

DERBYSHIRE  
MISCELLANY

Vol 3



TISSINGTON

R.H. 1906.

BULLETIN  
Local History Section  
Derbyshire Archaeological Society.

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

Vol. III No. 2

June 1964

EDITORIAL

In this issue we have to thank contributors for varied and most interesting articles, and once again Mr. F. Fisher for the pages of Glover. This record is progressing, and has now reached the 'F' towns and villages. It is unfortunate that space does not allow more pages of Glover notes to be reproduced in each issue.

Mr. Buckley has found his information about William Bott (p.490) among the registers at Fenny Bentley. He has said that a great deal of work on this subject was done at the beginning of the century by his predecessor, Mr. Bolton. There is a note in the Church records to the effect that there was at one time a portrait of William Bott still in the family, and it would be most interesting if this could be traced.

With industrial archaeology very much in our minds just now, the article by Mrs. Robson on the Belper Nailers is most acceptable (p.495). This article has been illustrated copiously with drawings by Mr. L. J. Stead, and some of these have been included in the issue.

The still young Belper Historical Society is doing splendid work, and has amassed an amazing amount of information in a comparatively short time. The members hope eventually to find it possible to publish a new history of the district.

The Window Tax (p.503) has a long and complicated history, and Mr. Thornhill has not attempted to deal with this fully, but has based his article on his own papers which concern a small area. But this helps greatly to give a clearer picture of the overall effect of the tax.

There are still available for sale a few copies of the two latest supplements (2/6d. each post free). The Use of Cannon in the Civil War by R. Hayhurst; The Draining of the Wirksworth Lead Mines by N. Kirkham. The latest supplement - a much more ambitious effort which contains articles on the early Cotton Industry in Derbyshire as well as the full memoir of Robert Blincoe - is now almost duplicated. The cost will be about 17/6d. for each copy, and orders are now being taken.

"A MAN DISAFFECTED"

by

D. H. Buckley

The earliest existing register of St. Edmund's Church, Fenny Bentley, consists only of a few tattered sheets of paper, but the second one, although coverless, is on vellum, and despite the ink having faded, is in a fair condition. At the turn of the century, the then Rector, the Reverend Richard Knott Bolton, who was something of a scholar, spent much time and trouble in transcribing these early registers, and in translating the Latin in which a good deal of the entries were written.

The second register was begun in the year 1660 by William Bott, immediately after the Restoration, and in its opening pages he sets out something of his own history, from which a fascinating story emerges. It is all in the usual abbreviated Latin, but Mr. Bolton has deciphered the entries, and left the little drama for all to see. William Bott begins:-

"Register of the Church of Fenny Bentley in the year of our Lord 1660, William Bott being rector in the same place who also wrote out with his own hand for his own private use and deposited this memorial or schedule of his own affairs and of things hereinunder written, viz:

He was inducted in the year 1642.

Elizabeth eldest daughter of the said William and Elizabeth his wife born on the 5th day of December 1644 at Fenny Bentley in Derbyshire, her father at that time serving with the Royal army."

Whether he was actually serving in the army at the time of his induction to the living is not clear, but he evidently felt that Church and King must stand together. Then comes the first note of sadness:

"Anna the second daughter of the same born in that place on the 29th day of January 1646. She died on the 10th day of February and was buried at Ashbourne."

No doubt the good William was still away fighting in the Royalist army, so that his neighbour at Ashbourne had to take the sad little service.

"Anna their third daughter born also in the same place on the 12th day of August 1648 whom I humbly pray God most good most great may preserve and sanctify.

Maria their fourth daughter born at Tissington which is also among the Derbyshire folks on the 22nd day of November 1650."

This move to Tissington is confirmed by the records at Lichfield, which show that it was in this year that James Hollingshead was inducted to the living of Fenny Bentley in the place of William Bott. The Parliamentary Survey of Livings of the year 1650 also records Mr. Bott as "curate of Tissington, a man disaffected". Quite evidently, William's Royalist sympathies had resulted in his being deprived of the living. But Tissington was the private estate of the Fitz Herberts, a well-known Royalist family, and as the curate there lived in a house belonging to the Fitz Herberts, and not the Church, he would be safe from eviction. It is unfortunate that the registers of Tissington church do not begin until 1658, so that we cannot find reference to the Bott family, because shortly we read in William's account:

"Judith their fifth little daughter also born there on the 19th day of April and she died on the 28th day of August in the same year, buried at her mother's feet in the same place, for Oh my sorrow also Elizabeth my dearest wife their mother and daughter of Edward Buxton gent. being wasted away by chronic disease to my exceeding grief closed the last day of her life on the 30th day of May 1652, and falling asleep in the Lord rests as far as her dust is concerned in the chancel of the church in the same place near the south wall."

It is interesting to find that his wife's maiden name was Buxton, because this was a Tissington family at this period, so that one can well imagine the possibility of the good lady taking her children back to her family home when William was away serving in the army, and then finding him a job as Chaplain to the Fitz Herbert family when he came back.

Although as mentioned before, the Tissington registers do not begin until 1658, there is just one mention of the name Bott. The register is mainly of vellum, bound up in a vellum cover, but at the front are a number of paper sheets also bound in. These have been used mainly to record collections for briefs - appeals for financial assistance from as far away as Lincolnshire, Middlesex and Suffolk, each of which seems to have elicited the sum of three or four shillings from the generous people of Tissington, but two or three pages contain merely scribbled figures, and sums of addition and even long-division. Among these scribblings is just one brief sentence "Mrs. F??? part of Mrs. Bott's bill after deducn: of 2.6 pd. by the maid 3-2." How intriguing to let one's mind wander over the story possible behind this note! But then we must get back to William, for in the meantime, Cupid's dart appears to have hit him again:

"Which same William, after a widowhood of nine years entered second wedlock and married a lady of excellent merit namely a second Elizabeth daughter of Bartholomew Griffin formerly Rector of the same church and his own predecessor on the 23rd day of April 1661, that is on the day and year of the most auspicious enthronement of the most illustrious King Charles the Second, through whose most happy return William himself was restored to his own Rectory of Bentley aforesaid after an expulsion of almost twenty years, the most foul rebellion being now everywhere quelled and peace restored."

What happened to the unhappy Hollingshead is not recorded, but evidently William was so delighted at getting back to his beloved Fenny Bentley that he at once set out to restore the church to its former glory:-

"The same William immediately repaired and adorned the chancel of the church in the same place as he vowed to God when he was in poverty, and the Rectory house which he found not only ruinous but ruined, nay, destroyed, he rebuilt from the foundation and restored at a cost of at least £50 or the income for one year. Remember me, Jesu my God and Lord and spare me according to the multitude of Thy mercies."

If this last phrase seems familiar, let the reader turn to the Book of Nehemiah, at the end of chapter five, where Nehemiah has just begun to restore the walls of Jerusalem. Perhaps the good William felt something in common with the man who had once served his king as cupbearer. We can only guess at the extent of the depredations of the Commonwealth period, but at least the Beresford Tomb survived, together with quite a lot of the chancel screen. As the top of the present screen is relatively modern, we can only surmise that before this time there was a rood loft, no doubt with a fine coloured rood on top. Possibly William may have had some trouble in proving one or two matters, because he then goes on to record some items of general information for the benefit of his successors:-

"Be it remembered that all that building which seems externally to be the chancel of the church does not belong to the Rector, that is, for obligation to repair it, but about the third part of it so far as almost to the tenth rafter towards the west, viz. all that is outside the screen belongs to the nave of the church and is to be repaired in respect of pavement walls and windows as well as the burnt tiles and to be glazed by the parishioners in common, and this has been the custom from all time which I have recorded for the benefit of my successors.

Be it remembered that the boundary wall and hedge of the big orchard close to the north side of the Rectory house at the last bay in the extremity of the ditch of the owners of the same has been advanced and thrust forward namely by the boundary wall being moved forward once again (as my own family and any neighbours and labourers can testify) so that the annex to our house towards the orchard of our glebe stands on insecure foundations, and the owners of the orchard may not dig or draw out a ditch there especially close to the house.

Be it remembered that the Rectory of Bentley pays nothing but 13 shillings 3 pence and one farthing for tenths and pays no procurations at all to the archdeacon. It pays only 18 pence for synodals And procurations in the Bishop's visitation and for payment to the Dean of Lincoln seem to be recent exactions. They seem (to issue) from the office of first fruits at Westminster."

This last paragraph is not very clear and the words 'to issue' are conjectural. So William Bott settled down to the rest of his long ministry at Fenny Bentley. It is good to note that his family was spared in the plague year of 1665-6, although the village suffered considerably. Nine burials are recorded during the period, whereas the usual number for a similar period at other times was only one, or two at most.

