

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

NEWLETTER NO. 29

FEBRUARY 1994

I'm sure Friends will want to wish Killhope Leadmining Centre Many Happy Returns of its Tenth Birthday this year.

Many founder members of Friends may well be as surprised as I was to learn that it is almost ten years since Killhope first opened to the public. As you will read elsewhere the anniversary will be celebrated jointly with Durham County Council and Killhope staff. A very varied and interesting programme has been arranged for the coming season which makes membership of F.O.K. even better value than usual! Can I end this crude commercial "plug" by formally reminding members that subscriptions became due on 1st January and if you haven't renewed, then regrettably this must be the last newsletter we can send to you. The rates are: Family £9, Ordinary £6.50, Senior/Student £4.

Publications

I can only repeat that work continues on the three projected publications - "the Glossary", "Graham Letters" and "the Journal". Much effort is involved in producing these and we will keep members informed when firm details become available.

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

Database of Members

The start of a new year is an opportune time to remind members of the existence of this database (see Newsletter 11.)

First, a few details of the information on file. This consists of the information given on membership application forms together with a record of subscription payments. This means that there is a name and postal address for every member with some telephone numbers and notes of special interests if these were given.

The information is used only by the society's officers to produce the Newsletter mailing list, to maintain financial accounts and to assess the interests of members; it is not published or made available to any other organisation.

If any member does not wish to appear on the database please contact the Newsletter Editor who can take the necessary action.

KILLHOPE'S TENTH BIRTHDAY**Ian Forbes**

1994 is a special year at Killhope, for it is ten years since the doors of the leadmining centre were first opened to paying customers.

Back in May 1984 all we had was a small exhibition in the mineshop, a still quite derelict site - and dreams.

Now, ten years on, we can look back and see how hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment from so many people have helped make most of those dreams come true.

The "Friends of Killhope" too is sharing a tenth birthday with the leadmining centre - a preliminary meeting to set up a steering committee of "Friends" was held in November 1984. The formation and early days of the Friends will be discussed in a later newsletter.

Your committee has decided that, in keeping with the spirit of Killhope, the birthday celebrations should be shared.

There are therefore no special "Friends" birthday celebrations, nor exclusive Killhope staff celebrations, nor Durham County Council celebrations, but rather everyone involved in Killhope is joining together to mark the huge achievements of the last decade.

Staff, Friends and Durham County Council have put together a programme of events and exhibitions to celebrate the tenth birthday throughout this coming year.

Everyone is most cordially invited to all of them; I hope as many of you as possible will come to Killhope, pat yourselves on the back, and say - "I helped to do this."

Help wanted

The last ten years is of course only a part of the continuing story of the rebirth of Killhope. When you look back to the low point when demolition threatened the crumbling ruins in the late 1950's and compare the site then to the restored scene of today, you can see that the change has been startling.

We are planning a photographic exhibition at Killhope to chronicle that change, and we need your help.

If anyone has any old photographs or slides of Killhope that help demonstrate how the place has changed, we would like to choose the most interesting ones for our exhibition.

So do please rummage around in your old photo albums or shoe boxes to see what you've got. Anything from before about 1980 could be of interest - and we've got very, very few photos taken before the war, or of the site from unusual angles.

All pictures will of course be returned.

If you think you can help, give Killhope a ring of 0388 537505 or ring Ian Forbes on 0388 537470 outside working hours.

The exhibition - "Rising from the Ruins" - will run from April - June, so we need pictures by the end of February to give us time to sort the displays out.

The Bishop of Durham

As I'm sure everybody knows, the Bishop of Durham retires this summer.

He is therefore even busier than usual at the moment and we are very fortunate indeed and deeply honoured, that he has agreed to come and launch Killhope's tenth birthday and officially open the "Rising from the Ruins" exhibition.

The link between leadmining in Weardale and the church is of course historically very strong. The medieval Bishops controlled mining through their officers and the Bishops of Durham continued to receive their lott ore dues, as mineral rights owners, until the middle of the last century. Thereafter the rights to these dues were vested, as they still are, in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

It is therefore appropriate that the Bishop should reinforce the links by coming to Killhope, and doubly so as this is Dr. Jenkins' tenth year in office at Durham.

The Bishop will be at Killhope for a ceremony at 4 p.m. on Thursday 19th May, and our President, Sir Kingsley Dunham, who was instrumental in obtaining Dr. Jenkins' acceptance of the invitation, extends an open invitation to all Friends to attend on that day.

For further details of this, or any other of the tenth birthday events, ring Killhope on 0388 537505.

A CONFERENCE - in honour of Georgius Agricola's 500th birthday

We have received advance notice of a conference-MINING BEFORE POWDER- to be held at Charlotte Mason College, Ambleside, Cumbria on the weekend of 25/27 March 1994. The estimated cost is £90 full board or £20 conference only.

If you would like to contribute a paper or require further details contact the organisers Lynn Willies or David Cranstone at : Peak District Mining Museum, The Pavillion, Matlock Bath, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3NR. Tel. (0629) 583834.

Erratum and addenda

In Newsletter No.28, page 21 in Willie Watson's article on Rotherhope Fell Mine it was the door into the Vanners building marked No.16 which was added later rather than the building itself.

Mr. Watson also adds the following information to his fascinating account : The wagons which took material away to Carlisle airport etc. were all chain driven and the makes included Dennis and Albion.

Some of the sand heap (No.4) was made into asphalt.

Air was compressed in the mine and piped out to the workshops.

KILLHOPE LEADMING CENTRE - 10TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- Friday April 1st -
Thursday June 30th "Rising from the Ruins" - the making of Killhope Leadmining Centre - a photographic exhibition showing how Killhope has changed over the years.
- Thursday May 19th Launch of the tenth birthday celebrations by The Bishop of Durham - 4 p.m. at Killhope.
- Sunday 5th June "Killhope Steam Extravaganza and Power Day" - vintage working models and collection of bygone vehicles and machinery at the leadmining Centre.
- Saturday 11th June "Burtree Ford Disturbance - Amazing Happenings 250 million years ago" - a three mile guided walk with geologist Barry Webb - start 2.30 p.m. at Cowshill car park at beginning of road to Sedling (GR 856 405). Boots and waterproofs required.
- Sunday 19th June Friends of Killhope Annual Open Quoits Championship at Killhope - 2 p.m. onwards.
- Saturday 2nd &
Sunday 3rd July Sheep shearing, spinning and weaving demonstrations. Organised by Friends of Killhope in conjunction with the Tynedale Guild of Spinners, Weavers & Dyers and local farmers. Come and try your hand at traditional crafts at Killhope.
- Friday 22nd July -
Saturday 27th August "Kids at Killhope" - an exhibition of children's work inspired by visits to Killhope
- Sunday 24th July "A geological walk round Killhope" - a guided walk with geologist Trevor Bridges. An opportunity to examine and identify any minerals found. Start 2.30 p.m. at Killhope car park.
- Saturday 6th August "Not England's last Wilderness" - a five mile circular walk over Race Head with Ian Forbes. Start 11 a.m. at Cowshill car park on the bottom of the road of Sedling (GR 856405) Boots, waterproofs and packed lunch required.
- Saturday 3rd &
Sunday 4th September Grand Mineralogical Exhibition
The third competition and exhibition organised by the Friends of Killhope promises to be the biggest and best yet.
- Wednesday 7th September "A stroll through centuries" - a walk up the Middlehope valley with Industrial Archeologist Don Wilcock. Start 2 p.m. at the layby on the A689 in the middle of Westgate.

