This observation has led him to spend much of his spare time travelling around the country photographing this part of our heritage. Many more hours were then occupied in libraries and archives searching out the history and meaning behind these signs.

The earliest Inn signs were of Roman origin known as an ale stake. These were a long pole with some greenery on the end to show that ale was on sale, some of our modern signs are based on this idea.

In the reign of Henry II. when he needed to raise revenue for his crusades. he levied a tax on ale. In order that his taxgatherers knew where to call, the purveyors of ale had to display a sign or symbol, which proved difficult to enforce. A licencing system was introduced by Richard II. An alehouse keeper had to obtain a reference from the owner of the land on which the house stood in order to get a licence, thereby ensuring payment of the taxes. As very few people could read or write, the early signs for all trades were symbols or pictures, bunches of grapes, cherubs or bells which couldn't be confused with the other trades, were used by the innkeepers. Some innkeepers in order to keep the favour of their landowners might use part of their Coat of Arms ie: The Swan of the Duke of Buckingham, the Ram of the Earl of Derby and of course religious symbols if it was church land.

The church at this time was one of the biggest brewers. and tried to escape paying taxes to the crown by getting a "Papal Boul" or seal from the Vatican, but this was not accepted and they had to pay up. "The Bull" in fact may be derived from "The Boul" and be nothing to do with the bovine variety.

Mr. Snape then explained the history and meaning behind some of the more curious inn signs in his collection. I for one will be taking a closer look at these under valued and little recognised pieces of art in the future. It is also a jolly good excuse to visit hostelrys all in the name of historical research.

Margaret Cooper

PROBATE RECORDS Society Members

In our January meeting we were indeed treated to some local history. Local in the sense that the talk was given by four Society members namely Ron Weston, Lesley James, Rowena Clarke and Barbara Matthews: and local because they were giving us an insight into the work that has been done and is ongoing on the Probate Documents of 1540-1648 relating to families in the New Mills area.

The group originated from a W.E.A. class learning about the art of transcribing these old documents. Once the initial transcriptions had been achieved sections within the group decided to research and record different areas ie:

- a) To compile a computerised record of names within the documents, to assist historians and genealogists.
- b) To map the place names that have been given with today's names.
- c) To further refine the transcriptions with a view to publication.
- d) To document the scope and contents of records in respect of domestic and farming life.

It was from this last group that our speakers originated. They were concerned with lifting the dusty lid of history and getting to know some of the families who had lived and farmed on these hills and valleys over 400 years ago.

Ron Weston described the family of Bramhalls who had farmed at Thornsett Fields Farm between 1570 and 1615. There are seven wills of the Bramhall family all at the farm but there appears to have been two or three branches, so the wills couldn't be linked, which made it difficult to show how farming had changed over the generations.

Lesley James had made a study of the Sylvesters of Howcroft and Beard. She had managed to link three wills despite the confusions caused by the preference for repeating the Christian names through each generation.

The value given to women was one of the areas Rowena Clarke was especially interested in, triggered by a remark from her Lancashire Grandmother "Woman are nought a pound, and tripe is twopence (2d). The Pott family of Goytside was Barbara Matthews' area for investigation, her talk being illustrated with slides.

The four speakers all demonstrated the tremendous value that these old documents are to historians and of the many diverse ways that there are for further study into all aspects of the lives of the people who lived, worked and died in these fields, valleys and hillsides four centuries ago.

Margaret Cooper

RAILWAYS AROUND STOCKPORT & DISTRICT - Greg Fox

This talk, on Valentines Day, had an overwhelming attendance when there was literally standing room only and demonstrated the great fascination the steam locomotive still holds. Greg Fox showed about 180 slides, divided into four quarters. The first was about Stockport, the second and third, Tiviot Dale and the fourth the Hayfield branch. Many of the slides were taken from Mr. Fox's well known books but there were also several unpublished ones and all were much enlightened by the knowledgeable and humorous speech. His slides round Edgeley showed many aspects of the station and included one which dispelled the myth that all trains stop at Edgeley by showing the businessman's special which ran non-stop from Manchester to Fairfield.

