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**BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY**

# **INFORMATION 54**

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## EDITORIAL

The majority of this issue of Information was set in August and September 1991 using a computer with automatic justification. After proof reading it was spooled out in early November 1991. Owing to circumstances beyond the editor's control, the final pieces of work were not done until December 1991.

In one of the next two issues, either Information 55 or Information 56, it is hoped to present a series of maps of the occurrence of dragons. Any sightings of the beasts not hitherto reported to the editor, please by 20 January 1992.

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It is anticipated that Information 55 will be set in February half-term, 1992. The editor has several items to hand but would welcome further articles and notes for this and future issues. Contributions for Information 55 by 10 February 1992 to the editor, please.

David H. Kennett  
Editor

## A SURVEY OF BRICKMARKS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Sidney Beadle

[This article about the society's project was submitted by Sidney Beadle less than a week before his death. It is published here as a tribute to the work he did for the projected survey. DHK]

Many bricks have identification marks in their frog. From the late eighteenth century onwards improvements in transport made it possible to move bulky goods such as bricks over large distances and still be able to sell at a profit. Buyers needed to know where the bricks were coming from. Quality assurance had to be established for bricks far away from their point of manufacture: hence the brickmarks (1).

Most brickmarks are in the form of the maker's initials and/or his name. Sometimes the place of manufacture is also included. Occasionally the brickmark is in the form of a symbol.

There are now so many different brickmarks that it is not possible to memorize them all. Local historians, architectural historians,, industrial archaeologists, and others wish to know more about their marked bricks.

The British Brick Society hope to produce and publish A Survey of Brickmarks of England and Wales. The brickmarks of



Scotland have already been listed by the Scottish Industrial Archaeology Survey (2). Roman brickmarks have been very adequately covered by Gerald Brodribb (3).

Readers are invited to contribute examples of brickmarks for inclusion in the survey. Some, or all, of the following details are asked for:

1. The Brickmark

A simple sketch of the upper face of the brick, so as to show the lettering and/or symbol used by the brickmaker. The shape of the frog might also be of value in recognising the bricks of a particular worker. Keen collectors might also submit photographs.

2. Description of the Brick

A brief description giving its colour and type: e.g. common brick, engineering brick, firebrick, terracotta brick, paving brick etc. If there is a possibility that other brickmakers might have used a very similar brickmark, other details can also be included: e.g. texture, dimensions, method of manufacture etc.

3. Name of the Brickmaker

This could be an individual or a company.

4. Address of the Brickworks

Please note that some brickmakers worker at more than one location. If possible list all locations.

5. National Grid Reference

Use Ordnance Survey system (two letters followed by six figures). This locates the brickmark, if seen on a standing building, and the brickworks to within 100 square metres.

6. Dating

Give the dates when the brickworks are known to have been working. This information should be available in county or district directories. Approximations may be necessary.

Many readers may not be able to give more details than those listed under nos. 1 and 2. If they are not able to include information concerning nos. 3 to 6 above, they should write 'not yet known'. It would be of value to the survey to know where these problem bricks were collected or seen.

Please send all information to:

Michael Hammett

Hon. Secretary, British Brick Society

9 Bailey Close, Lucas Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire  
telephone 0494-520299.

who is temporarily dealing with the project after Sidney Beadle's death.

It would be appreciated if details concerning this survey are passed on to other persons or organisations, e.g. museums, who might send in contributions.

#### REFERENCES

1. M.G.Reeder, 'Why do some bricks have identification marks in their frogs?', BBS Information 1980 and in British Brick Society Compilation Volume I (1988), 66.
2. G.J. Douglas et al. A Survey of Scottish Brickmarks, (Glasgow: Scottish Industrial Archaeological Survey, Dept. History, University of Strathclyde, 1985).
3. G. Brodribb, Roman Brick and Tile, (Gloucester: Alan Sutton, 1987).

