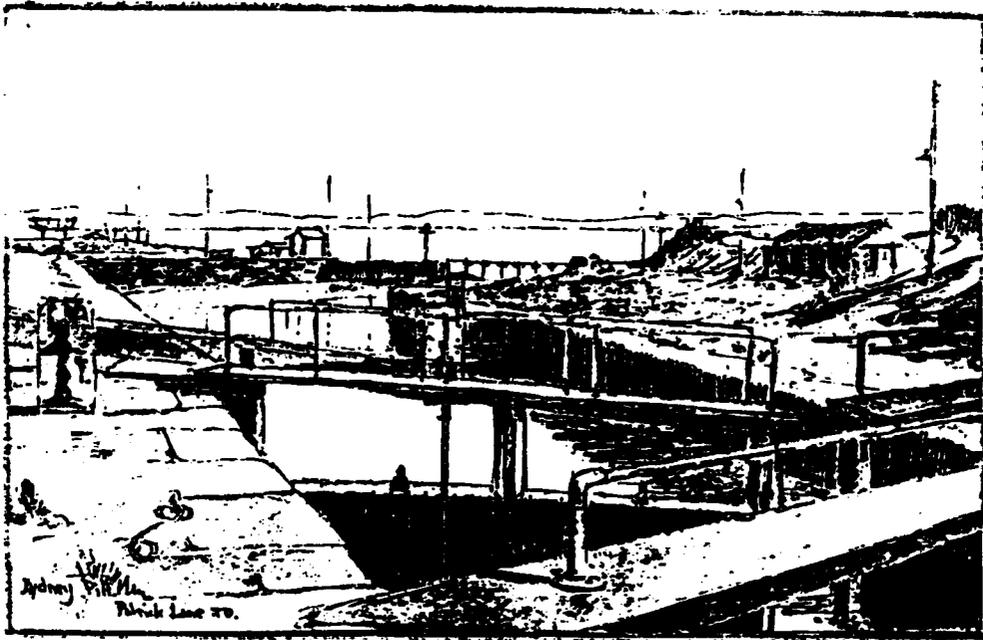


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GLOUCESTERSHIRE
SOCIETY
FOR INDUSTRIAL
ARCHAEOLOGY

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THE AIMS OF THE SOCIETY
to stimulate interest in, to
record, to study, and where
appropriate to preserve items
of industrial archaeology, es-
pecially in the County of
Gloucester.

EDITORIAL



If the typescript appears smaller and more crowded than usual, this is due to an attempt to hold back the rising tide of costs. The alternative would have been to reduce page size from A4 to A5 (booklet-size), and the Committee decided against such a drastic change.

In this issue Mrs Haine completes her definitive study of the history of cloth mills in the Painswick valley with Part I. (Part I? I hear you cry) This originally appeared as an article in Gloucestershire Historical Studies XIII of 1982, but has been revised and expanded for this Journal. Her articles are a gold-mine for students of economics, textile history and the history of family businesses. We note particularly the rapid changes of ownership and management, and the often frantic search for alternate uses for the redundant cloth mills in the early 19th century, after long periods of textile manufacture, often by one single family for many years.

Ian Mackintosh continues his investigations into the growth of Stroud. This surely provides a new insight into the development of this town, which unlike Bisley, Minchinhampton and Painswick had never been a manorial foundation or possessed a medieval market. Yet eventually it surpassed those earlier settlements, and Ian Mackintosh's articles recount the stages in this process. We look forward to the continuation of his articles, in particular to that on the crucial 18th century.

Ian Parson's thought-provoking article on The Country Railway (which the Editor confesses he found a bit enigmatic!) has a double twist in its tail. It is a rather sad story of missed opportunities, poignant to all those who value railways, both for their convenience and for their intrinsic attraction. From 1924 to 1933 your Editor travelled daily between Stroud and Gloucester in the old rail-car. Where now are the stations? the wooden platforms and mini-ticket offices? All gone, with lost Atlantis and Ancient Ninevah. More's the pity ...

