



NEWSLETTER NO 32

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

JANUARY 1995

HAND OVER DAY!



The 18ft. water wheel installed underground at Killhope with the team who built it. From left to right: Stephen Hall (Reyrolle), David McClure (Nissan), John Lynn (Graduate Supervisor, Industrial Power Group Manufacturing Training Centre), Mark Batey (Reyrolle), Christopher Balcombe (Merz & McLennan) and Kirsty Buddle (Parsons.)
Photo: Rolls Royce News

1994 proved to be a busy and exciting 10th Anniversary year at Killhope where the Staff and Friends combined to put on a full programme of events. The Friends also promoted their own usual happenings and a very successful new one - the Day School. This attracted a good attendance and well before the end of the day the audience was requesting the date of the 1995 edition!

Thus our events programme finished on a high note but there was more success to come for as you may have seen in the press and on T.V. on 15th December we were able to hand over to Durham County Council the 18ft diameter underground water wheel made for us by Parsons/Rolls Royce Industrial Power Group.

This has been one of the most important contributions of our 10 year association with Killhope and we have decided to mark the event with a supplement devoted entirely to the story of the wheel. As always the success of such a major project was due to the efforts of many people and organisations and our thanks go to them all. However, at the risk of embarrassing him I must mention the contribution of our committee member, Dick Graham, whose connections with Parsons made the whole thing possible. The team of engineering students and their instructor from Rolls Royce Industrial Power Group Training Establishment who fettled, machined and erected the wheel underground within a three months programme was unknown to most of our members but I can assure you they were true heroes (and heroine) of the project.

Please read and enjoy our first ever supplement for a fuller appreciation of their efforts on own behalf. I hope you will receive your copy in a few weeks time.

A POLITE REMINDER

Our subscriptions became due on 1st January and a renewal notice is enclosed for those members who do not pay by standing order.

THREE BOOKS

Robert Sopwith's biography of Thomas Sopwith's early years has now been published and will be available from Killhope this season. The book covers the years up to 1845, when Thomas Sopwith became agent for WB Lead at Allenheads. Further details and a review will appear in the next newsletter.

Volume 4 of Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society's occasional journal 'The Mine Explorer' has 128 pages, A5 format, with numerous figures and plates and is available from Mrs. S. Barker, 411 West Shore Park, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 3YS at £4.95 plus £1 postage and packing.

'Exploring Cornish Mines' describes six walks through the area's best known historic mining districts in 144 pages A5 format with maps, diagrams and photographs. It costs £5.50 plus £1 postage and packing from Landfall Publications, Landfall, Penpol Devoran, Truro, Cornwall TR3 6NW.

DAY SCHOOL - Any questions?

Due to a very crowded programme at our successful Day School last October there was no time to question our speakers. Afterwards a member of the audience, Mrs. Mollie Walker of Sequim, Washington, USA suggested that questions might be answered via the newsletter and I should be glad to forward queries to the speakers and publish replies in future newsletters.

A RECORD?

While we have had Friends from considerable distances attending our events over the years, so far as I am aware Mrs. Walker's journey from the west coast of the States is the longest at about 6000 miles as the Jumbo flies. Any advance on that?

A REMINDER

The Cranstone Consultancy conference : Industry and Agriculture, Post Medieval Upland Landscapes in Northern England is to be held at Van Mildert College, Durham University from 31st March to 2nd April 1995. Many distinguished speakers are booked and a field trip to Cockfield Fell is included in the programme. The conference fee for non-society (HMS or SPMA) members is £24. Meals and accommodation are extra. Further details and booking from Eric Instone, c/o Cranstone Consultancy, 267 Kells Lane, Low Fell, Gateshead NE9 5HU.

ERRATA

Newsletter No. 31 - Washing Rakes (Harold Beadle) - Page 9, line 3 should read:- In size it is only 3' long x 2'6" wide with a substantial knockstone 2'6" x 1'.

The Blacketts of Weardale (Les Blackett) - Page 13, line 25 should read: Sidehead Quarry.

ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY

Willie Watson of Alston, who contributed those excellent prices on Rotherhope Fell mine in recent newsletters informs me that the last day of 1994 was the hundreth anniversary of the start of a great storm on Alston Moor in which the snow lay for many weeks. Willie knew people who lived at that time and he has been told that in places fences were not seen for 15 weeks. When Willie completes his account of this event I hope to include it in the newsletter.

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

DAVE BLUNDELL**Sheila Barker**

By now many members will be aware of the sad and untimely death of Dave during August. The news left everyone who knew him completely stunned. He was a long time member of the Society and one of the most active industrial archaeologists in the region. His wealth of knowledge had been built up over many years. His records and articles always showed the highest thoroughness and accuracy.

Dave was one of the best companions one could ever wish to have, when walking over the fells or exploring mine sites.

On the 14th August he accepted a lift to Hudgill Burn mine to see how the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society dig was progressing. It was while sitting in the sun watching his fellow members digging that he dozed off and died of a heart attack.

Dave was 41 and leaves a wife, Cathy and children Susie and Linda.

DID YOU KNOW?

Thomas, son of John of Kyllop (Killhope) was baptised in 1609.

Does anyone else have odd facts from Killhope's past? **Editor**

Editor's Note:

Mr. Charles Tanner's work printed overleaf on the Walton family has uncovered connections during the 18th century with Watsons and Dickinsons in Alston. The same names crop up here and there as shareholders later on and he wonders whether Thomas Walton was recruiting his relatives to share mining risks. In short, if any of our readers think they can establish a connection or have anything to add to the story would they contact Mr. M.C. Tanner, 30 Higher Downs, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 8AW, or the Editor.

Mr. Tanner notes that some of the pages of the note book are defaced with childish scrawls and thinks the book must have been used for writing practice by the children of the family in Cornriggs during the century or so before he first saw it! I suppose this again shows how even ephemera can survive with luck even in unfavourable circumstances.

Lead Mining Activities of Thomas Walton, Low Burn, Weardale

Charles Tanner

This article reproduces details from an old notebook and other papers which belonged to my father-in-law John Harvey Walton of Cornriggs P.O.. It is offered in the hope that readers may spot people, events or possible connections which they recognise and so contribute to the picture of life and lead mining times in Upper Weardale and the Alston-Garrigill area. In particular, and in contrast with the larger and well documented lead mining concerns, it provides a glimpse of the activities of some smaller local mining companies.

The trigger for this account was a recent walk from near Ashgill to the site of the former Nether Hurth Lead Mine beyond Tyne Head. Weather conditions were poor for the time of year and the extreme desolation of the spot with its residual evidence of mining activity a century and a half before contributed to a generally spooky feeling. This was enhanced by the brooding presence of Moor House, a substantial Victorian style building formerly used by Durham University as a field centre but now shuttered and seemingly abandoned. Was this the original mine managers house built in 1860?

Nigel Chapman's Newsletter article (1993) details the history of this mine from early in 1855 until its final closure in 1873. He refers to an earlier period of operation in which over 1000 tons of ore were obtained in 20 years by a team averaging five pickmen and he mentions the realisation among later workers that by 1864 the best had already gone from former workings at the west end.

The old notebooks referred to above describe events in the earlier period and the part played in the exploitation of this and other mines by Thomas Walton of Low Burn, Ireshopeburn (1796-1855). He was my wife's great great grandfather and was himself the son of a lead miner. By the time of his death from typhoid in January 1855 he must have been a man of substance, being described in the 1851 census as a provision merchant with a manservant living in.

His will, completed only a week before his death, directs that "If £400 can be obtained for (my share) of Nether Hurth Lead Mine let it be sold. My 5/64 of Howgill, 2/32 of North Nattress and (?) shares of Dryburn Lead Mines to be parted with at such prices as can be realised". All of these mines were in the Garrigill area.