Entries made in the years 1675 and 1676 record the marriages of his daughters Elizabeth and Ann, while Maria appears to have married in 1685. The exact age of the good man is not known, but a note in his handwriting on a loose half sheet of paper from the tattered remains of the first register records:

"I was baptised February 13th 1616, Will. Bott"

so he must have been about 69 when Maria married. Gradually his writing tends to deteriorate, and we find another undated note, pathetically shakey, reading:

"I am very far advanced in age, but by listlessness rather than anything else, so worn out."

So he lived on, until finally we read of his burial on the 27th November 1701, 85 years from the date of his baptism. He had seen many changes and endured many troubles, so that it would have been pleasant to honour the last resting place of one of the Church's faithful servants, but alas, his grave is unknown.

Further perusal of documents in the Fenny Bentley Church records brings to light an interesting appendix to the above. During a search through family papers at Okeover Hall, some fifty years ago, three receipts came to light, in respect of tithes payable to the Rector of Fenny Bentley. Two were signed by Bartholomew Griffin, William Bott's father-in-law, and his predecessor, while the other was signed by Edward Hollingshead, the "Commonwealth Cuckoo", despite the fact that other records give his Christian name as James. The interesting point about this third receipt is that it refers to tithes received -

"...of Nicholas Bell the some of 3 pounds for the twelve years rath (?) tythe after 5 shillings the year which twelve years ended September 1656..."

But William Bott was not deprived of his living until 1650 - so Mr. Hollingshead seems to have pocketed six years of his predecessor's money, without a qualm. What a contrast we find between this somewhat shady transaction, and the situation disclosed by the previous receipt signed by Bartholomew Griffin, who writes:

"Received this day and year abovesaid (4th May 1604) of the said Mr. Humfrey fferrers the lyke some of fyfe shillings for all the

tythes of the said grounds for the last year 1603 which I coming to the said parsonage refused to receive till I had informed myself of the custom. Barth. Griffin."

There goes an honest man who would not accept anything until he had confirmed that it was in fact due to him.

---

NOTES AND QUERIES

---

The Editor is always glad to receive notes or queries on any branch of local history.

N.Q.116 Lost! A Horse-Trough

The Society for the Preservation of Rural England (Sheffield Branch) has passed to the Derbyshire County Surveyor a complaint that a large stone horse-trough on the north side of the road from Baslow to Calver, opposite Stantion Ford, has disappeared. The secretary, endorsing her correspondent's feeling that this should be replaced, comments that although the use of these troughs is now very limited, the people who are fond of their own locality seem to miss these features. She adds that it has been suggested that such troughs may even be boundary marks of parishes and possibly also parish property. That they are certainly prized can be judged by the amount of money some folk will pay to use them as garden ornaments, where they are far less interesting and useful than in their original positions.

Has a local member any news of this missing trough? The S.P.R.E. would appreciate co-operation.

F. Fisher

N.Q.117 Ice Houses

At a time when so many buildings are disappearing all over the county, it would seem a good idea to take careful note of the very few ice houses remaining in Derbyshire. If any member knows of an ice house will they please send particulars of this, including if possible its age, measurements and condition, as well as the locality with map reference, and the name of the present owner. Photographs to file with the record would be very much appreciated.

THE NAILMAKING INDUSTRY IN BELPER

by

M. E. Robson

"The art of Nailmaking is the most ancient among us, we may safely charge its antiquity with 4 figures." (An extract from Hutton's 'History of Birmingham') This is almost certainly true of Belper, for although no known Roman nails have been found we know the Romans were here making pottery in the second and early third centuries, and iron working was not unknown to them.

The earliest mention of the trade was in 1260 A.D. when the hunters used to meet at the junction of what is now Crich Lane and Over Lane for their sport in the great Chase Woods which stretched northwards to Alderwasley, and were the limit of the Duffield Frith.

They travelled from Codnor, Duffield, Heanor and Nottingham to hunt, and their horses needed shoes. So the demand for horseshoes and nails was created, and there was ironstone and coal in abundance in Morley Park, Codnor Park and some in Morrell Wood.

The De Ferrers had introduced forges to England - they were the Barons Fossiers (Ironworkers), who came over from Normandy with William the First, and for their part in the conquest of England were granted manors in the Duffield Frith, amongst them Bradelei (Belper's old name). The Normans re-named this manor Beaurepaire or Bellerepaire, beautiful retreat, and here they built the ancient Chapel of St. John the Baptist, for the foresters to say Mass in.

The ironstone was found in shallow saucer-like depressions quite near the surface, and until about 1707 would be smelted by charcoal. Many years ago there were the remains of an old charcoal furnace in Morrell Wood.

In the early years, each nailer would work for himself, the results of his hard labour being delivered by donkey back all over the county, which at that time had extremely rough roads.

In the Duchy of Lancaster records for 1314-1315 there are accounts of two forges working in Belper, one of these paid £7 8s. 11d. as royalty to the Lord of the Manor, then the Earl of Lancaster, to whom the title had been transferred when the De Ferrers fell from favour in 1266.

This royalty was paid for working 11 weeks after Michaelmas - two forges paid £63 6s. 8d. for working 24 weeks up to Michaelmas.

Other items mentioned are 'Iron Bars for Chappell Windows, bord nails



and spikes'.

The Ferrers crest was horseshoes and even today an old custom is kept up in London, when land held from the King or Queen by the Corporation of London, is paid for annually in horseshoes and horse nails and by the cutting of timber.

Belper horse nails were considered to be superior to any others in the country, the peculiar qualities of the iron and coal were held to be responsible for this, yet it was not until the cotton industry was brought to the town in 1778 by Jedediah Strutt, that the nail trade assumed any great proportions. It was then that a few more enterprising nailers seized the chance to make money and became Nailmasters or Factors, buying the iron and letting it out to the nailers, usually enough to last for a week, and the nailer returned the finished nails when made.

Woe betide them if the weights were wrong, the nailer must stand the loss and make good at his own expense.

Before the nailmasters took over, when each nailer worked for himself, little is known just how he acquired the iron, most likely certain groups did the mining, the nailers fetched it after smelting and rough fashioning into rods, and with the most primitive tools made the nails on a stone anvil. These were rough pieces of hard stone or granite with holes in to take the various sizes of dies used to form the type and size of nail required.

All equipment was made by the nailer himself from the cheapest sources - the box to hold the anvil was of rough wood filled with sods, stones and anything suitable to pack and hold the anvil steady, the forge too would be crude, as would the bellows.

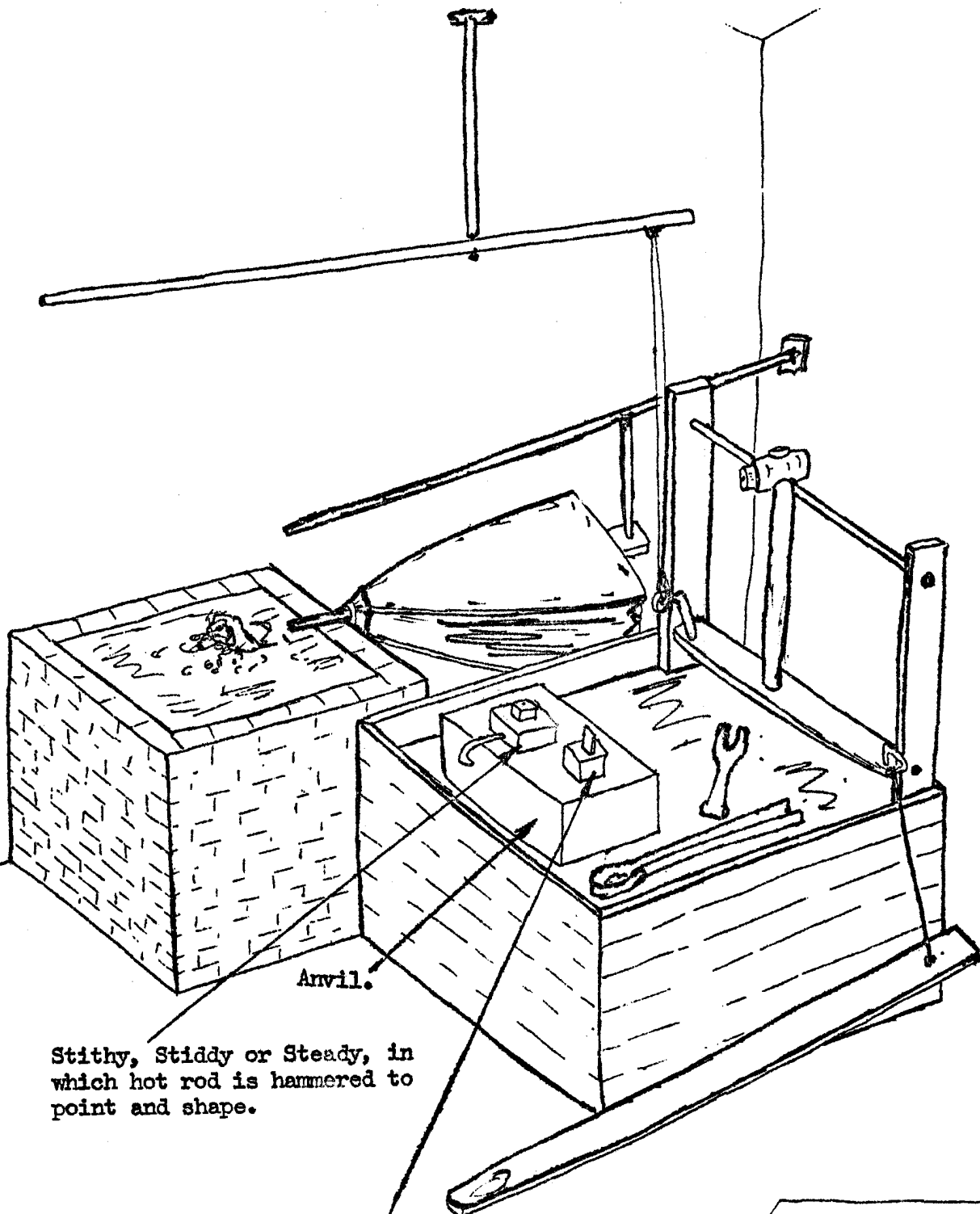
In addition to fetching his iron, the nailer also provided his own fuel and had to pay rent for his nailshop, usually about 6d a week.

