



Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology

Cotswold Canals Restoration

Phase 1b. Saul Junction to The Ocean, Stonehouse

Project S11

Servants (Employees) of the Stroudwater Company

by Joan Tucker April 2007 Issue 1

These notes contain details of 37 company servants (i.e. employees) of the Company of Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation. This is a valuable record as it gives an insight into some of the actual people associated with the canal. The dates of the references run from 1788 to the 1930s.

This information was gathered by the Author when researching her book *The Stroudwater Canal* published in 2003 but much of the information does not appear in the book due to limitations of space.

Company of Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation

Some Notes on Employees

Compiled by Joan Tucker
April 2007

Barnfield, Thomas Lock keeper Double Lock
1841. Died. Succeeded by William Mustoe

Barns, James Lock keeper. Bristol Road
Minute Book 1. P.362. Agreed to hire him @8/-per week, out of which he pays 1/- as deposit on house, up to 40/- as 'pension'.

Bassett, Frederick Lock keeper Dudbridge Locks
c. 1920's lived in tied cottage at lock-gates.
Ref. Eileen Halliday *Saving Nine* p. 54. He frequented Bridge Inn or Railway Inn at Dudbridge.
Used bad language to provoke a quarrel. Could be personal & sarcastic. A small man, 5th. from left in pub outing photo on page 53.

Baylis, Samuel. First and then Second Clerk
Minute Book 2. p.74. 2.2.1788. When Joseph Grazebrook resigned, the office of Clerk was split into two, each with separate department.
1st. Clerk was to keep company's books, attend meetings, obey orders of at least 3 members of the Committee, attend & receive tonnage of all vessels at Dudbridge & upwards, to pay money into Treasurer's hands every week & to give the business his constant attendance.
Baylis offered himself & was appointed @ salary of £45 pa. (Edward Hains was 2nd. Clerk)
p.84. 14.10.1788. The 2 Clerks were to exchange offices & duties.
p.175. 11.9.1794. Resolved that 2nd. Clerk should be a working man, living near the line of the canal not higher than Stonehouse because he needs to be on hand to attend on the barge masters. Mr. Hains was to give intimations of this to Baylis.
p.214. 12.4.1796. Resolved Baylis be suspended from his office
p.215. 18.4.1796. Appointed SB. until June 7th. on condition of his paying due attention to the interests of the Co.
p.235. 10.4.1799. Resolved that a 2nd. Clerk should reside in the house at Framilode occupied by John Pashley & to discharge the duties now made by JP & SB. The Committee's interests call upon them to dismiss JP & SB.

Beard, Thomas Clerk & Lock keeper at Framilode
Minute Book 2. P.265. 26.11.1798. William Smith indisposed .'. TB to receive tonnage on lower district & to fulfill duties in absence of WS.
7.6.1814. TB dismissed for fraudulently secreting sums of tonnage money.

Bullock, William George Lock keeper Double Lock
Letter to Snape (manager) 13.06.1907. from Charles Wm. Horwood Deane, who had altercation with Bullock at Ryeford swing bridge, when riding his bike on towpath!
Someone remarked somewhere that Bullock's nature matched his name. A small man
Halliday *Saving Nine* p.54 in photo of pub outing, Bullock is 2nd. on left.
29.11.1916. Agreement re rent of Double Lock Cottage £5 pa.
He played euphonium in King's Stanley band.

Burbage (or Burbidge), John Clerk at Framilode
Minute Book 4. p.191. Appointed JB of Painswick as Clerk at Framilode in place of Wm. Purcell.
1851 census. Entry 253052. Aged 60 born North Petherton, Som.
Wife aged 47 born Som. Son aged 24, British teacher.

Cottle, Joseph Wharfinger at Dudbridge Wharf
1851 census. Aged 43 born Horsley. Wife, Ann, aged 42 Son, John William aged 16 born Stonehouse assists father.

30.8.1864. Reported the *Queen Anne* overloaded at Dudbridge Wharf with paving stone. Ref. Letter Book 9/2.

Critchley, Thomas Clerk

Journal 1814. p.20. 'paid for the service he did the Proprietors in giving information respecting frauds committed by their servants £10'.