We can only assume that his wishes were observed because there is no evidence, or even legend, in the family that ownership of shares in these mines was retained. On the other hand, there is no trace of the £400 !

One of Thomas Walton's notebooks contains sketchy and tantalisingly incomplete references to his lead mining ventures. Thus: "Shareholders in Netherhurth Mining Co. at a 2nd General Meeting held at Sun Inn, Alston on May 29th 1852"

	shares		shares
Thomas Shaw	2/32	Miss Marg. Armstrong	1/32
Thomas Walton	2/32	Thomas Elliott	1/32
Utrick Vipond	2/32	Wilm. Hall	1/32
Edw. Emerson	2/32	Wilm. Dickinson	1/32
J. H. Robinson	4/32	Jos. Dickinson	1/32
John Oliver	1/32	Thomas Cleminson	1/32
Wilm. Watson	1/32	John Holden	1/32

Jos. Walton	1/32	John Woodmas	7/32
George Dodd	1/32	Sarah Olliver	1/32
Jacob Walton	1/32	(total)	32/32

J. H. Robinson above turns up in Nigel Chapman's account as a major shareholder during the later phase of Nether Hurth history.

Thomas Walton's notebook records:

Feb. 14th 1852	Call paid 10s/- per share	£16-0-0
May 29th	Call paid 30s/- per share	£48-0-0
	Thomas Shaw Chairman	
	John Woodmas Agent	
Aug 29th	Call per share 40s/-	£64-0-0
Nov 27th	Call per share 32s/-	

The total for the last "call" was not written down but it would have been £51-4-0. It seems therefore that during 1852 alone the shareholders between them provided a total of £179-4-0 for this mine and Thomas Walton's contribution would have been £11-4-0. On a following page there is a listing of his personal contribution to "call" money which is consistent with the 1852 amounts and carries on through 1853 and 1854 with sums generally £4-0-0 per quarter and occasionally slightly less. Following the entry for August 1854 there appears the cryptic note "vein risen to 3 places and bargins let to get over".

We do not know what sums were invested in other years or how the money was used (possibly it was subsistence money for the workforce) but we can have a shot at reconstructing the financial shape of the Company. From Nigel Chapman's account Nether Hurth was producing gross income from ore sales at about £480 per year for many years. Wages typically at 12s/6d per man per week might have been £160 per year and the return to shareholders could have been perhaps £320 per year. With a 2/32 share Thomas Walton might expect to receive a dividend income of £20 per year and if this is regarded as a 5% return it begins to seem credible that he should have thought in 1855 that his investment might be worth £400.

There is a very brief reference in Thomas Walton's notebook to the How Gill Sike Pasture Mine Company. The accounts were discussed at a meeting at Garrigill Gate on Jan. 7th 1853 and again at Alston on the 8 (th January). A call was agreed of 5s/- per 1/64 share and the sum of £1-5-0 was paid to Josuah Mulcaster in respect of (Thomas Walton's) 5/64 share. A following note states "Sold Wilm. Watson a parcel of ore to be delivered on 10 (th January) at five pounds 2s/6 per bing".

Elsewhere there is a listing of shareholders as at 1842 in the North Nattress Company

John Parker	Eals	3/64
John Vickers	Newcastle	4/64
John Smith	Bleage Gate	4/64
Cuthbert Peart	Alston	2/64
Plumber & Greenwell	Newcastle	2/64
Utrick Vipond	Alston	2/64
Thomas Bush	Whitfield	4/64
Mary Simson	Alston	4/64
John Hutchinson	Cornwood	2/64

Robt. Bell	Tyne Head	4/64
Thomas Peart	How Bank Gate	1/64
Stephen Laithern	New Shield	1/64
Mrs Isabella Dowson	Scale Bank	4/64
Mary Walton	Alston	2/64
Thomas Walton	Low Burn	6/64
Jacob Walton	Green Ends	8/64
Wilm. Craig	Crosslands	2/64
John Walton	Four Darge	2/64
John Laidler	Blagill	1/64
Thomas Peart	Gold Hill	2/64
John Rodham	Guisborough	2/64
John Heatherington	(?) Cottage	2/64

There follows a truncated account of money advanced to North Natrass Mine in respect of Thomas Waltons 6/64 share:

Oct 20th 1843	Advanced 11s/- per 1/32 share	£1-13-0
May 10th 1845	Advanced (pay ?) 5s/- per 1/32 share	£ 15-0
June 30th 1849	On 6/64, paid R. Bell	£1- 4 -0

There are no references to the Dryburn Lead Mine, but this is not conclusive as it seems that some pages are missing from Thomas Walton's notebook.

The most comprehensive account of transactions with any one mining company concerns the East and West Scarr Ends Mining Company (with a footnote stating that this was called Pasture Mine from 1844). Ian Forbes has suggested to me that this was located on the north bank of Cross Gill about 3/4 miles SW of Cross Gill bridge. Thomas Walton's records run from 1844 to 1852.

At a meeting held at Wilm. Watson's, Garrigall Gate, on Nov 1st 1844, the shareholders were:

Matt. Watson	Crossgill (Agent)	8/64
Ralph Watson	Castle Carrick	10/64
James Watson	Brampton	9/64
Isaac Hind	New Castle Carrick	10/64
Thomas Walton	Low Burn	3/64
Thomas Shaw	Shield Hill	4/64
Adam Elliott	Sally Hole	2/64
Wilm. Watson	Garrigall Gate	2/64
Josuah Mulcaster	-do- Gate	2/64
Thos. Greenwell	-do- Gate	2/64
Jos. Watson	Cross Gill	2/64
George Watson	Skydes (?)	2/64
Thomas Spark	-do-	1/64
Wilm. Watson	Twinings (?)	1/64
Thomas Walton	Low Burn	2/64
Wilm. Gibson	Chester	4/64

Evidently, by the end of the meeting Thomas Walton had persuaded himself to take up a 5/64 share. There follows an account of the money he paid into this enterprise. It seems that over a period of seven years the "call" on his shareholding totalled

East & West Scarr		At Water Watsons Gangall Gate	
Meeting held		Ends Mining Co. Nov. 1844	
Math. Watson	Crossgill	Agent	3/64
Ralph Watson	Castle Carwick		10/64
James Watson	Brampton		3/64
James Wood	Castle Carwick		10/64
Thomas Walton	Low Burn		3/64
Thomas Shaw	Shield Hill		4/64
Wolam Elliott	Sally Hole		2/64
Wm Watson	Gangall Gate		2/64
Gaspar Muckaster	de Gate		2/64
John Greenwell	de Gate		2/64
John Watson	Crossgill		2/64
George Watson	Skaydes		2/64
Thomas Spark	Skaydes		1/64
Wm Watson	Swearing		1/64
Thomas Wetherington			2/64
Wm Gibson	Chester		4/64
New Caled Pasture Mine			

A page from Thomas Walton's notebook.

1. List of shareholders of East & West Scarr Ends Mining Co
November 1844

nearly £59, an average of £8-8-6 per year rising to £15-6-3 in 1851 when lead ore was found. The yearly average provided by all shareholders was about £108 and if this was subsistence money it would have supported three or perhaps four pickmen. In 1851 the workforce may have risen to six or seven men.

The years from 1850 must have been exciting for Thomas Walton. This is his account .

