Altrincham History Society Journals 21 to 30

December 2001 to September 2010

21. December 2001

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Altrincham in 1834 - Bias in a Government Report: (Final) Part 3 by Don Bayliss (PDF p. 38)

Who Accompanied William The Conqueror when he Invaded England In 1066? by Hilda Bayliss (PDF p. 41)

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26. September 2006

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27. September 2007

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Sir William Veno by Paul Parker (PDF p. 313)

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East Chinnock, Somerset by David Miller (PDF p. 344)

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No.21 December 2001 ISSN 0962-9793

Altrincham History Society
JOURNAL

Our History, My Heritage: Joint project by The History Channel and English Heritage

The Halemoss Velvet Works, Altrincham

More Random Jottings

Honours Boards From Seamons Moss School

Local People in the Royalist Garrison of Wythenshawe Hall

Altrincham in 1834 – Bias in a Government Report?

Who Accompanied William The Conqueror When He Invaded England In 1066?

History News
Society Publications Available From The Bookstall
Events in the North West
Other Local History Society Programmes

Price: £1.50

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No.21 December 2001
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Editor: Mrs Jill Groves, 77 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire M33 4DN
Hon. Sec.: Mrs Hilda Bayliss, 51 Chiltern Drive, Hale, Altrincham.

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Cover illustration:. Platt's Works in Warrington
Other illustrations: Plan of velvet works, Hamon Road, Altrincham; map of velvet works; detail of OS map of velvet works; velvet works in Altrincham; Platt's Works in Warrington; three Honours Boards from Seamons Moss School.

Subscriptions: £5.00 per year. The Journal is £1.00 per issue to members and £1.50 to non-members.
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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Don Bayliss

Members of the Society will note several contributions from Committee stalwarts – just to say we do not have any monopoly on articles in this journal and would be delighted to accept other contributions. In particular we are privileged this time to have a detailed study in Altrincham's former velvet works (known to older residents as the 'Factory Shop') by Dr Mike Nevell of Manchester University.

Once again we are indebted to Jill Groves for producing this large, informative journal in such a splendid way.

Don Bayliss

SOCIETY NEWS AND MEETINGS

Meets at Altrincham Library, Stamford New Road, Altrincham at 7.30pm on Mondays. Visitors £1.00.

17 December 2001, 'The Theatre through the Ages' by Mrs M. Dixon, following by Christmas Buffet

28 January 2001, 'A Manchester Dynasty'

25 February 2001, 'Hatched, Matched and Despatched'

25 March 2001, 'Boyne to Bosnia'

22 April 2001, 'Canals and Railways of Cheshire'

20 May 2001, AGM and 'A Civil War in Cheshire: A Unique Experience'

HISTORY NEWS

Manchester Jewish Museum

Two exhibitions on the experiences of Jewish people settling in and around Manchester since 1900, together with a travelling exhibition of contemporary photographs to visit local community centres have been awarded £6,300. The whole project aims to generate new cross-cultural audiences for the Museum. For more details contact Jim Garretts on 0161 834 9879. [Source: *Local History Magazine*]

Changes in Times for Local Archives

Greater Manchester Record Office

Monday - Tuesday 9am to 5pm
Wednesday 9am to 1pm
Thursday - Friday 9am to 5pm
Saturdays 2nd and 4th of the month, 9am to 12 noon, 1pm to 4pm (not Easter or Christmas)

Rochdale Local Studies Library

Rochdale Local Studies Library has moved temporarily to 3rd Floor, Champness Hall, Drake Street, Rochdale OL16 1BP, tel 01706 864915.

Wednesday 10am to 1pm; 2pm to 5.30pm
Thursday 10am to 1pm; 2pm to 7.30pm
Friday 10am to 1pm; 2pm to 5.30pm
Saturday 9.30am to 1pm; 2pm to 4pm

Wigan Archive Service

Because the post of archivist is vacant opening hours have been limited.
Tuesday 10am to 1pm; 2pm to 4.30pm
Thursday 10am to 1pm; 2pm to 4.30pm

St. Catherine Index and 1901 Census

Trafford Local Studies Centre now has the St. Catherine's Index for Births, Marriages and Deaths 1837-1981 (otherwise known as the General Records Office Index (GRO)) available for viewing on microfiche. TLSC will also have the 1901 Census for Trafford on microfilm available for consultation on the first working day in January (Wednesday, 2nd January 2002).

For those with connection to the internet,

there is FreeBMD (Free Births, Marriages and Deaths Index), run under www.rootsweb.com/ A dedicated group of people are putting the GRO index on the internet. The editor of this journal has already found this site extremely useful in finding ancestors.

LifeTimes to Open at Salford Museum and Art Gallery in 2003

LifeTimes is a project dedicated to the history of Salford as seen through the memories and photographs of Salford people. It will open as a visitor attraction in Salford Museum and Art Gallery in 2003. As well as a permanent exhibition, LifeTimes will have an oral history archive and a photographic archive. LifeTimes activities will include talks and reminiscence sessions, heritage walks, school visits, resources for schools, exhibitions and local history resources for groups. LifeTimes is still looking for memories and photographs, so if you have an interest in Salford's history contact LifeTimes Project Office, FREEPOST MR10203, 51 The Crescent, Salford M5 4WX, tel/fax: 0161 736 1594, email: info@lifetimes.org.uk, website: www.lifetimes.org.uk

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SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE BOOKSTALL

Available from The Editor, Altrincham History Society, 77 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire M33 4DN. Allow 28 days for delivery. If the order has not arrived after 6 weeks, contact the Editor at the above address.

Postage and packing: add 15% for postage within UK (minimum 50p). Overseas postage: Europe airmail and the rest of the world 20%. Airmail rest of the world add on £2.50

Back copies of *Altrincham History Society Journals* 4 to 16

Altrincham History Society Journal 4
Contents: 'Altrincham in the Survey and Rental of the Manor of Dunham Massey AD1348-49: Part II'; '26th November, 1813 - General Rejoicing in Altrincham'; 'Extracts of Proceedings of the Altrincham and District Natural History and Literary Society'; 'A Royal Coat of Arms at Shotwick'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 5
Contents: '"Finem Respice" and the Black Horse'; 'A Brief Insight into Military Obligation in Ashley in the Fourteenth Century'; 'Captain Scott's Visit to Seamons Moss School'; 'Obituary and Appreciation: Sale's History Man - Norman Swain'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 9
Contents: 'The Dutch Wars - 1652-74'; 'A Tameside Man in the Isle of Man'; 'The Denton Churchyard Masonix Gravestone'; 'Stray Thoughts'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 10
Contents: 'What's in a Name? The term 'alias' and the legitimate families of Altrincham, Ashton-on-Mersey and Sale'; 'Cunningham's Camp, 1894-1939: The International Young Men's Holiday Camp, Isle

of Man'; '1667 Subsidy Roll for Altrincham'; 'The Contribution of Some Recent Booklets on the Civil War in Cheshire and Surrounding Counties'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 11
Contents: 'Provost's Sunday'; 'Comments on the 1667 Subsidy Roll for Altrincham'; 'Comparison of Altrincham in 1667 with Neighbouring Townships'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 12
Contents: 'Broadheath and a Naval Enigma, 1916'; 'Cottages at Nos. 113 and 115, Navigation Road'; 'A Grand Inquest of Altrincham Court Leet, 1744'; 'Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600 to 1650: Part 1'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 13
Contents: 'A Great President - an appreciation of Norman Dore'; 'Anyone for Croquet?'; 'The Altrincham Tithe Map Schedule of 1838'; 'Altrincham Between the Wars'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 14
Contents: 'From Pillar to Pill Capsule and Back Again'; 'Off-the-Peg Planning in Medieval N.E. Cheshire'; 'Ferdinand Laughton of Altrincham, gentleman, c.1690 to 1750'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 15
Contents: 'A Note from Barbara Nevell'; 'Miscellanea'; 'Goering as Property Developer: The Bombing of 'Southwold', South Downs Road, Hale'; 'The English Borough in the Thirteenth Century'; 'The Impending Disappearance of Carrington and Carrington Moss'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 16
Contents: 'Susan Isabel Dacre, Artist, 1844 to 1933'; 'The Walton Family of Bowdon and Dunham Massey'; 'Altrincham and Bowdon Occupations, 1600-1760'; 'Epidemics in Manchester, Chester, Liverpool and Lancaster'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 17
Contents: 'Heritage Open Days, 1998: 12th-13th September, 1998'; 'The Other Altrincham Gas Works'; 'A Seventeenth Century Auction'; 'Games and Pastimes'; 'Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-1650'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 18
Contents: 'Footpaths, plants and cellar dwellings - Random Jottings'; 'King Edward and the Welsh Castles'; 'Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway'; 'Sir Gawain - a local hero?'
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 19
Contents: 'Altrincham Gas Works Branch Line'; 'Altrincham Families: The Higginson, Butchers of Altrincham, 1600-1735'; 'Altrincham in 1835 - Bias in a government report: Part 1'; 'Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-1650: R to Edmund Simpson'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 20
Contents: 'More Random Jottings'; 'Source of Water For Dunham Mill'; 'Gossip and Scandal in Bowdon and Altrincham: Part 1'; 'The Mayor's Land'; 'Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-50: Katherine Simpson to Venables'.

Price: £1.25 to members, £1.50 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Occasional Papers

1. *Helen Allingham*
Price: £0.30

2. *Discover Broadheath*
Price: £0.30

3. *Dame Isobel Baillie - Blue Plaque*
Price: £0.30

4. *Altrincham in 1799*
Price: £0.30

5. *A Cheshire Market Town in Victorian Times: Altrincham in 1841*
Price: £5.70

6. *Alan Turing - Mathematical Genius*
Price: £0.30

7. *Medical Matters*
Price: £0.30

8. *Ronald Gow - Blue Plaque*
Price: £0.30

9. *The Buildings of Central Altrincham, 2000*
Price £8.50 (£6.50 to members)

Other Publications

Map of Carrington, 1904 (with article on the history of Carrington Moss by Don Bayliss on reverse)
Price: £1.95.

Events in the North West

Centre for North-west Regional Studies

'Becoming Different Without Knowing It': What it meant to be Romano-British
Lecture Theatre 1, Fylde College, Lancaster University
Saturday, 24th November 2001
Fee: £14.00.

Kendal to Kraków, Preston to Prato: North-western towns and the European dimension 1050-1550
Saturday, 19th January 2002
Fee: £14.00

Local History Seminars
Held on Wednesdays at 4.00pm, Lecture Theatre 1, Fylde College

Parliamentary Enclosure in Westmorland: landscape change and social impacts
21 November 2001

Circling the Seasons: fairs in the north-west of England 1750-1890
5 December 2001

Raising Cattle in the North-West in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries
16 January 2001

Personal Landscapes of the Lake District
13 February 2002

Picturesque slums? Whitby's East Side and urban renewal, c.1930-1970
13 March 2002
Fee: individual seminars £2.75

29th Annual Archaeology Cenference
Saturday, 9 March 2002
Contact Christine Wilkinson, CNWRS, Fylde College, Lancaster University, Bailrigg, Lancaster LA1 4YF, tel. 01524 593770, email: christine.wilkinson@lancaster.ac.uk, website: www.lancs.ac.uk/users/cnwrs

John Rylands Library

150 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3EH
Unlocking the Rylands: Plans for Library's New Entrance Wing and Exhibitions
7 January -15 March 2002

Reading Room
Beautiful Books: A Hundred Years of Craftsmanship in Bookbinding
3 January-1 March 2002

Myths and Fairytales: The Legends of King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table
4 March-29 May 2002

Labour History Archive and Study Centre
New Jerusalems: Exploring Radicalism at the Labour Archive
Labour History Archive and Study Centre, 103 Princess Street, Manchester M1 6DD
20 March-20 May 2002

John Wesley: Life, Legend and Legacy, a Tercentenary Celebration
15-18 June 2003
For details contact Dr Jeremy Gregory, Department of Religions and Theology, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL. Email: Jeremy.Gregory@man.ac.uk

Other Local History Society Programmes

Ashton and Sale History Society

Meets at the Claremont Centre, Claremont Road, Sale, on the first Wednesday of every month except January at 7.30pm.
5th December, 2001, Christmas Party.

Bowdon History Society

Meets at the Lecture Room, Bowdon Downs Church, Bowdon Road on Mondays at 8.00pm. Subscriptions £5 (adult) and £2.50 (student). Visitors: £2.00. Mrs Susan Sanderson, Membership Secretary, 11 Stamford Road, Bowdon WA14 2JT.
11 February 2002, 'The Villas of Alderley Edge'.
18 March 2002, 'The Black Prince's Cattle Enterprise in Macclesfield Forest'.

Bury and District Local History Society

Meets at St. Marie's Church Road, Manchester Road, Bury on the first Thursday of the month (except August) at 7.45pm.
3 January 2002, History of Rawstenstall
7 February 2002, The Lost Palace-Fortress of Lathom: New Evidence
7 March 2002, Members' Evening
4 April 2002, 'Housing Conditions in Ramsbottom in the 1930s'
2 May 2002, 'Giants of the Industrial - John Wilkinson of Bersham'
6 June 2002, The Annual Walk
4 July 2002, 'Lancashire's Administrative Boundaries
August, No Meeting
5 September 2002, AGM

Chadderton Historical Society

Meets at Chadderton Central Library, Middleton Road, Chadderton, Oldham at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of each month. Visitors' donations gratefully received.
3rd January, 2001, Annual Party: Theme 'The Georgian Era'.
7th February, 2001, 'In the Steps of the Brontes'.
7th March, 2001, 'Fairs, Feasts, and Festi-

vals'.
11th April, 2001, 'The Radclyffes - Family of Distinction'.
2nd May, 2001, AGM.

Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society
Meets at the Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, unless stated. Bookstall run by Chris Makepeace usually available.
14th December, 2001, AGM.

Salford Local History Society
Meets at Midwood Hall, Eccles Old Road, Salford 6 on the last Tuesday of the month, at 7.30pm. (Buses 67 and 68 stop nearby.)
29th January, 2002, 'Salford Pubs'.
26th February, 2002, 'Salford Police Force'.
26th March 2002, to be announced.
30th April, 2002, AGM, followed by slide show.

South Cheshire Family History Society
Meets at Salvation Army Citadel, Prince Albert Street, Crewe, at 7.30pm.
10 December 2001, Christmas meeting and quiz.

South Trafford Archaeology Group (STAG)
Meets at the STAG Display Centre, Timperley Old Hall Hotel, at 7.30pm.
7th December, 2001, Xmas Party.

The Western Front Association (Merseyside Branch)
7th December, 2001, Christmas Quiz and Social Evening.

OUR HISTORY MY HERITAGE

A chance to appear on TV in a new community history project

Press release from The History Channel and English Heritage

The History Channel, in collaboration with English Heritage, has launched a new UK wide project to capture the nation's own account of the changing face of our diverse local communities. **Our History My Heritage** encourages people of all ages to undertake research into the people, places, events and landmarks that make up their community. And what's more, your piece of history could even appear on TV!

To enter **Our History My Heritage** groups of two or more are required to undertake research into a notable event, building, monument or personality within their community, locality or family. Research topics could range from the history of their local street, village, church, the story of a war veteran or the development of a craft or custom peculiar to a particular area. Once complete, a summary of the research project together with supporting materials which could include photographs, written document, maps and or interviews must be submitted to The History Channel by 28th June 2002.

Entry to **Our History My Heritage** is open to everyone and will be judged in five categories:

- Youth groups aged under twenty years including Scouts, Guides and students in

Sixth Form or Further Education

- Adult groups aged over twenty years including local history associations
- Family Groups
- Schools who will be judged by age in categories 5-11years and 11-16 years.

Winning entries from each of the categories will be made into a two-minute programme that will be screened on The History Channel and will also feature on the Our History My Heritage website. Other prizes include digital camcorders, merchandise and a range of goodies for runners up

Sonia Dixon, Project Manager, The History Channel says ' History is not just about the major landmark events we were all taught about in school, but also the everyday changes and developments that shape our lives and the communities in which we live. **Our History My Heritage** is an opportunity for local people to capture and record, in their own words, what they consider to be important and historic. Like our previous Photos for the Future project we hope by targeting young people and the history enthusiast we will receive a rich and diverse range of projects reflecting the changes in our environment and society'.

To request an **Our History My Heritage** entry form, call 0845 450 1144 (local rate calls will cost no more than 10p) or write to Our History My Heritage, Freepost GI 1926, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BR or send an email to ohmh@thehistorychannel.co.uk/ Entry details together with research tips and advice can also be found on the web-site www.ourhistorymyheritage.co.uk

For further information, please call: Joanna Mitchell, The History Channel on 020 7941 5199 or Christine Appleyard, English Heritage on 020 7407 6882

- The History Channel is the only channel dedicated to History, broadcasting on cable and satellite to over 5.9 million households throughout the UK and Ireland. To find out more about the channel and its range of programmes visit www.thehistorychannel.co.uk
- English Heritage is the government's advisor on the conservation of the built heritage and the national leader in heritage education. Visit www.Heritage.Education.net for details of English Heritage Education and its involvement in Our History My Heritage.
- Our History My Heritage is the latest community project from The History Channel which follows in the footsteps of the 1999 & 2000 Photos for the Future project that attracted over 12,000 entries from individuals and schools throughout the UK.
- Closing date for receipt of all projects is midnight 28th June 2002.
- Calls are charged at 7.5p per minute and will last no longer than 2.5 minutes. Maximum charge 20p.
- Our History My Heritage has the endorsement of The Historic Scotland Education Unit.

THE HALEMOSS VELVET WORKS, ALTRINCHAM

Excavations on the Site of a Nineteenth Century Fustian Cutting Shop

Michael Nevell

Introduction

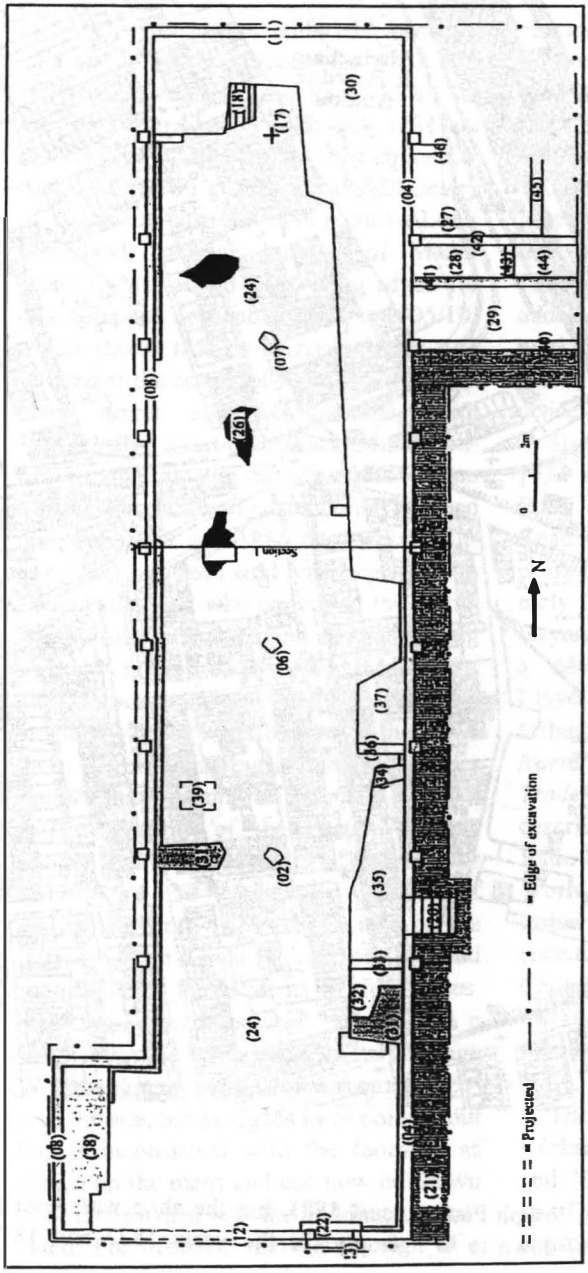
During June 2001 the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit excavated the site of a nineteenth century velvet works at Hamon Road (off Manor Road) in Altrincham (SJ 7706 8774; Fig 1). This work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd, who funded the investigations ahead of the redevelopment of this part of Altrincham. It was undertaken according to an archaeological programme provided by Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting and agreed with the Assistant Greater Manchester County Archaeologist (Norman Redhead of GMAU, who also monitored the excavations) to comply with the requirements of a planning condition. This scheme recognised that the archaeological potential of the redevelopment area was limited to the site occupied by the former Halemoss Velvet Works, at the junction of Moss Lane and Manor Road, a complex which was demolished without any archaeological record being made in the early 1990s.

The aim of the excavations was to answer a number of questions about the site and its context within the history of Altrincham and the wider Trafford area. In particular, did deposits relating to Hale Moss survive beneath the remains of the works; was the Velvet Works the first building on this site; when was the works built and what was its relationship to the buildings fronting Denmark Street; how did the Velvet Works develop; and finally, was there any evidence for the original power systems within the works. The excavations were managed for UMAU by Dr Michael Nevell and supervised by John Roberts with the assistance of Simon Askew, Sarah Craig and Graham Mottershead.

Fustian Production and the History of the Velvet Works

A Brief History of the Altrincham Velvet Works

The first map evidence relating to the Velvet Works occurs in 1878 when the site was named as the 'Halemoss Works (Velvet)' and an outline plan shown on a large scale map of Altrincham. It was shown standing next to St Vincent's School at the junction of Denmark Street and Moss Lane (Manor Road had yet to be built). However, the construction date of the works can be taken back even further, for documentary evidence relating to the Velvet Works Site occurs in the Altrincham Rate Books for 1873. These record that in 1873 Samuel Appleton began to pay £27 in yearly rate for a property on the Moss described as a 'Fustian Cutting Shop'. By following the entries for the subsequent eight years it became clear that this Fustian Cutting Shop lay at the corner of Manor Road, Denmark Street and Moss Lane, next to St Vincent's Roman Catholic School; in other words this was the site described on the 1878 OS map (Fig 3) as a Velvet Works. The 1873 Rate Book entry also records that



Plan of velvet works on Hamon Road, Altrincham.

from 9 September 1872 the shop was occupied by Henry Stringer, although it is unclear whether it was initially occupied by Samuel Appleton. It would thus seem safe to conclude that Samuel Appleton built the Fustian Cutting Works probably in early to mid-1872. It is also possible that the southern wing or annex of the Works was used as domestic quarters. This was a primary feature and is shown in the map evidence as being a separate unit with a garden to the south and in front of it. Samuel Appleton is shown as having owned and lived in a cottage near to or next to the works in 1873 and 1874, so it is at least possible on the map evidence that this was the southern wing or annex of the works. However, the archaeological excavation failed to provide any evidence one way or the other for the domestic use of this wing.

Although Appleton and Stringer both recur in association with the Fustian Cutting Works in the 1874, the 1875 entry records that the Fustian Cutting Shop was owned

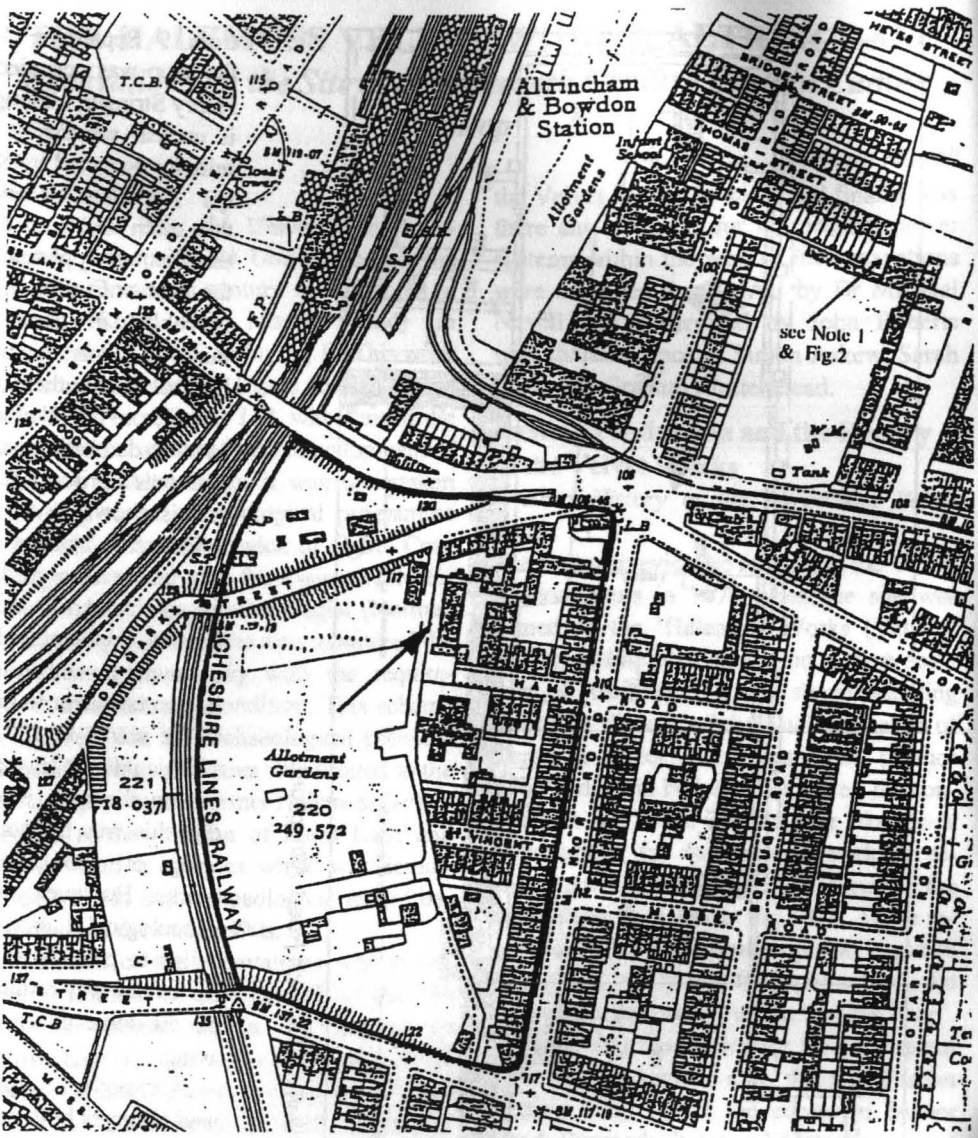


Fig.2. Map of the velvet works

and occupied by Joseph Platt. Joseph Platt continued to own the property down to at least 1881, but the shop was described as empty for the years 1877 and 1878 and

there were no entries under the occupier column in the rate books for 1878 and 1879. Unfortunately, the Rate Books for the years immediately following 1881 are not available, but both *The Post Office Directory* for 1886 and Hadfield's *Directory of Altrincham* also for 1886 record a Louis Litherland, carriage builder, of Manor Road. CgMs located a surviving advert for this company (probably from c 1905/10) which shows that its carriage works was situated at the corner of Manor Road, Denmark Street and Moss Lane, with Altrincham Station in the background, confirming that this was the site of the Fustian Cutting Shop. Clearly, sometime between the years 1881 and 1886 the Fustian Cutting Shop had been sold by Joseph Platt to Louis Litherland who converted the textile factory into a carriage and coach building works. It is not known where Jospeh Platt went, although a Platt family (relationship unknown) occur in Wilmslow at the Hawthorn Street fustian-cutting shop in the period 1910-20 (Ashmore 1982, 71).

The footprint of the Fustian Cutting Shop is recorded on the OS 6 Inch map for 1875-80, on the 1:500 scale OS map of Altrincham from 1878 (Fig 3), and on the second edition 6 inch OS map of 1898 and appears to be the same in all three cases. However, the illustrated advert of c 1905/10 for the Litherland Central Carriage Works suggests an L-shaped factory occupied the site, but as CgMs have pointed out this is inconsistent with the footprint as shown on the maps and can now be shown to be inconsistent with the building as excavated. For instance, there is no sign of a chimney base in the north-western corner of the buildings, although one is shown on the 1905/10 view, and there is no indication that the eastern wing, at the northern end of the building, was built as shown in the 1905/10 view. There was evidently a degree of artistic license taken for the illustration used in the advert. Between 1910 and 1936 a further rectangular building was added to the south-eastern corner of the works but no further structural detail is revealed about the site from the map evidence.

Slater's *Directory of Altrincham* for 1914 records a 'Carriage and Motor Car Body Builders, Litherland Bros, Hamon Road'. The motor-car side of business appears to have taken over completely by the early 1930s for the Cheshire Directory and Buyers' Guide for 1930 lists in Altrincham a 'Motor Body Builders - Litherland J, Lloyd Street'. The last reference to the Litherland Works so far found occurs in the *North Western Counties of England Traders 'Directory* for 1938, where it was described as 'Motor Engineers - Litherland, John, Lloyd Street'. Soon after the Second World War the Litherland Works appears to have been closed, for there is no reference to the works in the 1960 edition of the *Chambers Trades Directory of Lancashire, Cheshire & the North West,* nor in the *North Western Counties Directory* for 1967.

The site was converted to an upholstery works by the 1960s, and during the 1970s and 1980s it was used as a Factory Shop and Dance Studio. After a period of abandonment the complex was demolished

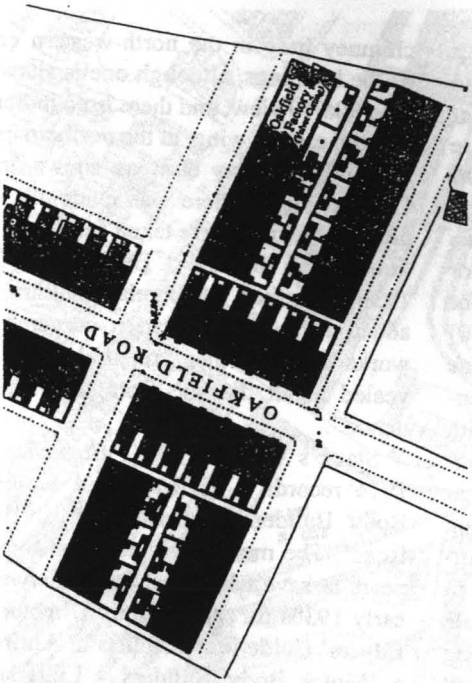


Fig.3. Detail of OS Map showing the position of the velvet works.

around 1994.

The Halemoss Velvet Works and Fustian Production

Although the Velvet Works was so named on Ordnance Survey maps of Altrincham from 1878 (Fig 3) and 1875-80, the Rate Books for Altrincham never described the site thus, rather referring to it as the 'Fustian Cutting Shop'. This confusion probably arose because of the similarity of the two cloths by the late nineteenth century.

Fustian was a heavy, hard-wearing cloth, originally with a linen warp and a cotton weft. Bolton is traditionally regarded as the original manufacturing centre for fustian in Britain, during the seventeenth century, but by the eighteenth century the focus of the industry had moved to Manchester. When an act of Parliament was passed in 1736 banning the production of cheap all-cotton goods fustian was exempted, although a charge of 3d per yard was levied. The act was known as the 'Manchester Act 1736' because Manchester was the centre of cotton and fustian manufacture. The act was repealed in 1774 and after that date both cotton and fustian manufacture greatly expanded. A number of towns around Manchester, such as Cadishead, Culcheth, Lymm, Knutsford, Poynton and Wilmslow, rose to prominence as fustian centres at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries (Ashmore 1982, 4-5).

Linen was initially used as a warp for fustian because in the early days of spinning, during the seventeenth and eighteenth century, there was no spun yarn strong enough to resist the action of 'beating up' by the reeds during weaving. Later, in the nineteenth century, when robust warp yarn could be produced, the description fustian continued to be used for any thick twilled all-cotton cloth with a short pile or nap (Jones 1996, 152, 408). The key feature of this later fustian cloth was its cut pile and this was probably why the Altrincham site was described as a velvet works on the OS map of 1878, for velvet also had a cut pile. Although velvet was originally a silk cloth by the mid-nineteenth century velveteen, an all-cotton substitute, had become very popular, the term velvet and velveteen becoming inter-changeable.

The manufacture of fustian cloth, and later velveteen, involved sizing and cutting the looped weft. This was done by stretching the cloth, which had been stiffened with flour paste and lime paste, tightly on tables or cutting frames between 27ft (8.2m) and 30ft (9.lm) long. These cutting tables usually bad rollers at each end and were placed next to windows, often two tables per window with the nearer or 'first-light' table being used for the finer counts. The cloth was then cut manually, usually by women, who would insert a short, sharp, knife with a long handle and rest, into the first two or three loops and then run along the row (there could be as many as 1200 loops in a width of fine velvet), giving a very short vertical pile. This was a labour-intensive process which required long, open, rooms, located in either domestic workshops or increasingly during the nineteenth century in specially built structures, and was not mechanised until after the First World War in the mid-twentieth century (Ashmore 1969, 34-7; Ashmore 1982, *5,* 101; Tinder 1992, 284).

This kind of fabric was used for hard-wearing clothing such as outer garments and jackets and was popular with the working classes of the nineteenth century.

The Excavations

During June 2001 a 12m by 33m trench was opened to uncover any remains of the Velvet Works. This revealed the plan of the works and most of the interior of the basement. In plan the excavated remains of the Velvet Works were 1lm wide at its northern end and 31.3m long, with a western annex its southern end projecting 2.8m.

The structure was built in machine made brick, laid in garden wall bond two courses wide (c0.23m). The western and eastern walls were supported by buttresses at 2.5m intervals, fifteen out of eighteen surviving. These buttresss are shown on the 1878 Ordnance Survey map on the east and west walls of an 'L' shaped building. They also seemed to be present on the illustrated advert for the Litherland Brothers, Central Coach Works, dated to around 1905. The part of the works on which they appear is 'L' shaped. On the illustration they appear to extend the complete height of the building.

The walls themselves survived on average between 0.4 and lm in height and at 7.50m north of the southern end of the trench were a set of stone steps leading up and out from the east wall. At 23 .40m along the eastern wall, behind the remains of a brick buttress, was a concrete ramp, 1.6m wide, which ran up from the concrete floor of the cellar to a tarmac layer as the steps. The bricks and construction of this flanking wall were in keeping with those of the main east wall but it was not bonded to the buttress, merely butting against it.

The south wall of the building displayed the best levels of survival, having for the most part ten courses of brick rising to a height of 0.90m. Like the rest of the main walls of the building, the south wall was two courses wide, 0.23m, which were laid in garden wall bond with random courses of headers, all held together by a light cream mortar. This southern wall extended 2.7m west of the main line of the building forming an annex to the structure. The

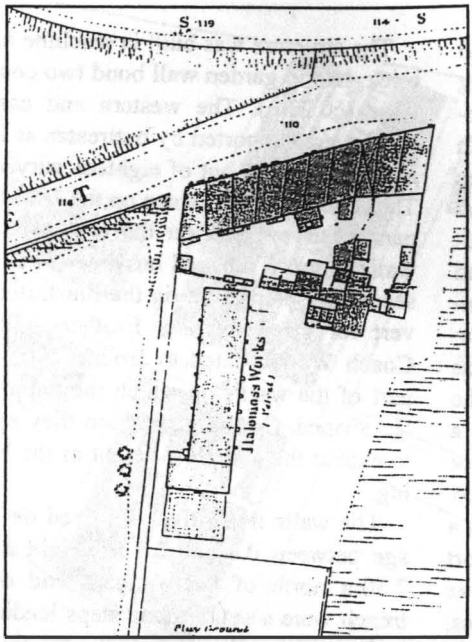


Fig.4 The velvet works in Altrincham.

1878 Ordnance Survey map indicates that this southern annex was separated from the rest of the structure by an internal partition wall and had three openings in the south wall of the Velvet Works which seemed to front on to a garden area. The illustration on the Litherland Brothers advert shows the external face of the south wall as it appeared some thirty years later. This shows a large central doorway raised above street level and reached by steps, with a window either side of the doorway. Only the remains of the eastern-most window were found during the excavation and there was no trace of the internal partition wall nor any other evidence for the function of this part if the building. However, it seems very likely that this was a domestic or office structure.

The 1990s demolition had removed much of the basement floor levels and thus any indications of machine settings, power systems and internal layout which may have existed. Consequently, this severely limited the interpretation of the remains of the interior of the velvet works.

Despite the deliberate removal of the floor surfaces there was a limited amount of survival, mainly around the inside edges of the main walls. Excavation revealed the remains of several phases of floor surfaces. The earliest surface appears to be the remnants of a primary phase brick floor which was bonded to the walls of the building. Above the brick floor was a thin layer, c20mm thick, of concrete laid directly onto the bricks. Laid on top of this deposit was a c20mm thick layer of a fine, cream coloured concrete. Within the annex were the remains of another floor surface made of a fine grey concrete, once again laid on top of the brick surface.

Running down the centre of the building were revealed four sub-rectangular concrete blocks set into the sand at regular intervals which probably represented bases on which columns were set.

In the northern end of the building was exposed an iron cross, 0.45m across and 0.20m high. It lay in a shallow depression in the sand and may have been used with others to set machinery.

The Halemoss Velvet Works and Altrincham

The excavation demonstrated that the

Halemoss Velvet Works was the first structure to be built on this site. Furthermore, below the floor surfaces of the works was a sequence of sands and thin humic layers which may be the fragmentary remains of the western edge of Hale Moss.

The 1878 map records nine dwellings fronting Denmark Street and immediately adjacent to the work's northern elevation. Although the close proximity of the dwellings to the works suggested that the two might have been connected, possibly through joint ownership, analysis of the Altrincham Rate Books demonstrated that these was not the case. The westernmost six of these dwellings were built in the mid-1860s probably by Thomas Royle, who was the landlord during the period 1866 to 1881. The other three properties were built around 1873 and were first occupied by Ralph Bennett. The 1881 Census records that the tenants of the Denmark cottages had a mixture of occupations as; labourer (Charles Walker at No 1), laundress (Sarah Eccleston at No 2), market gardener (William Kelsall at No 3), brick worker (William Jenkinson at No 5; No 4 was empty), carrier (Adam Morton at No 6), milk dealer (Sarah Ormond at No 7), shop keeper (Ann Barnett at No 8) and carter (William Barnett at No 9). There was thus no connection between the Halemoss Velvet Works and the Denmark cottages, neither through joint property ownership nor through work.

The remains of the velvet works proved to be a multi-period structure, spanning the late nineteenth to the late twentieth centuries. However, the excavations demonstrated that most of the surviving fabric and foundations of the structure belonged to the primary phase from c 1872. Archaeological and documentary evidence indicates that this primary structure was similar to contemporary smaller textile mill design (Williams with Farnie 1992) having a rectangular brick building, four storeys high, with a pitched roof and internal wooden floors supported by cast-iron columns. Part of the primary brick floor covering to the basement was also found to survive, whilst the ramp in the north-eastern corner of the structure was a primary feature. The small annex at the southern end of the range appears to be part of this original plan, but despite the evidence from the 1905/10 view and the maps suggesting that this might have been a domestic dwelling, no archaeological evidence was found to confirm or deny this possibility.

There were a number of minor changes to the building which could be related to its later use as a carriage/motor-body workshop during the period 1882/6 to 1938/60. These included the blocking of a number of windows; the partial blocking of the ramp and possibly the concrete floor in the basement. It is also possible the iron cross plate located in the basement may belong to this period.

Little evidence was found for alterations during the structure's final phase of activity from the 1960s to the 1990s.

Finally, the only evidence for power systems located within the Velvet Works was a fitting for an engine bed at the northern end of the site, where an iron-cross plate was excavated. There was no indication of

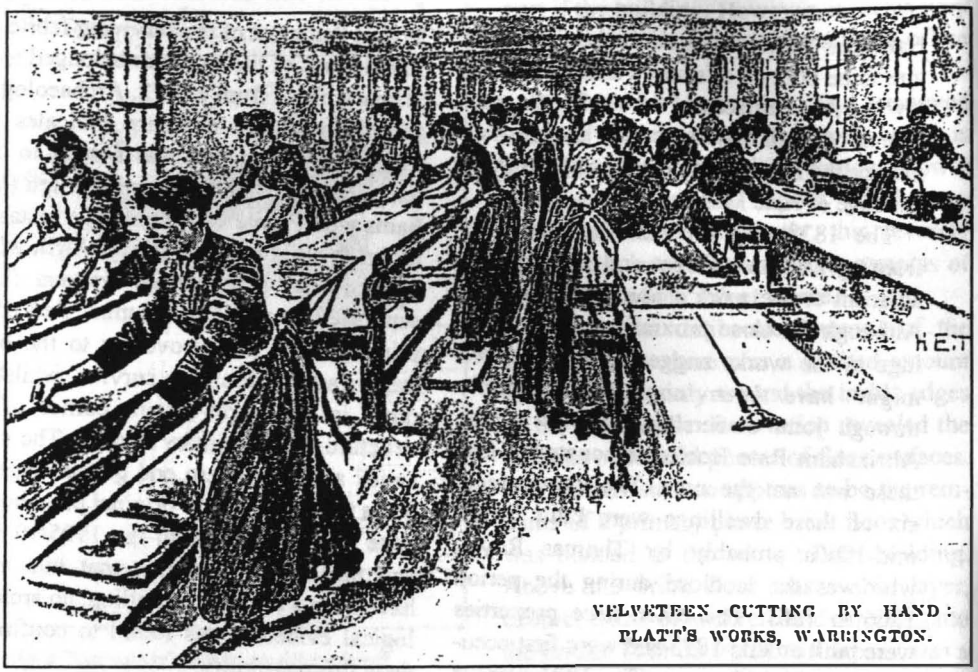


Fig.5. Platt's Works in Warrington. The scene would have been similar in the Altrincham factory.

the site ever having been water-powered. The lack of substantial water or steam power systems is not surprising since the Velvet Works was a Fustian Cutting Shop, a largely hand process which was very labour intensive and therefore did not require an external power source.

The Archaeological Significance of the Velvet Works

A number of towns around Manchester, such as Cadishead, Chadderton, Culcheth, Lymm, Knutsford, Poynton, Warrington and Wilmslow, rose to prominence as fustian centres at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries. During this period the trade was controlled by Manchester merchants who would place the orders and arrange the business. As the industry became semi-mechanised in the nineteenth century the influence of the Manchester merchants declined and the industry became focussed on fewer areas such as Cadishead and Wilmslow. Full mechanisation did not occur until the mid-twentieth century.

Because of this long development there is a great variety of premises and arrangements for domestic manufacture. The earliest properties for the eighteenth century, appear to have been the traditional and

widespread three storey weavers' cottage type property. During the nineteenth century, however, two new forms of building emerged. These were a row of cottages with a small two storey workshop attached at one end,[1] and a dedicated two or three storey workshop. Of the surviving remains of this industry in the Manchester area, perhaps the best known are the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century three storey domestic workshops in Lymm, at Church Road and at Woodland Avenue (Ashmore 1969, 34-7). Probably the earliest surviving domestic structure in the region is a late eighteenth century four storey, brick, fustian cutting shop which survives on Manchester Road in Wilmslow.

The nineteenth century terraced houses with a workshop style and dedicated workshops can be seen in a number of places. In Warrington a pair of two-storey brick-built nineteenth century velvet workshops survives on Longford Street (Ashmore 1982, 67). At Wilmslow there is a two storey late nineteenth century workshop at Bollin Walk and a two storey, nine bay workshop on Hawthorn Street (Ashmore 1982, 70-1).

The largest group of surviving structures, however, can be found in Cadishead, where three, two-storey, nineteenth century terraced houses with workshops and three industrial late nineteenth century workshops survive (Ashmore 1982, 101). It would seem that the Velvet Works at Altrincham was amongst the largest, and latest, such structures to be built in the nineteenth century, and unusually appears to have been built along the lines of contemporary smaller textile mills (Williams with Farnie 1992). No fustian or velvet works have been previously excavated in the region and there is no overview of the industry in the North West, other than Owen Ashmore's brief introduction (Ashmore 1969, 34-7).

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Note by Chris Hill

1. The research into the production of fustian and velvet cutting in the Altrincham area (and further afield), is still ongoing. The works shown in Fig.2 has so far only been noticed on the 1876 O.S. map and more investigation of the available literature will be required to complete this study. It is probably no coincidence that as well as an Appleton having the Altrincham Velvet Works for some time, Francis White's *History, Gazetteer & Directory of Cheshire*, of 1860, lists a Samuel Appleton as owner of a fustian cutting works at Lymm. Other mills have existed in Altrincham, in the area of Grosvenor Road and Mill Street, but it is thought that at least one was not connected with the textile industry and another was probably a water-powered corn mill. The Platts, be it a family connection or one man, also had multiple ownership of fustian/velvet cutting works in Altrincham, Wilmslow and Warrington.

The small factories in that area of Altrincham were used in World War Two to build parts of aircrafts.

MORE RANDOM JOTTINGS

Chris Hill

Now that the journal is only published once a year it does not allow two separate contributions, one specific to one topic and one of incidental news items, so the following is a combination of both.

The completion of the development of Seamons Moss from a derelict school building into nine luxury apartments is now complete and by publication date I expect they will all be occupied. Three are three-bedroom apartments, the rest two, ranging in price from £195K to £380K, all being different sizes according to how they have been fitted into the original shell. Despite all the fears that a disaster would be the outcome, the result has surpassed most people's expectations in preserving the character of the area and providing an attractive development. Perhaps the only mistake was to sand-blast both the outside brickwork of the building and the sandstone walls of the grounds, as this is said to open up the pores of those materials and make them more susceptible to weathering. This was done after the perimeter walls had had various repairs carried out on them, then after cleaning off the accumulated years of black grime, it was obvious where these were because the original stonework was of pink sandstone whilst the repairs had used red-brown stone. However, new pink stone was bought and now everything is in harmony. Quite a large section of the wall had to be rebuilt anyway as the weight

of deposited earth inside part of the wall proved too much for the retaining structure and it collapsed. Only three or four trees in the car parking area have been removed, retaining others to enhance the garden sections allocated to each apartment. There has been another loss; that of the owls and bats which used to be a feature of this area, the junction of Walton Road, St Marks Avenue, Oldfield Road and Harrington Road. The previous name of Walton Road was School Lane and the original name of the school, when set up in Oldfield House, was Bowdon Free Grammar School. Both it and the village school at Little Heath, Dunham Town, were built from money left by Thomas Walton, the Earl of Stamford's salt master who oversaw the extraction of salt at Dunham Woodhouses (see Editor's Note at the end). The school finished in 1938, but I can still remember pupils playing in the wooded area around Seamons Moss. It was later used by North Cestrian for school dinners, cooked on the premises.

Another news item at the end of June, was the unveiling of a statue of Alan Turing in the small park on Sackville Street in Manchester. This is in the form of a normal sized Turing sitting on a park bench. With a large poster behind the statue for comparison, showing the most used photograph of Turing from the Royal Society's photo. collection, I did not think the statue had a very good likeness of Turing's features. It is interesting to note that articles about his contribution to the development of computers and the science of artificial intelligence are still frequent seen in newspapers and technical magazines, and recently several books in which his contributions to wartime code-breaking are mentioned, show what a national hero he was in helping to win the second world war. The work of many British cryptanalyists has been kept secret until revealing what they did can no longer be an advantage to other nations. (For example, have you ever heard of James Ellis? He was way ahead of the world famous trio of Americans; Diffie, Heilman and Merkle, who were credited with inventing the concept of the "public-key cryptograph". Or have you heard of Clifford Cocks, who within half an hour of being presented with the problem, after three years of the best brains at the GCHQ and the rest of the world failing to find a solution, thought of a practical way of implimenting the "key", which years later was credited to another American trio, Rivest, Shamirand and Adleman, creating the RSA code used on the WWW to keep private messages secret from everyone else, even with the most sophisticated computers. The best version of the code to use is the international version obtainable free from http://www.pgpi.com/, the International PGP Home page. PGP means Pretty Good Privacy.) Tunings ideas and contributions were outstanding, which is why he is revered so much by those who can appreciate his work. Turing may have had his faults, as for that matter did Einstein, but the latter is honoured for his contribution to scientific knowledge and human achievement, and likewise, so too should Turing. In M/c, Turing has also had a ring-road named after him, Turing Way. Whilst working at the university, Turing lived in

Hale and negotiations were under way, on behalf of the society, to have a Blue Plaque erected in his honour; the Chancellor of the University footing the bill, but somehow Trafford got cold feet over this joint project, just as a reception for the unveiling committee was being arranged at the Bleeding Wolf and so, for the time being, we lost the opportunity of honouring one of the great thinkers of the twentieth century.

In the *Manchester Evening News* of July 11th a report mentions the application for a Lottery bid to repair the surviving stonework and general surroundings of Lymm's slitting mill site. Situated in Slitten Gorge it is only one of sixteen recorded in England and if access to the site within the Park was improved, it could become a major tourist attraction. It dates from the early seventeenth century and used water power to roll out malleable wrought iron bars into plates, which were then split into strips for nail-making. In the eighteenth century it also made barrel hoops for a gunpowder factory at nearby Thelwall, and from c1800 the site was used by a woollen manufacturer. It was pulled down in c1835, and in modern times excavated in 1968, '71, and '73, by Lymm and District History Society. Preserved remains consist of a millpond, stone dam, curved weir, wheel pit, foundations of a forge, furnace and rolling shop, together with tunnels for a tail race and by-pass. There are also foundations of a cottage to the east of the site near a holly tree. The Gorge was a favourite place to visit when the canal barges carried passengers, it being considered romantic and somewhat wild, with its profusion of ferns, wild flowers and trees covering the rocky sides of the ravine.

W.G. Hoskins, in his wonderful book *The Making of the English Landscape*, 1957, revised in 1977, says: '... everything in the landscape is older than we think.' He argues, with evidence, that much in the landscape is the result of development starting in Mesolithic times, seven or eight thousand years ago. One point he makes in the 1977 introduction, is the significance of the word "field" in place names. He argues that quite often the word indicates an association with Romano-British villa-estates and gives as examples Bardfields, Finchingfields, Wetherfield, Gosfield, Panfield and Felsted. No doubt these areas are completely unknown to local readers, but there is another name which will be familiar - Old Field. The name occurs in early documents amongst the Stamford papers and in people's names, so-and-so of Oldfield; also the variant, Aldcroft. Although some of the estates Hoskins refers to were defined by large boundary embankments (such as Grim's Dike), where natural features such as mosses occur, mounds would not be necessary, and during the course of time, some have disappeared as the result of mechanised farming practices. In view of the increasing evidence of Roman influence in our area, a villa at Hale Barns, good indications of a villa-farm complex at Warburton, the folklore existence of a villa at Broadheath, a possible camp complex half a mile from Newbridge Hollow, a maybe fortlet on the High Legh road and major camps at Northwich, Warrington, Manchester and possibly

Wigan, together with a complex road network in the area, it seems not unreasonable to propose the presence of a villa-farm complex near the 'Old Field' at Dunham Massey. Possible sites are, where the New Park is now, disturbed when landscaped; the Hall site; or perhaps Home Farm which had the Roman road running past its doorstep. All three are within roughly a mile of Old Field. Perhaps we should keep our eyes open for landscape evidence to validate this hypothesis. It should be remembered that even if the buildings decay on such an estate, the fact that it was productive farmland would guarantee its continued use by tenant fanners. I must admit that I have never heard about, or seen anything which would indicate such an estate, but the name of Old Field itself is the strongest clue of some ancient settlement.

I also note that in the 7 July edition of the *New Scientist*, designers are once again looking at the possibility of constructing ornithopters as they are theoretically more efficient than helicopters. A Canadian designer from the University of Toronto, predicts an ornithopter, driven by a 24h.p. petrol engine, will be flying this year. It works by pumping a short mid-section of a flexible wing which, being hinged to the longer outer parts of the wing, causes it to flap, Unlike fixed-wing aircraft, an ornithopter's wing has to give thrust as well as lift. It is interesting to note that Benjamin Graham Wood*, an early pioneer of this form of aviation used to live at "The Coppice" in South Downs Road, nearly opposite York Drive. A helicopter works by direct lift from rotor blades; autogyroes also have a rotor, but rely on the slipstream of forward motion generated by a motor-powered, vertically propeller, to help with lift and allow it return gently to earth. Wood's man-powered machine was a rotary ornithopter, combining a free running rotor with flapping wings. Unfortunately, Wood died before completing his machine, but the constructed parts, built at his house, were donated to the Manchester Museum of Air and Space and are registered with the British Aircraft Preservation Council as No. BAPC 182. Wood had the advantage of teaching aviation theory, and had been Chief Designer of the British Airship Company. He built his own glider in 1909 and held a British Aviator's Certificate, No.171. Other aviation pioneers who lived in the area were Chadwick, Leeming and Killick.

In the spring of last season we had an interesting talk about Lewis Carroll (a pseudonym chosen by Edmund Yates for Dodgson), and his Alice books; how he was connected to Daresbury church where his father was a curate-vicar, but who had tutored at Christ College after getting a double first in Classics and Maths. We heard of the details behind the fine stained glass commemorative windows, and how his two Alice books have been considered classics since they were first published. Since the talk, an article appeared in the *Manchester Evening News* concerning a large collection of "Alice" memorabilia (of which further reference later), and I was thus prompted to write, adding to what we have already been told about Carroll. I have a small collection of the Alice books, ob-

tained to balance up another collection of Stevenson's "Treasure Island" books, started in 1982, when the papers carried articles about the centenary of that story, the fact that copies of the books (in both cases) are available at relatively low cost in second-hand book shops, and also because there is a family rumour that in some way we were related to Stevenson.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland was published in 1865 and *Alice Through the Looking-Glass and What She Found There*, in 1872. While the first story was the result of a boating picnic with Alice Liddell and her sisters, the sequel resulted from a comment about the peculiar property of mirrors to reverse images, made by another girl, a distant cousin of Carroll's, Alice Raikes. As with many classics, the stories have attracted a fair number of different illustrators and for *Alice*, since Sir John Tenniel, over a hundred for *Wonderland*, including Peter Newell (Harper - 1901), Arthur Rackham (Heinemann - 1907) (probably the most successful alternative illustrator of the Alice stories), Millicent Sowerby (Chatto & Windus - 1907); two brothers of William Heath Robinson, Charles (Cassell - 1907), and Thomas (William Collins - 1912); Mabel Lucy Attwell (Raphael Tuck - 1910); Gwynedd Hudson (Hodder & Stoughton - 1922); Mervyn Peake (Stockholm - 1946) (said by James R. Kincaid, to be the worst illustations of Alice, making her appear like a "cockney nymphette"); Ralph Steadman (Dobson - 1967); Salvador Dali (Random House - 1969); and Trove Jansson (1977). The copyright for *Wonderland* ended in 1907, but for *Looking-Glass*, only expired in 1948, so has fewer alternative illustrators. *The illustrators of Alice in Wonderland* deals with Alice's illustrators and is by John Davis, St. Martin's Press, 1972.

Carroll wrote up the story he had told to the Liddells (in June 1862, when Alice Liddell was ten), and gave the manuscript bound in green morocco, illustrated by himself, to Alice in 1863; this was the first of three presentation copies. The original manuscript of "Alice's Adventures under Ground", was left on view in the drawing room when author Henry Kingsley, younger brother of Charles Kingsley, visited the Liddell's. He picked up the book and read it through at one sitting and, being enchanted by it, told Mrs. Liddell that it should be published. She passed this comment on to Carroll and after encouragement from friends, he approached the publishers Macmillan to have it printed, at his own expense; the publishers in addition taking 20% of the sales. Before sending the manuscript off, he made several changes, omitting some in-jokes, personal to the Liddells, and slightly changed some characters, e.g. substituting the Marchioness, who was the Queen of Hearts, for the Duchess. The title was changed to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and two new set-pieces were added; 'Pig and Pepper' and 'A Mad Tea Party'. The Hatter is never mentioned as being mad, but some hatters did suffer from mercury poisoning from a process used to give hats a superior finish. Sir John Tenniel was paid £148 for the illustrations. When the book was published, Carroll gave Alice Liddell a second presentation copy, bound

in white vellum, with signed inscription. This was given on 4th July 1865, the third anniversary of the expedition up the river Godstow, when he first recounted the story of "Alice's Adventures under Ground". (An alternative title which he considered was "Alice's Golden Hour".) However, sometime after he had been provided with fifty advance copies by the publishers to give away as presents, Tenniel criticised the quality of the illustrations, which had been printed rather lightly from blocks, so Carroll had all the copies recalled, including the presentation copy. He sold the remainder of this first printing to a New York publisher for £120, and arranged for a reprint. The white vellum binding of the third presentation copy was transferred from the previous copy, and this was given the same year as a Christmas present to Alice Liddell. The book was post dated 1866, as was a common practice at that time. When Alice Liddell was 76, in 1928, she sent the first manuscript copy bound in green morocco to a Sotheby's auction, where it was sold for £15,400. Six months later it fetched £30,000, bought by an American, A.S.W. Rosenbach. This copy is now kept by the British Museum, having been bought by a group of Americans, who presented it in appreciation of Britain's part in the two World Wars. Being a one-off, it is priceless. The manuscripts of the two classic Alice books have disappeared without trace.

When most people think of the Alice stories, they quite often find it hard to differentiate the two, and the illustrations they think of are those by Sir John Tenniel, whose drawings have remained popular to the present day.

> *"Enchanting Alice! Black-and-white*
> *Has made your charm perennial;*
> *And nought save 'Chaos and Old Night'*
> *Can part you now from Tenniel."*
>
> *By Austin Dobson*

In Carroll's original manuscript, the story-Alice is thought to be in the likeness of Edith Liddell, Alice's younger sister, although he did draw a portrait of the real life Alice on the last page, which he later covered up with a photograph of her. He then seems to have rejected the idea of using any of the Liddells as a model for the story-Alice, sending Tenniel a photograph of another girl of his acquaintanceship, Mary Hilton Badcock, who had long blond hair held back with a band, but despit the likeness of the story-Alice to Mary, Tenniel claimed not to have used any live model for his illustrations.

In 1889, Carroll produced a simplified version, rewritten for children under six, called *The Nursery 'Alice'*. "Alice in Wonderland" was translated into French, German and Italian, with Carroll overseeing their production and choosing the translators. Independent of Carroll, or his publishers, while he was still alive, the book was also translated into Swedish, Danish, Dutch and Russian, with one of these being a pirated copy. Since then the book has been printed in over seventy languages, a topic covered by Warren Weaver in *Alice in Many Tongues* (1964). Another book which deals with Alice topics, is *Aspects of Alice*, edited by Robert Phillips (1972), which contains critical essay by admirers of the

story, such as W.H. Auden, Walter de la Mare and Robert Graves, together with various interpretations of the story based on Freudian, Jungian, etc., psychological analyses.

In "Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There", a chapter was taken out from the manuscript, because Tenniel said he could not draw a 'wasp in a wig'; but the galley proofs were later auctioned at Sotherby's in 1947 and the text has since been published. Carroll considered the alternative title "Behind the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Saw There", but rejected it. Before the twin "People's editions" of Alice in 1887, which had pictures on the covers, the earlier editions of both books had plain red covers.

Although he tried to reach the same level of success with two other books, *Rhyme? and Reason?* (1883) and "Sylvie and Bruno" (two volumes: 1889+1893), they did not become classics. The latter story was developed from a contribution he made to *Aunt Judy's Magazine*, in 1867 (a connection with the Ewing family). *The Hunting of the Snark* (1876), a nonsense poem, was a success, being funny and subtle. It is about a Snark who proves to be a Boojum. A bibliography of Dodgson's works runs to nearly 900 entries, but only Alice, the Snark, and (for students), *Euclid and his Modern Rivals*, are still popular.

Why was the original published Alice such a success?. First of all, Carroll did not talk down to children, he wrote about things they were interested in; there was no moralising in his stories which were part of a revolutionary change in material given to children to read, something which Mrs. Ewing was in the vanguard of, and why her works, though not particularly good children's stories, were so important in the development in the way books were written for children. Carroll's publication of Alice in Wonderland marked a milestone in liberating children's books from the cloying hand of moralists. It may be noticed here that just before the publication of Alice, Charles Kingsley had had great success in 1863 with *The Water Babies*, a story against the evils of child labour, and in particular climbing boys (and girls); a book written more for entertainment rather than instruction, but is nevertheless full of preaching, redemption, salvation and moralism, ending with the injunction to "thank God that you have plenty of cold water to wash in" (and yet parents still buy this book as a present for their modern children); and wash in it too, like a true Englishman."! However, it played its part in the publication of the Alice books, in that Kingsley's book was the first modern English children's fantasy which did not draw from Folklore roots. It was because of its success that Macmillan was willing to publish Carroll's Alice, urged on by the recommendations of George Macdonald, a friend of Kingsley's. It would also be noticed that Alice is continually getting into trouble because of changes in, or the influence of, size; something young children were constantly coming to grips with in their relationships with adults and the big world. *Alice in the Wonderland* story was involved in logic-chopping and punning, but children would also have also appreciated the

lampooning of adults and the parodying of certain well known songs and poems, e.g. 'You are Old Father William', 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Bat', 'The Lobster Quadrille' and 'The Hatter's Tea Party'. The second novel is more quoted than the first and has more appeal to adults being a better structured story, but contains less memorable verses than *Wonderland.*

It might also be apposite to mention here that *Treasure Island* (also published in 1863, by Robert Louis Stevenson), in common with the other two books mentioned above published at this time, together with more modern classics such as *The Hobbit* and *Watership Down*, were stories invented to amuse an individual or small groups of children, without the intention of publication. The older titles mentioned, together with others spanning the same watershed of enlightenment in the way books were written for children, such as *Coral Island, At the Back of the North Wind, The Last of the Mohicans, Little Women, The Little Mermaid, King of the Golden River, Lear's 'Book of Nonsense', Hereward the Wake, King Solomon's Mines, Lorna Doone, Tom Sawyer, Black Beauty, and Tom Brown's School Days,* belong to a bygone era which, although mid-nineteenth century, were the sort of titles awarded as school or Sunday-school prizes to our parents or grandparents, and were therefore found in many a family bookcase when we were children. Now they have been relegated to secondhand bookshops, but nevertheless the titles are still well known. The reason they are still around, is that they belong to that inspired body of children's literature which got away from teaching how to be an adult, from moralising, or 'heroic sacrifice', and started to stimulate children's imaginations with adventure stories, catching their attentions.

Alice Liddell lived until 1934, so she was able to join the celebrations in 1932, marking the Lewis Carroll centenary, part of which involved her inscribing a copy of Alice which was presented to the young Princess Elizabeth.

Like many another successful book, Alice was imitated by many authors, and provided the inspiration for several films and a musical; some better than others.

In the *Manchester Evening News* of 2nd June, 2001, was a report about the proposed sale of Alice and Carroll memorabilia, mainly letters and photographs, predicted to fetch £2m (which it did), at a Sotheby's auction in London the following Wednesday, 6th June. The article contained a photo of the front of an early Alice in Wonderland book, illustrated by Rene Cloke, in colour. The following day, some of the national newspapers (*Daily Telegraph* and *The Independent*), carried reasonably sized reports of the sale with photographs. The items had belonged to the family of Alice (Liddell) Hargreaves for several generations, but had been kept in the library of Christ College, Oxford. Amongst the items was the dedicated copy of the manuscript of the original story, inscribed "To her whose namesake one happy summer day inspired this story", expected to fetch £300K (in fact sold for £157,250). Over 300 works were to be offered for sale, many signed by Alice and including a letter

to her after she had married, from Carroll, inviting her and her husband to tea. This was expected to be sold for about £ 120K. A photograph album containing pictures of herself and her sisters, taken by Carroll, who was respected as a very competent photographer, fetched £465,500, bought by an anonymous buyer, an American, a Christ Church ex-graduate, who bought some twenty lots and spent over a million pounds. He is said to be allowing most items to stay on display in the Christ College Library, in Oxford. A coloured print of a picture of Alice Liddell, modelling as a beggar girl, and of which Tennyson reputedly said, it was "the most beautiful photograph he had ever known", was sold for £179,500. An album of portraits of Carroll and his Oxford contemporaries, thought to be the most important set of Carroll photographs in the world, was expected to fetch £800K. The sale might have received more coverage if it had not been swamped, to some extent, by all the Election news.

Sources

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Carroll's diaries were published in 1953, and his letters in 1979.
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The Code Book, by Simon Singh, 1999, published by Fourth Estate. (h/b £16.99, p/b £7.99).
The Channel 4 series, *The Science of Secrecy*, 28 July/August 2001, also covered this subject.

• Permission given by Ronald Trenbath, the Editor of *The Bowdon Sheaf* No.6, Oct. 1985, and Beryl Chartres, to use information on Wood in an article written by John Chartres.

Editor's Note

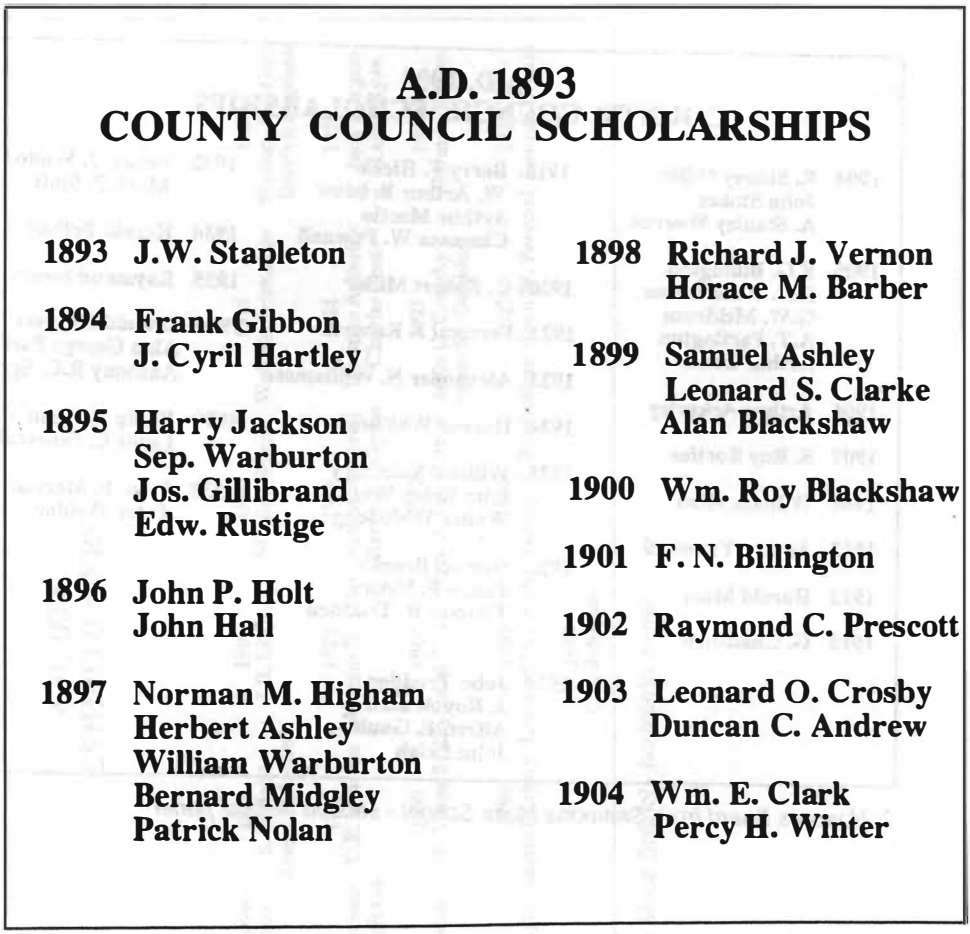
In his will dated 1699, William Tipping of Dunham Massey, yeoman, and farmer of New Bridge Farm, Dunham Massey, left £10 for the vicar of Bowdon and the schoolmaster, Henry Ocklestone, to set up a 'free school' in Bowdon. Derek Robson in *Some Aspects of Education in Cheshire in the Eighteenth Century* mentions that a Mr Tipping and a Mr Halsgrave established a school in Dunham Massey. Peter Kemp in 'The Booths and Tippings: Part 6', Bowdon Sheaf, October 1996, suggests that William Tipping's bequest may have been channelled into Little Heath School, Dunham. Who 'Mr Halsgrave' was is not known. So Little Heath School existed fifty years before Thomas Walton's bequest which set up Seamons Moss School. However, some of the money was used for Little Heath.

Thomas Walton was an attorney and the steward to the Earl of Warrington until his death. Some of his wealth, that which he spared from buying property in and around Warburton, and buying lottery tickets, he invested in a salt-house down by the Bollin.

HONOURS BOARDS FROM SEAMONS MOSS SCHOOL

Chris Hill

The following details were recorded from the Seamons Moss Honours boards by the Altrincham branch of the Cheshire Family History Society, a joint venture with our Society, in not only recording the names for posterity, but trying to find out who these



1: Honours Board from Seamons Moss School - first vertical panel

people were, and had they contributed anything to the life of the town in their later years, or even, had they become of national importance in some way.

The horizontal board had been extended when necessary to include extra names, which explains why the records do not follow a strictly chronological sequence.

el :-

A.D. 1904
COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS

1904 R. Sidney Odlin
John Stokes
A. Stanley Warren

1905 E.G. Billington
L.G. Waterhouse
G.W. Meldrum
A.T. Partington
Arthur Dean

1906 Arthur Ackerley

1907 S. Roy Burtles

1908 William Moss

1912 Arthur Yarwood

1913 Harold Moss

1915 G. Chadwick

1918 Barry F. Hicks
W. Arthur Bristow
Arthur Martin
Clarance W. Pownall

1920 C. Robert Miller

1922 Percival J. Roberts

1923 Alexander N. Williamson

1924 Horace Whitfield

1925 William Salisbury
John Brian Weston
Walter Whitelegg

1926 Samuel Brooks
James F. Moore
Thomas H. Trodden

1930 John Trodden
J. Roy Ardern
Alfred E. Gaulton
John Leigh

1932 Nelson J. Walton
Mark P. Stott

1934 Harold Bethell

1935 Raymond Swain

1936 Donald Haggart
Alan George Parr
Anthony R.C. Spencer

1937 Philip H. Dean
Leslie C. Senescall

1938 Peter F. Morton
Peter Weldon

2: Honours Board from Seamons Moss School - second vertical panel

Horizontal Panel :-

A.D. 1885
EXHIBITIONERS

1885	1886	1888	1889	1889(cont.)	1890	1891	1894	1895	1896	1897	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1914	1816	1924	1925	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
J.A. Bowett	J. Ashley	S. O'Kell	G. White	G. Jackson	R.E. Harrison	C. Hardwick	Wm. Royle	S. Wright	C.E. Sparkes	W. Yarnall	Samuel Ashley	J.B. Littler	William H. John	Raymond C. Prestcott	Leonard O. Crosby	C.R. Johnson	William Shaw	Arthur Ackerley	J. Eric Altree	George F. Rowbottom	W. Ellis Crickmore	Normon Ackerley	John C. Crossby	John W. Percival	Wallace Bradbury	Jack Burgess	Norman Symes	George Bryant	Ivan Spence	Alan Spence	Gordon Stewart	Eric Stanbank
	F. Evans	H. Callan			G.W. Stapleton			James Pickston										Harry W. Higson				Charles Tom	James W. Goulden		Derrick Stephens	Leslie Ryan				Eric Clare		

3: Honours Board from Seamons Moss School - horizontal panel

LOCAL PEOPLE IN THE ROYALIST GARRISON OF WYTHENSHAWE HALL, 1643-1644

Jill Groves

Some years ago I wrote a book called *The Impact of Civil War on a Community: Northenden and Etchells, Cheshire, 1642-1660.* The primary source came from the Tatton family archives in John Rylands Library. From it I got a lot of information on what happened to the Tatton family of Wythenshawe Hall, their servants and tenants during the period, including details of who most of the garrison were. They were mostly Northenden, Gatley, Didsbury and Etchells men.[1] However, there were a handful from Altrincham, Hale and Timperley. In the original book they were just listed mainly, 'also rans' with not much known about them. They were Robert Deane of Altrincham, Hugh Newton, Richard Grantham of Hale, Robert his son, George Delahey of Timperley, Andrew Winterbotham alias Pole, and his brother Raph, Lawrence Hardy, Thomas Barlow. Now that I am about to revise *Impact* I thought it was about time I discovered more about them.

> 'The persons hereunder named went into, were or were sent to Garrison att Wythenshawe against the Parliament, viz, Thomas Mallory, clerke, Robert Twyford and Richard his brother; Henry Pendleton of Manchester; Edward Carter, clerke, and William Carter, the organist at Manchester; Edward Legh of Baguley, Esq; Mr. Richard Vawdrey; Mr. John Bretland and his man. And theise inhabitants of Northerden; James Renshall, Henry and Robert his sonnes; Humphrey Savage, Thomas Hampson, Henry Coppocke, James Deane, Edmund Prestwych and his two sons Edmund and John, Roger Rowson of Kenerden, Raphe and James Brownhill of the Moorside, John Poween of the Moorside. Out of Baguley, Wm. Hamnet, Robert Chapman and Nicholas his brother, Thomas Hill. Out of Gatley, Raphe Savage, Robert Torkinton, and John Blomiley. Out of Etchells, William Bailey and his sonne. Out of Didsbury, Henry Tipping, Alexander Coppocke, William Piggott. One William Clarke and John Blomiley were in the Garrison.
>
> 'And also that Robert Deane of Altrincham, Hugh Newton, Richard Grantham of Hale, Robert his sonne, George Delahey of Timperley, Andrew Winterbotham, alias Pole, and his brother Raph, Lawrence Hardy, Thomas Barlowe, John Cockson of Sharson greene in Northenden, William Hopwood, Richard Smith, Henry Bannister, Laurence Walker of Didsbury, and Thomas Lynney of the same, were in the said Garrison.'[7]

Robert Dean of Altrincham

In 1653 Robert Dean was accused 'unlawfully gaminge' with John Awen the younger, Edward Awen and Robert Holt.[2]

Robert had one hearth in 1664. He died in 1673/74 and left a will. Alice Newton, Robert Dean's niece, was probably his housekeeper in 1673.[3]

Hugh Newton of Hale

Hugh Newton was the son of Edmund Newton of Ringway, yeoman (d.1639) and Ellen Newton. There might have been a connection between the Newtons and Robert Dean.

Richard Grantham of Hale

There were at least two Richard Granthams living in Hale in the 1640s. They were cousins. One was the son of John Grantham of Davenport Green Hall (died 1632), the other was probably a son of John Grantham's brother Richard. Richard of Davenport Green Hall later styled himself gentleman, although he was the son of a yeoman. He died in 1666.

Richard Grantham of Davenport Green Hall became a captain in the Parliamentarian regiment of Colonel George Booth. His cousin was a Royalist.

Robert Grantham of Hale

Robert was probably only a young boy in 1644-45, perhaps fourteen or fifteen. He may have been the Robert Grantham of Hale who married Ellen Hankinson of Sale, daughter of William and Margery Hankinson of Sale, before 1664. He and Ellen were living in Hale in 1664 in a house with one hearth.[4]

George Delahey of Timperley

Nothing more is known of George Delahey. A Robert Delahay, who may have been George's brother, was living in Timperley in 1667. He had married Ann Travis in 1628. He died in 1683.[5]

Andrew Winterbotham alias Pole and Ralph Winterbotham alias Pole

Andrew and Ralph Winterbotham alias Pole may have come originally from Hale. An Owen Winterbotham was an appraiser of the inventory of Ralph Partington of Hale in 1617. However, in 1642, just before the beginning of the English Civil War, Ralph Winterbotham moved to Northenden and married Mary Branderten [possibly Brundreth]. An Elinor Winterbotham, who may have Ralph's daughter, married James Brickell in 1663. In 1656 Ralph Winterbotham and Richard Goulden put a form in the church where the font had been at their own expense (font possibly demolished as part of the changes made when Henry Dunster, the Presbyterian minister, arrived in 1645).

Andrew Winterbotham also seems to have moved to Northenden and married. His wife Mary died in 1654.[6]

Lawrence Hardy of Hale

Lawrence Hardy was either the son of Lawrence Hardy of Hale who died in 1618, or the son of Robert Hardy (died 1623), who was another son of Lawrence Hardy of Hale. He was probably the latter. The family came from Ringway.

Lawrence Hardy survived the Civil War and married Ann. They had two children, James and Robert. The Hardy family lived in house with one hearth and had a young servant, Mary Milner, whom they paid less than £1 a year in wages.[7]

Thomas Barlow

Nothing is known of where Thomas Barlow came from. He could have been from the large family of Barlows in Sale or from the equally large branch in Northenden.

Robert Tatton had established himself and Wythenshawe Hall as a sort of base for the organising of Royalist resistance to the success of the Parliamentarians in the Manchester and North-east Cheshire areas soon after the defeat of the siege of Manchester in October 1642 by the Earl of Derby. By November 1644, the local Parliamentarians, espe-

cially young Colonel Robert Duckenfield of Duckenfield, cousin to the Parliamentarian Commander-in-Chief for Cheshire, Sir William Brereton of Handforth, had had enough of this enclave of Royalists and a company of about thirty men, under Captain Adams, was sent to besiege the hall. Robert Tatton had a little time - a couple of days - in which to gather his men and supplies, although he had probably been gathering them for over a year against such a siege.

It took four months, a few skirmishes and two cannon from Manchester to end the siege in February 1645. Six people died in a skirmish, probably a mixture of Royalist garrison and Parliamentarian, and are thought to have been buried in the courtyard of Wythenshawe Hall. The bodies were discovered in the eighteenth century and probably reinterred in Northenden churchyard.[8] In addition, the Parliamentarians lost their commander, Captain Adams, n the last day of the siege.

After the garrison surrendered is it not certain what happened to the ordinary members. Robert Tatton, a couple of servants (Robert Renshaw and William Smith), Edward Leigh of Baguley and his family, took horse for the royalist stronghold of Chester, where Robert was briefly appointed High Sheriff of Cheshire until the fall of that city. Robert and his servants then went to Oxford, surrendering to the Parliamentarians for the third and final time in October 1646.

In 1646, after the end of the First Civil War, the Parliamentarian Committee in Macclesfield Hundred began to take a great interest in who had been a member of the Royalist Garrison at Wythenshawe. Of all the six Parliamentarian committees in Cheshire, Macclesfield was the most staunchly Parliamentarian and the most ruthless. It included Colonel Robert Duckenfield, the officer whose soldiers had besieged Wythenshawe Hall. The list above was compiled from the questioning of Tatton servants, especially young James Brownhill. James Brownhill, who was nineteen at the time of the siege, was a stable boy and saw a lot of comings and goings. He seems to have spent some time in Stockport prison whilst the Macclesfield Committee 'persuaded' him to give them the information they wanted. The same probably happened to a number of other people, including those from Altrincham, Hale and Timperley.

Strangely, the Macclesfield Committee wasn't really interested in most of the members of the garrison, although some people who were not listed but almost certainly members like William Smith had their property sequestrated as a result of information received from prisoners. They were mainly interested in one man, John Bretland. He was actually a Parliamentarian. However, throughout the First Civil War and beyond, there was in Cheshire a low-level political vendetta between the moderate Parliamentarians, led by the Booths of Dunham Massey, and the radicals, led by Sir William Brereton and his young cousin Robert Duckenfield. Between the Booths and Sir William the vendetta was personal. Sir William had been married to Sir George Booth's daughter Susannah, but after her death in the 1630s he remarried to the radical puritan Cicely

Skeffington and the riff with the Booths began. The vendetta extended to London and Parliament, where both sides had their spies. One of Sir William's spies was Henry Cockson, Solicitor for Sequestrations for Cheshire and Steward for the manors of Northenden and Etchells for his cousin, Robert Tatton.

Poor John Bretland was an agent for Sir George Booth. Acting on orders, he visited Robert Tatton to persuade him not to arm and supply his garrison, eighteen months before the siege. Hearing his name mentioned by a member of the garrison, Colonel Duckenfield and the other members of the Macclesfield Committee saw a way to use John Bretland to forward the vendetta against the Booths. He was imprisoned and his lands were sequestrated. It took John Bretland a number of years to clear his name.[9]

Notes

1. Etchells covered the area now covered by Wythenshawe and part of Cheadle.
2. 'A Dunham Massey Estate Court Rolls for Altrincham Borough, May 1653' by Don Bayliss, *AHSJ2*, December 1991.
3. 1664 Altrincham Hearth Tax; Will of Robert Dean of Altrincham, 1673.
4. 1664 Hearth Tax for Hale.
5. *Chester Marriage Licences, 1624-32*; 1667 Poll Tax Roll for Timperley; Inventory of Robert Delahay of Timperley, yeoman, 1683.
6. The Inventory of Ralph Partington of Hale, yeoman, 1617; Parish Registers of Northenden, Book 2, 1640-1680.
7. 1664 Hearth Tax Returns for Hale; 1667 Poll Tax Roll for Hale.
8. More details on the siege in *The Impact of Civil War on a Community: Northenden and Etchells, Cheshire, 1642-1660.*
9. For a very full account of the Bretland Case see RN. Dore and J.S. Morrill, 'The Allegiance of the Cheshire Gentry', Appendix B, *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society* (TLCAS), Vol. 77.

ALTRINCHAM IN 1834 – BIAS IN A GOVERNMENT REPORT?

(Final) Part 3

Don Bayliss

Parts 1 and 2 in March 2000 and September 2000 examined the first two parts of a rather long but very important document entitled *Reports From Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in England and Wales: Chester, Altrincham*, dated 1834 leading to an Act of Parliament in 1835.

Readers will remember this was an attempt by the government of the day to assess the problems caused by the fact that local Courts Leet, Vestry and other bodies, were unable to cope with local government due to the huge growth of population which required urgent provision of public services (Altrincham's population for example had doubled in three decades). Many towns were surveyed by inspectors, including Altrincham. However, in the government inspectors' zeal to show the inadequacies of the contemporary administration, it seems to the writer there was much distortion of the facts regarding conditions in the

town as explained in Parts 1 and 2. Part 3 now deals with the final part of the government report. (For those readers who have been following this saga, errors occurred in the titles of the articles in Parts 1 and 2 where the Reports should have been dated 1834, not 1835 and the notes at the end of Part 1 where the Report was dated 1824 instead of 1834 - apologies).

As before, *a direct quote from the document is in italics* followed by a comment in 'normal' print. Sections 1-21 of the Report have been covered in Journals, Part 1 March 2000, and Part 2, September 2000. Part 22 follows herewith:

Gaol

22. There is a Lock-up house attached to the court-house; but it was built at the expense of the lord of the manor, and is his property.

The courthouse stood in the middle of Old Market Place near the cross and had been rebuilt in 1684 by the Booths at Dunham Massey. The lock-up was at the side of the building next to the buttermarket, the courtroom was above, from where the Court Leet administered the town.

A right of common is exercised by all the freeholders upon the wastes within the manor, of which the cottagers are said to get the greatest share; so that it would seem that the same state of things described by Leycester 165 years ago still continues. After stating the number of charterers in Dunham Massey, "At this day", he adds, "there are so very many small cottages erected here by permission of the lords of Dunham Massey, that it has become a nest of beggars".

The commons still not enclosed were (parts of) Broadheath and Hale Moss. The reference to the freeholder cottagers on the waste land suggests they were free persons with rights upon the common, hardly the town beggars implied at the end of the passage.

The number of Dunham Massey 'charterers' at this time were four who were yeomen and held one or more tenements in their possession. No Altrincham charterers were mentioned because all landholders in Altrincham were 'charterers' by virtue of the ancient charter of AD1290.

This 'charterer' principle was not understood by the inspector who was trying to twist a political argument of the seventeenth century to use in the nineteenth. It would seem as noted in Part 1, the only written history available to the 1834 commissioner was Leycester's Historical Antiquities of Cheshire (my edition published in 1673). Leycester was a local landowner who was critical of the changing political stances taken at different times by the Booths of Dunham Massey in relation to King and Parliament during the recent seventeenth century Civil War and his cynical views were reflected in his stinging references to the character of any properties belonging to the lords of Dunham Massey. The nineteenth century commissioner found such descriptions very appropriate ammunition to launch his views even though they were well out of date. (There is perhaps a sting in the tail – the small square ground outside the Bricklayer's Arms on George street is to-day still known as Beggar's Square – the only place, it is understood, where beggar's could ply their activity in former times – perhaps Leycester had

a point).

General state and prospects

23.The population is almost exclusively agricultural. That of the borough of Altrincham at the last census was about 2900 souls. There is some little hand-loom weaving, the wages of which trade are still very low, though on the advance.

Poor.

The poorer class of inhabitants are principally employed in the cultivation of small plots of garden ground, (the soil being naturally highly productive) of which the produce is taken to Manchester market.

This was the hey-day of the use of the Bridgewater Canal, nightsoil being brought from the city and vegetables going back in return. It is surprising no mention is made of the steam-powered cotton mill in the town.

The poor rates are heavy, amounting to 7s. or 8s. in the pound, on an estimate of two-thirds of the rack-rent for houses, and three-fourths for lands.

Able-bodied labourers, however, are said to find no difficulty in finding employment at reasonably good wages. There is a workhouse for the infirm and children.

The workhouse was a cluster of cottages, 'Duke's Cottages' on the Manchester road north of the canal in Broadheath. Quite a thriving textile industry was carried on in it which suggests there were many able-bodied in that institution as well as infirm.

Church

24. The living of Altringham is a perpetual curacy within the parish of Bowdon, and is in the gift of the vicar of that parish.

The chapel was built only about 35 years since. There was previously no place of worship of the established church within the borough; but the parish church is distant but a mile. Duty is done at the chapel twice every Sunday. There is a Sunday school connected with it, supported by subscriptions and congregational collections, with about 80 or 90 boys and more girls.

At this time there was no daily education, except for the wealthy. St George's built in 1799 which became a parish church in 1868, 34 years after the inspector visited the town.

Dissenting Congregations

25. There are dissenting meetings of the new and old connexions, with large congregations and Sunday-schools attached to them.

The Unitarians have a small chapel and a school. There are no Roman Catholics.

John Wesley had preached in the area several times and there were chapels in George Street and Church Walk (Regent Road). The Unitarians had a chapel in Shaw's Lane. The abrupt reference to Catholics is interesting. There were undoubtedly Roman Catholics in the area as Irish servants, labourers and a few European visitors, but no places of worship. It must be remembered that the Catholic Emancipation Act had only just been passed in 1829 so any observance was still clandestine.

Complaints

26. Complaints are made of the redundancy of beer-shops, and of the deficiency of a local magistracy.

The nearest county magistrate, Mr. Trafford, resides at a distance of six miles. Petty sessions are held at Hoo Green, five or six miles off.

In those days 'redundancy' meant 'too many of', so here we have a major problem, not experienced by the inspector but expressed to him by the representative of the people, namely the level of drunkenness and crime. The local Court Leet, a body of twenty or so worthies administered the town with the help of other groups such as the Vestry and the Town's Meeting, selected a handful of constables, with a small overnight lock-up and was only able to fine wrongdoers up to a limit of £2 or commit them to other courts. There were ancient stocks, a cucking-field (c-, not d-), and a whipping post, but no written record of their use at this time. There was a magistracy but it was miles away and not yet based in the town. The County Assize was thirty miles away in Chester. It appears crime was rife.

The document ends:

Durham, 3rd April, 1834.

Geo. Hutton Wilkinson

The resulting Act of 1835 was to improve parliamentary representation to ratepayers but early social historians as G M Trevelyan in 1944 were to comment that "in the matter of guardianship of public health, the rule of shopkeepers, builders and publicans, elected by the ratepayers under the Municipal Reform Act of 1835, was no real improvement on the lethargy of the Tory oligarchs who had been displaced amid such general rejoicings. Still throughout the 'forties' nothing was done to control the slum landlords and jerry-builders, who were engaged from motives of self-interest ... These pioneers of 'progress' saved space by crowding families into single rooms or thrusting them underground into cellars...".[1] Indeed there was little done to improve the situation at places such as Altrincham and it was to be seventeen years before an improved method of government by a 'Local Board of Health' was introduced, and only that after a plea from the town itself to the government in 1848.[2] This heralded the start of a system which led towards the elective local government we have today.

Notes

1. Trevelyan, G M English Social History, 1st Ed. Longmans Green, London, 1944.
2. For the terrible conditions in Altrincham in 1848 see Gillian Fitzpatrick in Bayliss, D G Altrincham, a History, or see Bamford, F The Making of Altrincham, 1850-1991.

WHO ACCOMPANIED WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR WHEN HE INVADED ENGLAND IN 1066?

Hilda Bayliss

One of the best known dates in English history is 1066AD which is surprising when one considers that it was a Norman victory. When William the Bastard landed at Pevensey he was accompanied by 2000 men of whom approximately 300 were called his

Compagnons or companions. To be so styled or related to such a person was considered to be a great honour by French and English families. Hence there has been a frenetic search by numerous scholars and others with not-so-scholarly intentions to try to prove that a particular family was with the Conqueror when he crossed the Channel in 1066. Is there any proof that the Hamon de Massey mentioned in Domesday Book, ancestor of the fifth lord of that name who gave us Altrincham's charter in 1290AD came over with the Conqueror?

One source used by compilers of lists of Companions in both England and France is Domesday Book but this was not written until 1086AD and recorded the names of landowners at that date but it must be remembered that many soldiers in the battle had returned to France immediately after that event for various reasons, some had come back and others not at the battle had also arrived. Thus though Domesday was a record of people in living in England in 1086 it could not be regarded as a true record of William's Companions.. There must have been many ferries and trading ships making the passage across the Channel with no record kept of people travelling in both directions. Another source was the Pipe Roll of 1120AD which included landlord and tenant names but at sixty-four years later these were even more unlikely to be an accurate guide.

The first list of Companions had been made on William's orders at Dives in Normandy where he prayed before his army embarked on its great fleet on 25 September and it is reputed to have been called over on the field of battle of Hastings on 15 October the morning after the hostilities. To be named on the list became a status symbol and the problem of who was and who was not on that list became very important and is still being debated.

Although it is called the Battle of Hastings the battle actually took place 6 miles to the north and the area became known as Battle So much blood had been spilt during the hostilities that William ordered the building of an abbey on the site of the battle and in a clause in the Foundation Charter gave the monks who would live there the care of the list from Dives (called the Muster Roll). The copy of this document became known as the Battle Abbey Roll and it remained at Battle Abbey even after the Dissolution of the Monasteries during the reign of Henry VIII when the complex was given to Sir Anthony Browne Master of the King's Horse in 1538. Although the abbey was destroyed the accompanying buildings were made into a fine house. The Battle Abbey Roll remained with the Browne family at Battle until 1717 when a member of the family took it to his other home at Cowdray where it unfortunately perished in a fire in 1793. Over the years it had become a much mutilated document. because names were added to it or deleted from it. In order to have one's name on the roll or have a name removed much money changed hands to effect the alterations.

In view of its fate at Cowdray it was fortunate that the roll had been copied – no less than sixteen times I understand, but take heart I shall not bore you with them all - merely six times.

ted that he has in no case cited an authority or given a reference' fine words from someone whose own work was said to be a mixture of fact and much fiction. The last list I shall mention is the Falaise Roll. This bronze tablet was placed on the wall of the Town Hall in 1931 in Falaise, Normandy, where William had his castle This roll has 315 names.

The name of Hamon de Massey and other notable Cheshire men including the second Earl of Chester, Hugh d'Avranches are missing from the lists. According to a document in the cartulary at Whitby Abbey Hugh landed there in 1067 in King William's company. A precursor no doubt to the harrying of the north. It is known the Normans crossed the Pennines in 1069-70 and subsequently invaded Cheshire. Did William bring new men with him such as Hamon de Massey and the other knights who would become Cheshire barons? Certainly when **Hugh d'Avranches** was created second Earl of Chester in 1070 of the eight men he made barons only two are mentioned on any list:

Robert Fitzhugh Malpas): Holinshed (1577), Duchesne (1619) and Leland (1715)

Guiselbert le Venables (Kinderton): Dives (1866) and Falaise (1931)

The other six are mentioned in Domesday Book (1086)

William FitzNigel (Halton): High Constable of Cheshire

Richard de Vernon (Shipbrook)

William Malbedeng (Malbank-Nantwich)

Robert FitzWaltheof (Stockport)

Robert de MonteAlto (Monthalt) High Steward of Cheshire

Hamon de Massey (Dunham)

So there is no proof at the moment that Hamon de Massey of Dunham was present at the Battle of Hastings.

The committee of the Dives monument claims that its work is not yet finished and states there are doubtless other companions who fought at Hastings whose names do not appear on this memorial. Once their presence is firmly established these names will make a second memorial. Truly a medieval mystery that is still unresolved

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BOOK REVIEWS

***A Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Greater Manchester* by Robina McNeil and Michael Nevell. Association for Industrial Archaeology Annual Conference 2000.**
Paperback, 72 pp, illustrations, maps. No price - Conference handout. ISBN 0-9528930-3-7.

Loan copy available in Society Library.