- Saturday 10th September - "This is the North Pennines" - a photographic competition
 Monday 31st October and exhibition of leadmining landscapes.
- Saturday 1st October "Recent Archaeological Work in the North Pennines"
 A day school at Killhope organised by the Friends of Killhope.

For further information on any of the above, or details of the competitive events ring Killhope 0388 537505. As the guided walks are run in conjunction with Durham County Council's guided walks programme there will be a small charge for these - £1 for adults and 50p for children and over 60's.

FRIENDS PROGRAMME FOR 1994

Ian Forbes

All talks will be in Stanhope Old Hall, at Stanhope in Weardale, apart from the Annual General Meeting which will be held at Killhope. Full details of this meeting will be given in the next newsletter.

All meetings (apart from the A.G.M.) start at 7.30 p.m.

- Wednesday June 8th "Underground in the North Pennines" - a talk and slide show by Stephen Robinson.
- Saturday June 18th Annual General Meeting at Killhope.
- Wednesday July 13th "Brains Trust" with Sir Kingsley Dunham, Jim Foster-Smith and Brian Young.
- Wednesday September 14th "Medieval Smelting Through the Durham Achives" - a talk by Linda Drury.
- Wednesday October 12th "Weardale in Old Postcards" - a talk and slide show by Peter Natrass.
- Wednesday November 9th "Britain's Old Metal Mines" - a talk and slide show by Trevor Bridges.

READERS' LETTERS

Harold Beadle's article on mine ventilation in Newsletter No.28

From the figure shown in that article and from the description it would appear that the "water blast" operated on a similar principle to the "trompe", which was a device used for producing the blast in the Catalan Forge.

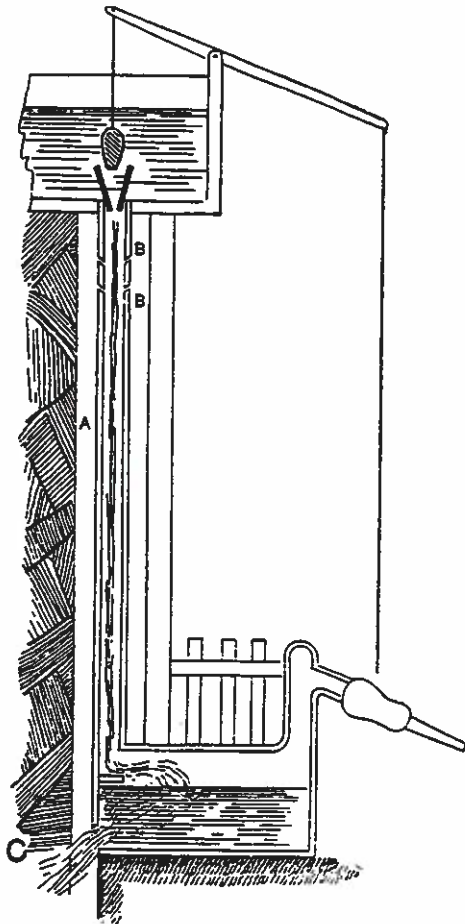
In a full description of the trompe given by Percy (1) it is said that the device was invented in Italy in 1640. The theory of its operation, which was accounted for by Venturi in 1800, is that the acceleration of water by gravity as it passes down a vertical tube (shaft in the case of mines) creates a vacuum which draws in air from the surrounding atmosphere i.e. the venturi effect.

When the water gathers in the enclosed sump, and its drainage controlled by a weir, the air separates out but is under positive pressure. Examples are quoted of a pressure as high as 3.1/2 inches mercury, 1.1/2 to 2 lbs. per sq.in. which would be adequate for mine ventilation.

This is another example of creating energy from the use of water, and without the use of mineral fuel. Perhaps some consideration could be given to demonstrating the venturi effect and its application to the "water blast" in a model at Killhope.

Reference : (1) Percy J. Metallurgy : Iron and steel, London 1864. (Reprint as fascimilie by Institute of Metals) pp. 285-292.

Duncan MacCallum.



The blast is supplied by a blowing apparatus called a trompe (Fig. 33). The water falling down the pipe A, drags air through the inclined openings BB. This mixture of air and water falling into the cistern is divided into two streams, the air rising and passing forward into the twyer at a pressure of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 lbs. per square inch, the water running out of the cistern at c.

Rotherhope Fell Mine Newsletter No.28.

The drawings are superb and everything seems to tally with the present remains. I have visited Rotherhope Fell on a number of occasions; last time I walked/waded up Black Burn and Shield Water to Greencastle with a return down the track.

The first as yet unanswered question is why Rotherhope Fell vein was accessed by crosscut from the present mine site and not along the vein from the River South Tyne?

The second question is the purpose of what I assume is a bridge abutment on the other side of Black Burn (did it lead to Kearton Bridge?)

The final question concerns the level also on the other side of Black Burn about 300 hundred yards upstream from the portal of the main Black Burn level. It goes straight for over 300 yards before one is waded out by deeper water. Its not mentioned in either Dunham or Fairbairn (BM. No.47)

Roger D.Bade.

Spar Boxes (Newsletter No.28)

Ian Forbes' item in the last newsletter raised yet another aspect of our subject which has scarcely been touched upon in our newsletter (or apparently anywhere, as it happens).

The piece also pricked my conscience because some years ago I started an article on the subject which is still unfinished. This may eventually add a little to our knowledge but there must be others with information which our readers would find interesting?

Bryan Chambers.

BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
- NEWCASTLE OFFICE

Ian Forbes

The British Geological Survey's headquarters is at Keyworth in Nottinghamshire, but it also has regional offices around the country, including one at Newcastle.

Any Friends who have had dealings with this office will have been impressed by the friendliness, helpfulness, enthusiasm and knowledge of the staff there.

Brian Young and his team have been enormously helpful and supportive of Killhope over the years - although we've never had enough geological interpretation on site for Brian's taste!

It was therefore with great regret that I learnt of the impending closure of the Newcastle office and the transfer of its work to Edinburgh.

This move - no doubt an indirect result of the butchery of the north-east coal industry - is a retrograde one of our region.

Although many people lobbied hard for the Survey to change its mind, it seems it is not going to. Like so many organisations, it is having to cut its costs, and the north-east once again loses out.

To New Zealand by sailing shipIan Forbes

Regular visitors to Killhope will be familiar with the exhibition in the Visitor Centre based on the "Graham Letters" which we have published in previous newsletters. The story in the exhibition focuses on the lives of William and Phoebe Milburn, the two youngest children of Mary Milburn (nee Graham.) Phoebe emigrated to New Zealand on the "Margaret Galbraith" to start a new life in a new country.

Since the exhibition was constructed we have learned quite a lot more about the Graham family, and a number of descendants have been in touch or visited Killhope. In particular Alf Milburn, author of "Life and Times in Weardale 1840-1910" has been a wonderful source of information on the Milburn and Graham families. Alf has supplied the following account of the voyage of the "Margaret Galbraith", a voyage undertaken by so many of that tight-knit community of upper Weardale in the winter of 1879.

Along with Phoebe on that journey of escape from the economic depression which had settled on Weardale was her nephew Philip Milburn. Fifty years after the event Philip wrote of the voyage, and his memories were published in the Otago Daily times of 11th January 1930.

I am very grateful to Alf Milburn for bringing this piece to my attention, and for his permission to publish it.

50 YEARS AGO - ARRIVAL OF SHIP MARGARET GALBRAITH - SOME EMIGRANT EXPERIENCES RECALL By Weardale

Fifty years ago to-day the ship Margaret Galbraith, bringing emigrants from London, dropped anchor in lower Otago Harbour. Here a hundred or so of the emigrants disembarked. They proceeded from Port Chalmers to Dunedin, and entered upon life in a land towards which their thoughts had long been directed - the colony of New Zealand.

