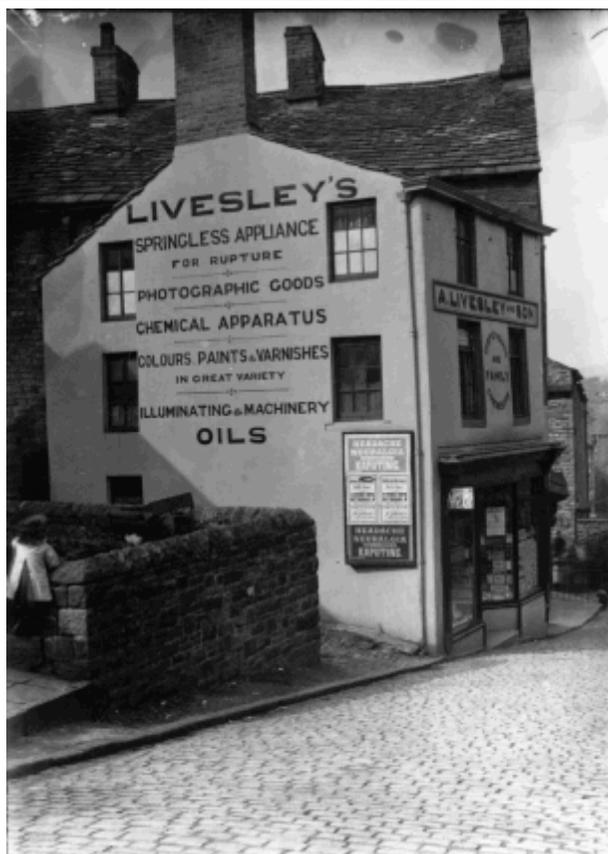


NL15

NEW MILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Edition No. 15

Autumn 1995

AUTUMN PROGRAMME 1995

8th September	The Howard Family, Dukes of Norfolk Peggy Davies
13th October	Crime in Victorian Society Duncan Broady (Curator Manchester Police Museum.)
10th November	title to be announced Roger Bryant
8th December	The Captive Queen - Mary Queen of Scots in Derbyshire Ron Weston

AN APOLOGY: AN APPEAL

Whilst the quality of the contributions to this edition remains undiminished, I'm afraid the same cannot be said of its presentation. I apologise for not having found the time to re-type all the material contributed.

The editor of our newsletter resigned at the last A.G.M. and a replacement for her has not been found. Barry Dent kindly offered to continue to arrange the printing and distribution of the newsletter and I undertook the editing of this issue. Other commitments prevent me from taking on this task permanently, and a replacement editor is urgently needed. Will someone please volunteer; you will be doing the Society a good service.

Ron Weston

Committee 1995-96

Chairman	Olive Bowyer
Vice-Chairman	Barbara Matthews
Hon. Secretary	John Humphreys
Hon. Treasurer	Barry Dent
Hon. Archivist	Roger Bryant
Hon. Editor	Ron Weston

Ordinary Members

David Pitcher	Mary Edge
Richard Wood	Derek Brumhead
Sheila Richardson	John Symonds

Romans at Melandra - Felicity Wild - 13 Jan 1995

Our first meeting after Christmas was well attended, members coming to hear a talk by Felicity Wild about our nearest Roman site, Melandra near Glossop. Though the site has been excavated on and off since 1849 there have been no significant finds of pottery or metal. However, quite well preserved leather and wooden artifacts have been found. Ms. Wild showed slides which illustrated various stages of the dig, though the high water table in the area makes excavation quite difficult. Today there are quite a few problems with vandalism on the site but, despite this, work is carried out with dedicated enthusiasm each year.

Kedleston Hall - G.Sugden - 10 February 1995

In February we had a welcome return visit by Mr. Sugden, this time speaking about Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire, one of the earlier works of Robert Adam. Sir Nathaniel Curzon (later the first Lord Scarsdale) began the house in 1759, Adams first being asked to landscape the park and design the garden buildings, but soon after being put in charge of the house. A film, followed by slides shown by Mr. Sugden gave us a potted history of the great house and the Curzon family. The house itself contains some fine furniture and paintings, and the fascinating Indian Museum holding numerous articles collected on Lord Curzons Indian tours. The museum contains the fabulous Peacock dress worn by Lady Curzon for the Delhi Coronation Durbar in January 1903. I am sure that Mr. Sugdens talk has encouraged our members to visit Kedleston this summer.

