

Goyt Valley... and its people



ROMAN ROAD
(Site of)

B.M. 1109-2

Errwood

Ford
Bunsal Farm

Nell's
Hole

Ford

Rattoley
(Dismantled)

Reservoir

Bunsal Cob

Dale of Hoyt

B.M. 1012-8

Quarry

B.M. 919-3

Errwood Hall

Castledge

275A
1-465

275
2-630

Coal Pit

870

900

Stone

Errwood Cottage

Goyt's
Bridge

Goyt's
Farm

Stepping
Stones

Spring

Goyt's
head
Farm

Goyt's
Lane

B.M. 1250-2

Errwood
Hall

Castledge

Vault

Coal Pit

B.M. 1021-5

B.M. 1091-8

B.M. 850-3

B.M. 884-0

B.M. 954-3

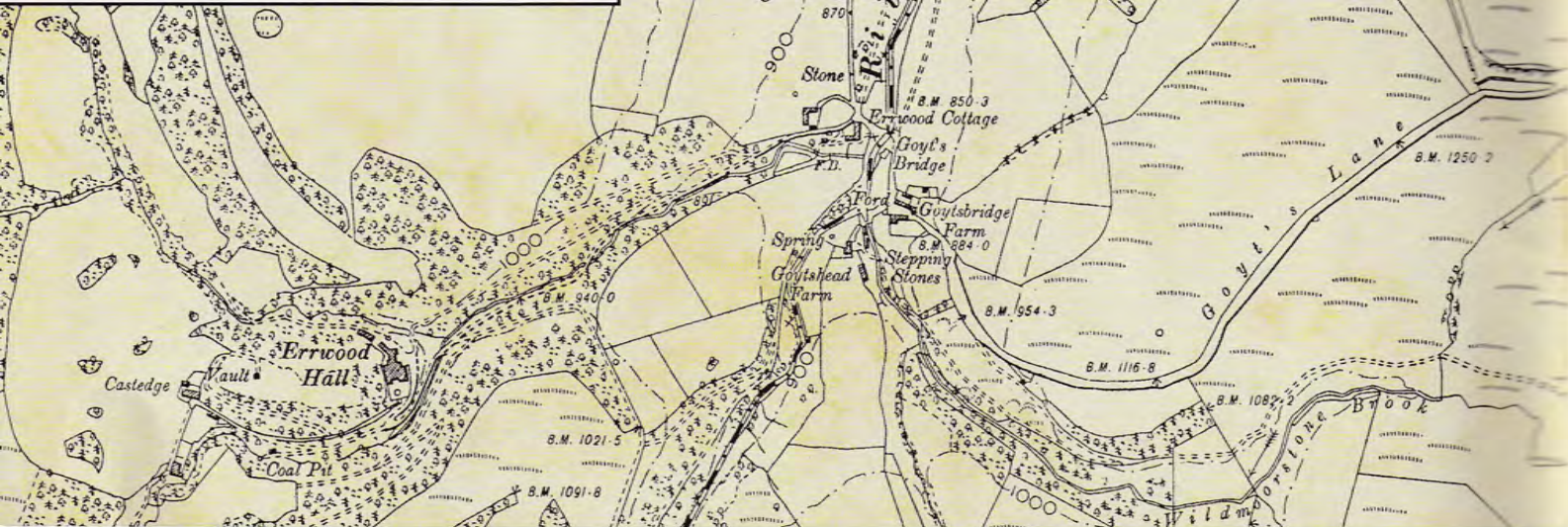
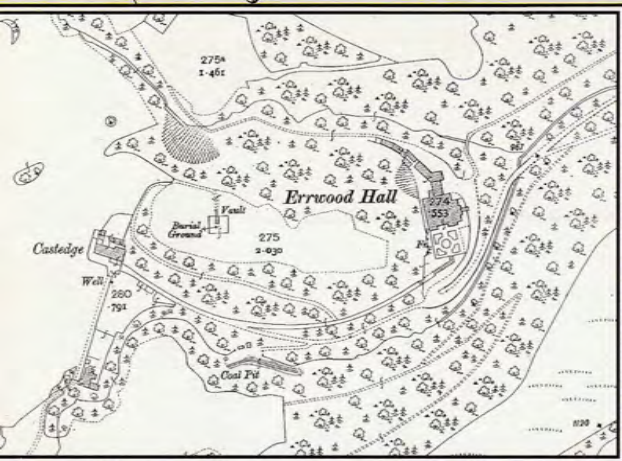
B.M. 1116-8

B.M. 1082

WILDEN
STONE
Brook

3799-329

s



Introduction

In this modern age of technology, we can all too easily forget our past history.

The people who have lived and gone before, and places that we see which are no longer beautiful homes, but simply ruins.

Walking in the Peak District, now that we have more leisure time, has become over recent years much more popular, and is enjoyed especially at weekends by a growing army of enthusiasts.

While walking and enjoying the freedom of the open countryside, it is often much more interesting if we know the origins of these ruins, and who lived there.

As we approach another new century, we can look back through these pictures and pages of what was here before and recall some of the history of what was, and still is a very picturesque Goyt Valley. To look back to another century, to that lovely Victorian age and through Edwardian times to the 1920's.

For those walkers and visitors who have a genuine love of the Goyt Valley and its history, it is hoped this book will provide pleasure and some answers to the many mysteries that surround the valley.

To local families with their relatives and friends, that they may recall happy memories of bygone days.



Panoramic view of the lodge and gardeners cottage with Errwood Hall in the distance.

The Goyt Valley, protected by its town rugged remoteness, surrounded by windswept moors, still retains its own natural charisma. A unique place with a very special aura.

In those bygone days, before the reservoirs of Fernilee, and later Errwood, life was very different here, with a thriving country community living and working together. Surrounded by beautiful landscape, it really was a world away from the world, a real rainbows end. Even with today's modern transport the Goyt Valley still enjoys an historic remoteness, and perhaps a certain quiet reverence that somehow beckons the visitor

onwards, eager to learn the mysteries within the hills.

Who would now believe that in this upper Goyt Valley, that early last century and later, there was a gunpowder works, a paint mill, a railway, and a Victorian mansion. Other activities included quarrying, and farming, the latter being the main industry from very early times. Though without doubt the coming of the Grimshawe family had the largest effect on the peaceful valley, in the first half of the nineteenth century, a family still remembered amongst local people with great affection. It was they, the Grimshaws who built Errwood Hall, and brought with them the

prosperity and security for the people of the valley in providing employment.

No one in those lovely early days, could have possibly foreseen that it would all come to an end, with the construction of Fernilee reservoir after 1930.

For visitors travelling by car, there are two main routes into the Goyt Valley. The most popular one which reaches all the car parks in the valley is the A5004, the Long Hill road between Buxton and Whaley Bridge.

The second main route into the valley is via the Cat and Fiddle road, the A537 between Macclesfield and Buxton. Nowadays, owners of motor vehicles must leave their cars etc in the car parks provided here.

This is because of the very necessary one way system now employed due to the very narrow road, winding its way through the mountainous hillside, into the valley.

The Cat and Fiddle inn is a legend itself, standing at 1,690 feet above sea level in one of the wildest remote parts of the Peak District, the second highest public house in England.

There has always been a difference of opinion as to the origins of the Cat and Fiddle name, but the truth is, no one really knows. One is that it came from La Chatte Fidele, an old inn in Devon in memory of a

faithful cat. The Cat and Fiddle was built near the end of the 18th century by Mr. J. Ryle of Macclesfield, a rich banker whose son became the Bishop of Liverpool. Mr. Ryle owned the moors at that time on which the inn was built. When out shooting on the moors, a friend of Mr. Ryles suggested the newly erected inn should be called "Kit Cat" after the once famous "Kit Cat Club" of which he was a member. Or he added, "as the place is high enough for a cow to jump over the moon, why not call it the Cat and Fiddle?"



The Cat and Fiddle Inn, the second highest in England at 1,690 feet. The Trueman family stand near the doorway.

In the winter time the weather up here can be very severe indeed, and over the years there have been several terrible reports.

About the year 1879 a terrible wind carried the roof of the inn completely away onto the moor

some distance behind, and during the winter of 1892 it was impossible to open the front door, or any of the windows for seven weeks, so completely ice-bound were they.

In fact, when the door was opened it was only with the aid of an axe and pick. In the winter of 1880 a well known 'packman' (traveller), was lost in a snowstorm near the "Cat and Fiddle". Tramping along with his bag of smallwares over his shoulder, he became snowblind and almost insensible. Still he marched on thinking he was walking in a straight line, when in reality he was going in a circle. Having become perfectly blind, frozen and speechless, he was discovered by a shepherd after being twenty six hours on foot, with his circular track trodden quite hard. He was taken to the "Cat and Fiddle", and though he recovered, it was long after before he regained the use of his arms. The inn has always been a welcome refuge, as I am sure many modern day walkers will testify. On calm Spring and Summer days, there is a wonderful panorama to see up here. One of the wildest views in England, several counties can be seen stretching onto the dim horizon. It is said that the Welsh mountains and Snowdon can be seen on clear days.

From these heights is found the source of the River Goyt, near Whetstone Ridge, which many

people regard as the true source of the River Mersey, which it eventually joins at Stockport. At first just a gleaming trickle, then dancing over countless boulders, creating wonderful cascades on its endless journey. Then growing into a hasty, rushing stream it is swollen by the steep rocky cloughs of Berry, Stoke, and later Shooters Clough. Then eventually, after its hard fought journey over centuries old gritstone rocks, between heather clad moors, its journey finally ends at Errwood reservoir.

The Cat and Fiddle inn is the one old surviving dwelling that exists in this bleak moorland area. Exists that is from when Samuel Grimshawe bought the land and buildings from about 1840.

There were several notable landlords at the inn from this period, some of whom were also farmers at this time, owning a few acres of land.

John Marsden Wain back in 1851, from 1861, Thomas Cotterill, who was said to be something of a character, and the Trueman family who had the inn for a good number of years. After her husband Joseph died, Elizabeth Trueman kept the inn with her five children after 1890 and beyond.

Almost a mile down the old road towards the start of the Goyt Valley there were at least three other old



Martha Trueman, aged 19. She was a dressmaker.

dwellings. Moss House, also referred to as Marchington Farm, named after Elizabeth Marchington, who was living there in 1841 with her seven children, Moss Hall and Goyts Moss Farm. The site of Goyts' Moss Farm is now occupied by the new Peak Park Ranger building. The later two farms were occupied by several families over the years, the Wards at Goyt Moss, and John Wain moving down from the inn to Moss House after Elizabeth Marchington left, for more than twenty years. There was a stone mason and wheelwright living here too, between the years 1841 and 1891.



As the enclosed map will show, these cottages were surrounded by small coal pits, providing a much needed warmth here on this bleak moorland landscape.

Walking on from this 'Derbyshire Bridge' end as it is known with such scenery that it is difficult to describe. The narrow winding road, with quite lovely ravine views of the River Goyt, deepening now, when after about a mile or so we come to the Packhorse Bridge. This little picturesque bridge, was once part of the hamlet of Goyts Bridge, and was rebuilt here when the valley was flooded for the Errwood reservoir in 1968.

Goytsclough quarry on the opposite side of the road, has a fascinating history. First worked by Thomas Pickford, the start of the Pickfords removal company at around 1670.



The Gatekeepers at Goys Clough.

The Pickford family came from Adlington, south of Manchester and later of nearby Poynton. After the Civil War, Thomas Pickford had his lands sequestrated for co-operating with the cavaliers. He later bought the quarry and engaged in the business of mending roads about c.1695. A contract for paving stones in Macclesfield and a Government contract to supply Regent Street and Oxford Street in London expanded the business.

It was said that trains of up to fifty packhorses would transport these slabs in specially made panniers. Then instead of returning empty,

the packhorses would carry back goods for local towns and villages, making Pickfords a carrier. The business progressed in the 18th century with one James Pickford, the 'London to Manchester waggoner' with headquarters at Blossoms Inn, and at the Bell Inn in Wood Street, Cheapside. General goods were carried at one halfpenny per hundredweight per mile in summer, and at three farthings per hundredweight in the winter. Pickfords are still in business today as one of the major removal and storage companys in Europe.

The Goystclough Paint factory was also here till about 1890, employing up to twenty people. Crushed barytes were made into a powder to be used in the manufacture of paint. This would have been packed in bags and taken by wagon down the valley to be loaded onto the High Peak Railway where it would reach companys further afield. There is still evidence of the four cottages that were here, although small, and of Goysclough Farm, high on the hillside on the left of the clough. The hillside now is shrouded with larch and spruce trees, but a walk up the winding track leads directly to the ruined farm which was quite substantial in its day. Walkers will know this track leads on and upwards to Shining Tor. Several families occupied this hillside farm over the years, the Yeomans in 1861, the Lomas' in 1881, and the well known Braddock family after 1891 with their two sons and daughter. Thomas Braddock was a gamekeeper on the Errwood estate.

The route from the 'Long Hill' road leads directly onto the old Goys Lane, although local people still refer to it as 'Sandy Lane'. After a few yards opposite the cattle grid are the remains of 'Top of the lane' farm, the Gregory family were one of the last tenants here. Moving further along the lane we pass the Catholic shrine, mounted in the

— THE GOYT VALLEY



Goyts Clough Mills.