Our guest contributor is Dr. T.D. Whittet, C.B.E., who writes on Apothecaries' trade tokens in Gloucestershire. To some this may seem to lie on the fringes of "industrial archaeology" - whatever that somewhat elastic phrase embraces. Tokens of the late 18th and early 19th centuries do have a lot to tell us about industry and the economic climate of that time. The lesser known tokens of the 16th century also serve as economic indicators, providing evidence of the growing importance and sophistication of local centres, much as do the existence of attorneys' offices and doctors' surgeries. Dr. Whittet's article is thus of considerable interest for Gloucestershire, and we are honoured to have the opportunity to publish it.

We regret that personal indisposition and inclement weather prevented the inclusion of the usual views of Painswick valley cloth mills: perhaps this lack may be made good next year. But we do have another of Pat Lane's attractive sketches for the cover - this time of Lydney Pill.

Finally, we are sorry not to have anything this year on the Forest of Dean. The Journal depends on contributors having the time, and the opportunity, for the necessary research and for writing it up. Our thanks go to all those who over the past years have contributed to the information and enjoyment of our readers. What merit the Journal possesses is entirely due to our willing (and unremunerated!) contributors! We hope you will find this issue enjoyable: we look forward to contributions for the next issue of the Journal, in March 1987 for 1986 (contributions before the end of this year please!).

Sincerely - Christopher Cox

PLANNING

Ian Parson writes: Most of the matters arising during the past year concerned buildings described in the "Guide to England's Industrial Heritage" (BT Batsford Ltd 1980) pp 101-106.

Bream, Flour Mill Colliery SO 606068. This is possibly the most complete complex of colliery buildings to survive in the Forest of Dean. The Planning Officer to the Forest of Dean District Council confirmed on 20 Aug 85 that these buildings are listed.

Cheltenham, Electricity Sub-station SO 947225. This is an attractive 3-storey brick building with terracotta detail. Although not the subject of a planning application, the GSIA Chairman is discussing with the Chairman of the Cheltenham Civic Society the supply and fixing of a plaque on the building.

Gloucester Docks SO 825185. Gloucester Corporation have courageously resolved to convert the North Warehouse of 1826 into offices for their staff, and the contract is well under way. (See GSIA Journal for 1982, The Future of Gloucester Docks by GN Crawford).

Gloucester, Pillar Warehouse, Baker's Quay SO 826180. This has already been converted into a public house, and it is a pleasure to see the cleaned brickwork. There is a photograph of the warehouse in original condition in the guide.

Kingswood, New Mill ST 737930. The main mill building with its central staircase tower surmounted by a clock was empty when the guide was published, with a photograph. The present owners have made an excellent job of restoring and using this mill.

Littledean Gaol SO 674137. This model prison was built c.1790 to the designs of William Blackburn who followed the guide lines of the noted prison reformer, Sir Onesiphorus Paul. It is no longer required by the County Council which was in October considering the proposals of five applicants before deciding which to accept. (See GSIA Journal for 1982 article on The Northleach House of Correction by Ann-Rachael Harwood. This was another of GO Paul's reformatories.)

Lydney, Lydney Harbour SO 633019-651014. The Planning Officer to the Forest of Dean District Council confirmed on 19 Aug 1985 that an Inspector from the Department of the Environment has undertaken his survey of Lydney and confirmation of his draft proposals is (at the time of writing) awaited. It is expected that Cookson Terrace, former Severn & Wye Railway staff houses, will be added to the statutory list. The old S & W R office and warehouse do not appear on the draft revised list.

Sharpness, New Dock SO 657022-664028. The guide mentions 2 fine warehouses which are illustrated in the book "The Functional Tradition in Early Industrial Buildings" by J M Richards (Architectural Press 1958) pp 24 & 25. While Albert Warehouse was being demolished, the North Warehouse was protected by being listed - in a hurry!

