

North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society

NEDIAS Newsletter No. 35 – August 2009

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The NEDIAS Visit to The Yorkshire Waterways Museum, Goole

Derek Grindell

A group of 16 NEDIAS members visited the award winning Yorkshire Waterways Museum at Goole on Saturday 4th July. The weather was perfect and we were indebted to Brian Dick for not only arranging transport but also for driving us safely the 50 miles or so via the M1, M18 and M62 to the site on the edge of Goole between Vermuyden's Dutch River and the Knottingley – Goole Canal. My first reaction on visiting the YWM was one of surprise at the number of inland waterways barges moored at either side of the canal and to note that two in particular, one owned by Lafarge, the other by Rix Oil, remain in active service.



Three barges moored on the Knottingley – Goole Canal on the approach to Goole Docks. *(Photo: Derek Grindell)*



Mediterranean colours - The YWM's Art Gallery/Conference facility at its moorings. *(Photo: Derek Grindell)*



The Tom Pudding tug Whealdale *(Photo: Doug Spencer)*

One 'odd man out' was a landing craft from the Falklands War, which had been renamed *Drambuie*. One privately owned barge, recently restored to a very high standard, had recently been fitted with a new mainsail at a cost of £20,000 although I was told that the vessel itself was now valued at £350,000. Prior to WW2 a similar vessel could be purchased new for much less than £1000.

The museum optimises the limited space at its disposal and it is easy to appreciate why it won the Yorkshire Tourist Board's White Rose Award as The Best Visitor Attraction (under 50,000 visitors) in 2007. It displays the story of the Aire & Calder Company's Town of Goole, its people, their trades and the vessels, which sailed on the region's canals and rivers.



Brian Dick, Les Mather and Diana Wilmot refuelling prior to embarkation on the dock tour. (Photo: Derek Grindell)



The restored barge *Sobriety* (Photo: Les Mather)

The Tom Pudding tug *Wheldale* is berthed at the Museum and makes trips around the docks. Currently two Tom Pudding compartment boats, complete with jebus (the lead boat), are being overhauled by volunteers and when fully restored it will be possible for *Wheldale* to demonstrate how these 'water trains', often comprising as many as nineteen tom puddings, were towed. The real secret of the YWM's success must surely lie in its close relationship with local authorities and links with the community at large. The restored barge, *Sobriety*, is used to cater for young offenders, people with learning disabilities, prisoners preparing for release and houses an alternative learning programme for children excluded or at risk of exclusion. The Museum offers a service to schools wishing to organise a visit or even use items from the Collection for classroom projects and a former grain barge has

been converted for use as an art gallery/conference space with accommodation for up to 70 people. The barge *Service*, given in 2007 on a long term loan by Waddington's Swinton boatyard, is to be converted into a floating classroom, thereby relieving pressure on space in the main building. Our party split into two groups to enjoy a boat tour of the docks, which in total extend to 39 acres. They remain impressive but now sadly under utilised since the last consignment of Coalite left for Norway in 1986. Our guide pointed out the flood defence barriers, which have had to be added to the Ouse Lock gates to counter rising water levels.

Undoubtedly the happiest visitors to this area are the swallows, who must rate the location the avian equivalent of a 5-star hotel. The tidal Dutch River provides an infinite supply of rich wet mud and clouds of flies, oblivious to their fate, hover conveniently at the surface of the water.



The happy group ready for the journey home (Photo: Doug Spencer)

WHAT'S ON?

NEDIAS Lecture Programme, 2009

Venue: Friends' Meeting House, Ashgate Road, Chesterfield @ 7:30pm

14 September 2009	Joan Unwin: <i>"History of the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire"</i>
12 October 2009	Wendy Freer: <i>"Framework Knitting in the East Midlands"</i>
9 November 2009	Peter Greaves: <i>"Why the Lead Miners looked towards Chesterfield"</i>
14 December 2009	<i>Christmas Meeting: A seasonal mix of members' presentations and mince pies</i>

Other Diary Dates

12 September 2009	Many heritage open days including ... Wortley Top Forge, SYIHS
13 September 2009	and ... Hoylandswaine Nail Forge Heritage Open Day , Hoylandswaine, Barnsley.
15 September 2009	Chesterfield & District Local History Society. Reg Hobson: "The Sheffield Flood" . 7:30pm, Rose Hill United Reformed Church, Chesterfield (Rear Entrance)
13 September 2009 & 4 October 2009	Lumsdale Valley Tours: Arkwright Society. Bookings: 01629 823256

NEDIAS Summer Visits for 2009

NEDIAS have already organised two superb visits this year, to Daniel Hayes Farm, Ticknal (thanks to David Palmer), and to the Yorkshire Waterways Museum, Goole (thanks to Derek Grindell and Brian Dick). But there is more to follow....

Saturday 26 September, 10:00am, visit to Clay Mills Pumping Station, Burton-on-Trent

The visit to the Pumping Station will be followed by a genial lunch at a local pub, and we meet at Clay Mills Pumping Station at 10 am. However, **it is essential** that you confirm your booking for this visit with David Palmer (01246 279855) by 14 September, so that he can accurately advise both Clay Mills and the pub of numbers.

This is an outstanding Victorian industrial monument. There are four beam engines by Gimson of Leicester 1885, five Lancashire Boilers 1936-1937, an early 20th Century generator house, Victorian workshop & blacksmith's forge, and numerous other small engines & artefacts. If you haven't booked, check for places with David Palmer.

