

Goyt Valley Romance

by *Gerald Hancock*

*Errwood Hall &
The Grimshawes*



NEW EDITION
over **100**
photographs

Introduction

Before 1930, visitors to the picturesque Goyt Valley would have enjoyed quite a different scene from the one presented today. Since Victorian times and before, the valley has always been a beauty spot with its dainty farm cottages and welcoming tea rooms. In those far away days, a gentle stroll around the hamlet of Goyts Bridge and a walk by the stepping stones were pure delight on a warm summer's day. It was a tranquil gentle place, full of the most romantic scenery.

Sadly, all this has disappeared under the cold waters of both Errwood and Fernilee reservoirs. In this 21st century, a motor car journey brings most visitors to see the beautiful Goyt Valley, where scenic views are still much to be admired. A trip to the Errwood car park, where picnic tables are provided, is a very pleasant place to view the Errwood reservoir, and a good starting point for short walks, especially to see the ruins of Errwood Hall, only half a mile from here.

In this new edition on the Goyt Valley, the reader will find many different archive pictures, with some surprising new articles about the Catholic Grimshawe family, their weddings, funerals, and their friends, while much original material is retained for the benefit of new readers.

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

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.

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.

The Goyt Valley, protected by its own 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 rainbow's 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, early last century and later, there were 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



Goyts Clough Cottages

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. Ryle 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?"



Cat and Fiddle Nr. Buxton

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

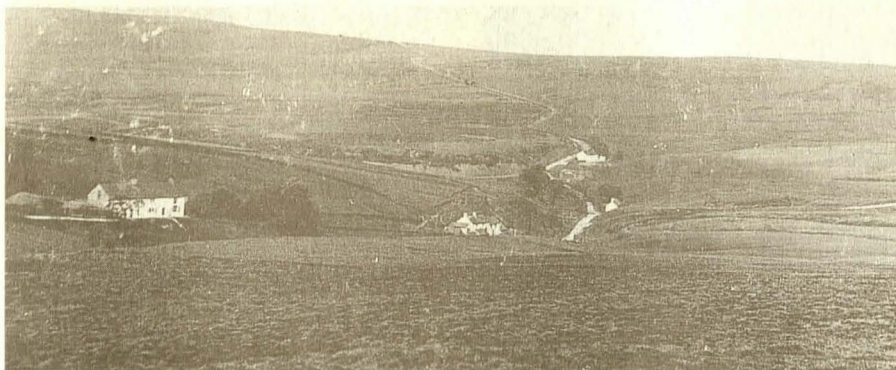
About the year 1879 a terrible wind carried the roof of the inn completely away onto the moor some distance behind, and during the winter of 1892 it was impossible to open the front door, or any of the windows for seven weeks, so completely ice-bound were they.

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 small wares 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. One of the wildest views in England, several counties can be seen stretching on to 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



Macclesfield Old Road. The cottages long gone.

bleak moorland area. Exists, that is, from when Samuel Grimshawe bought the land and buildings from about 1840.

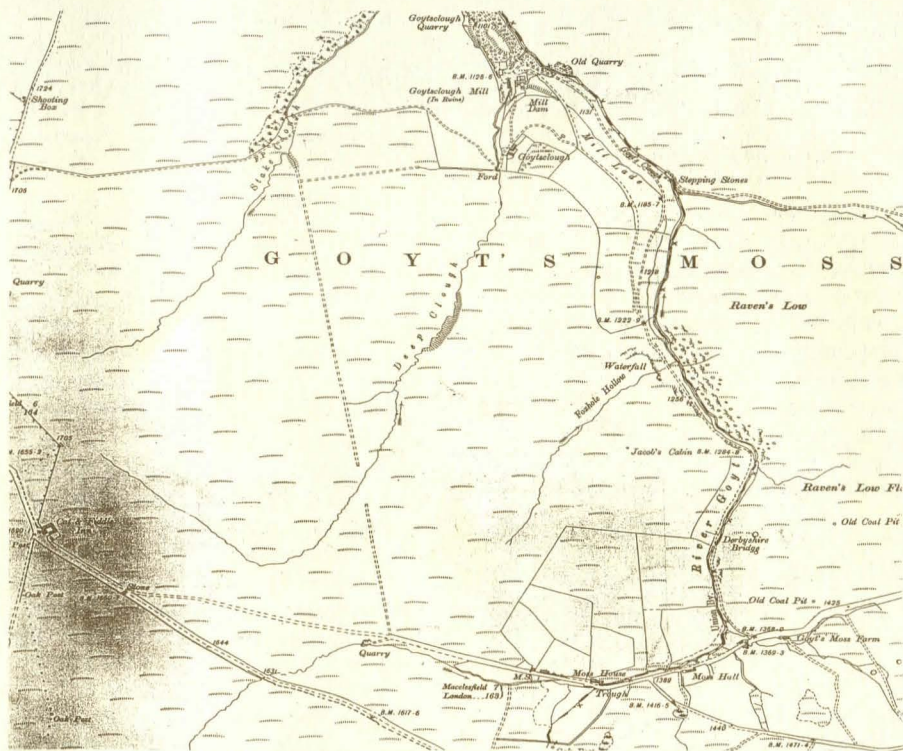
There were several notable landlords at the inn from this period, some of whom were also farmers at this time, owning a few acres of land.

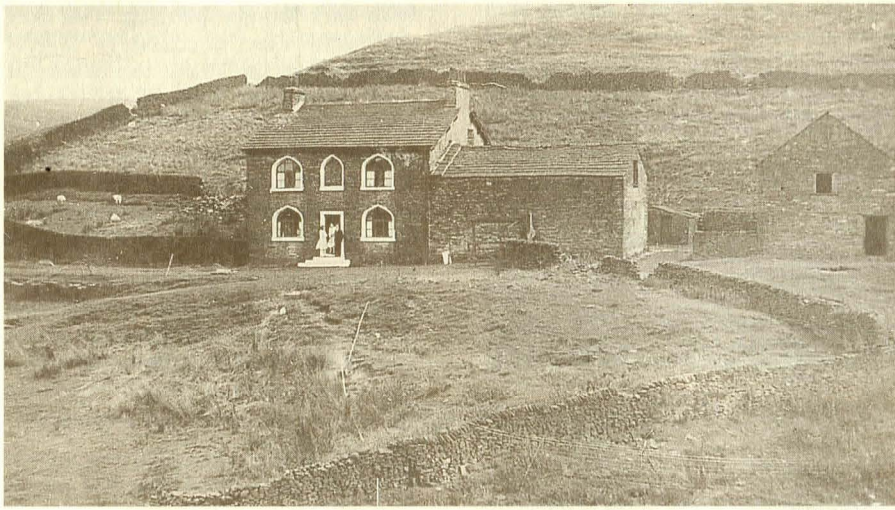
John Marsden Wain back in 1851, from 1861 Thomas Cotterill, who was said to be something of a character, and the Trueman family who had the inn for a good number of years. After her husband Joseph died, Elizabeth Trueman kept the inn with her five children after 1890 and beyond.

Almost a mile down the old road towards the start of the Goyt Valley there were at least three other old 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 Goyt's Moss Farm. The site of Goyt's 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.





High Clough Farm, the hillside now shrouded with trees.

Walking on from this 'Derbyshire Bridge' end, as it is known, with such scenery that it is difficult to describe, the narrow winding road has quite lovely ravine views of the River Goyt, deepening now, when after 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 Pickford family came from Adlington, south of Manchester and later from nearby Poynton. After the

Civil War, Thomas Pickford had his lands sequestered for co-operating with the cavaliers. He later bought the quarry and engaged in the business of mending roads 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 companies in Europe.

The Goytsclough 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 companies further afield. There is still evidence of the four cottages that were here, although small, and of Goytsclough 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 Lomases 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 Goyts 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 the last tenants here. Moving further along the lane we pass the Catholic shrine, mounted in the stone wall lining



Deep Clough Cottages

the road. Dedicated to St. Mary it has recently been refurbished and is looked after by St. Anne's 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 1:7½, 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 1850s 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.

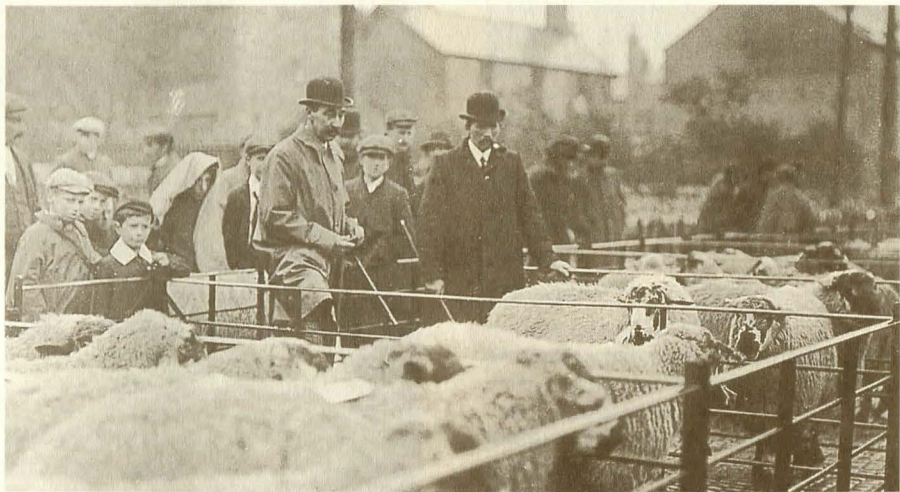
A terrible fatal accident occurred on the railway and was reported in the local paper, thought to be from the 1800s. It stated: "At about six o'clock a fatal accident occurred on the Bunsall Plain (High Peak section). A boy aged eleven years named John George Wilson, pulled a sprag out of a wagon, which 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.

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 the 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

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 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 Grimshawe's sheep, the Errwood flock of T.B. Hibbert, and the Goytdale flock of William Trueman at Goyts Bridge, with Henry Hodson's 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, 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 parents' 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 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



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



A family 'Tea' at Goyts Bridge.

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.,

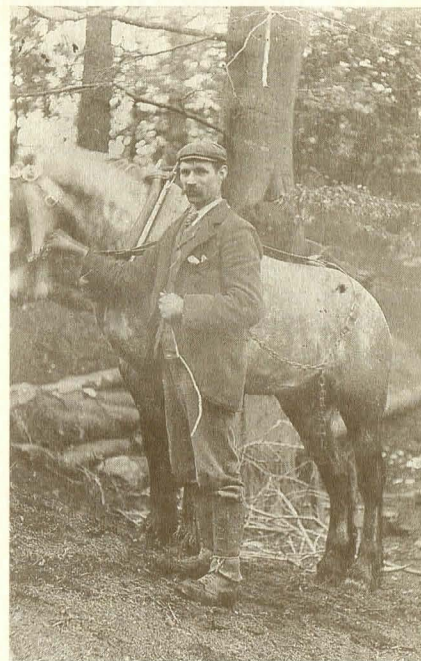
Dessert:- apples, oranges, grapes, bananas, pineapples, &c., iced cakes and sweets. Wines: port, sherry, claret, champagne, punch.

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.'

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.

Ignatius 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

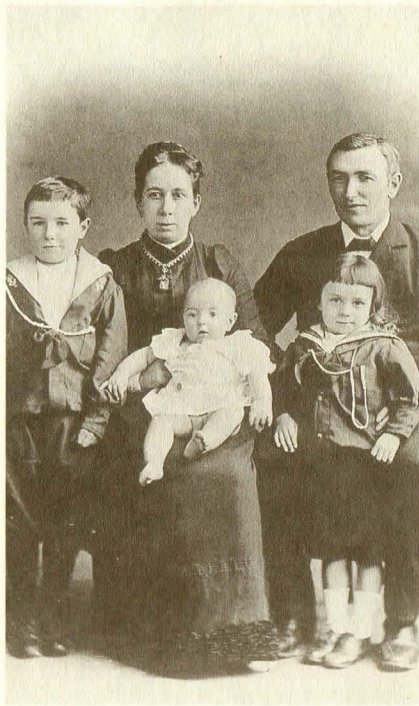


Ben Hibbert on the Errwood Estate.

tradition and became estate manager.