The majority of his slides however showed, at least now that it is closed, what is everybodys favourite station, Tiviot Dale. This station when it closed in 1957 still had 8 London trains daily. After showing one of his favourite slides of the station frontage, with very little traffic obstructing the view, he recounted the fact that after publication of his picture he had had a phone call from a lady who recalled the only car on the picture had been their very first car and it brought back many happy memories.

More slides after the interval brought further reminiscences of a school boys snowball fight with a train crew and also of a long night relaying signalling near Woodley. This also revealed the amazing fact that there were once 38 people employed at Woodley station. Now there is only one and a ticket machine. His many pictures of the Hayfield branch included some he took on the day before closure when he visited each station. These local pictures were the perfect end to what was a most memorable evening.

Barry Dent

THE WATERMILL IN VILLAGE LIFE - Dr Cyril Boucher

Dr. Cyril Boucher, an authority in industrial history. formerly Senior lecturer at UMIST and a well known speaker in the Manchester area, gave a very interesting and amusing presentation on water mills. He spoke briefly about Brindley's Mill at Leek and at length about his involvement with the three year renovation of Nether Alderley Mill. He gave an insight into village life as it was when the mill was at its busiest, interspersing his lecture with many amusing anecdotes and lines of verse.

Richard Tuson

REFLECTIONS ON HAYFIELD - Ken Rangeley

On April 10th 1992 our evening talk was on "Reflections On Hayfield" given by Mr. Ken Rangeley and his charming wife.

This talk was superbly illustrated with slides. One series was taken from old postcards and dating back to the end of the last century, although the vast majority were of a date between 1903 and 1910. The second series were modern photographs of the village, taken from an identical viewpoint wherever possible and these showed the vast changes that had taken place over the last hundred years.

The talk took us on a remarkable journey through Hayfield. Arriving at the station and following the old cobbled streets along twisting alleyways past shops, inns, mills, bridges and chapels. Ken's seemingly inexhaustible supply of humorous anecdotes made it truly a journey to remember.

Those of us already familiar with the Hayfield of today gained a greater knowledge of its past buildings and customs, like the cattle fair, the location of its smithy and the old corn mill. Strangers expressed a desire to learn much more and all thanks to Ken and his obvious love of his birth place, its history and its peoples.

The one thought I took away with me was when is he coming again? For this was only the tip of the iceberg.

Rowena Clarke

THE A.G.M. AND THE HISTORY OF FANS

The Society's A.G.M. was held on the 8th May. The minutes of the last A.G.M. were read by the Secretary and approved together with reports from the officers. A proposal for an amendment to the constitution was made by Olive Bowyer. That there should be an additional Officer, that of Honory Editor. The proposal was seconded by Walter Kelly and accepted by the members.

The members of the Elected Committee are:-

Chairman	Ron Weston
& Hon. Editor	
Vice Chairman	Margaret Cooper
Secretary	John Humphreys
Treasurer	Barry Dent
Archivist	Roger Bryant
Programme Secretary	Barbara Matthews
Membership Secretary	Kath Dent
Committee	Olive Bowyer
	David Pitcher
	John Symonds

The business concluded we were treated to an interesting and unusual evening by Margaret Bedgood, a Society member. Margaret explained the significance and roll of the fan from "The Garden of Eden" to present day. Fans have been made from all kinds of materials from simple wood and paper to rich gem encrusted dress accessories and status symbols. Margaret had brought many examples for us to see and very generously allowed her audience to handle and examine the fans despite their age and rarity.

Over the past 10 years since her hobby began she has not only collected the fans but also a vast knowledge of their history and origins. Her love and enthusiasm for her subject delighted us all.

"FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS"

JOSEPH LOMAS Geologist

I read with interest the extract from the Reporter about Joseph Lomas the geologist in the Spring Newsletter. He was my great Uncle and ray mother had many happy memories of her favourite Uncle Joe.