# BRIDGWATER BRICKMAKING TRADITION

Brian J. Murless

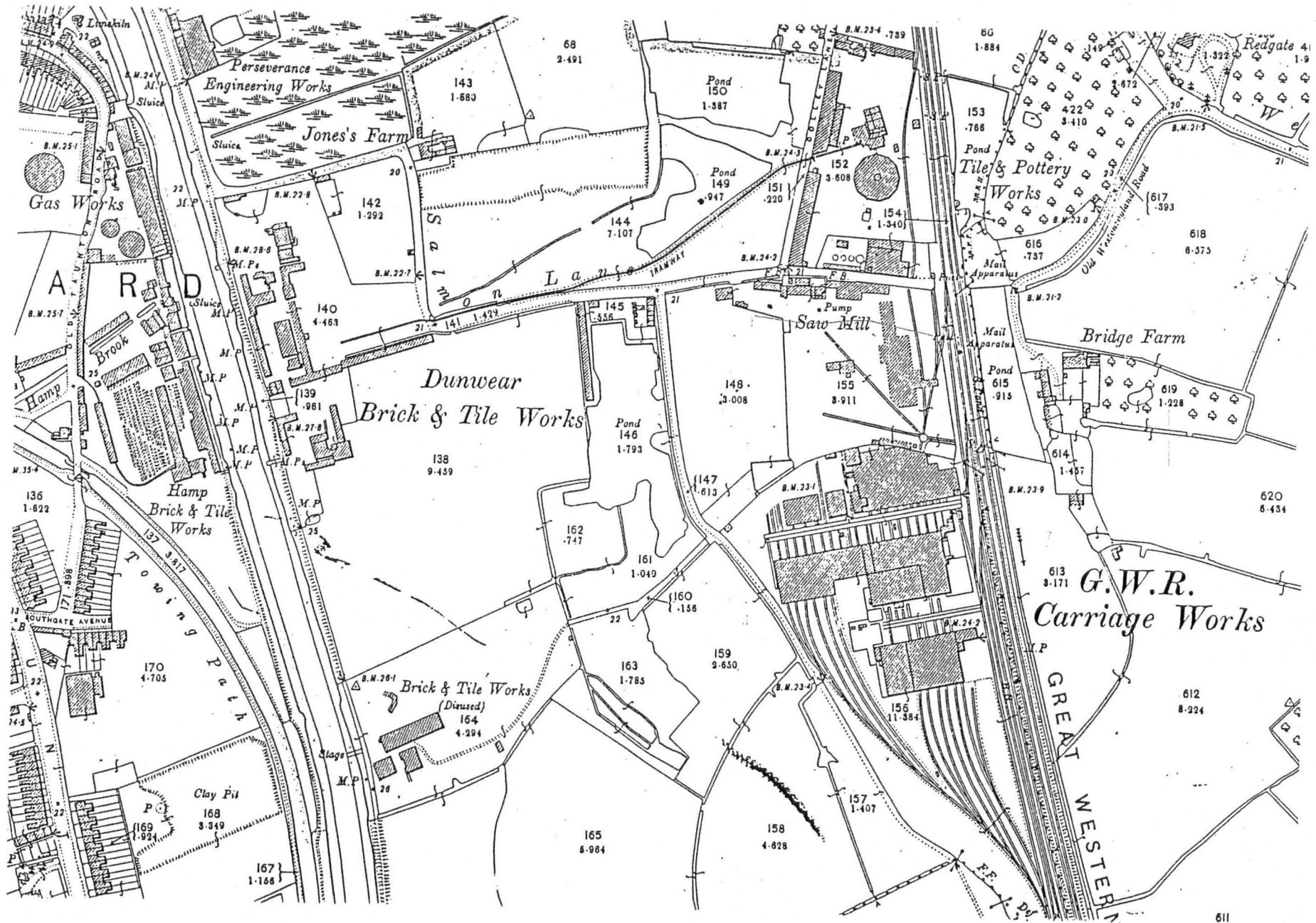
The name 'Sealey' or its variant 'Sealy' has long associations with the West Country (1) and one branch established a trading base in the Sedgemoor town of Bridgwater during the eighteenth century. An Edward Sealy is mentioned in what has been called a 'Licence to cut brick' on ground near Bridgewater in 1776. Under the terms of reference any excavated land would have to be partly reinstated "by letting in the water from the river parrott in such manner as is usually done in Brick pitts on the Banks of the said River" (2). The River Parrett is particularly silty and its fine deposits were later exploited by the Sealys and others for the manufacture of Bath (scouring) bricks which were exported worldwide (3). The 'Licence' also notes that both Edward and his late father, John, made bricks and tiles in the Bridgwater area at an earlier time for the Kemeys Tynte family of Goathurst.

Water-borne trade from the port played a key role in promoting Bridgwater clay products and in 1772 Edward Sealey (spelt with the additional 'e') sold bricks and beans to Thomas Kymer who lived at Robeston Hall near Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (4). Fragments of malt kiln tiles, with 9 air-ways arranged in a square and bearing a partial inscription of 'Sealy & Sons' have been found on Anglesey (5) and similar tiles by Sealy & Co. and J.B. Hammill, another Bridgwater manufacturer, were discovered during the excavation of a brewery and malthouse in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. (6). In a local context Sealy-made kiln tiles have been noted at Pitt Farm, Culmstock, Devon (7), and at a malting in Newent, Gloucestershire (8).

In early trade directories Edward Sealy is listed as a 'Wine Merchant' (9) or simply 'Merchant' (10) but it is known that he was developing his brick business through the acquisition of other local yards (11). By 1802 the title of the firm had been changed to Edward Sealy and Sons (12). Land worked by the family is shown on a map for an abortive canal scheme of 1811 (13). About the same time a parson from a nearby parish visited the brickyards and commented:

He [Edward Sealy] deals large in various ways, has many ships and is with his two sons in the Banking Way. Vain and Pompous and full of Money. He has many houses on the Brick Grounds and a whole company of people there, seemingly in a comfortable way (14).

Fig.1 (overleaf) Ordnance Survey 25 in. scale, Sheet 50.15 (1904) showing the two Sealy/Major works at Salmon Lane and Colley Lane. The brick and tile works on the west bank of the River Parrett was operated by the Somerset Trading Company Ltd., and the other Hamp Yard (see Fig.2) lying further to the south.



