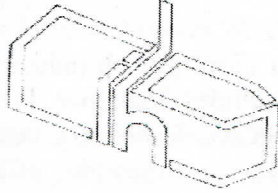


Cumbria Industrial History Society



No. 54

DECEMBER 2002

BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

The society's programme for 2002 was a great success and this Bulletin contains the details of what looks to be another great programme for 2003. I would like to thank all the committee members for all the hard work they put in, in organizing the programme.

After a very successful run of Bulletins I am afraid that the contributions for this one seem to have dried up. Surely somebody out there has something they can write about. The submissions for volume five of the Industrialist are also very slow coming in.

The committee would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you have any comments please send them to the editor.

All the committee members' contacts are available on the final page of this Bulletin.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MEMBERS EVENING FEBRUARY 26TH 7.30PM COCK AND DOLPHIN HOTEL, KENDAL

This will be our usual format with a short quiz on industrial subjects and a series of short presentations by members. This includes Laurence Hill on the Subject of industrial remains in Nibthwaite. If any member would like to give a five minute talk please contact a committee member.

APRIL 26TH SPRING CONFERENCE AND AGM

See enclosed booking form and programme

THURSDAY 8TH MAY EVENING MEETING GOODACRES CARPETS KENDAL

Meet 7pm at the site. Free parking in the factory yard. Access is from Aynam Rd. (the southbound side of the one-way system on the east of the river) before the lawnmower shop. Numbers have to be provided in advance, please book place with Helen Caldwell by April 1st.

WEDNESDAY 11TH JUNE EVENING MEETING BACKBARROW

Return visit to Backbarrow to look at the ironworks site before it is redeveloped. Leader Richard Sanderson. Park on the old road, south of Barkers woodyard. SD 357 853. (From the north, take the first right turn after the Newby Bridge section of dual; carriageway). Meeting starts 6.50pm.

SUNDAY AUGUST 17TH SWALEDALE LEAD SMELTERS

This is another visit arranged by Tony Keates to look at the remains of Old Gang and Surrender smelt mills. Meet at Surrender Bridge SD 989 999 10 am. Possible underground trip, hats and lights required, also change of socks or Wellingtons.

OCTOBER CONFERENCE

A conference on the history of iron making in Cumbria is being arranged.

NOVEMBER 11TH EVENING MEETING COCK AND DOLPHIN HOTEL KENDAL.

A talk by Warren Allison on Greenside Mines at Glenridding. This is preparation to visit to the site in 2004.

NEW BOOKS

THE MINE EXPLORER VOLUME 5

Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society 2002 ISSN 0266-5700 paperback 176 pages £9.50

This publication has been a long time in coming. Volume four was published in 1994 but the wait has been worthwhile. The publication consists of 18 papers. These are all well illustrated with black and white photographs, line drawings and maps. The articles are split between those that are pure research, for example the first article "The German Copper Mines at Coniston" by Peter Fleming, which looks at the documentary sources for the German miners' involvement at Coniston and tries to link this to what can be seen today in the area. Other subjects covered are the Letters of John Barratt, Haweswater Aqueduct and the Mardale tunnel, and Furness Mine and furnace proprietors. This last article is a most useful list of people who were associated with mining and processing in the Furness area with a list of references for each person.

The other articles deal with what CAT (Cumbria Amenity Trust) is best known for and that is mine exploration and the conservation of industrial remains. The mines covered include Coniston copper mines, Greenside mine, Croesor slate mine in North Wales Hudgillburn mine, Frog shaft at Nenthead and the Kennecott copper mines in Alaska. All of these articles whilst basically covering what the Trust has physically done on the ground also contain a large amount of information on the history and development of the mines involved.

CAT has been heavily involved with the restoration of the Newlands furnace for many years and an article by John Helme brings the history of the restoration of the site up to date.

This Journal was a pleasure to read and was very enlightening from both a factual point of view and also as an insight into the activities of CAT members and what they get up to on a weekend. For anyone interested in the industrial history of Cumbria or mining in general the book is a very worthwhile purchase.

Graham Brooks

REPRODUCTION MAPS

Alan Godfrey Maps have produced two new maps in their reproduction Ordnance survey range. The first is a one inch map of North Furness published originally in 1896 and contains a 25" to 1 mile of Cartmel town in 1910. The other map a 25" to one mile map of Grange over Sands originally printed in 1910.

"AN EXACT AND INDUSTRIOUS TRADESMAN" THE LETTERBOOKS OF
JOSEPH SYMSON OF KENDAL 1711 TO 1720

Edited by S.D. Smith, lecturer in history at the University of York. British Academy ,
Records of social and Economic history New series 34. Oxford University Press 8 plates
922 pp £65

This is a very important publication that contributes to the body of historical resources available for Cumbria, and also at regional and national level. It will give great pleasure and interest to many, both to the general historian and to the trade and industry specialist.

For those concerned with the eighteenth century economic and social history it is an invaluable document. Symson was a prosperous mercer, who conducted his business with great attention to detail and carried on other commercial activities, including brokerage and the provision of Bills of Exchange in the period before banking services became available.

There are more than 2000 letters in the collection. Apart from comprehensive coverage of Symson's local dealings and manufacturing concerns, and his extensive trade to London, an enormous range of topics appears in the excellent subject index. Future generations of local and national historians will be able to quarry Symson's Letterbook extensively, through this publication, despite the fact that the original manuscript is in the Huntington Library in the USA.

There are many references to local industrialists, to trade in the Kendal area, and to family matters, to marriages, health, death and to the apprenticeship of Symon's sons. Commodities traded, transport systems and journeys, the family, politics including the 1715 invasion of Kendal, and religion, together form the core of the Letterbook. But Symson cast a pragmatic eye over many aspects of Kendal society, from manners to the role of women in business.

For the general historian, and especially for those whose interest lies in the lifestyle of our Cumbrian ancestors, this book is a treasure trove. At over nine hundred pages, it is hardly to be read at one sitting, by even the most avid family or social historian.

Rather, it is perhaps a bedside book, to be dipped into endlessly, once the index has been trawled.

Symson was 61 years old when the first surviving letter was written. He was meticulous, thoughtful, with high moral principles, based on the Anglican Protestantism of his forebears. He provides detailed insight into Westmorland society just at the point before innovations in industrial technology and transport brought Kendal and the North West into the modern world.