1850	Mar 8	General pay at G.Gate:a flat cut in level.	2- 1- 3
	May 12	Paid Matt. Watson: cut a vein in the level and sent a sample of ore off to Castle Carrick	3-17-6
	Aug 24	(paid)	3- 7- 6
1851	Jan 18	(payments to May 17)	8- 6- 3
	June 20	General Meeting of Co. at Wilm. Watsons, G.Gate. Thomas Walton appointed agent, J Mulcaster clerk and assistant. Last day of Matt. Watsons agency.	2-10-0
	July 25	Pay at M Watson, G.Gate.	5- 0- 0
1852	Jan 9	General Meeting of Co. at Garrigall Gate. Amount of ore bought by Isaac(?) Walton and Co. 29 and 1/2 bings at 80s/- paid by Thos. Walton agent £117-12-0 to the Co. at the above meeting. A dividend made to the partners of 10s/- per share. Thomas Walton received for 5/64 the sum of £2-10-0. Thomas Walton re-appointed agent and to have a discretionary uncontrolled power to do the best he can for the Co. according to his best judgement and to be supported with money &c to enable him to carry out his plans to work the mine. Joseph Routlege, Chairman: Josiah Mulcaster, Secretary.	
	April 10	Sold to Wilm. Watson 14 bings 2cwt 7st. at 78s/-	55-19-10
		One and 1/4 percent allowed for cash	0-13-10
		Thos. Walton received in cash	55- 6 - 0
		Paid over to Josiah Mulcaster	15- 0 - 0
		Balance in hand	40- 6 - 0
	May 1	To Josiah Mulcaster sent cash	8- 0 - 0
		Balance	32- 6 - 0
	May 7	Cash paid to J.M.	10- 6 - 0
		Balance at General Meeting held (at) Mr Vartys, Garrigal Gate	22- 0 - 0
	May 29	Sent cash to workmen and to M Watson	10- 0 - 0
		Balance	12- 0 - 0
	July 2	Cash paid to Jos. Mulcaster	12- 0 - 0
		General Meeting at Garrigal Gate: paid on 5/64 share at 6s/-	1-10 - 0
		Received salary as agent for one year	6 - 0 - 0

The record stops here. Thomas Walton was heavily involved with this mine but it is difficult, on the data available, to see how he got his money back. Either he sold off

1851 Bought over 52 14 8
 July 25 pay at Mr Watson's 5 - -
 1852 £57 14 8

July 9 General Meeting of the
 Co. at Garrigal etc
 amount of ore brought to the
 29 Kings 3 Cwt 5/4 at 80/-
 paid by the water agent
 £117.12.0 to the Co. at the above price
 a dividend made to the partner
 of 10/- per share
 Thomas Water revised for 5/6
 £2.10.0 Thomas Water
 re appointed agent
 and to have a discretionary
 uncontrolled power to
 do the best he can for the
 Co. according to his best judgment
 and to be supported with
 money to enable him
 to carry out his plans to
 work the mine
 Joseph Prouthie Chairman
 Josiah Murrain Secretary

1852 Sold to Milson Watson
 Kings last 1/6
 14.2.7 at 78/- 55 19 10
 and 1/4 per cent abroad
 Apr 10 for Cash 13 10
 The water received in Cash £55 6 0
 Paid Over to Josiah Murrain 15 0 0
 Balance in hand £40 0 0
 May 1 to Josiah Murrain last 8 0 0
 £32 0 0
 7 Cash paid J.M. 10 6 0
 Balance at £22 0 0
 General Meeting held at
 Barty's Garrigal etc
 May 29 Sent Cash to work money
 and to Mr Watson by self 10 0 0
 Balance on hand £12 0 0
 July 2 Cash paid to Mr Murrain 12 0 0
 General Meeting at Garrigal etc
 July 2 paid on 1/6 share 1 10 0
 Josiah Murrain as agent for one year
 £6.0.0

2. Sale of ore and other notes about East and West Scarr End Mining Co. 1852

his interest, or the mine went out of business before 1855, because there is no mention of it in his will.

Then there was the Queen of Tyne Co. and a note of the settling up account as at February 6th 1847. Some familiar shareholders names appear but it is not clear whether they left the meeting richer or poorer.

Thomas Shaw	Garrigall	4/22 share	Cash paid	14- 4-0
John Cherry & partners	Newcastle	4/22		14- 4-0
Thomas Walton	Low Burn	2/22		7- 2-0
Wilm. Garbut	Yorkshire	1/22		3-11-0
Mrs T (or J) Hall	Middleton	1/22		3-11-0
Wilm. Watson	Garrigall G.	2/22		7- 2-0
David Armstrong	(Alston ?)	1/22		3-11-0
Henry Wilkinson	Garrigall G.	1/22		3-11-0
John Vipond	Dry Burn	1/22		3-11-0
Thomas Elliott	Alston	1/22		3-11-0
Margrett Armstrong	Alston	2/22		7- 2-0
Adam Elliott	Silly Hole	2/22		7- 2-0

Finally there is a note of a non-lead mining enterprise rejoicing in the name of The Greenhead Coal and Shippley Fell Brick and Tile Company. It seems that on April 24th 1845 Thomas Walton and John Heatherington advanced £20 and £10 respectively to this affair, and in August the following year there was a further transaction in which (the company ?) received £15 from Thomas Walton on behalf of himself and John Heatherington. A further note dated Sept 3rd 1846 states "The above as settled between Thos. Walton and John Heatherington".

It is impossible to say what was going on but it cannot all have been bad news because there is a final note, out of date order, which states "July 27th 1846: 5/64 share, received £2-15-3. Due to John Heatherington 18s/3 and settled".

What can be concluded from this account? It seems that in the decade before his death in 1855, Thomas Walton was involved in at least seven separate mining ventures, each requiring investment over a period of years before any return could be expected. The degree of risk at any time must have been many times the annual wage of a pickman and was substantial for an individual acting on his own behalf. All this was of course in addition to his provision merchant business.

Most of the mining activities were centred around Garrigill but he lived 8 miles away (as the crow flies) at Ireshopeburn and communication involved 1000 feet of ascent each way. We know that the provision merchant business involved deliveries to customers at the head of Weardale and this would, in a sense, subsidise journeys over the top. These must have been more frequent than the notebook entries suggest and, in his capacity as agent, would take him off the beaten track to the mines themselves.

A complete account of Thomas Walton's life and times would include an analysis of his provision merchant business. Details of his accounts with individual customers going back to 1833 are in a separate notebook and could with advantage be correlated with 1841 and 1851 census information. Since most of his customers would themselves be lead miners the exercise would illustrate the domestic economy of the mining population at the head of Weardale in considerable detail.

EMIGRANT'S CORNER

PART 2

Kevin Watson

"A PRIMITIVE URGE"

Within ten minutes I saw two murders, the breakdown of a marriage, Captain Kirk saving the Universe as we know it and a tele-evangelist being slain by the spirit whilst his credit card hotline flashed across the screen. It was time to make a decision.

I opted for the familiar. In *Little House on the Prairie* there was the usual run of illness, breakdown and reconciliation, and as ever, the little wooden frame church played its part. Charles Ingalls, played by the late, great, Michael Landon, stood in the pulpit and read some precious words from Scripture, words which had taken on new meaning as a result of the events of the last sixty minutes. A tear welled up in his eye as ordinary, decent American folk everywhere reached for their collective paper tissues and the congregation of Walnut Grove joined in singing those joyful words of hope:

Bringing in the Sheaves,

Bringing in the Sheaves,

We shall come rejoicing

Bringing in the Sheaves.

Family values were restored and life was for celebrating because if the old time religion was good enough for Charles Ingalls, it was good enough for everyone. In his day the church stood for commonsense morality, gushing sentimentalism and picnics by the river. Black and white never turned grey and whilst a man's religion was how he lived, it was not necessarily the way he had to feel all the time. Sentimental attachment was the norm whilst emotional commitment was optional and had little bearing on the business of being saved.