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Fig. 2 Bridgwater Independent newspaper, 21 May 1921, giving details of Hamp Yard.

HAMP, BRIDGWATER.

**M**ESSRS W. H. PALMER & SONS will SELL, by AUCTION, at the Royal Clarence Hotel, Bridgwater, on WEDNESDAY, 25th May, 1921, at 3.30 in the afternoon precisely, subject to conditions, all that well-situated BRICKYARD known as HAMP YARD, comprising a substantial Building, Dwelling-house, Brick Kiln, Moulding House, Storage and Drying Sheds, together with a Slimo Batch, and the Drying Grounds and Garden lands held herewith, situated between the canal and the river at Hamp, approached from the Taunton main road over the canal bridge, containing about 5 acres, more or less, and held by Messrs H J and C Major, Ltd., on a lease which expires at Michaelmas next.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneers, York Buildings, Bridgwater; or to Messrs REED & REED, Solicitors, Bridgwater.

The Sealys also served the community by taking a keen interest in the politics of the Bridgwater Corporation and the magistracy but the nomenclature of the firm remained until c.1840 when it was listed as 'John Sealy' (15). John brought originality and flair with a tile patent in 1842 (16) and an allocation of 28 feet at the Great Exhibition in 1851 where he exhibited the "Patent Treble-channelled or Corragated (sic) Roofing Tile; Ridge, Hip, and Valley Tiles; Flooring and Bakers' Oven Tiles (square); Patent Kiln Tile; White Scouring Brick " (17).

The brickmaking locations favoured by the Sealys were at Hamp, the district outside the South Gate of Bridgwater and to the west of the River Parrett, and at Dunwear, to the east of the town. The Tithe Map of 1847 shows the extent of their interests at the time though not all of the plots were under their ownership (18).

John Sealy died early in 1865 (19) necessitating changes in family enterprises: the bank became known as Sealy, Prior and Company and John Lovell Sealy assumed the mantle of brick, tile, drainpipe, and Bath brick manufacturer (20). However, more fundamental moves were taking place which eventually led to the brickmaking side being managed by another local family, Henry James and Charles Major.

The Majors took the clay business into the modern era which saw the abolition of seasonal employment (21) and the construction of more efficient kilns including one circular, continuous firing, Hoffman type (fig.1). Steam-power played a larger role than previously and a horizontal stationary engine, built by W. and F. Wills of Bridgwater in 1886, has been preserved in working order (22). The Majors, like the Sealys, became involved in community matters and the firm entered the traditional Guy Fawkes Carnival processions (23).

As regards products, H.J. and C. Major could offer a vast range of goods including malt kiln tiles with 9, 16, or 25 holes or the 8-hole Stowmarket pattern (24). Patents sought to protect new designs of interlocking roofing tiles and modifications to existing forms to "prevent displacement by wind and allow moisture penetration to escape" (25).

The final consolidation of sites also occurred: what had begun as a fragmented collection of brickfields progressing to more permanent brickyards under the Sealys now became, in effect,

factories and were defined as "works". The scale of production, albeit still largely using hand skills and hence labour intensive, was significantly increased. But despite extended tramways to the more distant clay pits the Majors had to look further afield to win their raw material and a base was established at Chilton Trinity (26).

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BRIDGWATER ADVERTISEMENT.

**H. J. & C. MAJOR,**  
 (LATE SEALY)  
 THE PATENT  
**TILE WORKS,**  
 BRIDGWATER;  
 OFFICES, WEST QUAY.

MANUFACTURERS OF ALL KINDS OF  
**BUILDING & PAVING BRICKS,**  
 SALTING TILES, ROOFING TILES,  
 Drain Pipes, the Patent Bath Scouring Bricks.

INVENTORS AND MANUFACTURERS OF THE PATENT  
**Angularly Corrugated Roofing and Ridge  
 Tiles, also the Perforated Tiles for drain-  
 ing Paper Pulp.**

N.B.---BRICKS AND TILES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION  
 MADE TO ORDER.



From H. J. & C. MAJOR, Limited,  
128 Sealy's Patent Tile Works, Bridgewater,

HAMP YARD 200 123<sup>rd</sup> 1896

Delivered to \_\_\_\_\_

For J. N. Mansford

100 pan tiles D.H/6  
paid same time

4 6

Foreman, A. Dibble

£

4 6

N.B.—Bricks, Tiles and Draining Pipes of every description.

Fig. 4 Receipt for 100 pantiles

The fortunes of H.J. and C. Major Ltd. mirrored those of other Bridgwater manufacturers and in the twentieth century competition from less costly building materials plus other economic and social factors led to the closure of the yards. Although the Hamp Yard (ST 306356) was put on the market in 1921 (fig.2) it probably lingered on until 1939. The Dunwear Works (ST 304365) and the Colley Lane Patent Tile and Pottery Works (ST 307366) both closed in 1956 (27). The legacy of the Sealys was not, however, forgotten by the Majors and the company's former name was included, on a regular basis, in trade advertisements (fig.3) and on stationery (fig.4) (28).

#### NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Sealey, A.N., in 'People, Places and Problems', The Greenwood Tree, vol.6 (1980-81), 18-19.
2. Somerset Record Office, DD/RN S/47, Lease Counterpart 16 September 1776. Although uncertainty exists as to whether the terms were enacted, the document remains a valued piece of historical evidence.
3. Murless, B.J., 'The Bath Brick Industry of Bridgwater', Jnl. Som. Ind. Arch. Soc., no.1 (1975), 18-28.
4. Carmarthenshire Record Office, Kymer MSS.
5. Murless, B.J., pers.comm. 22 July 1982.
6. Murless, B.J., pers.comm. 8 March 1984.
7. Information from Comdr. E.H.D. Williams.
8. Murless, B.J., pers.comm. 14 September 1987.

9. Bailey's British Directory (1784).
10. Universal British Directory (1791).
11. The evidence concerns three local worthies: Samuel Glover who traded with Thomas Kymer (see n.4), James Coles, and Robert Anstice, and relates to land at Hamp. The chronology can be traced through advertisements in the Sherborne Mercury and Western Flying Post newspaper for 30 December 1782 and 13 June 1796, and at Somerset Record Office DD/X/bfd 4 and Land Tax Assessments, North Petherton Hundred, 1766-1832.
12. Somerset Record Office, St Mary's Parish, Bridgwater, Poor Rate Assessment Accounts, 1798-1804; entry for Watts Middle Warehouse, dated 23 May 1802.
13. Somerset Record Office, Q/RUp Bristol and Taunton Canal, 1811.
14. Ayres, J. (ed.), Paupers and Pig Killers (Gloucester: Alan Sutton, 1984), 206; entry dated 14 June 1810.
15. Bragg, W., General Directory for the County of Somerset (1840).
16. No.9534, 3 December 1842.
17. Bridgwater Times newspaper 12 December 1850; John Sealy was honourably mentioned" for his Bath bricks and received a local award, cf. Bridgwater Times 2 September 1852.
18. Somerset Record Office, tithe award 496.
19. Bridgwater Mercury, newspaper, 17 January 1865.
20. Kelly's Directory of Somerset (1866).
21. Somerset County Gazette, newspaper, 23 December 1882; Mr H.J. Major's comments on employees' wages.
22. Information Sheet No.2 (Westonzoyland Engine Trust, 1987).
23. Bridgwater Mercury, newspaper, 8 November 1893.
24. Admiral Blake Museum, Bridgwater, Catalogue H.J. & C. Major Ltd. (undated but post 1909).
25. No. 14223, 23 June 1904.
26. Somerset Record Office, D/R/bw 15/3/7, 16/6/1; begun by 1909 and terminated after 1926.
27. Information from Mrs M. Langdon.
28. Paper submitted 20 May 1991.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This article would have been far less comprehensive without the references supplied by Madge Langdon, Mary Miles, Jill Polak, David Bick, Mr Robin Bush (Assistant County Archivist), Charles D. Cheek, Dr Robert Dunning (Victoria County History), Jack Lawrence, Mr W.H. Morris, the late Brigadier A.P. Trevor, Commander E.H.D. Williams, and the staff of the Commercial Section, Bristol Central Library. I am also grateful to David Greenfield in connection with patent research and to Mr David Bromwich, Local History Librarian, Taunton Castle, for assistance with source material and illustrations.

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# EARLY VICTORIAN BRICKMAKING: A Dual Occupation in the Midlands

David H. Kennett

The Editorial in Information 38 and the articles in subsequent issues about brickmaking as a dual occupation with other trades (1) has prompted the writer to gather together some scattered notes made from various county and multi-county directories covering the period from 1837 to 1867. These indicate a number of trades combined with brickmaking in four east midland counties: Bedfordshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, and Northamptonshire.

Directories for Bedfordshire were published in 1847, 1850, 1853, 1854 (two by different firms), 1862, and 1864 (again two from different firms) (2). In a farming county, brickmaking was combined with agriculture in 1853 by a number of men in different parishes (3): at Kempston by Thomas Mitchell at Box End, and at Caddington by Samuel Gazeley at Little Green, William Man at Grove Farm, and William Swann at Tipple Hill Farm. There were a number who made bricks and sold beer: Henry Wickens at Kempston in 1853, and Daniel Colburt at Ravensden in the same year although he is recorded as a brick and tile maker in 1864 (4). At Eaton Bray, William Travell was a brick and tile manufacturer and carpenter in 1853. In 1853, Leighton Buzzard was the only town in south Bedfordshire with railway and canal facilities. Brickmakers here called themselves manufacturers and merchants. William Stevens and Henry Cooper, in business on Canal Wharf, were brick and tile manufacturers. Trading as brick and tile manufacturers at the Grand Junction Wharf, Canal Street, John Osborn and Son had a business as corn, coal, and timber merchants at Chelsea Wharf. In Hockliffe Road, on the other side of town, a business of wider range had its headquarters: T. Forth described himself as an English and Foreign Timber, Brick and Slate Merchant.