Dr Smith's painstaking editing and comprehensive introduction to his subject expose few errors for even the most pedantic critic. He is perhaps a little too emphatic about the remoteness and backwardness of our region. Certainly George Hilton, whose diary is contemporary with Symson's was able to find, having no horse, some kind of public coach service from Lancaster towards London, in June 1702, without having to detour to Chester. His habitual route was through Stone in Staffordshire, Coventry, Daventry and Barnet. Typically, Hilton appears in the letterbook, as the recipient of cash payments of £30 and 312, at the behest of Joshua Burrow of Beetham in 1717. The role of the tradesman industrialist as a banker features regularly.

With comments on everything from cheesemongers to charity schools, attorneys and apothecaries, and with tentacles stretching across the Pennines to Newcastle, to Liverpool, Manchester and London, and from Whitehaven over the Atlantic, Joseph Symson's thoughts were centered within a wide network, though he himself rarely left the area except for a family matter or to collect a pressing debt. Yet his window onto Kendal industry and trade in the early 18th century and beyond that to the wider panorama, is both exciting and illuminating.

Anne Hillman

THE WINDERMERE FERRY - HISTORY, BOATS, FERRYMEN AND PASSENGERS

By Dick White, Helm Press 2002 110pp ISBN 09540497 1 3 £9.50

THE GUNPOWDER MILLS OF CUMBRIA

By Ian Tyler Blue Rock, £17.99

This book is typical of the type of book we have come to expect from Ian. It covers the gunpowder industry in Cumbria for the whole 200 years that it was carried out. The book is full of technical details of the industry and its sites. But in Ian's typical style he brings the lives of the people involved in the industry on a day to day basis to the attention of the reader. This is a very enjoyable read for anyone interested in the industry and a useful starting point for further research.

THE KENDAL AND WINDERMERE RAILWAY

By Dick Smith, Cumbrian Railway Association, 50pp ISBN 0-9540232_0_X £6.95

This is another excellent book from the Cumbrian Railway Association. It covers the history of the first line to enter the Lake District. The line came about because the plans for the railway from England to Scotland would by pass Kendal. The locals rallied and decided to build their own branch line. The problems leading up to this and the subsequent fight to build and open the line are told in great detail by the author. Once opened, the private company struggled for its independence, but it was eventually swallowed up into LNWR.

The book goes on to look at the effect the line had on the area especially Windermere. The full history of the line is followed from it's Heyday in the late 1800's, through it's slow decline after nationalization and eventually to it's revival in the 1980's and 1990's.

The book is lavishly illustrated throughout with black and white photographs, some of which have not been published previously. There are also numerous line drawings of track diagrams etc.

This book is of interest not only to the railway enthusiast but also to industrial historians and anyone interested in that area of the Lake District.

Graham Brooks

THE ROMAN SURVEY OF BRITAIN

By Michael Ferrar and Alan Richardson. Matteredale Historical and Archaeology Society £6.

For those of you who attended the April conference this is the written work on which Alan based his talk. The book is full of maps showing the route of Roman roads throughout Britain, and for the local enthusiast there is a section covering Cumbria.

Copies are available from Alan at 28 Keld Close, Stainton, Penrith, CA11 0EJ.

ORDNANCE SURVEY 25 INCH FIRST EDITION MAPS OF LANCASTER

Digital Archives at 3 Cedarways, Appleton, Warrington, WA\$ has published a compact disc with the 25" First Edition Ordnance Survey maps of Lancashire, covering Northern Lancashire. Discs covering Manchester and the South East and Liverpool and the South West will follow.

The discs have high resolution and the sample I have been sent, covering the Furness area, is very clear and can be enlarged and printed to give very large scale maps centred on any location required. For anyone doing research or just interested in Lancashire at this period, 1888 to 1893, each CD is very good value at £20 plus £1.50 postage and packaging from the above address.

RECENT ARCHIVE DEPOSITS

The records of all Cumbrian non-coal mines which have closed have been transferred from the British Geological Survey to Whitehaven Records Office. The Abandonment Non-Coal Mines Plans record almost 250 mines which operated in Cumbria between 1819 and 1980. the earliest on record is the Borrowdale Wad Mine.

A new group has been set up called The Mills Archive Trust to develop and maintain an archive and resource library specializing in traditional mills and milling. They are developing their free online catalogue, which is available at www.millarchive.com.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Mr Arnold Lawson is researching the Lawson family who moved to Workington from Carlisle in the 1880's. They were all plasterers and he is assuming he moved to Workington to help build houses for the influx of steelworkers to the Derwent Ironworks. He is also interested in house building in Workington in general in the 1880's.

Mr A Lawson
32 Winchester Avenue
Sheffield
S10 4EA

Mr K Edwards of Edwards Pigments, is appealing for information or help in obtaining one or more small samples of haematite (200g) from the Furness area. He would particularly like samples from the Plumpton mine and from Lindal, but needs guidance on how to gain access or whom to approach if he came to the area for a couple of days next summer. He already has good samples of ore from Florence mine at Egremont.

He believes Furness haematite may have been used in Italy as a red pigment for frescoes etc. One of his friends is writing a book on English earth pigments and would welcome any information about the historical production of pigments from Furness ore.

Edwards Pigments
10 Kinglake Place
Nottingham
NG2 1NT

MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mike Davies-Shiel has sent the following comments on mills in Ulverston following on from the report of the June 2001 visit.

Ellers Lane had a string of mills along its North side from west to East.

High Ellers High Tannery

Mid High Ellers High Cotton

Mid Ellers High Paper

Low Ellers High Paper

Along its south side from west to East were

High Ellers Low cotton

High Mid Ellers Low Cotton then Brushes

Mid Ellers Low Iron Tools and a Tannery

Low Ellers Low Cotton then Corn (now engineering)

