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STOCKSBRIDGE CLOCK TOWER WAR MEMORIAL—Part Two

We are indebted to Michael Parker for his research and permission to use extracts from his work on the 'Stocksbridge & District War Memorials'.



Since our last Paragon in November, the 100th anniversary of the finish of the Great War took place with services and commemorations throughout the world. No less here in Stocksbridge where hundreds stood at our Clock Tower Memorial to remember those who fell in that Great War and the

Our story in Part One finished in July 1923 with the laying of the foundation stone, some 7 years after a memorial was first mooted.

Stocksbridge was now a very different place since the end of the Great War. The company Samuel Fox & Co had been merged into the United Steel Co and had lost many of its rolled and forged products to other parts of this group. Clouds were also building in the rest of the country with unrest in many other areas of the economy culminating with the 1926 General Strike.

Back in Stocksbridge, Mr Joseph Sheldon's vision of a suitable memorial had come to fruition with the completion of 'The Clock Tower Memorial with peal of bells and clock faces on each side of the tower'. Here is the story of the culmination of this man's efforts in words and pictures from the local press and council minutes.

Penistone Stocksbridge and Hoyland Express,

Saturday, December 8th, 1923.

Unique War Memorial.

Most impressive scenes were witnessed on Saturday (December 1st) when the inhabitants of Stocksbridge, Deepcar and district, attended the unveiling of their memorial. "To the Honour and Everlasting Memory of the Soldiers, Sailors, and Nurse of the District, who gave their lives for their King and Country in the Great War 1914-1918."

Prior to the ceremony a procession, headed by the Stocksbridge Brass Band, and including the Chairman and members of the SUDC, and officials of the War Memorial Committee, and a large concourse of people representing the public and private life of the district, the members of the British Legion, and relatives of the fallen, marched to the Memorial, the band playing Beethoven's "Death of a Hero."

There were fully four thousand people present at the ceremony the uplands of the township, adjacent to the memorial being densely packed with residents of the district. The proceedings commenced with the sounding of the "Last Post" from the Memorial Clock Tower, by Buglers.

such a glorious page in the history of Stocksbridge and district. The Clock Tower dominated the countryside for miles around. The chimes from the bells would recall the heroism and sacrifice made by those who had fallen, and whom they would never forget. It was a pleasure to see on that occasion the ex-Servicemen with their medals so gallantly won.

At the conclusion of the unveiling ceremony, the architect, Mr.



Wynard Dixon, presented the key to the tower to Mr. Wilson, who unlocked the oak door. The Bishop of Sheffield dedicated the memorial, after which Colonel Hodgkinson asked for silence. The Chairman of the War Memorial Committee, Mr. J. Sheldon, then entrusted the deed of the site and the memorial to Mr. J. West J.P., Chairman of the UDC, who in accepting the deed, spoke feelingly of the occasion, and of the fallen. The clock and chimes were then started by Major H. McIntyre, after which the "Reveille" was sounded by the buglers.

The War Memorial takes the form of a Clock Tower, with four faces. The tower was erected by Messrs. Bradbury & Sons, of Sheffield, and is built of stone. The clock was installed by Messrs. Potts of Leeds, and the chimes were by Messrs. J. Taylor & Sons of Loughborough. The Memorial is faced by bronze tablets bearing the following inscription: "To the Honour and Everlasting Memory of the Soldiers, Sailors, and Nurse of the District, who gave their lives for their King and Country in the Great War 1914-1918."

It is a castellated clock tower, on an eminence at the junction of Haywoods lane and Nanny Hill, in a commanding position overlooking the whole of the valley. The clock has chimes, and is illuminated at night. The tower, which cost £1,700, is a landmark throughout the whole neighbourhood.

Penistone Stocksbridge and Hoyland Express, Saturday, October 4th, 1924.

STOCKSBRIDGE.

WAR MEMORIAL.— Mr. Wynard Dixon has sent a letter to the Stocksbridge Urban District Council complaining of the large number of weeds that surround the War Memorial Clock Tower.

STOCKSBRIDGE.

WAR MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER.— The Vicar of Stocksbridge, the Rev. J.G. Roberts, has written to the local council with a view to obtaining four vases in which to place flowers around the memorial. The present custom of using jam



pots certainly ought to be discouraged, and suitable vessels supplied. The matter has been placed in the hands of the architect, Mr. Wynard Dixon.

