



THE PARAGON

Issue

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The Journal of the Stocksbridge & District History Society

Chairman's Notes

I think we are going to have a busy 2012 with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics.

We at SDHS have been invited to take a stall and help in the organisation of the Stocksbridge Town Council Festival which is being held in the town centre on June 4th. Any volunteers to assist on our stall throughout the afternoon, will be most appreciated.

Some of you will have seen the changes at the library and shortly we hope to liaise with them to upgrade the Local History section, making it more accessible and include if we can, instant and interactive access to SDHS web-pages and our archive.

We hope to have the first of our own dedicated SDHS DVDs ready for June and these will go on sale to help boost society recognition and fund future projects.

Dennis

QUESTION TIME.

Where are these remains to be found and what where they used for?

Answer on Page 4



A BRIEF HISTORY OF WHARNCLIFFE LODGE AND THE MONTAGU FAMILY.

Sir Thomas Wortley was at one time High Sheriff of the County and a man of great power and consequence in the neighbourhood.

He is said to have allied himself in marriage with two of the principal houses in the north of England, the Fitzwill-

iam's and the Pilkington's.

He built a hunting Lodge on Wharncliffe Chase, known as Wharncliffe Lodge, it stands towards the southern end of the Craggs and has fine views of the Ewden valley towards the south, and Deepcar and Stocksbridge towards the west.

The present building dates from the 19th century and is the third Lodge to be built on the site, the original being built in 1510.

The floor of one of the rooms bears the inscription of Henry VIII's reign (1491-1547)

The building became Grade II listed in November of 1964.

James 1st made Sir Francis Wortley a baron and he fought for the King in the Civil War, on the losing side he was captured and died in prison.

It was Sir Richard Wortley's action 79 years later in enlarging and enclosing the park and in the process destroying two hamlets, called Stanfield and Whiley, which caused violent opposition and inspired the satirical Ballad "The Dragon Of Wantley"

The Lodge has strong associations with Lady Mary Wortley Montagu who spent much of the first few years of her married life there.

An account of the life of this very interesting lady and the Montagu family, can be found on the Internet at the following location.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Mary_Wortley_Montagu

The Lodge is a Grade II Listed Building.



THE MEMOIRS OF LILIAN BIRKHEAD

1896-1987

MORE CHANGES IN THE VILLAGE

Gradually more people have had tele-phones installed, there are street lamps, not only on the main road, but up Chapel Lane, on to New Houses, and up to Don Hill Farm ("We pay Rates, why shouldn't we have them?") Flashlights, a great innovation in the 1920s, were not now so necessary.



With all these amenities introduced during the past 30 to 40 years, our younger generation will not remember or visualise a time when there was no water or electricity, no cars and no by-roads suitable for them, no phones, no street lamps, no bus through the village.

In the late 1920s I was friendly with a teacher whose parents had a car. They would sit in front, under cover, but we sat in the "dickey seat" at the back. On Saturday afternoons the four of us would sometimes go to the pictures in Sheffield. It was wonderful to be taken almost from our door to Sheffield, instead of having the two mile walk to Wortley Station. But it was freezing cold on that exposed back seat in winter. And the same conditions prevailed on the Stocksbridge – Sheffield buses when they first began to run. They were open-topped double – deckers, exposed to all kinds of weather. Compare that with the luxury coaches of modern times!

The Bamsley bus started in the early 1950s after much effort and pressure on the Yorkshire Traction Co. At first it only came once a week on Fridays, leaving at about 9.00 and returning at about 3.30, which was a long time to have to stay in Bamsley. But people used it to keep the service going. Now we have a Bamsley bus coming through the village twice daily, with two returns, and travelling up and down Underbank, which previously said to be unsafe for buses.

ROCK INN and its shop

Up to about 1954 we had a shop attached to the Rock Inn, a very useful and profitable concern, although many people patronised the mobile Co-op grocery van that came weekly, also the weekly Co-op butcher's van and Co-op greengrocer. The Rock Inn shop dealt with Ration books, which were still in use for some time after the war was over. Some time before and during the war years, the shop was run by Frances Roebuck, who rented it from the Rock Inn. Bread was delivered twice a week from Hanwells. But the brewery company who

owned the Rock Inn and the shop then took over the whole building and the shop, along with the living accommodation, became part of the modernised public house. It had indoor toilets and an attractive lounge, which was very much patronised, especially on summer evenings. After Frances Roebuck left it was taken by Sid and Peggy Wells (nee Cheetham.) When they emigrated to Australia the brewery let the whole building as an entity. The large, empty space at the back of the inn gives the ample parking space essential to a modern pub.