Some other farms with their last tenants were:-

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



Oyarzabel Family

- 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.

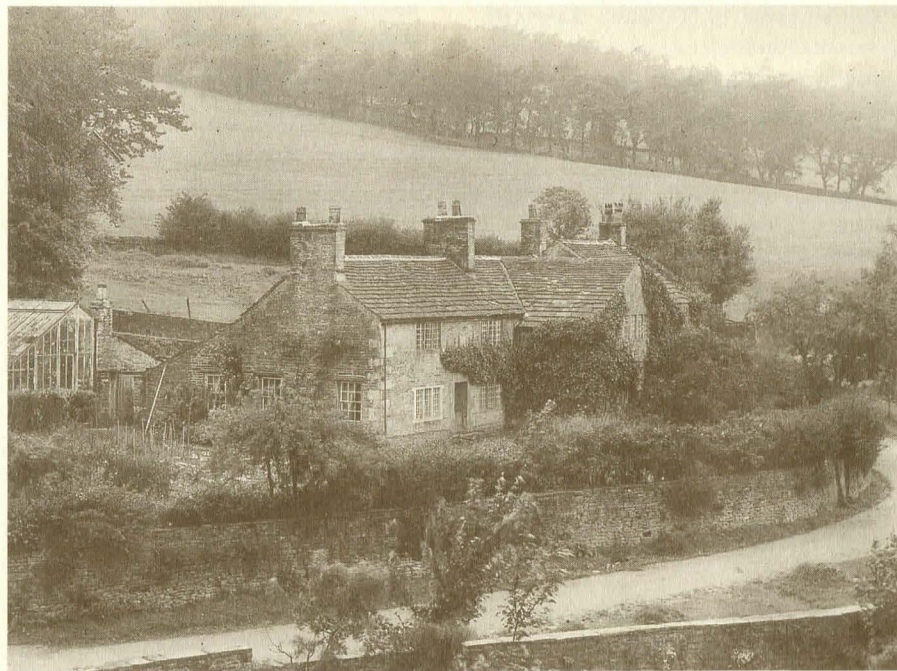
After a few years, Tom with wife and sons Jack and Joe moved down to

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 leaved 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



The Gate House and Gardeners Cottage.



Martha and Frances Hibbert at Goyts Bridge House.

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 rainbow's 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 Rs. As well as classroom

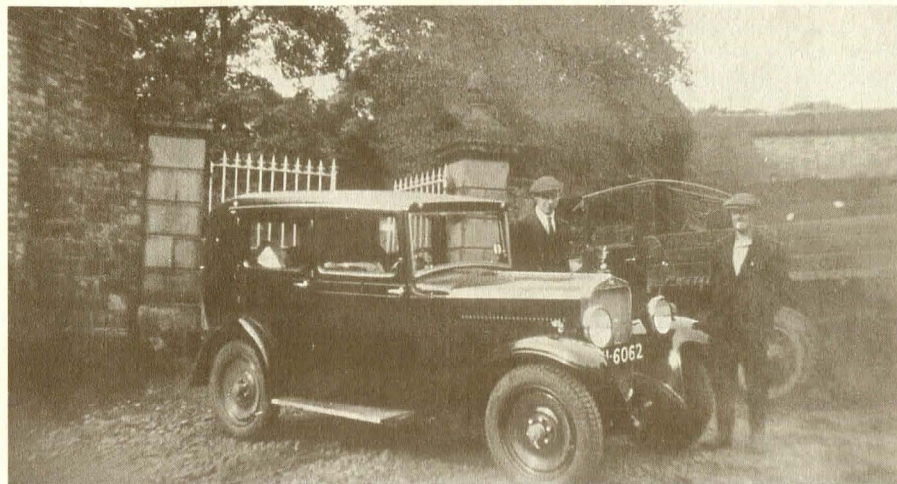


The Lowe family at Masters Farm.

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 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 Grimshawes' 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



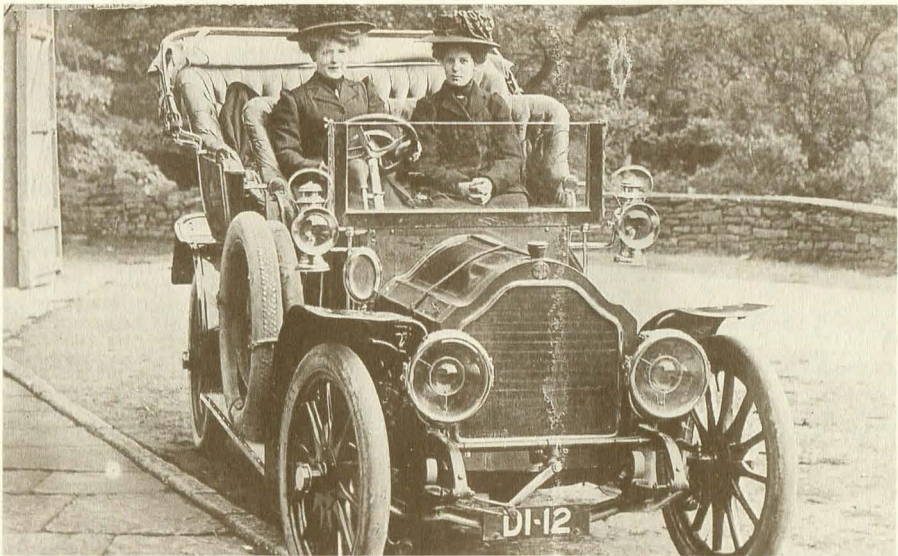
Tom Coward by the car and Joseph Oyarzabal, the agent of the estate, about 1930.



School children at Errwood School.



Edwardians at Goyts Bridge



Two maids enjoying their moment at the Hall.

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.

*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 1920s 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



Castedge Farm.



Shooters Clough Cottage with Kathleen Nall at the spring.



The Coal Mine at Errwood.

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 Phyllis 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 Smithy, near the mine damage caused by flash flood, 1930.

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 'angelus' 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 hundredweights of coal and when they went they would get a jug of beer,



*Brenda Hewitt and playmate at
Goys Bridge Cafe.*

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



The Joule Family at Nook Farm.

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 moonlit horizon.

The Hall, with every room brightly lit with oil lamps, shone 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 'angelus' bell was rung. The owners who in the 1920s were the Hon. Mrs Preston, and Mr & Mrs Gosselin 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



Goyts Bridge Cafe.



Castedge Farm Cottage. Brenda Hewitt on the right with the Nall Family.

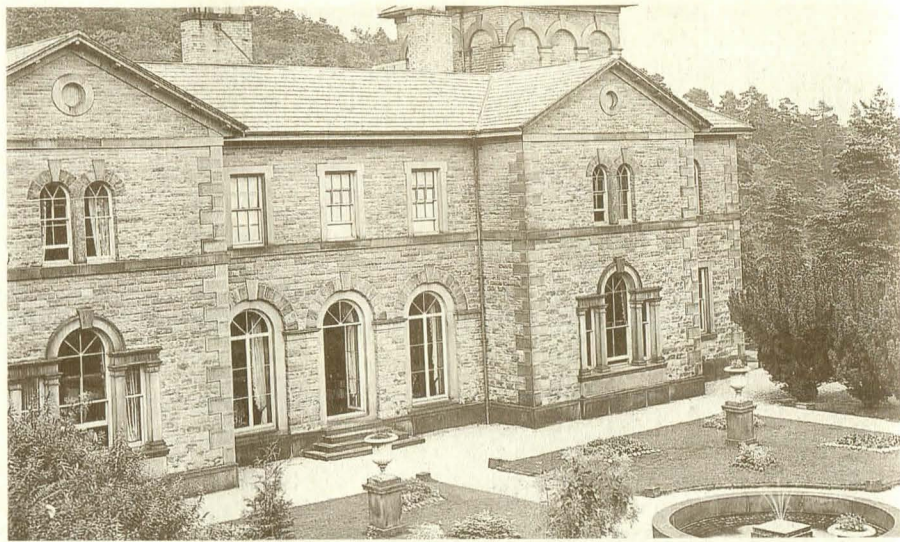
Christmas tree, the centre of attraction for the children, who each had a present. After the greetings, everyone would move into the great hall, where the billiard table was laden with all the Christmas fayre, turkeys, pork, beef with cakes, trifles, and plum puddings. All prepared by the French chef, 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 sister Brenda 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'.

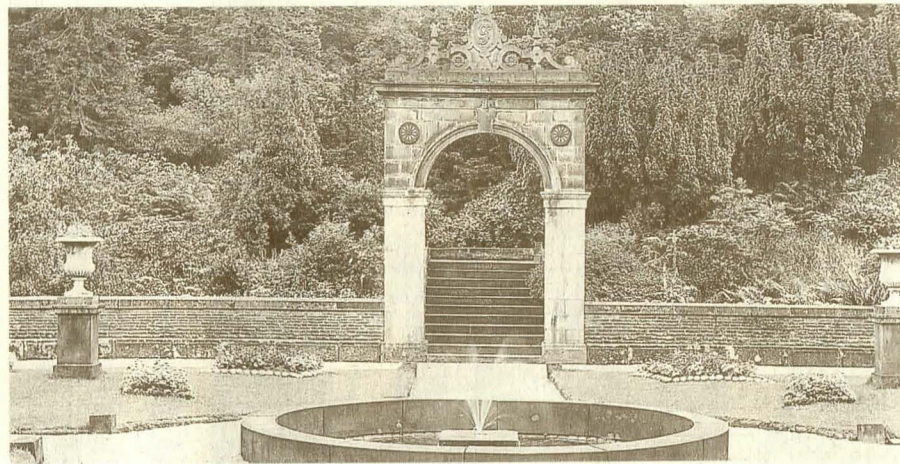
The Grimshawes of Errwood Hall

Samuel Grimshawe (1768-1851), came from a rich merchanting 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 Mosley 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.'

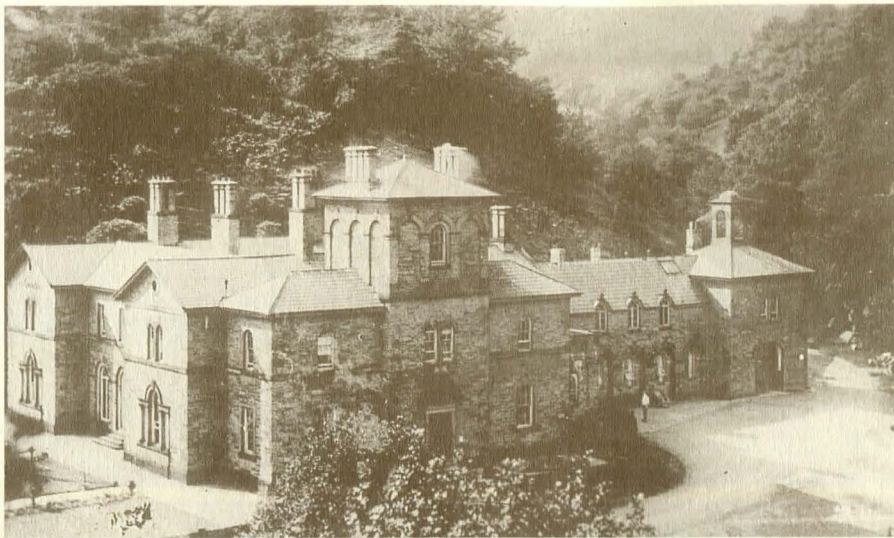
Samuel II, lived some twenty years in Mosley Street, while two of Samuel's sisters lived in nearby George Street. It was about this time that Samuel Grimshawe went to live at Mill Bank, a



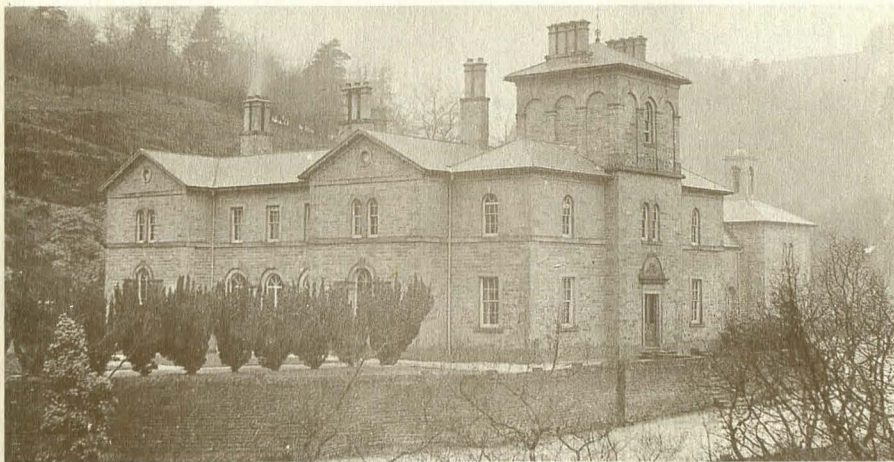
Errwood Hall, pictured about 1906.