Stocksbridge War Memorial Service Armistice Day

On Tuesday morning united services took place at the Memorial Clock Tower, and was attended by a large congregation. The service was conducted by the Vicar. The siren at Stocksbridge Works was sounded as a sign for the two minutes' silence, which was observed at the service and in the works, all the machinery being stopped at the works. The Union Jack was flown at half-mast on the Tower at the works, and other public premises. Wreaths were placed on the memorial by Capt. S. Aylmer, who was in charge of the members of the British Legion. Mr. Ben Wood, who lost a leg in the war, also placed a wreath on the memorial on behalf of the British Legion. The hymn "O God our help" was sung.





Prayers were said and an address was given by the Vicar. The "Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded from the top of the Tower by Bugler G.E. Batty. The singing of the National Anthem concluded the service.

Penistone Stocksbridge and Hoyland Express, Saturday, October 1, 1927.

Stocksbridge Memorial Grounds Opened

Impressive scenes were witnessed at Stocksbridge on Sunday, when about 4,000 residents attended the opening of the beautiful grounds surrounding the War Memorial Clock Tower.

The grounds were formally opened by Mr. Joseph Sheldon, C.C., who is the oldest member of the Council and was primarily responsible for the erection of the Memorial. On Feb. 10, 1919, Mr. Sheldon was appointed chairman of the Memorial scheme, and he has laboured indefatigably since on its behalf, and Sunday last practically saw the completion of one of the finest Memorials in England. The Memorial is approached by a large and spacious flight of steps enclosed by ornamental stone walls, with recesses in which seats are placed. The steps to the clock tower are built in concrete, and there are four entrances. There is also a large centre platform with pool. The west entrance is marked by crazy flagged approach stone steps, with stone pillars for gates. Lamps are to be fixed on semi-circular brackets. Roomy walks are provided and a bandstand erected. The whole work has been designed by the Surveyor (Mr. H.M. Atchison) and carried out in a very efficient manner by the workmen of the Council under the Surveyor's supervision. The emblem of the British Legion is embodied in the scheme, this floral part of the grounds will be maintained by the Stocksbridge Branch of the British Legion.

The following generous support has been forthcoming: Stocksbridge and District Tradesmen's Association, 100 rose trees and £15 to defray cost of lamp; Stocksbridge Co-operative Society, fountain, sundial, bird bath, and £10; Mr. Willis Morton and Mr. Albert Foster, violas; the late Mr. R.H.R. Wilson, Bolsterstone, rhododendrons & other shrubs; Mr. G.H. Asher and Mr. George Watkinson, wallflowers, marguerites and delphiniums. The ornamental caps have been worked by Mr. Geo. Beaver and Mr. Harry Armitage supplied the stone. Mr. W. Chaffey supplied gold fish for the ornamental pool.

Editors Note. We hope you have enjoyed these two articles about the Clock Tower Memorial and the Gardens. The Clock Tower is still the icon used by many societies and groups in the Valley, including the Council. I wonder if Joseph Sheldon would have imagined that we would have been talking about his vision 100 years later, and indeed whether it will still there in another 100 years, I do hope so.

enlisting their help in preventing school children from committing such damage. The goldfish had been stolen from the pond. The name of that playwright George Bernard Shaw, comes from a Gaelic forename, but the English version derives from several localities in the North of England near a copse or thicket of trees, so it would be difficult to trace any particular line of ancestry.

In the 1841 Census, before Stocksbridge really existed as a community; there were Shaws living and working in Midhope Village, in Uden at Canyards, the Poggs, Falrest, Rocher House, New Mill Bridge and Nook Farm, Bolsterstone. All were employed in agriculture.

Ten years later William at Carr Lane Top was described as mole catcher; James at Rocher House had become a farmer of 18 acres; Joseph at Falrest had become a farmer of 16 acres; John, now at Race House, was a farmer of 5 acres employing one agricultural labourer; and at Deepcar Aaron Shaw from Swinton was described as a journeymen miller.

