



THE PARAGON

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50P [FREE TO MEMBERS]

❁ THE ROAD THAT DISAPPEARED ❁

From The Hunshelf Poor Book

Relief took many forms and the Overseers of the Poor worked in close harmony with the Surveyors, and the poor in receipt of relief were often set to work on the roads.

1819-20 Edward Elliott received	£ s d	£ s d
Casual relief	5 16 0	
Clothes making	11 10	<u>6 7 10</u>
The surveyors paid him		
227 loads of stone breaking	4 14 07	
21 " " " "	8 09	
51½ days labour	5 3 00	<u>10 6 04</u>
TOTAL FOR THE YEAR		<u>16 14 02</u>

1819-20 George Tingle received	£ s d	£ s d
Casual relief	3 14 00	
Charity money	4 06	
Rent Paid	2 12 06	
Payment for child's coffin	2 00	
Payment for child's funeral	<u>12 00</u>	7 5 00
Surveyor paid him		
33 loads breaking @ 3d		8 03
165 " " @ 5d		3 8 09
13 " " @ 6d		6 06
19 days @ 2/-		<u>1 18 00</u>
TOTAL FOR THE YEAR		<u>13 6 06</u>

I don't know who commissioned the map of the Forges or why it was commissioned but in 1746 W. Fairbank produced "A Map of Lands Belonging to the Wortley Forges on a scale of 40 Perches to the Mile" (220 yards to the Mile) (Wheat Collection 162) The map shows the road from Finkle Street coming round under Haycrook Common and Raven Rocks past Low Forge and then taking the sharp left hand bend to face the River Don at right angles. One bridge is depicted as a two arched bridge, and the road continues forward over the hill to Sharps Ford and on to Thurgoland.

This is somewhat misleading for the road, which Fairbank calls the Highway is the Rotherham to Saltersbrook turnpike, created by an act of Parliament in 1741 for 21 years. This road, over the bridge turned left up what is today Well Hill, but was then called Manchester Road, a name confirmed again in the Inclosure Award, 1813.

The road followed pretty much the present day line over Green Moor, Salter Hill to Hartcliffe where it dropped down to meet the Doncaster to Saltersbrook Turnpike of the same year 1741. Joined together, they continued over Board Hill to Saltersbrook to link with the Manchester Turnpike dated 1732.

From John Hobson's diary.

1732

5 July

On Monday last a turnpike was setup at Woodhead for repairing the road betwixt Manchester and Saltersbrook.

The Rotherham Road came by Kimberworth, Thorpe Hesley, High Green, Rotherham Road Wortley, sometimes called Pales Lane to Finkle Street and onwards as already described. The Act was renewed in 1762 for another 21 years and for that Fairbank surveyed the whole length of the road.

When the Sheffield to Halifax Turnpike was made in 1777 it added to the difficulties of the Rotherham Road by proving a rival for traffic. The Halifax Road came from Sheffield via Steel Houses, Fox hill, Grenoside, Woodhead where there was a toll (the house still stands opposite Stanfield Farm), on to Wortley where it crossed the Rotherham Turnpike at Finkle Street. It then continued along Millmoor top to Thurgoland, down Thurgoland Bank to Oxspring and Penistone. At Oxspring a warehouse was built called Pashley's, or Penistone Warehouse. Pashley was the man's name. He had a 'Waggon' which operated from the Black Swan, Snighill, Sheffield, every Tuesday and Thursday, through Wortley, Penistone and Huddersfield. "Arrives every Thursday and Saturday morning. Returns Tuesdays and Thursdays." (For his advertisement see Gales and Martens *Directory of Sheffield*

- 1787.

Travellers from Rotherham journeying to Manchester could switch to the Halifax Road at Finkle Street junction, journey on to Penistone and then change to the Doncaster Road to be back on course. It also saved the toil up to Hartcliffe, for the road by Thurlstone and Bullhouse is less steep and the two roads converge near Fulshaw.

*There once was a road through the
wood
Three hundred years ago,
You can't see it now and unless you
were told,
You would never know.
It went up the rise opposite Forge
Bridge,
By the deer paddock wall and down
the ridge
to Sharps Ford.
I made a garden on the top of the hill,
And to my surprise on digging away
At less than two spitts deep,
Bits of the old road lay.
Buckets full of stone carried away to
make the hard standing core,
And many a time my mind would
stray to the days of the Parish poor.
for breaking stone to repair a road, the
paupers were paid up to sixpence a
load,
Or set to work on the highway at the
princely some of two shillings a day.
In time, from the forge a new road was
made,
Round the foot of the hill to Sharps
Ford its course was laid,
By the goit and thirty feet wide,
And from disuse and incroachment the
old road died.
There once was a road through the
wood
Three hundred years ago
It's a garden now, and unless you
were told,
You would never know.*

Back to Forge Bridge; on the map it is drawn as a two arched bridge, so the ground must have already been banked up to take them, much as it is today, and turning right it led into the forge yard. The Forges are named Upper Forge and Nether Forge. Today's titles, Top Forge and Low Forge must have come later.