I would like to point out however that Joseph Lomas was not a native of New Mills - in fact he was born 16th December 1860 in Bugsworth -third and only son of Joseph and Grace Lomas who were then living in Darby Knowl cottages. Bugsworth, Joseph Senior being a cotton labourer. My grandmother Elizabeth (later Boyle) was nearest to him in age and before her marriage would go on local expeditions with him to Castleton to study the caves. Grace Lomas was the daughter of

Timothy Beard who with his brother Stephen. formed the New Mills Band in 1812 and composed much church music, so Joseph was his grandson.

The Lomas family originated in Combs and Bagshaw near Chapel-en-le-Frith and Joseph Senior and his parents only moved to New Mills in the early 1830's. Joseph Senior was never caretaker at the Methodist Church, New Mills. He and Grace moved to Bugsworth soon after their marriage and from there to Hatherlow where he was Sexton for many years and where they are both buried. His last year however was spent living with my Grandparents Elizabeth and Walter Boyle at Knight Wake Villa, High Lea.

Joseph junior travelled all over the world and died at El Achair, Algeria when his carriage. the last on the train, became accidentally uncoupled on an incline and he and a young girl were killed. He is buried in the British Cemetery, in Algiers.

My American cousin. Sydney Greaves, whose son is also a geologist. has visited Liverpool University and read many of his great Uncle's papers.

Barbara Turnbull

THE ESTATES OF THOMAS EYRE OF ROWTOR IN THE HIGH PEAK AND THE MASSERENE CONNECTION

Following Rowena Clarke's note in the Spring 1992 Newsletter some more information about the Massarene estate has come to light. As Rowena said. Anne Massarene was the grand daughter of Thomas Eyre who was granted a huge amount of land in the High Peak in 1674 - amounting to just over 15.000 acres of commons and wastes of the former Royal Forest (The freeholders and tenants - the commoners - received an equal grant of land) From the late 1670's until the matter was finally resolved in 1711. Eyre was involved in much litigation with the freeholders and tenants of the High Peak over these lands (they maintained that they had been granted all the commons and wastes) and it appears he rented or sold land to recover his costs. These sales were continued after his death in 1717.

As Rowena said, Anne Massarene inherited these estates and recently I found a document in the Sheffield City Archives which gives details of her lands in 1772. The total area of the former Thomas Eyre holdings comes to about 3.155 acres, which gives some idea of just how much land had been sold off.

In Bowden Middlecale, she is said to have owned 4a 0r 33p at Spinnerbottom and 23a 3r 12p at Thornsett Bank (see note below), together with an unspecified amount of land on Ollersett Moor bringing in £3 yearly rent. The original grant to Thomas Eyre in Bowden Middlecale had been over 2000 acres.

Rowena's note that the land of Piece Farm on Ollersett Moor was originally part of the Massarene estate is important in that it is an example of the mechanism by which the Crown's part of the former commons and wastes passed into private hands. This access to

thousands of acres of new farmland was an important process in the economic development of our region in the late 1600s and early 1700s. New tracks and roads were also cut.

NB - Rowtor is near Winster

Note: In a deed dated 4 and 5 April 1785 Anne Massarene grants 23a 3r 12p at Thornsett Bank to Edmund Bradbury and Joseph Bradbury. ("Deeds of New Mills and District". New Mills History Notes No 10. p 30). So the sales were continuing.
Derek Brumhead.

AN EARLY BUS SERVICE BETWEEN MELLOR AND NEW MILLS

Up to the mid-1920's the road between Mellor and New Mills. over by Jordan Wall Nook cross-roads and the Pack Horse Inn. was rough. loose surface. stony and sandy: they were the days before tarmacadam.

About 1924 an enterprising man named Harold Proven started a bus service over this road from Newtown to Compstall. but soon curtailed it to between New Mills and Marple Bridge. He commenced with a Crossley charabanc which had the usual parallel rows of seats facing forward, and each row of seats had separate doors. This vehicle was kept in a garage on Strines Road, almost opposite the old fire station. Later he purchased two mini-buses of American make which were yellow in colour, and naturally they were known locally as the Yellow Perils. These two identical vehicles were kept in Brocklehursts' farmyard just above the Pack Horse Inn. The reason he had several vehicles was to ensure that at any time one at least was road-worthy, and he was able to maintain a service.

