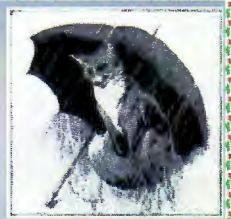


THE PARAGON

Journal of Stocksbridge & District History Society



Issue Number 26

Winter 2001



Merry Christmas



A BOUNDARY DISPUTE - HUNSHELF 1756

FROM THE DIARY OF WILLIS BURGIN, SON OF A COAL MINER

Hunshelf is mentioned in Domesday Book, and from the brief description given, seems to have altered little in size and shape over the succeeding years. The area was, and still is, roughly triangular, bounded on two sides by the rivers Don - on the north by the River Don itself, and on the south the River Porter, or Little Don, making their confluence at Deepcar. The boundary which links them is more tenuous, rising from the Little Don to Blakeroyd and marching with the bounds of Langsett, and then to the "muckle" Don it runs side by side with the boundary of Oxspring.

The Wortleys bought the Manor of Hunshelf, along with other properties, from Sir John Byron of Newstead in 1569, and the Bosvilles of Gunthwaite had acquired the Manor of Oxspring from the Eyres of Derbyshire during the time of Edward VI. The dispute which arose seems to be one of Manor boundaries. The first shot was fired when Mr. Fenton of Underbank Hall wrote to Edward Wortley: (Note: Spelling and punctuation are original)

Sr, I writt sometime ago to yor Honr about Hunshelf Common and the usage wee meet wth the Bosville — he has pulled up our causeway wch we lately repaired and has laid one within yor Hons mann where they never laid a stone before but we have enjoyed it and repaired that way time out of mind wee are all willing to pay our proporconable part according to our Estates and shall expect no more from yor Hon young Mr. Bosville is now in Towne at his chambers the lowest Staircase on the left hand in the King's Bench Walks and we beg yor Honr when at Leisure would be pleased to call upon him and discourse with him this affair being all from Yo Hond most obedient humble servt Wm Fenton

Matters seem to have drifted along until 1754, when evidently a more determined effort to settle the difference was about to be made. Godfrey Bosville wrote as follows:

THE DISPUTE WHICH AROSE SEEMS TO BE ONE OF MANOR BOUNDARIES

After the flood in the mine, new stalls were opened above the flooded area, and Father and his mate were assigned to one of these. My new job was cleaning and "fattening" pulleys on the main haulage from the pit top to my father's stall, thus giving me the chance to see the kind of work he did.

This mineral ganister was a hard, grey rock, four feet thick under a seam of coal two feet, six inches thick. The coal was hewn by hand, loaded onto wagons holding four and a half cwts., given the "motty" number 9 and sent up the mine. Then holes were drilled in the ganister. Steel drills of various lengths were used, from 2 feet up to 4 feet 6 inches long, the ends being sharpened like the end of a chisel. One miner would sit with his backside against the foot of the ganister seam, holding the head of the drill in both hands, eight inches from the floor, on the spot where they wanted a hole. After each blow by the striking miner, he had to give the drill a half-turn. The striker always spit on both hands, rubbed them together, then taking the 14 lb. Hammer, gave the 1-inch wide drill top a blow. After each strike, he gave a groan. All the miners made different grunts and groaning noises, and sometimes when all the four stalls were being worked, it sounded like a

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miners' choir.

When miners were drilling, the rule was that masks had to be worn, a piece of special gauze, 3 inches wide, which fitted over the miner's mouth, with elastic to fasten around the ears. This was necessary on account of the ganister dust, which was a killer of miners in those days.

It took many hours to knock four or five holes, which were charged with explosives. The stall was then cleared of wagons and miners. The last man to leave was the shot firer, who unwound a coil of fuse to the end of the gate, where I was having my "snap". A small tin tube was put on the end of the fuse as a lighter, then the firer shouted "Fire!" and nipped the end of the lighter. In only two seconds I heard a loud bang and a noise like thunder, and down the gate came dust, smoke and a sickly smell that made me cough.

There was one other rule in the mine - that the stall should not be entered for half an hour after the shot had been fired.

Father and his mate now had their snap, allowing the stall to clear. Later Father went back in to the stall to see if the shot had been a good or bad one. As soon as I saw his face when he returned, I knew it was good.

SOCIETY NEWS

The photograph of Bolsterstone Village in Winter was taken by Steve Tivey of Folderings Lane. It is available for sale on blank greetings cards or as prints and posters directly from him and at local shops.