Old account books show the nailer often had an advance of payment or 'sub' as it was known, and one letter to a shop owning master asks for groceries in exchange for nails, a common practice.

In spite of their reputed thriftlessness, more than one business in Belper was originally founded on savings made from the nail industry, but the nailer never worked on Monday; St. Monday it was called, and it often meant celebration and drinking.

It was a common thing for the whole family to take part in the work, the children carrying the coal and helping the wife to work the bellows, while her husband made the nails, a task in which she also took part. Some workers were so skilled they could make three nails with one heating of the iron, but these were clout nails, horse nails were more difficult to make.

The iron rods were heated in the fire, the point hammered to the shape and size required in a grooved die, cut off into the nail lengths, then the

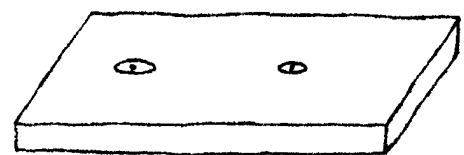


Anvil.

Stithy, Stiddy or Steady, in which hot rod is hammered to point and shape.

Hardy, on which rough nail is cut to length.

A Nailers Forge.



Bore, in which rough nail is placed point down and the head hammered.

half formed nail inserted into the appropriately shaped die of the correct size, this die having the form of the head cut into it, and the head hammered to shape.

Later, when the forges started working and the nailmasters took over, the rods were supplied in bundles of 56 lbs., from which the nailer must make 45 lbs. of nails, otherwise he was fined, just as he was if the size was wrong.

The iron rods were 6 feet in length, and in later years were imported from Sweden, their charcoal rods were considered better then.

It is estimated that 42,000 blows were needed to make 1,000 nails, and that amount was considered a fair day's work.

The nailmasters were their own salesmen and journeyed to London in search of orders, their samples and stock being taken up by the waggons which ran daily between Manchester and London, and later by the canal, the stock being kept at the wharves.

A letter written in 1796 from a factor in London on business, to his son in Belper, advises the son to be sure all nails are "good and lite, or we shall loose his custom," and another letter dated January 14th 188-, offers credit to a Luton firm until September, which seems to indicate strong competition in the trade.

Strikes were not uncommon, the wages were poor, but there is little documentary evidence of prices paid before 1800, although it is known to be less than the 12/- a week for ironstone 'getters' and labourers, and in 1829 the highest paid workers, mechanics, were paid only 16/- to 24/- weekly.

The cold blast furnaces in Morley Park were the first to be used in Derbyshire about 1780, and at one time were producing 700 tons of pig iron a year each. The remains of these are still standing and are now being preserved by the Stanton Ironworks Co.

These furnaces, along with those in Codnor Park, at Butterley and other places in the county, increased the production of pig iron from 7 furnaces yielding 4,500 tons in 1788, to 15 furnaces yielding 20,800 tons in 1827.

Some of the nailmasters also kept shops, and some wages were paid by ticket, to be redeemed at the master's shop, and when orders were scarce, or iron in short supply, the master would allow credit, thus increasing his hold on the nailer.

The Rev. D. P. Davies, in his 'History of Derbyshire', written in 1811 and printed in Belper, says of the Belper nailer, that until the coming of the cotton industry the town was the insignificant residence of a few uncivilised mailers.

They had a reputation too for hard drinking, and old court records show many nailers imprisoned for drunk and disorderly conduct or absence from work without permission.

To be fair to them, it was a hard life, conditions of living extremely poor, and hardly any of them had any education at all, those who could read would entertain the others by reading extracts from Bells Life Newspaper which was considered the authority on Boxing, one of the nailers many sports, and to be a fighter of class, his name must appear in the newspaper. No gloves were used at that period.

Nicknames were in common use amongst the nailers and are still used in the families today. TINY, SOJER, SHEARER, NOGGIN, FILLER, BROWN COB, BURRELL, BODGER, PEPPER, PITY, SWEETENER, BUNNY, TWO PENNY, SYNTAX, were a few used. The custom of nicknames was used in Staffordshire as well.

In the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, there was a fashion for decorating boxes and coffins with nail patterns, and the coffin of Princess Amelia, who was the 15th child of George III, was embellished with 8,000 nails, which no doubt helped the industry.

Some famous names have been connected with nailing - Little John, Robin Hood's henchman was supposed to have been a nailer, and more recently Samuel Booth, the father of William Booth who founded the Salvation Army, was said to be a Belper nailer, but left the town for Nottingham before William was born.

Sir Richard Croshaw, whose monument in Derby Cathedral shows him holding a nail hammer, followed the nail trade for a while, then went to London, made a fortune, and on his death in 1631, bequeathed £4,000 to Derby Corporation.

Stowes survey in the time of Henry VIII says nails were used in many houses as counters for card games.

The first Wesleyan Chapel to be built in Belper, this was in 1781, has on record that the nails were supplied by one Abraham Harrison of Belper.

Item from the 'Derby Mercury' 17th January, 1811:-

"A coroner's jury sat at the inquest on Joseph Hall, of Belper, who slipped while carrying a bag of nails into a hardware shop. He was wounded in the head by the nails, and died within a few minutes.

Verdict. Accidental Death."

The Belper Horsenail Makers Union was founded in 1822, and a copy of the rules can still be seen in Derby Reference Library. It was printed by S. Mason, Queen Street, Belper.

The fame of the Belper horse nailers was so widespread that when a detachment of the Derbyshire Volunteers was sent to London to act as bodyguard at Queen Victoria's wedding, a bystander said "Look out, the diamond faced 'uns are coming." This referred to the diamond faced hammer used in nail making.

It is also said that anyone looking into a nailshop doorway and being foolish enough to ask the time, would receive a blow on the head with the hammer, and the remark made "Its just struck one".

1845. Bad characters - For some years the Gorsey Gang terrorised the neighbourhood and caused much trouble. Mr. Jedediah Strutt the 2nd took a large party of guests to Belper Fair, and the gang were so troublesome that the circus staff, with some of the audience, turned out the gang, but a fortnight or so later, when the Circus left the town for Chesterfield, the terrorists attacked them by Gorsey Hundred, and only intervention by helpers from the town prevented more serious damage. As it was, waggons were smashed and the owners injured.

Eventually, after further trouble and damage, the gangs were broken up and the ringleaders sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for highway robbery on Holbrook Moor.

Extracts from Dr. Spencer Hall's (c.1860) "Days in Derbyshire" - Speaking of a visit to the town in 1830, he says of Saturday night in Belper, "Anon we were in the town, and as it was Market Night, the inns, shops, and streets were all astir with such a free and easy, rough and ready sort of life, as presented the greatest contrast possible to the soothing quiet we had just left, but it was not unpleasant and after taking refreshment, we went forth to see what could be seen of the swarthy nailers for which it was noted, of the subsequent planting amongst these of the spinners and stocking makers, and the coeval rising of mill and warehouses and family mansions, in a district theretofore scantily occupied by a race proverbially unrefined, but now having engrafted upon it a throng of people given to intellectual aspirations and acquainted with nobler joys.

"There was certainly no likelihood of mistaking Belper for a perfect Utopia - too many rough old Derbyshire elements lingering about it for that. But, taken all together with its surrounding scenery, industrial history, rising intelligence, and spirit of local enterprise, it was a place to remember with interest and see again with pleasure."