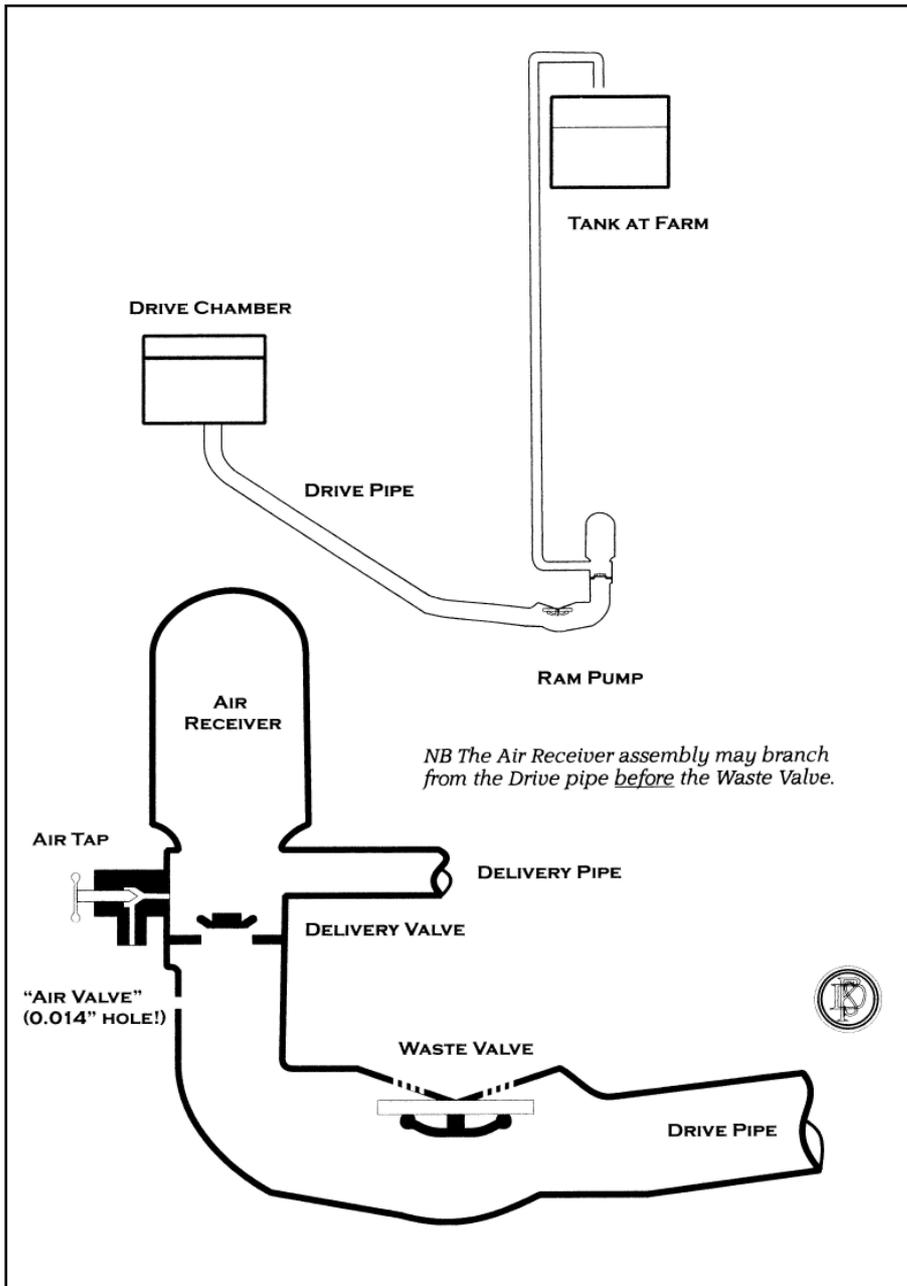
The Restored Hydraulic Ram Pump at Daniel Hayes Farm

David Palmer

David Palmer recently led a visit by members to see the restored Ram Pump at Daniel Hayes Farm near Ticknal. This amazing design of pump uses no energy, apart from that of water flow, to raise water from a lower level to a higher level. The equipment at Daniel Hayes Farm had been installed originally in 1934 to raise water 300 foot from a stream and Tudor fish pond in the valley, 300 feet up to the farm for agricultural use. The system had silted up, and the fish pond all but disappeared, but the current environmentally minded owner had enlisted the assistance from the Leicester Industrial History Society (of which David was a member and a primary force in this restoration project). David has kindly allowed us to reprint his article on the working principles of the ram pump concept.

The easiest way to understand the operation is to assume that the water in the drive pipe has just stopped moving for a reason to be covered later and that the waste valve is open. Because the drive pipe is full of water and has a slope the water will begin to flow down the pipe and out of the waste valve due to gravity. The speed of the water in the pipe will increase i.e. it will accelerate until it is flowing fast enough past the waste valve to close it (suddenly!).

We now have a column of water weighing a few hundredweights moving at a few miles per hour with nowhere to go i.e. it is suddenly decelerated. This causes the pressure at the waste valve to rise suddenly as the kinetic energy of the water is converted to pressure energy (Bernoulli's Theorem). The rise in pressure causes the delivery valve to open and some water flows into the air receiver and out to the delivery pipe.



Eventually the water in the drive pipe gives up all its kinetic energy and stops moving. The next bit is crucial to the operation of the whole device. At this instant of time the water in the drive pipe is stationary, the delivery valve is open and the air receiver is pressurised (as it is all the time the pump is working). This causes some water in the bottom of the air receiver to flow back out of the delivery valve as it closes. Since the waste valve is closed the only place this water can go is back up the drive pipe. Now the column of water in the drive pipe is moving back up hill. The delivery valve now finally closes but the water going back up the drive pipe cannot be stopped instantaneously (because that would need an infinite force) so it drags the waste valve open and at the same time pulls some air into the space below the delivery valve through the air valve. Finally the water comes to rest and the cycle starts again.

