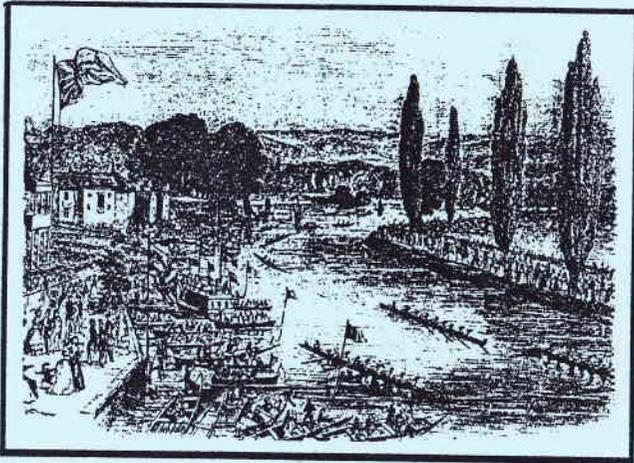


No 11.

# JOURNAL



HELEN OR THAMES  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL &  
HISTORICAL GROUP



**JOURNAL**  
of the  
**HENLEY ON THAMES**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL**  
**GROUP**

**Summer 1996**

**No. 11**

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**DID THE FIRST EXPEDITIONARY FORCE TO FRANCE COME  
FROM**

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**Published August 1996 by the Henley Archaeological & Historical  
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# **THE BEGINNINGS OF HENLEY REGATTA**

**From the Reading Mercury & Oxford Gazette**  
(Available on Micro-film in Henley Library)

**Ann Cottingham**

On 7 April 1834 in the Henley news it was commented that "Whilst every little town and seaport have succeeded in raising a subscription for a Regatta, no spirited individual in this town has set one on foot for a similar purpose. It is not too late."

There must have been a growing fashion for regattas, and Henley was clearly falling behind the competition. Nothing more is heard of a regatta till 1838, though it must be said that copies of the Gazette on Microfilm are not available for 1836-37.

Then on 28 July 1838 there was the following announcement. "We are pleased to hear that the two Boat Clubs of the Town have determined a race shall take place on Wednesday next, with a view to affording additional amusement to the company visiting the Horticultural Fete. They have engaged the celebrated boats 'The John Cross' and 'The Duverney', both built by Hall of Oxford for the University Clubs and each of them the 'beau ideal' of speedy and elegant boats. Both parties practice nightly, and the meadows which adorn our fine reach of water, are thronged with company to witness the coming up of the boats. The partisans of each are equally confident of their favourites winning, and the betting is about even. The boats will start from Mill End to Henley Bridge about six o'clock, which will give the visitors an opportunity of dining between the Flower Show and the Race. A Band of Music and other attractions have been provided by the Horticultural Society and a delightful day is anticipated."

On 4 August the race was duly reported at some length. It had been an exciting race, the boat 'The Duverney' was thought to have the more

powerful men. The other boat won the toss, it was now called 'The Wave', no longer 'The John Cross', and it was 'The Wave' which won the race by about 100 yards. After the event both crews dined at the Angel on the Bridge where John Hobbs was landlord.

Enthusiasm for rowing continued, "Rowing is quite the fashionable amusement." On 18 August it was announced that a match had been arranged between the gentlemen of Henley and Reading. Henley was to be represented by the crew of 'The Wave'. Again the course was to be Mill End to Henley Bridge.

On 25 August 1838 the paper reported that subscriptions were being raised to establish an Annual Regatta. On 1 September the race between Henley and Reading was reported as having taken place, it was a four oared race, and it was won by Henley by 1 mile.

By March of 1839 the Annual Regatta was well under way, and a meeting was held to discuss details. On 4 May it was announced that the Henley Regatta was to take place on Friday 14 June, when the Grand Challenge Cup would be rowed for by amateur clubs in eight oared boats.

On 8 June 1839 the entrants for the Grand Challenge Cup were announced. They were Brasenose College, Trinity Boat Club, the Etonian Club, University Boat Club, and Wadham College. By now there was also the Town Challenge Cup, for which there were three contenders, the Wave Club with the Wave boat, the Dreadnought Cutter Club with the Dreadnought, and the Albion Club with the Albion.

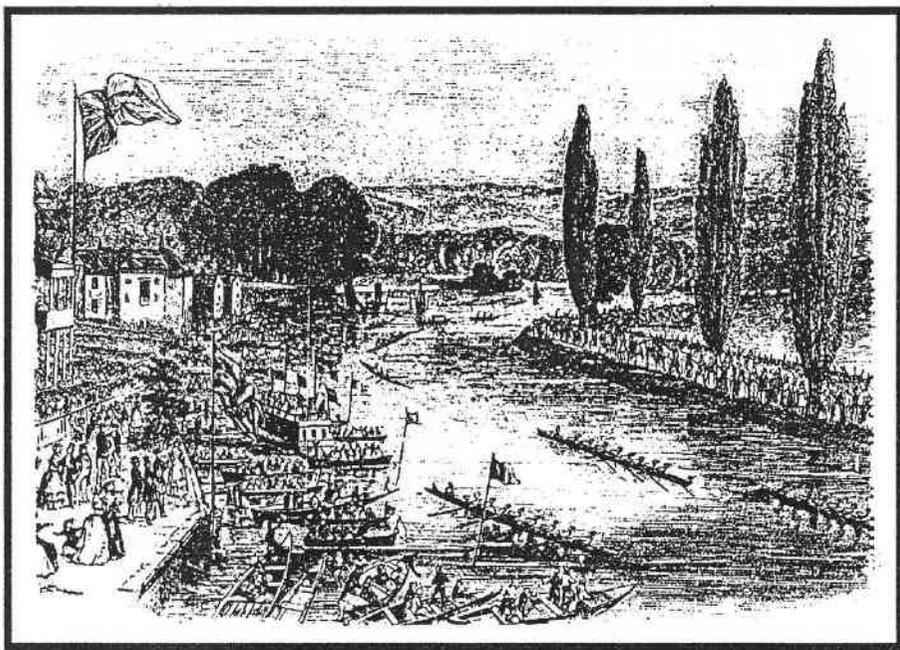
Others were also now seeing possibilities in the event, Lithographic Drawings of the races would be on sale for 2s a pair, available from Hickman & Kinch in the Market Place. (No.11 MkPl)

Stands were to be erected, Cooper & Son builders advertised their stand which was to be adjoining the Red Lion. J T Mattingley upholsterer of the Market Place had a substantial stand built at the bottom of New Street, "an apartment had been fitted up adjoining where every refreshment may be had at moderate prices." Mattingley had also erected a commodious stand in the Turnpike Garden, capable of containing 500 persons. Tickets would be available from J T Mattingley at 2s each.

Not only people were to be catered for, C Isaac had erected a Grand Horse Stand on Isaac's Wharf. He informed visitors to the Regatta that he had fitted up "spacious stabling to accommodate 300 horses, where every attention will be paid to those entrusted to his care. Hay and corn on reasonable terms. The above stand which is cool and airy is erected on the south side of the bridge. Good accommodation for carriages and gigs."

River men from above and below, as well as in Henley, were also quick to see profit in the Regatta. Numerous boats were advertised for hire on the day, and excursion boats were announced as travelling to Henley for the day's outing.

By the following year the Regatta was regarded as an established annual event, and on 20 June 1840 it was said that "Our regatta continues to create great interest in various parts of the country especially among the crews of Oxford, Cambridge and London."



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF MINING

John Howard

Many old miners will tell you, with some justification, that theirs is the second oldest profession - it was certainly one of the most hazardous ! Mining, which can loosely be described as the art of extracting mineral deposits from the earth, has been with us since before Neolithic man searched for flint in Grimes Graves at Brandon in Norfolk and at Blackpatch in Suffolk. Whilst early man was able to gather suitable material to produce the implements and weapons vital for survival from on or near the surface of the earth, pressures gradually arose to cause him to dig for some specific minerals.

More than 100,000 years ago Neanderthal man was already developing ideas of life after death and this led him to select certain red pigments (red chalk, red ochre, and haematite) to express these ideas pictorially. Evidence from caves and rock shelters in Africa and Europe demonstrates the growth of this form of expression. Chalk was being mined from surface pits up to 2 metres deep in Looms on Lake Balaton more than 50,000 years ago and approximately 15,000 years ago on the island of Thaxos, galleries were being driven into hard iron ore deposits to locate small pockets of weathered material to produce red pigment. Red was not the only colour of significance - green was used in the Near East in the 7th millennium BC and blue, from mined turquoise and lapis lazuli, in the 4th and 3rd millennia BC.

