

THE MUSEUM, SALTER ROW, PONTEFRACT WF8 1BA. ☎ 702995 (home)

# PONTARCH

Pontefract & District Archaeological Society.



*Editor: Eric Houlder, Past-President.*

NUMBER 26, AUTUMN 1993.

## SHEFFIELD BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION.

by David Hey, of Sheffield University.

On 19th March 1993 over eighty people attended the Society lecture in the lecture room at the Museum.

The earliest known reference to the manufacture of cutlery in Sheffield is dated 1297 and refers to Robert the Cutler. Originally, London was the most important place for cutlery production. Salisbury, Thaxted in Essex, and other towns in medieval England also supplied the demand for knives. Sheffield catered for the cheaper end of the market, some knives costing as little as one penny each, and it eventually became the main place for cutlery manufacture. Until the C18 it was common for people to carry their personal knife in a sheath fastened around the waist. These knives were used for many purposes, not just for cutting food. Table forks were not used, food being transferred from table to mouth on the point of the knife.

Thames *mudlarks* searching in the mud near the Tower of London when the tide is out, find many artefacts. Knives make up 25% of their finds, and are usually well preserved by their immersion in mud; the points retaining their original sharpness. Most of those found in the Thames were made in London and Mr Hey showed interesting slides depicting mid-C16th knives. Some had wooden handles, some bone, and others were of ivory, often called *oliphant*. Occasionally brass handles were used.

There are records of many smiths and cutlers working in Hallamshire in 1540. Hallamshire was the parish of Sheffield and its surroundings, and consisted of 70000 acres. Some ironworkers came from Lorraine in eastern France to start charcoal forges for iron working. By the late C17th, knives made in Sheffield were of much better quality than those produced in earlier times, and were much sought after. Gold, silver, and agate knives were made at this time.

220 smithies were recorded in Sheffield in 1672, including those of the cutlers. The area was notorious for its smoky atmosphere. Some 50-60% of

Continued.....

### EDITORIAL

My thanks to all of you who sent cards, wishes, and visited me in my recent illness. The cartoon below, part of a much larger artwork by Ron Wilson, shows me just about to write this Editorial!

### PROGRAMME

Oct 22nd. John Hedges. **Ferrybridge, a Ritual Landscape under Threat.**

Nov 19th. Mr Griffiths. **Recent Work on Hadrian's Wall Eastern End.**

Dec 17th. John Whitehead. **Hermits and Hermitages in Pontefract.**

Jan 14th. Eric Houlder. **Recording Vanishing Pontefract II.**

Feb 18th. Judith Roebuck. **Fountains Abbey: Recent Research.**

March 18th. Don Prince. **Coins in History.**

April 15th. Scowden Sykes. **The Battle of Towton.**



## Derrick Riley, DFC., FSA.

1915-1993

It is with sadness that we record the death on August 15th of Derrick Riley the eminent aerial archaeologist. Derrick was one of the small and shrinking band of amateur archaeologists who could beat the professionals at their own speciality.

He joined United Steel in Scunthorpe on leaving school in 1932, and immediately began taking an interest in archaeology. In 1939 he joined the RAFVR, just in time for the War. During it he flew Whitleys, Wellingtons, and Mosquitoes, surviving two tours of duty (against odds of six-to-one for each tour), being mentioned in Dispatches and being awarded the DFC for a raid on the Kiel Canal.

Posted to a training unit for a 'rest', he spent many hours circuiting the Oxfordshire countryside, and as a result wrote a seminal paper on the nature of cropmarks. He also met and married the Excavation Secretary of the Oxford University Archaeological Society.

After the war he returned to the steel industry and maintained his interest and activity in archaeology. He took flying lessons and gained his private pilots licence in 1975, and in the same year met the writer who was to fly as photographer with him on many subsequent missions.

Derrick had an uncanny eye for cropmarks, a confident skill with an aeroplane, and a quiet unassuming personality. He will be ranked alongside Crawford and St. Joseph when the History of Archaeology comes to be written.

E.H.

the men were employed in the trade making knives, scythes, scissors, etc. Penknives were essential for the shaping of quill pens; one found in the Thames was made of tortoiseshell. An archaic word for penknife is *trump*.

A *little mester* was an independent craftsman, perhaps employing an apprentice. He would have a small workroom with furnace, bellows, hammer etc. Not much capital was needed to set up one of these forges. A few still exist. There is one preserved at the Abbeydale Industrial Centre. Waterwheels and workmens' cottages are also to be seen at the centre.