On the parapet of the bridge at the Well Hill corner is the inscription TR.1782 (Thomas Ramsden) and he is thought to have built the bridge in that year; but I sometimes wonder in view of the map, if the bridge is older and that TR did some work on it in 1782 for it is a wide bridge able to take two vehicles which a turnpike would require, whereas Sharps Ford bridge was never turnpiked and is narrow and will only admit one vehicle at a time. By 1782 the Rotherham Road was having difficulties.

The road which is now gone, went straight forward passing on the left side of the splendid beech tree which perhaps was a sapling in 1746. The tree has a girth of 15ft. which for easy reckoning gives a radius of say 30 inches. If there are 8 annular growth rings to an inch, that would make the tree 240 years old.

Over the hill, the road continued on Stones Wood side of the Deer Paddock. The Deer Paddock is a registered building and comprises about an acre of land, egg shaped, surrounded by a drystone wall 7-7½ feet high. It is a long time since I browsed through Dransfield's *Penistone* but I seem to remember that he has a chapter on the Penistone Harriers and lists a number of their meets, which among chasing hares and foxes includes an occasional stag hunt. The Forge tradition is that when a stag hunt was arranged, an animal was brought from Wharncliffe Chase, put in the paddock overnight, and when all were assembled next day for the meet and the works shut down, the animal was released and chased on foot and on horse until all were exhausted.

From the Deer Paddock the road descended sharply to the bridge at Sharp Ford.

Sharp Ford Bridge is unusual, for as late as 1908 the liability for its repair was placed on the two parishes of Hunshef and Thurgoland. In that year the West Riding County Council refused a request to repair it and quoted an arrangement made in 1790. The bridge was built before the Bridge Act of 1803.

When was the road closed? I've never tried to find out. Was it

formally closed i.e. by permission of Quarter Sessions, or just closed by the Wortleys, as landlords, when the new road was made? As a starting date I think it might have taken place about 1820; for it is thought that the Grange was built about then and since the road has become part of the garden there, it seems a most likely time.

The new road gave access to Top Forge from both sides and it must have led to easier working as well as being more convenient for travellers.

W.E. Spencer.

ALFRED MOXON'S DIARY

Part Two

April 9th. Easter Saturday. Go to Derby Cooperative Society along with several of our Committee to see the Bakery Department there. Arrive at Derby at 5 p.m. and return at 7.10 p.m. which makes it a hurried visit indeed.

Monday April 10th. Fore part of the day very wet. Afternoon go to Wesleyan Chapel. Piano opening - Mother, Connie and Leonard are there as well.

Wednesday April 20th. John Thickett of Midhope dies age 65 years. Another victim of drink - Doctors say "Pneumonia".

ADDENDA Monday April 18th. Mr. B. J. Manknell tied to a lamp post opposite to the Friendship Inn by Public House mob.

Sunday April 24th. Go to Mr. B.J. Manknell's house and try to persuade him to give up drinking and sign the pledge. He is deeply impressed with what I say and promises to amend his ways. He sheds tears when I tell him of the grief he is causing his parents.

Wednesday April 27th. Manknell goes to work and promises to reform. Leonard takes the Pledge Book for him to sign.

Thursday April 28th. Mr. B.J. Manknell signs the Pledge and goes to work again and his home is bright once more - Age 36 years.

Saturday April 30th. Go to Sheffield to F. Thornhills. After tea we visit brother Joshua - was glad to find him looking well and his wife also. Buy book on Gardening at Cadmans it will be of good service to me now that I have took to cottage gardening as a hobby instead of Poetry and Politics.

Sunday May 1st. Spanish Squadron of 11 ships destroyed by Americans under Commadore Duvey in Manila Bay. Spanish losses 618 killed and wounded - Americans 6 slightly injured.

From the commencement of April to May 21st. I have occupied my time with gardening when my health and the weather have permitted. I have done this to gain lost health and strength but I find it a hard job to sever myself from that which has been so near and dear to me all my life, and I feel inclined to go back to Poetry, Politics and God.

Saturday August 13th. Go to Sheffield take Connie with me - buy a copy of Mrs. Barret Brownings poems - drop them on the Railway between the carriage wheels at Oughtybridge Station - cannot get them before the train leaves so Station Master promises to send them on by next train which he does.

Sunday August 14th. Fetch the Book which I dropped on the line on previous day from Deepcar Station.

My thanks are due to Mr. G. Booth for his promptitude in sending it after me. Shall thank him for his kindness on first opportunity. Have been occupied by reading Mrs. Brownings poems most of the day as they have been a source of fresh poetic joy to me. Some of her ideas in "the Vision of Poets" are well worked out but too wordy and too dreamy. Peace pays me his Sunday afternoon visit along with brother Walter.