Great changes seem to be ongoing in Manchester all the time and this has been a continual process since the 1950s as far as archaeology is concerned. In 1957, the famous historian, A.J.P. Taylor, wrote that "There was nothing much to report about Roman Manchester". The site of the fort

was known, but only a single stone, part of a wall in a workshop, under railway arch No.95, was identifiable as Roman and had been protected by a preservation order in 1858, due to the landowner, Lord Ellesmere. From the fifties onwards, after a breathing space following the war, vast areas of the city began to be prepared for development, or were just cleared of bomb damage. Slum sites were removed and whole communities shipped off to the city outskirts, a policy both of rehousing and of expanding Manchester's influence. While the ecconomy slowly recovered, many old buildings; shops, churches, and mills, found a new lease of life as emergent factories and storage depots.

It was only in the early 1970s that a large area in the Castlefield area gave Prof. Barri Jones of M/c University, the opportunity, with the blessing and a grant from the City Council, to investigate the site prior to development. This was followed, through the later 1970s and 1980s with so many development opportunities, that archaeologists only had time to record what they could; each investigation being treated in isolation from the many other research projects.

In the 1990s the pressure eased and archaeological investigation of interesting sites had become a statutory part of the development process, with the developer funding the archaeological investigation. The archaeologists had time to assess the previously collected data and integrate the available facts into a general overview of the industrial development of the city and its outlying areas. In this present book (published for a conference, held at Manchester University), the authors have gathered together information about surviving structures of archaeological interest, supplied by individuals and organisations (including Trafford's S.T.A.G.), to produce a gazetteer of buildings, identified on appropriate district maps, and with a description of each, pin-pointed with a grid reference. It is fitting that this work was written to cover Manchester, it being the hub of innovation and industrial progress which helped shape the modern world. Many important buildings have survived from the Industrial Revolution.

For the borough of Trafford, the list includes entries in the industrial engineering estates of Trafford Park and its forerunner, Broadheath, for example, Trafford Park Cable Works and the Linotype. Elsewhere, the Partington Paper Mill of 1755 and the saw mill in Dunham Park, built 1616, one of the earliest brick structures in the original county of Cheshire. The Bridgewater Canal has also left buildings and ancillary structures dating back to 1766. Various other places in the Borough, of archaeological interest, are also noted.

The listing enables structures which were designed for different types of industrial use, to be studied, and the number and type of structure, enable the archaeologist to plot the development of industry as it changed the way society was organised and functioned.

In its way, this is another first for Manchester, a forerunner of many similar studies expected in other parts of the country. The authors are to be congratulated on such a masterly presentation of our architectural

heritage of industrial building types and the book is enthusiastically recommended to readers interested in the region's heritage and its industrial history.

C. Hill

NEW LOCAL BOOKS

Old Ordnance Survey Maps of Lancashire. Chadderton, Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £2.10. ISBN 1 84151 159 5.

Harvest of the Hills: Rural Life in Northern England and the Scottish Borders, 1400-1700 by Angus J.L. Winchester, Keele University Press. Paperback, £19.95. ISBN 1 85331 239 8.

Reddish by Jill Cronin, Tempus Publishing. Paperback, £9.99. ISBN 0 7524 1878 5.

Catalogue of Silver in the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, Phillimore & Co. Ltd and Chester Museums. Paperback, £19.95. ISBN unknown. Mainly Chester hallmarked silver.

Industrial History of Farnworth (Greater Manchester) by Gordon Alan Wolstenholme (self-publisher). Paperback, £9.95. ISBN 0 9539230 0 2.

Cheshire and the Tudor State, 1480-1560 by Tim Thornton, Royal Historical Society. Hardback, Royal Historical Society Studies in History, New Series, vol.18, £40.00. ISBN 0 86193 248 X.

Old Ordnance Survey Maps of Manchester. Higher Ardwick, Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £1.95. ISBN 1 84151 164 1.
Upper Ardwick. Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £1.95. ISBN 1 84151 163 3.

Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme by Karen Cliff and Vicki Masterson, Tempus Publishing. Paperback, £9.99. ISBN unknown.

Droylsden and Audenshaw Voices by Jill Cronin, Tempus Publishing Ltd, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 2QG. Paperback, £10.99. ISBN 0 7524 2199 9.

The Autobiography of David Whitehead of Rawtenstall (1790-1865) (with an introduction by Professor Stanley Chapman), published by Helmshore Local History Society, c/o The Secretary, 4 East Street, Helmshore, Rossendale BB4 4JT. Hardback, £15.00. ISBN unknown.

Ashley: Village Life in an Age of Change by David John Ellington, Hough Green Publications. Paperback, 312.50. ISBN 0 9540354 0 2.

History and Hulley Families in the One House, Rainow, Near Macclesfield, Cheshire by Ray Hulley, Longview Publishing. Paperback, £4.95. ISBN 0 9540314 0 7.

Macclesfield by Chris Makepeace, Sutton Publishing. Paperback, Britain in Old Photographs Series, £9.99. ISBN 0 7509 2535 3.

Ashton and Sale Wills: Part 3, 1701-1760 edited by Jill Groves, NWAS Publications, 77 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire M33 4DN. Paperback, c.£9.00. ISBN unknown. Available from January 2002 onwards. Ask about pre-publication price.

Magazines

Bowdon Sheaf, Nos.34 and 35, October 1999 and February 2000. A5, 8pp, 2 issues a year, 80p each. Available from Mrs Ann Redford, Secretary, 5 Pinewood, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 3JQ.

Articles in No. 34 include: 'The Millennium'; 'A Glimpse of Culcheth Hall School in 1908'; 'George Arthur Pickard'; 'The War Hospital Supply Depot'.

Articles in No.35 include: 'Meadowlands'; 'Thomas Pitfield'; 'Mrs Frank Crossley'; 'B. for Bowdon'; 'The Dunham Massey Gloves'; 'The Ringers' Orders'; 'A Cheshire Tale'; 'Dunham Oaks'.

Articles in No.36 include: 'A Moated Site in Bowdon: New Light on the Old Vicarage'; 'Description of the Manor of Dunham Massey from the Manorial Extent of 1410-1411: in the time of John Legh of Bothes, tenant of the same time'.

Articles in No.37 include: 'Seventeenth Century Burial Laws'; 'Publication of Marriage Banns during the Commonwealth Period'; 'Bucklow Hundred and the Cattle Plague, 1865-66'; 'A Rostherne Epitaph'.

Browsings, the journal of South Trafford Archaeological Group, Nos.81, 82, 83, 84 and 85. A4, 4pp, 4 issues a year, £8.00 annual subscription. Available from Chairman, Derek Pierce, 30 Ollerton Avenue, Sale M33 5HB.

Items in No.81 include: 'Chairman's Notes'; 'Work Experience Students'; 'Barleycastle Farm, Appleton'; 'White Cottage, Warburton'; 'Abroad in Brief: Pompeii; Rome'; 'Walking with Dinosaurs - in Warburton?'; 'Paddock Lane Farm, Warburton'; 'Timperley Fair'; 'Chance Find'.

Articles in No.82 include: 'Chairman's Notes'; 'Shiver Me Timbers' (a short note on ships' timber which might have been reused for building houses); 'An Introduction to the Industrial Archaeology of Trafford'; 'Abroad in Brief'.

Articles in No.83 include: 'Chairman's Notes'; '"Head" Man Retires'; 'Dinosaur, Dog or What?'; 'Abroad in Brief'; 'An Ancient Landscape'.

Items in No.84 include: 'Chairman's Notes'; 'Dunham Mill in the Middle Ages'; 'John Rylands Library, Deansgate'; 'Roman Middlewich'; 'Millennium Talk'; 'Gift Aid'; 'The Wheel Pit at Warburton Mill'.

Items in No.85 include: 'Chairman's Notes'; 'Timperley Country Fair'; 'Annual General Meeting'; 'Valetta Convention: implications for archaeology in the UK'; 'Pat's Potty Poems'; 'A Day in the Hay'; 'Roman Middlewich'; 'The Fabric of Industry'; '300 years of Buckley Pottery'; 'Paddock Lake Farm, Warburton'; 'Waterworks at Dunham'.

Cheshire History, the journal of the Cheshire Local History Association, 2000-2001, No.40. A5, 116pp, 1 issue a year, £4.50 single copy or £8.00 including subscription to Cheshire Local History Association. Available from Cheshire Local History Association, Cheshire Record Office, Duke Street, Chester CH1 1RL.

Articles include: 'Paying for the Invasion'; 'A Question of Identity: Cheadle Church's Medieval Effigies'; 'Manipulating the Landscape: Richard Wilson and the Dee Valley'; 'George Frederick Cooke: A Tragedian at Chester'; 'Tranmere Township in the Nineteenth Century: An Introduction to the Operation of the Tranmere Vestry'; 'Population Change in Altrincham in the Early Nineteenth Century'; '"Ready-Made" in Nantwich: John Harding & Son at the Baronia Works'; 'The Nineteenth Century Growth of an Industrial Suburb: Newtown'; 'The Telephone Comes to Chester'; Book Reviews.

Chester History and Heritage News, Spring and Summer 2001. A4, 4pp, 2 issues, FREE. Available from *Chester History and Heritage*, St. Michael's Church, Bridge Street Row East, Chester CH1 1NW.

Items in Spring 2001 edition include: 'Welcome back to CHH'; 'A Brief History f St. Michael's Church'; '1901 Census'; 'Chester 100 Years Ago'; 'New Books', Events Diary.

Chester History and Heritage News, Summer 2001. A4, 4pp, 2 issues a year, FREE. Available from Chester History and Heritage, St. Michael's Church, Bridge Street Row East, Chester CH1 1NW.

Items in Summer 2001 edition include: 'Officially Open for Business'; 'From riches to rags - changes in St. Michael's Parish'; 'New Family Histiry Magazine from the Public Record Office'; 'Stop Press! Family History News'; Captured in time'; 'Chester 100 Years Ago'; Events Diary.

Friends of Trafford Local Studies Newsletter, No.12, December 2000. A4, 6pp, 2 issues a year, £1.00 one-off registration fee. Available from Trafford Local Studies Centre, Sale Library, Tatton Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 1YH.

Items include: Digitisation of documents; 'New Releases'; 'Talks in Local Studies'; 'Displays'.

Greater Manchester Courier, newsletter of the Greater Manchester County Record Office, No.70, January 2001. A4, 4pp. Available from Greater Manchester County Record Office, 56 Marshall Street, New Gross, Manchester M4 5FU.

Items include: 'GMCRO News'; 'News from Other Offices'; 'Dates'. This is the last regular *Greater Manchester Courier*. From now on it will be occasional.

The Griffin, the newsletter of the Chadderton Historical Society, Nos.14, 15, 17 and 18, August, November 2000 and May and August 2001. A4, 2pp, 4 issues a year, subscription unknown. Available from web site address: http://www.chadderton-hs.freeuk.com

Items in No.14 include: 'Chadderton Heritage Centre'; 'Motorway Recognition'; 'Archive Material'; 'Silver Jubilee Floral Display'; '*Brief History of Chadderton*'; 'The "Happiest Days of Your Life?": Part 3 - a look back at the work of the Chadderton Education Committee in 1904'.

Items in No.15 include: 'Chadderton Heritage Centre - now becoming a reality!'; 'Christmas Lights Scheme'; '"Chadderton Celebrates"'; 'Foxdenton Funday'; 'Early Chadderton Memories';. 'Death of WPC Alison Armitage'; 'Chadderton! Where's Chadderton?'.

Items in No.17 include: 'Chadderton Heritage Centre - now becoming a reality!'; 'Christmas Lights Scheme'; '"Chadderton Celebrates"'; 'Foxdenton Funday'; 'Early Chadderton Memories'; 'Death of WPC Alison Armitage'; 'Chadderton! Where's Chadderton?'.

Items in No.18 include: 'Comment - Foxdenton Hall, a Desirable Property - Not for Sale!'; 'One Borough - United by its Diversity?'; 'Renewed Plaque'; 'Foxdenton Fun Day'; '"Chadderton Celebrates"'; 'Early Chadderton Memories'; 'Christmas Festive Lights'.

Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire Newsletter, Nos.17 and 18, November 2000 and January 2001. A4, 4pp, 3 issues a year, £16.00 (including subscription to the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire and 1 *Transcriptions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*). Available from Margaret Proctor, Newsletter Editor, University of Liverpool Library, PO Box 123, Liverpool L69 3DA.

Items in No.17 include: 'Liverpool Seaman's Orphanage Institution'; 'HSLC lectures'; 'Forthcoming events'.

Items in No.18 include: 'Mediaeval Lancashire and Cheshire'; HSLC programme for 2001; 'New Publications'; 'Forthcoming Events'; 'Council members revealed'; 'Report for 1900'.

Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, Transactions, Vol.149, 1999 (arrived May 2001). A5, 208pp, 1 issue a year, annual subscription £16.00. Available from the Editor, Dr. C.P. Lewis, School of History, University of Liverpool, 9 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 7WZ.

Articles include: 'The widowhood of Alice Spencer, countess dowager of Derby, 1594-1636'; 'Accumulation and aspirations among the "parish gentry"; economic strategies and social identity in a Pennine family,

1650-1780'; 'Creating a port: Liverpool 1695-1715'; '"The pride of my publick life": George Canning and the representation of Liverpool, 1812-1823'; 'The Liverpool cotton market: Britain's first futures market'; '"This is truly the golden harvest": personal accounts of Cheshire migrants to Australia, c.1852-1860'; 'The Irish in Ashton-under-Lyne in the 1860s'.

Lancashire, Vols.21 and 22, Nos. 2 and 3, May 2000 and August 2000. A5, 4 issues a year, ordinary membership £9.00. Available from the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society, Ms Vicky Barlow, Bob's Ley, 6 Mowbreck Lane, Wesham, Preston, Lancashire PR4 3HA.

Articles in Vol.21, No.2 include: 'Research of a Different Kind'; 'Heraldry - The Old Town Hall, Preston'; 'Blackpool - Home of the True Entrepreneur'; 'A Gallipoli Diary'; 'The First Hatmakers of South Lancashire'; 'Terrible Ice Accident at Marland, December 1892'; 'Autumn in New England - follow up'.

Articles in Vol.22, No.3 include: 'Harrowing Tales of the Famine Years'; 'The Housing of the Poor - Common Lodging Houses in Bury'; 'Butch Cassidy, Wild West Outlaw with East Lancs. Roots'.

Lancashire History Quarterly, Vol.4, No.4, December 2000, Vol.5, Nos.1, 2, and 3, March, June and September 2001. A5, 4 issues a year, £14.00 subscription or £3.50 per issue. Available from Lancashire History Quarterly, Procter House, Kirkgate, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 9DZ.

Articles in Vol.4, No.4 include: 'Two-Up-Two-Down: The Next Generation'; 'Thomas Watt: A Warrington Soap and Candle Maker'; 'A mid 19th century Curate's Notebook'; 'Southport's River Nile'; 'Mr Lock: Hatter to Some Lancastrian Families'; 'Aintree Memories' (from *Forty Square Miles of Walton*); 'The Way Forward - The Development of Transport Systems in Leigh'; 'The Registers of Mount Sion Chapel at Tosside in the Forest of Gisbum'.

Articles in Vol.5, No.1 include: 'The Castle Mill at Quernmore: the water powdered mill in a rural landscape'; 'Southport's First Hospitals'; 'Murder Most Foul in Clitheroe, March 1773'; 'It did happen to a Doctor (part two)'; 'Mr Paton's Day'; 'Ss Peter and Pauls 1795-1994 (part one)'; 'Lancashire's Only Horse Gin?'; 'The Dialect Poem'.

Articles in Vol.5, No.2 include: 'A look at the Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston' (by Greta Krypczyk-Oddy, one of our OUHS members); 'Ss Peter and Paul's 1795-1994: A Catholic History' (part two); 'The Bickerstaffes - A Century of Lifeboat Support - part one'; 'The Romans in Kirkham'; 'A Coalmine at Clintsfield in Tatham'; 'The Manor of Prestwich - An Essay in Eighteenth Century Politics'; 'The Silver Road to Sheffield'; 'Hannah Maria Mitchell'; 'Eccles Memories: The Long Pole and Punctuality'.

Articles in Vol.5, No.3 include: 'The Introduction of Smallpox Vaccination into Lancashire'; 'Lancashire and the Dissolution of the Monasteries'; 'Arley [near Wigan] (research by the Wigan Archaeological Society'; 'The Old Toll House'; 'Paupers and Poverty'; 'Lost Ships, Lost Youth'; 'The Dob Wheel Mill, Rochdale: A Link with Dorset' by OUHS member Greta Krypczyl-Oddy [first published in *Open History Special Conference Edition 1999*]; 'Dialect Poem: Owd Fashioned Fun'.

Lancashire Local History Federation Newsletter, Winter 2000/2001. A4, 4pp, 3 issues a year, subscription of £5.00 (individuals) to Lancashire Local History Federation. Available from the Newsletter Editor, Chris Makepeace, 5 Hilton Road, Disley, Cheshire SK12 2JU.

Items include: 'Editorial'; 'Local history courses'; 'Society web sites'; 'Barnoldswick History Society'; 'National Library for the Blind'; 'Society News'; 'Journals Received'.

Manchester Region History Review, Vol. XIV, 2000. A4, 136pp, 1 issue a year, £9.00 a year. Aavailable from The Editors, *Manchester Region History Review*, c/o The Manchester Metropolitan University, Manton Building, Rosamund Street West, Manchester M15 6LL.

Special issue on 100 years of Labour. Articles include: 'Union First, Politics After: Oldham Cotton Unions and the Labour Party Before 1914'; 'The Labour Party in Manchester and Salford before the First World War: A Case of Unequal Development'; 'Labour Vanguard, Tory Bastion, or the Triumph of New Liberalism? Manchester Politics 1900 to 1914 in Comparative Perspective'; 'The Stockport By-election of 1920: The Labour Party and the Problem of Irish Self-determination'; 'Salford Labour: A Party in Waiting 1919-1932'; 'The Politics of Place: A Comparative Analysis of Electoral Politics in Four Lancashire Cotton Textile Towns, 1919-1939'; 'Irish Catholics in South East Lancashire: A Conflict of Loyalties?'; 'Mancunians' Perceptions of Labour in the Second World War'; 'The Lancashire Coalfield 1945-1972: NUM-Labour Party Hegemony and Industrial Change'; 'The Labour History Archive and Study Centre - Ten Years On'; 'The Pump House People's History Museum'; 'The North West Labour History Group'; Bibliography; Book Reviews.

The Mundling Stick, Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust, Vol.6, Nos.3 and 4, Autumn and Winter 2000, and Vol.7, No.1, Spring 2001. A4, 4pp, 4 issues a year, FREE. Available from The Lion Salt Works Trust, Ollershaw Lane, Marston, Northwich CW9 6ES or website http://lionsaltworks trust.co.uk.

Items in No.3 include: This edition is mainly devoted to Research Report No.1, *Open Pan Salt Making: An illustrated description by Tom Lightfoot*; 'AIA Delegates Visit Northwich'.

Items in No.4 include: 'Trust Appoints Conservation Architects'; 'Salt 2000 VRETA Award'; 'ERIH' (European Route of Industrial Heritage'; 'Changes in our Trustee Board'.

Items in Vol.7, No.1 include: 'Objects Return to Lion Salt Works'; 'Liftable Buildings - An Interactive Reconstruction'; 'Trust Web Site - A *Glint* of the Future'; 'Images of Salt Making at the Lion Works c.1980'; 'ERIH Visits Lion'; 'Difficulties in Spring - Foot and Mouth Disease Reduces Visitors'; 'Towards a Working Museum'; 'Leomine/Bellarmine'; 'Features on the Lion Salt Works'.

News from the Rylands, the newsletter of the Special Collections Division of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, No.2, Summer 2001. A5, 14pp, FREE. Available from *News from the Rylands*, John Rylands Library, 150 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3EH.

Items include: 'Unlocking the Rylands: Success for the Stage I Heritage Lottery Fund Bid'; 'Archives'; 'recently Acquired Printed Books'; 'Recent Exhibitions'; 'Exhibition Programme 2001/2002'; 'John Wesley Tercentenary Conference and Exhibition'.

Oldham Local Studies and Archives Newsletter, No.7, Spring 2001. A4, 4pp, 2 issues a year, FREE. Available from Oldham Local Studies and Archives, 84 Union Street, Oldham OL1 1DN.

Items include: 'Rare Oldham Pattern Books Saved by Grant'; 'Volunteers: Parchment, Privies and Providence'; 'Oldham Images'; 'Oldham Burials'; 'Internet access'; 'CD ROMs'; 'Archives available'; 'Mining for facts'; 'Monumental book scoops top award'; Publications for Sale.

Past Forward, the Newsletter of Wigan Heritage Service, Nos.26 and 27, Autumn/Winter 2000 and Spring 2001. A4, 28pp, 4 issues a year, FREE. Available from *Past Forward,* Wigan Heritage Service, Market Suite, The Galleries, Wigan WN1 1PX.

Articles in No.26 include: 'A Constant Pledge, An Obligation Fulfilled: Wigan Cenotaph and War Memorial to the Fallen of the Great War 1914-18'; 'Pit Brow Girls' Protest'; 'News From the Archives'; 'Dance to the Music of Time'; 'Take Your Partners Please'; 'Ellen Weeton (1776-1849) Governess'; 'The strange case of the vanishing statue'; 'Mapping the Millennium'; 'Wigan 2000 The Way We Are'; 'The first two years of World War II'; 'From Wigan to World Tour: The Life of Mary Alicia Hodkinson 1912-1995'; 'I remember when...'; 'Wigan

Borough Police - A tale from the Graveyard Shift'; 'God's Good Fresh Air'; 'Coal Fires and Loved Faces: Memories of an Ince childhood'.

Articles in No.27 include: 'The Dr. Mary Tomlinson Story'; 'Election Fever? You Ain't Seen Nuthin'!'; '"I Won't Dance - Don't Ask Me"'; 'The Great Stink of Standish'; 'Street Singer who Conquered Empires'; 'Ellen Weeton (1776-1849) Governess, Persecution and Despair'; 'Crash Landing at Aspull'; 'History Shop News'; 'Wigan Borough Police: A tale from the Graveyard Shift'; 'Reminiscences of events in Atherton Township in 1941'; 'Yesterday in the Park'; 'I remember when...'; 'Great Grandma Alice'; 'The Hilton Family - From Aspull to Australia'.

Trafford Local Studies, Friends of, Newsletter, No.13, July 2001. A4, 4pp, £1.00 charge for registration as a Friend. Available from Trafford Local Studies Centre, Sale Library, Tatton Road, Sale M33 1YH, tel. 0161 912 3013, email: traffordlocalstudies @hotmail.com

News of new developments and acquisitions in Trafford Local Studies Centre.

Wigan Pier Newsletter, Winter 2001. A4, 4pp, FREE. Available from Wigan Pier Heritage Centre, Wallgate, Wigan WN3 4EU; website wiganpier.net

Items include: 'Museum of Memories is the Region's Best - Official' (about the opening of 'Opie's Museum of Memories' at Wigan Pier); 'Curtain opens on new Theatre Company Director'; 'Pier Pretty in Pink'; 'Coaches More Welcome at Pier'; 'Pier to Partner Palace at al'; 'Spring 2001 Events'; 'Pier Welcomes CDC of GB'.

Your LifeTimes Link, Nos.5, 6, 7 and 8, Winter 2000, Spring, Summer and Autumn 2001. A4, 4pp, 4 issues a year, FREE. Available from LifeTimes, FREEPOST MR10203, 51 The Crescent, Salford M5 4WX, email: inof@lifetimes.org.uk

Items No.5 include: 'Sixty years on... bombs and bonbons'; 'Slide Away: The Ted Gray Slide Archive'; 'Great Aunt Agnes's Suitcase'; 'For Our Younger Readers... Those Were the Days! @ Salford Museums'; 'Museum Fever at Salford Museum and Art Gallery!'; 'Do you remember Salford Royal?'; 'Memories of Swinton District?'; 'Salford on the Box'; 'Seedley and Langworthy'; 'Changing Places'.

Items No.6 include: 'The General Strike'; 'readers' requests and Callers' Quandaries - can you help?'; 'Take of look at a book!'; 'Swinton and Pendlebury Heritage'; '2001 Anniversaries'; 'Fascinating Photographs'; 'Talks at Salford TIC on the Quays'; 'Workshops'.

Items in No.7 include: 'Give my regards to Broad Street'; 'The Ambassador Cinema'; 'New heritage group for Swinton and Pendlebury'; 'From Paper to Pots, Plates and Plaques'; 'Dancing Divas and Hilarious Hairdos...!' 'Dance Yourself Dizzy!'; 'All our Working Lives'; 'Viva Victoriana'; 'The Vic Tomlinson photographic collection'.

Items in No.8 include: 'Viva Victoriana!'; 'And not forgetting Chapel Street (and the Crescent); 'Dancing the Night (and Day) Away'; 'Irlam's Heritage'; 'Digitising the Past - Good News for the Future' 'Salford versus Manchester'; 'Millennium Wall Hanging'; 'Salford Archives Service'; 'LifeTimes Workshop'.

Microfiche

Bowdon St. Mary Burials 1738-1841, North Cheshire Family History Society, c/o Mrs R. Clarke, 2 Denham Drive, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 2AT. 9 fiche, £8.50 (including p&p)

No.22 September 2002 ISSN 0962-9793

Altrincham History Society
JOURNAL

The Luptons of Altrincham and Wyatt Clocks

Random Jottings

Local attorneys in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries

An Overview of the Stamford Archive at John Rylands Library

Alison Uttley's House - My Childhood Home

Charity Shops in Altrincham – Early Days

Altrincham History Society Bookstall
Local History on the Web
North West History News
Events in the North West
Local History Society News
Local Books and Magazines

£1.50

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Cover Illustration: John Wyatt's clock.

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Altrincham History Society meets once a month between September and May at 7.30pm at Altrincham Library, Stamford New Road, Altrincham, Cheshire. Non-members are welcome. Cost £1.00 per talk to non-members.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Don Bayliss

Welcome once again to an excellent journal compiled by Jill Groves. Summer has come and gone, I hope you did not miss it. The Altrincham area is awash with new buolding developments, many involving demolition of existing properties at the rate of two or three per month. We have set up a small working party to try to record for posterity details of the property demolished, both photographically and in words, seemingly an ongoing project for the foreseeable future. In order to try to save features of one of the properties likely to be severely altered, the town hall of 1900AD we have formed a Friends of Altrincham Town Hall group. If you wish to be involved please contact Colin Graham (secretary of the group and member of our society), tel: 941 2338. You will be pleased to

note out president, Dr Michael Nevell has been created Director of Manchester University Archaeological Unit - we send our congratulations, well deserved. Please note this year there is no November meeting due to rooms problems. Our programme next year should be not be so affected.

From the Chairman

We continue to be delighted with the letters we receive from Old Altrinchamian Mr Warburton in south Wales. Recently he sent some blueprints of Tilghmans, Broadheath, where he used to work and these will be looked at by Mr Champness, member of our society and Manchester Industrial Archaeology Society and contributor to this Journal. Also he sent this poem as an example of 'shelter art' he saw in a shelter in World War Two. It could well have been inscribed on the plaque on Oakfield Road in the memorial garden to mark the deaths of several people in the area by bombing, but alas was too long.

'God is our refuge,
Be not afraid.
He will protect you
All through the raid.
When bombs are falling
And danger is near,
He will be with you
Till the 'All Clear'.

Thanks, Mr Warburton.

Society Meetings 2002-03

Meets at Altrincham Library, Stamford New Road, Altrincham at 7.30pm on Mondays.
Subs: £5.00; visitors £1.00 per meeting
28 October 2002, 'The Manx Railway', Joe Taylor.
No meeting in November
16 December 2002, 'Robert Burns'/Christmas Party, Jack Glenn.
27 January 2003, 'Within This Wooden "O"', Miss A.M. Medcalfe.
24 February 2003, 'Barton Airfield', Mr W. Bull.
31 March 2003, 'Church Fittings', Mr I and Mrs C. Hamilton.
28 April 2003, 'Cheshire Heraldry', Anthony Bostock.
19 May 2003, 'Old Market Place', Dr Mike Nevell.

ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY BOOKSTALL

Back copies of Altrincham History Society Journals 4 to 21

Altrincham History Society Journal 4
'Altrincham in the Survey and Rental of the Manor of Dunham Massey AD1348-49: Part II'; '26th November, 1813 - General Rejoicing in Altrincham'; 'Extracts of Proceedings of the Altrincham and District Natural History and Literary Society'; 'A Royal Coat of Arms at Shotwick'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 5
'"Finem Respice" and the Black Horse'; 'A Brief Insight into Military Obligation in Ashley in the Fourteenth Century'; 'Captain Scott's Visit to Seamons Moss School'; 'Obituary and Appreciation: Sale's History Man - Norman Swain'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to

non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 9
'The Dutch wars - 1652-74'; 'A Tameside Man in the Isle of Man'; 'The Denton Churchyard Masonix Gravestone'; 'Stray Thoughts'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non- members

Altrincham History Society Journal 10
'What's in a Name? The term 'alias' and the legitimate families of Altrincham, Ashton-on-Mersey and Sale'; 'Cunningham's Camp, 1894-1939: The International Young Men's Holiday Camp, Isle of Man'; '1667 Subsidy Roll for Altrincham'; 'The Contribution of Some Recent Booklets on the Civil War in Cheshire and Surrounding Counties'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non- members

Altrincham History Society Journal 11
'Provost's Sunday'; 'Comments on the 1667 Subsidy Roll for Altrincham'; 'Comparison of Altrincham in 1667 with Neighbouring Townships'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non- members

Altrincham History Society Journal 12
'Broadheath and a Naval Enigma, 1916'; 'Cottages at Nos. 113 and 115, Navigation Road'; 'A Grand Inquest of Altrincham Court Leet, 1744'; 'Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600 to 1650: Part 1'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 13
'A Great President - an appreciation of Norman Dore'; 'Anyone for Croquet?'; 'The Altrincham Tithe Map Scheule of 1838'; 'Altrincham Between the Wars'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 14
'From Pillar to Pill Capsule and Back Again'; 'Off-the-Peg Planning in Medieval N.E. Cheshire'; 'Ferdinand Laughton of Altrincham, gentleman, c.1690 to 1750'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 15
'A Note from Barbara Nevell'; 'Miscellanea'; 'Goering as Property Developer: The Bombing of 'Southwold', South Downs Road, Hale'; 'The English Borough in the Thirteenth Century'; 'The Impending Disappearance of Carrington Moss'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 16
'Susan Isabel Dacre, Artist, 1844 to 1933'; 'The Walton Family of Bowdon and Dunham Massey'; 'Altrincham and Bowdon Occupations, 1600-1760'; 'Epidemics in Manchester, Chester, Liverpool and Lancaster'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non- members

Altrincham History Society Journal 17
Contents: 'Heritage Open Days, 1998: 12th-13th September, 1998'; 'The Other Altrincham Gas Works'; 'A Seventeenth Century Auction'; 'Games and Pastimes'; 'Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-1650'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 18
'Footpaths, plants and cellar dwellings - Random Jottings'; 'King Edward and the Welsh Castles'; 'Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway'; 'Sir Gawain - a local hero?'
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 19
'Altrincham Gas Works Branch Line'; 'Altrincham Families: The Higginson, Butchers of Altrincham, 1600-1735'; 'Altrincham in 1835 - Bias in a government report: Part 1'; 'Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-1650: R to Edmund Simpson'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 20
'More Random Jottings'; 'Source of Water For Dunham Mill'; 'Gossip and Scandal in Bowdon and Altrincham: Part 1'; 'The Mayor's Land'; 'Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-50: Katherine Simpson to Venables'.
Price: £1.00 to members, £1.50 to non- members

Altrincham History Society Journal 21
Contents: The Halemoss Velvet Works, Altrincham'; 'More Random Jottings'; 'Honours Boards From Seamons Moss School'; 'Altrincham in 1834 – Bias in a Government Report? (Final) Part 3'; 'Who Accompanied William The Conqueror When He Invaded England In 1066?'

Altrincham History Society Occasional Papers

1. *Helen Allingham*
Price: £0.30

2. *Discover Broadheath*
Price: £0.30

3. *Dame Isobel Baillie - Blue Plaque*
Price: £0.30

4. *Altrincham in 1799*
Price: £0.30

5. *A Cheshire Market Town in Victorian Times: Altrincham in 1841*
Price: £5.70

6. *Alan Turing - Mathematical Genius*
Price: £0.30

7. *Medical Matters*
Price: £0.30

8. *Ronald Gow - Blue Plaque*
Price: £0.30

9. *The Buildings of Central Altrincham, 2000.*
Price £8.50 (£6.50 to members)

Other Publications
Map of Carrington, 1904 (with article on the history of Carrington Moss by Don Bayliss on reverse)
Price: £1.95.

ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY ON THE WEB

Altrincham History Society has a website which can be accessed via www.altynet. com

It includes About the Society, Events, Publications, Tour of Altrincham, Altrincham the website, as well as links to other websites such as Cheshire Local History Association, GENUKI (a very large umbrella site for anyone interested in family history and local history) and Ashton and Sale History Society.

Many thanks are due to David Miller and all his hard work on designing the website.

NORTH WEST HISTORY NEWS

Access to Archives (A2A)
A consortium of twenty-five North-west Archive Offices has been established to provide online access to over 50,000 pages of archival

catalogues relating to business, industry, families and estates in the area. This huge undertaking will provide vastly improved access to information on these records. It is part of a national project, A2A (Access to Archives). In Cheshire, the catalogues of major archives such as the Leicester-Warren of Tabley, Egerton of Tatton, Vernon of Kinderton, Warren of Poynton, Stanley of Alderley, Tollemache and Cholmondeley of Cholmondeley. The results of the first phase, over 16,000 pages of catalogues, are already becoming available on the website at www.a2a.pro.gov.uk

EVENTS IN THE NORTH WEST

Chester History and Heritage
St. Michael's Church, Chester
Exhibitions
What did you do in the war, Deva?: Wartime Chester, Photographic Exhibition
23 September - 18 October 2002

Cheshire Local History Association
Local History Day: Sources and Resources for Local and Family History
26 October 2002
Northwich Memorial Hall, Chester Road, Northwich
For more details and booking forms contact Cheshire Local History Association, c/o Cheshire Record Office, Duke Street, Chester CH1 1RL.

Wirral Local History Fair
13 October 2002
Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight
For more details ask the Editor

North West Family History Fair
27 October 2002
Manchester Town Hall
For more details ask the Editor.

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

Ashton and Sale History Society
Meets at the Claremont Centre, Claremont Road, Sale, on the first Wednesday of every month except January at 7.30pm.
2nd October 2002, 'The Torrs Gorge and New Mills Millennium Walkway'
6th November 2002, Annual General Meeting and illustrated talk by Mr. Alan Morrison
4th December 2002 Christmas Party

Chadderton Historical Society
Meets at Chadderton Central Library, Middleton Road, Chadderton, Oldham at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of each month. Visitors' donations gratefully received.
3 October 2002, 'Looking Back at Stretford'.
7 November 2002, 'History of the Ancient Township of Halliwell'.
5 December 2002, 'Through Glass Brightly'.
9 January 2003, Annual Party: theme 'The Edwardians'.
6 February 2003, "'The Busby Years' - Manchester United's Story (part 2)"
6 March 2003, 'Denton Hall and Medieval Life'.
3 April 2003, '"On the Move" - Transportation in Chadderton.
1 May 2003, 28 AGM.

Chester History and Heritage
St Michael's Church, Bridge Street Row East, Chester. Tel. 01244 402110.
18 October 2002, 'An "End of War" celebration as the exhibition 'What Did You Do in

the War, Deva?' draws to a close, 2-4pm

Eccles and District History Society
Meets at Eccles Library on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Visitors £1.00
9 October 2002, 'Early Maps'.
13 November 2002, 'The History of the *Guardian*'.
11 December 2002, Buffet dinner

Grosvenor Museum Society
Meets at the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, 7.30pm. Visitors £3.00.
9 October 2002, 'George Romney the Artist: The Bi-centenary of the Society portrait painter'

Irlam, Cadishead and District Local History Society
Meets at Irlam Library on the Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.
16 October 2002, 'Secret Britain (Lancashire and Cheshire)'.
20 November 2002, 'An Archer's Tale'.

Leyland Historical Society
Meets at Prospect House, Sandy Lane, Leyland on Mondays at 7.30pm.
7 October 2002, 'All steamed up - the adventures of Richard Trevithick'.
4 November 2002, 'Waterway Films'.
2 December 2002, 'Food, Feasts and Festivals 1600-1900'.

Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society
Meets at the Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester at 7.15pm for 7.30pm, unless stated. Bookstall run by Chris Makepeace usually available.
11October 2002, Samuel Oldknow
8 November 2002, A Journey down the Macclesfield Canal
13 December 2002, AGM
Further details on any event can be obtained from phone 0161 980 7612 or email bernard.jill.champness@tinyworld.co.uk

New Moston History Society
Meets at New Moston Library, Nuthurst Road, New Moston on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 6.30pm, and also a speaker at 2.00pm on the third Friday of each month.
18 October 2002, Subject to be announced.
15 November 2002, 'Funerals, the lighter side'.
20 December 2002, 'History of American Musicals'.

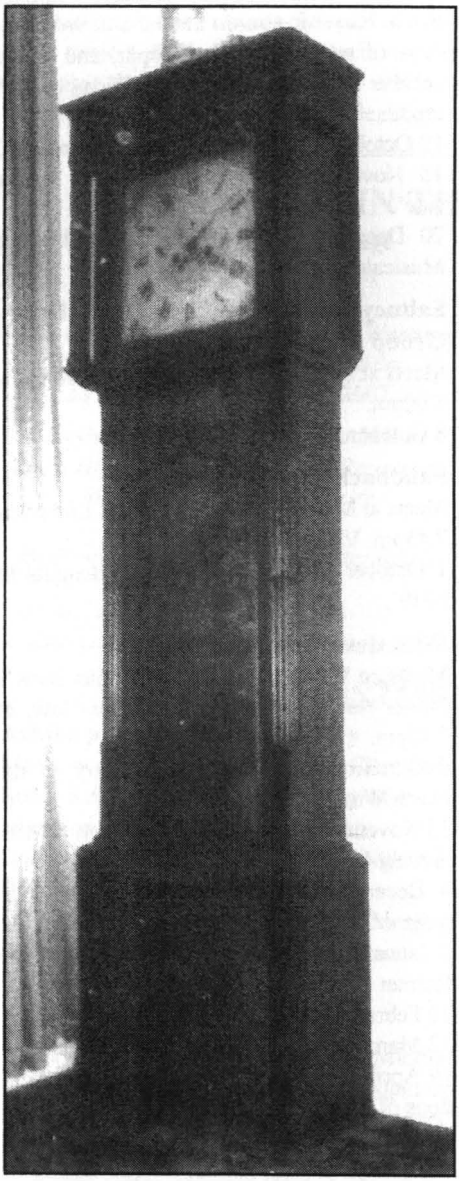
Saltney and Saltney Ferry Local History Group
Meets at St. Davids' High School, Saltney, at 7.00pm.
8 October 2002, 'Welsh History'.

Sandbach History Society
Meets at Marriott Room, Sandbach Library at 7.45pm. Visitors £1.00.
1 October 2002, 'From Cottage Hospital to NHS'.

Wilmslow Historical Society
Meets on Wednesdays at St. Bartholo- mew's Parish Hall, Chancel Lane, Wilms- low, at 7.45pm.
9 October 2002, 'The Hat Industry in the North West'.
13 November 2002, 'Recent Research on Medieval Macclesfield'.
4 December 2002, 'Christmas Social Evening.
8 January 2003, 'Recent Excavations at the Roman Amphitheatre'.
12 February 2003, 'Dunham and Its People'.
12 March 2003, 'The Buildings of Chester'.
19 April 2003, 'Associations for the Prosecutions of Felons in Cheshire'.
14 May 2003, 'The Archaeology of the Wall Gardens of Tatton'.

THE LUPTONS OF ALTRINCHAM AND WYATT CLOCKS

Bernard Champness



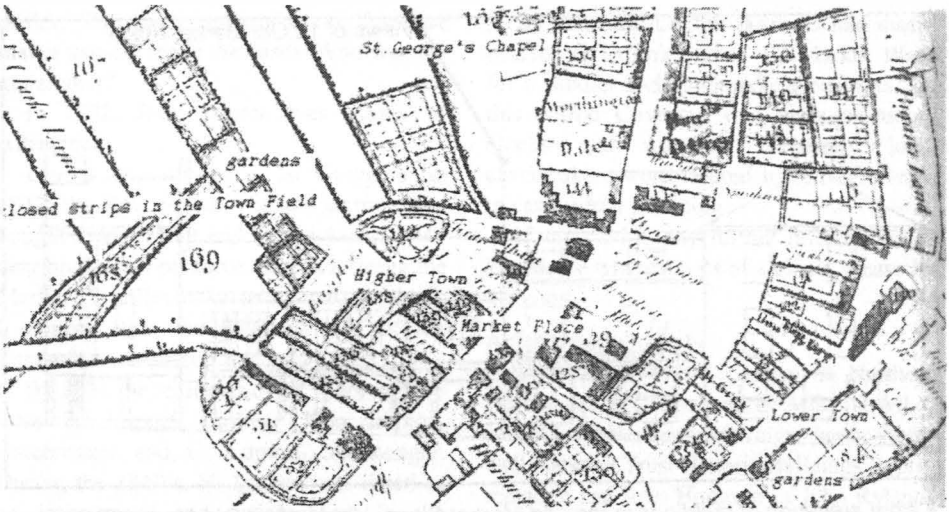
John Wyatt Clock

A few years ago I was very surprised to be asked if I knew anything about a Wyatt clock made in Altrincham in 1834! I never considered Altrincham to be at the white-hot cutting edge of technology during the Industrial Revolution. I asked if the clock could be photographed and I could be sent details of the maker's mark etc.

"John Wyatt, Altrincham" is painted on either side of the face. A pheasant is painted above both "John" and "Altrincham". Inside the case, there is a chalked signature and date. The Christian name is barely discernable, but may start with an L or a J. The surname is dearly "Walker" and the date, "April 30th 1834". The mechanism incorporates a segment showing the month that no longer works. There is a suspicion that the case has been re-worked at some point.

A clock maker required several wealthy customers to support his business. If the small town could support a clockmaker perhaps Dunham Massey would have a clock and there might be records in the Grey (Stamford) Archive in John Rylands Library. No Dunham Massey did not have a Wyatt clock, and no one had even heard the name. Well what about the Worthingtons, possibly, but as far as is known there is no archive. Well, perhaps there were one or two farmers and a merchant or so. Still not enough to support even a small business! Checking an encyclopaedia I found a John Wyatt made a watch circa 1804. Perhaps that was our man?

Then reading an article by UMAU I found that a G. Lupton, was a clock and watchmaker living at 12 Old Market Place in



Altrincham circa 1799

1782 and George Lupton ran Wyatt watchmakers from the address in 1790. George Lupton was Mayor of Altrincham in 1776.

Checking the Dunham Massey Court Leet and the tenancy records in Rylands Library revealed a little information on these two families.

In 1667, William (1) Lupton lived in Altrincham with his wife Margaret. It is thought that Alice Eaton married William (2) Lupton. John was born to Alice and William (2). Circa 1685 John Lupton left £30 in trust to his nephews and niece. In 1701 possibly William (2) Lupton was a shopkeeper or dealt in "strong waters". Between 1710 and 1717, Robert Lupton was involved in eighteen cases of trespass with John Calderbank, Edward Garnett, John Brundrett, Richard Goulden, David Jackson, Abraham Parkinson, John Hall and Thomas Kingstone. He was fined £1 19s ten times.

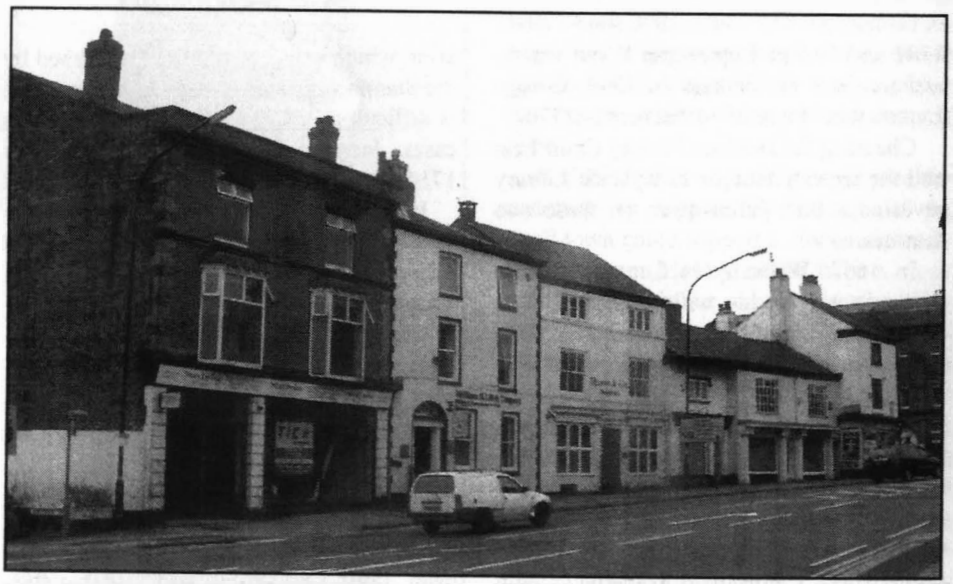
At this time, Altrincham was a series of burgess plots with tightly defined boundaries, which would have been established by the Stamford Estates. What was going on? It is difficult to imagine what caused all these cases. Incidentally Robert was Mayor in 1714.

In 1786, Mary Wyatt was listed as a poor widowed tenant from Woodhouses who had a family of two and just one bed. It is hard to imagine this family making clocks!

Circa 1820, G. Lupton of 12 Market Place, clock and watchmaker, was also a corn merchant. By 1825, John Lupton had taken over the businesses at Market Place. Presumably John was George's son.

At this time, Birmingham was the centre of the clock/watch manufacturing industry. Clocks were bought as a complete mechanism. Long case clocks were fitted with a false plate so that any dial could be fitted over a wide range of sizes. Hand painted dials were supplied with a space so that local dealers could add their own names. Some dials were completely painted by the local

A front elevation of buildings in the Old Market Place. Views of 12 Old Market Place. (Reproduced here by kind permission of Mike Nevell of UMAU.)



The front of number 12 in 2002

dealer. The local undertaker or furniture maker usually made the cases. Who was the undertaker?

In 1832, John Lupton was Mayor of Altrincham.

During one service at St George's, in 1837, the Rev. Wilmot Cave's sermon was bought to an abrupt end by the words, "My dear brethren, I perceive there is a fire in the Market Place; let us hasten to extinguish it". It appears that the thatched roof of Mr Lupton's ironmongers had caught fire.

By 1838 the residents of 12 Market Place were H. Lupton, milliner John Lupton, watchmaker and C. Lupton, ironmonger. During the 1840's, H. Lupton was listed as an ironmonger and watchmaker. In the 1850's smallware dealing was added to the business.

By 1855 the Lupton business had disappeared. G.Thornley used 12 Market Place for a saddler and clockmakers business. By this period Coventry was mass-producing clocks and watches. Generally local clockmakers were limited to setting, cleaning and minor servicing.

If anyone has any further information or knows the whereabouts of a clock, please let me know.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Jill Groves of Northern Writers Advisory Services, Dr Mike Nevell of UMAU for elevation drawings, James Rothwell National Trust Historic Buildings Representative and John Hodgson of John Rylands Library for access and permission to reproduce information from the Stamford Archive.

RANDOM JOTTINGS CONTINUED

Chris Hill

'There's nowt like muck'

In the early nineteenth century, health within Altrincham was a problem. What new housing was being provided was usually the same as had previously applied, i.e. three-, or four-room cottages; dark due to small windows, cramped for space and without running water or adequate drainage facilities; in other words, mostly squalid and potentially dirty dwellings. Where privies existed, they were usually communally shared. It is not surprising therefore, that typhus occurred almost annually, and that in November 1831, there was an outbreak of cholera. This, being highly infectious, greatly upset the population, especially those socially superior people in Higher Town, who would be just as susceptible to infection as those in the slummy parts of the town, where the infection was thought to have started. The outcome was the setting up of a Local Board of Health and under powers granted by the Cholera Prevention Act of 1832, Isaac Turton, Overseer of the Poor, who lived in High Street (now No.14 Market Street), carried out a preliminary survey of the Town. Armed with evidence of unsanitary conditions which required attention, the Board of Health, composed of the leading citizens, petitioned the Government for an Inspector to make a full enquiry under the powers of the Public Health Act of 1848. The Government Inspector appointed was Sir Robert Rawlinson, who made a full report in 1851, when things had probably got even worse than in 1849, and had certainly not improved. To anyone reading this report, one of the details which will stick in their minds, would be Rawlinson's comments about dung heaps, prevalent throughout the town. As these would be in the open and unprotected

from the weather, rain would wash effluent from them which would drain to the lower areas of the Town, ending up in either the boggy Hale Moss, or the Timperley Brook. On the way, seepage could easily contaminate private wells and the three Town wells situated in the Victoria Street area. It was the contaminated drinking water which helped spread the bacillus which caused the infectious disease, cholera. There were other practices, mentioned below, whereby contaminated food was supplied to the Townsfolk.

Rawlinson gave his report at the Unicorn to the assembled interested parties including the local worthies who would probably also be members of the Local Board of Health. These were: John Arthur Worthington (solicitor - Sandiway), Edward Joynson (magistrate - The Downs), William Milnes Millington (Gent. - Property owner - residing at 'Highfield House', near The Downs), Richard Broadbent (surgeon - of 'The Oaks', Dunham Road, but with a surgery in High Street [Market St.]. Perhaps having a room at No.16, where Dr Paterson lived?), Robert William Bennett (solicitor - Normans Place; also considered part of Higher Town), John Woollam (Gent. - Property owner - 84 Mill Place), Thomas Blease (surgeon .Stamford Street), Charles Robinson (surgeon), Thomas Balshawe (auctioneer and printer, apart from several other side-lines Church Street), John Partington (pavior - New Street), William Warren (insurance agent - George Street), Isaac Turton (overseer, surveyor of highways, etc.), and others. Sir Robert gave a full account of his investigations, including a preamble on the history of the Town. He mentioned Sir Peter Leycester's 'Historical Antiquities', in which it was said: "There are so very many small cottages erected here by permission of the Lords of Dunham Massey, that it is now become a nest of beggars." He recognized "26 lodging-houses having from 4 to 10 beds each. The number of nightly lodgers, vagrants, and others, was estimated at 546; but the overcrowding frequently exceeds this." Here again is evidence of overcrowding and unsanitary conditions which helped to spread disease when it occurred. Typhus is spread by body lice which transfer by biting, a bacterium responsible for the disease; and with several sleeping together in a bed, infection was easily spread within the lowest social class. He spoke of privies and cesspools as well as "open middens as pits, several yards in depth, bricked round and divided into compartments", and containing "The refuse of a year or more" which "is thrown into these places." One particularly memorable item to anyone who has read the report, is: "the tenant of one cottage absolutely closed the window-shutter of the ground-floor room, thus depriving it of light and ventilation, that he might pile a dunghill higher up his cottage wall : the result was, that the liquid manure exuded from this dunghill, found its way through the crevices of the shutter and window, and flowed into the house." And: "It was stated that the Irish would resist to the uttermost any attempt to remove their pigs and dunghills, and it was feared that forcible means of removing these nuisances externally would be followed by the Irish admitting the pigs as inmates of their dwellings, which would be a plunge deeper into filth, malaria, and disease."

Now, after the foregoing preamble, one must wonder why these townspeople put up with all the inconvenience and actually hoarded dung in midden piles. Anyone who has had the misfortune to live near a piggery will know what a penetrating and unpleasant smell emanates from them, and this public nuisance can be very bad on hot days with a

breeze which will spread the smell around for half a mile or more. The answer is encapsulated in the old adage 'Where there's muck, there's money". [Another pervasive odour which the Townspeople would have endured, was the sickly smell of malt from beer-brewing.]

Out in the countryside, the agricultural revolution had been taking place from about 1750, and was considered to have continued until about 1880, a period which overlaps the events of the time of the Health Report. The old practice of improving the land by marling was still continuing, but a new practice of spreading lime and bones, where this latter material was available, together with manure, had been in operation for some time. Estate farm tenancies had begun to have clauses in their agreements, requiring regular manuring of the land. This was particularly necessary in Cheshire, which despite its present reputation as a good farming county, was previously a county of mostly poor clay soils. This is the reason for large Cheshire parishes, which needed to be large to contain enough parishioners to make the parish financially viable; and also why the 'Cheshire acre' was much larger than the standard acre, applying elsewhere. In 1861, on the Tatton estate for example, a fourteen year lease, after reciting the usual provision that straw, hay and muck were to be consumed on the premises, continued 'and an additional twenty cart loads of good dung to be purchased and brought from Manchester or Stockport and laid on the land'. Concerning the Tatton estate, the majority of the few complaints recorded concerning leases, was a failure by tenants to "consume" all muck made on the farm and this was especially true in the last few years of a lease, when the return of 'muck' to the soil could no longer benefit the tenant. It was considered to be a crime if a farmer manured only his own land to the detriment of any leased land, or sold off his 'muck to a neighbour when his lease was coming to an end. Tatton's home farm purchased considerable quantities of dung from Knutsford, such purchases being recorded throughout the period covered by the accounts. Dung was also used on market gardens as well as farms and the Altrincham area is well known to have had many market gardens in the surrounding countryside, supplying the expanding Manchester market. This time was a period of expanding population which required an increase in the amount of land used for arable crops at the expense of grazing land. So the arable farming caused a greater demand for improved soils by manuring in all its forms, manuring being a term covering the addition of marl, sand, lime, peat, bones, even salt as brine (which would make coarse rank herbage which would otherwise be avoided, palatable to cattle, horses or sheep, and thus encourage the growth of finer, sweet grasses), (salt duty was abolished in 1829, but brine was in use before this), as well as night-soil and farm produced dung. In fact anything which was considered to improve the soil, either by changing the structure to improve quick or slow drainage, or additives which increased crop yield in some unappreciated way, such as the spreading of bone material which gave higher yields of turnips, or indirectly, improving cheese production; or the ploughing in of clover to enrich impoverished soils after several years of arable production, were considered to be the result of 'manuring'. The old practice of marling, added bulk to the soil and so prevented rapid draining of rain through the top soil, carrying with it the essential nutriments necessary for a good crop, and in addition those marls which contained large proportions of lime in

the form of calcareous matter, were found by a process of trial and error, to benefit the crop yield. This was always an advantage for the lighter, sandy soils. In fact, such was the desire to improve land that landlords quite often would allow a tenant a remit on the rent, in return for dressing the fields with some form of manure. Information about the benefits of manuring the land (as well as the improvements in all other branches of farming practice), were to be had at, for example, meetings of the Manchester Agricultural Society, to which many Cheshire farmers and landowners were members - it was a common saying that 'there's nowt like muck for manure'. In some parts of the country, sheep were more valued for their dung than their wool, and there was even a type of sheep bred, that very conveniently dropped its manure only at night while in the fold, where it could easily be collected the following day.

As can be seen therefore, there was quite a demand for manure in its various forms, and this is why dung heaps in Altrincham were equivalent to money in the bank. Between 1770 and 1808, records show that the price of dung rose from 5s to 7s per ton, but by the 1840's, dairy stocks had doubled thus increasing the amounts of farm produced manure and causing the price of dung to drop to only 2s per ton. A contributing factor to the drop in the value of dung, was the increased population numbers of the cities; Manchester for example about this time was producing some 65 thousand tons of night-soil annually, and with the cheap transport by canals, was providing a significant contribution to the supply of manure to the surrounding countryside. On their return journey to the city, they would be carrying farm produce back to the markets. Small suppliers, such as the pig keepers of Altrincham, could, however, still find an outlet for dung. With a market every week, the local farmers would bring their produce into market by cart and on the return journey, would be loaded up with dung; as with the canal barges, an economical but unhygienic practice, which encouraged the incidence of cholera. The Canal Act of 1770 exempted manure (night-soil), from tolls provided it was distributed on land nearby to the route; there are certain unloading points along the canal which were specifically provided for offloading manure into farm carts. So market forces played their part in the unsanitary conditions in the Town and without some powerful leverage to break the practice of keeping dung heaps, the authorities had little means of overcoming the resistance to such hoarding. The outbreak of cholera in 1831, provided such leverage, and the general fear of contracting the disease, irrespective of social class, overcame the resistance to cleaning up the Town which had previously applied. The Government Inspector's Report brought about, not only the removal of the notorious dung heaps, but the ripping down of many unsanitary buildings in the slums of Altrincham. To the historian, interested in the old buildings of the town, this seems unfortunate from our perspective of the modern day, but it was inevitable that living conditions had to be improved and that was all to the good of the Town's aspect today. There is, however, much of ancient Altrincham still left behind the brick facades of today's buildings and many a shop or office still has wattle and daub walls, or timber framing, hidden behind today's plaster work.

P.S. In delving into *The Agricultural History of Cheshire* by C.S. Davies for information for the above, I was side-tracked by a reference to 'Camp Green', i.e. "Sometimes the dung would be left at Camp Green on the Knutsford-Altrincham road and so may have

been carted from Altrincham." Where was Camp Green? After a little digging, a map reference was found in *The Place Names of Cheshire*:- SJ 744 827. An enquiry to Jim Green, local historian at Rostheme, confirmed that Camp Green used to be a part of the parish where some of the Tatton Estate workers lived, in three or four houses. It is claimed that some of Cromwell's soldiers with cannon stayed at the Green and that cannon-balls had at some time later, been found in the gardens. The cottages were knocked down about ninety years ago, when the new block of estate houses was built in the village. However, the name Camp Green is said to have been in use before 1645 (archaeologists please note). I am told that the Green became a dumping ground for the village waste. The road mentioned in the reference was the old route rather than the tumpiked 'Watling Street', as the way through Ashley had a much more gradual gradient, more suitable for a horse with a loaded cart.

While in the process of, as it were, tying up loose ends, the derelict shops on Kingsway (earliest 1830s), have been looked into by Dr Mike Nevell, towards the end of 2001, where he found evidence of two more cellar dwellings, probably the last to be built in Altrincham, dating from just before the time of the Report; so along with the possibility of one in the basement of the Orange Tree, this brings the total to three that escaped the purge which occurred as a result of Sir Robert Rawlinson's Health Report; their use would soon after have changed to storage. The rate books would confirm occupation, but not many survive, leaving the census surveys or deeds as the only altemative.

Road

Recently, a member of STAG who knew I was interested in etymology, rang to ask if I knew when the word *'road'* came into use. It would, he said, help him to date a document connected with establishing where the local lost village of 'Strettul/or later/ Strettle' (Dodgeson), might be. (He thought in the Mere area, rather than Millington.) 'Road' is the sort of word one thinks of as having been in use from time immemorial. However, on consulting reference books, it seems that the word was derived from 'rad' used in the border country between England and Scotland, where 'moss troopers', and mounted raiders were prevalent. This word became 'rode', then road. In 1481, Edward IV speaks, in a royal proclamation, of "a *rode* made upon the Scottes at thende of this last somer within their grounde by oure Brother of Gloucester". This meaning stayed in use up to the seventeenth century, after which the expression used was 'inroad', or the transmutation 'raid', as in 'air-raid'. From Anglo-Saxon times, another more general, and maybe older meaning of 'road', was a place where ships might ride at anchor and gain some measure of safety against foul weather; a roadsted: hence for e.g. Hampton Roads, Virginia. However, the first recorded use of 'road' in its modern sense of a thoroughfare, was by Shakespeare in Henry IV, ii, I, when a carrier complains that the inn he is staying at in Rochester is : "the most villainous house in all London Road for fleas". This information, as to date of use, seemed to be helpful to the STAG researcher.

Another addition to information already supplied, concerning Louis Dodgeson, was that he was very accomplished in the art of paper folding, and he would have used this talent to catch the attention of his young friends. Also, from a book lent to me by Pat Smith, I note that Dodgeson was a prolific letter writer, having written over a hundred thousand letters!

Velvet Works

The velvet works article in the last journal has also brought to light, as a result of consulting early trade directories and listings, further information about the textile industry in Altrincham. From the 1793 listing of Freeholders:

Worsted Manufacturers
Thomas Ashley, Robert Mills, Jonathan Potter, Robert Seddon, and Robert Warminsham.

Cotton Manufacturers
Hugh Jepson, John Mort, Thomas Royal.

Weaver
James Potter

Inspector of Worsted Yarn
William Pownall (at one of the manufactories).

In Pigot's Directory of 1828/29, thirty years later (listing their place of work):

Woollen Yarn & Worsted Manufacturers
George Massey (& wool comber) Well Lane,
Mary Mills, Woodside
Robert Seddon, Bowdon
Robert Shelmerdine, Lower town
Richard Wood, Lower town
William Worsley, Market place

Bobbin Turners
James Atherton, Woodside,
William Hambleton, Steam Mill
James Johnson, Lower town
John Johnson, Steam mill
William Johnson, Woodside
John Simpson, Steam mill
James Smith, Lower town
Samuel Smith, Steam mill
Warmisham & Leyland, Woodside

Two references to mercers does not mean that these freemen were bleachers (mercerizers), but were textile fabric retailers, especially selling silks and other expensive materials.

It is interesting to note that also based at the 'Steam mill' (above), were John Lupton, miller, and John Leigh with (again) John Lupton, listed as Corn Merchants; so the steam engine seems to have been providing power for milling corn as well as for producing textiles in some form or other. From the above listings it is of note that Mary Mills is running a manufactory. The location of Woodside is not known, and as the directory includes Partington, Lymn, Ashley, Statham, Warburton, Oughtrington and Carrington under Altrincham, Woodside may lie outside the town. Of particular interest is the mention in both listings of Robert Seddon, worsted manufacturer, and it has been established that his factory was at Holly Bank, on the corner of Stamford Road and Langham Road. This was the adjoining corner to Spring Bank, and while until within living memory, a stream ran along the bottom of the park, but has since been culvetted to run down the left-hand side of Peel Causeway towards the crossings and on to Ollerbarrow farm. There was also a stream running through Holly Bank, which either dried up before its partnering stream was culvetted, or was covered over at an earlier period. Its flow was enough in the eighteenth century to power the factory and a head of water of sufficient volume for a day's work must have existed higher up Stamford road. After flowing through Holly Bank, this stream would have run down the right-hand side of Peele Causeway. The Bowdon boundary runs along the backs of the houses on the north of the Causeway and on up the side of Spring Bank Park, just allowing Holly Bank to be classed as lying in Bowdon.

Gertrude Jekyll designed garden

Further interest in Ashley Road, of which Peel

Causeway is part, is the discovery by Hazel Pryor of the mention of a Gertrude Jekyll designed garden on Ashley road. Hazel has allowed me to report this discovery which was found in a list of gardens in northern England, either designed by, or for which advice was given by, Gertrude Jekyll. (The reference source is given below.) The garden was produced for a R. O'Kell in 1884. There is a Robert O' Kell listed in the directories, but he did not reside at the said house, listed as "Sutton"; instead a relative lived at "Sutton Lea", Mrs. Ann O' Kell, but it would seem that after she ceased to live there, the garden's planned planting was lost. Maps show 'Sutton Lea' to be opposite Cambridge Road and where a former up-market car showrooms used to be, and where there is now a shop selling pottery and silver goods, etc., for decorating interiors.

Altrincham's Causeway

Mention of Peel Causeway above, reminds me that Altrincham has its own 'Causeway', which is the winding passageway between George Street and Stamford New Road. When the buildings on the east side of George Street stood on the edge of Hale Moss, separated from it by only an allotment area, perhaps this Way was a convenient track for access to the Common Land where the burgess freemen of Altrincham had various rights of pasture, etc. I wonder if this track was raised up, as the name implies, on a wooden structure above the land on either side, in the same way as Peel Causeway used to be, and if the tracks winding nature implies the former existence of an accompanying stream running onto the Moss. Another stream is mentioned in the literature, crossing George Street, which ran down between Stanley's Market and a Methodist Chapel (well known for the many plays which were put on there in the church hall, especially the Christmas Pantomime).

And while on this topic of streams, another ran roughly on a line with Victoria Street, from High Bank, down towards Well Street near the Maltshovels, and then on to the Moss, or into the fleam running to Dunham Hall moat. At the top end of this stream, in the former Arnold's Yard, there is said to have been a water-powered mill and before the development of the Yard, one of the buildings at its corner, with access onto Church Wall, was called Mill House (its position still marked by a small house on the corner, between taller ones). The burgage plots on the east side of Church Street have, in some cases, a bend in their long boundaries, which is unusual in what were normally originally marked out as simple rectangular plots; I wonder therefore, if this is an indication of the stream from High Bank flowing down the hill, which caused these boundaries to run parallel with its path - a landscape fossil from the 1200's. Many such streams must have existed, but which are now culvetted and forgotten about, or have just ceased to exist because modern surface drains have removed the rainwater which originally fed them. A possible continuation of the Causeway, is the opening once known as Woolworth's Passage, between Greenwood Street (where there were once fields and then a parade ground), and what is now the 'newly' created Central Way, but which was previously a well used access to the back entrance of Woolworth's. This path would have allowed access to the rear of the Shaws Road Unitarian church graveyard, (where later a roller-skating rink existed, when that craze meant every town had its own rink). I well remember as a lad, that it was the one place in Altrincham where one could see, on market days, old soldiers with perhaps a limb missing from the first world

war, who used to display simple pictures they had produced themselves, to encourage passing shoppers to acknowledge their contribution to peace, by donating a few coppers to supplement their war pensions. When they disappeared, their place was taken by the occasional turbaned Indian selling haberdashery from a suitcase. Now the way through is blocked on non-market days by a locked concertina railing, another right-of-way closed in the grand scheme of things, when Central Way was built. Another loss is Beggar's Square, once the only public place in Altrincham where beggars were allowed to solicit money from the public without fear of arrest by the Town's Court Leet policemen. Somehow the Bricklayers Arms has acquired this public place and bricked it off as a 'beer-garden'. Trafford are content to leave it to the public to establish from the Pub's deeds if they have a right to it. The brewery is unlikely to let any Tom, Dick or Harry rummage through their legal papers; thus is the state of local government.

Fray Bentos, Altrincham

Whilst in the Trafford Local Studies Centre at Sale, I overheard two family historians wondering where a house named 'Fray Bentos' was. I found it to be No.19, Manchester Road, on the corner with Rutland Road, where a trader in the meat industry must have lived. The town of Fray Bentos is in Uruguay, on the banks of the river Plate, once an important port in the days of importing cattle from the pampas of South America. A spin-off of this trade, was the treatment of hides with tannic acid, which being thus readily available, was used as the first water treatment, preventing scaling in boilers, in this case, those of locomotives. On the far corner of this block, on the corner of the road which gives access to the fire-station, is a largish house which has been in the news, in that developers want to build a block of flats there, but the fire service is worried about cars hindering the progress of appliances called out to fires. This house belonged to the Linotype and was a private hotel where visiting guests to the factory could stay. In view of the fact that most of the early directors of the Linotype were eminent men of their day, industrialists and scientists, commemorated in the names of the estate roads, I wonder if, for example, Lord Kelvin stayed there?. At least the name survives as Lady Kelvin Road running through the factory site.

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FAT LAWYERS

The careers of local attorneys in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries

Jill Groves

For many years, whilst transcribing wills and other documents, I have come across many local attorneys and lawyers. I have, from the distance of 200-300 years, watched their careers with interest, even fascination, and occasionally incredulity. Most of them had the stewardship of local court leets as their main source of income (Henry Cockson for

Northenden, Ralph Lowndes for Northenden, Thomas Walton for the Dunham Massey estates, John Stafford for Northenden and Etchells, Isaac Worthington for the Dunham Massey estates). Others managed the business affairs of yeomen farmers, small landowners and tradesmen (John Houghton, George Clayton and John Cook).

Many lawyers of the second half of the eighteenth century came from yeoman backgrounds (Thomas Walton, George Clayton, John Stafford, Isaac Worthing- ton, John Barlow), but some had clerical backgrounds, i.e. fathers who were in the church or who were teachers (Ralph Lowndes, son of the curate of Northenden; John Houghton, son of a teacher; John Cook, son of the rector of Northenden; John Hobson, grandson or great-nephew of the rector of Ashton-on-Mersey). Becoming lawyers was a good way into the minor gentry class for them.

Henry Cockson of Kenworthy and Manchester, 1640-1666

Henry Cockson, unlike all the rest of the lawyers in this article, came of a gentry family. This was not unusual when Henry trained in the 1620s. He probably even went to university, not something many later lawyers did. When Henry died in 1666, he was almost an anachronism as a lawyer from a gentry background.

His grandfather had married into the Tatton family, which probably gave Henry his position as steward of the Northenden and Etchells Court Leets. However, being cousin to the Royalist Tattons during the English Civil Wars, when Henry himself was a Parliamentarian also caused problems. Henry was the Solicitor for Sequestrations in Cheshire from 1643 onwards, helping to get fines out of people like his cousin, and he was acting with sub-commissioners like William Barrett and Richard Button who were tenants of his cousin. Barrett was also an Independent Preacher at Ringway Chapel and an out-and-out radical.

Nevertheless, he managed to help Robert Tatton's family through the worst of the Civil Wars, even though Robert had held Wythenshawe Hall as a garrison against Parliament.[1]

John Houghton of Baguley and Macclesfield, 1670s-1700s

John Houghton trained in the household of Edward Leigh of Baguley in the 1660s.[2] John mainly acted as a 'man of business' for people like John and Jane Eaton of Altrincham and Bowdon, helping them manage their landholdings in Bowdon, Altrincham and Great Budworth. He also wrote their wills and that of Robert Dean of Altrincham in 1673. He was also a moneylender to people like the well-to-do farmer, Richard Ward of Timperley.[3]

John Houghton and his son Ralph, who probably followed in his father's footsteps, amassed a number of landholdings themselves in Baguley, Macclesfield, Tabley and Manchester.[4]

George Clayton of Altrincham, 1720-1745

George Clayton of Altrincham was probably the son of George Clayton of Altrincham, yeoman, who died in 1713. His business was mainly dealing with the affairs of local tradesmen and craftsmen, especially their wills, such as Henry Worthington of Timperley, 1717; John Barlow of Sale, 1717; William Higginson of Altrincham, butcher, 1726; John Higgin- son of Timperley, innkeeper, 1727; and Ralph Houghton of Baguley, gentleman, 1731 (see above).

George Clayton, like many attorneys at the time, acted as a banker, lending money

on mortgages. He lent money in the early 1720s to the Reverend Samuel Bellis, curate of Ashton-on-Mersey, a person of standing whom George thought he could trust. Unfortunately, George lent the money against property in Tarvin held by Samuel's wife Elizabeth, although he probably did not know it at the time, and this was in the days when married women holding property in their own right were rare and trusts involving married women's property were also rare. Samuel did not tell his wife about the mortgage on her family's property. When Samuel suddenly died in 1724, Elizabeth sold or leased her smallholding in Tarvin, not knowing there was a mortgage of £50 secured against it. The Consistory Court in Chester sympathised with the widow and George Clayton lost his money. However, he also lent money on a mortgage to Charles Cress- well, landlord of the Swan Inn, Altrin- cham, a much more dependable risk.

George Clayton probably trained a number of local lawyers, such as John Carter in 1726, John Stafford of Middlewich (1724-1731), possibly John Hobson of Sale and Isaac Worthington of Altrincham. (See below for more information on the later careers of some of these apprentices). One of his early apprentices may have been John Cook of Altrincham (see below). Training apprentices was another source of income - they came at age fourteen with a fee from their parents, possibly £100-£200.

In the 1660s, Altrincham was in decline, but twenty years later, the major landowner in the town, Henry Booth, Earl of Warrington, had a Butter Market built to encourage local farmers into the dairy sector more and to tap into the new lucrative market for Cheshire cheese in London. Altrincham's fortunes increased further when the earl's successor and eldest son, George Booth, second Earl of Warrington, moved most of his household to Dunham Massey Hall for a substantial part of the year. The earl's gentry servants and hangers-on needed the services of attorneys. George Clayton and his apprentice clerks were there to provide that service.

John Cook of Altrincham, 1727- 1749

John Cook was possibly a son of John Cook of Northenden, rector, or a son of the John Cook of Altrincham who was mayor of the town in 1712.

By the late 1720s John Cook was working on his own account, dealing with the affairs of the Davenport family of Sale and Urmston, especially the estate of William Davenport of Sale (died 1728) for which he was a trustee. This estate included land once part of the manor of Sale sold to William Davenport by the then lord of the manor, Reverend Massey Malyn. He also worked for other well-to- do yeoman families, like George Clayton, including George Ashley of Ollerbarrow Hall, Hale, 1729; James Ashton of Ashton-on-Mersey, 1733; and Elizabeth Cop- pock of Timperley, mother and daughter, and John Coppock, the brother; Jonathan Goulden of Timperley in the matter of his father's administration bond. John Coppock complained twenty years later that John Cook had made mistakes in transacting some business for him. This was possibly a case which John Crewe of Crewe, esquire, brought against John Coppock over a tenement in Ringway which had been tenanted by his mother, and which John Coppock lost.

John Cook suffered a personal tragedy in 1749when his wife Sarah died giving birth to a daughter who then only lived a few hours.[5]

Thomas Walton of Dunham Massey, 1700s-1754

Thomas Walton was a son of James Walton of Bowdon, himself the son of William (died 1663) and Dorothy Walton of Hale. After the death of William Walton the family was in financial straits for a few years. However, Dorothy Walton managed to get her son a position as an apprentice clerk in the household of Edward Leigh of Baguley, esquire. There he met John Houghton, also an apprentice clerk (see above). James may have also become a lawyer, like his friend but by the 1690s he was established in Bowdon, running an inn with accommodation for guests.

Thomas was probably apprenticed to his father's friend, John Houghton now with a large business, in the 1690s. By 1705 he was established on his own and had earned enough money to pay the entry fine on a farm in Dunham Massey.[6]

James Walton witnessed the will of James Grantham of Bowdon later in 1696 and was owed some money by Thomas Warburton of Bowdon in 1697. After that nothing more is heard of James Walton. He would have been over fifty in 1696, so it is possible that he died in the early 1700s. His children were now established. Dorothy Pickering would have had the first of her at least three sons before he died. Soon afterwards his eldest son Thomas took over the late John Rowson's farm in Dunham Massey with a lease dated 17th August, 1705. The farm was 11.5 acres, with 10 acres of arable and 1.5 of meadow.6

It was probably in 1705 that Thomas met and married Mary, daughter of John de la Heuze, tutor to George Booth, Earl of Warrington.[7] In 1714, following on from the death of John Edmonds, that Thomas Walton became house steward to the Earl. However, being steward to the Booths was only one of Thomas's jobs and ways of making money. He also became a saltmaster, owning the rights to the briny keuper marls along the banks of the Bollin at Salthouse Croft, near Healey. At the same time he and George Edmonds, son of John, began a profitable friendship. George had moved from Bowdon Hall, where his mother still lived, to London, to Clifford's Inn, an Inn of Chancery. Thomas collected his friend's rents from the Bowdon Hall estate and either allowed him to draw for money on private bankers or may have sent the money to George using his numerous Pickering, Neild and Walton nephews.

Over fifty years or more Thomas Walton collected several tenements or farms in Dunham Massey, Dunham Woodhouses, Little Bollington, his hall and demesne lands in Sinderland, in Little Moss in Ashton-under-Lyne, in Droyls- den, his hall and demesne at Litley, in Aston-juxta-Budworth, in Over Whitley, in Millington and Altrincham.[8] With the money from the rents of these farms and lands Thomas had his friend George invest for him in government stocks and government lottery tickets.

Thomas and his wife Mary only had one surviving child, a daughter, Mary. In the 1730s, Thomas put his lands in trust for her education and future advancement. Unfortunately Mary died, unmarried, in 1753.

Thomas Walton of Dunham Massey is famous for giving £1,000 in trust to Countess Mary Grey to start a school on Seamons Moss and also for restarting or refurbishing the school at Little Heath (originally established in the early eighteenth century). However, by far the greatest part of his wealth was in land, some of which was used to provide the £1,000. When he came to make his will soon after the death of his beloved daughter Mary, Thomas left most of his

landholdings in trust to the Earl of Warrington and Isaac Shaw, another lawyer and steward to the Booths, to provide large legacies for his Pickering, Neild and Walton nephews and nieces. He even left land to his most favoured nephews, George Neild, Thomas and James Walton, possibly his couriers. Thomas Walton finally died in 1757.

John Stafford of Middlewich, Altrincham and Northenden, 1708-1760

John Stafford was born in Middlewich in about 1708. He was apprenticed as a clerk to George Clayton of Altrincham at the age of fourteen in 1724, beginning with writing the will of a renown local Presbyterian minister of Ringway and Halebarns Chapels, Nicholas Waterhouse of Bowdon. John was also involved when George Clayton lent money to the Revered Samuel Bellis of Ashton-on-Mersey in 1724 (see above).[9]

John Stafford set up on his own in the early 1730s. He married Lucy Tatton, daughter of William and Hannah Tatton of Wythenshawe Hall, Northenden at Taxal in 1734. They had children William and Penelope Margaret who later became the wife of the Reverend Richard Popplewell Johnson, rector of Ashton-on-Mersey, and the magistrate who read the Riot Act to the demonstrators at Peterloo in 1819.[10]

In 1745 John Stafford became the steward to William Tatton and his successors, presiding over the courts leet of Northenden and Etchells until his death in 1760, when his son William took over.

Isaac Worthington of Altrincham, 1740-1760s

Isaac Worthington was possibly the son of the John Worthington of Altrincham who died in 1742, leaving a personal estate of less than £40. He may have been a descendant of the Worthingtons of Crossacres, Etchells, who were well-to-do farmers and schoolmasters, or the Worthingtons of Sharston, Etchells, who were tanners.

It is very probable that Isaac was one of George Clayton's apprentices in the 1730s. However, by the early 1740s he was working on his on account. He was the sleeping business partner in Ferdinan Laughton's malting/brewing business in Altrincham by 1742. But the bulk of his business in the early days was in writing wills and dealing in the business affairs of well-to-do farmers, craftsmen and widows, such as Hannah Simpson of Dunham Massey, widow (1745), Ferdinand Laughton of Altrincham, gentleman (1750 - will dated 1742), Thomas Davenport of Bowdon, yeoman (1749), William Royle of Bowdon, yeoman (1750), John Cop- pock of Timperley, tanner (1754), James Walton of Bowdon, victualler (1760 - nephew of Thomas Walton, owner of the Green Dragon in Bowdon).

In the 1750s or 1760s Isaac Worthington became a steward to the Countess Mary Grey for the Dunham Massey estates, taking over either from Thomas Walton or Isaac Shaw. He founded a dynasty of lawyers and stewards to the Dunham Massey estate. He was succeeded by his son, also Isaac, and his grandson Hugo.

John Hobson of Sale, 1742-1771

He was probably descended from a family in Bowdon and may have been related to Hugh Hobson, rector of Ashton-on-Mersey, and his wife Mary, daughter of Richard Massey of Sale, esquire. He may have been one of the last of George Clayton's apprentices or he may have been an apprentice of someone like John Cook.

John Hobson, like George Clayton and John Cook before him, acted in the affairs of

well-to-do yeomen and not so well-to-do husbandmen like Thomas Heywood when he wanted to renounce his executorship of the estate of John Byrom of Sale, husbandman, in 1742. John Hobson also acted for Hugh Holt of Bowdon, victualler, 1757; John Duncalf of Ashton-on-Mersey, 1757; and John Renshaw, parish clerk for Ashton-on-Mersey, also in 1757. He may also have written the will of the eminent local lawyer and businessman, Thomas Walton of Dunham Massey in 1757. He at least witnessed it.

The Eccles family of Altrincham were clients of his from before 1755, when William Eccles the shoemaker died, to 1771 when he acted for the Eccles' relatives, the Whiteleggs, father James and son William, who were the executors of the residual estate of John Eccles (died 1727), when the then mayor of Altrincham was suing them to get better control of (and larger rents from) a piece of land known as the Mayor's Land for which the late John Eccles had set the rents when he was Mayor of Altrincham in 1696. It was a long, complicated affair and the existing probate documents give no indication as to who won.[11]

John Hobson seems to have worked with another lawyer, Isaac Shaw of Dunham Massey, who was also a steward to the Earl of Warrington. He and Isaac Shaw wrote/witnessed the wills of the Reverend Turner Vawdrey, chaplain to the Earl of Warrington in 1753 and James Neild of Dunham Massey, yeoman, in 1756.

John Hobson married Esther Newall of Bowdon in 1758. Possibly this was a second marriage, because it seems to be a little late for a first marriage.

Notes

1. See *Impact of Civil War on a Local Community: Northenden and Etchells in Cheshire, 1642-1660* by Jill Groves, 2nd revised edition, for more information on Henry Cockson and his Civil War activities.
2. 1667 Poll Tax Roll for Baguley, CRO
3. Will of John Eaton of Altrincham, 1676; Will of Jane Eaton of Bowdon, 1693; Will of Robert Dean of Altrincham, 1673; Will of Richard Ward of Timperley, 1696. [check]
4. Will of Ralph Houghton of Baguley, gentleman, 1731
5. Bowdon Burials 1738-1842, microfiche produced by North Cheshire FHS.
6. Rental Survey of the Dunham Massey Estate, 1709-1760, transcribed by Joyce Littler
7. *Bowdon Hall and Its People* by Marjorie Cox, Peter Kemp and Ronald Trenbath.
8. The Will of Thomas Walton of Dunham Massey, gentleman, 1754.
9. The Will of Nicholas Waterhouse of Bowdon, minister, 1724; Depositions to the inventory of Reverend Samuel Bellis of Ashton-on-Mersey, curate, 1726.
10. *Bertram Merrell Marriage Index, Version 3 CD*, Family History Society of Cheshire; *St. Martin, Ashton-on-Mersey, Memorial and Commemorative Inscriptions*, microfiche, Family History Society of Cheshire
11. For more about the Mayor's Land see the article of the same title in *Altrincham History Society Journal 20*.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE STAMFORD ARCHIVE AT JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY, DEANSGATE

Bernard Champness

Many local historians know of the existence of this archive. Most content themselves with fourteen volumes of the hand catalogue. Few have had the privilege of detailed access.

Though John Hodgson included considerable detail in the catalogue, information is abridged by necessity. The Stamford papers at Rylands are the property of the National Trust.

The accessible archives cover a period from circa 1300 to around 1950 and cover detail such as Royal Warrants, lists of heriots, reports on the Court Leet, details of rents and accounts, right down to details of shooting parties.

Much of the history of Altrincham, Ashton under Lyne and Stalybridge is directly connected to the Booth and Grey Families

Residents of Altrincham rarely appreciate that the Earls of Stamford not only owned a large estate near Altrincham but also extensive estates in Lancashire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire as well as houses in London and from the middle of the nineteenth century, a house at Newmarket.

The Rylands Archive only contained papers recovered from Dunham Massey. Other archives exist in Lancashire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire. Two of these archives are uncatalogued and not accessible, even with special permission. Often papers refer to estates in Lancashire or Staffordshire. Sometimes, sequential letters appear in different archives. There is evidence to suggest that important papers relating to the development of Altrincham and Ashton under Lyne are stored in Staffordshire.

The earliest lords of the manor obtained wealth by strategic marriages. Obviously such marriages connected the family to other major families such as the Ashtons, Bradshaws, Cavendishes, Duckinfields, Egertons, Leicesters, de Traffords, and Stanleys etc. After involvement in politics and the Civil War the Earls contented themselves with developing their estates to make money and indulge in a life of luxury.

The Earls of Stamford had business connections with coalmines, granite quarries, salt extraction, timber production, flour milling, textiles, farming, turnpike roads, and several canals both in the northwest and Staffordshire. Often their interest was indirect and restricted to encouragement and the collection of rent.

Papers connect the Booths and Greys with major events of the Civil War including the execution of King Charles I. Correspondence connects the Booths & Greys with major industrial figures such as James Brindley, Benjamin Outram, Richard Arkwright and George Stephenson.

Other archives give a glimpse of life in the Altrincham area for the poor, peasant farmer workers. Detailed examination of the tenancy records would be of considerable use to family historians with connections to the Altrincham area.

There is also information on the gardens and parks at Dunham Massey and Enville.

Currently there are five areas being researched, namely Dunham Massey Gardens, the Enville Park, the Civil War and industrial connections.

We are extremely lucky that several of the Earls and their agents, Isaac and Hugo Worthington were squirrels and kept everything. It is a great pity that material held in Lancashire and Staffordshire cannot be concentrated at Rylands and catalogued properly so that researchers can understand the full significance of Dunham Massey and the Earls of Stamford and Warrington.

ALISON UTTLEY'S HOUSE - MY CHILDHOOD

HOME

Jill Groves

Some of you may have read a little article in the July issue of *Trafford Today* on the house that Alison Uttley lived in from 1924 to 1938 - Downs House, 13 Higher Downs, Bowdon. My family and I lived in that house from 1957 to 1971. Alison Uttley said in her diary that Downs House was a happy house and it was for me too.

Downs House was built a hundred and fifty-one years ago. One of the ways in which I felt great affinity with Downs House was because it was 'born' exactly one hundred years before I was. It was originally built during the great villa building bonanza, begun in Bowdon in the 1840s, and given impetus by the then Earl of Stamford - the one who married first a servant girl, then a circus performer. An architect built it for himself and his family, building two villa semis further up the road to rent to others. That was another reason for my family's affinity with Downs House - Dad was an architect too.

We bought Downs House in 1957 from a relative of Mrs Uttley's. I remember in the early years our neighbour, Mrs Anchors, of Anchors Bakery (by then sold to Spinks, who were later sold to Warburtons) talking of Alison Uttley writing in the summertime at a table under the old cherry tree which was still at the bottom of the garden and being attended by a maid - probably the only servant. When we arrived the old bells were still in the kitchen and the old pulleys to summon the servant were still on the skirting boards. I think they were amongst the first things to go. We couldn't afford servants, so had no need of them.

Downs House was a great house for a growing family. There were three large bedrooms, one for Mum and Dad, one for me and my sister and one for my brother. When my sister Jane was older the large room in the attic was converted into a flat for her, full of old, nearly collapsed furniture and a bed. I can't remember where the furniture came from. Was it ours or had it been left by the previous occupiers? It seemed to have always been there, collapsing.

When Jane moved to the attic, my bedroom was converted into a study bedroom with the addition of a sturdy desk and a record player in the corner. My mother's cry of 'I don't know how you can study with that racket going on' will be familiar to teenagers today. I still have that sturdy desk. It sits in a corner of the computer room, with the heavy printer on top and the drawers stuffed full of this and that. I could look out of my bedroom window and see the dome of the Wesleyan church on Enville Road glitter in the sunshine.

In addition to the large attic, there were three smaller attics, stuffed full of our toys and dressing up clothes, always untidy. We seemed to spend a lot of time up there playing, or trying to tidy-up - an activity that never got very far because we would always start playing after ten minutes.

I remember the bathroom had a large old enamelled bath in it. It was small for a house of this size, but adequate for us. Possibly Mrs Uttley had it installed in the 1920s, along with the toilet next door.

Downstairs there were two very large rooms with fireplaces and high ceilings front and back. Originally one would have been the drawing room and one the dining room. For us, however, they alternated between living room, dining room, office (complete with huge plan chest and upright piano) and boat building workshop. The latter was be-

cause, as Dad explained to Mum, the window in the cellar was too small to get the boat out when it was finished. The boat, by the way, was a Mirror dinghy, designed for the *Daily Mirror*. Does anyone remember the design? It was a 10-foot dinghy made from a kit. It had a gaff-rigged sail as its mainsail and a jib, and its famous 'pram' bow. After it had been completed and taken out via the back room window and the garden, we sailed it regularly on Tatton Mere, and occasionally on the west coast of Scotland.

We dined in the old kitchen, which we had converted into a 'morning' room, unless we were entertaining as at Christmas and New Year. In which case one of the large rooms was tidied up and turned into a dining room. The tv, a tiny thing by comparison with the one we have today, always sat in a corner of one of these rooms. Apart from the difficulty of heating these high ceilinged rooms with secondhand radiators and a gas fire, I always remember the huge bow windows of the front room and the wide window seats with storage space underneath - such a neat idea. The back room had flat sash windows, again with window seats and storage space underneath.

At the back of the house and down a couple of steps was the kitchen area as it had been: the pantry, the kitchen and the scullery. Except that we changed it all round. The pantry became the 'cloak room' because there were hooks for coats on the inside of the door and along one side. The kitchen became the 'morning room'/family dining room. The scullery became the kitchen.

The pantry was a narrow room lined with cupboards on one side, in the style of a dresser. Despite its being called the 'cloakroom', it still partly functioned as a pantry. The cupboards were full of crockery, glassware, and, at Christmas, the remains of the sweet Spanish sauterne that was obligatory in our family with the Christmas chicken. I can't remember what colour the cupboards were when we arrived but for most of the time we were there they were painted a pale blue-green, which did nothing for them.

The old kitchen, now our family dining room, was, by modern standards, quite large, although it was considerably less in size than the two main downstairs rooms. It was the centre of the house, especially in winter, where we ate, where we kids painted pictures, and Mum ironed. It had slightly uneven stone flagged floor, which was carpeted by us to make it warmer in winter. The ceiling was high, so Mum and Dad painted the top foot or so and the ceiling itself black to make it look lower.

At one end of the room was a kitchen range. It had an open grate and two ovens off to the right hand side. I assume one was for roasting and the other for baking. It may have had another oven off to the left but my memory is not clear on this. It also had a back boiler to heat the water. Mum said the range was Edwardian, but it was probably installed by Mrs Uttley, it was so like the farmhouse kitchen ranges she would have known from her Derbyshire childhood. One of my favourite pastimes on a freezing cold winter's day was to get a chair and sit close to the range fire, my feet on the bottom grate for as long as I could stand it, reading a book.

There was a cupboard built into the wall by the side of the range and next to the cellar door. It was full of vacuum cleaners, brushes, etc. It was warm so it was here that our cat Tiger choose to have her kittens and we always put a cardboard box lined with old blankets in there when her time came - as it did three times a year.

We never used the range and its ovens for cooking, only for melting the lead for Dad to make soldiers. So in about the mid-1960s we had the range ripped out and scrapped and an electric immersion heater installed upstairs. Where the range had stood was made into an alcove. The 'morning room' was never the same again, not quite the centre of the house it had once been. A few years later ranges like ours were very sought after objects. I didn't like to see it go and would have put it back for two pins. But then I was a teenager and so not the one who had to empty the ash pan every morning and set and light the fire. If the fire went out the hot water tank became cold. So the immersion heater was more efficient. At the same time all the fireplaces, upstairs and down, were made redundant by secondhand radiators and gas fires. Mum was getting fed up with spending hours raking out ashes and setting fires in the morning. Besides, she was now a working wife and mother, with part-time secretarial work. With three growing children and a large house to upkeep, even though Dad had a well-paid job with Manchester City Council, we needed the money. The myth of wives and mothers going out to work in the 1960s for pin money was just that - a myth. Mum and her friends worked to pay for kids' shoes and clothes, part of the household bills and for the occasional holiday.

The scullery, like the pantry, was long and narrow, although not as narrow as the pantry. It had cupboards on both sides, a sink at one end and a gas cooker (soon to be electric) half-way along one side. Mum liked it because everything was to hand. Here Mum would cook delicious meals and bake delicious cakes, including her famous jap cake, a creation of meringue and butter cream, flavoured with coffee or chocolate. Here us kids learnt to cook and bake alongside her. I hated home economic classes at secondary school, they were boring, but cooking with Mum was fun. And she taught me more about food and the fun of cooking than school ever did. Because of Mum we are all three reasonable cooks - my brother is perhaps the best, even though he is a vegetarian. She also taught us to experiment with cooking and try things out. My Nana (Mum's mother) was famed for being able to see an outfit or a dress on someone walking down the street and knowing instantly how to make that garment, almost without need of patterns. So it was with Mum and cooking. However, she did temp secretarial work for General Foods from time to time, and used to bring home large cardboard boxes full of samples of Smash, Angel Delight, Surprise dried peas and Bird's Eye custard powder.

Sometime in the early 1960s we acquired a fridge. Out went the old stone meat cooler. It was lovely to have milk that didn't turn to cheese after a day in the summer. Now meat didn't have to be bought fresh daily.

There came the day of the great chip pan fire. Mum, as hundreds of thousands have done since, put a pan of oil on the cooker to heat for chips. The phone rang, she answered it and stayed on for longer than she intended. When she came back the chip pan was on fire and the kitchen full of smoke. She put a cloth on the chip pan and rushed outside with it. (Full marks for the cloth, none for rushing outside with the pan.) The damage to the kitchen was mostly smoke-blackened cupboard doors, walls and ceiling, but Mum got a repainted kitchen and new cupboards on the insurance.