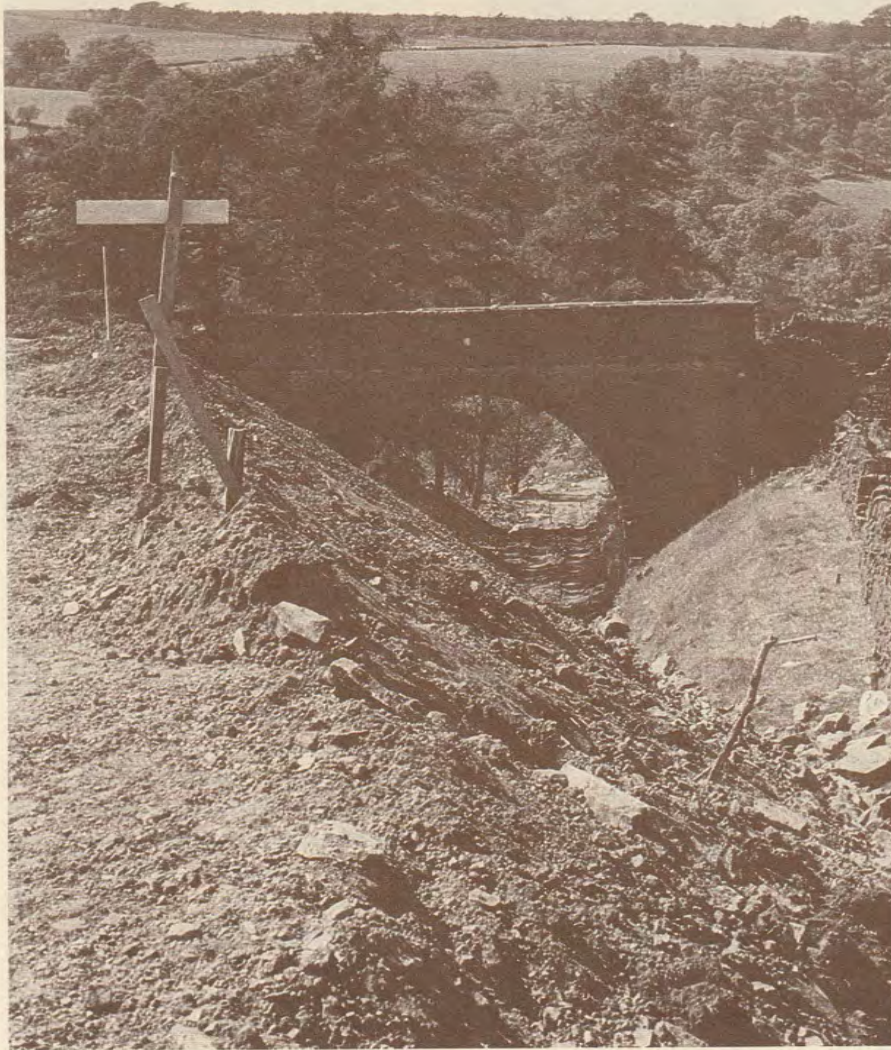
stone wall lining the road. Dedicated to St. Mary it has recently been refurbished and is looked after by St. Annes Church at Buxton. Travelling further down the now steep and winding lane, two car parks are reached with the small reservoir on the left.

The steep straight descent was part of the old High Peak Railway, and this particular section was known as the Bunsall Incline Plain. Trains were hauled up the incline by static steam engines feeding from small reservoirs, one in the middle and one at the top. From the top reservoir we can see the old railway embankment which leads away towards Burbage and Ladmanlow

(above Buxton). The tunnel along here at five hundred yards, was the longest on the High Peak Railway, which ran between Cromford and Whaley Bridge. The Bunsall Incline, which was opened in 1831, was first worked as two separate inclines, the upper one being 660 yards long with a gradient of $1:7\frac{1}{2}$, while the lower one was 455 yards in length, although steeper at $1:7$. On the 8th June 1857 it became one single incline, being then 1,115 yards long and descending some 457 feet into the Goyt Valley. From the bottom of the incline, where close by was Bunsall farm, the line ran more or less on the level, before reaching the smaller Shallcross incline and Whaley Bridge. The railway was

constructed to carry industrial goods such as limestone, coal and many other things. Passengers were carried on a limited basis, though the journey time of five hours was not unusual for the thirty mile trip from Whaley Bridge to Cromford. A Buxton directory of the 1850's gave a timetable from Ladmanlow as, 'one passenger train to Cromford daily at 2.30pm, and to Whaley at 11.30am'. Sadly there were the inevitable accidents on the railway, with farm animals being sometimes killed, although farmers when they applied, were compensated by the railway company.

A terrible fatal accident occurred on the railway and was reported in the local paper, thought to be from the 1800's. It stated that; "At about six o'clock a fatal accident occurred on the Bunsall Plain, (High Peak section). A boy aged eleven years named John George Wilson, pulled a sprag out of a wagon, which set that and some other wagons in motion. Unfortunately the lad got in front of the moving wagons, one of which knocked him down, and went over his body cutting him into two portions killing him instantly." The inquest which was held at the Shadey Oak, Fernilee returned a verdict of accidental death, but recommended the company take severe measures to prevent trespass on their line.



The lower access bridge before it was buried during construction of a new road in 1967.

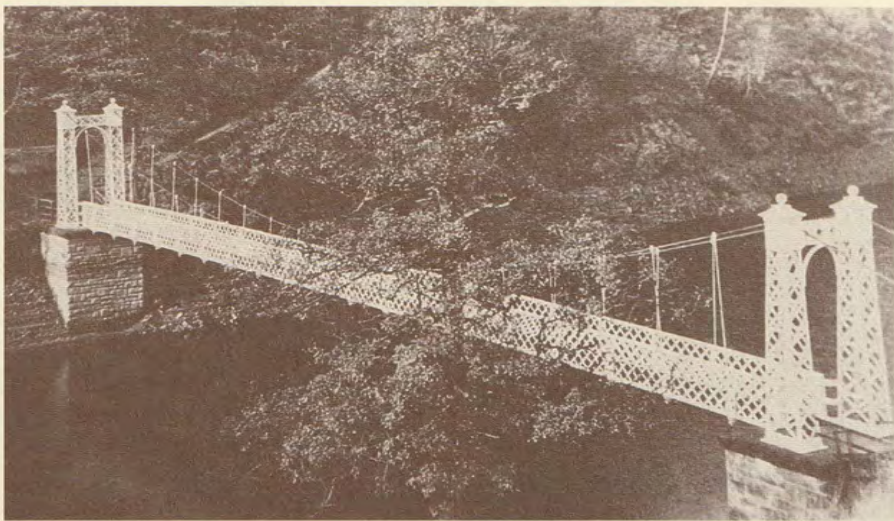
This particular section of the High Peak Railway between Ladmanlow and Shallcross was closed on 25th June 1892 and the railway lines removed very soon afterwards. The reason for closure was the construction of the Hurdlow to Buxton line, and a route to Whaley Bridge was opened via Buxton as an extension of the Stockport, Disley and Whaley Bridge railway. There are magnificent views from the top of the incline of the hills all around, and Fernilee reservoir lying far below. Above the toilet block there is still plenty of evidence of the middle stationary engine house and reservoir, abandoned in 1857, and below of the almost buried access bridge, near where the new road bends sharply left to lead over Errwoods dam wall.

Sheep were very important to Goyt Valley farmers for it was a major part of their livelihood. Early reference around the year 1750 names them as the Dale o' Goyt sheep, or the Limestone Breed. About the year 1850, the farmers of the Goyt began to establish a uniformity in their breed, aiming at a hardy, disease free animal that could survive harsh weather conditions on poor ground, and produce a lively lamb, and a useful carcass. Careful selection and wise matings by these breeding pioneers, produced a recognised type of sheep, able to forage on the poorest grazings, and



Fernilee Reservoir.

to survive the bleakness of the Derbyshire uplands. In October 1906, twenty seven farmers came together, to name the Derbyshire Gritstone and to form the Derbyshire Gritstone Sheep-breeders Society, under the presidency of the Duke of Devonshire, with William J. Clark of Alport, Bakewell as secretary. A flock book followed shortly afterwards listing nineteen flocks of acceptable Gritstone sheep within an area of about eighty square miles, fringed by Macclesfield, Hayfield, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Buxton, with one flock out at Chesterfield to the east. Among these flocks, which included the Earl of Derby's sheep at Wildboarclough, Hellier R.H., Gosselin Grimshawes sheep, the Errwood flock of T.B. Hibbert, and the Goytdale flock of William Trueman at Goyts Bridge, with Henry Hodsons flock at Overhill. All the flocks were of historical interest in development of the breed.



This pretty suspension bridge was removed for the construction of Errwood Reservoir.



William Trueman on left, in bowler hat, with his 'Gritstone Sheep' at the market.

Some Families of the Goyt Valley

There were some thirteen farming families who were tenants to the Grimshawes. Some farms had separate cottages where other families lived like Nook Farm, Errwood, Castedge, and Masters Farm to name a few. Other cottages were the top and bottom lodges, Paint Mills, and Shooters Clough cottage. It was an integrated, close-knit community, with some families being related, though not all were local inhabitants, some coming from very far afield to find work and settle in the valley. Several families moved around occupying different farms over the years, and a number of them became almost household names. Names such as the Hibberts, Oyarzabals, Cowards, Lomas, Braddocks, Hewitts, the Warrens, and many more.

The Hibberts had a long association with the valley and Errwood Hall, and were among some of the last families to live there. Tommy Hibbert had Bunsall Farm, his parent home, while Ben Hibbert who was also a gamekeeper on the estate, ran Goyt's Bridge Farm, where they also served teas. Years later Ben Hibbert would tell his grandchildren when they had Americans for breakfast, that they always put marmalade on their eggs and bacon. This caused him great amusement, and he often told the tale. While over at Bunsall Farm, Prudence Hibbert was well known for her baking skills, fruit cake and



The Lower Lodge, Mrs. Pickup kept a shop here.



Ben Hibbert and wife Martha at Goyts Bridge.

parkin being her speciality. Wines and preserves were all made at Goyt's Bridge and throughout the valley, as most farms had well stocked gardens and fine orchards. Pigs and poultry were also kept, so that most families were quite self sufficient. Parties and goings-on at the Hall were always the subject of local gossip. One such party organised by Miss Mary Grimshawe included her tenants in the winter of 1895.

An excited letter from Mrs Ann Bailey, who then lived at Fernilee Hall Farm to her mother in Macclesfield read as follows: 'Have you seen the grand party we have had at Errwood Hall, it is in the Macclesfield paper. I shall save all the news till I see you. I was never at such a party before in my life. I wish you could have seen it, over a hundred of us. We were invited for five o'clock and we stayed until four the next morning.'

Entertainment to Tenants. Saturday January 19th 1895.

'A very interesting and pleasant gathering took place at Errwood Hall last Wednesday week, when Miss Grimshawe and Captain the Hon. E. Preston and Mrs Preston (Errwood Hall) entertained the tenantry and tradesmen of the district to dinner. The tenants and others assembled at the Hall for five o'clock. For the first portion of the evening, they were entertained with

a lantern exhibition. The views were illustrative of the Prince of Wales' journey from Custon to New York and also of the Prince's Indian tour. Dinner was then served in the spacious dining hall. The tables were beautifully decorated with flowers &c., the work of the Hon. Mrs E. Preston and the proceedings were enlivened by music. The following was the menu:- Chicken prattles, roast round, and sirloin of beef, venison, roast turkeys and pheasant, game pies &c., boars head, plum puddings, mince pies, orange jelly &c., Dessert; apples, oranges, grapes, bananas, pineapples, &c., iced cakes and sweets. Wines; port, sherry, claret, champagne, punch.

Among those present, in addition to the tenantry were Father McKenna and Miss Gaskell of Ingersley Hall. After dinner had been partaken of, dancing was indulged in, Miss Grimshawe opening. This continued until four o'clock next morning.

Everyone heartily enjoyed the evening. A vote of thanks to Miss Grimshawe, the Hon. E. Preston and Mrs Preston was proposed by Father McKenna, and the proposition being heartily received Captain the Hon. E. Preston responded. This is only one of the many kindnesses which Miss Grimshawe is continually showing to her tenantry.'



Ben Hibbert on the Errwood Estate.



Truemans at Entrance to Errwood, about 1903.



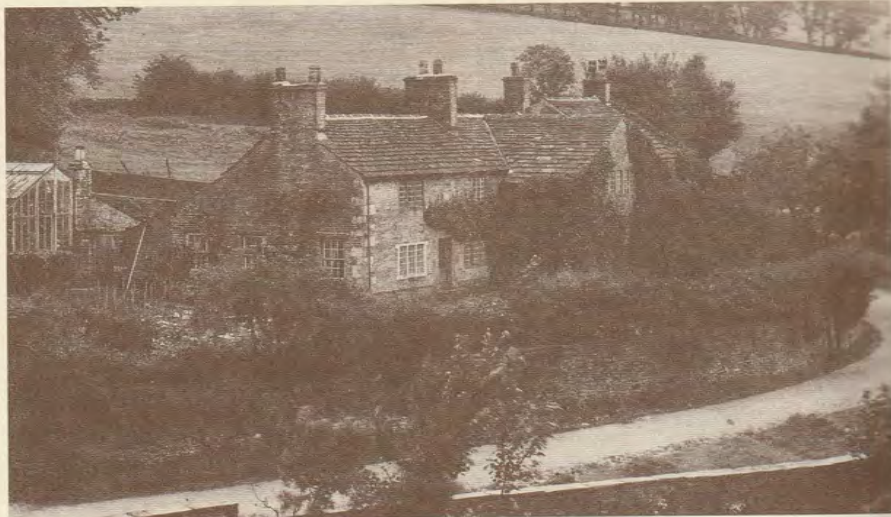
*Ignatious Oyarzabal with Francis Hibbert,
daughter of Ben.*

The very near neighbours of the Hibberts were the Oyarzabals who lived at the gatehouse and gardeners cottage, which had a huge greenhouse at the back with a large vegetable garden most of which would have supplied the Hall.