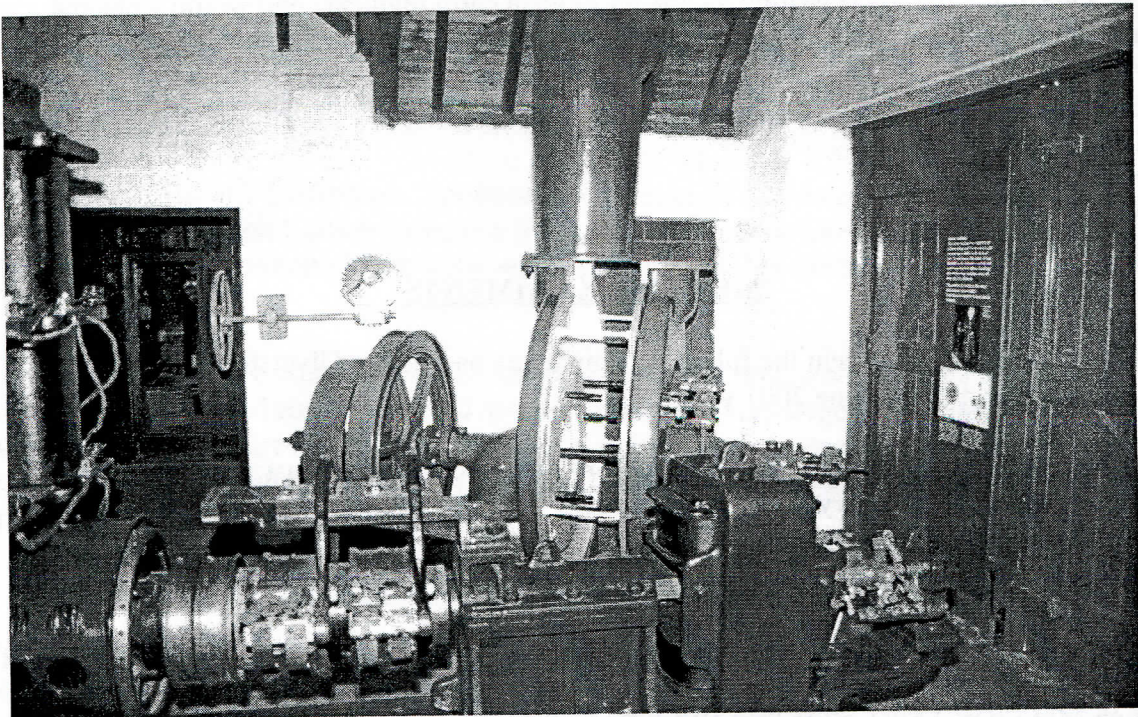
He also comments that the Woodburns were a long line of excellent corn millers at Town Mill.

MADE IN CUMBRIA

The National Trust property Cragside in Northumbria was the home of the eminent Victorian industrialist Lord Armstrong. One of his main interests was in the use of water power either as hydraulic power or as a means of generating electricity. To this end he had installed at Cragside a hydroelectric power scheme. The turbines and generators are still on show within the powerhouse in the grounds, along with other forms of turbines etc.

The turbine was built in 1886 by Gilkes of Kendal and is a vortex turbine producing 24 hp at 1500 rpm. It has 4 internal guide vanes and the 14 inch diameter runner is directly coupled to a Crompton direct current compound-wound double magnet "trade" type dynamo producing 110v. 90amps at 790rpm.

Also on show in the powerhouse is a Gilkes 1883 vortex turbine. This was originally at one of Lord Armstrongs' farms at Low Trew hitt near Thropton. It was used to power belt driven threshing and winnowing machines. It had a 6hp output at 230rpm with a 14ft head. It is based on a design patented in 1856 by James Thompson of Belfast and is correctly a "double vortex turbine", made by the Williamson Brothers.



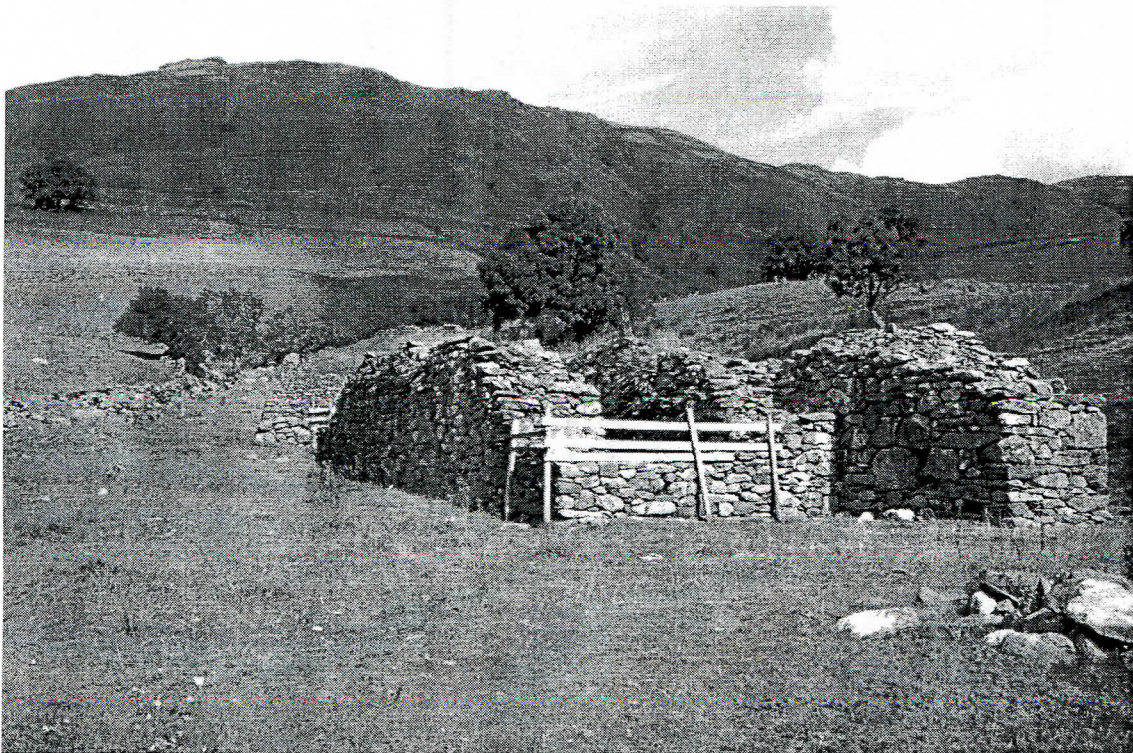
GILKES 1883 TURBINE IN CENTRE PARTIALLY OPENED TO SHOW WORKINGS.

THE HARTSOP VISIT

On a not very promising Sunday in August 16 members turned up at the car park in Hartsop. Robert Maxwell and one of his colleagues from the National Trust lead us off along the track towards Hayeswater reservoir. As we proceeded along the track the remains of the Hartsop corn mill with its very substantial leat was pointed out. At the point at which the track crossed Hayeswater Gill, Stuart Cresswell began to explain the water power system to Myers Head mine.