The air below the delivery valve is carried into the air receiver with the next pulse of water, keeping it charged with air. This is necessary because air under pressure dissolves in water and eventually the air receiver would become full of water. The air in the receiver acts as a spring or cushion so the pressure stays roughly constant during the cycle which means that the flow of water into

the delivery pipe is more or less constant. The pump has to be started manually because there is no pressure in the air receiver to complete the cycle. Water flows down the drive pipe properly and the waste valve shuts but the waste valve stays closed because there is nothing to make the column of water move back up the drive pipe. Therefore the waste valve has to be opened manually until pressure builds up in the delivery pipe and air receiver.

G. H. B. and Ringwood Hall

Cliff Williams

My initial acknowledgement and response to Philip Cousin's October 2008, perambulation of the Staveley and Brimington landscape was the 'Barrow Hill and a Load of Bricks' article that appeared in the February Newsletter No 33 and taken from my current research on industrial Staveley. This second article complements the first with a brief but provisional glimpse of George Hodgkinson Barrow and his family's residence at Ringwood Hall together with a brief mention of other succeeding occupants.

After 1811, when William Ward decided to wind up his interest in the Staveley Ironworks, George Hodgkinson Barrow of Southwell, became the sole proprietor. In April 1815, G.H.B took over the ground leases from the Duke paying £94 per annum and took on the responsibility of the Staveley Iron Works for a term of 21 years paying £150 rent and rising with small increments to £160 in 1830. This particular lease also covenanted Barrow to wash and cleanse not less than seventy tons of ironstone to be smelted every week and to make no less than 20 tons of metal each week. By 1820 he was working six different ironstone pits in Staveley via Inkersall, Dogtooth, Blackshale, Pander Park and Norbriggs Delphos extracting over 15,000 tons in 1825.

In December 1818, he negotiated his very first coal leases 'for the use and convenience and furtherance of the said Furnace and Iron Works' that included the Old Staveley or Lower Ground Colliery and the Collingwood Common Colliery the former having been previously leased by Ebenezer Smith and the latter worked by the Duke of Devonshire. Both collieries were to be held for a term of fourteen years and the rent for the Lower Ground Colliery was just five shillings per annum with royalties of one-shilling per long ton with not less than 15,000 tons to be got each year. The rent for the Collingwood Colliery was five pence per long ton with no quantity stipulated – a long ton was 21cwts of 120lbs to the cwt. The minimum rent and royalties payable each year and in two instalments was £850 with an additional rent of 7½% of the cost of the new engine about to be erected. Coals consumed by working engines, workmen's houses and other customary purposes were exempt from royalty payments. If the price of coal at either of these two collieries exceeded eight shillings sixpence per ton according to a fair market price the Duke demanded half of the increase above this price. The lease of these two collieries introduced G.H.B to the coal trade and enabled him to make more of his own coke much cheaper and sell the surplus on the canal.

In 1822, G.H.B leased the Old Norbriggs Colliery from the Duke that had been previously worked by Joseph Butler of Wingerworth ironworks. The following year he secured the lease of Norbriggs New Colliery for ten years commencing 24th June 1823 and ending 24th June 1833 paying for a minimum of one acre during the first five years and then three acres or more for the remainder of the lease at a royalty of £183 per acre.

As the sole proprietor and not responsible to any shareholders it was important for lawyer Barrow to have absolute control and understanding of his growing enterprise and increasing investment. However, it is not clear who was doing the day to day management of the iron works, collieries, small coking plant and brick yard during these early years. However, the embryo of a vertical integrated business that introduced new technology was increasingly more difficult to finance and run needing more specialist workers that had to be retained. His family residence at Southwell, some 40 miles distance, was not conducive for effective planning and negotiating with his key workers and the Duke's agents. Commuting from Southwell, would clearly have a drain on his time so it was imperative to recruit a loyal team of key workers and establish a local base close or convenient to the centre of operations.

Chapman noted that a Jacobean house situated on the Staveley Furnace site was the home of successive managers down to the middle of the 19 century. Indeed, many entries for the Furnace and Forge, recorded in the Staveley parish registers between 1665 and 1830, would support this but no occupations can be discerned.



Richard Barrow of Ringwood Hall

G. H. B. may also have stayed here occasionally on some of his very earlier visits and inspections. This building was an impressive three storied building and appears have been one of the three houses recorded in the 1670, hearth tax returns with four hearths. A Thomas Brailsford occupying one of these appears in the parish registers resident at the Forge 15th September 1681. Another Thomas Brailsford was occupying another property with three hearths and on 18th January 1734 there was a burial for a Mr Brailsford of the Forge. These properties were amongst the biggest in the Staveley Township and clearly reflect the status of the residents who were probably of some distinction with regards running the furnace and forge.

At about the time G. H. Barrow was negotiating for the Staveley ground lease he

purchased the advowson of the rectory of North Wingfield for his stepson Edward Mather Lowe who was being educated and groomed for the church. As a consequence G. H. B's brother the Rev William Barrow was appointed as the caretaker rector in November 1822, until Edward the son of Elizabeth Mather Lowe had qualified. Edward was made Deacon in March 1823, curate in February 1824 and presented as Rector of North Wingfield Church in February 1826. In preparation for their bachelor son's installation at North Wingfield, Barrow and his wife Elizabeth, spent a considerable amount of money completely renovating the rectory house, out-building and gardens. The house was very grand and spacious and contained seven bedrooms and no doubt G. H. B and his family frequently shared this accommodation saving much travelling time from Southwell.

