

THE PARAGON

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FROM WALDERSHELF TO STOCKSBRIDGE

THE HISTORIANS

JOSEPH KENWORTHY
1852 – 1929

Articles in Hinchliffe's Stocksbridge Almanack 1908, 1909, 1910
The Early History of Stocksbridge & District, published as Handbooks 1914 – 1928

The Preface of Handbook 13, taken from the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* of July 13, 1915, gives this definition of Local History: "It is work that needs doing; but it can be undertaken only by men of leisure and independent means." Joseph Kenworthy must have quoted this with a feeling of bitterness, for in his case the leisure was enforced, and his means hardly independent. He had been relieved of his position as Chief Clerk at Fox's Works at the age of 55 without a pension.

The Kenworthy family had lived at Henholmes Farm since at least 1774, when another Joseph had paid the Window Tax on 7 windows. The 1851 Land Tax Assessment shows that Hannah, Joseph's grandmother, rented land and buildings there. Joseph and his two brothers were born in Manchester and Eccles, where their father Benjamin had gone for building work, but the family had to return to Deepcar and accept Parish relief when Benjamin died in 1865. Joseph

vowed to repay every penny.

In Handbook 15, *Bolsterstone*, he described his father's funeral in the days before a hearse was purchased by public subscription. The coffin was carried from Henholmes up Ash Lane, across "the Cloo", and up Royd Lane to Bolsterstone for burial.

In 1871 Joseph was described as an Ironworks Storekeeper, in 1881 as a Commercial Clerk. On his marriage in 1883

He deplored the fact that "Landless man now has no right to highway, footpath, lake, stream or things under the earth".

to Ann Bocking of Bate Green he was a Bookkeeper.

His work as a local historian was extensive and of inestimable value. He gained access to the Wilson manuscripts and all Church Registers and explored every source available at that time with the enquiring and analytical mind of the natural scholar – a worthy successor to John Wilson himself. He was also a politician in that he sought to guide and influence the opinions of his fellow citizens and was not afraid to criticise either private or public misdemeanour, past or present. For instance, in his paper on *Townfields and Commons of Hunshelf, Langsett and Waldershelf*, he decried the suppression of Enclosure Award documents and warned of the danger of losing verges. He de-

plored the fact that "Landless man now has no right to highway, footpath, lake, stream or things under the earth".

He traced the history of Hunshelf from the time of the Domesday Inquiry of 1068 to the Enclosure Award of 1813. He recorded that in 1716 an Epitome of property bought by Thomas Pearson of Hunshelf mentioned the name of John Stocks, tenant of land on both sides of the river, then known as Hunshelf Water. We believe that this was the origin of the name Stocks Bridge.

Waldershelf, however, was not named in the Domesday account. Kenworthy began his account of the *Descent of the Manor of Bolsterstone-in-Waldershelf* in 1563, when a donation of £25. 17s. 0d. was made on the occasion of the marriage of a daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury, then Lord of the Manor.

The Enclosure Act of 1778 described the area as "The Manor of Bolsterstone in the Parish of Ecclesfield in the County of York; with reference to Nether Commons, Whitwell Moor and

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Upper Commons; 3,000 acres approximately." (Reference to a map of that period shows Nether Common, for instance, to be the area now forming the centre of Stocksbridge.) The Act stated that "Lord Melbourne, in the Kingdom of Ireland, is Lord of the Manor and entitled to all minerals, coal delphs and stone quarries." Of the Commissioners appointed to oversee the survey, one was local man Thomas Fletcher of Whitwell. Kenworthy stated at this point that the Act was private, (i.e. put forward by an individual M.P.) and never printed. He listed the proprietors claiming right of common, with an account of houses, homesteads and land, and finally, the acreage allotted by the Award of 1782. He then recorded the exchanges made subsequently between landowners, one of whom was Edward Cockshutt, whose name survives in that of a lane at Bolsterstone. The account ends with an analysis of the extent of the Commons which had been divided and awarded in Bolsterstone since 1714.

Kenworthy's study of old houses and barns was pioneering. He studied the work of architect C.F. Innocent and of S. O. Addy and used photographs from Geographical Magazines to illustrate the similarity he felt existed between primitive dwellings and those he found locally. He believed there was evidence of lake-dwellings at Deepcar and at the Stang-pits between Stonemoor and Hungerhill, where great oak timbers had been found and re-used for furniture and buildings. He claimed that the very name Stang suggested pile-



JOSEPH KENWORTHY.

construction. He also followed up Hunter's investigation of a dome-shaped underground construction found at More Hall, which had later been used as a dairy or crypt.

His work on cruck and kingpost-and-truss construction is of particular value today because of the survival of many of them into the 20th. century and beyond. The latter building method was only to be found in one – at Green Farm – unfortunately now demolished,

but there were several cruck barns still in use in Kenworthy's time. Now only those at Green Farm, Dwarriden, Morehall and Windhill survive.

Also of particular interest is Kenworthy's study of *Family Names*. Using the Poll Tax Return of 1379, he recorded early versions of names which appear in the 19th. century in the same areas: Bothe, Bowere, Daweson, Heghe, Milner, Waddesworth, Weleson, Wodehede and Wylkynson. Downing, Ellison and Grayson already appeared in the spellings we use today; while various spellings of the same name like Hatyrlay and Hattirslay would appear together. Place names like Baldreston, Bromehede, Green and Ughtibrige, used as surnames, indicate the mobility of people, as it would be not until a man had left his home village that he became known by that name, to distinguish him from others of the same Christian name. The Baldresons were registered at Myhop and the others quoted at Bradfeld. Surnames did not become firmly established before the end of the 15th. century.

