



THE PARAGON

Journal Of Stocksbridge & District History Society

NUMBER 11 SPRING 1998

50P [FREE TO MEMBERS]

❁ A.G.M. Report Inside ❁

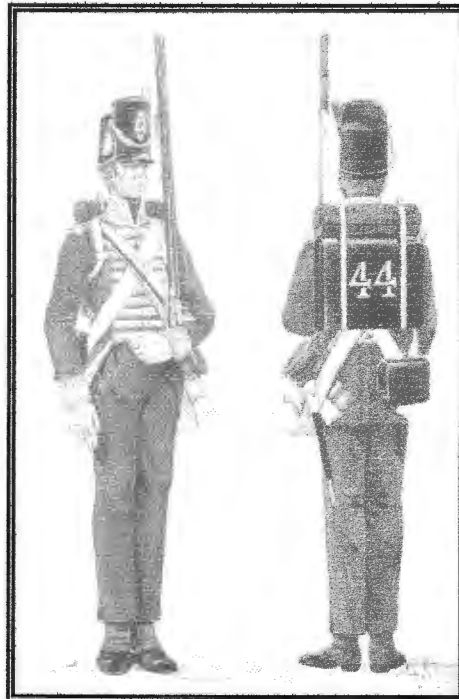
A FRUITLESS MARCH TO DEFEND THE REALM

My wife's family, on her paternal side, bears the old and well-known Yorkshire name of JAGGER. This particular line of the Jagger family owned and operated a wire-drawing business that had been in existence for five generations until it ceased operations in 1926. The small, family-owned mill was situated in the village of THURGOLAND, a few miles from the town of PENISTONE, which, until the 1974 reorganisation of counties, was in the part of Yorkshire known as the WEST RIDING.

White's *Sheffield District Directory* of 1871 described it thus: "Thurgoland is a township and scattered village, with several wire-mills, 10 miles N-by-W of Sheffield and had 1,793 inhabitants in 1861." Under the Business listing it showed John and George Jagger, wire manufacturers, Old Wire Mills. The advertisement stated that they made cast steel wire for sewing-machine needles, fish-hooks, springs, gimlets, awl-blades, etc. The business was carried on in a building where water-power was used. Over one doorway was a stone, engraved with the date 1613.

My initial research found some background information on the Old

Wire Mill, but I felt I needed more details from an official, archival source. To this end, in July 1993, I exchanged correspondence with Sheffield Archives and soon I was in possession of extremely helpful and detailed information about the Old Wire Mill and wire-making



Typical Infantryman of the Napoleonic Wars

specifically. The Archivist sent me the pertinent pages on these subjects culled from Joseph Kenworthy's "*Local History of Stocksbridge*". These pages on the local wire-drawing industry were

extremely detailed and included interviews with the JAGGERS, masters of the mill, and others in the trade, explaining how wire was made.

In one part of this treatise there was one short, but detailed paragraph, listing names of the three wire mills in Thurgoland: Tilt Mill, Old Wire Mill and New Wire Mill. However, Joseph Kenworthy, while decrying the lack of more information on wire-making from trade directories and similar sources, quoted from some notes, which unfortunately he did not specifically identify. From these notes he went on to list the names and occupations of 14 Militia Volunteers, who marched from Thurgoland to Hemsworth on the night of Thursday, August 15th, 1805. Indeed, he stated that six out of the 14 were wire-drawers, but failed to explain why "this gallant little company" were involved in nocturnal peregrinations. This omission was extremely aggravating, as George Jagger, wire-drawer, was among those listed, and I was intrigued and became determined to find out more about this march to Hemsworth.

With the help of several organisations, and both Family and Local Historians, I learned that in the period 1803-5 there was a real and constant threat of a French invasion of England. While the Napoleonic wars had been raging for several years at this particular time, an invasion seemed a likely and daunting prospect. In an attempt to bolster the

defence of England, the Defence Act of 1803 was passed, which compelled Parish Constables to record the names and occupations of all able-bodied men between the ages of 15 and 60, not already in the Military. Just such a record was discovered in Sheffield Archive, and I was excited to receive, in bold, copperplate handwriting, two pages titled *Militia List for the Township of Thurgoland, December 7, 1804*. Under the heading Names of persons Inroled [sic] to serve as Volunteers was number 42, George Jagger, wire-drawer. This was my wife's great, great-grandfather.

On this Militia List the men were enrolled and categorised according to their fitness, age and family commitments under such headings as: -

- Names of persons liable to serve
- Rank, trade or occupation
- Names of persons Inroled to serve or volunteer
- Infirm or Poor
- Poor men with more than one child
- Names of persons Exempt, with grounds of Exemption
- Apprentices, Constables, etc.
- Men who have served or hired substitutes

This last classification needs further clarification: the regular County Militia was formed from able-bodied men of the County, recruited by ballot. These recruits would not be called upon to serve outside the British Isles and sometimes not even outside their own County. These Militia men, so selected, were able to rely upon their families being supported by the Parish Poor Rates while they were away - a benefit which soldiers' families in the regular army did not enjoy. However, it was also possible for a man chosen by ballot to serve in the Militia to pay for a substitute - some other person - if he did not wish to serve. This system of paying for a substitute to the Local Volunteers must have been in use in Thurgoland too, according to the last of the above headings.