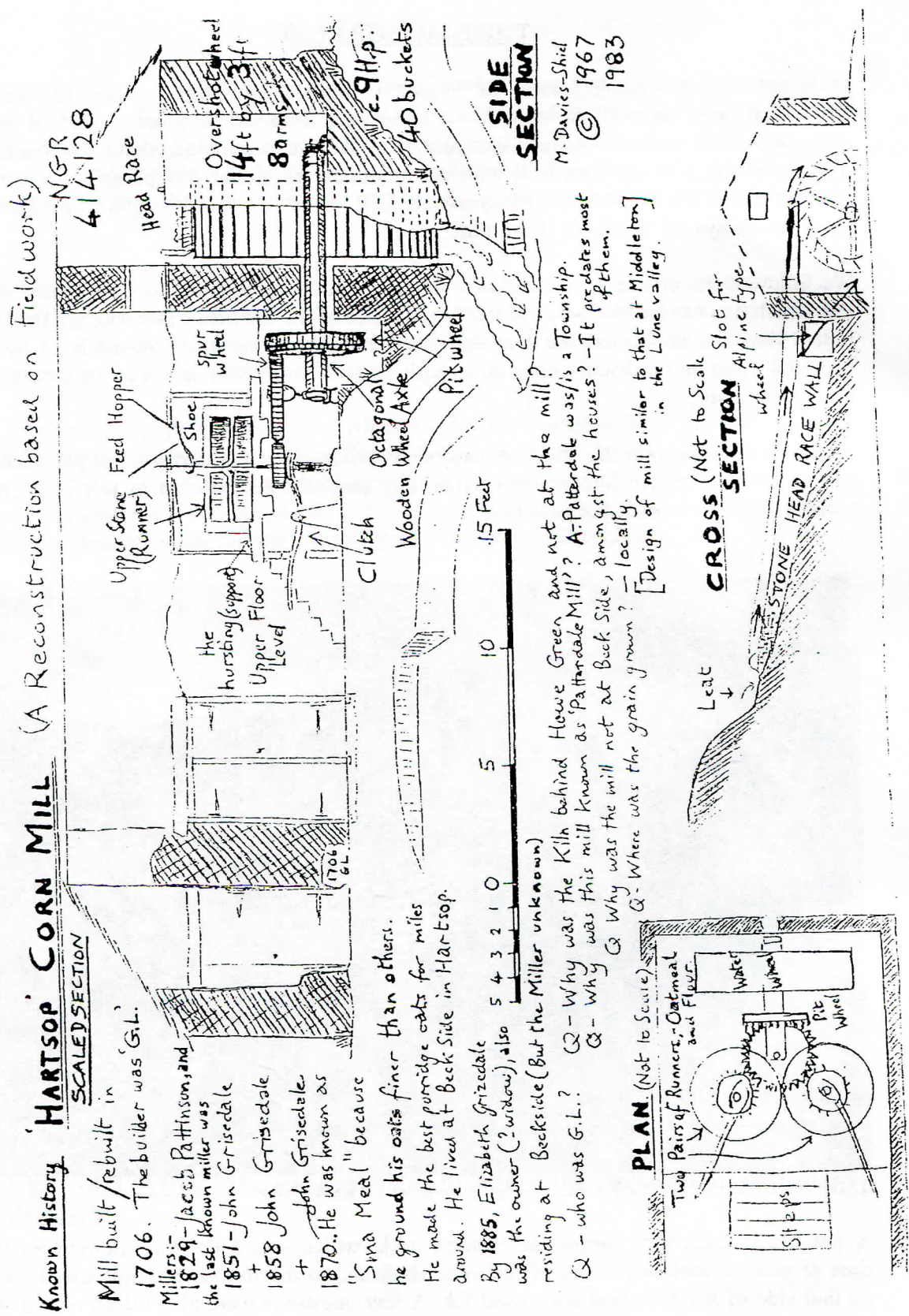
We followed the course of the Gill downstream and Stuart pointed out the course of the leat which had carried the water to the Wheel. One of the features of the site are the large pillars that had supported the leat and these have been recently consolidated by the National Trust and a discussion ensued with regards to the way in which this work had been carried out.

The large wheel pit on the site had also been conserved and Stuart gave explanation of how the whole system had worked. Hopefully this will be reported in full in a future volume of the Cumbrian Industrialist.



THE WHEEL PIT, MYERS HEAD MINE, EAST HARTSOP

A few brave souls then forded the Pasture beck, which was fuller than normal for the time of year, to look at the site of the mine shaft and to discuss the possible use the leat on that side of the beck had been used for. A few questions were also raised over a flat circular area next to the shaft, had it been used as a horse gin for winding?



Known History 'HARTSOP' CORN MILL (A Reconstruction based on Fieldwork)

SCALED SECTION

Mill built/rebuilt in 1706. The builder was 'G.L.'

Millers:-
1829-Jacob Pattinson, and
the last known miller was
1851-John Grisendale
+
1858 John Grisendale
+
John Grisendale
1870. He was known as
"Sma Meal" because

he ground his oats finer than others.
He made the best porridge oats for miles
around. He lived at Beck Side in Hartsop.

By 1885, Elizabeth Grisendale
was the owner (? widow), also
residing at Beckside (But the Miller unknown)

Q - who was G.L.?

Q - Why was the Kiln behind Howe Green and not at the mill?

Q - Why was this mill known as 'Patterdale Mill'?

Q - Why was the mill not at Beck Side, amongst the houses? - It predates most of them.

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0 5 10 15 Feet

SIDE SECTION

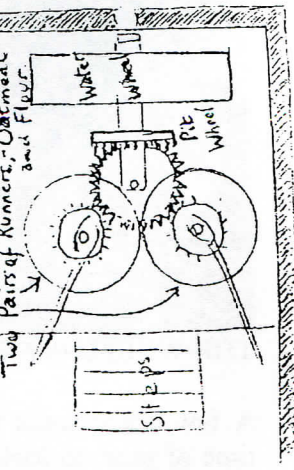
M. Davies-Shiel
© 1967
1983

Design of mill similar to that at Middleton in the Lune valley.

CROSS SECTION (Not to Scale)



PLAN (Not to Scale)



After re-crossing Pasture Beck we continued back towards Hartsop corn mill where Mike Davies-Shiel gave an explanation of the remains. (See diagram over). After viewing the corn mill we returned to the car park as the rain started falling. It was decided that due to the heavy rain we would drive to the car park at the bridge for lunch before setting out for the smelt mill.

It was a much smaller group that set forth on the walk up Deepdale to the smelt mill in heavy rain. The crossing of Hartsop beck did not present too much of a difficulty, but crossing of the Hogget Gill to reach the smelt mill site proved more difficult. The National Trust have again carried out conservation work on this site part of which has been the grassing of the slag deposits to try and prevent people excavating into them. A comparison of the field survey carried out by Mike Davies-Shiel in 1968 (See Bulletin No. 49 April 2001) and a survey done for the National Trust and what could still be seen of the water supply system to the smelt mill, was done.