The ornamental archway and fountain at Errwood Hall.



The Hall in its heyday.



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

house on the banks of the Mersey at Partington, which formed part of an old-established works and property, apparently acquired by the Grimshaws 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.

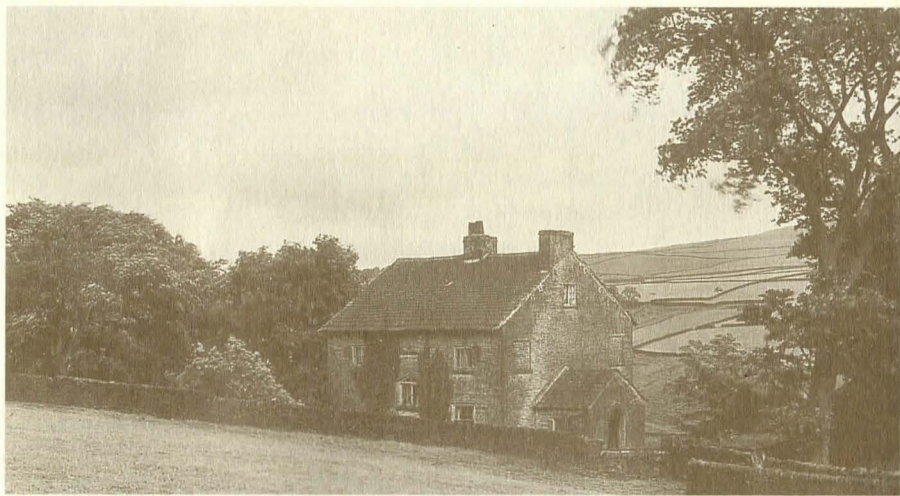
Old Quay was its terminus, though he still kept his house at Mosley Street. It was after 1835 that he began negotiations with John William Jodrell of Yardsley Hall and purchased 2,064 acres of the Taxal Valley which included the Cat and Fiddle inn. But Samuel Grimshawe was promptly met by a challenge 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.

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. Froude. 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,



Errwood Farm.



Ingersley Hall, home of the Gaskell family.



Servants pictured outside the Hall, taken about 1903.



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 Manly, Governess. Hobart, Gov. House, Tasmania when Viscount was Governor 1893-1900.

'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 married 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, bequested 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,



Mr. & Mrs. Wiles, Housekeeper and Butler at the Hall.

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 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 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.

Alexander Roos Architect

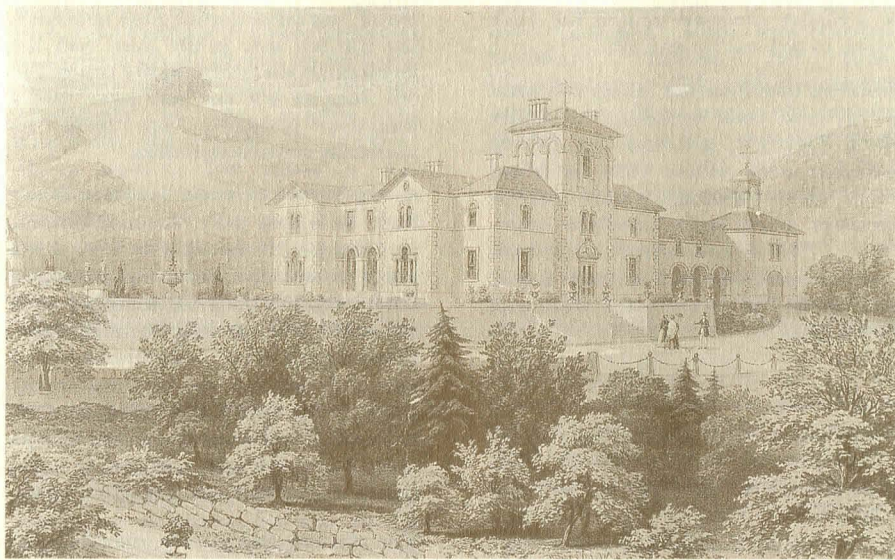
Alexander Roos was the architect of Errwood Hall. He was the son of Karl Roos, a German cabinet maker, established in Rome. He studied in Rome in the late 1820s until 1833 and arrived in England after 1834. His work extended all over England, even into Scotland and finally in Wales, where he did work on the Bute estate.

The Dowager Lady Bute considered Roos 'very agreeable and gentlemanlike

as well as clever in his profession'. His practice comprised landscape gardening, as well as architecture and interior decoration. Some of his early work, c.1838, involved alterations to Bedgebury House, nr. Goudhurst, in Kent. The house was originally altered for Marshall Viscount Beresford, then for Beresford's stepson and heir, Alexander Beresford Hope, who had alterations made to the stables by Roos.

This association with Roos would have undoubtedly led Beresford Hope to recommend the young Italian architect to Samuel Grimshaw, and the building of Errwood Hall. Roos was employed at Falkland by 'Onesiphorus' Tyndell Bruce, whose curious christian name means 'one who brings profit'. The architect William Burn designed the new Falkland House, but Roos was brought in to design the formal gardens and interior decoration. From this association with Tyndall Bruce, a great friendship ensued and a number of letters still survive which provide a running commentary on the growth of Roos' architectural practice.

One such letter in February 1845, informed Bruce that he was about to begin two new buildings; one in the Italian style and the other in the gothic style', the latter referring to Lord Ellenborough's house in Gloucestershire, and the former to Errwood Hall. Then in March, 1845, his letter states; 'I was snowed up or rather blocked up for four days last week, at a gentleman's house near Buxton in Derbyshire.' Alexander Roos was born 1810 and died 1881 in London.



Lithograph print by Alexandre Roos, Architect. (Courtesy of Buxton Museum)

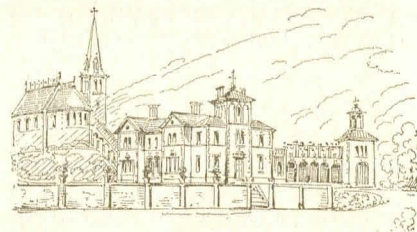
The Hall was a turreted, double winged structure of millstone grit sandstone, of some Italian style, with a central tower and a chapel, which formed the upper storey of an extension to the northern end. A French window opened onto a terraced garden at the southern end, with wide steps leading up to the 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.

Alexander Beresford Hope 1820-1887

Alexander Beresford Hope was well known to the Grimshawe family, indeed he may have been related. The



Sketch of Errwood Hall, the church and spire never built.

young infant son Samuel, who so sadly died after only fifteen months, was christened, Samuel Arthur Hope, and Beresford Hope's daughter, Agnes, was a guest at the wedding of Genevieve and Capt. Preston in 1891, which indicates a connection.

Hope was an extremely well educated man, of Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, later an M.P. and President of R.I.B.A., 1865-1867. He was devoted to the high church, although he accepted the idea of the Catholic Church. To further his cause, and with his great wealth he was able to build or rebuild several churches, using professional architects of the time.

William Butterfield was employed several times by Hope, whose building was mainly in the Gothic style, while Alexandre Roos was engaged in alterations at Kilndown church, which was close to Hope's home at Bedgebury Park, nr Goudhurst, in Kent. Hope's brother, Henry Thomas Hope, had his house, the 'Deepdene', remodelled in the Italian style by Alexandre Roos. The 'Deepdene' was a country house near

Dorking, in Surrey, the former home of the father Thomas Hope, who died in 1831.

Alexander Beresford Hope married in 1842, Lady Mildred Cecil, eldest daughter of the second Marquis of Salisbury. By her, Hope had three sons and seven daughters. He inherited the estate of his step father, Viscount Marshall Beresford, which included Beresford Hall, on the Derbyshire-Staffordshire border, which he visited about three times a year, not too far from Errwood Hall, where he would have called on his journey. At the Deepdene house, a visitors' book existed, known as the 'Deepdene' album, kept by Louisa Beresford, Hope's mother.

It was the fashion of the time to keep a book, in which their friends and guests wrote elegant extracts, original or otherwise, and Louisa valued her album so highly, she made it a family heirloom. Many notable people of the day contributed verses in the album, Sir Walter Scott, Crabb, Thackeray, and the Duke and Duchess of Clarence, who after George the fourth died in 1828, became King and Queen. Disraeli and wife stayed at the 'Deepdene' in 1840, then when the album moved to Bedgebury, Lord John Manners, afterwards 7th Duke of Rutland, wrote a poem in it.

Curiously enough, pasted into the album is an undated sketch of Errwood Hall, signed by Alexander Beresford Hope, with the words, 'Errwood, Cheshire, as not completed'. Hope was referring to the church and small spire

at a higher elevation behind the Hall, which in fact was never built.

Since we now have the lithograph print of Errwood Hall, signed by Alexander Roos, Architect, and with the church omitted, it is evident that Beresford Hope was the illustrator, rather than the architect. Some time later, the upper floor of the extension to the northern end was converted into a private chapel, and opened in 1851 by the Bishop of Shrewsbury.

In the September of 1884, Beresford Hope went to see Cardinal Henry Newman in Birmingham for a lengthy discussion and at his death in 1887, Alexander Beresford Hope was buried a Catholic.

A Visit to Errwood Hall, near Buxton

By a reporter
May 23rd 1883

“**E**rrwood Hall, for such is its name, is a modernised building of dressed stone, with rooms of considerable size and number. In the centre there is a noble tower, underneath which is the main entrance to the elegant structure, reached from the ground by a fine flight of steps. On the right side of the Hall are fitted up the various offices required by the servants, and also the stables, coach

house, and other outbuildings necessary. On the left side is the lawn and the terraces. In the centre of the neatly laid out frontage is a very fine lawn, with a fountain springing up from an artificially constructed basin.

A number of carefully laid out flower beds, with their gaily blooming flowers, contesting with the sombre hue of the green mossy rocks on the right side, and the variegated trees on the other, with the noble archway in front, make up a very pleasing sight. On the entrance arch to the terraces are the crest and monogram of the family inhabiting the hall, namely Samuel Grimshawe, Esq., J.P., a venerable gentleman, who, prior to his death, made this abode his country seat.

The terraces rise in easy ascents to the beautiful romantic walks on the high hill, situated upon a declivity of which the entire buildings rest, securely sheltered from the fierce winds which sweep over the heights around.

Internally this mansion is most magnificently furnished, not only with most of the modern luxuries which wealth can command, but also with many rare and costly works of art, the production of foreign continental lands, more especially Italy, whose holy city, magnificent Rome, has been brought under good contribution to provide some of the marvellous paintings, or splendid marble, which adorn the walls of this palatial home. By the kindness of the benevolent owner we are able to give a few items respecting some of the most noteworthy rooms, and their appointments.

Attached to the hall, and in fact, forming part of the building, is a very handsome room, fitted up as a chapel, for the use of the family and servants, and the few inhabitants of the neighbouring farmsteads and cottages to celebrate divine service. The room is very comfortably furnished and well lighted; and has two altars, the largest of which has a neatly-formed chancel or communion attached to it for the use of the officiating priest and his attendants to stand and celebrate Mass or other services. There is a beautifully constructed canopy over the altar, with its splendid cross and other things; when lighted by the numerous wax lights it has a splendid appearance. There are on the second altar some elaborate things useful for ornament or use in the services. Some splendidly executed figures of the Madonna, an altar piece, "Ecce Homo," by Guido; Madonna of San Luca, and one by Simone Memmi, celebrated old masters. There is also an original portrait of the *Blessed Benedict Joseph Labee*, by Cavallucci, and some other oil paintings.