It is interesting to learn the reasons which have prompted various emigrants to leave the Homeland, and why they selected New Zealand as their objective in preference to other colonies. A large proportion of the Margaret Galbraith's passengers came from a rather secluded dale in Durham, England, and I was destined to be one of the number. We were not unacquainted with the attractions of Canada and Australia, for people from the dale had emigrated to both of these countries. One dalesman who went to Australia achieved the negative distinction of just missing a fortune. During the gold rush in Victoria he secured a claim that looked promising, but he worked at it a long time without success. Feeling sure that he had drawn a blank, he sold out, and the incomer had barely put in a week's work before he "struck it".

There was another matter which helped to put Australia on our map. The dale had a reputation for turning out ministers of the church. Occasionally also it was successful in producing men adept at wrestling. One of these wrestlers, while participating in the Victorian gold rushes, secured the wrestling championship of the diggings.

Fate, however, decided that we were not to go to either Australia or Canada. A period of industrial and agricultural depression set in and emigration for many of us was desirable. At this psychological moment, a booklet, written by a minister in Dunedin, setting forth the advantages of living in New Zealand, came into the dale. The booklet was convincingly written and largely determined our choice. What stir, what discussion when the decision to emigrate was arrived at! Family after family intimated its willingness to join in the movement. In a larger district than ours the simultaneous departure of so many families would have been an event; in the dale, it was historic.

Many years ago, an artist of repute painted a picture which he entitled "The Emigrants". It depicted a family setting out on the first stage of their journey. In the front of an ordinary country cart, seated beside the driver and facing wind and rain, was the husband. Inside the open cart, huddling together, were wife and children. It was in much the same fashion that we commenced our journey. The distance to the railway station was about 10 miles, and we left in the dark, one bleak October morning, rather sad, you may be sure, since with 15,000 miles separating England from New Zealand we were not like to see the dale again. None of us, I think, had ever been to London, and the crowded streets, the roar of the traffic, the bustle of the underground railway, the interminable buildings, all were a little bewildering, and it was a relief to arrive safely at the East India Dock, where the sailing ship Margaret Galbraith lay berthed. One's memory registers all sorts of happenings. As we went below the first thing to greet us was an odour with which we were to become very familiar during the next three months - the odour of the Swiss condensed milk.

Our voyage had not a very auspicious beginning. For several days we were buffeted by fierce gales in the English Channel. The violent motions of the ship, its weird noises, the jangling of the tinware, the cries of the children, and the distress we were ourselves experiencing combined to make real those terrors of the sea we had previously imagined. A happy day it was when the gale abated, and instead of drifting backwards we commenced to move forward.

I suppose our experiences were very much the same as those of other emigrants of the period. For three months we were a company apart - a lonely ship on a lonely ocean. A few happenings remain vivid in the memory. Days, for instance, when storms raged, when we were battened down, and when the noises and shouts on deck set our imagination to work, and we feared the worst. I recall nights in tropical seas when the moon cut a silver pathway across the ocean and nothing broke the stillness but the occasional creak of a block, a rippling of water, and the noise of a sail flapping idly. Our saddest experience was a burial at sea and one never to be forgotten night was that on which we saw the Southern Cross for the first time - a sign by night that the promised land was getting nearer.

On the whole we were a staid party who took our pleasures, if not sadly, at least with reserve. Amusements such as card playing and dancing were not for us. A gramophone would have been a boon and a blessing, but this means of entertainment had not been invented. Wireless messages giving us information concerning the doings of the outside world would have been very helpful in stimulating conversation, but this was a possibility which as yet was not dreamt of. We must have spent a multitude of hours in discussing our prospects and our hopes and ambitions and, of course, there were always the illnesses of the others.

A sea chantey was another thing with which we became acquainted on the voyage. Our sailors, like those on other ships, would troll out one of these simple ditties as they "walked the capstan round". Different crews seemed to have favoured different chanteys, but I remember that ours worked to the tune of "Blow the Man Down". Singers on the concert platform and for the gramophone are reviving these old-time songs, bringing back memories of the past. The renderings we heard may not have had the precision and tunefulness of these concert renderings, but our chanteys had the charm of reality.

The women folk had a diversion of their own. At intervals they were supplied with materials for puddings and pies. The mixing was done on tables which occupied the space between the line of cabins which had been temporarily put up on either side below deck. These dishes were then sent up to the galley to be cooked, and great was the speculation as to how they would turn out. The Margaret Galbraith had not been built for an emigrant ship, and her galley arrangements were somewhat deficient. If we did not see visions and dream dreams, it was not the fault of the half-baked pies we ate so often.

One morning we awoke to see the hills of New Zealand in sight. On another we went on deck to find the ship cutting through the water in most business-like fashion. We discovered that a tug had taken her in tow, and that we were approaching the Otago Heads. I still recall how very beautiful the wooded hills and green slopes appeared that January morning in 1880 when we entered the harbour. Memory recalls another experience, a trivial one perhaps, and one which latterday emigrants can hardly understand. It was the tremendous pleasure we got from the new-made bread which the tug had brought to us. Never before had bread tasted like that bread. The reason, of course, was that for three months our bread had been those rock-like flavourless ship biscuits.

After disembarking the majority of her passengers at Port Chalmers the Margaret Galbraith proceeded with the remainder to Wellington. No stir in official circles was created by our arrival in Dunedin, and no one was waiting with the intimation that jobs were waiting for us, or would be found for us. As a matter of fact, there was a good deal of unemployment in Dunedin just then. Our menfolk joined in the search for work and to secure it they often had to travel very far afield from their families. Looking back on those days, I am convinced that people worked longer hours and worked harder, and received proportionately less pay than they do to-day.

We were not dubbed "homeys" - the word had not been invented - but "new chum". The words indicated that we were new arrivals, and that we were ignorant of colonial ways and customs. We did not get very excited, however, at being singled out in this fashion, for we knew that every day we spent in the country the cause for reproach was lessened. Also it was not long before there were others "newer" than we were, and it was comforting to have a feeling of superiority over someone. One day one of our boys came in contact with another lad who had arrived in the colony a few weeks later than he. He showed his disdain of the unsophisticated one by calling out "New chum, new chum".

In due course the Margaret Galbraith's passengers were assimilated by the community. Many of them are no longer on the stage, but there are still some amongst us who can remember that sunny morning, 50 years ago, when the Margaret Galbraith dropped anchor in Otago Harbour and when they wondered not a little what life in New Zealand held in store for them. Now, looking back 50 years, we can see that on the whole New Zealand has been kind. One thing is certain, and that is that their children have had much greater opportunities of advancement than if the parents had not made that voyage of 50 years ago.

For years the Margaret Galbraith passed out of our ken. Then one day in the nineties we read that she had come to Otago again, and was lying at the Restray street wharf. Naturally we were desirous of seeing our ship once again. The Margaret Galbraith was not a big ship, and she appeared to have changed since we were first acquainted. The vessel had reverted to a cargo boat, and work of unloading had ceased for the evening when we arrived. None of the crew engaged just then was visible, but in our eyes the deck was peopled with ghosts of the past - ghosts of passengers and crew long since dispersed and scattered.

There are not many people now to whom her name is familiar, but amongst those who have not forgotten it, and will not forget it, are surely those whom she conveyed to this new land 50 years ago.

Postscript

Judith Watson has drawn my attention to a book "Sail to New Zealand, the story of Shaw, Savill & Co." (ISBN. 0-7090-2809-1).

Shaw, Savill & Co. were the principal players in the carriage of immigrants to New Zealand when that country was being opened up in the second half of the 19th century.