Bagshaw's Directory of 1846 says "The nail trade is declining owing to competition of machine made nails, and if the horse nails are made by machinery, as is likely before long, the fate of the nail trade in Belper is sealed."

In 1846, 400 persons were employed making common nails, and 250 making horse nails, but White's Directory of 1857 mentions the superiority of horse nails and does not mention any decline in trade. In fact he gives increased

figures, 500 persons making common nails and 300 making horse nails, but also states there were 220 people in the Workhouse.

In 1850, the Belper poet Thomas Crofts says of Belper, "It has nailshops past my counting where men and women toil, making Roundheads, Forties, Clinkers, for the tillers of the soil".

In 1859 when the Cemetery was opened, a visitor, Mr. Coulson of Derby, at a dinner afterwards said "Let the trade of Belper in hobnails and horse nails tread underfoot all nations".

In 1860 the nailers strike, which spread from Staffordshire, lasted six months in Belper, through a most bitter winter. Great hardship was felt and poaching became rife, so much that it was almost another 'industry' in the town, and one of the tombs in St. John's Churchyard was used to hide and store the loot.

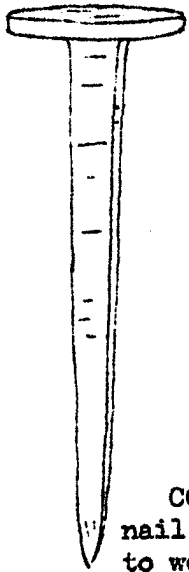
The strike was called to demand an increase of 6d for each 1,000 nails, one nailmaster verbally promised 3d, but did not keep his promise, and in the end the strikers' empty pockets and stomachs beat them, and they went back to work.

In 1872 the nailers went on strike again, this time over the introduction of the Tommy Hammer or Oliver, which originated in Staffordshire, and the men went round smashing up the hammers and bellows and the nail shops. Some of the nailmasters built shops at Wirksworth to escape the vengeance of the workers, but it was all in vain - the machinery age had dawned, admittedly in a small way as the oliver was only used to strike the blows needed to form the head. It would produce nails quicker and easier as the hammer face had the top shape of the nails being made cut into it, and with the bottom shape of the nail head cut into the stiddy the complete nail head could be formed automatically with a few blows from the oliver.

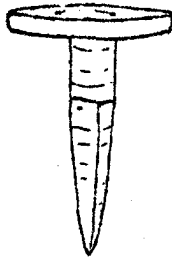
It is hard in these later days to understand the bitterness of the nailers at the introduction of the oliver hammer, they probably took it to be the thin edge of the wedge, and if nails were made quicker it would mean unemployment in the industry.

Why some of the leading nailmasters did not set up the necessary machinery will never be known, and Birmingham became the centre of the nailmaking trade. The Staffordshire connections began in the early 1800's when the firm of Walkers of Netherton, near Dudley, received large orders for ship nails, and not having the necessary skilled workers, sent to Belper for nailers, and as an inducement to them, built a row of cottages with nailshops attached and named it Belper Row.

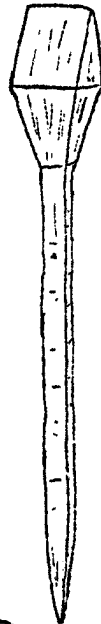
These survived until after the Second World War, when the property was demolished and a new housing estate built, but the name has been preserved, as also has Darby End, named after the workers who originated from Derby.



COUNTER SUNK CLOUT  
nail uses to fix sheet metal  
to wood



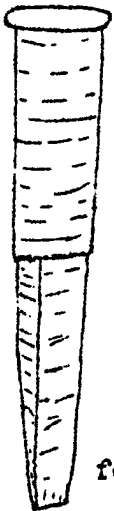
SCUPPER NAIL  
uses unknown



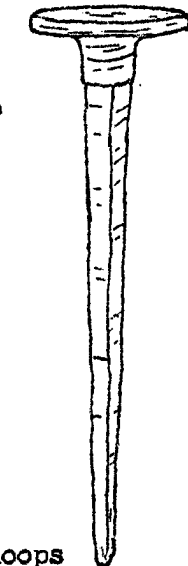
FROST COGS & FROST NAIL  
screw type frost cogs may be  
detached from the horseshoe after  
icy weather, the riveted kind are  
permanently attached with the shoe.  
Frost nails serve as a means of  
attaching the shoe as well as  
gripping the road

GATE NAIL

with Rose Head used for  
many purposes.



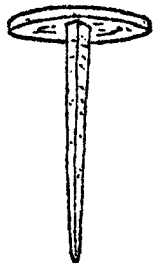
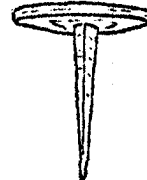
HOOP NAIL  
for fixing barrel hoops



SLATE NAIL  
used to fix roof slates



TENTER HOOK  
the means of holding cloth  
stretched on tenter frames



SADDLE NAILS  
small pattern for racing  
saddles and large military  
type

TYRE STUB  
for fixing iron tyres  
to wooden wheel rims

L.J.S.

The so-called King of the Nailmakers in Belper was John Harrison of Laund Hill - he built a nail "factory" in Marsh Lane, and at one time employed 500 men.

A Belper nailer, George Worthy, who went to America in 1817, wrote to say the nail trade was good there. All nails were machine made, but headed by hand, and he himself did 19,000 in a day, a soul destroying job, I should think.

At one time there were 1,400 men and women engaged in nailmaking in Belper.

An old nailer told me many years ago that there was a language of nails and an experienced worker could tell a Birmingham nail or a Belper one from any other.

There is an Iron Cross in St. John's Church, which was found buried in the churchyard about 1920, and it is made of two pieces of Nail Rod Iron. It had been presented to the Church by the nail makers, and used to be fastened on the Church, but is now inside for all to see.

Some nailmasters names from Glover 1850:-

Carr and Bridges	Queen Street
Hall, George	Cow Hill
Harrison, Abraham	Chesterfield Road
Harrison, John and Sons	Lawn Hill
Howarth, Joseph	High Street
Jones, William	The Butts
Morrell, John	High Street
Spencer, George	Derwent Vale
" "	New Road
Taylor, Samuel and Co.	Chesterfield Road
Walker, Joseph	Common Side
Walker, Thomas	Queen Street
Watson, John and Samuel	Market Place
Watson, Samuel	Top of King Street
Webster and Watson	King's Head Yard
Webster, John	Queen Street
Wigley, George	Chesterfield Road

At this time the hosiery industry was increasing in the town, and so some nail workers were absorbed there, others went to neighbouring towns, like Derby, where the coming of the railway had opened up new possibilities, roads were made and building flourished.

Very little nailmaking was done after 1890, although in 1901, 37 men and 1 woman were still employed making nails, the woman being Mrs. Esther Lees, a well-known character.



Chevening too helped to eke out the nailers pay, and the wives and daughters of nailers spent many hours at this embroidery of stockings and socks, which was a really thriving trade in Belper.

It seems strange that Belper, having risen to be the second town in the county by about 1811, should lose its place, and now I believe, ranks about fifth.

---

CHURCHYARD MEMORIALS

---

Miss D. D. Barrington has copied Epitaphs from some of the old grave stones in Kirk Langley Churchyard, and a selection of these is given below.

1785

We four sisters a brother did leave,  
Wishing him God would receive,  
And when the Lord doth for him call,  
To remain amongst us all.

1801

Short was our ages, that is true  
To bring up our children, it was our  
due  
But when the Lord did for us call,  
We was obliged to yield to all.

1803

All mourn her death,  
Her virtues long they tried.  
They knew not how they loved her  
Till she died.

1807

If three-score years and ten this  
life exceeds  
We're soon depressed with age and  
pain succeeds  
Thrice happy they while going who  
are called to rise  
To brighter mansions: serener  
skies.  
Yet should the Almighty thus prolong  
thy days,  
Devote them to submission to His  
praise.

1810

When I was living as you are  
I had my part of worldly care.  
But now my body is laid in dust,  
Until the rising of the just.  
I lived in love and died in peace

1825

Christ my Redeemer lives.  
And Him I'm going to see,  
My dear surviving friends,  
Prepare to follow me.

1832

Short was his race  
Long is his rest  
God takes to Him  
Whom He loves best.

1836

Hence reader let thy age or station  
what it may,  
Improve thy precious time while it  
is called today,  
Let not thy soul know best, nor do  
thou entertain  
The pleasing hope of peace, till thou  
art home again.

1871

With Christ, which is for better.

---

THE WINDOW TAX

by

Robert Thornhill

The sight of a house with built up windows may remind one that it is a relic of window tax days without, perhaps, giving thought to what it must have meant to people at that time.

The following notes concerning the window tax have been based on information obtained from documents in the writer's possession (1) and whilst they only cover a comparatively short period of time they do include years which were very vital in the nation's history.

