

NEWSLETTER No. 21

PRESIDENT - *Sir Kingsley Dunham F.R.S.*

MAY 1991

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Sixth Annual General Meeting will be held in the King's Arms Hotel, St. John's Chapel on Wednesday 19th June 1991 at 7.30 p.m. As usual our now traditional Brains Trust will follow the formal business. We expect Sir Kingsley Dunham and Mr. J.R. Foster-Smith will be joined on the panel this year by Sir Kingsley's son Ansel.

Friends are reminded that nominations for the positions of all Officers and three Committee members should be forwarded to the Secretary, Mrs. D. Chambers, 18 Cheveley Walk, Belmont, Durham DH1 2AU not less than fourteen days before the meeting. Please try to attend.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

First a reminder; your subscription became due on 1st April. If you haven't already done so, please forward your remittance to Bill Grigg, Heatherlea, East Blackdene, St. John's Chapel, Weardale, Co. Durham DL13 1RE. Subscription rates are £7 family membership, £5 individual member and £3 for junior/senior members.

In order to avoid confusion it is proposed that we change the membership year to coincide with the calendar year so that subscriptions would become due on 1st January. This would result in a small change in our Constitution and the Annual General Meeting will be asked to consider this change.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In the last newsletter Sunday 9th June was advertised as the day Friends would celebrate the return of the fully restored Big Wheel. As you will read elsewhere the work has been unavoidably delayed so that the event is postponed until further notice. (See Page 2 for revised programme)

AN INTERESTING SOUVENIR

At last year's Annual General Meeting one of our members made a sound recording of the proceedings and offers copies to members at a nominal charge (proceeds to Friends' funds.) Both sides of a C60 tape will be needed for the Brains Trust while an edited version of the whole evening can be put on a C120 cassette. Contact Paul Webster, Flat 5, Hogarth Terrace, Rookhope, Weardale, Co. Durham for further details.

(B. Chambers, Newsletter Editor, 18 Cheveley Walk, Belmont, Durham DH1 2AU - 091 3868491.)

WHEEL APPEAL

Dorothy Chambers

I am pleased to report that the appeal total is now just over £42,000. My thanks go to everyone who helped achieve our target. Donations came from a wide range of firms/organisations/individuals and I list these below. An accreditation board is on display in the Visitor Centre.

Special thanks must go to the staff at Killhope who enthusiastically administered the very successful rivet appeal and sold the decorated china on our behalf.

Barclays Bank, Stanhope; Blue Circle Industries, Eastgate; British Coal Enterprise Ltd; British Gas Northern; Mrs. Catherine Cookson, O.B.E. Cookson Group; Sir Kingsley Dunham, F.R.S. The Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust; Glaxo Manufacturing Services Ltd; The W.A. Handley Charity Trust; London Metal Exchange; National Heritage Memorial Fund; North East Minerals Ltd; Northern Engineering Industries; Northumbrian Water Ltd; Perstorp Waverite Ltd; The Pilgrim Trust; Preservation of Industrial & Scientific Material (PRISM) Grant Fund; Ringtons Ltd; The Rothley Trust; The Smith (Haltwhistle & District) Charitable Trust; Wavin Industrial Products Ltd; Weardale Estate; The Weavers, Ireshopeburn; William Webster Charity Trust; Individual Friends of Killhope; Supporters of the "Buy a Rivet" appeal.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Alan Blackburn is giving a lecture on "The struggle for the Stanhope Lead Tithes in Restoration England." I am sure the subject is new to many of us and an interesting evening will be in store at the Durham Dales Centre in Stanhope on **Wednesday 29th May at 7.30 p.m.**

PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

Thanks to Doug Tyerman and Bob for working the smithy for three days recently. I suspect they enjoyed it and the visitors were certainly appreciative.

Roy Curry has offered to lead another underground trip for Friends. If you are interested ring Ian Forbes on 0388 537470.

The article on the waterwheel recovered from Teesdale has had to be held over. Friends would like to get this wheel up and running this summer as well as continue work on the Brunton buddles and in the mine. Give Ian Forbes a ring on 0388 537470 if you are interested in any of these projects.

Although the activities originally planned for Sunday 9th June have been postponed this will still be a Friends day for this will be the day of the Sixth Annual Killhope Open Quoits Championship. Ring Peter Nattrass on 0388 517373 with queries. Entries taken on the day from about 1 p.m.

DR. ARTHUR RAISTRICK

Sir Kingsley Dunham

That most notable of dalesmen, Arthur Raistrick, geologist, industrial archaeologist, historian of the British leadmining industry and its social consequences, died on April 9th at Skipton. His passing deserves to be noted by the Friends of Killhope because of the seminal meeting in 1977 on the site with Eric Ryan, Harold Beadle and Denis Coggins, one of those that may well have led to our project.

Arthur Raistrick was born in 1897 at Saltaire near Bradford, son of an engineer who came from a line of Wensleydale sheep farmers. A scholar at Bradford Grammar School, he was apprenticed to the electrical trade upon leaving. Here he became keenly aware of the social injustices in industrial Yorkshire, and joined the Independent Labour Party. When the 1914 war broke out he observed the strict pacifist outlook of the I. L.P. and was imprisoned in Durham Gaol with 20 other like-minded people. Here, acting as itinerant librarian, he made some friends, one of whom, an Irishman, befriended him in the difficult days after his release by introducing him at Trinity College, Dublin. However, in 1920 he secured a place at the University of Leeds, where he read civil engineering, but changed over to the school of geology under P.F. Kendall and A.E. Gilligan. He was already deeply into research towards a PhD before he left Leeds in 1925. Geology in those days offered few opportunities and the best Arthur could do was to join HM Inspectorate of Mines as an investigator of colliery accidents. The next four years saw him underground hundreds of times, during which he became intimately acquainted both with the rocks of the Yorkshire Coalfield and also with the sociology of the mining business. In 1929 he was fortunate enough to obtain a lectureship in geology under H.G.A. Hickling at Armstrong College, Newcastle, in the University of Durham. In that year Arthur married Sarah Elizabeth Chapman, his helpmate until her death in 1973.