Monday August 15th. Deposit £8 in

our Store - good. Go with Committee of our Stores to see what progress the Langsett Branch is making. We find it not satisfactory.

This is the diary of Alfred Moxon, one of the founding fathers of the Stocksbridge Band of Hope Industrial Cooperative Society, as mentioned in Kenworthy's Jubilee History of the society - published in 1910. The diary has kindly been made available by Mrs. Betty McKay.

STOCKSBRIDGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

The old faithful rocking horse stood in the playroom, everyone wanted to ride him first. The guarded coal fireplace, also in the playroom. Later the playroom roof was supported with upright beams which were often bumped into in the dark when the windows were blacked out. There were folding beds for the youngsters to have an afternoon nap.

There was the storehouse where ink was made and the cod-liver oil was dealt out.

There were two classrooms for the infants, Mrs. Charlesworth's with the alphabet in pictures down one side wall, I still remember it to this day, there was also a picture of 'The old woman who lived in a shoe'. The second room was run by Miss Williams, who later became Mrs. Davies; here we learned our two to twelve times tables - parrot fashion. I also remember learning to knit with large wooden needles. This same room was used for the annual visit of the dentist. The windows would be half covered with paper to stop the nosier children from peeping in. The dentist was called Miss Tom or some such name and she had a female assistant. The visits always seemed to occur in winter as I remember seeing blood spat in the snow.

The juniors were taught by Miss Senior, Mrs Davidson after her marriage, she also taught sewing, everyone had to wear a thimble. I still have the first article I made, a sewing bag which later saw service as a pump bag for my daughter. Miss Senior also

INSTRUCTIONS ON BATHING

Or - How to behave on a day trip

The following was issued to employees of Bass Breweries on their annual works' outing to Liverpool and New Brighton in 1904 - ignore these instructions at your peril!

The early morning is usually the best time for Sea Bathing, excepting for young children and delicate people, to whom a later hour is more suitable. If you bathe in the early morning take a biscuit and a little tea about an hour before your bath. Never bathe for at least an hour and a half after an ordinary meal, and never until two hours or more after a full meal. It is most important not to go into the water when very hot or very cold. A short walk before the bath, just sufficient to make you warm and not hot is the best. After a bath a good

walk will do you good and give you an appetite. The whole body should be immersed at once if possible. The following are signs that you have stayed too long in the water: - Shivering and blueness of the skin, stiffness in the fingers and chattering of the teeth, giddiness, headache, loss of appetite and depression of the spirits. Dress quickly without dawdling. If you can get a pail of hot water for your feet, as you often can do, it very much promotes circulation, and is a great luxury. All who suffer from their heart, liver, or have internal troubles, can seldom or never take baths in the open sea. Their Doctor may, however, prescribe salt baths at home. Sea bathing is, like many other things, excellent for those it suits, but very detrimental to the health of those with whom it does NOT agree.

Many thanks to Janet Parkin for unearthing this wonderful piece of Edwardian advice.

taught poetry and played the piano for dancing and singing. She often spoke fondly of her budgie called Peter. Another teacher was Miss Swallow whom I remember as taking physical exercise, English and poetry.

Mr. Addy, our head teacher, taught maths and singing once a week. He was very handy with the cane which he kept in the cupboard containing our books.

We spent a lot of time in Church for numerous special occasions and if we didn't have a hat to wear, we had to tie a knot in all four corners of our handkerchiefs and place this on top of our heads.

At the outbreak of the war our first 'air raid shelter' was a large tree in Bocking wood, near the brook. Later we occupied the storehouse which had a sandbagged wall to protect the entrance.

E.M. McKinley (Nee Hollins)

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EACH MONTH, AT THE LIBRARY,
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SEPTEMBER

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☆ PROGRAMME 1998 ☆

SUNDAY JULY 19TH
VISIT TO WENTWORTH
WOODHOUSE

AUGUST
NO MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10TH
JOAN UNWIN
SPRINGKNIVES & MAKERS' MARKS

OCTOBER 8TH
JOHN HARVEY
BOLSTERSTONE FIELDS

NOVEMBER 12TH
TO BE ARRANGED

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12TH
CHRISTMAS CAROL SUPPER

NEXT ISSUE

THERE WILL BE A NEXT ISSUE
AT THE MOMENT THE CONTENT
MAY INCLUDE ALL OR SOME OF
THE FOLLOWING:

MORE OF ALFRED MOXON'S
DIARY

AN APPRECIATION OF
BOLSTERSTONE ENDOWED
SCHOOL (FIRST INSTALLMENT)

**BUT REMEMBER
KEEP THOSE ARTICLES COMING**