

JOURNAL OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE
CANAL SOCIETY.

THE — 9th
HEREFORD WHARFINGER
AUTUMN 1985





HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE
CANAL SOCIETY.

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96 Aylestone Hill, Hereford.

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Robin Andrews, 20 Tower Road Hereford (268854).

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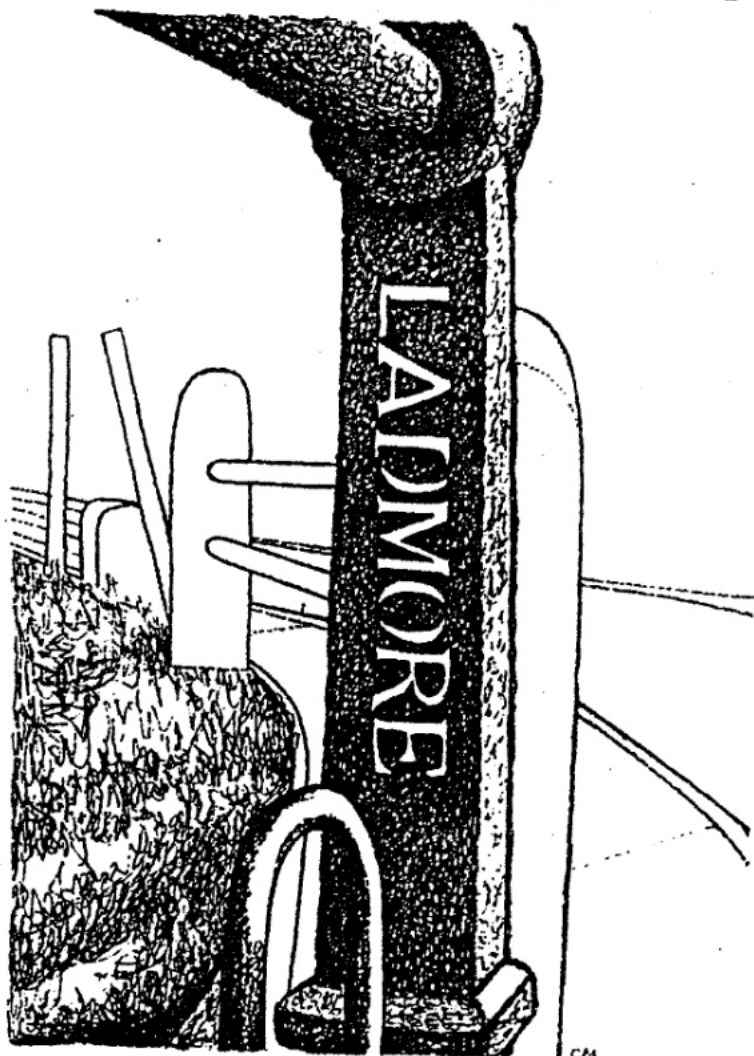
Peter Woodfield, 60, Whittern Way, Tupsley
Hereford (275244)

The two sketches of the original railings on the north side of Widemarsh Bridge in Hereford, have been kindly drawn by Miss Carola Morton.

For some time the name "LADMORE" cast on the inside of one of the posts has interested me. Recently I discovered the following entry in "Slater's 1850 Directory of Herefordshire. Listed under "Brass and Iron Founders"-

"LADMORE JOB, WIDEMARSH STREET".

An iron foundry was established in Hereford, in Friar Street, by a Captain Radford in 1827, but -



cont. from page 3

- the foundry was not very successful and appears to have closed in 1850. I have found no evidence that a foundry existed in Widemarsh Street; Job was undoubtedly an agent.

The section of railing from the south side of the bridge has been rescued by the society.

N.C. Jefferies - August 1985

SKEW BRIDGE PLAQUE

On August 16th a ceremony was held at the Skew Bridge to unveil a commemorative plaque. The plaque, bearing the words, "Hereford & Gloucester Canal. Skew Bridge 1843. HGCS 1985" was unveiled jointly by Mr Tom Barnes, owner of this length of canal and perhaps better known as a past Chairman of Herefordshire County Council, and Mr Stephen Ballard, grandson of Stephen Ballard the builder of the Skew Bridge and indeed of the canal from Ledbury to Hereford.

Watched by members of the Society and local residents, our two guests waded through the mud left by the the preceding night's heavy rain to pull the cords which unveiled the plaque. Mr Barnes recalled how this spot had looked in times past, and wished the Society well in its efforts. For Mr Ballard it must have been a proud moment as he unveiled this tribute to his grandfather's splendid work, and he was able to provide a wealth of interesting background information. Afterwards we retired to the Newtown Inn for lunch and liquid refreshment, and a chance to talk to our two guests of honour.

To Nigel Jefferies and the Metalwork Department at Aylestone School who made the plaque together with an identical one which has been fixed to the road side of the bridge, to Major Robert Barnes for all his preparatory work, and to our guests Tom Barnes and Stephen Ballard, we extend our thanks for helping to make it a day to remember.

Robin Andrews

CLUES ACROSS

- 17: A wet road? It's not the M1! (8)
 18: Who didn't sign their name at the end of the letter? (4)
 21: Liquid sustenance for the commander of our vessel - but then, he's an odd chap! (3,8,3)
 23: Food for the barge-puller? Not much! (5-4)
 24: The lock-keeper's daughter? (5)
 25: What the sailor did when he met the captain (7)
 26: These go with roses - at least, they do on canal boats! (7)

CLUES DOWN

- 7: The H & G goes underground? (9,6)
 8: What silt keeps doing all the time. (10)
 12: Aged toad-keepers (3,7)
 15: Locks on the Panama Canal? (8)
 16: The front page of the Hereford Wharfinger is up by the crow's nest! (4-4)
 19: A pleasant thing to do on the canal bank. (6)
 20: These musicals weren't navvies' songs! (6)
 22: Canal boats do this - so do you if you don't know the answer!