After about an hour looking around the site the re-crossing of Hogget Gill was even harder due to the heavy rain. On the walk back to the cars the rain stopped but only a very small number of members then ventured to look at the remains of the mines above Hartsop Hall. These had been worked as both lead mines and Barytes mines and a variety of features still remain on the site.

SITE NEWS

NEWLANDS FURNACE

On the 6th September 2002 the Newlands iron furnace site was scheduled. The parts of the site affected are the blast furnace, leat and infilled water wheel pit, the buried remains of part of the nearby charcoal barn complex together with an old trackway, loading platform, bridge abutment and retaining wall, blacking mill, associated buildings and water management systems.

The remaining charcoal barns have been listed as 2*.

Conservation is still ongoing on the site. The last girder has been put into the arches of the blast furnace and replacement corbelling is being put in.

Anyone interested in helping on this site should contact John Helme 015398 14378 for details of the next work day.

BACKBARROW IRON WORKS

Yet another planning application has been submitted for development of this site. This one consists of conservation of the historic buildings and conversion of part of them to either dwellings or industrial units. Also a number of work/live units are to be constructed on the site. Access and visitor interpretation of the site is to be included in any development.

Do not forget the summer evening visit to the site to view any development that may have taken place by then.

PENRITH STEAM MUSEUM/FOUNDRY

The site of the old foundry which was developed into a museum in Penrith close to the station is to be demolished and the site used for housing.

LONGTOWN MUNITIONS FACTORY

The original office block, Mossband house on the side of the A 74 is to be possibly demolished. This was the offices for the 1915 munitions factory built around Gretna. It was the building of this factory and the number of workers that came to the area, that led to the government taking over the brewing industry and public houses in Carlisle in order to control their drinking habits.

OCTOBER CONFERENCE

About fifty members of the CIHS and NWIAP turned up at the Hundith Hill hotel near Cockermouth for the second joint conference of these two groups. It was a sad start to the meeting with the announcement of the sudden death of John Bennett the previous day and a minute's silence was observed.

The first speaker was Dr Sam Murphy who took a look at Elizabethan mining in the Lake District. He started by discussing the techniques used by the miners to extract the ore. These included picks, hammers and wedges usually made from wrought iron with steel added for hardness and wear resistance. The technique used was to cut a slot into the country rock beside the vein and then using the natural cracks in the vein, wedges were driven in and lumps of vein material were broken off. He then considered fire-setting which he reckoned was only used in hard rock areas such as Coniston and not the Newlands or Caldbeck areas.

He then looked at two of the main German mining areas: Goldscope (or Gods Gift) and Silvergill mine at Caldbeck. Both of these mines had been worked before the Germans arrived in the area, but they greatly developed both mines. The Goldscope mine was worked for its copper ores, but Silvergill mine was predominantly a lead mine. The Germans were not particularly interested in lead as a commodity to sell but they required large quantities to use in the purification process of the copper. He described the work carried out at both mines by the Germans and the ongoing investigations that are occurring at Silvergill mine including the recent discovery of a possible ore transporting system and an intact Jack Roll.

The final part of his talk considered the site of the German smelt mill at Keswick. The actual site is not described in any surviving documents but there is a very accurate description of the buildings that occurred on the site. By looking at similar buildings on other sites it has been possible to show that most buildings types were of a specific size

over numerous sites. He then attempted a reconstruction of these buildings on the commonest site associated with the smelt mill at Brigham on the river Greta outside Keswick. This reconstruction fits into the available space on the site, but alas there has been so much alteration and changes on the site over the years there is no evidence left to prove it one way or other.

The second speaker was David Winkworth, the owner of the printing house museum in Cockermouth. He started by taking a look at the origins of printing in China and then the development by Gutenberg and Caxton in Europe. He then looked at the different processes by which type can be produced and other processes that are used in printing. He then came back to the history of printing in Cockermouth and looked at some of the larger companies (including Bailey who printed the West Cumberland Times). He quickly outlined the development of presses from wooden to cast iron and the increase in printing speed that came about due to this.

After an excellent lunch the audience settled back down for the afternoon session which was started by Chris Wilde from Oxford North Archaeology Unit. He started his talk with an overview of the development of the west Cumbria coalfield. He then moved onto the development of Saltom pit at Whitehaven which was developed by the Lowthers to allow them to open up the reserves of coal under the sea and allow them to keep ahead of the trade from Workington.

Saltom pit saw a number of new innovations in the coal field including the use of gun powder in the sinking of the shaft, the sinking of an oval shaft instead of a circular shaft. This allowed the shaft to be split so one side could be used as a downcast shaft and the other as an upcast shaft to allow ventilation of the whole mine. He went on to describe how a harbour had been built to allow coals to be exported direct from the shore. But this had to stop being used within five years because it was too dangerous. The coals were then taken in through a drift in the cliff face to the bottom of Ravenhill pit, where they were hauled up and transported to the harbour at Whitehaven.

This pit required steam pumping engines to keep it free of water and Chris then described the various engines that had been installed on the site over the years. Initially the coals had been wound up the shaft by a horse gin but at some unrecorded time this had been replaced by a steam winding engine. It is the building that had housed this engine that is the main feature that is left on the site and Chris showed the results of a survey he had carried out there in 1999, to end his talk.

The next speaker was Charles Blackett-Ord, a consultant engineer who has been heavily involved with the restoration of disused railway viaducts in the north of England. He started off by outlining the reasons why there were a number of disused viaducts around the country. This was mainly due to the effect of the Beeching cuts and viaducts that were not close to main roads on closed lines were too expensive to demolish and so had been left. A number of these have been listed either as grade 2* or grade 2 but are still deteriorating although they are often major features in the landscape. The main problems

are vegetation growth on the structures and water penetration, which is causing areas to break off.

Some viaducts have been acquired by a variety of trusts and Charles has been involved in their restoration. This can be awkward due to their inaccessibility especially if the track bed has been sold off to a different owner. He then went on to show the process of restoration of both the Smardale Gill Viaduct and the Lambley Viaduct.

The final speaker was Dr. Mike Nevell who described a survey he had undertaken into canal warehouses in the north west. There are about 59 canal warehouses surviving in the region. These varied between warehouses owned by the canal companies and those in private ownership. The survey looked at form and function. In general they were used for medium to long-term storage of goods and were generally split into three areas :- the entrance where the goods were unloaded; a storage area and finally an exit area where the goods were dispatched.