In 1783 a seven year struggle in America was over and a treaty signed, but within six years the French Revolution commenced, war was declared against England and invasion threatened. The long wars which followed brought great distress.

"The beginning of 1797 held out gloomy prospects for England."

"The national finances appeared unequal to cope with the expense of a lengthened war."

"On the meeting of parliament in January 1789 the king intimated that he had received intelligence of a design entertained by the French government to attempt the invasion of England."(2)

The general situation, and what happened at Bakewell, can best be seen from brief notes in chronological order.

- 1783 Treaty signed with America.
- 1789 French Revolution.
- 1793 War declared between France and England.
- 1796 'Bakewell Riot', result of discontent regarding balloting for Militia. (3)
- 1797 Five Militia Meetings at Bakewell in January and February following 'Drawing Militia List'. (4)
- 1802 Treaty signed at Amiens in March. (5)
- 1803 Hostilities resumed in May. 'Important Considerations'. (6)
- 1804 Napoleon proclaimed Emperor. Threat of invasion.
- 1805 Trafalgar.
- 1812 Moscow.
- 1815 Waterloo.

Taxes became an increasingly heavy burden during the war years, and orders issued by the Commissioners from 1789-1835 to the Collectors, and through them to the inhabitants of Hartington Nether Quarter, cover servants, carriages, taxed carts, horses, dogs, hair powder and armorial bearings.

These notes, however, are confined to Duties on Houses and Windows.

1789. "Assessors Warrant, Land, Windows and Houses" was the title of the detailed instructions signed and sealed by three Commissioners, before whom the collectors were to deliver certificates and assessments and "to verify the same upon your Oaths" at the "Blacks head in Ashbourne". They were further "particularly to take notice" that duties granted by the act of 23 Geo III (George III 1760-1820. 60 years' reign) were "additional to and over and above" those granted by other acts and were "to be raised by separate assessments".

The tenant or occupier of every dwelling house inhabited within the parish was to be charged the yearly sum of three shillings and -

"For every Window or Light in every Dwelling House within your Parish inhabited or to be inhabited, which shall contain Seven Windows or Lights and no more, the yearly Sum of Two pence for every Window or Light in such Dwelling House; And,

With 8 - 6d each	With 14 to 19 - 1s 6d each
" 9 - 8d each	" 20 - 1s 7d each
" 10 - 10d each	" 21 - 1s 8d each
" 11 - 1s each	" 22 - 1s 9d each
" 12 - 1s 2d each	" 23 - 1s 10d each
" 13 - 1s 4d each	" 24 - 1s 11d each

And with twenty-five Windows or Lights, or upwards, in every Dwelling House, Two Shillings each".

"In making your Assessment or Certificate, every Kitchen, Scullery, Buttery, Pantry, Washhouse, Laundry, Bakehouse, Brewhouse, and Lodging Room, belonging to, or occupied with any Dwelling House, whether the same shall or shall not be within or contiguous to, or disjoined from the Body of such Dwelling House, is to be deemed and taken to be part of such Dwelling House; and that all Windows and Lights therein, and all Sky Lights, Windows or Lights in Staircases, Garrets, Cellars, and Passages, and in all other Parts of Dwelling Houses, to whatsoever Purpose applied, are to be accordingly charged with the said Rates and Duties; and you are further to take Notice, that no Window or Light shall be deemed to be stopped up, unless such Window or Light shall be stopped up effectually with Stone or Brick or Plaister upon Lath, or upon some other Materials commonly used to plaister upon, or with the same Kind of Materials whereof the Outside of such Dwelling House doth or shall chiefly consist; save and except such Windows only, which were ready and bona fide stopped up with any Materials whatsoever before the making a certain Act of Parliament of the Twentieth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the Second (1747) 'An Act for repealing the several Rates and Duties upon Houses, Windows and Lights, and for granting to his Majesty other Rates and Duties upon Houses, Windows and Lights, etc.'. "...and that only in such Cases where the Dwelling Houses so occupied are Cottages, not containing above Six Windows or Lights in the whole; you are therefore not to charge any such poor People..."

"And to obviate any Doubt which may arise about charging of Windows or Lights within the Meaning of the Acts, you are to take Notice, that when two or more Windows are fixed in one Frame, and the Partition between such Windows is, or shall be of the Breadth of Twelve Inches, the Windows on each Side of such Partition shall be deemed as a distinct Window, and be rated accordingly; and all Windows in Frames which are, or shall be extended so far as to give light into more Rooms than one, such Windows shall be reckoned, and you are to charge the same as so many separate Windows, as there are Rooms enlightened thereby."

"And if any Occupier of any Dwelling House shall stop up any Windows before your Assessment, in order to evade the same being charged, and open the same again after the Assessments are settled.....without giving, or causing to be given Notice.....shall forfeit the Sum of Twenty Shillings for each respective Window or Light so opened."

"From and after the tenth Day of October 1784, you are to charge and assess the several and respective additional Rates.....for every House.....which..... is or ought to be rated under the Act of the 6th George III at Three Shillings, the additional Sum of Three Shillings."

"And for every Dwelling House.....which.....ought to be rated in like Manner for Seven Windows, the additional yearly Sum of Six Shillings.

With 8 Windows	0 8 0	With 25 to 29	£ 4 0 0
" 9 "	0 10 6	" 50 to 54	6 10 0
" 10 "	0 13 0	" 100 to 109	12 0 0
" 15 "	1 10 0	" 150 to 159	17 0 0
" 20 "	2 15 0	" 170 to 179	19 0 0

And with 180 Windows and upwards, the additional yearly Sum of Twenty Pounds."

Thirdly, the assessors were to "estimate and ascertain, according to the best of your Skill and Judgment, the full and just yearly Rent which every such Dwelling House, with the Household Offices and Premises... .and make an Assessment in Writing of Six-pence in the Pound.....for every one of the yearly Value of Five Pounds and upwards, and under the yearly Rent of Twenty Pounds".

From £20 to £40 per annum	9d in the Pound.
For all at £40 and over	1s in the Pound.

1790. For this year the Inhabitants of the Liberty of Hartington Neather Quarter were to be assessed at £90. 7. 0 "as its Proportion of the whole Sum of £24093. 19. 9½ charged on the County".

The two house rates and window duties were the same as the previous year.

1794. The County assessment was again two and a half pence short of

£24094 and the three duties were as before.

1801. The next document in the collection is for 1801 and shows that rates or duties had increased considerably, a table of "Duties on Houses and Windows" was included and figures are given which can be compared with those listed previously.

With 8 windows	1	1	0	With 50 to 54 windows	20	10	0
" 9 "	1	7	0	" 100 to109 "	37	0	0
" 10 "	1	14	0	" 150 to159 "	52	0	0
" 15 "	4	12	0	" 170 to179 "	58	0	0
" 20 "	7	12	0	" 180 & upwards	61	0	0
" 25 "	10	12	0				

"And every House having more than 180 Windows must be charged Two Shillings and Sixpence for each Window above that number in addition to Sixty-one Pounds."

Names of rooms did not appear in 1790 and 1794 but a comparison of the 1789 and 1801 lists show that Buttery had been omitted.

A new introduction was the exemption of Dairies and Cheese Rooms.

"By 36 Geo.III. No Window or Light shall be assessed in any Dairies or Rooms, or Places kept and used for the sole Purpose of drying or keeping Cheese, or of making Cheese or Butter only.....provided such Windows or Lights be made with Splines, or Wooden Laths, or Iron Bars, and wholly without Glass, and shall not at any Time be used to dwell or sleep in.....Provided also that the Owner of the Dwelling House.....shall paint on the Door thereof, in large Roman Black Letters, two Inches at least in Height, and of a proportionable Breadth, the Words DAIRY and CHEESE ROOM....."

Duties on Inhabited Houses were set out in a table covering rents from £5 to £100, the rates being increased to 8d, 1s and 1s 3d from 6d, 9d and 1s.

1802 and 1803. The forms issued for these years were identical except for the date and figures in tables, window tax having been increased about one third and inhabited houses duty doubled. Comparative figures are given.

With 8 Windows	1	10	0	With 25 Windows	13	15	0
" 9 "	1	18	0	" 50 to 54 "	30	15	0
" 10 "	2	10	0	" 100 to109 "	52	9	0
" 15 "	6	5	0	" 150 to159 "	72	9	0
" 20 "	10	0	0	" 170 to179 "	80	9	0
				" 180 & upwards	83	0	0

"And every House having more than 180 Windows must be charged with Two Shillings and Six pence for each Window above that Number in addition to Eighty-three Pounds."

Inhabited House duties were increased to 1s 4d, 2s and 2s 6d.

1805. The Assessors Warrant was issued in booklet form which must have been much more convenient than the large sheets printed on both sides, and which had been issued hitherto. Duties were the same as in 1802-3 but the regulations had been tightened up and 'buttery' returned and 'cellar' and 'larder' added to the list of rooms.

