



**Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology**

# **Cotswold Canals Restoration**

**Phase 1b. Saul Junction to The Ocean, Stonehouse**

**Project S08**

## **Traffic on the Stroudwater Canal: 1881**

Prepared by Hugh Conway-Jones April 2007 Issue 1

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This paper presents a summary of the vessel movements and cargoes recorded in the tonnage books for the Stroudwater Canal in the early months of 1881 with some analysis. In this period, there were over 800 cargo-carrying trips, mainly conveying goods eastwards into the Stroud valley and only a few taking goods outwards. Most of the cargoes comprised coal brought by barge from Lydney or Bullo Pill, coal brought by narrow canal boat from the Midlands or Bullo Pill and roadstone brought by barge from Bristol or Chepstow.

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## Traffic on the Stroudwater Canal in 1881

By Hugh Conway-Jones  
April 2007

This note presents a summary of the vessel movements on the Stroudwater Canal recorded in the Canal Company's tonnage books from 1 January to 31 May 1881 (Glos Archives D1180/4/35 & 36). The survey nominally covers 21½ weeks, but due to severe icing during January, the time when vessel movements were possible was about 20 weeks. In this period, over 800 cargo-carrying trips were recorded, mainly taking goods eastwards into the Stroud valley and only a few carrying goods outwards. Full lists of barges and narrow canal boats and their typical movements are given in Tables 1 and 2.

### Barges

Table 1 includes 42 different barges, typically capable of carrying 50 to 70 tons. Most of these were owned by men whose main business was conveying cargoes for others, but some owners were primarily merchants who presumably carried their own goods. The traders with barges making six or more trips during the period were as follows (those marked with an asterisk had their tonnage charged to an account and the others paid cash):

James Ayliffe, coal merchant of Framilode	Elsie
Butt & Skurray*, millers of Stratford & Cainscross	Ceres and Gertrude
John Clark, barge owner of Framilode	Wherry
Amos Field, barge owner of Saul	Reform and Sarah
Ford Bros, millers of Ryeford	Emily
Harry Knee, coal merchant & carrier of Stroud	Annie
Thomas Pearce, barge owner of Brimscombe	Annie Maria, Finis, Mystery, Sarah and Try
George Powell, mariner of Leonard Stanley	Severn Bridge
Samuel Rowles*, barge owner of Frampton	Valiant and Volunteer
James Smart, barge owner/coal merch of Chalford	Flora, Industry and Perseverance
Stroud Gas Co *	Reliance
E T Ward, coal agent of Dudbridge	Rapid
James Webb*, coal dealer of Chalford	Endeavour
Zacchaeus Whiting, coal merchant of Eastington	Jane

Most of the barges collected coal from Lydney or Bullo Pill (or roadstone from Bristol or Chepstow) and delivered to wharfs along the Stroudwater and Thames & Severn Canals as far as Chalford. Only a few passed over the summit to Cirencester and Lechlade. Those bringing coal from Bullo Pill entered the canal at Framilode, but those coming from Bristol, Chepstow and Lydney generally joined the canal at Saul Junction. Those owned by the milling firms commonly brought in corn from Bristol and sometimes returned with flour. The Reliance, owned by the Stroud Gas Co, regularly delivered coal from Newport. The Annie, owned by Harry Knee, collected general cargoes from Bristol as well as making trips to collect coal.

## Canal Boats

Table 2 includes 63 different narrow canal boats, typically capable of carrying 30-35 tons depending on the depth of water available. The largest group of owners were merchants who were carrying their own cargoes, and the remainder were general carriers or owner-boatmen. The traders with boats making six or more trips during the period were as follows (those marked with an asterisk had their tonnage charged to an account and the others paid cash):

William Bird, boat owner of Randwick	Garibaldi
William Butler & Co, tar distillers of Sandhurst	Endeavour
John H Butt, waterman of Bowbridge	Fanny
Thomas Butt & Son, coal, salt & builders merchants of Stroud	Good Intent
Clark Brothers, millers of Chalford	Serapis
Jasper Couldrey, coal & salt dealer of Chalford	Brothers and Emma
Job Gardner, timber & coal merchant, Daneway Saw Mills	Albert
G Hazle (not identified)	Hope
Matthew Hicks, coal, corn, salt & general merchant & maltster, Lechlade Wharf	Good Intent
Harry Knee, coal merchant of Stroud	Ellen
Thomas Pearce, barge owner of Brimscombe	Ann
Charles Phipp, farmer & coal merchant Kempsford	Annie
James Smart, carrier & coal merchant of Chalford	Beatrice, Charity and Kate
Charles Smith, waterman of Eastington	Flora
William Smith, boat owner & master of Chalford	Emma
T & S Canal Co*, carriers of Brimscombe	Alice, Edith, Excelsior, Frederick William and Hope
J Whitehouse, (not identified)	William
William Wolley, coal merchant of Painswick	William

