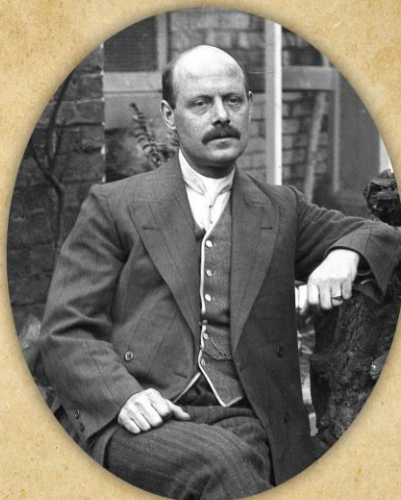


RIPLEY & DISTRICT
HERITAGE TRUST
DERBYSHIRE

Newsletter

RIPLEY & DISTRICT HERITAGE TRUST
PRESENT



JOHN MARSHALL
OF RIPLEY

The story of a Victorian Entrepreneur

Number **Thirty-One**

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www.rdht.org.uk

Marshall DVD

The Marshall film made by Mike Frost is now available as a DVD, for those who prefer not to view it on YouTube.

It can be obtained via the website for £6, which includes postage and packing (an increasingly high proportion of the cost of our publications!).

It has truly been a labour of love for Mike, and he is owed all our thanks.

Yesterday Once More



We attended the Heritage fair in Wilmot Street Heanor on 28th June. It was a lively affair, although most of the interest centred on Heanor, as is to be expected.

Looking at the massive displays and variety of publications of Heanor and Ilkeston Historical Societies, we felt very small. It reminded us of the need to recruit more enthusiasts to work in the “shed” and publicise the history of Ripley and District.

If you are interested, please get in touch.

Midland Railway donations

Compared with our single room, the archive of the Midland Railway at Butterley is vast. Housed in Cumberland House, by the side of Butterley station, they have rooms full of objects, books and documents of all kinds. As they sort through this mass of material, they do occasionally find items that don't really belong there.

So it is that they have kindly donated to us a number of things that are Butterley but not railway. They include some plan drawings from the last days of the Butterley Company and odd copies of Ad Rem, the company magazine. Whilst we're pleased to have them, it does mean that the job of cataloguing these items now falls to us!

RTC Plaques Project

Ripley Town Council is keen to draw attention to the town's history, and have embarked on a project to mark some of the more important locations with plaques, similar to the blue plaques found on many historical buildings.

One of the first is likely to be on Oxford Street, where John Marshall had his zoo from 1908 to 1915. With the permission of the owner and occupiers, it is likely to go above the doorway which led to the rooftop gardens and zoo, as seen in the well-known picture shown here..



Enquiries

From time to time we get enquiries via the website. We do what we can to answer them, but it likely that there is much more information available. So, if you know any more about any of the following, please do get in touch via ripleyheritage1@gmail.com

Carr House, Greenwich A correspondent was looking for the history of this house, and stories connected with it.

Upper Heage School. An ex-student was looking for information and pictures of this school, also known as the Green School (see below).



THE GREEN SCHOOL BEFORE DEMOLITION IN THE 1980'S

The Ogle Litelift

The owner contacted us looking for more information. Apart from some ads, we have very little.



BIT Update

The Butterley Ironworks Trust continue to try to encourage the preservation of what remains of the Butterley site, though matters seem to be at an impasse with no one wanting to make any move forward.

The Trust needs more active members: they can be contacted on

butterleyironworkstrust@gmail.com

George Goodwin: A Life at the Works



There he is, in Simon Waller's reconstruction, in a top hat and boots, arguing with Jeremiah Brandreth, the leader of the Pentrich rebels one dark night in June 1817. It is what Goodwin, the manager of the Butterley works, is most remembered for, yet it was only a few minutes out of a lifetime of service to the company.

He was born in South Wingfield in 1777, the son of reasonably well-off yeoman farmer John Goodwin who lived, so it seems, at Ufton Hall, a farmhouse within 100 yards of the Peacock Inn. George would certainly have had an education, but

it looks like he joined the Butterley Company soon after it was formed in 1790, in 1795, aged around 18. He would stay there until he died in 1848, aged 71.

In his 53 years there he was known variously as “managing clerk”, “agent” and “manager” and on his death was referred to as “superintendent of the company’s general concerns”. When Jessop or Outram were busy with others projects, he was effectively running the works.

Yet there is another side to the man which appears in a document found by his family many years later and published in the Ripley and Heanor News in 1930. It seems to be an indenture, a legal document, but is in fact an elaborate joke.