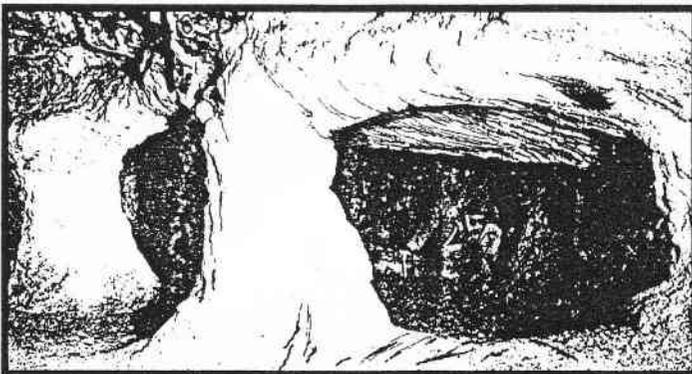


Fig 1. Neolithic Flint Mine, Spiennes, Belgium. Photo German Mining Museum, Bochum

The oldest mines thus came into existence for religious or ideological reasons, but the extraction of raw materials for economic reasons did not lag far behind. The main period of flint mining came around 6,000 BC, by which time influences combining to produce a more static and stable way of life, based on management of crops and animals, had spread from the Near East and Eastern Europe. This brought a requirement for more specialised tools such as heavy sharp socket axes and long flint blades. Such implements could not be satisfactorily produced from dried out or frost damaged flint, found on or near the ground surface, as this was too liable to splintering, and material fresh from the mine was required. The Neolithic flint mines of Norfolk and Sussex were worked with a mining skill that was not matched again until the 15th Century AD, some seventeen centuries later. More than 200 flint mines were in operation in Europe in the Neolithic period and daggers made from Grand-Pressigny flint crop up across Western Europe,

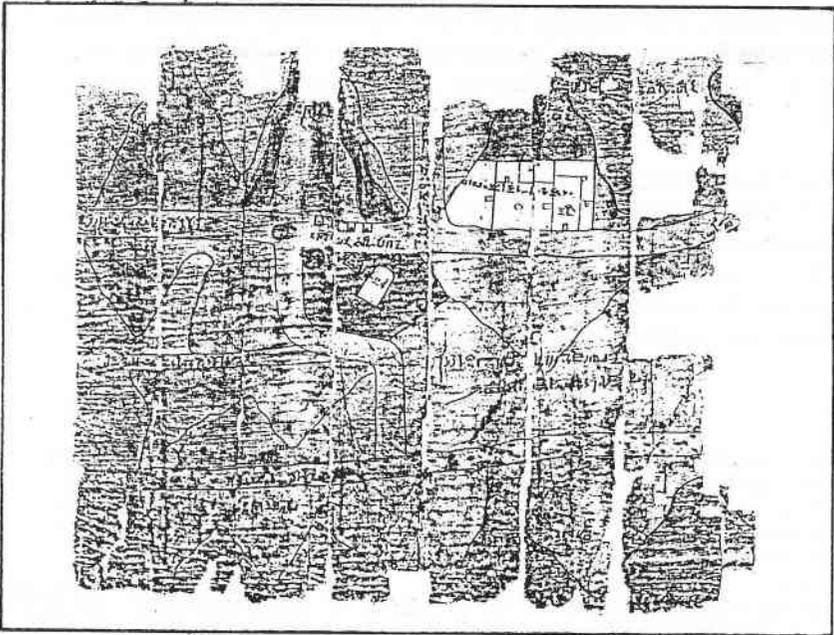


Fig2... Thought to be the oldest map in the world, a papyrus dating from about 1100 BC and now in the Turin museum shows a gold bearing region in the Eastern Desert of Egypt. A network of roads intersects a mountainous region, and inscriptions indicate where gold is located in the mountains. Near the centre a white stela bears the name Seti I, to the left of which is a well which is identifiable as the modern Bir el-Hammamat. The white area top right is the Temple of the God Ammon. Near the well are four buildings with the inscription reading "the houses where they wash the gold". South is at the top and the roads leading off to the left reach the Red Sea at Qoseir.

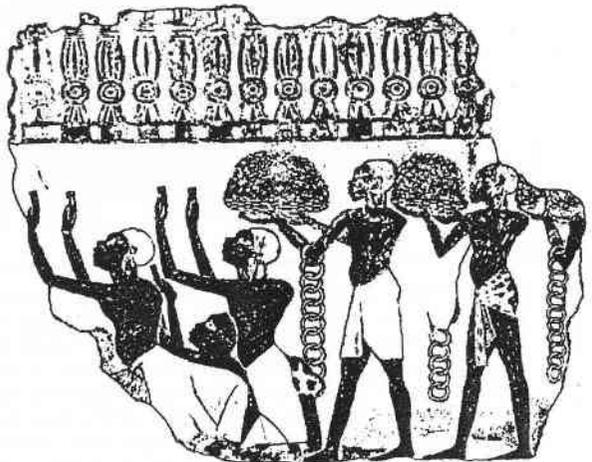
some as far away as Friesland, some 800km distant, showing the economic significance of flint mining at this time.(Fig1)

Salt extraction can also be traced back at least to Neolithic times in Eastern Europe. The Wielicza salt mines are still famous, but more than 4,500 years ago salt had already been obtained there by boiling naturally occurring brine. There is evidence to suggest that rock salt had been mined in Halstatt since the 9th C BC.

In prehistoric times copper was produced wherever the ore occurred. The oldest copper workings have been found in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, and a drift mine dating back more than 3,500 years, on the Mitterberg, in Bischofen, reveals a standard of ore extraction and smelting that is surprising for the Bronze Age. There were many Bronze Age gold mines in ancient Egypt, but very few are known to have existed in Europe.(Figs2,3,4) Underground gold workings have been discovered on the Greek islands of Sifnos and Thasos and it is remarkable to see the understanding that the ancient miners had of the deposits. Elsewhere gold was obtained from various streams and rivers in prehistoric Europe by panning.

There is a possible reference to Britain in a map by Hecateus, believed to be of 517 BC, which shows a group of islands called 'Kassiterides', lying on the western edge of the then known world. Strabo, writing in about 50 BC says, "The Kasseritides are ten in number, and lie near each other in the ocean towards the north from the haven of Artrabi (in Galicia). One of them is a desert, but the others are inhabited by men in black cloaks, clad in tunics

Fig 3 Egyptian gold took two forms dust or powder from alluvial workings and ring shaped ingots cast from the smelted gold produced in the mines. This wall painting from the tomb of Sobkhotpe, a high official buried at Thebes c1420 BC, shows the presentation of tribute. Negroes are bearing trays of gold dust in small bags of hide and carrying chains of ingots.



reaching to the feet, girt above the breast, walking with staves.....Of metals they have tin and lead, with which they barter with the merchants for earthenware, salt and bronze trinkets." He goes on to describe how the Phoenicians tried to keep the true source of this tin from the Romans. It is likely that the Kassiterides were, in fact, part of the mainland of Cornwall. The Romans first had contact with Britain in the middle of the first century BC. The islands, according to Strabo, produced "corn, cattle, gold, silver and iron, which things are brought hence, and also skins, slaves and dogs sagacious in hunting." The gold came from Golgofau in Carmarthenshire and from alluvial deposits. Silver was found in Northumbria and the Mendips, and copper in Denbighshire, Montgomeryshire, Shropshire, Anglesey and Cheshire.



Fig 4 In this drawing of a sculptured relief in the tomb of Baqt at Beni Hassan, dating from c2000 BC, the processes described by Diodorus Siculus are almost exactly represented. On the left the gold ore is being washed; in the centre figures appear to be using a gravity concentrating table; while at the upper right the concentrates are being put into a jar with a close fitting lid ready for refining.