Many buses and heavy road vehicles at that time still had solid rubber tyres, and buses often had wooden. unpadded seats, but Proven's vehicles had pneumatic tyres and reasonably comfortable seats. These improvements were much appreciated, as most of the road through Mellor was paved very unevenly with large stone setts. However, the vehicles suffered severely, and pieces were apt to be shaken off. I once found a Proven headlamp in the road near my home, and a man emerging from the Devonshire Arms at closing time into the darkness of the unlit road fell over a large piece of bodywork that had broken off. In neither case was Proven aware of losing these parts.

My friend, Myles Arnfield, worked for Proven for a time after leaving school, acting as a conductor and collecting fares, an operation which was carried out on dark winter evenings by torchlight. More adventurous jobs sometimes cropped up such as riding on a front mudguard holding the carburettor open when the usual control to it had broken. Also he recalls having to walk in front of a bus to guide it on a very foggy night, and encountering a wandering flock of sheep. One frequent passenger was in the habit of imbibing too freely in the New Mills pubs, and would sing all the way back to Mellor. At his bus stop he had to be set in the right direction for his home.

Eventually, the North Western Company started a rival service over the top road which, if I remember rightly, only operated at week-ends. On Saturday afternoons many Mellor people used these services to visit New Mills shops, perhaps having cafe meals and an evening in the "pictures" at the Art Theatre or the Cinema on Union Road afterwards. The 10.30 bus back to Mellor was usually packed to the door. and it would groan up the hill out of the town in bottom gear at about walking pace. Sometimes the load was too great, and it would grind to a halt on the very steep bit, and about a dozen or so had to get out to lighten the load, and walk up to the flatter part below the Pack Horse Inn where the bus would pick them up. For some time it was considered too dangerous for buses to use Brabyns Brow in Marple as the brakes on these early vehicles were not very good, but when this restriction was relaxed Proven extended his service from Marple Bridge up to Marple Station, so as to benefit from the custom of people using the trains. He was now in direct competition with Marple Bridge pioneer, Joe Hinchliffe, and a certain degree of enmity built up, and it was often an amusing sight to see the two rivals trying to race each other up the hill in bottom gear at about 4 mph. enveloped in clouds of exhaust smoke. To get his own back, Joe Hinchliffe trespassed in Proven's New Mills area for a time, but with little benefit, and before the end of the 1920's both these early pioneers had retired from the scene. The North Western now had the monopoly in the area, but it was never quite the same again.

Tom Oldham

MARY DEWSNAP

I first found mention of Mary Dewsnap in an item in the Stockport Advertiser, 30th November 1838:-

"William Bennett of Ollersett, labourer, was summoned for having, on the 8th October and 3rd November, trespassed on the land in the occupation of Mary Dewsnap in search of game without her permission. The defendant pleaded guilty and produced a note from Mary Dewsnap wishing the magistrates not to convict, upon his promising not to do the like again, but the offences having been committed, the magistrates had no alternative, and he was fined 5s. and costs in each case."

Mary Dewsnap, a widow, was the owner-occupier of a large holding on Ollersett Moor, Piece Farm. She is described as a farmer in the 1841 census returns. In December 1841 a public meeting was held at the Crown Inn, New Mills, where the Tithe Map and Apportionment had been placed for inspection. The purpose of the meeting was to enable the Assistant Commissioner to hear objections to the assessments. He recorded only one objection in his account (which I examined in the Tithe File in the Public Record Office), that of Mary Dewsnap, who "complained of the sum of £2 3s 3d placed on 161a. 1r. 26p being about 3 1/4d per acre, 1st because she was a Wesleyan Methodist and objected to pay tithes: 2nd because her land was too high up to grow corn or at least

any quantity of it and therefore she ought not to pay Great Tithes.