Ignatious Oyarzabal, the head of the family, came from Spain. His was an adventurous story, for he came to Errwood in 1871 as a young lad aboard the 'Mariquita', the Grimshawe's private yacht. The family in that year had holidayed in the Mediterranean, visiting Italy and Spain. He repaid Samuel Grimshawe's kindness by working hard, and rose to the rank of butler while his wife Bridgett who had worked at the Hall ran the school which was not far from the rear of their cottage. Their second son Joseph carried on family tradition and became estate manager.

Some other farms with their last tenants were:-

- Stubbin Farm (Matt Wilson)
- Intake Farm (J. Williamson)



The Gatehouse and Gardeners Cottage.



Ben Hibbert working the forest at Errwood.



The Lowe family at Masters Farm.

- Fernilee Hall Farm (Albert Warren)
- Errwood Farm (A. Warren) cottage let to Mrs Hanshaw.
- Upper Hall (J. Etchells) cottage let to Fred Hodgson.
- Brownhill Farm (Joule family)
- The Hollows (Mr & Mrs Renshaw - Jim Lomas)
- Paint Mill Cottages (Swindell family)
- Shaw Style Farm (Claytons) (Lomas).

Another well known name, was that of Tom Coward, who at first lived with his family at the bottom of Sandy Lane, at the farm and tea rooms there. He was employed as coachman about the year 1899 to the Grimshawe family. Delicious cream teas were served here which some older visitors may wistfully remember.

After a few years, Tom with wife and sons Jack and Joe moved down to Whaley Bridge where they took over the White Hart Hotel. It was from here that they ran their taxi business with coach and horses, but still doing work for the Grimshawes'. Motor cars were used after 1919.

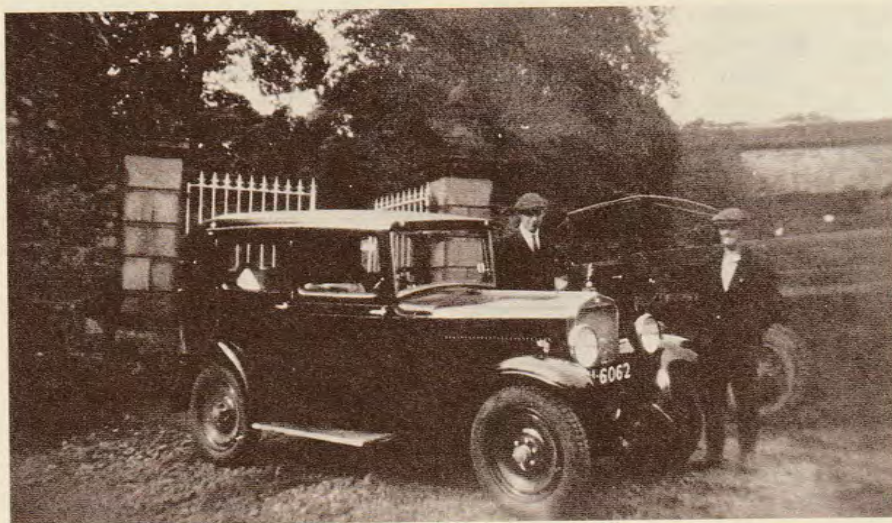
The few cottages and farms with their tea rooms that made up the hamlet of Goyt's Bridge, is perhaps the most remembered and revered place. It was the meeting of the waters, with the River Goyt, the stream from Shooters Clough and Wildmoorstone brook. Crystal clear waters which could quickly rise in downpours from the moors above, but become tranquil, dancing and sparkling over smooth gritstone rocks. River banks and hedgerows that supported those first tender leafed flowers of spring, and those bursting summer blooms in proud cottage gardens. Victorian visitors travelled many miles in their horsedrawn carriages, not just to see the wonderful Goyt Valley in summer, but to admire and enjoy the gardens with their variety and beauty.

Then to take tea in one of the welcoming tea rooms, such was the reputation of Goyt's Bridge. Little wonder now that people regarded it a special magical place, and a privilege to have been a visitor in a truly rainbows end.

The school at Errwood, for the estate children was first set up at the Hall, then a proper building was constructed near the bottom of the drive, about fifty yards from the rear of the Gatehouse Cottage. It was a wooden structure having a corrugated iron roof with an iron stove in the middle, boys sitting on one side and girls on the other. The school was started at the suggestion of Miss Dolores, the Spanish lady who was a companion to old Mrs Grimshawe towards the end of the 19th century. She taught needlework and other subjects and was helped by Mrs Bridgett Oyarzabal. After Miss Dolores died, Mrs Oyarzabal continued to run the school for some years then more qualified teachers were employed, a Miss Whelan and Mrs Rourke. Children would walk some distance from outlying farms such as Nook Farm near Rake End, Masters Farm, down the valley and others and would attend till the age of fourteen. The school is remembered as being a happy but strict place where they learnt the three r's. As well as classroom studies, the children would go on little excursions in the summer time. One such exploration was a walk up the 'Street' and across the fields to St. Joseph's Shrine, then call on their way back at the coal mine for a lesson on its origins. Twice a week the children had cookery lessons from the chef at the



The White Hart, kept by Tom Coward, in the centre of Whaley Bridge.



Tom Coward by the car and Joseph Oyarzabal, the agent of the estate, at the Lodge Gates, about 1930.

Hall. After he had told them how to prepare a meal, it was cooked at the nearby cottage for the children's dinner. There were special services held at the Hall for the children, both Catholic and non-Catholic and one well remembered was the 'shot gun salute'.

On the Feast of Corpus Christi, all the scholars walked in procession from the Grimshawe's private chapel through the garden to the terrace, where Benediction was given. The great moment came when the Blessed Sacrament was borne through the front doors of the Hall. The gamekeepers, with other men - employed on the estate, fired a dramatic salute with their shot guns, and after the service the children went back to the school for a grand feast, followed by fun and games. Long after they had left the school, the ladies of Errwood were always interested to learn how their scholars were getting on. At the start of the first World War, a roll of honour was placed on the chapel door bearing the names of all the old scholars serving in the armed forces. Four of them paid the supreme sacrifice. W. Braddock, P. Heather, W. Lowe and A. Lupton, while quite a number were wounded. Towards the end of August 1930, there was a great cloudburst and flood, which did great damage to the drives and roadways. Perhaps this was a portent

of things to come. Even up Shooters Clough at the coal mine their Ford one ton lorry was washed away and broken beyond repair, and the banks of the stream torn away. Down at the Gatehouse cottage, Mr. Oyarzabal and wife fled upstairs with their parrot, fearful they would become engulfed. The flood did eventually subside to leave terrible damage that took some months to repair.

When Stockport Corporation bought the Errwood Estate, farmers and their families in the upper Goyt Valley had to leave to live elsewhere. The land was needed for the Fernilee reservoir and though some farms were situated away from the reservoir they were pulled down for fear of pollution to the water, and many fields were to meet a watery grave. These families and their children would know the pain of leaving such a wonderful valley, and none more so than the Warrens of Fernilee Hall Farm. Farmer Albert Warren decided that so much of his land was lost to the dam builders, that he would move to a new life in Warwickshire. It was described at the time in a local paper as a 'Noah's Ark' on wheels. for it was decided to move everything, that meant all the animals and farm implements, by train. Pickfords were the company that packed and moved all the household furniture and fittings, but for the animals it

was a different story. It was scarcely light when the sixty odd cows were milked on the land on which most of them were born and bred. Then they had to be herded along the road, more than two and a half miles to Whaley Bridge station. All the neighbouring farmers and friends helped to get the animals on board the train, which included sixty cows, horses, seven calves, hens and ducks, two dogs, farm implements and some furniture. Some crates had been loaded on wagons overnight. The whole event, which was on the 29th September 1932, was filmed for Pathe News at the time, an event still vividly remembered by some local people.



Father Marks at the main Goyts Bridge, 1908.



Flood damage at Goyts Bridge, 1930.

Hewitts
'The Coal Mine'
Castedge
Christmas at
Errwood

The coal mine of Errwood was worked by the Hewitt family. They came to live at Shooters Clough cottage vacated by one of the gamekeepers who left to live up near the Cat and Fiddle inn. The cottage was situated at the little known corner of Castedge, which is at the top of the cobbled drive to the rear of the Hall below the cemetery hill. There was a large farm here too which had its own small cottage. This area of Castedge nestling at the head of a hanging valley is a very picturesque place with a few old oak trees and pines stretching out to the distant hills. A walk from here leads up to the Catholic shrine to St. Joseph, while another some two miles to the west winds up and over to the Cat and Fiddle where in the 1920's



The ruins of the farm at Castedge. Above is the flattened area for the tennis courts.



The ruins of Shooters Clough Cottage in the foreground, next to the orchard and bracken choked kitchen garden.

youngsters of the valley would attend dances at the inn, returning down the steep moonlit track during the early hours. Errwood Hall's kitchen garden was set here at Castedge where there remains a single stump from the orchard, choked by the encircling bracken in summer months. Here too were the greenhouses which had to supply the Hall throughout the year. In this area were the tennis courts while further upstream was the private swimming pool.

The coal mine was very important for not only did it supply the Hall but the whole of the Errwood estate and farms. It was particularly favoured by local blacksmiths as it was a good 'caking' coal for forge work. In fact it was said that people came with their horse and carts from far and wide for the coal, but little money changed hands. They were usually paid in kind, cheese, meat or eggs, or something.

The Hewitt family, Mary and Jack, with sons Leonard and Joe, daughters Phillis and Brenda who was later born at the cottage, came to re-open the Errwood mine.

Previous to their arrival the mine had been neglected for a while, and the coal needed for the Hall had to be transported from Whaley Bridge, and was not a satisfactory arrangement. So the Hewitts were welcomed to Errwood, especially as it was known father Jack Hewitt was

a trained mining engineer. But as Joe Hewitt described years later there was much work to be done to open the mine and it took some eight weeks to complete the task. Three wooden tubs were made amongst other things, then the mine had to be passed by a mining surveyor-inspector called John Mort, who came from Manchester.

The coal mine actually extended some 1,700 to 1,800 yards into the hillside, being only four feet high at the highest point. The Hewitt family were helped by two other miners, Johnny Lowe, and Fred Bagshaw. Joe said they would extract between four and six tubs of coal a day, but time meant little in those days, a bell they called the 'angelis' was rung at the Hall 6, 9, 12 was for lunch, 4 to 4.30 was tea, then 6 and 10 o'clock in the evening. Often said Joe, they wouldn't start till 10.00am, 'then do a stint'. The huge fireplace at the Hall would take a few hundred-weights of coal and when they went they would get a jug of beer, so they always made sure the coal place was well and truly stacked up. When the young gentry came to visit the Hall they would ask to visit the mine, and would be pushed in a tub deep inside for a piece of coal which they would wrap in a handkerchief to show their friends. Joe said they would get a 'pound' so they always eagerly looked forward to their visits.

Joe remembered on Saturdays, when he wasn't helping his father at the mine, he would help at the Hall. This would include mopping passages, filling oil lamps, cleaning all the ladies shoes, and helping to polish the silver. For these chores he would get 3/6d (about 22p), which was a vast sum in those days, especially when it included lunch. Also when he was asked, while still at school, to act as footman on the Grimshawe carriage, to either Buxton or Whaley Bridge. He was fitted out with the beige coloured uniform and boots, but the black peaked cap had to be packed with newspaper. As Joe often said it was a 'wonderful life'.

Christmas at Errwood was always a special time, especially for the children, a time when it always seemed to snow. If you could imagine, the pine trees, their branches laden with the weight of snow, stretching to the distant moonlight horizon.

The Hall, with every room brightly lit with oil lamps, shining out a great welcome to all, at this lovely festive time. There would be about fifty people from the estate with some tradesmen who lived in surrounding villages, all arriving for the party at six o'clock, when the 'angelis' bell was rung. The owners who in the 1920's were the Hon. Mrs Preston, and Mr & Mrs Gosselin



This was the Smithy near the mine. The damage was caused by the flash flood in 1930. They had a circular saw here for making pit props.

Grimshawe, were waiting on the steps outside the Hall to welcome each and every family, as they arrived. People would move excitedly inside to see the great Christmas tree, the centre of attraction for the children, who each had a present. After the greetings, everyone would move into the great hall, where the billiard table was laden with all the Christmas fayre, turkeys, pork, beef with cakes, trifles, and plum puddings. All prepared by the French chef, with plenty of wine and punch to follow. Then eventually into the great room known as the servants hall, where everyone sat around the sides of the room for dancing, for many the highlight of the evening. At about 10 o'clock or so the ladies of the house would appear and be taken around the room in the Spanish custom of dancing by Mr. Oyarzabal and always had a great time. After midnight Mass, given by the resident priest, everyone wished a happy Christmas to each other, then every family was given a hamper and had hot whisky punch, brought round in silver bowls by the servants. All assembled then outside in the cold night air to sing carols, with the owners and their guests listening on the steps. Yes, said Joe, it was a wonderful time and a 'wonderful life'.

The Hewitts lived later at the tea rooms at the bottom of Sandy Lane, still working the coal mine. Joe had a little hut near the Goyt's Bridge and in summertime sold sweets drinks and ice-cream. To make the ice-cream he had to carry huge blocks of ice from Buxton on the pillion of his motorcycle. Many was the time said sister Brenda when she had a lift on the ice from Buxton to save the long walk home. Ice-cream she said, always left her with a lasting impression.



Goyts Bridge Cafe.



The place for 'cream teas'.



Shooters Clough Cottage at Castedge. Brenda Hewitt on the right with the Nall family.