Now he was able to pursue his researches. I met him first in 1930, demonstrating the dispersal of boulders from such Borrowdale lava outcrops as Falcon Crag, Windermere by the Pleistocene ice. By 1931 he was able to publish a definitive map of ice-movement in N.E. England and in the Guidebook we prepared for the visit of the London-based Geologist's Association that year.

About this time we were both guests of Amos Treloar, Snr. at the White House, Nenthead, the occasion being the rededication of the tombstone of the Great engineer geologist Westgarth Forster in Garrigill Churchyard. Arthur who had joined the Society of Friends in 1919, and who had been taking an interest in the stone buildings, mine shops, mills and smelters with their mile-long flues - remaining from the activities of the Quaker Governor & Company for the Smelting of lead with Pit Coal and Sea Coal (the London Lead Company) since 1922, and was now writing a history of the Company and its two centuries of industrial welfare. As the White House had been its chief manager's residence, the visit was appropriate. His remarkable account of this Company appeared in 1938, but it was followed by many years of scholarly research leading to his collaborative book with Bernard Jennings in 1965, which remains the authoritative work on the history of the Pennine lead industry.

Another product of these years was a standard work on the Origin of Coal, jointly with C.E. Marshall, who later became Professor of Geology at the University of Sydney. This was one of the first studies to make use of fossil spores for dating (palynology) and at about the same time Arthur was working on Pleistocene to Recent spores with Kathleen Blackburn, well in advance of the Cambridge school.

Came the Second War and Raistrick, true to his pacifist principles, resigned his lectureship and disappeared to the beautiful cottage at Linton, near Grassington, which he and Mrs. Raistrick had fashioned out of a disused stone barn. Here they lived on what the countryside and their vegetable garden could provide. In 1941, with some trepidation, I visited them. My wartime terms of reference were to give all possible geological aid to the Pennine mining industry and to make economic sense I needed statistics as complete as possible, for every orebody. My fear that Arthur would refuse on grounds of war effort proved unfounded. With great generosity he handed on to me the mass of statistics relating to the London Lead Company.

The war over, George Hickling wisely invited him back to King's College (as it had now become) in 1946 and he served the university well, rising to a Readership in Geology before retiring in 1966 at the age of 69.

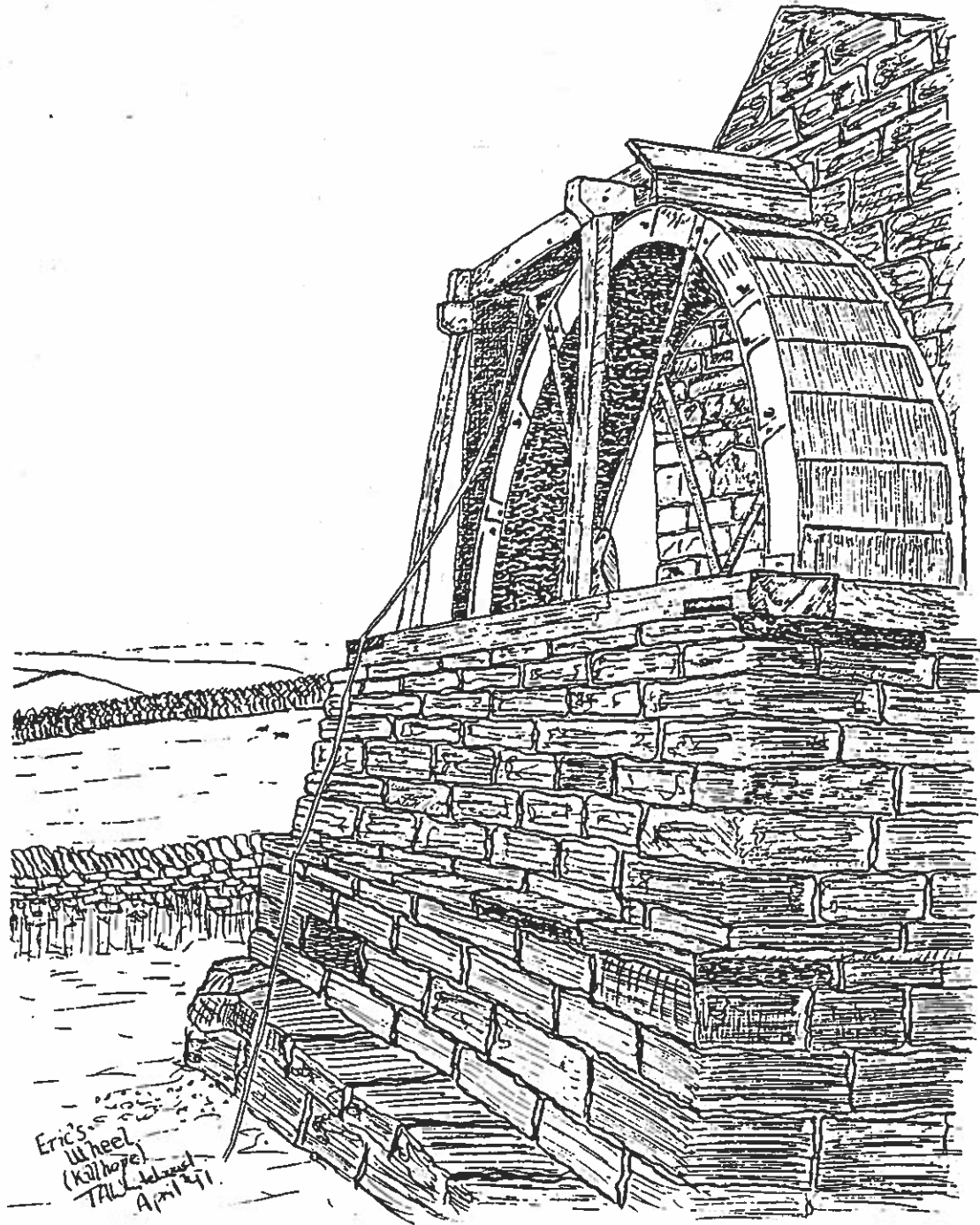
Now back at Linton, the life for which he has become justly celebrated, took off. He was among the organisers of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This launched, he became associated with the Ironbridge Industrial Museum, Shropshire, one of the few rivals of Beamish, as a member of its Council. He presided over the Yorkshire Rambler's Association. At Beamish he provided the captions for the remarkable series of photographs illustrating the sociology of lead-mining assembled from the door to door visits made in the Durham dales by Arthur Roberts. He investigated the techniques of stone walling and lime-burning that has done so much to give the dales their character. A series of more popular though well written books flowed from his pen, including - Mines and Miners of Swaledale (1955), the Mid Pennines (1973), Wensleydale and Swaledale (1975). An octogenarian, he still went underground, now pursuing mines where sandstone flags for roofing had been wrought. His excellent W.E.A. lectures were combined into a book on the Malham district.