Northamptonshire evidence dates to 1841 and 1849 (5). Thomas Billingham of Vigo, Northampton, was a lime burner and brickmaker in 1841. The 1841 evidence is selective for the county, omitting many villages; it lists only twelve brickmakers, of whom two, James Bayes at Kettering and Robert Elliot at Kingsthorpe, are described as brick and tile makers. The 1849 listing is fuller. In one of the parishes beside the Grand Junction Canal, George Dix of Blisworth kept the 'Navigation Inn' but was also a corn and coal merchant, a brick and tile maker, and a farmer. Clearly his labourers were not going to be without work whatever the season. Similarly at Stoke Bruerne, also a canalside parish, George Savage was the victualler at the 'Navigation Inn', a wharfinger, and a brick and tile maker. Elsewhere on the canal, at Braunston, Samuel Howard was a coal merchant and a brick and tile manufacturer, and J. Leeson was a builder and brick manufacturer. At Green's Norton, not on the canal, William Foxley was a brick manufacturer and coal dealer. Other men with the same surname, Thomas and Joseph Foxley, were in business as brick and tile manufacturers at Yardley Gobion.

In Northamptonshire in 1849, distant from the Grand Junction



Canal, M. Fouldes at Long Buckby combined brickmaking with beer retailing. At Irthlingborough, on the navigable part of the River Nene, W. Berwick had a business as a builder, gravestone cutter, and brick and tile manufacturer.

Two final points may be noted about Northamptonshire in 1849. John Whittock is recorded as living at Brick Kiln House, Crowfield, Syresham, but the parish has no brickmaker. Similarly at Helpston (6), the general information about the parish notes brick and tile manufacturing as one of the occupations of the parish, together with the limekilns. Four limeburners are noted in the list of occupants, but no brickmakers (7).

The same directory used for Northamptonshire in 1841 also records Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Rutland, again concentrating on the towns. Brick manufacturers and brickmakers are recorded in all three counties but dual occupations are few and confined to west Leicestershire. At Appleby (Magna or Parva is not stated) Edward Boden was a brickmaker and maltster, while at Ashby de la Zouche, Thomas Shaw of the Market Place kept 'The Queen's Head', a commercial and posting inn, as well as working as a brickmaker. In the south of the county, Samuel Hopkinson of Husbands Bosworth was a builder and brickmaker.

Three directories are available for Lincolnshire, dating from 1841, 1850, and 1856; the first two concentrate on the towns (8). There would appear to be no record of dual occupations in 1841 and only one in 1850: Samuel Skelton of Burgh who was also a butcher. Fuller entries for all the county, including the villages, are available for 1856. There is a wide range of combinations.

Combined with aspects of the building trade are John Foster of 29 High Street, Lincoln, also a bricklayer and builder and John Cowling of Spittal Terrace, Gainsborough, who additionally was a bricklayer, plasterer, and builder. George Wilcox of Spittlegate and High Street, Grantham, combined brickmaking with bricklaying and work as a builder. John Dawson of Burgh-in-the-Marsh is described as joiner, builder, brick maker, and tile maker. Henry Hutchinson Golding at South Ferriby was also a builder. Three men at Middle Gonerby (9) were also bricklayers: George Handley, Joseph Pool and William Pool.

There were men who combined brickmaking with involvement in the drink trade. John Brampton at Longworth kept a beerhouse, Richard Westland of Freiston was also a wine merchant in Boston, and at Leake, George and Samuel Horton were brewers, maltsters, and brick and tile makers. Thomas Clinton of Timberland was a brewer, maltster, and brickmaker, but describing themselves only as maltsters and brickmakers were John Rowbotham of Leadenham and John Nash and Son of Union Street, Market Rasen.

Combining brickmaking, the drink trade, and some form of dealership was Thomas Darley of Glentham who is described as a coal merchant, wharfinger, brickmaker, and victualler at the 'Ancholme Inn', Bishop Bridge. John Gowley of Fenton was a maltster, timber merchant, brick and tile maker, bricklayer, etc. At West Butterwick, Abraham Snowden was a brick and tile maker, coal dealer, and beerhouse keeper. Edward Soulby of Miningsby was a brewer, maltster, brick manufacturer, and coal merchant, etc. A different combination occurs with William Stubley of Billingborough, who was a corn merchant, miller, and brick and tile maker.

Less obvious combinations of trades also occur in

Lincolnshire. William Stennett of Ewerby was a brick maker and road surveyor and Peter Paxon of Stewton was the parish clerk as well as making bricks.

As with the earlier studies (1) the range is wide. There are those with agriculture as the second occupation, which may be under represented. A potential way of discovering how common this duality was is to examine the census returns for occupations. However, not merely is this laborious and time consuming, it may not yield decisive results. Census record of the mid nineteenth century, those of 1841, 1851, and 1861, have little space for occupation and one only is usually given for each individual.

Other than agriculture and the building trade, a second occupation commonly represented is the drink trade. But clearly John Hampton, Thomas Shaw and Richard Westland were men of very different social position in their communities. The brewers and maltsters were different again. These correspond in many ways to merchants recorded in Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire on the Grand Junction Canal and in Lincolnshire on the River Trent. Such would be employers rather than employees.