On 27th. October we were pleased to be invited by Mrs. Frances Tivey, representing the Bolsterstone Village Trust, to exhibit at a Coffee Morning in the Village Hall. This event was intended to make the public aware of the long history of the village, which we were able to do with a display of documents, maps and photographs dating from 1535 to 1979. A public meeting is planned before Christmas to discuss problems faced by the community, particularly the lack of road signs, demarcation notices for the village and the development of Green space. We as a Society should have a common interest with the Trust and offer our support.

We will also be manning a stall at the Victory Club on Sunday, 16th.December at the invitation of the Steel Valley Community Partnership. Please come along and see what we can produce.

AROUND STOCKSBRIDGE

COMMENTS BY ROY ASHBY

The shop across the road from Tommy Hughes' grocery shop at the bottom of Carr Road, was a sweet shop owned by a Mrs. Price when I was attending Deepcar C. of E. School. It was there that we school kids were able to buy Lyons' Ice cream, which came in a 2" diameter roll wrapped in cardboard, which Mrs. Price then cut into sections about 1 and a half inches long.

The Travellers' Inn in Vaughton Hill had changed to a butcher's shop, run by Joe Mills, when I was at school. We school kids used to scrounge a pig's bladder from him to blow up and use as a football.

The next property, large, stone-built and detached, further down on the same side of Vaughton Hill, was then the Post Office. The Post Master was a Mr. Woodcock. I used to take out his telegrams and occasionally help him sort the mail to earn a few coppers.

The longest delivery was a cycle ride to Broomhead Hall, for which I was paid a full sixpence. The telegram was to say that "Guests were on their way". The guests arrived as I was handing over the telegram.

I also remember taking a telegram to Joe Quinlan's home, which was on Manchester Road, Deepcar, almost opposite Pladdy's pub. It was an invitation to Joe from Joe Loss to join his Band and it required an immediate answer. In his absence, Joe's mother accepted immediately on his behalf. I have a vivid recollection of the huge set of tubular bells just inside the front door. Although he is shown playing a drum in your photo, Joe Quinlan found fame as a double-bass player - he was obviously a very gifted young man.

Straight across the road from the Post Office at the bottom of Vaughton Hill was a derelict steam-roller, on which we used to play on our way home from school. It was rusted almost solid then, with lots of parts missing, so it must have been there quite a long time. I'm fairly sure the land it stood on was Council-owned because there was a Council building on that same land, which was originally Deepcar Corn Mill, where old newspapers, etc., were stored, compressed into bundles by a huge screw-down press, and sent away for recycling. I recall road salt being stored on that land too. This was all in the mid- to late 1940s.



FROM WALDERSHELF TO STOCKSBRIDGE THE HISTORIANS

HARRY EASTWOOD 1885 - 1979

A HISTORY OF STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT

Harry Eastwood was born in Goit Terrace, Hunshelf Bank, one of a family of ten children. He worked in Fox's mine from the age of 15 until 55, when he retired as under-manager. He served in the Army in the First World War, leaving as 2nd. Lieutenant of the Royal Engineers. For thirty years he attended classes in Technical Education and the W.E.A. His involvement with Local Government began with election to the Stocksbridge Urban District Council in 1937 and lasted for 9 years.

He did not begin writing his History of Stocksbridge until he was 73. Unfortunately, he died without having published it, and only a few typed copies of his massive work exist, two of which were donated to Sheffield Libraries by his widow.

This local historian was an admitted amateur, who acknowledged his debt to Wilson, Hunter, Kenworthy and Coultas, and disclaimed any pretension to originality. Eastwood attempted to cover the period from 1800 to the present day - a mammoth task. He quoted Sheldon's opinion that "There is scope for a host of very fair productions, written by careful and modest amateurs."

There is original material in that gathered during his own lifetime from contemporary, sometimes oral sources. For example, he records the testimony of Wade Hawley, his great-uncle, who was born in 1815, that he had lent £400 to Joseph Wood of Hunshelf Tanyard, but had never been repaid.

He described the local industries which made use of the natural resources of these valleys: the two kinds of coal for firing the glass furnace, then the pottery kilns, the brick kilns and iron forges and finally the steel plant, as well as coking and domestic use. Then there was the ganister, first used for roads and walls, then for furnace linings, and the three varieties of clay, used for the pottery, bricks and pipe-work. (Jackie Bland wishes she had had access to this when working on her thesis.)