Pioneer Families From Bugsworth, G. Timmington, 10th March 1995

Mr. Timmington's interest in the pioneer families was spawned by a trip to the U.S.A. ten years ago and visiting many small town museums. His many slides illustrated the pioneering adventures of two families from Bugsworth, the Claytons and the Marshalls. Some of the Marshall memoirs, written in 1870. are kept at Bolton library and describe the 2000 mile journey from Bugsworth to California. which began with a walk from Hayfield to New Bailey Bridge in Manchester to take a barge down to Liverpool. Joel Clayton went to New York. Wisconsin and Oregon before arriving in California. There he founded a town called Garibaldi, which later became known as Clayton. This very interesting talk by Mr. Timmington helped to show the enormous efforts these local families went to in attempting to start a better life.

Old Manchester, M.T. Burton, 7th. April 1995

M.T. Burton is no stranger to our Society and his return was warmly welcomed. He showed a wonderful array of slides depicting the buildings and early public transport of Manchester. As usual his very informative account was enlivened by the humour that accompanies his talks. His presentation sparked off reminiscences amongst the audience, many of whom had personal stories to tell of some of the buildings now gone forever.

Making Ends Meet, Melanie Tebbutt, 12th. May 1995 (A.G.M.)

This was an excellent talk by Melanie, based on her original research. She began with the role of the pawnbroker in the rapidly expanding cities of the nineteenth century, giving accounts of actual premises and their contents sufficient to get her audience scratching!

Melanie is particularly interested in songs on pawnbroking, and was even brave enough to give us an unaccompanied rendering. She would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows any songs about pawnbroking.

A SURVEY OF NEW MILLS SHOPS

This summer the Society is making a photographic survey of the shops of New Mills. When our committee was discussing the arrangements for the survey, it was decided to photograph also those premises known to have been shops in former times, and this led to the suggestion that information on the history of our shops should be gathered. Thanks to lively and informative articles in the local press appealing on our behalf for information, there has been a very good response. Several elderly people with astonishing powers of recollection of shops as they were in the 1930's and '40's have sent information. One notable contribution, a programme for the Grand Centenary Bazaar of 1912 of New Mills Wesleyan Chapel, kindly loaned by Mr. G. Wild of Hall Street, contains a large number of advertisements for New Mills shops at an early period. In the autumn when the prints taken by our photographers will be exhibited at the Heritage Centre, there will be an opportunity for visitors to contribute their knowledge of the history of our shops: but you don't have to wait 'til then. If you can recall any details regarding New Mills shops in the past (and it doesn't have to be the distant past) - who owned them, what was sold. preferably with dates-Ron Weston will be very happy to hear from you (tel. 744838). Your reminiscences about what it was like to shop in New Mills in earlier times compared to today would be an excellent topic for the Newsletter. Just put pen to paper.

<p>IF YOU WANT EASY FOOTWEAR TRY WOOD'S, THE OLD ESTABLISHED Boot, Shoe and Clog Shop, 28, HIGH STREET, NEW MILLS.</p> <hr/> <p>New and Second-hand Clogs in stock.</p> <hr/> <p>REPAIRS HEATLY AND PROMPTLY EXECUTED.</p>	<p>A. E. SHINGLER, Family Grocer . . and Confectioner, 37, CHURCH ROAD, NEW MILLS.</p> <hr/> <p>FRESH FARM HOUSE EGGS.</p> <hr/> <p>Noted for Home Made Bread and Tea Cakes.</p> <hr/> <p>FINEST IRISH & DANISH BACON & HAMS.</p> <hr/> <p>FINEST BRANDS OF TINNED FRUITS.</p>
---	---

Advertisements from the programme for the Grand Centenary Bazaar of 1912 of New Mills Wesleyan Chapel. If you have similar material of any date. please let me know.

Ron Weston.