THE CORONATION

In 1952 came the sad news that King George VI had died, and his daughter, the young Princess Elizabeth, had unexpectedly to take over the heavy duties of the Monarchy. The following year, the Coronation, with all its glamour and pageantry, was celebrated in every town and village throughout the country. I can think of only three people who had television at that time – Hugh Roebuck of Office Fold, Jim Crossland at School House and Jack Brown of Dun Hill Farm, though by this time he may have moved to one of the cottages in Office Fold. We had a celebratory meal and social evening in the school, the rain having blotted out outdoor events.

THE DIARY OF WILLIS BURGIN

Son of a Yorkshire Miner

A Regiment of Infantry took over our position in front of Le Cateau and we withdrew our guns to Company HQ. The Company Commander suggested that, owing to the high number of casualties suffered, it would be better to form a gun battery under one officer. All the remaining sections of the Company were paraded and the Battery Officer asked for the Senior Sergeant. There was no reply and after consulting the Company Commander he then called me out and I became Senior Sergeant. Not having served under that young officer I was not so sure about this.



All the guns and ammunition were packed into two lumber wagons, pulled by mules. After marching four miles we stopped in a sand quarry, unhitched the mules, turning them into the quarry. The officer's orders: all soldiers and NCOs to dig in and sleep until 4.00am. The quarry was full of sludge and water and very cold.

The officer had us up at 3.45am. We were unpacking the lumber wagons when there was a blinding flash and

an explosion over our heads. The mules panicked, broke their holding ropes and galloped, fortunately, deeper into the quarry. I was left on my own by the wagons, but with gentle persuasion managed to get the Battery back to their task of unloading. The officer was not to be seen. After ten minutes he appeared and quite coolly asked if the Battery was ready with the guns and ammunition, which had now to be carried. "All ready, Sir" I responded.

Before we moved off, the officer ordered that each soldier and NCO should have a tot of rum. Then he led the way, his cane under his arm, up the steep sides of the quarry. It was still dark and very foggy. I was close behind the officer, carrying two tins of ammo, one in each hand, followed by the Battery in single file, all carrying heavy loads in their hands and on their shoulders. One could just see the man in front, it was so foggy. As we climbed up the steep sides of the quarry it was difficult to get a foothold in the sand. A man carrying two boxes of ammo slipped and let one of them fall down the slope. The officer shouted "Take that man's name, Sergeant, if he does not find that box!"

We had cleared the quarry and were crossing a grassy field, but still climbing. The fog was even thicker and shells and enemy machine gun bullets were coming from all directions. I could just pick out the officer in front of me but had to keep my eyes fixed on him. Whenever an enemy shell came over our heads, he increased his pace. I asked him to go steady and he did not like this. He turned and cursed the men, saying they were bloody lazy!

Near the top of the field we ran into a rain of machine gun fire and the officer began to run. Again I told him he would lose the whole Battery at the pace he was going. He raved, shouted and swore. One of the men behind me pulled out his revolver – "Say the bloody word, Serge!" "No, lad," I replied, "He deserves pity, not hate! And anyway, he is the only one who knows the way to the gun position. Let him find it!"

FROM WALDERSHELF TO STOCKSBRIDGE

The Milneses of Greave House (continued)

Thomas Milnes recorded the precise times and dates of the birth and baptism of his ten children between 1788 and 1805, with the poignant note after the last: Finis. Joseph was a twin, but no further record can be found of his twin brother; presumably he died an infant.

Joseph himself died in late 1851. His will made only general provision for his widow (his second wife) and four

sons, but a handwritten Memorandum, dated September 1851, made detailed bequests to them. The household goods allocated to each of them were preceded by a list of books, many of a religious nature, but also academic ones, which indicates that people of farming stock could be quite cultured.

Unfortunately there is no similar document or inventory listing the farm hustlement, only the actual will of George Milnes, dated 1856, in which he made provision for his wife, but left everything else to his nephew Joseph, except for his best feather bed, which he left to a niece.