The 1818 rental suggests G. H. B held the Staveley Hall Farm at this date and he may have considered improving the place for the permanent residence of his family but a greater part of the Hall had been neglected and run down. However, his priority at this date was the improvement and renovation of the North Wingfield Rectory for his step-son Edward Mather Lowe.

G. H. B continued to lease more land for his growing enterprise but the chronology of the acquisition of these new leases are somewhat elusive. However, a detailed list of G. H. B's occupation of all the property he had leased over the years and belonging to the Duke was completed in 1846. This list included the Staveley Hall Farm of 96 acres that including the Hall at a rent of £39, gardens and pleasure grounds £6 2s 7d, hall-yard £5 19s 3d, kitchen gardens and orchard £4 2s 4d and various outbuildings at a total rent of £236. Also Forge Farm of 243 acres at £332 together with the New and Old Furnace sites and water courses that included a large dam of 6 acres and 3 acres totalling 23 acres.

With a growing financial stake in the coal and ironworks and the prospects of doing a good business with the Duke in the London Market via Chesterfield Canal and Stockwith Barrow, the sole proprietor, needed to keep an even closer eye on his expanding business and be much closer to his works. Sometime in 1829, with a growing confidence and optimism in his business he decided to build a substantial house that reflected his growing status as an industrialist and ex lawyer. The mansion was to be known as Ringwood Hall and it was built in the Regency style but the architect has not yet been identified. It appears to have been completed and ready for habitation in September 1830, when the lease was computed for a term of 99 years at an annual rent of £20 3s. The actual lease between William Spencer, Duke of Devonshire and George Hodgkinson Barrow was not signed up until the 19th February 1831 'in consideration of the expenses incurred by the said George Hodgkinson Barrow in the erection and finishing of the capital mansion and buildings'. G. H. B was to keep the mansion house and premises in good condition and every four years he was to paint all the outside wood and ironwork with two coats of good and proper oil colour in a workmanlike manner. Barrow or his assigns could not without a written license from the Duke carry on the trade of a catgut spinner, hog spinner, boiler of horse flesh or bones, soap maker, glue or size maker, brewer, distiller, felt or hat manufacture, melter of fat, metal founder, slaughter-man, tin-man, fellmonger, currier, tanner, dyer, scourer,

victualler, publican or any other offensive trade and shall not do or suffer to be done any act or thing upon the premises which may be or grow to the annoyance or damage of the said Duke or of the tenants in the neighbourhood. Barrow also had to insure the premises from damage by fire to the amount of four-fifths parts of the value with one of the Public Offices of Insurance in London or Westminster and produce a receipt of the premiums when requested. No A-1. Upstairs. Interestingly, Chapman writes that Walter Mather was making stove grates in sizeable numbers at Staveley in the 1780s and that some attractive examples survive at Ringwood Hall but Mather was dead by 1792, and the Hall was not built until 1830. Any fire grates etc installed in Ringwood Hall would have been at the behest of G. H. B.

Ringwood Hall was to be well distanced from the plebeian cottages soon to be built for the new collieries and situated about half a mile from the Staveley Works and set in just over 3 acres of pleasure grounds and gardens and 'the volumes of flame continually vomited up by the blasting furnaces are judiciously concealed by dense belts of trees'. An assessment of all the Duke of Devonshire's property held by G. H. B. in 1846, and previously referred to, included Ringwood Hall and outbuildings. The Hall estimated at 1r 12p was assessed at a yearly rent of £6 11s 1d. The ornamental plantation, gardens and pleasure grounds contained 2a 0r 29p and charged at a rent of £6 10s 9d and the kitchen garden of 0a 2r 32p at a rent of £7 1s 3d. The total amount of land was 3a 0r 33p with the rent remaining at £20 3s as it had been sixteen years previous.

Other property that enveloped the Ringwood Hall complex included the lawn and ornamental plantation at 19a 2r 24 p, meadow 2a 0r 9p, and land covered by water and ornamental plantations 5a 0r 6p, Ringwood plantation 8a 1r 2p, a substantial cottage of stone thatched with yard garden and croft 0a 3r 6p and Nether Croft of 0a 3r 6p. All this property some 36a 2r 18p was leased on a year to year basis at a rent of £35 ^{L/58/2.}
1842 tithe award No 227, 2a 2r 1p owner D of D.

With the arrival of the NMR line it would appear that George Stephenson had entered into negotiations for the Staveley lease in 1838, before it was offered to G. H. Barrow who was initially reluctant to take it on at a high rent however, 'I will upon you favouring me with the terms of a new lease have some serious consideration with my brother (Richard Barrow) about it – but I must candidly tell you that I should not like to bring a large quantity of his money into jeopardy without a fair prospect of proportional return. There certainly is a great risk not only in finding a good coal but in meeting with a good market and therefore I could not recommend his entry into the business if he were required to pay a higher Royalty Rent per foot than what has been offered by Mr (George) Stephenson. He has had great experience in collieries and therefore his offer would be a kind of sanction to my brother – although I do not yet know why he (Stephenson) has receded from his proposals'. ^{L111/10. Ringwood 12th Feb 1838.}

In the event in June 1840, G. H. B. decided to take on a new and extensive lease that gave him control of all the mines and beds of coal and ironstone in the manor of Staveley amounting to about 3,000 acres. Initially the lease was for a term of 42 years with a rent of £2,500 for the first five years increasing to £4,000 for the remainder. Barrow also had to lay out some £30,000 by 1st January 1846, to improve mining operation and the ironworks and to build some workmen's houses. Soon afterwards at the age of sixty-four he decided to transfer control and responsibility to his younger brother Richard an experienced and wealthy merchant. As a consequence Richard Barrow had to sign a new lease on the 28th February 1843, that contained most of the covenants in the 1840 lease. Since the commencement of the lease in June 1840 G. H. Barrow appears to have expended some £10,000 on extending and improving the Ironworks and collieries and the new 1843 lease covenanted that the remaining £20,000 be expended on or before January 1848. Richard Barrow was now firmly in charge and G. H. B's will made 4th May 1844, recognised his brother's commitment and investment and bequeathed him his entire real and personal estate 'my brother Richard has advanced towards the well being of the Staveley Ironworks and collieries much more money than they are worth'.