Raistrick was awarded doctorates honoris causa by the Universities of Leeds and of Bradford. He was elected F.G.S. in 1925 and later honoured by the Geological Society of London with two of its Funds. The Yorkshire Geological Society presented him with its Sorby Medal in 1971, recognising the value of his pioneer work in palynology and in industrial archaeology.

Right to the end, Arthur was an ardent and vigorous fell walker, drawing his quiet spiritual strength from those limestone scarred uplands with which he never lost contact.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Elinor Rea, and there will be a memorial meeting to his memory, in the Quaker tradition, in the Great Hall of Bradford University at 2.30 p.m. on June 29th.

I am delighted to say that Trevor Whitehead responded to my plea for someone to do illustrations for newsletter articles. Unfortunately, Trevor lives outside our area and will only be able to visit occasionally but he can work from photographs as this drawing shows. If any future contributors have photographs to illustrate their articles I would forward these to Trevor for him to produce drawings.



Eric's Wheel on the north end of the Buddle House at Killhope.

Commissoned last autumn this 10ft. wheel can usually be seen turning gently away - a sight and sound well worth a visit to enjoy.

Editor

KILLHOPE WHEEL - A PUZZLE SOLVED

Ian Forbes

Over the years we have unravelled many of the problems at Park level mine and mill at Killhope, but one big question always remained.

Who built Killhope wheel?

We know the machinery came from Aberystwyth, but what about the wheel itself?

When Dorothea Restorations were taking it to bits and then started putting it back together again the question became more sharply focussed in my mind. Lance Gwilliam from Dorothea became convinced of two things - that the wheel was secondhand - it had been re-erected at Killhope from eslewhere - and that it must have been made originally at a large works.

When you put this together with the use of iron plate, of T-section and channel section iron struts and braces, you realise that the wheel was designed and built up by an engineer rather than a millwright; it is not in the millwright's tradition.

So who built it?

I shall be giving my arguments at length elsewhere, but I am now convinced that Killhope Wheel was designed and built by W.G. Armstrong at the Elswick Works in Newcastle. It was almost certainly built in 1859 and was used originally on the famous Blckett level in Allendale, before coming - secondhand and nearly twenty years later - to Killhope.

Thus Killhope Wheel is an even more important industrial monument than we thought - the only surviving example of a waterwheel built by one of the north-east's most illustrious and innovative engineers.

IF THINGS CAN GO WRONG.....

Ian Forbes

The County Council report in the last newsletter began "It can be rather ominous when things appear to run smoothly....." Well, yes. Since then the major stories at Killhope haven't gone entirely according to plan. The visitor centre opening was delayed by a month, although that has now taken place.

The wheel restoration project has also slipped back. Whilst in the last newsletter we were confidently expecting completion by June, this will not now happen. The problem has been simple. Rot in the iron of the wheel (particularly the buckets) was more severe than expected, and Dorothea had not got enough re-rolled wrought iron for all the buckets which need replacing. This means they are at the mercy of a friendly steel mill who will only roll wrought-iron more or less as a favour when they have a set of old rolls almost ready for replacing. Tough old wrought iron does not do modern steel rolls any good at all.

We cannot yet give a firm date for completion of the whole wheel, although July seems likely. In the meantime two rebuilt and completed sections of the rim have been brought back and others will follow shortly. Most of the rivetting is being done at Dorothea's own workshops but some will be done (with hot rivets of course) on site. This will probably be done during June and should be interesting to watch. Ring Killhope on 0388 537505 to check on progress.