The latter, of course, do not appear in directories. To find them may require long hours before a microfiche reader and many sheets of microfiche of the census returns (10).

#### NOTES

1. T.P. Smith, 'Editorial', BBS Information, 38 (February 1986), 1-2; M. Beswick, 'Dual Occupations', BBS Information, 39 (May 1986), 14-15; W.A. Los, 'Brickmaking - a seasonal and dual occupation', BBS Information, 40 (November 1986), 4-10.
2. Publishers of these were Cassey in 1862; Craven in 1853 and 1854; Kelly in 1847, 1854, 1864; Melville in 1862; Slater in 1850. Locations within Bedfordshire libraries are given A.R. Threadgill, A Bedfordshire Bibliography: Third Supplement 1971-1975, (1978), 27. Full title is only given for those from which specific information has been taken for this article.
3. Craven & Co., Commercial Directory of the county of Bedford and the towns of Hertford, Hitchin and Baldock, (1853).
4. W. Kelly, Post Office Directory of ... Bedfordshire, (1864).
5. Pigot and Co., Royal National and Commercial Directory and Topography of the counties of York, Leicester, Rutland, Lincoln, Northampton and Nottingham, (1841); William Whellan and Co, History, Gazetteer and Directory of Northamptonshire, (1849).
6. The parish was the birthplace of John Clare and subject of many of his poems. He mentions brickmaking in them.
7. Helpston is now administratively within Cambridgeshire.
8. For 1841 see note 5; Slater's (late Pigot and Co), Royal National and Commercial Directory and Topography for 1850, (1850); W. White, History, Gazetteer and Directory for Lincolnshire (second edition 1856, reprinted 1969). An article in preparation for a future issue of BBS Information will note the brickmakers of Lincolnshire in 1850 and 1856 in full. It will include maps for both years.

9. Entries for Middle Gonerby are under Great Gonerby; White, 1856, 385-386.
10. Paper submitted May 1988. The notes on which it is based were originally collected at various dates between 1973 and 1976 using the collections of Luton Museum and Bedfordshire County Library, Bedford. My thanks are due to the staff of both institutions.

## Brick for a Day

### THE BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE: A PERSONAL APPRECIATION

The society's visit to Cambridge on 20 April 1991 proved to be a great success despite the weather. As many of us drove to Cambridge we passed through heavy snow and whilst having lunch we missed some more bad weather. We were particularly fortunate that whilst on our 'walk about' during the morning and afternoon the weather was reasonably kind to us. There was a good attendance of members and friends which made all the hard work and preparation carried out by our guides, Terence Smith and David Kennett, so worthwhile.

I have lived within 30 miles of Cambridge all my life and have often visited it, but it was not until the B.B.S. visit that I fully realised how many fine brick buildings it contains. Our principal guide, Terence Smith, who was ably assisted by David Kennett, directed us not only to the early brick-built colleges, many of which date from the late medieval and Tudor periods, but also to very recent brick buildings such as Robinson College of 1974.

I do not propose to detail every brick building viewed in Cambridge, as I understand a more detailed article will appear in a future issue of Information.

Our members have many and varied interests and obviously appreciated different buildings, but for me the highlight of our visit was Newnham College. I was very impressed with the large number of attractive red brick late Victorian buildings which were built from 1875 onwards to the design of the architect, Basil Champneys. The white windows and the well-kept gardens and lawns contributed to the splendid appearance. Whilst at Newnham College, I asked the question was Champney Road, Beverley, named after the architect of Newnham. The society's bibliographer, Ann Los, initially thought that there might be some connection as some of the County Buildings at Champney Road, Beverley, were very similar to the design of Newnham. However, a telephone call a few days later, after some research had been undertaken, reported that it had been ascertained that there was no connection. I am sure that members will be grateful to Ann Los for checking on this.

A splendid example of mid-fifteenth-century brickwork was Queens' College (1) with its magnificent sundial (2). Our viewing of the University Library building provoked a discussion among

many of us about the laws of copyright and the requirement to deposit one copy of every publication with the British Library and requests for publications by other copyright libraries such as Cambridge University Library. As a result of the discussion one of our members has kindly offered to write an article about copyright and the deposit of books at libraries for a future issue of Information.

After a long walk and climbing several stairs one of our main delights was to walk along the flat roof of the Cripps Building at St John's College to view several more colleges and much of the city including the Castle Mound.

On behalf of members and friends, I would like to express my grateful thanks to Terence Smith and David Kennett for a most interesting and enjoyable day.

#### NOTES

1. [T.P.Smith, 'The Diaper Work at Queens' College, Cambridge,' BBS Information, forthcoming. (DHK)]
2. Members may be interested to know that a 'Sundial Society' has recently been formed with the aim to record all known sundials in the British Isles. Many sundials are to be found on brick buildings. For further information contact: David Young, Brook Cottage, 112 Whitehall Road, Chingford, Essex E4 6DW, telephone: 081-529-4880. He will be please to receive information about the location of sundials, particularly those in private gardens which are not usually accessible to the public.

Adrian Corder-Birch F.Inst.L.Ex., M.I.C.M.