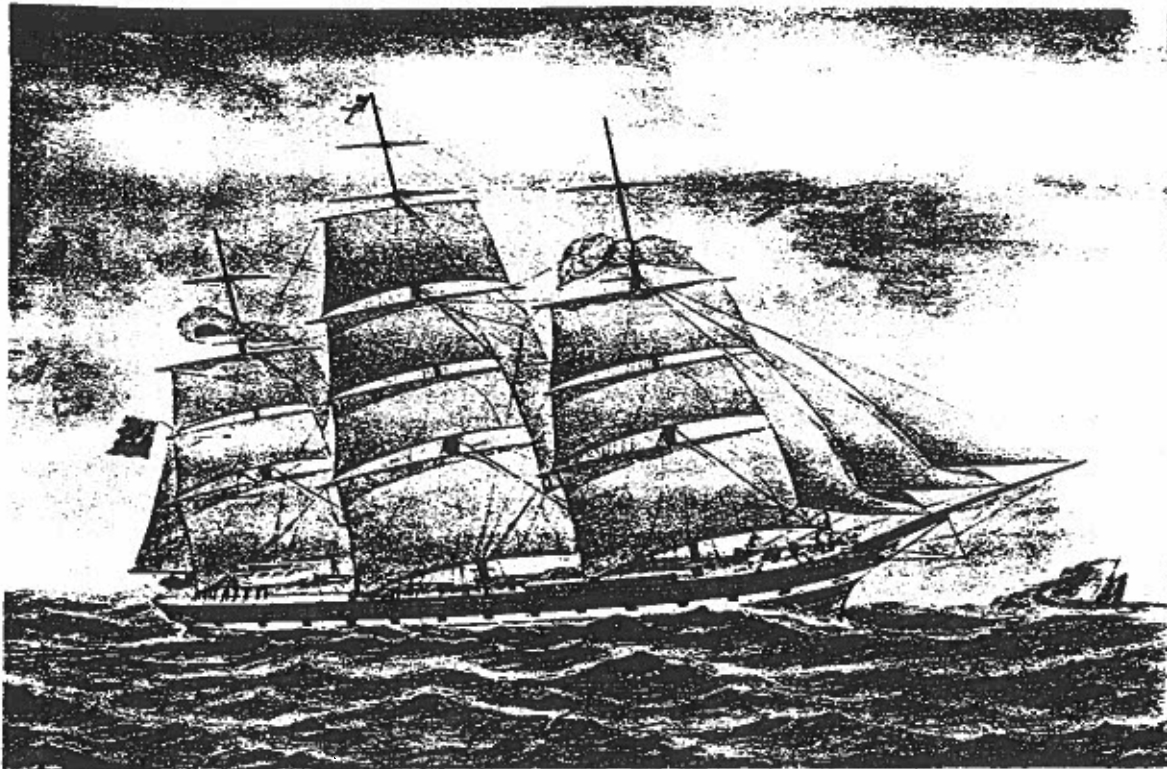
This account of the firm contains much of interest, including accounts of voyages, advice to travellers etc. The export of people to New Zealand was a thriving trade - in 1879, the year Pheobe went, Shaw Savill made 60 sailings to New Zealand, and their main rival, the New Zealand Shipping Co., made 56.

The "Margaret Galbraith" was a medium size sailing ship. She was 889 gross reg. tons, with an iron hull, and had been bought by the company in 1876 when she was already eight years old. She saw many years service, not always as an emigrant ship, until she was finally wrecked whilst leaving the River Plate in South America in 1905.

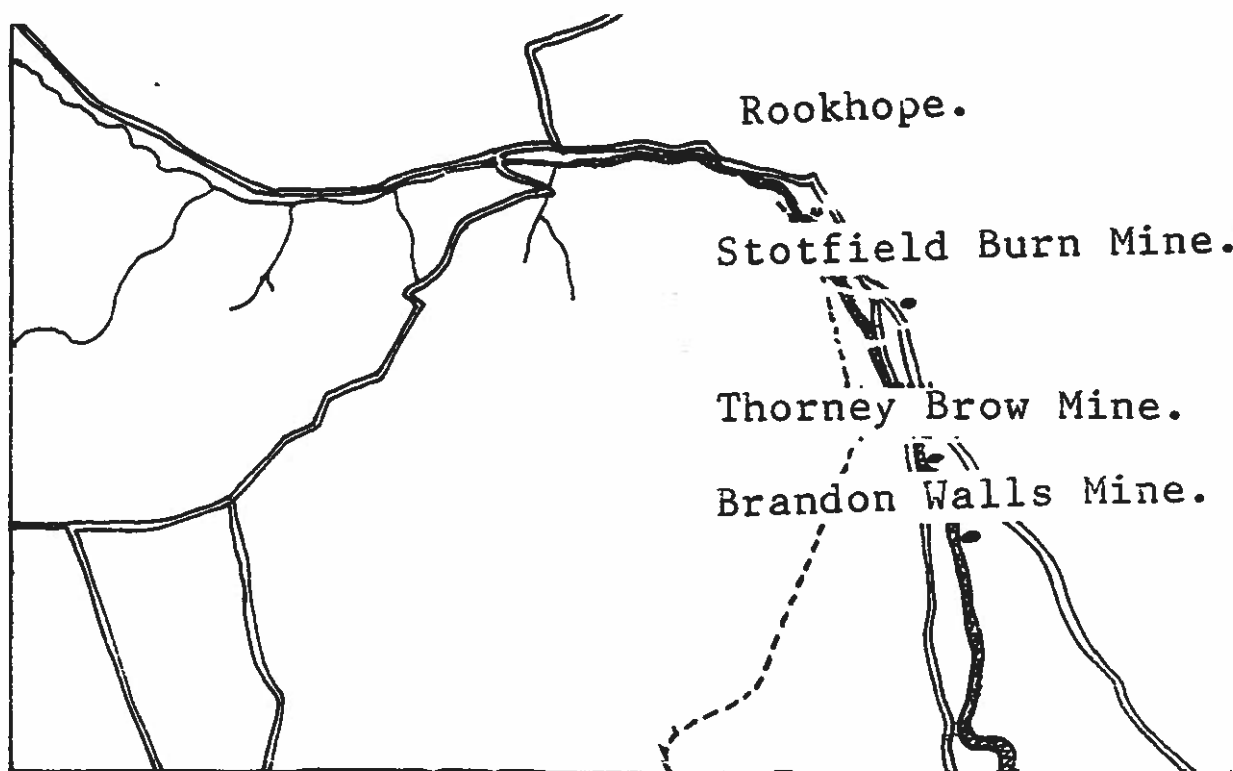
Editor's note

We have found no pictures of the "Margaret Galbraith" but the "Halcione" shown overleaf was of a similar size and type. (Picture from the book mentioned above.)

"Halcione" was similar in size and type to the "Margaret Galbraith"



Halcione - water colour by G.W. White



Sketch Map of the Rookhope Area.

Map for use with article overleaf

ROOKHOPE MINESNigel ChapmanSTOTSFIELD BURN LEAD MINE. COUNTY DURHAM. NY.943423.Part 1.

Registered during May 1872 the Rookhope Valley Mining Co. had a capital of £60,000 in shares of £4 each. The stated aims of the company were to acquire and work Brandon Walls and other lead mines in the parish of Stanhope, County Durham. In the event three mines were acquired from the defunct Brandon Walls Lead Mining Company who had operated them from 1862. Believed by many to be as rich as the neighbouring Beaumont mines, the veins had never been properly exploited or the mine tried at depth.