We had three cellars, one for coal, one for wine and a very large one which was used as Dad's workshop from time to time. The two

larger cellars, the wine store and the workshop were excellent for select parties, as my brother discovered. The larger cellar also contained the temperamental secondhand boiler which heated the radiators.

When we first moved into Downs House we had an outside loo near the entrance to the coal cellar, probably for the maid originally. It was handy for young kids running around the garden and not able to get up the stairs in time, but it had to go when the garage was built.

Our earliest car (at least that I can remember) was a grey late 1930s Vauxhall called 'Gug' - that was part of its number plate. Dad spent two years taking Gug apart and rebuilding it to pass onto Mum when she passed her driving test. Then Dad bought the Roly-poly, a 1936 swept back black Rolls-Royce. The Roly-poly couldn't possibly be left out in the wind and rain like Gug, so Dad built a garage. And because he needed to do a lot of work underneath the Rolls to get it into working order, a pit was sunk underneath the garage. This brought him to the attention of Old Lord Stamford, who had his chauffeur drive him up to Downs House in his own old Rolls to make sure that Dad wasn't about to set up a garage business or anything else that didn't fit with the area. When he discovered it was a Rolls being restored in the garage that mollified Lord Stamford.

To a young child the back garden at Downs House was large. It still is large by the standards of the pocket handkerchief gardens that go with houses from the 1930s onwards. However, I now live in a house with a larger garden, so the garden at Downs House would probably seem small to me now. It was a large lawn fringed with trees, an old apple tree which was easy to climb, a substantial bay tree, a cherry and an ancient Philadephus which drooped over and made a magnificent 'cave' as well as supplying the wood for bows and arrows (we were all into Robin Hood then).

We added a pond to the garden, quite a large one, but not very deep. It had a plastic lining with kerb stones around the rim, a few plants and a few goldfish. It was soon colonised by waterboatmen and pond skaters. I found it absolutely fascinating to watch these tiny creatures. Our cat Ginger also found it fascinating and would sit on the side of the pond for hours with his tail dangling just above the water to entice the goldfish just close enough for him to hook them out and eat them.

Happy Days.

CHARITY SHOPS IN ALTRINCHAM – EARLY DAYS

Hazel Pryor

It struck me the other day that charity shops are now seen and taken for granted everywhere. So I thought it would be interesting to recall the beginning of the phenomenon from the 1960s in Altrincham.

The first one I can remember was the Oxfam book shop, a regular calling point on the way home from school. It sold mainly just books and sheet music, and was housed in a wooden hut next to Sowerbutts' florist's shop on Stamford New Road near the old 'Wool Pack', opposite 'The Faulkner's Arms'. I spent many hours kneeling on the floor in a corner going through a suitcase full of old sheet music.

Then, when that block was demolished to make way for The Graftons development, Oxfam moved to Moss Lane bridge, next to

the path down to the station. Here there was a double shop front with two rooms of books, tightly packed on close shelving. You had to squeeze in or reverse out to let anyone else pass, and had to bend down sideways to see the bottom shelf. Fiction then was mostly octavo or smaller hardback arranged by author, with a few old paperbacks and of course non-fiction and music. I could almost guarantee finding a good old novel at each visit. Later the shop was reduced to a single frontage. I was indignant and considered it a great shame when clothes were introduced to the ground floor and the books were relegated to the cellar, with a much more limited stock. Now, in some charity shops there are hardly any books at all, and those seem to be mainly new style hardback novels, while Oxfam has hived off the best of its donated books to specialist shops, including the one now on George Street. For really interesting old books and pamphlets you have to search further afield. (The Salvation Army shop in Sale is good for rummaging.)

As for clothes, the YWCA shop on Ashley Road was the only one I knew in the sixties. The YWCA residential block there had a shop on the ground floor selling mainly good second-hand clothes. It was just out of the central shopping area, but was handily near to Lucas's Bookshop and was worth a visit, once you knew it existed. It was certainly there in 1968/9 but I don't recall when it first opened.

There is a small plaque in the George Street Oxfam shop commemorating Nora Summers who died in 1982, saying that she started the shop in 1960.

A photo of Sowerbutts' shop is on page 32 of *Altrincham: Past and present*; compiled by Gillian Fitzpatrick and published by Willow Publishing in 1990.

LOCAL BOOKS

Roman Saddleworth: The History of an Area of the Pennines During the Roman Occupation and That Which Remains by Kenneth Booth, Saddleworth Archaeological Trust. Boards, Archaeology of Saddleworth Series, £5.00. ISBN 0 9540702 0 8.

Lytham St. Annes, compiled by Robert Haley, Tempus Publishing. Paperback, Images of England Series, £10.99. ISBN 0 7524 2271 5.

Thornton Cleveleys remembered, compiled by Ralph Smedley, Tempus Publishing. Paperback, Changing Times Series, £10.99. ISBN 0 7524 2277 4.

Cheshire Parish Registers: A Summary Guide by Brett Langston (self-publisher). Paperback, 6th revised edition, £6.50. ISBN 0 9540911 0 8. Probably available through the Family History Society of Cheshire.

Lancashire Graveyards and Burials Grounds: Location and whereabouts of Transcribed monumental inscriptions by W.J. Taylor, Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society, c/o Mr T. Walsh, 'Strathmore', 57 Bury New Road, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 0BZ. Paperback, 5th revised edition, £4.50 (plus £1.80 p&p). ISBN unknown.

Great Civil War in Lancashire by Ernest Broxap, Helion and Company. Hardback, 2nd revised edition £29.95. ISBN 1 874622 66 3.

Ardwick by Jill Cronin and Frank Rhodes, Tempus Publishing Ltd. Paperback, Images of England series, £10.99. ISBN 0 7524 2473 4.

Free Days Out in the North West by Peter Haddington, Pen & Sword Books Ltd. Hardback, £9.99. ISBN 1 903425 00 X.

Audley Historian: The Journal of the Audley and District Family History Society: Volume 7, 2001 by Audley and District Family History Society. Paperback, £4.50. ISBN 0 9540883 0 1.

Discovery of the Peak: From Hades to Elysium - Early Tourists in the Peak District by Trevor Brighton, Halsgrove Press. Hardback, £19.95. ISBN 1 84114 172 0.

Printing and the Book in Manchester by the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, c/o The Portico Library, 57 Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3HY. Hardback, £19.50. Limited edition.

The Hotties: Excavation and Building Survey at Pilkington's No.9 Tank House, St. Helens, Merseyside by M. Krupa and Richard Heawood, Oxford Archaeology Unit. Paperback, £18.95. ISBN 0 904220 32 X.

Sale and Sale Moor by Jan Shearsmith, Karen Cliff, Vicki Masterson, Pat Southern, Tempus Publishing Ltd. Paperback, £10.99. ISBN 0 7524 2485 8.

The Eccles Town Trail. Available from Eccles Central Library, Church Street M30 0LP or website: www.talkingtown.org/ Free.

Family History Society of Cheshire

1891 Cheshire Census of Tranmere: Surname and Location Index by M.F. Sheppard. Paperback, £5.95. ISBN 1 903715 05 9.

1841 Cheshire Census of Stockport: Surname and Location Index by Andrew Moilliett. Paperback, £3.95. ISBN 1 903715 02 4.

1891 Cheshire Census of Birkenhead: Surname and Location Index by M.F. Sheppard, Family History Society of Cheshire. Paperback, £5.95. ISBN 1 903715 01 6.

Reprints of Old Maps

Old Ordnance Survey Maps of Lancashire. Skelmersdale. Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £2.10. ISBN 1 84151 271 0.

Horwich (North) 1907. Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £2.10. ISBN 1 84151 274 5.

Manchester (NW) and Central Salford. Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £2.10. ISBN 1 84151 273 0.

Farnworth. Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £2.10. ISBN 1 84151 289 3.

Kirkless and Hindley Hall. Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £2.10. ISBN 1 84151 291 5.

Moses Gate. Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £2.10. ISBN 1 84151 301 6.

Oldham (South West). Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £2.10. ISBN 1 84151 302 4.

Old Ordnance Survey Maps of Cheshire. Macclesfield (South). Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £2.10. ISBN 1 84151 282 6.

Old Ordnance Survey Maps of Cheshire. Sale 1897. Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £2.10.

Available from Ashton and Sale History Society, 77 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire M33 4DN or the Bookstall at Altrincham History Society meetings.

Old Ordnance Survey Maps of Lancashire. Bradley Fold. Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £2.10. ISBN 1 84151 364 4.

Magazines

The Bowdon Sheaf, the journal of the Bowdon History Society, No.38, October

2001. A5, 8pp, 1 issue a year, £0.80. Available from Mrs Susan Sanderson, Membership Secretary, 11 Stamford Road, Bowdon WA14 2JT.

Articles include: 'War Times Memories'; 'Dunham Mill in the Middle Ages'; 'Bowdon and the Income Tax 1908-1914'.

Browsings, the journal of South Trafford Archaeological Group, Nos.86, 87, 88 and 89. A4, 4pp, 4 issues a year, £8.00 annual subscription. Available from Chairman, Derek Pierce, 30 Ollerton Avenue, Sale M33 5HB.

Items in No.86 include: 'Chairman's Notes'; 'STAG 1990-2000'; 'The Black Death at Dunham Massey'; 'Abroad in Brief'; 'Home Ground'; 'An Etymological Byway'; 'Marling'; 'Escheator of Chester, 1397'; 'Letters Patent From the Prince of Wales, 1404'.

Items in No.87 include: 'Chairman's Notes'; 'Should Prehistoric Base-metal Objects be Classed as Treasure?'; 'Evidence of Help from High Legh for the Knights Hospitallers'; 'Cheshire Books'; 'Obituary'; 'Winterbottom Farm'; 'Abroad in Brief'.

Articles in No.88 include: 'Barns Lane'; 'Indenture 1520' (Dunham Massey estate papers); Langebaanweg Fossils'; 'Romancing Fatima - the Phantom of Studley Hall'; 'Pat's Potty Poems'; 'Helsdale'; 'Knight Hospitallers - 1520' (Warburton of Arley Charters)

Articles in No.89 include: 'Chairman's Notes'; 'Rostherne Mystery'; 'Thassos'; 'Church Inn, Prestwich'.

Cheshire History, journal of the Cheshire Local History Association, No.41, 2001-2002. A5, 112pp, 1 issue a year, £4.50 for just *Cheshire History* or £12.00 subscription to Cheshire Local History Association. Available from Cheshire Local History Association, Cheshire Record Office, Duke Street, Chester CH1 1RN.

Articles include: 'Draining the Marshes: The Creation of the South Mersey Waterfront'; 'The Old Manor Houses of Leighton and Thornton'; 'A Malpas Schoolmaster Goes to Court'; 'Seventeenth Century Nantwich, Dairy Farming and a Sample Analysis of Probate Inventories'; 'Owners, Occupiers and Others: Seventeenth Century Northwich'; 'The Early Book Trade in Nantwich'; 'The Patent and the Patent Holders at the Theatre Royal, Chester'; 'Industrial Conflict, Sectarianism and Electoral Politics: The Dukinfield Miners' Strike of 1868'; 'An End to Isolation: The Cheshire County Lunatic Asylum during World War One'; A Message from the Chairman; Book Reviews.

CHH News, the newsletter of Chester Community History and Heritage, Spring 2002. A4, 10pp, FREE. Available from Chester Community History and Heritage, St. Michael's Church, Bridge Street Rows East, Chester CH1 1NW, www.chestercc.gov.uk/heritage/history/home.html

Items include: 'News just in!'; 'Saturday openings'; 'A look back at... October, November, December, January'; 'Terry's Tales: Pat Collins, "King of Showmen"'; 'What's in a name? Ormonde'; 'Reviewed for You'; 'All for Local History in 2002'; 'Support and Advice'; Events Diary.

Friends of Trafford Local Studies Newsletter, No.14, December 2001. A4, 4pp, 2 issues a year, FREE to Friends of Trafford Local Studies (£1.00 one-off registration fee). Available from Trafford Local Studies Centre, Sale Library, Tatton Road, Sale M33 1YH.

Items include: a story of detection in TLSC illustrating all the different sources for tracing ancestors and others (very entertaining); news (including that the St. Catherine's Index had finally arrived - in dribs and drabs).

The Griffin, newsletter of the Chadderton Historical Society, November 2001, No.19. A4, 2pp, price unknown. Available from web site address: http://www.chadderton-

hs.freeuk.com

Items in No.19 include: 'Pride in our "Real" County of Lancashire!'; 'Foxdenton Hall'; 'Christmas Lights'; 'New School, New Name, New Beginning'; '"History Alive" - sponsored by BBC Greater Manchester Radio'; 'History and Mystery Walk'; 'On the Radio!'; 'Links with our Community - display of material'.

Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, Newsletter of, Nos.20 and 21, January and June 2002. A4, 4pp, 4 issues a year, annual subscription £16.00 (includes *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*). Available from Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, c/o Dr D. Ascott, School of History, 9 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 7WZ.

Items in No.20 include: 'Obituary: Professor Paul E.H. Hair, 1926-2001'; 'Subscriptions'; 2002 AGM; Day School; Programme for 2002; Other Events; Recent Publications.

Items in No.21 include: 'Goodbyes: The Editor writes'; 'And goodbye to...'; 'Liverpool meets Manchester'; 'A new Pevsner for Liverpool'; Events and courses'; HSLC Lecture programme for 2002; Recent and forthcoming publications.

Lancashire, Journal of the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society, Vol.22 and Vo.23, November 2000, No.4, and February, May and August 2001, Nos.1, 2 and 3; Vol.24, February, May and August 2002, Nos.1, 2 and 3. A5, 48pp, 4 issues a year, annual subscriptions for ordinary members £9.00. Available from the Editor, Mrs Hazel Johnson, 65 Lever House Lane, Leyland, Lancashire PR5 2XN.

Articles in Vol.22, No.4 include: 'A History of All Saints' Church, Bodalla'; 'James Allan'; 'The Breakell Hopkins Story'; 'The Case of Ann Coward and The Bell Ringers'.

Articles in Vol.23, No.1 include: 'Ryan Weekend Gathering 2000'; 'County Limerick'; '1901 Census of Mayo and Sligo (Parts)'; 'Some Useful Websites'; 'Catholic Baptisms 1822 in Meelick and Kilconduff, Co. Mayo'; 'Family History Websites and Computer News'; 'Blackpool Entrepreneurs'.

Articles in Vol.23, No.2 include: 'Advice on Projects'; 'Git Along Little Dogie'; 'The Census: Some Curiosities from 1891'; 'Memorial Cards from Colne Library'; Complexities of Family Research'.

Articles in Vol.23, No.3 include: 'Specialised Libraries: The Angus Library, Oxford'; 'Lowes of Winwick'; 'Information Overload? A Free Form Database May be the Answer'; 'Virus Warning Messages'; 'Digger's Thoughts of Home'; 'My Grandmother, Sarah Bleasdale'; 'Heraldry - The Priory and Parish Church of St. Mary, Lancaster'.

Articles in Vol.24, No.1 include: 'Memories of a Publicity Officer (Part 1)'; 'Walshman/Welshman - Refugees in 12 Century Lancashire'; 'Heraldry'.

Articles in Vol.24, No.2 include: 'Memories of a Publicity Officer (Part 2)'; 'The Registry of Deeds, Dublin'; 'The Jacob Family in the registry of Deeds, Dublin'; 'Way Beyond (Part 2)'.

Articles in Vol.24, No.3 include: 'Memories of a Publicity Officer (Part 2)'; 'Two Convicts from Ireland'; 'Boarders and Scholars at Giggleswick School. 1881 Census'; 'Words, Phrases and Job Descriptions which have changed'.

Lancashire History Quarterly, Vol.6, No.2, Summer 2002. A5, 48pp, 4 issues a year, £14.00 subscription. Available from Hudson History of Settle, Lancashire History Quarterly, Procter House, Kirkgate, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 9DZ.

Articles include: 'The Tale of Peter Stubs'; 'Tales from the Past'; 'Buildings At Risk, Chapel House Farm, Maghull'; 'Doctor William Palmer - serial killer'; 'The Haunted Well'; 'About Stephen Park'; 'Fire-fighting in Middleton'; 'A

Blackburn- ian's Tale: The Road to Nab End'; 'Burnley in the 1890s: A "Thatcherite" Society'; 'Blackpool Lifeboats and the Bickerstaffe Connections (Part 2)'; 'Southport and the "Mexico" Disaster'; 'The Cunning Folk of Lancashire'; 'Castlefield, Manchester: The Regeneration and Sustainable Development of an Historic Industrial Site'; Listings; Family History; Books; Dialect Poem; Events; Help and Advice.

Lancashire Local History Federation, Winter 2001/2002 and Autumn 2002. A4, 4pp, 3 issues a year, £8.00 subscription (including membership of the Lancashire Local History Federation). Available from The Editor, Chris Makepeace, 5 Hilton Road, Disley, Cheshire SK12 2JU.

Items in Winter 2001/2002 issue include: 'Editorial'; 'Historical Association Local History Week 4th-12th May 2002'; 'Courses'; 'Society News'; 'Books received'; 'Journals received'.

Items in Autumn 2003 issue include: Officials and committee for 2003; Federation events for your diary 2002-3; Other local and family history events; Society News; Journals received; Godfrey edition old OS maps; Some new books received.

Lancashire History Quarterly, Vol.5, No.4, December2001. A5, 48pp, 4 issues a year, £14.00 subscription. Available from Hudson History of Settle, Lancashire History Quarterly, Procter House, Kirkgate, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 9DZ.

Articles include: 'A Bolton Entrepreneur'; '"For the Punishment of Lewde Wemen and And Scoldes": An Account of the Ducking Stool in Lancashire'; 'Downham in History'; 'Jonathan Dewhurst - The Lancashire Tragedian'; 'Who was George Hill?'; 'From Hulme all Blessings Flow! Memories of a Manchester Childhood'; 'Tales of Old Euxton'; 'William James Granett and the North Lancashire Reformatory, Bleasdale'; 'The Whiston Spy Scare'.

The Mundling Stick, Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust, Vol.7, No.3, Vol. 8, Nos.1 and 2, Autumn 2001, Spring and Summer 2002. A4, 4pp, FREE, 4 issues a year. Available from The Lion Salt Works Trust, Ollershaw Lane, Marston, Northwich CW9 6ES. Website: http://lionsaltworks trust. co.uk

Items in No 3 include: 'Thompson Lion Found in Garden'; 'A New View from the Air'; 'Design of Saltmaking Plant Begins'; 'Submission to Heritage Lottery Fund'; 'New Trustees'; 'Model Narrowboat'; 'Lion Salt Works Road Signs'; 'Salt Making Displays A Success at Roman Middlewich Weekend'; 'Bristol Blue Glass'; 'Trust Contribution to "Food Court" Radio 4'.

Items in No.4 include: 'Have You Seen This Mug Before?'; 'Cox & Speller'; First Scale Your Plan'; 'Comparing Northwich (England) and Luneburg (Germany)' (two towns suffering from the effects of salt extraction); 'Wanted - Pounds, Shillings and Pence'; 'Two New Salt Pigs'; 'Obituary'.

Items in Vol.8, No.1 include: 'Model Workers make an exhibition of themselves'; 'Application for Planning Permission'; 'Any Old Coins'; 'Anderton Boat Lift Open'; 'When Next in Denmark... Visit Laesoe'; 'Salt Glazed Ceramics'; 'New Book'; 'Salt for Sale; Dates for Your Diary.

Items in No.2 include: 'Salt Arch Celebrations'; 'Site Now a Scheduled Ancient Monument'; 'When Next in Holland... Visit Delden'; 'Memories of "Constance"'; 'Merseyside Young Archaeologists Club Learn How to Make Salt'; Dates for Your Diary; 'Tromp-l'oel Ceramics'.

Past Forward, The Newsletter of Wigan Heritage Service, Nos.29, 30 and 31, Autumn/Winter 2001, Spring and Summer 2002. A4, 36pp, 4 issues a year, FREE. Available from Wigan Heritage Service, Market Suite, The Galleries, Wigan WN1 1PX.

Articles in No.29 include: 'Jonathan Dewhurst: The Lancashire Tragedian'; 'Every Picture Tells a Story'; 'The Witches of Wigan'; 'The Hitchen name in Wigan: Some clues to the past'; 'Ellen Weeton (1776-1849) Governess'; 'The Ghost of Christmas Past'; 'Market Hotel, Wigan, 1931-1976'; 'Away the Lads'; 'Aspull - the story of a village'; 'A Time Long Ago'; 'Rev. Alfred Williams Momerie (1848-1900)'; '"Our Clifford": As told by Mrs Margaret Young to her nephew Bill Chaloner, March 2001'; 'A Matter of Belief'.

Articles in No.30 include: 'A hidden gem in the Archives'; 'Great Days on the Great Central'; 'A Postscript...'; 'James Hilton'; 'Two Courageous Gentlemen of Leigh'; 'A Storm in Wigan'; '"What Auntie Winnie Said"'; 'Every Picture Tells a Story (2)'; 'Holocaust Memorial Day'; 'A Wigan Childhood'; Letters; 'Orrell'; 'My Year in Garswood, 1928-1929"; 'I remember when...'; '"The Bug"'; 'My Grandparents'; 'Parish Registers'; 'Roman Coal Mining in Wigan'.

Articles in No.31 include: '"Woman's Worth" revisited'; 'HCL Motorcycles Leigh - an unknown manufacturer comes to light'; 'Saturday Afternoon Soldiers: The Fifth Manchesters in the Great War 1914-18'; 'The Victoria Cross'; 'John Monk Foster: A Wigan Miner, Author and Publisher 1857-1930'; 'Vincent Green: Lancashire Dialect Author'; 'George Lyon: Up Holland Highwayman?'; 'Another Great Day on the Great Central'; 'Open door for the "Penny Rush"'; 'The year is... 1959'; 'Heritage Service Wins Lottery Funding'; 'Charles Albert Berry'; '"Terrible Gas Explosion" at Leigh'.

The Past Year, annual review of Chester Archaeology 2000/2001. A4, 20pp, FREE. Available from Chester Archaeology, 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester CH1 2DD.

Items include: 'The Year's Achievements'; 'Stewardship of the historic environment'; 'Fieldwork and Research'; 'Public Archaeology'; 'Business News'; 'The Year Ahead'.

Salford Local History Society, November 2001, May and August 2002. A4, 3pp, 8-9 issues a year. Price unknown. Available from Mr D Rainger, Salford LHS, 7 St George's Crescent, Pendleton, SALFORD M6 8JC.

Items in November 2001 edition: reports on meetings and news items including the fact that the society is having to move from its old home at Midwood Hall.

Items in May 2002 include: 'Underground Canals at Worsley'; AGM.

Items in August 2002 include: Date for Your Diary; 'Can anyone help?'; 'Industrial Struggles in Pendleton in the 1850s'; 'Sport'; 'The Commonwealth Games'; Bookshelf.

Tameside Local Studies Newsletter, Vol.4, No.3, December 2001. A4, 4pp, FREE. Available from Tameside Local Studies Library, Stalybridge Library, Trinity Street, Stalybridge SK15 2BN, website: localstudies.library@mail.tameside.gov.uk, email: archives@mail.tameside.gov.uk

Items include: '1901 Census Latest'; 'Tameside War Memorial Database'; 'Lottery Heritage Funding Bid'; 'New Microfiche and Microfiche Collections'; 'New Archive Deposits'; 'New Cheshire Ordnance Survey Maps'; 'Hyde Congregational Chapel Registers'; 'Local Studies and Archives Staff News'; 'Publications for Sale Online'; 'Archive Users Survey Results'; 'Retirement of Tony Collins'; 'Tameside MBC's New Records Manager'.

Your LifeTimes Link, Nos.9 and 10, Winter 2001 and Spring 2002. A4, 4pp, 4 issues a year, FREE. Available from LifeTimes, FREEPOST MR10203, 51 The Crescent, Salford M5 4WX, email: inof@lifetimes.org.uk

Items in No.9 include: 'LifeTimes Goes on Show'; 'Pilkington Tiled Fireplace'; 'Your Own Stories'; 'Volunteers Get It Sorted'; 'High Rise Christmas';

'Swinton Remembered - in words and pictures'; 'Festivities at Ordsall Hall Museum'; 'Readers' Queries'; 'LifeTimes in Manchester'; 'So Long Sheena'; 'Salford in Verse'.

Items in No.10 include: 'LifeTimes on Show!' (see North West News); 'Bill Roberts (1912-2001): Salford's Unsung Sporting Hero'; 'Swinton and Pendlebury Remembered'; Book Reviews; 'A Victorian Railway Tragedy'; '2002 Celebrations'; 'Clogs, Cobbles and Carriages: a completely new Victorian Experience'.

CD-ROMS

Cheshire 1851 Census Series, using scanned images from original census viewed in Adobe Acrobat Reader. £20.00 per volume, plus £1.50 postage and packing. Available from Family History Society of Cheshire, Graham Fidler, Sedley, Mere Close, Pickmere, Knutsford WA16 0JR or from the FHS of Cheshire stand on www.genfair.com/

The Altrincham Volume is available for £20.00 from the Society's bookstall.

Bertram Merrell Cheshire Marriage Index, 1700-1837, Version 3 (including Hartley Jones Marriage Index of the Wirral 1580-1850 and the Mid-Cheshire Marriage Index). £25.00, plus £1.50 postage and packing. For IBM PCs running Windows 95/98. Available from Altrincham History Society bookstall, Family History Society of Cheshire, Graham Fidler, Sedley, Mere Close, Pickmere, Knutsford WA16 0JR or from the FHS of Cheshire stand on www.genfair.com/

No.23 September 2003 ISSN 0962-9793

Altrincham History Society
JOURNAL

House Deeds
Local Chelsea Pensioners
Altrincham Documents in Cheshire Record Office
Robert Johnson: local man of mystery
Broadheath's WW2 Bomb

Also Random Jottings including:

Railway Bus Driver?

Seamons Moss Honour Boards

Civic Pride

Local Writer

Lymm Environmental and Heritage Group

Price: £1.50

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No.23 September 2003
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Cover illustration: Broadheath at the turn of the century (Chris Hill)

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Don Bayliss

We hope you like this free edition of the Journal, well-produced again by Jill Groves, and hope you like its contents which cover local past events and people and where you can get historical documents.

An ongoing task for us is to record by photography and description the numerous properties being demolished round here to provide sites for new homes and employment. If you know anything about these contact David Miller, Bernard Champness or Doug Rendell. If you know anybody who worked at the former Elitex Works (Banner Shirts) and Riley Motors

cycles) contact Colin Graham. If you are interested in Oral History and in recording the memories of local people also contact Colin Graham, tel. 941 2338.

It seems, after a couple of years of discussion and protestation, the Town Hall will not be demolished but altered internally and refurbished. We hope we are making progress. Retrieving the contents of Altrincham's former art gallery and museum and possibly some of these may be displayed in the new Town Hall complex when it is built.

SOCIETY NEWS AND MEETINGS

Meets at the Methodist Church on corner of Woodlands Road and Barrington Road, Altrincham at 7.30pm on Mondays. Visitors £1.00.

27 October 2003, 'Smaller Church Fittings' by Mrs and Mrs Hamilton.

24 November 2003, 'Machines for Grinding Men' by Prof. Mike Rose.

15 December 2003, 'A Visit to the Antique & Collector's Fair' by Mrs Betty Hayhurst and Christmas buffet.

26 January 2004, 'The New Historical Atlas of Cheshire' by Dr Anthony Phillips.

16 February 2004, 'Bolynton' by Miss Pat Faulkner.

15 March 2004, 'The Red Rose Guild' by Mrs Rosemary Marsh.

26 April 2004, 'Footballers, Rogues and Necromancers' by Mr Paul Booth.

24 May 2004, 'Jack the Ripper - His True Story' by Mr Alan Hayhurst.

HISTORY NEWS

Foundations of Sale Old Hall Found

University of Manchester Archaeology Unit were digging on the site of Sale Old Hall (beside Sale Golf Club and Rifle Road) in advance of the widening of the M60 motorway and Junction 7 earlier this year. They found the foundations of the hall as it was rebuilt by Mrs Mary Worthington in 1840. Unfortunately, they also discovered that the Victorian foundations cleared away the foundations of the early seventeenth century timber-framed building they had been hoping to find. However, a seventeenth/eighteenth century midden by the kitchen gave a few interesting contemporary objects, including a late seventeenth/eighteenth century pot. [Source: *Sale and Altrincham Messenger*]

John Rylands Library Closed for Refurbishment

For various reasons, John Rylands Library will be closed later than originally thought, probably between September and December 2003. [Source: *News from the Rylands: Update*]

Unlocking the Rylands Appeal

John Rylands Library need £15m to widen access to the public to this wonderful building and its collections. The Heritage Lottery Fund will give £8.2m and £3.8 will come from other major grants. However, this leaves a shortfall of £3 to complete the project, so the Library is appealing to the public for donations. For more details contact Dr. Stella Butler, Head of Special Collections, John Rylands Library, 150 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3EH.

EVENTS IN THE NORTH-WEST

People's History Museum

The Pump House, Bridge Street, Manchester M3 3ER, email: info@peopleshistorymuseum.org.uk, website: www.peopleshistorymuseum.org.uk

Exhibitions

Our Manchester - Ancoats
9 September - 12 October 2003

Votes for Women
14 October - 2 November 2003

Black History Trail
October 2003

Reds! The Story of the Communist Party of Great Britain
November 2003 - March 2004

Manchester Jewish Museum

190 Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester M8 8LW

Exhibitions

By the Rivers of Babylon: The Story of the Jews of Iraq
15 June-11 December 2003

Talks

The Iraqi Jews of Manchester
Tickets - £3.00
To book tickets tel. 0161 834 9879

Lion Salt Works Trust

Historic Salt Making Weekend
Saturday-Sunday, 27-28 September 2003
Conference - at Northwich Memorial Hall on Saturday, 27 September - £15.00, including refreshments and buffet lunch (numbers limited)
Demonstration Day - at Lion Salt Works on Sunday, 28 September - free
For details contact The Lion Salt Works Trust, Ollershaw Lane, Marston, Northwich CW9 6ES. Website: http://lionsaltworkstrust.co.uk

Lancaster University

Clothing for Extremes
(history of clothing for polar travel, ski and mountaineering)
Saturday, 27 September 2003
Rheged Discovery Centre, Penrith, Cumbria
Fee: £20.00 (including tea, coffee and lunch)
For more details contact Professor Mary B. Rose, Director, Pasold Research Fund, Department of Economics, The Management School, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YX, email: m.rose@lancaster.ac.uk

Labour History Archive and Study Centre

Day School: Culture and Radical Politics
Saturday, 24 November 2003, 10am-4.30pm
Fee: £20.00 (including coffee and sandwich lunch)
For more details and booking forms are available from the Labour History Archive and Study Centre, John Rylands University Library of Manchester, 103 Princess Street, Manchester M1 6DD, tel. 0161 228 7212, email: lhasc@fs1.li.man.ac.uk, website: http://rylibweb.amn.ac.uk

Lancashire Local History Association

www.lancashirehistory.org.uk
Longridge Historical Society at Home
Saturday, 4 October 2003
Spring Day School at Lowton - Roads
28 February 2004

Halliwell Historical Society at Home
9 October 2004

Cheshire Local History Association

Local History Day: Cheshire in the Stuart Age

Saturday, 25 October 2003
Northwich Memorial Hall, Chester Way, Northwich
9.30am-4.30pm

Family History Fairs

NO 'HISTORY ALIVE' FAIR THIS YEAR

North West of England Family History Fair, 19 October 2003, Northgate Centre, Chester

Cheshire Local History Day, 25 October 2003, Northwich Memorial Hall, Chester Way, Northwich

North West Family History Fair (the biggest in the North West), 8 November 2003, Manchester Velodrome, Manchester (all on one level, no stairs; disabled, parent and stallholder friendly)

Salford Local History Day, November 2003 (provisional date)

West Yorkshire Archive Service, 13 December 2003, North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax

Centre for North-West Regional Studies

Lancaster University

Study Days

Landscapes of Improvement
25 October 2003

Doctrine and Life, Colours and Light: Liturgical change and the development of church interiors
15 November 2003-08-27

The Quarter Sessions and Their Records 1600-1800
17 January 2004

Local History Seminars

Wednesday afternoons.

Roman Roads in the North West
15 October 2003

The Reformation in North-West England
12 November 2003

Woodlands and Their History in the North-West
10 December 2003

For more details contact Christine Wilkinson, CNWRS, Fylde College, University of Lancaster, Bailrigg, Lancaster LA1 4F, tel. 01524 593770 or email: christine.wilkinson@lancaster.ac.uk

Greater Manchester Transport Museum

Boyle Street, Manchester

One Hundred Years of Salford Transport
Saturday, 10 and Sunday, 11 October 2003

OTHER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAMMES

Ashton and Sale History Society

Meets at the Claremont Centre, Claremont Road, Sale, on the first Wednesday of every month except January at 7.30pm.

1 October 2003, 'The Ancient Office of Town Crier'.

5 November 2003, AGM and illustrated talk.

3 December 2003, Christmas Party with entertainment by the Sale Hand Bell Ringers.

Ashton-in-Makerfield Probus Club

Meets at the Angel Hotel, Ash-

ton-in-Makerfield on the first Wednesday of every month at 11.00am. Contact Mr Alan Bradshaw, Honorary Secretary, tel. 01942 726493.
1 October 2003, 'Shiver Me Timbers'.
5 November 2003, 'The Reivers Way'.
3 December 2003, Christmas Readings and Lunch.

Atherton Heritage Society

Meets at the St. Richard's Jubilee Hall, Crabtree Lane, Atherton at 7.30pm. Members £1.00, visitors £1.50.
14 October 2003, 'Meet Mr Edward Bear', and AGM.
11 November 2003, 'The Police Museum'.
9 December 2003, 'The Language and Laughter of Lancashire' and Christmas Buffet

Chadderton Historical Society

Meets at Chadderton Central Library, Middleton Road, Chadderton, Oldham at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of each month. Visitors' donations gratefully received.
2 October 2003, 'Monastic Churches of Medieval England'.
6 November 2003, 'Days in the Dales'.
4 December 2003, 'Christmas and New Year Customs'.
8 January 2004, Annual Party: Theme 'Back to Lancashire'.
5 February 2004, 'Royton Hall'.
4 March 2004, 'Work Conquers Everything'.
1 April 2004, Visit to Stockport Air Raid Shelters.
6 May 2004, AGM

Four Parishes Research Group

Meets at Brereton Park, Malpas at 7.30pm. For more details contact Mrs Idina Hastings, e-mail: idina@hastingsi.freeserve.co.ulk
13 November 2003, 'The Civil War in Cheshire'.

Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire

Meets in the Roscoe Room (5th Floor) the Central Libraries, William Brown Street, Liverpool, at 7.00pm unless stated otherwise
16 October 2003, 'pensions, appeals and orders: the Poor Law in North-West England, c.1650-1720'.
20 November 2003, 'Surgeons and the Liverpool slave trade'.

Leigh and District Family History Society

Meets in the Derby Room, Leigh Library, Leigh Road, Leigh, Lancashire. For more details contact the Secretary, Mrs O. Hughes (01942 741594)
21 October 2003, 'The 19th Century Family in the Community'.
18 November 2003, 'Local Men on the Somme'.
16 December 2003, 'Poets and Poisoners'.

Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society

Meets at the Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester at 7.15pm for 7.30pm, unless stated. Bookstall run by Chris Makepeace usually available.
10 October 2003, 'Early Stockport Textile Mills'.
7 November 2003, 'Ancoats Textile Mills'.
9 November 2003, 'Ancoats Visit'.

Further details on any event can be obtained from phone 0161 980 7612 or email bernard.jill.champness@tinyworld.co.uk

New Mills Local History Society

Meets at Sett Valley House, off Market Street, New Mills, on the second Friday of the month, at 7.45pm
10 October 2003, 'Melandra: a new perspective'.
14 November 2003, 'Cotton spinning mills after 1850'.
12 December 2003, 'Abduction: Local girl,

national scandal'.
9 January 2004, 'Disley: the story of a village'.
12 February 2004, 'The Ordnance Survey'.
12 March 2004, 'The regeneration of Chapel en le Frith'.
2 April 2004, 'Derbyshire Historic Gardens'.
14 May 2004, AGM and 'The Civil war in Cheshire: an unique experience?'

Runcorn History Society

Newly formed history society. Meets on the 1st Friday of each month at Christ Church Hall, Sandy Lane, Weston Point, Runcorn at 7.30pm. For more details contact Alex Cowan 01928 572 504
7 November 2003, 'Mersey Flats'.
5 December 2003, Christmas Social, Local History Quiz and Talk.

Salford Local History Society

Meets at Salford Museum and Art Gallery, Peel Park, Crescent, Salford on the last Wednesday of the month, at 7.30pm. (Buses 67 and 68 stop nearby.)
29 October 2003, 'The Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal'.
26 November 2003, 'Children Working in Coal Mines'.
December 2003, Christmas Social, TBA.
28 January 2004, 'Ellesmere Park'.
25 February 2004, 'Salford's Conservation Areas'.
31 March 2004, 'Joseph Evans and the Boothstown Botanists'.
28 April 2004, AGM

South Trafford Archaeology Group (STAG)

Meets at the STAG Display Centre, Timperley Old Hall Hotel, at 7.30pm.
24 October 2003, 'Old maps of Cheshire'.
28 November 2003, AGM.
5 December 2003, Xmas Party.

INFORMATION FROM HOUSE DEEDS

Hazel Pryor

The following appears among the conveyances and deeds for some premises in Timperley. It just shows what information may crop up among house deeds, unrelated to the actual property to which the deeds refer.

19 Nov 1849

Conveyance of real estates upon trust for sale

Mr William Pass to Messrs Reddish and Gaskarth

[William Pass of Altrincham gent. Edward Reddish of Stockport gent and John Gaskarth of Liverpool book-keeper]

[Property including]

And also all that Messuage or Tenement situate in Altrincham purchased from the Trustees of and under the Will of Isaac Davenport deceased and formerly called Parkers **And also all** those fields or parcels of Land in Altrincham to the said messuages [sic] belonging formerly called by the names of the Little Loont Field, The Little Meadow, The Gorsey Field and The Great Field or otherwise **And also all** that other messuage erected by Thomas Warburton upon part of a Close of Land called The Great Loont field with appurtenances in Altrincham **And also all** those several fields in Altrincham known by the names of the Cookstool fields otherwise Cookes fields and the Gorsey field except such parts as have been sold off **And also all** that Messuage with the Building thereto adjoining lately used as a Worsted Factory in Altrincham and built upon part of the said field called Gorsey field **And also all** that Cottage or dwelling house adjoining the last mentioned Edifice or Building erected upon part of the said fields which said premises contain 9a 2r and 1p of the Cheshire measure And also all those Messuages or tenements in Altrincham now occupied by Robert Burgess Tailor **And also all** that Messuage or Tenement situate in Altrincham known as the Skin-pits now occupied by John Moss **And also all** that Messuage or Tenement in Altrincham late in the occupation of Mrs. Thomson and now of Mr. 'John' Hathersal **And also all** that Messuage or Tenement in Altrincham now occupied by the said William Pass as and for Attorneys Offices **And also all** that plot of land in Altrincham forming part of the Close called Cookstool field and Gorsey field with the Messuages and dwelling houses thereon containing 3000 superficial square yards or thereabouts and upon which a Factory lately stood and which was purchased of John Atherton **And also all** those cottages purchased from the Executors of John Pearson and erected on a plot of land part of Cookstool and Gorstey [t crossed through] fields **And also all** those Messuages and Dwelling houses situate in Chapel Street in Altrincham occupied by William Smith and George Royle ~~**And also all those two Messuages or Tenements situate in the Lower Town in Altrincham occupied by John Collins and William Starkey**~~ [crossed out]

[and more including Handforth and Derbyshire]

Deeds kindly lent by Ben Hoogewerf.

Additional Notes from Editor

A 'loont' or lount was the local Cheshire name for a strip of land. So the Little Loont and the Great Loont would have been originally in large open fields divided into strips or loonts leased by several families from the lord of the manor. The strips gave their

names to larger enclosed fields. The phrase 'a Close of land' means that these fields were enclosed by a hedge or fence by 1849, possibly in the late medieval or early modern periods (fifteenth to mid-eighteenth centuries).

Could these properties have been bought up for the Manchester, South Junction and Altrincham railway line?

The Skinpits would have been tanning pits where local tanners processed animal hides into leather. It was a smelly business and required lots of water as well, so tanneries tended to be on the outskirts of towns and villages and close to sources of water. The tanners of Hale were out at Ringway. On the other hand, tanners also tended to be well-to-do, in some cases very wealthy.

ALTRINCHAM IN DOCUMENTS IN CHESHIRE RECORD OFFICE

(documents found whilst rummaging in the online catalogue of Cheshire Record Office at www.cheshire.gov.uk./recoff)

There are several documents relating to the formation and administration of Altrincham Urban District Council later in this catalogue. However, what caught my attention was the following:

CCLe 3/57 (Cheshire County Council Clerk's Department)

Cases, opinions and correspondence re claims for damage under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886

This relates, amongst other things, to attacks on farms in Altrincham, Baguley, Bowdon, Dunham Massey and Northenden (amongst other places) in February and March 1921 and the claims resultant under the Riot Act. These claims were included in with claims relating to a riot in Crewe, 24-25 October 1914, aimed at German pork butchers shops.

Were these attacks to do with Germans and the First World War, or was it something else? Were these attacks to do with the high prices of food and the widespread unemployment after the First World War? Does anyone have any more information on these incidents?

LIST OF LOCAL SOLDIERS IN ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA DOCUMENTS

(from the PRO Online Catalogue, www.pro.org.uk; with extra information from Bowdon Baptisms microfiche, published by North Cheshire Family History Society)

Many of the men served during the French Revolution, the Peninsular Wars and on to Waterloo. Some served later from the 1840s to the early 1850s. No soldiers from the Crimean War yet in this group.

WO 97 Royal Hospital, Chelsea: Soldiers' Service Documents

WO 121 Royal Hospital, Chelsea: Discharge Documents of Pensioners

Altrincham

WO 97/130/73 James Taylor. Served in 10th Dragoons, 1793-1814. Discharged aged 40. Born 1774.

WO 97/276/133 William Williamson. Served in 5th Foot Regiment, 1831-1850. Discharged aged 39. Born 20 July 1812. Son of Esther.

WO 97/350/23 John Brown. Served in 14th Foot Regiment, 1805-1814. Discharged aged 29. Born 1785

WO 97/422/15 William Hooley. Served in 22nd Foot Regiment (Cheshire Regiment), 1811-1832. Discharged aged 40. Born 4 January 1792. Son of John and Ann.

WO 97/512/32 John Heald. Served in 33rd Foot Regiment, 1832-1845. Discharged aged 35. Born 1810

WO 97/1128/418 William Warberton/Warburton. Served in 20th Foot Regiment; 5th Royal Veteran Battalion, 1799-1814. Discharged aged 41. Born 1772. Son of William and Jane of Bowdon?. Baptised 8 October 1772.

WO 121/105/117 Albert Hollingsworth/ Hollingworth. Served in 3rd Dragoons, 1783-1814. Discharged aged 48 after 27 years of service. Chelsea Pensioner. Born 1766

Ashton-on-Mersey

WO 97/19/18 William Berry. Served in 2nd Dragoon Guards, 1798-1821. Discharged aged 42. Born 1779

WO 97/59/38 Richard Hamlet. Served in 7th Dragoons, 1803-1814. Discharged aged 36. Born 1778

WO 97/81/3 John Leebridge. Served in 1st Dragoon Guards, 1836-1847. Discharged aged 33. Born 1814

WO 97/110/6 Charles Price. Served in 2nd Dragoons, 1839-1849. Discharged aged 30. Born 1819

WO 97/867/50 John Hall. Served in 75th Foot Regiment, 1841-1842. Discharged aged 20. Born 1822

John Goulden. Served in 1st Foot Guards, 1805-1824. Discharged aged 38. Born 1786

William Wright. Served in 3rd Foot Guards, 1800-1821. Discharged aged 43. Born 1778

Richard Hope. Served in 17th Foot Regiment, 1825-1847. Discharged aged 40. Born 1807

John Oldfield. Served in 25th Foot Regiment, 1843-1851. Discharged aged 26. Born 1825

George Hampson. Served in 36th Foot Regiment, 1799-1820. Discharged aged 40. Born 1780

James Jones. Served in 81st Foot, 1838-1841. Discharged aged 21. Born 1820

Bowdon

WO 121/99/1 Thomas Stelfox. Served in Royal Horse Guards, 1787-1809. Discharged aged 42. Chelsea Pensioner Born 1767. Son of Richard and Anne. Baptised 8 April 1767.

WO 97/5/143 William Hoult. Served in Royal Horse Guards, 1790-1818. Dis-

charged aged 50. Born 1768

WO 121/22/160 John Goulden. Served in Royal Horse Guards, 1795. Discharged aged 41 after 20 years 7 months of service. Chelsea Pensioner. Born 1774. Son of John and Mary. Baptised 25 December 1775.

WO 97/990/91 Thomas Hollingsworth. Served in 90th Foot Regiment 1798-1814. Discharged aged 46. Born 1768

WO 97/263/14 Thomas Jenkinson. Served in 4th Foot Regiment, 1799-1816. Discharged aged 34. Born 1782

WO 97/658/182 Samuel Owens. Served in 52nd Foot Regiment, 1809-1814. Discharged aged 25. Born 1789. Son of Joseph and Betty of Carrington? Baptised 29 June 1788.

WO 97/139/5 George Warburton. Served in 3rd Dragoon Guards, 1811-1821. Discharged aged 41. Born 1780. Son of Martha. Baptised 16 January 1780.

WO 97/164/141 John Cunliffe. Served in 1st Foot Regiment, 1813-1836. Discharged aged 38. Born 22 August 1798. Son of Richard and Elizabeth of Dunham.

WO 97/556/122 Theophilus Ogden. Served in 39th Foot Regiment, 104th Foot Regiment, 1816. Discharged aged 40. Born 1776. Son of John and Ann. Baptised 4 August 1779.

WO 97/481/94 Thomas Moores. Served in 29th Foot Regiment, 1818-1839. Discharged aged 38. Born 1801

WO 97/194/68 Samuel Morton. Served in 1st Foot Regiment, 1827-1848. Discharged aged 39. Born 1809

WO 97/589/41 Thomas Smith. Served in 43rd Foot Regiment, 1831-1853. Discharged aged 42. Born 1811

Dunham Massey

WO 121/37/113 Jacob Holt. Served in 22nd Foot Regiment (Cheshire Regiment); 84th Foot Regiment 1799. Discharged aged 59 after 28 years service. Chelsea Pensioner. Born 1745. Son of Jacob and Elizabeth of Sinderland. Baptised 1 September 1745

WO 97/402/23 John Coates. Served in 20th Foot Regiment, 1799-1821. Discharged aged 42. Born 1779

WO 97/159/46 William Burgess. Served in 1st Foot Regiment, 1800-1816. Discharged aged 34. Born 1782

WO 97/432/15 John Royal/Royle. Served in 23rd Foot Regiment, 1806-1818. Discharged aged 41. Born 1778. Son of Thomas and Betty. Baptised 2 August 1778

WO 97/1241/77 John Killkirk. Served in Royal Horse Artillery, 1811-1843. Discharged aged 50. Born 1793

WO 97/448/65 James Ridgeway. Served in 25th Foot Regiment; 4th Foot Regiment 1831-1853. Discharged aged 39. Born 1814

Ringway, Hale

WO 97/424/18 John Peacock. Served in 22nd Foot Regiment (Cheshire Regiment), 1812-1818. Discharged aged 31. Born 1785. Son of Samuel and Hannah of Hale. Baptised 3 July 1785.

WO 97/553/21 Elijah Garner. Served in 39th Foot Regiment, 1825-1847. Discharged aged 44. Born 1803

Sale

WO 97/172/106 Joseph Goodier. Served in 1st Foot Guards, 1820-1826. Discharged aged 27. Born 1799

Timperley

WO 97/1070/86 John Holt. Served in 103rd Foot Regiment, 1810-1814. Discharged aged 27. Born 1787

ROBERT JOHNSON OF HALE

~~International~~ *Local Man of Mystery*

Jill Groves

When Robert Johnson alias Rogerson died in Hale in 1627, he was a wealthy man by any standards. He had the modern equivalent of just under £1m of investments giving him an annual income of c.£85,000 (at 8% interest) and a wardrobe full of the seventeenth century equivalent of Gucci shoes and Yves St. Laurent shirts. Yet he didn't own a horse on which he could put his expensive saddle. He had £21,600 laying about the house in loose change, probably in a small safe.

Today the police would be interested in his activities as a possible drugs dealer. Then Robert Johnson was just known to be acting as a 'banker' to many people in Cheshire and Huntingdonshire.

Robert Rogerson alias Johnson originally came from Buckden, just south of Godmanchester in what was then Huntingdonshire and is now Cambridgeshire. However, in 1604, twenty-five years before his death, he had some connection with Hale. He owed money, £5, to Richard Kelsall of Hale. Possibly the last time he owed money to anyone.

Six years after Robert repaid Richard Kelsall's executors, his brother Richard appears as overseer for the Will of William Warburton the elder of Hale, husbandman in 1611. It is clear from Robert's own will that there was a family connection between the Rogersons alias Johnsons and this branch of the Warburton family in Hale. Richard married an Anne Warburton, widow, of Hale in 1617. She could have been the widow of William Warburton. In addition, a Rogerson alias Johnson sister could have been the mother of William Warburton's illegitimate daughter Maud. Robert left money for the children of William Warburton's son John and a nephew, Roger, witnessed John Warburton's will in 1639.

Roger the nephew was living in Hale by 1619 when he married Elizabeth Leather of Butts Clough, Hale (daughter of Richard and Mary Leather).

But what of Robert Johnson himself. How did he earn enough for the basis for his 'banking' activities? He was probably a reasonably high-up servant in a large household. The large household in Buckden was the palace of the Bishops of Lincoln, now known as Buckden Tower. Perhaps Robert was a bailiff running the manor of Buckden for the bishop day-to-day.

As a bailiff, Robert would have the opportunity to earn good money with most living expenses found. He would also have the opportunity to lend money on bond to tenants needing to fund the entry fines to new leases. Entry fines were increasing in the early seventeenth century. They could be as high as £32,000 in today's terms. Robert would loan the money to be paid back after ten, twenty, thirty years at 8% interest.

Why Robert came to Hale is easy. He wanted to retire to where his close family had moved, especially since he was a single man, probably a childless widower. Perhaps Sibill the unmarried sister was his housekeeper. Why Richard, Reginald and Roger the nephew came to Hale in the first place is the greater mystery. Did one of the local landowners have a connection with the Bishop of Lincoln?

However the Rogerson alias Johnson brothers arrived in Hale, Reginald's large family of girls helped them settle in well by

marrying the local lads (the Gouldens, the Hunts, the Higginsons, the Leathers and the Hobsons).

Robert only semi-retired when he moved to Hale. He continued his banking activities in Cheshire as well as Huntingdonshire. In fact travelling probably about four times a year back to Huntingdon to collect interest from customers doesn't seem like retirement at all. Robert had a sword and daggers to protect himself and the money he collected but he needed at least another person to act as bodyguard against muggers and thieves. Possibly he hired his nephew Roger and Roger's horses and maybe a couple of other young men as escort.

In his will Robert stipulated that his niece Jane, Roger's sister, would inherit about £200 (£160,000 today) of her uncle's personal estate (and one-third of her uncle's real estate - if he had any) if she married a lad with land, leased or freehold, worth £12-£13. In the seventeenth century that would rent c.20 acres (statute), today a smallholding, then a medium-sized farm capable of supporting a family.

Jane Johnson would be a good catch for the local lads, so who would meet with her uncle's approval. Perhaps the sons of the wealthy tanner families, the Granthams, the Coppocks (Maud Warburton had married one), the Gouldens (already one Johnson girl had married a Goulden). Perhaps a son of William Grantham to make a hat trick.

The sons of Edmund Newton or of George Warburton would be acceptable. If Jane aimed higher perhaps a member of the Hale minor gentry, a Massey of Ollerbarrow (on their way down and nearly out), or a younger son of the Leicesters of Halelow (in the middle), or a Grantham of Davenport Green, a grandson of the John Grantham who died in 1626 (on their way up), or a Vawdrey of Bank Hall, Hale (in her dreams), a Bowdon of Bowdon (on their way down, but they didn't even have a son to offer).

So whom did this financially attractive young woman marry? At the moment I have no idea, but I'll let you know when I do.

Bibliography

Will of Robert Johnson of Hale, yeoman, 1627 (Cheshire and Chester Local Archives).

Accounts of Richard Kelsall of Hale, 1604 (Cheshire and Chester Local Archives).

Will and Inventory of William Warburton the elder of Hale, husbandman, 1611 (Cheshire and Chester Local Archives).

Information on Buckden, Huntingdonshire from www.genuki.org.uk/huntingdonshire

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Chris Hill

Railway Omnibus Driver

Recently I have been looking into my family tree. Back in 1951, the Festival of Britain year, I managed to construct a family tree back to great-grandparents. This required a large sheet of paper for each branch of the family; the paternal and maternal sides. As both my parents were the youngest children of moderate sized Victorian families, all the aunts and uncles were getting on a bit, and some had either died or disappeared. All the information was gathered from people's memories, by asking then waiting, and asking again; and as I said before, it worked, enabling a construction back to great grand parents. Both sides of the tree were kept for years with the occasional addition of nephews and nieces, but then came a period when I lost half the tree; another story. Producing a family tree in the way I had done left out a lot of the information which would normally have been acquired by consulting records, instead of memories of just names. More recently I started to wonder again as I realized I didn't know for certain where my father was born. It was one of those questions I never asked him, assuming it was local, but I also had the impression that my father's family had moved into Bowdon from somewhere in the Midlands. I also had a vague idea that my grandfather had at one time worked on the railway and for this reason had dropped half the family name of Turton-Hill. My brother had included the Turton bit in the names of both his children, but it still seemed another mystery. I also remembered that my grandfather was supposed to have had a hansom cab, and for that reason some years ago, seeing an enlarge photograph in the window display of Doug Rendell's shop, showing the hansom cab rank outside Bowdon church, I bought it thinking my grandfather might be pictured amongst those shown standing by their vehicles. He is buried in Bowdon church yard, and I know where, but the story goes that a certain curate who lived with my aunt in the family house and curiously had our surname in his own name, had accidentally smashed the gravestone whilst digging another grave nearby; the bits having been put in another hole. Thus the curate supplemented his salary by 1/6 a hole. I decided to obtain a copy of my father's birth certificate which would give some details of my grandfather. This I did and to my surprise, my grandfather's occupation was given as 'railway omnibus driver'. Having asked around amongst the railway buffs, no one knew of the local railway stations having any omnibuses, so perhaps he had a contract with the railway, say Cheshire Lines, to take people to and from Hale station. I am told that there were at least two known regular cab routes, one along Barrington Road and another to the Bleeding Wolf. The trade directories showed he had this job for quite a few years, although it was listed only as 'bus driver', so sometimes the directories can be misleading. On getting my grandfather's death certificate, his last occupation was given as 'railway goods checker', probably a pre-retirement job of light duties. I feel sure that if he had been self-employed as a cab driver, this would had been indicated in the trade directories. More interestingly, the detail given on my dad's birth certificate, that his place of birth was No.12, Hamon Road, Altrincham, was another surprise. I immediately went to Hamon Road (quite close to the chip shop recently reported in the local newspaper, as being the longest existing one in the country, at over a hundred years old; but even in this Town there is an older one), but any hopes of taking a photograph were dashed on finding

that side of the street had been demolished to enlarge the builder's merchant site at the bottom of Moss Lane bridge; just ten years too late. It would seem my grandfather was born in Abbots Bromley and eventually married a girl from Kingstone nearby. They moved to Manchester, then Altrincham and finally to Bowdon. With the publication of Pat Southern's book: *Altrincham, An illustrated History*, (p.73), there is mention in the information advertising the Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway services, of 'omnibuses leave the Bowdon Railway Station for Knutsford and Northwich at ten minutes past eight and a quarter before twelve in the morning, and a quarter before three and a quarter before seven in the evening'. This was before the line was extended beyond Altrincham towards Chester by the Cheshire Midland Railway.

Uses of Holly Trees

Looking through a book on English trees the other day, I noticed something which clarified a point which I thought interesting. In the countryside, if one spots a holly tree, then there could well have been a cottage nearby, and if so, a well also. Holly has many uses, apart from keeping evil spirits at bay, but of a more practical nature, its wood is easily worked, having a close grain which gives strength to things made of it. It acts as a good windbreak, and bunches of the branches were used to clean chimneys (thus preventing the possibility of sparks setting thatch on fire). In the winter branches could be given to cattle to eat. What I hadn't realized is that holly (Ilex aquifolium), has developed an evolutionary response to browsing animals by having spiny leaves, but only up to the height of about eight feet, above that the leaves are spineless and elliptical, and so present no difficulty to animals fed with them in the winter. I suppose before I read this piece of information I thought that any holly exhibiting spineless leaves was some form of cultivated variety.

Seamons Moss Honour Boards and the Need for a Local Heritage Centre

Another chapter in the Seamons Moss Honour Boards can now be reported. Trafford Local Studies very kindly found a storage place in one of the outbuildings below the Civic Hall at Sale (once used as stables); however, with the demolition of various parts of the Town Hall complex, another storage place was urgently required. Although warning had been given about a deadline for finding a new home for the boards, there was a flurry of activity when the deadline was unexpectedly brought forward. Bearing in mind that the longest of the three boards measures nearly fifteen feet, finding a storage place presented a difficult problem, especially since most cellars would be ruled out due to the impossibility of manoeuvring the boards down flights of steps. Two people volunteered to find a temporary home for the boards and of these Pat Smith's garage was accepted as a suitable storage area. (I trust that by the time this article is in print, another more permanent home will have been found for the boards.) Again, members of STAG provided the man-power to move the boards, Derek Pierce driving and Neil Beattie offering muscle to lift the heavy structures. How is it that when help is wanted in a hurry, some people 'hum and har' at the prospect of doing something out of the ordinary, yet others take it in their stride ? Without such help from willing volunteers, many a project would never be successful.

Why has the Society bothered to rescue these Honours Boards when the names have been recorded from the lists of scholarship winners? Such objects are part of the history of the area, and hopefully they might, one day, grace a Heritage Centre in

the Altrincham area. It is not just the Society that wants this to happen; others have already tried, unsuccessfully, to have such a Centre created. After all, Altrincham once had an Art Gallery and a Museum, but sadly the collections, donated in good faith, have in most cases been sold off, including valuable books, so that one wonders if the public will ever again feel the same sense of beneficence and leave their treasures in the trust of the local authority, for the admiration or edification of their fellow citizens. Perhaps such ideas went out of fashion after the First World War. The Local Studies staff thought it worthy of offering their help when we were in desperate need of storage space at a moments notice, and our thanks to them for this help, but it is to be hoped that a more permanent 'temporary' home can be found for these civic heirlooms prior to such a Heritage Centre being created. It is possible with the present mood of optimism (March, '03), that the Napoleonic barns behind Timperley Old Hall may be developed as a Town Heritage Centre - several people seem to think grants and a council initiative might help this come to fruition.

In the meantime our prayers have been answered by John Davenport (a retired Timperley councillor), who has come forward to offer the cellars of the Timperley, Riddings Community Centre, as a safe, dry, store for the Honours Boards.

Civic Pride

In the previous topic, above, mention was made of donations to municipal museums and while the Altrincham museum and art gallery seem to have existed at the end of an era involving giving such donations, this form of civic pride was started locally at Old Trafford with the 1857 Arts Exhibition. The spectacular private initiative to introduce paintings to the regional public took place in Manchester in 1857, when a group of local businessmen took it upon themselves to bring together the greatest collection of paintings ever seen in the country. This was the "Great Art Treasures Exhibition" consisting of thousands of works of art drawn from British private collections, including prints sculptures, ivories, metalwork and at least a thousand paintings by Ancient Masters, and many more by members of the British School. It was a public-spirited venture eager to attract people of all levels of society and for this reason the Saturday afternoon entrance charge was halved to encourage the working classes to visit. The exhibition included cafes and bars, as well as concerts conducted by Charles Hallé, as added attractions. At least a million people visited this display of Art Treasures, demonstrating an avid appetite on the part of the general public (outside London), to visit and it became the inspiration and model for a large number of similar exhibitions. Many towns established municipal museums and art galleries as a matter of civic pride, with many businessmen contributing either money or paintings from their own collections. Some of the contributors were industrialists, some brewers and the like, living in or near the great industrial cities of northern England. While some contributed paintings or other works of art, others provided the money for further purchases while a few contributed the buildings to house these newly acquired treasures. The Lever Museum at Port Sunlight is a typical example, where both building and paintings were provided by Lord Leverhulme, some of the paintings having been used to promote packaged Sunlight soap (e.g. 'Bubbles'). Other examples are the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, the John Bowes collection of paintings and furniture in County Durham, the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle and the Thomas Wrigley's collection in Bury, commemorating the railway and paper empire-builder and put up by his children on the oc-

casion of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, in 1887. The enthusiasm for civic culture caused major cities such as Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham to vie with each other so that they built up very fine collections of Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite paintings. Manchester, for example sent curators to the 1889 Royal Academy's exhibition with instructions to purchase the most expensive painting there, in this case the large "Captive Andromache", priced at £8K, but the hard-headed Mancunians managed to purchase the picture for only half this figure. Well known examples of Pre-Raphaelite paintings in the Manchester Art Galleries are, 'The Light of the World' and 'The Hireling Shepherd' by William Holman Hunt, 'Work' by Ford Madox Brown, 'Autumn Leaves' by John Everett Millais and 'La Mort d'Arthur' by James Archer. (A nearby museum and art gallery with its own treasures, which is well worth visiting, is at Bolton.)

Richard Lakin Mason, local writer

Sorting out some papers, I came across an old letter from my brother which mentioned a Hale resident, perhaps worthy of a Blue Plaque. In Sale there is a plaque up in Northenden Road commemorating Robert Bolt, composer and scriptwriter; similarly, in Hale, was bom an author and script-wnter: Richard Lakin Mason, at "Dalkeith", Bower Road, Hale on 16 May 1919 who died on 13 October 1997. His father, G.E. Mason, was an electrical engineer; his mother was Constance Mason, née Mead. Richard Mason became famous as a novelist for his story of *The World of Suzie Wong*, later made into a play in the 1950's, then in the 1960's, a film. The play, performed on Broadway and the West End, was a success with long runs. The title has become universally known and the story deals with the night life of Hong Kong. Nancy Kwan, had the film's star roll, and William Holden played the male lead.

Two of his earlier books were *The Body Fell on Berlin*, and *Angel Take Care*, written under the pseudonym of Richard Lakin, his Christian names. A third book, *1947*, was made into a film, *The Wind Cannot Read* and starred Dirk Bogarde. 1949 saw *The Shadow and the Peak*, and after his best seller (above), came *The Fever Tree*. As well as writing books, Richard Mason also wrote film scripts, being a co-writer of *A Town Like Alice*, the book by Neville Shute (Neville Norway). In his 50's, Mason gave up writing, devoting himself to his wife and two children, living off his royalties and spending most of his time living in Rome where he achieved the accolade 'un fior di galantuomo' - the perfect gentleman.

One Hundred Year Old Shoe Repair Shop

Above, mention was made of the oldest chip shop in the country, but while it may not be the oldest shoe repairers in the country, Swain's, at No.4, Woodfield Road at Broadheath, has been going for over a hundred years, having been established in 1898/9. The first cobbler there was Samuel Robb who died in 1900, his widow continued the business of repairing and making shoes until 1903/4, when John Dawson took over.

A photograph from 1906 exists showing the row of shops from No.4 down towards the Linotype (Budenburg's had not then moved in, but there was a timber merchants run by the brothers John and Edward Johnson.) The window shows gent's shoes for 2/6, and ladies at 1/6, while children's were 1/-. However, if you wanted the very best, hand sewn gent's. they were 3/6 and Ladies 2/3. Workmanship and Materials were of course 'Guaranteed'. Young Mr. Dawson is to be seen outside his 'Boot Mending Depot', surveying the street life of men and boys wearing boater type hats,

together with suits, waistcoats and watch chains. Next door at No.6 was a confectioners under the name of Aubrey Birkinshaw; at No.8 was Mrs. Emma Beresford, a butcher with a row of rabbits on display; next came Thomas Merrell, at No.10, fruitier and greengrocer, with poultry hanging up outside. Then there is what looks like a stationers run by John Crane, and last in the row, tripe dealer, Arthur Barker, who also sold fried fish, seen taking advantage of the photographer to have a breath of fresh air outside his shop. Except for the loss of the window blinds, the buildings, which were put up in 1898/9, look now just as they did then. Of the six terraced houses between the shops and the timber yard, two were occupied by joiners; conveniently near the timber.

The first record in Slater's Directory of a fried fish shop in Borough Road is in 1902, when Alexander Perrin took over a shop at No 50, and since then it has been a 'chip shop'. At Woodfield Road, in Broadheath, however, the first record of a fried fish shop is in the 1899 Slater's Directory, when the shop opened with Richard Cameron as proprietor. Only three houses had been built and recorded in time to be mentioned in the 1898 Directory, but building must have gone on apace, as all the houses built on the north side are recorded the following year, so the shop may have opened in 1998, making it 105 years old. Following the Directories on: in 1901, Charles Guest took over the business, and in 1906, Alfred Barker.

Lymm Environmental and Heritage Group

Following up on topics mentioned in previous 'Ramblings' (Journal No.21): *The Manchester Evening News* of 11 December 2002, reported that Lymm Environmental and Heritage Group had received approval for the first stage of their application for a Heritage lottery grant of £600K, for various projects in Lymm including an archaeological dig at the slitting mill in Slitten Gorge.

Alice in Orchestra Land

The *Manchester Evening News* of 20 December 2002, reported that "11 prints and glass negatives of Alice Liddell, the inspiration for Cheshire born Lewis Carroll's famous books" on Alice's Adventures, "will be kept at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford. They were to have been sold to a foreign buyer until the government's Department of Culture banned their export." The auction was previously mentioned in the journal. Lewis Carroll/Charles Dodgson, was born in the parish of Newton-by-Daresbury, midway between the two churches at which his father was vicar - the house-plot being a tourist site. P.S. A parody on *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland,* entitled *Alice in Orchestra Land* by Ernest La Prade, with a foreword by Sir Malcolm Sargent, has come into my possession; first published by The Bodley Head Ltd in 1934. The book explains an orchestra for children, but in this case Alice goes down the funnel trumpet of a brass tuba, instead of a rabbit hole.

Cheshire Cheese

While opening a Christmas present, which I thought might be a box of Brussel sprouts by the smell, but turned out to be a bottle of Port and half a Stilton cheese, I suddenly thought of our own Cheshire cheese; red, white and blue, in connection with manuring the land, the subject of a previous article. While the Stilton makers formed themselves into an association to control Stilton production (made only in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire), true Cheshire is only obtainable from a handful of specialist producers. The cheese is mentioned in Domesday Book, and is one of the oldest cheeses in production and a flourishing trade grew up in sending the cheese to

London. Records for 1770 show 5,000 tons shipped there that year; and why was it so popular? Being produced in Cheshire, it had a salty taste balanced by a creaminess due to the milk. The colour was originally an orange-yellow, being obtained from carrots or marigolds, but is now produced by using a natural dye, annatto. Blue cheese sometimes developed when fine threads of blue mould grew during the two to six months spent in ripening in well ventilated cellars. This was referred to as 'blue fade' and when it occurred, was highly prized. Now mould is added to the milk before curdling and immature cheeses are pierced to allow air and encourage the 'bluing process'. The reason traditional farmhouse Cheshire cheese declined was mainly the cattle epidemic in 1860, which resulted in many thousands of cows being slaughtered and mass produced American Cheddar being imported to meet demand. Following this, the cheese industry in general became industrialized and farmers concentrated on milk production which was far less labour intensive. More recently, the second world war hit cheese-making, with the Ministry of Food taking all excess milk to make fast ripening "National Cheese", which was rationed. These factors greatly reduced the number of cheese-making families and in many cases the skills were lost. Then of course, the supermarkets wanted mass-produced cheeses to fixed standards and of a consistency which allowed easy transportation without damage; this again reducing the availability of traditionally made cheeses, so that now many branded cheeses bear no similarity to the 'real' thing. So, the use of salt as a 'manure' for improving the land (Journal No.22), must go back well before the agricultural revolution, and possibly before Domesday, as far as Cheshire is concerned. Let us leave the subject of cheese by remembering what a Cheshire man of the sixteenth century thought about our cheese. John Speed, map-maker and historian, born in Farndon on the banks of the Dee and son of a London tailor; he can be quoted as saying "The soil is fat, fruitful and rich. The Pastures make the Kine's udders strout the pail, from whom and wherein the best Cheese of all Europe is made"!

Harold Holmes, local photographer

Information reached me recently regarding an amateur photographer of some merit. This was Harold Holmes of 'Kington', Grove Lane, Timperley. He was the second son of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Holmes of Sinderland Road, Broadheath and he married Clarisse, only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Petrament, formerly of Riverslea, Timperley. Harold married Clarisse at Broadheath Methodist Church. Mr. Holmes was a frequent contributor to the Amateur Photographer from the thirties to the mid fifties, having articles published, providing cover photographs and being a winner on many occasions, of the weekly competition sponsored by Wallace Heaton Ltd. The top prize was £25, or a credit note for £35 worth of equipment. Lesser prizes were a guinea or less and Harold won both the top award and lesser awards many times. He also had his photos published in the *Manchester Evening News* and the *Altrincham and Sale Guardian* from 1934 onwards. He became an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society and was a leading member of the Altrincham Photographic Society which met at St. Margaret's Church Institute on Market St. Here as well, at the latter Society's Annual Exhibition held each May, Harold won many awards including the Holmes Challenge Shield for best print in show. Apart from photography, he was a member of the Altrincham Orchestral Society, who held their annual concert in the Regal Cinema, where he played the clarinet. His wife, who he met through the society, was the pianist at these events. Money raised from these concerts

amounted to about £25, which was donated to Altrincham General Hospital, the Nursing Association and the Altrincham & District Society for the Help of the Unemployed.

Budenbergs, Broadheath

In November of 2002, Mike Nevell arranged for a group to go round the Budenburg works, which was about to be developed by Urban Splash as a site for nearly three hundred houses. Included were two former employees (Arthur Hughes and Norman Spilsbury), who were able to point out the use of various areas of the factory complex and add a few stories of the people who had worked there together with memorable incidents. Others of the group recorded what they saw by taking photographs and scavenging the odd relic here and there as mementoes of the factory. An archive of material, objects, and photographs (on computer), has been collected for the Society by Bernard Champnes. A 2-page hand-out describing the Budenburg products, is also available.

A brief history of the Budenburg business is as follows: The family started off as farmers in Germany, but decided to give up farming and in 1850 bought into a business in Magdeburg, (formerly in East Germany), set up by a German engineer named Schaffer. The biggest market for their products was the Lancashire cotton industry, so in 1857 Arnold Budenberg opened a sales office in Manchester and soon a workshop was set up in Whitworth Street, Manchester. As business grew, bigger premises were required, and in 1914 the company moved to Broadheath into a factory designed for them by Alfred Steinthall of King Street, Manchester, and built by Gerrard's of Swinton. An unusual feature of the clock tower of the administrative building, was the incorporation into the tower of a mercury column 32 ft. high, this being the height which can be supported by 1 atmosphere of pressure, i.e. 15.7 lb/in.2 The firm at this time was called Schaffer-Budenberg, and it is in this order that the initials, 'S' and 'B', can be seen on the clock tower. However, the Budenberg family took control of the business and it was thereafter known as the Budenberg Gauge Co. Ltd. The factory finally closed in 2002, and had a factory at Amlwch, on Anglesey, and offices in Glasgow and London. For two years before closing the Broadheath factory, the company had been co-operating with the firm of Desgranges et Huot, who also made pressure equipment, both firms continuing as separate companies within the same group - Electrocal Ltd. During a normal working year, Budenberg's produced over a 100,000 gauges of various types.

The Dunham Fleam

Although Jim Haworth, in his article about the water supply originally feeding the moat at Dunham Hall, has comprehensively covered the route to the north of Altrincham, a map caught my eye showing the progress in the building of the Bridgewater canal about 1769. The map is from Arthur Young's tour at that time and shows the canal had reached a couple of miles or so beyond the Bollin. The fleam is shown cutting the canal in four places, the first near the present edge of the Linotype factory site at Broadheath, allowing the surface water to flow under the canal towards the north by means of a 'U-bend', and another returning south by a straight culvert running near Whiteoaks Wood at Dunham (in which the obelisk marks the grave of the bay 'Malton'), to enter the Home Park by the gap in the wall which gives the vista to the wood from the Hall. However, near School Lane bridge at Dunham Town, the fleam is also shown being crossed twice by the canal, to leave a short, isolated cresent on the south side. I had pointed out this detail to Jim on a simi-

lar copy of the canal route, some time before, but it had been dismissed because the canal had not followed the original proposed route exactly, no doubt to compromise with various landowners through whose land the canal was to pass. In this case though, the fleam is shown close to the bridge and Mrs. Cox assured me that, on the basis of the accuracy of Young's journal concerning his travels in France, his accounts can be relied upon. Dr. Nevell also considers Young's information reliably accurate as his diagrams of the Castlefield canal basin helped considerably when the archaeologists were trying to understand the layout of the several levels of warehousing. This, as it were, put the detail on his map of the canal in a more favourable light, and so I decided to go and look at the area myself. The feature was shown to be on what is now Little Heath Farm, behind the 'Axe & Cleaver', where the Knowles family live. From the towpath, there did seem to be a piece of land, used by the farm to store piles of unwanted material (tree branches etc.), which had a cresent shape. There were no surface indications of where a ditch or stream might have been. On asking Mr. Knowles senior, he said he knew of one brick culvert under the canal which allowed water from his land on the south side to flow northwards under the canal. He was aware of this because it had been noticed that the canal had started leaking into the culvert causing the ditches to the north to show a greater flow of water than was normally the case. This had been repaired by canal people, but he did not know of a second such culvert nearby; the only other one he did know of, was another brick culvert which allowed surface water from the Oldfield Brow area to pass under the canal to the ditch system to the east of 'Black Moss Wood'. He did not know of any surface hollows near the canal bank which would indicate where a ditch had been. The existence of one culvert in this area gives hope of the probability of a second associated with the first. I notice that on the 1898 O.S. maps, such culverts are indicated by 'Und.' if they are still serving a useful purpose, but no indication if they are not; so the one at Broadheath, where physically a tall brick inspection well still stands, is marked but those near School Lane Bridge, are not. By 1898, the route of the fleam must have changed to that described by Jim, as drainage in the surrounding countryside was improved to change mossland into arable farmland, thus changing the water flows.

Dame Wendy Hiller

The death of Dame Wendy Hiller, aged ninety, OBE ('7 1), DBE ('75), occurred on Friday, 14 May 2003. Born in Bramhall in 1912, her first success was as Sarah Hardcastle in *Love on the Dole*, and she starred in many subsequent productions on stage, film and television, including Shaw's *Pygmalion* and *Major Barbara*. She is mentioned on the 'Ronald Gow plaque' in Goose Green Passage, having married the Altrincham schoolmaster turned dramatist in the mid-thirties. She also starred in the film scripted by another locally-born playwright, Robert Bolt, *A Man for All Seasons*.

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BROADHEATH'S BLACK NIGHT

25 OCTOBER 1944

Arthur Warburton

Two parachute mines dropped in the works area at Broadheath, one hitting a confectionary works at the corner of Huxley Street and Wright Street. Extensive damage was caused to houses and shops. Five men and a woman were killed. A full time warden aged 71 was one of the victims.

I shall never forget that evening. I was hurrying home along Sinderland Road with my first wife after meeting her at the bus stop on Manchester Road after visiting her parents in Hale. There had been an air raid but the bombing had stopped, however we were not aware that the danger was not yet over for there were two parachute mines floating down overhead after being released from an enemy aircraft. Just as we passed Frank Brereton's shop we were caught in the blast from the first mine. We were blown off our feet into a small frail wooden fence and a row of privet hedge, which very fortunately cushioned our landing. We felt as all the air had been taken from our lungs and experienced a strong crushing effect. We were very badly shaken indeed! We were badly bruised with minor cuts but no serious injuries thank the Lord. After a medical check they found I had a "sprained spine". Total rest for a few days was recommended for both of us. It was appreciated that if we had been slower in our pace we could have been very seriously injured or even killed - being just round the corner from Brereton's shop must have given us a certain amount of protection.

I can still hear the sound of broken glass from hundreds of windows etc. The parachute mines were originally magnetic/acoustic marine mines, which had been made useless against the navy, which had developed an alternative counter measure in the form of copper cables mounted on low flying aircraft. The enemy reacted and redesigned parts of the inner workings and fitted parachutes hence the parachute mines.

LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATIONS

If anyone sees a book here they would like, let the Editor know. She will contact the publisher for a FREE review copy. The only drawback is that you have to write a review of about 200-500 words.

Altrincham and District Gardeners: 100 Years of Professional Gardeners by Hazel Prior. No details yet.

The Impact of Civil War on a Community: Northenden and Etchells in Cheshire 1642-1660 by Jill Groves, NWAS. Paperback, £5.00. ISBN 0 9535535 3 1

Old Ordnance Survey Maps of Cheshire. Altrincham North (Broadheath) 1897. Alan Godfrey Maps. Paperback, facsimile edition, £2.10.

A New Historical Atlas of Cheshire by A.D.M. Phillips and C.B. Phillips, Cheshire County Council and Cheshire Community Council Publications Trust, c/o Cheshire Record Office, Duke Street, Chester CH1 1RL or www.cheshire.gov.uk/ recoff/shop.. htm. Hardback, £30 (including p&p). ISBN unknown.

Irlams O'Th' Height 1892: Thirty Years Later. Two Poems by Alfred Warburton, MBE, Salford Local History Society, c/o Mr D Rainger, Salford LHS, 7 St George's Crescent, Pendleton, SALFORD M6 8JC. Price unknown. No ISBN.

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Denton and Dukinfield Halls and the archaeology of the Gentry and Yeoman House in North West England 1500 to 1700 by Michael Nevell and John Walker, Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Tameside Local Studies Library, Stalybridge Library, Trinity Street, Stalybridge SK15 2BN. Paperback, £10.13 [cheques to Tameside MBC]. ISBN 1 871324 27 0.

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Details from the University of Manchester (UMFAC), Oxford Road, Manchester.

Bolynton: A Historical and Archaeological Survey of Little Bollington edited by Pat Faulkner, South Trafford Archaeological Group, c/o Derek Pierce, 30 Ollerton Avenue, Sale M33 5HB. Paperback, £8.95 (plus £2 p&p). No ISBN.

Barton Bridges by Glen Atkinson, Neil Richardson (publisher). Price £5.25.

Stained Glass from Shridgley and Hunt of Lancaster and London by William Waters, Centre for North-West Regional Studies. Hardback, £26.95 (plus £3 p&p). ISBN 1 -96220-140 4.

Magazines

Bowdon Sheaf, the journal of Bowdon History Society, Nos.39 and 40, February and October 2002. A5, 88pp, 2 issues a year, 80p each. Available from Mrs Ann Redford, Hon. Secretary, Bowdon History Society, 5 Pinewood, Bowdon, Cheshire WA14 3JQ.

Articles in No.39 include: 'Mobberley Priory'; 'NARPAC: A Wartime Memory'.

Articles in No.40 include: 'The Harrying of the North'; 'Some early Vicars of Bowdon'; 'The Nook Riding School'.

Browsings, the journal of South Trafford Archaeological Group, Nos.90, 91, 92 and 93. A4, 4pp, 4 issues a year, £8.00 annual

subscription. Available from Chairman, Derek Pierce, 30 Ollerton Avenue, Sale M33 5HB.

Articles in No.90 include: 'University of Manchester Field Archaeology Centre'; 'The House That Jack Built or Not Everyone Can Design a Grade II Building!'; 'Bent Lane: A Bone of Contention, 1733'; 'High Legh, A.D. 1449'; 'Timperley Fair'; 'Bolynton: A Historical Archaeological Survey of Little Bollington'; 'Warburton'; 'STAG on the Web (www.warburtonvillage.co.uk)'; 'Abroad in Brief'; 'The Jacket'.

Items in No.91 included: 'Chairman's Notes'; 'A Stone Game From Bala'; 'Me Sweater'; 'Frustrations and Compensations'; 'Local Heritage Initiative'; 'Bent Lane, Warburton'; 'Obituaries'; 'Stop Press'; 'Bolynton'.

Items in No.92 included: 'Chairman's Notes'; 'Timperley Moat'; 'The Church to the Rescue'; 'Barton Aerodrome: Grade II Listing for two buildings'; 'Alderley Sandhills Project - The Hagg Cottages Excavation'; 'ISCA: The medieval ship'.

Items in No.93 include: 'Chairman's Notes'; 'AGM'; Book Review; 'Timperley Fair'; 'Ode to Me Sweater'; 'Local Heritage Initiative (LHI) - Timperley Moat'; 'Looted Heritage'; 'News from Abroad'; 'Hale Brownies Visit STAG'; 'Tithes' (excellent article on the tithes of High Legh); 'Warburton'; 'Barton Airport'.

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Items in Spring 2003 include: 'Letters to the Editor'; 'Editorial'; 'It's a small world'; 'C.R.G. Smell the history'; 'Making Historical Sources More Accessible'; 'SEEN: Chester's Sustainable Environmental Education Network'; 'In Brief'; 'A look back... some highlights from the previous months'; 'Roadshows'; 'Beginners Introductions: Family History'; 'Children's Activities'; 'Appeal for *Teddy Boys and Beehives* Exhibition'; 'Service Update'; 'Readers Section'; "Wartime Diary'; 'Where are they now? The search for the Cistercian monks of Stanlow Abbey'; Book Reviews.

Items in Summer 2003 include: 'Obituary: Susan Silversides'; 'Local History Info'; 'Oral History in the Making'; 'Murder most foul'; 'Spotlight on Schools'; 'Imagebank Competition'; 'Fleshing out the bones...'; 'In Brief'; 'A Look Back... some highlights from the previous months'; 'Roadshows'; 'Where are they now?';

'Children Activities'; Book Review; Events Diary.

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Items include: Pat Southern's move to Lifelong Learning and Community Librarian and the appointment of Sheila O'Hare as Local Studies Librarian; 'Three Centuries of Transport digitisation project'; 'Blue Plaque'; New Books from Trafford Local Studies; 'Trafford Photofile'; 1901 Census; 'Feedback'.

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Articles in No.4 include: 'The Society'; 'Lancashire Graveyards Update'; 'Heraldry'; 'Early 19th Century Schools in Ireland'; 'Manslaughter - A Man Committed for Killing His Father'; Members' Interests.

Articles in No.1 include: '30 years of LFH & HS'; 'Griffiths Valuation'; 'Copy of MI from Fleetwood Cemetery'; 'Adding Flesh to the Bones'; 'Rogues in the Family'; 'Heraldry - The Royal Arms'.

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Articles include: 'News from the Friends of Salford Museums' Association'; 'John Petty - Firework Maker (1839-1911)'; 'A Magical Christmas'; Book Reviews; 'On the Street Where You Lived'; 'Museum Fever 3'; 'From Time to Time: Summer Activities at Salford Museums 2002'; 'December Morning - Middle Gate Salford Docks, the Hungry Thirties'; 'The Bengal Lancers in Ordsall'; 'My Tribute to Uncle Bill - the Lancashire Boxing Machine'; 'You Write' (readers' letters); 'The Tale of Grindrett's Ghost'; 'Regent Road School'.

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Items No.4 include: 'Unlocking the Rylands'; 'News in Brief'; 'Archive News'; 'Methodist Archive and Research Centre (MARC) News'; 'Printed Books News'; 'Recent Exhibitions'; 'Exhibition Programme 2002'.

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Articles in No.32 include: 'Goodbye Dawn'; '*Past Forward* on tape'; 'Full of Christmas Cheer (and Gifts)'; 'Life on the Farm'; 'The Sam Woods Story'; 'The Dead Hand'; 'Wigan Carnival'; 'Letters from the Front: Local men in the Boer War 1899-1902'; 'A Rugby League Diary 1898-1938'; 'Coal Dust, the Miner's Unexpected Menace'; 'Leigh'; '"In Their Own Write"': Women Writers Associated with the Area'; 'Childhood Revisited'; 'Remember, Remember, The Fifth of November'; 'I Don't Remember When...'; 'The Lambs of Wigan'; 'Wigan 100 - The Centenary of Wigan Corporation Transport, 29 September 2002'; 'Wigan Tales'; Letters.

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Wigan Pier"; 'Wigan Heritage Service - Discovery of Regionally Important Textile Archive' (The Charles Hilton & Son Archive and the Silk Industry of the North-west; 'Pretoria Pit Disaster'; 'The (long) road to Wigan Pier'; 'The Cart Horse (c.1938)'; 'Communications via sign language'; 'From Upholland Grammar School to Winstanley College'; '"In Their Own Write: Further biographies of women writers associated with the area'; 'Wigan Casino: Memories of the "Heart of Soul"'; 'St. Nathaniel's, Platt Bridge'; History Shop News; 'The Dream'; '"Their Name Liveth for Evermore"'; 'Victoria's Secret'; 'The Memoirs of John Vincent Gorner'; 'Pre-school Memories'; Society News; 'Childhood Revisited'; Letters.

Past Uncovered, newsletter of Chester Archaeology, February 2003. A4, 4pp, 4 issues a year, FREE. Available from Gillian Dunn, Chester Archaeology, 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester CH1 2DD.

Items include: 'Cauldron makers and Italian jars at Witter Place'; 'News from Nepal'; 'New light on the Iron Age in the North-West'; 'Chester Electric Lighting Station'; 'Atlas of Cheshire'; 'Cheshire Archaeology Day 2003' (excellent as always); 'The North West Regional Research Framework'.

Salford Local History Society Newsletter, January, March, May, June, July and August 2003. A4, 3pp, 8-9 issues a year. Price unknown. Available from Mr D Rainger, Salford LHS, 7 St George's Crescent, Pendleton, SALFORD M6 8JC.

Items in January 2003 include: 'James Nasmyth, the Steam Hammer Man'; 'Letter from BBC on Oral History and Mills in Lancashire'.

Items in March 2003 issue include: report on the February meeting and notice of the AGM.

Items in May 2003 issue include: future meetings; thoughts of Chapel Street-Oldfield Road.

Items in June 2003 issue include: 'Barton Bridges Falling Down'; 'My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen'.

Items in July 2003 issue include: 'Dates for your diary'; 'Barton Bridges Falling Down'.

Items in August 2003 issue include: 'Christmas Social'; Two Obituaries; 'The History of Iron Working in Britain'; 'Pendleton Railway Station'; 'Exchange Bus Station'; 'Annual Trans-Lancs Rally, Heaton Park, 7 September'; 10-11 October Greater Manchester Museum Special Event'.

Microfiche

Ashton-on-Mersey Parish Registers: Baptisms and Marriages, 1701-1761, Ashton and Sale History Society, c/o the Publications Officer, 77 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire M33 4DN. 1 fiche, £1.00 (plus p&p 50p). Also available from the bookstall at meetings.

CDs

Wigan on the Map and *1861 Census Index for Wigan District*. Available from the Wigan History Shop, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, Library Street, Wigan WN1 1NW. £7.00 each, plus £1 p&p each.

ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY BOOKSTALL

Back copies of Altrincham History Society Journals 4 to 22

Altrincham History Society Journal 4
Contents: 'Altrincham in the Survey and Rental of the Manor of Dunham Massey AD1348-49: Part II'; '26th November, 1813 - General Rejoicing in Altrincham'; 'Extracts of Proceedings of the Altrincham and District Natural History and Literary Society'; 'A Royal Coat of Arms at Shotwick'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 5
Contents: '"Finem Respice" and the Black Horse'; 'A Brief Insight into Military Obligation in Ashley in the Fourteenth Century'; 'Captain Scott's Visit to Seamons Moss School'; 'Obituary and Appreciation: Sale's History Man - Norman Swain'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 9
Contents: 'The Dutch wars - 1652-74'; 'A Tameside Man in the Isle of Man'; 'The Denton Churchyard Masonix Gravestone'; 'Stray Thoughts'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 10
Contents: 'What's in a Name? The term 'alias' and the legitimate families of Altrincham, Ashton-on-Mersey and Sale'; 'Cunningham's Camp, 1894-1939: The International Young Men's Holiday Camp, Isle of Man'; '1667 Subsidy Roll for Altrincham'; 'The Contribution of Some Recent Booklets on the Civil War in Cheshire and Surrounding Counties'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 11
Contents: 'Provost's Sunday'; 'Comments on the 1667 Subsidy Roll for Altrincham'; 'Comparison of Altrincham in 1667 with Neighbouring Townships'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 12
Contents: 'Broadheath and a Naval Enigma, 1916'; 'Cottages at Nos. 113 and 115, Navigation Road'; 'A Grand Inquest of Altrincham Court Leet, 1744'; 'Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600 to 1650: Part 1'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 13
Contents: 'A Great President - an appreciation of Norman Dore'; 'Anyone for Croquet?'; 'The Altrincham Tithe Map Scheule of 1838'; 'Altrincham Between the Wars'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 14
Contents: 'From Pillar to Pill Capsule and Back Again'; 'Off-the-Peg Planning in Medieval N.E. Cheshire'; 'Ferdinand Laughton of Altrincham, gentleman, c.1690 to 1750'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 15
Contents: 'A Note from Barbara Nevell'; 'Miscellanea'; 'Goering as Property Developer: The Bombing of 'Southwold', South Downs Road, Hale'; 'The English Borough in the Thirteenth Century'; 'The Impending Disappearance and Carrington Moss'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 16
Contents: 'Susan Isabel Dacre, Artist, 1844 to 1933'; 'The Walton Family of Bowdon and Dunham Massey'; 'Altrincham and Bowdon Occupations, 1600-1760'; 'Epidemics in Manchester, Chester, Liverpool and Lancaster'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 17
Contents: 'Heritage Open Days, 1998: 12th-13th September, 1998'; 'The Other Altrincham Gas Works'; 'A Seventeenth Century Auction'; 'Games and Pastimes'; 'Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-1650'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 18
Contents: 'Footpaths, plants and cellar dwellings - Random Jottings'; 'King Edward and the Welsh Castles'; 'Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway'; 'Sir Gawain - a local hero?'
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 19
Contents: 'Altrincham Gas Works Branch Line'; 'Altrincham Families: The Higginson, Butchers of Altrincham, 1600-1735'; 'Altrincham in 1835 - Bias in a government report: Part 1'; 'Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-1650: R to Edmund Simpson'.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 20
Contents: 'More Random Jottings'; 'Source of Water For Dunham Mill'; 'Gossip and Scandal in Bowdon and Altrincham: Part 1'; 'The Mayor's Land'; 'Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-50: Katherine Simpson to Venables'.
Price: £1.25 to members, £1.50 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 21
Contents: 'The Halemoss Velvet Works, Altrincham'; 'More Random Jottings'; 'Honours Boards From Seamons Moss School'; 'Altrincham in 1834 – Bias in a Government Report? (Final) Part 3'; 'Who Accompanied William The Conqueror When He Invaded England In 1066?'

Altrincham History Society Journal 22
Contents: 'The Luptons of Altrincham and Wyatt Clocks'; 'Random Jotting Continued'; 'Fat Lawyers: The careers of local attorneys in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries'; 'An Overview of the Stamford Archive at John Rylands Library'; 'Alison Uttley's House - My Childhood Home'; 'Charity Shops in Altrincham – Early Days'.

Altrincham History Society Occasional Papers

1. *Helen Allingham*
Price: £0.30

2. *Discover Broadheath*
Price: £0.30

3. *Dame Isobel Baillie - Blue Plaque*
Price: £0.30

4. *Altrincham in 1799*
Price: £0.30

5. *A Cheshire Market Town in Victorian Times: Altrincham in 1841*
Price: £5.70

6. *Alan Turing - Mathematical Genius*
Price: £0.30

7. *Medical Matters*
Price: £0.30

8. *Ronald Gow - Blue Plaque*
Price: £0.30

9. *The Buildings of Central Altrincham, 2000.*
Price £8.50 (£6.50 to members)

Other Publications

Map of Carrington, 1904 (with article on the history of Carrington Moss by Don Bayliss on reverse) Price: £1.95.