METHODISM IN THE NORTHERN PENNINES
Part 5 - THE AFFAIR AT HINDLEY HILL

C C Short

For our last cameo on John Wesley in the lead mining dales we turn to the story of John Wesley and Grace Murray, a love story. It has to be admitted that the dales involvement is slight, the farm at Hindley Hill in Allandale only featuring incidentally, yet the story is worth telling.

John Wesley's relationships with women were hesitant. While a missionary in Georgia in 1737 he had fallen in love with Sophy Hopkey, the niece of the colony's chief magistrate, but due to prevarication, lost her to another. His hesitation seems to have revolved around his conviction that his missionary work came first, by no means a dishonourable reason, but his utter incapability to handle the situation was first the reason for Sophy looking elsewhere and then the cause of his early return from the colony. When he did marry, in 1751, at the age of 48, to Mrs Vazeille, a widow of 41, it was hardly a successful marriage. The problem of Georgia re-emerged: John Wesley was wedded to his work, and that was no recipe for a stable marriage. His wife did try to travel with him, probably coming to Barnard Castle, Weardale and Allandale en route to Penrith in May 1752, but she could not hope to keep up that sort of life. She left him (although his absence was more frequent) in 1758, and drifted out of his life. When she died in 1781 it was a few days before he was even informed. This unhappy aspect of the man has its own chapter in the north with the story of Grace Murray, another widow, who seems perhaps to have been John Wesley's deepest love, but who, thanks to brother Charles and a flying visit to Hindley Hill farm, ended up married to one of John's preachers.

Grace Murray appears to have come from Newcastle upon Tyne. She was born in 1716 and on marrying a Scottish sea captain, moved to London. There in 1739 she was converted and began to attend the London Methodist meetings. After her husband drowned in 1742 she was appointed to a lay leadership position in London, but soon returned to her mother in Newcastle. There too she took on a leadership role with the women's work at the Orphan House, Methodism's northern base. Although never used for its designated purpose, the building did include residential quarters for the travelling preachers. At the end of 1745 the 29 year old widow was appointed housekeeper at the Orphan House. Perhaps we have here another illustration of John Wesley's female naivety: since one nineteenth century biographer (1872) dismisses Grace Murray as 'a flirt,' it may not have been a wise appointment. At the Orphan House Grace Murray found it necessary to nurse through serious illnesses the two protagonists in the story, John Bennet and John Wesley.

Bennet was a layman from Chinley in Derbyshire, who as a preacher had established a circuit of societies in the Derbyshire and Cheshire area, much like Brown and Hopper in the northern Pennines. He came to Newcastle in 1746 and fell ill. His fever took him six months to recover, during which time he fell in love with Grace Murray. Whether the love or the need to convalesce came first is an open question. He certainly came near to dying, and Bennet was of the opinion that Grace Murray's prayer for his recovery was both effective and the first sign that she was to marry him. When Bennet moved back to Chinley the pair continued to correspond.

Then in August 1748, having been in Derwentdale, Allandale and South Tynedale, John Wesley spent three days at the Orphan House being nursed for severe headaches by Grace Murray. He too fell in love, and, it seems, made a form of proposal to Grace Murray. Here the differing evidence as to what

Methodism in the Northern Pennines - the affair at Hindley Hill

happened becomes hard to unravel. The marriage laws of the time were notoriously imprecise yet Wesley clearly understood that they had a formal contract to marry. It seems doubtful that Grace Murray ever understood the implications of all that Wesley intended. (Here we have another feature of John Wesley: the presumption that his unexplicit 'understandings' were shared by everyone else; it caused a lot of trouble.) What happened next is hard to understand: Grace Murray either accepted a rash invitation by Wesley to accompany him, or prevailed on him to take her with him; authorities have different opinions; either was foolish. However they left Newcastle together on 15 August, travelling through Yorkshire, Lancashire and into Derbyshire, coming on August 31 to ... Chinley, home of John Bennet. John Wesley was both naive and ingenuous, for here at Chinley he left Grace Murray with John Bennet as he travelled on through the Midlands to London.

Bennet was no fool, and he was in love. He had a dream, which he construed as Grace Murray rejecting John Wesley in favour of himself. His priority now was to establish whether any formal agreement existed between Grace Murray and John Wesley. The answer he got was, 'No.' It was probably a genuine expression of Grace Murray's failure to understand what Wesley intended, although the question remains as to why she had accompanied him. She then agreed to marry Bennet, if Wesley consented. With this, Grace Murray returned to Newcastle. She was in the uncomfortable position of having entered into an expectation of marriage with two men.

Over the next six months Grace Murray continued her correspondence with both Wesley and Bennet. Then John Wesley, acting on his presumption that she was betrothed to him, invited her to go with him on a tour of Ireland in April 1749. She accepted. There can be no doubt that if Wesley was naive and ingenuous, Grace Murray, if not a flirt, was at least very foolish. What can be said in favour of her is that if she did genuinely fail to understand John Wesley's intentions, it may have been because she was overwhelmed by the attention 'the great man' was giving her. This misunderstanding cannot have continued, for in Dublin, in July, Wesley entered into a form of contract with Grace Murray to marry. Opinions have varied about the effect of the contract in law. Some have claimed that it made John Wesley's marriage to Mrs Vazeille bigamous. Indeed, the most recent opinion (H D Rack, 1989) is that

'before the Marriage Act of 1753 [this contract] counted as a private marriage ceremony.'