When formed the Rookhope Valley Lead Mining Company consisted of the following director's.

W. Greame,	The Stone House, Onbury.	1600 shares.
Peter Watson,	79 Old Broad Street.	1500 "
Robert Watson,	12 Brunswick Gardens Kensington.	1550 "
Samuel York,	Rock Terrace, Shiffnal.	1400 "
F. R. Holes,	74 King William Street,	1500 "
John Henry Murchison,	8 Austinfriars,	2825 "
W. J. Lavington,	14A Austinfriars,	20 "

These gentlemen were also forming the Board of Directors of the famed and profitable Tankerville Lead Mine in Shropshire. In this capacity they were able to call on the services of Capt. Arthur Waters, as Manager of the Tankerville Mine to report on the Rookhope Mines of Weardale.

He noted that the Stotsfield Burn or No. 1 mine was working the Great Red lode by means of a shaft 31 fathoms deep. Two levels had been driven from the shaft at the 15 fathom and 25 fathom datums. At the 25 fathom level stopes were being developed and lead ore produced for dressing. While the Thorney Brow or No. 2 mine was standing with very little mining actually done and was to remain so. At the Brandon Walls or No. 3 mine the old water wheel had been demolished and a new pit for a wheel of 42 feet in diameter was under construction.

Captain Waters was rich in his praise of the Great Red lode at the Stotsfield Burn mine, he reported, "This lode shows a magnificent appearance with massive deposits, equal in quality to anything seen in our Shropshire mines." He went on to suggest the Rookhope Mines would soon rank along side the Tankerville and Roman Gravels mines in Shropshire and finally excelled himself by making comparisons with the rich and hugely profitable Van mines in Wales.

With the promise of future profits, operations commenced at the Stotsfield mine with lead ore being extracted from the 25 fathom level. Between May and September the company sold 165 tons of lead concentrate for £2121. The company wanted to develop the output to 50 tons of concentrates per month, but

could only produce 30 tons because of the dressing floors being too small. The Mine Manager Capt. Edmund Rogers suggested that £1,000 would be needed to carry out the improvements and advised the use of Cornish machines. While these improvements went ahead on the surface, the shaft was gradually sunk over the next 12 months to a depth of 40 fathoms.

Unfortunately the expected rise in output failed to be realised, so the director's invited Arthur Waters to visit Weardale, study the mine and suggest improvements. He commented on the fine looking lode in the 40 fathom level and suggested the continued driving of the levels to the north and east. Further he noted over 150 fathoms of ore proved at the 25 fathom level and over 400 fathoms of ore ground in the 15 fathom level. He calculated that the mine had proved reserves worth £6,400 ready for extraction.

The improved lode at the 40 fathom level, he suggested required the use of a larger steam plant than existing at the mine and advised the purchase of a 36 inch pumping and winding engine offered for sale by the West Fedw Mining Company in Radnorshire Wales. Included with the engine was a 10 ton Cornish boiler in good condition. An inspection of the surface plant had also been undertaken with the suggestion that the dressing plant should be replaced. Arthur Waters noted the lack of water for dressing and believed 6 machine jiggers would make better use of the small amount available. At the Brandon Walls mine the 42 feet diameter water wheel was pumping water out of the 60 fathoms deep shaft and it was expected to be dry in a couple of weeks.

Having submitted this report during July 1873, the West Fedw engine was purchased and transported to the mine by early in September, when the foundations of its new house were well advanced. It probably says volumes for the respect that Arthur Waters was held in, that the expense was accepted and work commenced so quickly. Over the autumn and winter construction of the house for the 36 inch engine, boiler house and nearby crusher house went on apace. At the same time the new dressing floors were constructed and the jiggers built with a water wheel to operate them.

Finally on April 14th 1874 "the steam engine was run and gave every satisfaction." Until this point pumping at Stotsfield Burn had been done by a 'double engine' but with the 36 inch beam engine available new pumps were purchased and hung on the beam while the double engine was moved to power the jiggers. From this period the jiggers could be water powered as available or steam when not. The 36 inch engine was able to pump in 9 hours all the water produced by the mine, while also driving the crushing mill. With the water shortages already noted, alterations were made to the pipework so that the mine water was delivered to the dressing floors.

Daniel Brown had replaced Edmund Rogers as Mine Manager having formerly worked as a miner at Stotsfield Burn. He was rash enough to suggest that with plenty of water, long days and shelter for the washer boys, he would produce the required 50 tons of concentrates per month.

Into the beginning of 1875 the weather prevented surface work so all operations were directed to developing the 42 fathoms level. This was driven east at 7 feet 6 inches high by 5 feet wide and a rise was driven up to connect with the 25 fathoms level, allowing the development of stoping in the vein.

But all was not well with the company, the rebuilding of the dressing floors and the construction of the beam engine had been a drain on the finances. Over the period May 1874 to February 1875 101 tons of ore were sold at an average price of £12 13s. 1d. realising £1,278 2s. 6d. while over the same period the costs had been £5,760 14s. 6d. It was admitted that equipping the mine since March 1872 had cost £22,000. Most of the loss was blamed on the need to replace the machinery while a lack of lead ore to improve the output was also mentioned. At the urgent request of a number of major shareholders, the director's had appointed James Blenkiron of Arkindale to superintend the operations.

By the General Meeting in May money was required to continue operations and the subject of liquidation was raised. Mr. Blenkiron suggested the raising of funds to continue work at the mine for a few months longer. Otherwise he believed the plant would have to be sold to raise the much needed finance. It was admitted that the director's had found £480 from their pockets to met outstanding bills. Some of the major shareholders had met to discuss the crisis and were prepared to allow the director's to borrow £4,000 on the security of the plant and other assets of the company. These shareholders were prepared to raise £1,000 provided that a further £2,000 was subscribed by the other shareholders. After much discussion and complaints regarding the cost of machinery and poor management the proposal to raise the necessary funds was passed.

Criticism was made of the replacing of the original dressing machinery by Cornish plant and the employment of a Cornish trained Manager. This brought a reply from the former 'Cornish Manager' Edmund Rogers, appointed in April 1872. He noted that during his first 6 months an output of 30 tons per month was maintained and 1500 fathoms of ore ground opened out at the 15 and 25 fathom levels. He had recommended the replacment of the machinery with a Cornish crusher and other plant. He had resigned in July 1873 prior to the construction of the Cornish engine and the new dressing floors. At the time the company had £11,000 to its credit and Capt. Waters could find no fault with the development of the mine. He believed the new manager should have been able to produce 50 tons per month from the lode

opened out but had failed to supply a dividend as promised. Edmund Rogers believed a man of practical experience in mining and machinery should have been appointed and not spent so much time in Rookhope village, the result of the previous year's working would have been different.

Over the next two months various attempts were made to produce the necessary capital to continue working but when the Extra Ordinary General Meeting was held at the beginning of July only £1350 had been subscribed, while liabilities were £1522 and assets amounted to only £273 including the month's ore sales. The Chairman Robert Wilson pointed out that the landlord's were pressing for their royalty payments and unless the necessary funds could be found he believed the only alternative was to liquidate. Mr. Blenkiron had valued the plant on the mine at £2,500-3,000. Many of the shareholders were against this drastic action but the director's admitted to being at a loss to suggest ways of preventing a winding up. Peter Watson pointed out that the mine was capable of producing 80-100 tons of lead ore per month which at the prevailing prices would have produced a profit of £500-700 per month. No decisions were reached apart from deferring the liquidation to a further meeting at the beginning of August.

Work continued at the mine with all the emphasis placed on the production of ore which only amounted to 20 tons for the month. When the next meeting was convened early in August a long discussion of the problems of the mine was undertaken, but of a constructive nature. The director's could only mention that little further moneys had been subscribed and finally adjourned the meeting until October.