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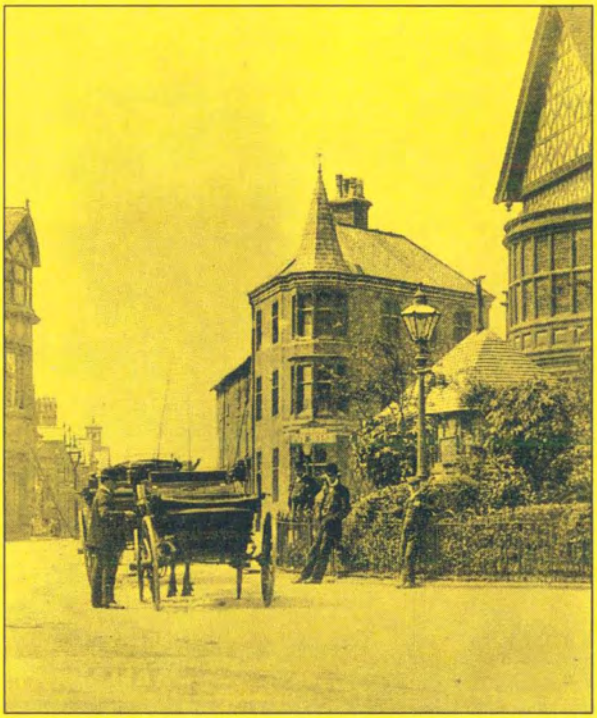
JOURNAL



Walk Around Broadheath

H.W. Kearns and Co., the Early Days

Random Jottings

Recent Findings about the Burgages of Altrincham

History of the Darby and Joan Club, Altrincham

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Cover illustration: Market Place, Altrincham at the turn of the century (Chris Hill)

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I hope you have had a good summer and find the change to Tuesday for meetings has not been too difficult for you. I thank Colin Graham, Bernard Champness and Ailsa Walters who arranged visits over the summer.

Three projects have continued through the summer working in conjunction with the University Archaeological Unit and Manchester Region Archaeological Society: a survey of Oaklands, Hale and Newall Green

Farm, Baguley, which are due for demolition or alteration, and Little Bollington aqueduct on the Bridgewater Canal. There is a good programme of talks, visits and displays in the pipeline and I hope you find something to interest you. We are also having a stall at Cheshire History Day on October 30. We are grateful to members who have volunteered to help with future visits, projects, displays and teas, and, as ever, to Jill for this edition of the Journal.

Don Bayliss

SOCIETY NEWS AND MEETINGS

Meets at the Methodist Church on corner of Woodlands Road and Barrington Road, Altrincham at 7.30pm on Tuesdays. Visitors £1.00.

28 September 2004, 'New Discoveries at Alderley Mill', Mike Redfern
26 October 2004, SGM and 'The History of My House', Keith Warrender
23 November 2004, 'Where is it?' and 'Wot a Lot', Basil Morrison
21 December 2004, 'The Victorian Theatre', Derek Slater
25 January 2005, 'South Africa', Bill Speakman
22 February 2005, 'A View of Some Industry on the Stamford Estates', Bernard Champness
22 March 2005, 'Evacuees', James Roffey of the Evacuees' Association
19 April 2005, 'Family History', Roger Thwaite
17 May 2005, 'Dunham Manorial Courts', Maureen Mulholland

CORRECTION

'Broadheath Bomb' by Arthur Warburton

Correction to the date of the bomb dropped on Broadheath. It was dropped on 25 October 1941 not 1944. Many thanks for this information from a member of Ashton and Sale History Society who was on firewatch that night.

HISTORY NEWS

New Websites

A new website on the history and folklore of Alderley Edge, Cheshire, has been launched jointly by The Manchester Museum and the National Trust. The site draws on over 200 hours of oral interviews and a wealth of information from other sources.

The site has three broad themes: 'The Village and the Villas'; 'Legend and Folktale'; 'The Historical Map Gallery'. It also includes a Teaching Resource for those working with pupils at Key Stage 2/3. It is based

around Alan Garner's book *The Stone Book Quartet*, complemented by the research findings of the Alderley Edge Landscape Project. Website: www.alderleyedge.man.ac [Source: *Browsings,* journal of South Trafford Archaeological Group.]

Another new website is at www.canalarchive.org.uk and shows the pictorial history of the Bridgewater Canal, Manchester Ship Canal, Manchester Docks and Trafford Park. City of Salford, Trafford MBC and the new Opportunities Fund have joined together to produce this website in the Bridging the Years Project - Site Under Construction. [Source: *Salford Local History Society Newsletter*]

Sale Dovecot Open

After years of neglect on a junction of the M60 and the subject of many, many projects for a new venue, the Grade II listed Victorian dovecot, which originally stood in the grounds of Sale Old Hall (demolished some decades ago), has been moved brick by brick, slate by slate to Walkden Gardens, Marsland Road, Sale. On 11 September 2004, the dovecot was opened to the public as the centrepiece of the renovated Walkden Gardens.

The dovecot was designed by the Manchester architect Thomas Worthington in 1840, whose work included the Albert Memorial in Albert Square and Manchester Crown Court in Minshull Street.

Tameside Local Studies and Archives Moving

Tameside Local Studies is moving to its new site in a new archive building connected to Central Library, Ashton. For the first time Tameside's archive collection can be held in proper storage conditions.

As a result of the move, which will probably take some time, the service at Stalybridge will be reducing. [Source: *Tameside Local Studies and Archives Newsletter.*]

Cheshire Photos on the Web

Cheshire Archives and Local Studies have been digitising their photographic collections since 1999 and gradually making them available via the *Cheshire Image Bank* at the Cheshire Record Office and Cheshire libraries. Now the photographs have been made available on the web via a site called 'Picture Cheshire'. This can be accessed via www.cheshire.gov.uk/recoff/home.htm or www.picturecheshire.co.uk/

EVENTS IN THE NORTH WEST

Roman Jubilante Condate, Northwich

Free evening lectures at the Salt Museum, London Road, Northwich, 7.30pm on 18 October, 15 November, 13 December (with our President, Dr Mike Nevell)
For information contact The DAN Office, The Library, Witton Street, Northwich or

tel. 01606 41597
Sounds like a great deal offun for everyone in and around Northwich into 2005.

Cheshire Local History Association

Agriculture and the Industrial Revolution: Industry, agriculture and society, nationally and locally, 1700-1900
Saturday, 30 October 2004, 9.15am-4.15pm
Northwich Memorial Hall, Chester Way, Northwich, Cheshire
Fee: £8.00
For more details contact CLHA, Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, Duke Street, Chester CH1 1RL, tel. 01244 602559

Salford Museum and Art Gallery

Peel Park, Crescent, Salford. Tel. 0161 736 26 49
Milestones - This is Your Life: Birth, Marriage and Death
May 2004-April 2005

Talks at Two
These talks are free at 2pm on Wednesdays.

Silver Spoon - a light-hearted introduction to beginning research into your Family Tree
10 November 2004

History Fairs

Some of these fairs and dates are tentative, based on past years.
Salford Local History Fair, 21 November 2004, Salford Art Gallery, Salford
Family History Society of Cheshire Open Day, 26 February 2005, Northwich Memorial Hall, Chester Way, Northwich, Cheshire
Wirral Family History Fair, 13 March 2005, Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight, Wirral
Cheshire Archaeology Day, 2 April 2005, Memorial Hall, Chester Way, Northwich, Cheshire
Stockport Family History Fair, 3 April 2005, Stockport Town Hall, Wellington Road, Stockport
North-West Family History Fair, 1 October 2005, Velodrome, Manchester
Cheshire Local History Day, 29 October 2005, Memorial Hall, Chester Way, Northwich, Cheshire
Salford Local History Fair, 20 November 2005, Salford Art Gallery, Salford
There are many other history fairs around the country. See www.genuki.org.uk/geneva or *Local and Family History Handbook 2005 edition.*

WALK ALONG THE BRIDGEWATER CANAL AND AROUND BROADHEATH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, ALTRINCHAM

Friday 1st August 2003

Bernard Champness

I have produced over fifty-five copies of these notes. Some have asked for an annotated map and still more requests come. It is not intended to be a complete history and I am sure many members can add to the story. Please let me have any information you have.

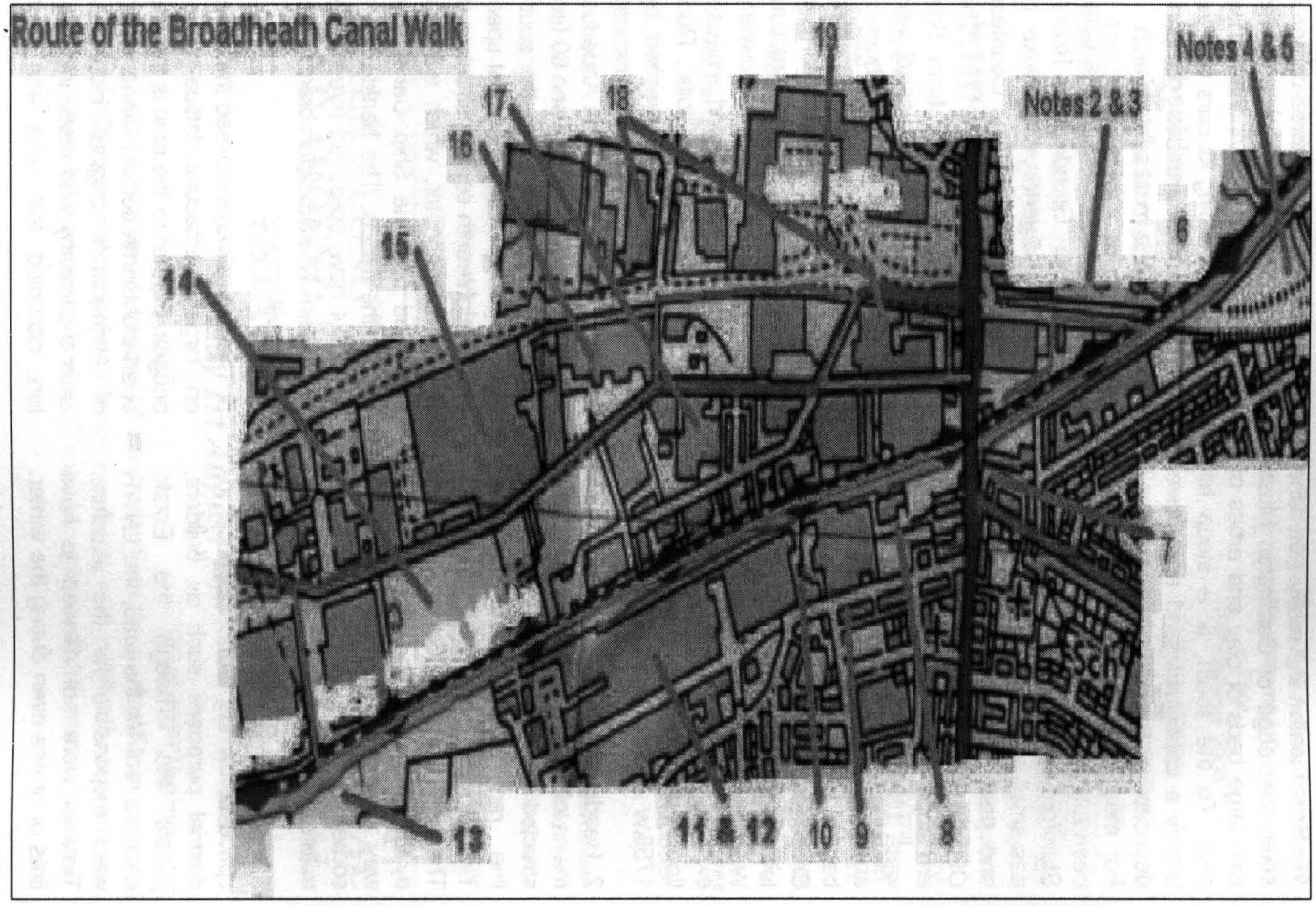
1. Broadheath is really on the south-east edge of Carrington Moss with large beds of clay and areas of peat. To the south, is a steep hill largely a deposit of sand and gravel deposited at the end of the Ice Age? For most of recorded history it has been a hunting ground for the Earls of Stamford and Warrington. In some areas small sandy caps cover the clay and peat. Gradually the hamlet of Oldfield was established on the northern slope of the hill. Parts of the plain were used as a grouse moor until about 1750. About that date people began to settle in areas such as Broadheath and Sinderland. The townships of Carrington, Dunham Woodhouses and Partington began to expand with the increase in population. A workhouse was established in 1756.

2. Heading north-east, we find the remains of a brick railway viaduct, constructed by the LNWR c.1880. The line ran from Skelton Junction, Timperley to Lymm and Warrington. The earlier line c.1860 was planned by the Warrington and Stockport Railway Company. That was later absorbed into the Cheshire Lines Committee.

3. The Stamford Estate soon let the space below the arches for local industrial purposes such as builders, joiners etc. Though the Estate charged rent for the land, the LNWR were responsible for the structure. Tenants were not allowed to have fires or grates even during the winter. This resulted in many three-cornered disputes. The last remaining arch was the home of one of Altrincham's five car factories building kit cars until the 1980's. A small rubber company c.1890 used the most eastern arch.

4. James Brindley planned the canal as part of the "Grand Trunk Route" with Francis Egerton, 3rd Duke of Bridgewater and Mary, 4th Countess of Stamford during August 1761. The scheme included a spur from Sale Moor to Stockport. The canal was opened as far south as Altrincham by 1765. Here John Gilbert engineered the canal, with a man named Morris in day-to-day charge of construction. Cheshire farmers and landowners were allowed to transport cheese, grain and stone "free of tolls". Runcorn, to the west, was reached by 1775. Great trouble was experienced building the Little Bollington Aqueduct of clay, some 3 miles long and 60 feet high, about three miles to the south west. Arguably this is the most spectacular eighteenth century structure in Greater Manchester, which was not exceeded until the Ship Canal was built in the 1890s. The banks of the aqueduct have collapsed three times since then. The Stockport branch was never built.

5. The two railways crossed the canal on large spectacular lattice girder bridges. Further to the east is the site of an eighteenth century tannery, one of Altrincham's original industries. Later a company who made incinerators occupied this area and then


Route of the Broadheath Canal Walk
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Metalbox Co. Further east were three small quarries, the home of Timperley sandstone, a prestige local building material. In practice most of the sandstone in Bowdon came down the canal from Lymm and Runcorn.

6. Looking north across the playing field is the site of a clay pit and brickyard. By 1912, a small foundry operated here.

7. Turning west along the north bank canal we soon come to the modern road bridge carrying the Altrincham - Manchester turnpike. The trust was established in 1782 with the support of the 5th Earl of Stamford. On the south bank are the remains of the packet house, the terminus of the Altrincham - Manchester packet boat, c.1780. We will call there later. This established Altrincham as a commuter town. The wharf either side was used for unloading coal. The modified "mill type" building is under investigation.

8. Under the reinforced concrete bridge which has been widened or rebuilt in 1830, 1907, 1935 and c.1980. Luke and Spencer, makers of emery and later grinding wheels opened a works in 1884 along the north bank. This has been demolished and is now covered by B & Q. The wharf of the south bank was used as a coal yard till c.1980. The next building on the south bank is the Bridgewater Canal Co. warehouse built in 1833. Probably this was built for general merchandise and local vegetables that were grown for the Manchester market. Two lean-to structures were added c.1950. The central bay has long been filled in and the roof modified. The building was surveyed by Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society (MRIAS) and Altrincham History Society prior to conversion to luxury apartments.

9. Next, on the south bank was the Budenberg gauge works erected in 1914. They were world leaders in the design and manufacture of pressure gauges. The site was surveyed by MRIAS & Altrincham History Society prior to conversion to luxury apartments. The Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester (MSIM) was uninterested in the company or the works. Mercury thermometers were also made. A local rumour suggests that considerable quantities were dumped in the canal. Here the canal is very good for fishing. Urban Splash proposes to erect 284 apartments with a nautical feel, as they will project out over the canal. Forty have been sold.

10. The western boundary is at an angle to the turnpike and the canal. This is the line of Roman Road from Deva to Mamucium. On the north bank is the site of the Altrincham Electric Light Company, established in 1896 which was a subsidiary of Manchester Edison Swan Co. Ltd. By 1898, electricity was supplied to about twenty roads in Bowdon. It is unclear how the electricity was generated, possibly by gas engine. Later the workshops on the site were sub let to another of Altrincham's early car factories.

11. On the south bank is the new Linotype works. Most of this building is sub let to such enterprises at Keep Fit Studios. PI Castings, established in 1958, occupy the buildings on the north bank. They make precision castings using the lost wax process.

12. The Linotype works designed by Stott and Sons, mill architects, was opened 1897. Linotype built print setting machines. The complex includes office block, assembly, heavy machine shop, foundry etc. Sparkes, a farmer from Oldfield blockaded the road and was eventually taken to court and sued for costs. Proceedings were reported in *The Times*. 1700 were employed. The works closed during the 1980s. Most is sublet and businesses include a glazier supplying conservatories. On the north bank is a marble works supplying sheet for modem kitchens.

13. Next come moorings for canal boats. Originally this was a clay pit and brickyard. Bricks have been made in this area from c.1650. Most of the bricks used in Dunham Massey and Altrincham town were made in one of at least twenty similar yards scattered around the town. The puddling clay used to seal the canal was also dug here. In 1896, Thomas Henry Vernon operated the yard. He dug too close to the canal and the workings were flooded. He allowed the Bridgewater Canal Co. to dump dredged mud so that he could continue to pay rent to the Stamford Estate. This only worked for a time. The Estate ended up in repossessing the property and suing him for loss of revenue.

14. Soon we turn right north up a path next to Cartwright's Trailers. Both are modem developments. Cartwright's occupies at least four sites, making specialist road transport equipment. The 40 ton trailers are obvious, but other products include conveyors for box vans to speed loading and unloading. Partly due to the large number of sites, production is chaotic. The company wishes to build a new works to the west on Dairyhouse Farm.

15. We emerge on to Atlantic Street. Many new small companies and warehouses have been built during the last twenty years including the Girl Guides Warehouse. On the north side of the road are the remains of the large Churchill Machine Tool Company works opened in 1919. The company employed 1100 workers building precision grinding machines. Assembly bays had an area of 160,000 square feet. The machines were essential to the war effort during the 1940s. The works closed c.1973. Some buildings have been demolished, other have been reused.

16. Further east we come to the site H.W. Kearns established in 1907. 500 workers designed and built precision horizontal boring machine. Most of the workshops have been reused as a retail park. The tall building is the heavy machines shop with a concrete floor 20 foot thick. It used to contain a large

plano milling machine used to form the beds for three M3 boring machines. These castings would weigh over 30 tons. By the 1960s, the Technical Director was Curtiss Sparkes, grandson of the one mentioned above. In the 1970s the factory floor was made of wood. When BR shunted wagons in the goods yard behind, all the machinery would vibrate. Finishing cuts and accurate measurements closer than 0.001 ins. had to be timed to occur during gaps in the BR timetable. After many redundancies, amalgamations and bankruptcies the works finally succumbed c.1988.

17. On the opposite side of the road to Kearns office was the Record Electrical Co. founded in 1910 to make electrical measuring equipment. Some 600 were employed. This is a complex of small works built on the site of the Broadheath Farm yard. Some buildings probably date from the 1880s; others date from the 1940's. Current occupants included a tinsmith.

18. Pass through the alleyway, once beneath the LNWR railway. Immediately on the left was a small engineering works known as Essex Tool and Gauge. When we get to Craven Road, George Richards third drawing office is on our right and Tilghman Wheelabrator No 4 works is on our left, both are now re-occupied. Richards was established in 1885 to build very large machine tools. Vast vertical boring mills, 35 foot diameter were a specialty. They were used to manufacture propellers for the Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mary, gun turrets for battleships such as *Rodney* and *Hood* etc. The works was vast with its own heavy iron foundry, machine shop etc. Richards was one of the first companies to try to use computers to control machine tools. Unfortunately there were two main technical problems, punch paper tape in an atmosphere where oil mist was spraying around and slip stick phenomena where heavy weights are reluctant to move short accurate distances. Tilghman's established in 1898, produced shot blasting equipment that cleaned the surfaces of castings and forgings by blowing sand under pressure. General Tilghman "invented" the idea while serving in the American army in the Nevada Desert where he discovered windows and metal exposed to sand storms was always kept bright. Tilghmans, Richards, Essex Tool and Gauge and Kearns were taken over by Staveley Industries in 1968. By 1973, three companies were pushed into the Kearns works. Lack of leadership did not amalgamate the works. Over 240,000 different components were made. Machines costing £150,000 were marketed for £25,000 so disaster was inevitable.

19. Richards and Tilghmans occupied the whole of the retail park. Carpetright occupies the site of Thornton Pickard, makers of cameras and photographic equipment.

20. Broadheath was actually Altrincham's second industrial estate; the first being around the gas works in

Moss Lane. We are told that Trafford Park is the world's first industrial estate. However, Broadheath predates it by at least ten years. About 1870, the 7th Countess of Stamford, mistress of the Quorn Hunt, planned to have long rides through woods. However, large bets on slow horses altered the priorities and industry was established provided it could not be seen from Dunham Massey. Most of Broadheath has been swept away. Little is recorded. Only Thornton Pickard papers have been retained in an official archive. Two small non-ferrous foundries still operate; a MRIAS member uses one to cast cylinder heads. These factories made the twentieth century Altrincham we now know. Only MRIAS and Altrincham History Society are interested in recording the story!

H.W. KEARNS & CO.

The Early Days 1907-1930

Keith Gowing

H.W. Kearns and Company was founded in January 1907, when Henry Ward Keams, an entrepreneur, purchased a plot of land in Broadheath, an expanding industrial enclave seven miles south of Manchester.

Henry Kearns was born in London, son of a professional violinist. He studied at London University and graduated with a degree in Chemistry. He then moved to Manchester to join Calverts, the tooth powder manufacturer. Later he moved to Bengers where eventually he became its chairman.

He became interested in machine tools and invested £30,000 in William Muirs, a well known builder which produced a vast range of machine tools. He soon became chair-man and one of his four sons, Joseph joined him as works manager. Henry Kearns was dissatisfied with the quality of the work force in Salford and proposed moving the firm to the suburbs. But he could not persuade the board, so he withdrew his investment and bought the plot in Broadheath.

This was quite a remarkably bold venture, for he was already sixty-five. He brought with him twenty-eight workers from Muirs; nowadays we would say he had "poached" them. One of them, a draughtsman named Simons related that when he had applied for work at Muirs, Mr Muir sent him to a phrenologist, to have his "bumps" felt and so check his suitability. An unusual method of selection.

By December 1907, a five bay factory, covering 22,400 square feet, had been constructed and was in full

production. The site was adjacent to the Stockport/Liverpool railway, and from nearby sidings machines could be shipped directly by rail, an important consideration in the days before motor transport.

The first products were horizontal pipe facing machines. In 1908, the business became a private limited liability company with Henry Kearns as chairman and his son Joseph, as managing director.

It was at this stage that Frank Pearn entered the scene by signing an agreement with Kearns, to allow them to build his patent pipe facing machines under licence. Frank Pearn owned a company in Gorton which produced heavy pumping machinery. He was an accomplished engineer and author of a multitude of patents. The Pearns design had a heavy duty facing head with an automatic feed to the tool slide, which was ideal for dealing with flanges on pipes, pumps and valves. Hence it was in demand by the burgeoning water and petro-chemical industries.

It should be noted that at this time most machine tools were not highly sophisticated and many manufacturers offered a variety of products. An early Kearns brochure advertises pipe facers, double spindle boring machines, shapers, pillar drills, slotters and profile millers.

The pipe facers were typified by semi-open headstocks, belt driven countershafts and beds with "feet" at each end like a capstan lathe.

In 1912, the arrangement with Pearn came to an end, and Kearns emabrked on a programme of development and specialisation. The pipe facing machines had been relatively simple products and soon the company developed a much more sophisticated design, a horizontal borer which embodied power feed to the worktable and a substantial vertical adjustment to the headstock. However, the major advance was the marriage of a travelling spindle to the heavy duty facing head.

The design involved a high degree of ingenuity and was patented in 1913. It meant that surfacing, boring, drilling, milling and tapping could be carried out on a single machine; a massive leap in versatility. It was labelled "the Kearns Patent Type". The simpler machine, without the travelling spindle, was still available as "the Kearns Standard Type".

The new machine sold well, and soon Kearns was exporting it in quantity, notably to Australia and Canada. Several overseas agencies were established before the outbreak of World War One.

During the First World War, Kearns was heavily involved in building machines for the munitions and armaments industries, and because of its acknowledged engineering expertise, was also called upon to manufacture howitzer parts and connecting rods for submarine engines.

Photographs of the time indicate that many women were recruited to work in the machine shop. It was at

this time that another of Henry's sons, Walter Kearns, joined the board.

In the post war period, the company continued to develop and refine its products; a basic range of five machine sizes, ranging from 3 inch to 6 inch spindles. Because of its versatility the boring machine was dubbed "the do-all" and was employed in many sectors of industry, producing locomotive cylinders, valves, gearboxes and textile frames. The second generation of Kearns machines featured full depth flanged beds, improved feed drives and an extended range of spindle speeds. Yearly output for Kearns machines averaged over 100 units in the 1920s. The demand for this type of machine led competitors and nearby neighbours, George Richards and Company, to produce a similar product. In 1920, the engineering associated with the combined spindle and facing head drive system led to a costly legal dispute over patent rights. After a bitter battle, with escalating costs, the action was settled out of court. Only the solicitors had won.

In spite of being competitors, the two companies shared quite a remarkable relationship of friendly rivalry over several decades. Many Altrincham families had relatives working in both companies.

In December 1927, Henry Kearns died. In twenty years he had built up a thriving business of world renown. He was succeeded by his son Joseph as chairman. Joseph also retained the position of managing director.

'Mr Joe', as he was known, was a keen businessman and an oft-quoted story relates to a machine which had just been dispatched one weekend to a distant customer. It had been sent by rail, as was usual in those days. Mr Kearns noted in his Saturday newspaper that the customer was going into receivership. So he called for his chauffeur and sped north by car, calling at various rail depots on the way. Finally, he found the wagon containing the machine in a siding, and then paid a railwayman a handsome tip to uncouple it and re-route it back to Broadheath.

Another example of Mr Joe's business acuity relates to the manufacture of a new model. In designing a new product the draughtsman has to take into account imprecise component sizes in the build up of an assembly and therefore allows 'a bit extra' to ensure that the arrangement covers the specification. In this case the draughtsman had been rather over generous, such that the machine was found to exceed its stated traverse by three inches. Mr Joe insisted that the bed casting be shortened by three inches (no mean task) to ensure that the customer did not get more than he paid for.

The company had weathered the post-war slump (1921), the General Strike (1926), and by 1928 could be described as a reasonably prosper-

ous enterprise. However, less than two years after Mr Joe took over the helm came the Wall Street Crash, an event which was to have serious consequences for the British economy. H.W. Kearns was soon to face a disastrous situation which would threaten to bring it to bankruptcy.

Sources
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Many former employees, especially members of the KNUTS group.

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Chris Hill

First Petrol Pump

Having been browsing recently in an old issue of the Journal (No.15.), in the 'Miscellanea' by Arthur Warburton, an item from 'Autofax' in *The Times*, reports that the first petrol pump in the country was installed at Hale, Manchester, in 1919. Mr. Warburton thought this referred to Harry Quick's garage on Hale Road bridge. Perhaps, because of its title, 'Autofax', was contributed to by Times' readers faxing in items of interest, and therefore not to be fully relied upon. Norman Dore, our past President, in his book on *A History of Hale, Cheshire*, (p.130), mentions: "Early in the 1920's another great step forward was taken with the installation of petrol pumps, in place of the two-gallon sealed tins which motorists had hitherto carried in the car. Here Hale gained a distinction in motoring history, for the first pump to be established in the north of England was at the Bleeding Wolf Garage. In spite of this service the average motorist was suspicious and went on demanding his sealed tins for some time." I leave it to the reader to decide whether Mr. Dore, or the *Times* is to be believed. Incidentally this is not the only first for the local region. I refer to disc brakes, traffic lights, overhead electrically operated garage doors and the first ever pneumatic-tyred bicycle race in the country; but these are associated with Brooklands, rather than Altrincham.

Bird Watching

Continuing the above theme, and by way of a P.S., when people think of modem bird watching, they may well consider places like the Dee Estuary, Hilbre Island, or Rostheme Mere, as the best places to find a variety of birds, but for a period of thirty years, until it was modemized in 1955, the premier place in the county (i.e. Cheshire), for bird watching, was Altrincham Sewage Farm at 'Sinderland', on the edge of Carrington Moss. The farm was built between 1900 and 1905, and was discovered to be a bird haven by C.M. Gadd in 1916. Such was its renown that be-

tween 1921 and 1955, omithologists kept detailed records of the avian visitors throughout each year. T.A. Coward, the famous field naturalist who lived mainly in Bowdon, but for a short time in Hale, and who therefore had the sewage farm on his doorstep, as it were; at least within easy cycling distance, never visited the area, but was kept informed as to the comings and goings. Coward was more interested in Rostheme Mere and its environs; in his day, well preserved by Lord Egerton of Tatton.

Another ornithologist sharing Coward's liking for the mere was A.W. Boyd. Both naturalists kept records and submitted many papers to the relevant periodicals, mainly the Proceedings of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society. Following the wishes of the late Lord Egerton, his executors donated the mere and surrounding land, totalling some 195 acres, to the Nature Conservancy on 28 September 1961. A further 132 acres of pasture around the mere were subject to a Nature Reserve Agreement. The observatory, near the church, was the result of a fund set up to commemorate A.W. Boyd, and was officially opened by his nephew, James Fisher, on 21 July 1962.

Returning to the Moss, I well remember as a boy, observing from the eminence at the bottom of Dorset Road (or the 'Den' as we called it, the bottom half of the road being unmade and allowed to be wild), the gleaming stretches of the flooded settling lagoons on the Moss, there being an unobstructed view over the intervening fields. It was like Cortes on the Peak of Darien catching a glimpse of the Pacific and the promise of foreign parts, resulted in quite a few expeditions to the Moss; and for birds also, the stretches of water were an attraction. The modernization of the sewage farm rendered the area much less attractive to birds, and so Altrincham lost one of its more esoteric venues for the nature lover. T.A. Coward of course has two memorials, one local at Castle Mill, where there is a stone on the path to Cotterill Clough, commemorating his work, and five acres of reed beds adjoining Marbury Mere, to form another bird sanctuary.

References

i. *A Country Parish*, by Mr. G. Boyd who lived at Frandley near Great Budworth

ii. *The Birds of Cheshire*, by T. Hedley Bell, 1962, published by Sherratt and Son of Altrincham.

The Custom of the Sea

Working in a book shop certainly has its distractions. While straightening up the display in one of the bookcases, I came across a book entitled *The Custom of the Sea*, by Neil Hanson, published in 1999, and browsing the blurb, realized what the subject of the book was, and that although there was no index, there was a local connection. But before we get to this, a brief account of the books content.

On 19 May 1884, the aging but otherwise seaworthy yacht *Mignonette*, sailed from Southampton, bound for Sydney. Half way there Captain Tom Dudley and his three-member crew encountered a violent storm off the coast of West Africa. After four days, battling towering waves and hurricane-force gales, the yacht was overwhelmed by a freak wave, said to be 42 feet high, and sank. The crew were cast adrift in a 13 foot, leaky dinghy, with only two 1lb tins of turnips for food, no water, and no shelter from the scorching sun. After nineteen days (during which they had managed to collect some rainwater and catch a small turtle), they were all near death, and Dudley determined that they must resort to the horrifying practice, well known among seamen of the time, called 'the custom of the sea'.

The usual practice was for the survivors to draw lots, but in this case the weakest of them, a seventeen year old cabin boy, Richard Parker, had been drinking sea water and was at some level of unconsciousness in the bottom of the boat. Although the Captain suggested drawing lots, the other two adult seamen refused, so Dudley made the decision himself, and killed the boy and parts of his body were eaten. Five days later, the survivors were picked up by a passing German ship, and although such cases of 'survival cannibalism' were usually either hushed up or condoned as terrible but justified acts of desperation, in this case the men, some time after reaching Falmouth, England, were arrested for murder.

The law required the Captain to give his deposition to the Falmouth shipping master at the Customs House about the wreck. This the Captain did, giving all the details truthfully in the conviction that what had occurred was accepted practice and in no way a crime. The boat's loss was officially recorded as due to 'stress of weather'. A death certificate for Richard Parker recorded that his demise was due to being 'killed'. James Laverty, sergeant of the Harbour Police, a strict Wesleyan, was not prepared to turn a blind eye to the lawless ways of the seafaring community, so after asking for the knife used to kill the boy, he applied to the clerk of the justices for a warrant for the men's arrest. The clerk sought the advice of the chairman of the borough magistrates, who was also the mayor. Being politically astute and aware of public feeling in support of the survivors, he refused to make a decision. A telegram was sent to the Board of Trade, requesting directions. The reply was not forthcoming straight away, so eventually Laverty got a warrant signed to arrest the men.

National newspapers got wind of the story and a typical report of the incident can be taken from the *Spectator*: "... It is high time that the hideous tradition of the sea which authorizes starving sailors to kill and

eat their comrades, should be exposed in a Court of Justice and sailors be taught once and for all that the special dangers of their profession furnish no excuse for a practice as directly opposed to human as it is to divine law....". The ensuing case became a cause *célèbre,* and the sensational trial kept a shocked public, from pantry maids up the social scale to Queen Victoria, enthralled during the following winter. It would seem from the bibliography at the back of the book, where eighty-two references are given, that 'survival cannibalism' during the sailing-boat era up to that time, occurred much more frequently than people today realize; and not only on the sea. The situation was, that the Home Office had been waiting for such a case to be brought, especially after loosing one ten years before, over the survivors of the *Euxine.* In this instance, the survivors were landed at Singapore, then on Home Office advice, returned to England for trial. The case was dropped for lack of evidence and also political considerations, resulting in the men being set free.

However, the Home Office still wished an example made which would cause the 'custom of the sea' to cease, and act as a warning to future mariners, as to what would happen if such an occurrence happened again. With this in mind, all possible pressure was put on the judicial system behind the scenes, to obtain a guilty verdict. Baron Huddleston, a judge, was offered advancement if a 'Special Verdict' was achieved. A defence barrister, Collins, was offered a knighthood and elevation to the bench within a year, if the trial were to reach the 'correct' verdict. One of the crew, Brooks, had not been involved with the actual killing, but had, nevertheless, taken his share of blood and flesh straight away, and he was persuaded to turn prosecution witness in return for a pardon. His deposition was conveniently lost to avoid any awkward questions from the defence (reminds one of the submarine, the log book and the battleship, not so long ago). The prosecution was to move up through various levels of the Justice system. A local solicitor, Arthur Tilly, came forward, volunteering to defend the men.

The following day the first court was convened, presided over by eight local magistrates whose job it was to decide from the evidence, if a prosecution was justified. This they did, having been informed that the solicitor to the Treasury had been instructed to carry on the prosecution and had applied for a remand in custody. The magistrates therefore remanded the crew until the next hearing, a week later, and they were put under the equivalent of house arrest. At a second meeting of the magistrates, their chairman stated that he had that day received a message from the Treasury solicitors, that the men were to be remanded for a further week, but Tilly managed

to get the men released on bail of £200. The men returned for a third session when a QC acting for the Treasury was present. It was then that the prosecution said they would offer no evidence against Brooks; he would be discharged and then called as a prosecution witness. The magistrates ruled for a prosecution after the briefest of evidence and consultation, saying that the charge was too serious for a bench to decide and that the case be tried by a jury. The men were allowed bail as before.

The next hearing was to be at Exeter in two weeks time, but as a justice would preside, a barrister would have to take over and Tilly recommended Arthur Collins. The judge specially chosen by the Lord Chief Justice and the home secretary, to hear the case, was Baron Huddleston, who had a reputation for browbeating jurors and getting his own way with the verdicts. The jury was not composed of ordinary citizens, but being a 'grand jury', was of selected gentlemen of elevated social standing. The judge had his opinions on the trial printed in the press before the trial began !, so the jury were in no doubt what he thought and would direct. The prosecution argued that the men were guilty of 'wilful murder', while the defence maintained the killing was not wilful but a desperate act of necessity, committed on a person already dying. The judge advised the jury that they had two possible verdicts; firstly to find the men guilty, in which case he would refer the case to a special Court of Crown Cases Reserved, when a panel of five judges sitting under the Lord Chief Justice in London, could establish an unshakeable legal precedent after the conviction. The second option, that he favoured, was to bring in a 'Special Verdict' whereby they accepted the facts of the case but, because of the legal complexity, would allow the judge to say what offence had been committed and determine what should follow. The loophole possibility of a verdict of manslaughter was never mentioned, as it would not have allowed a definitive ruling to be made, to stamp out the 'custom of the sea'.

The jury returned a verdict as directed, in favour of the 'Special Verdict', thus allowing a panel of judges to decide matters. Until they met, the defendants were allowed to be free on bail, as before.

The next hearing was before the five most senior judges in England, including Huddleston, and the attorney general led for the Crown. As the jury at the previous hearing had not reached a verdict of guilty, the judges themselves now became in effect, judge and jury! After hearing the arguments, it was decided to take an adjournment of four days before pronouncing judgement, but in the meantime the defendants would be taken into custody at Holloway prison, which was the most 'comfortable' of those available. The

killing was considered to be a 'private homicide', rather than one of 'duty', as for example, in defence of one's country. They considered that while it was a duty to preserve life, there were occasions when it was a duty to sacrifice one's own life and die if necessary, as in the case of the captain and crew of a sinking passenger ship without sufficient room in the lifeboats for everyone. The killing, it was decided, fell into the category of 'wilful murder' and therefore the prisoners were guilty of murder. The sentence was passed that they should be hung, but with the proviso that they be recommended to receive the mercy of the Crown.

Sir William Harcourt, Home Secretary, immediately passed on instructions to the Prison Governor, that the men were not to be put in a condemned cell, but be treated as ordinary prisoners. He was still determined that ship's crews would only get the right message, outlawing the 'custom of the sea', if the men served life imprisonment with penal servitude. However, his legal advisors persuaded him that had the charge been manslaughter, then a sentence of only three months would have been appropriate. Harcourt found the Queen preoccupied with other pressing matters and, not concerned about the length of sentence, granted a pardon on condition that the men serve six months without hard labour.

The decision caused the Home Secretary to receive petitions from all over the country, not only from individuals, but also from groups and corporations, asking him to intercede for Dudley and Stephens, with Queen Victoria, for an immediate pardon. One of the letters sent was from Miss Alice Maud Lever, aged seventeen, daughter of Ellis Lever, a coal merchant living in Altrincham. He had originally lived in Spring Bank House nearby, but had Culcheth Hall built and the family had moved there when the new house was completed in 1863. Alice wrote asking for a free pardon and enclosed £5, as a New Year gift to be passed on to the men's families. The Home Secretary, Harcourt, was not to be swayed from his decision, and to discourage others from sending presents, had the gift returned. Miss Lever did, however, manage to contact Mrs Dudley, Philippa, and let her have her financial gift.

Her father, Ellis, aged fifty at the time, was married to Catherine, born in Ashton-upon-Mersey. They had two other daughters, Ada, twenty-five and Gertrude nineteen, together with two sons, Charles, twenty-two, and George H., eleven. Ellis Lever (once described in the local paper as 'Altrincham's Champion' for winning a court case on behalf of the ratepayers against the Altrincham Gas Works), was also co-opted to support his daughter. He wrote to Harcourt asking for clemency to be exercised, and also included a suggestion to avoid shipwrecked sailors

being put in the same situation as the crew of the *Mignonette*. His idea was to make it a condition of maritime law, that ship owners should be obliged to stock lifeboats with provisions and water, a suggestion which was eventually implemented. (Providing enough lifeboats for everyone had to wait until after the sinking of the *Titanic!)*

Ellis also sent a letter to the Queen:

> "Her most Gracious Majesty Victoria. The case to the prisoner's wife and children is so exceptional and heartbreaking and as to the man himself, it should not be forgotten, he unreservedly and voluntarily stated to his most terrible disadvantage the whole circumstances. So constant and remorseful a memorial is likely to endure, not for six months, but for all time to come during his life, that I do most earnestly and humbly beseech Your Majesty so to relax the ordinances of justice in this case, as to be pleased to give directions that the term of imprisonment to Captain Thomas Dudley may be curtailed, if it be even for one moiety of the unexpired portion of that term."

Enclosed with his letter was one written to him by the Captain's wife, which included:

> "... Every yacht owner has testified in his favour, in fact all who came in contact with him respected him, and it was his boast that no man, woman or child could look in his face and say, 'Tom Dudley, you have wronged me.'" ... "I beg to enclose letters for private perusals. Permit me to sign myself, Sir, I am your obedient and grateful servant. Philippa Dudley."

Attached to these letters in the Home Office archives was a note that the Dudley family intended to settle in Australia as soon as he was released. In spite of all the public petitions, Harcourt's attitude remained adamant, that the sentence imposed was a light one and could not be shortened.

Dudley and Stephens were released from Holloway on 20 May 1885, a year and a day after starting their fateful voyage. Tom did sail to Australia with his family and opened a yacht outfitters business, specializing in tarpaulins and large sails. In 1894, a pandemic of bubonic plague started in Hong Kong and spread to Sydney by 1900, carried by fleas on ship's rats. Dudley's workshops were on the waterfront and he became the first victim in the town to die of the disease.

An outcome of the trial, with its attendant publicity, produced one consequence predicted by Dudley, that should a similar event occur, the survivors would never reveal the details. Two documented similar wrecks did occur, but no further cases were ever convicted in court.

As for the 'Altrincham Champion', although British Gas was approached in 1991, on behalf of our Society to sponsor a Blue Plaque for Ellis Lever, the Corporation declined on the grounds that Ellis Lever had

brought a case in Salford against another coal merchant, Samuel Hunter, for obtaining supply contracts by bribery, but in the course of the trial, he also was proved to be tarred with the same brush. After this, he retired to North Wales, in disgrace.

RECENT FINDINGS ABOUT THE BURGAGES OF ALTRINCHAM

Don Bayliss

There was a period of extraordinary social change in the thirteenth century when the end of feudalism was at hand and villeins and the unfree were striving to become less servile. One change was that a new, planned seigneurial borough was created in 1290AD (Bayliss, 1992a, b and c; and 1997) with its own particular urban administration, in the lands of the former agricultural village of Altrincham. This development created a new social class, that of 120 burgesses and their households freed from many former dues to their lord Hamon de Massey V while around it other villages continued in their former manorial way (Nevell, 2000, 19). The borough was founded close to where the Manchester to Chester Roman road, in use in the middle ages, was crossed by the road from the baronial caput and castle at Dunham to the neighbouring barony of Stockport. This cross road had, no doubt, already become a market town around which a settlement had grown where villagers from surrounding places exchanged their products. No doubt Hamon could see the further development of such a site would be a good speculative venture for permanent settlement by which he could build one of the 500 new boroughs of the middle ages (Crosby, 1996, 50; Hill, 1998, 7). From the rents and dues paid by the new resident market traders he could become wealthy, and pay off debts incurred when he provided five knights for Edward I and also mustered troops against the Welsh and Scots.

The general planning principles for the design of a new borough, whether royal, ecclesiastical or seigneurial, were of Norman origin following those of the bourg of Breteuil in Normandy, i.e. the laying out of a central market, where the inhabitants and visiting traders could exchange their wares, surrounded by streets laid out at right angles to each other on Roman lines, along which burgage plots (crofts) were planned, one for each burgess. These, of a standard size 2 perches by 5, were laid out for the burgesses on which to build a house (messuage or toft) and develop their variety of trades. The sites of properties built at the street end of burgages and their present street numbers are shown on Fig.1 show-

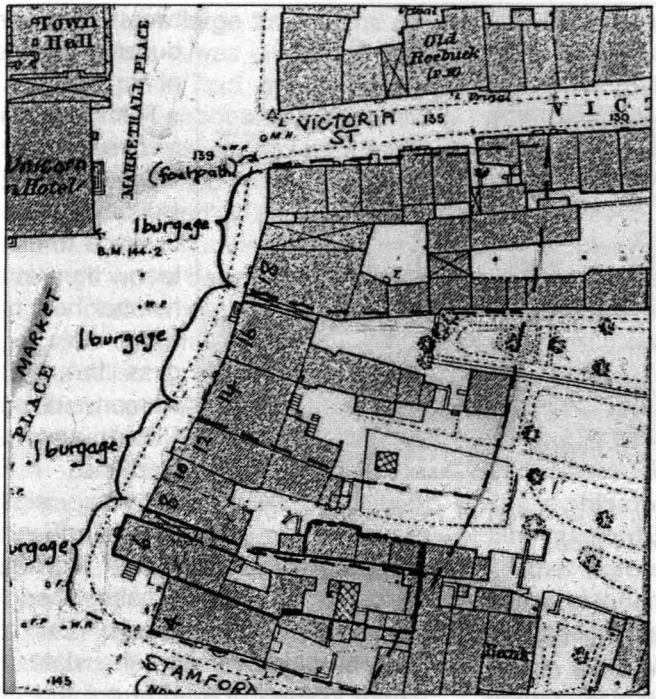

Fig.1. Old Market Place, 1872 OS map, showing location of properties mentioned. Dashes show the approximate outlines of four former burgages.

ing some buildings and street numbers on the east side of the market place. The map dates from 1872 but most of the properties are still there.

The details of the royal charter legitimising the market and the second charter from the seigneur, Baron Hamon, are well known, including the elevation of the incoming tenants, freemen or servile, to free burgess status if they could pay the necessary rent, usual in some boroughs, of 12d a year for a burgage and an acre strip in the town field. The approximate location of some of the burgages has been known since 1992 (Bayliss, 1992a, Fig.6; Littler, Joyce, Chapter Sixteen). This article confines itself to some literacy sources and some local fieldwork. We are in a metric phase for measurement at present but we must now briefly go back to the old measures, acres for areal measure, and perches for linear measure, a perch being 16½ feet (statute), also to the Norman shilling of 12d for the rent of an Altrincham burgage.

A useful literary source is a paper by Jim Haworth translating two rentals of the manor of Dunham Massey, one dated 1347AD and the other 1411AD (Haworth, 2001). Problems posed by details from these documents[1] in respect of the burgesses and burgages of Altrincham have already been described (Bayliss, 1992a and 1992b). The value of Haworth's work, apart from his deductions, is that he provides clear tables of the burgesses' names and the burgages they held. The tabulated number of burgages held raises some questions when details are examined for other boroughs.

Fig. 2. Nos. 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and part of 14, numbered from right to left, Old Market Place.

A point of interest was that the 1347AD rental was carried out just over half a century after the foundation of the borough in 1290. It had been calculated previously from maps that Altrincham had 120 burgages in 1290, one for each burgess and one can expect there would have been some increase or decrease in the numbers as time passed, but as the 1347 survey was only fifty years later (1290-1347) little change might be expected by then. But in 1347 while the burgages still totalled a number in the 120s there were, remarkably, only forty burgesses to occupy them, and the problem is - what had happened to the other eighty freemen? As I pointed out (1992b and c), the number of the original burgages was, not surprisingly, divided in 1347 between the reduced number of burgesses.

There was, in fact, a range of holdings by individuals from one burgage to nineteen, the latter number held not by a male burgess but by a woman, Elena Criour, and her husband held another eight, together about a fifth of the total. Wealthy people indeed! Due to my miscalculation of the date as 1348 instead of 1347, I put this decline in burgess numbers down to the incidence of the Black Death, which ravaged the country in 1348. Whatever the cause of these circumstances, what Haworth's tables of burgages, and who held them, makes clear is that while there were many multiple holdings there was no instance of a burgess holding less than one whole burgage.

Looking now at other places, Tait considered the situation in Manchester, which had a charter in 1301, but he could not find out from the charter how many burgages there had been, nor their size (Tait, 1904, 64). This was because they had been established without standardisation of measurement. Man-

chester was a large town some decades before it was given a charter and the place had grown up unplanned. Tait suggested there could have been some examples of multiple holdings and also 'burgages could be divided' (Tait, 68). Alterations of the number and size of holdings would have been expected at any place where enterprising burgesses bought and sold land. Carus-Wilson, from a survey of Stratford-upon-Avon in 1251-52, half a century after its charter, counted 234 burgesses holding the 250 burgages in the town. Yet even there, when the ratio of burgage to burgess was approximately 1:1, the burgesses possessed a variety of number and sizes of holdings. At Stratford, Richard de Bagendon held eighteen burgages. The next largest holder held five burgages and eight *half-burgages* (and five shops, a 'place' and a share in an oven). After half a century only a quarter of the burgesses held single burgages. Sixty-seven burgesses each held a half-burgage, sometimes sharing this with others; two burgesses held two-thirds of a burgage each; five held one-third each and one a quarter of a burgage (Carus-Wilson, 1965, 59). However, two-thirds of the original burgages remained intact and most of the rest were split only into halves. These sub-divisions were very much in contrast to Altrincham where, fifty years after its foundation, only whole burgages were recorded.

It is strange that at Altrincham there was no single instance of sub-division of any holding after fifty years. Could it be with a population reduced to a third of its original number there was no pressure to divide the land? Additionally, the acre strip fields outside the town were private holdings of the burgesses and hedged in some fashion, but in spite of there being multiple burgage holdings (such as by the Criours) there were not many amalgamations of the strip fields to make bigger fields because a large number of single strips were still shown on the tithe map of 1838.

Other boroughs did not have the same standard size and shape of burgage as at Altrincham and in some boroughs, as noted above, there was no standardisation across the town. At Stratford-upon-Avon they were standard, and large, at 3½ perches by 12, nearly 60 feet by 200, narrow end to the road, 'rather more than a quarter of an acre', as Carus-Wilson states. With a width of 60 feet the author states each burgess could build a house as big as a manor house in a village.

The burgages at Salford given its in charter in 1230 (Tait, 1904, 63) were even larger, an acre in size, but, as at Stratford, there was no acre of arable land 'in the field' to with them. At Altrincham the size was 2 perches by 5 and the burgess also had one acre in 'the field', i.e. a strip in the Townfield, the former openfield of the pre-existing servile

village. Though Altrincham's charter was very much a copy of Macclesfield's, the size of burgages in the latter town charter were not mentioned (Bayliss, 1997, 8); they seem to have grown haphazardly like Manchester's, and the charter only referred to burgesses, not to burgage details. Nor were the Macclesfield men given an acre strip in the arable field. In the granting of such arable strips to them, the Altrincham men seem to have had, locally at least, an unique perk.

Fig. 3. Cottages built inside the southern boundary of the burgage of No.16, the rear of the main property is on the right.

It has long been accepted that the 'acre' strips in the openfield (Townfield) allocated to each burgess were measured in 'Cheshire' acres - 2.1 statute acres - approximately the size of many strip fields on the tithe map of 1838. This had led me to assume (Bayliss, 1992a, 31) that the same 'Cheshire' measurement, 2.1 x statute, applied also to the 2 perches width and the 5 perches length of the burgages, making them 66 feet wide by 165 long; this earlier idea turned out to be wildly wrong.

I had a recent hunch that statute measure, and not Cheshire measure, was used to lay out the burgages on the east side of Old Market Place, seen on Fig.1. In an attempt to test the mathematical regularity of burgage size in Altrincham they were surveyed with the help of Bernard Champness and Roger Thwaite to whom I record my thanks.[2] The width and length, using a modern perch of 16½ feet, at 2 perches by 5 in statute measure should have been 33 feet by 82½. Also old maps, such as that shown, suggest the plots on the east side of Old Market Place were divided mathematically not only into burgages, but by sale or gift into half-burgages and even one-third burgages.

If no such sub-division was recorded in Haworth's list for 1347 it had certainly happened by the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries, when Joyce Littler wrote that Whitwham's building, No.6, Old Market Place, occupied a half-burgage (Bayliss 1992a, Chapter Sixteen) with a frontage of 16½ feet. In the rest of the block concerned, measurement

on the ground showed Morrell's, No.4, was the other half of the burgage with Whitwham's; Medical Money Management, Nos.8-12, Fig.2, was formerly three separate thirds of one burgage, each third 11 feet wide. The former three distinct properties, Nos.8, 10 and 12 can still identified; No.14, Mason Co. and No.16, William Lill's occupy two half-burgages, and the presently empty property, No.18, was a half-burgage. Opposite, the old Unicorn and the town hall of 1849 both occupied plots of one burgage width.

The variable shapes and sizes of plots associated with the houses and shops in George Street, might have been burgages but they varied in width and depth compared with the regularity of those round the market place. Perhaps, like Manchester, Salford and Macclesfield, George Street with its varied sized tofts and crofts was already in existence as a small town with burgesses before the rest of the planned parts of the borough were laid out in 1290.

Turning briefly to discuss the backs of burgages, Fig.3 shows the back of the office building of property No.16 (white). This shows that burgages in the mid-nineteenth century, when the population of the town was increasing by a quarter each decade, were filled by rows of brick cottages and other premises, built to house the incomers. The ends of the plots are now difficult to discern in this particular group of burgages as the back lane, usual along the rear, has been built-over by offices in modern times, but can still be seen elsewhere.

This article has highlighted the possibility that different standards of measurement were used in the same town, 'Cheshire square measure' (an acre was approximately twice the modern one) for the farming area, but normal 'statute linear' measure for burgage plots. Perhaps the ancient local 'Cheshire' square measures were giving way to national statute standards at the end of the thirteenth century. The Altrincham burgages were laid out at 2 perches by 5, but divisions into halves, thirds and quarters did not take place as early as some other towns though this had certainly occurred by the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries. The 2 perch fronts and the sub-divisions of ancient times still control property size and transactions today.

Notes

1. I used some of the details of the Rylands documents EGR2/1/1/1/2/1/1/2 and 2/1/1/3 for my own translation in *AHS Journal*, 1992b and c, but stated the date of the documents was 1348AD. This was an error, they were written in 1347 and so the reduction of burgess numbers to one-third was not due to the Black Death of 1348, but to some cause between 1290 and 1347.
2. The full report entitled 'Photographic survey of burgage plots running east from Church Street, Altrincham, between Stamford Street (Kingsway) and Victoria Street' by Bernard Champness

is lodged in the Society archives. The photographs here are by Bernard.

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A HISTORY OF THE ALTRINCHAM AND DISTRICT DARBY AND JOAN CLUB, MAYORS ROAD, STAMFORD PARK

(WRITTEN IN THE 1960'S BY MRS. M. COATES)

In 1946 — a year after the Second World War had ended — a number of ladies approached Mrs. Dykes (who was a Red Cross Commandant during the war) and said to her that they felt something ought to be done to brighten the lot of the over sixties in Altrincham and District, many of whom lived alone or perhaps with married children away from old friends, and therefore were very lonely.

And so Mrs. Dykes with the help of Miss Shelmerdine and other Red Cross people called a meeting of representatives from the various social organisations such as The Red Cross, Hale and Altrincham Townswomens Guild, The Rotary Club of Altrincham, Inner Wheel and the W.R.V.S. to meet them and talk things over. The outcome of all this was a search for a suitable room where the Darby and Joan members could meet in comfort and enjoy a cup of tea and a game of cards and dominoes.

I would like to add here that friends from these organisations, and at a later date joined by TOC H members and The Catholic Women's League, have supported us right royal ever

since.

It wasn't too easy to find a room at that time as very high prices were asked for rents — but a room was found eventually in Lloyd Street — not too suitable as it meant that the members had to climb up a steep flight of stairs. However, it was the only one possible and so it was taken — and there our club commenced with a membership of eight, amongst whom were Mr. Manley, Miss Platt, Grannie Hollingworth, Mrs. Bailey and two Mrs. Renshaws. All the cash we had was ten shillings contributed by interested friends.

Catering was rather a headache in those days, as you will remember. With rationing still in force, forms had to be filled in and coupons obtained for sugar, tea, fats etc. and returns made for every cup of tea provided and all food consumed at the club. I can't remember how long rationing lasted, but I guess the committee gave a sigh of relief when it ended.

It was soon found undesirable to continue at Lloyd Street and the search was renewed for something better and this time it had to be a room on the ground floor. Eventually this was found in a room behind the Rostherne Cafe in Ashley Road and here the club flourished and grew.

After a while the increase in membership made it necessary to move again. We had members, not only from Altrincham, but from Hale, Bowdon, Broadheath, Sale and Timperley and that was why we decided to call our club The Altrincham and District Darby and Joan Club. It was the first of its kind in the area.

At this time the Y.M.C.A. knowing of our dilemma, came to our rescue and offered their large hall, including the use of kitchen, lighting, heat and equipment for the modest sum of 5/- per afternoon. We met on Monday afternoons only for a time until Mrs. Evans (one time Vice-Chairman with Mrs. Dykes) took charge of a room at Newton Street Night School for Thursday afternoons, which was very helpful. We had a choir in those days which Mrs. Evans trained and used to invite them to her house for rehearsals.

About sixteen or seventeen years ago (1950?), when Mr. Gibson was Mayor of Altrincham — and had come to the Y.M.C.A. to open our Annual Sale of Work — he somewhat took our breath away by suggesting to us the advantage of having a Club House of our own. We were staggered to say the least of it, as we realised that it would mean raising thousands of pounds to build, and not having very much money in the bank. We had to have a very good think, but decided to make a start by opening a Building Fund with £100 which we squeezed out of our bank account and put into a Savings Bank to gain interest. From that small beginning, and as a result of innumerable efforts such as 'Flag Days', house-to-house collections, books of bricks which we offered as 'Be a Brick and Buy One',

we eventually raised £1,000.

I should say here that by this time the Council had, with Lord Stamford's permission, offered us our present site — and that by the kindness and generosity of our honorary architect, Mr. Geoff Hartington, plans had been drawn up and passed by the Council for the Building which was to cost in the region of £5,000 at least.

We then decided to approach the Cheshire Community Council at Chester for a grant from the King George VI Fund and Mrs. Dykes and I went to and from Chester many times to plead our cause. After a long wait the Council offered us £500. We wrote thanking them very much for their offer, but at the same time pointed out that as the Building was to cost so much — and that they had approved the plans — we were rather disappointed that the proffered grant was not a more substantial one.

So after another long wait and sundry meetings, they eventually increased the grant to £1,500 with which we were delighted. This brought the amount of money we could rely upon up to £3,500, but we still needed about another £2,000 to meet our target.

In the meantime a Building Committee had been formed, supported by many of our friends too numerous to mention, and Councillor McLennan and later Alderman Chorleton became our Chairmen in succession. We were most grateful to them for their support and kindly advice.

Two years later — as we still felt that we hadn't enough money in hand to commence building — we received a letter from the Cheshire Community Council saying that as the King George VI Fund was being wound up, their promised grant would have to be withdrawn unless we commenced building immediately. With this gun to our heads we were somewhat shaken, but we still needed quite a lot of money before we dared think of building. What were we to do?

We discussed the problem at some length our Building Committee when Mr. Hartington made a suggestion that we asked for loans of £50 for five years free of interest from friends who were willing to help and he proffered the first £50.

In this way — plus gifts and further efforts enthusiastically supported by our club members, we raised £1000 and in a matter of weeks with this money in hand we decided to commence building. In March 1958 the then Mayor of Altrincham, Miss Fitton, cut the first sod.

On the day the Club was opened in the following October by Lady Lewisham, we had a most wonderful surprise. Mrs. Parry, who was our secretary, handed up to us on the platform two cheques. One was for £100 being money collected for us by Mr. Brian Byrom and the other was a cheque for £500 from Mr. Ross Seymour, our President.

These gifts came as a complete surprise — I could hardly believe my own eyes — we were so thrilled we nearly wept.

These wonderful gifts, followed by others relieved our minds very considerably, as you will understand, and later we formed a Management Committee with Mr. McEwan as our chairman. We continued with our efforts and we were able to clear our debts and pay back all the borrowed loans, except to the friends who refused to take the money. The money was paid at the end of four years instead of the five years originally promised. We felt so grateful for the guidance given which had prompted us to put the building in hand.

First Chairmen of Darby and Joan Club

Mrs. Dykes — Chairman from 1946 to 1952

Mrs. Coates — Chairman from 1952 to 1966

Mrs. Hope — Chairman from 1966 to ?

Postscript by Mrs Betty Hayhurst

This history of the Darby and Joan Club was found after the club closed in December 1998 by Mrs. Betty Hayhurst (secretary/treasurer). The building was extended in later years and a stage was added. The club closed through falling membership and lack of volunteers. The President at the time was Mrs. Ross Seymour and the chairman was Mrs. Peggy Bowie, who was honoured by Her Majesty the Queen with the M.B.E. for her charitable work in the district. The club house was taken over by Trafford M.B.C. in the 1980's and after the club closed the building passed to a counselling charity. However, Trafford M.B.C. wanted the building to house the Family Contact Line, but before anything could be done the building was torched by vandals. It seems such a shame that all the work done by the good folk of Altrincham should be forgotten and it is to this end that I have placed this history written by Mrs. Coates on record.

BOOK REVIEWS

A Country House at Work: Three Centuries of Dunham Massey **by Pamela Sambrook**
The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SWIH 9AS Paperback, £18.99. ISBN 0 7078 0344 6.

This is a story mainly about the servant class working in two different centuries, the early nineteenth and the early twentieth. The information gives an overall picture of a large comfortable family house, but omits many facts which would have added to the interest it arouses, such as showing how frequently the employees were related to each other so it becomes a family affair

both above and below stairs. The characters really come alive and you can imagine how the family of John Davenport, the 6th Earl's Land Agent, were delighted when their son John followed in father's footsteps, albeit at Enville, one of the other houses owned by the Stamfords.

The sources, The Stamford Papers, which are available at Rylands Library, and papers held at Enville have been well used to give an insight into the lives of those who lived at Dunham.

The book is divided into sections rather than chapters and can be used for reference as well as general reading. You can find out what the servants ate, not only when the family were in residence but also when the family were away visiting their other houses. Who travelled and who stayed in the house. What were the indoor servants' jobs and what did it involve? How did the hierarchy work? Or perhaps you would prefer to find out about the outside workers?

Who was really in charge? Was it Hugo Worthington, the Steward and Man of Business or Anne Calder the Housekeeper? By the way did you know that all senior female servants were called Mrs whether they were married or not? Just how much influence did the Earl or Countess have? You can find out all the answers in the book.

In the twentieth century it was all change with the house being brought up to date with every modern convenience being introduced. The house was brought into the 1910s and left there!

I recommend this readable book to you, but if unlike me you do not know the house please come and see it so you can see just how good the photographs are and how the story fits together.

Jill Champness

ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY BOOKSTALL

Website: http://althistsoc.users.btopenworld.com

To order contact The Editor (address on p.1)

Back copies of Altrincham History Society Journals

Altrincham History Society Journal 4
Altrincham in the Survey and Rental of the Manor of Dunham Massey AD1348-49: Part II; 26th November, 1813 - General Rejoicing in Altrincham; Extracts of Proceedings of the Altrincham and District Natural History and Literary Society; A Royal Coat of Arms at Shotwick.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 5
"Finem Respice" and the Black Horse; A Brief Insight into Military Obligation in Ashley in the Fourteenth Century; Captain

Scott's Visit to Seamons Moss School; Obituary and Appreciation: Sale's History Man - Norman Swain.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members.

Altrincham History Society Journal 9
The Dutch wars - 1652-74; A Tameside Man in the Isle of Man; The Denton Churchyard Masonic Gravestone; Stray Thoughts.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 10
What's in a Name? The term 'alias' and the legitimate families of Altrincham, Ashton-on-Mersey and Sale; Cunningham's Camp, 1894- 1939: The International Young Men's Holiday Camp, Isle of Man; 1667 Subsidy Roll for Altrincham; The Contribution of Some Recent Booklets on the Civil War in Cheshire and Surrounding Counties.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 11
Provost's Sunday; Comments on the 1667 Subsidy Roll for Altrincham; Comparison of Altrincham in 1667 with Neighbouring Townships.
Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

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Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

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Price: £0.75 to members, £1.00 to non-members

Altrincham History Society Journal 20
Source of Water For Dunham Mill; Gossip and Scandal in Bowdon and Altrincham: Part 1; 'The Mayor's Land'; 'Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-50: Katherine Simpson to

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Price: £1.00 to members, £1.50 to non-members

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Price: £1.00 to members, £1.50 to non-members

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'The Luptons of Altrincham and Wyatt Clocks'; 'Random Jotting Continued'; 'Fat Lawyers: The careers of local attorneys in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries'; 'An Overview of the Stamford Archive at John Rylands Library'; 'Alison Uttley's House - My Childhood Home'; 'Charity Shops in Altrincham – Early Days'.
Price: £1.25 to members, £1.50 to non-members

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Information From House Deeds
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Robert Johnson of Hale: ~~International~~ Local Man of Mystery
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Broadheath's Black Night, 25 October 1944
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Price: £0.30

7. *Medical Matters*
Price: £0.30

8. *Ronald Gow - Blue Plaque*
Price: £0.30

9. *The Buildings of Central Altrincham, 2000.*
Price £8.50 (£6.50 to members)

Other Publications

Map of Carrington, 1904 (with article on the history of Carrington Moss by Don Bayliss on reverse)

ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

The main aim of the society is to further the study of the local history of Altrincham and to enable such findings to be communicated to members of the community at large

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Altrincham History Society

JOURNAL

Old Bleeding Wolf Hotel, Hale
Altrincham Market
St. Anne's Home, Bowdon
Church Tithes in Hale
H.W. Kearns and Co., 1930-1945
Local Trafalgar Heroes

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Cover illustration: Bleeding Wolf in the late nineteenth century.
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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Another varied set of articles for you to read, ably edited by Jill Groves. If you have a topic which interests you and you would like some help to get started on it, or publish it, contact any of the authors or Jill – they may be able to help. Doing some research is an interesting way of spending some of those long winter evenings. You may be able to add something to the story of Altrincham's past.

During the summer Bernard and Jill Champness and Roger Thwaite have been working with Mike Nevell and

Time Team to investigate a former Arkwright cotton mill in Manchester. Watch out for a TV programme early next year.

Don Bayliss

SOCIETY NEWS AND MEETINGS

Meets at the Methodist Church on corner of Woodlands Road and Barrington Road, Altrincham at 7.30pm on Tuesdays. Visitors £2.00.

22 November 2005, Warburton Church and Village, Dr Mike Nevell

20 December 2005, Joyce Grenfell (and Christmas Buffet), Marie Dixon

31 January 2006, Manchester Town Hall, John Archer

28 February 2006, Manchester at War, Chris Makepeace

28 March 2006, Memories of a Local Family since 1766, Ronald Trenbath

25 April 2006, Ancoats Past & Present, Prof. Mike Rose

23 May 2006, God's Englishman: Oliver Cromwell in context, Dr Peter Gaunt.

OBITUARY: NANCY SHEILA DORE (1920-2005)

Nancy Dore, Honorary Member of Altrincham History Society and widow of our first president, Norman Dore, died on 5 February 2005. Most members will know her as a great supporter of her husband Norman, especially in his work on the Civil Wars in Cheshire, and as a great supporter also of our Society. Even after the death of her husband, Nancy continued to support the Society in person.

However, Nancy was more than just her husband's supporter. She had her own career as a teacher and she taught at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls.

She leaves two sons.

HISTORY NEWS

Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act, 2003

This new Act passed into law very quietly at the end of 2003. It introduces the new offence of 'dishonestly dealing with a "tainted" cultural object knowing or believing it to be tainted' where a 'cultural object' is defined as 'an object of cultural, architectural or archaeological interest' and 'tainted' if it was removed unlawfully after 30 December 2003. The aim is to stop the theft and selling on of items from historical places and environments. English Heritage says the Act has been little used to date and thinks that Local Authorities could prepare and circulate to potential dealers lists of tainted items known have been

removed from listed buildings in their area. [Source: Conservation Bulletin from English Heritage]

Native American Tribes in Salford, 1887

Research by a local trade unionist, Mr Stephen Coen, has discovered that when Buffalo Bill Coady's Wild West Show came to winter in Salford in 1887, a number of the nearly one hundred Lakota and Oglala Sioux who set up an encampment in the city (along with their 180 horses, eighteen buffalo, fourteen mules and donkeys, ten elk and two deer), had been involved in the Battle of Little Big Horn and were on the run from the US government. Even so they found a warm welcome in Salford. They performed the show in Salford and Manchester and raced their broncos against English thoroughbreds – and won. A couple of other things happened whilst the tribes were in Salford. A young Lakota warrior, called Surrounded Bytheenemy, died aged twenty-two of a lung infection. Unfortunately his grave isn't recorded. And, on the happy side, a daughter, Frances Victoria Alexander, was born to Little Chief and Good Robe and christened in a local church in February 1888. A number of the Lakota Sioux missed the train and ship back to America, including the medicine man Black Elk, and had to make their own way back to Dakota.

Mr Coen is hoping to forge links between modern under-privileged young people in Salford and young Lakota Sioux in an exchange scheme. He is also hoping to bring descendants of those who visited Salford in 1887/1888 to Salford for a commemorative ceremony and, perhaps, to also honour the memory of Surrounded Bytheenemy at Salford Quays. [Source: *The Guardian*]

Events in the North West

Imperial War Museum North

Exhibitions

The North at War
24 March 2005-8 January 2006
For more details contact Imperial War Museum tel. 0161 836 4000;
www.iwm.org.uk/north

Salford Museum and Art Gallery

Crescent Road, Salford
The Spirit of Salford: Life on the Home Front during WW2
Until 2 November 2005
The Story of Textiles
1 August 2005 – 30 July 2006

History Fairs

Salford Local History Day, Salford Museum and Art Gallery, 20 November 2005
Family History Society of Cheshire, Northwich Memorial Hall, late February 2006
Stockport Family History Fair, Stockport Town Hall, 2 April 2006
Cheshire Archaeology Day, Northwich Memorial Hall, April 2006

"OLD BLEEDING WOLF" HOTEL AND THE NORTHERN AUTOMOBILE CO., ASHLEY ROAD, HALE

Bernard Champness

Many will recall that this well-known pub and its neighbouring garage have been re-developed into a group of luxury apartments. To record our heritage Don and I surveyed the site one very hot summer's afternoon. The following notes emerged as part of the research.

Rumour suggests that the landlord of the inn killed a trooper from Bonnie Prince Charlie's Army with a sword in 1745. There is a suggestion that the hotel was rebuilt circa 1804. Then in 1808 it was used as the venue for the auction of the Crewe Estates. A Mrs Ashley lived at the Wolf in 1819.

The 1872 OS map shows the inn as a long, thin, rectangular building, probably timber framed with wattle and daub walls and a thatched roof.

The south side of the hotel about 1895.

By 1874 Edward Bailey was landlord of the "Old Bleeding Wolf" and by about 1880 a horse omnibus ran between the hotel and Peel Causeway Station.

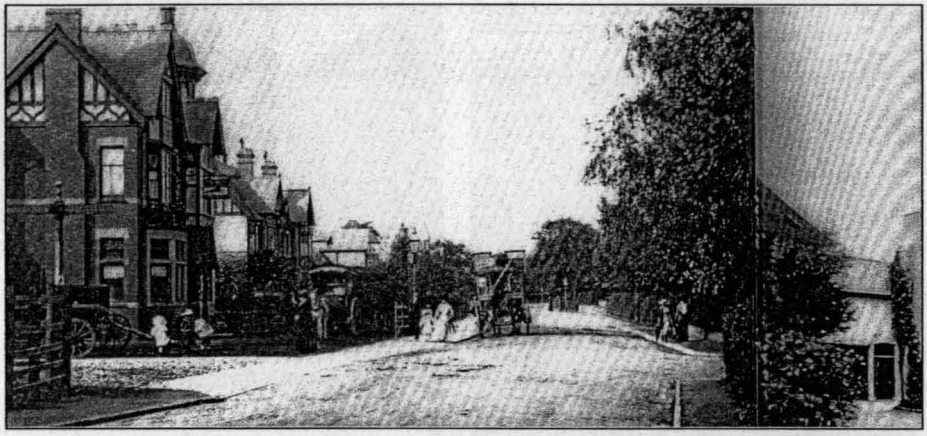
By this time the building has a slate roof. A horse drawn carriage is shown on the left and a postman's handcart on the right. The rail in front of the hotel would be used for tethering horses.

A two-horse omnibus outside the hotel.

Incidentally there is a story that the hotel was the site where the last wolf was killed. However, pubs with the same name were in Northwich and Rode near Stoke.

Edward Bailey relinquished the tenancy about 1901 when the building was demolished.

The pub sign shows Edward Bailey as the landlord. The chimney breast was brick but lath with wattle and daub wall can be seen to the right of the doorway. The building was rendered. The demolition gang are up-

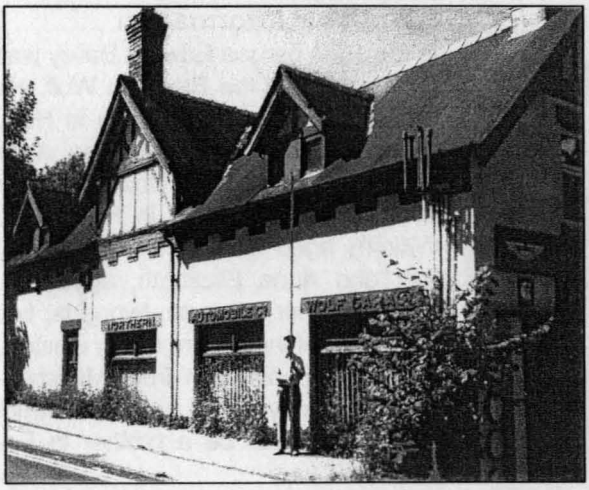


The new Bleeding Wolf with its coach house. Early twentieth century.

stairs with the foreman clearly in charge. Probably the man with the pipe and boater hat is a passer by.

A new hotel was erected with an "L shaped" coach house and accommodation for the coachman above. Hugh Frazer became the landlord.

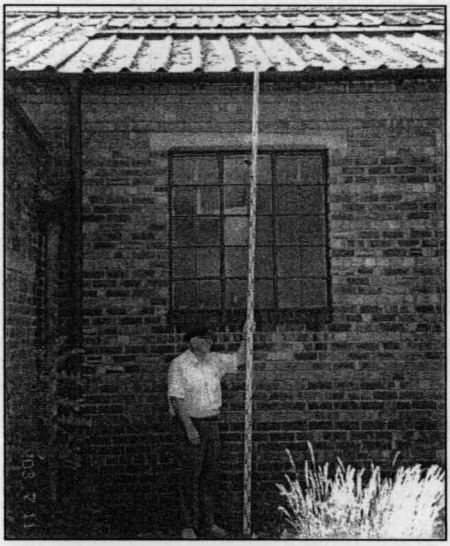
John Fema was landlord for just one year. Did he volunteer for the War? Anyway Albert Hall took over. The Altrincham Bus Co. ran a circular route passed the hotel between Altrincham and Hale Barns. By 1920 the coach house had been converted to a garage named the Northern Automobile Co. which claimed to have the first petrol pump in the north of England. The garage did not really make money and passed between various proprietors.



The garage looking from the south.

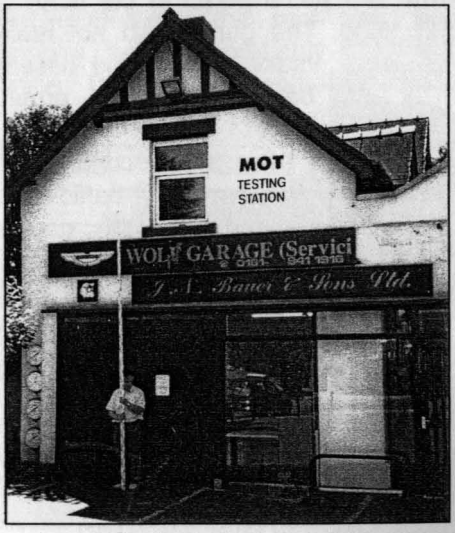
After the Second World War, motor traffic expanded and the garage had to be extended. Thomas Dyson took over the pub in 1930. Harry B. Kempton was listed as the hotel proprietor in 1948. The garage was again extended about 1960.

The petrol tanks were buried below the forecourt. Obviously the left hand bay contained a second floor,

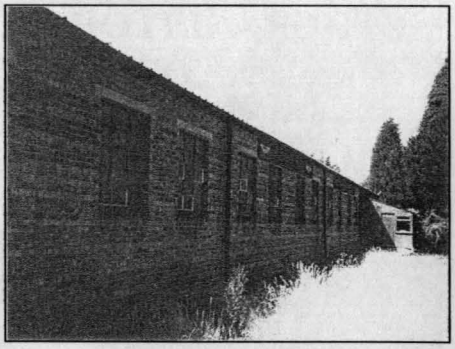


Round the back.

probably intended as offices or a parts store room. A smaller folding sliding door on the right gave access to the later show rooms. The shorter



The garage seen from the east with an enlarged view of the petrol gauges



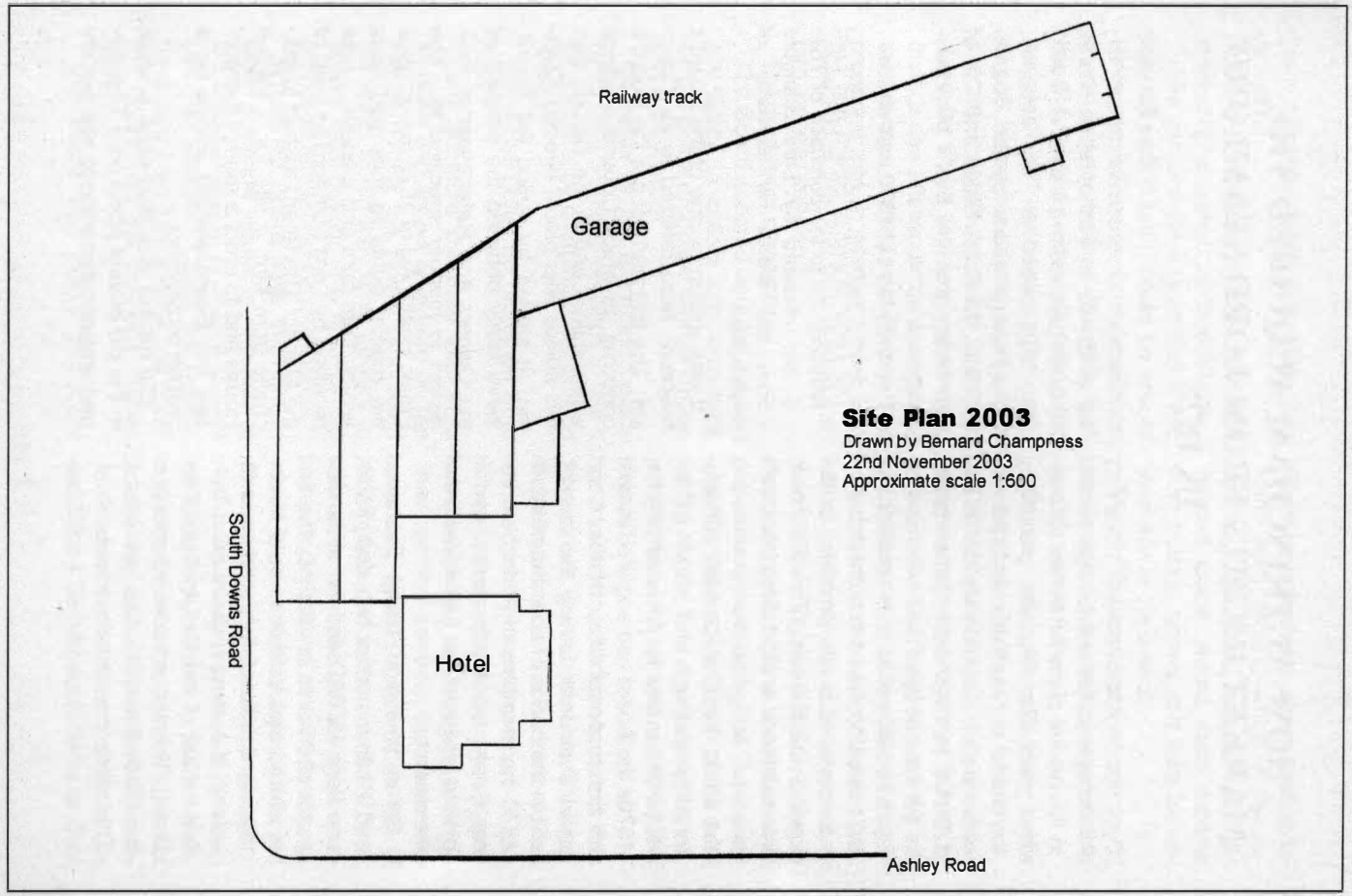
The site is now fenced off pending

bays running west from the forecourt were used as a car sales room. The long bay running parallel to the railway was used for repairs and servicing and the equipment included a car lift. Aston Martin signs were displayed suggesting this make was serviced at the garage.

Grateful thanks to Doug Rendell and the Hale Civic Society for access to the first three photographs.

Additional Information

In the 1881 census Edward Bailey was the licensee of the Bleeding Wolf. He was aged thirty-five and born in Hale. His wife, Mary Elizabeth, was aged thirty-two and born in Bowdon. Their three children, all born in Hale, were William, aged seven, Edward, aged five, and Anne Elizabeth, aged two. They had four servants, two girls, two boys. Two of them were Bailey kinsfolk, Sarah, aged nineteen from Manchester, and Henry, aged seventeen from Hale, who could be a brother to Edward.


Railway track
Garage
Site Plan 2003
Drawn by Bernard Champness
22nd November 2003
Approximate scale 1:600
South Downs Road
Hotel
Ashley Road

HOW ALTRINCHAM ACQUIRED THE MARKET RIGHTS FROM LORD STAMFORD IN 1878

Don Bayliss

By the late-nineteenth century Altrincham market and fair had existed in the market place for almost six hundred years after they were granted by the charter of King Edward I to the lord of the manor, Hamo de Masci V in July 1290AD. In 1848AD the butter market in the market place had been demolished because of its poor condition but the market continued to be held there.

Because of health problems in the town, a Local Board of Health came into existence in 1851. This became a powerful body eventually replacing the Court Leet which had administered the borough and market for the lord of the manor for centuries. By the 1870s the Board had acquired almost all the responsibilities of the Court apart from one, running the market, still in the hands of Lord Stamford. In 1878 the members of Altrincham Local Board of Health, considered it time to take over the tolls and dues of the market.

Some time ago David Eastwood and I came across two documents, one from 1878AD and the other nine years afterwards in 1887AD, the first of which helps to fill in some of the intriguing details of the processes involved of removing the market from the control of the Earl to that of the Board. The second covers aspects of the market working nine years later. This article covers both documents.

It must be remembered Lord Stamford was an absentee landowner living at Enville in Staffordshire at this time, so this attempt by the Board was to proceed in his absence, through negotiations by the Board's solicitors, Nicholls, Hinde and Co. of Altrincham, and the Earl's Manchester agents.

The document of 1878 was entitled:

The Local Board of Health and Lord Stamford As to the purchase of Tolls & etc. received by Lord Stamford from the Manor or Lordship of Altrincham

It was written by one of the Board's solicitors, here referred to as 'Counsel'. The first part set out the Board's concerns, to which Counsel's advice was required and in the second part this advice was given, headed 'Opinion.' It started by noting the Board, 'have lately obtained the consent of the Owners and Ratepayers of their district in manner specified in... The Public Health Act of 1875 to purchase the market rights to tolls and dues arising from fairs and markets... now received by Lord Stamford as Lord of the Manor.' The Board wished to purchase from him 'a site for a Market House and to erect a market thereon' and the Board wanted advice on a drafted conveyance.

The market was held once a week in the old market place on a Tuesday and anyone attempting to sell, but not

from a licensed stall, was liable to a fine of £2.

It was agreed the present land and market rights were Lord Stamford's.

(The reasons for a proposed move are not stated but it could be one of three possibilities or a combination of them. It was perhaps thought, first, the old market place was getting too busy with traffic such as wagons, carriages, horse buses and coaches or, second, it was considered to be too small for a site of a large market or, third, a new site would be symbolic of the powers of the Local Board. The proposed site in Market Street was occupied at the time by a market garden, easy to develop.)

The document carried on:

The Board seemed doubtful if it had any rights to collect tolls anywhere except in the proposed Market House and market place.

As owner of the old market place could Lord Stamford continue to use it for a market by charging rents instead of tolls?

Could the Board be protected from this?

Lord Stamford collected tolls from all stalls and shows anywhere on the manor. When the Board purchased the rights would they have powers to collect tolls beyond the area of the proposed Market House and market?

Would the Board have the right to erect a Market House in one part of the borough and to provide a market place in another? Could the market be shifted from time to time and could the Board use the previous market place?

The Board had noted that Lord Stamford got much of his market income from 'shows,' which, if the authority of the Board was limited to its 'market place' would such income from outside shows and fairs be unavailable to the Board?

The draft conveyance was enclosed for Counsel's comment (not available for discussion here).

Counsel advised as follows under the heading: *Opinion.*

The solicitor stated that as there was no mention by the Board of whether the Earl's rights were by ancient charter or under the control of any court this fact 'should be enquired about.' This was a curious observation considering the solicitor, being in the town; must have been aware of the current control by the Court Leet 'market lookers' on behalf of the Lord of the Manor but he obviously felt this should have been addressed by the Board.

As to the Board's right to collect tolls elsewhere, the opinion was 'it will not be competent' for the Board to collect market tolls 'elsewhere than in the limits of the appointed market places and buildings' and suggested (on their getting control) the imprecise manorial rights set out in an Act of 1847 (repeated in the act of 1875) be rewritten to make these rights precise. Under the Act of 1875 the Board could have a new system of tolls but this would apply within the limits only.

The Board were protected by being enabled to put a stop to market business in the streets, a new right not possessed by Lord Stamford. The solicitor doubted whether the whole Local Board District could be a market

area, it would be 'contrary to the spirit of the Act,' and a burden on the public.

The Board, after their purchase, would have the right to close the existing market and open new ones and may exercise this right from time to time. It would be a right at Common Law because of the grant and ownership of the market franchise with purchase, providing it did not interfere with the 'rights, powers or privileges' of the owners of lands and tenements adjoining any proposed market.

Counsel was of the opinion that Lord Stamford or anyone else promoting a market on the old site would be 'a nuisance in law' but the Board might have some difficulty in 'completely putting a stop to' such trading by people accustomed to doing business there.

The continuance of fairs would be on a different footing from the market rights, in fact they were deliberately not mentioned in the 1875 Act because practices varied widely. Recourse had to be made to the Towns Police Clauses Act of 1847 which stated that persons who 'to the annoyance of the public expose for show live or (for) sale in the street except in an authorised market...or fair...any horse or exhibits in a caravan or otherwise any show or public entertainment' would have penalties imposed on them. So the Board would have certain controls over shows and fairs but if 'on private ground and if they were not to the public nuisance the Board would have a difficult legal right to interfere.' The right of the Board to the exclusive privilege of holding fairs or levying tolls on travelling shows may to some extent be considered 'open,' and the Lord of the Manor would be protected in his privilege of holding fairs and levying tolls wherever he wished.

Counsel's advice ended with the admonition that 'these decisions cover the case of a Local Board which merely exists as a body corporate for certain specific purposes, of which the holding of fairs is not one.'

(Signed Alex. C. Maberley
May 9th, 1878)

The market tolls and dues were sold for £1000 on 23 December 1878 and Market House was opened in 1879.

The document of 1887

Central government had sent a questionnaire to local authorities, in the case of Altrincham the continuing Local Board of Health, entitled *Queries for Local Authorities who own Markets.*

The responses from the Local Board (summarised) were as follows. Altrincham market was stated to be a general one selling butter, eggs, poultry, bacon, cheese, fruit and in 'the open ground' drapery, confectionery, hardware and 'pigs or other live animals.'

The rights had been bought for £1000. A market house 77' by 61' had been built by the Board, also a pig market 63' by 12' (noted by Chris Hill as being in George Street) and an open market 104' by 88.'

The capital expenditure had been £5163, £1000 for the market rights and £4163 'for the erection of market buildings and fitting and paving and flagging open market grounds.'

£4371 – 14 – 8 was outstanding as a loan. The methods of payment were to be 'yearly as 30 equal amounts of principal and interest, £4500 @ 4¼ per cent from Dec. 8th, 1878, £653 @ 4 per cent from Jany. 26th 1882'. The loan would not be paid off until close to the Great War.

The gross annual receipts were

	£ 138 – 8 – 4
Tolls	20 – 15 - 5
Rents	10 – 13 – 6
Stallages	79 – 14 – 10
Other receipts	27 – 4 – 7

(rents and stallages at the annual fair)

Details of the rents and dues for each product were not stated except for butter they were 'say, 6%', eggs '15%' and poultry '15%.' Tolls and dues were not enforced on the sale of goods outside the market building. The market was said to attract articles for sale from a radius of up to ten miles. There had been no complaint about restrictive practices nor about the accommodation being unacceptable. A surprising statement was that the main volume of sales was to shopkeepers. There was only one fair a year, stated to be on the lines of 'old village wakes or feasts, an opportunity for the assembling of a lot of shows, hobbyhorses and swings.' The sting in the tail in the Altrincham responses was that 'Many persons are of the opinion that the authority ought to have the power by a simple process to abolish such'. These were the answers given to the central government enquiry.

ST. ANNE'S HOME

A Brief Architectural, Social & Medical History

Sue Nichols

1837 Ibotson Walker, a merchant and manufacturer of fustian and fancy drill, bought land at the top of The Downs and built for his family a modest detached villa, one of the earliest in the area. It was known as Beech Grove by 1858 and The Beeches by 1867.

1847 Ibotson Walker buys more land from the same plot, which was adjacent to that bought to build Bowdon Downs Congregational Church, of which he was a Deacon.

1858-61 William Johnson, iron founder and his family rented Beech Grove.

1864-66 Joseph Thompson, a cotton manufacturer, Deacon of Bowdon Downs Church and educationalist, being the force behind Manchester Town Hall and a great supporter of Owens College, was renting Beech Grove.

1867-1879 Joseph Sidebotham first rents then buys Beech Grove in 1868 from the Estate of Ibotson Walker. He was a successful calico printer and colliery proprietor talented in astronomy, botany and photography, being a founder of the Manchester Photographic Society in 1855. He extended the house in Italianate white brick in the early 1870s on the garden side and in 1876 on Woodville Rd (archi tect Alexander Mills) and built an observatory in the grounds. His photo

graphs of his family and pets, the house, the building works of 1876 and the grounds still exist.

1875 The Manchester Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Throat was opened at 18 St. John St for the poor and needy, treating out-patients and in-patients. Due to the bad air and light however, the pa- tients could only be relieved rather than cured. The hospital was funded by public donation and subscription.

1882 Robert Koch in Germany isolated the T.B. bacterium and confirmed the link with its transmission in dusty, airless, dark environments with a cure being sunlight and fresh air. Dr Arthur Ransome, a G.P., medical statistician, innovator and researcher who edited a German scientific journal on T.B. Now had scientific proof of his statistical association. He joined the Hospital committee and revitalised the much needed relocation of the in-patients to a better environment. Armed with the Koch's scientific discoveries, he began a fundraising campaign in Bowdon, where he lived. The community supported the hospital financially, with goods in kind and by their expertise for many years.

1883-1884 Dr Ransome's friend and neighbour Joseph Sidebotham, having moved to Erlesdene on Green Walk by 1879, eventually sold The Beeches to the Hospital in 1884 for £5,000 with a donation of £2000. It was converted for use as an in-patient's hospital with the treatment and environment based on the latest scientific research. It was called "St. Anne's Home" after Sidebotham's late wife, Anne. She was the aunt of Thomas Alfred Coward, the naturalist, who lived opposite at 8 Higher Downs and would have delighted in the bats and owls that still inhabit the grounds.

1885 The new hospital opened with 16 patients who stayed for an average of 2 months with a regime of fresh air, sunshine and a good diet in a hygienic, dust free environment. This was the only free sanatorium in Britain until the 1900s. William J. Crossley, engineer and philanthropist, became Chairman and guided by Dr Ransome, commissioned plans for a state-of-the-art specialist wing, which he would finance. The design was engineered to reflect the latest scientific discoveries, being of a south-facing half-butterfly plan to maximise sunlight. A ventilation system in the raised cellars, in conjunction with the high ceilings and unique windows, provided a constant 5000 cubic ft of fresh air per bed per hour at a temperature of 62 degrees F. The initials "W.J.C." and the date "1886" appear on two terracotta pediments entwined with oak leaves and acorns.

The architects of the handsome Tuscan style building of brick and decorative terracotta were Tate & Popplewell of Manchester. Francis W. Crossley, William's brother was Vice-President and a Trustee, and lived around the corner at Fairlie on Cavendish Rd. William was living at Glenfield near St Margaret's church. Dr Ransome had moved from 12 Higher Downs to Devisdale House on St. Margaret's Rd.

1886 The Crossley Wing was completed, along with a new dining room extension on Woodville Rd. 20 additional patients were taken in. The hospital became an important centre

for pioneering medical research in conjunction with Owens College into the causes and further cures for T.B.

1891 An additional wing in the same style as the Crossley Wing was built along Bowdon Rd for an extra 14 patients and a men's sitting room was added to The Beeches.

1899 Verandahs for a systematic open air cure were added to the Crossley Wing and the façade of The Beeches was partially extended in white brick by W. Cecil Hardisty for the women's sitting room. The Bowdon Rd wing was also extended.