The 1841 census records G. H. B. and his wife at Ringwood Hall together with his two daughters Elizabeth and Johanna aged 30 and 25 years respectively and who were both born outside the county at Southwell.

At the time of his brother's death in 1853, Richard was living at the Hall and renewed the lease on the 16th September 1857, for a term of 99 years but at an increased rent of £100 computed from the 25th March 1856. Most of the covenants were the same as his brother's but the inside of the property now had to be decorated every 7 years. ^{No A-2. upstairs}

After his brother's demise bachelor Richard clearly wanted to make a statement in the neighbourhood and immediately began to improve and extend the Hall, grounds and gardens and the brick account between 1853 and 1855 records 188,890 bricks used on the building and during the following year some 111,050 bricks and 125 tons of stone were also used. There are no extant records for 1858 but for the following year 24,000 more bricks were consumed by the hall and gardens and in 1860, 96,000 for the garden alone. These extensive alterations and improvements to the mansion and grounds 'is now said to possess claims for picturesque beauty little inferior to any in this or the neighbouring counties. The flower plants shrubs and trees in the conservatory, gardens, and grounds are admirably displayed and are of a rich and diversified character; the fountains, lakes, mounds, statues and the verdure-clad lawns, also give interest to the scene, and render the whole landscape of great beauty'. In November 1856, Barrow opened up these gardens, grounds and conservatory to his workmen and their families and 'this once secluded spot has been visited by thousands of all classes from the adjacent towns and villages'. ^{DC.8th November 1856.}

The major coal and iron companies in Derbyshire were eager to promote 'rational recreation' that would attempt to keep their workers away from consuming 'John Barleycorn' and the establishment of cottage gardens and Floral and Horticultural Societies were considered to be an important contribution towards that end. They were one of the few highlights of the community calendar and clearly identified as an important element in community building programmes. However with regards Floral and Horticultural Societies the Staveley Company lagged well behind Clay Cross 1845, Codnor 1841, Riddings 1866, Whittington 1865, Sheepbridge 1866 and many others and did not inaugurate their Floral and Horticultural Society until 1868. Their first show was held on Staveley Works Club cricket ground on the 27th July of that year and the ageing John Barrow sent a variety of plants and trees that adorned the show but were strictly not for competition. The head gardener at Ringwood, Mr Studwick, was one of the judges together with Charles Markham's, James Campbell's and Mr Fowler's gardeners. The competitions were confined to workers residing in Staveley and Brimington and, amongst other things, it was a timely initiative to harmonise the workforce who were so divided after the Free Labour dispute in 1866/67. It also coincided with the opening of the Campbell Colliery at the beginning of July. G. H. B. and Richard Barrow were both dead before the Staveley Horticultural Society was established and this has clearly highlighted a gap in their so called model community building plan but was later supported by Charles Markham and the new management.

At incorporation in 1863, it would appear that Richard Barrow had purchased the Ringwood Hall estate separately and it was not included in the land exchange when the new company exchanged some 93 acres of land with the Duke.

After the passing of Richard Barrow in 1865, he was succeeded at Ringwood by his brother John, who had been his partner in the merchant trade. It was revealed after Richard's death that he owed his brother John some £260,000 of which £100,000 was invested in the company and subsequently John was appointed the next chair of the Staveley Company.

The 1871 census records Richard Prince as the head gardener with five other gardeners living in the Ringwood lodge and in two bothies erected in the garden. Charles and Elizabeth Boyer were the heads of the household and identified as visitors. Apparently she was the daughter of G.B.H and she married Charles Boyer at Kensington in 1866. There was a full retinue of domestic staff with a housekeeper and two housemaids, a cook and kitchen maid, a butler and an assistant butler. At about this time John Barrow, had taken seriously ill suffering from a diseased liver and his medical advisors recommended that he should move to his town house, 85 Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park London, where he died on the 22nd July 1871, at the age of 82 years - 'On the melancholy fact being known the blinds of the most of the houses on the works were lowered in deference to the departed gentleman'. John's move to London probably explains Boyer's short occupancy of Ringwood Hall and by August 1871, John James Barrow, another nephew to Richard and John, was now resident. In July 1872, he decided to open up the Ringwood Hall grounds for the annual horticultural show previously held on the Works cricket ground. J.J.B was the last of the founder directors and remained at Ringwood until about 1875, when he removed to Tunbridge Wells and died there in 1903.