Assessors were now called upon to see that -

"Every window which gives light into more rooms, landings, or stories than one, is to be charged as so many windows as there are rooms, landings or stories, enlightened thereby.

Every window or light, including the frame, partitions, and divisions thereof, which, by due admeasurement of the whole space on the aperture of the wall of the house or building on the outside of such window or light, shall exceed in height twelve feet, or in breadth four feet nine inches, is to be charged as two windows or lights; but you are to observe that the following cases are not within the above.

- 1st Windows which are not more than three feet six inches in height, although above four feet nine inches in breadth.
- 2nd Windows which were made of greater dimensions previous to the 5th April 1785.
- 3rd Windows in shops, workshops, and warehouses.
- 4th Windows in the public room of any house licenced to sell wine, ale, etc. such as coffee-room, tap-room, etc.
- 5th Windows or lights in farm-houses, exempted from the Inhabited House Duties. You will likewise observe, that if the windows or lights in any dwelling-house cannot be conveniently seen, numbered, or measured, without passing through such house, you have full power at all seasonable times to pass through any house, and to go into any court or yard, and externally to view the windows and lights in such house, and the premises occupied therewith, and to measure such windows or lights externally, and if any dispute shall arise respecting the dimensions of any window, the proof thereof is to lie on the occupier.

And in order to give relief to occupiers of houses containing not more than six windows or lights, who shall be poor and unable to pay the Duty, you are to insert opposite the sum charged in the Assessment the fact of his or her being poor, and to produce to the Commissioners a certificate thereof under the hands of the minister and respectable inhabitants of your parish.....

Windows and lights in dairies and cheese-rooms, used by the occupier for keeping butter or cheese, being their own produce, for sale or private use, are to be exempted from the Duties, if they are made with splines, laths or wires, and without any glass, and the words, 'Dairy or Cheese-room' are

painted over the door; and the rooms are never used to sleep in, but are wholly kept for the purposes afore-mentioned; you are, however, to bring all such windows into assessment, and return the facts as in other cases of exemption from the Duties, in order that the same may be allowed by the Commissioners."

1835. This is the last of the documents and it is rather unfortunate that there should be a gap of 30 years. The booklet has a blue paper cover entitled 'Assessors Instructions 1835' and the first two pages are the 'Assessors Warrant' as for 1805. Duties on windows were reduced by half and there was no reference to houses. There had also been some relief as indicated by the following -

"You will observe, That by an Act of the 4th and 5th Wm IV, all persons who are assessed to, or have compounded for windows for the year ending the 5th day of April 1835, are entitled to open and keep open free of Duty any additional number in the premises so assessed or compounded for.....and no person.....by reason of his house not containing eight windows is to be brought into assessment because of the opening of any additional number....."

"Windows and lights in dairies and cheese-rooms.....without any glass, and the words 'Dairy or Cheese-room' are painted over the door; or one glazed window in any dairy, and one glazed window in any cheese-room....." - to be exempted."

The tax on 7, 8 and 20 windows for the years under review are shown in the table, the 'additional' tax was introduced in 1783 so prior to that owners of houses with 7 or 8 windows would pay 1s 2d and 4s 0d respectively. When they were called upon to pay additional sums of 6s and 8s it would be a serious matter, whilst the further rises in the early 1800's must have caused great concern.

	<u>7 windows</u>	<u>8 windows</u>	<u>20 windows</u>	
1789	1 2	4 0	1 11 8	
	+ 6 0	+ 8 0	+ 2 15 0	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	7 2	12 0	4 6 8	
1790	7 2	12 0	4 6 8	It is necessary to increase the figures at least ten fold in order to realize what the taxes would mean to-day.
1794	7 2	12 0	4 6 8	
1801	14 6	1 1 0	7 12 0	
1802	18 0	1 10 0	10 0 0	
1803	18 6	1 10 0	10 0 0	
1805	18 6	1 10 0	10 0 0	
1834	No tax	16 6	5 12 3	

In the case of the writer's house, tax would have been charged on 22 windows. In 1804 this would have been £11 10 0, equal to £115 in 1964.

A more interesting example is Haven House (now called Newhaven) which

can be identified in copies of assessments by, amongst other reasons, the large number of windows. These are given in the table, together with the tax charged.

The increase in the number of windows from 34 to 37 and then to 40 may have been due, not to structural alterations, but rather to the tightening up of the regulations, which resulted in it being found that a window admitted light into two rooms, or in some other way should be charged as two windows.

	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Number of windows</u>	<u>Tax</u>
1798	Hampshire, James	34	(7)
1799	Greenwood, Timothy	34	£15 2 0 (7) The assessment
1800	" "	-	£15 2 0 is for "Three
1801	" "	-	£15 2 0 Quarters of a Year
1804	" "	37	£22 15 0 from the 5th of
1824	Shaw, Richard late Greenwood	40	July 1797, to the £14 8 9 5th of April 1798"
1825	Shaw, Richard Haven House	40	and covers Additional £14 8 9 Duties under five headings.

If the 1804 tax were increased ten fold in order to arrive at an approximate 1964 figure, it would mean paying £227 a year for the privilege of having 37 windows (for 40 windows £257).

It would appear from the following document that the people were at least, instructed that the end justified the means.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS  
for  
The PEOPLE of this KINGDOM

Published July, 1803, and sent to the officiating minister of  
every parish in England.

At a moment, when we are entering on a scene deeply interesting, not only to this nation, but to the whole civilized world; at a moment, when we all, without distinction of rank or degree, are called upon to rally round, and to range ourselves beneath the banners of that Sovereign, under whose long, mild, and fostering reign, the far greater part of us, capable of bearing arms, have been born and reared up to manhood; at a moment, when we are, by his truly royal and paternal example, incited to make every sacrifice and every exertion in a war, the event of which is to decide, whether we are still to enjoy, and bequeath to our children, the possessions, the comforts, the liberties, and the national honours, handed down to us from generation to generation, by our gallant forefathers; or whether we are, at once, to fall from this favoured and honourable station, and to become the



miserable crouching slaves, the hewers of wood and drawers of water, of those very Frenchmen, whom the valour of our fleets and armies has hitherto taught us to despise; at such a moment, it behoves us, calmly and without dismay, to examine our situation, to consider what are the grounds of the awful contest in which we are engaged; what are the wishes, the designs, and the pretensions of our enemies; what would be the consequences, if those enemies were to triumph over us; what are our means, and what ought to be our motives, not only for frustrating their malicious intentions, but for inflicting just and memorable chastisement on their insolent and guilty heads.

The extract quoted is only a nineteenth part of the whole, there were no instructions for it to be read in churches and chapels but this, no doubt, would be the intention with the nation-wide circulation. The final half dozen lines were -

Singly engaged against the tyrants of the earth, Britain now attracts the eyes and the hearts of mankind; groaning nations look to her for deliverance; justice, liberty, and religion are inscribed on her banners; her success will be hailed with the shouts of the universe, while tears of admiration and gratitude will bedew the heads of her sons, who fall in the glorious contest.

Printed by W. Calvert, Great Shire-lane, Temple-bar.

- 
- References
1. Thornhill Collection (Finney Papers) mostly Hartington Nether Quarter.
  2. Markham's England. 1853.
  3. Vict: County Hist: v2 pl51. DAJ 1889 XI pl65.
  4. Thornhill - A Village Constable's Accounts.
  5. "All England rang with joyful acclamation at the attainment of this long wished for object". Markham's England.
  6. Thornhill Collection. Large sheet, as used for newspapers of the period, printed with four wide columns surmounted with the Royal Arms and bold heading as below. (The back of the sheet had been used for making a copy of a property tax return for 1843, and this may account for its preservation.)

---

An interesting book on the subject of Gravestones was published at the end of last year. "English Churchyard Memorials" by Frederick Burgess deals with every aspect of memorials to the dead from prehistoric times. He discusses the artists and the changing fashions both in style and in the materials used. Lutterworth Press. 1963. 50/-d.