Under this heading are listed a farmer, a butcher, a saddle maker, a mason and a clothier. As you may expect, military duties would be regarded as inconvenient

interruptions to the serious business of earning a living, regardless of how patriotic you might be. We can only assume that the tradesmen so listed were too busy at their trade to take time off to defend their homeland against a possible invasion by Bonaparte. Somewhat ironically, though, had there been a successful invasion, these same men would perhaps have been most vulnerable to losing their livelihood, if not their lives.

However, the Supplementary Militia Act of 1796 made no provision for substitution in the case of volunteers. Once having put their names forward they would have to respond to the call to arms, whatever the inconvenience.

A detailed report in the *Wakefield Star & West Riding Advertiser* of 23rd August, 1805 describes the various marches made on 15th August from different areas by several detachments of the Army, Militia units and Local Volunteers.

"The Staincross Volunteers, both Infantry and Cavalry, were assembled, and the Cavalry actually marched to Pontefract. ... the Infantry were detained, on their march to Pontefract, at Hemsworth, till more particular information could be had." The village of Thurgoland was in the Wapentake * of Staincross, so the Staincross Volunteers would include our "gallant little company" from Thurgoland. The alarm had also spread to the Pontefract Volunteers and to the neighbouring Wapentake of Strafford and Tickhill, where some Volunteers and three troops of Yeoman Cavalry marched to Doncaster.

But what had caused the alarm, and why was the march halted? To alert the country and recognise a call to arms, at a time when fast communication was difficult, warning beacons built of combustible materials had been prepared on hilltops throughout Britain - the same method of raising an alarm as was used at the time of the Spanish Armada, more than 200 years before.

Apparently, as was discovered later, the alarm was raised accidentally by the burning of a farmer's 'close' near Woolley Edge,

Wakefield. The column of oily smoke given off by a crop of oilseed rape in an enclosed field was mistaken for that of a warning beacon, and the entire County was raised.

As soon as the alarm was discovered to be false, the march was halted and the Militia Volunteers were ordered back to their home towns and villages. On the return march, however, they were hailed as heroes by the local inhabitants all along their route, and there were many free toasts to his Majesty's health and a downfall to his enemies!

The *Sheffield Iris* of Thursday, 22nd August, 1805, reported that Mr. Tudor of Conisborough, very much to his honour, entertained the Volunteers with Bread and Cheese and a pint of strong beer each, as they marched through the town of Doncaster. We can safely assume, therefore, that this "gallant little company" from Thurgoland arrived safely back home, but in varying degrees of intoxication!

Although the march was fruitless, the brave Volunteers from Thurgoland could feel proud that they had answered the call of patriotic duty, regardless of the outcome. The next day they would go back to their trades and usual occupations, secure in the knowledge that they would not be called upon to serve again.

* NOTE

When Yorkshire, England's largest county, was divided into three Ridings (a Norse word for thirds), the Riding in turn was divided into Wapentakes (another Norse term referring to the invader's habit of brandishing his weapon).

These administrative divisions were responsible for the raising of armies, levying of taxes, maintenance of law and order and property transactions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sheffield City Archive
Wakefield Local Studies Library
Dr. Pamela Horn: *The Rural World, Social Change in the English Countryside 1780-1850*

J. Gibson & M.M. Medleycott: *Militia Lists and Musters 1757-1876*

J. Kenworthy: *The Early History of Stocksbridge* unpublished 1915

STOCKSBRIDGE SURNAMES

An Occasional Series No. 7

EARNSHAW

OXFORD DICTIONARY OF SURNAMES: English Habitation name from Lancashire. So called from old English Personal Name **EARN** = eagle plus the Old English **HALH** = nook.

However, a gamekeeper on the Fitzwilliam Estate told me that **Earnshaw Ridge** was named after the Herons that frequent the area. Cf. Reference to Harrison's *Survey of the Manor of Sheffield 1637* in Kenworthy's book 15 page 16 - "**hearnshawes**".

Webster's dictionary: **HERONSEW** from Middle French **HERONCEL**, **HERONCEAU** = a young heron.

I deduce those local people named **Earnshaw** are therefore more likely to have descended from someone who lived in that area during the 13th - 15th centuries.

Brenda Duffield

[Editor's apology: - This should have appeared in a previous edition, but was squeezed out by lack of space. It then disappeared into the depths of my computer's filing system flagged as having been used. It only came to light when doing the index to 1997 that in fact the article had never appeared in print - thus No.7 appears after No.8]

ALFRED MOXON'S DIARY

Part One

NOTES ON THE MONTH OF
JANUARY 1898.



The cheery party who went on the visit to Eyam Hall - July 1997

The Month just closed has been remarkable for its mildness and absence of frost and snow. We have had a great quantity of Sunshine which has made it almost as bright as April. There has not been much rain except what came with a strong gale on 30th. and 31st. Violets, Daisies, Primroses, wild Strawberrys, flowers and even Roses are reported from various parts of the country as plentiful. Honeysuckles and Roses trees in my Garden are almost in full leaf.