The Grimshawes of Errwood Hall

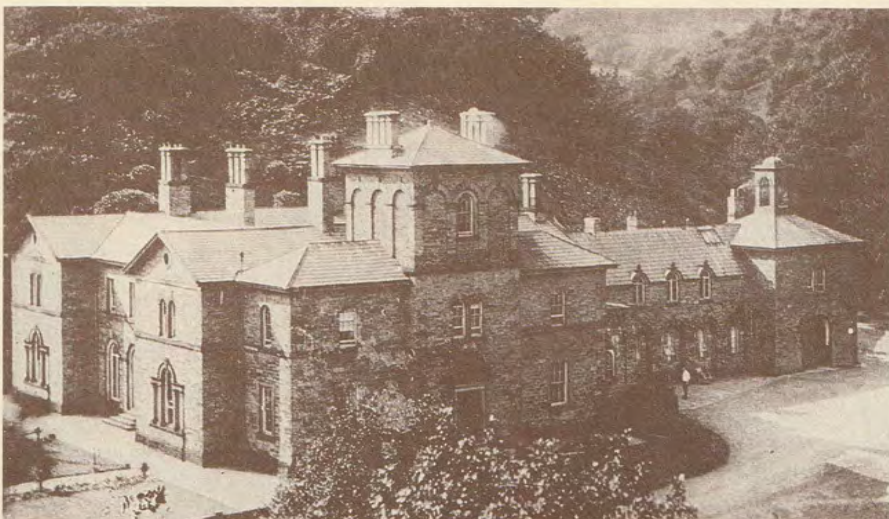
Samuel Grimshawe, (1768-1851) came from a rich merchant family in Manchester. He was the son of a Manchester merchant of the same name (Samuel Grimshawe), and married to Anne the daughter of Otho Hume, a member of the Pitt Club. The son, Samuel a pupil of Manchester Grammar School, held the office of Borough Reeve, for which he was qualified by previous duty as Sidesman at the Collegiate Church and as a constable. In 1824 he was living in Mosely Street. He was the member of the important conservative 'Shaws Club', and his entry in the membership list of 1825 reads; 'Grimshawe Samuel, Millbank, at T. Heywood's, Old Quay. Merchant. Aged 55. Grammar School. Court Leet Juryman and Assessor. Sidesman. Natural History Society. Director of Manchester Assurance Company. Married with son and daughter.'



Errwood Hall, pictured about 1906.



The ornamental archway and the fountain at Errwood Hall.



The Hall in its heyday.



A fine view of the Hall on a misty, winters day.

Samuel II, lived some twenty years in Mosely Street, while two of Samuel's sisters lived in nearby George Street. It was about this time that Samuel Grimshawe went to live at Mill Bank, a house on the banks of the Mersey at Partington, which formed part of an old-established works and property, apparently acquired by the Grimshawes or the Hulmes. Before the mid-eighteenth century there had been a works there for 'slitting and rolling' iron and when that gave way to a corn mill, a tariff arrangement was made with the Mersey and Irwell Navigation, and the millers corn transport was tied to the Navigation for 1,000 years, 'so long as the River Mersey and Irwell shall remain navigable'. There had been a paper mill here in the eighteenth century at Mill Bank. Samuel was on the Mersey and Irwell Navigation Committee and made considerable use of its facilities.

Old Quay was its terminus, though he still kept his house at Mosely Street. It was after 1835 that he began negotiations with John William Jodrell of Yeadsley Hall and purchased 2,064 acres of the Taxal Valley which included the Cat and Fiddle inn. But Samuel Grimshawe was promptly met by a challenge from the Earl of Derby. His Lordship owned extensive lands in the adjoining Macclesfield Forest, and alleged that the Cat and Fiddle was on that side of the

boundary, therefore on his land. Grimshawe would have none of it. He brought the old men of Taxal together before a Master Extraordinary in Chancery, and one Daniel Downes swore before the Master that he knew all about the boundaries. He was shown the boundaries as a young lad by a previous owner of the Taxal Moors, who had told him 'I'll show thee where the boundary goes, it may be of use to thee some time. Thou art a young lad.' Dan's recollections were too much for his Lordship of Derby and the Cat and Fiddle remained with the Grimshawes. Samuel Grimshawe II continued to live at Millbank, Partington, and still kept his house and business going there, while his son Samuel III was living with his mother and sister Margaret at the old Errwood Farm in 1841. They were probably living there while Errwood Hall was being built, with no doubt Samuel supervising the work.

Samuel, the younger, was born in Manchester in 1811 and after receiving an early private education, he entered Brasenose College, Oxford, at the age of eighteen. He graduated as B.A. in 1830 and M.A. in 1833 and it was here he was influenced by John Henry Newman, eminent theologian, of Oriel College, who was a founder of the Oxford Movement.



Ingersley Hall, the home of the Gaskell family.

The movement, also called the 'Tractorian' movement because of the large number of 'Tracts' wrote to the Times, advocating their cause. Other leaders were Henry Manning, John Keble, E.B. Pusey, and R.H. Fraude. Newman, Manning and others became life long friends and converted to Catholicism, but not yet Samuel Grimshawe.

In 1843, Samuel's sister Margaret Elizabeth, was married at Taxal Parish Church to John Upton Gaskell of Ingersley Hall, near Bollington. The Gaskells were friends of the Grimshawes and fellow mill owners and indeed

frequented the same Manchester club, 'John Shaw's'. Thomas Gaskell, John Upton's father being president from 1824-1833. One of the mills at Ingersley Vale was said to have the second largest water wheel in the British Isles, fifty six feet in diameter and ten feet six inches across the buckets. It was a walk or fulling mill producing 'Fustian', a type of heavy corduroy cloth.

Samuel was married in Edinburgh in June 1849 as the marriage notice described in a Scottish newspaper: 'At 5, Hillside Crescent, on the 18th instant by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Madras, Samuel

Grimshawe Esq., only son of S. Grimshawe, Esq., of Errwood Hall and Mill Bank, Cheshire, to Jessie Hunter, eldest daughter of Alexander Allan, Esq.,

The following few years were mixed with joy and sadness. Great joy of a son, Samuel Arthur Hope, born in May 1850, but marred in June of the same year of the death of Samuel's mother Anne. She lies buried at Taxal Church where there is a plaque erected by Margaret Elizabeth Grimshawe the daughter, in memoriam to her parents, for her father, Samuel II died some seven months later, but is not buried at Taxal, as the plaque seems to suggest, but at St. Peter's Church, Manchester.

Samuel II of Errwood Hall, Taxal, and Mill Bank, Manchester, died on the 27th January 1851. An extract from his will, made 13th December 1848, bequeathed to his son in law, John Upton Gaskell of Ingersley Hall, and his Manchester solicitor, the sum of £5,000 to be invested in government stock, bonds etc., in trust to the benefit of his wife Ann Grimshawe, the remainder to be divided between his son Samuel and daughter Margaret Elizabeth Gaskell. He also requested that his house and grounds at Mill Bank be kept up and maintained for his wife, with the remainder of the estate to his son Samuel III. However, since his wife's death there was a codicil



Pictured in 1880, Errwood servants and keepers. William McAuliffe, the Chaplain, is near the centre.



The 14th Viscount Gormanston and Viscountess with their children, left to right: Richard Martin Peter, Ismay Lucretia Mary, Jenico Edward Joseph, Hubert Anthony John. At the top (seated) are Major Rawlinson, Private Secretary, and Miss Manley, Governess.

to the will dated 2nd August 1850. 'Whereas my wife Ann Grimshawe has since departed this life and I have since given my daughter Margaret Elizabeth Gaskell the sum of £2,500, the bequests formerly made to them are hereby revoked. Furthermore my dwellinghouse, outbuildings, offices and premises in King Street, Manchester to go to my daughter Margaret, in lieu of the £2,000 granted to her under her marriage settlement'. The estate valued at about £14,000 went to his son Samuel III.

The founder and builder of Errwood Hall at the age of 83 had now gone, but he had realised his ambition of a gentleman's country seat, in probably one of the most romantic locations in Cheshire.

Hardly had the family overcome the passing of old Samuel than the young infant, Samuel Arthur Hope Grimshawe died at the age of fifteen months. He died on the 4th August 1851 at the Hall, the cause of death given as enteritis. One can only guess of the pain of such a tragic loss that must have been felt not only in the family, but throughout the whole of the Errwood estate.

Errwood Hall, which in those early years lay just inside the boundary of Cheshire, was designed by Alexander Beresford Hope, (Hon. PRIBA 1829-87) who inherited Beresford Hall, Staffordshire from his kinsman, Field Marshall

Viscount Beresford. It was one of this gifted amateurs earliest buildings, being built from c.1840. Beresford Hope, politician, ecclesiologist and amateur architect, (like his father Thomas) was chiefly remembered for building in Gothic, though Errwood was Italianate with Norman details. The Hall was a turreted, double winged structure of millstone grit sandstone, of some Italian style, with a central tower and a chapel, which formed the upper storey of an extension to the northern end. A French window opened onto a terraced garden at the southern end, with wide steps leading up to the main entrance. The Hall faced east towards Long Hill on the Buxton to Stockport road.

Over the front door was the crest of the Grimshawe's, a dragon and a small coat of arms. In the garden stood a large ornamented stone arch surmounted by a bird and a large G, its remains now long gone, where it stood among the small fountain and flower beds. High in a window in the central tower there was always a crucifix with a lamp shining before it. From here must have been the best view of all looking over the trees and down to Goyt's Bridge.

By now in 1851, the Grimshawe family were well established at the Hall and had acquired nine



Captain Edward Francis Preston.

servants. It was at this time that Samuel Grimshawe declared his conversion to Catholicism, and had the upper storey of the northern extension of the Hall made into a private Catholic Chapel. He was received into the Church as Samuel Dominic Grimshawe.

Dedicated to St. Mary, it was opened on the 8th October 1851 by the Bishop of the Diocese in the presence of about five hundred persons from Macclesfield and the neighbourhood. The Bishop, James Brown, was the first Catholic Bishop of Shrewsbury and he preached to the crowd in the open air. The first resident Chaplain at the Hall was Henry Allcock.

In the 1851 census Samuel Grimshawe gave his profession as 'Land Proprietor' and it is known

that property was bought at this time in neighbouring Manchester and its suburbs. There are places in Levenshulme which bear history to the Grimshawe name, 'Errwood Road' being just one. There is little doubt that they were indeed a very wealthy family.

On the 7th December 1851, Samuel and his wife Jessie were blessed with a daughter, Mary Ambrose Jemina Louisa, who was born at Errwood Hall. She was baptized at St. Albans Church, Macclesfield on the 2nd February 1851 by John Hall. The godfather was Rev. H.E. Manning and the godmother Lady Louisa Stewart.

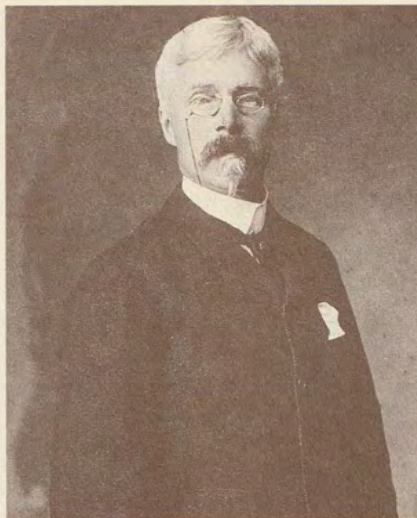
One year later a second daughter was born, Anne Genevieve Marie, in Paris, when the family were on a visit to France.

By 1861 Samuel Grimshawe had become a County Magistrate for Derby and Chester, and was maintaining quite a sizeable cosmopolitan household. The daughters Mary and Genevieve. had their own young ladies maid and a German governess from Munich, while there was a French butler, several Irish maids, gardeners, and a Lancashire cook. There was also a visiting artist, W.H. Bower, who may have been involved in portrait work.

Samuel Grimshawe, became very generous to the Catholic Church, not least in the year 1860 when he



Servants pictured outside the Hall, taken about 1903.



Helier Gosselin.



Mary Grimshawe.



The drive around the Monkey Puzzle Tree to the Hall, the tree now long gone.

gave £100 towards the cost of St. Annes Church at Buxton. On the 9th February it is recorded Mr & Mrs Grimshawe subscribed £500 towards the cost of a new Church at Stockport. Then on the 4th August 1860, the laying of the foundation stone of St. Annes Church, Buxton, by Genevieve Grimshawe when seven years old. The health of Samuel Grimshawe and his family was proposed during the dinner that followed the ceremony, which was at Errwood Hall. At this time the Catholic Church was hard pressed for funds to maintain its services to a growing congregation, and the support of an eminent County Magistrate, with the wealth and position of Samuel Grimshawe, was no doubt most welcome.

The young Grimshawe daughters would have had a good education, for apart from the excellent governess, they were surrounded at

Errwood Hall by an absolute wealth of books. It was Anthony Powell who said 'books do furnish a room', and this was certainly the case here, books in the study, the upstairs sitting room and eleven more cupboards in other places. Volume after volume, from Lewis Carroll, Hans Christen Anderson to Bronte, Shakespeare and Ruskin, with many language books, especially Spanish, German, and French. There were lots of Charles Dickens with many of them first editions, in fact books on every subject. Travel books too were a great highlight of the library, the Nile, Africa, 'How I found Livingstone', 'Round the World', 'Cook's Voyages' and many more.

In 1870 Samuel Grimshawe became the owner of the yacht 'Mariquita', an ocean sailing ship, perhaps he had developed a thirst for travel, or maybe he wished to broaden his horizons. There is little doubt this must have pleased his teenage daughters, who would have been eighteen and nineteen years old by this time.