1905 The Crossley Sanatorium at Delamere by Hardisty was opened for 100 extra patients.

1934 An extension to the hospital was built along Woodville Rd as staff accommodation.

1944 Antibiotics meant a more reliable T.B. cure, reducing the need for sanatoria.

1948 St. Anne's became part of the NHS with an ENT clinic and wards used for general medicine, convalescence and geriatric care closing in December 2004.

The site's future is now uncertain, but it is hoped that the majority of the original buildings can be retained and imaginatively re-used and the open space, trees and wildlife habitat protected, in keeping with Conservation Area status.

CHURCH TITHES IN HALE, CHESHIRE

David Miller

"Only two things are certain in life: death and taxes." Benjamin Franklin.

Background to church tithes

The custom of giving a tenth part of income to the church dates back to Biblical times, for example, in Genesis:

> "Then the King of Salem, brought food and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he pronounced this blessing on Abram: 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High'. Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the booty." (Genesis 14 verses 18-20)

Tithes were payments made by parishioners from before Saxon times for the support of the parish church and its clergy, made compulsory by the time of the eighth century. The word 'tithe' means a one-tenth part, from Old English *teogoth*. At first tithes were payments in kind (animals, fish, crops, wool, milk, eggs, timber, vegetables, etc.) made up of an agreed proportion of the yearly profits of cultivation, farming, milling or fishing etc. There were other taxes: land was taxed by the Romans and from 1692 to support local amenities such as roads and poor relief, and income tax was introduced in 1799 by William Pitt the Younger to pay for the Napoleonic wars. Tithes can be split between 'Great' or Rectorial Tithes and 'Small' or Vicarial Tithes. The great tithes were payable to the rector (Latin *rector*, a director) and generally comprised tithes of grain, hay and timber while the small

tithes were payable to the vicar (from Latin *vicarious,* a deputy).

In many instances churches were linked to monasteries which received the rectorial tithes and the small tithes went to the vicar, who was appointed by the rector. Originally the rector was responsible for the chancel and providing the service books and vestments.

The ownership of a tithe was a property right that could be bought and sold, leased, mortgaged or given to others. This resulted in many of the rectorial tithes passing into lay hands. At the dissolution of the monasteries from 1536 to 1539 by Henry VIII, much church land and in many cases the accompanying rectors' tithes passed into lay ownership, becoming the personal property of the new owners.

After the dissolution of the abbeys, monastic estates were sold to lay men who became lay rectors if the estate had a rectory annexed to it. They acquired the right to appoint vicars to the parish with the approval of the bishop. The rector of St. Mary's, Bowdon had been the Bishop of Chester but this rectoral tithe was leased to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington who was thus a lay rector and received the rector's tithes, making the Earls even more powerful people in the community. In nineteenth century literature the importance of a clergyman obtaining a good living often emerges, influencing his relationship with the local aristocracy. To carry out the rectorial duties the Earls appointed four churchwardens annually to manage the affairs of the church and to collect the rates.

From early times money payments began to be substituted for payments in kind, a tendency further encouraged by enclosures, particularly the parliamentary enclosures of the eighteenth century. By the nineteenth century most tithes had been converted to equivalent monetary payment, rather than the tithes themselves. By 1836 William IVs government had decided on the commutation of tithes, i.e. the substitution of tithes by money payments based on land values, throughout the country. The Bill received Royal Assent on 13 August 1836. Three Tithe Commissioners were appointed who divided the country into tithe districts, usually the existing parishes, and the process of commutation began. These new rents, known as tithe rent charges, were not subject to local variation, but were changed according to the price of corn calculated on a seven-year average for the whole country.

The legislation was designed to replace the old system by monetary payments based on land values linked to the price of corn. To implement the act large-scale tithe maps were produced for about 75 per cent of the parishes and townships in England and Wales, supported by schedules listing every plot of land and house. The originals were retained in the custody of the Commissioners and are now in the Public Record Office. Copies are to be found in county record offices and local studies libraries. These maps and apportionment schedules give us a glimpse of life at that time and were the first coun-

try-wide detailed maps of parishes.

Hale tithes and ground rents

Before the 1840s Church Tithes, originally in kind, were collected for the upkeep of St. Mary's Church, Bowdon, the parish of which included Altrincham, Ashley, Baguley, Bowdon, Carrington, Dunham Massey, Hale, Partington and Timperley. From the 1840s the tithes were converted to ground rents.

The introduction to the Hale Tithe Apportionment outlines the agreement to replace the tithes by ground rents based on acreage and payable on the quarter days of the first days of January, April, July and October. Below are some of the details.

The acreage of the land was first estimated:

Type of Land	Statute Acres
Arable land	846
Meadow or Pasture	2241
Homesteads & Gardens	91
Woodland	99
Common Land unproductive of tithe	50

The existing tithes from which the total ground rent would be derived were based on houses, chimneys, trades, gardens, arable land, animals, fleeces, bees, geese and meadow land:

> "The undermentioned Easter offerings and personal Tithes Moduses (working arrangements for tithes) or prescriptive or customary payments are payable to the vicar in lieu of the undermentioned Tithes or Titheable Articles throughout the said Township – viz:
>
> Two-pence halfpenny for every Housekeeper – that is to say one penny in lieu of Smoke (chimney) and one penny halfpenny for the House
> Two pence for every offering – two pence for every person offering a Trade
> One penny for every Garden
> Two pence for every hide or Plowland – one penny for every half hide or Plowland
> One penny for every Milch Cow – one penny for every Barren Cow
> One penny for every Fleece of Wool under five in number – six pence for five fleeces and one shilling for seven fleeces and so for a greater number beginning the reckoning again after every seven fleeces
> One shilling and eightpence for five Lambs – and three shillings and fourpence for seven lambs and so for a greater number beginning the reckoning again after every seven lambs
> Two pence for every swarm of Bees – one penny for every old stock of bees
> Two pence for every Foal fallen (born)
> One shilling for five Pigs – two shillings or a Pig at the choice of the Vicar for seven pigs and so on beginning the reckoning again after every seven pigs
> Three pence for five Geese – sixpence for seven geese or a goose at the choice of the Vicar and so on beginning the reckoning again after every seven geese
> One shilling and sixpence for every Cheshire or customary acre of Upland Meadowing (such customary acre being after the rate of eight yards square to the pole or perch)."

The penny given in lieu of smoke (chimney) was known as the 'smoke penny'. The Cheshire Acre was about

2.12 statute acres. A hide was usually recognised as about 120 statute acres. A milch cow was one yielding milk, Old English *milce*. Some elements of the original tithes in kind were still perpetuated in 1838 and the vicar would never go short of pigs or geese since there were about fifty farmers in Hale at that time!

Having arrived at the total rent charge to be raised, the Valuer from Manchester, Edward Nicholson, then apportioned it as follows, presumably on the basis of a historical percentage split:

> "Gross Rent Charge payable to the titheowners in lieu of tithes for the Township of Hale in the Parish of Bowdon in the County of Chester: Four Hundred and Twenty Pounds.
> To the Vicar of Bowdon £97
> Appropriate Rector and his Lessee £323
> Total £420"

These monetary tithes would have been collected by the Churchwardens on behalf of the Rector and the Vicar.

Then follows an analysis by corn crop and average price over the last seven years, the basis for fixing the current rent charge for the following period:

> "Value in Imperial Bushels and Decimal Parts of an Imperial Bushel of Wheat, Barley and Oats.

Presumably the volume in terms of bushels was an artificial figure designed to allocate one third each to wheat, barley and oats, and was fixed for ever. When the price of corn varied the fixed volume in terms of bushels would then generate a new value to be collected as a rent charge. Note that the largest volume is for oats to feed the all-important horses. A bushel in terms of liquids was eight gallons. However in terms of dry goods it varied according to the type: 1 bushel of wheat was 60 lbs, barley 50 lbs, and oats 39 lbs.

	Price per Bushel (7-year average)	**Bushels and Decimal Parts**	**Value**
	s d		
Wheat	7 0¼	398.81306	£140
Barley	3 11½	707.36842	£140
Oats	2 9	1018.18182	£140
Total		**214.3633**	**£420"**

Finally the detailed schedule of land plots on the plan is listed in the form:

- Name of landowner(s)
- Name of occupier(s)
- Plot number on the plan
- Name and description of land and premises
- State of cultivation (sometimes entered if not a field)
- Quantities in statute measure of acres, roods and perches
- Amount of rent charge payable to the Vicar of Bowdon
- Amount of rent payable to the Appropriate Rector

At the end of the schedule for Hale the total statute acreage from the schedule was added up to give 3679 acres, 5% greater than the 3527 estimated initially. The amount to be raised was then presumably divided by the acreage to give a rent charge per acre, in this case £420 divided by 3679 equals £0.11 per acre (about 2s 4d per acre).

Concluding observations

The new rent charge didn't depend on the quality of the land, and could have been seen to be unfair in this respect but was clearly weighted to raising more rent from the wealthier tenants.

The 1838 Tithe Map and Schedule shows that many farms in Hale were quite small. The average size of landholding was about 30 statute acres, ignoring the large holdings of the Egertons (980 acres) and the Harrops (681 acres). A few farmers had less than 10 acres such as the Old Bleeding Wolf Farm with about seven acres. Measurements on the 1838 tithe map and schedule are in statute acres but references to farming in Hale before 1786 used the Cheshire Acre. Some measurements after 1786 may still be in Cheshire acres in some documents and it is sometimes difficult to tell which is being referred to. Field names in Hale incorporating the word 'acre' are referring to Cheshire acres.

Although there were no formal enclosures in Hale through Acts, the enclosures and the removal of the complex eighteenth century tithe legislation helped farmers to improve their land in the second half of the nineteenth century. It also simplified the leasing process for landowners. The result was to allow farmers to become more commercial by producing more viable quantities of food which they could sell at markets.

Despite the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, tithes in kind still continued on a smaller scale into the twentieth century. Monetary tithes still exist today in the support many generous parishioners continue to give in the form of one tenth of their income donated to the church for its upkeep and missions. For example Altrincham Baptist Church on Hale Road finances all of its activities through a tithe by asking parishioners to set aside a proportion of their income to give regularly to the church. They remind us in their website that the biblical guideline for a tithe is a one tenth part.

References

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Hale Tithe Map and Apportionments, 1838
BBC History website: www.bbc.co.uk/history
Altrincham Baptist Church website: www.altrinchambaptist.org

H W KEARNS & co.

Tough Times 1930-1945

Keith Gowing

The decade up to 1930 had been one of growth and consolidation, and in this time the company had established a worldwide reputation for high quality products and reliable service. The average growth in national output was averaging around two per cent, not huge, but enough to encourage business confidence.

Ship building firms were fully engag-

ed. The water, gas and electrical companies were expanding to cater for the needs of the new housing estates which were springing up around the towns. There was a rapidly growing Petrochemical industry, and locomotive manufacture reached a peak in the battle between the rival railway companies.

Boring machines were needed by all these sectors, not in large numbers, but in a steady, regular supply. Kearns and Richards could just about cope with the British market, and were also taking foreign orders.

In October 1929 came the Wall Street crash, caused by a credit-led share bubble which burst. The effect on the American economy was devastating. but it also affected world trade and business confidence. Repercussions took some time to filter through to Great Britain, but unemployment rose steadily and by 1932 had reached two and a half million. Eventually, the machine tool industry was hit, and firms began shedding labour.

At H W Kearns, most of the workforce had to be dismissed. Jack Ward remembered that as each order was completed, the men on that job were laid off.

He thought he would be next; fortunately he was saved by a management decision.

The Kearns Board members had a dilemma; they knew they had a successful product and that it would be needed when the situation improved.

They also owned the works with its associated assets lying idle. They also had certain overheads: rates, insurance and so on, which were draining capital resources. There must have been a real temptation to sell up. In a brave move, the board decided to build a number of machines for stock. To finance the work meant obtaining a loan from their bankers. It was a strategy which paid off, although it took many years to repay the loan. It is said that the chief salesman, Ralph Leyland, surveyed the line of unsold machines, packed his bags and set off on a sales trip, vowing not to return until he got an order. He returned with several. It was a turning point.

The recovery was quite rapid and by 1936, the company was in full production. The engineering industry found itself occupied with orders for Russia, which had not been affected by the depression and was engaged on a five-year plan.

Later, in 1938, the rearmament programme brought more work, and soon labour was in short supply.

The policy of concentrating on five sizes of machine had certainly paid off. Within these sizes there were variations with regard to table dimensions and traverses which meant that there was a spectrum of over sixty specifications. Importantly, there was a high degree of commonality of drive and feed components between the No.2 and No.3, and the No.4 and No.5 models.[1] This meant that machines could be built in batches. Items such as spindles, gears, bearings, screws and clutches were manufactured in sixes. Hence, the setting up costs could be shared between each order. The use of jigs ensured

accuracy and interchangeability, thereby reducing assembly costs. Kearns management was reluctant to disrupt this efficient production flow, but if a customer were prepared to pay a hefty premium, the system could be breached. In fact, No.6 and No.7 size machines were built. The D7 was really large and had a ten inch diameter spindle, which required a clutched end to transmit the high torque to the boring bars.[2]

Another special order was for a No.2 machine, which had a cross slide from the main upright to the tailstock support. The slide carried a vertical milling head, which could be positioned over the table.[3] The auxiliary head was driven by the main spindle and a sliding transfer gear unit. So the machine could be used as a horizontal borer or a vertical miller. Built in 1921, some people called it the first machining centre,[4] but in fact, it was conversion attachment which needed half an hour to change-over. A similar, but updated version was supplied to another customer in the 1950s for a D3 model.

In machine tool manufacture the builder is constantly aiming to enhance the performance and utility of his machines by incorporating improvements stemming from operational experience or by fitting new proprietary products such as measuring equipment or lubrication devices.

A new cutting tool material, tungsten carbide had been introduced in the post-WWI period. It was harder than conventional tool steels and could operate at substantially higher speeds.

It led to a demands for increased spindle speeds, which meant changing gear ratios.

Sometimes these changes could be easily accommodated on existing machines, but eventually a major update to the design would be needed. Towards the end of the nineteen twenties it was decided to redesign the whole existing range. Changes included a more enclosed headstock, greater protection for the slideways and the introduction of a new feed box, which enabled two complementary feed ranges to be obtained; one linked to the rotation of the spindle and suitable for boring and screwcutting, the other independent of the spindle and suitable for milling operations.[5, 6] The design was in service by 1931. The new range was dubbed the CW type (Covered Ways). Retrospectively, the previous models were referred to as the pre-CW type.

At that time many machine tools were still driven by lineshafting and Kearns machines were offered with a large diameter pulley to accept flat belts, or alternatively vee belt pulleys for an independent motor drive.

After serving six years as managing director, Mr Joe Kearns died in 1933. He had had a grandiose life, living in a large house with many servants. He had convinced the board to expand the range of products, pioneered sales in Europe and had overseen the difficult years of the depression.

Henry Kearns' youngest son, Lionel Kearns (later Sir Lionel) succeeded his brother Joe, as chairman and managing director. After obtaining a

BA in Engineering from Cambridge, he trained at Vickers before war service in the Army. He served on the Western Front, reaching the rank of Major, and was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre. He took over from Mr Burton as works director, following demobilisation in 1919

The Kearns family tended to deal largely with the marketing and administration side of the business. In those days, sales were often made through 'connections'. Reputation was more important than repetitive advertising.

The production side was accommodated by the new works director, Oscar Rendell. He had been one of the original band of twenty-eight, which had come from Muirs (see *Altrincham History Society Journal* No.24, p.10), spending some years as chief inspector before moving into management. An impressive figure with a strong voice; he had a commonsense approach to management.

In 1936, Kearns introduced a smaller, lightweight design to the range. The "0" type was a 5 hp machine, without a facing head, and used a bed-mounted motor and splined shaft to drive the spindle instead of the traditional flat belt arrangement. It satisfied the need for an inexpensive, easy to operate borer for cutting cast iron and aluminium components.[7]

Originally named "the Number Nought" because it was smaller than the No.1, it was soon dubbed '0 Type', when somebody pointed out that nought was not a number. This radical design was the brainchild of Curtis Albert Sparkes, an outstanding engineer who would have a profound influence in the fortunes of the company for the next forty years. The story goes back to 1919, when Curtis Sparkes joined H W Kearns as an apprentice. He showed a keen interest in engineering and studied part-time at Manchester College of Technology. He had an aptitude for design, which was soon observed by the Kearns board, who fast-tracked him to a senior position in the drawing office.

His first task was to study a niche in the market for smaller borers. He found that many small-to-medium companies did not need the sophisticated, heavy duty borer that Kearns produced. They needed an inexpensive, lightweight model capable of boring holes up to about four or five inches diameter.

Foreign machines were starting to fill that niche. The 0 type was his answer to the competition. The basic model was offered at £500 , which in 1936 was deemed to be a reasonable price. Curtis Sparkes's philosophy was to design a component that was not only functional, but also easy to manufacture and assemble. In the assembly of 0 type machines, the modular design allowed a sort of flow line system of working. Headstocks and columns started at the west end of the No.1 bay, beds and tables at the east end, final assembly and testing of the combined units taking place at the middle of the workshop.

The 0 Type, and its many variants, was produced in large numbers between 1937 and 1962.

It should be noted that Curtis

Sparkes, in addition to being a first class engineer, was also an excellent footballer. He played for the Keams team, as goalkeeper. One day, playing against the Linotype, he was approached by a Linotype executive and offered a senior position in their foundry if he would leave Keams and join the Linotype team. The Keams Board was not pleased with this attempt at poaching, and offered him a suitable inducement to remain at Keams. Curtis Sparkes's forte was design, it is hard to believe that he would have enjoyed an administrative position at the Linotype.

Just prior to the outbreak of war, another new design was launched it was known as the 'S Type' and was even smaller than the 0 type. In this case it was not finding a niche, but actually creating one. Curtis Sparkes had noticed that there was no suitable borer on the market for training apprentices and students in the elements of boring practice.

So, the new venture was aimed at colleges and training schools, with a starting price of £350.

Driven by a 1.5 hp motor and with a working envelope encompassing a 12 inch cube, the machine received a mixed reception.[8]

However, it was also found to be a useful machine for toolrooms and garages, and the majority were sold to industry in general.

For the training role, Keams offered exercise kits, such as the Geneva Mechanism, which were eagerly sought by colleges.

World War II - A Sustained Effort

The outbreak of war in 1939 saw the factory in full production, with shift work and weekend working. Some employees were regularly working sixty-six hours per week.

So vital was machine tool production considered, that several employees, who had enlisted for military service, were recalled from their units. One such was Tony Cooney, who would later become a service engineer for the company. Being a bachelor, he was willing to on take overseas tasks, and on retum from many an exotic joumey, would regale his colleagues with colourful stories of his experiences.

In order to meet the increased demand for boring machines, it was decided to relax the high standards to which Keams products were normally built. Large numbers of machines were manufactured to "war finish". Typically, this meant that the castings were not fully sanded down before painting.

A simplified version of the 0 type was developed, which was suitable for operation by semi-skilled labour, and was ordered in quantity for armament and aircraft factories. Positioning adjustment was by handwheel, and machining traverse under power. About fifty of these unsophisticated machines were built and used largely in the manufacture of artillery pieces.

One problem which arose, was the need to supervise and train the dilutees (unskilled labour) who were

being absorbed by the munitions industry, and in a collaboration between the Machine Tool Industry and the Ministry of Supply, an organisation, the Emergency Machine Tool Armaments Corps, was set up to provide technical support and advice to ordnance companies on the use of machine tools. Mr Leo played a major role in EMTAC.

Apart from the standard production machines, several special purpose models were constructed, notably a borer for machining Napier Sabre aero-engine cylinders. The engine was of sleeve valve design, and had twenty-four sleeves each of which required specially curved ports cut into them. 0 type headstocks and tables were utilised to build a composite machine, which used a hand operated cam mechanism to produce the requisite shapes.

Another special machine was a three spindle model for boring the undercarriages used on the Halifax aircraft. Percy Moss had just started with the company, as an apprentice, when he joined the team building the three spindle machine. Much test cutting was required before it could be delivered to the customer. Percy remembers that the components contained about 80 per cent magnesium, a very inflammable metal. Apprentices used to collect the swarf, take it home, put it in an old syrup tin and ignite it. They had many wonderful firework displays.

During the 1940 blitz, a high explosive bomb fell in Wright Street, very close to the Kearns and Richards factories, and the Ministry of Supply suddenly realised that a single air attack could wipe out the whole of the UK production of boring machines.

Immediately, plans to distribute the output to less vulnerable sites were put in hand. Subcontract building of Kearns borers took place at various sites, notably at Messrs Samuel Hodge and Co. in Halifax.

In May 1941, HMS *Hood* was sunk during an engagement with the *Bismarck* in the Atlantic. There had been a massive explosion and only three survivors were picked up from a crew of over 1,100.

The Admiralty thought that the catastrophe could have been caused by a flashback from an explosion in a turret, which had reached the main ammunition magazine via poorly sealed passageways. Vickers, at Barrow, asked Kearns to build a machine to mill the interconnecting hatches to a fine tolerance, so that they would be flameproof, that is, with a maximum gap of a few thousandths of an inch.

Vickers urgently needed the machine for HMS *King George V*, which was in the final stages of construction. Kearns built it within three weeks, utilising parts from the 0 type model. It was compact enough to be manhandled into the confined hull of the battleship.

In spite of the excessive number of hours being worked by employees, a home guard unit was formed, and recruits willingly gave of their spare time for training exercises and guard duty. The unit comprised men from Kearns and Churchills and formed the second Battalion attached to the Cheshire Regiment. Ford Smith remembers

spending hours guarding the RAF camp at Sinderland. Other nights were spent patrolling the canal, usually ending up at the Bay Malton. At weekends there were training exercises.

The command structure of the unit mirrored closely the firm's management hierarchy. Being engineers, it was not long before the desire to innovate led to the construction of a 20 foot boat for patrolling the canal.

Following the end of hostilities, Lionel Kearns received a Knighthood for his services to the machine tool industry. Apart from his work with EMTAC, he had been chairman of the Machine Tool Trades Association during the critical years 1941 to 1943.

In 1946 Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Broadheath as a gesture of gratitude for the estate's substantial war effort. At a ceremony in Churchill's, they were presented with several representatives from various firms; Ken Trumman, the shop convener, appeared on behalf of Kearns.

Sources

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2. C.A. Sparkes, 'The Industrial Development of Broadheath' in *Altrincham, A History*. D Bayliss, Willow Publishing, 1992.
3. C. Sparkes 'Design in Relation to Manufacture' , a paper given to the Manchester Association of Engineers, 16 March 1962.
4. Many former employees, especially members of the KNUTS group.

Notes

1. The table is the part of the machine which holds the workpiece. Regarding, for example, the No.2 model, customers could choose a 3 foot table with 3 foot traverse, a 3 foot 6 inch table with 4 foot traverse, or a 4 foot table with 6 foot traverse. Also they could select five possible vertical traverses; 1 foot 8 inch, 2 foot 8 inch, 3 foot 8 inch, 4 foot 8 inch or 6 foot 2 inch. Fifteen variations.

Commonality of components means the interchangeability of parts between machine sizes.

2. The usual way of driving boring bars is by means of a tapered cone wedged in the spindle nose, the power (or torque) being essentially transmitted by friction. On the No.7 machine, the power needed was so great (30HP) that a positive drive using slots and keys had to be provided.

3 The main upright is a column which carries the headstock. It has slideways which allow vertical adjustment to the headstock.

The tailstock support is a column which carries an adjustable bearing block to support long boring bars. It is normally located at the tail end of the bed.

On the special machine mentioned in the text, the cross slide was a cast iron beam spanning the two columns.

4 "Machining Centre" is a relatively modern machine which operates by computer control and needs only minimal operator attention. It is capable of performing most machining operations on a multisided component.

5. The headstock contains the machine's main spindle and its associated gear drive. On the early machines the headstock was not fully enclosed, allowing dust, grit and smuts to damage the internal mechanism. Also, the slideways, particularly those in front of the table, were subject to large volumes of swarf which could cause damaging scoremarks in the bedways.

6. Feed is the controlled, precise rate of movement of a cutting tool into the workpiece, typically, less than one inch per minute.

The feedbox is a gearbox which allows the operator to select a feed rate suitable for the conditions. In the early machines, the mechanism was linked only to the rotation of the spindle

7. "Easy to operate borer". In the 0 type, the controls were well spaced and fewer in number.

8. "Working Envelope" or capacity, is what the customer needs to know about a machine tool before he can decide whether it will suit his components.

LOCAL MEN AT TRAFALGAR

Compiled by Jill Groves

On 5 October 2005 we celebrated the 200th centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar, so I have trawled the major websites devoted to listing the men who took part in the battle, for any from this area. (See below for a list of such websites.) The search revealed two, which isn't bad for an area twenty-thirty miles from the sea.

Thomas Caldwell

Thomas Caldwell came from an old Altrincham family. He could have been press-ganged as a 'landsman'. However, this wasn't very likely because the Royal Navy preferred experienced seamen press- ganged from merchant ships, men who knew what a sheet was and how to shin up a mast, to landlubbers who needed to be taught everything, possibly in the middle of a battle. The Navy wouldn't have bothered travelling far inland for raw recruits. So Tom Caldwell ran away to sea – possibly. He was quite literally 'learning the ropes' on HMS *Britannia*.

His papers say he was born in 1783, but that was probably to avoid awkward things such as his parents' permission. He was baptised on 24 April 1785 (and was probably born that year), son of Joseph and Mary Caldwell of Altrincham. He had a younger sister, Isabella Newall Caldwell, born in 1787.

In the Battle of Trafalgar he was sailing on HMS *Britannia,* given his age, and his rating as 'landsman', probably his first ship. *Britannia* was built in Portsmouth in 1762, which made her seven years older than *Victory* and therefore at forty-three years old one of the oldest ships in the Navy at the time of Trafalgar – like the twentieth century Royal Navy sailing the 1940s version of Ark Royal to the Falklands in 1983. *Britannia* had 100 guns so she was the flagship of a vice admiral. At the time of Trafalgar, this was Rear Admiral of the White, William, Earl of Northesk, and her captain was Charles Bullen.

At Trafalgar she was part of Nelson's weather division. She was supposed to lead out the second division of six ships, but she was sailing too slowly – 'heavy sailing' – and so dropped out of the line and missed much of the battle. Even so she had ten killed and forty-two wounded.

After the gale that followed the battle, *Britannia* destroyed the prize ship

Intrepide which *Ajax* had had to cut adrift. (It must have been a life or death situation, because a prize ship represented a lot of money to the crew of the ship that captured her – but first she had to be taken back to England.) Lord Northesk resigned because of ill-health and Captain Bullen refitted *Britannia* in Gibraltar before returning to England with three prize ships. She was then put out of commission in June 1806, then recommissioned and renamed *Princess Royal* in 1812, followed twelve days later by another renaming as the *St. George*, but ended her days in 1825 as the *Barfleur*.

I have a very slight connection to HMS *Britannia*. My 3xgreat-grand-father, John Henry West, served on the successor to the Trafalgar ship in the early 1830s, when it was the flagship of Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane, uncle to the more famous/infamous maverick sailor, Admiral Lord Thomas Cochrane, Earl of Dundonald – the real life person behind the fictional Jack Aubrey and Horatio Hornblower – and founder of the Chilean, Brazilian and Greek navies. Perhaps it was hearing of the exploits of Lord Cochrane, especially his prize-taking exploits, that made young Tom Caldwell leave Altrincham and join the Navy. (Or he had got a girl into trouble and needed to leave Altrincham in a hurry?)

I am very proud of this tenuous connection with Lord Cochrane and I hope to discover one day that John Henry's father, John West of Woolwich, had the pleasure of serving under Cochrane and at Trafalgar. My 4xgreat-grandfather joined the Royal Navy as a newly married young man of twenty in 1787 and retired as boatswain in 1818.

To return to Tom Caldwell, the Admiralty and Greenwich records in the National Archives have no discharge/pension papers for him, but according to the Trafalgar ancestors database he didn't die during the battle.

John Wade

John Wade was a private in the Royal Marines. He was born in Ashley, but there is no note of his age in 1805. Neither can I find any Wade baptisms in Bowdon Parish Registers. He served on HMS *Africa* during the Battle of Trafalgar. Judging by the fact that John Wade was discharged at Chatham in 1809, the *Africa* was hardly his first ship.

The *Africa* was nearly twenty years younger than the *Britannia*. She was built at Deptford in 1781 and had sixty-four guns. She served first in the Indian Ocean, then in the West Indies. In 1803 she was out of commission (thanks to a temporary peace treaty with Napoleon), but recommissioned in 1805 and sailed to Cadiz under Captain Henry Digby. Nelson wanted her at the rear of his division, but Digby sailed *Africa* towards the van of the Franco-Spanish fleet and received fire from each ship he passed, attempting to take the *Santisima Trinidad* which had no colours, but was still fighting or so her captain informed the luckless Lieutenant John Smith and his boarding party. Lieutenant Smith and his men were graciously allowed to return to

the *Africa.*

Then *Africa* fought for three-quarters of an hour with *Intrepide* (the same one later captured and then cut adrift by *Ajax*). *Orion* came to her rescue. *Africa* lost eighteen dead and forty-four wounded – fortunately John Wade was not among them.

The *Africa* was broken up in 1814.

Again Admiralty papers on discharges and pensions in TNA have nothing on John Wade, but the Trafalgar Ancestors database indicate that he might have been eligible for a pension later – if he survived.

Sources

Websites

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/trafalgarancestors

www.ageofnelson.org.uk – men, officers and 'Sons and Daughters' of Trafalgar.

www.cronab.demon.co.uk/82.htm – Old Ships of the Royal Navy

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk – The Catalogue. Put ADM in the Department section of the form.

Fiches

Bowdon Parish Registers, Baptisms, fiche, North Cheshire Family History Society.

CDs

The Ayshford Trafalgar Roll

The Complete Navy List of the Napoleonic Wars 1793-1815

Both are available online from www.ageofnelson.org.uk

BOOK REVIEWS

***Booths of Dunham Massey* by David Eastwood**
Churnet Valley Books
Paperback, £9.95.
ISBN 1 904546 16 1.

Recently I have read three books related to Dunham Massey. Two lost my interest very quickly. David's book is very readable and held my attention. I must admit that I have been unable to put it down. Some of the detail he shares with us is unbelievable and the minutia is extraordinary.

The history of the family is bought to life so you feel that you are almost with them every step of the way through the end of the Tudors and the beginnings of the Stuarts, Civil War and the family involvement with the Parliament and the Monarchy. You wonder how they kept their heads!

The last Booth, George 2nd Earl of Warrington comes across as a real person with all his problems and his cantankerous ways. The whole thing brings to life the old and new house, the characters of history, both the well known and those only just heard of.

I have just one complaint, there are two lists of sources and no index which is a great pity, no doubt the publisher rather than David has more to do with this.

Apart from this small gripe, I really cannot recommend it more highly.

By the way, if you come to Dunham Massey on a Monday you may be lucky enough to have David as your guide.

Jill Champness

***St. Lawrence's Church and the Archaeology of the Medieval Timber-framed Churches of England and Wales* by Michael Nevell and Ivan Hradil Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, c/o Tameside Local Studies Library, Trinity Street, Stalybridge SK15 2BN Paperback, Vol.4 'The Archaeology of Tameside' series, £7.95 (plus £2.75 p&p) ISBN unknown**

This book is the latest of the excellent series published by Tameside MBC.

The opening chapter gives the reader details of the types of construction of timber-framed churches together with details of their distribution throughout England and Wales. The next deals with the history of St. Lawrence's, Denton, which began as a chapel of ease within the parish of Manchester – a list of ministers and rectors goes back to 1533. The following chapter concerns the archaeology of St. Lawrence's. A large part of the original wooden fabric survives with the present church.

Chapter Four concerns the restoration of the church which was carried out between 1993 and 2003. There are photographs and diagrams of the work done.

Chapter Five is a gazetteer of surviving timber-framed churches in Cheshire, Shropshire, Hampshire and Essex built before 1550.

The volume is a most worthy addition to what is already an excellent series written by the authors who did the actual work on St. Lawrence's.

Ron Higginbottom

LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS

Booths of Dunham Massey by David Eastwood, Churnet Valley Press. Paperback, £9.95. ISBN 1 904546161. Available either from Mr Eastwood or on the Bookstall.

Romans and Britons in North-West England by David Shotter, Centre for North-West Regional Studies, Fylde College, Lancaster University LA1 4YF. Paperback, revised edition, £13.50. ISBN 1 86220 152 8.

Aspects of Church History by C. Ford, M. Kirby, T. McBride and J. Bennet, Stockport Historical Society, c/o Morris Garratt, 59 Malmesbury Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle SK8 7QL.

The Archaeology of Twentieth Century Tameside by Michael Nevell and John Roberts, Tameside Borough Metropolitan Borough Council, Tameside Local Studies and Archives Unit, Trinity Street, Stalybridge SK15 2BN. Price £13.78. ISBN 1 871324 29 7.

Tymperleie: The History and Archaeology of Timperley Old Hall edited by Pat Faulkner, STAG (South Trafford Archaeological Group), rear Timperley Old Hall Hotel, Stockport Road, Timperley WA15 7LP. Paperback, £12.50 (plus £1.75 postage and packing).

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Articles in No.43 include: Bowdon History Society – 25 Years; Bowdon Lawn Tennis Club; Booth Mansion, Chester.

Articles in No.44 include: Changes in Publication; A Bowdon Developer in the Wild West; Under Canvas at Bowdon; Scouting in Bowdon and Dunham Massey; T'was Ever Thus; A Startling Experience for Altrincham Firemen; A Boyhood Inspiration.

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Articles in No.97 include: Chairman's Notes; Warburton Baronial Court: Part II; Weald and Downland Museum; 25 Anniversary Dinner Reminder.

Articles in No.98 include: Chairman's Notes; Reddish Farm, Heatley; The Black Friar Ghost; Laying the Rushes; Warburton Manorial Court – Pt. III; STAG 25th Anniversary Dinner.

Articles in No.99 include: Chairman's Notes; Coppice Farm Barn; Warburton Manorial Court – Part IV.

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Manchester Region History Review, Vol.XVII (I), 2004. A4, 1 issue a year (but not always), subscription £9.00. Available from The Editors, Manchester Region History Review, c/o Manchester Centre for Regional History, The Manchester Metropolitan University, Geoffrey

Manton Building, Rosamund Street West, Manchester M15 6LL.

Articles include: Why Manchester? Why the Pankhursts? Why 1903? Reflections on the Centenary of the Women's Social and Political Union; Representations and Remembrances of Scientists in Manchester; Northern Identities: Five Autobiographies of Inter-war Childhoods; Cobden and Manchester; 'Typical' Conscientious Objectors - a better class of conscience? No-conscription Fellowship image management and the Manchester contribution 1916-18; Popular Playgrounds: Blackpool and Coney Island, c.1880-1970; The computerised local image collection at Manchester Archives and Local Studies; Heywood Free Library; Imperial War Museum North, War and Conflict: New Perspectives in the North; Bury Local History Society; Short Reviews.

The Mundling Stick, the Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust, Vol.10, Nos.2 and 3; Vol.11, No.1. A4, 4pp, 4 issues a year, FREE. Available from The Lion Salt Works Trust, Ollershaw Lane, Marston, Northwich CW9 6ES. Website: http://lionsaltworks trust.co.uk

Items in Vol.10, No.2: Lion Salt Works 'Restoration' Northern Region Runners Up; Dates for Your Diary; August 1st Open Day.

Items in Vol.10, No.3: Restoration Plans to be Unveiled; Experiment with Ceramic Salt Pans; Ancient Arts; Roman Tours.

Items in Vol.11, No.1 include: New Publications; Comberbach Primary School Presentation to Lion Salt Works; Identifying Salt Crystals; Application to HLF for Heritage Grant Ready for Submission; Dates for Your Diary; Salt and Soda at the Lion Salt Works.

News from the Rylands, Nos.1 and 2, Autumn 2004 and Spring 2005, the newsletter of the Special Collections Division of The John Rylands University Library, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PP; www.manchester.ac.uk/library.

Items in No.1 include: Unlocking the Rylands: Building Work; Andrew Cavendish, 11th Duke of Devonshire, Patron of the *Unlocking the Rylands* Appeal; The Friends of The John Rylands; News in Brief; Archive News – Simon Engineering Archives, Modern Literary Archives Programme, Methodist Archives and Research Centre (MARC); Printed Books News.

Items No.2 include: Unlocking the Rylands; Friends of the John Rylands; News in Brief; Archive News; Printed Book News.

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ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

The main aim of the society is to further the study of the local history of Altrincham and to enable such findings to be communicated to members of the community at large

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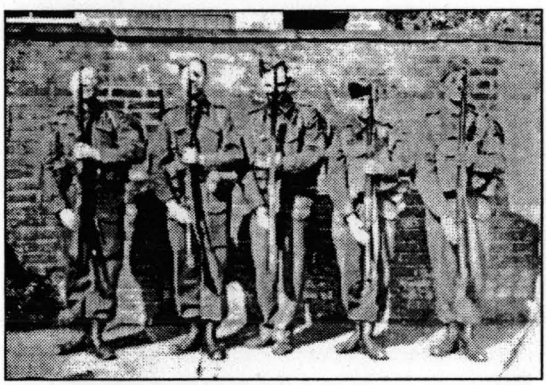
Altrincham History Society

JOURNAL



Charles Frederick Southwell, Altrincham artist and designer

A Dunham Massey soldier in the Battle of Egypt, 1801

The Home Guard in Altrincham

John Shaw, designer of Stamford Park, Altrincham

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

You will be interested to hear that one of Altrincham's public buildings, the town hall of 1900, saved from demolition, has been tastefully refurbished internally and externally and divided into two parts. The part to the south is private offices, that to the north is a number of rooms and services available for hire to societies, groups and for events such as weddings. The staircase, Court Room, stained glass, some furniture and other historic features have been refurbished and retained. Hilda Bayliss, David Eastwood and myself are on the Town Hall Advisory Group.

Our President is Dr. Mike Nevell and the last of his community archaeological digs for this year will be between 16 and 27 October at Ordsall Hall. All visitors are welcome.

Cheshire Local History Day will be at Northwich Memorial Hall on Satur-

day, 21 October on the subject of 'Getting about in Cheshire' – canals, turnpikes and railways.

Don Bayliss

SOCIETY NEWS AND MEETINGS

Meets at the Methodist Church on the corner of Woodlands Road and Barrington Road, Altrincham at 7.30pm on Tuesdays. Visitors £2.00.

12 September 2006, Landscape and Settlement in the Medieval North West, Prof. Nick Higham

10 October 2006, Our Calendar, Mike Shaw

7 November 2006, Remembrance Day, Pauline Holden

5 December 2006, Tanners and Masons in Timperley, Hazel Pryor

16 January 2007, On the Celtic Road, Part II, Mark Olly

13 February 2007, Worsley's Underground Canals, Glen Atkinson

13 March 2007, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Dr Philip Morgan

10 April 2007, Traction Engines on Farms and Roads, Derek Richbell

8 May 2007, AGM and Projects Update

OBITUARY: PAT HIGGINBOTTOM

(died 7 July 2006)

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Pat Higginbottom. She was a founder member of our Society and part of its backbone. One of those people without whom our Society could not have functioned as well as it has, but one who did not ask for recognition of her contribution. She took on the background work in the Society – committee member, refreshment making, organising (and baking for) the Christmas buffet, helping to take money on the door, helping and supporting her husband Ron when he was Visit Secretary for the Society.

Despite her illness and problems of recent years, Pat was always cheerful and encouraging to others. And always willing to help where she could.

For many years, Pat helped me transcribe local wills and inventories. Always enthusiastic, without Pat's help and encouragement I don't think the first of the Wills series of books I have published would have ever made it to the printer.

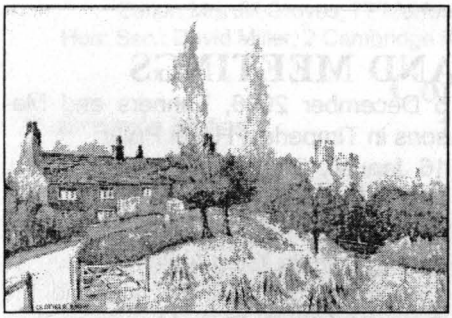
She will be greatly missed by all of us. A lovely, lovely lady.

Our sympathies go to Ron and his family.

Jill Groves

CHARLES FREDERICK SOUTHWELL

Colin Graham



Oldfield Brow

In October 2001 Oldfield Brow Primary School in Taylor Road, Altrincham received a letter from Ian Rigby of Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. He had found the name of the school on the Internet, and wanted to know if light could be shed on the provenance of a small watercolour painting in his possession entitled 'Oldfield Brow' and signed 'CFS'.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1898 clearly shows a section of Oldfield Road as it forks uphill from Seamons Road, and passes the Old Seamons Moss Centre ('Blakeswood') and Bonville Road as 'Oldfield Brow'. Just past this point are the two ancient cottages, 'Upton Lovell' and 'Ivy Cottage' (325 and 327) clearly recognisable in the left foreground of the painting. 'Peartree Cottage' and its neighbour are (correctly) obscured; but in the centre are the battlements of 'Woodleigh' in Bradgate Road, and the pitched roof of its dower house. Above the tree line to the right of 'Woodleigh' there is also the spire of a church.

There are three candidates for the church. St Margaret's on Dunham Road, before it lost its spire, can be rejected at once since it lies in the opposite direction to the view in the painting, which is towards Lymm in the west. St Mark's in Dunham Massey is in line; and being only 0.92 miles away would seem to be the obvious candidate. However, cross-section analysis of the contour lines between the Brow and the church shows that it would be impossible to see St Mark's from the artist's position, lying so low in the valley of the Bollin.

The third possibility is St Peter's in Oughtrington, which lies 3.8 miles to the west and which stands on (roughly) the same 40 metre contour line as the highest point on the Brow, and at 194 feet high would be clearly visible in the tree line as depicted. The view from one high point to another would reduce the sense of distance across the fields, and foreshorten the view to Lymm; and this would indeed make the tree line just over the crest of the hill in Oughtrington to be the horizon, as seen from the Brow. However, the spire can only be seen today from the end of both Oldfield Road and Taylor Road because housing now obscures the original view, as will be explained below. Finally, the proportions and distances between the cottages, 'Woodleigh' and the spire are exact both to the naked eye and to the an-

gle derived from the OS map if the position of the artist is taken into account.

It is clear from the sheaves of corn in the foreground that the artist worked from an elevated position, looking to the left from the bottom right hand of the painting. This strongly suggests the view towards Lyrnm is from the upstairs window at the gable end of one of the semi-detached 'Oldfield Villas' – nos. 302 to 314 – as they march uphill from the end of Walton Road, and before the houses 316 to 386 Oldfield Road were built. Only one looking westwards would qualify, and only one allowing St Peter to be seen over the crest of the Brow – is almost certainly 'Duncot' as 314 was once known.

The first occupant of 'Duncot' listed in Slater's Directory was the designer Charles Frederick Southwell – surely the 'CFS' signed at the bottom right hand of the painting. Southwell's grandchildren still live in the Altrincham area and they have many examples of his work including a watercolour of the mill in Dunham Park in exactly the style of that of the picture from the Brow; and finger-plates for a door with 'CFS' on the reverse, just like the signature on the painting.

The earlier limiting date for the painting is difficult to determine because it is not possible to be precise about Southwell's exact address. The villas were built some time from 1898, the year displayed on the ironwork of 310-308, when the OS map of that date shows empty fields.

Southwell married Annie Bowland in 1902 (St Catherine's Index) when he may have taken residence in one of the villas; but Slater does not list him there until 1906, and only specifically in 'Duncot' from 1908. His grandchildren have a family memory of him upstairs painting during the weeks of Annie's confinement and after, which would suggest late summer to autumn 1907 when their daughter Dorothy was born (October), or summer 1912 when Charles Geoffrey was born (July) if the painting was completed in these circumstances. The sheaves of corn in the foreground would support this possibility.

Kelly's Directory for 1927 shows that by this time Southwell had moved to 13 Sandiway. But for the later limiting date for the painting it can be suggested that, since 316 to 386 Oldfield Road were built from 1924 onwards completely blocking the view from 'Duncot' to Lymm, the painting is unlikely to have been completed later, unless it was from memory or sketches.

Thus the painting is certainly of Oldfield Brow in Altrincham; probably completed between 1902 and 1924, and possibly in 1907 or 1912; almost certainly from the gable end of 'Duncot' (314); and most definitely by Charles Frederick Southwell, one of George Faulkner Armitage's designers.

Finally, there is no real clue as to how the painting came to be in the possession of the Rigby family who live in Aberdeenshire, and who have owned it since at least 1947.

Armitage's mother was a Rigby, and he married his cousin Annie Rigby; but there is nothing to connect these Rigbys with the Scottish Rigbys although the coincidence is remarkable. Nor indeed is there any indication Southwell gave paintings to his employer. One possibility is that St Margaret's held art exhibitions in the 1930s and 1940s at which local artists could sell their paintings to raise funds for their own churches; and Southwell was Secretary of the Sunday School at the Hale Road Baptist Church for fifty years. If true, this could be one way in which the painting came to be in Scotland, and was a practical and unexpected example of ecumenism of those days.

PRIVATE THOMAS HOLLINWORTH AND THE BATTLE OF EGYPT

David Eastwood

Two letters have recently come to light among the Dunham Massey papers held in the John Rylands University Library, which are rare and remarkable in their own way. When men joined the army and went off to war, it was common for officers, with their good education, to write home with their news, but few ordinary private soldiers were literate enough to do so, and of course many of the letters that were written have not survived the vicissitudes of time.

Fortunately two letters written by Private Thomas Hollinworth to his father James, the blacksmith of Dunham Park, have survived. They are tucked into a lease of James.[1] A very detailed rental covering the period 1783 to 1820 gives Thomas Hollingworth, son of James, as a 'life' for Abraham Bowker who leased Dunham Massey plot 21A when William Drinkwater relinquished it in 1802.[2] Written in April and May 1802, much of the contents of the earlier letter are repeated in the second, which perhaps indicates that Thomas's parents had heard nothing from their son since he had been recruited, but had at last managed to make contact with him.

James Hollingworth (the spelling of the name is erratic) crops up several times in the Dunham Massey papers. The first notice is in 1775 when he paid £16-9-8d to George Cooke, the house steward of Dunham Massey Hall, for 3,516 lbs of old iron from the Dunham Woodhouses Salt Works.[3] In 1782 he paid £2-2-0 for 404 lbs of old iron.[4] Two years later he paid 10/6d for 84 lbs of old iron,[5] and in 1787 he and Isaac Worthington agreed to take "poor boys from Seamons Moss" as apprentices, for which they received £5-19-0d.[6] By 1803 he was a tenant in Hale, for which he paid a "consideration" of £40 for land of only four shillings rent.[7] James Hollingworth is listed as a blacksmith as late as 1822, but given the length of time between the first and last entries, it cannot be certain that it is the same person.

The historical background to the letters begins in 1793, when the French Revolution broke out. The British government realised the growing power of France and her desire to dominate the continent of Europe and began to expand the British forces in response. In February 1793 Thomas Graham of Balgowan, Perthshire was tasked with forming a new regiment and was so successful that by May the following year he was able to parade a regiment of 7 officers and 746 men. By June this had grown to 72 non-commissioned officers and 1,042 men including Highlanders, Lowlanders, English and Irish. They became known as the Perthshire Light Infantry.

By the end of the century France was the predominant power in Europe, despite the crushing sea power of Britain. Prime Minister Pitt sought coalitions with continental countries against France but with only varying degrees of success – the Dutch failed to help when Pitt sent a small expeditionary force to the Low Countries and Austria managed to avoid any promise of direct action until their defeat in the Battle of Marengo.

However, Britain, under the guise of the East India Company, still held much of India, but France was jealous of the huge trading opportunities and had influence in the State of Hyderabad. It was Richard, Marquis of Wellesley (1760-1842) Governor-general of India since 1797 and elder brother of the better-known Arthur, later to become the Duke of Wellington, who greatly reduced French influence in the sub-continent. Nevertheless, France had sent a large army to Egypt in July 1798 as an optimistic stepping-stone to India and although Napoleon had virtually abandoned them by 1800, they still represented a threat to Britain's power in the Mediterranean Sea and a long-distance threat to India. They needed to be overcome to reduce these threats and an army was sent to Egypt under the command of Sir Ralph Abercromby.

The British forces included the 28th (Gloucestershire) Regiment, the 42nd (Black Watch), the 23rd, 40th, 58th and 90th (Perthshire Light Infantry) Regiments of Foot. They landed in Egypt on 8 March 1801 under heavy fire and took severe casualties on the beach. Between then and 21 March, two more sharp engagements took place, the battles of Abukir (8 March) and Mandora (13 March). Although the British army was heavily outnumbered, roughly 14,000 opposed to 20,000 French, they were able to secure a position near Alexandria to await the main French attack.

The Battle of Alexandria took place on 21 March 1801. The British forces had taken a tactically secure position, the right of the line resting on ancient ruins and the sea, and the left on the Lake of Abukir and the Alexandria canal, facing the city of Alexandria to the southwest. The French began their attack at 3.30 am in their usual formation of columns, and the 28th (Gloucesters) took the brunt of the first assault. When a French column penetrated a gap between two British

regiments, the outcome for a time was in doubt, but the Black Watch and Gloucesters remained steady. The latter won their proud distinction of wearing badges at the front and rear of their headdress. The battle was over by 10 am. The French lost 1,160 killed and up to 3,000 wounded, and the British lost 1,468 killed, wounded and missing, including Sir Ralph Abercromby, mortally injured during the battle.[8]

It is not known with any certainty where and how Thomas Hollinworth joined the army. He was baptised on 24 January 1771 and died on 1 January 1827 aged fifty-five.[9] He enlisted in 1798 and according to his letters was due to be discharged in 1802. At that time there were no specific lengths of enlistment, nor did regiments confine themselves to specific areas for recruiting, such as for instance at the present time the King's Regiment recruited largely from Liverpool. One must assume that the 90th were moving from one depot to another and happened to be passing near Dunham. Thomas was about twenty-six years old, physically fit and willing to take the King's Shilling. Examples from my family history and my wife's include Lieutenant Edward Harling, a tenant farmer's son in Huddersfield who became Recruiting Officer for the 56th Foot (West Essex Regiment) and Jeremiah Yewdall of Eccleshill near Bradford who retired at the age of thirty-eight as a Sergeant after nineteen years in the 12th Foot, the Surrey Regiment. There is therefore nothing particularly strange about a Cheshire man enlisting in a regiment apparently from a distant part of the country, and when he was discharged after fourteen years service, he may have been no longer fit for active service.

His letters give a matter-of-fact account of this battle and other engagements. They also list the movements of his regiment over a period of several years until they arrived in Egypt. The spelling is largely phonetic, and a peculiarity is that 'h' is always inserted after 'w', as in 'whe' (we) and 'whas' (was.) This has not been corrected, but the letters are almost without punctuation, so some has been added for clarity. For the same purpose, paragraphing has been suggested, some abbreviations have been expanded between square brackets and place names have been clarified where possible.

"For Mr Jas Hollingworth, Blacksmith, Dunham Park near Altrincham.
April 28th 1802.

Dear Father and Mother. These few lines that I send to you hoping to find you in good health as I am at present thanks be to God for it. I was drafted out of the R[oyal] Garrison Battalion in to the 37th R[egiment] and stoped with the 37th in Gibraltar som time and then I chainged with one of the 90th R[egiment] and went up to Menorca [*Minorca*] and fighted Spanierds and took Menorcah with 4 Rs, the 90th the 4th the 28th the 58th and a few Detatchments of the Royal Artilery and Artificers.

The 90th R stoped in Menorca about 2½ years and did duty in the Garrison. Joseph Clewly is in the 58

R of foot and is serfent [*Servant?*] The 90th R left Menorca to go to Genoway [*Genoa*] to fight the French but the English beat them out and so the R ankered at Leghorn. The Rs left Leghorn and whent up to Africah and Easiah [*?*] and Whattred [*watered*] our shiping and then whe set off for Egypt to fight the French. The Reserve landed in Egypt 8 day of March 1801 with great loss, for the French whas so numerous, but still nothing could prevail us for landing. The French threw their shot and shell amongst the English and their Muscitry [*musketry*] played upon us. The French and English lay upon the Beech as thick as that it whas imposible to march over them. Whe marched up towards Alexandrow [*Alexandria*] & camped in a few days [*?*] and lay 4 nights and on the 13th day of March 1801 whe ad a great Engagement with the French, but whe bait them back with great loss and drove them into Alexandrow and on the 21st of March 1801 the French came out again with General Menon, but whe bait them again & killed a bout 3 thousand and took [*hidden under seal*] prisoners and then whe marched to Rosetta and took 800 prisoners out of a Castle that was surrounded with Battryes of 42 pounders, and whe left Rosetta and when to Rumnee [*Rhamanieh*] and took a Battery with 6 guns of 9 pounders. The French set on with the shells that they fired at the English, then whe marched up towards Grandcarow by River Nail side. It would doe youre hart good to see thousands of Acres of ground with Fine corne, bains, cloves, melons and all sorts fresh [*?*]. When whe got a bout alf of the way betwixt Alexandrow and Grandcarow whe took 500 Cambles and 500 French mounted upon them with their Muscits and amonition and then whe marched up to Grand Carow *[this place name has not been traced]* and their all the French surrendered, about 11 thousand of them.

Give my love [*?*] Hoult and is brother John and all my Brothers and sisters and all my relations and all my Whishes. Direct to for me at Chelmsford Barrix *[Barracks]* near London.

So no more at present from your loving son Th. Hollinworth."[10]

The second letter is dated 28 May 1802 and contains more detail about the movements of the regiment, with information of other Dunham friends.

"A Soldier's letter, Cha. Lead, Capt, 90th Reg. Of Foot.
For Mr James Hollinworth, Blacksmith, Dunham Park near Manchester.

"Dear Honoured father and Mother, this comes with my kind love to you finding you in good health as I am at present thanks be to God. [*?*] forth in the Regiment marched from Chelmsf*[ord]* Barrix to Scotland and on the *[blank]* March I saw Thos Stailfox of the Oxford Blews *[The Royal Horse Guards]* at Stilton Barrix doing Duty and he told me that his Uncle Joseph Drinkwater was dead. I whas very sory for to hear of both Richard Nield and Joseph Drinkwaters Death. But he told me that young John D- whas Master for

his self [*A John Drinkwater is named as a shoemaker, supplier of shoes for Carrington schoolboys from 1799 to 1816, EGR9/1/10 to /16*]. and his Mother and family har doing well and I whas very glad for it. He told me that young Richard Nield whas married. But please God I shall be home very soon with my Discharge please God. The young men at home as ad a very fine time at home while I have been a Broad in the field of Battle for so many a times."

Hollinworth then repeats how he was recruited into the 90th Regiment at Gibraltar.

"... then in a little time after our R... whent up to Menorcaw for to take the Iland. Whe landed our troops in Defiance of the Spanierds and then every piece of cannon two the 4 R[*egiment*]s fought them 4 to one and Beat them and tooke Menorcaw. The 90th R whas doing duty for 4 years in Menorcaw and then whe left Menorcaw for to go to fight French in Italy. But the French left Italy and whent to Genoway and whe followed them to that please [*place*] & defeated them their. Then whe left Genoway and whent to Caydos [*Cadiz*] the head Capital sayport [*seaport*] of the Spanierds for to land our troops, but the Govonor of the Spanierds wrote to King of Spaine a bout our troops and shiping so that the King of Spaine allowed our King of England 10 Millions of money for to not let our Brittish troops land, so then our shiping sailed from Caydos with all our army up to Malta for drive them out of that please and take them prisoners. Whe drove them out of Malta and took the please, so our English shiping whied [*weighed*] Anchor and followed them with all our army up to Egypt on the 8th of March. Whe landed our troops in Egypt where the french wher and a very great Battle their whas. The French and English lay so thick on the ground that would Grive your art for to see them. That day whe drove them back with great slawter on both sides. Whe pitched our camp 3 days for to rest our Army then on the 13th March the French and our Army ad a very Great Eng[*agement*]. Our R lost betwixt 3 or 400 men that day besides all other Regiments loss, but our Armys loss whas but small towards the French, and on the 14th day of March whe buried our dead and the French troops both. Whe drove them back under the walls of Alexandrow & whe pitched our camp on front of Alexandrow for to build Brest works and Batterys Night and Day.

On the 21st of March the French sallied out of Alexandrow with all their Army and Cavallery on front of our camp. But the Blessing of God Almighty and all our army whas redy for to receive them, but all our Army whas in line prepared for Battle. About 4 o'clock the Battle began. Whe fought them that day from 4 o'clock in the Morning till 11, on the day whe killed 4000 men and took 600 prisoners and drove them back againe, then whe left Alexandrow and whent on our march to Rosetta, whe stormed a large Castle at Rosetta, so the French surrendered them selves prisoners to our Army. Whe left

Rosetta for March to Rumanee [*Rhamanieh*] and ad a small Engagement their, but took their Battrys and surrendered, then Marching up to Grandcarow meeting a small body of French and took them. Then Marching up towards the Deasards [*desert*] whe took 600 Cambles and 600 men going from Grandcarow for provisions, so whe proseded on to Grandcarow and defaited them and took 1200 Infantry and 6000 horsemen, then Marched down to Alexandrow again and surrendered and took 1700 prisoners.[11]

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Also search for references to Peninsular War in Google.

MY FOUR-AND-A-HALF YEARS IN THE ALTRINCHAM LDV AND HOME GUARD

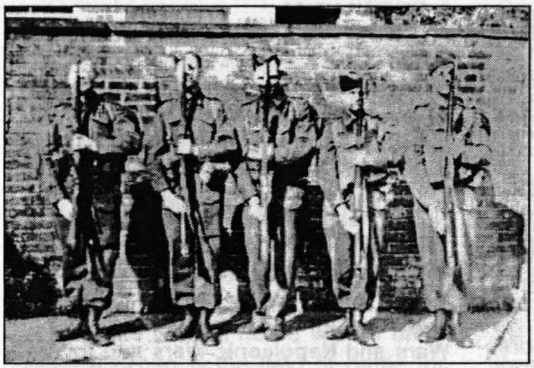
CSM Warburton

It all started when Britain and France mobilized on 1 September 1939. On the following day it was announced over the radio that there would be compulsory military service for all men in Britain aged eighteen to forty-one.

On 3 September 1939, war was declared.

On 14 May 1940 Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for War, sent out a call for a large number of men between the ages of 15-65 to offer their service to form units of defence. He asked for 150,000 — within a week the total reached 400,000. Some weeks later the number was over 1 million. The result was unbelievable. I was one of the many volunteers.

27 May to 4 June, evacuation of troops from Dunkirk. We were told that we would not be paid but would receive uniforms and arms as soon as possible. We appreciated that it would take a long time to equip so many men. However they did make a start. The first issue consisted of a thin cotton cloth worn as an arm band with the letters LDV, Local Defence Volunteers stencilled on the same. The name was changed to Home Guard at the end of July 1940. Incidentally I was employed at the time at Tilghmans Patent Sand Blast Co. Ltd. in Atlantic Street, Broadheath as an engineering draughtsman working on the production of military equipment



Broadheath Home Guard

etc. In consequence I would not be called up for military service. The Tilghman and George Richards volunteers reported for "registration" at George Richards Social Club. I am not sure where others reported.

Personal details were obtained from every recruit, age, occupation, place of employment, details of any past army service if any would be of interest for obvious reasons. Ex-WW1 veterans could also be very useful in so many ways. All this information was required to form various units.

I remember being put through our paces by an ex-Drill Sergeant on the frontage of George Richards works. No rifles were available for arms drill so pick axe handles etc. were utilised. We soon picked up the basics of marching, etc., after several sessions. At first we felt a little stupid, like children playing soldiers, but we knew in our hearts that times were very grim and we were involved in "a fight to the death" for Hitler was making such astonishing advances over so many counties. When Hitler first heard of Anthony Eden's broadcast call for volunteers to form a defence force he treated it as a huge joke and many cartoons where shown in German cinemas and in the newspapers.

The German propaganda radio stations constantly kept up the jeering and taunting about a defence force fighting with sticks, stones and pop guns. Later he issued warnings that after his victory over Britain all members of the Home Guard would be treated as snipers and would be executed. Incidentally one of his top propaganda broadcasts was a British traitor named William Joyce — nick-named Lord Haw-Haw. In 1946, he was tried and executed. I think he was hanged in the Tower of London, I am not sure. [Joyce was captured in northern Germany just as the war ended. He was hanged for treason on 3 January 1946. Popular opinion claims he was executed at the Tower of London; however, details of exact location can not be verified.] I must say that during the "phoney war" period when everything was so quiet, even the newspapers lampooned the Home Guard but that soon stopped after many complaints from various sources.

After a short spell at George Richards during the birth of the Home Guard, I volunteered with others to move to the local Home Guard E Company at "Stamford House", Church Street, Altrincham. The commanding officer was a Major Currie. As a temporary move we were placed "under the wing" of a Lieutenant

Broadheath Home Guard. CSM Warburton is on the top left, under the arrow

Walker. After a few more weeks of training and the experience of night guard duties, much to my surprise, I was promoted to Lance Corporal. Eventually we were equipped with "uniforms" made from cotton called denim. We hated these for they were so "baggy"; at least they caused many a laugh during the "fitting out" session. We could do with a good laugh anytime to help morale for we were facing a German invasion any time.

At that time we were beginning to feel the strain of constant drilling, guard duties, lectures etc., extra and late working hours in the drawing office etc. We were losing weight and periodically falling asleep on our drawing boards. One chap actually fell off his chair onto the hard "comp floor". He was injured but not too badly. Of course it was very important that we did not lose attention to our work in the drawing office. The powers that be changed our rotas, etc., to ease pressure but we still had to continue HG duties and drawing office output. We must not get our calculations wrong.

Once again another call was made for volunteers to form a new unit to be called the Anti-tank Platoon. I volunteered along with a large majority of the men who were temporarily under the command of Lieutenant Walker. We were all vetted and given to understand that training and duties

would be somewhat harder than normal. Of course one or two were weeded out for physical reasons. Immediately after the birth of the anti tank unit, which seemed to coincide with my promotion, the denim uniforms were replaced by khaki serge battle dress which included great coats, soft service caps with drop down ear flaps and a green camouflaged, water proofed, gas droplet proofed cape with a length of cord, boots, steel helmets, a respirator and a canvas strap arrangement with two square pouches to carry hand grenades or what ever. It was worn over the shoulders and round the waist.

Although we were delighted with the uniforms we were dismayed that no rifles had been included for without arms we did not feel soldiers. There was a formidable weapon, however, known as the "Molotov Cocktail", which could be home made quickly from an empty wine or beer bottle filled with a mixture of petrol and paraffin then corked, a length of rag cloth was soaked from the bottle content and tied round the bottle neck. At a suitable ambush site as the tank or ATV (armoured tracked vehicle) was coming into range, the rag around the bottle neck was ignited and then the bottle thrown and smashed on the top of the tank or ATV. Hopefully the blazing mixture would run through the tank air vents etc. and set the tank interior on fire. Marksmen would "pick off" the crew as they attempted to escape through the turret. The "Molotov Cocktail" was used by the Russians with great effect. I was assured, when I made an enquiry, that a good supply of MCs would be quickly available if ever needed.

Later I found out that gradually stocks of some arms and ammo were being stored in secret caches scattered around our outlying countryside. I often wondered if these supplies were for HG use if we were invaded. I think it was during the last months of 1940 when we were placed under the command of a Lieutenant Gray, ex officer WW1. We soon took to him for he was a fine officer. He never liked to talk about his trench experiences during WW1. We believed he had been awarded a "Mention in Dispatches Medal" but never mentioned that either. He taught us a lot about explosions, etc. I shall never forget him.

It was about the same period when we heard one day that America and Canada answered our cry for help for quite a number of wooden crates had been delivered to HQ. When the creates were opened it was a wonderful sight to see for there were rows and rows of various types of rifles and boxes of ammunition. I can remember the cheer that went up. We could not get our hands on them quickly enough. These weapons were coated inside and out with a thick grease for protection. Before one could say "Jack Robinson" many volunteers came forward to clean these weapons then to apply a thin coat of oil. Older recruits were selected for the dirty task. I can see them now in old clothes or boiler suits working away like beavers digging out a home.

Some rifles were painted with a red ring around the butt which was a warning that only .303 calibre ammo could be fired from this weapon. Rifles without red rings around the butt could only fire 0.300 ammo. A mistake would be disastrous. After degreasing and oiling the rifles had to be checked for any damage and at the same time have all sights realigned if necessary. Our armourer was a busy man. Some time later it was realised that there were no bayonets with scabbards in the consignment. By the time they arrived it had been decided that as we were an anti tank unit we probably would not be involved in any bayonet fighting so had no real need for them. However, if ever required some would be in store.

From then on things moved a little faster. Rifles were issued but there were not enough to go round so some men were very disappointed. However, they cheered up when we heard that another consignment was on its way. We were also told the first delivery of rifles and ammo had gone to certain units in some coastal areas and some county areas for obvious reasons.

The first issue to our unit consisted of various makes of rifle and ammo such as the Remington, Winchester, Springfield etc. I was issued with an Eddystone which was later exchanged for the best rifle of them all called a Short Lee-Enfield. It was approximately 8½lbs in weight, a little bit lighter than the others. A few days later we were off to the Army Firing Range at Sealand near Chester for the experience of firing our first rifle. This was the first of several visits to Sealand to continue arms training with hand grenades automatic arms etc. Our first visit was so "up lifting".

Over the months it was surprising that there were so many good marksmen in our unit. I must confess that I was quite good but not up to their standard. The gem was the Browning Automatic, best of all, quite heavy but so easy to sight and rapid to fire with single shots or bursts. We used to include in our Browning automatic rifle training a little competition. Who could dismantle and refit the parts in the fastest time wearing a blindfold. It became quite popular. There were bets on the side in cigarettes, not cash. It did help efficiency and morale.

Following this competition, some bright spark at the top thought up the idea of an efficiency test for NCOs and lower ranks. Those who passed would be given a small piece of red cloth shaped like a diamond which could be sewn on the fore arm of their tunic. The test was called the "Diamond Award" which was obvious. It consisted of various questions, some quite tricky and the identification of German army vehicles etc. from photos. There were numerous snaps of German tanks. It was declared that the tests would be voluntary after a few heads got together. I volunteered and passed.

As the months went by the flow of weapons to the HG moved a little faster. We received more rifles and ammo, and several boxes of hand grenades. The first bomb we handled

was the Mills 36 grenade which was more or less similar to the Mills used in WW1. The "body" looked like some chocolate blocks you buy today. The fuse was five to eight seconds and contained a filament of mercury. We used to practice with an "empty" grenade. Eventually we threw a few live grenades at Sealand under the control of regular army weapons officers. Then there was the "Sticky" grenade, a round grenade on a stick with a "Ball" full of a sticky compound and an explosive charge. The control system was on the handle. You would have to be somewhat of an expert to throw or stick one of these on a tank. The "Thermos" grenade was really a personnel type of bomb. It was made of plastic. We never practised with this type. On exploding it had a severe stunning effect on personnel. It would be used against the enemy being "housed up" in a building or a trench.

The main duty of the Home Guard was to kill German paratroopers. The anti tank unit would obstruct, delay, harass and destroy, if at all possible, a German tank or any supply vehicle, then "get the hell out of it". That was the *modus operandi*.

About this time I was promoted to full corporal. Later as the months went by, I was promoted to Sergeant, then Company Sergeant Major (CSM).

The German tank was protected with high carbon steel plates which were very effective. The "Achilles heel" was the track. To replace a damaged track link would take quite some time. "Object achieved" if we could damage a track. What we needed was a weapon which could deliver a high explosive from some distance accurately. Our target would be the tank track. Our prayer was answered when we were issued with two or three newly invented weapons called the Northover Projector. It was a sort of miniature field gun. It had a barrel fixed on a tripod and a breach loading device with a trigger. Our hopes did not rise very much when we first saw it. It was crudely made and looked like a cheap "Woolworth" product. It looked fragile. I remember hearing a voice say "that won't stop a b. . . .y tank!" We were wrong in our thoughts. When one was tested at Sealand by an army instructor, we were very much surprised to see how accurate they were and simple to operate. I think they were fired by a cap.

[It consisted of about half a dozen components and looked like a section of drain pipe on legs. It was sighted from 50 to 200 yards in 25 yard divisions. The aim of the device was to propel grenades by using a small explosive propellant charge. The projector was operated by pulling back a cocking handle which, when released by the trigger, would release the firing pin on to a percussion cap placed on the propellant charge. The grenade used in the Northover projector was the green cap SIP grenade, the No. 36 grenade or the No. 68 grenade. The crew consisted of two gunners and a commander. There were some 'home made' variations of the Northover projector. Some had the legs removed and were placed on

wheeled carriages to make transportation easier. A slightly more elaborate version was designed by two members of the Buckinghamshire Home Guard. They produced a Northover 'Revolver' Projector which had a five-chambered revolving magazine. Each of the chambers was loaded from the front; the magazine was rotated using a ratchet lever, operated by hand. As each chamber came in line with the barrel, the trigger self-cocked and then just had to be fired. This projector weighed 861b and could easily be operated by two men.]

Later a simpler but larger gun was issued called the Black or Blacker Bombard. It was very efficient and had a longer range.

After the excitement we settled down to more training, map reading, unarmed combat with an army PT instructor, range finding, camouflage, first aid, day and night patrols in the black out etc.

At the same time we would have to continue our important work with the drawing office and elsewhere.

I seem to remember that at the beginning of the war the army, probably the Engineers, drove numerous wooden poles into the ground in certain areas of Carrington Moss. Certain building firms were directed to build a number of camouflaged pill concrete boxes at various strategic sites. I understood that the pill boxes would be manned by the local Home Guard whilst other Home Guardsmen were "dug in". Hence the patrols we made to help us to familiarise our unit with the Carrington area.

We were involved at times in extensive exercises laid on by the regular army. My memory keeps reminding me of items of interest that I have not mentioned. If I remember rightly, the HQ night guard was from 6pm to 6am the following day. Any HGs who had been on night duty and were employed by Tilghmans or George Richards could report to Tilghmans canteen where they could purchase very cheap snack meals, a mug of tea, a bowl of porridge with powdered milk, a bowl of "Force" breakfast cereal and a toasted bacon "butty". The canteen opened at 6am. Before enjoying the snack breakfast they could enjoy a warm wash and shave. I can still smell the bacon toasted "butties". When rationing was introduced this early snack idea was abandoned.

After the light meal a man could put his head down for a limited three hour nap on a camp bed in one of the air raid shelters built on George Richards playing field between the main office and Longs confectionery works. During the 1940-1941 air raids, Longs works received a direct hit. After his nap, the man would report to his place of work.

During the summer of 1941, we received a delivery at Stamford House of a new weapon which was of British design. It was some sort of sub-machine gun. It was small and light with a thin magazine. I think it had woodwork on the stock. Further issues had no woodwork. It was all metal roughly welded together. I remember that there was a small slot on one side

through which spent ammo cases were ejected. Before the trials we were warned to take care and not have our fingers near the slot when firing for you could loose the tip of a finger. During trials it was found to be more efficient and accurate than expected. I have heard it said that it was on a par with the notorious Thompson sub-machine gun. It was eventually named the Sten gun. This new weapon could be manufactured in great quantities, quickly and cheaply. It was designed as a "throw away" weapon and pick up another quickly. I understand the cost of manufacture was approximately is 2d, old money. We also received plenty of ammo for storage. When fighting at close range, like clearing buildings and the like, the rifle was more or less useless. The Sten gun solved the problem and at the same time lifted our morale.

An unfinished doodle while on guard duty at HQ: "Of all the battles of history an epic indeed, I should say was that of Black Moss, I will remember to the end of my dying day. The enemy had landed in numbers. The news was flashed far and wide. The 17th of anti tank fame were called out to help stem the tide."

Towards the end of the war in 1944, we were informed that our commanding officer Lieutenant Gray had to stand down due to failing health. We were very sorry indeed for he was such a good officer and person who had contributed so much to our company. From then on I was left in command until further notice. A few weeks later I was informed that I was to be promoted to a Lieutenant after being recommended. I immediately requested that my name be erased from any list for promotions for any promotions are usually posted on the company notice board. It was appreciated that if I accepted this promotion it would change my relationship with my men and I did not want that. As a Lieutenant I would be expected to patronise the officers' mess after duties. I usually enjoyed a "quick" pint with some of the "boys" in a pub in Victoria Street after duties. Life would be so different. As an alternative I was promoted to CSM and left in command of our unit until further notice. Actually I was left in charge until the end of the war in May 1945.

When the war turned very much in our favour, following the deep penetrations made into the enemy lines by our troops and allies, things began to improve on the Home Front. All guard duties were cancelled except the guard rotas at the Stamford House Head Quarters. All arms, weapons training, field exercises, etc., were abandoned. We had a feeling that victory was not far away.

When the end of the war was officially declared the folk of Altrincham and others, as expected went wild, there were many cheers and many tears. I can remember big strong men being overcome. It was such a day of rejoicing and a day of prayers. Bunting and flags were everywhere, dancing in the streets, various entertainments were organised, street parties arranged and many bottles emptied, a day I shall never forget.

When the Home Guard was disbanded we had to hand in our uniforms, weapons and ammo but could retain our boots. Mine were in a very poor condition so I was given a new pair. I managed to keep my gas cape as well.

The victory celebrations were a day of great joy but also brought sadness for it would eventually mean that it would be the "parting of the ways" for our anti tank unit. For four and a half years we trained hard, carried out guard duties whatever the weather, took part in field exercises in spite of inclement weather. My comrades never complained when we did not receive any weapons as expected. They were always ready to give me support, they were a great team. I was proud of my men who would, I was sure, fight to the finish in spite of great odds. They had guts, God bless them. They knew there was no conscription to keep them in the Home Guard. They could "throw in the towel" if they wanted to but no one ever did. What made things harder for us was because we also worked in an engineering concern, foundry workers, etc., helping to supply the needs of our fighting forces.

In spite of the thickening mists of time and the passage of some sixty years plus, I can still remember a lot of those men who taught me so much and gave me such loyalty.

To the Altrincham Home Guard and in particular the anti tank unit, I salute you.

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Chris Hill

Notes on John Shaw

Stamford Park, Altrincham, was designed by John Shaw senior, one of the country's foremost landscape gardeners of his day, but it was his eldest son, also named John Shaw, who carried out the design, but not quite to the original plans. John Shaw junior had been born in Moss Side in 1851, but his father moved to Altrincham and set up the Dunham Nurseries. Young John lived on The Downs in 1880, when the new Stamford Park was officially opened on Saturday, 23 October. The *Altrincham & Bowdon Advertiser* had a large article covering the grand opening, the following Monday. The boy had learnt much from his father who was responsible for planning the layout of Whalley Range for Samuel Brooks, the banker, and followed this up by planning the roads for the Brooklands estate, including the full five and a half mile drive from Brooklands Station (included on the line specially for Brooks), to Prospect House in Hale Barns. The young Shaw trained in horticulture, first at Chiswick and then at Kew, being elected to the Royal Horticultural Society in 1874, at the age of twenty-three, one of the youngest members to be appointed. Following in his father's footsteps, John designed the gardens at Churchtown and the Cemetery at Stretford. He obtained an equal First Prize for a design for Burnley Public

Park, and it was his design which was used in creating these gardens. Apart from his other activities including running the Dunham Nurseries, he was appointed as Managing Director of the Kew Gardens at Southport. Out of a total of sixteen competitors, John's design was selected for the layout of the grounds of Parklands next to Dunham Park. He also laid out the gardens of Highcroft, Park Road, residence of J.R. Oliver. The Nurseries had a Warehouse and Offices at 29 Oxford Street Manchester.

Lucy Fildes

Perhaps you might have heard of the Victorian water-colour artist, Lucy Fildes, born in Stamford Road, Bowdon, on 23 December 1867, the daughter of Thomas and Mary (née Pritchard), Fildes. Her father is listed in the 1871 census returns as 'packing case manufacturer', but on Lucy's birth certificate he is described as 'tin box manufacturer'. The business must have been doing reasonably well as Thomas is recorded as employing eighteen men and boys. Both Lucy's parents had moved from Manchester where they had been born, her father in 1828/29, her mother in 1829/30. In 1871 the household contained three servants, Elizabeth Brookes (cook) unmarried, aged twenty-two, from Fenny Compton in Warwickshire; Mary A. Davenport, (housemaid), aged twenty-one, unmarried, from Nantwich in Cheshire; and Emma Simmons (nurse), unmarried, aged nineteen from Bilston, also in Cheshire. Lucy had three sisters, Anne, sixteen; Emily, ten; and Edith, aged five. Her brothers were: Henry, twelve; Walter, eight; and William, only ten months old on the date of the census of 1871. William is also, like all the other siblings, listed as born in Manchester, so either the family had only moved into Bowdon recently before the census, or the mother, Mary, may have gone back to stay with, or near, her own mother to have the latest baby. The 1881 census shows the family to have grown with the addition of two sons, Charles, then two years younger than William, and Arthur, six years younger than William. The staff had changed, probably due to marriage; with the family increasingly composed of younger persons, Emma Hibbert, aged twenty-seven from Manchester, was the nurse, and to help her, Ellen Lewis, twenty-five, a trained nurse from Shropshire. A general servant was Alice Bryan, aged twenty-two, listed as from Chester. There is a change in the family details in that Emily is now listed as being born in Stretford, Lucy in Bowdon and her younger brothers all in Sale where the family in 1881, was then registered as living at No.14, Wardle Road, next door to James Joule, at No.12.

Lucy became an accomplished water-colour painter and exhibited between 1900 and 1909 in Manchester and at the Royal Academy. She is listed in reference books as specializing in miniature portraits, but I have a pleasing 14 x 10 in. painting of hers, entitled *The Orchard*, not showing any obvious fruit trees, but instead it shows a completely rural, vaguely garden scene, with a building and a hill in the distance. On the site of the Sale Town Hall, old postcards show a

line of shops, Tatton Buildings, which includes one which Lucy ran with a female partner, selling paintings, prints and possibly artist's materials. At the other end of School Road is Orchard Place and one is left wondering if this has any connection with the painting just mentioned, but I think not as the road would have been built up by the time Lucy was around. The name "The Orchard", was also popular for houses built on former orchards. I do not think there is any family connection with the famous artist, Sir Luke R. Fildes, who exhibited at the Royal Academy and elsewhere, and who lived in the Liverpool area, I believe. Lucy died in 1946.

Observatories and an equestrian feature

Having an idle hour or so, I decided to examine the 1878, large scale (41.66 ft. to the inch), maps of the Altrincham area held in Sale local studies library, for any marked observatories. After looking through the incomplete set of the area, some twenty sheets, I found only one. This belonged to Joseph Sidebottom who during this time, was living at 'The Beeches' at the corner of The Downs (Higher Downs) and Downs Road (Woodville Road), i.e. the former St. Anne's hospital (named after his wife as a condition of sale). Other observatories existed, but are not shown as they were built into houses. An example is 'The Knoll' at the corner of Grey Road and the present Gorsey Lane. Another was in a house to the north-east side of Bonville Road, just before reaching High Park, but not covered by the above maps. Others may well existed amongst the houses of the well to-do. Perhaps at a later date, I have seen an observatory marked in the garden of a house in Marlborough Road. At present I know of only one observatory and that is in Harrop Road, Hale. What I did notice, quite by chance, was an area at the back of St. George's church, where the Parish Rooms are now, marked 'Manege'. It was circular in shape having a broad path round a central circular patch. As there was no building on the site, I wondered what this was and by consulting a dictionary, found out. This was a ground for training horses whereby the person controlling the horse with long reins, would stand in the middle and get the horse to trot round the circular path. One lives and learns.

COLIN SPOFFORTH STATUE FOR ALTRINCHAM

Don Bayliss

Members may be interested in an enquiry we had from Colin Spofforth, the important sculptor from Brimstone Artworks. He has done some remarkable public statues such as The Runner outside the Manchester Stadium and The Green Man and others. He is presently designing a sculpture of Owen Glyndwr. He has been commissioned for a sculpture outside Altrincham town

hall to be mounted opposite the market hall. He asked us for some suggestions and this was our reply:

Dear Colin, Perhaps you can find a theme or two here.

Context for a bronze for Altrincham's Historic Market Quarter

This area not only includes the market house (hall) of 1879 but the earlier market place, a hundred metres away, with its market cross. It is suggested there could (perhaps should) be some reference to this first market which was given by a charter of Edward I to Baron Hamo de Masci of Dunham (the lord of Altrincham) in 1290AD. This earlier market was under the remit of a body called the Court Leet which administered the town until the advent of the Local Board of Health in 1851. The Court Leet then continued in a ceremonial capacity only alongside the Board. The latter was replaced in 1894 by an Urban District Council and other bodies since.

The Court Leet's officers concemed with the market included:

The market looker who allocated the stalls (one account states the stallholders all gathered together and when he rang a bell they dashed off to pick a stall). He had to arraign people accused of 'forestalling' (setting prices beforehand), or 'regrating' (buying in bulk beforehand), or 'engrossing' (collaring the market). He also had a set of metal beakers with handles for testing the accuracy of measures of liquid, grain and powdered products (they were kept in the town library until recently), and a set of scales. The afferer (treasurer) collected rents for the stalls.

The leather sealer checked that the leather sold had been properly tanned.

The aletaster tested for the accurate weight of the bread and that the ale was 'fit for mens stomachs'.

The cattle looker looked for the quality of a beast and that there was no 'mange' or other deficiency in what was being sold.

The swine looker watched the quality of the pigs sold.

There was a mayor, constables and other officers.

There was a cattle market and a pig market by the Unicorn.

(The Court Leet still exists in ceremonial form and annually 'appoints' the same officials as the above who give a record of their findings to the Court three times a year.)

The income from the market went into the coffers of the lord of the manor, first the de Mascis (Masseys) then the Booths and since the early eighteenth century until 1879, the Stamford family.

Pigs were very important in the town throughout history, e.g. supplying poor people with food, lard and bones and leather to sell. They were useful as scavengers at a time when there was no public sewage system and piles of effluent lay about. In 1852 there were over forty piggeries, many in people's back yards. Some people were accused of keeping pigs in their houses. Geese were important too and were herded together on Goose Green to graze on Hale Moss, a waste common land (also used for animal grazing including cattle, horses and donkeys) and were then

sold in the market. In 1878 the Local Board of Health purchased the market rights from the Lord Stamford of the day for £1000 and built the present market house.

In 1887 the Local Board informed central government that Altrincham market was a general one selling butter, eggs, poultry, bacon, cheese, fruit and 'in the open ground' drapery, confectionery, hardware and 'pigs or other live animals'.

Hope this information is of some use.

Don Bayliss, Altrincham History Society,

Recently Altrincham Chamber of Commerce, Trade and Industry and other bodies have been consulted and I believe the subject selected was that of a market stallholder holding a spray of flowers and a fish. I had hoped we might get a large bronze pig which would have made a striking monument. However, you might imagine one or two reasons why this was rejected! Nevertheless, I have written to the powers that be suggesting that at least some historical accuracy could be preserved by abandoning the flowers and fish (not mentioned as being sold in 1887) and selecting a couple of items from the list in my last paragraph above for the stallholder to hold. Watch out for what appears outside the town hall.

H W KEARNS & CO 1945-1967

Peace and the aftermath of war: Part 1

Keith Gowing

At the end of the war there was thanksgiving and relief that the violence was over, but there were immense difficulties, such as shortages of food and materials, particularly steel, wood and paint.

The country was faced with an enormous house building programme following the blitz. A million servicemen had to be returned from abroad and demobilised, a task that took nearly a year. Manufacture had to be focussed on the export trade, to earn much needed foreign exchange. The government decided on a policy of austerity, which meant the continuation of rationing, high taxation and poorer quality of goods for the home market. For the British public it meant utility clothes, utility furniture and pre-war second hand cars. Although there had been wage inflation, as far as value was concerned, the average citizen was worse off in 1948 than in 1938.

As far as Kearns was concerned, the immediate postwar period was one of shortages of materials and high demand for re-equipment. To overcome some of the procurement difficulties, Kearns bought up many of the "War Finish" machines, which had been engaged on armament manufacture and refurbished them to peacetime standards. This strategy also kept the old machines off the sec

ond hand market. Not that there was a shortage of orders; Keams found itself with a four year order book. A real salesman's paradise. About 30% of orders were for export.

One of the first acts following the cessation of hostilities was the disbandment of the Home Guard. Its members had given up their meagre spare time for four years.

Employees who had been in the services started returning during 1945 and 1946. Although the vast majority of employees had been in reserved occupations, there were some who by chance or volition had been called up. Amongst those returning were Albert Brereton (Army), Stan Mcguire (RN), Fred Alcock (RAF), Ken Common (Army), Stan Davis (RAF) and Eric Coclough (RN).

Steam locomotives were still in high demand, and the connection with the railway industry was strengthened, when in 1945, Sir William Stanier, the famous loco designer joined the board. Sir William was keenly interested in design and used to inspect the work of the draughtsmen minutely. He was particularly concerned about stress-raisers, and looked to see that all corners on shafts had been suitably radiused. He was a tall, rather gaunt man, who always wore a black bowler and carried a furled umbrella; the real image of a gentleman engineer.

During 1947 Curtis Sparkes and Reg Hallam made a fact-finding tour of the US machine tool industry. They reported that the Americans were no more advanced than ourselves. They were not impressed with the American safety practices; they had observed a serious train accident at an unmanned crossing in a factory complex.

It was about this time that Benjamin Rothman joined the company. Benny Rothman was known nationally for his part in the 1938 mass trespass of the grouse moors in the Peak District. In the ensuing fracas, Benny was arrested and spent some time in custody, becoming quite a hero to the protesters. Later, during the war he was employed by Metro Vicks and became deeply involved in union matters. Soon after starting at Kearns, Benny was elected as shop convener. Most of his colleagues agreed that he had mellowed considerably since his crusading days.

With such a large order book many people wondered why Kearns did not expand their manufacturing base. But the memory of the depression of the nineteen thirties, and the near collapse, remained vividly in the minds of the Kearns family and they did not wish to overstretch their responsibilities.

Manufacturers often used the four-yearly Olympia exhibition to introduce new products. The 1948 event was the first since pre-war days and there were many new products on view. It was a great success, and a pleased Oscar Rendell, the works manager, invited all the employees who were on the stand for dinner at the Trocadero. After the diners had completed the main course, Mr Rendell asked the waiter to offer sec-

ond helping to anyone who wanted it. The waiter approached a senior member of staff and enquired "Would you like meat or potatoes, Sir?" The senior member replied, "I'll have the meat, please. We've got plenty of potatoes at home." Nowadays that remark may sound rather blatant, but remember at the time the meat ration was only six ounces per week.

Accuracy

Accuracy is paramount in machine tools. It is generally accepted that it is nearly impossible to produce precision components on an imperfect machine.

Many inhabitants of Altrincham must not have realised to what degree of precision their neighbours were working.

The work was really approaching watchmaking standard at one end. At the other, it was lifting and manoeuvring 10 ton castings.

Responsibility for maintaining quality depended on the inspectors. For many years the chief inspector was the well respected Percy Freeborn, one of the original band of twenty eight from Muirs. When he retired, his position was taken over by Robin Bullcock, who maintained the strict standards set by Mr Freeborn. It was said that Kearns inspection department was the Company's best advert. Kearns supplied a cast iron test piece with every machine, which after machining could be easily checked for flatness, squareness and taper. The test was normally carried out prior to the customer's acceptance.

Developments

In 1951 a new pattern shop was built across the stub of Craven Road, on land which had previously belonged to the railway company. Unlike Richards, Kearns had never owned a foundry, but for many decades had enjoyed a close and fruitful relationship with Stubbs foundry at Openshaw.

The patterns were made in Broadheath and shipped to Openshaw, where they were stored until an order was called for. For repair or major modifications the patterns would be returned to Broadheath.

The new building covering 8,100 square feet was specifically designed as a patterns shop with power points for saws, sanders and dust extraction equipment.

Some time later it was decided to put in a new central heating system for the whole factory. The boiler was located in the pattern shop, which meant taking the main pipes across Craven Road. The heating engineers were not very pleased when Kearns management required them to run the feed pipes ten feet high, so that the fitters would not be able to drop tools on them. It created the wrong circulation pattern and it took much longer to heat up the factory.

The 1952 Olympia Exhibition saw the emergence of the D3CE machine. One story relates to the pricing of the new model. The directors could not decide upon a price for the new design. So for each model in the Kearns range a price per ton was calculated and a graph was drawn, from which a "fit" for the sales price was obtained.

It was the practice of the management to hold "open days" at the works, usually prior to a major exhibition, to enable employees' families and others to see what the firm was producing. On one occasion a group of wives was being shown a planing machine in action. This 15 ton machine was planing a half inch keyway in a boring bar, a rather long winded job. One hardy housewife stood, feet firmly planted on the ground, with hands on hips, and regarded the scene. Turning to the operator, she said, "What a big machine doing such a small job. Why don't you do two bars at the same time?"

This brilliant piece of lateral thinking had completely bypassed the production planners, but not for long; next day two boring bars were being machined simultaneously.

In addition to attending the Olympia exhibitions, two or three times a year Kearns also sent machines to foreign expositions, notably Paris, Toronto, Sydney and Milan. Chief demonstrator for many years was Alf Grant, who was also foreman borer. Before the war, in the days of lineshafting, Alf had been standing on the table of his borer when he noticed that his colleague had got caught up in the spindle of his machine and was being drawn into the workpiece. With quick thinking, Alf leapt off his machine, grabbed the lineshaft belt and knocked it off its pulley, thereby stopping the machine and saving his colleague. Unfortunately, Alf's fingers had been trapped and he lost the tips off three of them.

Productivity

A casual visitor, walking through a general purpose workshop in the 1950s, would be surprised to observe that only one machine in seven was actually cutting metal.[1]

Over fifty years considerable research and design had gone into developing metal cutting machine tools; the machines were powerful enough, rigid enough and had appropriate feed and speed ranges. So why were so few actually cutting metal? It was not that the operators lacked diligence, or that the machines suffered from high unserviceabilty.

The fact is, that to produce a high quality product requires much preparation and careful attention.

The visitor would note that the operators were loading and clamping workpieces, setting measuring systems, clearing swarf and changing tools. Many of the components had to be lifted by crane, which might be engaged on work elsewhere. Perhaps the most important requirement for improving productivity was for accurate and convenient measuring equipment.

Company Matters

In April 1957, Mr F C McAlpine died. He had served as a director since 1938. There had always been a strong connection between Keams and McAlpines. Indeed, McAlpine's bricks had been used in the construction of the works in 1907.

In 1959 H W Kearns became a public company and new shares were issued. Extra funds were required for expansion, and whilst the Kearns

family retained the majority of shares, the rest were taken up by a group of sympathetic investors. Among the new investors was Vice Admiral Sir Frank Trowbridge Mason, who joined the board as a non-executive director.

It was hoped that this move would prevent a take-over by predatory institutions.

At the same time, it was decided to offer a limited number of shares to the workforce. Many people took up this offer and enjoyed an interest in the fortunes of the company.

About this time, with rapidly developing technology, it became clear that to maintain its position as a leading manufacturer, the company would have to devote more resources to product development.

In order to prevent disruption to the very full production programme a separate development and experimental (D & E) department was set up. It had its own machining and assembly facilities and was staffed by three engineers. It had a pressurised clean air room for the assembly of delicate mechanisms. Much of its development work was focused on slideways, toolchangers and the application of ballscrew drives.

A prototype measuring machine was built in the D & E, as an exercise in diversification. It enabled finished components to be measured using a sensitive probe. The worktable was mounted on air bearing slideways and components weighing several hundredweights could easily be shifted by hand. Read-out resolution was 0.0005". Its first public showing was at the 1966 NC exhibition.

APPENDIX

Engineering Details

1947 saw the redesign of the No 2 size machine, which now took the suffix CE (previously CU). The most noticeable change was that the upright was now straight sided. This was easier to cast and now the balance weight could be carried internally. The flat back of the upright was a suitable place to house the electrical control cabinet. Machines were getting more sophisticated and needed provision for switchgear, fuses and lighting fittings.

Apart from the external motor drive, the machine could be offered with a built in self reversing motor. The model first appeared at the Olympia exhibition of 1948.

During the existence of H W Kearns and Co, that is from 1907 to 1967, the Imperial system of measurement was the legal standard. Therefore the Imperial system will be used throughout this account.

Geometrical accuracy relates to flatness, squareness and circularity of form. Various tests had been developed to examine these qualities, using quite basic equipment such as the engineer's level, precision square, trammel bar and dial indicator. The tests were comprehensively expanded to form a step by step procedure for verifying the status of a machine tool by Dr Schlesinger and became a standard for the industry. As an example, the flatness requirement for a slideway is such that it should not exceed a quarter of one thousandth of one inch over one foot.