Such is the religious profile of *Little House on the Prairie*, heartwarmingly romantic but detached from reality. Emigrants from the North Pennines fitted well into the religious landscape of nineteenth century America but that landscape was every bit as bizarre as its modern parallel of foaming tele-evangelists, miracle healings and dangerous initiations involving live rattlesnakes. To understand why the Dalesfolk assimilated so well into this strange American church culture, I wandered the backroads of the midwest, discovering old wooden frame churches, talking to smiling young fundamentalists with guitars, sombre looking old fundamentalists without guitars, and any preacher, cynic, barfly or historian who might answer my question. How was it that a group of miners from the North Pennines brought a religious lifestyle to the midwest that was as English as Yorkshire Pudding or Afternoon Tea yet flavoured with something as American as Apple Pie or Popcorn? The key to the matter lies in an American influence that penetrated

the North Pennines over twenty years before any Dalesman ever thought about making the move to the Mississippi.

Historically, the most significant expression of nineteenth century American religious life is to be found in the phenomenon of the Camp Meeting. It has been estimated that in the early years of the nineteenth century two out of three Americans attended such events annually. Camp Meetings were open air, evangelical occasions which could last for days or even weeks and attracted people in their thousands. In a cleared forest area preachers addressed the crowds, encouraging loud and emotional responses. In the "mourner's pen" those to be converted wailed as they slowly died to sin in the hope of being born to salvation and new life.

By the 1830s the physical displays which accompanied Camp Meetings were becoming steadily more dramatic:

"...On the subject of the powerful exercises among the people under preaching, a new exercise broke out among us called the jerks, which was overwhelming in its effects upon the bodies and minds of the people. No matter whether they were saints or sinners, they would be taken under a warm song or sermon, and seized with a convulsive jerking all over, which they could not by any possibility avoid, and the more they resisted, the more they jerked...I have seen more than five hundred persons jerking at any one time in my large congregations...Some would run, but could not get away. Some would resist; on such the jerks were generally very severe.

"There was a company of drunken rowdies...headed by a very large drinking man. They came with their bottles of whiskey in their pockets. This man cursed the jerks and all religion. Shortly afterward, he took the jerks, and he started to run, but he jerked so powerfully that he could not get away. He halted among some saplings, and, although he was violently agitated, he took out his bottle of whiskey, and swore he would drink the damned jerks to death; but he jerked at such a rate he could not get the bottle to his mouth, though he tried hard. At length, he fetched a sudden jerk, and the bottle struck a sapling and was broken to pieces, and spilled his whiskey on the ground. There was a great crowd gathered round him, and when he lost his whiskey he became very much enraged, and cursed and swore very profanely, his jerks still increasing. At length he fetched a very violent jerk, snapped his neck, fell and soon expired, with his mouth full of cursing and bitterness."¹

Other bizarre accompaniments to American religion up to the 1830s included

¹Cartwright, Peter The Autobiography of Peter Cartwright, New York, 1856.

"holy laughter" by which a gathering could be seized with laughter for hours on end, visions, "holy dancing" and barking. Whilst these dramatic displays were by no means a universal feature of American religious life, they are symptomatic of a great difference of character which existed (and some might say still exists) between churches in England and the United States. Broadly speaking, the Christian people of England were dominated in their church life by tradition, hierarchy and discipline. The Christian people of America were dominated in their church life by their emotions and a desire to be democratic even in matters of faith. This state of affairs allowed such emotionally explosive events as Camp Meetings to take place among people of all denominations, including Methodists, whilst in England the prospect of holding such an event was enough to make any respectable Methodist shudder. Thomas Coke presented the firm official line in 1807:

*"It is our judgement, that even supposing such meetings to be allowable in America, they are highly improper in England, and likely to be productive of considerable mischief: and we disclaim all connection with them."*²

The matter might have ended there but the history of American religion is full of larger than life characters and sometimes those characters managed to make an impression in Britain. Lorenzo Dow, an American Methodist, was a powerful preacher with a theatrical style – smashing chairs, waxing comical, and thundering at specific sinners in his congregation were all techniques which fitted well into his repertoire. In the first twenty years of the nineteenth century he travelled astonishing distances along the backroads of America expressing the belief that all opposition to Camp Meetings was motivated not by theological concerns but by an unwillingness on the part of the wealthy classes to mix with ordinary people:

*"You may support your distinction and feel your pride, but in a religious point of view all men are on a level, and the good man feels it so. Your aversion to worship your Creator with the poor and despised, proves to me that you have neither part nor lot in the matter, that you know not God nor his worship, and that to follow your advice would be the sure road to perdition. The Lord hath declared his intention and purpose to exalt the humble whilst he will pull down high looks."*³

Lorenzo Dow made a huge impact on the religious life of ordinary Americans and when he visited the Pennines of England, he made such an impression on the Methodist preacher, Hugh Bourne, that Bourne decided to hold a Camp Meeting with Dow as one of the speakers. The meetings which followed at a place called Mow Cop are generally regarded as the birth of Primitive

² Quoted in Hatch, Nathan, *The Democratization of American Christianity*, Yale, 1989 p.50.

³Ibid. p132f.

Methodism in this country. With the official Methodist hard line reiterated, a schism was inevitable. *"All persons enthusiastically or schismatically disposed,"* wrote Jabez Bunting, *"are dangerous in our Connexion to its peace and permanency; and the more pious in their general character, the more dangerous."*⁴ A new British denomination was born but with Camp Meetings as its focal point, the movement possessed a distinctly American flavour.

By 1823 Primitive Methodism was making inroads into Teesdale:

*"Joseph Grieves...established a series of house prayer-meetings, to which the people flocked, curious to learn how former ringleaders in wickedness would pray. Under the humble agency a revival began, and one of its earliest gains was Mr John Leekley, afterwards the founder of Primitive Methodism in the Western States of America... Mr Grieves, along with Messers. Leekley, Rain, and Collinson, missioned Bowlees, Harwood, Forest, and other places in Upper Teesdale."*⁵

By 1842, Primitive Methodism was well established in Teesdale. John Leekley had become a local preacher but change was at hand. Several Teesdale Primitive Methodists decided to emigrate to the Mississippi lead mining region. They went in search of adventure and the opportunity to own their own land; they went in search of a new beginning but there is nothing like a new beginning to make people believe in the romance of their own past. Motivated by the wildness of the frontier society around them, this group of emigrants met as Primitive Methodists in connection with the English Primitive Methodist Conference in 1842. The society consisted of ten members and looked set to fade away but it did not. They met in each other's houses in Vinegar Hill and they met in the Bowling Alley in New Diggins; they organised a Circuit and then started to build wooden frame churches. They evangelised, they held Camp Meetings and they found strength in their God and each other. Eventually, the Primitive Methodists of America had to break away from the English connection but the link was never forgotten and Teesdale is a precious name on the lips of every self-respecting midwestern member.

Throughout the years the Primitive Methodists came out with some strange ideas - in 1849 a cholera epidemic in Shullsburg was interpreted as Divine retribution for the sin of the town's menfolk in going to California in search of gold whilst in 1865 the Primitive Methodist response to the death of President Lincoln was to see the real tragedy not in the fact that the President had been shot dead but that he had been shot dead in such an evil place as the theatre. In 1933, when Primitive Methodists in England united with the Wesleyans, the

⁴ Quoted in Ritson, Joseph *The Romance of Primitive Methodism*, London 1909, p.30

⁵ Kendall, H.B. *The Origin & History of the Primitive Methodist Church*, vol 2, p.148.