Handbook 18 *Old Registers and Old Scholars or the beginnings of the Sunday School Movement* contains many of the names to be found in the Census Returns and indicates the extent of Non-Conformism in the parish. In the same work he made a useful assessment of the level of prosperity in the second quarter of the 19th. century: "Whist there were no well-to-do families in the neighbourhood as now, the inhabitants, who were chiefly farmers, and labourers dependent upon them, were regarded amongst themselves as either "well-off" or "very poor".

Our Archive contains several copies of Joseph Kenworthy's published works, but by no means all – we would purchase any which might become available.

We have an Index of personal names and place-names which was prepared and donated to our Society by Eric Moxon of Deep-

car.
We also have typescript copies of Kenworthy's unpublished work, bound in volumes which are mostly labelled with general headings. These are a source of local information which needs to be fully researched.

Next issue: Wallace Charlesworth and Olive Hepworth

Brenda Duffield

A FORGOTTEN THURGOLAND WORTHY

From *A Dictionary of Towns, Hamlets and Villages in Yorkshire* by Thomas Langdale 1822, which was given to me years ago by the late John Smethurst of Penistone:

Highfield or Fieldhead, farmhouse in the township of Thurgoland, and parish of Silkstone, 3 miles from Penistone. Of this place was John Charles Brooke, late Somerset Herald. He was born in 1748 and put apprentice to Mr. James Kirkby, a chemist in Bartlett's Buildings, London; but discovering a strong turn to Heraldic pursuits, and having, by a pedigree of the Howard family which he drew, attracted the notice of the Duke of Norfolk, he procured him a place in the College of Arms, by the title of Rouge Croix Pursuivant in 1775, from which in 1778 he was advanced to that of Somerset Herald. He became a member of the Antiquarian Society and enriched many of their volumes with some curious papers, particularly the illustrations of a Saxon inscription in Kirkdale Church, and another in Aldborough Church, both in this county. On February 3rd. 1794 he was suffocated with his friend Mr. Pingo of York, and many others, in attempting to get into the pit at the Little Theatre, Haymarket.

From *The Concise Oxford Companion to the Theatre*. In 1720 John Potter built "a little theatre in the Hay"....3rd. February 1794 the first Royal Command Performance drew such an enormous crowd that 15 people were trampled to death and many injured.

HERALDRY: The control of Heraldry and the granting of armorial bearings in England is vested in the College of Arms, London. Arms in the United Kingdom (excluding Eire) are granted by the Crown, although the Sovereign delegates the responsibility. The persons on whom the Royal prerogative devolves are the Kings of Arms. The Principal Herald is Garter King of Arms, who is executive head of the College. Under him are two Kings of Arms: Clarenceux King of Arms, who rules south of the River Trent, and Norroy King of Arms, who rules north of it. Under the three Kings are the six Heralds of Somerset, Chester, Windsor, Richmond, Lancaster and York. Lastly there are the junior officers of arms, the Pursuivants (literally "followers") of whom England has four - Rouge Croix (Red Cross), Rouge Dragon, Portcullis, and Bluemantle.

W. E. Spencer

Extracts from MEMORIES OF MY LIFE, ITS TRAGEDY & HU- MOUR

Having got to the age of 13, in 1907, I was working full-time on the pit-top and found that my Half-time had been good training. My job on the pit-bank was as a coupler of wagons. I was in charge of the train of empty wagons, to see that all were correctly coupled, with the wire tail-rope secured firmly in the last wagon. I had to watch the full wagons coming out of the drift-mine on to the pit-bank, and then watch the empty wagon go back down. One day that was what I was doing when suddenly the steel tail-rope on the train of empties going down started coiling itself like a snake around my legs, causing me to have to jump for safety. Finally the rope stopped, having coiled itself all over the pit-bank.

On another occasion, Mr. Mate, my foreman, asked me to go with him and fetch two bulls'-eye lamps from the lamp cabin. 200 yards from the entrance of the mine we found a real smash, where empty wagons were piled on each other under a fall of roof with the sides caved in. Mr. Mate looked worried, his face grim. This drift-mine ran under Deepcar Railway Station, where fast trains ran through every two hours from Sheffield to Manchester. I was sent up to see the Station Master to tell him what had happened in the mine. But after he had examined the rail-track, he declared it to be all in order, and when I reported back to Mr. Mate that all was well at the station, I saw the smile return to his face. It took all day to clear up the smash.

My wages at age 13, on full-time, were 10s. a week, less 3d. Union; my hours of work 6 am. to 2 pm. and 6 am. to 12.30 on Saturdays.

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ROAD, STOCKSBRIDGE AT
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MEETINGS

❖ PROGRAMME 2000 ❖

OCTOBER 12TH
ROYAL MAIL PART II -
BASIL SPOONER

NOVEMBER 9TH
AFTERNOON VISIT TO THE
TURNER GLASS MUSEUM

DECEMBER 9TH
SATURDAY
CAROL SUPPER

SOCIETY NEWS

We are pleased to report that
Single Regeneration Budget
funding has been awarded
for the purchase of a com-
puter, scanner and software
to store our growing Archive
of data, documents, maps
and ,eventually, photographs.

Meanwhile, negotiations to
decide the fate of the Glass-
house proceed at snail's
pace.

The photograph, below, taken in 1964, shows all that re-
mained at that time of Lowood's pit entrance, below the man-
ager's office.



WILLIS BURGIN

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WANTED
More Material
To Fill This Space
Contributions to -
Brenda Duffield
PLEASE!