According to a comprehensive report in 'The Journal Horticulture and Cottage Gardener' for March 1876, the Ringwood Hall gardens, conservatories, glass houses and their well planned layout were completed by Richard Barrow under the superintendence of his head gardener Mr Petch. This colourful report is too long and vivid to submit here and would be out of context but its two conservatories, several greenhouses and kitchen gardens are worth a mention. The large conservatory was considered to be one of the chief features of Ringwood and formed a half octagon and was 220 feet long and the centre was also octagonal supported by a

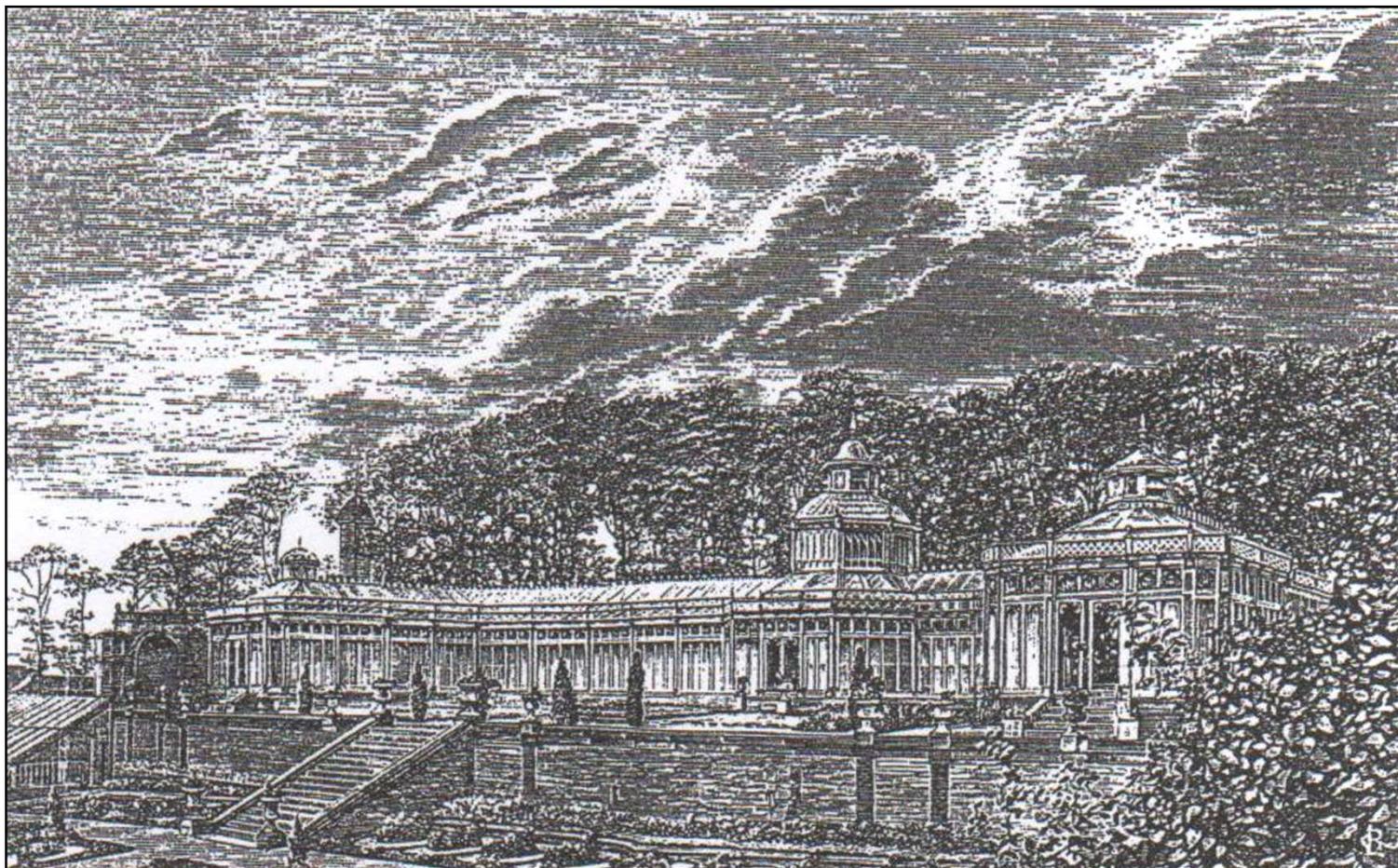
dome and supported by eight pillars of the same form and under the dome was a large decorated fountain. The smaller conservatory was 70 feet long and 14 feet wide and a range of three greenhouses 75 feet long in three compartments and an exotic fernery including a peach house and two vineries with several other vineries and peach houses in the kitchen gardens. This kitchen garden department comprised of a range of seven houses each house measuring 33 feet long, 16 feet wide and 12 feet high and half-spanned-roofed heated by hot water. One of these was described as an orchard house devoted to plums, pears and figs. Another block of span-roofed-houses and pits 45 feet long and 16 feet wide catered for ordinary greenhouse plants. The several ranges of pits were used for early potatoes, asparagus, French beans, radishes and salads. There was an endless supply of slack, free of charge, to burn in the greenhouse and good round coal for domestic use. The head gardener at the time was Mr Prince who had received his early training at Lord Londesborough's, Grimston Park; he also served at Syon House under Mr. Smith who went on to Kew and did some time at Chatsworth.

We have already noted that John James Barrow, left Ringwood Hall for Tunbridge Wells in 1875, and the next incumbent was John Burton Barrow, J.P. and barrister, and another of Richard's nephews. He married Ellen Jane A. Macfarlane, daughter of James Duncan Mcfarlane Rector of Staveley. Their first child Arthur Edmond J.B Barrow was born at Ringwood in 1878, followed by two more children Emily Zoe and James Humphrey in 1879 and 1881 respectively. Interestingly, several people on a number of occasions have thoroughly researched the 1881, census for Ringwood Hall and have concluded for some reason that the enumerator omitted this residence and its occupiers. It was probably at this time that the family moved to Thurgarton, Southwell, where they had two more children Ellen Janet and Frances Muriel in 1883 and 1885. In April 1891, he was appointed to a seat on the Staveley Works Board and the 1891 census records them back at Ringwood with a large retinue of servants, grooms and gardeners. There were eight female domestic servants, all single, one butler William Plant, one housekeeper Eleanor Allwright and one governess Emmy Bertha D Reimann from Germany. Residing in the first Ringwood Lodge was the head gardener George P Bound and his brother William the foreman gardener and residing in the second lodge was James Gregg, gardener's labourer. Also living in the Ringwood Hall garden in 'the bothy', a small one roomed dwelling, were two other gardeners. Joseph Peach was farm bailiff residing at Ringwood Hall Farm and George Crozier, coachman, was resident at nearby Rose Cottage. Living over the stables were two grooms and a boots man? The total number of residents in the Hall on the night of the census was twenty-one and at the time there were 24 combined bed and dressing rooms.