Dursley, Former Rope Works ST 749759. This is not in the guide. Listed building consent was given by Stroud District Council in October for demolition. The GSIA Committee was told in July last that the developer may be willing to reconstruct the old rope works and incorporate a small museum.

Stroud, former GWR Goods Shed SO 850052. Not in the guide: Neville Crawford refers to this site in his notes on planning applications.

Ebley Mill Good news, which has just come through, is that Stroud Disttict Council has decided to centralise its services in Ebley Mill, thus ensuring the survival of this elegant building. Perhaps they have been influenced by Gloucester District Council's noble effort in restoring the North Warehouse for their offices. Stroud Council has also authorised a survey of historic buildings in the District, particularly old mills, and an illustrated report is to be presented in February 1986.



Buildings survey Many members will be aware that ASTAM, a firm of architects in Gloucester, has been carrying out a county survey of buildings etc. suitable for listing, on behalf of the Government. Having been present at the inspection of one parish, I know that the standard for listing is fairly high and that many industrial buildings will be omitted due to inappropriate additions and alterations. Some listings are already known and I was pleased to hear that the bridge-keepers' houses on the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal are now included, with two exceptions which are still in the pipeline. This was all too late, however, to save one of the two historic warehouses, which disappeared very suddenly at Sharpness Dock.

Stroud GWR On the credit side, the fine ex-GWR Goods Shed at Stroud Station has also been listed, after losing its roof covering; and several mills are being restored, amongst them Egypt and Millbottom mills, both at Nailsworth.

Malthouse at risk! An industrial building in serious danger of demolition is the malthouse in Merchants Road, Gloucester. This has old advertising writing on the gable wall and a continuous ventilator along the ridge; it is connected by a bridge to the pillar malthouse on the Shaprnass Canal.

Barns Agriculturally, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), which was formed over one hundred years ago by William Morris, is making a national survey of barns. The Society is hoping to find a volunteer from each parish to record these buildings which are often either in danger of being destroyed or being converted into housing, as they are considered unsuitable for present-day farm requirements. Standard forms are available to list details, such as shape, materials and construction, and the GSIA Secretary will forward the names of any volunteers.

GNC

VISITS

VISIT TO STAFFORDSHIRE, Saturday 27 April 1985.

Thirty members and friends went first to Burlaston where we visited the fine Wedgwood Visitors' Centre, Museum & Art Gallery. (One of Wedgwood's "new" lines features our President's Tank Engine and Friends.



In the afternoon, the hardier members of the party joined Mike Walton and friends from Staffordshire I A Society for a 3-mile walk (in Arctic winds) along the Trent & Mersey Canal towpath. This passed all manner of canalside architecture, pottery and ancilliary work, the remnants of Sheldon iron-and-steel works, and Wedgwood's grand mansion. We passed a large area of industrial demolition which, incredibly, is due to blossom out as a Garden Festival in 1986.*

The walk finished at the one relic of the original Etruria Works, the round house - the original function of this is as uncertain as that of the Stroud round houses.**

Just across the road we joined the remainder of the party to visit the Etruria Bone Mill. Here our Staffordshire friends, under the auspices of Stoke Museum, are carrying out Herculean labours in the restoration of a bone-and-flint mill and a beam engine, which operated on this site for over a hundred years (and it was second hand at that!).

When we left, an hour of heavy snow put an end to ideas of further outdoor activity. However, John Foley guided us through the Black Country to view from the comfort of the coach the cleaning-up of banks, bridges etc. on the various levels of the Birmingham Canal Navigation.

* Stoke-on-Trent's National Garden Festival, to be opened by HM the Queen 8 May 1986 (164 acres!).

** See GSIA Journal for 1981, Wool-drying stoves along the Painswick stream, by C. Haine; and for 1982, The Woodchester roundhouse, by GN Crawford.

JRS

VISIT TO CORINIUM MUSEUM, WEDNESDAY 19 June 1985.

CENTURY OF STEAM TOYS.