NEW MILLS AND THE NEW POOR LAW OF 1834 (Continued)

(5) In 1839 plans were being drawn up for a Union Workhouse at Low Leighton (now Ollersett View Hospital). A note from Mr Stevens, the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner pointed out that 'the Vagrant Wards require an external Entrance to them to avoid the necessity that there otherwise would be of taking the Vagrants through the House and Yards of the Regular Inmates'.

(6) The 1834 Act abolished the centuries-old allowance system (outdoor relief) 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. This new system soon came under strain when many New Mills people were thrown out of work by the closure of local cotton mills in the late 1830s. The Guardians reverted to the payment of outdoor relief and the commissioners soon pointed out that this was a departure from the new rules. An Assistant Commissioner, Mr Gilbert, was sent to meet the Guardians and he reported that he 'found that many applications came to be made for relief from the able-bodied thrown out of work by the stoppage of a large manufactory at New Mills - and I found a very strong disposition on the part of the majority of the Board to grant relief without test'.

He went on to suggest that 'stones should be placed in the workhouse yard and that the head of the family should attend at the house to break stones or pick oakum'. The problem was that the workhouse was small. He advised that the rules be relaxed and went on to say 'the mills which have stopped I understand are on an old construction ill calculated to compete with the late improvements and though the stoppage is called a temporary suspension, doubts are entertained whether the works will be renewed'. Accounts show that in 1843, 4490 was spent on outdoor relief in the four townships of Hayfield, Beard [four hamlets], Mellor, and Disley.

(7) The boundaries of the Hayfield Poor Law Union cut across the ancient ecclesiastical and hamlet boundaries. Three of the townships making up the Union - Hayfield, Disley and Mellor each consisted of one former hamlet, but the township of Beard was made up of four (Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett and Whitle). Beard and part of Thornsett were in the Hayfield chapelry, while the rest of Thornsett and the whole of Whitle were part of the chapelry of Mellor, which also consisted of three other hamlets outside the Poor Law Union and in the parish of Glossop. On top of all this, Disley was part of the parish of Stockport.

When the national censuses were taken, the population of parish, chapel, hamlet and union had to be separately accounted. Later in the nineteenth century,

came Urban and Rural District Councils, and Census registration districts. It was no wonder that the census report of 1881 complained that

'This complex system of division of the country... adds enormously to the labour of compiling a Census and to the length of time occupied in the vast multitude of different areas that have to be taken into account, but still more in the bewildering complexity of their boundaries which intersect each other in so intricate a manner as often to baffle even local knowledge.'

In October 1837 a letter from the Mellor vestry clerk, James Bowden, illustrated the difficulties arising from this confusion. He pointed out that the chapelry of Mellor extended into five townships - Mellor, Ludworth, Chisworth, Whitle and part of Thornsett. They had refused to pay 'a church rate for the repair of Mellor church. 'Could it be paid for out of the poor rate?', he asked. Not surprisingly, the answer was 'no'.

(8) In August 1845 an application was made to the poor law commissioners for the sale of parish property consisting of two lots, one a freehold dwelling house and gardens on Whitle Bank built for the purpose of lodging paupers belonging to the township, and the other

'a freehold cottage and lock-up in New Mills, built upon the waste about 50 years ago for the purpose of a lock-up and Towns meeting house let to Thomas Handforth, totally unfit to lodge any one in'

This, is of course, the 'Drunkard's Reform on Dyehouse Lane.

Derek Brumhead

THE LOCAL HISTORIAN

The February 1995 which has been placed in New Mills Library includes the following articles:

H R Loyn, 'Anglo-Saxon studies; a comment'.

J Howard-Drake, 'Church Court records and the local historian'.

M Gorsky, 'Experiments in poor relief: Bristol 1816-17'.

B Bennison, 'Not so common: the public house in north-east England between the wars'.

The book reviews include (1) 'A history of Lancaster, 1193-1993', (2) 'The Potteries: continuity and change in a Staffordshire conurbation' (3) 'Surveying the people: the interpretation and use of document sources for the study of population in the later seventeenth century', - very much to be recommended.