American Primitive Methodists were still feuding with their neighbouring churches. Today, they remain separate and foster a belief in the literal truth of the Bible and the need for every human being to find spiritual salvation before their next meal.

It is easy to be cynical over such a set of beliefs when one does not share their every detail but on a January day when the cold was biting all around with a wind chill of minus sixty degrees, I found myself standing outside the old wooden frame Primitive Methodist Church in Leadmine, Wisconsin. Why I was there is hard to say. Old World ties perhaps, a desire for an unquestioning Blessed Assurance, or plain curiosity. Anyway, when it's so cold your nostrils crunch when you touch them anywhere warm is an improvement so on that Sunday morning I went to church. In my head, I recalled stories of the jerks at Camp Meetings, people being slain by the spirit and every other evangelical horror story I had ever heard or witnessed. However, looking around at the congregation, I got the impression that that was not about to happen. The pastor preached a sermon that seemed over-simplified but he was a likeable man and afterwards he invited me to lunch with his family. The town dentist announced that he was offering free dental treatment for every one on welfare over the next month and we all sang together:

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.*

I felt myself going all sentimental. After the service everyone stood around talking, laughing and enjoying each other's company. I was privileged to have met the Primitive Methodists. One day I'll go back and see them in the summertime. Apparently they have picnics by the river.

Editor's note:

Kevin Watson was one of our contributors who was unable to meet the deadline of our last newsletter which had to be advanced in order that we could advertise our Day School. Kevin was involved in the twin activities of gaining a higher education at the University of Ripon & York and earning enough money to keep body and soul together. The newsletter, quite rightly had to take a back seat. Thankfully Kevin has found time to resume his story.

READER'S LETTERS

Last autumn Roger Bade, a member from Surrey wrote with the following query:

"I recently visited an exhibition in London, held at the Tyron Gallery, Cork Street, London W1 entitled 'The Famous Grouse'. One of the pictures was one that might be of interest. This oil painting is approximately 3ft. x 2ft and was lent anonymously. Entitled '12th August on Wellhope Moors, Weardale, County Durham' by Clement Burlison, it was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1855. The painting comprises a family group consisting of Samuel Walker Parker (d.1869) of Low Elswick and his wife Isabel Parker (d.1879), their three children, and their gamekeeper, all posed with gun and dead grouse beside the burn with a mountainous landscape in the back ground. From this location and picture I assume that the Parker family owned, and may still own, what one would call now the Weardale Estate, and hence possibly the site on which the Killhope wheel was built. Perhaps somebody could put me right in this respect. I hope this is of interest. PS I haven't heard of Clement Burlison before, so next time I pass the Watt Library at the Courtauld Institute, I will look up his file. Roger Bade"

Mr. Bade was as good as his word and a little later wrote:-

"Thank you for your letter concerning the oil painting that I came across. Clement Burlison does not have a file at the Watt Library, but he does have an entry in Royal Academy of Arts Exhibitors 1769-1904 Vol 1, A-D which was published in 1970. Clement Burlison was born in Durham and was active from 1864 until his death in 1899. He seems to have undertaken the traditional Grand Tour, as the first portraits exhibited in 1846, 1847 and 1849 are of Italian scenes.

In 1846 his address was given as New Elvet, Durham.

In 1850 he exhibited at the Royal Academy:- 'View of the River Brownie (sic) nr Lanchester, Durham.'

In 1851 his address was given as 100 Clay Path, Durham and he exhibited:- 'View of Kepier Wood nr Durham with the Lambton Monument in the distance'.

In 1853 he exhibited:- 'Tickling Trout in a stream nr Allenheads Allendale'.

If I was a painter the first person I would try to sell this painting to would be the occupier of Allenheads Hall - I wonder if it is to be found in that location?

In 1855 he exhibited the painting that was the subject of my original letter namely:-

'12th of August on Wellhope Moor, Weardale, County Durham'. Burlison's address in this case is given as Western Hill, Durham.

In 1861 he exhibited for the last time:- 'Wreck at Hartlepool 19th February 1861.'

Beyond the sources above, I do not know where to go, to find out further information about the painter, or his paintings."

In the meantime I had passed Mr. Bade's our Arts Libraries and Museums Department at Durham County Council and Iain Watson and Patricka Andrews kindly confirmed the details in Mr Bade's letter and added further information on the painter.

Briefly the main details are that Clement Burlison was born in Egglestone, Teesdale in 1815, the son of William Burlison who became Clerk of Works to the architect Ignatius Bonomi who did work for the London Lead Company. Thus we have another tenuous link with our subject Clement lived at Stanhope when young but later moved to Durham

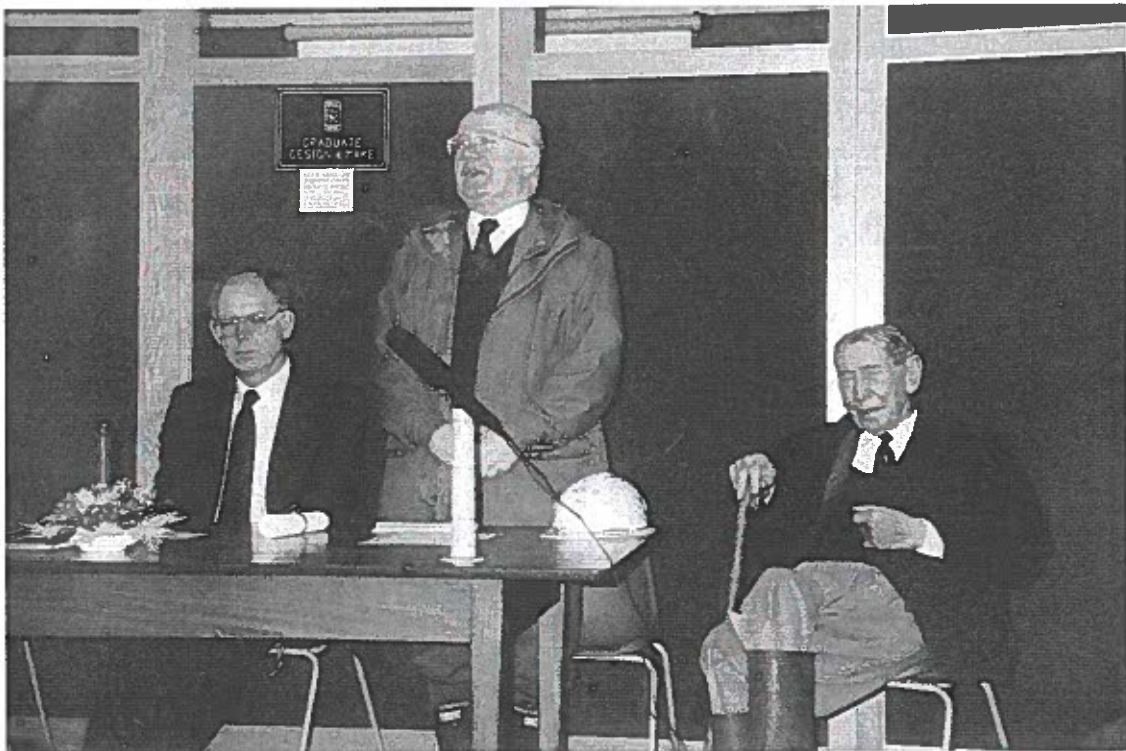
where he died in 1899. He bequeathed a number of his own compositions to the Corporation at Durham and these were later housed in part of the Town Hall which became known as the Burlison Art Gallery (now the Members' Room.) Burlison was one of the painters included in the 'Durham Cathedral' exhibition organised by the Arts Libraries & Museums Department at the DLI Museums and Art Gallery last year.