A photograph captioned **Mr. Lowood, Mr. Gregory and Mr. Reddish, founders of General Refractories** requires some investigation.

Eastwood described the four stages in the development in Local Government since 1800 as Manorial, when Lord Melbourne was Lord of the Manor and our representative in Parliament, with the Parish having ecclesiastical jurisdiction; the Poor Law Unions and Board of Guardians with their workhouses; Local Boards of Health and finally, the Urban District Council.

A chapter about the hostels of the area brings together facts and stories, which have become accepted as

facts by constant repetition. The supposition that the King and Miller was so named because a King of England once stopped there and met the Deepcar miller was admitted by the author to be "romantic" rather than true. In fact, we now know that a miller named Thomas King lived in Deepcar in 1861 and was more likely to have inspired the name.

Outside the scope of his original plan, Harry Eastwood included the U.D.C. 1960s project for the development of the centre of Stocksbridge, which is not dissimilar to recent proposals. That also never was implemented.

There is a wealth of material in this work which deserves further study.

Next: Jack Branston

Brenda Duffield

(Continued from page 1)

Arlington St.

7 Dec. 1754

The notes I took formerly in regard to the evidences about Oxspring Common are locked up with some papers the key of which I have not entrusted with my steward but as you seem'd so desirous to have the dispute decided I have wrote to Mr. Rich (of Bullhouse Hall?) and he will meet you at any time and place you shall be pleased to appoint and everything may probably be determined in an amicable manner without them since both you and I are desirous it should be so and I verily believe we should neither of us wish to have a foot of land we have no right to, therefor hope the affair will be ended between you two to the satisfaction of yourself and of

Sir

Your most obedient Humble Servant

Godfrey Bosville

The Wortleys then began to prepare their case and collect evidence. In dispute between Mr. Wortley and Mr. Bosville touching that part of Snowden Hill Moor claimed by Mr. Bosville as Lord of the Manor of Hunshelf is as follows:

HOWDIKE from the north corner of Mr. Fenton's enclosure to an ancient mearstone at the west coner of Birchworth Inclosure a reputed boundary on that side. Thence southward to a trench or ancient intrenchment where stood a Thorntree and now a mearstone marked E.W. Thence along to an old road to the corner of an inclosure called Blakeroyd where it meets the road from Rotherham to Manchester.

The said road has always been repaired by Hunshelf and Birchworth refused to be concerned in mending it saying it did not belong to them tho lately they made a causeway and mended the way in order - as is supposed - to claim a right.

The inhabitants of Hunshelf have constantly got stone and turf on the disputed ground. They have always drove their sheep and cattle to the very extent of the boundary. They

STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT
HISTORY SOCIETY

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BRENDA DUFFIELD—TEL. 288 2349

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

THE PARAGON

NEXT EDITION—MARCH 2002

PUBLICATION DEADLINE—14TH FEBRUARY

PROGRAMME 2002

JANUARY 10TH.

A.A.MCKAY WILL SHOW SLIDES OF
OLD STOCKSBRIDGE - CENTRE AND
WESTWARD

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 14TH.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION AS COMMITTEE
MEMBERS ARE INVITED

REST OF PROGRAMME TO FOLLOW IN NEXT
EDITION

have always drove back the sheep belonging to Birchworth when they strayed to the south-east of the road.

Old people now dead have declared the above to be the boundary.

Part of the disputed ground viz Mr. Fenton's Inclosure and Wilkinson's cottage was inclosed in Mr. Justice Bosville's time and he never objected to it but sent a poor woman who lived in the cottage to be maintained by Hunshelf.

Wilkinson's cottage was built by the inhabitants of Hunshelf and pays rent to Mr. Wortley.

Randall's Cottage wherein lived a poor inhabitant of Hunshelf after its falling down the stones were led away by an inhabitant of Hunshelf.

The ancient Meerstone was broken down by an inhabitant of Birchworth who was obliged to put up a new one.

NB. If Mr. Bosville has any right to the disputed ground why was Mr. Fenton's Inclosure suffered and why was Wilkinson's house suffered to be built why was the ancient meerstone suffered to stand and why was the dispute raised in Mr. Justice Bosville's time who was living when these things were transacted.

To be continued

W.E. Spencer



Wedding Party—Bolsterstone, c. 1898