They had already travelled previously to France as Samuel and brother in law, John Upton Gaskill had business interests in coal mining there, near Paris, indeed Genevieve Grimshawe was born there. So they were not strangers to overseas travel. In fact during 1871 they were on board the Mariquita, with Captain John Butler sailing on

the Mediterranean, visiting Spain and Italy, leaving a skeleton staff at the Hall. They were after all, living during an age of travel, invention and famous people. There were musicians, composers, such as Grieg, Brahms, Offenbach, the writers and poets, Kipling and Browning in this great Victorian age. The family continued to travel and kept the yacht into the eighteen eighties, sometimes bringing back foreign servants to work at Errwood. As previously mentioned in an earlier chapter, the Grimshawe family loved parties and to entertain their guests, many of them titled. The following report from a local newspaper, dated 6th September 1873, included a treat to their tenants:- 'Festival at Errwood Hall. On Wednesday the coming of age of the daughters of S. Grimshawe, Esq., of Errwood Hall, was celebrated by giving a treat to all their tenants and others. Prizes were offered for the different games, such as donkey race, hurdle race, foot race and sack race. Also a pig chase, the pig to become the property of the person lucky enough to catch it. After the sports a sumptuous spread was laid out in a marquee on the ground. Dancing was the principal attraction for the rest of the evening.' This was a period on the estate, when they had shooting parties in the season, with many of them titled guests of the Grimshawes, so many guests that



View from the rear of the Gatehouse Cottage.



Bengoe Hall, Herts. The home of Helier Gosselin.



Playing around the 'Name Tree' at the rear of the Errwood School.



Charles Noufflard, son-in-law of Sir Charles Hallé with keeper W. Braddock in 1911.

sometimes there was not enough room at the Hall, and some guests would stay the night at the gatehouse cottage.

Sadly, Samuel Dominic Grimshawe died at the Hall on the 20th April 1883, with the estate passing to his wife Jessie. There followed a very impressive Catholic burial at the private cemetery on the hill behind the Hall, with many of the Catholic clergymen in attendance; The Very Rev. Canon Sheenan, V.G., Manchester; Very Rev Canons Frith, Walker, Allan, Callagher, Monsgrs Cressdell, V.G., and Kershaw, V.G.; Fathers Robinson, Allixis, Willibrood, Lawless, Allen, Butler (Friar Monastery, Haverstock Hill), Bell, Browne, Singleton, Maurice, Stanton and Power, with two Sisters from Bon Secours Convent, followed by the chief mourners:- the widow of the deceased, leaning on her brother, Colonel Allan, the Misses Grimshawe, Miss Gaskill, Miss Munster, Mr. Killminister, Capt and Mrs Butler, Mr. J.P. Munster, Dr. Darwin, The Fern, Buxton; Dr. C. Bennett, Dr. Robertson, Rev. G. Robertson, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Carter, Mr & Mrs Sawyer, Mr. Rickett, Mr. J. Downes, Mr. Thompson, Miss Murphy, and others, followed by the tenantry and crowds of inhabitants from the neighbouring villages, who came to pay their last tribute of respect to their deceased friend and benefactor.

The Bishop of Shrewsbury conducted the service afterwards in the chapel at the Hall.

On the 21st January 1891, Genevieve at the age of thirty seven was married to Edward Francis John Preston, forty five years of age. The ceremony took place at the Oratory, Kensington, in London by the second Bishop of Shrewsbury, Edmund Knight. Genevieve at the time of marriage, was staying at the Grimshawe's London home of 80, Queens Gate, Kensington. They later left for a honeymoon in the South of France.

Edward Francis Preston was a distinguished military gentleman, and came from a very distinguished family. He was the second son of the 13th Viscount Gormanston, born in 1845, Captain late of the 9th Lancers, Lieutenant Lancashire Yeomanry Hussars 1873-80, late A.D.C. to the Duke of Abercorn, D.L., J.P. co. Meath, J.P. co. Dublin. He was a member of St. Georges Yacht Club. The family seat of the Gormanston's was Gormanston Castle, County Meath, Ireland. The marriage of Genevieve to Captain Preston brought a long association of the Preston family with Errwood Hall and they, with their children, were to visit the estate on many occasions.

Ten years after her husband, the death of Mrs Jessie Grimshawe occurred on the 6th December



Esmé Preston and dog Netto in 1909.



Esmé's sisters, Antoinette, Hermione and Irene.



Daphne, Georgina and Penelope Preston.

1893 in London. Her body was brought back to her beloved Errwood, where it lay in state according to the custom of the Catholic Church, until the time of the appointed funeral. The burial took place on Thursday 13th December, beside the remains of her husband Dominic in the private cemetery on the hill behind the Hall. It was attended by a great number of Catholic clergy and many people journeyed to Errwood to witness the solemn proceedings, and to express their sympathy.

The Grimshawes continued to help the Catholic Church, and it was they who bought the land at Whaley Bridge for the building of the 'Sacred Heart'. The land was purchased from Mr. Jodrell for the sum of £500, and the grand opening of the Church took place in September 1900. Their circle of

friends included many eminent people of the time including Cardinal Vaughan, the third Archbishop of Westminster, formerly the Bishop of Salford, a lifelong friend of Samuel Dominic Grimshawe, and the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., and Sir Charles and Lady Halle, all were influential ladies and gentlemen and friends of the Grimshawes who would have been frequent visitors to the Hall.

Other local friends were the Swindells at Bollington. They were mill owners there and employed many local people.

On the 16th July 1902, Mary Grimshawe, aged fifty one years, married Hellier Robert Hadsley Gosselin, fifty three years, of Bengoe Hall, Hertford. They were married, like sister Genevieve, at the Brompton Oratory, Kensington in London by the Bishop of Shrewsbury. The bride was given away by her uncle, General Allan, and the best man was Mr. P. J. Lynch. There were two bridesmaids, Miss Esme Preston and Miss E. Gosselin, the latter the youngest daughter of Sir Martin Gosselin. The bride and bridegroom received many presents from their respective relatives, the Prestons, Gosselins, and from Lady Gormanston. There were also presents from the servants of both Errwood Hall, and Bengoe Hall. A recherche breakfast was laid

at Ennismore Gardens, London, the Hon. Mrs Preston entertaining the guests, after which the bride and bridegroom left for the South of France to spend their honeymoon.

Hellier Robert Hadsley Gosselin was another distinguished gentleman, coming from a very distinguished family of Norman, French descent. He was the second son of M.H. Gosselin, J.P., of Ware Priory, Herts, by daughter of Admiral Sir John Marshall; born at Wallfield, Hertford in 1849 and educated at Haileybury College. J.P. for the county of Herts; a member of Herts County Council; Alderman Hertford Borough Council; 1897-98 and 1898-99; High Sheriff 1906; assumed the additional name of Grimshawe by Deed Poll, 1902. Admiral Thomas le Marchant Gosselin was Helier's grandfather. the name Helier, incidently comes from St. Helier's, Jersey, where some of the family had originated from. Mr. Gosselin-Grimshawe was a courteous unassuming, essentially quiet man, who had the regard of everyone who had the privilege to be in his company.

He had travelled round the world and to Iceland and was very interested in antiquarian research. From 1884 to 1902 he was secretary to the Royal Archeological Institute. He kept up his office on the Hertford County Council until 1913, travelling to Bengoe Hall



Georgina and Penelope Preston with their nurse in Ireland.

from Errwood by train. If someone was taken ill on the Errwood estate, Mr. Gosselin would show a keen interest and always pay a visit with his wife Mary. He was in return well respected, by the valley community.

This was especially a happy place where children played, for as well as being their home, this was also their private playground. When the snows came, it was a season of great delight not only for the children, but for the young ladies and staff at the Hall, when sledging would take place on the hill behind Castedge. Everyone would join in, often just leaving the housekeeper alone with the owners until the early hours, singing and shouting happily all night long, such a great event it was. Summertime brought lots of visitors

to Errwood and after 1891 many of these were the Preston family with their children, some of whom came from Ireland. The family of Arthur James Preston and his wife Christina Maria Dundas came from Silverstream, co. Dublin. Their four daughters were visitors to the Hall, one of them, Ina Esme Hilda was to stay a very long time. She was the second of the four sisters, Antoinette Eileen Maude, the eldest, Hermione Kathleen Mary, and Marguerite Irene the youngest, and they were cousins to Capt. Edward Francis Preston, who married Genevieve. After Arthur James Preston died sadly in 1896, Esme, when she was about six years old, came to stay at Errwood after her mother was taken ill. Esme who at first was rather homesick had her sister Antoinette to stay with her for six months, but she did see her other sisters from time to time. Captain Preston and his wife Genevieve could not have children, so Esme became adopted though not legally. Always the favourite she was virtually brought up at Errwood and indeed spent most of her early life there.

It was a great shock and sadness that Captain Preston died on the 1st March 1901 at the early age of fifty six. He died while on a visit to Mentone, near Monte Carlo, France. He was extremely well liked by all who knew him. His body was

brought home to Errwood, and his coffin borne by members of the family and farming tenants, to the private burial ground behind the Hall. There were many Catholic clergymen in attendance and the service was conducted by the Bishop of Shrewsbury.

Other branches of the Preston family to visit Errwood were the children and grandchildren of the 14th Viscount Gormanston, William Joseph Preston, G.C.M.G., J.P. and D.L. co. Dublin and J.P. co's. Caven and Meath, High Sheriff, Dublin 1865, and Meath 1871; Lieut. 60th Rifles; Gov. of the Leeward Islands 1885-1887, of British Guiana 1887-1893, and Gov. of Tasmania 1893-1900. His second son was Richard Martin Peter, D.S.O. (1917), Lt. Col., and his children to visit the Hall were Ismay Elizabeth and Diana Mary Bruce. His third son was John Anthony Hubert, M.C., Capt. 3rd Bn. Royal Irish Regt; and his children were Penelope Sybil Mary, Georgina Ismay Mary, and their half sister Daphne Pringle. They were all visitors to Errwood into the 1920's. Hubert Preston's children came accompanied by their nurse from Ireland and were treated to trips out to the zoo and funfair at Belle View in Manchester at that time. There were trips out to the Cat and Fiddle on warm summer days for lemonade and picnics in the family's coach and pair, and there



Shooting party outside Gatehouse Cottage. Back Row – T. Brooks, J. O'Neal, W. Paget, F. Gaskell. Front Row – J. Brooks, E. J. Cope, Lord Belper, F. Paget.



Joseph Oyarzabal. He became estate manager, pictured in 1909.

were rides in the new motor car driven by Esme. Halcyon days affectionately recalled by surviving relatives.

The sudden death on the 31st March 1924 of Helier Gosselin, caused very deep regret, not only in the family and Errwood, but also at Hertford, from where he originated and had taken a keen interest in local affairs. As with all the members of the family, the funeral took place in the private cemetery, on the hill at the rear of the Hall after a service in the private chapel. The arrangements, at the Hall and the chapel were all carried out by the devoted servants, Ignatious Oyarzabal and his son Joseph and the service was conducted by the Bishop of Shrewsbury, Hugh

Singleton, with Father George Naylor preaching an eloquent sermon. Also present were Canon Kind, Buxton; Canon Roach, St. Joseph's, Stockport; Father Byne, Stockport; Father O'Reilly, Whaley Bridge; Canon High Welch, Altringham, and many other priests. Among the chief mourners were: Mrs H. Gosselin, widow, Lady Gerard, Blakesware, Herts, Mrs Medlicott, Wilts and Mrs Smythe-Osbourne, nieces: Lady Gosselin, sister in law; Mr. Gerard Gosselin, brother; Hon. Mrs Preston and Miss Preston; Dr. Arthur Shipton; Colonel Ramsden-Jodrell; Mrs Hubbersty; tenants on the estate, Errwood Hall servants and the servants at Bengo Hall, Hertford. The bearers were all from the

Errwood estate and included; Messrs A. Warren, J. Clayton, H. Weir, B. Hibbert, J. Hibbert, J. Rock, E. Trueman, J. Hewitt, T. Jenkinson and J. Cottrill. Funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. Peter Bennett, Torr Street, Buxton.

Both the Grimshawe sisters were now bereaved and ageing, but not quite alone for Esme was still there at Errwood and her sisters and other family members were frequent visitors to the estate. Reminding them perhaps of happy days of their winter holidays in Biaritze and the South of France, which Esme especially loved.

The days at Errwood were drawing to an end, but not so the memories and stories of their unending generosity. Of the tramps who passed through the grounds and had to be fed, or the postman who wasn't allowed the journey back to Buxton without a good meal. The



The chef from the Hall, helping with cream teas. Picture 1921.



Mrs. Gosselin and Mrs. Preston opening Fernilee Village Hall on Saturday, 4th December, 1926 at 3.00 p.m. Built from bricks from the old Gunpowder Mills.

Grimshawe family are always remembered with an everlasting affection. One such story is of the large food parcel sent to the poor children of Whaley Bridge, of whom there were many in the late twenties. It was regularly delivered from an anonymous donor, but local people were very aware of the Grimshaws sisters generosity, and knew well of their kind hearts. They were often seen to travel, when weather permitted to Whaley Bridge or Buxton in the coach and pair which they always preferred to the motor car. Not for them the modern inventions of the wireless and telephone, for there were none at Errwood Hall. Perhaps motor cars would be rather alien to them,

having grown up with horses all their life that they knew and trusted. Almost always in their later years they were seen dressed in black lace on their trip through the wooded estate, more often bringing back large bags of sweets to the children at Errwood school.