Both altars, and the entire fittings and furniture of this room, are worthy of the noble owners of the hall. And air of ease and elegance seems to be enjoyed, as well as a spirit of devotion seems to hover about the place.

Passing into the various staircases we find the walls adorned with extremely well executed and fresh looking medallions, and scenes in history depicted in exquisitely worked white Elgin and other marbles. The blue room and the drab room are, with a few

others, mainly utilised as bed rooms, and are furnished with very artistic bedsteads, cabinets, and other appointments, with some elaborate tapestry or silken work. The upstairs library which is superbly furnished, contains some very fine volumes, perhaps some of the oldest books extant. The reception room, leading from the floor of the building, is furnished in the most luxurious manner. Within a splendid frame are some remarkable fine photographs of one of the Queens of Spain and her daughters, presented to the Grimshaw family.

A splendid gilded gold framed state chair, with a seat and back of the finest embroidery, worked in a beautiful pattern, and a grand sofa, with embroidery and other elaborate sittings to match with the chair, are objects well worthy of notice. There is also a number of elaborately made stands and cabinets. A splendid chest of black ebony, with panels of tortoise shell, is well constructed with a number of drawers, and stands upon a gilded carved table. A fine ivory carving, a number of oil paintings, some old pottery, and a variety of elaborate ornaments, may also be seen in rich profusion. The roof is also a work of art seldom noticed; it is flowered and figured, and laid out in a pattern carpet fashion, the various tints and shades of colour being visible at every point. The splendid sunshades of the windows also contrast favourably with the furniture. The fire place and mantel shelf are also works of skill, the former being of elaborately printed porcelain pottery. No ordinary amount

of skill seems to have been lavished in order to make everything contrast agreeably, and none but artists of the most skilful hands could have done the work; the same may be said of the decorations of all the rooms.

The large drawing-room has a splendid appearance, the brilliant colours of the showy flowers which adorn the ceiling, which is also elaborately wrought into a huge picture, forms a pleasing contrast in harmony with the rich fittings of the room. In the centre of this noble apartment is a most conspicuous object, a very finely inlaid marble table, formed of hundreds of small pieces of variegated stones, placed in circles within circles, and beautifully polished upon its capacious surface. It is of the most exquisite workmanship, and standing upon an elegant support of grey stones, presents a truly magnificent appearance. It has been brought from Rome.

There are also some fine old china vases, some antique furniture, the seats, chairs, and ottomans being covered with crimson velvet gold braided, with the extremely well-fitted and rich damask curtains, and the large mirrors fitted between the three large windows, reaching from the ceiling to the floor, form an aspect not often seen in such places. Some splendid oil paintings adorn the walls, and amongst these we may notice the following:- In a gilded frame, and in old Spanish tapestry work, is a finely-executed picture of St. Francis from the collection of the Brazilian Minister in Rome; a fine portrait of Pope Innocent, by Velasquez; portrait of "Catherine, Queen of Cyprus," by H.

Moro; "St. Mary Magdalene," by Guido; "Justice and Peace," by Battoni; marble statue of the Immaculate Conception (the woman shown with her foot on the serpent's head), by Benzoni. Several other valuable works of art also grace the room.

The downstairs library is well worthy of notice, containing as it does some thousands of volumes of the rarest and most costly productions of the press. The roof is beautifully coloured and adorned with a splendid floral pattern in bright tints, with flowered corners, and a neat border to match; there is also emblazoned on the ceiling in panel fashion the arms and crest of the family, which is a splendid piece of decorative art. Two of the most conspicuous objects are a fine portrait of a Spanish lady by Velasquez, and a most exquisitely worked marble bust of Pope Pius IX, by Bezoni; every feature in the face of His Holiness seems to have been drawn out with life-like effect.

The dining-room is also a spacious apartment, and besides being admirably furnished with a very capacious dining table and other furniture to match, has a splendidly adorned roof, and possesses some rare old oil paintings, amongst which are a portrait of one of the Leane family, by Michael Angelo Correggio; large landscape and sea piece by William Vandervile; portrait of Pope Gregory the Great by Titian; two landscapes, by Rosa de Tivoli; two views of Venice (Canaletto); Adoration of the Magi, by Pietro di Cortona. The Basso Relievi (to be seen) embrace admirable representations of various subjects,

amongst which are The Triumph of Alexandra from Thorwaldsen; panathenaic procession, from the Elgin marbles; and others from Thorwaldsen and Flaxman are well worthy the admiration with which they are viewed.

The situation of the hall is one of the most romantic which could be selected, founded upon a space made in the declivity of a rising hill, amidst the most exquisite woodland scenery and quietly secluded; it is admirably fitted for a place of retirement from the busy scenes and anxieties of city life. The views from the front of the building, and especially from the tower, are extremely grand. The bold bleak looking peaks of the Derbyshire hills, rising in lofty undulating heights far away in the distance, strike the eye with their variegated herbage or moss covered rocks. The snugly ensconced farmsteads dotted here and there in the landscape, the cattle and sheep grazing quietly on the slopes, the wild moorland, and the shady dell besprinkled with the sombre hue of the holly and other evergreen bushes, give the mind a beautiful idea of country scenery in some of its natural aspects. The fine bracing air of this district is beneficially felt by the inhabitants of the valleys or mountain sides.

Above the hall is a very commanding height, at the summit of which is erected a small mortuary chapel, underneath which was deposited over 39 years ago, the mortal remains of an infant son of the Grimshaws. Recently, also, a servant at the hall, who died, was interred in a neatly fenced grave on the hill; and on May 1st Samuel Grimshawe,

Esq., J.P.'s remains were laid to rest in the chapel there.

From this place the Cheshire hills rise in lofty grandeur, and stretch away as far as the eye can reach; the bleak moors present a wild, weird looking appearance. Miniature forests of trees, all stunted and broken as if by an east wind, are visible, and present themselves here and there, the green foliage of the holly and rhododendron relieving their forlorn appearance. Resting in the peaceful valley at its foot are some neatly whitewashed cottages and farmsteads, for the use of the outdoor employees of the hall, all looking quite picturesque amidst their grand and striking surroundings.

Near the hall, and almost hidden amidst the romantic grounds are the streams forming the source of the River Goyt, which afterwards becomes the Mersey. The largest branch apparently rises in a valley, some little distance from Errwood, whilst two of the smaller streams descend from the right and left of the hall, and are spanned by rustic stone bridges leading from the shady walks. These two are united before reaching the bottom of the carriage drive, and thence flow down a very picturesque dell to the Lodge Cottage, where the water unites itself with the larger stream mentioned, and then form a tolerably large brook, which expands as it is swollen by the numerous rills which flow into it.

Fish abound in the clear pellucid waters, and may be seen from the banks disporting themselves, or lying quietly

on the sand. The water descends in many places in gentle cascades over its rocky bed, except in flood time, when vast volumes sweep irresistibly down the gorges, and tumble with a roar into the deep fissures here and there along their course.

The Hall, nestling in its snug and almost inaccessible position, is approached from Whaley Bridge and Buxton by an excellent carriage road, which connects itself with the highway in Fernilee. The route is very pretty and varied scenes meet the eye. From the Lodge, passing down an open field, it winds round a curve, and then by a shady copse past the Gunpowder Mills, which lie in the valley, and thence alternately into open field and wood, until it emerges near the Lodge Cottages, where it begins to ascend, by a gentle ascent, amid the fine grove of rhododendrons, holly, and other evergreen bushes (the former of which in the flowering season are very beautiful), by the pale green ferns and the grassy and mossy slopes, and the winding rivulets, and the most delightful, natural, and artificial scenery, until, on reaching a bend in the path, the noble pile bursts in full view like some fairy palace just dropped into the bosom of the evergreen surrounding. Ultimately it is reached upon a broad plateau, which at once enables the hall to be seen in all its beauty. In summer, it is a pleasant resort for pleasure parties, the drive being very much enjoyed."

By now in 1851, the Grimshawe family were well established at the Hall and had acquired nine servants. It was at this time that Samuel Grimshawe declared



Helier Gosselin, Mayor of Hertford.

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



Mary Grimshawe.

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. Alban's 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 was on a visit to France.



A walk by the river.

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 gave £100 towards the cost of St. Anne's 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. Anne's 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 Christian 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 Gaskell 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



Playing around the "Nametree", at the rear of Errwood School.



Braddock brothers, Keepers, 1911.



Bengo Hall, the home of Helier Gossein.



The Old Packhorse Bridge over Wildmoorstone Brook.

the rest of the evening.' This was a period on the estate, when they had shooting parties in the season, with many titled guests of the Grimshaws, so many guests that 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. Cannon Sheehan, V.G., Manchester; Very Rev Canons Frith, Walker, Allan, Gallagher, 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 Gaskell, Miss Munster, Mr. Killminster, Capt and Mrs Butler, Mr. J.P. Munster, Dr. Darwin, The Fern, Buxton; Dr. C. Bennett, Dr. Robinson, 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.

Here is a report from the Catholic Newspaper, The 'Tablet'. A marriage made in heaven

The marriage of CAPTAIN THE HON. EDWARD PRESTON, second son of the late Viscount Gormanston, with ANNE GENEVIEVE MARY, younger daughter of the late Samuel Grimshawe, of Errwood Hall, Cheshire, was solemnised on Wednesday, January 21, at 11 o'clock, at the Church of the Oratory, South Kensington, by the Bishop of Shrewsbury, the Bishops of Salford and Northampton assisting in the sanctuary. Mass was celebrated and the Nuptial Blessing given by the Rev. Father M'Auliffe, one of the oldest friends of the bride's family. The bride, who was given away by her mother, was led to the altar by her cousin, Mr. Louis Allan, representing his father, General Allan, whose duties as Commander of the Forces at Cyprus unfortunately prevented him from being present. The fine organ of the Oratory was played as the bridal party entered the church, and at intervals during the service, by Mr. Hill. An *Ave Maria* was rendered at the Offertory, and Herr Knudson of the Conservatoire of Cologne, sang the *O Salutaris* of Panofka, after the Elevation. Before the ceremony was concluded the Bishop of Shrewsbury delivered an address on the sanctity of marriage, and concluded by announcing that he had just received a telegram from Rome conveying the blessing of the Holy Father Pope Leo XIII. to the newly married couple. Captain Preston was accompanied by Colonel Blake, late of the Carabineers, as best man. The bride's dress, which was made by Felix, was composed of the richest faille couleur ivoire, perfectly plain, with the exception of a Medici collar trimmed with ostrich feathers, and a scarf-sash of crêpe de chine, caught up with orange blossom. She wore a very small wreath of the same flowers, and a tulle veil reaching to the end of her train, and no jewels. The bridesmaids were her sister, Miss Grimshawe, Señorita Dolores de Ybarguen, Miss Stourton, and Miss Nora Hallé. Their dresses were of deep cream-coloured cloth trimmed with rich silk and gold embroidery and skunk fur, toques to match of ostrich feathers, and jewelled embroidery. They carried bouquets of lilies of the valley and variegated leaves, and wore pearl and diamond brooches, presents from the bridegroom. The bride's mother was attired in a dress of black velvet embroidered with gold and jet, with a bonnet to match. Immediately after the wedding, the bride and bridegroom, with the bridesmaids and best man, drove to the residence of the Cardinal Archbishop, who received them in the kindest manner, and gave them his blessing. There was subsequently a reception at 80, Queen's Gate, where about two hundred guests were entertained at luncheon. Captain and Mrs. Preston left at 3.30 for Paris *en route* for the south of France, where they will spend their honeymoon.



Irene Preston with sisters Antoinette and Hermoine.



Esme Preston and dog Netto in 1909.

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 Gormanstons 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 1893 in London.

FUNERAL OF MRS. GRIMSHAWE, OF ERRWOOD HALL.