Mining has always been a hard and dangerous business and in early times it was often connected with the cruellest servitude. Lucretius, the Roman poet (c 98-55BC), says of miners, " In short,.... how much misfortune occurs due to the exhalations of the metals rich in gold ! .....Does one not see and hear in how short a time they usually perish, and how they lack in fullness of life; they who are chained to such a work by the great compulsion of the unavoidable ? " Diodorus too, the Greek historian (fl c 60BC), gives an insight into the operation of the silver mines of Iberia by the Carthaginians, " Those who work below ground in the diggings day and night are wasted in body, and many of them die in consequence of excessive ill treatment, for release or rest from their labours is not allowed; the blows of their masters compel them to endure their dreadful misfortune until, miserable, they yield up their lives; some, on the other hand, through strength of body and vigour of soul, endure this treatment and have a long lasting misery, for death is their preference rather than life, because of the greatness of their wretchedness." It is not surprising that, among the Romans, 'damnatio ad metallia' was considered more terrible than being sent to the galleys or to the arena. (Figs 5,6)

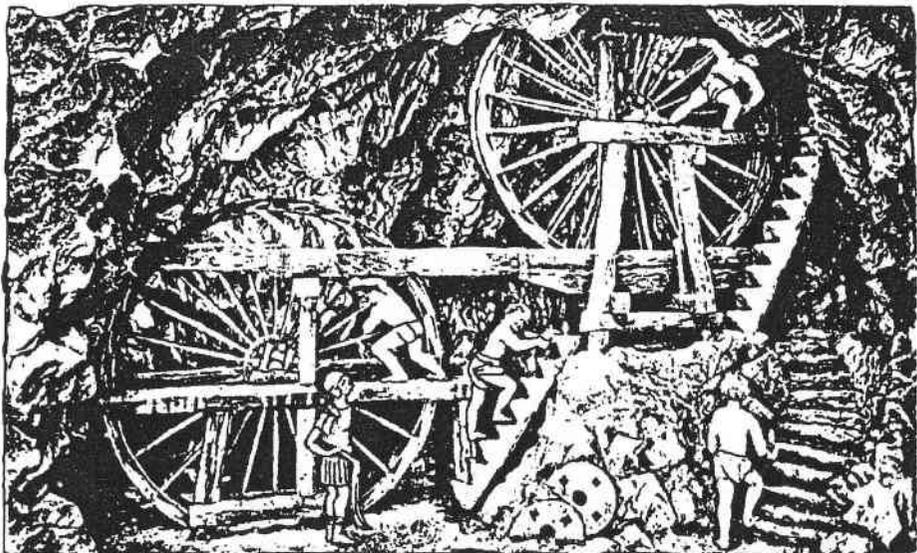


Fig 5 Draining by waterwheels in the Roman mines in Spain. Model German Mining Museum, Bochum

In general, the methods of mineral extraction used by the Greeks and Romans seem to have continued throughout the Dark Ages. The first approach used fast water to extract alluvial deposits such as tin ore. Water was carried in trenches and wooden troughs to reservoirs, some of which were 200 feet square and 10 feet deep. This water, on being suddenly released, rushed down the hillside washing out a large quantity of ore for processing. The second approach was the 'cave and gallery' system in which a cave was dug into the hillside from which twisting galleries were driven to follow the ore-bearing veins. In many cases the miners probably lived in these caves and galleries - the mine at Lamb Bottom Cavern at Harptree, in the Mendips, has a shaft only 2 feet square and some 55 feet deep, from the bottom of which a narrow winding passage follows the vein until a large chamber is reached. 'Fire-setting' was the technique most often used to break up the rock. A fire of wood or bracken was lit against the rock-face and then cold water was be thrown against the hot surface, causing the rock to crack. There is evidence that 'fire-setting' was still used in the mines throughout the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries in Cumberland, though at the same time in Yorkshire, where the gangue (ore bearing stratum) was calcareous, a method of cracking rock by wetting quick-lime was more commonly utilised. Another method was to drive wooden wedges into clefts

in the rock and then soak them in water, which caused them to swell and fracture the rock.

In Europe, panning of alluvial gold from river beds was the main ore extraction operation carried out in the Dark Ages. By AD 786 Charlemagne issued patents to his sons for mining concessions which were exploited with serf labour. As well as royalty and nobility, the Church was also taking an interest in mining, - its influence was important in England where it controlled the embryonic coal industry. In 11th century Britain extraction operations were carried out by means of open pits, quarries and trenches. The art of mining grew out of the method known as 'costeaning', in which a succession of small pits was sunk to a depth of 6 to 12 feet and then joined to each other by means of 'drifts' (tunnels). From this developed the idea of sinking deeper shafts into the ore body. By the middle of the 15th century such shafts were up to 60 fathoms (360 feet) deep with the main problems being drainage, haulage and ventilation. Drainage and haulage were tackled by windlasses, 'buckets and chains', 'rag and cahians', driven by men and horses, which lifted ore and water to the surface. Ventilation was not improved until the beginning of the 18th century when a system of boarded channels for conducting fresh air to remote parts of the mine was developed in Cornwall. In other parts of Europe it appears that the technique of lighting a fire at the bottom of one shaft, thereby causing a draught where more than one shaft was linked, had been known since pre-Roman times.

Domesday Book records that there were iron bloomeries in Somerset, Gloucestershire, Cheshire and Lincolnshire and the miners of the Forest of Dean were granted 'customs and franchise' by William the Conqueror for the iron bars which they supplied. The Weald of Kent was one of the main regions of iron making since the close proximity of iron ore and wood for charcoal made it a particularly suitable location. By the 14th century the demand for iron was expanding - in 1316 the Scots, who were short of iron, made a predatory expedition to Furness "where they seized all the manufactured iron they could find and carried it off with the greatest joy." Edward III (1327 - 1377) placed an embargo upon the export of iron and encouraged foreign skilled ironworkers to come into the country. In the time of Henry VIII an iron mine "required the labour of 15 men, working 12 to 14 hours a day, to produce ten hundredweight of iron." Three men worked underground, three prepared the charcoal, five kept the fire to smelt the ore, three operated the bellows and one man rested. By the end of the 16th century the problem of producing sufficient charcoal was becoming serious and a series of laws was passed to prohibit the formation of new

foundries. This chronic shortage of fuel was not overcome until the development of the use of coke by Abraham Darby in the 18th century.

The coal mining industry in Britain started in 1234 when Henry III gave a charter to dig for coal in Newcastle-upon-Tyne - until then coal had simply been collected from the shores. Coal mining techniques developed from the early digging of irregular trenches or 'pits' - a term still given to the much more sophisticated workings of today. In one method of working, developed in the 13th century, shafts were sunk to the coal bed, the bottom was then systematically excavated, undermining the sides until the whole area became too dangerous for further extraction and a new shaft had to be sunk. Such workings were known as 'bell' or 'beehive' pits, and an early example was at Stublick, near Hexham, where the shafts were 8 to 12 yards apart. The next development was the technique of partial extraction, in which some coal was left in place in order to support the roof, leaving pillars reminiscent of those in use many centuries before in the Neolithic flint mines.

In 1660 gunpowder was used for the first time in the copper mines at Ecton and the lead mines in the Mendips, but coal mines were quick to follow this lead although this use was attended by many sad accidents. By 1700 British coal mines were producing 2.5 million tons per annum and some were reaching depths of 400 feet. At this depth coal gas started to become a serious hazard and the candles which had been used underground since before Roman times no longer provided safe illumination. In the deeper mines the only alternative to complete darkness, was the glow given off by a slab of phosphorescing putrid fish, until the invention of safety lamps. Attempts were made to improve ventilation by such means as driving an 'edit' into the workings from an adjacent hillside, but this was not often possible with coal mines, which went deep into the earth.

Increasing demand for coal exacerbated the problems of ventilation, drainage and haulage as the mines reached greater and greater depths. It was now imperative to find some new source of power to take over from the water wheel and the gin, that had up to then provided the means of pumping and hoisting, and the steam engine fulfilled this need. The first satisfactory steam driven pump was designed by Newcomen in 1712. This was a piston beam engine capable of raising water from a depth of 90 fathoms (540feet), many of which were installed in the Cornish tin mines and the Durham coal mines. (see Fig 6) They enabled mines to be sunk to a much greater depth than could be satisfactorily de-watered previously, but consumed vast quantities of coal, each engine costing up to £3,000 per annum to run. The