Genevieve died on the 28th January 1929, buried alongside her husband, who was laid to rest some twenty eight years before on that windy outpost of the cemetery on the hilltop. Many of the Preston family travelled to Errwood to pay their last respects, along with many friends and Catholic priests in attendance. The service was conducted by the Bishop of

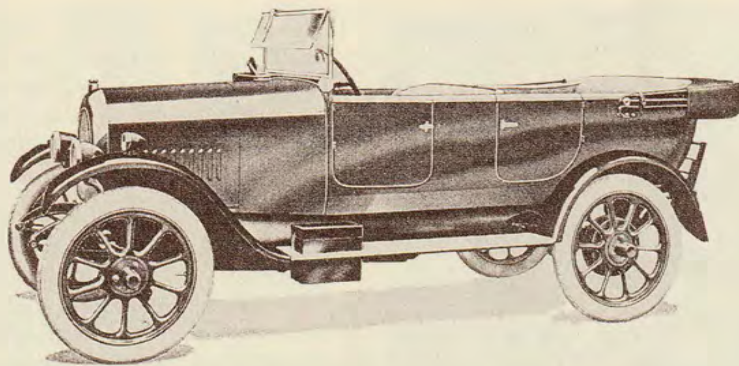
Shrewsbury. Mary Gosselin-Grimshawe, without her devoted sister Genevieve, was now the last surviving member of Samuel Grimshaws family, alone with Esme and Antoinette Maud, who had returned to comfort her aunt.

In the cold November of 1929, Mary Gosselin asked one of her faithful servants, Mr. Heather, if he could organise a party of Roman Catholics to visit Errwood Hall for midnight mass. It was, she said, a long time since the little chapel was filled at Christmas. Some forty Roman Catholics attended the mass.

Mary Ambrose Louisa Gosselin-Grimshawe, (her full name) died the following year on the 23rd February 1930, and with her death went the glories of Errwood Hall. Joseph Oyarzabal, the trusted estate manager, made the arrangements at the chapel and the cemetery on the hill. A great number of people came to witness the last funeral at the private burial ground, and the service given by the Bishop of



Thomas Jenkinson with Anne Lomas, he was the coachman.



It was a motor car like this that Esme drove (a 1925 12hp Bean).

Shrewsbury. This then was the final chapter of the Grimshawe dynasty and their association with the Goyt Valley. An association which had lasted less than one hundred years, but a period in time so cherished with happy memories. Esme Preston and her sister Antoinette Maud, were among the main beneficiaries of Mrs Gosselin's will and they stayed on at Errwood to attend to the sale at the Hall, which was held in June 1930.

There follows an extract from the will:- Probate (save and except settled land): Manchester, 17th May to Col. the Hon. Richard Martin Preston, William Neville Broadbent, Bury, chartered surveyor. Effects: £19,678 3s. 4d. Other bequests included the three cottages known as Goyt Vale Cottages, and one and a half acres of land, additional in trust for her servant Ignatious Oyarzabel for life, with the

remainder to his son Joseph. She also left Ignatious £26 per annum during his life, and to Joseph £150. £50 to Ernest Grimes, the last priest in charge at Errwood Hall, £50 to her medical attendant, W. Shipton. £110 and a further sum of £1,000 to her devoted maid Mary Louise Billette, and £500 to her devoted friend Mme Jeani Waldejo, sister of her maid. The balance of £500 of the income to the Sisters of Charity Ancoats. £50 each to her servants Mary Brennan, Mary Lomas, Anne Jenkinson and Thomas Jenkinson, if in her service at her death in special recognition of their faithful service. £10 each to the priest in charge of the Catholic Church at Whaley Bridge, and the very Rev. Antonnius Maguire, O.P. St. Sebastions Priory, Pendleton, Manchester. £100 to the Catholic Bishop of Salford, desiring without any trust that he will apply the

income for the benefit of St. Mary's Church, Clare Road, Levenshulme. £50 to the Convent, Clare Road, Levenshulme. £100 to the Bishop of Shrewsbury, that the income be used for the benefit of the Church at Whaley Bridge, The Sacred Heart. £100 to the Rev. Alexis O'Brian, of the Dominican Order of the St. Sebastions Priory, Gerald Road, Pendleton, Manchester.

Stockport Corporation purchased the estate in 1930 to build the Fernilee Reservoir and for a while Errwood Hall was used as a Youth Hostel, but in 1934 the Hall was dismantled for reasons of pollution along with the other thirteen farms and cottages on the estate. With the ravages of time, nature has reclaimed those serpentine walks through the terraced gardens that were harmonious with a Victorian elegance. A place where adventurous children played with delight in the silver brook, giving a warmth to an almost magical place.

The glorious blooms of the rhododendrons and azaleas, in the wooded splendour of Errwood, are visited by thousands each year, enjoying the walks around the ruins of the Hall. When beauty lies broken and unrestored it becomes all the more attractive especially lying in such a romantic location. Lately the ruins have been consolidated, and are in the care of the Peak Park Authority.

Public Notices.

ST. GREGORY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS,
BOLLINGTON.

A BAZAAR AND AMERICAN FAIR
WILL BE HELD IN THE
BOLLINGTON SUNDAY SCHOOL,
ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, FEBY. 8 & 9,

Under the Distinguished Patronage of
HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL VAUGHAN,
HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST. ANDREWS AND EDINBURGH,
HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP OF SHREWSBURY,
HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP OF ACONIA.

ALBERT GARD, Esq., J.P.
FRANCIS GARD, Esq., J.P., C.C.
GEORGE SWINDLELL, Esq.
F. H. GRAYTON, Esq.
G. C. SWINDLELL, Esq.

And Other Influential Ladies and Gentlemen.

Doors will be opened on FRIDAY at 2.30 p.m. OPENING SPEECH BY
Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J.
At Three o'clock promptly.

On SATURDAY, at 2.30, OPENING SPEECH BY
George Swindells, Esq.

PRICES OF ADMISSION:—FRIDAY, from 2.30 to 6 p.m., ONE SHILLING; from 6 to 10, THREESHAL-
LINGS; SATURDAY, 2.30 to 6, SIXPENCE; from 6 to 10, THREESHAL-
LINGS; under 12, Half-price.

AMUSEMENTS:—
ORGAN RECITAL, CONCERTS, PALMISTRY, LIVING PICTURES,
PICTURE GALLERY.

For List of Stall-holders, Prices of Refreshment, and any further particulars apply to the Secretary.

FERNILEE VILLAGE HALL.
BALANCE SHEET

Of Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1927.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
Balance brought forward	£ s. d.	Caretaking and Rates	£ s. d.
From Old Reading Room Fund	.. 9 6 2 1/2	Artists Expenses re Concerts	15 0 6
Members' Subscription Fees	.. 30 18 4	Minerals	3 18 0
From 15 Whist Drives and Dances	.. 12 12 0	Whist Prizes	2 8 3
Donations	.. 60 1 6	Hire of Piano	16 5 11
Mrs. Gosselin-Grimshaw and Hon. Mr. W. Jackson	.. 4 4 0	Purchase of Piano	1 10 0
" W. Hilly	.. 1 1 0	Deeds (1911, 1913)	39 0 0
" Grainger	.. 1 0 0	Foodstuffs, per Mr. Wynne	1 6 4
" T. Shaker, Post Shirley	.. 0 10 8	Refreshments per Concerts and Whist Drives	9 18 0
Mrs. Wallace	.. 0 5 0	Crochery and Spoons	3 0 0
Mrs. F. Sherwood	.. 0 5 0	Coke and Coal	14 6 7
A. A. Scout	.. 0 1 6	2 Tea Trays	15 11 2
2 Hot Pot Suppers	.. 7 14 0	2 Ball Expenses	6 17 10
3 Dances	.. 10 10 6	2 Hot Pot Suppers	4 10 0
3 Children's Parties	.. 4 4 2 1/2	Billiard Table	3 0 0
3 Societies and Dances	.. 25 15 2 1/2	" Sundries	6 2 2
Hire of Hall, per J. Simpson	.. 9 9 10 1/2	Stationery	7 0 0
2 Carnival Balls	.. 25 15 2 1/2	Flower Show Expenses	5 0 0
Non-members' Dancing Fees	.. 0 12 6	Papers	1 2 4
Total Flower Show Receipts	.. 9 17 11 1/4	Boiler, Petrol Oil, etc.	21 2 4
Anniversary Tea and Dance	.. 1 2 3	Clothes and Towels	0 19 3
4 Hot Suppers	.. 54 17 1 1/2	Anniversary	6 6 9
Billiard Receipts	.. 10 2 10	2 Year's Rent	0 18 6
Sale of Minerals	.. 11 2 10	Cheque Book	6 18 6
Photos	.. 2 1 2	Bank Commission	4 8 2 1/2
Billiard Chalk	.. 2 3 0	Cash in Bank	0 2 0
Bank Interest	.. 0 2 0	" Hand	49 6 0
	.. 0 13 2		4 15 8 1/2

Audited and found correct.

FERDY RENSHAW,
THOMAS PEARSON.

£263 19 8 1/2

ERWOOD HALL,
BUXTON.

12th Nov 1927

I have pleasure in stating that I
have been acquainted with Mr. Pearson
for many years and quite sure to be an
honourable and upright person, who
has always deserved the regard,
which I entertain for her.

Mary A. L. Gosselin

A selection of documents which include: A public notice from the 'Macclesfield Courier...' dated 1895; Balance Sheet for first year of village hall; Letter of reference, written by Mary Gosselin.

The Captain Butler Story

A great fairy tale story, from humble beginnings to a life of distant ocean travel, a truly romantic marriage in a foreign land, and to be blessed with a family of seven healthy children, in what was to become a full, but all too brief a life for both John Butler and his young wife Hannah.

John Butler, the son of a stone mason, was born on the 15th July 1830 at Dunmore East, which is near Waterford in southern Ireland.

As a boy he must have watched all those tall masted sailing ships coming around the headland of Dunmore to the picturesque port of Waterford, perhaps dreaming of sailing on one of those fine ships. From that headland of Dunmore East, where he would have spent many an hour gazing out to sea, his dream was to be realised when from a boy of only ten and a half years, he was out at sea on board ship, and



Captain John Butler.

destined for a seaman's life. After serving on his first ship 'Emma' which was berthed at Waterford, he was to spend over nine years with her as an ordinary seaman learning his craft. He progressed on a variety of vessels, sailing from a number of well known ports, Liverpool, Newquay, St. Johns, and his own port of Waterford. It would no doubt be very hard work in those days of the fore and aft rigged vessels, but eventually he gained experience and sailed as boatswain

and later mate. Then after spending more than seventeen hard years at sea, he applied for his Masters certificate.

He was examined at Liverpool, where he duly passed as Master, with special qualifications for "fore and aft". (Jib headed or jackyard topsails and schooners), on the 8th December 1862.

It is known from marine records that after gaining his Masters certificate, he sailed with the yacht 'Cossack', and then for a few years he was Captain of the yacht 'Lerne', sailing out of Liverpool during the year 1868 to Holland, Belgium etc., working the busy coasting trade.

In 1870, Samuel Grimshawe acquired the yacht, the 'Mariquita'. It was not first owned by Samuel Grimshawe, but had in fact several owners over the years. The first owner was one F. B. Carew, of Branksea Island, Dorset. She was built by Inmans of Lymington in 1854 and firstly berthed at Poole, before being altered and then berthed at Cowes. The yacht was schooner rigged, ninety feet long, eighteen feet wide, ten feet in depth, and weighing 105 tons. A Mr. G.C.S. Durant owned the yacht in 1869 and she was sailing out of Galway, the West of Ireland Club. During the Grimshawe's time, the yacht was berthed at Liscard on the Mersey estuary, near New Brighton and early in 1871 John Butler,

— THE GOYT VALLEY

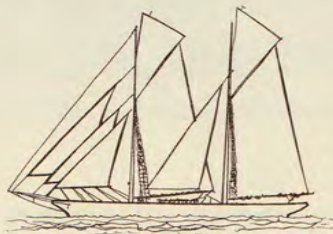
master mariner, was engaged as her Captain. It was the first voyage for the devout Catholic Grimshawes, and there was a small altar made on board the yacht. They were also accompanied by the Chaplain from the Hall, who at that time was Charles Bell. That first voyage through the sunny Mediterranean to Italy was to be a memorable one indeed for in Naples, in the British Consulate, Captain John Butler was married to Hannah Edge, the cook on board the *Mariquita*. The ceremony took place on the 3rd February 1871 and was witnessed by Bampton Monmouth and John Butler's brother Richard. The Edge family were servants of the Grimshawes, and Hannah, along with her brother Thomas, came from Goyt's Clough in the Goyt Valley. At the time of their romantic marriage, John Butler was 39 years old and his wife Hannah was 23 years.

The Butlers at first lived in Ireland where their first child Thomas was born in 1872, followed by Mary in 1875. Captain Butler and his wife Hannah moved to Liscard, where the *Mariquita* was berthed, and during this time from 1876 to 1881 there were three more children, Elizabeth, Anna Genevieve, and John, living at 29 St. Albans Road.

Captain Butler as well as servant of Samuel Grimshawe was also



Hannah Butler.



regarded as a friend, for along with members of his family, John Butler was many times a visitor to Errwood Hall. he was presented with a silver plated tea and coffee service, inscribed, 'with a token of esteem and affection'. Other members of the Butler family were at Errwood from 1875-1887, as either godmother or godfather, known from Catholic records at St. Mary's Chapel.

After 1881, John and Hannah Butler left Liscard and came to live,

along with their children at Castedge Farm, which was to the rear of the Hall. John Butler had left his life at sea and had been given the position of Land Steward. Over the years, Castedge Farm had traditionally been the home of a farm bailiff, head shepherd or other such occupation. Here the Butlers stayed where two children were born, Robert on the 31st March. Baptised 6th April 1884 and Cissie, born 15th November. Baptised 18th November 1885. Both were baptised at the Chapel at Errwood Hall.

It must have been a great shock to his wife and family when Captain John Butler suddenly died at the age of 55 years on the 3rd February 1886.

He died at Castedge Farm, attended by Dr. A. Shipton, the cause of death was given as apoplexy. His burial was in the Grimshawe's private cemetery after a full Catholic service, held in the tiny chapel at the Hall.