He split the warehouses up in to four basic types.

Type one, which includes the original canal warehouse at the Castlefield terminus of the Bridgewater canal, has an arm of the canal which actually enters the building. This allows canal boats to be loaded and unloaded within the building. These buildings were generally on two layers with the storage and cart entrances being on a level above the canal. The arms into the buildings are either set parallel to the canal or at ninety degrees.

Type two warehouses have the building directly on the side of the canal bank so goods can be off-loaded and loaded directly into the warehouse. These usually had some form of external hoist system to allow loading to all floors.

Type three are warehouses which are set back from the canal edge usually across the tow path. These usually relied upon small derricks mounted on the canal side to aid loading and unloading.

The final type, (four), were basic trans-shipment sheds. These were usually open sided buildings with occasionally roofs which projected over part of the canal, and were used for bulk cargoes such as coal and lime.

He illustrated the different types of warehouses and showed the great range in size from small rural warehouses to the massive warehouses found within major industrial areas. He also illustrated the different architectural designs that were employed by the various canal companies when they constructed their buildings.

This talk brought to an end what had been a wonderful day for all those who attended.

NOVEMBER EVENING MEETING

The November evening meeting was exceptionally well attended. The speaker was our member Ken Bradshaw who talked about Milestones. He started by explaining how his interest in milestones started and the formation of the milestone society about eighteen months earlier.

English Heritage have about 188 stones listed, but considering there was about 380 miles of turnpike road would suggest that if all the stones were originally placed at mile intervals there should be well over 300 stones in the country.

One of the main losses of milestones occurred during the Second World War when large numbers were removed in an attempt to confuse any German invasion. Luckily in Cumbria most of the stones were stored in the local highway's yards and these were re-instated after the war. This means that Cumbria is one of the counties in the country with the most stones in place.

There is a wide range of shapes and designs of milestones ranging from the 'tombstone shape' to triangular ones and modern highly decorative ones. Some had the distances carved into the stone whilst others had cast iron plates fastened to them giving the details.

The earliest milestones date from the Roman period, but the majority date from the beginning of the mail system. Post was originally charged by the distance the letters were carried. Therefore mileposts were erected to allow accurate measurement to take place. The turnpike roads also had a requirement to provide distance markers. The earliest ones usually had a well known place on them such as a local market cross.

Mileposts not only occur on the roads but the canals also had regular markers and this was continued by the railways. Mileposts over the years have been used for other purposes, the commonest being as benchmarks for the Ordnance Survey.

Ken also discussed other wayside furniture including toll bar boards and road signs and pointed out a few examples that did not appear quite right.

The talk was well illustrated throughout with pictures of the different types of mile posts both within the county and from around the country.

DESCRIPTION OF MANUFACTURING BUSINESSES, PREMISES, PROCESSES, AND PRODUCTS IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Introduction

It is widely acknowledged that the pages of the local press are at once an invaluable but intractable source for all branches of historical research. The purpose of the project, the first fruits of which are presented below, is to make the exploitation of newspaper sources a little easier for those interested in manufacturing industry. The objective is to summarize every newspaper entry which contains some substantive information about a manufacturing operation. Entries which simply mention a business without giving details of the premises, processes, or products, are generally excluded. Feedback from users on these selection criteria would be appreciated.

Newspapers provide information in both their editorial matter and in advertisements. This information falls into five broad categories:

Owners, occupiers and transactions: Most items name the owner and/or the occupier of the premises concerned. Frequently the purpose of the advertisement or press report was to announce a change in one or other of these.

Buildings and plant: Many items contain descriptions of the premises. They can indicate the relationship of buildings to their wider setting, the disposition of buildings within a complex, the dimensions and height (usually in stories) of individual structures, the date of construction --although phrases such as 'recently erected' and 'newly built' should be interpreted with care--, the internal arrangement of the rooms and the distribution of the plant installed therein. Lists of plant and machinery provide evidence of exactly which processes were being carried out and may hint a probable output levels

Power supplies: Many advertisers were at pains to specify the capacity of water wheels and steam engines

Products: Information about these is less common but rarity makes the few example which do exist the more valuable

Commercial practices: These also appear infrequently but serve to illuminate unfamiliar ground.

It is anticipated that the material will be of use both to those whose primary interest is Cumbrian history but also to a range of specialists for whom it will provide contextual and comparative data. It is expected that the following groups will be prominent among the users of the information presented.

Local historians: economic activity of one kind or another is the foundation of every local community but it is often difficult to learn much more than names and dates. This material provides a little more detail about a few of these.

Industrial archaeologists: This material contains a wealth of detail about the size, height, date, internal arrangement and equipment, and power supplies of manufacturing premises which can be used to illuminate our understanding of extant buildings or to provide comparative material

Economic historians: his material will provide data concerning the ownership, size, capacity, products, and commercial arrangements of manufacturing enterprises

Family historians who wish to fill out some detail about the working lives of their ancestors.

Running indexes of names, places, processes and products, and miscellaneous are being maintained. Information from these can be supplied (in the form of entry numbers) to inquirers sending a list of headings to be searched and an SAE. to the compiler, G. W. Oxley, 6 Hugh Little Garth, Carlisle, CA2 4LQ

The first group of entries are from the Carlisle Journal (CJ) and relate to the years 1801-2 and offer a good cross section of the kind on information available in the local press. They cover a wide range of industries, including coach building (No.8), corn milling (No.3), hat making (No.7), iron making (No.16) and tanning (No.1), but textile manufacture is dominant with three references each to calico printing (Nos.2, 11, 13) and weaving (Nos. 5, 6, 17) and two to spinning (Nos.11, 15). Buildings are described at No. 2 (print field at Cummersdale) and at No.11 (cotton/flax mill at Al(d)ston). There are detailed accounts of plant at the tannery (No.1), hat manufactory (No.7), and corn mill (No.3) and of the product of a textile manufacturer (No.5), and the ironworks (No. 15). New investment in buildings features in No 15 (new cotton mill at Dalston) and No. 2 (print field at Cummersdale) and technological innovation and its implications for the workforce in No. 14 (Woodbank print field). Commercial relationships are revealed in the case of the hat manufactory (No.7) selling its products to Northern Scotland and the Ironworks importing iron from a named supplier in Archangel (No.15).