As briefly stated in last week's issue, MRS. GRIMSHAWE, of Errwood Hall, died after a short illness, fortified by all the last Sacraments, much regretted by her relations and the many friends to whom she had endeared herself. On Friday evening the remains were conveyed to the private chapel attached to the residence of Lady Herbert, Belgrave-square. On Saturday morning Masses were celebrated in the chapel by his Eminence Cardinal Vaughan and the Rev. Father McAuliffe, all the family and servants approaching Holy Communion. Immediately after Mass on Monday the coffin, accompanied by the family, was taken to Buxton, whence on to Errwood Hall, where it was placed in the private chapel and surrounded by lights and flowers. On the lid of the coffin was a crucifix, below which a brass plate, bearing the inscription, "Quærens me sedisti lassus, redemisti crucem passus, tantus labor non sit cassus." At the foot was another plate, with the following words engraved, "Jessie H. Grimshawe, born 9th of March, 1828, died 6th of December, 1893. R.I.P. Jesus mercy! Mary help!" The coffin was almost completely hidden by exquisite flowers, loving tributes from many friends. The chapel was beautifully and appropriately decorated by Messrs. Garstin, who carried out all the arrangements for the funeral. On Thursday the last rites were paid to the deceased, and many assembled on the occasion, desirous of proving their love and gratitude for one who for many years had shown herself a true friend and most kind benefactress. Masses were said continuously from early morning to about ten o'clock at two altars. At eleven the relations, friends, and household assembled for the High Mass, celebrated by the Right Rev. Bishop Carroll, assisted by Father Byrne and Father Hooker.

The mourners were Miss Grimshawe, Captain the Hon. E. Preston and Mrs. Preston, Captain F. Gaskell, Miss Gaskell, and Colonel Blake; many of the clergy of the diocese were likewise present, as also the Rev. Abbé Gerard, Father McAuliffe and Father Buckler, O.P. Two of the lay Sisters represented the Poor Clares of Levenshulme, Mrs. Grimshawe being the Mother Syndic of the community. Some of the school children of the Errwood School knelt round the coffin.

Cherubini's Requiem was sung by a select choir, Mr. Fogg, organist of Sir Charles Hallé, presiding at the organ. The Bishop of Shrewsbury, in whose presence the Mass was celebrated, made the following address: He took for his text: "The souls of the just are in the hand of God," and proceeded to say that in the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, but that was not so, they were in peace. It was not given to them to penetrate into that other world, but in the fulness of their faith, and hope they could speak of that dear friend whom they mourned, for they could say of her that she was of the number of those souls of the just that were in the hand of God. Was it not said, "I will render to everyone;" and they knew her life and works, how that she ever lived near to her Master. Who was there that could not recall that gentle charity in thought and act, in speech and deed, which was her characteristic. Whether to high or low there was faithful friendship; works done for God's poor and His Church made her the pattern of a true Catholic, a gracious, gentle lady. They had seen her before the holy altar receiving the Body and Blood of her Saviour, and it was this grace and strength which made her the pattern she was. Her life was hidden with Christ in God. In cheerfulness and patience she met her end when Christ thought fit. A long illness that many people had to endure was not in her case, ordained by God, but she answered to the call readily. He asked them to pray for her. He asked all to pray for that dear soul, because it was written that God would judge the just and the wicked. They must render an account for every idle word spoken. Might it not be that even in the soul of one so dear to God there might perchance be some venial thought. They must pray for her, and join their prayers with Holy Church in this duty, for she needed those prayers. At the same time he would ask them to remember those near and dear to whom the memory of the deceased must be sweet. They had here no abiding city but looked for one. They committed the body of God's servant to the earth, but her soul was in his hand. R.I.P.

As reported in the Catholic Newspaper, The "Tablet".

The Grimshaws 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 Hallé, all were influential ladies and gentlemen and friends of the Grimshaws 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



Daphne Georgina and Penelope Preston.

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 *recherché* 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



Capt. Preston in the garden at Errwood Hall.

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, incidentally comes from St. Helier's, Jersey, where some of the family had originated. 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



The Gentry, shooting party, Frances Upton Gaskell second from right, cousin of The Grimshawes.

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 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



Joseph Oyarzabel. He became Estate Manager, pictured 1909.

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 Menton, 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. cos. Cavan 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. Tasmania 1893-1900. His



The French Chef from the Hall. Helping with Cream Teas. Picture 1921.

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 Vue 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 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



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

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, Ignatius 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 Roche, St. Joseph's, Stockport; Father Byrne, Stockport; Father O'Reilly, Whaley Bridge; Canon Hugh Welch, Altrincham, and many other priests. Among the chief mourners were:



Thomas Jenkinson with Anne Lomas, he was the Coachman.

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 Bengeo 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 Biarritz 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 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 Grimshawe family are always remembered with an everlasting affection. One such story is of the large food parcels sent to the poor children of Whaley Bridge, of whom there were many in the late twenties. They were regularly delivered from an anonymous donor, but local people were very aware

of the Grimshawe 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.

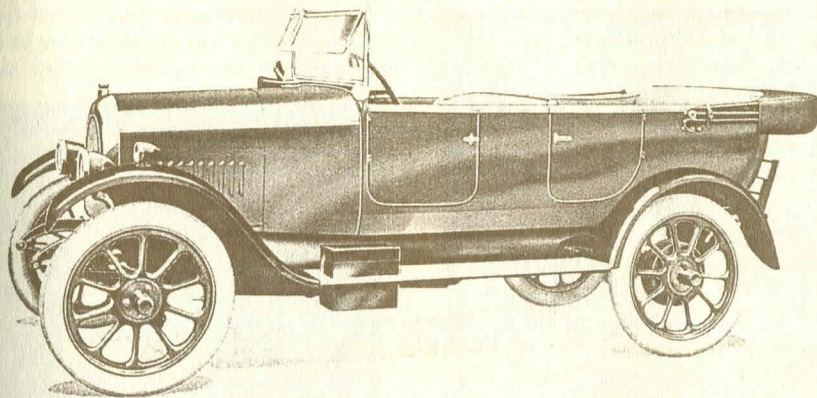
If travelling to Buxton in the horse and carriage, the Grimshawe ladies would always head towards the Derbyshire Bridge end of the valley, past Goyts Moss Farm and onto the old Macclesfield to Buxton road. This would lead them to Burbage, where they would visit the retired French chef from Errwood Hall, Monsieur Ernest Le Morvan, who in the 1920's had set up a thriving confectionery business. No doubt the ladies would take tea there and sample a little of his delicious cake, while conversing in the Monsieur's native language in which both ladies were quite fluent. Then on to Buxton to complete their outing, and returning to Errwood by the steep descent of Goyts Lane, more often bringing back large bags of sweets to the children at Errwood school.

Anne Genevieve Marie Preston died on the 28th of January 1929 at Bandol Sur Mer Var. Her remains were brought home to her beloved Errwood to be buried alongside her devoted husband, the Hon Captain Edward Preston, who

was laid to rest some twenty eight years before that 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 Grimshawe's 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 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



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

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 Ignatius Oyarzabel for life, with the remainder to his son Joseph. She also left Ignatius £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 Louis Bilette, 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. Antoninus Maguire, O.P. St. Sebastian's 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. Sebastian's 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.

Sometimes if we listen, we can still hear the muffled sounds of horses and coach wheels crunching on a stoney drive.

High in the central tower there was always a lamp shining before a crucifix in the window. The light always gave much comfort to those who lived in the cottages below, and to travellers on a cold winter's night. When the lamp was extinguished, it was as if the light went out in the whole valley, and perhaps in a way it did. With the knowledge that Errwood Hall would be demolished, Mary Grimshawe made provision in her will for a lamp "to perpetuate the memory of Errwood Chapel". Let us hope that perhaps there is a light still shining somewhere.

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.

Miss Esme

After the marriage of Genevieve Grimshawe to the Hon. Captain Preston, cousins and other relatives of the Preston family began to visit Errwood Hall. One cousin, Arthur James Preston, who came from Silverstream, Co. Dublin, had married Christina Maria Dundas in 1887, only daughter of Henry Spencer, of Woodlands, Warbington, Hants. They had six children, four daughters and two boys, Antoinette, Esme, Jenico Thomas, Rudolph, Irene, and Hermione, all of whom were visitors to Errwood.

When the father, Arthur James, died in 1896, and the mother Christina became ill, Esme, at six years old, came to live at Errwood Hall. Genevieve and Captain Preston could not have children of their own, and Esme became adopted.

A very distinguished visitor to Errwood Hall about this time was the Duke of Devonshire. He would come to see the many fine paintings and sculptures in and outside the Hall, and afterwards take tea with the Grimshawe family. Miss Esme remembered meeting the Duke as a young girl, and indeed, giving her very best curtsy.

On the Errwood Estate, Esme was remembered as a forthright but courteous young lady not unused to having her own way. She had of course her own private tutor, and was brought up in the Catholic way and teaching. In later years she loved the high life and

often accompanied the Grimshawes to London and holidays in the Mediterranean. There were trips in the horse drawn carriage to visit friends or to go shopping to Buxton to Milligan's and the high class dress shops. Buxton had become very fashionable in the Victorian age to cater for all the visitors. In fact two fur shops from Oxford Street in London had become well established in the town.

During the first world war there was a call for nurses to tend the sick and wounded, and very commendably, Miss Esme answered the call for help, along with many other young ladies of the upper classes at that time. Though not fully trained in nursing, she worked for some time at a hospital for wounded officers in Eccleston Sq., London. As she nursed these brave young men, she would have experienced the horror and futility on the faces of the wounded and shell shocked officers, from a war that claimed the lives of thousands of fine young men. Esme's younger sister, Hermione, worked at the London Hospital, Whitechapel.

One of the brave young men who paid the supreme sacrifice was Esme's younger brother, Lieut. Rudolph Preston. Attached 70 Squadron, R.F.C., who, as a flying observer, was shot down over the war torn fields of France.

In letters home to his sister Irene, his thoughts were not for himself but for his elder brother, Captain Jenico Thomas, who had become exhausted fighting at the front line. Rudolph writes:-

My dear 'I', you will be sorry to hear that 'J' (Jenico) is not very well. Yesterday the

Boch shelled his trench and a shell burst close by him which blew him up in the air, landing him on three dead men.



Lieut. Rudolph Preston.

The whole thing has upset his nerves, and today he is being moved down to a clearing station for a complete rest. He is quite alright, so do not worry, he will be alright in a week or two. -----

Rudolph proudly writes again, his last letter, on the 23rd August, 1916.

Dear 'I', I am writing to you now to let you know a little bit of news. I have been awarded the Military Cross for work done during the scrap at Fucorst. The fellows here have commemorated it with champagne last night and were awfully decent about it. I will not get leave for a month or so yet. Well Irene you must tell the others about my M.C. (his other sisters). I must close now.

My fondest love to you all,
Your affectionate brother,
Rudolph

“Extract from the London Gazette”

“22nd September 1916, Lieut. Rudolph Arthur Preston, Lincolnshire Special Reserve Attached 70 Squadron, R.F.C.

For conspicuous gallantry in action. He repelled strong hostile bomb attacks, consolidated his position, and captured 20-30 prisoners.”

This very brave, unassuming young man had indeed served his country with the supreme sacrifice. He lies at rest in the communal war grave at Hesbecourt. How very proud his sisters must have been of such a fine gallant brother.

Having finished her nursing duties at Eccleston Square, Miss Esme returned to the peace of Errwood. The Great War had ended but the loved ones would never be forgotten.

After 1930, when the Errwood Estate had ended, Esme went to visit her sisters, Antoinette, Irene, and Hermione, who lived near Southampton. While there she met George Cuming Butler, a friend of Hermione, the youngest sister. After this very first meeting, Cuming Butler proposed to Esme by letter, and she at once accepted. It was, to say the least, a whirlwind romance. Poor Hermione was devastated, she believed that Cuming Butler would marry her, but it wasn't to be. The two sisters never spoke again. This caused a great rift in the family, and the wedding, which was a small affair, took place in a side chapel at the Brompton Oratory, Kensington in 1933.



Hermione Preston.

There were few guests and Esme, at the age of 43, was attended by her elder sister Antoinette, Irene refusing to come as she had sided with Hermione.

Cuming Butler was a widower with one daughter living in New Zealand. He was a wealthy industrialist, manufacturing headlamps for motor cars. When his successful business was sold to the Lucas group after the second world war, Esme and Cuming Butler lived at Burford Lodge, Elstead, in Surrey. George lived until 1959, and Esme continued to live the life of a lady.