"Sicke in body and of good and perfecte mynd and memorie

WILLS AND INVENTORIES
OF
NEW MILLS PEOPLE
BOOK ONE
1540-1571



Edited by
Roger Bryant
Audrey Lee
Eileen Miller

THE NEW MILLS PROBATE TRANSCRIPTION SERIES

This summer sees the launch of a new series of publications entitled The New Mills Probate Transcription Series. Volumes in this series will consist of detailed transcriptions of the wills and inventories of 108 New Mills people of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The first two volumes, Book One 1540 -1571 and Book Two 1571-1582, containing the first twenty-five sets of probate documents, have been edited by Roger Bryant, Audrey Lee and Eileen Miller.

The publication of these booklets is the culmination of a lengthy process involving a number of people. The stages in this process are well summarised in the introduction to the two volumes:-•

From the probate calendars at Lichfield Joint Record Office, Audrey Lee, assisted by Rowena Clarke and Shirley McKenna, compiled a list of testators and their bundles of documents relating to the ancient parish of Glossop. By inspecting each bundle, they identified the dwelling places of the testators. The index so compiled was later published by the Derbyshire Family History Society. Roger Bryant used this work to extract New Mills references and the Society was then able to apply for photocopies of the relevant documents.

An evening class was arranged under the auspices of the W.E.A. tutored by Dr. John Smith of Manchester University. He taught a large number of students the basic skills of reading 16th and 17th century handwriting. This enabled the class to transcribe the 108 New Mills probate documents. With transcription completed, the class separated into smaller groups, each working on new tasks. One group produced a map, now on view at the New Mills Heritage Centre. Another compiled an index of names and places which is to be placed in New Mills Library. The studies of a further group resulted in the publication of two booklets: "The Living Past - New Mills People in Late Tudor and Early Stuart Times" by Rowena Clarke et al., (1991) and "The Downes Family, Husbandmen of the New Mylne 1571-1697" by Rowena Clarke (1993). The members of the fourth group have checked, prepared and edited the transcripts and are responsible for the two collections now being published.

The three editors are to be congratulated on their thoroughness in performing a task requiring painstaking attention to detail. Their thoughtful presentation of ancient documents in a modern form strikes exactly the right balance between the desire to respect the original form and meaning and the need to render the texts as comprehensible as possible to the modern reader. The cover illustrations, "The Study" and "A Burial!" by Comenius, are a delight, and aptly chosen.

Probate documents, particularly for this early period, are important sources of information for the local historian, as we have seen already in two publications in the New Mills History Notes series. "The Living past: New Mills People in Late Tudor and Early Stuart Times" and Rowena Clarke's "The Downes Family, Husbandmen of the New Mylne 1571-1679." But, wills and inventories are also fascinating documents in themselves and provide vivid and detailed insights into the lives of our forebears. These two volumes bring history alive in a manner which is both authentic and accessible, and I heartily recommend them.

Ron Weston

"STRINES HISTORY WALK" by Rosemary Taylor - A Review.

Many will recall with pleasure the Society's splendid walk around Strines in June 1994 which Rosemary and Geoffrey Taylor led, and the equally fascinating talk that they gave us on the same subject last December. Now Rosemary has encapsulated both events in a booklet, "Strines History Walk", which she has produced for New Mills Heritage Centre.

Some walking guides do no more than indicate the route to take; on Rosemary's centrespread map are 36 points of interest. Pause at each point and read the engaging notes and you will come away much wiser regarding the history of Strines than when you started. But, beyond that, you will also appreciate that Strines is more than a mere suburban ribbon linking Marple and New Mills; it is a place in its own right, full of character, and has, like all ancient settlements, a story to tell. This booklet, like a friendly companion at your elbow, tells that story.

Ron Weston

"Strines History Walk", by Rosemary Taylor is on sale at New Mills Heritage Centre. price £1-25.

VISIT TO SALTAIRE, SUNDAY JUNE, 1995

The main purpose of the Society's venture across the Pennines into the West Riding was to visit the model industrial village of Saltaire, near Bradford: but first we took the opportunity to walk along the towpath of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal with its spectacular flight of locks at Bingley.

Sir Titus Salt was a Bradford millionaire with a philanthropic bent who built a village for his workpeople which aimed to provide decent houses, a hospital, school, congregational church, almshouses, allotment gardens....., in fact all the facilities needed to see a person through life from the cradle to the grave.