In the light of subsequent events it should be noted that Charles Wesley seems to have been uninformed of this contract.

Feminine jealousy enters the story next. On their return to England, Grace Murray heard untrue rumours about John Wesley's relationship with another lady (undoubtedly not handled very well !) and wrote to John Bennet. The result was a meeting of the three parties at Epworth (Wesley's family home) on 1 September. There all came into the open. Both suitors declared their love, and Wesley declared that he was prepared to give Grace up to John Bennet. His letters after the event reveal how sacrificial an offer this was. Grace Murray seems to have been overwhelmed, yet she made the whole thing a farce. She declared to John Wesley ...

'How can you think I love anyone better than I love you. I love you a thousand times better than I ever loved John Bennet in all my life.'

... and then the same evening promised John Bennet once more to marry him !

They reached Newcastle. Again Grace Murray displayed her changeability. She agreed once more to marry John Wesley, and to do it at once. Here at last was decisiveness ! Now Wesley prevaricated. He insisted that there should

Methodism in the Northern Pennines - the affair at Hindley Hill

be three agreements in place before they could be wed:

- .. with John Bennet;
- .. with his brother Charles;
- .. with the Methodist societies.

This last was totally unreasonable, and utterly impractical, yet it may be Wesley again revealing that his ministry and mission were the most important things in his life; it was that that did destroy his eventual marriage. Again uncertainty arose. The third request made Grace Murray's 'at once' impossible, and Wesley was intending to move on. So a formal contact of the Dublin form was renewed, with Christopher Hopper, then the travelling preacher at Hindley Hill, as witness. Wesley left, with Grace Murray, for an eight day journey through Northumberland, returning to Newcastle on 16 September. From there a letter was sent to Charles Wesley at least, seeking the agreement John had desired. After four days John set out 'to visit the western societies,' and again took Grace Murray with him. When they reached Hindley Hill, John Wesley left Grace Murray there with Christopher Hopper, safely settled, so he thought, in Allandale.

Charles meanwhile had received his letter and was horrified. He could not conceive his brother married, although recently happily married himself. Perhaps he knew his brother's character too well to conceive a marriage being successful, perhaps he was jealous, perhaps he sensed that the future of Methodism depended on a single man; undoubtedly he did not understand John's relationship with Grace Murray and believed she was rightfully engaged to John Bennet, although he did know for sure the jealousy within Methodism to her, and (rather uncharacteristically) he considered her too low born for his brother; whatever, he took horse and rode north. Not finding John at Newcastle he rode to Whitehaven, whither John had come, and confronted him. Finding John unbending, Charles wrote to John Bennet, urging him to come to Newcastle, and rode back to Hindley Hill. No doubt John had told him that here was where Grace Murray was settled.

What words or efforts Charles used we do not know, or indeed whether Hopper was there to add his advice or not, but Charles was a powerful speaker. In his agitation he managed to persuade Grace Murray to return to Newcastle; they must have left Hindley Hill on 26 or 27 September. John came to Hindley Hill on 27 September, and learnt the tale. He spent the next day fasting and praying with Hopper and John Brown, seeking God's guidance, before returning to Whitehaven on the 29th, and thence to Yorkshire. In Newcastle Charles organised the special licence needed, and on October 3, Grace Murray and John Bennet were married at St Andrew's Church.

John was devastated. There was a general reconciliation a few days after the wedding, yet John's letters, and a long poem he wrote describing his emotions, reveal the depth of his feelings. In spite of working alongside John Bennet soon afterwards, his relations with him ranged from polite to agonised. Charles was very cool to John at first, until he came to see the impetuosity of his actions, and understand more of the feelings of his brother and the facts of the case. He then wanted to blame Grace Murray for it all. Yet the blame must be shared between the major actors, with indecisiveness, impetuosity, presumption and foolishness all playing a part.

John Bennet separated from the Wesleys, over doctrine, in 1752, and died in 1759. His widow returned to Methodism in Derbyshire, where again she became a valued figure. She met John Wesley just once more, in London in 1788, when they were both elderly.

With this account we leave John Wesley, and in the future parts of the story turn to eighteenth century Methodism in the dales.

The brief note in the last newsletter from Colin Short on the continued survival of Feldon mill chimney reminded me of something I had almost forgotten. Colin triggered it by mentioning that the BASE of the chimney still survives. At Rookhope the base, somewhat damaged, also survives, but if we are looking for conventional chimneys, that is all there ever was. On top of the stone base there was a chimney, but this one was built entirely of wood!

Now it occurs to me that I have never seen any reference to a wooden smelt mill chimney, so this is either very rare, or there were more but we have not started to look for them yet. In order to help Friends to recognise a potential wooden chimney, I have tried to identify the points to look for.

Starting with the base, if it is square, like Feldon, or even more likely, rectangular, like Rookhope, then it is a good candidate for a wooden top. Wooden chimneys would not be round, (too difficult to make), so round bases are out. Conversely the strange sloping sided rectangle with side door typified by Rookhope would be difficult to build a stone chimney on, so it is a potentially good candidate. Any sign, if it remains, of large stone slabs or lintels, indicating the possible load carrying top to the base, where the main timbers would sit, is also worth looking for.