Then early in September someone with a grudge to settle dropped more than half a ton of metal into the pumps. This smashed the pump buckets preventing water from being raised with the result that the 42 fathom level was soon drowned. Output was reduced to only 20 tons for the month while most of the miners were engaged on repairs to the pumps. Gradually lead ore was won from the 15 and 25 fathom levels while the 42 fathom level remained under water for a month. By the end of October about 35 tons of concentrates was available for sale.

Only 14 miners were working underground in the middle of October and paying their costs, the director's wanted to employ 50 miners in the 42 fathom level. Their reasoning being that if 14 could pay costs then 50 would and produce a profit.

Early in the new year of 1876, miners were working on the south branch of the lode in an area left by the previous company and producing 12 cwts. of ore per fathom cut. A cross cut was being driven about 50 fathoms east from the shaft to prove the church lode. At the time 18 tons was ready on the surface. Unfortunately, all the output and coal for the mine had to travel via the Weardale Iron Company's private railway out of

Rookhope north over Bolt's Law. The climb from Rookhope to the moor top at Bolt's Law was achieved by means of a steam operated railway incline. Early in 1876 the flywheel on the winding engine broke stopping the incline working and preventing the transport of goods to and from Tyneside. The immediate effect was felt at the pumping engine which had to be used as little as possible to conserve the stocks of coal.

Mining activities were reduced pending the reconstruction of the company which took place early in March. The new company called the Rookhope Lead Mining Company had a capital of £22,500 divided into shares of £1 10s. each. Three directors were appointed, they were;

E. W. Wingrove of Twickenham, London.

Peter Watson of London.

Samuel York of Shifnal Shropshire.

The new company commenced by paying off £2,000 worth of debts belonging to the old company and allotting 5,000 shares in the new company to shareholders in the old. The rest of the shares, all 5,000 of them were available at £1 10s each. The directors were to own 100 shares in the concern as a minimum qualification. Their fees were to be £50 each per annum plus a further £50 each if the dividends reached 15 %.

Work commenced at the Stotsfield Burn Mine with renewed vigor with contractors sinking the shaft below the 42 fathom level to provide extensive water storage. These operations prevented winding in the shaft so the ore was stored in the mine. Ore was also being won from the adit level and in a rise at the 15 fathom level. When Mr. Blenkiron made his usual visit he was able to report that the mine was doing better than at any time since he first visited it.

Mr. Blenkiron went over the plant at the mine with Mr. Teesdale the Engineer and decided to replace the portable engine on the shaft, it was said to be in bad state of repair. They also decide to fit the small engine to serve as the winding and jigger driving engine. They believed these alterations would reduce the coal bill as steam could be taken from the large boilers. The wooden headframe over the main shaft was seen to be rotten and arrangements were made for its replacement. While repairs were underway the stone pillar supporting the pumping beam was found to have been built of poor stone and was in danger of collapsing into the shaft. Rebuilding these items took most of the week and stopped operations in the shaft. At the same time Mr. Blenkiron suggested fitting guides and a cage into the drawing shaft to speed winding operations. He believed the work would cost £50 and be paid for in six months. At the time (early July) they were very short of water to drive the wheel so steam was being used to drive the jiggers on the dressing floors.

References:

Mining Journal, Volumes 42-46 for 1872-1876.

METHODISM IN THE NORTHERN PENNINES
Part 7 - The Wesleyans in the nineteenth century

C C Short

The previous article in this series covered the arrival in the nineteenth century of the Primitive Methodists in the mining dales. After a long delay we turn to the Wesleyans. In this part of the story much less information is available to me, and that lack is exacerbated by my removal from the north east and access to sources. Again my most plentiful information is on Weardale.

The Wesleyans entered the new century well established around the mining dales, which were all in one circuit (circuits are groups of chapels under the care of one or more ministers), the Dales Circuit, based at Barnard Castle. There a powerful society and chapel existed, with important societies in Teesdale at Middleton and Newbiggin, where there was also a chapel; the Middleton Wesleyans opened their first chapel in 1809. Weardale had established chapels at High House and Wolsingham, both opened before the death of John Wesley, with Westgate opening in the year of his death (1791) and Stanhope in 1800. Well established societies and chapels existed in the Allendales, and Nenthead had its small but lively Wesleyan society. A site was made available for a chapel at Nenthead by the London Lead Company in 1825, although the existing building is dated 1873.

In Weardale the expansion of the Wesleyans may be traced through the dates of their chapels and the intervals between them. It was twelve years before Rookhope appeared, in 1812, to be followed only two years later by Frosterley. There is some evidence for a small revival at this time, before the advent of the Primitives. Their arrival in 1821 and the opening of their first chapel in 1824 did not spark a major response from the Wesleyans, from the evidence of chapel building. It was two years before Eastgate was opened in 1826, and in spite of the wave of Primitive Methodist revivals that began in Weardale in 1825, there was no further Wesleyan chapel building in the 1820s. It was in fact another ten years before Wolsingham opened their second building (1836) and a further sixteen before the St John's Chapel society rose to a chapel of their own in 1852. This is prima facie evidence that the coming of the Primitives did not cause great concern among the Wesleyans in Weardale, although there was a little 'sheep stealing.' The lull in Wesleyan chapel building in the midst of a PM revival may suggest that there was in reality plenty of room for everyone in the large Weardale population of the time.

There is some evidence for something of a revival in the Wesleyan societies in the 1850s, for the opening of the chapel at St John's Chapel was the herald of a close series of new openings, among them, significantly, a new third chapel at Wolsingham (1862). Thus Burnhope, a society dating from 1772, achieved its chapel in 1856, and Wearhead followed six years later (1862). Rookhope's second chapel was opened in 1863, with Lanehead four years later. Four years on again (1871) saw second buildings at St John's Chapel and Stanhope. The pace then slowed down, as the dale moved into the period of economic change of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Seven years were pass before the next opening, at Frosterley, a second chapel, in 1878, when the dale was severely effected by The Great Depression (see appended note below). To be sure the end of chapel building was almost nigh for it took fourteen years for Eastgate's second to emerge in 1892. The sequence was complete with Tunstall finally in 1905.

Methodism in the Northern Pennines - the Wesleyans

The dates provide a touch stone of the progress of the Wesleyans in Weardale. There is little doubt that similar stories could be outlined for the other dales. It would certainly seem that the coming of the Primitives to Allandale from Hexham after 1822, and the Teesdale round of PM revivalism in 1825, had little direct effect on the Wesleyans. This is somewhat surprising, in view of the lack of tension between them and in view of the way in which the revivals in one were soon shared by the other in the coalfields. Perhaps there is something here that ought to be explored by the religious sociologists.

The wave of activity in the 1850s corresponds with the presence in the Bishop Auckland Circuit of Peter MacKenzie, although there is no direct evidence for a connection. Hailing from Haswell on the coalfield, MacKenzie was a famous Wesleyan evangelist. At work in Bishop Auckland as a lay agent from 1854, he travelled into all the mining dales, before leaving the area in 1858 to be trained as a minister. The only nineteenth century Wesleyan reference I have to Derwentdale is to an occasion when MacKenzie was conducting a successful revival mission at Ramshaw. The chapel was so low that on gesticulating over enthusiastically with his fist, MacKenzie punched a hole in the ceiling ! As I was never able to identify a Wesleyan chapel at Ramshaw (the still existing building at Hunstanworth, albeit out of use, is ex Primitive), I wonder if this was a cottage meeting.