Of all toys, those driven by steam must be amongst those with the greatest appeal to young and old alike.

Mr Basil Harley has been collecting steam toys since he was a child, and now in retirement he possesses a magnificent collection, some of which were on display in May and June of last year at the Corinium Museum in Cirencester.

A special evening viewing of the exhibition was arranged for the GSIA members through the kind co-operation of the Museum staff, and we were fortunate that Mr Harley was able to come along and answer numerous questions on the collection: he also showed a film he has made which portrays many of the toys in action. All in all, it was a most enjoyable and 'different' meeting for the Society.

RW

VISIT TO NOTTINGHAM AREA, SUNDAY 14th July 1985.

Owing to the cancellation of the Swindon GWR 150 exhibition this was the last coach trip of 1985. It was one of our best attended, with 44 members and friends in the party. The first stop was at Alrewas to see the unusual level crossing of the River Trent and the Trent & Mersey Canal. This proved very interesting, though we did embarrass some holiday boaters - fancy 44 gongoozlers* watching you work through a lock!

We went on to Nottingham where Miss Patrick had arranged for three of her friends to show us the Lace Market area, an impressive collection of Victorian commercial buildings acting as warehouses, and prestige offices concentrated on a very restricted site in the historic city. Our guides were most informative on the buildings, the firms and the general history.

After a little difficulty in finding a lunch-time parking place in the Castle area (the intended spot had just been pedestrianised), we went to Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum. Miss Patrick helped in the restoration of part of this museum. It is a fascinating complex of two backyard-type framework shops and the associated cottages. We had demonstrations of different types of knitting machines (developed from William Lee's original invention of 1589!). There are also displays of local industrial and social history material, and one of the cottages has been restored, with another to follow.

On the way home we visited Moira Furnace near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, which has recently been restored as the centre of an historic complex. The 1804 coke-fired furnace with its intact bridge house makes an imposing structure. It survived largely because it was a commercial failure and many of the plant buildings were used for residential purposes until the 1970s. A newly-formed group of "Friends of the Furnace" were operating and gave us an impromptu guided tour of the central features.

Our time was unfortunately restricted but this site, with its associated trails of canal, railway, tranway, colliery, limekiln and housing relics would justify a longer visit.

Our thanks are due to Miss Patrick for arranging the central features of this trip.

JRS

* GONGOOZLERS: an accepted term (believes JRS) for them as hang about locks etc. on a Sunday afternoon. (Not many people know that!)

SOCIAL EVENING Friday 2 August 1985: VISIT TO WINCHCOMBE RAILWAY MUSEUM

After the torrential rain of last year's social evening in the Forest of Dean, we had a fine August evening to enjoy the fascinating and extensive collection at the Winchcombe Railway Museum.

No locomotives or rolling stock are on display here, but instead a vast array of cast-iron railway notices, painted station name boards, sections of rail and real signals that the visitor can actually operate. Wandering through the delightful garden one comes across all sorts of buildings which house further displays and include a booking office, signal box equipment, posters, tickets and all sorts of small items. Appropriately enough, in 1985 one display was concentrated on the Great Western Railway.

The evening was satisfactorily concluded by members adjourning to the local Donnington Ales House where the products of that famous brewery were enjoyed, and members recalled a highly enjoyable visit a couple of years previously!

The Winchcombe Railway Museum is open to the public regularly in summer, but you are advised to telephone the owner, Mr Tim Petchey (Cheltenham 602257) in advance to check times.

RW

JOINT GSIA & GADARG EVENT.

On September 28th one of the few fine Saturday afternoons of the summer, members of GSIA and GADARG got together. They met at the 12th century church of St James the Great in Stoke Orchard. The Rev. Chris. Harrison, vicar of Stoke Orchard and Tredington, welcomed the party. He gave an outline history of the famous wall painting, dating from the medieval and post-Reformation periods, and he pointed out the special features of interest. The paintings were rediscovered as recently as the mid-1950s, and rather like the Bayeux Tapestry they have the appearance of a strip cartoon and tell the story of events in the life of St James, leading up to his execution and death. A full account of the discovery and restoration of the "Wall Painting in Stoke Orchard Church, Gloucestershire" was published in the Archaeological Journal of the Royal Archaeological Institute vol cxxii, May 1967, under the names of E Clive Rouse and Audrey Baker.