In the mid-C19th the great steelworks were erected, Firth Brown and Vickers becoming names of world-wide renown. Silicosis of the lungs due to inhalation of the dust from the grinding stones was an occupational hazard. Earlier grinding had been done in the open air in draughty conditions, but in the enclosed foundries the air was permeated with stone dust. Stone troughs similar to horse troughs were filled with water bearing a surface film of oil into which the red hot metal was plunged.

The rivers Don and Loxley are two of the small rivers in the area which fall rapidly from the Pennines. This descent created a force which facilitated the efficient use of dams and waterwheels. Combined with availability of local coal measures, the prevalence of sandstone and ironstone on the moors, and the plentiful work-force, the rapid growth of the industry in Sheffield was assured.

The local ironstone was of rather an inferior quality, better suited to the nailing industry and the manufacture of frying pans etc. For this reason, in the C16th, material was imported from Bilbao in the Basque region of Spain. In the C17th iron was brought from Cologne in Germany.

Sheffield castle was destroyed in 1266. In 1296 a market charter was granted in addition to one of an earlier date. The Lords of the Manor descended in an unbroken line from the first Norman lord. Through the Furnivals, Talbots (Earls of Shrewsbury), to the Howards (Dukes of Norfolk), sometimes through the female line to ensure succession. The Sheffield estates were a lucrative source of income to the Howards who chose to live at Arundel in Sussex - away from the smoke.

A map dated 1737 showed a small market town with a population of about 10000. The only impressive building appears to have been the baroque church of St Paul, now gone. In the 1790s, the old parish church with its C15th tower and crocketed spire was elevated to the status of a cathedral. The cathedral church is dedicated to SS Peter and Paul.

Some C18th maps showed evidence of the strip-farming still existing around the Attercliffe area. Eccleshall Wood is one of the old spring woods, so-called because of the system of coppicing whereby new growth constantly springs from the cut stumps. Such woods were essential to supply the prodigious demand for charcoal.

Many cutlers combined two occupations, being part-time craftsmen and part-time farmers.

The final slide depicted the town in 1854. The tall chimneys of steel furnaces dominated the sky-line. Smoke hung like a pall over the grimy buildings.

Barbara Stewart.

# REPORT OF A MEDIEVAL VISITATION.

This visitation report has just been discovered. We print it here, together with a rough preliminary transcription. However, we accept no responsibility for any errors.

The reporte of Stamford Ware Esquyre, made followynge my visitacion of the Manor and messuage of Woode Hall in the County of Yorke, to make due enquire of its state and habitants, as desyred by Oure Gracious Ladie The Queen Isabella this 30th Day of February in the XVII Yeare of oure Kyng Edward.

And thereto I journeyed, leving Pontfreete on a wagyne callid south Yorkishire, with divers other pilgrims and travellers. And I was stte downe hrd by Cowelain, and procedyng to walk, I was gyven a lyft by one of the habitants, a carter by name of Alistair, a Lancastrian forsooth. Until arivyng by the entrance of the fair manor, I beheld dyvers yonge persones aronde the drawbridge. Ther leader was the gatekeeper and garrison commander one Simon Tomson, a clerke I judgyd by the exceeding number of quill pens of strange form in hys belt. Hys serfs of both sexes were delving in the mud, a custom peculier to Woode Hall.

Procedyng on mye waye in search of the Lady Vivianne, the Castelan, I did hapyn to aske the waye of a faire damsel, callyd Caroline, who was lustylie whipping a group of idle serfs, which serfs were also delviyng in hte grounde. She tolde me to serche out a tall Hibernian, one Johan, an important captyne in the garrison, and overlorde of the region callyd twentiwon. Loste agyne, I askyd of one Michael, no sante this, the Gonerfermer wyth hys noxiouse burthens.

Wyth no syte of the elusive Hibernian or the Chatelane, I vewed the Scriptorium, the scribe Piers (but not Gaveston, I seme) was prepayrne an illuminatyd manuscript, all the wyle muterynge curses on the scurvy knave who stole hys fair bonet, of the stile Yndianajoans.

Hard bie, Mistress Barbera was styking brokyn pottes; whate a clumsey damsel she muste be. From thence to the kytchins, wherin varlets and maydes were boyling up a noxiouse brew, a medicinal herb from Cathay thaye tolid me, of grate restoralyve properties.

At laste I dyd espye the Lady Vivienne, in converse wyth Johan, captin of Twentiwon and the mayid Sarah, and all guardid by a mightie hounde of dangerouse aspect. Lady Vivienne askyd me to the daily quaffyng of the Cathay herb, but havynge sene the effect it had on all the habitants, fore it semyd to make eche and everie one to delve in the mudde, I quickele declynid, and retyred postehaste to your layre castel of Pontfreete.