The "thou" is the engineer's unit of fine measurement, usually written as 0.001". Many people have difficulty in coming to terms with such small amounts, but for a comparison, a strand of human hair is about two thou (0.002") in diameter.

Apart from the work on the new CE series, design and development was being carried

out on improving the capacity and effectiveness of several models. Where wide and heavy components were concerned, there were deflection problems at the extremes of the cross traverse. These had been largely overcome by providing conventional machines with outrigger bedways. To ensure smooth and easy motion the saddle was supported on large diameter rollers over the outrigger ways.

However, there were certain components such as textile frames, which were wide, but had only shallow depth, for which a new configuration was developed, termed the planer table type. It had a fixed cross bed, lying at right angles to the spindle axis, with two auxiliary beds parallel to the spindle axis; one carrying the headstock and its upright, the other the boring stay and upright. Of course, such a radical development meant a substantial re-design of the drive and feed elements, otherwise many basic units from the 0 type production line were incorporated.

Early in 1954 Kearns was approached by Vickers Shipyard, who were building the new aircraft carrier HMS *Ark Royal*. It had a steam-actuated catapult, and a milling machine was required to machine the long guidance slots. Kearns produced a twin headed milling machine mounted on a trolley, which was completed satisfactorily within three months. Although jobs like this interfered with normal production, Kearns knew that good relations with customers helped future orders.

Also in 1954 the twin spiral facing head was introduced. The old design, dating from 1939, employed a scroll plate and dies. The scroll was subject to heavy wear and often needed replacement, so an improved system using pinions and racks was devised.

Measurement Improvements

The traditional means of measuring machine traverses was the rule and vernier arrangement; highly accurately graduated brass or rust free steel rules and vernier plates. Earlier versions were of the two thou reading type, but by the 1950s the one thou reading type was in general use. The set-up was not easy to use, but it was claimed that a skilled man with good eyesight could set a dimension to within 0.002".

Usually rule and vernier arrangements were fixed directly to machine components, such as the head and saddle, and in some cases this led to calculation difficulties, particularly on the cross traverse, in setting datum points. A visit to a borer's workplace usually showed pile of scraps of paper which had been used for making calculations. Borers were as numerate as bookmakers.

An early improvement was to make the vernier plate adjustable over about an inch, thereby enabling the operator to set precisely to an integer.[2]

Dimensions such as gear centres were critical and much depended on the skill of the operator. Illumination was very important and in the early days operators were supplied with candles and magnifying glasses. Later, low voltage lamps were fitted to the machines. Flexible linkages enabled the lamps to be directed at the vernier or the workpiece

Many attempts to improve traverse measurement were made in the 1920s and 1930s. Typical was the use of end rods to build up specific sizes, an idea that found only limited application.

In 1921, Kearns developed the "Instanter", a screw-driven device with reduction gearing, which showed distances in feet, inches and thous. In principle a good idea, but it did not stand up to gritty, oily workshop conditions.

Collaboration between Kearns and Messrs Hilger and Watts brought about a new measuring device, which was patented under the name Optimetric in 1951. Basically, it consisted of a glass scale and a reading head with magnifying optics and low voltage lighting, giving a resolution of 0.001". The scale was limited to 12" in

length. Optimetric units were first fitted to the S type, and machines so equipped were referred to as tool room borers. It was a costly system. At the time, the standard S type sold for £600, the Optimetric version cost £1,000.

In the mid-1950s, Messrs Hilger and Watts introduced their Microptic Scale Reader. It embodied illuminated magnifying optics which gave clear images with a resolution of 0.001 inches. No special glass rule was required, instead it used bright steel rules with 0.1 inch graduations. It was much cheaper than the Optimetric system. Soon many machines were being refitted with the Microptic Readers.

All the measuring units described so far are, essentially, analogue devices. In 1956 the BTH company, in co-operation with Kearns, developed a much more sophisticated digital system, using electromagnetic inductance as the means of measurement. Data from punched cards inserted in a reader unit caused the appropriate machine member to position to a selected position to within 0.0005". Alternatively, using hand dials on the console, the desired numerical data could be fed into the reader unit, rather like tapping in a PIN number.

It was fitted to a Kearns OPT machine, which required much modification; separate variable feed drives to each axis, automatic clamping to all axes, and unidirectional final approach. The really important advance was that the responsibility for measurement was no longer on the operator's shoulders.

At the 1956 Olympia Exhibition, it was heralded as the first automatic positioning borer in the World.

Later, in retrospect, it would be referred to as the first Numerically Controlled borer in the world.

About a dozen machines fitted with the system were sold over the next few years. It was really a development before its time and was an expensive system compared to others that were being developed.

Sources

1. H W Kearns & Co Ltd., Broadheath, Cheshire. *Machinery* 4 July 1962.
2. C A Sparkes, 'The Industrial Development of Broadheath' in *Altrincham, A History*. D Bayliss, Willow Publishing, 1992.
3. C A Sparkes 'A Paper delivered to a Conference on Automation', *PERA*, 23 March 1965.
4. Directors' Reports and Accounts, H W Kearns & Co, 1957 — 1966.
5. Numerical Positioning with Kearns, a document issued c.1964.
6. Automatic Co-ordinate Setting. BTH document G12089 issued c.1956.

Notes

1. The one in seven figure applies to workshops on one-off or low volume batch production. In flow-line mass production, as the motor industry, many smaller machines were automatic and would be in constant production, stopping only for occasional servicing.
2. For the cross traverse, Kearns affixed the rule to a slide bar. This enabled the whole rule to be datum set to zero at any position within the traverse.

ALTRINCHAM RAILWAY STATIONS

David Groves

Ask members how many stations called "Altrincham" there have been, and they can identify two immediately. After a little more thought, some will remember that one in Broadheath was also called Altrincham[1] for some years; but was there ever another "Altrincham" station?

Just to clarify, a station actually named Altrincham and *not* just in the borough, so excluding Navigation

Road, Bowdon/Bowden and the temporary station near Goose Green. Of course, other stations also partially qualify as the ancient borough absorbed other areas such as Dunham Massey and Timperley.

A perusal through the recent publication from Don Bayliss[2] showed many specially drawn maps dated 1851/2 had been reprinted – most of great general interest of course whilst my personal interest in railways should be noted. The text has Don querying why the terminal station in Pinfold Brow (Lloyd Street from 1853) was called Bowdon/ Bowden (though it was not in Bowdon), and not simply Altrincham. Elsewhere, he answers his own question by showing the "first" Altrincham Station was just south of the [Stockport] Turnpike Road level crossing and, of course, this was replaced by the current station in 1881. This is quite as I had expected and entirely consistent with much published information.

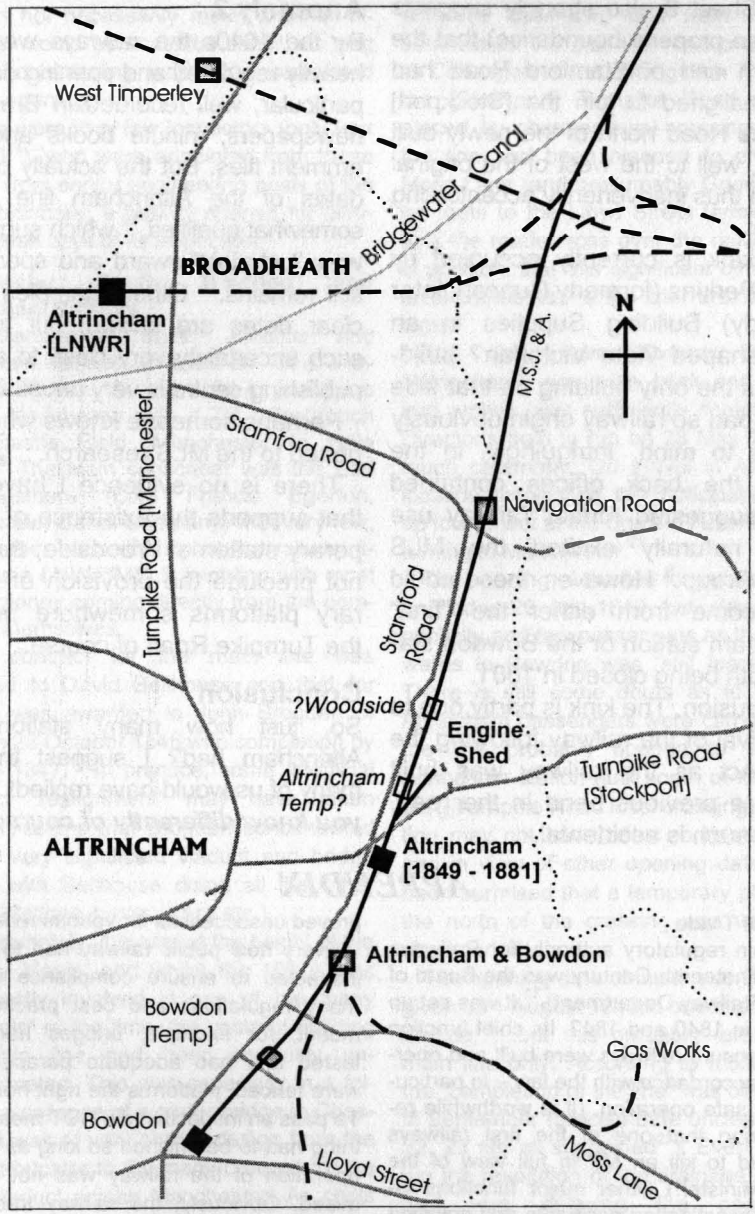
However, there may have been an earlier temporary terminus also called "Altrincham". The evidence is based on two surprising "anomalies" and has been noticed before, not least in the late 1960s by the Manchester Locomotive Society (MLS).[3] With several prominent local historians involved (Prof. H.P "Pat" White, W. "Bill" J. Skillern, Harold D. Bowtell, Mr Buchanan, all sadly departed) there must have been much serious investigation undertaken. I wish I had a copy of their findings but I only knew of the direction in which they were heading. However, the detailed maps reprinted by Don Bayliss[4] show that one important hypothesis I believe they considered can now be finally dismissed.

I believe that they concluded that whilst there was circumstantial evidence of a temporary earlier Altrincham station north of the first station, and that "Woodside" was a most promising location,[5] it was unlikely that any one would ever prove it. Time may tell, but I suggest that their most likely candidate can now be "ruled out" on the grounds of probability by Don's work. Progress!

Anomaly 1

Why does Grovesnor Road have a pronounced kink on what must have been a road only opened in the 1840s? On the 1852 survey[6] a road called Stamford Road connected the [Stockport] Tumpike Road with the [Manchester] Tumpike Road in Broadheath via what are now Grosvenor and Navigation Roads.

It has been argued that a railway structure was planned[7] for the kink to serve the newly designated industrial area of Altrincham known as Woodside. As any building used as a temporary terminus would have to have existed in 1849, it may have appeared as a potentially taxable property on the specially drawn large scale 1851/2 maps,[8] but didn't. Its absence proves nothing of course. However, the only buildings in the area on the 1852 Index Map are marked as Woodside Mills. The more detailed Sheet 8 shows the kink to be "empty" and only about sixteen dwellings nearby with no industrial premises at all, let alone a single mill. More impor



Altrincham and its Railways c.1853 (diagrammatic)

tantly, Sheet 8 also strongly suggests (from the property boundaries) that the southern end of Stamford Road had been realigned to join the [Stockport] Turnpike Road north of the newly built railway, well to the west of the original junction thus inadvertently accentuating the kink.

The kink is currently occupied by Travis Perkins (formerly Duncan, later Kennedy) Building Supplies in an oddly shaped ?late Victorian? building. It is the only building on that side of the road so railway origin obviously springs to mind. Intriguingly, in the 1960s the back offices contained items suggested former railway use which naturally excited the MLS Study Group.[9] However, these could have come from either the "first" Altrincham station or the Bowdon station, both being closed in 1881.

Conclusion. The kink is partly due to the arrival of the railway following the 1845 Act as the railway was built across a previous bend in the road, and as such is accidental.

Anomaly 2

By the 1840s the railways were very heavily regulated and opening dates, in particular, well recorded in Bradshaw, newspapers, minute books and Government files. But the actually opening dates of the Altrincham line remain somewhat qualified,[10] which suggests it wasn't straightforward and speculation still remains.[11] Other examples of unclear dates are known, but to have such uncertainty very close to a major publishing centre is very unusual.

Perhaps someone knows what happened to the MLS research.

There is no evidence I have seen that supports the existence of a temporary station at Woodside; this does not preclude the provision of temporary platforms somewhere north of the Turnpike Road of course.

Conclusion

So, just how many stations has Altrincham had? I suggest three as many of us would have replied! ***Unless you know differently of course.***

APPENDIX

Board of Trade

The main regulatory authority for Railways in the Nineteenth Century was the Board of Trade (Railway Department).[12] It was set up by Acts in 1840 and 1842. Its chief function was to ensure railways were built and operated in accordance with the law – in particular their safe operation. (It is worthwhile remembering that one of the first railways managed to kill an MP in full view of the Prime Minister!) Other major functions included investigating accidents and collating statistics.

For a brief, but very relevant period (1846-1851), the functions were carried out by the Railway Commissioners, but this proved unsuccessful for various reasons.[13]

Every new public railway had to be fully inspected to ensure compliance with the many regulations and best practice. This meant, for example, bridges had to be tested and had adequate parapets, lines were fenced, platforms the right height, etc. To pass an inspection did NOT mean everything had to be finished so long as the safe operation of the railway was not compromised. Obviously, the railway tracks, signals, etc, had to be adequately complete, but, for example, station buildings didn't need to be complete, provided public access was restricted. A failure during inspec-

tion did not necessarily mean another inspection would be essential either, so long as the outstanding work was completed prior to opening.

There were very few Inspectors (only four in 1850[14]), who were appointed from those retiring from senior engineering posts of the Army. Normally, a railway opened for business within days of its inspection.

Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway

The Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway obtained an Act of Parliament 21 July 1845 to build its main line across Manchester with a 7¾ mile branch from Castle Field, Manchester to Hale Moss.[15] The main subscriber was the Earl of Ellesmere (Lord Francis Egerton, Bridgewater Canal Company) with very few, if any other subscribers, but the railway itself was a LNWR/MSLR joint line with most of the money coming directly from the companies themselves.

The contract for the main line was awarded to David Bellhouse and that for branch was awarded to John Brogden of Sale on 23 October 1845 with completion by 1 June 1847.[16] In practice, some unofficial contract "realignment" may have taken place; it seems that Brogden concentrated on the very significant viaduct and bridge works, with Bellhouse doing all the other works (stations, tunnel, track etc.)

Unfortunately, this was at the height of the Railway Mania, and whilst the MSJA was not directly involved in one of the many "scandals" at the time, the costs of building the main line had been seriously under-estimated. This was especially true following a collapse of a girder bridge in Chester that was of very similar design from the same fabricator to the many ordered for the main viaduct across Manchester! As costs dramatically increased, money ran out and so work had to cease pending another Act of Parliament 22 July 1848 authorising additional funds.[17]

The 1844 plans were reviewed during this enforced cessation, and from Timperley southwards the planned road over-bridges at Deansgate Lane, Navigation Road, and the [Stockport] Turnpike Road were replaced by cheaper level-crossings.[18] Also, the line had been planned to cross over Moss Lane (and presumably Goose Green) en route to the Lloyd Street terminus;[19] as built the roads cross over the railway and it is possible that this significant difference in level contributed to the later drainage problems.

The line from Oxford Road to "Altrincham", now with brick and superior iron arches, was sufficiently complete for a Director's train to run on 28 May 1849 with much ceremony. On arrival in Altrincham, location unspecified, the participants walked up to a junket at the Unicorn Hotel before returning to Manchester.[20]

The opening of the line for public use was on Friday 20 July 1849, but with minimum publicity and few passengers as the line onwards to Bowdon was "still incomplete".[21] There is still some doubt as to where in Altrincham passengers were carried. Whilst the line probably opened to the "first" Altrincham station (just south of the [Stockport] Turnpike Road level crossing), this station may not have been complete enough and in view of other opening dates, it has been surmised that a temporary platform to the north of the crossing was used for a short period.

The opening date of the line to Bowdon is given as 1 August 1849 in one important reference,[22] but this probably refers to the main line only. According to most sources the "completion of the line" was delayed until September (precise date unclear, the 20, 22, 23 are all suggested[23]). Even so pending the resolution of the drainage problems that was delaying the opening of Bowdon/Bowden terminal station (eventually opened 1 January 1850[24]) a temporary terminus north of the Goose Green bridge was necessary.[25]

The lack of clarity about the openings no

doubt prompted the 1960s research. The suggestion is that whilst the line was itself was complete, neither station building was ready due to foundation problems associated with Hale Moss.

The main line itself (Oxford Road to London Road and Castlefield to Ordsall Lane) opened 1 August 1849.

The current Altrincham & Bowdon station was opened either 3[26] (or 4[27]) April 1881 and both the previous Altrincham and Bowdon stations closed at the same time. However, the Bowdon terminus remained in use for stabling stock until 1971. Altrincham & Bowdon was renamed Altrincham on 6 May 1974.

Navigation Road (and Dane Road both) opened 20 July 1931 upon electrification of the MSJA - hence "Many Short Journeys and Absolutely Reliable". Shame such a valuable reputation was almost lost under BR and Metrolink just don't understand the concept.

Cheshire Midland Railway

Originally proposed as an extension to the MSJA, the line from Altrincham southwards to Knutsford was opened 12 May 1862 under the auspices of the Cheshire Midland company as the LNWR was against it. The Cheshire Midland became part of the CLC so the LNWR continued its opposition.

Cheshire Lines Committee (CLC)

The CLC was a company jointly owed by the MSLR, Great Northern Railway and Midland Railway and eventually took over the Cheshire Midland and the Stockport, Timperley and Altrincham Railways *inter alia*. It was formed 5 July 1865. Despite its name, the majority of its lines were actually in Lancashire! It was the most successful of the joint railways.

A feature of the CLC was that it owned no proper engines; these were provided by the owning companies.

The Baguley (Skelton Junction) to Broadheath (LNWR) line was opened by the CLC 1 February 1866.

As the MR joined the LMS in 1923, and the MSLR and GNR were part of the LNER group, the CLC remained a joint operation until Nationalisation in 1948.

London & North Western Railway

The LNWR had several fingers in the Altrincham railway pie. A forebear was the Manchester & Birmingham Railway, which initially was granted the 1845 MSJA Act, only becoming part of the LNWR on 16 July 1846.

Another forebear was the Warrington & Altrincham Junction Railway (later becoming the Warrington & Stockport Railway) on 4 August 1853. This is the reason why the LNWR was against the Cheshire Midland as that it had plans of its own to connect Chester and Manchester via Warrington. The W&SR opened its line on 1 November 1853 from Warrington via Lymm to the cheekily named "Altrincham" station, admittedly a few yards inside the borough boundary in Broadheath. The extension from "Altrincham" to Timperley opened on 1 May 1854 and the W&SR was eventually formerly absorbed by the LNWR on 13 August 1859. This Altrincham station was renamed Broadheath in November 1865.[28]

The LNWR became part of the LMS in 1923.

Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway

The MSLR was an important part owner of the MSJA, albeit the 1845 MSJA Act was granted in the name of the Sheffield, Ashton-under-Lyne & Manchester Railway (only becoming MSLR 1 January 1847. It later became the Great Central Railway 1 August 1897 and part of the LNER in 1923.

Altrincham Gas Works Railway

The first gas works in Altrincham was behind the Unicorn Hotel[29] and the coal for it came from "local mines".[30] (There were bell pits on Timperley Moss, Shadow Moss and Carrington Moss.)

Another Gas Works was opened in the later nineteenth century. It was down Moss Lane on land northwards towards Urban Road near the football ground. An 1893 Act

enabled a tramway to be constructed from the goods yard at Altrincham & Bowdon Station to this Gas Works.[31] Horses were initially the sole prime power. By 1924, the demand for gas had more than doubled and permission was sought, and granted to use other forms of motive power. Initially, a Sentinel steam wagon was used, but by 1943 a "proper" steam engine (a Peckett 0-4-0ST Arthur E. Potts, named after one of the Gas Works Directors) was in charge. A diesel was tried in 1946 but was too unreliable, and the steam engine was retained until the Gas Works and line closed in 1958.[32]

If it had survived, we could even have seen Metrolink trams along Moss Lane!

The British Gas Weyman House Accounting Centre was built close by, if not actually on the same site.

Notes

1. *Railway Passengers Stations in Greater Manchester.*
2. *A Town in Crisis, Altrincham in the mid-Nineteenth Century.*
3. Manchester Locomotive Society (MLS) Study Group, unpublished? Research, circa 1970.
4. *A Town in Crisis.*
5. MLS Study Group.
6. *A Town in Crisis.*
7. MLS Study Group.
8. *A Town in Crisis.*
9. MLS Study Group.
10. *The Building of the Railways in Cheshire down to 1860*; *History of the Manchester Railways*; *The Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway.*
11. MLS Study Group.
12. *The Oxford Companion to British Railway History.*
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. *A Town in Crisis.*
16. *The Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway.*
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
22. *History of the Manchester Railways.*
23. *The Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway; Chronology of the Railways of Lancashire & Cheshire; Scenes from the Past: 36.1 Altrincham to Manchester; Railway Passengers Stations in Greater Manchester.*
24. *Railway Passengers Stations in Greater Manchester.*
25. *A Town in Crisis*; *Railway Passengers Stations in Greater Manchester.*
26. *The Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway.*
27. *Railway Passengers Stations in Greater Manchester.*
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ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

The main aim of the society is to further the study of the local history of Altrincham and to enable such findings to be communicated to members of the community at large

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Altrincham History Society

JOURNAL

George Faulkner Armitage (1849-1937)

Uncommon Law

H.W. Kearns & Co., (1945-67) Part 2

The History of the Devisdale

Education in Hale in the Seventeenth Century

Farewell to Arnolds Yards, Heart of Old Altrincham

Price: £1.50

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Cover illustration: OS Map of Devisdale.

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Don Bayliss

To announce that Mrs Hilda Bayliss has retired from the post of Vice-Chairman. We thank her for many years of service and are happy she will be continuing as a member of the committee.

Her position of Vice-Chairman will be taken by Colin Graham. I always marvel at the way members produce well-researched articles and the fact they get published means they get on to local libraries' shelves for other people to enjoy and use. I say *use* because one measure of the value of our articles will be that they may assist other writers with facts for their books. Our articles will then be listed as references in other publications.

David Miller reports that we have had 15,000 hits on our website. Another measure of our success, and thanks to David for organising this.

We look forward to another interesting group of lectures arranged by David and two visits arranged by Colin.

Thanks to Jill for another excellent Journal.

Don Bayliss

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Meets at the Methodist Church on corner of Woodlands Road and Barrington Road, Altrincham at 7.30pm on Tuesdays. Visitors £2.00.

Talks

11 September 2007, Words, Derek Slater
9 October 2007, The Work of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit, Norman Redhead
6 November 2007, The Black Prince's Cattle Farm in Macclesfield Forest, Paul Booth
4 December 2007, Project updates, party, quizzes
15 January 2008, Textile Villages, David George
12 February 2008, Ringway Airport in Wartime, Alan Scholefield
11 March 2008, Medieval Cheshire Churches, Dr Tom Driver
8 April 2008, Historical Lymm and District, Joe Griffiths
20 May 2008, Projects update

Proposed Visits

17 October 2007, Visit to Altrincham Town Hall, with Peter Noble. 1.45pm on Town Hall steps.
16 April 2008, Walk around Lymm with Joe Griffiths

SOCIETY NEWS

BALH Award for Don and Hilda

BALH (the British Association for Local History) has honoured our Chairman, Don Bayliss, and our first Secretary, Hilda Bayliss, 'for promoting Local History in their area for more than thirty years by example, delegation and motivating others; founder members of Altrincham HS'. The award was presented by Prof. Claire Cross, Chairman of BALH at BALH's Local History Day on 2 June 2007 at Friends House, Euston Road, London.

Congratulations to Don and Hilda. Well deserved.

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Cheshire Tithe Maps Project

The digitised nineteenth century Cheshire tithe maps are now accessible online in a prototype form. The editor of this Newsletter has used the website and found it to be excellent. [*Chester Newsletter Archives and Local Studies*]

John Rylands Library Re-opens

John Rylands Library re-opened its Deansgate doors to researchers and visitors on 5 May 2007. It has been closed since 2003 for a major refurbishment and development project, which includes a new entrance wing housing modern visitor facilities and a lift access to all public areas. There are new exhibition galleries and improved collection and reader facilities. *[CCE Newsletter]*

GEORGE FAULKNER ARMITAGE (1849-1937)

Colin Graham

In an earlier investigation Charles Frederick Southwell was identified as the resident of 'Duncot' on Oldfield Road who had painted the landscape *Oldfield Brow*. It was then a straightforward task to put together the basic elements of his life in Altrincham.

Charles was the eldest son of the joiner Charles Southwell of 'Victoria Villas', 128 Hale Road. He was born on 2 September 1874; married Annie Bowland in 1902; and was the father of three children – Dennis Bowland (1907); Dorothy Mary, later Mrs Downes (1907); and Charles Geoffrey (1912).

The family lived on Oldfield Road in 1906, then moved on some time after 1916 when his grandchildren say the family went briefly to Norman's Place, where his father-in-law Jacob Bowland had a house and painting business at numbers I and 3. By 1927 the Southwells were at 13 Sandiway Road where Charles died in 1971 at the remarkable age of ninety-six.

Just as remarkable and interesting in the history of Altrincham was Southwell's long career as draughtsman, designer then architect working for the famous designer and interior decorator George Faulkner Armitage. Armitage was based at 'Stamford Studios' in an old coaching inn on the present site of the Cresta Court Hotel and Welman House. Rosanna Attwood (see source references) reports that there is a photograph dated 1897 showing six young men in black bow ties working at drawing boards, another standing at an easel and a young woman standing by a plan chest. Armitage and another older man supervise the group – possibly Armitage's elder brother Joseph Frederick, or his cousin and brother-in-law John Rigby, with whom he went into partnership some time in the 1870s. By 1897 Southwell would have been twenty-three and at the beginning of his career; while Stamford Studios would have been in oper

ation for over twenty, with Armitage at the height of his powers and reputation.

George Faulkner Armitage was the fourth son of William Armitage, a cotton manufacturer in partnership with John Rigby, who had factories in Warrington and elsewhere. William lived at Townfield House in Altrincham from 1852 to 1888 with his wife Annie (née Rigby), his business partner's sister, and their four sons. George had been born in Levenshulme in 1849. John Rigby of Warrington had a son, also named John Rigby, who became a partner with George as mentioned above.

The details of George's early education and career are not on record. Attwood relates that after studying art and architecture, including a time in Italy, George returned to Altrincham and established a design studio and decorating business at his father's residence at Townfield House. If he was twenty-three or thereabouts, the date would have been 1872-4. He later transferred the firm to the old coaching house 'Stamford Arms and Bowling Green Inn'. The date is not clear, but it was some time after 1874 since the inn had become Stamford House School under the Rev Charles Incledon (1864); then Little Heath Charity School run by Miss Hannah Riding from 1874. Armitage does not appear in Kelly's Directory for 1878 at Stamford House, but he does so in Hadfield's by 1886, by which time he was well established. The likely date, therefore, is 1879 when George married young John Rigby's sister, his first cousin, and would have moved into his own residence. Attwood says that he purchased the inn as a house, and then later turned it into a studio. The point at which he entered into partnership is also unclear, nor whether it continued at Stamford House nor when it ended, but it was apparently established by 1878.

Armitage set up his own furniture making company, which made cabinets, sideboards and carved decorations. Early examples include walnut corner chairs for the Fine Arts Society of Bond Street London (c.1880), where he also redecorated the entrance gallery (1885); and carvings on an altar table and to the choir stalls in Chester cathedral. Southwell also worked on the reredos in the cathedral, but this would have been some time later.

By the 1880s, George was producing sitting rooms, parlours and interior designs, as displays for exhibitions; for example, the Manchester Fine Art Industrial Exhibition (1882), and a similar event in Huddersfield the following year. He went on to design the central dome, which housed the Royal Jubilee Exhibition in Manchester (1887).

By the 1890s, when Southwell was taken on as a draughtsman, Stamford Studios had an international reputation, and Armitage won a gold medal for his design for the British Commission at the Paris Exhibition of 1900. He now had showrooms in Dalton Street, Manchester and at 18 Clifford Street off Bond Street, in London.

The Studios received commissions from many great houses, for example,

Spenfield House in Leeds; but mainly in Cheshire such as Abney Hall. Southwell prepared designs in many such cases, and also did work for Ampleforth College. The family still have drawings of the interiors of large houses including a fireplace in the Jacobean style, which was a prominent feature in many of the Stamford designs. Armitage was also the architect for Sir William Crossley's home in Ambleside in 1901.

George was much influenced by the ideas of both John Ruskin and William Morris in that the architect and designer should be in full control of a given project, and in the use of craftsmen. He had a policy of taking on promising young 'craftsmen'; and Attwood tells us that there is a watercolour of the Stamford Studios by Southwell showing women spinning and weaving and a man wood-working. In turn Armitage had some influence on the work of the architect CFA Voysey (d. 1941) especially in the use of stained glass and decorative half timbering.

Armitage had a great influence locally that went far beyond his commercial role, and he bought Sandiway House and 1½ acres adjacent to help him widen his social and other activities. He became a Justice of the Peace in 1894, and went on to become Chairman of the Magistrates for Altrincham Petty Sessions Division in 1930. He was also on the Board of Management for Altrincham Hospital.

George served as Mayor of the town for six consecutive years from 1913 to the end of the Great War in 1918. Since he was sixty-five in 1914, and had been in retirement for three years, so it would have been age rather than ill-health that prevented him from taking on active service, as one authority suggests. He was a prominent Liberal, and at some point in his career he was commissioned to produce designs for their Devonshire Club in St James', London. While he is reputed to have been a great admirer of Lloyd George, it is not known whether this continued into the 1920s when he was a strong supporter of the League of Nations Union.

Armitage was just as fervent in his Christian beliefs and practice. He was a teetotaller, a regular worshipper at the Bowdon Downs Congregationalist Church, and played a prominent part in many of the town's religious organisations – President of the Manchester Free Church Federation; a founder member of the Manchester Free Council of Christian Congregations; founder of the Council of Christian Ministries in Altrincham; and nationally a director of the London Missionary Society. When the Congregationalists closed their college at Spring Hill, Birmingham in order to have a presence in Oxford following the end of the religious tests for admission (1871), he worked with the architect Basil Champneys to construct Mansfield College there in Gothic style. It opened in 1886.

Since Armitage retired in 1911, Southwell must have been employed by some of the successor firms for the rest of his career after the age of thirty-seven – Armitage & Wolffe (a

Unitarian from Hale Barns), Wolff, Gunson & O'Meara, Wolff & O'Meara (to 1957), and then Wolff & Alexander. Its final form was Shaw & Alexander, but now has ceased to trade.

The bowling green at Stamford House was kept on for Armitage's private use; but he did make it available to some of the members of organisations with which he was connected. He took an interest in the local Altrincham & District and Sale & District Leagues. This facility disappeared when the House was demolished and the site filled by the Cresta Court Hotel in the 1960s. A permanent reminder of George Faulkner Armitage, that many people see every day is the cross in the Memorial Garden opposite St Margaret's Church. He made a substantial contribution to its cost, and supervised its erection free of charge; while Southwell's descendants maintain that he had an important role in its design.

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Bygone Altrincham, Traditions and History, Charles Nickson p.52.

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Chris Hill

Uncommon Law

If you asked most people what the Law is, they would probably answer that it is a collection of Acts of Parliament, and perhaps add that, from time to time, the interpretation of these Acts, by Judges, either modifies the way these laws are interpreted, or redefines their wording, in the light of modern circumstances.

However, this is not the full answer because some laws are by Royal Charter, not Parliamentary Acts, and there is also a section of the Law which applies independent of any written law to cover its validity. The Law in general is referred to as "Common Law", but what does this mean; is there Uncommon Law? The answer is, yes. Our legal system is based on Roman Law, introduced two millennia ago, but since the time of the Roman occupation there have been further invasions. In the fifth century by the Anglo-Saxons and later the Danes (Dane Law), and in the eleventh century by the Normans. Considering the Anglo-Saxons, they came as local settlers, not as an all-conquering invasion, and in the isolated islands of land they took over, their local laws applied. These may have differed from group to group and consequent-

-ly their laws were administered on a local basis. As time went by and groups merged into kingdoms and eventually under a single king, into one nation, the various laws also became merged into what was known as "Common Law". In the process of amalgamation the law that was commonly accepted, recognised that there were laws operating in some parts of the country that were not common to the whole. These local laws which were outside Common Law were legally defined as "Custom". (Very few solicitors, or barristers, know much about Custom Law; it is a very specialized field of Law.) Common Law and Custom have the same force in legal terms, although, as mentioned above, Custom only applies to a particular locality. Custom was recognised as being the Common Law within the locality in which it operated. The laws of Custom cannot apply to a certain section of the general population of the realm, but only to the confines of a geographical area. These areas are small, for example, a parish, a manor, or a borough. The 1972 Act of Local Government which abolished boroughs, did not do away with Laws of Custom which still applied within the former boroughs. These 'uncommon laws' have to be ancient and to have existed from 'time immemorial', which by legal definition means since before the accession of Richard I, in 1189, and again this is further defined as having applied for as far back as anyone can see and that there is no evidence that they started after 1189. So Custom is presumed to apply from ancient times in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, and that these laws are not wholly irrational, but were made in favour of long-continued enjoyment by those to whom they applied. In legal terms, the Custom Laws must be "reasonable", "to the benefit of the commonwealth in general". Every local Custom Law, regardless of whether the same conditions seem to apply in other localities, is unique to that one locality and are not affected by changes in other apparently similar localities. In some cases Laws of Custom were brought about by Royal Charter, or by Act of Parliament, or by exclusion from a Common Law Act, but applying specifically to a particular territory. The City of London has such Custom Laws, as does the City of York (and other places), giving benefits to the inhabitants of those places, such as freedom of certain travellers' taxes, or the right to use certain lands for pasture, etc., or the right to carry out specific trades within a certain area. These rights were more important in former times, but even today, in certain former boroughs, the inhabitants having certain qualification, can reap an income from the use of land amounting to many thousands of pounds annually from these rights.

Some things never change

Way back in the days when I worked for a living, someone at work put the following quote up on the notice board. "We trained very hard, but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams, we would be re-organized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by re-organizing and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, in-efficiency and demoralization."

(Caius Petronius, AD 66.)

Folklore?

From childhood, I remember a snippet of folklore (or was it true?), that a member of the Downs family, which until recently had two 'chemists' shops in Broadheath, was named Ida. Recently I had opportunity to find out which, on meeting and talking with Mr. Downs, now retired and living in Wales. He confirmed that there had been such a person. If memory serves me right again, they lived in one of the houses backing on to The Mount, with their entrance off a common driveway from Oldfield Road. I noticed in May 2004, that work was being carried out on the slab-fencing which has fortunately been retained. The only other examples I can think of, off the cuff, are in The Narrows, and at the frontage of the site of St. Margaret's Institute. Another example, used to be in Stamford Road, Bowdon, between gardens, part way up on the right hand side. This was notable for having several raised 'dinosaurs' footprints of the same type as found on the slabs surrounding the Warburton Cross plinth. Fortunately, before these were replaced by a brick wall, being a better support between different garden levels, I was able to photograph them and arrange for Manchester University Museum to inspect and save the best specimens. One usually thinks of such slab fencing to be associated with churchyard boundary walls, or farmyards, especially for enclosure pens in front of pigstys. Another remnant from older farms are the glacial boulders which farmers remove from fields they wish to plough, and either leave them in a hedgerow, on a grass verge, or they are used in farmyards to prevent damage by carts to gates or the corners of outbuildings. Sometimes, instead of football-size, really big specimens of these 'erratics' can be found. The nearest to Altrincham, is probably the one in Flixton (it could be quarried), at the junction of Brook Road and Bowfell Road, in the grounds of what used to be the General Library. A second, erected on a metal plinth, is in the area of Bronington Close, off Longley Lane, at Sharston. This rather large glacial boulder was erected to commemorate the father of Sir Edward Watkins when his house, 'Rosehill', used to stand here. Sir Edward was a Victorian railway magnate, chairman of the Great Central, Metropolitan and South Eastern Railways. He was involved with the original plan to build a Channel Tunnel, but the scheme did not get the backing of the government who were worried that in building such a tunnel, national security would be compromised. He was involved with another project which likewise came to nothing; the building of a replica Eiffel Tower, in London, on the site of Wembley Stadium. The stone has been moved slightly from its original position, due to the site being redeveloped for luxury flats. A third stone is just south of Lymm, close to junction-9 on the M56, in the long driveway to Bradley Hall Farm. This specimen took a team of horses to move it from a nearby field to a position of distinction on the driveway to the house. The stone is far enough from the house to view without the residents getting worried about intruders. A final example

which comes to mind, although further away, also mounted on a plinth, is at a road junction in the middle of Crosby, north of Bootle. The reason I mention these stones is that recently I noticed for the first time, despite the many times I have walked past it, is that there is a small boulder at the entrance to Goose Green from Railway Street. I have not included the stone at Castle Mills, with the memorial to T.A. Coward on it, as I do not know how the stone got there. The 'touchstone' outside the Bridgewater Hall, in Manchester, is what is known as an 'Ishinki', carved by Kam Yasuda, costing £200K, and was put in place in 1996.

Mr. Philip Mules

Have you ever heard of Dr Mules (think carefully because it's not impossible)? Have you a clump of blue aubretia in the garden, it could be a variety known as 'Dr Mules'. The good doctor lived in Delamer Road, Altrincham, and worked as an eye surgeon at Manchester Eye Hospital. He started in 1873 as one of three Assistant Surgeons at 24 St. John's Street, before the whole enterprise moved to Oxford Road. This was brought about by the rapid increase of patients – 6800 out-patients and 950 in-patients – which the St John's site could not accommodate. In the hospital archives, Mules is recorded as one of four Honorary Medical Officers, there being one Assistant Surgeon, a House Surgeon and a lay Secretary on the staff. However, originally, a House Surgeon in training also acted as the Hospital secretary. Mules eventually resigned in 1889 after sixteen years on the staff. When Dr Mules started in practice, the operations performed on eyes were based on hard earned, but somewhat limited scientific knowledge, which did not progress very quickly. However, Mules was responsible for inventing a false eye in the form of a metal globe which could be inserted into the tissues of the socket after the eye had been removed.

My thanks for some information from Mr AEA Ridgway FRCS, 32nd Surgeon at the Manchester Eye Hospital.

H W KEARNS & CO, 1945-1967

Part 2

Keith Gowing

An End to Austerity

The immediate post war situation had been grave, not only for Britain, but also for the whole of westem Europe. Food was severely rationed, there were shortages of housing and materials for the economy.

Hundreds of thousands of displaced persons had to be relocated and housed. Some feared civil unrest, and there was the threat of a Soviet takeover, which manifested itself in the Cold War. These dangers were recognised by the American administration which organised a recovery plan for Europe, known as Marshall Aid.

Countries were able to borrow substantial funds, which could be repaid over a long term. There is no doubt that the plan was of great benefit and kick-started Europe on the way to recovery.

Britain, under a separate agreement, obtained a multi million dollar loan in 1945. It is interesting to note that the final repayment of the loan took place only in 2006.

Improvements in the lot of the citizen began to take place before the mid-1950s; more goods such as motor cars, televisions and washing machines became available on the home market. Relaxations in borrowing regulations enabled the population to gain access to these sought-after goods. The adventurous even started taking holidays abroad.

Food rationing ended in 1954, and by 1963 National Service had also come to an end. This burden had reduced the workforce by seven hundred thousand men per year for fourteen years. Importantly there was an air of new found affluence. Prime Minister Macmillan announced "... Most of our people have never had it so good." [Bedford, 20 July 1957]

The Kearns board looked forward to the future with confidence; orders were satisfactory and profits, although slightly down gave no cause for alarm. They proposed extensions to the main works and a new office block. Funds were set aside for new factory equipment, including a large Noble and Lund plano mill (for machining long components).

A Public Company

In 1959 H W Kearns became a public company and new shares were issued. The extra funds were required for expansion of the business, and while the Kearns family retained the majority of the shares, the rest were taken up by a group of sympathetic investors. Among the new investors was Vice Admiral Sir Frank Trowbridge Mason, who joined the board as a non-executive director.

It was hoped that this move would prevent a take-over by undesirable predatory institutions.

At the same time, it was decided to offer a limited number of shares for sale to the workforce. Many employees took up this offer and were able to take an interest in the fortunes of the company.

Meanwhile, manufacture of boring machines equipped with BTH Automatic Positioning Systems previously described, continued.[1] At the 1964 Olympia Exhibition Kearns showed a D3WB model with that system. It was certainly a crowd-puller. A demonstration of the machine's precision had been arranged; the table had been programmed to position to where it just trapped a five pound note against a buffer, hence measuring the thickness of the note (about 0.003").

One day, HRH, the Prince of Edinburgh visited the stand, observed the experiment, and was duly impressed. The ensuing press photograph of the event was mounted in a frame, together with the five pound note. It was displayed in the design office for many years. For security, the portion of the note which carried the serial

number had been cut away. Northern prudence!

The Sixties Revolution

There were changes at board level. In 1959 Oscar Rendell retired from the position of Works Director, but remained on the Board. He was succeeded by Reg Hallam, and Ted Lowndes was appointed Works Manager. Mr Rendell died in March 1960; having given over fifty years' dedicated service to the company. Stephen Keams, Sir Lionel's son, joined the Board in 1961, having trained with the company since 1953. He held the position of Advertising Manager.

Sir Lionel Keams died in November 1961. He had contributed much to the company and the machine tool industry, and had been awarded the CBE in 1941, followed by a knighthood in 1945. Denis Kearns was appointed Chairman and Managing Director.

Progressive extensions had been made to the main works which now added up to 110,000 sq. ft.

In 1962, a new office block was opened on land adjacent to the pattern shop. To ensure easy access to the main works, the new premises were connected by an enclosed footbridge. The building housed reception, the boardroom, executive offices, the wages department, the firm's archives and canteen. The opening ceremony was performed by Sir Lionel's sister, Miss Mabel Kearns, a lady of substantial means. For the event, a length of silk ribbon had been stretched across the wide entrance. As she approached, scissors at the ready, Miss Mabel observed that the ribbon was far too nice to be cut in half, and promptly severed it at its anchor knot.

The removal of the wages office to the new building meant that the drawing office could be expanded. There was a considerable amount of design work to be done. In addition to residual work on the recently introduced series 45 range, work had started on replacement designs for the Nos 4 and 5 range.

In the same year, 1962, *Machinery Journal* published an article on H W Kearns which reviewed the first fifty years of the company's existence, and which gave a comprehensive detailed account of the methods of manufacture employed in the factory.[2] It noted that, at the time, the workforce stood at 500, of whom twenty were involved in design and development. There were seventy apprentices, indicating a recruitment rate of about ten per year. Their training was supervised by a full time training officer. Many were receiving technical education under a day release scheme.

The 1960s was an exciting period in engineering, because it was coming under the influence of electronics. The wartime advances made in radar and communications technology had been refined and had spread into other fields, giving us the transistor radio, the programmed washing machine and walkman. It was not long before the ubiquitous integrated circuits found their way into machine tool engineering.

The Read Out System

An entirely new system of measure-

ment, known as "Digital Read Out" was introduced about this time. Far better than the optical measuring units previously described, the innovation was based on a digital transducer which converted mechanical motion into electrical signals. These were then processed in an electronic unit to present data on an illuminated display panel. Resolution was one tenth of a thou., which was five to ten times better than most optical vemiers, and could be easily set to datum at any point in the traverse. Some had inch/metric switching. Moreover, it required virtually no maintenance.[3]

With the old Rule and Vernier system, it could take five to ten minutes to set a dimension; with Read Out, it took around twenty-five seconds. It was the boring operator's dream. Some jobs that had previously needed jigs to ensure accuracy, could now be bored freehand.[4]

Many older machines were re-fitted with Read Out and enjoyed a significant improvement in productivity.

The manually operated boring machine had about reached its zenith at this stage, and there were demands for automation, particularly with regards to improved ergonomic operation. The larger machines were fitted with creep feed facility, that is, the capability of slowing the traverse rate down to less than one inch per minute, to allow the operator to stop at the appropriate target dimension. (Rather like trying to put exactly 20 litres in your car when you fill up.)

Another improvement which eased the operators lot, was hydraulically activated tool clamping.[5]

Numerical Control

Credit goes to NASA for promoting research into automatic control of lathes and milling machines in the early nineteen fifties. By 1960, several electronic firms were offering package numerical control (NC) systems. Because it was normally operated using punched paper tape, many people called it tape control.

In 1966, an NC exhibition was held in London. Thirty different tape systems were offered. It was obvious that not all would survive the competition, and some would fall by the wayside. Meanwhile, machine tool companies were struggling to introduce these new systems on their own products. Many problems arose from interfacing mechanical and electronic components. A 1965 paper delivered to the Production Engineering Research Association by Curtis Sparkes discussed these difficulties and the need for better collaboration between electrical and production engineers.

Kearns' approach was to develop a simplified machine with non traversing spindle and minimal manual operation; but speed selection was still operator controlled. A three axis NC system was featured, sharing a servo-feed drive, with automatic clamping of the slideways and tools.

One of the first orders went to the Lightnin' Mixer company, where it performed well on fabricated steel components.

Machine ergonomics had been much improved with the introduction

of pendant control. This was a switch-box with pushbuttons and dials, which was suspended from an upright at about eye level. It was rather like a TV remote control – but with cables.

Early versions had start, stop and reverse buttons. Later versions featured feed controls, tool clamping and even carried Read Out displays. It saved the operator from moving from one station to another, and kept his eye on the relevant functions.

While these exciting developments were taking place rumours of a possible take-over (of Kearns) surfaced once more and so it was a surprise when Denis Kearns announced that H W Kearns had, in fact, purchased Essex Tool and Gauge, a small firm in Navigation Road. The reason given was that ETG was an important supplier and Kearns wanted to retain security of essential supplies. The company was to remain at the Navigation Road premises. Ted Lowndes, Kearns' works manager was appointed a director of ETG.

Urwick Orr

The management had become concerned about a progressive reduction in pre-tax profits from £206,270 in 1962 to £122,270 in 1965. Although there had been disruptions to manufacture, such as one-off orders and design changes in that period, the Board felt that productivity could be improved. Therefore, the management consultants Urwick Orr were engaged to examine current practices and advise on possible improvements. Initially, the consultants were engaged for six months, a term which was later extended to a year.

Examination of the production data showed that the bonus system was unsatisfactory. Broadheath Union agreements precluded the application of certain time and motion techniques, but a method of bench-marking was approved. It is ironic that before Urwick Orr's recommendations were fully implemented, they would be overtaken by more momentous events.

As a matter of interest, the report noted that the consolidated weekly rate for fitters and turners was £11-11-8, and for labourers £8-19-5, but these amounts were supplemented by bonus payments of £6 to £8 weekly.[6]

An important one-off order at this time was from AEI at Trafford Park. It was for a three axis NC turbine blade milling machine to produce prototype blade forms. Previously this work had been painstakingly done by hand using a toast rack of templates.

It was a great honour, in 1964, for Denis Kearns to be elected to the position of President of the Machine Tool Trades Association.

Mr Denis was a big advocate of the Common Market. His argument was "Why ship your products half way round the World when you can sell them to your neighbour?"

Marketing

In spite of the putative "Common Market", some of our salesmen were not quite convinced by Mr Denis's words.

Selling into Europe was not an easy matter, the major nations such as France, Germany, and Italy prefer homespun products.

One example of the fierceness of the competition relates to the alleged quality of British steel. Before 1939, a plethora of steel specifications was available on the British market, with each manufacturer having his own 'superior' brand – rather like washing powders nowadays. In wartime such a luxury was wasteful and confusing, and therefore the manufacturers agreed to rationalise their output. The new standard range was described by 'Emergency Numbers'. For instance, low carbon steels were given low numbers such as En1 and En2. High carbon steels and alloy steels took higher numbers, En9 and En21. The system worked so well that it was retained after the war. Note that the term "Emergency" applied to the state of belligerency not to the quality of the steel.

Several years after the war, one of our salesmen discovered that a continental competitor had advised a customer not to buy British machines, "because they are still using emergency steel", that is, in the sense of a stop-gap or ersatz material.

It is hard to believe that this statement was a genuine misunderstanding; more likely it was an early example of "spin".

Sales to the European Economic Community were rare, apart from the odd order from Holland and Spain. Switzerland (not in the Community) also featured in several sales.

Purchases emanating from the USA and USSR were virtually non-existent.

Former Empire countries were good customers, particularly Australia, Canada and South Africa. Sir Lionel visited South Africa frequently and was instrumental in obtaining many orders from South African Railways.

From time to time Kearns received visits from foreign trade delegations and in October 1963 an Observation Team of Japanese Industrialists arrived. The group of thirty visitors was separated into teams of five, and escorted around the works by selected guides. Each visitor had been equipped with state-of-the-art cameras. They enthusiastically photographed every object they could focus their lenses on; such was to be expected.

The big surprise occurred when, after two hours, farewells were being given. It was revealed that each of the visitors had been carrying a miniature tape recorder in his pocket and every word the guides had uttered had been carefully recorded.

The Machining Centres

Keams decided to move into "Machining Centre" manufacture, because it was felt that it would keep the company's name in the forefront of the market.

A machining centre is a machine tool based on the milling machine format, which is capable of performing a number of machining operations under automatic control, that is, without manual intervention. Usually the operator's job is merely to load raw artefacts and unload finished components. A vital ingredient is an automatic tool-changer, a device of some sophistication.

The first order was from the University of Twente in Holland, requiring a machine with Philips NC and a Scully Jones tool changer. There were many problems with its construction, particularly interfacing components from several manufacturers, and delivery was delayed for many months.[7]

A year later, Dean Smith and Grace, the lathe builder, ordered a twin table type, fitted with a 100 tool automatic changer. In that case the NC system chosen was from General Electric. Once again there were many teething problems, but when delivered to the customer, it worked well. Productivity was increased by three hundred percent over the previous methods.

A Family Firm

A typical family firm, Kearns enjoyed many years of trouble-free labour relations and a strong sense of community existed within the workforce. A measure of the stability of the organisation may be gained from the fact that several employees exceeded fifty years service with the company. Another indication of harmony was that in sixty years of existence there were only two relatively minor strikes, in 1951 and 1957. The workforce was mainly recruited from the Altrincham, Sale and Stretford areas, but there was also a sizable contingent from Lymm.

Probably the most significant manifestation of social activity was bowling. The company maintained an excellent green, which was well patronised for serious league matches and also for recreation in the lunch breaks. At one time, a full time groundsman was employed to keep the green in top condition.

Apart from fielding teams for the Altrincham and District League, the club also participated in the Sale Seymour League. An unusual competition was set up between three clubs associated with machine tool makers; Kearns, Churchills and BSA (Birmingham). The contest was held each summer, at each green in rotation.

Before the war, Kearns had fielded football teams against local opponents, but they had been disbanded during the Emergency and the competition was not re-established until 1959.

The new Kearns FC played in the Manchester Amateur Sunday League and won several championships including the Altrincham Cup, League Cup and Tom Jackson Cup. As the club rose in the League, it was eventually opened to non-employees.

The Annual Kearns Dance was normally held at the Bowdon Assembly Rooms and provided another opportunity for employees and their families to mix. Evening Dress was almost obligatory – and what a grand sight everybody looked.

Every summer, a picnic was arranged by an in-house committee. Usually it took the form of a day trip to some holiday resort, and there are many amusing anecdotes relating to incidents arising from these occasions.

Every fourth year, the venue selected for the picnic was the machine tool exhibition at Olympia. The management recognised that it was an

opportunity for many employees to see competitors' products, and therefore provided a generous measure of subsidy. Staff members were required to provide a written report on new products.

As the event took place over the week end, many people took the opportunity to visit a West End show and see the sights of London.

Kearns, in 1967, was still in profit, had a significant order book and had favourable prospects. It is true that there were problems, particularly with some aspects of manufacture and in integrating machines to proprietary electronic systems, but that was true of many other machine tool companies. In June the workforce was informed that an offer to buy out the company had been made by Tube Investments (TI) and that the Board was considering it favourably.

There was a general feeling of relief; TI's record was not bad compared with other likely predators.

It was an era of takeovers, encouraged by the government. Big is Beautiful, they said. But some takeovers had been little more than asset stripping exercises.

Then, a couple of days later it was announced that Staveley Industries had made a higher offer, namely of 14 shillings per five shilling share, and that had been accepted by the Board.

There was a period of uncertainty before it was decided to merge Kearns and Richards in the Atlantic Street Works, but it was not until 11 October that the move took place.

The arrangement was that Denis Kearns would remain as Chairman and R Goodfellow (from Richards) would hold the position of Managing Director. The rest of the Kearns' Board, except Curtis Sparkes resigned.

The merged company would be known as the Kearns Richards Division Staveley Machine Tools Ltd.

Within a year, following a disagreement with the board, Denis Kearns tended his resignation and left, thus breaking the connection between the company and the family after sixty years.

Postscript – The Takeover

The integration of the two companies did not take place quickly but took a number of months.

Although the process of integration of the two companies is not really within the scope of this account, the reader may wish to know the immediate consequences of the takeover.

The first hurdle was to transfer the Richards' production lines over to the much smaller Kearns' premises. The move was so disruptive that output fell by fifty per cent for that year. To the layman's eye, Kearns' and Richards' machines looked very similar, but in fact there were vast differences in design, procedures, and methods of manufacture.

The prevailing order books of both firms had to be honoured and that meant running parallel production lines, a costly and inefficient process.

Meanwhile, the contracts of Kearns agents, both at home and overseas, had been terminated and sales were transferred to the Staveley Marketing

organisation.

Kearns pattern shop was closed down and the patternmakers paid off. The building was then used by the spares department.

Essex Tool and Gauge was moved from Navigation Road to premises on Craven Road.

Tilghmans' moved from Atlantic Street into the building vacated by Richards and its former premises were acquired by printers Jesse Broad.

Stephen Kearns was removed from Kearns Richards' payroll and joined Staveley Publicity Department in Tilghman's complex. The Development and Experimental Department was disbanded, to make room for additional production facilities. Integration of the production, purchasing and drawing office staff took place relatively smoothly.

It was unfortunate that at the time of the integration both Kearns and Richards were introducing radically new models, with untried technological features. Some machines took months to overcome teething troubles and reach an acceptable standard.

The company was to carry on with a chequered history, with periods of success and times of extreme difficulty and downsizing. There were several changes of owner before production ceased completely and the spares business was acquired by Messrs Giddings, Lewis and Fraser in 1994.

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C A Sparkes, 'A Paper delivered to a Conference on Automation' *PERA*, 23 March 1965.

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Numerical Positioning with Kearns, a document issued c 1964.

Automatic Co-ordinate Setting. BTH Document G 12089 issued c 1956.

Many former colleagues, especially members of the KNUTS group.

Notes

1. The BTH Automatic Positioning System is described in *Altrincham History Society Journal*, No 26, September 2006. P.28.
2. The article appeared in *Machinery*, 4 July 1962.
3. The display panel embraced, typically, fourteen light emitting diodes (LEDs), which showed the data in figures about one inch high.
4. There were about four hundred jigs and fixtures held in Kearns tool stores. The majority were for use on drilling, boring and milling machines.
5. The traditional means of securing tools in the spindle was by means of morse taper shanks. To enable quicker, safer tool changes, many manufacturers decided to adopt the non-stick milling machine shank. Kearns developed a unique bayonet fitting type
6. Increased rates were paid for overtime, which was normally worked for four nights per week plus Saturday morning.
7. The machining centre sent to the University of Twente was not accepted by the customer and returned to Broadheath.

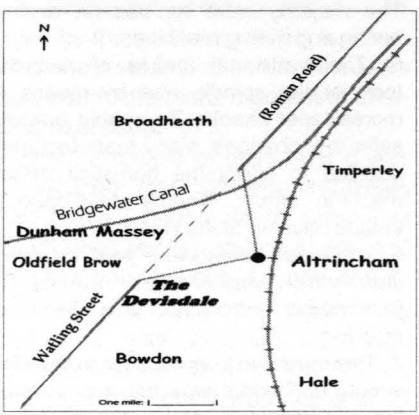
THE HISTORY OF THE DEVISDALE, DUNHAM MASSEY TOWNSHIP

David Miller

Background

The Devisdale is a large open space in South Trafford regarded by Altrincham people as a piece of undeveloped land to be preserved for recreation and wildlife. It is a peaceful backwater away from the busy town and regarded by locals as common land. It is enjoyed by walkers with a love of the countryside and forms a corridor for wildlife across Altrincham to the countryside of Dunham and beyond into Cheshire.

The Devisdale today is regarded as being situated in Bowdon on the Altrincham Sand Ridge, but is actually mainly in the old Dunham Massey Township just north of the Bowdon/Dunham Massey boundary with Bowdon to the south and Dunham Massey to the north. The Dunham Road (A56) is to the west, Devisdale Road to the north, St. Margaret's Road to the northeast, The Firs to the east, and Green Walk to the south. Green Walk is now a cul-de-sac, but originally linked with the Dunham Road.



The Devisdale in relation to Dunham Massey, Bowdon and Altrincham

I have referred to the local lord of the manor of Dunham Massey as Lord Stamford to simplify matters; even though his title through the Booth and Grey families was variously Lord Delamer, the Earl of Warrington and the Earl of Stamford and Warrington.

The meaning of the name Devisdale

From the eighteenth century maps and other Stamford Estate papers in the John Rylands Library, the Devisdale got its name sometime in the first half of the eighteenth century and the track now called Green Walk was built around 1740.

The 'Devis' part of the name Devisdale may have come from the name of a local family who lived in the area in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and leased land from Lord Stamford. John Hodgson of John Rylands Library in his substantial indexing of the Stamford Papers has equated the names Devis, Devias, Davis, Davies, Devyas, Devyes and Dewias, as probably different spellings of the same name. Dole is from Old English *dal,* an allotment of land, or the Welsh *dol* a meadow. J. Dodgson, the authority on

place and field names in Cheshire, does not mention The Devisdale in his book *Place Names of Cheshire* (1970).

History up to the seventeenth century

From records in the seventeenth century it would seen that The Devisdale was mainly a sandy heath, often treated as a common land, but used by the lord of the manor as a rabbit warren to provide food. It is most likely that this was part of the land given to Hamo de Massey in about 1070 by the Earl of Chester and the lord of Dunham Massey held it until the Dunham Estate was made over to the National Trust in 1976.

In Jill Groves' *Bowdon Wills: Part 2* the will of John Eaton of Bowdon in 1662 mentions a creditor Margarett Devis (Groves, Part 2, 18). She could be of the family who leased land from the Earl of Stamford and from which name Devisdale emerges.

At this time the area from the Devisdale across to the road now called The Downs in Altrincham was known as Bowdon Downs and appears to have been treated as a common. In May 1644 15,000 Royalist troops led by Charles I's nephew Prince Rupert camped here and on Knutsford Heath during the Civil War, on their way from Shrewsbury to the battle of Marston Moor near York. In December 1688 Lord Delamer, later the Earl of Warrington, rallied forces here from his tenants in support of the Prince of Orange, afterwards William III, who had arrived in England to claim the throne.

The eighteenth century

During the early eighteenth century the lord of the manor removed his rabbit warren and leased the land for farming and market gardening, probably producing the well-known Bowdon Downs potatoes and carrots.

In an estate survey map of 1702 in the John Rylands Library produced for the Earl of Stamford by Ben Chapman, a certain 'Hancock' is named as having a house in the middle of The Downs. The Ashton family is shown as owning much of the land along the south side of Bowdon Downs and westwards, along the edge of the Bowdon Hill, now the East Downs Road area.

Other than the lord of the manor, two local landowners are listed in the land holdings in the Bowdon Downs, with areas held shown as acres, roods and perches:

Land	***Area held***
Lord Stamford	96-0-0
Meredith	2-2-0
Ashton	5-2-0
Glebe land	14-0-0
Glebe land	12-2-0
Ashton	2-0-0

Glebe land was land set aside for the benefit of nearby St. Mary's Church which is situated on the south side of the junction of Green Walk and The Firs. The track which became known as Sparrow Lane and later Green Walk is not shown on the 1702 map.

The names of Thomas Devis, Henry Devis and later the Devis family are probably relevant to the name 'Devis-

dale'. These appear in the Bowdon section of Joyce Littler's summary of eighteenth century rentals from the Stamford Papers in the John Rylands Library.

In 1701 Thomas Devis rented a substantial house in Bowdon with three bays, an outbuilding of two bays and six acres of arable land at a yearly rental of 8s. Perhaps this was used as a nursery. He had to supply one hen, two days' reaping and one day's mucking, presumably at one of Lord Stamford's properties. He was also obliged to 'Serve in the Warrs' using a halbert (a battle axe).

In 1704 Henry Devis took over this tenement and renewed the lease in 1705. He was obliged to plant three oaks, two elms and two ashes until sixty were planted, otherwise be fined 12d per tree. Such tenancy agreements were part of the second Earl of Warrington's plans to create wooded vistas in Dunham Park.

In 1732 William Saunders renewed a lease for the Devis family. Rent was 9s 6d per year with an additional payment of 10s per year because the Earl had removed his rabbit warren from the Devisdale to allow it to be used as arable land. Three oaks and two ashes had to be planted until sixty trees had been planted.

By 1740 the Earl of Stamford had created a new road through the Devisdale with locked gates at each end. It became known as Sparrow Lane, now Green Walk, built as part of a pleasant route for himself and his family to drive along from Dunham Hall via the Old and New Parks to St Mary's Church (to the building before the current one). It does not appear on Burdett's map of Cheshire dated 1777, probably because of its insignificance.

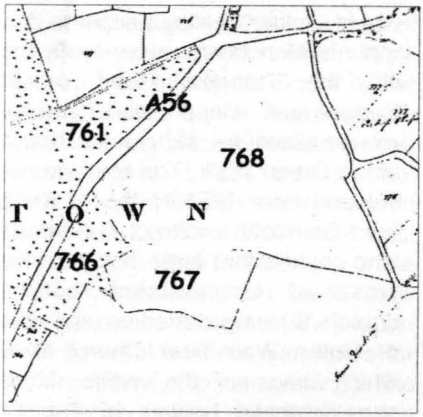
A 1793 map of the whole of Bowdon shows a number of interesting features in the area including just one building on the present Green Walk, on the north side near its eastern end. The Stamford Arms and Green Dragon (now the Griffin) public houses are also shown but not named.

Nineteenth century tithe maps

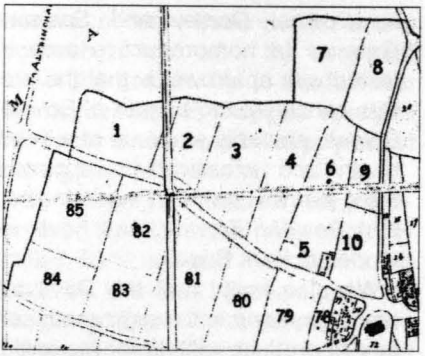
Two important sets of documents throw much light on the character of the Devisdale area in the early nineteenth century. The 1838 Tithe Maps and Apportionment Tables of Dunham Massey and Bowdon show that the boundary between the two townships divided the Devisdale into two parts. The main northern part is in Dunham Massey Township and the smaller southern part is in Bowdon. The boundary runs roughly from the present junction of Green Walk with the Dunham Road (Denzell is in The Dunham Massey section) in an easterly direction to the Devisdale entrance at the junction of St. Margaret's Road and The Firs.

The maps are accompanied by Apportionment Tables detailing the owner, tenant, size, rent and usage of each field or plot of land, which enabled the old tithes to be replaced by land rents linked to the price of corn.

Plot	***Plot Name***
761	Dunham New Park
766	Davies Dole Nursery
767	Davies Dole



Dunham Massey Township Tithe Map of 1838. (With acknowledge- ment to Trafford Local Studies.)



Bowdon Tithe Map of 1838. Green Walk runs from centre left to bottom right. St. Mary's Church is bottom right. (With acknowledge- ment to Trafford Local Studies.)

768 Caldwell's Fields
(64 statute acres)

The 1838 Dunham Tithe Map and Apportionment Schedule shows that the main part of the Devisdale was split into two fields numbered 767 and 768, both owned by the Earl of Stamford. Field 767 was called Davies Dole and the other bigger one of 64 statute acres was plot 768, Caldwell's Fields. Plot 766 (Davies Dole Nursery) may possibly be the land rented by Thomas Devis in 1701. It was used to build the house and grounds of Denzell in 1874.

From the alignment of the fields shown on the Bowdon Tithe Map along both sides of Sparrow Lane (Green Walk) the track must have been built before the enclosure of the adjacent fields.

Plot	***Plot name***
1	Gorsey Field
2	Downs Field
3	Great Downs
4	Great Downs
5	House & Garden
6	Sparrow Lane Field
7	Little Downs Field
8	Further Sparrow Greaves
9	Middle Sparrow Greaves
10	Nearer Sparrow Greaves
78	Birch Croft
79	Near Downs
80	Further Downs
81	Downs Field
82	Downs
83	Downs
84	Lower Gorsey Field
85	Higher Gorsey Field

The Earl of Stamford was the owner of all of these plots and in many cases was also the occupier. The conclusion from the plot names such

as *Downs, Gorsey* and *Sparrows Greaves* (a non-productive area infested with sparrows) is that the area was considered to be part of Bowdon Downs, probably made up of a sandy heath and infested with sparrows. Field names south of here indicate that Bowdon Downs may have extended to Park Road.

We also know that the Devisdale had been used in the eighteenth century to produce rabbits for the lord of the manor's table. Plot 6 must have taken its name Sparrow Lane Field after the building of the track about 1740. Plot 5 contains a house, which is probably the one on the 1793 map.

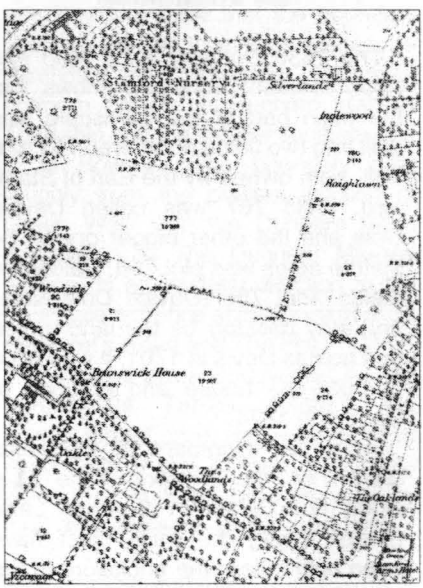
The rest of the nineteenth century

At the start of the century few buildings existed on Bowdon Downs but the second half of the century saw the development of mansions on Green Walk. Swire and Hutchin's 1830 map of Cheshire shows what is now Green Walk as a track. Bryant's 1831 map of Altrincham also show the track.

The preliminary survey in 1837 for the one-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1842 shows Green Walk as Sparrow Lane. The 1842 Ordnance Survey map shows Green Walk with the Dunham Massey part of the area named as The Devisdale.

Each September Bowdon Wakes were still usually held on The Devisdale but sometimes at Goose Green, Altrincham or on the edge of Hale Moss.

In the mid-nineteenth the Earl of Stamford recognised that the coming of the railway to Altrincham in 1849 would enable wealthy people to commute to Manchester more easily than via the Turnpike Road or the Bridgewater Canal and commissioned plans for substantial houses along Green Walk. The road was developed from 1851 to the 1870s by Lord Stamford to attract rich families who could afford large houses which preserved his pleasant route to church. Building started on land south of Green Walk near Church Brow, which became the white stucco semi-detached houses of The Cedars, West Hill, Kirklee and Westbrook. Perhaps these were developed first because of the availability of clean water at The Springs down a passage just below the houses.



Ordnance Survey Map of 1877. Green Walk runs from centre left to bottom right

The first edition 1877 6 inch map of the area shows much of Green Walk built up with mansions. Some of the largest houses in the Bowdon area were built here, in many cases for cotton magnates. Locals claimed that there more millionaires here than in Park Lane, London. At the northwest end of Green Walk (off the map to the left) is Denzell, built on the 10-acre plot 766 on the Dunham Tithe Map in 1874 by local builders Hamilton's for the Scott family (cotton spinning). The Lamb family (cotton shipping) lived in it from 1905 and gave it to Bowdon Urban District Council in 1936. It is still known locally as 'Lamb's Gardens'. During the war it was used as a war supply depot and to house evacuees. Denzell and nearby Erlesdene and Hilton House are listed buildings.

Opposite to Denzell was Gorsefield now Bickham House named after the owner, Spencer Henry Bickham, described as a Manchester silk manufacturer in the 1861 census. Bickham House was given by his daughter, Alice Bickham, to be used as a residential home for the aged. It preserves most of the original features including considerable rear gardens and a kitchen garden. Mansions along here were specified to have a tradesman's entrance, hidden staff quarters with their own staircase, a billiard room, a library, stabling, and a hidden kitchen garden. Bickham House still has all of these and is in the process of restoring the kitchen garden. It also used to have a paddock for horses, now Bucklow View on Park Road. Miss Bickham kept a chauffeur, three gardeners, a cook, three maids, and a cowman to look after the cow kept down the garden. Up to the last war the house was still lit by gas. West Hill next door was a hospital supply depot during the 1939-45 war.

St. Margaret's Road to the northeast of the Devisdale was originally called Turf Lane and is thought to be part of a minor Roman road to Ringway. There is a plaque to the composer John Ireland at Inglewood (built in 1870) opposite to Woodville Road where he was born in 1879 and where he lived until 1893. Devisdale House backed on to The Devisdale at the corner of St. Margaret's Road and The Firs. It was designed by Alfred Waterhouse and commissioned and lived in by local surgeon Dr Arthur Ransome, the cousin of the author of the same name. The house has been demolished and replaced by flats but the gateposts survive.

The Firs was originally called Burying Lane since it was the cortege route from Old Market Place, Altrincham to St. Mary's Church at Bowdon. Hans Richter, conductor of the Hallé, lived at number 27 from 1901 to 1911 where there is a Blue Plaque. Elcho Road off The Firs commemorates a Stamford family connection. The Altrincham Waterworks water tower and underground reservoir was situated at the end of Elcho Road from about 1870 to 1965.

The Altrincham Agricultural Society first met behind The Swan at Little Bollington, then on a field where Groby Road, Altrincham now is, and then on the Devisdale. It ran from

Importance status. The area now has an ecological management plan to ensure that it is dealt with in ways that encourage wildlife, especially species contained in Trafford's Biodiversity Action Plans.

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Editor's Note

Cheshire Record Office is running a project to digitize all the tithe maps and their apportionments for the whole of the historic county of Cheshire. Dunham Massey, Altrincham, Bowdon and Hale are all available. http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/

EDUCATION IN HALE IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Jill Groves

[This article appears in *Hale Wills: Part 2* in the Historical Background section.]

In her book *Contrasting Communities* (first published in 1974, and based on the wills and inventories of communities in the Cambridgeshire Fens), Margaret Spufford wrote:

> "It is probable,... that the children of labourers and farmers of holdings of only average size would have had little prospect of acquiring even a rudimentary education in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, even if provision existed for it. It thus suggests that any improvement in educational standards among classes below the gentry consisted in the emergence of a class of yeomen who were able to spare their children from exigencies of the daily grind of keeping alive to acquire the inessential fripperies of education."[1]

However, the state of literacy in seventeenth century Hale seems to have been better than in most places. Norman Dore makes the interesting comment that:

> "There were itinerant schoolmasters who visited outlying farms and taught the farmers' children to read and possibly also to write and do simple arithmetic after the day's work was done. Some farmers used their literacy as a means of augmenting their income, like one from 'Crossakers', in Northenden parish, now in the Wythenshawe estate, who was described in an inventory of 1614 as 'schoolmaster' with 20 shillings entered as the value of his books. Village craftsmen, whose occupation kept them in one room for most of their working day, [like itinerant tailors and shoemakers] sometimes taught the rudiments of reading to their children while they worked, out of neighbourliness or pure interest and kindness."[2]

It is possible that the Puritan 'township clerks' like the two John Gouldens in the early to mid-seventeenth century and their successors were the itinerant schoolmasters. They won't appear in ecclesiastical records because the Anglican Church would not have wanted to licence them to teach their subversive ideas to children.

More than half the Hale men who put their names to the Grand Remonstrance of the Parish of Bowdon in 1642 could sign their names – Ralph Barlow, William Bolton, George Goulden, Richard Grantham, Lawrence Hollinpriest, Peter Leicester, Henry Partington, Thomas Pearson, George Warburton.[3]

William Bolton, son of George Bolton (died 1614), wrote a polemic on religion called *The blessed man*, of which the Presbyterian vicar of Bowdon, James Whatmough, had a copy in 1659; George Goulden was the brother of the 'township clerk'

John Goulden and a wealthy tanner; Ralph Barlow was a gentleman and a member of the Inquisition Post Mortem juries of 1619; Richard Grantham, puritan gentleman of Davenport Green Hall, later Captain of Militia, naturally could read and write; Peter Leicester, gentleman, of Hale Low and Chester, may have had a university or Inns of Court education; Henry Partington was a well-to-do yeoman and the son of well-to-do yeomen who could afford the money and the loss of his economic contribution to family finances. The same is true of Lawrence Hollenpriest and George Warburton – just exactly the sort of people to be using their up-and-coming wealth in the years after the Reformation and the Dissolution of the Monasteries to move themselves into the gentry and the church. And to do this the children needed education. Thomas Pearson is the unknown quantity. Some branches of the Pearson family were on the border in terms of wealth between husbandman and yeoman.[4]

I would suggest there is a strong link in Hale between the openness of the township, the strong Puritan element, especially in the eastern half and the relatively high literacy level in Hale. I am not suggesting that the education Hale children received was much above basic literacy and numeracy, but Puritans believed it was important for people, even women, to be able to read the Bible for themselves.

The wills show that in the period 1641-1680 twenty-six people at least could read and write. The real total is probably more, but some wills were copies, not originals. The gentry Granthams, Vawdreys, Leicesters and Worsleys of the Carr of course were educated. The rest were again from well-to-do yeomen families: the Gouldens, the Hollenpriests, the Warburtons, the Hardys, the Barretts, the Partingtons, the Artenstalls, and the Newtons. Seven inventories list books, mostly Bibles. Two were women, Mrs Mary Turbett, who was a Vawdrey by birth and therefore educated, and Mrs Mary Barrett, wife of William Barrett junior and therefore a nonconformist and able to read and write at least at a basic level.

It is from this group that the 'township clerks' and itinerant (and mostly non-licensed) schoolmasters were drawn. Probably the nonconformist 'township clerks' and itinerant schoolmasters were one and the same people. Travelling around the scattered settlements of Hale meant that people like the two John Gouldens, the two William Barretts and the probably more than three John Hollenpriests would be known and respected as literate people and so would be called to write and witness a large number of wills throughout the seventeenth century. Richard Grantham was another nonconformist, but as a gentleman with an estate to run and important official duties in the rest of Cheshire, it is unlikely he was also an itinerant teacher.

There was a school to which children in the western part of Hale had access. Bowdon Grammar School

was established by 1563 by Robert Vawdrey of Bank Hall and a Manchester merchant with local connections, Edward Janney. The curates of Bowdon tended to be its schoolmasters.[5]

There may have been an unofficial school at Ringway during the Civil War and afterwards in the time of the Dissenters (1686-1721). In the eighteenth century the Ringway Church of England curates, Thomas Whitaker and John Massey, ran a school there. Also a school was established in 1740 by a minister of the Unitarian Chapel in Hale Barns, the successor to the dissenting chapel at Ringway. So there was a tradition of a school of some sort at Ringway.[6]

The John Hollenpriest Schoolmasters

Between 1640 and 1714 no less than five John Hollenpriests lived and died in Hale. At least three of them, if not all, witnessed and wrote wills in that period. They were the relatives of the very wealthy John Hollenpriest of Whitecarr, Hale, who died in 1626. Whether the earlier John Hollenpriests were itinerant schoolmasters is open to question, but in 1714 the fifth John Hollenpriest was listed in a visitation as a schoolmaster licenced by the Church of England, just before his death. The distinctive neat, round easy-to-read handwriting of the John Hollenpriests three, four and five appears in the Hale wills of the 1680s.[7]

Notes

1. *Contrasting Communities: English Villagers in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* by Margaret Spufford.
2. *A History of Hale, Cheshire: Domesday to Dormitory* edited by Norman Dore.
3. Grand Remonstrance of the Parish of Bowdon, 1642, transcribed by Peter Kemp.
4. *Bowdon Wills: Part 2*, edited by Jill Groves
5. See *A History of Hale, Cheshire* for more information about this school.
6. *A History of Hale, Cheshire.*
7. National Burial Index, Version 2, 1550-2003, CD, Federation of Family History Societies; *Some Aspects of Education in Eighteenth Century Cheshire* by Derek Robson, Chetham Society.

FAREWELL TO ARNOLDS YARD, HEART OF OLD ALTRINCHAM

Norman Herringshaw

[This article was originally published in the *Manchester Evening News*, 27 November 1999.]

This is my tribute to my work place of thirteen years: Arnolds Yard, the heart of old Altrincham. By December the Yard will be no more, and it seems to me to be important to try to mark the end of an era, the loss of a modest landmark. the dispersal of a small business community, in some personal manner.

Tradition has it that the original Saxon community, 'Aldhere's people', from whom the name Altrincham may

have derived, lived on the hill above the Yard. Underground water courses run down the hill and refreshed the artesian wells that used to be in the Yard. Around the wells livestock buildings grew up. My own premises is a straw barn, each side are cowsheds, behind are stables, and beyond are buildings for the repair of horse drawn carriages and a corn mill. In the cobbles are iron rings for tethering pigs. Imagine all this, five minutes from Rackhams, and you might just wonder why a little more could not have been done to save and restore it all.

Surrounding the Yard are the edifices of English ways of life: St George's Church and church school; the former Town Hall and butter market, now The Old Market Tavern; the Orange Tree pub; and a fine old bowling green.

Trade in the Yard, even during my time, has been a colourful mix of craft and commerce: cotton thread finishers, upholsterers, accountants, lingerie importers, furniture and car auctions, pine sales. Also Danish catering, fitted kitchen makers, Victorian bath enamellers, office services, picture framers, antique restorers, car servicing, and a social club.

In the late eighties the traders came together as The Arnolds Group to oppose demolition of the Yard for office and later for housing development. Trafford's Councillors gave us unanimous support, but were overruled by central government. Since then it has just been a matter of time.

During our campaign 1000 Altrincham residents signed our petition. The church school ran special school newspaper projects. As significant as this were the stories and anecdotes I gathered. Among these was a farmer who during the war drove his sheep down the main road past St Margaret's church and into the Yard for auction. Another resident spoke of elephants being stabled here when the circus came to town. A library archivist brought copies of photos of horse drawn taxi cabs gathered in the Yard.

The last time the cobbles rang with the sound of horses hooves was during a pageant to celebrate the 700 year history of the town. The last Saint James' Fair or Sanjam Fair, was held in the Yard during my own time.

So leaving Arnolds Yard for another local premises after many happy years is in more than one way a very moving experience. I am not a native of Altrincham, but have been very glad for this direct association with its history and traditions. I might hope the residents of the new homes to be built on the site will gain some faint sense of the ground they occupy.

Norman Herringshaw, 5 Arnolds Yard, Old Market Place, Altrincham
November 1999

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Altrincham History Society Journal 5
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From Pillar to Pill Capsule and Back Again; Off-the-Peg Planning in Medieval N.E. Cheshire; Ferdinand Laughton of Altrincham, gentleman, c.1690 to 1750. Price: £1.00

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pool and Lancaster. Price: £1.00.

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Heritage Open Days, 1998: 12th-13th September, 1998; The Other Altrincham Gas Works; A Seventeenth Century Auction; Games and Pastimes; Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-1650. Price: £1.00.

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The Halemoss Velvet Works, Altrincham; More Random Jottings; Honours Boards From Seamons Moss School; Altrincham in 1834 – Bias in a Govemment Report? (Final) Part 3; Who Accompanied William The Conqueror When He Invaded England In 1066? Price: £1.50.

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Walk Around Broadheath; H.W. Keams and Co. The Early Days; Random Jottings; Recent Findings about the Burgages of Altrincham; History of Altrincham Darby and Joan Club. Price: £1.50.

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ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

The main aim of the society is to further the study of the local history of Altrincham and to enable such findings to be communicated to members of the community at large

Price: £1.50

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THE DEATH OF AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR TRAFFORD LEIGH MALLORY, 1944

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Cover illustration: Avro York plane. See p.22 for more.

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SOCIETY NEWS AND MEETINGS

The Society meets at the Methodist Church on corner of Woodlands Road and Barrington Road, Altrincham at 7.30pm on Tuesdays. Visitors £2.

16 September 2008, Knutsford History from Domesday to 2000, Mrs Joan Leach, MBE

14 October 2008, The Irish in Manchester, Mr Mervyn Busteed

11 November 2008, The Illustrated Topographical Book, from Elizabeth to Victoria, Mr Dennis Morrison

9 December 2008, Altrincham Remembered and Christmas Party, Mr Basil Morrison

20 January 2009, The Story of Cheshire Cheese, Mr Charles Foster

17 February 2009, Shakespeare's Sonnets, A Gawsworth Connection, Mr Ben Alexander

17 March 2009, The 10th Earl of Stamford – Last of His Line, Mr David Eastwood

21 April 2009, St Anne's Home (The Beeches) in the Nineteenth Century, Sue Nichols

19 May 2009, AGM and Projects Update

PLEA FROM THE EDITOR

We are in need of articles from the membership for the next *Altrincham History Society Journal*. Short or long, write about some aspect of the history of Altrincham and its area, or other history topics which interest you. We are sure that it will interest other people too. Here are some suggestions for topics.

Your memories of everyday life and work in Altrincham.

Your school days in Altrincham.

Your memories of visiting Dunham Massey Park, the Hippodrome, Altrincham Baths, the history of your house, the history of your family.

Do you have any photographs of Altrincham? (The photographs will be scanned into a computer and returned to you.)

Write as much or as little as you want.

Book Reviews

If you don't feel you could write an article, what about reviewing a book? Have you seen a recently published book on local history in this area or on regional history or even national history which you think has relevance for us then let the editor know. She will get a copy from the publishers for you to review. It costs you nothing and gets you a FREE BOOK.

NORTH WEST HISTORY NEWS

The People's Museum

The Pump House in Ancoats, where the People's Museum normally resides, is closed for redevelopment, so the museum has moved part of its collection and activities to the Museum of Science and Industry. It also has its Outreach programme which includes travelling exhibitions for libraries, museums, schools and community centres. The Pump House will reopen in all its new glory in Autumn 2009. [The People's Museum leaflet]

Macclesfield Heritage Centre

Following the failure of attempts to stave off the division of the county of Cheshire into two halves – West Cheshire and East Cheshire – there were fears about the fate of Cheshire Museum Service and its various Heritage Centres. In particular Macclesfield

Heritage Centre. However, the Macclesfield Museums Trust is adamant that the Grade II* listed Centre will not be sold, and the Sunday School Heritage Trust says that the Sunday School, which has a new gallery on the science of silk and a cinema called Cinemac, would be sold. [Information from *Macclesfield Express*, 5 March 2008, via Cheshire Mailing List]

Davenport Green Hall Opens

After a nineteen month, £9m make-over, Davenport Green Hall, Hale Barns reopened at the end of January 2008 as an exclusive wedding, conference and corporate events venue. A large marquee can be set up in the 16 acre grounds to accommodate 500 guests. [*Altrincham and Sale Messenger*, 24 January 2008]

Davenport Green Hall is Grade II listed and has a date of 1617, although it is probably much older in places. It may have been built when Richard Grantham and his father Geoffrey, originally from Mere, near Knutsford, originally acquired part of the medieval sub-manor of Jordan de Davenport in the 1560s and 1570s, along with part of the medieval manor of Hale from the Massey family. The Davenport family had 'daughtered-out' and the estate split amongst the many co-heir descendants of the daughters. The Grantham family resurrected the Davenport estate and continued there for at least the next two to three centuries.

NORTH WEST EVENTS

Cheshire Local History Association

History Day: The History and Archaeology of Cheshire's Parks and Gardens

Northwich Memorial Hall

Saturday, 9.30am, 25 October 2008

For more details contact Chester and Cheshire Record Office, Duke Street, Chester CH1 1RL; tel. 01244 602559; www.cheshirehistory.org.uk

Imperial War Museum

The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1TZ; tel. 0161 836 4000; www.iwm.org.uk

Horrible Histories: Frightful First World War – The Exhibition

24 May 2008 – 4 January 2009

This exhibition is based on Frightful First World War in the Horrible Histories comic history book series, and tells the stories of men and women, servicemen and civilians and their lives at the time. It is aimed at children but adults will enjoy this exhibition too.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Don Bayliss

LETTER TO THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

Dr. A. Crosby, Esq.,
Editor,
British Association for Local History,
77, Wellington Street,
Preston, PRI 8TQ.

Dear Dr. Crosby,

I wish to refer to a most delightful event for two members of Altrincham History Society last year when I and my wife attended at the Friends Meeting House. This was the occasion when we gained to our surprise The Local History Award for services to local history in 2007 for promoting local history in our area for more than thirty years by example, delegation and motivating others. We were also accredited with being founder members of Altrincham History Society. First, I wish to make the point that we could not have achieved anything without the support from local Altrinchamians. Second, I apologise for sending this note so belatedly.

In terms of setting an example, it is true we have published several accounts about the area hopefully of a quality which at least in parts may be recognised as 'academic'. In that sense we have always concentrated on aspects of analysis of a theme or area rather than compilation of facts. This we believe leads to the recognition of concepts which can be applied in other circumstances and to us is very important. Certainly several other members of the Society have also had books published and we hope that our own endeavours have helped them. From the foundation of our History Society twenty years ago, the Society has regularly published a journal and appeals for articles may have stimulated some members to write. This journal is edited by one of our members who includes topics both of an academic nature and others of general interest. Members have been encouraged to write articles on subjects of their own choice, such as the rise and decline of a local engineering company, and these have extended into two or even three issues. Our journal editor is also a specialist on a particular topic and, like other members, is very generous with information, willingly distributed to other potential writers.

As far as delegation is concerned, this has been in relation to Altrincham History Society which has been a result of teamwork, mainly involving the dedicated work of those referred to in 'the minutes of the last meeting' as the committee. We wish to highlight for a moment the work of these friends vital in the running of a typical society which puts on monthly lectures and occasional visits to places of interest. First, it is a major job for the secretary to plan and arrange for

a syllabus of lectures which is very varied, in fact specifically arranged, to cater for the diverse interests of a group of folk, which range from those who like medieval monasticism to those who prefer a bit of steam and smoky oil in their diet. We have always believed a range of topics is educationally broadening and might engender new areas of interest.

Another onerous task, is the job of 'Hon. Treasurer', a never-ending one, and the world of big business could take a lesson from any of the many 'hon. treasurers' who keep voluntary societies on their feet without a whiff of suspicion. Other committee members are the v-c who takes some meetings, and arranges visits, and others who help generally.

Some members are not on the committee because they have so many commitments to other societies they can only give a fraction of their time, but nevertheless provide teas, or parties or contribute a valuable fraction of a private specialism now and then. There are also those who are too shy to stand up to give a vote of thanks at a meeting or prefer 'to leave it to others who are better at it,' and those who have had a basinful of organising or lecturing already and just want to help here and there when requested. And there are the problem solvers who, time after time support you by volunteering to make tea for several score of people when the regular teamaker cannot turn up. Many of these people would be glad to be useful without a thank you, if you let them. And what can we say about the long runners who've been there for a decade or two renewing their membership year after year without comment or complaint and the one who is widely known for his industry in a different hobby but who mans the door every meeting without a quibble? Without a team of people like this, many a local society could not exist.

As far as motivating others, out of a membership of something over a hundred, we can muster ten or more who can be motivated to work on a serious project for six months, such as the one we are on now, supplying specialists at a local university with the history of a number of farms, as requested, relying on various manorial records, the work on which has been commissioned by a national body and will be presented to it shortly. To those who work as a team on such a project we say 'thanks, and we hope you enjoyed the cross-table discussions on the findings as we went along.'

While this is going on another half dozen members are pursuing their own researches into topics of personal interest with a view to publication. To those working on their own we say 'you can be sure we'll buy a copy of your book when it gets published – and good luck'. So we thank all these friends for making a society in which it possible for a large group of people to enjoy such a set of varied and valuable experiences from activities which are supplied, to those requiring a contribution. At the end of the day there are no university certificates for those attending our lectures

or submitting the results of surveys or making personal studies, nor does membership and participation even qualify for entrance to a course for a university qualification but there is the enjoyment of interesting and worthwhile experiences. At a time when local history for the general public seems to be under a bit of a cloud at the university end of the spectrum, we feel it is important to be aware of the value of local societies to keeping local history flourishing. We thank our members for being behind us in our efforts and in particular those who put forward our names for consideration for an award.

Whereas your work is also connected to full-time educational establishments, we, on behalf of our voluntary society, are proud that you have seen fit to present us with one of your much-valued awards.

Yours sincerely
Don and Hilda Bayliss

THE STAMFORD HOSPITAL

David Eastwood

As the First World War degenerated into a muddy stalemate in the trenches, casualties increased remorselessly and with every unsuccessful 'push' they placed extra strain on medical and hospital facilities quite unable to manage. Hospitals were small, designed to cope with small numbers of people from their local populations. They were charitable foundations, lacking in essential resources. Their staffs were willing but limited in their knowledge and abilities. Altrincham General Hospital had closed just before the First World War broke out, to enable a major expansion programme which increased the number of beds from forty-four to sixty-two, plus other modernisations. It was reopened on 15 July 1914 by the Countess of Stamford. [*The Story of Altrincham General 1870-1970*, James L. Pugh.]

The Countess continued to devote much time and energy to Altrincham General Hospital and she became the first President of its Management Committee in 1915. Her interest was always in the patients and in particular, soldiers wounded in the first clashes of the war. She spent considerable time with the first batches of soldiers admitted to the hospital and in December twelve young men signed a rough but sincere petition of thanks to her. [Box 54/11, Bundle of Letters re Patients and Ex-Patients.]

The nation could not even contemplate a huge hospital building programme for an emergency of necessarily limited but unknown duration. The only solution was to call on local resources. These lay in the great houses dotted around in rural areas and on the outskirts of the towns and cities. Many had large rooms ready to be converted into hospital wards with minimum effort and delay, their owners were by and large patriotic, they were already sacrificing a generation of sons to the slaughter, and they had

large numbers of willing servants, mostly female, who could manage basic nursing care with little training.

By the end of 1914, several such houses had become Red Cross Hospitals. They included Heyes Leigh in Timperley, the residence of Doctor Savatard, and in Dunham Massey itself Brackendene (Mr Assheton Clegg) and Haigh Lawn. [*Bygone Altrincham, Traditions and History*, Chas. Nickson, ed. E.J. Morten, 1971]

Dunham Massey Hall was also just such a house. Conveniently within three miles of Altrincham and its small General Hospital and within ten miles of Manchester for specialist care if needed, with several large rooms, and with only two occupants and their domestic staff, it was ideal for use as a convalescent hospital. The Countess was enthusiastic in her support for the idea, which may in fact have originated with her, and early in 1917, while Lord Stamford, her young son, was working in London as ADC to Sir Francis Lloyd, the General Officer Commanding London District, his mother was very busy arranging for Dunham to be used as a hospital, at first for about twenty-five wounded soldiers.

It was called the Stamford Hospital. The staff consisted initially of two qualified nurses, Sisters Bennett and Green, with other unqualified staff, called nurses out of courtesy. Sister Green does not seem to have stayed long, but Sister Catherine Bennett proved to be caring, devoted, dedicated and hard working until the hospital closed in 1919. The local Red Cross Society had applied for volunteer nurses to be trained, and at any given time, two were under training at Altrincham General – provided they brought their own uniforms! It is likely that some of these young women later worked at Stamford Hospital.

From its opening on 24 April 1917 the Stamford Hospital was designed not for officers but for other ranks. They were accommodated in the saloon, easily big enough for twenty-five men after some conversion work was finished, and was ready to receive the first patients. One was the son of Mr F. Wainwright of Altrincham, who had been critically ill. Lord Stamford sent his condolences, for which Wainwright thanked him and the Countess, letting him know that he had seen men playing games in front of the hall, while others were just enjoying the warm sunshine. [Box 51/1, 3rd May 1917.]