The party then followed the Rev Harrison to the 13th century church of St John the Baptist, a mile further up the road to Tredington on the road towards Tewkesbury. Architectural and other features were pointed out, and the history of the church and village fully explained. An unexpected feature was the remains of some fossil bones of a marine reptile in the floor of the church porch, said to resemble those of an Ichthysaurus. The subject was obviously beyond the knowledge of the GSIA and GADARG members, so they hurried across the road to see James Richard Grimshaw's brick-built barn. The farmer hoped that somebody could tell him the date it was built and point out the structural features of interest. Unfortunately, the combined wisdom of the societies was no better at dating barns than at identifying pre-historic reptiles, but nobody minded because the sun shone, and the next part of the programme promised even better things.

At tredington House Farm, Frank and Mary Juckes gave us the run of their 16/17th century house, to see the timber construction and fascinating layout of the various rooms. In the farm buildings there was a cider press to see, and a brick-built dovecote amongst other things.

The afternoon finished with Tea on the neatly-mown and sheltered lawn. Tasty Sandwiches were served by Mrs Juckes and her family, followed by delicious cakes made by the local members of the Womens' Institute. John Greene of GSIA and Barbara Rawes of GADARG gave votes of thanks to the Rev Chris Harrison, Richard Grimshaw, and to Frank and Mary Juckes for an interesting and enjoyable afternoon. On behalf of the 50 people present, John handed Mr Juckes the sum of £50 as a contribution towards the repairs of Stoke Orchard church.

SAMUEL RUDDER: NEW HISTORY OF GLOUCESTERSHIR. (continued)

Earlier issues of the Journal carried, wherever possible, extracts from Rudder's great book (great in both senses of the word) of interest to the subject of industrial archaeology. And wherever possible, further extracts will appear.

We now come to ...

STANLEY, or KING'S STANLEY

The poor people are chiefly employ'd in the clothing business, which is the general manufacture of this part of the county.

STANLEY St. LEONARD'S

This was the only market-town in the hundred, and was formerly more populous than at present, having been much reduced by a dreadful fire, which happened in May, 1686, and almost consumed it.... It continues, however, to rank as a market town in our books and maps, and has a right to hold markets and fairs, but wants interest and conveniencies to bring people together... the only appearance as its having been a market town, is a little shed, which was the market house, still remaining about the middle of the place.

STANTON or STAUNTON

It is full of iron ore, the getting of which is the chief employment of the labouring people, who make very good wages at it. (This is the Stanton in St Briavell's Hundred.)

STONEHOUSE

The turnpike-road from the town of Stroud to the next passages over the Severn, at Framilode and Arlingham, runs thro' this parish; and a canal is now cutting thro' it, to open a navigation from that town to the above-mentioned river.

Mr. Ellis has a very handsome new house at Ebley, built by his uncle Mr. Joseph Ellis, who acquired a large fortune in the clothing business, with the highest reputation ... The clothing business has flourished here for many generation, to which the fine appearance and improved conditions of this country is to be attributed; for nothing is more certain, than that trade and manufactures encourage agriculture.

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The views expressed by the Editor
are not necessarily those of the
Committee.

If any errors or mistakes, as in
names and addresses, have occurred
(despite careful scrutiny!) these
are inadvertent and humble apolog-
are hereby offered ...

GRO - Gloucestershire Records Office. GDR - Glos Diocesan ditto.
GCL - Gloucester City Library, in which is GC - the Gloucester-
shire Collection. PRO - Public Records Office. GJ - the Glou-
cester Journal. *****