"I explained to her that I could not relieve(sic) her on those grounds. but that if she was overcharged in comparison with her neighbours I would consider her case".

"Upon which I considered her rent charges with those of various others in the several townships as well as with those of the lands surrounding her estate. - I found only one small portion of land placed as low as hers and that every allowance had been made by the values for the height of her land.- "Several of her neighbours said that though some of her land was high. great portion of it was fine upland pasture and that she was well-known through the country as objecting to pay anything in the shape of rates, taxes. tithes etc. until compelled.

"I did not of course alter her charge. there not appearing the slightest grounds for so doing.-

"There was a very large meeting and no other complaint. On the contrary several of the Landowners expressed their satisfaction at the ability and impartiality exhibited by the Valuer." J.W.Meteyard.

Both incidents show Mary Dewsnap to be a person of an independent mind. At that time there were many resentful voices raised against "Creeping Officialdom" and the increasing interference of government in people's daily lives; clearly Mary Dewsnap was one of these. Were she alive today, maybe she would be objecting to the A6 by-pass or perhaps refusing to pay her poll tax.

Ron Weston

THE VERY GOOD PEOPLE OF HAYFIELD

The following is extracted from Hayfield Parish Register c 1711 and is part of the Bishop's Transcript.

Concerning our Chappell

1) Our Chappel is in good and sufficient repair decently cleansed & kept as becomes the house of God.

The furniture of our Chappel (viz) As Bells Comunion Cup & Cloths, Surplice Cushon & all other ornaments, Wee have, only an Hearsecloth will shortly bee provided for.

3) A faire large Bible, Comon Prayer Bookes, Bookes of Hornilios Canons wee Want all at present. but shall ere long be furnished withall. Our register of Births. Buryalls & Marriages is duly kept. None are admitted to preach with us but those that are lawfully admitted by the ordinary. A book for the entry of the Chappel Wardens Accounts for the present wee want, but will be supplied shortly.

Concerning the Chappel Yard and the Ministers house standing therein

1) Our Chappelyard is sufficiently fenced and preserved from annoyance & encroachment and waste.

2) The schoole house, or dwelling house of our curate if hee please to dwell therein, is kept in good repair.

Concerning Ministers

1) Our Curate is legally settled amongst us, hees elected & chosen into his curacy by the inhabitants, being always our use and custom as touching our minister.

2) Our Minister constantly resides amongst us and hath continued with us for 34 years and more. He is lycensed.

3) Our curate constantly, reverently and regularly officiates on ye Lords day & other dayes, that authority enjoines. Hee performs all offices & duties without addicon or diminution.

4) Hee conformer himself to the direction of Her Majesty to ye Archbishops and Byshops for the preserving of unity in the church and ye purity of the Christian faith concerning Holy Trinity. Hee teaches no other Doctrin concerning blessed trinity than what is contained in Holy Scriptures & agreeable to the three creeds & ye 39 Articles of religion. Hee avoids all newcomers & confines himself to such wayes of expression as have been comonly used and authorised by the church.

5) Our Minister diligently instructs the youth of our Chappel in the Church Catachisms and endeavors what hee can to proclaim allegiance & conformity and all other duties incumbent upon him. Lastly hee is peace-able amongst us, sober & exemplary in his conversation, grave in his demeanor & company and his apparrell.

There is none in our Chappellry either Papists or Hereticks some Dissenters we have by way of ye tolleracion but not many. We have not any separate meetings in our Chappellry only Quakers. And as for their preacher or preachers qualifications we are ignorant of according to the act of indulgence.

Wee know not of any in our Chappellry guilty of incest, adultery, fornication or any other enormous crimes as to our knowledge. Not, any calncular marriages, or without banns or lycence hath been performed among us that wee know of. The Lords day has been too much prohaned amongst us, but this and all other irregularities. ommissions & neglects shall (God Willing) to the best of our knowledge bee amended:

The wills and testaments of the dead in our chappellry and the administracon of their goods are duly taken out and executed to the best of our knowledge, nor hath any lands legacies or charitable gifts bestowed upon our Chappel or any other good uses been embezled or unduly disposed of. A sufficient Clerk or Sexton wee have belonging to our Chappellry, who doth execute his office diligently, constantly begining the psalm before sermons & in the other intervals of devine service.