Sixteen patients were admitted on the first day, from a number of regiments, including some Canadians. The very first was Rifleman Thomas Hibbits of the Ist Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, suffering from the common but now virtually extinct complaint of trench foot. He was discharged back to duty on 1 June. Private R. Weir of the 5/6th Scottish Rifles was also admitted the same day and was immediately asked to sign Lady Jane Grey's autograph book. Although suffering from influenza and sciatica, he had enough sense of humour to wish "God speed and every happiness and comfort to the good lady who belongs to this little book." Three days later he

included the Matron and sisters of the hospital for their kindness.

This first batch of patients had a variety of illnesses and injuries, a pattern that was naturally to continue throughout the life of the hospital and that kept the staff continually busy. Private Edwin Moxon of the 2nd K.O.Y.L.I. (Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry) had a shrapnel wound in his left arm. Private Millard of the 1st Ox and Bucks was wounded by a bullet in his left thigh, Lance Corporal Robertson (7th Royal Scots Fusiliers) and Rifleman T. Charley (11th Rifle Brigade) both had leg injuries. The odd man out was Private T. Errington, 6th D.S.L.I. (Devon and Somerset Light Infantry), admitted with myalgia but discharged on 5 May to the 2nd Western General Hospital because of insubordination.

The less seriously wounded soon made themselves at home. Some spent all day boating on the moat and some keen fishermen were fishing as early as 6.45 a.m. according to Lady Jane. However, in one tragic case, a man "went off his head and said and did dreadful things." [Box 51/1, 17 May 1917.] By 24 May when eight bedridden casualties arrived, the ward was full. [Box 55, Diary 1917.] Its first formal inspection took place on 21 August, when Katherine, Duchess of Westminster toured round with other officers and expressed herself very satisfied.

Lady Stamford and Lord Stamford himself took a close interest in the welfare of the men, and provided them with games and other equipment. After only three months, eleven of them wrote to Lord Stamford on 27 July.

> "Sir,
> We, the undersigned wounded soldiers convalescing at your beautiful home, desire to thank you for the kind thoughts you have entertained in regard to our welfare. Also to thank you for your splendid gift of croquet balls. None of us could have chosen anything that could give greater satisfaction. Wishing you the best of good fortune, and hoping, in the near future to thank you in person,
> We remain
> Your comrades in arms
> Whitehead R, Pirie S, Greenhalgh S, McDonnell J, Brodie C, Gall, G, Ditchburn J, Beattie A, Burgess C, Home, W, Popham R." [Box 51/1, Correspondence 1917.]

Several of these men, including some Canadians, kept up correspondence with the Countess after their discharge. This is dealt with later, but Popham, who was admitted with several severe shrapnel wounds, returned to duty after rehabilitation and was killed on the Western Front only eleven days before the end of the war.

Private Greenhalgh wrote a poem of appreciation, reproduced exactly as written.

> "It's lovely to float on the moat in a boat
> When the weather is fine & warm
> And the sun it is shining & you are reclining
> Then you feel quite safe from all harm ....

But keep steadily rowing & look where you're going
And then you can bet that the boat won't upset
But you'll have a good time & find all things sublime
Like the one that as wrote these few verses of rhyme"

Roger did not see the hospital until August, when he met the staff and then toured the ward, shaking hands with every patient. "I thought they all looked extremely well and happy. The saloon as a ward is a charming place," he wrote in his diary for 30 August "After dinner Sister Bennett showed me the surgery which she has established outside the billiards room door. It seemed excellent in every way."

Roger was trying to help from London by using his position to get urgently needed supplies. By 25 September Sister Bennett felt able to tell him that they had almost everything they needed except some crutches which were on order but had not arrived. She also gave him news of his sister Lady Jane who had volunteered to do anything she could. Jane did everything asked of her and moreover was observant and quick to learn. She had been among the first to volunteer to work at Haigh Lawn when it opened in October 1915. This was particularly useful because Sister Bennett was the only qualified nurse with the disappearance of Sister Green and had the entire responsibility for running the hospital.

"I have never had a keener nurse than Lady Jane," wrote Catherine Bennett. "I try to keep her back, but it's no use, & she is such a help to me, I do not think it is doing her any harm, on the contrary she is decidedly happier & will do anything to get me off duty in the P.M. so that she can stay on & [write] the report." [Box 51/1, Correspondence, 25 September 1917.] She repeated these praises some months later. "Just a word about Lady Jane. I could write pages ... she is invaluable, needless to say. I only allow her to do suitable things, but she is so thoughtful for me." [Box 51/2, Correspondence 23 April 1918.]

The recuperating soldiers agreed. Private Weir of 5/6th Scottish Rifles thanked Lady Jane in her autograph book. "God bless Lady Grey & the Matron & Sisters of Stamford Hospital for the kindness that they have all shown to us while we have been in here as patients," and Private J.E. Edwards of the 2nd Auxiliary Bus Co carefully quoted a line from J.M. Barrie – "those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves." Private W.C. Millard of 1/4th Ox and Bucks Light Infantry wrote out their regimental motto in her autograph book and Sapper Nearney of the Royal Engineers, who had been wounded in a mine explosion in July 1916 composed a glowing and obviously sincere tribute.

"It is in her to soothe sorrow and pain away
and with her smile equip a soldier once more for the fray.
It's worth while fighting for such as Nurse Grey."

Roger, Lord Stamford, celebrated his coming of age on 27 October 1917, but due to the exigencies of the war it was a low-key affair. Moreover, his duties in London had prevented him from anything other than the occasional return to his home, but the staff and patients of the hospital recognised the importance to him of his birthday and a group of eighteen patients led by Sergeant P Chaplin sent him a letter of congratulation, signed by all, wishing him every success and promising a "little token of respect" by separate post. Private Greenhalgh went further and composed a lengthy poem.

Sister Catherine Bennett and her nursing staff sent a telegram to make sure it arrived in London actually on Roger's birthday. Nurse Joan Thoyts wrote independently, as did her father Ernest, who told Roger that his daughter was very happy in her work. Joan, with some artistic exaggeration, wrote that the patients were all very excited and confirmed that he would shortly receive a small gift from the staff and patients. She told him that it was "nice being in a small 'homely' hospital after a huge military place reeking of red tape" and that a convoy of cot cases was about to arrive, so that the hospital would be completely full. [Box 61/1, Correspondence 1917.]

The Stamford Hospital was fulfilling its role well and when Roger had a few more days leave at home in December, the army's Western Command asked for its capacity to be increased by a further twenty five beds. The need was great, as Roger realised when he opened the new Union Jack Club in Altrincham on 7 December, and arranged a tea at the Hall for 500 wounded soldiers. Furthermore, its role was also being expanded, from simply a convalescent hospital to one capable of carrying out relatively complex surgery, which Sister Bennett had forecast when she converted the area at the foot of the stairs into a simple operating theatre.

It was soon in use. Roger's sister Lady Jane was helping out to the very best of her ability and soon showed that she was determined to do anything she could. It was not an easy introduction to blood and pain, as she described to her brother on 18 January 1918. A patient had been in the hospital for three weeks with a serious leg injury and she had to hold some X-ray plates for the surgeons to examine. She saw everything at close quarters while the surgeons cut some dead bone from the man's leg, leaving a large hole. It was an unpleasant experience for a young girl brought up in aristocratic surroundings and shielded from the outside world. Nevertheless, made of stern stuff, she described it as thrilling and interesting.

By February 1918, the ever-growing numbers of casualties from the trenches enforced an expansion of the hospital, and two rooms were opened above the saloon, increasing its capacity to fifty beds, of which thirty-nine were occupied by 28 February. Even this was insufficient, and another smaller ward for up to twelve

beds was prepared in the Chintz Drawing Room, near the first ward to be opened. The population rose to forty-five on 8 March and two days later, three small operations were performed. Just over a fortnight later, it had an important military inspection by Lieutenant General Sir William Pitcairn-Campbell, the General Officer Commanding Western Command, and a ward was named the Campbell Ward in his honour. That evening, six ladies and gentlemen from Altrincham gave a concert and recital in the Great Hall for everyone. [Box 55, Diary, 27 March 1918.]

Twelve more were admitted only six days later, only two of whom could even walk. One was in a poor state. He had been gassed, was wounded in the leg and almost blind. He was grateful for the slightest attention. "I can't do enough for him," wrote Catherine. Of the others, one was 'elderly' and had to lie face downwards because of back wounds, two had been gassed, one was severely burnt and one had fractures of both legs. Sister Bennett suspected that yet another was even more seriously hurt, with a developing aneurysm, which would normally have entailed a dangerous journey to a distant military hospital for major surgery. She begged that he be allowed to stay at Dunham, where she could ensure that he received almost one to one care for the time being, and her superior, Captain Moore, agreed. [Box 51/2, 4 April 1918.] Unfortunately some of the army officers were less amenable. One inspecting officer was "uncongenial and rude", according to Lady Jane and discharged fourteen men to leave within a week, although they were not nearly fit enough to go. Not perhaps surprisingly, the men hated him [Box 51/2, 24 March 1918.]

By the end of March 1918, over fifty beds were occupied and it was so busy that the Countess was having discussions with the army authorities about providing even more rooms. [Diary, 31 March 1918.] Even Sister Bennett acknowledged that although there was a need to expand, she herself could not manage any more patients. She wrote regularly to Roger, despite her heavy workload and responsibilities. He had bought some bed-rests which were particularly useful for patients with heart or respiratory problems. She thanked him profusely, telling him that eight more patients had just arrived (4 April), two medical cases but six needing surgery and all noted as being severe. They were all extremely tired and just needed to sleep. However, she was optimistic that a week would see a big improvement. The hospital was reaching maximum capacity, with fifty-four patients, and Sister Bennett had to arrange a rota and timetable system for baths, from 6 a.m. to 9.20 p.m. Her dedication was such that she herself disinfected the bath after every patient, and trusted no one else to do the blanket baths for those who could not leave their beds.

Her workload was considerable, as she explained to Roger in a letter. "Of course being quite full it made things very hard, but everybody has been so

good really there has been no hardship about it, except that I wish I was stronger and never got tired." The Countess gave a housemaid to help for two hours every morning, and the other house staff all helped during the day whenever they could, but the shortage of experienced nursing staff meant that Sister Bennett was always on call and had to deal with every emergency. Every time there was a discharge, the bed would be filled again within hours. In the above letter, she wrote that when five patients left, six came in immediately. One was gassed and almost blind, two had leg wounds, one had five shrapnel wounds, injuries to his hands and face, and a tube in his abdomen. One young man had uncleaned wounds in both legs and one arm. "... poor little chap looks so ill," she reported to Roger, "am afraid he has some virulent germs. I made him smile today for the first time." [Box 51/2, Correspondence, 22 April 1918.]

Some very serious casualties were being admitted. Private Potts was having severe attacks of angina and Sister Bennett was having to be woken in the night to help him. Private Johnston was admitted with untreated shrapnel wounds in his head, and he was in intense pain. The only hope for his survival was to carry out a trepanning operation to remove the shrapnel, but that was full of danger. Originally scheduled for 22 April, it was postponed until May. It was a very interesting operation, according to Sister Bennett. It consisted of raising two inches of Johnstone's skull and making a neat hole down to the surface of the brain in order to remove the shrapnel, but Dr Cooper discovered that there was a second piece deeper down which he could not remove. Many years later, Lady Jane was fond of telling how he had asked her to hold a torch so that he could see more clearly. [Personal information.] However, Johnstone seemed to be none the worse and asked for a cup of tea in less than an hour after surgery. [Box 51/2, Correspondence, 5 and 8 May.]

There were hopes for his recovery, but he suddenly developed violent seizures affecting all his muscles. He was given a sedative injection and Sister Bennett and Lady Jane took in turns to sit with him. This could not have come at a worse time, because another patient was admitted with dirt in a head wound and developed erysipelas. He had to be isolated in the Countess's private parlour, causing even more strain on Sister Bennett, who was compelled to 'special' both men and could not do any other dressings because of the possible spread of infection. Dr Cooper sent another nurse who unfortunately proved to be incompetent and could only be put on night duty.

Sadly, Johnstone did not recover. His condition continued to deteriorate and he suffered terribly. However although many seriously wounded men were admitted to Stamford Hospital, he was the only fatality and given the relatively primitive facilities, this was an achievement to be proud of.

The Stamford Hospital received a

royal visit on 18 June 1918, when the Duke of Connaught, the third son of Queen Victoria, made a formal inspection. Lord Stamford's health had been delicate for some time and he spent much of the year at Bexhill on Sea with his cousins. Nevertheless he considered that it was his duty to return to Dunham for the visit. Sir Francis Lloyd, Roger's commanding officer, disagreed. Roger's health was more important and he was sure that the Duke would agree with him. Unknown to Roger, Sir Francis consulted the Duke who put Roger out of any difficulty by issuing a direct order that he was in no circumstances to take any part in the inspection. Roger could only help by supplying a set of bowls, a second croquet set, and bed rests.

The Duke put in a written report, which Sir Francis saw and duly reported to Roger that everything was very satisfactory. When the inspection was over, Lady Stamford insisted that Catherine should have a rest and took her away to North Wales for two weeks. She told Roger in her next newsletter that she felt very proud of "our hospital" when she was showing it to the Duke of Connaught. He spoke to every man and they all enjoyed his visit. She only regretted that Roger had not been there as well. She was feeling much better for a rest and a change with "her Commandant" (Lady Stamford.) "She is so good to me, I wish I could do twice as much for her." (Box 51/2, June 1918.]

When Catherine and Lady Stamford returned on 4 June, she made some changes including turning her own sitting room into a ward for patients whose eyesight had been damaged by gas, and she asked for a specialist ophthalmic surgeon. Catherine believed that patients who had been operated on would benefit from the sun. She encouraged them to spend time in the gardens whenever possible, and Dr Cooper admitted to being very interested in Sister Bennett's "sunshine cure". "The men love the gardens, you should see our dressing gown parade," she told Roger in a letter of 8 May 1918.

The hospital was virtually full, with fifty-three beds occupied, patients being discharged as soon as possible and the vacated beds being re-occupied within hours. Fortunately more staff arrived, Miss Fowler, Miss Ferguson and Mrs Marsden. The British Red Cross held a fund-raising Fete in Dunham grounds on 13 July 1918. The weather was good enough to allow boating on the moat and all the patients were able to take part except one possibly a very popular boy known to everyone as Charlie, who had had a leg amputation and could not walk. [Rifleman T. Charley, 11th Rifle Brigade.] His bed was moved on to the saloon steps so that he could at least watch what was going on. His stump was not healing and he was nervous about the prospect of more surgery, although Sister Bennett tried to reassure him that it was really only a small operation. [Box 55, Diary.]

Sister Bennett was still feeling the strain, but did not wish to admit it. Lady Stamford, with her eagle eye

realised that Catherine was still over-worked and ought to have a long rest. She broached the subject at breakfast one day, to Catherine's surprise, not to say shock. In desperation she wrote to Roger, who was in Berne, Switzerland, a pained and in the circumstances somewhat tactless letter.

> "I was asked to consent to closing Campbell [Ward] and using it as my sitting room. I refused, then followed an argument in which I was heated."

Lady Stamford suggested strongly that she should inform the authorities that they wished to reduce the maximum number of patients.

> "I said no, it would not be the right thing to do. If the casualties were not coming over, & things got slack, I could close one ward, but as the doctor says, a dozen beds would make very little difference to me. Lord Stamford, can't you tell me the reason for all this, why [I] cannot go on as I have done. There must be some dissatisfaction somewhere. I don't pretend to be perfect, but I do try very hard and I love the hospital so much. Don't you see, I must uphold the honour of the hospital ... I will not ask for the cases, but if they send them, I must & will be prepared to take them ... I feel the situation very keenly. I wish Lady Stamford could see my point of view. Still, I don't feel that I can alter my decision, namely I shall not send in a return of less than 56 equipped beds..." [Box 51/2, 27 July 1918.]

Potentially such a letter was very dangerous. It shows how overwrought was Catherine that she should even contemplate appealing to a son to adjudicate against his mother, when he was not even in a position to make an informed decision. However, what she did not realise was that Lady Stamford was an extremely clever and observant woman, who had seen for herself that Catherine's dedication to her work in general and 'her' hospital in particular had driven her too far and she may have been close to a complete breakdown, which would have been catastrophic for the hospital. Moreover, Lady Stamford knew perfectly well that Catherine would not admit that her burden of work and responsibility was simply too great and she would therefore refuse to take the extended leave she so badly needed. To reduce the number of beds was therefore a tactful way of reducing Catherine's workload without making it obvious that the move was necessary, not only for Catherine's health but also for the sake of the hospital.

Neither Catherine nor Lady Stamford mentioned the matter for the next few days, but by 1 August the situation had been partially resolved by the discharge of seven patients, leaving only thirty-two. Catherine herself wanted to close two wards, the only disagreement between her and her Commandant was which two. Catherine wrote to Roger that she and Lady Stamford had discussed the whole matter and decided that closure of two wards was the wisest thing to do.

"I did not like to do it at first, you see, a long hard hospital training has made me look at everything from a professional standpoint. Only for the simple reason we dare not take any other view ... [The hospital] has certainly been a success, this is due mainly to your mother, I want you to fully realise this. As regards the nursing, it's no credit to me after the training I've had. Naturally many little difficulties have arisen from time to time, which I have taken to my Commandant, & have always found her advice to be the 'right thing' even if I could not see it at the time." [Box 51/2, 1st August 1918.]

Lady Stamford was starting to realise that everyone was getting tired. The effects of Sister Bennett's short holiday had rather worn off, and ". . . although she is excellent in essentials... she has been so cross with the men lately – not herself at all." [Box 3 1 /1, letters from the Countess to her son, 2 August 1918.] She described the atmosphere in the hospital as "very edgy". Having unsuccessfully tried to smooth things down, she decided that the best course of action was simply to close for about six weeks, so that all the staff could have a decent break and the ten most serious cases would be transferred temporarily to Altrincham General Hospital. All the staff welcomed the decision, even Sister Bennett, and the change in atmosphere was immediate and remarkable, as Lady Stamford wrote to Roger on 4 August. Furthermore, the closure gave the chance for some much-needed repairs. The Countess expressed her concerns privately to Mr J.H. Brydon, the Area Red Cross supervisor, and even suggested that she might resign as Vice President. He sympathised with her difficulties, replying that it would be a disaster if she did relinquish her position. As for the hospital he could not officially say whether there would be a serious need in the future, but thought it likely that there would soon be a big offensive with many wounded to care for. "Everyone thinks so highly of the Stamford Hospital that from a purely Red Cross point of view I should be very sorry to think of its closing ..I gather that in any event you will reopen on the 20 Sept and we might take an opportunity of discussing matters further then." [Letters of the Countess of Stamford, Box 28120.]

When everything was again ready, the hospital re-opened and was soon full, including some interesting medical cases, one with rheumatic fever, and a surgical case with shell shock who had suffered a brain injury four months before, and had been operated on twice. By 18 October eighteen patients had been admitted, some of whom were only a few days away from the trenches. One had serious injuries to his leg, which was only saved from amputation by constant changes of dressings. [Box 31/1 ibid, 18 October 1918.]

The greatest possible news came on 11 November with the Armistice agreement. The bell rang at an unusual time and carried on ringing. Some of the men speculated that peace might have been signed and

after a short time, this was confirmed.

"There are times when words are quite inadequate to express emotions and this was an occasion far too stupendous to voice in any hurried terms. For a bit there was silence ... pending the realisation of a great achievement. When Jock Williams broke the silence with his cheery voice one knew the things were turning. His lead was soon taken and noise was gradually followed by more and more noise. It was like a storm at first only perceptible in the fluttering leaves and then blowing its way into a hurricane which swept all before it. When I next entered the ward it was a veritable bear garden and I soon found myself on all fours, a victim to some four or five rounds of pillow ammunition." [Nurse WFMS recollections, held at Dunham Massey.]

"If only you could have been here on Monday," wrote Catherine Bennett to Roger, "at first they could not take the good news in, then followed a glorious pillow fight!! They went quite mad. I fetched Mrs Collins & they pelted her, we all lost our caps."

It was followed on 13 November by a celebration party in the Great Hall at which seventy-five people sat down for a celebratory supper. All the staff, every patient who could walk, all the women helpers, even the estate gamekeeper and carpenter came in for the dance that ended the meal. All the beds were piled on top of each other except for six with non-ambulant patients, who were put close together side by side and two rows of tables were placed in the Great Hall, decorated with flowers on white tablecloths. It was followed by a special Service of Thanksgiving. [Box 31/1, Ibid.] Two days later, Lady Stamford sent more information to Roger. The authorities planned to close the smaller temporary hospitals first, followed by those in private houses, but she guaranteed that Stamford Hospital would stay open as long as necessary. There were, however, what she described as "difficulties" with Sister Bennett, causing staff problems, but she did not worry Roger with details. At the end of the month she told him, "Things do not go very smoothly there always, but I expect our Hospital is on the whole, much happier than many."

Whatever problems there were did not apparently worry the patients, who were so well looked after they wanted to stay! [Box 31 /1.]

Catherine Bennett's last surviving letter to Lord Stamford was on 14 November. She described how she had organised the staffing so that Mrs Brownlow, Miss Shirley, Miss Perkins and Nurse Ferguson each had individual duties and also shared the work in the Still Room, much, she claimed to everyone's satisfaction.

"I am more sorry than I can say that you are not here to see how this dear old house is being used, the boys would love to see you. Dull, not a bit, we have music from morning till night. These boys have suffered & I intend them to be really happy at any cost... patients can easily see that it is a joy to [the staff] to work for the boys, & they are not slow in giving expression

to the fact. They know this is everything to me, it's Heart & common sense I want, not experience & dash, no responsibility is put on any nurse ... All my heart & strength is in it & I am happy because the patients are very happy & things are going as you would like them." [Box 51/2.]

This letter is sadly incomplete but gives a clue about the problems that Lady Stamford alluded to. Sister Bennett carried overall responsibility for nursing the wounded men, was obviously dedicated to her job and was almost certainly very good at it. However, the impression given by her letters and those of the Countess is that she lacked the ability to delegate. She alone changed the dressings of the more serious injuries, while her staff, whether trained nurses or willing volunteers might have expected that she would have given them training and instruction in some at least of the jobs that she herself shouldered uncomplainingly. If this was in fact the case, it is would perhaps not be too surprising if they began to feel to some extent distrusted and mutterings were to start. This, together with a natural feeling of post-war anticlimax, was likely to be the 'edgy' atmosphere that Lady Stamford felt and actually accelerated the hospital's closure.

The end of the war inevitably led to a rapid reduction in the number of patients. By 10 December there were thirty-two in residence, but several were discharged the following week. Lady Stamford was beginning to hope that closure would come soon, admitting to Roger that staffing would be difficult if Sister Bennett stayed to the end. "Things do not go very well now," she wrote on 15 December "and the staff all want to go away," and by Christmas there were only twelve patients remaining. They greatly enjoyed the festivities that Mrs Brownlow and her sister provided, but Lady Stamford wanted the hospital to close by the end of January because it would be hard to find staff to continue "... I hesitate to ask anybody able to come in and have the strain that the last 3 or 4 months have been... " [Box 31 /1, Countess to Roger, 28 December, 1918.]

The decision was made to close the hospital finally on 24 January, although up to four men would remain for a few days pending re-allocation. In fact only Private Jenkins stayed on, the man with the septic foot. He had been seriously ill, but it gave the Countess much satisfaction to boast to Roger, that "We have saved his life and his foot." [Box 31/1, 30 January 1919.] Jenkins was also very grateful. The last man, he thanked the Countess on 2 February in a carefully written letter.

"I am writing this letter to you to express my Gratitude for allowing me to remain in your House as I have got on exceedingly well since I have been Here by myself, and I have been well looked after and I feel as well as I have ever been. The Matron has worked very hard on my foot & it has improved so marvellously well that I really don't know it myself and Doctor Cooper is more astonished

every time he comes. I am positively sure that if I hadn't come to Dunham Massey Hall when I did, I am afraid I should have only had one foot to walk on now. When I am able to walk about I should like to thank you personally for your kindness." [PCS Box 32/24.]

Dunham Massey Hall was no longer Stamford Hospital, where 282 wounded soldiers had been treated and convalesced during nearly two years, but it was not quite the end of the story. Both before and after the closure, patients wrote to Lady Stamford in gratitude for the kindness they had received during their stay. Private Moxon, a Yorkshireman from Pontefract, wrote in August 1917 to ask the Countess if she could send a copy of a group photograph of the Countess, the nurses, the patients and the Doctor, taken before he was discharged. She sent it off immediately, and he replied with a letter from himself and his wife with news of what had happened to him. As he had been wounded in the arm, he could not lift heavy weights, was therefore unfit for infantry and was transferred to a Machine Gun Company – in which he had to lift heavy weights! He hoped for "a speedy termination of hostilities to the betterment and good of civilisation." [Box 54/11.]

Private W. Findlay in March 1918 thanked the Countess for her kindness and from the bottom of his heart for her kindness to his mother and sister when they visited and the Countess went out in pouring rain to arrange somewhere for them to stay.

Private Dennison of the 4th Manchesters was also thankful for Lady Stamford's kindness and generosity during his six months at Stamford Hospital, where he had received "every possible treatment and attention."

Mrs A. Ditchburn of Scarborough was very poor, but she managed to write a short letter of thanks when her son was discharged. She followed it up with another letter in February 1918. She was miserable and felt close to breaking point when she received a letter from Lady Stamford. She and her family were having an unhappy time. She was disabled, her daughter had just lost her job through no fault of her own, her husband earned only 22 shillings a week, the doctor had condemned their rented house, forcing them to move somewhere more expensive at 6 shillings a week, and her son was in Newcastle hospital with a badly poisoned foot. "I hope you will not be vexed at this letter," she replied, thanking Lady Stamford, "as I wanted to tell someone, & then I can pull myself together ... if you had seen the letters he [her son] wrote home from your house, you would have been rewarded for your love & care..."

The most prolific of the surviving correspondence came from Private (later Gunner) Carl Brodie, a Canadian, who may have been gassed. He and his mother Mrs Margaret Montgomery Brodie wrote frequently. The first letter was dated 2 January 1917, in which Brodie thanked Lady Stamford for the Christmas gift of writing

paper and pencils. He was in Surrey, waiting to be sent to France. He recalled how Lady Stamford had been wanting to start a Kitchener Club, or something similar, and he had enjoyed visiting the club in Guildford – games, dancing, whist drives and dancing ("the best class of girls".) He was readmitted to the hospital in July 1917 and told his mother all about Dunham Massey Hall. His mother wrote in October that ". . . my mother's heart prompts me to write and thank you for your goodness and kindness to me dear son, who has been in your home for nearly three months, and has been surrounded by all the comforts of real home life."

By December Brodie's eyes were as strong as ever and he was fit again for duty, but forgot to write until his mother reminded him. He apologised profusely.

> ". . . I shall never forget the kindness shown to me by yourself, Sister Bennett and all the nurses. Your first thoughts were always for 'the boys' to try and make us as happy & contented as possible." [Box 54/11, 7 h December 1917.]

The Countess answered within a few days inviting Brodie back to Dunham for Christmas, but he explained that the Gunners were very short of men and he was expecting to have to go back to France at any time. He went out in February.

"I must say I was not struck with the idea of coming out again," he wrote," but now that I am into it, I do not mind it so much. It's funny the way a person gets used to this life again even though it has many hardships." All patients would remember the pleasant days they spent at Dunham. He asked to pass his regards to Sister Bennett and to Charlie. [Box 54/11, 5 April 1918.]

With the end of the war, Lady Stamford asked Carl's mother if there was any news of him. She answered that she had been through three years of anxiety and was about to tell Carl that Lady Stamford was asking about him.

> ".. . our hearts will ever be filled with gratitude to you and your noble workers, for your exceeding kindness to our boy."

In reply he wrote from hospital in Basingstoke that he had been in France for eight months but had contracted the terrible 'flu epidemic that killed millions of people worldwide. However, he was recovering and was expecting repatriation. He would never forget Lady Stamford's kindness, which would always be a happy memory. [Box 54/11, 17 February 1919.]

Other soldiers who were treated and kept up some connection were Percy Alderman, W.S. Kidmore, Private Bownes and Private Berrell, who died in France on 1 May 1918.

As for Sister Catherine Bennett she left England immediately after the closure of Stamford Hospital and as early as September 1918 was in the Balkans, working in the Serbian Relief Fund Hospital. She had charge of a medical ward, but the Principal Medical Officer had just asked her to take

charge of an isolation ward with typhus cases. "Very thrilling." She wrote that she often dreamed of Lady Stamford, who had taught her so much and was just like a mother to her. [10 September 1918.]

Almost the last mention of Dunham Massey as the Stamford Hospital came from the War Office in the form of a testimonial.

"During the Great War of 1914 to 1919 this building was established as a hospital for British sick and wounded. The Army Council in the name of the Nation thank those who have rendered to it this valuable and patriotic service assistance in the time of its emergency and they desire also to express their deep appreciation of the whole hearted attention which the staff of the hospital gave to the patients who were under their care. The war has once again called upon the dedication and self sacrifice of British men and women and the nation will remember with pride and gratitude their willing and inestimable service." This testimonial, carefully framed, hangs in a place of honour in the Great Hall of Dunham Massey.

One last letter remains, from Walter G. Hammond, dated 6 January 1922.

"Your Ladyship will, I hope, both understand and forgive the impulse which prompts an old patient of Stamford Hall to write to you at this season of the year. We Tommies, I am afraid, took one hardship or other as a matter of course, while 'grousing' impartially at both; it is only when Time gets things into the right perspective, that we realise that the outstanding features of our convalescence, which at first we saw least clearly, were the sympathy & self-denial of the great-hearted men & women with whom we came in contact.

"It was the entrance of a dog like Buzz [Lord Stamford's dog.] at a Christmas party last week, that set me reminiscing. I saw the old fellow chasing a draught along the hall floor, & suddenly stop & turn away disconsolately as it took sanctuary in the ward. Then the Christmas tree, the heavily laden table, the huge Yule-log fire, and the happy fraternity of staff & patients came back in a flash and my first New Year's resolution was formed. As one of the many who were fortunate enough to experience the pleasure of your generous hospitality, may I offer your Ladyship my humble but heartfelt thanks."

Appendix

The soldiers who signed a letter of congratulations to Stamford on his twenty-first birthday were Sergeant P. Chaplin, Sergeant Fears, Corporals Thomson and F.H. Dimmock, Privates C. Stewart, H. Adams, W. McDonna, S.C. Timms, W. Worrall, J. Hodson, W.H. Canfield, W. Findlay, C. Burgess, Wilfred Vernon, Rodley, O'Brien, Brough and Banks.

Private Findlay wrote his own tribute: -

"Dear Sir, on this thy natal day

When those that know & love thee most Will send their greetings through the post Accept from me this humble lay. My muse is very lame I fear And other men with clearer brains Will pen their thoughts on loftier trains Yet not more heartfelt more sincere God bless thee valued friend in need Thou proved thyself a friend indeed And opened wide thy door That we the sick and wounded men It mattered not our kith or kin Enough to know we needed care And rest, so thou didst deign to spare Thy stately home with us And so these greetings I send to thee On behalf of those from sea to sea And pray that God will give to thee Long life and health and prosperity.

I may say I am well & not likely to go to France this year, and by the time the next one comes, I hope we have peace.

Sincerely yours Pte Greenhalgh 193068

Note on Sources

Much of the history of the Stamford Hospital is in the Dunham Massey Papers, held in the John Rylands Library University of Manchester (JRLUM) for the National Trust. Researchers shouls not that prior permission must be sought from the National Trust in order to consult papers of the 9th and 10th Earls of Stamford and of Penelope, Countess of Stamford.

THE DEATH OF AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR TRAFFORD LEIGH-MALLORY, KCB, DSO

Derek Cardin

Browsing through the pages of an aircraft magazine I came across a photo of the not-too-well-known Avro York that came into service in the RAF in the later stages of the Second World War. My interest in the York comes from the fact that it is the type of aircraft I flew in to Singapore in 1947 en route to Hong Kong during National Service 1946-48. Unlike today this journey took a week with five overnight stops, flying from Lyneham to Malta, Iraq, Pakistan, Ceylon, Singapore and finally Hong Kong. In the magazine there was an article was about the unfortunate death of Air Chief Marshal Trafford Leigh-Mallory who was born in Mobberley and was tragically killed in one of these aircraft when it crashed in bad weather whilst flying to the Far East in 1944 to take up a new command. The article gave the following information.

Trafford Leigh-Mallory was born on 11 July 1892, at Mobberley, Cheshire, the younger son of the Reverend and Mrs. Herbert Leigh Mallory. The Mallorys (the hyphen was added later) had been rectors and squires at Mobberley for generations.The young Trafford was educated at Haileybury and Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he took third class honours in both history and law. His older brother, George, was to become well known as a mountaineer and made three attempts at climbing Everest. He was in the preliminary survey party in 1921, taking part in the actual

Air Chief Marshall Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory

climb in the following year and reaching a height of 26,985ft. Two years later he and Andrew Irvine, a tough Oxford rowing blue and climber aged twenty-two, made the second of two attempts at conquering the then-unconquerable mountain. They slept overnight at 26,000ft and were last seen going well about 800ft below the summit before being swallowed in cloud never to re-appear (in fact Mallory's body was discovered on Everest in the '90s not far from the summit). It is a strange coincidence that both brothers should be claimed by mountains, albeit in different countries and circumstances.

Two days after the outbreak of war on 4 August 1914, Trafford enlisted as a Private in the 10th Battalion King's (Liverpool) Regiment at the age of twenty-two. A month later he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. While on leave from France he married Doris Jean Sawyer on 19 August 1915; she was to share his life for almost thirty years. After a course of instruction, he was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps serving in France with No. 5 Squadron and from November 1917, commanding No. 8 Squadron. He was awarded the DSO on 1 January 1919, one day after being mentioned in dispatches and in August of that year was appointed to a permanent commission in the tiny post-war Royal Air Force, at the time relinquishing his Army commission.

The period between the two world wars saw Leigh-Mallory steadily climbing the ladder of his chosen profession. He became a Wing Commander in 1929 and on 1 January 1930 he was seconded to the (Army) Staff College at Camberley as an instructor. In the summer of 1931 he was at the Air Ministry as deputy Director of Staff Duties. Promotion to Group Captain followed on 1 January 1932. In November 1935 after having command of No.2 Flying Training School he was posted to RAF Headquarters at Hinaidi, Iraq, as the Senior Air Staff Officer to the Air Officer Commanding, Air Vice-Marshal Mitchell. This was an Air Commodore appointment. Back in England in 1937, he became Air Officer Commanding No.12 Group in Fighter Command and was promoted to Air

Vice-Marshal in November 1938. It was while in command of this Group during the Battle of Britain that he was involved in the 'Big Wing' controversy. With Squadron Leader Douglas Bader as instigator and ally, he opposed the tactical policy of Air Vice-Marshal Keith Park, the AOC of No. 11 Group which was then bearing the brunt of the battle.

Bader's contention was that large formations of fighters, four or five squadrons strong (the 'Big Wings'), could take-off from their airfields, and rendezvous at an arranged position before engaging the Luftwaffe. Bader was backed in this by Leigh-Mallory who criticised Air Vice-Marshal Keith Park's handling of his own squadrons by suggesting that they were being flung piecemeal into action. Bader was now leader of the 'Duxford Wing' and had given his views to the Under Secretary-of-State for Air during a visit to Duxford. Park resented this criticism aimed at him and he was supported by Air Chief Marshal (AOC-in-C) Sir Hugh Dowding, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Fighter Command. The outcome was that Park and Dowding were replaced respectively by Leigh-Mallory and Sholto Douglas (the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff) who also approved of the Leigh-Mallory and Bader tactics. Leigh-Mallory was appointed a Commander of the Order of the Bath and mentioned in dispatches about this time.

In November 1942, Sholto Douglas moved on and Leigh-Mallory became AOC-in-C of Fighter Command. On 1 January 1943 he was created a Commander of the Order of the Bath to Knight Commander. On 15 November, he was made Air Commander-in-Chief, Allied Expeditionary Air Force and shortly afterwards on 5 December he was promoted to Acting Air Chief Marshal. Because of the success of the European air offensive in 1944 Leigh-Mallory was chosen to take command of the Allied Air Forces in South-east Asia.

Prior to leaving Europe he was one of two senior officers to be decorated by General Eisenhower in Paris, the other was Sir Arthur Harris, AOC-in-C, Bomber Command; both officers were made Chief Commanders of the (US) Legion of Merit conferred on them by President Roosevelt.

When he heard of his appointment in August he began to select the crew for his personal aircraft. He wanted to use his own Dakota with a Mosquito as a back up aircraft, then in October he was offered an Avro York Mk I, (MW126) which he accepted. This aircraft belonged to No. 511 Squadron based at Lyneham in Wiltshire and was almost new, having made only one flight overseas before being taken over by Leigh-Mallory. The York was built as a long range transport of 2,700 miles. Its maximum permissible all-up weight of 68,000lbs (reduced to 63,000lbs when operating out of Northolt). It had a maximum speed of 298 mph at 21,000ft and a cruising speed of 233 mph at 21,000ft. Leigh-Mallory's York carried standard wireless equipment for its type plus a VHF R/T set, an air posi-

tion indicator and air mileage unit; normal magnetic and distance reading compasses and a loop aerial, plus the usual safety equipment and dinghies.

For his personal pilot Leigh-Mallory was offered the choice of two officers both picked by the 'P' (Personnel) Staff of HQ Coastal Command. Their records were forwarded to him by the AOC-in-C of Coastal Command, Air Marshal Sir Sholto Douglas. He chose Flight Lieutenant Charles Gordon Drake Lancaster, DFC and Bar. He was thirty-two years old, held an engineering degree and had 2,045 flying hours to his credit. He had joined the RAF Reserve in 1935 and had been commissioned into the RAFVR in 1939. At that time he was flying Sunderlands. On 2 September 1944 he chose the rest of the crew:- Flight Lieutenant Peter Chinn as 2nd pilot; Flight Lieutenant Keith Alan Mooring, navigator; Flight Lieutenant John Austral Casey, Royal Australian Air Force, wireless operator; Flying Officer Alfred John Enser, flight engineer; Corporal John Ellis Morton Burgess, fitter; Leading Aircraftman John Charmers Burnett, fitter and Sergeant Harold John Chandler, steward.

On the evening of 3 November Charles (now Squadron Leader) Lancaster flew York MW126 from Lyneham to Nor- tholt for modifications and 'special work' which was started on 8 November. Internal fittings and seating were modified to Leigh-Mallory's own requirements and certain modifications to the engines were carried out bringing them up to the latest Air Ministry standards. All four propellers and constant speed units were changed and the latest Lancaster Mk IV undercarriage and strengthened beams fitted (increasing the weight of the aircraft, as brought up in the subsequent Court of Inquiry). Other work included ground-testing the TKS de-icing equipment and an unserviceable master unit of the Distant Reading compass was replaced with a new unit which itself was then tested. The compasses were swung under the direction of Flight Lieutenant Mooring and extra oxygen points enough for twelve people were fitted. During the afternoon the York was test flown and found to be serviceable, apart from a VHF defect and a minor air leak in the pneumatic system. The aircraft was weighed that evening and scaled 43,517lbs. On Monday 13 November the York was flown once more and was reported to be in a serviceable condition although on neither occasion was it fully loaded. A final Daily Inspection was carried out, a complete oil change made, tappets checked and a new set of plugs fitted. All this work carried out by men who were normally instructors on the Yorks. A member of the staff of the Royal Aircraft Establishment from Farnborough was brought in to assist with the automatic controls and to make the modifications necessary for flying to the Far East. The controls were tested and the pilot declared his satisfaction with them. The York was NOT fitted with windscreen wipers but was fitted with fluid de-icing equipment. The aircraft was refuelled with

1,860 gallons. Three or four days before Leigh-Mallory's personal assistant Flight Lieutenant Chinn told Lancaster, the pilot, that his boss wanted 500 cartridges put on board the aircraft. Lancaster was heard to complain that he did not want the additional weight. It is assumed that the request was carried out.

On the evening of 13 November, the crew was preliminary briefed for the flight at HQ No.116 Wing, responsible for special flights from the London area. Two or three weeks earlier they had been given a pre-preliminary briefing, and emergency airfields, high ground, restricted areas and enemy-occupied territory were pointed out. A special warning was given regarding the proximity of Toulouse to the Pyrenees. The crew was also told not to use the IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) until latitude 45° unless in distress; after reaching this latitude it was to be switched on and left on until they arrived. The navigator, Flight Lieutenant Mooring, asked for a set of astronomical and navigational tables, plus a current Air Almanac plus two IXA sextant batteries. The wireless operator, Flight Lieutenant Casey, was also briefed and issued with an amended Route Signals Instruction, a map of France and Italy showing all the radio aids on the route to Naples. A preliminary weather briefing was given by the Meteorological Officer while they were at Wing Headquarters who told them that cloud tops would be around 12,000ft and 15,000ft in showers. Any cumulonimbus cloud above freezing level was expected to hold a heavy, clear ice formation. Squadron Leader Lancaster asked if he would be over the top of the cloud at 17,000ft. He was told 'generally yes', but even if there were cloud at this height he would be above serious icing levels.

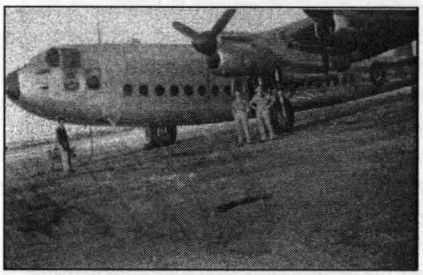
At 9.07 on the morning of 14 November the York with its distinguished passengers took off in rainy conditions with low cloud over Northolt and at 1,000ft joined the orbiting escort of eleven Spitfires led by Flight Lieutenant Ronald Wood of 313 Squadron who made voice contact by VHF. Two minutes after take off No.11 Group Filter Room picked up the track of the York and began recording its flight, code numbered A30T. A journey of 1,120 nautical miles lay ahead. The track continued until 9.51am when MW126 was passing to the east of Pointe de Barfleur at 6,000ft; at this position the tracing ceased (this was normal practice as an aircraft reached the French coast.) At Selsey Bill the escorting Spitfires left the York and returned to North Weald and just managed to get down at base due to bad weather.

At about 10.00 a.m. Flight Lieutenant George Frederick Acock piloting a Dakota of 24 Squadron, travelling from Lyneham to Naples sighted a York about 1,500 yards away on his port side and flying on a southerly course. Flight Lieutenant Acock reckoned that the two aircraft were near the town of Coutances in Normandy. On seeing the York Acock thought the aircraft was 'probably in the freezing level' although he also noted that it

was flying normally with none of its engines feathered.

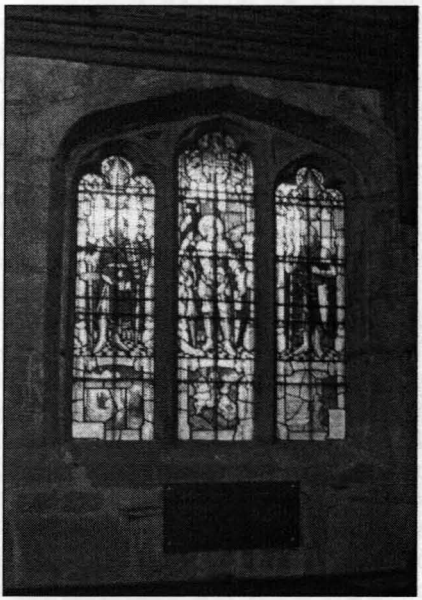
The weather at this time was bad enough for him to decide to turn back. As he did so he caught another glimpse of the York through the heavily falling snow and thick cloud which, according to Acock, had an indeterminate base of about l,000ft. This was the last 'officially accepted sighting of the York in flight'. The navigator on board the Dakota was Flying Officer A. A. Livermore who for the past eighteen months had been engaged on ferrying and transport flights to North Africa and the Middle East. In his opinion the weather conditions on the morning of 14 November were the worst he had ever experienced.

While Flight Lieutenant Acock's sighting was accepted as being the last, an unidentified pilot and crew of



The type of Avro York that Mallory crashed in, Derek on the left of the central group

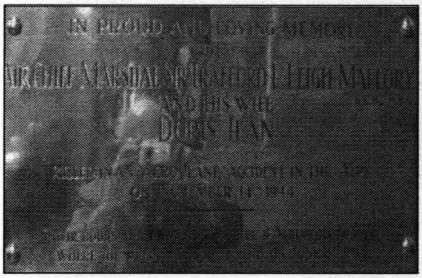
a USAAF C47 reported seeing a large aircraft, circling round apparently lost or in difficulties, below the cloud base of 1,000ft. This sighting was made about 12.00 noon about eighteen miles south of Poitiers, which was di-



The Stained Glass Window to George Mallory in Mobberley Church with the plaque to Trafford underneath.

rectly on the planned route of MW126. This was in fact to be the last time the aircraft was to be seen until the snows melted seven months later when Seraphin Mathieu, an electricity worker (he had heard the York crash in November, but because of the conditions at the time was unable to do anything), found the wreckage and informed the nearest military base, a U.S. Army post at Grenoble. The bodies were recovered and buried in Rivier d'Allemont in separate graves.

But the unanswered question above all is why is Leigh-Mallory not remembered? He was the most senior member of the Royal Air Force to be killed



The Plaque to Trafford Leigh-Mallory in Mobberley Church

in the Second World War. There is no statue of him in England as there was to be of Montgomery and other survivors of the war.

Trafford Leigh-Mallory's only memorial is a plaque in Mobberley village church, near his brother George's memorial window.

Leigh-Mallory was appointed AOC-in-C of the Allied Forces for the invasion of Europe on 'D' Day he commanded and organized the largest contingent of British, American and Canadian forces in history. Leigh-Mallory's only memorial is a family plaque placed under the stained glass window that is in memory of his brother George, situated in Mobberley Village Church. Lady Doris Mallory, Trafford's wife who was travelling with him was also killed, along with the eight members of the crew. One wonders if the modifications to seating – propellers, undercarriage etc – affected its behaviour. It had been ground and air tested but, being almost new, had only flown once overseas. Whether any of this or bad weather attributed to the crash we will never know.

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The body of the article is re-published from *Rapide Magazine* Issue 14 by kind permission of the editor, Michael Lewis.

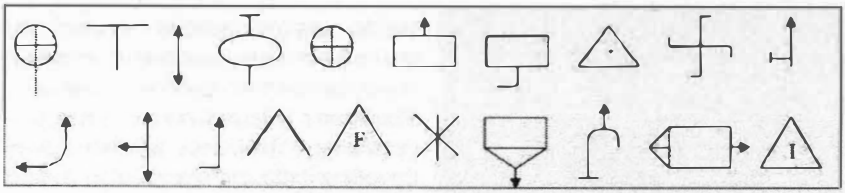
LOCAL MASONS' MARKS

David Miller

Introduction

Casual sight of symbols carved into old walls and buildings give us a link to the craftsmen who built them. Their names are lost in time but their marks remain as a memorial to the men who were responsible for our important and most admired buildings.

Medieval stonemasons were the top men in the building trade of their day. They identified themselves by means of symbols known as 'masons' marks', many derived from ancient Runic Greek and Phoenician characters (Maslen). Each mason had his own mark, and by examining these we can tell if one mason worked on several buildings. The marks were



Masons' marks on kerb stones in St Helier, Jersey

probably made as the stone was quarried to identify individual masons, for payment and for quality control. They do not reveal masons' names because my understanding is that no lists remain of these craftsmen. Some marks are capital letters and may be initials. Other marks may have been made as quarry marks perhaps identifying the customer, and marks for placing stones. Masons' marks in Britain date from Saxon and possibly Roman times onwards up to the nineteenth century. However, research has shown that they were used on Egyptian and Greek buildings back to 1500BC.

Background history

F.W. Brooks, Reader in Medieval History at Hull, has written a summary of masons' marks in his paper *Masons' Marks*. He lists over fifty examples of marks found in York Minster almost all of which are different from those illustrated in this article.

When large stone buildings were to be constructed a gang of masons would be assembled. Under the guild system apprentices were trained to work in a town in a particular trade, but stone masons were itinerant because local buildings in a city such as York with good local quarries could only provide regular work for perhaps a dozen masons. For a special project many more masons might be employed but when it had finished most would have to seek work elsewhere. Unlike the silversmith or saddler, the mason could not sell his product on the open market. Nevertheless, masons were organised into guilds and a boy wishing to become a mason would be apprenticed to a master mason to learn the art of selecting good stone in the quarry and finishing it. The apprentice would have gone through a ritual of admission to a particular masons' lodge where he would be taught secret signs and would have chosen a mark for himself. The mark would not necessarily have been unique and marks were reused.

When, for example, a new church

A mason's mark.

was to be built, the churchwardens would have visited an existing site and identified someone with the required expertise to design and take charge of the new building. The first job would be to build a lodge where the workmen would have lived during the project. Then the mason and the churchwardens would identify suitable stone at a quarry. Stone might be finished both at the quarry to reduce carting and at the building site. Next masons needed to be recruited from the French and English masons who travelled around Europe looking for work. Secret signs would help to identify genuine craftsmen and these remain today as symbols in the Masonic community, but this has no connection with modern stoneworking.

A stone could be marked on any of its sides but it would be generally on the front or back. In many cases it was not marked at all, especially when a local mason was well known. Frequently over the years the mason's mark has been weathered or worn away.

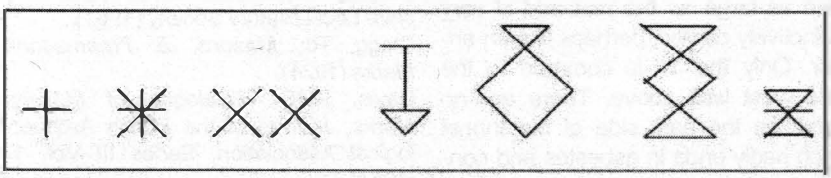
Masons' marks on kerb stones in St Helier, Jersey

The masons' marks below were observed in the granite kerbs on many of the older streets of St. Helier in Jersey such as Colomberie and La Motte, while on holiday in 2005. Mason's marks on the island are an interesting link with the past engraved in the hard granite and visible to all passers-by. From the style of the older buildings in these streets the marks date from around 1750-1760. Some kerbstones had two different marks. Nearly half of the marks have sharply-defined arrow heads.

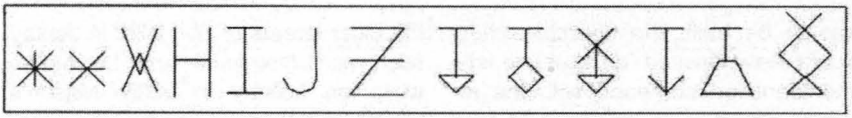
The Bollin Bridge over the Bridgewater Canal

Closer to home, one of the oldest stone structures in the Altrincham area is the listed 1766 Bridgewater Canal bridge over the River Bollin on which a good selection of masons' marks can be found on the sandstone blocks (OS grid ref. SJ72868746). The marks are almost all simpler than, and completely different from, the Jersey marks but illustrate the large numbers of masons employed on the project.

In 1814 the bridge was in danger of collapse (Stamford Papers EGR4/1/8/11/13) and was strengthened by the construction of a 20 feet-wide buttress on the western side which has a trackway over it to Woodhouse Lane. The eastern side may also have had a shorter buttress added although



Masons' marks on the eastern side of the main wall of the Bollin bridge



Masons' marks on the western side of the main wall of the Bollin bridge

one mason's mark also appears on the main western wall. Just south of the Bollin bridge is a tunnel under the canal at field level. There are therefore four distinct sets of masons' marks on the bridge: the western side of the original bridge, the western extension, the eastern side of the bridge, and the tunnel.

Marks on the canal tunnel

The tunnel under the canal just south of the River Bollin must date from 1766. It appears to have been constructed to allow the passage of cattle to water meadows which were narrow fields which existed before the sewage works was constructed to the west of the bridge in 1939. On the 1839 tithe map they are fields 644 to 649 and there is a track in line with Brick Kiln Lane across the field and under the canal, with a ford across the Bollin. There were five different occupiers of these fields in 1839 so they were clearly very important to the estate farms. There is a good array of marks on the tunnel. The first has a single occurrence and is twice as large as the rest and is very distinctively carved, perhaps like an anchor. Only the 'H' is common to the main west wall above. There are no marks on the east side of the tunnel which sadly ends in asbestos and concrete.

Conclusions

In all there are about forty different marks in the area of the Bridgewater Canal over the River Bollin indicating a surprising number of masons and apprentices working on a single structure but on at least two different dates. Other bridges along the canal, for example, at Bollington, also, have a few marks. The masons' marks on the west side of the bridge must be original and date from 1766. From the two dates and the Stamford Papers evidence, the marks on the westerly extension were made in 1814. Those on the east side could have been made in 1766 or later, perhaps 1814. The marks on the tunnel must be the same age as the canal. However, very few of the marks are duplicated in the different areas. The masons' marks used in Jersey are very different, nearly half of them including arrows and several incorporating curves which is unusual, so perhaps there is a French connection.

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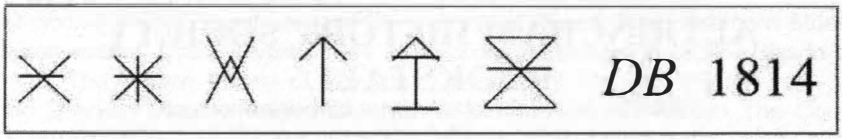

Masons' marks on the western buttress of the Bollin bridge.
The 'DB 1814' is on a large curved block dating the bridge strengthening work and next to it there is a second 1814 date upside down. Probably 'DB' stands for the Duke of Bridgewater although the last duke died in 1803.

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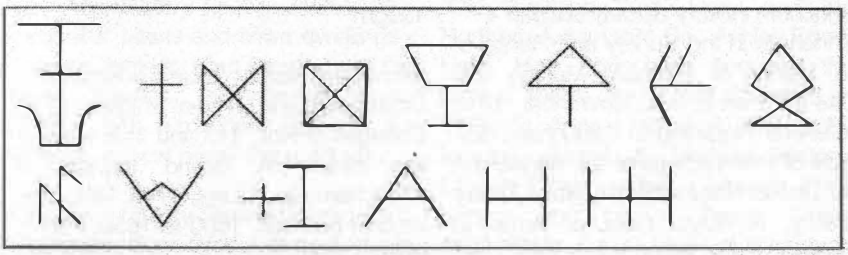

Masons' marks on the western side of the tunnel under the canal

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Altrincham in the Survey and Rental of the Manor of Dunham Massey AD 1348-49: Part II; 26th November, 1813 - General Rejoicing in Altrincham; Extracts of Proceedings of the Altrincham and District Natural History and Literary Society; A Royal Coat of Arms at Shotwick. Price: £1.00.

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"Finem Respice" and the Black Horse; A Brief Insight into Military Obligation in Ashley in the Fourteenth Century; Captain Scott's Visit to Seamons Moss School; Obituary and Appreciation: Sale's History Man - Norman Swain. Price: £1.00 to non-members.

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The Dutch wars - 1652-74; A Tameside Man in the Isle of Man; The Denton Churchyard Masonix Gravestone; Stray Thoughts. Price: £1.00.

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Provost's Sunday; Comments on the 1667 Subsidy Roll for Altrincham; Comparison of Altrincham in 1667 with Neighbouring Townships. Price: £1.00. 100gm.

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Broadheath and a Naval Enigma, 1916; Cottages at Nos. 113 and 115, Navigation Road; A Grand Inquest of Altrincham Court Leet, 1744; Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600 to 1650: Part 1. Price: £1.00.

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From Pillar to Pill Capsule and Back Again; Off-the-Peg Planning in Medieval N.E. Cheshire; Ferdinand Laughton of Altrincham, gentleman, c.1690 to 1750. Price: £1.00

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Altrincham History Society Journal 17
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More Random Jottings; Source of Water For Dunham Mill; Gossip and Scandal in Bowdon and Altrincham: Part 1; The Mayor's Land; Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-50: Katherine Simpson to Venables. Price: £1.50.

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The Halemoss Velvet Works, Altrincham; More Random Jottings; Honours Boards From Seamons Moss School; Altrincham in 1834 – Bias in a Govemment Report? (Final) Part 3; Who Accompanied William The Conqueror When He Invaded England In 1066? Price: £1.50.

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Walk Around Broadheath; H.W. Keams and Co. The Early Days; Random Jottings; Recent Findings about the Burgages of Altrincham; History of Altrincham Darby and Joan Club. Price: £1.50.

Altrincham History Society Journal 25
"Old Bleeding Wolf" Hotel and the Northem Automobile Co., Ashley Road, Hale; How Altrincham Acquired the Market Rights from Lord Stamford in 1878; St. Anne's Home: A Brief Architectural, Social & Medical History; Church Tithes in Hale, Cheshire; H.W. Keams and co. – Tough Times 1930-1945; Local Men at Trafalgar. Price: £1.50.

Altrincham History Society Journal 26
Charles Frederick Southwell; Private Thomas Hollinworth and the Battle of Egypt; My Four and a Half Years in the Altrincham LDV and Home Guard; Random Jottings; Colin Spofforth Statue for Altrincham; H W Keams & Co.1945-1967: Peace and the Aftermath, Part 1; Altrincham Railway Stations. Price: £1.50.

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Massey Township; Education in Hale in the Seventeenth Century; Farewell to Arnolds Yard, Heart of Old Altrincham

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9. *The Buildings of Central Altrincham, 2000.* Price £8.50 (£6.50 to members). 500gm. Postage and packing £2.40.

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ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

The main aim of the society is to further the study of the local history of the Altrincham area and to communicate such findings to members of the community at large

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Altrincham History Society

JOURNAL

Bobbin Turners, Forgotten Local Authors and a Local Artist

Family Life 1920s-1940s

Historical Microgeography of Altrincham General Hospital

Sir William Henry Veno

Lord Stamford and the Bombing of Altrincham, December 1940

Maudie Tipping's Third Will

Adult Learning Courses on Archaeology Under Threat?

Society News and Meetings

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Cover illustration: Sir William Henry Veno as Mayor of Altrincham

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Don Bayliss

Since the last Journal was issued under the capable hands of our Publications Officer, Mrs Jill Groves, several members have been spurred on to take advantage of a journal in which the results of their own studies and observations are welcome. It is this aspect which nicely balances the policy of our particular society. It's one thing coming to a series of lectures and enjoying the fellowship which this engenders but I feel the society is more purposeful and more interesting if, at the same time, members of the society engage in adding something to our historical knowledge, either general or specific, of an international, national or local nature, about a place, a person or an activity. That is why we say 'thanks' to our contributors (as well as Jill) to welcome this edition. If you haven't tried putting your pen to paper before why not try for the next edition. And remember we are not a local history society so if you are interested in things elsewhere in the world, feel just as free to get out your pen.

SOCIETY NEWS AND MEETINGS

Meets at the Methodist Church on corner of Woodlands Road and Barrington Road, Altrincham at 7.30pm on Tuesdays. Visitors £2.

15 September 2009, Northwich in the Seventeenth Century, Mr Tony Bostock

27 October 2009, Dunham Massey Farmsteads, Dr Mike Nevell

24 November 2009, How Far Was Cheshire an Open Field County? Prof. Graeme White

8 December 2009, Christmas Party

19 January 2010, Underground Manchester, Mr Keith Warrender

16 February 2010, The Invention of the Aeroplane Near Scarborough at the Time of Trafalgar, Dr John Ackroyd

16 March 2010, The Pulpit and the Stage, Mr Derek Slater

13 April 2010, Castle Caldwell, Co. Fermanagh: Life on an Eighteenth Century Irish Estate, Mr Mervyn Busteed

11 May 2010, AGM & Members' talks

NORTH WEST HISTORY NEWS

Stockport Image Archive online

Stockport Image was launched online with around 7,000 pictures dating back to the late nineteenth century and up to the present day. Stockport Local Heritage Library has amassed a collection of about 60,000 images of the borough and surrounding area, and these will be gradually digitised and added to the online databank. See www.stockport.gov.uk/imagearchive. [*Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire Newsletter*, April 2009]

Lancashire Record Office Extends Its Opening Hours

Lancashire Record Office is opening on selected Saturdays once a month in 2009 from 10am-4pm (with a lunch break between 12.30 and 1.30pm): 8 August; 12 September; 10 October; 14 November; 12 December. [*Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire Newsletter*, April 2009]

STAG Awarded Lottery Grant

STAG (South Trafford Archaeological Group) has been granted £44,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which will be used to complete the excavation and historical research of Timperley Old Hall's moated site, near Timperley Old Hall Hotel and Altrincham golf course, in southern Trafford.

The Old Hall was built in the fourteenth century on the moated platform, but there is evidence of an earlier building. More than that, settlement evidence dating back to the Bronze Age has been found during excavations on the site. The new hall was built in 1780 to one side of the old hall.

The grant will be spent on a new access bridge, a community excavation to locate the west end of the eighteenth century hall and footpaths with information boards outlining aspects of the site and its wildlife, landscape and removed artefacts. [*Sale and Altrincham Messenger*, 18 June 2009]

Historic Sale Hotel to be Demolished?

Trafford Council was notified at the end of June of a proposal to demolish a Sale landmark, the Sale Hotel on Marsland Road. George Cogswell, a local historian who has written a history of the hotel, says it was built in 1878 as part of Sale Botanical Gardens, an attraction that drew people in from far and wide for its ballroom, gardens, lake, cycle track, lawn tennis and croquet ground, bowling green and gym. The distinctive tower was built to view the Botanical Gardens and the activities there. The Gardens' cycle track was the first place where pneumatic cycle tyres were used. The Gardens closed in 1896, but the Sale Hotel continued as a pub until March 2009. [*Sale and Altrincham Messenger*, 3 July 2009, and information from George Cogswell]

Many local people will be sad to see the pub go and hope that another use can be found for the unique building. Sale Civic Society tried some years ago to get Listed Building status for the hotel, without success. This time Trafford Borough Council, supported by the Civic Society, tried again for an emergency listing. Unfortunately, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, advised by English Heritage, have refused again. Sale Civic Society's Pat Coulburn said she was 'stunned and devastated. It would be vandalism to destroy it. I will chain myself to the front door if they try to demolish it and get the residents to form a human chain around me. Everyone in the area feels very strongly about this.'

Trafford Council were very disappointed with the decision and are looking to see if there is a way of appealing against it. [*Sale and*

Altrincham Messenger, 16 July 2009]

English Heritage's report on the Sale Hotel says: 'The Sale Hotel is a landmark building within the local area and is of additional local interest through its socio-historical link to the Sale Botanical Gardens. However, within a national context it is considered that it lacks the overall high level of architectural quality required for listing and has incurred significant internal alteration throughout, which has severely compromised its listability. Consequently, it is recommended not to list.' [*Sale and Altrincham Messenger*, 16 July 2009]

But whilst Sale Hotel might not have national significance, it certainly does have a local one and we need it. Sale and Ashton-on-Mersey have a shrinking number of such buildings. In the last decade we have lost a farmhouse with elements dating back to the seventeenth century and connections to a locally prominent family (the Williamsons), and two unique buildings in the Brooks Institute and the black-and-white house on Marsland Road, amongst others.

Chester Photographic Survey

This unique collection of over 19,000 black and white and colour slides documenting the changing face of Chester since 1964 has been recorded by the Chester Photographic Survey Group. The group is now working on a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to digitise the collection and make it available online. The Group is appealing to other history societies for their support in this bid. For more information call in at Chester History and Heritage, St Michael's Church, Bridge Street, Chester or email: johnwolf29@btinternet.com

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NORTH WEST EVENTS

John Rylands Library

150 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3EH

A Natural Selection: The Life and Literature of Charles Darwin, 16 July – 29 November 2009

Mapping Manchester: Cartographic Stories of the city, 25 June 2009 – 17 January 2010

Tameside Heritage Fair

Stalybridge Civic Hall, Trinity Street, Stalybridge

Saturday, 3 October 2009, 10am-4pm

Free entrance

Www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk

Salford Museum and Gallery

The Crescent, Salford

Salford Local History Day, 21 September 2009

Heritage Open Day Weekend

10-13 September

See local press for events taking place around Trafford.

Ashton and Sale History Society has its annual Brooklands Cemetery (Old Part) tours on Saturday, 12 September 2009. Free. See local press for details.

Cheshire Local History Association

History Day: Cheshire's Working Rivers, 31 October 2009, 9.15am-4.30pm

Northwich Memorial Hall, Northwich Contact www.cheshirehistory.org.uk for details.

ARCHAEOLOGY FOR THE PUBLIC

Are adult learning archaeology courses an endangered species?

Jill Groves

By the time you read this article one of the best archaeology units in the country will have closed and a number of talented archaeologists been thrown out of work. The University of Manchester Archaeology Unit, housed at the University of Manchester, closed on 31 July 2009, and its director, Dr Mike Nevell (a well-known expert face on Channel 4's *Time Team*), along with his colleagues, is looking for another job.*

The University of Manchester is not the only university to take this course. Bristol and Reading have also lost theirs. Cardiff is in danger of losing its Centre for Lifelong Learning.

The problem is the government's decision not to subsidise courses which do not carry some sort of assessment (which have nearly disappeared). In addition, if a person has an equivalent level of qualification, even if it is as remote from archaeology as it is possible to be, if that person wants to take a course in archaeology, the university will not receive a subsidy for them. The subsidy level has now dropped so much as to make university Adult Education departments financially unviable, so they close. (Whatever happened to the government's much-vaunted 'Lifelong Learning'?)

All this at a time when the recession in the building industry means that developers no longer need archaeological investigations of building sites as much as they did. So the money from that source has nearly disappeared.

What are the knock-on effects of these closures? Peter Webster of Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning writes in *Current Archaeology*, No.232, July 2009, that one effect, apart from the job losses in a time of high unemployment throughout the economy, will mean no adult education courses for archaeology throughout much of England and south Wales. Very soon if people wish to study archaeology at degree level they will have to enrol as a student on a degree scheme, with all the costs involved. Perhaps the independent sector will take up the slack, but he questions if this is the way we should be going.

Derek Pierce in *Browsings*, the journal of the South Trafford Archaeological Group (STAG), No.115, June 2009, says that a number of community-based archaeology projects 'will be affected and additionally all educa-

tional projects are to be axed. Many archaeology groups will no longer have a direct contact for advice or assistance within the GMC (Greater Manchester County) area.'

However, some archaeologists see this as an opportunity: that adult education shouldn't take place in universities, places designed for young people, not those of twenty-five and upwards; that it's a chance to get back to empirical archaeology (which UMAU at least was doing anyway); that the mass of unpublished excavations 'mouldering away in museums or under the beds of elderly excavators' and the confidential reports of developer-funded archaeology should be dragged out into the light of day (my words) and published, possibly by local archaeology societies.

But where's the money coming from to do that? Publishing is expensive. As a micro-publisher myself, I know that very well. And I don't think the writer of those comments in *Current Archaeology* means books printed in tiny numbers, cheaply, by the local photocopying bureau, which is all that local societies – history as well as archaeology (and me) – can afford these days.

And should the Open University take up all the slack from the closure of other universities' adult education department? Could it? One thing's for certain, it won't get the money to do that from the government. Could the Further Education colleges take up the slack? No. They too are closing adult learning courses. What about the Workers' Education Association and the University of the Third Age?

Perhaps some archaeologists could take up an idea a family history lecturer friend of mine is trying out, successfully so far, setting up private courses for the public. I can't see many specialists in archaeology giving lectures in their own homes, but perhaps they could give lectures in local community halls. Oh no, that's what the WEA and the U3A already do.

Perhaps the most concerning element is that we are losing two generations of talented archaeologists – the youngsters just coming out of university who can't get jobs in archaeology because of the recession in the building industry and the lecturers being thrown out of work because of the closure of university Adult Education departments.

End of Editor's rant.

Postscript

The University of Sunderland has found a way round this problem. It offers a membership scheme and people pay a subscription. The University is able to offer members this autumn 'a programme with 500 contact hours for a subscription equivalent to £5 per week.' And the members don't have to pay additional course fees.

Another suggestion from Dr David Griffiths of the Department for Continuing Education at the University of Oxford is that local archaeology societies should work together with the adult learning departments of nearby universities on offering courses to the public.

Sources

'Universities abandon archaeology courses for the public', *Current Archaeology*, No.232, July 2009.

'Lifelong learning lives on', *Current Archaeology*, No.233, August 2009.

'Chairman's Notes' by Derek Pierce, *Browsings*, the journal of the South Trafford Archaeological Group, No.115, June 2009.

* Dr Nevell hopes to be heading-up a new Centre for Archaeology at Salford University in the autumn.

This article also appears in *Open History*, No.109 (September 2009) (the magazine for the Open University History Society).

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Chris Hill

Bobbin Turners

In *A Cheshire Market Town in Victorian Times – Altrincham in 1841,* published by Altrincham History Society, one of the trades mentioned as being carried out in the Town, was bobbin turning. Although Altrincham's textile industry was only small, with less than half a dozen workshops, the demand for bobbins provided work for several bobbin turners.

The main market for bobbins (or cotton reels), was of course Manchester, with its satellite towns of Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Chorley, Oldham and Rochdale, but most of their early supply of bobbins came from the Lake District where trees were coppiced by craftsmen working in the woodland. Bobbins were made using foot-powered pole lathes. An improvement on this method of production was the water-powered machine, but production was still on a small scale and only provided about half of the quantity required. The chief area of bobbin making was the Furness district of Lancashire, but other areas of production were Cumberland and Westmoreland. The preferred wood was birch, but as local supplies ran out, wood had to be imported from abroad. The young trees were cut into manageable lengths dried and then spindle holes bored. After they were cut into shape, the final process was drying or waxing. However, with the expansion in the number of mills weaving cotton cloth, the production of bobbins was enabled to keep pace with demand by the invention of a bobbin-making machine, invented by John Braithwaite, which was capable of producing two thousand bobbins an hour, per machine. When the cotton industry began to go into a slow decline, the bobbin factories had alternative products to fall back on, such as the rollers for mangles, the making of pillboxes, etc. Eventually, wood was replaced by plastic.

One of the last bobbin factories was Scott Park at Finsthwaite, Cumbria, built in 1835, closed 1971, but now open to the visiting public and preserved by the Department of Education. Bobbin-making equipment can also be seen at the Museum of Lakeland Life and Industry, in Kendal

(Abbot Hall). Scott Park is at the southern end of Windermere, accessed from the A590 at Newby Bridge, via Finsthwaite. Another spectacular site is at Caldbeck, near the south west of Carlisle.

Altrincham had several velvet or fustian cutting factories, and I identified one in Bowdon at Holly Bank (re article in *Bowdon Sheaf*, No.42, October 2003, by Mrs. Margery Cox). Mention of the Altrincham mills can be found in *Altrincham History Society Journal*, No.21, December 2001 – with map. The silk industry pre-dated the cotton industry by a hundred years, but Altrincham is not known to have had any silk mills; the nearest local silk/fustian manufacturing towns were Knutsford and Wilmslow. There were fustian workshops in Lymm; some of these buildings are still standing.

Only Just in Time

I see that I was only just in time in mentioning two minor topics in my 'Jottings', previously. The hundred year continuity of trades used by the shops in Woodfield Road, Broadheath, was soon changed after my article, and secondly, the small boulder in Goose Green Passage to stop carts damaging the Railway Hotel garden wall, was removed in September 2008, when a new gas or electricity main was laid to serve the new premises in the Green. Small changes, but part of the gradual march of progress and the altering of the general appearance of Altrincham. Some changes have had a considerable impact on visual amenities; large blocks have been erected where before there was more sky to be seen, and also more trees. Instead of being a pleasant market town, the market has drastically diminished in popularity as supermarkets gobble up the trade of smaller shops, and lesser sized shops have to diversify to make ends meet. Altrincham is becoming more built up with less open spaces, less attractive in general, with a clutter of 'street furniture', and family businesses almost non-existent. The economic climate over the last few decades has meant that new buildings are usually built for use and money has not been available to make them architecturally attractive or in keeping with their older neighbours. We have long memories and find change unsettling, even when it is for the better, which it usually is not. With the increased height of new buildings in Altrincham, we have lost distant views, which I personally considered a former attractive feature of the town.

Gold Leaf

When the troubles between the Palestinians and the Israelis are shown on TV, a general view of Jerusalem is often used. If this is a distant view it will usually include the Dome of the Rock, with its unmistakable gold dome. The Dome is covered with gold leaf, as part of a recent renovation project and it is said that the firm that carried out the renovation was from Lymm. This is probably the most prominent example of gold leaf work.

Gold leaf has been used for centuries to embellish objects. Artists used to use it in paintings as a background for holy figures, so it is not surprising to learn that the unit of weight by

which gold leaf was sold is an ancient unit. In the Middle Ages, when gold leaf was required, the easiest source was a gold coin. A skilled goldsmith could hammer such a coin to produce a flat sheet so thin as to feel weightless. So, the unit of weight for gold leaf, even into the twentieth century, was the ducat, used in medieval Italy. The leaves are produced to be about 8.5 cm square. Artists who wanted to create a picture with a religious theme, would need a flat background with a dull surface to reflect light, so as not to take the viewer's eye from the holy face, and would use gold leaf from a ducat which had produced 100 leaves. If the effect required was a highly reflective surface of burnished gold, then thinner leaf was needed of a thinness given from a ducat yielding 145 leaves. The thinner foil would be used on raised surfaces, such as mouldings or foliage ornamentation, where every ripple or imperfection of the surface would be faithfully followed by the impressed foil and the light from this uneven surface would be highly reflective. To ensure the gold leaf followed every contour of a rough surface, it would be pressed into contact using a small hard hand held object such as a bear's tooth, or small pebble. Objects treated in this way slowly loose their sparkle with time and become dull. Purchasers of such thin foil were advised to examine the leaves, which should have a rippling surface with the appearance of goat parchment, or remind one of a cobweb. The gold lettering or ornamentation in ancient books is not so subject to the base material changing shape over time and therefore still appears bright after a considerable time has passed.

Two lesser known Altrincham Authors

The first of these, probably now forgotten authors, is Thomas Kingston Clarke, who was mayor of Altrincham in office during 1924 and 1925. He lived at No.1 Lyme Grove and at 25 Market Street at different times. He wrote two books and when an important occasion arose, produced poems. In 1906, he composed quite a flowery poem headed 'Ode on the Auspicious Home-Coming', to welcome the Stamford back to their ancestral seat at Dunham Hall. The date given at the end of the poem is 8 August 1906. Another poem dated 7 July 1929, was entitled 'Thanksgiving Day', which he sent to the King at Buckingham Palace. An acknowledgement of thanks was retumed from a Private Secretary, dated 24 May 1929. A third poem was headed 'Address to HRH Princess Mary, on the occasion of a visit to Altrincham, June 14th, 1929. This last poem is given the title 'Floreat Nova Terra Maris!' and was read out at a dinner in Harrogate at which the captain of the New Zealand cricket team playing Yorkshire County on 8 July 1931, at which Clarke was an honoured guest. It extols the contribution of the New Zealand forces in the Great War. Thomas Clarke's son lived in Harrogate, so he was a frequent visitor to the town. As well as writing verses (which found their way into print) Thomas wrote at least two books. Both were novels, the first with a dedication

dated June 21 1901, was *Men v Devils*, with eight illustrations by John Hassel and published by Sands & Co., London. The second was *The Widda-Man*, set in the Isle of Man, where, from the preface, it would seem Kingston Clarke enjoyed frequent holidays. Archibald Constable & Co published this book. As he was Mayor of Altrincham from 1924 into 1925, he would have been a Freeman Burgess of the town and a member of the Court Leet. Before 1937, the Court Leet, although having transferred most of its administrative duties to the elected Town Council, nevertheless, still provided the Mayor from three candidates chosen and presented to the Lord Baron's Steward, who selected one to fill the post. Those residents of Altrincham who were eligible to vote in council and parliamentary elections, were not therefore involved in electing the Mayor. The retiring Mayor was normally created an Alderman of the Court at the end of his term of office.

The second author was Philip Henry Mules M.D., eye surgeon at Manchester Eye Hospital, previously mentioned in a previous Journal as having produced a gold-medal winning aubretia (in two varieties promoted by Cliban's Nurseries). The Royal Horticultural Society has acknowledged one of these varieties for over a hundred years as one of the best blue varieties of aubretia. It is somewhat difficult to know exactly where he lived and from several references about him, including censuses, the only mention is The Downs or Delamer Road, but no house name or number. A birth certificate of one of his daughters, obtained in the hope that the address would be revealed, did not give a more precise location (Grace Oliver, born 14 November 1880). He wrote a book entitled *George Doggett keeper – The Story of a Devonshire Manor Thirty Years Ago,* illustrated by P.J. Antoine and J. Thomas, and published by the Manchester firm of Abel Heywood & Sons, Oldham Street, and by Marshall & Co., Stationers Hall Court, London. The dedication is from 'Bowdon, 1887'. He also wrote *Jabez Hodges*, also published by the two publishers above. The story is described as 'a romance of Drabbles End', being 'a cleverly written sketch of the conversions of a drunken wife-beater by the arguments of a clergyman who belongs to the school of muscular Christianity, and is able at a pinch to thrash as well as teach an erring parishioner. There is a vein of quiet humour in the little story which, altogether, shows that Dr. Mules has a talent for this kind of writing.'

John Thomas, Artist

This artist is listed in Slater's Directory of 1883 as living at No.30, The Downs in the parish of Bowdon. In that year he was fifty-seven and had married Amelia Ward in 1845; she died after 1869 and before 1881. Thomas was born in Birmingham in the first quarter of 1826 and died between 1891 and 1908. His family consisted of Henry, born 1847 in Wolverhampton; John, born 1849 in Birmingham; Mary, also born at Birmingham; Amelia, born 1855 in Scotland, along with Sarah, 1858; Oliver, born 1865 back in Birmingham; and

lastly, Robert, bom 1869 in Manchester. Information about this artist, one time resident of Altrincham, came about because Boummouth are having an exhibition of his work, which mainly consisted of Japanese scenes. The 1881 census lists the Thomas family in the last shop going up The Downs, on the right hand side. John was not there when the enumerator called; probably away on some commission elsewhere but he was mentioned as being a decorator/artist. In 1891, John is mentioned in the census lists as being a widower living in lodgings with his son, Oliver, in East Derby, both working as Decorative Artists. In that same year, Robert is to be found living in Chorlton-on-Medlock and his occupation is also that of a decorative artist. *The Journal of Decorative Art,* July 1889, mentions The Royal Bath Hotel, Boummouth, which was decorated by Mr. J. Thomas of Bowdon. It would seem, John was the resident decorative artist at the hotel for some years, and a Mr. Russell-Cotes (later to be knighted as Sir Merton Russell-Cotes), who was influential in getting John this work as he knew from years of experience of John's artistic skill. John and his son Henry had done work there ten years previously, in 1879. John was also assisted by his talented son, Oliver, as mentioned in the July copy of *The Plumber and Decorator:* 'Our Provincial Decorators', 1889. In 1901, Oliver (decorator) is mentioned as working at The Royal Bath Hotel. There is a further reference to John Thomas in the August edition of *The Journal of Decorative Art*, 'Contemporary Decorative Artists', giving biographical details of his life and works up to 1889. Between 1898 and 1908, John was commissioned to paint murals at East Cliff Hall, the residence of Sir Merton Russell-Cotes. A possible relation of John's could be a George Thomas, also a 'Japoner', living with the family during the 1861 census, when they were at Wolverhampton. It would seem the male members of the Thomas family were particularly talented as decorative artists. Examples of John's work are on exhibition in both the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum at East Cliff, in Boummouth. There is a book by Peter Pugh, *The Royal Bath*, published by Cambridge Business Publishing in 1988, which contains extracts of Sir Merton Russell-Cotes' biography referring to the work of John Thomas including photographs.

Note

The information about the above artist came to light as the result of an inquiry to Sheila O'Hare of Trafford Local Studies from Boumemouth where an exhibition of his work is being held.

TWENTY-ONE YEARS IN BROADHEATH

Enid Halliday

I was born on 6 September 1926 at my grandparents home, 49 Brunswick Road. The house was a mid-terrace two-bedroomed property built about 1900, with a living room, parlour and lean-to kitchen. It was lit by gas. In the yard outside was a brick-built lavatory, but it did have flushing water. All hot water had to be heated in a large iron kettle either on the gas stove or by the side of the fire. We always had a cat and she used to have regular families of kittens in a chest of drawers near the fire. It always felt warm and safe and I played in the street or on wet days in the lobby. I went to school for a few months at St Andrews, Deansgate Lane but transferred to Navigation Road School in 1932. This was a short walk away across the 'rec'.

I remember the Jubilee of King George V, as we had sports and a party on the rec. There was a general grocery store almost opposite, where most of our supplies were obtained. They sold everything from thick twist tobacco carved on a wooden board, to delicious cakes and sweets. At the top of the road was the off-licence, confectioners, greengrocer, butcher and chip shop. A little further on the main road there was a tremendous variety of shops available – Masons and Melias grocers, Brocklehurst bicycles, Downes chemist, Potters pork shop, Ann Skelton ladies outfitter, Richardsons tobacconist, hairdressers and travel agent, Shields cheque shop, a crockery shop, an ironmongers and our own cinema, the Regal. Over Broadheath Bridge were more shops and the Post Office.

Weekend activities included trips to the seaside. From Broadheath station you could go on day trips to New Brighton, Southport and Blackpool. The trains were always packed. Gran used to cook and press a piece of brisket to make sandwiches to take with us. Sometimes my grandad would take me for long walks. We took the bus to the Bleeding Wolf pub in Hale and walked through Ashley to Mobberley. He gave me a love of the countryside, telling me about plants and animals.

My father was employed at the Automatic Scale Company in West Timperley as a night watchman. As my mother worked too, I was brought up by my grandparents until we moved in 1934 to the new council housing estate built down Sinderland Road. Ours was a semi with hot water and a bathroom but the toilet was outside in the back porch. From here I had to go to school by crossing the railway and walking the full length of Atlantic Street. I can vividly remember the smells and sounds of that street and looked in wonder at the coloured footprints left by the Alliance Dyeworks workers. I never felt afraid to go to school on my own and never heard of any child being approached.

When I was nine years old I was sent to an Open Air School for six months as I was very thin. The Gov-

ernment was concerned at this time that young people were unfit, so residency at an open air school was recommended as an experiment. I had a very unhappy time but was allowed to return home on my tenth birthday after four months. I never told anyone about the things that happened there, but suffice to say they would not be allowed now.

I was very close to my cousins and on my return was taken to see the new house their parents had bought in North Vale Road where a new estate was springing up. All the family thought they were very daring to buy a house, as everybody rented but they managed to eventually own it. We had lots of fun as children, playing in the parks, swimming at the baths, going to the Regal on a Saturday morning and acting out the films on Saturday afternoon! We walked everywhere. I can remember the agonising pangs of hunger after a session at the baths and a long walk home to tea and bread and jam in huge chunks.

I took the County Scholarship Exam and passed, gaining a place at Sale County High School for Girls and started there in 1938. When war started we did not go back to school after the summer break until October as shelters had to be constructed. We spent the extended holiday picking potatoes at Burns Farm on Sinderland Road. We worked very hard for sixpence a day.

As my dad was in the Navy and my mother driving an ARP ambulance, I returned to Brunswick Road and the loving care of my grandparents and went to school in Sale by train from Navigation Road station, coming home for lunch, as Gran's cooking was so good. Looking back, I consider that my secondary education was excellent, even though it was during the wartime years. I acquired a thirst for knowledge and a great love of reading.

The war years are remembered for the frequent disruption of sleep by air raids and the terror of hearing the throb of German aircraft passing overhead. Broadheath suffered one of the first raids of the war when in August 1940 an oil tank was bombed on the canal near to Broadheath Bridge and after that there were lots of incidents. The worst occurred in Dale Street when a land mine devastated houses, factories and a chip shop full of people. We just carried on at school and at work but we all slept downstairs so we could take cover quickly. I only saw my dad a couple of times during the war since he was a medic on the Atlantic convoys. He was mentioned in dispatches for rescuing survivors from the *Empress of Canada*. My mother learned to drive and joined the ARP as an ambulance driver, then drove the town ambulance until she joined the ATA based at Ringway. She drove ferry pilots and paratroops training at Tatton Park.

I obtained my School Certificate in 1943 and went to work in the laboratories of the British Alizarine factory in Trafford Park, part of ICI's Dyestuff Group. By this time we had no day-

time raids, which was just as well as our designated shelter was rather too near a large tank of benzene! I travelled to work via the train and a special bus from Stretford until I bought a bicycle and rode to work. The blackout presented many problems to travellers especially in foggy weather. Fogs were thick, black poisonous vapours and with no street lights it was quite hard to navigate. Sometimes hurricane lamps were tied to the base of lamp posts which was fine if you were cycling as you were near the curb. Cars used cyclists as pilots to find their way out of the maze of the notorious Sevenways roundabout in Stretford. Passengers sometimes got off trains and landed on the tracks if the train stopped outside the station. Sometimes it was so dark you couldn't see the station anyway. Nobody locked the doors of their houses and people frequently entered the wrong houses in the blackout. There didn't seem to be any crime and people trusted and helped each other.

I was transferred to the penicillin lab at the newly constructed Ministry of Supply factory, the first factory in the country to produce penicillin on a commercial scale. They were exciting times. For recreation I went cycling and youth hostelling. The factory had an active social club. I was once a glee singer in a presentation of 'The Farmer's Wife' put on at the Garrick in Altrincham. There was tennis and dances and some of us went to the Hallé wartime concerts at Belle Vue conducted by the wonderful John Babirolli. Cinemas were very popular and we went to the Regal, the Picture House and the Hippodrome in Altrincham, or the Pyramid in Sale.

I did my 'bit' by working at the Doughnut Dugout in Altrincham serving food to American servicemen and helped at the YMCA in Manchester. I was also a National Animal Guard, rounding up strays after air raids and making them safe. There was a tremendous feeling of relief when the war ended, the streets were painted red white and blue for the parties. We all got a day off for VE and VJ days, then gradually things got back to normal but the scars left by the air raids remained for many years.

Like so many families separated by war my parents sadly drifted apart, but by this time I had left Broadheath to start a new life in Lancaster.

ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF ALTRINCHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL

Don Bayliss

This paper examines briefly the historical microgeography of part of Altrincham town centre and the role of the general hospital in it. The town centre can be divided into three elements. Like most towns it has, first, a retail area. This lies along Stamford New Road, George Street, Shaws Road and

the east side of Greenwood Street, mainly lying on land rising up sharply with an apex in the market which spreads onto a terrace, a flat ledge, in the town centre. The second area is the north-east to south-west terrace at the top of the rising retail area and includes the hospital and other imposing buildings. In larger towns this would be called the Central Business District (CBD), an area of public buildings and offices and be of special interest to the fathers of a town. It extends from Old Market Place along Market Street to Regent Road. The third tract lies to the west where the ground rises away again, and is occupied by an extensive residential area of large villas and mansions rising to the highest point in the area, at the top of Highgate, from where the land falls away in all directions, the slopes in this third area being occupied by residential units.

The second element, the flat central terrace containing the hospital building extends from the historic economic centre, the old market place across the A56 and along Market Street. It has been very significant in the economic and social history of the town. The old market place part, still has many businesses but because of the need to allow the A56 to run across it, this section is virtually cut off leaving the Market Street section from the A56 along the terrace as a shortened CBD. Market Street includes fine public buildings such as the Jacobean-style Town Hall of 1900, the fine listed Market House of 1879, the imposing Conservative Club of the same period and the Victorian General Hospital of 1870. Also a pleasing group of Georgian former residences, now offices at its northern A56 entrance, with the hospital at its southern Regent Road end. Several good quality former semi-detached houses of the Victorian period also lie at the southern end along the street on the opposite side to the hospital and have been altered into offices, again appropriate to a CBD. These preserve enough of their original character to contribute to the ambience of the whole street as a coherent group of fine public and commercial buildings which are the result of a long period of economic prosperity, first under the auspices of the Local Board of Health from 1850, subsequently the Urban District Council of 1894, the chartered borough of 1937 and are now of great importance in Trafford MB. A new residential home opposite the hospital is unfortunately rather bland in style, but its serried windows depict an important building and the block does not detract much from the ambience of the street and only serves to show the superiority of the hospital building opposite.

Recently the Town Hall has been refurbished into two sections, a public section and an offices section. This has worked well. An adjacent building, not worth regenerating was demolished and an extension to the Town Hall constructed in its place in the similar Jacobean style with high Dutch gables, a design matching the adjacent Town Hall making a longer building of good stature. This extension is aesthetically pleasing and in

replacing a former badly-built building has markedly improved the townscape seen along Market Street from the hospital end. One could argue some additional Jacobean decoration would have been attractive if included in the extension but I am sure everybody is satisfied with the outcome when thinking what glass and concrete travesty could have been committed in the name of some modern architecture and how fortunate the town is to have had such a pleasing extension, befitting the general ambience of the historic CBD.

It is apparent that the same nuance of new architecture 'fitting-in' rather than some modernistic monolith architecture to replace Altrincham General Hospital would be appropriate to match the buildings already there in historic style and it is most likely this would be appreciated by Altrincham people. In this, most of Market Street would be preserved as a CBD of Victorian-outer style quality with modernised-interior features. There has been a danger that Altrincham would fall between two stools, its Victorian past and modem extremism. To fit in with its history which its visitors and local people expect, extremism, already sadly prevalent in other parts of the town, must be avoided and it would be better if Altrincham continue with its Victorian character, which has a history which can be explained and which makes it attractive to shoppers and visitors of all types, as do some surrounding towns preserving buildings of character. The role of the hospital building is, in size, to match at one end of Market Street the enlarged town hall at the other, the two buildings to be of the scale to enclose the present CBD, so the hospital should display features of a thriving town centre.

Attractive features of the present buildings which might be replicated in any rebuild are as follows.

Altrincham General Hospital

The group of buildings from the hospital to the market on Market Street may be considered in four parts, 1, the original three-part building of 1870; 2, the next block(s), obviously later, between that and the block nearer the market labelled the Diabetes Centre; 3, the later block of the Diabetes Centre; and 4, the Outpatient Department of the hospital, in the modern style

1. The original part (1870)

Its three-part balanced structure is typical of a public building of the period in a small town, large without being too monolithic. It has a three storey central section with doorway and two two-storey wings. The whole is in pink-brown brick laid in the rather unusual but striking Flemish bond with moulded brick cornices and different styles of window headers, those of the middle of the central three-storey section being semi-circular and the lower and upper storeys with a shallower radius header; the whole window system is balanced. The window pattern of the wing sections is again striking with the central windows of the three lowest windows having highly curved headers, the second-storey and outer lower windows having shallower radius headers.

The central more prominent section

has a central front door with semi-circular porch entrance reached by a flight of steps, obviously a disadvantageous problem to the disabled and older day-patients today, but architecturally very attractive although a challenge. Mention must be made of the many large ashlar fine-grained clean cream stone quoins up the corners of the main three-section block and stringers of the same stone at the second storey. There is a fine set of stone eaves with an arch at the centre of the centre block well above the porch to complete the front elevation. Altogether the tri-partite front is a masterpiece of harmony, symmetry and decoration. Additionally the whole is surrounded by the original stone wall to the edge of the pavement. The same design of building turns the corner onto Regent Road and continues round the next corner into Greenwood Street but here, though the structure is well-built, it lacks the imaginative style and decoration of the front elevation. Greenwood Street is now more used, and there is a fine row of attractive Victorian cottages, now mainly commercial and retail premises, on the opposite side further along (which may hopefully be preserved). The hospital building here is well-constructed, although not well-designed. However, it could be a challenge to bring up the quality of the design of the hospital along part of this street to the same level as at the front.

2. The block(s) added to the north
There was an attempt to match the brickwork of the earlier stage I part including with Flemish bonding. Also the window arrangement is of a matching but simpler pattern. It is a stout bi-part building which could be improved by the addition of elements of Victorian stonework seen in the original block, or stringers could be added as in the buildings across the road. It would be a mistake to replace this rather uninteresting block with a modern block with the same faults.

3. The Diabetes block
This is the most architecturally unpleasant block. In particular the brick colour and bond, and the inlaid cream stone coursing both up and across the walls form a most unpleasant combination, partly because the stone is badly weathered and dirty. The building rests on a massive stone plinth out of charac ter with other buildings.

4. The modern Outpatients Department
This abuts onto the outdoor market and it is assumed will be replaced and heightened. It would be very satisfactory in the writer's view if the whole built structure from the market to Regent Road were in the same style which was sympathetic to that of the outside of the 1870 building. The role of the hospital block, architecturally, would be to bring some coherence to that end of Market Street and add a stretch of building in the best style to fit with the other major buildings.