Saltaire is more than just a monument to a man of vision, its vernacular architecture had a lasting influence, it is well-preserved and comparatively unblemished by modernity.

The great mill buildings which dominate the village are imposing examples of mid-Victorian architecture, during which period many new buildings were embellished with features inspired by the architecture of every corner of the world. Saltaire is no exception: the mills, built on a grand scale, incorporate many exotic features. The chimney, for example, is an alleged copy of the campanile of Santa Maria in Venice. Perhaps the association with a canalside location was being emphasised.

Our last visit was to The Bradford Industrial and Horses-at-Work Museum, where a comprehensive collection of machinery rescued from local woollen mills is displayed. The presentation of some huge working horses was perhaps the high point of this visit - and not just for the children.

Thanks to the hard work and organising skills of Barbara Matthews, our annual outing turned out to be a thoroughly absorbing and enjoyable day.

Visit to Chelmorton, Derek Brumhead, 21st. June 1995

This was a well-attended visit on a cool but pleasant evening.

Chelmorton village consists of one long main street with narrow lanes at right angles. Derek began by showing us the Grove Rake on the fault line between limestone and basalt. Such faults are common in Derbyshire villages, providing springs as well as deposits of lead and silver ores. This was also the ancient route out of the village to Miller's Dale. We retraced our steps past the thirteenth century church with its garish locust wind vane.

From a high vantage point Derek gave a very full account of the view before us of a pattern of strip fields laid out on either side of the main street. Originally these strips would have been part of the common field, whilst the surrounding hills were the wastes and commons for grazing. The dry stone boundary walls, of unknown age, possibly pre-eighteenth century, are now protected monuments.

Derek completed the walk by taking us along the main street to look at a wide variety of interesting buildings many of them being "done up" by incomers.

NEW MILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

New Mills History Notes (A5)

1. and 2. New Mills in the 1820s	O\P
3. Whittle Enclosure	60p
4. Mills of New Mills (see O.P.7)	O\P
5. New Mills 1830 - 35	60p
6. Railways of New Mills and District (see below*)	O\P
7. Turnpike Roads and Riots	£2-25p
8. The Lost Mills of Rowarth	60p
9. The New Mills Tithe Award (central area only, inc.map)	£2-95
10. Deeds of New Mills and District	60p
11. The Peak Forest Canal Upper Level: Towpath Guide	£3-25
12. A History of Providence Congregational Church New Mills	60p
13. Memories of Strines	£1-50
14. The Lost Chapel of Rowarth	60p
15. The Coal Mines of New Mills	O\P
16. Bowden Middlecale - occupants of the land 1778-1811	O\P
17. More Deeds of New Mills and District	60p
18. New Mills 1835-39	60p
19. Three Local History Walks	60p
20. New Mills Co-operative Society 1860-90	90p
21. The New Mill and some other Corn Mills of High Peak	£1-25
22. The New Mills Air Raid: Fri. 3rd. July 1942	75p
23. The Peak Forest Canal Lower Level: Towpath Guide	£3-25
24. The Living Past: New Mills People in late Tudor and early Stuart times	£2-25
25. The Downes Family. Husbandmen of the New Mylne, 1571-1679	£2-25

Occasional Publications (A4)

OP 1. Gravestone Inscriptions; St. George's Rd. Methodist Cemetery	O\P
OP 2. New Mills and District, a look back (old photos)	£3-75
OP 3. The Peak Forest Canal, its construction and later development	£3-25
OP 4. Church of the Annunciation St. Mary's Catholic Church New Mills; graveyard records	£1-00
OP 5. Ollersett in 1841: land and people	£2-95
OP 6. New Mills in 1851 and 1881 as seen through the census returns	O\P
OP 7. The Mills of New Mills (revised edn. of No.4 above)	£2-95
OP 8. The Enclosure of Thornsett	£2-95
OP 9. Thornsett in 1841: Land and People	£3-25
* Available as Railways of New Mills and District: their development and impact 1840-1902. Trans Lanc and Ches Ant Soc offprint.	

Probate Transcription Series

Wills and Inventories of New Mills People (general title)	
Book One 1540-1571	£3-25
Book Two 1571-1582	£3-25

Most publications are available at a discount if purchased at the Society's meetings.