Daniels, William Canal Labourer

1844. Appointed 1880 ? Died

1851 Census. Aged 54. Born Stroud Wife, teenage son, 2 teenage daughters, one dau. aged 7

1857 William & Peter Daniels both working on paths Nov.30th.-Dec.5th. @3/- and 2/6d. respectively per day.

1858 Allowed 4 weeks @ ½ wages during illness. But from 23/24th. Nov. he was ice-breaking with a gang.

Driver, Nathan. Surveyor of Canal. Chippenham Platt

1846. Dec. 21st. Appointed, from Brimscombe. Engineer? No canal experience aged 56

1851 Census Aged 64 born Painswick Wife, Elizabeth aged 61, born Bisley

Has engineer's house rent free, but he pays rates & taxes.

1864. May. See notes on coal pen. Then he was ill and was succeeded.

Evans, Richard Lock keeper

Minute Bk.1. Has paid 10/6d. as settled & is taken into his former employment

He will pay 1/- per week out of his salary up to 40/- as security on house.

Hains, Edward 2nd.clerk, later 1st. clerk

1788 Feb.2nd. Offered himself as 2nd. clerk (after Joseph Grazebrook) @£40pa. To attend and receive tonnage of all vessels below Dudbridge and to account to 1st.clerk every week. Also to give his constant attendance. Min Bk 2 p.74

Oct. 14th. p.84 The 2 clerks to exchange duties

1798 Jan.2nd.p.251 Reported his increased business since the dismissal of Baylis & Pashley. Company had made saving of £28pa. Hains could occupy new house at Wallbridge free of rent and taxes.

Hains, William Labourer

1916. Journal p.238 Paid to him, other labourers and lock keeper £5.16

Harris, James Tidesman and lock keeper Framilode

1911 Appointed.

1913 Ivor Gurney the poet was his lodger, & was the subject of his poem *The lock-keeper*.

1 915 Mentioned in annual inspection

Hawker, George Clerk

1817 Sept 27th. Paid quarters salary £40

Appointed chief clerk @salary of £120pa. After Edward Hains his predecessor had embezzled Company money and resigned.

1821. Salary increased to £200pa.

Holder, John Canal Watchman. Whitminster

1891 Census. Ist entry for Whitminster. At No1 Whitminster Lane aged 51 born Slimbridge mentioned in 1890's as Company servant. Did he look after weir at Whitminster?

Humphries, Lionel Joseph Middle Lypiatt Clerk

1916, Nov. 13th. Agreement made by Chairman Philip James Evans. Humphries was to serve as Clerk from Aug. 8th. 1916 – not to divulge Company secrets etc. Pay is 10/- per week, payable fortnightly.

He must give 14 days notice by registered letter.

Company can terminate by cause of wilful neglect or illness immediately.

Fredericks, W. The Junction

1897 Oct. 6th. Letter from Sharpness New Docks Co. Refers to 'our joint agent'

Jones, John. Lock keeper

1800, Nov 10th. Min Bk 2 p.314

Offered his services to Co. as lock keeper instead of James Share dec. On trial for 11/- per week & house room.

Lewis, Thomas Lock keeper Double Lock

1780 Listed in cash book 2/1

1784 Jan 3rd. Road on towing path between Ryeford and Mr Eycott's Mill (ie Bond's Mill) stopped by him (re. Right of way)

Aug. 17th Plans produced for Lewis' house at Double Lock

1798 April 9th. Resolved shed be made at east end of Lewis' house (stable)

1801 April 13th. Lewis et al. Had wages advanced by 1/- per week

1816 Lewis' pay reduced to 5/- per week or dismissal

Lodge, George

1784 Jan 1st. Road on towing path stopped by him between Wallbridge & Dudbridge

Mason, Edward Wood. Clerk Chippenham Platt

1840 July 13th. Appointed Clerk (Surveyor) at meeting @ £120 pa. With house at Chippenham Platt formerly occupied by Organ, free of rent & taxes. (MIN Bk 4 p.191)

1844 May 20th. Resigned. To be paid salary until June 24th. & money in lieu of rent and be allowed £7.10/- in addition for ¼ annual sum allowed him for rent.