I also passed Mr. Bade's letter to Ian Forbes and he comments, "Since the Church Commissioners held the shooting as well as the mineral rights of the area the family in the picture must only have hired the shooting and were never the owners. Durham County Council of course now own the museum site."

Ian also referred me to his Editor's note in the Bonny Moor Hen No. 3, 1984 (Weardale Field Society 1984) in which he tells of the unfortunate death of one Joseph Fairless who was shot by accident on Monday 13th August 1955. A stone curriek (cairn) was erected to mark the spot on Wellhope Moor near Clints Crag. Probably poor Joe was a beater or gamekeeper and because the Glorious 12th that year fell on a Sunday he died on the first day of the season - the unlucky 13th. Joseph Fairless lies in Copt Hill churchyard and his tombstone bears the following inscription - 'Sacred to the memory of Joseph Fairless Aged 44 - 13th August 1855.'

Boast not thyself to-morrow For thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.
Proverbs 17 Chap 15 Verse....."

Underground Water Wheel



Councillor Bob Pendlebury during his acceptance speech at the Handing Over ceremony at Killhope on 15th December 1994 with Dick Graham (left) and our President Sir Kingsley Dunham

LEATS AND HUSHES - A LONGER STORY?David
Cranstone

So far as I know, nobody has done any detailed work on the myriad leat systems that criss-cross the North Pennines. I've been impressed by the scale of some of these (such as the Killhope-Burtree Pasture-Slitt leat), but have assumed that all the larger systems, and most of the smaller, were relatively recent. It has therefore been an eye-opener for me to realise that on Dartmoor and the surroundings, some of the visible leat systems go back to the Middle Ages, and even at that date can be several miles long.

The penny started to drop at the 'Mining before Powder' conference this spring (soon to be published, so read all about it!), when Peter Claughton's paper on the Medieval lead-silver mines at Bere Alston (Devon) suggested that the water supply had come from the river Tavy near Tavistock (a distance of about 5 miles as the crow flies). Peter has since done fieldwork on the line of the leat, and tells me that considerable lengths survive, some pick-cut through bedrock.

The point was reinforced when Iain Hedley and I were doing fieldwork on Dartmoor this autumn, looking at tin mines, streamworks, and blowing houses. Many of the leat systems supply early sites, though of course many have been re-used and diverted for several purposes and it is hard to date their origins. However a few can be dated from documentary sources (normally lawsuits over water rights); the most impressive of these is the Bradford leat, which ran for 12 miles from the Walla Brook on the NE side of Dartmoor, to supply the openwork mine at Bradford Pool (in poorly-watered enclosed land beyond the edge of the moor itself). This leat was constructed in the 16th century, and used until the mine closed in the Civil War; it was then diverted to supply a corn mill at Gidleigh, ultimately resulting in a lawsuit which started in 1697 (Costello 1981). A considerable length of the leat survives as earthworks on the open moor - it is not visually impressive, but is an interesting example of a leat that can be proved to have been finally abandoned in 1697.

For some reason, leats on Dartmoor have received more attention than they have in the Pennines - there are several useful articles in the local literature, which noone outside the Southwest seems to have picked up on. Perhaps it is time we started looking more closely at our local leats, whatever date they may be (and I am not suggesting that our leat systems must be Medieval in origin, merely that the technology and understanding existed - our copious Pennine rainfall may after all have rendered long leat systems unnecessary until a later date).

Incidentally, our fieldwork also convinced me that Dartmoor is covered with hushes, though local workers haven't yet distinguished them clearly from other forms of open working. They seem to be earlier than ours (mainly 16th-17th century), and may have been worked more gently, since they don't have the debris fans that occur below the bigger Pennine hushes. The term 'hush' does not occur in the area; 'beam' may be the local equivalent, though it may have a broader meaning of any open working.

Editor's note: For an account of the Killhope/Burtree Pasture system and others in Weardale, see Peter Bowes & Bill Proud's article in The Bonny Moor Hen No. 3 published by the Weardale Field Society. 1984

THE GRAND MINERALOGICAL EXHIBITION- 1994. Trevor Bridges

This event took place on the weekend of the 3rd and 4th September. As with the previous occasions it proved to be a successful and enjoyable weekend. The total number of entries was down on last year, which is a pity, but overall the quality of the specimens was better and so was the labelling. Once again Brian Young of the British Geological Service kindly agreed to be the judge, despite the recent closure of the Newcastle Office and its move to Edinburgh. Summarising the classes in turn:-

Spar Boxes.

The entries in this class were all boxes in course of assembly and it is good to see this ancient hobby being revived. The winner was a young girl called Vanessa McMillen. We look forward to seeing the completed box- possibly next year?

Specimen of Fluorite

There were 11 entries and as in previous years the range in size was enormous. A number of old classic localities such as Boltsburn and Stotsfield Burn were represented together with more modern occurrences such as Blackdene. The judge preferred some of the smaller more perfect specimens to the larger ones and the winner was a specimen no more than 3 inches across from Heights Quarry.

Three Specimens of Fluorite of Different Colours.

As with the singleton class above, this section attracted specimens from a wide range of mines ancient and modern. There were some very fine specimens included, again mostly fairly small. Possibly I can tempt more people to join in if I point out that the second prize (joint with another group) went to 3 specimens mounted in small plastic boxes, the specimens being about 2cms long. The two fluorite classes contained the best labels in the show and their owner, a Mr R Curry, got a well deserved written commendation from the judge.

Specimen of Calcite.

There were 9 entries in this class and they served to demonstrate the wide variety of forms calcite commonly adopts. Many people were heard to remark they had difficulty believing they really were all the same mineral. Again the smaller specimens did quite well, but the winner, this time, was one of the larger entries, but still only 15cms across. From Cambokeels Mine, it was a group of most unusual nailhead crystals.

Specimen of Galena.

This class also attracted 9 entries. Most were from Blackdene, Brownley Hill and Groverake Mines which were all well known for fine specimens in their time. Blackdene and Brownley Hill Mines shared the honours for first place. Second prize went to a

particularly brilliant specimen from Blackdene Mine. Looking absolutely pristine I suspect it has been kept in a sealed container of silica gel to prevent slow dulling due to oxidation by the atmosphere.

Although not entered in the competition, during the exhibition a Mr G Cockfield brought in a magnificent lump of crystallised galena from the Kielder Tunnel, somewhere near to Frosterley.

Specimen of Sphalerite.

The entries once again varied widely in size and on this occasion the biggest specimen won, (which by now you will have realised is unusual). From Smallcleugh Mine it was a block of limestone matrix about 30cms across completely covered with brilliant sphalerite crystals. There were also fine specimens from Frazers Hush Mine and some very interesting balls of sphalerite from Stotsfield Burn Mine.

Specimen of Baryte.

As in previous years, this section was not as well supported as the others. It was the only North Pennine section which included a specimen from the Askrigg Block; a fine piece from Wetgrooves Mine in Swaledale. The winner was a specimen from Settlingstones Mine, a well known producer of excellent specimens in the past.

Specimen of Quartz.

I thought the quality of specimens in this class was greatly up on last year. The winner was a truly beautiful specimen, about 15cms high, from Frazers Hush, but there were also fine specimens from Redburn Mine, Cambokeels and Brownley Hill among others.

Specimen of Any North Pennine Mineral.

This was one of the most popular classes last year, but for some reason was less well supported this time with only 8 entries. Cerussite was popular with 2 specimens from Redburn Mine and 1 from Stotsfield Burn. All were fine specimens, as was an alstonite from Brownley Hill. Other interesting pieces were a siderite and a complex association of sphalerite with quartz, ankerite and fluorite from Redburn Mine.

A Collection of Mineral Specimens.