#### BRICK DAY AT CRESSING TEMPLE, 23 MAY 1991

About a hundred people attended this event which was organised by new BBS member Sarah Woodcock and presented by James Ross, of the Environmental Services Branch [ESB] of Essex County Council [ECC] in the magnificent thirteenth-century Barley Barn of the historic complex of buildings at Cressing Temple.

After an introduction by Brenda Watkin of ECC Historic Buildings and Conservation Department on the importance of informed and sympathetic restoration of historic brickwork, Peter Minter gave a very lively talk on the history of brickmaking in Essex. He showed the progress from on-site production of bricks for a specific building to the development of brickyards which served a locality, with slides showing the remains of a medieval kiln found on his farmland behind his own Bulmer Brickworks. They illustrated well the simple, timeless needs of the brickmaker.

Jane Wight concentrated more on the decorative aspects of brickwork, showing slides of a wide range of simple and ornately carved and moulded bricks incorporated into buildings, particularly in Norfolk and the Reading area.

After a luxury style ploughman's lunch (including strawberries and cream!) we were free to view various exhibitions and demonstrations. These included traditional brickmaking by Ibstock; a step-by-step guide to tuck pointing by Tony Meany, a specialist craftsman and former student of Bob Baldwin of the Guild of Bricklayers, who between them had conjured up a small wall inside the barn during the morning's proceedings. English



Heritage showed a video on how to replace unsympathetic cement mortar pointing with traditional lime mortar (good except for the incessant traffic noise on the sound track), whilst outside, the real thing was being demonstrated on sections of ancient garden wall by A.R. Kirby. Essex County Council showed photographs of many historic buildings preserved within the county, and various conservation booklets on specific building materials produced by the ESB staff. Mike Hammett represented the BDA and BBS with literature.

The day closed with a very useful question time in which Jane Wight, Peter Minter, Mike Hammett, Bob Baldwin, and Jim Boutwood (ECC architect overseeing the restoration of the Cressing garden wall) answered questions ranging from the problem of damp on inner walls of brick-built windmill towers to the need for better communication and understanding between bricklayers and architects.

All in all it was a very enjoyable and worthwhile day.

Penny Berry

#### STOCK BRICKS FROM THE VILLAGE OF STOCK

The village of Stock, near Ingatestone, Essex, has long had connections with brickmaking. One of my ancestors, by name John Castle, owned one of the several small brickworks in and around Stock in 1588. A brickworks continued in Stock until about 1900. The owner of the last brickmaking works was a Mr Thomas Webster (whose son married my father's sister) and I have a note written by him in 1914 stating that the formula for making a particular kind of brick known as "stock brick" was first discovered at Stock and the name derived therefrom. The formula continues to be used at Stock. This is a yellow-coloured brick with a "mauvy" streak, formed by the admixture of ashes with the clay before firing.

A recent discussion with R.E. Brunskill suggested that while it would be almost impossible to prove by documentary evidence, the balance of probability is that Thomas Webster was correct. The name "stock bricks" does in fact derive from the village of Stock and not just because they were manufactured against a "stockboard".

L. Donald Jarvis

adapted from a letter from Mr Jarvis to Family Tree Magazine supplied to the editor by Alan Hulme.

#### BELGIUM OPENS BRICK MUSEUM

The first brick museum recently opened in Belgium. T Geleeg is a reconstruction of a brickworks at Rumst, between Antwerpen and Mechelen, the original home of the Belgian brickmaking industry. The museum recreates a brickworks which existed there in 1880.

Brickmaking in Belgium was relatively unimportant until 1560, when a fire completely destroyed the centre of Antwerpen. Afterwards the town council passed a law forbidding the use of wood in building houses. With brick becoming the preferred

material many new brickworks came into being. In the later sixteenth century and beyond, brickmaking became one of the most important industries in north Belgium. With the construction of a canal linking Antwerpen and Bruxelles and then another beyond the capital in 1832, additional markets were opened up.

By the end of the nineteenth century, nearly 80 per cent of the population of the Rumst area were employed in the various brickworks of the district. The new museum contains a faithful reproduction of a brickworks of the 1880s/1890s.

With the modernization of brick production in the twentieth century, many of the plants went out of business; many of the speciality items, such as chimney cowls and balcony balustrades, were no longer economical to produce. The T Geleeg brick museum in Rumst, Belgium, offers the visitor, whether a native Belgian or a foreigner, an opportunity to step back in time. The museum was built and has been funded entirely by private initiative.

Michael Hammett

from a feature in Brick Institute of America News,  
October 1990.

#### BRICK RESEARCH AT CASTLE BROMWICH HALL, 1989-1991

The three-year programme of excavation and research at the eighteenth-century walled garden of Castle Bromwich Hall was described in Information 48, when emphasis was on potential and possibilities (1). It is now possible to report on some of the more interesting points which have emerged from one of the most exhaustive single-site studies of brick matters so far undertaken.