6) Wee have no hospital, Almshouse or free school in our Chapellry. None that wee know keepeth school without lycence from ye Byshop. None to our knowledge but teacheth youth the church catechism & grammar sett forth by authority and bring them to ye service of ye

church. None that we know in our Chappellry doo practice physick or chirurgy without approbacon & lycence from the ordinary. Only Elizabeth the wife of Thos. Moorwood practices ye office of Midwife without lycence.

Does anyone know of another midwife in the area. any date? If so would you let me know.

Rowena Clarke

HERBAGES OF THE ROYAL FOREST OF THE PEAK

In his recent book "The enclosure of Thornsett" (New Mills Local History Society Publication OP 8), Ron Weston describes the important correlation which can be drawn between the commons and wastes of the former Royal Forest of the Peak (which were divided between Crown and the local commoners in the 17th century) and the Thornsett enclosure of 1774. He also explains that before the division in the 17th century parts of the Royal Forest had long been used for farming, particularly grazing, by local people legally and illegally. Recently I have come across some documents which give us some information about these earlier enclosures.

In 1609 James I ordered Commissioners to "survey viewsearch and examine what lands and tenements were held of the King within the Lordship of High Peake and to repair to the several Herbages called Mainstonefield [Chinley] Twerden and Caldew... and to set out the said Herbages by metes and bounds."

Herbages were pastures leased out by the Crown or in some cases sold or granted. The Mainstonfield [Chinley] herbages were important enough to have been identified on the large map of the whole Forest prepared when part of Longdendale was purchased by the Earl of Shewsbury and disafforested in Elizabethan times (possibly between 1587 and 1590). The map (of which the Society has a copy) includes herbages at Longdendale, Chinley, Ashop, Edale, Fairfield and Tideswell and are represented by geometrically shaped blocks varying in size and apparently proportional to their areas. In between them are "great wastes".

A document confirms the issuing of a commission giving authority to summon a Jury of Freeholders within the liberties and with the help of two surveyors to divide and set out the Herbage of Chinley. The Commissioners recognised that there were 40 freeholders with rights of pasture (neighbourships) on the commons and wastes.

Neighbourships were analagous to a vicinage and they measured 16 Forest (Cheshire) acres (33.6 statute acres) or thereabouts. A lease dated 1681 for possession of a messuage called Rushop was for one whole neighbourhood enclosing 36 statute acres. The Report cites that there were to be set out to each Neighbourship

"8 acres of the old measure of the best land and the next and most convenient for every man's dwelling - and to divide and set out to each Neighbourhood six acres a piece of the best of the Herbage not before divided and so to divide it that every Neighbour may have a proportionable part of the Wodd Ground in every of the said six acres - And to divide and set out all the residue of the Herbage into 40 parts and so that there may be in every 40th part a proportionable part of the Sclate ground - And the Cottagers which have heretofore been Tenants and paid their rents to the Neighbours of Chinley shall continue tenants to all the neighbours and pay their rents so as every Neighbour may have and receive his part of the rent till such time as all the Neighbours Agree how the said tenants shall be divided amongst them - And no cottage shall be received without laying of ten acres of land to the same"

This then is how some of the commons and wastes in Chinley in the early part of the James I reign were divided up. allotted and enclosed and it will be noted how the rights of the "cottagers" were being respected. The area to be divided and enclosed totalled 2520 statute acres, plus the residue of the herbage.

The form of division and allotment started in James I reign continued into the early part of Charles I reign. Between 1632 and 1640 Charles I, as one of his fiscal expedients. restored the forest laws which had more or less been in abeyance for 300 years. Eyres - forest courts -were held all over the country applying the laws and exacting fines. They were followed by commissions for disafforestation. in effect a sale of capital. It was in 1634 with a petition of the Freeholders that the process began of dividing and allotting in equal parts between the Crown and commoners all the commons and wastes in the former Royal Forest of the High Peak. amounting to over 30.000 statute acres. These allotments became known as the "New Lands". in contrast with the earlier allotments previously described.