Joseph's sisters had not been mentioned in their father's will, probably having been already provided for in dowries as they married

Accounts recorded after Joseph's funeral, headed "Whitwell, December 1851" contain useful details: the cost of funeral fees and the grave, for the hearse driver, for having cards printed, for kid gloves and hat-bands and for a newspaper and groceries from John Milnes. The sum of 1s.3d was paid in Poor Rate and numerous bills settled.

When George Milnes died in 1861 his nephew Joseph inherited the tenancy of Greave House Farm. He had married Hannah Creswick of nearby Windhill Farm and they were already living at Greave House with four young children at the time of the 1861 Census. Joseph had written a poem to Hannah when they were courting, which is also preserved.

A letter from the Isle of Man, date 1848, is more likely to have been from the older Joseph (his father, the tailor of Whitwell), but in either case it shows that such journeys were undertaken in the mid-19th century. Again, the purpose of the journey is not clear, but ten years later an emigration with a definitely religious aim was made to Iowa. Another George Milnes wrote from America telling of a fearful journey, severe weather conditions and privations, and of persecution suffered by several members of their Independent sect in the New World.

The 1871 Census shows that another five children had been added to the family of Joseph and Hannah Milnes at Greave House, although the three eldest girls were absent, and by 1881 the number had grown to thirteen. At that time only eight of them were at home, two of the infants having died. The secret of their survival as a family seems to have been their versatility and in the number of sons which at least one branch of the family was able to produce to do the work and perpetuate the name.

There is no doubt also, that their religion was a strength. As was the custom, dictated by necessity, Dissenters could marry and baptise at their own chapels, but use the Parish church for burials, and although discriminated against by some, they were willing to contribute to the benefit of the community.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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| Treasurer | Val Dodgson |
| Archivist | Brenda Duffield |
| Member | Janet Parkin |
| Member | Mary Read |

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2012

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|---|---|-----------------|
| May 10 th | A HISTORY OF THE GRAMO-PHONE | Simon Anderson |
| June 13 th (Wednesday) | AN OUTING TO KEDLESTON HALL | |
| July 12 th | ELIZABETH Ist. | Maureen Taylor |
| August 9 th | SUMMER RECESS | |
| September 13 th | YORK MINSTER | Pat McLaughlin |
| October 11 th | SUBJECT TO BE CONFIRMED | David Hey |
| October 21 st (Sunday) | BRADFIELD FAMILY/LOCAL HISTORY FAIR HELD AT BRADFIELD VILLAGE HALL) | |
| November 8 th | STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT PHOTO SHOW | History Society |
| December 13 th (Thursday) | CHRISTMAS RELATED EVENT (Pre booking - Members only) | History Society |

Answer to Question Time

The remains are of an American installation built during World War II at Gill Royd Lane, part of the back road leading from Upper Midhope to the junction with Mortimer Road.

The pits were used for the maintenance of American Tanks belonging to the units that were stationed in the area at that time.

Why not visit our Website at - www.stocksbridgehs.co.uk

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The Milnes family have also made considerable musical contribution in Bolsterstone and Stocksbridge. A newspaper report of the funeral of Joseph Milnes in 1906 referred to a Musical Union and made tribute to the family which had provided voices, a cellist and a conductor. Joseph had an alto voice and sang in the Bolsterstone Choir in the old West Gallery in the days before surpllices were worn.

Joseph Milnes was a member of the old Local Board and the Wigtwizzle Farmers Ploughing Association. Three sons and six daughters survived him and a great-grandson Frank owned Greave House Farm at the time of writing. It had remained part of Broomhead Estate until Frank bought the freehold in the 1970s.

When Frank finally sold his dairy herd of shorthorns and Holsteins in 1999 it was the final chapter in the story of six generations of a family who had milked cows at Greave House Farm.

This photograph shows Stanley and Frank Milnes with their prize winner at Bakewell Show in 1972.

Brenda Duffield



SOCIETY NEWS

A new regime at Stocksbridge Central Library will no longer allow us to offer our publications for sale, so we have no remaining retail outlet.

Members will be able to buy copies at our monthly meetings and they will also be on sale at the coming Jubilee Festival event.

We will particularly be promoting "That I Left, That I Lost", a 1997 WEA Local History project based on local Wills and Inventories, which includes fascinating information on the local way of life in the 17th and 18th centuries - all for £5.

The Society Website was one year old at the middle of March, in the past year there have been 9,255 visits made by 4,906 different visitors, 148,812 pages were viewed and our material was browsed for a total time of 1,712 hours.

We hope you agree a great result for our first year.