The report of Stamford Ware Esquyre, made followynge my visitacion of the Manor and messuage of Woode Hall in the County of Yorke, to make due enquire of its state and habitants, as desyred by Oure Gracious Ladie The Queen Isabella this 30th Day of February in the XVII Yeare of our King Edward.

And thereto I journeyed, leving Pontfreete on a wagyne callid south Yorkishire, with divers other pilgrims and travellers. And I was stte downe hrd by Cowelain, and procedyng to walk, I was gyven a lyft by one of the habitants, a carter by name of Alistair, a Lancastrian forsooth. Until arivyng by the entrance of the fair manor, I beheld dyvers yonge persones aronde the drawbridge. Ther leader was the gatekeeper and garrison commander one Simon Tomson, a clerke I judgyd by the exceeding number of quill pens of strange form in hys belt. Hys serfs of both sexes were delving in the mud, a custom peculier to Woode Hall.

Procedyng on mye waye in search of the Lady Vivianne, the Castelan, I did hapyn to aske the waye of a faire damsel, callyd Caroline, who was lustylie whipping a group of idle serfs, which serfs were also delviyng in hte grounde. She tolde me to serche out a tall Hibernian, one Johan, an important captyne in the garrison, and overlorde of the region callyd twentiwon. Loste agyne, I askyd of one Michael, no sante this, the Gonerfermer wyth hys noxiouse burthens.

Wyth no syte of the elusive Hibernian or the Chatelane, I vewed the Scriptorium, the scribe Piers (but not Gaveston, I seme) was prepayrne an illuminatyd manuscript, all the wyle muterynge curses on the scurvy knave who stole hys fair bonet, of the stile Yndianajoans.

Hard bie, Mistress Barbera was styking brokyn pottes; whate a clumsey damsel she muste be. From thence to the kytchins, wherin varlets and maydes were boyling up a noxiouse brew, a medicinal herb from Cathay thaye tolid me, of grate restoralyve properties.

At laste I dyd espye the Lady Vivienne, in converse wyth Johan, captin of Twentiwon and the mayid Sarah, and all guardid by a mightie hounde of dangerouse aspect. Lady Vivienne askyd me to the daily quaffyng of the Cathay herb, but havynge sene the effect it had on all the habitants, fore it semyd to make eche and everie one to delve in the mudde, I quickele declynid, and retyred postehaste to your layre castel of Pontfreete.

## Derrick Riley, DFC., FSA.

1915-1993

It is with sadness that we record the death on August 15th of Derrick Riley the eminent aerial archaeologist. Derrick was one of the small and shrinking band of amateur archaeologists who could beat the professionals at their own speciality.

He joined United Steel in Scunthorpe on leaving school in 1932, and immediately began taking an interest in archaeology. In 1939 he joined the RAFVR, just in time for the War. During it he flew Whitleys, Wellingtons, and Mosquitoes, surviving two tours of duty (against odds of six-to-one for each tour), being mentioned in Dispatches and being awarded the DFC for a raid on the Kiel Canal.

Posted to a training unit for a 'rest', he spent many hours circuiting the Oxfordshire countryside, and as a result wrote a seminal paper on the nature of cropmarks. He also met and married the Excavation Secretary of the Oxford University Archaeological Society.

After the war he returned to the steel industry and maintained his interest and activity in archaeology. He took flying lessons and gained his private pilots licence in 1975, and in the same year met the writer who was to fly as photographer with him on many subsequent missions.

Derrick had an uncanny eye for cropmarks, a confident skill with an aeroplane, and a quiet unassuming personality. He will be ranked alongside Crawford and St. Joseph when the History of Archaeology comes to be written.

E.H.

the men were employed in the trade making knives, scythes, scissors, etc. Penknives were essential for the shaping of quill pens; one found in the Thames was made of tortoiseshell. An archaic word for penknife is *trump*.

A *little mester* was an independent craftsman, perhaps employing an apprentice. He would have a small workroom with furnace, bellows, hammer etc. Not much capital was needed to set up one of these forges. A few still exist. There is one preserved at the Abbeydale Industrial Centre. Waterwheels and workmens' cottages are also to be seen at the centre.

In the mid-C19th the great steelworks were erected, Firth Brown and Vickers becoming names of world-wide renown. Silicosis of the lungs due to inhalation of the dust from the grinding stones was an occupational hazard. Earlier grinding had been done in the open air in draughty conditions, but in the enclosed foundries the air was permeated with stone dust. Stone troughs similar to horse troughs were filled with water bearing a surface film of oil into which the red hot metal was plunged.