Sadly, his wife Hannah died soon after on the 4th November 1887 also at the farm at the age of 39. The cause of death was given as enteritis after herniotomy. She lies buried with her husband in the private cemetery. On the stone cross which they share is, the epitaph, 'They loved each other in Life and in Death, they are not parted, may she rest in peace.'

The Catholic Connections

There seems little doubt that Samuel Dominics conversion to Catholicism was influenced from his Oxford days, when Newman, Manning and others were leading the 'Tractarian' Movement there. Some of them became personal friends of Samuel and indeed are mentioned in his will. As stated in a later codical to the will in the event of his death, without immediate heirs, all his estates were to be bequeathed to the Bishops of Shrewsbury and Salford and their successors in office.

The clergymen mentioned in Samuel Dominic Grimshawe's will were all of great eminence and importance in the Roman Catholic hierarchy and contemporaries at Oxford.

Samuel did not convert until 1851 after his father had died as he would not have wished to upset him, his father being staunch Church of England.



The private Catholic Chapel inside Errwood Hall, located in the upper storey of the northern end.

There follows a list of eminent clergymen and the priests who served the St. Mary's Chapel at Errwood Hall.

Newman, Cardinal John Henry (1801-90). Eminent Theologian and Founder of the Oxford Movement. Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. Anglican Vicar of St. Mary's, Oxford 1828. Convert to Catholicism and Ordained Priest 1848. Founded the Birmingham Oratory 1848, which remained his base of operation (with the exception of a period as Rector of the new Catholic University of Dublin, 1854-8) till his death in 1890. Made a Cardinal in 1879.

Manning, Cardinal Henry Edward (1808-92). Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, 1832. Anglican Minister 1833. Rector of a Sussex parish until 1850. Archdeacon of Chichester 1841. Convert to Catholicism 1851 and Ordained Priest. Appointed second Archbishop of Westminster 1865. Cardinal 1875.

Vaughan, Herbert, Cardinal (1832-1903). Bishop of Salford 1872-92. Third Archbishop of Westminster 1892-1903.

Brown, James (1812-81). 1st R.C. Bishop of Shrewsbury 1851-81. Noted for his energy and zeal in the consolidation and development of



The Grimshawe private cemetery.

the Catholic faith in the North West.

Knight, Edmund (d.1895). Succeeded Bishop Brown as the second Bishop of Shrewsbury, 1882-95.

Turner, William (d.1872). First Bishop of Salford, 1851-72.

Wiseman, Nicholas, Cardinal (1802-65). First Archbishop of Westminster, 1850-65.

Rev. William McAuliffe of Errwood, one of the longest serving priests there, was appointed one of the Trustee's and was to receive £3,000.

Chaplains at Errwood Hall

1851	Henry Alcock
1851-52	William Nightingale
1852	Robert Maurice
1851	Denis Organ (he died there)
1852-59	Served from New Mills by Rev. Bryan O'Donnell and from Buxton by Rev. E. Maggreevy.
1859-63	John Quinn
1863-69	It was then served by Franciscans from Gorton.
1869-77	Charles Bell
1877	Herbert Wood
1877-89	William McAuliffe
1889-90	M. Gerin

1890-94	J. Berard
1894-97	Supplied from Buxton.
1904-06	Hugh Welch
1906-08	Peter Renard
1908-11	Supplied from Buxton.
1911-1923	Served by Dominicans from Pendleton.
1923	Served by Francisans from Gorton.
1924	Pius de Witte
1925-28	George Naylor
1928	W.B. Hannan
1929	Served by Dominican Fathers from Pendleton.
1930	Ernest Grimes, the last priest.

On the hill directly behind the ruined Hall is the private burial ground of the Grimshawe's, a hallowed place where once stood a small building, a Mausoleum. This fell into disrepair and was dismantled many years ago. North West Water, who own the land keep the site tidy and in good repair, together with the Peak Park and Forestry Enterprise. The inscriptions of the private burial ground are as follows:

Braddock, Elizabeth Anne, died 6th January 1903, aged 19.

Butler, Hannah, died 4th November 1887, wife of John Butler.

Butler, John, died 3rd February 1886, aged 55. Captain of the yacht Mariquita. For 16 years the friend and faithful servant of the late Samuel Grimshawe.

Ferns, Ellen, died 12th January 1889, aged 75.

Gosselin, Helier Robert Hadsley, died 31st March 1924.

Gosselin, Mary Ambrose Louisa, died 23rd February 1930.

Grimshawe, Arthur, died in infancy.

Grimshawe, Jessie Mary Magdalen, died 6th December 1893.

Grimshawe, Samuel Dominic, died 20th April 1883.

Niorthe, Irma, died 19th December 1882, at Errwood, aged 27, born 7th July 1855 at Bayonne, France.

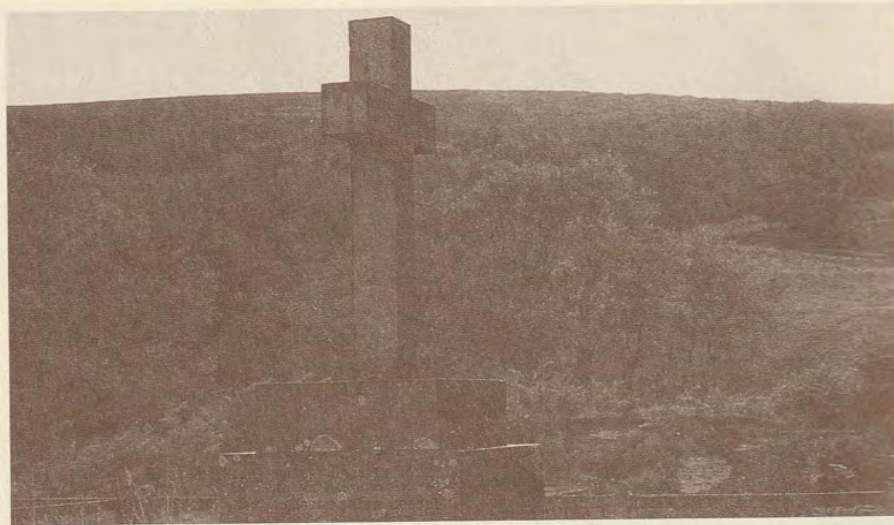
Preston, Anne Genevieve Marie, died 26th January 1929.

Preston, Capt, the Hon. Edward Francis, died 1st March 1901.

There are at least three unmarked graves.

Over the years, there were many services given by the resident priest, some of them attended by the Bishop of Shrewsbury.

From this hill top is the most remarkable panorama of country, the moors that climb over towards Buxton, three glorious valleys, and the swift flowing brook through the wooded splendour of Errwood to join the Goyt, far below. There is something primitive and wild though ever beautiful that haunts this remote outpost. In Spring daffodils sprout among the rough grass and dance in the chill breeze, there to remind us of another season and the glorious miracle of it all.



Reaching to the heavens. The resting place of Mary Gosselin and her husband, Helier.

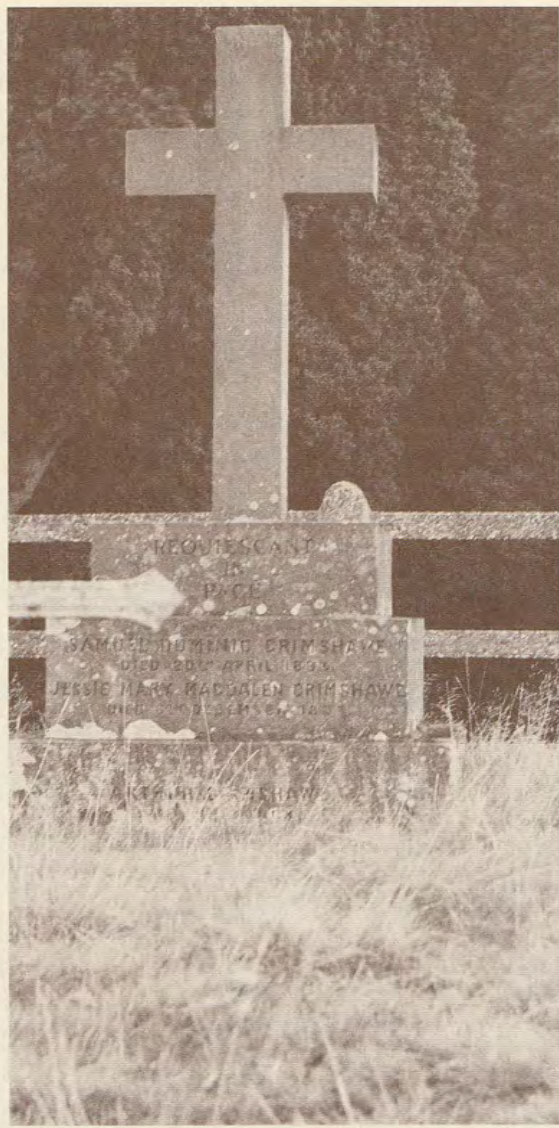


*A view of the Great Basilica of St. Peter
the largest church in the world -
Rome, Italy*

'A postcard from Rome' from Mary Grimshawe to the Braddock family.



St. Josephs Shrine, high on a bleak, windy hillside.



The grave of Samuel Daminic Grimshawe and his wife Jessie.

St. Joseph's Shrine

The Shrine is situated to the rear of the Hall, some three quarters of a mile from the ruins of Castedge Farm. Those who make the trek up the steep winding track do not go unrewarded, for the Shrine is glimpsed quite suddenly, hiding almost secretly among a few weather worn pine trees. A small round stone building with a conical stone roof, and a strong oak door, standing here quite alone to all the elements. Perhaps sheltered a little by the rough pasture of Foxlow Edge and the pine forest reaching up to Pym chair. Here in the peaceful seclusion, the walker may pray among the freedom of the surrounding hills. When the oak door is opened, directly in view is the small altar with St. Joseph pictured holding Jesus as a baby. The coloured glazed tiles which originated from Spain, were set here at Errwood in a wooden frame before being assembled in the

Shrine. Just above the picture of St. Joseph is a small marble slab with the carved inscription, 'Munca se le Invoca evano a San Jose prueba de gratitud' (No one asks in vain of St. Joseph, a token of gratitude). Fresh flowers are placed on the altar at regular intervals, though by whom no one knows.

The initials DE de Y, are those of Dolores, Sister Dolores, underneath

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Of your Charity, Pray for the Soul
OF
Honble. Edward Preston
(Late Captain 9th Lancers),
Who departed this life
ON FRIDAY, MARCH 1st, 1901,
Fortified with all the Rites of the Church.

R. J. P.

Dearest Jesus, teach me to be generous ;
teach me to love Thee as Thou deservest ; to
give, and not to count the costs ; to fight, and
not to heed the wounds ; to toil, and not to
seek reward, save to feel that I do Thy most
Holy Will, my God and my All.

Sweet Heart of Jesus, have mercy on him.
St. Edward, pray for him,
St. Francis, pray for him.

SURSUM CORDA.

Burns & Oates, Ltd., London, W.

Souvenir of Communion and Funeral Notice.

the inscription along with the date 1889. Miss Dolores, it is said of Spanish noble birth, was a governess and companion to Mrs Jessie Grimshawe and it was on Dolores instigation that the Shrine was built here. Dolores could often be seen riding her horse to the Shrine as this was one of her favourite places, a tranquil place where she could rest and pray.

Fecisti nos ad te Domine et iniquitum est cor nostrum donec requiescat in te.

Souvenir
OF THE
First Communion
OF
GEORGINA PRESTON
RECEIVED IN
Our Lady's Chapel, Errwood,
July 2nd, 1928
Magnificat anima mea Dominum.
R.G.W. LTD., LONDON W.



The Mausoleum, long gone, where the lead coffins were held.



Inside the lovely Shrine of St. Joseph, where fresh flowers are always present.



Holy Communion, with Father Naylor and the Bishop of Shrewsbury

The Powder Mill

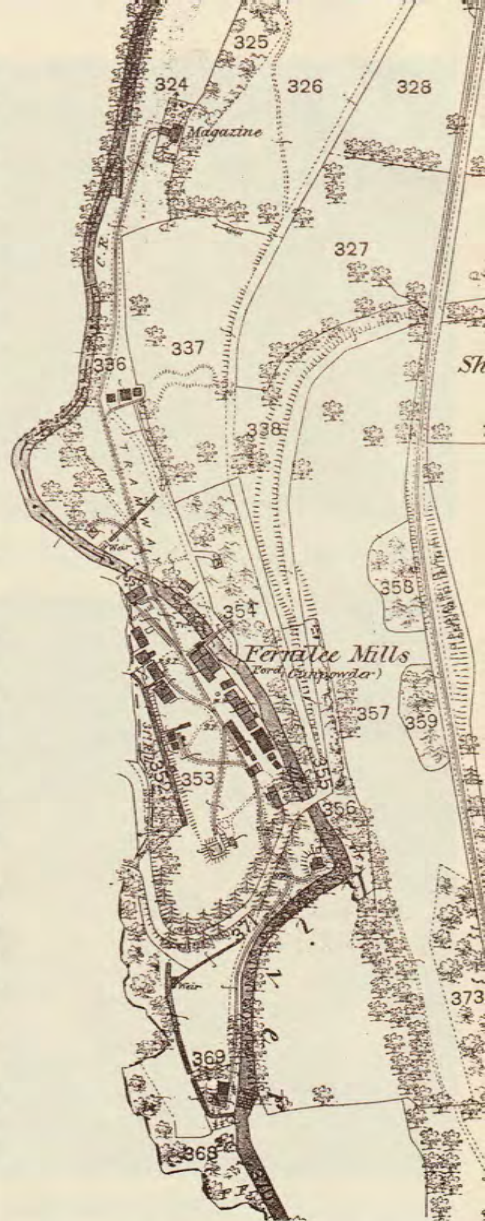
The Gunpowder Mill ceased production in 1920 and the ruins are in a watery grave beneath Fernilee reservoir, towards the dam wall end. In times of drought some of the ruins can be glimpsed, as in its day the works were quite substantial. The works were started by Thomas Williamson to serve mines and quarries in the area. Before this, mines in the area had to import their gunpowder for blasting by rail from other parts, and the cost was becoming prohibitive.