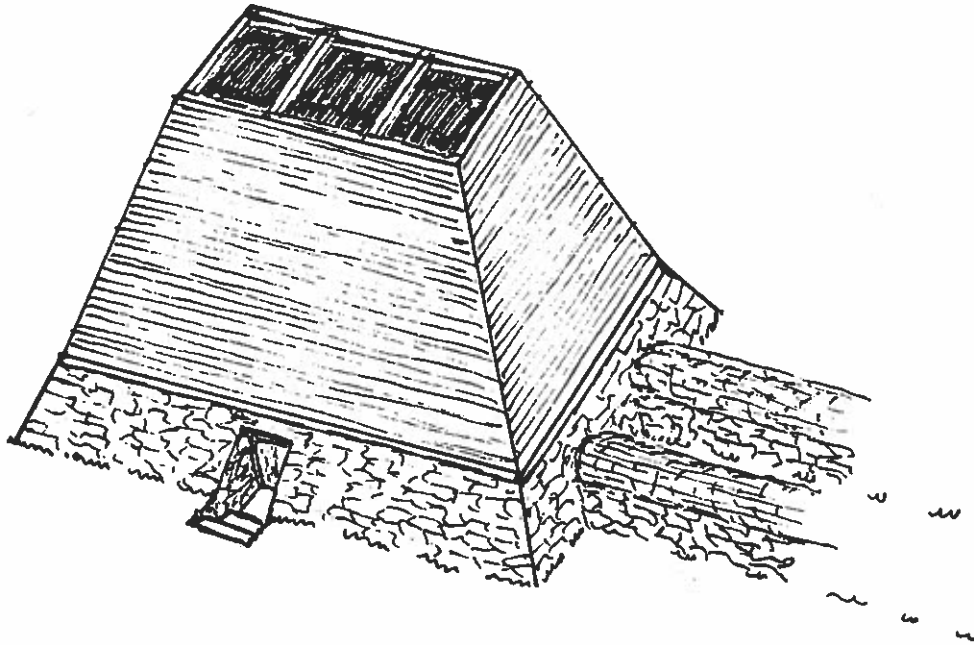
The next place to look is around the chimney. If it was a stone chimney there will be a large amount of stone from the collapse of say 30 ft of chimney. This is totally missing from both Rookhope and Feldon; - and don't assume it was taken for further building, why climb half a mile up a steep hill to gather stone when there is tons of it in the valley bottom where the mill buildings lie? Hundreds of tons of stone were taken from the Rookhope buildings, but there was still a lot left when it was finally bulldozed. In fact the remoteness of the chimneys is their very reason of survival.

I can only add a few other items by way of further guides. Wooden chimneys must naturally run cool (!) so they would only be found on a long flue, or a flue with a condenser in it. There is no real reason why the Rookhope chimney should be an exception, as it was put out to tender, and built in 1809 for the Blakett-Beamont Company, at a time when long flues were being built on many smelt mills.

Going back to Feldon mill, the existing chimney was built, with other mill improvements, by the British Lead Co in 1826. It fits the criteria for a possible wooden chimney, and I feel sure that I have a reference to a wooden chimney for it, but can I find it...NO!

Incidentally, has anyone looked into the various requirements of the mill flue design to enable the cleaning and flushing to run smoothly;- access ways, diverter boards, fume channels and tanks, flushing ponds and sluices? It could be a very interesting little project to compare the different flue designs.

I have taken the opportunity to close with a sketch of what the Rookhope chimney might have looked like. There are no photographs in existence of it, and this is from a description given to me before his death, by that grand old man of Rookhope, John Foster, who enabled me to make sense of a strange mixture of evidence on the Rookhope chimney.



ROOKHOPE SMELT MILL CHIMNEY

AB 91

JEFFRIES SMELT MILL CHIMNEY

Ian Forbes

Over the last couple of newsletters we have discussed the health of various smelt mill chimneys in our area. Readers will be pleased to know that Durham County Council has just completed consolidation work on Jeffries smelt mill chimney near Blanchland.

The top courses - which are brick - have been removed and rebedded in fresh mortar and the whole chimney has been repointed. The current profile of the chimney - with a section missing from the top at one side - has been retained.

A number of years ago the chimney for the steam engine at Taylors Shaft not far from here was completely demolished by a lightning strike. Accordingly lightning conductors have been fitted to Jeffries Chimney and to the nearby Sikehead Chimney, a beautifully constructed round chimney built for the steam engine which pumped out Sikehead mine.

These works should ensure the long term survival of these two chimneys as prominent landmarks.

OPENING OF THE VISITOR CENTRE

Ian Forbes

The new visitor centre and exhibition at Killhope were officially opened on May 16th. Mr. & Mrs. Cripps, who are familiar names to newsletter readers, flew over from Delaware to be guests of Durham for a few days and to take part in the opening ceremony with Councillor Joe Knox, Chairman of the Environment Improvement Sub-Committee. Mrs. Cripps gave a most moving little speech about her family, about her great grandfather Joseph Graham, and about the links between herself, her family and Killhope.

During the ceremony she handed over the original Graham letters to Killhope and received in return from Councillor Knox a bound volume of copies of all the letters for her to keep.

We were delighted to have Harry and Jean Cripps here and they seem to have enjoyed themselves as much as we enjoyed seeing them again. Their generosity in giving Killhope their treasured family letters should be noted; yet I'm sure Jean would say - as she said from the heart during the ceremony - that Killhope is where they belong. They have come home.

If you haven't yet been, do come and see the visitor centre with its exhibition "A Bidding to a Funeral." This is based on the lives of William and Phoebe, the two youngest children of Mary Milburn who was Joseph Graham's sister. Mary died very shortly after Phoebe's birth and the exhibition starts with her death, coming full circle to end with the death of the Killhope community as the lead industry collapsed in the early 1880's.