She employed a gardener, a maid, and a chauffeur, a style she was more than familiar with from her early life at Errwood. Miss Esme, as she was always remembered on the Errwood Estate, lived till the age of 82, ending her days



Penelope, Georgina and mother Elizabeth, with Esme, extreme right in 1939.

in a nursing home. It was always her custom to have a whisky and soda before lunch, which her nurse duly brought. On returning a little later with her lunch, the nurse found that Esme had peacefully slipped away, the empty whisky glass still in her hand. Here she died alone with all her cherished memories of long ago and her happy life at Errwood in the glorious Goyt Valley.

The Catholic Connections

There seems little doubt that Samuel Dominic's conversion to Catholicism was influenced from his Oxford days, when Newman, Manning and the 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.

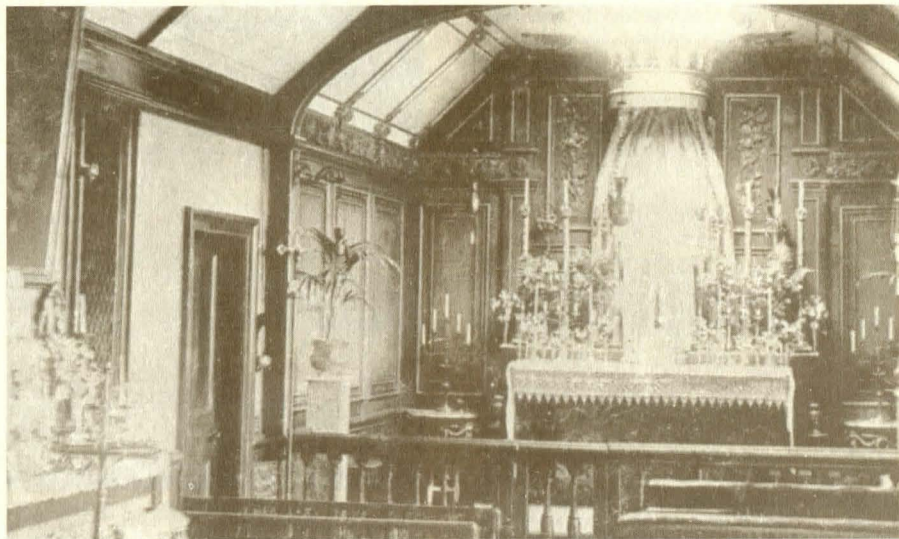
Samuel did not convert until 1851 after his father had died as he would not have wished to upset him, his father being staunch Church of England.

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.



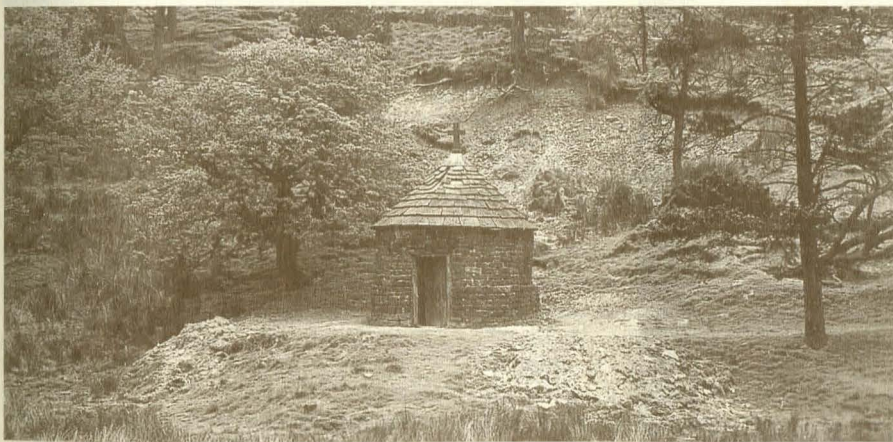
The private Catholic Chapel inside Errwood Hall, located in the upper storey of the northern end.



The Grimshawe private cemetery.



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



The Shrine.

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 Catholic faith in the North West.

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

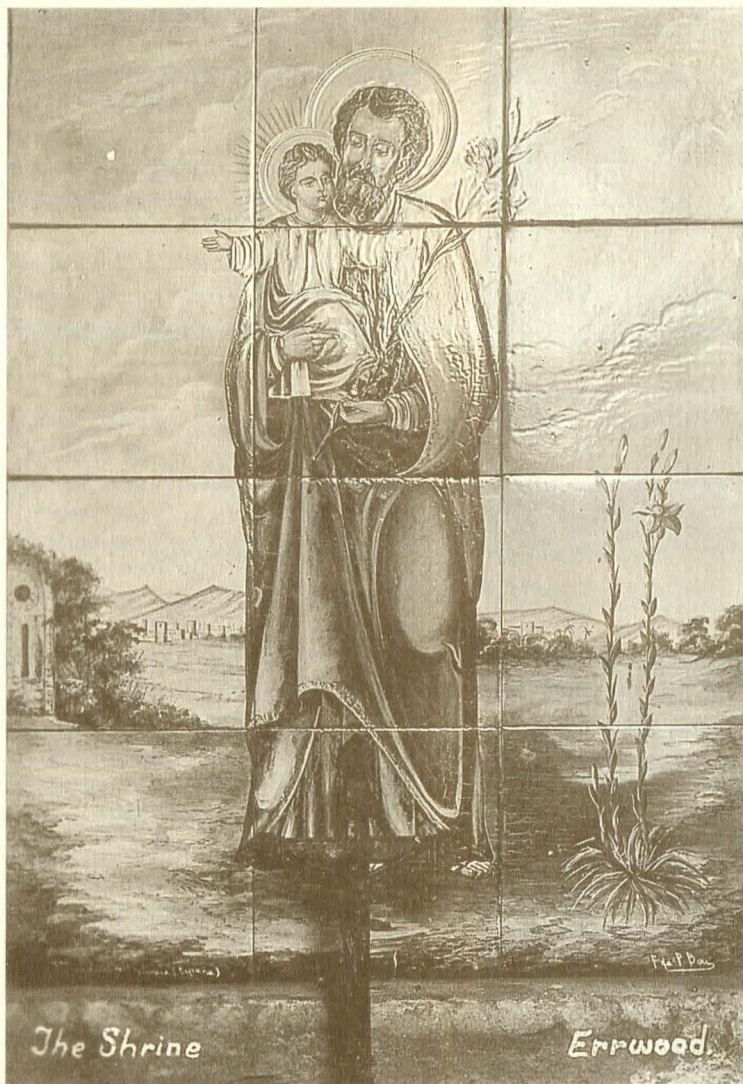
Turner, William (d.1872). First Bishop of Salford, 1851-72.

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

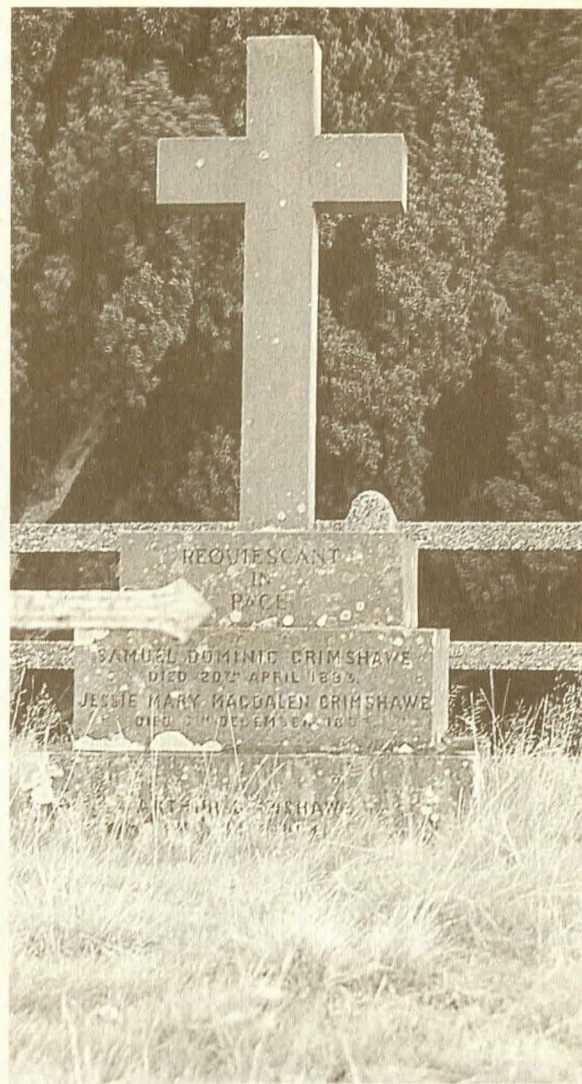
Rev. William McAuliffe, of Errwood, one of the longest serving priests there, was appointed one of the Trustees and was to receive £3,000.

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. Magreevy. |
| 1859-63 | John Quinn |
| 1863-69 | It was then served by Franciscans from Gorton. |
| 1869-77 | Charles Bell |
| 1877 | Herbert Wood |
| 2877-89 | 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. |
| 1911-23 | Served by Dominicans from Pendleton. |



Inside St. Josephs Shrine.



The grave of Samuel Dominic Grimshawe and his wife Jessie.

- 1923 Served by Franciscans 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 Grimshawes, 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.
 Niorth, 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.

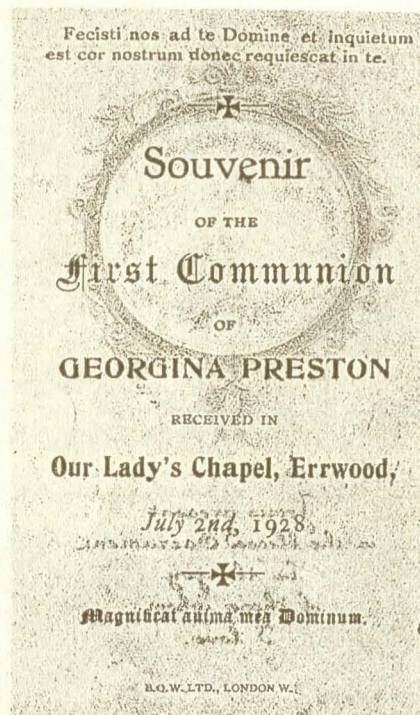
There are at least three unmarked graves.

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.

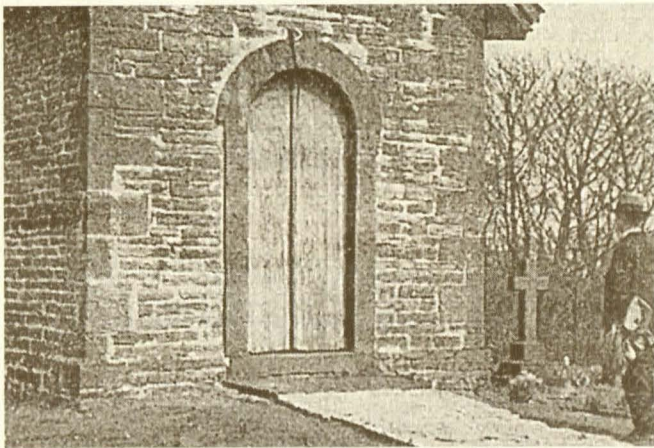
St. Joseph's Shrine

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



Souvenir of Communion.

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, of Spanish origin, were set here at Errwood in a wooden frame before being assembled in the Shrine. Just above the picture of St.



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



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



Holy Communion, with Father O'Reilly and Father Naylor.

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 D de Y, are those of Dolores, Sister Dolores, underneath the inscription along with the date 1889.

The ruined farm, close to the shrine, was known as Withenleach Farm and was last occupied in 1835 by one of the Hibbert family.

Donã Maria Dolores de Ybargüen

Dolores the Spanish lady, it was said of noble birth, came to Errwood between 1883 and 1884, soon after the death of Samuel Dominic Grimshawe on 20th April 1883. She came as companion to the widowed Mrs Jessie Grimshawe. Dolores would have been welcomed by the Spaniard, Ignatius Oyazabel and his family, who were living at the gatehouse cottage.

In fact from baptism records, she was godmother during 1884 to Joseph, one of the Oyazabel children. It was Dolores who first set up a school at the Hall and taught needlework and other subjects to the estate children. She was held in high



Dolores de Ybargüen

regard and much respected throughout the estate.