The 1100m of standing brick walls which enclose the 4ha. (10 acre) garden are of early-eighteenth-century date. They are built in irregular Flemish Stretcher Bond, with coursing running parallel to the slope of the ground. The bricks are frogless and were almost certainly made on-site in a small kiln (capacity 13000 bricks). Examination of the walls proved disappointing: there was little to record in the way of structural history. It seems that there was one slow, inconsistent building campaign.

The stretcher faces of some bricks display Roman numerals which have been inscribed in the green brick prior to firing. The numerals are similar in form to contemporary carpenter's marks, and are interpreted as tally-marks of teams working on piece-rate for the 'brickman', counting off thousands. This system of tally-marking is apparently unique to the site (2).

The household accounts contemporary with the construction of the gardens (1703-1747) allow identification of the personnel involved in the making and laying of the bricks for the garden walls. By searching for these people in other records, including Hearth Tax Returns, Poor Rate papers, and Probate Inventories, it has been possible to work out their social status. The conclusion drawn is that although the nearby Yardley tile industry was running on commercial lines as a full-time enterprise by this date, the Castle Bromwich bricks were produced in batches as needed on-site and were laid by tenant farmers from the estate in slack parts of the farming year (3).

The excavations in the garden also turned up some bricks:

nearly 1000kg were examined, classified by fabric, measured and weighed. As well as the standard bricks, some of which had tally marks, a range of special bricks were also found, including three types of coping and four trickle-drain designs. It is clear that the pre-1800 brick industry was able to invent solutions on the spot (4).

The current emphasis of the research is to look at the mechanics of building: there are parts of the wall which are presumably strung out and built by the labourers themselves, and there are also ornate brick-and-sandstone garden buildings which might have been architect-designed. In addition there is a system of water-conduits and ponds which is a mixture of fashionable shapes and traditional techniques. It is hoped that detailed study will allow attribution of the 'design' elements to the builders and craftsmen, which would have important implications for our understanding of how architectural and artistic styles evolve.

#### NOTES

1. M. Locock, 'Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Research Project: Excavation and Brick Survey', BBS Information 48 (July 1989), 10-11.
2. M. Locock, 'Eighteenth-century brickmarker's tally-marks from Castle Bromwich Hall', Trans. Birmingham Warks.Arch. Soc., 95 (1987-88), 95-98.
3. M. Locock, 'The Eighteenth-Century Brickmaking Industry in the Forest of Arden, evidence from Castle Bromwich Hall', Warks. History, 8, i, (1990), 3-20, examines the importance of this type of activity for discussions of the Industrial Revolution.
4. C.K. Currie, 'Excavation of an 18th century garden pond: The West Pond, Castle Bromwich Hall', Post-Med.Arch., 24 (1990), 93-123, and C.K. Currie and M. Locock, 'Excavations at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, 1989-91', forthcoming both give details of the excavated bricks.

Martin Locock

## QUERIES COLUMN

### THE BRICK QUERY: A SERVICE TO MEMBERS

Issues of Information have from time to time carried questions about individual bricks, problems connected with bricks, and other queries. It is hoped to revive this feature as a regular part of Information. Those who seek information through the column are requested to share their replies in subsequent issues of Information.

David H. Kennett  
Editor

### ADDRESSES FOR DRAGONS

Sitting on an underground train on the District Line going to Wimbledon, after crossing Putney Bridge and before East Putney, I looked out eastwards and found myself looking at a row of dragons on the front gables of a row of houses. Has anyone addresses for these, and information on the date of the houses? Replies please to:

Mrs P. Berry,  
Oak Cottage, Lower Road, Middleton, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 7NS  
with a copy to:  
David H. Kennett,  
27 Lords Lane, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8NY

### RUBBLE TROUBLE

In the Wakefield Express of 30 August 1991, the following appeared:

Bricks and coping stones found in a stolen car were stored to throw at pursuing police vehicles, police claimed last week. Following a crime, Det Insp S. Palmer said, "There were a number of bricks and coping stones in the car which we can only assume were to be used to throw at chasing police vehicles if the thieves had been disturbed."

This has implications for brick collectors who habitually carry a swap or two in the car, who are transporting a brick, or bricks, from site to collection. Some collectors often have to make several car journeys before introducing the new brick to their family.

Have other members of the society had any comments, warnings or anecdotes connected with brick collecting? Do members have any suggestions like a society membership card to be shown to the police or other interested persons should the member be stopped while collecting bricks?

Replies to:

Mrs J. Ryder,  
11 Ridings Close, Lofthouse Gate, Wakefield WF3 3SD.



## A BRICK CLUE TO AN ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL TEAM

On a blue, engineering brick found at a disused railway station in north Cambridgeshire the frog has the stamp shown on the illustration:



Presumably the missing letters are WE giving WEST BROMWICH. Is this how the football team got its name? Was West Bromwich Albion originally a brickworks team or did the brickworks take its name from the football team?

Answers please to:

Mrs P. Berry,  
Oak Cottage, Lower Road, Middleton, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10.7NS

A SURVEY OF BRICKMARKS OF ENGLAND AND WALES:  
THE NEED FOR A CO-ORDINATOR

The British Brick Society wishes to continue with the project to create a survey of brickmarks of England and Wales. Offers to act as co-ordinator to Michael Hammett,

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