The exhibition uses extracts from the Graham letters to illustrate what it was like to live and work at Killhope in the mid 19th Century.

THE GEOLOGY OF THE NORTHERN PENNINES OREFIELD

Ian Forbes

The revised and updated second edition of this book by our President, Sir Kingsley Dunham, was launched at Killhope on May 4th. This very successful event was hosted jointly by the Friends and the British Geological Survey.

The Director of the B.G.S. spoke first, with Sir Kingsley responding. His reminiscences of a lifetime's work in the northern Pennines, the people he had known and the places he had been, enthralled his audience and made us all feel privileged to be present.

I can only urge everyone to come to the Annual General Meeting (see elsewhere) for more of the same.

Sir Kingsley then signed copies of the book to round off a splendid afternoon.

The "Geology of the Northern Pennine Orefield" is now available from Killhope and the Friends still have a couple of signed copies left at £33 including postage and packing. Contact Bill Grigg, Treasurer, at Heathlea, East Blackdene, Weardale, Co. Durham.

THE GRAHAM LETTERS

In the last newsletter we gave the first part of a letter from Christopher Graham at Killhope to Joseph Graham in the United States. The remainder of this long letter follows here. It is dated February 4th 1859 and this part of the letter shows what a strong influence Methodism had on the behaviour of many Weardale families, particularly when the fervour of "revivals" swept the dale. But we must be careful not to generalise; clearly Methodism had no appeal for "Ant Bety's John" who lived at Burnbottom, in the now demolished house by the ford at Killhope.

Jacob Graham referred to in the letter had been apprenticed as a shoemaker at Alston. He finished his apprenticeship and was "louse" - i.e. "loosed" from it - at the age of 21.

".....and I must not forget Ant Betys John. so he is liven at the same place him and a housekeeper but he is working with Frank Peart and other four men and I belive he hast a fair pay to but they often get to drink and often Fites but our house is quite alter. there was A grate revivel last winter at lane head so I have stedy men all round me. I have to go a lone on fell Among sheep on sabath day. we have A meten every fortnight at our house and the was A revivel at Alston to. we had my brother Jacob over this chrimas and A nice young man to. he stad a week with us and often went to lane head meting and sumtimes he addressed it. one time he preached and well to for he had a grate congregation. but I must tell you he is on the Plan in the Alstone circut as a local preacher him and another young man goes with him. he is out of his prenaship. he was louse last october and is going on with Thomas Slack yet at so mutch for ever pair of shoes he makes so I cannot tell yet what he can make for he told me he had not worked very hard since he was louse. so I must conclude at this time and you must write As soune as posable and all being well I will write you Another. so

I remain your

Obedent Brother

Christopher Graham

Killhope 1859

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

David Miller

A very brief report this time. As you will read elsewhere the Visitor Centre was officially opened on May 16th. 50 or so guests attended the most agreeable ceremony which was followed by a tour of the new exhibition and a buffet lunch. I would like to thank Mrs. Cripps for her contribution and also the staff at Killhope for putting on such an excellent day.

Evidence of Willie Drea's most recent efforts have now appeared. Two sections of refurbished wheel have now been delivered on site. Although prediction is often confused with wishful thinking in the field of restoration of ancient monuments, we are nevertheless hoping that the wheel will turn in July.

SILVER TONGUE LEAD MINE

INTRODUCTION

Early in the 19th century, Sir Charles Monk of Belsay Castle, and Mr George Silvertop of Minsteracres owned estates in Shotley Low Quarter situated on the north bank of the River Derwent. The estates included that small peninsula of Northumberland, bounded on three sides by the Derwent, to the south of Crook'd Oak, in which Silver Tounge Lead Mine was developed.

Though the estates were on the eastern extremities of the lead bearing region, the old and productive Healeyfield leadmine was less than a mile south of the estate, in the lands of the Dean and Chapter of Durham. At that time the lead industry was flourishing, and it is not suprising that the owners were interested in exploiting lead from his holding.

THE VEINS

Very little is known regarding the veins, S. Smith summarises the known fact thus, "there are three veins converging within the narrow tongue of ground enclosed by a bend in the river, Old Silvertongue Vein ranging N.-S., Middle Vein ranging N. by W.-S. by E., and another to the west of these, ranging N.W.-S.E. ---"

The veins carry barytes, very white samples of which can be picked up from old spoil-heaps, but from all accounts were not very productive of galena."

SILVER TONGUE LEAD MINE

From the surviving correspondence it is evident that Sir Charles had no experience of lead mining, but by 1822 he was in possession of a sample of lead ore from a vein that ran through his land.

On the 27th July 1822 Thomas Teasdale wrote to Sir Charles informing him that the Vein from which the sample was obtained was not the Healeyfield Vein, and he requested "preference of taking it on regular terms". No time was lost, on the 28th July permission was granted for Teasdale to view the vein, and on the 8th August Teasdale reported that the vein was worth making a trial in.

Sir Charles granted a 21 year lease to Teasdale on the 2nd September 1822 with a duty of 1/7 of the ore produced. Work started on the level soon after the lease was granted, by the 11th November it was reported that they expected to meet the vein in a few weeks time.

It cost 23 shillings per fathom to drive in the plate beds, they expected to have to drive about 43 fathom to reach the vein which they hoped to achieve by the New Year. The trial was a failure, on the 20th February 1823 Teasdale reported that they cut nothing but two strings and requested that the terms of the lease be waved to allow them to try the Hysop Vein within 20 yards of the estate boundry. Permission was granted and a drift begun on the north side of the river in Hysop Cawk Vein.