Most of the boats were recorded as carrying coal from Worcester, but this was evidently a convention, as the Thames & Severn Canal Company toll books recorded the same cargoes coming from Staffordshire or the Worcester & Birmingham Canal. These boats joined the canal at Saul Junction, and the coal was delivered to wharfs all along the Stroudwater & Thames & Severn Canals, including Lechlade. Some timber or hay was taken on the outward journey to Birmingham but this was not common. Around one third of the narrow canal boats made the short but potentially hazardous trip across the River Severn to collect coal from Bullo Pill on occasions. Two of James Smart's boats carried general cargoes, and the five Thames & Severn Canal Company boats carried corn, timber and general cargoes between Gloucester, Sharpness and wharfs along the two canals. The Serapis, owned by the Clark Brothers carried corn to their mill at Chalford, and the William, owned by J Whitehouse, carried timber from Hereford to Ebley saw mill. The Endeavour, owned by William Butler & Co, carried gas tar from Stroud and Cirencester gas works for processing at Sandhurst on the River Severn north of Gloucester.

This note reports a snapshot of traffic on the Stroudwater Canal in the early months of 1881. When more studies have been carried out at other times in the history of the canal, it will be interesting to compare results and analyse trends.

Table 1. Summary of Barge Traffic on the Stroudwater Canal Jan-May 1881

<b>Table 1 Barges</b>				
<b>Vessel</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Master</b>	<b>Trips</b>	<b>Summary of Cargoes From and To</b>
Alice	Wood, J	Lewis, C	1	33t wheat from Sharpness to Cirencester
Annie	Knee, H J	Merchant, A	11	General goods from Bristol and 63t coal from Bullo/Lydney to Stroud valley
Annie Maria	Pearce, T H	Bennett, F	11	68-75t roadstone/coal from Bristol/Lydney/Bullo to Stroud/Cirencester
Avon	Clark, J	Wright, G	2	75t roadstone/coal from Bristol/Cardiff to Gloucester/Stroud
Betsey	Rowles, S	Dee, J or Hunt A	2	65t roadstone from Chepstow to Stroudwater
Betsey	Wood, S	Wood, S	3	55t coal from Bullo to Gloucester
Caroline	Ford Bros	Powell, J	4	60t wheat from Bristol to Ryeford & return with flour
Ceres	Butt & Skurray	Powell, G	21	70t coal from Bullo/Lydney, 60t corn Sharpness/Gloucester to Lodgemore
Diana	Rowles, S	Various	4	30t roadstone along Stroudwater
Dove	Stephens, E & Co	Trigg, W	1	59t coal from Lydney to Staffords Mill
Effort	Field, A	Field, H	4	65t roadstone from Bristol to Stonehouse
Elsie	Ayliffe, J	Sims, J	14	49t coal from Bullo to Saul Bridge
Emily	Ford Bros	Clark, E	12	50t wheat from Sharpness/Gloucester to Ryeford
Endeavour	Webb, J	Davies, W	6	50t coal from Lydney/Bullo to Chalford valley
Fanny	Stephens, E & Co	Butt, W	3	60t coal from Lydney to Stroud valley
Finis	Pearce, T H	Hawkins, J	13	60-70t coal to Stroud valley and roadstone to Stroud/ Cirencester
Flora	Smart, J	Watkins, H	13	Goods from Bristol, Cardiff, Bullo & Gloucester to Stroud/Chalford
Florence	Ford Bros	Long, G	3	60t corn from Bristol/Sharpness, coal Newport to Ryeford and flour in return
George	Ford Bros	Gould, R	3	55t corn from Bristol to Ryeford and flour in return
Gertrude	Butt & Skurray	Hayward, W	6	62t corn from Bristol, coal Cardiff to Lodgemore and some flour to Cardiff
Industry	Smart, J	Rudge, J	14	Coal roadstone corn timber from Bristol & Lydney to Stroud/Chalford
Jane	Whiting, Z	Couldrey, G	6	35-40t coal from Bullo to Eastington & Chalford
Lily	Taylor, J	Taylor, J	1	57t coal from Bullo to Gloucester
Maltster	Cam, O	James, A	1	36t coal from Cardiff to Saul Bridge
Mystery	Pearce, T H	Griffin, W	6	75t roadstone from Bristol to Stroud/Cirencester
Nancy	Longney, E	Brassington, C	1	59t coal from Cardiff to Dudbridge
Nellie	Williams, R	Mabbett, T	2	60t coal/roadstone from Lydney/Bristol
Perseverance	Smart, J	Webb, J or Butt, C	16	52t coal from Lydney/Bullo to Stroud/Chalford
Queen Esther	Ford Bros	Shurmer, W	3	65t coal from Cardiff to Ryeford and timber in return
Rapid	Ward, E T	White, F	13	60t coal from Lydney/Bullo to Dudbridge
Reform	Field, A	Browning, R	26	56t coal from Lydney/Bullo to Stroudwater
Reliance	Stroud Gas Co	Herbert, J	15	70t coal from Newport to Stroud gas works
Rose Ann	Stephens, E & Co or Warren, G	Long, T	4	58t coal/roadstone from Lydney/Bristol to Stroud valley
Sabrina	Eglestaff, Mr	Phillips, J	1	65t roadstone from Bristol to Wallbridge
Sarah	Field, A	Rudge, E	32	50t coal from Bullo/Lydney to Stroudwater
Sarah	Pearce, T H	Pegler, H	13	60t coal/roadstone from Bullo/Lydney/Bristol to Stonehouse/Brimscombe
Severn Bridge	Powell, G	Ralph, H	13	58t coal from Lydney to Dudbridge, Lodgemore & Froomhall
Try	Pearce, T H	Millard, W	13	60t coal from Bullo to Evans Mill
Valiant	Rowles, S	Carter, C	8	60t roadstone from Chepstow to Stroudwater
Volunteer	Rowles, S	Rowles, J	12	70t roadstone from Chepstow/Bristol to Stroudwater
Wherry	Clark, J	Clark, G	15	64t coal from Bullo, 55t wheat Sharpness to Froombridge/Ebley
Wherry	Rowles, S	Bodman, W	1	65t roadstone from Chepstow to Saul Bridge/Ryeford