Derek Brumhead

A NOTE ON THE DIVISIONS OF BOWDEN MIDDLECALE

We have always known that the ancient administrative division of Bowden Middlecale is made up of ten hamlets divided into three groups; Great Hamlet, Phoside and Kinder: Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett and Whitle: Chinley, Bugsworth and Brownside. We have recently learned from the Quarter Sessions records in the Derbyshire Record Office that this three-fold division dates back to the 10th April 1713. On that day at the monthly meeting of the Hundred of the High Peak held at Chapel-en-le-Frith. the Justices of the Peace confirmed an Order increasing the number of Overseers of the Poor in Bowden Middlecale from two to three: at the same time, they grouped the existing hamlets into three, based on an equitable division of the poor rate. Eleven poor persons receiving relief, together with their families, were ordered to be transferred from one hamlet to another,

Derek Brumhead

MEMORANDUM FROM . . .

**MATTHEW LONGSON,
BRASS AND IRON FOUNDER,**

Market Place Foundry, Chappel-en-le-Frith,

To Mr. Oldham

Sept 14 1903

Dear Sir
In reply to yours
re Castings we are sending
them by Lorry on Monday
Morning

Yours truly
M Longson

Courtesy of Tom Oldham

FROM JOHN HAWTHORN & CO., ENGINEERS,
New Mills, STOCKPORT, MANCHESTER, ENGL.

Dear Sir Will you kindly send
one pattern for Pipes, to Blige
Yours truly
John Hawthorn & Co

$\frac{20.9}{6} = 3.48$
 $\frac{20.9}{3} = 6.96$
 $\frac{20.9}{2} = 10.45$

$\frac{20.9}{7} = 2.98$
 $\frac{20.9}{4} = 5.22$
 $\frac{20.9}{2} = 10.45$
 $\frac{17.7}{2} = 8.85$
 $\frac{17.7}{4} = 4.42$
 $\frac{17.7}{7} = 2.53$

$\frac{413.8}{3.5} = 118.23$

Local Newspapers and Magazines available on microfilm in the Local Studies Unit, Manchester Central Library

Title	Dates Covered
Adams Weekly Courant and Journal	1752-1778
Andertons Universal Advertiser	1762-1789
Ashton-under-Lyne Reporter	1855-date
Ashton-under-Lyne Weekly Herald	1910
Astons Exchange Herald	1809-1826
Cheshire Daily Echo	1887-1900 (incomplete)
Cheshire Observer	1974
Chester Courant	1861-1863. 1974
Civic Review	1974. 1986
Comus/Momus	1877-1882
Cotton Factory Times	1885-1937
Cowdroys Manchester Gazette	1796-1829
Droylsden Journal	1854
East Manchester Reporter	1976-1980
Eccles Journal	1974-1981
Four Heaton's Digest	1984-1985
Free Lance	1866-1880
Manchester & Salford Advertiser	1825-1848
Manchester City News	1864-1953
Manchester Courier	1825-1915
Manchester Evening Chronicle	1897-1963
Manchester Evening Mail	1876-1915
Manchester Examiner	1846-1894
Manchester Herald	1792/3. 1834. 1836
Manchester Iris	1822/3
Manchester Magazine	1737-1760
Manchester Mercury	1752-1830
Manchester Observer	1818-1821
Manchester Stock Exchange List	1921-1935. 1963-1974
Manchester Times	1828-1848
Manchester Weekly Journal	1722-1725
Manchester Weekly Times	1861-1922
Manchester Weekly Times Supplement	1862-1900
Middleton Albion	1868-1876
Middleton Guardian	1890-1892
Moston. Middleton and Blackley Guardian	1977-1980
North Cheshire Herald	1984
Northwich Chronicle	1885-1989 (incomplete)
Oldham Advertiser & Free Press	1851-1859. 1890
Oldham Chronicle	1980, 1987-1990
Oldham Express	1868-1889
Oldham Standard	1859-1926 (incomplete)
Pendleton Reporter	1879-1881
Prescotts Manchester Journal	1772-1781
Rossendale Worker	1909
Salford Chronicle	1873-1916
Salford County Telephone	1889-1892
Salford Reporter	1886-1989
Salford Weekly News	1859-1889
Stephens Monthly Magazine	1840
Stockport Advertiser	1822-1980
Stockport Messenger	1978-1984