Entries for 1801-2

1. Tan yard at Brampton

Twenty-one pits, eight handlers, two baits, a water pit, three limes, a drying house containing eight pits, a bark mill and loft, a smith's shop with two rooms above, two dwelling houses (one fronting on the back street) with a small garden behind
Advertised to be sold by the owner Simon Ewart,

CJ 119, 31 Jan. 1801

2. Print field at Cummersdale

It is with much pleasure that we learn that a new print field is shortly to be commenced at Cummersdale in the vicinity of this city, a situation extremely well calculated for the purpose. The patrons, who are persons of the first respectability and opulence, intend, we understand, to carry on the business to a greater extent than any other fields in this neighborhood. The foundations of a workshop, the dimensions of which are ninety yards by forty was laid a few days ago.

Editorial matter, CJ 133, 9 May 1801

3. Monkhill Mills at Beaumont

Two adjacent corn mills, one powered by water one by wind. The water mill has a constant supply of water has a pair of excellent stones called French burrs for grinding wheat, a pair of Northumberland gray stones for grinding barley, a cylinder, a dressing mill, a barley mill, etc. The wind mill has a pair of blue stones for grinding wheat, a pair of gray stones for grinding barley, and a cylinder for dressing flour
Advertised to be sold by an unnamed owner,

CJ 141, 4 July 1801

4. Soapery in Kings Arms Lane, Carlisle

An extensive building with the ware rooms, yard, and other conveniences lately occupied by Barnes, Langcake & Co., soap boilers and tallow chandlers containing every convenience for carrying on these trades. 'From the construction of the buildings they may easily be converted into weaving shops, or occupied by any other manufacturing business but as there is no soapery within many miles of Carlisle these premises would be a very advantageous situation for persons in that business.'
Advertised to be let,

CJ 150, 1 Sept. 1801

5. Textile manufacturing stock

A large quantity of new home made linen cloth, bleached and unbleached; a quantity of blue and white printed linens; a great number of hoggaback webs for table cloths, etc.; a quantity of webs for poking, bed ticks, etc.; several hundredweight of good candlewick; a number of bundles of 12, 16, 28, & 24 cuts yarn; four hanks and shorts yarn; muslin twist; seven pairs of weaving looms; several pairs of line hecklers; feather fans; brushes; muslin temples; linen and muslin bobbins; a warping mill and bank, geers, slays, shuttles and yarn scales; a dozen counting glasses; large and small scales, beams, and weights; three excellent mahogany counters and desks; iron boilers, etc.
Advertised to be sold, formerly the property of William Bell, grocer,

CJ 151, 8 Sept. 1801

6. Weaving shop in Abbey Street, Carlisle

Seven looms with room for an eighth and an excellent press for pressing cloth; four rooms on the first floor contain a warping mill, and an accounts office; the third floor has a heckling room with four good hecklers and a large store room. The tenant may be accommodated with a large quantity of bleached and unbleached yarn, also quantities of bleached linen and checked webs at a fair valuation. Formerly the property of Robert Stodart, deceased.

Advertised to be let by Joseph Stodart of Newby and Abraham Stodart of Crosby near Maryport,

CJ 165, 19 Dec. 1801

7. Coach maker, Scotch Street, Carlisle

A dwelling house; a saw yard; a stable; shades; coach houses; smith's, wheeler's, body maker's, and painter's shops, all adjoining

Advertised to be sold by the widow of Robert Lowthian,

CJ 165, 19 Dec. 1801

8. Dye house without Irish Gate and land at Broadguards, Carlisle

Large commodious dye house, warehouse, drying grounds and other conveniences. The property is well adapted for the accommodation of two persons, one for the country business, the other for the manufacturing trade; 'one or more' good dwelling houses; the shops at the different markets attended by F. Beattie; also land at Broadguards near Carlisle

Dye house advertised to be let for 9, 14, or 21 years; land to be let on building leases for weaving shops or any other manufacturing purpose where water is required,

CJ 168, 9 Jan. 1802

9. Malt house in Paternoster Row, Carlisle

A house at the head of Abbey Street with a large and extensive malting convenience to the rear occupied from Paternoster Row

Advertised for the lease from the Dean and Chapter for forty years from 1792 to be sold by the lessee, Mrs Irving,

CJ 184, 1 May 1802

10. Cotton/flax mill at Aldston (?Alston)

A new mill for spinning flax or cotton mill situated at one end of a 'very powerful overfall waterwheel' having a plentiful supply of water which never freezes, 31 feet x 32 feet with four rooms and a garret each above the other and all of the above size; at the other end of the wheel are erections for preparing, etc.
Advertised to be let by the owner, William Todd,

CJ 190, 12 June 1802

11. Hat manufactory without Irish Gates, Carlisle

Extensive and well established, the premises comprise a bow shop for twenty men; a plank shop with two sets of planks for twelve men; another with one set of planks for four men; a finishing shop for six men; a dye house; a good stove with a kiln above for drying wool; a stiffening shop; a cutting shop for six cutters; a large hat ware room; a large cellar; an office; a dwelling house fit for the accommodation of a genteel family and a stable with three stalls. The utensils and stock in trade may be had at a valuation. 'What makes the place more valuable the River Caldew runs close by the convenience where there is always a continual supply of water.' 'James Wright who has been many years clerk to the deceased is just returned from his journey to the north of Scotland and brought home a number of good orders to keep up the establishment of the house, where the business has been carried on for upwards of forty years'
Advertised to be let by Mrs Nelson, widow of William Nelson,

CJ 192, 26 June. 1802

12. Print field at Kendal

A new print field (which is the only one in the county of Westmorland) is just begun at Kendal. The first block was laid by Mr. James Barrow, one of the proprietors

CJ 197, 31 July 1802

13. Machine maker in Bochengate, Carlisle

John Blackie and Co.. Inform the gentlemen and manufacturers in Carlisle that they have extended their premises in Bochengate. Steam engines are completed after Watt's and Boulton's most improved construction; copper plate printing presses are made upon a principle entirely new and approved throughout the kingdom as can be warranted by numbers in the calico printing business. NB John Blackie and Co. think it superfluous to enumerate the various items of their profession, and as the best references can be had thereto, suffice it to say that all sorts of machinery used throughout the cotton branch is completed by them in a manner inferior to none in that profession in the empire. They have established branches at Manchester, Blackburn, etc.
Advertisement, CJ 206, 2 Oct. 1802

14. Print field at Woodbank, near Carlisle

Six new printing presses have lately been erected at Woodbank print field near this city, by which, independent of the superior neatness of certain descriptions of work executed by them, there is an immense saving of expense. They are carried by water, and only require the attendance of one man each and the six presses turn off as much work as 27 can do in the ordinary way, each of these men earning from 1 guinea to 2 guineas per week. The above presses as well as several others for the different print fields in the neighborhood were made by John Blackie & Co.