Table 2. Summary of Narrow Canal Boat Traffic on the Stroudwater Canal Jan-May 1881

<b>Table 2 Boats</b>				
<b>Vessel</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Master</b>	<b>Trips</b>	<b>Summary of Cargoes From and To</b>
Ada & Sultan	Knight, J	Wakeman, W	1	15t hay from Severn to Gloucester
Albert	Gardner, J	Couldrey, W	8	30t coal from Worcester & Bullo to Daneway & some timber to Birmingham
Alice	Hewer, F	Gardner, W	2	30t coal from Bullo to Cricklade
Alice	T&S Canal Co	Phipp, C	7	20-30t corn & timber between Gloucester/Sharpness & Cirencester/Lechlade
Ann	Pearce, T H	Gardner, J	6	30t coal from Worcester to Butlers Bridge
Ann	Price, Wm	Lewis, L	5	30t coal from Worcester to Stroud
Annie	Mann, T	Mann, T	1	25t sand from Gloucester to Daneway
Annie	Phipp, C H	Crook, C	10	30t coal from Bullo to Kempsford, timber Glo to Chaford, corn Sharpness to Ciren
Annie Maria	Perks, C	Perks, C	2	7t hay from Junction to Dudbridge
Beatrice	Smart, J	Meecham, J	10	Goods from Worcester, Gloucester, Sharpness & Bullo and some return
Bee	Chadborn, J	Lee, W	1	24t deals from Gloucester to Chalford
Brothers	Couldrey, J	Pegler, R	6	30t coal from Worcester & 35t from Bullo to Chalford
Charity	Smart, J	Pearce, W	8	Goods from Worcester, Gloucester & Bullo and some staves to Birmingham
Charles	Chadborn, J	Apperley, J	1	24t deals from Gloucester to Chalford
Civility	Smart, J	Whiting, A	5	30t coal from Worcester & Bullo to Chalford & some staves to Birmingham
Defiance	Webb, E	Barrington, C	3	30t coal from Worcester to Brimscombe/Worcester
Edith	T&S Canal Co	Gardner, R	7	30t corn from Sharpness to Cirencester etc
Eliza	Harper Bros	Halford, J	2	20t bricks along Stroudwater
Ellen	Knee, H J	Bird, G	6	30t coal from Worcester to Stroud
Ellen [Helen?]	Preedy, J	Preedy, J	1	30t coal from Worcester to Saul Bridge
Emily	Wood, J	Lewis, W	2	30t coal from Worcester to Stroud
Emma	Couldrey, J	Bounds, A	6	30t coal from Worcester & Bullo to Chalford
Emma	Smith, W	Smith, Wm	7	10t timber from Hereford, Gloucester & Cirencester to Ebley
Endeavour	Butler, W & Co	Thomas, J	9	24t gas tar from Stroud/Cirencester gas works to Gloucester
Excelsior	T&S Canal Co	Gardner, G	10	Corn/timber from Gloucester/Sharpness to T&S Canal
Exchange	Butt, T & Son	Hawkins, H	5	30t coal from Worcester to Stroud
Fanny	Butt, J H	Butt, J	6	30t coal from Worcester & Bullo to Bowbridge, 35t gravel & sand along Stroudwater
Fanny	Lewis, H	Lewis, G	5	30t coal from Worcester to Ryeford & 10t timber to Birmingham
Fanny	Wood, J	Lewis, C	4	30t bricks etc from Worcester to Stroud