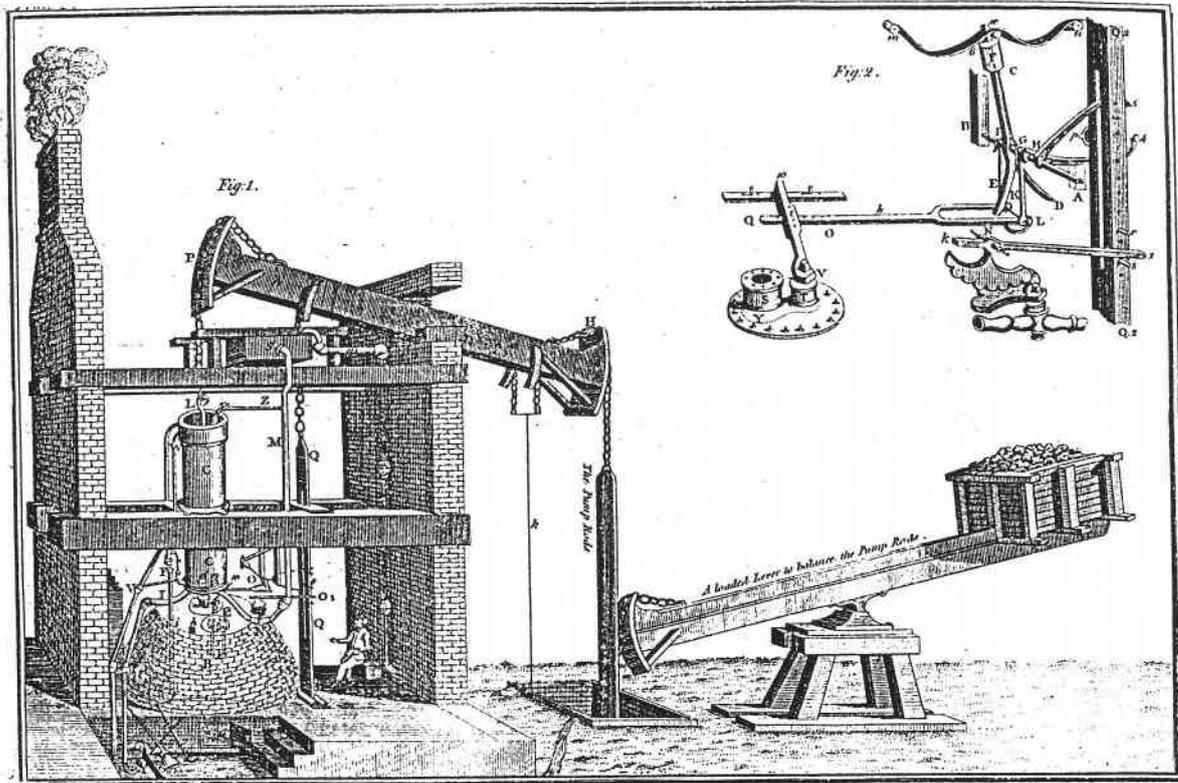


Fig 6 Steam Fire Engine

Steam boiled in boiler 'B' is admitted into cylinder 'C' by valves manually operated. The steam causes the counter weighted piston to rise lowering the 'Pump Rod'. At the top of the piston stroke the valve is closed and cold water is admitted into the top of the cylinder. The steam condenses and the piston falls lifting the pump rod. This 'engine' was capable of raising water at any depth between 2 & 876 fathoms at a rate of up to 16 strokes per minute (each stroke of about 6ft).

crank condensing engine invented by James Watt and patented in 1768, brought a more economical source of power, needing only about one third of the fuel of the earlier engine. Watt, and Boulton his partner, sold these engines to users at cost and instead of taking a direct profit on the building of the engine, took one third of the annual saving in fuel - an arrangement which appears to have satisfied both parties..

The development of the administration of mines and the people employed in them has many interesting facets. In AD 937 Athelstan conquered Cornwall and the Scilly Isles and established certain laws and customs for the tanners there. With the Norman Conquest there was a collapse in the industry and the mines were reduced to virtual inactivity, which lasted until the end of the 12th century. In 1201 King John granted the 'stanneries' their first charter, which confirmed the custom of "digging tin and turfs for smelting it at all times, freely and peaceably and without hindrance from any man, every-where in moors and in the fees of bishops, abbots and counts." Richard II created the position of Warden to regulate the industry because previous rulers had so taxed the tanners that tin production had fallen perilously low. The poorest man could now obtain ground by pegging out or "bounding" an area and registering it with the Warden to whom he became accountable. Jews, who by the end of the 13th century were controlling the mines, were becoming increasingly unpopular and were banished from the realm in 1290 by Edward I. In order to re-establish the workings he issued new charters in 1305 which "confirmed the customary rights of bounding, freed the tanner from ordinary taxation and attempted to give precision to the jurisdiction of the Warden and his lieutenants." Miners had to pay one fifteenth of their production to the lord of the soil - this was called 'toll-tin', but by making this payment could release themselves from their feudal lord. Such incentives caused the tin trade to boom, and the industry was regulated by Stannery Parliaments set up at Crockern Tor and Truro and bars of tin had to be brought into various local towns to be taxed and sealed. Stannery laws continued until the middle of the 19th century, but by this time little tin was being produced.

As we have seen, William the Conqueror had favoured the foresters of the Forest of Dean with special rights, which included a right of free mining and a right to access to the King's highway. The Free Forresters were formed with exclusive rights to charge dues on the export of iron goods being transported on the River Severn, but with a strict hereditary succession to the fraternity, it had nearly died out by the 17th century.

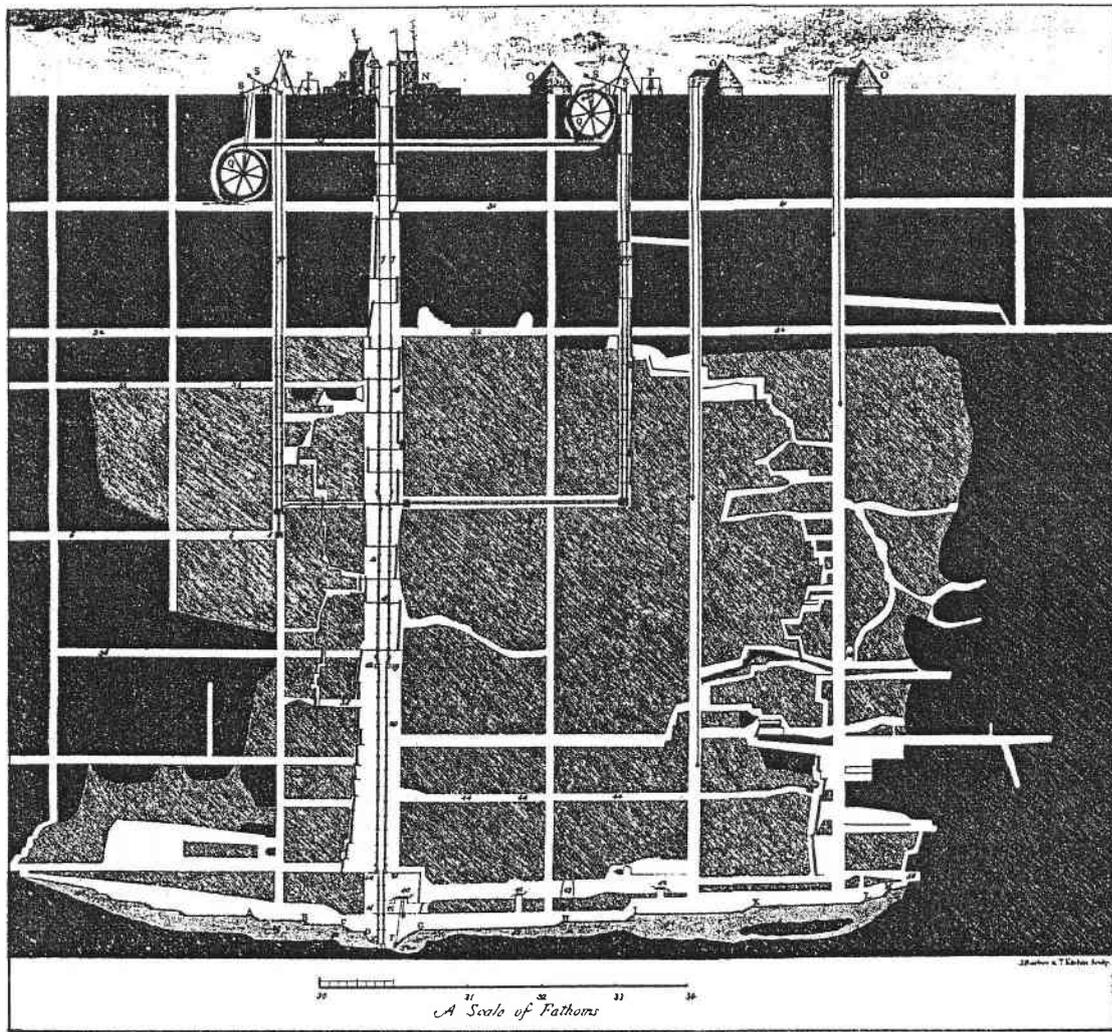


Fig 7 Bullen Garden Mine, Camborne c.1778  
 Showing :- Fire Engines-'N', Water Engine Wheels-'Q', Whymms-'O', Capstans-'P'.

At the end of the 13th century, because of inadequate techniques and a lack of finance, mining in the country generally was in a critical state and there was an influx of experienced miners and merchants from abroad. In the Mendips, the right to dig for ore was allowed to anyone who had permission of the landlord - the size of his claim being governed by the distance he could throw his axe. In the North, the first mining companies to be formed ran copper mines at Goldscope and Dalehead in 1546 - the mines were patronised by aldermen, noblemen, high officers of State and royalty. Where gold occurred in association with the copper, the Crown laid claim to the mine - a famous case was won by Elizabeth I against Thomas Percie, Earl of Northumberland, on this issue. However, it was later agreed that the Crown would only stake its claim where the value of the gold exceeded that of the base metal. This again changed in 1689, under William and Mary, when all base metal mines were freed from such royal claims. At this time most Cornish mines were developed by 'Adventurers', who invested in the venture. Some were 'tinnners' or miners, who could expect to average about 30 shillings per month - sometimes more, sometimes nothing. The 'mine captain', who was in charge of the workings, could expect to earn about 40shillings a month.