On her time off from her duties, she enjoyed riding and could often be seen high up on the hills towards St. Joseph's Shrine, a favourite place where she could rest and pray. At the wedding of Genevieve and Captain Preston, Dolores was an honoured bridesmaid.

Sadly, Dolores never enjoyed good health, and only a few months after Mrs Grimshawe passed away, Dolores died while on a visit to Lourdes. She was only 35 years old and died at Laventure House (Boulevoud de la Grotte), 29th April 1894. Her full name was Donã Maria Dolores de Ybargüen. Her father was Alexandre de Ybargüen, and her mother was Petronille de Mussey.

Lady Herbert of Lea and Cardinal Herbert Vaughan

Lady Elizabeth Herbert was a good friend of the Grimshawes. She was the daughter of General Heytesbury, married in 1846 the Hon. Sidney Herbert, second son of 11th Earl of Pembroke. He was created 1st Baron Herbert of Lea, died 1861, a former Minister at war. During the Crimea war in 1854, Sidney Herbert asked Florence Nightingale to take a party of nurses to Scutari, where she became the legendary 'Lady with the Lamp'.

Lady Herbert was a quite remarkable lady, the mother of seven children, two of whom became the 13th and 14th Earls of Pembroke, and the author of more than twenty publications. After her husband died, she became a Catholic convert in 1862, and was tireless in her help towards the church in gathering funds. Such was her energy and zeal, she gained the nickname 'Lady Lightning'.

She became a lifelong friend of Herbert Vaughan, former Bishop of Salford, later Cardinal and third Archbishop of Westminster. Lady Elizabeth was instrumental in helping Herbert



Lady Herbert of Lea and family.

Vaughan raise funds for the building of St. Joseph's College, Mill Hill, London. In 1874, a great collection was organised by the two Grimshawe daughters, Mary and Genevieve, from schools and colleges throughout the land. The vast amount of £3,600 was later presented personally to the Pope by Lady Elizabeth, with letters of thanks from the Vatican, passed on to the Grimshawe girls.

Herbert Vaughan and Lady Elizabeth

corresponded often, when at home or overseas. One such letter, dated March 16th 1876, from Bishop Vaughan on one of his many journeys abroad, came from Valladolid:- "We have had an eventful journey. Having to go to Lourdes last Saturday week, we spent the Sunday at Biarritz with the Grimshaws, who were kindness itself. They gave a grand dinner on Sunday evening, where I met the Infanta of Spain, aunt of the actual King (Alfonso 12th), who is a good quiet little woman. In spite of the Grimshaws pressing for me to remain with them for a week, we started out on Monday morning. Thanks to the Grimshaws, who sent us off well with a large hamper, well stocked with meat and wine, we have got through very well. Without the provisions, I do not know how Father Gadd nor I would have fared. Here in Valladolid we have been received with the greatest kindness. This college was founded in 1589, and is therefore our most ancient English establishment. I am the first English Bishop that has ever visited it. I am going to spend St. Joseph's day here, and on Monday shall proceed to Madrid."

Then in a further letter of August 18th 1877, the Bishop relates, "The Grimshaws are back, I said Mass for them two Sundays ago."

"May God bless you and keep you".

His eminence, Cardinal Vaughan died 1903.

Lady Herbert continued to visit Errwood Hall, and attended most of the weddings and funerals there. She died in 1911, aged 90.



Herbert Cardinal Vaughan.

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.

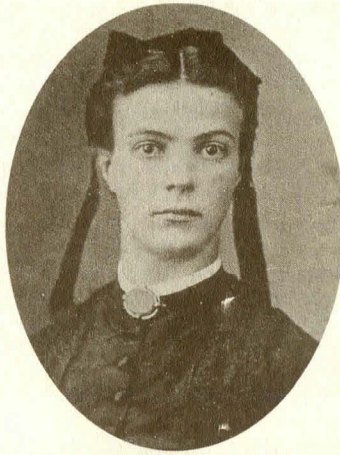
As a boy he must have watched all those tall masted sailing ships coming around the headland of Dunmore to the picturesque port of Waterford, perhaps

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 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 '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

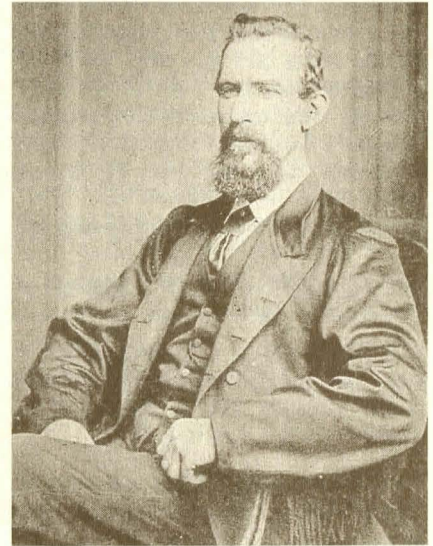


Hannah Butler.

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, 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



Captain John Butler.

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 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 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.'

Sir Charles Hallé

Sir Charles Hallé was the founder of the famous Hallé Orchestra, which still thrives today. He and his wife Desirée had a large Catholic family of nine children, Marie, Charles Edward, Clifford, Fredrick, Bernhard, Mathilda, Nora, Gustave, and Louise. The families were close friends and paid visits to each other's homes, and sometimes shared holidays on the Continent together.

It is thought likely that Sir Charles would have tutored Mary and Genevieve Grimshawe, as it was said, Mary, especially, was an accomplished pianist. There were two pianos at the hall and they would have been well used over the years, playing the classics of Beethoven and Mozart during musical evenings. None of the Hallé children followed Sir Charles as a musician, although Clifford appeared briefly as a tenor at a Gentlemen's concert in Manchester.

Perhaps the most famous of the children at the time, was the eldest son Charles Edward, who became a renowned

portrait painter, indeed some of his paintings today command huge prices.

The Hallé family lived in Manchester firstly at 3, Addison Terrace, Victoria Park, and later at Greenheys Lane, Manchester. The Hallé Orchestra was based at the Free Trade Hall in Manchester, but gave concerts all over Britain, with the Edinburgh Festival being a particular favourite. When Sir Charles' first wife Desirée died in 1866, the eldest child Marie, kept house at Greenheys. Some years later she was in the confirmation book Nov. 1910 from Errwood chapel. The younger daughter,



Charles Edward Hallé, portrait painter, son of Sir Charles Hallé, 1910.



*Greenheys, home of the Hallé family.
Demolished 1895.*

Nora was a bridesmaid at Genevieve and Capt. Preston's wedding in 1891.

Sir Charles, whose whole life was classical orchestral music, was the finest conductor of his time, and his concerts were of the very highest standard. He was also a man of great emotion. When Jenny Lind, the 'Swedish Nightingale' sang from Der Freyschütz at a concert in 1849, he admits openly sobbing with great emotion. "Never," he said, "was I moved so much, then or since". Jenny Lind was the Maria Callas of her day.

In 1888, Sir Charles married Wilma Norma Neruda, his first violinist. Even after Sir Charles died in 1895, Hallé Orchestra musicians were allowed to stay in the gatehouse cottage at Errwood during summertime. Here they would practise and give impromptu recitals. It was the great English composer Elgar who said, "There is music in the air". He too loved the pastoral scene of an English landscape, whose lanes he often walked.

Queen Isabella, the King of Spain, Alfonso 13th, and Queen Ena

The Grimshawes were never titled, except Genevieve on her marriage to the Hon. Edward Preston, but some of their friends included Lords and Ladies and were very titled indeed. None more so perhaps than members of the Spanish Royal Family.

During 1876 and 1877, the Grimshawes were on a tour of the Mediterranean and Spain on board their yacht the Mariquita, captained by John Butler. In early March, 1876, they stayed at Biarritz where they gave a grand dinner, and one of their guests was the Infanta



*Wedding photographs of Alfonso XIII and
Princess Ena of Battenberg.*

of Spain, aunt of the actual King (Alfonso 12th). Then in April, 1877, the Grimshawes spent some time in Gibraltar, before sailing to Cadiz, from where Captain John Butler took the Mariquita up the Guadalquivir River to the romantic town of Seville.

It was here that they met the former Queen of Spain, Isabella, and entertained her to lunch aboard their yacht. At this time the Queen had come to live in the old Moorish Alcazar in Seville. After the 1868 revolution, Isabella left Spain and in 1870, abdicated in favour of her son, Alfonso 12th. She had returned to Madrid in a wrangle with the Spanish Government over her pension rights.

Queen Isabella had five children, Isabel, Alfonso, Pilar, Paz, and Eulalia. At Errwood Hall, on the wall of the reception room was a photograph of Queen Isabella with three of her daughters, presented to the Grimshawes as a token of their friendship. The former Queen returned to Paris to live at the Palais de Castile, living an extravagant lifestyle, and died 1904.

Years later, when in Biarritz, the Grimshawe sisters, Mary Grimshawe Gosselin and the Hon. Genevieve Preston, were again in the company of royalty with none other than the King of Spain and the young Princess Eugenia. The Villa Mouriscot in Biarritz was a favourite place of King Alfonso 13th and his fiancée, Princess Ena of Battenburg (Victoria Eugenia), daughter of Queen Victoria's youngest child, Princess Beatrix.



Queen Isabel II reigned from 1843 until her exile in 1868. © Bettman Archive



The Queen of Spain's Daughters



King and Queen of Spain (seated) with Mary and Genevieve Grimshawe at Biarritz.

The Royal wedding took place in Madrid, 31st May, 1906. After leaving the church the splendid Royal carriage with its six black horses, slowly drove the newly married couple through the crowded cheering streets on its way to the Royal Palace. Suddenly a bomb was thrown near the carriage. Such was the force of the explosion that twelve men died with many more injured. By some miracle, the King and Queen escaped injury, but how terrifying an ordeal at the start of their young married life.

The Powder Mill

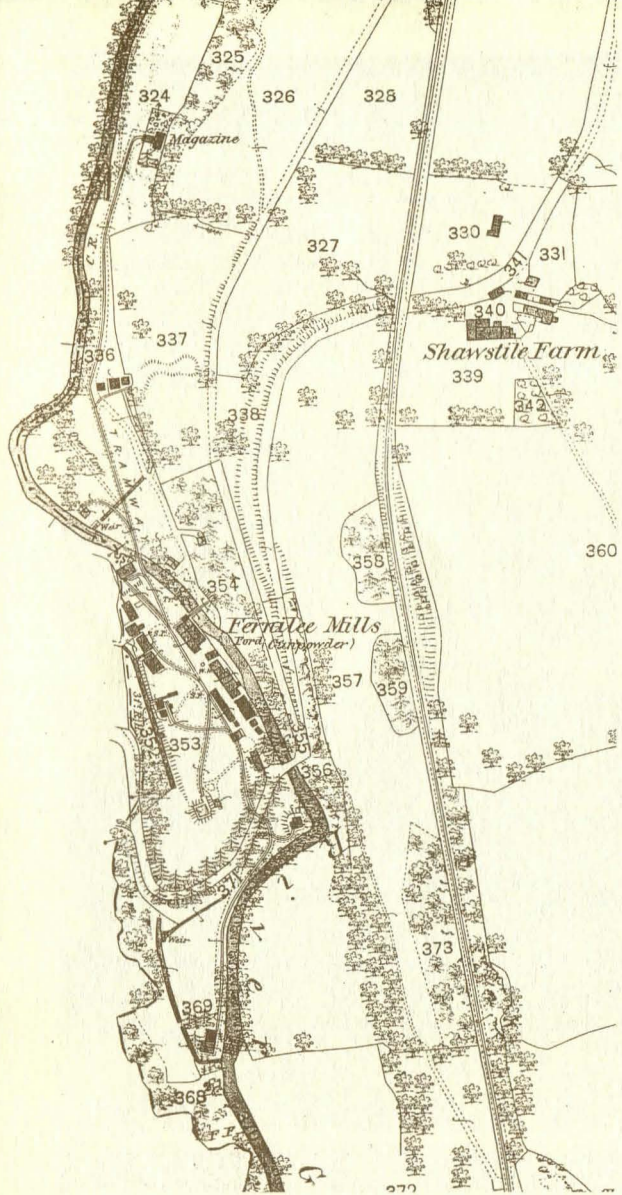
The Gunpowder Mill ceased production in 1920 and the ruins are in a watery grave beneath Fernilee reservoir, towards the dam wall end. In times of drought some of the ruins can be glimpsed, as in its day the works were

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.