Fides	Butt, T & Son	Twissell, J	5	30t bricks etc from Worcester to Stroud
Flora	Hughes, T	Clapham, H	4	30t coal from Worcester to Chalford
Flora	Smith, C	Smith, C	7	30t coal from Worcester to Stroud valley & some hay return
Florence	Butt, J H	Butt, J H	3	30t coal from Worcester to Stroud valley
Frederick William	T&S Canal Co	Rice, Wm	7	Goods from Gloucester/Sharpness to various places
Garibaldi	Bird, W	Bird, W	7	30t coal from Worcester to Stroudwater & 10t timber Gloucester to Ebley
Garibaldi	Hicks, M	Phipp, W	3	30t coal from Bullo & 20t corn from Sharpness to Lechlade
Good Intent	Butt, T & Son	Butt, G	6	30t coal from Worcester to Stroud
Good Intent	Hicks, M	Meecham, W	8	30t coal from Bullo to Lechlade
Harriett	Lewis, H	Cratchley, W	2	30t coal from Worcester to Ryeford & 8t timber to Birmingham
Harriett	Pearce, T H	Crook, H	5	30-38t coal from Bullo to T&S Canal
Hope	Hazle, G	Davies, T	6	30t coal from Worcester to Brimscombe & 8t timber in return
Hope	T&S Canal Co	Gardner, R	8	Goods from Gloucester/Sharpness to T&S Canal
Jane	Lewis, J	Lewis, J	4	30t coal/bricks from Worcester to Stroud
John	Butt, J	Butt, J	5	30t coal from Worcester to Dudbridge/Bowbridge
Kate	Smart, J	Webb, J	12	Coal, iron & timber from Worcester, Gloucester & Bullo to Chalford valley
Lily	Butt, T & Son	Lewis, T	5	30t coal from Worcester to Stroud
Martha Ann	Smart, J	Staddon, W	5	Coal from Worcester & Bullo to Chalford and some staves to Birmingham
Mary	Pearce, T H	Twissell, A	4	30-36t coal from Bullo to Brimscombe/Radcott
Peaceable	Taylor, J	Taylor, J	4	30t coal from Worcester to Bristol Rd
Rose	Wheeler, J	Wheeler, J	2	27t sand from Gloucester to Daneway
Samuel	Hazle, G	Aldum, S	5	30t coal from Worcester to Brimscombe & 8t timber to Birmingham
Sarah	Webb, J	Townsend, C	5	28t coal from Bullo and timber from Gloucester/Junction to Chalford
Serapis	Clark Bros	Davis, J	17	30t corn from Gloucester/Sharpness & 39t coal Bullo to Chalford
Sisters	Pearce, T H	Crook, H	1	27t coal from Bullo to Evans Mill
Trandy	Barkworth & Co	Tandy, C	1	16t timber from Gloucester to Swindon
Trial	Knee, H J	Butt, J	1	28t sand from Severn to Wallbridge
Trial	Webb, J	Butt, J	2	20t timber from Junction to Chalford
Victoria	T&S Canal Co	Rice, Wm	1	7t wheat from sundry places to Lodgemore
Victory	Hewer, F	Hewer, J	5	29t coal from Bullo to Cricklade
Wave	Webb, J	Wyman, T	3	30t coal from Worcester to Wallbridge
William	Coopey, W	Coopey, W	1	27t bricks from Worcester to Saul Bridge & 6t hay to Birmingham
William	Whitehouse, J	Pumphrey, C	6	9t timber from Hereford to Ebley
William	Woolley, W	Pearce, R	6	30t coal from Worcester to Stroud