It was a feature of all branches of Methodism that societies came into existence without a chapel building, ministers and preachers being quite happy to preach in any place that could offer a roof ! Farmhouse kitchens and barns were not infrequent places appearing on the circuit Preaching Plans (the quarterly or six monthly allocation of preachers, lay and ordained, to conduct midweek and Sunday services). The northern Pennines had nowhere quite like the famous Bible Christian society to the north of Dartmoor which met at Up-side Waiting Rooms, Sampford Courtenay Railway Station, on the Southern Railway ! However, in Weardale, societies did worship in premises which were not chapels at .. Wolsingham Park, Snape Gate, Horsley Head, Ludwell, Breckon Hill, Sidehead, Wolfcleugh, Huntsnielford, Daddry Shield, Burnfoot, East Blackdene, Black Cleugh and Killhope. Research is needed to uncover more about these societies. It is just possible that some of them might be Primitive societies rather than Wesleyan. Beyond doubt similar societies without chapels met in the other dales. In Teesdale for instance groups met at Holwick and Forest, in the latter location not opening a chapel until 1867. In Allendale, the Keenley Chapel (near Hindley Hill; see Part 5 - 'The Affair at Hindley Hill') was built as two cottages in 1750-1 and very soon in use as a Methodist preaching room. In about 1850 it was converted to a chapel, only the shell remaining from the original cottages. Other alterations have followed.

In the middle years of the century the dales would often be visited by one of the several itinerant evangelists that existed in Wesleyan Methodism. Never officially recognised, never the less these men would be employed to conduct 'Revival Meetings' in a locality before moving on to their next booking, often following a regular itinerary around the country. One such preacher was Joshua Dawson of High House Chapel, who himself had been converted by an itinerant evangelical group from Scotland in 1844. It is possible that it was at Dawson's invitation that there came to Weardale another of the itinerants, Mr Coverdale Smith. Preaching at High House in 1860, Smith saw several professing repentance, among them a young miner named Joseph Race. The story of Race's progress into Local Preaching, the ministry and to China as a missionary is best read in the book by Steve Race, Joseph's grandson, 'The Two Worlds of Joseph Race.'

Methodism in the Northern Pennines - the Wesleyans

Missionaries not only came out of Weardale. In 1875 William Dowson sailed from England to the West Indies as a Probationer (pre-ordination) minister. Four years later he died of yellow fever on St Martin in the Leeward Islands. Born in 1850 in Harwood, son of Joseph and Mary (!), Dowson became a miner before being accepted for the Wesleyan ministry in 1873, by which time he was living at Newbiggin.

The oldest purpose built chapel still in use in Methodism is at Newbiggin. The chapel celebrated its centenary in 1860 (probably a year late !), by improving and enlarging the accommodation. Never a large society, it was never the less reasonably healthy during the nineteenth century. In 1883 it was sufficiently sure of itself to build a new Sunday School and cottages over. To facilitate this a new Trust Deed was prepared with fifteen signatories. Two are from outside the dale

John Watson, Sunderland, gentleman,
George Beadle, Darlington, miner;

.... while the others are all from the circuit

John Coatsworth, Louton, farmer,
William Gibson, Newbiggin, farmer,
Leonard Gibson, Newbiggin, farmer,
Joshua Bainbridge, Newbiggin, farmer,
William Coatsworth, Newbiggin, farmer,
Robert Stephenson, Middleton, farmer,
John Longstaff, Lunedale, farmer,
John Kipling Dent, Lunedale, farmer,
John Coatsworth, Newbiggin, farmer,
John Dowson, Newbiggin, miner
Isaac Parkin, Middleton, blacksmith,
John Robson, Middleton, joiner,
Thomas Wearmouth, Mickleton, grocer.

Three names continued from the previous (1852) deed. John Watson had been a grocer living at Newbiggin in 1852, while John Coatsworth and William Gibson were farmers then also. A notable feature is the number of farmers, outnumbering miners nine to two (and Beadle the miner lived in Darlington). There is also another grocer, successor perhaps to John Watson in the village ? Perhaps the blacksmith and the joiner were mine-employed. George Beadle was not a name from 1852, so the presence of a Darlington signatory is intriguing. The John Dowson was possibly related to William the missionary, and the ancestor of people living until recently in Cockfield.

This sample of names and occupations could be evidence for an increasingly middle class Wesleyan Methodism. Sociologically the Methodist societies did experience a phenomenon called 'conversion & lift' - a rise in social status by Methodist converts consequent upon the Methodist stresses on local leadership and responsibility, and a strong social conscience. The Wesleyans were particularly prone to it, the Primitives less so, although not immune. However it must be remembered that we are viewing a Trustees list: Trustees were the Methodist 'upper crust' anyway. It is entirely possible that not all were Newbiggin members: that would not be uncommon.

By 1888 the Wesleyan circuits had replicated, and those covering the mining dales were named as follows, with their ministers and memberships ..

Teesdale

Thomas Mosscrop at Middleton

417 members

Methodism in the Northern Pennines - the Wesleyans

Wolsingham	Samuel Miles at Wolsingham Herbert Sugden at Tow Law 474 members
Weardale	John Mackintosh at St John's Chapel George Glover at Stanhope 648 members
Shotley Bridge & Consett	Thomas Broadbent at Consett Wesley Keyworth at Shotley Bridge Frederick Chesters at Annfield Plain 1566 members (mostly outside Derwentdale)
Allendale	Henry Beeson at Allendale Town 367 members
Alston	William Fern & Walter Fletcher at Alston 380 members

The figures are from the annual Minutes of Conference returns. They also display some evidence for another small revival in Weardale Wesleyanism, for they show 102 'on trial' as members, that is people awaiting to be admitted to membership. At almost 16% of the existing membership, this is the second highest 'on trial' figure in the north east, only exceeded by 21% in the Newcastle, Elswick Road, Circuit. Allendale with only 1 person 'on trial' was at the other extreme: a 'dry' period perhaps ?

Bibliography:

My present sources are mostly secondary. Two valuable works to which I do not now have access are A Steele, History of Methodism in Barnard Castle and .. the Dales Circuit, 1857 (an important source for early material, covering all the mining dales); P A G Clack & R E Pattinson, Weardale Chapels 1978. Sources I never managed to get sight of include T J Evans & T A Henderson, Allendale Methodist Bicentenary, 1749-1947, 1974; J W Clarke, To celebrate 200 years of Methodism (High House Chapel) 1960; St John's Chapel W I, A History of St John's Chapel in Weardale nd. Later data for Teesdale, data for Nenthead and Derwentdale data all need to be extracted.

>>> Appended Note: The Great Depression of the late nineteenth century.

The title, 'The Great Depression,' was coined by certain economic historians to describe the economic situation of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. From the day of its coining it has been a controversial phrase. Many have argued that there was no depression at all, the falling of the cost of living, for instance, making it anything but a depression for the emerging urban population. Few economic historians today do use the phrase. Yet there was a distinct lack of investment and a noted hesitancy in financial confidence until into the 1890s. Moreover, anyone who has studied the people of agricultural trades, the colliers and the metal miners will be under no illusions: there was indeed a Great Depression. The word 'unemployed' after all dates from 1882. We should feel no hesitancy about using it in the metal mining dales.

Report from Durham County CouncilDavid Miller

In the middle of winter, it is difficult to imagine a spring birthday party. There is something to celebrate this year as it is 10 years since visitors were first welcomed to the new Killhope. Killhope's birthday falls appropriately enough in Durham County Councils "Year of the Countryside" which is intended to focus on the great asset that the countryside is not only for visitors but for the residents of the County.