The rivers Don and Loxley are two of the small rivers in the area which fall rapidly from the Pennines. This descent created a force which facilitated the efficient use of dams and waterwheels. Combined with availability of local coal measures, the prevalence of sandstone and ironstone on the moors, and the plentiful work-force, the rapid growth of the industry in Sheffield was assured.

The local ironstone was of rather an inferior quality, better suited to the nailing industry and the manufacture of frying pans etc. For this reason, in the C16th, material was imported from Bilbao in the Basque region of Spain. In the C17th iron was brought from Cologne in Germany.

Sheffield castle was destroyed in 1266. In 1296 a market charter was granted in addition to one of an earlier date. The Lords of the Manor descended in an unbroken line from the first Norman lord. Through the Furnivals, Talbots (Earls of Shrewsbury), to the Howards (Dukes of Norfolk), sometimes through the female line to ensure succession. The Sheffield estates were a lucrative source of income to the Howards who chose to live at Arundel in Sussex - away from the smoke.

A map dated 1737 showed a small market town with a population of about 10000. The only impressive building appears to have been the baroque church of St Paul, now gone. In the 1790s, the old parish church with its C15th tower and crocketed spire was elevated to the status of a cathedral. The cathedral church is dedicated to SS Peter and Paul.

Some C18th maps showed evidence of the strip-farming still existing around the Attercliffe area. Eccleshall Wood is one of the old spring woods, so-called because of the system of coppicing whereby new growth constantly springs from the cut stumps. Such woods were essential to supply the prodigious demand for charcoal.

Many cutlers combined two occupations, being part-time craftsmen and part-time farmers.

The final slide depicted the town in 1854. The tall chimneys of steel furnaces dominated the sky-line. Smoke hung like a pall over the grimy buildings.

Barbara Stewart.

# REPORT OF A MEDIEVAL VISITATION.

This visitation report has just been discovered. We print it here, together with a rough preliminary transcription. However, we accept no responsibility for any errors.

The reporte of Stamford Ware Esquyre, made followynge my visitacion of the Manor and messuage of Woode Hall in the County of Yorke, to make due enquire of its state and habitants, as desyred by Oure Gracious Ladie The Queen Isabella this 30th Day of February in the XVII Yeare of oure Kyng Edward.

And thereto I journeyed, leving Pontfreete on a wagyne callid south Yorkishire, with divers other pilgrims and travellers. And I was stte downe hird by Cowelain, and procedyng to walk, I was gyven a lyft by one of the habitants, a carter by name of Alistair, a Lancastrian forsooth. Until arivyng by the entrance of the fair manor, I beheld dyvers yonge persones aronde the drawbridge. Ther leader was the gatekeeper and garrison commander one Simon Tomson, a clerke I judgyd by the exceeding number of quill pens of strange form in hys belt. Hys serfs of both sexes were delving in the mud, a custom peculier to Woode Hall.

Procedyng on mye waye in search of the Lady Vivianne, the Castelan, I did hapyn to aske the waye of a faire damsel, callyd Caroline, who was lustylie whipping a group of idle serfs, which serfs were also delviyng in hte grounde. She tolde me to serche out a tall Hibernian, one Johan, an important captyne in the garrison, and overlorde of the region callyd twentiwon. Loste agyne, I askyd of one Michael, no sante this, the Gonerfermer wyth hys noxiouse burthens.

Wyth no syte of the elusive Hibernian or the Chatelane, I vewed the Scriptorium, the scribe Piers (but not Gaveston, I deme) was preparyne an illuminatyd manuscript, all the wyle muterynge curses on the scurvy knave who stole hys fair bonet, of the stille Yndianajoans.

Hard bie, Mistress Barbera was styking brokyn pottes; whate a clumsey damsel she muste be. From thence to the kytchins, wherin varlets and maydes were boyfing up a noxiouse brewe, a medicinal herb from Cathay thaye tolid me, of grate restoratyve proprietyes.

At laste I dyd espye the Lady Vivienne, in converse wyth Johan, captin of Twentiwon and the mayid Sarah, and all guardid by a mightie hounde of dangerouse aspect. Lady Vivienne askyd me to the daily quaffyng of the Cathay herb, but havynge sene the effect it had on all the habitants, fore it semyd to make eche and everie one to delve in the mudde, I quickele declynid, and retyred postehaste to your fayre castel of Pontfreete.