About three years later John Burton Barrow and his family had moved out and in late October 1894, an Italian nobleman the Marquis Piedilemine de Saliceto removed from Garenden Park, Leicester and was the new occupant at Ringwood Hall and he hosted the Staveley Horticultural Society exhibition in July the following year. It would appear that the Marquis had moved on by the following year and the Show was held on its original site at the Staveley Works cricket ground. What happened after this show is unclear but there is no reporting of it in either the Derbyshire Courier or the Derbyshire Times in 1897, but by May 1899, Ringwood Hall was up for sale.

The next reference for the show does not appear again until August 1903 when it was held in the grounds of Dr. Court and the exhibition was only confined to Staveley Parish. This report explains that the previous years show was held in the Markham Hall and appears to have been revived as part of the coronation celebrations and Dr. Court was its chairman.

Unfortunately, no early plans for the Hall and outbuildings appear to have survived but when the estate came up for sale in May 1899, it was described as a fine old family Mansion House set in about 110 acres of undulating grass land and woods with a well timbered park and a large ornamental lake. The mansion house contained a large entrance hall with outer porch, five reception rooms on the ground floor, namely, drawing room 29ft 4ins by 19ft 6ins; and a lesser drawing room 19ft 6ins by 14ft 6ins; library 19ft by 10ft; dining room 27ft by 20ft 3ins; opening into a large conservatory. A smoke room 17ft 6ins by 15ft and a billiard room 29ft by 20ft 6ins. Front and back staircases and 24 bed and dressing rooms, two bath rooms and first class sanitary and domestic arrangements including well fitted basement and cellars. The stables comprised of eight loose boxes and two standing with three coach houses and a hay and straw chamber with five rooms over. Gas and hot and cold water are laid on with a complete system of drainage. The grounds include Italian gardens, tennis lawn, two conservatories, three peach houses, greenhouse, three stove houses, laundry, out-offices, two kitchen-gardens and an excellent home farm and three well built lodges. The park and plantations afford good shooting and a further shoot could be arranged over a larger manor. The lake in



The large conservatory at Ringwood Hall

the park was leased to the Great Central Railway for a term of which 54 years were unexpired at a minimum water rent of £200 per year but the exclusive rights for fishing, boating and bathing were reserved for the owners of the estate. Of the seven internal locomotives the company employed one was named Ringwood and was one of the trains that pulled the 'Paddy Mail' from Chesterfield to Staveley.

The vendor offered to reduce the sale price by £6,000 if the property should be reserved but after several bids the property was withdrawn at £14,250.^{D T. 20th May 1899} At this date the vendor was probably John James Barrow of Tunbridge Wells and the 1901 census records Ringwood Hall as uninhabited but retaining three gardeners and a coachman but no domestic staff resident. In September 1905, John James Barrow died at Tunbridge Wells and Charles Paxton Markham purchased Ringwood Hall in 1907 but Kelly's directory for 1908, records William Birkenhead Mather Jackson in residence having recently moved from Clay Cross Hall. C. P. Markham married Margaret Hermine Jackson daughter of T. H. Jackson chairman of the Clay Cross Company.

After extensive improvements and alterations Markham moved in from Hasland Hall in 1908 and remained there until 1926 where he died. The Hall was then handed over to the staff of the Staveley Company by deed of gift for use as a welfare and recreation Centre a role that it was to continue for 62 years until it was sold by instructions from Stanton plc in 1988. Stanton and Staveley were amalgamated in 1960, first under Stewarts and Lloyds and then under the control of the British Steel Corporation. Mr Bill Hiscox and Mrs Susan Hobson purchased the Hall for an undisclosed sum from the Stanton PLC but after spending a considerable sum renovating and improving the Hall they sold the property to avoid bankruptcy. A succession of entrepreneurs showed an interest in the Hall and in October 1995, the property was purchased by Mr M McDonald. The next incumbents were 'Classicrange Hotels' who were keen to develop the business side of the hotel and sympathetic to the history of the house. In the millennium year it was purchased by Lyric Hotels and subsequently converted into a first class hotel and conference centre.

The Ringwood Hall Park was acquired by the Staveley U.D.C by a Compulsory Purchase Order in 1948, for £16,445. About the same time the Council also compulsorily purchased 2.4 acres of land off the Markham Road, Duckmanton for a playground when the NCB was unwilling to surrender the land and the owner refused to sell.^{DT. 30th July 1948.} The order for Ringwood Hall Park was made when negotiations with the

Staveley Company failed and Councillor T. H. Swain (chairman of Parks and Cemeteries) regretted that the company had not been prepared to make a gesture by presenting it to the town. The park was opened as a public park 2nd April 1949, by Mrs Jarvis, Staveley U.D.C chairperson, when she planted one of fifteen chestnut-trees. ^{DT 8th April 1949.} After local government reorganisation in 1972, and the demise of the Staveley Urban District Council, it was taken over by the Chesterfield Borough Council.