Swinton and Pendlebury Journal	1970-1985
Voice of the People	1831
Wheeler's Manchester Chronicle	1781-1842
Wythenshawe Recorder Express	1946-1979
Local newspapers available on microfilm in the Social Sciences Library	
Manchester Evening News	1868- date
Manchester Guardian-	1821- date

**PUBLICATIONS OF NEW MILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
NEW MILLS HISTORY NOTES (A5 format)**

1 New Mills in the 1820s: Part 1 (extracts from Stockport Advertiser)	0/P
2 New Mills in the 1820s: Part 2 (extracts from Stockport Advertiser)	0/P
3 Whittle Enclosure	60p
4 The Mills of New Mills(See OP 7 below)	0/P
5 New Mills 1830-1835 (extracts from Stockport Advertiser)	60p
6 Railways of New Mills & District	0/P*
7 Turnpike Roads and Riots	£2.25p
8 The Lost Mills of Rowarth	60p
9 The News Mills Tithe Award (central area+map)	£1.00p
10 Deeds of New Mills & District	60p
11 The Peak Forest Canal: Upper Level Towpath Guide (Being Reprinted)	0/P
12 A History of Providence Congregational (Independent) Church. New Mills	60p
13 Memories of Strines	50p
14 The Lost Chapel of Rowarth	60p
15 The Coal Mines of New Mills	£1.25p
16 Bowden Middlecale - the occupants of the land 1778-1811 (from Land Tax Assessments)	60p
17 More Deeds of New Mills & District	60p
18 New Mills 1835-39 (extracts, Stockport Advertiser)	60p
19 Three Local History Walks	60p
20 New Mills Co-operative Society 1860-90	90p
21 The New Mill & some other corn mills of High Peak	£1.25p
22 The New Mills Air Raid: Friday 3 July 1942	75p
23 The Peak Forest Canal: Lower Level Towpath Guide	£2.25p
24 The Living Past: New Mills people in late Tudor and early Stuart times (from probate documents)	£2.25p

OCCASIONAL PUBLICATIONS (A4 format)

OP 1 Gravestone inscriptions: St. George's Rd Meth. Cem.	0/P
OP 2 New Mills & District: a look back (old Photographs)	£2.75p
OP 3 The Peak Forest Canal: its construction and later development (A5 format)	£3.25p
OP 4 Church of the Annuciation st Mary's Catholic Church. New Mills graveyard records.	£1.00p
OP 5 Ollersett in 1841: land and people (Analysis of census returns and Tithe Award)	£2.95
OP 6 New Mills in 1851 and 1881 as seen through the census returns (Comparative analysis using computer).	£2.95p
OP 7 The Mills of New Mills (Revised and greatly expanded edition of New Mills History Notes No 4)	£2.95p
OP 8 The Enclosure of Thornsett	£2.25p
Available as "Railways of New Mills & Distict: their development and impact 1840-1902". Trans Lanc and Ches Ant Soc Vol 86 (1990) pp 52-85 Offprint £1.50p.	

For details or orders please contact Ron Weston, Editor. New Mills Local History Society, The Thorns. Laneside Road. New Mills, via Stockport. SK12 4LU.

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

I do hope that you have enjoyed reading the Newsletters over the past 4 years. The original intention was to help members feel that they were keeping in touch with some of the work going on within the Society and to provide a means of publication for articles of interest. Due to a change in circumstances I am afraid that I shall now be stepping down as Editor. If any member would be interested in helping to compile the Newsletter perhaps you could contact myself or any Committee member.

Margaret Cooper