Working conditions were poor and treatment of the many accident victims left much to be desired. William Pryce, in his *Treatise on Minerals and Mining 1778*, makes a case for the establishment of a county hospital near Redruth for the relief of sick and wounded miners and sailors. He goes on to describe that when an accident happens in a mine ".....the poor sufferer languishes till the arrival of the surgeon..... he is not provided with every thing proper to administer proper relief."

(Some mines obliged men working more than 5 fathoms (30 feet) underground (see Fig 7) to deposit 2 pence per month 'owners' with the purser for payment of the surgeon).

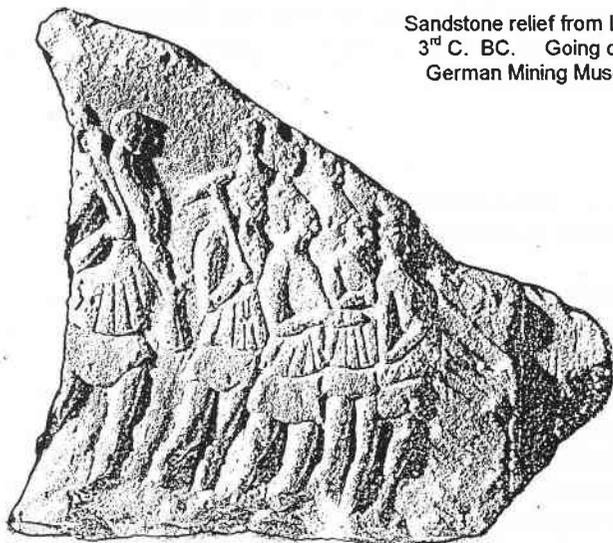
After seeing the surgeon, "the patient is then conveyed six or seven miles to his own hut, full of naked children, but destitute of all conveniences and almost all necessaries." Only the strong survived !

Today, the greatest amount of mineral extraction, with the exception of oil, is by surface mining, using open cast methods and drawing in general upon less and less rich ore bodies. Gold mines in South Africa continue to extract material from great depths - over 6,000 feet in some cases - but in Australia gold mines such as the Olympic Dam use giant earth moving equipment to remove half a million tons of ore daily from a depth of 300 metres (975 feet) by open cast methods. Marine mining produces large quantities of gravel

Even when denuded of its trappings, an underground gallery makes it possible to step back into history. The stamp left on those workings by the early miners is a monument to their skill and tenacity. The mining heritage is not, however confined to underground remains. Above ground there are many traces of "mining landscapes" - waste heaps, pit-head gear, the site of ore crushers, washing and sorting areas, smelters, and the paths and tracks made by the miners. Today in Cornwall, for example, dis-used engine houses add to the atmosphere of an area rich in folklore and history.

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Sandstone relief from Linares, Spain  
3<sup>rd</sup> C. BC. Going down the mine  
German Mining Museum, Bochum

# THE WALLS OF HENLEY AND THE GATEWAY THROUGH THEM

John Crocker

**(Editors' note:-** John Crocker has listed all the references he can find for the Walls and the Gateway both of which will be seen to have been fairly frequently mentioned. Where exactly they were however still remains a mystery. The documents which are listed appear in the List of Archives compiled by M A Hughes in 1928-30 ( O.R.O. MS DD Henley E II) Hughes went through all the deeds connected to Henley then in the Bodleian Library, gave each one a brief two to three line resumé of contents and a number as he recorded them. As his numbers were not in chronological order, later an AD (Ancient Deeds) number was assigned to them. The reference to Briers refers to the book published by the Oxfordshire Record Society in 1960 entitled 'The Henley Borough Records - The Assembly Books I-IV 1395-1543.' Transcribed and edited by P M Briers. The Warden of Henley was the medieval equivalent of the present day Mayor, and etc refers to the Bridgemen, Aldermen and Burgesses. Gravel Hill was in Badgemore till the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and though in the Parish of Henley was not in the town.)

## Henley MS

AD 9 13<sup>th</sup> century. Thom de Crowell, son of Stephen Crowell, grant to Thomas Foliot of a piece of land with a stone wall.

AD 78 1356. Will Coupere warden to Walt Morin, plot of land in fee of Baierugge (Badgemore).

AD 97 1360. Will Coupere warden to Hugh Frere grant of a garden in fee of Baggerugge (Badgemore) next Henley.

(Frere - was this the origin of the name Friar Park, which was constructed on Friars Field, and could Frere have been be a descendant of Henri de Ferrier who held the fee of Bagerugge under William I ? )

AD 103 1363. Will Coupere warden etc. to Robt Ballede, 1 acre of land in Guldeneden in fee of Baierugge.

(Note the Warden of Henley is already granting land in Badgemore.)

AD 125 1383. Regin Jory warden etc. to Thom Stokeman and Felicia his wife grant of a toft and curtilage in High Street at ye walles.

AD 128 1384/5. Regin Jory warden etc. to Thom Stokeman and Felicia his wife grant of three cottages in High Street at le Walles at a rent.

AD 158 1404/5 Mar 17 Will of J Purvoule.

And in the

Elmes Cartulary J Purvoule gave to the Mother Church of Lincoln 6d.

page 25 To the Rector of Henley 10d

To the Parish Chaplain 6d

To each Chaplain officiating in the church 4d

To each Clerk there 2d

and to Margaret Morden the relict of John Morden of Henley all his grange situate at the walls of Henley between the tenement of William More and that of myself John Purvoule extending from the High Street to the field called Henfield.

(Henfield, Hemfield, Hempfield, Henefield variously so called is now Townlands Hospital its grounds and part of Kings Road.)

O.R.O. Cooper & Caldecott 1404. A lease of one shop and two messuages in High Street between the walls.

AD 187 1425. John Bochard and Alice his wife to Walter Taillour (Taylor) and Pernell his wife tenement garden and other lands in Baggerugge and Bensington.

AD 206 1435/6. John Elmes warden etc. to John Fynam (Fynamur) grant of a tenement with garden in High Street at the walls for building.

Briers p45 Wed 16 Oct 1437. Joh Finamur tanner granted a tenement on the walls which tenement has a lease of 101 years at rent of 3s 4d.

(As a tanner he may have needed land which extended to the Brook which ran about where what is now the south side of Greys Car Park, so maybe the south side of the upper Market Place or the south of Gravel Hill.)

AD 214 1443/4 Mar 25. John Wryghte (Wright) and Thom Saltmer to Rob Daundesey and Joan his wife grant of a messuage and garden above le Wallys.

Catalogue of Ancient Deeds

C 4609 p58 1473. Tenement and garden and ½ acre of arable land opposite Le Barres from High Street on the south to Henfield between the garden and Grimsdyke.  
Quitclaim from Cumberforde to T Browne.

Catalogue of Ancient Deeds C 6588 1473 Same as C 4609

Briers 1481 Sep 7. Granted to Ric Arthur a tenement with adjacent p 87 garden beside the walls at the south of the town lately in the tenure of Wilat Lee between Joh Devene to the west and Alex Martyn to the east at a rent of 3s 4d.

AD 267 1491. John Elmes warden etc. to Thomas Goldyn tenement at le Walles in fee of Bagerugge.

(Did Goldyn give his name to the land mentioned later in 1500 and 1515 as Gyldondene ?)

Catalogue of Ancient Deeds

C 7128 1492. John Breche to Godfrey Gilden and others ½ acre in Hemfield by Grimsdyke.

Elmes Cartulary 1490 (Editors note - this date or the one above may be inaccurate) Will of John Breche.

To the Mother Church of Lincoln 2d

To Thomas Fastendyche and Isabella his wife and my daughter, all that tenement situate and lying at the walles within the Lordship of Henley, subject to an obit of 2s 4d.

There were also small gifts to the Priests and the Holy Water.

To the mending of the slippery highways of the town 20d.

If no legal issue the whole to go to the Warden etc.

1500. Will of John Ellam. Gifts to the Church and Bridge.

To Joan my wife the rest including the tenement in which I dwelt.

Joan Ellam my daughter and the heir of my son deceased shall have the barns standing in Friday Street.

If no issue to go to my brother J Ellam if he keeps a 2s 4d obit and J Ellam shall have my three tenements lying and being in the High Street of Henley at the Wallles, with one acre of land in Gyldondene.

AD 282 1506 May 15. John Wylly warden etc. to John Bayle and Margery his wife grant of a tenement and garden at the Walls.

AD 293 1515. Thom Englysh to Joan Penysten. Quitclaim of a tenement at the Walls and of an acre of land in Gyldondene.

Catalogue of Ancient Deeds. 1531. Lady Lee has three tenements at the Walls.

Corporation Rental. 1591. Rick Smythe's tenement and garden and  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of arable in Church Croft extends to the Grimsdyke on south.