The judge had great difficulty deciding the winner in this class. There was a fine collection of largely foreign specimens, which really hit you in the eye. Much more colourful than most local minerals it included a spectacular blue azurite from Bisbee, Arizona which attracted a great deal of public attention. In the end it took second place to a much less spectacular collection of minerals from Cornwall and Devon, but which included many very rare pieces collected by miners in the last century. Third place went to a collection of optical grade fluorite pieces from Boltsburn Mine.

Mineral Specimen Collected by an Under 16 year Old.

No entries this year which I think is sad. There is plenty of interest in geology and mineralogy in schools, so hopefully next year a few Friends will encourage their children to enter.

Mining Ephemera

This attracted a range of old tools, but was won by a folder of old mining certificates with old lamps and tags.

Photograph of a Mining Scene

This class brought out some fascinating old photographs which were a pleasure to study. Many were accurately dated and showed relatives of the exhibitors. I forgot to note who won because I became so absorbed in the details of the old mining scenes.

The overall winner was Rowland Thomas who had taken the trouble to travel all the way from Kent I think, certainly well south of Weardale! This year I managed to get the second place with Maurice Wall coming in third.

In addition to the competition, I put on a display of Lake District minerals. The Lake District has many minerals in common with the North Pennines, but also has many which are not found here. The display sought to demonstrate this and seemed to be quite popular. Unfortunately Steve McLean was on holiday so the usual display from the Tyne and Wear Museums was missing this year. With luck he will be back next time.

The organisation was up to the standard of previous years, with Friends guarding the displays at all times. This year Bryan and Dorothy slept on the premises overnight, but apparently the Killhope ghost was off duty!

It was decided the event should be repeated next year, but there was some talk of changing the format a little. No doubt this will be discussed in committee and the outcome will be published in a Newsletter.

Finally thanks must go to everyone involved in organising the event. Once again we received support from the Blue Circle Cement Company for which we are very grateful. Several Friends put in a great deal of hard work and we must be thankful people are prepared to spend their own time for all of us to benefit.

"EMMA" AND THE GARRIGILL POACHERS

Ian Forbes

Helen Cannam, in her article in "Men, Mines and Minerals" has told how, in the deep economic depression which followed the Napoleonic Wars, many of the desperate men of Weardale turned to poaching to keep body and soul together. At the same time the authorities were fearful that unrest would erupt into rebellion.

1818 seems to have been the worst year, culminating in a crack-down to stamp out poaching and restore the rule of law. The resulting "Battle of Stanhope" is still talked about in Weardale.

But Weardale was not alone in depression, in poaching, and in leaving a legacy of tales of the exploits of poachers at this time.

At Garrigill the "Garrigill Poachers" and the bringing of the militia to control their activities are remembered to this day.

After the publication of "Men, Mines & Minerals", Helen Cannam received information from Dr. Malcolm Henry of Sowerby Bridge.

Dr. Henry is researching his family history - and his family includes Westgarth Forster, one of the founders of modern geology. Westgarth Forster lived for some of his life at the family home of Ivy House, Garrigill and in 1809 published his "Section of the Strata". An expanded edition was produced in 1821 and a third edition, long after Forster's death, appeared in 1883. This third edition starts with a "Memoir" of Forster's life by Nall. In this memoir was a tantalising phrase which set Dr. Henry off on a piece of detective work. The phrase was "In June 1799 she (Lucy Forster, Westgarth Forster's mother) gave her daughter Phoebe - the authoress of "Emma" - £4."

So what was this mysterious book "Emma"?

Eventually Dr. Henry tracked down a copy in the British Museum library. His search cannot have been made any easier by the fact that the book is published anonymously.

The title page, reproduced here, speaks for itself in describing the contents of the novel.

What is particularly interesting to us today is that the author Phoebe Brown (nee Forster) was living at Ivy House in Garrigill at the time of the "Garrigill Poachers" affair, and wrote the book almost immediately afterwards.

This is, then, the nearest we are likely to get to any eye witness account. As Phoebe herself says in the preface: "If it (the book) contains any merit, it consists in being natural and unstudied and composed from Facts, which have fallen under the observation of the Author, blended with as little fiction as possible..... The Scenes between the Military and the Poachers are related nearly as they took place."

That "Emma" was written by Westgarth Forster's sister makes it doubly interesting to mining historians.

We are extremely grateful to Dr. Henry for bringing "Emma" to our attention via Helen Cannam and will publish an extract describing the actions of "the Military" in the next newsletter.

EMMA,

OR THE

MILNER'S COTTAGE:

A MORAL TALE,

Founded on the Recent

ADVENTURES OF THE POACHERS,

AND THE ATTEMPTS

OF THE

SOLDIERS AND CONSTABLES,

To take them,

IN ALSTON-MOOR,

In 1819.

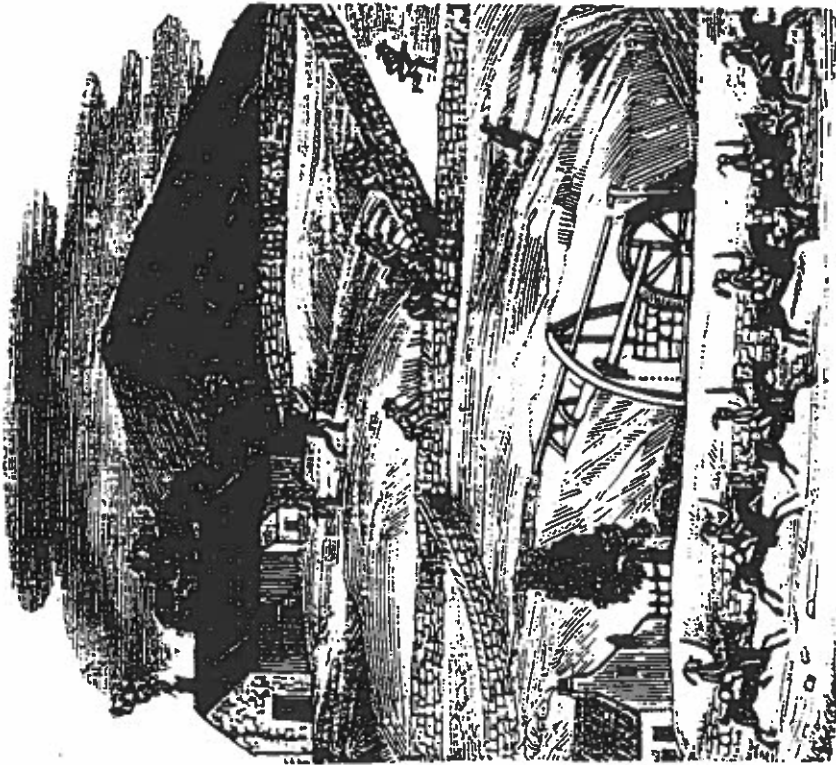
Alston, Cumberland:—

Printed (at the Geological Press) and Sold by

JOHN PATTINSON.

1821.

Price Eighteen-pence.



“ The Soldiers galloping in all directions to obstruct their passage to a Mine, for which they seemed to be hastening, while the Constables were close in their rear.”—See page 79.

REPORT FROM DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

As we come to the close of Killhope's first year in the Arts, Libraries and Museums Department I am pleased to be able to report on a successful summer season at Killhope with a number of highlights including the launch of the tenth birthday celebrations by The Bishop of Durham on Thursday, 19th May. Events and exhibitions for the celebrations generated a lot of interest and visitors to Killhope certainly seemed to appreciate what was being laid on for them.