---

found in the fields with the record 1666 upon them have disappeared, they no longer remain to tell the story of the "desolation of Eyam". Miss Seward says that the little spot of ground now called Riley Gravestones "was the burial place of the dead when the plague raged at Eyam, and the churchyard had become too crowded to admit any more of its victims". The correctness of this representation, notwithstanding the authority on which it rests, may be doubted, for the whole place now known by that name is entirely occupied by the graves of one family only, of the name of Hancock, who lived at Riley Cottage on the hill above. This place of sepulture is situated on the side of a steep eminence, about a quarter of a mile from the village, and a fence of rude stones has been erected around it. At the time of the plague the whole of this hill was one entire moorland waste, and when I first visited Riley Grave-stones, now about 35 years ago, they were embedded in heath and overgrown with nettles and foxgloves. They are now in the middle of a cultivated field. They consist of six head stones and one tabular monument. The inscriptions on which, though much worn and partly obliterated, may probably yet be traced. The different legends are -

Elizabeth Hancock, died August 3rd, 1666  
John Hancock, Sen., died August 4th, 1666  
John Hancock, Jun., died August 7th, 1666  
Oner Hancock, died August 7th, 1666  
William Hancock, died August 7th, 1666  
Alice Hancock, died August 9th, 1666  
Ann Hancock, died August 10th, 1666

On the four sides of the tomb, which contains the ashes of the father of this family of sufferers, are the words, Horam, Nescites, Orate, Vicilate. What a mournful memorial of domestic calamity do these few stones and their brief inscription present! One only of this family survived.

It is now 196 years since Eyam was depopulated by the Plague.

"When dreadful plague, o'er Eyams gaping crowds  
Shook her dank wing, and steered her murky clouds;  
When o'er the friendless bier no rites were read,  
No dirge slow chanted and no pall outspread;  
When death and night piled up the naked throng,  
And silence drove their ebon cars along!"

Darwin

It appears from the register that in the short interval betwixt the 7th of September 1665 and the beginning of November 1666, there were two hundred and sixty burials. Those who were carried off by this fatal distemper, were not all interred in the churchyard, but some in the open fields, some in gardens, and some on the side of a hill at a small distance from thence, where their graves are still visible. The following account of this dreadful scourge is given by Miss Seward in one of her letters Vol... page...

"Eyam was one of the last places in England visited by the plague. The

summer after its ravages in London, it was conveyed to that village in patterns of Taylors cloth. Raging with great violence, it swept away four fifths of the inhabitants. Mr. Mompesson was at that time Rector of Eyam, and in the vigour of his youth. He had married a beautiful young lady, by whom he had a girl and a boy of three and four years old. On the commencement of the contagion Mrs. Mompesson threw herself with her babes at the feet of her husband to supplicate his flight from that devoted place: but even the entreaties and tears of a beloved wife could not induce him to desert his flock in those hours of danger and dismay. Equally fruitless were his solicitations that she should retire with her infants. The result of this pathetic contest was a resolve to send their children away, and to abide together the fury of the pestilence, Mr. Mompesson constantly visiting and praying by the sick,

Drew like Marseilles good bishop, purer breath  
When nature sicken'd, and each gate was death.

The Rev. W. Mompesson was indefatigable in his endeavours to prevent the direful malady that was sweeping the parishoners into the grave, from spreading into the surrounding country. The salutary measures that he adopted, and the readiness with which they were carried into effect, were attended with the happiest result. From a rational belief, that assembling in the crowded church for public worship, and with a view to lessen as much as possible the influence of the contagion during the hottest months of this fatal year, Mr. Mompesson agreed with his afflicted parishoners, that he would read prayers twice a week and deliver his two customary sermons on the sabbath, from one of the perforated arches in the rocks of a deep dingle near the village. By this advice they ranged themselves on its grassy steep in a level direction to the rocky pulpit, and the dell being so narrow, "a speaker (says Miss Seward) as my father often proved to us, might be distinctly heard from the rock now called Cucklet Dell". Here under the canopy of heaven, he administered the sacramental rites of his religion, and from the portal of the rocky cavern previously mentioned, and since called Cucklet Church, enforced the obligations of his faith, the duty of resignation to the dispensation of Providence - and mingling the hopes and promises of the Gospel with his admonitions "allured to brighter worlds, and led the way".

"Do you not see," says Miss Seward in her interesting letter before quoted from "this dauntless minister of God stretching forth his hands from the rock, instructing and consoling his distressed flock in that little wilderness? How solemn, how affecting must have been the pious exhortations of those terrible hours". Contemplating the good Mompesson in the discharge of the functions of his high office in connexion with the place, and the occasion, how affecting and sublime is the picture! Paul preaching at Athens as the minister of the Unknown God, and John the Baptist in the wilderness, seem the hallowed prototypes of this pious legate of the skies when "he stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stayed".

Mr. Mompesson remained in health during the whole ravage of the pestilence; but Providence saw fit to call his fortitude to a severer trial than if he had seen the plague sap indurated upon his own body.

Amongst other precautions against the disease Mrs. Mompesson prevailed upon her husband to suffer an incision to be made in his leg, and kept open. One day she observed appearances in the wound which induced the belief that the contagion had found a vent that way, and therefore that its danger was over as to him. Instead of being shocked that the pestilence had entered her house and that her weakness (for she was not in health) must next endure its fury, she expressed the most rapturous joy for the apprehended deliverance for her beloved husband. His letters, though he seems to think her conviction concerning his having taken the distemper groundless, make pathetic and grateful mention of that disinterested joy. But Mrs. Mompesson soon after sickened of the plague, and expired in her husband's arms, in the 27th year of her age. Her monument is now in Eyam churchyard, its inscription distinct.

When first the plague broke out in Eyam, Mr. Mompesson wrote to the Duke of Devonshire residing at Chatsworth some few miles from Eyam, stating that he thought he could prevail upon his parishioners to confine themselves within the limits of the village if the surrounding country would supply them with necessaries, leaving such provisions as should be requested in appointed places, and at appointed hours, upon the encircling hills. The proposal was punctually complied with, and it is most remarkable that when the pestilence became beyond all conception terrible, not a single inhabitant attempted to pass the deathful boundaries of the village, though a regiment of soldiers could not in that rocky and open country have detained them against their will, much less could any watch which might have been set by the neighbourhood have effected that infinitely important purpose. By the influence of this exemplary man, obtained by his pious and affectionate virtues, the rest of the county of Derby escaped the plague; not one of the very nearly neighbouring hamlets or a single house being infected beyond the limits of Eyam village, though the distemper remained there nearly seven months. In the summer of 1757, five cottagers were digging on the hearthy mountain above Eyam, which was the place of graves after the churchyard had become too narrow a repository. Those men came to something which had the appearance of having once been linen. Conscious of the situation they instantly buried it again. In a few days all sickened of a putrified fever, and three of the five died. The disorder was contagious, and proved mortal to numbers of the inhabitants.

During the great plague of 1666 the Rev. W. Mompesson was greatly assisted in his work of benevolence by the Rev. Mr. Stanley, a nonconformist minister, in whom he found a willing and able coadjutor. These excellent men were the priests, physicians, and legislators of this suffering community, and the bond of sympathy that connected them with their poorer neighbours had a consoling effect on the minds of the whole population of Eyam.

That the good priest of Eyam, in the discharge of his arduous and trying duties, should at all times preserve his fortitude unshaken can scarcely be expected. He did his duty like a man, but he also suffered

like a man - how poignantly may be gathered from the following letters, which are too interesting to be omitted. The first is addressed to Sir George Saville, patron of the living of Eyam, and dated Sept. 1, 1666.

"Honoured and dear Sir, This is the saddest news that ever my pen could write. The destroying angel having taken up his quarters within my habitation, my dearest wife is gone to her eternal rest, and is invested with a crown of righteousness, having made an happy end. Indeed had she loved herself as well as me, she had fled from the pit of destruction with the sweet babes, and might have prolonged her days; but she resolved to die a martyr to my interest. My drooping spirits are much refreshed with her joys, which I think are unutterable.

Sir, this paper is to bid you a hearty farewell for ever, and to bring you my humble thanks for all your noble favours; and I hope you will believe a dying man, I have as much love as honour for you, and I bend my feeble knees to the God of Heaven, that you, my dear lady, and your children, may be blessed with ~~external~~ and eternal happiness, and that the same blessing may fall upon Lady Sunderland and her relations.

Dear Sir, let your dying Chaplain recommend this truth to you and your family, that no happiness or solid comfort can be found in this vale of tears, like living a pious life; and pray ever-remember this rule - never do anything upon which you dare not first ask the blessing of God.

Sir, I have made bold in my will with your name as executor, and I hope that you will not take it ill. I have joined two others with you, who will take from you the trouble. Your favourable aspect will, I know, be a great comfort to my distressed orphans. I am not desirous that they should be great, but good; and my next request is, that they be brought up in the fear and adomition of the Lord.

Sir, I thank God that I am contented to shake hands with all the world, and have many comfortable assurances that God will accept me on account of his Son. I find the goodness of God greater than ever I thought or imagined; and I wish from my soul that it were not so much abused and contemned.

I desire, Sir, that you will be pleased to make choice of a humble pious man to succeed me in my parsonage; and could I see you before my departure hence, I would inform you in what manner I think he may live comfortably amongst his people, which would be some satisfaction to me before I die.

Dear Sir, I beg the prayers of all about you that I may not be daunted by the power of hell, and that I may have dying graces. With tears I beg that when you are praying for fatherless orphans, you would remember my two pretty babes.