In 1861 Aaron seems to have settled at Deepcar Mill; Joseph was still at New Mill Bridge and Nathaniel was at Nook Farm, Bolsterstone, and his occupation given as stonemason. At Edge End, Bolsterstone. James was described as a wailer and Thomas at Horner House was also a field wailer; Gervase Shaw, from Swinton, was a stone cleaner. In Deepcar Joseph was a victualler and William, at last with a Stocksbridge address, was a blacksmith.

By 1871 William the blacksmith's address was in Haywoods; the widowed Jane Shaw was now a publican in her own right; James at Bolsterstone was a quarryman, as was William of Carr Lane Top and another William was a grocer.

Due to the growing industrialisation of Stocksbridge, there were opportunities to put children to work outside agriculture. Nathaniel Shaw, now widowed at 35, and still a mason, had ten-year-old sons who were half time scholars, one a miner and the other a factory hand. But ten years later the sons, Fred and Harvey, had taken to their father's occupation of masonry full-time.

We can see that even older traditions were maintained by women like Elizabeth Shaw in Hawwoods Lane, who still worked as an oatcake baker. There was even a former cotton weaver, Marv Ann Shaw at Bramall House on Hunshelf.

By 1891 Aaron(2nd) at Carr Lane Top was still a quarryman, with sons Ernest and Arthur coalminers; William, now widowed, was again a blacksmith on Blacking Mill Row, Deepcar; Aaron (3rd) was a general labourer with sons Colin and Francis, who were miners, while Alfred at Bracken Moor had become a mason.

Abram Shaw was farming at Briery Busk and those still with

James had moved from Edge End to Townend Cottage and like Nathaniel (2nd) at Race House, Bolsterstone, was still a stone mason. William on Blacking Mill Row, Deepcar, was still a blacksmith.

Several more were now employed in industry, like the widows Elizabeth at Midhopesstones, supported by their children, steelworkers, and Marv Ann at Henholmes, factory hands and umbrella workers. Charles had now moved to Hawwood Lane and was still a wiredrawer, James T. Shaw in Royd Yard was a cold steel roller and William on Rimington row was a steel hardener. Joseph, born in Midhope, was lodging on Brownhill Row and employed as a clerk.

George Shaw was a farm labourer at More Hall in 1891, but by 1901 had become a farmer in his own right. Henry was employing his sons Spencer and Ambrose at Nook farm, and Abram at Brierv Busk n Hunshelf was a farmer.

There were still Shaws in the more traditional occupations of stone masons (James at Carr Head, Francis at the Royd, Frederick and Arnold at Spring View, all at Deepcar); Joseph and Nathaniel at New Mill Bank.

Ernest at Carr lane Top, Bolsterstone, was a coal and ganister miner, while those described as coal miners were

while those described as coal miners were Wilson and Walter at Carr Head,

Fred at Hive Yard, Herbert and Joseph at Park View and Herbert at the Rowd, all Deepcar. Leonard and Aden of School Lane and Joe at New Mill Bank, Bolsterstone. A third Herbert, of Race House, was a brickyard labourer.

Joseph, now living on Bessemer Terrace, Homer House, was still a commercial clerk. But now more industrial occupations were coming to the fore. Spencer of Bracken Moor was a wire cleaner, Smith of New Mill Bank was a Spring Mill labourer, Harry of School Lane, Bolsterstone, was a steam crane driver and Ezra of Hunshelf Road was steel furnace man.

At Langsett work was underway on a new reservoir, so we see a John Shaw from Macclesfield living in Sheffield Road Huts working as an excavator and local men George in Hand Bank Huts and Robert from Johnson St, Stocksbridge working as navvies.

So we can see how a study of one particular family name illustrates the changing fortunes of an entire area and how it fits in with the national trend towards ever-increasing industrialisation.

Programme of Events — 2019

January 10th	Winter break—No meeting	
February 14th	World War 1—The Aftermath	Mick Kerrigan
March 14th	Sheffield Castle & The Excavations	Mili Rajic
April 11th	Samuel Fox—The Forefather of Stocksbridge	Dennis Pindar
May 9th	Annual General Meeting & SDHS Presentation	
June 13th	TBC	
July 11th	Members 'Grand Day Out'	No meeting
August 8th	TBC	
September 12th	Pie & Pea Supper with Talk	Basil Spooner
October 10th	A Look at Local Names	Basil Spooner
November 14th	The History of Wentworth Woodhouse	Mel Jones
December 12th	Carol Supper	Members Only

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

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