I would like to thank the Friends of Killhope for their continuing support and hard work. I was pleased to have the opportunity to address your committee meeting in May and to share a pleasant tea with you. I have also enjoyed talking with some of you at events at Killhope. In particular I would like to express the appreciation of Durham County Council for the magnificent waterwheel which now looks splendid set-up in the engine chamber. No visitor will, I think, fail to be impressed by the close tolerances at top and bottom of the wheel or by its sheer scale. Thanks are also, of course, due to the companies involved in the project, particularly NEI Parsons and Rolls-Royce Industrial Power Group Training Centre. I was delighted by the good publicity that the handing over of the wheel generated, both in the newspapers and on local TV.

As many of you will have had the opportunity to see, Compleat Works are making good progress with the fitting out of the mine. The 'rock' in the engine chamber is almost complete and other sections of rock, shale, vein and timbering have been installed. Work on-site on what will be one of the most impressive parts of the mine, the working stope, is due to start in February. Another major remaining area to be developed is 'new' Park Level - the gap where the concrete box cuts a section out of the original Park Level. Stone vaulting as well as artificial rock is to be installed in this area. We hope that work in the mine will be completed during mid-summer 1995. Whilst it is easy, when a major project such as Park Level Mine is underway, to report the day-to-day work of running the site, I would like to acknowledge the contribution that all staff at Killhope make to providing an interesting and educational visitor experience.

I look forward to a successful 1995 season at Killhope and to your continued support of Killhope. I hope I will have the opportunity to meet more of you over the coming months both at special events and just quietly enjoying a pleasant visit to Killhope.

Patrick Conway
Director of Arts, Libraries and Museums

PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT**Ian Forbes**

Killhope is now shut for the winter, but work behind the scenes continues. Development of Park level mine is still the main story for the County Council at Killhope and we as Friends are playing our part in this.

The design, building and installation of the 18ft underground water wheel has been our major contribution and this work is reported on elsewhere. The whole waterwheel project has been a magnificent and high-profile achievement of which we should be rightly proud.

However this is not the whole story of Friends work, much of which is rather less visible, but still vital to the smooth running of our projects. Thus, although Friends as individuals did not actually build the underground wheel, we continued to provide back-up and support where needed. We laid some temporary rail track (under water!) in the mine so the IPG team could push their bogie with the waterwheel sections on it right up to the entrance of the underground wheel chamber, and we spent another day helping to unload the waterwheel sections outside the mine. Special thanks to Bryan and Dorothy Chambers, Dick and Margaret Graham, Russ Parkin and Nick Dybeck. I am always amazed on these occasions how food and drink magically appear and things turn into a party.

Dorothy also negotiated with Blue Circle for permission to use their engineering and workshops facilities if needed during the onsite construction phase of the wheel. In fact they weren't, but I remain grateful to Blue Circle at Eastgate for their continuing help and encouragement for our work.

Other Friends gave freely of their time and expertise to the County's mine design team, so that Killhope will have the best nineteenth century mine in the country! In particular Trevor and Shelagh Bridges and Brian Young have given invaluable advice on the working stope area, and Ian and Jean Tyler were most helpful in identifying and arranging access to an old man's level (driven before gunpowder was used in mines) near Caldbeck. This is serving as a model for part of the mine reconstruction.

A few members have been able to see the mine at Killhope taking shape over the last few months, I'd take to offer everyone the opportunity to see it before it opens to the general public. See elsewhere in the newsletter for details.

I have one donation to the site, and two to our archives to report this time. Freda Milburn has given us a fork for "scaling" muck which will go in the stables. Freda has been involved at Killhope for longer than any of us, for it was she who looked after the volunteers who did the first work there way back in 1966.

Roy Curry has generously given us some slides he has taken of mining scenes above and below ground, and Don Wilcock donated slides of the "Tenth birthday Bishop's Day" which have been mounted by Doug Tyerman.

Our 1994 programme of talks was varied, stimulating, well supported, and above all enjoyable. All our speakers have been enthusiastic and knowledgeable and we have learnt a lot. For the September meeting Linda Drury talked on a subject on which she is the

leading expert - medieval lead smelting in Weardale. The talk was based on her extensive knowledge of the Bishopic archives. In October Peter Natrass let us have a glimpse of his huge collection of postcards of old Weardale, many of which he has put on slide. Much interest was generated, both in how much things have changed, and how much they have stayed the same.

Finally in November Trevor Bridges give us a tour underground in some of the mining districts of Britain, illustrating mining techniques through the ages. Trevor had prepared both his talk and his slides with great care, and the results were superb.

I urge those members who haven't been to any of our talks to give them a try this year.

Our first Day School on 1st October was a toe in the water to see if there was a demand for this kind of event. A range of speakers talked about their recent archaeological work in the North Pennines. The large room at Kill hope was packed throughout the day and I felt it went very well.

Indeed we got so many favourable comments afterwards that we are sure we've got to run another "school" next year.

My thanks to all the speakers and to Richard Turner for chairing the day and holding everything together.

Mind you I will never know whether people came to hear the speakers or to sample Janet's food.

Finally I've left the best news till last. Janet's franchise for the cafe was due to come to an end last November, but Durham are extending it for at least another year. What better reason could there be for renewing your Friends membership? I look forward to seeing you all again at Killhope this coming season.

PARK LEVEL MINE - PREVIEW OPPORTUNITY

Ian Forbes

I would like to offer Friends the opportunity to preview the mine development at Killhope. This will be on Sunday 23rd April. If you would like to come and see what's going on, you can book a place by including a request with your membership renewal, or by writing directly to me at Killhope.

We can't offer cheese and wine, and you will need to bring waterproofs and wellingtons, but this is a unique opportunity to look "behind the scenes" in Park Level Mine. You will be given exact times nearer the day when numbers are known.

FRIENDS PROGRAMME 1995

Wednesday 12th April, 7.30pm Stanhope Old Hall - Talk: "Lead Miners of the North Pennines and The American Dream" by Kevin Watson, who has made a special study of 19th century emigrants from the lead dales and their new lives in America.

Sunday 23rd April, Killhope - Visit to Park Level Mine at Killhope - see elsewhere in the newsletter for details and how to reserve your place.

Tuesday 16th May, 7pm Rookhope School Hall - Talk: "History of the Rookhope Borehole" by Dr Tony Johnson. A chance to hear the story of the most important geological investigation in the area since the war. Come in old clothes, for we will examine the cores from the borehole, which are kept in a little-used building. Your only chance to see Weardale granite! **Note - not our normal venue or day of the week.**

Saturday 17th June, 11am Killhope - Annual General Meeting followed in the afternoon by a walk round Nenthead.

Sunday 18th June, 2pm Killhope
Annual Quoits Competition - open to everybody, not just the experts!

July - date to be announced - Sheep shearing, spinning and weaving weekend at Killhope

Sat/Sunday 2/3rd September, Killhope - Grand Mineralogical Exhibition and Competition - further details in next newsletter

Wednesday 13th September, 7.30pm Stanhope Old Hall - Talk: "A Journey to Work" by David and Eileen Redfearn. Richard Watson is well known as the lead miner/poet of Teesdale and David and Eileen will read his poem "My journey to work" illustrated by slides of the scenes he describes.

Saturday 7th October, Killhope - "Journeys in the North Pennines" Friends of Killhope day school - further details in later newsletters.

Wednesday 11th October, 7.30pm Stanhope Old Hall - Talk: Brian Young of the British Geological Survey will talk about aspects of his work in northern England. Brian is the Geological Survey's expert on our area, and an enthusiast for the North Pennines and its geology.

Wednesday 8th November, 7.30pm Stanhope Old Hall - Talk to be announced.

Wednesday 13th December, 7.30pm Stanhope Old Hall - Members Night and Christmas Social evening.