The Peacock Inn , from a drawing from the Alfreton Historical Society

It purports to be an agreement between three men: Goodwin, Joseph Outram, Butterley founder Benjamin Outram’s younger brother and

William Jessop, son of the other Butterley founder and the man to whom the Codnor Park Monument is dedicated. It is dated 1801: Goodwin was 24, Outram 30 and Jessop 18. The three friends were apparently in the habit of drinking together and laying bets between themselves.

The indenture sets out, in convoluted legalese, that, as Goodwin has won most of the bets, the other two must pay for the next meal: a barrel of oysters and three bottles of wine at the Peacock, a place Goodwin must have regarded as almost home.

In itself, it is an insignificant lads' prank, but given the subsequent history of the three men it reveals an entirely different view of their lives, and especially of the man who faced down the Pentrich rebels.

As time went on, glimpses of Goodwin appear in the local press. In 1819 he was instrumental in providing Ripley's first large school in Outram Street, paid for by the Butterley Company and part of the reaction to the Pentrich Revolution which also resulted in the building of All Saints church. Goodwin was on the organising committee for the church and gave £20 towards the building himself, quite a sum for someone without inherited wealth. He was also a trustee of the Cromford to Langley Mill turnpike in 1823, and added his name to a number of petitions published in the press. He had become someone to be taken note of.

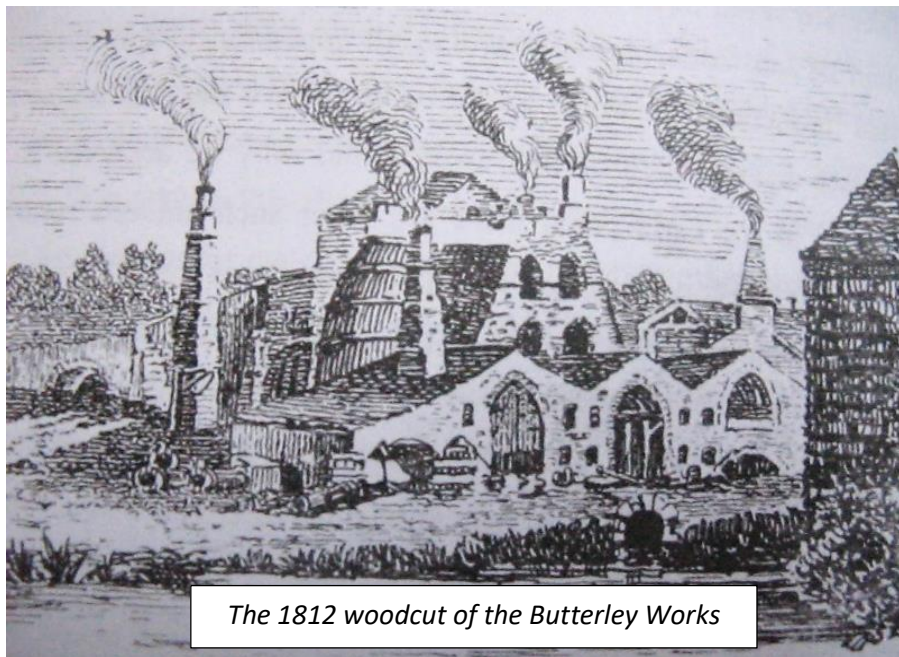
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Geo. Goodwin". The ink is dark, and the signature is written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The signature is fluid and elegant, with a prominent flourish at the end.

At his death, the Derbyshire Courier reported that he “was distinguished for uprightness and strict integrity of character. His death will be deeply lamented alike by his warmly attached employers and a numerous circle of relatives and friends. Wednesday being the day on which his remains were interred at Ripley, the Butterley works were entirely stopped, and all the shops in Ripley closed.”

His will, dated 1845, gave some idea of his life. He never married, but left no fewer than 31 bequests, mostly of £100 (roughly £10,000 today) to the children of his brothers and sisters, as well as to Phoebe Wragg, who seems to have been his housekeeper, her sister and Henry Strafford, who seems to have been his protégé, and who later took on some of his role at Butterley.

He also left his furniture to Phoebe Wragg, noting that “a considerable part of the furniture in the house being her own”, and left her an annuity of £25 per year “in consideration of the care and attention I have for my years received from” her. He left her half his books; the other half, together with his watch, seals and clothes and his portrait painted by Thomas Barber he left to his nephew George Goodwin of Langar.

Although not in a conventional marriage, he clearly developed a strong relationship with Phoebe, and was extremely generous to his family.



The 1812 woodcut of the Butterley Works