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The Company of Proprietors of the Herefordshire
& Gloucestershire Canal Navigation.

Committee Meeting Minutes.

Michael Handford has kindly provided the Society with a copy of his resume of the Company minutes and I thought members may be interested to read some extracts from his resume, in this and future editions of the magazine. The accompanying notes are my own.

17th October 1798

Francis Havard refused payment of £20 bill drawn on him, insists debt is only £14. Will Havard explain why? Committee unable without Mr. Hall's assistance, 'who has been for some weeks engaged in repairs of the Tunnel' 1. to prepare statement of a/c promised to be sent to Hereford. Thos. Trickey attended - will purchase osiers 2. on banks Over to Rudford at 8jd bundle - will also replant any dead. 2.

Notes - 1. The Tunnel can only be Oxenhall Tunnel. Despite the fact that the tunnel had only been completed recently, the Company's surveyor is engaged supervising repairs to the tunnel at this early date!

2. Shoots of willow used in basket-work.

3. Only recently Major Barnes wondered why so many willow trees are growing along the towpath and in the bed of the disused canal at Monkhide. Obviously one reason is that the Company deliberately planted willow trees beside the towpath and used them as a source of income, all be it a minor source. At a later meeting on the 23rd April 1800 it was decided, 'Willow trees on Ledson bank near canal at Lassington to be immediately cropped and sold - what is not sold should be planted again'. Working party members will vouch for the ease with which willow will strike!

31st October 1798

Maysey writes 'his deep regret and concern for his late misconduct and his determination to pay strict attention to... the Committee in future...' 1. Committee give him a further trial and be reinstated.

Note - 1. David Bick refers to this minute on page 17 of his book and records Maysey was guilty of insolent behaviour.

7th November 1798

Maysey writes he can now navigate to Hazle Mill 1. but Mr. Baylis forbid Co. using lane 2. unless they put it in repair first, Mr. Barnett orders him to desist landing goods at head of Hazle Mill Lock. Maysey to use all exertions to fill upper pound so can navigate to Moat Meadow 3. - in meantime continue landing at head Hazle Mill Lock and use Hazle Mill Road regardless of interruptions Committee always prepared to satisfy any 'real damage' that may accrue. Mr. Browney's job includes regulating water at Rudford Lock.

Notes - 1. Hazle Mill is identified on the 1841 Tithe Map of Ledbury and on the large scale Ordnance Survey map of 1931, where it is described as a Corn Mill. On modern Ordnance Survey maps the mill is marked, but not named. However, Hazle Farm, to the north east of the mill is identified.

2. The lane which Mr. Baylis forbid the Company to use led to the minor road between Ledbury and Dycock. Obviously the Company would have to use this lane to carry goods to Ledbury.

3. Moat Meadow is in fact two areas of pasture recorded on the 1841 Tithe Map of Ledbury to the north of the Ledbury - Ross-on-Wye Road and bordered by the River Ledson on the west and the line of the canal to the east. Obviously at this date it was not possible for boats to convey goods to Old Wharf, beside the Ledbury - Ross-on-Wye Road. Incidentally, on the 1841 Tithe Map, Old Wharf is referred to as 'Navigation Yard'.

RESTORATION NEWS

15

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY
REQUIRED.
FIRST SUNDAY IN
EACH MONTH. 10.00 am
CREWS PITCH.



Work at the Skew Bridge area at Monkhide has progressed reasonably well, despite the inclement weather. With the "Smalley" excavator and dumper, on loan from Waterways Recovery Group (W.R.G.) quite a large quantity of silt has been removed from Hereford S/O the Skew Bridge, and hopefully this will continue until mid-September.

As the Summer draws to a rapid end, our Autumn work parties should see the ground back-filled behind the brickwork under the bridge, and the coping stones replaced. Winter work-parties will probably entail undergrowth clearance and the removal of further tree stumps along the towpath, which have become lost in the undergrowth of the Spring and Summer. We are very grateful to W.R.G. for the loan of their plant and also to Major Barnes for the invaluable use of his tractor and trailer, over the last two years and look forward to their continued co-operation.

Many thanks also, to the volunteers who have given up several evenings to help clear the bridge area.

SALES & CHRISTMAS GIFTS

BOOKS

- "THE HEREFORD AND GLOUCESTER CANAL"
by David E Bick £3.95
- "Walking Canals"
by Ronald Russell £5.95
- "Stoudwater and Thames and Severn Canals
Towpath guide" By Michael Handford & David
Viner £5.95
- "The Diary of a Rowing Tour From Oxford To
London in 1875" by Howard Williams. £4.50
- "The Thames and Severn Canal"
by Humphrey Household. £9.95

KEY RING

- Wild Bird motif, with address pad 50p

MAPS

- "A new map of the Kington-Leominster-
Stourport canal" Geo R Kendrick. £1.95

POSTCARDS (Historic)

- The Docks Lydney. 10p
- The Docks Gloucester. 10p
- The Wave in Gloucester Docks. 10p

ILLUSTRATED NOTELETS

- Monkhide Skew bridge. Pack of
ten complete with envelopes. £1.00

Please add postage to your order.

Books 50p each, other items 50p total.
Maximum postage £2.00. Refund if less.

Orders to; Mike Potts or N Jefferies.

SUPPORT THE SOCIETY.