Hopes of success seem to have been fading by January 1824, Sir Charles set aside the cost of timber owed to him as a "small contribution to your undertaking". Teasdale wrote on the 30th January admitting that the prospects of getting ore immediatly was not great, but he remained optimistic for eventual success.

By July 1824 Teasdale was sinking a shaft, having difficulty supporting the sides, stone from a ruined cottage at Wallish Walls was utilised. Sir Charles took exception to the stone being taken without his permission.

There is a 14 year gap in the correspondence relating to the workings, it seems probable that no work was done on the estate during this period, however it is evident from later correspondence that Teasdale had been exploring in the adjacent estates that belonged to George Silvertop and the Dean and Chapter. On the 12th May 1838 a 21 year lease was signed to cover the area of Bolbec Manor owned by Mr Silvertop, and in March 1838 it is recorded that Teasdale had offered £700 for the lease of Healeyfield Vein at a duty of 1/5th.

Item 7 of the lease concerning Sir Charles ground specifies that "The Lessee not to unwater or suffer the water of any other Mine or Mine Ground to pass through the levels or drifts of this demise without the Consent of the Lessor---". It is clear from a letter written by John Ansley, land agent for Sir Charles, that permission was given for a level to be driven for a short distance through his estate to drain the shaft in Silvertop's land. In a letter of the 17th November 1838, Aynsley says that the shaft on Silvertop's royalty was already 25 fathoms deep, where No 1 vein was found to be broken into three strings. The intention was to sink to 30 fathoms, then when the water level reached the shaft, and a new water wheel installed, they would then sink further. The cost of sinking was £22 per fathom.

Teasdale enjoyed some success in the Silvertop royalty, and by 1840 was working an east west vein that was running into Sir Charles estate. Because it was going to involve some expense to develop the workings in Sir Charles estate, and the lease relating to this property only had two years to run, Teasdale applied to Sir Charles for a new lease. From the prolonged correspondence on this subject it is clear that Sir Charles was displeased that Teasdale had abandoned the search for lead on his property, and he tried to impose unusually harsh terms for the lease. No agreement was reached, and it seems that the workings on his property ceased.

A further attempt to work lead on Sir Charles estate was proposed by Messrs John Seymour and Co on 26th August 1862. The proposal was for leave to make a trial of a vein at Wallish Walls and Mosswood for a period of two years. The result of this initiative is unknown.

THE MINING PARTNERS

The lease with Mr. Silvertop includes the names of the mining partners, these were; Thomas Teasdale of Corbridge, James Baker of Newcastle, John Weir of Newcastle, and Jane and Matthew Hall of Newcastle.

Thomas Teasdale may have been one of the Teasdales of Slaley, Thomas was a name much favoured by that family, at least three of this name were alive during the period covered. He was apparently an experienced miner, in a letter of the 27th July 1822 he states that he has had 18 years practice in viewing and working in mines. He was probably the agent for the partnership, with the other partners providing capital. It would seem he had a financial interest for in his letter of 1st July 1840 to Sir Charles he writes, "but I really dare not venture to enter upon your description of conditions in an untried Country that may ruin me and my family". Little else is known of him

except that he wrote from the Plate Glass Works, Forth Banks, in 1824, and from Croft House, Corbridge in 1838. Of the other partners nothing is known except that according to Teasdale, when he applied for the lease, he could get some very respectable persons to join him.

When Mr Dolphin made an application in August 1862, on behalf of a party residing in the neighbourhood of Allensford to work for lead, Thomas Harrison, acting on behalf of Sir Charles, requested more information concerning the partnership. The Company consisted of

Rev. J. P. Dunn,	Roman Catholic Priest.
Samuel Leybourn,	Railway Agent.
Matthew Elliot,	Farmer.
John Seymour,	Brewer.
John Calvert,	Grocer.
William Watson,	Agent for Healeyfield Lead Mine Company.

Watson was also agent for the new company. It is not known who Mr Dolphin was or his role in the company.

OUTPUT

The only record of production for these veins is that of 138 tons in 1848. The silver content was 30 ozs per ton. Teasdale wrote that he lost £1200 in his efforts to work the ground in Sir Charles estate in 1822-1824. Mr Aynsley, recording a conversation he had with Mr John Cookson on the 30th August, wrote " that Mr Silvertop had lately renewed the lease of lead of Balbeck Manor and his own freehold property to Messrs Teasdale and Co: and that Teasdale had been offered 30000£ for the lead. Wether this meant Mr Teasdale's share only in the lease or the whole lease and their lease of the Dean and Chapter's lead on the Derwent?". With lead bringing £ 19 per ton this equates to over 1500 tons of pig lead, this seems far more than could be obtained from Silver Tongue.

THE MINERS

The conditions agreed with Sir Charles specify that four pickmen should be employed for at least ten months in the year, though this could be reduced to two when making the trial.

John Seymour and Co. undertook to employ two pickmen in making a trial.

No information is available regarding the number employed in the workings on the Silvertop property, but the size of some of the projects described would require more than four pickmen.

SOURCES

1. S. Smith 1923. Special reports on the mineral resources of Great Britain. Vol. XXV. -Lead and zinc ores of Northumberland and Alston Moor. H. M. S. O. p. 39.
2. Northumberland Records Office Middleton Papers relating to Sir Charles Monk. Bart. Belsay Castle

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