The reports of Stamford Ware Esquyre, made followynge my visitacion of the Manor and messuage of Woode Hall in the County of Yorke, to make due enquire of its state and habitants, as desyred by Oure Gracious Ladie The Queen Isabella the 30th Day of February in the XVII Yeare of our King Edward.

And thereto I journeyed, leving Pontfreete on a wagyne callid south Yorkishire, with divers other pilgrims and travellers. And I was stte downe hird by Cowelain, and procedyng to walk, I was gyven a lyft by one of the habitants, a carter by name of Alistair, a Lancastrian forsooth. Until arivyng by the entrance of the fair manor, I beheld dyvers yonge persones aronde the drawbridge. Ther leader was the gatekeeper and garrison commander one Simon Tomson, a clerke I judgyd by the exceeding number of quill pens of strange form in hys belt. Hys serfs of both sexes were delving in the mud, a custom peculier to Woode Hall.

Procedyng on mye waye in search of the Lady Vivianne, the Castelan, I did hapyn to aske the waye of a faire damsel, callyd Caroline, who was lustylie whipping a group of idle serfs, which serfs were also delviyng in hte grounde. She tolde me to serche out a tall Hibernian, one Johan, an important captyne in the garrison, and overlorde of the region callyd twentiwon. Loste agyne, I askyd of one Michael, no sante this, the Gonerfermer wyth hys noxiouse burthens.

Wyth no syte of the elusive Hibernian or the Chatelane, I vewed the Scriptorium, the scribe Piers (but not Gaveston, I deme) was preparyne an illuminatyd manuscript, all the wyle muterynge curses on the scurvy knave who stole hys fair bonet, of the stille Yndianajoans.

Hard bie, Mistress Barbera was styking brokyn pottes; whate a clumsey damsel she muste be. From thence to the kytchins, wherin varlets and maydes were boyfing up a noxiouse brewe, a medicinal herb from Cathay thaye tolid me, of grate restoratyve proprietyes.

At laste I dyd espye the Lady Vivienne, in converse wyth Johan, captin of Twentiwon and the mayid Sarah, and all guardid by a mightie hounde of dangerouse aspect. Lady Vivienne askyd me to the daily quaffyng of the Cathay herb, but havynge sene the effect it had on all the habitants, fore it semyd to make eche and everie one to delve in the mudde, I quickele declynid, and retyred postehaste to your fayre castel of Pontfreete.

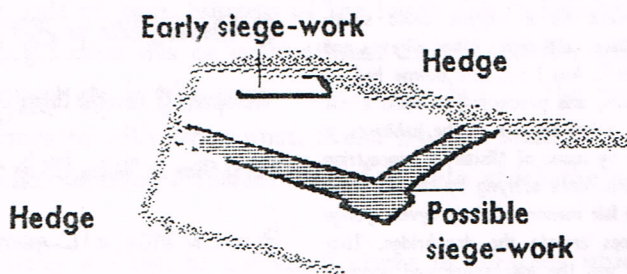
# A POSSIBLE SIEGE-WORK ON BAGHILL, by Infrared Aerial Photography.

*This discovery was briefly reported on in our Journal, but twenty years ago there was little possibility of reproducing diagrams. It is briefly reported on again here for the benefit of members who were too young to remember the original discovery.* E.H.

During 1972 I obtained a small quantity of *Infrared Ektachrome Aerial 8443* from Kodak. Having seen this film in use on site at Sutton Hoo during the late sixties, I was hoping to try it on local sites. The film was designed for aerial reconnaissance, and makes visible a portion of the electro-magnetic spectrum not normally visible to human eyes, namely that area between 690 and 880 nanometres. In two flights, piloted by Michael Leach, we made a number of discoveries, the most interesting of which is described below.

On the N.W-facing slope of Baghill, SE 462218, two cropmarks were observed on the photograph, though invisible to the naked eye. Figure one is a computer-scanned tracing taken from this photograph, whilst figure two is a similarly obtained scan of a portion of Boothroyd's siege-plan, with Richard Holmes' overlay.

Boothroyd had used an earlier plan to insert the siegeworks onto a plan of Pontefract as it was in his time. Holmes actually walked the ground (an unknown concept for the Historian in the early C19th) and superimposed what he considered to be the actual remains of the works onto Boothroyd's plan, in red\*. The colour cannot be reproduced here, but it is hoped that readers will see the similarities and differences.



1. Perspective tracing from the infrared transparency.



2. Computer-scanned section of Boothroyd's siege-plan with Holmes' overlay.

\*Holmes, RHH. *The Sieges of Pontefract Castle, Pontefract 1889*, pp 420/1.