1898

February 1st. Tuesday. Strong winds accompanied with slight showers of hail and snow. Temperature fallen much. Friday February 4th. meeting of Stores Committee at which each member gets a copy of the Wholesale Annual.

Saturday February 5th. with deputation of our Committee to the Barnsley British Cooperative Society to see their mode of sending goods to the Branches - paying of dividend. We had a hearty welcome and all queries freely answered.

Monday February 28th. Special meeting of the Stores Committee to select a Butcher and buy a Horse - Charles Bradley of Shepley is selected as a Butcher and a Horse is bought of John Siddons of White Lee price £44 less 10/- Horse not quite four years old sound in wind and limb and

free from vice.

Tuesday March 1st. I am not in good health today so I do not attend the revision committee but stay at home and read Bellamy's "Equality" and as far as I have read I find him sound on Economics.

Wednesday March 2nd. Committee of the Stores suddenly called together for 1p.m. to consider character of Charles Bradley references not being satisfactory, we wire him not to come to our Stores till he hears from us by letter, Drink! Drink! Drink!! Thou Hell fiend! This is another of thy poor dupes. Again read Bellamy's "Equality" and a little better in health on this date.

Thursday March 3rd. H. Tunncliffe, Lucy Reece, Mr. and Mrs. Charlesworth, Miss Alice Moxon and Eunice all give us a visit on this date during the evening. Walter plays the Violin, Connie the Piano, Lucy and the rest of us all join the songs of the evening. This is a soul stirring scene and does one good to share it. Long may such hours of joy continue. Again read a small portion of Bellamy's "Equality" but could not do much by reason of the social night we were having as a preliminary to Connie's Birthday to-morrow

Friday March 4th. Connie is 11 years old to-day. Her Birthday presents include a Silver Watch, pair of Fancy

Slippers, a Necklace, two small ornaments (Human Figures) one Handkerchief, two Jaffa Oranges, ½lb. Muscatell Raisins, 1 shilling and 9 pence in Money and a Fancy Cake with her name on the top, also Needle Case. It is the day also for her Piano lesson being exactly two years since she first took lessons - teacher congratulates her on her progress made and wishes many happy returns of the day.

Saturday March 5th. Am measured for a new suit of clothes by Mr. E. Thickett, and I hope he will give me a little more ease about the shoulders of my coat and more room about the seat of the trousers than he did in the last suit he made for me. Selection of a Candidate for the Urban District Council by the Congregationalists is now on the move. If they do not select me the situation will be a critical one for them and for self as I had fully decided 12 months ago to contest this

election in the interests of justice and morality. I hear the voice and see the policy of the Kenworthys in the Express this week.

Sunday March 6th. Hear Mr. Robertshaw preach in the morning on the guilt of sin, and the stain of sin; he tried to show during his sermon how hard a task it was for God to forgive sin; but Christs parable of the Prodigal Son shows God most ready and willing, and easily forgives his wayward son. After dinner have my usual walk with Peace and brother Walter and Thomas as far as Midhope. Mrs. Ashton takes tea with us. J. W. Fawcett has an hour playing on the Piano with Connie after tea. Selections are from Houldsworth, Bristol Tune Book and the Telegraph Portfolio of Music.

Monday March 28th. Congregational Choir give their Annual Concert which is a rendering of Roots Canatata entitled "Daniel". A heavy

fall of snow tells against the attendance.

Tuesday March 29th. Do not go to "Revision Committee" this evening. Naylor tells me there was not enough members to form a quorum. This business is getting a 'bore' to all the Committee as there is not the soul of reality in it.

Sunday March 29th. Go to Chapel and hear Mr. Robertshaw preach from Christs question to his Apostles - Whom do men say that I the Son of Man am? Also - But whom say ye that I am? The original of the above querey was Christ, but under present circumstances and put into plain English it means - What do the people of Stocksbridge say of me and what do you my hearers think of me your Pastor.

[The explanatory text to accompany this article will be printed with part two, in the next edition of the Paragon - Ed.]

**STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT
HISTORY SOCIETY**

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TREASURER

MEETINGS ARE NORMALLY HELD
ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF
EACH MONTH, AT THE LIBRARY,
MANCHESTER ROAD,
STOCKSBRIDGE, AT 7.00PM

NEXT EDITION

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☆ **PROGRAMME 1998** ☆

APRIL 9TH

HOWARD SMITH

GUIDESTOOPS AND MILESTONES

MAY 14TH

W. ROSS, VERGER

ANNALS OF SHEFFIELD

CATHEDRAL

JUNE 11TH

JOHN BIRD

ALL ABOUT SPECTACLES

SUNDAY JULY 19TH

AFTERNOON VISIT TO

WENTWORTH WOODHOUSE

**AUGUST
NO MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 10TH

JOAN UNWIN

SPRINGKNIVES AND MAKERS'

MARKS

OCTOBER 8TH

JOHN HARVEY

BOLSTERSTONE FIELDS

NOVEMBER 12TH

TO BE ARRANGED

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12TH

CAROL SUPPER