Minett, Lionel Lock keeper / lengthsman Double Lock

1930's

Large family

Mustie, William Lock keeper Double Lock

1841 Appointed

Pashley, John Lock keeper Framilode

1788, Feb. 2nd. He was to collect tickets at Framilode. They had to be filed and brought to meetings when requested. (Min Bk 2 p.74)

Dismissed.

Pavey, William Under or 2nd. Clerk

1799, Jan 2nd. Offered his services as under clerk on same basis as Wm. Smith viz. £32 pa with tenement & garden (Min Bk 2 p.267)

1801, April 13th. Applied for increase in salary because of advanced price of provisions. Add 8/- pa (p.320)

Pockett, Leonard Lock keeper, Tidesman and Lengthsman Framilode

The last man to be employed by the Company.

Described by a neighbour as a small man with a high-pitched voice.

Collection of his fortnightly wage sheets are in Company's archive

Wife kept Post Office in lean-to at side of house (Post box still there)

1955 Company sold to him Lock House, Warehouse and land at Framilode for £1000.

Pockett, Richard Lock keeper & Tidesman Framilode

1900-Appears in wages book (D1180/2/66)

Duties included 'attending to tides etc'

1910, Nov 25th. at 11am died

Duties carried on by wife Fanny Pockett for the same wages until end of Feb 1911.

1911. March Replaced by James Harris

Purcell, William Clerk and Lock-keeper Framilode 1814-1841

1814. Paid month's salary £5 (Journal 1814)

1816 Dec. 20th. paid £5 (ditto p.80)

1834. Jan 22nd. Surety 7& bond for him (Min Bk 4)

1840 May 22nd. His services to be dispensed with on Mar. 20th. next, and notice to be given
Re. Wm. Purcell Notes supplied by David Purcell, descendant

1814, June 10th. Appointed @ £65pa to be paid quarterly & he to pay £5pa for rent of house and garden
1815? House built - when estimate was given, Framilode was part of Eastington parish. He was given
money to pay tradesman's bills for building of his house. Had to walk to Stonehouse each day to check
the canal.

1821 Salary increased to £80

1833. Proposed to decrease salary to £60 but this rescinded

1841 Left Company

1865 Died in workhouse

Share, James or John or Lock keeper

Shear, James or John

1800, Oct. 14th. Half-Year Meeting reported Share had worked for Company 14 years & was drowned
in canal short time ago while occupied in the business of the Company. Resolved 'to take the
calamitous case of his widow and 9 children into their consideration'. (Min Bk 2 p.310/311.)

p.312. Martha Share, widow will be allowed 11/- per week

p.314. Overseer of Kinsall, Shropshire asked if Company could allow widow 8/- per week p.314

1801. April 13th. Martha Share be given 3/- per week (p.320)

Sherwood, Clerk (Surveyor)?

1844, June 17th. Appointed @£80pa. With house at Chippenham Platt. (Min Bk 4 p.322)

1846, Nov. 16th. Advert to be put out for Surveyor @ £70pa in place of Mr. Sherwood. (Min Bk 5, p.1)

Smith, William Second or under-Clerk Newent

1797. June 12th. Meeting at Wallbridge, Smith offered his service as Under Clerk @8/- per quarter.

(Min Bk 2 p.243)

1798. Nov. 21st. WS indisposed & incapable of fulfilling his duties. Thos. Beard to fulfill duties in his
absence. (p.265)

1799. Jan 2nd. Smith dismissed as from March 1st. (p.267)

Snape, Percy George Clerk & Surveyor.

1916, Oct. 18th. Agreement reported made between Chairman of CPOS, Philip James Evans, Esq. &
PGS. From Aug. 5th 1916 PGS shall serve as Clerk & Surveyor 'and shall not divulge any secrets or
dealings relating thereto'. Salary £78pa to be paid at Quarter Days. He shall occupy Canal House at
No. 13 Wallbridge and the garden & land now occupied by him.

Termination 3 months by registered letter. If he wilfully neglects or is ill or unable to work – salary is
suspended after 3 months.

Died 1954. He was son of WJ Snape.

Snape, William James Clerk & Surveyor.

Lived at 13, Wallbridge. Father of Percy George Snape

White, John Lock keeper Pike Lock

Lived at Pike Lock house. Known by FW Robotham

Michael Handford has some photos of him c.1900– reproduced on Pike Lock website.