Editorial matter, CJ 206, 2 Oct. 1802

15. Cotton mill at Dalston

Last week at Dalston near this city a new cotton mill (the property of Messrs. Hebson & Co.) was covered in. It is the largest building of its kind in this county and when completed the number of hands to whom it must necessarily give employment will considerably augment the population of the above flourishing village

Editorial matter, CJ 206, 2 Oct. 1802

16. Seaton Ironworks, near Workington

At the works, large assortments of the following articles are always kept upon hand, or manufactured upon the shortest notice: machinery used in the various manufactures of woolen, cotton, flax and tow and also for steam engines; soap boiler's and bleacher's pans and curbs; brewer's mash vats and tuns; Bazellia stoves for halls, 'compting houses etc.; screw pins (malleable or cast iron) cut out of the solid, with brass or iron boxes suitable for paper mills, shipwrights, tobacconists, etc.; Register, Pantheon, Forest, Bath, and Laundry stoves, neatly fitted; gin sheaves, wagon wheels, and rail plates for collieries; every other article in the cast iron trade; charcoal bar iron; anchor works and sock plates; pit coal bar iron; malleable steam engine boiler plates; best English nail rods; Archangel nail rods for horse nails; iron hoops from Krotchkin's Archangel iron; double and single rolled iron; clough plate. Vacancies for two or three refiners of iron and a keeper of a blast furnace

Products advertisement of for sale by Spedding, Hicks, Senhouse & Co.

CJ 211, 6 June. 1802

17. Weaving shops at the head of Shaddongate, Carlisle

A large house fit for the reception of a genteel family, with a stable and hay loft; a second house adjoining the first; five weaving shops'extending in a right line from the back part of the messuage' with dwelling rooms above, all completely furnished; one shop has 24 looms, three have 12 each and another 2.

Advertised to be sold by the owner, John Milbourn, CJ 217, 18 Dec. 1802

OBITUARIES TO JOHN BENNETT

John Bennett died peacefully within 20 minutes of feeling breathless on Saturday morning 19th October, only the day before our autumn Conference near Cockermouth.

I thought of him as a warm friend, a happy man and one of the nicest people I have ever known. Jan tells that he was delighted to be able to move to Cumbria and all its industrial archaeology, after years working near Leeds.

He qualified as a pharmacist in 1962, but spent his off-duty time delighting in powerful mill engines. He became an ardent worker on the Keighley & Worth Valley steam railway line, where I understand he met Jan. Both were divorcees and they fell in love, 21 years ago this Christmas, and have lived very happy lives with all who know them, including now grown-up children and grandchildren.

When John moved up here, he worked for the J.N.Murray pharmacist group in Barrow, where he was Jan's boss. Jan also qualified as a pharmacist, and works in Kendal. John 65, retired from work some six months early, in order to enjoy life more with Jan.

John and I first met on a coach trip, as co-leaders doing some I.A. across Cumbria. He was delighted to discover that I had clay feet – not knowing the names of the three old lanes between Rydal and Grasmere. From then on, I was Tweedledum and he was Tweedledee. We just clicked and warmly enjoyed each others' company, as I am certain happened with all of you who knew him. You may best have come to know both he and Jan through their excellent editorship of the "Guide to the IA of Cumbria" of 1993 and their good-humoured quality organization of so many of our conferences.

It is not often I feel like Middle Eastern wailing at someone's passing, but John I had hoped to know for many years yet. I shall miss him terribly.

Mike Davies-Shiel

John was a founder member of the Society. He joined the Committee in 1987 and was membership secretary from 1990 until his untimely death. He was a familiar figure at society events, and we were much indebted to his calm and efficient handling of society affairs. Members who attended society conferences will remember his reassuring presence at reception, where he was invariably accompanied by his wife Jan. During lectures he was always seated at the back of the theatre ready to correct errant slide projectors, and generally keep an eye on the smooth running of the day's programme.

John was a stalwart of the Society and helped us survive the occasional threats to our existence. He was a pleasure to know and work with, and he will be sorely missed.

Geoff Brambles Chairman.

ABSTRACTS

TRANSACTIONS OF THE CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND ANTIQUARIAN AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY THIRD SERIES VOLUME II (2002)

The above volume has recently been published and contains a number of articles of interest to the keen industrial archaeologist.

THE CATTLE TRADING ACTIVITIES OF SIR DANIEL FLEMING OF RYDAL HALL, 1656-1700 P183 By Blake Tyson

This article goes into great detail on the individual transactions that occur both in the buying of cattle and the onward sale of cattle and also their skins. It describes the markets attended and the drove routes that were followed through the county to get the cattle home. It also gives details of the rent charged to drovers using the estates grasing as they passed through the area. It gives an insight into the economics of cattle trading in the late 17th Century.

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AT RUSLAND TANNERY, CUMBRIA P209 By Juliet Reeves.

This property is now owned by the Lake District National Park Authority and an archaeological investigation of the site was carried out prior to the development of the site to allow the public to access it and view the remains. The article describes the archaeological investigations carried out on the site, the findings and the interpretation of those findings in relation to the known history of the site and the tanning industry in general.

CLAY DRAINAGE TILE AND PIPE MANUFACTURE AT JOHNBYS WYTHES, GREYSTOKE, c. 1851-1909 p 261 By E. Davis

This article not only describes the history of this small country tilery which was so typical of many found in the County in the mid 19th Century. But, goes on to describe why this one should have survived when the majority of the others closed with the coming of the railways. The history of this site is set in the general history of tile and pipe manufacturing for agricultural drainage and also the history of drainage in the County also.

There is also two short notes of interest.

PETER RABBIT AND INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY: A PREVIOUSLY UNRECOGNISED PICTURE OF A BARK PEELER'S HUT P313 By Tom Clare.

In this short note Tom looks at a hut represented in one of Beatrix Potters pictures and attempts to decide its function.

TYNE (OR BREWERY) BRIDGE, ALSTON p314 By R.W. Rennison

This short note covers the rebuilding of the bridge over the Tyne at Alston after the previous bridge had been destroyed in flooding in 1771. This bridge was later replaced in 1833 but part of this was swept away in flooding before completion. The new bridge was finally opened in 1835.

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