Acknowledgements:- Devonshire Archives Collection at Chatsworth by kind permission of the Duke of Devonshire. Special thanks to Andrew Peppit and Stuart Band. Derbyshire County Council Records Office. County Local Studies at Matlock. Chesterfield Local Studies Library with particular thanks to Lesley Phillips. Paul Wilson. Ron Presswood and Sandra Struggles.

A VCH Celebratory Event

Derek Grindell

The Derbyshire Victoria County History Trust and the University of Nottingham invited their supporters to what was termed a 'celebratory event' at the Derbyshire County Offices on Tuesday 30th June. The aim of the VCH is to create a parish-by-parish history of every English county and over the past three years the Trust supporting the VCH in Derbyshire has benefited from a significant national grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which has enabled a range of research, learning and volunteering activity, the creation of a website (www.englandspastforeveryone.org.uk) and the publication of books on Bolsover and Hardwick. The HLF funding expired on 30th June and the occasion was organised to inform supporters of past achievements and future plans. The main speaker was Professor John Beckett, Director of the VCH at London University. He was ably supported by Dr. Dudley Fowkes, Volunteer Team Leader, Derbyshire England's Past for Everyone Project and Dr. Philip Riden (Nottingham University), Derbyshire County Editor, VCH. Equally impressive, however, were the contributions made by volunteer researchers Catherine Cartwright (Burnaston Group), Clive Leivers (Chesterfield Afternoon Group), Geoff Lester (Matlock Group), Ed Mollon (Chesterfield Evening Group) and Mary Wiltshire (Wirksworth Group).

I. A. News and Notes

British Steel Archives

Archives from the original iron and steel companies in Britain have sometimes been difficult to track down with changes in ownership, particularly with the merger of British Steel and Hoogovens to create the Corus group, and Tata's more recent purchase of the entire company. Archives from over 40 companies in the north east are being catalogued and organised by Teesside University, with the aim to create an electronic searchable catalogue, to enable the preservation and conservation of some vulnerable and damaged records, to index them and to make them widely available.

For more information see www.britishsteelcollection.org.uk, or phone 01642 384478

Firth Brown

Sheffield Archives Service has received a large grant to enable them to open access to the massive industrial records from the Firth Brown steel company. The collection includes the archives of John Brown and Co. Ltd, and of Thomas Firth & Sons Ltd., both of course at the very heart of the industrial development of Sheffield. Further information from Sheffield library services, www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries

Not since the Industrial Revolution has it been so important for individuals to explore the nature of their work. A poor decision today can lead to a lifetime of unfulfilled ambitions.

Richard Donkin

..... and Finally ...

... The Spiral Tunnels at Kicking Horse Pass – 100 years on

Cliff Lea



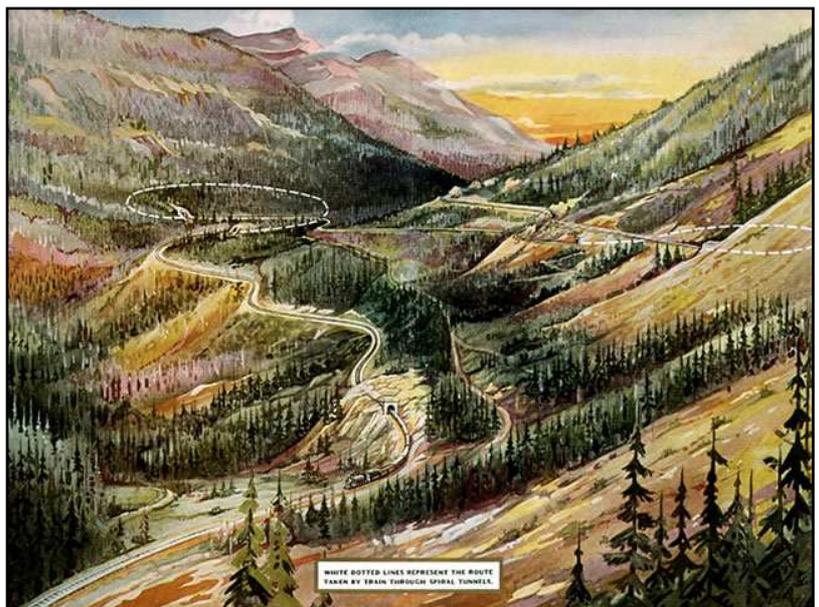
Photo: Peter Baker

During our visit to see our daughter in Canada this year, Christine and I joined a (rather tough) guided walking holiday taking in all four of the Rockies national parks, including the Yoho National Park where the Canadian Pacific Railroad rises to cross the mountains at Kicking Horse Pass. The problem of a nearly impossible ascent of 4.5% when the CPR was first completed, which contributed to many accidents and loss of life, inspired an ingenious solution.

To ameliorate the steep gradient, two circular tunnels were constructed through the mountains either side of the pass, so that the track curves a 250 degree turn through the upper tunnel, then executes a 230 degree loop through

the lower tunnel . In each case the track actually crosses over itself, emerging from the mountain more than 50 feet lower than its entrance. With a long freight train, as the engines (usually four heads on long grain trains of over 100 cars) exit from the bottom portal of the lower tunnel, its tail end can be seen rattling overhead, entering the upper portal – trains need to have over 90 cars to be seen looping across themselves. Together the two tunnels form a figure-of-eight, crossing the Kicking Horse River at its centre, each tunnel approx 3,000 feet length, radius 573 feet.

We were privileged to be in the area – the Spiral Tunnels were opened just 100 years ago this August!



Plan: Canadian Pacific

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