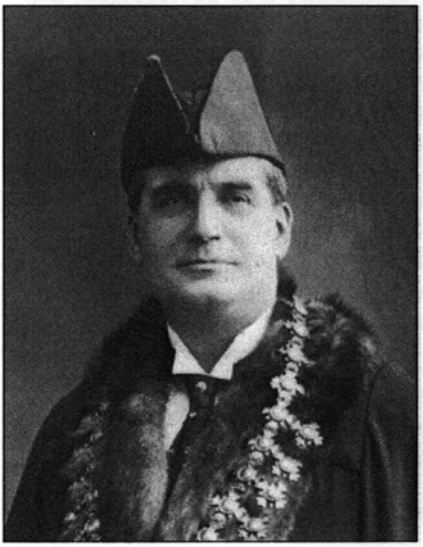
A number of local features of interest can be seen on the semi-detached houses opposite, now offices, and where relevant might be included in a new structure: yellow bricks, red-brick stringers, cornices, corbelling,

gable-end chimney stacks, and strikingly decorative roof ridge tiles. They must have been favoured, possibly suggested, by the late Earls of Stamford who exercised control to ensure the quality of new buildings in Altrincham and in that respect have been sadly missed.

SIR WILLIAM HENRY VENO

Paul Parker

One of Altrincham's important residents during the early 1920s was Sir William Henry Veno, founder of Veno's Drug Co Ltd. He was born William Reynard Varney in Castle Douglas, Scotland on 22 December 1866. William went to school in Newton Stewart and then served an apprenticeship at Garliestown Post Office, Wigtownshire as a Telegram Learner. He then went to sea, aged seventeen as a cabin boy on the Guion Line and moved to America where he stayed for three years. Whilst in America he acquired a formula for Veno Cough Cure.



When he was twenty-two he returned to London and developed an interest in politics and public affairs and was in demand as a public speaker. In 1891 at the age of twenty-five he went back to America to work in advertising. In 1894 he patented Veno's Drug Co Ltd in Pittsburg Pennsylvania, under his name William Reynard Varney. In America William met his future wife, Mary Pearson who had moved there with her parents in 1881. William was inspired by President McKinley's inauguration speech and after the McKinley election he came back to England and located himself at 418 Chester Road, Manchester in the factory depicted on the Veno's Cough Cure bottles. They also manufactured Germolene, Veno's Seaweed liniment and Dr Cassels tablets under the Veno ban-

ner.

His business became more and more successful and he was knighted at Buckingham Palace on Friday, 25 June 1920 on the occasion of the King's birthday, in recognition of his recruitment work during the war. Sir William carried out further fundraising work and speeches, opening the Leigh branch of British Legion in 1921 and a theatre in Manchester, amongst other engagements. He also became Mayor of Altrincham for 1923-24. He was a staunch Conservative and had been officially connected to the party for more than twenty years. For some time was the chairman of the Altrincham Polling District and Chairman of the Divisional Association. An accomplished speaker, he was called upon to carry out many after-dinner speeches. He was also a Freeman and a Liveryman of the City of London and was connected with the Freemasons in London.

After an unconfirmed cancer scare when he had a growth from his lip removed, he offered £20,000 for a cure for cancer. He also gave a donation to Middlesex Hospital for the work they had done. In November 1924 the Veno Drug Company was sold as a going concern and became part of Beechams Drug Co in 1925.

After the sale of Venos Sir William started up several companies including the Cellulose Acetate Silk Company (photographic films) and Transmutograph Ltd. These companies were much less successful. In May 1932 he set up a company selling products invented by the late Dr Knox of the USA.

On 6 March 1933 Sir William was found dead in the grounds of his home, Woodlands in Bonville Road, Dunham Massey. He had gone out shooting rabbits in his grounds. His wife Mary found him lying face down in the wooded area with a gunshot wound to the chest. The inquest declared a verdict of "Suicide during impulsive insanity". The inquest also showed that there was no evidence that Sir William was troubled or of unsound mind in any way, although he had lost a substantial amount money over the years with further business adventures. However, Sir William at the time of his death was still a wealthy man.

LORD STAMFORD AND THE BOMBING OF ALTRINCHAM, DECEMBER 1940

David Eastwood

Introductory Notes

With the increasing threat of war, Altrincham Municipal Borough (1937) formed an Emergency Committee, which began to meet in September 1939. Two volumes of the Committee Minutes remain extant, from its formation until the end of 1940, and for the year 1941. They are in Trafford Local History Library.

They are bound books, with the actual minutes glued in. The following reports appear to be the originals, and are on loose sheets in the back of the appropriate volume. The first report is handwritten with weak ink and is rather faded. The second report is in typescript.

The third item is a transcript of the diary entries of the 10th Earl of Stamford (1896 to 1976). He was a Head Warden and was responsible for much of the organisation of the Air Raid Protection Wardens of Altrincham. His diaries are held in the University of Manchester John Rylands Library. They are not open to the general public and my thanks are due to the National Trust for allowing me full access.

Report on Rescue Party Operations During Raids Sunday and Monday December 22nd and 23rd, 1940.

The following calls were made for Rescue Parties on the night of Sunday, 22nd December.

2.08 a.m. Mayors Road and Charter Road
3.26 a.m. Cross Grove, Timperley
3.28 a.m. 66 Sylvan Avenue, Timperley (same incident)
3.30 a.m. Westwood Avenue, Timperley
4.13.am. Lawrence Road (for two parties)
5.37.am. Newstead terrace (rope for bomb crater)

All the incidents were, happily, cleared up without loss of life and it appeared that in most cases they were successfully dealt with by wardens and neighbours, and the Rescue Parties had little to do on arrival at the scenes of the incidents.

On the evening of Monday, 23rd December the first call was received for a Rescue Party to proceed to Oakfield Road and Moss Lane corner. The call was received at 8.27 p.m. and a party was despatched immediately. A call for a further party was received at 8 p.m. at 9.40 p.m. *[8 p.m. is inserted in MS.]* I visited the site of the incident following the call for the last party, and inspected the work being carried out and the method of procedure. I found that the parties were tackling the work in a most efficient manner, and were working excellently. Following my visit I placed Mr Shaw in charge of the operations, and I may say that I have nothing but the highest praise for the manner in which everyone worked and the ex-

cellent spirit which was shown in dealing with a difficult and dangerous incident.

Shortly before 3a.m. I received a report that all living persons had been removed from the premises, and I immediately proceeded to the job and made a very careful inspection.

As result of this inspection I instructed the men to cease work and return to the depot. I wish to make it clear now, that I take full responsibility for a decision which I took with the greatest possible reluctance, but it was obvious that any other persons trapped inside could not possibly be alive.

On Tuesday morning was recommenced as soon as it was light, and a further body was recovered during that morning. On Wednesday, seven more bodies were recovered and it was obvious that they must have died instantaneously as a result of the bomb explosion.

In conclusion I wish to emphasise how well everyone worked in connection with this incident. This applies to full and part-time Rescue Personnel, the messengers who are attached to the rescue Party depot, and the Wardens who were of the greatest assistance.

Five of the members were taken to hospital as a result of coal gas poisoning during the night of the 23rd as a result of working in the basement. They are all now recovered and back at their work.

Following the receipt of the "All clear" signal on Monday morning I made a tour of inspection of as much of the damaged areas as was possible in order to ascertain what amount of repairs was necessary. It was obvious from even a rapid inspection that the work was much beyond our local capacity, and I attempted to get in touch with the North Western Building Trades Federation secretary to call help from him. Unfortunately the telephone exchange in Manchester was out of action, and contact could not be established. (7.50 a.m.) A call was eventually secured to the regional Commissioners office, who informed me that help from Manchester would be impossible. By this time the use of the telephone had become impossible and I obtained the use of the Police private line to Chester and asked the County Surveyor to send what help he could. He promised to send three Rescue parties, and these arrived at 1 p.m. and started work immediately.

In the meantime local contractors had been approached and I had also visited Sale and tried to obtain contractors from there to come and work in Altrincham. The whole of the Councils maintenance staff was also engaged in First Aid repair work.

Surveyor's Dept
Town Hall
Altrincham
1st January *[1941.]*

To the Chairman & Members of the Emergency Committee

WAR DAMAGE

General Survey. A preliminary survey of all houses damaged by bombing has

been made; this was completed by Thursday 26th December except for isolated instances of light damage. It was revealed that 908 houses were affected and in need of repair. Of these 28 are or will have to be demolished, 114 seriously damaged but capable of repair and about 300 of the remainder are affected as regards wood work and windows, none seriously.

This damage was almost wholly confined to dwelling houses but windows to some industrial premises and shops were affected. There was no damage to air raid shelters.

First Aid Repairs. With the exception of about 25 windows attention has been given to all habitable houses and the damaged windows have been made good temporarily with roofing felt. It is hoped that it will be possible shortly to glaze some windows in each house with glass or glass substitute.

The work has been made possible by obtaining the services of the rescue squads from Homes [sic] Chapel, Macclesfield, Northwich and Preston Brook and by employing Messrs Morris & Son, Marston & Sons, Pendletons and Jacksons. These contractors maintenance staff and rescue squads were also employed and released to carry out this work.

As regards roof repairs it has been found that the retiling of roofs is more satisfactory than repairing with roofing felt and already some 24 roofs have been put in order. This action has made it possible for these houses to remain tenanted.

Removal of Furniture. 9 lorries and 3 carts put on full time have been employed in removing furniture. Forty eight houses have had the furniture removed from them & taken to store and that from five others has been taken to other houses. Only three houses have yet to be cleared of furniture.

The following entries are relevant extracts from the diary of Lord Stamford.

22nd December... Went to St Margarets for the afternoon service. Mr Burnaby preached. The sirens sounded soon after this evening & I heard later that a heavy attack was being made on Manchester. The anti-aircraft barrage was very strong & from time to time we heard quite a large number of bombs explode. The fires in Manchester c[oul]d be distinctly seen & reflected in the sky. During the night I walked up to the golf links & had a better view of the Manchester fire. While I was there I saw at least one bomb dropped. A great red glow shot up from the ground. We had quite a large assembly in the shelter.

23rd December. The "all clear" did not go until about 6 a.m. this morning, by which time the moon was high in the sky. To the Office about 10. Later in the morning I went to see the damage at the entrance to Stamford Park. The bomb fell almost on the entrance gates & the blast damaged severely the houses at the corner of Charter Road & Mayor's Road. Earlier in the morning I went ...to see the damage done by two land mines at the

Knutsford Lodges. One Lodge has been completely swept away & the other has been severely damaged & is quite uninhabitable. W. Higginbottom went to Manchester in the afternoon & came back with sad accounts of the state of affairs in the city. Apparently the Free Trade Hall has been completely wrecked. Tonight the alarm came soon after 7 & once more the gunfire was strong & from time to time we heard bombs dropping, some of which sounded rather near...

24th December. The "all clear" came soon after 1a.m. this morning. To the Office soon after 9. Went to a meeting of the Emergency Cm at 9.15. We received an account of the tragedy in Oakfield Street last night when a bomb fell & demolished two houses, & buried about 10 people under the ruins. A few have been got out injured, & others have been got out dead. I went to Oakfield Street later in the morning & talked with a number of people. I was taken into a house where one of our shells exploded last night, having come through the roof of the adjacent house. To Altm again in the afternoon. Visited the houses in Lawrence Road which were damaged on Sunday night. The side of one of the houses has been completely swept away & extensive damage has been done to glass & roof tiles. Heard later that the attack on Trafford Park last night had been very severe & that much damage had been done to Metro-Vickers works. Nearly 90 fires were started in Sale as a result of a heavy bombing with incendiary bombs last night. Two mothers with 5 children each arrived this afternoon & are being put up in the Jockey Rooms. They have come from Old Trafford & Fallowfield.

25th December. [After church service] ...unexpected visitor in Michael Eddis. He gave us an alarming account of his experience in the Victoria Hotel, Manchester, last Sunday night, when the raid began. The hotel was set on fire by incendiary bombs & he lost all his belongings which were in a room on one of the upper floors. Later on he was compelled to cross Deansgate in a sheet of flame & go into a shelter under the Grosvenor Hotel.

26th December. To the Office with William H in the morning & then to Manchester, where we put up the car & walked about the streets for a little while. On the whole I was surprised to see how little damage had been done in the two raids. The Town Hall, the Central Library, the Midland Hotel, the Daily Mail Office & Kendal Milne's seemed quite untouched. On the other hand the Free Trade Hall looked completely gutted inside, although the outer walls are standing. The Royal Exchange has suffered badly too from fire...

27th December. To the Office in the morning. Before returning for luncheon I visited Oakfield Street, where 12 dead people have been recovered from the two or three cellars at the corner. Three people were brought out injured. One little girl who was dead, had her arm round a dog which was alive, although two of its legs were broken. Mr & Mrs Maginness

came to tea. Mr M said the damage at Trafford Park was less than had been feared at first. The switchgear department had been damaged & so had the section dealing with aircraft production. Avro's works at Newton Heath & the Fairey Aviation works at Stockport had not had a scratch.

28th December. Went to Bowdon Church for the funeral of one of the bomb victims, with Mayor and deputy Mayor.

29th December. A shelter in Manchester holds about 14,000 people. Consists of great tunnels between Central Station, Deansgate, Knott Mill... Captain Steel [commanding a searchlight station at Brookside Farm] arrived... & we walked through the Park as far as the Knutsford Lodges. We saw the craters formed by the two land mines, one of which fell in a ploughed field at the top of a bank above the lodges.

30th December... In the afternoon I went to Altrincham Cemetery for the funeral of 11 of the victims of the air raid in Altrincham on the night of the 23rd to 24th December. The Mayor & Deputy Mayor were present. It was a wet afternoon & a cold wind was blowing. The scene was a most sad one.

MAUDIE TIPPING'S THIRD WILL, 1613

A Tale of Jealousy, Deception and Illegitimate Children

Jill Groves

[This article is based on a short talk given to the Society in May 2009]

The tale at the back of the twenty-odd pages of documents of the depositions and allegations to the third will of Mathilda Tipping of Dunham Massey in 1613 is one of jealousy and deception in the course of which of a daughter who had loved and cared for her mother for many years until exhaustion made her ill was almost, but not quite, deprived of her 'child's portion' by her two older brothers, Robert and John. They probably didn't intend to deprive Alice, it was just an unforeseen consequence of their jealousy of her husband William Rowcroft.

Another unforeseen consequence was that George Moores, a cousin and one of the perpetrators of the deception, was made to marry the young maid he got pregnant two or three years before. Poetic justice? The Consistory Court, in its other guise, as the court of morals became interested in the sexual activities of George Moores.

The main action described in the documents took place over about a month to five weeks, beginning in early February 1613. Alice, although she had been married to William Rowcroft for six years and had a child Isabella by him, had remained at home, caring for her very eldery mother. William had just been gven by his master, Sir George Booth of Dunham Massey, the tenancy of the

Big Tree, Dunham Masey, which Maudie Tipping lived near

large dairy farm at Wilmslow Sir George had acquired. It was worth £100 a year according to rumour. This was possibly a cause for jealousy fr the older brother Robert. However, Robert was by then in middle age and very well set himself with Sir George as his steward. As such he was living at Carrington Hall, some two to three miles away and in a much larger house than his elderly mother's in Dunham Massey.

And Mathilda, or Maudie as everyone called her, was very old for those days. She was in her early eighties and bedridden by February 1613. She had buried her husband Henry over thirty years before and invested his small legacy so well she advanced her children too. Robert has already been mentioned. George, another son, was rector of Ashton- on-Mersey. William (who died in 1612) had a large farm in Dunham Massey (The Park, later called Newbridge Farm) and possibly worked for the Booths of Dunham Massey as a bailiff. Alice, much younger than her brothers, had married well in 1606, despite some misgivings, probably on the part of Robert and John. Only John was a remaining problem.

In early February 1613 Maudie Tipping decided to make a second Will. This was where the problems really began. It was written by her son-in-law William Rowcroft and witnessed by him, Alice, Robert and John. Then it was given to William Rowcroft for him to keep safe as one of the executors. What was in this new Will or what made it different from the first is unknown because neither Will No.1 or Will No.2 survive. Whatever was in it John later said he was not happy with it. He said his legacy was not as large as it had been in Will No.1. But for the time being John let his resentment fester. However, a number of people knew about it.

Maudie Tipping was not an old lady living on her own with just her daughter. Her son John lived there too, as did a number of servants. And there were always friends and neighbours popping in and out. And because everyone knew Maudie could die at any

moment, even young male neighbours – possibly chivvyed by their family ('she might leave you something if you pay your respects') – visited her. Maudie's house seems to have been like Clapham Junction at times. The Consistory Court had to appoint two days to hear them all!

By late February Alice was too ill to care for her mother. As one witness, Elizabeth Ashley, said, Alice nursed her mother until neither could stand or help the other. So, on Monday, 1 March 1613, Alice was lifted onto a cart and taken to her husband's new house at Wilmslow to recuperate.

Nearly a week later, on the morning of Sunday, 7 March 1613, Robert Tipping came to his mother and asked for her blessing, which she gave him. Then Maudie asked Robert if he was going to see his sister. Robert then told his mother he had heard a rumour Alice was dead and buried at Wilmslow. He asked Maudie if she would like Alice buried at Bowdon. She said yes. And Robert replied he would see it done, even if it cost him £20 (£1,600 today).

Had Robert really heard the rumour? Did he believe it? No one who had seen how ill Alice was thought this was strange.

Robert left his mother's house, perhaps still intending to ride to Wilmslow. Then he met a friend, Randle Parker, who asked after his mother. Robert said his mother was well, then volunteered the information that a boy had told him Alice was dead. Randle was shocked and asked when the burial at Bowdon would take place. Robert said the following day. Randle and his cousin Richard Parker of Carrington prepared to go to the burial.

Perhaps that was when Robert abandoned his ride to Wilmslow and turned back to Dunham Massey. Whether he believed the rumour or not, it was now that he saw a way to turn it to his and his brother's advantage. He called on his cousin George Moores, and called out from the road that Alice was dead. William Artinstall, a tailor and a neighbour, overheard the conversation as he stood at his door. He also heard George Moores ask Robert who had told him. Robert didn't answer. George Moores then walked out of his house and up the path to Maudie's house, as Robert had asked him to do.

Meanwhile Robert had returned to his mother's house and asked one of Maudie's servants, William Cotterell, to fetch the local writer of wills, George Vawdrey, gentleman, of nearby Bowdon. Interestingly, William Cotterell made sure of his orders with his mistress. Maudie told her servant she wanted him to fetch Mr Vawdrey because she wanted to make a new will – will No.3. She told Cotterell it was because William Rowcroft had taken away her second will.

Throughout the area the rumour of Alice Rowcroft's death was running rife. George Vawdrey's wife Anne and his daughter-in-law Ellen heard almost before Maudie's servant came to fetch him. Their maidservant had been out and about running errands and she came back with the tale.

When George Vawdrey arrived at Maudie's house, he was shown into her bedchamber, where Maudie told him her sons would tell him her wishes. So George went into a separate room and wrote the will, with the 'help' of Robert and John, and possibly George Moores. He then took the will back to Maudie for her to put her mark on it and the other witnesses. But at no time was the will read over to Maudie for her to approve its terms. The Will was then given to Robert and John, the new executors.

Did local people go to Bowdon Churchyard to attend Alice Rowcroft's burial on the Monday? Probably quite a few. What tale Robert Tipping told them all is unknown.

The day after that, William Rowcroft rode with his young servant Andrew Wilcock, to see his mother-in-law. His wife Alice was still alive, although ill. William hadn't heard the erroneous rumours of his wife's death. He had only heard about the new will.

As it happened, when William and Andrew arrived two local young men, Thomas Deane and Henry Newton, were in Maudie's bedchamber paying their respects. They had very clear memories of exactly what was said. At first there were some pleasantries. Maudie asked Thomas Dean how his father did, and how his wife (Maudie's cousin) and his child did.

Then William Rowcroft said, 'I hear that your son Robert, George Moores and George Vawdrey have been with you and made a new will.'

Maudie Tipping replied, 'I cannot tell what they have made.'

William then added, 'Mother, I hope you will leave your daughter Alice a child part with the rest of your children.'

Maudie paused. Until that moment she had believed Alice dead.

She replied, 'It is my mind that Alice's child shall have the portion.'

Then it was William's turn to be astonished. He realised Maudie thought Alice was dead.

'Why then, Mother, is it your will that your daughter Alice's child and mine shall have an equal child part with your children.'

'Yes, yes, yes.'

Between Wednesday, 10 March and Sunday, 14 March, Maudie died and was buried at Bowdon Church. At the burial William Artinstall the tailor met William Rowcroft. The Will had already been read and Rowcroft was grieved 'that Robert Tipping and George Moores had used him unkindly about the decedent's Will'. A few minutes later George Moores told William Artinstall, 'That Rowcroft is the craftiest [cleverest] fellow that served his master [Sir George Booth]. And yet for all his craft they had caught him a trick.'

Once the will had been read, Robert and John Tipping opened a chest and took out £40 in gold. £20 was to be put out at interest for some of Maudie's grandchildren and £20 was still in George Moores's hands in July 1613. George Moores had taken the will to Chester to be proved in the Consistory Court. That was when William Rowcroft objected to it. The case was heard in July 1613. What the ver-

dict of the Court was is unknown. And Maudie's third will also no longer exists. Only the inventory exists, which shows her to be worth over £200 in her personal estate alone.

The Depositions and Allegations to Maudie Tipping's third will give a good sense of what it was like to live in a rural area with a relatively small population. The community was close-knit, with all that meant for everyone knowing everyone else's business. And life was lived in public, whether in the fields, the lanes or the houses. Privacy was an unknown commodity in the early seventeenth century. And not everyone was friends with everyone else. William Artinstall had good reason to repeat George Moores's damning words to the Consistory Court. It was his daughter Mathilda whom Moores had made pregnant.

The postscript to this tale comes on 30 June 1615 when George Moores married his servant Mathilda at Ashton-on-Mersey, where his cousin George Tipping was rector. Later still in 1623 on the death of Robert Tipping, William Rowcroft took over as steward at Dunham Massey.

Acknowledgment

Peter Kemp of Bowdon History Society originally transcribed the Depositions and Allegations to Mathilda Tipping's third will in the 1980s. He wrote a series of articles on the Tippings family in *Bowdon Sheaf*, the journal of Bowdon History Society, 'Bowdon in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries: The Booths and the Tippings: Parts 1 to 6' in the 1990s.

Book Review

The Story of Booths, 1847-2008, Frank Bamford, 2008, £4.99

David Miller

The book has seventy-four pages of text and illustrations with an attractive front cover and contents.

It covers the family background of Edwin Henry Booth and the foundation of the Booth family supermarket chain, whose outlets range from the Lake District, through Lancashire to North Cheshire. They have a large shop in Knutsford and are to open in Hale Barns. The book is the story of a Lancashire lad born in Bury in 1828 into difficult circumstances who set up a small shop in Blackpool in 1847. Edwin initially sold tea but quickly enlarged the shop into a general grocers. In 1855 he opened a second shop in Chorley which he and his family expanded to become the chain of twenty-six quality supermarkets which exists today. Frank Bamford has shown his skills in local history previously by producing many books on Dunham Massey, Altrincham and Southport, as well as two school histories. In the Booths book he again illustrates his ability to research and summarise a large volume of information into a well-illustrated and readable summary of the company with

many historical photographs, which all readers will appreciate.

David Miller

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"Finem Respice" and the Black Horse; A Brief Insight into Military Obligation in Ashley in the Fourteenth Century; Captain Scott's Visit to Seamons Moss School; Obituary and Appreciation: Sale's History Man - Norman Swain. Price: £1.00 to non-members.

Altrincham History Society Journal 9
The Dutch wars - 1652-74; A Tameside Man in the Isle of Man; The Denton Churchyard Masonic Gravestone; Stray Thoughts. Price: £1.00.

Altrincham History Society Journal 11
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George Faulkner Armitage (1849-1937); Uncommon Law; H.W. Keams &Co. (1945-1967), Part 2; The History of the Devisdale, Dunham Massey Township; Education in Hale in the Seventeenth Century; Farewell to Amolds Yard, Heart of Old Altrincham

Altrincham Hstory Society Journal 28
Letter to the British Association for Local History; The Stamford Hospital; The Death of Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, KCB, DSO; Masons' Marks

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4. *Altrincham in 1799.* OUT OF PRINT (but will be reprinted shortly)

5. *Life in Altrincham in 1872.* OUT OF PRINT (but will be reprinted shortly)

6. *Alan Turing - Mathematical Genius.* OUT OF PRINT (but will be reprinted shortly)

7. *Medical Matters.* OUT OF PRINT (but will be reprinted shortly)

8. *Ronald Gow – Blue Plaque.* OUT OF PRINT (but will be reprinted shortly)

9. *Altrincham Walk.* OUT OF PRINT (but will be reprinted shortly)

11. *Altrincham's Housing Crisis*, Altrincham's housing crisis in the second half of the nineteenth century. Will be published shortly.

12. *Hewlett Johnson*, the biography of the Reverend Hewlett Johnson (1874-1966). Will be published shortly.

13. *Edith le Breton*, The biography of the local artist Edith le Breton (1912-1993). Price £1.00. Postage and packing £0.90. (L)

14. *Retribution: The Cheshire Royalists who suffered under the Commonwealth, 1646-1660*, Information from the Calendars for the Committee for Compounding on Cheshire people who suffered after the Civil Wars. Price £4. Postage and packing £1.74. (LL)

15. *Tour of Altrincham*, a virtual walk of two miles from Old Market Place up Bowdon Road (the old burying lane) and back via The Downs and Goose Green. Will be published shortly.

16. *The Bridgewater Canal*, Negotiations between Mary, Countess of Stamford and the Duke of Bridgewater on the route of the Bridgewater Canal. Due out by the end of 2009.

Books written by the Society

A Cheshire Market Town in Victorian Times: Altrincham in 1841. Price: £5.70. 300gm. Postage and packing £1.74 (LL)

The Buildings of Central Altrincham, 2000. Price £8.50 (£6.50 to members). 500gm. Postage and packing £2.64.

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ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

The main aim of the society is to further the study of the local history of the Altrincham area and to communicate such findings to members of the community at large

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Social and Economic Change in late Nineteenth Century Bowdon

The Blitz in Altrincham, 1940-41

East Chinnock Church, Somerset - A German POW says Thank You

Altrincham in the 1930s

The Otto Gas Engine and the Crossley Brothers

Social Geographical Divisions in Nineteenth Century Altrincham

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Cover illustration: Bomb damage in Bath Street, Altrincham, on 28 August 1940

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Don Bayliss

This journal is coming out at a time of important change for us. After many years at the Methodist Church, your excellent committee has made a change to hold our lectures at the beautifully refurbished Altrincham Town Hall with its fine new-Jacobean architectue and air of general importance.

We again thank Jill Groves for producing this journal.

SOCIETY NEWS AND MEETINGS 2010/2011

Meets at Altrincham Town Hall, Market Street, Altrincham at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month, September-May. Visitors £2.00.

14 September 2010, Driven by the Bollin – recent research on the Bollin mills, Dr Michael Nevell

12 October 2010, Life in Altrincham from 1909 to 1954 from the North West Film Archive

9 November 2010, 'War Means Whiskey' – Liquor Control and the Carlisle Experiment in the First World War, Professor Mike Rose

14 December 2010, Christmas Party: buffet, bar and quizzes

11 January 2011, Roman Manchester, Norman Redhead

8 February 2011, The Leicester Family of Tabley Hall, Charles Foster

8 March 2011, Jewish Manchester, Bill Williams

12 April 2011, George Faulkner Armitage and the Stamford Studio, Gillian FitzPatrick

11 May 2011, AGM and Members' Talks

HISTORY NEWS

Timperley Old Hall Gets a Heritage Lottery Grant

South Trafford Archaeological Group (STAG) has been given a grant of £44,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund for STAG to do much needed restoration, excavation on Timperley Old Hall and for presentation to the public. With this money STAG has been able to install a metal bridge, replace an unsafe structure, roof repairs on a Georgian cow-bam, restoration of a Georgian fruit wall, and footpath improvements and install information plaques.

The final phase of the dig at Timperley Old Hall took place in summer 2010. Last year's excavation found 4,000 years of rubbish including a flint arrowhead, pottery dating from the mid-seventeenth century to the end of the eighteenth century and parts of a 1920s Ford. [Source: *Sale and Altrincham Messenger*, 25 March 2010]

New Online Records in the

North-west
Lancashire Businesses online via the University of Manchester. This database includes the records of about 3,000 small businesses between 1760-1820. [*Institute of Heraldic and Geneaological Studies Newsletter*, June 2010]

EVENTS

People's History Museum
Left Bank, Spinningfields, Manchester.
www.phm.org.uk. tel.0161 838 9190
Slave trade no more – guided tour
(booking needed, free)
15 October 2010, 1.15-2.00pm

Death and the Working Class – exhibition
Opens 23 October 2010

Manchester Jewry
Opens Monday, 13 September 2010

Salford Local History Fun Day
19 September 2010
Salford Museum and Art Gallery, The Crescent

Cheshire Local History Association
History Day. Down on the Farm: Aspects of the History of Cheshire Agriculture
30 October 2010, 9.15am-4.30pm
Northwich Memorial Hall

Family History Society of Cheshire
Open Day
February 2011

Imperial War Museum North
Salford Quay
Tyneside Shipyards 1943: Photographs by Cecil Beaton
Until 3 July 2011

DUNHAM MASSEY, CHESHIRE: A HISTORY

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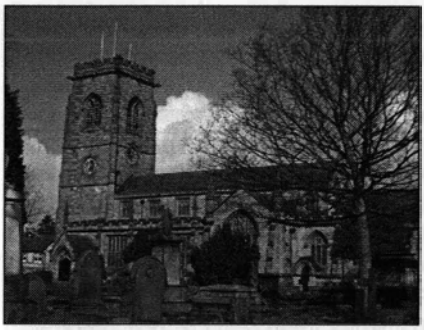
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN NINETEENTH CENTURY CHESHIRE

A Short Study of the Effects of Social Change on the Economic Profile of the Village of Bowdon

Steven Dickens

It is the intention of this study to provide the reader with a 'micro view' of the village of Bowdon in the early 1870s, at a time when the population of the village was beginning to increase rapidly, although proportionately at a much lower rate than suburban areas and cities, of course. It will focus on the short life of Alfred Thomas Cliffe, who came to Bowdon in order to set up a grocers business and the trade links he forged in that short space of time. The intention will be to show how the traditional fabric of villages like Bowdon was beginning to change at the start of the 'High Victorian' era and the effect that demographic changes would create in the longer term. Between 1851 and 1901 the population of Manchester, Bowdon's largest urban neighbour, almost doubled and that of Salford almost trebled (Briggs, 1999, p.216) and whilst the populations of urban satellite towns increased rapidly, many smaller and medium sized market towns, what Briggs terms as 'old towns,' increased in population size at a much slower and less significant rate. This was probably because the traditional approach to the way business families conducted trade, monopolising sectors of the market and passing it from generation to generation, meant that there were few opportunities for the entrepreneurs of the new Victorian market place to flourish. They were essentially 'frozen out' by the trade links and family contacts of well established businesses. The village of Bowdon differed in that, as a village, it was of course, smaller in size than the average market town. When the social fabric of these villages was stretched and put under pressure by a sudden population increase the existing inhabitants, despite their traditional family and trade links, could not respond sufficiently to the new set of circumstances. Thus, in the case of Bowdon, it meant that when the rich merchant classes of Manchester chose Bowdon as their place to build opulent villas and extensive homes from 1845 onwards, the response was to build a new set of businesses in order to cope with demand. Therefore, even a small population increase would create a 'gap' which in theory could be filled by a merchant or trader coming into the village from an outlying area. In this way Alfred Thomas Cliffe came to the village of Bowdon.

In 1874 the village of Bowdon is described as, "a parish in Altrincham union... containing altogether, by the census of 1861, 14,822 and in 1871, 19,744 inhabitants, and 17,971 acres in the hundred of Bucklow, Mid Cheshire." (Morris & Co. 1874, p.454)



Bowdon Church, which was partly rebuilt in the nineteenth century. (Copyright, David Long, www. geograph.org.uk/photo/146057. Accessed from Wikimedia, 29 June 2010.)

According to Balshaw's Directory (1855, p.38) the population of Bowdon in 1801 was 340; in 1831 it was 458; in 1841 it was 549; and in 1851 it was 1,164. By the Census of 1861 it was 1,827 and by 1871 it was 2,262. Finally, in 1901, it had risen to 2,788 and we can see that the most significant population changes occur between the years 1841 and 1851 and 1851 to 1901. In both phases it more than doubled. It was the ten years from 1845 to 1855 which saw much of the building activity which led to the construction of many of the villas of Bowdon. In the same period, between 1858 and 1860, St. Mary's Church was completely restored, rebuilt and extended to meet the increased needs of the Parish and help in the Church of England's 'push' to halt a decline in church attendance (Dickens, 2008, pp.23-31) This coincided with two significant events affecting the demographic profile of the village. The first was the arrival of the Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway through the area in 1849, with stations at Altrincham and Hale, which had the general effect of opening up the whole district, including Sale, to developers keen to exploit the merchant classes clamorous desire to escape the disease and pollution of the industrial conurbations. It also improved communications with Manchester, in terms of a much quicker link into the city and over a wider geographical area, connecting into the various national railway networks. The use of the telegraph also made a significant improvement to communications. Thus, many of the unique constructions which we can still see in Bowdon today – Fernroyd, Hill Carr and Limehurst, for example – owe their existence to this unrivalled period in the development of the transport infrastructure, which immeasurably improved the local economy and the prosperity of its inhabitants. The second significant event involved the Earl of Stamford releasing a quantity of land from his ownership for the purpose of building and development. This was rapidly purchased for construction, with the majority of the purchasers being from the privileged merchant classes, or professional businessmen. Hence, the demographic profile changed from local landowners, farmers and traders subsisting on a small scale, to those with a less provincial outlook, who plied their trade in the great Victorian industrial heartlands of Manchester. As

the transport infrastructure continued to develop, roads improved and trams became commonplace as far as Altrincham by the turn of the twentieth century, the population continued to rise, although the continued low rate would point to a certain amount of exclusivity remaining in Bowdon, with the result that it was, "... a favourable place for the residence of Manchester professional gentlemen and merchants..." (Morris & Co., 1874, p.454)

Then, into the Bowdon of 1874 came Alfred Thomas Cliffe, a grocer, with business premises at Church View, as recorded in the Morris & Co. Directory of that year (p.458). His domestic address was at Ashley Road, Altrincham, once known as Thorley Moor Lane (Morrison, 1985, p.19). Alfred was originally born and brought up in Pendleton, Salford. He was the son of John Cliffe, a very successful provisions merchant, dealer and grocer, with premises at number 25 Broad Street, Pendleton. Alfred was the youngest of six children – five brothers and one sister – and the only one destined to follow in his father's footsteps. His older brother, John George Cliffe – my 2x great-grandfather – worked in retail, but as a travelling salesman However, they shared one thing in common, that of a relatively early death, Alfred's occurring in 1875 at the age of twenty-six and John George's occurring in 1878 at the age of forty. John Cliffe senior outlived them all, his death occurring in 1886 at the age of seventy-nine, in retirement at Strines, in Marple, Cheshire. However, it is his will which gives us a clue as to the reason why Alfred came to Bowdon. John Cliffe senior came to Pendleton in 1829, when the township was still very much semi-rural and distinct from both Salford and Manchester. By the time he retired in 1879 it was very much a part of the industrial landscape of Victorian Salford, although it still laid claim to some exclusive inhabitants. John Cliffe senior had built up many traditional family business links during his time at Pendleton, particularly with the Hallsworth and Thornley families of Ardwick, who were in retail and the professions, including surgeons and pharmacists (Dickens, 2006, pp.141-145) Alfred's daughter, born in Bowdon in 1874, was named Margaret Thornley Cliffe in remembrance of this alliance. However, these connections probably acted against John senior's children entering trade in Pendleton due to a scarcity of opportunities caused by trade monopolies and vested interests. Whilst his older children benefited from his death through generous will settlements (Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies, Ref. MF91/35, WR27 P543), John senior realised that Alfred would benefit more if he were to help him now rather than after his death. Hence, his assistance to set his son up in his own business at Bowdon, once his son's apprenticeship at his father's firm had been completed and he had married Elizabeth Ogden in 1873. John Cliffe senior was originally from Huddersfield, where his family had extensive business concerns, mainly

in the drapery trade. They lived in the Paddock area of the town and had retail premises in the town centre of Huddersfield itself, namely in Market Place and New Street (West Yorkshire Archive Service, Ref. KC315) Therefore, he understood exactly what was necessary to relocate to a new area in order to set up in business – namely money, experience and a secure family background in the shape of a wife! Hence, Bowdon, whose population had increased from 1,827 in 1861 to 2,262 in 1871, provided the 'gap' which was required for the establishment of a new business and the ideal location for the pursuance of family life.

So, in 1874 Alfred was established as the village grocer, at Church View, Bowdon. Looking at Morris & Co.'s Directory for this year we can see that there are many residents who lived in apartments at Church View, which would suggest that they were renting rooms above shop premises. These shops were housed in the buildings which later became known as the Polygon and included Thomas Townson, a chemist and a boot makers, all catering for local needs. The desire to rename was a feature of most of the peripheral villages surrounding Manchester in the nineteenth century, as they became the suburban settlements of the emerging middle classes. For example, Stamford Road was originally called Sandy Lane and remained a country lane until the 1840s, when the construction of villa-type dwellings began. Life for a grocer in the latter quarter of the nineteenth century was still very much as a member of the local community that he served. They were yet to organise themselves into trade associations and develop a 'political voice' (Hopgood, 1992, p.285) which had occurred by the early years of the twentieth century. Therefore, Alfred would have filled the traditional 'niche' familiar to his predecessors, with strong connections to local farmers for local, fresh produce and delivery to the affluent population's palatial villas. Charles Royle, a farmer at Pool Bank, was one of Alfred's sources, as were local market gardeners, including James Gresty of Langham Road. It was common, although this was not so in Alfred's case, for grocers in market towns and villages to own their own land and be classed as farmers as well as grocers, growing their own produce for sale and thus cutting out the 'middle man.' An example of this can be seen in neighbouring Flixton, on the Lancashire side of the River Mersey, where brothers John and William Royle established their own grocery business in the village and owned, bought and sold land and property extensively in the latter nineteenth and early twentieth century. They were described as grocers and farmers in several trade directory entries. Alfred served an affluent area and the lack of land did not appear to concern him, as he knew that whatever produce he could not provide from his own locality he could provide via the thriving Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market at Smithfield, in Manchester. This was aided by the

proximity of the railway network and the improving road network, both easing any transport concerns. An advertisement in 1874 reads thus, "Carriers:- Executors of William Shaw to Manchester, Altrincham and Bowdon, from own house, Stamford Road, daily." (Morris & Co., 1874, p.459) Therefore, Alfred could readily cater for the 'specialist' needs of his more discerning clientele, a task he continued to perform until his premature death in 1875, at the age of twenty-six.

Alfred came to Bowdon, like many trade 'outsiders,' when local conditions meant that a sudden increase in Bowdon's population placed pressure on the local economy, thus creating an extra demand for retail services. He successfully exploited, with money and experience behind him, a 'gap' in the local economy. His experience is a classic example of the way local communities responded to nineteenth century demographic changes. Unfortunately, with Alfred's untimely death from typhoid fever, the business ultimately failed, his son, Alfred Ogden Cliffe, being born in Pendleton after his death, in 1876.

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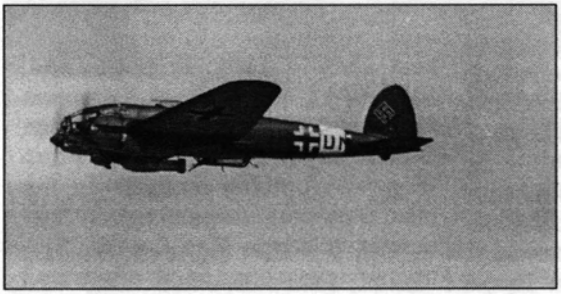
THE BLITZ IN ALTRINCHAM

Bob Jones

Introduction

The Blitz in the Altrincham area lasted from 28 August 1940 to 25 October 1941 and the area had 137 casualties, 21 fatal.

The sirens sounded in Altrincham at 22:39 hours on Wednesday 28 August 1940. Altrincham was 'privileged' to receive some of the first bombs of the war to fall in the North West. It is officially recorded that forty-one high explosive bombs and one incendiary fell in the Altrincham district that night – a night most people remember as "the petrol tank blaze" which could be seen for a couple of days from afar.



German Heinkel 111 bomber, flying in 1941. (Bundesarchiv, Bild 1011-424-0280-5/ Onken / CC-BY-SA. Accessed from Wikimedia, 29 June 2010.)

That was the first of many raids which the *Altrincham Guardian* chronicles. It vividly recalls many things, among them the hours of sleeplessness and the deep sympathy which all felt for the townsfolk who were to suffer most.

Those who were always inclined to the theory that many of the bombs dropped on Altrincham were released by harassed German pilots will find support for their argument in this article. A big percentage fell on farm land and did no other damage than to leave craters in turnip fields which seemed to have a peculiar attraction for Jerry bombs. The aggregate damage to property and in personal injury throughout the entire area was certainly out of all proportion to the effort of the enemy. Another feature of the report (and one which favours the jettison theory) is the number of unexploded bombs, which must not be confused with delayed action bombs.

Damage inflicted between the first raid on 28 August 1940 and the last raid on 25 October 1941 is summed up as follows:

Altrincham: 20 killed, 31 injured, 73 slightly injured; 70 houses destroyed, 282 severely damaged, 1,192 slightly damaged, Hale: 10 casualties, 1 fatal and 3 seriously injured; Bowdon: 3 casualties.

28 August 1940

The petrol tank blaze. A High Explosive (HE) bomb hit petrol storage tanks at O'Briens Oil Works in Broadheath next to the canal. Two tanks containing 25,000 gallons of fuel went up in

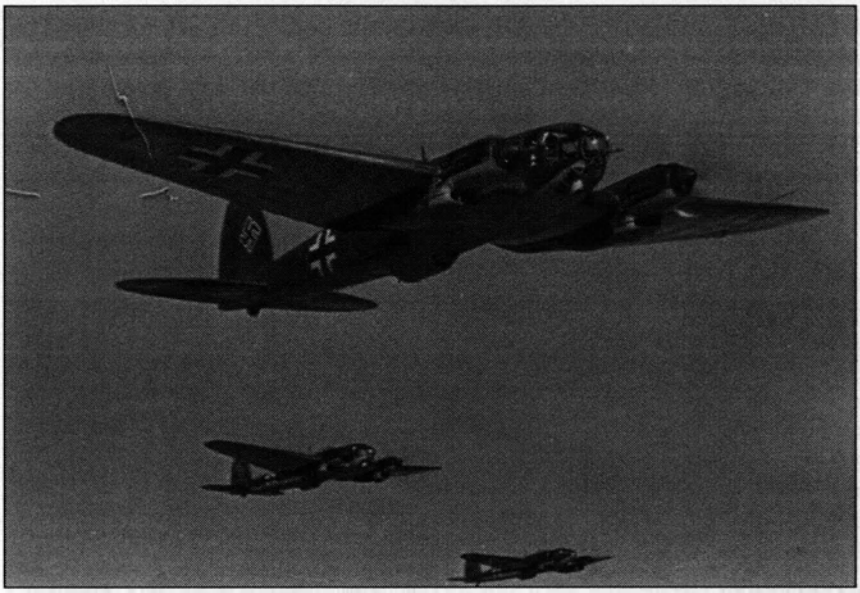
Bomb damage in Bath Street, Altrincham, on 28 August 1940. (Trafford Lifetimes image. Reprinted here with the permission of Trafford Local Studies.)

flames. There were no casualties. An HE bomb hit a dwelling house in King Street, Altrincham causing considerable damage to the house and other property, four casualties. An HE bomb dropped in the front garden of a house in Bold Street, two houses partly demolished and others slightly damaged, three casualties. A house in Byrom Street was directly hit, three houses partly demolished, and a child was rescued from the debris of the partly-demolished house. Another house in Byrom Street (at the corner of Bath Street) directly hit, considerable damage also to the adjoining garage and shops no casualties. A bomb went through the roof of a shed behind Weetman's decorator's shop at 145 Ashley Road and buried itself in the yard. Many of the residents in the locality were temporarily evacuated. An oil bomb dropped in the front of Southwold, South Downs Road, Bowdon which was damaged but without casualties. Trees set on fire were extinguished before the arrival of the Fire Brigade.

A bomb fell in Marsland Field, off Stockport Road, Timperley, one in Harveys Paddock, off Stockport Road and three more in the adjoining market gardens; 2 in a field off Shaftesbury Avenue; 4 on the Altrincham Muncipal Golf Links; 4 on Bowdon Golf Links causing slight damage to Dunham Church, the vicarage and post office; 4 bombs in a field off Charcoal Lane, 1 bomb in Back Lane, Ringway, 1 HE bomb at Taberners Farm, Timperley, 1 at Warburton Green Farm and 1 at Sun Bank Farm Ringway. A bomb dropped on the main Stockport-Liverpool railway line, quarter of a mile from Baguley Station. An unexploded bomb penetrated Woodcroft, Aimson Place, Timperley and passed through the ceiling to the ground floor; there were people in the house at the time, but no casualties. A bomb fell in Kelsall Drive, Timperley which partly demolished two houses, no casualties. A bomb at the Nags Head Hotel, Chester Road went through an outbuilding. This was one of a stick of eleven bombs dropped, the others burying themselves in the turnip fields.

29 August

Twenty-three HE bombs and about 100 incendiary bombs, fell at Tabley Mere,



German Heinkel 111s, flying in formation on a bombing raid in 1941. (Bundesarchiv, Bild 1011-385-0586/ Onken / CC-BY-SA. Accessed from Wikimedia, 29 June 2010.)

Plumley, High Leigh, Pickmere, Lymm and Thelwall. Some HE bombs did not explode. There were no casualties.

5 September

Bombs fell at Tabley and Peover; twenty-six incendiary bombs fell at a farm; there was no damage and no casualties.

25 September

A stirrup pump was used to put out a small fire started by incendiaries in the dog paddock of Brook House, Brooks' Drive, Timperley. Another incendiary started a small fire at a garage in Brooks' Drive. An unexploded bomb dropped on the school in Hasty Lane, Ringway. Four incendiaries fell on Ringway Golf Course and another in the school yard of Bradbury Central School, no damage, no casualties. An unexploded incendiary hit a railway cottage at Sinderland Green. One bomb dropped in the roadway in Park Lane, Bollington, near to the Swan with Two Nicks Hotel, and thirteen more buried themselves in the fields between Park Lane and Spode Green Farm, Bollington.

7 October

Soldiers occupying a tent in the Ringway area were unhurt when an incendiary hit the tent; eight incendiaries fell in the field at Eaves Hollow (Hasty

Lane), Ringway; two bombs fell at Oak Farm, Hale Barns. There were no casualties. Two bombs dropped near Castle Mill Swimming Pool, Ashley. There was no damage, no casualties. Six incendiaries fell in Ringway fields.

10 October

An unexploded Anti-Aircraft (AA) shell lodged in the footpath at 39 Stokoe Avenue, Oldfield Brow; there were no casualties. This was the home of my Aunt and Uncle Lockett family who had to move in with my parents while the shell was defused. Unexploded shells dropped in the kale field at Seamons Moss Farm and another in the tennis courts adjoining The Narrows, Altrincham.

18 October

Four bombs fell in the fields at Mere and Agden. The first caused damage to the outbuildings at Faulkner's Farm, Chester Road. One dropped at 8.20pm, exploding at 1.50am the next morning. Another dropped at the same time exploded at 10.00pm. A fifth bomb made a crater in Ford's Field near Agden Hall.

Saturday 19 October

At 11.10pm an unexploded AA shell went through the roof of the footbridge on the island platform at Altrincham Railway Station and exploded on striking an iron support. A second unexploded shell fell in the garden of Woodlands Cottage, Harrington Road, Altrincham.

20 October

HE bombs, one oil bomb and incendiaries dropped at Rostheme; a cottage was damaged, but there were no casualties. A field at Dunham Massey received an unexploded bomb. There was no damage and no casualties when a bomb fell near Broad Oak Cottage, Back Lane, Ringway.

28 November

A parachute mine dropped on waste land causing broken shop windows in George Street, Altrincham. Two bombs fell on Stamford Farm, Bollington and two at Edge Hill Farm, Bollington. Two bombs fell in the fields of the Home Farm, Dunham Massey and four fell in Dunham Park. There were no casualties.

20 December

An unexploded AA shell embedded itself in the garage floor at 1 Orchard Drive, Hale. Bombs fell in the fields at Oak Farm, Ringway, Heathlands Farm, Warburton and Priestner's Farm, Warburton.

21 December

An unexploded AA shell fell on the fairway of the Altrincham Municipal Golf Links.

22 December

The alert lasted twelve hours. An unexploded shell hit the front of 306 Manchester Road, West Timperley with damage to the house and adjoining houses. Ten houses were damaged by a bomb which dropped at the rear of 89 Woodhouse Lane East, Timperley. A bomb fell at the rear of 30 Crofton Avenue, Timperley with damage to the house. Another bomb fell at the rear of 201 Sylvan Avenue, Timperley where there were three casualties. Incendi-

aries fell in the roadway and gardens of Sylvan Avenue, Timperley. An unexploded AA shell fell in the front room of 5 Cleveland Road, Hale. There were no casualties. A bomb made a big crater in Charter Road, Altrincham and there was considerable damage to property. Another dropped in a field 50 yards off Urban Road. A parachute mine demolished Dunham Park Lodge on the Chester Road near Lymm Corner. Another parachute mine dropped in a field off the main road causing damage to a house. A bomb dropped in Sylvan Avenue and another in Crossgrove Road, Timperley; one casualty. There were four casualties when a bomb damaged 24 Westwood Avenue, Timperley. Another bomb made a huge crater in Newstead Terrace, Timperley and 27 Greenway Road, Timperley. Large-calibre HE bombs dropped on the Linotype Estate (Lawrence Road) and 20 Lawrence Road was rendered uninhabitable; one casualty. A bomb dropped in the market gardens off Sylvan Avenue, Timperley, another in the gardens in Rossett Avenue causing damage. A bomb dropped in Jackson's Nursery, Moss Lane, Timperley and one in Greenway Road Timperley. A bomb buried itself in a tank at Altrincham Sewage Farm. Another bomb dropped at Sunnyside Farm, Mobberley caused neither damage nor casualties. Unexploded bombs fell at Grange Farm, Yew Tree Lane, Ringway.

23 December

An HE bomb made a direct hit on a house at the corner of Oakfield Street and Moss lane, Altrincham; a man two women and three children were buried in the debris. Three children and nine adults were killed. A bomb at the corner of Charter Road and Hamon Road made a big crater and damaged property. A third bomb dropped in the yard of Holt's the builders on Manor Road. One bomb hit a bungalow in Hasty Lane, Ringway causing two casualties, another dropped in a field at Bucklow Farm, Ringway. One of three bombs dropped at Grotto Side Farm, Lower Peover resulting in one man and two women being killed. Approximately fifty incendiaries were dropped in the vicinity of Dunham Mount, Dunham Road, Altrincham causing a fire but no casualties. A bomb dropped in gardens at 22 Kingsley Drive, Timperley, demolishing four houses; no casualties. Seven houses were demolished by a bomb in Park Drive, Timperley, while a bomb near Oldfield, Park Road, Timperley caused one casualty. Two HEs fell near Skelton Junction, Timperley, and another badly damaged 51 Park Road, Timperley. A bomb struck a house in Bloomsbury Lane, Timperley; no casualties. Another which was dropped in Altrincham Cemetery damaged headstones and the Cemetery Chapel. Other bombs were dropped at 135 Park Road, Timperley, Marsland Nursery, Grove Lane, Timperley, Bradbury Central School yard/playing field, Graysands Road, Hale, Yew Tree Farm, Sinderland Green, Street Head Farm, Chester Road, Bowdon and Chapel House Farm, Ashley. Unexploded AA shells in the Altrincham District caused little damage and no casualties.

9 January 1941

A bomb at Ringway and an HE bomb caused damage and casualties at Manor House, Hale Barns. Another fell on Manor Grange, Wicker Lane, Hale Barns causing damage and casualties (one fatal). A bomb hit McEwen's Garage, Wilmslow Road, Hale Barns and a second fell at the rear of Knutsford View, Hale Barns. Bombs were dropped in a field between Brooks' Drive and Hasty Lane, Hale Barns. About 150 incendiaries were recorded in a field off Well Lane, Timperley and Roaring Gate Lane, Ringway, many being dealt with by the residents. An HE bomb fell in the grounds of Elm Farm, Wilmslow Road, Hale Barns and four more at Oaklands Farm, Hale Barns. The same night ten bombs dropped at Oughtrington and Lymm, one hitting a public shelter and an air-warden, who was an Altrincham man, was killed.

11 March

Bomb fell in a field at Higher House, Ashley and four in a field at Wood End, Mobberley.

14 March

There was an unexploded bomb in a field at Tanyard Farm, Back Lane, Ashley.

2 May

Fourteen bombs counted in fields between Dunham Massey and Warburton and about 250 incendiaries dropped in Dunham Park. The fired bracken and undergrowth were quickly extinguished.

7 May

The total damage caused by three bombs dropped in fields adjoining Whitehouse Farm, Dark Lane, Dunham Massey was broken windows of the farmhouse. A bomb in Twiggery Wood, Ashley caused neither damage nor casualties.

25 October

Two parachute mines dropped in a works area at Broadheath, one hitting the confectionery works at the corner of Huxley Street and Wright Street. Extensive damage was caused to houses and shops. Five men and three women were killed. A full-time warden, aged seventy-five, was one of the victims.

Conclusion

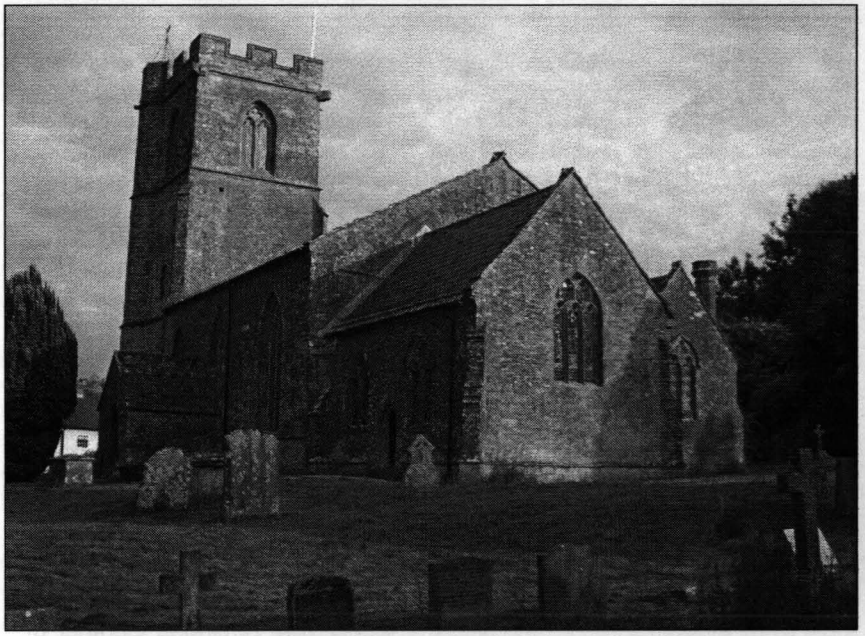
As suggested at the start of this article it does seem to give support to the notion that many bombs were dropped well away from their targets. T may be the well-sited anti-aircraft defences were being effective deterrents to the bombers or, coming from the south-east the pilots mistakeningly mistook Broadheath for the more important Trafford Park a few miles further north, and dropped their load prematurely.

Source

The Altrincham, Bowdon & Hale Guardian, 27 October 1944, 'The Full Story of the 1940-41 Blitz'.

EAST CHINNOCK CHURCH, SOMERSET

David Miller

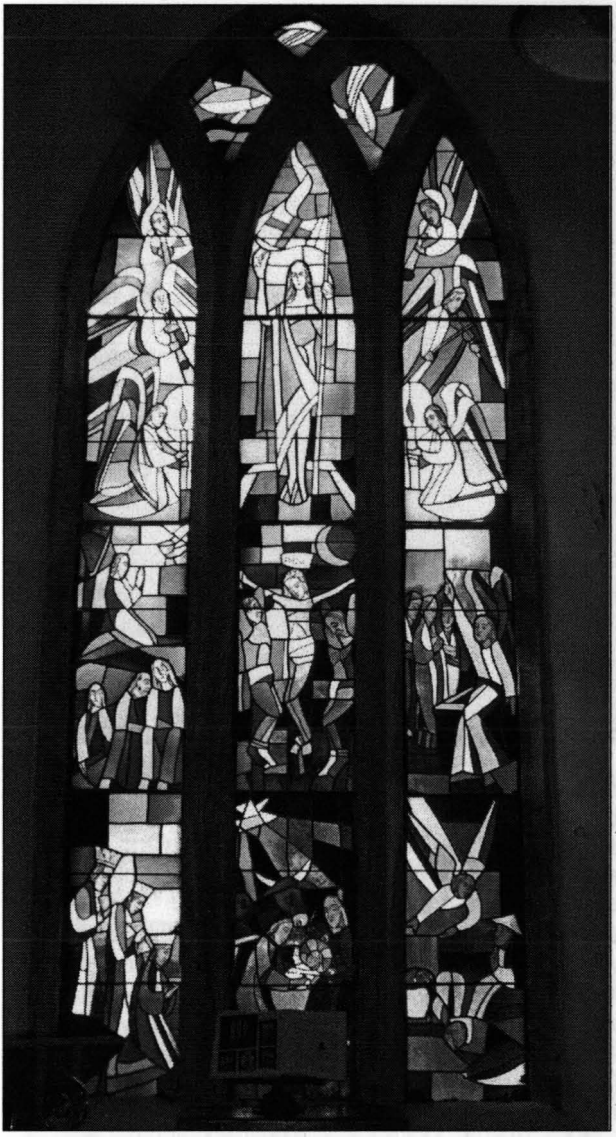


East Chinnock Parish Church, Somerset

While on holiday in Somerset a visit to the local village church and a chance meeting with a church elder revealed a remarkable story of friendship and reconciliation.

East Chinnock Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary was founded in the eleventh century and originally endowed to the Cluniac Priory at Montacute. The church tower is fifteenth century but much of the rest of the present building is early Victorian. The nave pews are made of Kauri timber brought back as ballast in the ships which took families from East Chinnock to New Zealand in the 1840s. The Rectors are known since about 1200.

The real tale begins in 1944 during that time of extreme violence, World War II, when Gunther Anton, a rear gunner in the German Luftwaffe was shot down over Southampton. He was only eighteen years old and was sent to a prisoner-of-war camp at Houndstone, Yeovil but was allowed to work on a farm in East Chinnock. Gunther was from Leonberg-Stuttgart and naturally was concerned about his parents who were in East Ger-



The window in the south-east nave. (Photograph by author.)

many. He attended the church to pray and find hope for the future, and conceived the idea of giving the church a stained glass window. At the time all the church windows were plain glass except for the Victorian east window in memory of Albert Young, a churchwarden from 1870-77.

On his return to Germany in 1948 Gunther joined the family stained glass window business and worked to build up trade in post-war Germany. On his death bed his father reminded Gunther of the window for East Chinnock and in 1962 Gunther retuned to Somerset bringing his gift of the window showing scenes of Christ's life and ascension, now in the south wall of the nave near the chancel. However, that was not the end of the story because he returned in 1969 with another window, impounded for a while by Customs &

Gunther inscription

Excise who could not believe it was a gift. By 1982 amazingly, he had replaced all of the plain glass windows in the church.

Finally in 1988 he wanted to fill in the arch between the nave of the church and the bell tower with glass bricks overlaid by a design of the lamb of God and the flag of victory in stained glass. The problem was getting the bricks from Germany since they weighed about a ton and a half. However, a local person with flying connections arranged a training flight from Yeovilton to Germany in a small four-engined jet, removing most of the seats. Again there was a problem with Customs and Excise but eventually the shipment was treated as sand and charged £20.

Three other POWs attended East Chinnock Church with Gunther according to a brass plaque on the arch dated June 1988: Ernst Erb from Offenburg, Heinrich Bauscher from Lanngenfeld Bold, and Heinz Schops from Porta Westfalica.

In all Gunter had spent twenty-six years donating the stained glass windows to East Chinnock Church in recognition of the kindness shown to him by the villagers. He made regular visits to the village and was well-known in the area. On his last visit he slapped a handful of gravel on the pub counter and said that was all that was left of his favourite chip shop after the Allies bombed it. Gunther lived for just six months after seeing the windows dedicated in 1989. Ten people from East Chinnock attended his funeral in Germany.

The ten windows and an arch, two signed, are beautiful works of art, very much of their time showing a certain naïve vision which contrasts with the more traditional Victorian window. They depict scenes from Christ's life from his early years to the miracles, the crucifixion and ascension. The sanctuary window depicts four Archangels: Gabriel the messenger; Michael the helper of chosen people; Raphael the angel of mercy; and Uriel, the angel of judgment.

Gunther undoubtedly intended his windows to reflect his deep feelings and his wartime experience. No visitor to the church can help but be touched by the story of this young man's gift to those who had been his enemies. It was a remarkable act of reconciliation.

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ALTRINCHAM IN THE 1930S

Colin Graham

Have you ever picked up a really old publication and been fascinated by its contents? I have looked at copies of the St Vincent's parish magazine dating from the 1930s, and among the items agonising over Franco and the war in Spain, and whether Catholics can join the YMCA are the advertisements. What a nostalgic glimpse into Altrincham seventy years ago they give!

Tyrrell and Westlake had houses for sale costing between £320 and £420. Those in Ash Grove, Timperley went for £410 at inclusive weekly costs from 14/1 with the assurance that 'no piece-work methods are adopted'. Home decorations and outside painting were offered by J. Bowland & Son of Regent Road ('opposite the Hospital'), and 'all fittings for the home, curtain rails and brass rods' by Clough Bros of Cross St who claimed to be 'highly recommended by the Parish Priest'. Others in the building trade included M McDermott – 'builder of St. Vincent's church' – at 'Garrick' in Market Street; and John Gill of the Downs a pavior, house repairer and 'specialist in drains and bacteria tanks', who tested drains 'with water or smoke'.

You could get all the usual services to your home since Tom Fumess and Sons in adjoining properties in Regent Road were 'authorised gas and water fitters', as well as electrical contractors and radio engineers able to charge batteries on the premises. LE Griffiths on the Downs also specialised in radio, offering HMV as the 'symbol of perfect radio'. Edwin Watson Ltd of George Street took out a full page advertisement as 'family ironmongers' offering garden furniture and tools, oil cookers and heaters, wringers and washing machines and 'Triplex grates'. They were also heating engineers and did sheet metal work, and acetylene welding and cutting. BW Crick on Oakfield Road specialised in power and lighting and 'supplied everything electrical ... at shortest notice'. Heating your home was no problem since coal could be had from E Costello in Elm Road, or William Jones of Dunham Massey who treated 'new customers like old friends'. He could supply fertilizer for your garden too. Nobles of George Street claimed to be the 'largest furniture dealers and stockists in the district'.

You could insure yourself and your home with T Byrne of New Street or JB Lyons of Woodcote Road Timperley; while the Altrincham & District Nurses Association in Railway Street operated a provident scheme. E Hughes was 'at your service' in Old Market Place as chemist and druggist; and Humphrey Davies in Ashley Road was interestingly a registered National Health Insurance Optician in the pre-1948 arrangement. If your health deteriorated there was the Convalescent Home run by the Sisters of St Joseph, Our Lady of the

Vale, Bowdon available; and if it got worse there were the 'sculptors' your family could commission such as JH Crosby in Lloyd Street as well as at Bowdon and Knutsford; or George Warburton, also in Lloyd Street. Plain directors of funerals and cremations were WT Jones of Oakfield Street, and AB Brookes & Sons of Stamford New Road – 'Brooke's Reputation Offers Obliging Keen Efficient Services' – which no doubt applied to their taxi service too. Worthington's had a full page advertisement with a photograph of five limousines, and offered funerals 'to suit all classes'.

If you wanted to get around Altrincham in the 1930s under your own steam you could buy 'cycles and accessories' from N Boden of Regent Road who was an agent for Raleigh, Rudge, BSA and FH Grubb cycles: Edwin Watson, the ironmonger we have already met, claimed to be 'sole district agents for Raleigh cycles', clearly an issue with Boden especially since W Richardson of Oxford and Ashley Roads was an agent for Raleigh too. Richardson supplied Humber, Royal Enfield, BSA and 'other high class cycles and motor cycles' and was a Motor Agent. He also had a petrol filling station. Motor oil was available at HF O'Brien, a limited company operating from the 'Broadheath Oilworks' (mentioned on p.9). Long distance haulage was the speciality of Grice Bros. in New Street, the 'transport contractors and commercial repairs specialists' who could carry loads up to 20 tons and had a daily service to Bristol and the West of England.

A wide range of retailers advertised food, drink and tobacco. General grocers and provision merchants were AE Scarratt of Grosvenor Road; G.F Rowbotham of Manor Road; and SJ Chester on Regent Road who provided 'everything at lowest prices', including 'new laid eggs and fresh milk daily'. A. Hulme in New Street was a specialist dairyman who announced that 'This is the shop for satisfaction; for children and invalids; Grade 'A' milk supplied'. You could get your fish and poultry from Tyrrell Bros on Ashley Road; your beef, lamb and pork from H Singleton on Stamford New Road (who claimed to have been 'established in 1649'), and pork from Lord and Moorcroft on Regent Road. The latter offered 'sausages, polonies, puddings, brawn and pies fresh daily'.

Mrs McNally in New Street seems to have been a small retailer; but George Wood in Greenwood Street was 'THE Baker', and boasted that 'all bread is hand made: no machinery used'; and that he was agent for 'Energen Bread' and products. Cakes, confectionery, tobacco or newspapers could be had from Barnby and Ward in George Street ('wedding and birthday cakes our speciality'); or E FitzHenry on Ashley Road; or AL Hall on Regent Road; or FG Houghton and Co (five partners) on Railway Street. F Butterworth and TE Moore had the same address on Grosvenor Road; so the one had possibly purchased the business from the

other. Butterworth as newsagent and tobacconist mysteriously advised the readers 'don't forget to register and get the benefits'. While shopping you could call in for 'a nice cup of tea'; also 'ham served with teas; pies and pastries' at Miss Graham's in George Street. Or perhaps have luncheon, tea or dinner at the George and Dragon managed by JJ Keane.

Two tailors took out advertisements – John Bradbury on Ashley Road, and Leo Gill on the Downs, the same address as builder John Gill so perhaps they were brothers? Bradbury was a 'high class... tailor and livery and riding breeches maker'; a supplier of 'Aquatite' raincoats; and could get 'incoming orders ready in 24 hours'. White's in Railway Street and Sale were millinery specialists who did 'large fittings'; with 'mouming a speciality'. Mounfield's in George Street were 'gold medal hatters' – awarded with a diploma in 1898.

There were a variety of personal services on offer in Altrincham in the 1930s. You could get your shoes repaired by J Patrick and Sons in Shaw's Road and Tipping Street (who boasted 'international honours'); your windows cleaned by F Brougham in High Street or Burke and Hinde in Byrom Street ('fully insured'); your hair cut by Haslam in Oxford Road; your laundry cleaned by Leigh of West Timperley; and your gardening done by AR Sands of Mill Place. Miss Henningsen taught 'elocution and voice production' at 'Shariah', Abbotsford Grove, Timperley. Printing was available in Viaduct Road by Taylor, Hobson and Shepherd. And finally, 'for all Catholic requirements' Bums, Oates and Washbume ('publishers to the Holy See') had a showroom in Bridge Street Manchester – 'the premier Catholic house for devotional requisites and church fumiture'.

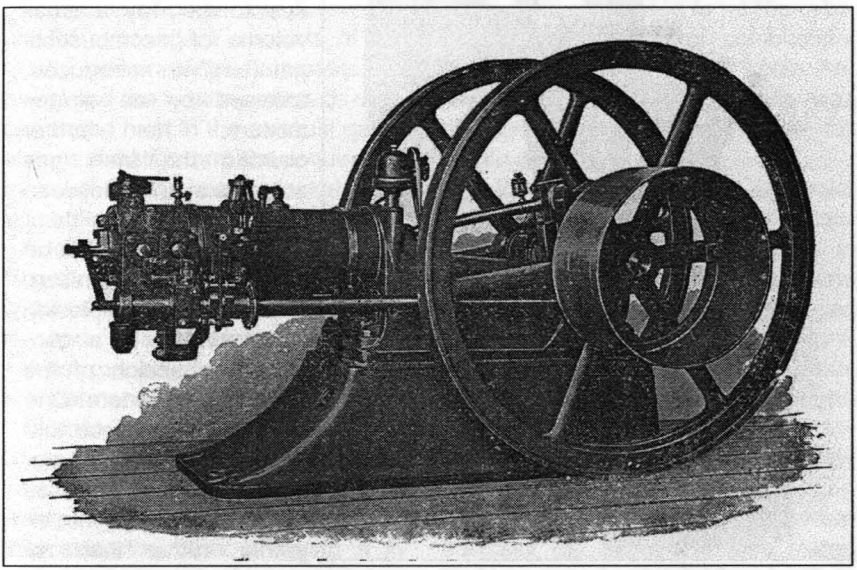
This is a quick survey of advertisers in the 1930s before Yellow Pages or the great changes to the town in the 1960s. The numbers who took out an advertisement in each issue is impressive as is the apparent spending power of the parish. The vast majority appear to be local family businesses too, and mainly sole trader or partnership located firmly in the centre of the town. Were these Catholic families? And do they still live in Altrincham?

This a fuller version of an article that appeared in 'The Vineyard' – the parish magazine of St Vincent's – a few years ago. Thanks to Father John and Father David for permission to reprint.

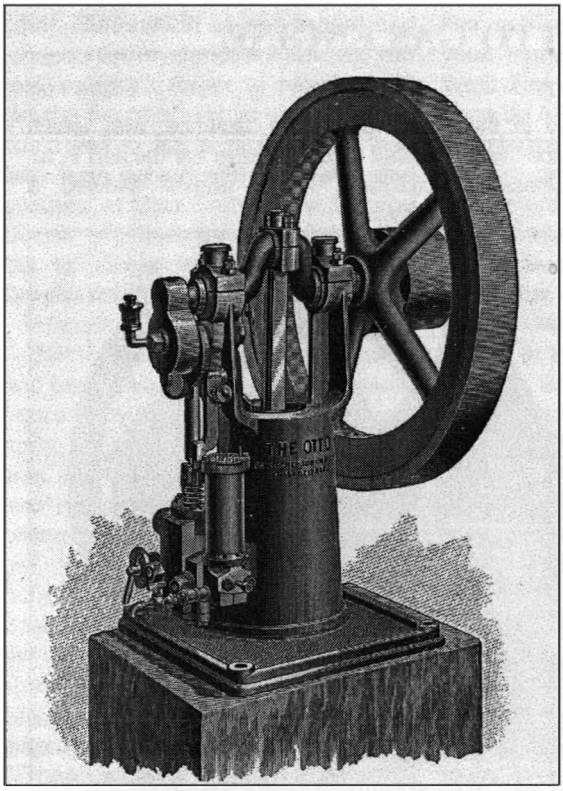
THE OTTO GAS ENGINE

Chris Hill

In an item on Frank Crossley in the 33rd Sheaf, passing reference was made to the success of the business he and his brother, William, created after buying the rights to the patents of the Otto gas engine and their subsequent improvements which produced such a very successful working engine. However, this success was not without its setbacks. There were two court cases to establish the validity of the patents for this internal combustion engine. The trouble lay in the lack of knowledge about how the engine worked. Earlier versions of combustion engines were notable for the violence with which gas/air mixtures were combusted in an explosion. Otto's engine allowed a more controlled combustion without such an abrupt ignition. Two British inventors, Lenoir and Hugon, contested Otto's patents. The firm of Charles Linford and Company, of Leicester, was challenged by Nicolas August Otto for infringing his patents in March 1881, but they counter-claimed that "the mechanical application for carrying the principle" of the four stroke combustion cycle "into effect were not particularly described in the specification", which



Otto horizonal gas engine, from 'New Catechism of the Steam Engine' by Nehemiah Hawkins, 1904 edition. (Image accessed from Wikimedia, March 2010.)



Otto upright gas engine, from 'New Catechism of the Steam Engine' by Nehemiah Hawkins, 1904 edition. (Image accessed from Wikimedia, March 2010.)

had in any event, been covered in earlier patents.

The Otto engine used the four-stroke system, which is still a feature of modem engines today, and the Frenchman, Alphonse Beau De Rochas originally proposed it in 1862. What this description did not mention was the way gases are introduced into the cylinder, mixed or stratified prior to combustion, and it was this point that Otto claimed was a significant improvement worthy of a patent. He claimed that the original engine achieved a controlled combustion, rather than an explosion, due to the way a small volume of incombustible gas (air), was introduced, followed by an air/gas mixture. He further claimed the inert gas acted as a buffer between the piston and the flammable mixture, so that on compression and ignition, the resultant explosion was reduced to a controlled expansion of the combustible mixture. One can imagine at once that the time allowed for introducing the various gases to swirl about and mix together, rather than remain in stratified condition, was very short; but this was the very point on which the court case rested and on which the judge had to adjudicate upon. Did the method described in Otto's patent allow stratification, or not?

A second court case in 1885 followed similar lines. The Leeds firm of Robert Steel, as in the first case, claimed that Otto's engine had been anticipated by the Lenoir gas engine of 1860, which was then described as a "new motive power". Instead of

steam, which until then had been the recent driving force of the Industrial Revolution, the gas engine was powered by the progressive combustion of air/gas mixtures, and ignited by sparking from a battery. However, this engine was impractical as a continuous source of power because of the use of extravagant amounts of gas, erratic ignition of the flammable mixtures, and the wasting of much of the generated heat in the exhaust gases, also in radiation and the required removal of excess heat by jacketed water cooler.

Another similar engine, designed by Hugon, had a better ignition system which acted with guaranteed regularity and was controlled by sliding valves, gas supplied under pressure, and permanently lit external burners.

Prior to 1876, there were two types of gas engine: one where the piston was pushed alternately to and fro along a cylinder by combustion on either side; the other involving a flywheel to preserve piston momentum, whereby combustion occurred only at one end of the cylinder and, after a subsequent ignition, could continue the sequence.

Otto, in his patent, introduced the idea of a gradual combustion and in fact, at Northwich (near the Salt Museum), where two of the Crossley gas engines are on public display, a feature of them is that a coin can be balanced on edge on the engine casing without being shaken off, as the combustions of the running engines are so smooth. With his four-stroke system, aided by a flywheel, the first stroke of the piston draws in air, then a gas/air mixture, into the cylinder. The sequence continues with the second, return stroke, compressing the gases, then at the top of the movement, an ignition is initiated. This causes the third, power stroke, and the final stage is used to rid the cylinder of the products of combustion, clearing the system to start again. Another feature of Otto's engine was that the piston did not travel the full length of the cylinder.

Linford's engine was a six-stroke system with, in addition to the dour cycles similar to what happened in Otto's engine, two extra strokes; one drawing in a cleaning charge of gas which was then expelled without ignition. An 'expert' witness stated that this engine was not very efficient due to only having one power stroke in every six cycles, instead of only four cycles. Another 'expert' said that apart from efficiency, the two engines were basically the same. He also stated that Lenoir had not used the stratification gas principle. The experts suffered from a lack of knowledge as to what was happening inside the engine, what were the important details and how sufficient the engines were, and thus how they could be improved.

Since 1877, the British licensee of Otto's gas engine was Francis William Crossley. The court was read the patent as it applied to the Crossley company, which showed that the principle of "stratification" was somewhat problematical, but Francis Crossley argued that the idea of stratification had been abandoned and that in-

stead he considered the introduced gases had time to be uniformly mixed, and because of an excess of air in the mixture, the combustion was complete and was slowed down due to the dilution of the flammable gas. However, the patent was criticised because of its lack of mention of the mechanical details; cams, gearing, slide valves, etc, and this, it was claimed, made the patent too wide, only covering a principle already covered by another, earlier patent of 1862, by John Henry Johnson. In addition, Johnson had given details of how the power produced was to be converted into a usable driving mechanism, part of which was used to compress the gases introduced to the cylinder for combustion. He says, "In making a gas motor engine, this is the process which I adopt"; and then he describes a process perfectly identical with Johnson's, with no particle of difference between them. So Otto lost the case; however, in an appeal, eight months later, the Master of the Rolls, Sir Baliol Brett, and Lord Justice Holker, considered the arguments leading to the previous verdict. Their view was that the High Court verdict was wrong:

> "The (idea) of compression was old, but he (Otto) claims the combination of combustion with his system of introducing air and this combustible mixture so as to make, as he says, a gradual expansion or increased pressure. Now that is a perfectly intelligible invention: assuming of course that his drawing enables the workman to make the machine, it will be the mode of carrying it out."

If a patent covered a principle which was considered to produce a revolution in a given art or manufacture, it was considered that judges should put a construction on such patents to support them, rather than find defects in specifications.

> "We are dealing with an invention of great merit and of great importance; of great merit because it produces a most remarkable result as to the use of the gas engine."

Thus, they came to the conclusion that the Otto engine which gave a much smoother performance than other gas engines, did so due to 'stratification', and therefore it had been an advance which promoted the use of gas engines which formerly had been little used, to a position where it was a very successful provider of mechanical power, and was in use for many purposes. The engine was not sufficiently novel to support a patent on its own, they thought, but putting a benevolent interpretation on the arguments, it embodied a principle and a mode of carrying it out and was therefore "a good subject for patent".

So in the end Otto won and the Crossleys, who lived in Bowdon, benefited greatly. Since it had been introduced, the engine had some 250 improvements covered by patents and there were quite a few companies producing gas engines. The judgement gave the Crossleys a monopoly on the manufacture of gas engines, so that the market for such engines was very great and lucrative.

As a postscript, it may be added

that the judgement upset a great many people, some of whom wrote to technical Journals expressing their amazement at the legal decision and the fact that it had hinged on the stratification idea, rather than compression. Many rightly thought compression was the real reason for the engine's success. In this respect, Judge Bacon was right in thinking there was no basic difference between the Lenoir and the Otto engines. The Otto engine was smoother in running due to diluter combustion mixture used, but Lenoir's engine could not use such mixtures as they could not be ignited by his sparking system and so the higher gas ratios had resulted in more violent ignitions.

The description for such a four-stroke gas engine, published by Beau De Rochas in 1862, had been utilised in 1872 by Christian Reithmann in Germany, he being the first to build such an engine as Rochas described. He used the engine to power his watch-maker's workshop in Munich, using air and hydrogen. It continued to work successfully until 1885, when the cost of hydrogen made the use of this engine uneconomical. Although Reithmann fought Otto in the German courts, he also failed to overcome Otto's patent.

The above information was abstracted from a much larger article by Daniel Ward in *The Innovated Engineer*, published by Morgan-Grampion Ltd, 1981.

SOCIAL DIVISION IN ALTRINCHAM IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY: TWO TOWNS INTO ONE

Road building for social engineering or military protection?

Don Bayliss

Before modem systems of administration and justice evolved the chief bodies for rural townships were the Court Leet which met every six months mainly to arrange officers to carry out administrative duties such as constables, local treaurers, dog muzzlers, etc., and the Court Baron which met every three weeks to try any local breaches of the peace (of which Altrincham still has heritage examples). Altrincham was given a market by Edward I and created a borough by its fifth baron Hamo de Massey in 1290, and, after a short period with a 'Portmote' court of the thirteenth century (about which nothing is yet known) reverted to a Court Leet which it would have had when a village before incorporation. But the town gradually developed additional courts to administer and dispense justice for town life.

By the eighteenth century the two courts were the chief vehicles through which its burgess freemen still admi nistered the town though from the late

medieval period the magistracy also existed and for serious offences a system of higher county courts.

At its birth in the thirteenth century the burgesses were the main inhabitants of the town, who each owned by descent, gift or purchase, a particular land called a burgage. This was a strip of land two perches by five (22 feet by 55 feet) a 'messuage' or croft on which there was a dwelling. There were 120 of these, mainly round the market place and for a short distance down and around (present) Market Street and the Dunham Road limiting the geographical location and size of the borough which could never change, and contained what was to be the ruling class. It was a seigneurial borough designed for trade which does not seem to have done very well at first and its population may have consisted of only forty burgess heads of families, who shared out the 120 burgages between them, about 200 people in all and there were also some unfree servants to assist them. The burgage system was inflexible and the numbers could not change so as the town grew the 120 burgages and their social status were much sought after.

As population grew due to the expansion of trade, by the late-eighteenth century the balance of numbers shifted so that in 1801 the population had grown to 1691 of which perhaps sixty families were still the burgesses of the Court Leet in the elite class, and their 300 dependants formed a high social class. To rub in the worth and status of the members of the Court Leet and their families who lived nucleated in the burgage area, this area was called Higher Town and was distinct from the rest of Altrincham. The people who lived here ran the Court Leet and Court Baron for the town as a whole and produced the mayors. In contrast, the rest of Altrincham town, called Lower Town was geographically by now at least four times larger than the core and socially distinct, occupied by the Lower Class. By 1811 the population had risen to 2032 – and by 1821 was 2302, the increase being mainly in Lower Town.

In summary, Altrincham was geographically and socially divided into two parts: Higher Town which at the time consisted of houses round the market place, along the Dunham road, the Manchester road and along High Street (Market Street today) and along the high ground towards Bowdon. Lower Town consisted of a linear belt of mainly cottage properties starting in the south along Ashley Road and Penfold Brow, taking in Goose Green to one side. There was no Railway Street: Ashley Road then did a dog's hind leg bend to join George Street and poor properties continued until this street joined the Stockport Road where Lower Town ended.

These two areas were altitudinally distinct so that the smoke from Higher Town passed eastward with the prevailing wind over Lower Town, and the combined smoke passed over Hale Moss leaving Higher Town clear. All drainage water carrying effluent by

streams and drains from Higher Town passed down through Lower Town to Hale Moss. Higher Town contained expensive properties, some large with extensive grounds, others smaller but many buildings were full of materials concerned with retail and legal businesses. Lower Town houses were much smaller, mostly cottages, thatched, without adequate structure, light, storage or sanitary equipment and the whole district must have smelt of the horse, with much service by horses being provided from the stables in this area.

With growth of the town, a number of high class citizens were unable to get into the small exclusive Higher Town and a new body developed in the eighteenth century to accommodate men of calibre other than the burgesses. This was the Town's Meeting. The pedigree of the persons allowed to attend is not known except that the names of those recorded as present include important persons such as solicitors, traders and ex- and current mayors, but it was not a burgesses' meeting. The latter group continued to be of the highest social status. A person had to be a burgess to become the mayor so the limited number of original burgage properties would be fought for.

After 1799 when St George's was built another group called the Vestry was formed from church folk, and from 1839 the town had a Sanitary Committee and from 1851 the town was also administered by a Board of Health.

The several groups assisted each other, with, for example, the costs of the Overseer of the Poor.

By the beginning of the nineteenth century some of the ruling class, being of a more socially-aware nature, were becoming rather jittery. This period saw the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars (twenty-two years of war with France between 1793 and 1815). There were a number of riots in Manchester, both during and afterwards, including the dreadful massacre at Peterloo in 1819. Riots and rumours of riots of mule-spinners in Manchester and other places must not have passed the gentry of Altrincham lightly by. Many of them had their businesses in Manchester, and there was a cotton factory in Altrincham. A sudden new social awareness of this is seen in these extracts from the minutes of the following Town's Meetings:

> '26 January 1797
> It was agreed at this meeting there should be a personal subscription of 2s 6d [12.5p today] to be entered into with John Mitchell [a mayor later in 1811, but a constable at this date], for raising a supplementary militia.

John Mitchell was to receive 1d for his trouble. However, it does not appear the Altrincham militia ever had to appear to quell the George Street mule-spinner rebels with musket fire!

> '10 September 1821
> 'A proposal having been laid before this meeting relative to the opening of better communication between the Higher and Lower Towns, and Lord Stamford having consented to a road being opened through the premises

now occupied by Peter Whitehead. (... It is proposed to carry out this proposal).'

It is convenient to think that this proposal was purely social to unite what had become two discrete towns and this may be so but an alternative view is that it was political, a response to Peterloo, the year before.

Which road was planned it is difficult to assess but the writer's view is that it was Regent Road which did not exist and would have allowed military access from the Dunham Road between the two towns, thus protecting Higher Town in case of rioting trouble.

In 1820 King George III passed away and the Prince Regent who had stood for the king during his periods of mental illness became George IV. It is possible the town worthies thought it appropriate of honour his memory and pledge support for him now as the new king by naming the new road after his recent office.

The difficulty about this theory is that during the nineteenth century this road was called Chapel Walks or Chapel Road but it was eventually named – or renamed Regent Road.

I thank Ron Higginbottom for the extracts from the Town's Meeting minutes.

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Book Review

***The Story of Booths, 1847-2008*, Frank Bamford, 2008, £4.99**

The book has seventy-four pages of text and illustrations with an attractive front cover and contents.

It covers the family background of Edwin Henry Booth and the foundation of the Booth family supermarket chain, whose outlets range from the Lake District, through Lancashire to North Cheshire. They have a large shop in Knutsford and are to open in Hale Barns. The book is the story of a Lancashire lad born in Bury in 1828 into difficult circumstances who set up a small shop in Blackpool in 1847. Edwin initially sold tea but quickly enlarged the shop into a general grocers. In 1855 he opened a second shop in Chorley which he and his family expanded to become the chain of twenty-six quality supermarkets which exists today.

Frank Bamford has shown his skills in local history previously by producing many books on Dunham Massey, Altrincham and Southport, as well as two school histories. In the Booths book he again illustrates his ability to research and summarise a large volume of information into a well-illustrated and readable summary of the company with many historical photographs, which all readers will appreciate.

David Miller

Obituary

Frank Bamford died on 24 July 2010, aged eighty-eight. Before his move to Southport and then to Preston, over a decade ago, Frank was a stalwart member of Altrincham History Society.

Frank Bamford, as David Miller has noted, published a number of books on local history, both in Altrincham and Southport – *Mansions and Men of Dunham Massey; The Making of Altrincham; Broadheath, 1885-1995: The First Industrial Park; Back to the Sea:, The True Story of Southport; Navigation Road School, Oldfield Brow School.* He also wrote *Trade for the People* and *The Class System: The Education Revolution in England.*

ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY BOOKSTALL

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Back copies of Altrincham History Society Journals 4 to 26

Postage and packing with PiP: One single Journal 4-19 p&p is 70p; for each subsequent copy add 40p. (LL)
One single Journal from 20 onwards p&p is 90p; for each subsequent copy add 50pp. (LL)

Altrincham History Society Journal 4
Altrincham in the Survey and Rental of the Manor of Dunham Massey AD 1348-49: Part II; 26th November, 1813 – General Rejoicing in Altrincham; Extracts of Proceedings of the Altrincham and District Natural History and Literary Society; A Royal Coat of Arms at Shotwick. Price: £1.00.

Altrincham History Society Journal 5
"Finem Respice" and the Black Horse; A Brief Insight into Military Obligation in Ashley in the Fourteenth Century; Captain Scott's Visit to Seamons Moss School; Obituary and Appreciation: Sale's History Man – Norman Swain. Price: £1.00 to non-members.

Altrincham History Society Journal 9
The Dutch wars – 1652-74; A Tameside Man in the Isle of Man; The Denton Churchyard Masonix Gravestone; Stray Thoughts. Price: £1.00.

Altrincham History Society Journal 11
Provost's Sunday; Comments on the 1667 Subsidy Roll for Altrincham; Comparison of Altrincham in 1667 with Neighbouring Townships. Price: £1.00. 100gm.

Altrincham History Society Journal 12
Broadheath and a Naval Enigma, 1916; Cottages at Nos. 113 and 115, Navigation Road; A Grand Inquest of Altrincham Court Leet, 1744; Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600 to 1650: Part 1. Price: £1.00.

Altrincham History Society Journal 14
From Pillar to Pill Capsule and Back Again; Off-the-Peg Planning in Medieval N.E. Cheshire; Ferdinand Laughton of Altrincham, gentleman, c.1690 to 1750. Price: £1.00

Altrincham History Society Journal 15
A Note from Barbara Nevell; Miscellanea; Goering as Property Developer: The Bombing of 'Southwold', South Downs Road, Hale; The English Borough in the Thirteenth Century; The Impending Disappearance of Carrington Moss. Price: £1.00.

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Susan Isabel Dacre, Artist, 1844 to 1933; The Walton Family of Bowdon and Dunham Massey; Altrincham and Bowdon Occupations, 1600-1760; Epidemics in Manchester, Chester, Liverpool and Lancaster. Price: £1.00.

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Altrincham Gas Works Branch Line; Altrincham Families: The Higginson, Butchers of Altrincham, 1600-1735; Altrincham in 1835 - Bias in a government report: Part 1; Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-1650: R to Edmund Simpson. Price: £1.00.

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More Random Jottings; Source of Water For Dunham Mill; Gossip and Scandal in Bowdon and Altrincham: Part 1; The Mayor's Land; Who was Who in Bowdon, 1600-50: Katherine Simpson to Venables. Price: £1.50.

Altrincham History Society Journal 21
The Halemoss Velvet Works, Altrincham; More Random Jottings; Honours Boards From Seamons Moss School; Altrincham in 1834 – Bias in a Government Report? (Final) Part 3; Who Accompanied William The Conqueror When He Invaded England In 1066? Price: £1.50.

Altrincham History Society Journal 24
Walk Around Broadheath; H.W. Kearns and Co. The Early Days; Random Jottings; Recent Findings about the Burgages of Altrincham; History of Altrincham Darby and Joan Club. Price: £1.50.

Altrincham History Society Journal 25
"Old Bleeding Wolf" Hotel and the Northern Automobile Co., Ashley Road, Hale; How Altrincham Acquired the Market Rights from Lord Stamford in 1878; St. Anne's Home: A Brief Archi-

tectural, Social & Medical History; Church Tithes in Hale, Cheshire; H.W. Keams and Co. – Tough Times 1930-1945; Local Men at Trafalgar. Price: £1.50.

Altrincham History Society Journal 26
Charles Frederick Southwell; Private Thomas Hollinworth and the Battle of Egypt; My Four and a Half Years in the Altrincham LDV and Home Guard; Random Jottings; Colin Spofforth Statue for Altrincham; H W Keams & Co.1945-1967: Peace and the Aftermath, Part 1; Altrincham Railway Stations. Price: £1.50.

Altrincham History Society Journal 27
George Faulkner Armitage (1849-1937); Uncommon Law; H.W. Keams &Co. (1945-1967), Part 2; The History of the Devisdale, Dunham Massey Township; Education in Hale in the Seventeenth Century; Farewell to Arnolds Yard, Heart of Old Altrincham

Altrincham History Society Journal 28
The Stamford Hospital; The Death of Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, KCB, DSO; Masons' Marks

Altrincham History Society Journal 29
Archaeology for the Public: Are adult leamng archaeology courses an endangered species?; Random Jottings: Bobbin Tumers; Only Just in Time; Gold Leaf; Two Lesser Known Altrincham Authors; John Thomas, Artist; Twenty-one years in Broadheath; Aspects of the History of Altrincham General Hospital; Sir William Veno; Lord Stamford and the Bombing of Altrincham, December 1940; Maudie Tipping's Third Will, 1613: A Tale of Jealousy, Deception and Illegitimate Children

Altrincham History Society Occasional Papers

1. *Helen Allingham.* £0.50. P&p £0.50 (L)

4. *Altrincham in 1799.* £0.50, P&p £0.80 (LL)

5. *Life in Altrincham in 1872.* £0.50. P&p £0.50 (L)

6. *Alan Turing – Mathematical Genius.* £0.75. P&p £0.50 (L)
7. *Medical Matters.* £0.50. P&p £0.50 (L)

8. *Ronald Gow – Blue Plaque.* £0.50. P&p £0.50 (L)

12. *Hewlett Johnson*, the biography of the Reverend Hewlett Johnson (1874-1966). £3.00. P&p £1.50 (LL)

13. *Edith le Breton*, The biography of the local artist Edith le Breton (1912-1993). Price £1.00. Postage and packing £0.90. (L)

14. *Retribution: The Cheshire Royalists who suffered under the Commonwealth, 1646-1660,* Information from the Calendars for the Committee for Compounding on Cheshire people who suffered after the Civil Wars. Price £4. Postage and packing £1.74. (LL)
15. *Tour of Altrincham,* a virtual walk of two miles from Old Market Place up

Bowdon Road (the old burying lane) and back via The Downs and Goose Green. £1. Postage and packing £1.50 (LL)

The Buildings of Central Altrincham, 2000. Price £8.50 (£6.50 to members). 500gm. Postage and packing £2.64.

Dunham Massey Farm Reports CD. Survey of the history of Dunham Massey eight farms. Price £6.00. Postage and packing £1.62.

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ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

The main aim of the society is to further the study of the local history of the Altrincham area and to communicate such findings to members of the community at large

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