Assembly Book 1701. A common road was made through the walls.

(At this point the Lords of the Manor, two in succession, combined with the Mayor in developing the land used with the Market above the walls - the Lord's Waste.)

All the following come from Corporation Rentals:-

1713 E Bonner paid rent to Bailiffs for a tenement on the north side of the hill formerly a Gatehouse. Allotments of 1s 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d were between Brigstock a brewer and Mr Woodroofe.

1721 Mr Warren paid for his house late a Gateway. Between Brigstocke and Woodroofe 1s 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

1727 Warren paid for late a Gateway. Between Brigstocke and Stevens 1s 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

1733 Warren late a Gateway 1s 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. More for rails & posts 1s.

1758 Swallow late Watkins late a gateway 1s 11½d. Between Brigstocke and Crutchfield.

1765 Swallow late Watkins late a gateway 1s 11½d.

1769 Swallow late Watkins a gateway between Slater and Crutchfield. 1s 11½d.

1779 Swallow in own occupation and an obit 2s.

Court Baron Book B IV22a

1785 Richard Swallow a Brewhouse formerly a gateway next adjoining his dwelling

1807 The gateway is no longer mentioned but Swallow continues - 2s.

1814 Swallow own occupation and obit 2s. Between late Crutchfield now Strange and Hayward occupied Rolls.

1823 Swallow own occupation and obit 2s. Between Earle late Crutchfield late occupied Strange and Hayward now occupied by Cooper.

1828 Swallow 2s. Between late Crutchfield now Earle and Cooper late Brakspear.

1836 Swallow 2s. Between Hucks late Crutchfield occupied Earle and Cooper late Brakspear.

1842 Swallow own occupation 2s. Between Hicks late Crutchfield occupied Blackall and S Cooper own occupation.

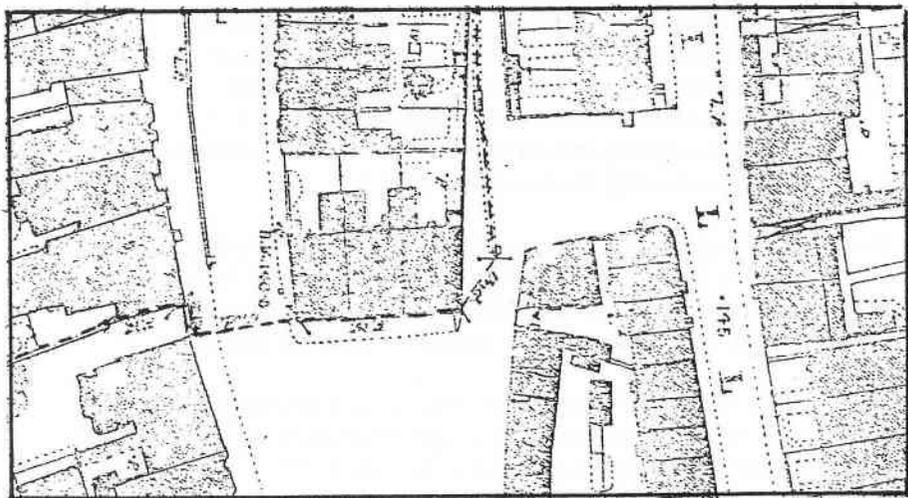
(The years between these Rental entries are all there at Oxford Record Office but from 1842 the books were not yet at Oxford, so I could go no further.)

The place at which the present cottages cross the road at the top of the Market Place coincides with the start of the terrace made in 1847 on one side, and a 5ft 6ins wall on the West Street side that used to be the outside wall of an archway into Adwell Square.

The school also built in 1847 was built of flints. Costs having to be kept low they probably used the materials from the Walls and the Gatehouse.

I also have a note dated 1423 for a common road made through the walls, but as I cannot find the reference I have not mentioned it. If it could be verified it might date the time when Badgemore became part of Henley Parish. The road would have been most likely the Gravel Hill Road, as the mention in 1701 of a road clearly is West Street with the Gatehouse.

It is of interest also that Gislingham Cooper and Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke as Lords of the Manor both combined with the Mayor in leasing the land which was the Lord's Waste, above what is now called the Upper Market Place.



Reduced part of O.S. Map of 1879, showing town boundary crossing the bottom of Gravel Hill and running behind houses on north side of Gravel Hill. The suggestion is that the town walls may have followed the boundary across the top of the Market, but then continued northwards to about where the entrance gateway is shown on the north side of West Hill.

# WALTER OF HENLEY

John Crocker

The Missenden Abbey charters held in the British Museum (Harleian MSS) have been published in three volumes by the Buckinghamshire Record Society (in 1939, 1955 & 1962). The charters date from 1133, and range over 150 years. (The third volume contains much of local interest, relating to land given to the Abbey in Dunsden, Shiplake with Lashbrook, and an acre of land in Badgemore.) The first volume contains a number of charters which were witnessed by Walter of Henley, and one referring to land that he held in Kimble (Bucks). There is also a charter naming Nicholas de Henle, son of Walter of Henley.

Here is my translation of No 487 of a grant to the Abbey of Missenden.

‘Know (men) present and future that I Nicholas de Henle son of Walter of Henley have given and granted by this my present charter confirmed by the Abbey of Missenden of that part of the garden land that was given to my father Walter de Henley by John de la Westfalle and which I Nicholas de Henley recovered from the Abbot of Missenden before the itinerant Justices of Wycombe.’

The fact that Walter de Henle appears as a witness to several documents, and that he held land in Kimble indicates that he may have been a man of some importance. Who was this Walter? Is he in fact to be identified with the Walter, author of the famous 13<sup>th</sup> century ‘Treatise on Husbandry’?

The late Mr F G Gurney was strongly of the opinion that the answer to this question was in the affirmative, and his cogent arguments are to be found in his paper ‘An Agricultural Agreement of the year 1345’ in the records of Buckinghamshire Vol XIV part 5 (1945).

The late Professor Eileen Power (Trens. R.H.S. 4<sup>th</sup> series Vol XVII 106-7) in stressing the need for a new edition of the Treatise pointed out that the question of Walter’s origin was not without importance.

If we could establish which of the Henleys was Walter's birthplace, and above all on what manors he gained his experiences as a Bailiff, we would have gone a long way towards determining which of the manuscripts represent the earliest and purest version of the text.

He wrote the treatise for the guidance of his sons and the Missenden Abbey Cartulary shows that he had at least two, and they appear to have been landholders during their father's lifetime.

I will now try to trace Walter from the Henley MS. (See note re: Hughes List of Archives preceding the Henley MS concerned with the Walls of Henley)

### **Henley MS**

AD 170 1412 Oct 31. Ric Banastre & Isabel his wife daughter and heir of Ric **Walter** or Pykard to Will Pycard & Joan his wife grant of a toft and garden in le [Fidais Street in the fee of Rotherfeld Grey.

AD 171 1412 Nov 2. Ric Panhow or Hamles son and heir of Isabel Banastre daughter of Ric **Walter** or Pykard to Will Pycard & Joan his wife. Quitclaim of a croft and a garden in le Frydas Street in the fee of Rotherfeld Grey.

AD 166 1412. Walt Taylour to Will Pykard & Joan his wife grant of a tenement in High Street.

AD 176 1414 June. Will Fysher warden etc. to John Pykard lease for 101 years of two messuages in High Street.

AD 177 1416 May 10. Will atte Logge warden to Will Pycard & Joan his wife grant of a messuage and curtilage next the Rector's gateway.

AD 178 1416 May 14. Catherine late wife of Regin Jory to Will Pycard & Joan his wife quitclaim of messuage and garden at the corner of High Street and Thameside.

AD 193 1429 Jul 4. Will Cademer son of Rob Cademer to Will Pykard and Hugh Baker (Bridgemen) quitclaim of a tenement in North Street and ½ acre of meadow in Kyngesmede.



# THE FIELDS OF HARPSDEN

Ann Cottingham

The Parish of Harpsden is interesting in that there are three maps that show fields and field boundaries. The earliest is a map of 1586 drawn up by John Blagrave of Reading, and is in the Oxford County Record Office (Cooper & Caldecott 17:49), where Ruth Gibson tracked it down when she was writing her degree thesis on the farms of Harpsden.

I was allowed to photograph the map, and from the photos was able to superimpose it on the O.S map published in 1970 at the scale of 6" to 1 mile or 1:10,560 (Map 1).

The actual field boundaries were drawn in the original as though there had been a slanting downwards view. The hedges were drawn as bushes and trees, which accounts for the thickened or double line in the reproduction of the map. The map for the purposes of this Journal has had to be drastically reduced from the 6" format.

The other two maps are both 19<sup>th</sup> century, firstly the Harpsden Tithe Map of 1842 (Map 2), and secondly an estate map of 1851, drawn up when the Harpsden Court Estate was being sold (Map 3). Both these two maps I reduced to the same scale of 6" to the mile, and then have reduced them again by the same amount as Map 1, so that the maps are comparable.