Though the actual date is unknown, the land for the 'Powder Mill', as local people knew it, was acquired from Francis Jodrell Esq., in about 1800. Over the years it provided work for many people in the locality, but the mill was the scene of frequent accidents, although the dangers of working with gunpowder were well appreciated. A series of

tramways were employed throughout the works to transport materials, and the magazine was sited some distance away at the end of its own track. There had been an accident in the 1880's when a woman worker had been killed, but one of the worst accidents recorded was the huge explosion in 1909 when three men were killed. Their names were, Joseph Hill, aged 32, George Raven, aged 26, and Percy Southern, aged 18. Joseph Hill was killed instantly and Raven and Southern died later of their injuries in Buxton Hospital. The inquest heard from an official that a possible piece of grit, or metallic object had caused the blast.



'Five Fighters' of the Gunpowder Works.





Duxton, 18th April 1805

M. James Bless

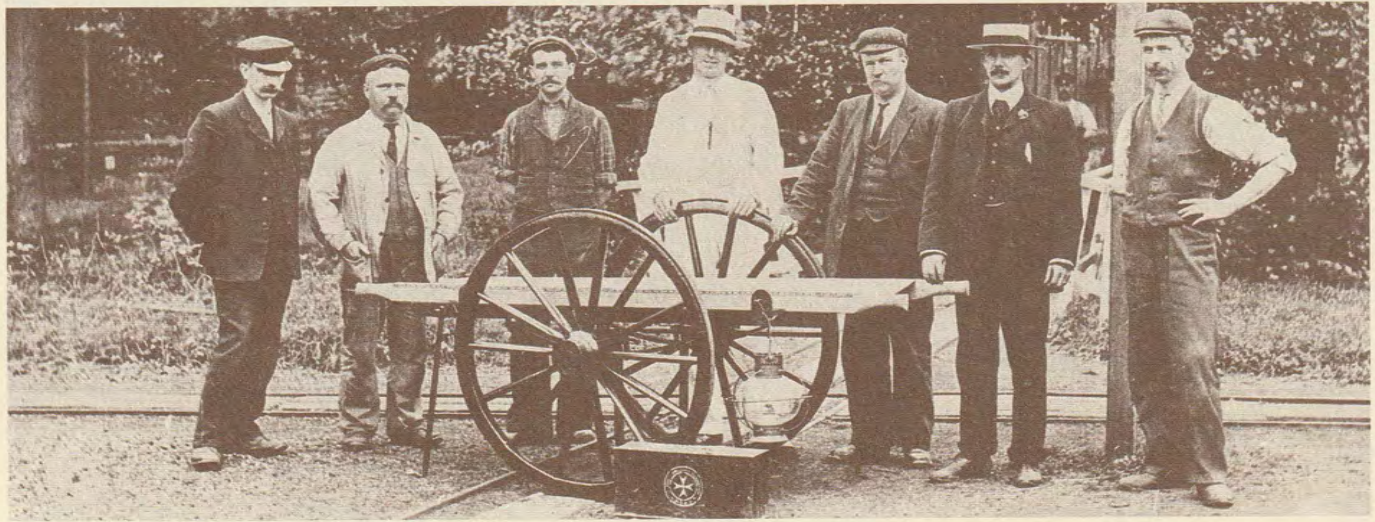
Bought of WILLIAMSON, KNOWLES & Co.
of BOSTON MANUFACTURERS
 Three Barrels of Blasting Powder, viz
 Conveyance. HALF BARREL

Mark	Weight	Price per Barrel	Amount
C	3	140	21
FF	0		11
FFB	6		11
			L. 21/11

Workers at the Powder Mill, about 1905 (inset shows the price of gunpowder in 1805).



'The Orchestra'.



The 'First Aid Team' - The manager, Captain Fox, in the centre.

The Sale at Errwood Hall

The sale at the Hall with honoured instructions from Miss I.E.H. Preston and Miss A.E.M. Preston, took place over five days from the 16th June - 20th, 1930. It was conducted by Turner and Son, the Macclesfield auctioneers. There were more than 1,800 lots, just a few are shown here.

Lot 166 Group of three Dresden figures, 'Man, Woman, Child and Dove'.

Lot 175 Magnificent pair of Dresden figures, supporting four candelabra, 21ins high.

Lot 176 Pair of elegant Dresden figures, 26ins high, 'The Dancers'.

Lot 183 Magnificent Capo di Monte rosewater ewer, 20ins high; on dish and brass stand.

Lot 223 Beautiful Capo di Monte jewellery casket with raised figured panels, brass bound $9\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ ins.

Lot 222 French porcelain do. in the form of a book, 'Boileau Despreau Passage due Rhin', 1667.

Lot 224-225 Porcelain plates.
Lot 212 Pair of Worcester vases 21ins high.

Lot 213 Pair of tall Sevres vases 21ins high.

Lot 591 Rare antique Buhl table.

Lot 366 Magnificent brass and ormolu timepiece with embossed Gladiatorial panel surmounted by Charist with Charisteer and two horses 19ins high.

Lot 367 Pair of ormolu rose leaf stands, 20ins high supported by three figures.

Lot 570 Set of six very rare Italian walnut chairs.

Lot 571 Pair of handsome gilt chairs.

Lot 573 Ladies gilt chair.

Lot 593 Genuine William and Mary card table.

ERRWOOD HALL,
GOYT VALLEY, near BUXTON

TURNER & SON,

honoured with instructions from
Miss I. E. H. Preston and Miss A. E. M. Preston
(who are leaving the Hall), will SELL the above
BY AUCTION on the Premises on

**MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
AND FRIDAY.**

JUNE 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th, 1930.

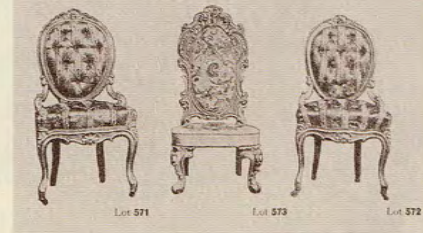
SALE EACH DAY AT 12 O'CLOCK PROMPT.

VIEW DAYS:
Friday, June 13th, and Saturday, June 14th, 1930.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

NOTE.—No Private Views Allowed.

Admission by Catalogue only (excluding TWO Persons).
CATALOGUES—PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.

Times' Printing Works, Manchester, Tel. 950.



Fernilee and Errwood Reservoir Construction



*Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent
inspecting the new Errwood Reservoir, with
Mr. A. T. B. Shand, after the inauguration
ceremony.*

By 1932, work was well underway for the construction of Fernilee reservoir. Huge steam powered cranes were clinging to the valley sides like tall mechanical spiders, excavating the deep trench to hold the massive stone wall built to stem the flow of nature's River Goyt. Inevitably the beauty of the Goyt was overtaken by the demand for water. Stockport Corporation employed the contractors, Lehane Mackenzie and Shand to undertake the enormous engineering project which was completed in 1937.

Errwood reservoir was built by the same contractors as Fernilee. In fact plans for the Goyt Valley waterworks scheme had been conceived as long ago as 1900, but with the intervention of the Second World War, there were severe restrictions

on capital expenditure. The cost of Errwood virtually trebled to over one and a half million pounds. Work on the reservoir began in 1964, and was officially opened by the Duchess of Kent on 14th June 1968.

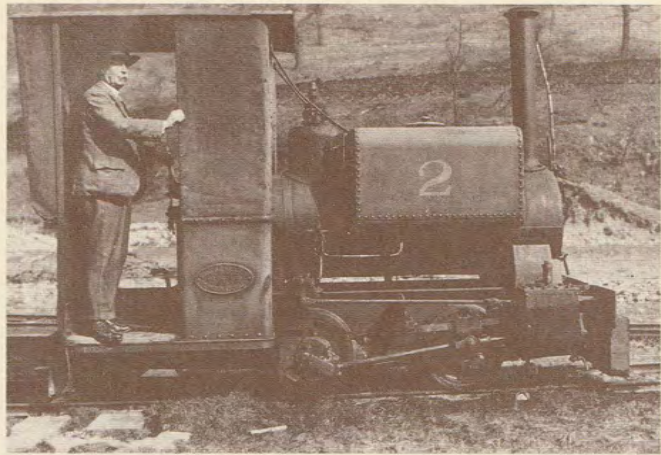
The two dams are about the same in terms of capacity and acreage, Fernilee being slightly their larger - Errwood 927 million gallons, area 78 acres and 117 feet deep. Fernilee 83 acres, 1,000 million gallons, and 126 feet deep.



Staff and workers of Fernilee Reservoir.



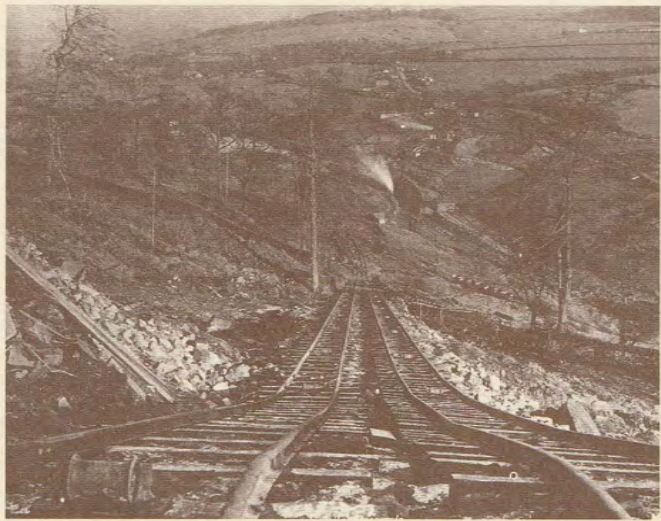
Construction begins on Fernilee Dam.



Locomotive used on narrow gauge railway for Fernilee construction.



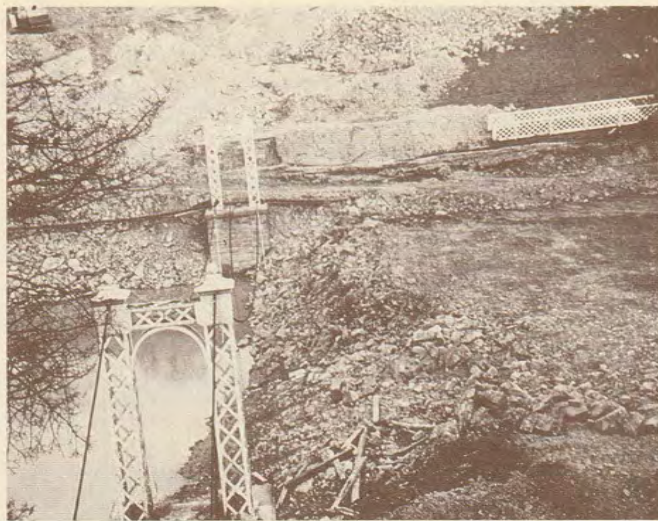
Engineers who built the Reservoir.



Gravity Incline, January 1933.



The trench for Errwood Dam wall.



The suspension bridge, cast aside for the 'coffer' dam.



Errwood Dam nearing completion.



Errwood Reservoir, as it is today.

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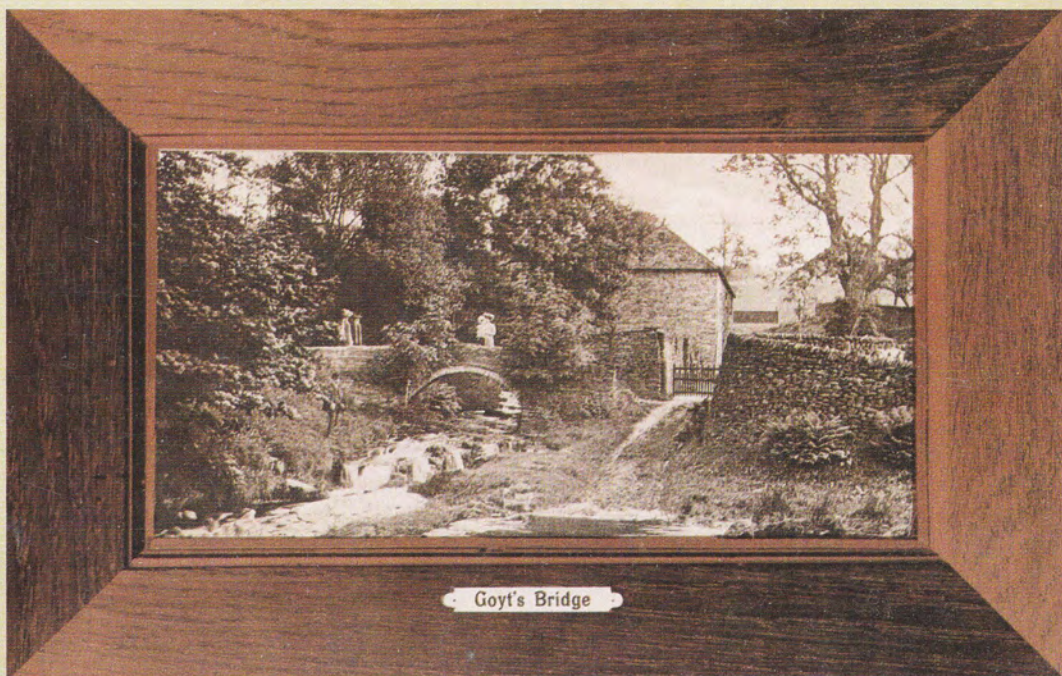
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