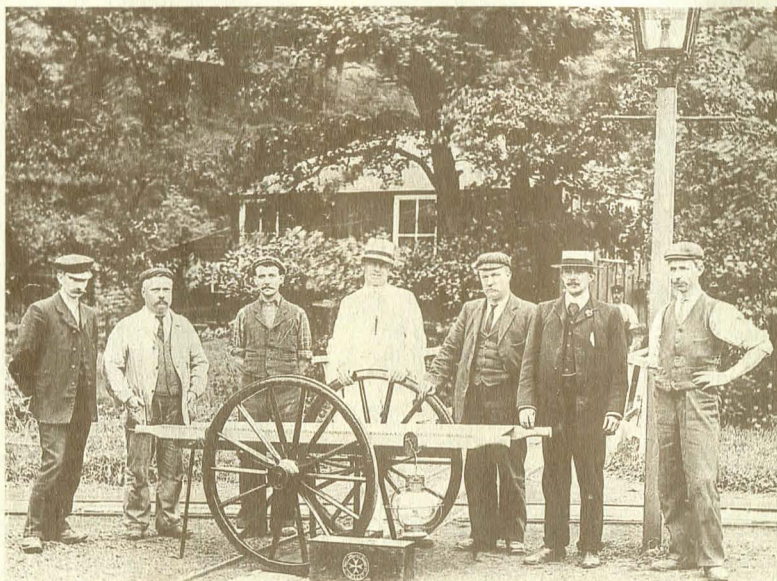
Though the actual date is unknown, the land for the 'Powder Mill', as local people knew it, was acquired from Francis Jodrell Esq., in about 1800. Over the years it provided work for many people in the locality, but the mill was the scene



Workers at the Powder Mill, about 1905.



The Powder Mill 'Orchestra'.



'The Fist-Aid Team' - the Manager, Captain Fox, in the centre.



'Fire Fighters' of the Gunpowder Works.

of frequent accidents, although the dangers of working with gunpowder were well appreciated. 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.

Buxton, 16th April 1880

W. James Glass

Bought of WILLIAMSON, KNOWLES & CO.
MANUFACTURERS
of the BARRELS & CO. HALF BARRAL Blasting Powder, etc.

Conveyance.

Mark.	Grain.	lb. each.	Per cent. of nitre.	Amount.
C	5	..	100	21
W	5	..	100	21
FF	6	..	100	14
FFV	6	..	100	14
				£. 21/14

The price of gunpowder in 1805.

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 9½ x 5½ x 6½ ins.

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

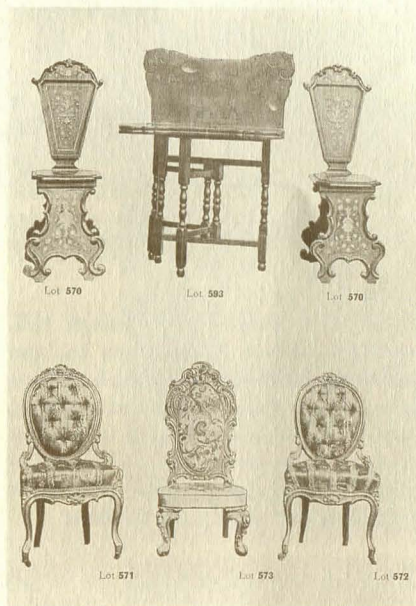
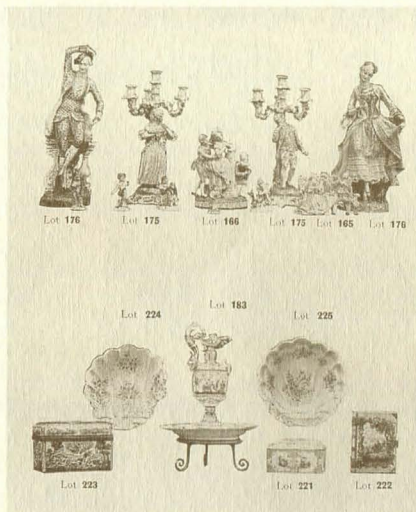
Lot 224-225 Porcelain plates.

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 Lady's gilt chair.
Lot 593 Genuine William and Mary card table.

Fernilee and Errwood Reservoir Construction

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.

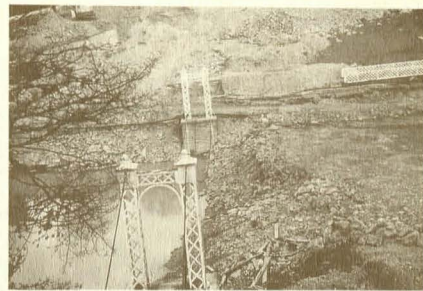
Errwood reservoir was built by the same contractors as Fernilee. In fact plans for the Goyt Valley waterworks scheme had been conceived as long ago as 1900, but



Fernlee Reservoir.



Engineers who built the Reservoir.



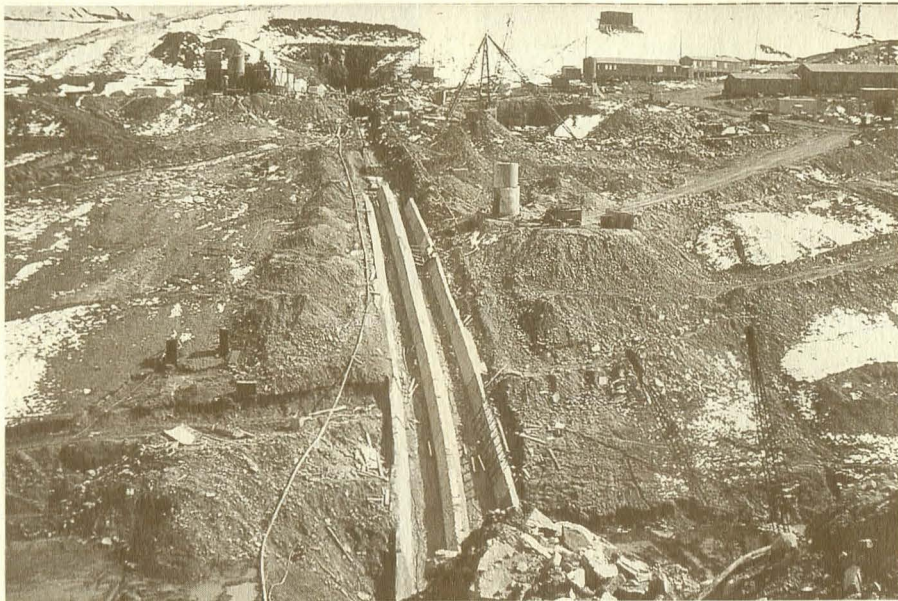
The suspension bridge, cast aside for the 'coffer' dam



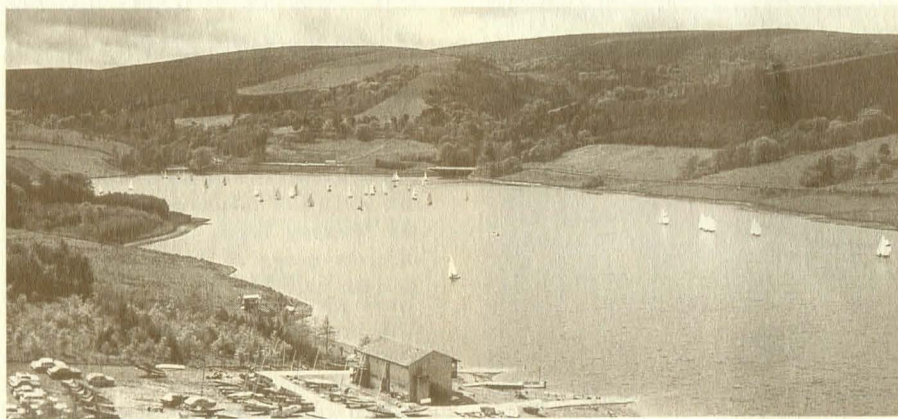
Errwood Dam nearing completion.

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.

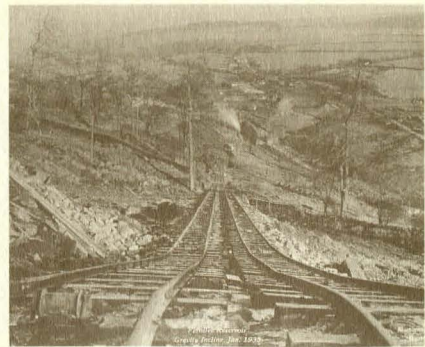
The two dams are about the same in terms of capacity and acreage, Fernlee being slightly the larger - Errwood 927 million gallons, area 78 acres and 117 feet deep. Fernlee 83 acres, 1,000 million gallons, and 126 feet deep.



The trench for Errwood Dam wall.



Errwood Reservoir, as it is today.



Gravity Incline, January 1933.



The Duchess of Kent unveils a plaque commemorating the inauguration of Errwood Reservoir

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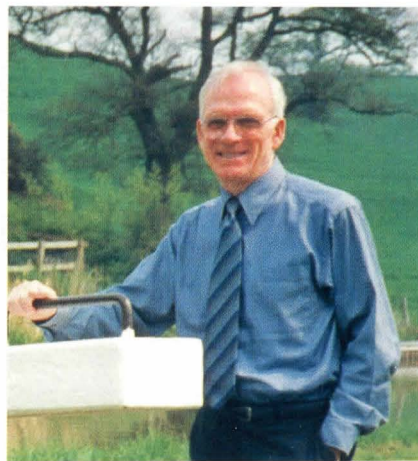
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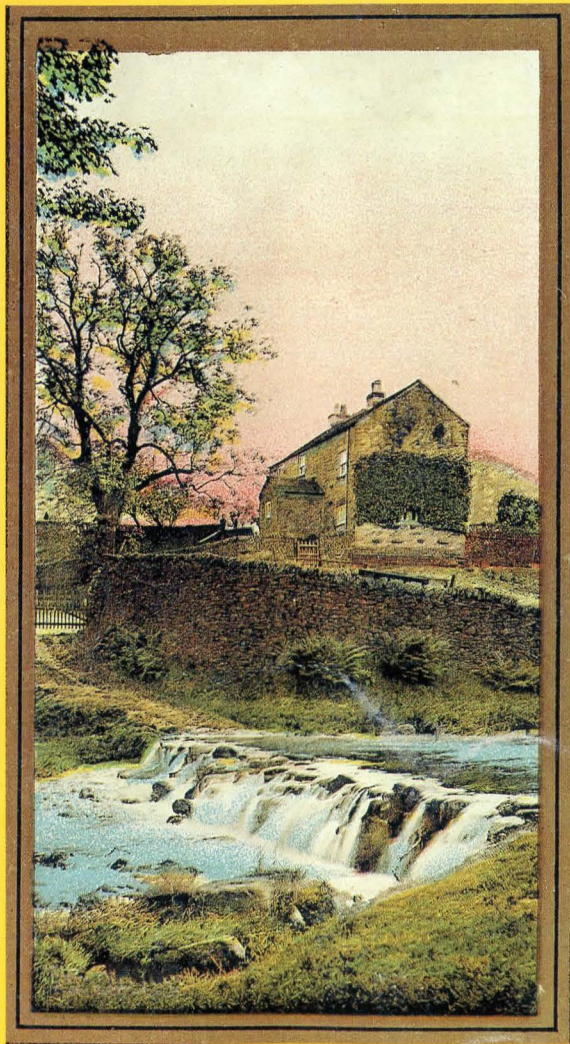
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About the Author

Gerald Hancock was born near Chesterfield in Derbyshire and since schooldays has always had an interest in the Derbyshire countryside. After visiting Whitehall, near Buxton on an outward bound course in 1955, the Goyt Valley left a lasting impression. This is his third publication about the Goyt Valley. It is hoped that readers enjoy this new edition which reveals more about Errwood Hall, the Catholic Grimshawe family and their friends. It contains many different archive photographs.





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