Map3 shows that the Harpsden Court Estate seems to have had much the same land as the Manor of 1586, that is except perhaps the lower portion. In 1851 the boundaries of the parishes may be seen, marked by a dash and dot line. In 1851 the northern tip of the estate was in Rotherfield Greys, while eight fields then made up the Rotherfield Peppard corridor to the river. The southern part of the estate which stretched to the boundary of Harpsden, might also have been in the Manor in 1586, since the map of that date had either been cut or torn, which is why the southern part of Harpsden Wood and the fields on either side of it end in broken lines in Map 1.

Whether the Manor of Harpsden had always been the size that it was in 1851, is unknown. The Domesday Book entry comes under the lands of Milo Crispin in Bensenton (Benson) half hundred, and is as follows:-

‘Alured holds of Milo, Harpendene (Harpsden) there are 5 hides. There is land for 6 ploughs. Now in demesne (there are) 2 ploughs and 4 serfs; and 12 villeins with 2 bordars have 4 ploughs. There (are) 20 acres of meadow. It was worth 6 pounds and now it is worth 100s. ‘

Domesday records are difficult to interpret but there is a possibility that the Manor at that time might have been of the same size as in 1586, but the size or shape of the fields is not known. If there were large common fields in the medieval manor of Harpsden, it would seem that enclosure had already taken place by 1586. Most of the area seems then to have consisted of small fields.

There is a hint of where some of the larger open fields may have once existed by a study of some of the field names. For instance in 1586 ‘Highe ffeilde’ to the south of Harpsden Manor house spread over three fields, later by 1842 two of these fields had changed their names. The name Watnams spread over four fields in 1586, these fields were not in Harpsden Parish so do not appear in the map of 1842. However they appear in the Tithe Map for Rotherfield Peppard of 1840, when the field marked as 5 in Map 1 remained as Lower Watnams, while the most westerly field in 1586 ‘Hygher Watnams’ had become Upper Watnams. Another field, also in Rotherfield Peppard but nearer to the river, was in 1586 ‘Gares Gore’ and in 1840 the Gore. Henley field may also have been part once of a larger field area, in Map 1 the fields numbered 69 and 79 are both named as ‘Henlye ffeilde’, number 79 being south of 69, with two fields and a road or track between.

Apart from the above mentioned fields several names appear in both 1586 and 1842, though in some cases with a slight variation of name.

1586

Winche Mead  
Rythes & Badcockes  
Myll feilde  
Shiphouse feilde  
Ashe Close  
Whyte Close  
Weste ffeilde  
Bantslades  
Costardes  
Strypes  
Ridginges  
Jyll Smythes Coppice  
Jyll Smythes  
Hore landes  
Pery ffeylde  
Stony Close  
Kenell landes

1842

Winch Meadow  
Badcockes  
Mill Field  
Sheephouse Field  
Ash Close  
White Close  
West Field  
Barnsletts  
Costners  
Stripes  
Rich Field  
Gill Smithers Wood  
Gill Smithers  
Hoary Lands  
Great Penny Field  
Stony Bottom  
Kents Hill & nearby  
Further Kenny Lands

In some cases where the name persisted in some form from 1586 to 1842, the size of the fields had sometimes changed. In order to study this more closely, I drew up maps 4 & 5 both to the same scale as the other maps. Map 4 shows the field boundaries of 1586 that still existed in 1842-51, while Map 5 shows how many had survived up to 1970 the date of the O.S. Map.

How many of the 1586 boundaries now exist is something which needs to be checked, and might form the basis of a future study. It might also be possible to find out whether any of the names still survive in 1996.

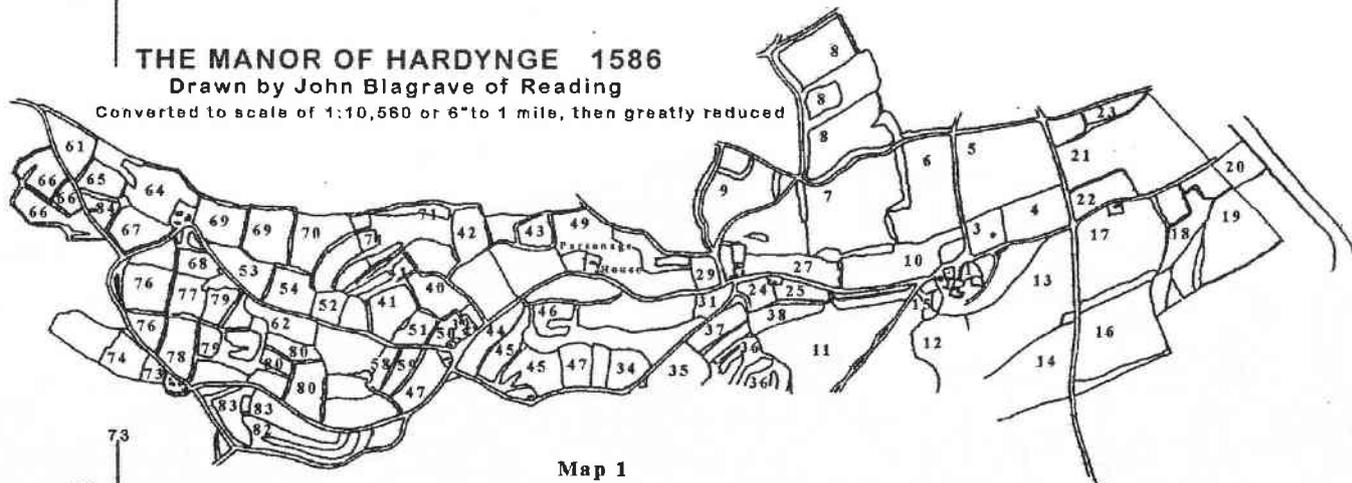


82 73

# THE MANOR OF HARDYNGE 1586

Drawn by John Blagrave of Reading

Converted to scale of 1:10,560 or 6" to 1 mile, then greatly reduced



Map 1

29

80 73

**(holde of Ry Nutky(n) cont...)**

58 The home Close shawe?

59 The lower Pydle

60 The upper pydle

61 The Broade Close

62 The picked Close

**The holde in the tenure of W Perma(n)**

63 Syte of ye house orchard & yeard

64 The home close

65 The two oter closes

66 Kenell Landes

67 The Stony Close

68 Hore Land

69 Henlye ffeylde

70 Strypes

71 Strypes Coppice

**The Holde in the tenure of W Wynche**

72 The site of the house orchard etc

73 The Crofte?

74 The parke ffeylde

75 Burche Crofte

76 Pery ffeylde

77 The ffather well - eane

78 The hither well - eane

79 Henlye ffeylde

80 The hither Hill ffeildes

81 The Nether hill ffeildes

82 Jyll Smythes Coppice

83 Jyll Smythes

84 Kydmares



82 73

Map 3

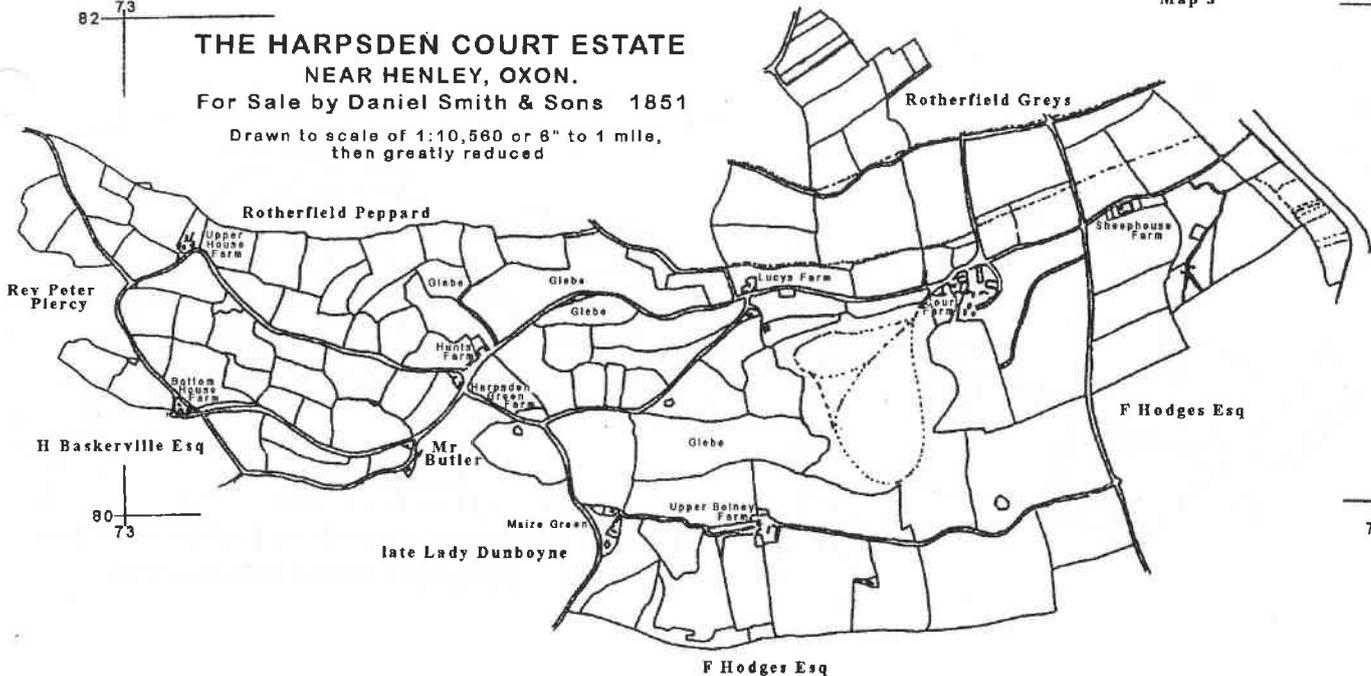
78 82

# THE HARPSDEN COURT ESTATE

NEAR HENLEY, OXON.