Pardon the rude style of this paper, and be pleased to believe that I am, dear Sir, &c. William Mompesson."

This letter, written at the time when the decease (sic) was making the

greatest havoc; when it had already entered the writer's dwelling, prostrated his hopes, despoiled and almost desolated his affections, and evidently under the apprehension of an immediate attack of the plague, is beautifully illustrative of the amiable and pious character of the author.

A short time after the date of the preceding letter the disease subsided, and in a subsequent one addressed to John Beilby Esq. Nov. 20th, 1666, his sensations, though strong, appear to have been less acute, and the prospect of death removed farther from him. In this letter he says:-

"The condition of this place has been so sad that I may persuade myself it did not exceed all history and example; I may truly say that our place has been a Golgotha, the place of a skull; and had there not been a small remnant of us left, we had been as Sodom, and been like unto Gomorrah. My ears never heard such doleful lamentation, and my eyes never beheld such ghastly spectacles. Now, blessed be God, all our fears are over, for none have died of the infection since the 11th of October, and all the pest houses have long been empty. I intend, Godwilling, to spend most of this week seeing all woollen cloaths fumed and purified, as well for the satisfaction as for the safety of the country.

Here has been such burning of goods, that the like I think was never known, and indeed in this we have been too precise. For my part I have scarcely left myself apparel to shelter my body from the cold, and have wasted more than needed merely for example. As for my part, I cannot say that I had ever better health than during the time of the dreadful visitation, neither can I say that I have had any symptom of the disease. My man had the distemper, and upon the appearance of a tumour I gave him several chemical antidotes, which had a very kind operation; and with the blessing of God, kept the venom from the heart, and after the rising broke he was very well. I have already tasted the goodness of the Creator, and blessed be his Name, the grim looks of death did never yet more affright me. I always had a firm faith that my dear babes would do well, which made me willing to shake hands with the unkind froward world; yet I hope I shall esteem it a mercy if I am frustrated of the hopes of a translation to a better place; and God grant that I may make a right use of his mercies; as the one hath been tart, the other hath been sweet and comfortable".

The "Desolation of Eyam" has already formed a subject for the poet, and it is certainly very far from being void of poetic interest. With this feeling, and for the purpose of closing this account of Eyam and its afflictions, the following lines have been written. The circumstances detailed in the preceding pages will sufficiently explain the allusions they contain.

(The poem of 90 lines entitled 'Cucklet Church' which opens with the lines

'In a deep dell, with pendant ash trees crowned  
Where wild friar roses creep along the ground'  
is here omitted.)

In the lead mines at Eyam Edge, the percussions of the Earthquake which

destroyed Lisbon on the first of November 1755, were very distinctly felt. In the 49th volume of the Philosophical Transactions Part 1, page 399 we have "Mr. Bullock's account of the earthquake which happened at the lead mines on Eyam Edge on Saturday November 1st, 1755 about 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Francis Mason, overseer, says that he sat in a little room which he uses to write in; it stands about 40 yards from the mouth of the engine shaft. He felt one shock which very sensibly raised him up in his chair, and caused several pieces of lime or plaister to drop from the sides of the room, the roof of it was so violently shaken, that he imagined nothing less than the engine shaft was run in, whereupon he immediately went out to see, and contrary to his expectations found the shaft open, and all things about the spot in their proper order. Upon enquiry, I was informed by the aforesaid Francis Mason, that in a field about 300 yards from the mines, there has happened a chasm or cleft on the surface of the earth which was supposed to be made at the same time he felt the shock, for the following reason. It is close by a road, which he was daily to and from the mines; in the morning when he came, there was nothing uncommon to be seen, but on his return in the evening he observed a cleft about one foot deep and six inches in diameter. Its continuation from one end to the other was near 150 yards, being parallel to the range of the vein on the north side. When I examined it, which was three months after the shock happened, the length of it was not much more than 60 yards, though I could see some vestiges of its farther continuance; the depth of it was about eight or nine inches, its diameter four. As the soil is very light, and the season has been remarkably wet, it is highly probable that the fissure is considerably closed since it was first made. These were the most remarkable circumstances which happened on the surface of the earth. Though my enquiry was of everyone in particular, that was then employed about the mine, the concurrence of whose testimony might seem more strongly to confirm the account. William Hallom and Joseph Howson, miners, say that at the aforesaid time they were employed in carting or drawing along the drifts the ore and other minerals to be raised up in the shafts. The drift where they were working is about 60 fathoms, or 120 yards, deep, and the space of it from one end to the other fifty yards or upwards. Hallom was at the end of the drift, had just loaded his cart and was drawing it along, but was suddenly surprised by a shock which so terrified him, that he immediately quitted his employment, and ran to the west end of the drift to his partner, who was not less terrified than himself. They durst not attempt to climb the shaft, lest that should be running in upon them, but consulted what means to take for their safety. Whilst they were thinking of some place of refuge, they were alarmed by a shock much more violent than the former which put them in such consternation that they both ran precipitately to the other end of the drift. There was a miner working at the forfield, or east end of the vein, about six fathoms below their level, who called out to them, imagining they were in danger of being killed by the shaft running in upon them; which he supposed was the case; and told them, if by any means they could get down the shaft to him they would be more secure, because the cavity where he was working was encompassed with solid rock. They went down the shaft to him, where, after observing that they had neither of them received any misfortune, he told them that the violence of the second shock

LOCAL HISTORY SECTION 1964

Chairman

Mr. R. Hayhurst,  
Tussington,  
Ashbourne, Derbys  
Tel.: Parwich 217

Secretary

Rev. D.H. Buckley,  
Thorpe Rectory,  
Ashbourne, Derbys  
Tel.: Thorpe Cloud 271

Treasurer

Mr. H.R. Window,  
12 Elm Grove,  
Chaddesden,  
Derby.

Editor

Mrs. F. Nixon,  
Southlea,  
Hazlewood Road,  
Duffield, Derbys  
Tel.: Duffield 2325

Assistant Editor

Miss B.M. Grieve,  
30 Empress Road,  
Derby.  
Tel.: Derby 44843

Records

Mr. A.E. Hale,  
237 Porter Road,  
Derby.  
Tel.: Derby 21517

Deputy Chairman

Mrs. R. Evans,  
10 Field Crescent,  
Alvaston, Derby.  
Tel.: Derby 71125

Committee

Mr. J.M. Bestall  
Mr. C. Daniel  
Mr. C.C. Handford  
Mr. C.J. Smith  
Mr. L.J. Stead  
Mr. H.J. Wain  
Mr. W.D. White



## SUMMER PROGRAMME 1964

Saturday 11th April 3 p.m. at the Bridge Chapel Room

Speakers: Rev. D.H. Buckley on the restoration of Norbury Church Glass. Also Mr. Francis Fisher on the interpretation of Old Documents.

Saturday 2nd May Visit to Little Eaton

Leader: Mr. Peter Brady. This will be an opportunity to see what can be found of interest to the historian in a village not otherwise noted for its wealth of antiquities. It is hoped to inspect the Paper Mill, and other interesting items. Members should be prepared for some walking. Meet near the park in Church Lane, off the Duffield Road, at 2:45 p.m.

Saturday 6th June Visit to Litton and Cressbrook Mills

Leader: Mr. Robert Thornhill. Members who have been able to enjoy last year's excursion to the Milford and Belper Mills, and who heard Dr. Smith's recent talk on the subject, will welcome this opportunity to inspect these two interesting examples, in a beautiful setting. Tea will be arranged at Tideswell, and members requiring this meal should advise the secretary in writing not later than 31st May.

Meet in cars at the church in Ashford-in-the-Water at 2:45 p.m. from whence the party will proceed in convoy. It would be appreciated if members with spare room in their cars would kindly advise the Secretary, likewise members wishing to avail themselves of a lift, so that the two may be put into touch with each other.

Wednesday 8th July Visit to Dale Abbey and Morley  
(Evening meeting)

Leader: Miss A.M. Rowland. The party will be able to inspect the abbey ruins, the windmill, and other interesting places in this locality, ending at Morley Conference House, where we will be able to see the glass originally from Dale Abbey.

Meet at Dale Abbey at 7:15 p.m. if coming by car, otherwise at the Bridge Chapel at 6:45 p.m. where it is hoped that members with room in their cars will call to pick up those hoping for a lift.

Saturday 12th September Visit to Foremark and district

Leader: Mr. H.J. Wain. The tour will include Foremark Hall, the church, Anchor Church, the Danish Cemetery, and other interesting sites in the area. Meet at the lodge to Foremark Hall at 2:45 p.m. or at Bridge Chapel at 2:15 p.m. It would be appreciated if anyone with a car passing through Derby would kindly call at the Bridge Chapel at 2:15 to collect anyone requiring a lift. Please bring a picnic tea. Cups of tea will be available.