At Killhope, 10 year olds will be given free entry (groups excepted.) There will be a good programme of events and we must once again thank Friends for vital contributions. Everyone is hoping for a successful season and a happy birthday.

Back to deep mid-winter and the construction of the visitor mine. The realities of working high in the North Pennines are the same now as in the days of lead mining. The construction project has take place during one of the worst periods of winter weather for a number of years. The ground conditions have been extremely difficult and work on a cramped site causing delays and problems at every turn. The construction job is to finish at the end of March and the fitting out commences soon after to run throughout the season with an opening in Spring 1995. We all hope that it will be a terrific visitor experience with pride of place being given to the Friends underground water wheel.

It has always been intended that when the major developments at Killhope were completed that the Environment Department's long association with Killhope would end. Indeed, this is mostly to be implemented on 1st April when the operational side of Killhope will be transferred to the Arts, Libraries and Museums Department. The completion of the mine project will, however, remain in the Environment Department. The design team of Roger Wright, Willie Drea, Lesley Hehir and Ian Forbes will finish the equipping of the mine.

So ends a very stimulating relationship which has seen Killhope grow from an idea to full development. Inevitably Environment Department staff are rather sad about the end of an era, but look forward to Killhope blossoming as the North Pennines' premier visitor attraction. Those of us closely involved with Killhope will, I know, keep in touch via membership of the Friends.

Thanks once again Friends for all your help and support over the years.

PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT**Ian Forbes**

In the last newsletter Bryan Chambers very ably deputised for me in writing the Project Officer's report; now I'm back in harness I can fill in a few details from last year and bring you up to date with news of Friends' activities.

Since I last wrote we have had a number of donations to the Friends of Killhope library.

Doug Tyerman has given us copies of photographs of the old Egglestone smelt mill chimney, and through the good offices of Bryan and Dorothy Chambers we have obtained some old photographs of the Rookhope area.

Brian Young has donated a large number of 6" O.S. geological maps, and Mr. Peart Emerson a school attendance book from Lanehead school.

All these have been added to the Friends' Library which Carol Sutton and Jennifer Norderhaug have started the daunting task of cataloguing.

We have also had some useful donations to the site - a large bag of pyrite and other minerals (which has proved invaluable on the washing rake) came from Billy McGuire, Les Blackett gave a cogwheel, Nigel Driver a couple of large crosscut saws from Burtree Pasture Mine and Mr. Mansley from Staindrop a large number of safety helmets.

Several Friends have enjoyed helping out interpreting the site, including Alan Donaldson, Doug Tyerman, Pete Andrews and Bob Benton. This latter trio have had some excellent times in the smithy - it has been good to have the forge in use.

It was particularly good to welcome a fairly new member on to the site recently. Bill Purvis spent a whole week at Killhope helping with the reconstruction of the jigger house, and achieved a great deal. He worked with Russ Parkin with extra help from Les Blackett (and welder) and Bryan Chambers. It was wonderful to have such dedicated help, and I hope Bill enjoyed himself.

Friends have also helped off-site with projects. The large waterwheel which will be installed in the mine is an ongoing project - of which more will be said in a later newsletter. This will stand on a wooden framework, and I am very grateful to Nick Dybeck for checking over the drawings, doing the appropriate calculations, and assuring me that it wouldn't collapse.

Your committee is working towards publishing the "Graham letters" as a book and Shelagh Bridges has started the painstaking task of putting all the letters on to computer disc.

Members may recall the Walter Beaumont posters - replicas of the 19th century handbills - stuck on doors round the site at Killhope. Doug Tyerman has spent some time producing new copies of these, as faithful as possible to the original.

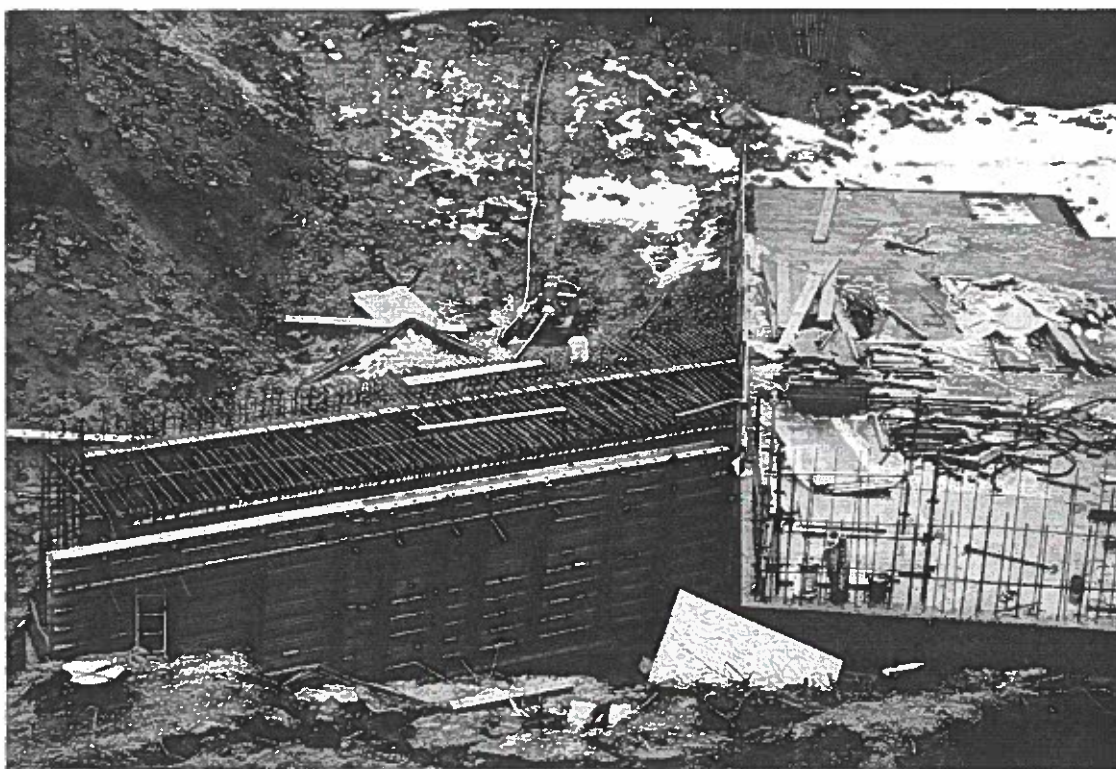
Friends talks continue to be well supported and well worth going to.

We have had two since I last wrote - Ken Fairless gave us a wonderful evening of history and reminiscences of the Weardale railway, and Alan Blackburn detailed some of his important new research on the 17th century Moormasters in Weardale.

In the last newsletter we said the "Brains Trust" event would be in March. Our President, Sir Kingsley Dunham, was anxious that we should rope Brian Young in to do a Brains Trust session before he disappeared with the British Geological Survey to Edinburgh. This event will now be in July, not in March, and with Brian on the panel rather than Ansell Dunham.

I must also repeat Bryan's thanks to all who contributed to the Mineral Exhibition last year - a superb show was a feast to the eyes. Special thanks to our judge Brian Young, to Trevor and Shelagh Bridges who once again put on an impressive and informative display of mineralisation, and to Steve McLean who brought some specimens from the Sunderland Museum collection. Thanks too to Blue Circle Eastgate Works for their continued sponsorship of the event, and to all the stewards and helpers who made it possible and who ensured security for the exhibits.

Finally, on a personal note, can I thank everyone who sent best wishes to Pam and myself after our car crash. We were deeply grateful for all the support.



The Park Level visitor mine project has progressed considerably since the photograph in the last newsletter was taken last September. In the photograph above the main box can be seen complete and the construction of the stope leading to the second exit is well under way.