For Sale by Daniel Smith & Sons 1851

Drawn to scale of 1:10,560 or 8" to 1 mile,  
then greatly reduced

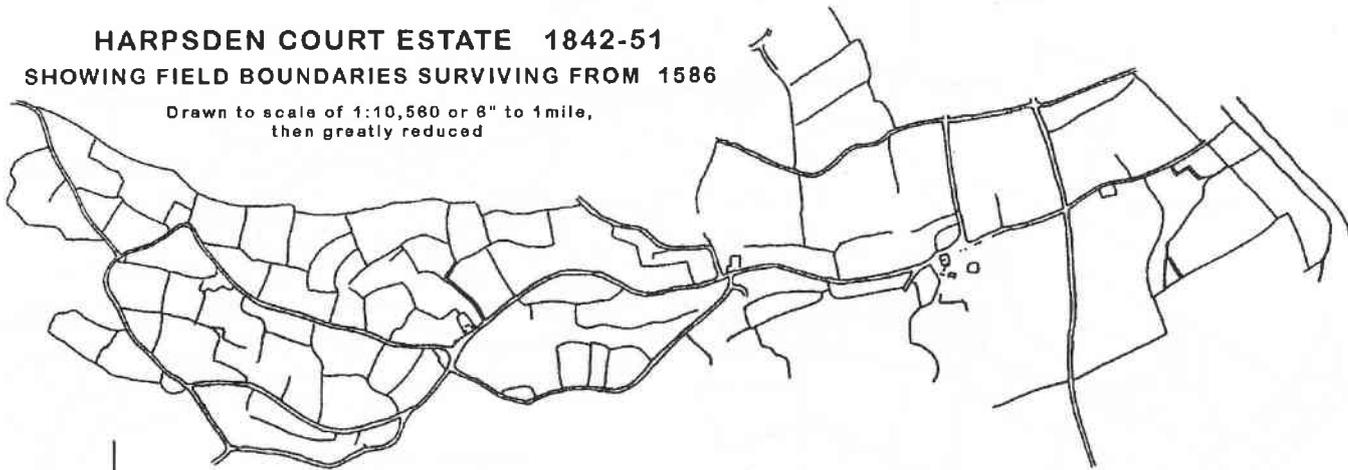


80 73

80 78

**HARPSDEN COURT ESTATE 1842-51**  
**SHOWING FIELD BOUNDARIES SURVIVING FROM 1586**

Drawn to scale of 1:10,560 or 8" to 1 mile,  
then greatly reduced

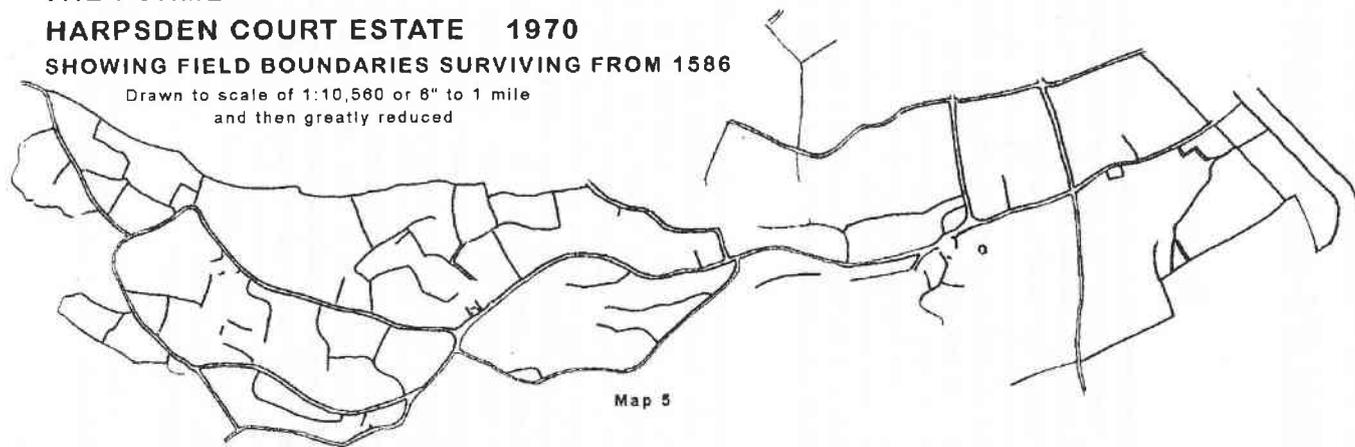


Map 4



**THE FORMER  
HARPSDEN COURT ESTATE 1970  
SHOWING FIELD BOUNDARIES SURVIVING FROM 1586**

Drawn to scale of 1:10,560 or 6" to 1 mile  
and then greatly reduced



Map 5

# **DID THE FIRST BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE TO FRANCE COME FROM HENLEY-ON-THAMES ?**

**Roger Kendal**

In June 1981 seventeen gold coins contained in a hollow flint were discovered by metal detector treasure-hunters- in Harpsden Wood. The find came to the attention of the authorities and, at a Coroner's Inquest in Henley Town Hall on 20th April 1982, the coins were declared to be Treasure Trove and subsequently purchased by the British Museum. Unfortunately, the flint container was not covered by the Treasure Trove declaration as it was not made of precious metal and became separated from the coins. As is often the case with this type of find, we have no information regarding the context in which the coins were unearthed or even of the precise location of the discovery. We can only presume, with the coroner, that the original owner buried them at some moment of crisis with the intention of returning to retrieve them later. It is difficult to imagine anyone forgetting where they had left such a valuable hoard so perhaps he was overtaken by the crisis and was never able to return to claim his belongings. The coins would have represented a considerable fortune at that time. It would have been useful to have the chance to look scientifically at the area where they were found and perhaps unearth some clues about the manner of their deposition.

Looking more closely at the coins, they are all Gallo-Belgic staters, minted in Gaul by Celtic tribes in the 1st century B.C. One has been identified as a Gallo-Belgic 'A' stater and this example is 25mm in diameter, has a weight of 7.34 gms and a higher gold content than the other coins. The obverse shows a beautifully engraved head of Apollo, copied from a Greek coin of Alexander the Great, whilst the reverse carries a stylised horse design of a type seen on many Celtic coins. The remaining sixteen around 17mm in diameter, between 6.08 and 6.31 gms in weight and with a gold content varying between 56.8% and 62.5%. They have been identified as GalloBelgic 'E' staters and fall into three classifications, each with different standards of weight and/or fineness. All have the stylised horse design on the reverse but, with one exception, the obverse of each is plain. The exception has some irregular markings on the edge of an otherwise plain obverse and on examination these are seen to be part of the design on the reverse of the coin but in relief. This effect could arise from what is called "die-clash", when two dies are struck together without a blank between them. This can result in one die taking up part of the design of the other, particularly where a plain area on one die corresponds with a deeply engraved area on the other. The raised edge of the plain reverse die of the 'E' staler would be particularly liable to this effect and would pass on any portion of design that it picked up in the clash, but in relief this defect appears in a significant number of GalloBelgic 'E' staters and is considered to be the result of overcast production. There is a suggestion that these coins were produced in Gaul specifically to pay for supplies and, in particular, mercenaries to fight Caesar's invasion of the country - this would certainly account for a need for rushed production methods. If this really was the reason for their striking, it is interesting to speculate that here we might have evidence for the payment of the very first British Expeditionary Force to France !.

It is hoped that these coins will form part of the display depicting Henley's early history at the River & Rowing Museum and negotiations are in hand with the British Museum to bring this about.



